

March 25, 2019

FLORIDA: Total rainfall for the month ranged from 0.47 inches in Orange County to 15.67 inches in Palm Beach County. According to the March 21, 2019 U.S. Drought Monitor, 7.25 percent of the State was experiencing abnormally dry conditions at the month's end, down slightly from 7.74 percent on February 26, 2019. The dry conditions are almost exclusively along the Atlantic coastal counties, from the mid to southern peninsula. Average temperatures were as much as 5.5 degrees above normal for the month. Pasture conditions remained mostly fair to good, improving most notably in the southern peninsula later in the month. Cattle remained in good condition throughout the month. Many growers were able to prepare the land for planting field crops, and by the end of the month corn was planted in multiple counties. Warmer temperatures and wet conditions continued to present disease pressures to fruit and vegetable crops throughout the state. A wide range of vegetable crops came to the market including broccoli, cauliflower, pepper, and zucchini. Citrus grove operations were normal for this time of year and included spraying, applying herbicide, and taking care of young trees. Tangerines were harvested throughout the month. Fresh market white grapefruit harvest finished by the end of the month. Some trees began to form fruit for next season's crop. Irrigation was run regularly throughout the month in all citrus producing areas.