



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
**Florida Crop Progress
and Condition Report**



Cooperating with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the UF/IFAS Extension Service
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March 20, 2017

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General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, March 19, 2017. Precipitation estimates ranged from 0.2 inches in Clewiston (Hendry County) to 1.69 inches in North Port (Sarasota County). The average mean temperatures ranged from 50.8°F in Mayo (Lafayette County) to 67.6°F in Ft. Lauderdale (Broward County).

Citrus

Daily temperatures in the citrus region were average or below most of the week. Highs were mostly in the 60s and 70s, with only one or two days over 80 degrees. A couple cooler days towards the end of the week brought morning lows down to the 30s and 40s. Three of twenty monitored stations had more than an inch of rainfall. The most was in Sebring (Highland County) at 1.27 inches, followed by Joshua (DeSoto County), at 1.24 inches. Of the remaining seventeen monitored station, eleven had less than an half of an inch of rainfall. According to the March 14, 2017, U.S. Drought Monitor, drought conditions have worsened. With the exception of the Northern Area and upper portion of the Indian River District, the complete citrus region is in moderate drought. The citrus region is now facing the largest percentage of drought this growing season.

Early-midseason orange harvest is over. Valencia orange harvest is gaining speed rapidly, but is still less than last season's harvest at this time. Tangerine harvest for the fresh market was mostly Honey tangerines and for the processed market was mostly the Royal tangerine variety. White and red grapefruit harvest decreased, with some packing houses finishing those varieties for the season. White grapefruit is going almost completely to the processing plants, while about a third of the red grapefruit is still being picked as fresh.

All trees are in full bloom or have begun petal drop. In groves where bloom was early this year, pea to marble-

sized fruit is being reported. Growers have had some success fighting greening with bactericides and pesticides, and by pushing dead and dying trees and adjacent abandoned groves. Other grove activity included irrigating, hedging, fertilizing and general grove maintenance.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Mar 5, 2017	Mar 12, 2017	Mar 19, 2017	Mar 20, 2016
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges.....	19	74	322	0
Valencias	254	966	2,354	3,893
Navel oranges.....	1	0	0	1
White grapefruit.....	95	77	65	94
Red grapefruit	283	217	144	285
Tangelos.....	2	3	1	0
Royal Tangerines.....	32	27	13	2
Honey tangerines.....	40	39	37	41
Total	726	1,403	2,936	4,316

* Current numbers not available at time of publication
<http://www.citrusadministrativecommittee.org/bulletins/reports.html>

Fruits and Vegetables

Strawberry harvest continues in Brevard, Hillsborough, and Manatee Counties. Frosts caused significant damage to most fruit and vegetable crops across northern and central Florida with planting expected to pick up this week. Cabbage, broccoli, and leafy greens are being harvested in Putnam and Flagler counties. Crops coming to market this week include avocado, bitter melon, boniato, cabbage, eggplant, green beans, malanga, pepper, radishes, squash, sweet corn, tomato, zucchini, and other tropical fruits.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle producers continue to use supplemental feeding, as pastures remain dry and quality continues its seasonal decline. Hard frosts in central and northern Florida, cold temperatures, and continual dry conditions are hurting pastures across the state. Wildfires and lack of suitable water in pastures were reported in Brevard County. Cattle remained in mostly fair to good condition.

Field Crops

Hard freezes across northern and central Florida slowed field activities and set back any corn already planted. Sugarcane harvest continues on schedule in Glades, Hendry, and Palm Beach Counties.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 3/19/17

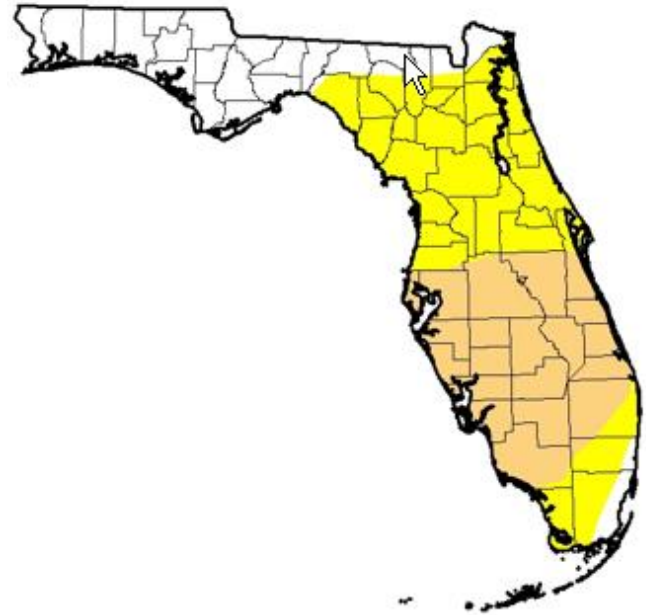
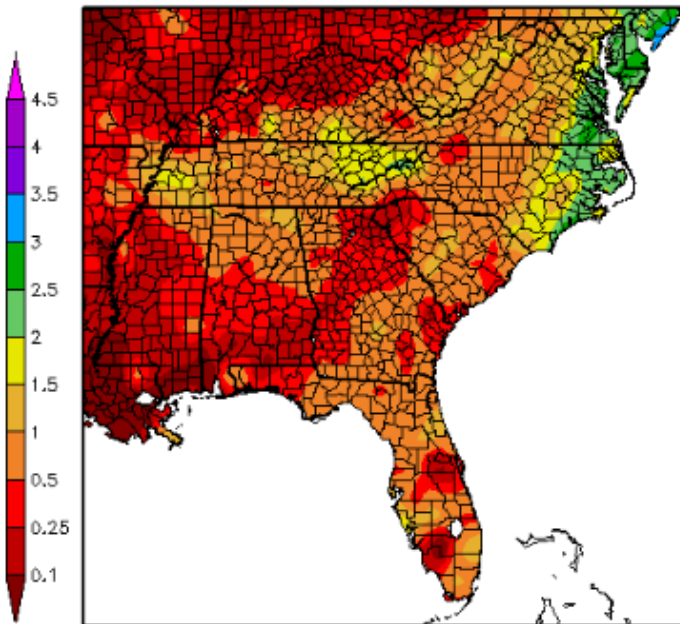
Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	14	12	4
Short	48	49	32
Adequate.....	34	36	59
Surplus.....	4	3	5

Condition for week ending 3/19/17

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	1	14	43	38	4
Pasture & Range...	7	34	36	20	3

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

Precipitation (in)
3/13/2017 - 3/19/2017



Intensity:



Generated 3/20/17 at HPRCC using provisional data. Regional Climate Centers.
<http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

March 14, 2017 (Released Thursday Mar. 16, 2017)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>