



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.

September 23, 2024

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, September 22, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 3.7 inches in Tampa (Hillsborough County). The average mean temperature ranged from 77.1°F in Lake City (Columbia County) to 87.6°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were again about average in the citrus growing region last week, with average highs in the low to mid 90's. The hottest average readings were recorded in Clermont (Lake County), hitting 94 degrees, followed by Winter Haven (Polk County) reaching 93 degrees, and Lake Wales (Polk County) reading 92 degrees. The citrus belt received widely scattered light rainfall during the reporting period resulting from isolated afternoon convective thunderstorms. The most rain fell in Winter Haven (Polk County), reporting 1.65 inches of precipitation, followed by Muse (Glades County) registering 1.32 inches, and Sebring (Highlands County) measuring 1.08 inches. According to the September 19, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor, the thin strip of abnormal dryness present along the Indian River remained static, while the rest of the citrus belt continued to be drought free.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, laying herbicide, fertilizing, mowing, skirting tree canopies, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, installation of individual protective tree covers, bactericide trunk injection, 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 larger than softball size. Color break was observed in some groves on Navel and early oranges, and red grapefruit.

Crops

Most of the state experienced light showers throughout the week along with cooler temperatures; however, drought conditions continued to persist in the Panhandle. Producers were keeping a close eye on a potential developing hurricane in the gulf. Cotton bolls continued to open and continued to make good progress while cotton harvest started. In Jackson County, the rain received last week was beneficial to peanut fields but did cause flooding in some areas. Peanut harvest really picked up in the Panhandle as soon as fields were dry enough for digging. In Palm Beach County, sugarcane planting was underway and expected to continue through December or January. Rice harvest progressed well and was nearing competition, while vegetable fields were prepped for upcoming planting. Other crops planted and harvested included snap beans, okra, long beans, boniato, bitter melon, and some tropical fruits.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle and pastures were in mostly good to excellent condition. Producers say the pasture growth has slowed. Army worms have been a problem this season with some producers having to make multiple spray applications.

Crop Progress for Week Ending 09/22/24

Crop	Prev year (percent)	Prev week (percent)	This week (percent)	5 Year avg (percent)
Cotton - Bolls Opening.....	56	48	64	49
Cotton - Harvested	1	0	1	1
Peanuts - Dug.....	39	20	31	41
Peanuts - Harvested	23	8	19	26

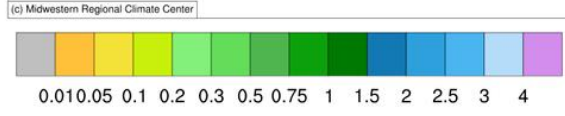
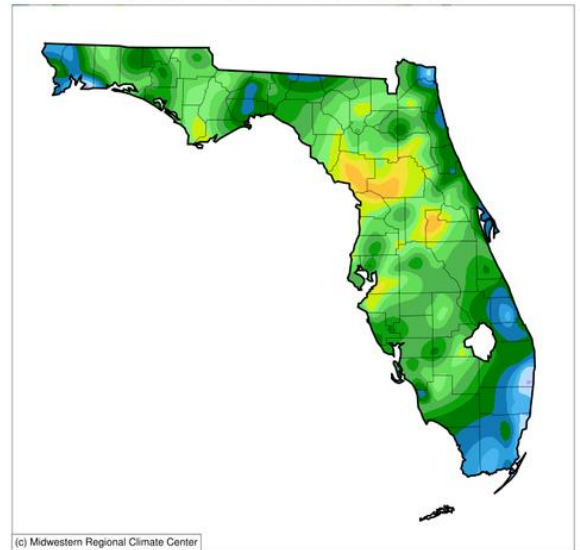
Conditions for Week Ending 09/22/24

Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	0	1	11	64	24
Cotton.....	3	6	56	35	0
Pasture and range.....	1	4	20	48	27
Peanuts.....	0	5	42	51	2

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 09/22/24

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very Short.....		2
Short.....		7
Adequate.....		66
Surplus.....		25

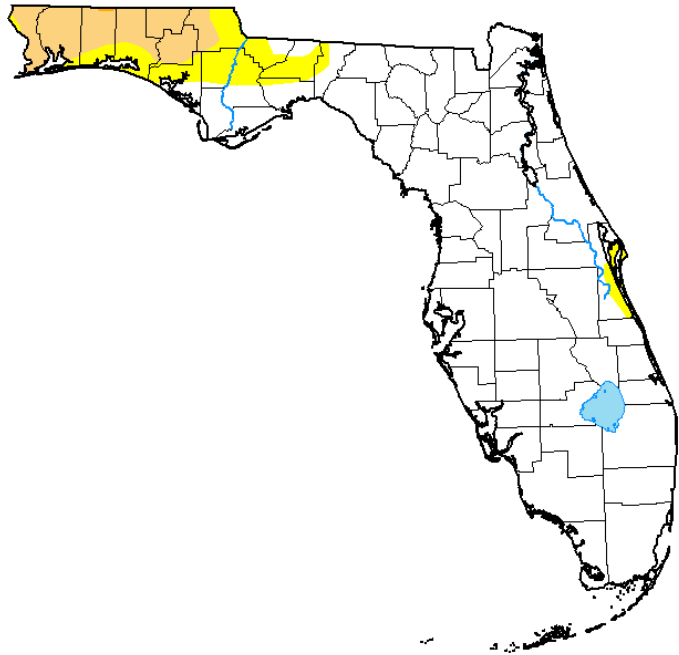
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
September 16, 2024 to September 22, 2024



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

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

September 17, 2024
(Released Thursday, Sep. 19, 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