



Climate Summary for Florida – February 2014

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

**At the time of publication, the National Climatic Data Center's U.S. Record Events Reporting Tool was unavailable.*

Average temperatures were above normal in February. In a complete turn around from cold of January 2014, the average temperatures for February 2014 were above normal across the entire state (Table 1 and Appendix 1). Departures from normal ranged from 0.9°F in Jacksonville to 4.0°F in Miami. The monthly average temperature for February 2014 was the 5th warmest in Miami, 7th warmest in West Palm Beach, and the 9th warmest in Vero Beach. Portions of the southeast coast saw more than 20 days with maximum temperatures above 80°F and Naples recorded its warmest low temperature (71°F) in the 1st two weeks of February since records started in 1942. There were multiple maximum and high minimum temperatures that were broken or tied (Appendix 2).

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

Station	Average Temperature	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	56.0	1.3
Tallahassee	57.1	2.4
Jacksonville	57.3	0.9
Orlando	65.8	2.8
Tampa	64.9	1.5
Miami	74.2	4.0
Key West	74.4	3.4

Rainfall totals were varied across the state in February. Portions of the Big Bend and Panhandle, reported monthly rainfall totals near average or slightly above normal, while the rest of the state saw near to above average rainfall during February (Figure 1). Departures from normal roughly ranged from -1.61” to 2.82” (Table 2 and Appendix 1), though localized parts of Florida saw rainfall totals that were as much as 3.00” below normal to over 4.00” above normal. There was only one 24-hour precipitation record broken for the month (Table 3).

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

Station	Total Rainfall	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	7.88	2.82
Tallahassee	4.38	-0.47
Jacksonville	2.74	-0.45
Orlando	2.12	-0.26
Tampa	1.81	-1.00
Miami	1.16	-1.09
Key West	0.92	-0.57

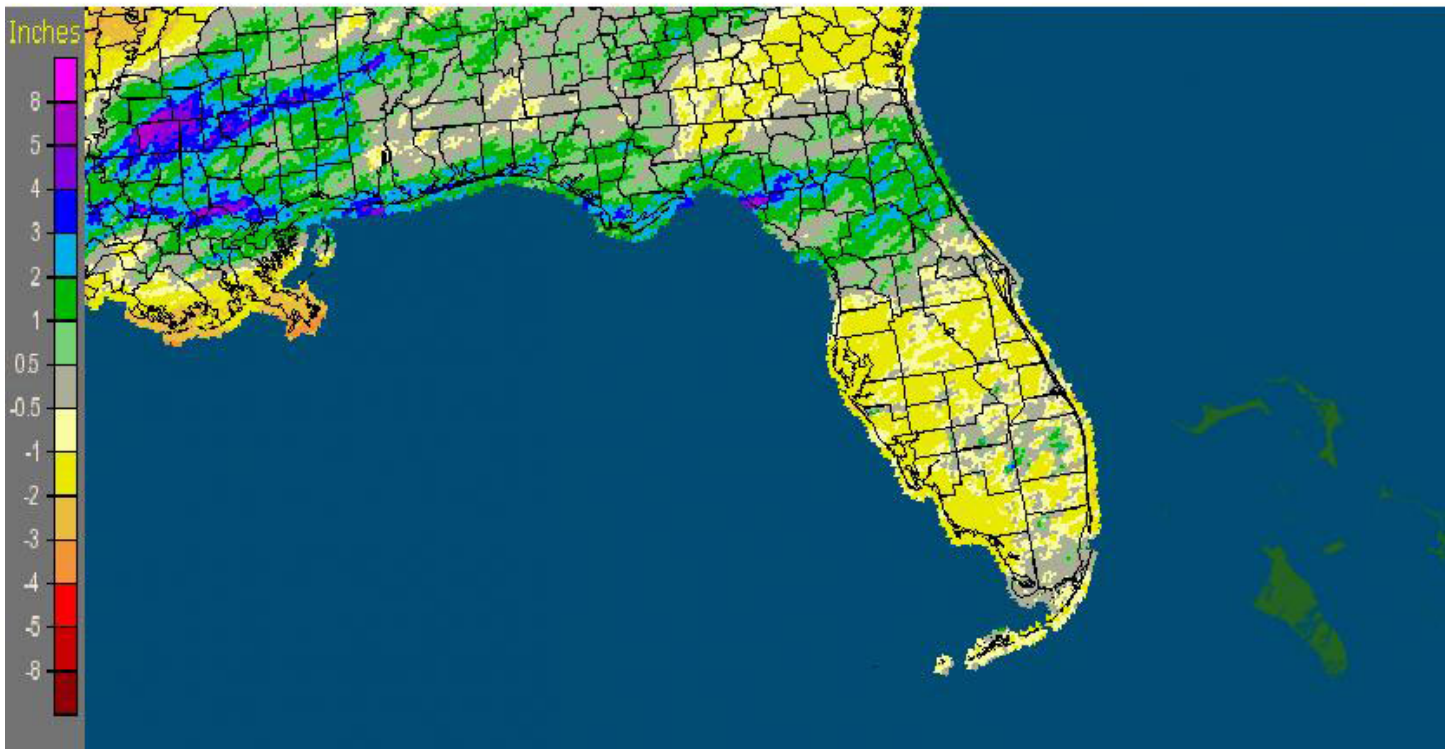


Table 3. Select daily rainfall records (inches) broken during February (Compiled from NOAA, NWS)

Date	Location	Record	Last
23	Apalachicola	1.97	1.73 in 1952

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

Florida: February, 2014 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation
Valid at 3/1/2014 1200 UTC- Created 3/3/14 15:35 UTC



ENSO-Neutral Conditions Continue in the Pacific.

Neutral ENSO conditions continue to be reported for the equatorial Pacific with the equatorial sea surface temperatures (SST) above average across in the western Pacific, with regions of below average SST in the eastern Pacific. ENSO-neutral conditions are favored to continue through the spring of 2014, with a potential El Nino forming in the summer. The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) predicts above normal temperatures across the entire state and below normal precipitation for the Florida Panhandle through May.

Hazardous Weather Events in February

There were 144 total severe weather reports were recorded in Florida for the month of February. The month started off with reports of dense fog on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd in portions of southern Florida. Areas south of Lake Okeechobee reported visibilities less than 1/4 mile during the morning hours, impacting both inland and coastal communities. These same areas recorded dense fog on the morning of the 8th, with one report stating, “Visibilities of 200-300 yards reported in Belle Glade.” A low-pressure system and associated stationary front on the 12th produced a line of thunderstorms that caused storm damage, with multiple reports of hail (pea to quarter sized), heavy rain high wind (up to 60 mph) as it pushed through the Peninsula. 73 storm reports came in from 15 counties on the 12th, with a report of a tornado in Fort Meade, FL that blew off a roof and porch of a structure, and lightning that started a house fire in Tampa, FL. A cold front raced through the northern part of the state on the 21st, producing high winds and hail along its path. There were multiple reports of trees and power lines down, with a report of an 18-wheeler being flipped over in Escambia County and a funnel cloud with 1” diameter hail in Putnam County. On the morning of the 23rd, an area of disturbed weather produced heavy rains, which caused flooding along portions of US 98 in Bay County, along with multiple reports of golf ball sized hail. Later on the 23rd, areas near Gainesville, Ocala, Daytona Beach and Orlando were impacted by hail and high winds from the same storm system.

Table 4. Breakdown of storm reports submitted in Florida during the month of February (Compiled from Southeast Regional Climate Center.)

Report Type	Number of Reports
Heavy Rain and Flooding	10
High Winds	64
Storm Damage	19
Hail	25
Thunderstorm/Lightning	1
Tornadoes/Funnel Clouds/Waterspouts	2
Coastal Hazards	0
Dense Fog	23
Fire	0
Winter Weather	0

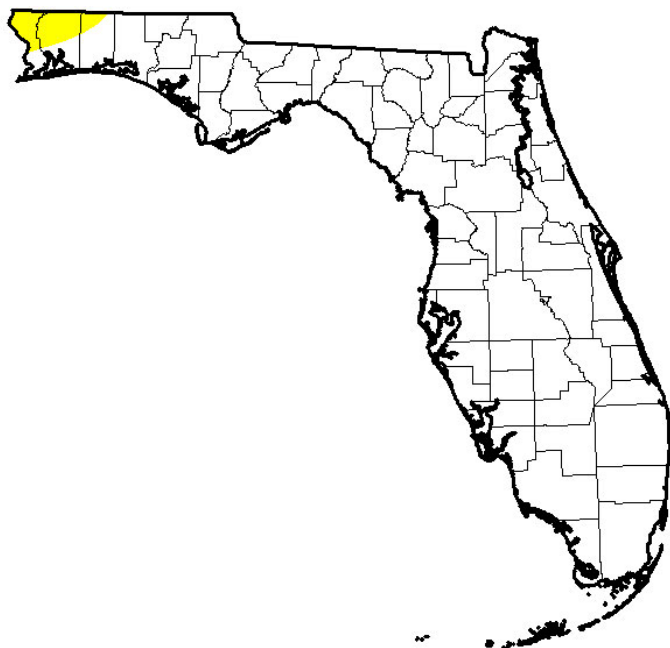
Agricultural and other climate related impacts.

The majority of the state saw temperatures that ranged from the upper 60s to the low 80s at the beginning of the month. The cold weather from the last week in January slowed the growth of winter wheat and caused a decline in the pasture conditions in northern parts of the state. The rain and foggy weather increased disease in vegetables, with reports of late blight being reported in tomatoes and potatoes. The citrus area received widespread rain and the active commercial groves in the state were drought free; but fruit sizes were still small on all varieties. Cloudy, cool wet conditions hampered fieldwork and crop growth by mid month. Various fruits and vegetables were marketed, while sugarcane and strawberries entered the last weeks of harvest. Citrus growers in Indian River experimented with tenting younger trees to help combat the psyllid population that had caused greening. The end of February saw farmers in Washington and Gadsden counties preparing ground for peanut and corn planting. Grover managers were reporting various sizes in the same blocks and have noticed blooms in several of the more southern citrus growing areas, signaling the beginning of next year's crop. Citrus greening was still an issue and preventative measures were being taken to protect unaffected trees. Cattle conditions during the month were good, while pasture conditions were mostly fair; promoting cattlemen to feed hay and supplements.

At the end of January nearly 30% of the state was characterized as dry, with the main concentration of the dryness (D0) confined to portions of the Space Coast and through the Okeechobee watershed into interior portions of the state to southwestern coast from Lee to Collier counties; and there was a small area of dryness reported in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties. Rains in the early part of the month eased most of D0 conditions in the Peninsula, with only Volusia, Seminole, Orange and Brevard counties showing dry conditions on the February 4th release of the Drought Monitor. By the 18th of the month, rainfall over portions of the east coast had led to an improvement of the lingering dry conditions and the only dry conditions left in the sate at the month's end were those in the northwest Panhandle. The Climate Prediction Center is forecasting for precipitation to be below normal for March, April and May, in the Panhandle, while else where, precipitation is expected to be near normal as the state begins the transition in to the dry spring season.

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

February 25, 2014
(Released Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	97.80	2.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 2/18/2014	96.89	3.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 11/26/2013	77.26	22.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12/31/2013	75.83	24.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10/1/2013	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 2/26/2013	26.18	73.82	46.61	7.51	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- 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. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Appendix 1

Additional February Departures from Normal Data for Florida Locations

Station	Total rainfall (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)	Average Temperature (°F)	Departure from Normal (°F)
Gainesville	4.37	1.17	58.8	1.3
St Petersburg	1.46	-1.26	66.2	2.2
Fort Lauderdale	1.35	-1.61	73.9	3.0
Fort Myers	1.28	-0.87	70.5	3.9

Appendix 2

Select daily maximum and minimum temperature records (°F) tied or broken during February.
(Compiled from NOAA, NWS)

Date	Station	Type	Value	Broken/Tied	Last
1	Vero Beach	Max	84	Broken	83 in 1990
1	Fort Lauderdale	High Min	71	Tied	71 in 2012
1	Naples	High Min	67	Broken	64 in 1957
2	Naples	High Min	68	Broken	67 in 1947
3	Vero Beach	Max	83	Tied	83 in 1990
3	Miami	High Min	74	Broken	73 in 1990
4	Orlando	Max	87	Broken	86 in 1990
4	Melbourne	High Min	70	Broken	68 in 1956
4	Fort Myers	Max	88	Broken	87 in 1997
4	Miami	High Min	76	Tied	76 in 1990

4	Naples	Max	87	Tied	87 in 1957
4	Key West	High Min	76	Tied	76 in 1990
5	Apalachicola	Max	80	Broken	77 in 2012
5	Vero Beach	Max	87	Broken	86 in 1986
5	Miami	High Min	75	Broken	74 in 1957
5	Naples	High Min	71	Broken	69 in 1960
6	Daytona Beach	High Min	67	Broken	65 in 1956
6	Naples	High Min	70	Broken	69 in 2004
21	Vero Beach	High Min	87	Tied	87 in 1989
21	Fort Lauderdale	Max	85	Tied	85 in 1989
21	Fort Lauderdale	High Min	76	Broken	76 in 2003
21	West Palm Beach	High Min	75	Broken	74 in 1989
21	Naples	High Min	70	Broken	69 in 1989
22	Naples	High Min	69	Tied	69 in 2008
25	Fort Lauderdale	Max	87	Broken	86 in 1965