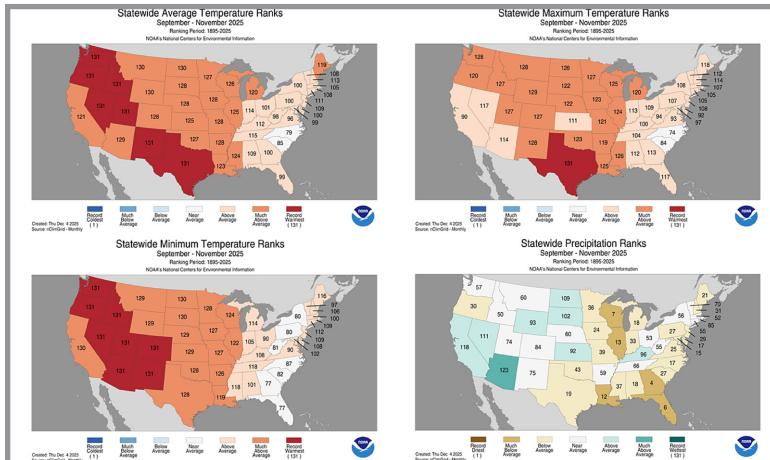




National and Regional Weather Highlights for Autumn 2025



Temperatures in autumn were **above average** across most of the Southeast, except the Carolinas, which were **near average**. Regionally, it was the **6th driest autumn on record**, and the driest in nearly 50 years. It was the 4th driest autumn on record in Georgia, which recorded less than half of its expected seasonal total, and 6th driest in Florida. Temperatures were **above average** and precipitation was **below average** across Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. **Exceptional drought** returned to the region for the first time in two years, while abnormal dryness persisted across the Caribbean. For more information, see [NOAA's National Climate Report](#).

Highlights for the Southeast

One year after recording its wettest autumn on record with 29.57 inches, Tampa, FL recorded its **driest autumn on record** with just 1.16 inches.

Repeated **coastal storms** led to significant **beach erosion** across the Outer Banks of NC, where over a dozen **homes collapsed into the ocean**, most in the towns of Buxton and Rodanthe.

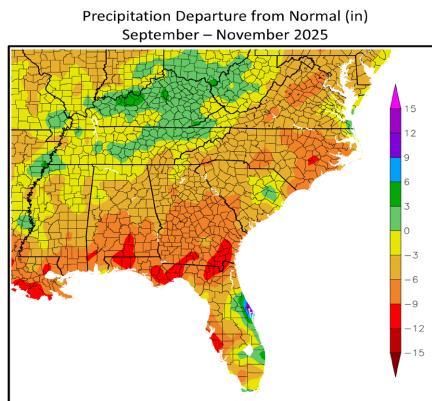
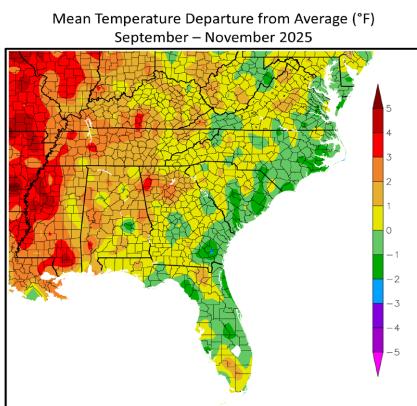
An **early-season Arctic outbreak** from November 10th to the 12th brought temperatures up to **25 degrees F below normal**, including freezing conditions into FL, single-digit lows in the NC mountains, as well as **record-early snowfall** at coastal locations including Wilmington and Cape Hatteras, NC.

Gainesville, FL recorded its **first month on record with no precipitation** in November, breaking the previous record of a trace that had been recorded five times previously; Jacksonville, FL recorded its **2nd month all-time with no precipitation**.

There were [six surf zone fatalities](#) and [two lightning fatalities](#) in the Southeast this autumn.

Regional Weather Overview for Autumn 2025

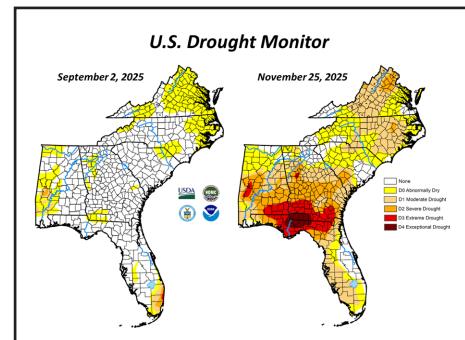
Temperature and Precipitation Anomalies



Temperatures were **above average** across much of the interior of the Southeast, with some parts of AL and GA running **over 2 degrees F above average** for the season. Atlanta, GA recorded its **5th warmest autumn** on record, while Muscle Shoals, AL **ties its 5th warmest**. In contrast, temperatures were **below average** across much of FL and the Atlantic coastal plain, with some locations running **up to 2 degrees F below average**.

Autumn was **very dry** across most of the Southeast, with many locations running **4 to 8 inches below average**. The driest locations were found across southern portions of AL and GA, much of the FL Panhandle, and southwest portions of the Peninsula, where **seasonal totals were more than 10 inches below average**. Several locations recorded **one of their driest autumns on record**, including Macon, GA, Augusta, GA, Tallahassee, FL, and Sarasota, FL.

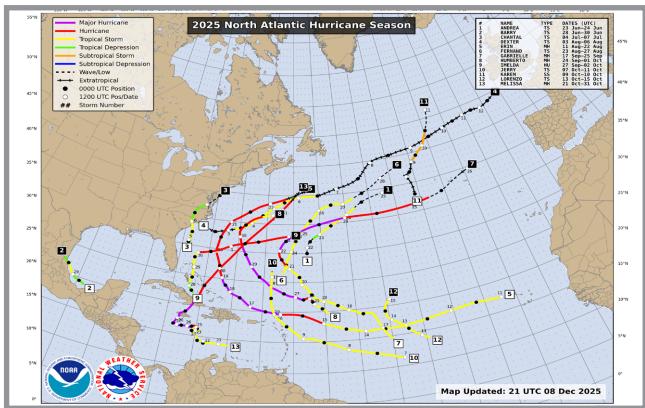
Drought



Autumn began with more than 70% of the region free of drought or abnormal dryness. Dry conditions during September and early October led to **rapid deterioration**, with 2 to 3 category degradations observed across parts of AL, GA, and northern FL, where **extreme (D3) drought emerged**, as well as across northern VA and eastern NC, where **severe (D2) drought developed**. **Exceptional (D4) drought returned to the region** for the first time in two years, affecting north-central FL and extreme southern GA. By the end of the season, over 85% of the region was in drought or abnormal dryness, with **more than 25% experiencing at least severe (D2) drought**.

Regional Climate Impacts for Autumn 2025

Atlantic Hurricane Season Summary



2025 Atlantic tropical cyclone tracks (source: [NOAA/NHC](#))

The 2025 Atlantic hurricane season saw **13 named storms, five hurricanes, and four major hurricanes (Category 3+)**. While the number of named storms and hurricanes fell below their 30-year averages, the count of major hurricanes was double the long-term average of two. Notably, three hurricanes (Erin, Humberto, and Melissa) reached **Category 5 intensity**, an occurrence observed only one other time in 2005. **No hurricanes made landfall in the U.S.** for the first time in a decade. The only landfalling system was **Tropical Storm Chantal**, which produced devastating flooding across parts of NC in early July. Although several hurricanes **remained offshore** (Erin, Gabrille, Humberto, Imelda), they generated high surf and dangerous rip currents that led to **dune breaches, coastal erosion, overwash, and hundreds of water rescues** in the region. In the Caribbean, multiple systems and their predecessor disturbances (Erin, Imelda, Jerry, Melissa) brought flooding rains, gusty winds, and high surf.

Severe Weather

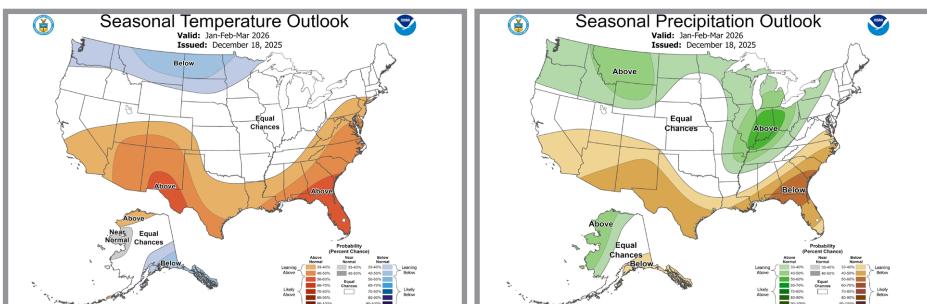
There were **176 reports of severe weather** this past autumn, which matches the median frequency between 2000 and 2024 (100 percent of normal). There were **eight confirmed tornadoes** (4 EF-0s, 4 EF-1s), which is well-below the median frequency of 34 (24 percent of normal). Several of these struck southern portions of AL and northwest FL on the 26th and 27th of October, injuring at least 10 people in an RV park. For the season, there were **142 reports of high winds**, which is above the median frequency of 127 (112 percent of normal). There were also **26 hail reports**, which is above the median frequency of 15 (173 percent of normal). The largest stones were 2 inches, or hen egg-sized, and occurred as part of a severe weather outbreak in early November that also brought 70 mph winds and a weak tornado across parts of AL, GA, and SC.

Agriculture and Livestock

Dry conditions across the Southeast in autumn slowed crop maturity, reduced pasture growth, and forced early hay feeding. Peanuts, soybeans, cotton, and pecans were especially stressed, with non-irrigated fields suffering major losses and irrigated farms facing higher costs. Dry soils complicated harvests, particularly for peanuts, and hindered fall vegetable and strawberry planting in the driest areas. Diseases such as sooty blotch and Alternaria further reduced crop quality. An **early-season hard freeze in November ended the growing season several weeks earlier than normal**, damaging warm-season vegetables and stressing leafy greens, brassicas, and strawberries. Parts of GA also saw hail-related citrus losses.

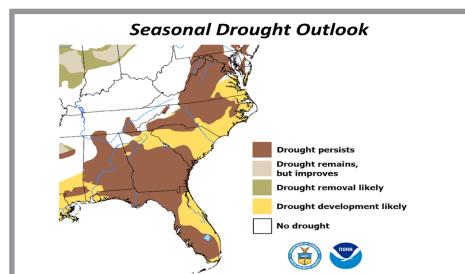
Regional Climate Outlook for Winter 2026

Temperature and Precipitation



NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) is forecasting **above average temperatures** across the Southeast from January to March. Probabilities are highest across FL and southern GA (50-60%). **Below average precipitation** is expected across the region, with the highest probabilities across the northern Gulf Coast and southern GA and SC (50-60%).

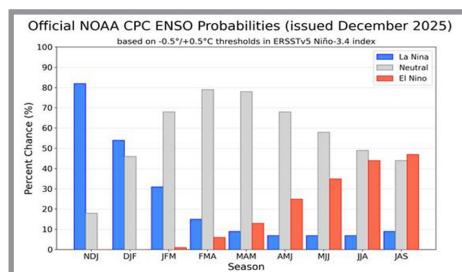
Drought



With warmer and drier than normal conditions forecast, **drought is expected to persist** through the January to March period, with **new development** across much of the remainder of the Southeast, except for far interior portions of the region.

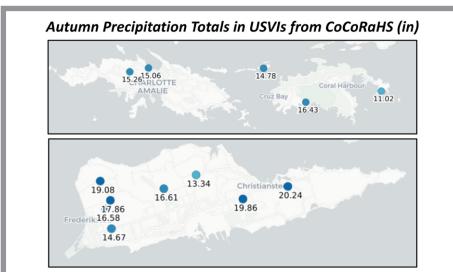
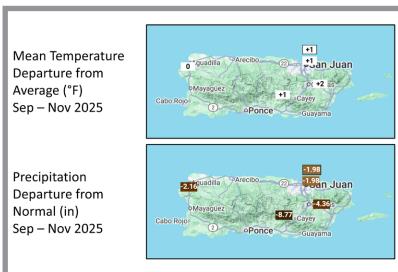
ENSO Forecast

According to the [latest ENSO update](#) issued by CPC on December 11th, **La Niña is expected to develop for a second consecutive winter**. However, like last year, it is **expected to be weak**. The most recent outlook indicates a 54% chance that La Niña will persist through February, followed by a **transition to ENSO-neutral during the January-March period** (68% chance). Conditions in the tropical Pacific remain consistent with La Niña, including low-level easterly wind anomalies, enhanced convection over Indonesia, and suppressed convection across the central equatorial Pacific.



Caribbean Climate Overview and Impacts for Autumn 2025

Temperature and Precipitation Anomalies



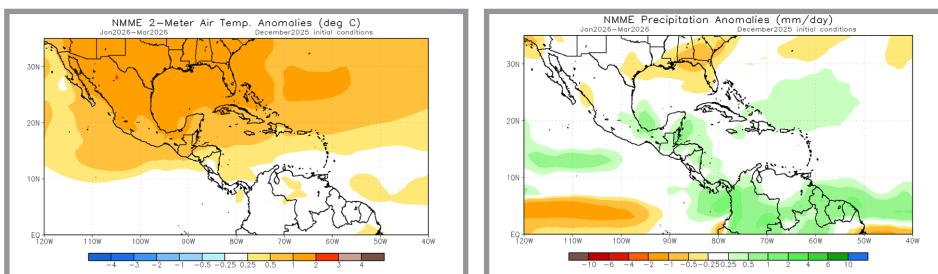
Temperatures were mostly **above average** across PR and the USVI. Aibonito, PR (1906-2025) recorded its **5th warmest autumn on record**, while Coloso (1899-2025) recorded **one of its top 10 warmest autumns**. Precipitation was **below average** across much of PR, as well as on Saint Thomas and Saint John, while **above average** precipitation was found on Saint Croix. The wettest locations were found in west-central PR where some locations recorded **over 30 inches of precipitation**. In contrast, the driest locations were found across the east-central, southern, and northwestern portions of the island, where several locations recorded **less than 12 inches of precipitation**. Calero Camp (1955-2025), located in the municipality of Aguadilla in northwest PR, recorded its **driest autumn on record** with 6.93 inches.

Notable Weather

Rainfall in September **improved soil moisture and crop conditions**, though some agricultural wells in southern PR remained below optimal levels. Tropical waves during the month also brought **widespread flooding, landslides, water rescues, and some structural damage** across the region, with gusty winds contributing to **high surf and rip currents**. By October, **crop stress** emerged across southern PR, while **reservoir and groundwater levels continued to run low**. A **waterspout** formed over Lago Guajataca early in the month. Rainfall from the precursor to Hurricane Melissa and a tropical wave in early November caused some **localized flooding**; however, by the end of the season, streamflows, soils, and vegetation were once again **drying out**, with some rivers near the 10th percentile. A few **lightning-related injuries** were also reported this past autumn.

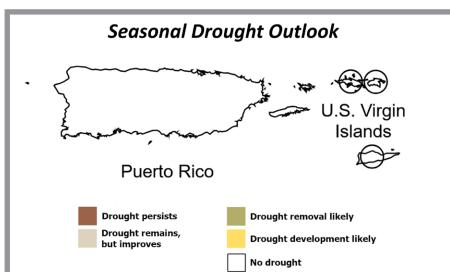
Caribbean Climate Outlook for Winter 2026

Temperature and Precipitation



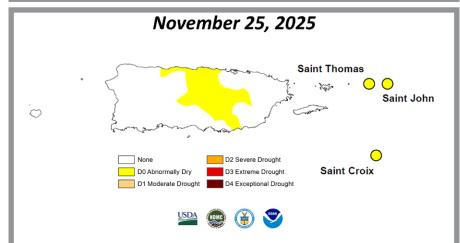
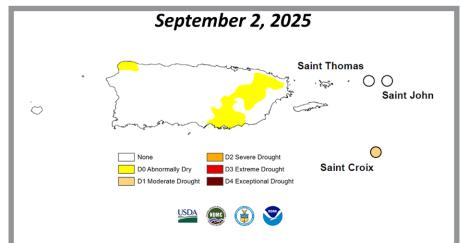
According to the [North American Multi-Model Ensemble \(NMME\)](#) **above-average temperatures and precipitation** are expected across the Caribbean during the January to March period.

Drought



According to the CPC, PR and the USVI are **expected to remain drought-free** through winter and into early spring. However, the [Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum](#) noted that recent dryness ahead of the climatological dry season could lead to **longer-term moisture deficits and impacts** in the region.

Drought



Autumn began with **areas of abnormal dryness (D0)** across eastern PR and parts of the extreme northwest, while **moderate (D1) drought** was observed on Saint Croix. **Conditions improved** during September and early October. However, a **return to drier weather** later in the season led to an **expansion of abnormal dryness (D0)** across the central interior and northern slopes of PR, along with a **reemergence of abnormal dryness (D0)** across the USVI.

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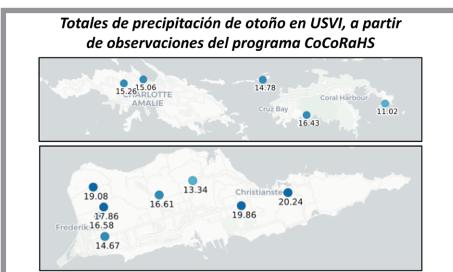
[Southeast Regional Climate Hub](#)

[Southeast Climate Science Center](#)

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Perspectiva General del Clima e Impactos en el Caribe Durante el Otoño de 2025

Anomalías de Temperatura y Precipitación

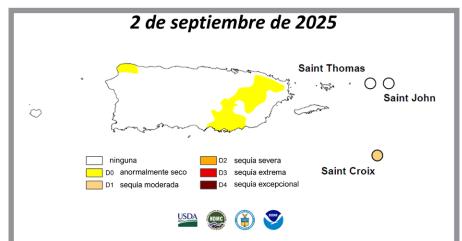


Las temperaturas estuvieron mayormente por encima del promedio en Puerto Rico (PR) y las Islas Vírgenes Americanas (USVI, por sus siglas en inglés) durante el otoño de 2025. Aibonito, PR registró su 5to otoño más cálido en récord (1906-2025), mientras que Coloso registró uno de sus 10 otoños más cálidos (1899-2025). La precipitación estuvo por debajo del promedio en gran parte de PR, St. Thomas y St. John, y por encima del promedio en St. Croix. Las zonas más húmedas se ubicaron en el interior-oeste de PR, donde algunos lugares registraron acumulados de más de 30 pulgadas de lluvia. En contraste, las zonas más secas se ubicaron en el interior-este, sur y noroeste de la isla, donde varios lugares registraron menos de 12 pulgadas de lluvia. El Campamento Calero, ubicado en el municipio de Aguadilla en el noroeste de PR, registró su otoño más seco con solo 6.93 pulgadas de lluvia (1955-2025).

Condiciones Meteorológicas a Destacar

Las lluvias en septiembre mejoraron la humedad del suelo y las condiciones de los cultivos, aunque algunos pozos agrícolas en el sur de PR permanecieron por debajo de sus niveles óptimos. Las ondas tropicales durante ese mes también trajeron extensas inundaciones, deslizamientos de terreno, rescates y algunos daños estructurales en la región, con vientos en ráfaga contribuyendo a su vez a un fuerte oleaje y corrientes marinas. Para octubre, el estrés en los cultivos emergió en el sur de PR, mientras que los niveles de los embalses y las aguas subterráneas continuaron estando bajos. Una tromba marina se formó sobre el Lago Guajataca a principios de ese mes. La lluvia provocada por el fenómeno precursor al huracán Melissa y una onda tropical a principios de noviembre causaron algunas inundaciones localizadas; sin embargo, para el final de la temporada, los caudales, los suelos y la vegetación se estaban secando nuevamente, con algunos ríos cerca del percentil 10. También se registraron algunas lesiones relacionadas con rayos durante este pasado otoño.

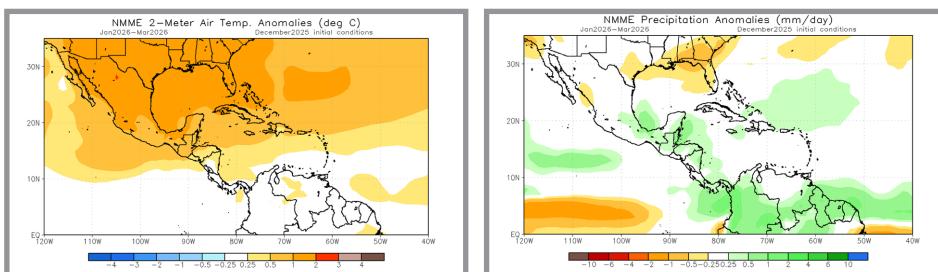
Sequía



El otoño comenzó con áreas de sequedad anómala (D0) en el este de PR y partes del extremo noroeste de la isla, mientras que se observó sequía moderada (D1) en St. Croix. Las condiciones mejoraron durante septiembre y principios de octubre. Sin embargo, un regreso de tiempo más seco más tarde en la temporada llevó a una expansión de la sequedad anómala (D0) hacia el interior de PR y las laderas del norte, junto con un resurgimiento de la sequedad anómala (D0) en las USVI.

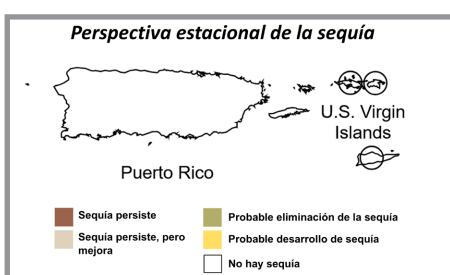
Perspectiva del Clima en el Caribe para el Invierno de 2026

Temperatura y Precipitación



Según el Conjunto Multi-Modelo Norteamericano (NMME, por sus siglas en inglés), se esperan temperaturas y precipitación por encima del promedio a través del Caribe durante el periodo de enero a marzo.

Sequía



Según el Centro de Predicciones Climáticas (CPC, por sus siglas en inglés), se espera que PR y las USVI se mantengan libres de sequía durante el invierno y hasta principios de la primavera. Sin embargo, el Foro de Perspectiva del Clima en el Caribe señaló que la sequía reciente antes de la estación seca podría conducir a déficits de humedad e impactos a largo plazo en la región.

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