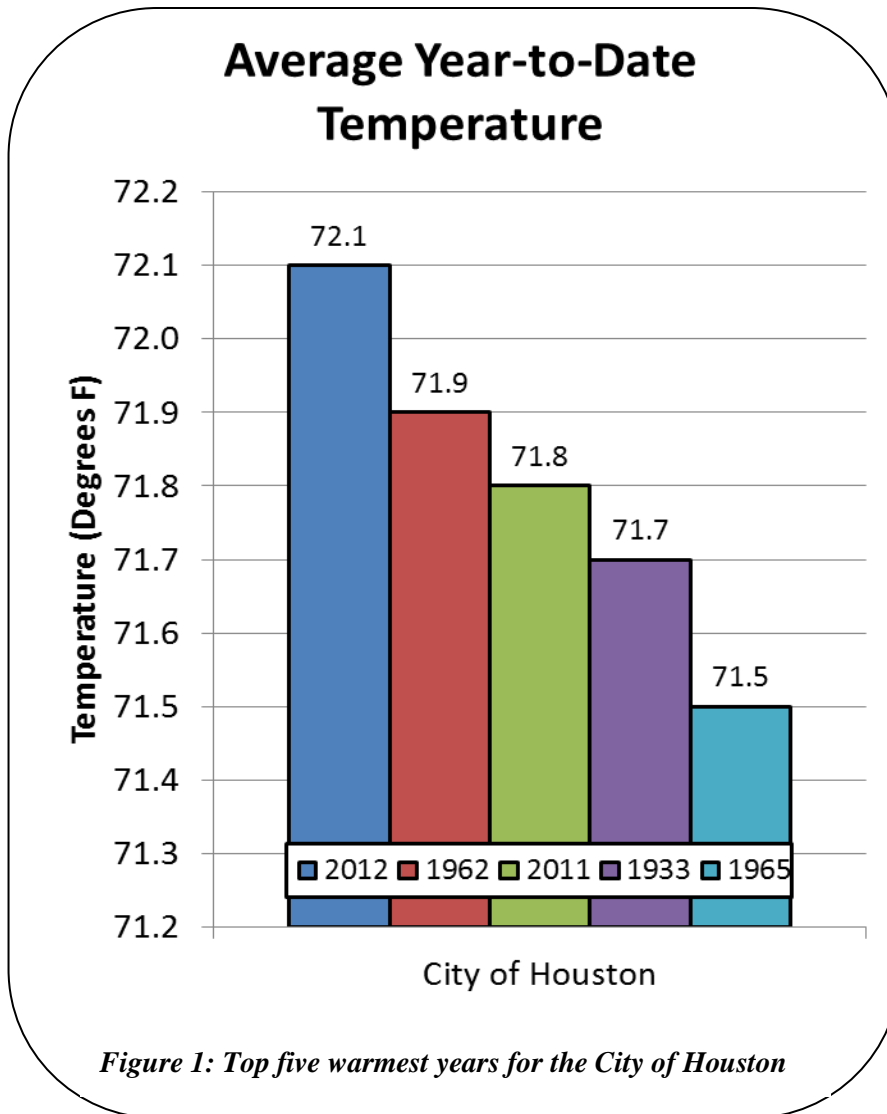


December 2012 Climate Summary for SOUTHEAST TEXAS WFO Houston/ Galveston



A slow improvement in the very dry conditions occurred as a series of storm systems moved across Southeast Texas throughout the month of December 2012. The major climate sites saw rainfall totals increase from under 1 inch in November to over 2.5 to fewer than 6 inches in December. This was reflected in the drought monitor which changed from increasing drought conditions at the first of



December to improving conditions with drought impacts easing at the first of January 2013.

The monthly average temperatures varied from below to above normal at the major climate sites. Below normal temperatures were reported at both College Station and Intercontinental Airport, while above normal monthly averages occurred at both Hobby Airport and Scholes Field in Galveston.

A fairly warm December for at least the southern half of the area helped 2012 become one of the warmest years on record. At the major climate sites, 2012 was the warmest year on record for the City of Houston (see Figure 1), the City of Galveston, and Hobby Airport. 2012 tied

2011 as the warmest year on record at College Station. Note that the fifth warmest year on record for the City of Houston was 71.5 set in 1965 and 1927. Also note for the City of Galveston, the third warmest year of 72.3 was set in two additional years, 1994 and 1993.

A series of storm systems and cold fronts brought decent rainfall over Southeast Texas. The first round of limited rainfall occurred on the 3rd and the 4th of December. Better rains fell between

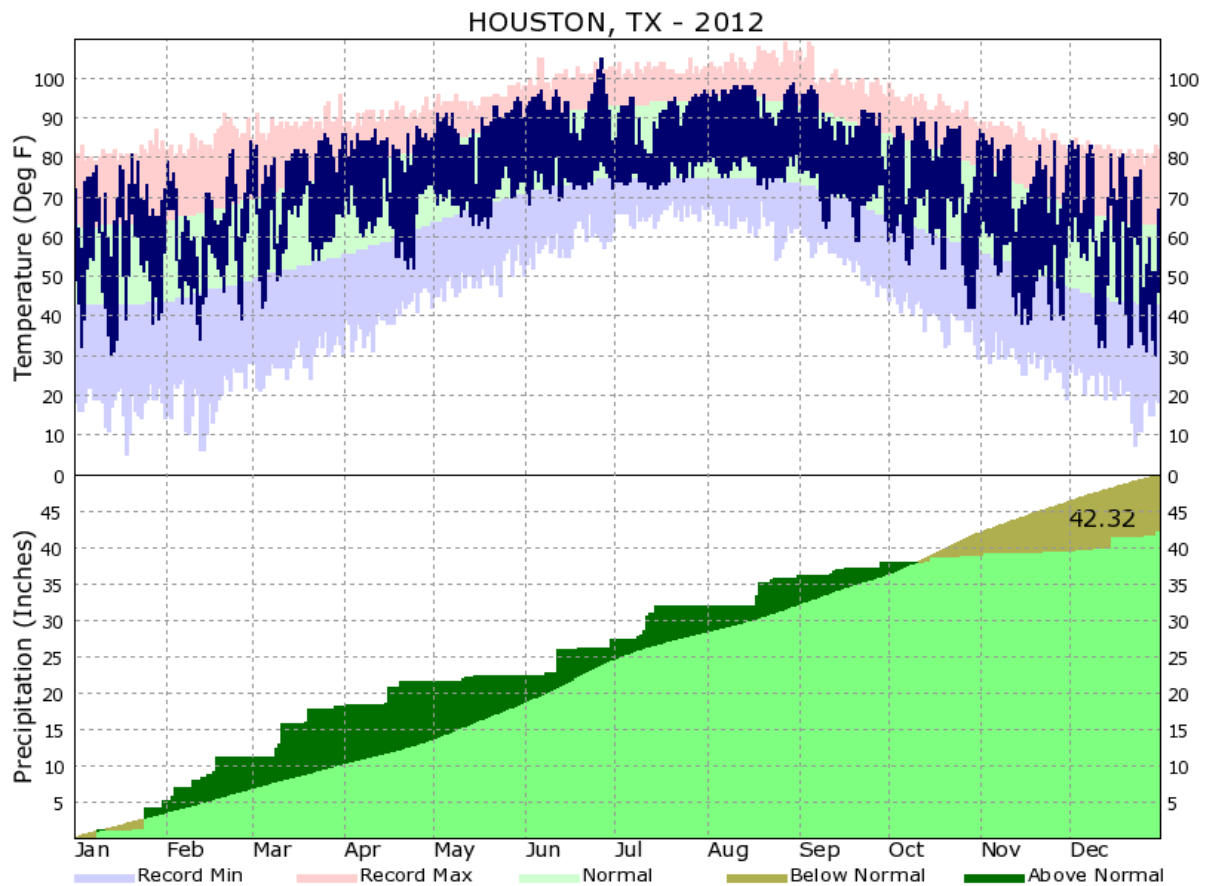


Figure 2: Yearly Climate Summary for the City of Houston (IAH)

the 8th and the 10th, and again on the 15th and 16th, with some locations receiving just under 2 inches during both of these events. A weak front brought some rainfall on the 23rd, however three major storm systems generated widespread amounts from the 25th through the end of the month (e.g., Figure 2).

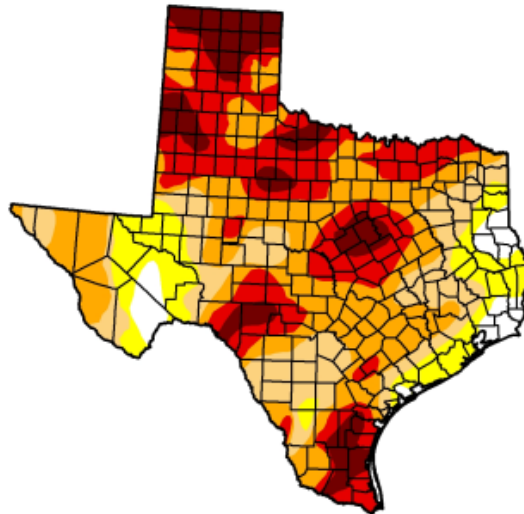
Drought conditions eased towards the end of December as three major storm systems moved through. The drought monitor released on January 8th (Figure 3) showed most of Southeast Texas either under abnormally dry conditions or in a moderate drought. Only the far northwestern sets of counties were classified as in severe drought. Partially because of the rainfall since mid-December, the three month drought outlook for January through March indicates that drought impacts are expected to ease.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Texas

January 8, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	4.29	95.71	83.78	65.85	34.79	11.41
Last Week (01/01/2013 map)	3.04	96.96	87.00	65.39	35.03	11.96
3 Months Ago (10/09/2012 map)	16.50	83.50	65.38	31.79	15.88	3.23
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	3.04	96.96	87.00	65.39	35.03	11.96
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	9.13	90.87	78.73	57.41	24.91	5.18
One Year Ago (01/03/2012 map)	0.01	99.99	97.83	84.81	67.32	32.40



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, January 10, 2013
David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center

Figure 3: U.S. Drought Monitor as of January 8, 2013

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

