



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.

August 28, 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, August 27, 2023. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 2.8 inches at Winter Haven Gilbert Airport (Polk County). The average mean temperature ranged from 81.5°F in Scottsmeer (Brevard County) to 89.6°F at Destin Fort Walton Beach Airport (Okaloosa County).

Citrus

Temperatures remained above average in the citrus growing region last week, with average highs in the low to mid 90's. The hottest readings were recorded in Clermont (Lake County) reaching 96 degrees, followed by Winter Haven (Polk County) reading 95 degrees, and Sebring (Highlands County) hitting 93 degrees. The citrus belt received scattered light rainfall during the reporting period associated with daily afternoon thunderstorm activity. The most rain fell in Winter Haven (Polk County), measuring 2.8 inches of precipitation, followed by Clermont (Lake County) reading 1.1 inches, and Muse (Glades County) registering 1.0 inches. According to the August 24, 2023, U.S. Drought Monitor, persistent elevated temperatures combined with an ongoing lack of adequate rainfall resulted in mixed changes to drought conditions along the west coast of the peninsula, with extreme drought and severe drought receding toward the Gulf of Mexico while moderate drought and abnormal dryness continued to expand coverage from the core drought-affected area further into the interior citrus cultivating counties. The rest of the citrus growing region remained drought free.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, fertilizing, spraying herbicides, mowing,

discing, skirting tree canopies, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run as needed. Field personnel reported next year's fruit sizing well, with oranges approximately golf ball to baseball size, while grapefruit were about tennis ball to softball size.

Crops

It was a dry week for much of the state, with only a few isolated areas in each region of the state receiving adequate precipitation. In addition to the dry weather, temperatures were extremely high throughout the state, causing crop damage. Reporters noted that operators were monitoring tropical storm Idalia, as it is expected to intensify moving through the Gulf of Mexico. Cotton boll setting neared completion. Peanut digging continued to progress ahead of historical averages, while some operators began to harvest the crop. Reporters noted some damage to peanuts due to the high temperatures. Strawberry and fall vegetable land preparation continued. Crops that were harvested last week included rice, okra, mango, avocado, bitter melon, longan, and other tropical fruits. Reporters noted that fields continued to be prepared for sugarcane planting.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle were reportedly in mostly good to fair condition, while pastures were reportedly in good to excellent condition. Reporters noted that high temperatures were beginning to take a toll on cattle in some areas.

Crop Progress for Week Ending 8/27/23

Crop	Prev year	Prev week	This week	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Setting Bolls.....	99	96	98	97
Cotton - Bolls Opening...	15	13	21	18
Peanuts - Dug.....	6	9	14	5
Peanuts - Harvested.....	2	NA	4	2

NA – Not Available

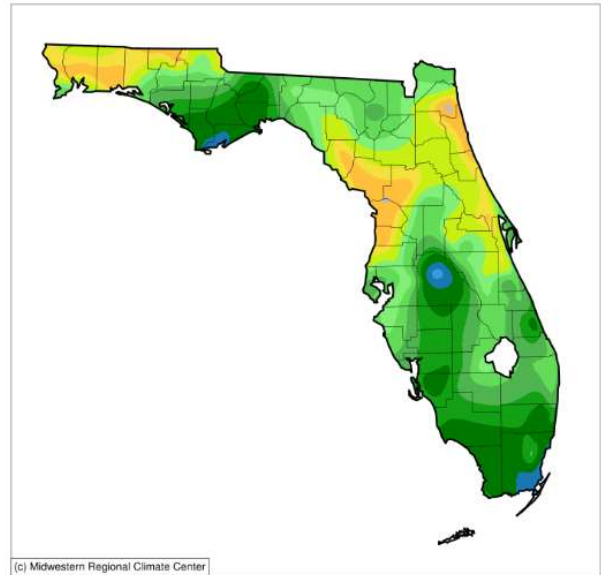
Conditions for Week Ending 8/27/23

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	2	3	27	52	16
Cotton.....	5	19	37	39	0
Pasture & range....	2	7	22	39	30
Peanuts.....	0	9	32	58	1

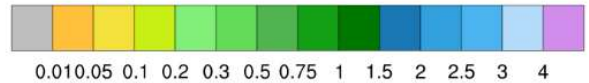
Soil Moisture for Week Ending 8/27/23

Topsoil	Previous week	This week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	8	16
Short.....	20	17
Adequate.....	67	62
Surplus.....	5	5

Accumulated Precipitation (in) August 21, 2023 to August 27, 2023

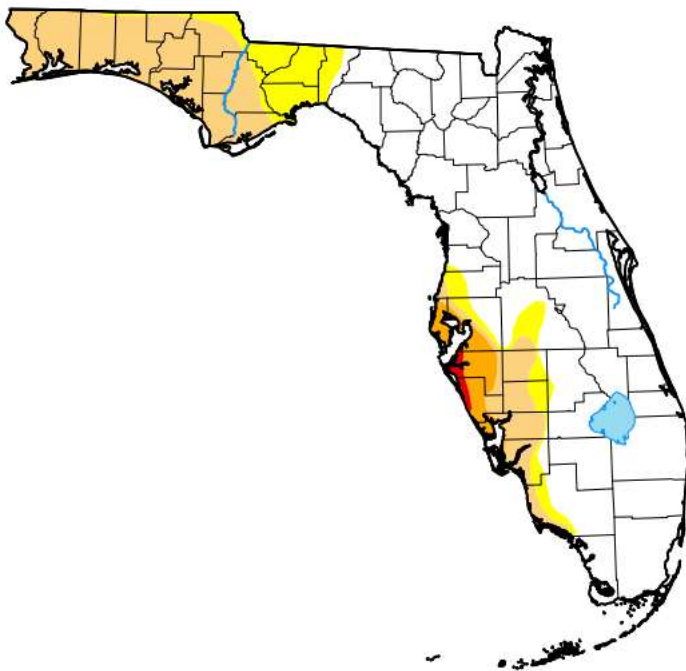


(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



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

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



August 22, 2023
(Released Thursday, Aug. 24, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	68.31	31.69	22.86	3.17	0.48	0.00
Last Week 08-15-2023	69.95	30.05	7.52	3.95	1.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 05-23-2023	51.84	48.16	25.57	15.19	8.47	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 08-23-2022	83.52	16.48	1.31	0.00	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