



NEWS RELEASE

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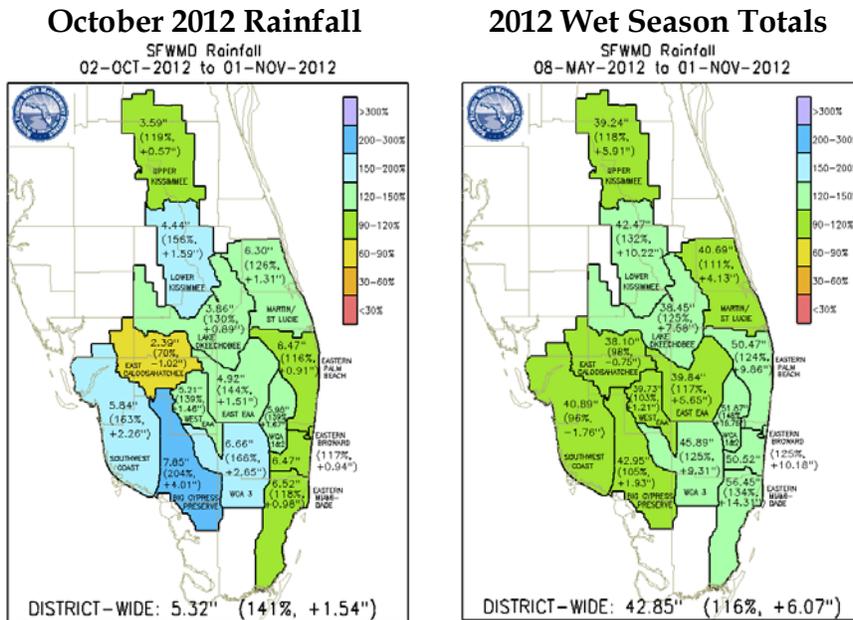
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Dry Season Starts Following a Wet October

Water levels are currently adequate to meet water supply needs into the dry season



(Click on the graphics for larger versions.)

West Palm Beach, FL – South Florida transitioned into the dry season during the last days of October, a month that ended with above average rainfall across most of the South Florida Water Management District’s (SFWMD) 16-county region.

“The region is well positioned for the dry season because water levels are up,” said Susan Sylvester, SFWMD Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau. “Looking ahead, we have a forecast of average rainfall for the next few months.”

October Rainfall

District-wide October rainfall averaged 5.32 inches from Orlando to the Florida Keys, representing 141 percent of average, or 1.54 inches above average. Most areas of the District saw above average rainfall. Highlights of the month include:

- Broward County, the Southwest Coast and Martin and St. Lucie counties experienced some of the highest rainfall totals.
- The Water Conservation Areas saw significant rainfall as did the Big Cypress Preserve.
- The East Caloosahatchee Basin was the only area of the District to receive below average rainfall, with 2.39 inches, representing 70 percent of average, or a deficit of 1.02 inches.
- Lake Okeechobee received 3.86 inches of direct rainfall, representing 130 percent of average, or 0.89 inches above average.

2012 Wet Season Totals

The 2012 wet season ended with 42.85 inches of rainfall District-wide. This represents 116 percent of average, or 6.07 inches above average.

Above average rainfall was driven by the early start to the wet season in May and the historic deluge from Tropical Storm Isaac in late August. Among the wet season highlights:

- Eastern Miami Dade, Broward and Palm Beach counties received the most rainfall in the District, with more than 50 inches of rain for the wet season.
- The Southwest Coast and East Caloosahatchee Basin were the only areas of the District that were slightly below average.
- Lake Okeechobee received 38.45 inches of direct rainfall, representing 125 percent of average, or 7.58 inches above average.
- During Isaac, the District moved 105 billion gallons of water to tide and storage areas following 14.85 inches of rainfall in a 72-hour period in an area of central Palm Beach County.

2012-2013 Dry Season Forecast

South Florida is forecast to experience one of the few dry seasons having near-average rainfall in the past 14 years. Only two dry seasons, 1998-1999 and 2003-2004, have actually been about the historical average in that timeframe, with two above average and 10 below average dry seasons. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center forecast calls for equal chances of slightly above or slightly below average rainfall for the first three months of the upcoming dry season.

Among the official forecast highlights for the 2012-2013 South Florida dry season:

- Near normal precipitation is mostly likely during the first part of the dry season, from November to February
- A drier-than-normal trend may characterize March and April

Just the Facts: South Florida's Dry Season

- *November – May*
- *About 18 inches of rain is the average*
- *May and October are important transition months*
- *March, April and May have the highest evaporation rates and lowest rainfall*

- Average dry season precipitation: 12 to 15 inches in the interior and west to 15 to 21 inches in the east
- Long-term average winter temperature: 64 to 66 F in the interior and west to 67 to 69 F in the east

For more information:

- [SFWMD Weather/Rainfall Data](#)
- [National Weather Service Dry Season Forecast](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Precipitation Forecast](#)

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About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.