

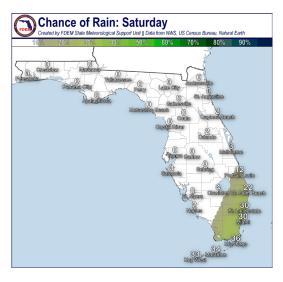




...Mostly Dry Weekend Across the Sunshine State as High Pressure Dominates... Cold Front Approaches Western Panhandle Late on Sunday – Locally Heavy Rainfall and Isolated Severe Thunderstorms Possible... Breezy Onshore Winds Bring Isolated Showers to East Coast Sunday and Monday... Front Passes Through State Monday With Scattered Shower Activity... Dry Conditions Return in the Wake on Tuesday... Breezy Winds Bring Increased Surf and Dangerous Swimming Conditions to East Coast and Panhandle... Temperatures Turn Above Normal for Southwest Florida this Weekend and Early Next Week...

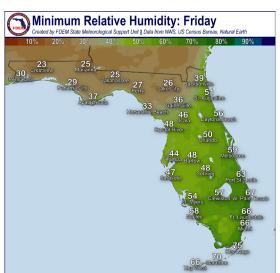
Friday - Saturday:

High pressure will slide across the Southeast U.S. Friday and Saturday reinforcing the drier airmass already in place across much of the Sunshine State. A lingering weak cold front will still be draped across the far southern Peninsula on Friday with just enough low-level moisture for an isolated sprinkle or shower south of the I-75 corridor and the Florida Keys (15-25% chance of rain). However, any activity will be light and brief in nature. On Saturday, some additional isolated shower activity may stream onshore across coastal Southeast Florida as moisture begins to slowly increase (25-35% chance of rain). A rumble of thunder or isolated lightning strike cannot be ruled out with any of this activity Friday and Saturday. Heading into the weekend, the biggest storyline regarding the weather is the tight pressure gradient that will set up between the high pressure across the Southeast U.S. and lower pressure from the cold front and,



even further south, Tropical Storm Melissa. Breezy onshore flow will develop between these systems across the Peninsula with wind gusts of 15-25 mph across the Peninsula through the weekend. A few wind gusts upwards of 35 or even 40 mph cannot be ruled out across the southern Peninsula and Florida Keys, especially along coastal areas. Although winds will likely remain below Wind Advisory criteria, loose items should be secured or taken inside.

The rather persistent dry and pleasant conditions across North Florida have come with a price as drought continues to worsen with drying vegetation and very low soil moisture levels. Relative humidity values will dip **below critical thresholds (20-30%)** Friday afternoon across the Panhandle and Big Bend region where the worst drought has taken shape, bringing **locally sensitive to elevated wildfire conditions**. Although winds will remain generally light (below 15 mph), the very dry conditions



and low RH values will support spreading of existing or ignition of new wildfires. Relative humidities will rebound back above critical thresholds on Saturday ahead of the next approaching cold front from the west.

Temperatures will remain seasonable to slightly above normal on Friday and Saturday as the high pressure allows for ample sunshine. Highs will reach the lower to middle 80s across North Florida, with some coastal areas remaining in the upper 70s. Across Central and South Florida, high temperatures will reach the middle to upper 80s on Friday and Saturday. Humidities will remain low to start the weekend, keeping heat index values below critical thresholds. Low temperatures will reach the middle 60s across Central Florida and middle to upper 70s across South Florida. As moisture starts to slowly return to North





Florida, low temperatures will increase from the lower to middle 50s Friday night to the upper 50s to lower 60s Saturday night.

Sunday - Tuesday



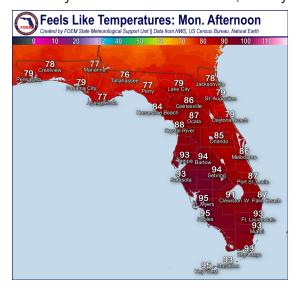
The next real chance for rainfall approaches the state late on Sunday as a cold front sweeps across the southern Mississippi Valley. Winds will turn towards the southeast ahead of this approaching frontal system, allowing for greater tropical moisture and humidity to spread northward across the state. As such, a few isolated to widely scattered showers will push onshore across the East Coast on Sunday afternoon (25-40% chance of rain). Closer to the front, showers and embedded thunderstorms ahead of and along the front will approach the western Panhandle late in the afternoon and during the evening hours (40-60% chance of rain). A Marginal Risk (level 1 of 5) for Severe Thunderstorms

has been outlooked across the far western Panhandle Sunday afternoon where a few thunderstorms could be **locally strong to severe** and capable of producing isolated damaging wind gusts and perhaps a brief funnel cloud or even tornado. This activity will spread eastward overnight on Sunday, with conditions potentially remaining favorable for isolated severe storms across the rest of the Panhandle through the nighttime hours. There remains uncertainty in the timing of this frontal passage across the Panhandle and the extent of severe weather conditions. As such, computer forecast model guidance and trends will continue to be monitored. Additionally, a **Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding** is also outlooked across the far western Panhandle late on Sunday for a few of these thunderstorms that could bring **locally heavy rainfall and flash flooding**.

The cold front will continue to trek eastward across the remainder of the state on Monday, bringing isolated to widely scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms statewide (30-40% chance of rain). A few thunderstorms across the Panhandle could be **locally strong to severe** during the early morning hours on Monday before they begin to slowly weaken as they head eastward. However, activity

will still be capable of producing frequent lightning and gusty winds. The breezy southeasterly winds will slowly diminish late this weekend and into early next week, though winds may still gust **upwards of 25-30 mph** across South Florida. Winds will turn from the northwest behind this frontal passage late on Monday and Monday night, bringing a reinforcing shot of dry air to the Sunshine State and a return of sunny and pleasant conditions.

High temperatures will remain in the upper 70s to lower 80s across North Florida through Tuesday next week, with a few areas only reaching the middle 70s on Tuesday as dry conditions and lower humidity returns. However, above normal temperatures are expected to prevail across much of Central and South Florida through the forecast period. Highs will reach the upper 80s across West-Central and Southwest Florida with middle 80s



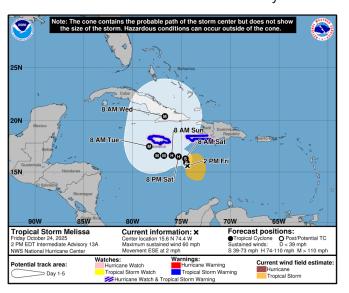




across Central and Southeast Florida. **Heat index values** will climb into the **middle to upper 90s** across Southwest Florida as humidities remain elevated. Low temperatures will slowly decrease each night across North Florida in the wake of the cold front, with lows in the middle 60s Sunday night and middle to upper 50s Monday and Tuesday night. Lows will remain in the middle 60s to middle 70s for Central and South Florida, with even upper 70s across coastal Southeast Florida and the Florida Keys.

Tropical Weather:

<u>Tropical Storm Melissa:</u> As of 02:00 PM EDT, Tropical Storm Melissa is located about 250 miles southwest of Port au Prince, Haiti and is moving east-southeast at 2 mph. A turn to the northeast and north at a continued slow motion is expected to begin this afternoon and tonight. A westward turn is forecast on Saturday and this general motion is expected to continue through Monday. A turn to the north and northeast is forecast on Tuesday and Wednesday. On the forecast tack, the center of Melissa



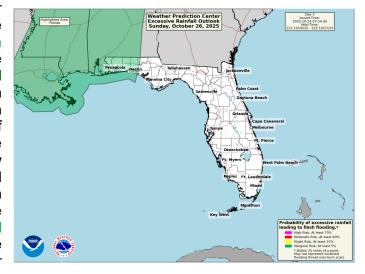
is expected to move near or just south of Jamaica early next week and could be bear eastern Cuba by the middle of next week.

Maximum sustained winds are near 60 mph with higher gusts. Additional strengthening is forecast today, followed by rapid intensification this weekend. Melissa is forecast to become a hurricane by Saturday and a major hurricane by Sunday. Melissa poses no direct threat to Florida at this time but continues to be closely monitored. Please visit the National Hurricane Center (NHC) website for the latest on the tropics.

Hydrology & Flooding:

A cold front will approach the western Panhandle late in the day on Sunday through Sunday night, bringing scattered showers and embedded thunderstorms capable of producing **locally heavy**

downpours. The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) has outlooked the far western Panhandle under a Marginal Risk (level 1 of 4) for Flash Flooding late on Sunday for a few of these thunderstorms that could produce localized flash flooding and ponding of water. Though widespread heavy rainfall is not anticipated on Monday, showers and thunderstorms ahead of and along this front as it continues to move eastward across the Peninsula may bring a few locally heavy downpours. Rainfall totals will remain below 0.5" for much of the state through the forecast period, though totals of 1-2" are expected across the Panhandle with localized amounts upwards of 3". For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) website.





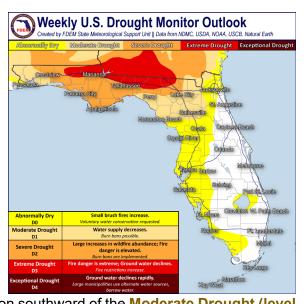


A **River Flood Warning** remains in effect for the <u>St. Johns River at Astor</u> as water levels have finally fallen below **moderate stage**. Water levels will continue to very slowly decline through **minor flood stage** as water discharges from the basin; however, a return a breezier onshore winds and elevated surf this weekend could lead to a stall in discharge rates. The St. Johns River <u>near Deland</u>, <u>Sanford</u> and <u>Lake Harney</u> all remain within Action Stage (bank-full) due to the cascading back up of water levels from further downstream. Conditions are forecast to remain near stagnant or very slowly decline for the next several days. There are no additional riverine concerns at this time, For more information, visit the <u>River Forecast Center</u>.

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 13.90 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.16 feet below normal for this time of year.

Drought & Fire Weather:

Although rainfall chances have generally been very low the past week across the East Coast, very wet soils from a rather wet early October has kept any drought in check across much of the Florida East Coast. However, a different story is unfolding across the western Peninsula and I-75 corridor where some slight expansion of the abnormally dry (emerging drought) has been added to this week's drought monitor outlook across interior Hillsborough, Charlotte, Collier, and Monroe counties. The cold frontal passage this past Sunday brought some beneficial rainfall to the western Peninsula, however with amounts generally below 1", there was no significant dent made in the emerging drought. Longer term (60-90 day) rainfall departures remain around 4-6" below normal for much of West-Central Florida and worsening drought conditions are expected as rainfall chances remain low through the next



week or so. Further north, there was some slight expansion southward of the Moderate Drought (level 1 of 4) into northern Levy County and southern Dixie county across the Big Bend region. Severe (level 2 of 4) to Extreme Drought (level 3 of 4) remains in place across much of the Panhandle where a lack of rainfall and very low soil moisture prevails. Like the western Peninsula, the cold frontal passage from this past Sunday (10/19) brought a bit of beneficial rainfall, but not nearly enough to make a dent in the drought. In fact, some expansion eastward of the Extreme Drought (level 3 of 4) into Madison and Hamilton counties was added on this week's drought monitor outlook. No significant changes were made elsewhere across the Panhandle with Moderate Drought (level 1 of 4) conditions persisting for interior Northeast Florida and the Suwannee Valley. The next chance of rain for portions of the Panhandle may come on Sunday this weekend with another cold front, though widespread heavy rainfall is not anticipated at this time and drought conditions will continue to deteriorate.

The Keetch-Byram Drought Index average for Florida is 406 on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are 31 Florida counties (Baker, Bay, Calhoun, Columbia, DeSoto, Franklin, Gadsden, Gilchrist, Gulf, Hamilton, Hardee, Hernando, Holmes, Hillsborough, Jackson, Jefferson, Lafeyette, Leon, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Okaloosa, Pasco, Pinellas, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Suwannee, Union, Wakulla, Walton, and Washington) that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Relative humdities will dip **below critical thresholds (20-30% RH values)** Friday afternoon as high pressure dominates and reinforces the dry air in place. With the ongoing drought conditions and very dry vegetation, **sensitive** to **elevated wildfire condtions** will develop in the afternoon which may help to spread existing wildfires or brush fires, or even ignite new ones. Heading into the weekend and early next week, relative humidites will rebound back well above critical thresholds which will keep the

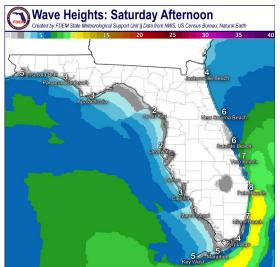




overall wildfire risk very low. Given the dry conditions and lack of rainfall, a burn ban is in effect for Calhoun and Sarasota Counties. According to the <u>Florida Forest Service</u>, there are currently 30 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 141 acres.

Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

A high risk for rip currents will persist through the weekend and into early next week for all East Coast beaches as onshore winds remain breezy and marine conditions worsen. A moderate risk for rip currents on Friday will increase to a high risk this weekend for all Panhandle beaches as winds shift from the south ahead of the approaching frontal system. As winds begin to diminish on Tuesday, the high risk will return to a moderate risk for rip currents. West Coast beaches can expect a low risk through the forecast period, though a local moderate risk cannot be ruled out as surf increases this weekend in the Gulf. For the latest Rip Current Outlook, visit www.weather.gov/beach.



Marine conditions will remain elevated through the forecast period across all of the Florida East Coast as breezy winds build a dangerous offshore ocean swell. Surf of 3-5' on Friday will quickly increase Friday night and Saturday with waves of 5-7' expected on Saturday. Waves upwards of 10' will be possible in the surf zone across Treasure Coast and Southeast Florida beaches on Saturday and Sunday. As such, a **High Surf Advisory** is in effect for coastal Southeast Florida through early Monday morning. The high surf could lead to instances of minor beach and dune erosion across East Coast beaches, especially given the vulnerability of beaches following recent coastal action. Surf will begin to slowly diminish on Monday next week as onshore winds slacken and winds shift in the wake of a cold front. Surf of 4-6' is expected for all East Coast beaches Monday and Tuesday, with some

waves **upwards of 8'** in the surf zone across Treasure and Space Coast beaches. Calmer marine conditions are expected across Panhandle and West Coast beaches on Friday before southerly winds ahead of the next cold front bring waves of **2-4'** Saturday through Monday. In the wake of the cold front, waves will return back to 1-2'.

Widespread coastal flooding is not anticipated along the East Coast, despite the persistent onshore winds, due to diminishing tides as the recent New Moon was early this week. However, Coastal Flood Statements cannot be ruled out this weekend along coastal Southeast Florida and the Florida Keys where breezy onshore winds and high surf could lead to localized instances of tidal and coastal flooding.

The latest <u>Blue-Green Algae</u> report shows algal bloom conditions were observed at seven sites out of the 47 site visits conducted from 10/10 to 10/16. Satellite imagery for Lake Okeechobee shows low to <u>moderate bloom potential</u> on at least 20% of the lake with the highest bloom potential along the northwest and southwest quadrants of the lake. Low to <u>moderate bloom potential</u> was observed on Lake George, with additional low to <u>moderate bloom potential</u> is also visible along the mainstem of the St. Johns River from Lake George downstream to Jacksonville Naval Air Station. Scattered low bloom potential was observed on visible portions of the upper Caloosahatchee Estuary. No significant bloom potential was observed on the St. Lucie Estuary.

NWS Mobile Daily Hazards
NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards
NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards

NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards
NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards
NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards
NWS Key West Daily Hazards





For the official National Weather Service forecast, please click on the following cities: <u>Pensacola Panama City Tallahassee Gainesville Jacksonville Daytona Beach</u>

Pensacola Panama City Tallahassee Gainesville Jacksonville Daytona Beach
Orlando Tampa Fort Myers West Palm Beach Miami Key West
Click here for the latest watches, warnings, and advisories from The National Weather Service
For coastal and offshore forecasts throughout Florida and Georgia, please click here.



Florida NCAA Division I Football Forecast

All times are in ET



	#18 USF vs. Memphis	Saturday 12:00 PM EDT	Memphis, TN	
Sunny and pleasant, becoming mostly cloudy after halftime.				
	Kickoff Temperature: 69°	<u>Halftime Temperature: 74°</u>	Final Whistle Temperature: 76°	

AR Pine Bluff vs. B-0	Saturday 3:00 PM EDT	Daytona Beach, FL	
Mostly clear skies with scattered clouds and wind gusts upwards of 25-30 mph.			
Kickoff Temperature: 7	<u>Halftime Temperature: 78°</u>	Final Whistle Temperature: 77°	

FAU vs. Navy	Saturday 3:30 PM EDT	Annapolis, MD		
Partly cloud skies with light wind gusts up to 10 mph.				
Kickoff Temperature: 57°	Halftime Temperature: 56°	Final Whistle Temperature: 54°		

FAMU vs. Southern U	Saturday 5:00 PM EDT	Baton Rouge, LA		
Scattered showers and thunderstorms throughout the game, with wind gusts upwards of 20 mph.				
Kickoff Temperature: 79°	Halftime Temperature: 77°	Final Whistle Temperature: 72°		

Stanford vs. #9Miami	Saturday 7:00 PM EDT	Miami Gardens, FL		
Partly cloudy skies with a chance for an isolated shower. Winds gusting upwards of 25 mph.				
Kickoff Temperature: 79°	Halftime Temperature: 78°	Final Whistle Temperature: 78°		

FSU – BYE UF – BYE UCF – BYE

Have a wonderful weekend!

Evan Newman, Assistant State Meteorologist Florida Division of Emergency Management www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather



