



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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February 20, 2018

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General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, February 18, 2018. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 8.30 inches in Vernon (Washington County). The average mean temperature ranged from 64.5°F in Chipley (Washington County) to 78.3°F in Marathon (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were seasonably warm across the citrus region. Most afternoons were in the lower to mid-80s in all areas. Clermont (Lake County), Palmdale (Glades County), and LaBelle (Hendry County) had the highest temperatures, all reaching 89°F during the week. Rainfall amounts were mostly lower than historical averages in citrus counties, ranging from less than a tenth of an inch to just over a half of an inch. Leesburg (Lake County), Labelle (Hendry County), and Avon Park (Highlands County) were exceptions, recording over an inch at each station. According to the February 15, 2018 U.S. Drought Monitor, the complete citrus region remains drought free.

Grove operations included mowing, fertilizing, spraying, and brush removal. During this time, grove owners were also working on sprinkler and pump repair. Most caretakers were irrigating at regular intervals.

Royal and Honey tangerines are the main variety of tangerines being picked at this time. Grapefruit is continuing to come in, with a larger amount going to the processing plants than what is going fresh. Orange utilization is in a lull, as processing plants and harvesters are waiting for the later variety Valencia oranges to mature. Early and midseason orange harvest is relatively over for the season.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Feb 4, 2018	Feb 11, 2018	Feb 18, 2018	Feb 20, 2017
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	168	59	54	1,539
Navel oranges	0	0	1	2
Valencia oranges	21	28	85	116
White grapefruit	61	37	38	84
Red grapefruit	146	146	176	393
Tangerines and Tangelos	26	20	35	71
Total	422	290	389	2,205

www.citrusadministrativecommittee.org

Fruits and Vegetables

Producers in Suwannee County began planting watermelons. Southern counties saw a mostly hot, dry week with foggy mornings that led to increased disease pressure in some vegetables. Warm days accelerated vegetable maturity with a wide range coming to market, including avocados, beets, broccoli, boniatos, cabbage, cauliflower, eggplant, green beans, herbs, leafy greens, malangas, peppers, squash, sweet corn, radishes and tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures

Despite some rainfall this week, several counties in the Panhandle remain in a moderate drought. Some forage improvement was seen in Washington County, but in central and southern counties, pastures remained stressed from insufficient rainfall. Livestock producers were feeding supplements. Cattle remain in mostly good condition.

Field Crops

Heavy rains prevented fieldwork in Holmes and Washington Counties. Sugarcane fertilizing and harvesting is ongoing in Broward, Glades, Hendry and Palm Beach Counties.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 2/18/18

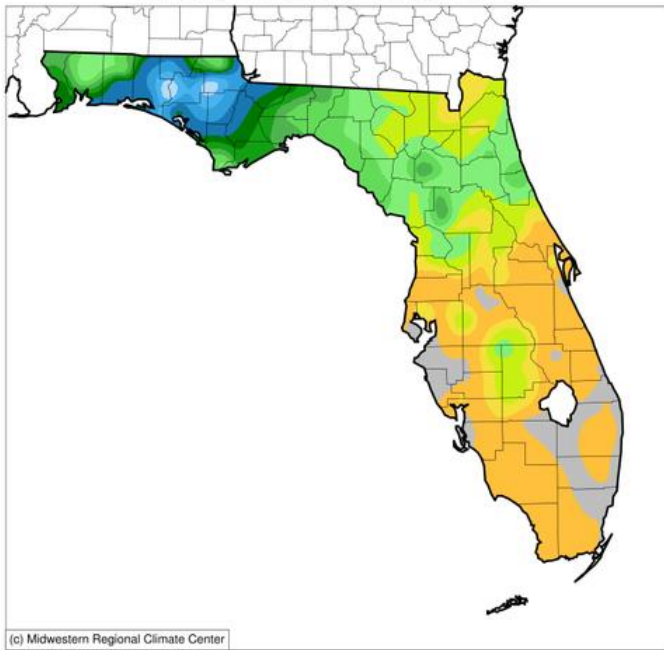
Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	10	11	4
Short.....	32	27	25
Adequate.....	53	52	59
Surplus.....	5	10	12

Condition for Week Ending 2/18/18

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	2	8	41	44	5
Pasture & range....	6	27	49	17	1

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

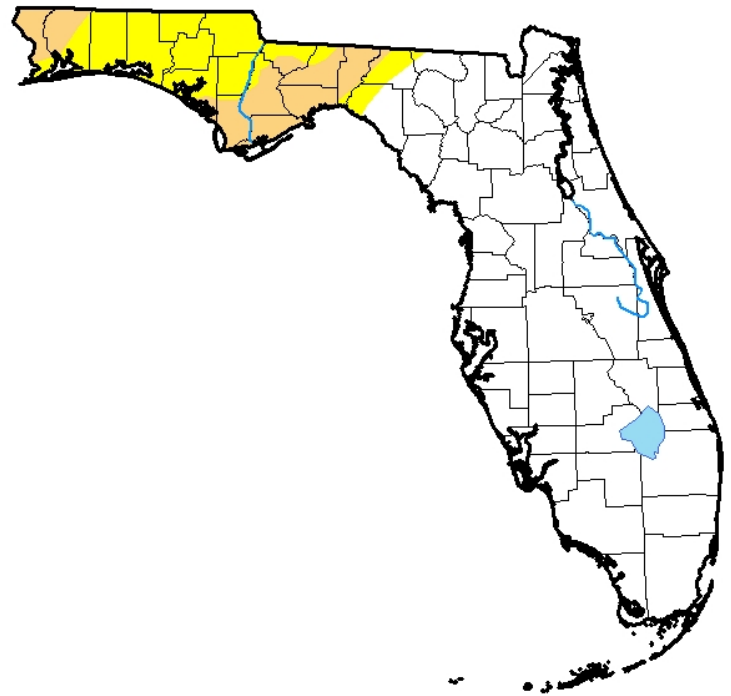
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
February 12, 2018 to February 18, 2018



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



0.01 0.1 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 4 5 6 8
mrc.c.illinois.edu/CLIMATE



Intensity:

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

February 13, 2018 (Released Thursday, Feb. 15, 2018)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>