



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 310 E · Maitland, FL 32751 · (800) 253-4419 · (855) 271-9801 FAX
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.

March 27, 2023

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 26, 2023. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 1.7 inches at Crestview Airport (Okaloosa County). The average mean temperature ranged from 60.2°F in Chipley (Okaloosa County) to 77.9°F at Marathon Airport (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures warmed again in the citrus growing region last week, with highs in the low to mid 80’s. The hottest readings were recorded in Sebring (Highlands County) hitting 86 degrees, followed by Winter Haven (Polk County) reaching 84 degrees. The citrus belt received little to no rainfall during the reporting period. The most rain fell in Muse (Glades County), measuring 0.2 inches of precipitation. According to the March 23, 2023, U.S. Drought Monitor, moderate drought conditions remained covering the entire citrus growing region, while continued deterioration led to a further expansion of severe drought in the southern and central citrus growing area and the introduction of severe drought conditions to the northern citrus region, also.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, fertilizing, spraying herbicides, mowing, topping, hedging, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, bactericide trunk injection, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run statewide, while water levels in canals and ditches continued to be low. Field personnel reported bloom in groves concluding, with the spring flush of vegetative growth taking off and the fruitlets of next year’s crop growing well.

Packinghouses were shipping red grapefruit and late oranges. Processors were handling Valencia orange packinghouse eliminations along with limited quantities of field run fruit.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Mar 5, 2023 (Preliminary)	Mar 12, 2023 (Preliminary)	Mar 19, 2023 (Preliminary)	Mar 20, 2022 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Valencia Oranges	619	990	N/A	1,648
Red grapefruit	61	37	N/A	117
White grapefruit..	24	29	N/A	16
Tangerines and Tangelos	4	2	N/A	53
Total	708	1,058	N/A	1,834

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

Crops

Most of the state received very little rain, with only the southeastern and northwestern regions of the state receiving notable amounts of precipitation. Drought conditions continued to worsen across much of the state. Operators continued to plant field corn where conditions allowed. Fruit and vegetables that were planted and harvested last week include green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, tomatoes, sweet corn, peppers, strawberries, watermelon, and avocados. Harvest of winter crops was reported to be winding down.

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. Cold weather in some regions of the state hindered pasture development.

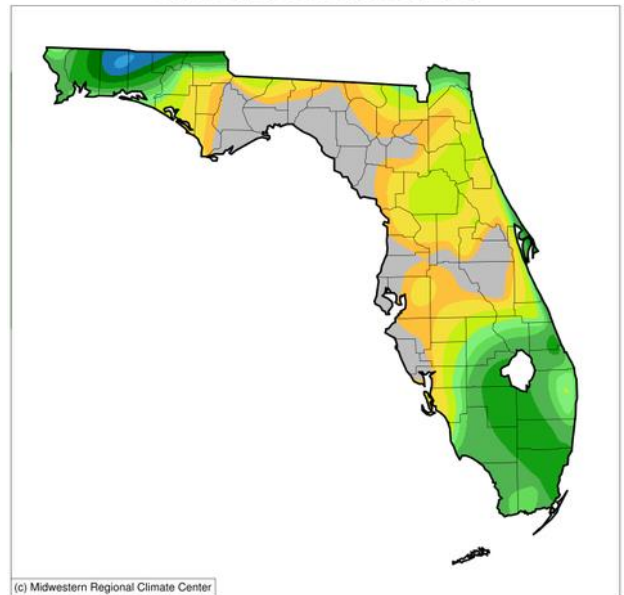
Conditions for Week Ending 3/26/23

Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	1	12	35	47	5
Pasture & range...	7	39	35	14	5

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 3/26/23

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very short.....	10	15
Short.....	31	41
Adequate.....	58	44
Surplus.....	1	0

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
March 20, 2023 to March 26, 2023



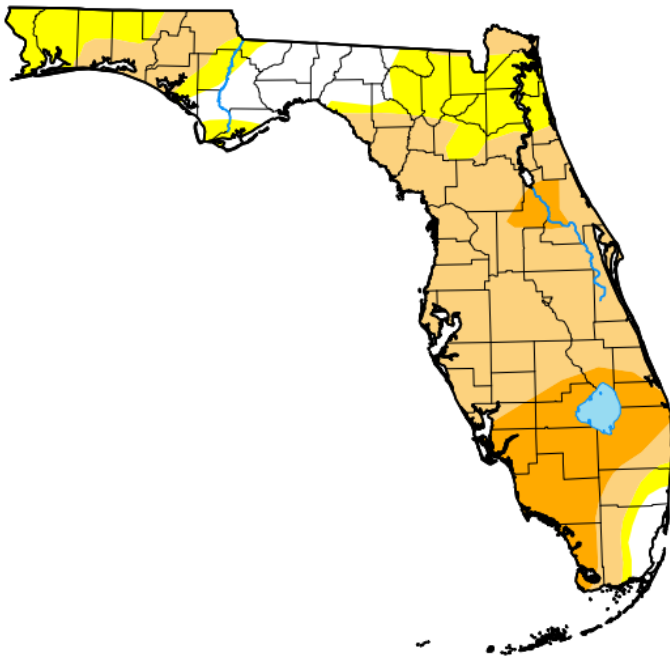
(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



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

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

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



March 21, 2023

(Released Thursday, Mar. 23, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	11.52	88.48	68.74	18.24	0.00	0.00
Last Week 03-14-2023	9.69	90.31	69.74	9.84	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-20-2022	59.38	40.62	32.33	21.92	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 03-22-2022	44.96	55.04	22.62	0.00	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>

Author:

Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu