



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.

May 8, 2023

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

**General**

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.5 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, May 7, 2023. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 2.3 inches in Titusville (Brevard County). The average mean temperature ranged from 68°F in Cross City (Dixie County) to 80.4°F at Marathon Airport (Monroe County).

**Citrus**

Temperatures cooled a bit in the citrus growing region last week, with average highs from the mid to high 80’s. The hottest readings were recorded in Sebring (Highlands County) reaching 88 degrees, followed by Clermont (Lake County) reading 87 degrees, and Winter Haven (Polk County) hitting 86 degrees. The citrus belt received scattered light rainfall during the reporting period, as the peninsula fell under a drier weather pattern following the passage of a cold front. The most rain fell in LaBelle (Hendry County), measuring 0.4 inches of precipitation, followed by Winter Haven (Polk County) reading 0.3 inches, and Sebring (Highlands County) registering 0.2 inches. According to the May 4, 2023, U.S. Drought Monitor, severe drought conditions retreated toward the west coast of the peninsula, closer to the area of extreme drought still extant from north of Tampa Bay into the Big Bend region of the state, leaving an area of moderate drought and abnormally dry conditions covering the majority of the citrus growing area.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, fertilizing, spraying herbicides, mowing, 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 were very low. Field personnel reported next year’s fruit sizing well.

Packinghouses were shipping limited amounts of late oranges. Processors were winding down juicing Valencia orange packinghouse eliminations and field run fruit.

**Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested**

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Apr 16, 2023 (Preliminary)	Apr 23, 2023 (Preliminary)	Apr 30, 2023 (Preliminary)	May 1, 2022 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Valencia Oranges	985	877	467	1,578
Red Grapefruit.....	0	0	0	3
White Grapefruit..	0	0	0	2
Tangerines and Tangelos.....	0	0	0	0
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>985</b>	<b>877</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>1,583</b>

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

**Crops**

It was a dry week throughout the state as most areas received little to no rain. Reporters in central Florida noted this lack of rain is worsening dry conditions for some farmers. The limited rainfall has many producers irrigating their fields to progress crops. Many of the crops planted last week include cotton, peanuts, okra, boniato, malanga, bitter melon, other Asian vegetable crops and tropical fruit crops. Sugarcane and potato harvest continued throughout the state. Harvesting for blueberry, cantaloupe and watermelon were reported to be finishing up. Some producers reported powdery mildew on the cantaloupes harvested.

**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. The combination of cooler temperatures and limited rainfall has slowed the growth of permanent grass fields for cattle.

### Crop Progress for Week Ending 5/7/23

Crop	Prev year	Prev week	This week	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Planted.....	9	5	16	13
Peanuts - Planted.....	34	24	32	36

### Conditions for Week Ending 5/7/23

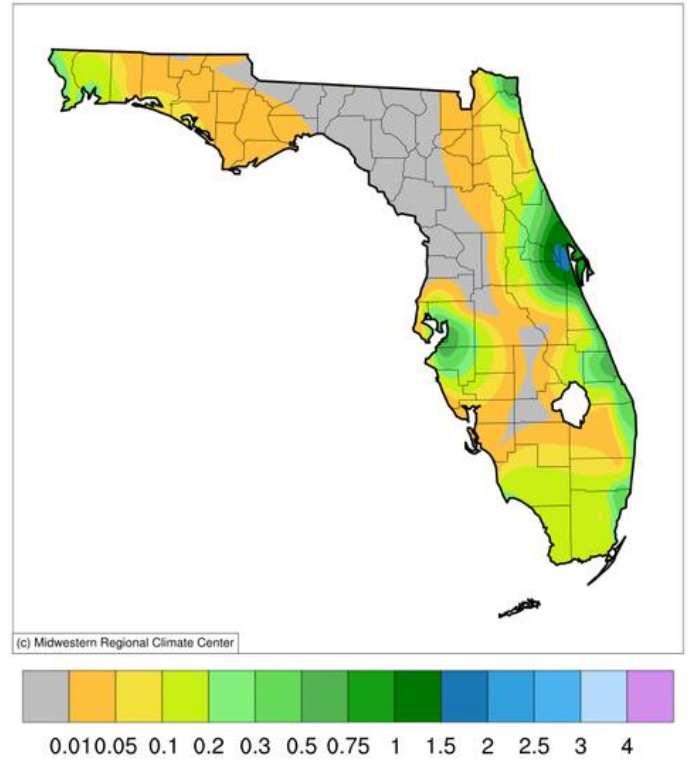
Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	0	4	40	48	8
Pasture & range....	1	27	41	24	7

### Soil Moisture for Week Ending 5/7/23

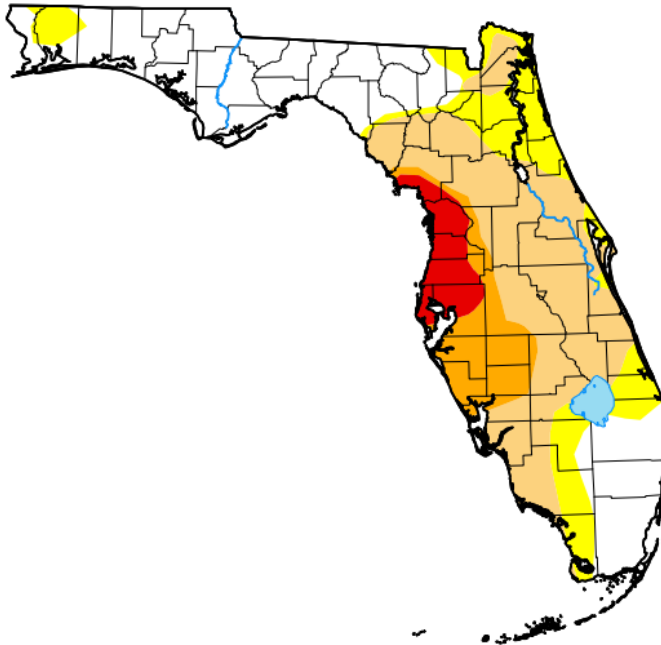
Topsoil	Previous week	This week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	8	4
Short.....	21	23
Adequate.....	60	69
Surplus.....	11	4

### Accumulated Precipitation (in)

May 01, 2023 to May 07, 2023



## U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



**May 2, 2023**

(Released Thursday, May 4, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

#### Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	35.87	64.13	47.39	14.13	5.29	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 04-25-2023	20.74	79.26	65.34	45.05	5.90	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 01-31-2023	27.55	72.45	15.58	7.63	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-03-2023	56.61	43.39	30.80	19.77	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-27-2022	91.16	8.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 05-03-2022	61.77	38.23	17.84	3.59	0.00	0.00

#### Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate 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](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)