

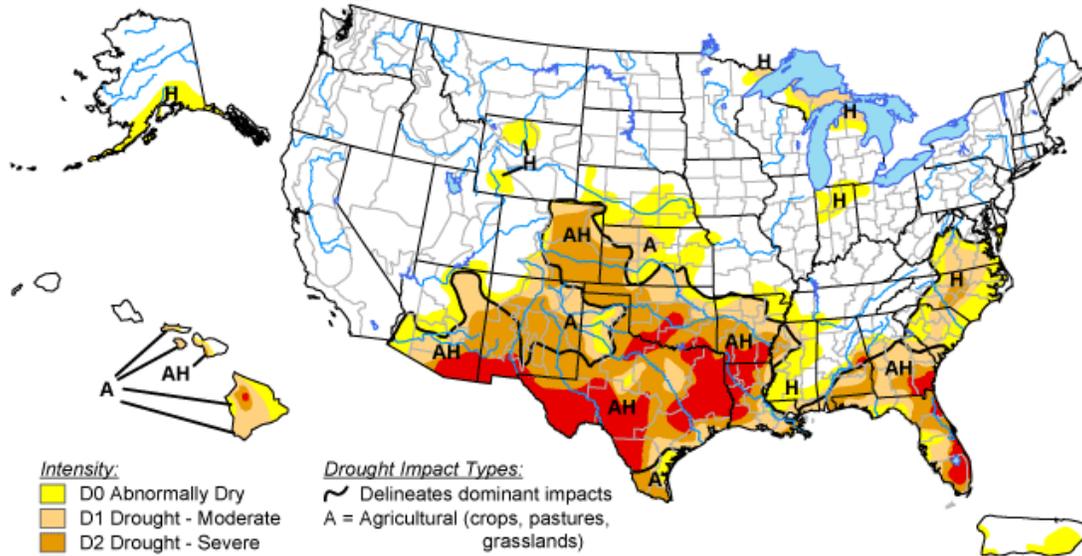


Drought Status and Climate Outlook for Upcoming 12 Months
FWS SFESO – Vero Beach, FL
April 14, 2011

Short Term Drought Map:

U.S. Drought Monitor

March 29, 2011
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



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

- Drought Impact Types:**
- Delineates dominant impacts
 - A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
 - H = Hydrological (water)

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

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



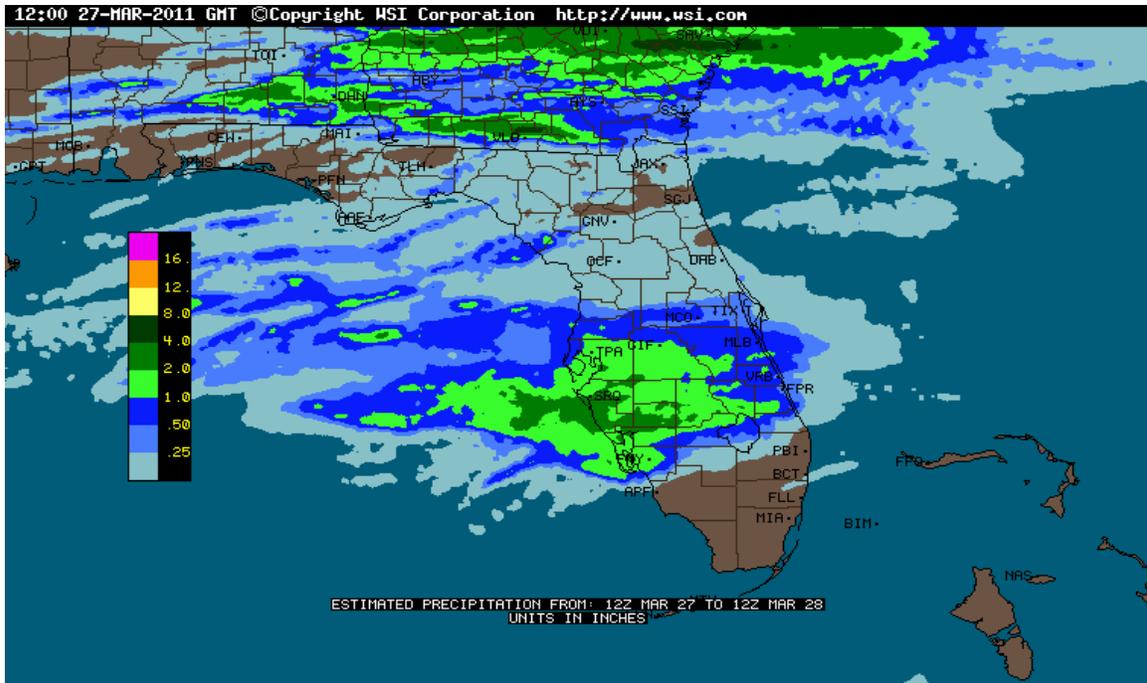
Released Thursday, March 31, 2011

Author: Eric Luebehusen, U.S. Department of Agriculture

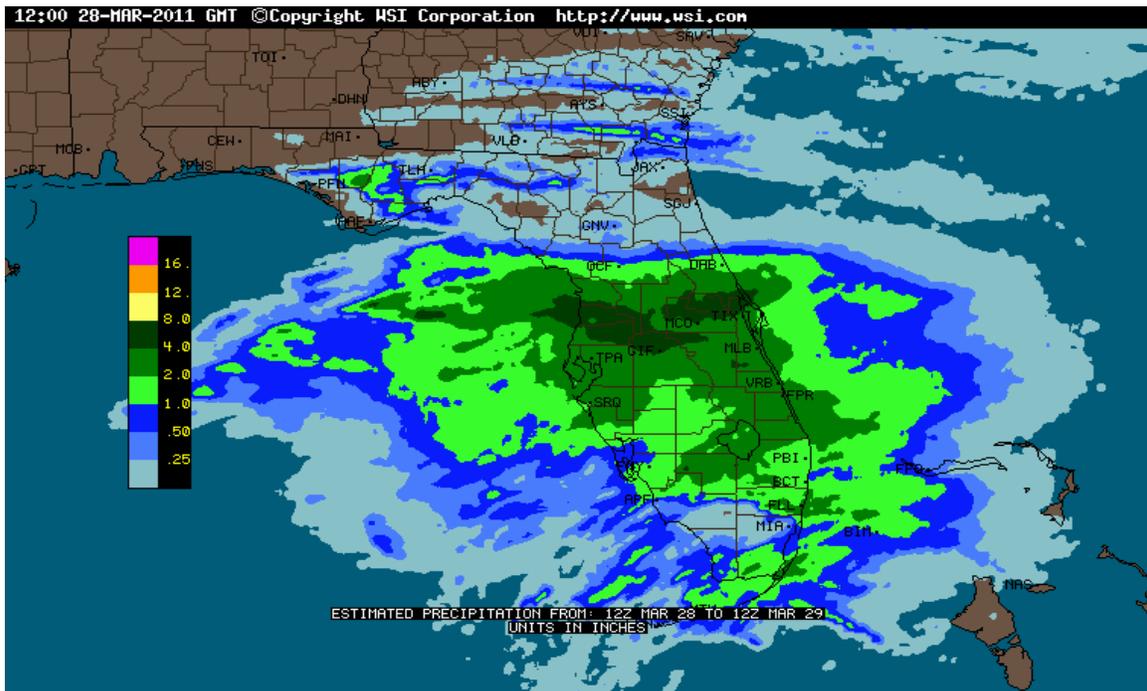
Synopsis: Some much needed rain (2-4 inches, locally up to 7 inches) occurred in late March over central Florida that provided some temporary relief from Moderate to Severe Drought (D1 and D2) conditions. However, the rain largely bypassed the southern Extreme Drought (D3) region in South Florida. Consequently, modest drought improvement was noted in central Florida, while southern and eastern Florida remained largely unchanged. In northern Florida, Moderate Drought (D1) was expanded in eastern portions of the Panhandle, where precipitation deficits over the past 60 days tallied 4 to 6 inches (less than 50 percent of normal).

Rainfall Events:

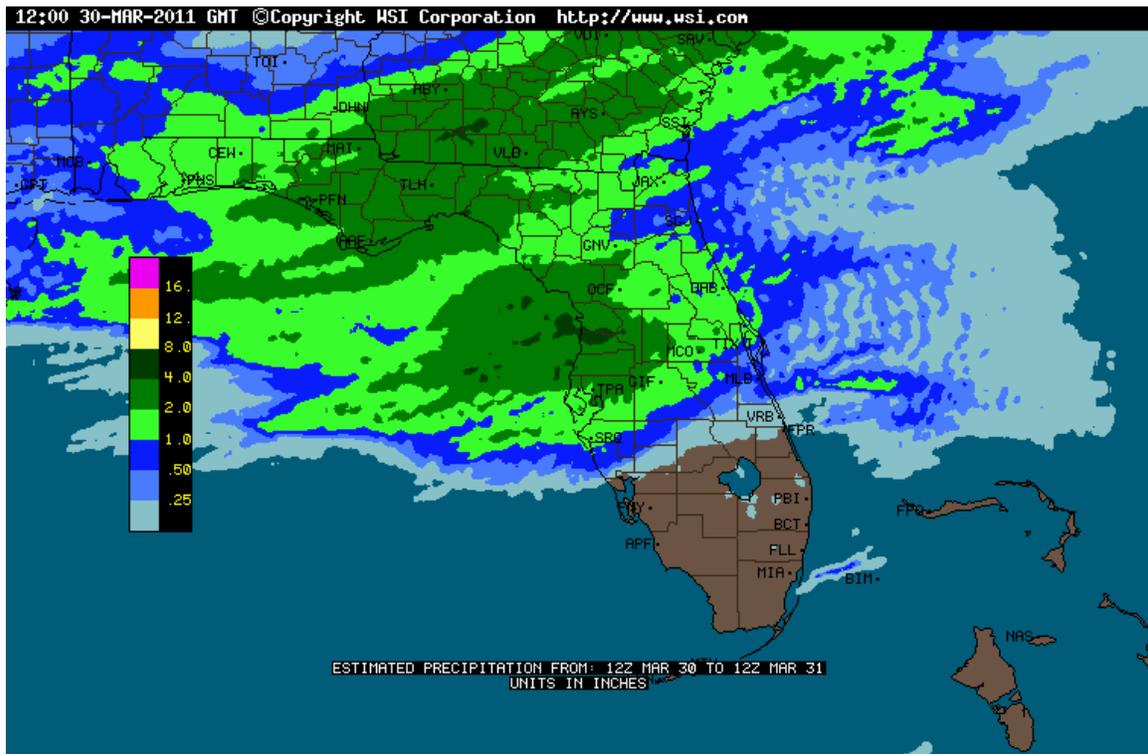
March 27th:



March 28th:



March 30th:



Drought Impacts in the News:

Wildfire Update - There were 53 wildfires in South Florida from December 2010 through March 2011, compared to just 30 wildfires last year during the same period. The increased incidence of wildfires was attributed to the dry conditions in the southern part of the state, which has not endured such dryness in 80 years. Palm Beach County only received 12.4 inches or roughly one-third of its average rainfall between October 2010 and February 2011. Palm Beach Post (Fla.), March 15.

The Treasure Coast experienced more than four times as many wildfires as last year, due to drought. From January 1, 2009 through March 14, 2009, there were just 10 fires reported in comparison to 45 wildfires this year. There were 26 fires in Martin County that scorched 655 acres, 11 in St. Lucie County that burned 459 acres and eight fires in Indian River County that charred 35 acres. The five-year average for the Treasure Coast is 16 fires. TCPalm.com (Fla.), March 16, 2011.

There were 31 wildfires in Collier County from October 1, 2010 through March 23, 2011, compared to 20 during the same time period last year. Record dry conditions over the past five months contributed to the increase in wildfire activity. Fort Myers News-Press (Fla.), March 23, 2011.

There were twice as many wildfires in the Everglades between December 2010 and late March as there was the previous year. The greater incidence of wildfires coincided with a particularly arid dry season for southern Florida. Palm Beach Post (Fla.), March 25, 2011.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission deemed Holey Land Wildlife Management Area closed to boats and other motorized vehicles due to low water levels and high fire danger. Areas that were normally covered with water were dry, making travel by air boats hazardous. WFOR-TV and WBFS CBS 4 Miami (Fla.), March 15, 2011.

Water Restrictions - Emergency watering restrictions began on March 26 in South Florida that allowed lawn watering only two days per week. Declining area groundwater levels led the South Florida Water Management District to implement the restrictions in an effort to stretch the remaining water supplies. Golf courses in Palm Beach, Broward and Miami-Dade counties and crop irrigators and nurseries in Broward and Palm Beach counties must cut their water use by 15 percent. Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel & SouthFlorida.com, March 22, 2011

Lake O - Five locks on the northern end of Lake Okeechobee were closed to boat navigation because the level of the lake was too low, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel & SouthFlorida.com (Fla.), March 27, 2011

2010-2011 Dry Season Totals:

Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes: 14" (+1.3" above normal rain)
Lower Kissimmee Chain of Lakes: 9.6" (-1.2" below normal rain)
Lake "O": 7.9" (-2.6" below normal rain)
St. Lucie basin: 8.2" (-5.9" below normal rain)
Caloosahatchee basin: 8.3" (-2.7" below normal rain)
EAA: 7" (-3.7" below normal rain)
Southwest Florida: 8.6" (-2.3" below normal rain)
Coastal Palm Beach County: 7.4" (-8.2" below normal rain)
Coastal Broward County: 7.2" (-6.3" below normal rain)
Lox & WCA-2: 7.5" (-4.3" below normal rain)
WCA-3: 5.8" (-4.6" below normal rain)
Coastal Dade County: 7.9" (-3.7" below normal rain)
ENP: 6.8" (-1" below normal rain)
The Keys: 7" (-2.8 below normal rain)

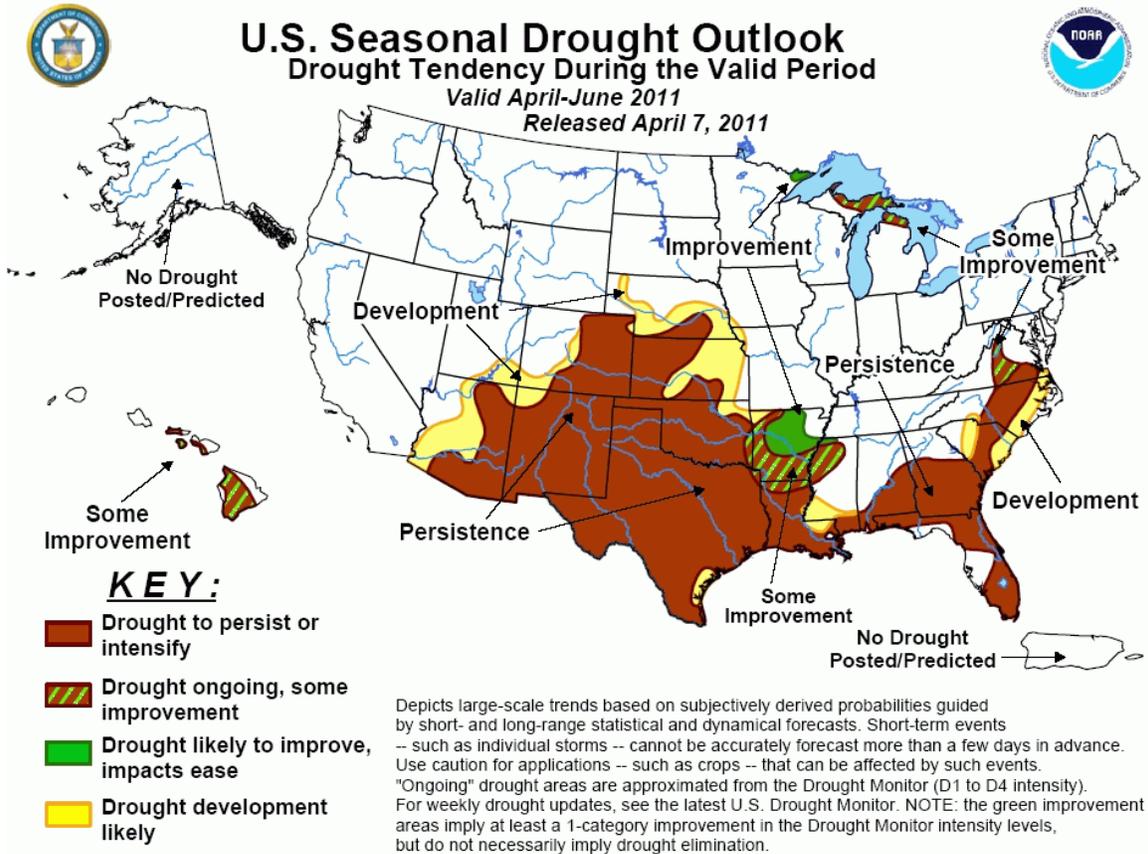
2011 Yearly Totals:

Upper Kissimmee Chain of Lakes: 11.8" (+3.7" above normal rain)
Lower Kissimmee Chain of Lakes: 6.9" (-.3" below normal rain)
Lake "O": 6" (-1" below normal rain)
St. Lucie basin: 6.3" (-2.3" below normal rain)
Caloosahatchee basin: 5.7" (-1.4" below normal rain)
EAA: 5" (-1.7" below normal rain)
Southwest Florida: 5.5" (-1.8" below normal rain)
Coastal Palm County: 5.2" (-4.8" below normal rain)
Coastal Broward County: 4.1" (-3.9" below normal rain)
Lox & WCA-2: 4.6" (-2.5" below normal rain)
WCA-3: 3.6" (-2.9 below normal rain)
Coastal Dade County: 4.6" (-2.2" below normal rain)
ENP: 3.8" (-1.5" below normal rain)
The Keys: 4.5" (-.8" below normal rain)

Records:

Key West experienced its fourth driest February and March combined. The driest occurred in 1945.

Drought Outlook for the Next 3 Months:



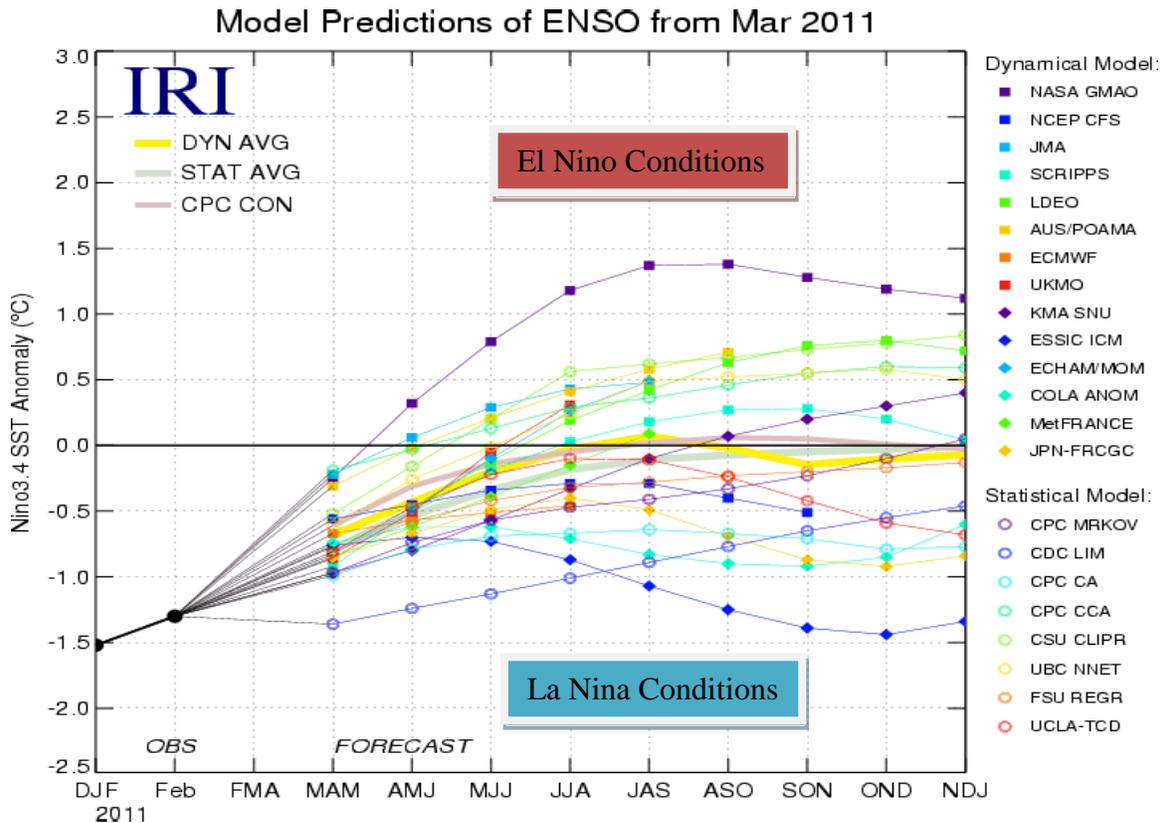
2011 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook:

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

Probability of a Major Hurricane landfall on the U.S 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 weakened for the third consecutive month as equatorial Pacific Ocean sea surface temperatures are increasing. However, La Nina global impacts are expected to continue through June. Nearly all the ENSO models predict La Nina to continue weakening through spring 2011 returning us to an ENSO-Neutral phase by July. Models expect ENSO-neutral conditions to last through 2011. However, uncertainty increases sharply afterwards.



Likely La Nina impacts in Florida Winter 2010 – spring 2011

- Dry or drought conditions.
- Below average surface water levels.
- Normal to slightly above normal temperatures (the stronger the La Nina event, the warmer our winter will be).
- More fires with larger burn areas.

Central & South Florida Temperature Outlook:

April thru September – Much Above

September - Above

October thru March 2012 – Normal

Central & South Florida Rainfall Outlook:

April – Below Normal

May thru October – Slightly Above normal

November thru March 2012 - Normal

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