Climate Summary for Florida – April 2019

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Mean temperatures in April were generally above normal, especially on the peninsula. (Table 1 and Appendix 1). Several daily temperature records were tied or broken during the month (Appendix 2).

Table 1. April average temperatures and departures from normal (˚F) for selected cities.

Station	Mean Temperature	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	67.3	+0.6
Tallahassee	66.4	+0.2
Jacksonville	69.2	+2.2
Orlando	73.8	+2.6
Tampa	74.7	+2.7
Miami	77.7	+1.9
Key West	79.2	+2.8

Rainfall totals in April were a mixed bag with respect to normal (Figure 1)**.** Two daily rainfall records were broken (Table 3).

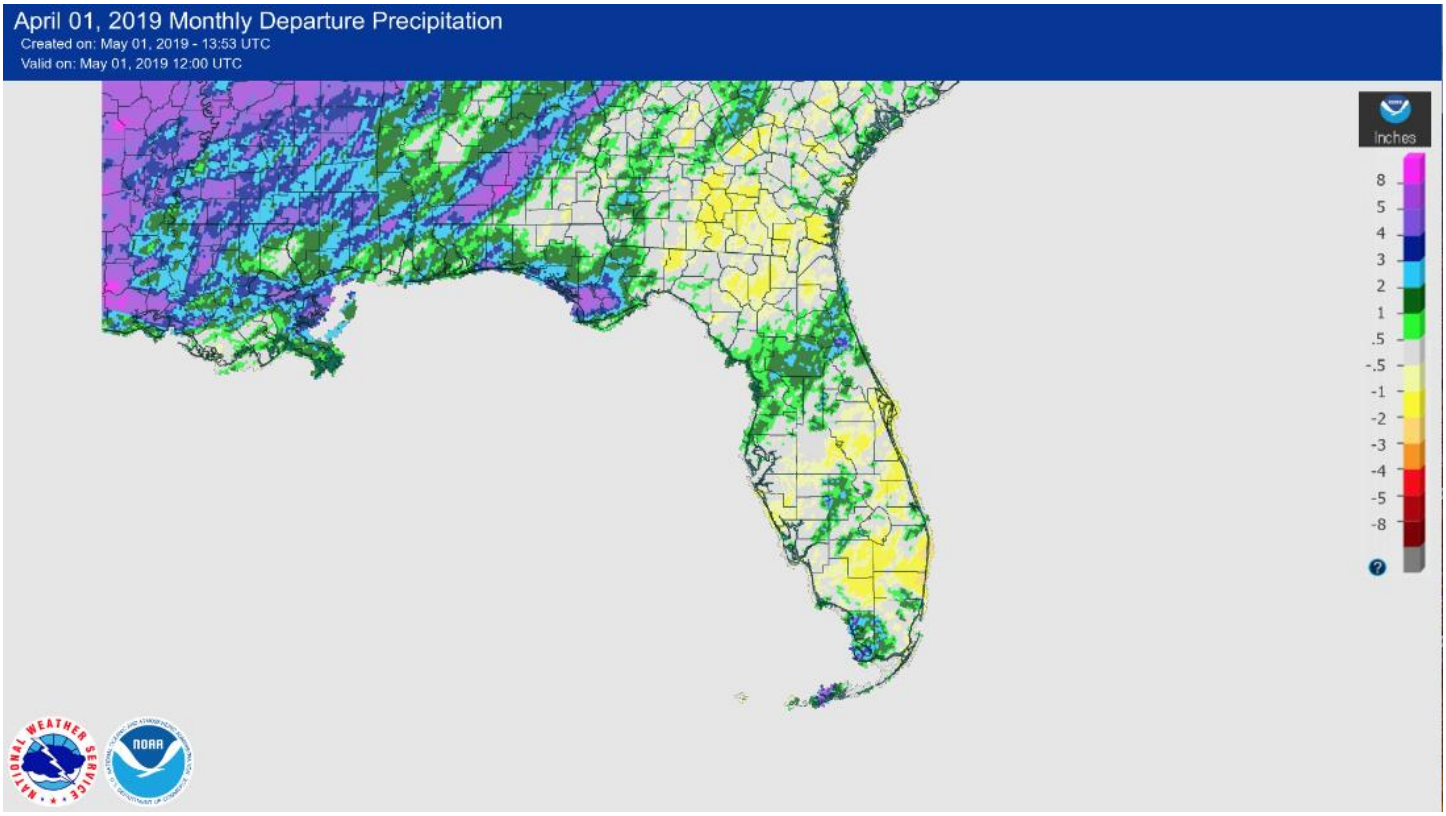
Table 2. April precipitation totals and departures from normal (inches) for selected cities.

Station	Total Rainfall	Departure from Normal
Pensacola	5.45	+1.13
Tallahassee	3.25	+0.19
Jacksonville	2.58	-0.06
Orlando	1.47	-1.21
Tampa	2.65	+0.65
Miami	3.16	+0.02
Key West	2.42	+0.37

Table 3. Select daily rainfall records (inches) broken during April. (Compiled from NOAA, NWS)

Date	Location	Record	Last
4	Miami	1.59	0.96 in 1991
19	Key West	1.72	1.12 in 1939

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



El Niño continues and may stick around a while.

Based on current data and forecast models, forecasters with the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) continue with an El Niño Advisory. Sea-surface temperatures show positive anomalies over most of the equatorial Pacific Ocean, and these anomalies grew during February and early March and persisted during April. This El Niño event still is considered weak and is expected to remain, at 65% probability, through the 2019 boreal summer (JJA), with slightly better than even odds of it remaining in place during the 2019 boreal autumn (SON).

Hazardous Weather Events in April.

According the Local Storm Reports (LSRs) issued by the local National Weather Service (NWS) offices serving Florida, the following instances of hazardous weather were reported across the state in April 2019.

Table 4. Breakdown of storm reports submitted in Florida during the month of April. (Compiled from Iowa State University/Iowa Environmental Mesonet.)

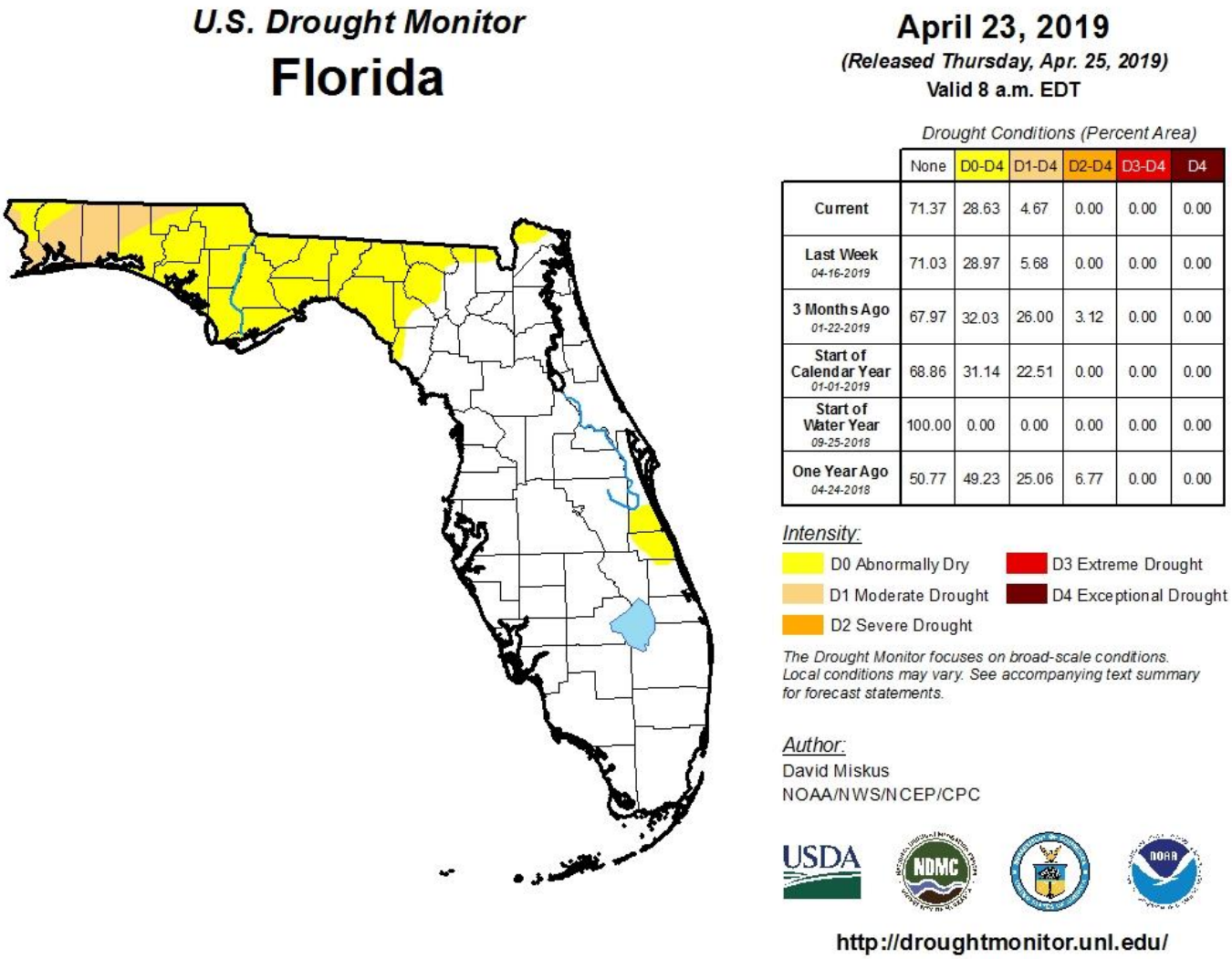
Report Type	Number of Reports
Coastal Flood	1
Dense Fog	0
Flash Flood	0
Flood	0
Hail	27
Heavy Rain	11
Marine Hail	0

Marine Thunderstorm Wind	58
Non-Thunderstorm Wind Damage	5
Non-Thunderstorm Wind Gust	16
Tornado	2
Thunderstorm Wind Damage	139
Thunderstorm Wind Gust	91
Waterspout	5

Drought-Related Impacts.

Near the end of April 2019, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, a portion of the central and western panhandle had moderate drought conditions, and much of the rest of the northern part of the state had abnormally dry conditions. A small area of abnormally dry conditions continued in southern Brevard, Indian River, and extreme northern St. Lucie counties.

As of 30 April, the Lake Okeechobee water level was at 11.24 ft. above sea level, which is slightly below average for this time of the year.



Agriculture-Related Impacts.

At the end of the month, soil moisture was adequate in 64% of the state, short in 28%, very short in 4%, and at a surplus in 4%. A few pastures were drying out at the end of the month because of warm, dry conditions. Strong to severe thunderstorms on the 19th caused varying amounts of damage to fruit and vegetable crops.

Appendix 1
Additional March Departures from Normal Data for Florida Locations

Station	Total rainfall (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)	Average Temperature (˚F)	Departure from Normal (˚F)
Gainesville	2.42	-0.25	71.3	+3.7
Melbourne	1.66	-0.47	74.0	+3.6
Fort Lauderdale	1.14	-1.75	77.8	+1.6
Fort Myers	2.28	+0.10	75.2	+1.4

Appendix 2
Select daily maximum and minimum temperature records (º F) tied or broken during March.
(Compiled from NOAA, NWS)

Date	Station	Type	Value	Broken/Tied	Last
10	Pensacola	Max	88	Broken	86 in 1999
13	Jacksonville	High Min	71	Broken	69 in 2015
14	Jacksonville	High Min	70	Tied	70 in 1947
14	Orlando	High Min	71	Broken	70 in 1974
14	Miami	High Min	78	Tied	78 in 1975
7	Key West	High Min	78	Broken	77 in 2014
8	Key West	High Min	79	Broken	78 in 2011