



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.

December 19, 2022

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, December 18, 2022. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 2.9 inches at West Palm Beach Airport (Palm Beach County). The average mean temperature ranged from 54.0°F at Whiting Naval Air Station (Santa Rosa County) to 82.4°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures cooled in the citrus growing region last week, with highs in the 70s. The warmest readings were recorded in Kenansville (Osceola County), Sebring (Highlands County), and Wauchula (Hardee County), all registering 78 degrees. The citrus belt experienced light to moderate rainfall during the reporting period associated with the passage of multiple cold fronts. The most rain fell in Muse (Glades County), receiving 1.8 inches of precipitation, followed by Clermont (Lake County), reporting 1.4 inches, and Winter Haven (Polk County), reading 1.2 inches. According to the December 15, 2022, U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire citrus growing region remained drought free, though abnormally dry conditions were edging closer to some groves in the northwestern portion of the citrus area.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides, fertilizing, spraying herbicides, mowing, topping, hedging, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run statewide. Sizing on this season’s crop was as follows: oranges about tennis ball to baseball size and grapefruit about softball size. Field personnel reported grapefruit coloring well, with coloration beginning on Valencia oranges also.

Harvested varieties for the fresh market included: early and midseason tangerines; early, midseason, and Navel oranges; and red and white grapefruit. Processed fruit included field-run early oranges, Navels, and red grapefruit, along with packinghouse eliminations of all fruit types.

Crops

Most of the state received a significant amount of rain last week, with the southeastern and northwestern regions of the state receiving the most precipitation. The rain played a part in lower temperatures across the state as well. Some areas received strong winds along with the precipitation.

Cotton harvest progressed despite the precipitation and neared completion. Reporters noted that the cooler weather did not negatively impact leafy vegetables. Reporters also noted that public strawberry farm markets have opened in certain regions of the state.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle and pasture conditions were reported mostly good to fair. Despite a notable amount of precipitation in the past week, the northern region of the state continued to be under drought conditions.

Crop Progress for Week Ending 12/18/22

Crop	Prev year (percent)	Prev week (percent)	This week (percent)	5 Year avg (percent)
Cotton – Harvested.....	97	93	98	94

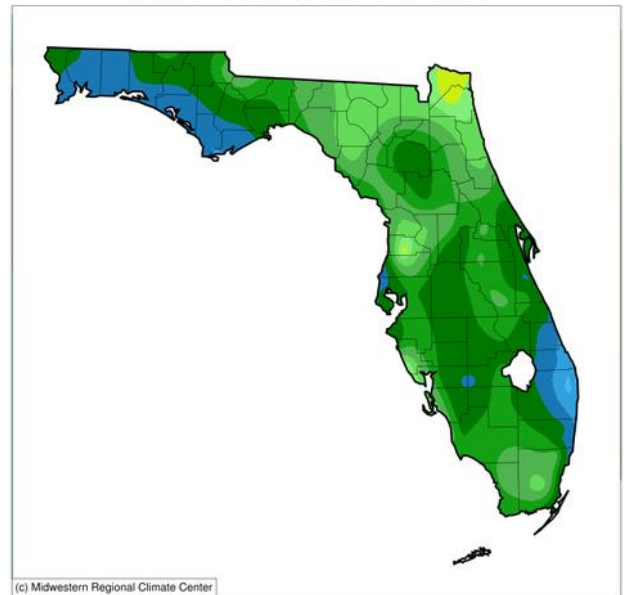
Conditions for Week Ending 12/18/22

Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	1	4	30	48	17
Pasture & range...	3	14	36	33	14

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 12/18/22

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very short.....	2	2
Short.....	35	22
Adequate.....	62	71
Surplus.....	1	5

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
December 12, 2022 to December 18, 2022



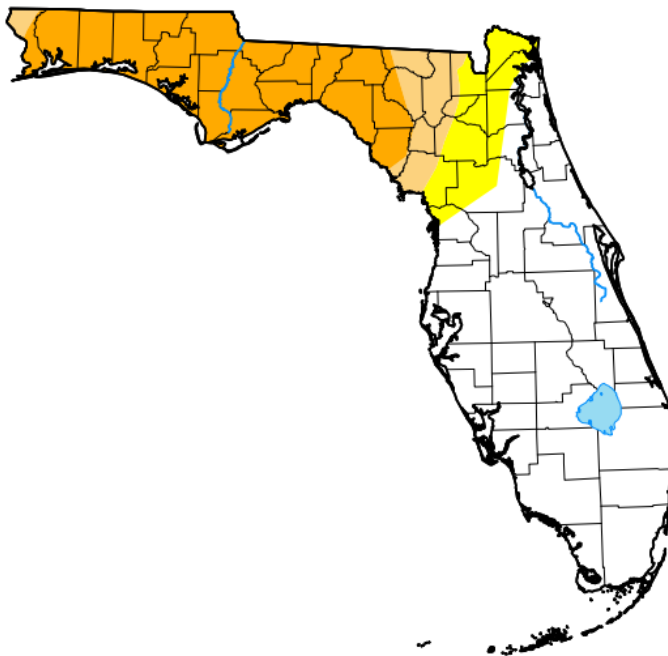
(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



0.0 0.10 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.5 0.75 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 4

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

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



December 13, 2022

(Released Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	59.49	40.51	31.98	25.79	0.00	0.00
Last Week 12-06-2022	66.72	33.28	29.86	21.88	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 09-13-2022	79.50	20.50	2.55	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-04-2022	76.97	23.03	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	91.16	8.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 12-14-2021	85.39	14.61	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