



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
**FLORIDA CROP PROGRESS &
CONDITION REPORT**



In cooperation with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the UF/IFAS Extension Service
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Week Ending: April 5, 2015

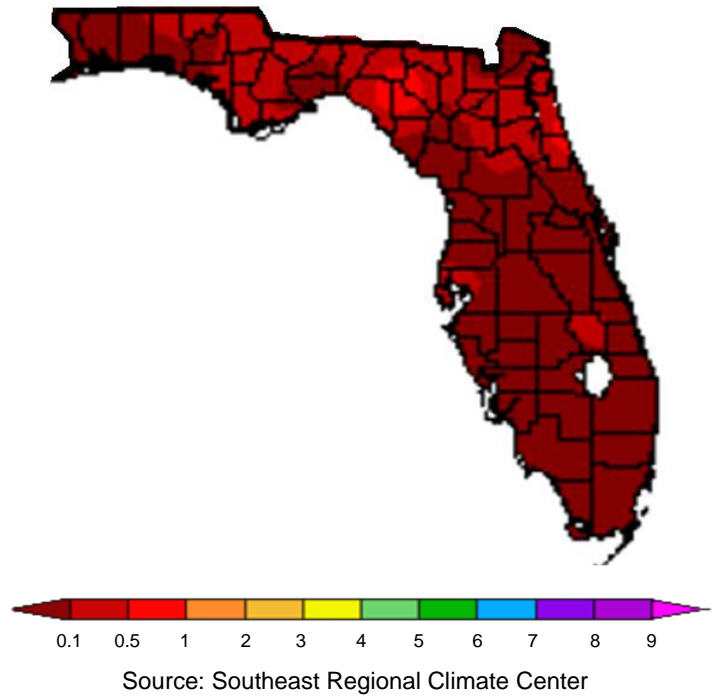
Dry Week Across the State

Weather Summary: According to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall ranged from no rain to 1.03 inches across the State. Putnam Hall (Putnam County) received the most rain with 1.03 inches. Per the U.S. Drought Monitor, Florida was 77 percent drought free this past week. Temperatures ranged from 35 degrees for night time lows to 89 degrees for day time highs, across the State. The highest temperature was 89 degrees in seven locations in the central and southwest areas. The lowest temperature in the State was 35 degrees in Lecanto (Citrus County).

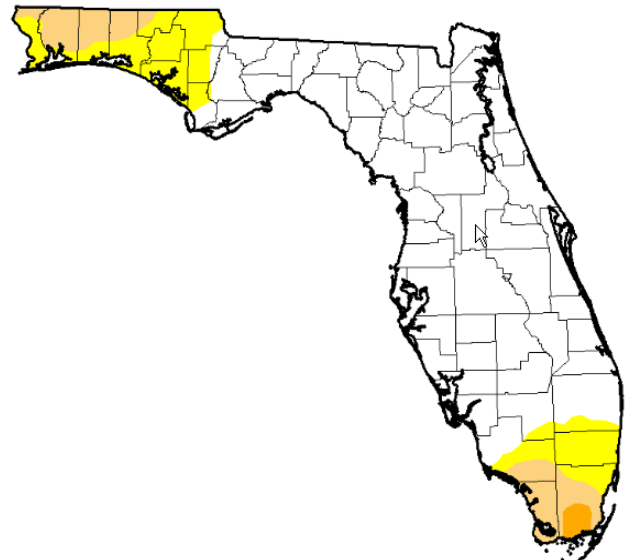
Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Current week	Previous week	Previous year
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	0	0	0
Short	39	18	18
Adequate	58	79	76
Surplus	3	3	6

Precipitation (in)–Florida: Mar. 30-April 5,2015



U.S. Drought Monitor–Florida: March 31, 2015



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Field Crops: There was an average of 6.6 days suitable for field work this past week, up slightly from 6.0 days in the previous week. Planting of corn was finished in Jackson County and continued in Washington, Gilchrist, and Dixie counties. Sugarcane harvest slowed in Glades and Hendry counties.

Fruit and Vegetables: Melons continued to be planted in Jackson, Gulf, and Dixie counties. Melons planted in Leon County were starting to vine. Leon and Bradford counties had tomatoes in the ground. Bradford County farmers were also planting squash and cucumbers and also harvesting strawberries, onions, and finishing up cabbage and greens. Hot, dry conditions required irrigation of vegetable crops in southwest Florida. Peaches and blueberries were harvested in Charlotte County and blueberry harvest proceeded well in Glades County. In Palm Beach County, the warming trend led to an increase in insect activity. Vegetables harvested in Palm Beach County are green and pole beans, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, sweet corn, lettuce, celery, and radishes. Tomatoes, green beans, pole beans, sweet corn,

yellow squash, zucchini, cucumbers, bitter melon, boniato, Malanga, and avocado were being harvested in Miami-Date County.

Livestock and Pastures: Central and southwest Florida pasture quality declined due to hot, dry conditions, growers were irrigating to combat extremely dry conditions. Statewide, the cattle condition was mostly good, while the winter forage and pasture condition was poor to good. Cattle were fed supplemental hay in the southwest.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Current week	Previous week	Current week	Previous week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor	1	1	0	1
Poor	5	6	21	18
Fair	33	30	36	38
Good	55	56	40	40
Excellent	6	7	3	3

Citrus: Daily high temperatures were above average this past week, reaching the mid to upper 80s in all counties across the citrus region. Minimum nighttime and early morning temperatures were in the 40s and 50s. Rainfall was relatively non-existent in the citrus area. Only five citrus producing counties had rainfall, all less than one-tenth of an inch. As per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated March 31, 2015, abnormally dry conditions are in most of Collier County and in the southern portion of Hendry County.

Valencia weekly preliminary utilization is less than last season’s actual utilization by more than one million boxes, primarily due to a lesser processed amount. Colored grapefruit, Valencia oranges, and Honey tangerines were the only varieties being harvested in significant quantities for the fresh market.

Most grove owners were still irrigating two to three times a week; some were applying herbicide, performing irrigation maintenance, and removing brush. Field workers reported various methods of combating greening and controlling psyllid population, including tenting, steam treatment and spraying. Citrus tree bloom is over and petals were turning brown or dropping from the trees. Small pea size fruit and larger is apparent on all varieties.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	March 22, 2015	March 29, 2015	April 5, 2015
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges	22	10	1
Temples	37	26	6
Navel oranges	4	1	1
Valencia	1,503	3,839	3,361
White grapefruit	138	169	273
Colored grapefruit	507	310	221
Tangelos	0	1	0
Honey Tangerines	45	39	21
Total	2,256	4,395	3,884

This report is available, at no cost, on the NASS web site: http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Florida/Subscribe_to_FL_Reports/index.asp. To set-up this free subscription, send e-mail message to listserv@newsbox.usda.gov and in the body, type “*subscribe to Florida crop weather.*” The drought monitor index used in this report originates from the U.S. Drought Monitor website. Visit <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu> maintained by the National Drought Mitigation Center. The precipitation and temperature data used in this report originates from the Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN). Visit <http://fawn.ifas.ufl.edu> maintained by UF/IFAS Information Technologies.