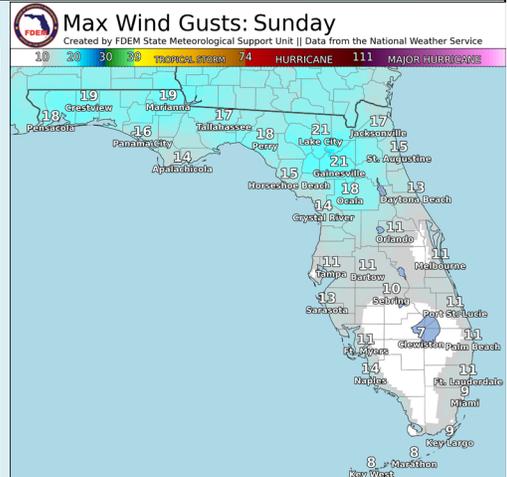
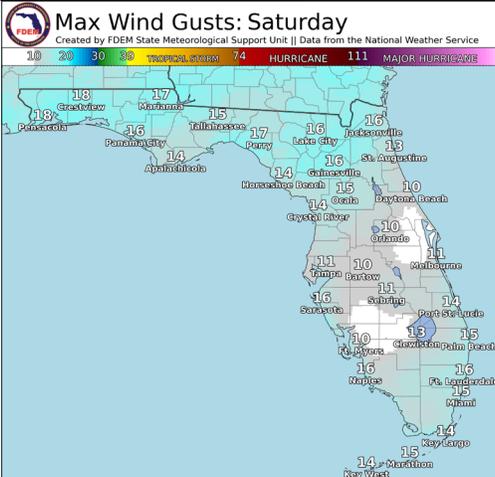
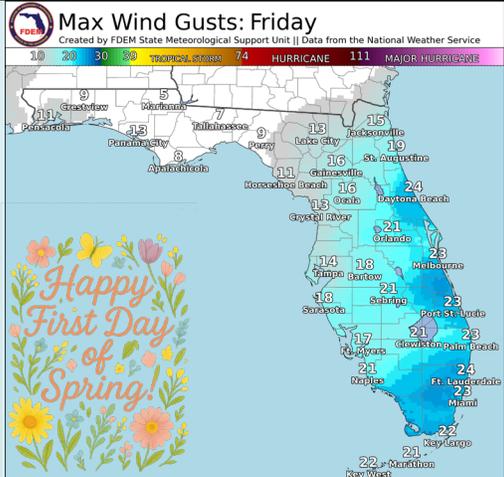


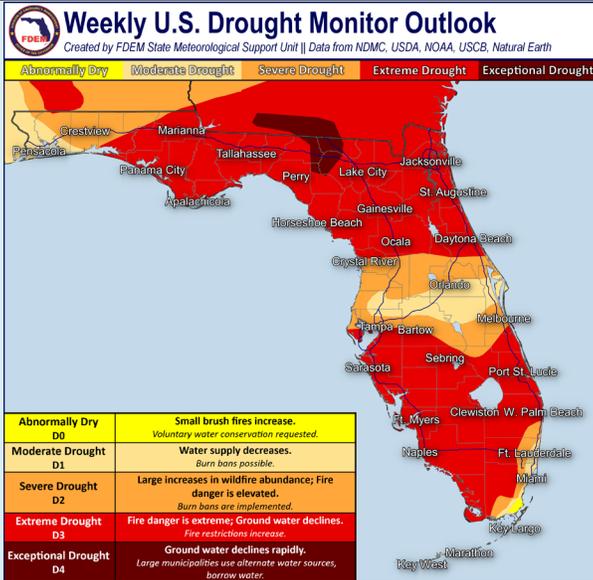
Friday, March 20, 2026

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

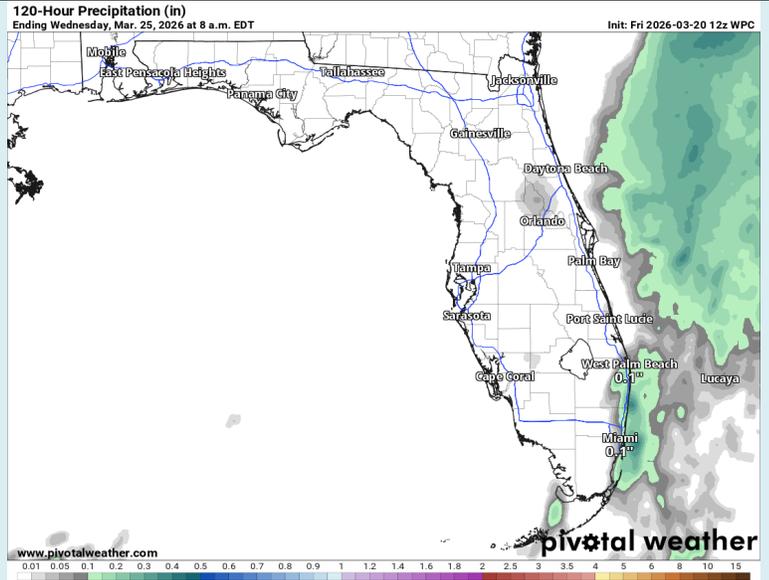
No Threat		Low Threat		Moderate Threat		High Threat		
Day	Lightning	Tornado	Damaging Wind/Hail	Coastal Flooding	Freeze (Overnight)	Fog (Overnight)	Wildfire	Rip Currents
Fri	Iso. Coastal Southeast FL					Iso. Interior Peninsula	Locally North FL Statewide	East Coast Panhandle & Southwest FL Nature Coast
Sat						Locally Panhandle & Interior Central FL	Locally Interior Peninsula Statewide	East Coast Northeast FL & Panhandle West Coast
Sun						Locally North & Central FL	Locally Interior Peninsula Statewide	East Coast & Gulf County Northeast FL & Panhandle West Coast
Mon						Locally Central FL	Locally Statewide	East Coast & Gulf County Northeast FL & Panhandle West Coast
Tue	Iso. East-Central FL					Locally Southwest FL	Locally Statewide	East Coast & Gulf County Panhandle West Coast



Forecast Wind Gusts: Friday, Saturday, and Sunday Afternoon



Drought Monitor: Valid 3/19/2026



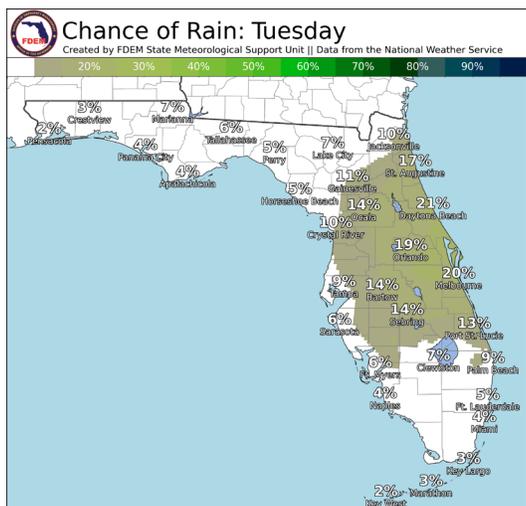
5-Day Forecast Rainfall Totals: Through Tuesday Evening




...Spring Season Set to Start off Sunny, Warm, and Dry Statewide... A Slight Chance of a Coastal Shower Across Southeast Florida Today and East-Central Florida Tuesday... Breezy Winds Along the I-95 Corridor Today... Locally Sensitive to Elevated Wildfire Conditions Persist... Fog Chances Increase this Weekend and Through Early Next Week... Exceptional Drought (Level 4 of 4) Added to This Weeks Drought Monitor Update in the Suwannee River Valley...


Friday – Tuesday:

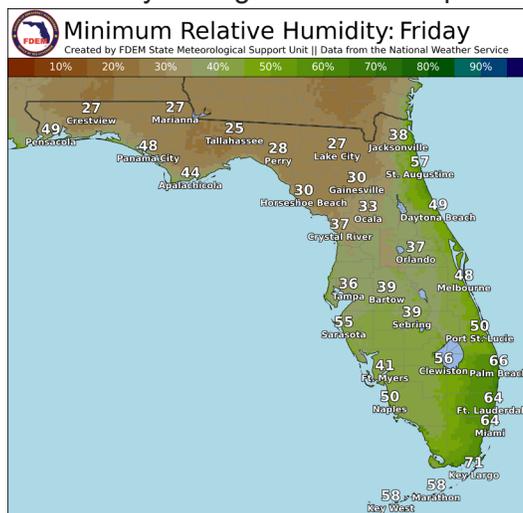
High pressure will dominate the local weather pattern this weekend and through early next week with sunny skies and mostly dry conditions prevailing statewide. An exception will be today across Southeast Florida where a few light coastal showers will traverse along the coast (25-35% chance of rain). These showers are driven by marginal moisture in the atmosphere on the periphery of the high-pressure system. Onshore flow around this area of high pressure will continue to bring elevated winds along the I-95 corridor and Southeast Florida, with **wind gusts** upwards of **20-25 mph** possible. Even greater wind gusts **upwards of 30 mph** cannot be ruled out for the immediate beach-front properties. Winds will subside through the weekend across the Peninsula which will also shut off any slight rain chances throughout South Florida. However, breezy winds with gusts **upwards of 20 mph** will shift towards the Panhandle and North Florida Saturday and Sunday.



Dry conditions will prevail statewide on Monday before a cold front sweeps through the local Atlantic waters on Tuesday. The front is not expected to push all the way past the state, but rather stall and begin to dissipate at the same latitude as East-Central Florida. Additionally, the passage of this front will be mostly dry with very limited moisture. However, onshore easterly flow with this stalled frontal boundary will bring a few isolated showers to Northeast and East-Central Florida Tuesday and Tuesday night (25-35% chance of rain). Any of this activity is expected to remain light and brief in nature, however trends in computer forecast model guidance will be monitored if any of this activity trends heavier along the immediate coast. Winds will increase across Northeast Florida with this frontal passage, with gusts **upwards of 25 mph** possible Tuesday afternoon.

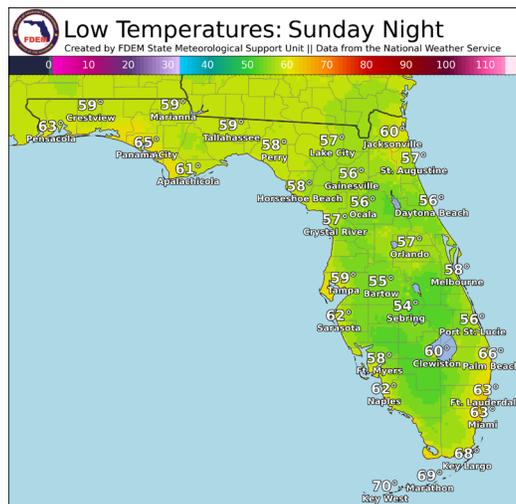
High temperatures will be on a gradual warming trend each day through the forecast period.

Highs in the 70s are expected this afternoon across the state, warming into the upper 70s to lower 80s on Saturday. By Sunday and through Tuesday, highs will reach the middle to upper 80s across much of the interior locations of the state, though coastal areas will remain cooler in the middle 70s to lower 80s. These warm and mostly dry conditions will be accompanied by **low relative humidities** each afternoon for portions of the state. The lowest relative humidities this afternoon will be across North Florida, which will dip to **critically low levels (15-25% RH values)**. Paired with the ongoing drought, this will encourage **sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions**. Relative humidities will recover for North Florida through the rest of the forecast period, though the increased wildfire risk will persist. The lowest relative humidities will shift towards the interior



Peninsula this weekend and early next week where RH values will near **critically low levels**. Any areas with active wildfires may experience locally poor air quality with **smoke and haze**.

Low temperatures will also be on a warming trend. Northeast Florida will be the local cool spot tonight, with temperatures reaching the middle to upper 40s. Elsewhere, lower to middle 50s can be expected outside of coastal Southeast Florida and the Panhandle coastline where lows will remain in the upper 50s to lower 60s. The statewide cool spot will shift to all of the interior Peninsula this weekend where lows in the lower to middle 50s can be expected. Upper 50s to lower 60s are expected elsewhere. Lows will remain in the 50s for most Monday and Tuesday night, though some areas of Central and South Florida may only reach the 60s and 70s. With these increasing temperatures, calm winds, and clear skies each night, areas of **patchy fog and low clouds** will become a concern again. The greatest chances of **locally dense fog** will occur across North Florida Saturday and Sunday night, shifting towards Central and South Florida Monday and Tuesday night. *Where fog mixes with wildfire smoke, visibilities will be significantly reduced.*



Hydrology & Flooding:

There is no risk of flash flooding across Florida during the next 5 days. A few light coastal showers are expected across Southeast Florida this afternoon, though rainfall totals will not amount to much. Isolated rain chances return to Northeast and East-Central Florida Tuesday, though totals appear to remain light as of now. Trends in model guidance will be monitored if any of this activity on Tuesday becomes heavier or more substantial in nature. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) [website](#).

There are no riverine concerns at this time. While recent rainfall has been beneficial to portions of the state, streamflows continue to run below normal and some locations have neared record-low territory. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.07 feet, which is within the operational band and 2.35 feet below normal for this time of year.

Drought & Fire Weather:

Very little changes were made to this week's Drought Monitor update, even despite much of the Sunshine State seeing beneficial wetting rains earlier in the period. The rainfall associated with the potent springtime cold front on Monday (3/16) helped Florida locations in the near-term, as observed in improved KBDI values; however, observed rainfall totals were still not enough to alleviate long-term drought and dry soils/vegetation. Widespread **severe (level 2 of 4)** to **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** continues nearly statewide, with the largest change occurring along the northern reaches of the Suwannee River. **Exceptional (level 4 of 4) drought** has been introduced over eastern Madison, Northern Gilchrist, western Suwannee, and Hamilton counties; portions of the Florida-Georgia state line saw worsening soil moisture and precipitation deficits and several streamflow gauges moved into record-low territory for mid-March. Very heavy rain fell in parts of Miami-Dade County, resulting in some improvements to drought conditions, though the benefit of the heavy rain was likely limited given runoff and very low water levels in the Everglades. The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **428** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **20** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

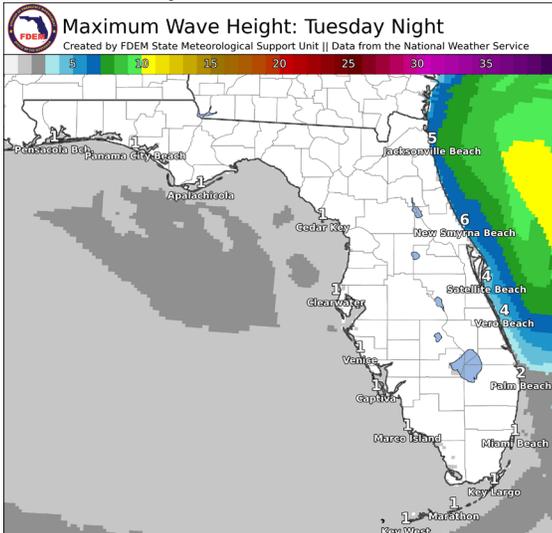
Warm and mostly dry conditions through the forecast period will be accompanied by **low relative humidities** each afternoon for portions of the state. The lowest relative humidities this afternoon will be



across North Florida, which will dip to **critically low levels (15-25% RH values)**. Paired with the ongoing drought, this will encourage **sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions**. Relative humidities will recover for North Florida through the rest of the forecast period, though the increased wildfire risk will persist given the very dry background conditions and recent freeze of local vegetation, which may have dried out conditions even further. The lowest relative humidities will shift towards the interior Peninsula this weekend and early next week where RH values will near **critically low levels (30-40%)**. Any areas with active wildfires may experience locally poor air quality with **smoke and haze**. The strongest northeasterly winds today will be along the I-95 corridor where gusts **upwards of 20-30 mph** will be possible. A wind shift out of the south is expected this weekend across the state, though winds will return to more modest levels with gusts reaching up to **20 mph** across the Panhandle. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are currently 41 wildfires across the state burning approximately 2,525 acres (as of 12:10 PM EDT).

Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

Onshore flow and lingering surf will continue to bring a **high risk for rip currents** to most East Coast beaches through the forecast period. Decreasing winds and declining surf will bring Northeast Florida beaches back down to a **moderate risk** on Saturday, however onshore winds will increase with the frontal passage on Tuesday bringing a return of a **high risk**. Panhandle beaches will remain at a **moderate risk**, though a local **high risk** is expected starting Sunday for Gulf County due to southwesterly onshore winds. A low risk will persist for West Coast beaches.



The sea state will be slow to decline across the East Coast through the weekend. Surf near **4-6'** is expected this afternoon and Saturday, returning to **2-4'** on Sunday. Waves will continue to diminish on Monday back down to 1-3' for all East Coast beaches. On Tuesday, an ocean swell will begin to build with the local frontal passage. Waves will increase first for Northeast Florida beaches to **2-4'**, spreading southward to the Space and Treasure Coast Tuesday night where waves will increase to **4-6'**. Locally higher waves in the surf zone **upwards of 7'** cannot be ruled out for Space Coast beaches. For the Panhandle and West Coast, surf around 1-2' is expected through Tuesday.

The latest [Blue-Green Algae](#) dashboard shows there have been 65 reports of algal bloom conditions within the last 30 days. **High levels** have been observed at Lake Killarney in the upper St. Johns River, Lake Thonotosassa, and the Peace River off Lake Branch Road. **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](#)

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

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Have a wonderful weekend!
Evan Newman, Assistant State Meteorologist
Florida Division of Emergency Management
www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

