



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 23, 2020

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General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, March 22, 2020. Precipitation ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 1.16 inches in Jacksonville (Duval County). The average mean temperature ranged from 70.1°F in St. Marks (Wakulla County) to 79.3°F in Curry Hammock State Park (Monroe County).

Citrus

The citrus growing region experienced warmer than average temperatures all week. The highest reading was in Sebring (Highlands County) at 88°F. Precipitation was minimal, with most stations reporting less than one-tenth of an inch of rain. According to the March 19, 2020, U.S. Drought Monitor, abnormally dry conditions existed in all citrus areas with only small parts of the western, southern, and central areas remaining drought free.

Early and Midseason orange harvest was finished for the season. Valencia orange harvest was in full swing and has reached over three million boxes per week.

Fresh Valencia oranges were being packed, as were red and white grapefruit. Fresh tangerine harvest primarily included Honey and a small quantity of other varieties.

Caretakers were monitoring bloom and spraying fungicides when necessary to prevent postbloom fruit drop (PFD). Other activities included fertilizing, hedging, and topping. Growers and caretakers were irrigating regularly in all areas. Most trees and groves were in bloom, with some already showing small fruitlets.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Mar 1, 2020 (Final)	Mar 8, 2020 (Final)	Mar 15, 2020 (Preliminary)	Mar 17, 2019 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	257	68	0	57
Navel oranges ...	1	1	0	1
Valencia oranges	1,299	2,626	3,120	2,765
Red grapefruit	213	229	191	223
White grapefruit..	59	36	26	38
Tangerines and Tangelos	46	34	18	39
Total	1,875	2,994	3,355	3,123

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

Fruits and Vegetables

Strawberry harvest continued. Watermelon planting was ongoing in many parts of the state. Multiple varieties of vegetables were being planted and harvested throughout the state; however, sales to restaurants and food service operations were down significantly due to COVID-19. With the application of pesticides, whitefly pressures on tomatoes were reduced.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle were in mostly good condition throughout the state. Dry conditions persisted throughout the week and continued negatively impacting many pastures. Producers continued supplying water and hay to cattle.

Field Crops

Field preparations for cotton and peanuts continued in the Panhandle. Field corn planting continued in the Panhandle and the northern and central peninsula. Potatoes were progressing well in the northern peninsula. Sugarcane harvest continued.

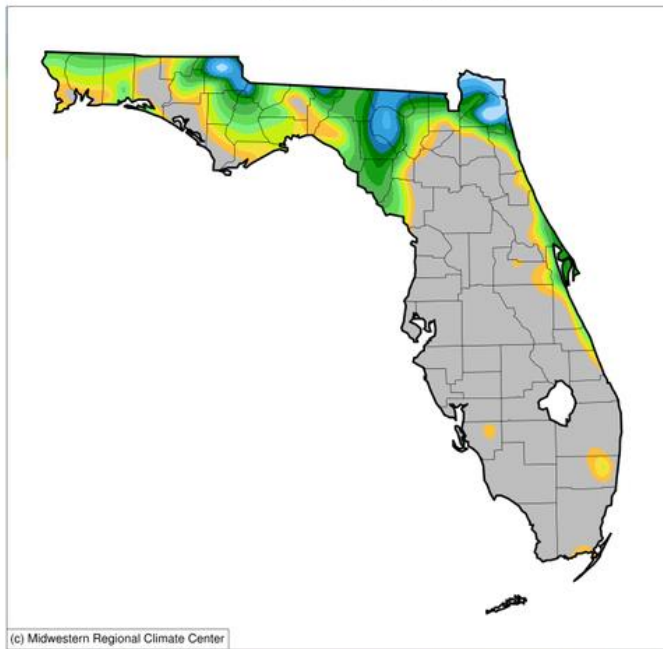
Soil Moisture for Week Ending 03/22/20

Topsoil	This week	Previous week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	8	1
Short.....	43	37
Adequate.....	49	61
Surplus.....	0	1

Condition for Week Ending 03/22/20

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle	1	3	36	49	11
Pasture & range	1	18	43	32	6

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
March 16, 2020 to March 22, 2020

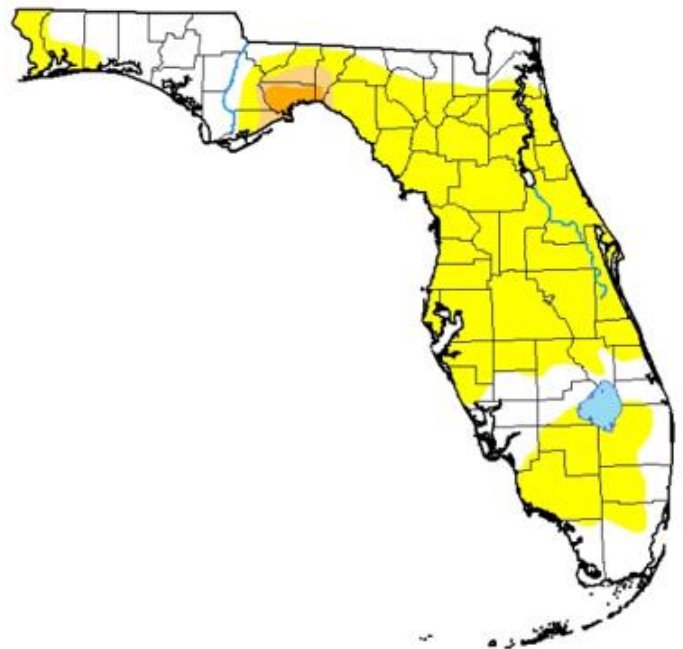


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mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/CLIMATE

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



Intensity

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

March 17, 2020 (Released Thursday, Mar. 19, 2020)
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>