



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
**FLORIDA CROP PROGRESS &
CONDITION REPORT**



In cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and the UF/IFAS Extension Service
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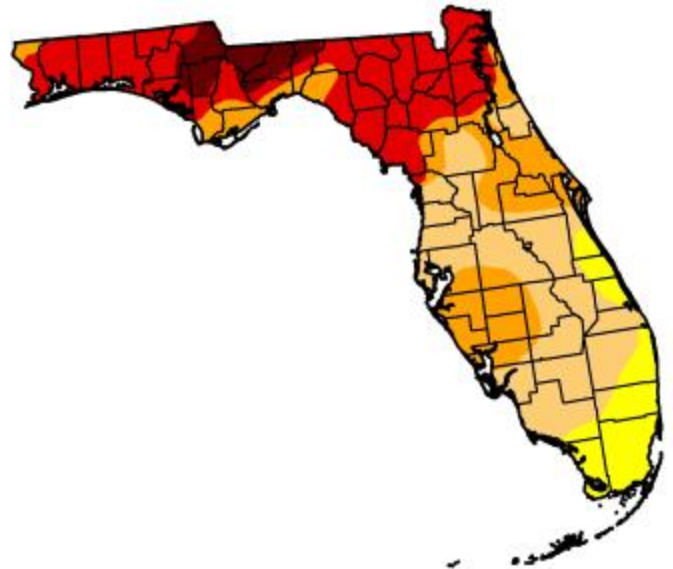
Released: February 21, 2012 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: February 19, 2012

Heavy Showers Not Widespread

Weather Summary: Temperatures and rain levels varied in the State. In central and northeast Florida, the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations recorded nightly temperatures as low as 17 to 20 degrees. Some frost was reported in Lee, Charlotte, and Glades counties. In the Panhandle, FAWN stations recorded good amounts of rain from Jackson (5.50 in.), Santa Rosa (4.48 in.), Jefferson (3.72 in.), Franklin (2.38 in.), and Gadsden (2.28 in.) counties. The remainder of the FAWN stations recorded less than an inch of rain, with over half recording a tenth of an inch to no rainfall. Some farmers and extension agents in Alachua, Marion, Highlands counties reported very dry conditions and were in need of rain. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 57 percent of the State experienced severe to exceptional drought, higher than last week's 53 percent. The most exceptional drought conditions were in Jackson, Calhoun, Gadsden, Leon, and parts of Jefferson County. Average temperatures ranged one degree below to three degrees above normal.

U.S. Drought Monitor: February 14, 2012



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	5	1	10
Short.....	46	32	49
Adequate.....	46	65	38
Surplus.....	3	2	3

Field Crops: Farmers were preparing fields in the north for the spring. In Flagler County, some damage was reported in potato fields due to cold. Temperatures were in the low twenties for several hours during the night of February 12-13. Sugarcane harvest was winding down.

Fruits & Vegetables: Producers were irrigating fields constantly due to drought conditions. In Lee County, strawberry fields were being irrigated. Also, in the same county, minimal frost damage was reported in strawberry fields. Overall, in central Florida, cool overnight temperatures have delayed harvesting and crop maturity for strawberries. In Flagler County, frost damage was reported in cabbage fields. In St. Lucie County, dry and windy conditions persisted and tested young vegetable plants. Harvesting of winter vegetables was ongoing in Miami-Dade County. AMS market movement included snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, bell peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, the pasture condition decreased slightly, with the condition lower in the central and southwest due to drought, and improved in the Panhandle and north following rain. The cattle condition ranged from very poor to excellent with most in fair to good condition. Hay and supplements were being fed. In the **Panhandle**, most pastures were fair to good. Winter forages in Jackson County were starting to be grazed. Cold temperatures early in the week slowed pasture growth, but the rainfall and warmer temperatures should boost pastures dramatically this week. In Santa Rosa County, pastures were making slow recovery from the earlier drought problems. Stocks of hay were getting low. Rain over the weekend in Washington County provided much needed soil moisture for cool season forages. In the **northern** areas, most pastures were in very poor to fair condition, still impacting forage growth. Most cattle were in fair condition. In the **central** areas, the pasture conditions ranged from very poor to good, with most poor to fair. Most forage in Polk County was seasonally limited with hardly any growth though some small grain forage was lush. The cattle in the area were in fair to good condition. In the **southwestern** areas, most pastures continued in poor to fair condition. Grass was not growing because it was stunted by past frosts and hampered by drought conditions. The condition of the cattle was poor to fair with most in fair condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	0	1	3	8
Poor.....	8	10	45	44
Fair.....	45	52	45	40
Good.....	45	35	6	7
Excellent.....	2	2	1	1

Citrus: Temperatures were moderate with highs reaching the low 80s in most of the citrus region. Rainfall was light across the region. Dover received the most with 0.67 inch and 10 sites received no measurable precipitation. Drought conditions existed across the entire citrus region, ranging from abnormally dry on the eastern coast, to severe on the west coast. Drought conditions are as per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated Feb 14, 2012. Two plants have finished with early and mid-season oranges, three should finish this week, and two more next week. Two plants were running Valencia, but most will start within the next week or so. Temples, tangerines, and grapefruit harvesting volumes were increasing and the tangelo and Navels were decreasing. Heavy and widespread citrus bloom was observed on trees in southern Hendry County, signaling the natural start of next season’s crop. Cultural practices included irrigation, young tree care, and limited hedging and topping.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

[In thousands of 1-3/5 bushel boxes]

Crop	Jan 30-Feb 5, 2012	Feb 6-12, 2012	Feb 13-19, 2012
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges....	5,184	4,143	3,037
Valencia.....	346	497	544
Navel oranges.....	8	7	5
Temples.....	35	53	67
Grapefruit.....	842	1,075	1,161
Tangelos.....	27	25	10
Tangerines.....	152	150	153
Total.....	6,594	5,950	4,977

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