



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 12, 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 12, 2018. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 1.9 inches in Crestview (Okaloosa County). The average mean temperature ranged from 50.1°F in Jasper (Hamilton County) to 71.1°F in Key West (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were about average this past week in the citrus growing region with most days in the 60s and 70s, and a couple days reaching just over 80°F. Most night time lows were in the 40s and 50s. Precipitation ranged from no rainfall in several counties to just less than an inch in a few counties. The most rainfall was in Leesburg (Lake County) and Lakeland (Polk County), both at nine-tenths of an inch of rainfall. According to the March 8, 2018 U.S. Drought Monitor, abnormally dry conditions cover two distinct areas in the citrus growing region. The one in the northeastern and central portion of the citrus region covers all of Osceola, Orange, Seminole, and Brevard counties, while the one in the Southern citrus area completely covers Lee, Hendry, and Collier counties. The western area is the only area totally unaltered by the lack of rainfall.

Grove operations included heavy spraying after harvest, hedging and topping, and fertilizing. Irrigation was seen running on most days. Canals and ditches were low because of the lack of rainfall over the past several weeks. Citrus trees were mostly in full and open bloom.

Valencia harvest gained speed. All but one processing plant was open. The final plant should open later this month. Only a few varieties of tangerines were left to be harvested. Mandarin harvest included Royal and Honey tangerines and tangelos. Grapefruit harvest continued to slow. Slightly more grapefruit went to the processed market than the fresh market.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Feb 25, 2018	Mar 3, 2018	Mar 10, 2018	Mar 11, 2017
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	104	52	*	87
Navel oranges	0	1	*	0
Valencia oranges	308	500	*	1,187
White grapefruit	16	5	*	72
Red grapefruit	150	87	*	246
Tangerines and Tangelos	28	16	*	66
Total	606	661	*	1,658

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

Fruits and Vegetables

Watermelon planting continued in Osceola and Levy counties, but was delayed in many northern counties because of fears of future frosts. Limited rainfall has many producers using irrigation. A wide range of crops came to market, including beans, blueberries, boniatos, cabbage, eggplant, green beans, herbs, leafy greens, malangas, peppers, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and early planted watermelons.

Livestock and Pastures

A couple of frosts in some northern counties, following the green up of pastures and hayfield, burned the crops. Livestock producers fed supplements and supplied water.

Field Crops

Concerns over future frosts delayed field corn planting in many northern and central counties. Field preparations continued for other row crops. Producers began harvesting small grain haylage in Lafayette County. Sugarcane harvest continued in Glades and Hendry counties.

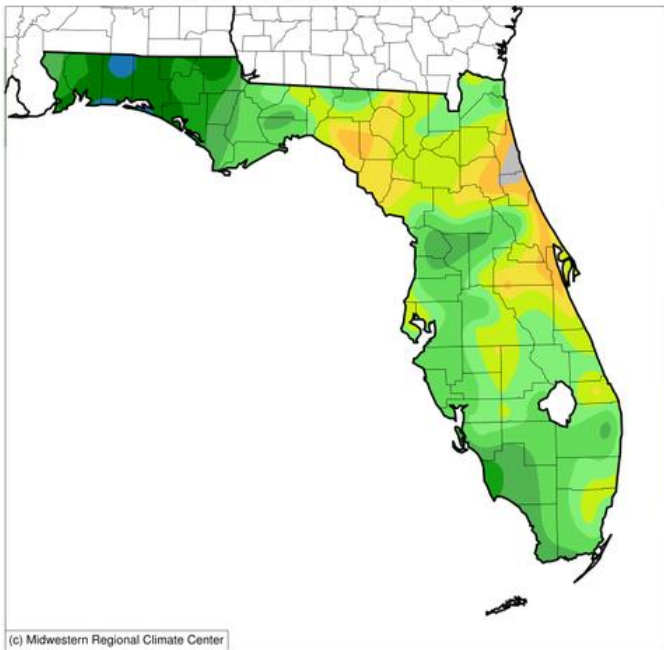
Soil Moisture for Week Ending 3/11/18

Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	17	14	6
Short.....	33	37	24
Adequate.....	48	47	60
Surplus.....	2	2	7

Condition for Week Ending 3/11/18

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	2	6	32	54	6
Pasture & range....	5	24	54	16	1

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
March 05, 2018 to March 11, 2018

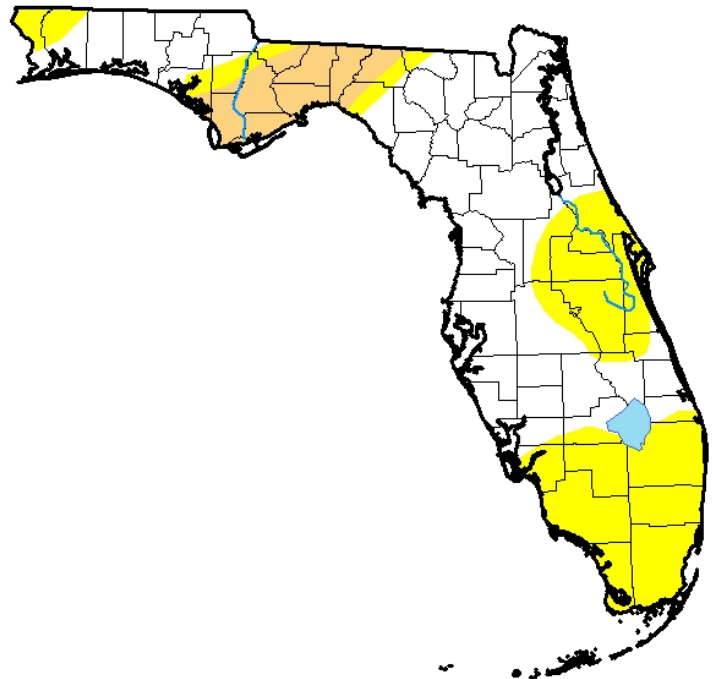


(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



0.01 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.5 0.75 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 4
mrc.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

March 6, 2018 (Released Thursday, March 8, 2018)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>