



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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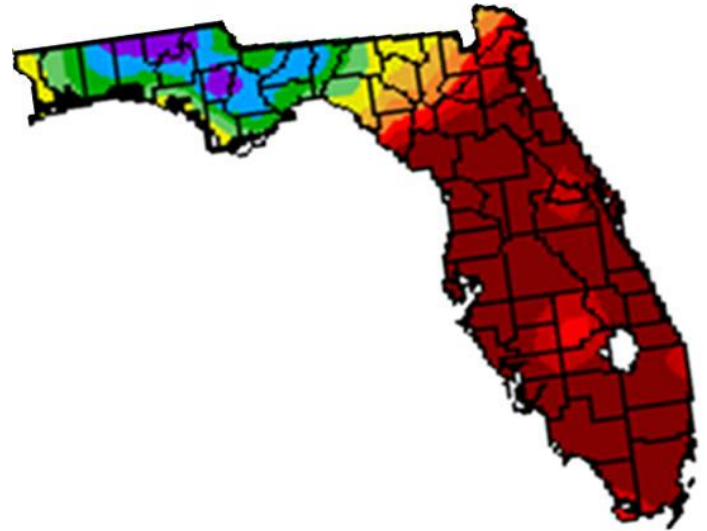
Released: February 25, 2013 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: February 24, 2013

**Crops Escape Cold Snap**

**Weather Summary:** Early in the week a hard freeze impacted the Panhandle and the northern part of the State. Heavy rains pounded the Panhandle on Friday and Saturday with the most rain in the State reported in Monticello at 6.43 inches, according to Florida's Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Heavy hail was also received in some parts of Suwannee County. The majority of the State received no rain to minimal amounts of rain. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, as of February 19, Florida was 71 percent moderately dry, 13 percent was under severe drought and only 3 percent recorded extreme drought. Minimum temperatures ranged from 22 degrees in Putnam County to 48 degrees in Fort Lauderdale. Maximum temperatures ranged from 70 degrees in Jay to 89 degrees in Palmdale.

**Precipitation (in)–Florida: February 18 - 24, 2013**

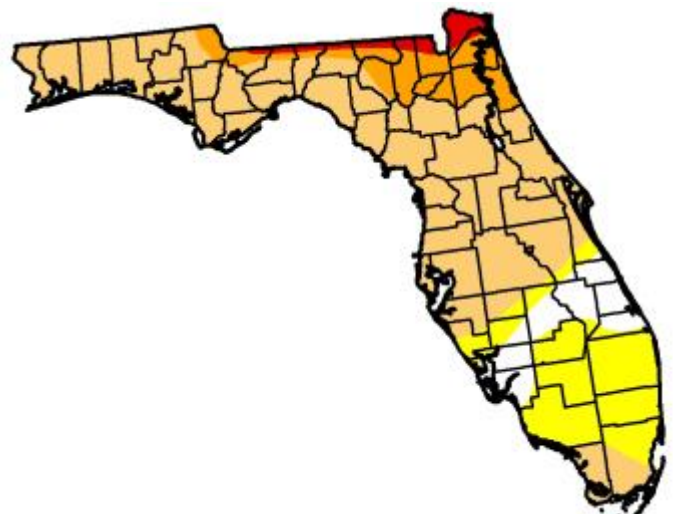


Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

**Soil Moisture Ratings**

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short .....	15	10	7
Short .....	35	49	45
Adequate .....	45	39	39
Surplus .....	5	2	9

**U.S. Drought Monitor–Florida: Feb 19, 2013**



Intensity:

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

**Field Crops:** Winter wheat improved with the rain. Green chop was underway for cattle producers. Sugarcane harvesting continued. Fields were being readied for early rice planting in the south.

**Fruits & Vegetables:** Land was being prepared in the northern part of the State for watermelon. Due to the cold weather early in the week, there was some damage to the potato crop. Strawberries were being harvested in the central part of the State. Tomatoes were in the ground in the central areas. Watermelon, sweet corn and winter vegetables were planted and harvesting of green beans started in Miami-Dade County.

**Livestock and Pastures: Statewide**, early week temperatures were reaching the low 20s. In some areas temperatures did minimal damage to pastures. Drought followed by cold were the limiting factors to forage growth. Winter forages were providing grazing now with longer days and rain. In the **Panhandle**, the pastures were in poor to fair condition. The cattle were in fair condition. In the **northern** area, the pastures and cattle were in fair condition. In the **central** area, the pastures were in poor to fair condition. The cattle were in mostly fair condition. In the **southwest** area, the pastures were mostly in poor to fair condition. The cattle were mostly in fair condition. Ground water levels continued to drop, as evidenced by stock pond levels.

### Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	5	6
Poor .....	15	10	45	39
Fair.....	45	57	30	41
Good .....	35	30	15	13
Excellent .....	4	2	5	1

**Citrus:** Seasonal daily high temperatures were in the lower to mid 80s. Rainfall was light. Sixteen of the 25 FAWN stations in the citrus area recorded some precipitation last week. Four stations recorded a third of an inch or more. Okahumpka, with recorded rainfall of 0.45, was the station with the most recorded precipitation. Drought measurements as per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated February 19, 2013, indicated that the drought worsened across the northern half of the citrus growing region. 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 began. Other grove activity included general grove maintenance and fertilizer application. Forty-one packinghouses and 18 processors are open and shipping. Almost all processing plants should finish running early and midseason oranges within a week. 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 was 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 10, 2013	Feb 17, 2013	Feb 24, 2013
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	4,353	3,587	NA
Valencia .....	38	76	NA
Navel oranges.....	3	2	NA
White grapefruit.....	96	241	NA
Red grapefruit .....	430	643	NA
Temples .....	39	44	NA
Tangelos .....	32	22	NA
Sunburst tangerines.....	2	0	NA
Honey tangerines.....	75	94	NA
Total.....	5,068	4,709	NA

(NA) Not Available

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