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 15, 2024

Media Contact: Mark Hudson

General

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Florida, there were 6.3 days suitable for fieldwork for the week ending Sunday, April 14, 2024. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 7.5 inches at Ocala (Marion County). The average mean temperature ranged from 63.3°F at Niceville (Okaloosa County) to 78.7°F at Bahia Honda State Park (Monroe County).

Citrus

Temperatures were again about average in the citrus growing region last week, with average highs in the low to mid 80's. The warmest average readings were recorded in Sebring (Highlands County), hitting 85 degrees, followed by Clermont (Lake County) reaching 83 degrees, and Winter Haven (Polk County) reading 82 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread light to moderate rainfall during the reporting period associated with the passage of a strong cold front. The most rain fell in Mount Plymouth (Lake County), reporting 0.96 inches of precipitation, followed by Frostproof (Polk County) registering 0.92 inches, and Ruskin (Hillsborough County) measuring 0.70 inches. According to the April 11, 2024, U.S. Drought Monitor, the entirety of the citrus growing region was drought free.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, laying herbicide, fertilizing, mowing, hedging, topping, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, site pollination, bactericide trunk injection, ditch clean-out, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run regularly statewide. Bloom was concluding in groves across the state, with the pea sized fruitlets of next season's crop developing. The spring flush of vegetative growth was subsiding in all areas of citrus cultivation.

Harvest of Valencia oranges for the fresh and processed markets remained steady at nearly a million and a half boxes per week. Harvest of red and white grapefruit, along with late tangerines, was nearly complete. Processing plants were accepting 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 24, 2024 (Preliminary)	Mar 31, 2024 (Preliminary)	Apr 7, 2024 (Preliminary)	Apr 9, 2023 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges	10	0	0	2
Valencia oranges	1,220	1,417	1,414	1,207
Red grapefruit	20	9	0	1
White grapefruit	11	7	4	0
Tangerines and Tangelos	3	7	3	2
Total	**1,264**	**1,440**	**1,421**	**1,212**

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

Crops

The Northern half of the state received moderate to heavy rainfall while the Southern tip of the state received little to no rain. Many counties located in the Northern half of the state experienced some flooding and strong winds which halted field work. Some early transplanted watermelons and strawberry harvest could have been impacted in those areas. For counties in the Southern tip of the state, water levels were low. Many farmers were busy preparing fields for planting cotton and peanuts. Tillage has been limited to strip and minimal impacts have been seen. Rice planting continued while sugarcane and sweet corn harvest continued. Other crops planted and harvested including strawberries, watermelons, peppers, sweet corn, squash, boniato, and tomatoes. Strawberry harvest has come to an end in Hillsborough County.

Livestock and Pastures

Cattle were in mostly good to fair condition while pastures and range were in mostly fair to good condition.

Crop Progress for Week Ending 4/14/24

Crop	Prev year	Prev week	This week	5 Year avg
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Peanuts - Planted…….	9	1	3	8

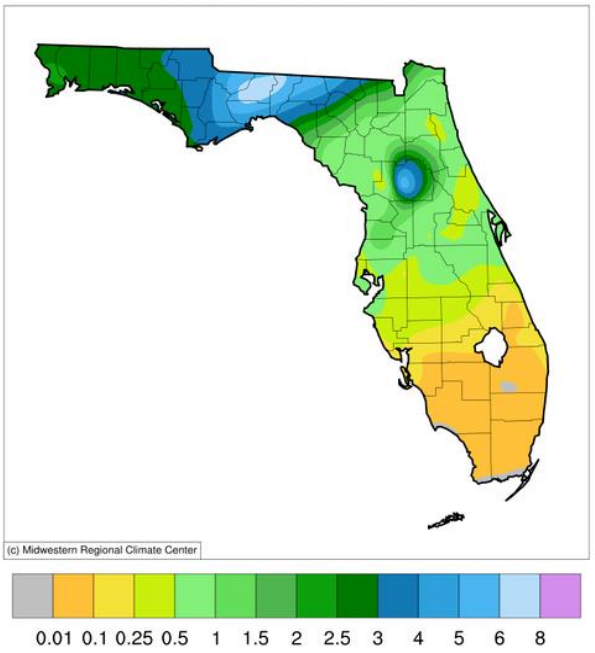
Conditions for Week Ending 4/14/24

Crop	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Cattle…….……..	2	3	29	49	17
Pasture & range…	1	13	44	34	8

Soil Moisture for Week Ending 4/14/24

Topsoil	Previous week	This week
	(percent)	(percent)
Very short……...	2	2
Short…….……	15	16
Adequate……..……..	82	75
Surplus……..……	1	7

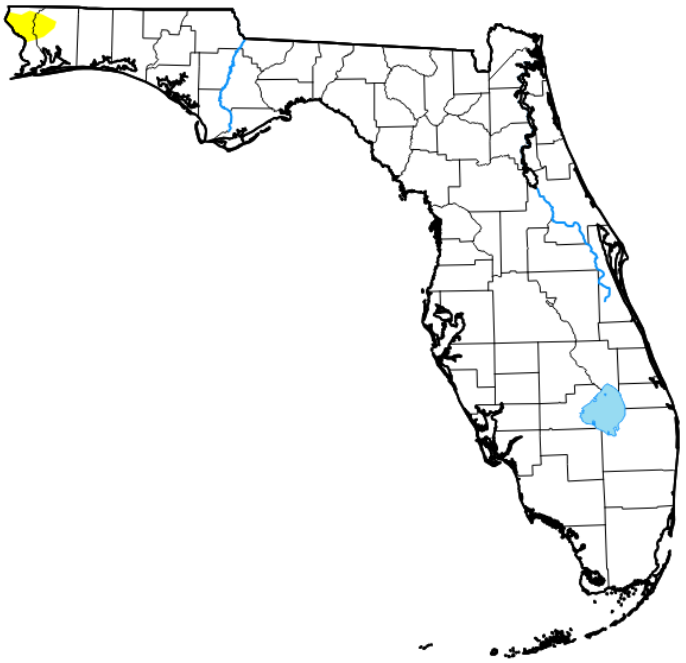
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
April 08, 2024 to April 14, 2024



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

U.S. Drought Monitor

Florida



April 9, 2024
(Released Thursday, Apr. 11, 2024)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	99.14	0.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 04-02-2024	98.61	1.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 01-09-2024	94.19	5.81	2.68	1.27	0.15	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	86.25	13.75	3.86	2.55	1.27	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	69.09	30.91	17.59	9.00	0.81	0.00
One Year Ago 04-11-2023	14.00	86.00	64.82	53.39	0.96	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