



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 4, 2019

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General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, March 3, 2019. Precipitation estimates ranged from trace amounts in multiple locations to 11.8 inches in Boca Raton (Palm Beach County). The average mean temperature ranged from 61.2°F in Niceville (Okaloosa County) to 78.4°F in Key West (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were average at the beginning of the week, but warmed up steadily throughout the week and into the weekend. On Saturday and Sunday, highs were in the mid to high 80s in all counties. Rainfall was widespread in the citrus growing region. The highest concentrations of rain were observed in the western and southern citrus producing areas. Clewiston (Hendry County), one of the most southern citrus stations, recorded 3.02 inches of rainfall for the week. In the western citrus producing area, the most rainfall was in Bowling Green (Hardee County) at 1.53 inches for the week. According to the February 28, 2019 U.S. Drought Monitor, conditions continue to be positive in the citrus growing region. Only the Indian River District is showing abnormally dry conditions; the remaining citrus growing area is drought free.

Early and midseason orange harvest is nearly complete for the season. Most processing plants will begin taking Valencias (late oranges) this week or next.

Tangerine harvest is transitioning to the Honey (Murcott tangerines) and Royal tangerines. Minneola tangelos are still coming in at the packinghouses. Fresh market midseason oranges are nearly over for the season. Pickers are moving into the later Valencia crop. About one quarter of the harvested grapefruit is going to fresh market.

Grove caretakers were busy with spray programs, fertilizing, applying herbicide, and taking care of young trees. Other activities included disking grove middles, hedging, and topping. Owners are irrigating regularly despite the favorable rain conditions. Most trees are in full

bloom across the state. A limited number of trees have started forming fruit.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Feb 10, 2019 (Final)	Feb 17, 2019 (Preliminary)	Feb 24, 2019 (Preliminary)	Feb 25, 2018 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	2,500	1,543	423	104
Navel oranges.... Valencia oranges.....	10	5	3	0
Red grapefruit	25	93	38	308
White grapefruit..	187	172	156	150
Tangerines and Tangelos	63	50	47	16
Total	36	18	46	28
	2,821	1,881	713	606

Source: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service Fruit and Vegetable Division

Fruits and Vegetables

The warm, wet weather continues to introduce disease and pest pressures on fruit and vegetable crops. Producers in Bradford County reported sooty mold on blueberries, as well as anthracnose, botrytis, and angular leaf spot on strawberries. There were reports of whiteflies on tomatoes, weevils on peppers, and some mite problems on strawberries in Manatee County. Watermelon planting activities were reported in Alachua, Levy, and Manatee counties. Gummy stem blight has been reported in some watermelon first plantings in Manatee County. Crops planted included bitter melon, boniato, green beans, herbs, malanga, squash, and zucchini. Crops harvested included Asian vegetables, avocado, bitter melon, boniato, cabbage, cauliflower, eggplant, green beans, herbs, malanga, okra, pepper, squash, sweet corn, tomato, and zucchini.

Livestock and Pastures

Rainfall and wet weather persisted throughout the Panhandle. The wet conditions in Holmes County created some grazing problems. Warmer than average temperatures in the southern peninsula had many cattle seeking shade during the afternoon heat. Cattle remain in mostly good condition.

Field Crops

Operators in Suwannee County began tilling the soil in preparation for planting. Growers in Lafayette County reported planting field corn. Sugarcane harvest is ongoing in Glades and Hendry counties.

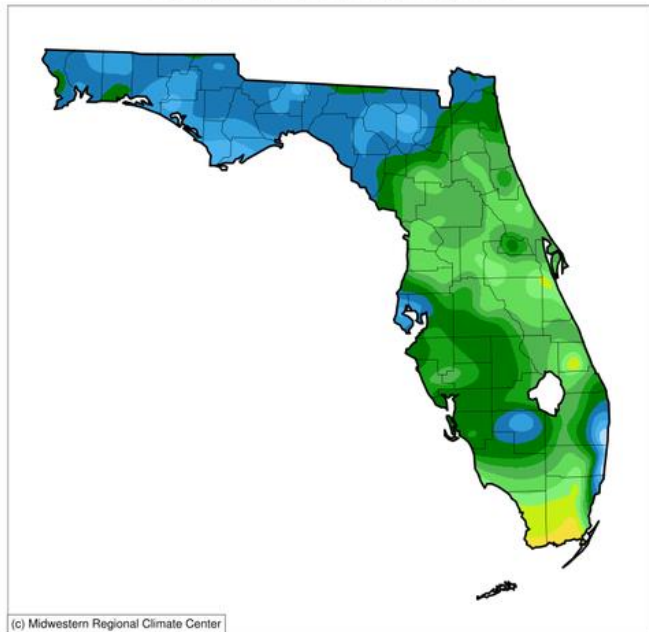
Soil Moisture for Week Ending 03/03/19

Topsoil	This week	Previous week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	1	1
Short	13	14
Adequate.....	71	79
Surplus.....	15	6

Condition for Week Ending 03/03/19

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle	1	6	31	55	7
Pasture & range	2	24	41	27	6

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
February 25, 2019 to March 03, 2019

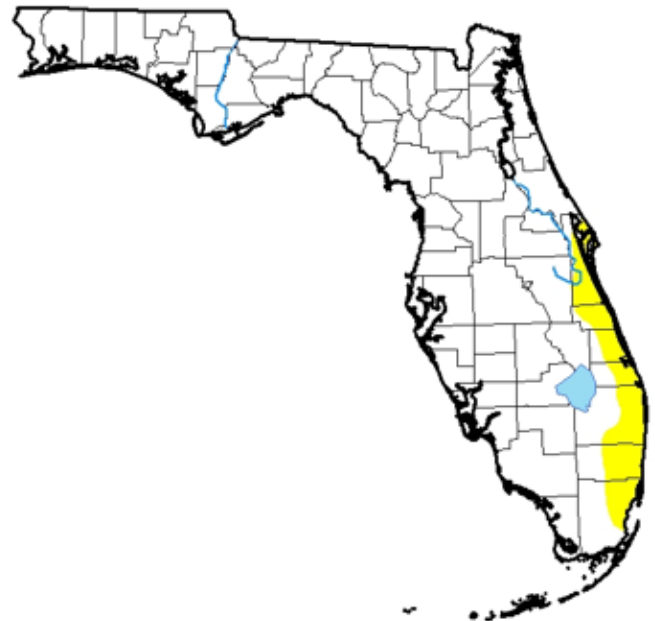


(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



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mrcc.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

February 26, 2019 (Released Thursday, Feb. 28, 2018)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>