

Florida CoCoRaHS

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network

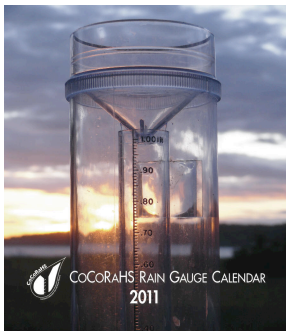
*Volunteers working together
to measure precipitation.*

Happy Holidays!

Our days continue to grow shorter as we approach the official start to winter, though to look at our December so far, it seems that winter came early this year. As of the 16th, most of the NWS sites across the state are showing a -10°F departure from normal. It looks like things will return to normal, only to be followed by another surge of cooler air next week.

The holiday travel season continues as well. Some of us will be traveling this last part of 2010- either by trains, planes or automobiles (or if you're like me, all three!). Please be safe if you're traveling during these last few days of the year.

And remember... If you're gone longer than a day and have some liquid sunshine waiting for you, please remember to use the multi-day precipitation form when entering your amount.



Are you still stumped as to what to give that person on your list that has everything? Well, you still have a chance to purchase the CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge Calendar as a stocking stuffer. These calendars are on sale and would make a fantastic gift for a fellow observer or any weather enthusiast. You can order your copy from WeatherYourWay:

<http://www.weatheryourway.com/cocorahs/cal2011coco.htm>

Quick Stats

1064	# of registered FL observers
479	# of active FL observers
11,617	# of reports submitted by FL observers during 11/10
11/04/10	Date with the greatest # of FL reports submitted during 11/10 (434 reports)
6.93"	Highest reported daily rainfall from FL CoCoRaHS observers during 11/10 (FL-CH-18 on 11/04)



Because every drop counts!



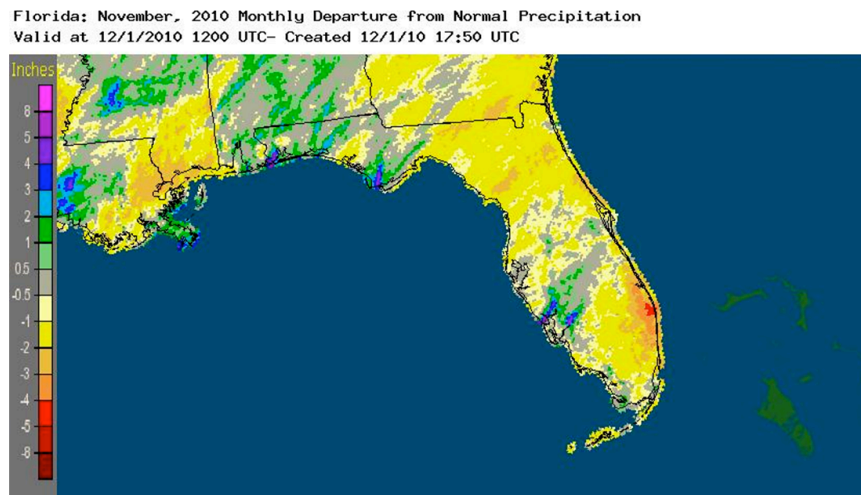
November Rains

Monthly rainfall totals in November were near normal in almost all areas of the state (Table 1). In contrast, a monthly total of 7.33 inches recorded at Pensacola was nearly three inches above normal. A daily amount of 3.34 inches at Pensacola on the 3rd was the primary factor in the monthly total being above normal. Monthly departures from normal November rainfall are depicted in Figure 1. While Panhandle areas were near or slightly above normal, an area along the south-central coast was more than four inches below normal.

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

Station	Total Rainfall	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	7.33	2.87
Tallahassee	3.90	0.04
Jacksonville	1.30	-1.04
Orlando	1.68	-0.64
Tampa	2.06	0.44
Miami	2.35	-1.08
Key West	2.93	0.29

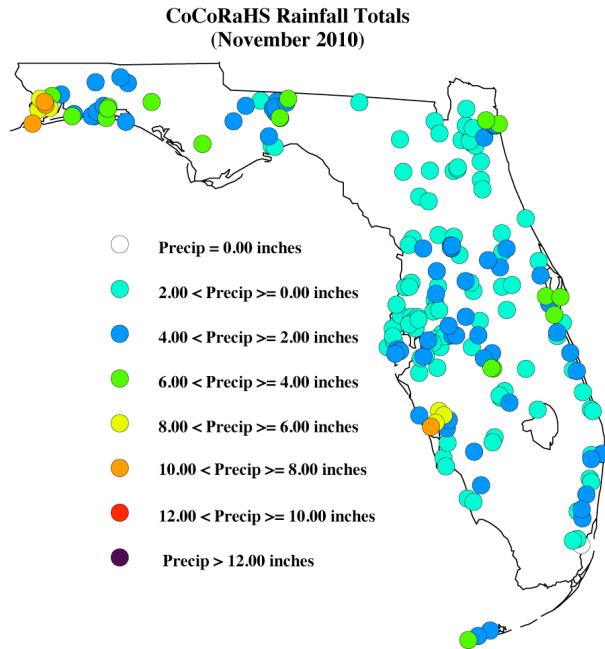
Figure 1. A graphical depiction of the monthly rainfall departure from normal (inches) for November. (Courtesy of NOAA, NWS)





November CoCoRaHS Totals

Here are the rainfall totals for October from some select CoCoRaHS stations across the state.



Current State of the Drought

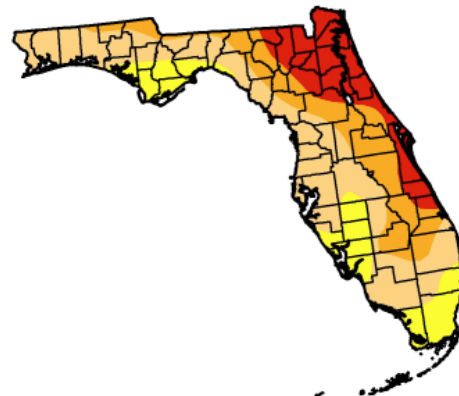
Even the near normal rainfall totals were unable to prevent the state from sliding further into drought. All of the state is experiencing dry conditions, with the northeastern part of the state and most of the east coast enduring extreme drought conditions. We're still forecasting a dry winter, so these conditions could get worse and we might start seeing stronger water restrictions in the near future.

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

December 14, 2010
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.2	99.8	82.8	40.7	17.6	0.0
Last Week (12/07/2010 map)	0.9	99.1	73.6	34.7	13.9	0.0
3 Months Ago (09/21/2010 map)	55.0	45.0	17.7	4.2	0.0	0.0
Start of Calendar Year (01/05/2010 map)	97.3	2.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Start of Water Year (10/05/2010 map)	55.1	44.9	25.4	6.0	0.0	0.0
One Year Ago (12/15/2009 map)	85.7	14.3	2.9	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, December 16, 2010
Author: D. Miskus, CPC/NOAA

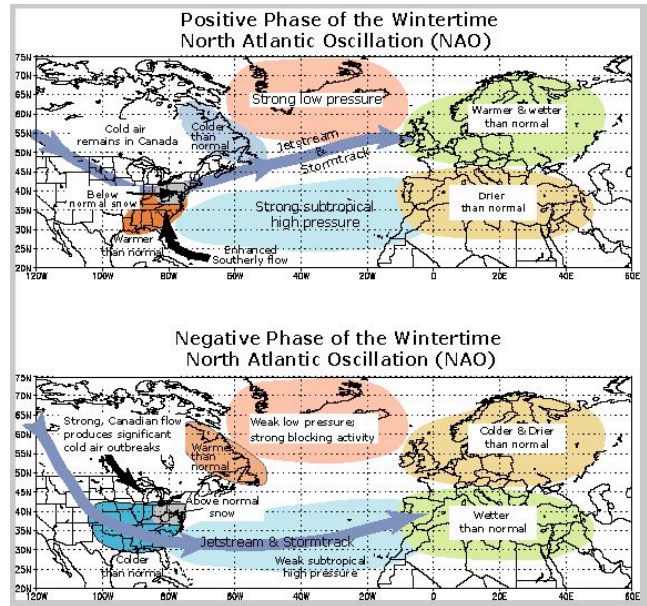


Warmer Winter Temperatures?

I've gotten some questions recently about our below normal temperatures and how they relate to what we would normally see during a La Niña winter. Similar to what happened back this past winter, the North American Oscillation (NAO) has begun to dominate our weather patterns here in the Southeast, and has overwhelmed the weather we would typically expect from El Niño/La Niña.

The NAO is a large-scale pattern that is characterized by the pressure difference between the Azores and Iceland. When this difference is negative, the Icelandic Low and the subtropical high pressure are weaker. This negative phase corresponds to more cold air outbreaks and snowy weather for the U. S. East Coast. This oscillation is more of an indicator rather than a predictor, and has a shorter time scale (a few weeks) than El Niño/La Niña (months or years).

So... Are we done with these cold air outbreaks? I can't give you a definite yes or no. Now that the NAO is no longer negative, we are seeing a return to warmer temperatures, some of which will be warmer than normal. But that doesn't mean the NAO won't go negative again and give us another blast of Arctic air.



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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