



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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[www.nass.usda.gov](http://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.

December 11, 2023

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

## General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, December 10, 2023. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 2.3 inches at Tallahassee Airport (Leon County). The average mean temperature ranged from 53.7°F at Crestview Airport (Okaloosa County) to 76.6°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

## Citrus

Temperatures were average or above in the citrus growing region last week, with highs mostly in the 70s to 80s. The highest average temperature was in Labelle (Hendry County) at 80 degrees. The citrus belt was relatively dry until thunderstorms on Sunday brought between a tenth of an inch to just over a half an inch of rainfall to the citrus producing region. According to the December 7, 2023, U.S. Drought Monitor, various levels of drought and abnormal dryness maintained previous coverage in the citrus counties along the Gulf coast. The rest of the citrus growing region continued to be drought free.

Grove operations included spraying, fertilizing, herbicide applications, mowing, removal of dead trees, replanting of young trees, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run on an as-needed basis statewide. According to the December 8, 2023 Florida December Citrus Forecast, final fruit size for non-Valencia oranges is projected to be below the minimum at harvest. Final fruit size of

both red and white grapefruit is projected to above average at harvest. Color break on red and white grapefruit was observed in groves where grapefruit is being grown. Field personnel reported citrus trees looked good in well cared-for groves. As the season moves into full swing, harvest of early and mid-season tangerines, Navels, other early oranges, and red and white grapefruit for the fresh market held steady. Most processing plants were open to accept packinghouse eliminations with one major plant planning on opening for field run this week.

## Crops

The northern half of the state received light showers while the southern half of the state received little to no rain. Many reported the temperatures dropped near the end of the week, but it did not significantly impact crops. Crops that were planted last week include green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, tomato, peppers eggplant, boniato, bitter melon and other Asian vegetables. Crops that were harvested last week include strawberries, sugarcane, green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, boniato, bitter melon, other Asian vegetables, avocado and other tropical fruits.

## Livestock and Pastures

Cattle were reported to be in mostly good to fair condition due to hay and winter supplementation. Pastures were reported to be in mostly fair to good condition but were declining due to drier weather.

### Crop Progress for Week Ending 12/10/23

Crop	Prev year	Prev week	This week	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Harvested.....	92	91	97	89
Peanuts - Harvested.....	100	99	100	100

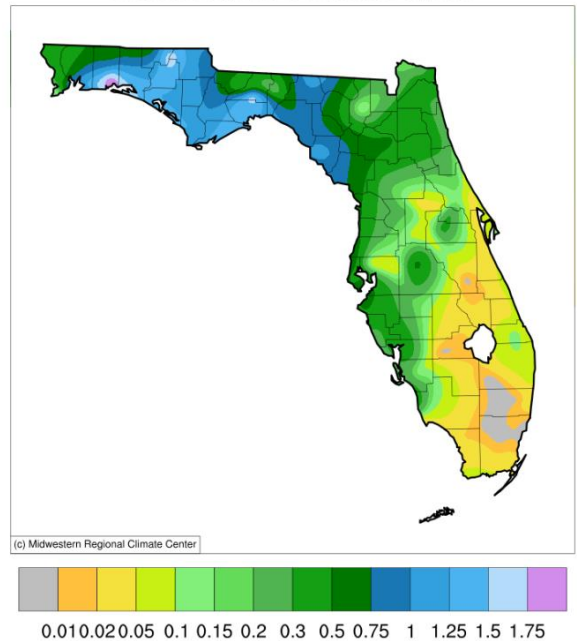
### Conditions for Week Ending 12/10/23

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	1	3	30	41	25
Pasture & range....	4	11	37	25	23

### Soil Moisture for Week Ending 12/10/23

Topsoil	Previous week	This week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	2	3
Short.....	13	11
Adequate.....	75	78
Surplus.....	10	8

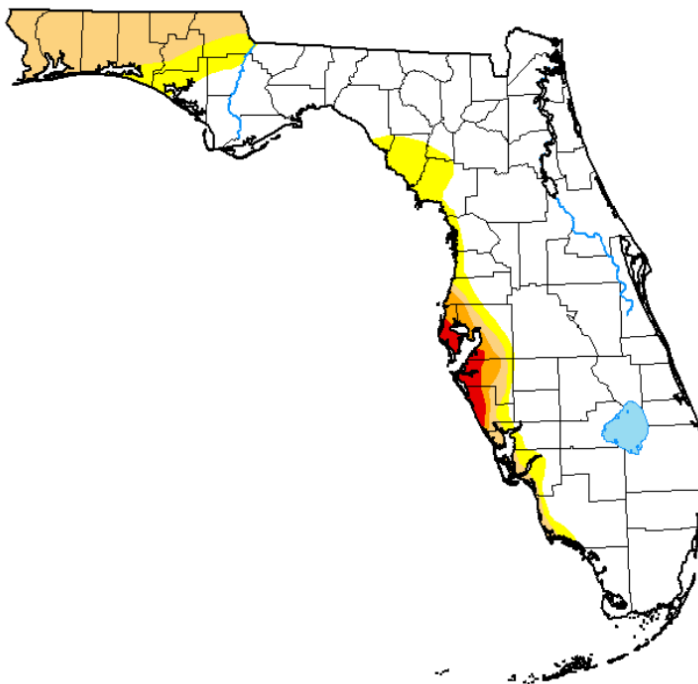
Accumulated Precipitation (in)  
December 04, 2023 to December 10, 2023



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

## U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

**December 5, 2023**  
(Released Thursday, Dec. 7, 2023)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



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