

Rain, Glorious Rain for the RGV!

First Significant Area-Wide Wetting since Mid-November 2022

A series of upper level disturbances combined with ample moisture to provide a 24-hour period of showers and embedded thunderstorms across the Lower Rio Grande Valley from around 7 AM on March 28th through 7 AM on March 29th, 2023. Most of the rain fell across areas in Severe (Level 2) Drought, though improvements would not register until the following week as the cutoff for accumulated rain is 7 AM each Tuesday – in this case, March 28th. Lesser, but still somewhat welcome, rain fell across the Rio Grande Plains, Brush Country, and Brooks/Kenedy ranches – locations that were in Extreme (Level 3) Drought and would likely remain there headed into April.

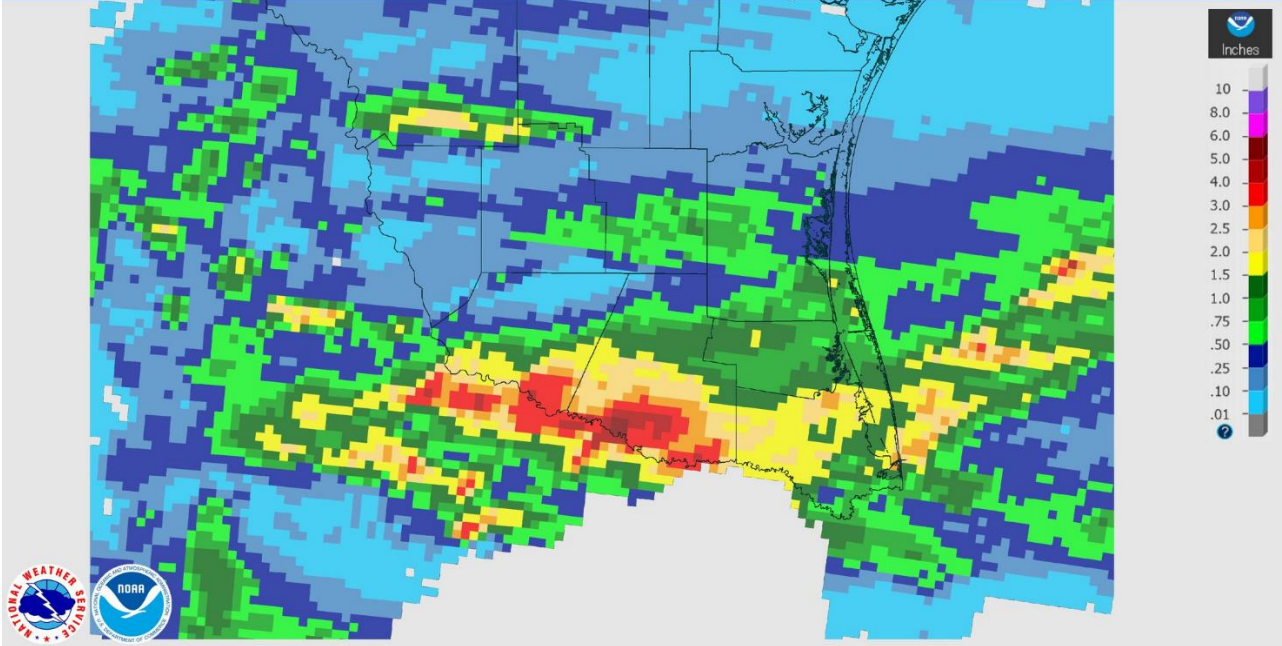
After a solo strong thunderstorm faded across the Hebbronville area just after daybreak on the 28th, spotty showers began developing along and just behind the front from Kenedy through Starr County by late morning. An organized cluster of showers and thunderstorms developed by early afternoon near the Rio Grande in Starr, then tracked along the Interstate Highway (IH) 2 corridor by mid-afternoon, reaching southern Cameron County by late afternoon. Before the cluster got a “push” from the west, slow moving cells dumped an estimated 2 to 4 inches in the southwest McAllen/Mission area. Nearly 2 inches fell in less than two hours at McAllen/Miller Airport; additional evening rains left a daily total of 2.91 inches, more than double the *monthly* average for March! By event’s end, Miller Airport received 3.32 inches (below), continuing the warm-season tradition of “when it rains, it pours” in the Valley.

After the main cluster pushed south and east by late afternoon, additional bands of fast-moving showers and storms rolled across the Valley and the ranchlands to the north. The heavier bands favored the Valley and dropped another quarter to three-quarters of an inch in short order, with lesser totals farther north. These bands cooled the surface, with temperatures falling into the 50s as they raced by.

A cool and somewhat damp afternoon on the 29th ensured that much of the moisture would soak into thirsty soil, and help to create grass and brush “green-up” to join the already fully-bloomed trees in the region. At least for a little while.

March 29, 2023 1-Day Observed Precipitation

Created on: March 29, 2023 - 16:04 UTC
Valid on: March 29, 2023 12:00 UTC



Bias-corrected rainfall estimates from the Advanced Hydrological Prediction System (AHPS) of NOAA/NWS for 7 AM March 28 through 7 AM March 29, 2023, across the Rio Grande Valley and Deep S. Texas Ranch and Brush Country.

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE BROWNSVILLE TX
1050 AM CDT WED MAR 29 2023

...PRECIPITATION REPORTS...

LOCATION	AMOUNT	TIME/DATE	PROVIDER
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...TEXAS...

...BROOKS COUNTY...

FALFURRIAS	0.27 IN	1035 AM 03/29	AWOS
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...CAMERON COUNTY...

HARLINGEN 1.1 NE	2.48 IN	0800 AM 03/29	COCORAHNS
1.0 NE HARLINGEN	2.46 IN	0700 AM 03/29	COOP
BROWNSVILLE 4.3 NW	2.45 IN	0800 AM 03/29	COCORAHNS
HARLINGEN 4.7 W	2.13 IN	0700 AM 03/29	COCORAHNS
LOZANO 1.4 S	2.10 IN	0800 AM 03/29	COCORAHNS
HARLINGEN 4.7 WSW	2.09 IN	0700 AM 03/29	COCORAHNS
HARLINGEN 6.2 WSW	2.06 IN	0700 AM 03/29	COCORAHNS
LAGUNA ATASCOSA	1.98 IN	1022 AM 03/29	RAWS
LOS FRENOS	1.97 IN	1037 AM 03/29	CWOP
BROWNSVILLE 1.5 WNW	1.93 IN	0700 AM 03/29	COCORAHNS

HARLINGEN 3.8 W	1.92	IN	0700	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
HARLINGEN 4.4 W	1.85	IN	0700	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
HARLINGEN 4.2 W	1.85	IN	0700	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
HARLINGEN 0.4 N	1.85	IN	0800	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
LOS FRESNOS 0.3 NE	1.81	IN	0700	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
BROWNSVILLE 0.1 SSE	1.68	IN	0700	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
HARLINGEN	1.67	IN	0952	AM	03/29	ASOS
BROWNSVILLE	1.66	IN	1038	AM	03/29	CWOP
PORT ISABEL	1.53	IN	0953	AM	03/29	ASOS
BROWNSVILLE 6.4 WNW	1.45	IN	0745	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
LOS FRESNOS 2.1 NNE	1.29	IN	0610	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
LAGUNA VISTA 0.3 N	1.22	IN	0800	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
LA FERIA	1.20	IN	1040	AM	03/29	CWOP
RANCHO VIEJO 0.7 E	1.09	IN	0700	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
LAGUNA VISTA	1.07	IN	1030	AM	03/29	CWOP
3 ENE LA FERIA	1.01	IN	1040	AM	03/29	AWS
BROWNSVILLE 4.1 E	1.00	IN	0800	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
BROWNSVILLE 4.1 ENE	0.98	IN	0800	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
BROWNSVILLE	0.85	IN	0953	AM	03/29	ASOS
LOS FRESNOS	0.75	IN	1026	AM	03/29	CWOP
LAGUNA VISTA 1.8 NW	0.72	IN	0700	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
BROWNSVILLE 12.6 E	0.45	IN	0700	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
SAN BENITO 0.9 SSE	0.43	IN	0700	AM	03/29	COCORAHS

...HIDALGO COUNTY...

MISSION 3.9 WSW	4.75	IN	0700	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
1 NNW PHARR	3.69	IN	1039	AM	03/29	AWS
MCALLEN	3.32	IN	0953	AM	03/29	ASOS
1 E MISSION	3.25	IN	0700	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
MISSION 1.9 ENE	3.08	IN	0730	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
MISSION	2.89	IN	1036	AM	03/29	CWOP
MCALLEN	2.47	IN	1035	AM	03/29	CWOP
MERCEDES 1.9 SW	2.30	IN	0715	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
MCALLEN 4.7 NNW	2.04	IN	0700	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
MCALLEN 3.5 N	1.80	IN	0700	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
WESLACO MIDVALLY	1.69	IN	1015	AM	03/29	AWOS
MISSION	1.65	IN	1035	AM	03/29	CWOP
MISSION 9.6 N	1.60	IN	0700	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
SANTA ANA NWR	1.51	IN	0945	AM	03/29	RAWS
EDINBURG	1.51	IN	1040	AM	03/29	CWOP
7.3 S ALAMO	1.50	IN	0945	AM	03/29	HADS
EDINBURG	1.40	IN	0700	AM	03/29	COOP
MISSION	1.32	IN	1037	AM	03/29	CWOP
LA JOYA 11.1 N	1.18	IN	0700	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
1.8 SW MCALLEN	1.13	IN	0600	AM	03/29	COOP
3.1 S SULLIVAN CITY	1.11	IN	0915	AM	03/29	HADS
LA JOYA 0.6 W	1.05	IN	0723	AM	03/29	COCORAHS
MCCOOK	0.68	IN	0700	AM	03/29	COOP
EDINBURG INTL	0.63	IN	1015	AM	03/29	AWOS
LINN-SAN MANUEL	0.56	IN	0946	AM	03/29	RAWS
MCALLEN	0.23	IN	1040	AM	03/29	AWS
3.0 W SANTA ROSA	0.04	IN	0700	AM	03/29	COOP

...JIM HOGG COUNTY...					
HEBBRONVILLE 0.7 ENE	0.60	IN	0700	AM 03/29	COCORAHS
HEBBRONVILLE 4.3 SSE	0.21	IN	0800	AM 03/29	COCORAHS
...KENEDY COUNTY...					
ARMSTRONG 4 SE	0.53	IN	0700	AM 03/29	COOP
...STARR COUNTY...					
FALCON LAKE	1.43	IN	1011	AM 03/29	RAWS
0.9 E RIO GRANDE CITY	1.12	IN	0915	AM 03/29	HADS
RIO GRANDE CITY 17.7 NE	0.30	IN	0740	AM 03/29	COCORAHS
...WILLACY COUNTY...					
0.7 NE PORT MANSFIELD	0.71	IN	0700	AM 03/29	COOP
...ZAPATA COUNTY...					
ZAPATA	0.18	IN	1035	AM 03/29	AWOS

OBSERVATIONS ARE COLLECTED FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES WITH VARYING EQUIPMENT AND EXPOSURES. WE THANK ALL VOLUNTEER WEATHER OBSERVERS FOR THEIR DEDICATION. NOT ALL DATA LISTED ARE CONSIDERED OFFICIAL.

Definitions:

ASOS - Automated Surface Observing System
 AWOS - Automated Weather Observing System
 AWS - Automated Weather Systems (formerly WeatherBug)
 COCORAHS - Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network
 COOP - NWS Cooperative Observer Program
 CWOP - Citizens Weather Observation Program
 HADS - Hydrometeorological Automated Data System
 RAWS - Remote Automated Weather System