



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
**Florida Crop Progress  
and Condition Report**



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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.

September 18, 2023

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

## General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, September 17, 2023. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 5.8 inches at Miami International Airport (Miami-Dade County). The average mean temperature ranged from 80.0°F in Fernandina Beach (Nassau County) to 89.0°F at Marathon Airport (Monroe 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 Sebring (Highlands County), Wauchula (Hardee County), and Winter Haven (Polk County) all hitting 94 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread light to moderate rainfall during the reporting period associated with daily afternoon thunderstorm activity. The most rain fell in Winter Haven (Polk County), reading 3.3 inches of precipitation, followed by Clermont (Lake County) registering 3.2 inches, and Bartow (Polk County) measuring 2.4 inches. According to the September 14, 2023, U.S. Drought Monitor, continued beneficial rainfall eliminated abnormal dryness along the Peace River near the west coast of the peninsula, however coverage of extreme drought, severe drought, moderate drought, and abnormal dryness remained constant or slightly deteriorated in the other Gulf coast citrus counties. 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, installation of individual protective tree covers, bactericide trunk injection, 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 baseball to softball size. Color break on Fallglo tangerines; Navel, early, and midseason oranges; and red grapefruit was also observed in some groves.

## Crops

Most of the state received a moderate amount of rain last week, with only the southwestern region of the state not receiving much precipitation. In areas still recovering from Hurricane Idalia, fieldwork had a modest week of progress. Despite a slow week of progress, cotton boll opening remained ahead of historical averages. Peanut digging and harvest remained slightly behind schedule compared to previous years. Crops that were harvested last week included rice, okra, avocado, bitter melon, and other tropical fruits. Reporters noted that sugarcane planting and strawberry land preparation continued. Reporters also noted that green bean fields were being prepared.

## Livestock and Pastures

Cattle and pastures were reported in mostly good to fair condition.

### Crop Progress for Week Ending 9/17/23

Crop	Prev year	Prev week	This week	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Bolls Opening...	34	39	47	40
Peanuts - Dug.....	33	24	31	32
Peanuts - Harvested.....	13	10	14	18

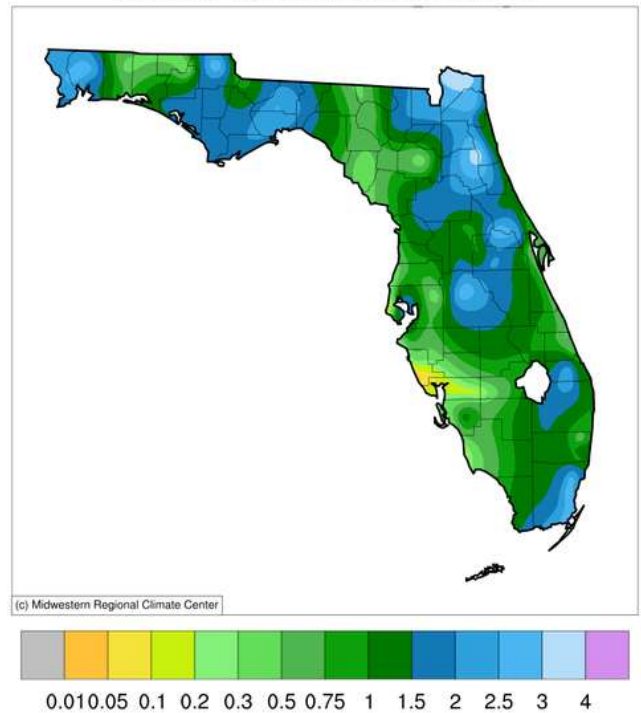
### Conditions for Week Ending 9/17/23

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	1	2	24	63	10
Cotton.....	5	18	46	30	1
Pasture & range....	2	4	29	43	22
Peanuts.....	1	10	44	44	1

### Soil Moisture for Week Ending 9/17/23

Topsoil	Previous week	This week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	5	2
Short.....	17	25
Adequate.....	72	68
Surplus.....	6	5

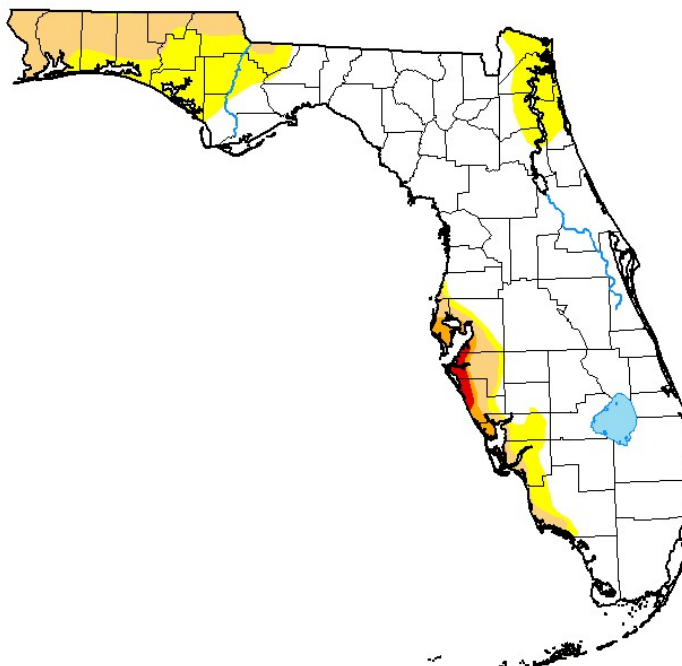
Accumulated Precipitation (in)  
September 11, 2023 to September 17, 2023



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

## U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

September 12, 2023  
(Released Thursday, Sep. 14, 2023)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



**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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