



NEWS RELEASE

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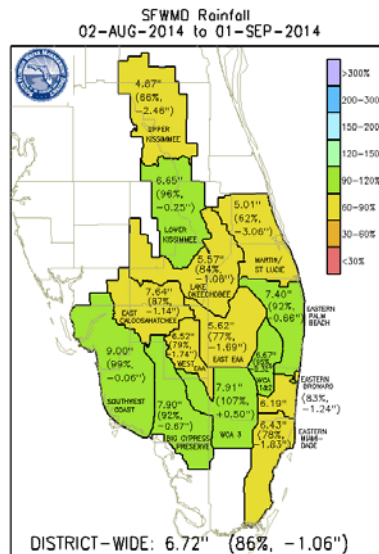
South Florida Water Management District

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Rain Tapers Off in August *Most areas are below average*



(Click on the map for a larger version.)

West Palm Beach, FL – South Florida saw below-average rainfall in August, South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) meteorologists reported today.

“We did receive a slight respite in daily rainfall, which allowed water managers more flexibility to move water south,” said Jeff Kivett, SFWMD Director of Operations, Engineering and Construction. “Conditions remain wet, however, and we continue to operate the system to balance flood control, water supply and the potential for tropical storms.”

August Rainfall

For August, a total of 6.72 inches of rain fell District-wide from Orlando to the Keys, representing 86 percent of average, or 1.06 inches below average. Most basins in the District were below average.

Lake Okeechobee stood at 14.46 feet NGVD today, which is 0.24 feet above its historic average for this time of year. The lake received 5.57 inches of direct rainfall, representing 84 percent of average, or 1.08 inches below average.

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.