

Drought Status and Climate Outlook for Upcoming 12 Months
South Florida ES Office – Vero Beach, FL
May 6, 2011

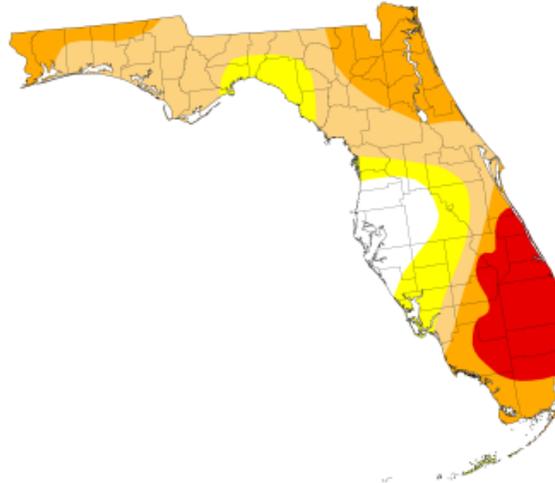


Short Term Drought Map:

U.S. Drought Monitor
Florida

May 3, 2011
 Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	8.72	91.28	76.21	41.19	15.63	0.00
Last Week (04/26/2011 map)	8.72	91.28	76.21	41.19	15.63	0.00
3 Months Ago (02/01/2011 map)	0.87	99.13	84.98	50.76	13.71	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/28/2010 map)	0.18	99.82	86.04	50.84	20.21	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/28/2010 map)	54.97	45.03	18.02	4.22	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (04/27/2010 map)	94.58	5.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, May 5, 2011
Rich Tinker, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Synopsis: Some much needed rainfall produced by cold fronts improved the drought status over northern and central Florida. These areas improved from Extreme Drought conditions to Moderate-to-Severe Drought Conditions. Much of South Florida remains in an Extreme Drought.

Drought Impacts in the News:

Salinity – Drought, among other factors, has altered the salinity of the Loxahatchee River near Jupiter because more saltwater intruded further upstream than would otherwise occur, allowing saltwater vegetation to thrive in areas previously dominated by freshwater species. As a test, water was being pumped from the L-8 Reservoir near Wellington through the Grassy Waters Preserve to the Northwest Fork of the Loxahatchee River to reduce the salinity to determine if it would improve the health of cypress swamps, hardwood hammocks and fish population. The test pumping will conclude in early May (*Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel & SouthFlorida.com, April 16, 2011*).

2010-2011 Dry Season Totals:

Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes: 15.2" (-.75" above normal rain)
Lower Kissimmee Chain of Lakes: 11.2" (-2.4" below normal rain)
Lake "O": 9" (-4.3" below normal rain)
St. Lucie basin: 9.7" (-7.6" below normal rain)
Caloosahatchee basin: 9.5" (-4.5" below normal rain)
EAA: 8.4" (-5.2" below normal rain)
Southwest Florida: 10.2" (-3.8" below normal rain)
Coastal Palm Beach County: 9.3" (-11.8" below normal rain)
Coastal Broward County: 10.1" (-7.1" below normal rain)
Lox & WCA-2: 9.3" (-5.8" below normal rain)
WCA-3: 7.5" (-6.2" below normal rain)
Coastal Dade County: 10.7" (-4.5" below normal rain)

2011 Yearly Totals:

Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes: 12.3" (+1.7" above normal rain)
Lower Kissimmee Chain of Lakes: 8.4" (-1.5" below normal rain)
Lake "O": 7" (-2.7" below normal rain)
St. Lucie basin: 8" (-4" below normal rain)
Caloosahatchee basin: 6.9" (-3.2" below normal rain)
EAA: 6.7" (-3.1" below normal rain)
Southwest Florida: 7" (-3.2" below normal rain)
Coastal Palm County: 7.1" (-6.9" below normal rain)
Coastal Broward County: 7" (-4.7" below normal rain)
Lox & WCA-2: 6.5" (-4" below normal rain)
WCA-3: 5.3" (-4.5 below normal rain)
Coastal Dade County: 7.4" (-3" below normal rain)
The Middle Keys: 4" (-5" below normal rain)
The Lower Keys: 3.4" (-4.7" below normal rain)

Records from the National Weather Service:

CENTRAL FLORIDA

...APRIL 2011 WAS MUCH WARMER AND DRIER THAN NORMAL OVER EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA...

MONTHLY AVERAGE TEMPERATURE DEPARTURES WERE AS HIGH AS 3 TO 4 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL...RANKING IN THE TOP 10 WARMEST APRILS ON RECORD FOR ALL THE CLIMATE SITES IN THE AREA:

-DAYTONA BEACH HAD AN AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURE OF 72.2 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT WHICH WAS 3.3 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL. THIS TIED APRIL OF 1968 TO BE THE 10TH WARMEST APRIL ON RECORD FOR THIS SITE.

-ORLANDO HAD AN AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURE OF 75.7 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT WHICH WAS 4.2 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL. THIS TIED APRIL OF 1945 TO BE THE 5TH WARMEST APRIL ON RECORD FOR THIS SITE.

-MELBOURNE HAD AN AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURE OF 74.0 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT WHICH WAS 3.7 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL. THIS TIED APRIL OF 1957 AND 2006 TO BE THE 6TH WARMEST APRIL ON RECORD FOR THIS SITE.

-VERO BEACH HAD AN AVERAGE MONTHLY TEMPERATURE OF 74.4 DEGREES FAHRENHEIT WHICH WAS 2.9 DEGREES ABOVE NORMAL. THIS RANKED AS THE 4TH WARMEST APRIL ON RECORD FOR THIS SITE.

RAINFALL...

RAINFALL DEPARTURES ACROSS MOST OF THE AREA FOR APRIL WERE AROUND 1 TO 2 INCHES BELOW NORMAL WITH PRECIPITATION AMOUNTS GENERALLY ONLY AROUND 25-50% OF NORMAL.

THE APRIL 2011 RAINFALL TOTALS FOR THE FOUR MAIN CLIMATE SITES ACROSS EAST CENTRAL FLORIDA ARE AS FOLLOWS (RANKINGS PROVIDED IF IN THE TOP 10):

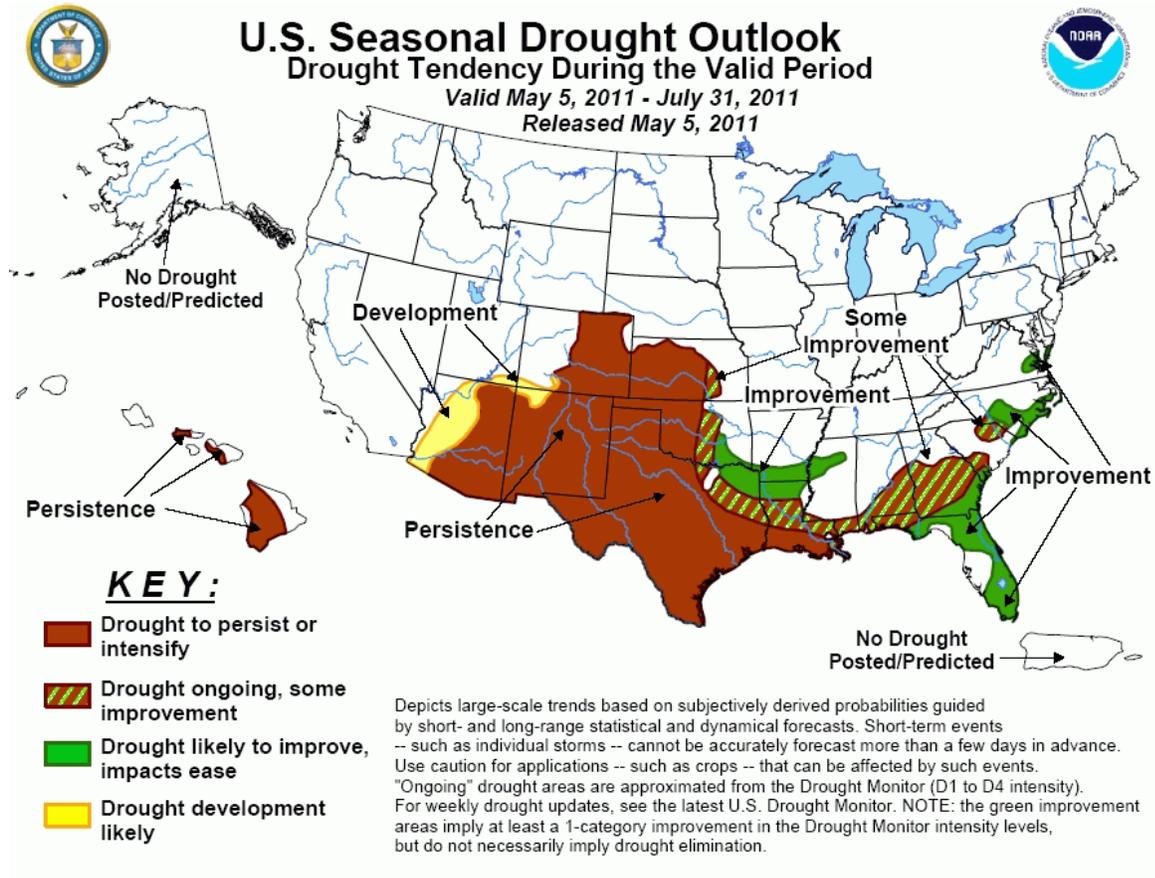
-DAYTONA BEACH RECEIVED 0.46 INCHES OF RAINFALL FOR THE MONTH WHICH WAS 2.08 INCHES BELOW NORMAL. THIS RANKS AS THE 10TH DRIEST APRIL ON RECORD FOR THIS SITE.

-ORLANDO RECEIVED 0.65 INCHES OF RAINFALL FOR THE MONTH WHICH WAS 1.77 INCHES BELOW NORMAL.

-MELBOURNE RECEIVED 1.74 INCHES OF RAINFALL FOR THE MONTH WHICH WAS 0.34 INCHES BELOW NORMAL.

-VERO BEACH RECEIVED 0.60 INCHES OF RAINFALL WHICH WAS 2.28 INCHES BELOW NORMAL. THIS RANKS AS THE 9TH DRIEST APRIL ON RECORD FOR THIS SITE.

Drought Outlook for the Next 3 Months:



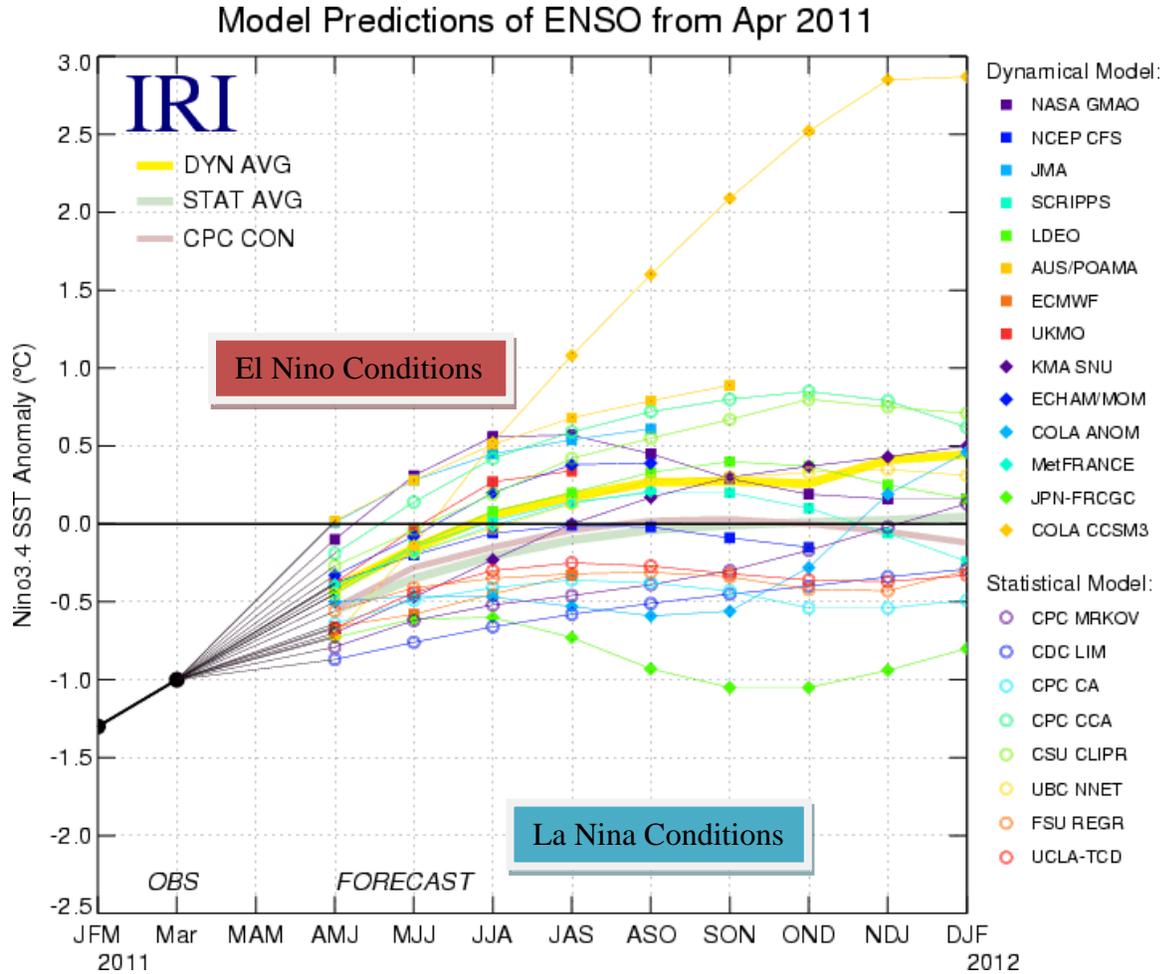
2011 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook:

Cyclone	Normal	12/8/2010 Forecast	4/6/2011 Forecast	5/19/2011 Forecast
Named Storms	10	17	16	18
Hurricanes	6	9	9	10
Major Hurricanes	2	5	5	6

Probability of a major hurricane landfall on the east coast (inc. Florida)	Normal = 31%	2011 Prediction = 48%
Probability of a major hurricane landfall on the Gulf coast (inc. Florida)	Normal = 30%	2011 Prediction = 47%

El Nino / La Nina (ENSO) Status (Climate Prediction Center)

La Nina continues to weaken and ENSO-neutral conditions are expected by June 2011 and should last through summer 2011. However, La Nina will continue to have global impacts even as the episode diminishes. Uncertainty in the models beyond the summer is high.



Central & South Florida Temperature Outlook:

May thru June – Normal
 July thru September - Much Above
 October - Above
 November thru April 2012 – Normal

Central & South Florida Rainfall Outlook:

May thru June – Normal
 July – Above Normal
 August thru September – Much Above Normal
 October – Slightly Above normal
 November thru April 2012 - Normal