



FLORIDA KEYS

National Weather Service

Forecast Office

<http://www.weather.gov/keywest>

ISSUED: 8:10 PM EDT SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2011

DRIEST FEBRUARY THROUGH MAY AT KEY WEST AND MARATHON SECOND WARMEST APRIL AND MAY AT KEY WEST SECOND WARMEST MAY AT MARATHON

DROUGHT CONDITIONS CONTINUED TO WORSEN THROUGHOUT THE FLORIDA KEYS DURING MAY AS RAINFALL TOTALS FOR THE MONTH REMAINED WELL BELOW NORMAL AND TEMPERATURES AVERAGED WARMER THAN NORMAL. ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL DROUGHT MONITOR, EXTREME DROUGHT CONDITIONS EXPANDED INTO THE UPPER KEYS TOWARDS THE END OF MAY. OBJECTIVE INDICATORS OF THE DROUGHT MONITOR DEPICTED EXCEPTIONAL SHORT TERM DROUGHT CONDITIONS THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND CHAIN AS MAY CONCLUDED.

ONLY 0.61 INCHES OF RAINFALL WAS MEASURED AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT DURING MAY, LARGELY THANKS TO A BENEFICIAL DOWNPOUR THAT TOTALLED 0.47 INCHES ON MAY 31ST. KEY WEST EXPERIENCED ITS DRIEST COMBINED FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL, AND MAY ON RECORD, AS ONLY 1.22 INCHES WAS MEASURED DURING THIS 120-DAY STRETCH. THE PRIOR DRIEST FEBRUARY THROUGH MAY AT KEY WEST OCCURRED IN 1945, WHEN 1.31 INCHES FELL. IN ADDITION, 133 CONSECUTIVE DAYS ELAPSED BETWEEN A SINGLE DAILY RAINFALL TOTAL OF GREATER THAN 0.30 INCHES AT KEY WEST BEFORE THE DOWNPOUR ON MAY 31ST. THIS IS THE SECOND LONGEST SUCH STRETCH IN KEY WEST HISTORY. THE PRIOR LONGEST STRETCH OF CONSECUTIVE DAYS WITH RAINFALL TOTALS OF LESS THAN 0.30 INCHES AT KEY WEST WAS 194 DAYS, WHICH OCCURRED BETWEEN NOVEMBER 1906 AND MAY 1907. RAINFALL RECORDS AT KEY WEST DATE BACK TO 1871.

AT THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT, ONLY 0.33 INCHES OF RAINFALL FELL DURING MAY. THIS IS THE SECOND DRIEST MAY ON RECORD IN THE MIDDLE KEYS. THE PRIOR DRIEST MAY IN THE MIDDLE KEYS OCCURRED IN 1989, WHEN ONLY A TRACE OF RAIN WAS RECORDED AT THE COOPERATIVE OBSERVATION STATION AT DUCK KEY. MARATHON ALSO EXPERIENCED ITS DRIEST FEBRUARY THROUGH MAY ON RECORD, AS ONLY 1.80 INCHES WAS MEASURED DURING THIS 120-DAY STRETCH. THE PRIOR DRIEST COMBINED FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL, AND MAY AT MARATHON OCCURRED IN 2006, WHEN 3.74 INCHES OF RAIN FELL. RAINFALL RECORDS FOR THE MIDDLE KEYS ONLY DATE BACK TO 1982.

THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE FOR THE MONTH OF MAY AT THE KEY WEST INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WAS 81.9 DEGREES, OR 1.9 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL. MAY 2011 TIED FOR THE 11TH WARMEST MAY ON RECORD AT KEY WEST. NO TEMPERATURE RECORDS WERE ESTABLISHED DURING THE MONTH AT KEY WEST. COMBINED WITH NEAR RECORD WARMTH DURING APRIL, KEY

WEST EXPERIENCED ITS SECOND WARMEST APRIL THROUGH MAY ON RECORD, WITH AN AVERAGE TEMPERATURE DURING THIS 61-DAY SPAN OF 81.1 DEGREES. THE WARMEST APRIL THROUGH MAY ON RECORD AT KEY WEST OCCURRED IN 1991, WHEN THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE WAS 81.3 DEGREES. TEMPERATURE RECORDS AT KEY WEST DATE BACK TO 1873.

THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE AT THE FLORIDA KEYS MARATHON AIRPORT DURING THE MONTH OF MAY WAS 83.3 DEGREES, OR 3.4 DEGREES ABOVE AVERAGE. MAY 2011 TIED FOR THE SECOND WARMEST ON RECORD AT MARATHON. THE WARMEST MAY ON RECORD AT MARATHON OCCURRED IN 2003, WHEN THE AVERAGE TEMPERATURE WAS 84.1 DEGREES. COMBINED WITH RECORD WARMTH DURING APRIL, MARATHON ESTABLISHED THEIR WARMEST APRIL THROUGH MAY ON RECORD, WITH AN AVERAGE TEMPERATURE OF 82.4 DEGREES DURING THIS 61-DAY SPAN. TEMPERATURE RECORDS FOR THE MIDDLE KEYS ONLY DATE BACK TO 1982.

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

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

Station – Station Type	May 2011	Dep. from Normal	May 2010	Dep. from May 2010
Dry Tortugas National Park – COOP	1.35		0.10	+1.25
Key West WFO – NWS	1.11	-2.37	1.05	+0.06
Key West International Airport – Automated	0.61	-2.87	0.49	+0.12
Big Coppitt Key – CoCoRaHS	0.18		0.36	-0.18
Cudjoe Key – CoCoRaHS	0.48		1.68	-1.20
Bahia Honda State Park – COOP	0.18	-3.02	1.78	-1.60
Florida Keys Marathon Airport – Automated	0.33	-2.87	0.47	-0.14
Curry Hammock State Park – COOP	0.47	-2.73	0.89	-0.42
Islamorada – COOP	0.54		0.60	-0.06
Islamorada – CoCoRaHS	2.16		0.58	+1.58
John Pennekamp State Park – COOP	1.07		0.59	+0.48
Key Largo – CoCoRaHS	0.77		0.79	-0.02

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.