Drought Information Statement for Southeast Georgia and Northeast Florida

Valid December 18, 2025

Issued By: National Weather Service Jacksonville, FL
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- This is the last issuance of this drought product for this particular drought event.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/jax/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.

- Recent rains have led to improvement in overall drought conditions across the region. Further rain on December 18th will improve the drought.
- Even with the improvement, longer term drought impacts remain across the region.
- With the removal of Extreme Drought (D3), this will be the final drought statement issued, unless Extreme Drought (D3) returns.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for southeast GA and North FL

- Extreme drought has been removed from the region this week.
- Severe drought continues across inland Southeast Georgia.
- Drought monitor valid 7 am ET, Tuesday, 12/16/2025
  Drought Intensity & Extent
  - **D2 (Severe Drought):** much of inland Southeast Georgia.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** coastal Southeast Georgia, and interior Northeast Florida.
  - **D0 (Abnormally Dry):** Jax Metro southward into Marion County

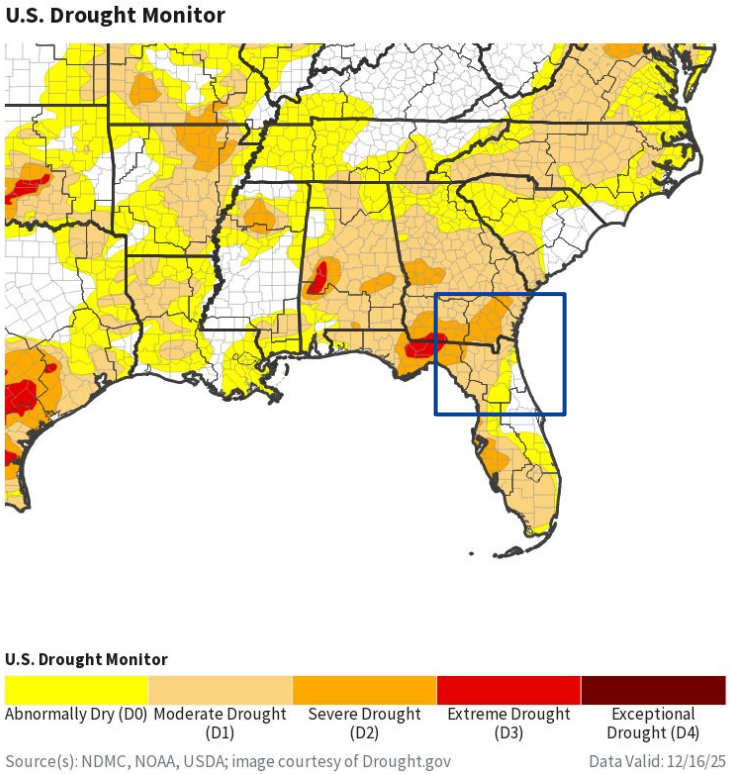


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid December 16, 2025

Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 1-week change map for southeast GA and North FL

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
  - **Drought Improved:** much of southeast Georgia and along the Suwannee and Santa Fe Rivers in Florida.
  - **No Change:** From Gilchrist County northeastward into the JAX metro.

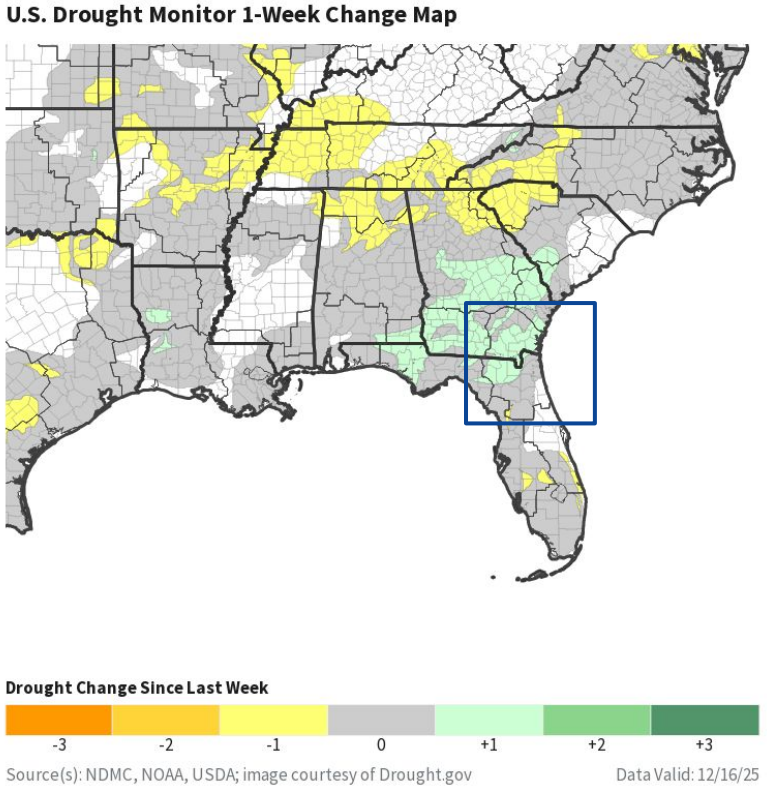


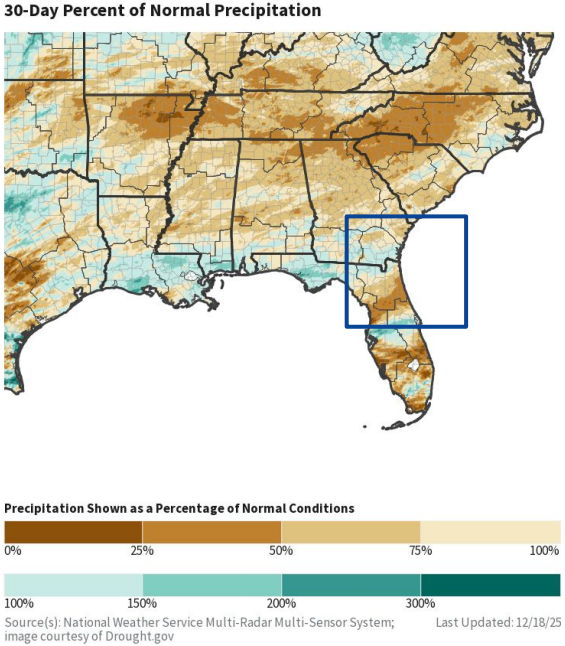
Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map valid December 16, 2025

Precipitation

Note: Precipitation after 7 AM EST/6 AM CST Tuesday is incorporated in next week's Drought Monitor

	Last 30 Days		Last 90 Days	
	Rainfall	Percent	Rainfall	Percent
Jasper	3.02”	109.4%	4.24”	46.0%
Live Oak	2.56”	97.6%	4.65”	50.4%
Ichetucknee St Pk.	2.29”	64.4%	5.13”	58.2%
Fanning Springs	2.00”	77.3%	4.63”	51.7%
Baxley	1.99”	63.9%	3.27”	35.7%
Alma	0.89”	33.6%	3.17”	38.1%
Waycross	2.72”	94.8%	4.66”	50.4%
Olustee	2.68”	108.9%	4.61”	55.8%
Ocala	0.70”	29.4%	3.47”	37.5%
Ocklawaha	0.50”	21.8%	5.22”	59.0%
Nahunta	2.32”	86.3%	3.78”	39.0%
Woodbine	3.00”	115.5%	5.93”	58.6%
Jacksonville	3.10”	127.9%	7.37”	70.7%

Data Updated through December 17, 2025
Data Courtesy:
NWS Observations
University of Florida - Florida Automated Weather Network
University of Georgia Weather Network
Suwannee River Water Management District



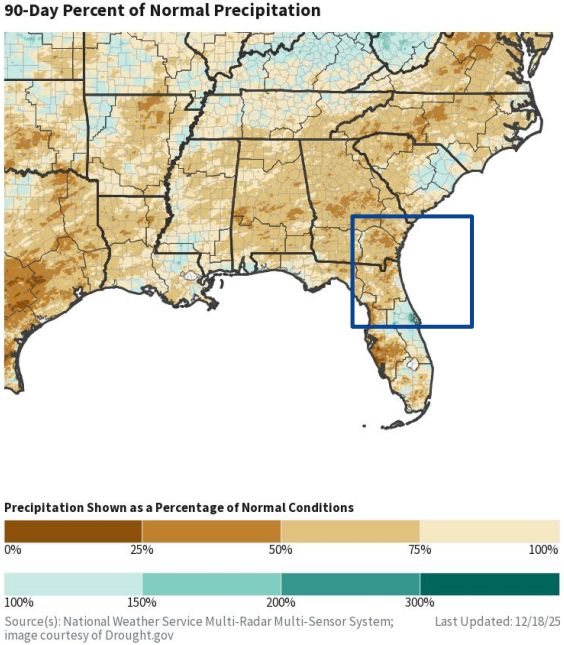


Image Captions:
Left - 30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation for the Southeast US
Right - 90-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation for the Southeast US
Data Courtesy NWS Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System.
Data over the past 30 and 90 days ending December 17, 2025

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Rainfall from a couple of weeks ago has improved streamflow conditions, especially in South Georgia. However, the improvement has been slower across Northeast Florida, especially in the Santa Fe Basin.

Agricultural Impacts

- The rainfall provided much needed soil moisture for winter planting of cover crop and growth of existing winter grazing crops.
- Due to the long duration of light rainfall, area holding ponds did not improve significantly, with many still several feet below normal, which is indicative of a long term drought.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index values: Inland SE Georgia and inland NE Florida: 400-550; coastal areas: 250-400

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows across the Altamaha River are beginning to drop below normal levels for this time of year.
- Below normal flows are present throughout the Suwannee Basin, including the Santa Fe River.
- The St Marys River, Black Creek, and Ocklawaha are much below normal flow for this time of year

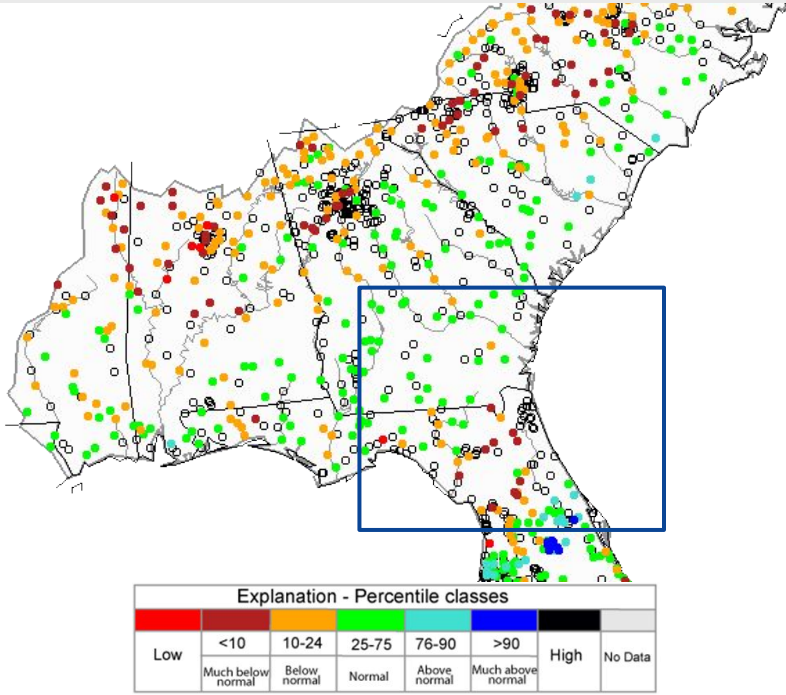
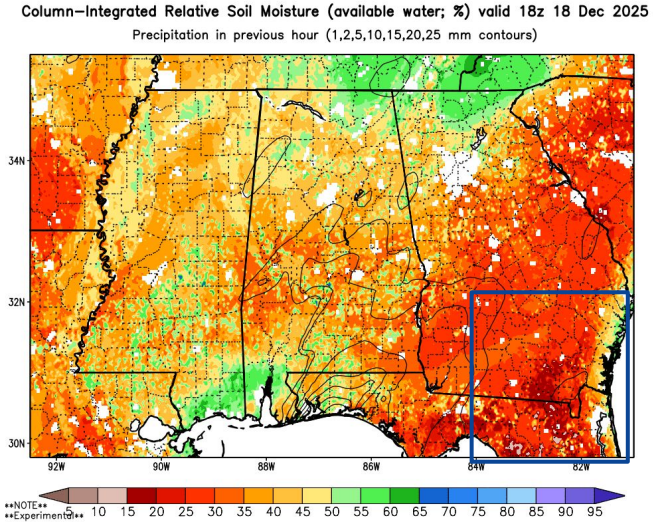


Image Caption: USGS 14 day average streamflow map valid December 18, 2025

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture values have remained fairly constant compared to last week.
- Improvement over the last two to three weeks, however, has been considerable in the low to mid layers of the soil.
- However, deep layer soil moisture remains dry, especially in the harder hit areas across interior Southeast Georgia and the Santa Fe Basin in Florida.



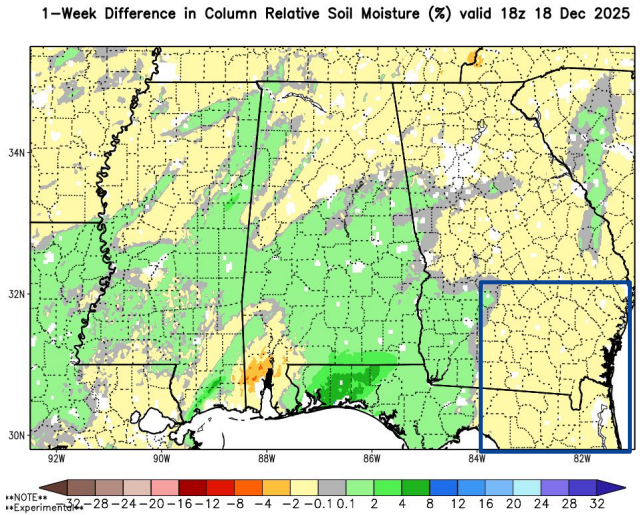


Image Captions:
Left: 0-200 cm Relative Soil Moisture from NASA SPoRT valid December 18, 2025
Right: 0-200 cm Relative Soil Moisture 1-week Change from NASA SPoRT valid through December 18, 2025

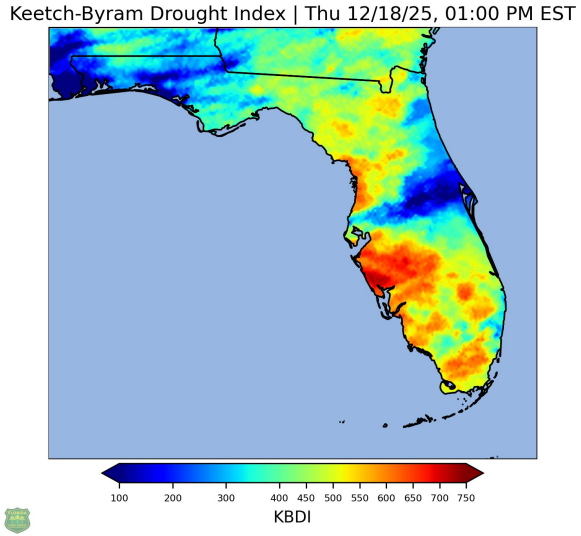
2025 Crop Reports
Florida | Georgia

Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index values remain at or above 400 in the drought area.
- Check with your local officials before burning and exercise caution when doing any outdoor burning.
- The Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for January calls for above normal wildfire activity across much of the area

[7-Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook from the Southern Area Coordination Center]



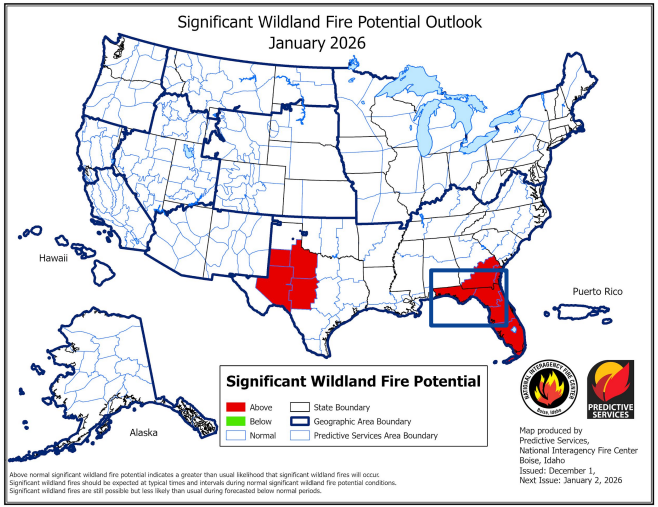


Image Captions:
Left - Keetch-Byram Drought Index valid December 18, 2025 (Florida Forest Service)
Right - Significant Wildland Fire Potential for January 2026 (National Interagency Coordination Center)

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Rainfall occurring on December 18th will likely bring a half inch of rain to much of the region.
- Thereafter, a dry pattern is expected across the region with the next chance of rain potentially around the end of December or early January.
- Precipitation outlooks from the Climate Prediction Center:
  - 6-10 day outlook (12/23-12/27): much below normal
  - 8-14 day outlook (12/25-12/31): below normal

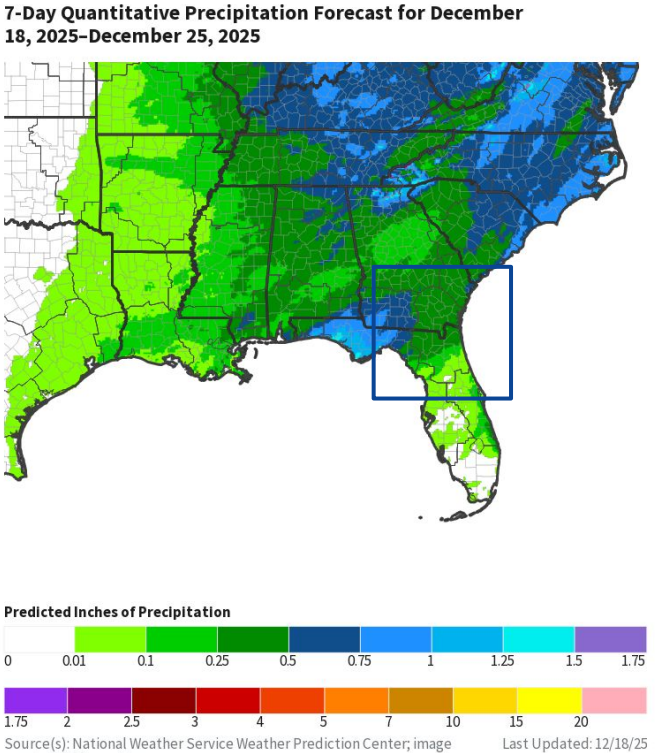


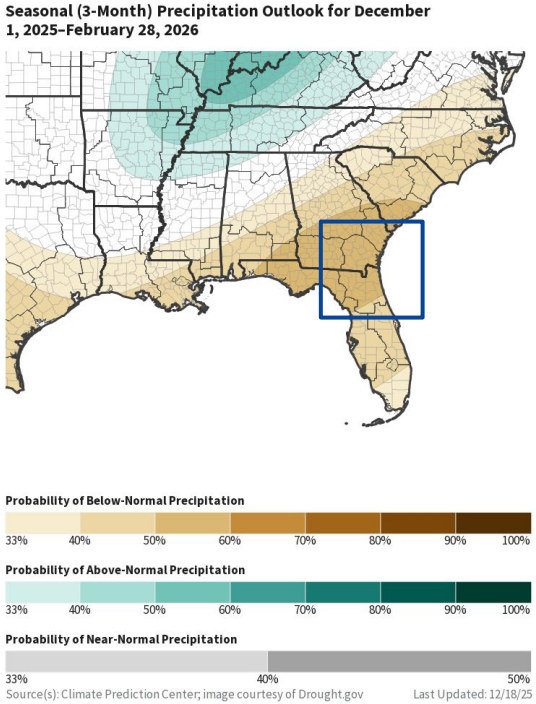
Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid Thursday, December 18 through Thursday, December 25, 2025

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.

	Dec		Jan		Feb	
Average	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain
Jacksonville	57.6°	2.80”	54.9°	2.99”	57.5°	2.86”
Craig Field	79.9°	6.28”	82.2°	6.14”	58.0°	2.42”
Ocala	60.3°	2.68”	58.1°	3.38”	61.0°	2.94”
Gainesville	57.3°	2.88”	54.8°	3.29”	58.4°	2.67”
Alma	53.2°	3.03”	51.0°	3.72”	54.4°	3.37”



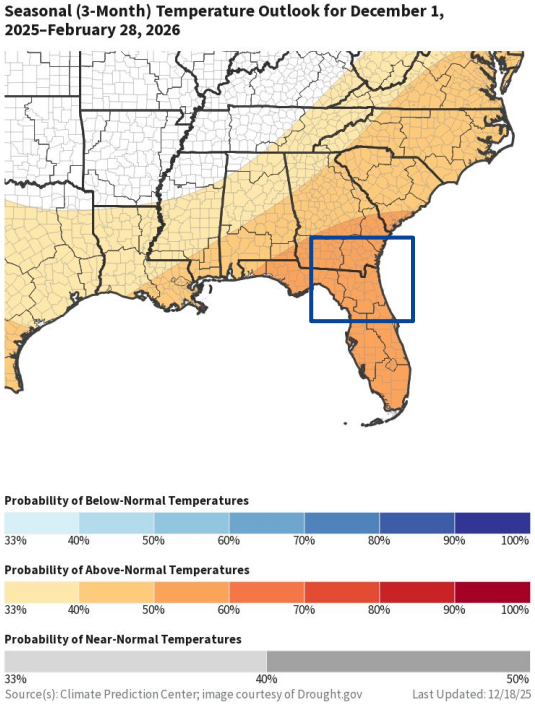


Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook.
Valid Dec 2025 through Feb 2026

Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- With recent and expected rains, some drought improvement is likely.
- Longer term drought improvement is possible should precipitation trend more above normal than expected.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for December 18, 2025–March 31, 2026

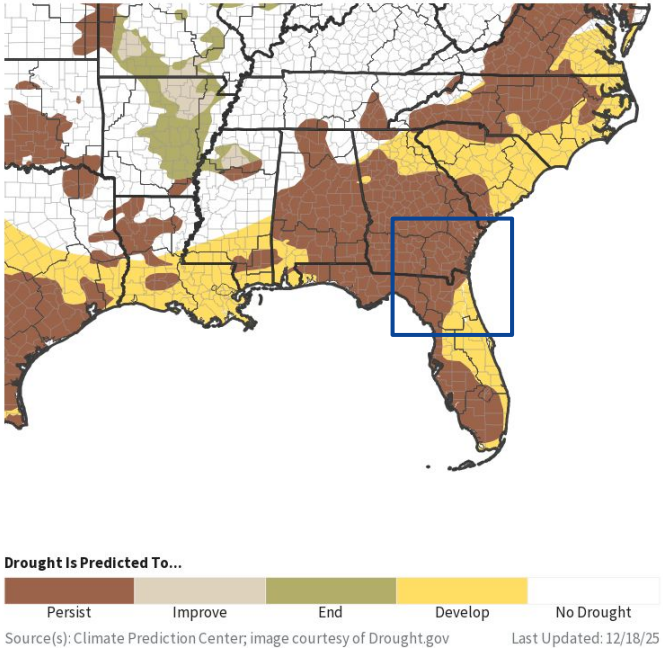


Image Caption:
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released November 30, 2025
valid for November 20, 2025 through February 28, 2026

Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook