



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: March 12, 2012 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: March 11, 2012

Light Rainfall Improves Soil Moisture

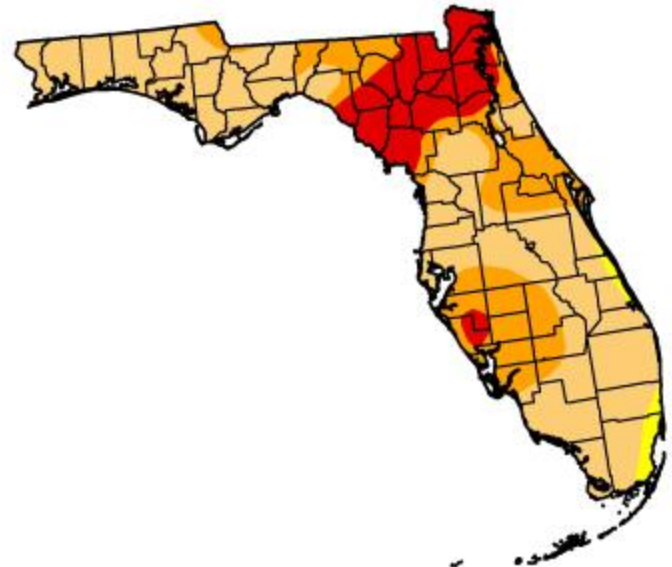
Weather Summary: Rains within the past week continued to alleviate drought conditions. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, drought conditions decreased from the previous week from 73 percent of the State with severe to extreme conditions to 55 percent, currently. Extreme drought conditions were prevalent in a band stretching from Jacksonville southwest through Gainesville and onto the Gulf Coast. The drought was also present in Sarasota and Manatee counties. Rain fell mostly in the central and southern regions. Cumulative rains of approximately an inch and a half or more were recorded by the Florida Automated Network Stations (FAWN) in Fort Pierce (2.95), Sebring (1.72), Kenansville (1.71), and Arcadia (1.46). According to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Lake Okeechobee's water level was at 12.85 feet compared to last week's 12.93 feet. This compares with 11.93 feet last year and the average of 14.47 feet using the 1965-2007 period of record average. A county agent reported high winds in Miami-Dade County. Temperatures averaged one to four degrees above normal. Highs were in the 80s and 70s, while lows were in the 30s and 40s. At least one nightly low freezing temperature was reached last week in Alachua and Brooksville according to FAWN.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	9	3	3
Short	44	30	27
Adequate	41	66	63
Surplus	6	0	7

Field Crops: Farmers were preparing fields for spring planting. Rains delayed planting for some farmers in the north. In Jefferson County, agents reported improvement in topsoil moisture; however, subsoil moisture was inadequate. In Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, winter wheat was in good condition despite freezes experienced

U.S. Drought Monitor: March 6, 2012



Intensity:



in late February. In Suwannee County, potato planting was underway.

Fruits & Vegetables: Some farmers are planting and preparing fields for spring harvest (April-July). In Suwannee County, watermelon planting took place. Harvesting of winter vegetables was ongoing. Sweet corn and green beans were harvested in Miami-Dade County. Also in the south, vegetable volumes were increasing seasonally. In Polk County, strawberry supplies were abundant. In Brevard County, cold weather damage was reported for some vegetable crops. In St. Lucie County, some growers anticipated fungal and bacterial problems due to rains. According to USDA-AMS (Agricultural Marketing Services), tomato market movement is expected to increase. AMS market movement includes: snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, endive, escarole, bell peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, pasture conditions ranged from very poor to excellent with most in poor to fair condition. The condition improved slightly over the previous week. Summer pastures greened up but drought limited forage growth throughout the State. The cattle condition was mostly fair. In the **Panhandle** the condition of most pastures were fair to good. Drought and cold temperatures limited forage growth. Summer pasture was not ready for grazing. Hay and supplements were being fed. In the **northern** areas, most pastures were poor or fair. Drought followed by cold, limited forage growth. Winter grazing grew well in the warmer temperatures. Summer perennial pastures began to green up. Hay was being fed. The cattle were in poor to good condition with most fair to good. In the **central** areas, most pastures were in fair condition with conditions ranging from very poor to good. Some hay fields were being fertilized. The cattle were in poor to good condition with most in fair condition. In the **southwestern** areas, the pasture conditions varied from very poor to good with most poor to good. Pastures in some locations improved where there was recent rainfall. The cattle condition was mostly fair.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	10	5
Poor.....	10	9	39	35
Fair.....	57	50	40	45
Good.....	30	39	10	14
Excellent.....	2	1	1	1

Citrus: Temperatures were moderate with highs reaching the mid-80s in most of the citrus region. Rainfall was generally light across the region. Fort Pierce received the most with 2.94 inches. Citra was the only station to record no precipitation. Eight sites recorded over an inch of rain and all but Citra recorded some precipitation this week. 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 from the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated Mar 6, 2012. The Valencia harvest increased again, as the early and mid-season harvest reaches its end. Grapefruit harvesting increased, while the Temple orange, tangerine, and Navel harvest slowed. Widespread, but spotty citrus bloom continued to be observed on trees in the citrus region as next season's crop progresses. Pea-sized fruit has been observed on Valencia trees in Hendry County. 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 20-26, 2012	Feb 27-Mar 4, 2012	Mar 5-11, 2012
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	1,663	580	29
Valencia.....	1,219	2,409	3,761
Navel oranges.....	4	3	3
Temples.....	77	94	40
Grapefruit.....	1,289	853	1,116
Tangelos.....	17	1	1
Tangerines.....	246	138	118
Total.....	4,515	4,078	5,068

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