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.

*October 21, 2024*

*Media Contact: Mark Hudson*

## General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, October 20, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 2.1 inches in Cudjoe (Monroe County). The average mean temperature ranged from 61.1°F in Crestview (Okaloosa County) to 81.7°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

## Citrus

Temperatures were again below average in the citrus growing region last week, with average highs in the low 80s. The warmest average readings were recorded in Sebring (Highlands County) and Winter Haven (Polk County), both hitting 83 degrees, followed by Clermont (Lake County) reaching 82 degrees. The citrus belt received negligible to no rainfall during the reporting period, as a cool, dry airmass lingered over the peninsula after the exit of Hurricane Milton. Citrus growers continue to assess damage to trees, fruit, and grove infrastructure due to high winds and flooding from the storm. According to the October 17, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor, the entirety of the citrus belt remained drought free.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, spaying herbicides fertilizing, mowing, skirting tree canopies, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run on an as-needed basis statewide. Field personnel reported next season's fruit from tennis ball to softball size. Color break was observed in most groves on Navel, early, and midseason oranges, and red and white grapefruit.

## Crops

Clean up and damage assessment from Hurricane Milton and the many associated tornadoes continued for impacted producers in the state. Flooding, roads blocked, many trees down, and power outages among other damages were reported. For the areas that avoided major impacts from the hurricane, crops continued to progress and harvest activities continued to pick up with dry conditions this past week. In the Panhandle, peanuts continued to be dug and harvest continued closer to completion. As peanut harvest began to finish up, producers continued to defoliate cotton and ramp up harvesting activities. After some delays for rice and sugarcane planting in Palm Beach County due to the hurricane, planting activities started back. Greenhouse, nursey, and vegetable operations in the southern and middle parts of the peninsula were impacted by the hurricane and damage assessments were still underway. Winter strawberry planting neared completion. 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. Many ranchers were still in the process of cleaning up from Hurricane Milton.

## Crop Progress for Week Ending 10/20/24

| Crop | Prev year | Prev week | This week | 5 Year avg |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Cotton - Bolls Opening..... | 93 | 85 | 90 | 88 |
| Cotton - Harvested ..... | 20 | 17 | 28 | 17 |
| Peanuts - Dug..... | 83 | 66 | 78 | 85 |
| Peanuts - Harvested..... | 72 | 51 | 65 | 72 |

## Conditions for Week Ending 10/20/24

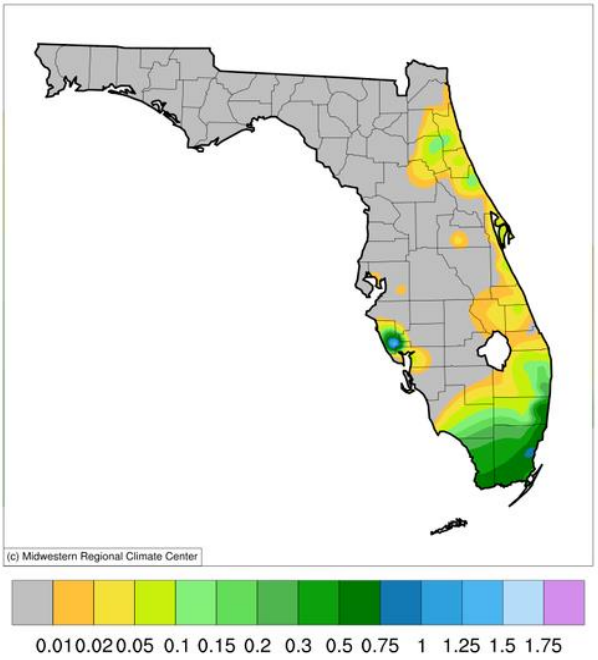
| Crop | Very poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Cattle..... | 0 | 2 | 18 | 56 | 24 |
| Cotton..... | 1 | 13 | 61 | 25 | 0 |
| Pasture and range .... | 2 | 7 | 19 | 49 | 23 |

## Soil Moisture for Week Ending 10/20/24

| Topsoil | Previous week | This week |
|---|---|---|
| | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very Short..... | 1 | 4 |
| Short..... | 9 | 16 |
| Adequate..... | 72 | 63 |
| Surplus ..... | 18 | 17 |

**Accumulated Precipitation (in)**

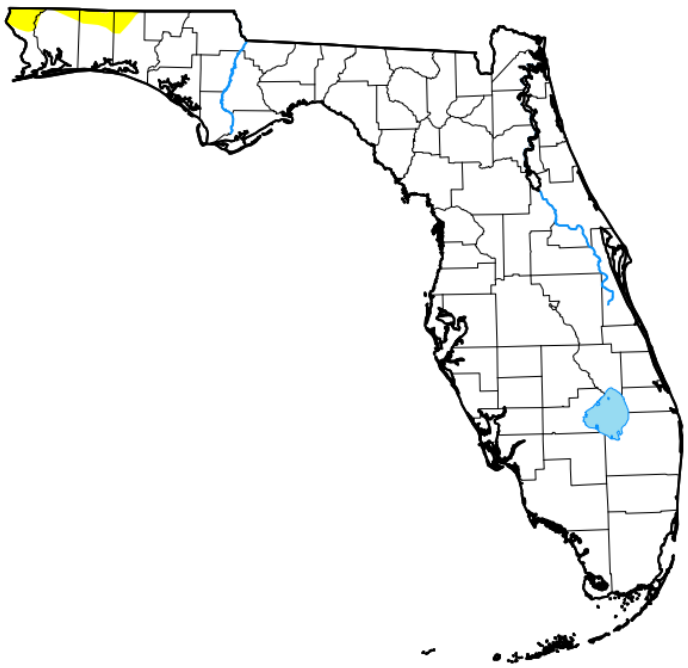
October 14, 2024 to October 20, 2024




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

***U.S. Drought Monitor***

# Florida



## October 15, 2024

***(Released Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024)***

**Valid 8 a.m. EDT**

*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

| | None | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Current** | 98.54 | 1.46 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| **Last Week** 10-08-2024 | 98.54 | 1.46 | 0.03 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| **3 Months Ago** 07-16-2024 | 55.29 | 44.71 | 2.64 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| **Start of Calendar Year** 01-02-2024 | 86.25 | 13.75 | 3.86 | 2.55 | 1.27 | 0.00 |
| **Start of Water Year** 10-01-2024 | 94.54 | 5.46 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| **One Year Ago** 10-17-2023 | 74.62 | 25.38 | 15.35 | 10.25 | 0.89 | 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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National Drought Mitigation Center

**droughtmonitor.unl.edu**