



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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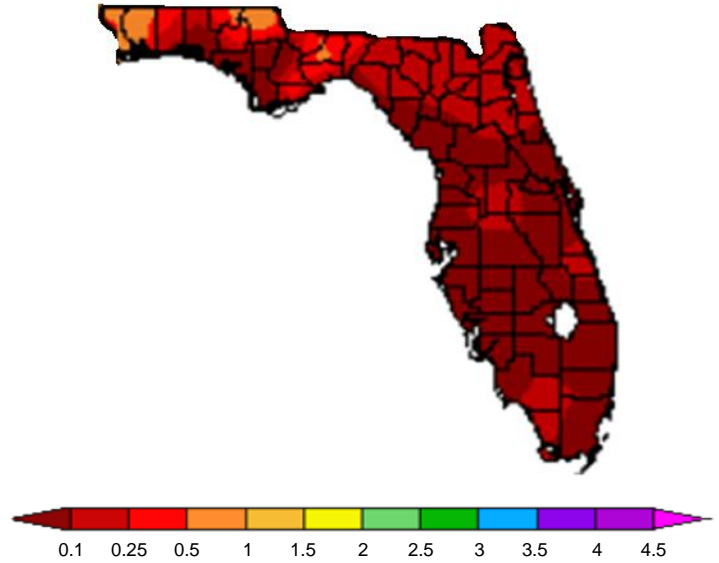
Released: March 23, 2015 (4 PM EST)

Week Ending: March 22, 2015

Another Dry Week

Weather Summary: According to Florida’s Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall ranged from no rain to 1.21 inches across the State. Quincy (Gadsden County) received the most rain with 1.21 inches. Per the U.S. Drought Monitor, Florida was 77 percent drought free this past week. Temperatures ranged from 50 degrees for night time lows to 91 degrees for day time highs, across the State. The highest temperature was 91 degrees in Sebring (Highlands County). The lowest temperature in the State was 50 degrees in Lecanto (Citrus County).

Precipitation (in)–Florida: March 16-22, 2015



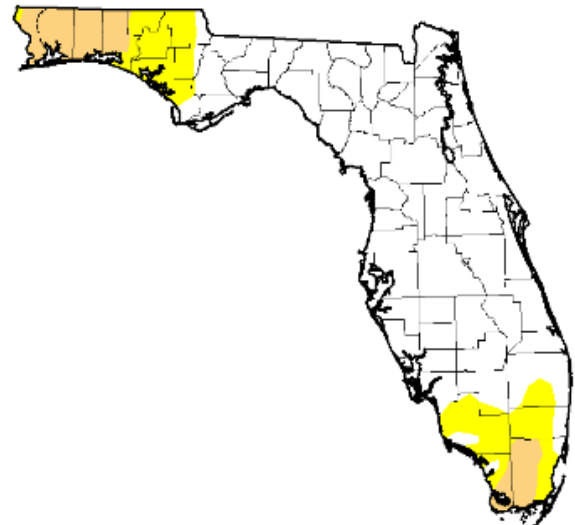
Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Current week	Previous week	Previous year
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	3	0	0
Short	34	21	19
Adequate	60	75	73
Surplus	3	4	8

Field Crops: There was an average of 6.6 days suitable for field work this past week, up slightly from the previous week. Soil preparation continued for cotton and peanuts in Washington County. Sugarcane harvest was slowing down in Highlands and St. Lucie counties while harvesting continues in Palm Beach, Glades, and Hendry counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor–Florida: March 17, 2015



Intensity:

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

Fruit and Vegetables: Melons were being planted in Levy and Dixie counties. Melons planted earlier in Gilchrist County were growing fast. Warm, dry conditions were making it necessary for vegetable growers in southwest Florida to irrigate crops. They were also harvesting a wide range of crops. Peach harvest in Charlotte County and blueberry harvest in Glades County, were underway. In Palm Beach County, green and pole beans, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, sweet corn, lettuce, celery, and radishes were being harvested. Some cabbage fields in St. Lucie County were being harvested.

Livestock and Pastures: Warmer weather, longer days, and scattered rains improved pasture growth in the Panhandle and north Florida. Central and southwest Florida pasture quality declined due to drier conditions. Ranchers in Orange and Seminole counties were out of hay. 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	2
Poor	6	6	24	26
Fair	30	30	36	37
Good	57	59	36	34
Excellent	6	4	2	1

Citrus: Temperatures were well above average this past week in citrus producing counties. Minimum nighttime and early morning temperatures were mostly in the upper 60s, while daily highs in all citrus producing counties were in the 80s to lower 90s all week. Rainfall was very light across the citrus producing region. Only Avalon (Orange County) received significant rainfall at 0.42 inches. As per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated March 17, 2015, abnormally dry conditions were still present in Collier County and the southern edge of Hendry County. All other areas were drought free.

Harvest of early and midseason oranges was all but over. Valencia harvest was increasing, but weekly totals were still behind last seasons. Colored grapefruit, Valencia oranges, and Honey tangerines were the only varieties being harvested in significant quantities for the fresh market.

Most grove owners were irrigating two to three times a week; some were applying herbicide, performing irrigation maintenance, and removing brush. Citrus trees were in full bloom and have begun petal drop on all varieties. Small pea size fruit is apparent on early variety citrus trees.

Citrus Estimated Boxes Harvested

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

Crop	For week ending:		
	March 8, 2015	March 15, 2015	March 22, 2015
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges	104	115	22
Temples	22	33	37
Navel oranges	1	3	4
Valencia	415	776	1,503
White grapefruit	127	83	138
Colored grapefruit	467	518	507
Tangelos	3	1	0
Honey Tangerines	51	61	45
Total	1,190	1,590	2,256

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