

Florida CoCoRaHS

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network

*Volunteers working together
to measure precipitation.*

Being Thankful

With Thanksgiving a week away, it got me thinking about all the things I'm thankful for in my life. My family and friends top the list, but are followed by things like coffee and finally adjusting to the end of Daylight Saving Time. I'm truly thankful that I have the opportunity to do something I love and be a part of this organization. And I'm also grateful to you all, because without you this program wouldn't be as successful as it is today.

Training/Meet and Greet Opportunity

For those of you in the Manatee County area, I'll be at the Tampa Bay Hamfest on Saturday, December 5th, at the Manatee Convention Center. I'll be giving a basic training seminar from 1:00PM to 2:00PM and will be around to answer questions and meet up with observers from the surrounding region. If you've got time, come on out and say 'hello' to myself and other CoCoRaHS observers.

For more information, click on the following link:

<http://www.fgcarc.org/>

Quick Stats

959	# of registered FL observers
480	# of active FL observers
12,137	# of reports submitted by FL observers during 10/09
10/28/09	Date with the greatest # of FL reports submitted during 10/09 (414 reports)
4.32"	Highest reported daily rainfall from FL CoCoRaHS observers during 10/09 (FL-ES-10 on 10/5/09)



Because every drop counts!



October Rains

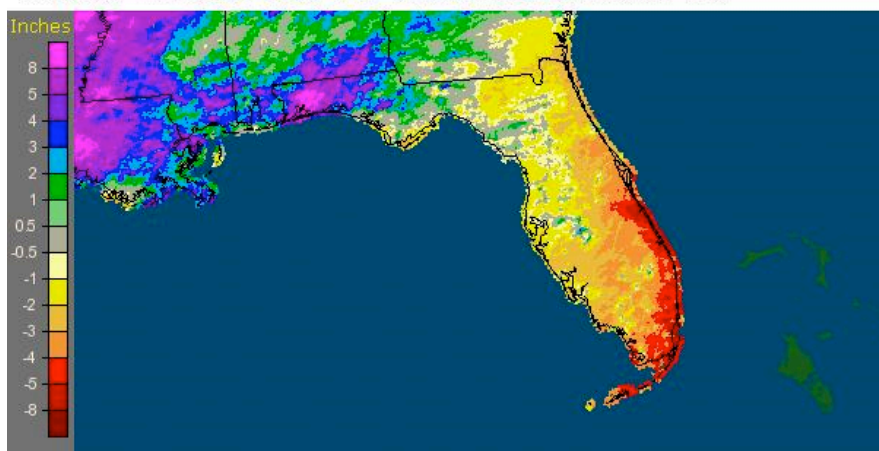
A ridge of high pressure kept most of Florida in dry and warm conditions for most of the month. While heavier amounts were observed near the mid-month cold front, particularly in North Florida, most rainfall fell as scattered showers or thundershowers. Rainfall totals for October were mostly near normal in North and Central Florida, but well below normal in South Florida. Fort Lauderdale recorded its all-time driest October (0.73 in), breaking the previous record of 0.94 inches recorded in 1977. While many stations had below normal rainfall, Pensacola recorded a monthly total of 11.28 inches, more than seven inches above normal (Table 1).

Table 1: October precipitation totals and departures from normal (inches) for selected cities.

Station	Total Rainfall	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	11.28	7.15
Tallahassee	3.37	0.12
Jacksonville	2.02	-1.84
Orlando	2.85	0.12
Tampa	2.24	-0.05
Miami	2.62	-3.57
Key West	1.11	-3.23

A graphical depiction of the monthly rainfall departure from normal for October is given in the figure below (courtesy of NOAA NWS). Departures range from over eight inches above normal in the northwest to more than five inches below normal at some locations near the southeast coast and Keys.

Florida: October, 2009 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation
Valid at 11/1/2009 1200 UTC- Created 11/1/09 23:47 UTC





Current State of the Drought

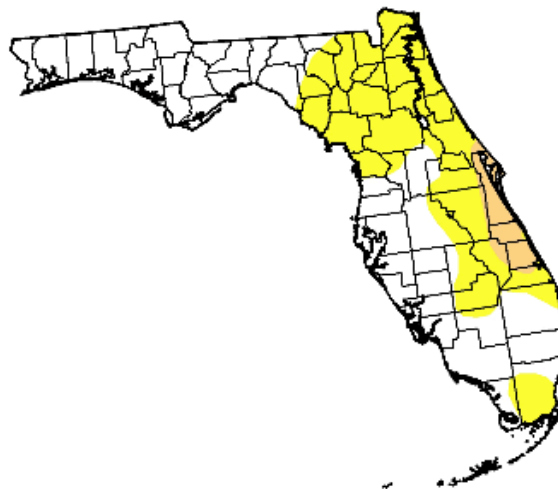
Since the last newsletter, portions of the state have been drying out and talk of abnormally dry conditions has come to the forefront. As of mid-November, nearly 50% of the state was experiencing drier than normal conditions and almost 5% (mainly the Space Coast region) has been categorized under moderate drought. El Niño should play a part in bring 40-60% more winter rainfall to Florida, but for now we'll have to watch the areas that are below normal on rainfall and hope they do not slide deeper into drought.

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

November 17, 2009
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	54.9	45.1	4.9	0.0	0.0	0.0
Last Week (11/10/2009 map)	62.4	37.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3 Months Ago (08/25/2009 map)	85.1	14.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/06/2009 map)	44.0	56.0	13.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/06/2009 map)	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
One Year Ago (11/18/2008 map)	89.9	10.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, November 19, 2009
Author: Eric Luebehusen, U.S. Department of Agriculture

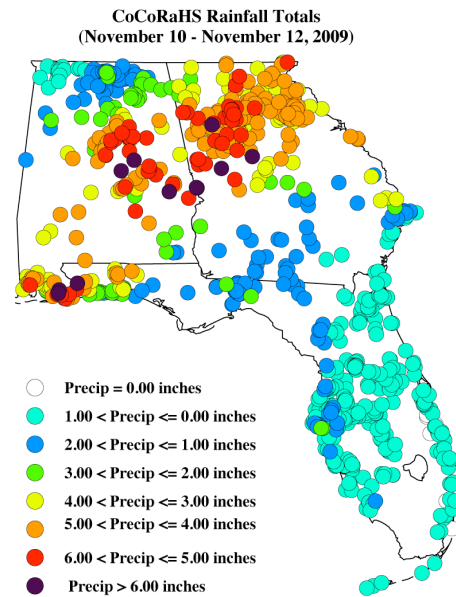


Tropical Storm Ida

As we start counting down the remaining days left in November, we are also counting down the final days of the 2009 Hurricane Season. While this season seemed quieter than some in recent memory, there were still 9 named storms: one of them being Hurricane Ida that formed around the Bay of Campeche and made landfall west of Mobile Bay, AL, last week as a Tropical Storm. Even though the season was almost over, Ida is not the latest developed Atlantic tropical system on record. The latest hurricane on record is Hurricane Alice, which formed on December 30, 1954, and lasted until January 6, 1955. Like Alice, Tropical Storm Zeta also spanned two years from December 29, 2005, until January 6, 2006. Rainfall from Ida was mainly confined to the extreme western Panhandle of Florida, central Alabama and northern Georgia.

Table 2: Top 5 Florida CoCoRaHS rainfall totals (inches) from Ida.

Station	Total Rainfall
FL-ES-4	6.78
FL-ES-5	5.12
FL-SR-4	4.72
FL-WT-5	4.65
FL-ES-10	4.45



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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