



Drought Information Statement for Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida

Valid February 12, 2026

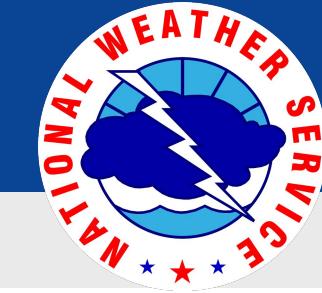
Issued By: National Weather Service Jacksonville, FL

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

- This product will be updated Thursday, February 19, 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 has expanded across much of the area.**
- 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 continues to increase.



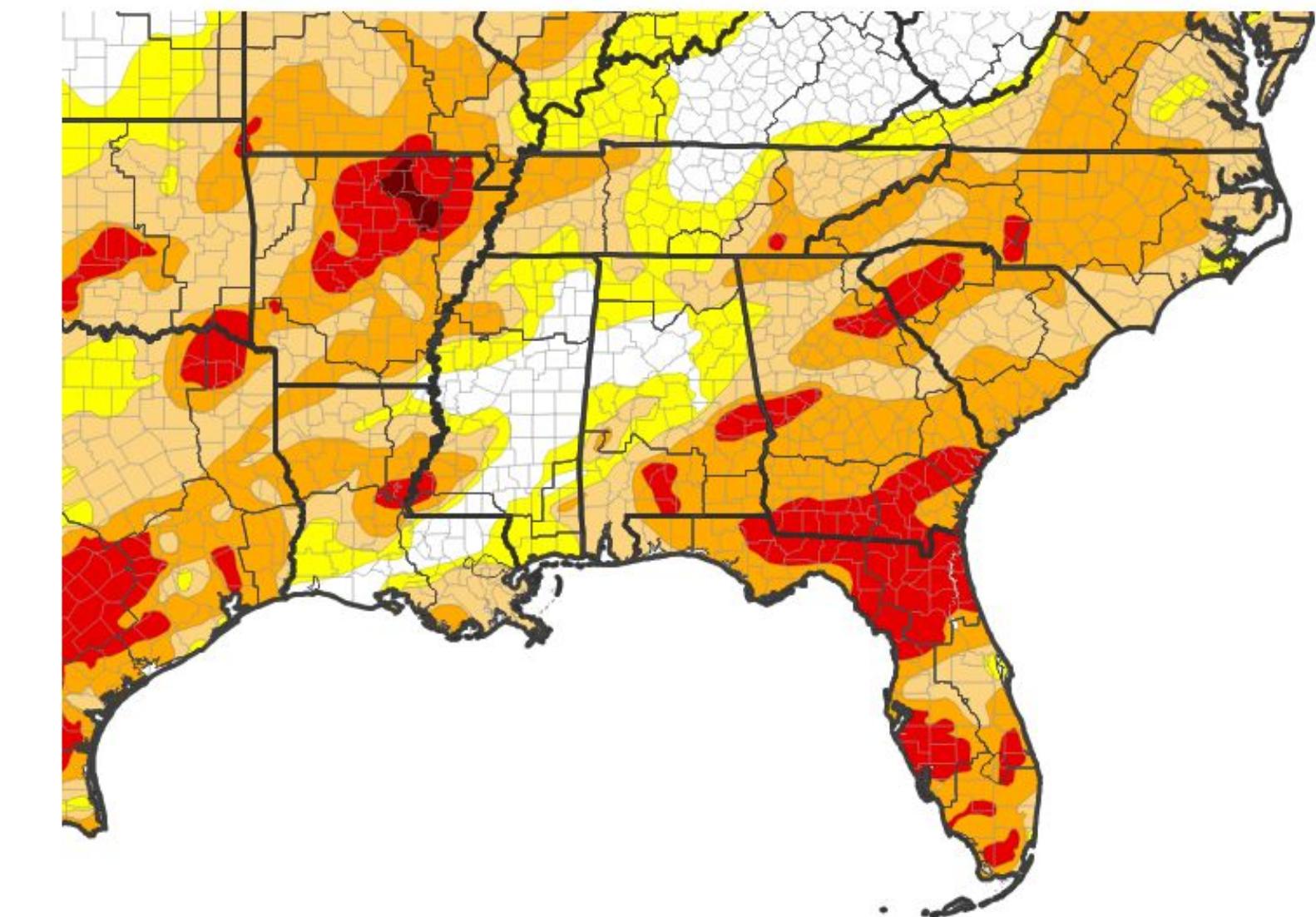


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- The drought worsened this week across interior Northeast Florida and Southeast Georgia.
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Most of southeast Georgia outside of the coastal areas and nearly all of northeast Florida
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):** coastal southeast Georgia, eastern Marion, southern Putnam, and southern Flagler counties in FL

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



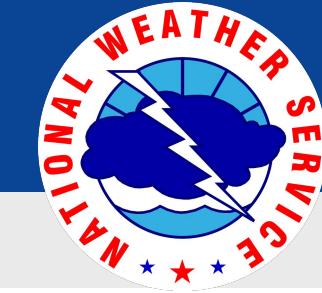
Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 02/10/26



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Jacksonville, FL

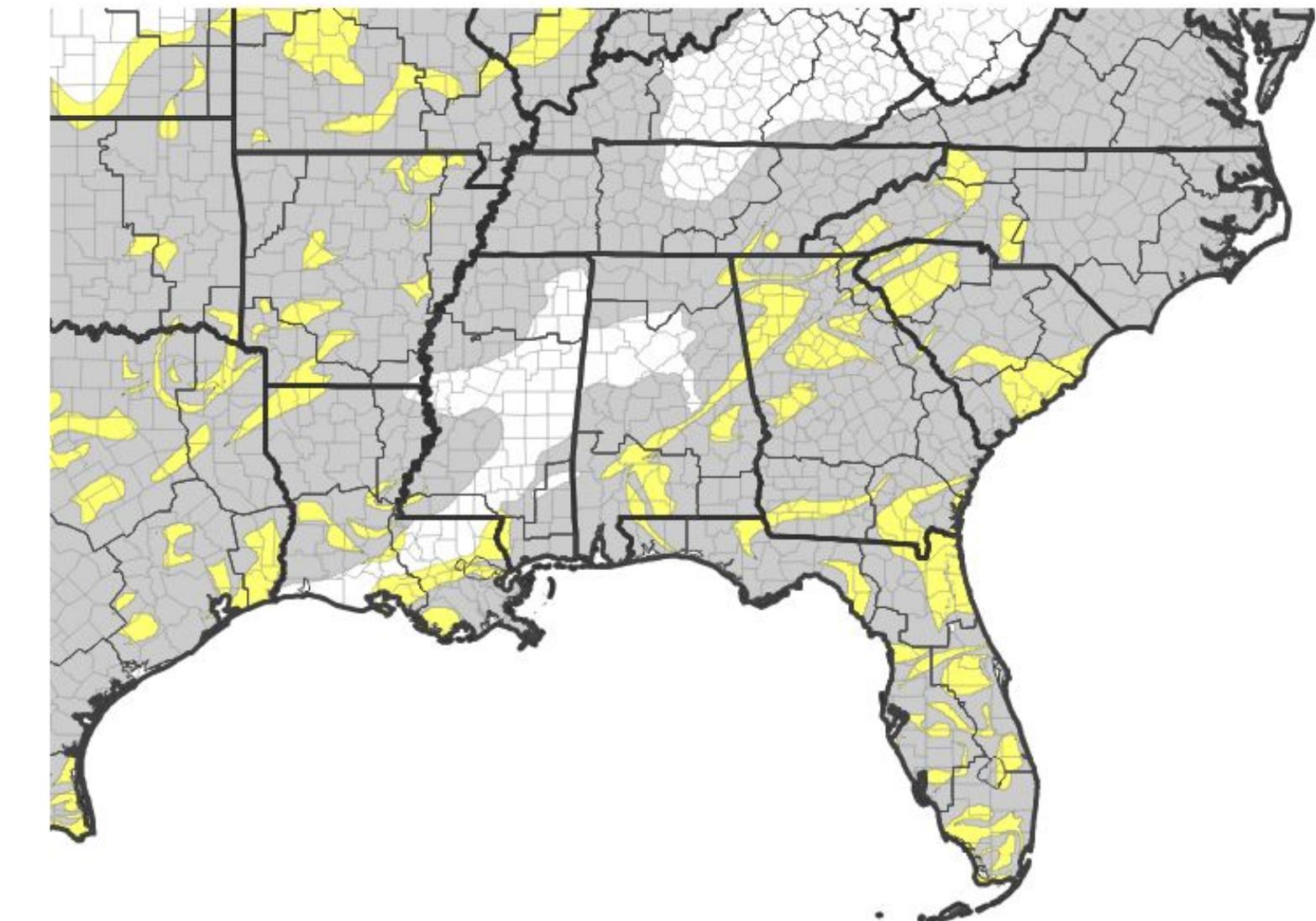


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

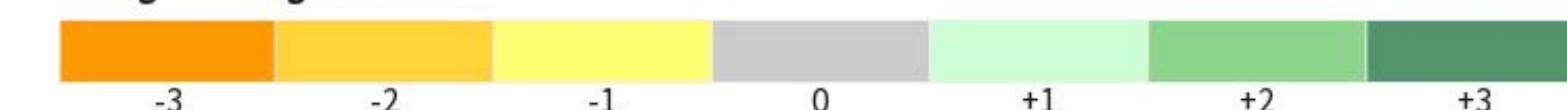
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida

- Drought conditions continue to expand and worsen across the region, with degradation noted across portions of interior Southeast Georgia and the St. Johns Basin in northeast FL.
- No improvements occurred this week.
- One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
 - **1 category degradation:** across the Okefenokee Swamp in southeast Georgia and all of the St. Johns basin in Northeast Florida

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



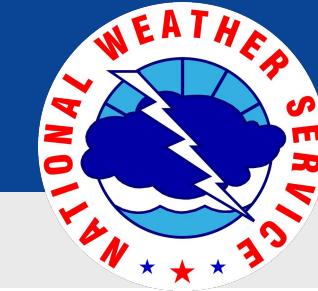
Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 02/10/26



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Jacksonville, FL



Precipitation

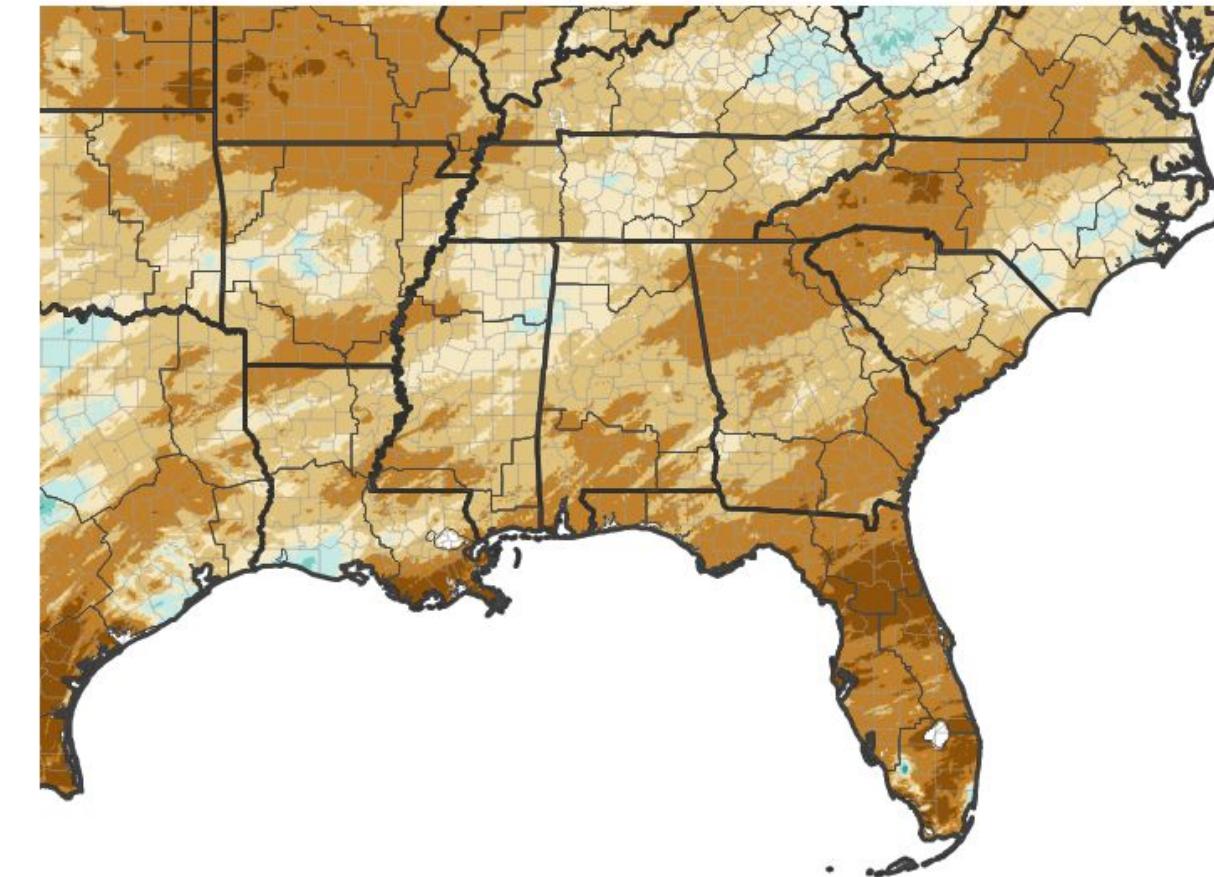
	Last 30 Days		Last 90 Days	
	Rainfall	Percent	Rainfall	Percent
Jasper	1.63"	38.5%	5.81"	55.2%
Live Oak	1.10"	25.1%	5.57"	53.0%
Ichetucknee St Pk.	0.74"	20.2%	4.15"	44.2%
Fanning Springs	0.97"	27.0%	3.94"	42.2%
Baxley	1.59"	40.4%	4.17"	39.5%
Alma	1.27"	35.3%	2.47"	26.3%
Waycross	1.33"	33.7%	5.12"	50.0%
Olustee	0.89"	23.0%	4.45"	46.4%
Ocala	0.78"	23.3%	2.42"	28.5%
Palatka	0.46"	15.2%	2.12"	25.6%
Ocklawaha	0.48"	16.3%	1.54"	19.5%
Nahunta	1.24"	32.2%	4.32"	43.9%
Woodbine	2.27"	64.7%	5.88"	63.9%
Jacksonville	0.76"	24.2%	4.57"	54.6%

Data Updated through February 11, 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

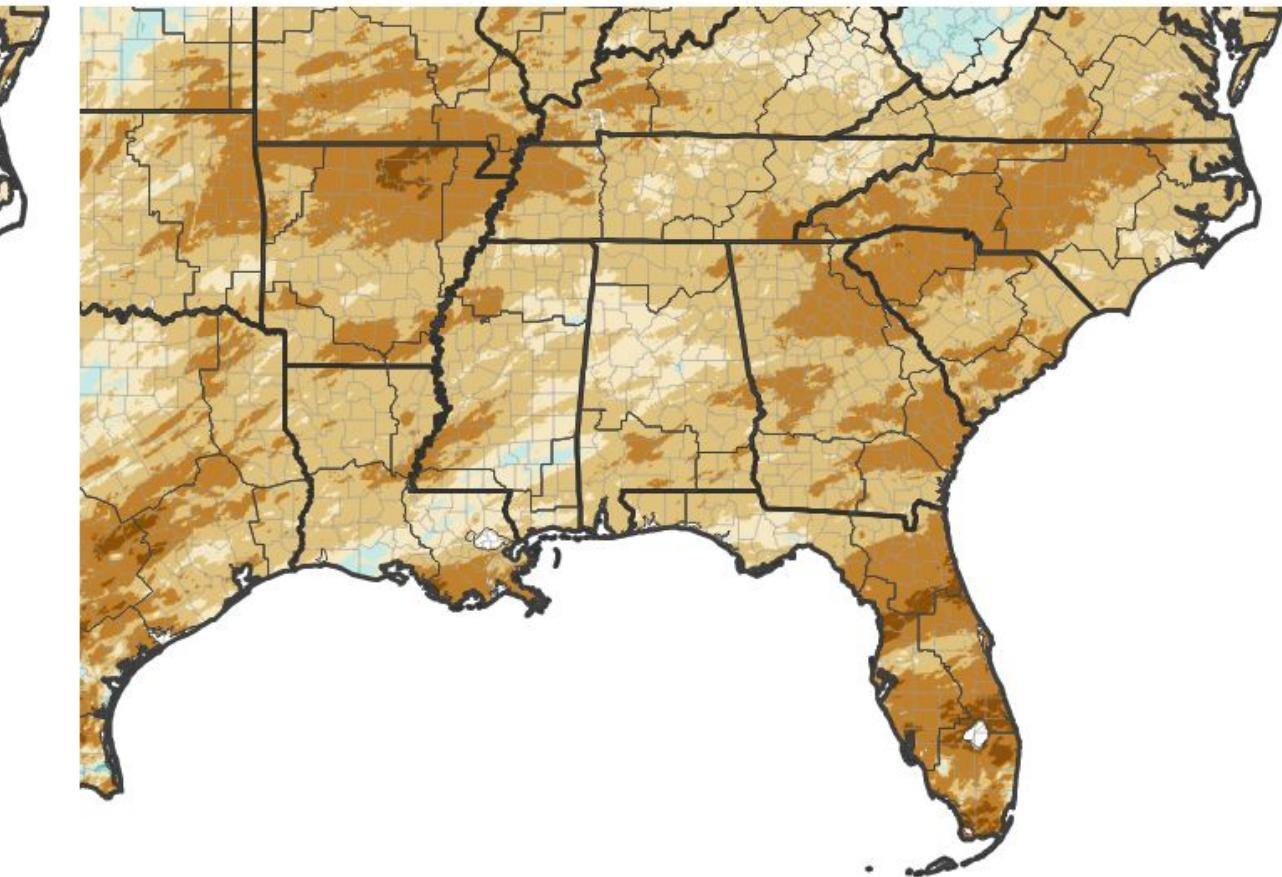


Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

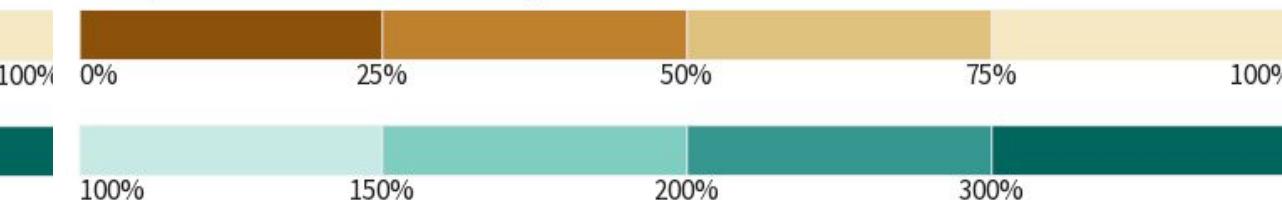


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

90-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Last Updated: 02/12/2

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

Last Updated: 02/12/26



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Jacksonville, FL

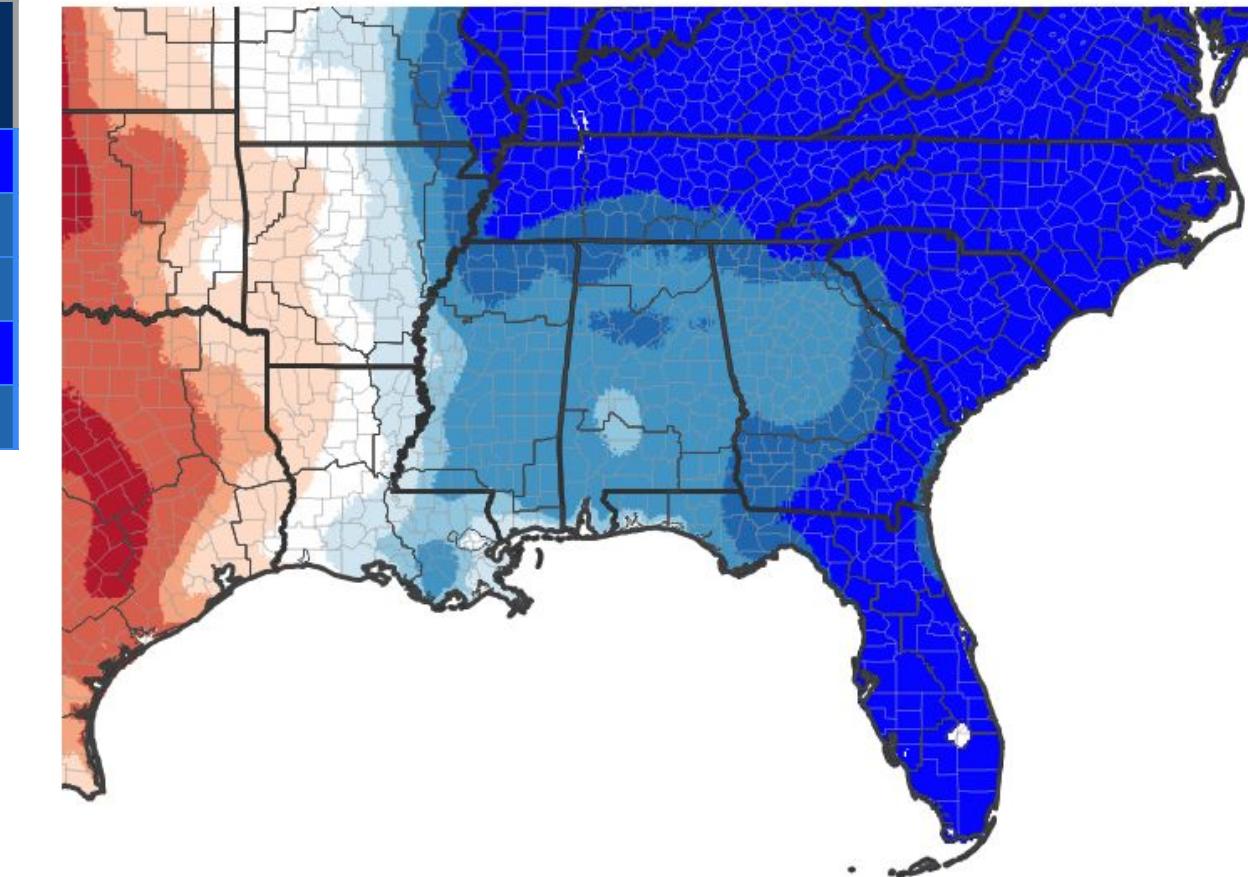


Temperature

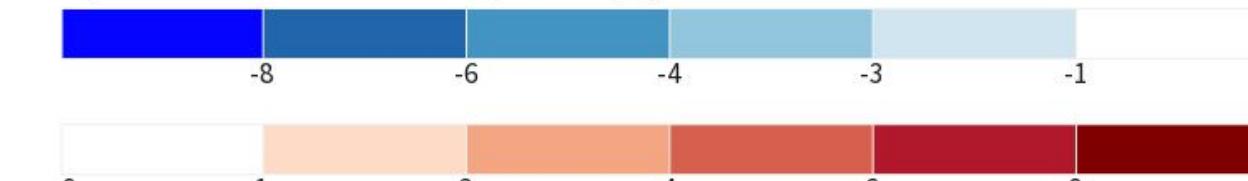
	Last 30 Days	
	Average High (Departure)	Average Low (Departure)
Jacksonville	64.4° (-1.8°)	34.8° (-8.8°)
Craig Field	63.3° (-2.4°)	37.5° (-7.9°)
Ocala	68.2° (-3.1°)	38.4° (-7.8°)
Gainesville	65.7° (-2.3°)	34.5° (-9.0°)
Alma	60.0° (-3.5°)	32.1° (-7.7°)

- A very cold January has led to well below normal temperatures across the area.
- The freezes have freeze-cured some fuels, which along with drought conditions has led to increased fire risks.
- Warmer temperatures are on the way.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly

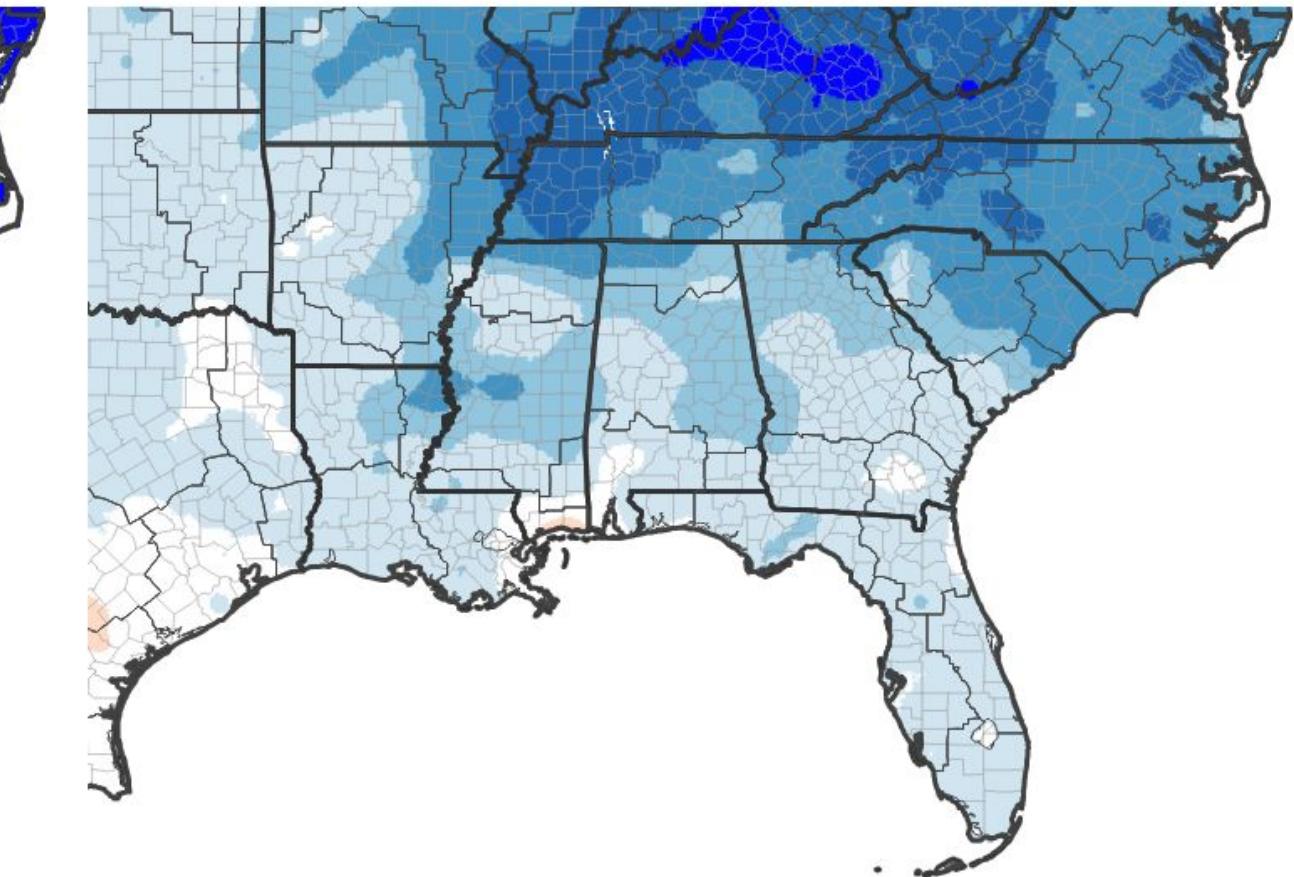


Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

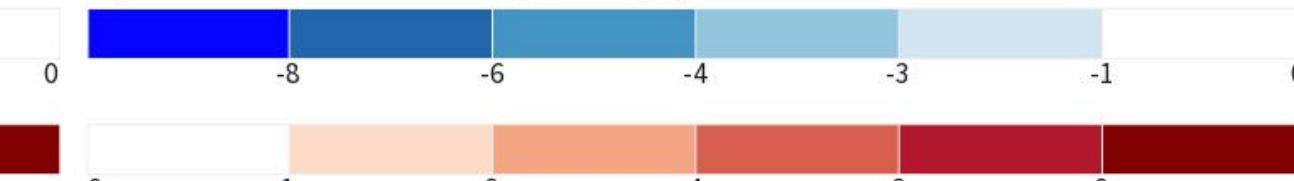


Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Data Valid: 02/08/26

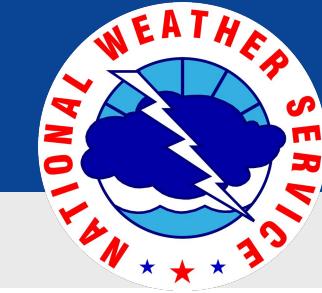
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 02/08/26



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Jacksonville, FL



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.
- Burn bans are now in effect in Columbia, Baker, Union, Bradford, Gilchrist, Alachua, Marion, Putnam, and Flagler 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.

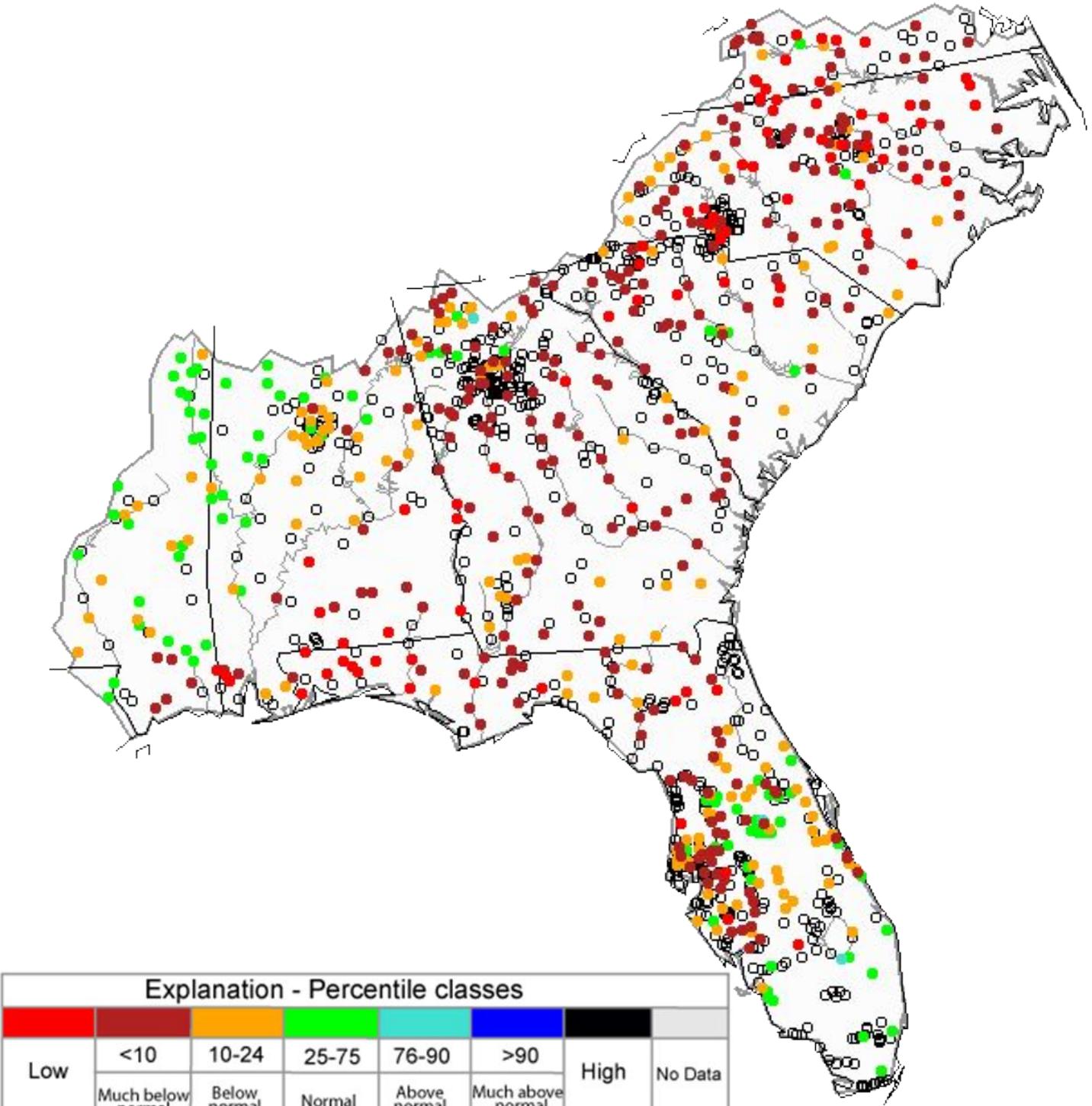




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Wednesday, February 11, 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.
- Suwannee River Water Management District has issued a [Water Shortage Advisory](#) for their watershed.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

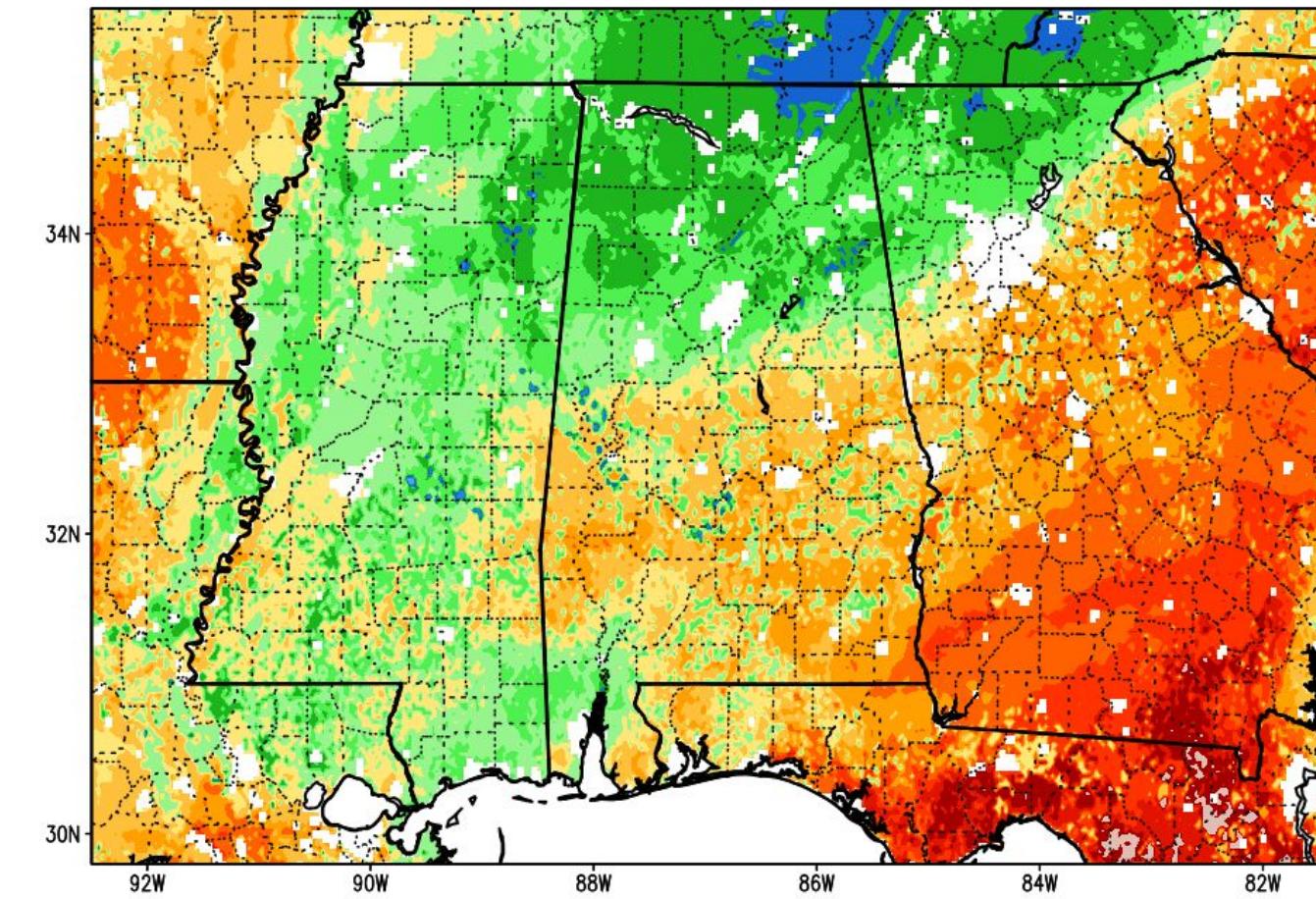
National Weather Service
Jacksonville, FL



Agricultural Impacts

- Dry Soils are present across across interior southeast Georgia & northeast Florida, especially from the Okefenokee Swamp southward.
- Continued lack of heavy rainfall and low relative humidities will lead to further drying.

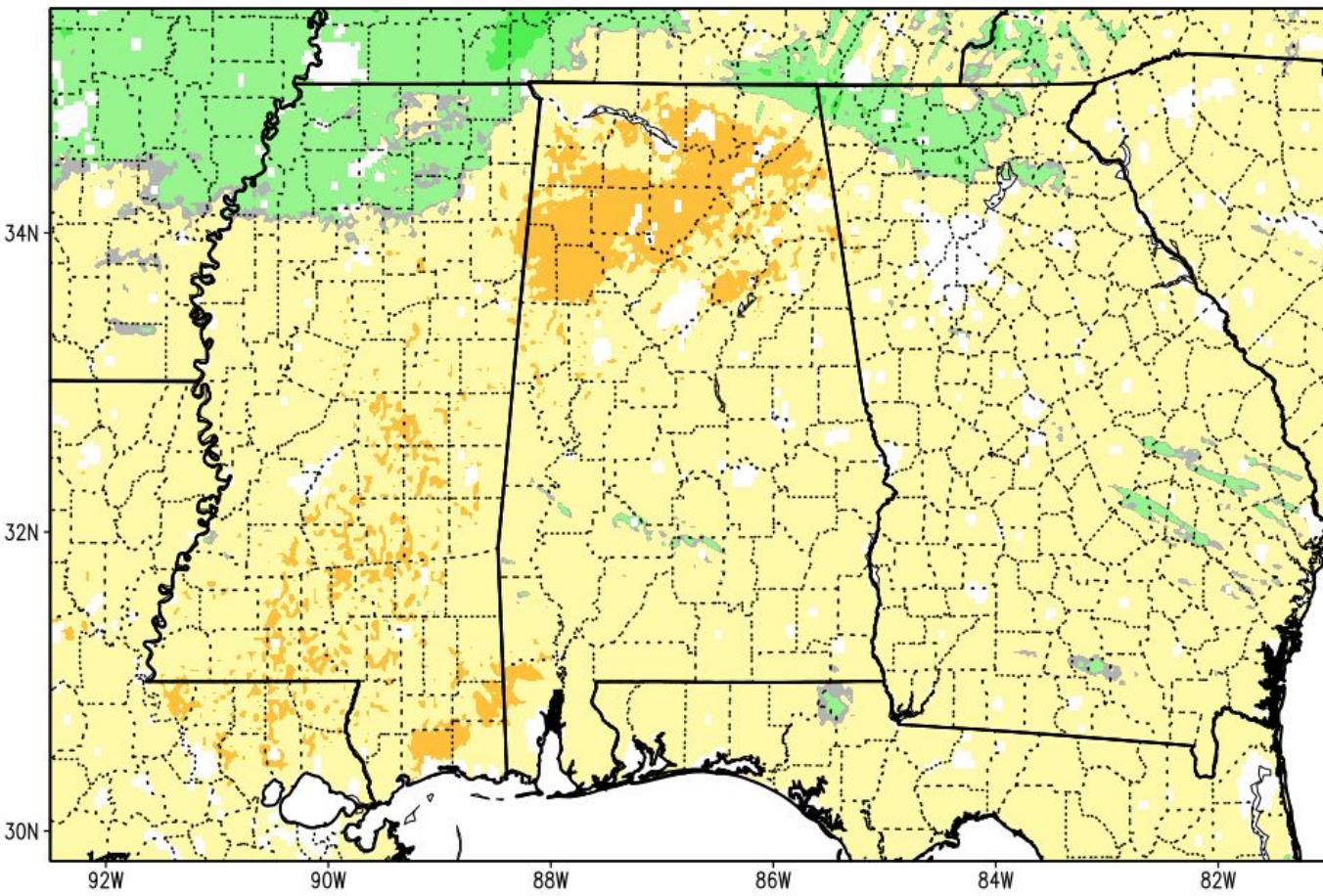
Column-Integrated Relative Soil Moisture (available water; %) valid 18z 12 Feb 2026
Precipitation in previous hour (1,2,5,10,15,20,25 mm contours)



NOTE
Experimental

5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 45 50 55 60 65 70 75 80 85 90 95

1-Week Difference in Column Relative Soil Moisture (%) valid 18z 12 Feb 2026



NOTE
Experimental

32 28 24 20 16 12 8 4 -4 -2 0 1 0.1 2 4 8 12 16 20 24 28 32

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

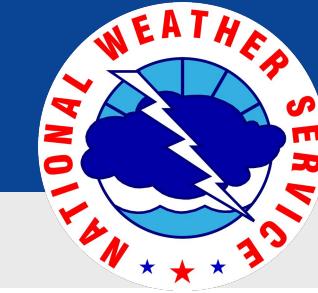
Data courtesy of NASA SPoRT

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



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Jacksonville, FL

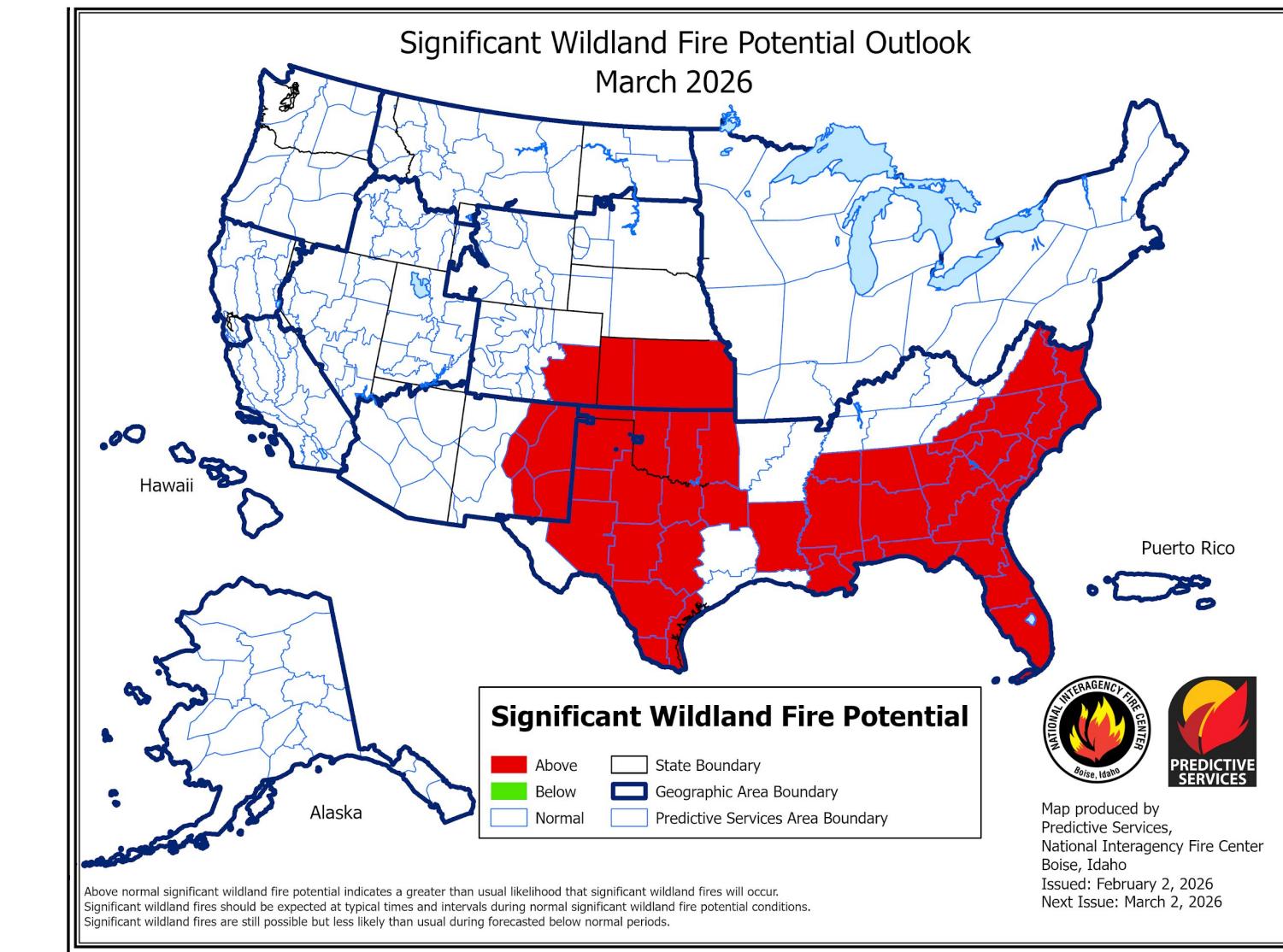
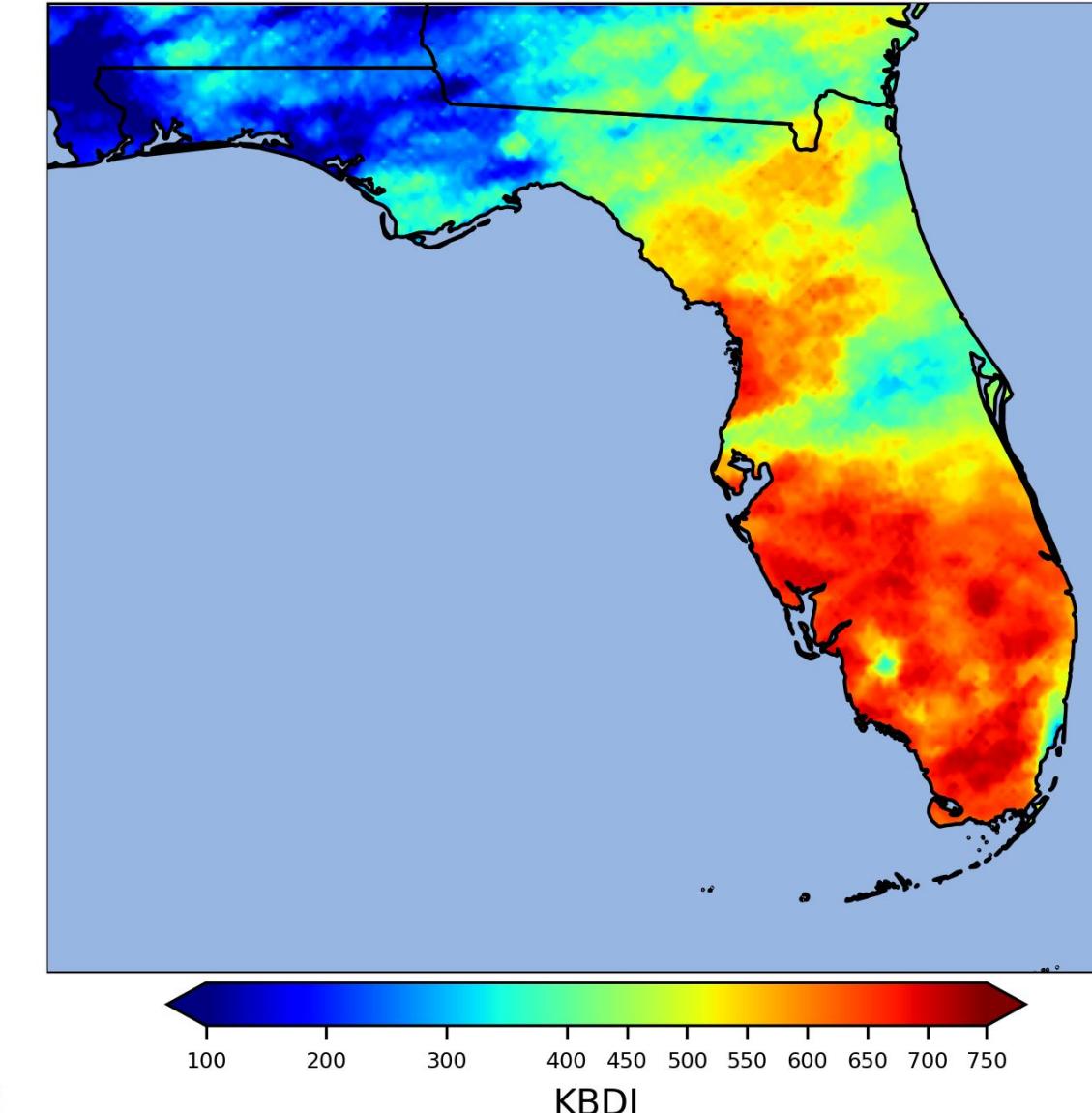


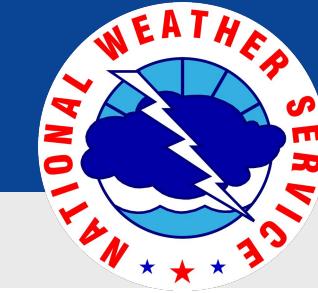
Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index values at or above 500 for portions of interior NE Florida mainly south of Interstate 10.
- Burn bans are in effect for Columbia, Baker, Union, Bradford, Gilchrist, Alachua, Marion, Putnam, and Flagler Counties
- Fire danger is rapidly increasing.
- The Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for March calls for above normal wildfire activity across the area

Keetch-Byram Drought Index | Wed 02/11/26, 01:00 PM EST

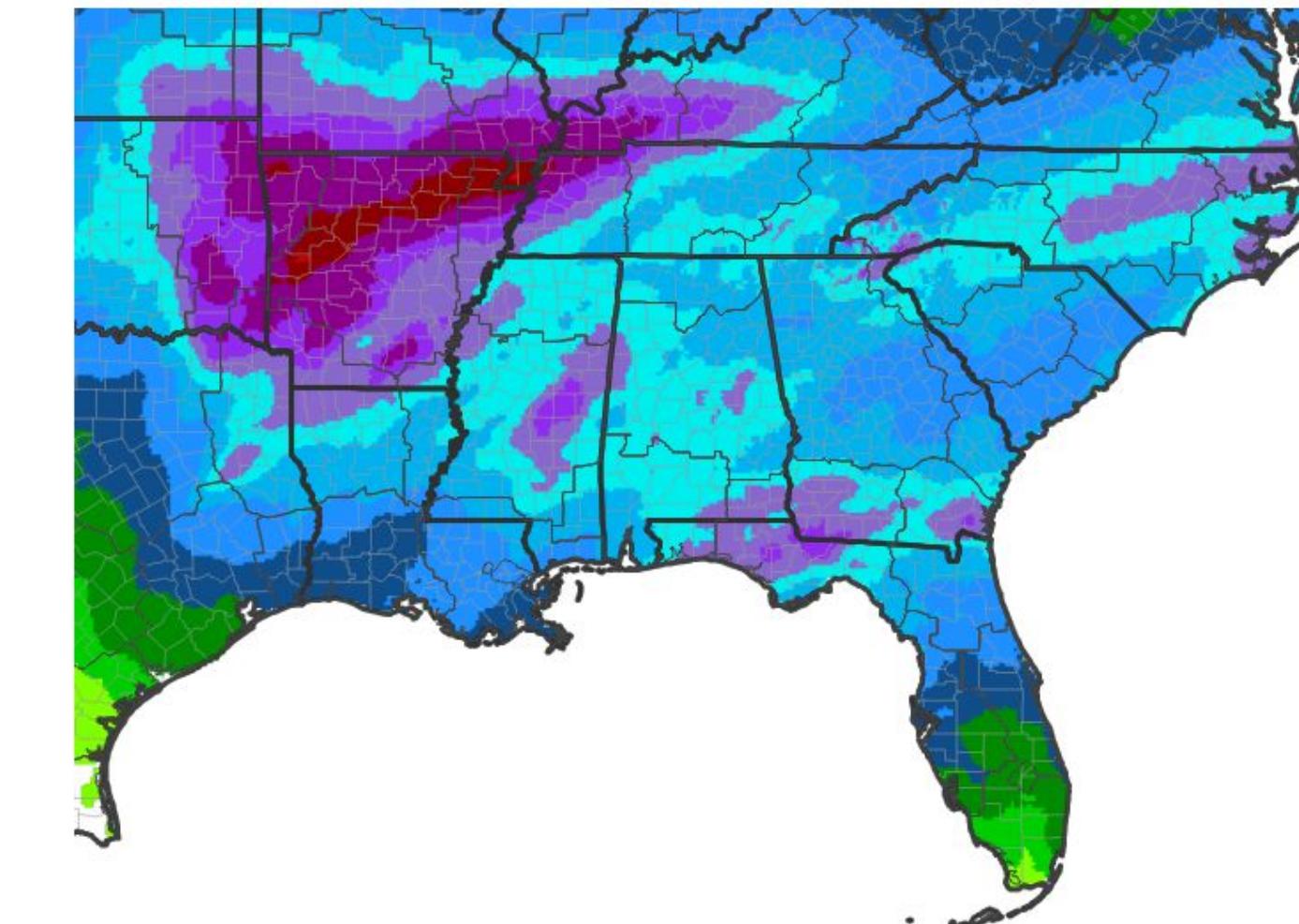




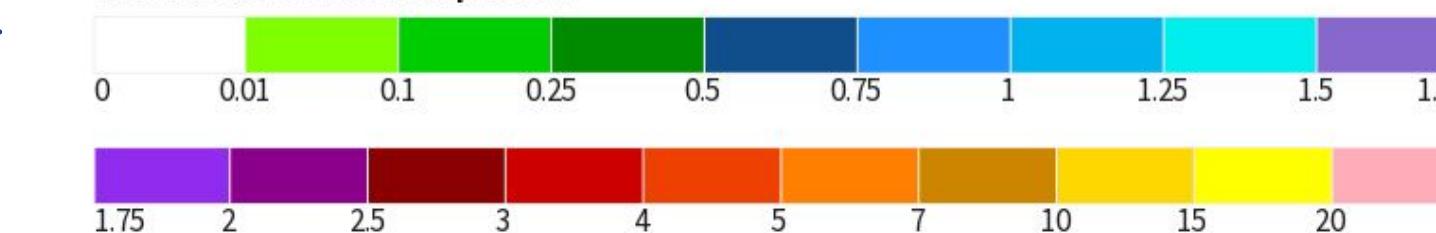
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Beneficial rain is on the way this week with about 1-1.5 inches most likely with localized areas seeing more.
- This may be enough to halt the worsening of drought temporarily, but may not be enough to improve drought conditions.
- Below normal rainfall is favored for the Day 8-14 period (2/19-2/25)

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for February 12, 2026–February 19, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 02/12/26

Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

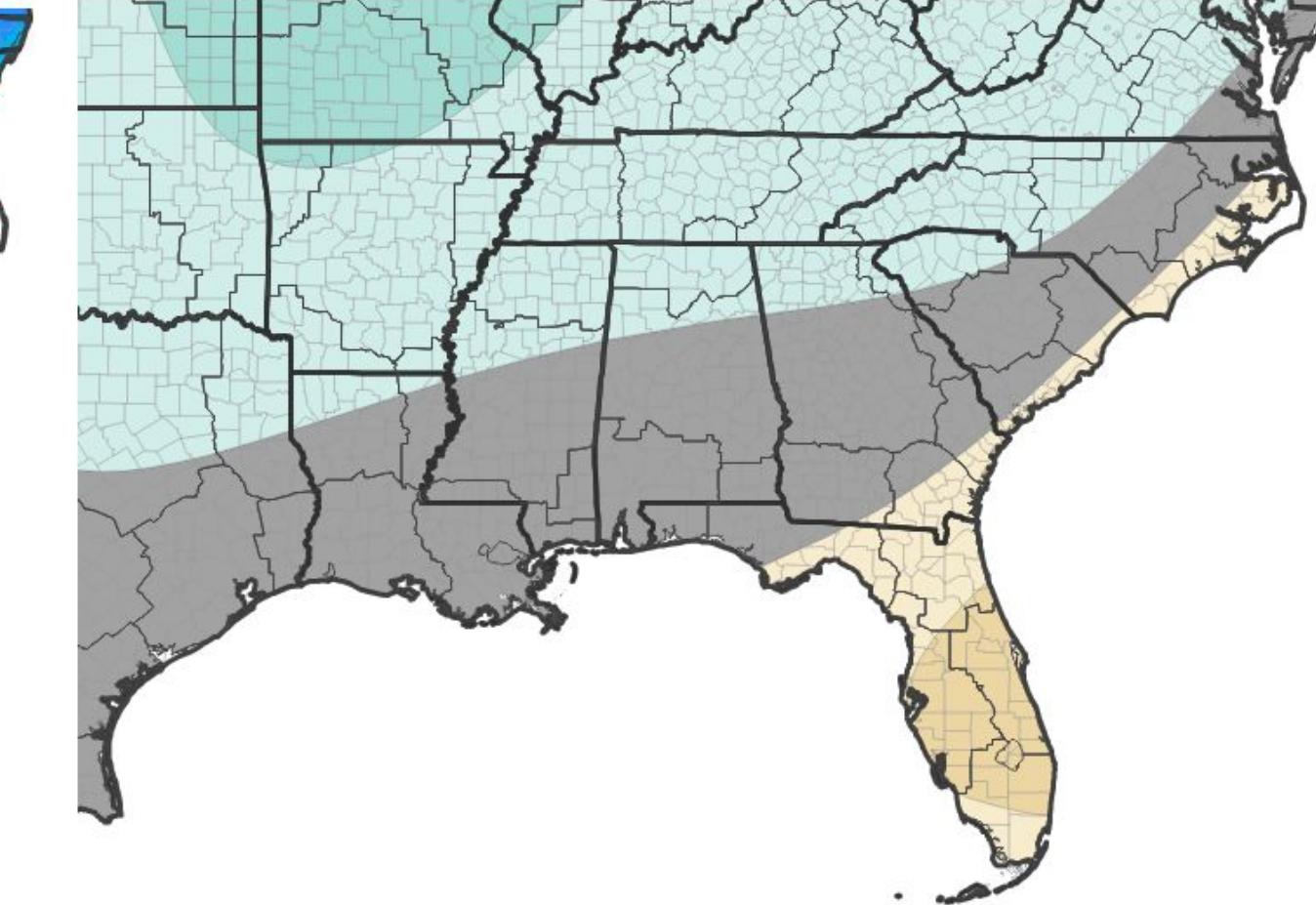


Near-Normal Conditions

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

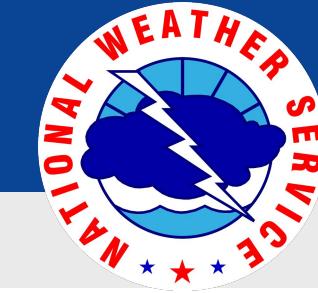
Last Updated: 02/11/26

8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook for February 19, 2026–February 25, 2026



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Jacksonville, FL

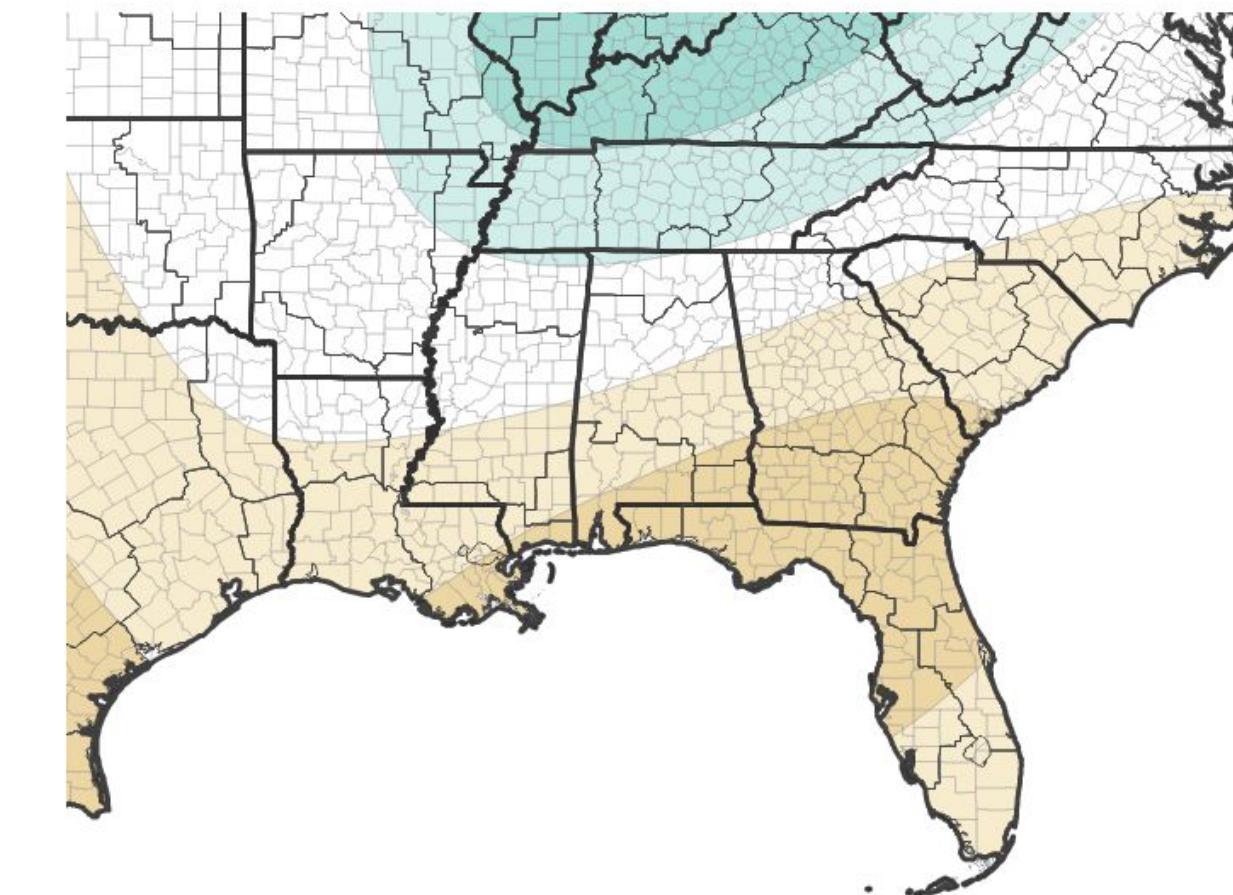


Long-Range Outlooks

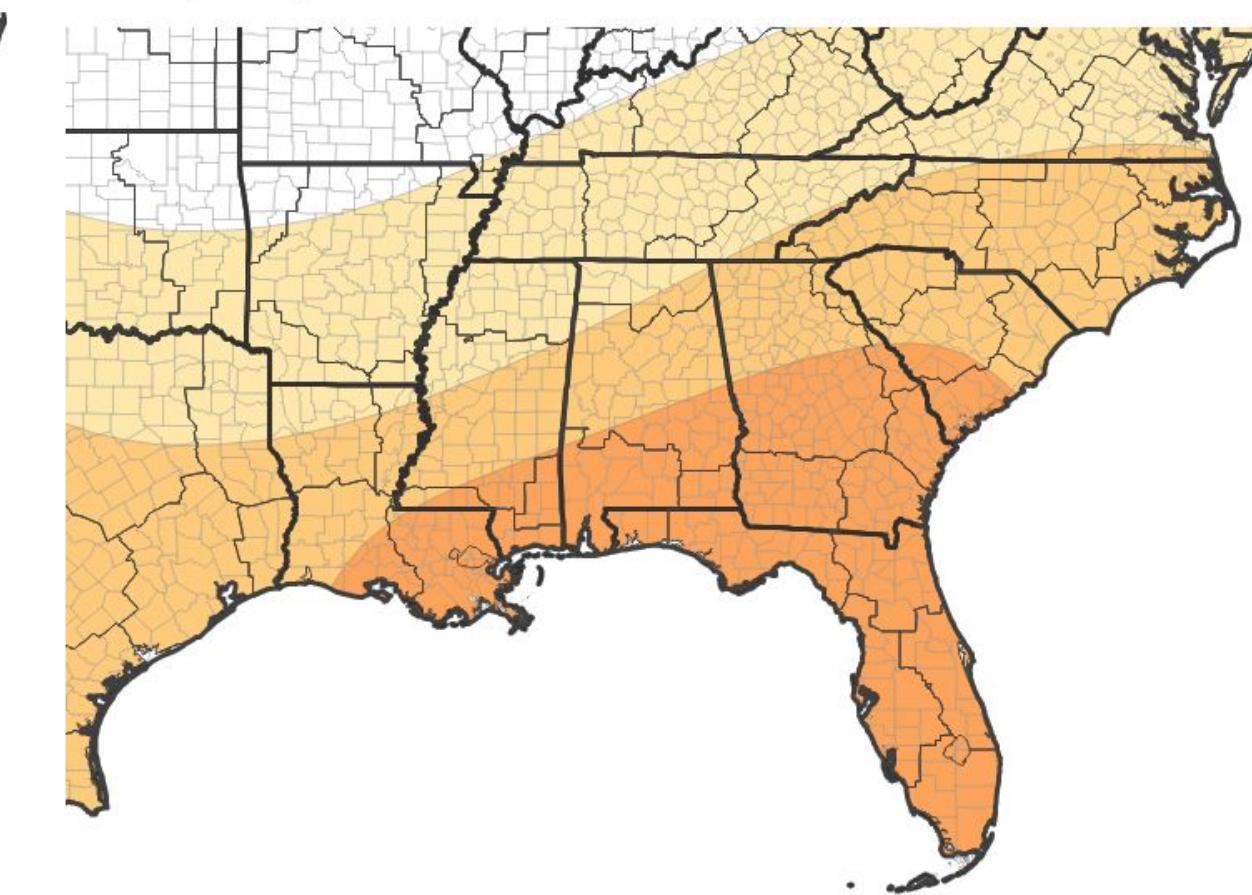
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- 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

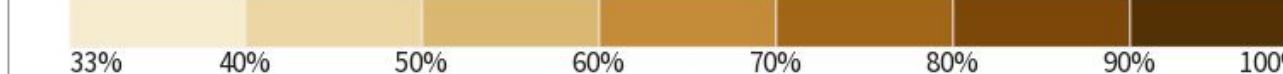


Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for February 1, 2026–April 30, 2026



	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

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

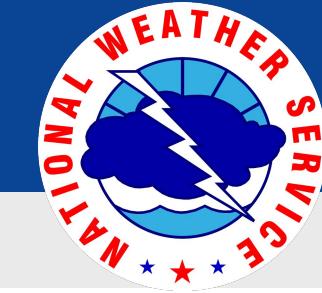
Last Updated: 01/15/26



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Jacksonville, FL

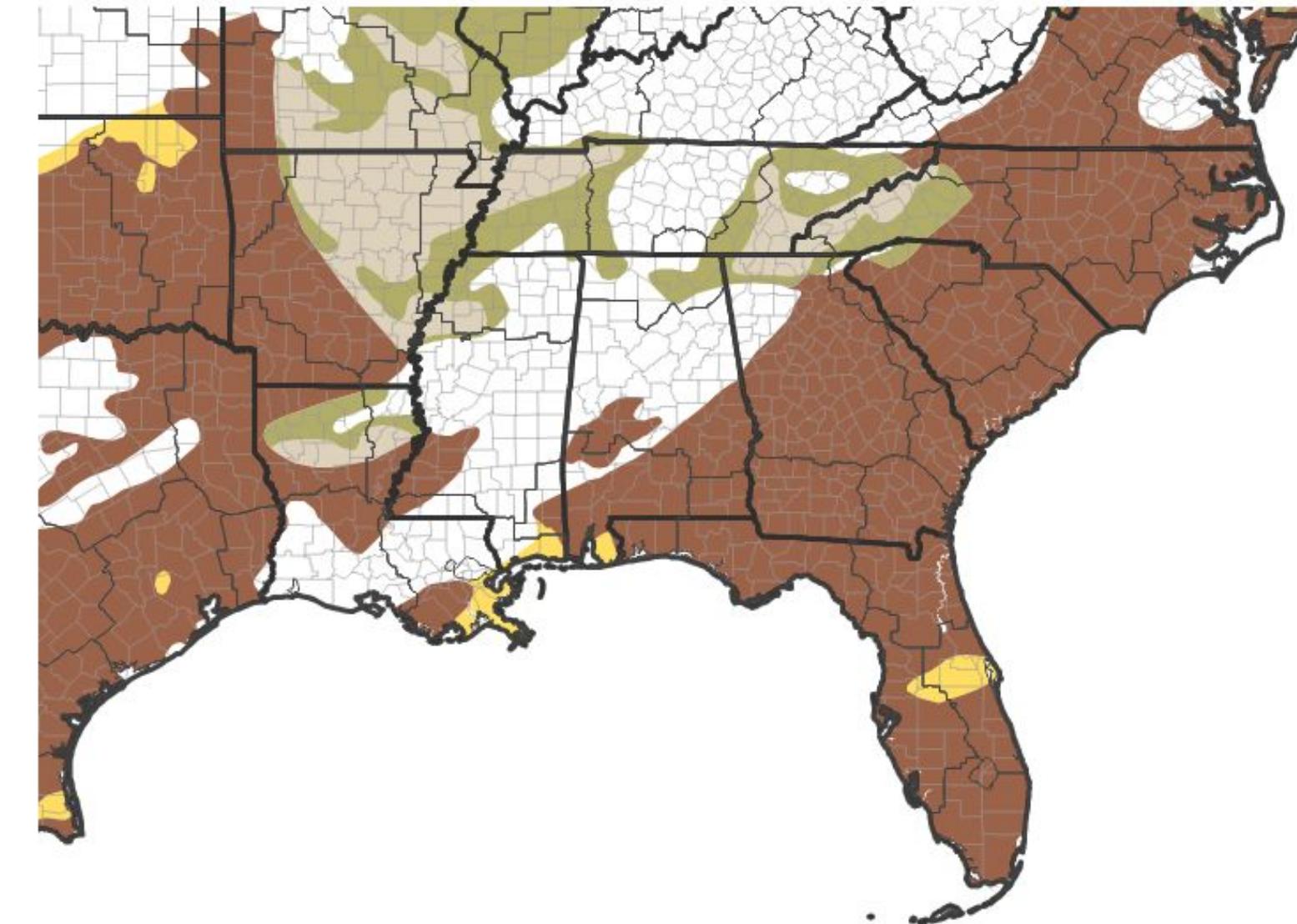


Drought Outlook

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 31, 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

Last Updated: 01/31/26



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Jacksonville, FL