



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  
Southern Region, Florida Field Office · 851 Trafalgar Court Suite 310E · Maitland, FL 32751 · (407) 648-6013  
www.nass.usda.gov

March 30, 2020

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

**General**

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, March 29, 2020. Precipitation ranged from no rain in multiple locations to only trace amounts in some select areas. The average mean temperature ranged from 72.6°F in Cross City (Dixie County) to 80.1°F in Jacksonville (Duval County).

**Citrus**

The citrus growing region experienced warmer than average temperatures all week. The highest reading was in Central Florida (Lake County) at 94°F. Precipitation was minimal, with most stations reporting less than one tenth of an inch of rain. According to the March 24, 2020, U.S. Drought Monitor, abnormally dry conditions existed in all citrus areas with small parts of Collier and Hendry county showing moderate drought conditions.

Valencia orange harvest was in full swing, with utilization over three million boxes a week.

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

Growers and caretakers were irrigating regularly in all areas. Reports from the field indicated spraying was not as active in many of the groves. Activities included applying herbicides and mowing before harvest, fertilizing, hedging, and topping. Most trees were in bloom, with new growth being reported.

**Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested**

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Mar 8, 2020 (Final)	Mar 15 2020 (Final)	Mar 22 2020 (Preliminary)	Mar 24, 2019 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges.....	68	18	0	8
Navel oranges .....	1	0	0	0
Valencia oranges.....	2,626	3,190	3,227	2,992
Red grapefruit.....	229	217	151	137
White grapefruit....	36	28	15	16
Tangerines and Tangelos.....	34	22	9	21
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>2,994</b>	<b>3,475</b>	<b>3,402</b>	<b>3,174</b>

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

**Fruits and Vegetables**

Strawberry harvest continued with thrips pressures high in the southern peninsula. 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 remained down significantly due to COVID-19. Vegetable harvesting was also impacted in many areas where employees were told to remain at home. With the application of pesticides, whitefly pressures on tomatoes were reduced.

**Livestock and Pastures**

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

**Field Crops**

Field preparations for cotton and peanuts was ongoing in the Panhandle. Field corn planting continued and started wrapping up on some counties in the Panhandle and the northern and central peninsula. Sugarcane harvest continued.

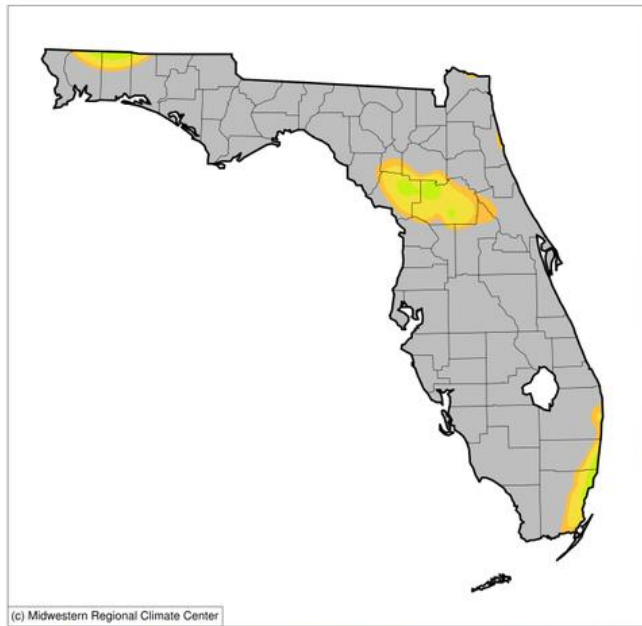
### Soil Moisture for Week Ending 03/29/20

Topsoil	This week	Previous week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	20	8
Short.....	45	43
Adequate.....	35	49
Surplus.....	0	0

### Condition for Week Ending 03/29/20

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	0	2	34	57	7
Pasture & range .....	2	15	47	31	5

**Accumulated Precipitation (in)**  
March 23, 2020 to March 29, 2020

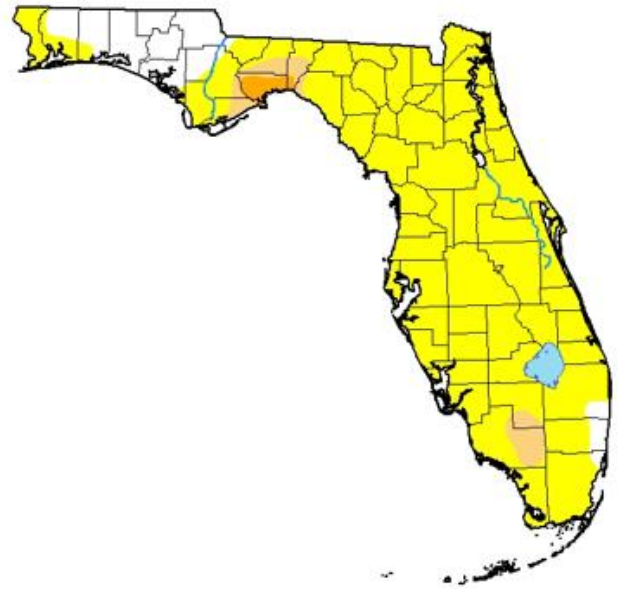


(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



0.01 0.02 0.05 0.1 0.15 0.2 0.3 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 1.5 1.75  
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 24, 2020 (Released Thursday, Mar. 26, 2020)  
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>