



Drought Information Statement for West Central & Southwest Florida

Valid December 15, 2023

Issued By: WFO Tampa Bay

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

- This product will be updated by Dec 23, 2023 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.

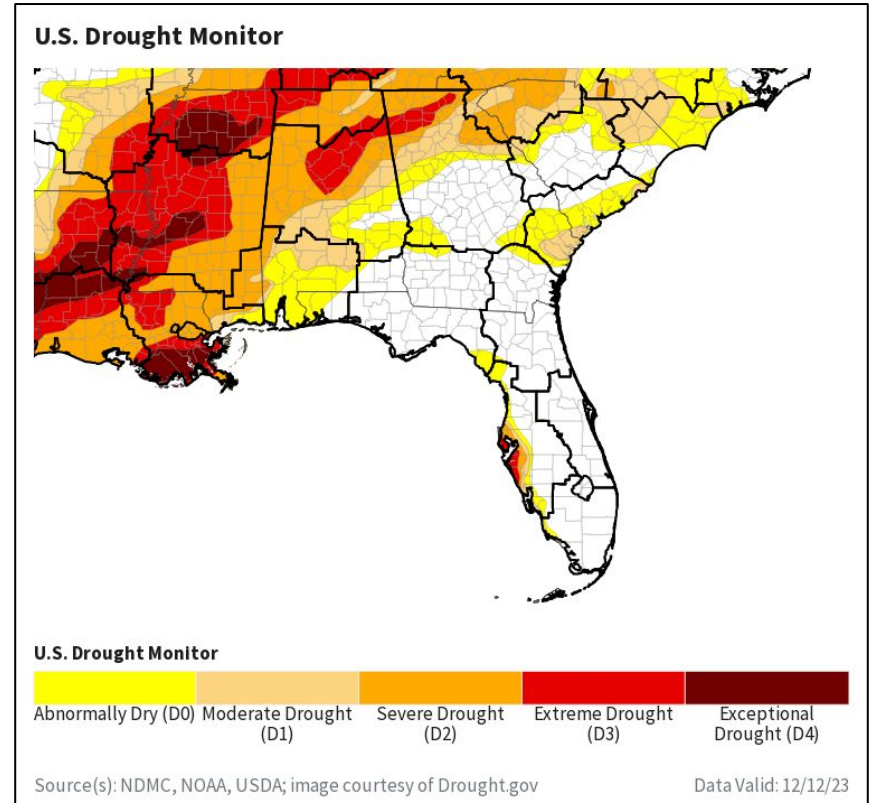




U.S. Drought Monitor

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. However, little change has occurred across the western Florida peninsula.

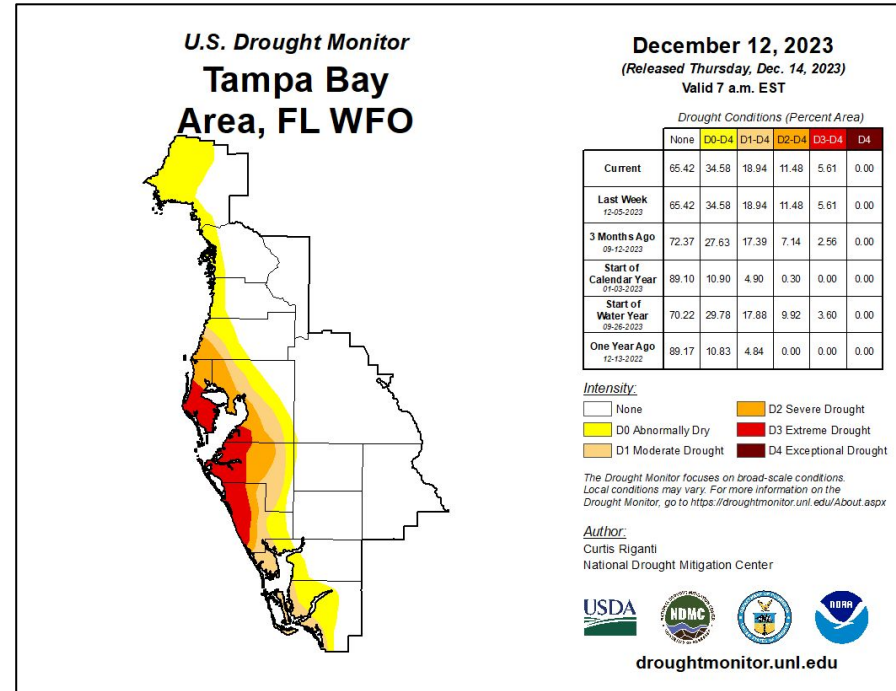




U.S. Drought Monitor for WFO Tampa Bay Area

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 along coastal Charlotte and Lee counties.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: extends from western Levy county south along the coastal nature coast, and bounds the remaining D1 region to the south.

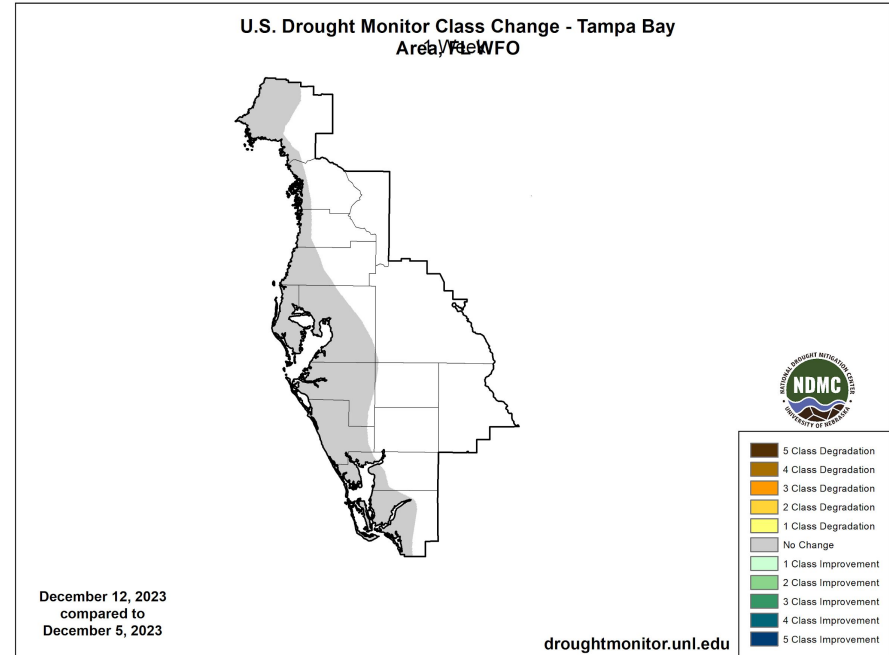




Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - In the last week ending Tuesday December 12, there was no change across west central and southwest Florida.





Precipitation

Table of Accumulated Rainfall (inches) for Select Locations - January 1 to December 14, 2023

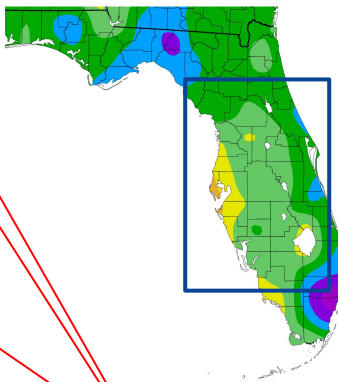
The following table gives the rainfall from January 1, 2023 to December 14, 2023:

Station	Site Id	Observed Rainfall	30 Yr Normal	Dep fm Normal	Percent of Normal
Tampa Area	TPA:	33.50	47.97	-14.47	70%
St Pete/Clearwater	PIE:	*28.77	51.94	-23.17	55
St Petersburg Area	SPG:	30.90	45.24	-14.34	68%
NWS Ruskin	TBW:	30.67	52.07	-21.40	59%
Winter Haven Area	GIF:	44.34	44.60	-0.26	99
Sarasota-Bradenton Area	SRQ:	24.13	47.66	-23.53	51%
Fort Myers/Page Field	FMY:	**45.02	56.36	-11.34	80
Fort Myers/SW Intl Apt	RSW:	42.47	52.53	-10.06	81%
Chiefland 5 SE	CHIF1:	43.87	55.21	-11.34	79%
Plant City	PLCF1:	49.10	54.64	-5.54	90
Lakeland	LLDF1:	48.38	55.34	-6.96	87%
Bradenton 5 ESE	BRAF1:	41.63	54.96	-13.33	76%
Wauchula 2 N	WAUF1:	41.03	50.80	-9.77	81%
Venice	VNCF1:	26.67	49.93	-23.26	53%
Archbold Bio Stn	ACHF1:	57.12	53.13	+3.99	108%

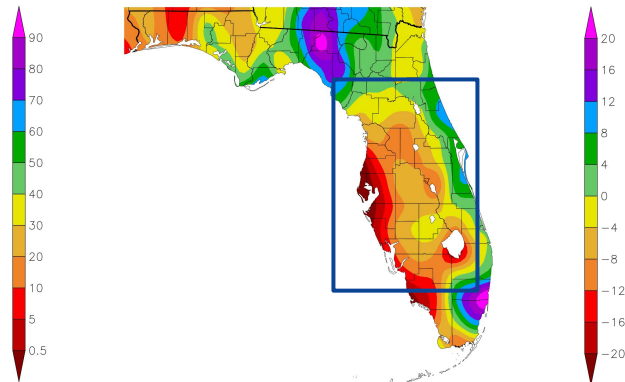
*Rainfall missing on August 20, 2023. Radar estimate of 0.50 inches included in this total

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

Precipitation (in)
1/1/2023 - 12/13/2023



Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
1/1/2023 - 12/13/2023



NWS Ruskin, Sarasota-Bradenton Area, and Venice are continuing to have their Driest Year-to-Date!

The following table gives the rainfall from January 1, 2023 to November 30, 2023:

Station	Site Id	Observed Rainfall	30 Yr Normal	Dep fm Normal	Percent of Normal
St Leo	STLF1:	43.14	50.93	-7.79	85%
Bartow	BARF1:	45.39	48.72	-3.33	93%
Mountain Lake	LWLF1:	40.12	50.32	-10.20	80%
Myakka River State Pk	MKCF1:	44.85	58.56	-13.71	77%
Desoto City 8 SW	DSOF1:	56.65	50.28	+6.37	113%





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Rainfall this past Sunday allowed several fast responding rivers and streams across west central Florida to return to climatological normal. The Withlacoochee, Little Manatee, and Myakka rivers are running in the lowest 20th percentile which is more indicative of the overall hydrologic state across the region.

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.

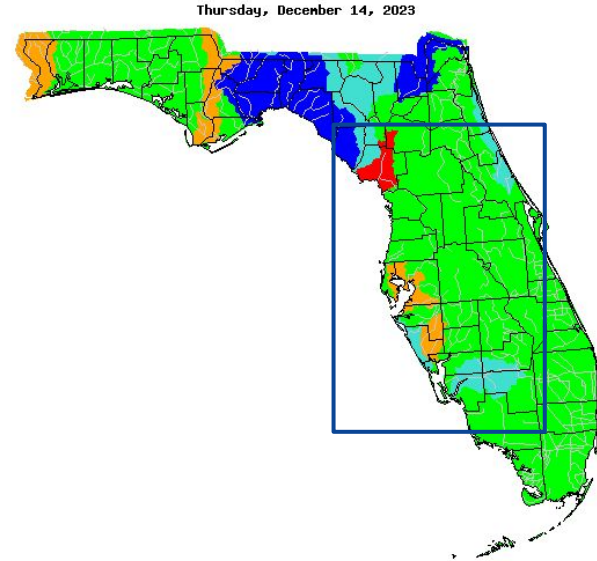




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid December 14, 2023

- Generally a quarter inch to one inch of rain fell across the region this past week, with pockets of slightly higher totals. Overall, dry surface conditions persist.



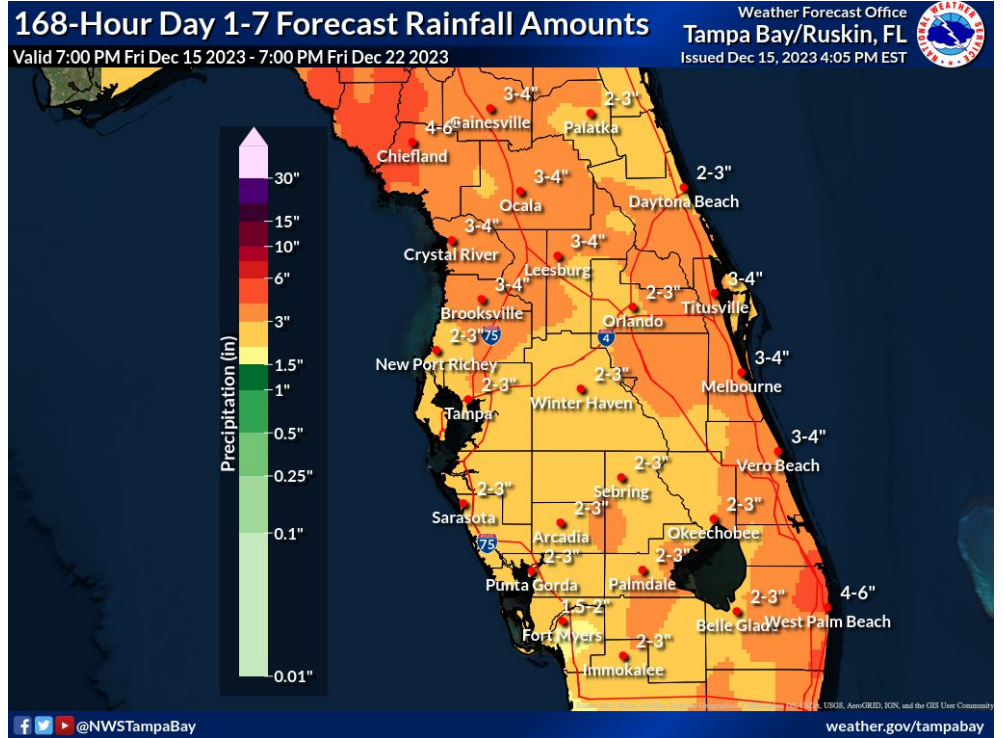
Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Rainfall during the next week is expected to generally range from about 2 to 4 inches, with isolated higher totals. Most of this rain is expected to fall during the weekend.

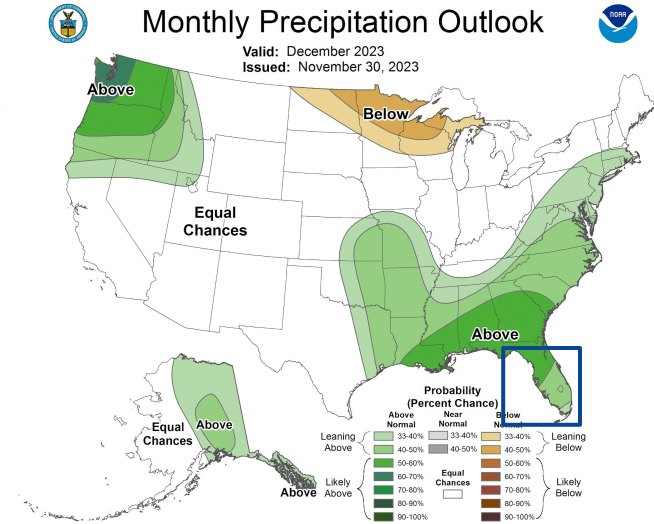
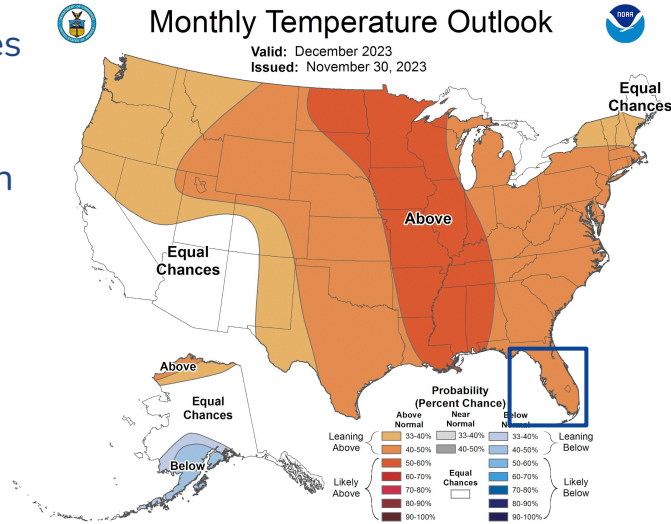




Long-Range Monthly Outlook

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

- Above normal temperatures and precipitation are favored across the Florida peninsula during the month of December.

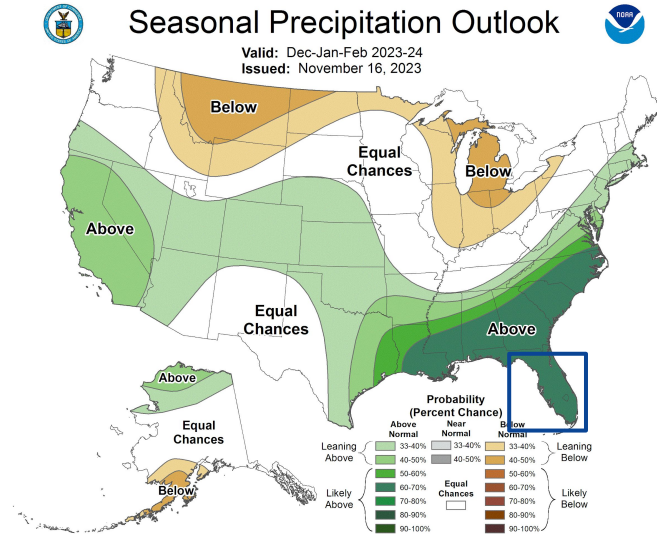
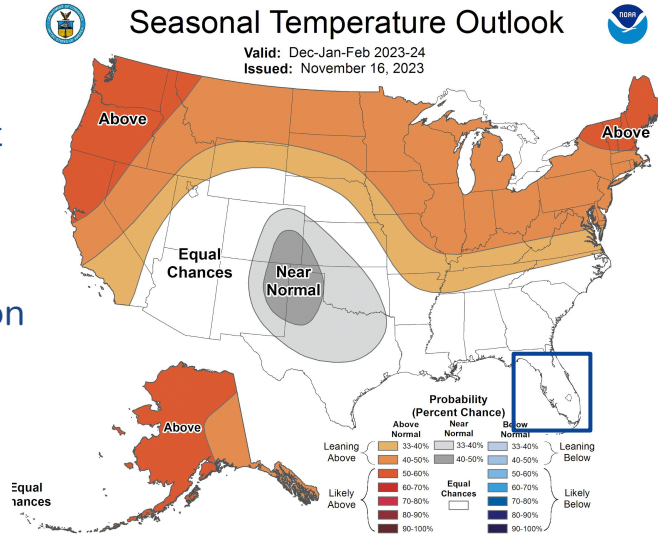




Long-Range Seasonal Outlook

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 December through February.
- Above normal precipitation is likely during December through February.

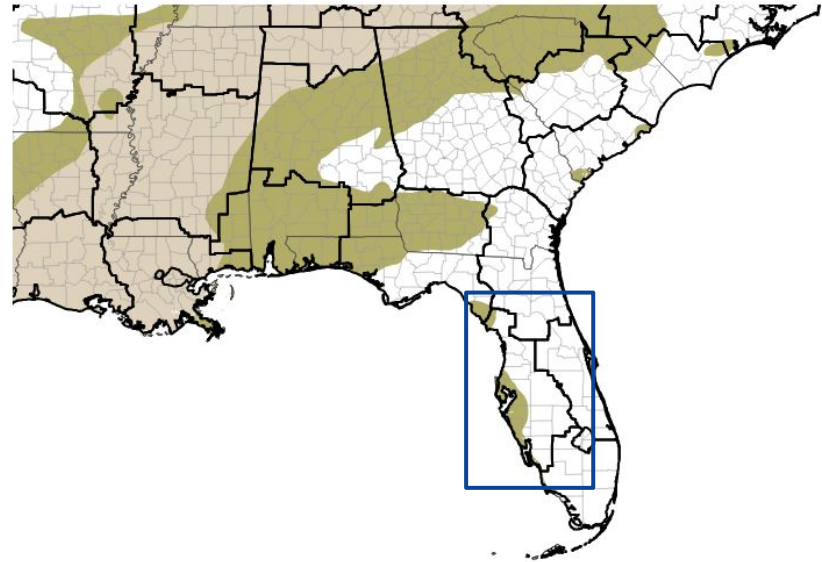




Drought Outlook

Seasonal Drought Outlook through February

- The outlook for wetter than normal weather during the upcoming 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](#)

