

April 2014 Climate Summary for SOUTHEAST TEXAS WFO Houston/ Galveston



The drier and cooler than normal trend that has been seen across Southeast Texas since October 2013 continued through April 2014. This is the first time since 1983 that the City of Houston has registered six or more months in a row of below normal temperatures. In addition to below normal temperatures, a large portion of the area has seen below normal rainfall too. The drying trend of the past several months has become severe enough for moderate to severe drought conditions to develop in some spots.

To put this latest drought into perspective, the period of December 2013 through April 2014 is the driest in recorded history for the City of Galveston (Figure 1), Angleton, Palacios and Freeport.

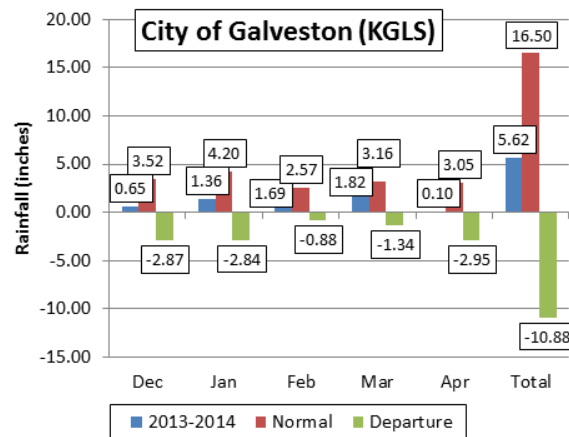
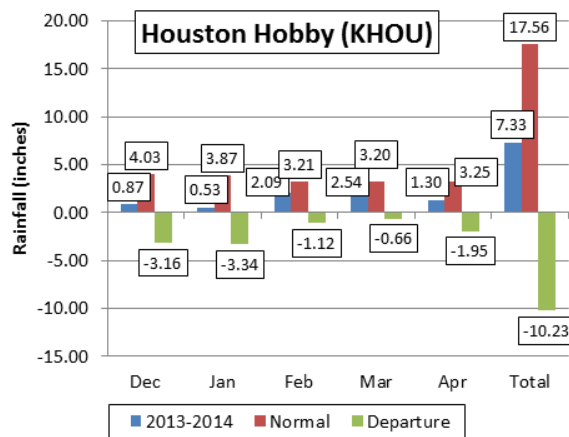
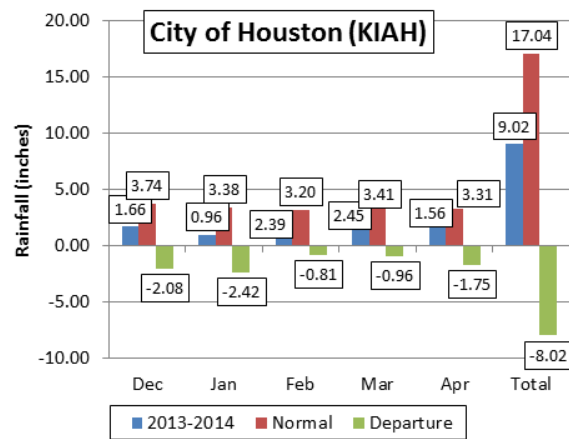
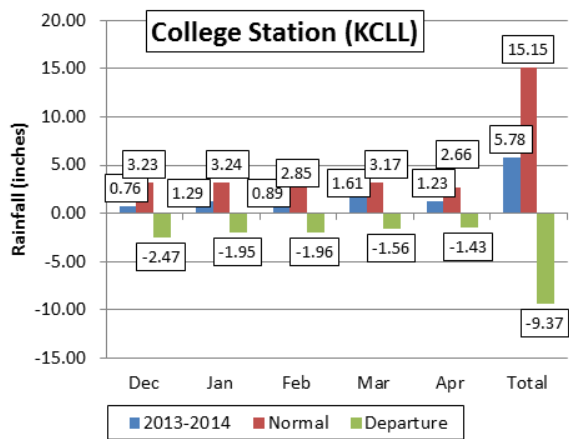


Figure 1: Monthly rainfall departures (December 2013 – April 2014)

Palacios could not even muster up four inches of rain over the last five months (3.90”). It is also the second driest December through April for Houston Hobby Airport (Figure 1), the third driest at Danevang and the fourth driest at Bay City. All the sites mentioned above are drier this year than the “drought year” of 2010 – 2011. The City of Houston (KIAH) has recorded 9.02” of rain since December 1st and this is the 6th driest period on record which also bests 2010- 2011 (9.68” of rain).

The southern half of Southeast Texas has averaged between 30% and 40% of normal rainfall since December 1st. Palacios and Angleton/ Lake Jackson fared the worst, receiving only 25% of normal rainfall since December 1st.

For the month of April most of the area has seen less that 50% of their expected rainfall (Figure 2). Areas near the coast and towards the southwest received less than 10% of their normal rainfall. For the month of April the City of Galveston observed only 0.10” of rainfall. This is the third driest April ever recorded at Galveston.

Houston/Galveston, TX (HGX): April, 2014 Monthly Percent of Normal Precipitation
Valid at 5/1/2014 1200 UTC- Created 5/3/14 23:36 UTC

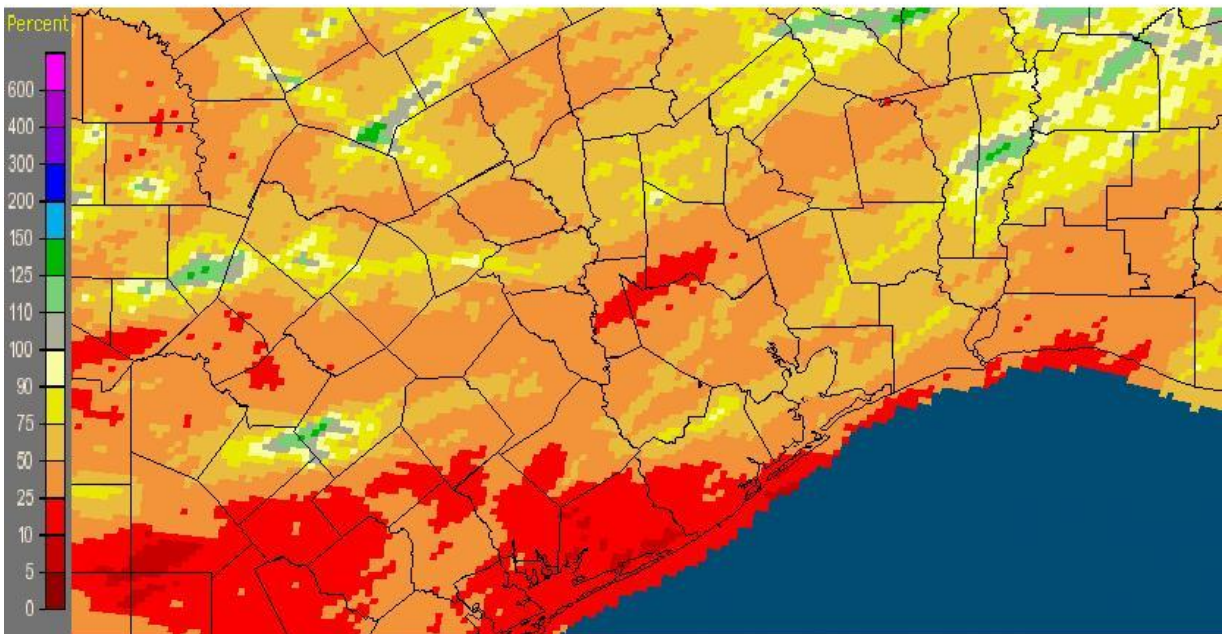


Figure 2: April 2014 percent of normal precipitation
(water.weather.gov)

National Weather Service
Houston/ Galveston, TX Weather Forecast Office
1353 FM 646 Suite 202
Dickinson, TX 77539
281-337-5074
Questions/ Comments: sr-hgx.webmaster@noaa.gov

