



A Look at *Florida* Agriculture

Capital: Tallahassee

Population: 19,552,860

Founded: March 3, 1845 (27th)

State Bird: Mockingbird

State Tree: Sabal Palmetto

State Flower: Orange Blossom

Number of Counties: 67

Largest City: Jacksonville - 840,000

Nickname: Sunshine State

Number of Farms: 47,500

Average Farm Size: 195 acres

Total Farmland: 9.25 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- The climate of Florida is very mild.
- The temperatures across the state average in the low 80's with moderate humidity.
- The growing season ranges from 100-200 days or longer.
- Florida has the highest average precipitation of any state. Central Florida is known as the lightning capital of the United States.
- Myakka fine sand soil is unique to Florida. This soil is recognized as the state soil because it occurs in 1.5 million acres of flatwoods, making it the single most extensive soil in the state.

Crops & Livestock

- Florida produces 65% of the annual US production of citrus. About 95% of commercial orange production in the state is destined for processing, mostly as orange juice.
- Greenhouse and nursery products are Florida's top leading crops financially yielding \$1.79 billion.
- Florida ranks 2nd in US production of fresh vegetables and provides 80% of the fresh vegetables consumed in the US during January, February, and March each year.
- Florida ranks 4th in the Southeast and 12th nationally in the production of beef calves.
- Florida is consistently ranked in the top 12 states in fresh seafood production.
- The top 5 agricultural commodities in 2008 were: greenhouse/nursery products, oranges, tomatoes, dairy products, and sugarcane.
- Florida Thoroughbred industry has produced 41 North American champions. 18 breeders cup winners and a Triple Crown-winner.

General

- Florida ranks 9th nationally for total agricultural sales in the United States.
- 10 million acres used for farmland.
- The second largest industry in the state is agriculture. Tourism is the largest industry within the state.