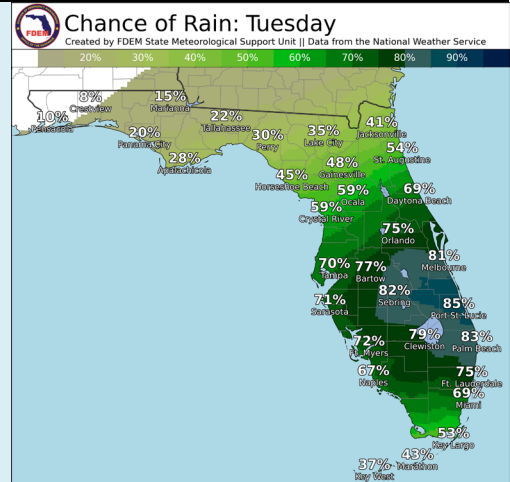
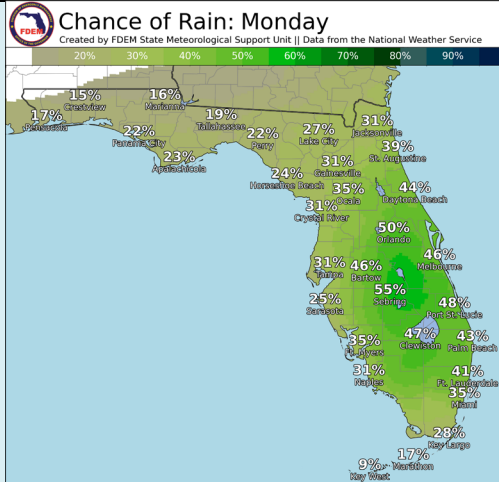
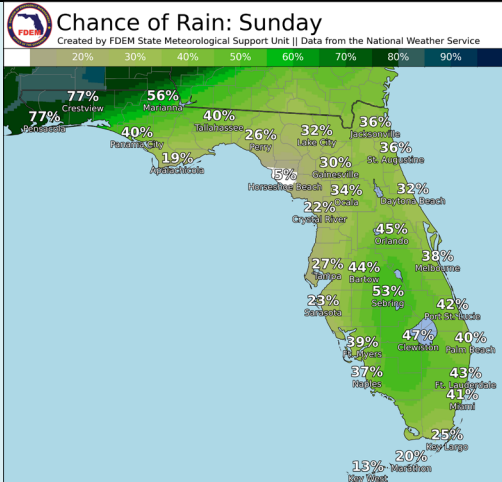


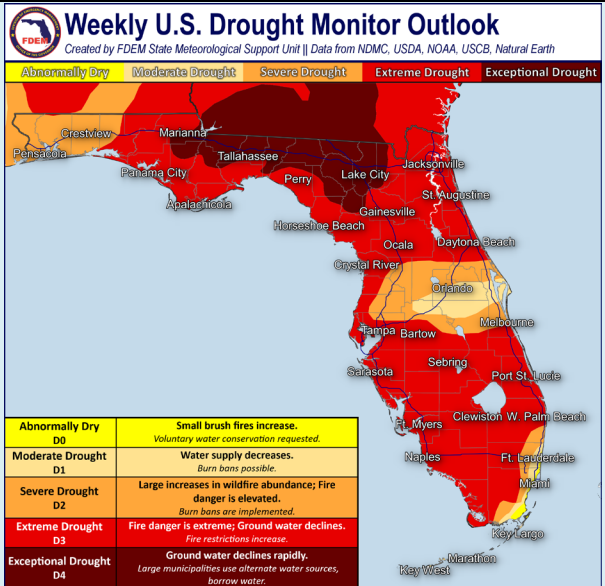
Friday, April 3, 2026

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

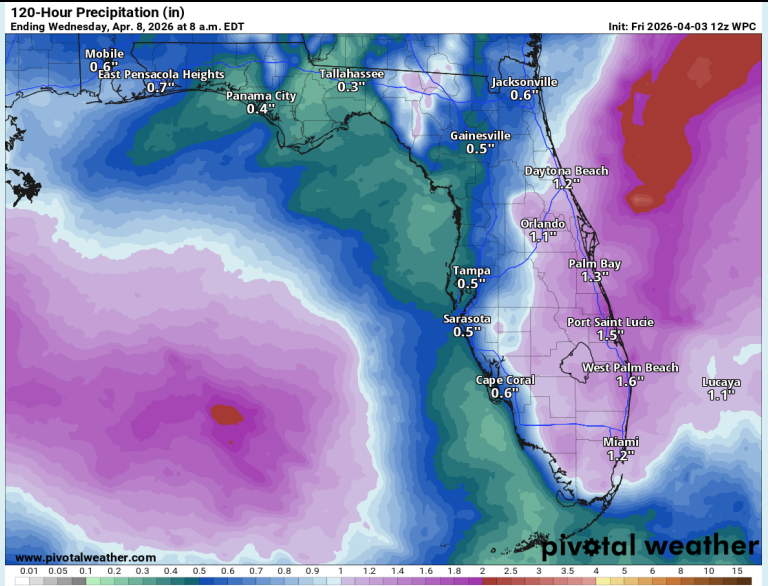
No Threat		Low Threat			Moderate Threat		High Threat	
Day	Lightning	Damaging Wind/ Hail	Flash Flooding	Coastal Flooding	Extreme Heat	Fog (Overnight)	Wildfire	Rip Currents
Fri	Big Bend & Suwannee Valley North FL	Iso. Northeast FL	Iso. Northeast FL			Locally Western Panhandle & Northeast FL North FL	Locally Statewide	East Coast & Panhandle West Coast
Sat	Locally Northern Panhandle Iso. South FL	Iso. Northern Panhandle				Locally North FL North & Central FL	Locally Northeast FL Statewide	East Coast & Panhandle Northeast FL West Coast
Sun	Panhandle Statewide	Iso. Panhandle	Iso. Western Panhandle			Locally Central FL Peninsula	Locally Northeast FL Statewide	East Coast & Panhandle West Coast
Mon	Central & South FL		Iso. Central & South FL			Locally South FL	Locally Panhandle Statewide	East Coast & Panhandle West Coast
Tue	Central & South FL		Iso. Central & South FL			Locally South FL	Locally Panhandle North FL Statewide	East Coast & Panhandle West Coast



Forecast Chance of Rain: Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday



Drought Monitor: Valid 4/2/2026

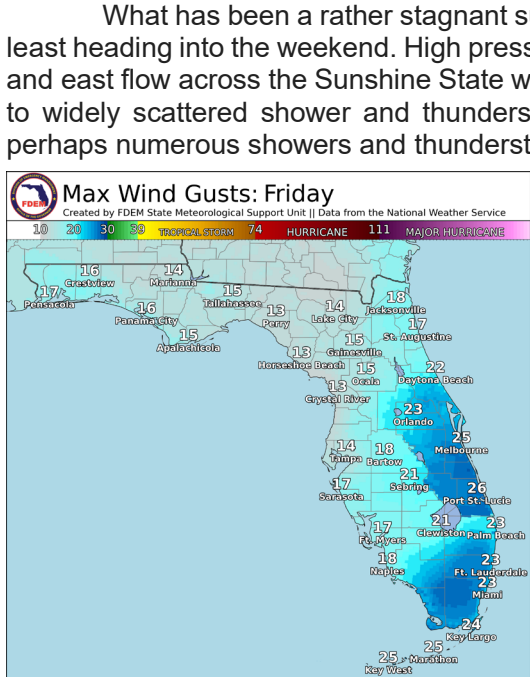


5-Day Forecast Rainfall Totals: Through Tuesday Evening



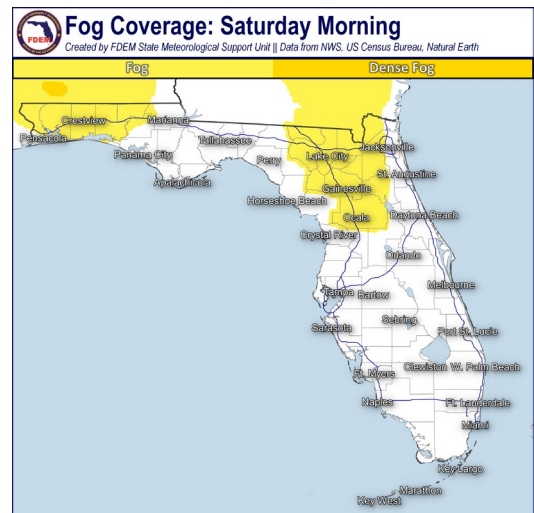
...Isolated to Scattered Shower and Thunderstorm Chances Continue into the Weekend... Frontal System Expected to Sweep Through North Florida Sunday... Uncertainty Remains in Timing and Magnitude of Frontal Passage... Active Weather Continues Through Early Next Week Across Central and South Florida Along this Stalled Front... Fresh Surge of Elevated Easterly Winds Expected to Arrive Tuesday... High Risk for Rip Currents Persists for East Coast and Panhandle Beaches... Exceptional Drought (Level 4 of 4) Expands Across North Florida...

Friday – Saturday:



What has been a rather stagnant summer-like weather pattern this week is not expected to budge at least heading into the weekend. High pressure over the western Atlantic has continued to impart moist south and east flow across the Sunshine State which, paired with the afternoon sea breezes, has brought isolated to widely scattered shower and thunderstorm chances each day. Today, another round of scattered to perhaps numerous showers and thunderstorms will develop across the Big Bend and Northeast Florida this afternoon (50-75% chance of rain). Sea breeze interactions and a weak passing upper-level disturbance will encourage development this afternoon with spatial coverage of activity the greatest we've seen this week across the local area. Additionally, some of these storms could become **locally strong** with frequent lightning, gusty winds (40-50 mph), and small hail. Given ample atmospheric moisture, a few **locally heavy downpours** are also possible which could drop a quick **1-3" of rain** in localized areas. Low-lying/poor drainage locations will be most susceptible to localized **ponding of water** and **nuisance flooding**. On Saturday, a plume of drier atmospheric air will spread across the state limiting shower and thunderstorm development, though isolated activity may still develop especially across South Florida and the northern Panhandle (15-25% chance of rain).

Breezy onshore winds will continue through Saturday along the East Coast around this area of high pressure. Wind gusts **upwards of 20 mph** will spread across the Peninsula with locally higher gusts **upwards of 25-30 mph** along the I-95 corridor and throughout Southeast Florida. Given the ongoing drought, **locally sensitive to elevated wildfire conditions** will persist across the state, especially across Northeast Florida on Saturday where relative humidities will dip to **near critical thresholds** (30-40% RH values).



High temperatures will climb into the 70s along the East Coast and Panhandle coastline with middle to upper 80s spreading inland. A few locations along the I-75 corridor could hit **90-degrees**. Lows will only dip into the 60s to lower 70s throughout the state. Areas of **patchy fog and low clouds** may develop throughout North Florida Friday and Saturday night, with the greatest chances for **locally dense fog** throughout the western Panhandle and Northeast Florida.

Sunday – Tuesday:

High pressure will begin to nudge a bit eastward on Sunday as a cold front traverses the lower Mississippi River Valley and approaches the state. Showers and embedded thunderstorms ahead of and along this front will likely enter the Panhandle shortly after sunrise on Sunday (60-80% chance of rain). However, there remains quite a bit of uncertainty in our computer forecast models regarding the timing and magnitude of this frontal passage. As of right now, it appears that the most favorable ingredients for widespread showers and

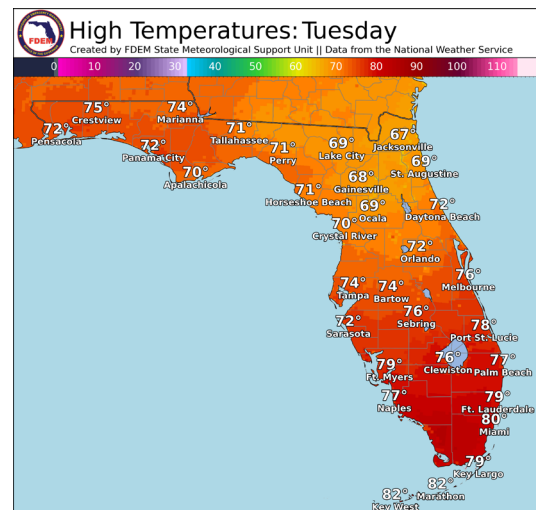


thunderstorms will pass north of the state with a broken line of light to moderate rainfall quickly dissipating across the Big Bend region Sunday (25-40% chance of rain). Trends will continue to be monitored and a few **locally strong thunderstorms** cannot be ruled out across the Panhandle and Big Bend if the cold front passes during peak heating hours of the day and remains sufficiently strong. Regardless of this frontal passage, additional isolated to widely scattered showers and storms will develop during the afternoon hours throughout the central Peninsula associated with the sea breeze boundaries (35-55% chance of rain).

This cold front will begin to stall across Central Florida on Monday helping to focus afternoon shower and thunderstorm activity across the central and southern portions of the Peninsula (35-55% chance of rain). Enhancement in rain coverage is possible Monday night and into Tuesday across Central and South Florida as a weak low-pressure system develops along this front and traverses across the Peninsula (70-90% chance of rain). There also remains uncertainty in just how far north or south the front stalls, which would determine how far north or south the greatest rainfall occurs. Mostly dry conditions are expected throughout North Florida, though a few isolated showers cannot be ruled out depending on where the front ultimately stalls (20-30% chance of rain).

Relative humidities are expected to dip to **near or below critical thresholds** across the Panhandle and North Florida Monday and Tuesday in the wake of the front (25-35% RH values). Given the ongoing drought, **elevated wildfire conditions** may develop throughout North Florida, especially on Tuesday, as a fresh surge of breezy winds with gusts **upwards of 25 mph** arrives across the state as high pressure to the north wedges into the area. The dryness of vegetation, and therefore the magnitude of fire weather conditions, will be dependent on weekend rainfall throughout the area.

High temperatures will reach the 80s throughout much of the state on Sunday, outside of the western Panhandle that will remain cooler in the 70s in the wake of the front. Temperatures cool off into the 70s throughout all of North Florida on Monday and the entire state on Tuesday. Portions of Northeast Florida may struggle to climb out of the upper 60s on Tuesday given ample cloud cover and breezy winds. Lows will cool off into the 50s across the Panhandle Sunday night with 60s to lower 70s expected throughout the remainder of the state. In the wake of the front, lows on Monday and Tuesday night will dip into the 50s across all of North Florida with 60s persisting across Central and South Florida. Additional areas of **patchy dense fog** cannot be ruled out each morning south of the front throughout the Peninsula.



Hydrology & Flooding:

There is no organized risk for flash flooding over the next 5 days; however, daily chances for isolated showers and embedded thunderstorms will pose a threat for a few **locally heavy downpours** within the strongest activity. The greatest chance exists across northeast Florida on Friday and the Peninsula from Sunday through the end of the forecast period. While flash flooding is not expected, areas of **ponding of water** and **localized flooding** cannot be ruled out if any areas receive a slow-moving heavy thunderstorm or repeated rounds of heavy downpours. Urban areas and low-lying/poor drainage locations will be the most favored and susceptible to any nuisance flooding. Rainfall totals will generally remain below 1" for most locations, however localized totals **upwards of 3-4"** cannot be ruled out, especially across East-Central and South Florida with possible enhancement from a low-pressure system early next week. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) [website](#).

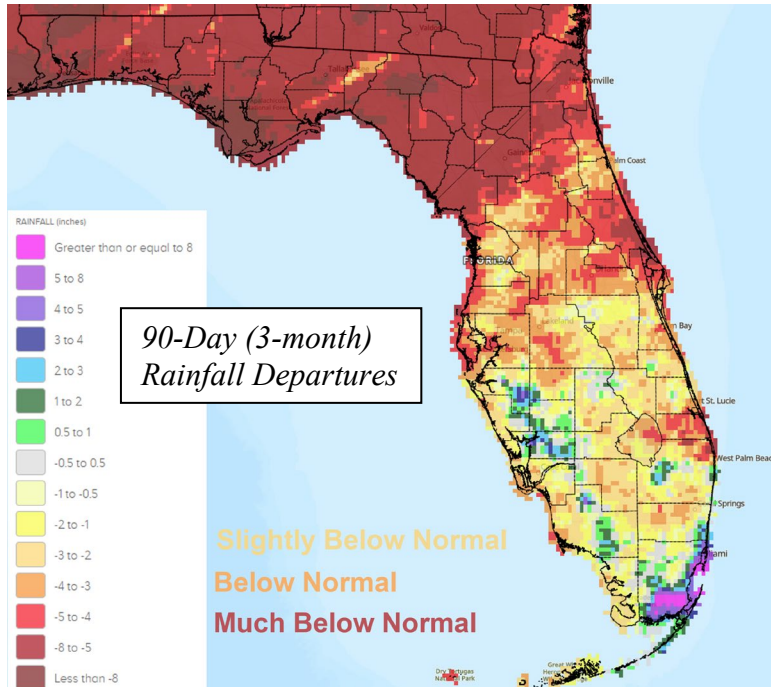
There are no riverine or coastal flooding concerns across Florida. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 12.02 feet, which is within the operational band and 2.25 feet **below** normal for this time of year.



Drought & Fire Weather:

Over the past week, mostly dry conditions were observed throughout much of the state which has resulted in very little improvements on the latest Drought Monitor update. In fact, outside of immediate coastal Southeast Florida where a cold front brought widespread rainfall of 1-3" last weekend (3/28-3/29), there was no beneficial rainfall to be found. The last remaining area of moderate drought (level 1 of 4) across the western Panhandle has been upgraded to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** due to recent dryness and worsening soil moisture levels. One of the biggest changes this week was additional expansion of the **exceptional drought (level 4 of 4)** across the Big Bend, Suwannee River Valley, and eastern Panhandle. Now, additional areas of Columbia, Baker, Union, Lafayette, Wakulla, and Jackson counties are under this level 4 of 4 drought. Over the past 6 months (October 1 – March 31), Tallahassee has seen record dryness with a total rainfall departure over that time reaching 13.51 inches below normal. Areas of **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** have remained throughout the rest of Northeast Florida and North-Central Florida, including a new area along the coast of Citrus, Hernando, and Pasco counties. Jacksonville has also seen record dryness over the past 6 months, with the rainfall deficit of 9.98 inches below normal in that time. The area of moderate to severe drought along the I-4 corridor continues to shrink as well as the area rainfall deficits continue to worsen.



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Extreme drought (level 3 of 4) also persists across much of South Florida, outside of the immediate Southeast coastline where rainfall has brought some drought relief. Throughout the state, streamflows remain significantly low and soil moisture levels deep into the ground have also worsened with water management districts statewide remaining under some water shortage advisory or warning.

Looking ahead, a widespread drenching rainfall is not expected over the next week across North Florida. Mostly dry conditions will prevail, though afternoon spotty showers and embedded thunderstorms will be possible each day. Any areas that see the heaviest activity could see a quick 1-3" of rain, though will not be enough to put much of a dent in the drought. There is the potential for a heavier, drenching rainfall across Central and South Florida early next week as a frontal system stalls and an additional low pressure system traverses along the front. Trends in that system will continue to be monitored as there is the potential for some drought relief across portions of the Peninsula.

The **Keetch-Byram Drought Index** average for Florida is **492** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **39** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

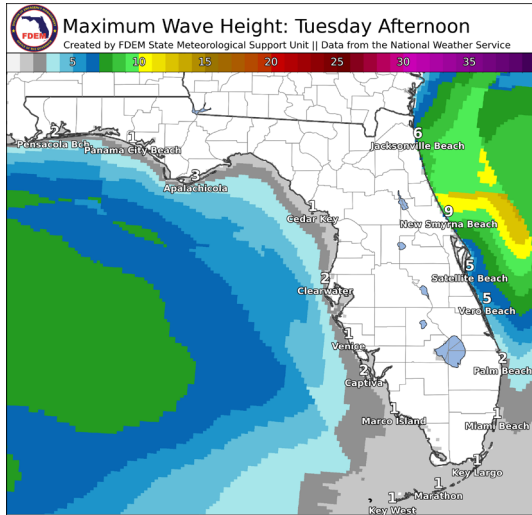
Relative humidities will remain well above critical thresholds through the forecast period across Central and South Florida. Winds will shift from the east on Friday and Saturday to the Southwest Sunday and Monday ahead of our next frontal system. A fresh surge of northeasterly winds are expected behind the front across Northeast Florida on Tuesday with wind gusts **upwards of 25-30 mph** expected. Dry conditions with relative humidities **near or below critical thresholds (25-35%)** are expected across the Panhandle on Monday and Tuesday which will encourage **sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions**. Locally greater wildfire risk cannot be ruled out across North Florida on Tuesday, but will be dependent on vegetation moisture levels after the weekend rainfall. Scattered showers and thunderstorms will be possible throughout the state each afternoon; thunderstorms may be capable of producing lightning strikes and gusty winds which may lead to new ignitions or erratic spread, respectively. Additionally, areas of patchy to locally dense



fog are possible throughout the western Panhandle and Northeast Florida which may significantly reduce visibilities in the vicinity of active wildfires. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are currently 71 wildfires across the state burning approximately 3,958 acres (as of 12:00 PM EDT).

Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

Persistent onshore flow will continue to bring a **high risk for rip currents** to all East Coast and Panhandle beaches through the end of the week. Dangerous beach and swimming conditions are expected to continue. A low risk for rip currents is expected to start the weekend along the West Coast given the offshore winds and relatively calmer surf. However, a **moderate risk for rip currents** may develop beginning on Monday as winds turn onshore and local surf increases over the Gulf.



The sea state will be persistently elevated through the forecast period along the East Coast. Surf near **3-5'** is expected to last through Monday afternoon for the First, Space, and Treasure Coast with waves diminishing back down to 1-2' for Southeast Florida. On Tuesday, a fresh surge of northeasterly winds will build an ocean swell offshore bringing surf back up to **5-8'** along the First and Space Coast. Surf near **3-5'** is expected for the Treasure Coast on Tuesday. Waves near **2-3'** will also persist along the Panhandle before increasing to **3-5'** on Tuesday as winds increase. West Coast beaches can expect waves near 1-2' through Tuesday.

The latest [Blue-Green Algae](#) dashboard shows there have been 57 reports of algal bloom conditions within the last 30 days. **High levels** have been observed at the Blue Cypress Lake, Lake Thonotosassa, Lake Hancock, Lake Istokpoga Park, and Lake Killarney in the upper St. Johns River. **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 weekend!

Evan Newman, Assistant State Meteorologist

Florida Division of Emergency Management

www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

