



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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March 6, 2017

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**General**

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, March 5, 2017. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in Ft. Lauderdale (Broward County) to 1.14 inches in DeFuniak Springs (Walton County). The average mean temperatures ranged from 58.7°F in DeFuniak Springs (Walton County) to 75.5°F in Ft. Lauderdale (Broward County). Some rain fell this week in most locations throughout the state. A large portion of the state, however, remained in abnormally dry or moderate drought conditions. Strong winds impeded field work in some counties and may have caused damage to crops such as citrus, pepper, eggplant, and tomato.

**Citrus**

Daily temperatures in the citrus region were well above average for most of the week. Highs reached the low to mid 80s in all areas. Only one of eighteen monitored stations recorded more than a tenth of an inch of rainfall. This season continues with dry weather during most weeks. According to the February 28th, 2017 U.S. Drought Monitor, all citrus producing counties south of Polk County, and including Indian River County, were showing moderate drought conditions. The remainder of the citrus region was in an abnormally dry state.

Early-midseason orange harvest was about over for the season. Several of the larger processing plants closed, and will re-open as soon as Valencia oranges reach acceptable maturity levels.

Honey tangerines were picked primarily for the fresh market, while more Royals were going processed than fresh. Harvest on these two varieties was coming in at a fairly steady pace, somewhat similar to last season. According to the Market News Bulletin, dtd. Feb 27, 2017, “Honeys are still having color issues, which is now slowing down harvest and sales.” White and red grapefruit harvest continued at levels lower than last season. Both white and red grapefruit were going in larger amounts to the processing plants than what were going fresh.

Bloom has been an issue in some areas this season. Some groves were showing a very light bloom, while others had a white prolific bloom on the trees and, in some cases, beginning to show petal drop. There is still opportunity for more bloom to pop-out this season. Growers were applying bactericides and continuing psyllid control. Other grove activity included spraying, hedging on all varieties, fertilizing (including liquid fertilizing), and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was running heavily in all areas.

**Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested**

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Feb 19, 2017	Feb 26, 2017	Mar 5, 2017	Mar 6, 2016
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges.....	1,420	334	19	68
Valencias .....	88	123	254	3,495
Navel oranges.....	2	2	1	1
White grapefruit.....	84	106	95	263
Red grapefruit .....	349	371	283	449
Temples.....	9	12	32	4
Tangelos.....	5	3	2	0
Sunburst tangerines	19	4	0	16
Honey tangerines.	35	40	40	43
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>2,011</b>	<b>995</b>	<b>726</b>	<b>4,339</b>

<http://www.citrusadministrativecommittee.org/bulletins/reports.html>

**Fruits and Vegetables**

Crops planted included bitter melon, boniato, green beans, herbs, malanga, pole beans, squash, sweet corn, watermelon, yellow squash, and zucchini. Crops coming to market included avocado, bitter melon, boniato, broccoli, cabbage, eggplant, green beans, greens, herbs, malanga, onions, pepper, pole beans, strawberry, tomato, yellow squash, zucchini, and other tropical fruit. Some growers continued to report poor pack outs on many items, due to high cull rates on items that were damaged from high winds a few weeks ago.

**Livestock and Pastures**

Most cattle producers were using supplemental feeding, as pasture quality continued its decline. Cattle remained in mostly fair to good condition.

**Field Crops**

Potato planting activities were reported in Flagler and Putnam Counties. Field corn planting activities were reported in Lafayette County. The sugarcane harvest continued on schedule in Glades, Hendry, and St. Lucie Counties.

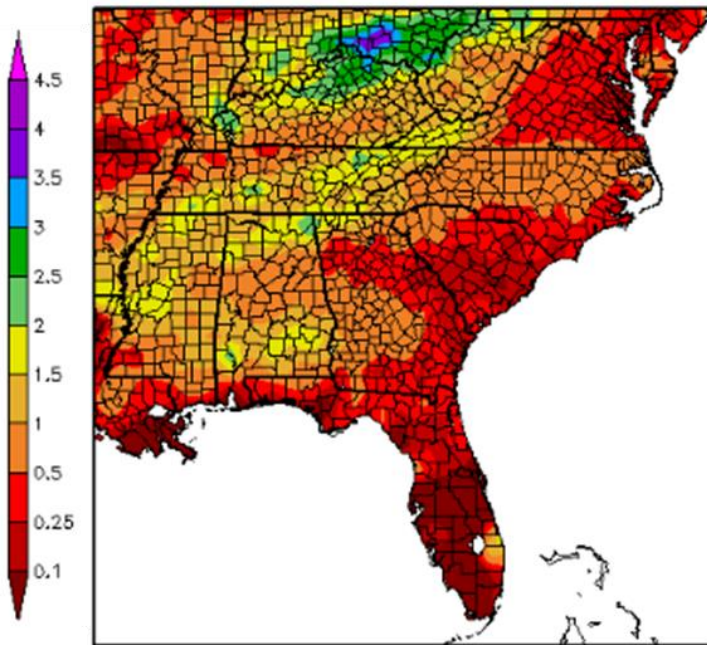
**Soil Moisture for Week Ending 3/5/17**

Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	10	9	4
Short .....	46	42	19
Adequate.....	40	45	66
Surplus.....	4	4	11

**Condition for week ending 3/5/17**

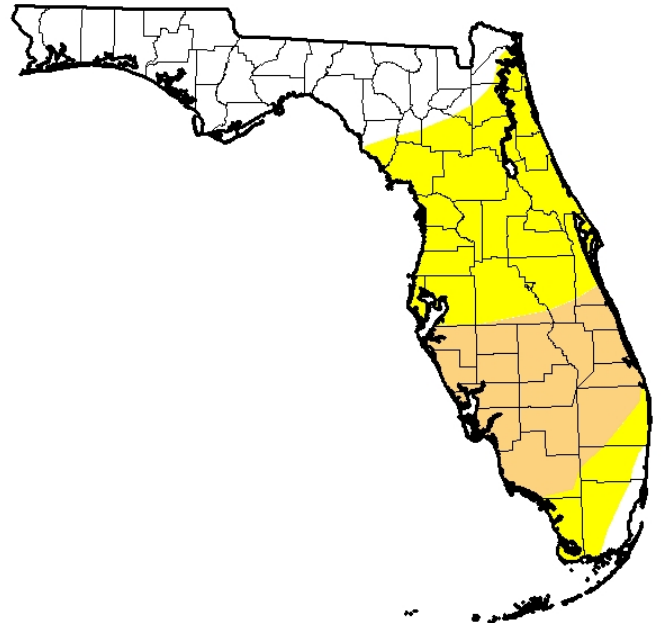
Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	1	12	42	41	4
Pasture & Range...	6	28	41	22	3

Precipitation (in)  
2/27/2017 - 3/5/2017



Generated 3/6/17 at HPRCC using provisional data. Regional Climate Centers.  
<http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

**U.S. Drought Monitor  
Florida**



Intensity:

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

February 28, 2017 (Released Thursday Mar. 2, 2017)  
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>