



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
2290 Lucien Way, Suite 300, Maitland, FL 32751 · (407) 648-6013 · (855) 271-9801 FAX · www.nass.usda.gov/fl

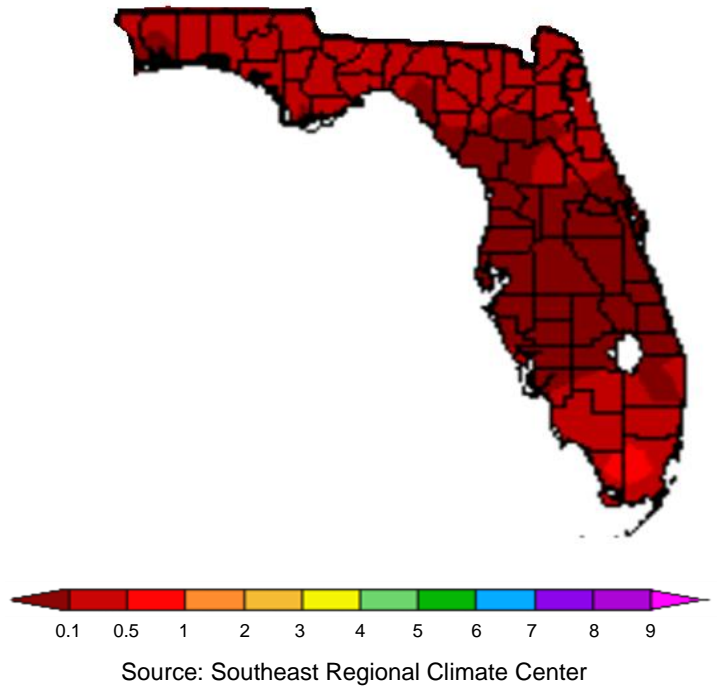
Released: March 9, 2015 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: March 8, 2015

Dry Week

Weather Summary: According to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall ranged from no rain to 1.25 inches across the State. Homestead (Miami-Dade County) received the most rain with 1.25 inches. Per the U.S. Drought Monitor, Florida was 83 percent drought free this past week. Temperatures ranged from 27 degrees for night time lows to 90 degrees for day time highs, across the State. The highest temperature was 90 degrees in Palmdale (Glades County). The lowest temperature in the State was 27 degrees in Jay (Santa Rosa County).

Precipitation (in)–Florida: March 2-8, 2015



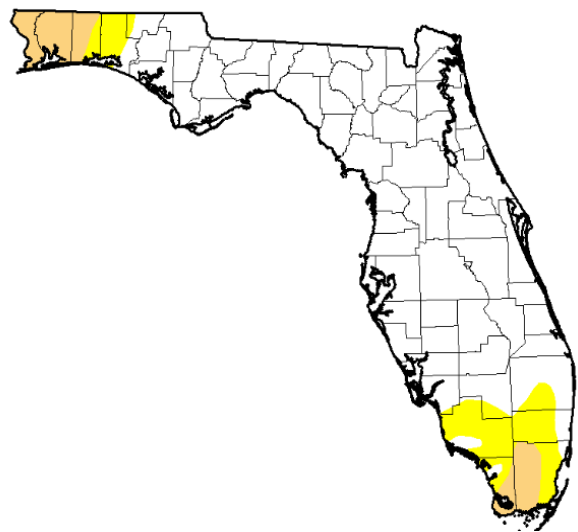
Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Current week	Previous week	Previous year
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	0	0	0
Short	15	21	10
Adequate	81	74	74
Surplus	4	5	16

U.S. Drought Monitor–Florida: March 3, 2015

Field Crops: There was an average of 6.2 days suitable for field work this past week, up slightly from the previous week. Seasonal land preparation continued in the Panhandle and north Florida.

Fruit and Vegetables: Suwannee County farmers started planting watermelons, tomatoes and bell peppers. Gilchrist and Levy county farmers were also putting in watermelon sets. Harvesting of cabbage continued in Flagler and Putnam counties. Strawberries were being harvested in Polk County. In Miami-Dade County, green and pole beans, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, yellow squash, zucchini, sweet corn, boniato, strawberries, malanga, bitter melon, and herbs were being harvested.



Intensity:

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

Livestock and Pastures: Cold weather in north Florida delayed the growth of grass in pastures. Also, in southwest Florida, livestock producers continued feeding supplements due to poor pasture quality. Ranchers are fertilizing pastures to revitalize them. Statewide, the cattle condition was mostly good, while the winter forage and pasture condition was poor to good.

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Current week	Previous week	Current week	Previous week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor	1	1	2	4
Poor.....	5	5	29	30
Fair.....	32	32	42	40
Good.....	58	58	26	25
Excellent.....	4	4	1	1

Citrus: Minimum temperatures were in the 50s, while highs were in the 80s this past week. Rainfall was very light with most counties receiving no rainfall and a couple no more than one-tenth of an inch. As per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated March 3, 2015, abnormally dry conditions were still present in Collier County and the southern edge of Hendry County. All other areas are drought free.

Most processing plants have finished with early and midseason oranges and were running grapefruit or transitioning to late orange harvesting. Valencia harvest was lagging behind last season, partially due to low maturity levels. Honey tangerines and colored grapefruit were still the primary varieties being harvested for fresh market. A small amount of white grapefruit, midseason oranges, Temples, and Valencia oranges were going fresh.

Most grove owners are finishing robust fertilization programs and were irrigating two to three times a week; some were hedging and topping after harvest, applying herbicide, and removing brush. Citrus trees were in full bloom or have begun dropping unpollinated flowers on all varieties.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	Feb 22, 2015	March 1, 2015	March 8, 2015
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges	2,782	1,081	104
Temples	17	40	22
Navel oranges	2	2	1
Valencia	42	58	415
White grapefruit.....	128	171	127
Colored grapefruit.....	509	532	467
Sunburst tangerines	3	0	0
Tangelos	13	2	3
Honey Tangerines	61	45	51
Total	3,557	1,931	1,190

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