

Florida CoCoRaHS

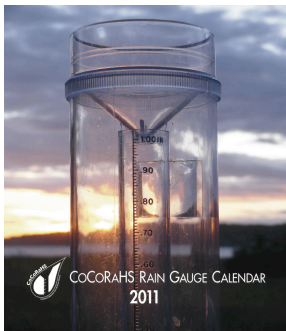
The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network

*Volunteers working together
to measure precipitation.*

Heading Into The Holidays...

I reminded everyone last month not to forget to 'fall' back on the 7th... and of course I forgot to turn my clock back an hour before going to bed last Saturday night. On the bright side, I was up and ready to go well before my flight to Miami the following Sunday morning.

As the holidays quickly close in, some of us (myself included) will be off spending time with family and will be leaving a beloved member of our family behind to keep watch over our residences- our rain gauge. But fear not! Our rain gauge will be patiently waiting for our return and with any hopes it will have a gift waiting for us... a little precipitation. 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.



And speaking of holidays... The CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge 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
470	# of active FL observers
11,836	# of reports submitted by FL observers during 10/10
10/01/10	Date with the greatest # of FL reports submitted during 10/10 (395 reports)
4.06"	Highest reported daily rainfall from FL CoCoRaHS observers during 9/09 (FL-MN-16 on 10/26)



Because every drop counts!



October Rains

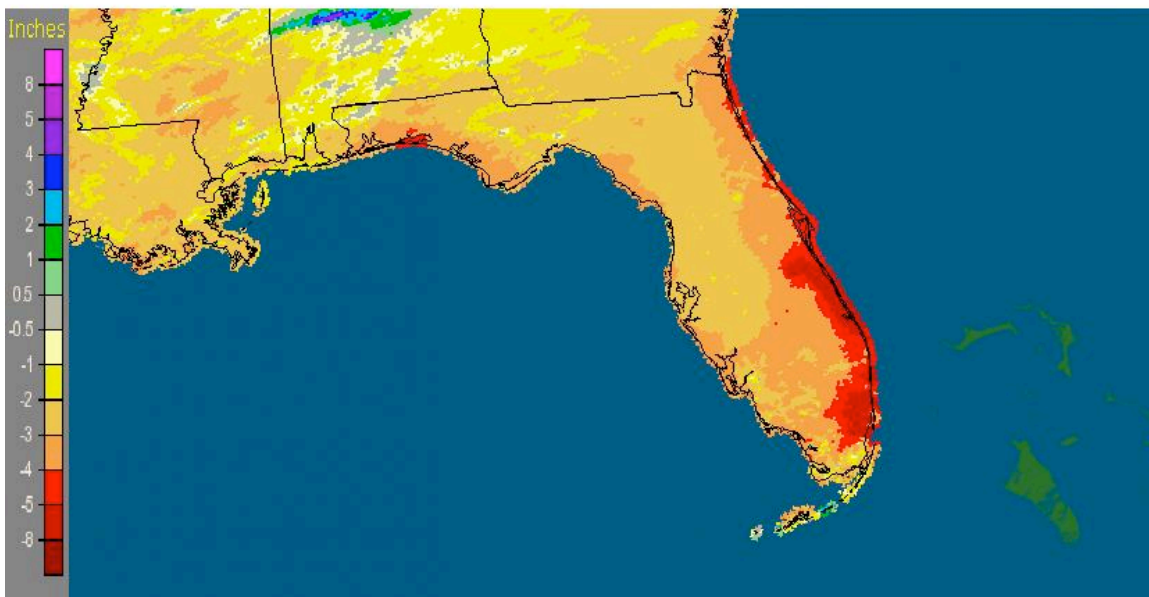
Monthly rainfall in October was well below normal in almost all areas of the state (Table 1). Miami’s monthly total was more than four and one-half inches below normal. Jacksonville and Orlando did not officially record rain and Tampa recorded only a trace amount during October. This was the driest October on record at these three stations. In contrast, a localized heavy rain event (3.44 in) on the 26th at Key West raised the monthly total above normal. The general sparseness of rainfall across the state is depicted in Figure 1. Departures from normal in eastern and southeastern coastal areas exceeded five inches. No daily rainfall records were set in October.

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

Station	Total Rainfall	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	0.38	-3.75
Tallahassee	0.78	-2.47
Jacksonville	0.00	-3.86
Orlando	0.00	-2.73
Tampa	Trace	-2.29
Miami	1.58	-4.61
Key West	6.58	2.24

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

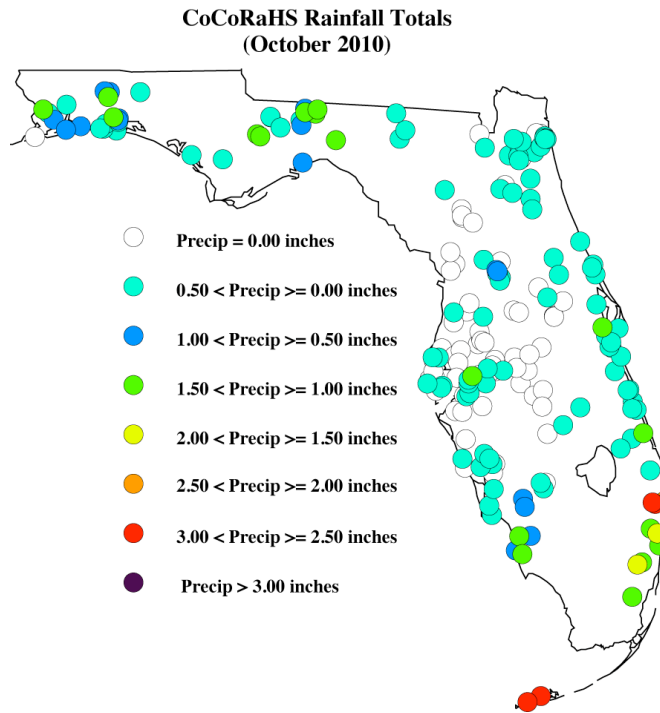
Florida: October, 2010 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation
 Valid at 11/1/2010 1200 UTC- Created 11/3/10 17:41 UTC





October CoCoRaHS Totals

Here are the rainfall totals for October from some select CoCoRaHS stations across the state. Due to the dry conditions, the color key has been adjusted from previous months.



Current State of the Drought

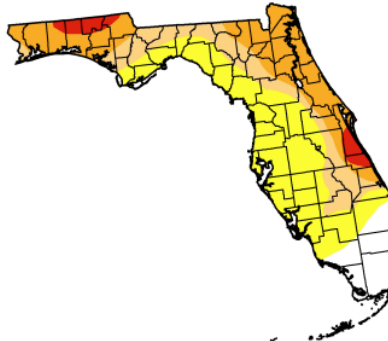
The rainfall totals from the official NWS stations and our CoCoRaHS observers tell the story- it's been dry, very dry. And because of this dryness, the drought has expanded and now nearly 90% of the state is being impacted by dry conditions, with some of the worst conditions being reported along the east coast in the northwest Panhandle.

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

November 9, 2010
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	11.6	88.4	48.7	30.1	4.3	0.0
Last Week (11/02/2010 map)	11.6	88.4	50.9	29.6	4.3	0.0
3 Months Ago (08/17/2010 map)	71.0	29.0	5.1	0.0	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 (11/10/2009 map)	62.4	37.6	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 11, 2010
Author: Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center



Drought, La Niña and You

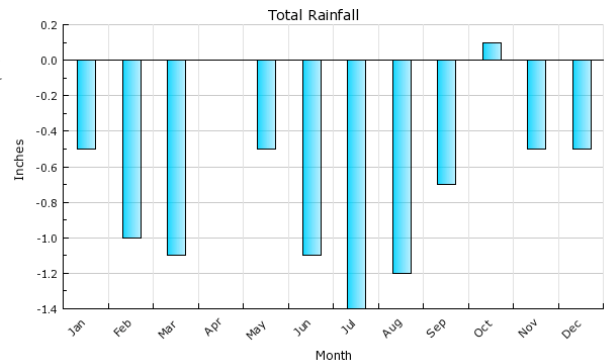
At this point, I'm sure I sound like a broken record (or a skipping CD depending on your generation), but your reports of 0.00" each day are just as valuable as when you report rain. It's important to keep making your reports, and with the default rainfall total in our forms 0.00", it's very quick to submit one every day. We are heading into what's forecasted to be a very dry winter, thanks to La Niña's influence. Water restrictions are already being put into place in some areas of the state- and if you're not in one yet, just wait a few weeks.

Drought Impact Reporter: This is a great tool that's available to help report and track your drought impacts. A number of our observers are already using the tool and the information they have provided has been helpful to the National Drought Monitor. If you haven't used the tool yet, please go through the material on the CoCoRaHS web-site:

<http://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=droughtimpactreports>

AgroClimate: This is a website that a joint effort between 8 universities in the southeast to bring climatic information and outlooks to agricultural interests across 5 states. On this site, you can learn more about La Niña and it's impacts on temperature and precipitation (see image) across the southeast:

<http://agroclimate.org/>



Example graphic from AgroClimate.org: Deviation from normal monthly rainfall totals from Brevard County during a La Niña.



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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