



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
**Florida Crop Progress
and Condition Report**



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the UF/IFAS Extension Service
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October 29, 2018

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General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, October 28, 2018. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 8.39 inches in New Smyrna Beach (Volusia County). The average mean temperature ranged from 62.1°F in Crestview (Okaloosa County) and Jasper (Hamilton County) to 82.6°F in Key West (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures returned to normal for this time of the year in the citrus growing region. Highs were in the low to high 80s in all areas. Mostly dry weather prevailed across the citrus belt this past week. The large majority of stations in the southern area recorded traces of rain to no rain. In the central area, Lakeland (Polk County) had the most rainfall at 0.95 inches. In the northern area, one station near Leesburg (Lake County) had 0.55 inches of rainfall. According to the October 25, 2018 U.S. Drought Monitor, there were no changes in the drought analysis. Abnormally dry conditions covered much of the Indian River District and the eastern portions of its adjacent counties.

Grove workers put out spot fertilizer (mostly on younger trees) and took care of resets. Speed spraying was done in some areas. Irrigation was run on a regular basis across the citrus belt. Caretakers who were waiting for their fruit to mature for harvest were servicing micro-jets and irrigation pumps.

The trees look good, and tree health is encouraging. Fruit set are good also. Packinghouses are open and running early season varieties, including Fallglo and Early Pride tangerines, Navel oranges and other early oranges, and red grapefruit. Two processing plants are reported open and accepting packinghouse eliminations.

Fruits and Vegetables

Irrigation ran as needed in many southern counties, indicating the end of the rainy season. Crops planted included bitter melon, boniato, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, green beans, malanga, peppers, tomatoes, and squash. Crops harvested included avocado, bitter melon, boniato, cucumbers, eggplant, green beans, herbs, malanga, okra, peppers, squash, tomatoes and watermelon.

Livestock and Pastures

Minimal rain throughout the week allowed producers in numerous counties to harvest hay and plant winter forages. Overall, cattle condition remained mostly good.

Field Crops

Row crop farmers in the Panhandle continued to recover from Hurricane Michael. The cotton harvest stagnated as early cotton was destroyed by the hurricane and late cotton was not yet ready to be harvested. Some peanut farmers in Jackson County were still unable to enter their fields because of heavy debris blocking ingress. Yields for late season peanuts were estimated to be half as much as the early season yields that were unaffected by Hurricane Michael. Soybean losses were significant also, and the yield on acres that are able to be harvested is expected to be very low. Sugarcane planting and harvesting continued to proceed nicely in Glades, and Hendry, Palm Beach counties.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 10/28/18

Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	8	6	NA
Short.....	25	28	NA
Adequate.....	60	55	NA
Surplus.....	7	11	NA

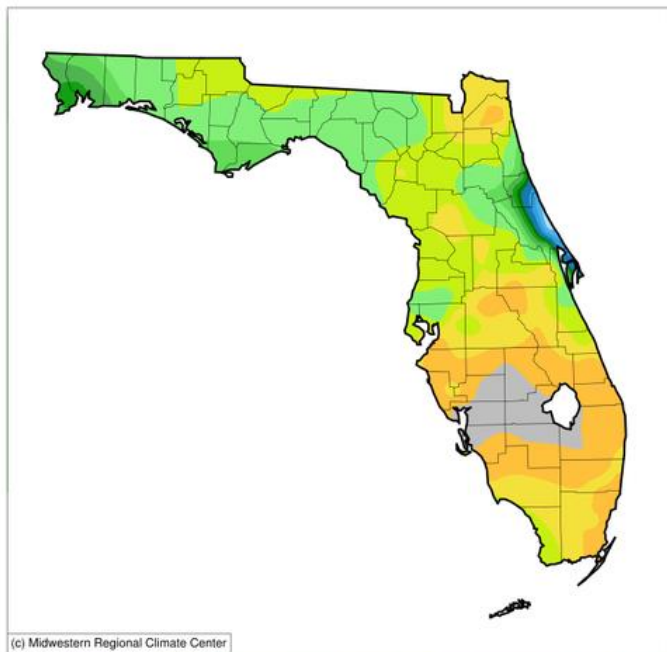
Crop Progress for Week Ending 10/28/18

Crop stage	This week	Prev week	Prev year	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Bolls Opening ...	98	95	96	NA
Cotton - Harvested.....	14	10	33	NA
Peanuts - Dug.....	91	89	96	NA
Peanuts - Harvested.....	81	76	91	88

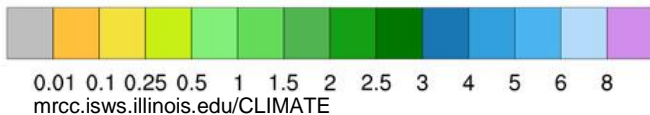
Condition for Week Ending 10/28/18

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle	0	2	15	67	16
Cotton	23	8	33	24	12
Pasture & range	1	7	34	46	12

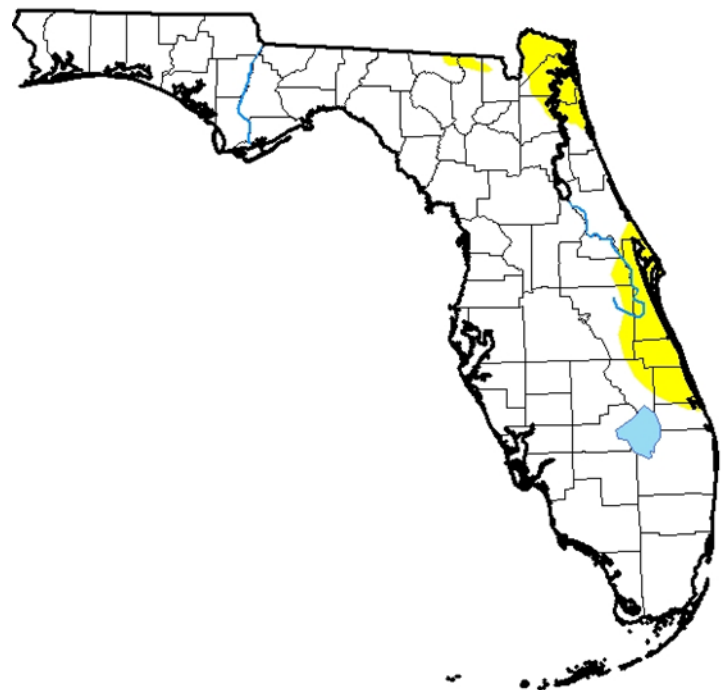
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
October 22, 2018 to October 28, 2018



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

October 23, 2018 (Released Thursday, October 25, 2018)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>