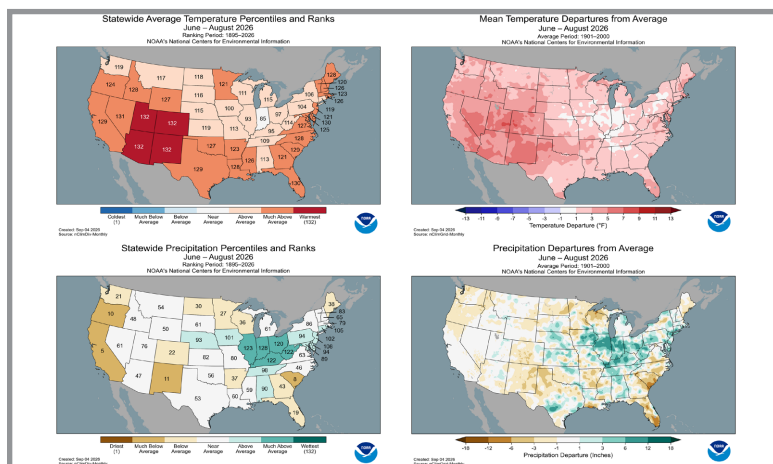


National and Regional Weather Highlights for Summer 2026



Regionally, it was the **4th warmest summer** since 1895, with FL, SC, and NC recording one of their five warmest summers on record. **Precipitation was below average overall**, though conditions varied considerably across the region. SC recorded its 8th driest summer, while FL and GA were also drier than average. In contrast, precipitation was near average in NC and VA and above average in AL. **Drought conditions improved across much of the Southeast** during the summer but **intensified across the Caribbean**, where several locations experienced **record warmth and dryness**. For more information, see [NOAA's National Climate Report](#).

Highlights for the Southeast

Fort Lauderdale, FL tied its warmest month on record in both July and August, matching the record set in August 1944 and 2007

It was **one of the hottest July 4th holidays on record** across the northern tier of the region, with several locations reaching **100 degrees F**, including Washington, D.C., Richmond, VA, and Raleigh-Durham, NC. The downtown Charlottesville, VA station **tied its all-time highest temperature of 107 degrees F** on July 3rd

Wilmington, NC reached **100 degrees F** on **three consecutive days** from July 8th to the 10th, **tying its longest such streak on record**

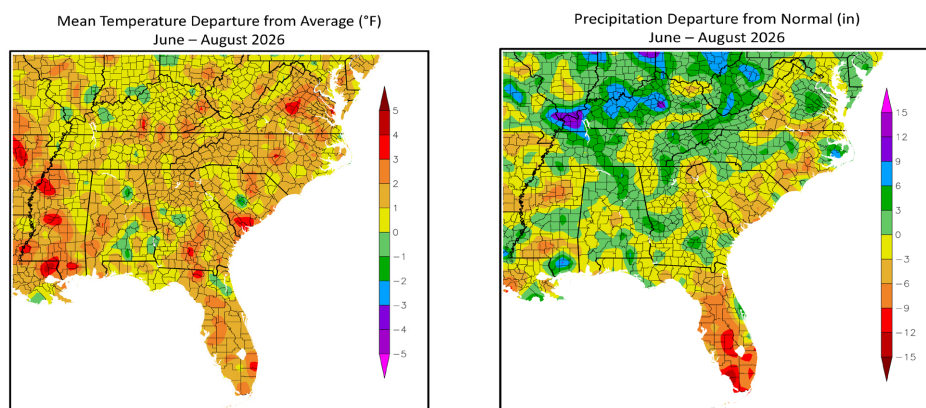
Miami, FL reached **100 degrees F** on August 18th for only the **second time on record** (since 1895)

There were [10 surf zone fatalities](#) and [six lightning fatalities](#) in the Southeast this summer.

There is a greater than 90% chance of a [very strong El Niño this winter](#) and a 69% chance that it will **exceed the strength of all previous events since 1950**

Regional Weather Overview for Summer 2026

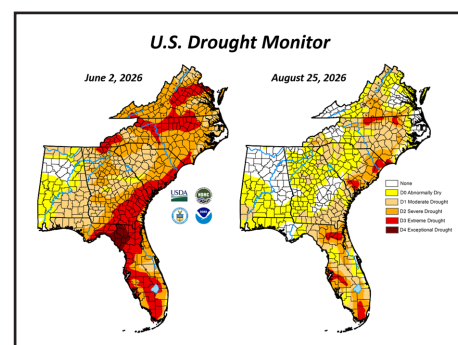
Temperature and Precipitation Anomalies



Temperatures were **above average** across most of the Southeast, particularly across the FL Peninsula, southern GA, and portions of the Carolinas and VA, where some locations were **more than 3 degrees F above average**. West Palm Beach, FL, Fort Lauderdale, FL, and Charlottesville, VA recorded their **warmest summer on record**, Miami **tied its warmest summer on record**, and many other locations recorded [one of their top 5 warmest summers](#) on record.

Precipitation was **mostly below average** across the Southeast, particularly across the FL Peninsula and eastern portions of GA and the Carolinas, with some locations running **more than 10 inches below average**, or **less than 50% of normal**. In contrast, **above average precipitation** was found across mostly interior portions of the region, where seasonal totals were generally **3 to 6 inches above average**.

Drought



Drought conditions **improved across much of the region** this summer following the historic drought of the spring. However, **exceptional (D4) drought emerged in central NC for the first time since 2008**. The greatest improvements occurred across AL, GA, and portions of VA, while **pockets of extreme (D3) drought persisted across the FL Peninsula and eastern Carolinas**. By the end of summer, drought and dryness covered less than 75% of the region, the **lowest coverage in nearly a year**, while severe (D2) and extreme (D3) drought reached their **lowest levels since January**.

Regional Climate Impacts for Summer 2026

Historic Flooding Strikes Mayberry



Aftermath of flooding in Mount Airy, NC (source: [WXII-12 News](#))

Heavy rainfall produced **significant flash flooding** across portions of northwestern NC on August 2nd, with some of the most severe impacts occurring in **Mount Airy**, the hometown of Andy Griffith and inspiration for the fictional town of Mayberry in *The Andy Griffith Show*. Much of the hardest-hit area received 4 to 6 inches of rain, while **8.87 inches** was recorded by a **CoCoRaHS** observer near Pilot Mountain. A **Flash Flood Emergency** was issued for the Mount Airy and Pilot Mountain areas as creeks and rivers rapidly overflowed their banks, prompting numerous water rescues. The **Ararat River rose to nearly 30 feet**, inundating portions of Mount Airy and surrounding communities. **Floodwaters damaged homes, roads, bridges, utilities, and public facilities**, while several parks and portions of the Granite City Greenway were closed. The Mount Airy Rescue Squad called it *"one of the most challenging nights in the community's history."* Mount Airy declared a state of emergency, with local officials describing it as **the most significant flooding in almost 50 years**.

Severe Weather

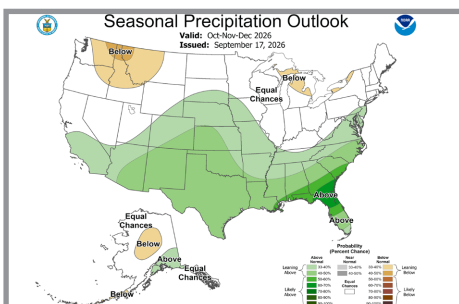
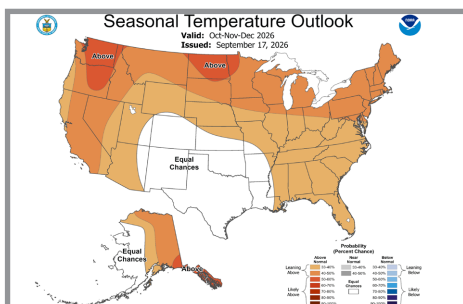
There were **3,364 reports of severe weather** this past summer, which is nearly double the median frequency observed from 2000 to 2025 (193% of normal). There were **41 confirmed tornadoes** (2 EF-Us, 26 EF-0s, 13 EF-1s), which is above the median frequency of 28 (146% of normal). Many of these occurred as part of a **severe weather outbreak** that affected parts of AL, GA, and FL on the 17th and 18th of March. For the season, there were **3,235 reports of high winds**, which is more than double the median frequency of 1,545 (209% of normal). There were also **88 hail reports**, which is half of the median frequency of 175 (50% of normal). The **largest hailstones were 3.5 inches** near Lake Monticello in central VA on August 14th. There were several additional reports of very large hail from these storms, as well as wind gusts up to 90 mph, which caused **significant damage** to trees, power lines, structures, and vehicles.

Agriculture and Livestock

Periods of **extreme heat and drought** stressed agricultural operations this summer, with the greatest impacts reported in NC and VA. Dry soils **reduced corn yields and soybean emergence**, while **declining pastures and hay supplies** forced livestock producers to purchase supplemental feed, begin feeding hay early, and, in some cases, reduce herd sizes. Nearly 40% of NC pastures were rated poor or very poor. Reduced flowering contributed to **one of the poorest honey harvests in years**, while VA vineyards experienced **vine stress and reduced fruit quality**. **Increased rainfall later in the summer improved conditions** for cotton, peanuts, and soybeans but arrived too late for much of the early-planted corn crop. Frequent showers also **increased fungal disease pressure** on several crops during August.

Regional Climate Outlook for Autumn 2026

Temperature and Precipitation

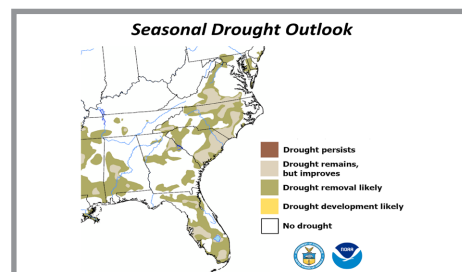


[NOAA's Climate Prediction Center \(CPC\)](#) is forecasting **above average temperatures** across the Southeast from October to December, with probabilities in the 33-40% range ("leaning above"). **Above average precipitation** is also forecasted across the region, with the highest probabilities (60-70%, "likely above") across northern portions of FL and southern GA.

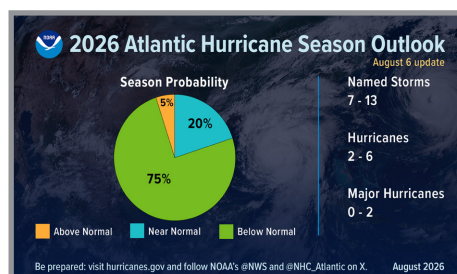
Atlantic Hurricane Season

The [mid-season outlook](#) issued on August 6th continued to favor **below-normal hurricane activity**, with up to 13 named storms, including two to six hurricanes and up to two major hurricanes. Notably, **no hurricanes formed through September 18th**, marking the latest into the season without a hurricane in the satellite era (since 1966) and surpassing the previous record of September 11th set in **2002 and 2013**. The outlook reflected increasingly unfavorable conditions for tropical cyclone development, including stronger wind shear associated with an intensifying El Niño, near-average Atlantic sea surface temperatures, and a near-normal West African monsoon.

Drought

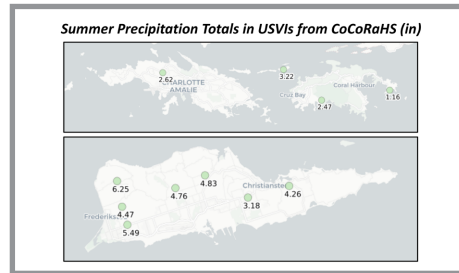
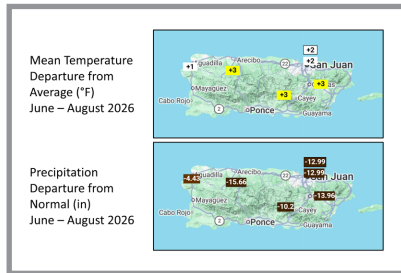


The seasonal outlook favors **improvement or removal**, particularly across AL, FL, GA, and northern VA. Some improvement is also favored across parts of the Carolinas, though drought is **expected to persist** through the early winter in most areas.



Caribbean Climate Overview and Impacts for Summer 2026

Temperature and Precipitation Anomalies

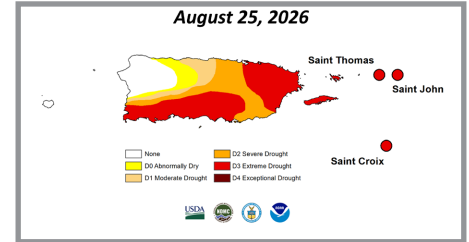
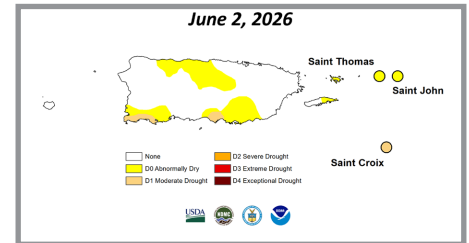


Summer was **exceptionally hot and dry** across PR and the USVIs. Juncos and Aibonito recorded their **warmest summers on record**, while Arecibo, San Juan, and Coloso ranked among their five warmest. Juncos and Aibonito also recorded their **warmest month on record** in July, only to break those records again in August. **Rainfall deficits were substantial**, with San Juan, Juncos, Arecibo, and Aibonito each recording their **driest summer on record**. Seasonal rainfall deficits at these locations ranged from **10 to 15 inches, or 25-33% of normal**. Conditions were also **very dry across the USVIs**. Bordeaux, near Saint Thomas, received just 1.89 inches for the season, less than 20% of normal. Rainfall was below average across much of Saint Croix, though **remnants of Tropical Storm Dolly provided beneficial rainfall** in late August.

Agriculture and Water Resources

Drought intensified substantially across the Caribbean, resulting in **significant agricultural and hydrologic impacts**. In PR, streamflows reached **record low levels**, while reservoirs and groundwater levels declined and **irrigation restrictions** affected southern agricultural districts. **Water rationing** expanded across San Juan and other municipalities, affecting more than 180,000 customers. Farmers reported **substantial losses to fruits, vegetables, coffee, hay, and livestock**, with some producers curtailing production altogether. By late August, the **USDA had declared a drought disaster in 26 municipalities**. Conditions also deteriorated across the USVIs, where **extreme drought strained farms, livestock, household cisterns, and public water supplies**. All three islands received a **federal drought disaster designation**.

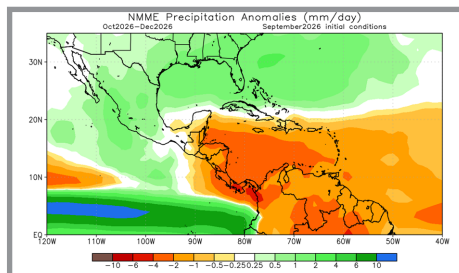
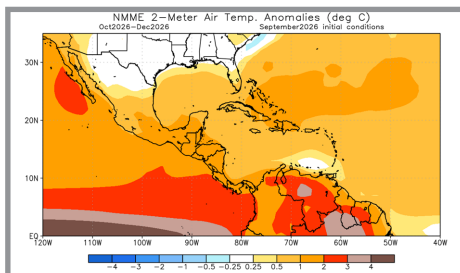
Drought



Drought conditions **deteriorated substantially** across the Caribbean. Moderate (D1) drought returned to PR for the first time since August 2025, while severe (D2) drought returned to PR and the USVIs for the first time since 2023 and 2024, respectively. **By July, extreme (D3) drought had emerged across all three USVIs**. Conditions continued to worsen in PR, where **D3 expanded to nearly 45% of the island by late August, the greatest coverage in U.S. Drought Monitor history** and nearly double the previous record from August 2015. **Coverage of D1 and D2 also reached record levels**, exceeding 75% and 65% of the island, respectively.

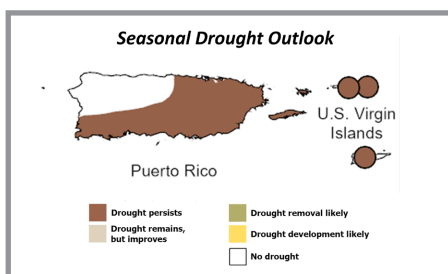
Caribbean Climate Outlook for Autumn 2026

Temperature and Precipitation



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

Drought



According to the CPC and [Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum](#), **drought is expected to persist** across much of PR (except in the northwest), including the outlying islands, and the USVIs. This outlook reflects expectations for warmer, drier, and windier conditions, along with below-normal tropical cyclone activity.

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](#)

[Caribbean Climate Adaptation Network](#)

[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](#)