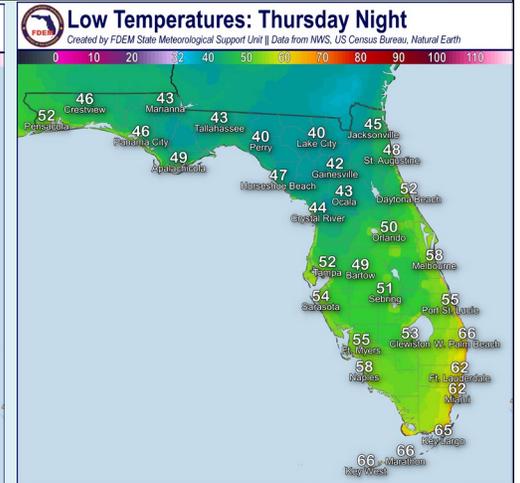
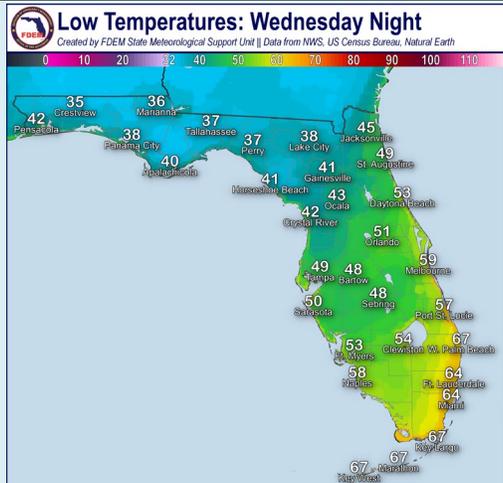
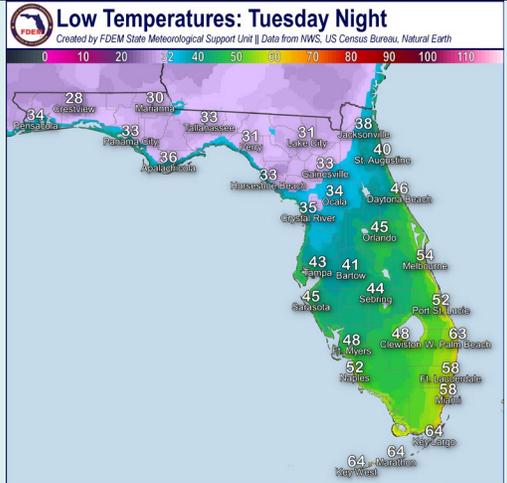


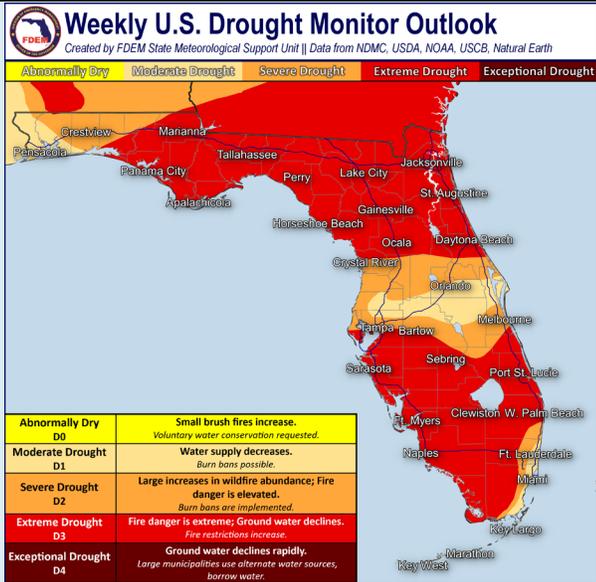
Tuesday, March 17, 2026

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

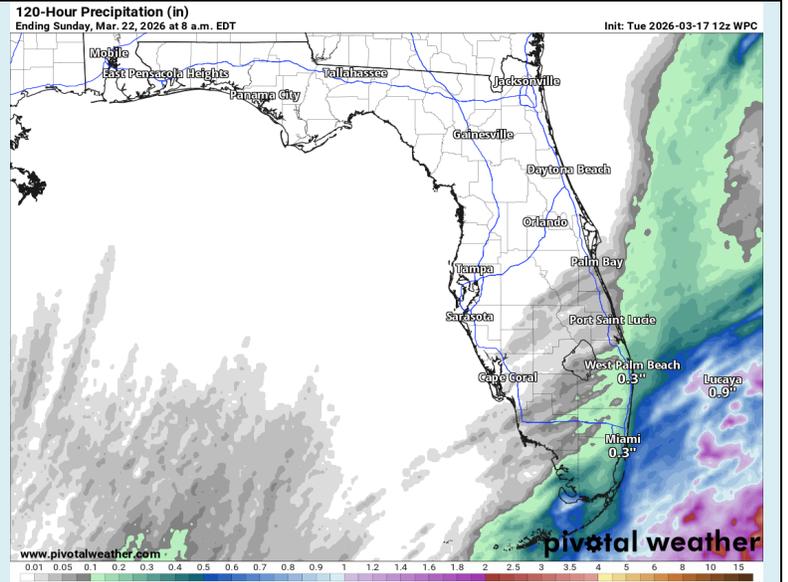
No Threat		Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		
Day	Lightning	Tornado	Damaging Wind/Hail	Coastal Flooding	Freeze (Overnight)	Fog (Overnight)	Wildfire	Rip Currents
	South FL & FL Keys			Iso. FL Keys	Int. North FL & Nature Coast		Int. North & Central FL	FL Peninsula Northeast FL & FL Panhandle
Wed	South FL & FL Keys			Iso. FL Keys & Northeast FL	Int. North FL & Suwannee Valley		Locally Int. North & Central FL	East Coast West Coast & FL Panhandle
Thu	South FL & FL Keys			Northeast FL Iso. FL Keys		Iso. FL Panhandle	Locally Int. North & Central FL	East Coast FL Panhandle West Coast
Fri				Iso. FL Keys & Northeast FL		Iso. Coastal FL Panhandle	Int. North & Central FL	East Coast FL Panhandle West Coast
Sat						Iso. West Coast North & West FL	Iso. Int. Central FL	East Coast FL Panhandle West Coast



Forecast Low Temperatures: Tuesday Night, Wednesday Night, & Thursday Night



Drought Monitor: Valid 3/12/2026



5-Day Forecast Rainfall Totals: Through Saturday Evening

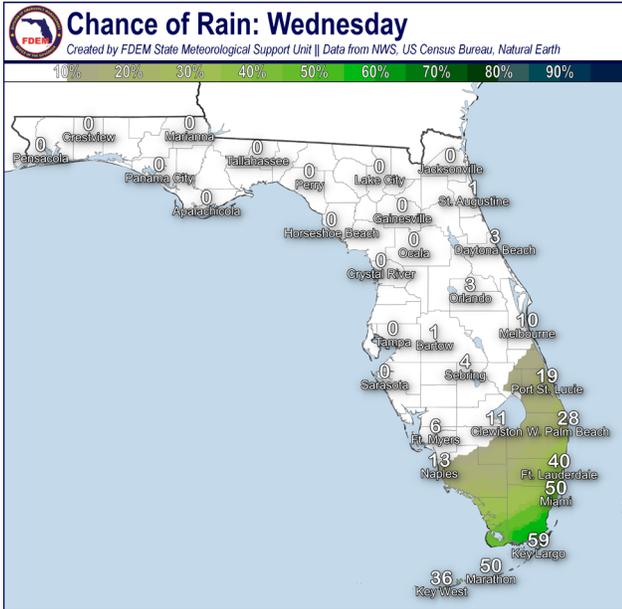


...One More Night of Sub-Freezing Temperatures for North Florida...Isolated to Scattered Rain Chances Linger Along the Southern Florida Peninsula...Fog and Low Clouds May Return to the Gulf Coast Forecast This Weekend...Temperatures Slowly Rebound...Dangerous Marine and Beach Conditions for Many Florida Coastlines This Week....



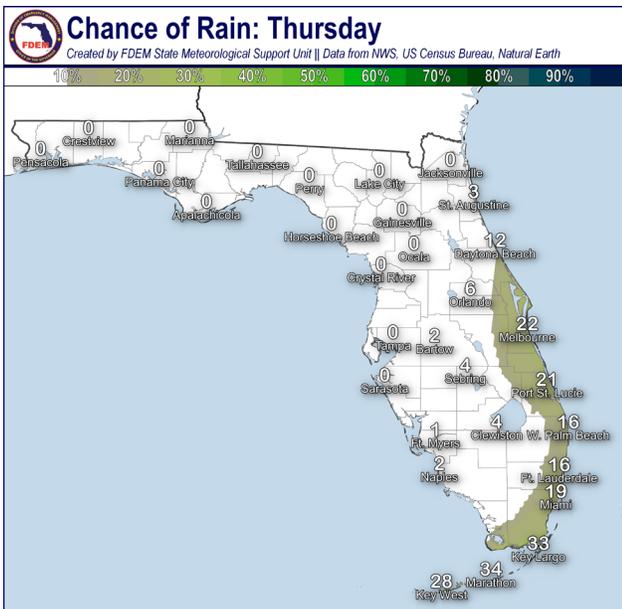
Tuesday through Thursday:

The colder and drier airmass has certainly settled in behind yesterday's strong frontal system, with chilly temperatures in the **lower to middle 30s** observed across much of North Florida this morning. That marks an impressive 30- to 40-degree temperature swing over the past 24 hours! Temperatures are starting to warm up under the mixture of sunshine and clouds; however, afternoon temperatures peak in the 50s and 60s across North and Central Florida. Breezy northerly to northwesterly winds of 5-15 mph will continue to reinforce the cooler and drier weather, with **wind gusts of 15-25 mph** possible throughout the Florida Peninsula. As our recent frontal system stalls over the Florida Straits, its proximity will still allow for isolated to scattered shower activity across South Florida (40-60% chance of rain). While a stray thunderstorm cannot be ruled out, severe weather or flooding is not expected. Afternoon high temperatures remain in the upper 60s to middle 70s across South Florida and the Florida Keys.



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Another cold night expected across North and interior Central Florida, with temperatures plummeting **below freezing**. **Freeze Warnings** have been reissued for the interior Florida Panhandle and extended into inland Northeast Florida and the Suwannee River Valley. Even as winds gradually subside through the evening and overnight hours, **feels-like temperatures** in the **middle to upper 20s** can be expected throughout North Florida; **sub-freezing wind chills** are also possible from the Nature Coast into interior North-Central Florida. Conditions will be favorable for **widespread frost** to develop across North Florida; **Frost Advisories** will go into effect along the northern I-75 corridor tonight. This is especially important for agricultural interests as many plants and crops have already begun to bud, bloom, and green up after the warm 2-week stretch of late February/early March. Low temperatures in the 40s and 50s can be expected throughout the Florida Peninsula, with the Florida Keys remaining above the 60-degree mark.



A near carbon copy day can be expected midweek, featuring slightly moderating temperatures during both during the daytime and the overnight hours. Winds begin to shift out of the northeast Wednesday and Thursday as a dominant area of high pressure slides southward along the Appalachians. This pattern will promote a sunshine/cloud mixture, near-zero rain chances, and temperatures trending back into the 60s and 70s by the end of Thursday. Now



further south into the Florida Peninsula, peripheral impacts from our stalled frontal boundary will continue to support the development of scattered showers across South Florida and the Florida Keys (30-60% chance of rain) Wednesday and Thursday. An isolated thunderstorm or two cannot be ruled out during times of peak heating; however, a severe weather threat is not anticipated.

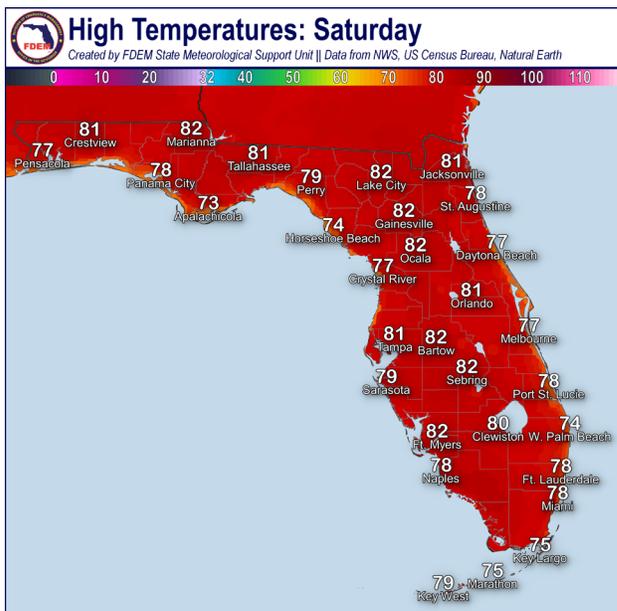
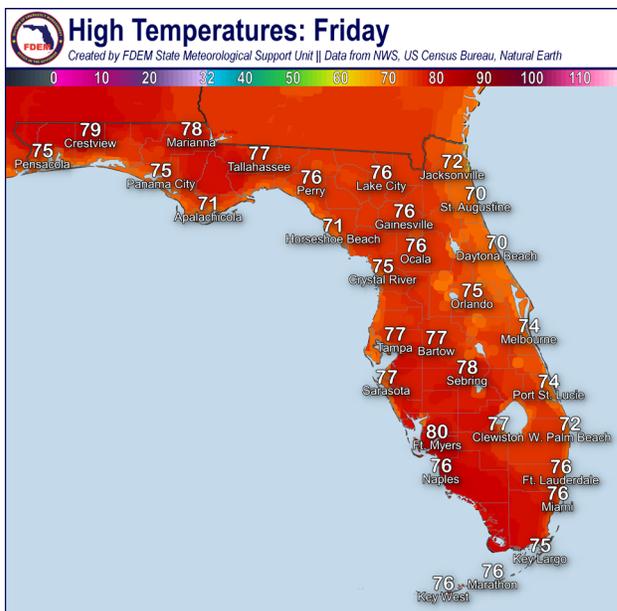
While temperatures trend warmer through the workweek, overnight low temperatures reach the **lower to middle 30s** once more Wednesday night throughout the interior Florida Panhandle, Big Bend, and Suwannee River Valley. Light winds may allow **frost** to develop over grassy and elevated surfaces; *Frost Advisories will be issued as conditions warrant*. By Thursday night, all temperatures remain above freezing statewide but still ending the workweek on a chilly note. Low temperatures Friday morning will be in the upper 30s to lower 40s throughout interior North Florida, the 40s and 50s along the Florida Panhandle and Central Florida, and the 50s to 60s south of the I-4 corridor.

Friday & Saturday:

High pressure positions itself overhead giving way to an abundance of sunshine, lighter winds, and low rain chances across Florida. Temperatures continue to increase each day, with widespread 70s and 80s expected. Lingering onshore flow to the Florida East Coast may allow for a limited amount of moisture to pool near or at the coastline on Friday afternoon, so a stray shower cannot be ruled out on the Southeast Florida Coast (15-25% chance rain). Rain chances return to near-zero statewide Saturday. Warming low temperatures can be expected throughout the remainder of the forecast period, with lows staying in the 50s and 60s by Saturday night. With a slight wind transition out of the south possible for the Florida Gulf Coast, areas of **patchy fog** may return to the forecast this weekend. As of this afternoon, computer forecast models are hinting at areas of **patchy fog and/or low clouds** to develop along portions of the Florida Panhandle beginning Friday night into Saturday morning, and extending southward along the Gulf Coast Saturday night into Sunday morning. Trends will continue to be monitored as to where the greatest chance for reduced visibility will be, with guidance suggesting the immediate coastline and adjacent coastal waters.

Hydrology & Flooding:

There is no risk of flash flooding across Florida during the next 5 days. Scattered shower activity across South Florida will be quite transient in nature and not contain rainfall rates that could warrant any quick-hitting ponding or urban flooding. Over the next 5 days, rainfall totals generally remain less than 0.5", with isolated pockets of 1-1.5" possible over the southern Florida Peninsula and Florida Keys. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) [website](#).



While there is no organized risk for coastal flooding, we have a couple areas to monitor through the forecast period as dominant areas of high pressure establish a firm north-northeasterly to northeasterly wind regime later this week. Multiple days of onshore flow and increasing wave action may lead to periods of **coastal flooding** along Northeast and East-Central Florida beaches; however, this will be heavily dependent upon the exact positioning of the area of high pressure. Should winds be able to develop a greater easterly component, above normal water levels would be more likely to occur during times of high tide along the Northeast and East-Central Florida coastline, as well as tidal portions of the St. Johns River basin. Additionally, multiple days of northerly winds and wave propagation may result in **coastal flooding** along portions of the Florida Keys; trends will be monitored in the coming days to discern if a **Coastal Flood Statement** may be warranted for portions of the Middle and Upper Keys (Florida Bay and Vaca Key).

There are no riverine concerns at this time. While the wetting rains from yesterday's frontal system helped improve some streamflow conditions across North Florida, severe rivers, streams/creeks, and waterways continue to run within the low threshold. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#). Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.18 feet, which is within the operational band and 2.24 feet below normal for this time of year.



Drought & Fire Weather:

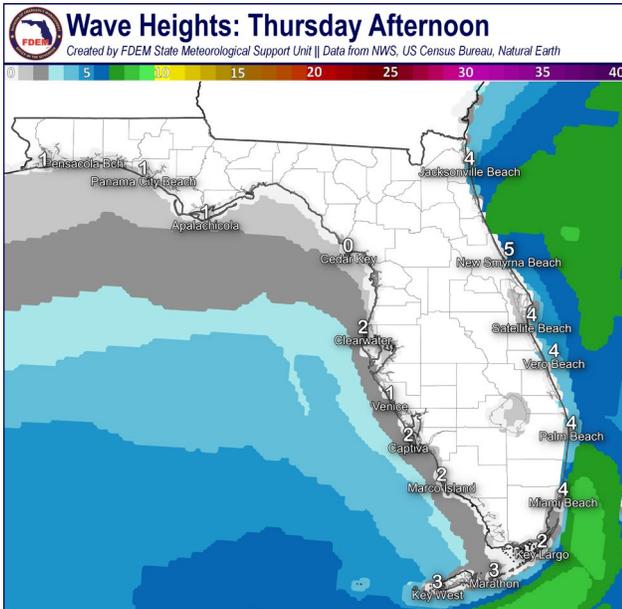
Very little changes were made to the Drought Monitor updated on 3/12/2026, and while we experienced decent wetting rains with yesterday's frontal passage, these rainfall totals would largely only benefit the short-term drought (as noted by the 40-point reduction in the state's average KBDI). We need several more rounds of rainfall to tap into the large deficit amounts and lead to some improvement in our categories. Nonetheless, an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** remains in place across much of North Florida and South Florida; some expansion of the **extreme drought** was seen across interior Palm Beach and Broward counties closer to the coastline. Throughout Central Florida a small area of **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)** remains, though it shrunk with **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** expanding to include all of southern Sumter, Lake and Seminole counties. A **moderate drought** also remains in place for the very far western Panhandle. As of this outlook, 90% of the state is under a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** or worse and 72% of the state under an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)**. Rainfall departures still remain well below normal across much of the state as recent warm and dry conditions have led to further drying of vegetation and grounds. The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **464** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **26** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

In the wake of the recent springtime cold front, a much cooler and drier airmass will take hold of the Sunshine State for the next few days, featuring **relative humidity values at or near critical thresholds (20-30%)** and **sub-freezing low temperatures**. While northerly to northwesterly winds remain elevated across the state today, wildfire conditions will be held to **locally sensitive concerns** given yesterday's widespread rainfall totals. Dry conditions persist through much of the forecast period, especially for portions of North and interior Central Florida where **relative humidity values** drop into the **25-35%** range Wednesday and Thursday. Thankfully, winds will generally be on a downward trend over the next 5 days; however, wildfire conditions will remain **locally sensitive to elevated** through Friday. As the region of high pressure settles overhead this weekend, winds become calm and relative humidity values throughout interior North and Central Florida gradually rebound to **35-40%**. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are currently 45 wildfires across the state burning approximately 4,700 acres (as of 1:45 PM EDT).

Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

Breezy post-frontal conditions will yield quite unstable **beach marine conditions** throughout the forecast period. Northerly to northwesterly winds will maintain a **moderate to high risk of rip currents** along all Florida beaches today and Wednesday. While winds will gradually subside Wednesday, this trend is relatively brief as dominant areas of high pressure renew brisk northeasterly flow to the





Sunshine State. Persist days of onshore winds and building long-period ocean swell will maintain a **moderate to high risk of rip currents** along all Atlantic Coast beaches. Beaches along the Florida Gulf Coast become more sheltered by Thursday; however, a **moderate risk of rip currents** can still be expected for many Florida Panhandle beaches into the weekend. A slight wind shift out of the southwest may introduce brief periods of **high risk** conditions along southwesterly-facing beaches (Gulf County) Saturday.

The unsettled sea state will be a primary weather-related hazard over the next 5 days as breezy conditions continue to influence the building of long-period swell. **Wave heights of 2-4'** return to the Florida Panhandle, with **3-5'** seas along remaining Gulf Coast and East Coast beaches. Locally higher breakers in the surf zone reaching upwards of **6-7'** cannot be ruled out along the Treasure Coast or

Palm Beach County beaches. Waves over the Gulf waters will subside through the remainder of the forecast period, settling between 1-2' by late week. Strong and consistent northeasterly winds will produce ocean swells of **3-6'** along the Florida East Coast, with some breakers in the surf zone reaching **6-7'** Thursday and Friday. Winds slowly ease on Saturday as the area of high pressure transitions overhead; however, lingering chop of **3-5'** can be expected along the Florida East Coast.

The latest **Blue-Green Algae** dashboard shows there have been 80 reports of algal bloom conditions within the last 30 days. **High levels** have been observed at Lake Marian in the upper St. Johns River and Lake Thonotosassa. **Moderate levels** have been observed in numerous locations along the edge of Lake Okeechobee and the St. Johns River (both upper and lower). **Moderate levels** have also been observed within the Caloosahatchee River, Whitaker Bayou in Sarasota Bay, and Lake Avalon in the Big Cypress Swamp.

[NWS Mobile Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Jacksonville Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tampa Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Key West Daily Hazards](#)

[NWS Tallahassee Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Melbourne Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

[NWS Miami Daily Graphical Hazards](#)

For the official National Weather Service forecast, please click on the following cities:

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[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](#).



Have a wonderful rest of the week!
Caitlyn Gillespie, Deputy State Meteorologist
Florida Division of Emergency Management
www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

HAPPY

St. Patrick's Day!

