



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 26, 2018

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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 25, 2018. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 6.3 inches in Newberry (Gilchrist County). The average mean temperature ranged from 59.3°F in Jasper (Hamilton County) to 73.5°F in Key West (Monroe County).

Citrus

Fast-moving thunderstorms early in the week brought isolated heavy rainfall, hail, and wind to the central and northern citrus areas. Rainfall totals in heavily affected areas were between 0.5 and 1.5 inches in a 2 to 3-hour timeframe. The most rainfall recorded by any monitored station in the citrus areas during the week was in Lady Lake (Lake County) at 3.25 inches. Cooler temperatures followed the storm, dropping afternoon temperatures to the upper 60s and lower 70s; nighttime and morning temperatures were in the 30s and 40s. By the weekend, temperatures had warmed back to the lower to mid-80s. According to the March 22, 2018 U.S. Drought Monitor, dryness and drought continued in most of the citrus belt. A large dry area covered all of Osceola, Orange, Seminole, Volusia, and Brevard counties. It also extended partially into surrounding counties. In the southern citrus area, the dry conditions completely covered Glades, Hendry, Lee, and Collier counties. Manatee and Hillsborough counties in the western area had small portions showing abnormally dry conditions.

Grove operations included hedging, topping, and fertilizing. Irrigation ran on most days. Canals and ditches were still low from a lack of rainfall. Citrus bloom was about over. Petals began to fall off the trees, and the new fruit began forming for next season’s crop.

Valencia orange harvest is in full swing. All processing plants that are planning to open are up and running. The majority of the fresh fruit market is Valencia oranges. Mandarin harvest included Royal and Honey tangerines. Red and White grapefruit harvest is slowing down, an indication that the season is nearly over.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Mar 11, 2018	Mar 18, 2018	Mar 25, 2018	Mar 19, 2017
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	39	6	*	12
Valencia oranges.....	1,809	1,788	*	3,125
White grapefruit.....	7	1	*	28
Red grapefruit	66	41	*	86
Tangerines and Tangelos.....	29	18	*	54
Total	1,950	1,854	*	3,305

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

Fruits and Vegetables

In Dixie County, watermelon planting continued, with some fields planted for the second or third time because of frost, flooding, hail, or wind damage. A wide range of crops came to market, including avocado, beans, boniato, cabbage, celery, herbs, leafy greens, malanga, onions, squash, strawberries, sweet corn, and tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures

Continued dry conditions negatively impacted pasture and cattle. A frost in northern counties further injured pastures. Livestock producers continued to feed supplements and supply water.

Field Crops

Producers in the panhandle harvested hay and baleage, planted field corn, and prepared cropland for other plantings.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 3/25/18

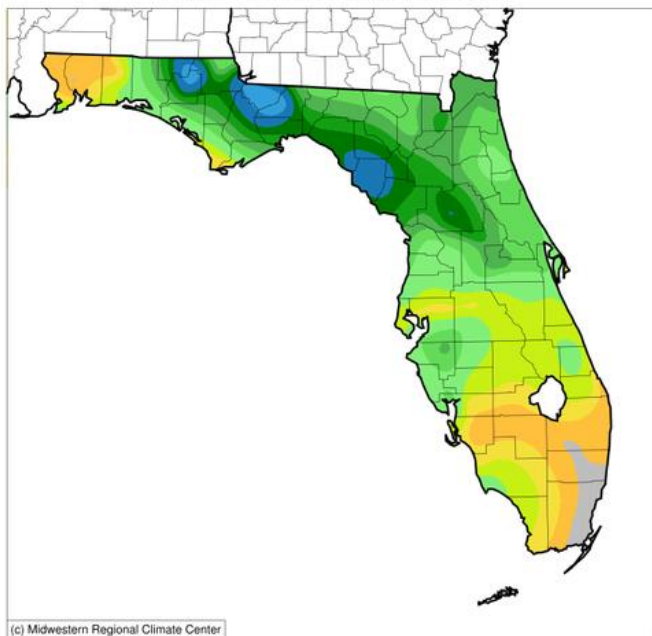
Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	26	20	7
Short.....	36	35	26
Adequate.....	38	43	60
Surplus.....	0	2	7

Condition for Week Ending 3/25/18

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	2	16	40	39	3
Pasture & range....	10	33	38	18	1

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

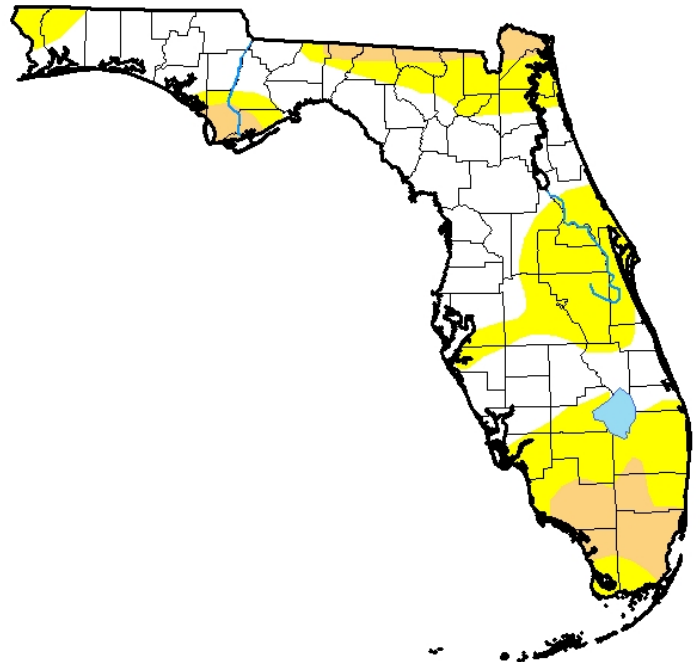
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
March 19, 2018 to March 25, 2018



(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.ces.ncsu.edu/CLIMATE



Intensity:

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

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