

February 27, 2023

FLORIDA: February temperatures ranged from 4.3 to 9.1 degrees warmer than normal depending on location. Total rainfall for the month ranged from no rain in Collier County to 6.5 inches in Broward County. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 80 percent of the state had abnormally dry conditions by month's end, compared to 72 percent at the month's beginning. Most of the state did not receive much precipitation in February, as only the southeastern and north central regions of the state received a significant amount. The lack of precipitation worsened drought conditions across the state and negatively impacted pastures, with pastures reported as mostly poor to fair. The dry weather helped sugarcane harvest progress rapidly. Reporters noted that preparations for spring planting of row crops began in the second half of the month. Citrus grove activities throughout the month included mowing, fertilizing, spraying pesticides, removal of dead trees, and general grove maintenance. Fruits and vegetables that were planted and harvested during February include green beans, yellow squash, potatoes, strawberries, zucchini, sweet corn, pepper, and avocados. Rice planting began and progressed well throughout the month.