



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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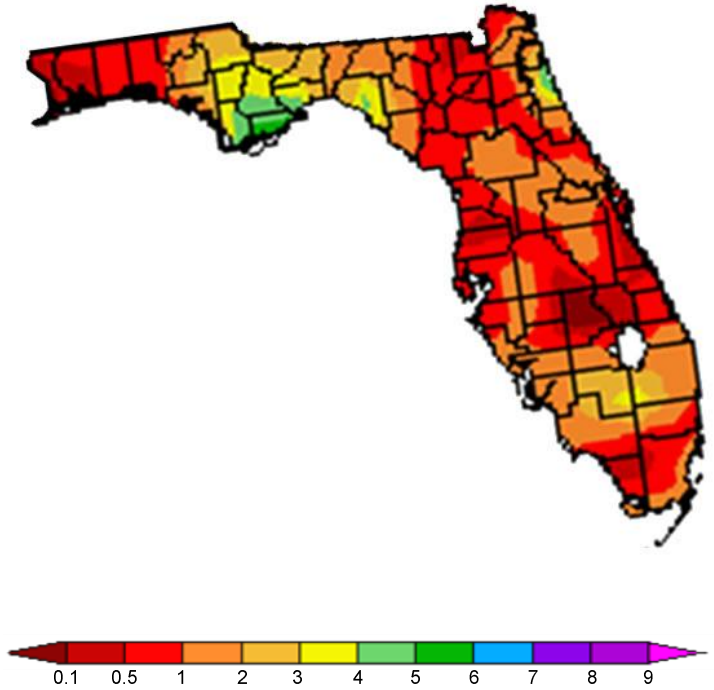
Released: March 25, 2013 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: March 24, 2013

Rainfall Widespread

Weather Summary: Rainfall was reported Statewide this week, according to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN), with all stations reporting some precipitation. A cold front passed through the State on March 24 and brought much needed moisture. Live Oak received the most rain at 4.24 inches. However, drought conditions persisted across the State, with the exception of the Panhandle.

Precipitation (in)–Florida: March 17-23, 2013



Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

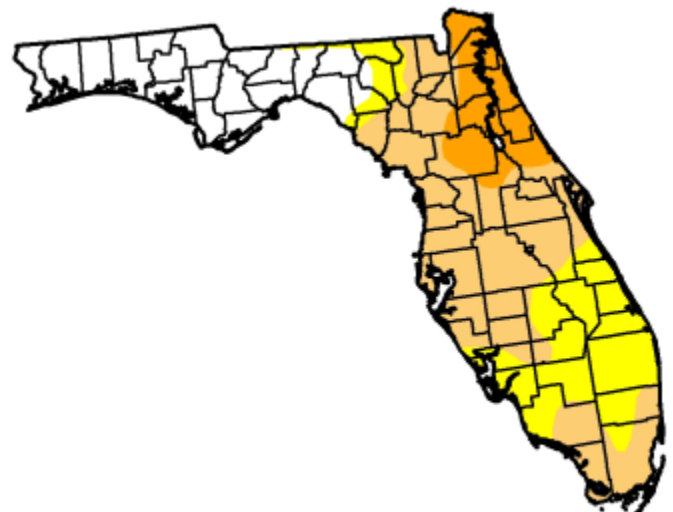
Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	16	7	8
Short	35	46	40
Adequate	46	46	44
Surplus	3	1	8

Field Crops: In the Panhandle, peanuts and corn were being planted. Sugar cane harvest is winding down. One sugar mill officially finished their 2012-2013 harvest.

Fruits & Vegetables: Farmers in the Panhandle have started to plant corn and watermelon. With unseasonably cool evening temperatures the worry of frost exists. Cabbage was being harvested. In Miami-Dade County winter vegetables were being harvested. Conditions were extremely dry, prompting growers to irrigate their crops. Vegetables marketed included beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, endive, and escarole.

U.S. Drought Monitor–Florida: March 19, 2013



Intensity:

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

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, drought was once again the limiting factor for forage growth, followed by cold. In the **Panhandle**, the pastures were in poor to good condition and cattle were in good condition. In the **northern** area, the pastures were in fair condition. The cattle were in fair to good 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 in poor condition and cattle were 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	15	6
Poor.....	10	10	35	44
Fair.....	60	60	35	35
Good.....	25	25	14	14
Excellent.....	4	4	1	1

Citrus: Seasonal daily high temperatures were in the 80s. Rainfall was widespread. All of the twenty-five FAWN stations in the citrus area recorded some precipitation last week. Seven stations recorded 1 inch or more. Two stations recorded more than two inches of precipitation. Only six stations recorded less than a half inch of precipitation. Dover, with recorded rainfall of 3.04, was the station with the most recorded precipitation. Drought measurements as per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated March 19, 2013, indicate 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. Harvest of early and midseason varieties was complete. The Valencia harvest was well underway. Other grove activity included general grove maintenance and fertilizer application. Forty-one packinghouses and eighteen processors are open and shipping. Shipment of fresh fruit was moderate. Varieties being packed primarily included Honey tangerines and colored grapefruit.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	Mar 10, 2013	Mar 17, 2013	Mar 24, 2013
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	61	4	1
Valencia.....	2,796	2,946	3,751
Navel oranges.....	2	1	1
White grapefruit.....	472	412	380
Red grapefruit.....	718	561	564
Temples.....	64	22	16
Tangelos.....	6	0	2
Honey tangerines.....	83	62	55
Total.....	4,202	4,008	4,770

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