



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

This report contains data collected each week from respondents across the state whose occupations provide them opportunities to discuss agricultural production with farmers in their counties as well as to make visual observations. We thank all who have contributed to this report.

April 6, 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, April 5, 2020. Precipitation for the state ranged from trace amounts of rain in multiple locations to 3.1 inches in Naples (Collier County). The average mean temperature ranged from 64.4°F in Whiting Field NAS (Santa Rosa County) to 79.1°F in Key West (Monroe County).

Citrus

Maximum temperatures in the citrus growing region ranged from the mid 80s to mid 90s. The highest reading was in Central Florida (Lake County) which reached 95°F. The citrus region received very little rain for the week. The greatest rainfall was in Scottsmoor (Brevard County), at 0.9 inches. According to the April 2, 2020, U.S. Drought Monitor, moderate drought conditions existed in all citrus areas.

Valencia orange harvest was in full swing, with utilization over 3.5 million boxes per week.

Fresh Valencia oranges were packed, as were red and white grapefruit. Tangerine harvest was winding down for the season.

Bloom was finished in all areas. The trees have formed an abundance of pea size fruit for next season. Growers and caretakers were irrigating regularly in all areas. Reports from the field indicated the pushing of old trees and replanting of new ones. Grove activities included spraying, fertilizing, hedging, and topping.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

| Crop | Previous Year | For week ending | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | Mar 31, 2019 (Actual) (boxes) | Mar 15 2020 (Final) (boxes) | Mar 22 2020 (Final) (boxes) | Mar 29 2020 (Preliminary) (boxes) |
| Early and Mid-oranges..... | 6 | 18 | 0 | 0 |
| Valencia oranges..... | 3,779 | 3,190 | 3,311 | 3,493 |
| Red grapefruit.... | 134 | 217 | 159 | 133 |
| White grapefruit.. | 11 | 28 | 15 | 27 |
| Tangerines and Tangelos..... | 25 | 22 | 12 | 4 |
| Total..... | 3,955 | 3,475 | 3,497 | 3,657 |

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

Crops

Most of the watermelon crop had been planted and growing at an accelerated rate due to the hot, dry conditions. Multiple varieties of vegetables were being planted and harvested throughout the state; however, several producers reported abandoning, plowing under, or dumping millions of pounds of crops due to the impacts of COVID-19 on the food service industry. Whitefly numbers were spiking again, as were reports of whitefly vectored virus in cucurbits. Sugarcane harvesting continued. Field corn planting was finished or nearly finished throughout the Panhandle and northern peninsula. Most peanut and cotton producers were preparing fields to be planted soon. A few peanut growers started planting already. One hayfield in the southern peninsula caught on fire, which then spread quickly and required great effort to extinguish.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle were in mostly good condition throughout the state. Ongoing dry conditions continued negatively impacting many pastures, most especially in the central and southern peninsula. Limited rainfall has helped improved the conditions of some pastures in the Panhandle. Many producers continued supplying water and hay to cattle.

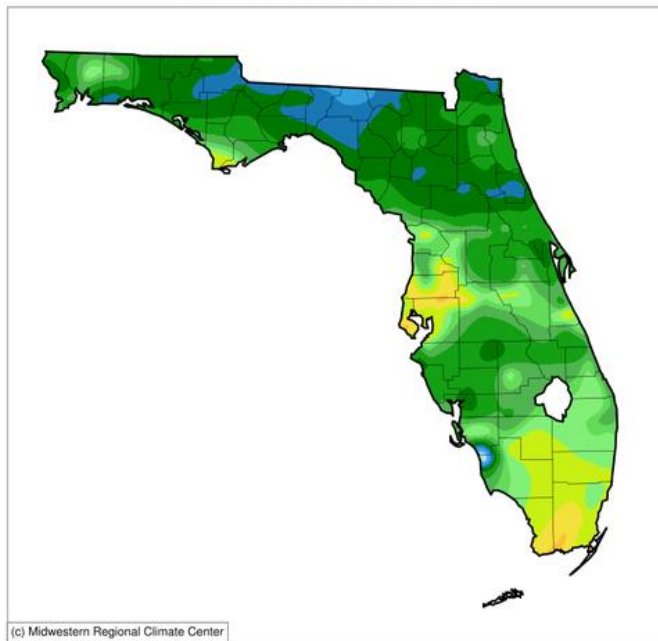
Soil Moisture for Week Ending 04/05/20

| Topsoil | Previous week | This week |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------|
| | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very short..... | 20 | 23 |
| Short..... | 45 | 41 |
| Adequate..... | 35 | 35 |
| Surplus..... | 0 | 1 |

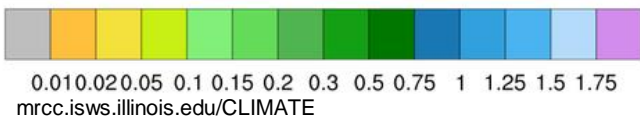
Condition for Week Ending 04/05/20

| Crop | Very poor | Poor | Fair | Good | Excellent |
|-----------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Cattle..... | 1 | 3 | 37 | 51 | 8 |
| Pasture & range | 5 | 15 | 44 | 30 | 6 |

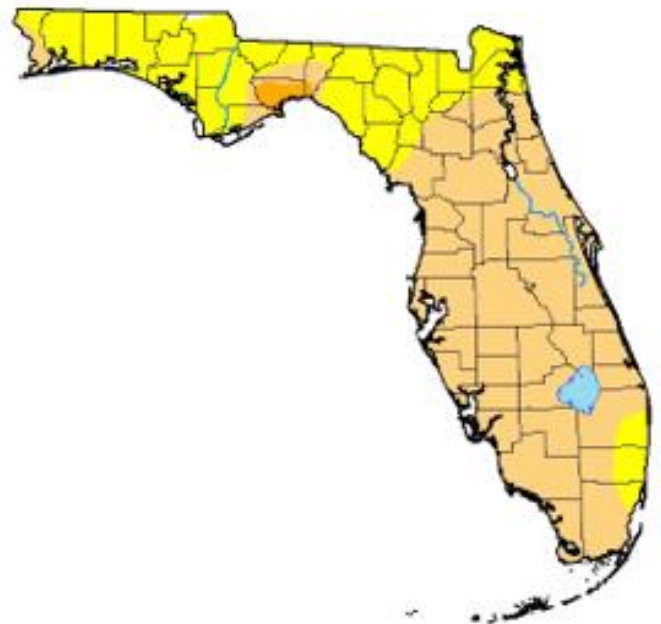
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
March 30, 2020 to April 05, 2020



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



Intensity

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

March 31, 2020 (Released Thursday, Apr. 2, 2020)
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>