



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service  
**Florida Crop Progress  
and Condition Report**



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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 9, 2024

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

## General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 5.6 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, September 8, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from trace amounts to 9.2 inches at Tampa Bay International Airport (Hillsborough County). The average mean temperature ranged from 78.8°F in Whiting Field (Santa Rosa County) to 90.3°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

## Citrus

Temperatures continued to be slightly above 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) and Winter Haven (Polk County), both hitting 94 degrees, followed by Sebring (Highlands County) reaching 92 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread moderate to heavy, and in some cases locally excessive, rainfall during the reporting period associated with a tropical wave in the Gulf of Mexico pulling a deep upwelling of atmospheric moisture over the peninsula. The most rain fell in Ruskin (Hillsborough County), reporting 6.3 inches of precipitation, followed by Kenansville (Osceola County) registering 3.6 inches, and Mount Plymouth (Lake County) measuring 3.5 inches. According to the September 5, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor, the thin strip of abnormal dryness present along the Indian River shrank slightly along its southernmost extent due to beneficial rainfall, while the rest of the citrus belt continued to be drought free.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, spraying herbicides, fertilizing, mowing, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, 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 nearly tennis ball to softball size.

## Crops

The state received varying amounts of rainfall with the central and northeastern part of the peninsula receiving the most rainfall. Operators in the Panhandle noted that hot temperatures and limited rainfall stressed out crops. Cotton bolls continued to open on a pace ahead of last year and producers made plans to begin defoliating the crop. Meanwhile, peanut producers were on the brink of full harvest activities, as they dug to test out crop maturity. Most of the irrigated peanuts were near or at maturity and producers hoped to pick up harvest activities in the coming weeks, weather permitting. In Palm Beach County, sugarcane planting preparations were underway while rice harvest moved closer to completion despite delays due to rain. Other crops planted and harvested included peppers, cucurbits, eggplant, okra, long beans, bitter melon, and some tropical fruits.

## Livestock and Pastures

Cattle and pastures were in mostly good to excellent condition.

### Crop Progress for Week Ending 09/08/24

Crop	Prev year	Prev week	This week	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Bolls Opening.....	36	23	37	30
Peanuts - Dug.....	23	9	12	19
Peanuts - Harvested.....	9	3	5	9

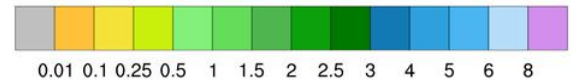
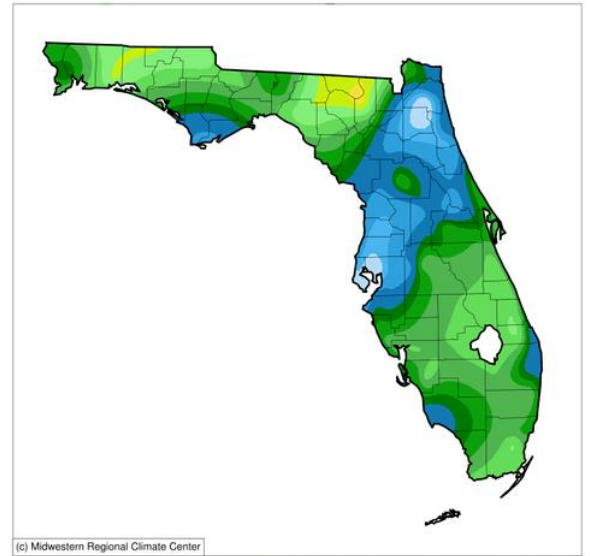
### Conditions for Week Ending 09/08/24

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	0	1	16	61	22
Cotton.....	0	8	57	33	2
Pasture and range ....	0	3	16	49	32
Peanuts.....	0	8	41	49	2

### Soil Moisture for Week Ending 09/08/24

Topsoil	Previous week	This week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very Short.....		1
Short.....		13
Adequate.....		69
Surplus.....		17

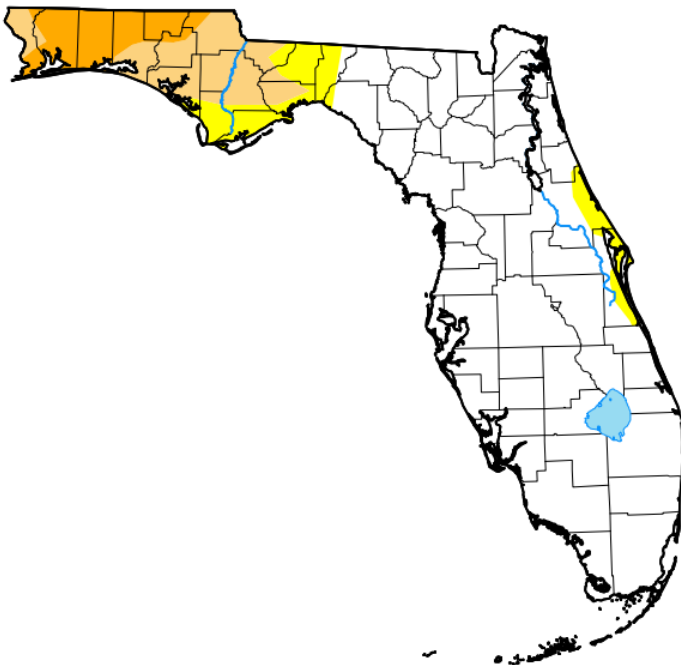
Accumulated Precipitation (in)  
September 02, 2024 to September 08, 2024



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

## U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

September 3, 2024  
(Released Thursday, Sep. 5, 2024)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	77.81	22.19	15.41	6.20	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 08-27-2024	77.30	22.70	7.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 06-04-2024	49.68	50.32	41.52	20.34	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-02-2024	86.25	13.75	3.86	2.55	1.27	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-26-2023	69.09	30.91	17.59	9.00	0.81	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 09-05-2023	82.12	17.88	8.94	1.27	0.32	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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[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)