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
Southern Region, Florida Field Office · 851 Trafalgar Court Suite 310 E · Maitland, FL 32751 · (800) 253-4419 ·(855) 271-9801 FAX
www.nass.usda.gov

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 10, 2023

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, October 8, 2023. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 6.1 inches in Fort Pierce (St. Lucie County). The average mean temperature ranged from 71.3°F at Crestview Airport (Okaloosa County) to 85.4°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were seasonable in the citrus growing region last week, with average highs from the mid-80's to the low 90's. The hottest readings were recorded in Clermont (Lake County) hitting 91 degrees, followed by Sebring (Highlands County) reaching 89 degrees, and Winter Haven (Polk County) reading 87 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread light to locally moderate rainfall during the reporting period, associated with the passage of a weak cold front. The most rain fell in Kenansville (Osceola County), reading 2.1 inches of precipitation, followed by Fellsmere (Indian River County) registering 2.0 inches, and Winter Haven (Polk County) measuring 1.0 inches. According to the October 5, 2023, U.S. Drought Monitor, coverage of moderate drought and abnormal dryness expanded again in the citrus counties along the Gulf coast, while extreme and severe drought maintained their grip on previously impacted areas. The rest of the citrus growing region continued to be drought free.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, fertilizing, spraying herbicides, mowing, skirting tree canopies, removal of dead trees, bactericide trunk injection, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run as needed. Field personnel reported next year's fruit sizing well, with oranges approximately tennis ball to baseball size, while grapefruit were about baseball to softball size. Color break on Fallglo tangerines; Navel, early, and midseason oranges; and red grapefruit was also observed in many groves. Limited harvest of Fallglo tangerines had begun.

Crops

It was a dry week for much of the state, with only the southeastern region of the state receiving a significant amount of precipitation. Temperatures continued to drop in many areas, especially at night. Crops that were harvested last week included rice, okra, avocado, bitter melon, and other tropical fruits. Reporters noted that sugarcane harvest began slightly later than normal due to adverse field conditions. Strawberry planting season was reported to be in full swing.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle and pastures were reported in mostly good to fair condition. Reporters noted that cooler temperatures at night stopped some pasture growth, with hay feeding expected to commence shortly.

Crop Progress for Week Ending 10/8/23

Crop	Prev year	Prev week	This week	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Bolls Opening…	84	74	86	75
Cotton - Harvested……..	9	2	8	6
Peanuts - Dug…..……..	78	59	70	70
Peanuts - Harvested……	59	45	55	54

Conditions for Week Ending 10/8/23

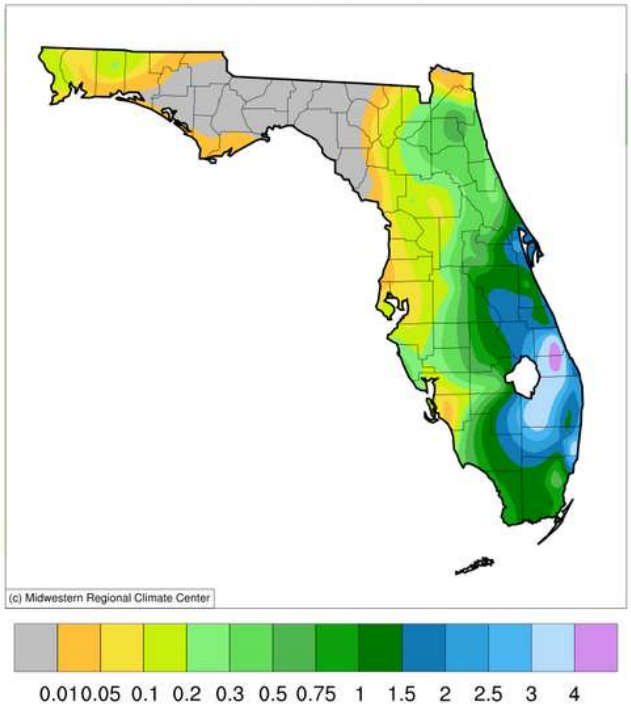
Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle……..	0	1	18	66	15
Cotton……..	5	39	43	13	0
Pasture & range….	2	6	29	42	21
Peanuts……..	2	18	39	41	0

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 10/8/23

Topsoil	Previous week	This week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short…….....	7	5
Short…….	21	20
Adequate……..…….	59	63
Surplus…….	13	12

Accumulated Precipitation (in)

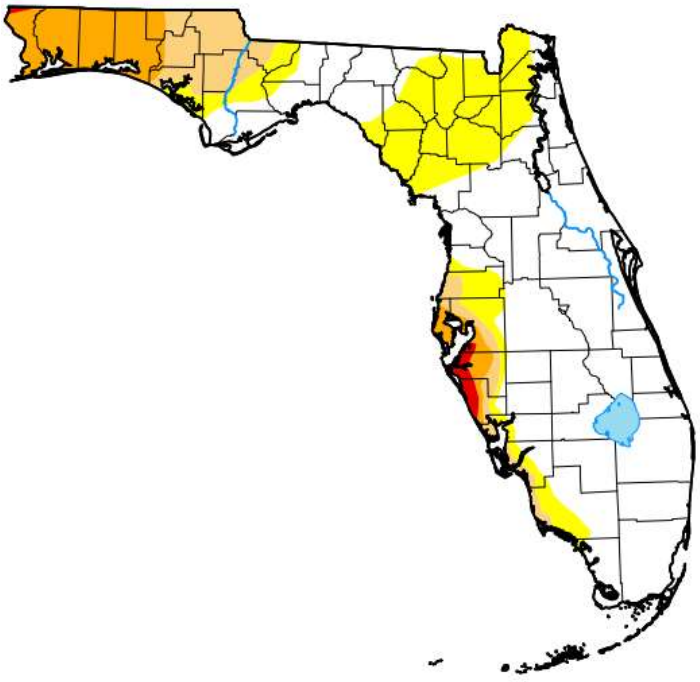
October 02, 2023 to October 08, 2023



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

U.S. Drought Monitor

Florida



October 3, 2023

(Released Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	62.46	37.54	17.70	9.50	0.91	0.00
Last Week 09-26-2023	69.09	30.91	17.59	9.00	0.81	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-04-2023	87.98	12.02	4.37	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	56.61	43.39	30.80	19.77	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	69.09	30.91	17.59	9.00	0.81	0.00
One Year Ago 10-04-2022	88.44	11.56	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme 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

Author:

Brad Pugh
CPC/NOAA

droughtmonitor.unl.edu