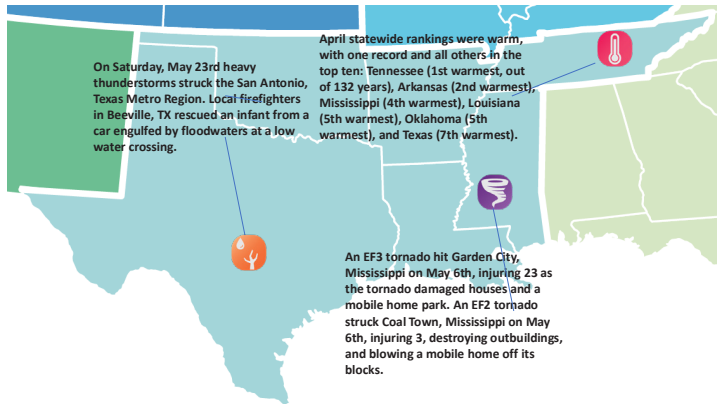


Southern Region Significant Events — Spring 2026



Overview

Spring began with above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation for the Southern Region. All six states in the Region ranked in the top ten for March temperature, with Texas being second warmest on record.

April brought continued above normal temperatures and dry conditions to much of the Region. Tennessee had its warmest April on record. Poor agricultural conditions were prevalent, with many producers abandoning planting this season due to drought conditions.

May saw the return of widespread rainfall to the southern portions of the Southern Region, easing drought conditions in South and Central Texas. As of May 26th, according to the US Drought Monitor, 31 percent of the Region was free of drought, up from 16 percent on April 28th.

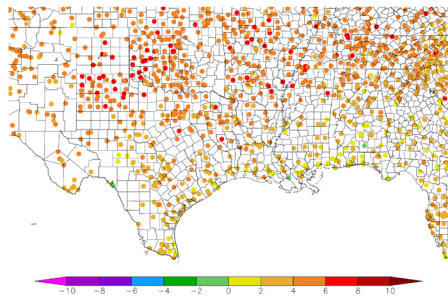
Well above normal temperatures and very dry conditions impacted much of the Southern Region during spring 2026, but there was substantial improvement in drought conditions for South and Central Texas.

Regional Climate Overview — Spring 2026

Temperature and Precipitation

Departure from Normal Temperature °F

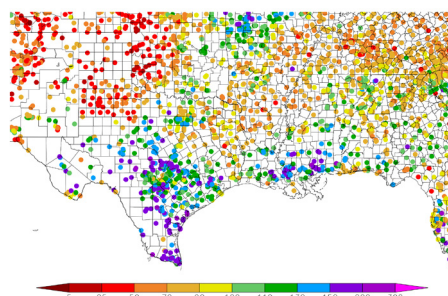
3/1/2026 – 5/31/2026



Spring 2026 temperatures were well above normal across the northern half of the Region, with most stations running two to eight degrees F above normal. Across the Southern half of the Region temperatures were more moderate with most stations reporting normal to two degrees F above normal for spring. The most abnormally high temperatures were concentrated in Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Tennessee.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)

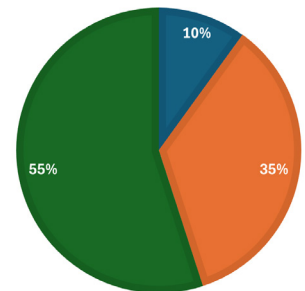
3/1/2026 – 5/31/2026



Precipitation was well above normal at most stations in South Texas and along the Gulf Coast of Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi, with many stations reporting 150 percent of normal or higher. Precipitation was below normal across the northern extent of the Region with the largest deficits in western Oklahoma and the Texas Panhandle where stations ranged from zero to fifty percent of normal.

Atlantic Hurricane Forecast

■ Above Normal ■ Near Normal ■ Below Normal



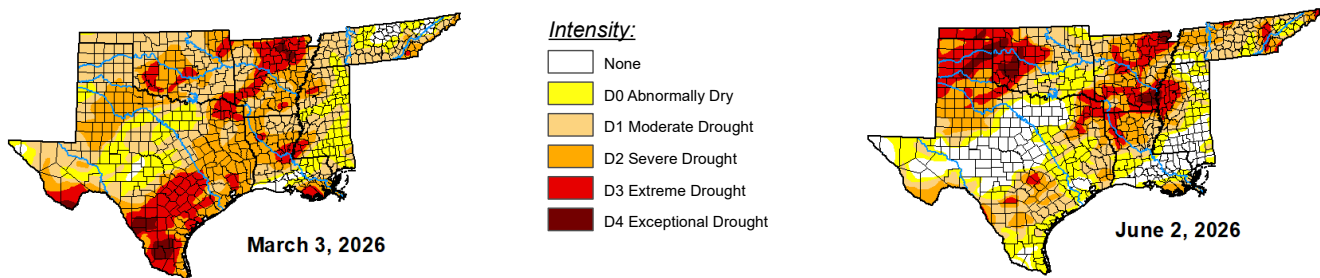
NOAA has released their forecast for the 2026 Atlantic hurricane season calling for a fifty-five percent chance of a Below Normal season, thirty-five percent chance of a Near Normal season, and a ten percent chance of an Above Normal hurricane season. This is typical of El Niño events, which tend to have Below Normal tropical activity in the Atlantic and Gulf of America.

Southern Regional Impacts

Drought, Agriculture, and Water Supply

Spring 2026 brought drought relief to much of Texas, except the Panhandle, southern Louisiana, eastern Oklahoma, and isolated portions of Arkansas, Mississippi, and Tennessee. The majority of improvements were one or two classes, though isolated areas saw greater improvements. Degradations, of up to three classes, were observed in the Texas Panhandle, western Oklahoma, northern Louisiana, southern Arkansas, Central Mississippi, and northern Tennessee. As of June 2nd, 40 percent of the Region was free of drought, this includes a large area of Central Texas that saw substantial improvement during Spring. Extreme (D3) and Exceptional Drought (D4) were prevalent in the Texas Panhandle, western Oklahoma, northern Arkansas, southeast Arkansas, northern Louisiana, the Ark-La-Tex, and isolated portions of Tennessee.

Degrading drought conditions were present this spring in parts of the Region with low streamflow in rivers, high rates of abandonment of winter wheat crops due to poor conditions, reports of poor pasture and range conditions, and reports of needing to haul feed and water to livestock. With recent rains, there are signs this may improve. Corpus Christi, Texas has been facing a severe water shortage, though recently conditions have improved somewhat with recent rains, delaying a potential water emergency by several months.

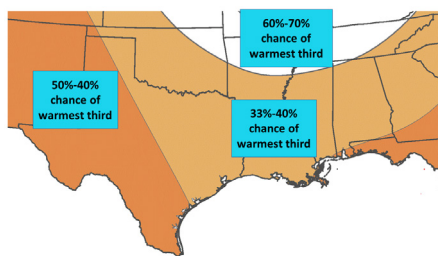


US Drought Monitor depiction of the Southern Region. The US Drought Monitor is produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center, the USDA, and NOAA.

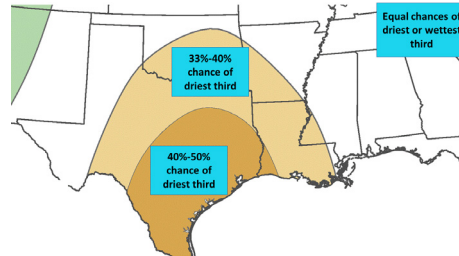
Seasonal Outlook

Temperature

Outlook for July-September 2026



Precipitation



The seasonal temperature outlooks for July to September from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for enhanced probabilities of above normal temperatures for much of the Southern Region. Northeastern Oklahoma, Northern Arkansas, extreme Northern Mississippi, and the western two-thirds of Tennessee all call for Equal Chances of above or below normal Temperature. East Texas, Louisiana, most of Mississippi, and much of Oklahoma have a 33-40 percent chance of Above Normal temperatures. In South and West Texas this probability increases to 40-50 percent.

The precipitation outlooks for Southern Region indicate Below Normal chances of precipitation of 40-50 percent for South and Southeast Texas, as well as extreme Southwestern Louisiana. As one moves north, east, or west from here chances decrease to 33-40% probability of Below Normal to Equal chances for the remainder of the Region.

ENSO Outlook

Currently, ENSO conditions in the Tropical Pacific are neutral and rapidly transitioning towards an El Niño event. El Niño events during the summer months tend to decrease tropical cyclone activity in the Gulf of America. El Niño conditions are projected to persist through the coming winter.

Southern Partners

NOAA/NWS Climate Prediction Center
(cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (coastalscience.noaa.gov)

NOAA Gulf of America Collaboration Team
(noaa.gov/regional-collaboration-network/regions-gulf-of-america)

NOAA/NESDIS National Centers for Environmental Information (ncei.noaa.gov)

NOAA/NWS Southern Region (weather.gov/srh)

Southern Regional Climate Center
(srcc.tamu.edu)

