



## Climate Summary for Florida April 2011

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Online at: [http://coaps.fsu.edu/climate\\_center/summaries/flmonthly2011\\_04.shtml](http://coaps.fsu.edu/climate_center/summaries/flmonthly2011_04.shtml)

**Average temperatures well above normal in April.** Average temperatures were well above normal throughout the state in April (Table 1). Monthly average temperatures at West Palm Beach (80.2° F), Fort Lauderdale (79.1° F), and Miami (80.1° F) are the warmest on record at these sites for April. Nine daily maximum temperature records were tied or broken at Naples (Appendix). The maximum of 92° F at Vero Beach on the 16th tied a record in existence since 1944. On the 29th, the maximum temperature reached 95° F at West Palm Beach, breaking the record of 94° F recorded in 1923. Also, the minimum temperature (79° F) at West Palm Beach on the 28th is the warmest minimum temperature on record there during April.

Table 1. April average temperatures and departures from normal (° F) for selected cities.

Station	Average Temperature	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	70.3	3.4
Tallahassee	69.3	2.9
Jacksonville	70.6	4.0
Orlando	75.7	4.2
Tampa	76.3	4.8
Miami	80.1	4.4
Key West	80.2	3.2

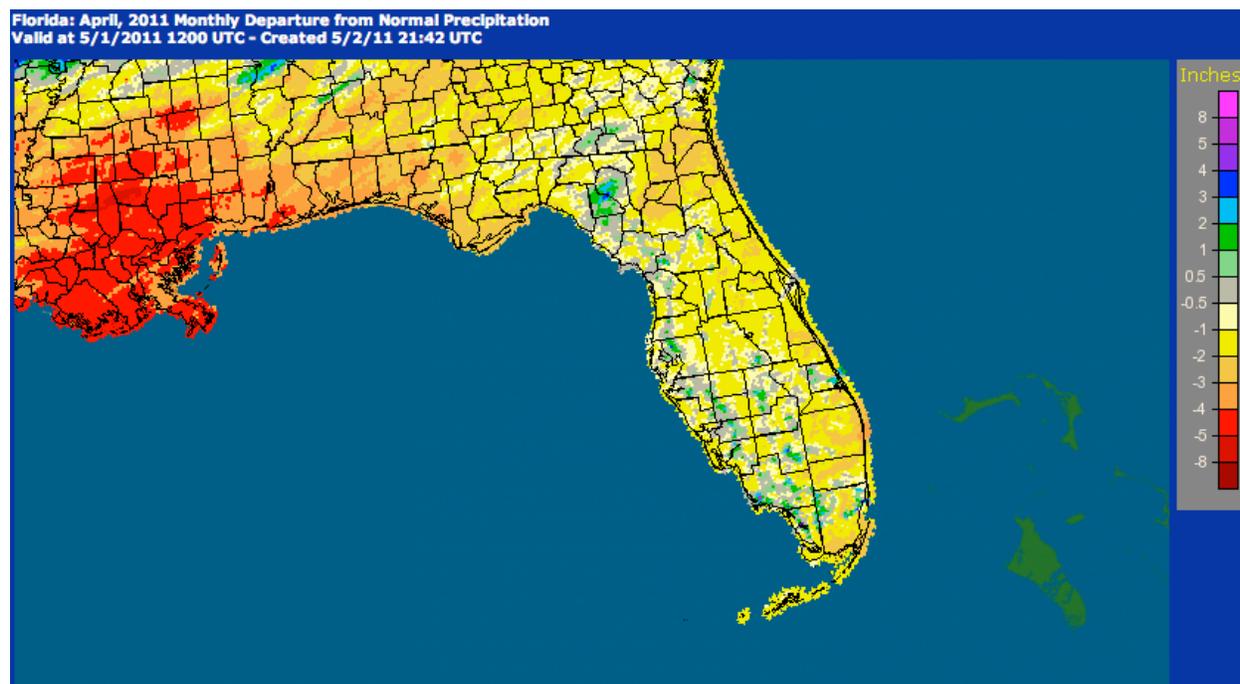
**Rainfall totals below normal in most areas in April.** Rainfall totals for April were generally below normal across the state in April (Table 2). Although above-normal monthly totals were observed at Tampa and Miami, such totals were isolated (Figure 1). The monthly total at Miami was raised above normal by a record daily total of 2.58 inches that fell on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Table 2. April precipitation totals and departures from normal (inches) for selected cities.

Station	Total rainfall	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	0.76	-3.13
Tallahassee	2.11	-1.48
Jacksonville	1.17	-1.97
Orlando	0.65	-1.77
Tampa	2.61	0.81
Miami	5.36	2.00
Key West	0.33	-1.73



Figure 1. A graphical depiction of the monthly rainfall departure from normal (inches) for April is given in the figure below (courtesy of NOAA, NWS).



**La Nina continues during April.** Although sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean continued to warm slightly during April, they continued below normal, denoting a weak cold phase of ENSO, or La Nina. Weather conditions continued as expected during a La Nina Spring.

**Hazardous weather.** During the early morning hours of the 4<sup>th</sup>, a strong squall line moved across northern areas. There were many reports of downed trees and power lines across the entire west-to-east extent of the state. Also, there were isolated reports of structures damaged by high winds or fallen trees. Wind gusts of 60mph were observed at Bonifay, and gusts up to 75 mph were observed at Perry. As the squall line continued to move down the state during the rest of the day, strong thunderstorm winds continued to produce damage. Wind gusts of 60 mph were recorded at Ormond Beach. Gusts of 59 mph were recorded at both Belle Glade and West Palm Beach. A tractor-trailer was overturned at West Boynton Beach, a trailer was overturned near Lakeland, and a house was damaged in West Melbourne. There were numerous reports of downed trees and power lines. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, golf-ball sized hail fell at Anthony, and ping-pong-ball sized hail fell near Ocala. Trees were downed near Archer, Newberry and Andalusia. Early on the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup>, a confirmed EF-1 tornado moved across Quincy Municipal Airport. Several airplanes were damaged and numerous trees were downed along a three-mile path. As a squall line preceded a cold front moving into the state, thunderstorm winds up to 65 mph downed trees and power lines near Tallahassee. Trees were blown down near Madison and power lines were downed near Dowling Park. Large hail, the size of a ping-pong ball west of Tallahassee, the size of a golf ball at Titusville and Buckhead Ridge, and the size of a baseball near Okeechobee, was observed. A wind gust of 62 mph was recorded at the Kennedy Space Center.

**Agricultural and other impacts.** Early in the month, widespread showers and above-normal temperatures helped the growth of early crops. Dry weather during most of the month aided the potato harvest and allowed fields to be prepared for the planting of cotton and peanuts. However, the dry weather and warm temperatures caused declines in pasture and leafy vegetables. Extreme drought conditions continued in the southeast. Water restrictions remained in place in Miami-Dade County. Severe drought remained in the northeast and extreme west. At the end of the month, only a small area around Tampa Bay was void of some degree of drought.

Appendix

Daily maximum temperature records (° F) tied or broken during April. (Compiled from NOAA, NWS

Location	Date	Record	Broken/Tied	Last
Apalachicola	2	82	Tied	82 in 1986
Naples	3	92	Broken	91 in 1974
Lakeland	4	90	Broken	89 in 1989
Naples	4	90	Broken	89 in 1975
Jacksonville	5	90	Tied	90 in 1974
Miami	5	92	Broken	91 in 1977
Ft. Lauderdale	5	92	Broken	91 in 1977
Naples	7	90	Broken	88 in 2003
Naples	8	89	Broken	88 in 2003
Naples	9	88	Tied	88 in 2008
Ft. Myers	9	92	Tied	92 in 1953
Jacksonville	9	92	Broken	90 in 1978
Tallahassee	9	92	Broken	90 in 1999
Jacksonville	10	92	Broken	90 in 1999
Lakeland	10	90	Tied	90 in 1999
W. Palm Beach	10	90	Tied	90 in 1961
Jacksonville	11	91	Tied	91 in 1999
Vero Beach	12	91	Tied	91 in 1965
W. Palm Beach	12	93	Tied	93 in 1961
Vero Beach	16	92	Tied	92 in 1944
Gainesville	19	94	Broken	90 in 1981
Tampa	19	90	Tied	90 in 1967
Naples	19	93	Broken	89 in 1990
Gainesville	20	92	Tied	92 in 2006
Gainesville	25	92	Tied	92 in 1958
Ft. Myers	25	93	Tied	93 in 1989
Naples	25	91	Broken	90 in 1981
Jacksonville	26	92	Broken	91 in 1989
W. Palm beach	26	93	Tied	93 in 1988
Gainesville	27	96	Broken	94 in 1908
Naples	27	93	Broken	91 in 2009
Lakeland	28	94	Tied	94 in 1986
Naples	28	91	Tied	91 in 1976
Orlando	28	95	Broken	94 in 1968
W. Palm beach	29	95	Broken	94 in 1923