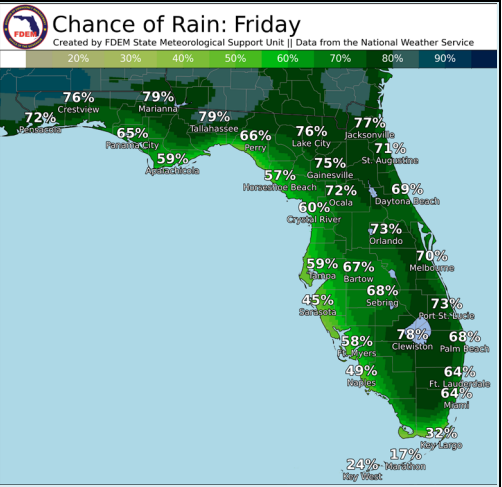
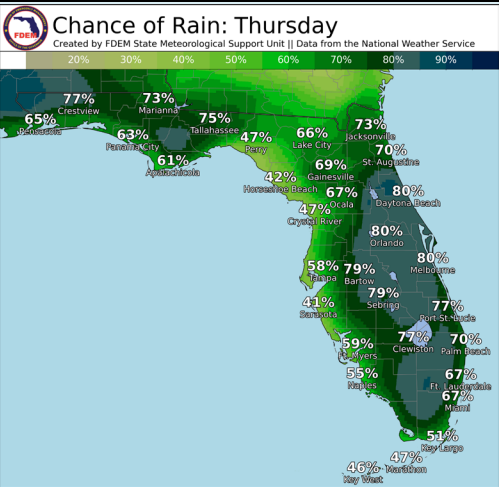
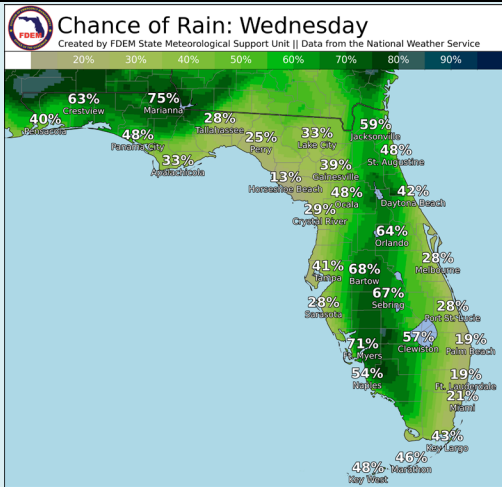


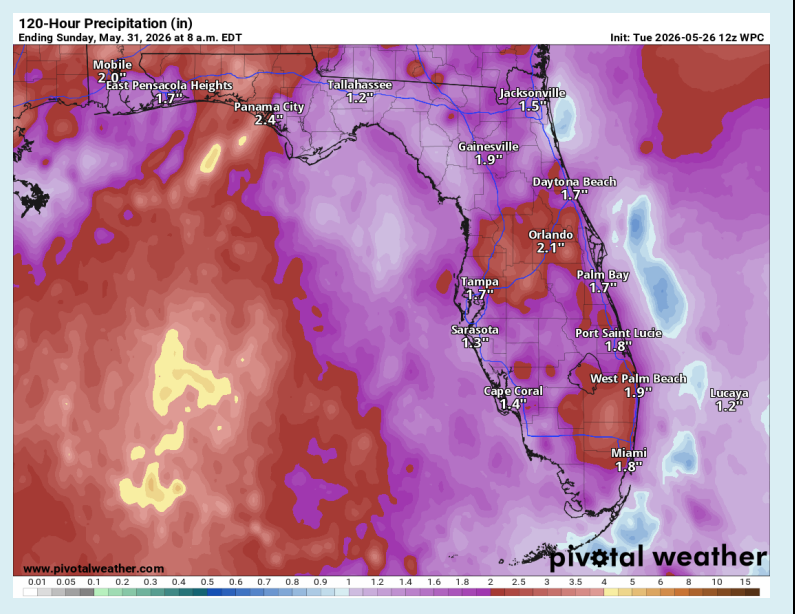
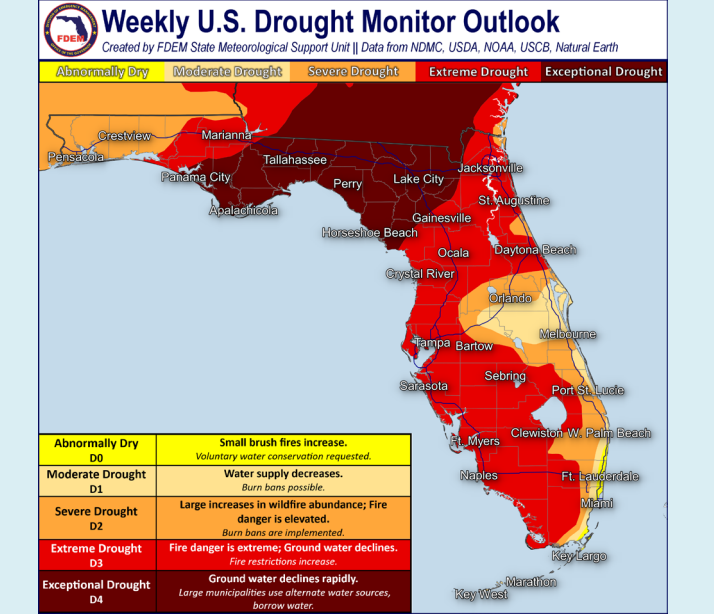
Tuesday, May 26, 2026

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
Tue	Locally I-75 Corridor & Western Panhandle Rest of State	Iso. Western Panhandle	Western Panhandle		Locally Southwest FL		Iso. East-Central & Southeast FL	East Coast & Panhandle West Coast
Wed	Locally I-75 Corridor & Western Panhandle Rest of State	Iso. Western Panhandle & I-75 Corridor	Western Panhandle		Locally Southwest & North-Central FL			East Coast & Panhandle West Coast
Thu	Locally Eastern Peninsula & Western Panhandle Rest of State	Iso. Statewide	Western Panhandle		East-Central FL			Southeast Coast & Panhandle Northeast Coast West Coast
Fri	Statewide	Iso. Statewide	I-10 Corridor		Locally			Panhandle East Coast West Coast
Sat	Statewide	Iso. Statewide	I-10 Corridor & South FL					Panhandle West Coast East Coast



Forecast Chances of Rain: Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday



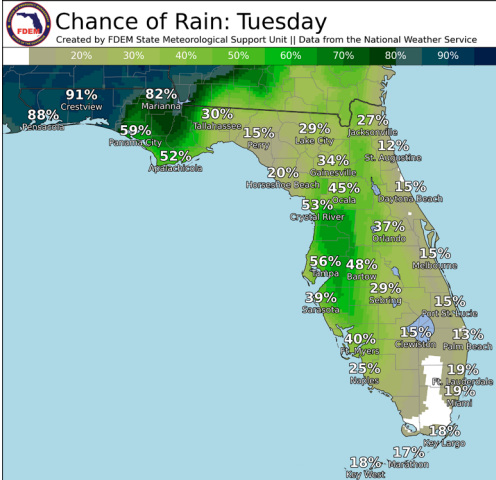
Latest Drought Monitor Update – Valid 5/22

5-Day Forecast Rainfall Totals: Through Saturday Evening



...Daily Rounds of Heavy Rainfall Expected in the Western Panhandle Through the Forecast Period... I-75 Corridor Also Favored for Rainfall on Wednesday... Chances for Rainfall Expand to Encompass Most of State from Thursday-Saturday... Isolated Flash Flooding Possible Each Day This Week Over the Panhandle and South Florida... Hot and Muggy Conditions Expected Over the Peninsula and North-Central Florida this Week... Afternoon Temperatures to Feel Like 100s in Spots... Dangerous Rip Currents at Panhandle and East Coast Beaches Early This Week... East Coast Rip Current Risk Declines by End of Week...

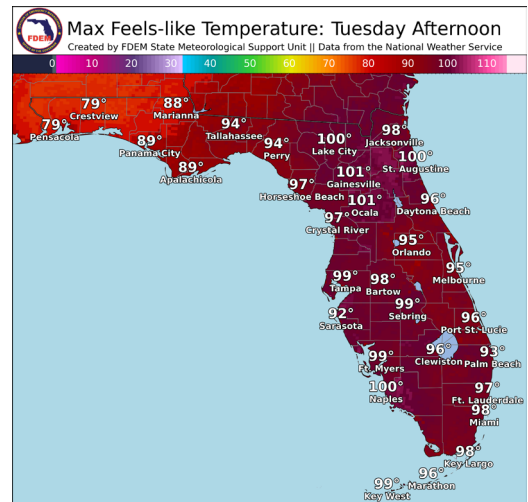
Tuesday – Saturday:



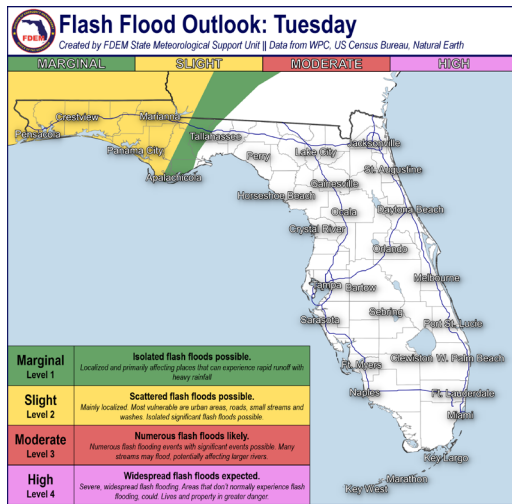
A wet and unsettled pattern is expected to continue this week, with scattered to widespread showers and thunderstorms anticipated across the state each day. Florida is currently situated between a large Atlantic ridge to the east and a decaying upper-level low to the west, placing the state under a southerly flow regime that continues to bring deeply moist air overhead. Winds in South Florida and along the East Coast will be breezy on Tuesday and Wednesday, with gusts **upwards of 30mph** possible. The focus for rainfall today will be in the Western Panhandle (80-90% chance for rain) where convergence is maximized between the two previously mentioned features. Elsewhere, scattered showers and thunderstorms will favor the Central/Northern I-75 corridor today where there is a medium (40-60%) chance of rain, driven primarily by typical afternoon sea breeze interactions. The Western Panhandle will remain the primary focus for showers and thunderstorms (70-80% chance) on Wednesday as the region will still be under enhanced convergence between the ridge and upper-level low. Chances for rain also increase along the I-75 corridor on Wednesday (50-70%) as comparatively higher moisture will be in place.

The large-scale pattern begins to change on Thursday. The upper-level low currently positioned to our west will be absorbed by a larger trough system over the Eastern/Northeastern United States. At the same time, the Atlantic ridge will slide further westward away from the state of Florida. This will begin to gradually shift low-level winds from southerly to southwesterly by late week. This pattern change will shift the focus for chances of rain to along the I-10 corridor and the Central/Eastern peninsula. While shower and thunderstorm activity in these regions will still peak in the afternoon hours coinciding with maximum daytime heating, activity will likely be ongoing at all hours given the richly moist airmass that will be overtop the state. Chances of rain will be high (70-90% chance) Thursday-Saturday for the I-10 Corridor and the Central/Eastern peninsula, with a medium chance (30-50%) chance for coastal Panhandle and Western peninsula locations. While there is currently no organized risk of severe weather associated with thunderstorms that develop this week, a few **locally strong** storms containing **isolated damaging winds** cannot be ruled out.

Summer-like **heat and humidity** will persist through the forecast period, with daytime high temperatures generally in the **low-mid 90s** across the state. The only exception will be in the Western Panhandle on Tuesday and Wednesday where ongoing rounds of convection will restrict the extent of solar heating that can occur. Outside of these locations and times, afternoon feels-like temperatures will climb into the **mid-upper 90s** through the forecast period, with some locations briefly exceeding **100 degrees**, especially in North-Central Florida. Low temperatures will only fall into the lower to middle 70s for much of the Sunshine State, with the Southeast Metro and Keys remaining warmer in the upper 70s to lower 80s.



Hydrology & Flooding:



In response to the potential for multiple rounds of showers and thunderstorms capable of **heavy downpours**, The Weather Prediction Center has outlooked a **Marginal (level 1 of 4)** to **Slight Risk (level 2 of 4)** of excessive rainfall for the Western Panhandle today for areas west of Jefferson County. The primary threat will be instances of **flash flooding** – especially in areas where soils are highly saturated from multiple prior days of heavy rainfall. A **Flood Watch** is currently in effect for portions of the Florida Panhandle west of Leon County through late tonight. Widespread rainfall totals of **2 to 3 inches** are expected within the watch area, with some localized areas potentially seeing upwards of **4 to 6 inches**. The Western Panhandle will remain in a **Marginal Risk** of excessive rainfall through Thursday. By Friday, the **Marginal Risk** will expand to encompass the entirety of the Florida Panhandle. Southeast Florida is also outlooked for a **Marginal Risk** of excessive rainfall beginning on Thursday and continuing through the remainder of

the forecast period. For the latest on the rainfall outlook, please visit the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) [website](#).

The Shoal River near Crestview has reached Action Stage (bank-full) and is forecast to reach minor flood stage by tomorrow. Numerous other rivers and streams are in Action Stage throughout the western Panhandle following recent heavy rainfall. Continued rounds of heavy rainfall across the Southeast U.S. may further exasperate riverine flooding concerns over the next few days. For more information, visit the [River Forecast Center](#).

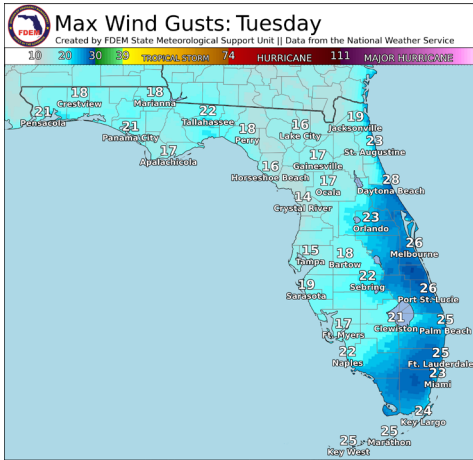
Lake Okeechobee's average elevation is 11.22 feet, which is within the operational band and 1.93 feet below normal for this time of year.

Drought & Fire Weather:

Continued categorical improvements were made on last week's Drought Monitor update across the Western Panhandle due to more rain over the past week. As a result, the extreme drought across southern Okaloosa, and Santa Rosa counties, and most of Walton County has been downgraded to a **severe drought (level 2 of 4)**. The exceptional drought across northern Bay & Calhoun Counties has also been reduced to an **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)** due to 1-2 inches of rain over the past week's heavy rainfall. Despite rainfall adding up to 3 to 5 inches across the western part of the state, the ongoing drought resulted in no changes to the **extreme drought (level 3 of 4)**. Throughout the Peninsula, rainfall was mostly confined to the western part of the state, with up to 4-5 inches falling. Parts of the Panhandle and Southeast Florida also received rain, with totals up to two inches. This resulted in only minor changes for the peninsula. Southwestern Palm Beach County saw a downgrade to **severe drought (level 2 of 4)**. Southeast Osceola County saw a downgrade to **severe drought (level 2 of 4)**. The larger drought picture was otherwise untouched. 99% of Florida remains in at least a **moderate drought**, with 22% of the state (eastern Panhandle to Suwannee Valley) in an **exceptional drought**.

As a reminder, the cutoff for rainfall on last week's update was Tuesday (5/19) at 8 AM EDT, thus any rainfall that fell after this point was not included in the drought update. This week's drought monitor update will be released later this week and will include all rainfall up until this Tuesday (5/26) at 8 AM EDT. Widespread areas in the Western Panhandle and North-Central Florida have received multiple inches of rainfall over just the last 72 hours per radar derived estimates which may lead to categorical improvements over these areas in this week's update. Drought improvements for Eastern and Southern Florida in this week's update are unlikely due to comparatively much less rainfall that fell over the last week. High rain chances are expected statewide over the remainder of the forecast period which should help further improve the ongoing drought conditions.





The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) average for Florida is **422** on a scale from 0 (very wet) to 800 (very dry). There are **19** Florida counties that have an average KBDI above 500 (drought/increased fire danger).

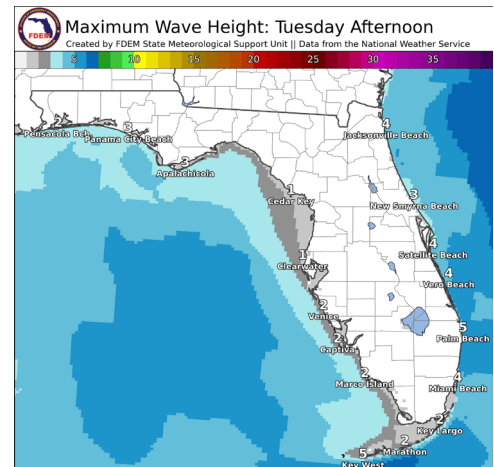
Minimum RHs will not reach critical thresholds this afternoon or at any point during the forecast period. Heavy rainfall that fell last week and an expected continuation of daily rounds of widespread showers and storms should help continue to saturate fuels across the state and limit wildfire conditions. Even with rainfall expected, any lightning strike can spark new wildfires or reignite existing ones. According to the [Florida Forest Service](#), there are currently 72 active wildfires across the state burning approximately 17,987 acres (as of 12:00 PM EDT).

Rip Currents & Marine Hazards:

The Panhandle will see a **High Risk** for rip currents through the forecast period. The East Coast will experience a **High Risk** for rip currents through Wednesday, before lowering to a predominantly **Moderate Risk** on Thursday and Friday and a Low Risk by Saturday. The West Coast will begin the forecast period with a **Moderate Risk** through Wednesday, then lower to a Low Risk on Thursday before increasing once more to a **Moderate Risk** through Saturday.

Waves will begin the forecast period at between **4-5'** for much of the East Coast and Florida Keys. Elsewhere, wave heights will be around **2-3'** in the Florida Panhandle and generally **<2'** for the West Coast. Surf gradually decreases each day through the forecast period, with most of the state seeing **<2'** wave heights by Saturday afternoon.

The latest [Blue-Green Algae](#) dashboard shows there have been 86 reports of algal bloom conditions within the last 30 days. **High levels** have been observed in Duck Creek, Lake Thonotosassa, Lake Monroe and Saddleback Lake. **Moderate levels** have been observed in Lake Okeechobee, Lake George, Lake Carlton, Lake Jesup, Lake Hancock, and the Caloosahatchee River.



[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](#)

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Have a wonderful week!

Ian Mutschler, Deputy State Meteorologist

Florida Division of Emergency Management

www.FloridaDisaster.org/Weather

