



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 6, 2023

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, March 5, 2023. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 0.8 inches at Whiting Field Naval Air Station (Santa Rosa County). The average mean temperature ranged from 70.0°F at Crestview Airport (Okaloosa County) to 82.9°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures remained well above average again in the citrus growing region last week, with near record highs in the mid to high 80's. The warmest readings were recorded in Clermont (Lake County) and Sebring (Highlands County), both hitting 88 degrees. The citrus belt once more received negligible, if any, rainfall during the reporting period. According to the February 28, 2023, U.S. Drought Monitor, areas of moderate drought expanded rapidly and covered the entire citrus growing region, with the exception of a small area on the west coast of the peninsula north of Tampa Bay that remained under abnormally dry conditions.

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 very 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 12, 2023 (Preliminary)	Feb 19, 2023 (Preliminary)	Feb 26, 2023 (Preliminary)	Feb 27, 2022 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	45	8	4	16
Valencia Oranges	190	123	77	636
Red grapefruit	91	77	71	109
White grapefruit..	12	17	26	20
Tangerines and Tangelos	8	14	11	29
Total	346	239	189	810

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

Crops

The entire southern half of the state received no rain for the second straight week, while the northern half received small amounts of precipitation. Reporters noted that field preparation for spring plantings continued to make strong progress, with some operators beginning to plant corn. Fruits and vegetables that were planted and harvested last week include watermelons, green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, tomatoes, sweet corn, cabbage, peppers, and avocados. Reporters noted that some vegetable rows were struggling to form due to the lack of precipitation. Reporters noted that high temperatures have led to lower yields for some cabbage crops.

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 high temperatures, and precipitation that came in early February, have helped pasture conditions improve.

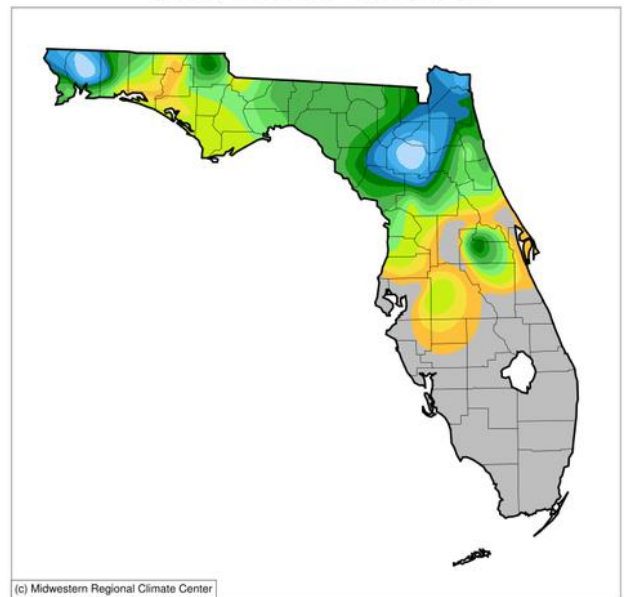
Conditions for Week Ending 3/5/23

Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	1	14	43	36	6
Pasture & range...	6	35	42	12	5

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 3/5/23

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very short.....	6	12
Short.....	40	49
Adequate.....	54	38
Surplus.....	0	1

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
February 27, 2023 to March 05, 2023



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



0.010 0.020 0.030 0.050 0.07 0.1 0.15 0.2 0.25 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.75

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

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

February 28, 2023

(Released Thursday, Mar. 2, 2023)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	12.04	87.96	64.54	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 02-21-2023	19.72	80.28	29.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-29-2022	68.17	31.83	29.86	21.82	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 03-01-2022	15.16	84.84	32.94	0.00	0.00	0.00

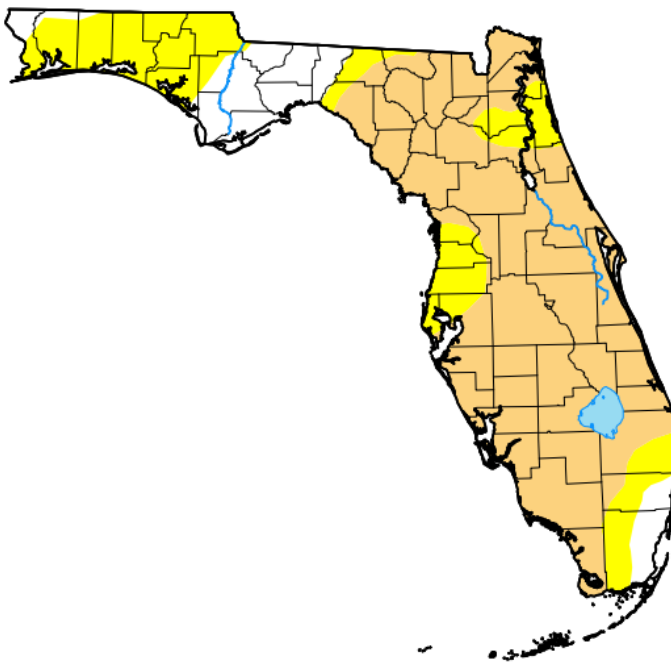
Intensity:

- 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>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu