



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 25, 2019

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General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 5.9 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, March 24, 2019. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 5.9 inches in Lake Worth (Palm Beach County). The average mean temperature ranged from 53.2°F in Jasper (Hamilton County) to 73.4°F in Curry Hammock State Park (Monroe County).

Citrus

A cold front moved in on Monday and Tuesday bringing temperatures down below normal for the week. Daily highs stayed in the 70s. Evening and mornings lows were in the 50s and 60s, with an occasional temperature in the 40s. Significant rainfall came to only the southern half of the citrus region. Devil’s Garden (Hendry County) in the southern citrus producing area received the most rainfall at 1.41 inches. Ft. Pierce (St. Lucie County), in the Indian River District, showed 1.32 inches. In the northern citrus producing area, all stations received one quarter of an inch or less of rainfall. According to the March 21, 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 harvest is picking up rapidly. With almost three million boxes of Valencia oranges harvested for the week ending March 17, the weekly volume has surpassed last season’s weekly utilization. Fresh market tangerine harvest is primarily the Honey (Murcott) tangerines. Some Royal tangerines and tangelos went to the processing plants. Fresh white grapefruit harvest is over for the season. The pickers are cleaning the trees that had been spot picked earlier in the season and sending the fruit to the processing plants. Red grapefruit is still being harvested for fresh market and processing.

Trees are beginning to drop bloom petals and form fruit for next season’s crop. Some workers have observed limbs with feathering growth on the tress. Spraying, applying herbicide, and harvesting is continuing at a normal pace. 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
	Mar 3, 2019 (Final)	Mar 10, 2019 (Preliminary)	Mar 17, 2019 (Preliminary)	Mar 18, 2018 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	104	101	0	7
Navel oranges	5	1	1	0
Valencia oranges	264	1,471	2,797	2,220
Red grapefruit	168	188	213	44
White grapefruit ..	42	73	38	0
Tangerines and Tangelos	48	64	35	18
Total	631	1,898	3,084	2,289

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

Fruits and Vegetables

Sweet potato planting finished in Suwannee County. Warmer temperatures and wet conditions continue to present disease pressures to fruit and vegetable crops throughout the state. Crops planted included bitter melon, boniato, malanga, okra, and watermelon. A multitude of crops were harvested including broccoli, cauliflower, pepper, and zucchini.

Livestock and Pastures

Haylage cutting was reported in Volusia County. Pastures were reported to be productive and recovering nicely in Sarasota and St. Lucie counties. Wet conditions are improving pastures throughout much of the southern peninsula. Cattle remain in mostly good condition.

Field Crops

Producers in Columbia and Washington counties continued preparing the land for planting field crops. Corn was planted in Jackson, Lafayette, Levy, Madison, Suwannee, Walton, and Washington counties. Peanut planting activities were reported in Dixie County. Sugarcane harvest continues in Glades and Hendry counties.

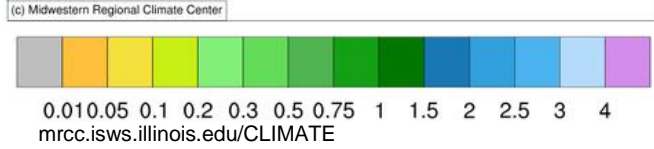
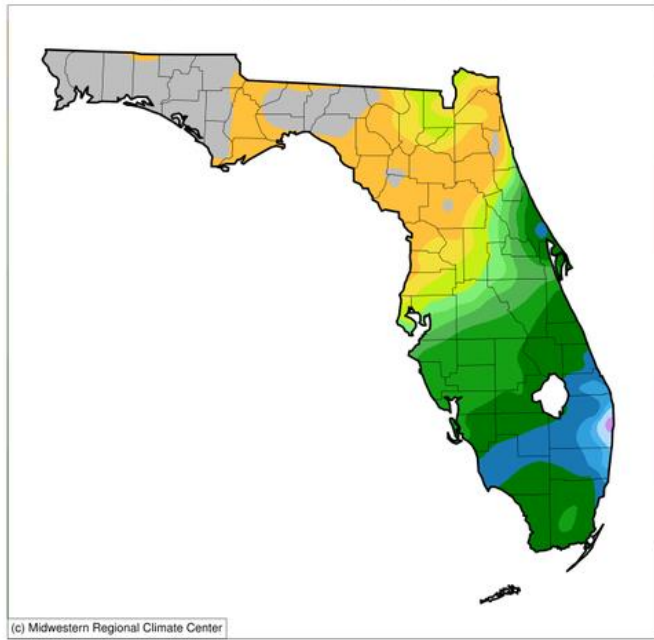
Soil Moisture for Week Ending 03/25/19

Topsoil	This week	Previous week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	1	3
Short.....	21	23
Adequate.....	72	71
Surplus.....	6	3

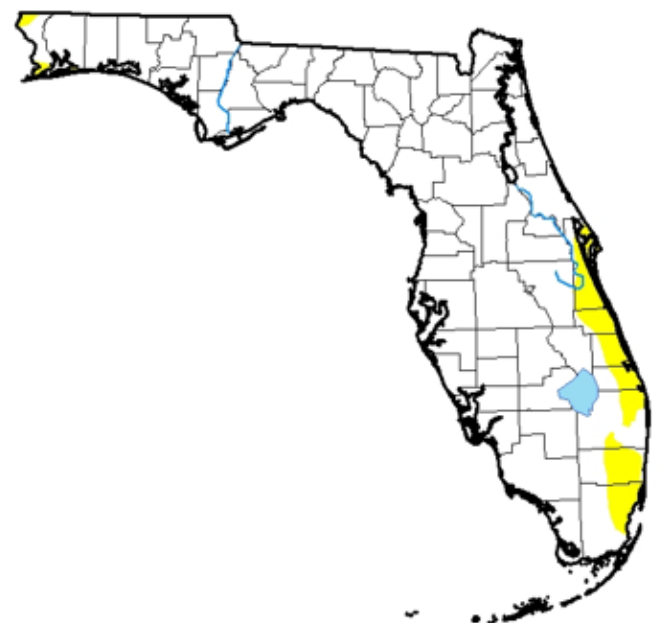
Condition for Week Ending 03/25/19

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle	0	4	35	52	9
Pasture & range	1	10	41	37	11

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
March 18, 2019 to March 24, 2019



U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



March 19, 2019 (Released Thursday, Mar. 21, 2019)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>