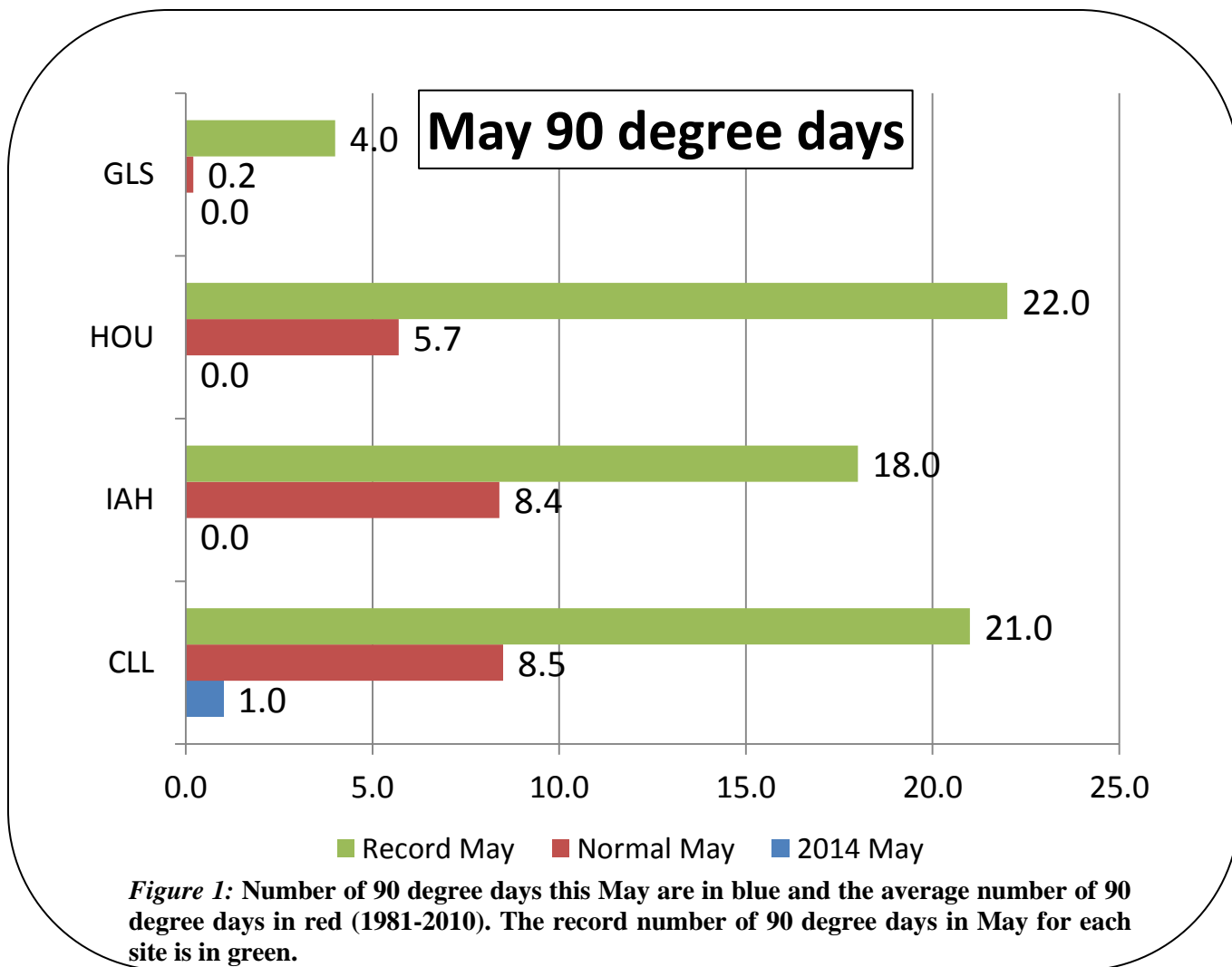




May 2014 Climate Summary for SOUTHEAST TEXAS WFO Houston/ Galveston



Much needed rainfall brought drought relief to Southeast Texas during the month of May. The month was also unusually cool, a trend that has now persisted for over a half a year at the first order climate sites (College Station (CLL), Houston Intercontinental Airport (IAH), Houston Hobby Airport (HOU), and Galveston (GLS)). For the entire month at all four sites, a high temperature of 90 degrees was reached only once - at CLL on the 30th (Figure 1).



In the figure above the average number of 90 degree days is for the period of 1981- 2010. The record of four 90 degree days for Galveston occurred in 2011 with records going back to 1874. The record of twenty-two 90 degree days for Houston Hobby occurred in 1998 with records going back to 1947. The record of eighteen 90 degree days for the City of Houston occurred in 2003 and records went back as far as 1892. For College Station the record of twenty-one 90 degree days happened three years: 2010, 1996, and 1937. Records for College Station go back as far as 1901.

The below normal average monthly temperature trend which began in autumn of 2013 continued through the month of May. Of the four first-order climate sites, two (GLS and HOU) have now gone seven straight months (November 2013 through May 2014) with below normal temperatures, and two (IAH and CLL) have now gone eight straight months (October 2013 through May 2014) with below normal temperatures. While not a single high temperature record was broken or tied during May at either of the four sites, five record low temperatures were either tied or broken on the 14th and 15th.

The much needed above normal rainfall which occurred mainly during the second and last weeks of the month led to drought relief in all areas (Figure 2).

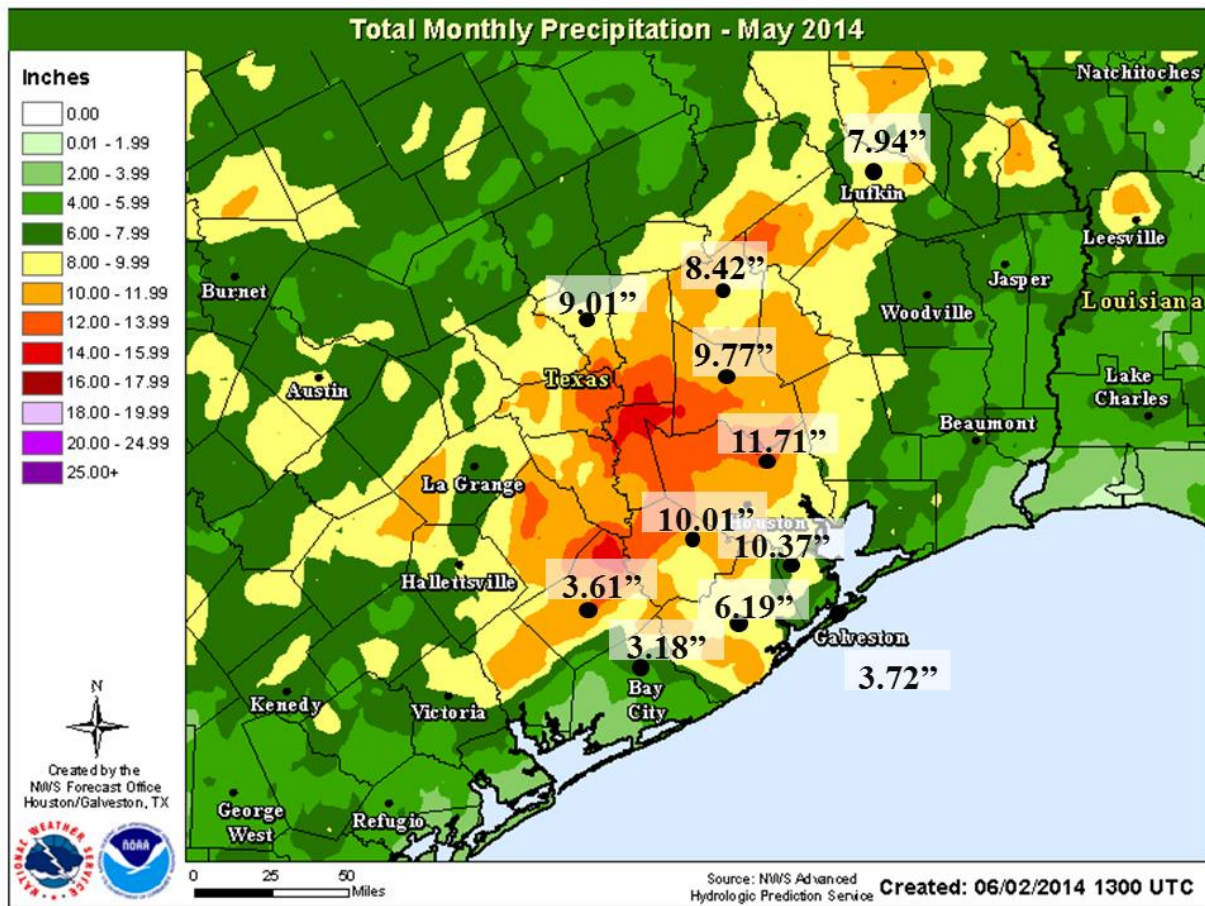


Figure 2: May 2014 total precipitation

Only the Galveston and Palacios areas near the coast ended the month below normal. Some inland spots received between 7 and 11 inches of rain, and this rainfall helped some sites to end the month with above normal rainfall totals for the year. As of May 31st, the yearly departure was +0.68 inches at IAH. May 2014 ended up being the 7th wettest May on record at HOU with 10.37 inches and the 8th wettest May on record at IAH with 11.71 inches.

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