



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: March 17, 2013

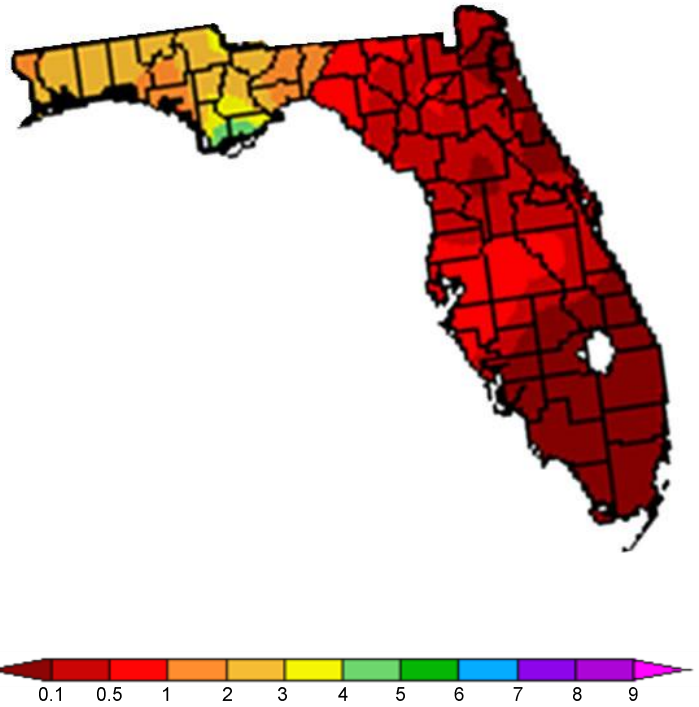
Cool Temperatures and Drought Continued

Weather Summary: The majority of the State had temperatures in the low 40s to the low 30s, according to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Minimum temperatures ranged from 30 degrees in North Port to 53 degrees in Fort Lauderdale. Maximum temperatures ranged from 71 degrees in Carrabelle to 82 degrees in Fort Lauderdale. The U.S. Drought Monitor reported that 76 percent of the State was abnormally dry.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	17	9	16
Short	33	38	35
Adequate	47	51	46
Surplus	3	2	3

Precipitation (in)–Florida: March 11 - 17, 2013

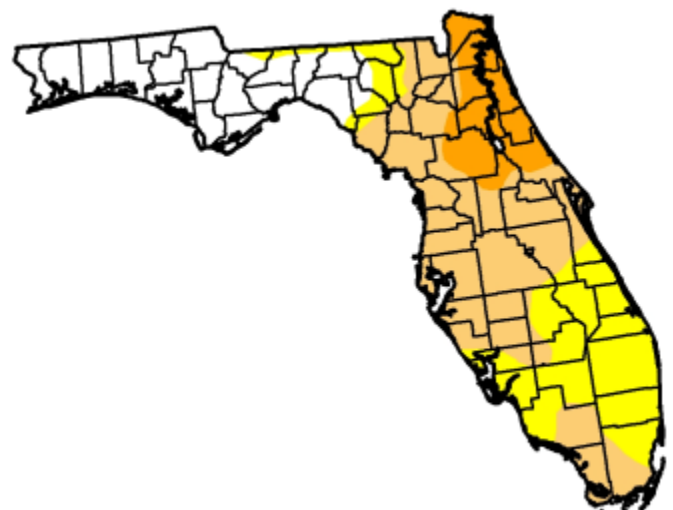


Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

Field Crops: In the Panhandle land is being prepared for peanuts. Field corn was being planted. Some wheat fields were being sprayed for disease. Sugar cane harvest continued.

Fruits & Vegetables: Vegetables coming to market included tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, beans, corn, cucumbers, broccoli, squash, strawberries, and a variety of specialty crops. Watermelon fields were being planted. Strawberries and onions were being picked in Bradford County. South Florida experienced several mornings in the mid-to-upper 30s. Strong winds and sunny days produced dry conditions. The cool nights slowed the growth of vegetables. Growers were irrigating as necessary.

U.S. Drought Monitor–Florida: March 12, 2013



Intensity:

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

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, drought was the first limiting factor for forage growth, followed by cold. Pastures in the south suffered from drought. Pastures in the Panhandle and north had adequate moisture, and were recovering slowly due to colder than normal weather this spring. In the **Panhandle**, the pastures and 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 and 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	10	15
Poor.....	10	10	35	35
Fair.....	55	60	40	35
Good.....	32	25	14	14
Excellent.....	2	4	1	1

Citrus: Seasonal daily high temperatures were in the upper 70s to lower 80’s. Rainfall was widespread, but extremely light. Twenty-one of the 25 FAWN stations in the citrus area recorded some precipitation last week. Four stations recorded 0.25 inches or more. Eleven of the 21 recorded less than a tenth of an inch of precipitation. Balm, with recorded rainfall of 0.36, was the station with the most recorded precipitation. Drought measurements as per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated March 12, 2013, indicated that the drought in the citrus growing region worsened in the central and southern regions, with the areas of moderate drought expanding. 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 almost over, as the Valencia harvest picked up steam. Other grove activity included general grove maintenance and fertilizer application. Forty-one packinghouses and 18 processors were open and shipping. Shipment of fresh fruit was moderate. Varieties being packed primarily included Honey tangerines and colored grapefruit.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	Mar 3, 2013	Mar 10, 2013	Mar 17, 2013
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	240	61	4
Valencia.....	1,982	2,796	2,946
Navel oranges.....	1	2	1
White grapefruit.....	462	472	412
Red grapefruit.....	702	718	561
Temples.....	121	64	22
Tangelos.....	3	6	0
Honey tangerines.....	74	83	62
Total.....	3,585	4,202	4,008

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