



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 8, 2024

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, January 7, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from 0.1 inches in Fort Lauderdale International Airport (Broward County) to 3.8 inches in Apalachicola Airport (Franklin County). The average mean temperature ranged from 47.5°F in Chipley (Washington County) to 72.5°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures remained 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) and Winter Haven (Polk County), both reading 71 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread light to moderate rainfall during the reporting period associated with the passage of multiple cold fronts. The most rain fell in Winter Haven (Polk County), reporting 1.85 inches of precipitation, followed by Muse (Glades County) registering 1.23 inches, and Kenansville (Osceola County) measuring 0.86 inches. According to the January 4, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor, various levels of drought and abnormal dryness maintained previous coverage 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, 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 beginning in most Valencia orange groves. Bloom was observed in some 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 once again up and running at full strength. Thirteen packinghouses were active last week, and all processing plants were open to accept packinghouse eliminations and field run fruit.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Dec 17, 2023 (Preliminary)	Dec 24, 2023 (Preliminary)	Dec 31, 2023 (Preliminary)	Jan 1, 2023 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges.....	1,185	1,086	821	813
Navel oranges	25	7	7	3
Red grapefruit.....	89	62	66	67
White grapefruit...	8	2	6	2
Tangerines and Tangelos.....	11	5	5	32
Total	1,318	1,162	905	917

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

Crops

There was adequate rainfall throughout the week, with the northern part of the state experiencing heavier amounts of rain. These wet conditions resulted in delays with farming operations such as planting and harvesting sugarcane and vegetables. Cool season forage crops received adequate rainfall and were progressing well. Crops planted and harvested include green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, bonito, bitter melon, other Asian vegetables, avocado, and other tropical fruits.

Livestock and Pastures

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

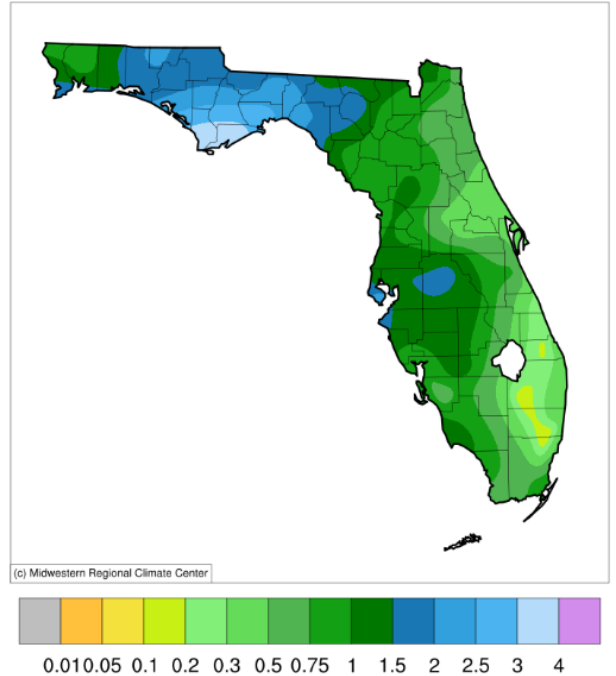
Conditions for Week Ending 1/7/24

Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	1	3	46	39	11
Pasture & range...	3	16	43	30	8

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 1/7/24

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very short.....	1	1
Short.....	14	14
Adequate.....	75	70
Surplus.....	10	15

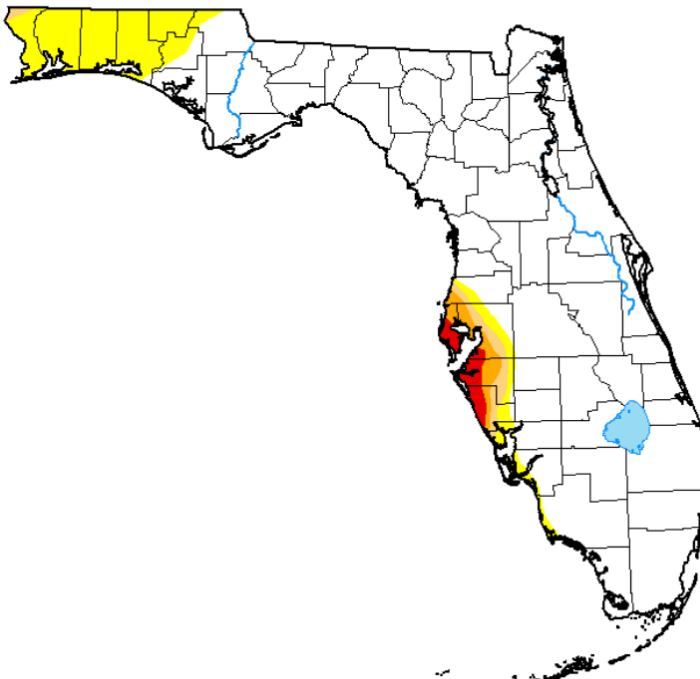
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
January 01, 2024 to January 07, 2024



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

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

January 2, 2024
(Released Thursday, Jan. 4, 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