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○ Spring

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Tallahassee topics

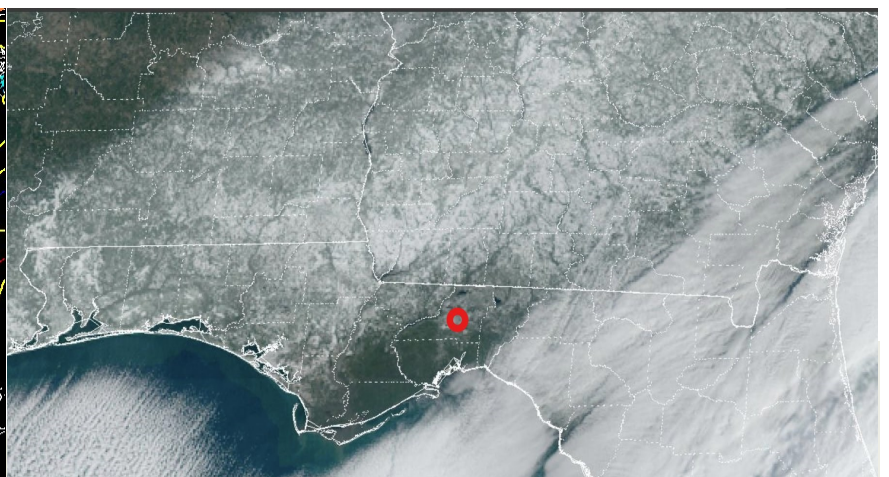
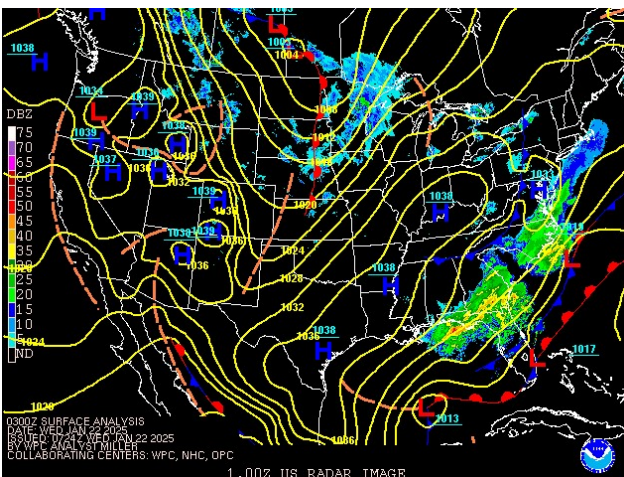
NEWS AND NOTES FROM YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE.

The National Weather Service (NWS) office in Tallahassee, FL provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for Southeast Alabama, Southwest & South Central Georgia, the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend, and the adjacent Gulf of Mexico coastal waters. Our primary mission is the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the local economy.

Historic Winter Storm Impacts the Tri-State Area

By Israel Gonzalez

From January 21-22, a historic winter storm tracked east across the Gulf, interacted with an Arctic airmass and brought widespread wintry precipitation to the region (*bottom-left fig*). This system produced [prolific snowfall, sleet, and ice](#) from Texas to North FL that was easily viewable from space in the event's aftermath (*bottom-right fig, red circle represents Tallahassee*)! For many, it was the first snow/sleet observed since January 2018, and the most, or among the most measured on record via single-day/two-day totals. Tallahassee measured a 2-day total of 1.9", ranking 2nd only behind the 2.8" from [2/12-2/13/1958](#). Snow and/or sleet was reported by the public as far east as the I-75 corridor down to Taylor County, FL. Freezing rain primarily impacted the Forgotten Coast from Indian Pass through Apalachicola into Wakulla County. The FL Panhandle had numerous snow reports in excess of 5", which extended all the way to the coast! The highest snowfall measurement in that area was 8" in Bonifay (Holmes County). Snow totals in SE AL were even more impressive, with the highest overall event local measurement in Coffee County at 8.8"! Southwest GA rivaled/usurped its adjacent states as multiple public sources measured 7+ inches. The Albany Area easily set a new [daily snowfall record](#) of 7.5", more than doubling the 3" from [2/10/1973](#)! Very frigid conditions prompted a slow melting that took about a full week to disappear. This winter event will be remembered forever.



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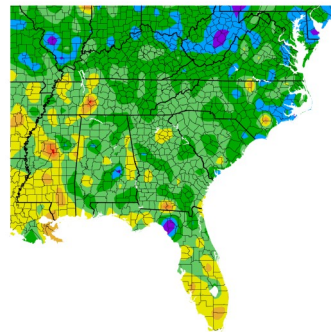
Winter Highlights *By Israel Gonzalez*

December 2024 began on a cool note with widespread inland freezing conditions observed during the first week. Thereafter, a warmup began before high pressure settled northeast of the Tri-State area and produced a cold-wedge pattern characterized by mostly cloudy skies. From late on the 28th into early 29th, a severe squall line pushed through the region, and produced multiple wind gust/damage reports, especially across our north FL counties. Fog was also a persistent concern during the last week of the month with several Dense Fog Advisories issued.

Cold is the operative word to define January 2025. These conditions were punctuated by a strong Arctic front that preceded the historic winter storm late in the month. The first widespread light freeze (26° - 32°) of the cool season was finally observed along the Emerald Coast into coastal Franklin County on the 7th, thus prompting the areawide suspension of local frost/freeze hazards until the growing season resumes in mid-March. Hard freezes of at least 25° are the main exception. Speaking of, the first (hard) Freeze Warning of the season was issued on the 7th mostly for a handful of SW GA counties immediately adjacent to the AL border. Multiple (hard) Freeze Warnings were issued for larger parts of the Tri-State area later in the month, in addition to Cold Weather Advisories for temperatures or wind chills $<25^{\circ}$ in FL and $<20^{\circ}$ in AL/GA. The first Extreme Cold Watch/Warning for temperatures or wind chills $<15^{\circ}$ in FL and $<10^{\circ}$ in AL/GA was issued on the 22nd for counties mainly west of the I-75 corridor and Eastern FL Big Bend. This product coincided with our first Winter Storm Warning issued since January 2018! A widespread (hard) Freeze Warning was issued on the 24th outside of the immediate coast.

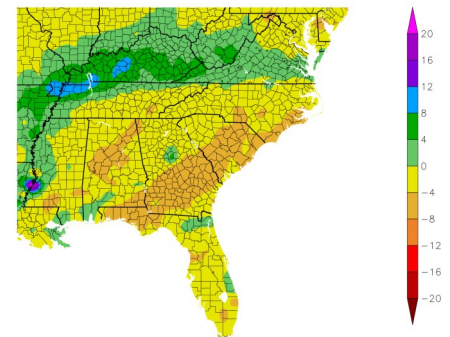
February 2025 was the tale of two halves. The first 2 weeks were incredibly warm with Tallahassee and SW GA in the top-2 warmest on record by 14-day average mean temperature from the 1st-14th! A severe squall line moved through the region on the 16th and produced numerous storm reports in the form of trees/powerline damage, gusts in the 40-60 mph range, and a waterspout off Alligator Point, FL. Much cooler conditions, by comparison, prevailed during the last 2 weeks of the month. A Cold Weather Advisory was issued areawide on the 20th for wind chills in the mid teens to low 20s with a (hard) Freeze Warning along the Wiregrass down to the Dothan-Albany area.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
12/1/2024 - 2/28/2025



Generated 3/10/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
12/1/2024 - 2/28/2025



Generated 3/10/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Winter Climate Summary: It was a warmer and drier than normal winter (December-January-February) for Tallahassee. The average mean temperature was 54.6° with a seasonal rainfall accumulation of 8.7". The highest/lowest temperatures of the season were $83^{\circ}/20^{\circ}$. There were a total of 23 freezing days (most since 2010-2011) and 6 hard freezes (most since 2017-2018) of at least 25° . November 30, 2024 was the first freeze of the cool season, late by 8 days on average.

Spring Climate Normals: Tallahassee's mean spring (March-April-May) average temperature is 67.9° . The normal high/low temperature is $80.6^{\circ}/55.3^{\circ}$. Normal seasonal rainfall accumulations are 12.13", good for the driest stretch of the year, on average. We typically enter favorable fire weather during that time. Frontal systems are the primary drivers for rainfall and cool weather, while ridges of high pressure often foster warm, dry conditions. The average last freeze of the season occurs on March 16th, while the average first 90° day is on April 27th. Last year, these occurrences were on February 21st and April 19th, respectively. Spring 2024 was warmer and wetter than normal with an average mean temperature of 70.6° and total accumulation of 22.77".

Recapping 2024 Local Events And Annual Climate Summary

By Israel Gonzalez

IS THERE A TOPIC YOU'D LIKE US TO COVER? SEND US AN E-MAIL:

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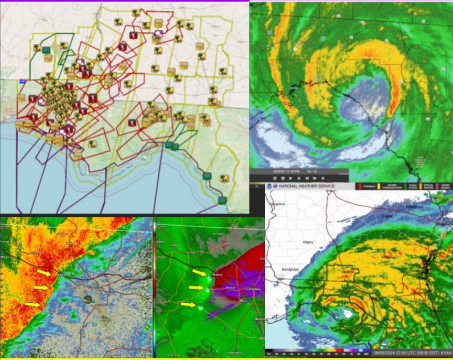
mark.wool@noaa.gov

Annual Recap of 2024 Local Weather Events:

The Year 2024 will be remembered for its extreme local weather & climate nearly each month, as shown below in chronological order. Tallahassee, Valdosta, and the FL Big Bend were hit the hardest. There were over 20 survey-confirmed tornadoes, 9 of which were significant, or rated EF-2 or greater. For more info on some of these events, click [here](#).

Notable 2024 Local Weather Events



NWS Tallahassee Forecast Area



- **January 9th** - Significant severe weather outbreak
- **February 4th** - Valdosta EF-2 tornado
- **March** - Considerable flooding & hailstorms
- **April 10-11th**, Flash Flood Emergency in Tallahassee
- **May 10th** - Tallahassee Twin EF-2 Tornadoes
- **August 4-5th**, Hurricane Debby
- **September 25-26th**, Hurricane Helene
- **Hottest Summer on Record** - Tallahassee
- **Wettest Overall Month on Record** - Apalachicola
- **October** - driest stretch of the year
- **Wettest Autumn on Record** - Apalachicola
- **November 6-7th** Valdosta Flash Flood Emergency
- **December 28-29th** Severe Squall Line

2024 confirmed tornadoes: 21 (9 significant, ≥EF-2)

Updated: December 31, 2024

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Tallahassee Florida

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Annual Climate Summary (Tri-State Area):

It was an abnormally warm year across the Tri-State area with all 7 [local climate sites](#) ranking in the top-10 warmest on record by average mean and min temperature. Valdosta (VLD) experienced its warmest year on record by those two variables. Areawide, high temperatures averaged mostly in the low 80s while lows ranged from upper 50s to low 60s. The highest temperatures ranged from 99°-103° and lowest readings were between 19° and 27°. Rainfall was variable, but mostly above normal across the board. The only minor exception was Dothan (DHN), where its 50.83" was 0.86" below normal. Apalachicola (AAF) had the wettest year compared to the other 6 sites at 76.38" (ranked 3rd on record).

Annual Climate Summary (State Level):

Florida - Fifth warmest year on record by average mean temperature (72.9°), or 2.8° warmer than normal. The 1991-2020 trend is warming of 0.6° per decade.

Georgia - Second warmest year on record by average mean temperature (65.9°), or 2.5° warmer than normal. The 1991-2020 trend is warming of 0.7° per decade.

Alabama - Third warmest year on record by average mean temperature (65.4°), or 2.4° warmer than normal. The 1991-2020 trend is warming of 0.6° per decade.

All 3 states have experienced pronounced warming since 2015. Precipitation has been much more variable by comparison, though FL & GA have seen a slight downward decadal trend during the current 30-yr climate normal period while AL has seen a slight increase. State records go back to 1895, courtesy of the [National Centers for Environmental Information](#), or NCEI.

| Annual 2024 Climate | TLH | AAF | ECP | MAI | VLD | ABY | DHN |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------|---------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Avg meanT | 71.0° | 70.9° | 70.5° | 69.7° | 71.1° | 68.9° | 69.3° |
| Depart | +2.4 | +1.5 | +1.0 | +1.1 | +2.7 | +1.5 | +1.7 |
| Rank | 3rd warmest | 3rd warmest | N/A | N/A | warmest | Tied for 9th warmest | Tied for 5th warmest |
| Avg maxT | 82.5° | 79.4° | 80.7° | 80.7° | 82.5° | 80.1° | 80.0° |
| Depart | +2.2 | +1.2 | +0.9 | +0.9 | +2.5 | +1.1 | +1.0 |
| Rank | 3rd warmest | 4th warmest | N/A | N/A | 4th warmest | Tied for 13th warmest | Tied for 5th warmest |
| Avg minT | 59.6° | 62.3° | 60.2° | 58.6° | 59.7° | 57.6° | 58.5° |
| Depart | +2.7° | +1.7° | +1.2° | +1.3° | +2.9° | +1.9° | +1.5° |
| Rank | Tied for 5th warmest | 3rd warmest | N/A | N/A | warmest | Tied for 9th warmest | Tied for 6th warmest |
| Highest temp | 101° | 99° | 99° | 101° | 103° | 103° | 103° |
| Lowest temp | 25° | 27° | 23° | 20° | 25° | 19° | 19° |
| Rainfall | 62.46" | 76.38" | 60.15" | 64.60" | *54.33" | 52.50" | 50.83" |
| Depart | +3.69" | +23.97" | +4.78" | +16.47" | +6.82" | +4.78" | -0.86" |
| Rank | 44th wettest | 3rd wettest | N/A | N/A | 18th wettest | 46th wettest | 30th wettest |



Management-Admin Team

Felecia Bowser, MIC
 Mark Wool, WCM
 Parks Camp, SOO
 Doug Sherrick, ESA
 Jennifer Nichols, ASA
 Brian Coats, ITO
 Kelly Godsey, Hydrologist
 Ricardo Humphreys, OPL

Lead Forecasters

Don Van Dyke
 Blair Scholl
 Andy Haner
 Molly Merrifield
 Cameron Young
 Vacant

Forecasters

Lance Franck
 Israel Gonzalez
 Kristian Oliver
 Jasmine Montgomery
 Joe Worster
 David Reese
 Vacant
 Vacant

Electronic Technicians

Aaron Basti
 Jeff Borosky

Winter Outreach Efforts

By Mark Wool

On December 4, WCM Mark Wool was interviewed by NPR about the recently concluded 2024 hurricane season. MIC Felecia Bowser briefed emergency managers (EMs) at a GA Area 2 meeting in Adel, GA. The next day, Mark briefed EMs at a FL Region 1 meeting in De Funiak Springs, FL. From the evening of the 6th to the evening of the 7th, the office participated in the 25th Anniversary of SKYWARN Recognition Day (*second from bottom fig*). On the 18th, Mark gave a hurricane season wrap-up and seasonal outlook to the Apalachee Local Emergency Planning Committee.

In January, many television and radio interviews were given by staff members leading up to the historic winter storm that occurred on the 21st-22nd. On the 24th, Mark and SOO Parks Camp coordinated our office participation in a Weather in Agriculture Lesson planned by Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) professor, Michael Maw. On the 30th, Mark organized a webinar for county 911 call centers to hear about a program that would automate the forwarding of incoming weather-related calls to the NWS. The guest speaker was NWS Charleston, WV WCM, Tony Edwards. On the 31st, Mark participated in an Integrated Warning Team meeting hosted NWS Jacksonville, FL. Mark was a panelist where the topic was messaging challenges during Hurricane Helene. That afternoon, ESA Doug Sherrick gave a tour of the KTLH Doppler radar to and FSU Radar Class.

In February, NWS Tallahassee promoted Severe Weather Awareness Week from February 3-7 including a tornado drill the morning of the 5th. On the 20th, Mark and Felecia hosted members of the FSU Depts. of Geography and Communications to begin the collaboration process on their research into public risk perception surrounding NHC's experimental cone of uncertainty. The group was also given an office tour. FSU graduate students toured the office on the 21st. The office promoted Rip Current Awareness Week (*bottom-most fig*) from the 24th-28th. On the 27th, an online Basic Spotter Training Course was conducted by forecaster, Israel Gonzalez.



Rip Currents: Safety Tips

Stay Safe. Know The Flags.

Swim near lifeguards if at all possible

Can't swim? Stay away from the surf!

Double Red Flags: The water is CLOSED! (you could be arrested or fined for entering the water in these conditions)



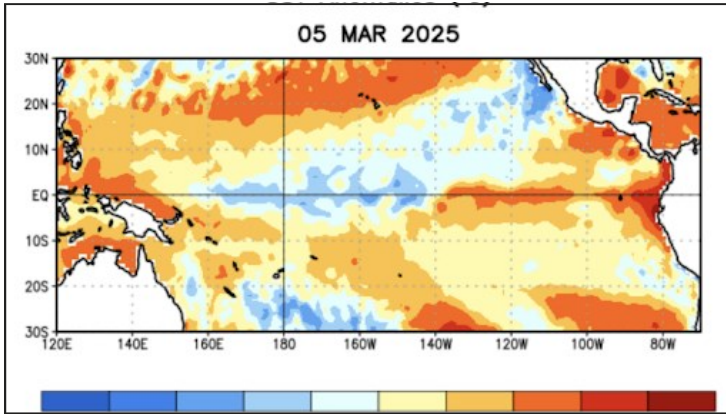
Beach Warning Flags

- Water Closed to Public**
- High Hazard**
High Surf &/or Strong Currents
- Medium Hazard**
Moderate Surf &/or Currents
- Low Hazard**
Calm Conditions, Exercise Caution
- Dangerous Marine Life**

Absence of Flags Does NOT Assure Safe Waters

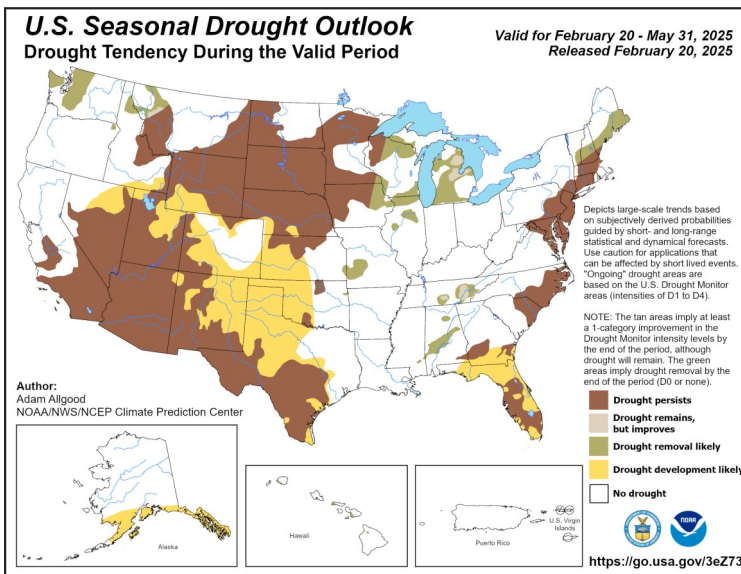
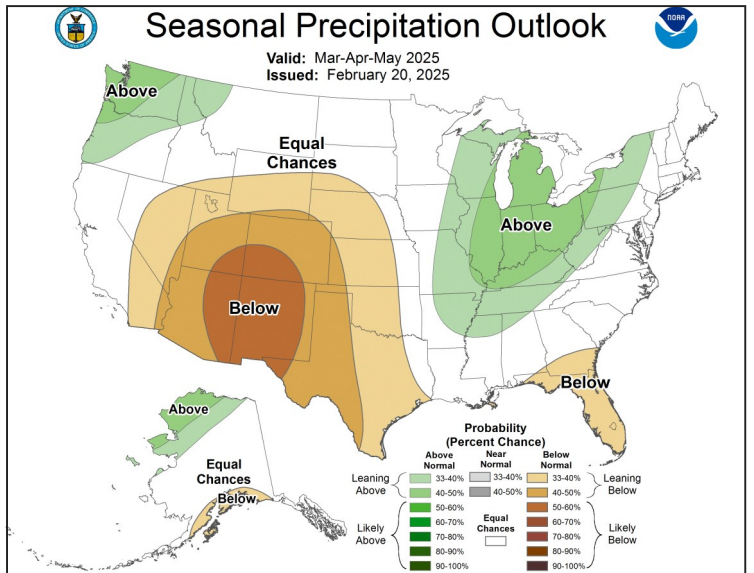
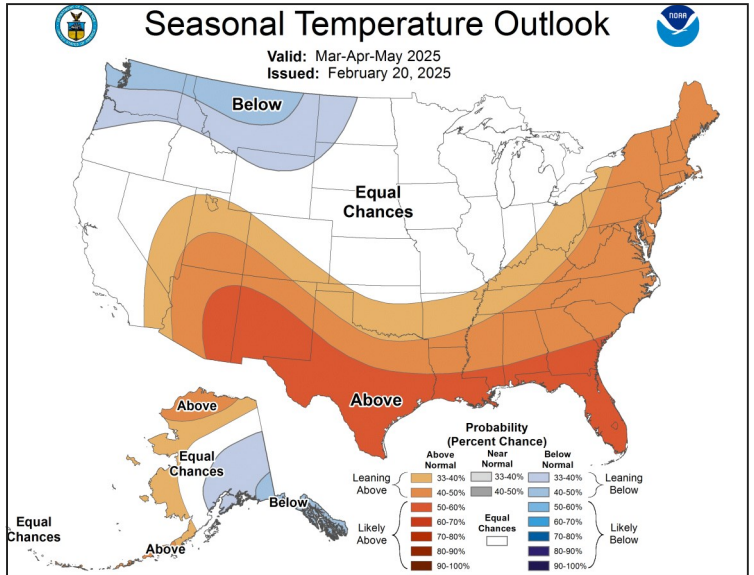


State of ENSO and Spring 2025 Climate & Drought Outlook, by Israel Gonzalez



Last La Nina Advisory Likely: Weak La Nina conditions remained in place as of early March, but East Pacific sea-surface and sub-sea-surface temperature anomalies have weakened with recent observed warming trends. These signals suggest a transition to ENSO-neutral in the near-future, as soon as within the next month, and persisting through Northern Hemispheric Summer (June-August). Probabilities are currently at 62% of being realized.

A Warmer & Drier Than Normal Spring? The Climate Prediction Center depicts a 50-60%, or likely probability of above-normal temperatures during the spring months, while a 33-40% chance is in place for below-normal precipitation (*right-hand figs*). Such conditions would foster drought development or maintain it (*bottom-left fig*), in addition to potentially elevating future fire weather concerns. Long-term riverine flooding concerns should also be minimal outside of near-term issues from bouts of heavy rainfall during the season.



Year-To-Date Climate: Through early March, Tallahassee's has been slightly warmer, and wetter than normal since January 1st. The average mean temperature this year to date is 55.7° with a rainfall total of 12.85". This time last year, trends were warmer and drier.