



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.

April 1, 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, March 31, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 1.9 inches at Tallahassee Regional Airport (Leon County). The average mean temperature ranged from 60.3°F in Niceville (Okaloosa County) to 78.1°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were seasonable 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) and Winter Haven (Polk County), both hitting 83 degrees, followed by Kenansville (Osceola County) reaching 82 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread light rainfall during the reporting period associated with the passage of multiple frontal systems. The most rain fell in Ruskin (Hillsborough County), reporting 0.71 inches of precipitation, followed by Ocklawaha (Marion County) registering 0.39 inches, and Groveland (Lake County) measuring 0.20 inches. According to the March 28, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor, the firmly 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, laying herbicide fertilizing, mowing, hedging, topping, skirting tree canopies, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, site pollination, bactericide trunk injection, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run regularly statewide. Bloom was waning 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 markets increased to over a million boxes a week, while red and white grapefruit picking was nearly complete. Harvest

of late tangerine varieties was winding down. 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 10, 2024 (Preliminary)	Mar 17, 2024 (Preliminary)	Mar 24, 2024 (Preliminary)	Mar 26, 2023 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	27	0	11	0
Valencia oranges	826	965	1,254	1,255
Red grapefruit....	62	39	22	8
White grapefruit..	5	2	11	33
Tangerines and Tangelos	0	3	2	9
Total.....	274	1,009	1,300	1,305

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

Crops

Most of the state received light showers throughout the week, with the southern tip of Florida experiencing little to no rainfall. The cooler temperatures and light rainfall allowed farmers to spend more days in the field compared to the previous week. Sugarcane harvest and rice planting continued as planned. Other crops planted and harvested include green beans, zucchini, squash, okra, boniato, potatoes, broccoli, and cabbage.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle was in mostly good to fair condition, while pastures were in mostly fair to good condition. The favorable weather and temperatures helped green up pastures for livestock.

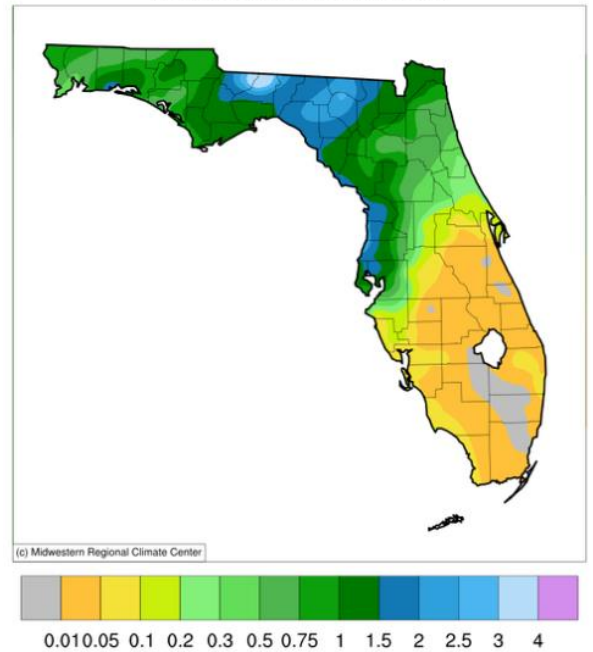
Conditions for Week Ending 3/31/24

Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	1	3	36	40	20
Pasture & range...	1	14	43	29	13

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 3/31/24

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very short.....	0	3
Short.....	7	9
Adequate.....	84	86
Surplus.....	9	2

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
March 25, 2024 to March 31, 2024



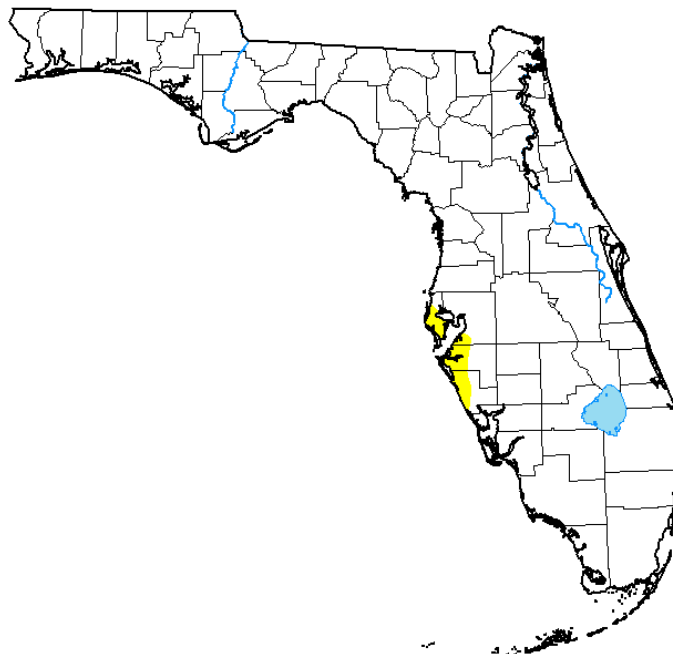
<https://mrcc.purdue.edu/CLIMATE/>

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

March 26, 2024

(Released Thursday, Mar. 28, 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