Forecast Recap and Verification | May 2020

- **ENSO Forecast Verification and Update**: ENSO neutral conditions have persisted across the central and eastern equatorial waters of the Pacific Ocean into the spring of 2020 (Figure 1). ENSO neutral conditions are likely to continue through the summer and potentially into the upcoming fall.

- **NDJ Forecast Verification**: The average temperature for the three-month period ended up around 3-3.5 degrees above normal across central Florida. Rainfall was generally below normal in November and January, with wetter than normal conditions in December. Precipitation amounts for this period, averaged out across central Florida, were generally near normal.

- **FMA Forecast Verification**: Warmer than normal conditions intensified into the second half of the dry season, with the three-month average temperature across central Florida around 5-5.5 degrees above normal, and ranked as the warmest on record for this period. Rainfall was well below normal for February-March, and above normal in April, with precipitation amounts averaging around 1-3 inches below normal for this timeframe.

About this Product

This forecast product is a result of research from the National Weather Service (NWS) in Melbourne, Florida on the El Niño - Southern Oscillation (ENSO) and its impact on Central Florida’s dry season (November – April). This research, conducted since early 1997, was produced in recognition of the fact that climatic fluctuations on regional and global scales have been shown to have a profound impact on Florida’s weather from season to season. The importance of seasonal forecasting continues to increase as extreme weather events affect more of Florida’s growing population. These forecasts are meant to supplement, not replace, the official NWS Climate Prediction Center’s (CPC) seasonal and winter outlooks by providing more detail and adaptive meteorological interpretation of the impact of predicted climatic events on Central Florida.
Figure 1. Average temperature anomalies in the Nino 3.4 region (represents the equatorial Pacific from about the dateline to the South American coast). Average temperatures anomalies have largely remained around +0.5°C through November-April, but the atmosphere hasn’t responded to these warmer than normal sea surface temperatures (SST) near the weak El Niño threshold. Therefore, ENSO neutral conditions have remained in place.

Source: ENSO: Recent Evolution, Current Status, and Predictions available [here](https://www.ensonguidance.com/)

Figure 2. Seasonal temperature averages for Florida Climate Divisions 3 and 4 during the November 2019 – April 2020 period. Average temperature anomalies during the 6-month period averaged around 4.3-4.5 degrees (F) above normal, calculated using 1901-2000 mean. The rank is based off of 125 years of record where a rank of 1 would be record coldest and 125 would be record warmest, so it was the second warmest dry season on record for central Florida.

Source: NOAA NCEI Climate at a Glance: [https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/](https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/)
Figure 3. Quantitative Precipitation Analysis (QPE) indicating the percent of normal of precipitation for the 6-month period from November 2019 through April 2020. Rainfall across Climate Divisions 3 and 4 (central Florida) was generally near to below normal.

Source: QPE, Quantitative Precipitation Estimates: https://water.weather.gov/precip/