Drought Information Statement for West Central and Southwest Florida

Valid May 8, 2025

Issued By: WFO Tampa Bay

Contact Information: sr-tbw.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated by May 16, 2025, 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.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/ for regional drought status updates.

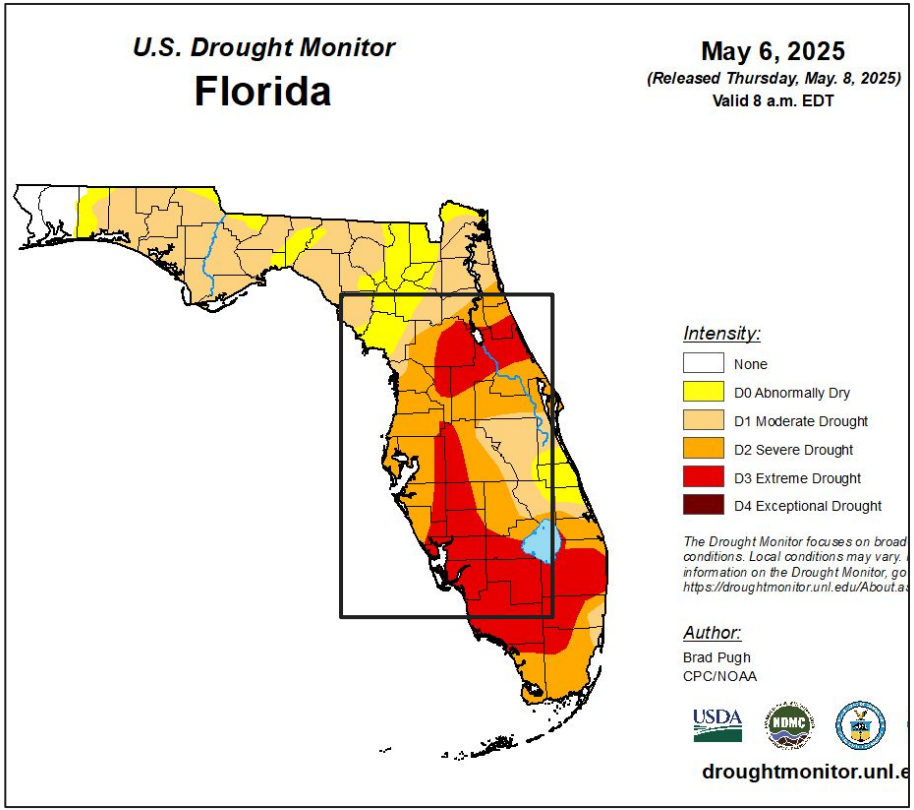
- Below normal rainfall has occurred over the last several months, with Severe (D2) to Extreme (D3) drought conditions expanding across most of the region.

- Some much needed rainfall is expected this weekend into early next week which could alleviate some of the worst drought, but overall dry conditions are expected to continue until the summer thunderstorm season gets underway late this month or early June.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for Florida

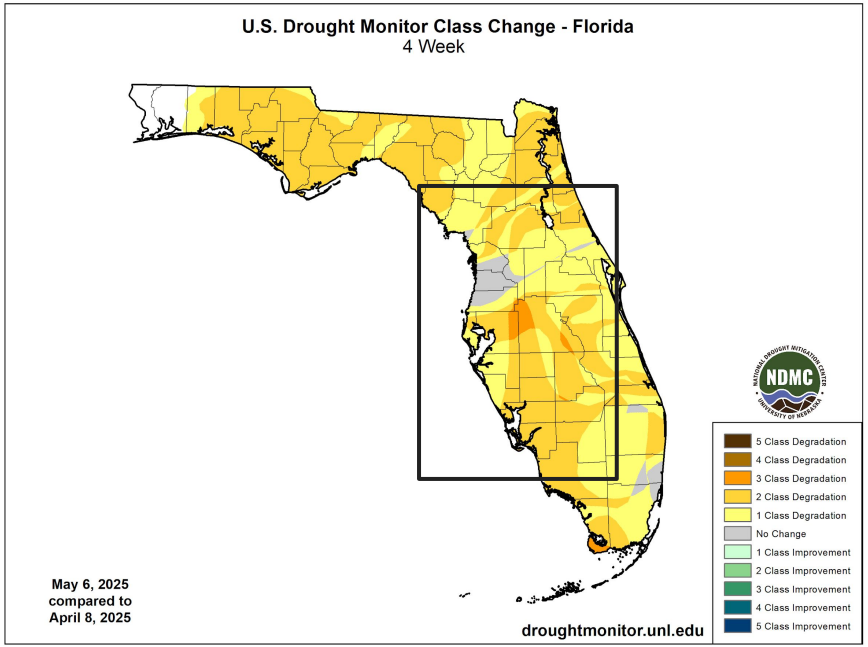
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Continues across parts of Sumter County and has been expanded north from southwest Florida into inland portions of the Tampa Bay area.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Continues across much of the Nature Coast, and the rest of the Tampa Bay area.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Across eastern parts of Levy County.
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Remains over western and central parts of Levy County.



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for Florida

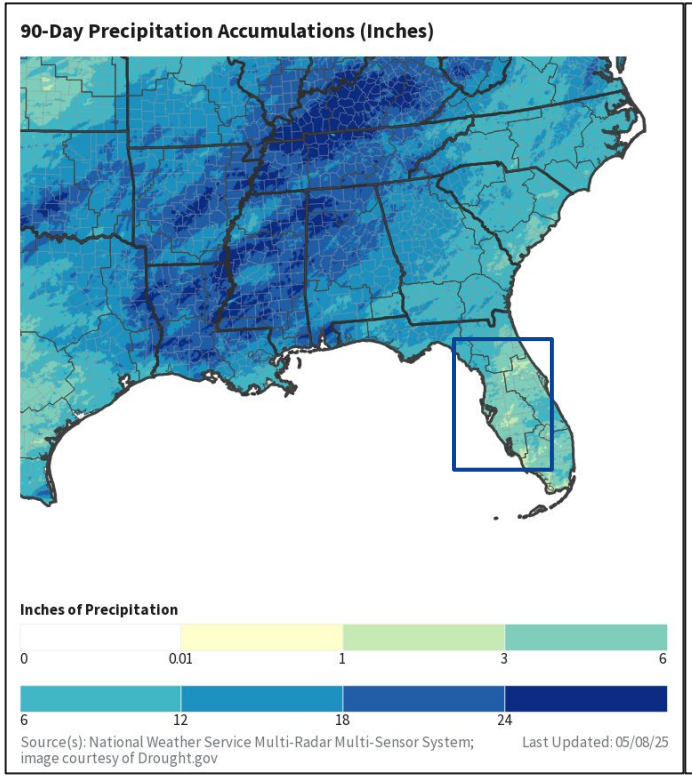
- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: Across much of central and southwest Florida.
  - No Change: Parts of Citrus, Hernando and Pasco Counties have remained unchanged (gray areas on map).

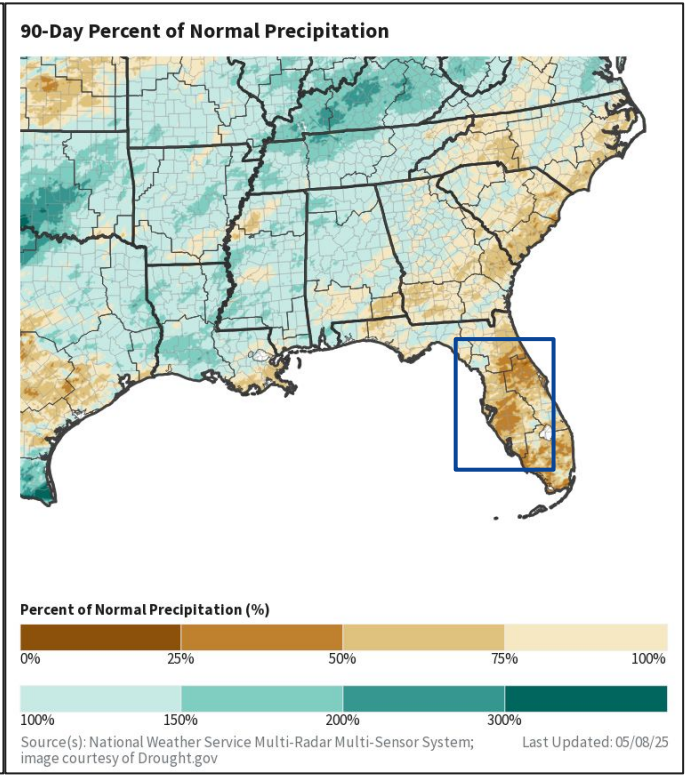


90-Day Precipitation

Links to the latest Precipitation Accumulation and Percent of Normal over the past 90 days

- Over the last 90 days most of the region has seen less than 50% of normal rainfall.





Precipitation

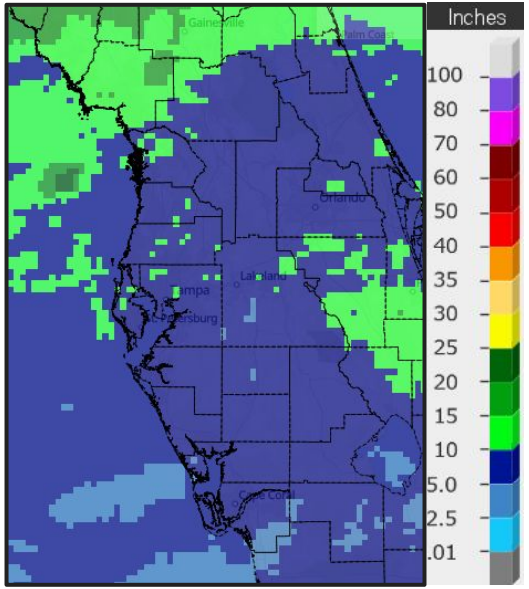
Table of Accumulated Rainfall (inches) for Select Locations - November 1, 2024 to May 7, 2025

The following table gives the rainfall from November 1, 2024 to May 7, 2025:

Station	Site Id	Observed Rainfall	30 Yr Normal	Dep fm Normal	Percent of Normal
Tampa Area	TPA:	10.35	14.81	-4.46	70%
St Pete/Clearwater	PIE:	7.20	15.04	-7.84	48%
St Petersburg Area	SPG:	6.14	13.26	-7.12	46%
NWS Ruskin	TBW:	6.85	15.68	-8.83	44%
Winter Haven Area	GIF:	8.80	15.02	-6.22	59%
Sarasota-Bradenton Area	SRQ:	6.24	14.60	-8.36	43%
Punta Gorda Area	PGD:	6.65	13.89	-7.24	48%
Fort Myers/Page Field	FMY:	7.41	12.93	-5.52	57%
Fort Myers/SW Intl Apt	RSW:	5.19	11.56	-6.37	45%
Chiefland 5 SE	CHIF1:	17.68	19.63	-1.95	90%
Inverness 3 SE	INVF1:	7.16	16.41	-9.25	44%
Plant City	PLCF1:	6.90	15.87	-8.97	43%
Lakeland	LLDF1:	7.71	16.35	-8.64	47%
Bradenton 5 ESE	BRAF1:	5.91	15.06	-9.15	39%

The following table gives the rainfall from November 1, 2024 to April 30, 2025:

Station	Site Id	Observed Rainfall	30 Yr Normal	Dep fm Normal	Percent of Normal
Bartow	BARF1:	5.11	13.97	-8.86	37%
Mountain Lake	LWLF1:	7.72	14.28	-6.56	54%
Myakka River St Pk	MKCF1:	7.33	15.80	-8.47	46%
Archbold Bio Stn	ACHF1:	7.55	13.61	-6.06	55%



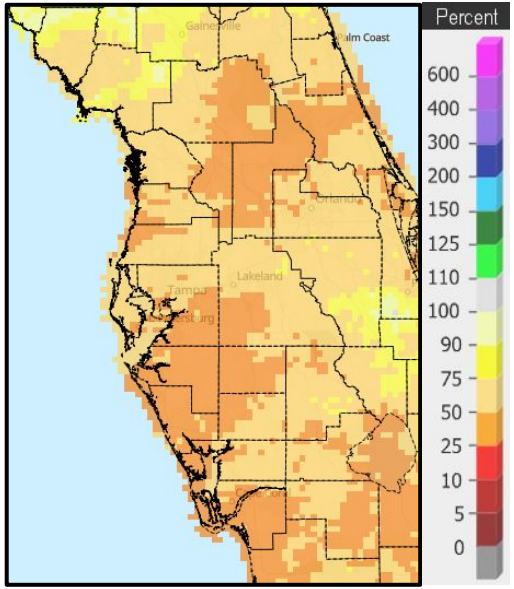


Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount for Florida Peninsula
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Florida Peninsula
Data from National Water Prediction Service
Data for November 1, 2024 to May 7, 2025

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

USGS 7-day Average Streamflow HUC map for Florida

- Streamflows are continuing to run below to much below normal in parts of West Central and Southwest Florida.
- Values averaged over the past 7 days are much below normal (<10%, dark red on map) over parts of Hillsborough, Manatee and Sarasota Counties.
- Below normal (10-24% of normal, orange on map) streamflows are occuring in eastern parts of Hillsborough, western Polk, much of Manatee, Hardee, and Desoto Counties, as well as part Charlotte County.

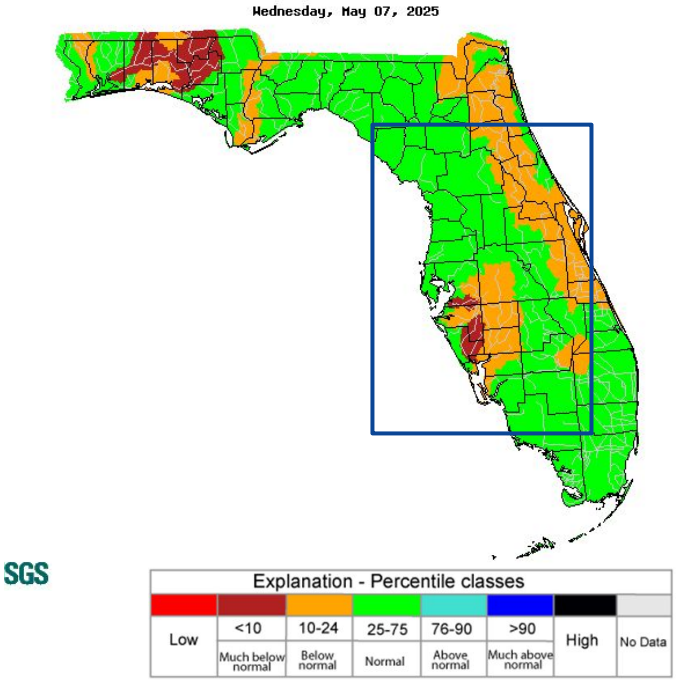


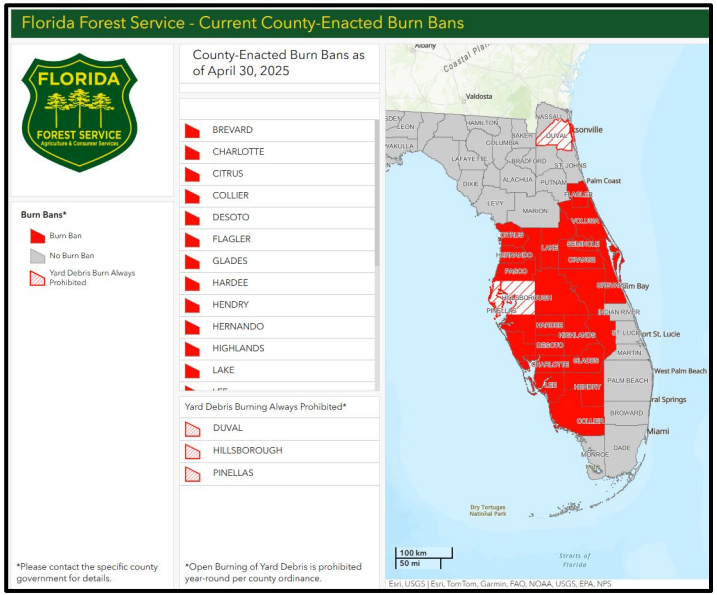
Image Caption: USGS 7-day average streamflow HUC map
Valid 05/07/2025

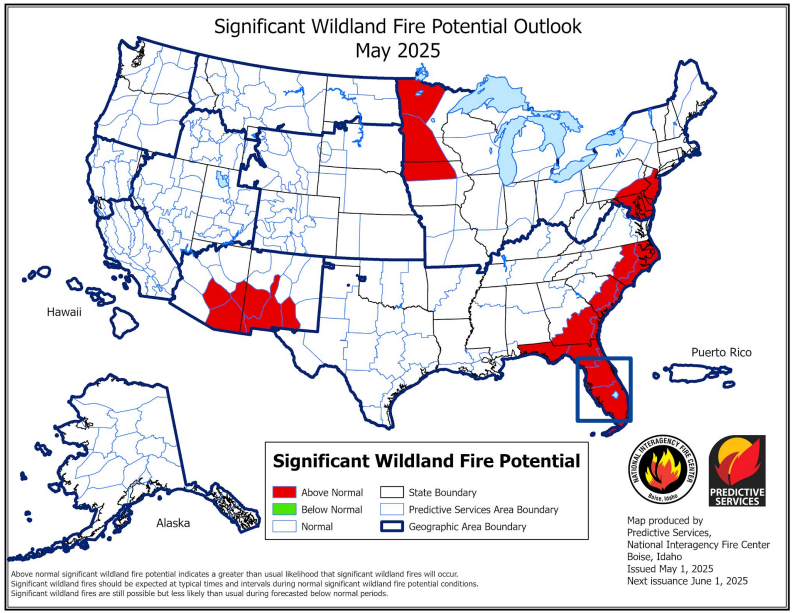
Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Burn bans remain in effect for all West Central and Southwest Florida, except for Levy County.
- The potential for significant wildland fires remains above normal.

Latest Florida Burn Ban map available [here].





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- The latest 7-day average streamflow indicates an increase in locations reporting values that are below normal (10-24% of normal) to much below normal (<10% of normal), across central and southwest Florida. (https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/?m=real&r=fl&w=map).

Agricultural Impacts

- Pastures and farmlands continue to dry out providing very little or no feed. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Burn bans remain in effect for most of West Central and Southwest Florida (FFS Map). Also, due to the drier conditions, the potential for significant wildland fires remains above normal for May and June. (https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/predictive-services/outlooks)

Other Impacts

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) values have been increasing across the region, with highest values ranging from 550-699 across most of central and southwest Florida. (https://fireweather.fdacs.gov/wx/kbdi_index.html)

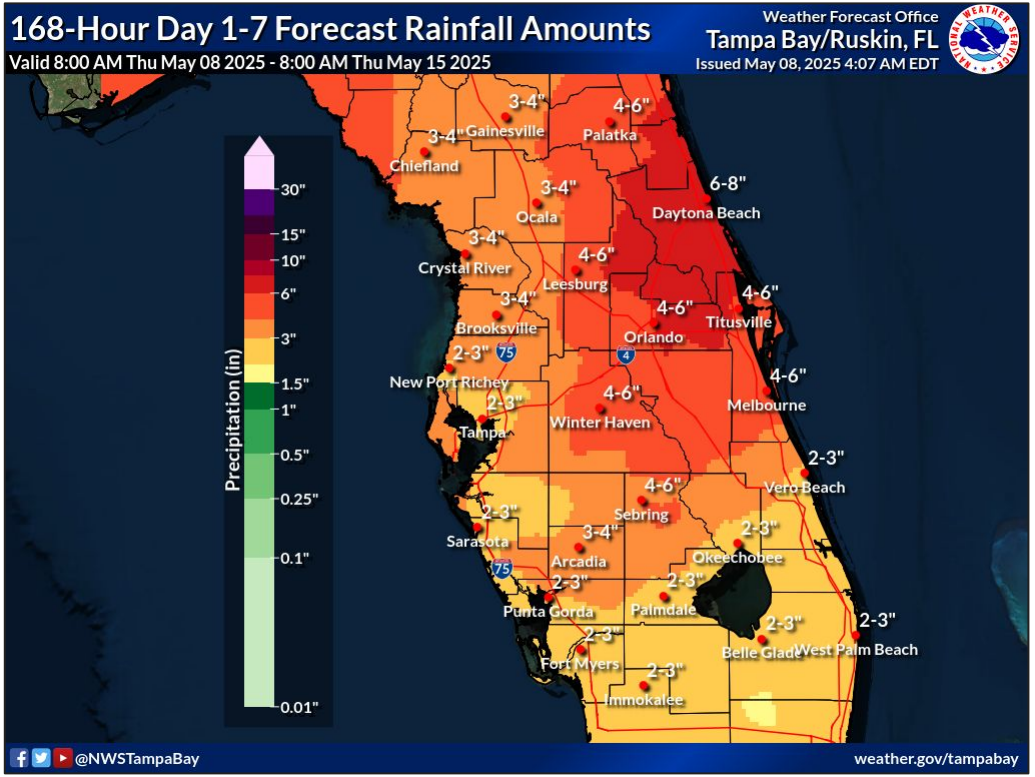
Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Numerous showers and thunderstorms are in the forecast for this weekend into early next week with rainfall amounts ranging from 2 to possibly 6 inches in some spots.

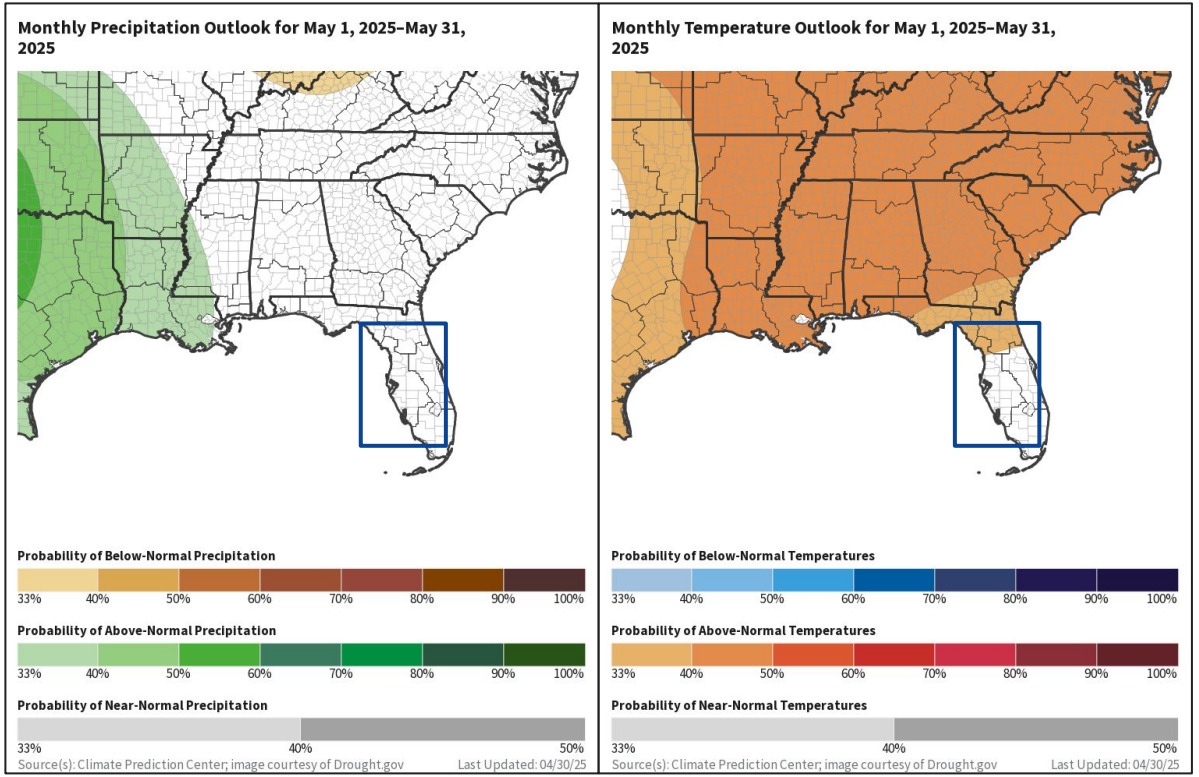
- Highest rainfall amounts are expected over the interior and eastern half of the Florida peninsula..



Monthly Outlooks

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

- May Outlook calling for equal chances of above, below, or near normal rainfall, and equal chances to a 33-40% chance of above normal temperatures.

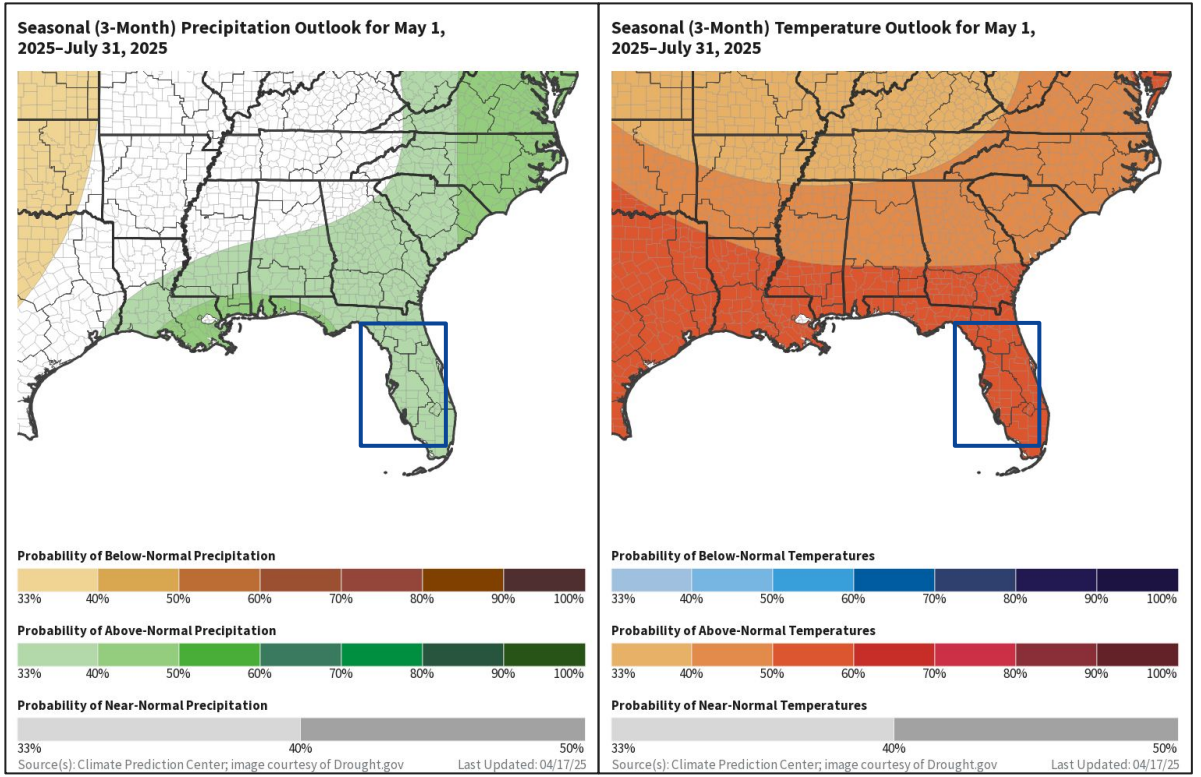


Seasonal Outlooks

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

- Warmer than normal conditions are expected to persist through July with a 50-60% chance of above normal temperatures.

- Rainfall is expected to return with a 33-40% chance of above normal amounts during May through July. This is associated with the return of the Summer Thunderstorm Season, which usually begins in late May or early June.

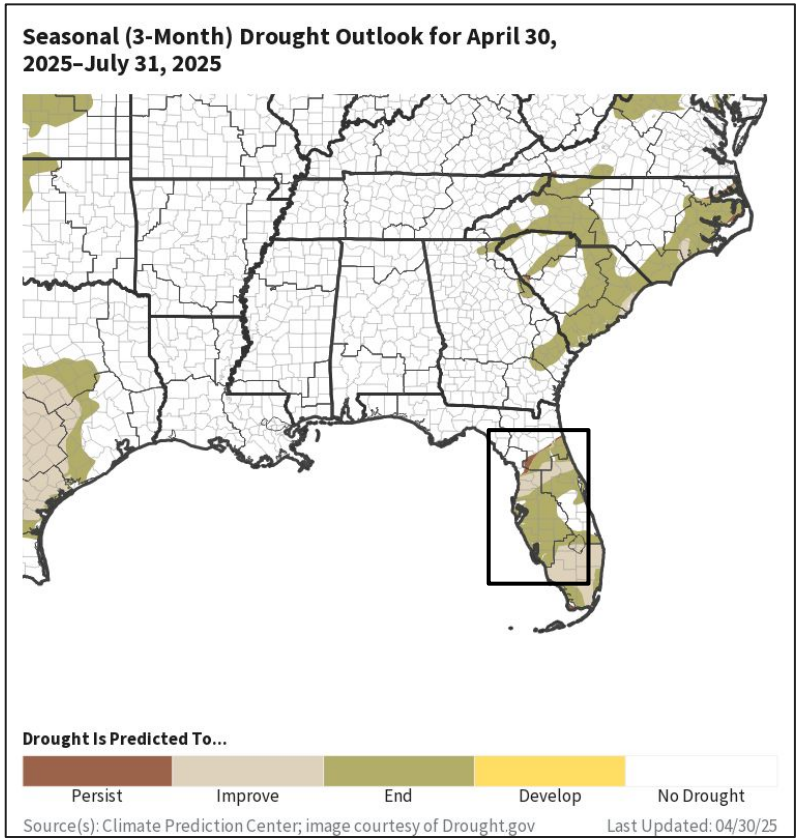


Seasonal Drought Outlook

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

- The outlook through May is for drought conditions to generally persist or worsen across west central and southwest Florida, as chances lean toward below normal rainfall continuing through this period.

- However, as the wet season begins across the Florida peninsula (typically toward late May/early June), then drought conditions are forecast to gradually improve or even end by late July.



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