Rio Grande Valley Autumn 2025 Review

Autumn 2025 Weather Story for the Rio Grande Valley: "Endless Summer" for the Second Year in a Row

Record to Near-Record Heat and General Dryness Builds Drought

By Barry Goldsmith
Warning Coordination Meteorologist
NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley

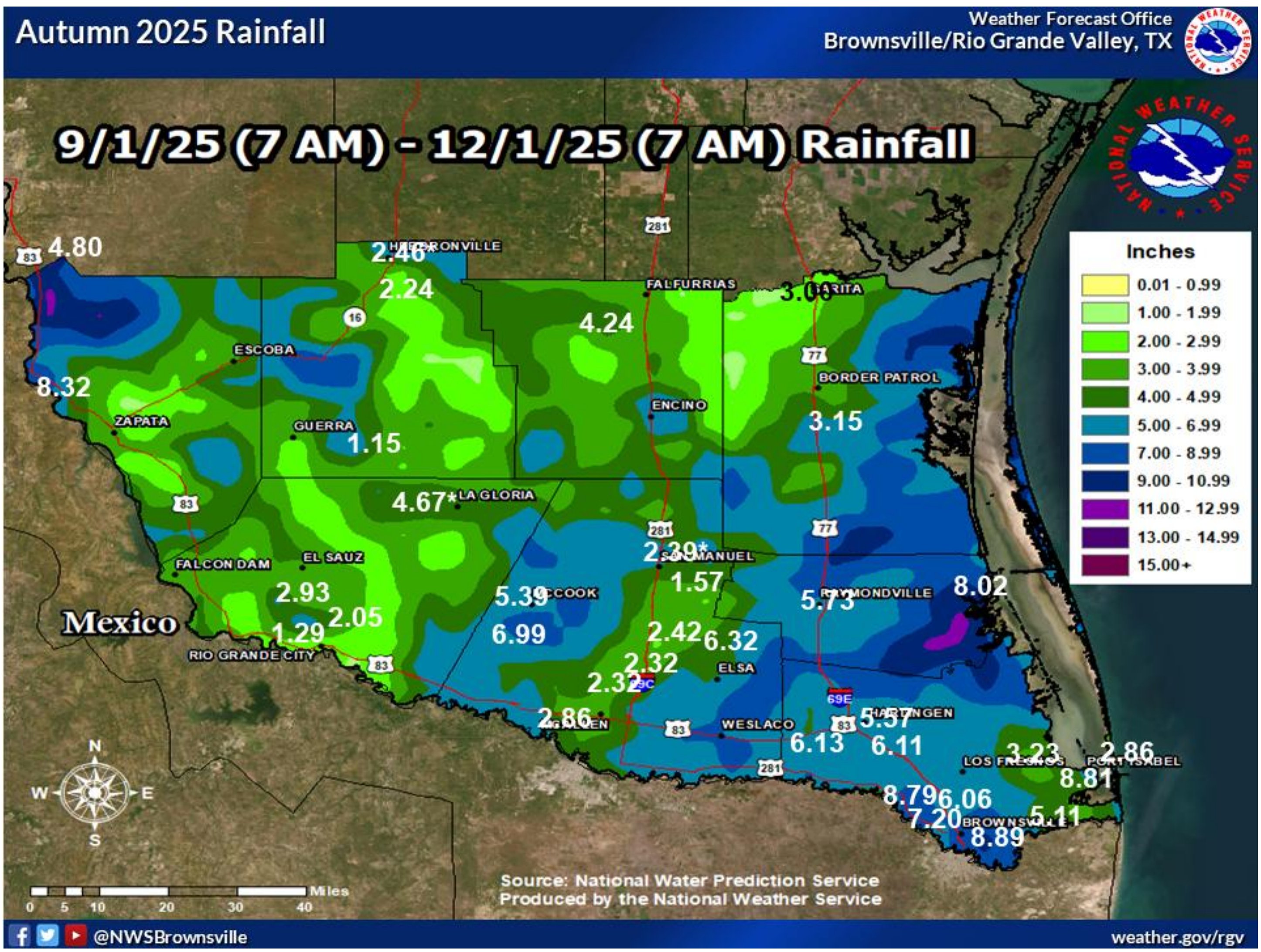


Figure 1. Annotated rainfall map for autumn 2025 across the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep South Texas region. Annotated values (in inches) are from selected Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow (CoCoRaHS) observers, along with several cooperative (COOP), Automated Surface Observing System (ASOS), and Texas Mesonet stations with sufficient and trusted values for the season.

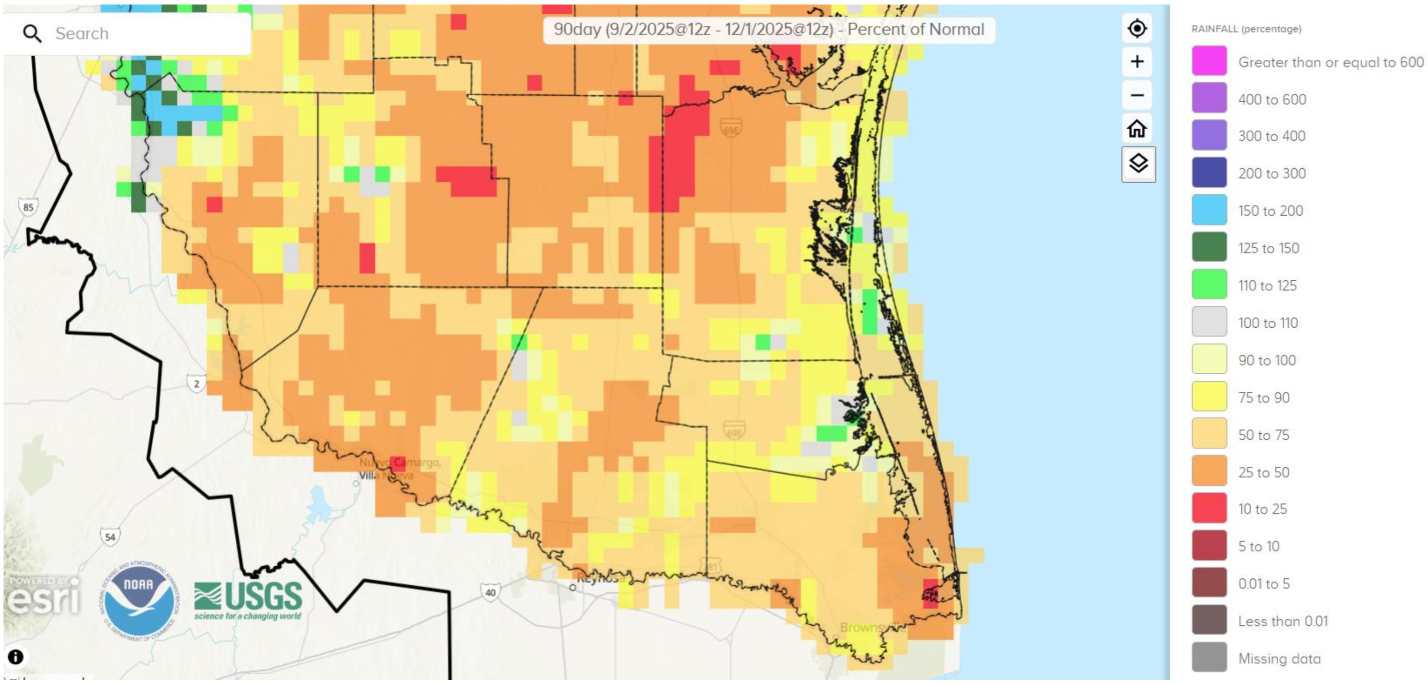
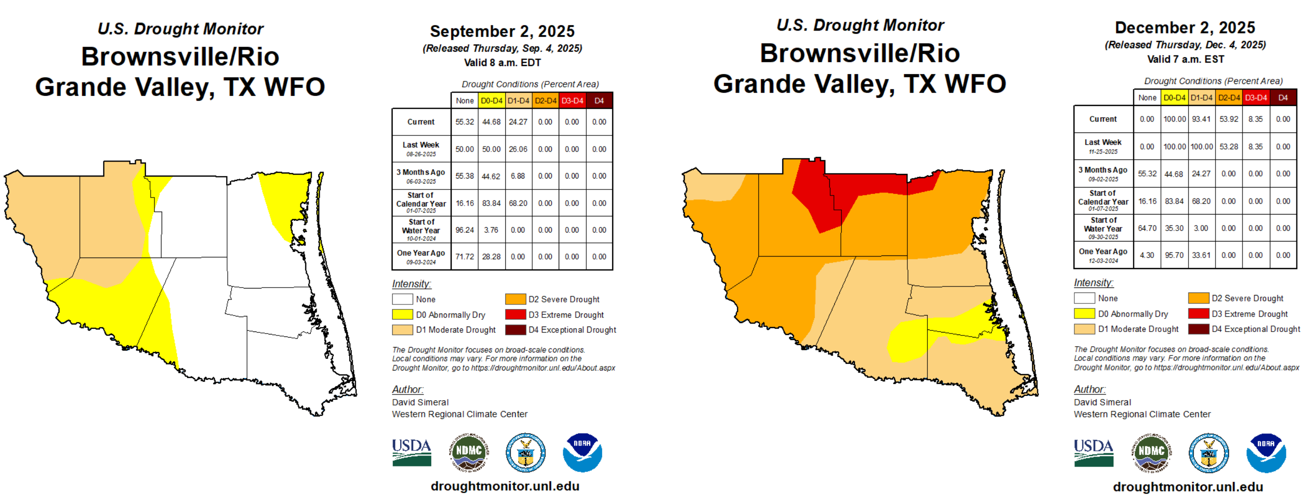


Figure 2. Rainfall percentage of average, September 1 through December 1 (7 AM), 2025. Other than two separate torrential rain events near the Zapata/Webb County line (100-200% of average), the vast majority of the Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas Ranchlands ended up at 25-75% of seasonal averages. Hyper-local exceptions, due to slow-moving torrential thunderstorms, including Brownsville, southeast Willacy, and northwest Hidalgo County. Pockets of Jim Hogg, eastern Brooks, and western Kenedy fared very poorly, with 10-25% of average rainfall.

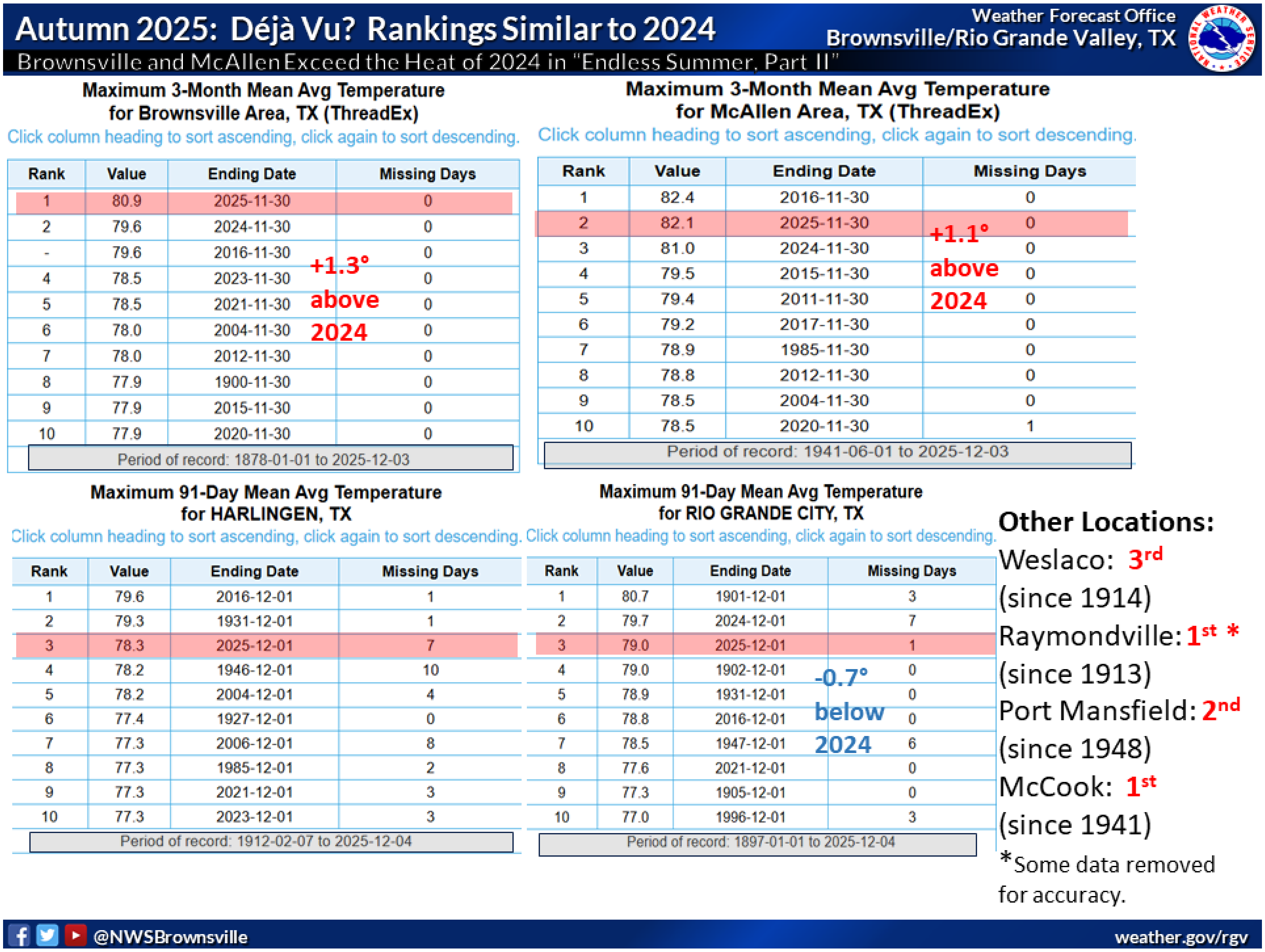


	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	55.32	44.68	24.27	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 08-26-2025	50.00	50.00	26.06	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-03-2025	55.38	44.62	6.88	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	16.16	83.84	68.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	96.24	3.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 09-03-2024	71.72	28.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	93.41	53.92	8.35	0.00
Last Week 11-25-2025	0.00	100.00	100.00	53.28	8.35	0.00
3 Months Ago 09-02-2025	55.32	44.68	24.27	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	16.16	83.84	68.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	64.70	35.30	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 12-03-2024	4.30	95.70	33.61	0.00	0.00	0.00

Figure 3. U.S. Drought Monitor differences between September 2nd and December 2nd. Near-record to record heat combined with below average rainfall enhanced evaporation rates, worsening already drying soil-moisture conditions headed out of August. Pockets of Abnormal Dryness (yellow, level 0) and Moderate Drought (tan, level 1) worsented to widespread Moderate to Severe (orange,

level 2) Drought by early December. A pocket of eastern Jim Hogg, northern Brooks, and northwest Kenedy – in the 25-50% of average rainfall – worsened to Extreme Drought (red, level 3).



Maximum 3-Month Mean Avg Temperature for Brownsville Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	80.9	2025-11-30	0
2	79.6	2024-11-30	0
-	79.6	2016-11-30	0
4	78.5	2023-11-30	0
5	78.5	2021-11-30	0
6	78.0	2004-11-30	0
7	78.0	2012-11-30	0
8	77.9	1900-11-30	0
9	77.9	2015-11-30	0
10	77.9	2020-11-30	0

Period of record: 1878-01-01 to 2025-12-03

+1.3° above 2024

Maximum 3-Month Mean Avg Temperature for McAllen Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	82.4	2016-11-30	0
2	82.1	2025-11-30	0
3	81.0	2024-11-30	0
4	79.5	2015-11-30	0
5	79.4	2011-11-30	0
6	79.2	2017-11-30	0
7	78.9	1985-11-30	0
8	78.8	2012-11-30	0
9	78.5	2004-11-30	0
10	78.5	2020-11-30	1

Period of record: 1941-06-01 to 2025-12-03

+1.1° above 2024

Maximum 91-Day Mean Avg Temperature for HARLINGEN, TX

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	79.6	2016-12-01	1
2	79.3	1931-12-01	1
3	78.3	2025-12-01	7
4	78.2	1946-12-01	10
5	78.2	2004-12-01	4
6	77.4	1927-12-01	0
7	77.3	2006-12-01	8
8	77.3	1985-12-01	2
9	77.3	2021-12-01	3
10	77.3	2023-12-01	3

Period of record: 1912-02-07 to 2025-12-04

Maximum 91-Day Mean Avg Temperature for RIO GRANDE CITY, TX

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	80.7	1901-12-01	3
2	79.7	2024-12-01	7
3	79.0	2025-12-01	1
4	79.0	1902-12-01	0
5	78.9	1931-12-01	0
6	78.8	2016-12-01	0
7	78.5	1947-12-01	6
8	77.6	2021-12-01	0
9	77.3	1905-12-01	0
10	77.0	1996-12-01	3

Period of record: 1897-01-01 to 2025-12-04

-0.7° below 2024

Other Locations:

Weslaco: 3rd (since 1914)

Raymondville: 1st * (since 1913)

Port Mansfield: 2nd (since 1948)

McCook: 1st (since 1941)

*Some data removed for accuracy.

Figure 4. Autumn 2025 practically mirrored the Endless Summer of 2024 – which continued into December that year. All available locations finished among the top three hottest on record for a second autumn in a row. Combined with spring and summer, the annual heat once again ranked in the top-ten warmest/hottest all-time through eleven months on the calendar.

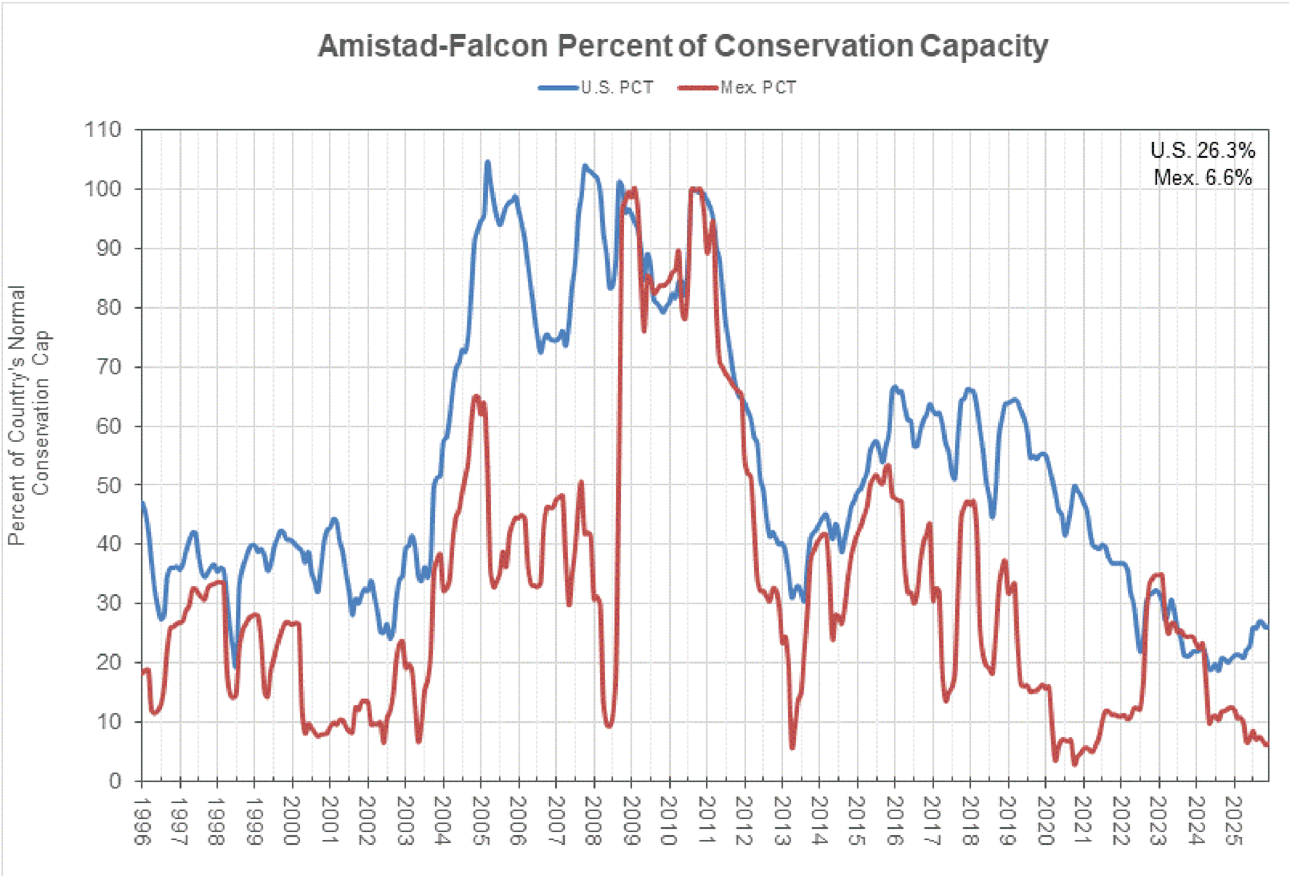


Figure 5. U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) combined percentage of conservation capacity for Amistad and Falcon International Reservoirs at the start of December 2025 continued to show dire conditions for total water share. While the US percent of conservation hovered just above 25%, Mexico's share dipped below 7%. The total values remained just around or just above seasonal records set in Autumn 2024. Falcon was constituted in 1954; Amistad in 1971.

<u>Month-by-Month Summary</u>

September, normally the wettest month by far on the calendar, fell short of expected rainfall. In fact, some areas were woefully short, with only 25% of average (average rainfall ranges from 4.5" to 6" from west to east across the region). The lack of rainfall helped to boost average temperatures into the top 5 to top 20 hottest on record. Rainfall "winners" included west Brownsville/Rancho Viejo, where a hyper-local slow moving thunderstorm dropped over 4" in two hours on the 19th . Other areas with some beneficial monthly rain included eastern Willacy and eastern Kenedy County.

Aside from the 19th, the other day of interest was between late on the 6th and mid-morning of the 7th, when clusters of thunderstorms produced locally heavy rainfall in northwest Zapata, southeast Zapata/northwest Starr, and northwest Hidalgo/northeast Starr. Radar estimates of 3 to 4" were common in these clusters.

The lack of rainfall in September can be a critical driver for future water resources, particularly for crops and livestock. A drier-than-average month, combined with near-record heat, can set the stage for future crop success during the following spring, if beneficial rains don't come during the typical dry season (November-April).

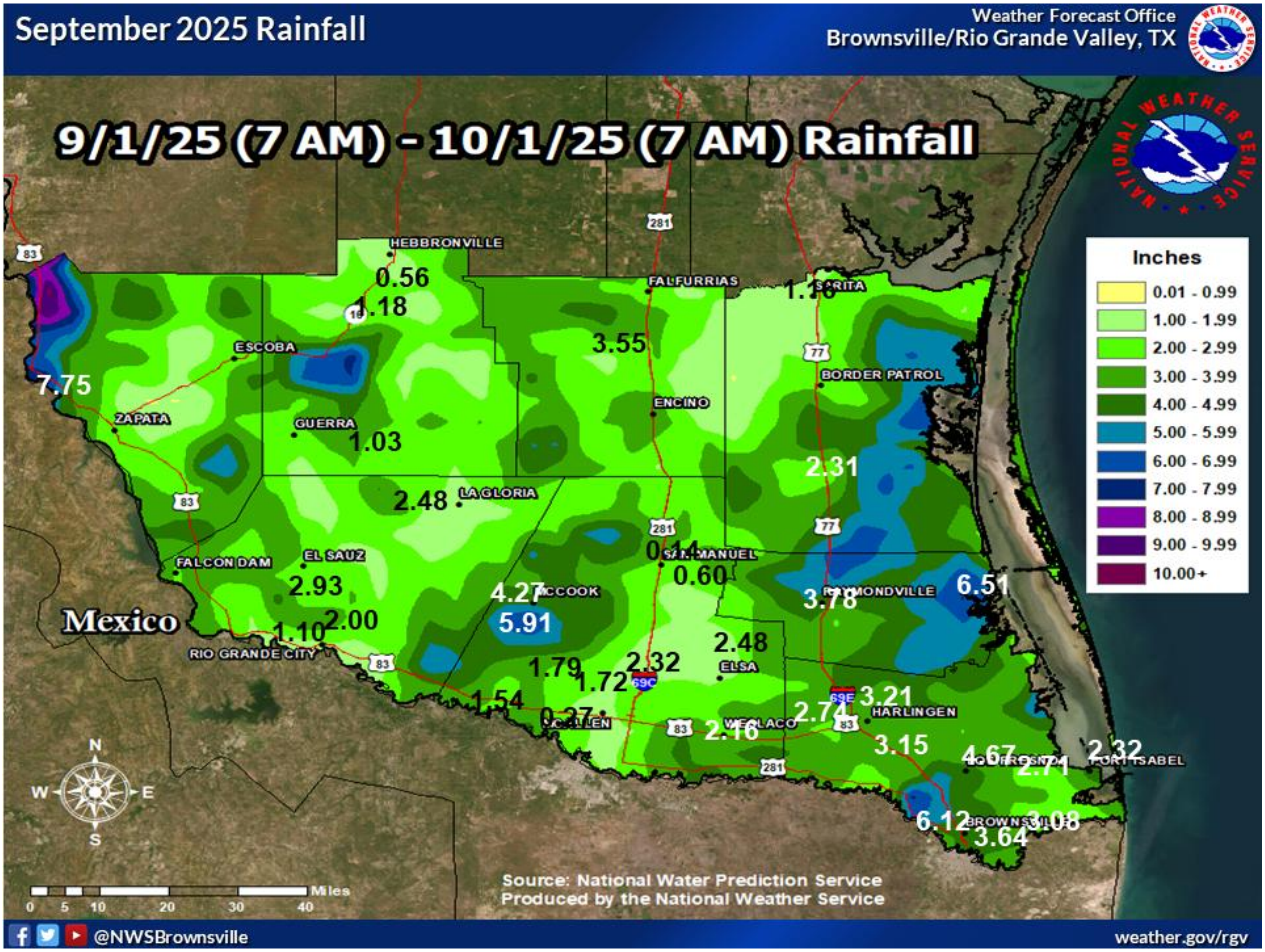


Figure 6. September 2025 rainfall map, including selected annotated values from CoCoRaHS observers, NWS cooperative observers, and Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) data, and the Texas Mesonet.

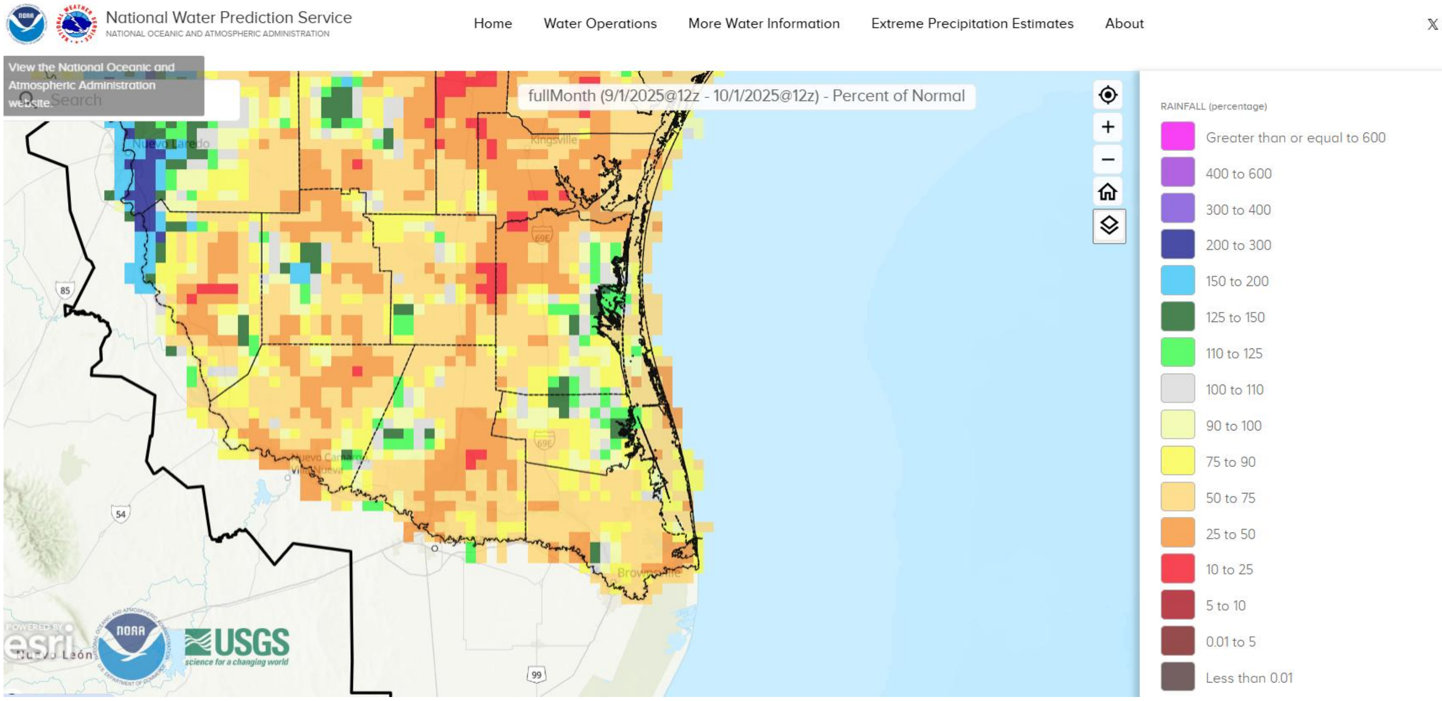


Figure 7. Rainfall percentage of average September 2025. (Note: average rainfall is 4.5 to 6”, or two-three times any other month’s average),. Typically the wettest month on the calendar by far, 2025 was far from it on the whole. Other than pockets in Willacy, southern Kenedy, northwestern Hidalgo, and central Jim Hogg County where 100-150% of average rain fell, as well as an area along the Rio Grande in northwest Zapata (150-250%), agriculturally-rich area of the Rio Grande Valley and Deep South Texas ranchlands fell short, by 25 to 75% of average – with pockets at 10-25% of average.

September 2025 Temperature Rankings

Weather Forecast Office
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX

Maximum 1-Month Mean Avg Temperature for Brownsville Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	88.5	2023-09-30	0
2	85.3	2016-09-30	0
3	85.2	2025-09-30	0
4	85.1	2019-09-30	0
5	85.0	1900-09-30	0
6	84.9	2018-09-30	0
-	84.9	1980-09-30	0
8	84.8	2005-09-30	0
9	84.4	1920-09-30	0
10	84.3	2021-09-30	0

Last value also occurred in one or more previous years.

Period of record: 1878-01-01 to 2025-12-03

Maximum 1-Month Mean Avg Temperature for McAllen Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	89.3	2023-09-30	0
2	88.8	2016-09-30	0
3	87.7	2011-09-30	0
4	87.5	2025-09-30	0
5	87.1	2019-09-30	0
6	87.0	2018-09-30	0
7	86.7	2005-09-30	0
8	86.4	2017-09-30	0
9	86.1	1986-09-30	0
10	85.9	2024-09-30	0

Period of record: 1941-06-01 to 2025-12-03

Maximum 30-Day Mean Avg Temperature for HARLINGEN, TX

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	87.3	2023-10-01	1
2	85.8	2016-10-01	0
3	85.1	2019-10-01	0
4	85.0	1959-10-01	0
5	84.8	2005-10-01	2
6	84.6	2011-10-01	1
7	84.6	1950-10-01	0
8	84.3	1941-10-01	0
9	84.1	2021-10-01	1
10	84.1	1931-10-01	0
11	83.9	2017-10-01	1
12	83.8	1912-10-01	0
13	83.7	1980-10-01	1
14	83.7	2018-10-01	1
15	83.6	1926-10-01	0
16	83.5	2025-10-01	2

Period of record: 1912-02-07 to 2025-12-04

Maximum 30-Day Mean Avg Temperature for RIO GRANDE CITY, TX

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	88.8	2023-10-01	1
2	87.2	1946-10-01	2
3	86.5	1959-10-01	0
4	86.1	1996-10-01	1
5	85.7	2005-10-01	1
6	85.6	1905-10-01	0
7	85.5	1901-10-01	1
8	85.4	2019-10-01	0
9	85.4	2011-10-01	3
10	85.4	1958-10-01	0
11	85.3	2021-10-01	0
-	85.3	1980-10-01	0
-	85.3	1930-10-01	0
14	85.3	2016-10-01	0
15	84.9	2024-10-01	3
16	84.7	1902-10-01	0
17	84.6	1937-10-01	0
18	84.5	1997-10-01	0
19	84.4	1947-10-01	0
20	84.4	1972-10-01	0
21	84.4	1982-10-01	0
22	84.3	2025-10-01	0
23	84.3	1964-10-01	0
24	84.2	2018-10-01	1
25	84.1	1931-10-01	0

Period of record: 1897-01-01 to 2025-12-04

Other Locations:

Weslaco: 19th (since 1914)
Raymondville: 13th (since 1913)
Port Mansfield: 3rd (since 1948)
McCook: 18th (since 1941)

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Figure 8. September 2025 temperature rankings (period of record in gray box) for selected Lower Rio Grande Valley locations. Rankings for most available locations ended up in the top 20 warmest on record, dating back more than 100 years for some. Several spots ended up in the top ten hottest, a continuation of summer’s (June-August) heat.

October is typically when the Valley's wet season transitions to dry, and such was the case for most areas – despite the lack of any dry (low humidity) post-frontal situations until the final days of the month (October 29-31). For the most part, October 2025 will be remembered for persistent hot sunshine amid fair weather clouds – a perfect beach month for those enjoying balmy breezes and still-warm surf. The primary torrential rain-maker occurred once again in Brownsville, where over 4" fell at Brownsville/South Padre International Airport – with nearly 3" falling on the 7th , with an unrelated pocket of torrential rain in northwest Jim Hogg County. Otherwise, paltry rainfall ended up at 5-25% of average (Figure 10).

The persistent heat would break on the 29th with the season's first true cooling front – one which brought morning chill but low to very low humidity and fire weather concerns on the 29th and 30th – but a fantastic Halloween night with mild temperatures, modest humidity, and light wind.

The combination of record to near-record heat (top five in most locations) and well below average rainfall expanded Moderate (level 1) drought and brought the first pocket of Severe (level 2 or 4) drought to Brooks and Kenedy County to begin November.

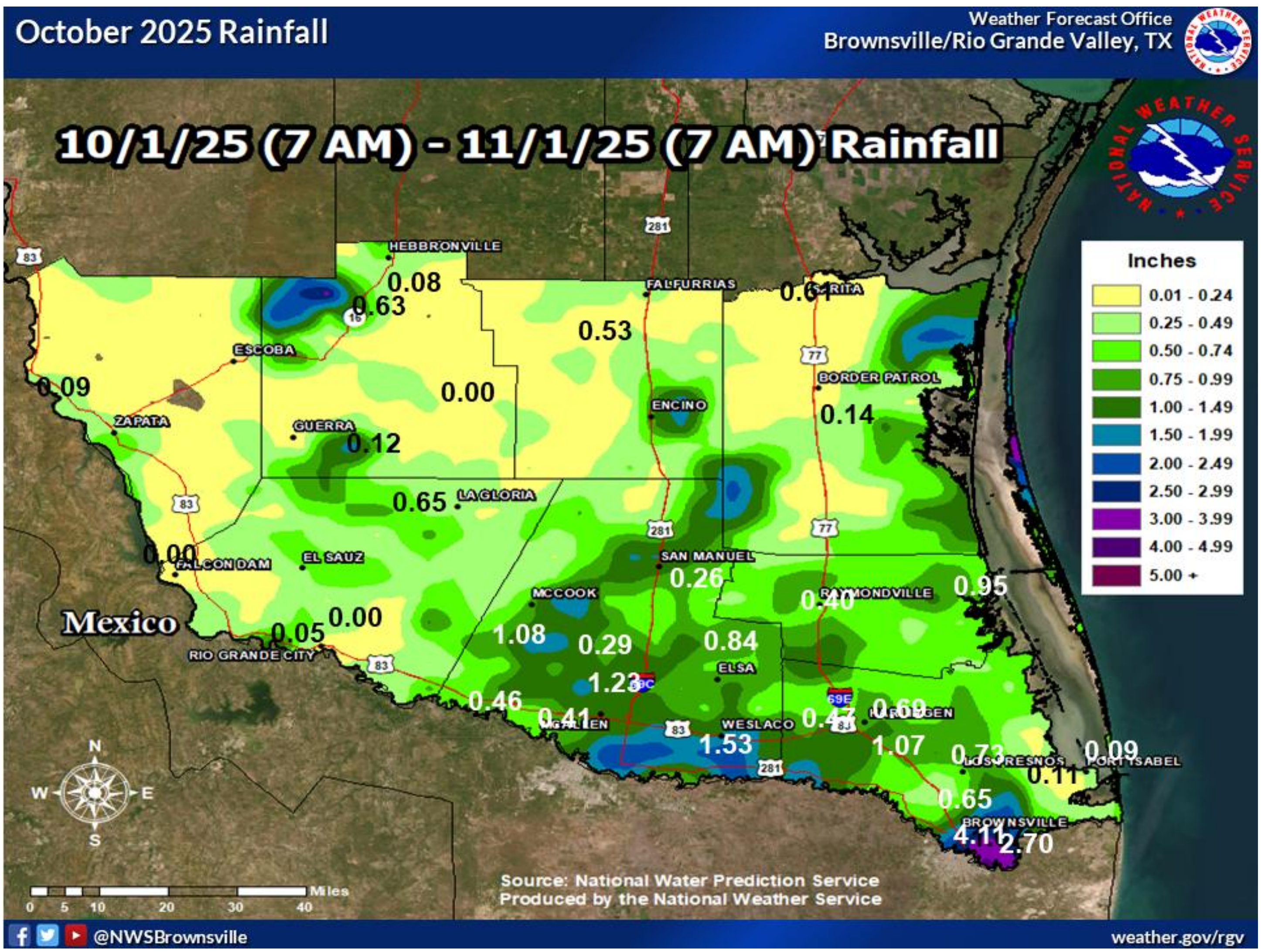

Figure 9. October 2025 rainfall map, including selected annotated values from CoCoRaHS observers, NWS cooperative observers, and Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) data, and the Texas Mesonet.

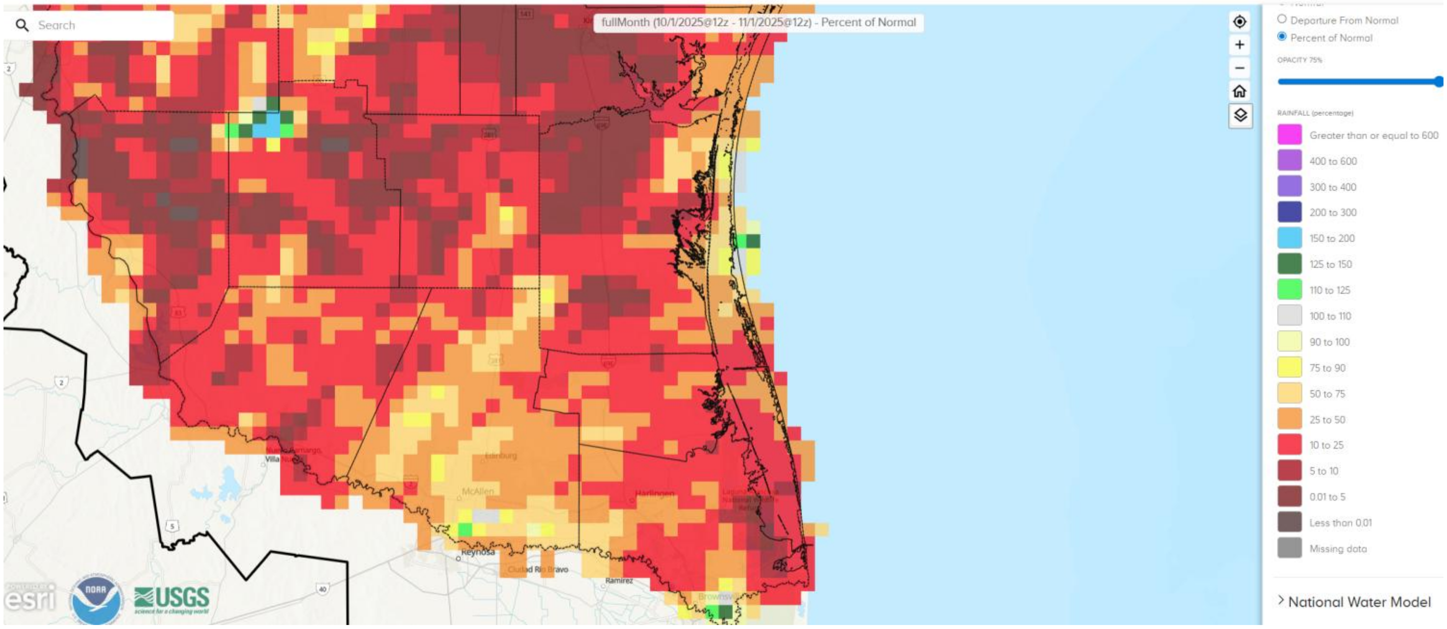

Figure 10. Rainfall percentage of average October 2025. (Note: average rainfall is 2 to 3.5" from west to east),. Other than pockets in northwestern Jim Hogg (150-200%) and around Brownsville and near McAllen, most of the Rio Grande Valley and Deep South Texas ranchlands only received 5-25% of average.

October 2025 Temperature Rankings

Weather Forecast Office
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX

Maximum 1-Month Mean Avg Temperature for Brownsville Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	81.7	2025-10-31	0
2	80.4	2004-10-31	0
3	80.2	2016-10-31	0
4	80.2	1919-10-31	0
5	80.1	2021-10-31	0
6	79.8	1883-10-31	0
7	79.6	1962-10-31	0
-	79.6	1941-10-31	0
9	79.5	1926-10-31	0
10	79.4	2024-10-31	0

Period of record: 1878-01-01 to 2025-12-03

Maximum 1-Month Mean Avg Temperature for McAllen Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	82.9	2016-10-31	0
2	82.5	2025-10-31	0
3	81.7	2004-10-31	0
4	81.0	2024-10-31	0
5	80.7	2015-10-31	0
6	80.5	2021-10-31	0
7	79.6	2009-10-31	0
8	79.5	1962-10-31	0
9	79.4	2012-10-31	0
10	79.2	2019-10-31	0

Period of record: 1941-06-01 to 2025-12-03

Maximum 31-Day Mean Avg Temperature for HARLINGEN, TX

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	80.9	2004-11-01	1
2	80.7	1931-11-01	0
3	79.9	2016-11-01	1
4	79.8	1947-11-01	0
5	79.5	1926-11-01	0
6	79.3	1941-11-01	1
7	78.8	2025-11-01	3
8	78.8	1919-11-01	1
9	78.6	2021-11-01	0
10	78.6	1946-11-01	0

Period of record: 1912-02-07 to 2025-12-04

Maximum 31-Day Mean Avg Temperature for RIO GRANDE CITY, TX

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	82.3	1901-11-01	0
2	81.5	1947-11-01	0
3	81.2	1931-11-01	0
4	80.2	2004-11-01	1
5	79.5	2021-11-01	0
6	79.4	2024-11-01	0
7	79.4	1941-11-01	1
8	79.3	2016-11-01	0
9	79.3	1960-11-01	0
10	79.3	2025-11-01	0

Period of record: 1897-01-01 to 2025-12-04

Other Locations:

Weslaco: **2nd** (since 1914)

Raymondville: **2nd** (since 1913)

Port Mansfield: **3rd** (since 1948)

McCook: **4th** (since 1941)

Figure 11. October 2025 temperature rankings (period of record in gray boxes) for selected Lower Rio Grande Valley locations. Rankings for most available locations ended up in the top-five hottest on record, dating back more than 100 years for some. Most locations ended up among the top five hottest.

November 2025 began with a "bang" for parts of South Texas, with a devastating hailstorm during the late afternoon/early evening on the 1st causing widespread property damage in the Portland/Taft area before raking wildlife areas on the barrier island and bays, killing/injuring nearly 1,900 birds. The atmospheric pattern than created the Coastal Bend event saw a similar, though lower intensity, hailstorm race from Alice through Sarita southward through central Willacy and ultimately eastern Cameron County, with 1.25" to at least 1.75" diameter hailstones. Additional storms followed the initial event, ultimately dropping 0.5" to 1" of rainfall. Drier and seasonable conditions followed this event, and would dominate the first thirteen days of the month – with one more embedded cool-down on the 10th/11th.

Soon after, the heat rose again – with late September/early October temperatures and humidity dominating the period from the 14th through the 25th, with temperatures in the window ranging from 10-15°F above average. A slight Thanksgiving Weekend cool-off was insufficient to knock temperatures down from a second month at or near all-time records in a row.

As for rainfall, while the November 1st event raked the coastal counties (Kenedy-Willacy-Cameron), little to no rain fell elsewhere until late on the 25th and 26th, the day the aforementioned Thanksgiving Weekend weak front arrived. One exception was November 22nd, when a weak upper-level disturbance provided enough moisture to produce local downpours in central Hidalgo and near Arroyo City in northeast Cameron County. Late on the 25th, another upper-level disturbance combined with the approaching front to act on the late-summer-like heat ahead of it to produce hailstorm clusters in northern Zapata. Repeating storms that lasted into mid-morning on the 26th may have dropped over 6" there (radar estimated). Later that morning and early that afternoon, a slow-moving cluster fed by coastal moisture dropped an estimated 3-4" in rural eastern Willacy County.

November 2024 was seen as a notable record-breaker for Brownsville and McAllen (by 1.1° and 0.5° over prior records, respectively) and one could think that it would take years before these "new" records would break. Not so; 2025 (below) proved that even notable records can be broken just one year later. Brownsville nudged above 2024's level by 0.2°, with McAllen sliding just ahead on rounding. Rio Grande City and Harlingen fell short of 2024 – but not by much.

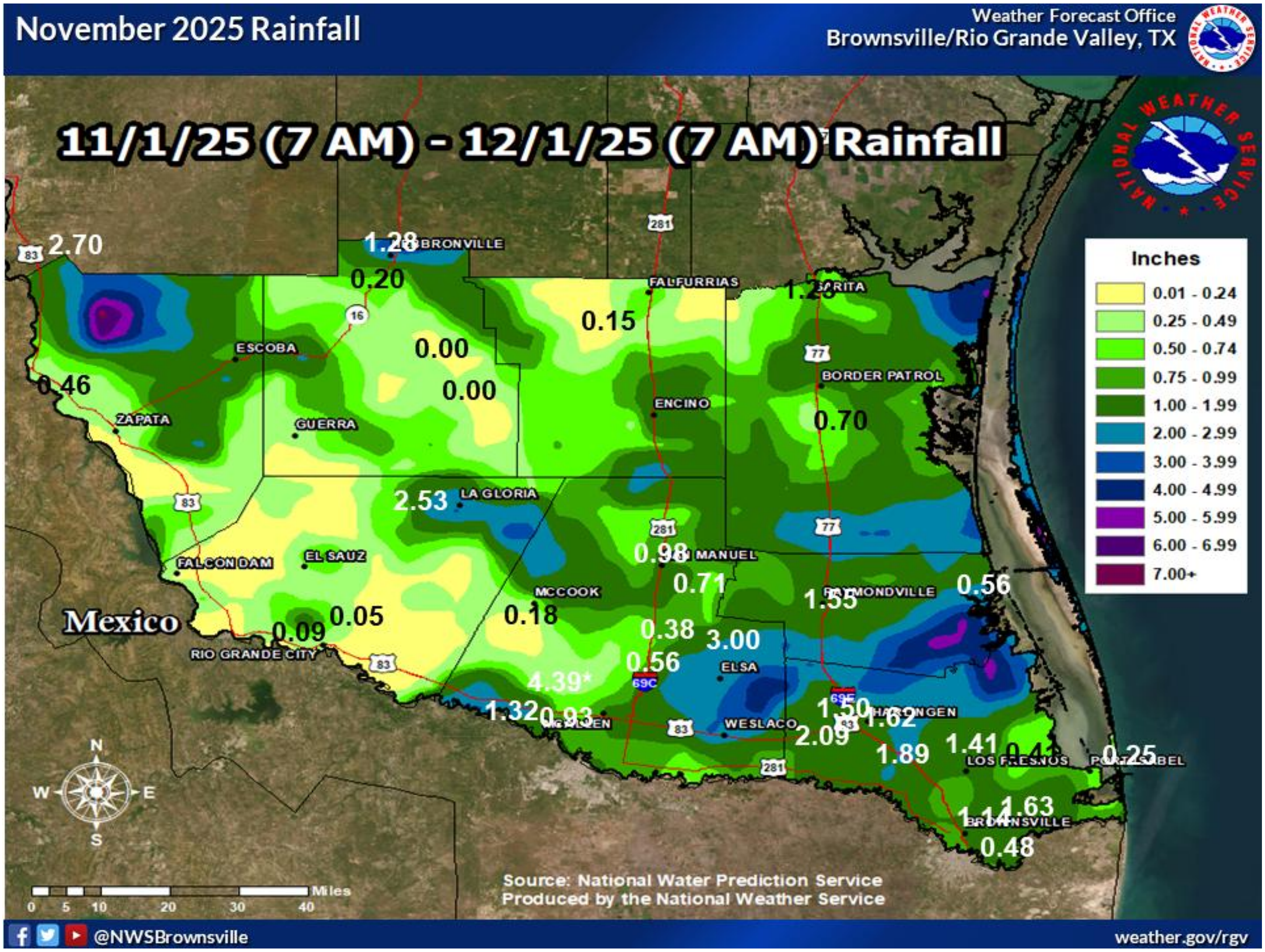

Figure 12. November 2025 rainfall map, including selected annotated values from CoCoRaHS observers, NWS cooperative observers, and Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) data, and the Texas Mesonet.

November 2025 Temperature Rankings

Weather Forecast Office
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX

Maximum 1-Month Mean Avg Temperature for Brownsville Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	76.0	2025-11-30	0
2	75.8	2024-11-30	0
3	74.7	1909-11-30	0
4	74.5	1973-11-30	0
5	74.3	2020-11-30	0
6	73.9	2017-11-30	0
-	73.9	1994-11-30	0
8	73.9	1927-11-30	0
9	73.6	2015-11-30	0
10	73.3	2016-11-30	0

Period of record: 1878-01-01 to 2025-12-03

Maximum 1-Month Mean Avg Temperature for McAllen Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	76.1	2025-11-30	0
2	76.1	2024-11-30	0
3	75.6	2016-11-30	0
-	75.6	1994-11-30	0
5	74.1	2020-11-30	0
6	74.1	1945-11-30	1
7	74.0	1973-11-30	0
8	74.0	1985-11-30	0
9	73.6	2017-11-30	0
10	72.4	1983-11-30	0

Period of record: 1941-06-01 to 2025-12-03

Maximum 30-Day Mean Avg Temperature for HARLINGEN, TX

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	73.6	1994-12-01	0
2	73.5	1945-12-01	1
3	73.5	2020-12-01	1
4	73.5	2024-12-01	3
5	73.4	1927-12-01	0
6	73.2	2016-12-01	0
7	72.8	1931-12-01	1
8	72.5	2025-12-01	2
9	72.4	1985-12-01	1
10	72.2	1921-12-01	1

Period of record: 1912-02-07 to 2025-12-04

Maximum 30-Day Mean Avg Temperature for RIO GRANDE CITY, TX

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	74.5	2024-12-01	4
2	73.8	1901-12-01	2
3	73.8	1902-12-01	0
4	73.1	2025-12-01	1
5	72.8	1994-12-01	0
6	71.9	2016-12-01	0
7	71.3	1931-12-01	0
8	71.2	1946-12-01	5
9	71.2	1905-12-01	0
10	71.0	1944-12-01	7

Period of record: 1897-01-01 to 2025-12-04

Other Locations:

Weslaco: 6th (since 1914)

Raymondville: 1st * (since 1913)

Port Mansfield: 8th (since 1948)

McCook: 2nd (since 1941)

*Some data removed for accuracy.

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Figure 13. November 2025 temperature rankings (period of record in gray box) for selected Lower Rio Grande Valley locations. Rankings for most available locations ended up in the top-five hottest on record, dating back more than 100 years for some. For the second month in a row, most locations ended up among the top five warmest on record.

Autumn 2025 on the whole was not too different from Autumn 2024 in terms of temperature; rankings were at or even above 2024 in several locations. Rainfall was a touch lower, with local variations in final rankings – but in general, all locations ranked within the top half of dry autumns, with some spots (e.g., Rio Grande City) ending up among the top ten driest. Locations with long-term climate records but not recording in recent years, such as Falfurrias and Hebbronville, would have likely ranked among the ten driest September-November periods.

While rainfall for some, particularly (and once again) in parts of Cameron and Willacy County, it was not enough to hold off Moderate Drought conditions in these areas. The local torrential rains on November 22 and 26 were enough to improve conditions back to level 0 (Abnormal Dryness) in eastern Hidalgo, Willacy, and northern Cameron) by the start of December – but the long range outlook into winter and beyond suggested that Moderate to Severe level drought would develop over time – with Severe to Extreme (or worse, Exceptional) Drought a possibility across the Rio Grande Plains and Brush Country as spring 2026 approached.

With the reservoirs that supply up to 90% of water currently used by agriculture and several municipalities across the Rio Grande Valley still sitting at or just above seasonal low records, additional rainfall deficits would be felt by farmers, ranchers, and even residents/businesses in the form of water restrictions. The drought, if combined with strong, drying winds, could create favorable wildfire spread/growth conditions through winter and especially spring.

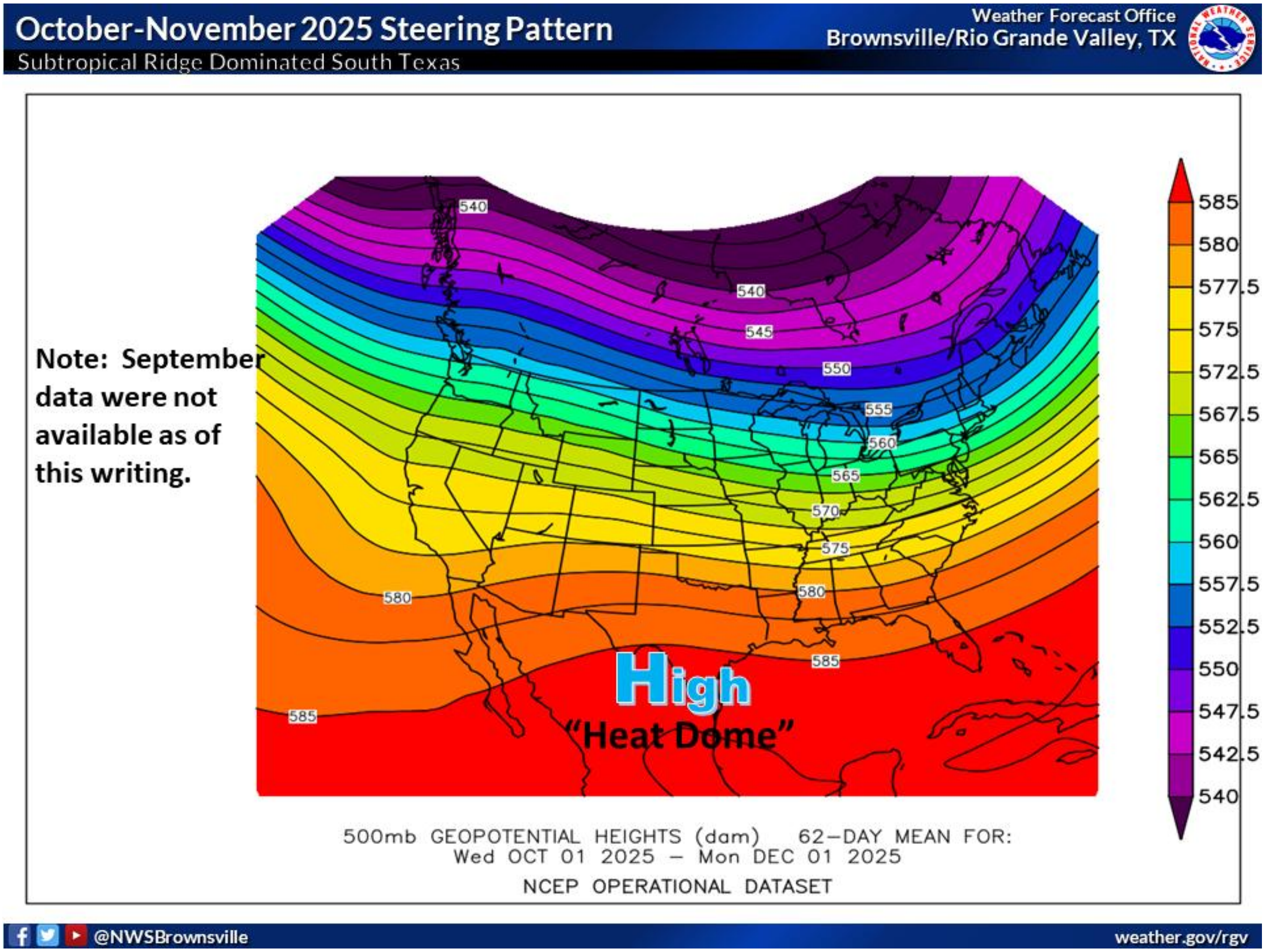

Figure 14. October-November mean 500-mb steering pattern (~18,000 ft). High pressure ridge, or "heat dome", was generally parked over South Texas and northern Mexico. This was a bit east of the well-known "La Canícula" pattern (dominant high pressure across southwest Texas/northern Mexico into the western Gulf) . The prolonged duration was a likely reason for the Rio Grande Valley to achieve top-five hottest rankings for October-November (not shown) in 2025.