



Drought Information Statement for West Central & Southwest Florida

Valid December 30, 2023

Issued By: WFO Tampa Bay

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

- This product will be updated by Jan 6, 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.



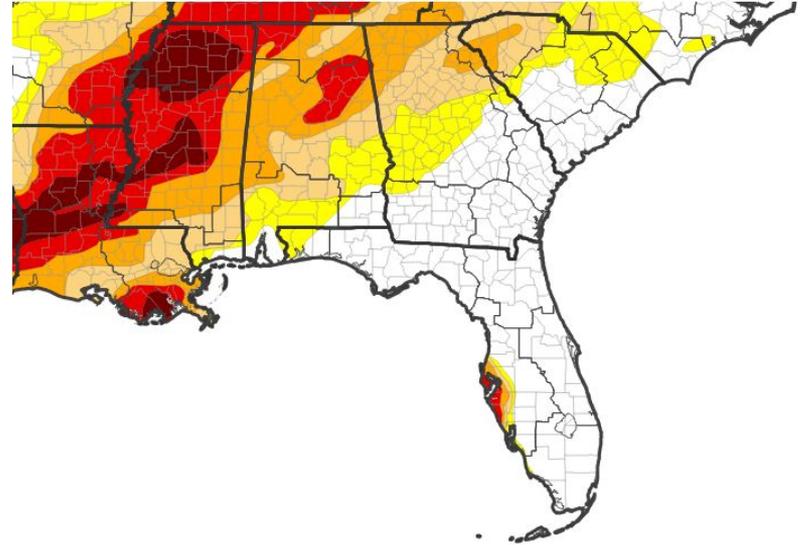


U.S. Drought Monitor

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, little change has occurred 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: 12/26/23

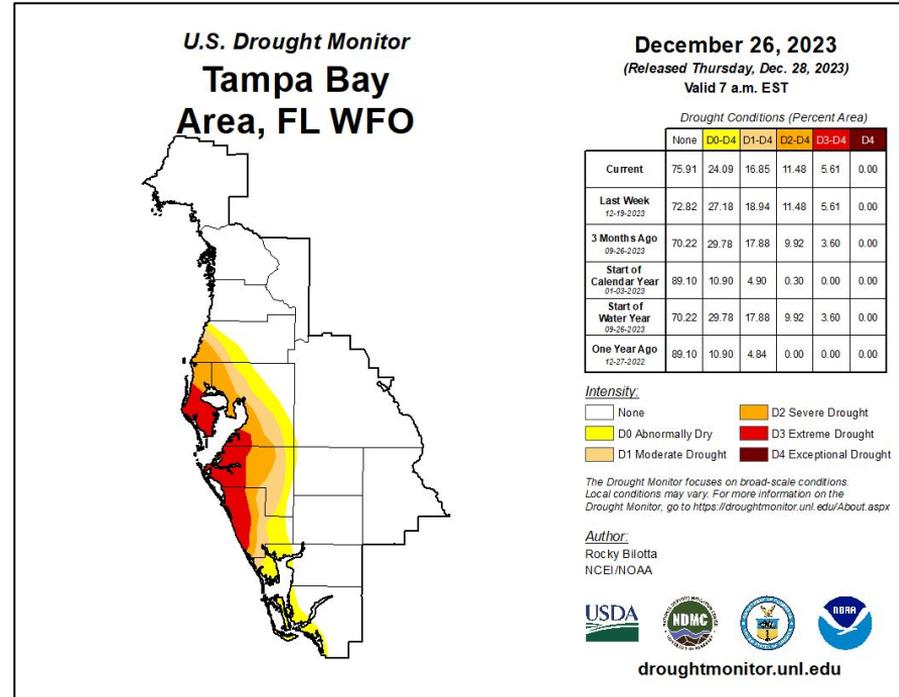




U.S. Drought Monitor for WFO Tampa Bay Area

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 to Sarasota county.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: bounds the D1 area from western Pasco county south to coastal Charlotte and Lee counties.

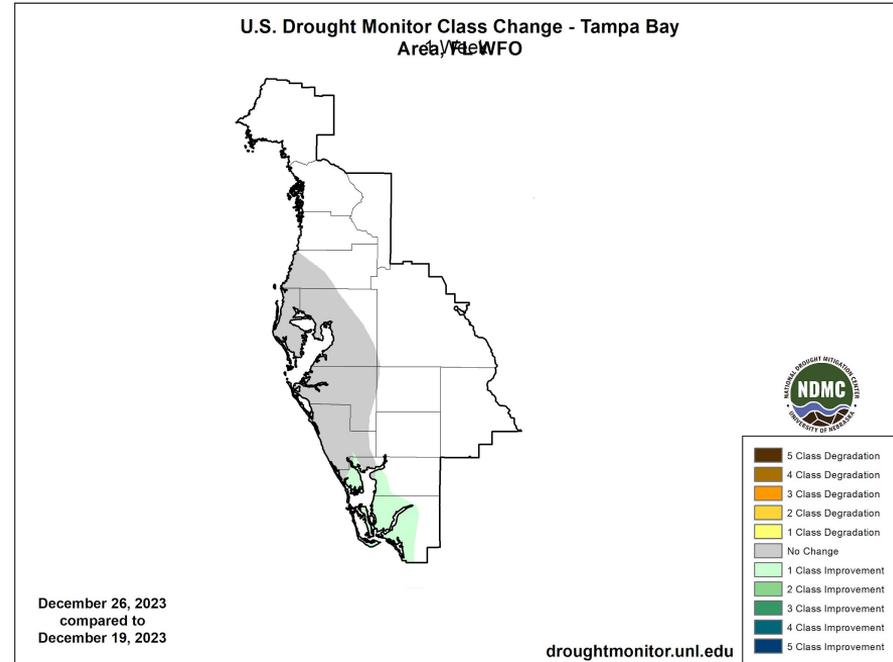




Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - In the last week ending Tuesday December 26, there was improvement (light green area) across southwest Florida. There were no changes across west central Florida.





Precipitation

Table of Accumulated Rainfall (inches) for Select Locations - January 1 to December 28, 2023

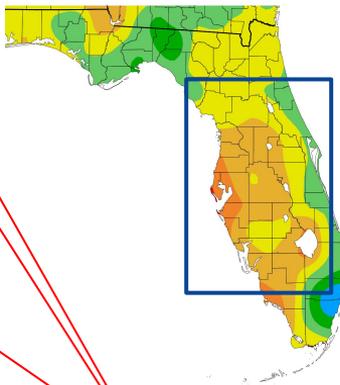
The following table gives the rainfall from January 1, 2023 to December 28, 2023:

Station	Site Id	Observed Rainfall	30 Yr Normal	Dep fm Normal	Percent of Normal
Tampa Area	TPA:	37.15	49.24	-12.09	75%
St Pete/Clearwater	PIE:	*31.12	53.36	-22.24	58
St Petersburg Area	SPG:	33.63	46.43	-12.80	72%
NWS Ruskin	TBW:	33.08	53.35	-20.27	62%
Winter Haven Area	GIF:	46.40	45.87	+0.53	101
Sarasota-Bradenton Area	SRQ:	27.13	48.84	-21.71	56%
Fort Myers/Page Field	FMY:	**49.02	57.24	-8.22	86
Fort Myers/SW Intl Apt	RSW:	44.90	53.26	-8.36	84%
Chiefland 5 SE	CHIF1:	50.41	56.79	-6.38	89%
Plant City	PLCF1:	51.50	55.88	-4.38	92
Lakeland	LLDF1:	50.41	56.59	-6.18	89%
Bradenton 5 ESE	BRAF1:	44.40	56.06	-11.66	79%
Wauchula 2 N	WAUF1:	43.43	51.81	-8.38	84%
Venice	VNCF1:	29.71	51.05	-21.34	58%
Archbold Bio Stn	ACHF1:	59.17	54.06	+5.11	109%

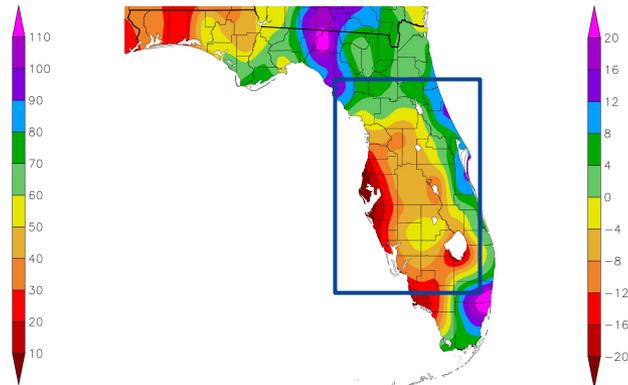
*Rainfall missing on August 20, 2023. Radar estimate of 0.50 inches included in this total

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

Precipitation (in)
1/1/2023 - 12/28/2023



Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
1/1/2023 - 12/28/2023



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

Venice is now 2nd 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	INV1:	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 week allowed rivers and streams across west central and southwest Florida to return to or climb 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.

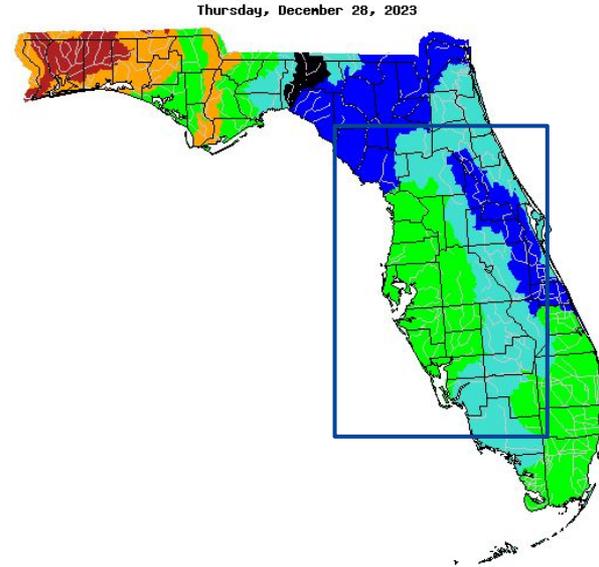




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid December 28, 2023

- Rainfall during the past week generally ranged from 0.25 to 0.50 inches across nature coast, 0.25 to 1 inch across the central forecast area, and 1 to 3 inches across southwest Florida and the southern interior. Streamflows are now near to above normal across the region.



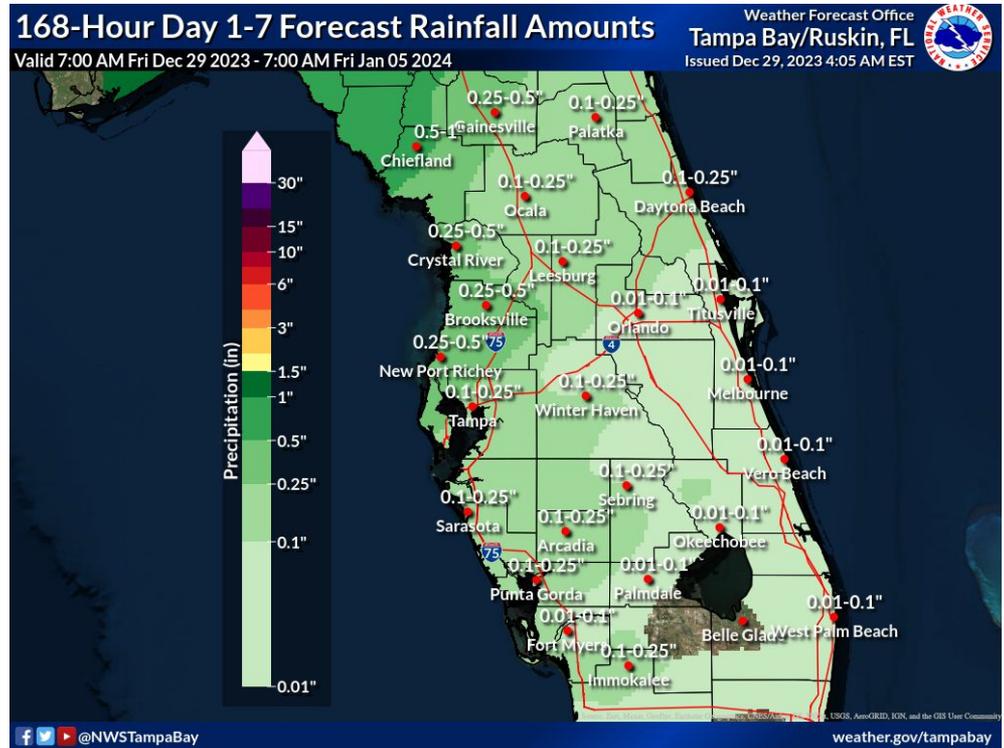
Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Rainfall during the next week is forecast to range from about a 0.10 to 0.25 inch south of Interstate 4 with 0.25 to 0.50 inch further north, with isolated higher totals.

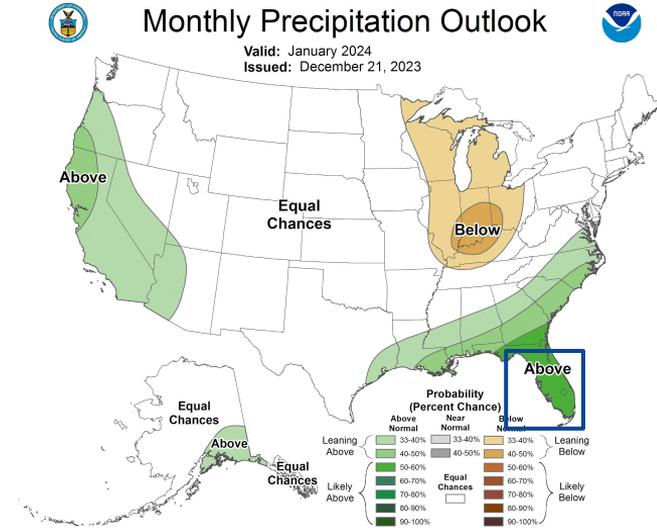
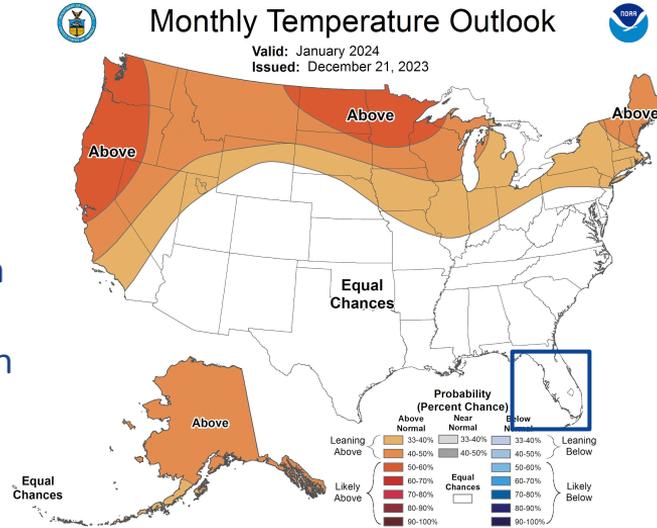




Long-Range Monthly Outlook

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

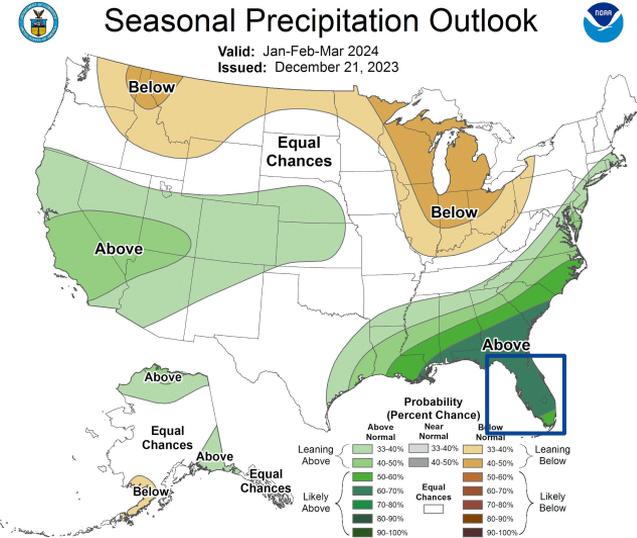
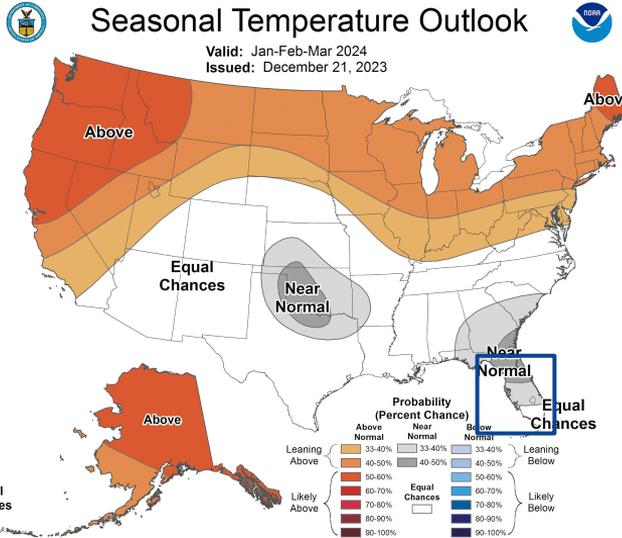




Long-Range Seasonal Outlook

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 January through March.

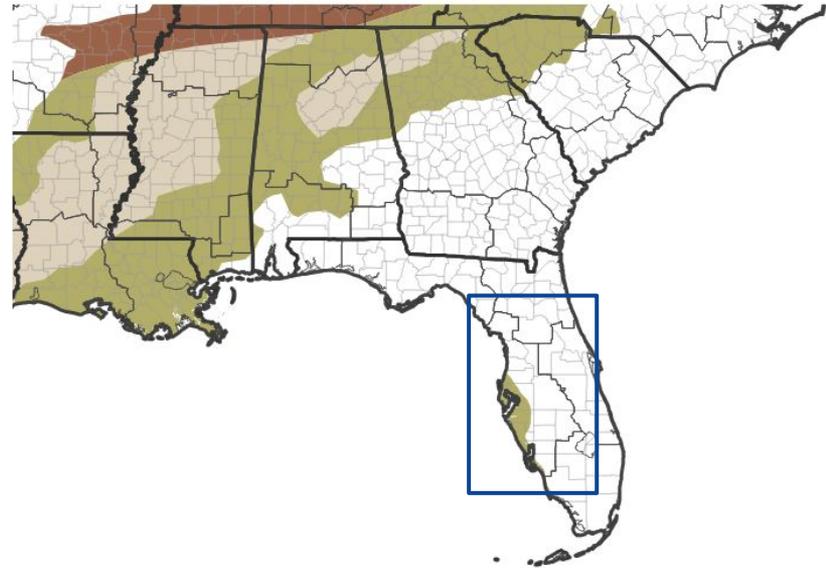




Drought Outlook

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](#)

