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Climate Summary for Florida
August 2011

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Online at: http://coaps.fsu.edu/climate_center/summaries/flmonthly2011_08.shtml

Note: Beginning with this summary, comparisons to normal are based on values for the period 1981-2010.

Average temperatures continue above normal in August. Average temperatures were well-above normal in the north during August (Table 1). At Tallahassee the average temperature of 85.1^o F marked the warmest August on record. Numerous daily records were tied or broken in all parts of the state (Appendix). Daily maxima at Tallahassee reached at least 100° F seven times. Five of seven daily maximum records tied or broken at Tallahassee had been in existence since the 1930s. Both Apalachicola and Jacksonville set new daily maximum records on four days. In contrast, low temperatures of 69° F at Jacksonville on the 3rd, 63° F at Tallahassee on the 16th, and 69° F at Apalachicola on the17th were daily minimum records.

Table 1. August average temperatures and departures from normal (^{o} F) for selected cities.

Station	Average Temperature	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	85.3	3.5
Tallahassee	85.1	3.3
Jacksonville	83.8	2.0
Orlando	83.8	1.0
Tampa	85.1	1.9
Miami	84.6	0.4
Key West	85.7	1.2

Rainfall totals vary during August. Rainfall totals varied greatly across the state during August (Table 2). In the north, monthly totals at Pensacola (2.27 inches) and Tallahassee (2.03 inches) were more than 5 and 5 inches below normal, respectively. It was the driest August on record at Tallahassee. In contrast, monthly totals in central and southern areas were generally above normal. Miami and Key West observed rainfall of more than 11 inches during the month. In addition, monthly totals at West Palm Beach and Vero Beach exceeded 11 inches, also. The monthly total at Key West was more than 5 inches above normal. Five daily rainfall records were broken. A daily total of 1.84 inches at Daytona Beach on the 1st broke a record in existence since 1944. A daily total of 3.78 inches at Vero Beach on the 16th broke a record in existence since 1947. Also, a daily total of 2.07 inches at Key West on the 31st broke a record in existence since 1872. Areal patterns of monthly rainfall relative to normal are depicted in Figure 1.

Table 2. August precipitation totals and departures from normal (inches) for selected cities.
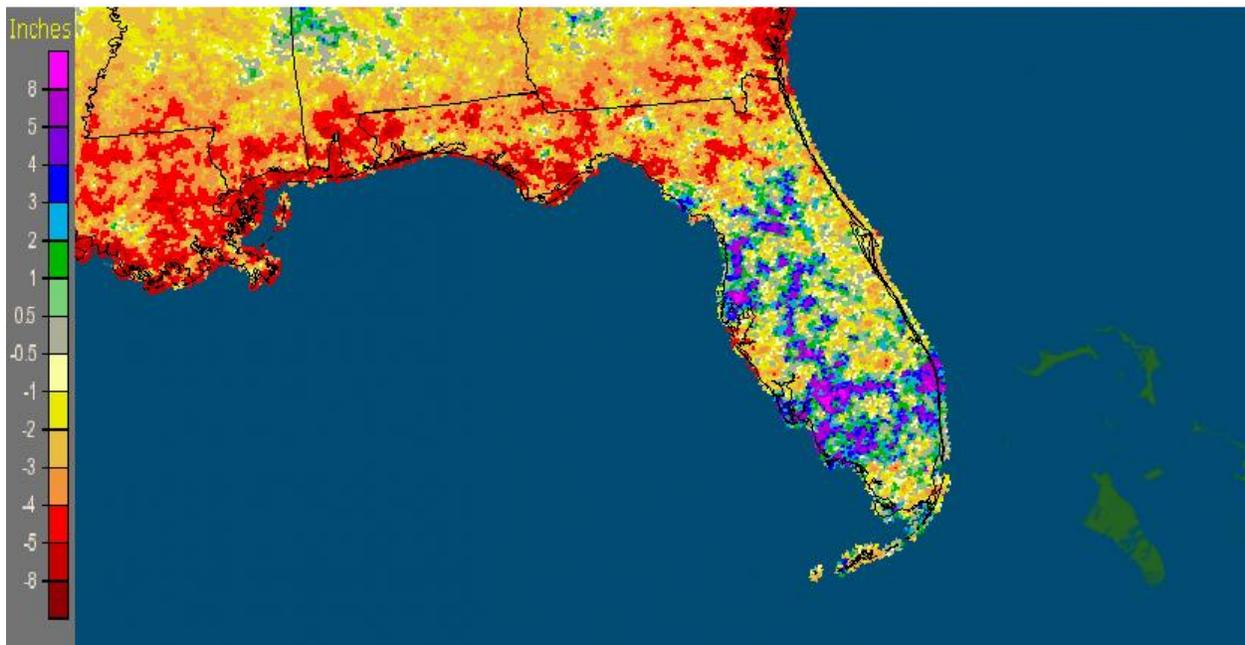
Station	Total rainfall	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	2.27	-4.49
Tallahassee	2.03	-5.32
Jacksonville	5.05	-1.75
Orlando	9.11	1.98
Tampa	10.02	2.25
Miami	11.08	2.20
Key West	11.25	5.87

Table 3. Daily rainfall records (inches) broken during August (compiled from NOAA, NWS).

Date	Location	Record	Last
1	Daytona Beach	1.84	1.71 in 1944
8	Miami	2.41	1.83 in 1966
15	Melbourne	1.37	1.25 in 1973
15	West Palm Beach	1.86	1.77 in 1988
16	Vero Beach	3.78	2.52 in 1947
31	Key West	2.07	1.54 in 1872

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

Florida: August, 2011 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation
Valid at 9/1/2011 1200 UTC— Created 9/1/11 13:48 UTC

ENSO continues in neutral phase during August. Sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean continued near-normal during August, indicating a neutral phase of El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO). A neutral phase of ENSO had no impact on weather across the state during August.

Hazardous weather. A weak tornado damaged roofs, blew out windows and caused tree damage along a path from Tamarac to North Lauderdale on the 2nd. On the 5th, a waterspout that moved onshore from a lake near Eustis damaged two roofs and downed power lines. Thunderstorms downed trees near Crescent City, St. Augustine, Callahan, Mandarin, Anthony and Hastings on the 12th. Two persons were injured when thunderstorm winds blew a tree onto a mobile home near Ocala on the 13th. On the 23rd, thunderstorm winds blew a tree across I-75 near Micanopy and damaged a mobile home near Chiefland. As Hurricane Irene passed well offshore on the 25th, gusty winds and some heavy rain were recorded in immediate eastern coastal areas. Also, two persons drowned in high surf generated by Irene.

Agricultural and other impacts. High temperatures and continued dryness stressed cotton, peanuts and pasture in the Panhandle. Rain during the latter half of the month improved drought conditions in southeastern and southwestern areas. However, water restrictions remained in place in portions of the southeast.

Appendix: Daily maximum and minimum temperature records (^{o}F) tied or broken
during August (compiled from NOAA, NWS).

Date	Station	Type	Value	Broken/Tied	Last
1	West Palm Beach	Max	96	Tied	96 in 1990
3	Tallahassee	Max	100	Broken	98 in 1931
3	Jacksonville	Min	69	Tied	69 in 2003
3	Vero Beach	Max	94	Tied	94 in 1997
4	Jacksonville	Max	99	Broken	98 in 1970
5	Tallahassee	Max	99	Tied	99 in 1935
7	Apalachicola	Max	95	Tied	95 in 1956
7	Melbourne	Max	97	Tied	97 in 1972
11	Apalachicola	Max	96	Tied	96 in 1998
11	Tallahassee	Max	99	Broken	97 in 2009
11	Jacksonville	Max	98	Tied	98 in 1968
12	Tallahassee	Max	100	Broken	99 in 1999
13	Apalachicola	Max	97	Broken	94 in 1998
13	Lakeland	Max	96	Tied	96 in 2005
16	Tallahassee	Min	63	Broken	64 in 1979
17	Apalachicola	Min	69	Broken	70 in 1983
26	Pensacola	Max	100	Broken	96 in 2000
26	Apalachicola	Max	98	Broken	97 in 1998
26	Miami	Max	94	Tied	94 in 2001
27	Tallahassee	Max	102	Broken	100 in 1938
27	Jacksonville	Max	99	Broken	98 in 1954
27	Gainesville	Max	100	Broken	98 in 1959
27	Vero Beach	Max	97	Broken	94 in 1995
28	Pensacola	Max	97	Tied	97 in 1951
28	Tallahassee	Max	100	Broken	99 in 1933
28	Jacksonville	Max	97	Tied	97 in 1959
28	Gainesville	Max	98	Tied	98 in 1954
28	Vero Beach	Max	95	Broken	94 in 2009
29	Tallahassee	Max	102	Broken	99 in 1933