

## Climate Summary for Florida – April 2021

Prepared by the Florida Climate Center, The Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida

Online at: <http://climatecenter.fsu.edu/products-services/summaries>

### April Key Points

- Temperatures were above normal across the Florida Peninsula and near or below normal across much of the northern part of the state.
- Rainfall was above normal across the state, except in parts of southern Florida.
- The La Niña Advisory continued but weakened with an 80% chance for a transition to ENSO-neutral conditions during the next month or two.
- Strong storms swept through the South on April 9-10, with heavy rain, quarter to nearly golf ball-sized hail, and multiple reports of tornadoes.
- Abnormally dry conditions persisted across the southern Peninsula, with moderate drought across Monroe and parts of Collier counties.

**Average temperatures in April were near or below normal across much of the Panhandle and northern parts of the state and above normal across southern Florida.** Average temperature departures ranged from -1.3 F in Jacksonville to +2.4 F in Key West for the month (see Table 1 and Appendix 1 for select cities). There were several daily high maximum and high minimum temperature records set during the month, mostly across the Florida Peninsula (see Appendices 2 and 3).

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

Station	Mean Temperature	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	67.0	+0.4
Tallahassee	65.5	-0.8
Jacksonville	65.7	-1.3
Orlando	71.8	+0.6
Tampa	73.9	+1.9
Miami	77.4	+1.6
Key West	78.8	+2.4

**Rainfall totals in April were above normal across most of the state but below normal in parts of south Florida** (Figure 1). Monthly departures from normal ranged from -0.94 inches in Key West to +5.97 inches in Pensacola (Table 2 and Appendix 1). Hastings observed its third wettest April on record; Orlando had its fourth wettest April; and Pensacola had its fifth wettest April on record. Many daily precipitation records were also set.

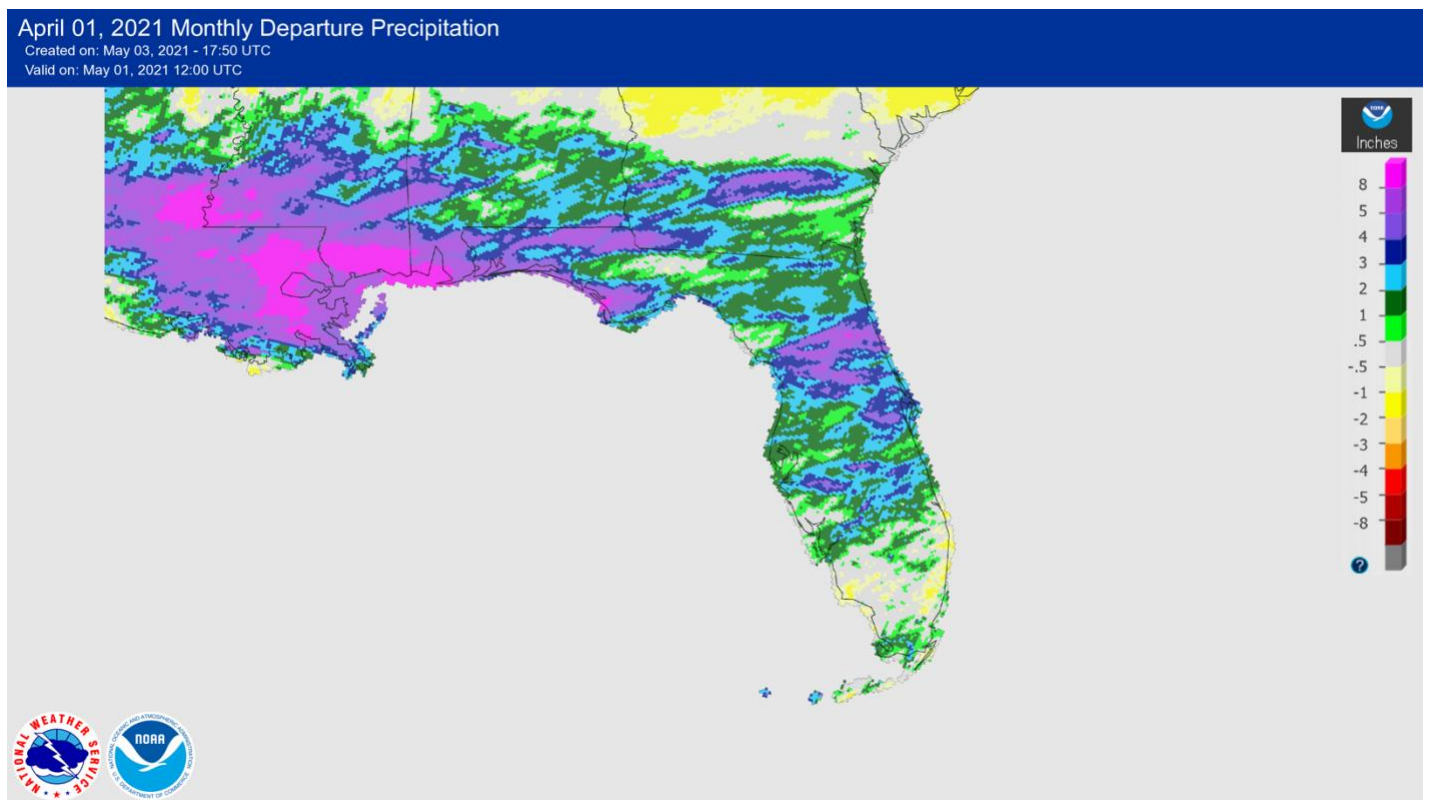


Pensacola recorded the highest daily rainfall amount during the month, which occurred on the 10<sup>th</sup> with 4.03 inches, beating its previous record of 2.61 inches on that day in 1959.

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

Station	Total Rainfall	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	10.29	+5.97
Tallahassee	3.51	+0.45
Jacksonville	5.49	+2.85
Orlando	6.34	+3.66
Tampa	3.35	+1.32
Miami	2.81	-0.33
Key West	1.11	-0.94

**Figure 1.** A graphical depiction of the monthly rainfall departure from normal (in inches) for April (courtesy of NOAA).



### La Niña Advisory; Shifting to ENSO-Neutral

La Niña conditions continued during April with below average sea surface temperatures over the tropical east-central to eastern Pacific Ocean. However, forecasters estimate a shift to ENSO-neutral conditions is likely in the next month or so (an ~80% chance during May-July). ENSO-neutral conditions are then expected to continue at least through the Northern Hemisphere summer.

## Hazardous Weather Events in April.

According to the Local Storm Reports issued by the local National Weather Service offices serving Florida, there were 449 individual local reports of hazardous weather events recorded across the state during the month of April (see Table 4 for a breakdown by event type). Severe weather swept through the southern U.S. on April 9-10, resulting in at least 3 fatalities, damaging buildings, and leaving thousands without power in Florida. NWS confirmed 4 tornadoes in the Panhandle during that weekend, along with high winds and quarter to just under golf ball-sized hail. A wildfire was reported in Homestead on the 30<sup>th</sup> with no immediate threats or endangerments.

**Table 4.** Breakdown of storm reports submitted in Florida during the month of April (compiled from Iowa State University/Iowa Environmental Mesonet).

<b>Report Type</b>	<b>Number of Reports</b>
Coastal Flood	1
Flash Flood	19
Marine Thunderstorm Wind	64
Non-Thunderstorm Wind Gust	46
Tornado/Waterspout/Funnel Cloud	5/6/2
Thunderstorm Wind Damage	70
Thunderstorm Wind Gust	148
Hail	82
Heavy Rain	5
Wildfire	1

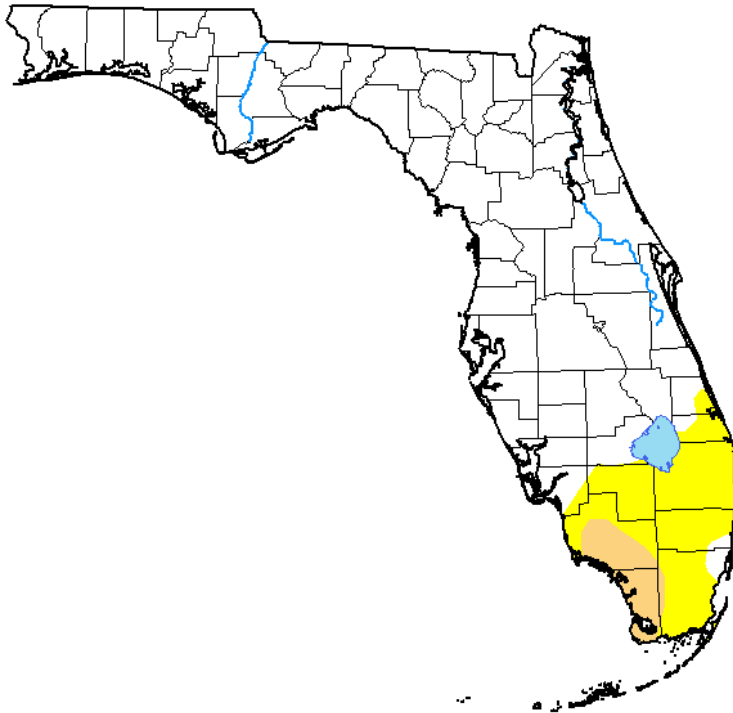
## Drought-Related Impacts.

By the end of April 2021, abnormally dry conditions persisted across southern Florida. Moderate drought (D1) developed in southern Florida across Monroe County and parts of Collier and Miami-Dade counties. From early to mid-April, abnormally dry conditions existed across much of the Florida Peninsula. Moderate drought had developed across Monroe and Collier counties and stretching into Broward and Palm Beach counties. By the end of the month, however, moderate drought conditions were alleviated in Broward and Palm Beach counties. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, 14 percent of the state was experiencing abnormally dry conditions (D0) and 4 percent was experiencing moderate drought (D1) by the end of the month.

As of April 30, the Lake Okeechobee water level was at 14.03 ft. above sea level (Feet-NGVD29), which is near to slightly above the average for this time of the year. At the first of the month, the water level was 14.44 ft. above sea level.

# U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

**April 27, 2021**  
(Released Thursday, Apr. 29, 2021)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	82.01	17.99	3.59	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 04-20-2021	75.89	24.11	1.76	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 01-26-2021	78.96	21.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 12-29-2020	89.27	10.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-29-2020	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 04-28-2020	15.72	84.28	43.05	7.22	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

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[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

## Agriculture-Related Impacts.

During mid-April, topsoil moisture levels were adequate for 67% of the state, short in 25%, and very short in 3%, while 5% of the state was in surplus. By the end of April, topsoil moisture levels were adequate in 57% of the state, short in 36%, and very short in 2% of the state; 5% of the state was in surplus. Most of the state had either fair (39%) or good (36%) pasture and range conditions by the end of the month. For more information, consult the weekly [Crop Progress and Condition reports](#) published by the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

### Appendix 1. Additional April departures from normal data for select Florida locations (source: NWS).

Station	Average Temperature (°F)	Departure from Normal (°F)	Total Rainfall (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)
Gainesville	66.7	-0.9	4.11	+1.44
Sarasota	72.3	+1.2	4.09	+1.65
Melbourne	72.3	+1.9	2.76	+0.63
Fort Myers	75.3	+1.5	3.73	+1.55
West Palm Beach	76.4	+2.6	2.88	-0.78

**Appendix 2.** Select daily record high maximum temperatures tied or broken during April (compiled from NOAA).

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Record (°F)</b>	<b>Broken/Tied</b>	<b>Last</b>
Clermont	1	93	Broken	92 in 2016
Plant City	1	93	Broken	92 in 1974
Sanford	1	91	Tied	91 in 1974
Daytona Beach	11	89	Tied	89 in 1935
Crestview	13	91	Broken	89 in 2001
Tallahassee	13	92	Broken	90 in 1981
Miami	17	90	Tied	90 in 2001
Vero Beach	17	91	Broken	90 in 2006
Fort Lauderdale	18	92	Broken	91 in 1924
Fort Lauderdale Beach	18	93	Broken	90 in 2001
Vero Beach	18	90	Tied	90 in 2006
Miami	19	92	Tied	92 in 1969

**Appendix 3.** Select daily record high minimum temperatures tied or broken during April (compiled from NOAA).

<b>Location</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Record (°F)</b>	<b>Broken/Tied</b>	<b>Last</b>
Sanford	1	69	Tied	69 in 2002
Mountain Lake	12	77	Broken	73 in 2020
Bradenton	17	72	Broken	70 in 2015
Venice	17	74	Broken	73 in 1972
Fort Myers	17	72	Broken	71 in 1912
Tampa	17	75	Broken	74 in 1944
Lakeland	17	70	Broken	69 in 1994
Bradenton	18	74	Broken	70 in 2020
Plant City	18	73	Tied	73 in 2000
Venice	18	73	Broken	72 in 1978
Punta Gorda	19	76	Broken	71 in 1994
Miles City	19	72	Broken	68 in 2006
Ochopee	19	75	Broken	70 in 2019
Fort Myers	19	74	Broken	72 in 1982