



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.

January 16, 2024

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

**General**

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, January 14, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from 0.12 inches in Key West International Airport (Monroe County) to 3.9 inches in Alford (Jackson County). The average mean temperature ranged from 50.5°F in Crestview Airport (Okaloosa County) to 72.5°F at Key West International Airport (Monroe County).

Harvest of Orri and Tango tangerines; Navel and midseason oranges; and red and white grapefruit for the fresh market continued apace. Thirteen packinghouses were active last week, and all processing plants were open to accept packinghouse eliminations and field run fruit.

**Citrus**

Temperatures continued their below average run in the citrus growing region last week, with highs from the high 60's to the low-70's. The warmest readings were recorded in Sebring (Highlands County), hitting 73 degrees, followed by Clermont (Lake County) reaching 71 degrees, and Kenansville (Osceola County) reading 70 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread light to moderate rainfall during the reporting period associated with the passage of multiple strong cold fronts. The most rain fell in Frostproof (Polk County), reporting 1.66 inches of precipitation, followed by Clermont (Lake County) registering

1.51 inches, and Apopka (Orange County) measuring 1.34 inches. According to the January 11, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor, various levels of drought and abnormal dryness pared back some coverage in the citrus counties along the Gulf coast due to increased amounts of beneficial rainfall, with areas of extreme drought nearly eliminated. The rest of the citrus growing region continued to be drought free.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, laying herbicide, fertilizing, mowing, hedging, topping, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, construction of screenhouses, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run on an as-needed basis statewide. Sizing on this season's fruit was as follows: oranges approximately tennis ball to larger than baseball size and grapefruit softball size or larger. Field personnel reported color break progressing in most Valencia orange groves. Bloom was observed in some groves across the state.

**Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested**

[In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes]

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Dec 24, 2023 (Preliminary)	Dec 31, 2023 (Preliminary)	Jan 7, 2024 (Preliminary)	Jan 8, 2023 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges.....	1,086	821	700	777
Navel oranges .....	7	2	3	4
Valencia oranges .....	0	0	0	17
Red grapefruit.....	62	54	63	98
White grapefruit...	2	6	13	7
Tangerines and Tangelos.....	5	5	9	28
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>1,162</b>	<b>888</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>931</b>

Source: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service Fruit and Vegetable Division

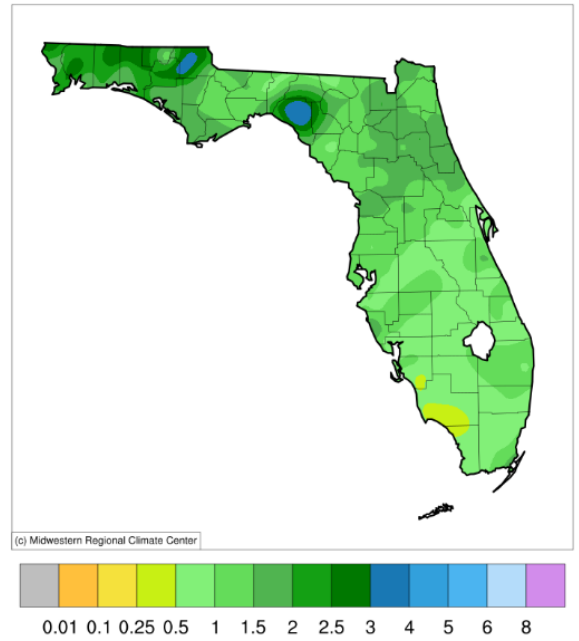
**Crops**

The whole state experienced light to moderate rainfall with some experiencing heavy winds. These stormy conditions limited time spent in the fields and delayed harvest operations. Sugarcane plants were reported to be lodged because of the saturated fields. Crops planted and harvested include green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, bonito, bitter melon, other Asian vegetables, avocado, and other tropical fruits. Many farmers were trying to harvest as much as they could before temperatures get too cold.

**Livestock and Pastures**

Cattle and pastures were reported to be in mostly fair to good condition. There are many new calves spotted in cattle herds.

**Accumulated Precipitation (in)**  
January 08, 2024 to January 14, 2024



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center

**Conditions for Week Ending 1/14/24**

Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	3	6	43	37	11
Pasture & range...	5	17	45	24	9

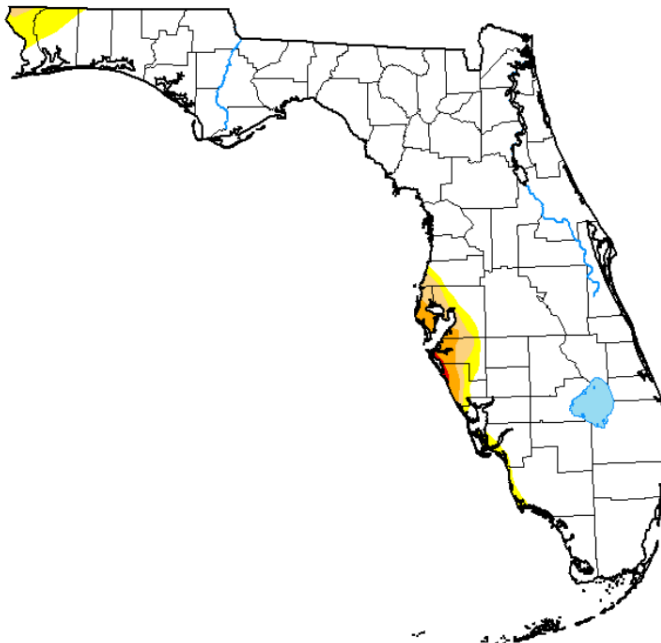
**Soil Moisture for Week Ending 1/14/24**

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very short.....	1	1
Short.....	14	8
Adequate.....	70	69
Surplus.....	15	22

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

**U.S. Drought Monitor  
Florida**

**January 9, 2024**  
(Released Thursday, Jan. 11, 2024)  
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)