



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 5, 2024

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, February 4, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 2.1 inches at Apalachicola Airport (Franklin County). The average mean temperature ranged from 50.8°F at Crestview Airport (Okaloosa County) to 67.0°F at Key West Intl. Airport (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were slightly warmer than normal in the citrus growing region last week, with average highs ranging from the low to mid 70s. Sebring (Highlands County) had the highest average temperature at 73 degrees. The citrus belt received negligible to no rainfall during the reporting period as a weak frontal system passed through the peninsula. According to the February 1, 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, spraying herbicides, fertilizing, mowing, hedging, topping, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, bactericide trunk injection, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run across the state. Field personnel reported color break progressing well in Valencia orange groves. Early-stage bloom was observed in many groves in all areas of the state. Harvest of Honeybell tangelos; Orri, Tango, W. Murcott, Autumn Honey and Juicy Crunch tangerines; Navel, midseason, and Valencia oranges; and red and white grapefruit for the fresh market continued consistently. Eleven packinghouses were active last week. Processing plants were nearly finished juicing early and midseason oranges and were accepting Valencia orange packinghouse eliminations while preparing to ramp up for field run fruit.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Jan 14, 2024 (Preliminary)	Jan 21, 2024 (Preliminary)	Jan 28, 2024 (Preliminary)	Jan 29, 2023 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges.....	576	237	91	55
Navel oranges.....	3	2	1	0
Valencia oranges	13	42	84	27
Red grapefruit.....	75	61	65	83
White grapefruit ..	21	13	6	5
Tangerines and Tangelos.....	29	26	27	31
Total	717	381	274	201

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

Crops

It was a dry week for most of the state, with only the Panhandle receiving a notable amount of precipitation. Despite the lack of rain, temperatures fell compared to the previous week. Reporters in the Panhandle area noted some instances of strawberry crop loss due to freeze events. Crops planted and harvested include green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, tomatoes, squash, okra, eggplant, and boniato. Sugarcane harvest was reported to be on schedule.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle and pastures were reported in mostly fair to good condition. Reporters noted that grazing conditions continued to be suboptimal due to the lack of rain following winter crop planting. Cattle continued to be fed supplemental hay, with reporters noting instances of hay shortages due to drought conditions in the fall and early winter.

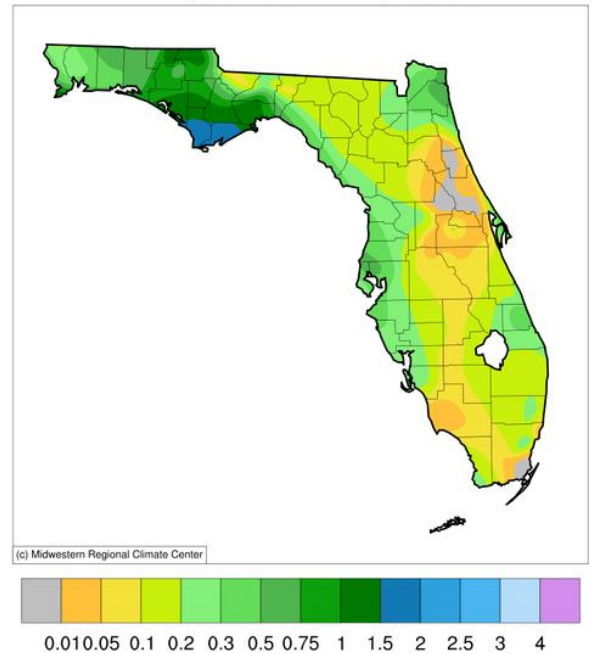
Conditions for Week Ending 2/4/24

Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	0	6	46	37	11
Pasture & range...	3	12	47	34	4

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 2/4/24

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very short.....	0	0
Short.....	6	7
Adequate.....	77	81
Surplus.....	17	12

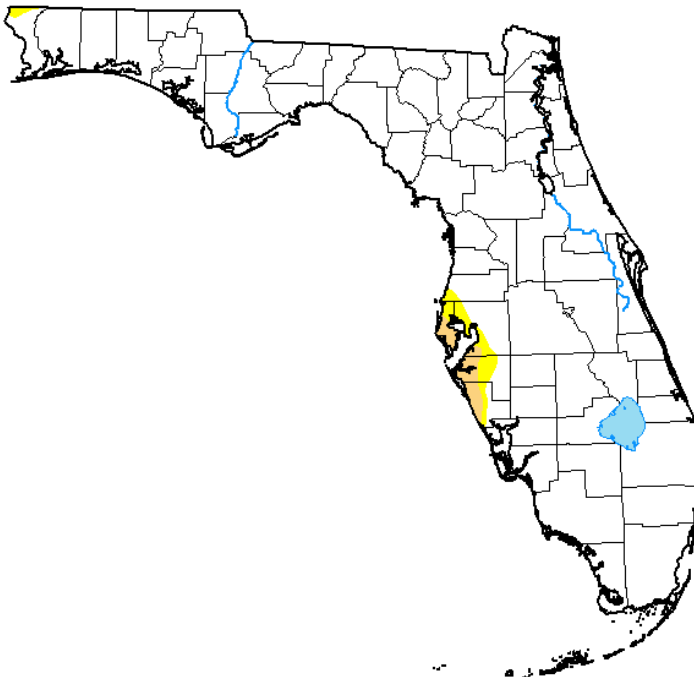
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
January 29, 2024 to February 04, 2024



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

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

January 30, 2024
(Released Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	97.30	2.70	1.27	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week <i>01-23-2024</i>	95.92	4.08	1.40	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <i>10-31-2023</i>	66.40	33.60	17.58	12.17	7.75	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-02-2024</i>	86.25	13.75	3.86	2.55	1.27	0.00
Start of Water Year <i>09-26-2023</i>	69.09	30.91	17.59	9.00	0.81	0.00
One Year Ago <i>01-31-2023</i>	27.55	72.45	15.58	7.63	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>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu