



# Drought Information Statement for West Central & Southwest Florida

Valid December 22, 2023

Issued By: WFO Tampa Bay

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

- This product will be updated by Dec 30, 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.



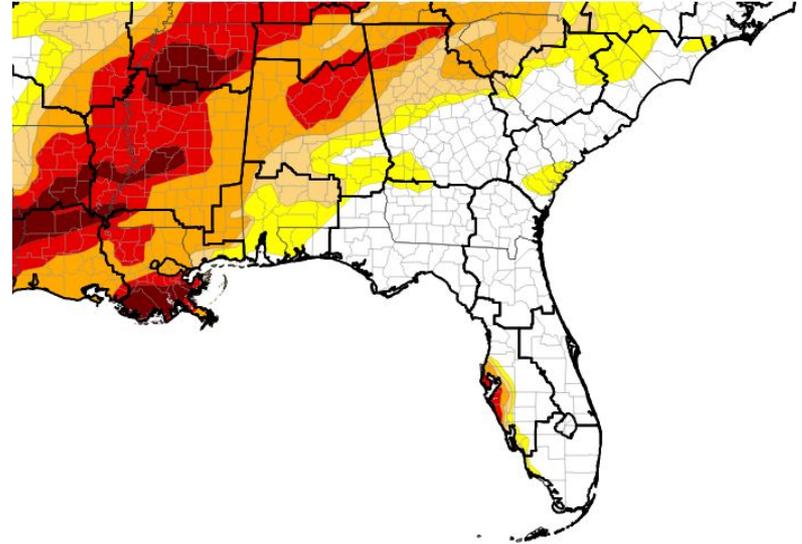


# U.S. Drought Monitor

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

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 12/19/23

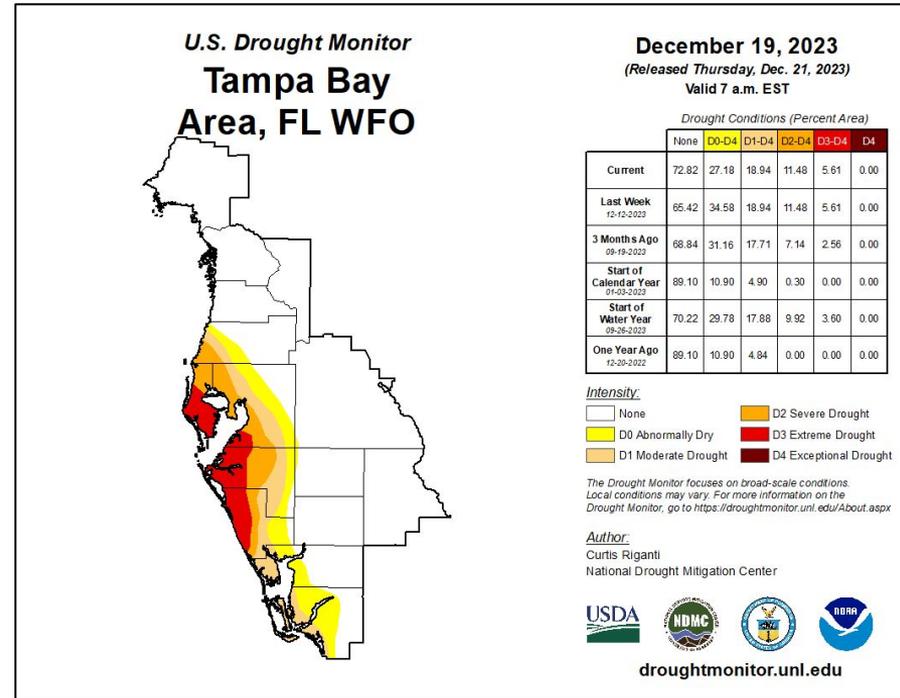




# U.S. Drought Monitor for WFO Tampa Bay Area

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)**: bounds the D1 area from western Pasco county south through Charlotte and Lee counties.

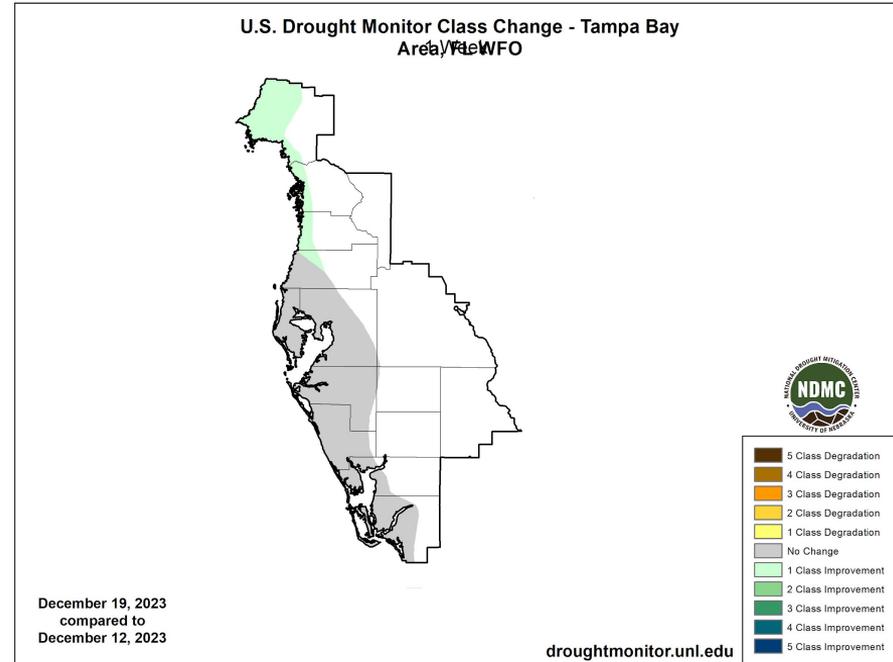




# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - In the last week ending Tuesday December 19, there was improvement (light green area) along the Nature Coast, while further south from around Tampa Bay southward there was no change.





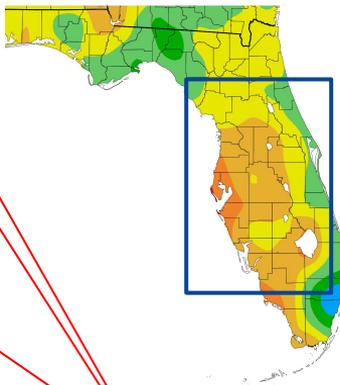
# Precipitation

## Table of Accumulated Rainfall (inches) for Select Locations - January 1 to December 21, 2023

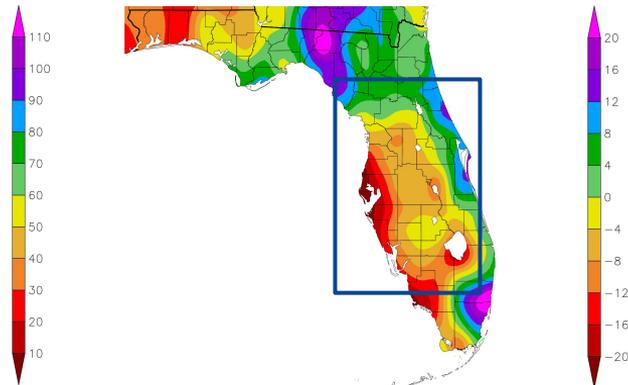
The following table gives the rainfall from January 1, 2023 to December 21, 2023:

Station	Site Id	Observed Rainfall	30 Yr Normal	Dep fm Normal	Percent of Normal
Tampa Area	TPA:	36.46	48.62	-12.16	75%
St Pete/Clearwater	PIE:	*30.39	52.66	-22.27	58
St Petersburg Area	SPG:	32.74	45.84	-13.10	71%
<b>NWS Ruskin</b>	<b>TBW:</b>	<b>32.52</b>	<b>52.71</b>	<b>-20.19</b>	<b>62%</b>
Winter Haven Area	GIF:	46.02	45.27	+0.75	102
<b>Sarasota-Bradenton Area</b>	<b>SRQ:</b>	<b>26.63</b>	<b>48.24</b>	<b>-21.61</b>	<b>55%</b>
Fort Myers/Page Field	FMY:	**46.66	56.80	-10.14	82
Fort Myers/SW Intl Apt	RSW:	43.88	52.91	-9.03	83%
Chiefland 5 SE	CHIF1:	51.22	56.01	-4.79	91%
Plant City	PLCF1:	50.94	55.27	-4.33	92
Lakeland	LLDF1:	49.98	55.97	-5.99	89%
Bradenton 5 ESE	BRAF1:	43.63	55.49	-11.86	79%
Wauchula 2 N	WAUF1:	43.03	51.31	-8.28	84%
<b>Venice</b>	<b>VNCF1:</b>	<b>29.16</b>	<b>50.48</b>	<b>-21.32</b>	<b>58%</b>
Archbold Bio Stn	ACHF1:	58.67	53.61	+5.06	109%

Precipitation (in)  
1/1/2023 - 12/21/2023



Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
1/1/2023 - 12/21/2023



\*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

**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
Inverness 3 SE	INVF1:	40.13	49.91	-9.78	80%
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

- Widespread rainfall this past weekend allowed rivers and streams across west central and southwest Florida to return to or above climatological normal for this time of year.

## 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.

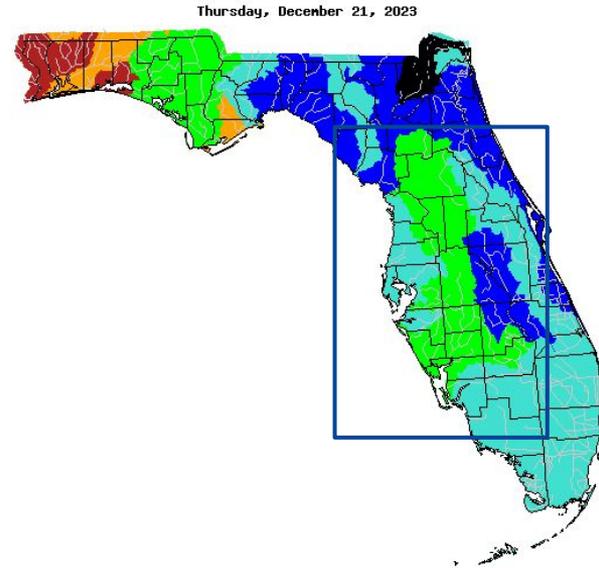




# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid December 21, 2023

- Widespread soaking rain fell last weekend with amounts ranging from around an inch south to over 5 inches north. This has led to moist surface conditions with normal to above normal streamflows across the area.



Explanation - Percentile classes

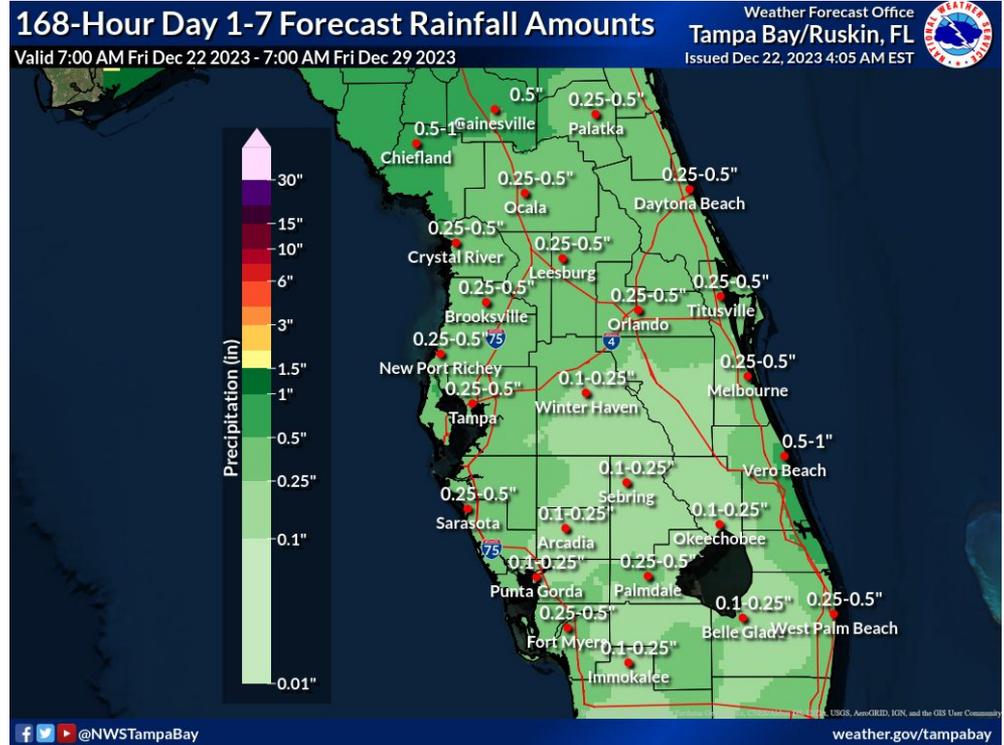
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		





# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Rainfall during the next week is forecast to range from about a 0.10 to 0.25 inch southern interior to maybe an 1 inch north, with isolated higher totals.

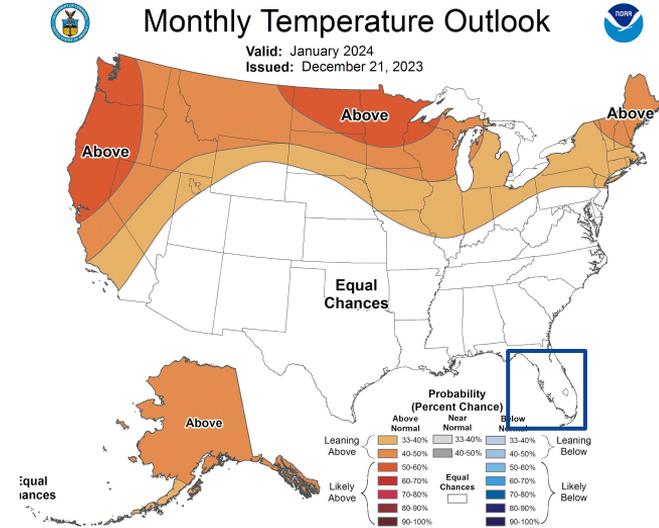
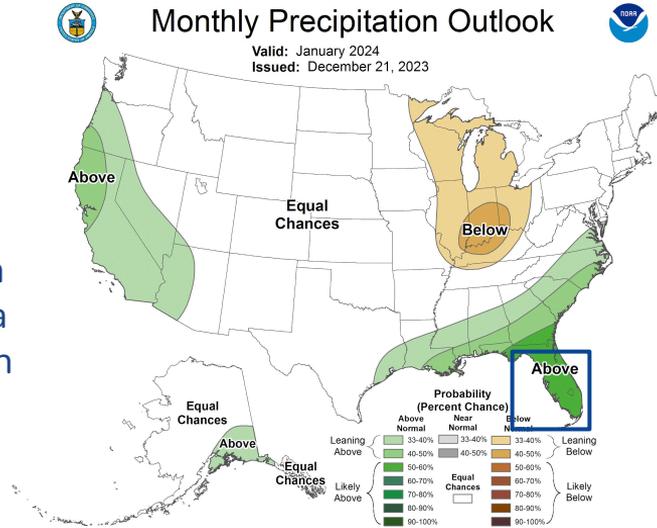




# Long-Range Monthly Outlook

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 are likely across the Florida peninsula during the month of January.

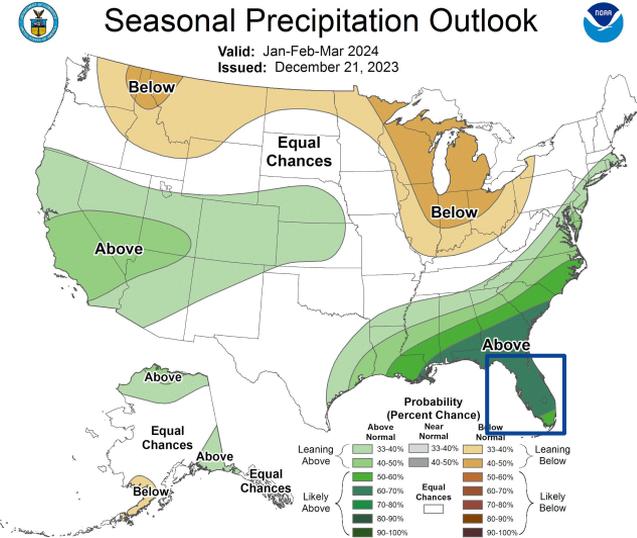
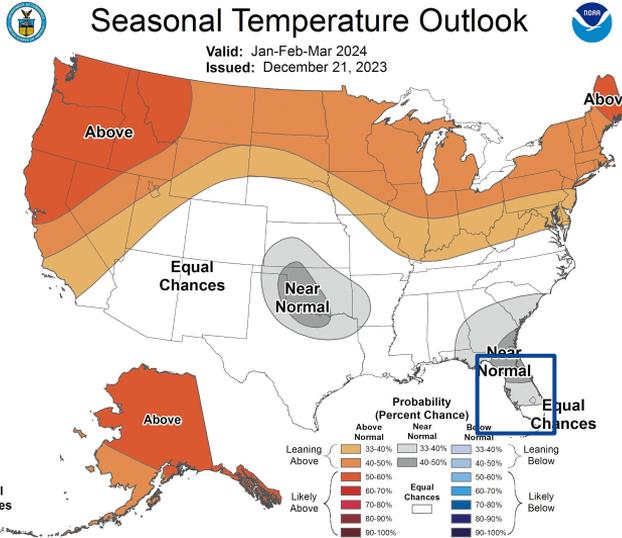




# Long-Range Seasonal Outlook

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 January through March.

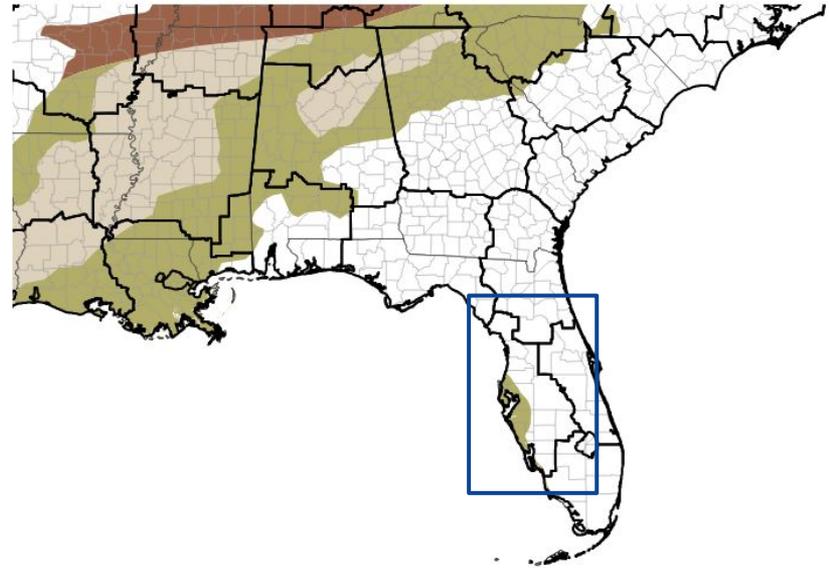




# Drought Outlook

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](#)

