



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: March 1, 2015

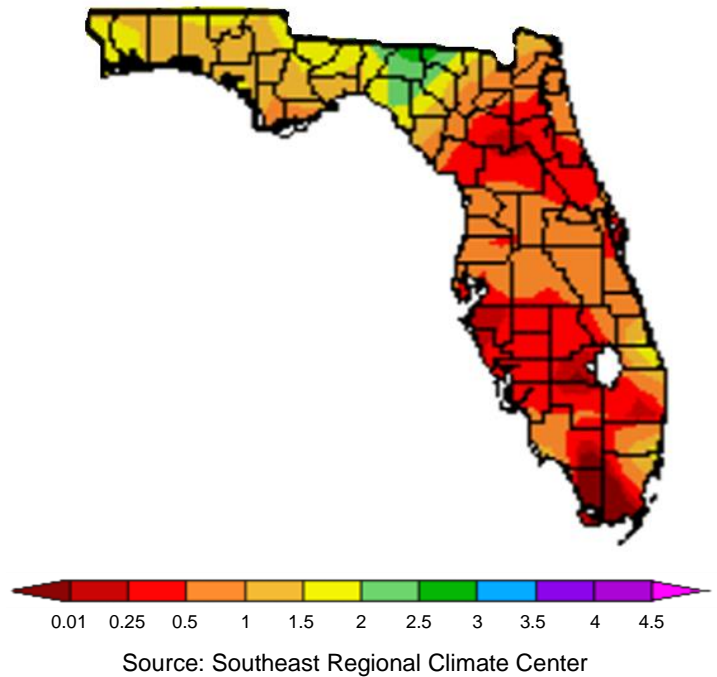
Cold Snap Continues

Weather Summary: According to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall ranged from 0.02 of an inch to 2.65 inches across the State. Lake Alfred (Polk County) received the most rain with 2.65 inches. Per the U.S. Drought Monitor, Florida was 78 percent drought free this past week. Temperatures ranged from 32 degrees for night time lows to 87 degrees for day time highs, across the State. The highest temperature was 87 degrees in Immokalee (Collier County). The lowest temperature in the State was 32 degrees in Jay (Santa Rosa County) and Defuniak Springs (Walton County).

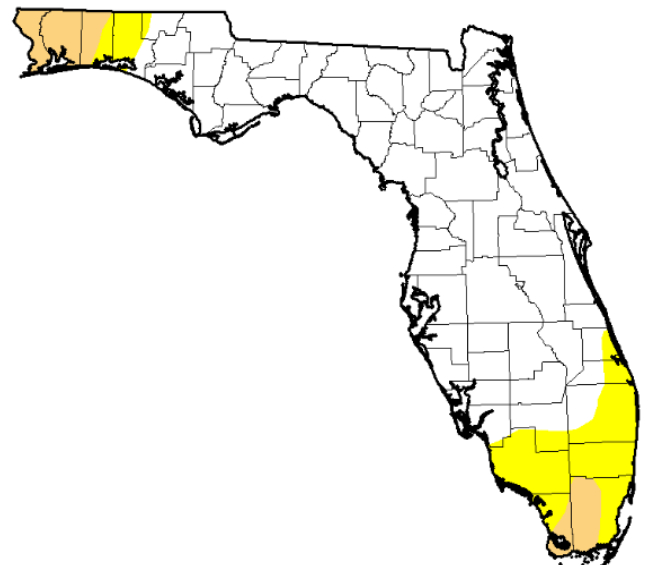
Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Current week	Previous week	Previous year
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	0	0	0
Short	21	25	10
Adequate	74	70	83
Surplus	5	5	7

Precipitation (in)–Florida: Feb 23-March 1, 2015



U.S. Drought Monitor–Florida: Feb. 24, 2015



Intensity:

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

Field Crops: There was an average of 5.7 days suitable for field work this past week, down slightly from the previous week. Cold weather and saturated soil was evident in the Panhandle. Taylor County farmers started harvesting winter grains. Sugarcane harvest continued on schedule in Glades and Hendry counties.

Fruit and Vegetables: Freezing weather caused concern for crops again this past week. Bradford County farmers continued to harvest onions, greens, cabbage, and strawberries. Flagler and Putnam county farmers completed planting potatoes. Potatoes and leafy greens had minimal damage due to frost. Harvesting of cabbage and greens continued. St. Johns County farmers reported potato planting was 99 percent complete. In southwest Florida, growers applied fungicides to protect frost and wind damaged foliage. Cool weather slowed harvesting of many vegetables. Some areas of the State received heavy rains this past week.

Livestock and Pastures: Cold, cloudy weather and saturated soils in parts of the Panhandle, slowed winter pasture growth. Ranchers in Orange and Seminole counties still had a shortage of hay for their cattle. In southwest Florida, livestock producers continued feeding supplements due to poor pasture quality. Statewide, the cattle condition was mostly good, while the winter forage and pasture condition was good to poor.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Current week	Previous week	Current week	Previous week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor	1	1	4	3
Poor	5	4	30	24
Fair	32	33	40	39
Good	58	59	25	33
Excellent	4	3	1	1

Citrus: Minimum temperatures were in the 50s, while highs were back in the 80s this past week. Rainfall was above average in both the central and southern citrus producing areas and lower than average in the Indian River District. Lake Alfred (Polk County) and Sebring (Highlands County) had over two inches of rainfall, while Indian River (Indian River County) and St. Lucie West (St. Lucie County) each had about three-tenths of an inch of rainfall. As per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated February 24, 2015, abnormally dry conditions are still present in Collier County, parts of Hendry County, and in the lower half of the Indian River District.

Several processing plants have finished with early and midseason oranges and are running grapefruit or transitioning to Valencia oranges. Honey tangerines and colored grapefruit are still the primary varieties being harvested for fresh market. A small amount of white grapefruit, midseason oranges, and Valencia oranges are going fresh.

Most grove owners are fertilizing and mowing, and some are hedging and topping after harvest. Field workers across the citrus region have noticed full bloom on all citrus varieties and feathery new growth in well cared for groves. With the freezing temperatures behind us, growers are planting new trees as they have them available.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	Feb 15, 2015	Feb 22, 2015	March 1, 2015
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges	3,483	2,782	1,081
Temples	10	17	40
Navel oranges	4	2	2
Valencia	33	42	58
White grapefruit	117	128	171
Colored grapefruit	426	509	532
Sunburst tangerines	2	3	0
Tangelos	24	13	2
Honey Tangerines	49	61	45
Total	4,148	3,557	1,931

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