



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 · 851 Trafalgar Court Suite 310E · Maitland, FL 32751 · (407) 648-6013
www.nass.usda.gov

March 16, 2020

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, March 15, 2020. Precipitation ranged from no rain in multiple locations to 1.42 inches in Lantana (Palm Beach County). The average mean temperature ranged from 63.0°F in Cross City (Dixie County) to 76.4°F in Key West (Monroe County).

Citrus

The citrus growing region had warmer than average temperatures all week. Over the weekend several counties reached close to record temperatures. The highest reading was in Winter Haven (Polk County) at 90°F. Precipitation was minimal, with most stations reporting less than one-tenth of an inch of rain. According to the March 12, 2020, U.S. Drought Monitor, abnormally dry conditions existed in much of the northern, western, and central citrus areas. The southern area and Indian River district remained drought free.

Early and Midseason orange harvest was nearly over for the season. Valencia orange harvest was ramping up quickly, and has already reached over 2.5 million boxes per week.

Fresh Valencia oranges were being packed, as were red and white grapefruit. Fresh tangerine harvest primarily included Honey, Tango, and Royal varieties. Most other varieties were winding down or are over for the season.

Caretakers were monitoring bloom and spraying fungicides when necessary to prevent postbloom fruit drop (PFD). Other activities included fertilizing, hedging, and topping. Growers and caretakers were irrigating regularly in all areas. Most trees and groves were in bloom, with some already showing small fruitlets.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Feb 23, 2020 (Final)	Mar 1, 2020 (Final)	Mar 8, 2020 (Preliminary)	Mar 10, 2019 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	436	257	1	101
Navel oranges	4	1	1	1
Valencia oranges	331	1,299	2,684	1,471
Red grapefruit	207	213	213	188
White grapefruit	73	59	36	73
Tangerines and Tangelos	54	46	29	64
Total	1,105	1,875	2,964	1,898

Source: Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service Fruit and Vegetable Division

Fruits and Vegetables

Strawberry harvest was ongoing. Early planted watermelons were reaching maturity in the southern peninsula. Multiple varieties of vegetables were being planted and harvested throughout the state. Heavy whitefly pressures continued in tomatoes causing losses due to virus and irregular ripening issues.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle were in good condition throughout the state. Dry conditions were negatively impacting pastures. Producers were supplying water and hay to cattle.

Field Crops

Field preparation for cotton and peanuts started in the Panhandle. Some field corn planting began in the Panhandle and the northern and central peninsula. Sugarcane harvest continued.

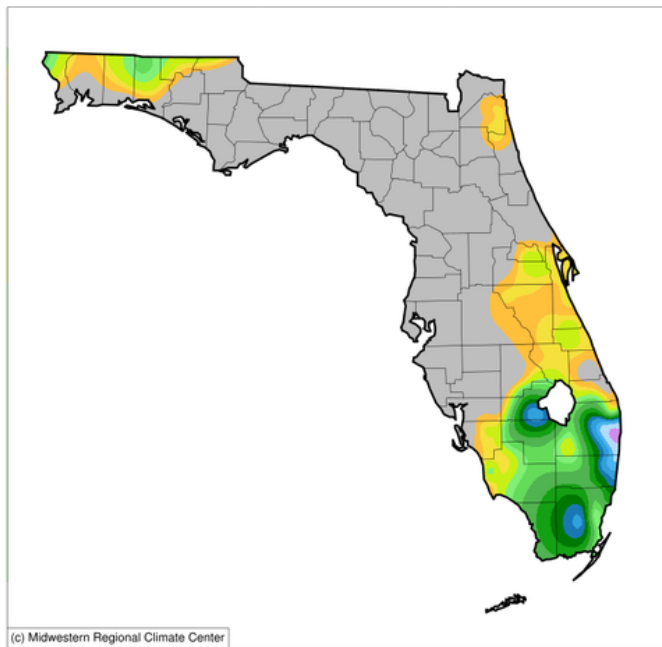
Soil Moisture for Week Ending 03/15/20

Topsoil	This week	Previous week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short.....	1	0
Short.....	37	26
Adequate.....	61	71
Surplus.....	1	3

Condition for Week Ending 03/15/20

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle	1	4	30	55	10
Pasture & range	1	11	51	30	7

Accumulated Precipitation (in)
March 09, 2020 to March 15, 2020

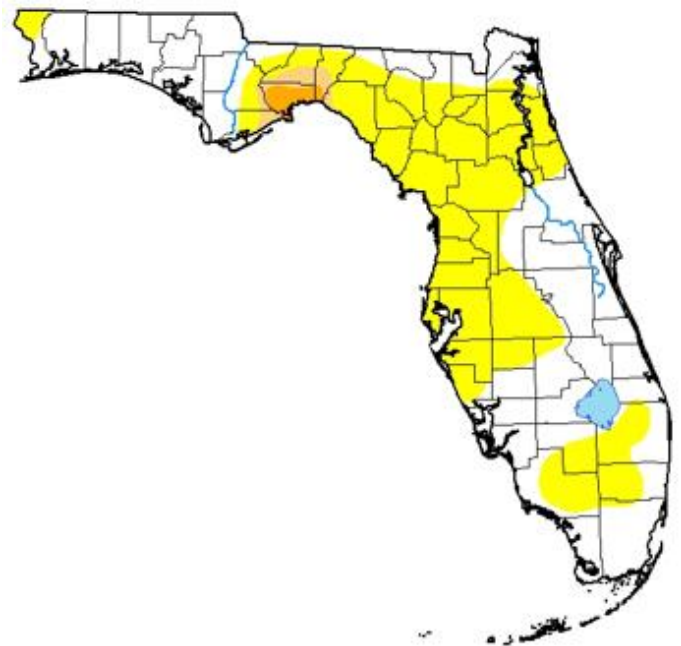


(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



0.01 0.02 0.03 0.05 0.07 0.1 0.15 0.2 0.25 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.75
mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/CLIMATE

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



Intensity

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

March 10, 2020 (Released Thursday, Mar. 12, 2020)
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>