



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
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751 · (407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

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Week Ending: April 1, 2012

Diseases Observed in Wheat and Vegetables

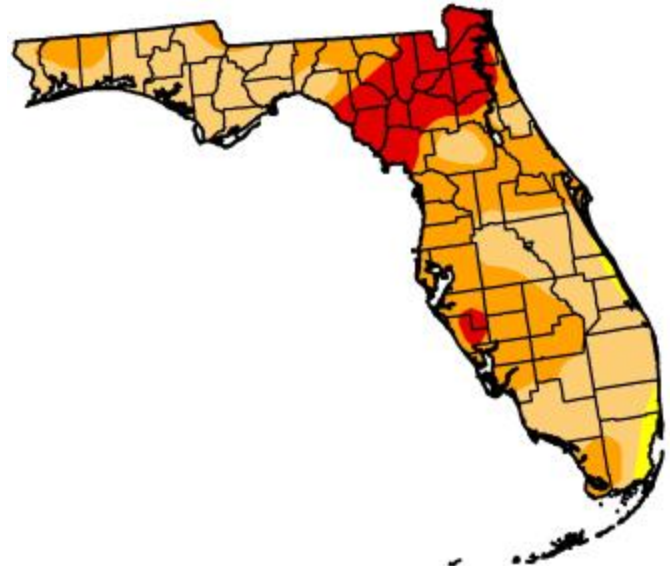
Weather Summary: Temperatures this week are warmer than usual. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, temperatures averaged one to nine degrees above normal. In Tallahassee and Pensacola, temperatures were six and nine degrees above normal, respectively. Highs were in the 80s, lows ranged between the 40s and 60s. Drought conditions did not change from the previous week with 52 percent of the State experiencing severe to exceptional drought conditions. Mild precipitation took place with most Florida Automated Weather Network Stations recording less than an inch of rain with the exception of three stations: Alachua (2.98 in.), MacClenny (1.94 in.), and Hastings (1.36 in.). County extension agents and farmers throughout Florida reported dry soil conditions.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	6	4	8
Short.....	48	25	53
Adequate.....	45	65	38
Surplus.....	1	6	1

Field Crops: Farmers in northern Florida were preparing fields for cotton and peanuts. Levy County producers were planting peanuts, but planting in other counties had not started. In Washington County, over half of the corn crop was planted. Low soil moisture in Washington and other northern counties slowed planting of field crops. A mild winter and warm weather provided ideal growing conditions for Pigweed and Lambsquarters and producers were weighing their options for controlling these weeds. In Columbia County, powdery mildew has affected wheat production.

U.S. Drought Monitor: March 27, 2012



Intensity:

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

Light potato harvesting took place. Rice planting has begun in Palm Beach County.

Fruits & Vegetables: Hot, windy, and dry weather has increased irrigation demands for vegetable crops. Late blight was present in tomato plants in southern Florida. In Miami-Dade County, mites were problematic for some vegetable crops. Vegetable harvesting in the south continued. AMS market movement included blueberries, snap beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumber, eggplant, endive, escarole, bell peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, and tomatoes. According to AMS, blueberry market movement was expected to increase while the strawberry harvest seasonally declined.

Cattle and Pastures: Statewide, the pasture condition improved over the previous week, with more pasture in good and excellent condition. However, above normal temperatures and continued dry weather limited forage growth. The condition of the cattle was mostly fair, with fewer cattle in poor condition, but also fewer cattle in good condition. In the **Panhandle**, the condition of pasture was fair to excellent. The cattle condition ranged from poor to excellent, with most in good condition. In the **northern** areas, most pasture and cattle were in fair condition. In the **central** areas, most pastures were in fair condition, with the condition varied from very poor to good. Soils were warm due to the mild winter, but pasture growth was slow due to lack of rainfall. Most of the cattle were in fair to good condition. In the **southwestern** areas, the pasture condition ranged from very poor to good with most in poor to fair condition. Most of the cattle were in fair to good condition.

Equine: There was concern about the high potential of cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile virus due to the high population of mosquitoes this early in the year.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week (percent)	Current week (percent)	Previous week (percent)	Current week (percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	5	5
Poor.....	4	5	25	21
Fair.....	53	45	43	50
Good.....	40	45	25	22
Excellent.....	2	4	2	2

Citrus: Temperatures were moderate with highs reaching the mid to upper 80s in most of the citrus region. Rainfall was light across the region. Alachua received the most with 2.98 inches and was the only station to record more than an inch of rain. Putnam Hall came close with 0.97 inches. The remaining twenty three stations recorded less than a half-inch of rain with six recording no precipitation at all. 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 per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated Mar 27, 2012. The Valencia harvest continued to average over 5 million boxes weekly. Abundant pea-sized and larger fruit was visible as the new crop progresses. Harvesting and young tree care was the primary grove activities at this time.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	Mar 12-18, 2012 (boxes)	Mar 19-25, 2012 (boxes)	Mar 26-Apr 1, 2012 (boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	10	1	0
Valencia.....	5,313	5,305	5,672
Navel oranges.....	3	3	2
Temples.....	25	5	4
Grapefruit.....	1,003	759	585
Tangelos.....	0	0	0
Tangerines.....	85	42	43
Total.....	6,439	6,115	6,306

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