



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 17, 2018

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General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, December 16, 2018. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 8.78 inches in Ocala (Marion County). The average mean temperature ranged from 47.5°F in Niceville (Okaloosa County) to 73.6°F in Key West (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were generally average in the citrus growing region, with highs in the mid 60s to the mid 70s the majority of the week. On one or two warmer days, highs reached into the 80s. The highest temperature was in Sebring (Highlands County) at 85°F. All counties in the citrus belt received some rainfall during the week. Several isolated weather stations, primarily in the northern citrus growing area, received over two inches of rainfall, which was well above average for this time of the year. According to the December 13, 2018 U.S. Drought Monitor, drought conditions expanded rapidly. The eastern half of the citrus belt experienced moderate drought. The majority of counties in all areas, with the exception of the western citrus growing area, showed abnormally dry conditions or moderate drought. Except for a small area in Hardee County, the western area remained drought free.

Fieldworkers sprayed, mowed, and applied herbicides in several groves. They also performed maintenance hedging and topping on late oranges. Irrigation ran in all areas.

Early oranges and grapefruit were picked for fresh and processed use while tangerines were picked for the fresh market. The majority of harvested tangerines were the early varieties such as Fallglo, Early Pride, and Sunburst. Limited amounts of Robinsons, Tangos, and tangelos were also harvested. Processing plants were open and running early and mid-season oranges as well as red and white grapefruit. Processing levels were up to normal for this time of the year.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Nov 25, 2018 (Preliminary)	Dec 2, 2018 (Preliminary)	Dec 9, 2018 (Preliminary)	Dec 10, 2017
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	46	899	2,013	1,941
Navel oranges	32	67	72	72
Red grapefruit	82	141	105	189
White grapefruit..	7	29	13	44
Tangerines and Tangelos	19	35	29	56
Total	186	1,171	2,232	2,302

Source: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service Fruit and Vegetable Division

Fruits and Vegetables

Producers prepped watermelon fields. In Manatee County, pest pressures were noted for tomatoes and strawberries. Crops planted included bitter melon, boniato, cabbage, eggplant, green beans, herbs, malanga, peppers, pole beans, squash, and tomatoes. Crops harvested included avocado, bitter melon, boniato, cabbage, eggplant, green beans, herbs, leafy greens, malanga, peppers, pole beans, radishes, squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures

Pasture condition declined statewide for various reasons, depending on the location of the pasture acreage. Reasons included seasonal decline, frost damage, temperature fluctuations, and drought conditions. Cool-season forages were not yet ready for grazing in Levy County. Cattle condition remained mostly good.

Field Crops

Another week of rain kept the cotton harvest behind schedule. The remaining cotton in Walton County was presumed to be a loss because of its very poor condition. Cover crop planting continued in areas where the ground was dry enough. Sugarcane harvesting continued.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 12/16/18

Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	7	4	NA
Short.....	26	24	NA
Adequate.....	48	59	NA
Surplus.....	19	13	NA

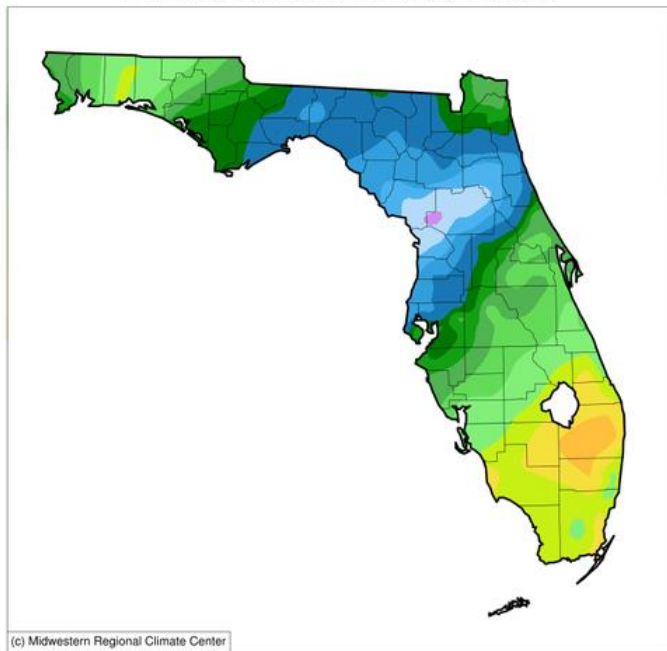
Crop Progress for Week Ending 12/16/18

Crop stage	This week	Prev week	Prev year	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Harvested.....	82	77	97	NA

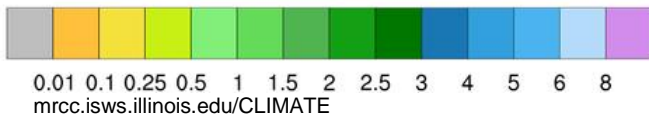
Condition for Week Ending 12/16/18

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle	1	3	25	55	16
Pasture & range	1	29	37	28	5

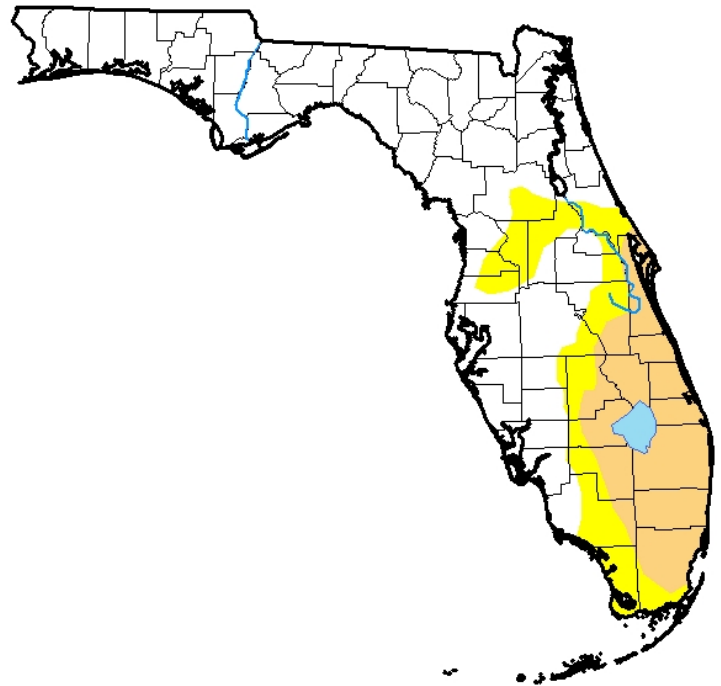
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
December 10, 2018 to December 16, 2018



(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

December 11, 2018 (Released Thursday, December 13, 2018)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>