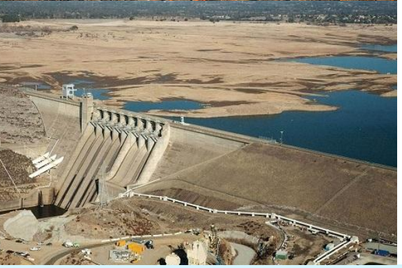






Drought Information Statement for Southeast Alabama, Southwest Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle & Big Bend

Valid January 22, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Tallahassee, FL

Contact Information: kelly.godsey@noaa.gov; cameron.young@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated Thursday, January 29
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/TAE/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates for regional drought status updates.

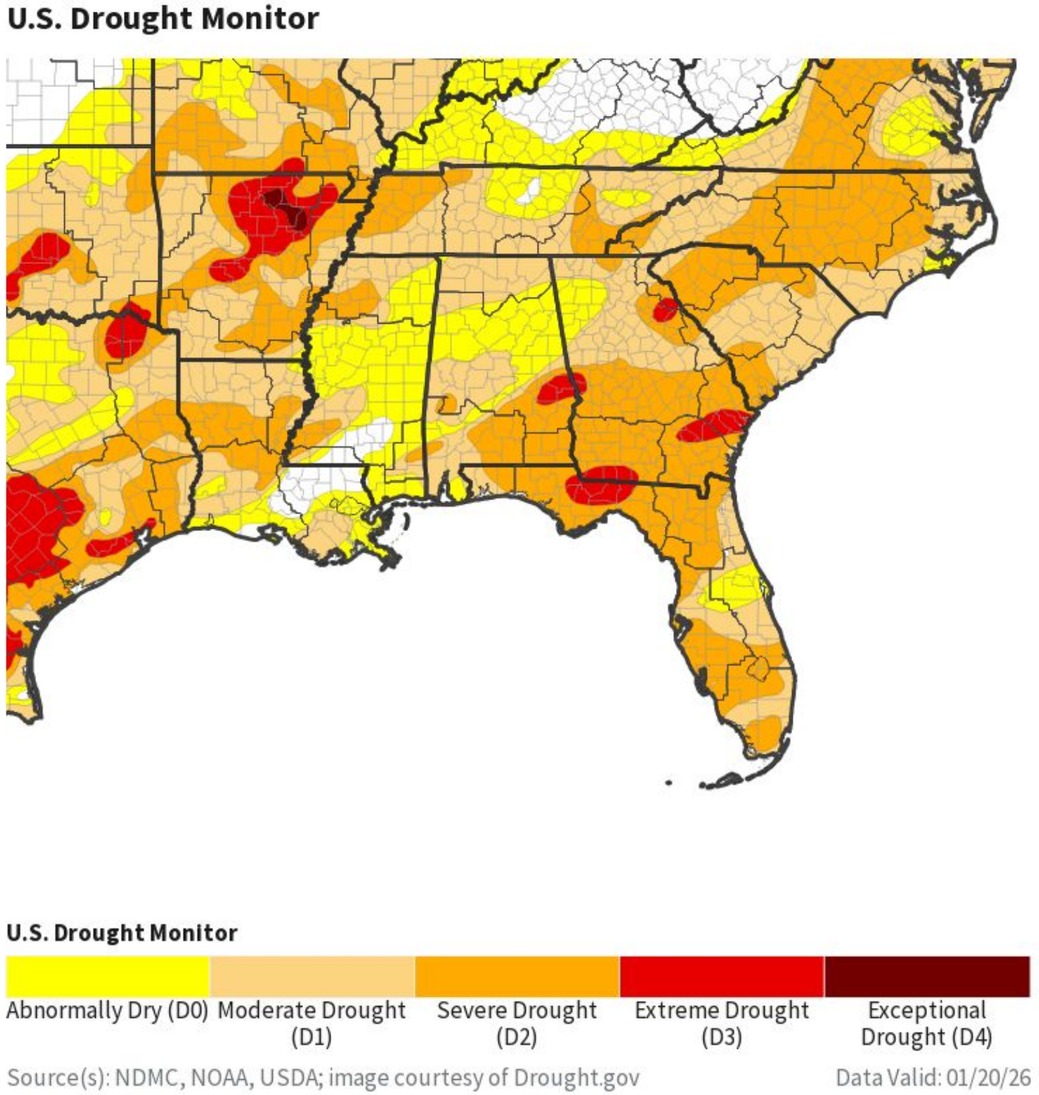
- **The entire forecast area is now in severe to extreme drought.**
- Three months ago, 33% of the area was in severe drought (D2 or worse).
- Drought characteristics are almost purely long term type impacts as rivers, streams, and ponds are exceptionally low levels for this time of year.
- Some precipitation is expected on Sunday, though amounts are not expected to be sufficient to provide any relief to the dry conditions.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for Southeast Alabama, Southwest Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle & Big Bend

- Limited rainfall this past week led to further worsening of drought conditions across the region. In our entire 48 county service area, Severe Drought (D2) or worse is present.
- Drought conditions have now transitioned into predominantly long term hydrologic conditions based on reports from emergency management and other partners. Some short term drought indicators remain and are related to agricultural and fire impacts.

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Gadsden, NE Liberty, Leon, far northern Wakulla, and Western Jefferson Counties in Florida. SE Decatur, Southern Grady, and Thomas Counties in Georgia.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought):** The remainder of the region.

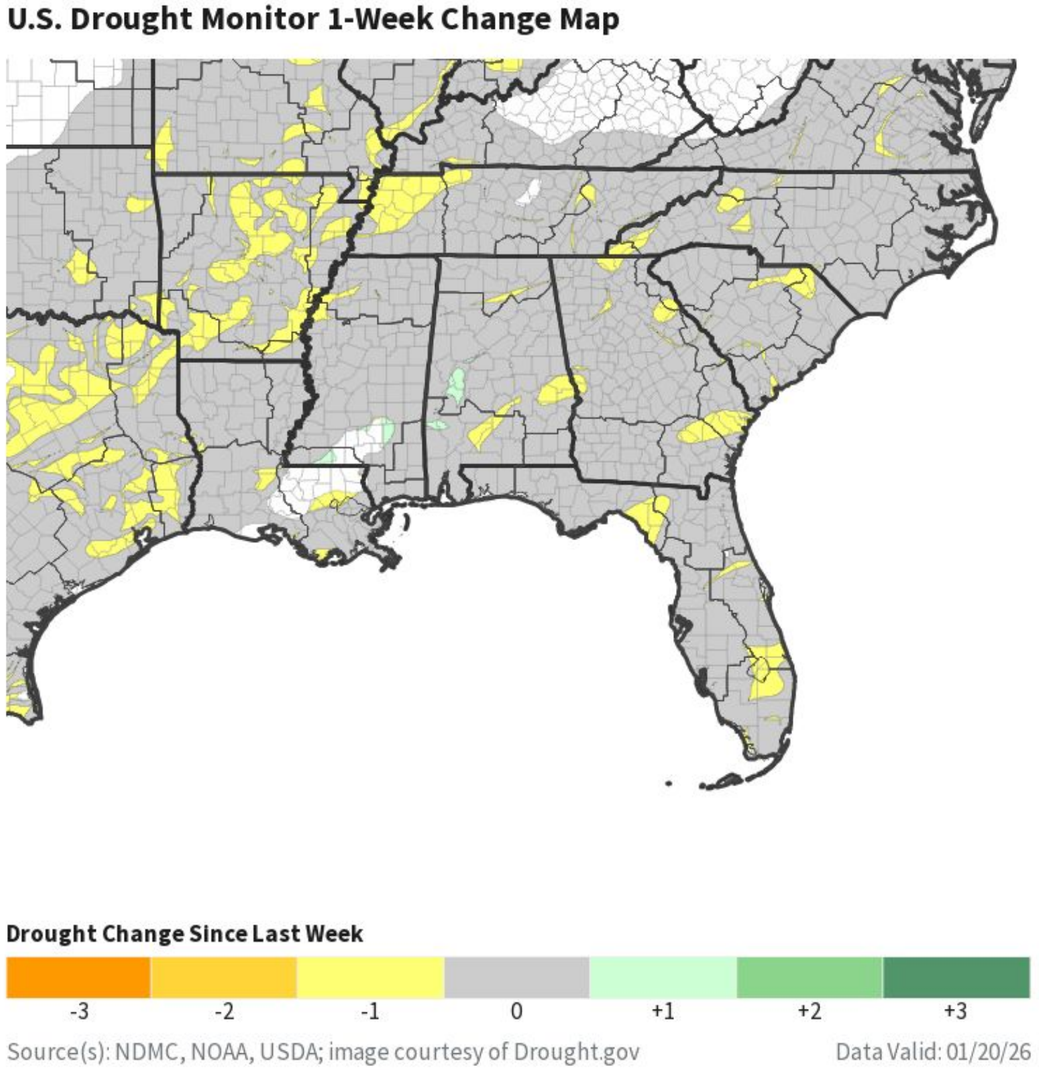


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for Southeast Alabama, Southwest Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle & Big Bend

- Drought degradation was analyzed in the Southeast Florida Big Bend, while the remainder of the region saw no change compared to last week due to at least near normal precipitation.

- One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
  - **1 category degradation:** Much of the Southeast Florida Big Bend.



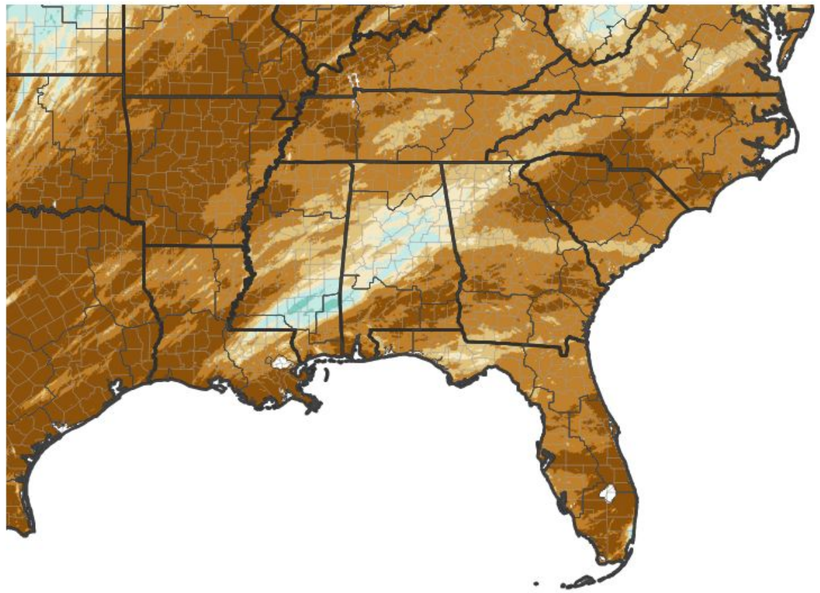
Precipitation

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

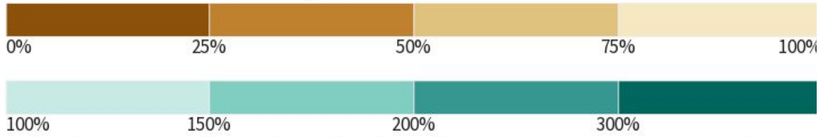
	Last 30 Days		Last 90 Days	
	Rainfall	Percent	Rainfall	Percent
DeFuniak Springs*	1.72”	33.9%	7.12”	51.0%
Panama City ECP	2.71”	60.5%	11.29”	88.3%
Dothan	0.92”	19.9%	5.01”	39.5%
Marianna	1.92”	46.9%	8.12”	67.5%
Apalachicola	1.68”	44.1%	6.63”	60.0%
Georgetown**	1.18”	25.0%	4.93”	37.5%
Dawson**	1.26”	26.8%	5.98”	47.6%
Arlington**	1.90”	41.0%	6.62”	53.5%
Albany	1.75”	42.8%	6.41”	59.5%
Cairo**	2.33”	53.9%	7.71”	68.3%
Tallahassee	2.65”	62.8%	6.42”	57.3%
Moultrie**	1.57”	37.3%	4.97”	47.8%
Monticello*	2.18“	49.9%	6.77”	61.2%
Ty Ty**	2.20”	52.0%	5.77”	53.2%
Alapaha**	1.26”	30.5%	5.54”	54.2%
Valdosta	1.38”	39.0%	4.95”	54.1%
Perry***	1.47”	35.8%	5.16”	55.1%
Mayo*	1.19”	32.9%	3.77”	44.6%

Rainfall totals through January 21, 2026. Non-NWS Data Courtesy:
*University of Florida - Florida Automated Weather Network
**University of Georgia Weather Network
***Suwannee River Water Management District
Climatology for non-NWS stations is estimated using PRISM data.

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



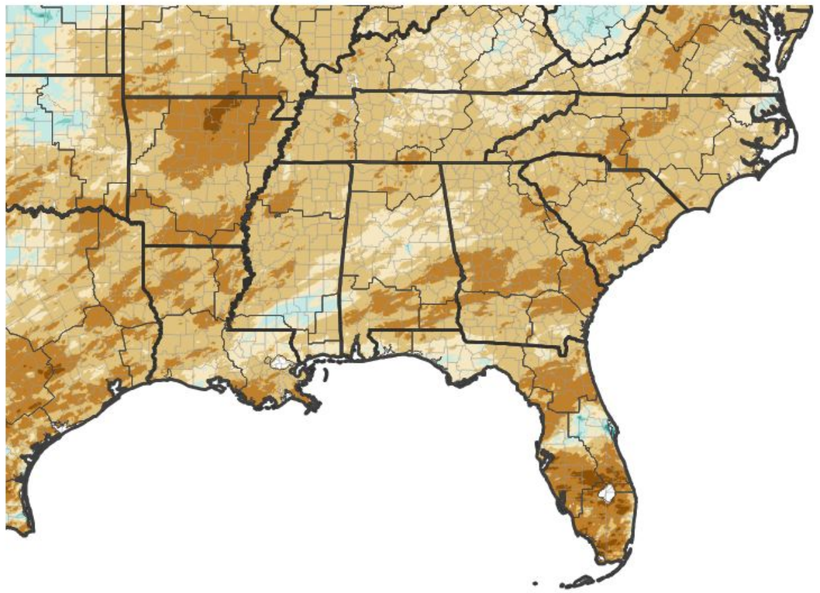
Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



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

Last Updated: 01/22/2

90-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



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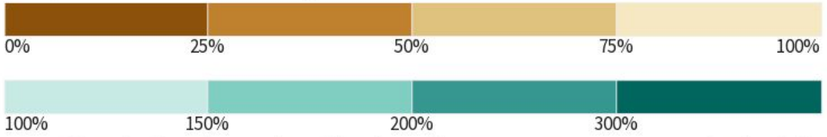


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

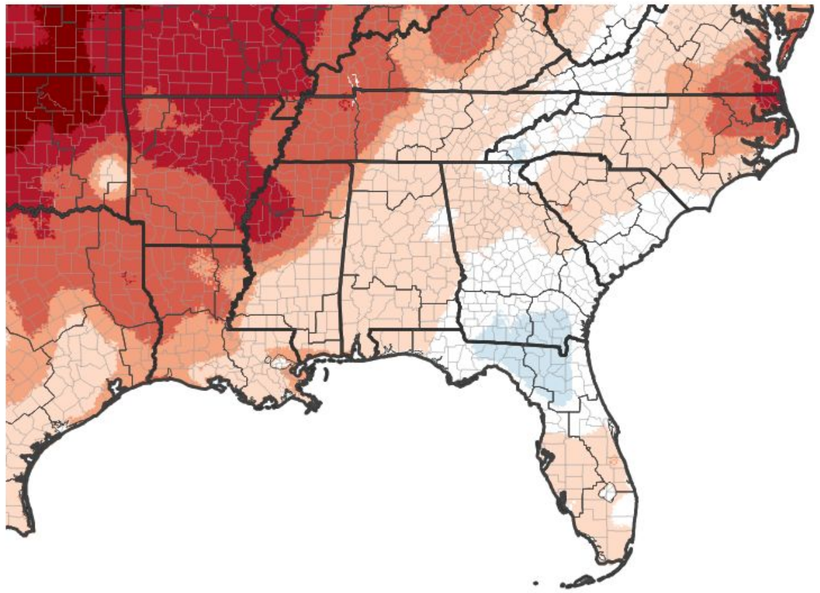
Last Updated: 01/22/26

Temperature

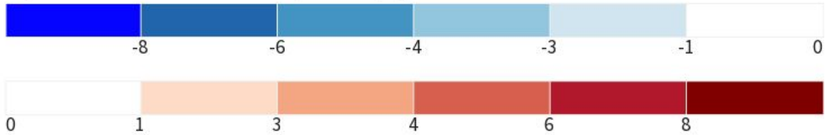
	Last 30 Days	
	Average High (Departure)	Average Low (Departure)
Tallahassee	67.1° (+3.2°)	40.7° (+0.0°)
Apalachicola	65.9° (+2.1°)	45.0° (+0.3°)
Albany	65.9° (+4.0°)	40.5° (+1.1°)
Valdosta	66.1° (+3.3°)	40.3° (+1.5°)
Marianna	66.7° (+4.0°)	42.0° (+1.1°)
Dothan	65.4° (+3.8°)	43.7° (+3.6°)

- Over the last 30 days, temperatures were much above normal across the region, with multiple days with high temperatures in the upper 70s to near 80 degrees.
- Much cooler conditions have been prevalant over the last week, with multiple freezes just within the last week.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



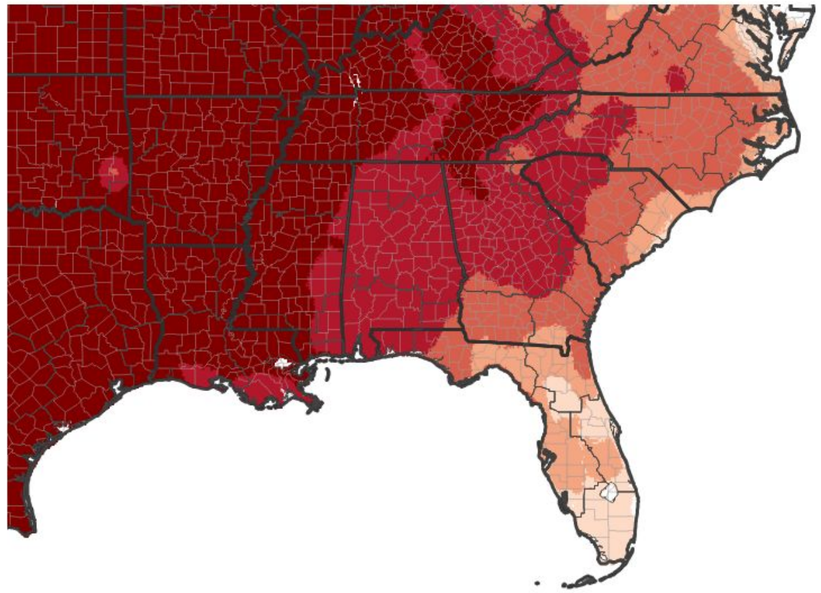
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



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

Data Valid: 01/17/26

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



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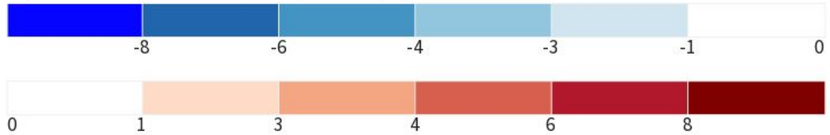


Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/17/26

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows remain exceptionally low for this time of year. Recent rain so far this month was almost entirely absorbed into the soil with only minimal runoff.
- Surface/groundwater levels are especially low for this time of year, accentuating the long term nature of this drought. Reports from Thomas County, Georgia included mention of holding ponds and small streams in the southern portion of the county with very little water in them or being completely dry.

Agricultural Impacts

- Winter cover crops/wheat have been planted across portions of the tri-state area, but reports from multiple counties indicate that the cover crop and winter wheat are noticeably stressed or behind normal growth, with diminished yields expected.
- To support agricultural activities, some farms are pumping water into select holding ponds on their property to ensure at least some accessible water for herds/flocks.
- Gadsden County, FL reported below normal hay inventories for cattle herds.
- In Coffee County, AL, conditions notably worsened this week, despite some rainfall. Some farmers are having to purchase additional hay from nearby farms that still retain a surplus, though overall supplies are decreasing.
- Planting season is still on schedule to begin in the coming month, but concerns exist given exceptionally low sub-surface water levels that irrigation will further stress the water table as farmers draw water from wells.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index values range from 200-550 across the region, with the lowest values in the west.
- Brush fire occurrence decreased a little this week, nonetheless, a few counties reported brush fires.
- Despite the recent rains, continue to exercise caution with outdoor burning.

Mitigation Actions

- Suwannee River Water Management District has issued a water shortage advisory for their watershed.

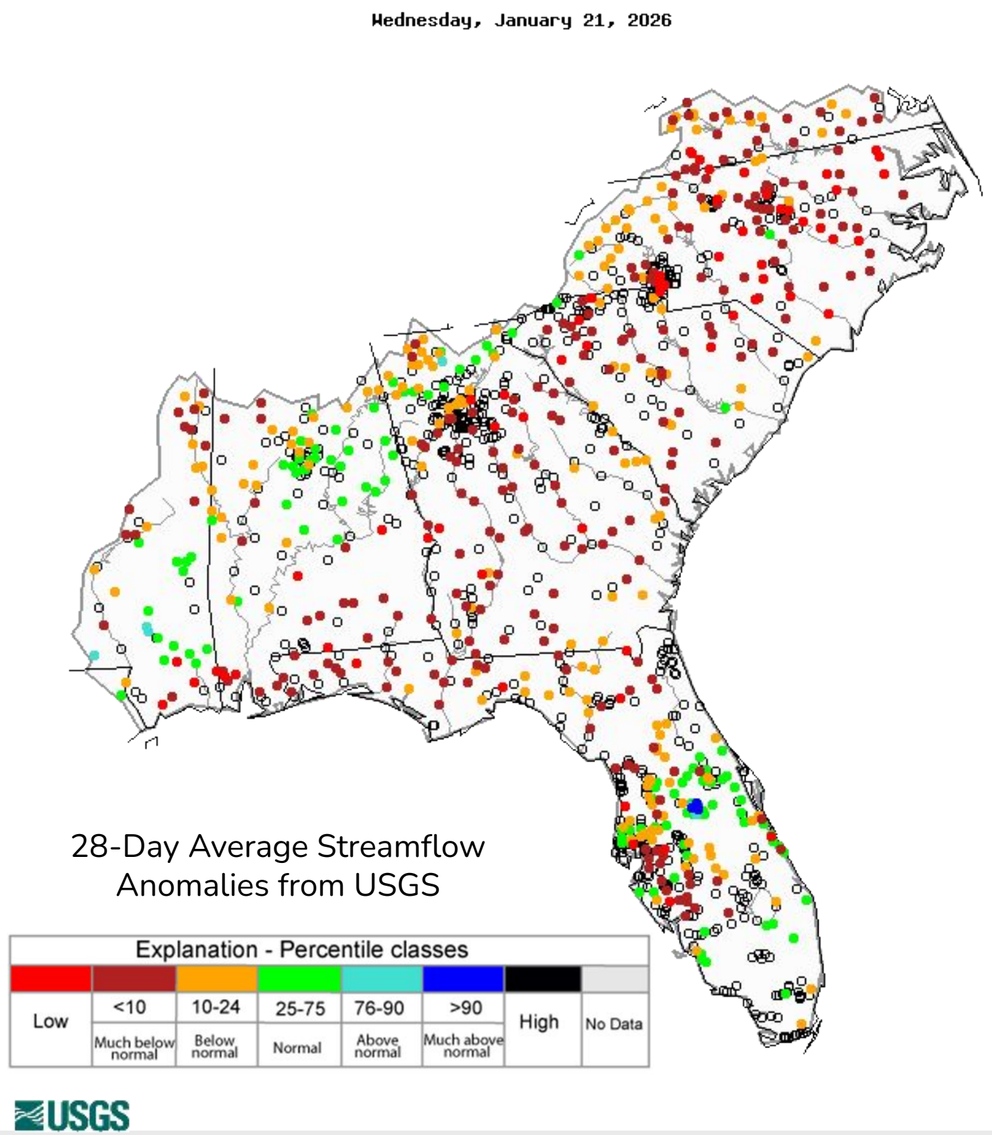
Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow conditions are exceptionally low and well below normal for this time of year with a few sites nearing record low flows.

- Drought continuation/degradation this week was heavily driven by the exceptionally low streamflows. This is recharge season across the southeast and the lack of rainfall will only worsen drought conditions in the weeks ahead.

- Some rainfall continues to help soil conditions, but the rain we've seen over the last three months has not been sufficient to recharge water levels in rivers, streams, and lakes.

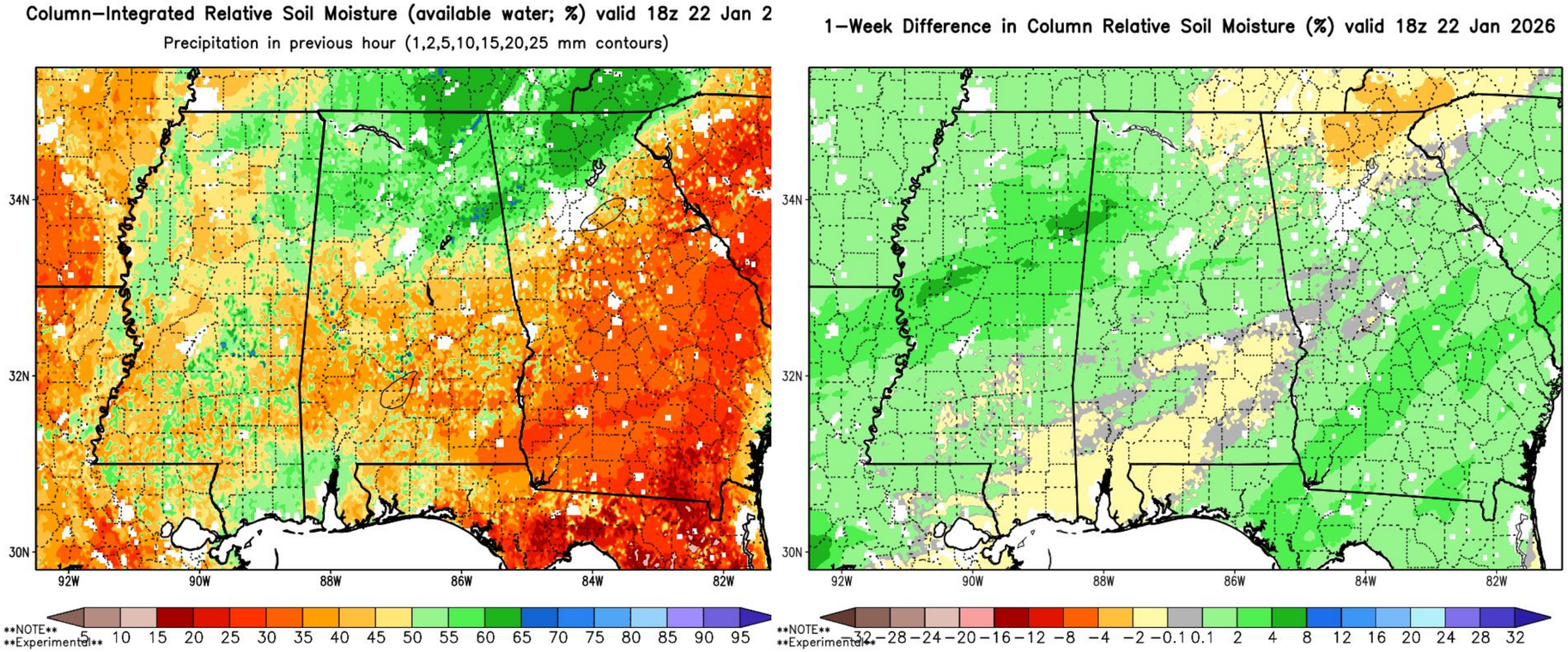
- While some precipitation is expected this weekend, it will still be below normal for our weekly totals, thus having little or no impact on streamflows across the region.



28-Day Average Streamflow Anomalies from USGS

Agricultural Impacts

- The rainfall over the last week did lead to some improvement in near surface soil moisture.
- However, deep layer soil moisture remains driest further to the east, especially in our harder hit drought areas in South Georgia and North Florida.
- Some farmers in South Georgia elected not to plant a cover crop this year due to the excessive dryness.



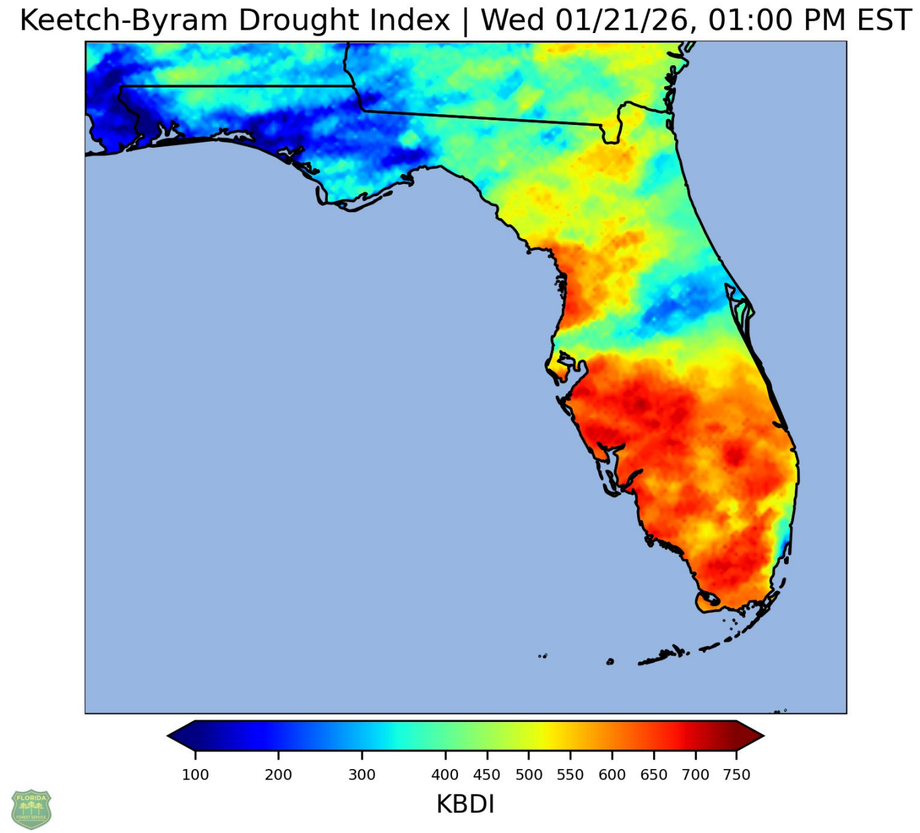
0-200 cm Relative Soil Moisture & 1-week Change in 0-200 cm Relative Soil Moisture
Data courtesy of NASA SPoRT

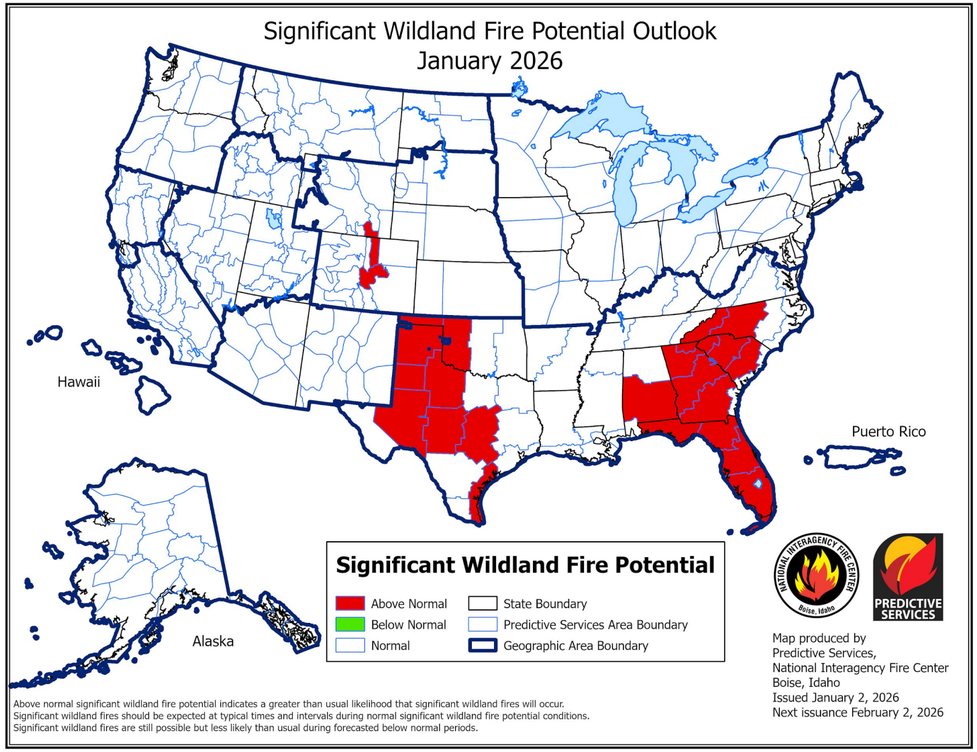
2025 Crop Reports
Alabama | Florida | Georgia

Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Keetch-Byram Drought Indices have generally stabilized with rainfall occurring every 7-10 days.
- Even so, brush fires have been reported across South Georgia and Southeast Alabama.
- The Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for January calls for above normal wildfire activity across much of the area.



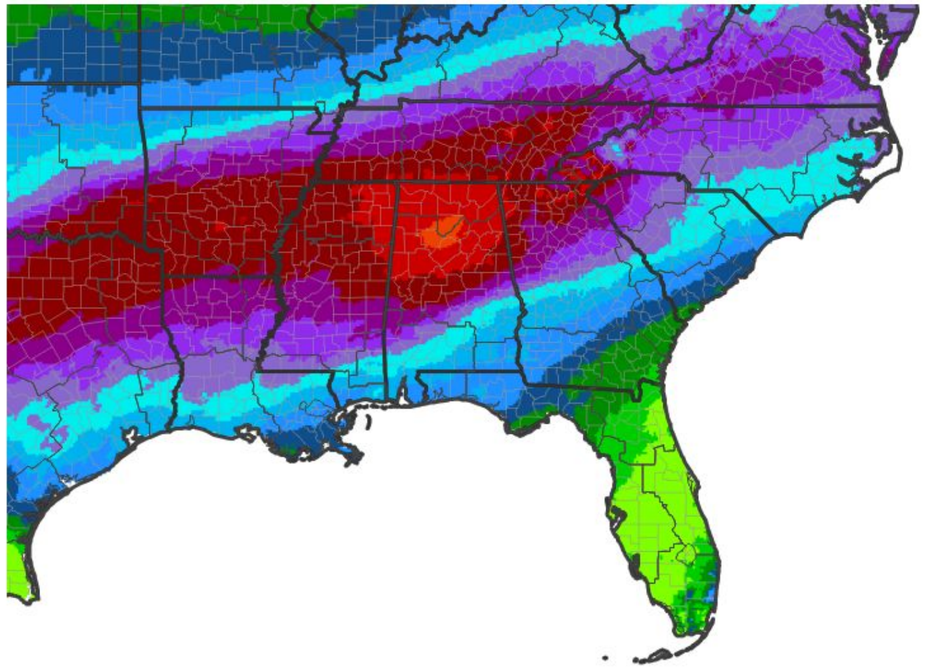


Precipitation Outlook

- A cold front will approach the region on Sunday bringing precipitation to the region. The heaviest rainfall is expected to be west of the Flint River Basin, and generally less than 1 inch.

8-14 day outlook (1/29 - 2/4): leaning above normal

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for January 22, 2026–January 29, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation

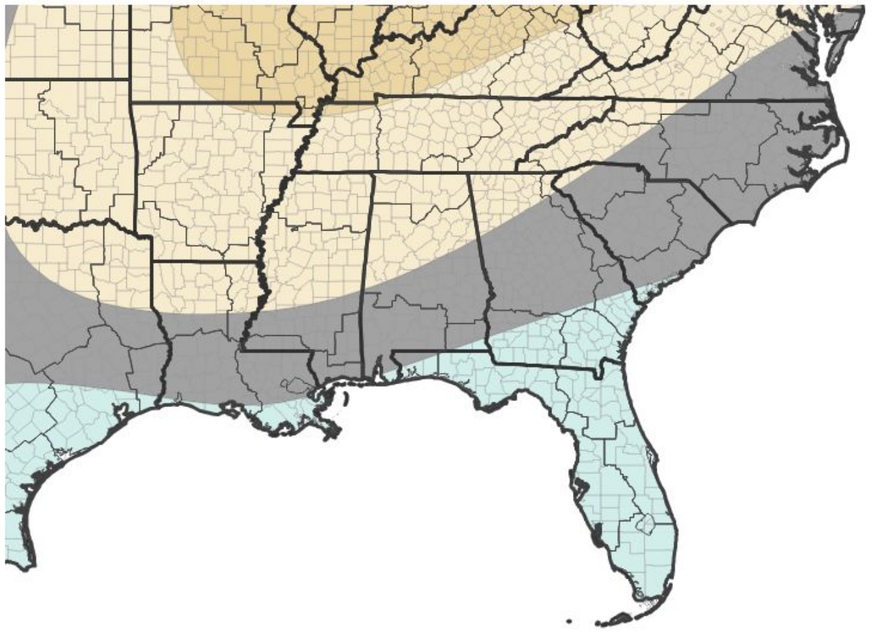
0 0.01 0.1 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 1.5 1.75

1.75 2 2.5 3 4 5 7 10 15 20

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

Last Updated: 01/22/26

8–14 Day Precipitation Outlook for January 29, 2026–February 4, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Near-Normal Conditions

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

Last Updated: 01/21/26

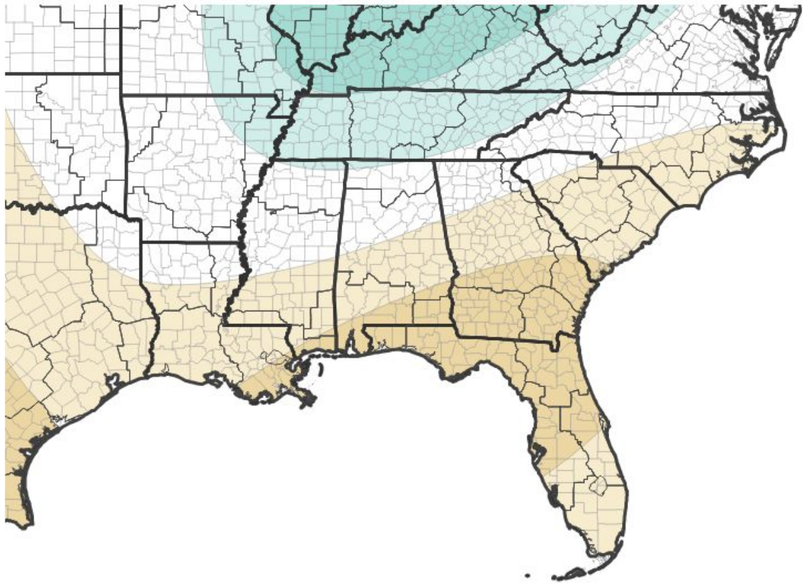
Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The next 3 months are predicted to favor much above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation.
- While this outlook is very consistent with the climatological presentation of a La Nina pattern, it doesn't mean that extreme cold events won't occur, which is expected during the first week of Feb.

	February		March		April	
Average	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain
Tallahassee	55.6°	4.25”	61.4°	5.24”	67.3°	3.53”
Apalachicola	56.8°	4.17”	61.7°	4.34”	67.3°	2.91”
Albany	54.0°	4.01”	60.3°	4.38”	67.0°	3.67”
Valdosta	54.6°	3.31”	60.1°	3.73”	66.2°	3.66”
Marianna	55.4°	4.49”	61.5°	5.01”	67.6°	3.72”
Dothan	54.6°	4.82”	60.8°	4.72”	67.2°	4.79”

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



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

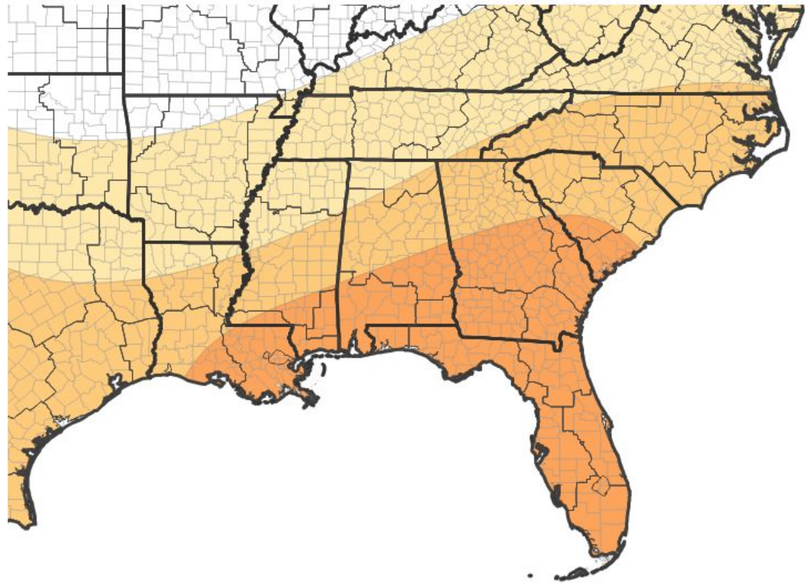
33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 01/15/26

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



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50%

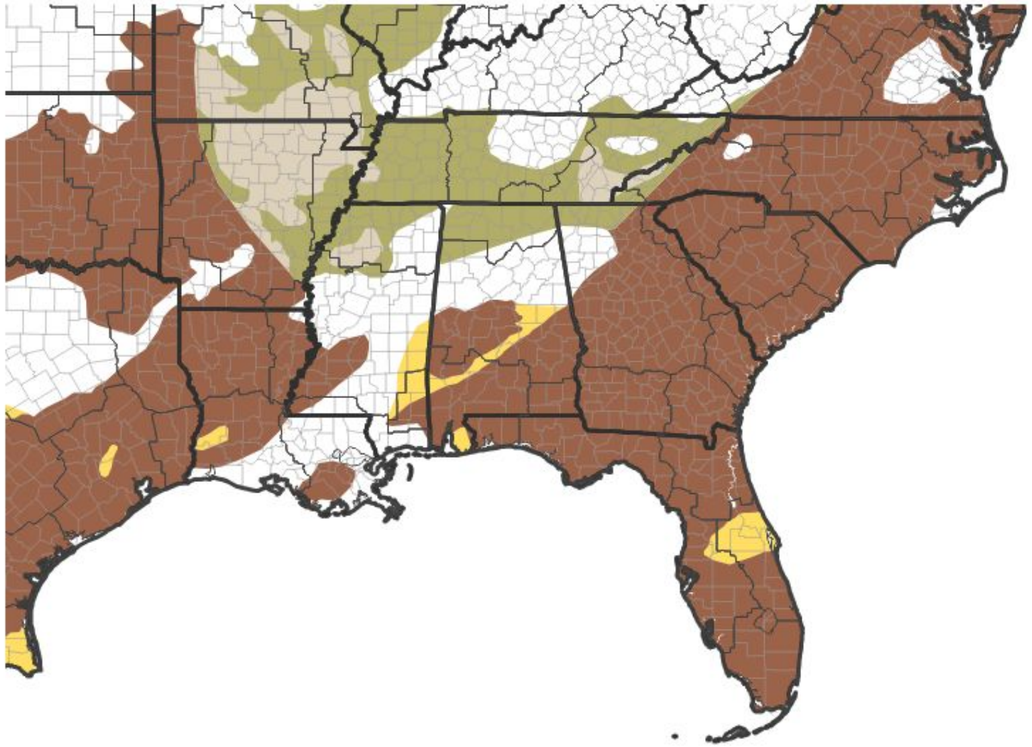
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 01/15/26

Drought Outlook

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

- Given the prediction for below normal precipitation in the months ahead, drought is expected to persist across the region over the next three months.
- Should rainfall over the next three months be much below normal, drought conditions could even worsen with time, especially heading further into late winter and spring when planting begins and water demand increases.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for January 15, 2026–April 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...

Persist | Improve | End | Develop | No Drought

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

Last Updated: 01/15/26

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