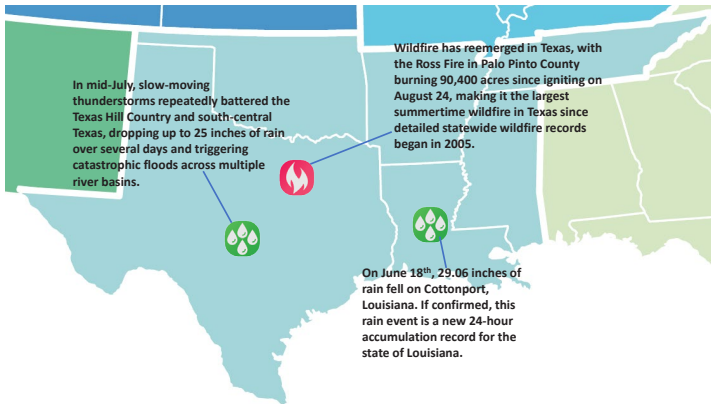


Southern Region Significant Events — Summer 2026



Overview

Summer began with moderate temperatures and near-normal rainfall for much of the Region in June. Heavy rainfall in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi was associated with Tropical Storm Arthur, which made landfall in Southeast Texas on June 17th.

In July, severe thunderstorms brought heavy rain to portions of central and south-central Texas, which triggered devastating floods. Temperatures were above normal in the west and more moderate in the east of the Region.

August brought above-normal temperatures across the entirety of the Southern Region. Precipitation was also below normal for much of the Region except for eastern Tennessee and an isolated area of Northwest Arkansas.

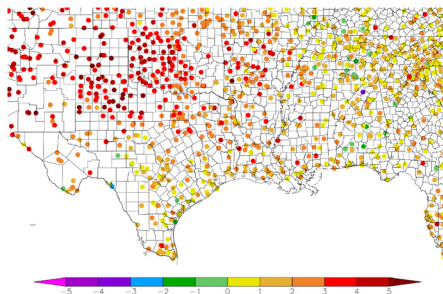
Well above normal temperatures and dry conditions were prevalent across much of the Southern Region during summer 2026. These conditions caused drought to worsen in many areas, impacting crops, livestock, and water supplies.

Regional Climate Overview — Summer 2026

Temperature and Precipitation

Departure from Normal Temperature °F

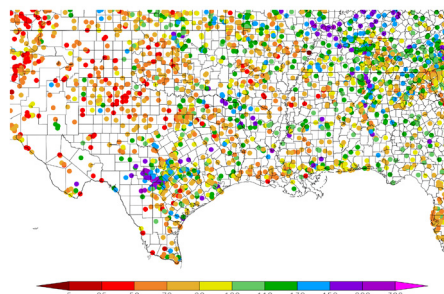
6/1/2026 – 8/31/2026



Summer 2026 temperatures were above normal across almost the entire Southern Region. The largest departures from normal were in the northwestern and northcentral portions of the Region with most stations there running three to more than five degrees F above normal. To the south and east, temperatures were more moderate, with most stations reporting near-normal to 3 degrees F above normal.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)

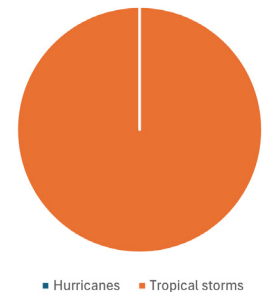
6/1/2026 – 8/31/2026



Precipitation was below normal for much of the Southern Region during summer with most stations across the Region having totals ranging from 25 percent of normal to near-normal. In the Texas Panhandle and western Oklahoma, precipitation was typically 25 to 70 percent of normal. Only Central Texas and Northwest Tennessee saw above normal precipitation, with some totals ranging from 150 to 200 percent of normal.

Atlantic Hurricane Season

2026 Atlantic Hurricanes vs. Tropical Storms (%)



■ Hurricanes ■ Tropical storms

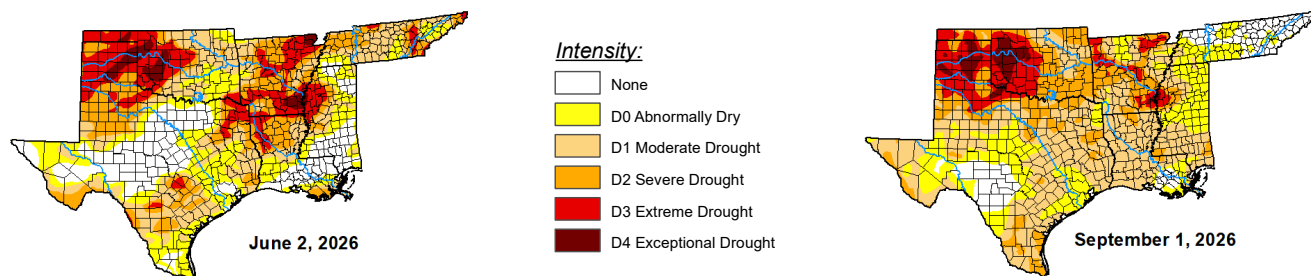
To date, the 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season has been relatively quiet. There have been zero hurricanes and five tropical storms. Of the five named storms, three of them have affected the coastal areas of the Southern Region: Tropical Storm Arthur (June 17-18), Tropical Storm Bertha (July 19-24), and Tropical Storm Edouard (August 31-September 3). The 2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season runs through November 30th.

Southern Regional Impacts

Drought, Agriculture, and Water Supply

Summer 2026 brought drought relief to most of Tennessee, portions of Arkansas, northern Louisiana, Central Mississippi, Northeast Texas, South Central Texas, the Big Bend Region of Texas, and isolated portions of the Texas Panhandle. Generally, improvements were one to two classes, though Tennessee saw large areas with three to four classes of improvement. Conversely, substantial degradations of up to three classes were observed in large swaths of the Region, including Far West Texas, Far South Texas, North Texas, portions of East Texas, southern Oklahoma, southern Louisiana, southern Mississippi, northwestern Arkansas, and isolated areas of northern Oklahoma, northern Mississippi, and the Texas Panhandle. As of September 1st, 30 percent of the Region was free of drought, 38 percent was in Moderate Drought (D1), 19 percent was in Severe Drought (D2), 10 percent was in Extreme Drought (D3), and 3 percent was in Exceptional Drought (D4)

Degrading drought conditions were associated with several impacts: low streamflow, stunted or abandoned crops, wildfires, and the need to haul water and supplement feed for livestock due to poor range conditions. Much of the Region received less than normal rainfall and experienced well above normal temperatures.

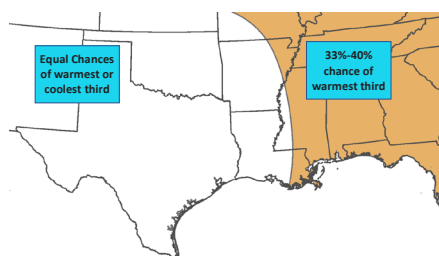


US Drought Monitor depiction of the Southern Region. The US Drought Monitor is produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center, the USDA, and NOAA.

Seasonal Outlook

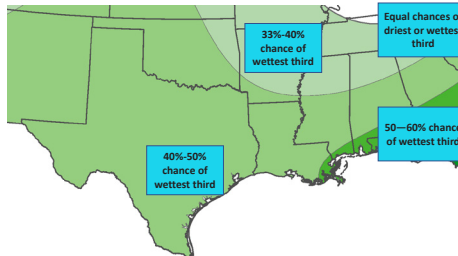
Temperature

Outlook for October-December 2026



The seasonal temperature outlook for October to December from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for enhanced probabilities of above normal temperatures in the east of the Region and equal chances of above normal or below normal temperatures in the west.

Precipitation



The precipitation outlook for the Southern Region indicates above normal probabilities for much of the Region from October through December. The highest probabilities are located along the coasts of Mississippi and Southeast Louisiana with 50 to 60 percent chances of above normal precipitation. These probabilities decrease as one looks north and west. The only portion of the Region without enhanced probabilities of above normal precipitation is North-Central Tennessee with equal chances of above or below normal precipitation.

ENSO Outlook

An El Niño event is currently underway in the Tropical Pacific. As of Sept. 14, the Relative Niño 3.4 index was +2.0 degrees C and is expected to continue increasing, with over a 90% chance of a very strong El Niño event. El Niño events typically suppress tropical cyclone formation in the Gulf and are associated with abnormally wet and cool conditions during the 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)