



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.

October 15, 2024

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

## General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 5.2 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, October 13, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 18.6 inches in Port Orange (Volusia County). The average mean temperature ranged from 69.9°F in Monticello (Jefferson County) to 86.9°F at Key West International Airport (Monroe County).

## Citrus

Temperatures were below average in the citrus growing region last week, with average highs in the low 80s. The warmest average readings were recorded in Clermont (Lake County), hitting 83 degrees, followed by Sebring (Highlands County) reaching 81 degrees, and Winter Haven (Polk County) reading 80 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread heavy, and in most cases extremely excessive, rainfall during the reporting period as **Hurricane Milton** ripped through the middle of the citrus belt after making landfall near Siesta Key in Sarasota County as a dangerous Category 3 storm. The most rain fell in Mount Plymouth (Lake County), reporting 16.17 inches of precipitation, followed by Groveland (Lake County) registering 12.85 inches, and Clermont (Lake County) measuring 12.75 inches. Citrus growers are assessing damage to trees, fruit, and grove infrastructure due to high winds and flooding from the powerful storm. According to the October 10, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor, the entirety of the citrus belt remained drought free.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, laying herbicide, fertilizing, mowing, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was idled due to the copious amounts of rainfall across the citrus belt. Field personnel reported next season's fruit from tennis ball to larger than baseball size. Color break was observed in many groves on Navel and early oranges, and red grapefruit.

## Crops

Due to Hurricane Milton, there was very heavy rain and wind for much of the Peninsula part of the state. For the areas in its path, there was major damage such as flooding, roads blocked, trees down, and power outages. Many producers spent time cleaning up and assessing the damages from its impact. In the counties that were outside of its path, cotton bolls continued opening while harvest progressed. In Jackson County, early planted cotton was defoliated, and many producers were alternating between cotton and peanut harvest activities. Peanut digging and harvest really started to ramp up with a relatively dry week in the Panhandle. In Escambia County, peanuts were reported to be maturing slowly. In Palm Beach County, sugarcane planting and harvest were delayed. Hurricane Milton caused some sugarcane to become lodged due to high winds. Greenhouses and nursery operations were damaged from tomodic activity in the county. In Hillsborough County, power outages caused major losses in strawberry transplants that were stored in coolers. The heavy rain and winds also washed away plastic mulch and pre-fumigated rows that were prepped for planting. Other crops planted and harvested included snap beans, squash, tomatoes, ethnic vegetables, and tropical fruits.

## Livestock and Pastures

Cattle and pastures were in mostly good to excellent condition. Due to Hurricane Milton, many pastures have puddled with standing water.

### Crop Progress for Week Ending 10/13/24

Crop	Prev year (percent)	Prev week (percent)	This week (percent)	5 Year avg (percent)
Cotton - Bolls Opening.....	90	81	85	82
Cotton - Harvested .....	12	8	17	11
Peanuts - Dug.....	74	51	66	76
Peanuts - Harvested .....	63	40	51	62

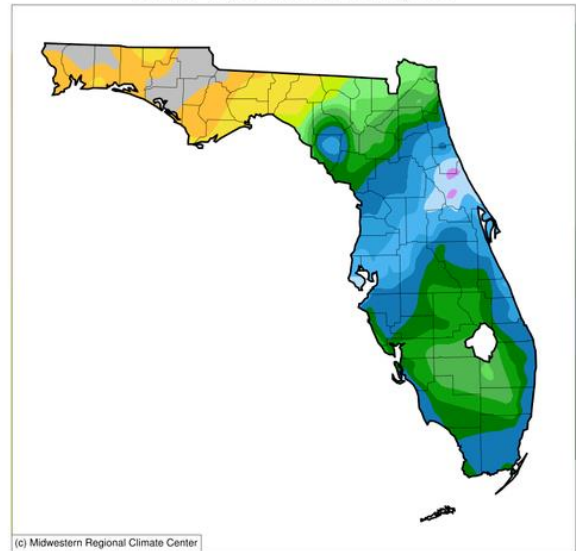
### Conditions for Week Ending 10/13/24

Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	0	0	12	65	23
Cotton.....	3	9	68	20	0
Pasture and range.....	1	5	20	44	30
Peanuts.....	0	11	63	26	0

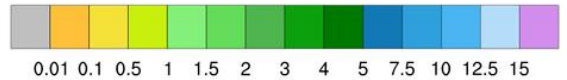
### Soil Moisture for Week Ending 10/13/24

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very Short.....	3	1
Short.....	5	9
Adequate.....	60	72
Surplus.....	32	18

**Accumulated Precipitation (in)**  
October 07, 2024 to October 13, 2024



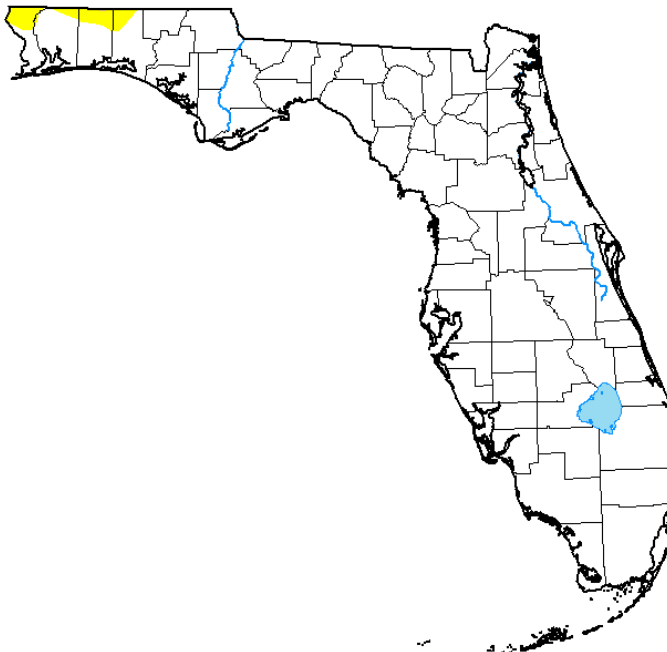
(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



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

## U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

**October 8, 2024**  
(Released Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024)  
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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[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)