Climate Summary for Florida
May 2011

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Online at: http://coaps.fsu.edu/climate_center/summaries/flmonthly2011_05.shtml

Average temperatures continue above normal in May. Average temperatures were slightly above normal except in the extreme northwest during May (Table 1). Numerous daily maximum and minimum temperature records were tied or broken (Appendix). A maximum at Orlando on the 11th (96° F) tied a record in existence since 1916. Daily maxima were set at Naples on four consecutive days (29th-31st) with 96° F on the 29th and 31st tying the record high for the month of May. In contrast, record daily minima were set on four consecutive days (16th-19th) at Apalachicola and on three consecutive days (16th-18th) at Pensacola. The minimum temperature of 49° F at Pensacola on the 18th broke a record in existence since 1945.

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

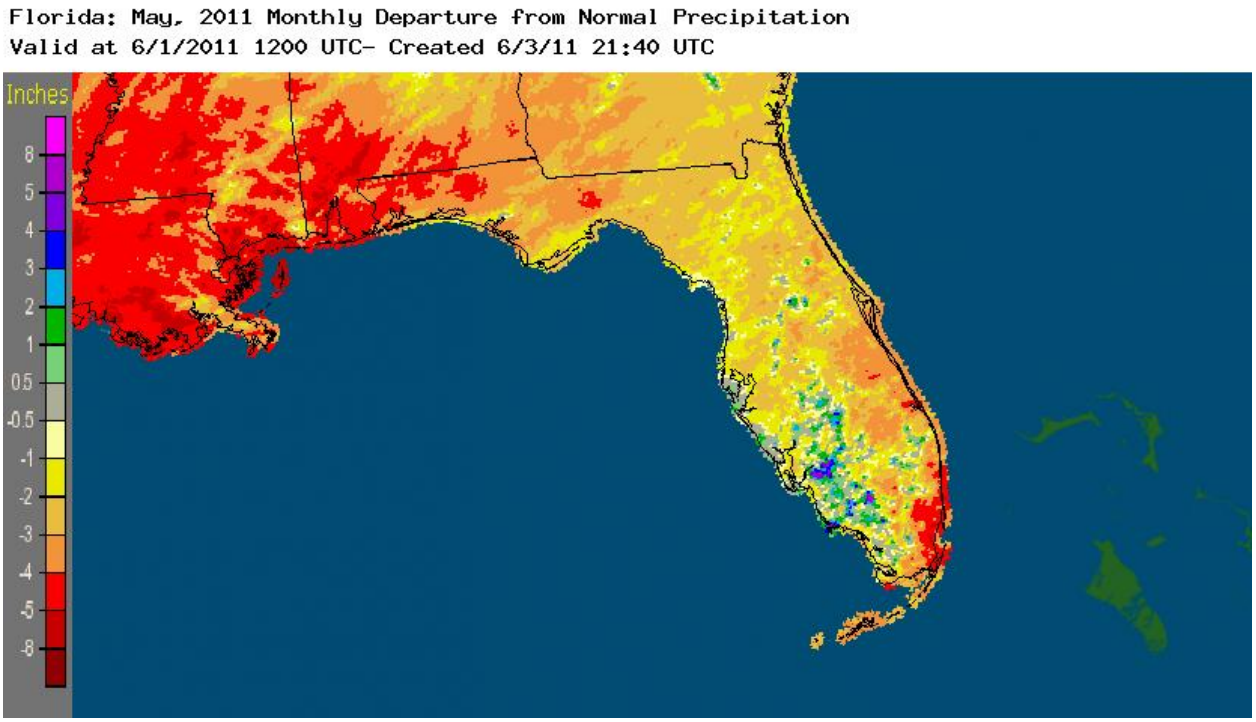
Station	Average Temperature	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	73.7	-0.9
Tallahassee	74.9	0.5
Jacksonville	73.9	0.5
Orlando	78.3	1.2
Tampa	79.2	1.6
Miami	81.5	1.9
Key West	81.9	1.2

Rainfall totals below normal in most areas in May. Rainfall totals for May were below normal across most of the state in May (Table 2). Monthly totals at Tallahassee (0.59 in) and Miami (2.15 in) were more than four and three inches below normal, respectively. A daily rainfall of 1.68 inches at Sarasota on the 6th broke the previous daily record of 1.24 inches recorded in 1944. This was the only daily record set in May. Areas in the extreme northwest and the extreme southeast were the most below normal during May (Figure 1). Some areas in the southwest were above normal.

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

Station	Total rainfall	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	2.65	-1.75
Tallahassee	0.59	-4.36
Jacksonville	2.05	-1.43
Orlando	2.10	-1.64
Tampa	0.70	-2.15
Miami	2.15	-3.37
Key West	0.61	-2.87

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



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

Hazardous weather. Isolated events of large hail and trees and/or power lines downed by thunderstorm winds were observed on several days during May. However, the 14th was a very active day. Early in the morning trees and power lines were downed near Tallahassee, Lloyd, and Dills in the north. Later in the day trees were downed at numerous locations across north-central and central parts of the state. One person was injured when a tree was blown onto a mobile home near Oceanway in Duval County. Thunderstorm wind gusts included 76 mph at MacDill Air Force Base, 72 mph at Indian Rocks Beach, 70 mph at Pinellas Park, and 61 mph at Ft. Lauderdale. A roof was blown off a building in Temple Terrace. One-inch-diameter hail was observed at Middleburg, Sebring, and Fargo. Later in the month, hail up to the size of a golf ball

(1.75 inch diameter) was observed near Jacksonville, Green Cove Springs, and Jacksonville International Airport on the 27th.

Agricultural and other impacts. Extreme drought conditions persisted in the southeast and northwest during May. Harvesting of vegetables in the south was nearly completed despite the dryness. Some young cotton and potatoes suffered damage from the dryness. Lack of soil moisture delayed planting of cotton in other areas of the north. Cool temperatures and dry conditions caused poor pasture conditions early in the month. By the end of the month most pasture was fair as moderate temperatures aided cool season forage growth. Above normal supplemental feed has been required to offset the overall dryness. Water restrictions remained in place for both agricultural and general use in the southeast.

Appendix. Daily maximum and minimum temperature records (^{o}F) tied or broken during May (compiled from NOAA, NWS).

Date	Station	Type	Value	Broken/Tied	Last
2	Naples	Max	93	Broken	92 in 1994
7	Apalachicola	Min	53	Broken	54 in 2005
7	Jacksonville	Min	49	Tied	49 in 1992
9	Gainesville	Max	95	Tied	95 in 1962
10	Jacksonville	Max	93	Tied	93 in 2009
10	Gainesville	Max	95	Tied	95 in 1962
10	St. Petersburg	Max	92	Tied	92 in 2009
11	Daytona Beach	Max	95	Tied	95 in 2009
11	Orlando	Max	96	Tied	96 in 1916
11	Melbourne	Max	96	Broken	95 in 2008
11	Vero Beach	Max	96	Broken	94 in 2006
11	West Palm Beach	Max	95	Broken	94 in 2008
12	Naples	Max	93	Broken	92 in 1990
12	Lakeland	Max	95	Tied	95 in 1994
12	Ft. Myers	Max	94	Broken	92 in 2002
12	Gainesville	Max	98	Broken	97 in 1955
12	Tallahassee	Max	98	Broken	96 in 1967
16	Pensacola	Min	54	Tied	54 in 1967
16	Apalachicola	Min	51	Broken	56 in 2006
16	Jacksonville	Min	52	Tied	52 in 1981
17	Pensacola	Min	51	Broken	55 in 1981
17	Apalachicola	Min	51	Broken	54 in 2006
18	Pensacola	Min	49	Broken	51 in 1945
18	Apalachicola	Min	48	Broken	55 in 2006
18	Jacksonville	Min	46	Broken	48 in 1984
18	Melbourne	Min	55	Tied	55 in 1973
18	Vero Beach	Min	55	Tied	55 in 1973
19	Apalachicola	Min	51	Broken	55 in 2002
24	Tampa	Max	95	Tied	95 in 1975
25	Gainesville	Max	98	Tied	98 in 1956
26	Ft. Myers	Max	96	Tied	96 in 1997
29	Sarasota	Max	95	Tied	95 in 2006
29	Naples	Max	96	Broken	94 in 2008
30	Naples	Max	95	Broken	94 in 1989
31	Naples	Max	96	Broken	94 in 1989
31	Sarasota	Max	94	Tied	94 in 2000