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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This report contains data collected each week from respondents across the state whose occupations provide them opportunities to discuss agricultural production with farmers in their counties as well as to make visual observations. We thank all who have contributed to this report.

April 3, 2023

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.6 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, April 2, 2023. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 4.6 inches at Miami International Airport (Miami-Dade County). The average mean temperature ranged from 64.9°F in Niceville (Okaloosa County) to 81.9°F at Marathon Airport (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures remained above average in the citrus growing region last week, with highs in the mid to high 80's. The hottest readings were recorded in Clermont (Lake County) hitting 89 degrees, followed by Bartow (Polk County), Kenansville (Osceola County), and Sebring (Highlands County), all reaching 88 degrees. The citrus belt received scattered light rainfall in some places during the reporting period. The most rain fell in Sebring (Highlands County), measuring 1.3 inches of precipitation, followed by Lake Placid (Highlands County) reading 0.51 inches, and LaBelle (Glades County) registering 0.4 inches. According to the March 30, 2023, U.S. Drought Monitor, severe drought conditions covered the majority of the citrus growing region, while extreme drought had appeared in the southern reaches of the citrus area.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, fertilizing, spraying herbicides, mowing, topping, hedging, skirting tree canopies, removal of dead trees, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run statewide, while water levels in canals and ditches were very low. Field personnel reported bloom in groves concluding, with the spring flush of vegetative growth well underway and the fruitlets of next year's crop growing nicely.

Packinghouses were shipping red grapefruit and late oranges. Processors were handling Valencia orange packinghouse eliminations and field run fruit.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Mar 12, 2023 (Preliminary)	Mar 19, 2023 (Preliminary)	Mar 26, 2023 (Preliminary)	Mar 27, 2022 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-Oranges……	5	0	0	0
Valencia Oranges	889	1,225	1,198	1,912
Red grapefruit	36	7	2	101
White grapefruit..	20	10	10	15
Tangerines and Tangelos	3	2	6	30
Total	**953**	**1,244**	**1,216**	**2,058**

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

Crops

The southeastern and northwestern regions of the state received significant amounts of rain, while the rest of the state received limited precipitation. Drought conditions continued to worsen across the state, with some areas entering extreme drought conditions. Operators continued to plant field corn where conditions allowed, as well as prepare fields for cotton and peanut planting. Fruit and vegetables that were planted and harvested last week include green beans, tomatoes, sweet corn, peppers, strawberries, watermelon, and avocados. Rice planting was reported to be on schedule, while sugarcane harvest was reported to be slightly behind schedule.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle were reported to be in mostly fair to good condition, while pastures were reported to be in mostly poor to fair condition. Dry weather in some regions of the state impacted pasture greening.

Conditions for Week Ending 4/2/23

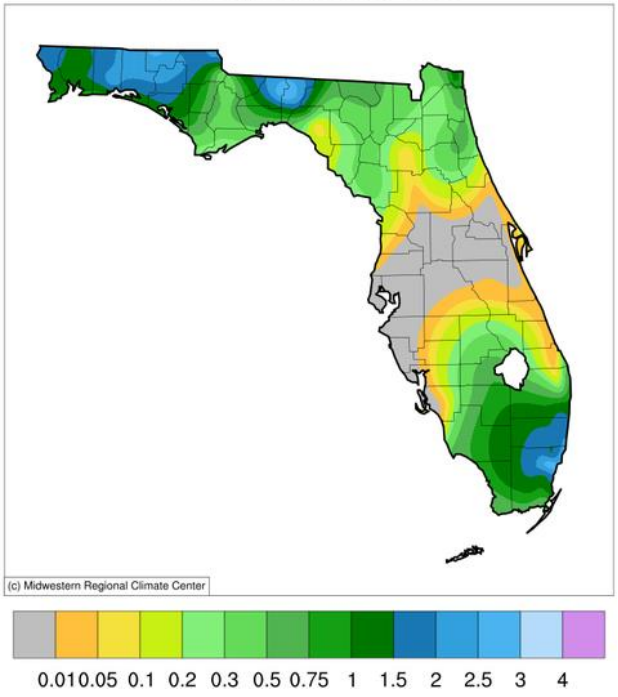
Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle……..	1	13	35	45	6
Pasture & range…	7	33	42	13	5

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 4/2/23

Topsoil	Previous week	This week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short……..	15	15
Short……..	41	33
Adequate……..	44	51
Surplus……..	0	1

Accumulated Precipitation (in)

March 27, 2023 to April 02, 2023



https://mrcc.purdue.edu/CLIMATE/

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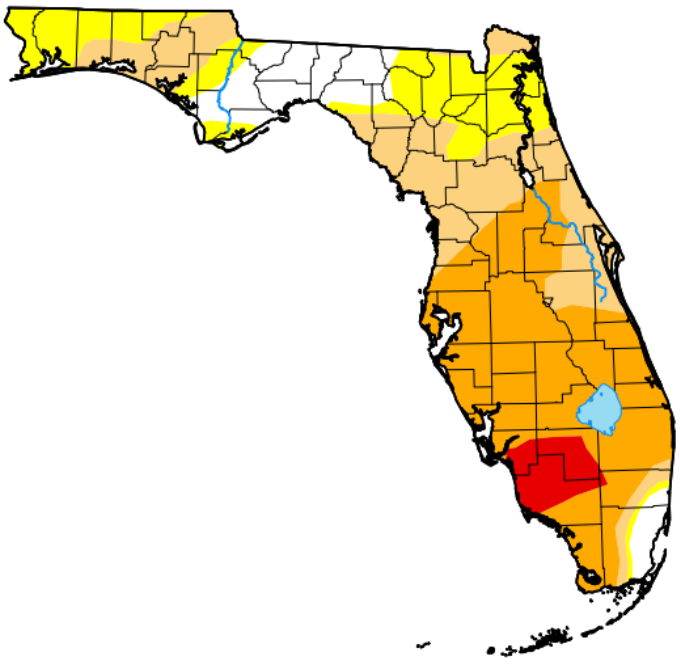
U.S. Drought Monitor

Florida



March 28, 2023

(Released Thursday, Mar. 30, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	11.61	88.39	69.17	43.42	4.51	0.00
Last Week 03-21-2023	11.52	88.48	68.74	18.24	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-27-2022	59.38	40.62	32.33	21.92	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	56.61	43.39	30.80	19.77	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	91.16	8.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 03-29-2022	45.82	54.18	22.62	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

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

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu