



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  
Southern Region, Florida Field Office · 2290 Lucien Way Suite 300 · Maitland, FL 32751 · (407) 648-6013  
www.nass.usda.gov

March 19, 2018

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

**General**

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.7 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, March 18, 2018. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 1.7 inches in Tallahassee (Leon County). The average mean temperature ranged from 51.1°F in Jasper (Hamilton County) to 69.8°F in Key West (Monroe County).

**Citrus**

Temperatures were slightly cooler than normal during the beginning of the week, warming to well above average over the weekend. All areas had highs in the 80s at least one day. Several monitored stations across the citrus region reached 86°F. Most counties had less than two tenths of an inch of rainfall for the week, far below historical averages. Haines City (Polk County) had the most rainfall at 0.42 inches. According to the March 15, 2018 U.S. Drought Monitor, dryness and drought expanded in some areas receiving relatively small rainfall totals. The large dry area in the northeastern and central portion of the citrus region covers all of Osceola, Orange, Seminole, and Brevard counties. It also extends partially into many surrounding counties. In the southern citrus area, the dry conditions completely cover Lee, Hendry, and Collier counties. Manatee and Hillsborough counties in the western area have a small portion showing abnormally dry conditions.

Grove operations included some hedging and topping, and fertilizing. Irrigation was seen running on most days. Canals and ditches are low due to the lack of rainfall over the past several weeks. Citrus trees are between full and open bloom to bloom beginning to fall off the trees.

Valencia orange harvest is in full swing. Although the majority of oranges are going to the processed plant, some are spot picking for the fresh market on the later variety fruit. Tangerine harvest is slowing down. Mandarin harvest included Royal and Honey tangerines, and Tangos. Red and White grapefruit harvest is also continuing to slow down significantly.

**Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested**

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

| Crop                         | For week ending |              |              | Previous Year |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
|                              | Mar 4, 2018     | Mar 11, 2018 | Mar 18, 2018 | Mar 11, 2017  |
|                              | (boxes)         | (boxes)      | (boxes)      | (boxes)       |
| Early and Mid-oranges .....  | 50              | 39           | 6            | 50            |
| Valencia oranges.....        | 545             | 1,809        | 1,788        | 2,891         |
| White grapefruit.....        | 2               | 7            | 1            | 60            |
| Red grapefruit .....         | 103             | 66           | 41           | 144           |
| Tangerines and Tangelos..... | 21              | 29           | 18           | 68            |
| <b>Total .....</b>           | <b>721</b>      | <b>1,950</b> | <b>1,854</b> | <b>3,213</b>  |

www.citrusadministrativecommittee.org

**Fruits and Vegetables**

Some producers in Dixie County replanted watermelon due to frost damage. Cabbage harvesting was reported in Flagler and Putnam Counties. A wide range of crops came to market, including beans, boniato, cabbage, celery, herbs, leafy greens, malanga, radish, squash, sweet corn, and tomatoes.

**Livestock and Pastures**

Multiple counties in the Panhandle and north Florida received frost which slowed or damaged greening pastures. Some spring calf crop were seen grazing in St. Lucie County. Livestock producers continued to feed supplements and supply water.

**Field Crops**

Producers were able to harvest some silage and hay this week in Jackson County. Corn is being planted and cropland was being prepared for other plantings where conditions allow in Washington County. Corn was also planted in Gilchrist County this week. Potatoes were killed back from frost in Suwannee County. Sugarcane harvest continued in Glades and Hendry counties.

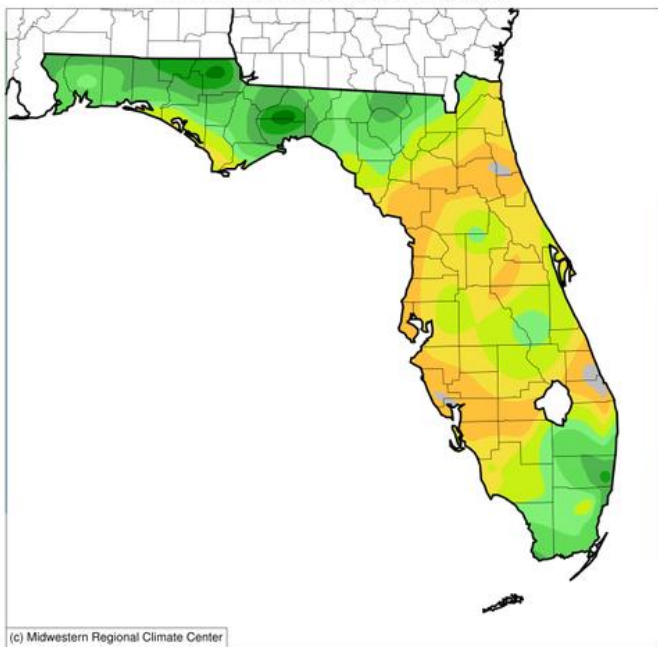
### Soil Moisture for Week Ending 3/18/18

| Topsoil         | This week | Previous week | 5 year avg |
|-----------------|-----------|---------------|------------|
|                 | (percent) | (percent)     | (percent)  |
| Very short..... | 20        | 17            | 5          |
| Short.....      | 35        | 33            | 32         |
| Adequate.....   | 43        | 48            | 57         |
| Surplus.....    | 2         | 2             | 6          |

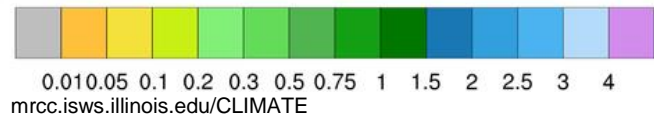
### Condition for Week Ending 3/18/18

| Crop                | Very poor | Poor      | Fair      | Good      | Excellent |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
|                     | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) | (percent) |
| Cattle.....         | 1         | 11        | 34        | 51        | 3         |
| Pasture & range.... | 4         | 34        | 47        | 14        | 1         |

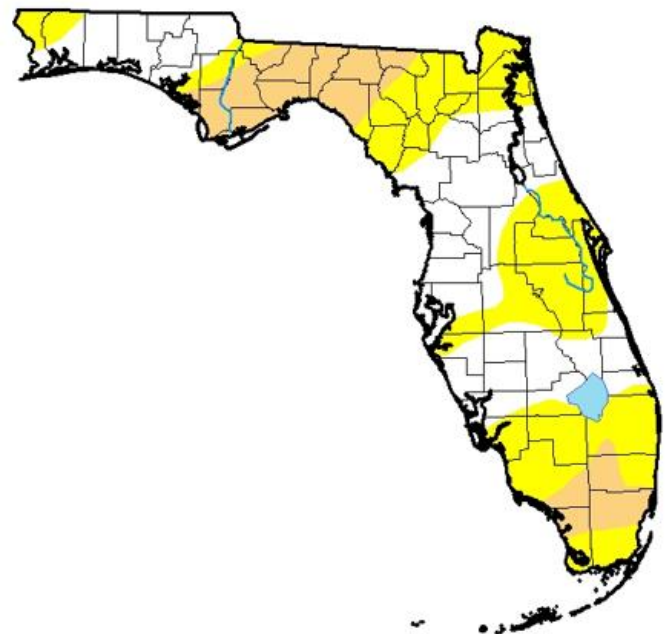
**Accumulated Precipitation (in)**  
March 12, 2018 to March 18, 2018



(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



### U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



Intensity:

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

March 13, 2018 (Released Thursday, March 15, 2018)  
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>