



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 18, 2019

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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 17, 2019. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 1.47 inches in Chipley (Washington County). The average mean temperature ranged from 64.0°F in Crestview (Okaloosa County) to 79.7°F in Key West (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were average for most of the week. Highs were frequently in the high 70s to mid 80s in all counties. Significant rainfall was limited to a few counties, most of which were in the western area. Arcadia (Desoto County), in the western citrus producing area, received the most rainfall at 1.14 inches. The majority of stations outside the western area received less than half an inch of rainfall for the week. In the northern area, the most rainfall was in Clermont (Lake County) at 0.25 inches. According to the March 14, 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.

The Valencia orange crop is ramping up nicely. With just over 1.5 million boxes of Valencia oranges harvested for the week ending March 10, the weekly volume is close to last season at this time. Fresh tangerine harvest is primarily the Honey (Murcott) tangerines. Some Royal tangerines went to the processing plants. Fresh white grapefruit is nearly over for the season. Pickers are cleaning the trees that were spot picked earlier in the season and sending the fruit to the processing plants. Red grapefruit is still being harvested for the fresh market.

Trees are in full bloom or have started forming fruit. Reports from the field indicate that spraying has diminished in some areas. Caretakers are hedging and topping trees and cleaning grove middles of debris and vegetation. Irrigation is running regularly in all areas.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Feb 24, 2019 (Final)	Mar 3, 2019 (Final)	Mar 10, 2019 (Preliminary)	Mar 11, 2018 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	461	104	18	37
Navel oranges	4	5	1	0
Valencia oranges	41	264	1,506	1,835
Red grapefruit	184	168	219	75
White grapefruit ..	48	42	72	11
Tangerines and Tangelos	55	48	59	32
Total	793	631	1,875	1,990

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

Fruits and Vegetables

Blueberries in Manatee County are full and will be ready for harvest soon. Some growers in Volusia County are planting greens. Crops planted included bitter melon, boniato, green beans, malanga, and okra. Crops harvested included Asian vegetables, bitter melon, boniato, cabbage, eggplant, green beans, malanga, pepper, radishes, squash, sweet corn, tomato, and zucchini.

Livestock and Pastures

Reports from the central and southern peninsula indicate pasture conditions are improving slightly or remaining the same. Producers in St. Lucie County reported pastures showing signs of distress due to a lack of moisture. Cattle in St. Lucie County are being fed supplemental hay. Cattle remain in mostly good condition.

Field Crops

Producers in Washington County began planting corn and continued preparing the land for planting cotton and peanuts.

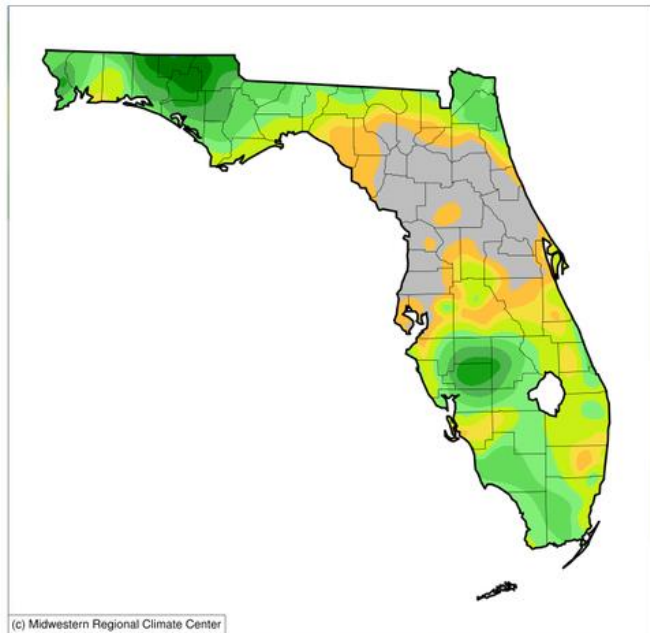
Soil Moisture for Week Ending 03/17/19

Topsoil	This week	Previous week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	3	3
Short.....	23	17
Adequate.....	71	72
Surplus.....	3	8

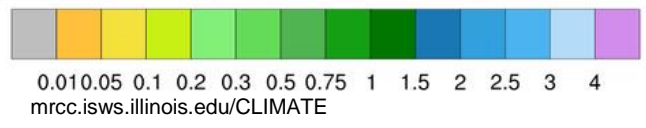
Condition for Week Ending 03/17/19

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle	0	5	35	53	7
Pasture & range	3	16	40	30	11

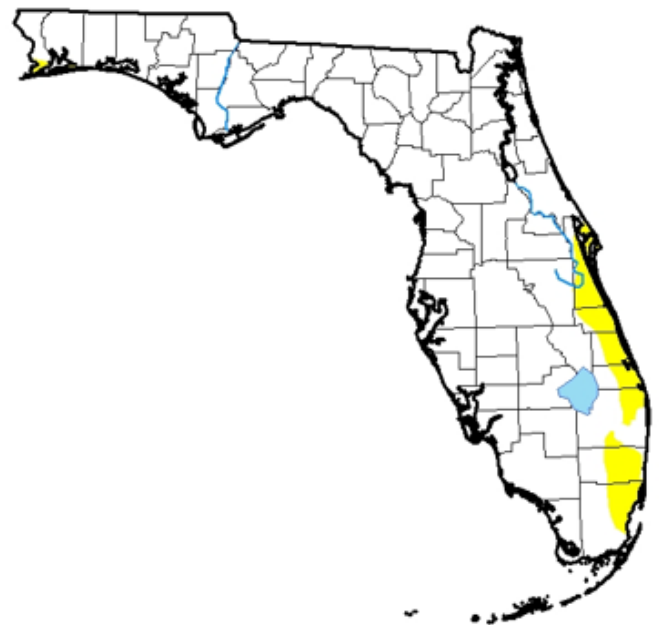
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
March 11, 2019 to March 17, 2019



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



Intensity:

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

March 12, 2019 (Released Thursday, Mar. 14, 2019)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>