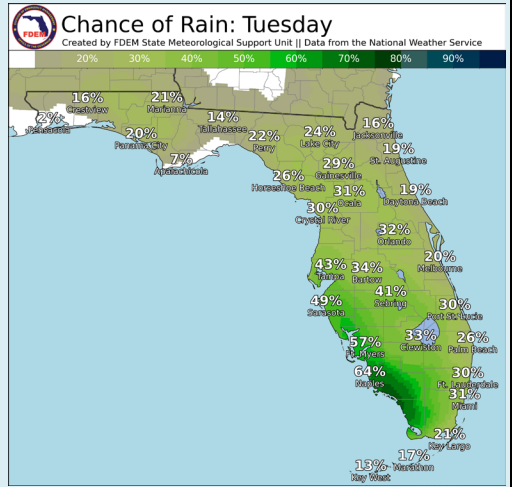
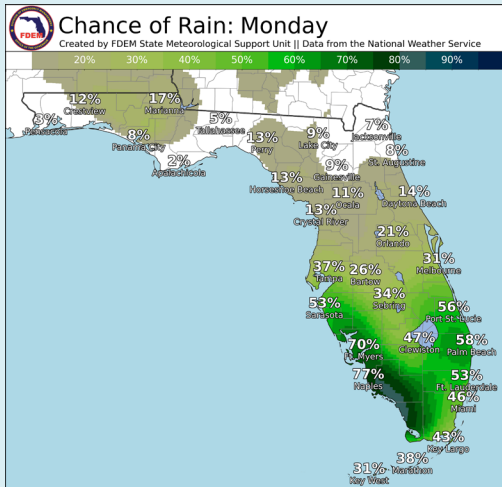
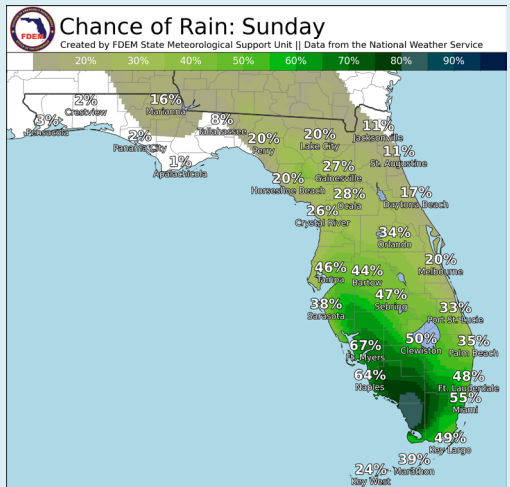


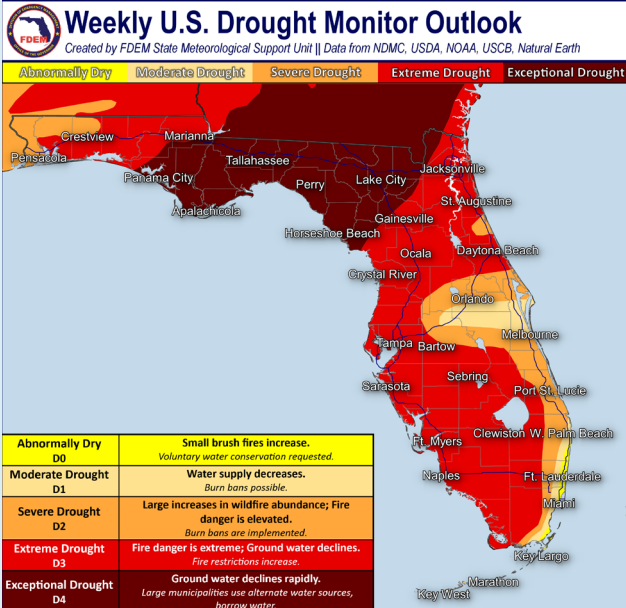
Friday, May 15, 2026

5-Day Statewide Weather Outlook

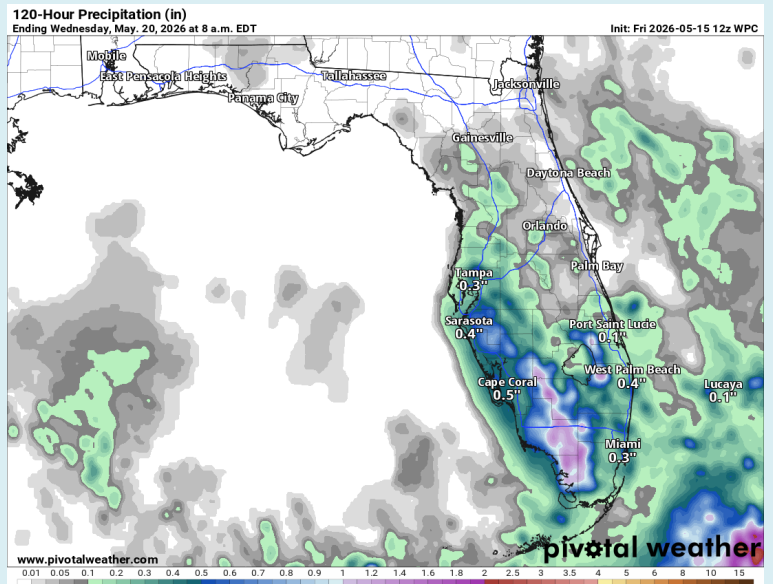
No Threat		Low Threat			Moderate Threat		High Threat	
Day	Lightning	Damaging Wind/ Hail	Flash Flooding	Tornado	Excessive Heat	Fog (Overnight)	Wildfire	Rip Currents
Fri	Interior South FL	Iso. South FL					Locally North FL Rest of State	East Coast Panhandle & West Coast Northwest FL & Nature Coast
Sat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



Forecast Chances of Rain: Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday



Latest Drought Monitor Update – Valid 5/15

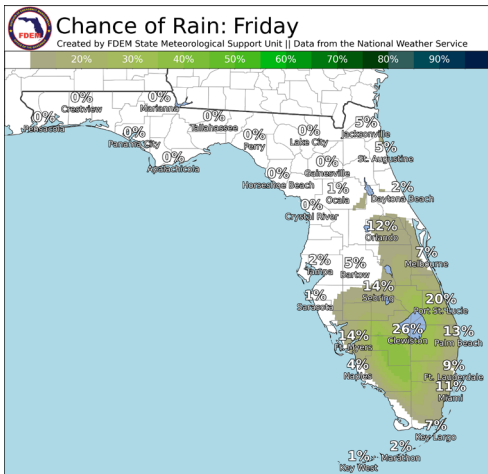


5-Day Forecast Rainfall Totals: Through Tuesday Evening



**...Mostly Dry Conditions Prevail Today as High Pressure Settles Over the Local Area... Moisture Gradually Returns this Weekend with Shower and Thunderstorm Chances Increasing Each Day, Focusing on Southwest Florida... Highs in the 80s and 90s; Afternoon Feels-like Temps to Approach 100-degrees in Southwest Florida... Moderate to High Risk for Rip Currents Expected for East Coast and Panhandle Beaches Through the Forecast Period...**

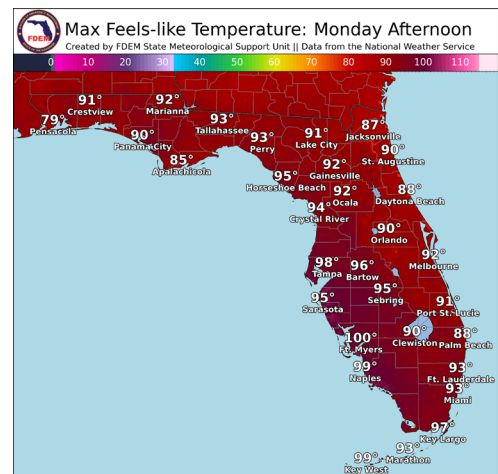
**Friday – Tuesday:**



A sprawling area of high pressure is continuing to build over the state of Florida in the wake of a frontal passage earlier this week. Mostly sunny and dry conditions will result today for much of the state except for a low-end chance (20-30%) of showers and thunderstorms across inland South FL along the remnants of a decaying front. High pressure begins to slide off to the east this weekend and into early next week, placing the Sunshine State under predominantly southerly/southeasterly flow. This will help introduce a gradual statewide increase in moisture/humidity and daily afternoon shower and thunderstorm activity starting on Saturday, where a medium (30-50%) chance of rain is expected for Central and Southwestern Florida. Afternoon rain chances will generally be highest (50-80%) in the southwest portions of the state Sunday-Tuesday within a favorable zone of enhanced lift from the sea breeze and colliding southeasterly flow. Southeast Florida will see a medium (30-60%) chance of showers and thunderstorms

during this period, with North-Central Florida and the Panhandle generally seeing less activity (<30% chance of rain) through Tuesday. Although there is no organized risk for severe weather or flash flooding anywhere in the state at this time, a few **locally strong** thunderstorms or **heavy downpours** cannot be ruled out. Any lingering shower or thunderstorm activity is expected to dissipate into the evening and early overnight hours each day.

A statewide warming trend is well underway, with today's high temperatures ranging from the **upper 80s to lower 90s** in the Panhandle and the eastern Peninsula to the **lower to middle 90s** along the western half of the Peninsula. Low temperatures tonight will be cooler (high 50s to low 60s) in the Panhandle, with the rest of the Peninsula dropping only into the lower to middle 70s. Some isolated locations, especially in the southeastern metro areas, may struggle to dip below 80 degrees tonight. Humidities increase statewide by Saturday, bringing maximum feels-like temperatures into the lower to middle 90s across the state on Saturday and continuing through the next five days. Feels-like afternoon temperatures may approach the **lower 100s** in some isolated spots, especially in southwestern Florida. Overnight low temperatures over the previously cooler Florida Panhandle will increase to the upper 60s to lower 70s starting tomorrow night. Areas of **patchy fog** cannot be ruled out Saturday and Tuesday night over the Big Bend and Florida Panhandle regions.



**Hydrology & Flooding:**

There is no organized risk for flash flooding over the next five (5) days. Showers and thunderstorms are expected to focus along the sea breeze boundaries each afternoon across Southwest Florida through the forecast period. Isolated activity is expected today and Saturday, increasing to scattered/numerous on Sunday and through Tuesday. Any slow-moving heavy thunderstorms will be capable of producing **locally heavy downpours** and **localized nuisance flooding**. Rainfall amounts will measure 1-2 inches for most



locations across interior South Florida, though a few localized amounts **upwards of 2-4 inches** cannot be ruled out. Isolated activity is expected to extend northward into Central and Northeast Florida as well, though rainfall amounts will be spotty and localized in nature. 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 or even near record low levels due to ongoing drought. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 11.43 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.90 feet below normal for this time of year.

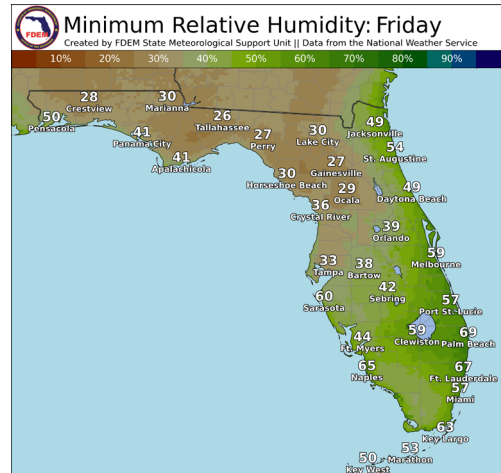
### Drought & Fire Weather:

Some categorical improvements were made on this week's Drought Monitor update across the Panhandle where plentiful rainfall fell over the update period. Rainfall totals measured 4 to 6 inches across the northern Panhandle, with localized amounts upwards of 6 to 8 inches or more. As a result, the extreme drought across northern Escambia, Okaloosa, and Santa Rosa counties has been downgraded to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)**. The exceptional drought across much of Jackson County has also been reduced to an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** due to this heavy rainfall. Despite rainfall adding up to 1 to 2 inches across the Big Bend and Suwannee River Valley, the severity of the ongoing drought resulted in no changes to the **exceptional drought (level 4 of 4)**. Throughout the Peninsula, rainfall was mostly confined to the I-95 corridor and interior South Florida, with amounts generally between 1-2 inches. This was not enough for any improvements in the drought throughout the Peninsula, with areas of Southeast Florida seeing expanding **moderate (level 1 of 4)** to **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)**. The larger drought picture was otherwise untouched. 99% of Florida remains in at least a **moderate drought**, with 24% of the state (eastern Panhandle to Suwannee Valley) in an **exceptional drought**.

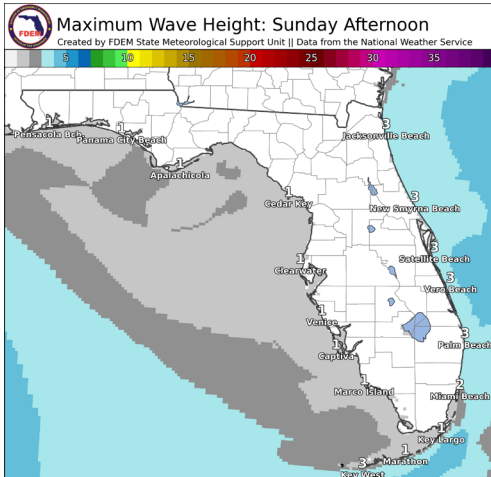
As a reminder, the cutoff for rainfall on this week's update was Tuesday (5/12) at 8 AM EDT, thus the heavy rainfall that fell on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week will be considered on next week's update. This rainfall will likely help with drought conditions across the state, though significant improvements are not expected given just how long this drought has been in place and how severe the long-term rainfall deficits are. Additional rainfall is expected across South Florida this weekend and early next week with sea breeze showers and thunderstorms. Some drought improvements will be possible in localized areas across South Florida, though categorical reductions are not anticipated at this time.

The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **435** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **30** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

Relative humidities are expected to fall **below critical thresholds (20-30%)** along the I-10 corridor this afternoon which will encourage **sensitive to locally elevated wildfire conditions**. However, winds will remain light this afternoon and saturated soils from recent rainfall will keep the overall wildfire threat lower. Relative humidities will remain above critical thresholds throughout the state through the forecast period beginning Saturday, though breezy east to southeasterly winds are expected to gust **upwards of 20-25 mph** along the East Coast and Panhandle each afternoon. KBDI values are well above the 500 critical drying value for most counties stretching from the Nature Coast down the entire West Coast. Even with RH above critical thresholds, ongoing drought in these areas will encourage **sensitive wildfire conditions**. Scattered showers and thunderstorms throughout Southwest Florida may be accompanied by lightning and gusty/erratic winds, which can spark new wildfires or reignite existing ones. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are currently 42 wildfires across the state burning approximately 17,634 acres (as of 11:00 AM EDT).



## Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:



East coast beaches will see a **high risk for rip currents** through the forecast period with breezy onshore winds. For much of the week, West Coast beaches will see low threat of rip currents, besides today which will be **moderate threat**. Panhandle beaches will be **moderate risk** today through Sunday but increase to **high risk** due to stronger onshore winds. Northwest FL beaches will be low risk through Sunday, but a slight increase in winds will result in a **moderate risk** Monday & Tuesday.

Surf will remain consistent during the next five days for the east coast with wave heights of **2-4'** expected. For many of the Keys, surf will be between 1-2', although western parts of the region could see waves up to **3'** Sunday-Tuesday. West Coast & Panhandle beaches will see waves 1-2' during the forecast period.

The latest **Blue-Green Algae** dashboard shows there have been 105 reports of algal bloom conditions within the last 30 days. **High levels** have been observed in Lake Thonotosassa and

Orange Lake. **Moderate levels** have been observed in northern shores of Lake Okeechobee, Crescent Lake, Lake Munson, and Sawgrass Lake.

[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

Ian Mutschler, Deputy State Meteorologist

Logan Giles, Florida Disaster Fellow

Florida Division of Emergency Management

[www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather](http://www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather)

