



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](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 4, 2023

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

## General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, December 3, 2023. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 7.3 inches at Tallahassee Airport (Leon County). The average mean temperature ranged from 52.7°F at Crestview Airport (Okaloosa County) to 77.6°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

## Citrus

Temperatures were below average in the citrus growing region last week, with highs mostly in the 70's. The warmest readings were recorded in Sebring (Highlands County) hitting 77 degrees, followed by Clermont (Lake County) and Winter Haven (Polk County), both reading 76 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread light rainfall during the reporting period associated with the passage of a weak cold front. The most rain fell in Bartow (Polk County), reporting 0.20 inches of precipitation. According to the November 30, 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 pesticides and nutritionals, applying herbicide, fertilizing, mowing, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, construction of screenhouses, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run on an as-needed basis statewide. Field personnel reported this season's fruit sizing well, with oranges approximately tennis ball to larger than baseball size,

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

Harvest of Orri, Autumn Honey, and SugarBelle tangerines; Navel and early oranges; and red and white grapefruit for the fresh market continued to plow ahead. Eleven packinghouses were active last week, and two processing plants were open to accept packinghouse eliminations and field run fruit.

## Crops

Many areas of the northern part of the state received significant amounts of rainfall last week, which notably helped improve drought conditions, winter crops and forages. Many reported the temperatures and precipitation have been optimal for sugarcane and leafy vegetable production. Crops that were planted last week include green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, sweet corn, boniato, bitter melon and other Asian vegetables. Crops that were harvested last week include green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, cucumbers, tomatoes, sweet corn, okra, boniato, bitter melon, other Asian vegetables, avocado, and tropical fruits. Red poinsettia plants were sold in preparation for the holidays.

## Livestock and Pastures

Cattle were reported to be in mostly good to fair condition. Pastures were reported to be in mostly fair to good condition.

### Crop Progress for Week Ending 12/3/23

Crop	Prev year	Prev week	This week	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Harvested.....	87	80	91	80
Peanuts - Harvested.....	100	98	99	100

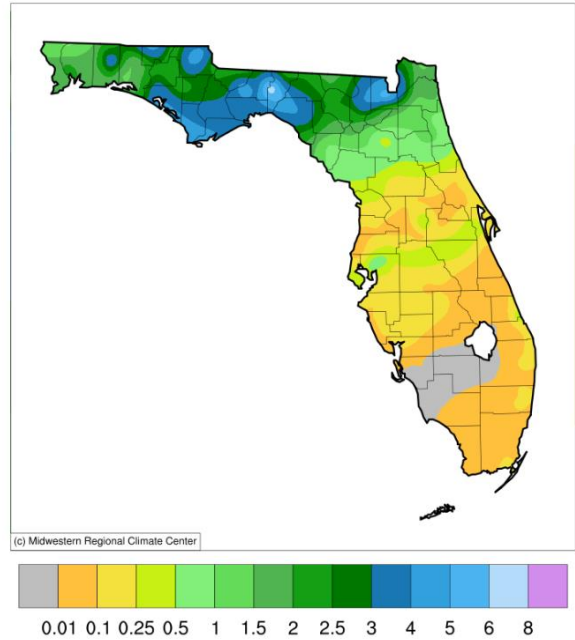
### Conditions for Week Ending 12/3/23

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	0	2	31	50	17
Pasture & range....	3	9	32	31	25

### Soil Moisture for Week Ending 12/3/23

Topsoil	Previous week	This week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	1	2
Short.....	15	13
Adequate.....	73	75
Surplus.....	11	10

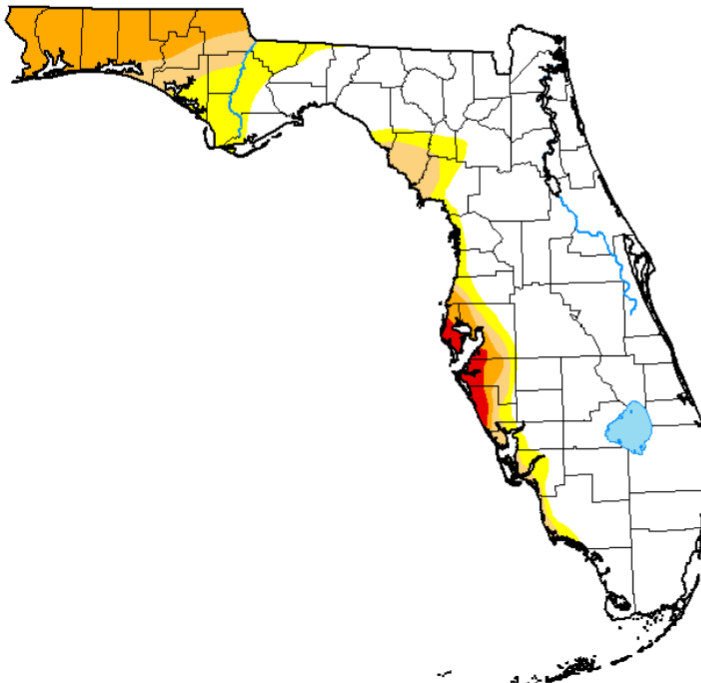
Accumulated Precipitation (in)  
November 27, 2023 to December 03, 2023



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

## U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

November 28, 2023  
(Released Thursday, Nov. 30, 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>

**Author:**

David Simeral  
Western Regional Climate Center



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