



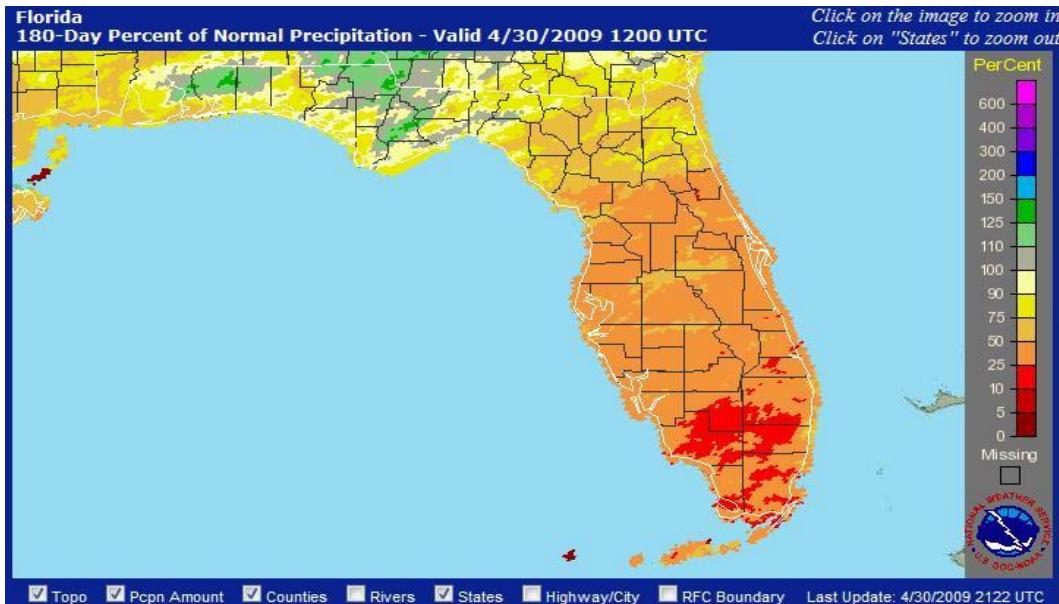
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## November 2008 to April 2009 Second Driest Dry Season on Record

After parts of south Florida recorded a record-dry winter, a continuation of drier than normal conditions dominated the months of March and April. This has resulted in the second driest period from November 2008 through April 2009 over most of the region. Only 1970-1971 saw a drier November through April period. The graphic below illustrates the percent of normal precipitation during this period:



Most of south Florida recorded less than half of the normal precipitation (orange color) from November through April, with many interior and western areas of

south Florida recording less than 25% (red color) of the normal precipitation. Only isolated parts of northern metro Broward County and southern metro Palm Beach County received any appreciable rainfall during the dry season (yellow color), mostly coming during a single heavy rain event in mid-March.

Following are specific rainfall amounts and departure from normal, in inches, for several south Florida locations:

Site	Nov 08-Apr 09 Rainfall	Departure from Normal
Miami	4.66	- 10.82
Miami Beach	6.91	-7.66
Fort Lauderdale	4.74	-14.83
West Palm Beach	6.79	-15.45
Naples	2.31	-9.46
Immokalee	2.32	-10.41
Moore Haven	3.75	-10.78
Belle Glade	2.74	-11.10

A contributing factor to the near-record dry conditions this dry season is the presence of [La Niña](#), which is a periodic cooling of sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. La Niña influences global weather patterns, and is typically associated with drier than normal precipitation over south Florida. This is mainly due to the jet stream and associated storm tracks staying farther north during La Niña winters. This weather pattern often leads to a lack of moisture and atmospheric dynamics necessary to produce rainfall, resulting in mostly dry frontal passages.

When will south Florida see a return to wet weather? The start of the south Florida rainy season typically occurs between May 20 and May 27, when a combination of warmer temperatures and increasing atmospheric moisture leads to near-daily rainfall which lasts into October. Unfortunately, the last few weeks of the dry season are often significant as there is a lag between the warmer early May temperatures and the increase in moisture that marks the start of the rainy season in late May. Therefore, dry conditions are accentuated during early and mid May and can lead to extreme fire danger levels and decreasing water levels.

For further information on the rainy season outlook, see the [recent release issued by the National Weather Service Miami Forecast Office](#). For day-to-day weather forecasts, statements and warnings, visit our web site at [weather.gov/Miami](#).