



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 26, 2018

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**General**

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, February 25, 2018. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 1.2 inches in Apalachicola (Franklin County). The average mean temperature ranged from 67.9°F in Niceville (Okaloosa County) to 80.1°F in Marathon (Monroe County).

**Citrus**

Temperatures were seasonably warm across the citrus region. Afternoon highs were in the lower to upper 80s all week. Rainfall was relatively inconsequential in the complete citrus belt. Only a couple stations had as much as two-tenths of an inch of rainfall. Most stations recorded less than a tenth of an inch to no rainfall for the week. According to the February 22, 2018 U.S. Drought Monitor, for the first time since last July, the citrus region is experiencing drought conditions. All of Orange, Seminole and Collier counties, about half of Osceola County, and the southern tip of Hendry County are experience abnormally dry conditions. The remainder of the citrus region is drought free.

Grove operations included fertilizing, applying herbicides, disking, and brush removal. Grove caretakers were irrigating at regular intervals. Fieldworkers across the state reported seeing early blossoms beginning to emerge on some varieties, primarily Valencia oranges.

Tangerines are still being harvested in small quantities. Royal and Honey tangerines and Minneola tangelos should still be available for a couple more weeks. Grapefruit harvest is slowing down some, but is still coming in. According to the Market News Bulletin, dated Feb 19, 2018, demand for Florida oranges and grapefruit for the fresh market is down, even with the smaller crop size. Only one or two processing plants are running Valencia oranges at this time. Most operations are waiting for higher ratios and better juice quality before getting started.

**Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested**

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Feb 11, 2018	Feb 18, 2018	Feb 25, 2018	Feb 26, 2017
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges .....	59	54	42	429
Navel oranges .....	0	1	8	2
Valencia oranges .....	28	85	313	148
White grapefruit .....	37	38	33	108
Red grapefruit .....	146	176	169	382
Tangerines and Tangelos .....	20	35	39	54
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>1,123</b>

www.citrusadministrativecommittee.org

**Fruits and Vegetables**

In Flagler and Putnam Counties, potato crops are emerging. 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, boniatos, cabbage, eggplant, green beans, herbs, leafy greens, malangas, peppers, squash, sweet corn and tomatoes.

**Livestock and Pastures**

In central and southern counties, pastures remained stressed from insufficient rainfall. Livestock producers were feeding supplements.

**Field Crops**

In Lafayette County, producers harvested small grains and began planting corn. In St. Lucie County, the sugarcane harvest was almost complete, and most local mills shut down for the season. Sugarcane weeding, fertilizing and harvesting continued in Glades, Hendry, and Palm Beach Counties.

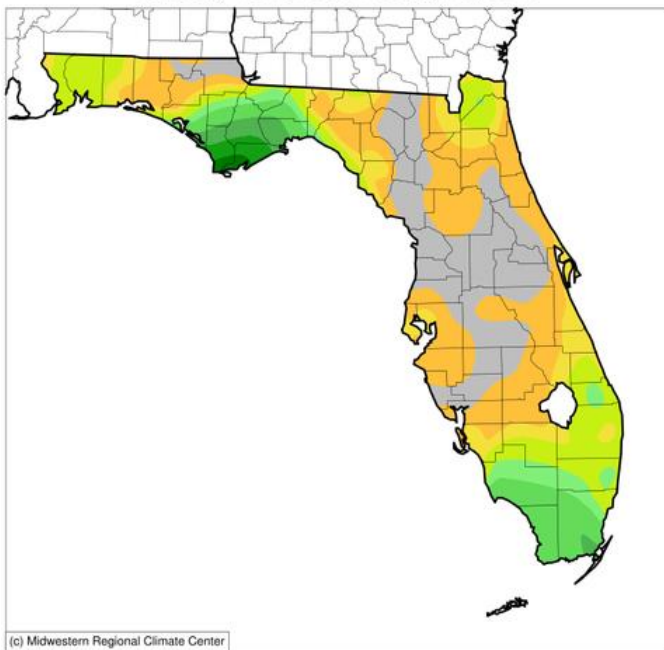
### Soil Moisture for Week Ending 2/25/18

Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	11	10	4
Short.....	39	32	24
Adequate.....	48	53	61
Surplus.....	2	5	11

### Condition for Week Ending 2/25/18

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	2	7	40	47	4
Pasture & range....	4	17	60	18	1

**Accumulated Precipitation (in)**  
February 19, 2018 to February 25, 2018

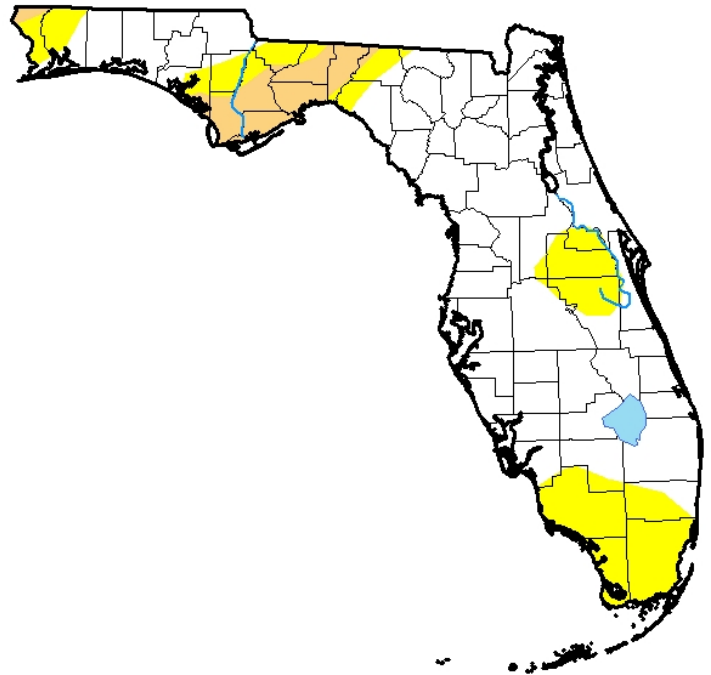


(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



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mrc.isws.illinois.edu/CLIMATE

### U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



**Intensity:**

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

February 20, 2018 (Released Thursday, Feb. 22, 2018)  
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>