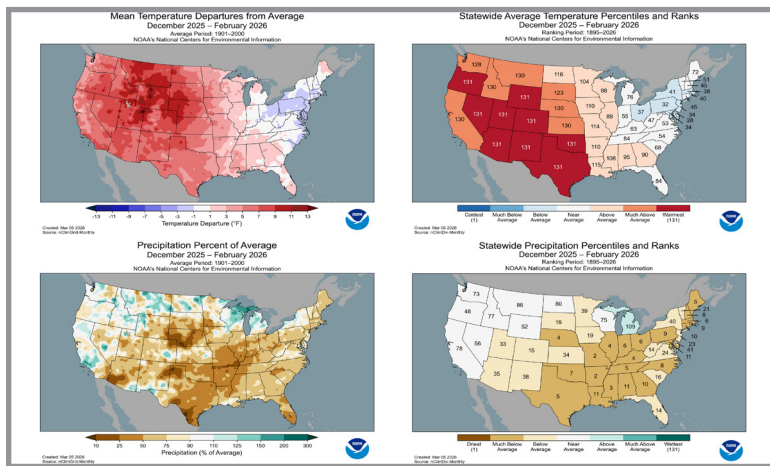




National and Regional Weather Highlights for Winter 2025-2026



Temperatures in winter were **near average** across most of the Southeast, except Alabama and Georgia, which were **above average**. Regionally, it was the **9th driest winter on record** (since 1895), and the driest in 15 years. Every state in the region recorded **measurable snowfall**, with significant totals across eastern North Carolina. Temperatures were **above average** across the Caribbean with **above average precipitation** in Puerto Rico and **near average precipitation** in the Virgin Islands. Drought coverage **exceeded 90%** across the Southeast, while **conditions improved** across the Caribbean. For more information, see [NOAA's National Climate Report](#).

Highlights for the Southeast

Many locations experienced their **warmest, or one of their warmest, Christmases on record**, with maximum temperatures as much as 25 degrees F above average

Bitterly cold weather was observed from January 25th to February 3rd, with temperatures falling **below 0 degrees F** across western Virginia and North Carolina and **subfreezing conditions** extending as far south as West Palm Beach, FL

Charlotte, NC recorded its **warmest winter temperature on record** (since 1878), reaching 83 degrees F on February 20th

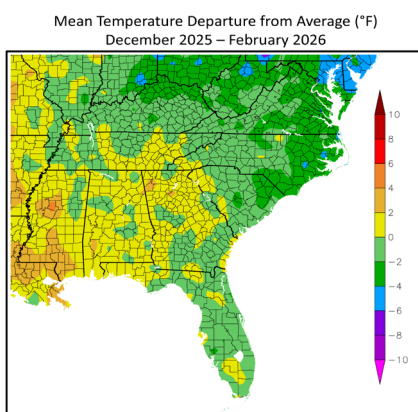
On February 24th, **moderate drought or worse covered the entire state of Florida** for the first time in the history of the U.S. Drought Monitor (since January 2000)

This winter marked **back-to-back years with measurable snow** in Savannah, GA, and the Pensacola, FL area

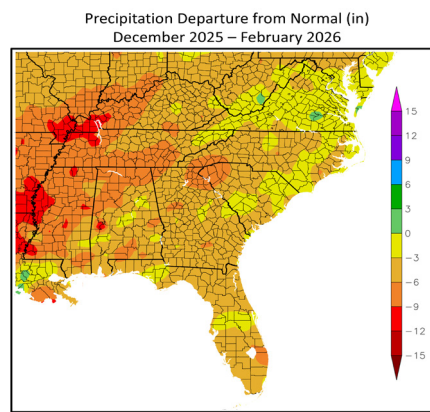
There were [eight surf zone fatalities](#) in the Southeast this winter

Regional Weather Overview for Winter 2025-2026

Temperature and Precipitation Anomalies

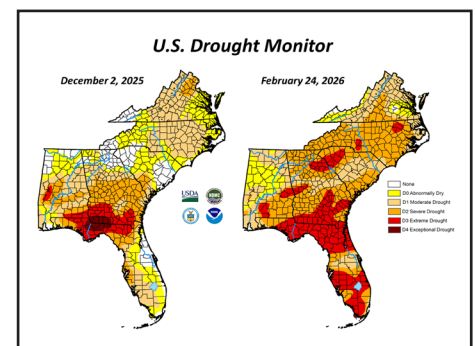


Temperatures were **below average** across the northern half of the region, with some parts of eastern VA and the Carolinas running **up to 4 degrees F below average** for the season. Temperatures were also below average across much of FL, where [many locations recorded long streaks of subfreezing temperatures](#). In contrast, temperatures were **above average** across AL, GA, and parts of the northern Gulf Coast.



Winter was **very dry** across the Southeast, with many locations running **3 to 6 inches below average**. The driest locations were found across northern portions of AL, GA, SC, and western NC, where seasonal totals were **more than 8 inches below average**. [Several locations recorded one of their top 10 driest winters on record](#), including West Palm Beach, FL (tied 2nd driest), Greenville-Spartanburg, SC (5th driest), and Atlanta, GA (5th driest).

Drought



Winter began with drought covering much of the Southeast. Persistent dry conditions led to rapid expansion, and by mid-January, **99.73% of the region was classified as either abnormally dry or in drought, the highest coverage since the U.S. Drought Monitor began in 2000**. Severe (D2) drought also expanded, reaching its greatest extent since 2008. Dry weather continued into February, and by the end of the season, **over 90% of the region was in at least moderate (D1) drought, the highest coverage on record**, with 23.64% experiencing extreme (D3) drought, the greatest extent since 2016.



Regional Climate Impacts for Winter 2025-2026

Ice, Snow, and Sleet, Oh My!



Heavy snow blankets eastern NC (source: [NWS MHX](#))

For the second straight year, there were **multiple rounds of significant winter precipitation** in the Southeast. The first storm, from [January 24-26](#), produced **4 to 6 inches of snow and sleet** across the Piedmont and Blue Ridge of VA, with up to **10 inches in higher elevations**. This system also brought up to **0.50 inches of freezing rain** across parts of AL, GA, and the Carolinas. A second storm from [January 30th to February 1st](#) brought measurable snowfall from eastern GA through the Carolinas into southern VA, with [flurries observed as far south as the Fort Myers, FL area](#). Every snowfall observation in NC was at least 1 inch, the first such occurrence since March 1980. Parts of eastern NC recorded **over 10 inches of snow**, making it the **largest snowstorm in more than four decades** for many coastal communities, while **blizzard conditions** were reported along portions of the Outer Banks.

Severe Weather

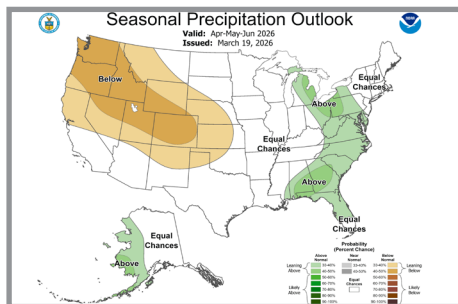
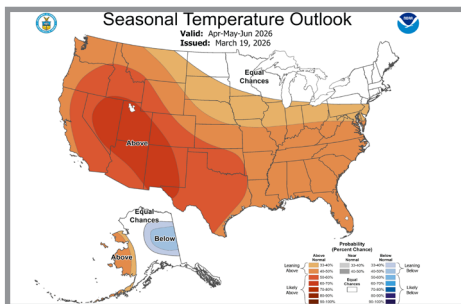
There were **216 reports of severe weather** this past winter, which is above the median frequency of 186 (116% of normal). There were **eight confirmed tornadoes** (3 EF-0s, 4 EF-1s, 1 EF-2), which is below the median frequency of 28 (29% of normal) and the **fewest winter tornadoes since 2003-2004**. For the season, there were **169 reports of high winds**, which is above the median frequency of 144 (117% of normal). There were also **39 hail reports**, which is more than 2.5 times the median frequency of 14. On **January 25th**, five tornadoes struck southern AL and GA and northern FL, causing major structural damage, downed trees, and straight-line winds up to 70 mph that impacted homes, vehicles, power lines, and roads. On **February 26th**, winds up to 75 mph affected northern and central AL, causing significant tree damage to homes, with **hail up to 2.25 inches**.

Agriculture and Livestock

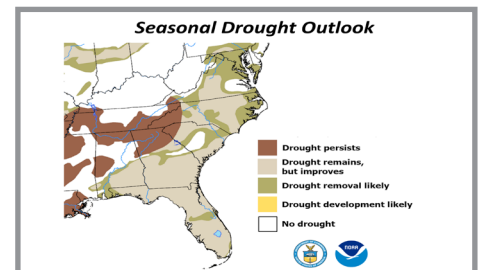
Agricultural impacts reflected **widespread dryness and temperature variability**. Pastures, livestock, and winter crops were stressed, with **deteriorating conditions** prompting early supplemental feeding, reduced pond levels, and increased livestock strain. In GA and SC, **poor forage** led to low stock weights and water hauling. Winter grains showed **limited growth**, with wheat struggling in eastern NC. Cool-season forages were weakened by drought, delayed planting, and freezes. In FL, irrigation concerns emerged during **freeze events**. Dry soils threatened spring planting through **poor germination and seed rot**. Repeated cold outbreaks and warm spells **increased water demand and fungal damage**. January freezes caused an estimated **\$3 billion in losses in FL**, including major impacts to strawberries, blueberries, sugarcane, and citrus.

Regional Climate Outlook for Spring 2026

Temperature and Precipitation



Drought

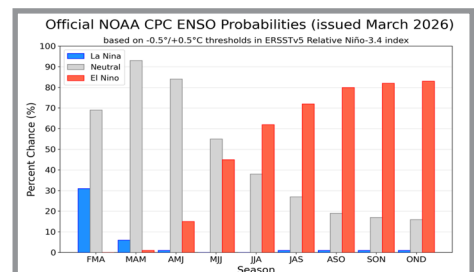


[NOAA's Climate Prediction Center \(CPC\)](#) is forecasting **above average temperatures** across the Southeast from April to June. Probabilities are in the 40-50% range, except across extreme northern VA. **Above average precipitation** is expected across most of the region, except northern AL and GA and South FL, with the highest probabilities stretching from the northern Gulf Coast through central GA (40-50%).

Drought is expected to **improve or be eliminated** across a large portion of the region, except across northern parts of AL, GA, and SC and western parts of NC, where drought is expected to **persist**. No new development is expected.

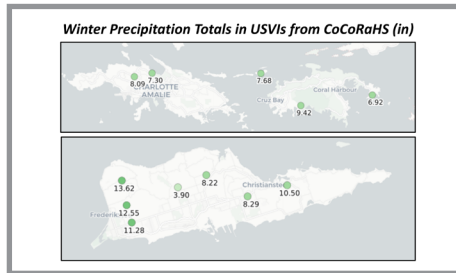
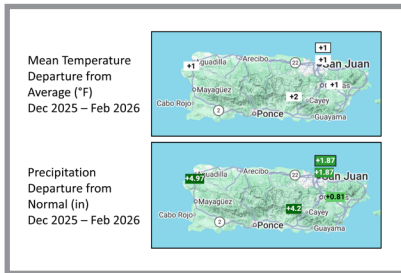
ENSO Forecast

According to the [latest ENSO update](#) issued by CPC on March 12th, La Niña conditions are still present but a **transition to ENSO-neutral is expected** to occur this spring, with a 55% chance of neutral conditions persisting from May to July. **El Niño is likely to emerge this summer** (62% chance) and persist through the end of the year, owing to the large amount of heat in the subsurface tropical Pacific Ocean and expected weakening of the trade winds.



Caribbean Climate Overview and Impacts for Winter 2025-2026

Temperature and Precipitation Anomalies

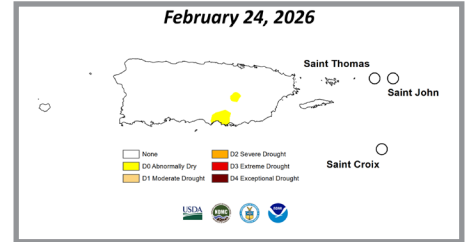
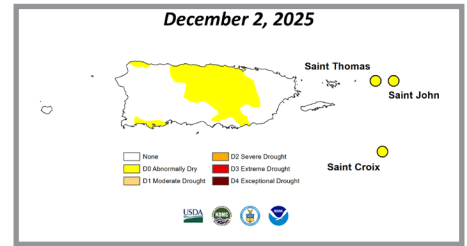


Temperatures were **above average** across PR and the USVIs. Saint Thomas (1953-2026) recorded its **warmest winter on record** with a mean temperature of 81.4 degrees F, breaking the previous record of 81.2 degrees F set in 1993-1994, while Coloso (1899-2026) recorded **one of its top 10 warmest winters**. Precipitation was **above average** across much of PR, as well as on Saint Croix, where several locations recorded over 10 inches of precipitation. Coloso recorded its **8th wettest winter** with 12.55 inches. The wettest locations were found in east-central PR where some locations recorded over 20 inches of precipitation, while parts of the southern slopes recorded less than 5 inches. Precipitation was **variable** across Saint Thomas and Saint John. Charlotte Amalie recorded 5.73 inches, or about 75% of normal for the season.

Agriculture and Water Resources

Rainfall deficits and drought conditions across the U.S. Caribbean were largely **erased** this winter due to repeated frontal boundaries and troughs that delivered **beneficial rainfall**. Much of PR experienced wet conditions, though **lingering dryness** persisted in the southeast, where groundwater wells for agricultural and municipal use remained **near critical levels**. Early in the season, dry conditions **stressed** vegetable crops, but improving moisture later supported pasture **recovery** in the southwest, benefiting livestock. In the USVIs, soils were initially very dry, which promoted **runoff and erosion** while **limiting groundwater recharge** even as rainfall increased. These conditions led to **impacts to specialty crops and fruit tree production** despite the late-season improvement in moisture.

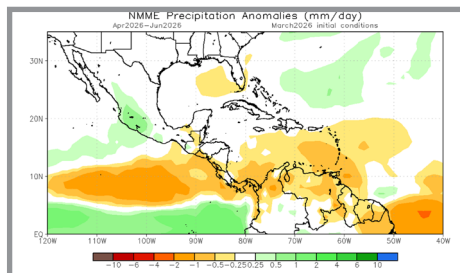
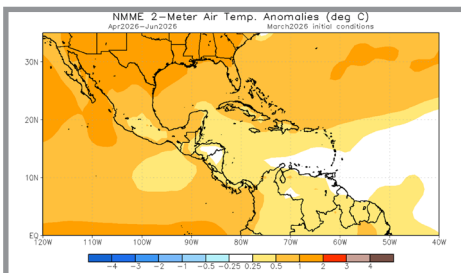
Drought



Abnormal dryness (D0) was present across portions of PR and Saint Croix in December and January, while **moderate (D1) drought developed and persisted** on Saint Thomas and Saint John. **Conditions improved** in February as above-average rainfall reduced drought intensity across the region, **eliminating drought** on Saint John and abnormal dryness (D0) on Saint Croix, while moderate (D1) drought on Saint Thomas **improved** to abnormal dryness (D0).

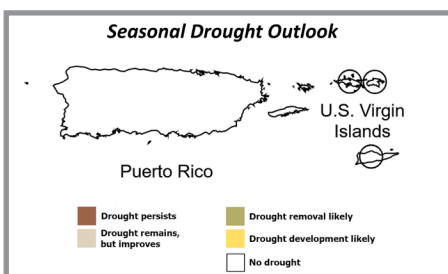
Caribbean Climate Outlook for Spring 2026

Temperature and Precipitation



According to the [North American Multi-Model Ensemble \(NMME\)](#), **above-average temperatures and below average precipitation** are expected during the April to June period.

Drought



According to the CPC and the [Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum](#), PR and the USVIs are expected to **remain drought free** through spring and into early summer, ahead of the climatological wet season.

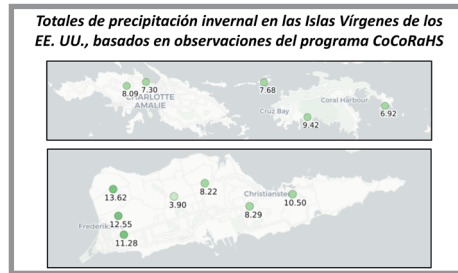
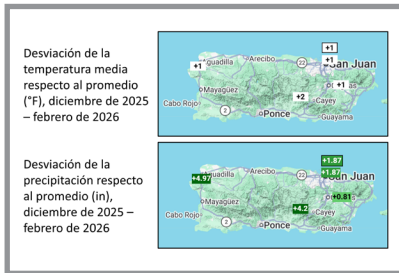
Southeast Region Partners

- [National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)
- [National Centers for Environmental Information](#)
- [National Weather Service Eastern Region](#)
- [National Weather Service Southern Region](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center](#)
- [National Hurricane Center](#)
- [National Integrated Drought Information System](#)
- [Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assessments](#)
- [National Sea Grant Office](#)
- [Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team](#)
- [State Climatologists](#)
- [Southeast Regional Climate Hub](#)
- [Southeast Climate Science Center](#)
- [Community Collaborative Rain Hail and Snow Network](#)



Perspectiva General del Clima e Impactos en el Caribe Durante el Invierno de 2025-2026

Anomalías de Temperatura y Precipitación

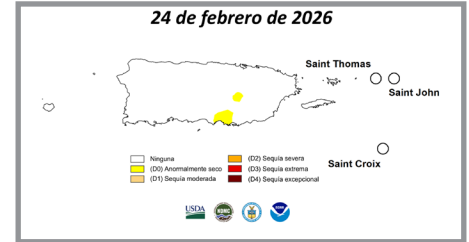
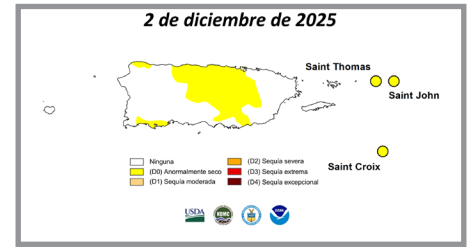


Las temperaturas estuvieron por encima del promedio a través de Puerto Rico (PR) y las Islas Vírgenes Americanas (USVI, por sus siglas en inglés). St. Thomas registró su invierno más cálido en récord (1953-2026) con una temperatura media de 81.4 grados F, lo cual rompió su récord anterior de 81.2 grados F establecido en 1993-1994; mientras que Coloso registró uno de sus 10 inviernos más cálidos en récord (1899-2026). La precipitación estuvo por encima del promedio a través de gran parte de PR, así como en St. Croix, donde varios lugares registraron más de 10 pulgadas de lluvia. Coloso registró su octavo invierno más húmedo con 12.55 pulgadas de lluvia recibidas. Los lugares más húmedos se encontraron en el centro este de PR donde algunas localidades registraron más de 20 pulgadas de lluvia, mientras que parte de las laderas del sur de la isla recibieron menos de 5 pulgadas. La precipitación fue variable a través de St. Thomas y St. John. Charlotte Amalie registró 5.73 pulgadas de lluvia, o alrededor del 75% de lo que recibe normalmente para esta temporada.

Agricultura y Recursos Hídricos

Los déficits de lluvia y condiciones de sequía a través de las islas estadounidenses en el Caribe quedaron borrados en gran medida este invierno debido a los frentes y vaguadas que trajeron lluvia beneficiosa a la región. Gran parte de PR experimentó condiciones húmedas, aunque la sequedad persistió en el sureste donde los pozos de agua subterránea para uso agrícola y municipal permanecieron cerca de niveles críticos. A principios de la temporada, las condiciones secas estresaron los cultivos de vegetales, pero la mejoría en la humedad más tarde en la temporada apoyó la recuperación de los pastos en el suroeste, beneficiando al ganado. En las USVI, los suelos estaban inicialmente muy secos, lo que promovió la escorrentía y erosión, mientras que se limitó la recarga de agua subterránea, incluso a medida que la lluvia aumentó. Estas condiciones condujeron a impactos en los cultivos especiales y la producción de árboles frutales a pesar de la mejoría en la humedad para finales de la temporada.

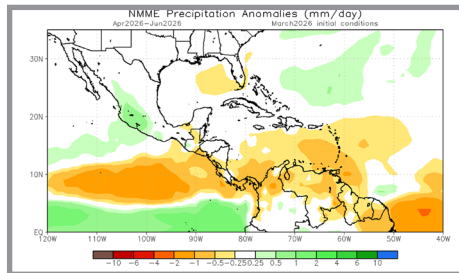
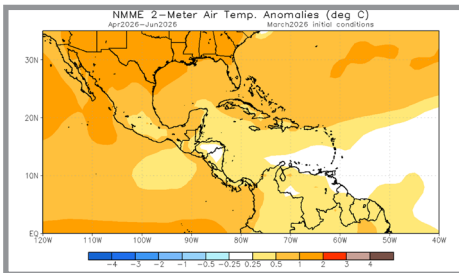
Sequía



La sequedad anómala (D0) estuvo presente a través de porciones de PR y St. Croix en diciembre y enero, mientras que una sequía moderada (D1) se desarrolló y persistió en St. Thomas y St. John. Las condiciones mejoraron en febrero a medida que la lluvia por encima del promedio redujo la intensidad de la sequía en toda la región, eliminando la sequía en St. John y la sequedad anómala (D0) en St. Croix, mientras que la sequía moderada (D1) en St. Thomas mejoró a sequedad anómala (D0).

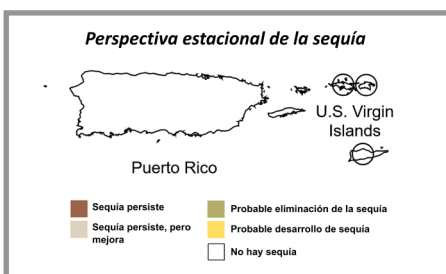
Perspectiva del Clima en el Caribe para la Primavera de 2026

Temperatura y Precipitación



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

Sequía



Según el Centro de Predicciones Climáticas (CPC, por sus siglas en inglés) y el Foro de Perspectiva del Clima en el Caribe, se espera que PR y las USVI permanezcan libres de sequía durante la primavera y hasta principios del verano, antes de la temporada climatológicamente húmeda.

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