



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.

February 26, 2024

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, February 25, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from trace amounts of rain to 2.8 inches in Marco Island (Collier County). The average mean temperature ranged from 51.2°F in Niceville (Okaloosa County) to 67.7°F in Dry Tortugas (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were slightly below average in the citrus growing region last week, with average highs in the low to mid 70's. The warmest average readings were recorded in Sebring (Highlands County), hitting 74 degrees, followed by Winter Haven (Polk County) reaching 73 degrees, and Clermont (Lake County) reading 71 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread light to moderate rainfall during the reporting period associated with the passage of a weak cold front. The most rain fell in LaBelle (Hendry County), reporting 2.02 inches of precipitation, followed by Muse (Glades County) registering 1.84 inches, and Kenansville (Osceola County) measuring 1.75 inches. According to the February 22, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor, the area of moderate drought and abnormal dryness generally centered around Tampa Bay persisted. The rest of the citrus growing region remained drought free.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, laying herbicide, fertilizing, mowing, discing, hedging, topping, skirting tree canopies, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, ditch clean-out, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run on an as-needed basis statewide. Regular bloom was appearing in most 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 remained subdued. 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
	Feb 4, 2024 (Preliminary)	Feb 11, 2024 (Preliminary)	Feb 18, 2024 (Preliminary)	Feb 19, 2023 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges.....	63	12	4	16
Navel oranges	1	0	0	0
Valencia oranges	106	112	159	46
Red grapefruit....	76	61	61	89
White grapefruit..	9	6	10	15
Tangerines and Tangelos.....	29	11	19	29
Total	284	202	253	195

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

Crops

The northern half of the state received light rain with the central to southern half experiencing heavier amounts of rain last week. Farmers in central Florida reported significant crop loss for strawberries due to the rainy and windy conditions. The cooler temperatures have also slowed down planting for tomatoes and other vegetables. Rice planting was underway while sugarcane, cabbage and broccoli harvests continued. Other crops planted and harvested include green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, squash, okra, eggplant, boniato, potatoes.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle were reported to be in mostly good to fair condition, while pastures were reported to be in mostly fair to good condition.

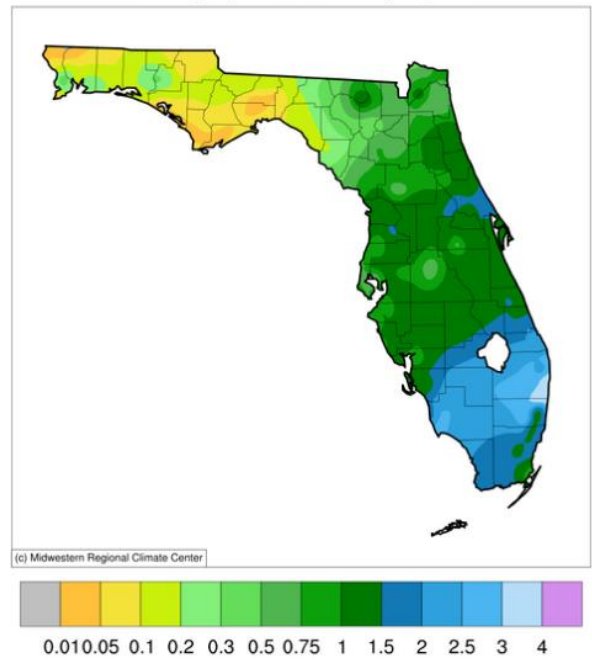
Conditions for Week Ending 2/25/24

Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	1	5	35	43	16
Pasture & range...	2	13	40	33	12

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 2/25/24

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very short.....	1	0
Short.....	10	10
Adequate.....	71	79
Surplus.....	18	11

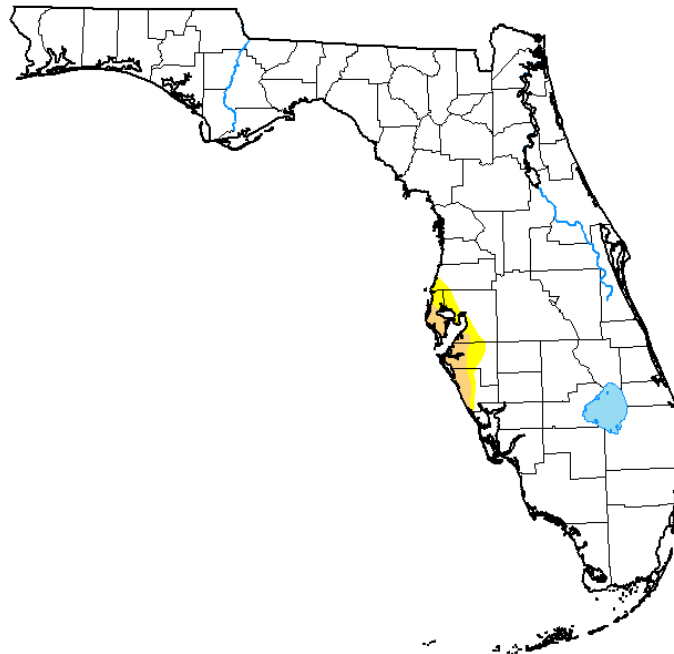
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
February 19, 2024 to February 25, 2024



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

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

February 20, 2024
(Released Thursday, Feb. 22, 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