



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.

January 2, 2024

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, December 31, 2023. Precipitation for the state ranged from 0.1 inches in Palm Beach Gardens (Palm Beach County) to 5.2 inches at Marathon Airport (Monroe County). The average mean temperature ranged from 49.0°F at Whiting Field Naval Air Station South (Santa Rosa County) to 70.6°F in Dry Tortugas (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were below average 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 72 degrees, followed by Clermont (Lake County), Kenansville (Osceola County), and Bartow (Polk County), all reading 69 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread light to moderate rainfall during the reporting period associated with the passage of a minor cold front. The most rain fell in Muse (Glades County), reporting 1.90 inches of precipitation, followed by Clermont (Lake County) registering 0.69 inches, and Kenansville (Osceola County) measuring 0.55 inches. According to the December 28, 2023, U.S. Drought Monitor, there were no appreciable changes to the various levels of drought and abnormal dryness in the Gulf coast citrus counties. The rest of the citrus growing region continued to be drought free.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, applying 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 beginning in many Valencia orange groves. Bloom was observed in scattered groves across the state.

Harvest of Orri, SugarBelle, and Tango tangerines; Navel, early, and midseason oranges; and red and white grapefruit for the fresh market was in a lull due to the holidays, however harvest was expected to be back in full swing shortly thereafter. After brief holiday closures, thirteen packinghouses were active and all processing plants were open to accept packinghouse eliminations and field run fruit.

Crops

Most of the state received light to moderate showers last week, which helped to alleviate drought conditions in some areas. The state also experienced cooler temperatures last week, although no adverse impacts have been reported. Cool season crops were reported to be in good condition. Crops planted and harvested last week include green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, eggplant, peppers, bitter melon, cabbage, and other Asian vegetables. Many farmers continued laying plastic and planting tomatoes and boniato potatoes.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle were reported in mostly good to fair condition while pastures were reported mostly fair to good. Cattle producers reported an overall increase to herd health and pasture & range conditions due to the timely rain.

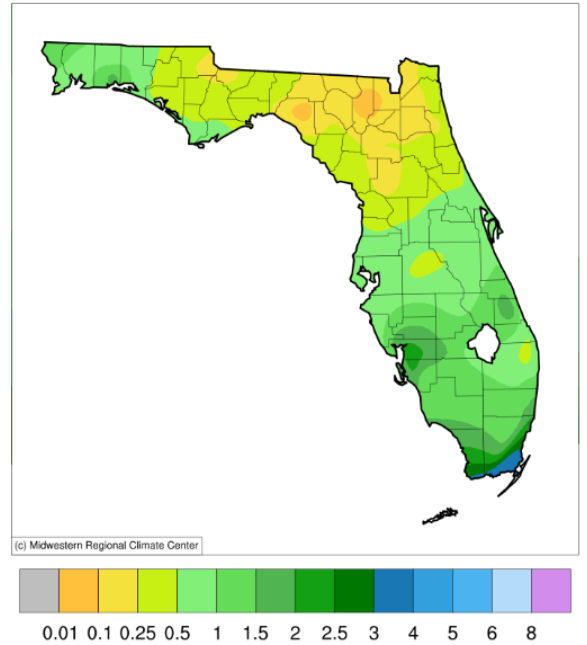
Conditions for Week Ending 12/31/23

Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	1	5	38	45	11
Pasture & range...	4	12	47	26	11

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 12/31/23

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very short.....	3	1
Short.....	21	14
Adequate.....	74	75
Surplus.....	2	10

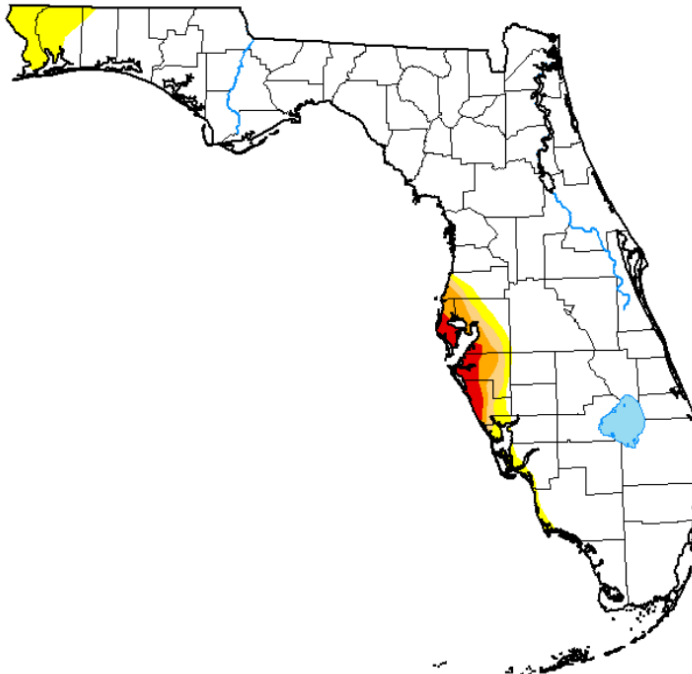
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
December 25, 2023 to December 31, 2023



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

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

December 26, 2023
(Released Thursday, Dec. 28, 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>

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