



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.

March 11, 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, March 10, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from trace amounts of rain to 5.6 inches at Apalachicola Airport (Franklin County). The average mean temperature ranged from 64.2°F at Crestview Airport (Okaloosa County) to 80.3°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

**Citrus**

Temperatures remained above average in the citrus growing region last week, with average highs in the low to mid 80’s. The warmest average readings were recorded in Clermont (Lake County), hitting 86 degrees, followed by Lake Wales (Polk County) and Sebring (Highlands County), both reaching 85 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread light to moderate rainfall during the reporting period associated with the passage of a cold front. The most rain fell in Mount Plymouth (Lake County), reporting 3.27 inches of precipitation, followed by Sebring (Highlands County) registering 2.38 inches, and Bartow (Polk County) measuring 1.49 inches. According to the March 7, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor, the area of 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, laying herbicide, fertilizing, mowing, hedging, topping, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, site pollination, ditch clean-out, bactericide trunk injection, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run on an as-needed basis statewide. Regular bloom was present in most groves in all areas of the state, coinciding with the spring flush of vegetative growth.

Harvest of Valencia oranges for the fresh market continued steadily, while red and white grapefruit picking wound down. Harvest of late tangerine varieties remained in low gear. Eleven packinghouses were active last week. Processing plants were accepting Valencia orange

packinghouse eliminations while preparing to juice field run fruit in quantity.

**Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested**

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Feb 18, 2024 (Preliminary)	Feb 25, 2024 (Preliminary)	Mar 3, 2024 (Preliminary)	Mar 5, 2023 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges.....	19	0	0	32
Valencia oranges	159	256	311	695
Red grapefruit.....	62	56	60	72
White grapefruit...	10	4	2	37
Tangerines and Tangelos.....	20	6	4	10
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>846</b>

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

**Crops**

Most of the state experienced light to moderate rainfall last week, with the heaviest rainfall located in the Panhandle. Farmers located in the Hillsborough County area experienced heavy rain, hail and wind conditions which resulted in a loss of strawberry and vegetable crops. For farmers in rest of the state, the rainfall provided some relief from previous dry conditions. Despite the warmer temperatures, cool season crops were reported to be in good condition. Sugarcane planting was nearly complete while rice and sweet corn planting continued as conditions allowed. Other crops planted and harvested include green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, tomatoes, squash, okra, eggplant, boniato, potatoes, broccoli, and cabbage.

**Livestock and Pastures**

Cattle and pastures were reported in mostly fair to good condition. Cattle herds were reported to be thinning out.

**Conditions for Week Ending 3/10/24**

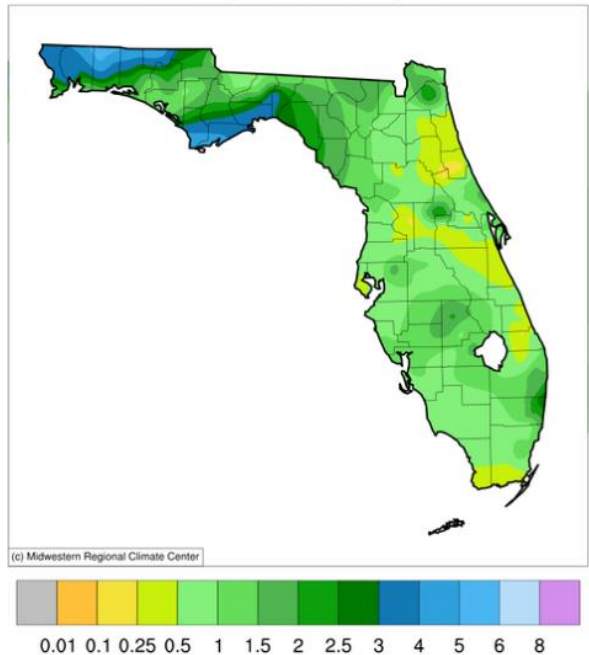
Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	2	6	48	33	11
Pasture & range...	2	13	51	24	10

**Soil Moisture for Week Ending 3/10/24**

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very short.....	2	3
Short.....	14	16
Adequate.....	79	71
Surplus.....	5	10

**Accumulated Precipitation (in)**

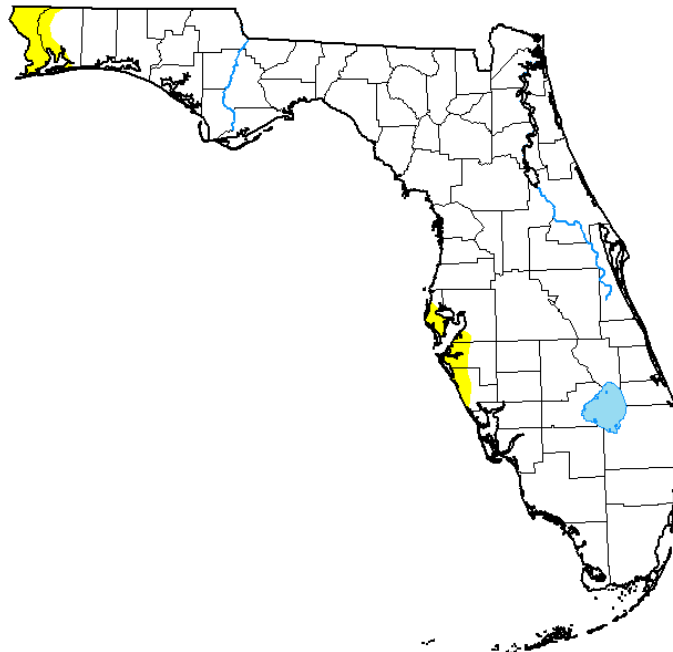
March 04, 2024 to March 10, 2024



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

**U.S. Drought Monitor  
Florida**

**March 5, 2024**  
(Released Thursday, Mar. 7, 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)