



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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April 23, 2018

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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, April 22, 2018. Precipitation estimates ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 3.0 inches in Islamorada (Monroe County). The average mean temperature ranged from 59.6°F in Jasper (Hamilton County) to 76.2°F in Key West (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were average or above average in the citrus growing region. Most days were in the low to high 80s. A few counties had highs in the 90s on one or two days. The highest temperature was in Labelle (Hendry County) at 94°F. Clermont (Lake County) reached 91°F.

All areas were dry until the weekend. Rainfall over the weekend was less than an inch in all northern, central, western, and Indian River District citrus areas. In the southern area, Ortona (Glades County) had 1.20 inches of rainfall; Labelle (Hendry County) had 1.05 inches. According to the April 19, 2018 U.S. Drought Monitor, all citrus producing counties south of Lake Okeechobee were affected by moderate to severe drought. In the northern, central, and Indian River District citrus areas, moderate drought conditions continued in Orange, Osceola, Brevard, Indian River, St. Lucie, and Martin counties. Several of the remaining citrus producing counties were abnormally dry.

Valencia orange quality saw some improvement. Processing plants and packinghouses were moving roughly two and a half to three million boxes per week. Weekly fresh fruit harvest on Valencia oranges was about two percent of the harvested crop for the past couple of weeks. Plants were scheduling closing dates from the first week to the third week of May.

Next season’s fruit is still mostly small. Orange trees are carrying pea-size to marble-size fruit. Some grapefruit are slightly larger. Ditches and canals are dry in most areas from the lack of rainfall. Trees in well-cared-for and well-

irrigated groves still look good. Grove activities include spraying, hedging, removing brush, and general grove maintenance.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Apr 8, 2018	Apr 15, 2018	Apr 22, 2018	Apr 23, 2017
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Valencia oranges.....	3,016	2,521	*	3,552
White grapefruit.....	0	0	*	10
Red grapefruit	3	1	*	15
Tangerines and Tangelos.....	0	0	*	7
Total	3,019	2,522	*	3,584

*Not available at time of publication
www.citrusadministrativecommittee.org

Fruits and Vegetables

Crops planted included bitter melon, boniato, malanga, and okra. Recently planted tomatoes and green peppers were in good condition. Crops harvested included blueberries, cucumber, eggplant, green beans, herbs, leafy greens, okra, peaches, peppers, squash, sweet corn, tomatoes, and watermelon.

Livestock and Pastures

In St. Lucie County, heavy rainfall on several days caused overflowing drainage ditches and standing water in pastures. In several counties west of Lake Okeechobee, dry conditions continued to affect pasture quality, and livestock producers continued to feed supplements.

Field Crops

Corn planting concluded in Jefferson, Walton, and Dixie counties. Tobacco planting wrapped up in Lafayette County. Peanut planting started in Gilchrist County. Sugarcane harvest neared completion in Collier, Glades, and Hendry counties. Continued rains were problematic for local potato growers. Diseases detected and confirmed in potato fields included both early and late blight.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 4/22/18

Topsoil	This week	Previous week	5 year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	4	5	6
Short.....	29	23	27
Adequate.....	64	66	61
Surplus.....	3	6	6

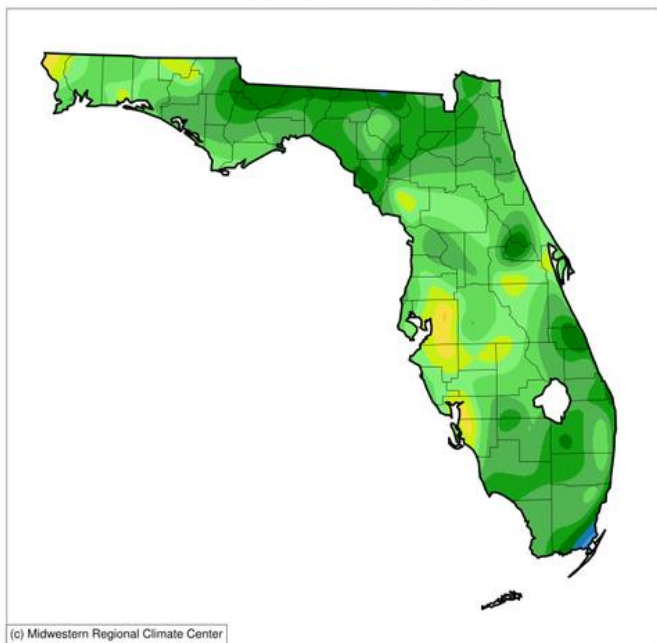
Crop Progress for Week Ending 04/22/18

Crop stage	This week	Prev week	Prev year	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cotton - Planted	1	0	4	NA
Peanuts - Planted.....	12	8	11	6

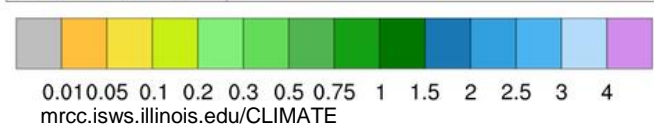
Condition for Week Ending 4/22/18

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle.....	0	4	40	50	6
Pasture & range....	2	14	54	29	1

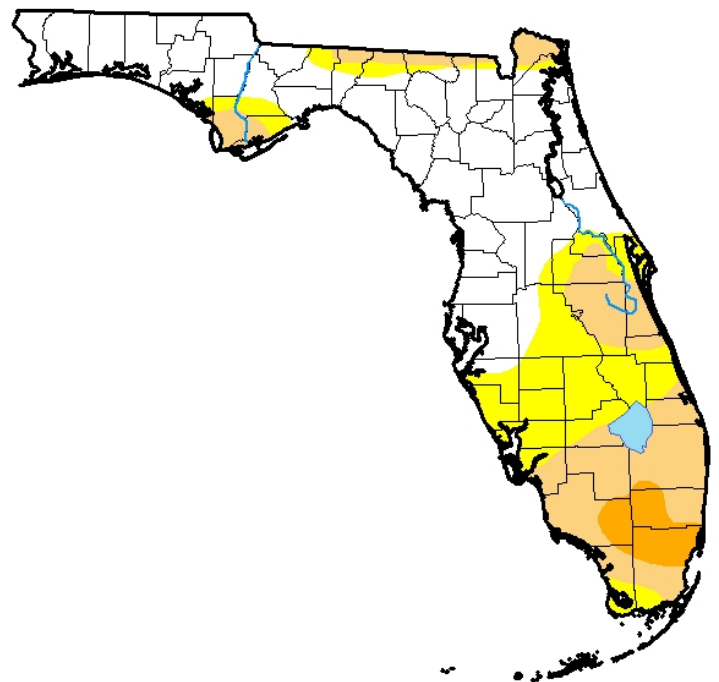
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
April 16, 2018 to April 22, 2018



(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

April 17, 2018 (Released Thursday, April 19, 2018)
<http://droughtmonitor.unl>