



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.

February 27, 2023

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.9 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, February 26, 2023. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to trace amounts. The average mean temperature ranged from 66.2°F in Niceville (Okaloosa County) to 83.1°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were well above average in the citrus growing region last week, with 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 again received negligible, if any, rainfall during the reporting period. According to the February 23, 2023, U.S. Drought Monitor, abnormally dry conditions covered the entire citrus growing region, with the exception of areas of moderate drought in the north and south due to continued very low precipitation levels and near record temperatures.

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

Packinghouses were shipping red and white grapefruit, mid-season and 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 in March.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Feb 5, 2023 (Preliminary)	Feb 12, 2023 (Preliminary)	Feb 19, 2023 (Preliminary)	Feb 20, 2022 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	176	9	7	68
Valencia Oranges	11	179	123	1,191
Red grapefruit	83	90	77	161
White grapefruit..	9	12	16	38
Tangerines and Tangelos	32	8	14	31
Total	311	298	237	1,489

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

Crops

The entire state received no rain or trace amounts last week, with only the very northwestern region of the state receiving even minimal precipitation. Rice planting continued to pick up steam in the southeastern part of the state. Reporters noted that field preparation for spring plantings of corn, cotton, peanuts, and soybeans were well underway. Fruits and vegetables that were planted and harvested last week include watermelons, green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, tomato, sweet corn, cabbage, strawberries, and avocado. Reporters noted that some vegetable rows were struggling to form due to the lack of precipitation.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle were reported to be in mostly good to fair condition, while pastures were reported to be in mostly poor to fair condition. Reporters noted some pastures and hay fields were burned and were beginning to green up due to warm temperatures.

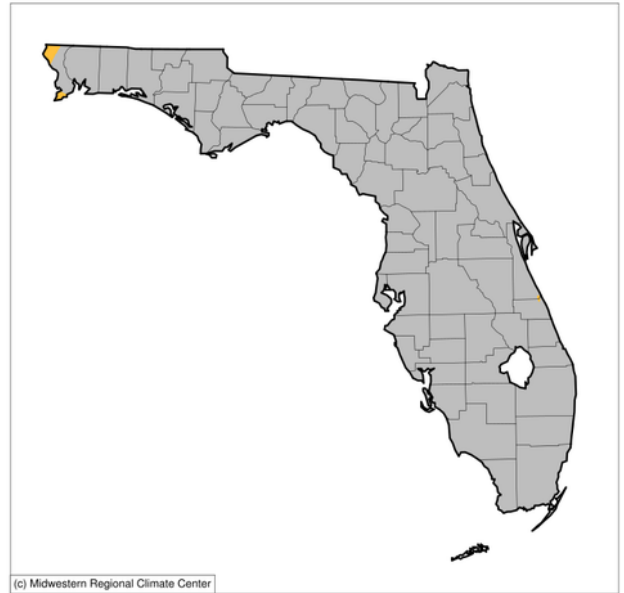
Conditions for Week Ending 2/26/23

Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	1	12	39	43	5
Pasture & range...	4	44	39	10	3

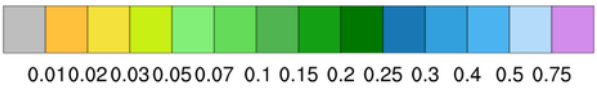
Soil Moisture for Week Ending 2/26/23

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very short.....	3	6
Short.....	28	40
Adequate.....	67	54
Surplus.....	2	0

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

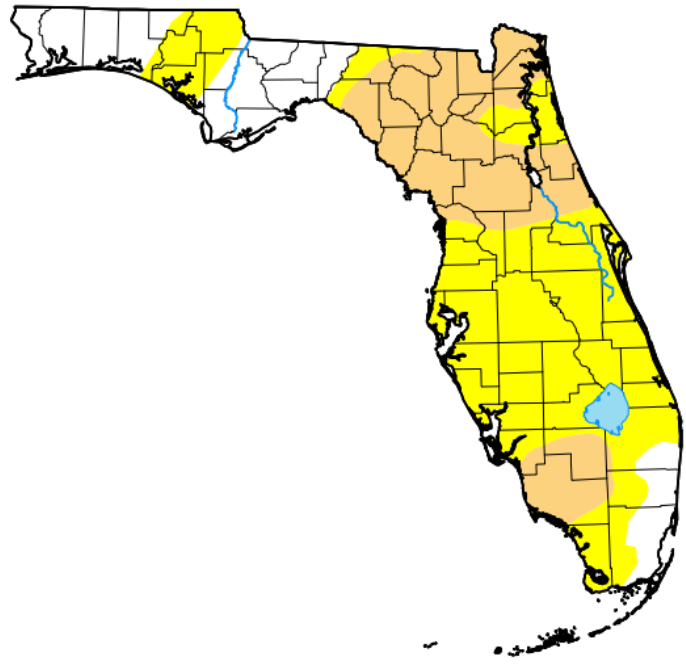


(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



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

**U.S. Drought Monitor
Florida**



February 21, 2023
(Released Thursday, Feb. 23, 2023)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	19.72	80.28	29.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 02-14-2023	32.72	67.28	29.51	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-22-2022	68.25	31.75	29.86	19.77	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 02-22-2022	28.85	71.15	13.11	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:
Richard Heim
NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu