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 2, 2023

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, October 1, 2023. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 8.3 inches in Fort Pierce (St. Lucie County). The average mean temperature ranged from 74.3°F in Monticello (Jefferson 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 in the high 80's to the low 90's. The hottest readings were recorded in Clermont (Lake County) reaching 91 degrees, followed by Kenansville (Osceola County) reading 90 degrees, and Bartow (Polk County) hitting 89 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread moderate to locally heavy rainfall as the peninsula fell under an active, wet-pattern weather system during the reporting period. The most rain fell in Muse (Glades County), reading 6.2 inches of precipitation, followed by Lake Placid (Highlands County) registering 5.3 inches, and Mount Plymouth (Lake County) measuring 4.3 inches. According to the September 28, 2023, U.S. Drought Monitor, coverage of extreme drought, severe drought, moderate drought, and abnormal dryness all expanded slightly in the citrus counties along the Gulf coast. The rest of the citrus growing region continued to be drought free.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, fertilizing, spraying herbicides, mowing, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, dredging ditches, 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 several groves. Limited harvest of Fallglo tangerines had begun.

Crops

Much of the state received a significant amount of rain last week, with only the northwest and west central regions of the state receiving little precipitation. Reporters noted declining crop conditions in areas that received little precipitation. Crops that were harvested last week included rice, okra, avocado, bitter melon, and other tropical fruits. Reporters noted that heavy rain in the southeastern region of the state delayed sugarcane and rice harvest activities. Reporters also noted that winter strawberry planting began last week with about five to ten percent of the acreage transplanted.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle and pastures were reported in mostly good to fair condition. There were reports of declining pasture quality due to cooler temperatures and a lack of precipitation in some areas of the state.

Crop Progress for Week Ending 10/1/23

Crop	Prev year	Prev week	This week	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Bolls Opening…	67	60	74	62
Cotton - Harvested……..	5	1	2	3
Peanuts - Dug…..……..	62	42	59	57
Peanuts - Harvested……	46	26	45	42

Conditions for Week Ending 10/1/23

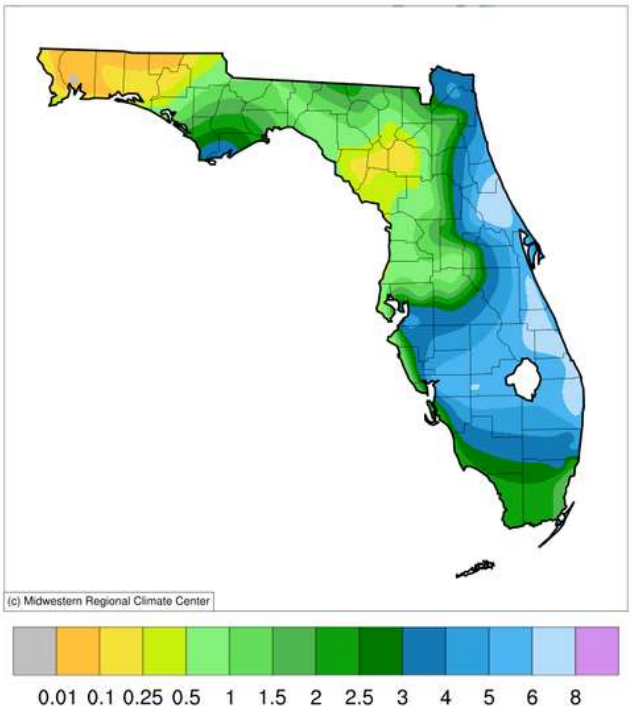
Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle……..	1	2	21	64	12
Cotton……..	10	31	42	17	0
Pasture & range….	2	5	32	40	21
Peanuts……..	1	14	48	37	0

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 10/1/23

Topsoil	Previous week	This week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short……....	1	7
Short…….	30	21
Adequate……..…….	60	59
Surplus…….	9	13

Accumulated Precipitation (in)

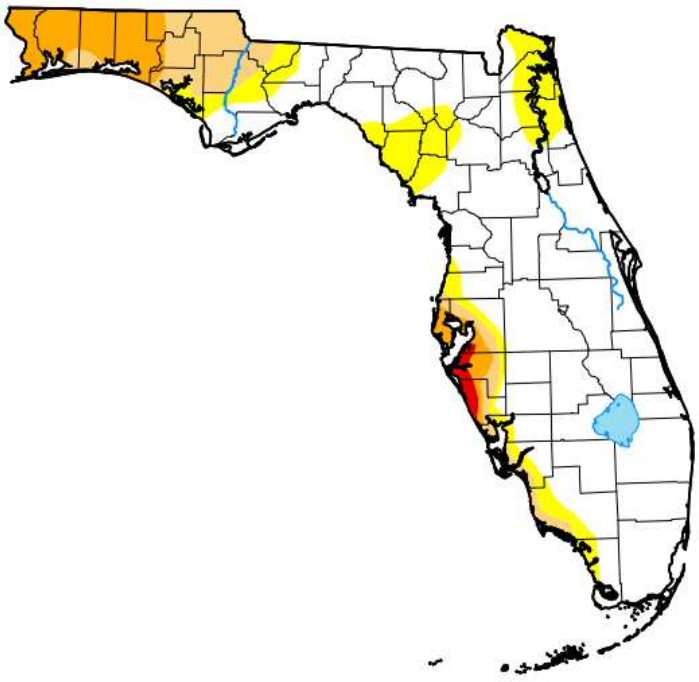
September 25, 2023 to October 01, 2023



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

U.S. Drought Monitor

Florida



September 26, 2023

(Released Thursday, Sep. 28, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	69.09	30.91	17.59	9.00	0.81	0.00
Last Week 09-19-2023	69.12	30.88	13.94	1.65	0.58	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-27-2023	93.84	6.16	0.00	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 09-27-2022	91.16	8.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 09-27-2022	91.16	8.84	0.00	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

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu