



April 2013 Climate Summary for SOUTHEAST TEXAS WFO Houston/ Galveston



Much needed rainfall fell across southeast Texas in April 2013 and abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions were eased by the near to above normal precipitation (Figure 1). The effect of the rain was then amplified by below normal temperatures.

A series of cold fronts was responsible for the wetter and cooler conditions. The month began

Houston/Galveston, TX (HGX): April, 2013 Monthly Percent of Normal Precipitation
Valid at 5/1/2013 1200 UTC- Created 5/2/13 20:03 UTC

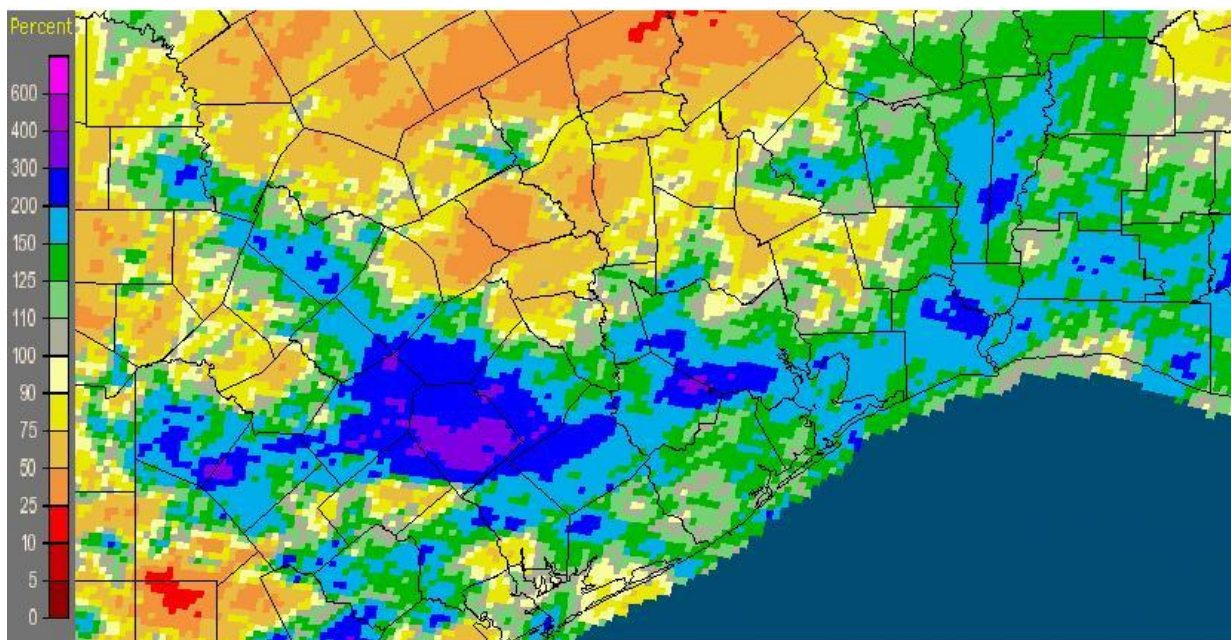


Figure 1: Percent of normal precipitation across southeast Texas

with two cold fronts pushing through the state and with a cold air mass following. Three more cold air masses settled across southeast Texas following frontal passages throughout the remainder of the month. Each brought temperatures of between 1 and 15 degrees below the daily normal for many of the first and second- order climate sites. April ended with the monthly normal ranging between 1.0 and 3.5 degrees below normal.

The wet start to April ended the drying trend which had occurred over most of southeast Texas between mid-January and the end of March. Events on the 2nd and 27th of April brought heavier rainfall amounts to portions of the area, and greater than 6" of rain was recorded at Hobby airport and Sugar Land on the 27th. The National Weather Service Office in League City was the only

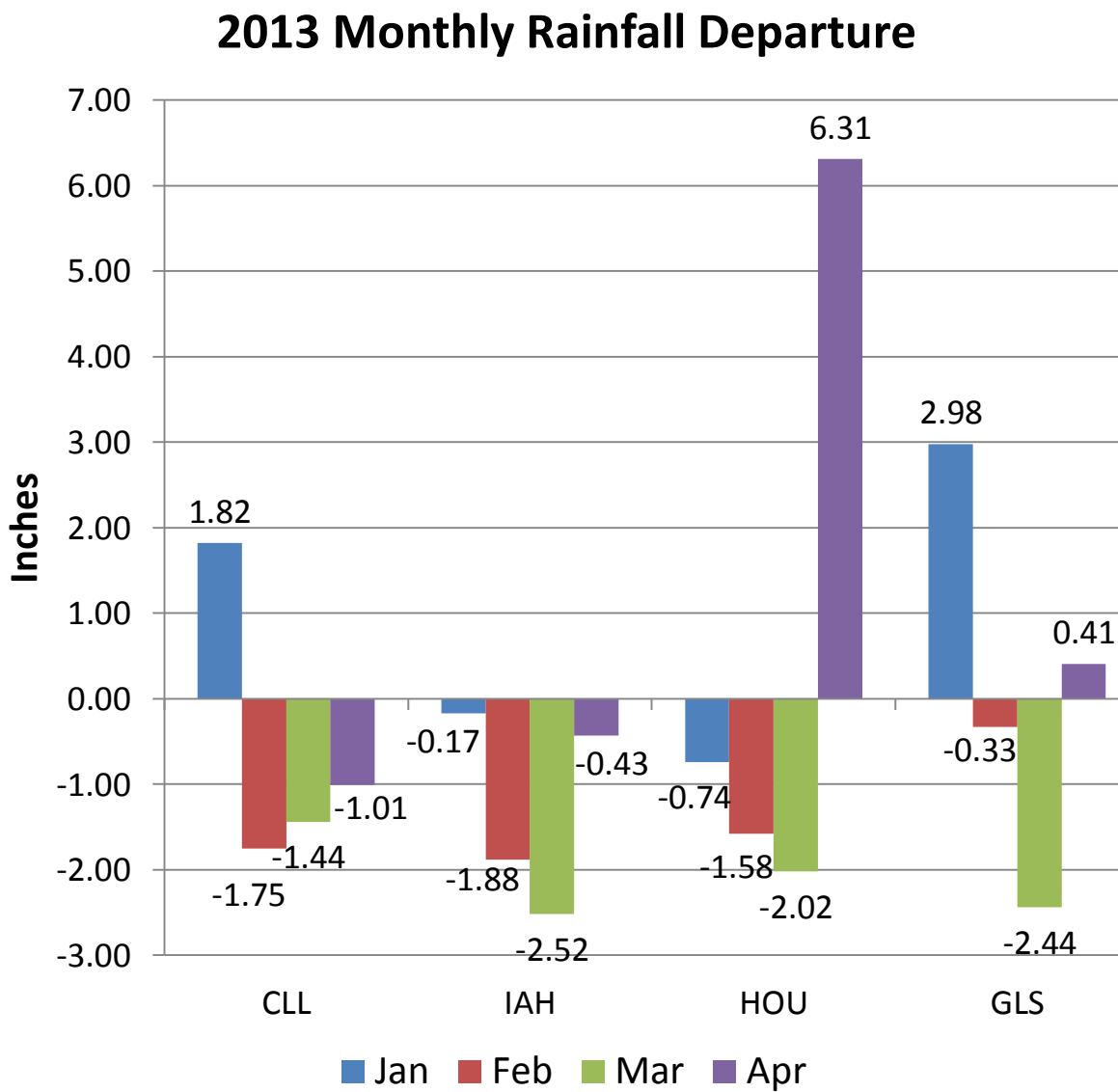


Figure 2: Monthly rainfall departure from normal for each first order climate site across southeast Texas

other climate site to record more than 6” of rainfall for the month, although there were no daily totals above 1.78” at the site. Figure 2 illustrates how southeast Texas has gone from a drying trend over the first three months of the year to a wetter trend in April.

Of interest was the heavy rainfall event that occurred on the 27th of April at both Hobby airport and Sugar Land. Reliable records at Hobby airport have been kept since 1947 although there

are some additional records from 1941 to 1946. Daily rainfall of more than 5” has never been recorded at Hobby airport for January, February, or March. The airport has one reported rainfall of more than 6” on two dates in April, coincidentally both on the 27th of April in 1972 and 2013.

For the Sugar Land site, records that have only been kept since September of 2000 have not always been reliable. Rainfall amounts greater than 6” has never been recorded in January through March at the Sugar Land airport, while April has only recorded more than 6” on the 27th of April in 2013. The previous date which recorded more than 6” of rainfall was September 13th of 2008 at Hobby and 6.10” on July 7th of 2010 in Sugar Land.

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