



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 11, 2019

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General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, March 10, 2019. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 2.2 inches in Crestview (Okaloosa County). The average mean temperature ranged from 50.6°F in Niceville (Okaloosa County) to 75.6°F in Key West (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were cooler than average at the beginning of the week, but warmed up to average or above by the weekend. On Saturday and Sunday, highs were in the mid to high 80s in all counties. Rainfall was concentrated to the upper half of the citrus region. Valrico (Hillsborough County) received 1.68 inches of rainfall. Lakeland (Polk County) received 1.57 inches of rainfall. In the southern area and Indian River District, totals ranged from no rainfall to 0.2 inches. According to the March 7, 2019 U.S. Drought Monitor, conditions are unchanged 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 are open and taking Valencias (late oranges) or grapefruit.

Tangerine harvest is down to mostly Honey (Murcott tangerines) and Royal tangerines. Minneola tangelos harvest is winding down. Fresh market early and midseason oranges are nearly done for the season. Pickers are moving into the later Valencia orange crop. Packinghouses are mostly finished packing white grapefruit. Red grapefruit is still being harvested in small quantities for fresh market.

Grove caretakers continue spraying, fertilizing, applying herbicide, hedging, and topping. Irrigation is running regularly in all areas. Trees are in full bloom or have started forming fruit.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Feb 17, 2019 (Preliminary)	Feb 24, 2019 (Preliminary)	Mar 3, 2019 (Preliminary)	Mar 4, 2018 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	1,543	423	61	50
Navel oranges ...	5	3	5	0
Valencia oranges	93	38	261	545
Red grapefruit	172	156	150	103
White grapefruit..	50	47	41	2
Tangerines and Tangelos	18	46	42	21
Total	1,881	713	560	721

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

Fruits and Vegetables

Producers in Bradford County continue to report sooty mold on blueberries and disease pressures on strawberries. Pest and disease pressures were less this week on peppers and tomatoes in Manatee County. Frost damage was observed on melons in Lafayette County. Crops planted included bitter melon, boniato, green beans, herbs, malanga, squash, and zucchini. Crops harvested included Asian vegetables, bitter melon, boniato, carrots, eggplant, green beans, herbs, malanga, pepper, radishes, squash, sweet corn, tomato, watermelon, and zucchini.

Livestock and Pastures

Frost damage to pastures was reported in Columbia and Holmes counties. There were several reports throughout the central and southern peninsula of improved pasture conditions due to warmer weather and ample moisture. Cattle remain in mostly good condition.

Field Crops

Field corn planting was reported in Jackson, Lafayette, and Suwannee counties. Producers in Washington County began preparing the land for planting field crops. Sugarcane harvest continues on schedule in Glades and Hendry counties.

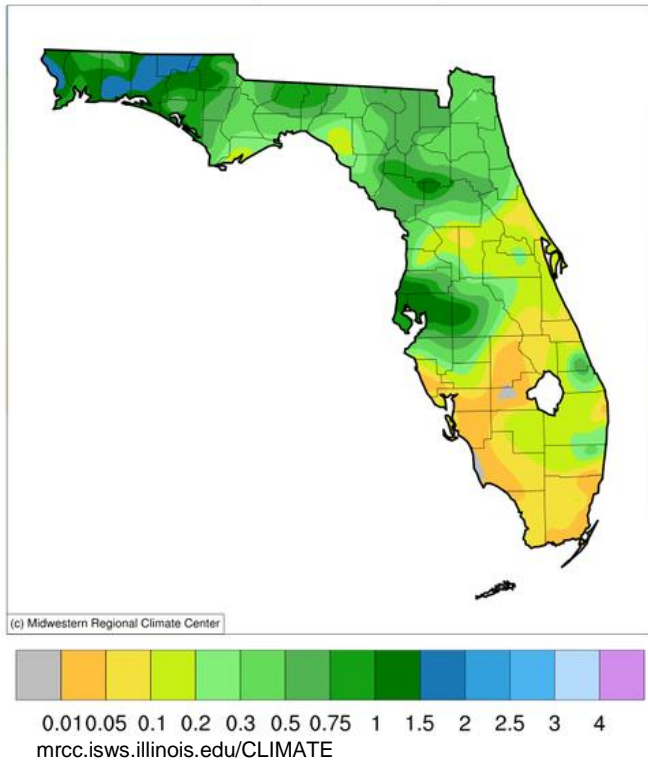
Soil Moisture for Week Ending 03/10/19

Topsoil	This week	Previous week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	3	1
Short.....	17	13
Adequate.....	72	71
Surplus.....	8	15

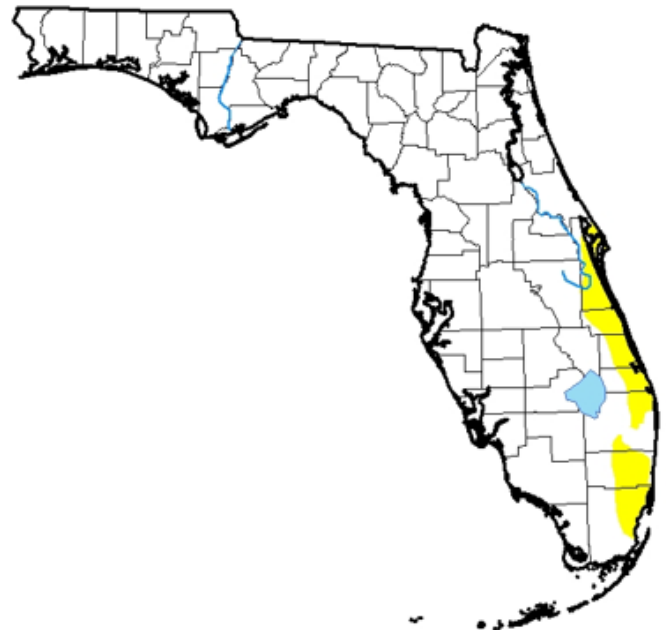
Condition for Week Ending 03/10/19

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle	1	4	29	58	8
Pasture & range	3	19	31	42	5

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
March 04, 2019 to March 10, 2019



U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



Intensity:

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

March 5, 2019 (Released Thursday, Mar. 7, 2018)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>