



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.

March 20, 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, March 19, 2023. Precipitation for the state ranged from no rain to 3.9 inches in Niceville (Okaloosa County). The average mean temperature ranged from 53.8°F at Crestview Airport (Okaloosa County) to 80.0°F at Key West Naval Air Station (Monroe County).

**Citrus**

Temperatures moderated slightly in the citrus growing region last week, with highs in the high 70’s to the mid 80’s. The hottest readings were recorded in Wauchula (Hardee County) hitting 84 degrees, followed by Sebring (Highlands County) reaching 82 degrees. The citrus belt received widespread but highly variable precipitation with the passage of another cold front during the reporting period. The most rain fell in Polk City (Polk County), measuring 1.9 inches of precipitation, though most weather stations recorded much lower totals. According to the March 16, 2023, U.S. Drought Monitor, moderate drought conditions covered the entire citrus growing region, while the pocket of severe drought in the southern extent of the citrus growing area expanded to cover more grove properties.

Grove operations included spraying pesticides and nutritionals, fertilizing, spraying herbicides, mowing, topping, hedging, removal of dead trees, replanting young trees, and general grove maintenance. Irrigation was being run statewide, while water levels in canals and ditches continued to be low. Field personnel reported bloom in groves across the state giving way to the spring flush of vegetative growth. In most areas, the fruitlets of next year’s crop had appeared.

Packinghouses were shipping red grapefruit and late oranges. Processors were handling Valencia orange packinghouse eliminations along with limited quantities of field run fruit.

**Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested**

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

Crop	For week ending			Previous Year
	Feb 26, 2023 (Preliminary)	Mar 5, 2023 (Preliminary)	Mar 12, 2023 (Preliminary)	Mar 13, 2022 (Actual)
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early and Mid-oranges .....	10	0	0	46
Valencia Oranges	62	619	990	1,083
Red grapefruit ....	70	61	37	141
White grapefruit..	25	24	29	30
Tangerines and Tangelos .....	16	4	2	42
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>708</b>	<b>1,058</b>	<b>1,342</b>

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

**Crops**

The southern region of the state received little rain for the fourth consecutive week, while the central and northern regions of the state received significant precipitation. Temperatures were lower than normal across the state. Operators continued to plant field corn where conditions allowed. Fruit and vegetables that were planted and harvested last week include green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, tomatoes, sweet corn, peppers, strawberries, and avocados. Strawberry harvest was starting to wind down. Rice planting and sugarcane harvest continued to progress well.

**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. Reporters noted that the lack of rain has negatively impacted pastures and created a fire danger.

### Conditions for Week Ending 3/19/23

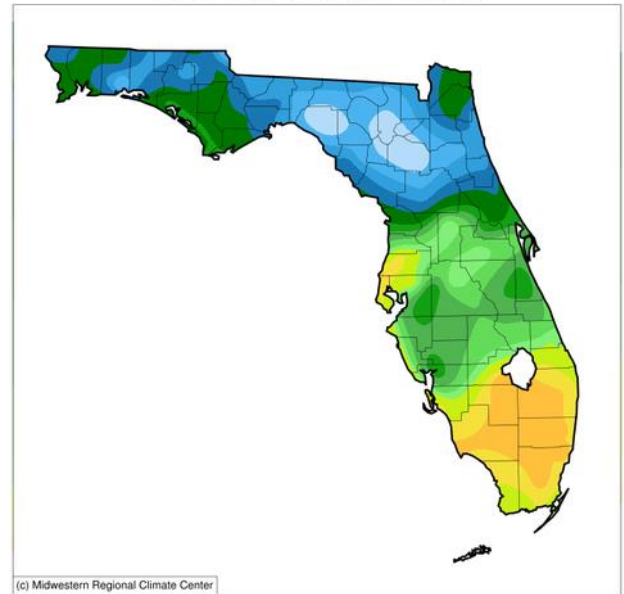
Crop	Very poor (percent)	Poor (percent)	Fair (percent)	Good (percent)	Excellent (percent)
Cattle.....	1	13	35	43	8
Pasture & range...	5	40	35	14	6

### Soil Moisture for Week Ending 3/19/23

Topsoil	Previous week (percent)	This week (percent)
Very short.....	12	10
Short.....	42	31
Adequate.....	45	58
Surplus.....	1	1

### Accumulated Precipitation (in)

March 13, 2023 to March 19, 2023



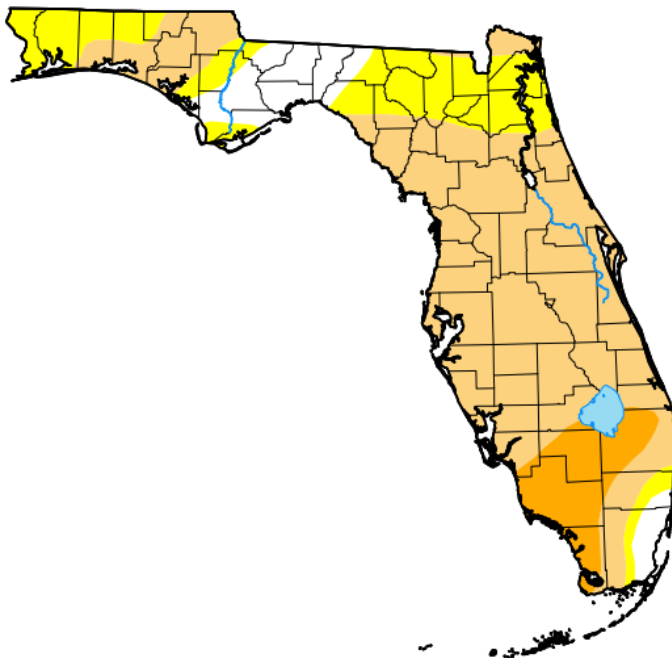
(c) Midwestern Regional Climate Center



0.01 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.5 0.75 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 4

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

## U.S. Drought Monitor Florida



**March 14, 2023**

(Released Thursday, Mar. 16, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

#### Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	9.69	90.31	69.74	9.84	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 03-07-2023	7.06	92.94	80.29	3.90	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 12-13-2022	59.49	40.51	31.98	25.79	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-03-2023	56.61	43.39	30.80	19.77	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-27-2022	91.16	8.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 03-15-2022	36.03	63.97	43.18	0.00	0.00	0.00

#### Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate 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](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)