



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
**FLORIDA CROP PROGRESS &
CONDITION REPORT**



In cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services and the UF/IFAS Extension Service
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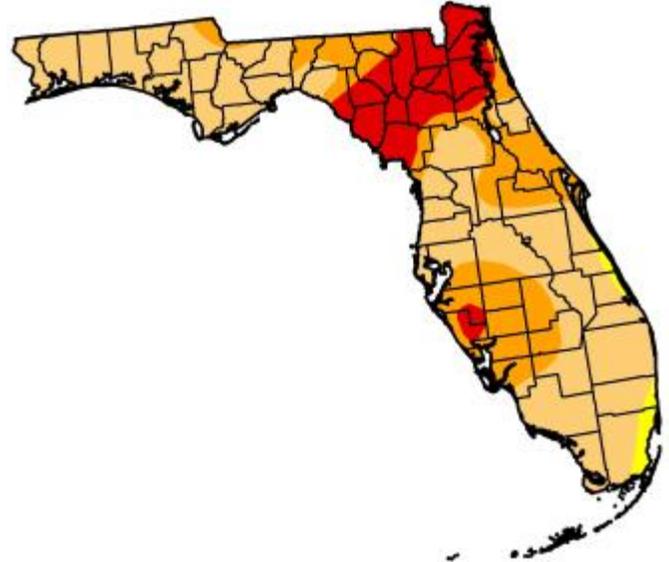
Released: March 19, 2012 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: March 18, 2012

Hot Temperatures, Mostly Dry

Weather Summary: Unseasonably warm conditions prevailed last week for the Sunshine State. Most localities received no measurable rainfall for the week. Homestead recorded nearly two inches of rain. Nearly three inches of rain fell in Miami. Temperatures in the major cities were three to nine degrees above normal. Hot daytime highs were in the 80s. Pleasant evening lows were in the 40s to 50s.

U.S. Drought Monitor: March 13, 2012



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Soil Moisture Ratings

| Moisture Rating | Topsoil | | |
|-----------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Previous week | Previous year | Current week |
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very short..... | 3 | 9 | 10 |
| Short..... | 27 | 34 | 40 |
| Adequate..... | 63 | 57 | 49 |
| Surplus..... | 7 | 0 | 1 |

Field Crops: Dry, clear conditions allowed land preparations for field crop planting in the **Panhandle** and northern Peninsula to continue. Most soil moisture supplies were rated short to adequate. Peanut planting was underway in Levy County.

shipments of snap beans, eggplant, bell peppers, radishes, and tomatoes. Light supplies of cabbage, celery, sweet corn, endive, escarole, and squash were also marketed.

Fruits & Vegetables: Favorable weather conditions allowed planting and harvesting to remain on schedule. Very light harvesting of blueberries was underway with volumes expected to increase within the next week. Movement of strawberries decreased as most growers finished for the season. Watermelon planting gained momentum in northern Florida. Producers marketed

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, the pasture and cattle conditions improved over the previous week. The pasture condition was very poor to excellent, with most poor to fair. Summer pasture was greening up but not near enough for grazing. The condition of the cattle was very poor to excellent, with most cattle in fair to good condition. Drought was the first limiting factor throughout the State, with cool temperatures also limiting growth in all but the southwest area. In the **Panhandle**, the condition of most pastures was mostly fair to good. Winter pastures were growing well following recent rains. Perennial (summer) pastures began to green up. In the **northern** area, pasture and cattle conditions were poor to good, with most in good condition. In the **central** area, pasture condition ranged from very poor to good, with most in poor to fair condition. The cattle were in very poor to excellent condition, with most in fair condition. In the **southwest** area, the pasture condition varied from very poor to excellent, with most fair. Pastures had greened up nicely in most locations. Most of the cattle were in fair to good condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

| Condition | Cattle | | Pasture | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| | Previous week | Current week | Previous week | Current week |
| | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Very poor..... | 1 | 1 | 5 | 7 |
| Poor..... | 9 | 6 | 35 | 32 |
| Fair..... | 50 | 45 | 45 | 35 |
| Good..... | 39 | 47 | 14 | 25 |
| Excellent..... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

Citrus: Temperatures were moderate, with highs reaching the mid 80s in most of the citrus growing region. Rainfall was very light across the region. Alachua received the most with 0.60 inches. In the citrus area 13 of the 25 stations recorded no precipitation. Nine sites recorded only a trace amount of precipitation (ranging from 0.01 to 0.05 inches). Drought conditions existed across the entire citrus region, ranging from abnormally dry on the eastern coast, to severe on the western coast. Drought conditions were per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated March 13, 2012. The Valencia harvest continued to increase with over 5 million boxes harvested. Widespread, but spotty citrus bloom continued to be observed on trees in the citrus region as next season's crop progresses. Pea sized fruit were observed on Valencia trees in Hendry County. Cultural practices included irrigation, young tree care, and limited hedging and topping.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

| Crop | Feb 27-Mar 4, 2012 | Mar 5-11, 2012 | Mar 12-18, 2012 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | (boxes) | (boxes) | (boxes) |
| Early & mid oranges..... | 580 | 29 | 10 |
| Valencia..... | 2,409 | 3,761 | 5,313 |
| Navel oranges..... | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Temples..... | 94 | 40 | 25 |
| Grapefruit..... | 853 | 1,116 | 1,003 |
| Tangelos..... | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Tangerines..... | 138 | 118 | 85 |
| Total..... | 4,078 | 5,068 | 6,439 |

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