

## *Rio Grande Valley Spring 2026 Review*

### **Spring 2026 Weather Story for the Rio Grande Valley: “Just-in-Time” Rains End Worst Drought since April 2013**

A Very Warm and Bone-Dry March Flips to A Wet April and May as Drought Recedes

**By Barry Goldsmith**

Warning Coordination Meteorologist  
NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley



**Above:** What a difference three months makes! Left: Parched ground and dried grasses at Estero Llano Grande State Park near Weslaco, TX at the start of spring 2026. Right: Lush, thick green grasses and brush at the start of June near Brownsville, TX.

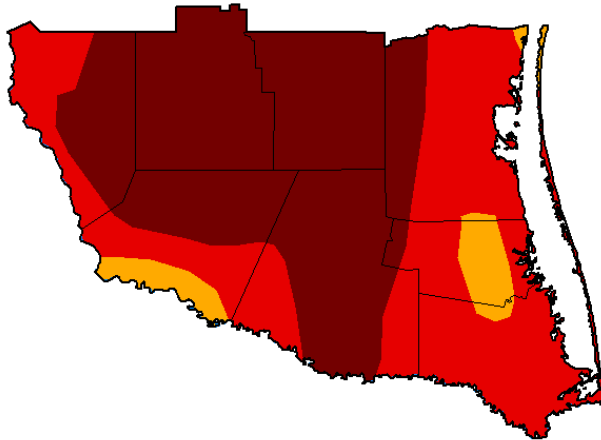
#### **Season in a Nutshell**

Spring 2026 across the Lower Rio Grande Valley and Deep South Texas ranchlands saw the worst area-wide drought since April 2013 develop by the end of March (Figure 1a), with nearly 95% of the region sitting at Extreme (Level 3 of 4) or Exceptional (Level 4 of 4) Drought conditions. Fortunately, farmers, ranchers, and local water detention (storage) facilities would see “just-in-time” relief, with widespread rains arriving Easter Weekend (April 4-5), followed by additional rain events through April and especially May. Dryland late winter and early spring planted crops were just a week away from substantial to complete loss at the start of April, and cattle herds were substantially culled through March, with high levels of “stress” for all livestock due to extremely limited forage and limited water supplies, even with supplementation.

All this changed beginning in April, and continuing through May, as seasonal rainfall amounts between 10 and 15” covered the ranch country, and 7 to 11” covered farm country Willacy, Cameron, and Hidalgo County – roughly 2 to nearly 4 times the spring average (4.5 to 7.5”). From the Texas Agrilife [Weekly Crop and Weather Report on May 27<sup>th</sup>](#), “All crops, pastures, and rangelands responded rapidly to moisture. Row crop conditions improved broadly, though variation in crop maturity persisted due to earlier drought stress. Range and pasture conditions continued improving, and forage availability for livestock increased measurably.”

Temperatures, which began near record-hot levels for March, settled back toward monthly 30-year averages in April and May – but the season overall ended in the top 10-15% warmest on record.

**U.S. Drought Monitor**  
**Brownsville/Rio**  
**Grande Valley, TX WFO**



**March 31, 2026**  
 (Released Thursday, Apr. 2, 2026)  
 Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	94.59	54.79
<b>Last Week</b> 03-24-2026	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	85.79	45.07
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 12-30-2025	6.11	93.89	69.29	46.36	20.56	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-06-2026	6.11	93.89	74.66	56.87	20.56	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-30-2025	64.70	35.30	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 04-01-2025	7.83	92.17	46.88	22.48	0.00	0.00

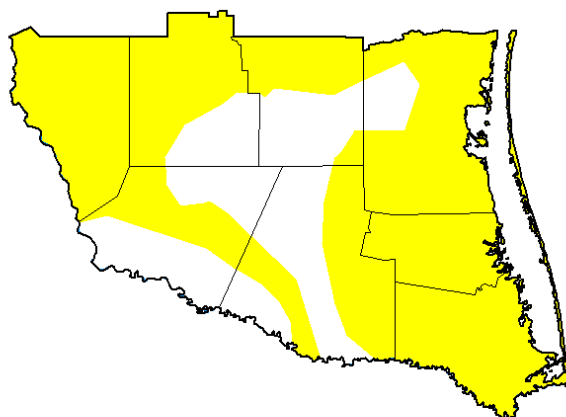
**Intensity:**  
 None (white), D0 Abnormally Dry (yellow), D1 Moderate Drought (orange), D2 Severe Drought (light red), D3 Extreme Drought (red), D4 Exceptional Drought (dark red)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

**Author:**  
 David Simeral  
 Western Regional Climate Center



**U.S. Drought Monitor**  
**Brownsville/Rio**  
**Grande Valley, TX WFO**



**June 2, 2026**  
 (Released Thursday, Jun. 4, 2026)  
 Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	28.74	71.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 05-26-2026	13.99	86.01	50.95	1.93	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 03-03-2026	0.00	100.00	100.00	97.04	71.29	25.51
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-06-2026	6.11	93.89	74.66	56.87	20.56	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-30-2025	64.70	35.30	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 06-03-2025	55.38	44.62	6.88	0.00	0.00	0.00

**Intensity:**  
 None (white), D0 Abnormally Dry (yellow), D1 Moderate Drought (orange), D2 Severe Drought (light red), D3 Extreme Drought (red), D4 Exceptional Drought (dark red)

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**Figures 1a and b.** U.S. Drought Monitor maps for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas ranchlands for March 31 (top, Figure 1a) and June 2 (bottom, Figure 1b) 2026. On March 31, the vast majority of the region was in Extreme to Exceptional conditions, the most since April 2013. Two months later, no areas were in any drought condition, with leftover long-term dryness covering 71% of the region.

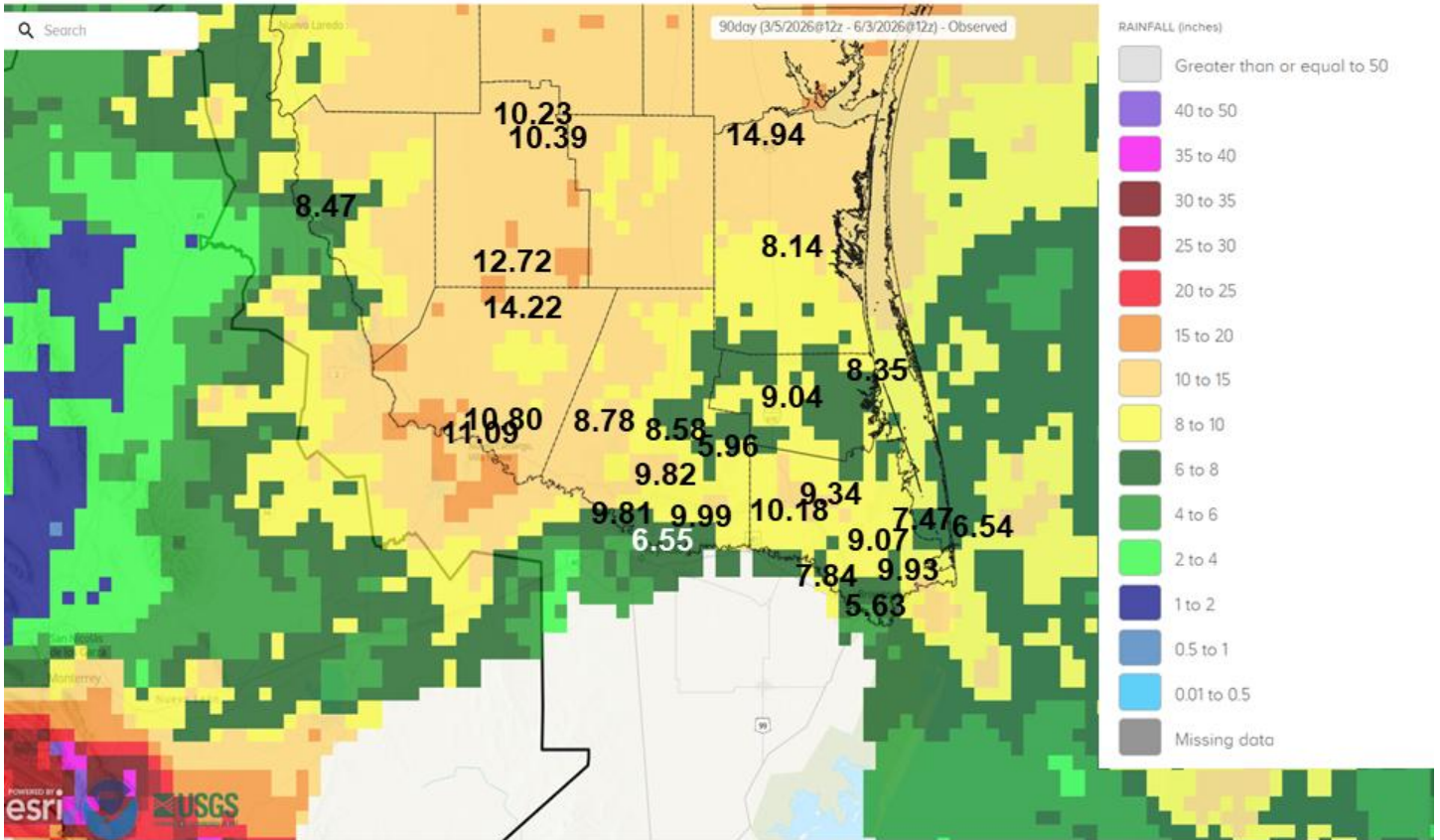
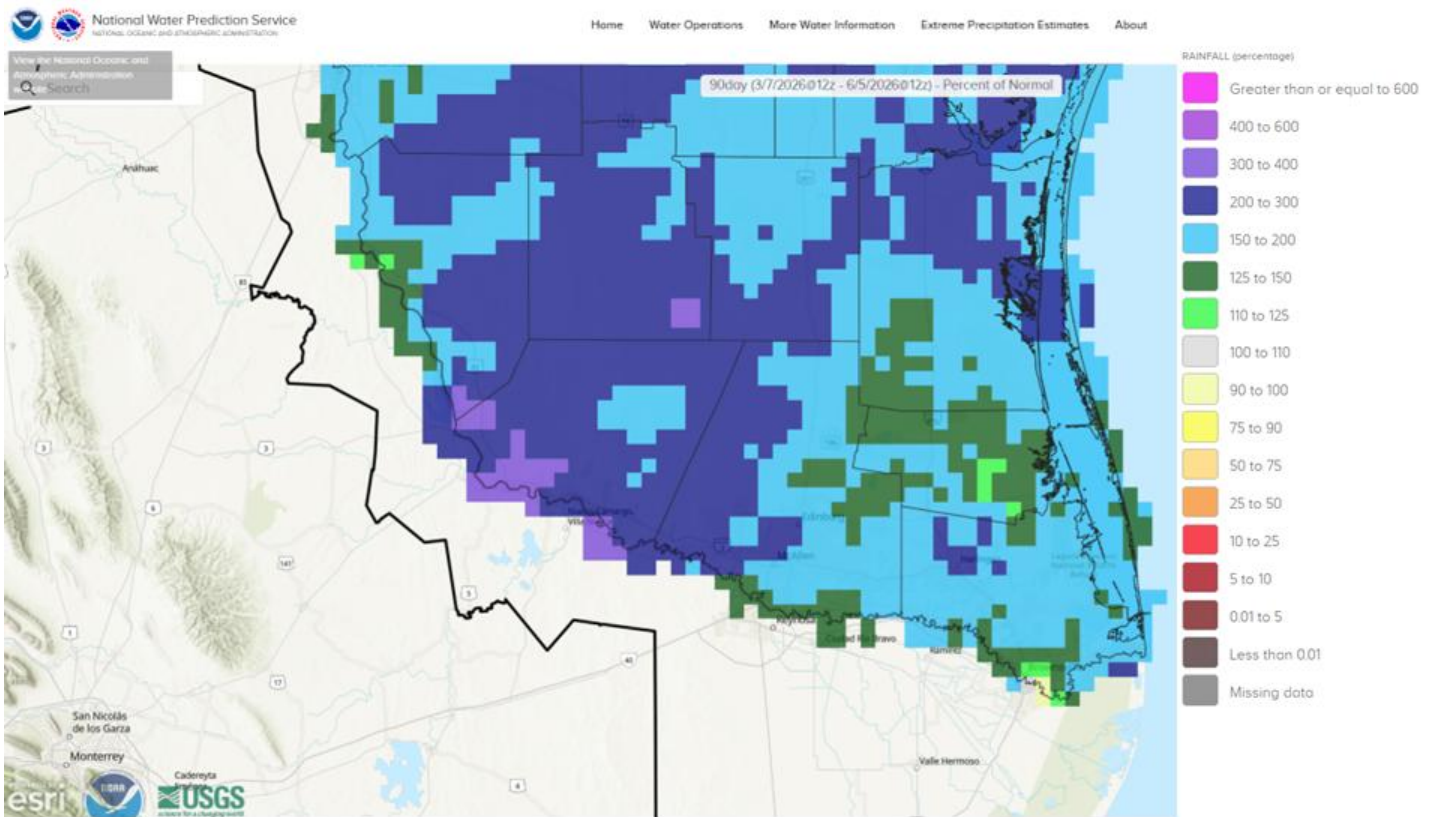


Figure 2. Spring (March-May) rainfall, including annotated observations from CoCoRaHS, NWS Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS), and Texas Mesonet stations, shown.

# Spring 2026 Percent of Average Rainfall

March 7 through June 5, includes a pocket of heavy rainfall in Harlingen on June 2

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**Figure 3.** Spring (March-May) percent of average rainfall, extended into early June, for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas ranch country. The map includes a heavy rain burst on June 2 around Harlingen. Nearly all locations saw at least 150% of average, with upper Valley and Brush Country ranches seeing 200 to 300% (two to three times) average, with a few spots approaching 400% (4 times) average.

# Spring 2026 (March-May) RGV Temperature Rankings

Despite Beneficial Rains in April and May, the Season Was Still Warm to Hot

Weather Forecast Office  
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX



## Maximum 92-Day 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	80.0	2024-05-31	0
2	79.9	2020-05-31	0
3	79.2	2026-05-31	0
4	78.7	2011-05-31	0
5	78.6	2025-05-31	0
6	78.5	2006-05-31	0
7	78.3	2017-05-31	0
8	78.1	2012-05-31	0
9	77.7	1991-05-31	0
10	77.6	2018-05-31	0

Period of record: 1878-01-01 to 2026-06-04

## Maximum 92-Day 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	80.6	2017-05-31	0
2	80.5	2020-05-31	0
3	80.4	2024-05-31	0
4	80.4	2011-05-31	0
5	80.3	2025-05-31	1
6	80.0	2016-05-31	0
7	79.9	2026-05-31	0
8	79.9	1991-05-31	0
9	79.8	2018-05-31	0
10	79.4	2006-05-31	0

Period of record: 1941-06-01 to 2026-06-04

## Maximum 92-Day Mean Avg Temperature for WESLACO, TX

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

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	79.7	1953-06-01	0
2	78.5	2025-06-01	3
3	78.4	2024-06-01	5
4	78.4	1933-06-01	5
5	78.2	1946-06-01	6
6	78.2	1967-06-01	3
7	78.1	1974-06-01	1
8	78.0	2000-06-01	4
9	77.8	1999-06-01	2
10	77.8	2026-06-01	2

Period of record: 1914-02-18 to 2026-06-05

## Maximum 92-Day Mean Avg Temperature for RAYMONDVILLE, TX

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

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	79.6	1953-06-01	2
2	79.1	2020-06-01	12
3	78.3	2006-06-01	0
4	78.1	1967-06-01	0
5	77.9	1955-06-01	2
6	77.5	1921-06-01	9
7	77.5	1945-06-01	2
8	77.5	1991-06-01	1
9	77.4	2026-06-01	5
10	77.1	1927-06-01	0

Period of record: 1913-01-01 to 2026-06-04

## Maximum 92-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	81.8	1902-06-01	0
2	80.3	2025-06-01	1
3	80.0	1929-06-01	0
4	79.9	1933-06-01	0
5	79.8	1946-06-01	1
6	79.7	2011-06-01	9
7	79.6	2000-06-01	3
8	79.6	2024-06-01	4
9	79.4	2012-06-01	14
10	79.3	1953-06-01	0
11	79.0	1991-06-01	11
12	78.9	1904-06-01	0
13	78.9	2020-06-01	5
14	78.8	2006-06-01	4
15	78.7	1967-06-01	0
16	78.7	1955-06-01	0
17	78.5	1963-06-01	0
18	78.1	1905-06-01	4
19	78.1	2017-06-01	11
20	77.8	2026-06-01	13

Period of record: 1897-01-01 to 2026-06-05

## Maximum 92-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	80.1	2023-06-01	13
2	79.5	2020-06-01	8
3	78.9	1953-06-01	2
4	78.1	1945-06-01	3
5	78.0	1955-06-01	1
6	77.9	2006-06-01	0
7	77.9	1929-06-01	1
8	77.8	1933-06-01	0
9	77.7	2011-06-01	3
10	77.6	2017-06-01	2
11	77.5	2022-06-01	6
12	77.5	2025-06-01	9
13	77.5	1927-06-01	0
14	77.3	2016-06-01	5
-	77.3	1967-06-01	5
16	77.2	2012-06-01	4
17	77.1	2000-06-01	5
18	76.9	1946-06-01	0
19	76.8	1999-06-01	1
20	76.7	2026-06-01	1

Period of record: 1912-02-07 to 2026-06-05

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**Figure 4.** Spring (March-May) temperature rankings. Despite a wetter April and May which brought averages closer to the 1991-2020 levels, the season ranked in the top 10 to 20 warmest on record, with Brownsville, McAllen, and Weslaco landing in the top 10 for a third year in a row.

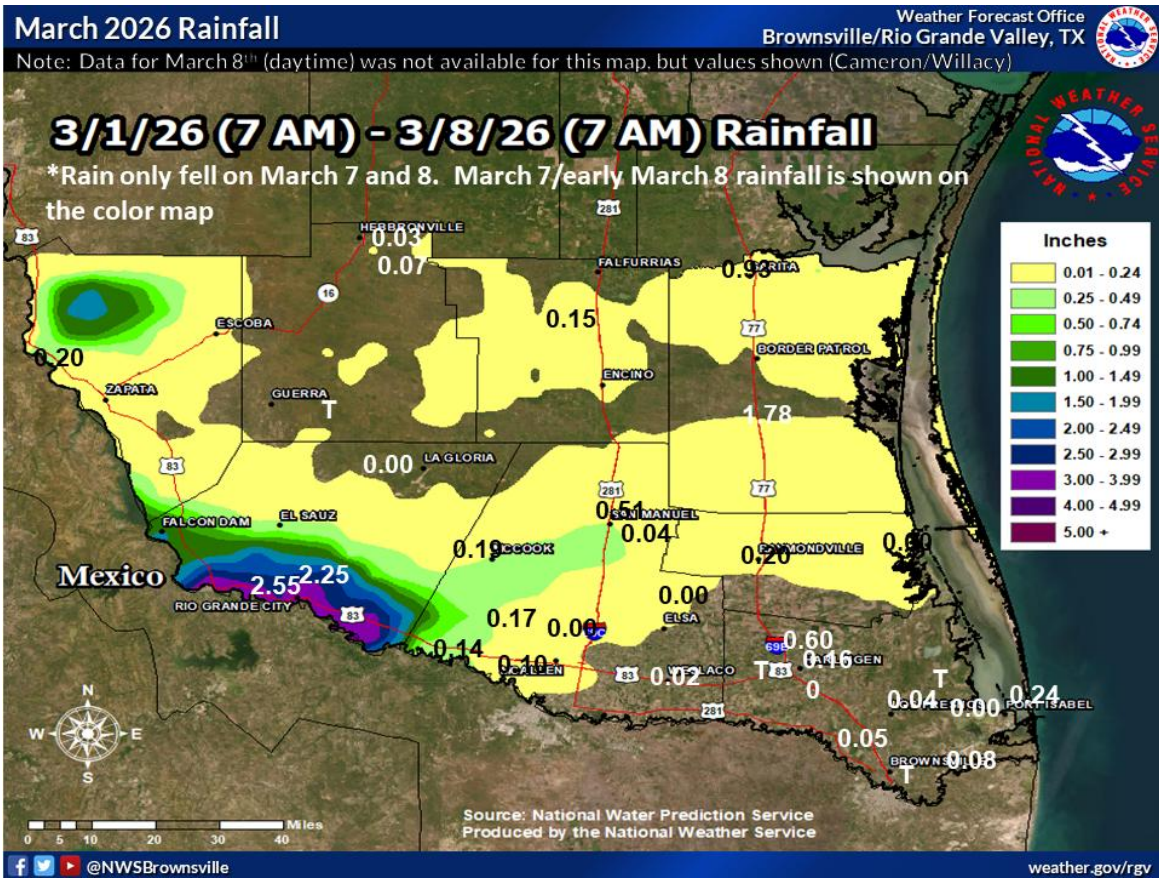


Figure 5. March rainfall for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas ranch country. Note that rainfall for March 8<sup>th</sup> (afternoon) in Cameron and Willacy County is not shown due to a missing daily data file.

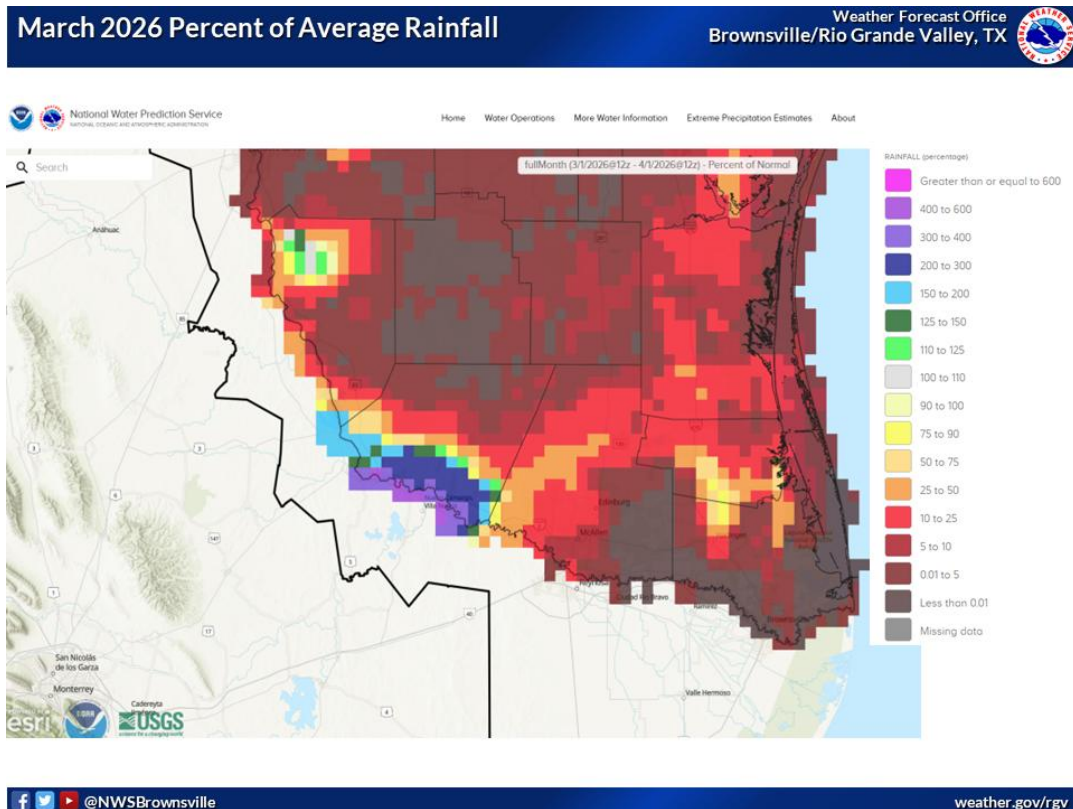


Figure 6. March percentage of rainfall for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas ranch country.

# March 2026 Temperature Rankings Across the RGV

Top-Ten Warmth Continued into early spring

Weather Forecast Office  
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX



## Maximum 31-Day 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	76.8	2020-03-31	0
2	76.1	2026-03-31	0
3	74.9	1953-03-31	0
4	74.8	1945-03-31	0
5	74.7	2018-03-31	0
6	74.4	2000-03-31	0
7	74.4	1921-03-31	0
8	74.2	1938-03-31	0
9	74.2	2017-03-31	0
10	74.0	2006-03-31	0

Period of record: 1878-01-01 to 2026-06-04

## Maximum 31-Day 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	78.4	2026-03-31	0
2	77.7	2020-03-31	0
3	76.8	1945-03-31	0
4	76.8	2018-03-31	0
5	76.3	2017-03-31	0
6	76.3	2025-03-31	0
-	76.3	1953-03-31	0
8	76.2	2016-03-31	0
9	75.6	1991-03-31	0
10	75.4	2011-03-31	0

Period of record: 1941-06-01 to 2026-06-04

## Maximum 31-Day Mean Avg Temperature for WESLACO, TX

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

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	77.6	1953-04-01	0
2	75.8	1938-04-01	2
3	75.5	1945-04-01	0
4	75.5	2026-04-01	1
5	74.8	2025-04-01	1
6	74.8	1974-04-01	0
7	74.6	1921-04-01	0
8	74.4	1928-04-01	1
9	74.2	1972-04-01	0
10	73.8	2000-04-01	2

Period of record: 1914-02-18 to 2026-06-05

## Maximum 31-Day Mean Avg Temperature for RAYMONDVILLE, TX

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

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	77.1	1953-04-01	0
2	75.9	2026-04-01	0
3	75.8	2020-04-01	4
4	75.8	1945-04-01	1
5	75.5	1921-04-01	4
6	74.9	1938-04-01	3
7	73.5	2006-04-01	0
8	73.4	2023-04-01	2
9	73.2	1991-04-01	0
10	73.1	2000-04-01	1

Period of record: 1913-01-01 to 2026-06-04

## 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	77.3	1904-04-01	0
2	76.5	2025-04-01	0
3	76.4	2020-04-01	2
4	75.8	1902-04-01	0
5	75.5	1953-04-01	0
6	75.3	1938-04-01	0
7	75.2	1933-04-01	0
8	75.1	2000-04-01	1
9	75.0	1929-04-01	0
10	74.9	2026-04-01	3

Period of record: 1897-01-01 to 2026-06-05

## 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	76.9	2020-04-01	2
2	76.5	1953-04-01	0
3	76.5	1945-04-01	1
4	74.4	1938-04-01	0
5	74.2	1921-04-01	0
6	74.1	2017-04-01	0
7	74.0	2026-04-01	1
8	73.6	2000-04-01	2
9	73.4	1928-04-01	0
10	73.3	1935-04-01	0

Period of record: 1912-02-07 to 2026-06-05

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Figure 7. March average temperatures for selected Lower Rio Grande Valley cities. Top five-to-ten warmth that began the year persisted through March.

**March** was virtually rain-free for all but a few spots. As mentioned in the Season in a Nutshell overview, Extreme (D3) to Exceptional (D4) Drought, which covered 71% of the region on March 3, would further expand to cover nearly 95% of the region by March 31 (Figure 1a, page 2). The dry conditions, along with a favorable pattern for warmth, left the month ranked among the top five to ten hottest on record (Figure 7). Brownsville, Weslaco, and McAllen, which missed the localized rainfall on March 7 and 8, finished among the top five driest on record (zero to 0.02”). Texas Agrilife reported the following in their March 31 crop and weather report: “Pasture and rangeland conditions were poor, with elevated fire danger. Livestock required heavy supplementation, and hay supplies tightened. Wildlife and livestock stress increased due to lack of water and forage.” The dry and occasionally windy conditions led to the spread of several wildfires across the ranch region, with one fire of more than 2200 acres impacting rangeland in western Kenedy County on March 19<sup>th</sup>, continuing through the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The one notable event in March occurred during the evening of [March 7 into the early morning of March 8](#). This event featured small supercell thunderstorms that provided brief rain relief to portions of Zapata County, but ultimately a single, large supercell that hugged the Rio Grande along the Starr County/Tamaulipas (Mexico) border. The supercell produced a combination of heavy rainfall (upwards of 2”), large hail up to baseball sized – a much of that hail driven by winds between 65 and 80 mph. A second cluster of thunderstorms after midnight impacted northern Tamaulipas and slid across the river into southwest Starr, including Roma. Those cells, which produced another 1 to 2” of rainfall, were the kicker to overspilling

culverts, arroyos, and other “washes” in Roma – one that tore up portions of paved roads in the city creating the worst flash flood seen there since late [August 2008](#). During the afternoon of March 8<sup>th</sup>, a boundary between the remains of the supercell and warmer, more humid air along the coast triggered a band of an estimated 1-2” of rainfall between north Harlingen and Lyford.



*Above* - Still photo from a video of a flash flood in Roma, Texas, early on March 8, 2026. Credit: Chief Garza of the Roma Fire Department.

Other than the March 7-8 window, there were no other notable rain events in March 2026.



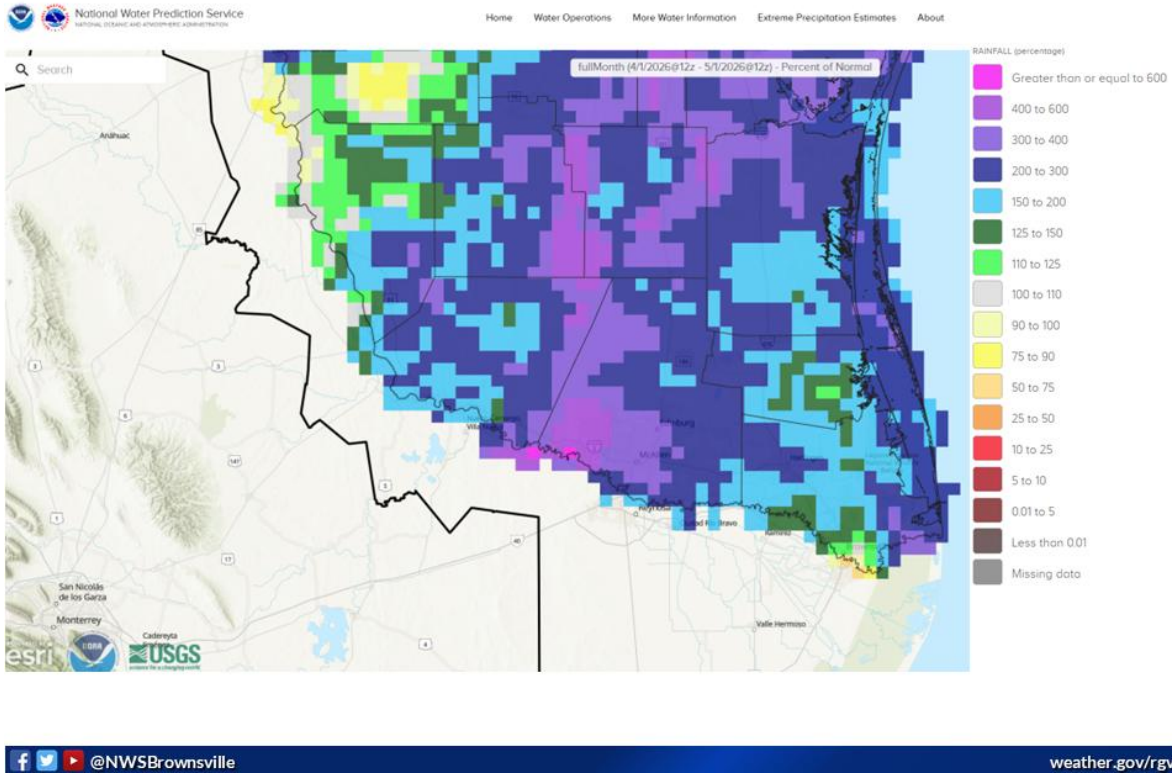


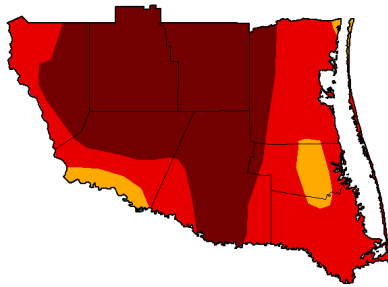
Figure 9. April percentage of average rainfall for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas ranch country.

**April:** What a difference a month made! The month began with a continuation of hot and rain-free weather through the afternoon of the 4<sup>th</sup>. Change began late that afternoon and evening, as a slow-moving cluster of thunderstorms developed along the Jim Hogg/Brooks County line, and moved/redeveloped into far western and southwestern Hidalgo County. Radar estimates of 3-5+” were the pre-cursor to a more widespread rain event – the most since July 1-2, 2025 (associated with the remains of Tropical Storm Barry) – on Easter Sunday (April 5<sup>th</sup>) across the populated Lower Rio Grande Valley behind a robust mid-spring cold front, which dropped temperatures into the 50s for many areas during the steady, beneficial rainfall. The Eastern Sunday event dropped 1 to 3”, accounting for the majority of the month’s rain for locations east of the aforementioned April 4<sup>th</sup> event. For many, the two-day rainfall was 2 to 3 times the monthly average for April.

Additional light to locally moderate rain fell between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, with another robust cold front on the 18<sup>th</sup> into the 19<sup>th</sup> providing sufficient lift for locally heavy rainfall (0.75 to 2”) on the 18<sup>th</sup> into the 19<sup>th</sup>, as daytime temperatures (19<sup>th</sup>) held in the low to mid 60s for many - 20°F below average for the date.

Monthly totals generally ranged from 2” to more than 6” – two to more than four times the April average (Figures 8 and 9). The rains chipped away at the worst drought in thirteen years; by the end of April, widespread Extreme (level 3 of 4) to Exceptional (level 4 of 4) Drought had been improved to Moderate (level 1 of 4) to Severe (level 2 of 4) (Figure 10).

**U.S. Drought Monitor**  
**Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX WFO**



**March 31, 2026**  
 (Released Thursday, Apr. 2, 2026)  
 Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	94.59	54.79
Last Week 03-24-2026	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	85.79	45.07
3 Months Ago 12-30-2025	5.11	93.89	69.29	46.36	20.56	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2026	5.11	93.89	74.66	56.87	20.56	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	64.70	35.30	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 04-01-2025	7.83	92.17	46.88	22.48	0.00	0.00

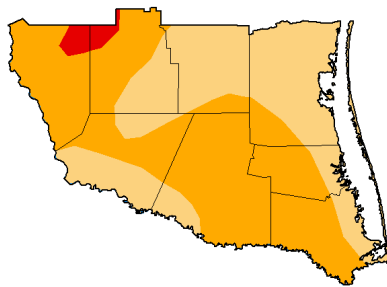
**Intensity:**  
 None (white), D0 Abnormally Dry (yellow), D1 Moderate Drought (orange), D2 Severe Drought (red-orange), D3 Extreme Drought (red), D4 Exceptional Drought (dark red)

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Logos: USDA, NDMC, NOAA, NASA  
[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

**U.S. Drought Monitor**  
**Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX WFO**



**May 5, 2026**  
 (Released Thursday, May 7, 2026)  
 Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	58.76	2.17	0.00
Last Week 04-28-2026	0.00	100.00	100.00	58.76	2.17	0.00
3 Months Ago 02-03-2026	2.17	97.83	88.36	64.83	45.36	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2026	6.11	93.89	74.66	56.87	20.56	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	64.70	35.30	3.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 05-06-2025	11.18	88.82	36.49	16.90	0.00	0.00

**Intensity:**  
 None (white), D0 Abnormally Dry (yellow), D1 Moderate Drought (orange), D2 Severe Drought (red-orange), D3 Extreme Drought (red), D4 Exceptional Drought (dark red)

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Logos: USDA, NDMC, NOAA, NASA  
[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

**Figure 10.** Drought improvement for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas ranchlands between March 31, 2026 (left) and May 5, 2026 (right).

The periodic rains, and passage of two notable cold fronts, did knock down temperatures relative to monthly 1991-2020 averages – but not in every case. Brownsville, which received less than 2” of monthly rainfall and was on the edge of the April 18/19 front, ended the month ranked 6<sup>th</sup> warmest overall. McAllen and Weslaco ranked among the top 25 warmest (and ~ top 20% warmest), while Harlingen, Raymondville, and Rio Grande City were in the top 33% warmest on record (Figure 11).

**April 2026 Temperature Rankings Across the RGV**  
 Rains knocked averages down, but some locations remained in the top 25 warmest

Weather Forecast Office  
 Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX

**Maximum 30-Day 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	80.5	2011-04-30	0
2	80.1	2022-04-30	0
-	80.1	1967-04-30	0
4	79.9	2020-04-30	0
5	79.8	2006-04-30	0
6	79.2	2026-04-30	0
7	79.1	2012-04-30	0
8	79.0	2002-04-30	0
9	78.7	2024-04-30	0
-	78.7	1929-04-30	0

Period of record: 1878-01-01 to 2026-06-04

**Maximum 30-Day 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	82.3	2011-04-30	0
2	81.0	2017-04-30	0
3	80.8	1967-04-30	0
4	80.6	1991-04-30	0
5	80.6	2022-04-30	0
-	80.6	2020-04-30	0
7	80.5	1999-04-30	0
8	80.4	1963-04-30	0
9	80.3	2006-04-30	0
10	80.1	2016-04-30	0
11	79.8	2012-04-30	0
12	79.6	2009-04-30	0
13	79.5	2002-04-30	0
14	79.4	2024-04-30	0
15	79.4	1986-04-30	0
16	79.3	2001-04-30	0
17	79.2	2025-04-30	1
18	79.2	2026-04-30	0
19	79.1	2015-04-30	0
20	78.8	1972-04-30	0

Period of record: 1941-06-01 to 2026-06-04

**Maximum 30-Day Mean Avg Temperature for WESLACO, TX**

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

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	80.4	1967-05-01	1
2	79.9	1933-05-01	2
3	79.7	1963-05-01	0
4	79.5	2002-05-01	3
5	79.4	1972-05-01	0
6	79.4	1964-05-01	0
7	79.2	1953-05-01	0
8	78.8	1999-05-01	0
9	78.1	1984-05-01	5
10	78.1	1927-05-01	0
11	78.0	1991-05-01	0
12	77.9	1950-05-01	0
13	77.8	1965-05-01	0
14	77.8	1981-05-01	0
15	77.7	1954-05-01	0
16	77.7	1986-05-01	1
17	77.7	1948-05-01	0
18	77.7	1975-05-01	0
19	77.6	2025-05-01	1
20	77.5	1923-05-01	0
21	77.5	2024-05-01	1
22	77.5	1946-05-01	0
23	77.3	1955-05-01	0
24	77.3	2026-05-01	0
25	77.3	1935-05-01	3

Period of record: 1914-02-18 to 2026-06-05

**Not shown:**

- **Harlingen** (since 1912): 43<sup>rd</sup> warmest April (76.3 degrees). Number 1: 1967, 79.9
- **Rio Grande City** (1897; 1900-1906; 1928-present): 33<sup>rd</sup> warmest April (77.6 degrees). Number 1: 1902, 82.7

[weather.gov/rgv](https://www.weather.gov/rgv)

**Figure 11.** Temperature rankings, April, for select cities of the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

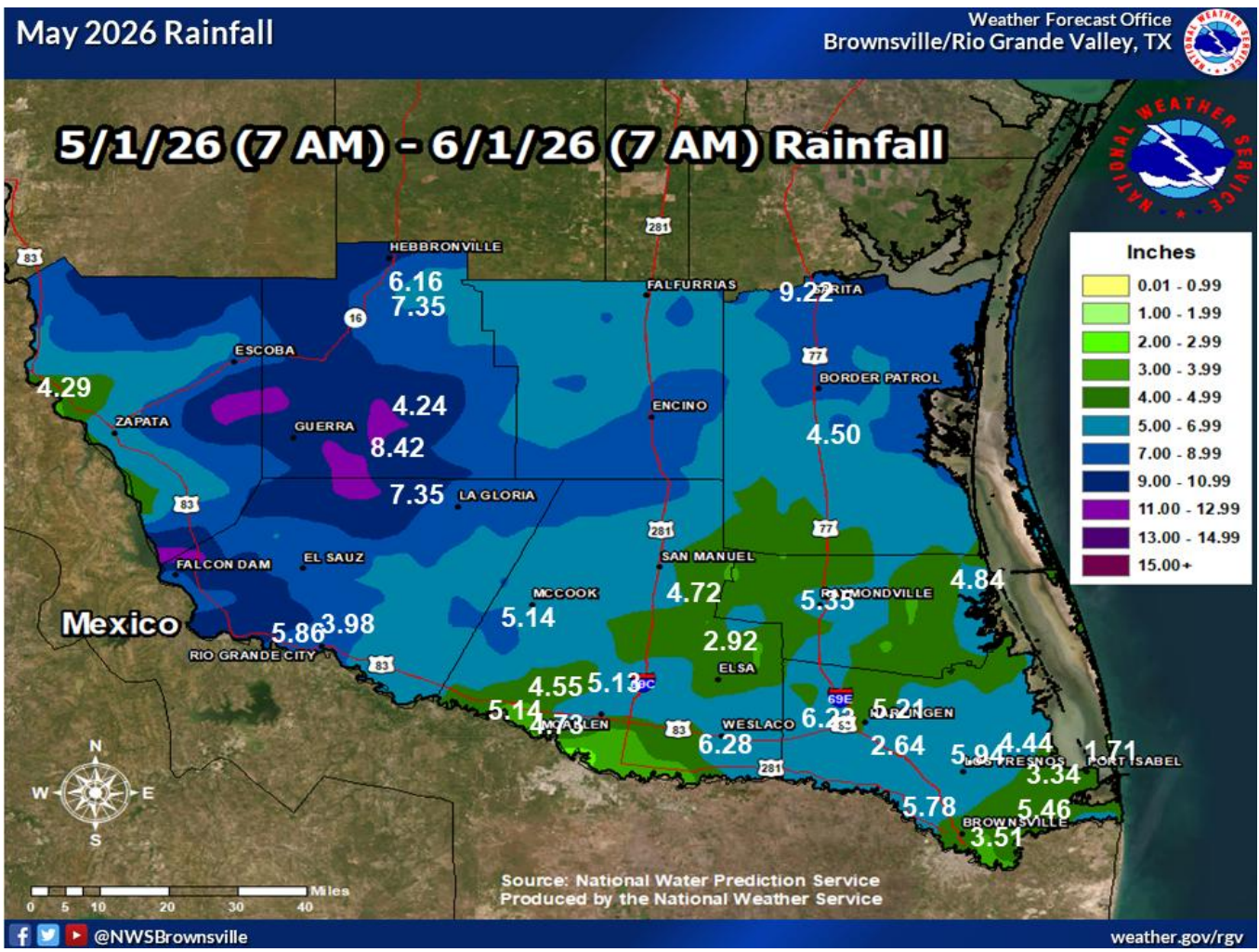


Figure 12. May rainfall for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas ranch country, annotated with data from CoCoRaHS, ASOS, and Texas Mesonet locations, among others.

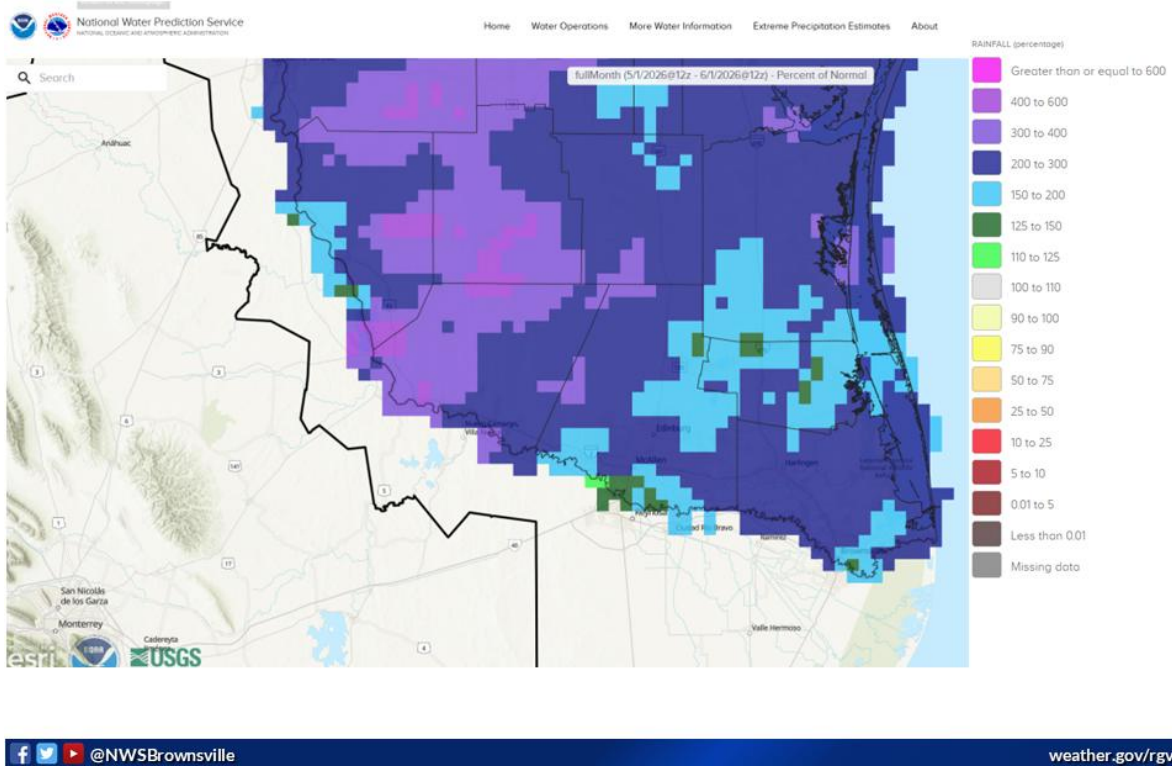


Figure 13. May percentage of average rainfall for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas ranch country.

May finished, in terms of rainfall and drought removal, what April 2026 began. Following one final spring (and late) cold front on the 1st into the 2nd, generally seasonal heat returned – but the atmosphere remained “active” with a persistent trough of low pressure over the southwest U.S. and northwest Mexico and Baja California (Figure 16, below) allowing short-wave energy to emit from this trough several times, leading to atmospheric lift that helped generate thunderstorm lines or cluster along/east of the Sierra Madre or across central or north-central Texas – several which moved southeast and reached all or part of the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas ranchlands. Highest rainfall occurred across Starr, western Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, and eastern Hidalgo (Figure 12, above), with two to four+ times the average monthly rainfall (8 to 12”; the 1991-2020 average is generally 2 to 2.5”), with other locations at 1.5 to nearly 3 times average (Figure 13, above).

Severe weather, mainly in the form of straight-line winds, impacted parts of the region, beginning with a wet microburst from southeastern Hidalgo through [central Cameron County on May 9th](#) that produced estimated and measured wind gusts of 65 to 82 mph that damaged or destroyed several substandard buildings and continuing with spotty gusts over 60 mph on May 20th near the coast, and a supercell that rolled through northeast Kenedy County late on May 22 that produced large hail in Sarita and a wind gust to 94 mph along Laguna Madre.

Thunderstorm clusters and squall lines produced observed and radar-estimated heavy rain events on the following days:

- May 9, Starr and Hidalgo (1 to 2”)
- May 20 (pre-dawn), Kenedy and Brooks (0.5 to 2”)

- May 21 (pre-dawn), Starr, Jim Hogg, and eastern Zapata (3 to 5+”)
- May 23/24, southern Zapata, northern Starr, southern Jim Hogg, Brooks (1 to 3+”)
- May 26 (evening/overnight), northern Zapata and northern Jim Hogg (2 to 4”)
- May 27 (morning/early afternoon), Cameron, Willacy, southern Kenedy (2 to 3.5”)

Ranch rains provided welcome relief for livestock water needs and rangeland growth; minor urban flooding occurred during the morning/early afternoon of May 27<sup>th</sup> in Cameron and Willacy County. In all areas, green and thick grasses and brush replaced the parched, dusty landscape at the end of May – less than two months after the worst of the early spring drought.

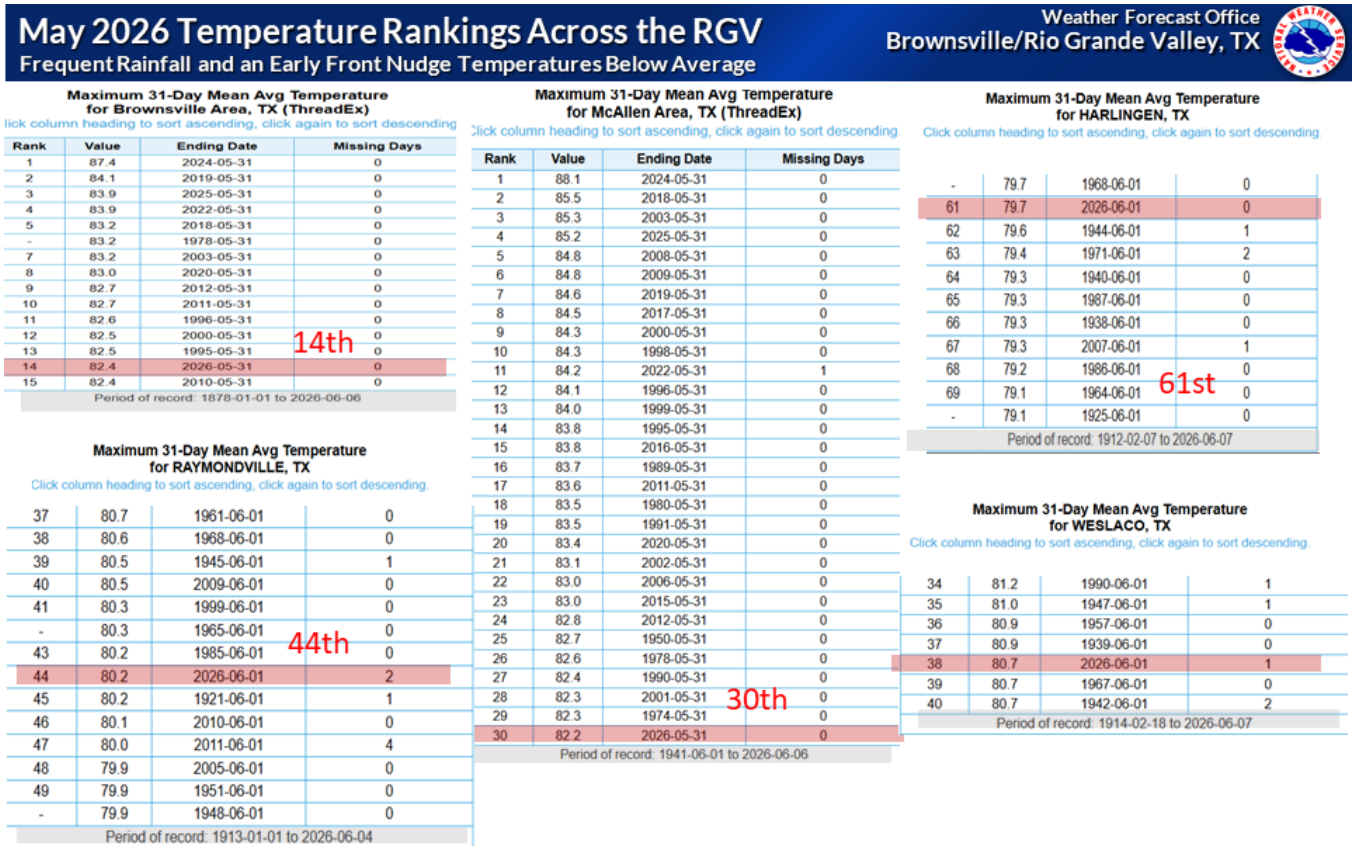


Figure 14. Temperature rankings, May, for select cities of the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Not surprisingly, monthly average temperatures were impacted by the frequent rains, with most locations ending at or just below the 1991-2020 average. That said, most locations ended up in the top 50% of record, with Brownsville still ranking 14<sup>th</sup> hottest despite seeing above average rainfall (3.51” vs. 2.22” on average).

**Reservoir Response**

The April, and especially May, rainfall aided inflows into the Lower Rio Grande river basin, which included the Rio Salado and other tributaries. Conservation storage levels rose from just under 11% at the end of March to just below 17% at the end of May at Falcon International Reservoir – which also provided a few targeted releases for crop growers and municipalities of the Lower Rio Grande Valley during the period. Unfortunately, upstream Amistad International Reservoir only saw a minor rise from early to mid-April, before a slow drop

thereafter...down to 18.7%, near the all-time low value since the dam/reservoir constitution in 1970-1971. Amistad – Falcon Percent of Conservation Capacity continued to remain near record lows, with a slight uptick in the U.S. percentage since early 2025 being countered by near record low Mexican percentages during the same period (Figure 15).

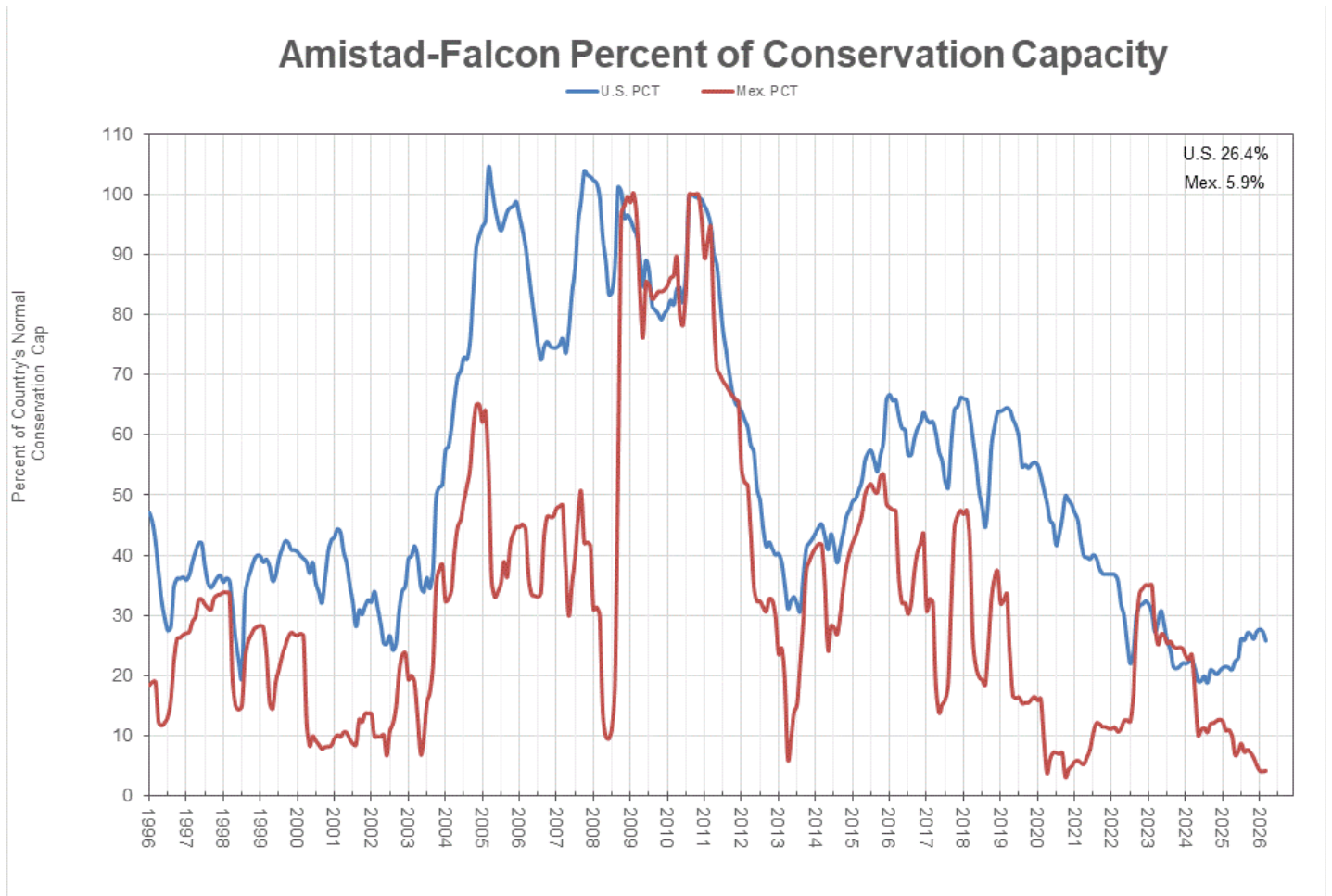


Figure 15. Amistad minus Falcon International Reservoir Percent of Conservation Capacity, 1996 through present.

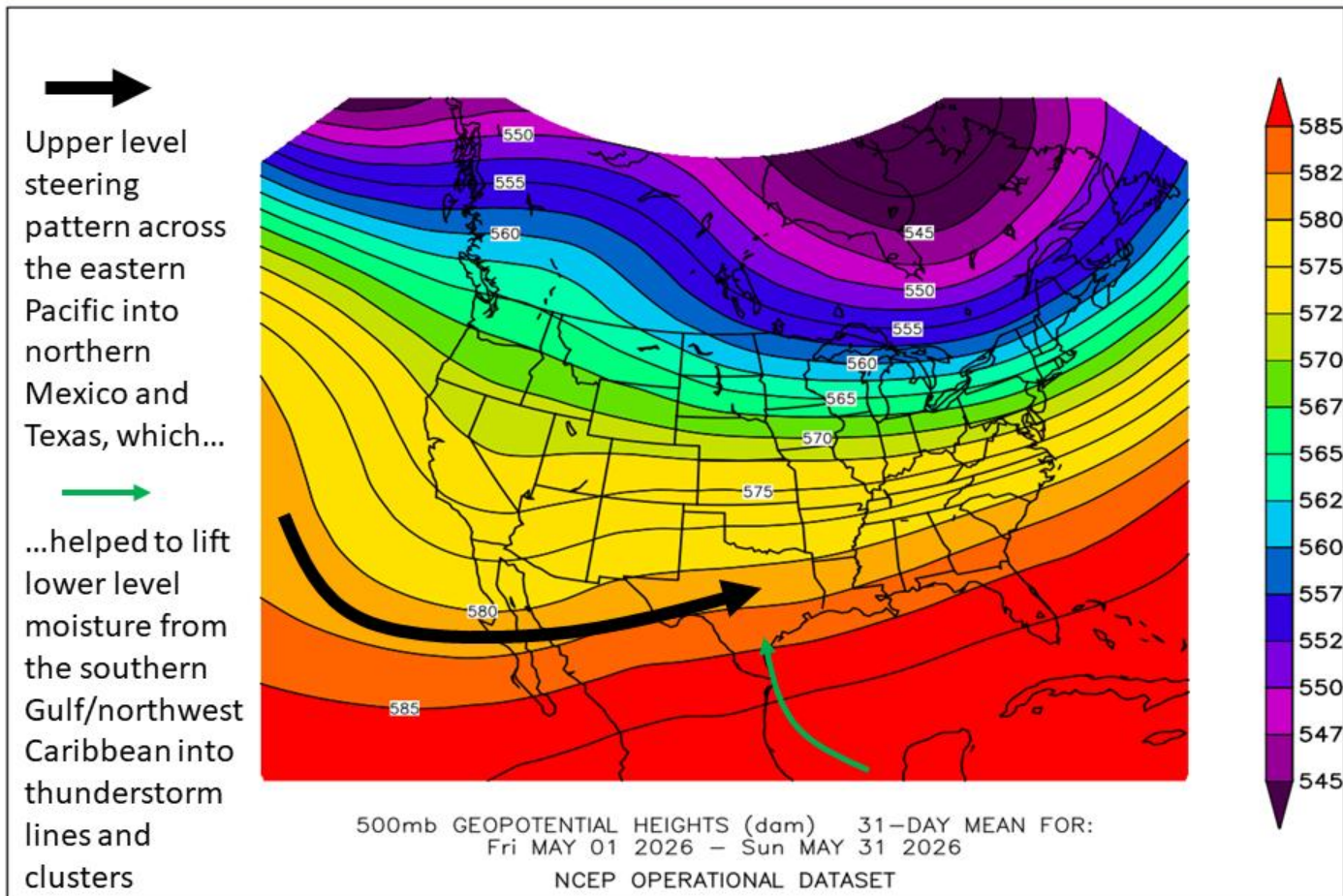


Figure 16. May 2026 steering pattern, at around 18 thousand feet above ground level, across the United States.