



# Drought Information Statement for West Central & Southwest Florida

Valid January 6, 2024

Issued By: WFO Tampa Bay

Contact Information: [sr-tbw.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-tbw.webmaster@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated by Jan 13, 2024 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/tbw/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



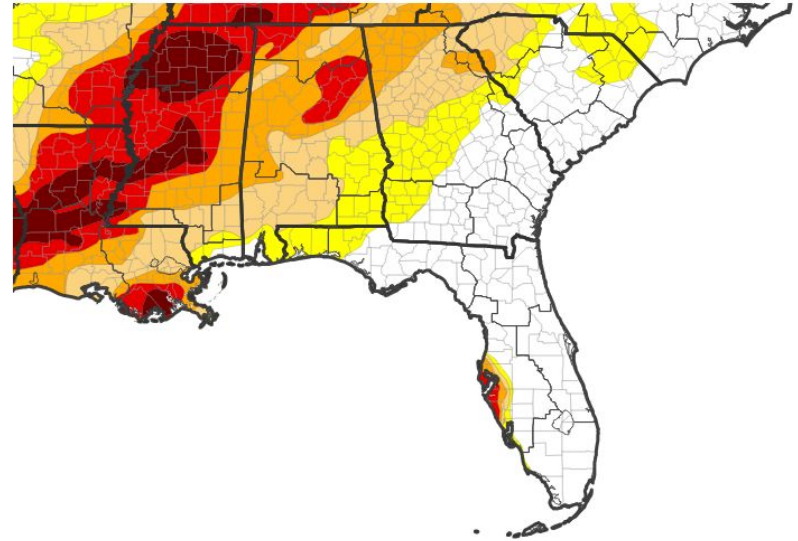


# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

- There has been improvement to drought conditions over portions of the southeast U.S. during the past few weeks, with drought removed from most of the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend. Improvement has also occurred across the southwest Florida peninsula. However, there's been little change across the west central Florida peninsula as long term drought persists.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 01/02/24

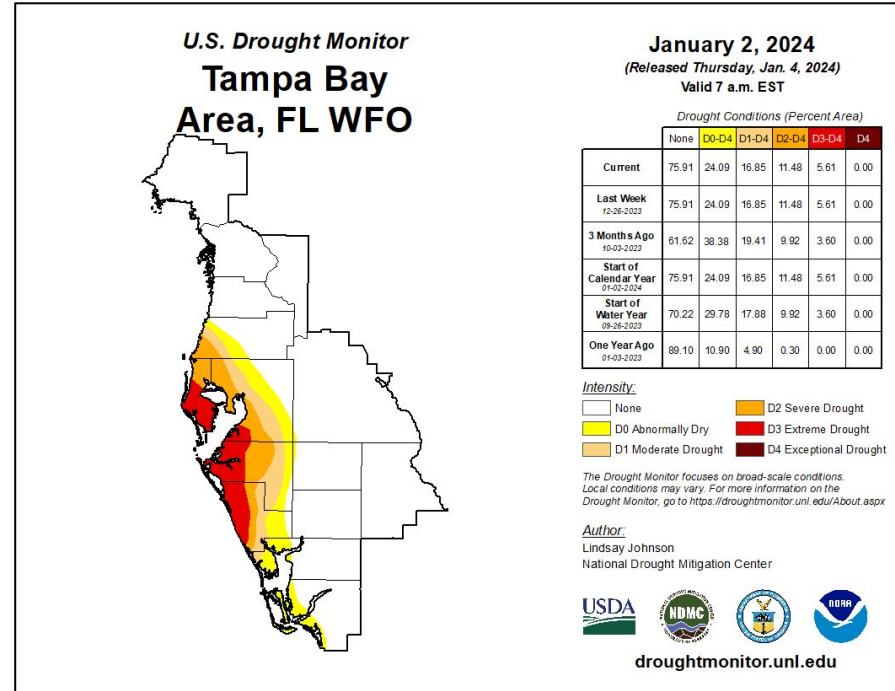




# U.S. Drought Monitor for WFO Tampa Bay Area

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Florida

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: along the coast from central Pinellas county south through Manatee county into central Sarasota county.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: bounded the D3 area across southwest Pasco, northern Pinellas, western Hillsborough, and inland portions of Manatee and Sarasota counties
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: bounds the D2 area from western Pasco county and extends south to Sarasota county.
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: bounds the D1 area from western Pasco county south to coastal Charlotte and Lee counties.

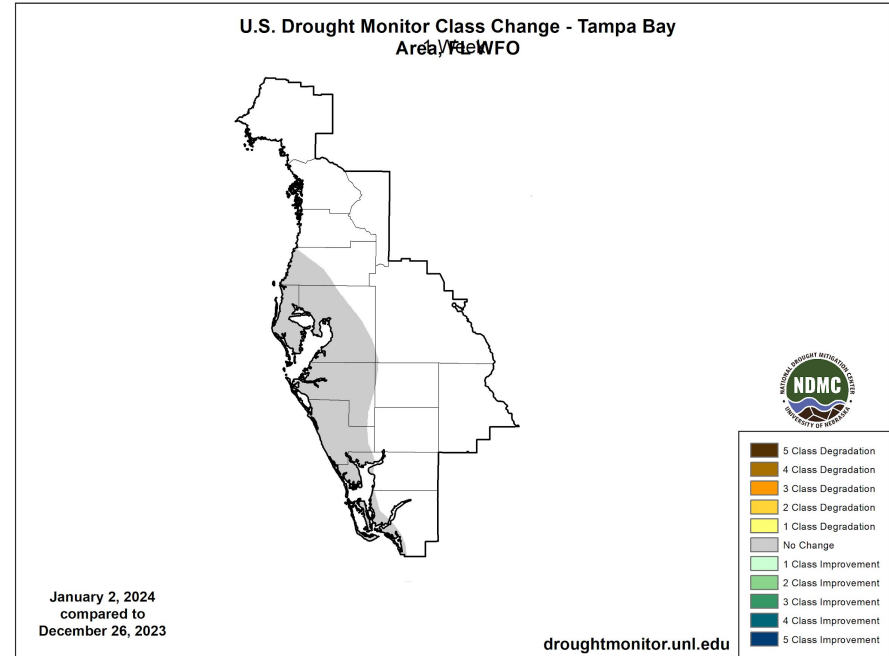




# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [1-week change map](#) for Florida

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - In the last week ending Tuesday January 2, there was no changes across west central and southwest Florida.





# Precipitation

## Table of Accumulated Rainfall (inches) for Select Locations - January 1, 2023 to January 5, 2024

The following table gives the rainfall from January 1, 2023 to January 5, 2024:

Station	Site Id	Observed Rainfall	30 Yr Normal	Dep fm Normal	Percent of Normal
Tampa Area	TPA:	37.43	49.88	-12.45	75%
St Pete/Clearwater	PIE:	*31.53	54.02	-22.49	58
St Petersburg Area	SPG:	33.71	47.03	-13.32	72%
NWS Ruskin	TBW:	33.14	54.02	-20.88	61
Winter Haven Area	GIF:	46.48	46.47	+0.01	100
Sarasota-Bradenton Area	SRQ:	27.14	49.53	-22.39	55%
Fort Myers/Page Field	FMY:	**49.02	57.77	-8.75	85
Fort Myers/SW Intl Apt	RSW:	44.91	53.68	-8.77	84%
Plant City	PLCF1:	51.57	56.61	-5.04	91
Lakeland	LLDF1:	50.67	57.27	-6.60	88%
Bradenton 5 ESE	BRAF1:	44.42	56.69	-12.27	78%
Venice	VNCF1:	29.83	51.71	-21.88	58%

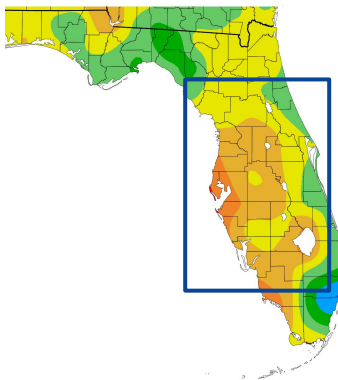
\*Rainfall missing on August 20, 2023. Radar estimate of 0.50 inches included in this total

\*\*Rainfall missing on June 2, 2023. Radar estimate of 1.90 inches included in this total

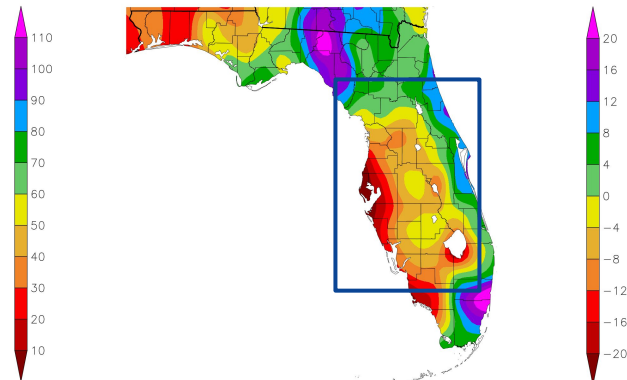
The following table gives the rainfall from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023:

Station	Site Id	Observed Rainfall	30 Yr Normal	Dep fm Normal	Percent of Normal
Chiefland 5 SE	CHIF1:	50.41	57.10	-6.69	88%
St Leo	STLF1:	47.21	53.46	-6.25	88%
Bartow	BARF1:	47.92	50.88	-2.96	94%
Myakka River State Pk	MKCF1:	47.62	61.07	-13.45	78%
Wauchula 2 N	WAUF1:	43.63	52.00	-8.37	84%

Precipitation (in)  
1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023



Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
1/1/2023 - 12/31/2023



**2023 was the Driest Year on record at Sarasota-Bradenton Area and NWS Ruskin!**

**Venice had its 2nd Driest Year**







# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Widespread rainfall this past week allowed rivers and streams across west central and southwest Florida have allowed rivers and streams to maintain at levels near to above climatological normal.

## Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

## Mitigation Actions

- Water conservation techniques are strongly encouraged in drought areas. One day a week watering restrictions are in effect for Hillsborough, Pinellas, and Pasco counties, along with Cape Coral and unincorporated Lee county. Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information. Local water restriction ordinances may be in place.

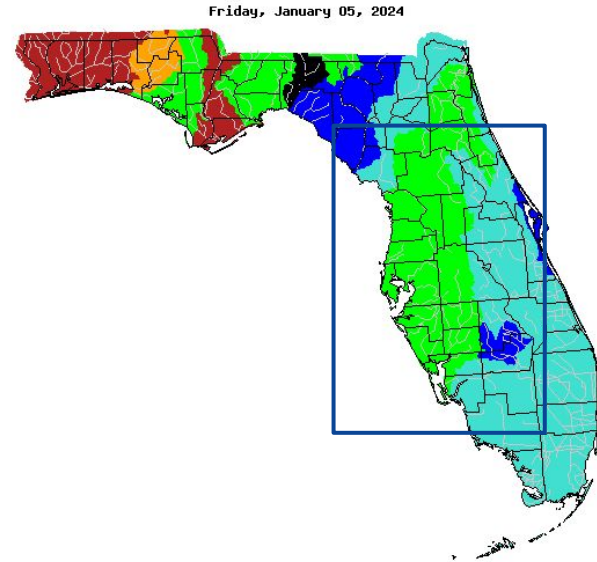




# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid January 5, 2024

- Rainfall during the past week generally ranged from 0.25 to 0.50 inches across the nature coast, with a stripe of 0.50 to 1 inch across the Tampa and Fort Myers areas. Streamflows are running near to above normal across the region.



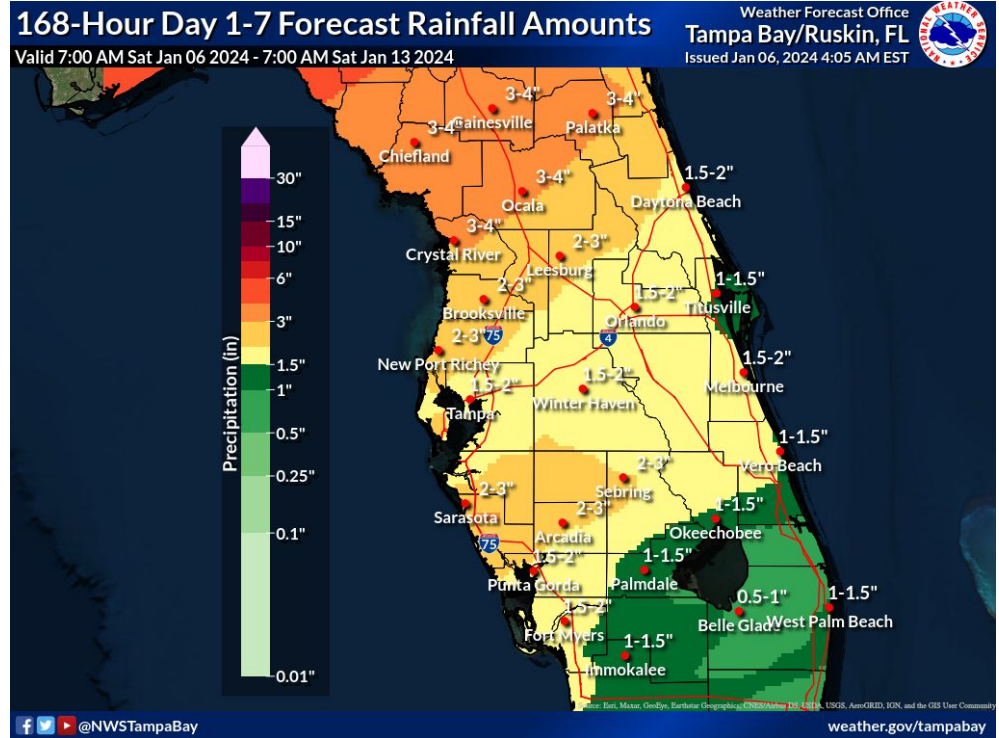
Explanation - Percentile classes								
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data	
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal			





# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Rainfall during the next week is forecast to range from about a 1.50 to 4 inches across west central and southwest Florida.



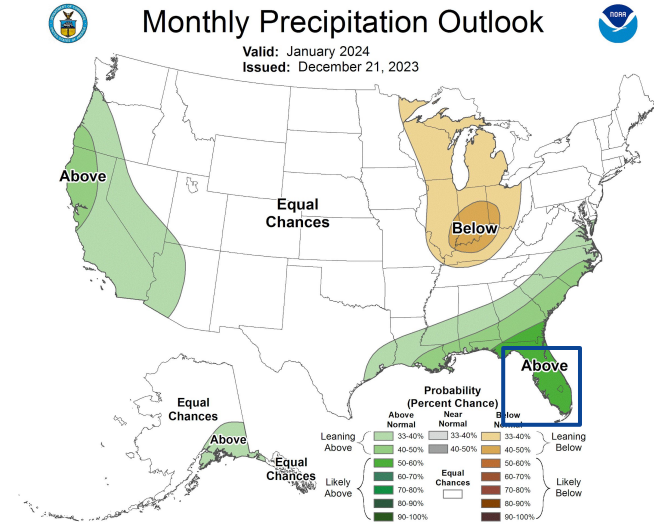
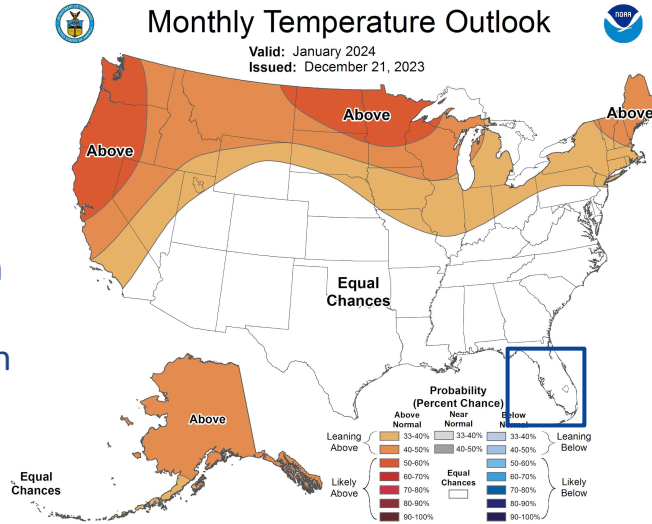




# Long-Range Monthly Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Equal chances of above, below, and near normal temperatures are forecast for January.
- Above normal precipitation is likely across the Florida peninsula during the month of January.

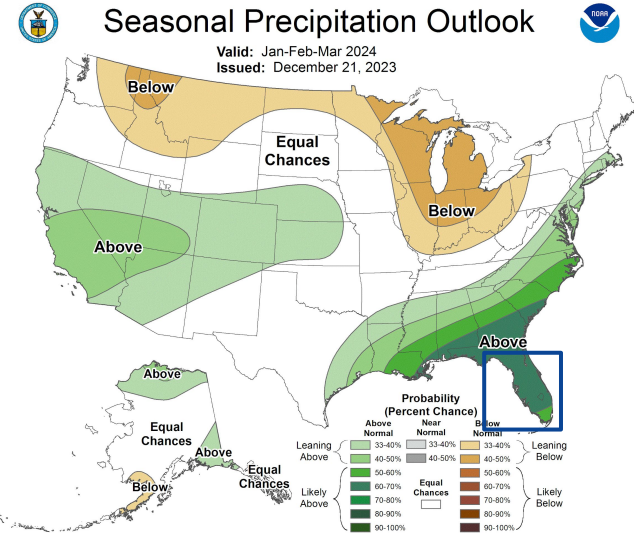
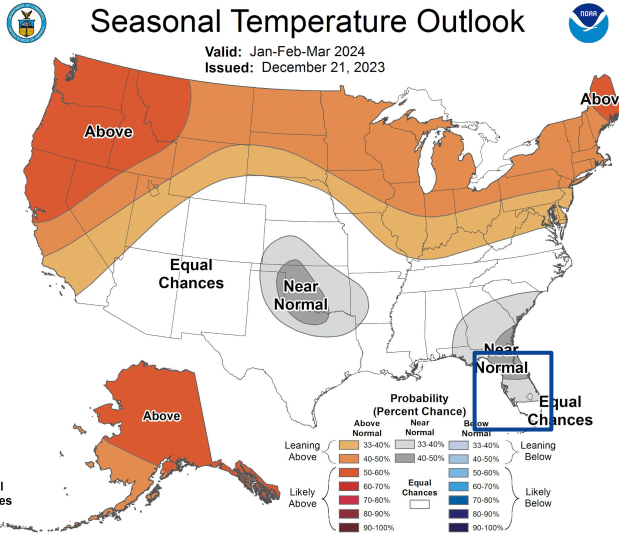




# Long-Range Seasonal Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Near normal temperatures are forecast for January through March.
- Above normal precipitation is likely during the period January through March.

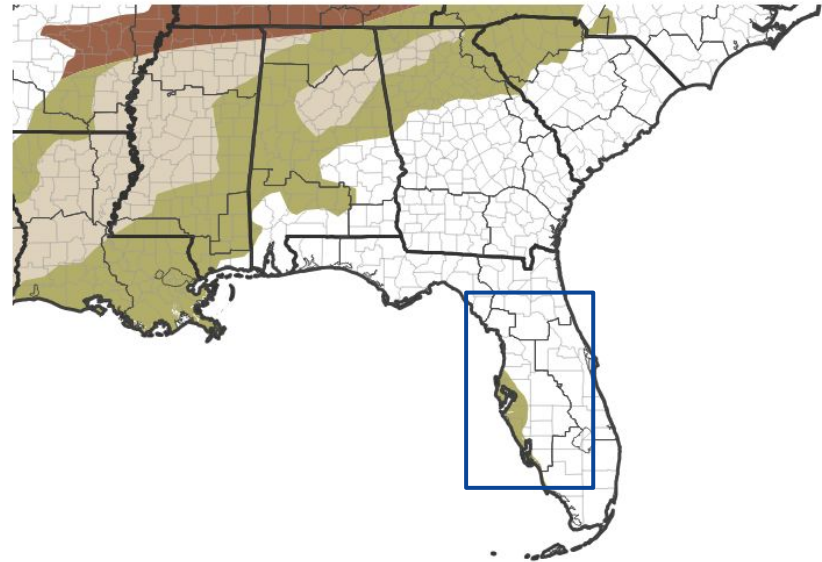




# Drought Outlook

Seasonal Drought Outlook through March

- The outlook for wetter than normal weather during this winter should ease Drought conditions.



Drought Is Predicted To...



Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Tampa Bay