

Drought Information Statement for Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida

Valid February 5, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Jacksonville, FL

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- This product will be updated February 12, 2026
 - 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 Continues to Expand Across the Region.**
 - Severe Drought (D2) or worse continues for a second week across the entire region.
 - Streamflows across many non-tidal rivers and streams are especially low, with a couple of river gauges reporting record lows.
 - Fire weather risk is increasing, particularly south of Interstate 10.



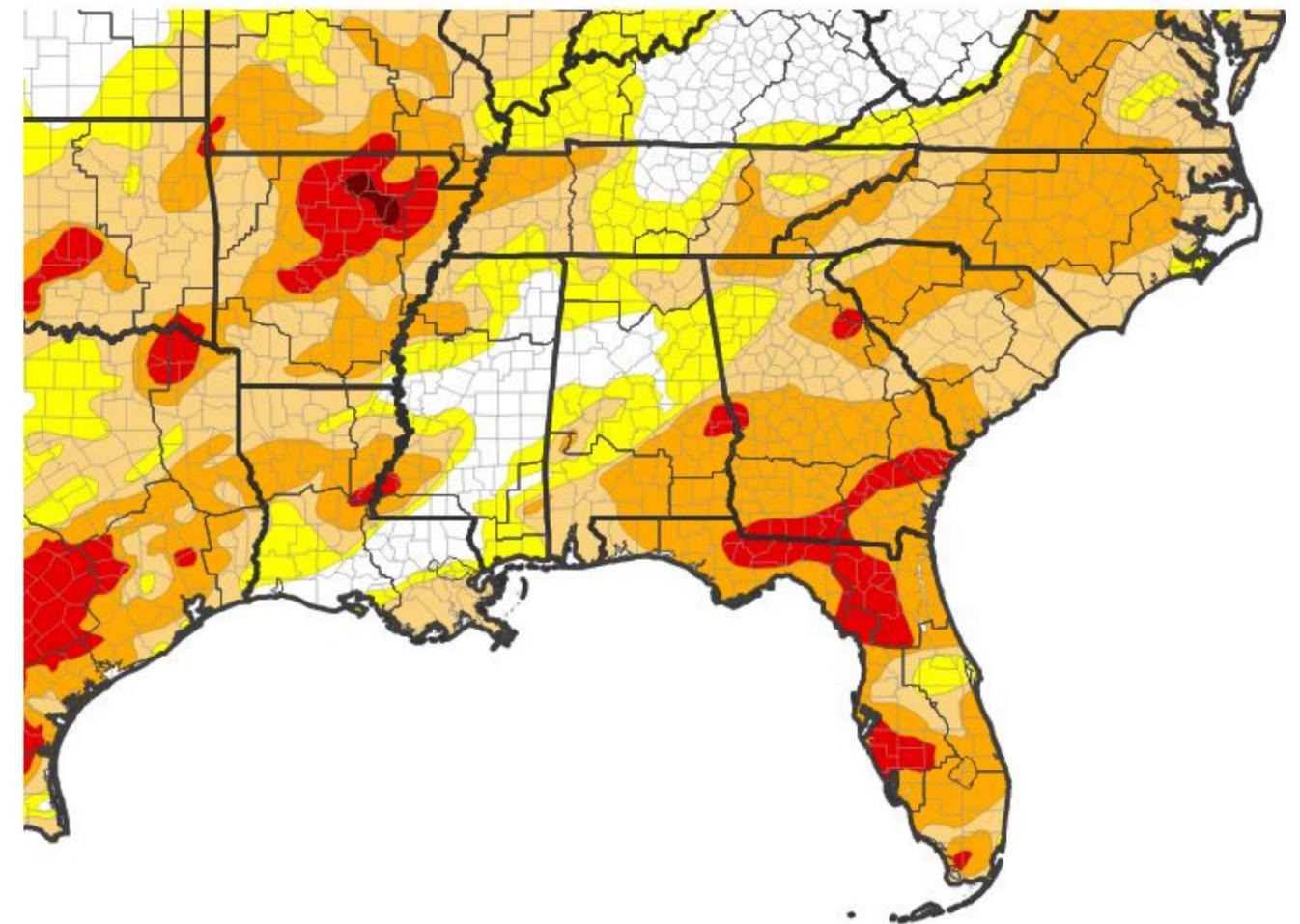


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- The drought monitor is based on rainfall observed through 7 am ET Tuesday, so while rainfall on Wednesday was welcome, that rain was not considered in this week's drought map.
- Wednesday's rainfall amounts were not sufficient to lead to any drought improvement next week.
- The drought worsened this week across interior Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia.
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Inland Northeast Florida, west of the Trail Ridge. 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: 02/03/26



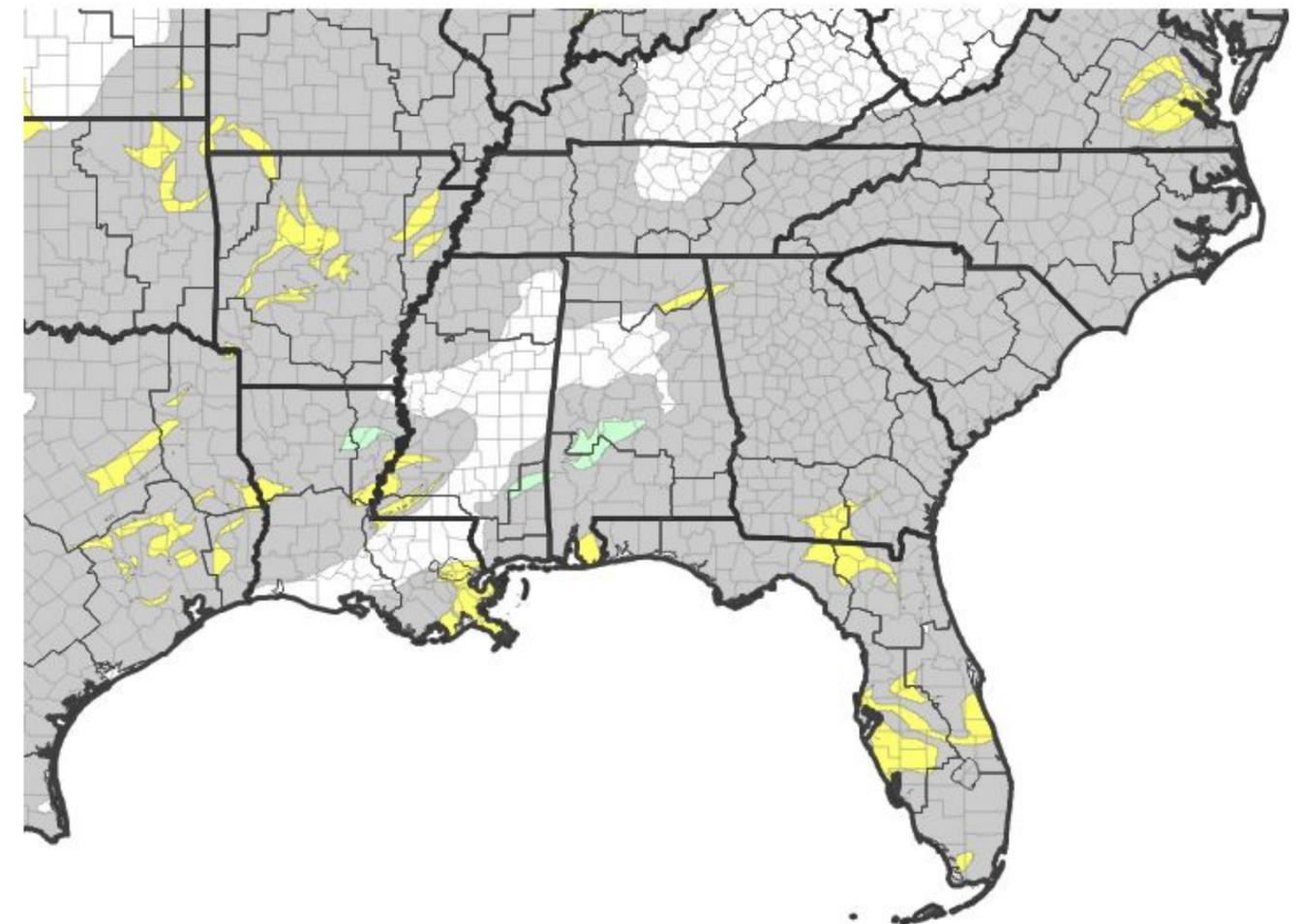


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

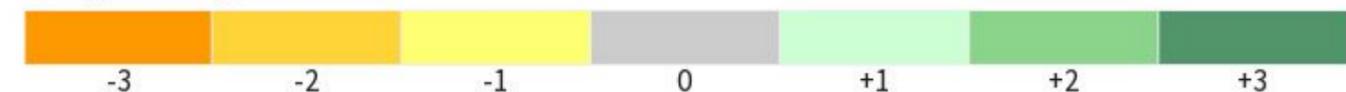
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida

- Drought conditions continue to expand and worsen across the region, with degradation noted across portions of interior Southeast Georgia and parts of inland Northeast Florida.
- One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
 - **1 category degradation:** Across far inland portions of Southeast Georgia, and portions of inland Northeast Florida.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



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

Data Valid: 02/03/26





Precipitation

	Last 30 Days		Last 90 Days	
	Rainfall	Percent	Rainfall	Percent
Jasper	1.70"	39.4%	5.81"	57.4%
Live Oak	1.19"	26.5%	5.74"	56.9%
Ichetucknee St Pk.	0.77"	20.5%	4.10"	45.3%
Fanning Springs	0.78"	21.4%	3.76"	41.8%
Baxley	1.60"	41.2%	4.62"	45.3%
Alma	1.28"	35.6%	3.83"	42.3%
Waycross	1.34"	33.9%	5.84"	59.2%
Olustee	0.93"	23.1%	4.44"	48.1%
Ocala	0.68"	21.1%	2.37"	29.0%
Palatka	0.39"	12.8%	2.04"	25.5%
Ocklawaha	0.51"	16.9%	2.30"	29.7%
Nahunta	1.24"	32.0%	4.83"	51.1%
Woodbine	2.24"	63.2%	5.88"	66.1%
Jacksonville	0.77"	24.3%	4.56"	56.1%

Data Updated through February 4, 2026

Data Courtesy:

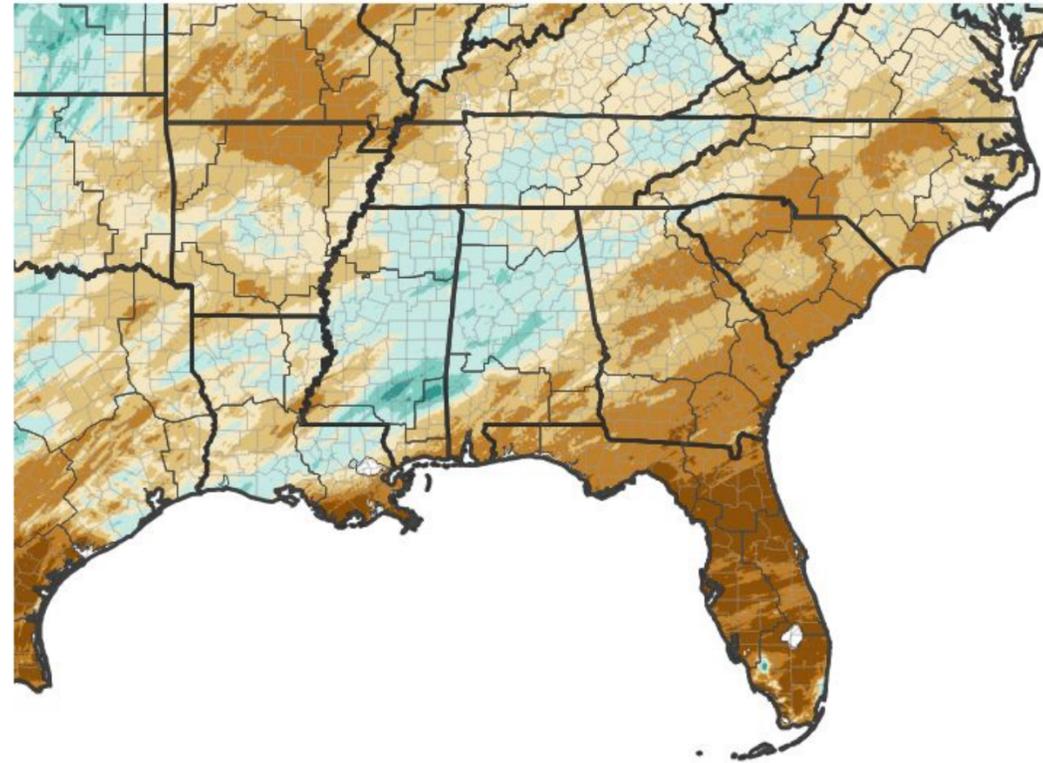
NWS Observations

University of Florida - Florida Automated Weather Network

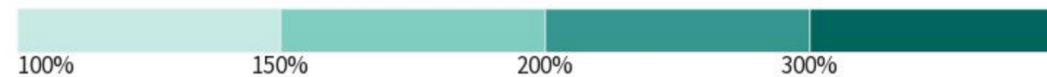
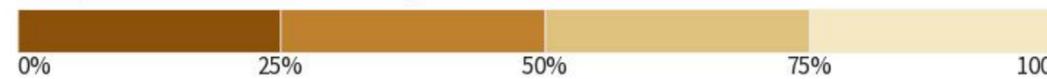
University of Georgia Weather Network

Suwannee River Water Management District

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation

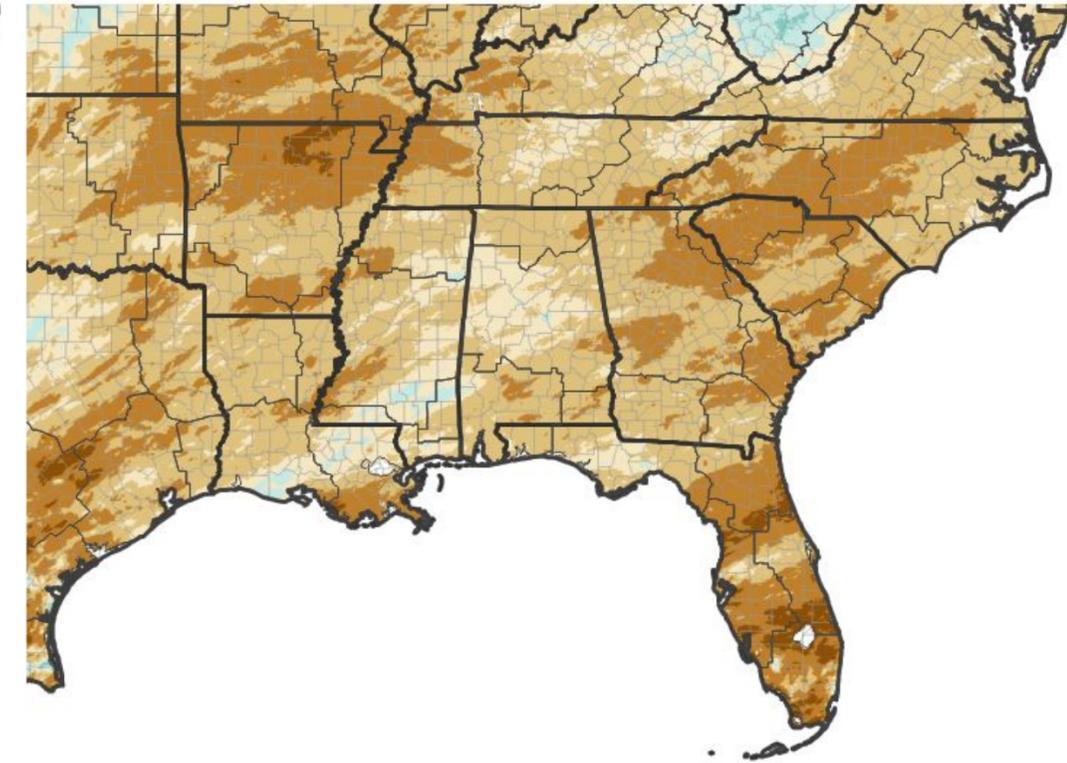


Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

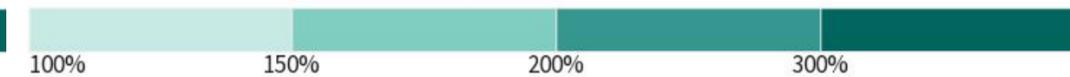
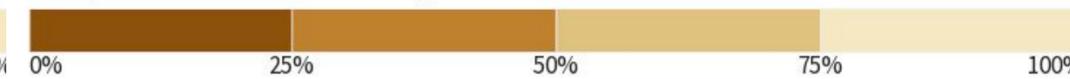


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; Last Updated: 02/05/26
image courtesy of Drought.gov

90-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; Last Updated: 02/05/26
image courtesy of Drought.gov



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Jacksonville, FL

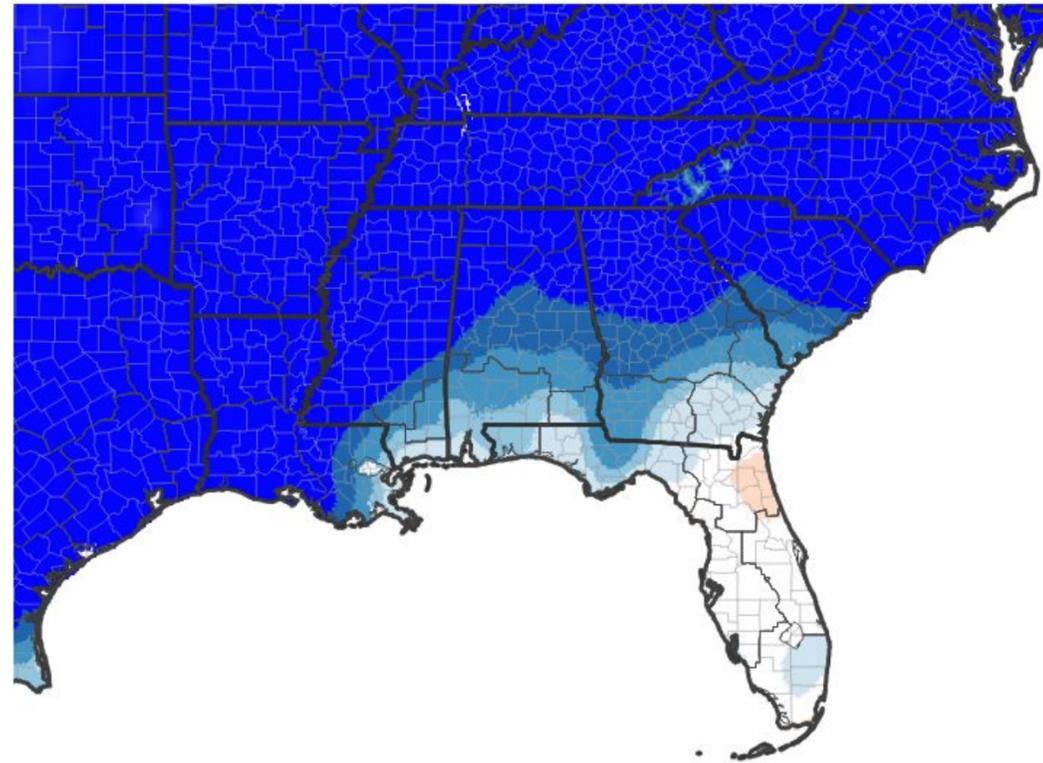


Temperature

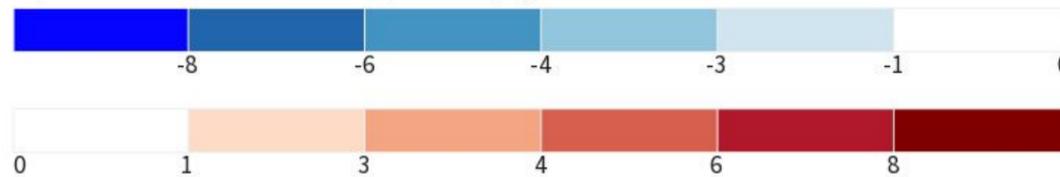
	Last 30 Days	
	Average High (Departure)	Average Low (Departure)
Jacksonville	65.6° (-0.1°)	38.0° (-5.0°)
Craig Field	64.5° (+0.7°)	40.3° (-4.6°)
Ocala	69.4° (-1.4°)	41.6° (-4.2°)
Gainesville	67.0° (-0.4°)	37.9° (-5.0°)
Alma	61.0° (-1.8°)	34.5° (-4.9°)

- A recent arctic airmass that brought snowfall to the region also led to numerous freezes.
- Cooler than normal temperatures are expected through the weekend before a warming trend begins next week.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



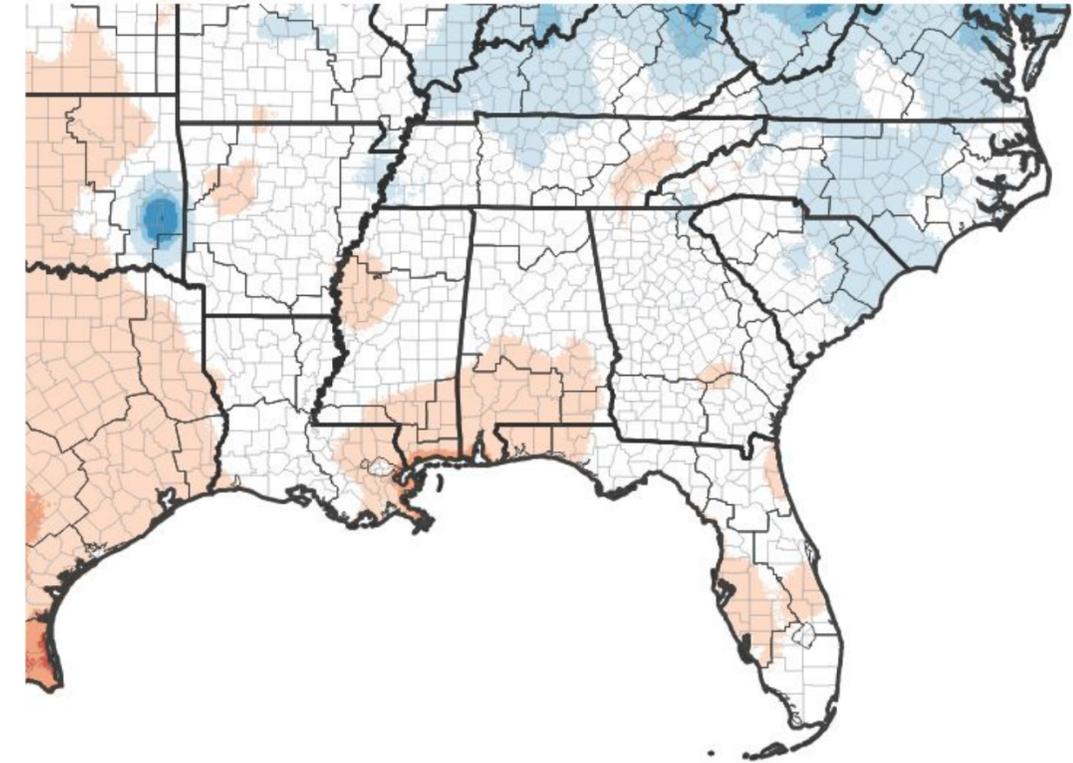
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



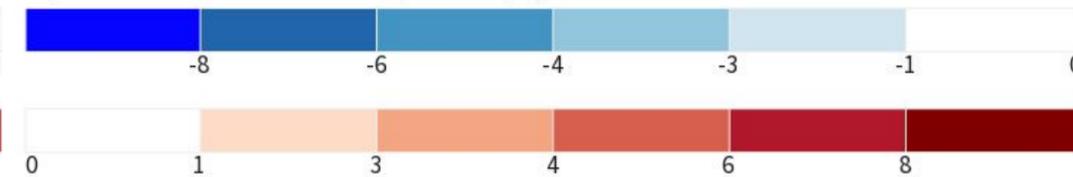
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/31/26

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



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

Data Valid: 01/31/26





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 at record low flows.
- Reports of stretches of the Suwannee, Santa Fe, and Satilla River are no longer accessible to recreational boaters using canoes. In Gilchrist County, the Santa Fe River has sandbars visible above the waterline.
- 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 in interior North Florida, particularly in Marion County.
- Winter cover crops in Southeast Georgia are stressed.
- 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 many counties.
- Putnam County, FL reported 12 wildfires this week, including a 300 plus acre fire in Interlachen, FL from an out of control pile burn.
- Burn bans are now in effect in Gilchrist, Alachua, Putnam, Union and Bradford Counties.

Mitigation Actions

- Suwannee River Water Management District has issued a [water shortage advisory](#) for their watershed.
- If your county is not under a burn ban, exercise extreme caution with any outdoor burning.

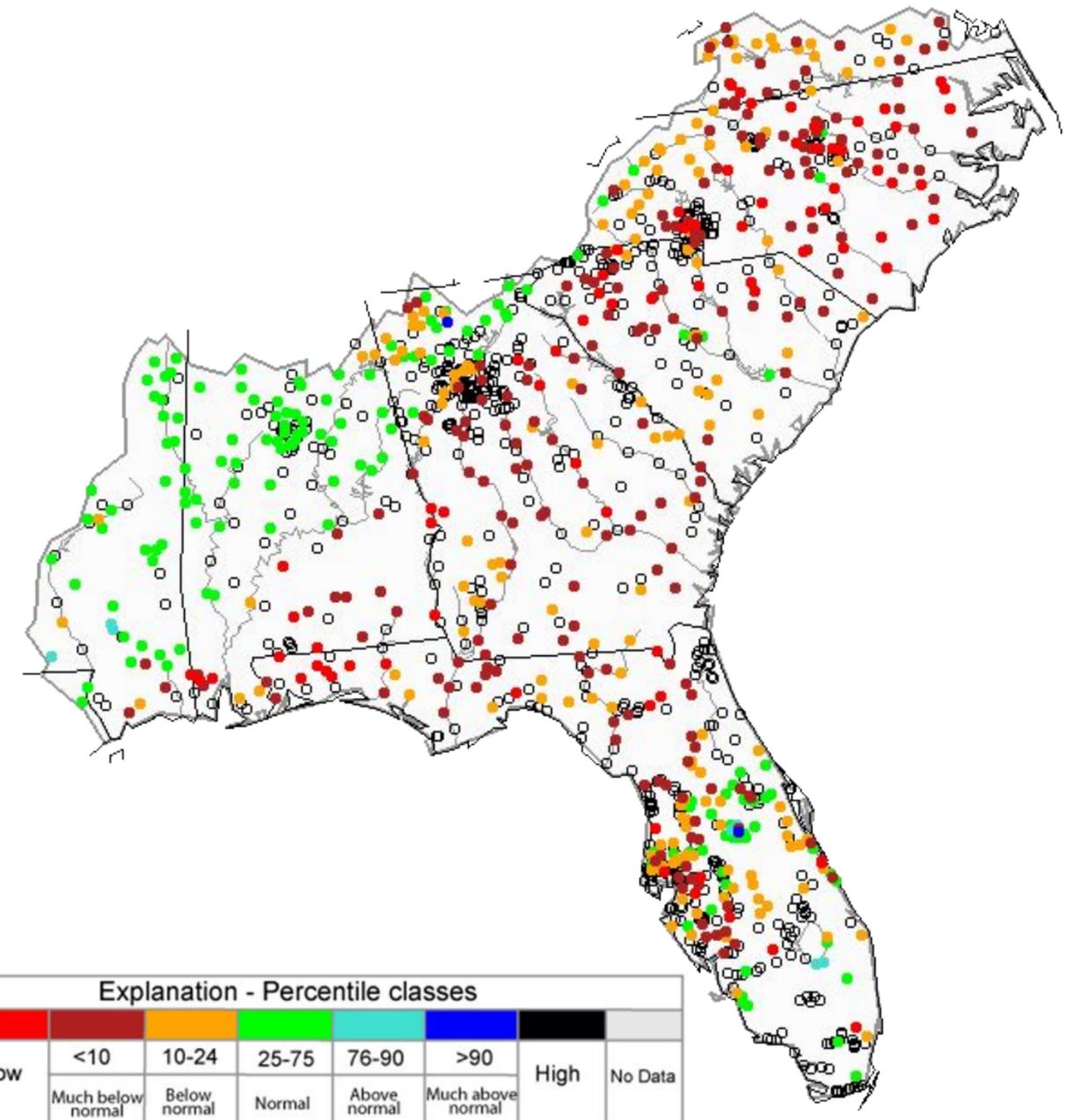




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Wednesday, February 04, 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.

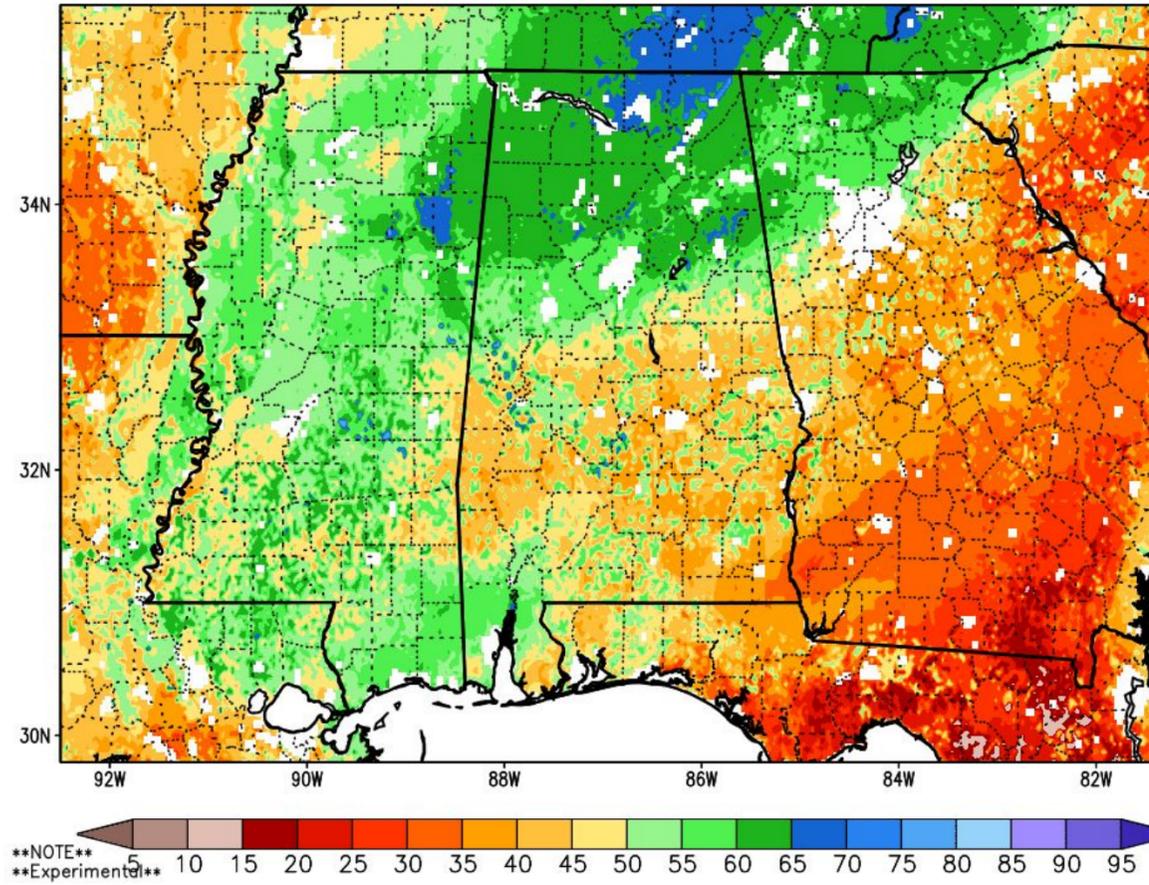




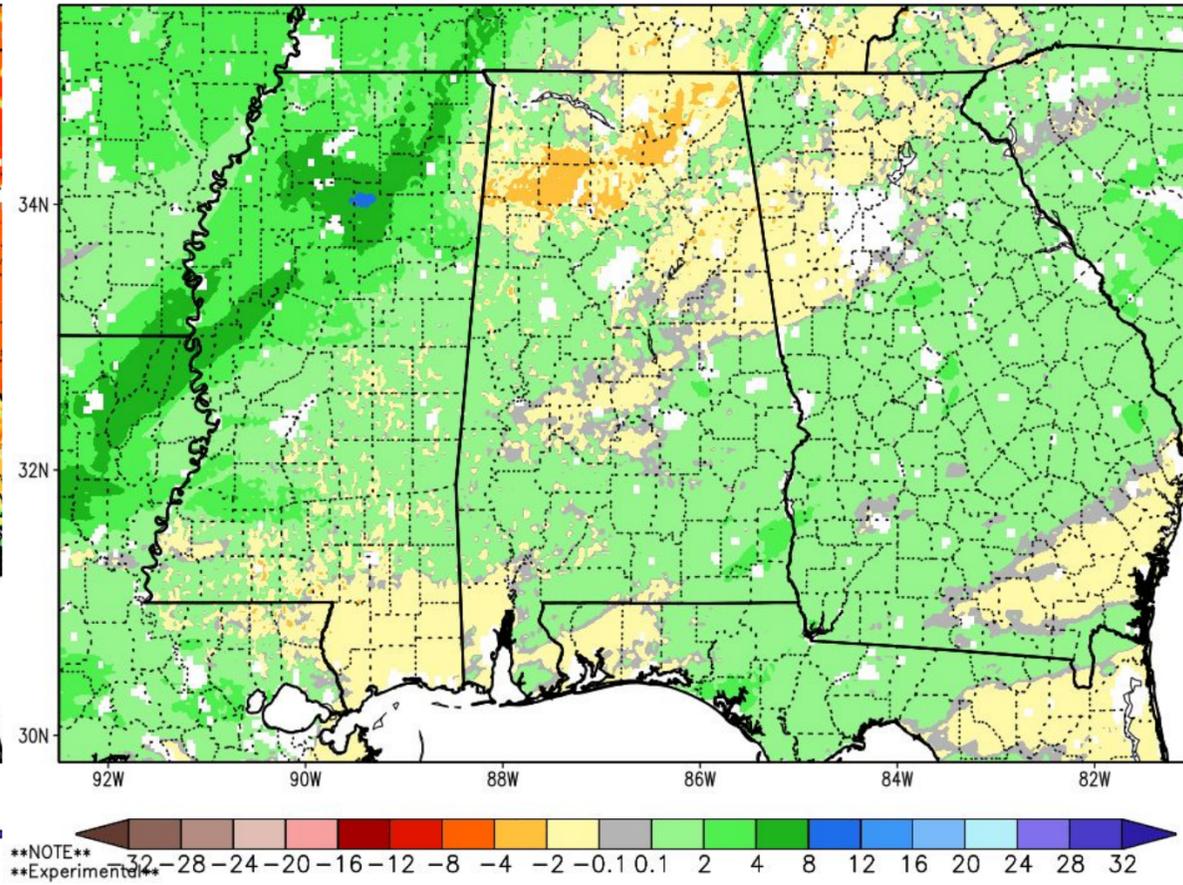
Agricultural Impacts

- Dry Soils are present across across interior southeast Georgia & northeast Florida, especially from the Okefenokee Swamp southward.
- Even with a little rain yesterday and this morning, 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 18z 05 Feb 2026
Precipitation in previous hour (1,2,5,10,15,20,25 mm contours)



1-Week Difference in Column Relative Soil Moisture (%) valid 18z 05 Feb 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](#)



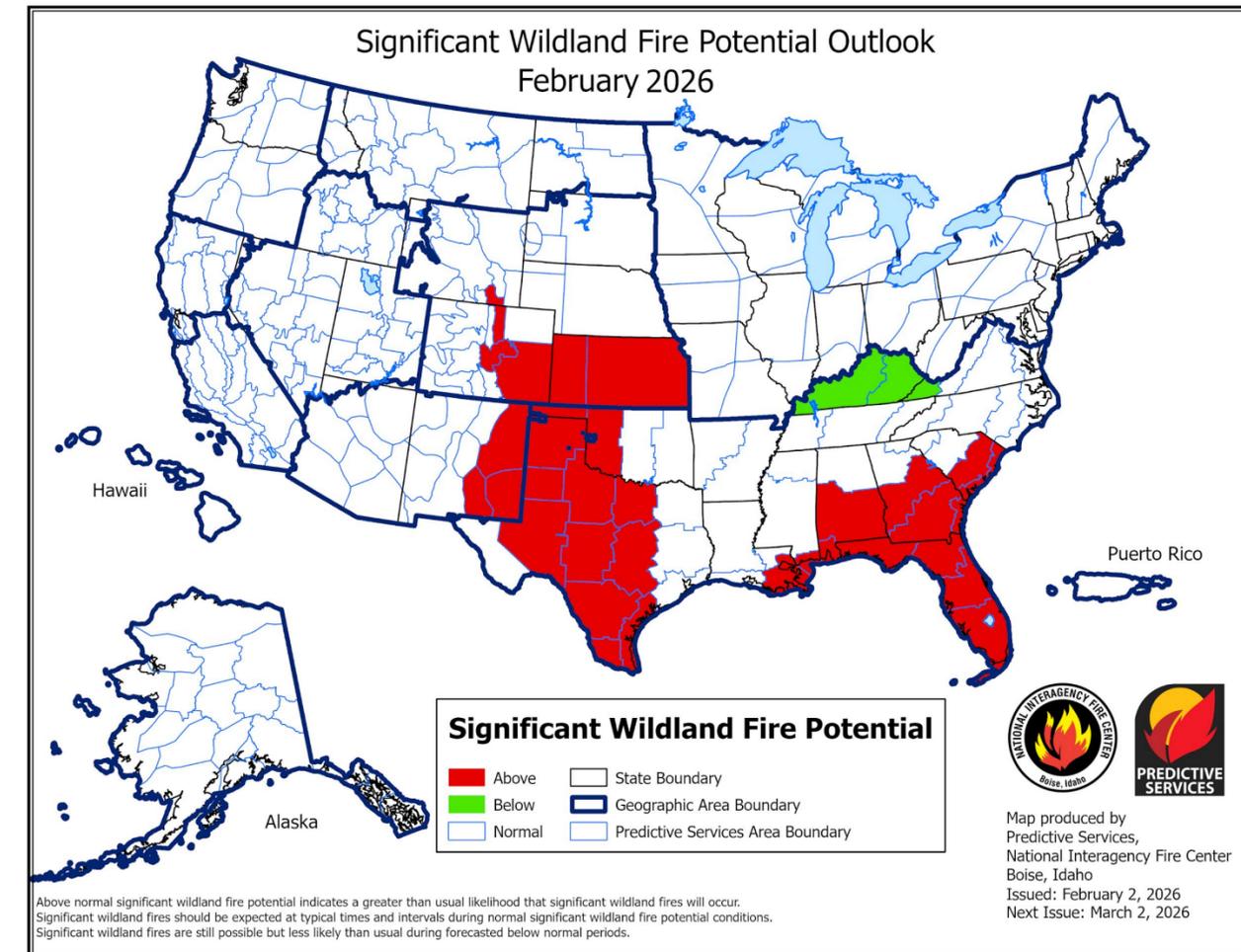
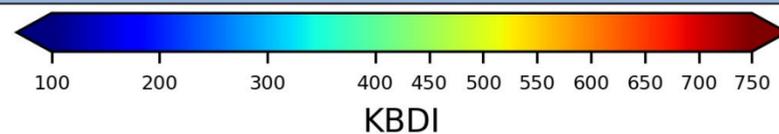
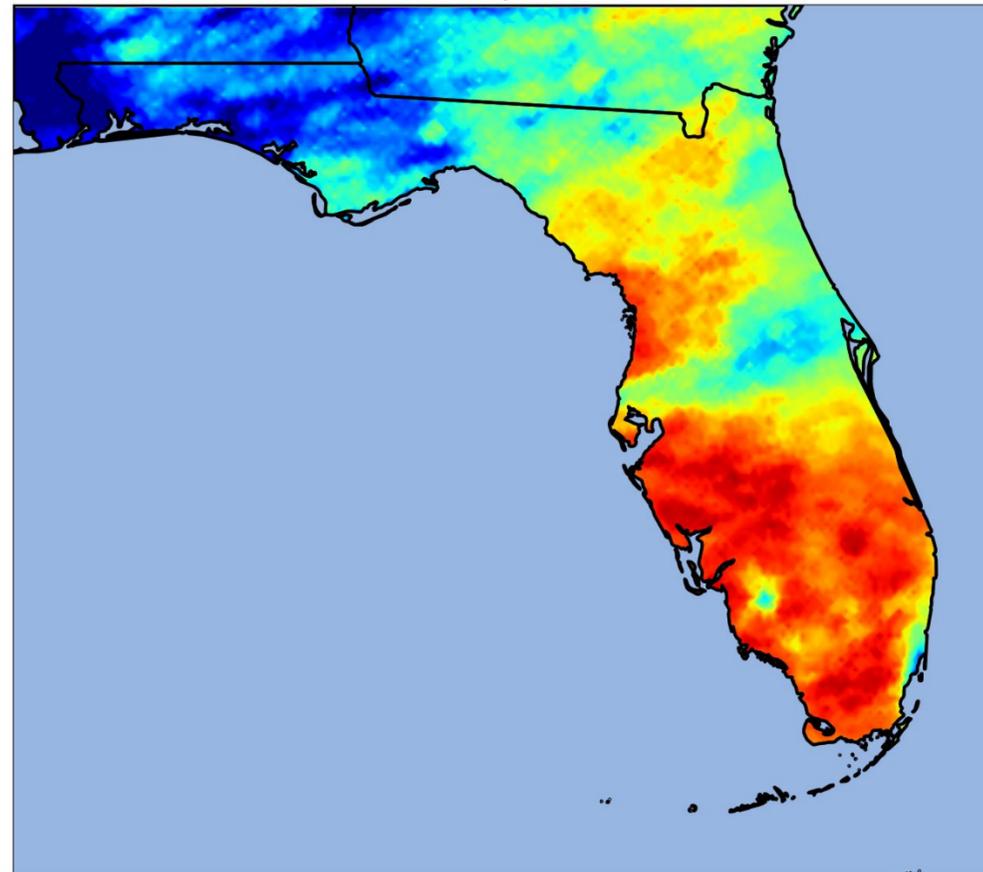


Fire Hazard Impacts

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 Gilchrist, Alachua, Putnam, Union, and Bradford Counties in Florida.
- Fire danger is rapidly increasing.
- The Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for February calls for above normal wildfire activity across the area

Keetch-Byram Drought Index | Wed 02/04/26, 01:00 PM EST

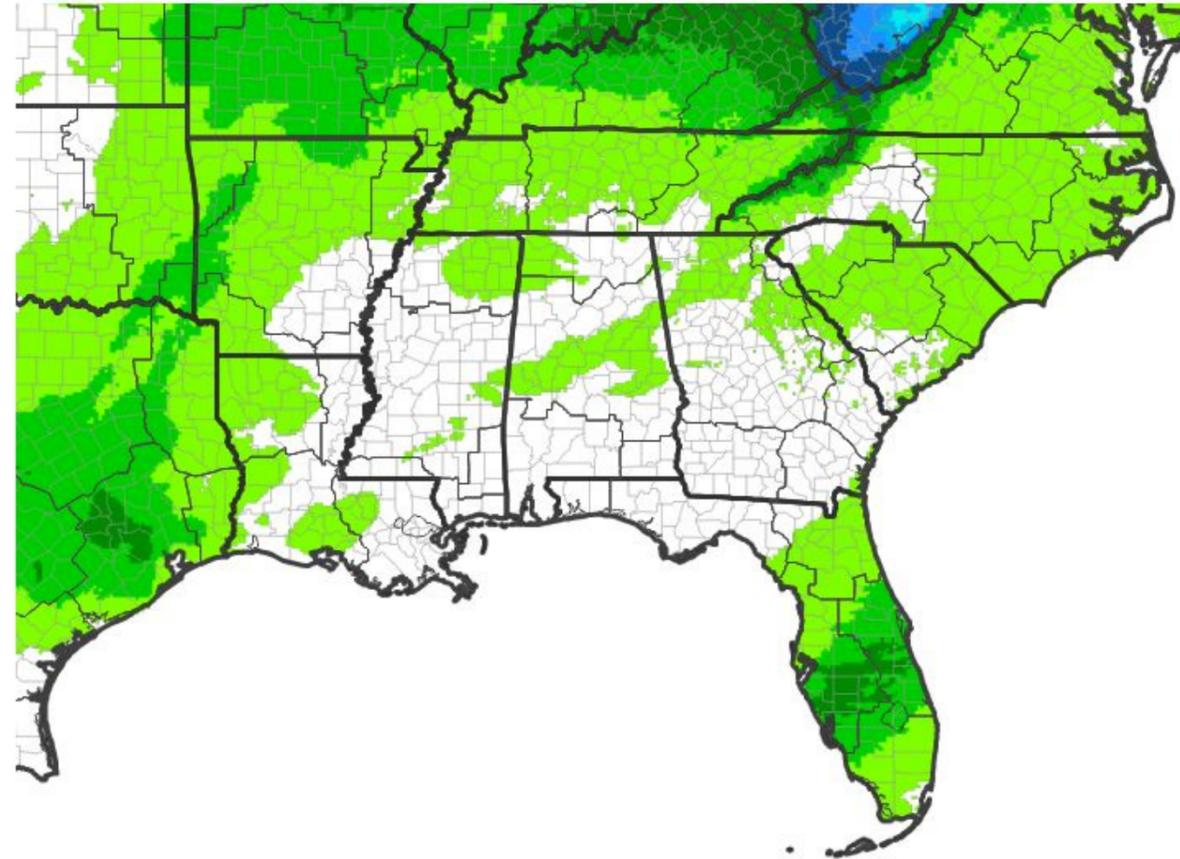




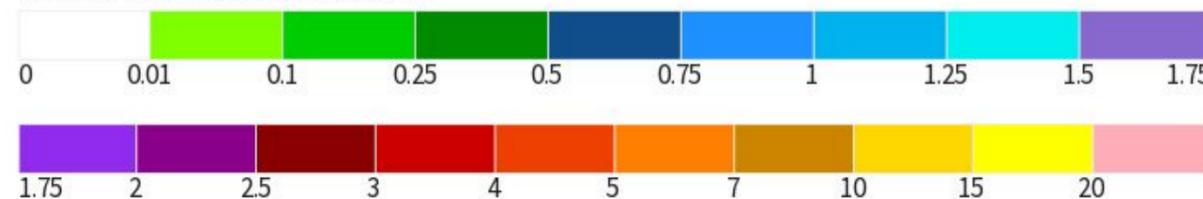
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Light rain occurred this morning, but no further precipitation is expected for at least the next 7 days.
- Below normal rainfall is currently predicted for much of the region during the 8-14 day period from February 12 to February 18.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for February 5, 2026-February 12, 2026



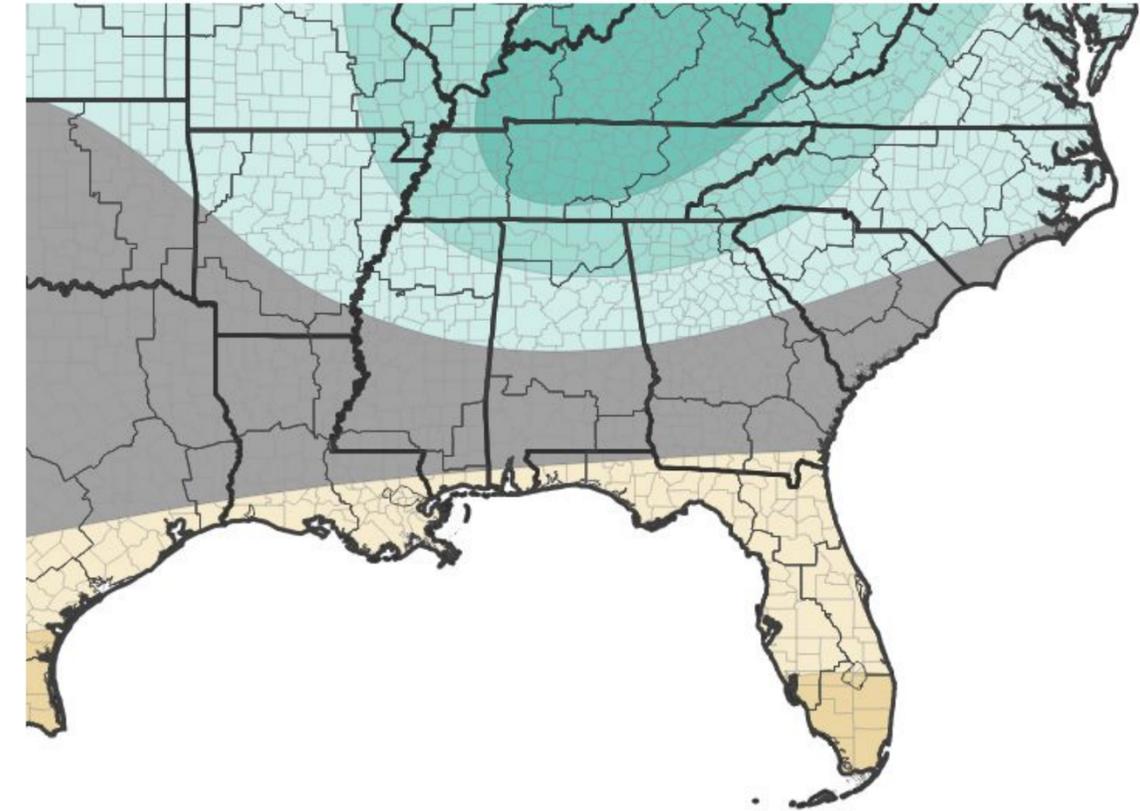
Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 02/05/26

8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook for February 12, 2026-February 18, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Near-Normal Conditions

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

Last Updated: 02/04/26



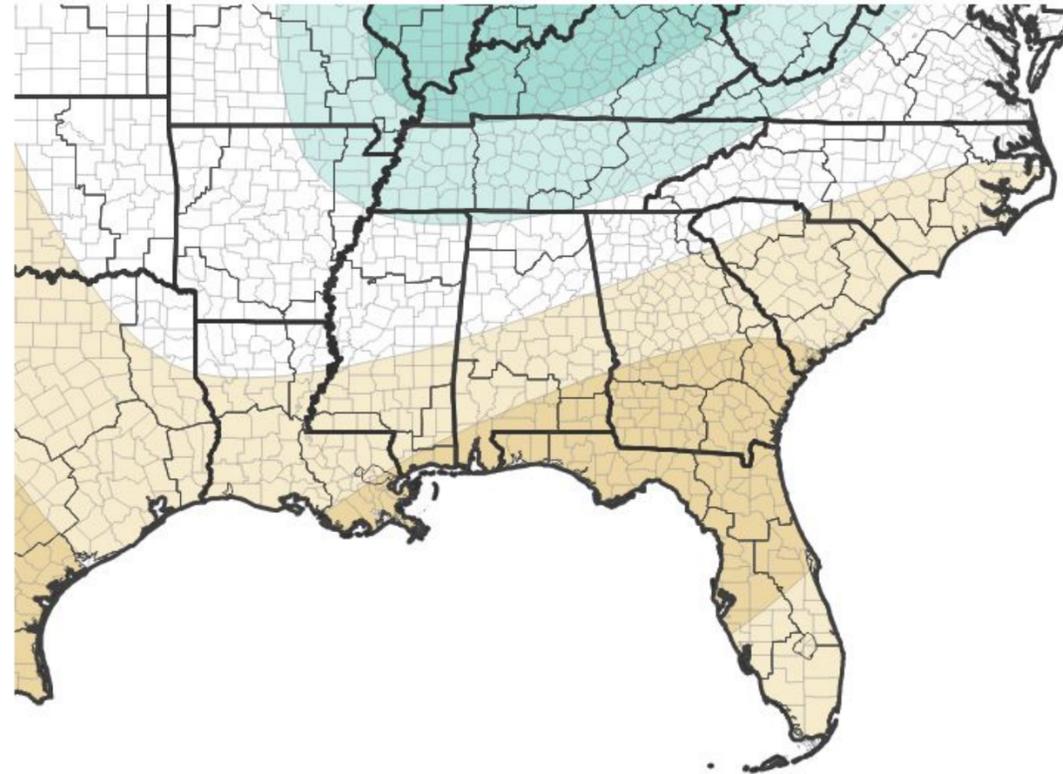


Long-Range Outlooks

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 Nina.
- 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



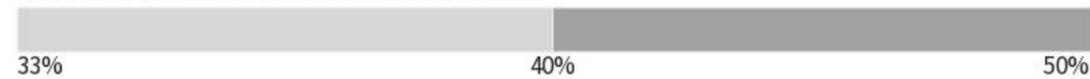
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



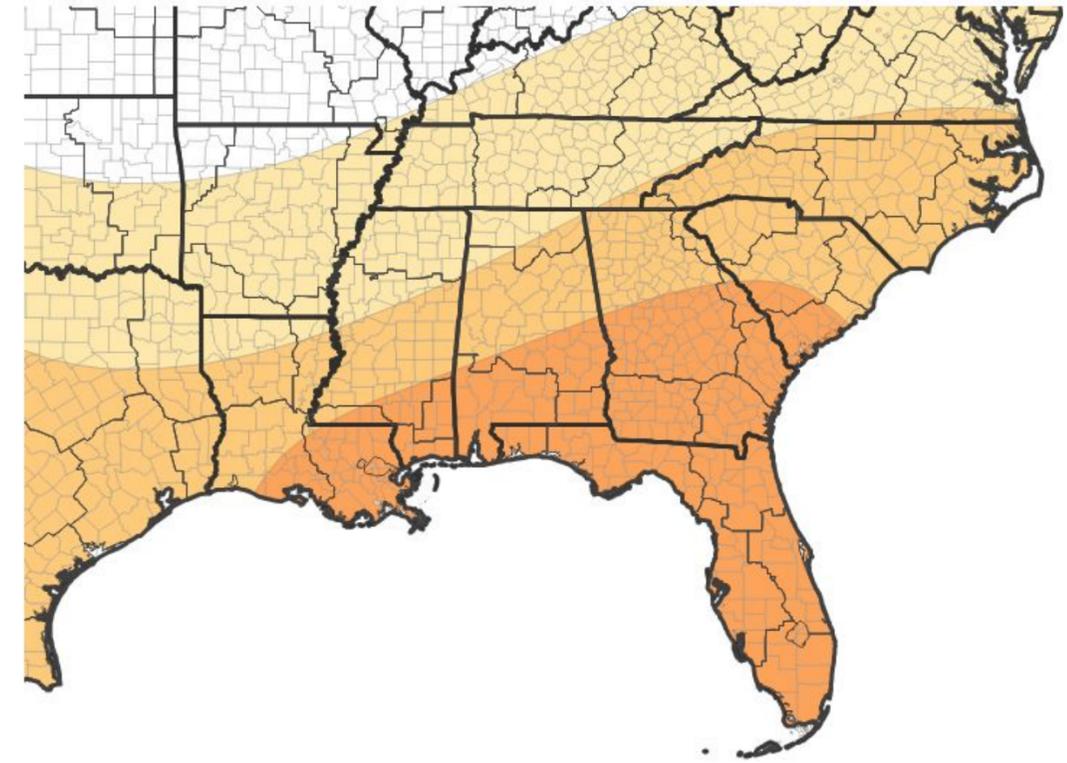
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 01/15/26

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



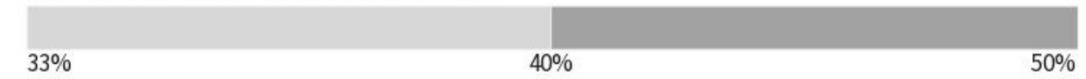
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



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

Average	Feb		Mar		Apr	
	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"



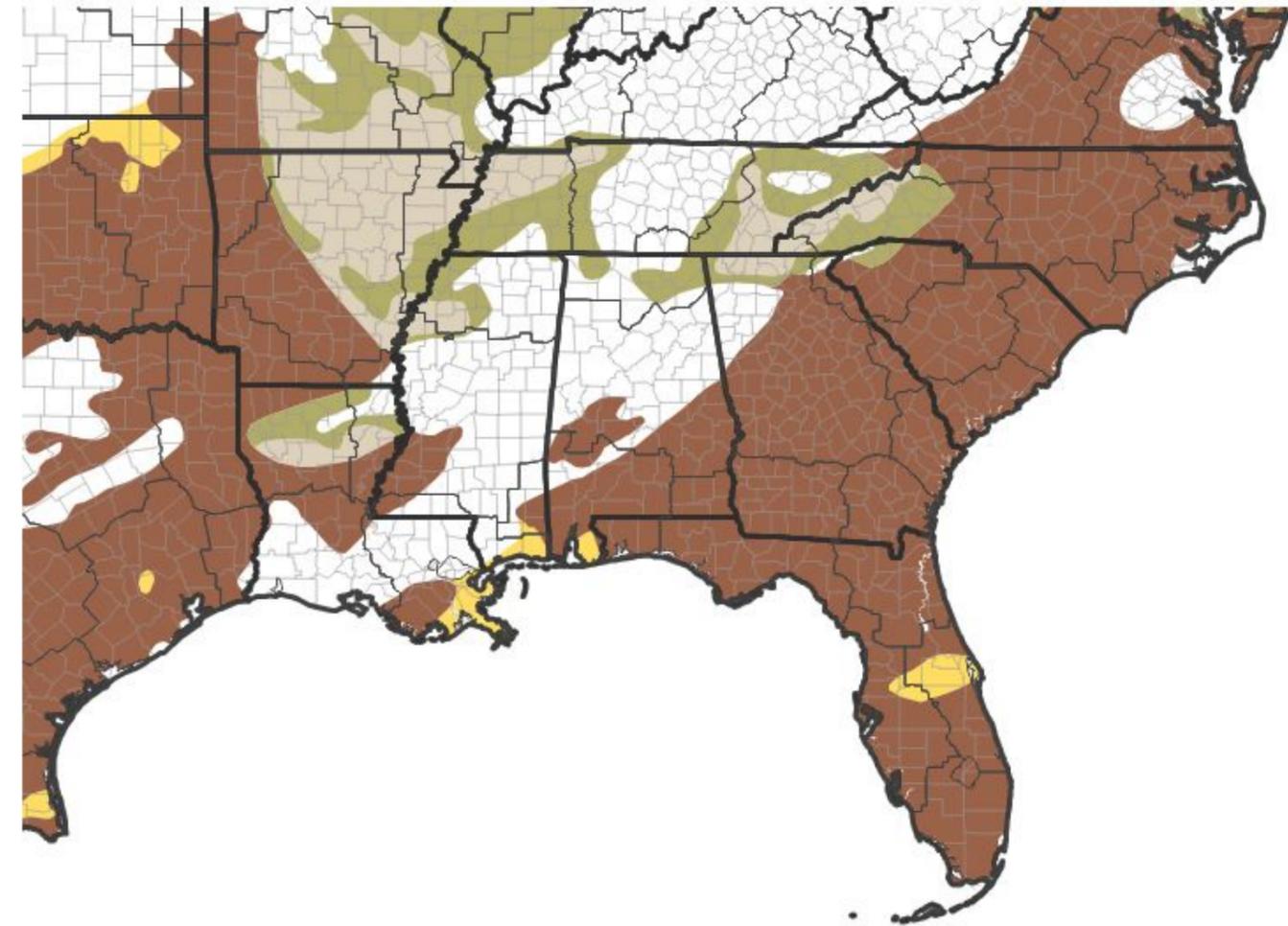


Drought Outlook

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 Nina 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 31, 2026–April 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 01/31/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Jacksonville, FL