



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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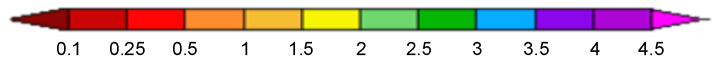
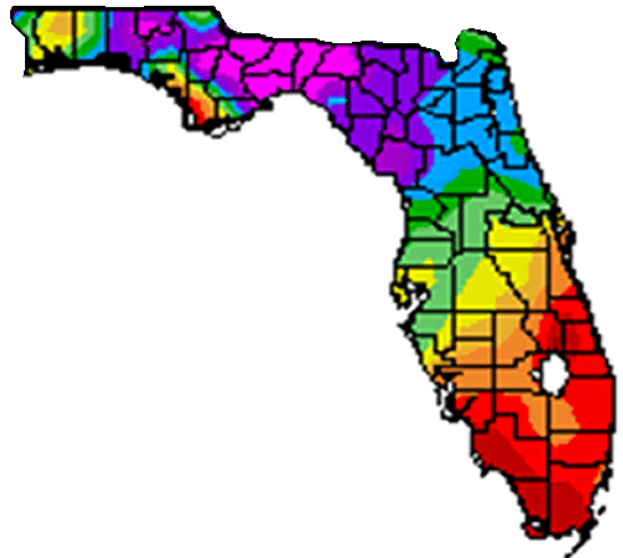
Released: March 24, 2014 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: March 23, 2014

Planting Resumes as Rain Slackens

Weather Summary: According to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN), over half of the State received between one and four inches of rain. Bronson (Levy County) received the most rain with 4.06 inches. Maximum temperatures were in the upper 70s to 90 degrees, with the highest temperature in Fort Lauderdale (Broward County) with 90 degrees. The lowest temperatures in the State ranged from 32 degrees in Quincy (Gadsden County) to 63 degrees in Fort Lauderdale (Broward County).

Precipitation (in)–Florida: March 17-23, 2014



Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	0	9	0
Short	13	39	20
Adequate	71	45	73
Surplus	16	7	7

Field Crops: Field corn planting has started in Jackson County. Some farmers in the Panhandle are two weeks behind on preparing for planting due to rain. Levy County farmers hope to start planting peanuts. Sugar cane harvest was nearing its finish.

Fruit and Vegetables: Flagler and Putnam farmers have finished planting potatoes and continued to harvest cabbage. Dixie and Suwannee county farmers have started planting watermelons, and Levy County has finished planting watermelons. Miami-Dade County farmers were harvesting green beans, squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes. Vegetables coming to market in the southwest were beets, collards, cucumbers, eggplant, green beans, peppers, radishes, tomatoes and specialty items.

U.S. Drought Monitor–Florida: March 18, 2014



Intensity:

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

Citrus: Rain was widespread in the citrus area this past week. Sixteen stations recorded more than an inch of rainfall. Nine recorded more than two inches. All stations received at least a trace of precipitation. The most recorded was in Citra (Marion County) at 3.63 inches. Daytime temperatures were unseasonably warm, reaching the mid 80s in all citrus producing counties. As per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated March 18, 2014, no drought exists within the citrus growing area

Grove activity included irrigating on several days during the week, hedging, topping and spraying. Growers were continuing to plant new trees in existing groves. Full bloom was evident in all areas on both oranges and grapefruit. Some trees were 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 were running grapefruit only. All but four packing houses were open and were shipping fruit in limited quantities; some have transitioned to gift fruit packing only.

Livestock and Pastures: Warmer temperatures have improved pasture quality, however, some pasture remains wet in the Panhandle from recent heavy rain. 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	1	1
Poor	5	4	20	17
Fair.....	39	35	51	56
Good	54	59	26	24
Excellent.....	1	1	2	2

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	March 9, 2014	March 16, 2014	March 23, 2014
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges....	55	47	9
Valencia	558	1,888	3,090
Navel oranges	3	3	2
White Grapefruit	231	382	170
Colored Grapefruit.....	650	571	473
Temples	70	46	23
Tangelos	6	3	0
Sunburst tangerines....	4	0	0
Honey Tangerines.....	85	89	48
Total.....	1,662	3,029	3,815

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