



Drought Information Statement for South Florida

03 19 2026

Issued By: NWS Miami-South Florida

Contact Information: sr-mfl.webmaster@noaa.gov

- Ongoing Extreme to Severe Drought Across South Florida
- Please see all available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Visit our local interactive drought page at <https://nws-miami-drought-page-noaa.hub.arcgis.com/>

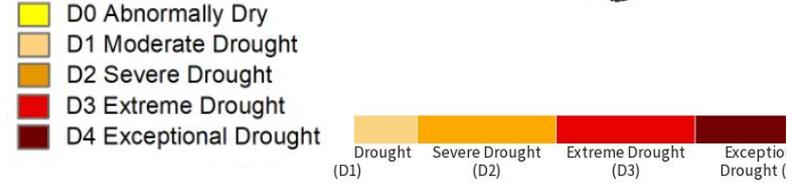




U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for South Florida

- A little improvement in drought conditions over southern Everglades and eastern metro areas of Broward/Miami-Dade Counties.
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Metro/Coastal Broward & Miami-Dade.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):** Interior metro Broward/Miami-Dade Counties and SE metro Palm Beach County along with southern Everglades.
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Rest of South Florida.



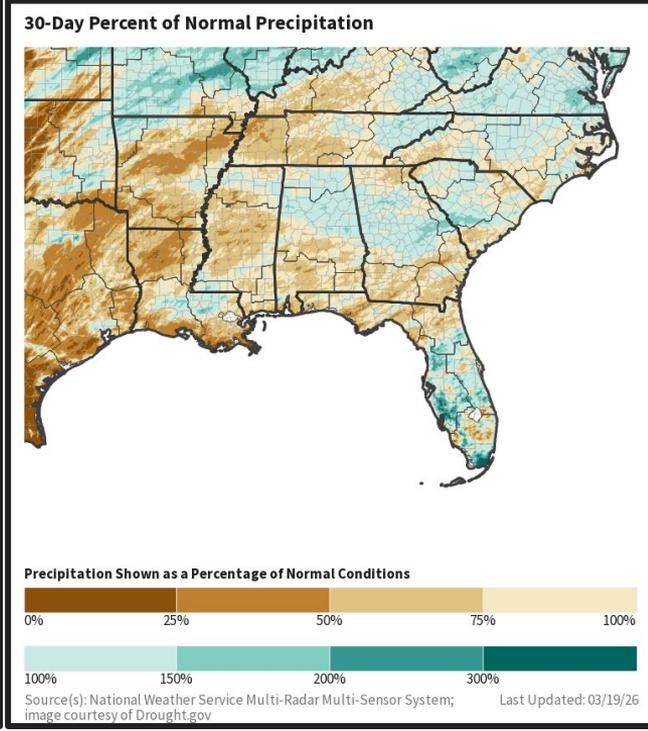
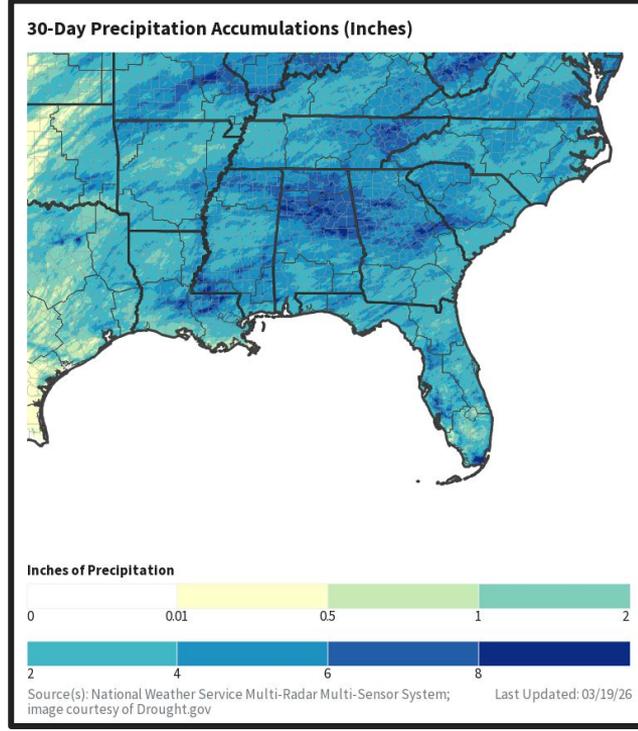
(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 0

U.S. Drought Monitor valid 7AM EDT March 17th, 2026.



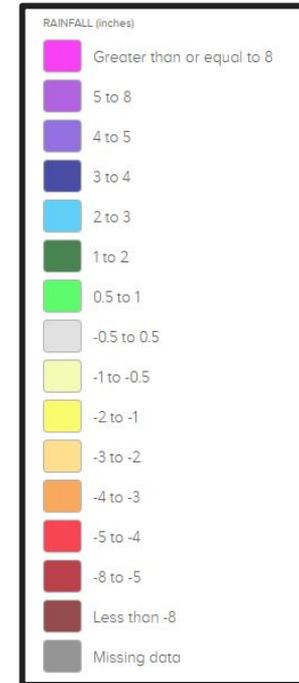
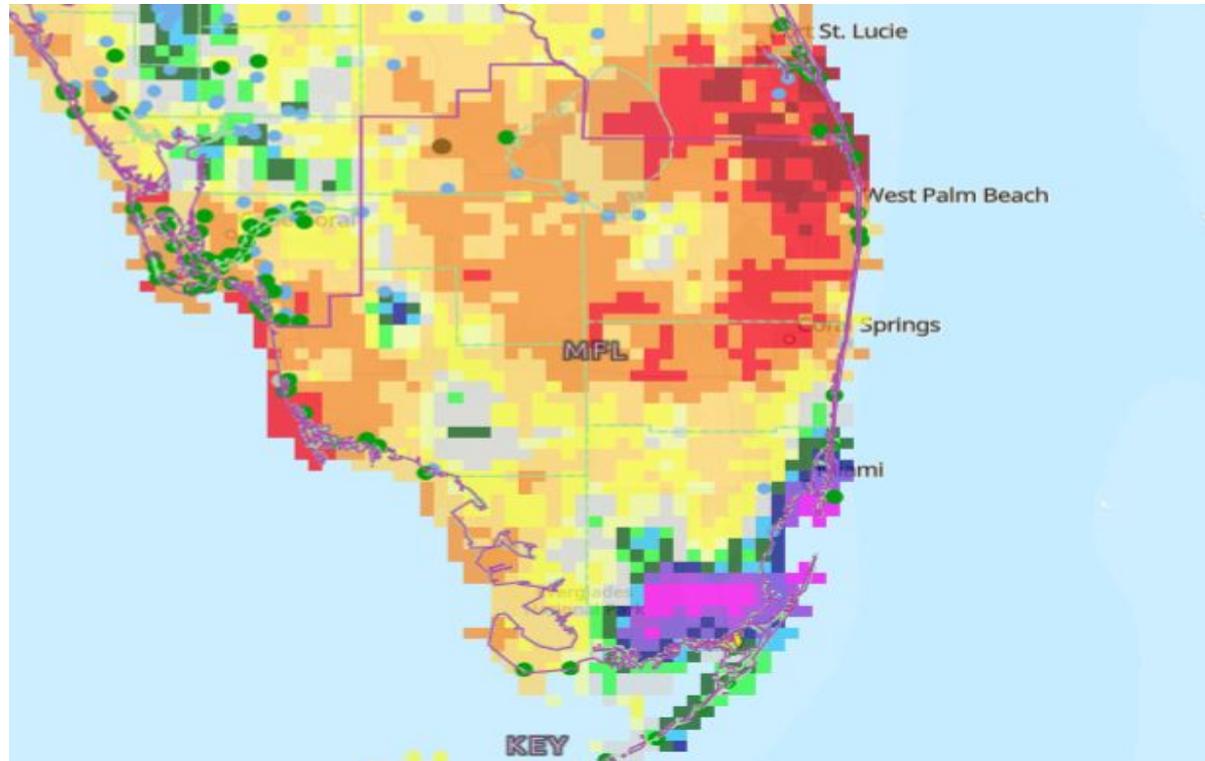
30 Day Observed Precipitation & Percentage of Normal

- Rainfall amounts across the region have improved to 25 to 50 percent the past 30 days.
- Only area that improve to have normal rainfall is over extreme Southern Everglades.





90 Day Rainfall Departure (Since 12/18/2025)





Precipitation

- Rainfall observed with the departure and percent of normal since November 1st, 2025

The following table gives the rainfall from November 1, 2025 to February 19th, 2026:

Airports:	Observed Rainfall	Dep fm Normal	Percent of Normal
Palm Beach Intl	5.30	-9.80	35%
Naples Municipal	3.43	-3.40	50%
Ft Lauderdale-Hollywood Intl	11.00	-2.06	84%
Miami Intl	6.80	-4.48	60%
Secondary Observation Sites			
Moore Haven (Glades)	3.17	-5.60	36%
Opa Locka (Miami-Dade)	5.87	-5.01	54%
Homestead (Miami-Dade)	7.78	-1.35	85%
Hialeah (Miami-Dade)	9.15	-3.54	72%
Palm Beach Gardens (Palm Beach)	4.42	-11.28	28%
North Miami Beach (Miami-Dade)	8.33	-5.34	61%
Devils Garden (Hendry)	1.93	-7.25	21%

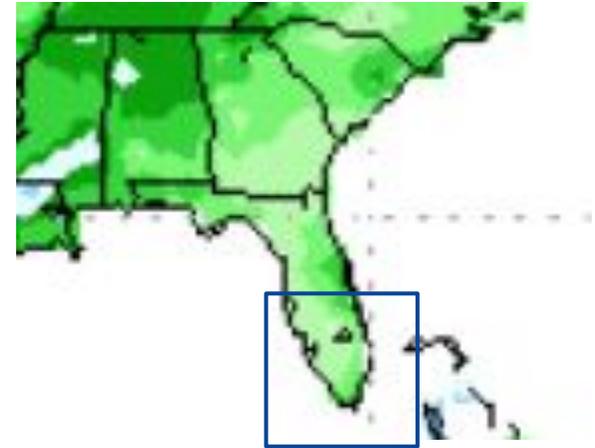
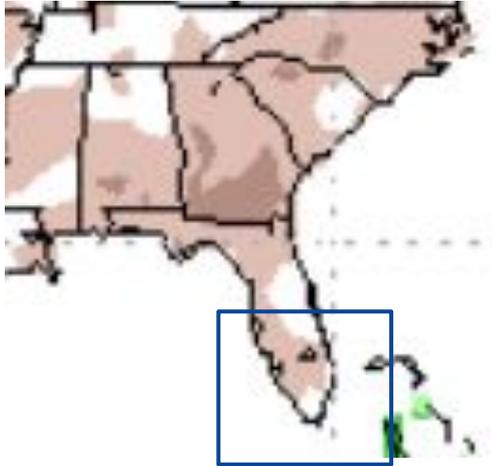


Image Captions:
 Left - Precipitation Amount for [area]
 Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for [area]
 Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
 Data over the past 180 days ending March 18th, 2025





Hydrologic Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- (3/19/26) Lake Okeechobee water level is currently at 12.09 feet which is **-2.32 feet** below normal of 14.41 feet.
- The underground level water conservation area 1 in Interior Palm Beach County is at 15.89 feet and it should be at 16.34 feet which is **-0.45 feet** below normal for this time of year.
- The Underground level water conservation area 2 in Interior Broward County is at 12.11 feet and its normal level is 11.00 feet which is **+1.11 feet** above normal for this time of year.
- The underground level water conservation area 3 in Interior Miami-Dade County is at 8.50 feet and its normal level is at 10.00 feet which is **-1.50 feet** below normal for this time of year.
- **The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) issued a Water Shortage Warning for Collier, Glades, Miami-Dade and Monroe counties amid continuing dry conditions and increasing water supply concerns.**





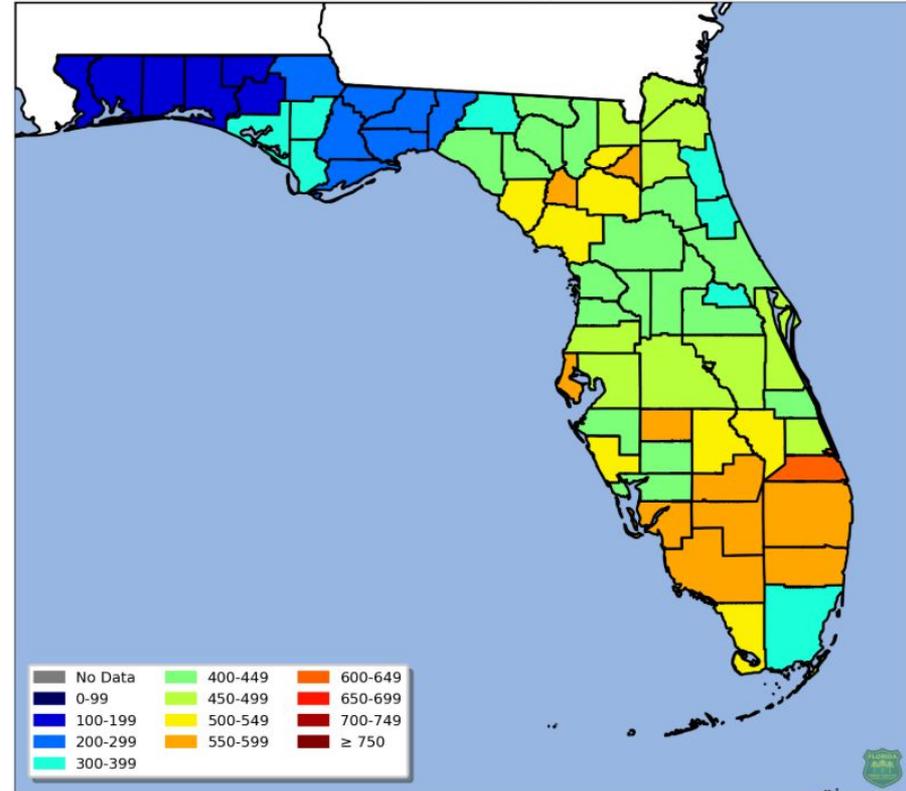
Fire Hazard Impacts

[Keetch-Byram Drought Index \(KBDI\)](#)

Fire Hazard Impacts

- KBDI index has improved over South Florida.
- Most of South Florida is now in the 550 to 600 range.
- Mainland Monroe County is now in the 500 to 550 range and Miami-Dade County is in the 300 to 400 range.

KBDI Averages by County | Wed 03/18/26





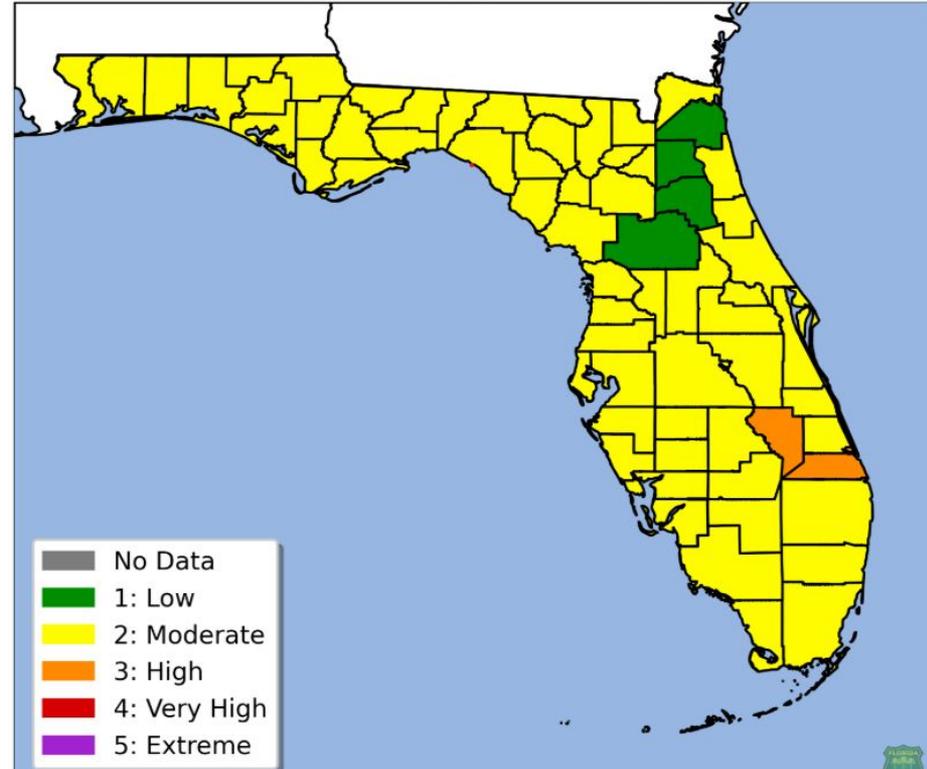
Fire Danger Matrix

[Fire Danger Risk](#)

Fire Danger Matrix

- A moderate fire (level 2 of 5) danger risk across all of South Florida.

Estimated Fire Danger | Thu 03/19/26



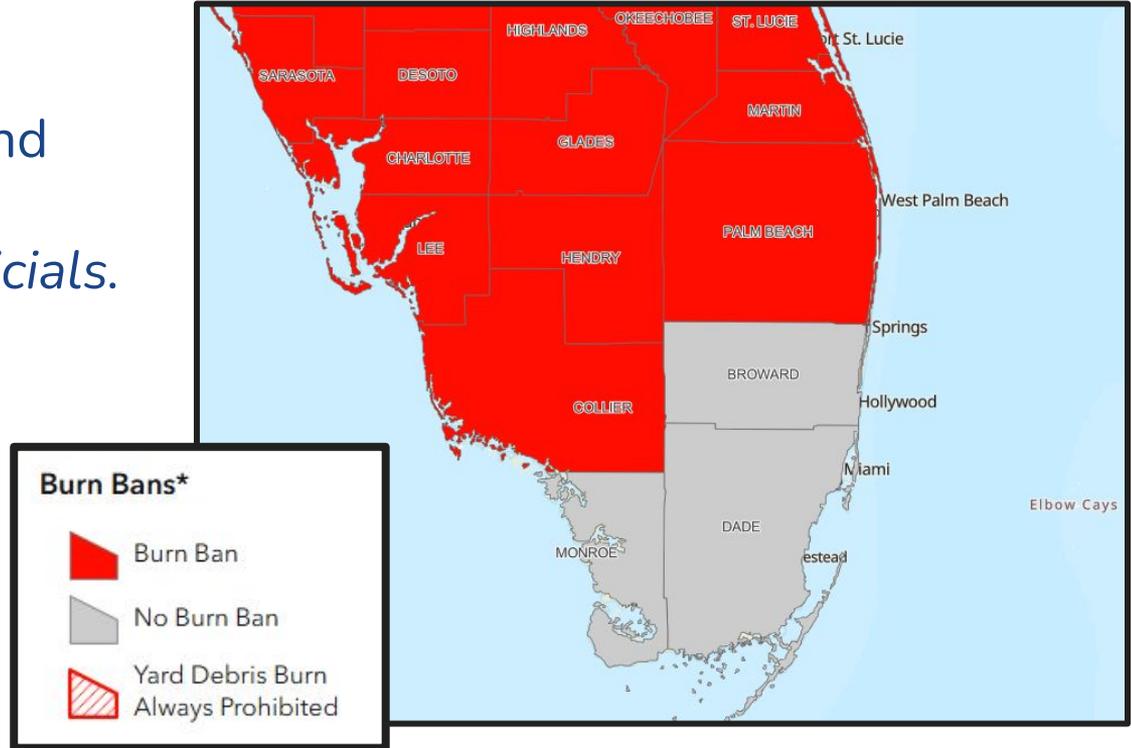


Burn Bans

Link: [County Burn Bans](#)

Current Burn Bans

- Collier, Hendry, Glades, and Palm Beach Counties.
- *Issued by local county officials.*



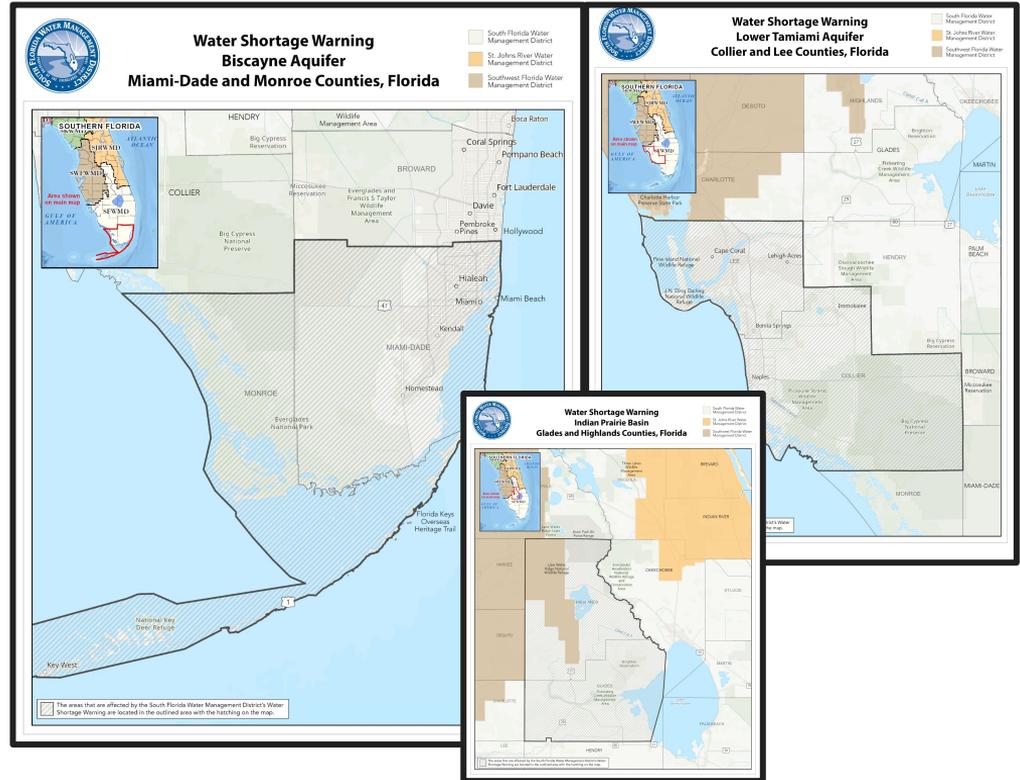


Water Shortage Warnings

Link: [South Florida Water Management District Water Shortage Page](#)

Water Shortage Warnings

- Collier, Glades, Miami-Dade Counties
- Issued by the South Florida Water Management District.





Soil Moisture

- South Florida soil moisture has improved a little bit and is now in the 5 to 10 percentile range.

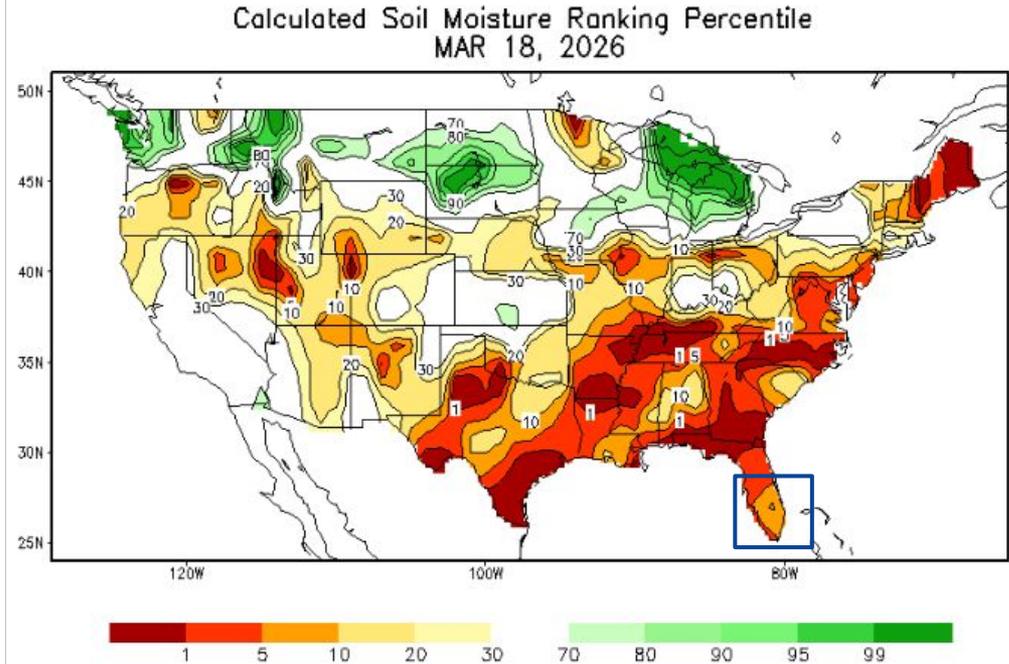


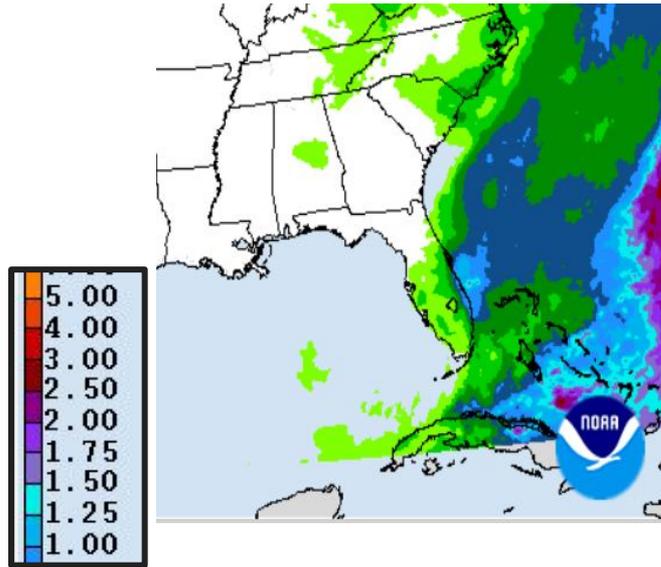
Image Captions:
CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#)
valid March 18th, 2026



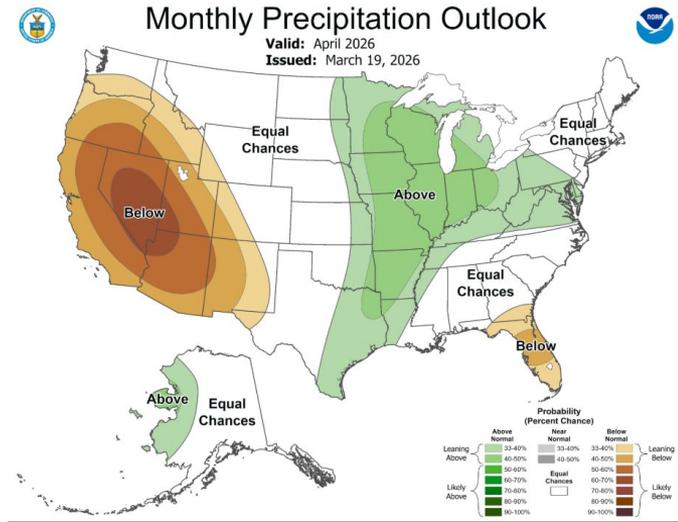


Precipitation Outlook

- Dry weather will remain over South Florida through this weekend before a slight chance of showers early next week. Rainfall amounts will be 0.10 to 0.25 inches at best early next week.
- CPC's April [monthly precipitation outlook](#) is forecast to be 33 to 40 percent below normal.



168 Hour Day 1-7 Rainfall Accumulations -
Weather Prediction Center
(Through 8am March 26th, 2026)



Monthly Precipitation Outlook
Climate Prediction Center
Valid April 2026

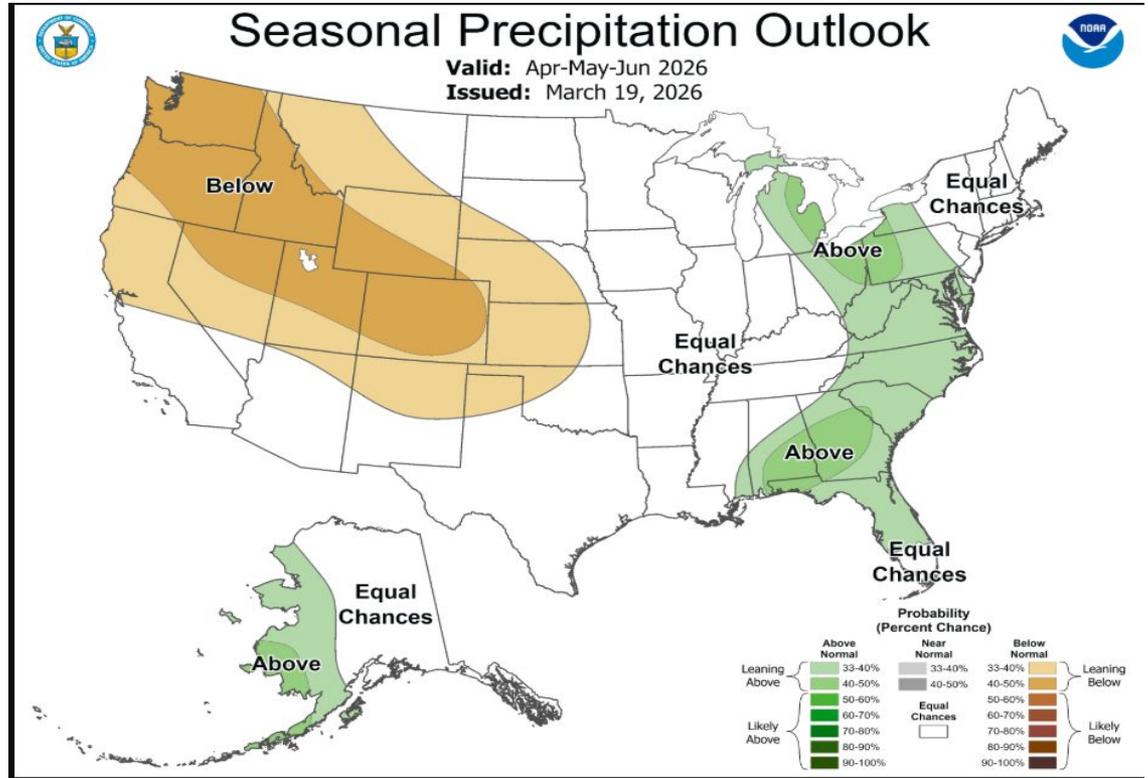




Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The Climate Prediction Center depicts an equal chance of seeing below or above normal rainfall.

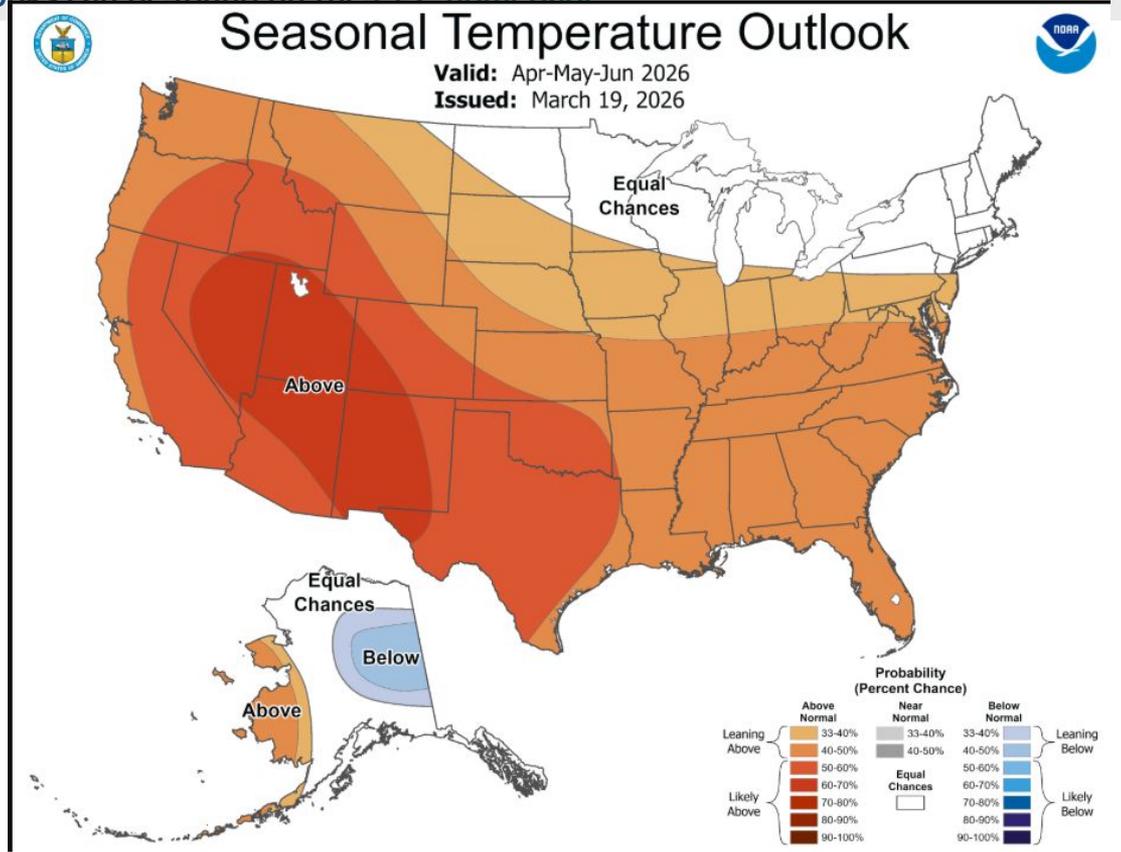




Long-Range Outlooks

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- The Climate Prediction Center depicts a 40-50% chance (“leaning above normal”) of higher than normal temperatures.





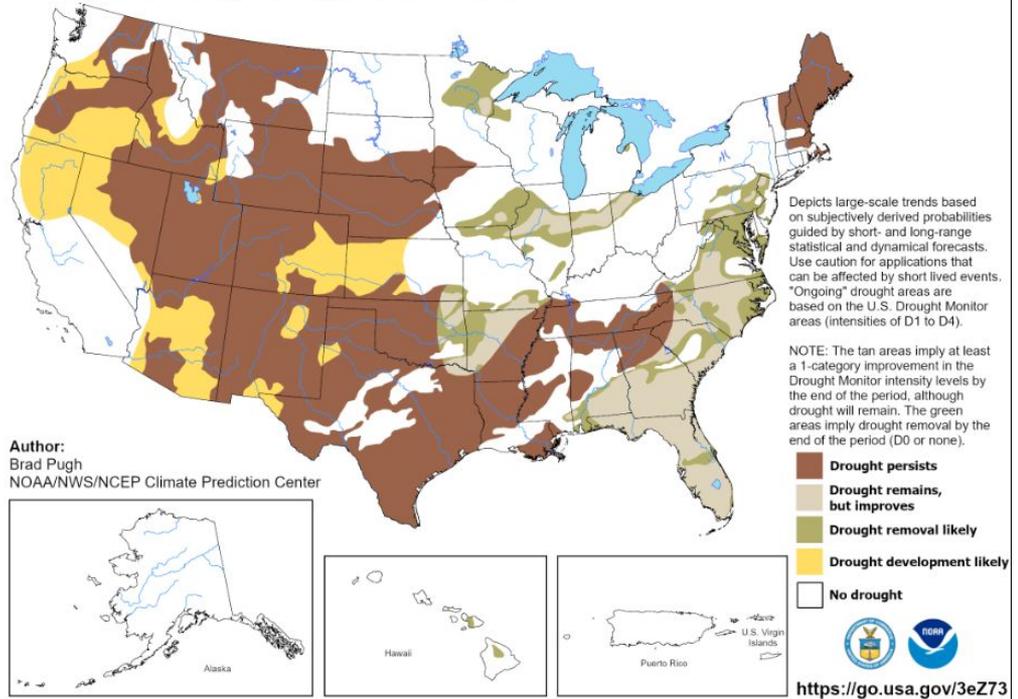
Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is expected to persist through June of 2026, but should start to improve once the rainy season gets started in May.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for March 19 - June 30, 2026
Released March 19, 2026



Links to the latest:

- [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

