



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 30, 2024

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 4.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, September 29, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from 0.6 inches at Pompano Beach Airpark (Broward County) to 9.3 inches in Mariana Municipal Airport (Jackson County). The average mean temperature ranged from 76.4°F in Crestview Airport (Okaloosa County) to 87.1°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were slightly above average in the citrus growing region last week, with average highs from the high 80's to the mid-90's. The hottest average readings were recorded in Clermont (Lake County), hitting 95 degrees, followed by Winter Haven (Polk County) reaching 91 degrees, and Sebring (Highlands County) reading 90 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread moderate rainfall during the reporting period as Hurricane Helene churned through the Gulf of Mexico before making landfall further north in the state. The most rain fell in Muse (Glades County), reporting 1.97 inches of precipitation, followed by Winter Haven (Polk County) registering 1.15 inches, and Mount Plymouth (Lake County) measuring 1.10 inches. According to the September 26, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor, recent rains erased the thin strip of abnormal dryness formerly present along the Indian River, rendering the entirety of the citrus belt drought free.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, laying herbicide, fertilizing, mowing, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, planting cover crops between rows, 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

Due to Hurricane Helene, the Panhandle and Big Bend areas of the state received heavy, localized rainfall with high winds, while the rest of the state experienced more moderate to light rainfall. Many low-lying areas flooded which delayed field operations for farmers. Cotton bolls continued to open while cotton harvest was slow to get started. Peanuts dug and harvested slowly progressed as weather allowed. In Alachua County, heavy winds and rain destroyed recently dug peanuts, cut hay, and late planted corn silage. In Hillsborough County, strawberry planting got started with reports of some recent plantings suffering significant losses from the hurricane. In Miami-Dade County, vegetable crops were prepped for the upcoming growing season. Other crops planted and harvested included snap beans, okra, squash, and some tropical fruits.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle and pastures were in mostly good to excellent condition. Many low-lying pastures were flooded and full of debris due to Hurricane Helene.

Crop Progress for Week Ending 09/29/24

Crop	Prev year (percent)	Prev week (percent)	This week (percent)	5 Year avg (percent)
Cotton - Bolls Opening.....	70	64	73	59
Cotton - Harvested	2	1	2	3
Peanuts - Dug.....	54	31	40	53
Peanuts - Harvested	40	19	27	39

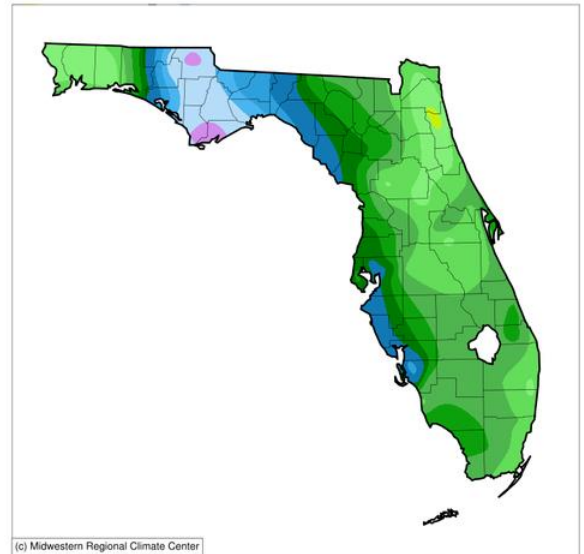
Conditions for Week Ending 09/29/24

Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	0	2	14	60	24
Cotton.....	2	12	65	21	0
Pasture and range.....	1	4	24	45	26
Peanuts.....	1	8	58	33	0

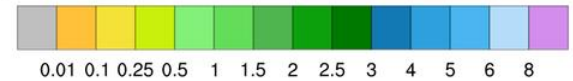
Soil Moisture for Week Ending 09/29/24

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very Short.....	1	3
Short.....	9	8
Adequate.....	65	48
Surplus.....	25	41

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
September 23, 2024 to September 29, 2024



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



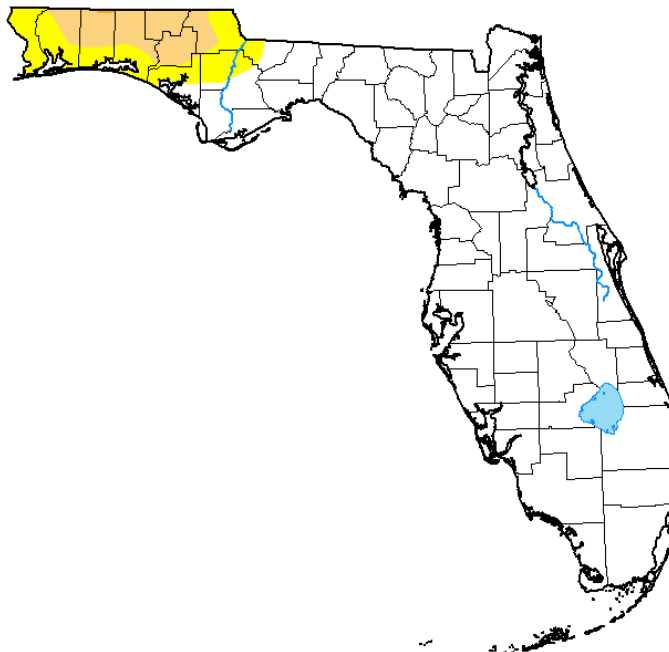
<https://mrcc.purdue.edu/CLIMATE/>

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

September 24, 2024

(Released Thursday, Sep. 26, 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