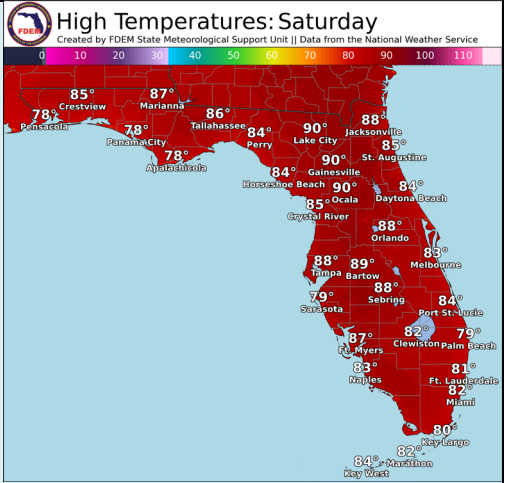
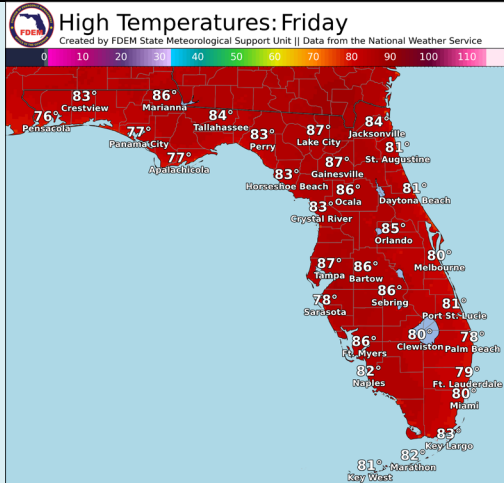
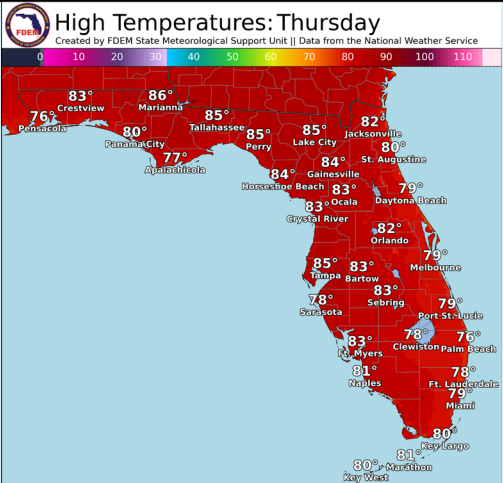


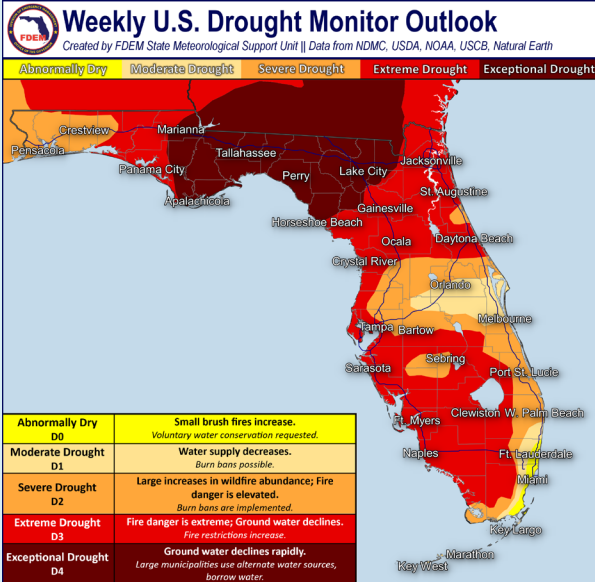
Tuesday, April 21, 2026

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

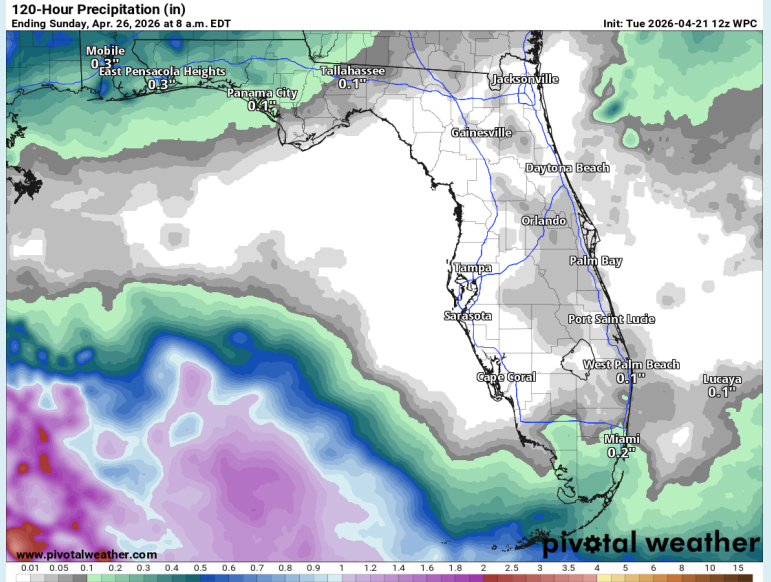
No Threat		Low Threat			Moderate Threat		High Threat	
Day	Lightning	Damaging Wind/ Hail	Flash Flooding	Coastal Flooding	Excessive Heat	Fog (Overnight)	Wildfire	Rip Currents
Tue							Northeast & Central FL Statewide	East Coast Panhandle West Coast
Wed							Locally Northeast FL Statewide	East Coast & Panhandle West Coast
Thu	Iso. South FL					Locally Western Panhandle	Locally Northeast FL Statewide	East Coast & Panhandle Northeast FL West Coast
Fri	South FL	Iso. South FL				Locally Panhandle & Big Bend	Statewide	Panhandle & Southeast FL East Coast West Coast
Sat	Panhandle & Big Bend	Iso. Panhandle & South FL				Locally Panhandle, Big Bend & West-Central FL	Statewide	Panhandle & Southeast FL East Coast West Coast



Forecast High Temperatures: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday



Drought Monitor: Valid 4/16/2026

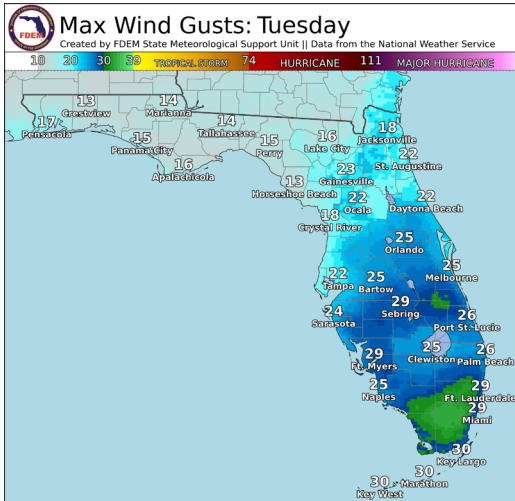


5-Day Forecast Rainfall Totals: Through Saturday Evening



...Critical Wildfire Danger Today with Red Flag Warnings in Effect Across the Peninsula... Elevated to Locally Critical Wildfire Conditions Last Through the Week... Mostly Dry Conditions Prevail; Isolated Sea Breeze Showers and Storms Return Thursday to the Peninsula... Moisture Slowly Increases Ahead of a Frontal Disturbance this Weekend... Isolated to Scattered Shower and Storm Chances Return Across North Florida... Dangerous Beach Conditions Continue Along the East Coast and Panhandle...

Tuesday – Saturday:

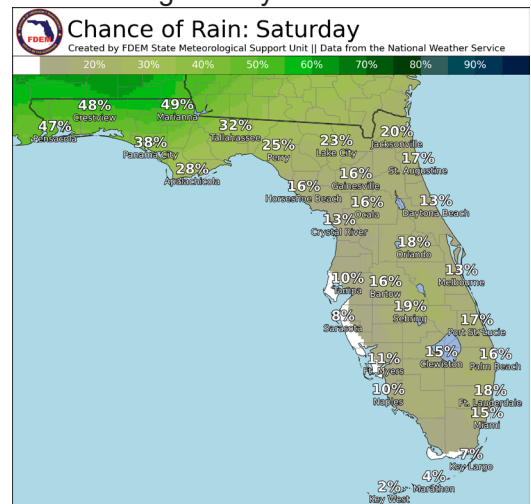


The cold front that swept through the state on Sunday and Monday of this week is now currently draped across the Florida Straits as high pressure builds back in across the Southeast U.S. Florida finds itself pinned between these areas of high and low pressure, allowing for breezy east-northeasterly winds to spread throughout the Peninsula. Wind gusts **upwards of 25-35 mph** are expected throughout the Peninsula this afternoon which will overlap with **critically low relative humidities (25-35%)** encouraging **critical wildfire conditions**. A **Red Flag Warning** is in effect throughout Northeast, Central, and interior South Florida until 8 PM EDT for this critical wildfire danger. Even outside of these areas an **elevated wildfire risk** is expected given very low relative humidities and ongoing/worsening drought. Winds will begin to subside beginning on Wednesday as the gradient between the high- and low-pressure systems relax, though an **elevated wildfire risk**

will persist statewide through the end of the week given low relative humidities and very dry fine fuels available for burning. Interior Northeast Florida may experience **locally critical conditions** where the lowest RH values are expected (25-35%).

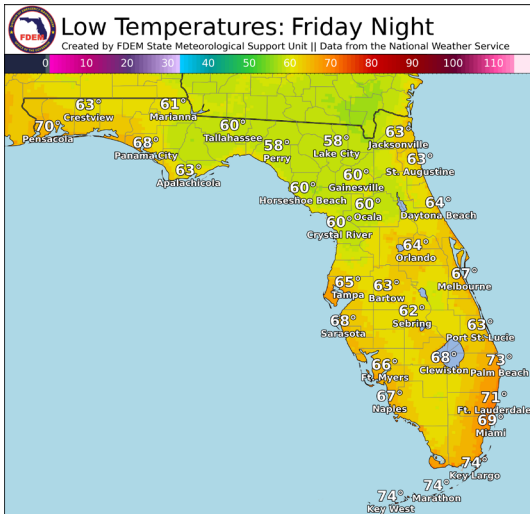
Rainfall chances will remain near zero through Wednesday across the Peninsula with sunny skies prevailing. A slight chance of rain is reintroduced to the central and southern Peninsula beginning on Thursday as winds take on a slightly more southerly component, allowing for just enough moisture to enter the region for an isolated sea breeze shower or storm (15-20% chance of rain). Any of this activity is expected to be light and brief in nature, though should a stronger isolated storm develop, an occasional lightning strike or two cannot be ruled out. Isolated sea breeze activity is expected to continue into Friday and Saturday across the Peninsula with winds turning even more from the south (15-25% chance of rain).

Across North Florida, mainly dry conditions are expected at least through Friday with rainfall chances near zero. A low-pressure system will begin to trek across the Mid-Atlantic states on Saturday, dragging an attendant cold front across the Mississippi River Valley and into the northern Gulf. There remains uncertainty in computer forecast models regarding just how much moisture will be available for any rainfall ahead of and along this front as it approaches the Florida Panhandle. Additionally, should the frontal activity arrive during peak daytime heating on Saturday, then a few scattered **locally strong** thunderstorms would be possible. Trends in computer forecast models will continue to be monitored regarding this system. Right now, isolated to widely scattered showers are expected Saturday afternoon and evening across the Panhandle and western Big Bend (30-50% chance of rain). Regardless, the front does not appear potent enough for any significant rainfall to alleviate the ongoing drought.



High temperatures are expected to reach the upper 70s to middle 80s throughout the state through Friday. Temperatures may warm ahead of the frontal system this





weekend, with highs reaching the **lower 90s** across Northeast Florida and along the I-75 corridor on Saturday. Low temperatures will fall into the upper 50s to middle 60s each night for most locations. Northeast Florida will become cooler tonight, dipping into the lower to middle 50s, before warming up Wednesday night. Coastal Southeast Florida and the Keys will see lows in the 70s each night. Areas of **patchy fog** may return to the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend region beginning Thursday night as winds turn from the south and bring in low-level moisture from the Gulf. Chances of **locally dense fog** are greatest along the Panhandle and West-Central Florida coast Friday and Saturday night.

Hydrology & Flooding:

There is no risk for flash flooding across Florida in the next 5 days. Mostly dry conditions will largely persist, though

isolated sea breeze showers and storms across Central and South Florida beginning on Thursday may bring spotty rainfall totals. Most locations will see little to no rainfall. Across the Panhandle, a frontal disturbance may bring isolated to scattered showers and thunderstorms on Saturday. However, rainfall totals do not appear to be significant at this time, though trends will continue to be monitored. 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. Many waterways throughout the state remain well below normal due to ongoing drought. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 11.94 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.93 feet below normal for this time of year.

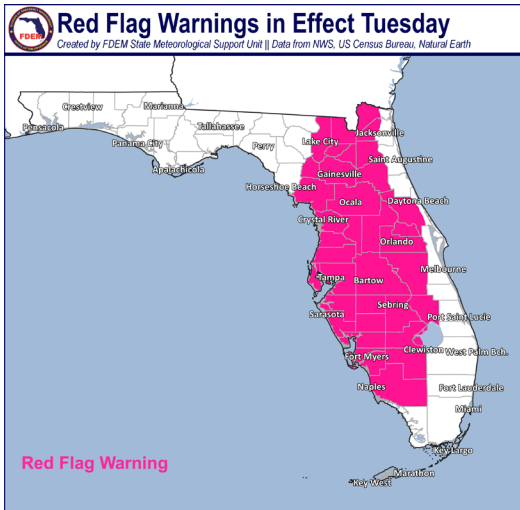
Drought & Fire Weather:

Some improvements were introduced in last week's Drought Monitor update with categorical reductions across South and Central Florida. Extreme drought was reduced to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)** across the Treasure Coast and much of the severe drought along the southeast coast reduced to a **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)**. Across interior South-Central Florida, a pocket of locally heavier rainfall over Hardee, DeSoto, and Highlands counties brought a return of a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)**. Much of the I-4 corridor saw rainfall amounts between 0.5-2" about two weeks ago, which was enough for some severe drought across the Space Coast to be reduced to a **moderate drought (level 1 of 4)**. Otherwise, there were no observed changes on last week's update across Southwest or West-Central Florida where an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** remains in place. North Florida continues to experience the worst drought due to severe and record low precipitation deficits. An **exceptional drought (level 4 of 4)** is still observed throughout much of the eastern Panhandle, Big Bend, and Suwannee River Valley with **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** elsewhere. The Big Bend region remains one of the hardest hit locations, such as Tallahassee that has neared a 20-inch rainfall deficit dating back to September 1, 2025 (about 8 months ago). This has resulted in extremely low streamflows within all river basins, streams, lakes, and ponds.

On this coming week's Drought Monitor update, recent near-record warmth and completely rain-free conditions will likely result in expansion or worsening of drought throughout North and Central Florida. Portions of Central and South Florida have received enough rainfall in the past 30-60 days to return to near or above normal levels over that period. Still, long-term rainfall deficits dating back to the beginning of Fall 2025 are really driving the current drought. Exceptional drought in North Florida may see expansion, especially westward into portions of the Panhandle. Recent wildfire activity throughout Northeast Florida may also harbor an expansion there. Mostly dry conditions will continue to prevail this week, with only isolated rain chances throughout the Peninsula and the Panhandle.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **494** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **35** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).





Area of high pressure will continue to filter in very dry continental air into the Sunshine State today, with relative humidities surpassing **critical thresholds (20-35%)** across much of North and Central Florida. Breezy wind gusts **upwards of 25-35 mph** will overlap these dry conditions across the Peninsula where **critical wildfire conditions** are expected and a **Red Flag Warning** is in effect until 8 PM EDT. Any ongoing wildfires or new ones that develop will spread rapidly and be hard to contain. The Storm Prediction Center (SPC) Fire Weather Outlook highlights West-Central Florida as the most favorable location for this **high fire danger**. **Elevated wildfire conditions** are expected elsewhere given very dry fine fuels for wildfire ignition and low relative humidities. The breezy winds will begin to relax on Wednesday, allowing for the larger critical wildfire conditions to subside statewide. Additionally, winds will begin to take on a more southerly component which will usher in

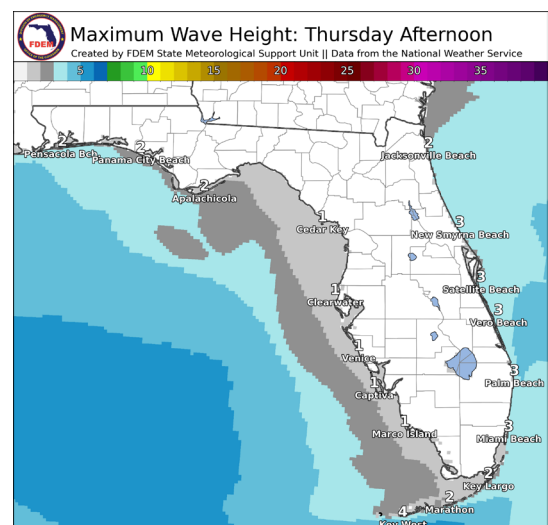
slightly more moisture and raise relative humidities a touch. Still, **elevated wildfire conditions** are expected to persist statewide through the end of the week given the ongoing drought. Numerous wildfires have begun to break out across North and North-Central Florida, and the elevated wildfire conditions this week will make wildfire suppression efforts more difficult. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are currently 114 wildfires across the state burning approximately 13,886 acres (as of 11:00 AM EDT).

Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

Breezy easterly onshore winds will continue to bring a **high risk for rip currents** along all East Coast beaches as elevated surf also lingers. As winds begin to subside through the week and surf diminishes, the high risk is expected to wane to a **moderate risk for rip currents**, first across Northeast Florida on Wednesday and then across the Space and Treasure Coasts Thursday and Friday. Panhandle beaches will see a **moderate risk for rip currents** today become a **high risk** starting Wednesday as winds take on a more onshore component along the shore. A low risk will persist along all West Coast beaches.

Elevated surf will linger along the East Coast today in the wake of our frontal passage from Sunday and Monday. Waves will reach near **6-8'** across Southeast Florida and a **High Surf Advisory** remains in effect along Palm Beach County where a few waves may reach **upwards of 10'** in the surf zone. First and Space Coast beaches will see waves around **4-6'** this afternoon. Surf will begin to diminish on Wednesday, back down to **4-6'** across Southeast Florida and **2-4'** elsewhere along the East Coast. By Thursday and through Saturday, wave heights will reach **2-4'** for all East Coast beaches. Along the Panhandle and West Coast, surf around 1-3' is expected through Saturday.

The latest **Blue-Green Algae** dashboard shows there have been 74 reports of algal bloom conditions within the last 30 days. **High levels** have been observed within the Upper St. Johns River basin in Crescent Lake, as well as near the Eagles Nest Dock on Orange Lake. **Moderate levels** have been observed in numerous locations in the St. Johns River (both upper and lower), the Peach River, Santa Fe River, Lake Thonotosassa, and Lake Avalon in the Big Cypress Swamp.



[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:

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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 your week!

Evan Newman, Assistant State Meteorologist

Florida Division of Emergency Management

www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

