



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
**FLORIDA CROP PROGRESS &
CONDITION REPORT**



In cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the UF/IFAS Extension Service
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Released: February 23, 2015 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: February 22, 2015

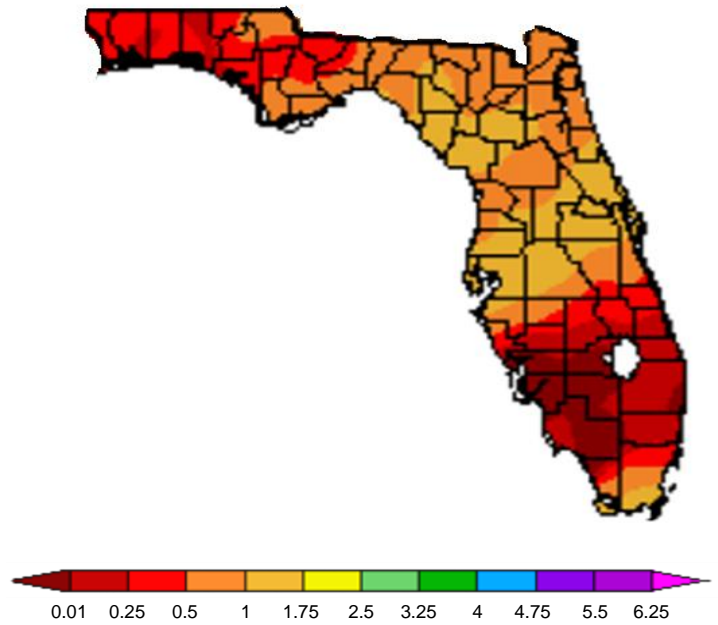
Cold Snap Hits Florida

Weather Summary: According to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall ranged from 0.02 of an inch to 1.49 inches across the State. Pierson (Volusia County) received the most rain with 1.49 inches. Per the U.S. Drought Monitor, Florida was 78 percent drought free this past week. Temperatures ranged from 19 degrees for night time lows to 86 degrees for day time highs, across the State. The highest temperature was 86 degrees in Saint Lucie West (Saint Lucie County). The lowest temperature in the State was 19 degrees in Lecanto (Citrus County).

Soil Moisture Ratings

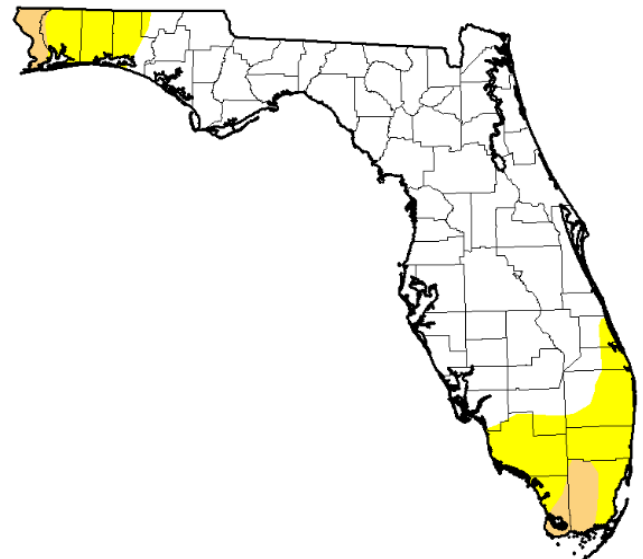
Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Current week	Previous week	Previous year
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	0	0	0
Short	25	25	8
Adequate	70	70	83
Surplus	5	5	9

Precipitation (in)–Florida: Feb. 16-22, 2015



Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

U.S. Drought Monitor–Florida: Feb. 17, 2015



Intensity:

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

Field Crops: There was an average of 6.2 days suitable for field work this past week, up slightly from the previous week. Rain and cold weather slowed field work in the Panhandle. In Gadsden County farmers tilled the soil in preparation for corn and peanut planting. Sugarcane harvest slowed in Glades and Hendry counties due to rain early in the week.

Fruit and Vegetables: Freezing weather caused concern for crops this past week. Planting of late cabbage and harvesting of strawberries, onions, and greens occurred in Bradford County. Flagler and Putnam county farmers were harvesting cabbage. In south Florida several days of windy weather preceded the freeze and heavy winds also battered sensitive vegetable crops. Damage was minimal to most vegetables. Some vegetables showed damage to the tops of plants, more extensive damage was noted on corn and beans. Blueberries also appeared to be damaged by the frost. Vegetable growers in St. Lucie County used helicopters to force warm air onto crops to help minimize damage from the frost.

Livestock and Pastures: Pastures across the State continued to be in poor condition due to freezing temperatures. Ranchers were providing supplemental feed due to the lack of forage crops. Statewide, the cattle condition was mostly good, while the winter forage and pasture condition was fair to good.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Current week	Previous week	Current week	Previous week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor	1	0	3	2
Poor	4	4	24	19
Fair	33	32	39	37
Good	59	60	33	41
Excellent	3	4	1	1

Citrus: Minimum temperatures were the lowest of the season. All citrus areas had temperatures drop down to the mid to high 30s or lower on two consecutive days. Pierson (Volusia County) in the northern area recorded the lowest temperature at 26 degrees. Joshua (Desoto County) and Immokalee (Collier County) both in the southern area dropped down to 30 degrees. Rainfall was adequate in the northern area with a few counties getting just over an inch, and light in the southern area with several county totals amounting to about a quarter of an inch. As per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated February 17, 2015, abnormally dry conditions are still present in Collier County and parts of Hendry County, as well as in the lower half of the Indian River District.

Several processing plants plan on finishing early and midseason oranges this month. Valencia orange harvest is still very minimal at this point. Honey tangerines and colored grapefruit are now the primary varieties being harvested for fresh market. A small amount of white grapefruit, midseason oranges, and Valencia oranges are also going fresh.

Grove activity included irrigation on several days, fertilizing, and some hedging and topping after harvest. Field workers across the citrus region have noticed medium to heavy bloom on all citrus varieties and feathery new growth in well taken care of groves.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	Feb 8, 2015	Feb 15, 2015	Feb 22, 2015
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges	3,876	3,483	2,782
Temples	8	10	17
Navel oranges	9	4	2
Valencia	11	33	42
White grapefruit	114	117	128
Colored grapefruit	442	426	509
Sunburst tangerines	2	2	3
Tangelos	35	24	13
Honey Tangerines	52	49	61
Total	4,549	4,148	3,557

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