



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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This report contains data collected each week from respondents across the state whose occupations provide them opportunities to discuss agricultural production with farmers in their counties as well as to make visual observations. We thank all who have contributed to this report.

October 3, 2022

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

## General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 4.5 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, October 2, 2022. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 21.5 inches at Daytona Beach (Volusia County). The average mean temperature ranged from 71.1°F at Gainesville Regional Airport (Alachua County) to 84.8°F at Naval Air Station Key West (Monroe County). Due to Hurricane Ian, many weather stations were unable to report for the entire week. It is likely that there is significant underreporting in precipitation amounts across the state and especially in the southwestern region of the state.

## Citrus

The first of the week, the citrus region had maximum temperatures ranging from the high-80s to the low-90s. Rainfall totals were between no rain to as much as five inches of rainfall over the first couple days. On September 28<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday afternoon, around 3:05 p.m. ET, Hurricane Ian made its first U.S. landfall along the southwestern coast of Florida as a Category 4 storm. It then made landfall on mainland Florida, just south of Punta Gordo (Charlotte County). The path took it directly through the heart of the citrus region. After ripping thorough Charlotte County with wind speeds recorded as high as 140 mph, Hurricane Ian traveled directly over four of the five largest citrus producing counties (Desoto, Highlands, Hardee, and Polk), continuing its strength as a hurricane. The entire citrus area was inundated with heavy winds and excessive rainfall as Hurricane Ian made its northeastward movement over the state. Rainfall totals in several citrus counties were over twelve inches within a two-day span. According to the Florida Automated Network Weather (FAWN), Joshua (Desoto County) accumulated 20.3 inches for the week, Ona (Hardee County) had 17.9 inches of rainfall, Babson Park (Polk County) received 13.8 inches of rainfall. According to the September 29, 2022, U.S. Drought Monitor, except for a small portion of the Indian River Area, the complete citrus region is drought free.

Normal grove operations were halted in all areas due to the storm. For the remainder of the week, groves were

flooded or extremely wet making it impossible to conduct grove care of any kind. Because of the severity of the storm, and by the weekend, federal and state field personnel had not had the opportunity to make any assessment of groves, structures, or grove road conditions. Early reports from growers indicate damaged screening of C.U.P.S (Citrus Under Protective Screen), heavy fruit drop and excessive water. Complete damage assessment due to wind and flooding is uncertain.

## Crops

Hurricane Ian caused significant damage to much of the state and its agriculture, with the worst damage along a line from Sarasota to Daytona Beach. Some areas received over 20 inches of rain, causing field flooding, crop, livestock, and structural damage.

In preparation for the hurricane, many operators harvested what they could before the storm arrived. This, combined with the lack of rain in the northern region of the state, resulted in strong progress for peanut digging and harvesting. Cotton bolls opening and harvest also continued to progress rapidly in areas not impacted by the hurricane.

Reporters noted that strawberry, tomato, and watermelon fields suffered significant damage and loss. Sugarcane planting and harvest will be delayed due to flooding. Planting of leafy vegetable fields were expected to be delayed with conditions too wet.

## Livestock and Pastures

Cattle conditions remained mostly fair to good, although the hurricane caused significant losses to cattle and cattle fencing. Many dairy producers in the path of the storm were unable to milk due to lack of power in production barns. Pastures that were not flooded remained in mostly fair to good condition. Some reporters noted a lack of grass for livestock in the northern region of the state.

### Crop Progress for Week Ending 10/2/22

Crop	Prev year (percent)	Prev week (percent)	This week (percent)	5 Year avg (percent)
Cotton – Bolls Opening.....	51	53	69	64
Cotton – Harvested.....	2	2	5	4
Peanuts – Dug.....	48	50	64	58
Peanuts – Harvested....	35	34	48	43

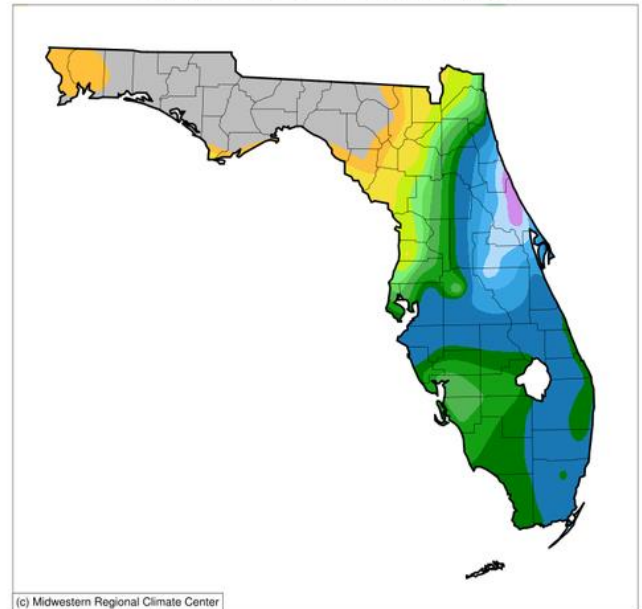
### Conditions for Week Ending 10/2/22

Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	1	6	18	63	12
Cotton.....	1	5	42	51	1
Pasture & range...	3	15	29	43	10
Peanuts.....	1	3	39	55	2

### Soil Moisture for Week Ending 10/2/22

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very short.....	2	10
Short.....	17	14
Adequate.....	69	30
Surplus.....	12	46

Accumulated Precipitation (in)  
September 26, 2022 to October 02, 2022



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center

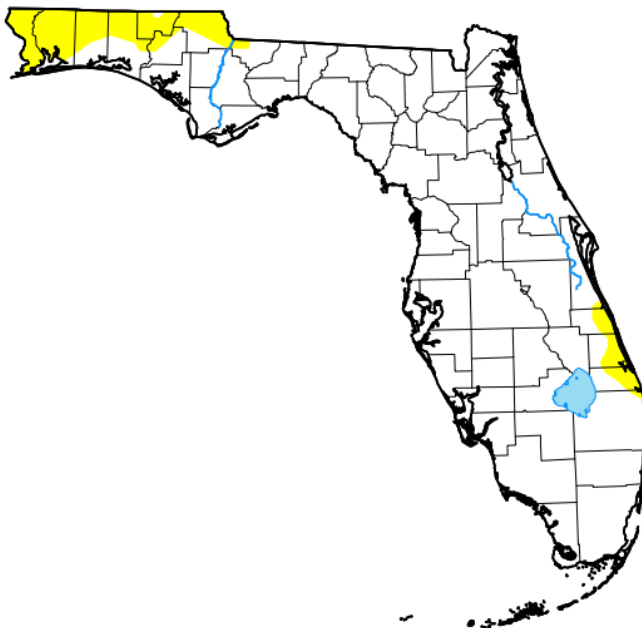


0.01 0.1 0.5 1 1.5 2 3 4 5 7.5 10 12.5 15

<https://mrcc.purdue.edu/CLIMATE/>

**Special Note:** Due to Hurricane Ian, many weather stations were unable to report for the entire week.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



### September 27, 2022

(Released Thursday, Sep. 29, 2022)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

#### Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	91.16	8.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 09-20-2022	81.48	18.52	1.19	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 06-28-2022	77.32	22.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-04-2022	76.97	23.03	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-28-2021	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 09-28-2021	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

#### Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)