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.

September 25, 2023

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.1 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, September 24, 2023. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 7.7 inches in Key West (Monroe County). The average mean temperature ranged from 74.1°F at Crestview Airport (Okaloosa County) to 85.4°F at Marathon Airport (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were seasonable in the citrus growing region last week, with average highs in the high 80's to the low 90's. The hottest readings were recorded in Clermont (Lake County) reaching 93 degrees, followed by Kenansville (Osceola County), Sebring (Highlands County), and Winter Haven (Polk County) all hitting 90 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread light to moderate rainfall associated with a weak cold front that stalled over the peninsula during the reporting period. The most rain fell in Sebring (Highlands County), reading 4.3 inches of precipitation, followed by Bartow (Polk County) registering 3.0 inches, and LaBelle (Hendry County) measuring 2.6 inches. According to the September 21, 2023, U.S. Drought Monitor, coverage of extreme drought, severe drought, moderate drought, and abnormal dryness again remained constant or slightly deteriorated 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, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, construction of screenhouses, 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 tennis 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

It was a dry week for much of the state, with only the southeastern region of the state receiving significant precipitation. Temperatures remained high in many areas, which had a negative impact on crops. Reporters noted that late planted cotton was looking better than the early planted crop. Cotton harvest began in some fields. High heat from the summer had a negative impact on peanut digging progress as well as vine health. Crops that were harvested last week included rice, okra, avocado, bitter melon, and other tropical fruits. Land preparation for fall strawberry season continued. Reporters noted that the heavy rain in the southeastern region of the state delayed rice harvest activities.

Livestock and Pastures

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

Crop Progress for Week Ending 9/24/23

Crop	Prev year	Prev week	This week	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Bolls Opening…	51	47	60	51
Cotton - Harvested……..	2	0	1	1
Peanuts - Dug…..……..	48	31	42	45
Peanuts - Harvested……	31	14	26	31

Conditions for Week Ending 9/24/23

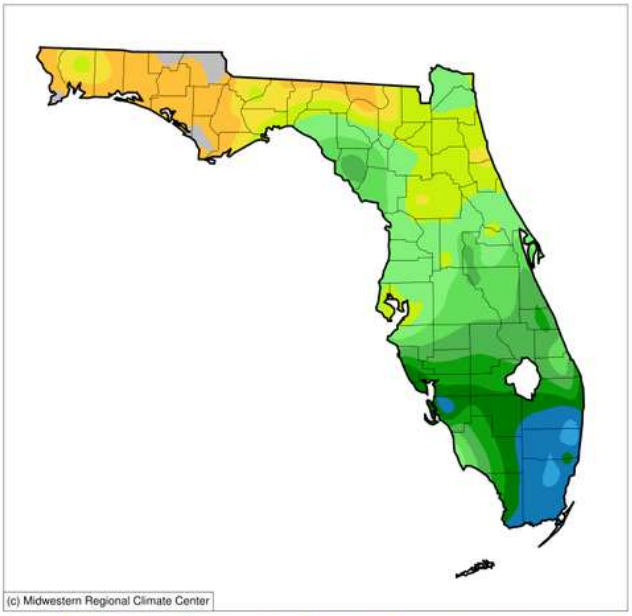
Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle……..	1	2	21	64	12
Cotton……..	8	27	42	22	1
Pasture & range….	2	4	30	42	22
Peanuts……..	1	8	47	44	0

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 9/24/23

Topsoil	Previous week	This week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short……....	2	1
Short…….	25	30
Adequate……..…….	68	60
Surplus…….	5	9

Accumulated Precipitation (in)

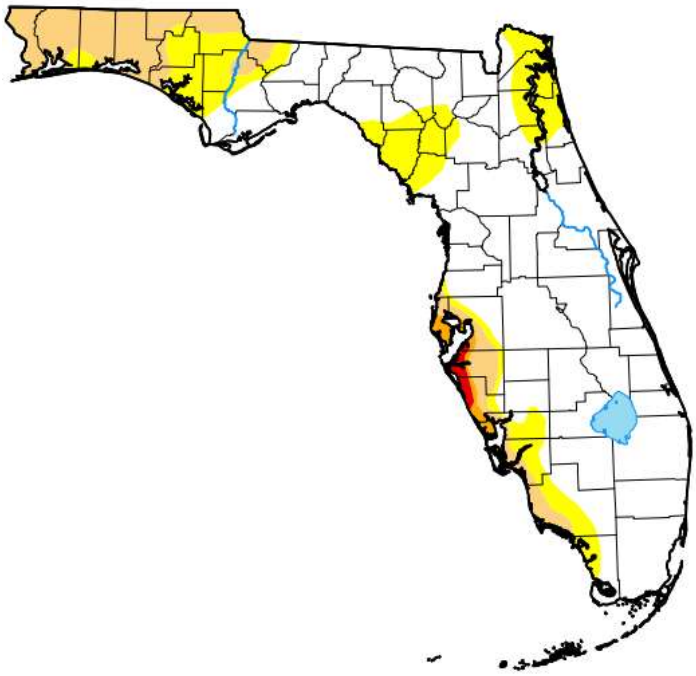
September 18, 2023 to September 24, 2023



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

U.S. Drought Monitor

Florida



September 19, 2023

(Released Thursday, Sep. 21, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	69.12	30.88	13.94	1.65	0.58	0.00
Last Week 09-12-2023	74.65	25.35	11.57	1.65	0.58	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-20-2023	83.10	16.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	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 09-20-2022	81.48	18.52	1.19	0.00	0.00	0.00

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