



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 30, 2023

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.9 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, October 29, 2023. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 1.1 inches at Marathon Airport (Monroe County). The average mean temperature ranged from 70.6°F at Crestview Airport (Okaloosa County) to 81.6°F at Pompano Beach Airpark (Broward County).

Citrus

Temperatures were above average in the citrus growing region last week, with average highs in the mid to high 80's. The warmest readings were recorded in Clermont (Lake County) and Sebring (Highlands County), both reaching 87 degrees, followed by Winter Haven (Polk County) reading 86 degrees. The citrus belt received negligible to no rainfall during the reporting period, as a dry airmass maintained coverage over the state. According to the October 26, 2023, U.S. Drought Monitor, various levels of drought and abnormal dryness remained constant 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, hedging, topping, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, construction of screenhouses, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run statewide. Field personnel reported this season's fruit sizing well, with oranges approximately tennis

ball to larger than baseball size, while grapefruit were about baseball to larger than softball size. Color break on early season tangerines; Navel, early and midseason oranges; and red and white grapefruit was observed in most groves across the state. Field personnel reported trees looked good in well cared-for groves.

Harvest of Fallglo and Early Pride tangerines, along with small amounts of Navel and early oranges, had begun. Picking of red grapefruit for the fresh market was also ramping up. One processing plant was open to accept packinghouse eliminations.

Crops

It was another extremely dry week for the entire state, with only the very southern region of the state receiving a notable amount of precipitation. The dry weather allowed for a significant amount of field work, but reporters noted that planting of winter crops was delayed due to dry soil conditions. Potato producers continued to prepare cropland for planting. Fall vegetable and strawberry planting continued to progress and neared completion. Crops that were harvested last week included tomatoes, eggplant, squash, peppers, and cucumbers. Reporters noted that rice harvest was expected to conclude soon.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle were reported to be in mostly good to fair condition, while pastures were reported to be in mostly fair to good condition. Pasture conditions continued to deteriorate due to dry conditions.

Crop Progress for Week Ending 10/29/23

Crop	Prev year	Prev week	This week	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Bolls Opening...	99	94	97	94
Cotton - Harvested.....	31	22	33	23
Peanuts - Dug.....	96	86	94	93
Peanuts - Harvested.....	91	75	84	85

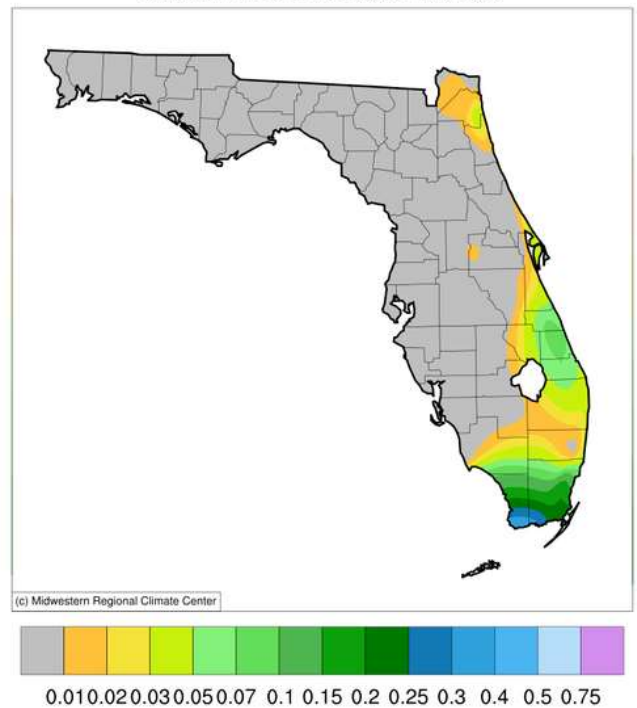
Conditions for Week Ending 10/29/23

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	1	3	33	56	7
Cotton.....	8	24	58	10	0
Pasture & range....	3	10	37	34	16

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 10/29/23

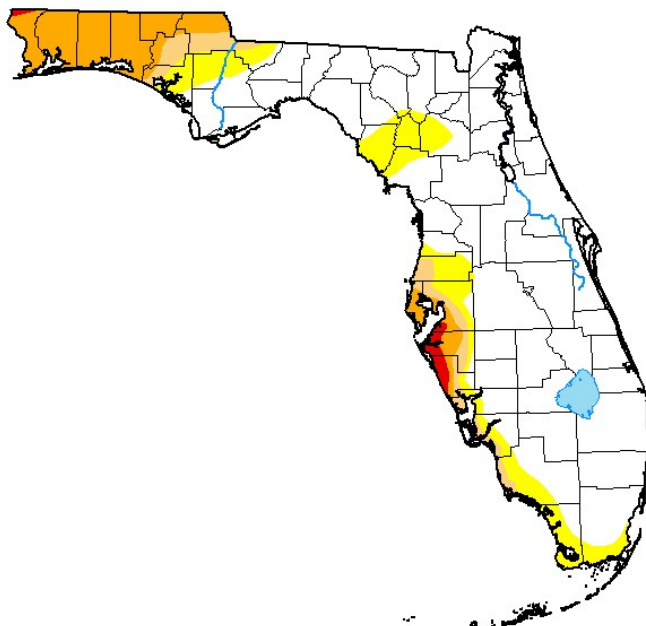
Topsoil	Previous week	This week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	8	16
Short.....	22	23
Adequate.....	66	60
Surplus.....	4	1

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
October 23, 2023 to October 29, 2023



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

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



October 24, 2023

(Released Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	72.64	27.36	15.35	11.03	0.89	0.00
Last Week 10-17-2023	74.62	25.38	15.35	10.25	0.89	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-25-2023	90.08	9.92	5.69	2.97	0.92	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 10-25-2022	67.44	32.56	21.98	9.75	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