



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 7, 2024

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

## General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 5.7 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, October 6, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from trace amounts of rain to 7.8 inches at Fort Lauderdale International Airport (Broward County). The average mean temperature ranged from 76.3°F in Crestview Airport (Okaloosa County) to 86.9°F in Plant City (Hillsborough County).

## Citrus

Temperatures were slightly above average in the citrus growing region last week, with average highs in the low to mid-90s. The hottest average readings were recorded in Clermont (Lake County) and Bartow (Polk County), both hitting 94 degrees, followed by Wauchula (Hardee County) reaching 93 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread moderate rainfall during the reporting period as a blanket of moisture across the peninsula resulted in multiple days of near-continuous precipitation. The most rain fell in Kenansville (Osceola County), reporting 1.50 inches of precipitation, followed by Muse (Glades County) registering 1.18 inches, and Winter Haven (Polk County) measuring 1.00 inch. According to the October 3, 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, skirting tree canopies, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was idled due to abundant 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 several groves on Navel and early oranges, and red grapefruit

## Crops

Most of the state received light to moderate rain with localized heavier showers in the southern tip of the state. Many producers were recovering and assessing damage from Hurricane Helene. The damage noted included snapped trees, downed fences, overturned irrigation pivots, and flooded fields. For many producers, fields began to dry throughout the week and farm operations slowly restarted. Cotton bolls opened and cotton harvest continued throughout the week. In Jackson County, defoliant was applied to early planted and irrigated cotton. Hurricane Helene slowed peanut digging and harvest. In Palm Beach County, the localized, heavy rainfall delayed sugarcane harvest. Although delayed, sugarcane harvest was able to begin and was expected to run through June of next year. Rice harvest neared completion. Many producers in Palm Beach County were suspending farm operations due to the imminent arrival of Hurricane Milton. Other crops planted and harvested included strawberries, peppers, cabbage, broccoli, snap beans, squash, tomatoes, and some tropical fruits.

## Livestock and Pastures

Cattle and pastures were in mostly good to excellent condition. Many cattle producers were keeping cattle close to the barns.

### Crop Progress for Week Ending 10/06/24

Crop	Prev year (percent)	Prev week (percent)	This week (percent)	5 Year avg (percent)
Cotton - Bolls Opening.....	83	73	81	72
Cotton - Harvested .....	6	2	8	6
Peanuts - Dug.....	67	40	51	66
Peanuts - Harvested .....	52	27	40	50

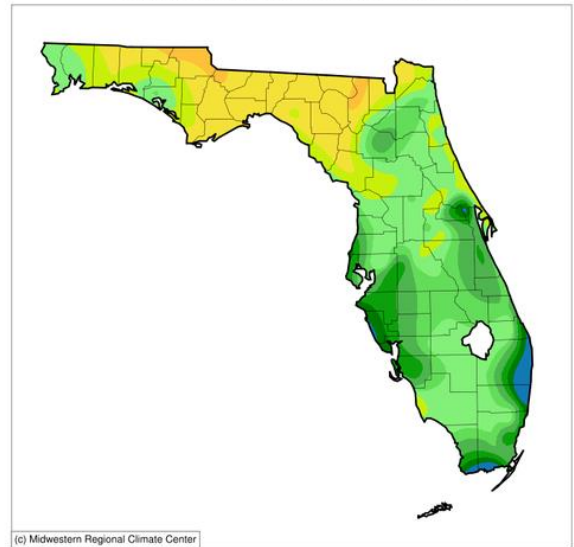
### Conditions for Week Ending 10/06/24

Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	0	2	13	68	17
Cotton.....	4	13	62	21	0
Pasture and range.....	1	3	21	47	28
Peanuts.....	2	16	56	26	0

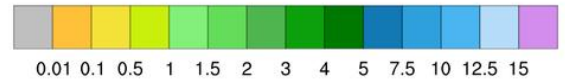
### Soil Moisture for Week Ending 10/06/24

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very Short.....	3	3
Short.....	8	5
Adequate.....	48	60
Surplus.....	41	32

**Accumulated Precipitation (in)**  
September 30, 2024 to October 06, 2024



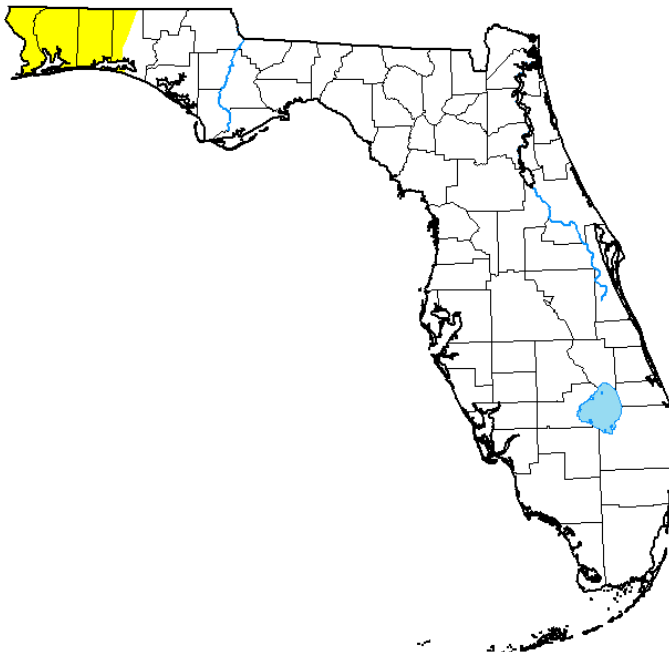
(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



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

## U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

**October 1, 2024**  
(Released Thursday, Oct. 3, 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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