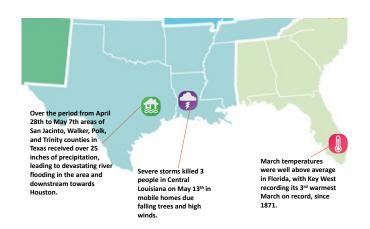
# Gulf Coast Region Significant Events — Spring 2024



Spring 2024 was well above normal in temperatures and varied in precipitation. Precipitation was well above normal for much of the Gulf Coast, except Southern Florida and South Texas. This led to ongoing flooding across affected areas. Above normal temperatures and below normal rainfall led to worsening drought conditions in South Texas.

#### **Overview**

Spring started off in March with above normal temperatures for the entirety of the Gulf Coast region, with most stations recording temperature 1 to 4 degrees above normal. Precipitation was above normal in most of the Gulf Coast region with isolated areas of dryness in Texas and along the Central Florida Gulf Coast.

April saw the continuation of above normal temperatures for the entirety of the Gulf Coast, with most stations recording 2 to 4 degrees above normal. Precipitation was well above normal in central Gulf Coast region, with below normal precipitation limited to South Florida and South Texas.

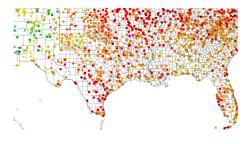
May saw extreme precipitation totals in East Texas and the Florida Panhandle, leading to devastating flooding in these areas. Above normal temperatures continued with most areas running 2 to 4 degrees above average.

# Regional Climate Overview — Spring 2024

#### **Temperature and Precipitation**

# Departure from Normal Temperature °F

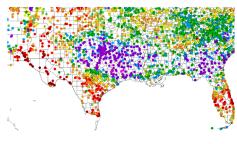
3/1/2024 - 5/31/2024



Spring 2024 temperatures were well above normal across the Gulf Coast region with temperatures averaging 2F to 4F above normal in most locations. The greatest departures were seen in South Texas and South Florida where several stations were averaging 4F to 5F above normal. The relative cool spots were along the Florida Panhandle and Alabama Coast where temperature averages 1F to 2F above normal.

# Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)

3/1/2024 - 5/31/2024

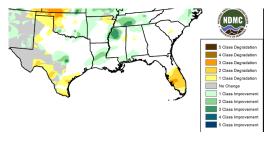


Precipitation was mixed across the Region during Spring. East Texas, much of Louisiana, and the Florida Panhandle received upwards of 300 percent of normal precipitation, leading to widespread flooding. Below normal precipitation was common in South Texas and South Florida where many stations recorded 5 to 50 percent of normal precipitation in spring.

### **Drought**

#### **Overall Change**

3/5/2024 - 5/28/2024



Much of the Gulf Coast Region remained drought free during spring 2024, with improvements of one to two classes noted in East Texas, Central Louisiana, southern Mississippi and Alabama. Degradations in drought conditions were evident in South Texas and Florida where 1 to 3 classes of degradation were common, due to low precipitation totals and above normal temperatures.

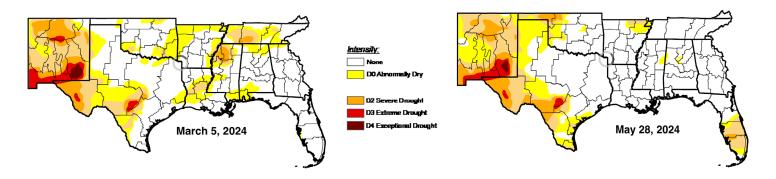


## **Gulf Coast Regional Impacts**

### **Drought, Agriculture, and Water Supply**

Spring 2024 saw the percentage of the total area experiencing some level of drought the Gulf Coast state increase from 11 percent on March 5th, 2024 to 18 percent on May 28th, 2024. Much of this increase was in South Texas and South Florida. The total amount experiencing Moderate Drought increased from 7 percent to 11 percent. The total areas of the Gulf Coast region experiencing Severe Drought increased from 3 percent to 6 percent. Extreme Drought remained steady at 1 percent. As of May 28th, there is no Exception Drought in the Gulf Coast region.

Recent rainfall across much of the region has improved soil moisture conditions in agricultural areas leading to improvements in pasture, range, and field conditions, though devastating flooding occurred due to heavy spring rainfall in East Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and the Florida Panhandle. Dryness in South Texas and Central Florida has led to reemergence of drought in these areas.



US Drought Monitor depiction of the Southern Region. The US Drought Monitor is produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center, the USDA, and NOAA.

### Seasonal Outlook

#### **Temperature Precipitation** Outlook for July-September 2024 **Above Above** Probability Probability (Percent Chance) (Percent Chance) 33-40% 33-40% 33-40% 33-40% 40-50% 40-509 40-50% 40-50% 40-50% 40-50% 50-60% 50-60% 50-60% 60-70% 60-70% Likely Below Likely 70-80% 70-80% 70-80%

The seasonal temperature outlook from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for enhanced probabilities of above average temperatures for the entire Gulf Region. The highest probabilities, 60 to 70 percent chance of above normal temperatures, are called for over the entirety of the Gulf Coast. Probabilities of above normal temperatures decrease inland but remain elevated, 50 to 60 percent chance of above normal temperatures.

The precipitation outlook for July through September calls for enhanced probabilities of above normal precipitation for much of the Gulf Coast Region. The highest probabilities for above normal precipitation are in Florida, Alabama, Southern Mississippi, and southeastern Louisiana, 50 to 60 percent chance of above normal precipitation. In the west of the Region and inland probabilities are still enhanced with a 33 to 50 percent chance of above normal precipitation.

#### **ENSO Outlook**

The current El Niño event is waning in intensity with La Niña conditions expected to emerge by mid-Summer 2024 and persist through Winter 2024-2025. With developing La Niña conditions and above normal ocean temperatures in the Gulf of Mexico, above normal tropical activity is expected.

#### **Gulf Coast Partners**

NOAA/NWS Climate Prediction Center (cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (coastalscience.noaa.gov)

NOAA Gulf of Mexico Collaboration Team (regions.noaa.gov/gulf-mexico)

NOAA/NESDIS National Centers for Environmental Information (ncei.noaa.gov)

NOAA/NWS Southern Region (weather.gov/srh)

**Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program** (southernclimate.org)

Southern Regional Climate Center (srcc.tamu.edu)

