



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.

March 25, 2024

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.4 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, March 24, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from trace amounts to 4.6 inches at Key West International Airport (Okaloosa County). The average mean temperature ranged from 57.5°F at Crestview Airport (Okaloosa County) to 78.4°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

Citrus

With a couple cooler days during the week, average high temperatures dropped to the mid to high 70s in the citrus growing region for the reporting period. The warmest average readings were recorded in Plant City (Hillsborough County) and Fort Pierce (St Lucie County), both at 78 degrees. The citrus belt received significant rainfall on one or two days during the reporting period. Heaviest concentrations were recorded in the southernmost portion of the citrus region. The most rain fell near Immokalee (Collier County) reporting 4.52 inches of precipitation. Lehigh Acres (Lee County) recorded 2.28 inches of rainfall for the week. According to the March 21, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor, the stubbornly entrenched 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, applying herbicides, fertilizing, mowing, hedging, topping, removal of dead trees, site pollination, ditch clean-out, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run regularly statewide. Bloom was beginning to wane in groves across the state, with pea sized fruitlets of next season’s crop appearing. The spring flush of vegetative growth continued to fill out trees in all areas of citrus cultivation.

Harvest of Valencia oranges for the fresh and processed market increased to just under a million boxes, while red and white grapefruit was nearly complete. Harvest of

late tangerine varieties remained minimal. Processing plants were accepting Valencia orange packinghouse eliminations and field run fruit.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Mar 3, 2024 (Preliminary)	Mar 10, 2024 (Preliminary)	Mar 17, 2024 (Preliminary)	Mar 19, 2023 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	2	10	0	0
Valencia oranges	179	747	965	1,161
Red grapefruit....	79	63	39	6
White grapefruit..	2	7	2	13
Tangerines and Tangelos	12	0	3	1
Total.....	274	827	1,009	1,181

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

Crops

Most of the state received adequate rainfall throughout the week, with the southern tip of Florida experiencing the heaviest rainfall. The combination of rain showers and favorable temperatures alleviated drought conditions. Sugarcane planting has concluded, while sugarcane harvest and rice planting was still underway. Strawberry season has begun to slow down and should wrap up over the course of the next few weeks. Spring crops planting such as, watermelon, cantaloupe, tomatoes, peppers, and eggplant, were at its peak. Other crops planted and harvested include green beans, zucchini, squash, okra, boniato, potatoes, broccoli, and cabbage.

Livestock and Pastures

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

Conditions for Week Ending 3/24/24

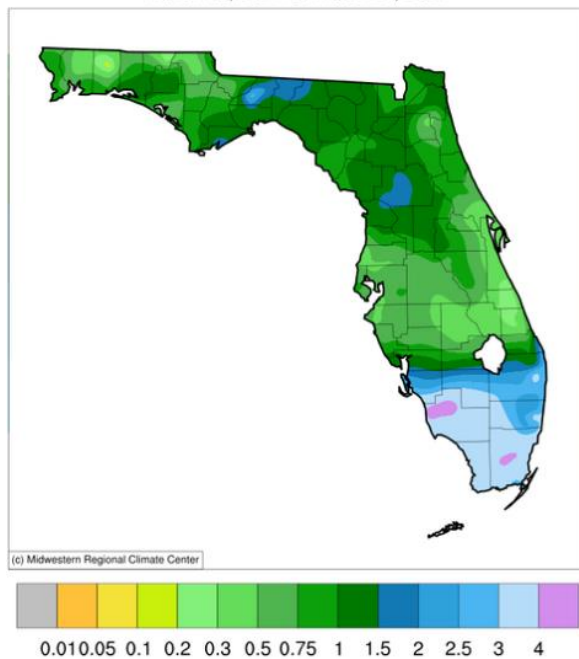
Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	1	2	43	37	17
Pasture & range...	1	7	49	30	13

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 3/24/24

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very short.....	5	0
Short.....	11	7
Adequate.....	80	84
Surplus.....	4	9

Accumulated Precipitation (in)

March 18, 2024 to March 24, 2024



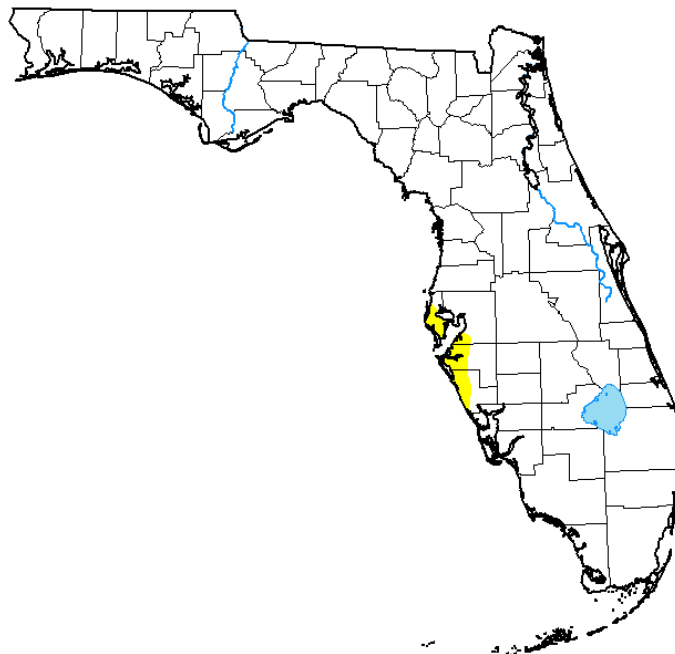
<https://mrcc.purdue.edu/CLIMATE/>

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

March 19, 2024

(Released Thursday, Mar. 21, 2024)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



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