



NEWS RELEASE

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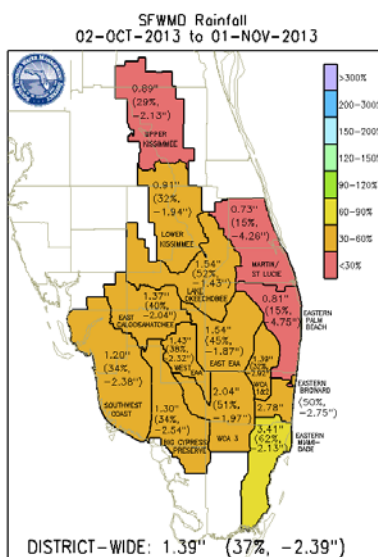
South Florida Water Management District

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October Marks Dry Start to the Dry Season Rainfall deficits reach more than 1 inch across 16 counties in the SFWMD



(Click on the map for a larger version)

West Palm Beach, FL — As forecast by meteorologists in recent weeks, the 7.9 million residents in the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) experienced below-average October rainfall to start the annual dry season.

District-wide, 1.39 inches of rain fell across 16 counties from Orlando to the Florida Keys in October, representing 37 percent of average, or a deficit of 2.39 inches. All counties experienced below-average rainfall, making the month the ninth-driest October since 1932 and the fifth-driest since 1983.

“We are still benefiting from the increased water levels following an above-average wet season,” said Susan Sylvester, SFWMD Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau. “But water managers remain cautious because this is the time of year when water levels can fall rapidly from prolonged below-average rainfall.”

Martin, St. Lucie and Palm Beach counties experienced the driest conditions in South Florida:

- It was the third-driest October since 1915 for Martin/St. Lucie.
- It was the driest October since 1939 for eastern Palm Beach.
- Deficits reached up to 4.75 inches.

Other areas of the District ranged from 2.38 inches below average on the Southwest Coast to 2.13 inches below average in Miami-Dade County.

Dry Season Forecast

Highlights of the 2013-2014 South Florida dry season forecast from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center include:

- Below-normal precipitation
- A possibility of near to slightly above-normal temperatures
- Precipitation in an average dry season: 12 to 15 inches in the interior/west to 15 to 21 inches in the east

South Florida's Dry Season
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>November – May</i>• <i>About 18 inches of rain is the average</i>• <i>May and October are important transition months</i>• <i>March, April and May are the driest months because evaporation is highest</i>

Overall, water levels across South Florida are at or starting to fall below their targets for this time of year, with regulation schedules designed to reflect that the hurricane season does not officially end until Nov. 30.

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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.