



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: March 17, 2014 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: March 16, 2014

Rain Panhandle, North, dry Central, South

Weather Summary: According to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN), five locations in the Panhandle and north received over 2.50 inches of rain. Most other reporting stations received less than one-half inch of rain. Maximum temperatures were in the low 80s, with the highest temperature in Homestead (Miami-Dade) at 87.1 degrees. The lowest temperatures in the State ranged from 30 degrees in Lecanto (Citrus County) to 59 degrees in Fort Lauderdale (Broward County).

Soil Moisture Ratings

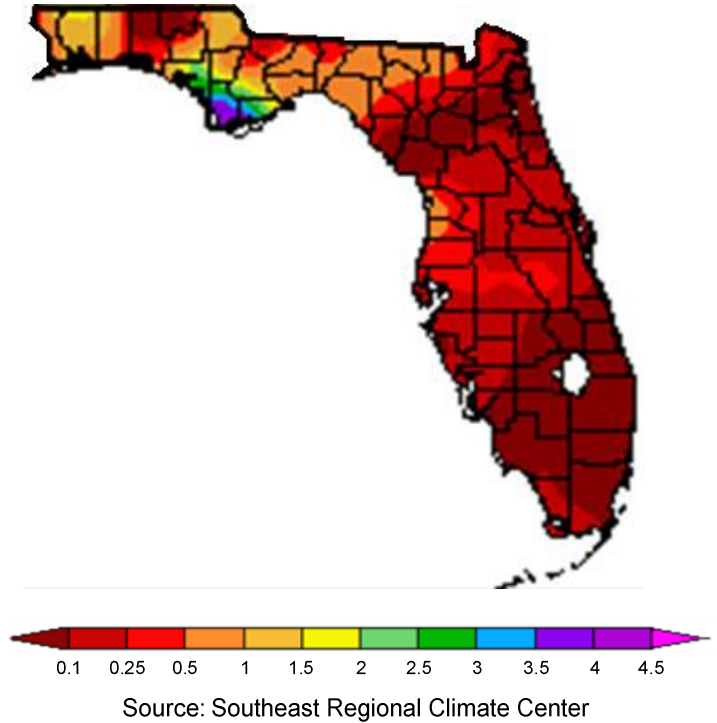
Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	0	16	0
Short	10	35	13
Adequate	72	46	71
Surplus	18	3	16

Field Crops: Most corn and watermelon planting was prevented in the north and Panhandle areas as the field were too wet to work. Field corn was being planted in Hamilton and Levy counties, weather permitting. Sugar cane harvest was nearing its finish.

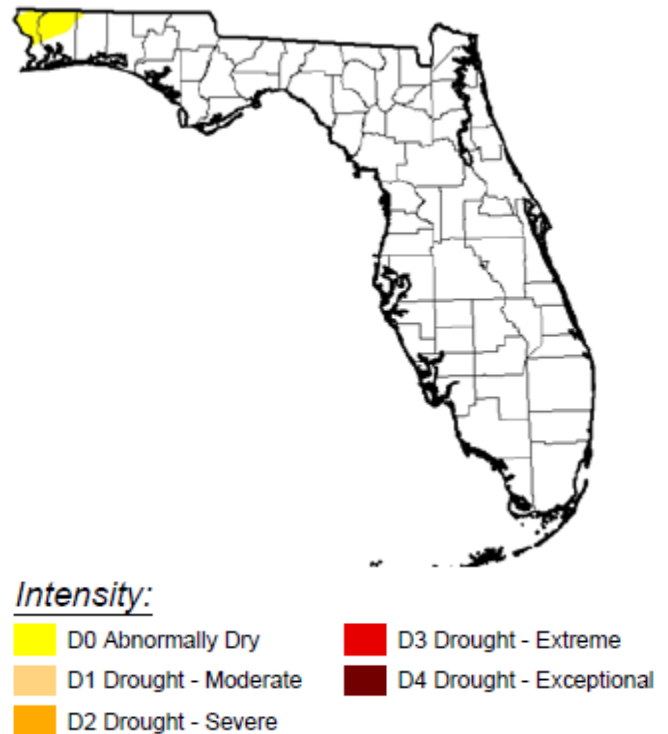
Fruit and Vegetables: Flagler and Putnam farmers were still planting potatoes and harvesting cabbage. Miami-Manatee farmers were harvesting strawberries, squash and watermelon. Vegetables coming to market in the southwest were beets, collards, cucumbers, eggplant, herbs, green beans, kale, peppers, tomatoes and specialty items.

Miami-Dade County farmers were harvesting eggplant, green beans, sweet corn, yellow zucchini, squash, specialty peppers, herbs, malanga, and Cuban sweet potatoes (boniatos), Asian vegetables, and tomatoes.

Precipitation (in)–Florida: March 10-16, 2014



U.S. Drought Monitor–Florida: March 11, 2014



Citrus:

Rain was widespread, but light in the citrus area this past week. Only two stations recorded a quarter of an inch or more of rainfall. All but four received at least a trace of precipitation. The most recorded was in Umatilla (Lake County) at 0.31 inches. Daytime temperatures were unseasonably warm, reaching the mid 80's in all citrus producing counties. As per the US Drought Monitor, last updated March 11, 2014, no drought exists within the citrus growing area

Grove activity included irrigating on several days during the week, hedging, topping and spraying. Growers are continuing to plant new trees in existing groves. Full bloom is evident in all areas on both oranges and grapefruit. Some trees are bearing very small fruit already for next season's crop.

Several processing plants have closed temporarily and are waiting for Valencia oranges to start coming in. A few plants are running grapefruit only. Almost but four packing houses are open and are shipping fruit in limited quantities; some have transitioned to gift fruit packing only.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	March 2, 2014	March 9, 2014	March 16, 2014
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges....	162	55	47
Valencia	173	558	1,888
Navel oranges	3	3	3
White Grapefruit	282	231	382
Colored Grapefruit.....	611	650	571
Temples	39	70	46
Tangelos	12	6	3
Sunburst tangerines....	0	4	0
Honey Tangerines.....	68	85	89
Total.....	1,350	1,662	3,029

Livestock and Pastures: Warmer temperatures have improved pasture quality, however some pasture underwater in the Panhandle from recent heavy rain. Hay supply was running short in Walton County. Pasture in the southwest was aided by timely rains and warm temperatures. The cattle condition for the State primarily ranged from fair to good but the pasture condition was mostly fair.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	3	1
Poor	5	5	24	20
Fair.....	42	39	46	51
Good	51	54	26	26
Excellent.....	1	1	1	2

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