



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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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.

March 13, 2023

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, March 12, 2023. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 1.8 inches at Jacksonville Intl. Airport (Duval County). The average mean temperature ranged from 63.3°F in Fernandina Beach (Nassau County) to 81.9°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures once again remained well above average in the citrus growing region last week, with near record highs in the mid to high 80’s. The hottest readings were recorded in Clermont (Lake County) and Sebring (Highlands County), both hitting 87 degrees, followed by Kenansville (Osceola County) reaching 86 degrees. Though portions of the citrus belt received scattered light precipitation associated with a weak cold front, the majority of the citrus area experienced negligible, if any, rainfall during the reporting period. The most rain fell in Clermont (Lake County), with 0.3 inches of precipitation. According to the March 9, 2023, U.S. Drought Monitor, moderate drought conditions covered the entire citrus growing region, while further hydrologic deterioration gave rise to a pocket of severe drought popping up in the far southern extent of the citrus growing area.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, fertilizing, spraying herbicides, mowing, topping, hedging, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run statewide, while water levels in canals and ditches continued to be low. Field personnel reported widespread bloom in groves across the state, giving way to the spring flush of vegetative growth. In several areas, the fruitlets of next year’s crop had appeared.

Packinghouses were shipping red and white grapefruit, late oranges, and tangerines. Processors were handling Valencia orange packinghouse eliminations and a small

amount of field run fruit. Processing of Valencia oranges was expected to ramp up through March.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Feb 19, 2023 (Preliminary)	Feb 26, 2023 (Preliminary)	Mar 5, 2023 (Preliminary)	Mar 6, 2022 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	20	10	0	45
Valencia Oranges	59	71	620	1,990
Red grapefruit	90	70	61	104
White grapefruit..	18	26	24	11
Tangerines and Tangelos	29	11	4	26
Total	216	188	709	2,176

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

Crops

The southern half of the state received little rain for the third consecutive week, while much of the northern half received adequate amounts of precipitation. Reporters noted that field preparation for spring plantings continued to pick up steam. Fruits and vegetables that were planted and harvested last week include watermelons, green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, tomatoes, sweet corn, peppers, and avocados. Rice planting continued to make strong progress, as did sugarcane harvest activities.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle were reported to be in mostly fair to good condition, while pastures were reported to be in mostly poor to fair condition. Reporters noted that the lack of precipitation in some areas continued to prevent pastures from greening up.

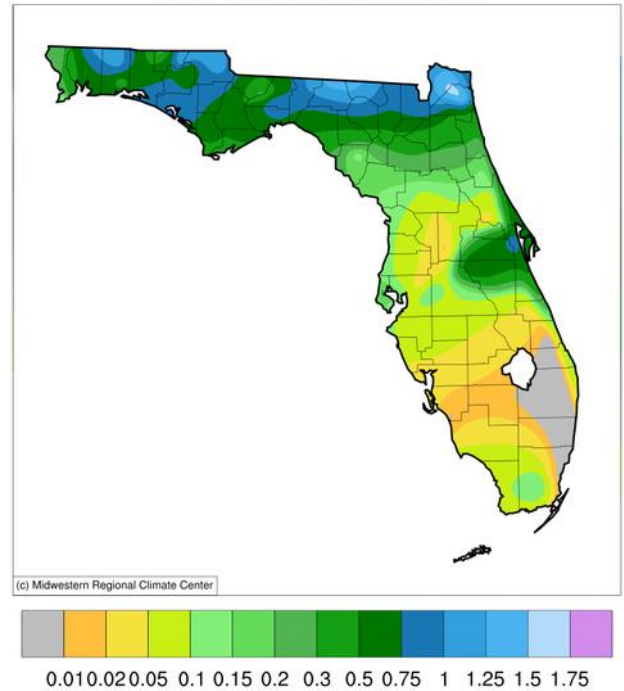
Conditions for Week Ending 3/12/23

Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	1	13	35	45	6
Pasture & range...	5	33	37	19	6

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 3/12/23

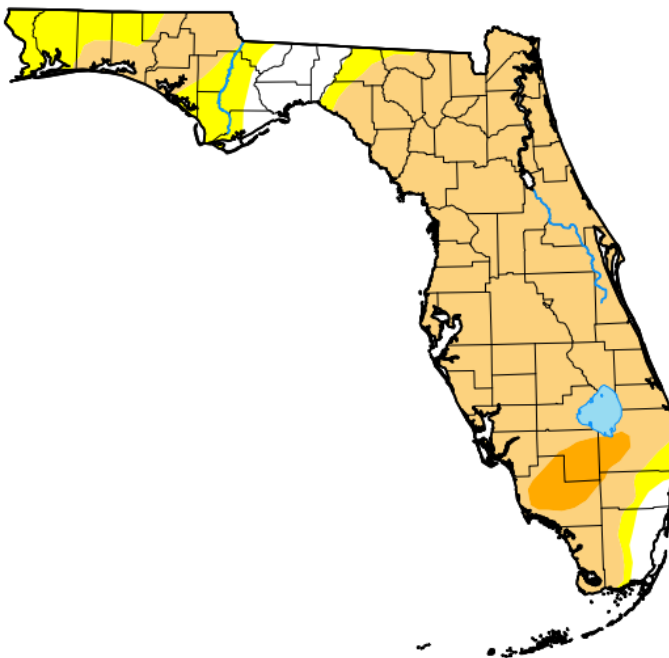
Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very short.....	12	12
Short.....	49	42
Adequate.....	38	45
Surplus.....	1	1

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
March 06, 2023 to March 12, 2023



<https://mrcc.purdue.edu/CLIMATE/>

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



March 7, 2023

(Released Thursday, Mar. 9, 2023)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	7.06	92.94	80.29	3.90	0.00	0.00
Last Week 02-28-2023	12.04	87.96	64.54	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-06-2022	66.72	33.28	29.86	21.88	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	56.61	43.39	30.80	19.77	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	91.16	8.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 03-08-2022	11.38	88.62	52.27	2.21	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

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

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu