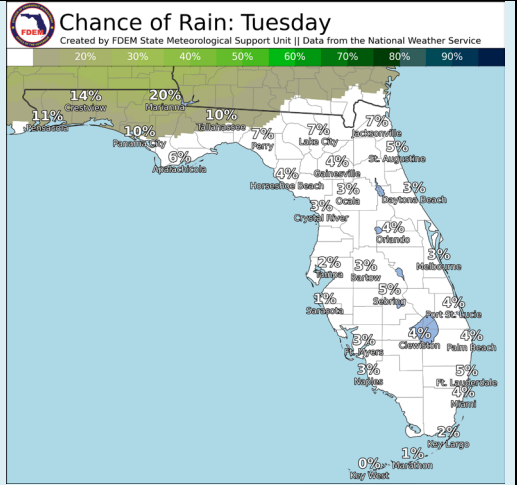
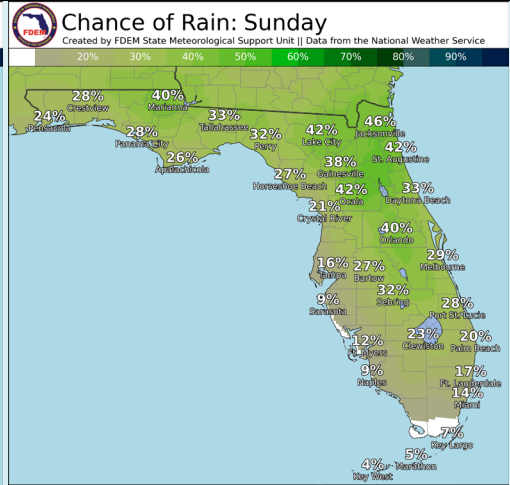
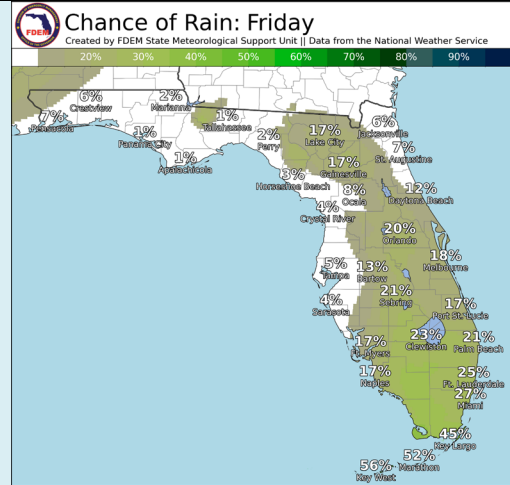


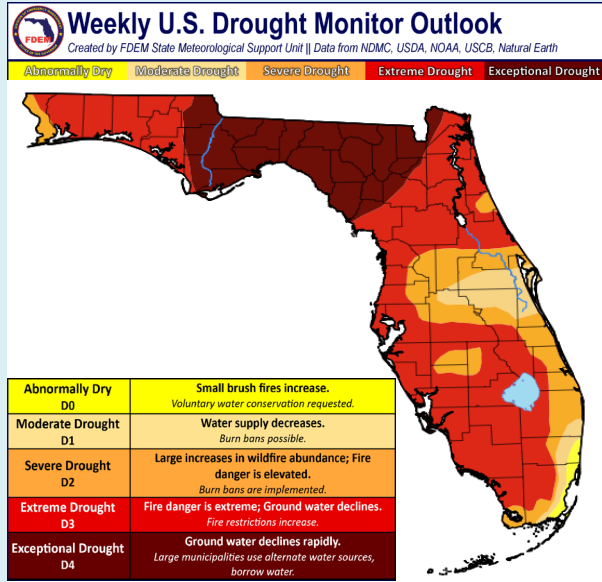
Friday, April 24, 2026

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

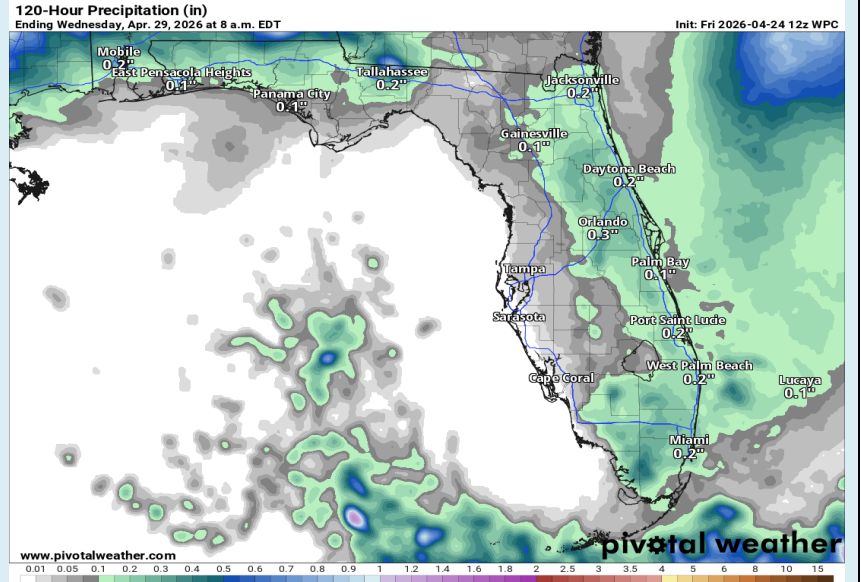
No Threat		Low Threat			Moderate Threat		High Threat	
Day	Lightning	Damaging Wind/ Hail	Flash Flooding	Coastal Flooding	Excessive Heat	Fog (Overnight)	Wildfire	Rip Currents
Fri	Interior Central FL South FL					North FL Nature Coast	North FL, Central FL South FL	East Coast & Panhandle West Coast
Sat	Panhandle, Interior Central FL, South FL					North FL Nature Coast	Statewide	East Coast & Panhandle West Coast
Sun	Iso. Panhandle & Southeast FL					North FL Nature Coast	Statewide	Statewide
Mon					Panhandle, Central FL, South FL	Big Bend, Nature Coast	Statewide	East Coast Panhandle, West Coast
Tue					West Central FL, Southwest FL Rest of State	Big Bend, Nature Coast	Statewide	East Coast & Panhandle West Coast



Forecast Chance of Rain (%): Friday, Sunday, and Tuesday



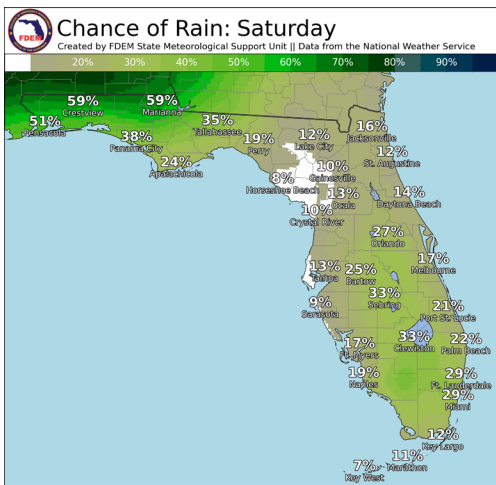
Drought Monitor: Valid 4/23/2026



5-Day Forecast Rainfall Totals: Through Tuesday Evening



... Rain Chances Increase For Most of the State This Weekend... Activity will be Scattered in Nature with Light Rain Amounts...Elevated Fire Danger Persists Given Dry Fuels and Threat for Lightning...Elevated Rip Current Risk Remains in Place for East Coast and Most Panhandle Beaches...



Friday – Sunday:

Rain chances will increase this weekend for most areas of the State as a weak cold front enters the region. Increasing moisture on southeast winds ahead of the front could allow for the development of isolated showers and possibly a thunderstorm or two to develop during the afternoon and evening hours. The highest chance for rain on Friday will be across South Florida, but a brief light shower cannot be ruled out over mainly interior portions of the Peninsula.

Friday night into Saturday, scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected to develop across the Florida Panhandle as a disturbance associated with a weak cold front draped over Georgia moves near the state line. Severe weather is not expected in Florida, but a few strong thunderstorms cannot be ruled out that may bring brief gusty winds and occasional lightning.

Along the Peninsula, only a 20-30% chance of rain is forecast for inland areas on Saturday as the afternoon/evening seabreeze may generate a few brief showers or storms. Overall, rainfall activity is expected to be light in nature with rainfall amounts generally less than 1/2". Given very dry fuels and ongoing **extreme to exceptional drought (level 3-4 of 4)** throughout North Florida, the **elevated wildfire danger** is expected to persist.

On Sunday, lingering instability near the stalled front near the FL/GA border along with warm temperatures and increased moisture will continue a 30-40% chance of rain across North and Central Florida, with lower chances for rain across South Florida. Overall shower and storm activity is expected to be isolated to widely scattered in nature, so not every area will receive the much-needed rain. Rain chances will decrease overnight, with drier conditions returning for the start of the week.

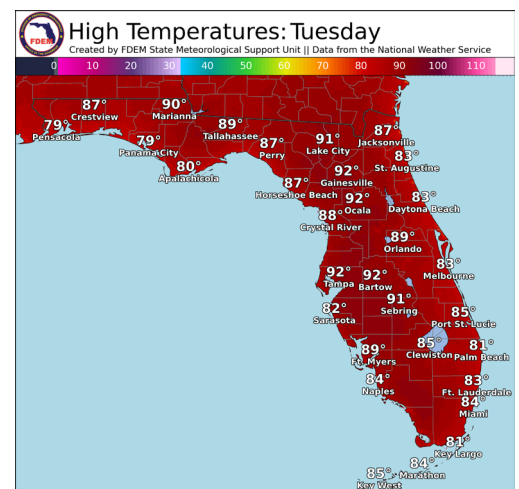
High temperatures will be near to slightly above average, reaching the upper 70s to low 80s at the coast and mid to upper 80s each afternoon across interior portions of the state. However, given the dry airmass, feels-like temperatures will only be a few degrees warmer and excessive heat is not expected. Low temperatures will be mild, ranging from the upper 50s to upper 60s for most locations, with upper 60s to middle 70s in South Florida.

The increase in humidity combined with light winds will allow for areas of **patchy to locally dense fog** to develop across much of North Florida and portions of the Nature Coast during the pre-dawn hours each morning. When combined with any lingering smoke from nearby wildfires, the potential exist for isolated pockets of dense fog limited roadway visibilities.

Monday – Tuesday:

Drier conditions will return for the start of the week as high pressure settles back over the State. Another weak cold front over the Ohio Valley could result in a small chance for showers near the AL/GA/FL state line and isolated showers could pop up over interior Central Florida along the seabreeze, but rain chances statewide will be less than 20%.

Temperatures will be warmer than normal, with high temperatures reaching the upper 80s to lower 90s for most locations away from the immediate coast with heat index values approaching the mid 90s, especially across West Central and Southwest Florida. Light winds out of the west on Sunday will switch back around to out of the east and southeast for Monday and Tuesday, but should be on



the lighter side around 5-10mph and gusts to 15mph. Low temperatures will continue to be mild, ranging from the upper 50s to upper 60s for most locations, with upper 60s to middle 70s in South Florida, with areas of **patchy fog** possible across portions of North Florida.

Hydrology & Flooding:

There is no risk for flash flooding across Florida in the next 5 days. Though showers and thunderstorms are possible this weekend, only minor rainfall amounts (less than 0.5") are expected. 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 11.84 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.94 feet below normal for this time of year.

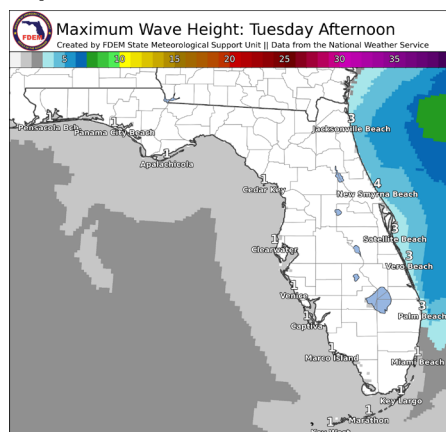
Drought & Fire Weather:

Rainfall has been sparse and to non-existent across the northern two-thirds of the state in the last 7 days, thus this week's update to the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) includes 99% of Florida in a Moderate Drought or worse. Of this 99%, 22.5% of the state is in **exceptional drought (level 4 of 4)** which includes North Florida areas generally between the Chipola River basin and the Suwannee/St. Mary's Basins in Northeast Florida. 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. In the central and western Panhandle, **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** has expanded into Walton, Okaloosa, Santa Rosa and northern Escambia counties. Extreme Drought also expanded in parts of Hernando, Pasco and Hillsborough Counties. With observed rainfall totals in the .025"-2" range across portions of the Treasure Coast and South Florida, the Drought Monitor remains unchanged for those areas as those values are considered "normal" for this time of year.

Looking ahead, although some welcome rain chances are in the forecast for much of the state this weekend, activity is expected to be isolated or widely scattered in nature, and total rainfall amounts are projected to be ½" or less. **This will do nothing to improve drought conditions**, so the wildfire risk will remain elevated each day through next week. However, atmospheric conditions with humidity values in the 45%-55% range and wind gusts below 15mph should help with containment efforts on existing or new wildfires.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **507** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **41** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger). According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are currently 134 wildfires across the state burning approximately 25,786 acres (as of 11:00 AM EDT).

Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:



Onshore southeast winds will continue a **moderate to locally high risk for rip currents** for all Panhandle and East Coast beaches to start the weekend. By Sunday, light and variable winds out of the southwest should result in a lower risk for most beaches. However, early next week increasing swells over the Atlantic in the wake of the departing low pressure system could quickly increase the threat for rip currents, especially at low tide, Monday and Tuesday along the Florida East Coast, along with wave heights in the 2-5' range.

The latest [Blue-Green Algae](#) dashboard shows there have been 71 reports of algal bloom conditions within the last 30 days. **Red Tide** has only been observed at very low levels in Lee, Escambia, Okaloosa and Gulf Counties.



[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:

[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](#).

Have a wonderful weekend!

Amy Godsey, Chief State Meteorologist

Florida Division of Emergency Management

www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

