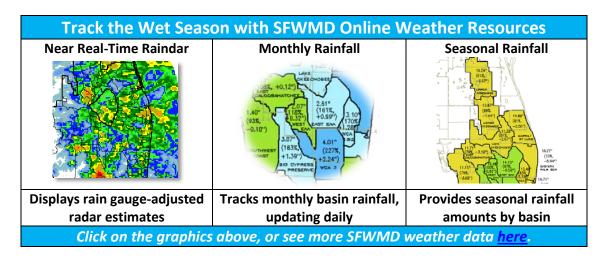# SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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Near Average May Rainfall Serves as a Prelude to Wet Season Start
Rain is just beginning to replenish the system

Track the Wet Season with SFWMD Online Weather Resources		
Near Real-Time Raindar	**Monthly Rainfall**	**Seasonal Rainfall**
Displays rain gauge-adjusted radar estimates	Tracks monthly basin rainfall, updating daily	Provides seasonal rainfall amounts by basin
Click on the graphics above, or see more SFWMD weather data here.		

West Palm Beach, FL — Wet season rainfall has only just begun to replenish South Florida aquifers, leaving May with near-average rainfall, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) reported today.

"Early May rains helped bridge a dry mid-month gap until the start of the wet season, which began this year on Memorial Day," said Susan Sylvester, SFWMD Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau. "Residents may continue to see lower water levels in lakes and canals because it will take some time for daily sea-breeze cycle rainfall to establish itself and recharge aquifers and storage areas."

May Rainfall
As a transition month into the wet season, May experienced near-average rainfall. A total of 3.61 inches of rain fell, representing 94 percent of average, or 0.24 inches below average.

The northern reaches of the SFWMD, from the Upper Kissimmee to Lake Okeechobee and Martin and St. Lucie counties, were the wettest areas. The east coast, from Palm Beach to Miami-Dade counties and the Southwest Coast were markedly drier.

Lake Okeechobee stood at 12.46 feet NGVD today, which is 0.66 feet below its historic average for this time of year. The lake received 3.96 inches of direct rainfall, representing 121 percent of average, or 0.70 inches above average.

Wet Season Forecast

The National Weather Service's 2014 wet season forecast calls for:

- Near to slightly below-average precipitation, with June potentially being the wettest month relative to normal
- Above-normal temperatures, 1-2 degrees F, more noticeable in the overnight/early morning
- El Niño to develop during the summer, which typically places South Florida in a transition zone between Caribbean dryness and slightly more precipitation across the southeast U.S.

South Florida Wet Season Facts

- On average, South Florida's wet season begins around May 20 and ends around October 13, lasting for about 21 weeks.
- Typically, about two-thirds of annual rains fall during the wet season, or approximately 35 inches out of 52 inches.
- Since 1932, virtually all wet seasons have produced 2 to 4 feet of rainfall.
- June is usually South Florida's wettest month.
- The wet season has three general phases:
  - Memorial Day weekend through July 4 weekend, which are typically the wettest six weeks of the year.
  - Early July through mid-August, which are hotter and often drier.
  - Late August through October, which are characterized by highly variable rainfall mainly due to tropical activity and cold fronts.

Wet Season Preparation
SFWMD maintenance and infrastructure upgrades are critical to the optimal operation of the regional flood control system of nearly 2,100 miles of canals and 2,000 miles of levees and berms. During the past five years, the District has invested $276 million in essential maintenance work, including: - Hardening pump stations   - Overhauling gated spillways   - Replacing project culverts   - Dredging canals   - Stabilizing canal banks   - Enhancing treatment wetlands

More information is available at:

- [SFWMD Weather/Rainfall Data](#)
- [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.