

Florida CoCoRaHS

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network

*Volunteers working together
to measure precipitation.*

A New Season, A New Look

Even though summer ended on September 22nd, it didn't start to feel like fall until the first week of October. And then summer came back with a vengeance. For those first few days of October, low temperatures in some portions of north Florida got below 50°F for the first time since the end of April.

Just for fun, here are the earliest freeze dates for a few locations around the state:

Station	Date	Temperature
Tallahassee	10/18/1977	32
Jacksonville	11/03/1954	29
Gainesville	10/29/2008	32
Orlando	11/25/1970	32
Tampa	11/22/1937	32
Miami	12/24/1989	31

As you can see, the newsletter has gotten a bit of a face-lift. We'll be highlighting some of the local CoCoRaHS information on the right side of the front page each month. These will include most rain reported, highest daily totals, and information about the membership in Florida. Please let me know what you think about the new look and if there is any content you would like me to add to the newsletters.

Quick Stats

930 # of registered FL observers

493 # of active FL observers

11,722 # of reports submitted by FL observers during 9/09

9/2/09 Date with the greatest # of FL reports submitted during 9/09 (419 reports)

5.55" Highest reported daily rainfall from FL CoCoRaHS observers during 9/09 (FL-ST-1 on 9/3)



Because every drop counts!



Happy 2nd Anniversary!

On October 1st, CoCoRaHS celebrated its second year in the Sunshine State! The program continues to spread across Florida, and we continue to have new observers sign up. However, we still have some ‘holes’ in the CoCoRaHS coverage. Right now, we are working on a ‘Countdown to Zero’ campaign, trying to fill in the remaining counties that remain observer-less. In Florida, we only have two counties that do not have volunteers: Bradford and Lafayette. If you know anyone in these counties who might be interested in helping us out, please let them know they could be the first station in the county!

By the end of the year, CoCoRaHS will be in all 50 states. Some Florida observers have moved to different parts of the U.S., but because CoCoRaHS has expanded from ‘sea to shining sea’, they’re able to continue to help CoCoRaHS in their new home states.

September Rains

Rainfall this month was fairly ordinary, characterized by the scattered afternoon thundershowers that are a normal component of Florida’s summer climate. Rainfall departures for the month ranged from around 1.5” over Central and North Florida to 2.5” at Tallahassee. Most rainfall came from the normal scattered to isolated thunderstorms with no widespread heavy rain events impacting the state this month (unlike our neighbors to the north in Alabama and North Georgia).

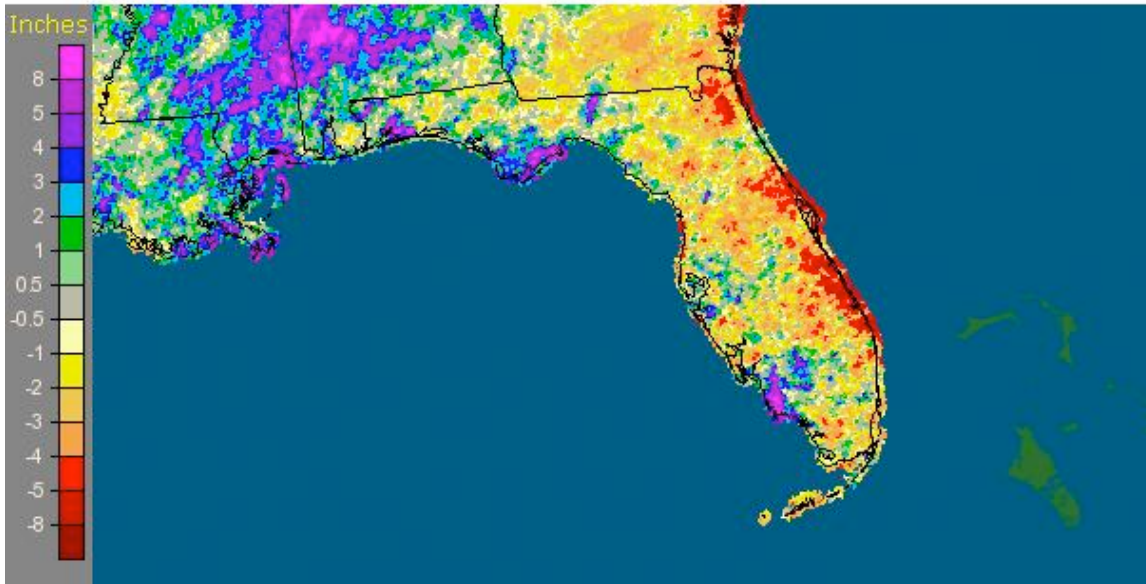
Station	Total Rainfall	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	6.69	0.68
Tallahassee	2.49	-2.52
Jacksonville	6.48	-1.42
Orlando	4.58	-1.18
Tampa	5.24	-1.30
Miami	6.83	-1.55
Key West	5.31	-0.14

September precipitation totals and departures from normal for selected cities (inches).



The east coast of Florida did receive less rainfall than the west side of the peninsula and the Panhandle, as seen in the radar-derived rainfall estimates shown below (courtesy of NOAA NWS).

Florida: September, 2009 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation
Valid at 10/1/2009 1200 UTC- Created 10/1/09 22:49 UTC



Current State of the Drought

The drier conditions in August gave way to some needed rain across the state. On August 25th, the National Drought Monitor showed abnormally dry conditions in most of the Big Bend and along parts of the Sun Coast (mainly around the Sarasota area), but by the following week, all mentions of dryness had been removed from the state. Since the report on September 1st, the state has remained out of the drought summaries.

With the forecast calling for an El Niño this winter, we may not have to worry about being dry for a while. For more information on what El Niño is and the various impacts here in Florida, you can check out the following link:

http://coaps.fsu.edu/climate_center/climatevariability.shtml

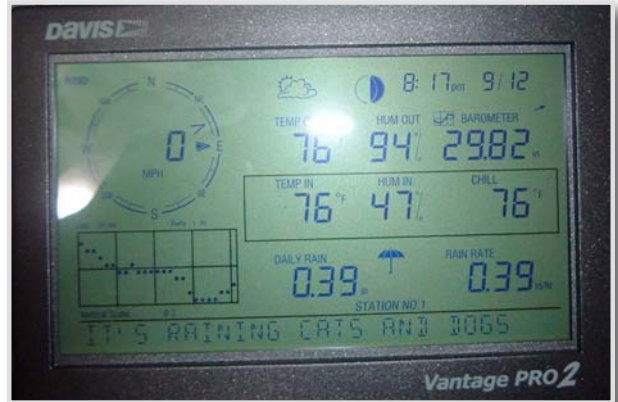


Observer Pictures

I've received a few pictures from observers over the last month and I'd like to share a couple of them with you:



Don from Tampa sent me this beautiful picture looking over Tampa Bay. While it looks like it could be sunrise or sunset, this picture was actually taken at 10:20 AM EDT as a storm system sat off the west coast.



One of my other favorite pictures this month came from Caryl in Navarre who was excited about replacing her old automated station after it got zapped during a recent storm. Sure enough, the day it came in the mail, she had it set up and taking observations. A few days later, she told me how her new station informed her it was "raining cats and dogs" during a storm with over a 4"/hour rain-rate. I laughed and told her I needed a picture, so the next time it rained, she sent me this!



Melissa Griffin
CoCoRaHS Florida State Co-Coordinator
Email: griffin@coaps.fsu.edu

Have Questions?

If at any time you have questions about CoCoRaHS, reading your rain gauge, or finding a location to setup your rain gauge, please feel to contact a CoCoRaHS Coordinator. We are lucky enough to have regional support from National Weather Service offices across the state, as well as county/local help from several CoCoRaHS volunteers. You can find all of the contact information for the CoCoRaHS Coordinators at:

http://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=coord_FL

Take care,
Melissa