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

Valid December 4, 2025

Issued By: National Weather Service Tallahassee
Contact Information: kelly.godsey@noaa.gov & cameron.young@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated December 11, 2025
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/tae/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.

- **Exceptional Drought remains in place across far South Georgia and North Florida**
- **Welcome rainfall arrives across the region, but overall it did not lead to drought improvement - yet.**
- Expected rainfall could lead to some drought improvement across the region with rainfall Thursday through Sunday, but it will not be enough to end this long term drought.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for southeast AL, southwest GA, and the FL Panhandle & Big Bend

- Exceptional drought remains along FL/GA border. Severe to extreme drought continues to expand now covering much of the remainder of the Tri-State area.
- Note, the drought monitor only includes precipitation that occurred by 7 am ET Dec 2nd.

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** Along the Florida/Georgia border from Eastern Jackson County, FL/Seminole County, GA eastward to near the Withlacoochee River.
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: much of southwest and south central Georgia; the inland Florida Panhandle and Big Bend and portions of SE Alabama.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought):** Parts of SE Alabama, coastal areas of Walton County and the coastal SE Florida Big Bend and portions of South Central GA.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** A small part of Ben Hill and Irwin County GA.

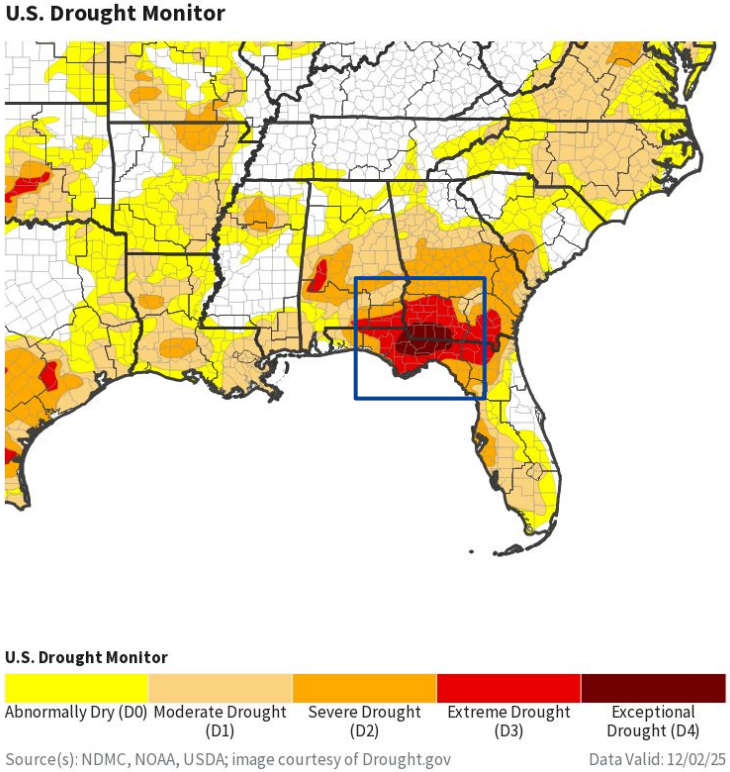


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid December 2, 2025

Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for southeast AL, southwest GA, and the FL Panhandle & Big Bend

- Welcome rainfall arrived across the region this past week. The heaviest rainfall was across SE Alabama. These areas received enough rainfall to result in some drought improvement.
- The remainder of the region received some rainfall, but it was not sufficient to improve current drought conditions significantly to result in a category change.

- One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
  - **1 category degradation:** Far southeastern Dixie County.
  - **No change:** Most of the region.
  - **1 category improvement:** Across Southeast Alabama in Coffee, Dale, and Henry Counties.

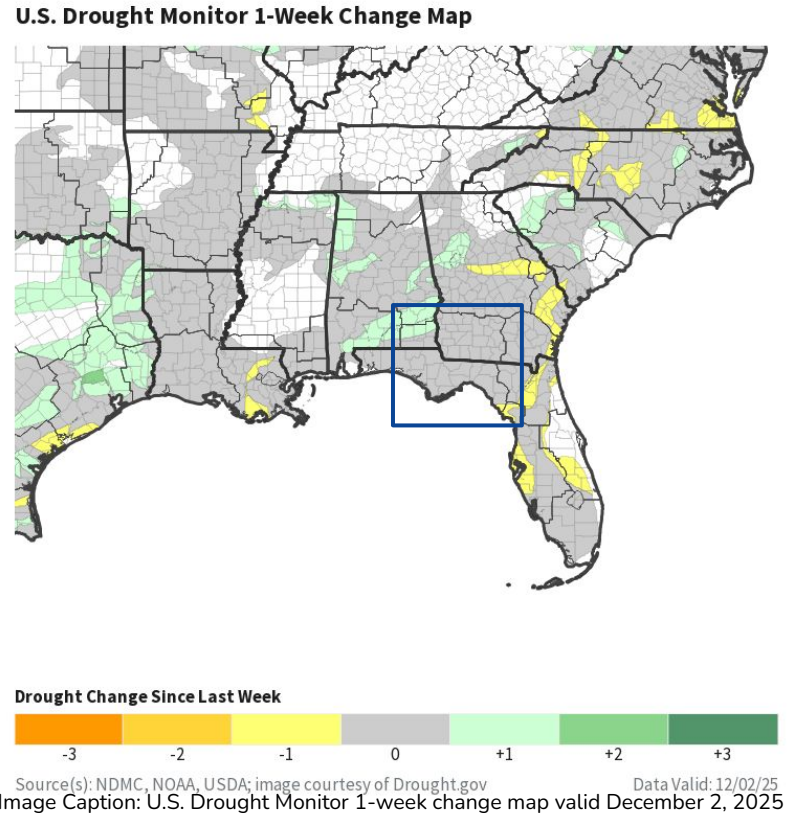
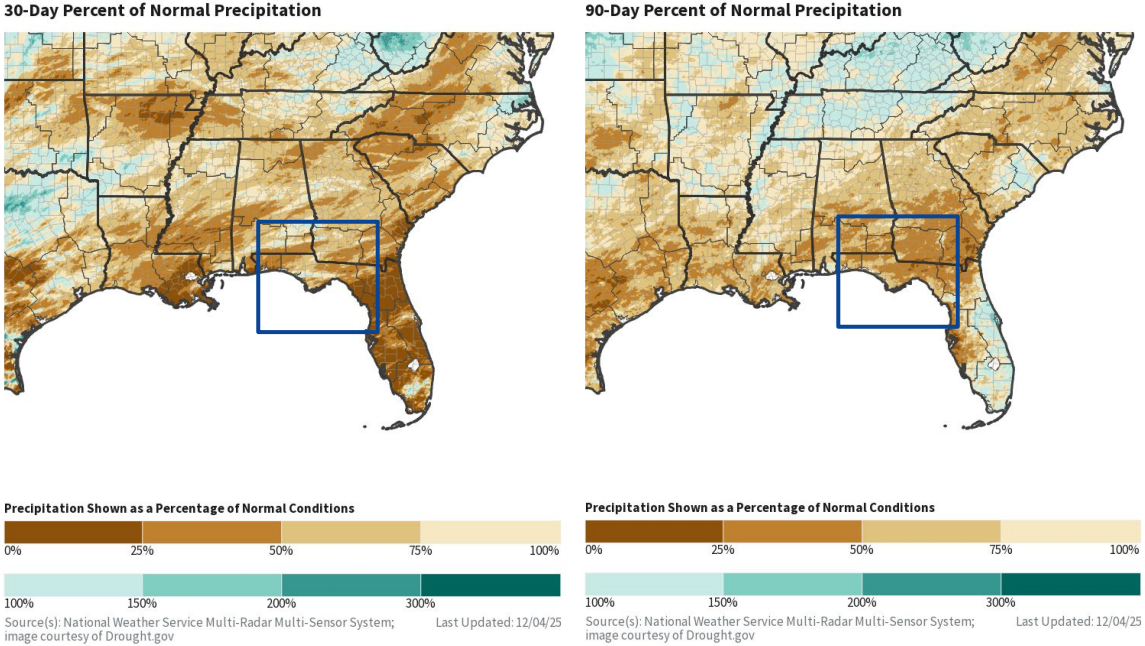


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map valid December 2, 2025

Precipitation

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

	Last 30 Days		Last 60 Days	
	Rainfall	Percent	Rainfall	Percent
DeFuniak Springs*	1.54”	35.5%	3.37”	42.7%
Panama City-ECP	3.36”	77.9%	6.35”	82.0%
Dothan	1.58”	31.6%	2.55”	37.6%
Marianna	2.57”	67.8%	4.40”	64.2%
Apalachicola	0.80”	21.5%	3.07”	42.3%
Georgetown**	2.18”	54.6%	3.33”	47.8%
Dawson**	2.39”	66.3%	3.75”	58.6%
Arlington**	1.63”	44.7%	2.31”	35.7%
Albany	2.10”	67.7%	2.84”	52.4%
Cairo**	1.54”	45.8%	2.70”	43.8%
Tallahassee	1.03”	32.0%	1.99”	31.2%
Moultrie**	1.31”	44.7%	2.82”	48.5%
Monticello*	1.44”	45.3%	3.07”	48.8%
Ty Ty**	1.77”	58.0%	2.63”	44.9%
Alapaha**	2.14”	77.0%	3.89”	71.4%
Valdosta	1.72”	67.8%	2.32”	38.7%
Perry***	0.84”	34.7%	1.80”	34.6%
Mayo*	0.86”	38.7%	1.39”	28.1%



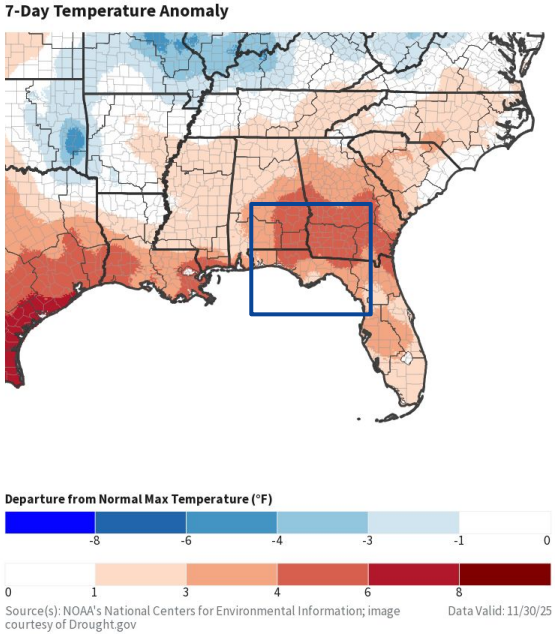
Rainfall totals through December 4, 2025. Non-NWS Data Courtesy:
*University of Florida - Florida Automated Weather Network
**University of Georgia Weather Network
***Suwannee River Water Management District
Climatology for non-NWS stations is estimated using PRISM data.

Image Captions:
Left - 30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation for the Southeast US
Right - 90-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation for the Southeast US
Data Courtesy NWS Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System.
Data over the past 30 and 90 days ending December 4, 2025

Temperature

- Temperatures over the last month have been above normal, especially a stretch in mid November where afternoon high temperatures reached the mid 80s.
- Warm conditions worsened the drought, however recent cooler temperatures and rainfall will lead to some drought relief.

	Last 30 Days	
	Average High (Departure)	Average Low (Departure)
Tallahassee	75.4° (+3.9°)	46.3° (-0.9°)
Apalachicola	73.1° (+1.5°)	50.7° (-0.3°)
Albany	74.8° (+4.5°)	45.7° (+0.3°)
Valdosta	75.3° (+4.8°)	45.4° (-0.3°)
Marianna	74.1° (+3.4°)	46.9° (+0.2°)
Dothan	73.4° (+3.3°)	47.1° (+1.1°)



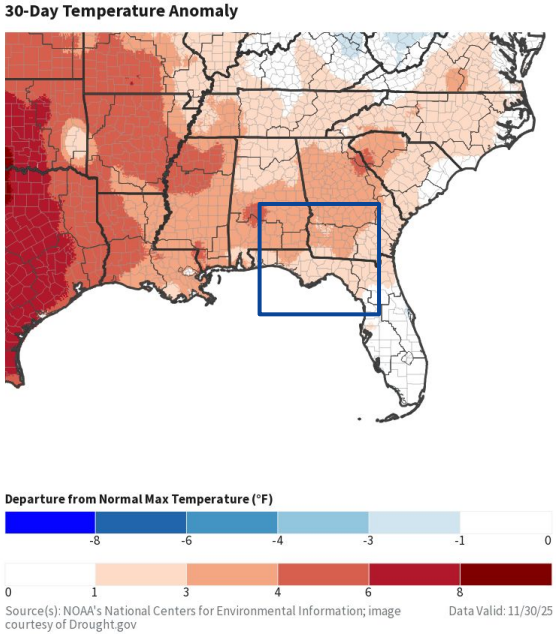


Image Captions:
Left - 7-Day Departure from Normal High Temperatures for the Southeast US
Right - 30-Day Departure from Normal High Temperature for the Southeast US
Data ending December 4, 2025

Summary of Impacts - Alabama

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows across Southeast Alabama have increased in the headwaters of the mainstem rivers, but overall remain below normal for this time of year. Flows on the Chattahoochee are regulated from upstream releases.

Agricultural Impacts

- Winter Planting - Recent rain has improved soil conditions where some planting is in progress.
- Supplementary feeding - This is widespread with hay being provided to livestock due to the lack of grazing or cover crop for feed being harvested.
- Several holding ponds remain especially low. This has forced some farmers to relocate herds to areas with at least some water.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index values are 400-550 within the five county region.
- While no burn bans are in effect, the Alabama Forestry Commission has issued a statewide Fire Danger Advisory. Houston County encourages against burning.

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality for mitigation information.

Other Impacts

- The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Office of Water Resources (ADECA OWR) has declared a **Drought Warning** for Drought Region 8, which includes Coffee, Dale, Geneva, Henry, and Houston Counties. ADECA's latest Drought Declaration can be found here.

Summary of Impacts - Georgia

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows across Southwest and South Central Georgia remain generally below normal, with a several areas of much below normal flow. The mainstem Flint River is below normal south of Albany. The Ochlockonee River is below normal. Smaller creeks, like the Ichawaynochaway and Spring Creek showed some improved responses to the recent rains, though some portions are still below normal for this time of year.

Agricultural Impacts

- Winter Planting - Recent rains have helped facilitate some winter planting, though this is more widespread further to the north of US-84.
- Supplementary feeding - This is widespread with hay being provided to livestock due to the lack of grazing or cover crop for feed.
- Holding ponds have dropped considerably with a few dry near the Florida border.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index values range 450 near the Chattahoochee River to 600 near I-75.
- Most counties are reporting several brush fire calls a day. While no burn bans are in effect, exercise caution when conducting any outdoor burning or recreational activities.

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality for mitigation information.

Summary of Impacts - Florida

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows across the Florida Panhandle and Florida Big Bend are below to much below normal. Much below normal flows are present on the Choctawhatchee and Ochlockonee Rivers. The Suwannee River is below normal throughout the reach with isolated spots of much below normal flow. Smaller rivers and streams are especially low, with the Sopchoppy and St Marks Rivers with flows in the 2nd percentile or less.
- Lake Talquin is especially low, comparable to levels from 2011/2012. Lake Jackson and Lake Iamonia are especially low, with boat launch access difficult in many areas.
- A recent report from Leon County at the San Luis Mission Park in Tallahassee showed considerable drying of the lake with the ground cracking. Normally, water extends under a wooden walkway, where the photo (upper right) was taken.
- The image at lower right is from Gaskin Park in Wewahitchka, Florida (Gulf County) near the lower portion of the Apalachicola River. Though flows on the Apalachicola River are regulated by releases from Jim Woodruff Dam, improved inflows have resulted in improved conditions downstream. Even so, streamflows are sufficiently low where docks are still out of the water and recreational activities have been impacted.

Summary of Impacts - Florida, continued

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

Agricultural Impacts

- Winter Planting - Farmers are able to proceed with some planting given recent rain for cover or grazing crops.
- Supplementary feeding - This is ongoing, especially for counties along the Georgia border where drought conditions have been at their worst.
- Holding ponds have dropped considerably or are dry.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index values range from 450 in Walton County to as high as 650 from Calhoun County eastward into Jefferson County.
- Burn bans across Florida have expanded and now include: Bay, Washington, Calhoun, Liberty, Gadsden, Leon, Jefferson, and Lafayette Counties.
- Most counties are reporting several brush fire calls a day.
- Any outdoor burning outside of burn ban areas should be done with caution.

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality for mitigation information.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows along many of our area rivers are running below to much below normal over the last two weeks, with some approaching top 3 lowest flows on record.
- Even our larger mainstem rivers are suffering from the low flows.
- As the winter wet season approaches, it will take significant rainfall to result in an improvement in current streamflow conditions.
- Recreational activities are limited on many area rivers. While paddle boats are not having significant issues, some recreational boats with motors are encountering low water areas that are not navigable on the Chipola and Apalachicola Rivers.
- Similar hazards are occurring on recreational lakes. Water levels on Lake Talquin are especially low, resulting in navigational hazards and poor access to boat ramps.

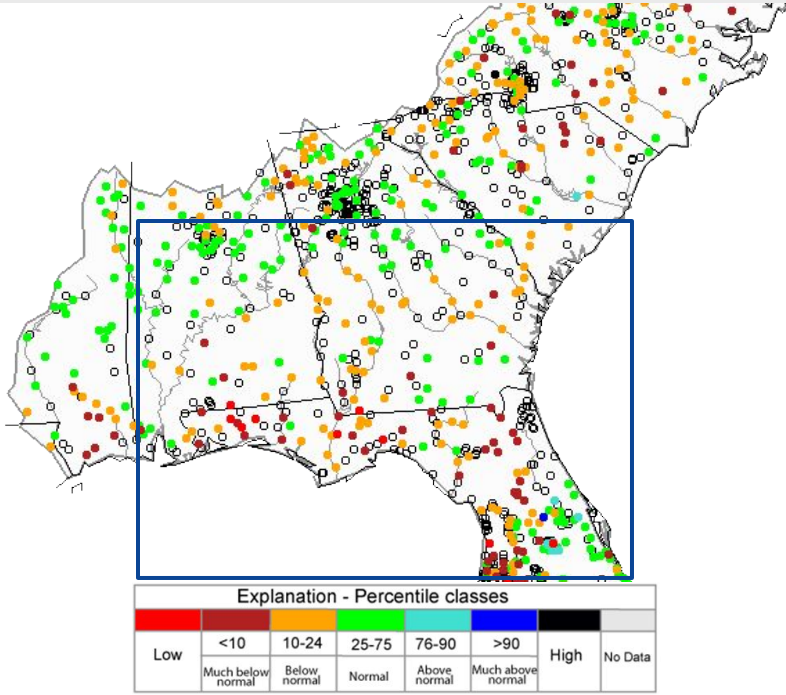


Image Caption: USGS 14 day average streamflow map valid December 4, 2025

Agricultural Impacts - Soil Moisture

- Near surface soils improved with recent rains on Tuesday, especially across the northwest portion of the area.
- Where rain was lighter further to the east from Tallahassee to Valdosta, soil improvement was modest.
- Deep layer soil moisture has not improved. In fact, some areas are actually showing worsening deep layer soil moisture conditions compared to last week.

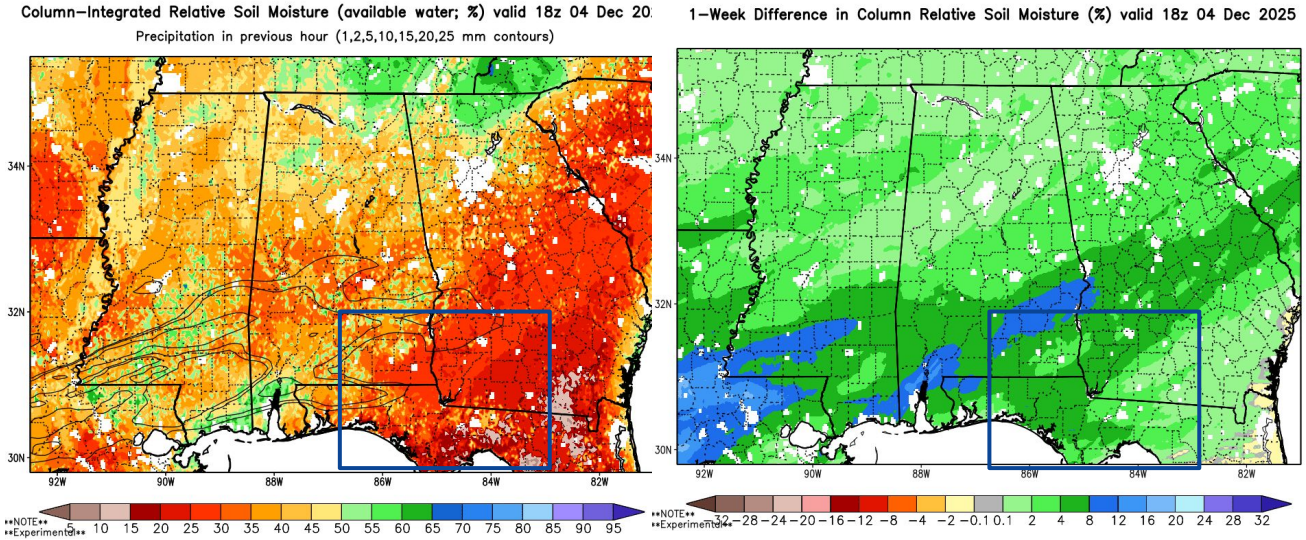


Image Captions:
Left: 0-200 cm Relative Soil Moisture from NASA SPoRT valid December 4, 2025
Right: 0-200 cm Relative Soil Moisture 2-week Change from NASA SPoRT valid through December 4, 2025

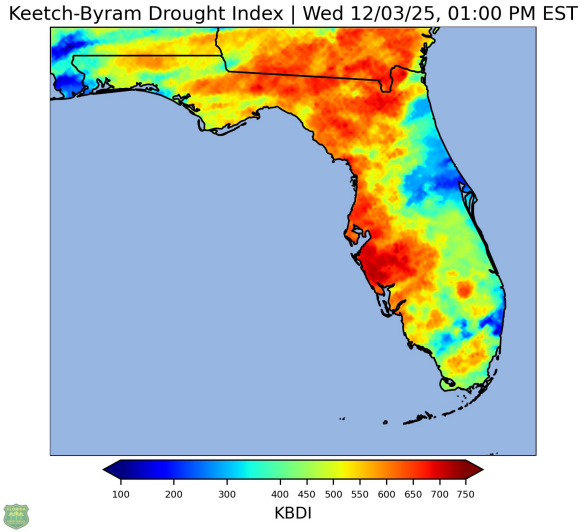
2025 Crop Reports
Alabama | Florida | Georgia

Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index values remain at or above 600 in the Exceptional Drought area.
- Multiple counties have burn bans in effect.
- The Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for January calls for near normal wildfire activity across much of the area

7-Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook from the Southern Area Coordination Center



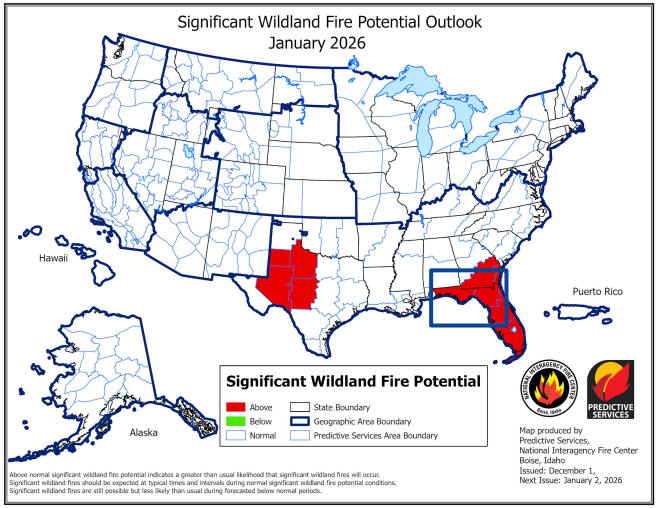


Image Captions:
Left - Keetch-Byram Drought Index valid December 3, 2025 (Florida Forest Service)
Right - Significant Wildland Fire Potential for January 2026 (National Interagency Coordination Center)

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- An increasingly wet pattern is expected through the upcoming weekend. Some locations could see as much as 4 inches of rain. After Sunday, the pattern shifts to drier conditions for the next few days.

- Precipitation outlooks from the Climate Prediction Center:
  - 6-10 day outlook (12/10-12/14): below normal
  - 8-14 day outlook (12/12-12/18): slightly below normal.

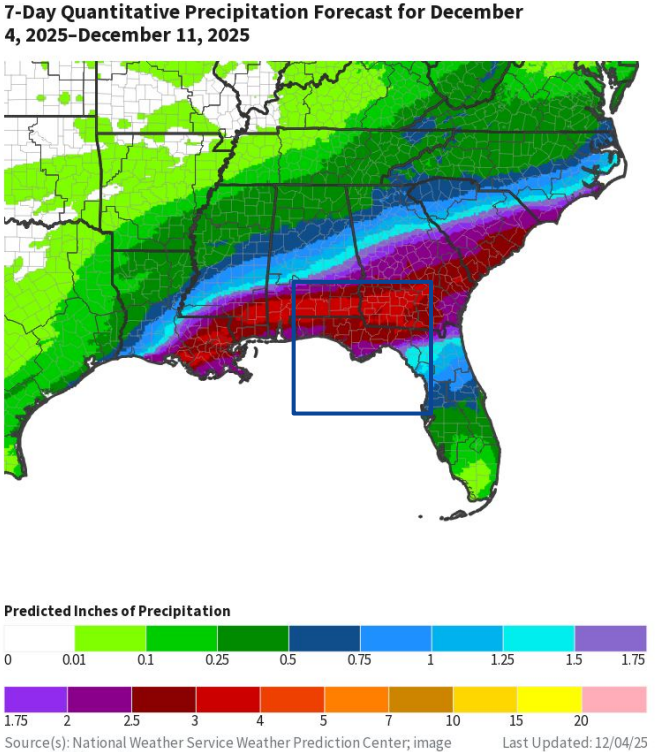


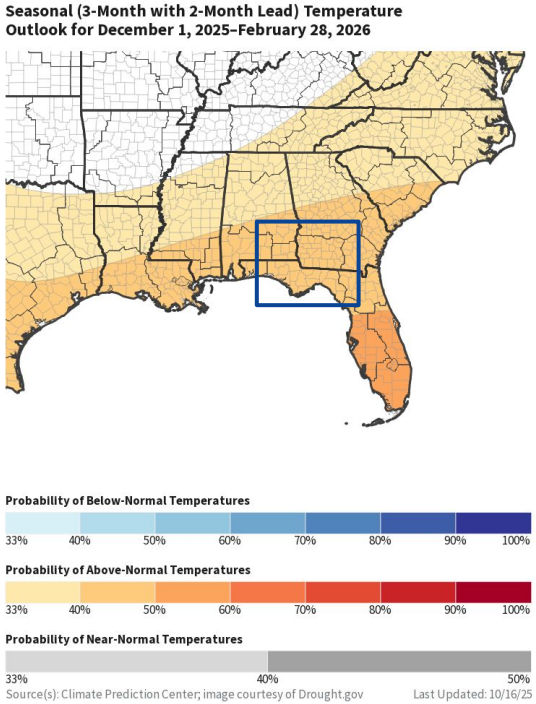
Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid Thursday, December 4, 2025 through December 11, 2025

Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The next 3 months are predicted to favor above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation.
- The Winter Outlook released by the Climate Prediction Center shows a classic La Nina pattern is most likely, with warmer than normal and drier than normal conditions likely.

	December		January		February	
Average	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain
Tallahassee	54.4°	4.24”	52.2°	4.41”	55.6°	4.25”
Apalachicola	56.5°	3.59”	54.0°	4.06”	56.8°	4.17”
Albany	52.7°	4.35”	50.5°	4.19”	54.0°	4.01”
Valdosta	53.2°	3.12”	50.7°	3.83”	54.6°	3.31”
Marianna	53.9°	4.81”	51.8°	4.04”	55.4°	4.49”
Dothan	53.1°	4.76”	50.8°	4.76”	54.6°	4.82”



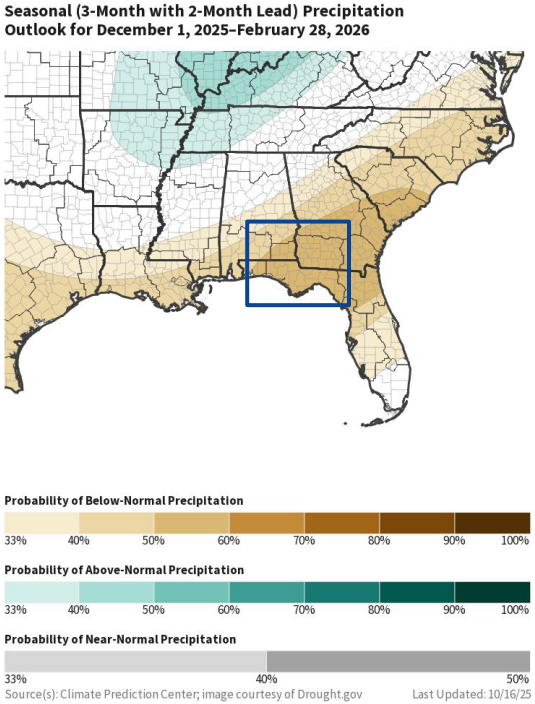


Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook.
Valid December 2025 to February 2026

Drought Outlook

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

- With recent and expected rains into the weekend, some drought improvement is likely.
- Longer term drought improvement is possible should precipitation trend more above normal than expected.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for November 30, 2025–February 28, 2026

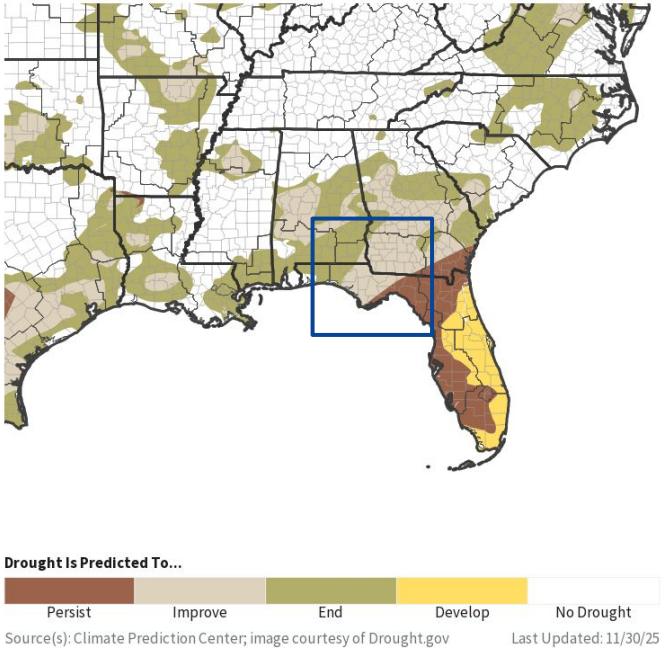


Image Caption:
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released November 20, 2025 valid for November 20, 2025 through February 28, 2026

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