



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 4, 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 3, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 3.3 inches in West Palm Beach International Airport (Palm Beach County). The average mean temperature ranged from 60.9°F in Monticello (Jefferson County) to 76.4°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

**Citrus**

Temperatures were above average in the citrus growing region last week, with average highs from the high 70’s to the low 80’s. The warmest average readings were recorded in Sebring (Highlands County), hitting 82 degrees, followed by Mount Plymouth (Lake County) and Winter Haven (Polk County), both reaching 80 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread light to moderate rainfall during the reporting period associated with the passage of a frontal system. The most rain fell in Sebring (Highlands County), reporting 2.80 inches of precipitation, followed by Ocklawaha (Marion County) registering 1.90 inches, and Mount Plymouth (Lake County) measuring 0.46 inches. According to the February 29, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor, recent beneficial rain eliminated moderate drought from the peninsula, leaving an area of abnormal dryness generally centered around Tampa Bay. The rest of the citrus growing region remained drought free.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, laying herbicide, fertilizing, mowing, hedging, topping, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, site pollination, grading grove roads, ditch clean-out, construction of screenhouses, 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 and red grapefruit for the fresh market continued steadily, while 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 11, 2024 (Preliminary)	Feb 18, 2024 (Preliminary)	Feb 25, 2024 (Preliminary)	Feb 26, 2023 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges.....	12	20	0	10
Valencia oranges	112	159	256	49
Red grapefruit.....	59	62	57	69
White grapefruit...	6	10	4	19
Tangerines and Tangelos.....	11	21	5	16
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>322</b>	<b>163</b>

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

**Crops**

Light showers covered most of the state this past week with some parts of Florida receiving no rain. Many farmers reported the week was mostly dry and warm, which was good for field operations. Rice planting and sugarcane planting and harvesting progressed as scheduled. 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 was reported in mostly good to fair condition while pastures were reported in mostly fair to good condition. Pastures are starting to green up with the favorable weather conditions.

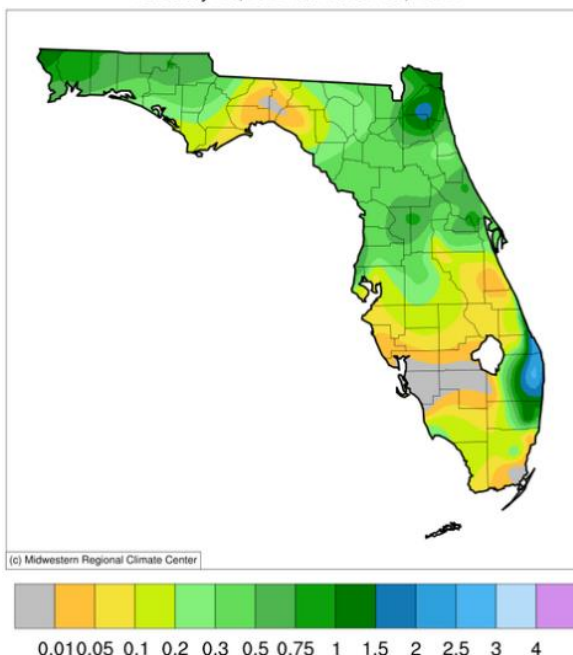
### Conditions for Week Ending 3/3/24

Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	1	4	35	49	11
Pasture & range...	4	12	48	28	8

### Soil Moisture for Week Ending 3/3/24

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very short.....	0	2
Short.....	10	14
Adequate.....	79	79
Surplus.....	11	5

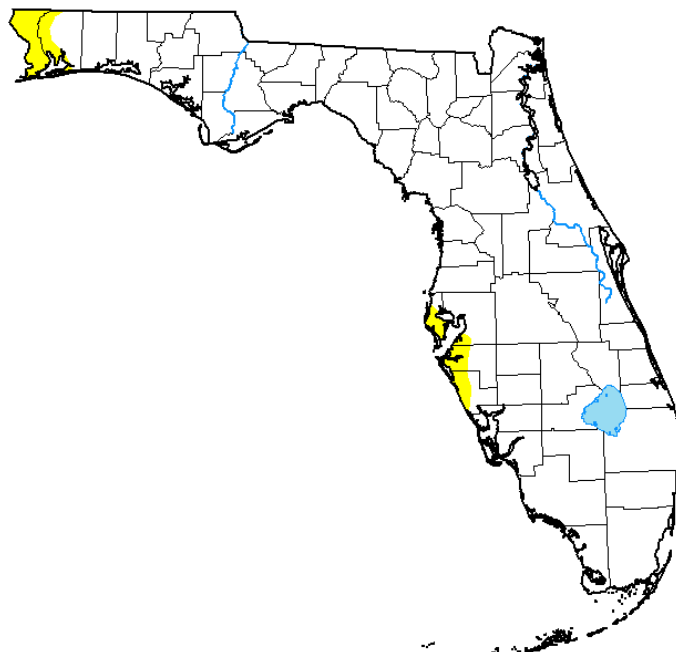
Accumulated Precipitation (in)  
February 26, 2024 to March 03, 2024



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

## U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

February 27, 2024  
(Released Thursday, Feb. 29, 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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