



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 5, 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, March 4, 2018. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 2.3 inches in Perry (Taylor County). The average mean temperature ranged from 62.4°F in Bloxham (Leon County) to 75.8°F in Key Largo (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were slightly cooler this past week in the citrus region, but still warmer than normal. Afternoon highs were in the mid-70s to the mid-80s; nighttime lows were in the 50s over the weekend and in the 60s the remainder of the week. Rainfall was still lacking in the complete citrus belt. Most monitored citrus stations recorded less than a tenth of an inch to no rainfall for the week. According to the March 1, 2018 U.S. Drought Monitor, all of Orange, Seminole and Collier Counties, about half of Osceola County, and the southern portion of Hendry County are experiencing abnormally dry conditions. The remainder of the citrus region is drought free.

Grove operations included fertilizing, spraying, applying herbicides, disking, and brush removal. Irrigation is still being run regularly. Citrus bloom on oranges is in various stages from blossoms beginning to pop out to full and open bloom. Grapefruit has not yet begun its normal bloom period.

Mandarin harvest included Royals and Honey tangerines and Minneola tangelos. Grapefruit harvest is continuing to slow down. The majority of what is being harvested is going to the processed market. At least two processing plants are running Valencia oranges, with a few more planning on opening this week. Some 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 18, 2018	Feb 25, 2018	Mar 3, 2018	Mar 4, 2017
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	54	95	*	20
Navel oranges	1	6	*	1
Valencia oranges.....	85	278	*	259
White grapefruit.....	38	30	*	94
Red grapefruit	176	131	*	288
Tangerines and Tangelos.....	35	24	*	77
Total	389	546	*	739

* not available at time of publication
www.citrusadministrativecommittee.org

Fruits and Vegetables

Watermelon planting started in Levy County. Limited rainfall has many producers using irrigation. The high temperatures in February caused many crops to be at least a week ahead of schedule. A wide range of crops came to market, including avocados, beans, boniatos, cabbage, eggplant, green beans, herbs, leafy greens, malangas, peppers, squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures

In southern counties, pastures remained stressed from insufficient rainfall; however, last week’s rain and warm nights brought about some marginal improvement. Livestock producers were feeding supplements and supplying water.

Field Crops

High winds in Union County delayed spraying and other field preparations. Sugarcane harvest continues in Glades and Hendry Counties.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 3/4/18

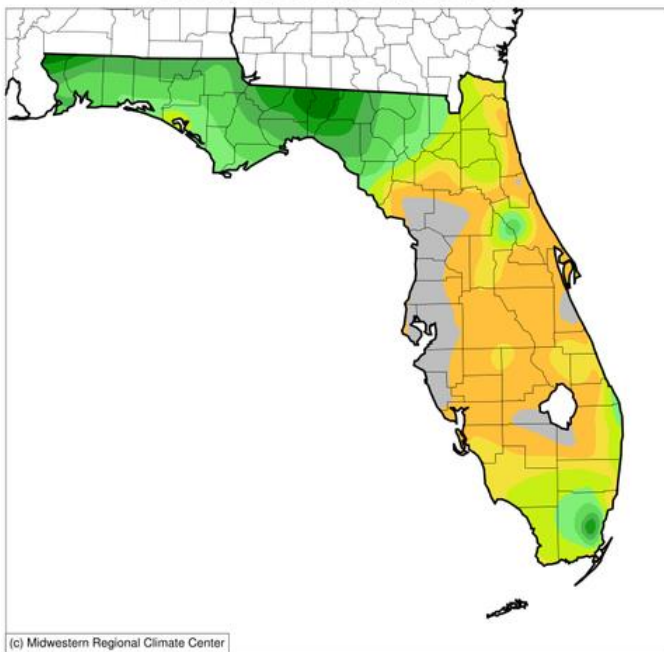
Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	14	11	5
Short.....	37	39	23
Adequate.....	47	48	62
Surplus.....	2	2	10

Condition for Week Ending 3/4/18

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	1	7	38	49	5
Pasture & range....	3	20	59	17	1

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

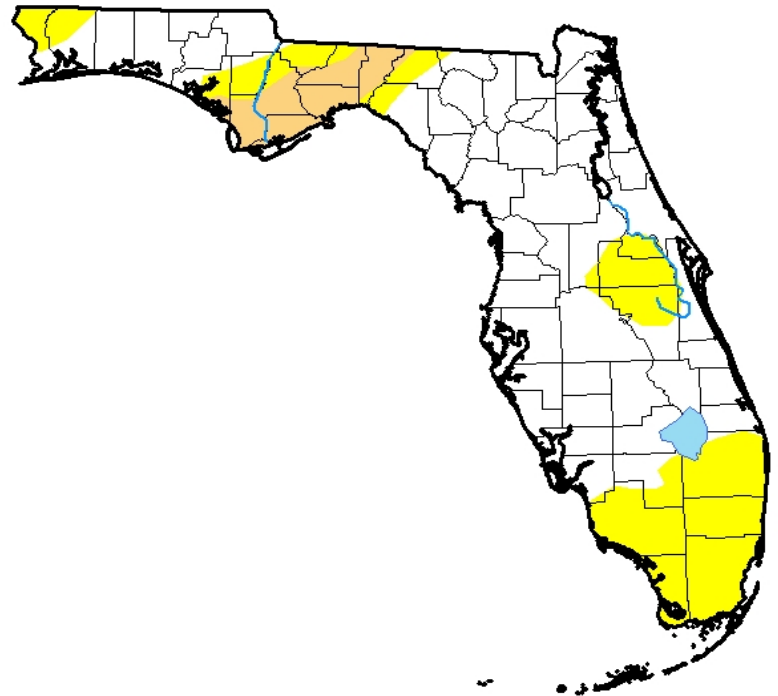
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
February 26, 2018 to March 04, 2018



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



0.01 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.5 0.75 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 4
mrc.ces.ncsu.edu/CLIMATE



Intensity:

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

February 27, 2018 (Released Thursday, March 1, 2018)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>