



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

Valid January 29, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Tallahassee, FL

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- This product will be updated Thursday, February 5th
 - 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.
-
- **Extreme Drought developing in the Suwannee River.**
 - **Severe to Extreme Drought covers the entire region.**
 - Drought characteristics are largely long term type impacts as rivers, streams, and ponds are at exceptionally low levels for this time of year.
 - With an arctic blast expected through the weekend, the pattern is not conducive to any meaningful precipitation for the next several days.

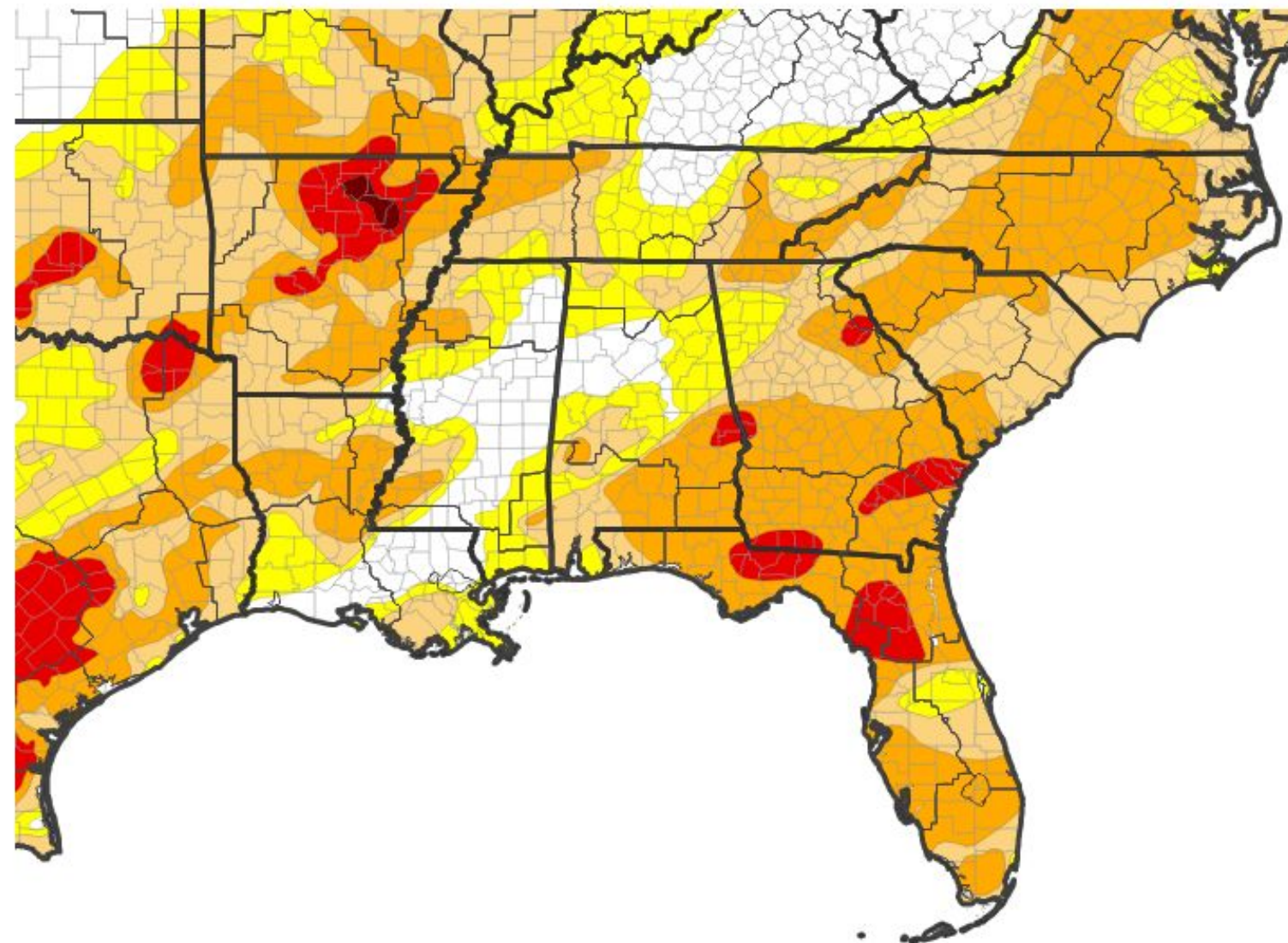


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Despite some rainfall over the last week, especially across Southeast Alabama and Southwest Georgia, it was not enough to result in any improving conditions.
- Lighter rainfall totals through the Suwannee River Basin have led to extreme drought developing in the middle and lower portions of that river basin.
- Drought conditions have now transitioned into predominantly long term hydrologic conditions. 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, Western Jefferson, Eastern Dixie and Eastern Lafayette Counties in Florida. SE Decatur, Southern Grady, and Thomas Counties in Georgia.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):** The remainder of the region.

U.S. Drought Monitor

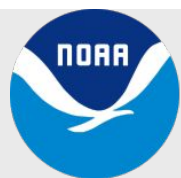


U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/27/26



National Oceanic and
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National Weather Service
Tallahassee, FL

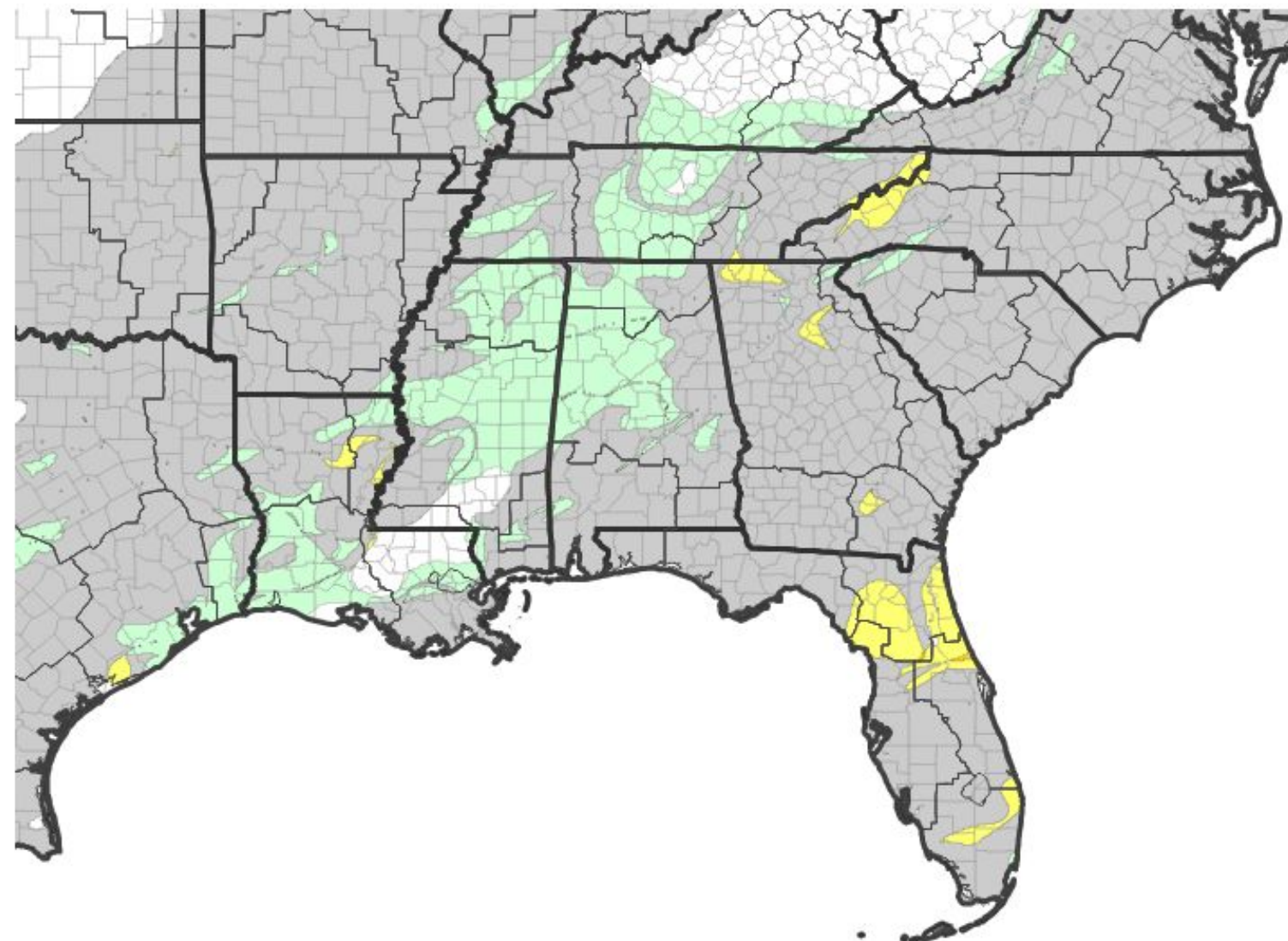


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

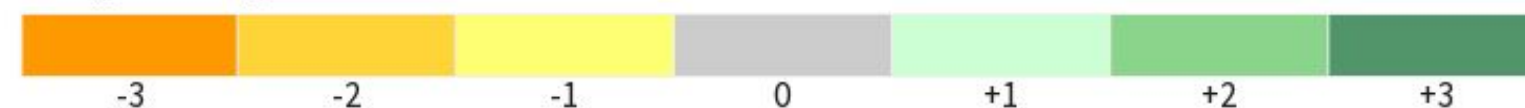
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Southeast Alabama, Southwest Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle & Big Bend

- 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 near normal precipitation.
- One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
 - **1 category degradation:** Eastern Lafayette and Eastern Dixie Counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map

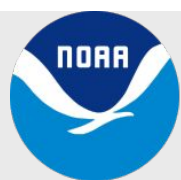


Drought Change Since Last Week



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 01/27/26



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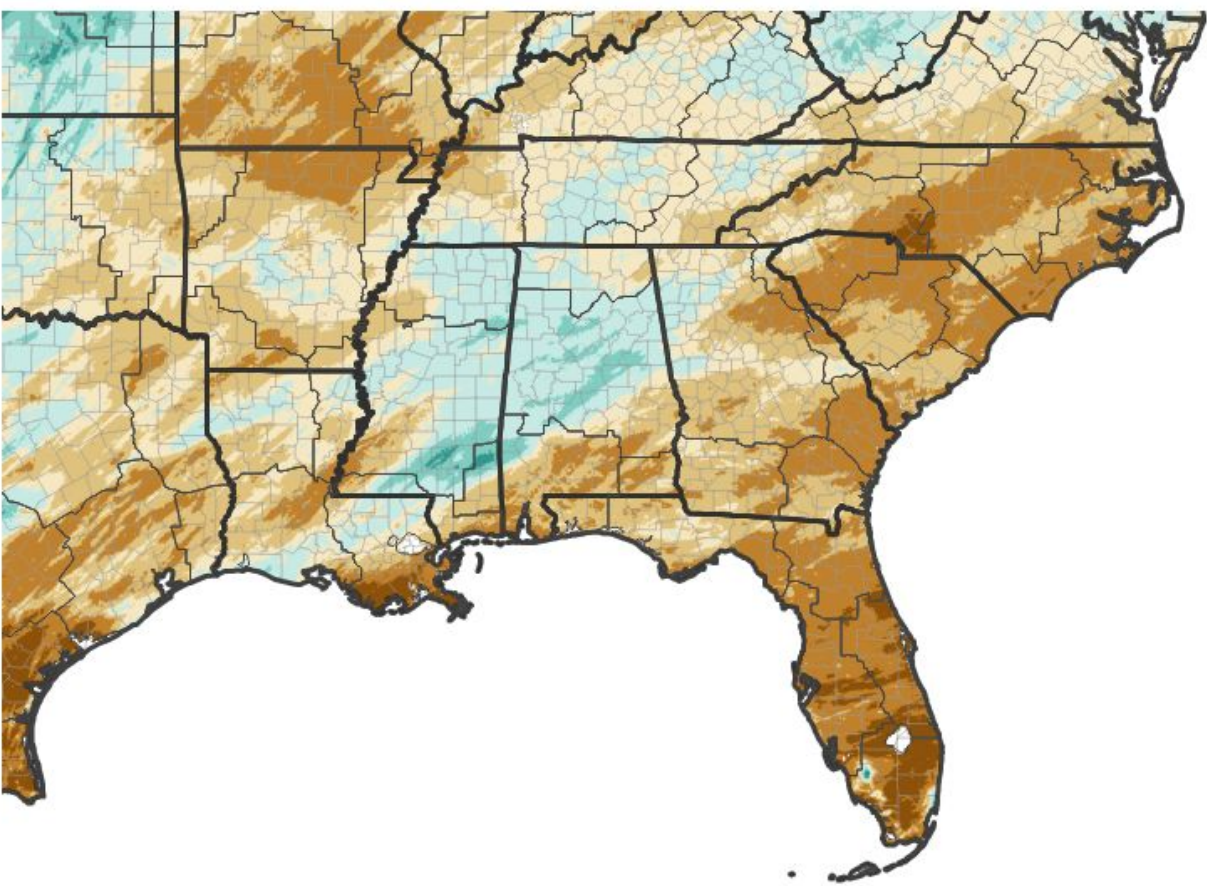
Precipitation

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

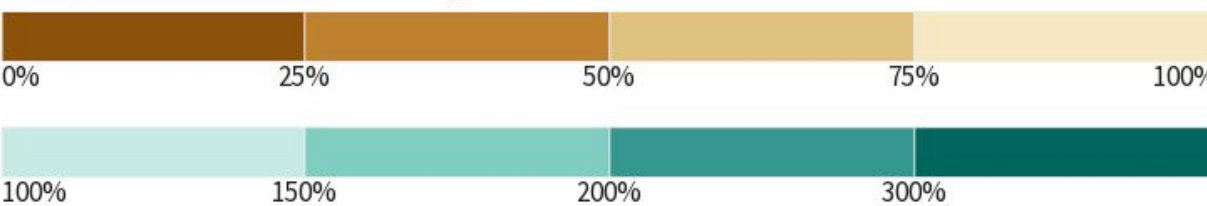
	Last 30 Days		Last 90 Days	
	Rainfall	Percent	Rainfall	Percent
DeFuniak Springs*	2.97”	58.3%	7.91”	55.2%
Panama City ECP	3.34”	73.8%	10.59”	81.2%
Dothan	2.79”	59.0%	6.74”	51.3%
Marianna	2.70”	68.8%	8.09”	66.1%
Apalachicola	1.70”	43.4%	5.27”	47.3%
Georgetown**	3.27”	71.4%	6.96”	51.4%
Dawson**	3.36”	73.0%	8.06”	62.0%
Arlington**	3.37”	73.3%	8.08”	63.1%
Albany	3.02”	74.6%	7.66”	68.5%
Cairo**	2.93”	66.2%	7.88”	67.4%
Tallahassee	2.97”	69.7%	6.54”	57.1%
Moultrie**	1.92”	43.3%	5.26”	48.9%
Monticello*	2.74“	60.1%	7.03”	61.7%
Ty Ty**	3.65”	84.7%	7.18”	64.1%
Alapaha**	1.86”	43.6%	5.97”	56.3%
Valdosta	1.60”	43.3%	5.15”	56.1%
Perry***	1.58”	35.3%	5.11”	52.4%
Mayo*	2.11”	48.0%	6.63”	68.5%

Rainfall totals through January 28, 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

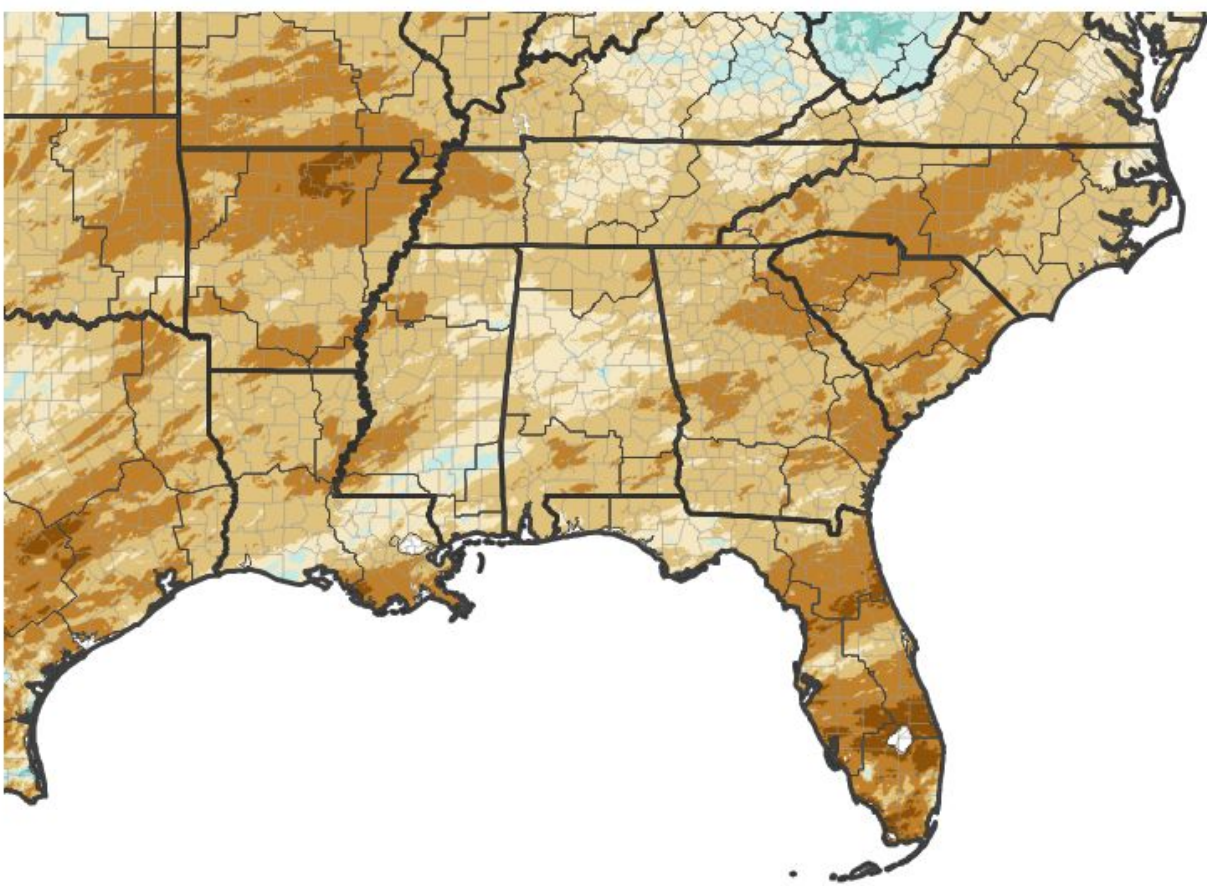


Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

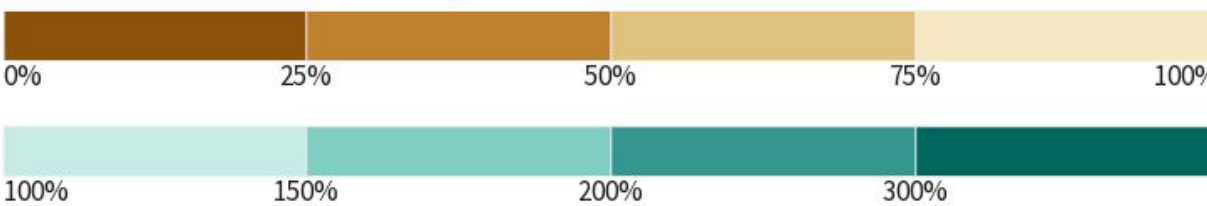


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 01/29/26

90-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: 01/29/26



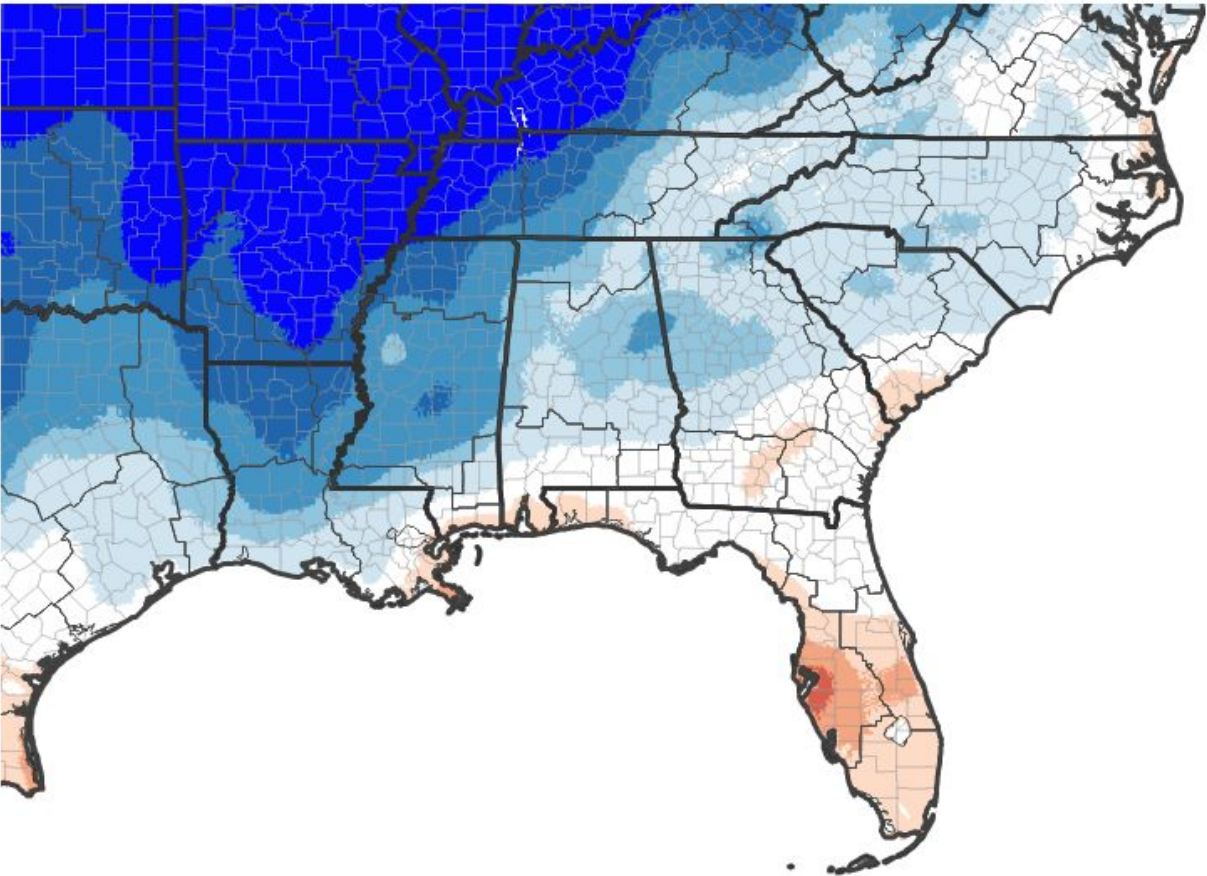


Temperature

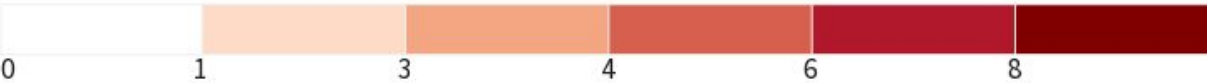
	Last 30 Days	
	Average High (Departure)	Average Low (Departure)
Tallahassee	65.3° (+1.5°)	39.0° (-1.4°)
Apalachicola	64.2° (+0.5°)	43.1° (-1.3°)
Albany	63.4° (+1.5°)	38.2° (-0.9°)
Valdosta	64.5° (+1.8°)	38.3° (-0.2°)
Marianna	64.4° (+1.6°)	39.9° (-0.7°)
Dothan	62.8° (+1.1°)	41.0° (+1.3°)

- Near the first of the year, temperatures were much above normal.
- Much cooler conditions have been prevalent over the last two weeks with multiple freezes occurring.
- The arctic air mass has kept much of the vegetation dormant.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly

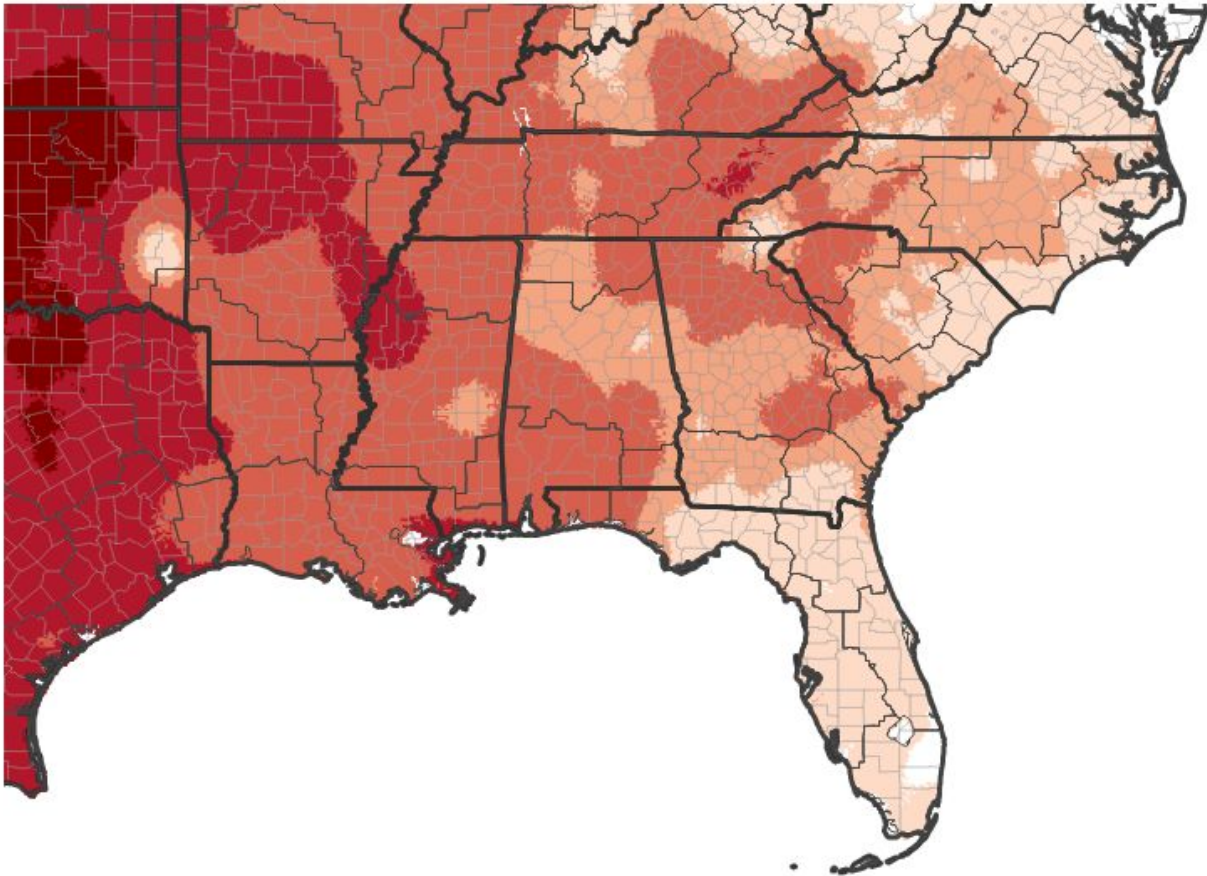


Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

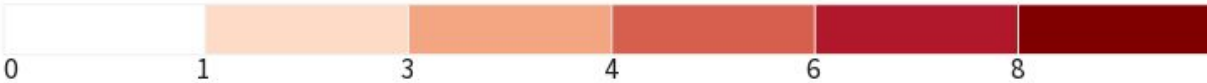


Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 01/25/26

30-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: 01/25/26





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. This past week's rain fell with a sufficiently heavy rate that some smaller rivers did respond to the runoff. However, much of this increase is dropping quickly as water moves into the larger mainstem rivers.
- Surface/groundwater levels remain especially low for this time of year, accentuating the long term nature of this drought. There has been no change in the extreme drought area where holding ponds and small streams have very little water in them or are completely dry.

Agricultural Impacts

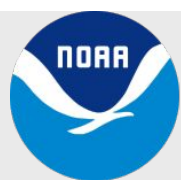
- Winter cover crops/wheat have been planted across portions of the tri-state area, but reports from multiple counties indicate that the cover crop and winter wheat are noticeably stressed or behind normal growth, with diminished yields expected.
- To support agricultural activities, some farms are pumping water into select holding ponds on their property to ensure at least some accessible water for herds/flocks.
- In Coffee County, AL, conditions remain generally stable, even with recent 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 250-550 across the region, with the lowest values in the west.
- Brush fire occurrence remained low in the west, while increasing in eastern counties this week.
- 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.

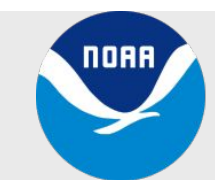
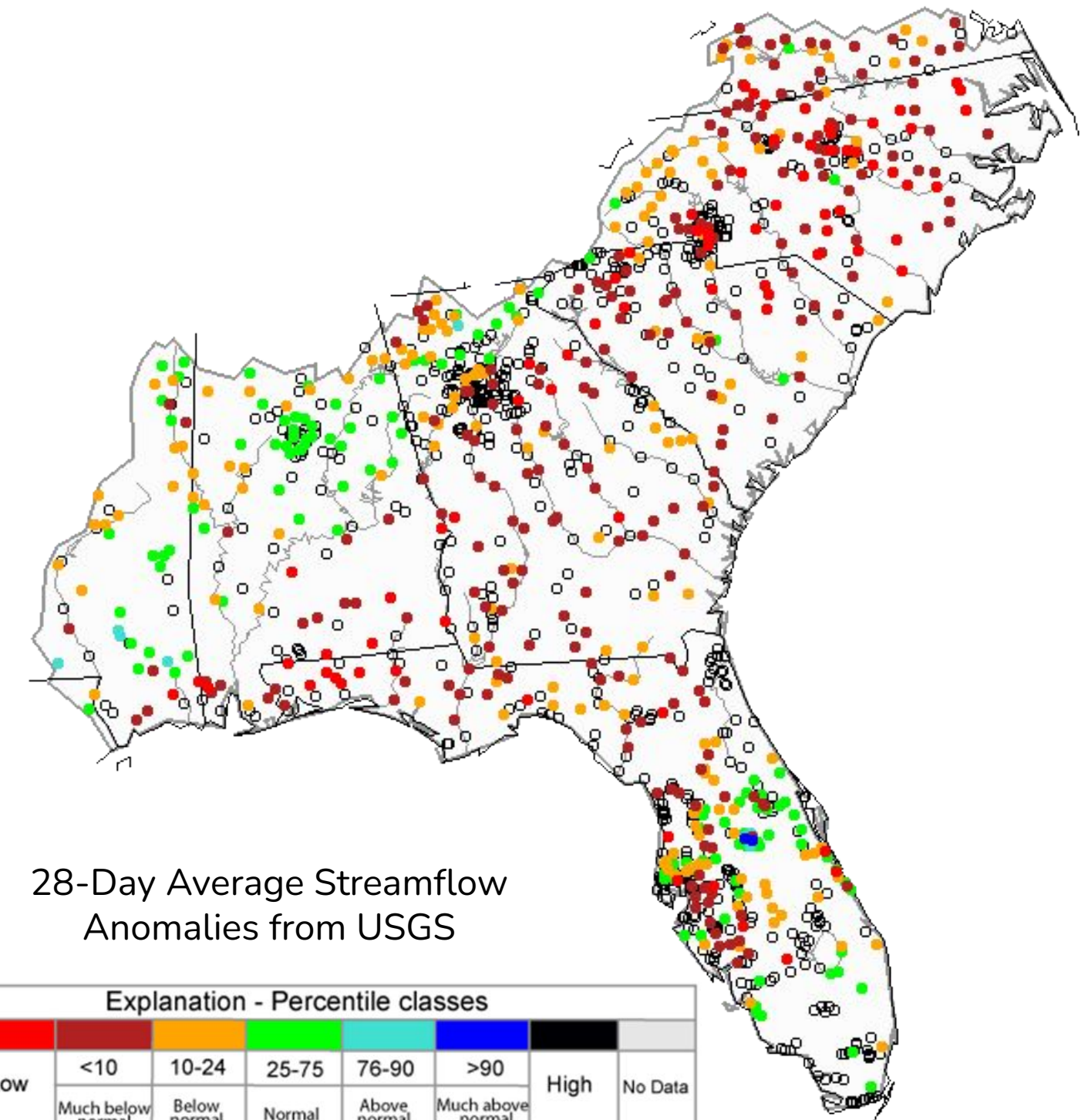




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- 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.
- Recreational activities on area waterways are being impacted, with some smaller rivers and creeks not navigable to canoes and paddle boats.

Monday, January 26, 2026

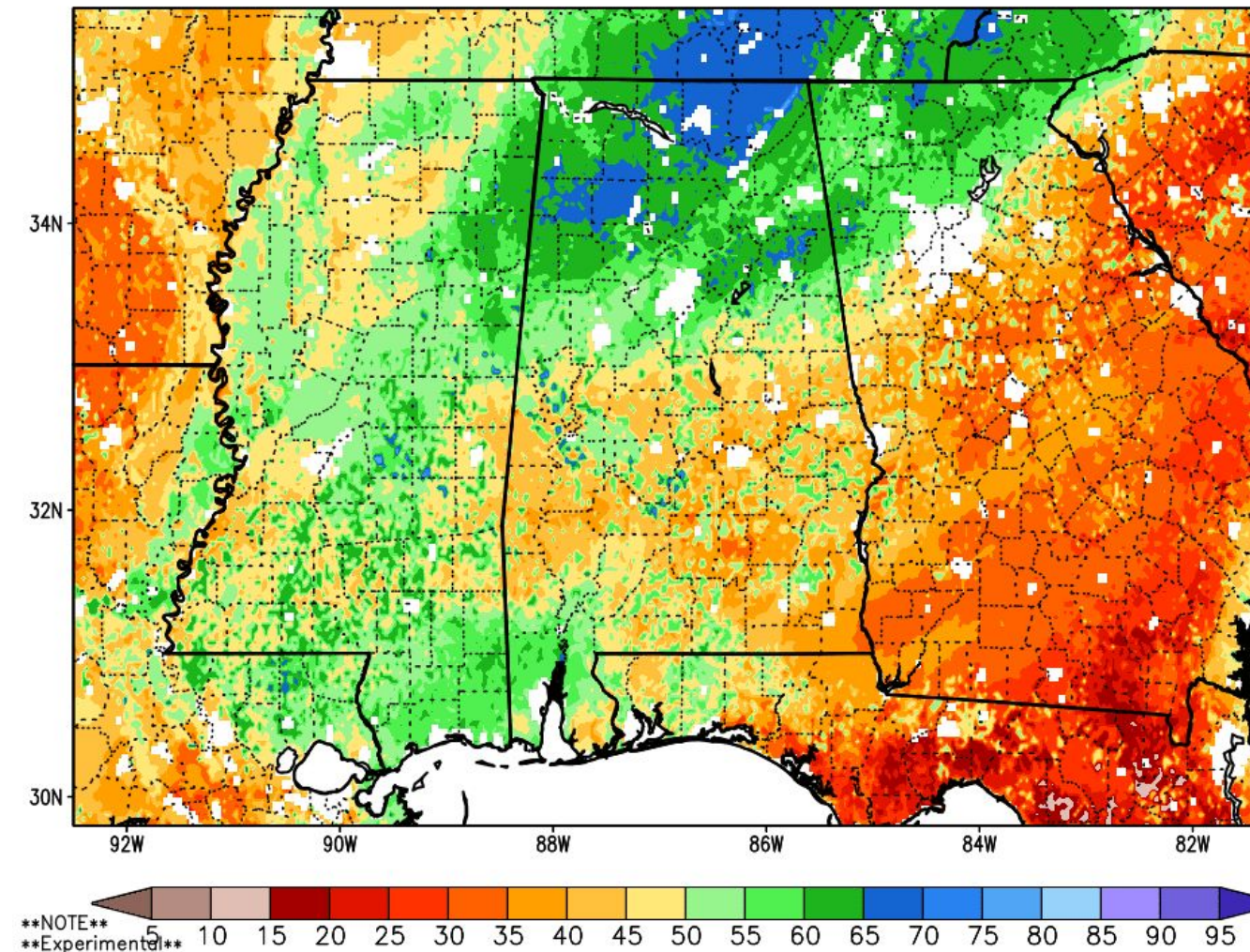




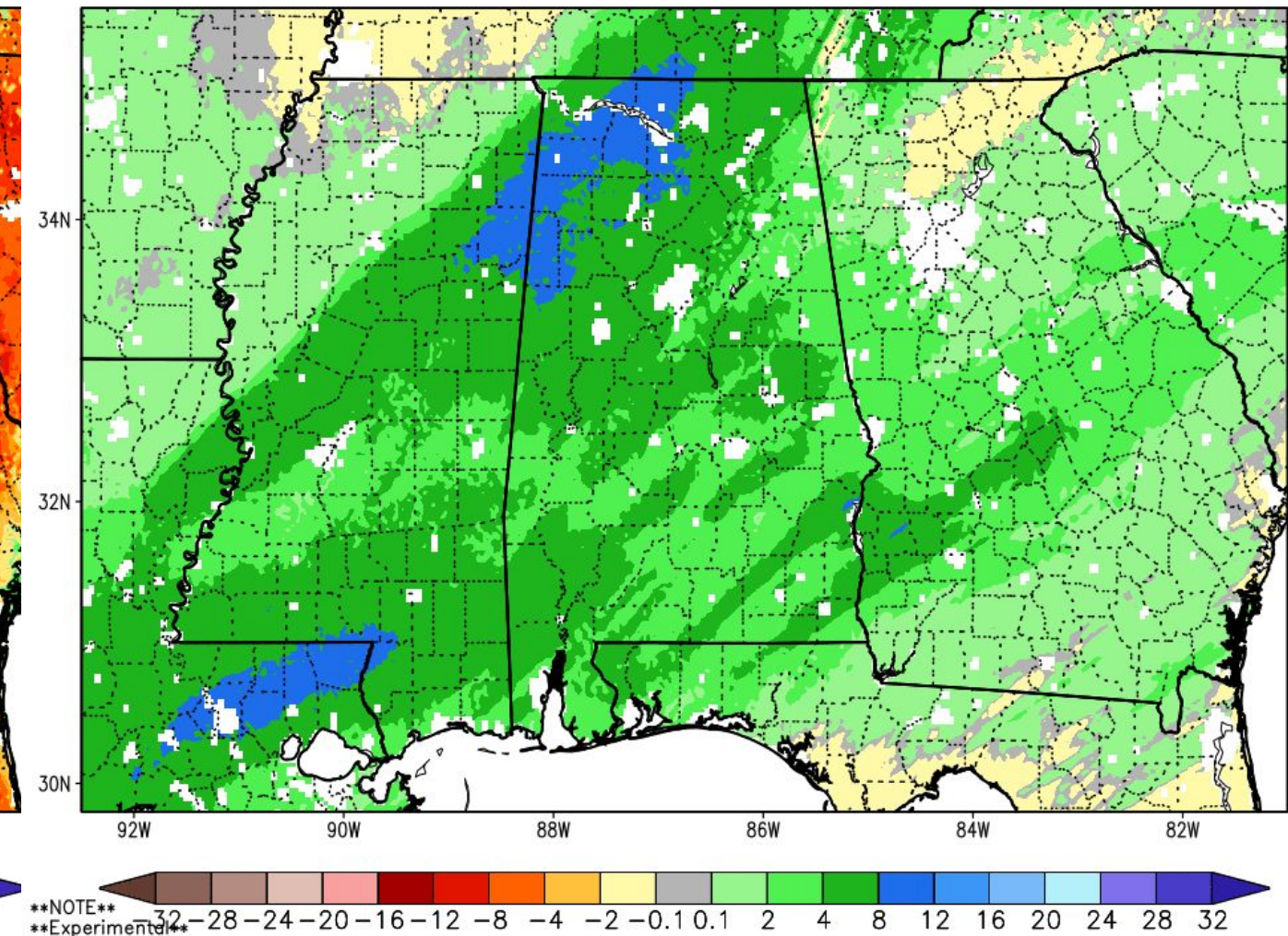
Agricultural Impacts

- 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.

Column-Integrated Relative Soil Moisture (available water; %) valid 12z 29 Jan 2
Precipitation in previous hour (1,2,5,10,15,20,25 mm contours)

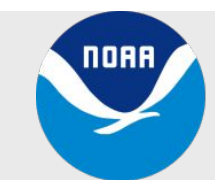


1-Week Difference in Column Relative Soil Moisture (%) valid 12z 29 Jan 2026



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](#)



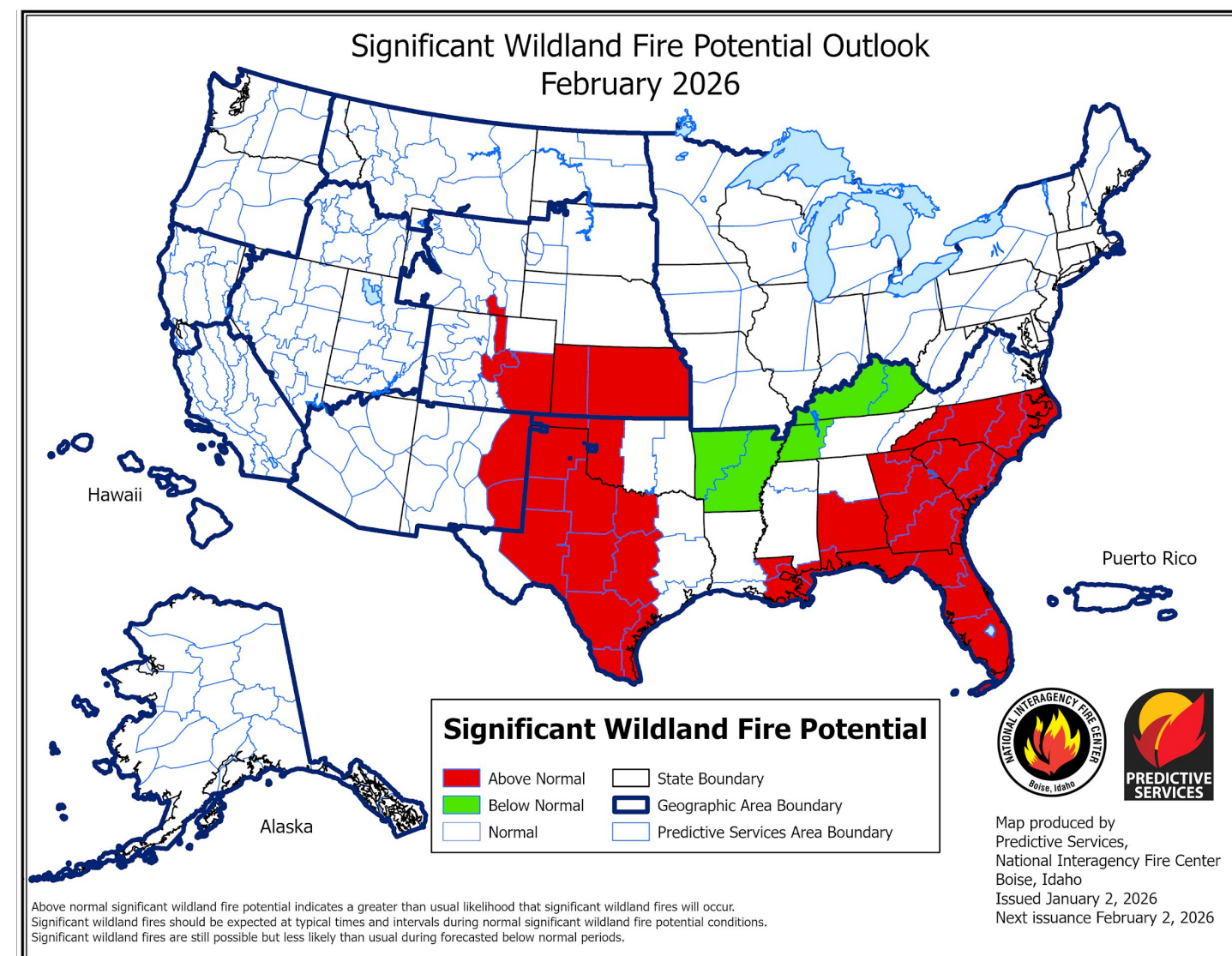
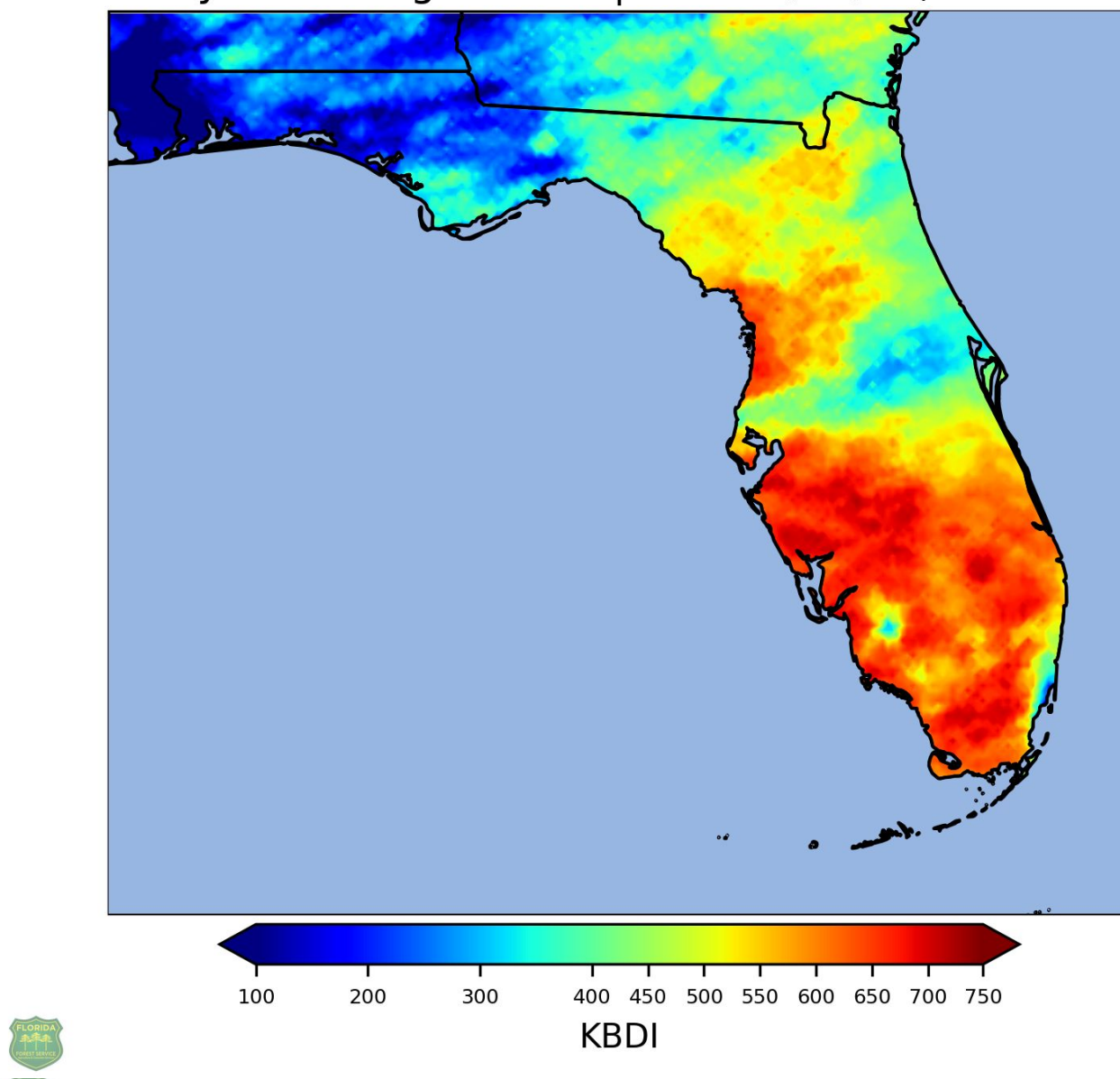


Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Keetch-Byram Drought Indices remain low in the western half of the region, however they have increased this week in the eastern part of the region.
- Brush fires are on the increase in the eastern half of the region.
- The Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for February calls for above normal wildfire activity across much of the area.

Keetch-Byram Drought Index | Wed 01/28/26, 01:00 PM EST



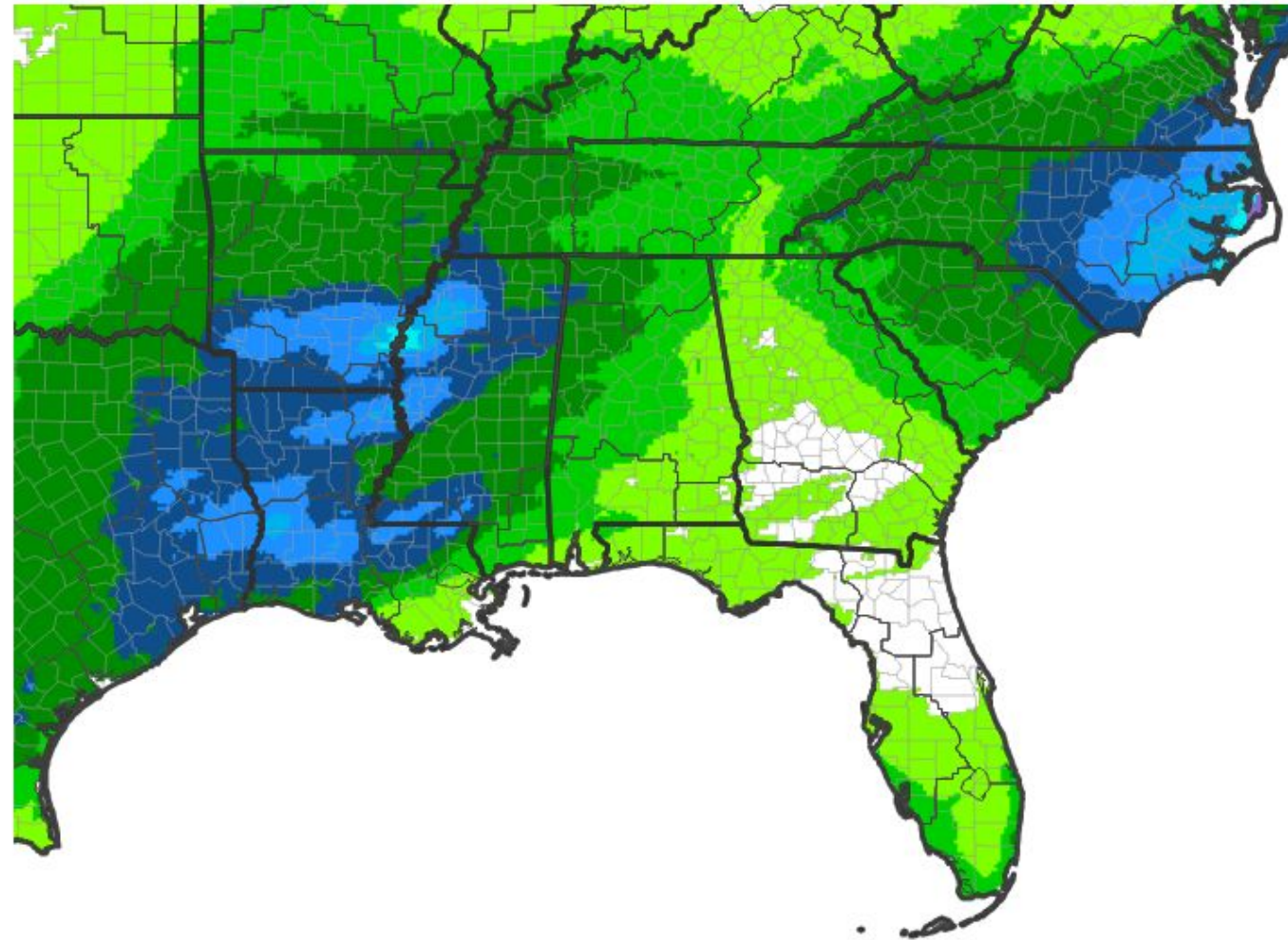


Precipitation Outlook

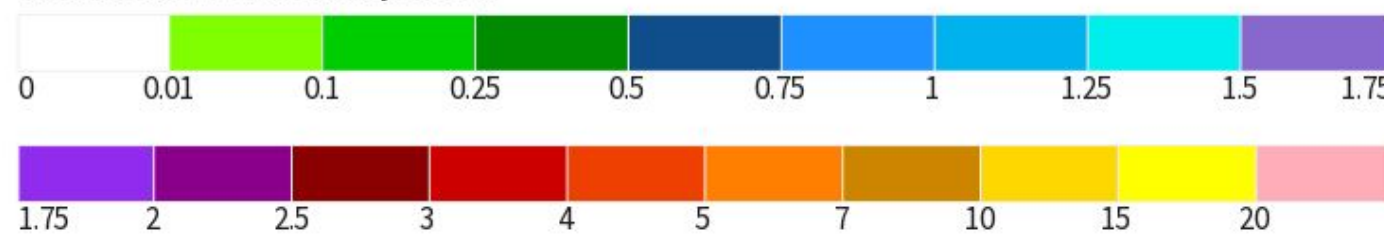
- An arctic blast of extremely chilly air will move into the region late Friday night into Saturday. A brief period of precipitation is possible with this system, but is expected to be less than 0.1 inches.
- Some of the precipitation may fall as snow, though no accumulations are expected.

8-14 day outlook (2/4 - 2/10): below normal

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for January 29, 2026–February 5, 2026



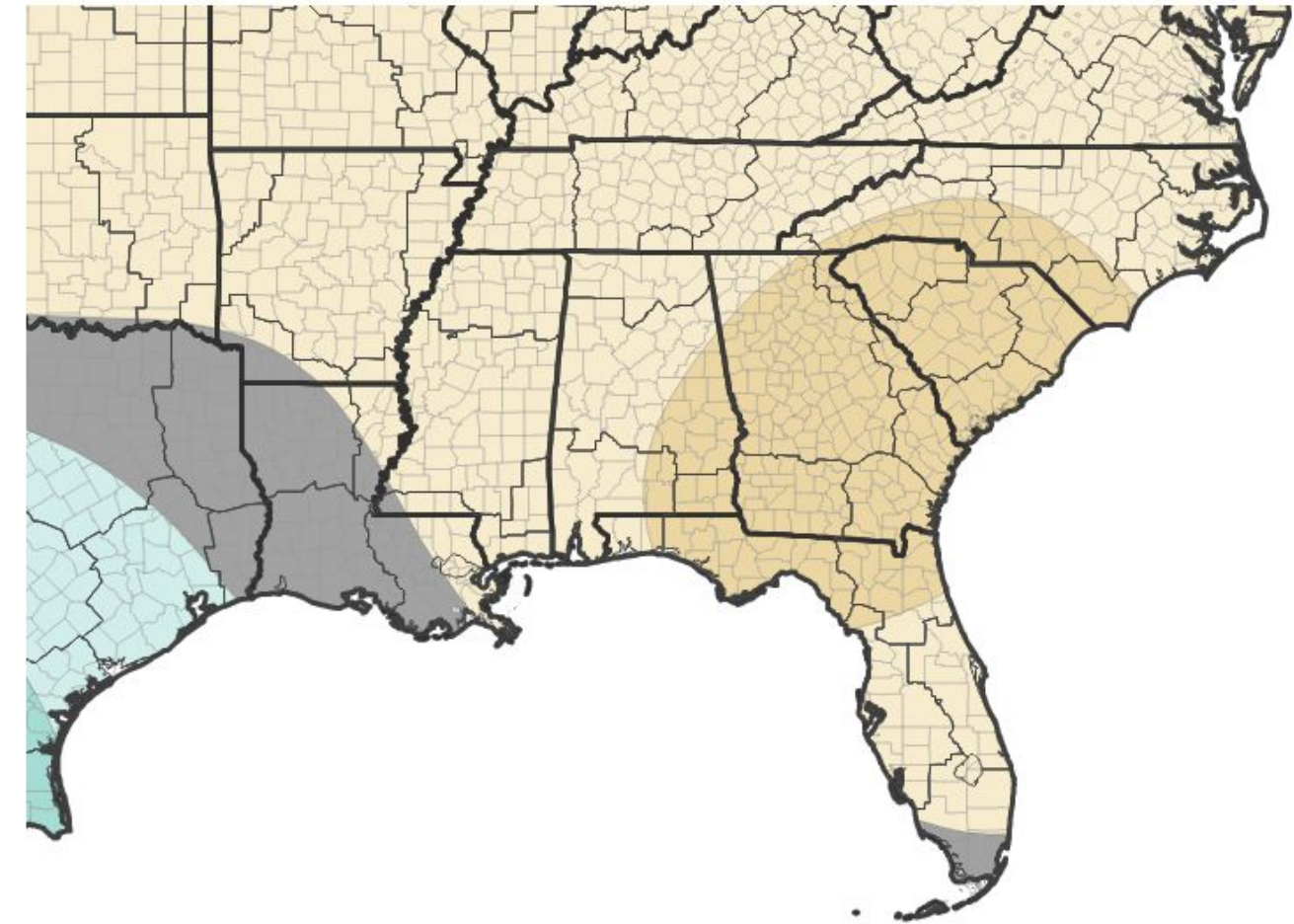
Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 01/29/26

8–14 Day Precipitation Outlook for February 4, 2026–February 10, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



■ Near-Normal Conditions

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

Last Updated: 01/27/26





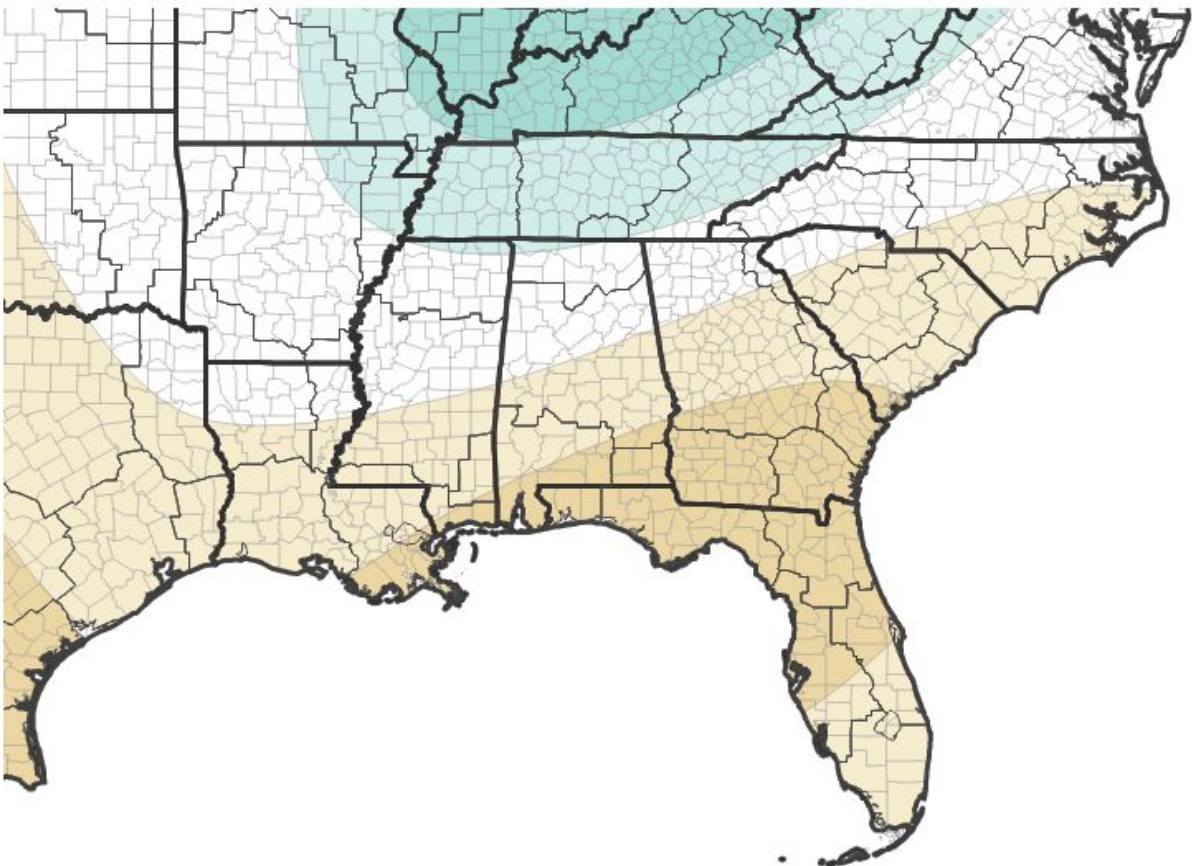
Long-Range Outlooks

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 happening this weekend.

Average	February		March		April	
	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



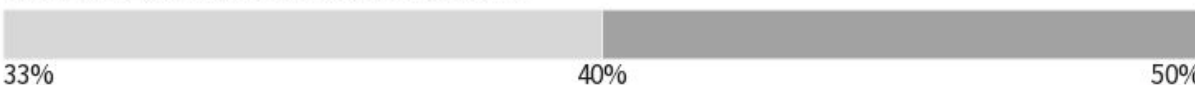
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



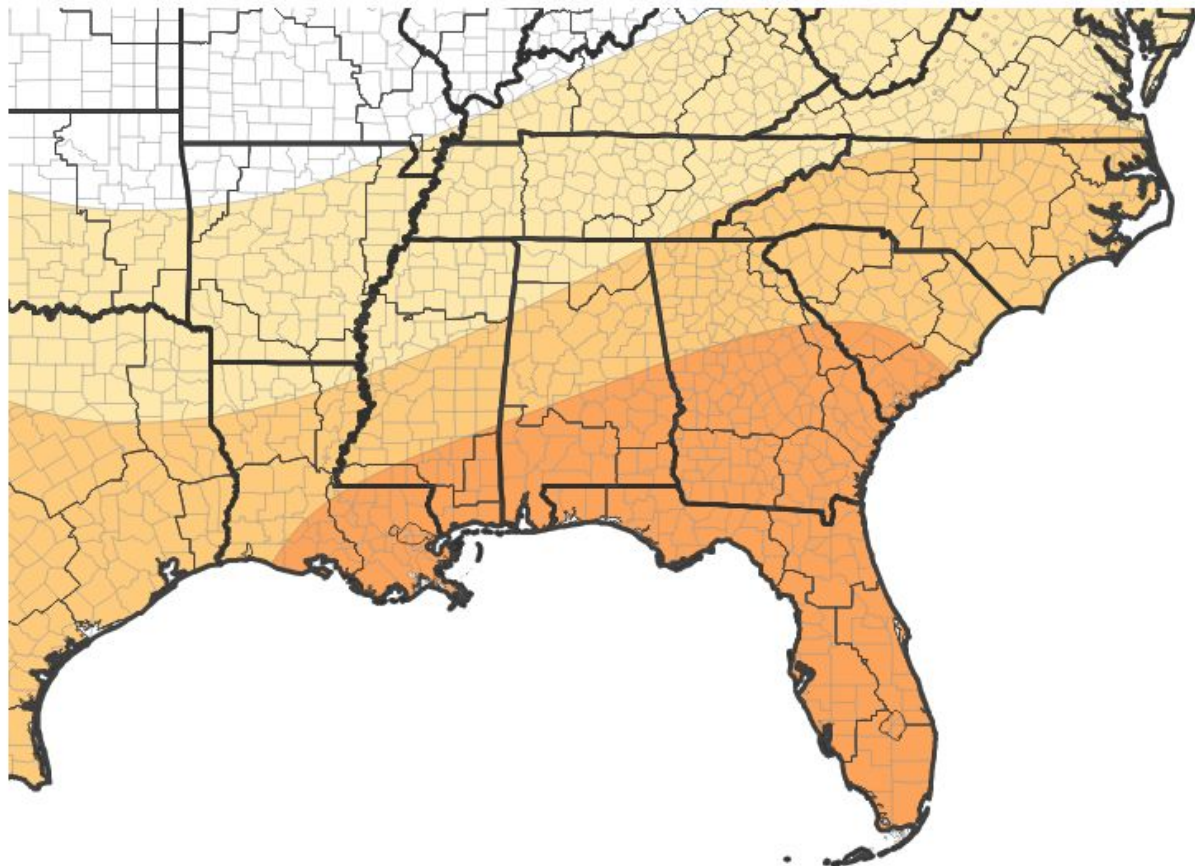
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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



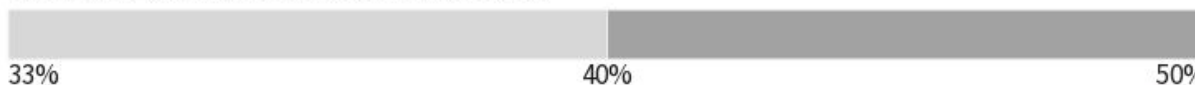
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 01/15/26



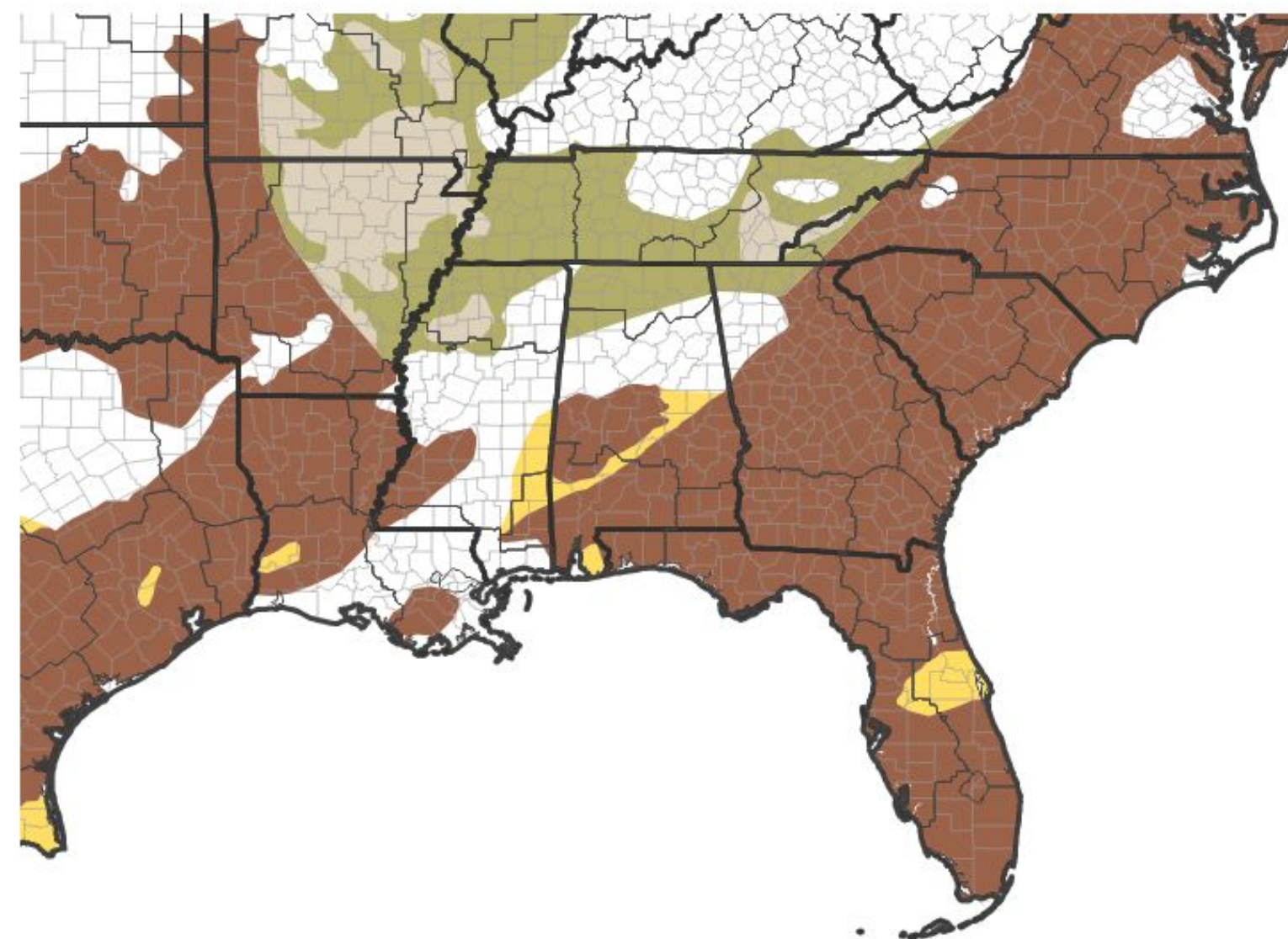


Drought Outlook

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...



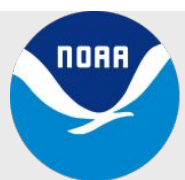
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 01/15/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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Tallahassee, FL**