

Florida CoCoRaHS

The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network

*Volunteers working together
to measure precipitation.*

Happy 3rd Anniversary!

On October 1st, CoCoRaHS celebrated its third year in Florida. Back in 2007, I was surprised at how quickly the program took off, with almost 100 observers signing up within the first few weeks of going 'live' in the Sunshine State. Since then, observers have come and gone, but there are quite a few that have been with CoCoRaHS since we first started. Please take a moment, each and every one of you, to pat yourself on the back. The data you've provided have more value than I think any of you realize. Now, with 3 years worth of data, we're starting to examine the 'Coastal Shadow' that accompanies the summer sea breeze.

If you've made a daily precipitation report this week, you'll have noticed that CoCoRaHS started running the articles for the State Climate Series and has already highlighted the Western Regional Climate Center and the state of Hawaii. The series will continue through Spring 2011. This is a good chance to learn about the climate across the United States.

Speaking of climate, I woke up to 44°F this morning, while portions of northwest Florida saw their nighttime lows in the upper 30's - a nice reminder that it isn't summer anymore. While cool, these temperatures are not record breaking, but just what we'd expect climatologically for this time of year.

And since I mentioned time... Just a reminder: We 'fall' back on November 7th this year.

Quick Stats

1056	# of registered FL observers
477	# of active FL observers
11,629	# of reports submitted by FL observers during 9/10
9/29/10	Date with the greatest # of FL reports submitted during 9/10 (411 reports)
8.01"	Highest reported daily rainfall from FL CoCoRaHS observers during 9/09 (FL-MN-8 on 9/30)



Because every drop counts!



September Rains

Monthly rainfall in September was below normal in most areas except the southern part of the state. Pensacola (0.62 inches) and Tampa (1.13 inches) were more than five inches below normal (Table 1). In contrast, Miami (15.89 inches) was more than seven inches above normal. The above normal rainfall in South Florida and The Keys was due to the passage of the remains of Tropical Storm Nicole. Localized heavy rain produced isolated record daily amounts of precipitation (Table2).

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

Station	Total Rainfall	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	0.62	-5.13
Tallahassee	1.93	-3.08
Jacksonville	5.11	-2.79
Orlando	5.67	-0.09
Tampa	1.13	-5.41
Miami	15.89	7.51
Key West	8.92	3.47

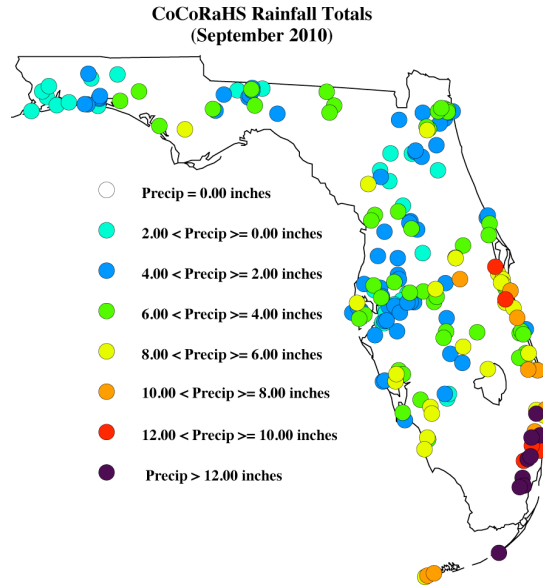
Table 2. Daily maximum rainfall records set in September.

Date	Station	Rainfall	Previous Record
6	Melbourne	1.93	1.01 in 1943
6	Fort Lauderdale	5.10	3.10 in 1995
9	Naples	1.99	1.70 in 1989
14	Fort Lauderdale	1.35	1.29 in 1992
28	Orlando	2.66	1.18 in 1949



September CoCoRaHS Totals

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



Current State of the Drought

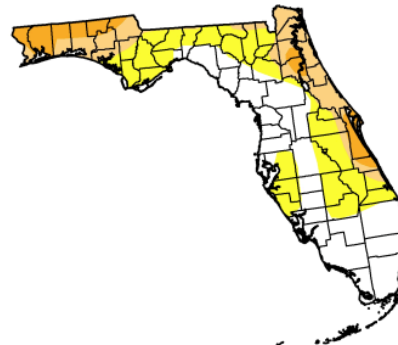
Since the last newsletter, the drought in Florida has continued to get worse. A month ago, only a third of the state was experiencing dry to drought conditions and now that number is over 50%. Abnormally dry conditions have developed along the west coast, while the conditions along the east coast and northern Panhandle have deteriorated. Reporting 0.00” has become even more important as we head into what could be a very dry La Niña winter.

U.S. Drought Monitor Florida

October 12, 2010
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	41.5	58.5	26.5	9.1	0.0	0.0
Last Week (10/05/2010 map)	55.1	44.9	25.4	6.0	0.0	0.0
3 Months Ago (07/20/2010 map)	92.5	7.5	0.0	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 (10/13/2009 map)	65.7	34.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0



Intensity:

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

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

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



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Author: Laura Edwards, Western Regional Climate Center



Observer Pictures

I've received a few pictures from Robert in the Keys, the observer with the highest daily total for September. According to Robert:

"We are finally starting to "dry out" from tropical storm Nicole which caused heavy rains here in the Florida Keys on Wednesday September 29th. We recorded 12.48 inches of rain in a 24 hour period. The street to our neighborhood had extensive flooding and the run off from the road made a path thru our spare lot next to our house. It was running like waterfalls off the lot to the lagoon in the back. We took a few pictures that we thought you might enjoy.

"We were lucky that it was not also a "wind" event or we might have been manning the life boats. All is dryer now and all the birds and fish seems to be happy with all fresh water. We'll see if any of our newly planted vegetables make it."



Melissa Griffin
CoCoRaHS Florida State Co-Coordinator
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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