



FLORIDA KEYS

National Weather Service

Forecast Office

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RECORD TO NEAR RECORD WARMTH THROUGHOUT THE KEYS DURING APRIL WARMEST APRIL ON RECORD AT MARATHON SECOND DRIEST FEBRUARY THROUGH APRIL AT KEY WEST

PERSISTENTLY DRY CONDITIONS COMBINED WITH RECORD TO NEAR RECORD WARMTH TO WORSEN DROUGHT CONDITIONS THROUGHOUT THE FLORIDA KEYS ISLAND CHAIN DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL. THE DAILY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT BOTH THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT WAS ABOVE NORMAL FOR EVERY SINGLE DAY IN APRIL. THE MONTHLY MEAN TEMPERATURE AT THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT WAS 81.3 DEGREES, OR 5.2 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL FOR APRIL. MARATHON EXPERIENCED ITS WARMEST APRIL SINCE RECORDS BEGAN IN 1982. THE MONTHLY MEAN TEMPERATURE AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WAS 80.2 DEGREES, OR 3.2 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL FOR APRIL. THIS VALUE TIES WITH 1965 AS THE FOURTH WARMEST APRIL ON RECORD. THE WARMEST APRIL ON RECORD AT KEY WEST OCCURRED IN 1982, WHEN THE MONTHLY MEAN TEMPERATURE WAS 80.8 DEGREES. TEMPERATURE RECORDS AT KEY WEST DATE BACK TO 1873.

DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURES THROUGHOUT THE FLORIDA KEYS WERE REMARKABLY WARM DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL. THE AVERAGE LOW TEMPERATURE AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL WAS 76.1 DEGREES, OR 4 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL. THIS WARMTH AT KEY WEST WAS ONLY ECLIPSED BY THE AVERAGE LOW TEMPERATURE DURING APRIL 1982, WHICH WAS 76.5 DEGREES. FOUR DAILY RECORD WARM MINIMUM TEMPERATURE RECORDS WERE BROKEN OR TIED AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DURING APRIL. THE AVERAGE MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM TEMPERATURES FOR APRIL 2011 AT MARATHON WERE THE WARMEST MEASURED SINCE RECORDS BEGAN IN 1982.

ALTHOUGH APRIL IS NORMALLY ONE OF THE DRIEST MONTHS OF THE YEAR, RAINFALL TOTALS THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND CHAIN WERE STILL ABNORMALLY LOW. ONE THIRD OF AN INCH OF RAIN FELL AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, WHICH TIES FOR THE 25TH DRIEST APRIL ON RECORD. THIS WAS 1.73 INCHES BELOW NORMAL FOR THE MONTH. PALTRY RAINFALL TOTALS SINCE THE LATE WINTER MONTHS HAVE PROMOTED THE EXPANSION OF DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN THE KEYS. ONLY 0.61 INCHES OF RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DURING THE MONTHS OF FEBRUARY, MARCH, AND APRIL, WHICH IS 4.82 INCHES BELOW NORMAL FOR THIS COMBINED THREE MONTH PERIOD. KEY WEST EXPERIENCED ITS SECOND DRIEST COMBINED FEBRUARY, MARCH, AND APRIL ON RECORD. THE RECORD DRIEST FEBRUARY THROUGH APRIL ON RECORD OCCURRED IN 1871, WHEN ONLY 0.49 INCHES FELL DURING THIS THREE MONTH SPAN AT KEY WEST. RAINFALL RECORDS AT KEY WEST DATE BACK TO 1871.

ONE HALF INCH OF RAINFALL WAS MEASURED AT THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT DURING THE MONTH OF APRIL. THIS WAS 1.10 INCHES BELOW NORMAL FOR THE MONTH. APRIL 2011 WAS THE SEVENTH DRIEST ON RECORD AT MARATHON. HOWEVER, ONLY 1.47 INCHES OF RAINFALL WAS RECORDED AT THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT DURING THE MONTHS OF FEBRUARY, MARCH, AND APRIL, WHICH IS 4.43 INCHES BELOW NORMAL FOR THIS COMBINED THREE MONTH PERIOD. THIS IS THE DRIEST COMBINED FEBRUARY, MARCH, AND APRIL ON RECORD AT MARATHON SINCE RECORDS BEGAN IN 1982.

BELOW ARE PRELIMINARY RAINFALL TOTALS FOR APRIL ALONG THE KEYS ISLAND CHAIN...COMPARING 2011 TO 2010 AND THE DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL VALUES WHERE AVAILABLE.

APRIL 2011 RAINFALL TOTALS/DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL/2010 IN INCHES

Station – Station Type	Apr. 2011	Dep. fm Normal	Apr. 2010	Dep. fm 2010
Dry Tortugas National Park – <i>COOP</i>	0.55		0.67	-0.12
Key West WFO – <i>NWS</i>	0.60	-1.46	0.86	-0.26
Key West International Airport – <i>Automated</i>	0.33	-1.73	0.62	-0.29
Big Coppitt Key – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	1.17		1.78	-0.61
Cudjoe Key – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	0.34		0.85	-0.51
Cudjoe Key – <i>Citizen Observer</i>	0.55		1.87	-1.32
Bahia Honda State Park – <i>COOP</i>	0.13		2.65	-2.52
Florida Keys Marathon Airport – <i>Automated</i>	0.50	-1.10	4.35	-3.85
Curry Hammock State Park – <i>COOP</i>	0.90	-0.70	2.83	-1.93
Duck Key – <i>COOP</i>	1.16	-0.44	N/A	N/A
Islamorada – <i>COOP</i>	1.98		10.16	-8.18
Islamorada – <i>CoCoRaHS</i>	0.83		2.69	-1.86
John Pennekamp State Park – <i>COOP</i>	0.10		7.65	-7.55

NORMAL VALUES FOR KEY WEST LOCATIONS ARE THE AVERAGE OF 1979-2000 AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. NORMAL VALUES FOR THE MARATHON AREA, INCLUDING CURRY HAMMOCK STATE PARK, ARE THE AVERAGE SPANNING 1982-2004 AT DUCK KEY. RECORDS ARE NOT YET TRACKED AT THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT DUE TO THE SHORT PERIOD OF AUTOMATED DATA.