



Drought Information Statement for Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida

Valid January 29, 2026

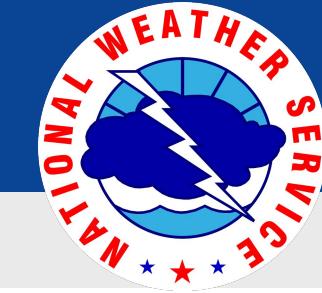
Issued By: National Weather Service Jacksonville, FL

Contact Information: kelly.godsey@noaa.gov; jason.hess@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated February 5, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/JAX/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.

- **Extreme Drought Returns to Interior Southeast Georgia and portions of Interior Northeast Florida.**
- Severe Drought expands to include the remainder of the region.
- Streamflows across many non-tidal rivers and streams are especially low, with some near record low flows.
- Fire weather risk is increasing, particularly south of Interstate 10.



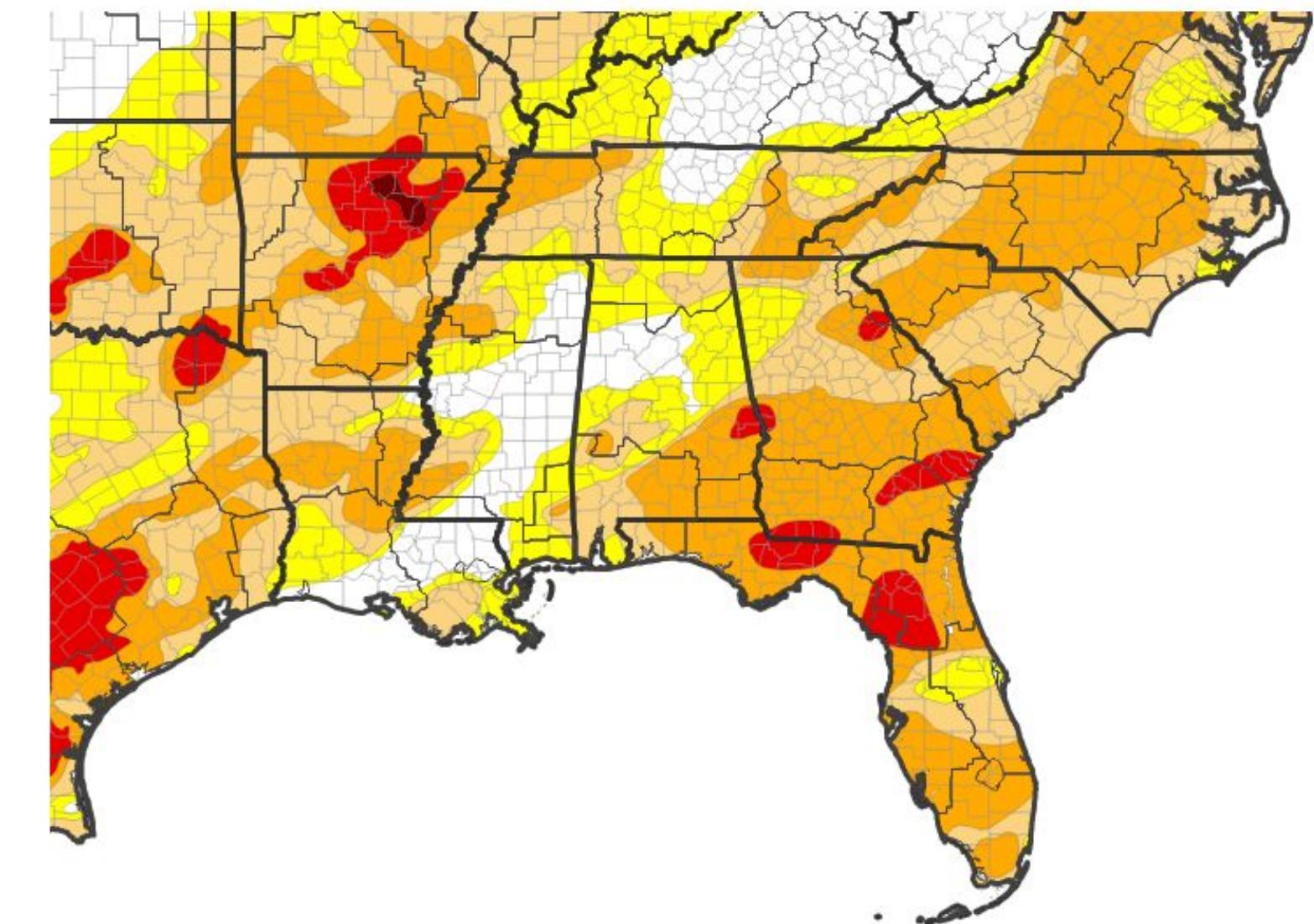


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida

- Persistent dryness continues across Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida. With limited rain over the last couple of months, drought conditions have steadily worsened.
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Inland portions of Northeast Florida, mainly along and west of Interstate 75 and south of Interstate 10. In Southeast Georgia, from Atkinson County northeast into Wayne County.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):** The remainder of Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



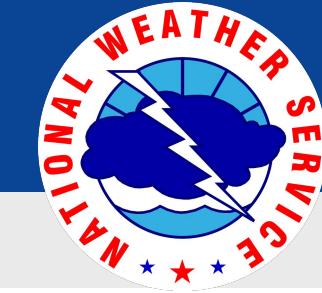
Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/27/26



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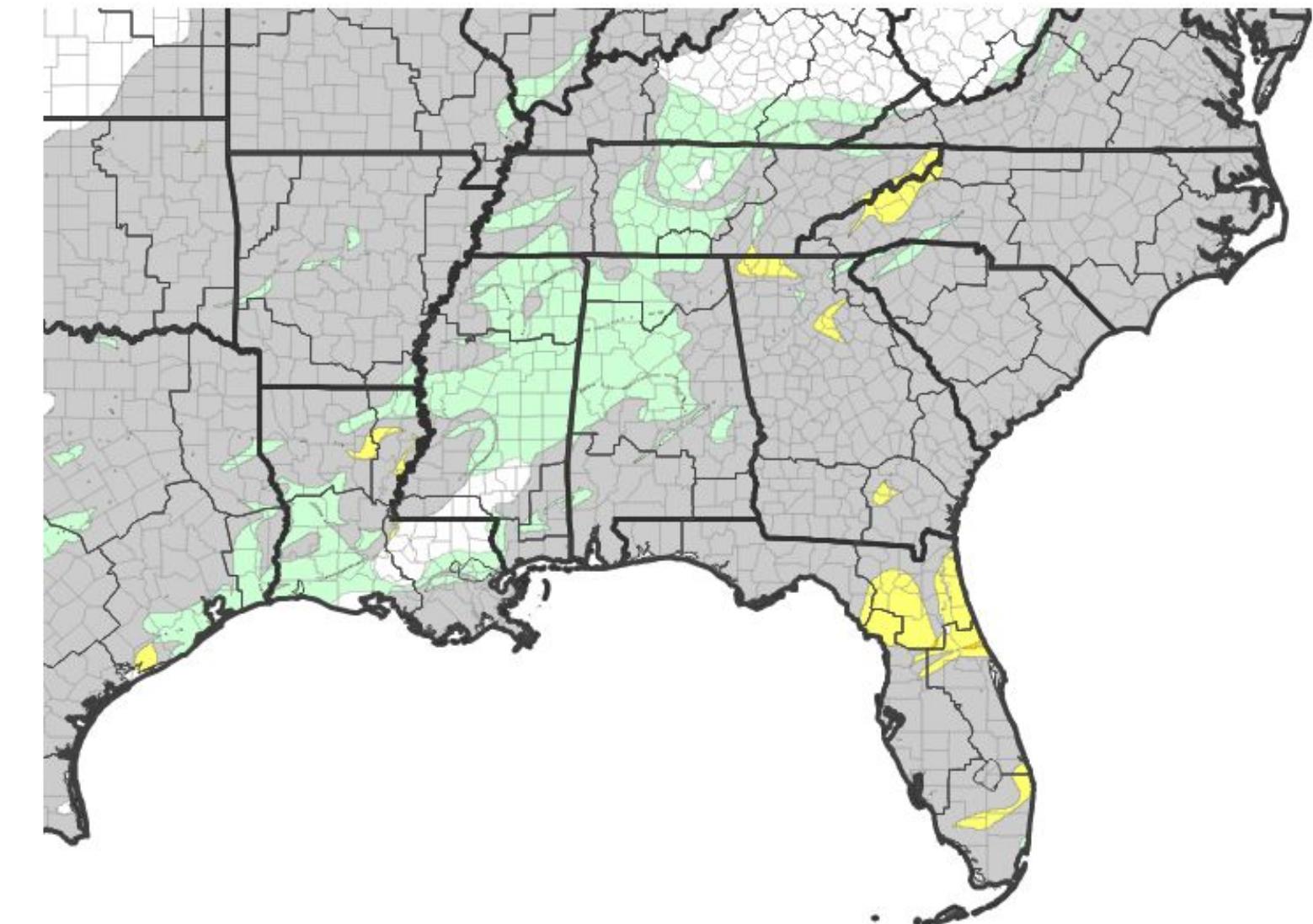


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida

- Drought conditions continue to expand and worsen across the region, with degradation noted across portions of interior Southeast Georgia, coastal Northeast Florida, and across the Lower Suwannee and Santa Fe River Basins.
- One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
 - **1 category degradation:** Across far inland portions of Southeast Georgia, Coastal Northeast Florida, and in the Lower Suwannee and Santa Fe River Basins.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



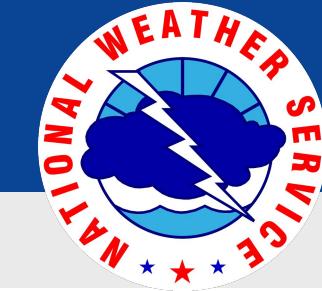
Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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Precipitation

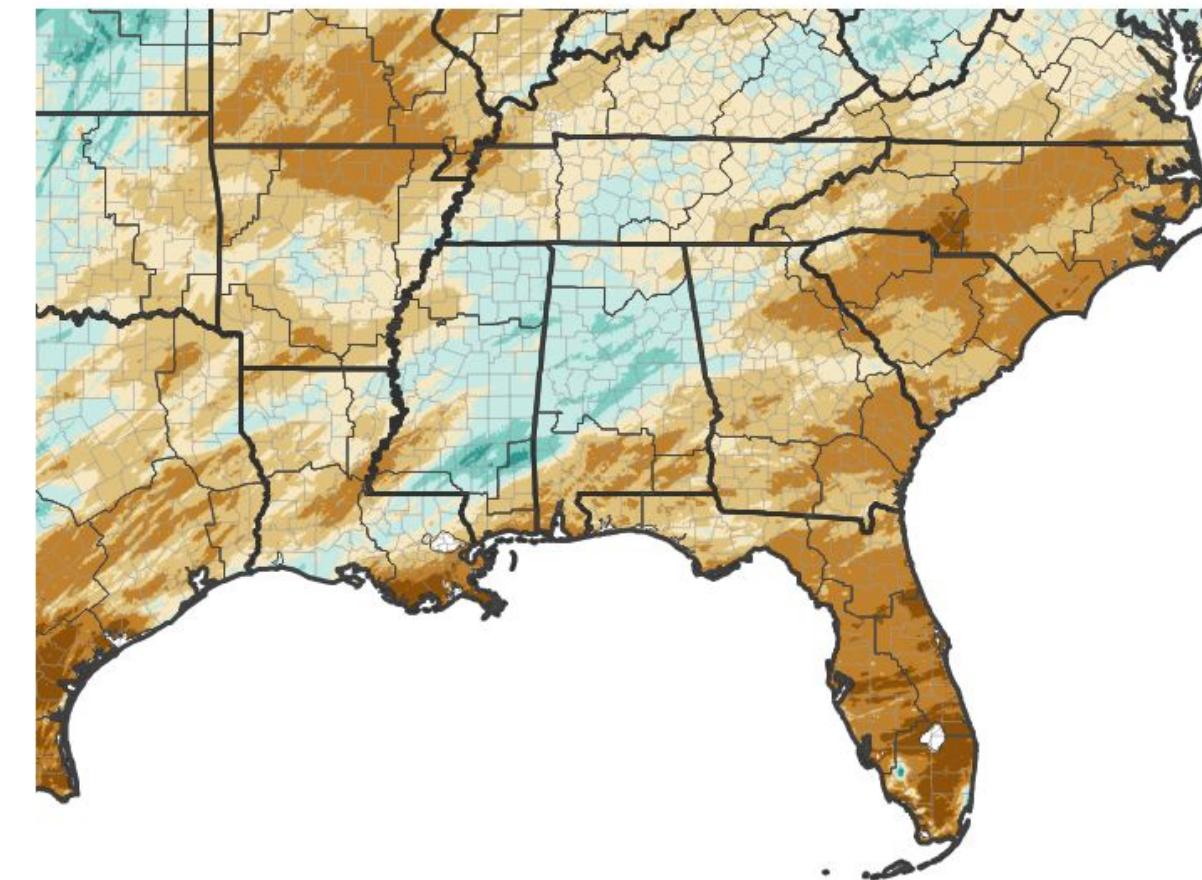
	Last 30 Days		Last 90 Days	
	Rainfall	Percent	Rainfall	Percent
Jasper	2.06"	43.3%	5.58"	57.8%
Live Oak	2.08"	46.8%	5.70"	59.5%
Ichetucknee St Pk.	1.79"	34.4%	4.07"	47.0%
Fanning Springs	1.59"	43.7%	3.72"	43.2%
Baxley	1.85"	48.5%	4.36"	44.4%
Alma	1.34"	37.7%	3.64"	41.8%
Waycross	1.98"	50.6%	5.70"	60.2%
Olustee	1.52"	37.5%	4.30"	49.0%
Ocala	1.34"	41.4%	2.37"	29.9%
Palatka	0.94"	31.1%	2.04"	26.0%
Ocklawaha	0.90"	29.8%	2.19"	29.0%
Nahunta	1.65"	42.9%	4.72"	52.1%
Woodbine	2.42"	68.6%	5.60"	65.1%
Jacksonville	1.38"	43.9%	4.48"	56.8%

Data Updated through January 28, 2026

Data Courtesy:
NWS Observations

University of Florida - Florida Automated Weather Network
University of Georgia Weather Network
Suwannee River Water Management District

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation

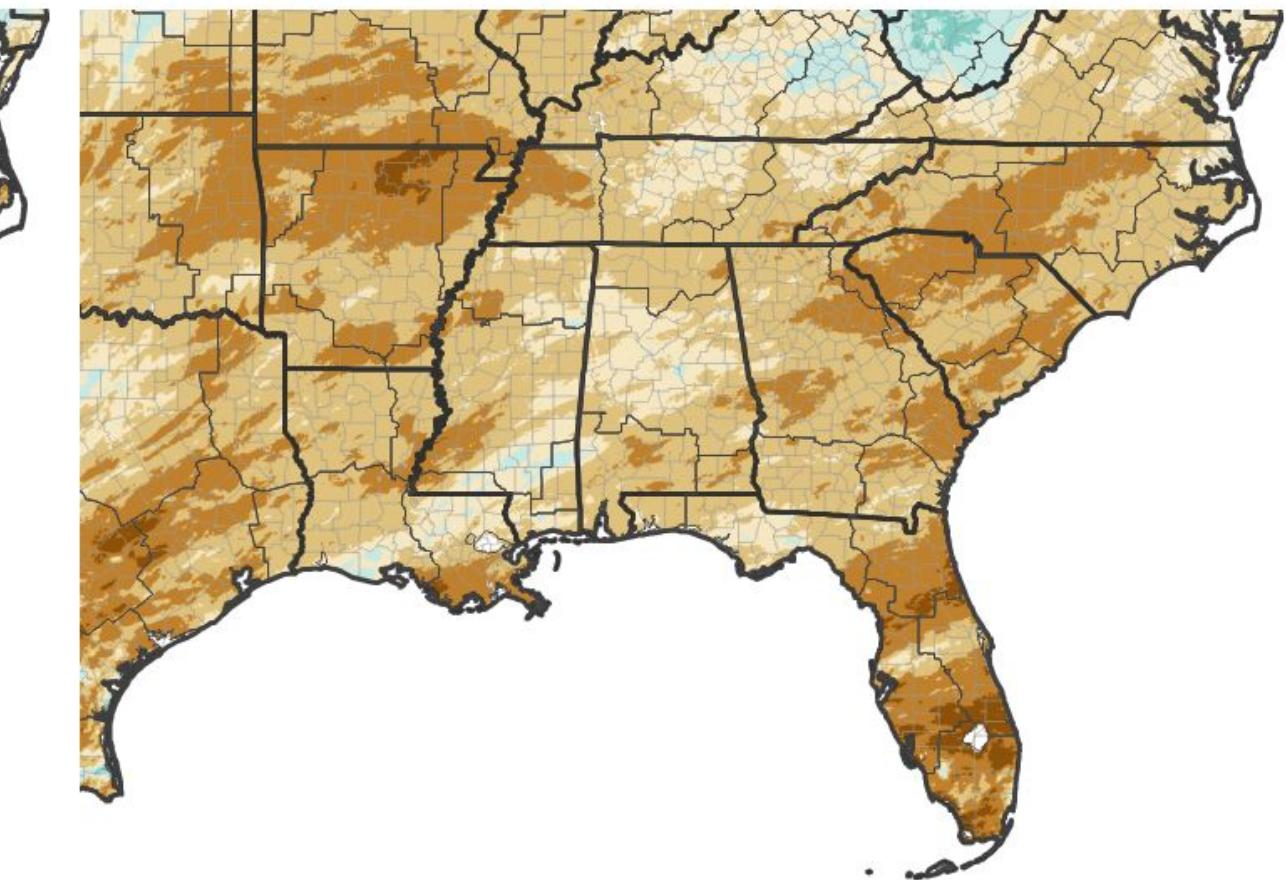


Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

90-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Last Updated: 01/29/26

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 01/29/26



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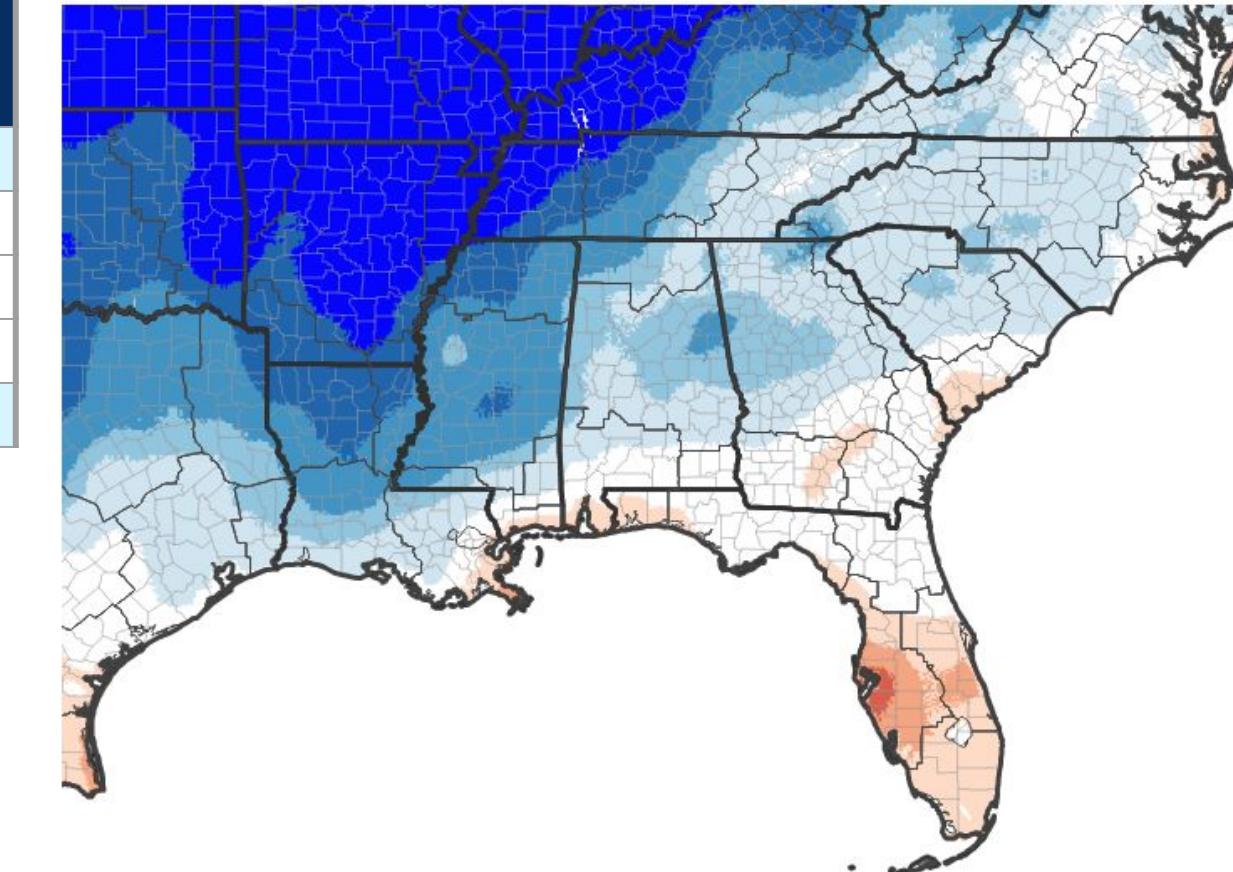


Temperature

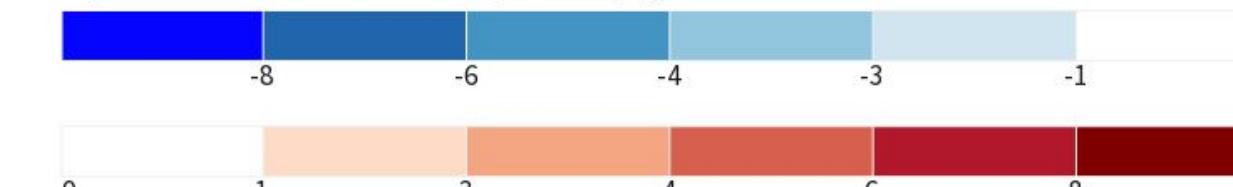
	Last 30 Days	
	Average High (Departure)	Average Low (Departure)
Jacksonville	67.5° (+2.1°)	41.8° (-1.0°)
Craig Field	66.5° (+1.5°)	44.1° (-0.5°)
Ocala	71.3° (+0.8°)	45.7° (+0.1°)
Gainesville	69.0° (+2.1°)	42.4° (-0.1°)
Alma	63.6° (+1.1°)	37.3° (-2.0°)

- After a warm start to the year, temperatures have largely been below normal since mid January.
- Multiple freezes have been recorded over the interior.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly

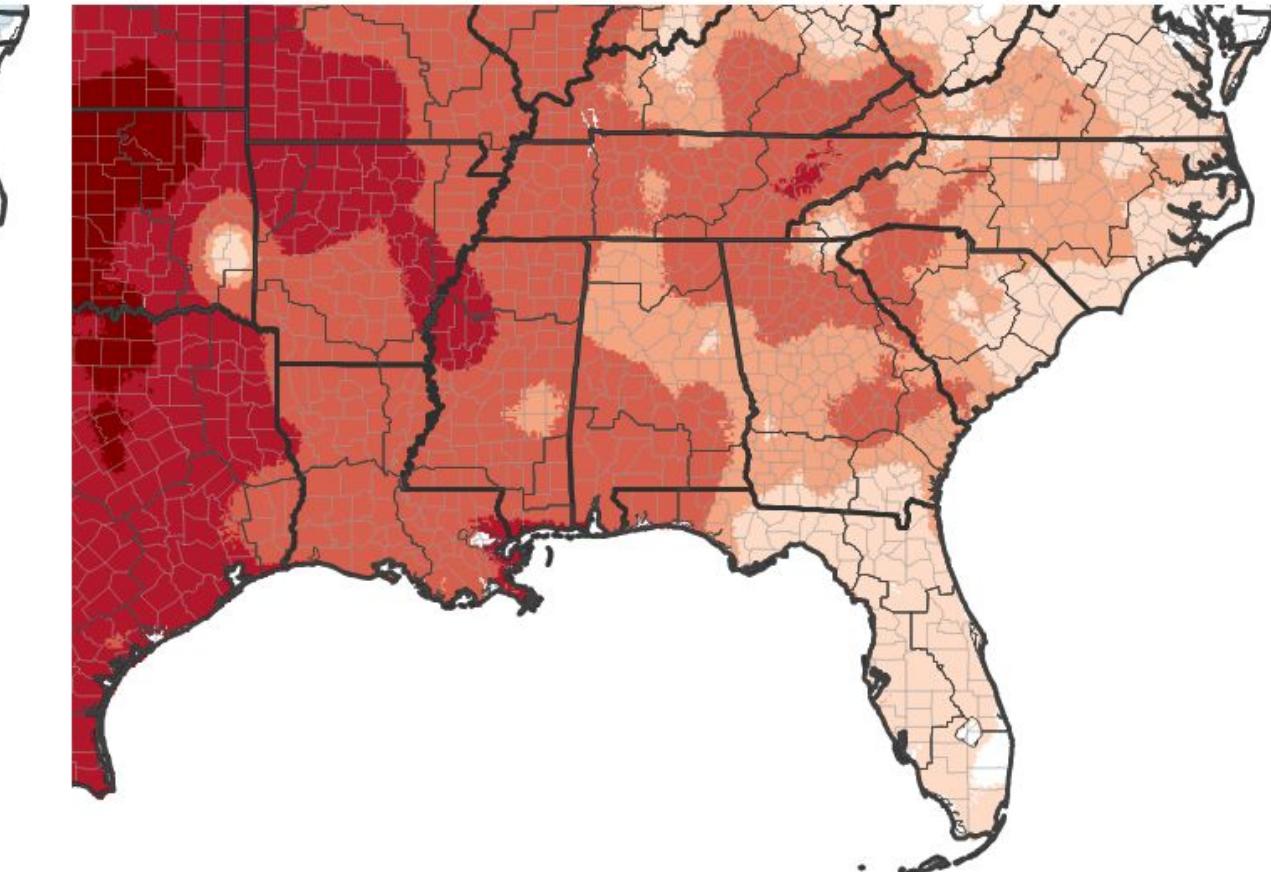


Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

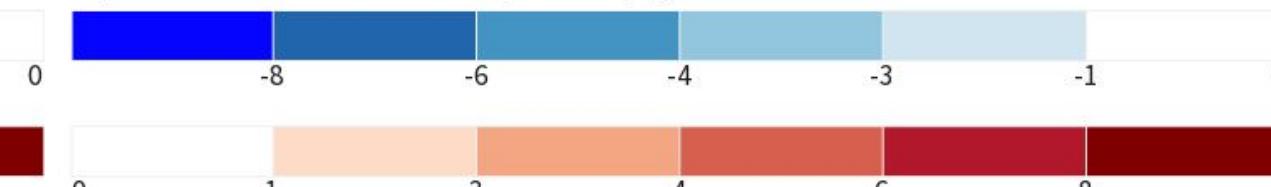


Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

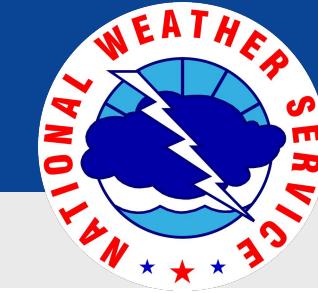


Data Valid: 01/25/26

Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/25/26





Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows on all mainstem rivers in Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida are especially low. In particular, stretches of the Santa Fe River are very near record low flows.
- Reports of stretches of the Suwannee, Santa Fe, and Satilla River are no longer accessible to recreational boaters using canoes.
- Springs along the Suwannee River are discharging rapidly into the Middle Suwannee with the low level of the Middle Suwannee.

Agricultural Impacts

- Grazing crops are considerably stressed south of I-10 in North Florida, particularly in Marion County.
- Winter cover crops in Southeast Georgia are stressed, with some areas choosing not to plant cover crop until more substantive rain arrives.
- In Bacon County, the blueberry farmers are having to water the crop from holding ponds. Water levels in these ponds are below normal, but still at a sufficient level for now to support the crop.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- The Keetch Byram Drought Index continues to rise, with portions of Alachua and Marion County now above 600. The remainder of SE Georgia and NE Florida are in the 400-550 range.
- There has been an increase in wildfire activity reported in several counties across interior NE Florida and SE Georgia.

Mitigation Actions

- Suwannee River Water Management District has issued a [water shortage advisory](#) for their watershed.



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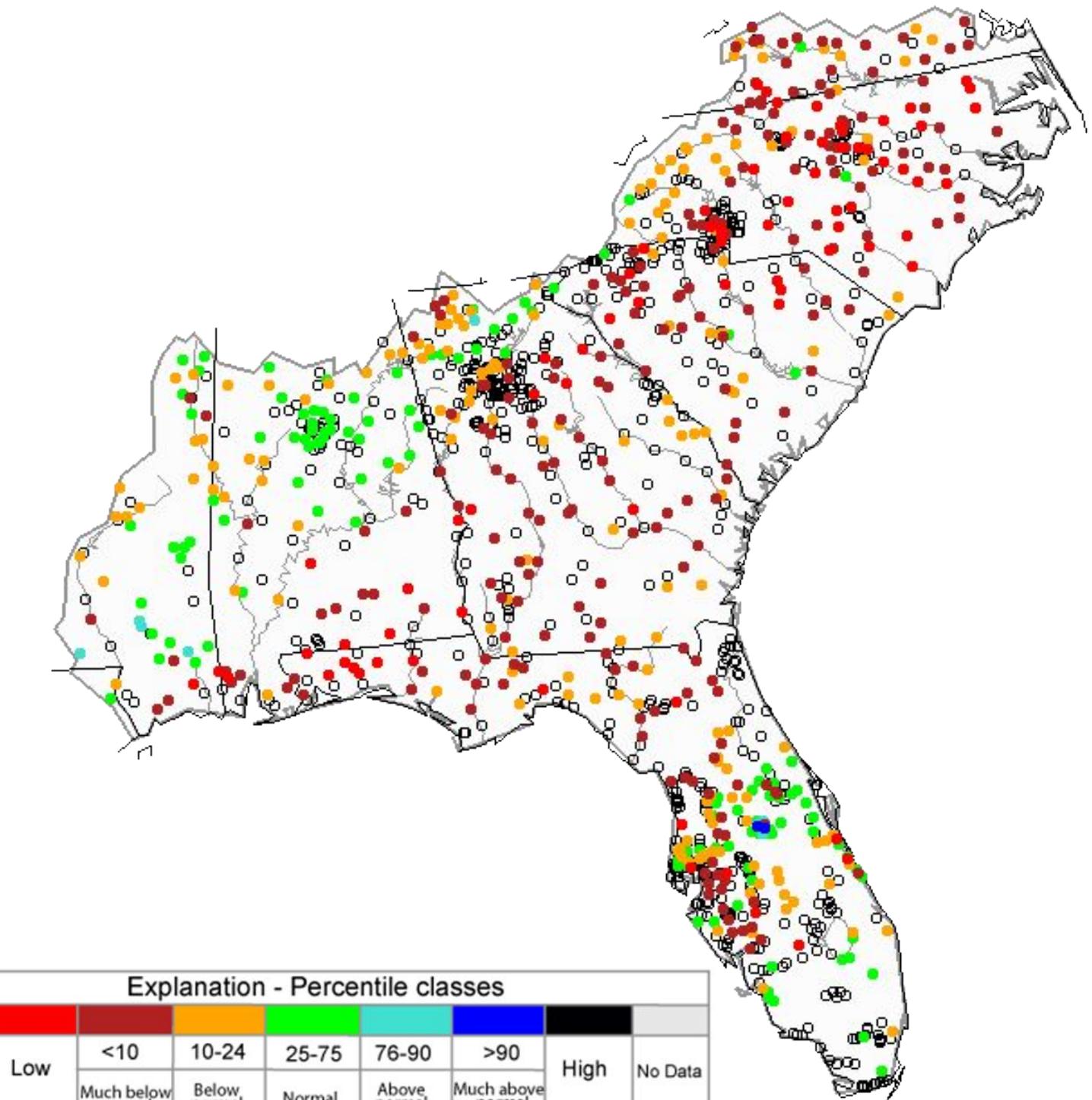
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Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Monday, January 26, 2026

- Streamflows across all mainstem rivers have dropped below the 10th percentile for flow this time of year.
- The Upper Santa Fe River remains near record low flow.
- The non-tidal rivers are expected to continue decreasing with the lack of widespread heavy rainfall.
- Recreational access to various rivers is becoming challenging or impossible for paddle boats and canoes.



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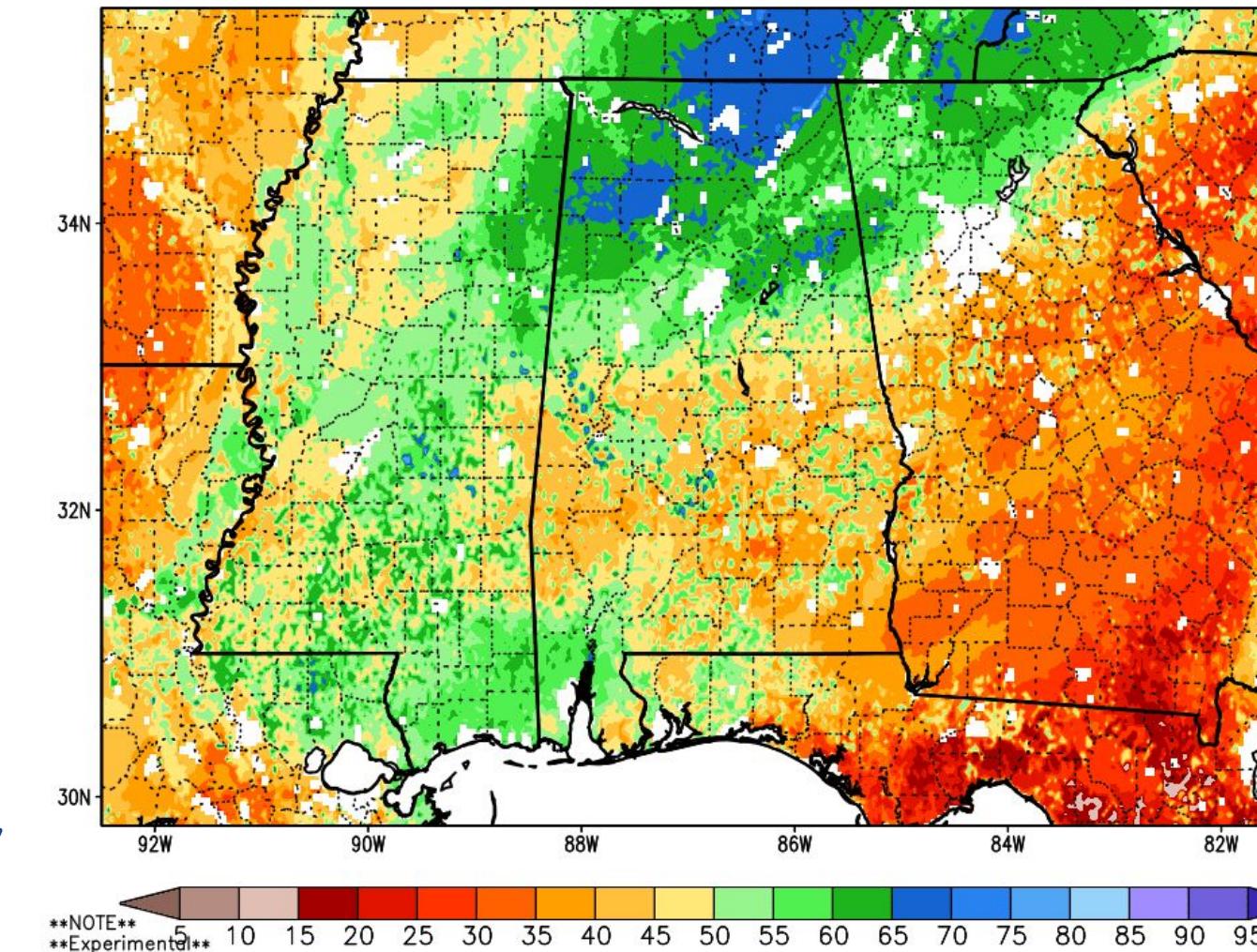
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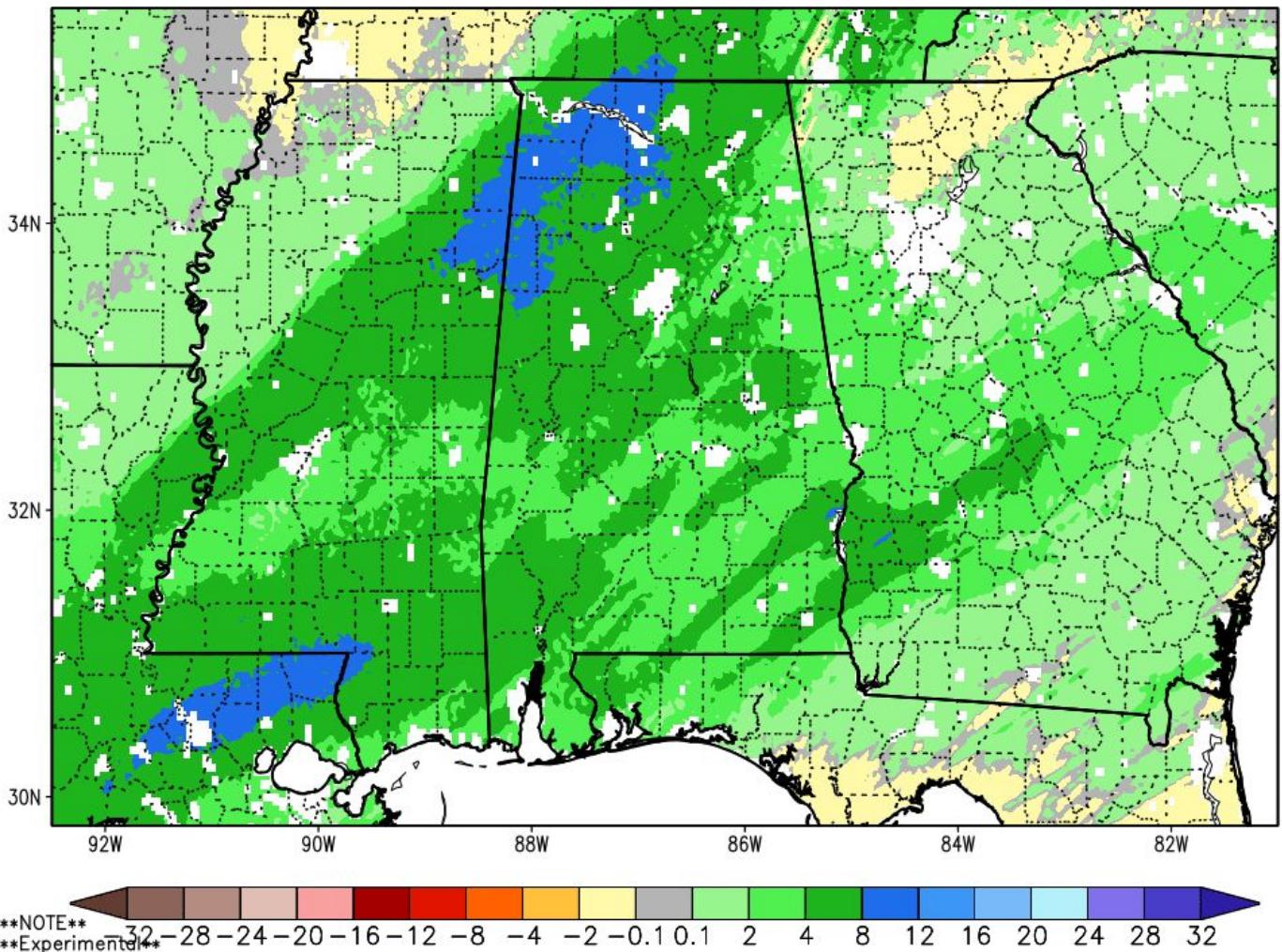
Agricultural Impacts

- Dry Soils are present across across interior southeast Georgia & northeast Florida, especially from the Okefenokee Swamp southward.
- Even with a little rain over the weekend, soils remain especially dry.
- Continued lack of heavy rainfall and low relative humidities will lead to further drying.

Column-Integrated Relative Soil Moisture (available water; %) valid 12z 29 Jan 2026
Precipitation in previous hour (1,2,5,10,15,20,25 mm contours)



1-Week Difference in Column Relative Soil Moisture (%) valid 12z 29 Jan 2026



0-200 cm Relative Soil Moisture & 1-week Change in 0-200 cm Relative Soil Moisture

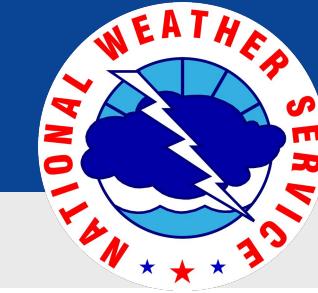
Data courtesy of NASA SPoRT

2026 Crop Reports
[Florida](#) | [Georgia](#)



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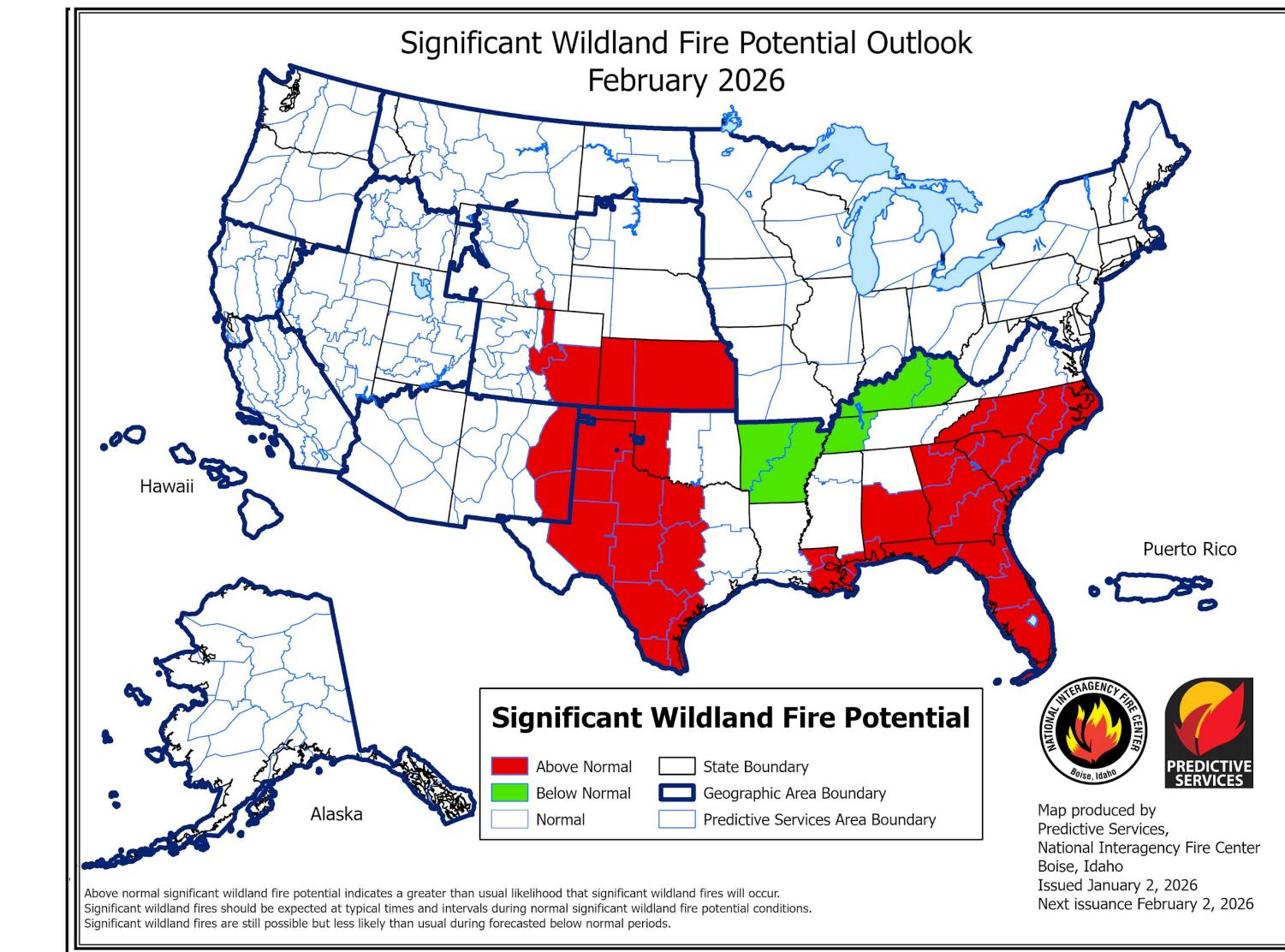
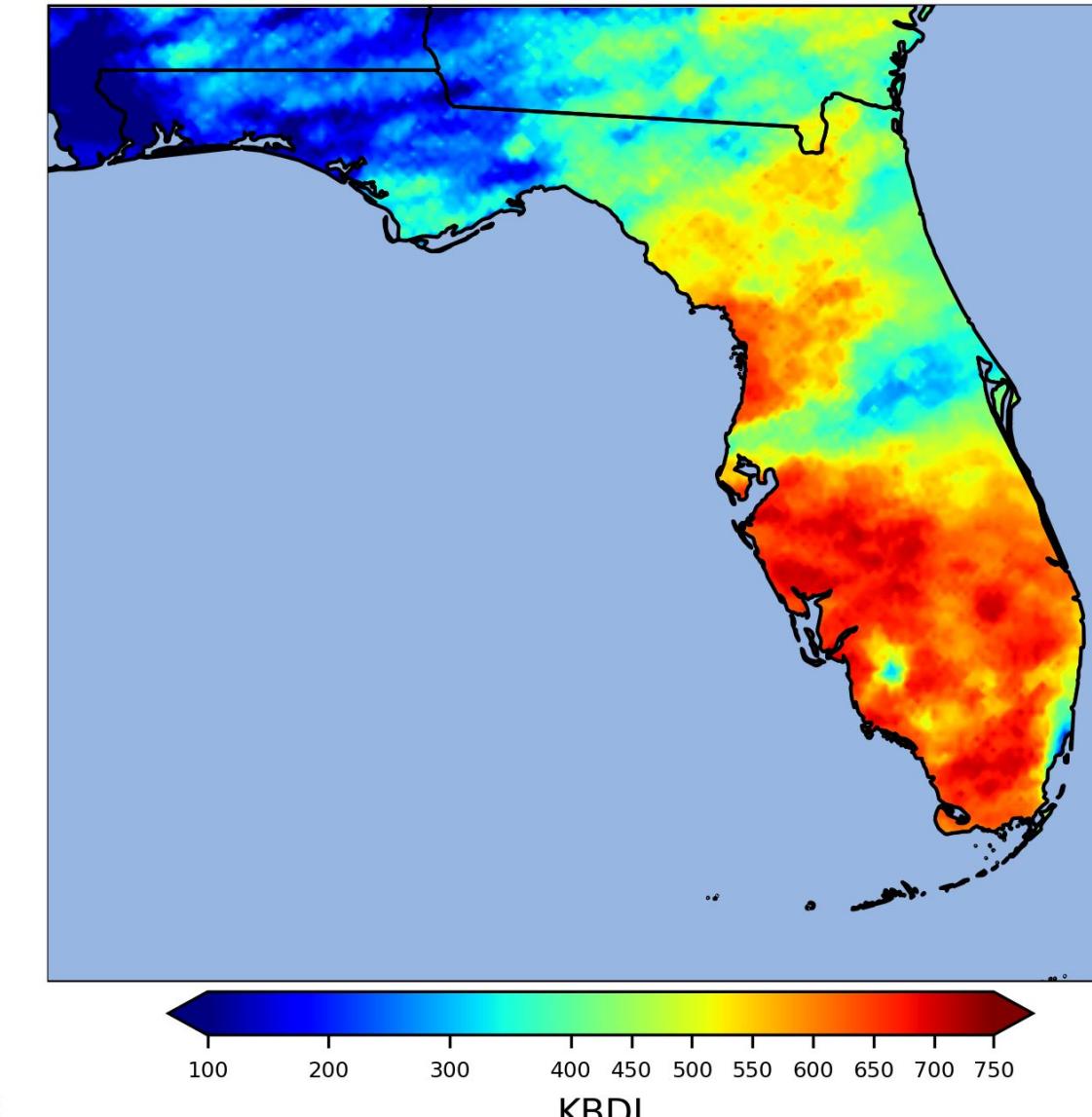


Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.](#)

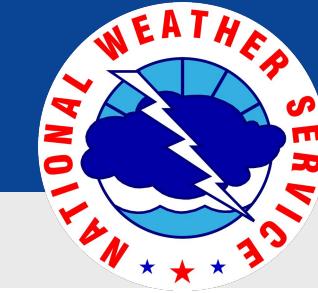
- Keetch-Byram Drought Index values at or above 600 for portions of interior NE Florida mainly south of Interstate 10.
- Burn bans are in effect for Union County in NE Florida.
- With continued dry conditions, fire danger is increasing, particularly in inland NE Florida.
- The Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for February calls for above normal wildfire activity across the area

Keetch-Byram Drought Index | Wed 01/28/26, 01:00 PM EST



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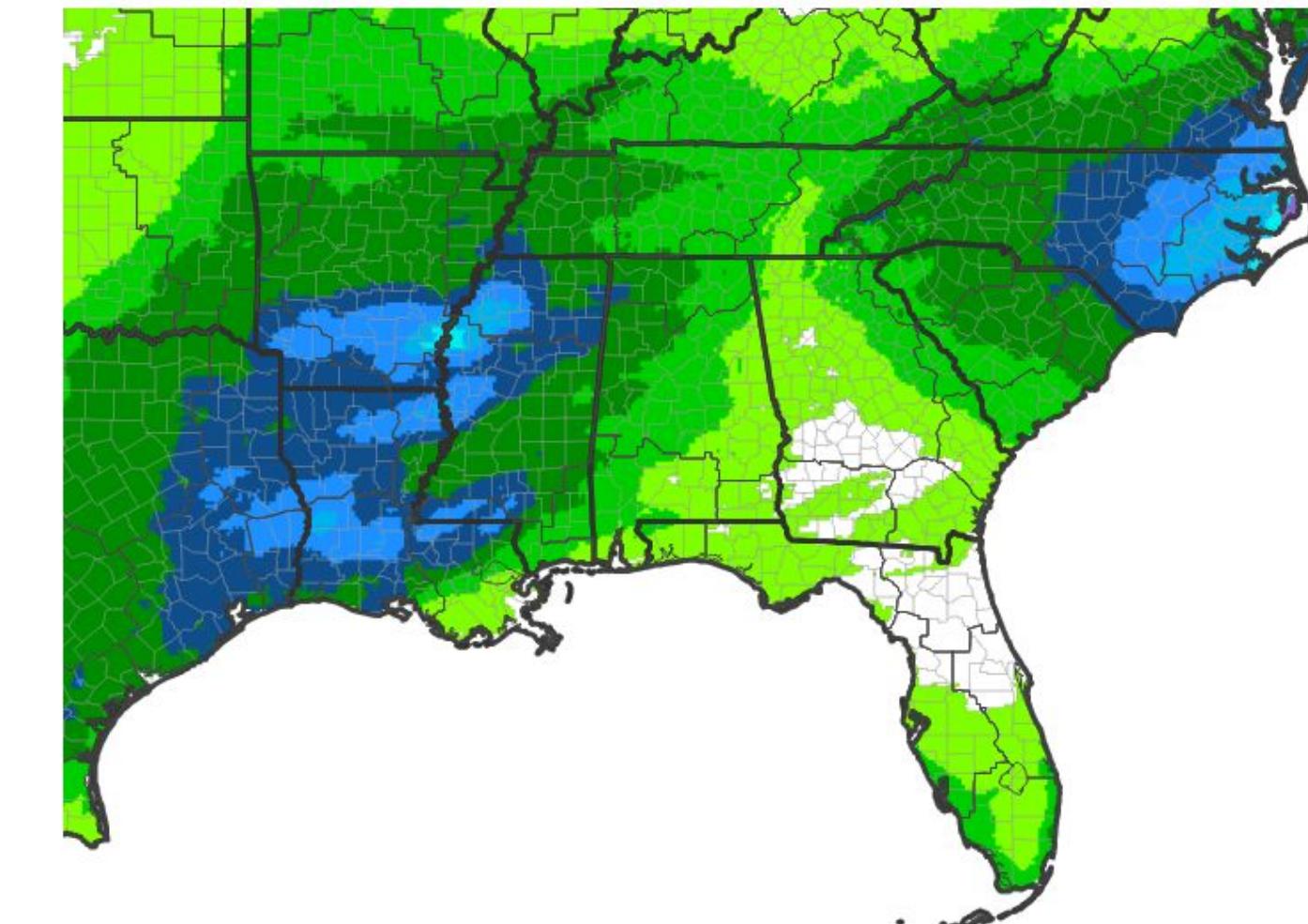
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Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Limited precipitation is expected over the next week.
- Light rain or snow is possible on Friday into Saturday morning, but liquid equivalent amounts should be less than 0.10 inches.
- Dry conditions are expected after Saturday.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for January 29, 2026–February 5, 2026



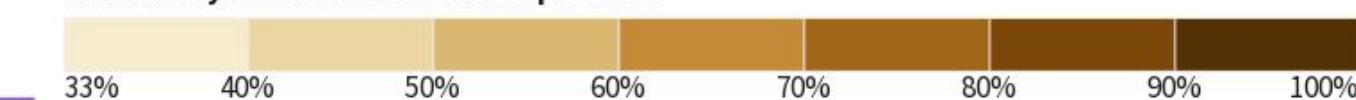
Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 01/29/26

Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

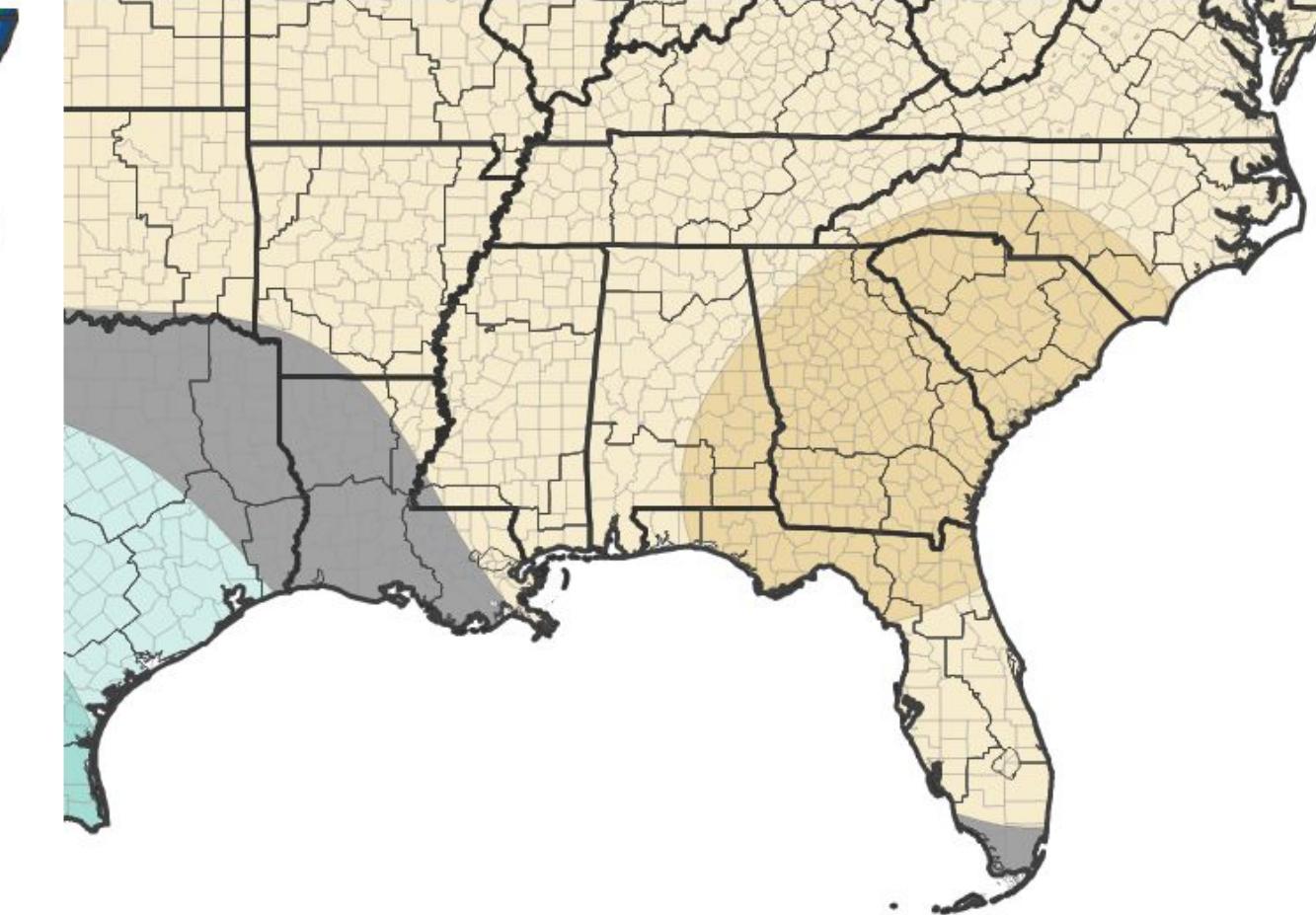


Near-Normal Conditions

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

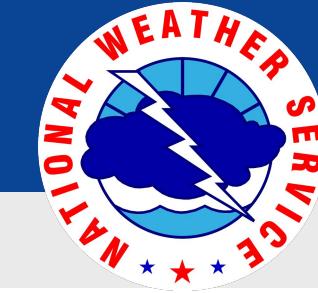
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8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook for February 4, 2026–February 10, 2026



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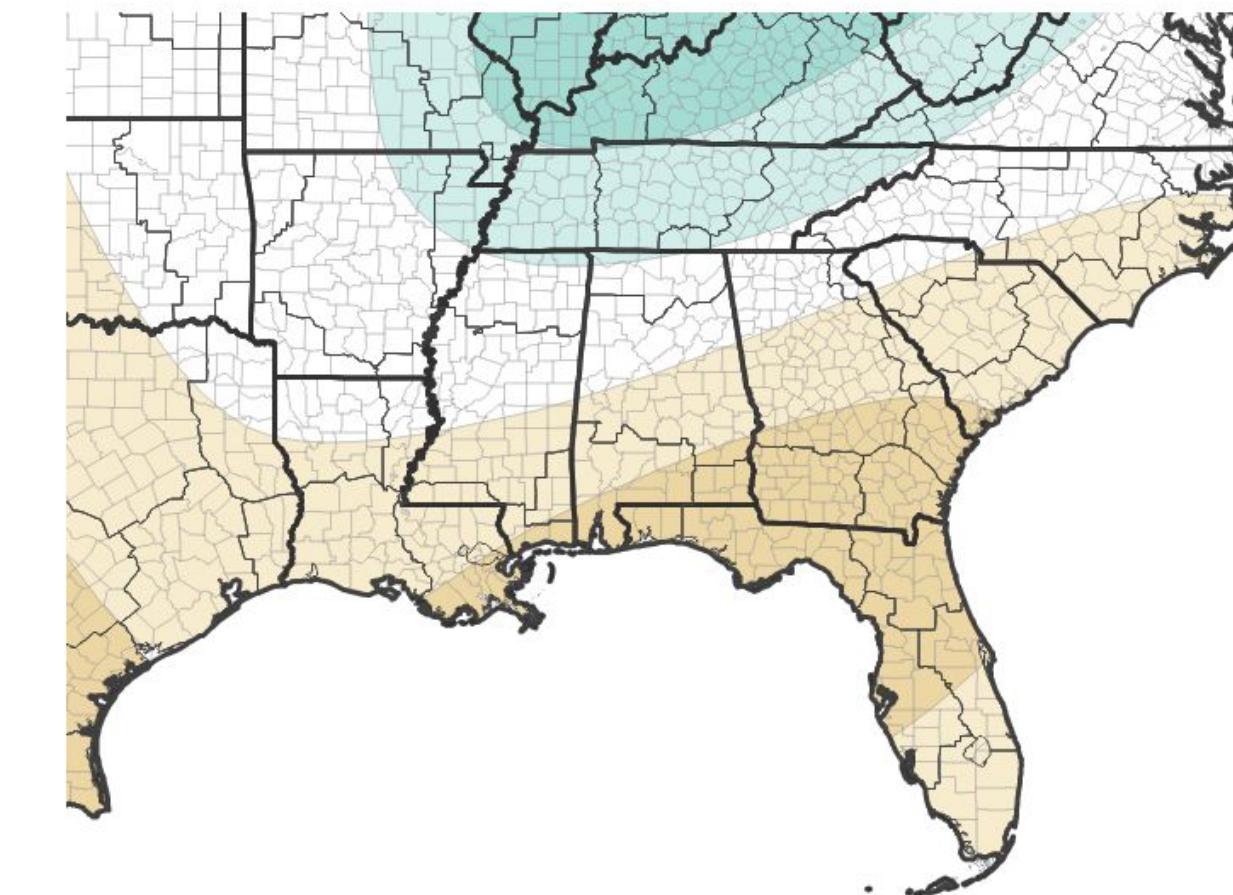


Long-Range Outlooks

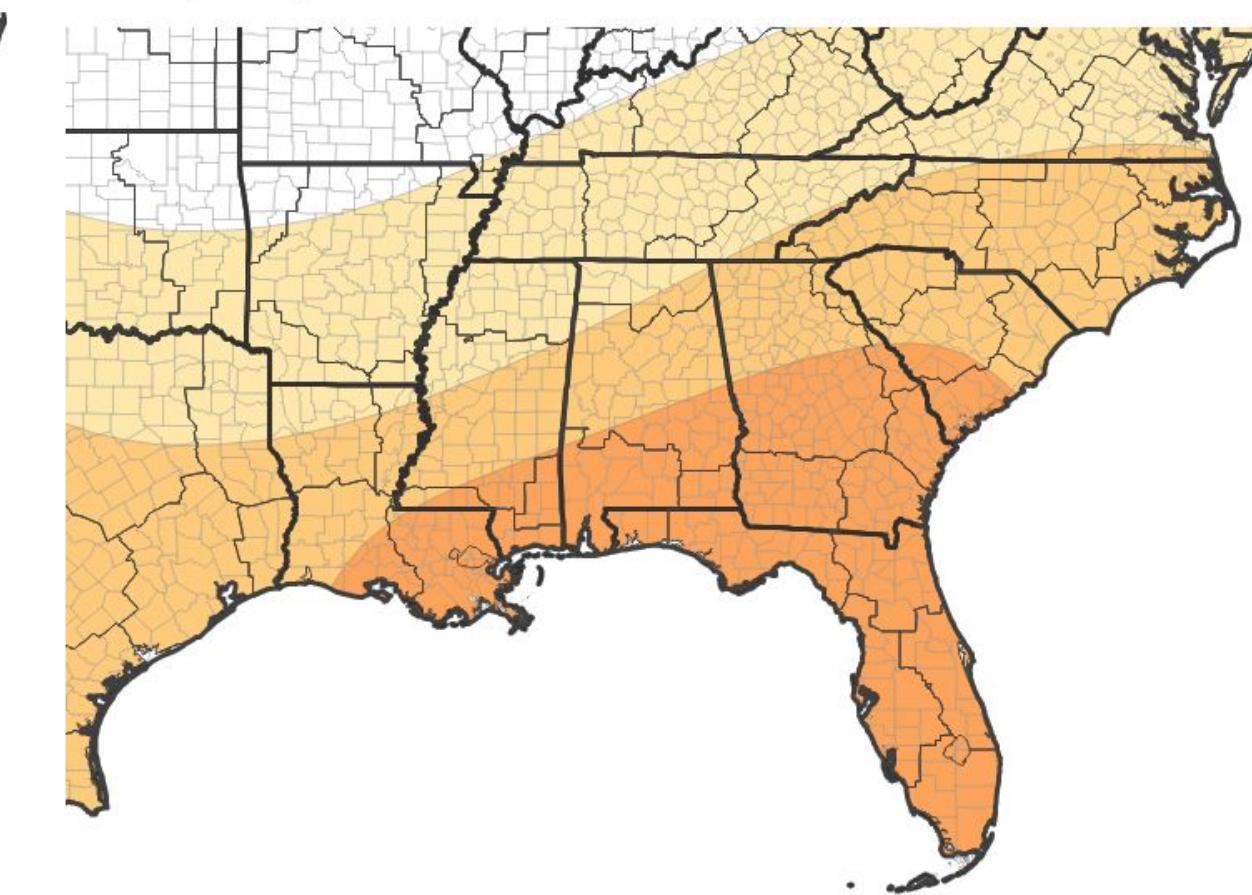
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Next 3 months favor above normal temperatures & below normal precipitation.
- Lower rain amounts tied to current La Niña.
- In the winter months, rainfall is often below normal as storm systems tend to track farther north of the region.

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for February 1, 2026–April 30, 2026

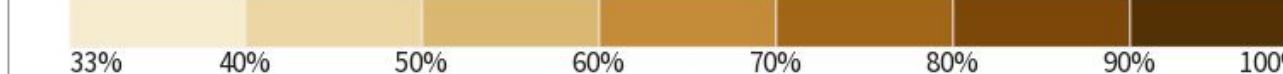


Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for February 1, 2026–April 30, 2026



	Feb		Mar		Apr	
Average	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain
Jacksonville	57.5°	2.86"	62.4°	3.29"	68.1°	2.93"
Craig Field	58.0°	2.42"	62.6°	3.03"	68.3°	2.41"
Ocala	61.0°	2.94"	65.3°	3.68"	70.7°	2.22"
Gainesville	58.4°	2.67"	62.7°	3.49"	68.5°	2.74"
Alma	54.4°	3.37"	60.2°	4.17"	66.5°	2.85"

Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 01/15/26

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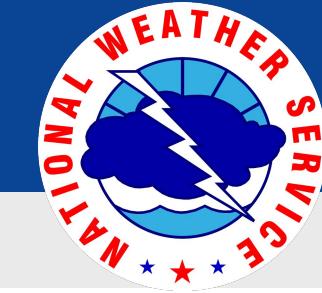
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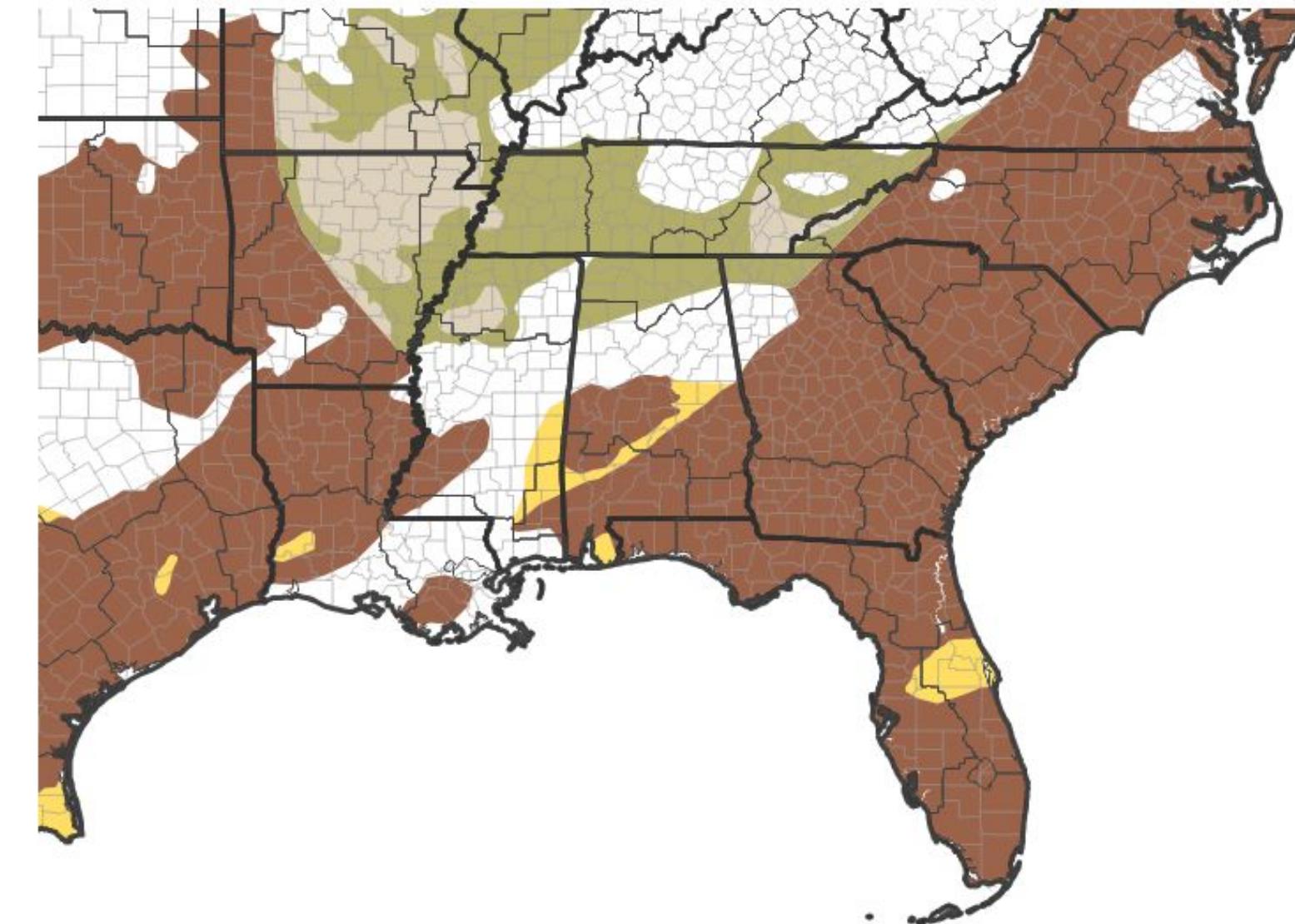


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Drought is expected to persist through the winter and into the Spring.
- With persistent La Niña through the winter, below normal precipitation and persistent drought conditions are expected & will likely further worsen/expand.
- The combined impacts of spring green-up and long-term drought, there are concerns for an active local wildfire season this spring.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for January 15, 2026–April 30, 2026



Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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