



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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[www.nass.usda.gov](http://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 20, 2024

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, February 18, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from trace amounts of rain to 3.6 inches in Fort Lauderdale (Broward County). The average mean temperature ranged from 51.6°F at Crestview Airport (Okaloosa County) to 73.1°F at Key West International Airport (Monroe County).

**Citrus**

Temperatures were seasonable in the citrus growing region last week, with average highs from the low 70’s to the low 80’s. The warmest average was recorded in Sebring (Highlands County), hitting 80 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread light to moderate rainfall during the reporting period associated with the slow passage of a diffuse cold front. The most rain fell in Clermont (Lake County), reporting 1.79 inches of precipitation, followed by Winter Haven (Polk County) registering 1.75 inches. According to the February 15, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor, the area of moderate drought and abnormal dryness generally centered around Tampa Bay remained unchanged. The rest of the citrus growing region continued to be drought free.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, herbiciding, fertilizing, mowing, hedging, topping, removal of dead trees, bactericide trunk injection, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run on an as-needed basis statewide. Regular bloom was appearing in many groves in all areas of the state, coinciding with the spring flush of vegetative growth.

Harvest of Valencia oranges and red and white grapefruit for the fresh market continued steadily, while tangerine harvest slowed. Eleven packinghouses were active last week. Processing plants were accepting Valencia orange packinghouse eliminations while ramping up juicing field run fruit.

**Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested**

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Jan 28, 2024 (Preliminary)	Feb 4, 2024 (Preliminary)	Feb 11, 2024 (Preliminary)	Feb 12, 2023 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges.....	101	38	8	47
Navel oranges .....	0	1	0	0
Valencia oranges .....	69	109	125	203
Red grapefruit.....	65	70	61	92
White grapefruit...	12	5	7	12
Tangerines and Tangelos.....	30	21	13	12
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>366</b>

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

**Crops**

All the state experienced light to moderate rainfall over the past week. Many farmers reported the rain was much needed for the winter crops and forages; however, it did delay some planting and harvesting operations. Sugarcane and vegetable harvest continued with rice planting expected to start soon. Other crops planted and harvested include green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, tomatoes, squash, okra, eggplant, boniato, potatoes, broccoli, and cabbage.

**Livestock and Pastures**

Cattle and pastures were reported in mostly fair to good condition.

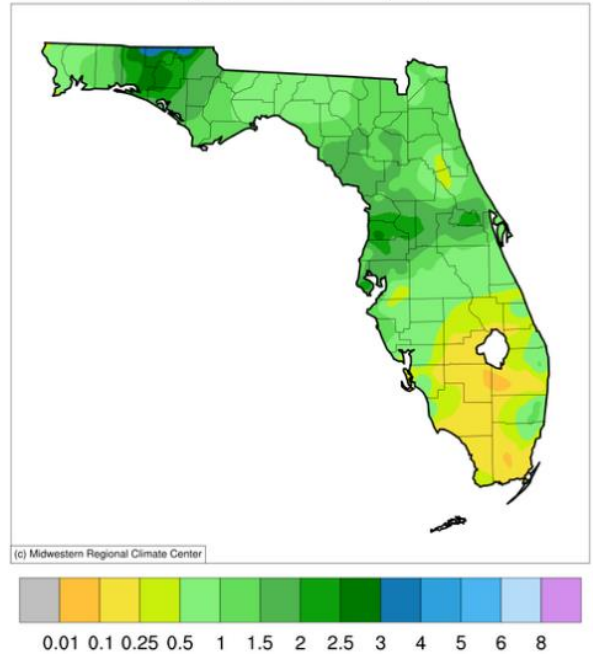
**Conditions for Week Ending 2/18/24**

Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	1	8	41	36	14
Pasture & range...	3	11	49	27	10

**Soil Moisture for Week Ending 2/18/24**

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very short.....	1	1
Short.....	11	10
Adequate.....	75	71
Surplus.....	13	18

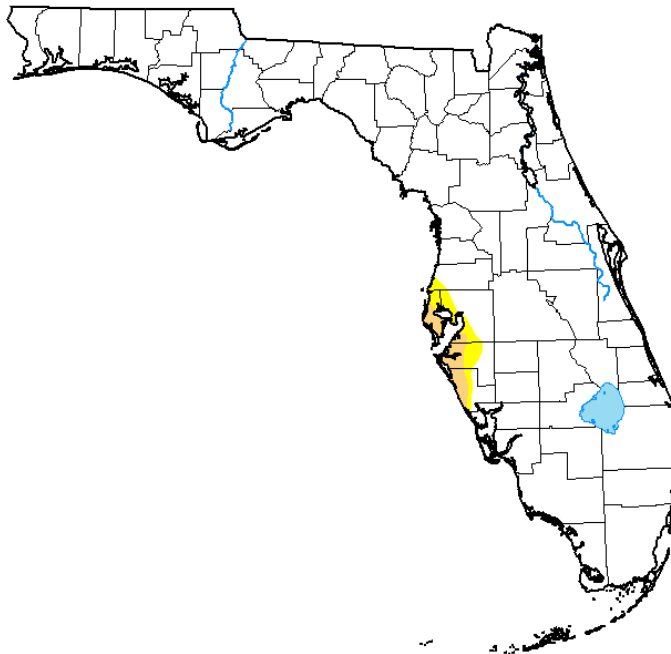
**Accumulated Precipitation (in)**  
February 12, 2024 to February 18, 2024



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

**U.S. Drought Monitor  
Florida**

**February 13, 2024**  
(Released Thursday, Feb. 15, 2024)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST



**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](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)