



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
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751 · (407) 648-6013 · (407) 648-6029 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

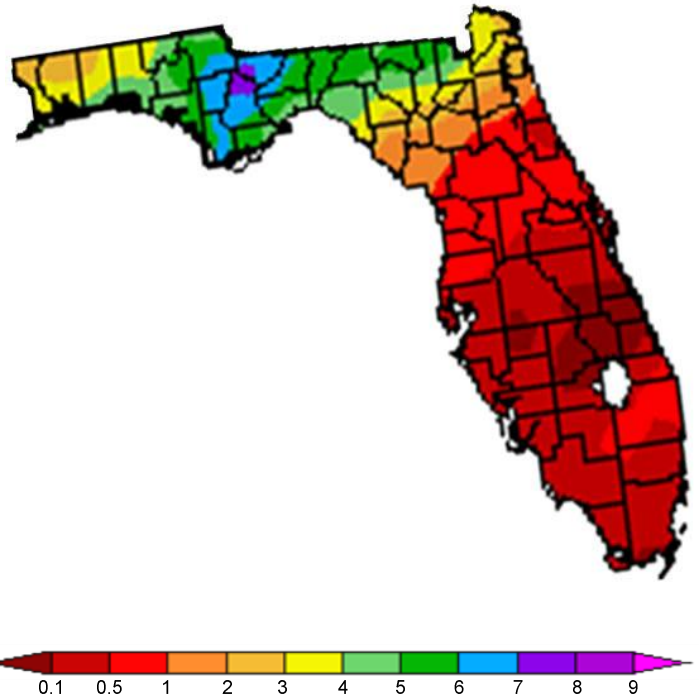
Released: March 4, 2013 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: March 3, 2013

Another Cold Snap Hits the State

Weather Summary: A hard freeze and rainfall hit north Florida for a second week. An assessment of crop damage due to the freeze is still underway. Parts of Jefferson, Franklin, Jackson and Gadsden counties received over five inches of rain, according to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN). The majority of the State received no rain to minimal amounts of rain. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, as of February 26, Florida was still 74 percent abnormally dry. Minimum temperatures ranged from 28 degrees in Alachua to 50 degrees in Fort Lauderdale. Maximum temperatures ranged from 65 degrees in Jay to 88 degrees in Pierson.

Precipitation (in)—Florida: 2/25/13 – 3/3/13

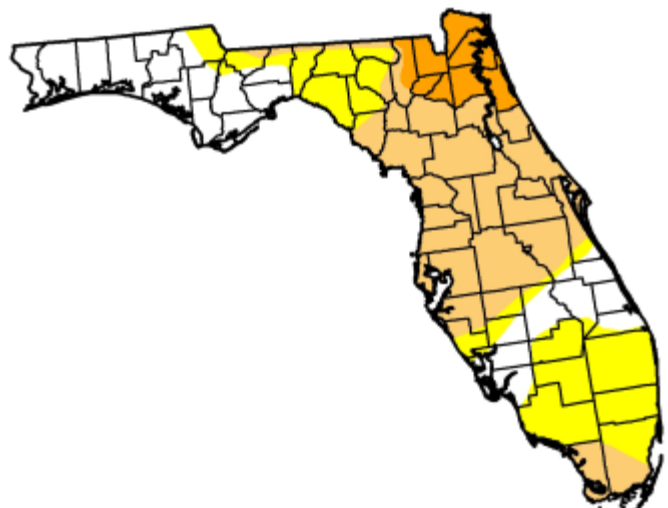


Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	7	9	10
Short	45	45	40
Adequate	39	41	45
Surplus	9	5	5

U.S. Drought Monitor—Florida: Feb 26, 2013



Intensity:

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

Field Crops: Winter wheat continues to look good with the recent rain. Preparation of the rice fields in south Florida continued.

Fruits & Vegetables: Planting of corn and watermelon were delayed in the northern part of the State due to the excessive rains and cold weather. Cabbage harvesting was delayed due to weather conditions. Harvesting of strawberries in the central part of the State started. The extent of any damage by freeze was not known yet. Vegetables coming to market include tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, beans, corn, cucumbers, cabbage, potatoes, strawberries, and a variety of specialty crops.

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, early week temperatures were down to the low 20s. Forage growth was first limited by cold, followed by drought, with some flooding in the Panhandle and northern areas. In some areas temperatures did minimal damage to pastures. In the **Panhandle**, the pastures were in poor to fair condition. The cattle were in fair condition. In the **northern** area, the pastures and cattle were in fair condition. In the **central** area, the pastures were in poor to fair condition. The cattle were in mostly fair condition. In the **southwest** area, the pastures were mostly in poor to fair condition. The cattle were mostly in fair condition.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	6	5
Poor.....	10	9	39	35
Fair.....	57	55	41	44
Good.....	30	30	13	15
Excellent.....	2	5	1	1

Citrus: Seasonal daily high temperatures were in the lower to mid-80s. Rainfall was light, but widespread. Twenty-three of the 25 FAWN stations in the citrus area recorded some precipitation last week. Five stations recorded a half of an inch or more. Citra, with recorded rainfall of 0.84, was the station with the most recorded precipitation. Drought measurements as per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated February 26, 2013, indicated that the drought in the citrus growing region remained about the same. Growers were irrigating one to two times a week to keep moisture in the ground and on the trees. Harvest of early and midseason varieties was drawing to a close, as the Valencia harvest began. Moderate to heavy bloom has been observed statewide. Other grove activity included general grove maintenance and fertilizer application. Forty-one packinghouses and 18 processors were open and shipping. Shipment of fresh fruit was moderate. Varieties being packed primarily included Navel oranges and colored grapefruit.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	Feb 17, 2013	Feb 24, 2013	Mar 3, 2013
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	3,587	978	240
Valencia.....	76	299	1,982
Navel oranges.....	2	2	1
White grapefruit.....	241	266	462
Red grapefruit.....	643	547	702
Temples.....	44	42	121
Tangelos.....	22	21	3
Honey tangerines.....	94	74	74
Total.....	4,709	2,229	3,585

To subscribe to this report, at no cost, go to the NASS website at http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp. Complete the *Subscribe to FL Reports* form, select Florida Crop-Weather and enter your first and last name and your e-mail. The precipitation map used in this report is from the Southeast Regional Climate Center (SERCC) website at http://www.sercc.com/climateinfo/precip_maps. The drought monitor map used in this report is from the U.S. Drought Monitor website at <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu> maintained by the National Drought Mitigation Center. The precipitation and temperature data is from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) at <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.