



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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April 2, 2018

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General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, April 1, 2018. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 1.7 inches in Jacksonville (Duval County). The average mean temperature ranged from 60.2°F in Jasper (Hamilton County) to 75.8°F in Opa-locka (Miami-Dade County).

Citrus

Temperatures were above average in the citrus region with most days in the upper 70s and mid 80s. Nighttime lows were in the 60s and 70s. Precipitation ranged from no rainfall at several monitored stations across the citrus belt to 0.44 inches in Mt. Plymouth (Lake County), followed by Duette (Manatee County) at 0.21 inches. According to the March 29, 2018 U.S. Drought Monitor, the dryness took its toll, expanding the abnormally dry conditions far into the western area and prompting moderate drought conditions in portions of the northern, central, and southern areas. Only Pasco, Hernando, Citrus, and Marion counties remained drought free.

Grove operations included hedging and topping after harvest. Petal drop was over in most areas. Pea-size and larger fruit formed on all varieties. Initial fruit drop started on early varieties as the trees began to set next season’s crop. Growers sprayed nutritionals and fertilizers as needed for the health of the fruit and trees. Irrigation ran on a regular basis.

Weekly orange harvest has not surpassed 2.5 million boxes all season. According to the Market News Bulletin, dated February 25, 2018, “all plants continue to monitor maturity levels of Valencias, and have been adjusting loads accordingly.”

Fresh harvest is nearing an end on some varieties. White grapefruit harvest is relatively done for the season. Mandarin harvest is slowing, but still includes a small amount of Royal and Honey tangerines. Houses will continue to pack Valencia oranges and red grapefruit as long as they are available.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Mar 18, 2018	Mar 25, 2018	Apr 1, 2018	Apr 2, 2017
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	7	0	0	11
Valencia oranges.....	2,220	1,880	2,417	3,332
White grapefruit.....	0	1	0	29
Red grapefruit	44	27	2	41
Tangerines and Tangelos.....	18	9	2	64
Total	2,289	1,917	2,421	3,477

www.citrusadministrativecommittee.org

Fruits and Vegetables

Producers planted watermelon in Dixie and Jackson counties. Watermelon planting concluded in Levy County. Other spring crops were planted in several counties, including cantaloupes, boniato, green beans, bitter melon, and tomatoes. Heavy winds and cool temperatures over the past few weeks battered some crops, impacting fruit set in melons and other vegetables and scarring young fruit in tomatoes, peppers and eggplant. A wide range of crops came to market, including beans, blueberries, broccoli, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, leafy greens, okra, pole beans, peaches, squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes.

Livestock and Pastures

Persistent dry conditions negatively impacted pasture. Livestock producers continued to feed supplements and supply water.

Field Crops

Producers in the Panhandle rolled cover crops, harvested small grains for baleage, planted field corn, and prepared cropland for other plantings. In St. Lucie County, sugarcane stalks were replanted and showing new growth. Sugarcane harvest continued in several southwestern counties.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 4/1/18

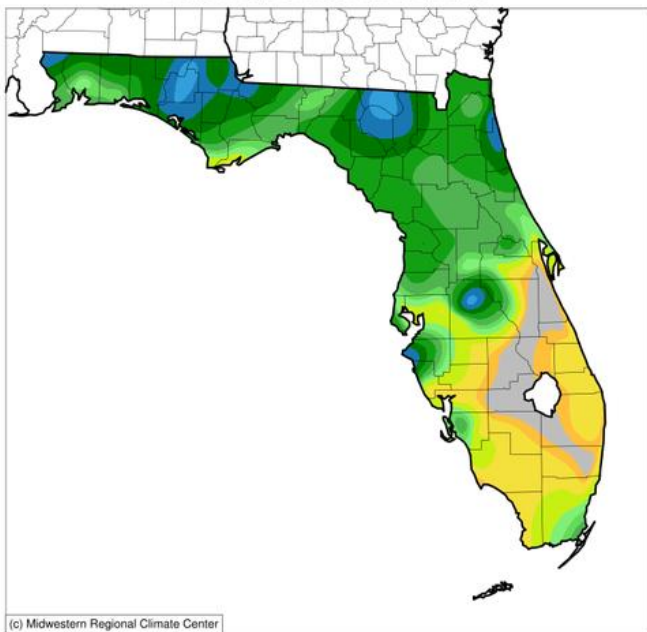
Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	24	26	7
Short.....	34	36	29
Adequate.....	42	38	57
Surplus.....	0	0	7

Condition for Week Ending 4/1/18

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	2	9	40	44	5
Pasture & range....	15	25	43	16	1

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

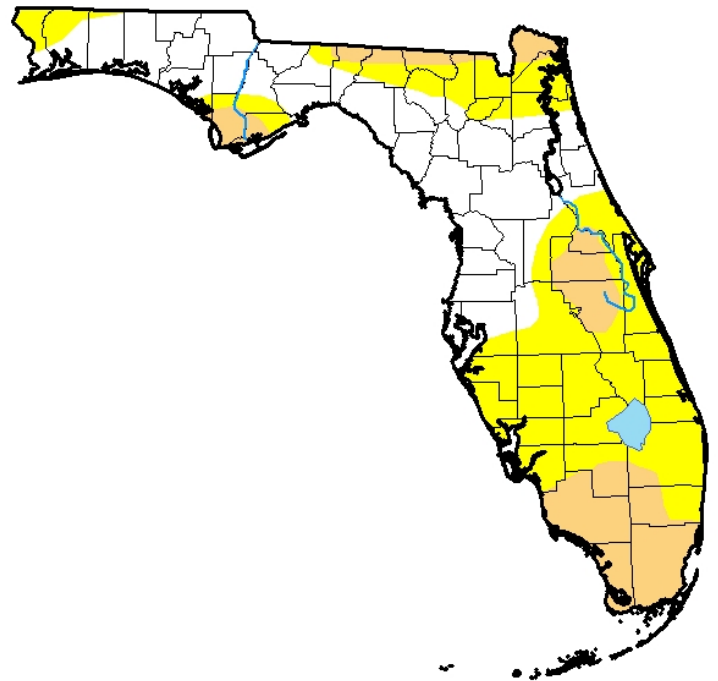
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
March 26, 2018 to April 01, 2018



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



0.01 0.02 0.05 0.1 0.15 0.2 0.3 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 1.5 1.75
mrc.cisws.illinois.edu/CLIMATE



Intensity:

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

March 27, 2018 (Released Thursday, March 29, 2018)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>