



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: March 21, 2016 (4 PM EDT)

Week Ending: March 20, 2016

Weather Summary: According to Florida's Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall ranged from 0.04 of an inch at Belle Glade (Palm Beach County) to 4.08 inches at Jay (Santa Rosa County). FAWN station average was 0.74 inch.

Temperatures ranged from a State nighttime low of 41 degrees in Jay (Santa Rosa County) to a State daytime high of 90 degrees in Ocklawaha (Marion County).

As per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated March 15, 2016, Florida was rated 78 percent drought free unchanged from the previous week.

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Current Week	Previous week	Previous year
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	2	2	3
Short.....	17	17	34
Adequate	73	73	60
Surplus	8	8	3

Field Crops: There was an average of 6.3 days suitable for field work this past week, compared to 6.5 days last week. General rain across Jefferson County brought moisture levels back to near normal levels. Washington County received the first significant rainfall in two weeks. Sugarcane harvest progressed normally with one mill finished for this harvest season.

Fruit and Vegetables: Water melons were seeded in Dixie County. Madison County corn fields were planted. Onions, strawberries, and winter vegetable crops were harvested in Bradford County. Levy County watermelon fields were estimated to be 70 percent planted. The mostly warm and dry week favored vegetable crop growth in south Florida. A few showers over the weekend dropped around a quarter inch of rain in most places. Vegetable volumes remained mostly light.

South Florida vegetable crops harvested included avocados, beets, bitter melon, boniato, cabbage, collards, cucumber, eggplant, herbs, kale, malanga, peppers, squash, Swiss chard, tomatoes, and specialty items.

Citrus: Temperatures were above average this week in all citrus producing counties. Most mornings were in the lower 60s, while highs reached the mid to upper 80s. Rainfall was widespread, with about half the stations recording one-half an inch or more of rainfall. The most rainfall was in Frostproof (Polk County), at 1.33 inches. The least rainfall was in Immokalee (Collier County) and Palmdale (Glades County), both at 0.14 inch of rainfall. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor updated March 15, 2016, the majority of the citrus region remained drought free. Dry conditions affect only the northernmost portion of the citrus producing region.

All processing plants were running Valencia oranges at full capacity, while some continued to accept remaining grapefruit left for the processed market. Red and white grapefruit harvest has slowed down a bit, as the ending of the harvest season was drawing close to finish. Packinghouse activity focused on Valencia oranges, Honey tangerines, and red grapefruit,

Bloom was widespread across the citrus belt on oranges and grapefruit. Trees that bloomed early were developing fruit for next year's crop. Irrigation was widespread across all areas, as was herbicide and fertilizer application activities. Other grove activity included hedging and topping, mowing, and general grove maintenance.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	Mar 6, 2016	Mar 13, 2016	Mar 20, 2016
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-Oranges	11	7	4
Navel Oranges	1	2	1
Temples	18	8	1
Valencia Oranges.....	3,318	3,666	3,393
Red Grapefruit.....	426	344	244
White Grapefruit.....	248	163	74
Sunburst Tangerines	2	0	0
Honey Tangerines	36	44	42
Tangelos	0	0	0
Total	4,060	4,234	3,759

Livestock and Pastures: Pasco County pastures and hayfields received lots of fertilizer as this week was very dry and hot. Dry weather conditions were reported in Brevard and Indian River counties. Pastures were bare as ranchers provided hay to livestock herds. South Florida pasture quality remained mostly good due to warming temperatures and adequate soil moisture. St. Lucie County pastures exhibited drought stress due to lack of adequate rainfall. Pasture rotation was practiced to minimize the need for supplemental forage feeding.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture/Range	
	Current week	Previous week	Current week	Previous week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor	0	0	5	5
Poor	8	7	19	23
Fair.....	29	33	38	36
Good	57	54	35	33
Excellent	6	6	3	3

Florida's Automated Weather Network (FAWN), Precipitation and Rainfall by Station

FAWN Station	County	District	Monday, March 14 to Sunday, March 20, 2016		
			Minimum Temp.	Maximum Temp.	Rainfall (inches)
Carrabelle	Franklin	10	50.56	81.14	1.09
De Funiak	Walton	10	42.54	82.69	1.15
Jay	Santa Rosa	10	41.82	80.46	4.08
Marianna	Jackson	10	45.36	84.16	0.67
Monticello	Jefferson	10	50.58	86.70	0.99
Quincy	Gadsden	10	48.56	85.01	0.83
Live Oak	Suwannee	30	52.86	85.12	0.54
MacClenny	Baker	30	54.36	87.69	1.17
Mayo	Lafayette	30	48.92	84.42	2.02
Alachua	Alachua	50	55.38	86.90	1.00
Apopka	Orange	50	64.98	85.75	0.39
Avalon	Orange	50	61.79	88.41	0.24
Balm	Hillsborough	50	61.43	85.17	0.87
Bronson	Levy	50	55.96	87.31	1.04
Citra	Marion	50	58.39	86.70	0.49
Dade City	Pasco	50	60.10	85.19	0.27
Dover	Hillsborough	50	62.13	87.44	0.41
Frostproof	Polk	50	60.10	88.74	1.33
Hastings	St. Johns	50	61.03	87.31	0.09
Kenansville	Osceola	50	58.21	87.73	0.72
Lake Alfred	Polk	50	63.61	89.47	0.44
Lecanto	Citrus	50	60.30	82.24	0.55
Ocklawaha	Marion	50	62.85	89.85	0.34
Okahumpka	Lake	50	62.40	86.02	0.39
Pierson	Volusia	50	61.03	88.95	0.99
Putnam Hall	Putnam	50	57.25	87.66	0.56
Umatilla	Lake	50	63.54	87.93	0.19
Arcadia	De Soto	80	61.38	87.30	0.79
Belle Glade	Palm Beach	80	62.46	87.89	0.04
Clewiston	Hendry	80	63.37	88.97	0.36
Fort Lauderdale	Broward	80	68.81	89.60	0.20
Homestead	Miami-Dade	80	62.67	87.13	0.18
Immokalee	Collier	80	61.09	86.81	0.14
Indian River	Indian River	80	61.43	88.21	0.67
Joshua	De Soto	80	56.53	87.06	1.41
North Port	Sarasota	80	60.93	85.33	1.40
Okeechobee	Okeechobee	80	61.30	88.84	0.55
Ona	Hardee	80	58.86	86.72	0.78
Palmdale	Glades	80	60.19	89.02	0.14
Sebring	Highlands	80	63.12	89.60	0.75
St. Lucie West	St. Lucie	80	61.50	88.21	0.72
Wellington	W.Palm Beach	80	67.05	88.36	0.10

This report is available, at no cost, on the NASS web site: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/. To set-up this free subscription, send e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type "subscribe to Florida crop weather." The drought monitor index used in this report originates from the U.S. Drought Monitor website. Visit <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu> maintained by the National Drought Mitigation Center. The precipitation and temperature data used in this report originates from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Visit <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information