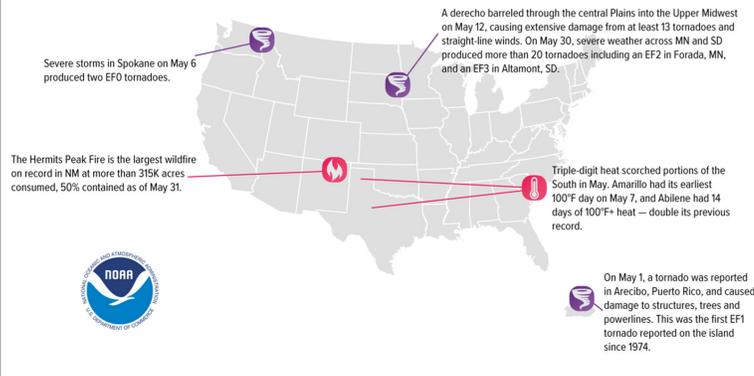


### National and Regional Weather Highlights for Spring 2022

#### U.S. Selected Significant Climate Anomalies and Events for May and Spring 2022



**Above-average temperatures** were observed across the Southeast this spring. Overall, Florida had its fifth warmest spring (MAM) on record. Precipitation was generally near average, with some areas seeing more-or-less depending on spring storms. RDU observed two 60+ mph wind gusts from thunderstorms on May 6th. Drought conditions improved across Florida, but intensified in eastern North Carolina and parts of the Caribbean. For more information, see: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/national>

#### Highlights for the Southeast

The first week of March was warm across the region, with daily maximum temperatures reaching **more than 15 degrees F** above normal for most of the Southeast.

Precipitation was **variable** for much of the region this spring, with few extremes reported. However, Gainesville, FL observed its **wettest March** on record at 12.59 inches of rain, more than 9 inches above normal.

A **violent EF-4 tornado** occurred in Bryan County, GA, making this the 11th EF-4 tornado in GA since 1950. This is also the first time that F4/EF4 tornadoes have struck GA in **back-to-back years** since modern records began.

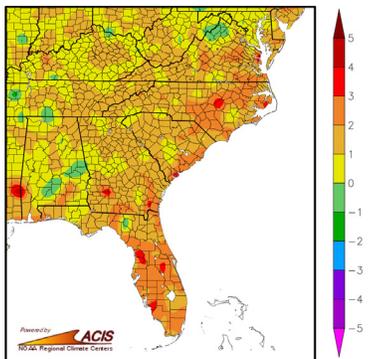
An EF-1 tornado with winds of 107 mph damaged industrial buildings in Arecibo, PR on May 1st. This was only the **third EF-1 tornado in PR** since records began. Also in May, quarter-sized hail (1 inch) occurred in Coamo County PR on the 26th, only the **seventh time** since 1950.

There were **three fatalities** from rip currents this spring; 1 in AL, and 2 in FL.

### Regional Weather Overview for Spring 2022

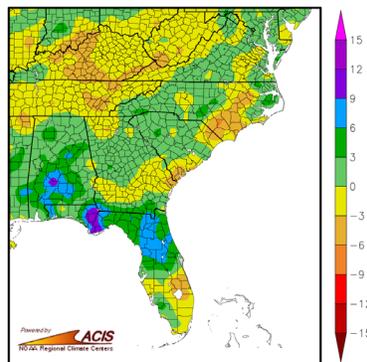
#### Temperature and Precipitation Anomalies

Mean Temperature: Departure from Average (°F)  
March 2022 – May 2022



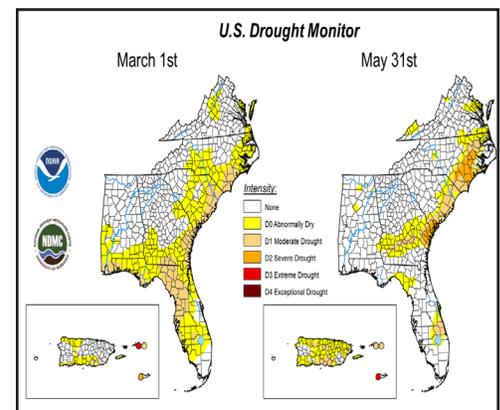
Above-average temperatures were recorded over the entire Southeast, with much of Florida and eastern North Carolina observing more than 2 degrees F above normal. There were a number of stations that observed or tied their top five warmest springs on record including; Tampa, FL (1st warmest), Fort Myers, FL (tied 1st warmest), and Raleigh, NC (2nd warmest). Overall, Florida had its eleventh warmest March and tenth warmest May on record.

Precipitation: Departure from Normal (in)  
March 2022 – May 2022



Precipitation ranged from below average in the eastern Carolinas, southern Florida, and Puerto Rico, to above average in northern Florida, including the Florida Panhandle and Alabama. Lumberton, NC only reported 5.23 inches of rain, more than 4 inches below normal, making this the 5th driest spring. In contrast, Apalachicola, FL measured 20.95 inches of rain, more than 9 inches above normal, making this its 4th wettest spring.

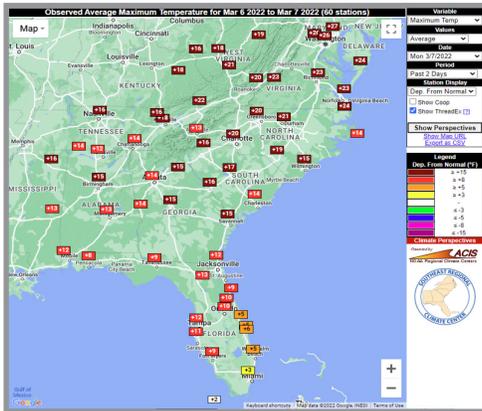
#### Drought



Drought conditions improved for FL but intensified for parts of NC, SC and GA throughout the spring. By the end of the season moderate drought (D1) ringed by abnormally dry conditions (D0) stretched from eastern NC down through SC into southern GA, with embedded pockets of severe drought (D2). The drought conditions in Puerto Rico and the USVI intensified throughout the spring, with moderate (D1) to extreme drought (D3) ringed by abnormally dry conditions (D0).

# Regional Climate Impacts for Spring 2022

## Early March Warmth



Climate Perspectives 2-day Maximum Temps DFN

Temperatures were **above average** across much of the Southeast region for the month of March. Monthly mean temperatures were at least 2 degrees F above average for over 70 percent of the long-term stations across the region. Indeed, at the beginning of the month much of the region observed mean temperatures more than **15 degrees F above normal**. The warmest weather occurred from the 3rd to the 7th, with daily maximum temperatures exceeding 80 degrees F across portions of every state. Charlotte, NC reached its earliest 85 plus degrees F day on the 3rd. There were 31 long-term stations that observed a daily maximum temperature record on the 6th including Sarasota, FL at 90 degrees F, which tied its **second warmest March** maximum temperature on record.

## Severe Weather

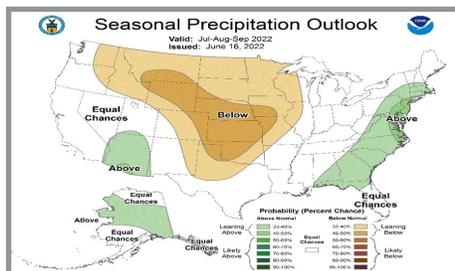
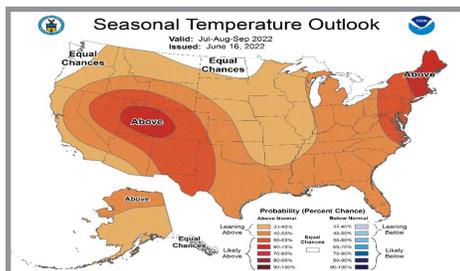
There were **1619 reports of severe weather** this spring, which is over 180 percent of the median winter count observed during 2000-2020. **One-hundred and thirty-eight tornadoes** (2 EFUs, 46 EF-0s, 73 EF-1s, 12 EF-2s, 4 EF-3s, 1 EF-4) were confirmed from March - May, which is 230 percent of the average count of 60 tornadoes observed during 2000-2020. The strongest tornado occurred in Bryan County, GA and was rated EF-4 with winds of 185 mph. This **violent tornado** destroyed several homes and caused 12 injuries and **1 fatality**. There were 702 wind reports for the season, which is 128 percent of the median. Straight line winds of 80 mph were observed in Augusta County, VA in April, blowing a steeple off a church roof and downing multiple trees. The largest hail at 2.75 inches, was reported in Horry County, SC on April 7th.

## Agriculture and Livestock

The **warm and dry** spring required many farmers in the citrus growing region of Florida to run irrigation. The warmer temperatures in late winter and early spring brought the **cherry blossoms** to a peak bloom on March 21st, ten days earlier than normal. In Georgia, cotton planting was halted due to a **lack of soil moisture** in some areas. In contrast, cotton and peanut plantings were delayed due to wet soil conditions in Alabama. Strawberries were reported to have received too much rain and many berries fell. However, cattle and pastures remained in good condition. **Warm conditions** with sporadic rainfall across much of the Carolinas resulted in favorable planting conditions, although many producers had to run irrigation for their crops.

# Regional Climate Outlook for Summer 2022

## Temperature and Precipitation



NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC), forecasted that above normal temperatures are likely for all of the Southeastern region, during the months of July, August and September. Precipitation is expected to have equal chances of wetter or drier than normal conditions across Florida, with above normal precipitation likely elsewhere. Drought improvement is likely for all of the Southeast region and Puerto Rico through the summer.

## Atlantic Hurricane Season

Released by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center on **May 24th**, the Atlantic hurricane season outlook indicates a 65% chance of an **above-normal season**, a 25% chance of a near-normal season, and a 10% chance of a below-normal season. The above-average season consists of 14-21 named storms, with 6-10 reaching hurricane strength, and 3-6 becoming major (category 3-5) hurricanes. This outlook reflects the contributing climate factors of the ongoing **La Niña conditions** and near average SSTs.

## 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](#)
- [Carolinas Integrated Sciences and Assessments](#)
- [National Sea Grant Office](#)
- [Southeast and Caribbean Regional Collaboration Team](#)
- [State Climatologists](#)
- [Southeast Regional Climate Hub](#)
- [Southeast Climate Science Center](#)
- [South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative](#)

