



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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Week Ending: March 31, 2013

Cool Weather Slows Crop Growth

Weather Summary: Some areas of the Panhandle experienced delays in crop plantings due to the extreme moisture in the fields. The Panhandle also had hard frosts damage some of the watermelons already in the ground. Alachua received the most rain with 2.98 inches, according to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Only four FAWN stations reported one inch or more of rain for the week. Minimum temperatures ranged from 46 degrees in Alachua to 61 degrees in Fort Lauderdale. Maximum temperatures for the entire State were in the 80s.

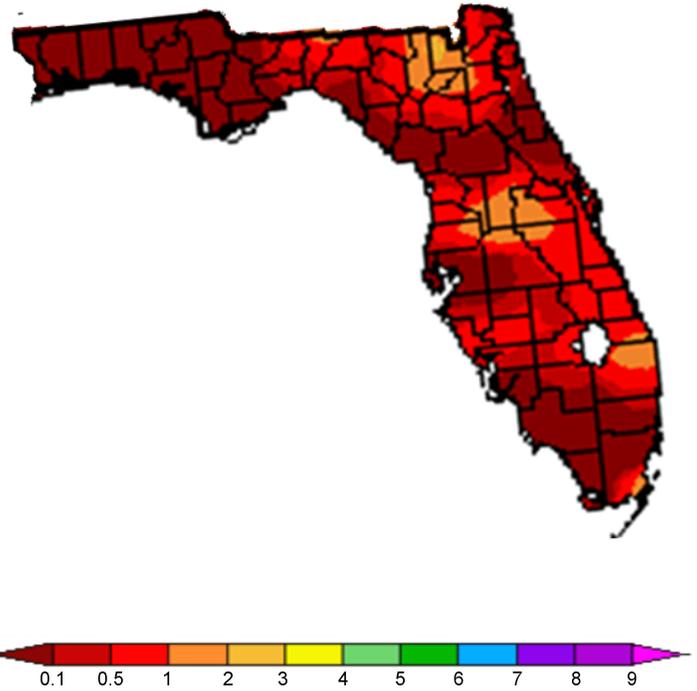
Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Previous week	Previous year	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	6	8	16
Short	45	52	35
Adequate	46	39	43
Surplus	3	1	6

Field Crops: In the Panhandle, corn and peanuts were being planted. Some spring hay was being harvested. Three of the four sugarcane mills had completed their annual sugarcane harvest in the Everglades. Early-season rice planting continued.

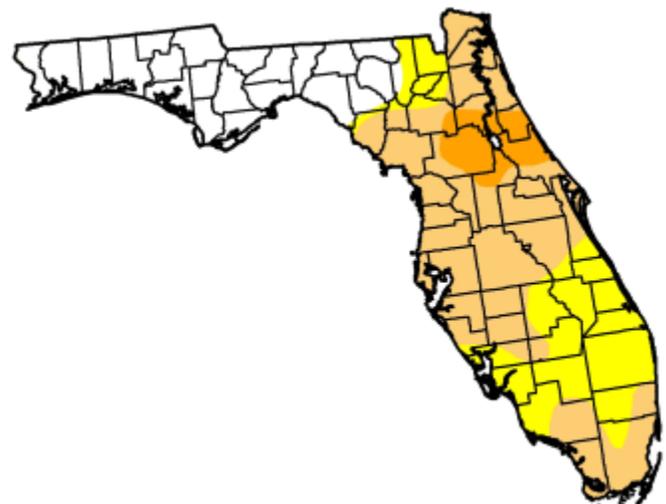
Fruits & Vegetables: North Florida farmers were planting cantaloupe, watermelon, and tomatoes. South Florida farmers had frosts and high winds that caused a setback in some warm season crops. Vegetables marketed included beans, cabbage, celery, sweet corn, cucumbers, eggplant, lettuce, peppers, radishes, squash, strawberries, watermelons, endive, and escarole.

Precipitation (in)—Florida: March 25-31, 2013



Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

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



Intensity:

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

Livestock and Pastures: Statewide, drought was the first limiting factor for forage growth. Cold temperatures also slowed growth, with some flooding and disease hurting forage growth in the north. Summer pasture has not yet grown enough to permit grazing, and some pastures were overgrazed and hay was being fed. In the **Panhandle**, the pastures 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 condition. The cattle were in mostly fair condition. In the **southwest** area, the pastures and cattle were in fair condition.

Citrus: Seasonal daily high temperatures were in the 80s. Rainfall was sparse and extremely light. Five of the 25 FAWN stations in the citrus area recorded a trace of precipitation last week. Palmdale, with recorded rainfall of 0.03 inches, was the station with the most recorded precipitation. Drought measurements as per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated March 26, 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 and on the trees. The Valencia harvest was running full steam. Other grove activity included general grove maintenance and fertilizer application. Forty packinghouses and 18 processors were open and shipping. Shipment of fresh fruit was moderate. Varieties being packed primarily included Valencias, Honey tangerines and colored grapefruit.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Previous week	Current week	Previous week	Current week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor.....	1	1	6	10
Poor.....	10	10	44	40
Fair.....	60	55	35	35
Good.....	25	30	14	13
Excellent.....	4	4	1	2

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	Mar 17, 2013	Mar 24, 2013	Mar 31, 2013
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges.....	4	1	0
Valencia.....	2,946	3,751	5,030
Navel oranges.....	1	1	2
White grapefruit.....	412	380	345
Red grapefruit.....	561	564	385
Temples.....	22	16	4
Tangelos.....	0	2	0
Honey tangerines.....	62	55	35
Total.....	4,008	4,770	5,801

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