



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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Week Ending: March 10, 2013

Third Week of Cold Snaps

Weather Summary: For the third week, a freeze hit north Florida and into central Florida. Early week, cold temperatures appeared to have damaged some sweet corn fields and fields with green beans. More than half of the State had temperatures lower than 32 degrees at some point during the week, according to Florida's Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Minimum temperatures ranged from 26 degrees in Alachua to 44 degrees in Fort Lauderdale. Maximum temperatures ranged from 69 degrees in Carrabelle to 81 degrees in Bronson. The U.S. Drought Monitor reported that in contrast to the wetter conditions across north Florida, dry conditions persisted south of a line from Daytona to Ocala. The majority of the State received no rain to minimal amounts of rain.

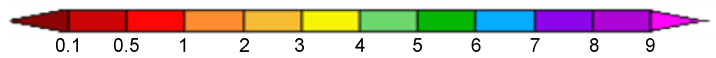
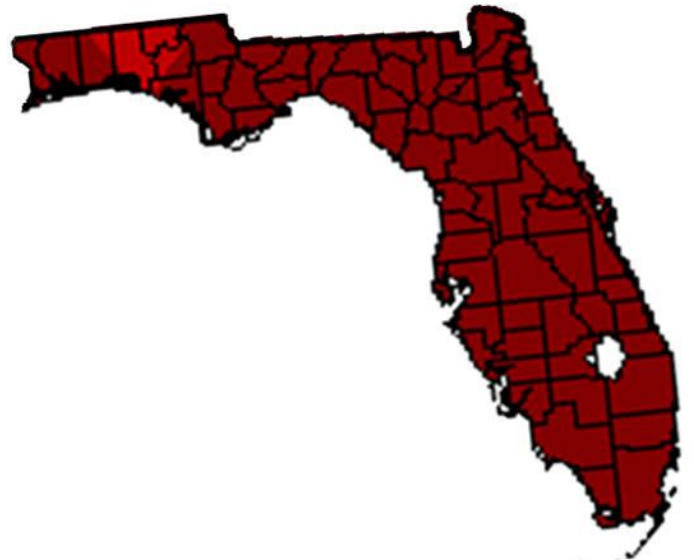
Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	10	4	17
Short	40	29	33
Adequate	45	60	47
Surplus	5	7	3

Field Crops: In the Panhandle, seasonal land preparation continues. In Putnam and Flagler counties, farmers covered and uncovered potatoes repeatedly due to cold weather. Sugarcane harvest was close to completion for three of the four sugar mills. Rice planting began.

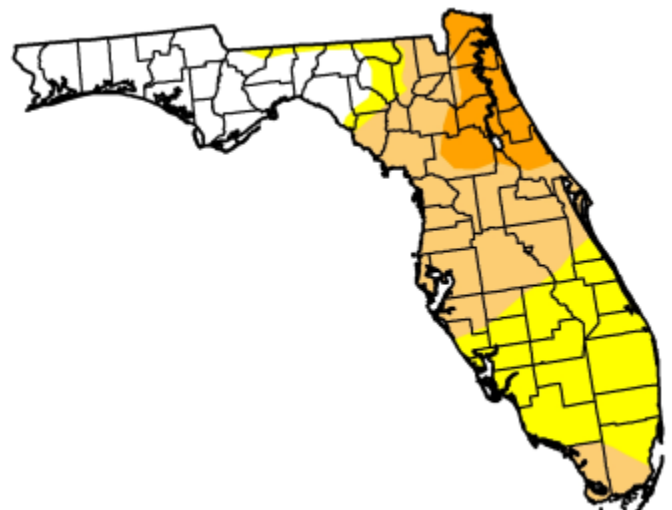
Fruits & Vegetables: Planting of corn and watermelon in Levy and Gilchrist counties started. Cabbage was still being harvested. Patchy frost and temperatures dipping to near freezing was reported in south Florida. Some damage was reported due to the frost and cold and heavy winds battered some sensitive vegetables and the cooler nights slowed growth on some vegetables. Damage to sweet corn and fields with green beans was being assessed. Harvesting of string beans, sweet corn and winter vegetables was in full force in south Miami-Dade County. Vegetable growers continued to irrigate crops.

Precipitation (in)–Florida: March 4 – 10, 2013



Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

U.S. Drought Monitor–Florida: March 5, 2013



Intensity:

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

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, winter forage was limited most by drought and cold. However, while some pastures in the Panhandle were flooded from recent rains, pastures in the south suffered from drought. There have been some brush fires. Cattle were being fed supplemental hay as needed. In the **Panhandle**, the pastures were in good to fair condition. The cattle were in good condition. In the **northern** area, the pastures and cattle were in fair condition. In the **central** area, the pastures were in poor condition. The cattle were in mostly fair condition. In the **southwest** area, the pastures were mostly in fair to poor condition. The cattle were mostly in fair condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	5	10
Poor.....	9	10	35	35
Fair.....	55	55	44	40
Good.....	30	32	15	14
Excellent.....	5	2	1	1

Citrus: Seasonal, daily high temperatures were in the mid to upper 70s. Rainfall was sparse and extremely light. Eight of the 25 FAWN stations in the citrus area recorded some precipitation. Two stations recorded 0.05 of an inch or more. Arcadia, with recorded rainfall of 0.07, was the station with the most recorded precipitation. Drought measurements were per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated March 5, 2013 indicated that the drought in the citrus growing region worsened in all but the southern region. Severe drought conditions existed in the northernmost areas of the citrus region, moderate conditions have extended farther south, and the small area which had been drought free disappeared. 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 increased. Other grove activity included general grove maintenance and fertilizer application. Forty-one packinghouses and 18 processors were open and shipping. Shipment of fresh fruit has been moderate. Varieties were being packed and primarily included Honey tangerines and colored grapefruit.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	Feb 24, 2013	Mar 3, 2013	Mar 10, 2013
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	978	240	61
Valencia.....	299	1,982	2,796
Navel oranges.....	2	1	2
White grapefruit.....	266	462	472
Red grapefruit.....	547	702	718
Temples.....	42	121	64
Tangelos.....	21	3	6
Honey tangerines.....	74	74	83
Total.....	2,229	3,585	4,202

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