



Drought Information Statement for West Central and Southwest Florida

Valid May 15, 2025

Issued By: WFO Tampa Bay

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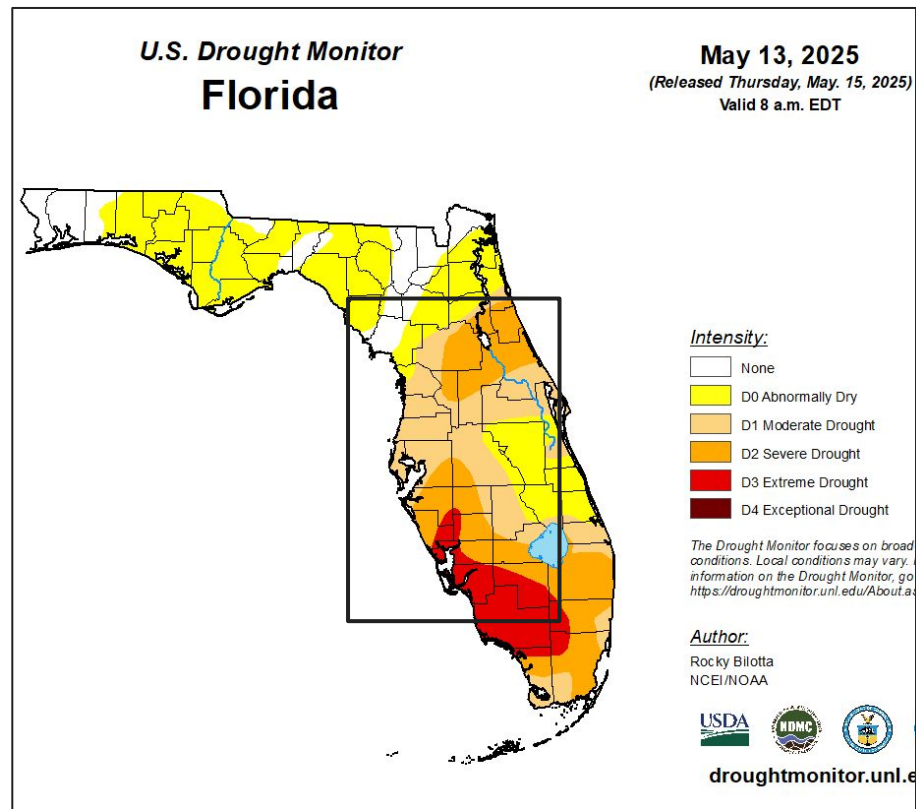
- This product will be updated by May 23, 2025, or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
 - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
 - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/tbw/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - 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 drought conditions across most of the region.
 - Some much needed rainfall fell this past week which did provide a one category improvement for some areas of west central Florida. However, 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 southwest Florida.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Continues southeast of the Tampa Bay area.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Across much of central areas and the nature coast.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: A small sliver remains over eastern Levy County and along the Kissimmee River Valley.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

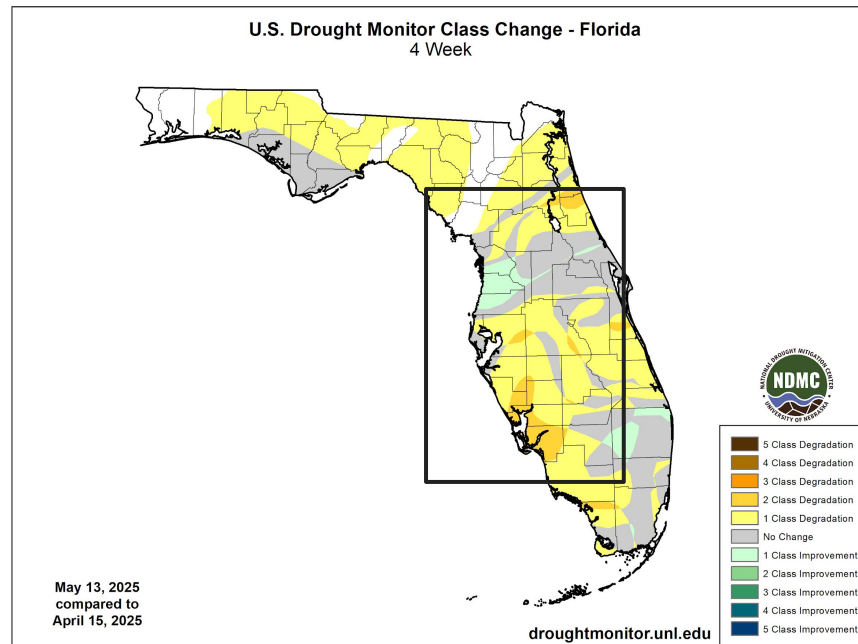
National Weather Service
Tampa Bay Area



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 to slight improvement: Parts of Citrus, Hernando and Pasco Counties (gray and green areas on map).



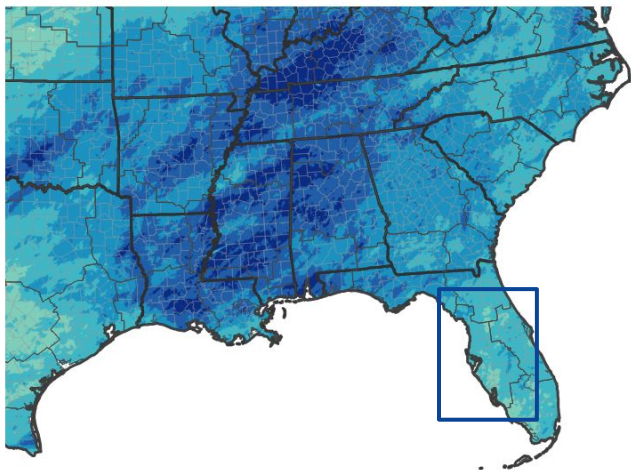


90-Day Precipitation

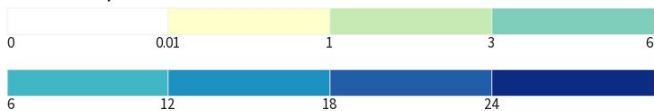
Links to the latest [Precipitation Accumulation](#) and [Percent of Normal](#) over the past 90 days

- Solely due to recent heavy rainfall, above normal rain has occurred over the interior during the past 90 days. The remainder of the region has generally seen 50 to 75 percent of normal rainfall during the last 90 days.

90-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



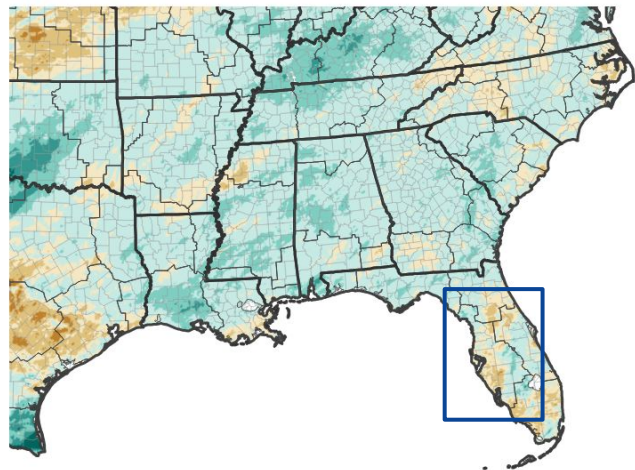
Inches of Precipitation



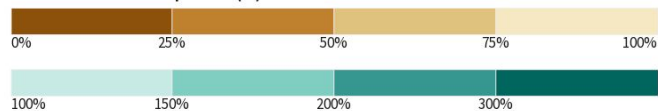
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 05/15/25

90-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



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

Last Updated: 05/15/25





Precipitation

Table of Accumulated Rainfall (inches) for Select Locations - November 1, 2024 to May 15, 2025

The following table gives the rainfall from November 1, 2024 to May 15, 2025:

Station	Site Id	Observed Rainfall	30 Yr Normal	Dep fm Normal	Percent of Normal
Tampa Area	TPA:	12.74	15.35	-2.61	83%
St Pete/Clearwater	PIE:	8.91	15.55	-6.64	57%
St Petersburg Area	SPG:	8.43	13.75	-5.32	61%
NWS Ruskin	TBW:	10.05	16.36	-6.31	61%
Brooksville Area	BKV:	8.77	15.70	-6.93	56%
Winter Haven Area	GIF:	11.73	15.54	-3.81	75%
Sarasota-Bradenton Area	SRQ:	7.86	15.13	-7.27	52%
Punta Gorda Area	PGD:	7.72	14.55	-6.83	53%
Fort Myers/Page Field	FMY:	10.37	13.62	-3.25	76%
Fort Myers/SW Intl Apt	RSW:	7.37	12.12	-4.75	61%
Chiefland 5 SE	CHIF1:	18.73	20.16	-1.43	93%
Inverness 3 SE	INVF1:	10.30	16.96	-6.66	61%
Tarpon Springs	TRPF1:	10.14	16.91	-6.77	60%
Plant City	PLCF1:	10.44	16.65	-6.21	63%
Lakeland	LDDF1:	11.36	17.17	-5.81	66%
Bradenton 5 ESE	BRAF1:	7.53	15.79	-8.26	48%
Venice	VNCF1:	8.78	15.21	-6.43	58%

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
St. Leo	STLF1:	6.49	16.07	-9.58	40%
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%
Wauchula	WAUF1:	6.37	14.47	-8.10	44%
Archbold Bio Stn	ACHF1:	7.55	13.61	-6.06	55%

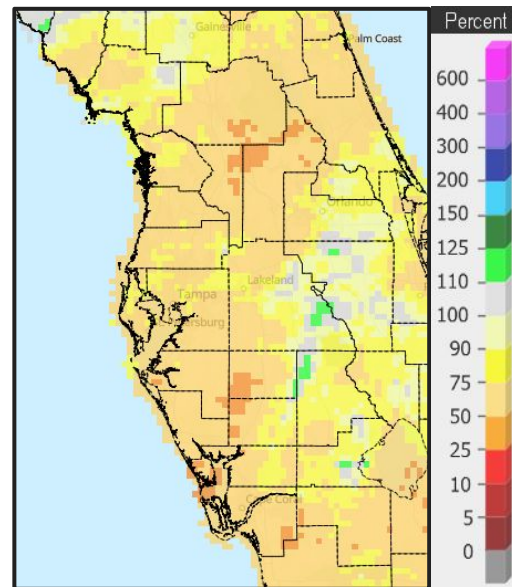
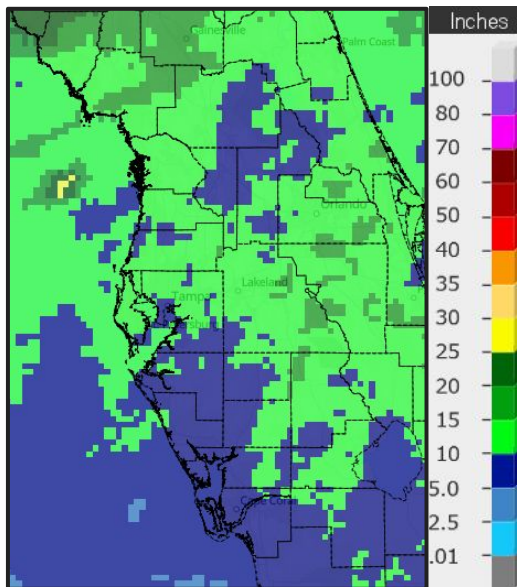


Image Captions:

Left - Precipitation Amount

Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation

Data from National Water Prediction Service
Data for November 15, 2024 to May 15, 2025



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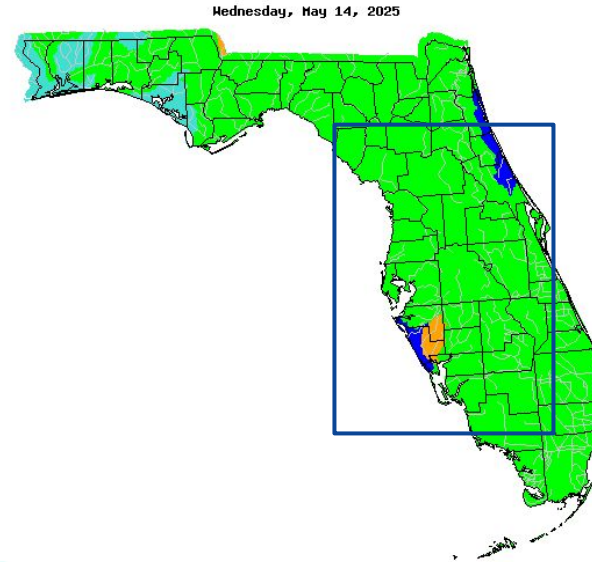
National Weather Service
Tampa Bay Area



Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

USGS 7-day Average Streamflow HUC map for Florida

- Recent rainfall has allowed streamflows to rise to near or above normal levels across most of West Central and Southwest Florida. This will likely be short lived as dry hot conditions have returned to 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		

Image Caption: USGS 7-day average streamflow HUC map
Valid 05/14/2025



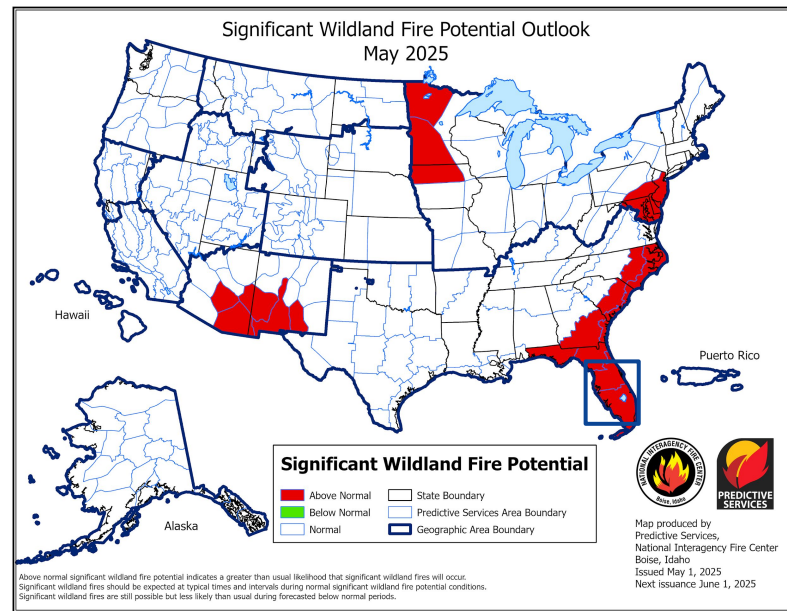
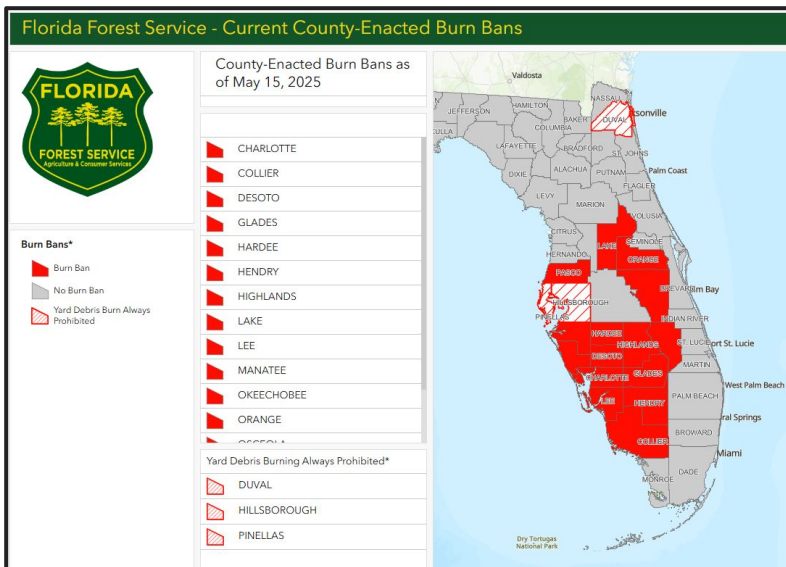


Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Burn bans remain in effect for portions of West Central and Southwest Florida.
- 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 has greatly improved across the area due to recent heavy rainfall. Most rivers and streams are reporting near to above normal streamflows.
(<https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/?m=real&r=fl&w=map>).

Agricultural Impacts

- Recent rainfall has yet to benefit pastures and farmlands, providing very little or no feed. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Burn bans remain in effect for portions of West Central and Southwest Florida ([FFS Map](#)). Due to longer term dry 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 improved significantly across the region, with highest values ranging from 450-499 across Sarasota, Charlotte, and Lee counties.
(https://fireweather.fdacs.gov/wx/kbdi_index.html)

Mitigation Actions

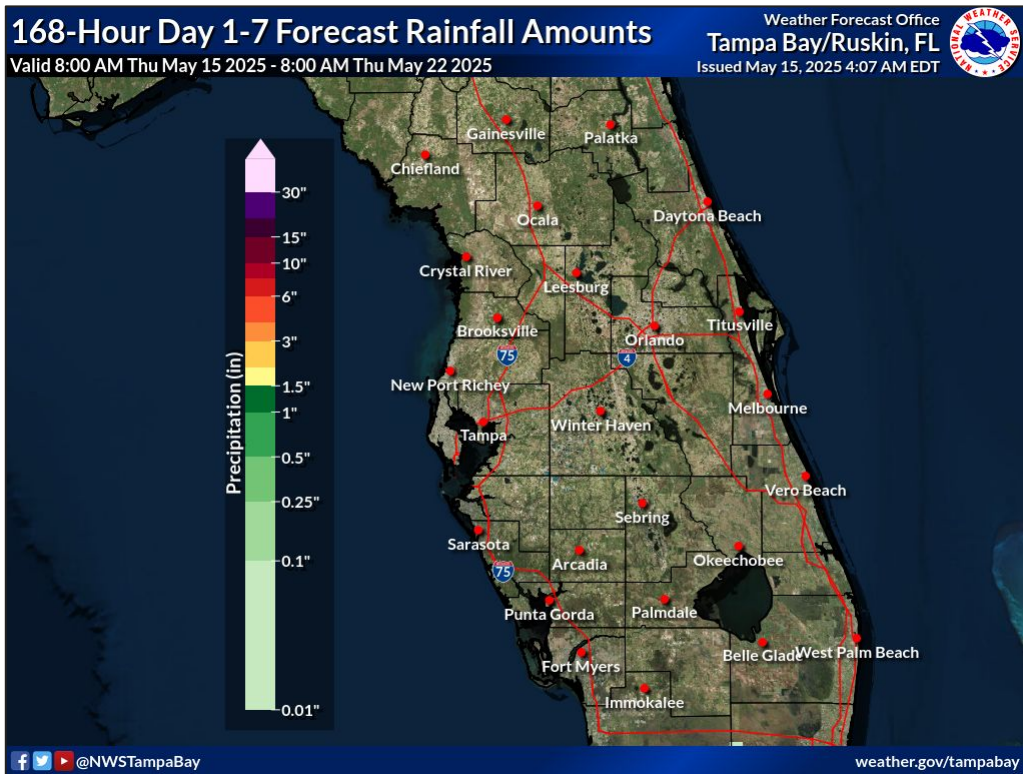
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Little if any rainfall is expected over the next week.

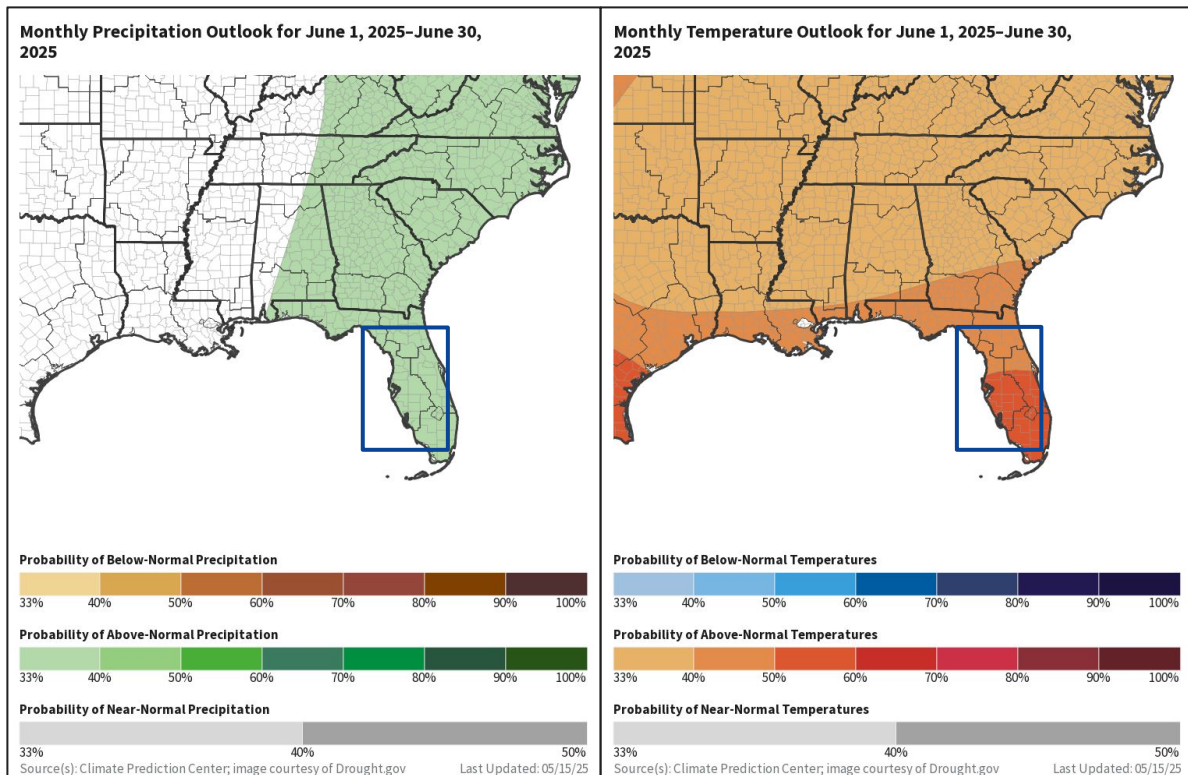




Monthly Outlooks

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

- The outlook for June is calling for a 33-40% chance of above normal rainfall, and a 40-60% chance of above normal temperatures.

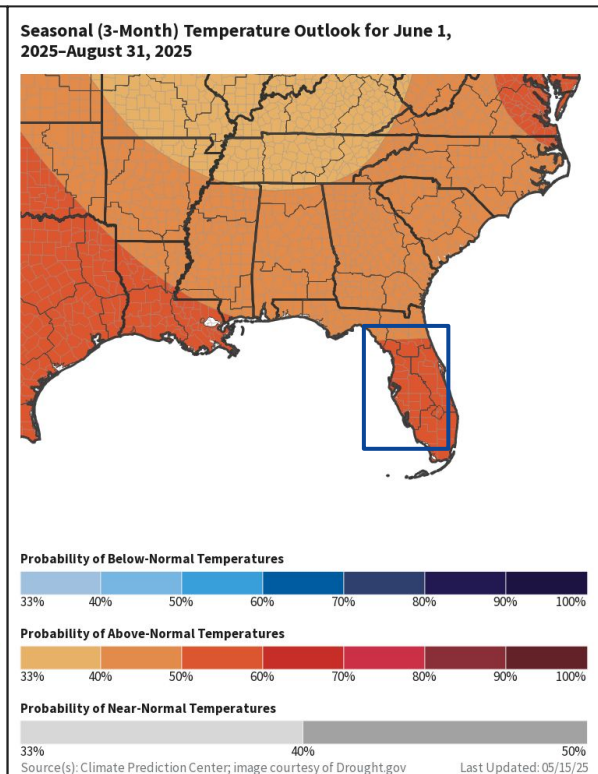
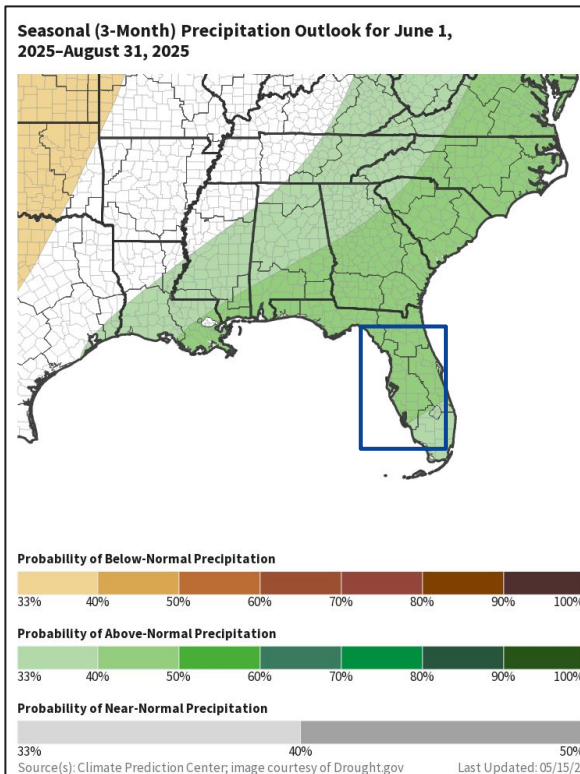




Seasonal Outlooks

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

- Warmer than normal conditions are expected to persist through August with a 50-60% chance of above normal temperatures.
- Rainfall is expected to return with a 40-50% chance of above normal amounts during June through August. This is associated with the return of the Summer Thunderstorm Season, which usually begins in late May or early June.



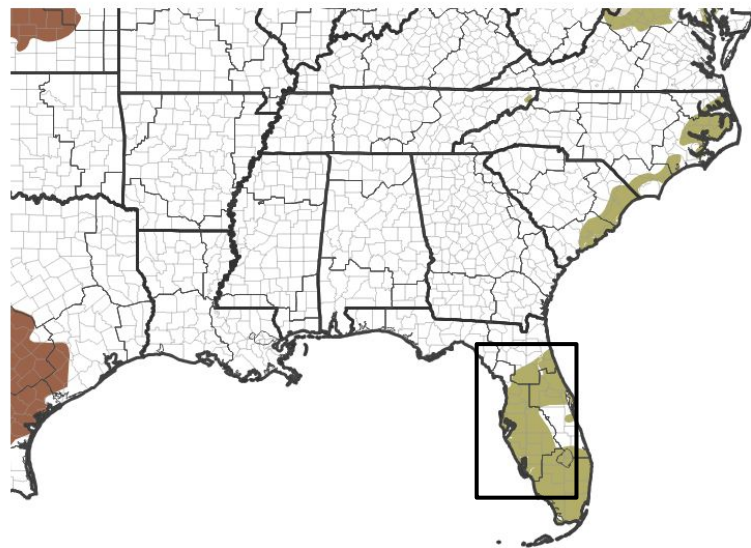


Seasonal Drought Outlook

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

- The outlook through August is for drought conditions to end as the wet season gets underway across the Florida peninsula.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for May 15, 2025–August 31, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 05/15/25

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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Tampa Bay Area**