



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 27, 2012 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: February 26, 2012

Weekend Showers Welcomed

Weather Summary: It was a dry week until showers on February 26 provided improved soil moisture for many fields. Prior to these showers most of the 36 Florida Automated Weather Network stations recorded less than a half inch of rainfall for the week. Five stations recorded between a half inch and one inch of rainfall, and four stations recorded one inch or more rainfall. Windy conditions further contributed to dry soil moisture ratings. It was a warm week with temperatures averaging four to six degrees above normal. Low temperatures ranged mostly in the mid-40s and highs reached the mid-to-high 80s.

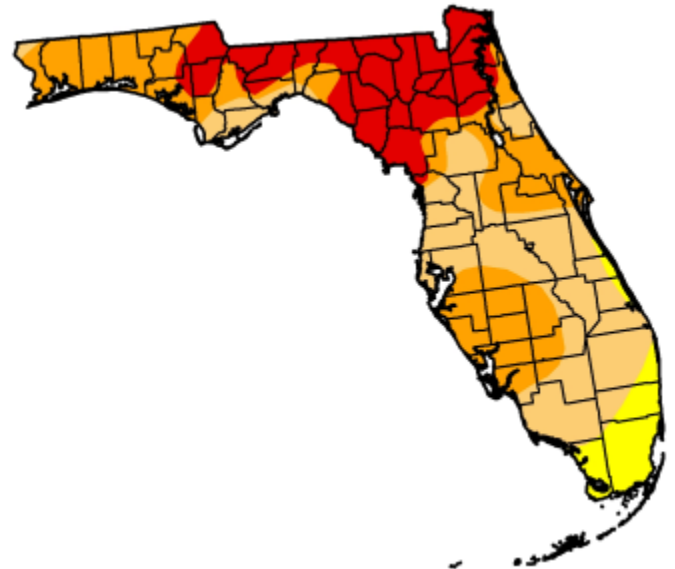
Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	10	6	10
Short	49	39	48
Adequate	38	52	40
Surplus	3	3	2

Field Crops: The warmer weather was beneficial to the winter wheat crop. More rain is needed in the wheat growing area in northern Florida. Producers were making preparations for planting other field crops.

Fruits & Vegetables: Producers were frequently irrigating fields due to dry conditions. Planting and

U.S. Drought Monitor: February 21, 2012



Intensity:

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

harvesting continued at a normal pace for most of the week. In central Florida, some producers observed a delay in the maturity of the strawberries. Warmer temperatures helped improve the crop. USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service vegetable movement included snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, eggplant, endive, escarole, bell peppers, radishes, squash, and tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, the pasture condition decreased from the previous week, with the condition ranging from very poor to excellent. Most pastures were in poor to good condition, with drought and cold limiting forage growth. Pasture improved in the Panhandle and north but declined in the south. The cattle condition varied from poor to excellent with most in fair condition. Hay and supplements were being fed. In the **Panhandle and north**, widespread precipitation and above normal temperatures during the week helped forage growth. Small grain forage was plentiful in Holmes County. Hay supplies in the area were low. In the **central** areas, the pasture conditions were very poor to good with most poor to fair. The cattle were in poor to good condition with most in fair condition. In the **southwestern** areas, most pastures were in poor to fair condition with 27 percent in very poor condition. The area remained extremely dry. Warm weather and increasing day length promoted some grass growth. The condition of the cattle was poor to excellent with most in fair condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week (percent)	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Current week (percent)
Very poor.....	1	0	8	15
Poor.....	10	10	44	35
Fair.....	52	60	40	40
Good.....	35	25	7	9
Excellent.....	2	5	1	1

Citrus: Temperatures were moderate with highs reaching the upper 80s in most of the citrus region. Ocklawaha received the most rainfall with 1.34 inches; nine sites received no measurable precipitation, and five saw only trace amounts. Drought conditions existed across the entire citrus region, ranging from abnormally dry on the Eastern coast, to severe on the West coast. Drought conditions were from the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated Feb 21, 2012. Two plants were processing most of the early and midseason oranges. The rest of the processing plants were running Valencia. Temple orange, tangerine, and grapefruit harvesting increased, while the tangelo and Navel harvest has slowed. Citrus bloom continued to be observed on trees in the southern portion of the citrus region as next season’s crop progresses. 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	Feb 6-12, 2012 (boxes)	Feb 13-19, 2012 (boxes)	Feb 20-26, 2012 (boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	4,143	3,037	1,663
Valencia.....	497	544	1,219
Navel oranges.....	7	5	4
Temples.....	53	67	77
Grapefruit.....	1,075	1,161	1,289
Tangelos.....	25	10	17
Tangerines.....	150	153	246
Total.....	5,950	4,977	4,515

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