



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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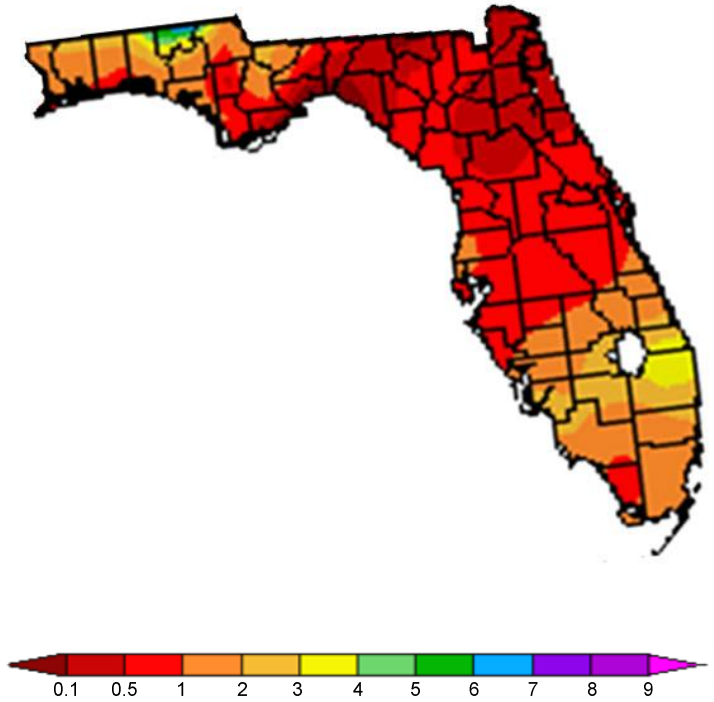
Released: February 19, 2013 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: February 17, 2013

Most Florida Crops Escape Freeze Damage

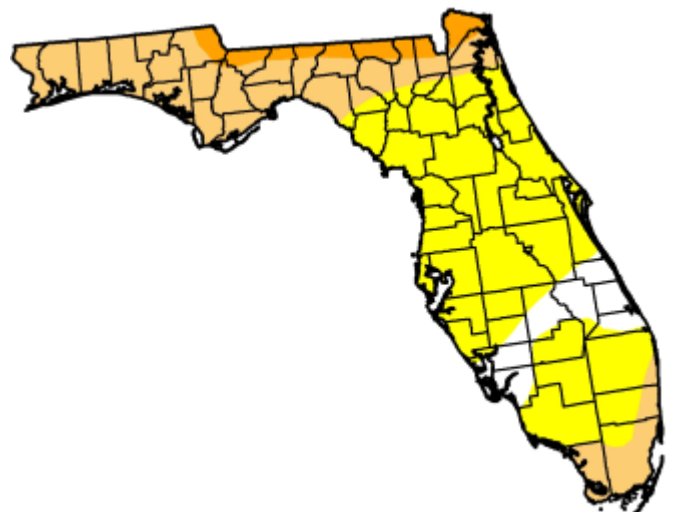
Weather Summary: Late week freezing temperatures caused Florida's fruit and vegetable farmers to take precautions to limit damage to crops. This was quite a change for producers after experiencing a warmer-than-normal winter that produced early blooming for some crops. Citrus and other fruits and vegetables appear to have weathered the late week cold snap. An assessment of frost damage in Highlands, Clay, Flagler, and Seminole counties continued. Florida's Automated Weather Network (FAWN) stations reported temperatures as low as 23 degrees at Live Oak. Temperatures were in the mid-to-high 20s across northern and portions of central Florida. In most other areas of Florida temperatures dipped no lower than the mid-30s. Temperatures stayed above 40 degrees in Hendry, Miami-Dade, and Broward counties. Highest weekly temperatures recorded at most FAWN stations were in the 80s. Precipitation was widespread across Florida. Eleven FAWN stations recorded more than an inch of rain. The most rainfall fell at Clewiston (2.38 inches), Belle Glade (2.20 inches), and Immokalee (2.18 inches). Fifteen stations recorded between a half inch and one inch of rainfall. The remaining 12 FAWN stations recorded less than a half inch of rainfall.

Precipitation (in)—Florida: February 11 - 17, 2013



Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

U.S. Drought Monitor—Florida: Feb 12, 2013



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	8	9	15
Short	51	48	40
Adequate	40	40	40
Surplus	1	3	5

Field Crops: Seasonal land preparations were underway in Gadsden County. Sugarcane harvesting continued on schedule in southern Florida.

Fruits & Vegetables: For strawberry farmers, any damage from the cold temperatures was minimal. Winds in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties whipped vegetable plants and may result in some produce being scarred and culled.

In Flagler County, a frost-damage assessment was underway for cabbage and potato crops. Vegetable market movement included cabbage, celery, eggplants, endive, escarole, green beans, herbs, radishes, sweet corn, peppers, squash, tomatoes, and specialty items. Some harvesting was curtailed due to rain and wet fields. In Gadsden County, plastic was being laid to get ready for tomato planting.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, cold temperatures and drought limited forage growth. Pastures were rated mostly poor to fair. More rain was needed and a return to warmer temperatures was needed to improve conditions. Cattle conditions were mostly fair to good. In the **Panhandle**, the pastures were mostly in fair to good condition. The cattle were mostly in good condition. In the **northern** area, the pastures were mostly in fair condition. The cattle were mostly in fair to good condition. In the **central** area, the pastures were mostly in poor to fair condition. The cattle were in mostly fair to good condition. In the **southwest** area, the pastures were mostly in poor condition, but many pastures were also rated fair or good. The cattle were mostly in fair to good condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	4	5
Poor.....	10	15	30	45
Fair.....	57	45	50	30
Good.....	30	35	15	15
Excellent.....	2	4	1	5

Citrus: Seasonal daily high temperatures were in the lower to mid 80s. Lows in the upper 20's were reported in several counties within the Northern area. No effects on citrus have been reported. Rainfall was light to moderate. All of the twenty-five FAWN stations in the citrus area recorded some precipitation last week. Nine stations recorded an inch or more, three stations recorded more than two inches. Clewiston, with recorded rainfall of 2.39 inches, was the station with the most recorded precipitation. Drought measurements as per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated February 12, 2013 indicate that the drought remained about the same. Growers were irrigating one to two times a week to keep moisture in the ground and on the trees. Harvest of early and midseason varieties was drawing to a close, as the Valencia harvest begins. Other grove activity included general grove maintenance and fertilizer application. Forty-one packinghouses and eighteen processors were open and shipping. Almost all processing plants should finish running early and mid-season oranges this coming week. As it looks now, there will not be much of a break between early and late oranges, maybe a week at most for some plants. Shipment of fresh fruit has been moderate. Varieties being packed primarily included early oranges, colored grapefruit, and tangerines.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	Feb 3, 2013	Feb 10, 2013	Feb 17, 2013
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	5,032	4,353	3,587
Valencia.....	43	38	76
Navel oranges.....	5	3	2
White grapefruit.....	136	96	241
Red grapefruit.....	407	430	643
Temples.....	23	39	44
Tangelos.....	45	32	22
Sunburst tangerines.....	0	2	0
Honey tangerines.....	78	75	94
Total.....	5,769	5,068	4,709

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