



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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December 3, 2018

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General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, December 2, 2018. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 6.32 inches in Pensacola (Escambia County). The average mean temperature ranged from 48.8°F in Niceville (Okaloosa County) to 75.6°F in Key West (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were variable in the citrus growing region. Midweek temperatures were below average, with highs mostly in the 60s and 70s. By the weekend, highs were back into the low to mid 80s. Lakeland (Polk County) had the warmest temperature at 87°F. Citrus producing counties experienced rainfall on two days at most during the week. Precipitation ranged from less than a quarter of an inch in several locations to just over an inch in Wauchula (Hardee County). According to the November 29, 2018 U.S. Drought Monitor, the Indian River District was completely under moderate drought conditions. With the exception of Charlotte and Lee counties, the complete southern area was showing abnormally dry conditions or moderate drought. The central and northern areas were showing abnormally dry conditions in some counties. The western area remained drought free.

Some grove caretakers applied pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides. They also applied fungicides through irrigation injection. Caretakers tended to young trees. Irrigation ran in all areas, with observations of ditches being low.

Currently, about 17 packinghouses and 8 processors are open. Volume of the fruit harvest is running behind last season on all varieties. Early oranges and tangerines are being picked for the fresh market. Grapefruit are being spot picked on the east coast. Open processing plants are running packinghouse eliminations and starting to run field-run fruit.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

[In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes]

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Nov 18, 2018 (Preliminary)	Nov 25, 2018 (Preliminary)	Dec 3, 2018 (Preliminary)	Dec 4, 2017
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	50	36	*	1,323
Navel oranges	44	25	*	69
White grapefruit..	11	5	*	46
Red grapefruit	77	67	*	187
Tangerines and Tangelos	22	15	*	47
Total	204	148	*	1,672

* not available at the time of publication
www.citrusadministrativecommittee.org

Fruits and Vegetables

Several counties in north central Florida received their first frost this week. Producers began preparing fields for spring watermelons. Crops planted included bitter melon, boniato, green beans, herbs, malanga, peppers, squash, and tomatoes. Crops harvested included avocado, bitter melon, boniato, green beans, herbs, lettuce, malanga, squash, and sweet potatoes.

Livestock and Pastures

Producers in northern and central counties continued to plant winter forages; however, rain in the Panhandle hindered several producers. Statewide, pasture quality saw a notable decline from cold and wet conditions in northern counties and dry conditions in southern counties. Ranchers in Brevard and Indian River counties supplied water for their cattle. Overall, cattle condition remained mostly good.

Field Crops

Another week of heavy rain in the Panhandle further hindered the cotton harvest. Quality declined as cotton remained in the field past its ideal harvest window. Jackson and Holmes counties had a small percentage of peanuts left in the fields; some of those acres will be a loss. Cover crops were planted when the weather permitted. Sugarcane planting and harvesting continued on schedule.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 12/2/18

Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	5	3	NA
Short.....	29	28	NA
Adequate.....	49	65	NA
Surplus.....	17	4	NA

Crop Progress for Week Ending 12/2/18

Crop stage	This week	Prev week	Prev year	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Harvested.....	54	40	86	NA

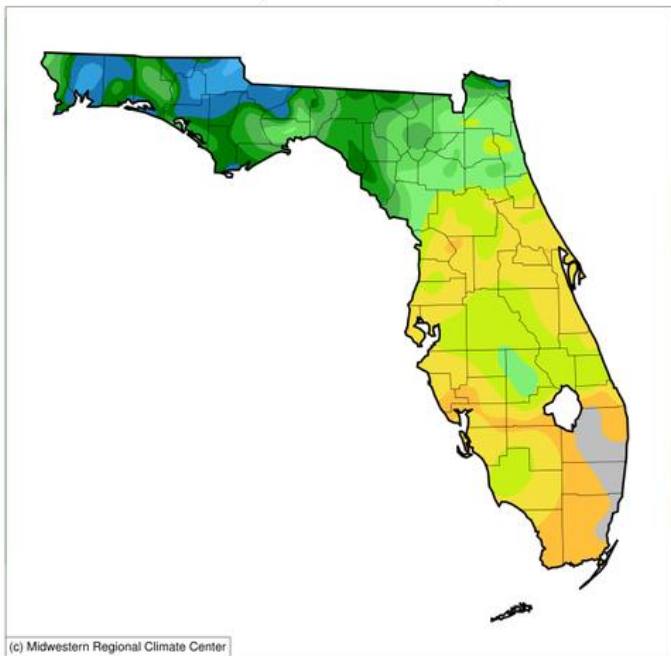
Condition for Week Ending 12/2/18

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle	0	3	20	66	11
Cotton	14	16	40	28	2
Pasture & range	1	15	39	37	8

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

Accumulated Precipitation (in)

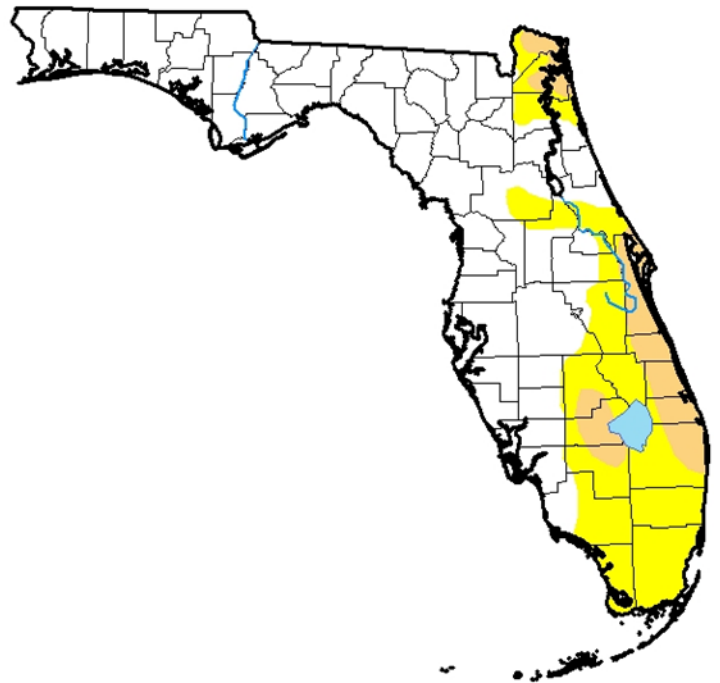
November 26, 2018 to December 02, 2018



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



0.01 0.1 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 4 5 6 8
mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/CLIMATE



Intensity:

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

November 27, 2018 (Released Thursday, November 29, 2018)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>