Released: March 30, 2015 (4 PM EST)   Week Ending: March 29, 2015
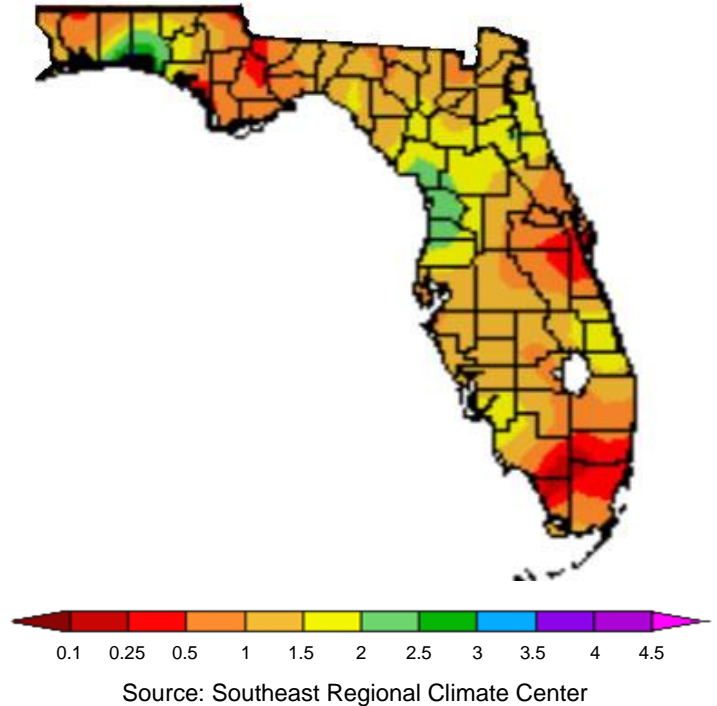
Field crops being planted, dry in southwest

Weather Summary: According to Florida's Automated Weather Network (FAWN), rainfall ranged from no rain to 2.28 inches across the State. Putnam Hall (Putnam County) received the most rain with 2.28 inches. Per the U.S. Drought Monitor, Florida was 67 percent drought free this past week. Temperatures ranged from 37 degrees for night time lows to 91 degrees for day time highs, across the State. The highest temperature was 91 degrees in Fort Lauderdale (Broward County) and Clewiston (Hendry County). The lowest temperature in the State was 37 degrees in Lecanto (Citrus County), Monticello (Jefferson County), and De Funiak Springs (Walton County).
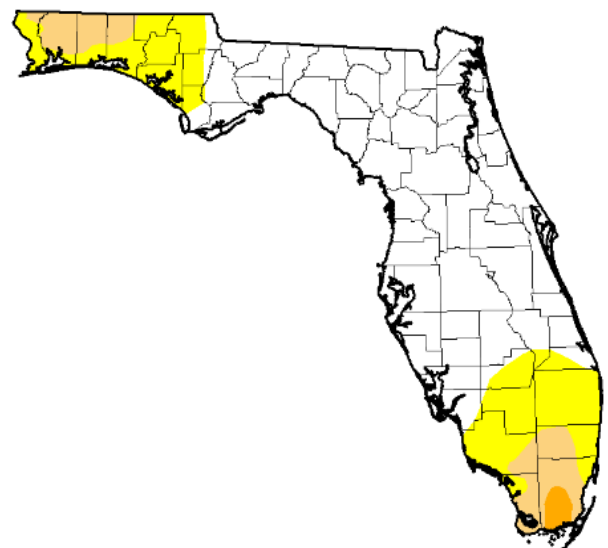
Soil Moisture Ratings

Moisture Rating	Topsoil		
	Current week	Previous week	Previous year
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very short	0	3	0
Short........................	18	34	18
Adequate	79	60	73
Surplus	3	3	9

Field Crops: There was an average of 6.0 days suitable for field work this past week, down from 6.6 days in the previous week. Corn planting was delayed in Escambia County due to significant rainfall. Farmers were preparing fields for cotton and peanuts in Jackson County. Tobacco was being planted in Suwannee County. Some field burning was done in Dixie County in preparation for planting peanuts. Sugarcane harvest slowed in Highlands and St. Lucie counties while harvesting continues in Palm Beach, Glades, and Hendry counties.

Fruit and Vegetables: Melons were being planted in Jackson, Levy and Dixie counties with planting complete in Flagler, Levy and Putnam counties. Melons planted earlier in Gilchrist County were growing well. Warm, dry conditions necessitated irrigation of vegetable crops in southwest Florida. Peaches were being harvest in Charlotte County and blueberries in Glades County. In Palm Beach County, green and pole beans, tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, sweet corn, lettuce,

Precipitation (in)–Florida: March 23-29, 2015

| 0.1 | 0.25 | 0.5 | 1 | 1.5 | 2 | 2.5 | 3 | 3.5 | 4 | 4.5 |

Source: Southeast Regional Climate Center

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

Intensity:

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

celery, and radishes were being harvested. Some cabbage in St. Lucie County was being harvested. Yield and size of vegetables is down in the southwest counties. Tomatoes, sweet potatoes and cabbage was being harvested in Miami-Date County. The squash crop was maturing.

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. Statewide, the cattle condition was mostly good, while the winter forage and pasture condition was poor to good. Cattle were being fed supplemental hay in the southwest. Calving season was in full swing in Duval County. Goat raisers were conducting parasite control in Duval County

Cattle and Pasture Condition

Condition	Cattle		Pasture	
	Current week	Previous week	Current week	Previous week
	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)	(percent)
Very poor	1	1	1	2
Poor	6	6	18	24
Fair	30	30	38	36
Good	56	57	40	36
Excellent	7	6	3	2

Citrus: Daily high temperatures were above average this past week, reaching the upper 80s to lower 90s across the citrus region. Minimum nighttime and early morning temperatures were in the 40s. Much needed rain fell in all citrus producing counties. The most fell in the western and southern citrus production areas. Arcadia (Desoto County) had 1.78 inches, while Joshua (Desoto County) and Immokalee (Collier County) both had 1.58 inches of rainfall. As per the U.S. Drought Monitor, last updated March 23, 2015, abnormally dry conditions are covering Collier County, Hendry County, most of Glades County and have moved into the southern portions of Okeechobee and Martin County.

Valencia harvest was continuing to increase 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. Field workers were reporting various methods of combating greening and controlling psyllid population, including tenting, steam treatment and spraying. Citrus trees were in full bloom and have begun petal drop. 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 15, 2015	March 22, 2015	March 29, 2015
	(boxes)	(boxes)	(boxes)
Early & mid oranges	65	22	10
Temples	38	37	26
Navel oranges	2	4	1
Valencia	426	1,503	3,839
White grapefruit	114	138	169
Colored grapefruit	537	507	210
Tangelos	1	0	1
Honey Tangerines	58	45	39
Total	1,241	2,256	4,395