



# MIAMI-SOUTH FLORIDA

## National Weather Service Forecast Office

<http://www.weather.gov/miami>

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### 2018 Mid-Rainy Season Update

## Very Wet First Two Weeks to Rainy Season Sets the Pace for a Mainly Wetter than Normal First Half of Rainy Season

**August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018:** Rainy Season 2018 got off to a very wet start as a moist southwest wind flow from a persistent low pressure area in the middle and upper levels of the troposphere over the Gulf of Mexico led to periods of heavy rainfall during the second half of May. Rainfall totals for May exceeded 10 inches over most of South Florida, with a few spots in interior Palm Beach County estimating over 20 inches for the month (Figure 1). This was followed by a drier than normal June (Figure 2), then in July a return to near to slightly wetter than normal (Figure 3) as low pressure in the Gulf of Mexico once again became a common weather pattern, bringing a return to moist southwest wind flow. The balance for the entire first half of the rainy season is for most areas to be near to above normal (Figure 4). The exceptions to this are coastal sections of Collier County as well as parts of coastal Miami-Dade and Broward counties which are running below normal for the rainy season so far. At least for coastal sections of Collier County, the southwest wind flow which has prevailed for a good part of the season so far has focused the majority of the showers and thunderstorms over inland areas, leaving areas near the coast quite dry overall.

Through July 31<sup>st</sup>, the NWS Miami office at the Florida International University campus in University Park measured the most rain of any official NWS site so far this rainy season, measuring 34.70 inches. Juno Beach and Palm Beach Gardens in northern Palm Beach County followed with 33.79" and 30.04", respectively, and Hialeah came in at 30.80 inches. At the other end of the spectrum, Marco Island measured only 10.54 inches and Naples Municipal Airport came in at 14.76 inches. Pompano Beach Airpark only measured 16.12 inches, proving that not all of SE Florida received above normal rainfall.

Here are rainfall totals from May 15<sup>th</sup> through July 31, as well as departure from normal and ranking for select South Florida sites:

<b>Location (Beginning of Period of Record)</b>	<b>May 15-July 31 Rainfall (inches)</b>	<b>May 15-July 31 Departure from Normal</b>	<b>Rank</b>
Brighton Reservation – Glades County	<b>20.24</b>	<b>+3.45</b>	
Canal Point (1941)	<b>19.73</b>	<b>+3.20</b>	
Cape Florida	<b>20.51</b>	<b>+3.34</b>	
Devils Garden (1940)	<b>18.49</b>	<b>-1.42</b>	
Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood Int'l Airport (1913)	<b>22.94</b>	<b>+4.25</b>	
Fort Lauderdale Beach	<b>23.62</b>	<b>+5.66</b>	
Fort Lauderdale Dixie Water Plant	<b>27.17</b>	<b>+8.48</b>	
Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport	<b>23.94</b>	<b>+6.74</b>	
Hialeah (1940)	<b>30.80</b>	<b>+8.43</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> Wettest</b>
Hollywood Waste Water Plant	<b>24.53</b>	<b>+5.09</b>	
Homestead General Airport (1990)	<b>23.44</b>	<b>+4.03</b>	
Immokalee (1970)	<b>21.36</b>	<b>+4.14</b>	
Juno Beach (2002)	<b>33.79</b>	<b>+16.43</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Wettest</b>
LaBelle (1929)	<b>26.32</b>	<b>+7.44</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> Wettest</b>
Marco Island (2002)	<b>10.54</b>	<b>-7.77</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Driest</b>
Miami Beach (1927)	<b>16.47</b>	<b>+1.12</b>	
Miami International Airport (1911)	<b>28.77</b>	<b>+9.67</b>	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Wettest</b>
Moore Haven (1918)	<b>18.13</b>	<b>+1.76</b>	
Naples East/Golden Gate	<b>24.92</b>	<b>+5.01</b>	
Naples Municipal Airport (1942)	<b>14.76</b>	<b>-3.06</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> Driest</b>
North Miami Beach (2000)	<b>29.94</b>	<b>+9.54</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Wettest</b>
NWS Miami – FIU/University Park	<b>34.70</b>	<b>+13.54</b>	
Oasis Ranger Station (1978)	<b>20.73</b>	<b>-0.50</b>	
Opa-Locka Airport	<b>21.98</b>	<b>+2.30</b>	
Palm Beach Gardens (2003)	<b>30.84</b>	<b>+13.80</b>	<b>Wettest On Rec.</b>
Palm Beach Int'l Airport (1888)	<b>24.41</b>	<b>+7.88</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> Wettest</b>
Pembroke Pines – North Perry Airport	<b>21.82</b>	<b>+2.65</b>	
Pompano Beach Airpark	<b>16.12</b>	<b>-1.52</b>	
The Redland - Miami-Dade County (1942)	<b>20.65</b>	<b>+0.85</b>	
West Kendall – Miami Executive Airport	<b>19.94</b>	<b>+0.38</b>	

## TEMPERATURES

Temperatures so far this rainy season have ranged from near normal over the east coast metro areas to above normal along the Gulf coast. In Naples, the average temperature for the combined months of June and July was 84.4 degrees, which is 1.9 degrees above normal and equaling their highest average temperature for the June-July period.

Prevailing onshore winds from warmer than normal Gulf waters most of the summer, as well as the relative lack of precipitation, are the primary reasons for the record warmth in Naples so far this summer.

### Outlook for August-October

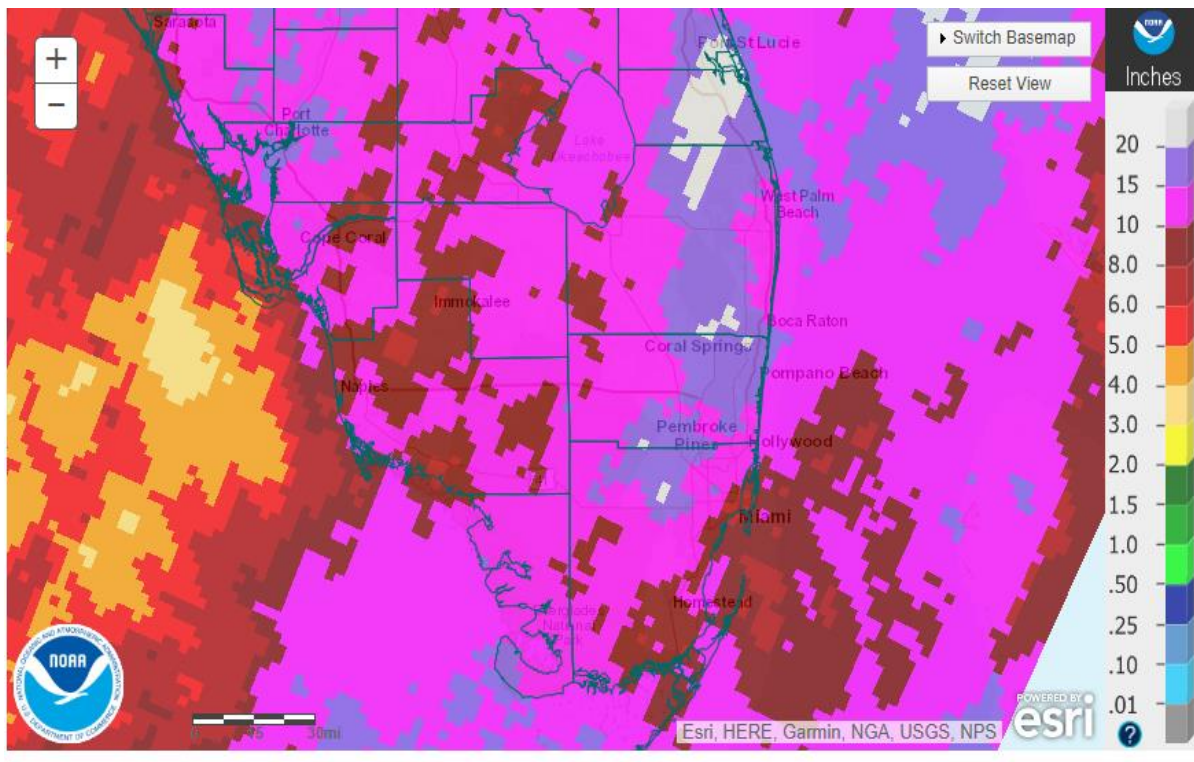
[The outlook by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center](#) for South Florida for August through October calls for an increased likelihood of above normal temperatures and equal chances of above, below or near normal precipitation.

Lightning continues to be a primary threat throughout this period, especially in August. Good lightning safety tips can be found [at this site](#).

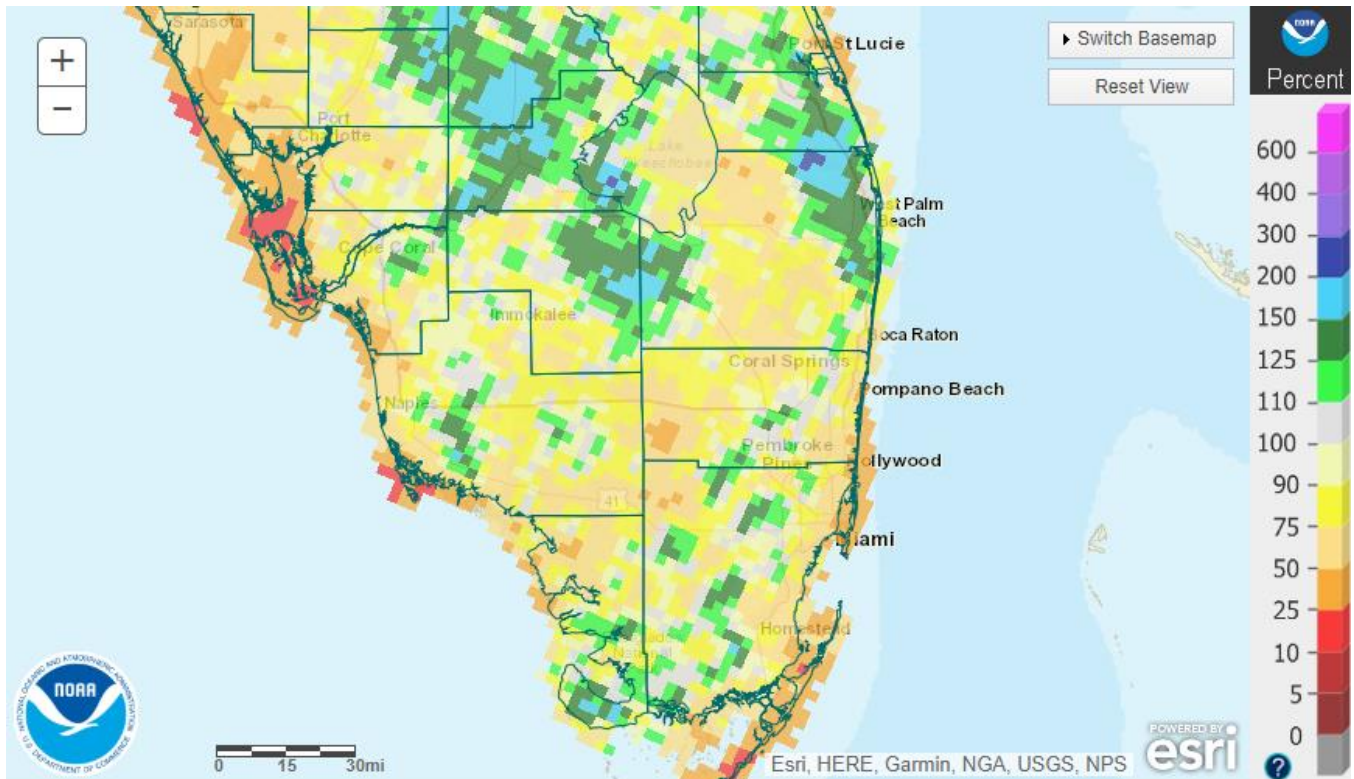
Rip currents can also occur on days of moderate to strong onshore winds which are most common along the Atlantic coast. Beachgoers are strongly urged to heed the advice of Ocean Rescue lifeguards and swim near a lifeguard. [Visit the National Weather Service Rip Current Awareness page](#) for more information.

Last but not least, hurricane season peaks in August and September, which means there's no better time than now to begin getting ready. Websites such as [ready.gov](#) provide good preparedness tips.

For the latest south Florida weather information, including the latest watches, advisories and warnings, please visit the National Weather Service Miami Forecast Office's web site at [weather.gov/southflorida](#).

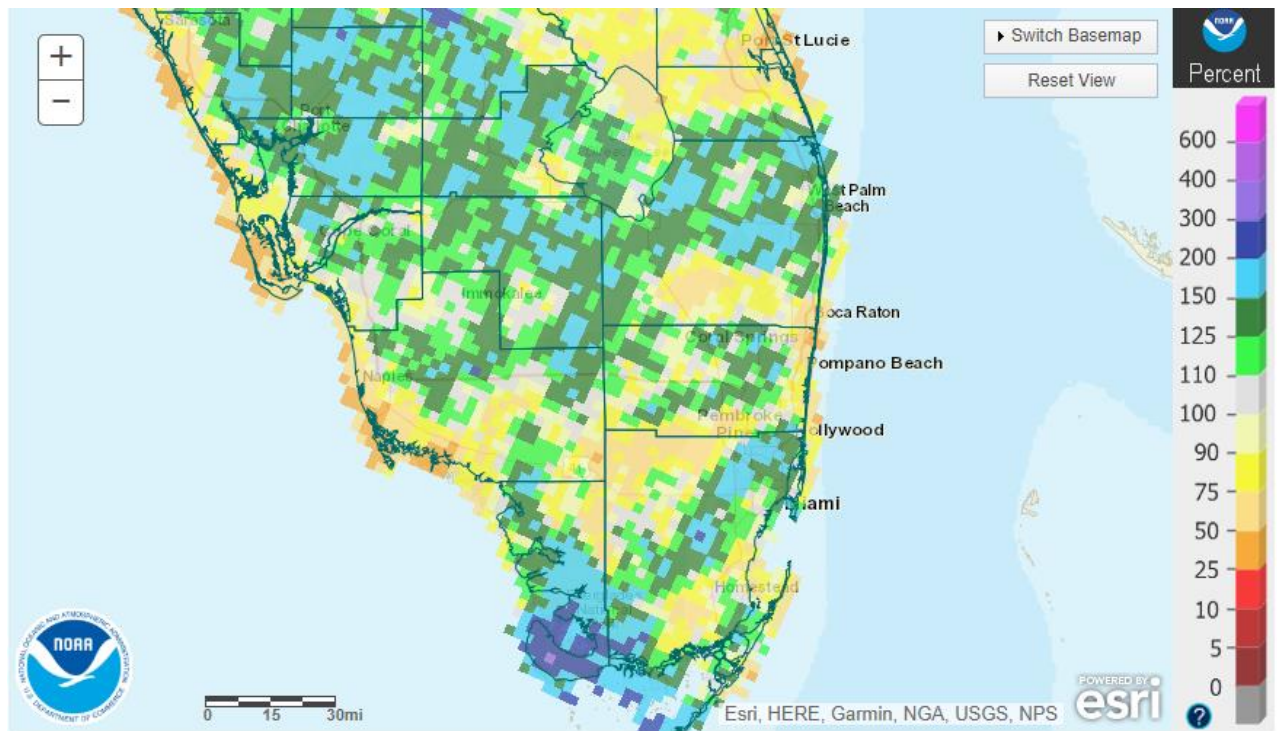


**Figure 1: May 2018 Rainfall**

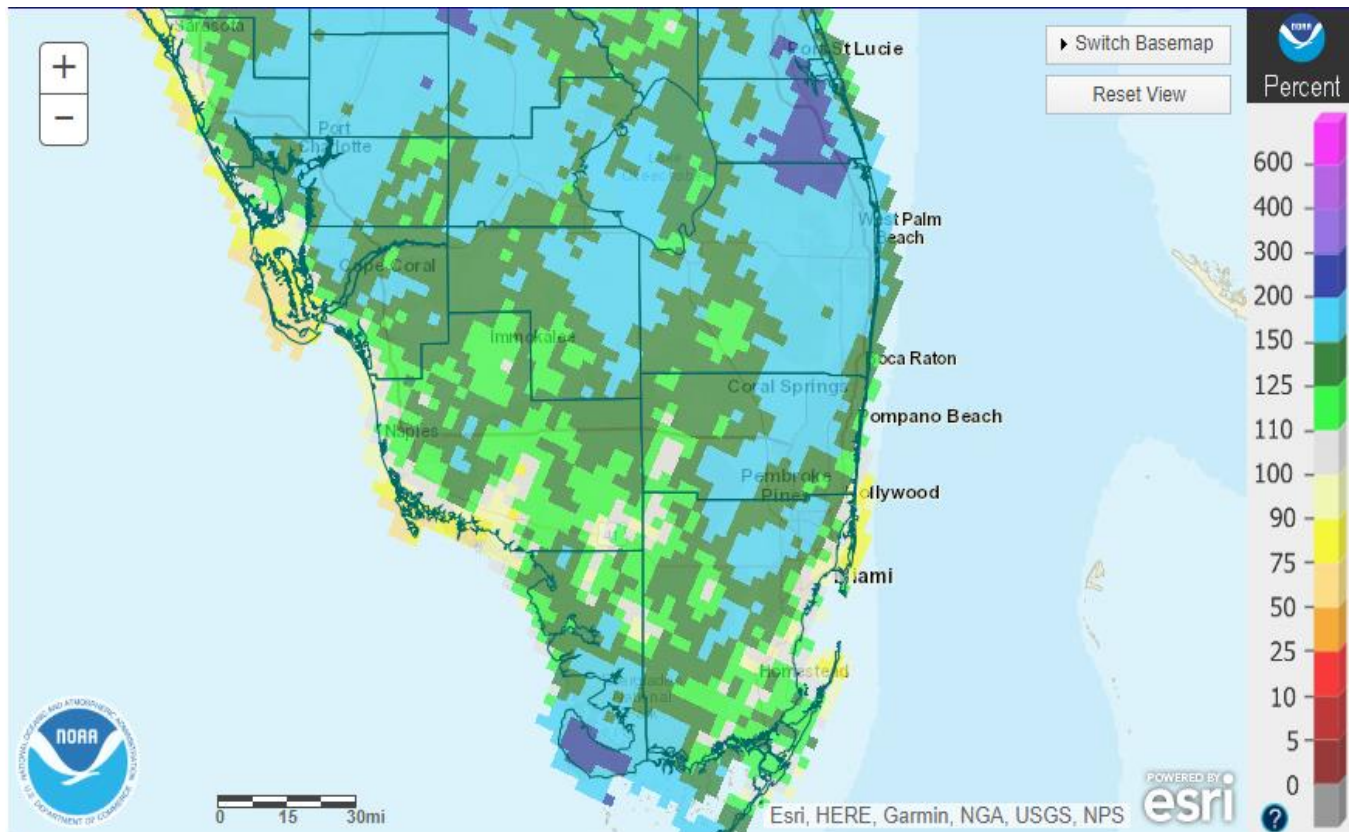


**Figure 2: June 2018 Rainfall Percent of Normal**





**Figure 3: July 2018 Rainfall Percent of Normal**



**Figure 4: Precipitation Percent of Normal May 8-August 5**