



**Drought Status and Climate Outlook for Upcoming 12 Months
FWS SFESO – Vero Beach, FL
September 14, 2011**

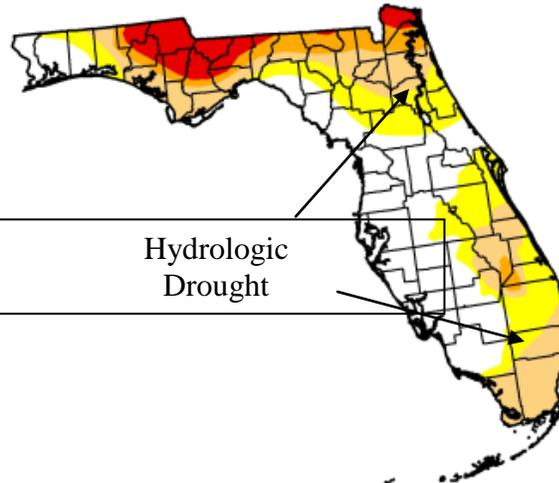
Short Term Drought Map:

U.S. Drought Monitor

September 6, 2011
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Florida

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	37.55	62.45	38.38	15.70	7.95	0.00
Last Week (08/30/2011 map)	30.79	69.21	48.67	27.73	9.28	0.00
3 Months Ago (06/07/2011 map)	7.11	92.89	81.58	59.37	32.45	7.08
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 (08/31/2010 map)	74.55	25.45	3.08	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.

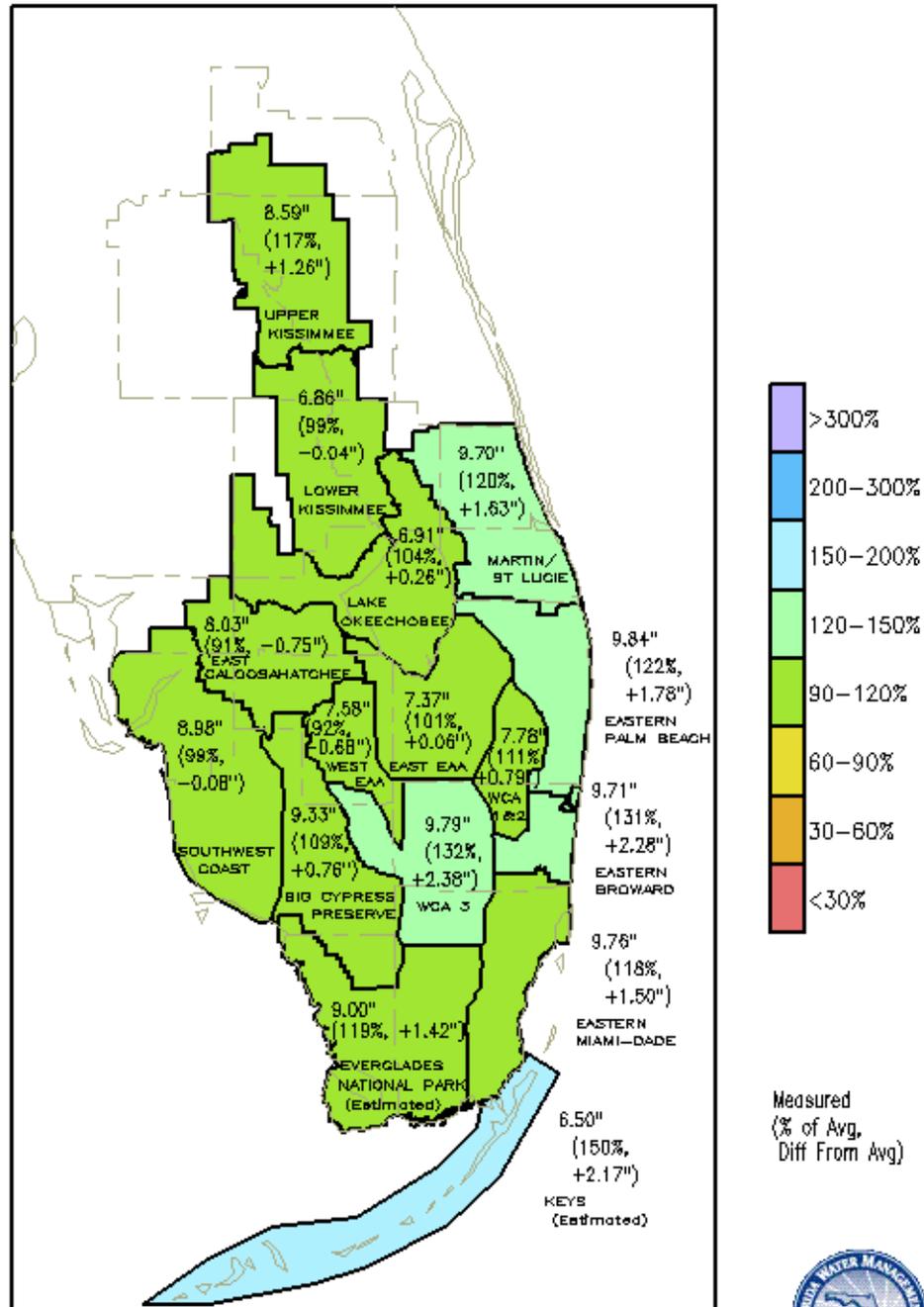
<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



*Released Thursday, September 8, 2011
National Drought Mitigation Center,*

Synopsis: Overall drought conditions continue to improve across the Florida peninsula due to wet season sea breeze rainfall. However, moderate drought conditions continue on a hydrologic basis (sub-surface conditions) due to an existing long term deficit in eastern Florida.

SFWMD Rainfall 02-aug-2011 to 01-sep-2011



DISTRICT-WIDE: 8.51" (109%, +0.73")



GrADS: COLA/IGES

Figure 2 - Rain totals for the month of August 2011.

Drought Impacts in the News:

Refuge - Dry conditions and low water levels in the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge prevented airboat access to the interior parts of the refuge, which also kept contractors from penetrating the interior of the refuge to eradicate exotic vegetation. The manager of the refuge expressed concern that the exotic plants may have spread since workers could not access them. Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel & SouthFlorida.com (Fla.), Aug. 31, 2011

2011 Wet Season Totals (since June 1):

Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes: 26" (+1.9 above normal rain)
Lower Kissimmee Chain of Lakes: 22.6" (normal)
Lake "O": 20" (-1.8" below normal rain)
St. Lucie basin: 23.3" (-1" below normal rain)
Caloosahatchee basin: 28.7" (normal)
EAA: 26" (normal)
Southwest Florida: 29.2" (-2" below normal rain)
Coastal Palm County: 24.2" (-2" below normal rain)
Coastal Broward County: 23.2" (-2.7" below normal rain)
Lox & WCA-2: 23.3" (normal)
WCA-3: 26.9" (+1.5" above normal rain)
Coastal Dade County: 24.6" (-2.8" below normal rain)
Big Cypress: 27" (-2.4" below normal rain)

2011 Yearly Totals (January 1 – July 30):

Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes: 40.2" (+2.2 above normal rain)
Lower Kissimmee Chain of Lakes: 32.7" (-3.3" below normal rain)
Lake "O": 28.2" (-5.7" below normal rain)
St. Lucie basin: 32.8" (-5.7" below normal rain)
Caloosahatchee basin: 38" (-3.6" below normal rain)
EAA: 34.5" (-4.5" below normal rain)
Southwest Florida: 38.8" (-5.6" below normal rain)
Coastal Palm County: 33" (-11" below normal rain)
Coastal Broward County: 31.7" (-10.2" below normal rain)
Lox & WCA-2: 32" (-5.6" below normal rain)
WCA-3: 34" (-4.7" below normal rain)
Coastal Dade County: 33" (-9" below normal rain)
Big Cypress: 35.8" (-6.8" below normal rain)

Drought Outlook for the Next 3 Months:

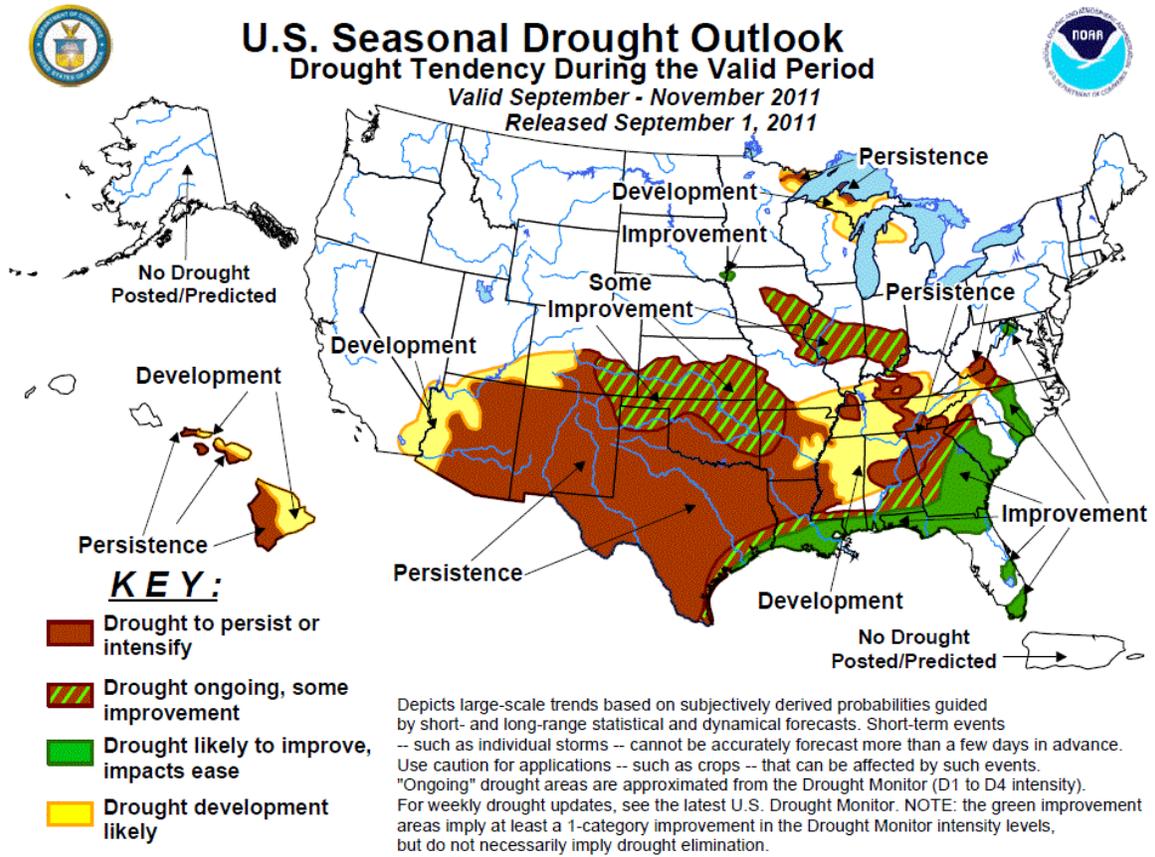
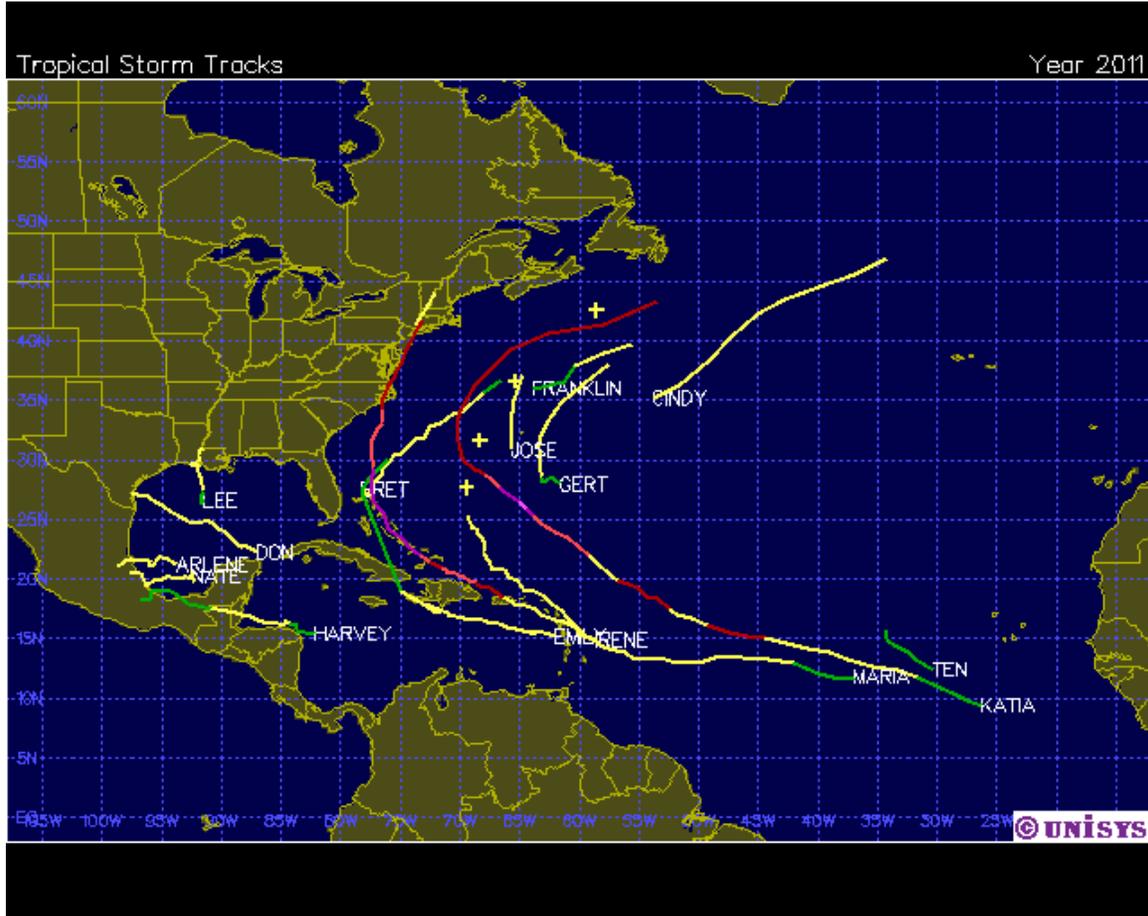


Figure 3 – Rainfall is expected to bring drought improvements to the Florida Peninsula over the next couple of months.

Figure 4 - 2011 Hurricane Season tracks to date:



2011 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook:

September 14 Atlantic Hurricane Update - Dr. Gray's group at the University of Colorado have issued a 2-week forecast for tropical activity in the Atlantic Ocean. They believe the next 2 weeks will be characterized by activity well below normal levels (less than 70% of climatology). This is due to the existing quiet conditions occurring behind T.S. Maria, global models, and a weak Madden-Julian Oscillation.

Cyclone	Normal	12/8/2010 Issued Forecast	4/6/2011 Issued Forecast	6/1/2011 Issued Forecast	8/3/2011 Issued Forecast	12/1/2011 Season Recap		
Named Storms	10	17	16	16	16			
Hurricanes	6	9	9	9	9			
Major Hurricanes	2	5	5	5	5			

Probability of a Major Hurricane landfall on the U.S east coast (inc. Florida)	Normal = 31%	2011 Prediction = 46%
Probability of a Major Hurricane landfall on the Gulf coast (inc. Florida)	Normal = 30%	2011 Prediction = 45%

El Nino / La Nina (ENSO) Status – La Nina 2011/2012 Advisory is in effect (Climate Prediction Center)

ENSO-neutral conditions have been short lived as La Nina conditions appear to be returning! This is becoming more evident in this summers hurricane activity and tracks, stronger than expected wind shear over the tropical Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea, and in the continued cooling of the equatorial Pacific Ocean sea surface temperatures.

The majority of the climate models (see Figure 5) continue to predict ENSO-Neutral conditions for the fall and winter 2011-2012 months. But, the NCEP Climate Forecast System (CFS) has been performing the best this summer (see Figure 6). Better model performance and the historical tendency for significant La Nina episodes (like last year) to be followed by weaker La Nina episodes, is leading the Climate Prediction Center to have an increased confidence in the NCEP CFS model and that La Nina will persist into the winter. Thus, La Nina conditions are expected to gradually strengthen and continue into the winter 2011-2012.

Model Predictions of ENSO from Aug 2011

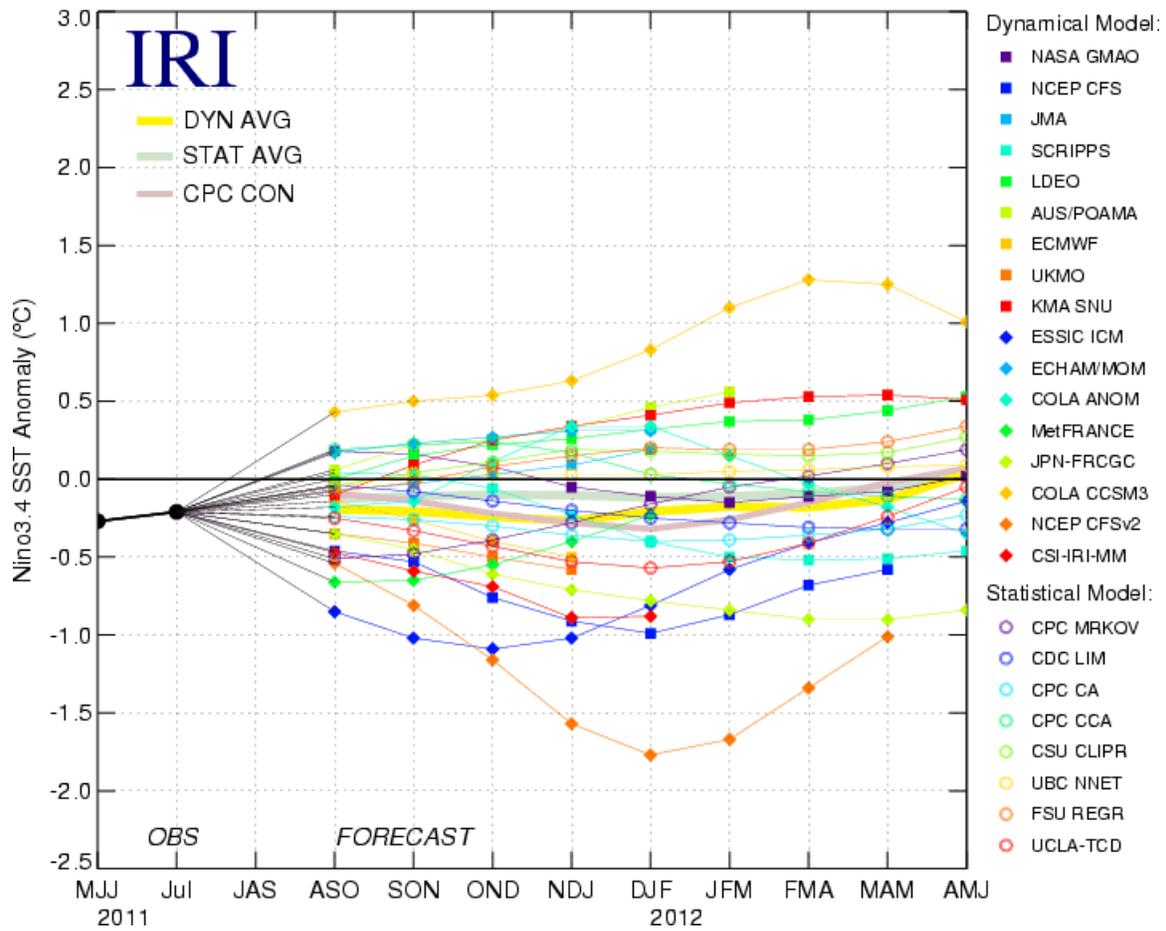


Figure 5 - All climate model runs from August 2011. Most models continue to predict that ENSO-Neutral conditions will continue through winter 2012.

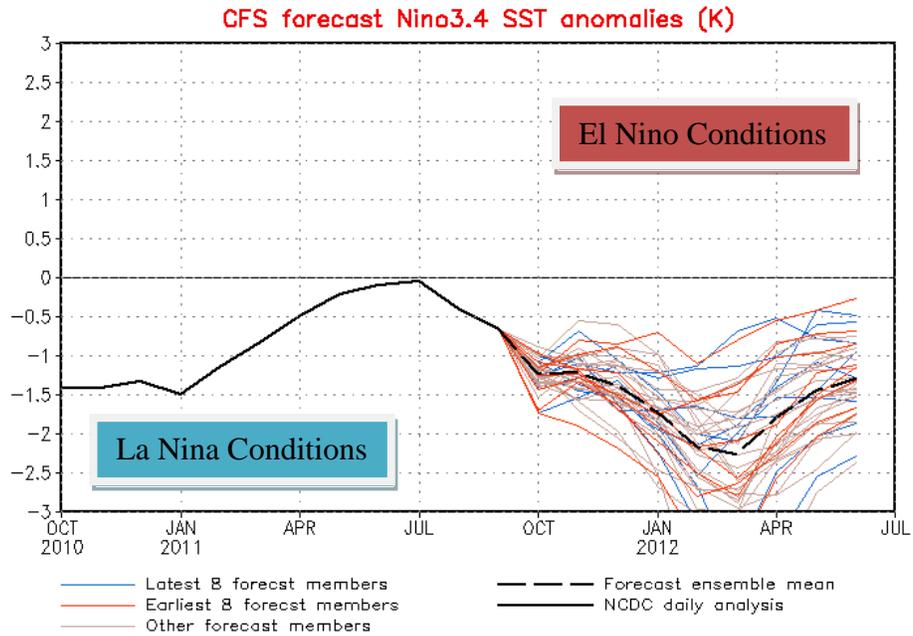


Figure 6 - The NCEP Climate Forecast System (CFW) model run that appears to be performing the best this summer. The Climate Prediction Center is basing its La Nina forecast on this model.

Central & South Florida Temperature Outlook:

September – March 2012 - Normal
May 2012 – Above
June thru August 2012 –Much Above

Central & South Florida Rainfall Outlook:

September – Above Normal
October – November – Normal
December – January 2012 – Below Normal
February thru March 2012 – Much Below Normal
April 2012 – Below Normal
May - July 2012 – Normal
August 2012 – Above Normal

Lori Miller – FWS Hydrologist - 772.469.4231