TEXAS CoCoRaHS OBSERVER

Spring 2026

Vol. 12 - 1

Welcome to
The
Texas CoCoRaHS
Observer Newsletter

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep observers informed of the latest news, events, training, and happenings related to the CoCoRaHS program here in Texas, as well as news about the latest weather patterns affecting each region of Texas seasonally.

Inside this Edition

Texas Spring Weather Summary

By: John Nielsen-Gammon, Texas State Climatologist
Dept. of Atmospheric Sciences, Texas A&M University

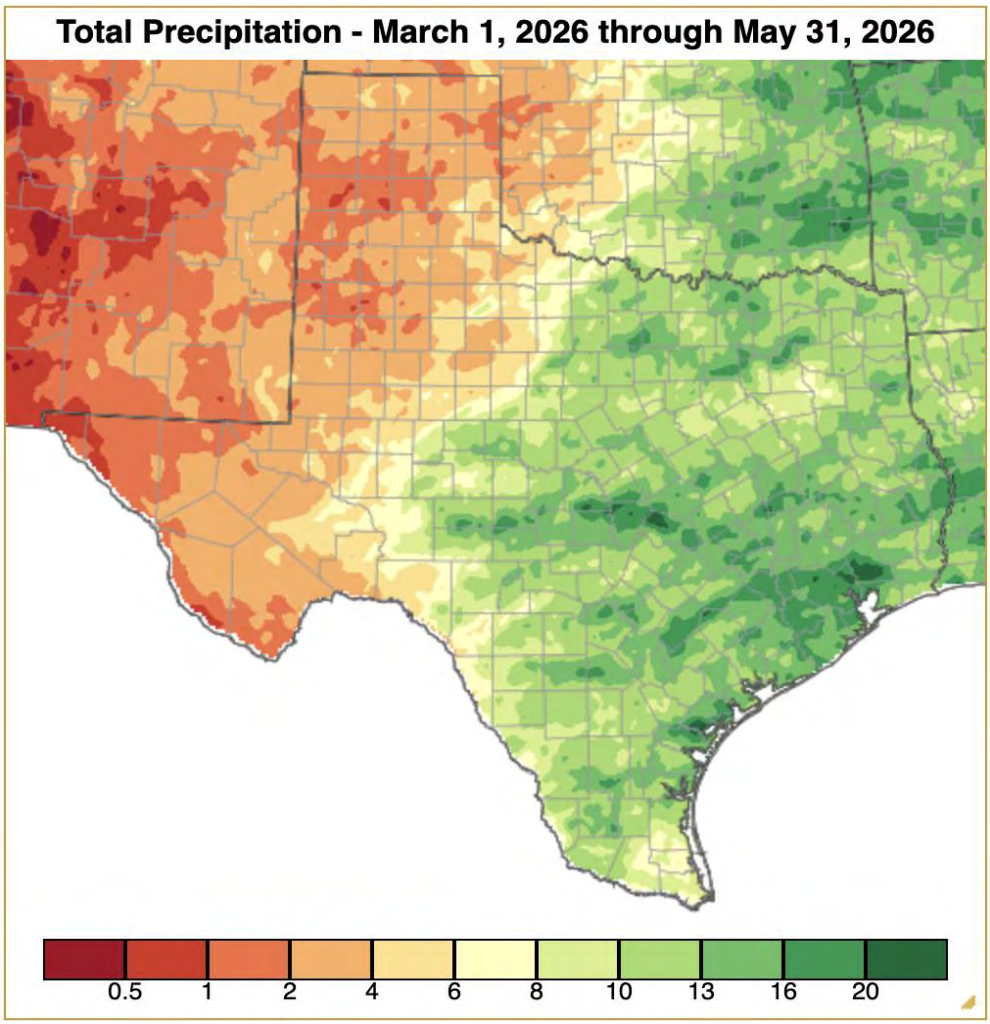

Figure 1: Monthly precipitation, March-May 2026, created using the Applied Climate Information System from PRISM data provided by Oregon State University.

Spring was wetter in eastern Texas than western Texas (big surprise), although there was some weird stuff like parts of the Hill Country getting over 20" and parts of East Texas getting less than 10". The tropical moisture spigot turned itself on in mid-May. Actually, what really helps for springtime rain is not having a layer of warm air aloft that shuts down convection.

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"Because Every Drop Counts, As Do All Zeros"

Texas Spring Summary (continued)

Low-level moisture is going to be coming inland from the Gulf no matter what, but it's what happens to the moisture when it tries to rise that makes the difference.

If you stare at the precipitation map, you'd be hard-pressed to find any systematic patterns besides the west-east thing. In particular, there doesn't seem to be something special happening near major cities. Austin and San Antonio are sort of surrounded by heavier totals, while Houston and Dallas received more rain than most of their surroundings. Indeed, if there did seem to be a pattern, it would probably be due to pure chance, because the rainfall pattern is so variable to start with.

Recently, I teamed up with some scientists at the University of Texas at Austin to look closely at rainfall in and around cities. The project was led by Xinxin Sui, with Zong-Liang Yang and Dev Niyogi also contributing. Their idea was to focus on thunderstorm season (May-September) and use radar data rather than rain gauges. Rain gauges are normally much more reliable than radar data (thanks, CoCoRaHS observers!), but the problem with rain gauges is that most of the rain falls in between the gauges. Radar gives complete coverage geographically, but it's really just a series of snapshots rather than the total measurement of rainfall over time that rain gauges provide. With no tool being perfect, it's a matter of choosing the right tool for the job. For this job, the spatial coverage was really important, and it was also nice to be able to see what was happening within the thunderstorms. While we probably weren't going to get very exact measurements of the rain rate, all we needed was to see whether the rain rate was higher or lower in one place than another, and radar is great for this.

The other thing that was a great idea was to separate storms into different types. We looked at individual thunderstorms, clusters of disorganized thunderstorms, organized thunderstorms moving at least somewhat toward the south (we called these cold front storms, even though many were probably squall lines), organized thunderstorms moving at least somewhat toward the north (we called these warm front storms, whether or not they had a warm front), and tropical cyclones.

It turns out that different types of storms behave differently around cities, presumably because of the effect of the city on the weather. The individual thunderstorms and thunderstorm clusters were more common and more intense over cities than over the surrounding countryside, especially at night. This was not too surprising, because cities ought to help trigger thunderstorms. One trigger is the urban heat island, the tendency for cities to be warmer than their surroundings. This can make air over the city more unstable. Another trigger is all the buildings in a city, which can alter wind patterns and cause areas of convergence where storm development is favored. Air pollution might also matter.

This is important for public safety (watch out for lightning if the first thunderstorm of the day is forming right over the city) but not so much for flooding, because individual thunderstorms tend to be wimps. Much more important are the cold front storms, and those acted differently: there weren't more over cities, and the city storms tended to be weaker than the country storms. Maybe the cities are altering the strength of the cold fronts and gust fronts that are key to triggering those types of thunderstorms. Conversely, warm front storms seemed to be stronger over cities, but the pattern wasn't consistent enough for us to be confident about it. And there definitely weren't enough tropical cyclones for us to generalize.

So if you're in a city and you see a line of storms coming from the northwest and it weakens just when it reaches the city, yeah, maybe there's something going on. But it's not like you're jinxed for rain: those storms you don't see coming, that form right over the city, make up for it.

If you're a weather nerd and would like to see the actual paper, it's right here: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-026-10479-7

East Texas Regional Summary

Drier than Normal Conditions this Spring Season

By: Davyon Hill (Lead Meteorologist/National Weather Service-Shreveport)

The dry conditions from the end of February continued into the start of spring 2026. However, some isolated rainfall returned to portions of Northeast Texas on March 5th and across all of East Texas on March 7th with the passage of a cold front. Unfortunately, some severe weather accompanied the cold front on the 7th, as an EF-2 tornado caused 2 injuries in the Prospect community, just north of the town of Jefferson in Marion County. Another cold front brought widespread moderate to heavy precipitation on the 11th. Several CoCoRaHS sites south of Interstate 20 recorded at least 2" rainfall with this system. Also, a daily record rainfall of 2.63" occurred at National Weather Service Climate site at East Texas Regional Airport in Longview, TX. A strong cold front moved into the region on the 15th bringing widespread severe weather to the region. There were numerous reports of thunderstorm wind damage and large hail. Some of the hail ranged from golf ball to tennis ball size. Beyond the 15th, little to no rainfall occurred through the remainder of the month. This left most of the East Texas CoCoRaHS stations with under 2" of rainfall, which is well below the National Weather Service 4" March average.

Fig.1: March 7th Tornado Damage in the Prospect Community (Marion County)
(Photo Courtesy of National Weather Service Shreveport)

East Texas Regional Summary (continued)

Fig.2: March 15th Large Hail
Left: Lake Sam Rayburn between Broaddus & Pineland *– (Photo Courtesy of LaBrenda Starling Hoya)*
Right: Cushing, TX (Nacogdoches County) *- (Photo Courtesy of Leonel Baldovino-Gomez)*

Fortunately, much needed rainfall returned the first week of April across East Texas, with many of our CoCoRaHS sites reporting over 2" of rainfall during this period. Another daily record rainfall of 1.75" was reported at the National Weather Service climate site at the East Texas Regional Airport in Longview, TX on the 4th. Dry conditions return for about a week following the 4th, before widespread rainfall returned for the middle of the month. This also brought the return of some isolated severe weather on the 18th, generally across the Tyler area. A severe thunderstorm brought pea to quarter size hail that covered the ground across a wide area of the southern portions of the Tyler metro area during the late morning hours. A series of upper-level disturbances and frontal boundaries brought additional widespread rainfall during the remainder of the month, along with more severe weather. Widespread thunderstorm wind damage occurred during the evening of the 24th, along with several reports of quarter to half dollar size hail between the town of Mount Vernon and the city of Longview, TX. More large hail ranging from quarter to tennis ball size was reported on the 29th at several locations across the region. Outside of the severe weather, the biggest takeaway from April was the increase in rainfall, as the overwhelming majority of the CoCoRaHS sites reported a monthly total between 4"-6".

East Texas Regional Summary (continued)

Fig.3: Hail Events in April
Left: April 18th Hail covering the ground in South Tyler, TX - *(Photo Courtesy of Toni Beasley)*
Right: April 29th Large Hail in Marietta, TX (Cass County) - *(Photo Courtesy of Jayme Williams)*

More upper-level disturbances and frontal boundaries brought periodic widespread rainfall across our East Texas sites during the month of May, along with additional severe weather. An upper-level disturbance produced severe storms and several reports of quarter to half dollar size hail across Camp, Harrison, Marion, Upshur, and Wood counties during the late evening of May 8th. Just 2 days later, severe thunderstorms developed along a cool front, resulting in several reports of thunderstorm wind damage and additional large hail reports to Wood and Upshur counties, along with Sabine County. On the evening of the 22nd, a few isolated severe thunderstorms developed across Rusk and Panola counties along a remnant outflow boundary, producing quarter to half dollar size hail. The following day a cool front stalled over the region. More severe thunderstorms formed along this front, yielding widespread thunderstorm wind damage, and a few hail reports. Although the month of May brought more severe weather, the storms generated much needed rainfall over the region. As a result, many locations had an improvement in drought conditions, especially in areas south of Interstate 20. Unfortunately, many places along and north of Interstate 20 saw drought conditions worsen. This could become very concerning as we enter the summer, which can typically be the driest season of the calendar year.

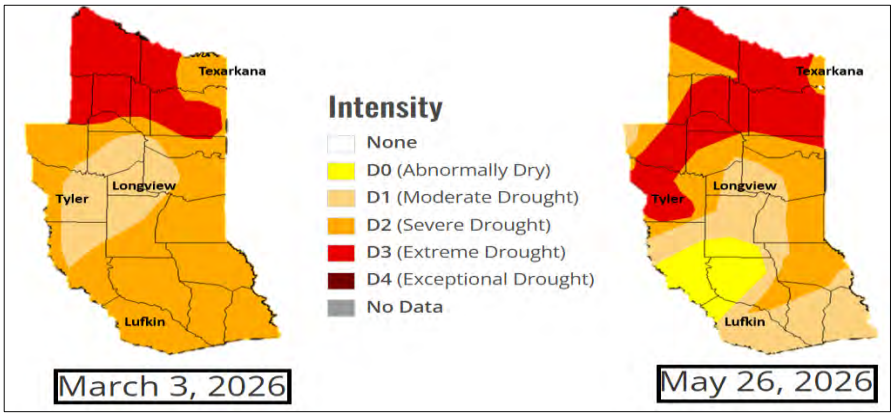


Fig.4: Drought Monitor
Mar 3rd, 2026 – May 26th, 2026
Image Courtesy of National Drought Mitigation Center

North Texas Regional Summary & State Weather Summary

Active Spring Weather this Season

By: Greg Story, North Texas CoCoRaHS Regional Coordinator

Greetings CoCoRaHS volunteer observers! I'm the North Texas Regional Coordinator, and welcome to this season's article. In this newsletter article I like to review the weather from the past several months, and I'm hopeful you'll see how your observations helped in determining where it rained, and how much fell. This article expands into a state wide summary.

Reviewing the weather of the past several months, last October it was dry over most of the state, especially over Deep South Texas. In November Texas got above normal rainfall from west central into north central parts of the state. Meanwhile there was near to below normal rainfall over the remainder of the state. In December it was extremely dry across most of Texas with below normal precipitation. Only Deep South Texas had near normal precipitation, near the Gulf coast. In January 2026 it continued to be dry over southern and eastern Texas, but some areas over the western parts received above normal precipitation. In February it continued to be dry over most of Texas except for a few locations over West Texas. In March it was dry over most of the state, with only isolated areas experiencing near to above normal precipitation. In April the weather pattern shifted, and it was wet over most of the state. Only the Texas panhandle had below normal rainfall. In May above normal rainfall persisted over the southern half of Texas, with near to below normal amounts over the northern half.

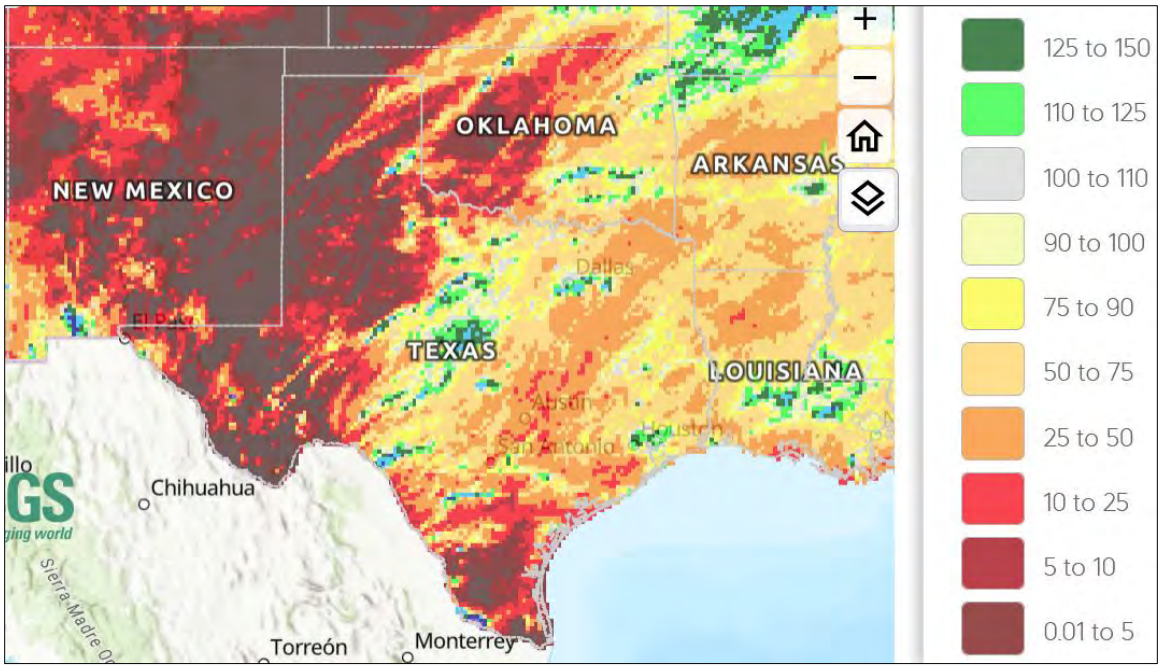


Figure 1: Percent of normal precipitation map for March 2026. In March it was dry over most of the state, with only isolated areas experiencing near to above normal precipitation.

At DFW airport in March 2026 there was 2.92" of rainfall. The normal amount of rainfall in March at DFW is 3.30" so this is -0.38" which is slightly below normal for the month.
In Waco for March 2026, there was 1.34" of precipitation. The normal amount of rain in Waco for March is 3.31" so this is -1.97" below normal for March.

For each month, I will highlight the more significant weather events. I know I am giving you a lot of information, and it is my intent for you to pick your "favorite" storm or to look at a particular date each month to see what happened. Which days did you report your heaviest precipitation amounts? You can read about those days here and compare what you observed against the maximum amounts.

There were two storm systems which affected our weather in March. Here are the highlights of the weather for the month.

March 4 - 11:
A series of upper level storm systems moved across the central and southern plain states starting on the 4th. By the 8th a particularly strong storm system formed over Baja California which eventually moved slowly east. On the 4th, a frontal boundary

North Texas Regional Summary & State Weather Summary (continued)

laid across North Texas, and showers and thunderstorms began to develop near this front by afternoon. The thundershowers became more widespread by evening, and locally heavy rainfall occurred over parts of North Texas. The maximum rainfall amounts were 6.52" north of Cedar Hill, 4.75" at Heath, and 4.41" south of Point on Lake Tawakoni. On the 4th a record daily maximum rainfall of 1.55" was set at Dallas/Fort Worth airport. This broke the old record of 1.27" set in 1937. The rainfall ended early on the 5th, and there was a break in the rain until late afternoon. Then the dryline became active, with showers and thunderstorms developing over parts of West Texas and the eastern Texas panhandle. The largest rainfall reports on the 5th were all under 0.50". Those thunderstorms dissipated early on the 6th, and again there was a break in the rainfall until the afternoon and evening of the 6th. Showers and thunderstorms developed primarily over the western parts of North Texas. Most of those thunderstorms moved north into Oklahoma, but after midnight on the 7th widespread showers and thunderstorms formed. The heaviest rainfall reports on the 6th were 2.30" at Albany, 1.92" west southwest of Bells, and 1.59" west southwest of Sterling City. The showers and thunderstorms continued to progress eastward on the 7th as a cold front moved through Texas. The largest rainfall reports in Texas on the 7th were 3.99" at Rio Grande City and 2.83" west of Houston. The heaviest rain in North Texas was south southeast of Princeton where 2.16" was measured. The showers and thunderstorms shifted to South Texas on the 8th near the stalled front. The maximum rainfall on the 8th was 4.25" west southwest of Galveston and 3.25" south of Woodsboro. Most of the showers and thunderstorms shifted east into Louisiana early on the 9th, but a few lingering showers remained over South Texas. The rainfall amounts on the 9th were all under 0.25". On the 10th new showers and thunderstorms developed as the upper low to our southwest approached Texas. Initially showers began across Central and East Texas. But by late afternoon strong thunderstorms developed across West Texas. These thunderstorms spread east across the state during the evening and overnight hours. The largest rainfall totals on the 10th in North Texas included 2.15" east northeast of Brownwood, 2.08" east southeast of Burleson, and 2.05" north northeast of Cleburne. Elsewhere in Texas 2.94"fell at Del Rio and 2.34" fell southwest of Buffalo Gap. On the 11th the showers and thunderstorms moved into East Texas. All the showers and storms moved out of the state before midnight. The last of the rainfall amounts from this upper low included 2.90" at both Center TX and at Ratcliff and 2.28" north of Kennard.

March 15 - 16:
A huge low pressure system developed over the mid-Mississippi River valley on the 15th. This pushed a strong cold front across Texas, and during the afternoon and nighttime hours a line of showers and strong thunderstorms developed across East and Southeast Texas. The majority of the rain moved out of Texas by early on the 16th. The heaviest rainfall totals on the 15th were 0.74" east of Chireno and 0.63" northeast of Nacogdoches.

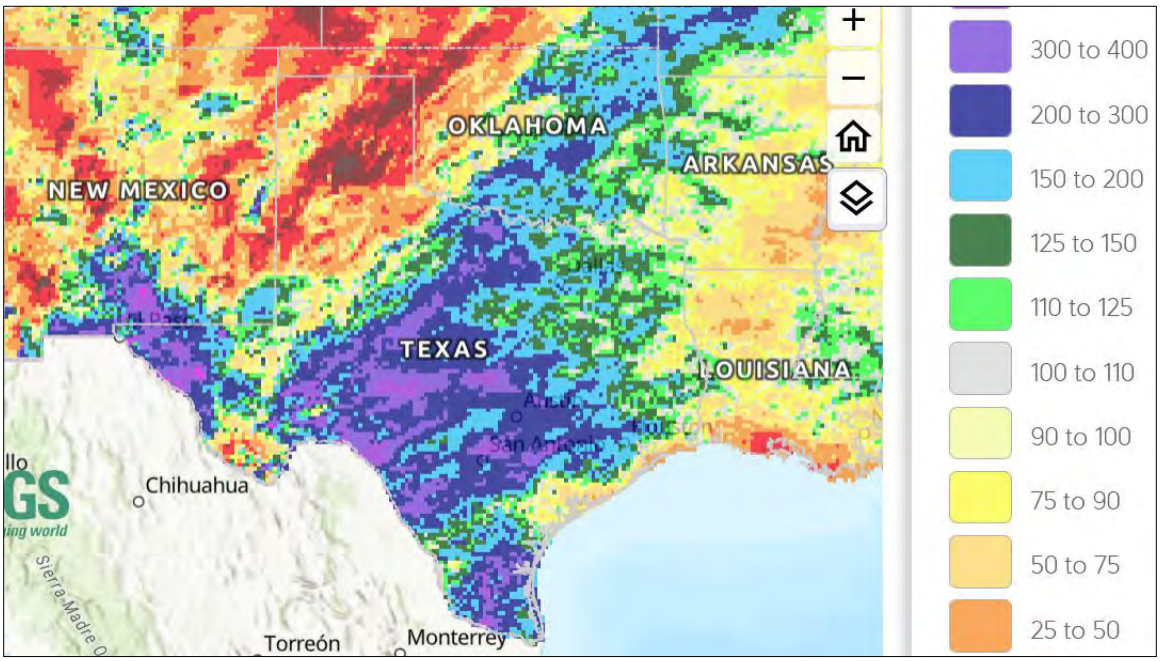


Figure 2: April 2026 percent of normal precipitation map. The dark green, blue and purple colors indicate above normal precipitation; the light yellow and light green colors indicate near normal, while the brown, orange, red and dark red colors indicate below normal precipitation. In April the weather pattern shifted, and it was wet over most of the state. Only the Texas panhandle had below normal rainfall.

North Texas Regional Summary & State Weather Summary (continued)

At DFW airport in April 2026 there was 5.06” of precipitation. The normal amount of precipitation in April at DFW is 3.22” so this is +1.84” above normal for the month.
In Waco for April 2026, rainfall was 4.08”. The normal amount of precipitation in Waco for April is 3.30” so this is +0.78” above normal for the month.

There were nine storm systems which affected our weather in April. Here are the highlights of the weather for the month.

April 1 - 2:
A storm system approached Texas from the west starting on the 1st. As this storm got close, the dryline became active with showers and thunderstorms developing over West Texas. The thunderstorms late on the 31st into the early morning of the 1st produced 1.38" northwest of Seymour and 0.89" southwest of Throckmorton. New thunderstorms developed over West Texas the afternoon of the 1st, and these storms became widespread and moved into the western parts of North Texas the evening of the 1st into the morning of the 2nd. Then on the 2nd the rain continued to shift east across Central into East Texas. The rainfall in North Texas on the 1st was heaviest south southwest of Runaway Bay with 2.05" and southwest of Paradise with a measured amount of 1.87". Elsewhere in Texas there was 3.36" just north of Fort McKavett and 2.57" at Menard. The rainfall moved out of Texas before midnight on the 2nd. Residual rainfall from the 2nd included 3.36" south of College Station and 3.29" north of Montgomery.

April 3 - 6:
A cold front began to move into Northwest Texas on the 3rd. By afternoon showers and thunderstorms developed over West Texas and into the western parts of North Texas. The showers and thunderstorms became more widespread as they spread from west to east across Texas late on the 3rd and into the 4th. Some locally heavy rainfall was reported. The heaviest rainfall reports included 2.97" at the Fort Worth Nature Center, northwest of Sherman with 2.67", and 2.58" west northwest of Justin. The rain shifted into southern and eastern Texas during the day on the 4th. The maximum rainfall amounts in North Texas on the 4th were 2.50" southwest of Greenville and at Sulphur Springs. Elsewhere in Texas there was 4.42" at Los Ebanos along the Rio Grande and 3.10" north of Devine. Most of the rain ended over Texas on the 5th, but as an upper level disturbance interacted with the cold front, rain persisted across South Texas. The heaviest rain was 3.20" east of Brownsville and 2.94" at Santa Anna along the Rio Grande. The rain finally moved out of South Texas on the morning of the 6th. Residual rainfall reports from the 6th were very light.

April 9 - 10:
An upper air disturbance moved across northern Mexico and into Texas on the 9th and 10th. On the 9th, showers and thunderstorms developed across South Texas and over the Texas panhandle. The heaviest rainfall on the 9th was 4.00” west southwest of Premont, 2.78” north northwest of Taylor, and 1.58” at Evant. Showers and a few thunderstorms redeveloped on the 10th in about the same locations as they did on the 9th (South Texas and the Panhandle). As the afternoon wore on a few showers drifted into North Texas. All the rain dissipated after the sun set the evening of the 10th. The heaviest recorded rainfall in Texas on the 10th was 4.33” northwest of Moss Bluff and 2.95” west of Gonzales.

April 11 – 15:
A large low pressure system moved into the western US on the 11th, and this low moved slowly east over several days. On the 11th showers and thunderstorms developed over many parts of Texas, but were most widespread over southwest portions of the state. While North Texas received some rain, most amounts were under 0.75”. But elsewhere over Texas on the 11th an observer measured 4.98” west northwest of Clyde and an observer reported 3.82” north northeast of Bronte. Showers and thunderstorms continued over especially Central and South Texas on the 12th, and over Southeast Texas by evening. Some locally very heavy rain fell in some locations. Killeen broke a daily record rainfall record for April 12. Killeen’s 24-hour rainfall total was 2.76", breaking the prior record of 2.38" set in 1969. The maximum rainfall reports in Texas included 8.28" just south of Moulton, 6.95" north northeast of Schulenburg, and 6.26" south southeast of Gonzales. Most of the rainfall on the 12th in North Texas was an inch or less, but there was 2.20" south of Gatesville. Most of the rain over Southeast Texas dissipated early on the 13th, but by afternoon a new area of showers and thunderstorms developed along and ahead of the dryline over West Texas. The rainfall amounts on the 13th were light, with 0.65" observed east southeast of Stamford and 0.45" west southwest of Sterling City. Most of the rain dissipated early on the 14th, but during the afternoon a new line of showers and thunderstorms

North Texas Regional Summary & State Weather Summary (continued)

developed along the dryline over West and Southwest Texas. The heaviest rainfall amounts on the 14th were 3.01" at Barksdale and 2.85" south of Rocksprings. These thunderstorms weakened late on the 14th, but new showers and thunderstorms formed over western and northern Texas on the 15th. The maximum rainfall total in North Texas was 2.36" west southwest of Sherman. But elsewhere in the state there was 3.44" northwest of Halsell. The rain moved into Oklahoma late on the 15th.

April 17 – 21:
A strong cold front moved from northwest to southeast across Texas late on the 17th into the 18th. Showers and thunderstorms developed along and behind the front, starting late on the 17th and continuing through the 18th. The maximum rainfall amount over North Texas prior to dawn on the 18th was 0.78" north northwest of Duncanville. But elsewhere in Texas there was 1.17" east of Roscoe and 1.10" south of Hawley. On the 18th the rain gradually shifted to south central and Southeast Texas as the cold front moved. While North Texas received rainfall amounts of under 1", there was 4.07" north northwest of Webster. The rain lingered over South Texas on the 19th. The maximum rainfall amounts were 2.15" just west southwest of Eldorado and 2.08" northwest of Junction. The rain continued on the 20th as an upper air disturbance interacted with the old front over primarily South Texas. And, some light rain spread into North Texas as well. Very heavy rainfall occurred over South Central Texas which resulted in flash flooding. The heaviest rainfall on the 20th included 6.28" at Garden Ridge, 6.19" southwest of New Braunfels, and 6.10" north northwest of Schertz. In North Texas the rainfall amounts were generally less than 1". The rain continued into the 21st as warm, moist air rode over the cooler air behind the stationary front. The most widespread rain was over the eastern half of Texas, and again some locally heavy rainfall occurred in some spots. Then all the rain dissipated before midnight on the 21st. The heaviest rain over North Texas was measured near Saginaw with 1.79" and northwest of Fort Worth near Eagle Mountain Lake with 1.52". But elsewhere in Texas on the 21st, 3.70" was observed west of Lexington and 3.54" was observed at Dime Box.

April 24 – 25:
A mesoscale convective system (MCS) developed over Central Oklahoma the afternoon of the 24th, and this cluster of severe thunderstorms moved across Northeast and East Texas later on the 24th into the early morning hours of the 25th. The maximum rainfall measured was 1.96" south of Point at Lake Tawakoni and 1.81" east of Sulphur Springs.

April 25 – 26:
The dryline became active over the northwestern parts of North Texas during the evening of the 25th with new thunderstorms. Additionally, a warm front and outflow boundaries from the previous day's convection led to additional thunderstorms over Oklahoma. The storms near Wichita Falls worked their way southeast into the DFW metroplex and across North Central Texas. A couple of tornadoes occurred, along with large hail and locally heavy rain. The maximum rainfall amounts were 3.14" northwest of Fort Worth by Eagle Mountain Lake and 2.97" west northwest of Saginaw. Some of the Oklahoma storms made their way into Northeast Texas before dissipating the morning of the 26th.

April 27:
Thunderstorms developed along an old outflow boundary across portions of North Texas the afternoon and evening of the 27th. The heaviest rainfall was 1.74" west of Rockwall and 1.00" northwest of Seymour.

April 28 – 30:
A cold front moved across Texas during the afternoon and night of the 28th. Showers and thunderstorms developed along and ahead of the front on the afternoon of the 28th over the western parts of North Texas. Then the thunderstorms moved east and southeast across northern and central parts of the state before dissipating around midnight. The heaviest rainfall on the 28th was 1.38" at Covington and north northeast of Groesbeck, as well as 1.27" south of Decatur. New showers and thunderstorms developed on the 29th and continued through the day, primarily over Central and Northeast Texas. While North Texas experienced rainfall amounts mainly less than 1", they did get 2.07" east of Milam and 2.05" north northwest of Jasper at Sam Rayburn Reservoir. Rain continued to fall across most of Texas on the 30th as the cold front stalled across the south central parts of the state where the heaviest rain occurred. While North Texas had just light rain on the 30th, a report of 3.21" south of Derby on the Frio River and a report of 3.18" south southeast of Schulenburg came in.

North Texas Regional Summary & State Weather Summary (continued)

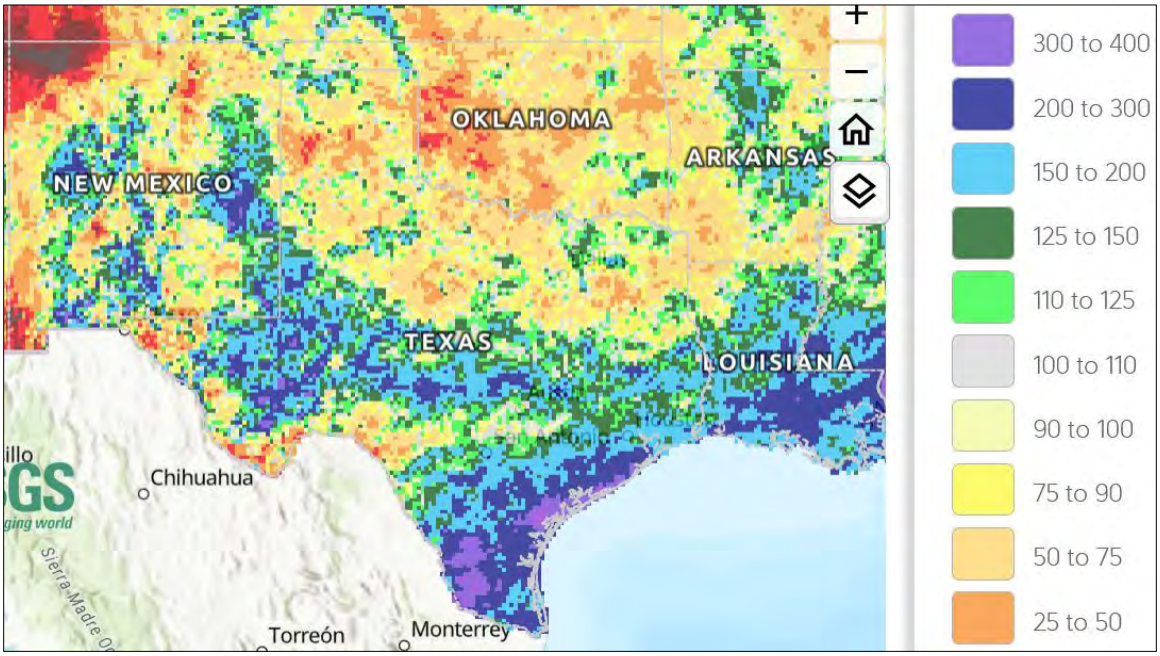


Figure 3: Percent of normal precipitation map for May 2026. In May above normal rainfall persisted over the southern half of Texas, with near to below normal amounts over the northern half.

At DFW airport in May 2026 there was 2.96" of precipitation. The normal amount of precipitation in May is 4.78" so DFW was -1.82" below normal for the month.
In Waco for May 2026, there was 6.12" of precipitation. The normal amount of rain in Waco for May is 4.44" so this is +1.68" above normal for the month.

There were seven significant storm systems which affected our weather in May. Here are the highlights of the weather for the month.

May 1:
Widespread rainfall continued across especially Central and South Texas on the 1st. There was flash flooding noted early on the 1st around San Antonio, then later in the day around Houston. All of the rain moved from west to east and out of the state before midnight on the 1st. The heaviest rainfall was around Houston, with 3.60" north northwest of Webster and 3.58" northwest of Nassau Bay.

May 5 - 9:
A cold front moved into Texas on the 5th. As it moved south there was limited thundershower activity across North Texas. But as the front made it into South Texas on the morning of the 6th, showers and thunderstorms developed. While rainfall over North Texas was 0.25" or less, the maximum rainfall amounts over Southwest Texas on the 5th were 1.05" south southeast of Sheffield and 0.40" northwest of Tankersley. Showers and thunderstorms continued on the 6th over mainly Central and East Texas. The rainfall amounts on the 6th over North Texas were 0.50" or less. But elsewhere in the state there was 1.42" west southwest of Mason and 1.41" south southeast of Castell. Most of the rain diminished late on the 6th, but new showers and thunderstorms developed over Southwest and Central Texas on the 7th. In North Texas the largest rainfall reading was southwest of Lewisville an observer measured 0.72". But elsewhere in the state on the 7th there was 1.25" northeast of Menard and 1.19" northwest of Fort McKavett. While most of the rain dissipated before midnight on the 7th, new showers and thunderstorms developed early on the 8th across portions of Texas. The rainfall which occurred east and west of DFW was all under 0.40". But over South Texas on the 8th there was 2.04" east of El Cenizo and 1.93" southwest of Mauriceville. Some of the rain lingered into the 9th over Central, Northeast and Southeast Texas before dissipating before midnight. The maximum rainfall amounts in North Texas on the 9th were northeast of Paris with 2.19" and west of Tom Bean with 1.88". Elsewhere in Texas there was 2.09" southwest of Mauriceville and 1.93" east southeast of Colmesneil.

North Texas Regional Summary & State Weather Summary (continued)

May 10 – 11:

A cold front moved from northwest to southeast across Texas on the 10th. Along and ahead of this front, showers and thunderstorms moved into North Texas from Oklahoma in the morning. Then during the afternoon and evening of the 10th showers and thunderstorms became numerous across northern and central parts of the state. Then by nighttime a mesoscale convective system developed and moved into southern and eastern Texas. Some locally heavy rainfall amounts occurred. In the DFW metroplex the heaviest rain was south southeast of Princeton where an observer measured 2.26" and an observer southwest of Anna measured 2.00". But over Central Texas there was 4.86" northwest of Belton and 4.13" north northwest of Smithville. The heaviest rain shifted out of Texas early on the 11th, but lingering showers remained over east central and Southeast Texas during the day on the 11th. These showers then moved over Louisiana and out of the state by midnight. The lingering rain was light and was around 0.36" or less.

May 19 – 21:

A cold front started moving across Texas from the northwest early on the 19th. Showers and thunderstorms developed ahead of the front after midnight on the 19th across North Texas, with additional showers occurring as the moisture returned across Southeast Texas. The largest rainfall totals prior to dawn on the 19th were 3.85” south of Woodsboro and 2.62” at Freer. The showers and thunderstorms became more widespread during the day on the 19th, and the storms produced locally heavy rainfall across Central Texas. In North Texas on the 19th the heaviest rainfall measured was west northwest of Pottsboro with 3.67” and north northwest of Gordonville with 3.49”. But elsewhere in Texas there was 5.92” west southwest of Granger and 5.03” south southeast of Woodsboro. The initial showers and thunderstorms moved over Southeast Texas and weakened the morning of the 20th, but in the afternoon more thunderstorms developed across West Texas, especially from the Concho Valley to the lower Rio Grande. The maximum rainfall amounts on the 20th were 3.85” east southeast of Palito Blanco and 3.52” northeast of Zapata. While the rainfall diminished late on the 20th over South Texas, new showers and thunderstorms developed early on the 21st and became fairly widespread over especially central and northern parts of the state as the 21st wore on. Some locally heavy rainfall was reported across Central Texas. The rainfall dissipated or moved out of Texas by midnight. The heaviest rainfall over North Texas on the 21st was east of Waxahachie where there was 3.09" measured and north northeast of Ennis with 1.94" measured. Elsewhere in Texas there was 3.96" north northwest of Lampasas, 3.21" southeast of Mason, and 2.97" at Brady.

May 22 – 23:

Showers and thunderstorms developed along and ahead of the dryline over West Texas the afternoon and evening of the 22nd. The thunderstorms worked their way eastward through the night and into the 23rd. The heaviest rainfall in North Texas was north of Granbury with 1.02", Bonham with 0.98", and Denison with 0.95". Elsewhere in Texas on the 22nd there was 2.05" west of Livingston, 1.89" west southwest of Rocksprings, and 1.48" west of De Leon. The rain continued into the 23rd over especially southern and eastern Texas. There was some locally heavy rainfall over Southeast Texas. Meanwhile, additional thunderstorms developed the afternoon of the 23rd across West Texas along the dryline. Most of the rain dissipated around midnight. The heaviest rainfall in North Texas was northwest of Palo Pinto at Possum Kingdom Lake with 0.77" and northeast of South Bend with 0.66". But over Southeast Texas 4.30" fell south southwest of Alvin and 3.83" fell at San Augustine.

May 24 – 27:

Showers and thunderstorms developed during the afternoon of the 24th along old surface boundaries across especially North Texas. Since the storms moved very slowly, locally heavy rainfall occurred. The heaviest rain measured in North Texas was west southwest of Euless with 2.97" and in the Park Glen neighborhood of north Fort Worth with 2.45". Elsewhere in Texas on the 24th there was 2.65" east of Gustine and 2.47" northwest of Brownwood. While much of the thunderstorm activity died off before midnight, some rainfall persisted over Central Texas into the morning of the 25th. Then during the afternoon of the 25th more showers and thunderstorms developed over northern and central portions of the state. And like the 24th, the storms were slow moving so some locally heavy rainfall was observed. The heaviest rainfall in North Texas was south southwest of North Richland Hills with 4.12" measured and south southeast of Watauga with 2.98" measured. Elsewhere in the state on the 25th 3.00" fell north of Johnson City and 2.50" fell north of Georgetown. Most of the rain over Central Texas dissipated early in the morning on the 26th, but a new area of showers and thunderstorms moved into West Texas. The rain shifted east toward Central Texas through the day on the 26th, then into southern and eastern parts of the state by the morning of the 27th. Like previous days, due to the slow movement of the thunderstorms, locally heavy rainfall occurred. In North Texas the maximum rainfall amounts were west southwest of Mexia with 2.13" and east northeast of DeSoto with 1.74". Elsewhere in Texas on the 26th,

North Texas Regional Summary & State Weather Summary (continued)

5.02" fell north northeast of Rockport, 4.62"fell southwest of Andice, 4.51" fell southwest of Florence, and 4.40" fell south southeast of Woodsboro. On the 27th some locally heavy rainfall occurred just east and northeast of DFW before the rain moved into Oklahoma. The largest rainfall totals in North Texas were west of Rockwall with 5.00", north of Leonard with 4.21", and north northwest of Forney with 3.89". Elsewhere in Texas on the 27th there was 3.20" at Port Mansfield and 3.10" east of Brownsville. The area southeast of Hurst had a 3-day rainfall total of 7.54".

May 28:
A weak upper air disturbance passed through North Texas the afternoon of the 28th. As this occurred scattered showers and thunderstorms developed. The heaviest rainfall amounts were 1.11" west of Aledo, 0.67" northeast of Paris, and 0.66" northwest of Weatherford. The rain dissipated after sundown.

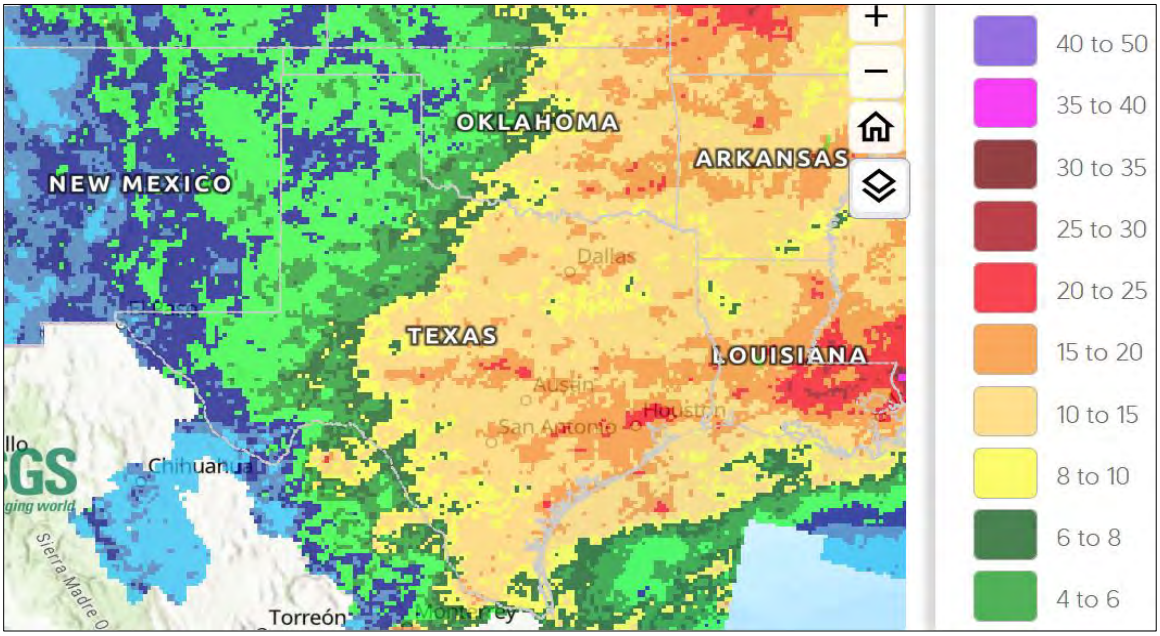


Figure 4: Spring season observed precipitation map for 2026. Note that southeastern Texas experienced the heaviest rainfall for the season.

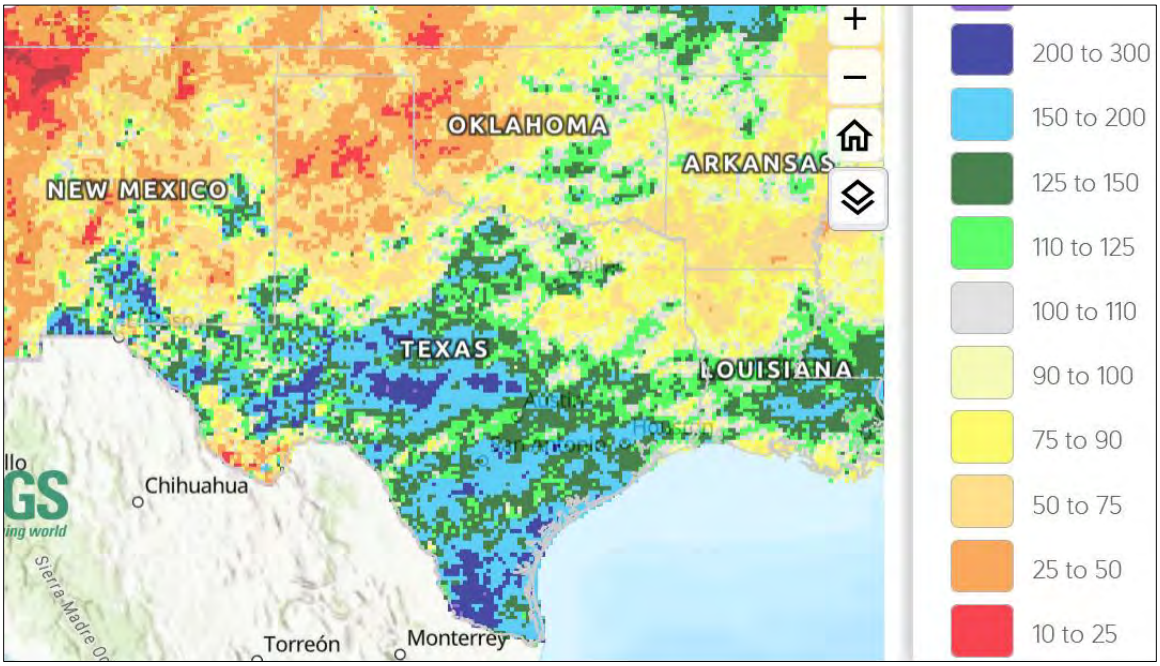


Figure 5: Percent of Normal Precipitation map for spring 2026. The purple, blue and dark green colors indicate above normal precipitation. The brown, orange, and red colors indicate below normal amounts. As you can see, it was a dry spring season for the Texas panhandle, but the much of the rest of the state experienced a wet season.

North Texas Regional Summary & State Weather Summary (continued)

At DFW airport for the March through May Spring season there was 10.94" of rainfall. The normal amount of precipitation for spring at DFW is 11.30" so this is close to normal at -0.36" for the season.
In Waco for the spring season, there was 11.54" of rainfall. The normal amount of rainfall for the March through May period is 11.05" so this is fairly close to normal at +0.49" for the season.

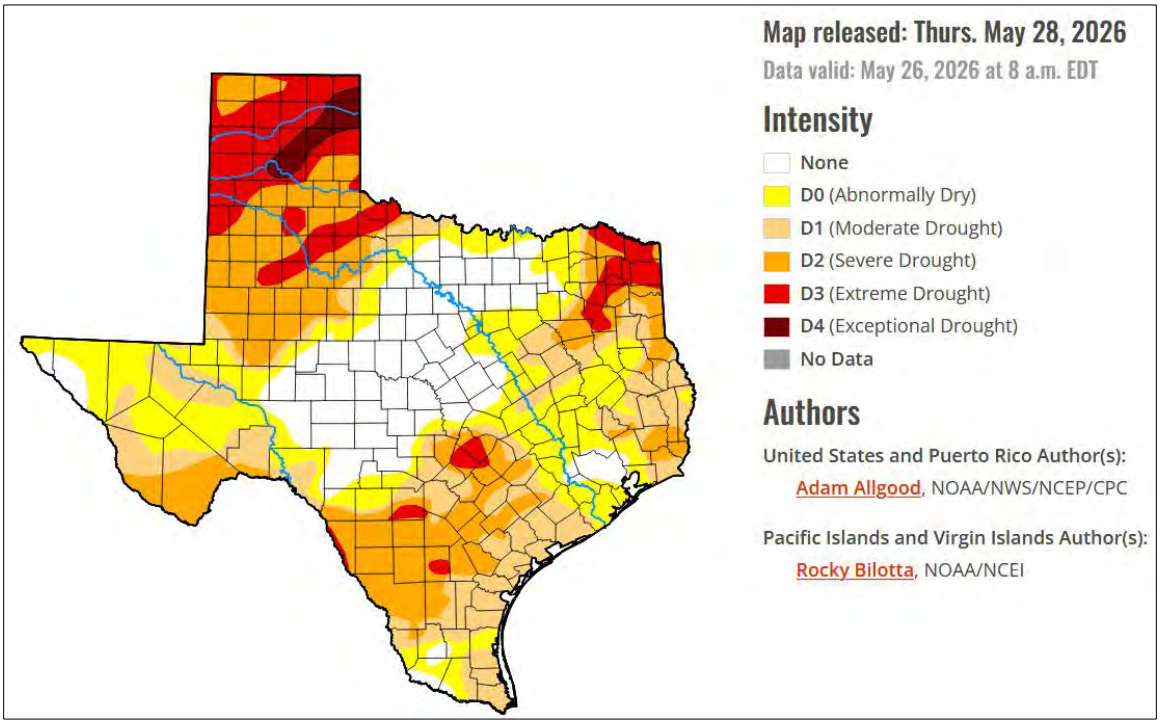


Figure 6: Current Drought Monitor for Texas as of May 28. The results of the wet weather of the past show up fairly well on this drought monitor, with moist soil moisture conditions indicated from parts of North Texas into Concho River valley. But the results of the lack of significant precipitation from this past winter and spring show up well over Northeast Texas and over the panhandle. The areas in Texas that are abnormally dry (or worse) decreased from 99% to 80% in the past three months. This means 20% of the state has moist soil moisture conditions. About 57% of the state is experiencing some level of drought. Portions of the panhandle region of Texas are experiencing the worst drought category, which is exceptional drought, and it covers 2% of the state.

Thanks again for your dedication in making all your weather observations! I'd like to share a few reminders in closing. First, we know there will be days you may not home to report your 24-hour observations during the summer. Upon your return, you can make a multi-day accumulation report. Simply submit the total amount of precipitation in your gage that fell while you were away. There is a link on the CoCoRaHS reporting page you can use for this purpose (multi-day accumulation under the "enter my new reports" column). Second, all CoCoRaHS data is quality controlled each day. The intent is for us to recognize reporting errors that may occur. The most common errors involve reporting rainfall on the wrong date, or someone enters a multi-day rainfall report all for one 24-hour period. So, one of us may contact you on occasion in case we have any question about one of your reports. If you have difficulty making your observations or have questions on how to report them, please feel free to contact me or your county coordinator. Third, be confident in knowing your rainfall reports are used every day. As one example, CoCoRaHS data is incorporated by the National Weather Service at the West Gulf River Forecast Center for use in their soil moisture accounting flood forecasting models. So please continue to submit your reports. The more rainfall reports that are collected, the better the chances of determining the highest rainfall totals during rainfall events and the potential for flooding. And when it doesn't rain on a particular day, please report zero. Your zero reports make it easier to determine the exact location of and the magnitude of drought. Plus, when you report zero rainfall on the days it did not rain, it keeps you in the habit of reporting each day.

Enjoy your summer! Thanks to all of you!

Greg Story

West Texas Regional Summary

Spring 2026 Climate Summary for West Texas and Southeast New Mexico

No Hydrological Events until May

By: James DeBerry, Meteorologist, Hydrology Program Manager, NWS Midland, CoCoRaHS Coordinator

March

March was hydrologically uneventful. Even by severe standards, it was uneventful. As a result, no hydrologic events were noted.

Monthly radar precipitation estimates ranged from nothing over most of Southeast New Mexico and much of West Texas to the south to up to 3" in southeast Mitchell County. However, the highest observed rainfall was 1.28 at Wolf Den DMP in Jeff Davis County. Average rainfall across West Texas and Southeast New Mexico was 0.05".

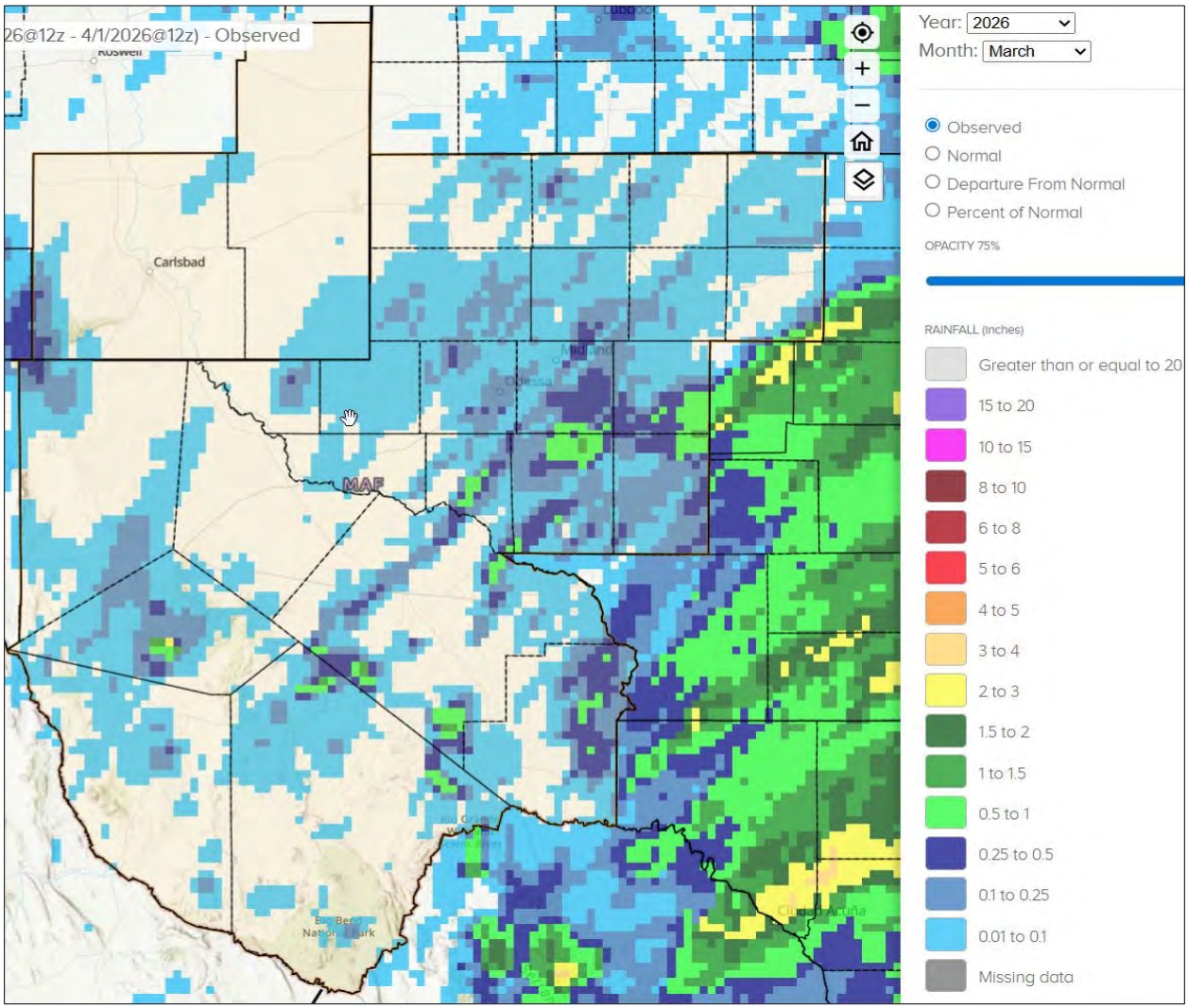


Fig. 1: March Precipitation

April

April was hydrologically uneventful, and as a result, no hydrologic events were noted.

Monthly radar precipitation estimates ranged from nothing in northern Lea County to up to 8" in northwest Terrell County. The highest observed rainfall was 2.88" at the Cope Ranch in Reagan County. Average rainfall was 0.84".

West Texas Regional Summary (continued)

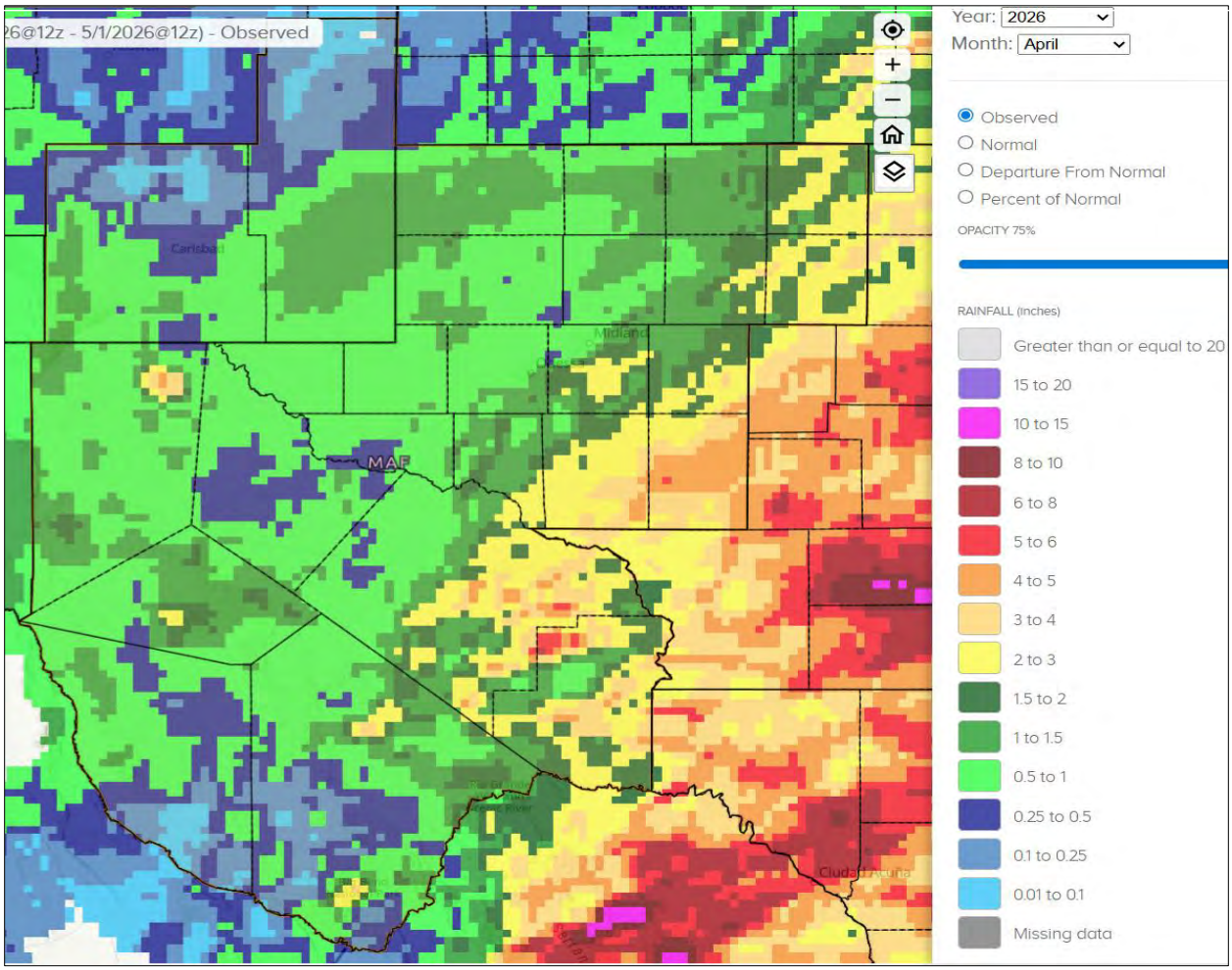


Fig. 2: April Precipitation

May

May started off with a hydrological bang, so to speak, as an upper-level trough moved through the area on May 1st. This was more hydrological than severe, and some flash flooding occurred as a result. The first reports came out of Artesia in Eddy County, where streets were flooded. In Hobbs in Lea County, morning commuters were stranded as streets flooded and some were barricaded. Next door in Andrews in Andrews County, low-water crossings were inundated. Storms then moved into the central Permian Basin, stranding vehicles and closing streets in Odessa in Ector County and Midland in Midland County.

On the 10th, thunderstorms developed over the Western Low Rolling Plains and eastern Permian Basin as a late-spring cold front intruded upon the region. Although most activity was severe, storms were slow enough to flood a few streets in Colorado City in Mitchell County.

On May 19th, thunderstorms developed along a stalled cold front in the lower Trans Pecos. The Terrell County Emergency Manager relayed footage from the Terrell County Sheriff's Office showing flash flooding on U.S. Hwy 90 6 miles east of Longfellow.

Thunderstorm redeveloped on the afternoon of the 20th in Andrews in Andrews County, where the Andrews County Fire Marshall reported street flooding. Thunderstorms then moved into Dawson County, where an NWS employee reported street flooding in Lamesa. Another NWS employee relayed evidence of flooding along St. Hwy 176 west of Tarzan in Martin County, as well as low-water crossings along FM 829. Farther south, in Pecos County, Emergency Management reported flash flooding along U.S. Hwy 385 16 miles south of Fort Stockton. Low-water crossings had

West Texas Regional Summary (continued)

nearly 1' of standing water in them.

On May 23rd, thunderstorms developed in the Permian Basin. Most reports were severe in nature, but a few streets flooded in Midland in Midland County.

On the 26th, an upper trough swung through West Texas. Thunderstorms developed early and moved into Odessa in Ector County, where radar estimates that up to 2.73" of rain fell in a few hours. This flooded many roads in the city, stalling a few vehicles. Farther south, the Upton County Sheriff reported flooding on U.S. Hwy 67 between McCamey and Rankin. In Andrews County, vehicles hydroplaned and wrecked. In Midland in Midland County, flash flooding was reported near the intersection of FM 1788 and I-20. Flooding in other low-lying areas was also reported. Storms then moved into Howard County, flooding croplands/yards in and around Big Spring and Luther.

On May 27th, thunderstorms flooded secondary roads 20 miles WSW of Orla in Culberson County.

On the 29th, NWS employees out storm chasing reported flooded frontage roads along I-10 near Bakersfield in Pecos County from a lone supercell that moved through the area.

Despite relatively abundant rainfall for May, no flood stages were reached anywhere in the HSA, a testament to rainfall deficits.

Monthly radar precipitation estimates ranged from 0.01" over southern Presidio County to up to 8" in southeastern Reagan County. The highest observed rainfall was 3.91" in McCamey in Upton County. Average rainfall was 2.06".

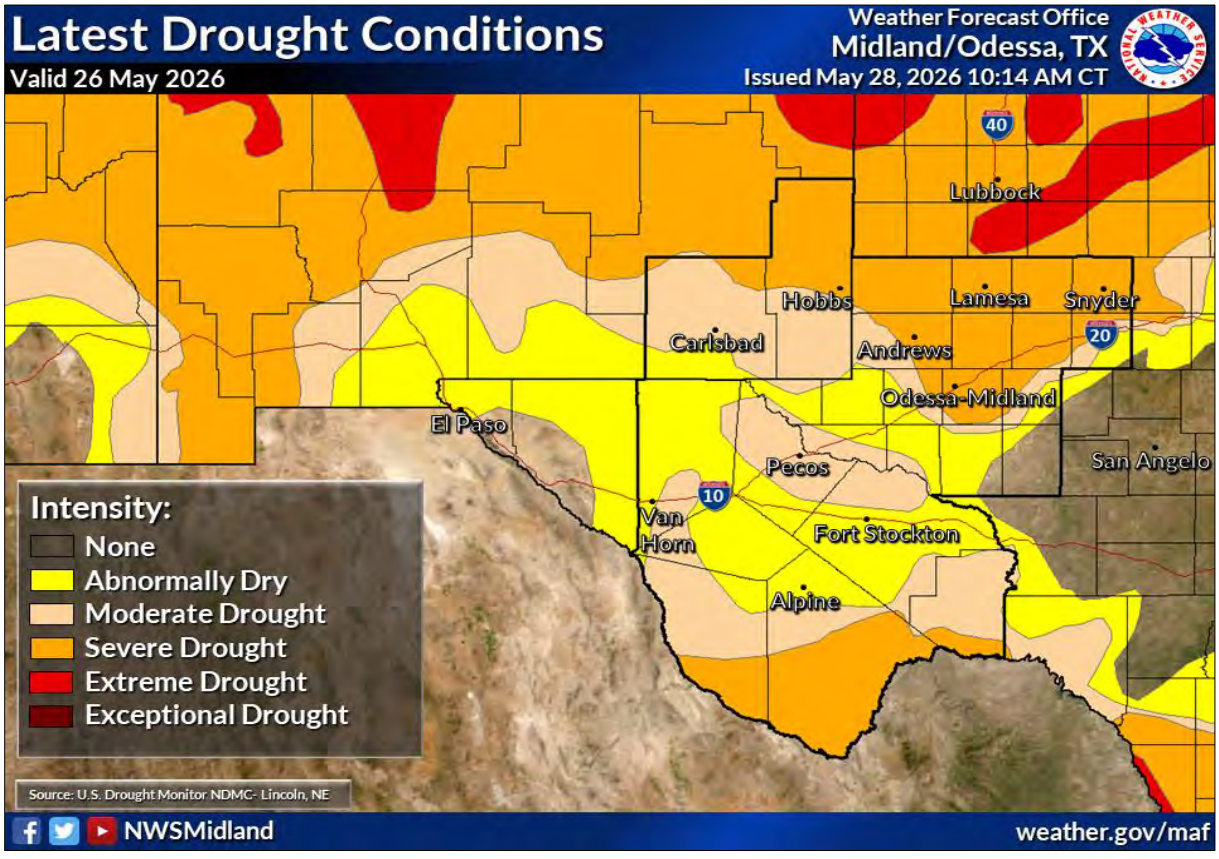


Fig.3 End of Spring Season Drought Map

West Texas Regional Summary (continued)

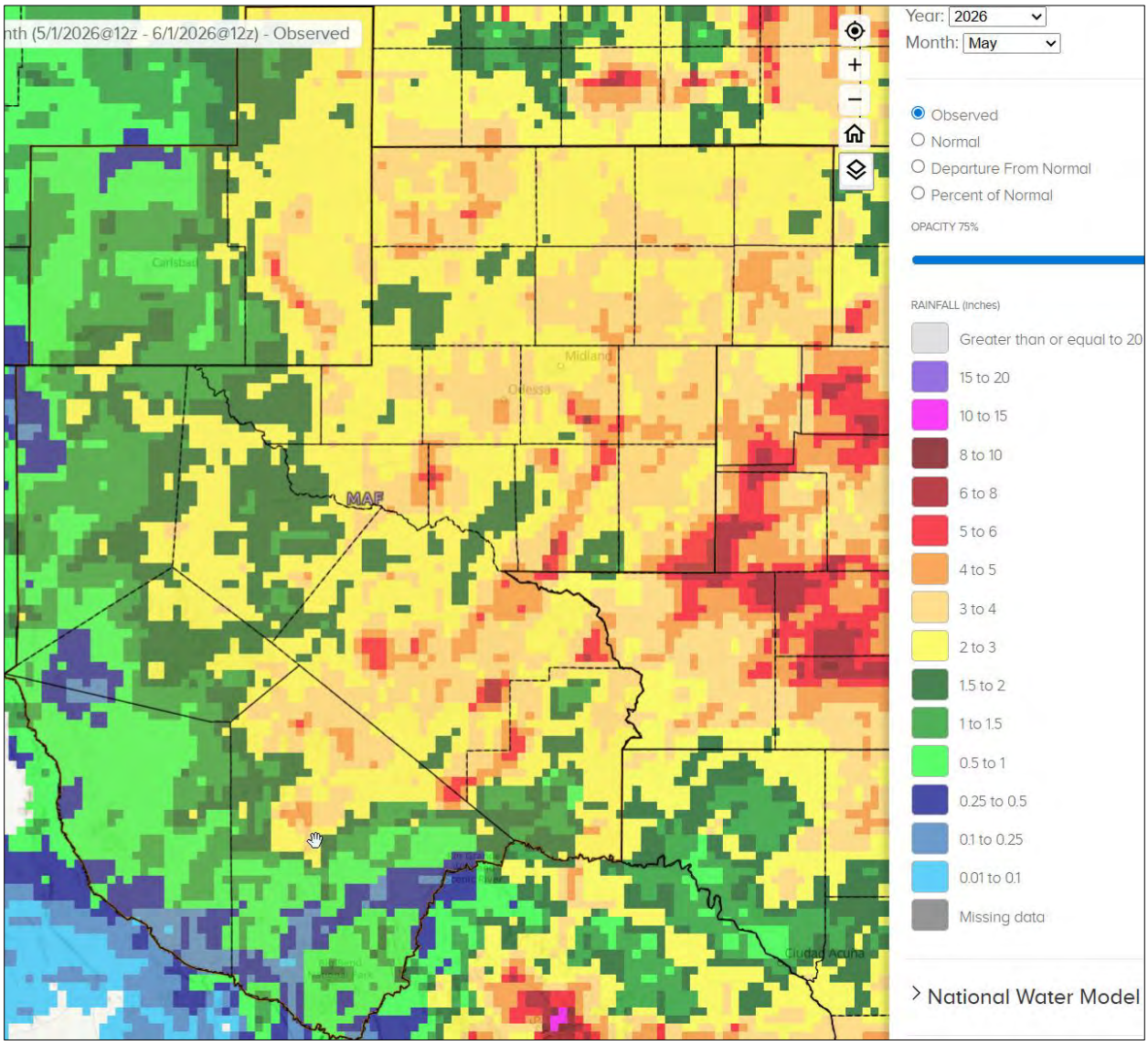


Fig.4 May Precipitation

Overall, as of the end of spring 2026, drought conditions had improved across West Texas and Southeast New Mexico. Only severe drought was noted in portions of the Permian Basin, Western Low Rolling Hills, Big Bend Area, and Southeast New Mexico. The rest of the HSA ranged from moderate drought to no drought, at least temporarily. Area reservoirs are at 55.4% conservation capacity as of June 1st.

Far West Texas/El Paso Regional Summary

May Showers Lead to Improved Drought Conditions for Far West Texas

By: Connor Dennhardt, Lead Meteorologist - National Weather Service El Paso

The spring season is often the driest time of the year for far west Texas and southern New Mexico. Strong winds, blowing dust, and wildfires are the most common weather types. El Paso, TX averages just **0.84”** of precipitation during the March-May timeframe. This year’s spring season finished near normal for El Paso and Hudspeth Counties. Sporadic light rain events during a historically warm March and April were followed by milder temperatures and a series of favorable rain showers in May, leading to a near normal precipitation season. This helped relieve drought conditions locally, with the U.S. Drought Monitor removing drought status for El Paso and Hudspeth Counties. The official climate station at El Paso, TX recorded **0.67”**, just below the climate normal. Other CoCoRaHS stations around El Paso County ranged from **0.50-1.00”**, near normal for this dry time of year.

Figure 1: Blowing dust rolls into El Paso, TX and neighboring Santa Teresa, NM during a windy afternoon on April 10, 2026

March was a dry start to the spring season as high pressure aloft dominated the weather pattern. The only recorded precipitation occurred March 9-10. A slow-moving Pacific low brought subtropical moisture over the region, leading to scattered light rain showers. Local CoCoRaHS observers reported rainfall totals **0.05-0.10”** which ended up being the monthly totals for most. March 2026 finished below normal for all stations, but actually not far off the incredibly low average of **0.24”**. The average high temperature of 82.6 degrees set a new monthly record as the warmest March on record for El Paso. An all-time monthly high temperature of 97 degrees was also set at El Paso.

Far West Texas/El Paso Regional Summary (continued)

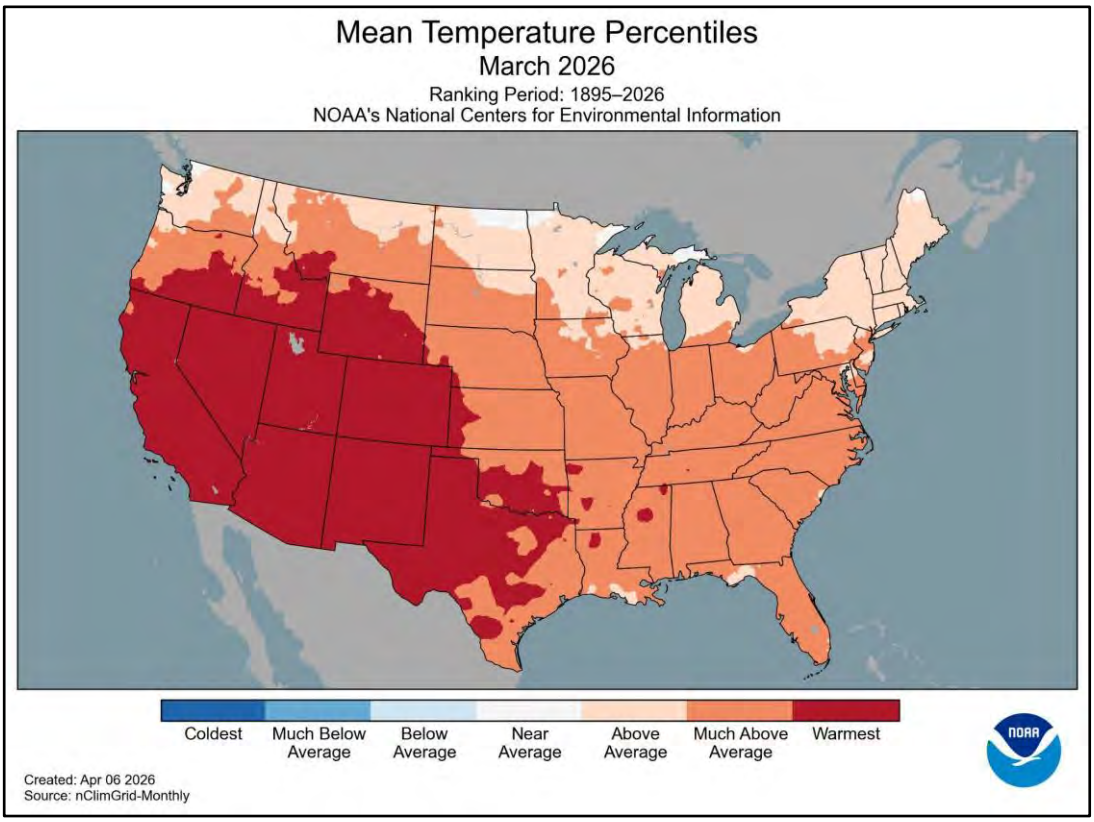


Figure 2: Temperature Rankings for March 2026 showing new monthly record highs set across the Southwest United States.

April felt like a wet month, despite precipitation totals ending up lower than normal. A series of rain chances throughout the month resulted in very light measurements. Most rain was reported as traces. The best rain event occurred on April 10-11, with scattered thunderstorms resulting in blowing dust spotty rain. Observers in east El Paso reported **0.30-0.40”** of rain, while most others ranged from **0.05-0.10”**. Monthly totals finished near normal for east El Paso due to these thunderstorms, while west El Paso and much of Hudspeth County finished below normal.

May resulted in two precipitation events, pushing the 2026 spring season toward normal for most locations. The first occurred during the early morning hours of May 1. Widespread rain showers spread across southern New Mexico and far West Texas, with much of the Rio Grande Valley achieving more than half of their monthly normals overnight. CoCoRaHS observers in El Paso reported **0.20-0.40”** of rain, more than the combined March-April precipitation totals for most. The next several weeks were mostly dry, with only light rain occurring on May 21. The next round of rain occurred May 25, with another round of widespread rain helping push seasonal totals toward normal. Daily totals of **0.20-0.35”** were reported in El Paso. May finished above normal for precipitation for most CoCoRaHS observers, with totals ranging from **0.45-0.70”**. The official climate station at El Paso International measured **0.64”** for May.

Far West Texas/El Paso Regional Summary (continued)

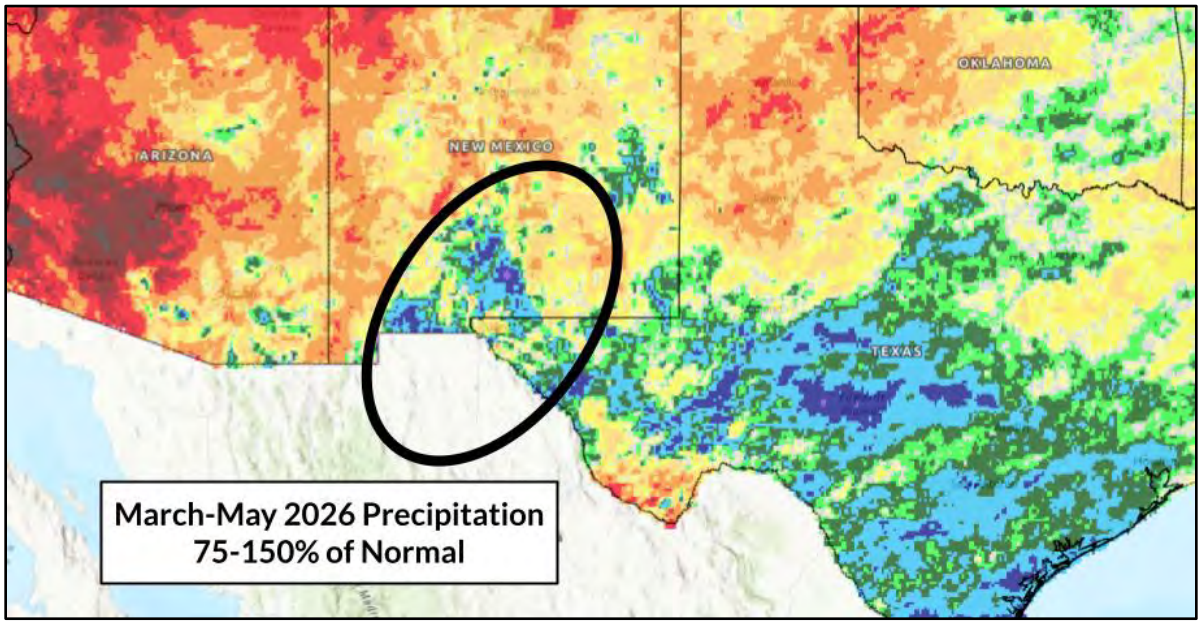


Figure 3: Seasonal Percent of Normal Precipitation for the March-May 2026 timeframe.

The spring season was much warmer than normal for far West Texas. El Paso, TX finished with the 2nd warmest spring (Mar-May) on record with a mean average temperature of 70.2 degrees. The average high temperature was 83.9 degrees. The upcoming summer season looks to lean toward the warmer and wetter-than normal side with a strengthening El Niño, followed by a very strong El Niño in place by the end of the year. The Climate Prediction Center's summer outlook highlights a 40-50% chance of above normal temperatures and a 33-40% chance of above normal precipitation through August.

90-day precipitation totals ranged from **0.50-0.80"**. For most stations, this season finished near normal. Drought conditions improved and are expected to improve further during the summer monsoon season with above normal precipitation in the forecast. The spring season featured 33 active observers in El Paso County, and 2 in Hudspeth County. A total of 1,606 daily reports were submitted, along with 37 multi-day reports. Only 9% of total reports had measurable precipitation, which means our regional observers continue to do a great job reporting days with 0.00". No Condition Monitoring or Significant Weather Reports were submitted. Thanks again to all our local observers who participated in the 2026 spring season!

Corpus Christi Regional Summary

Spring Showers Bring Much Needed Relief

By Nicholas Price, Meteorologist, National Weather Service Corpus Christi

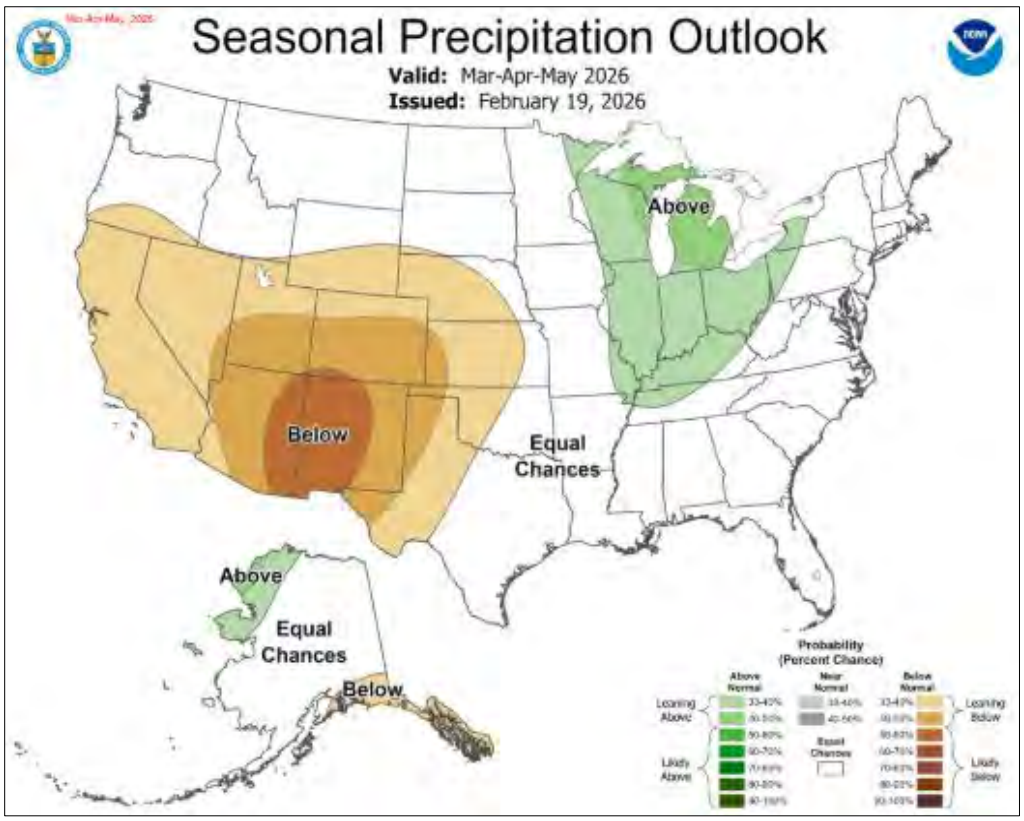


Figure 1: Climate Prediction Center (CPC) Spring Season Precipitation Outlook

The spring season began with the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) forecasting equal chances of above- or below-normal precipitation for South Texas (Figure 1). This neutral outlook held true through March, driven by passing shortwave disturbances that combined with increased moisture to trigger scattered showers and thunderstorms. Despite this, rainfall totals around the area were between 0.05" out in Laredo to 2.3" (Figure 2). There was an isolated area to the north of Rockport that received around 3 inches however. Observers in the southern Brush Country extending into the southern Coastal Plains unfortunately missed out on the opportunities entirely. This led to an average departure of normal around -1 to -2 inches across South Texas (Figure 3). As a result of the continued lack of rainfall, the drought conditions across South Texas worsened. The Brush Country and portions of the southern Coastal Plains were experiencing Exceptional Drought conditions (Figure 4). The remainder of South Texas was experiencing Extreme Drought conditions. A critical consequence of this prolonged dry spell was the dangerous depletion of the water reservoirs supplying the Corpus Christi area. Looking closely at two of the region's three main reservoirs—Lake Corpus Christi and Lake Texana—levels sat at a worrying 9.7% and 55% capacity, respectively, at the start of March. Lake Corpus Christi's status was considered critically low and in dire need of immediate replenishment.

Corpus Christi Regional Summary (continued)

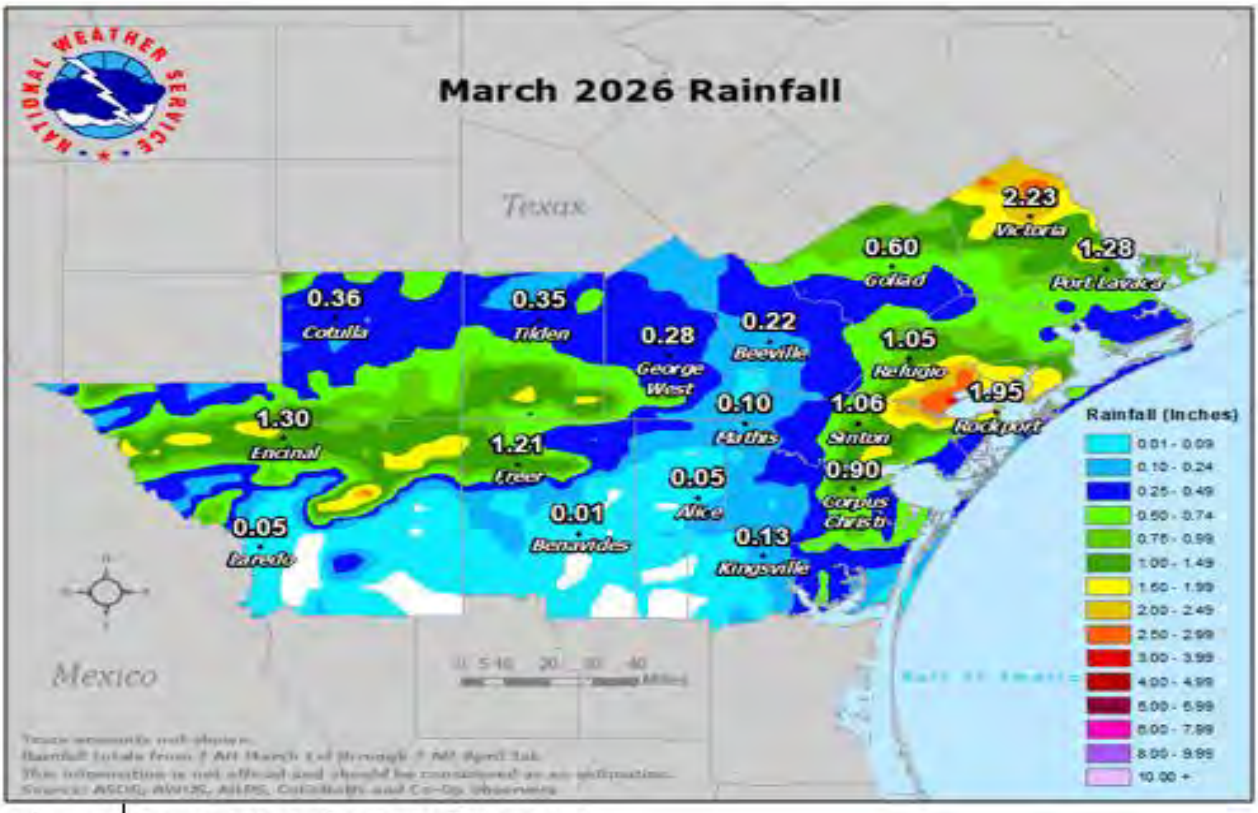


Figure 2: March 2026 Estimated Rainfall Totals

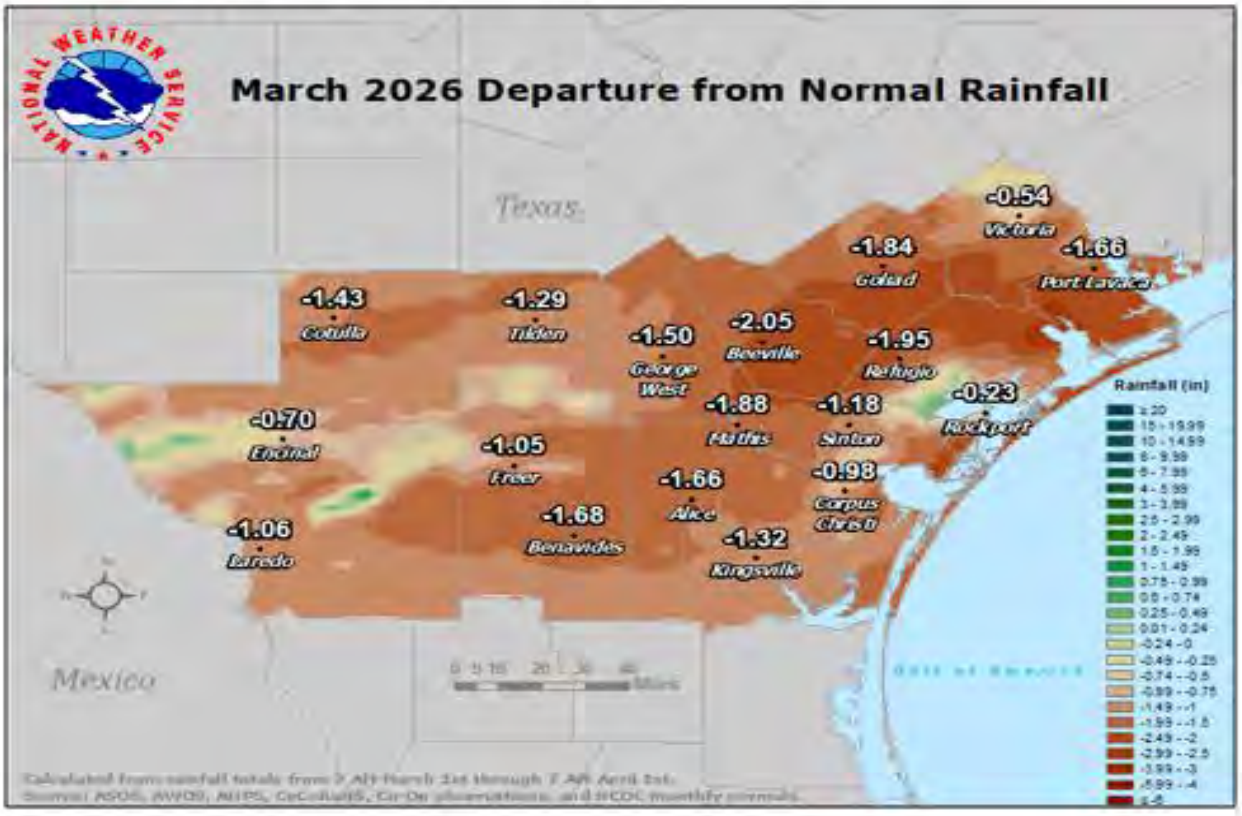


Figure 3: March 2026 Estimated Departure from Normal Rainfall

Corpus Christi Regional Summary (continued)

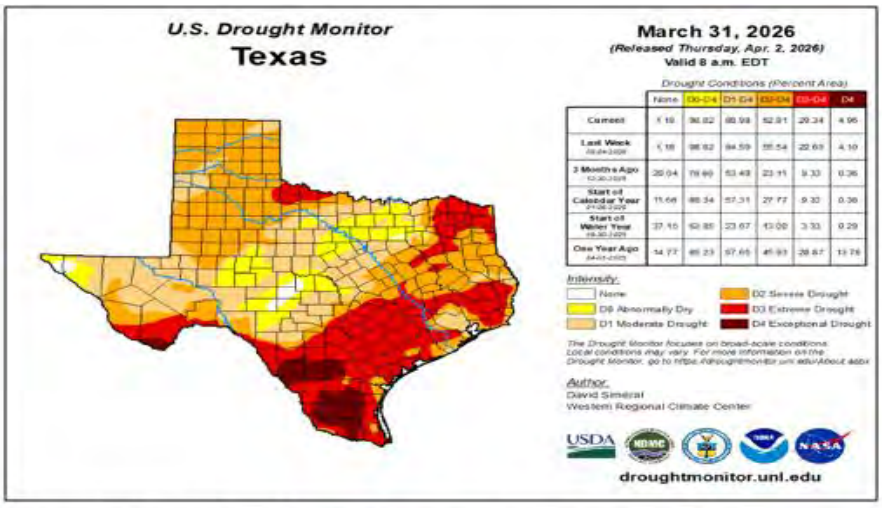


Figure 4: U.S. Drought Monitor Summary for the month of March

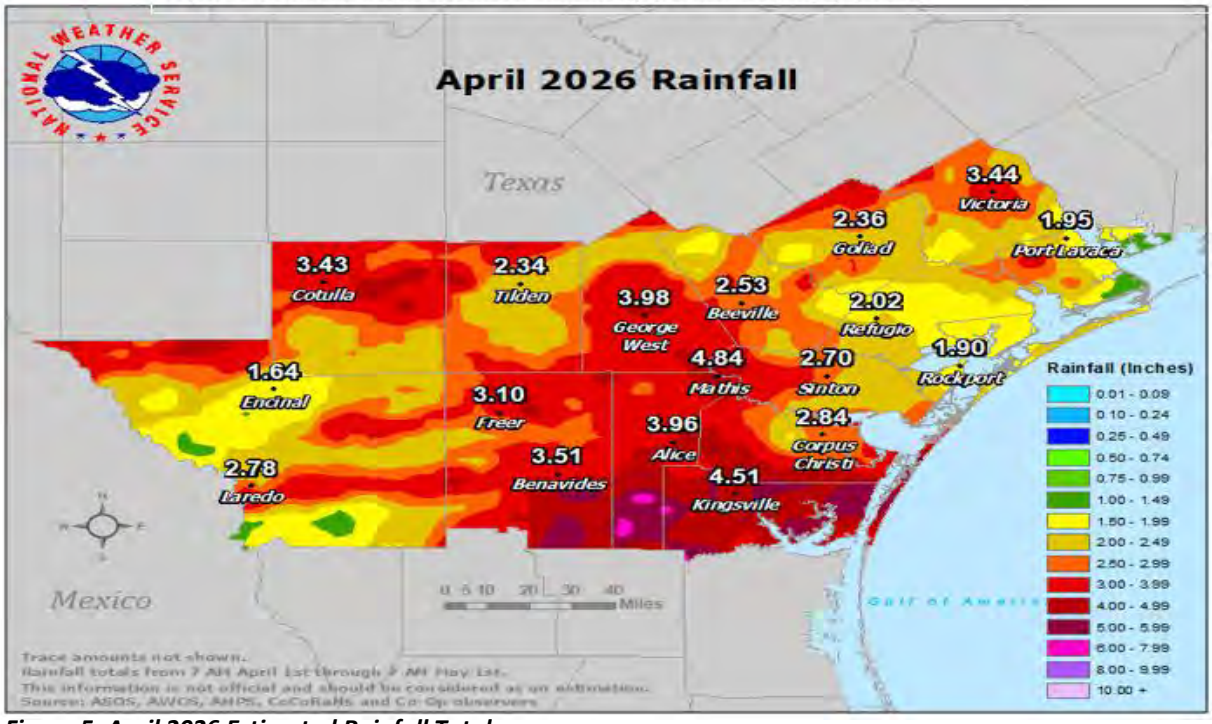


Figure 5: April 2026 Estimated Rainfall Total

Rainfall for the month of April came in a lot earlier than in March. A vast majority of the much-needed rainfall fell across the region from April 4th- April 6th. A sweeping cold front paired with a potent shortwave over Mexico triggered a widespread rainfall event between April 4th and 6th, dropping 2.00" to 3.00" across South Texas, with an isolated bulls-eye near Three Rivers recording nearly 5.00"(Figure 5). Another round of consistent showers between April 18th and 22nd added another 1 to 2.50" to regional totals. The total rainfall for the month contributed to around a 0.50" to 3.5" departure from normal rainfall (Figure 6). The highest accumulations targeted the south-to-central Coastal Bend, prompting notable drought improvements. Most of South Texas transitioned from Exceptional or Extreme classifications down to Severe and Extreme drought, leaving only a minor pocket of Exceptional drought lagging in the Brush Country (Figure 7).

Corpus Christi Regional Summary (continued)

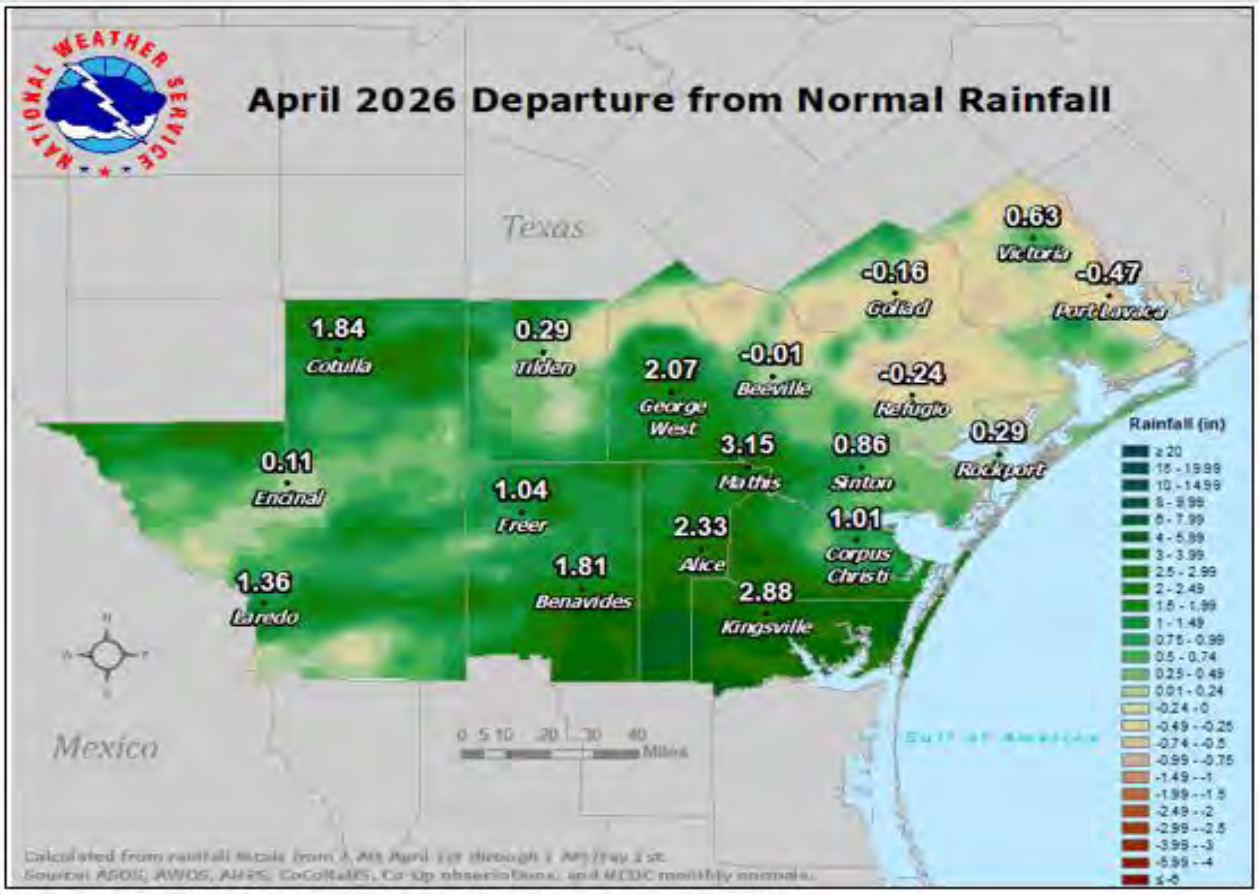


Figure 6: April 2026 Estimated Departure from Normal Rainfall

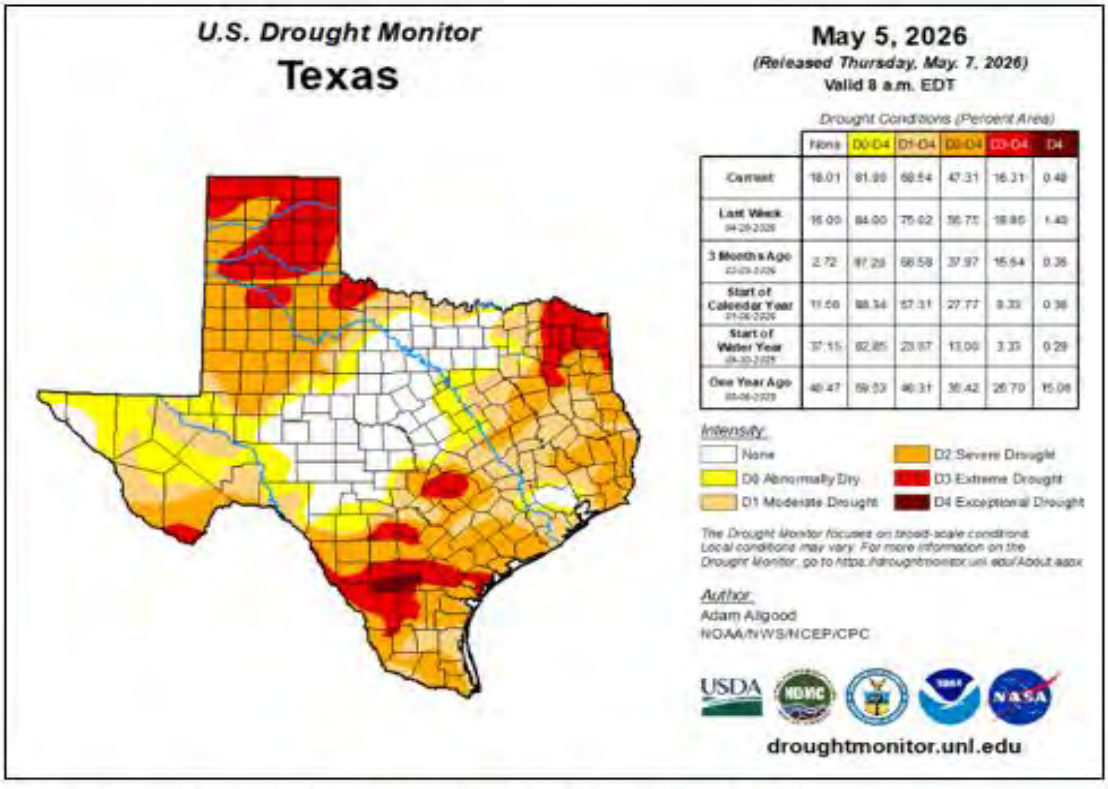


Figure 7: U.S. Drought Monitor Summary for the month of April

Corpus Christi Regional Summary (continued)

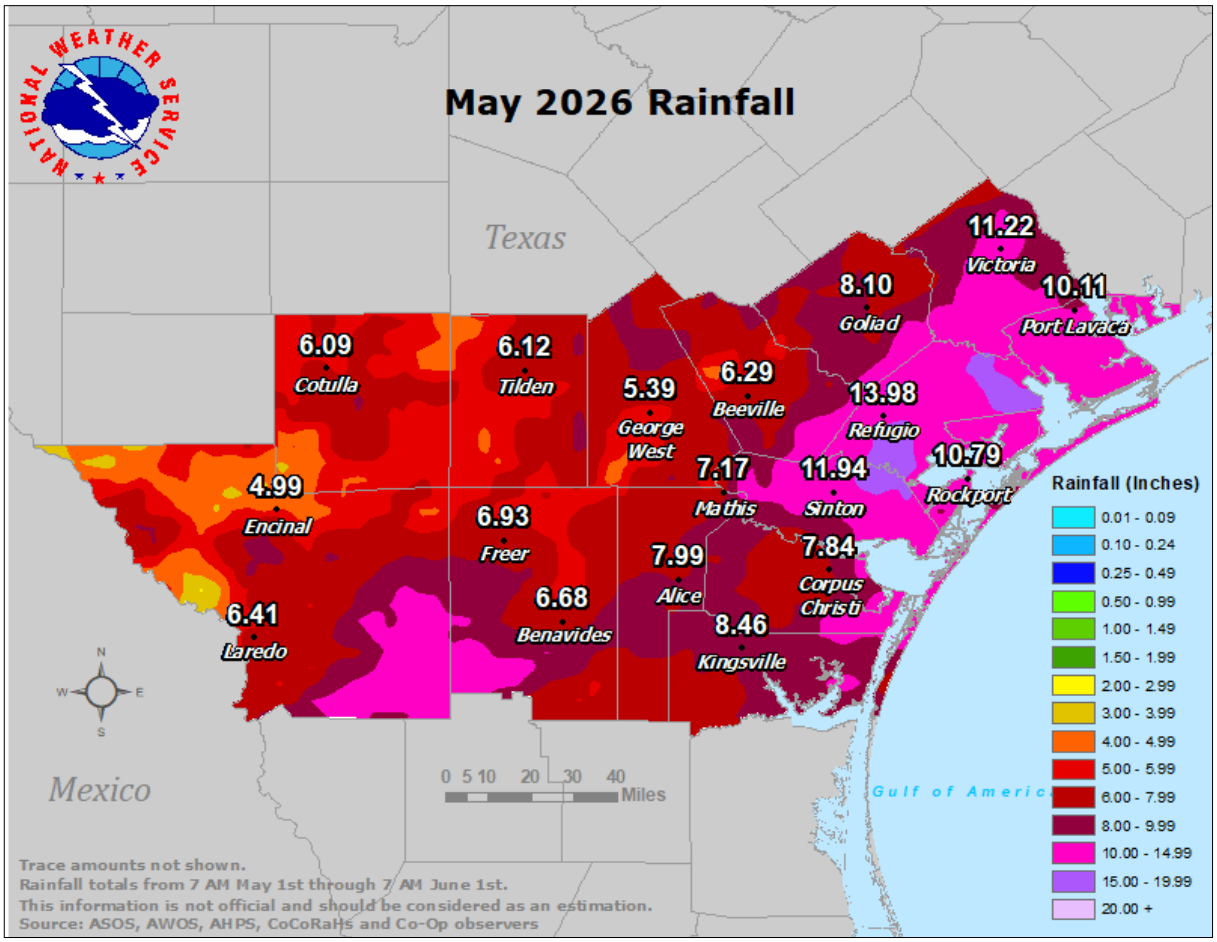


Figure 8: May 2026 Estimated Rainfall Totals

May was the best rainfall month that we have had in quite a while with multiple rounds of heavy rainfall. It began with a stalled boundary leading to rainfall mainly in the southern portions of South Texas from the 8th-11th. Observers during this period saw around 2"-3" in these areas (Corpus Christi, Southern Laredo, and Austwell). The trend continued towards the back half of the month. In a prolific ten-day stretch from May 18th to 28th, a persistent wet pattern dropped 6" to 10" of rain across South Texas, with localized spots reporting staggering totals near 16"! (Figure 8) This hyper-efficient rainfall was fueled by a series of powerful shortwaves channeling deep Pacific and Gulf tropical moisture, keeping precipitable water (PWAT) values near an impressive 2.00". The region that observed the most of this rainfall during this period was from eastern Coastal Plains extending to the Victoria Crossroads. As you can imagine, this translated to an excessive departure from normal than typically observed. Generally, observers saw between a 3" to 6" departure from normal, though that region discussed saw about a 6" to 11" departure from normal! (Figure 9) This historic moisture dramatically alleviated regional drought. The majority of South Texas has now dropped to Abnormally Dry or Moderate Drought status as of June 2nd, with only a small fragment of Severe Drought lingering in the Brush Country—a monumental recovery from the start of spring (Figure 10). This massive influx of moisture also revitalized the region's primary water supplies. As of June 7th, Lake Corpus Christi is now at 27% full and Lake Texana is at 98%! That is a 17.3% and 78.3% improvement respectively. While this intense volume of water over saturated soils triggered flash flooding and necessitated several water rescues (Figures 11 and 12), the seasonal rainfall ultimately arrived precisely when it was most critically needed.

Corpus Christi Regional Summary (continued)

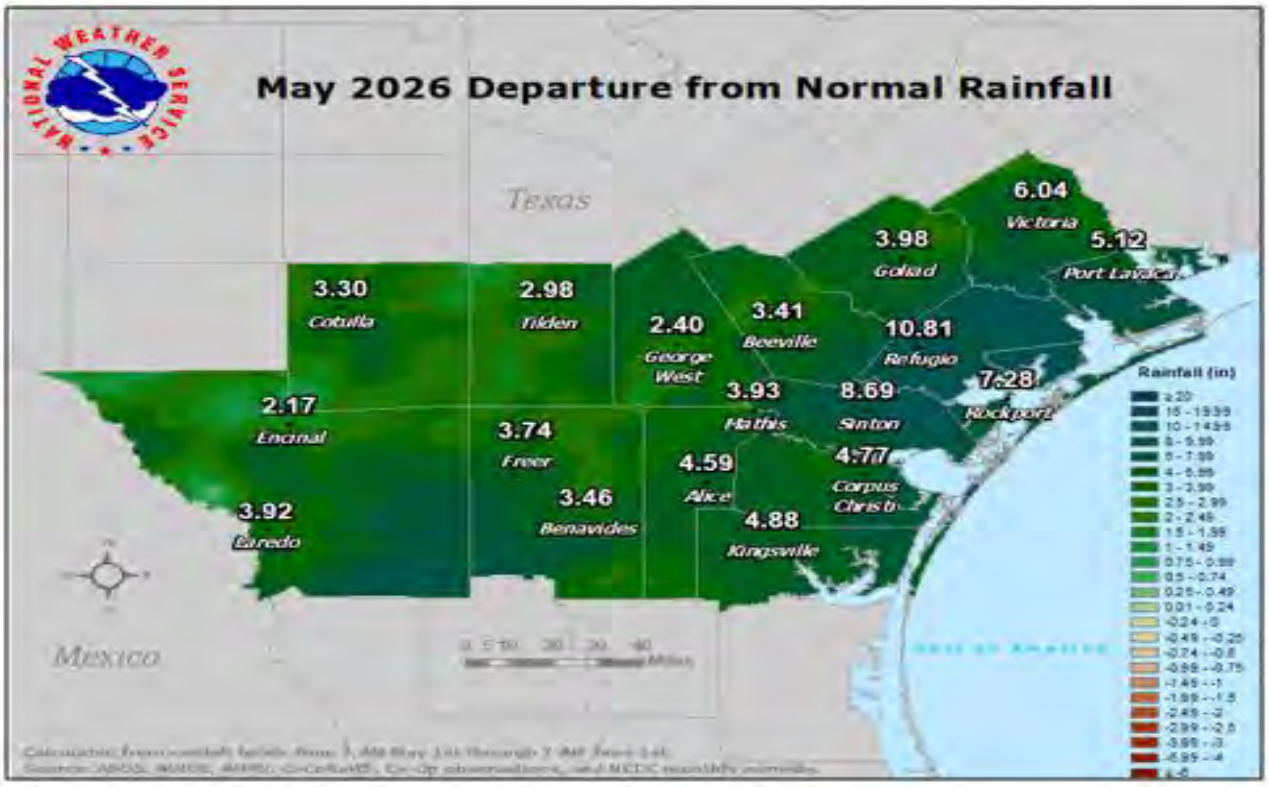


Figure 9: May 2026 Estimated Departure from Normal Rainfall

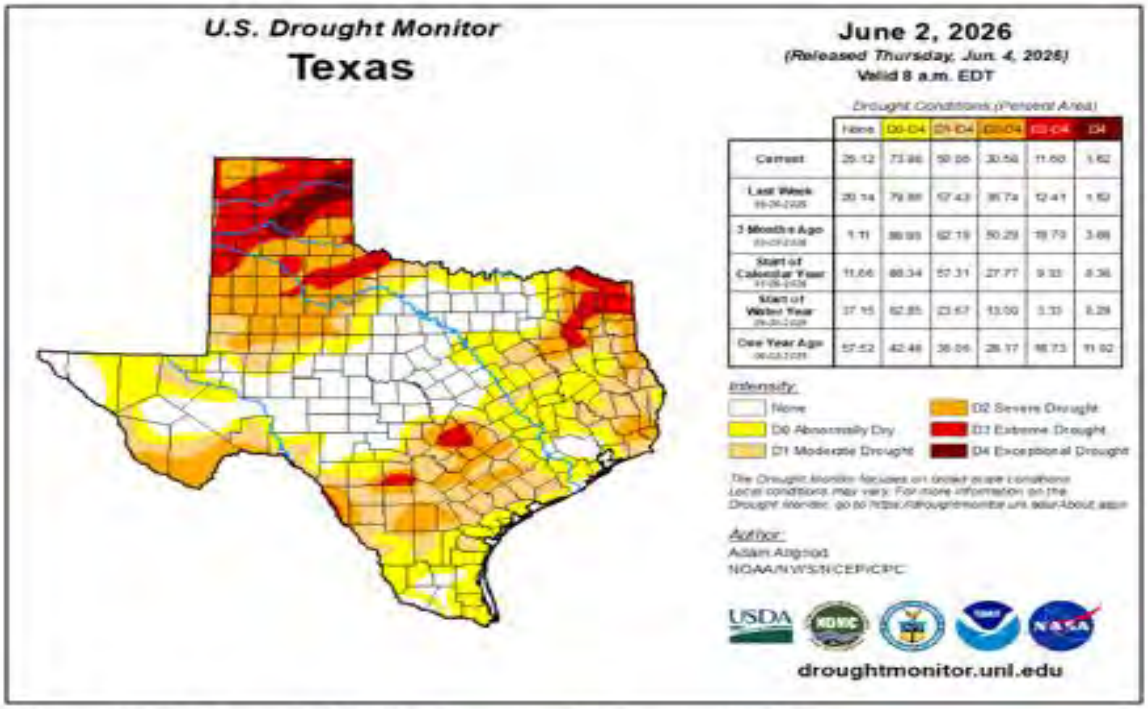


Figure 10: U.S. Drought Monitor Summary for the month of May

Corpus Christi Regional Summary (continued)

Figure 11: Stranded Vehicles in Flood Waters on IH-37 @ SH 358 Interchange

Figure 12: Vehicles Traveling Through Floodwaters in Corpus Christi

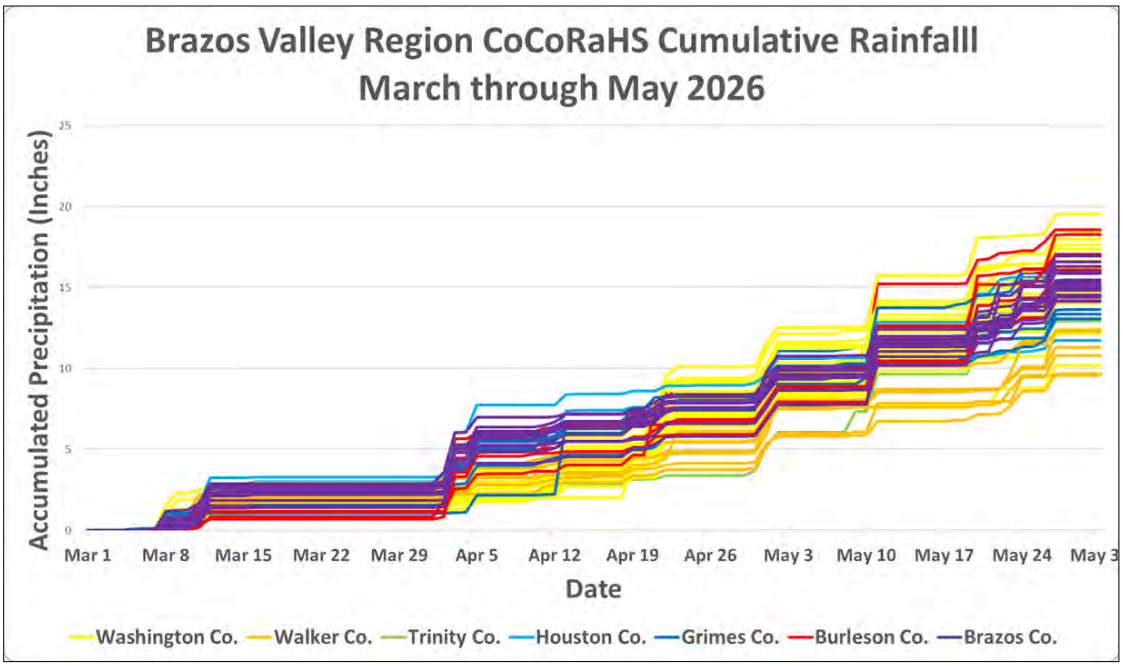
Brazos Valley Regional Summary

Spring 2026 Precipitation Summary

Bryan-College Station / Brazos Valley Region, Texas

Preston Testerman, Texas A&M University, Office of the State Climatologist of Texas

From March 1st through May 31st, the Brazos Valley region experienced a spring season defined by a prolonged dry stretch in mid-March followed by a series of notable rainfall events that brought above-average precipitation to much of the region. The season opened with modest rainfall in early March before an extended dry period took hold from mid-March through the end of the month, with many stations recording no measurable precipitation for three weeks or more. Rainfall returned in early April and continued in a series of events through late April and into May. The most significant single-day event of the season occurred on May 11th, when widespread heavy rainfall brought over two inches to much of the region with one station in Burleson County recording more than four inches. A second active stretch in late May contributed additional rainfall to close out the season. Overall seasonal totals were highest across Burleson and Washington Counties and lowest in Walker County.



A total of 54 CoCoRaHS stations across the Brazos Valley provided usable precipitation data for the spring 2026 season. Observer participation was strong throughout the season. Thirty-four stations reported with no missing days over the three-month period, and an additional 12 stations missed no more than three days.

Wettest Day: 4.58", May 11th, Burleson County
Wettest Seasonal Total: 19.53", Washington County
Driest Seasonal Total: 9.55", Walker County
*Soggy Socks Award (**Longest Wet Spell**):* 9 days, May 20th – May 28th, Houston County
*Dusty Soles Award (**Longest Dry Spell**):* 21 days, March 13th – April 2nd, several counties

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary

2026 Weather Story for the Rio Grande Valley:
"Just-in-Time" Rains End Worst Drought since April 2013

A Very Warm and Bone-Dry March Flips to a Wet April and May as Drought Recedes

By Barry Goldsmith
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NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley

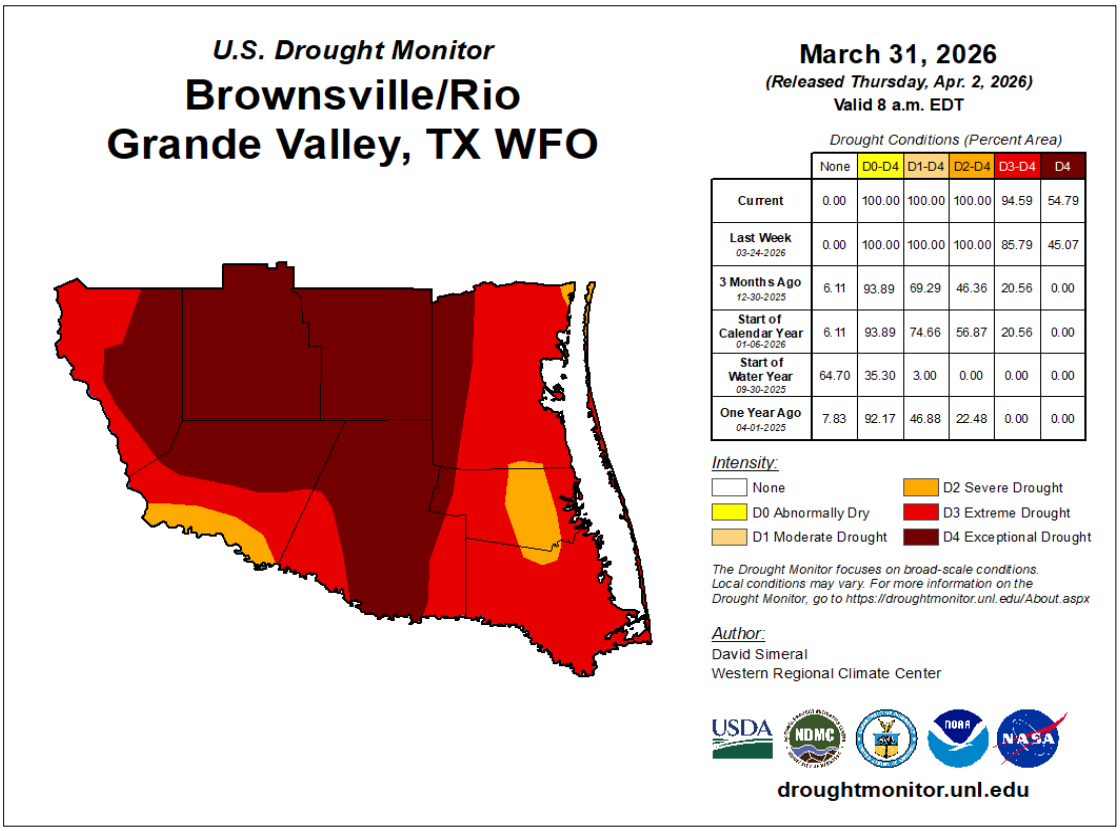
Above: What a difference three months makes! Left: Parched ground and dried grasses at Estero Llano Grande State Park near Weslaco, TX at the start of spring 2026. Right: Lush, thick green grasses and brush at the start of June near Brownsville, TX.

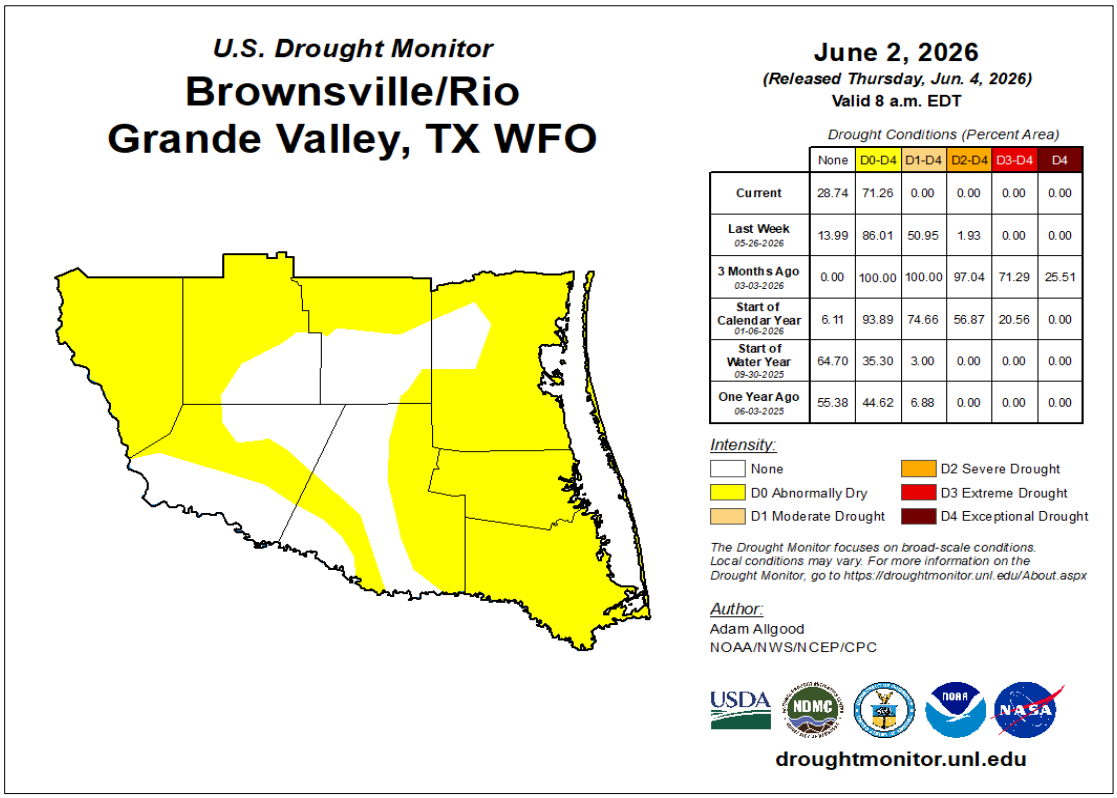
Season in a Nutshell

Spring 2026 across the Lower Rio Grande Valley and Deep South Texas ranchlands saw the worst area-wide drought since April 2013 develop by the end of March (Figure 1a), with nearly 95% of the region sitting at Extreme (Level 3 of 4) or Exceptional (Level 4 of 4) Drought conditions. Fortunately, farmers, ranchers, and local water detention (storage) facilities would see "just-in-time" relief, with widespread rains arriving Easter Weekend (April 4-5), followed by additional rain events through April and especially May. Dryland late winter and early spring planted crops were just a week away from substantial to complete loss at the start of April, and cattle herds were substantially culled through March, with high levels of "stress" for all livestock due to extremely limited forage and limited water supplies, even with supplementation.

All this changed beginning in April, and continuing through May, as seasonal rainfall amounts between 10 and 15" covered the ranch country, and 7 to 11" covered farm country Willacy, Cameron, and Hidalgo County – roughly 2 to nearly 4 times the spring average (4.5 to 7.5"). From the Texas Agrilife Weekly Crop and Weather Report on May 27th, "All crops, pastures, and rangelands responded rapidly to moisture. Row crop conditions improved broadly, though variation in crop maturity persisted due to earlier drought stress. Range and pasture conditions continued improving, and forage availability for livestock increased measurably." Temperatures, which began near record-hot levels for March, settled back toward monthly 30-year averages in April and May – but the season overall ended in the top 10-15% warmest on record.

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)





Figures 1a and b. U.S. Drought Monitor maps for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas ranchlands for March 31 (top, Figure 1a) and June 2 (bottom, Figure 1b) 2026. On March 31, the vast majority of the region was in Extreme to Exceptional conditions, the most since April 2013. Two months later, no areas were in any drought condition, with leftover long-term dryness covering 71% of the region.

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

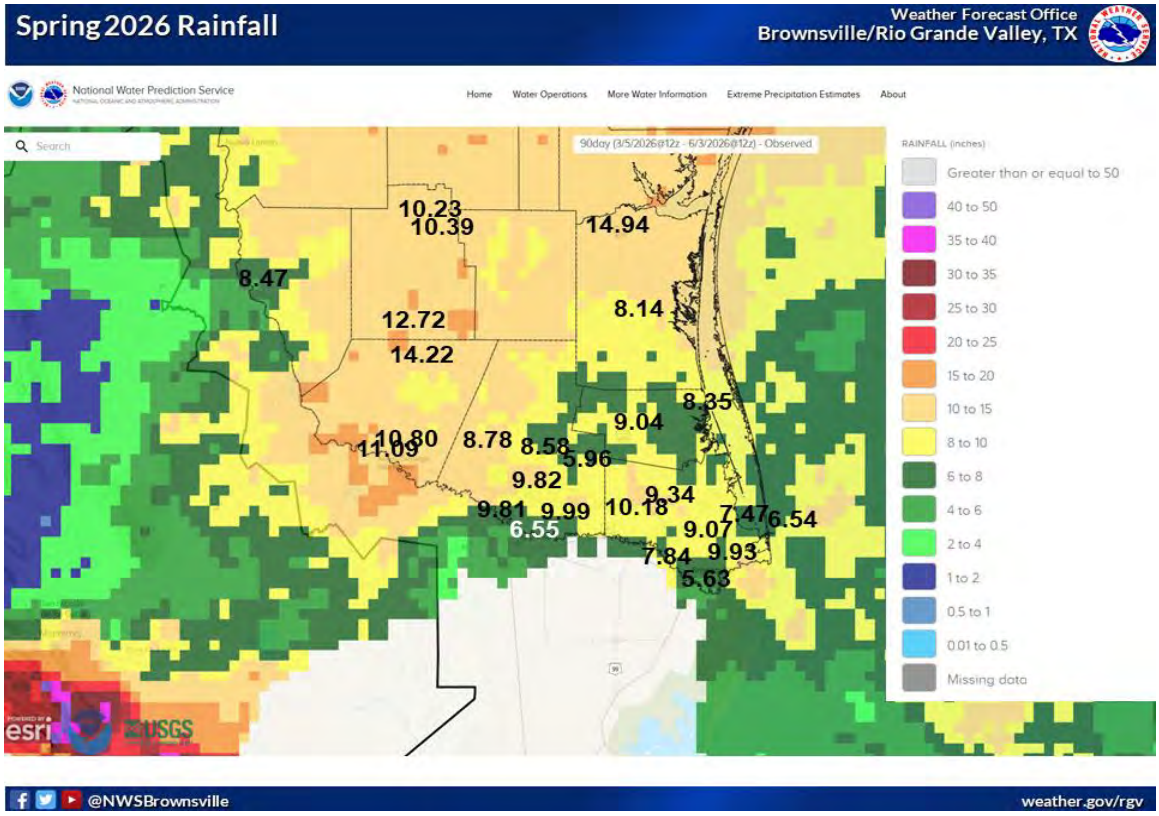


Figure 2. Spring (March-May) rainfall, including annotated observations from CoCoRaHS, NWS Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS), and Texas Mesonet stations, shown.

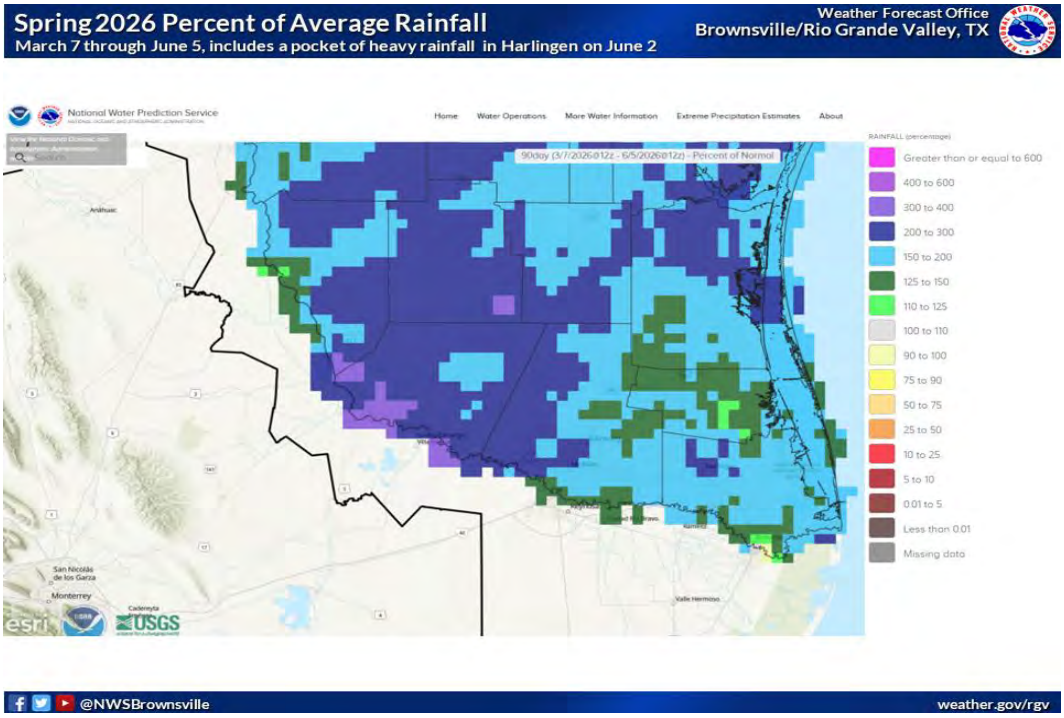


Figure 3. Spring (March-May) percent of average rainfall, extended into early June, for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas ranch country. The map includes a heavy rain burst on June 2 around Harlingen. Nearly all locations saw at least 150% of average, with upper Valley and Brush Country ranches seeing 200 to 300% (two to three times) average, with a few spots approaching 400% (4 times) average.

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

Spring 2026 (March-May) RGV Temperature Rankings

Despite Beneficial Rains in April and May, the Season Was Still Warm to Hot

Weather Forecast Office
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX

Maximum 92-Day Mean Avg Temperature for Brownsville Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	80.0	2024-05-31	0
2	79.9	2020-05-31	0
3	79.2	2026-05-31	0
4	78.7	2011-05-31	0
5	78.6	2025-05-31	0
6	78.5	2006-05-31	0
7	78.3	2017-05-31	0
8	78.1	2012-05-31	0
9	77.7	1991-05-31	0
10	77.6	2018-05-31	0

Period of record: 1878-01-01 to 2026-06-04

Maximum 92-Day Mean Avg Temperature for McAllen Area, TX (ThreadEx)

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	80.6	2017-05-31	0
2	80.5	2020-05-31	0
3	80.4	2024-05-31	0
4	80.4	2011-05-31	0
5	80.3	2025-05-31	1
6	80.0	2016-05-31	0
7	79.9	2026-05-31	0
8	79.9	1991-05-31	0
9	79.8	2018-05-31	0
10	79.4	2006-05-31	0

Period of record: 1941-06-01 to 2026-06-04

Maximum 92-Day Mean Avg Temperature for WESLACO, TX

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	79.7	1953-06-01	0
2	78.5	2025-06-01	3
3	78.4	2024-06-01	5
4	78.4	1933-06-01	5
5	78.2	1946-06-01	6
6	78.2	1967-06-01	3
7	78.1	1974-06-01	1
8	78.0	2000-06-01	4
9	77.8	1999-06-01	2
10	77.8	2026-06-01	2

Period of record: 1914-02-18 to 2026-06-05

Maximum 92-Day Mean Avg Temperature for RAYMONDVILLE, TX

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	79.6	1953-06-01	2
2	79.1	2020-06-01	12
3	78.3	2006-06-01	0
4	78.1	1967-06-01	0
5	77.9	1955-06-01	2
6	77.5	1921-06-01	9
7	77.5	1945-06-01	2
8	77.5	1991-06-01	1
9	77.4	2026-06-01	5
10	77.1	1927-06-01	0

Period of record: 1913-01-01 to 2026-06-04

Maximum 92-Day Mean Avg Temperature for RIO GRANDE CITY, TX

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	81.8	1902-06-01	0
2	80.3	2025-06-01	1
3	80.0	1929-06-01	0
4	79.9	1933-06-01	0
5	79.8	1946-06-01	1
6	79.7	2011-06-01	9
7	79.6	2000-06-01	3
8	79.6	2024-06-01	4
9	79.4	2012-06-01	14
10	79.3	1953-06-01	0
11	79.0	1991-06-01	11
12	78.9	1904-06-01	0
13	78.9	2020-06-01	5
14	78.8	2006-06-01	4
15	78.7	1967-06-01	0
16	78.7	1955-06-01	0
17	78.5	1963-06-01	0
18	78.1	1905-06-01	4
19	78.1	2017-06-01	11
20	77.8	2026-06-01	13

Period of record: 1897-01-01 to 2026-06-05

Maximum 92-Day Mean Avg Temperature for HARLINGEN, TX

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	80.1	2023-06-01	13
2	79.5	2020-06-01	8
3	78.9	1953-06-01	2
4	78.1	1945-06-01	3
5	78.0	1955-06-01	1
6	77.9	2006-06-01	0
7	77.9	1929-06-01	1
8	77.8	1933-06-01	0
9	77.7	2011-06-01	3
10	77.6	2017-06-01	2
11	77.5	2022-06-01	6
12	77.5	2025-06-01	9
13	77.5	1927-06-01	0
14	77.3	2016-06-01	5
-	77.3	1967-06-01	5
16	77.2	2012-06-01	4
17	77.1	2000-06-01	5
18	76.9	1946-06-01	0
19	76.8	1999-06-01	1
20	76.7	2026-06-01	1

Period of record: 1912-02-07 to 2026-06-05

@NWSBrownsville weather.gov/rgv

Figure 4. Spring (March-May) temperature rankings. Despite a wetter April and May which brought averages closer to the 1991-2020 levels, the season ranked in the top 10 to 20 warmest on record, with Brownsville, McAllen, and Weslaco landing in the top 10 for a third year in a row.

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

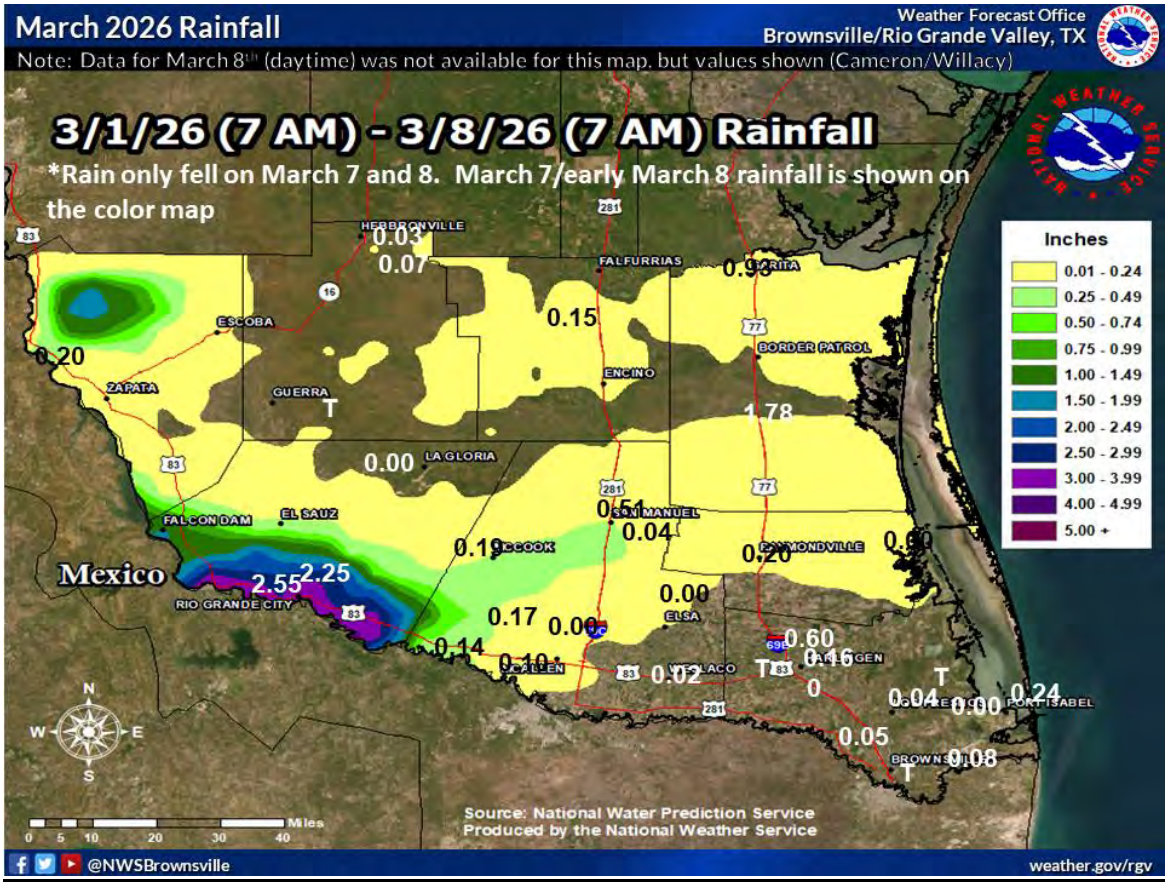


Figure 5. March rainfall for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas ranch country. Note that rainfall for March 8th (afternoon) in Cameron and Willacy County is not shown due to a missing daily data file.

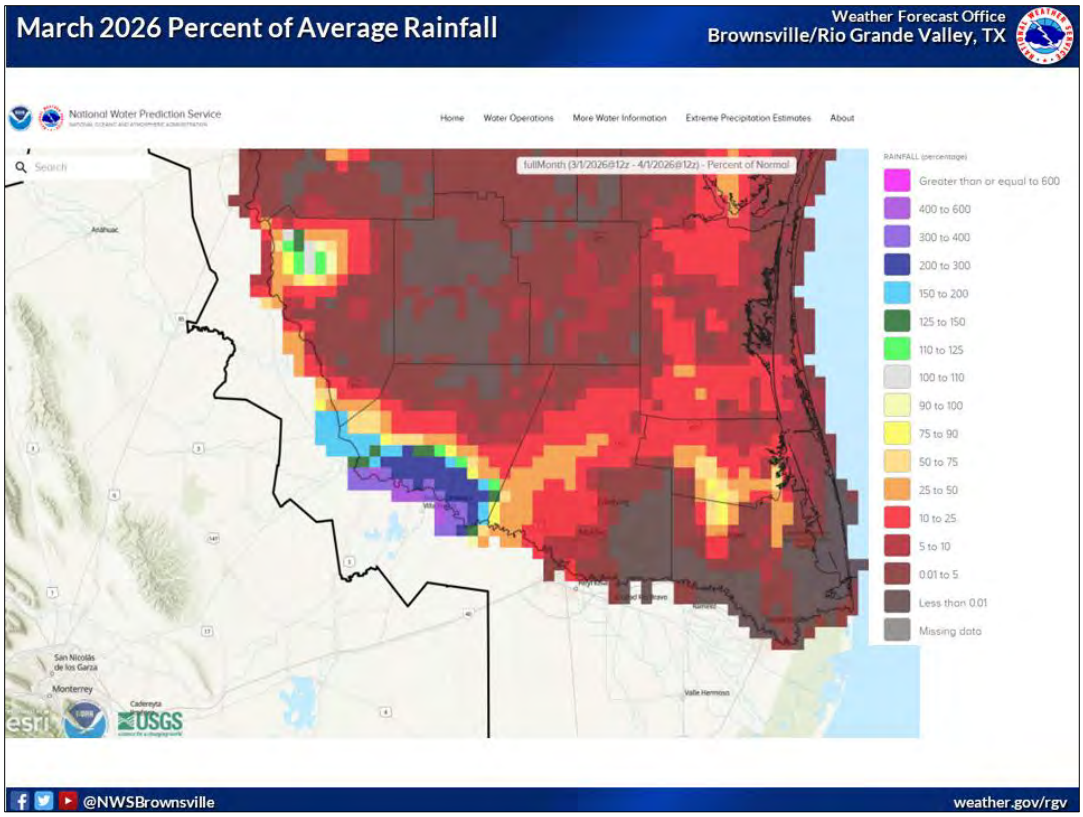


Figure 6. March percentage of rainfall for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas ranch country.

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

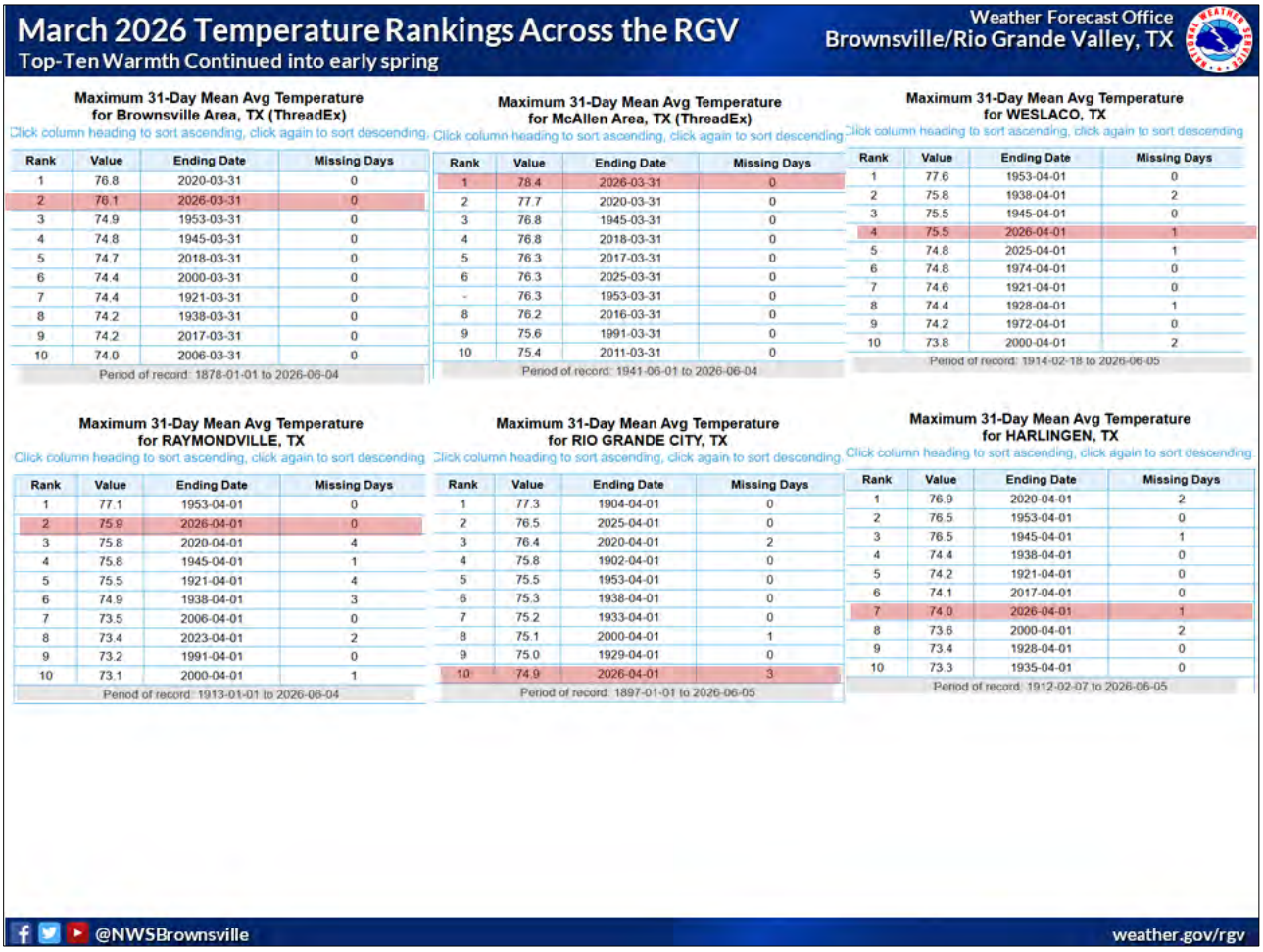


Figure 7. March average temperatures for selected Lower Rio Grande Valley cities. Top five-to-ten warmth that began the year persisted through March.

March was virtually rain-free for all but a few spots. As mentioned in the Season in a Nutshell overview, Extreme (D3) to Exceptional (D4) Drought, which covered 71% of the region on March 3, would further expand to cover nearly 95% of the region by March 31 (Figure 1a, page 2). The dry conditions, along with a favorable pattern for warmth, left the month ranked among the top five to ten hottest on record (Figure 7). Brownsville, Weslaco, and McAllen, which missed the localized rainfall on March 7 and 8, finished among the top five driest on record (zero to 0.02"). Texas Agrilife reported the following in their March 31 crop and weather report: "Pasture and rangeland conditions were poor, with elevated fire danger. Livestock required heavy supplementation, and hay supplies tightened. Wildlife and livestock stress increased due to lack of water and forage." The dry and occasionally windy conditions led to the spread of several wildfires across the ranch region, with one fire of more than 2200 acres impacting rangeland in western Kenedy County on March 19th, continuing through the 23rd.

The one notable event in March occurred during the evening of March 7 into the early morning of March 8. This event featured small supercell thunderstorms that provided brief rain relief to portions of Zapata County, but ultimately a single, large supercell that hugged the Rio Grande along the Starr County/Tamaulipas (Mexico) border. The supercell produced a combination of heavy rainfall (upwards of 2"), large hail up to baseball sized – a much of that hail driven by winds between 65 and 80 mph. A second cluster of thunderstorms after midnight impacted northern Tamaulipas

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

and slid across the river into southwest Starr, including Roma. Those cells, which produced another 1 to 2" of rainfall, were the kicker to over spilling culverts, arroyos, and other "washes" in Roma – one that tore up portions of paved roads in the city creating the worst flash flood seen there since late August 2008. During the afternoon of March 8th, a boundary between the remains of the supercell and warmer, more humid air along the coast triggered a band of an estimated 1-2" of rainfall between north Harlingen and Lyford.

Above - Still photo from a video of a flash flood in Roma, Texas, early on March 8, 2026. Credit: Chief Garza of the Roma Fire Department.

Other than the March 7-8 window, there were no other notable rain events in March 2026.

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

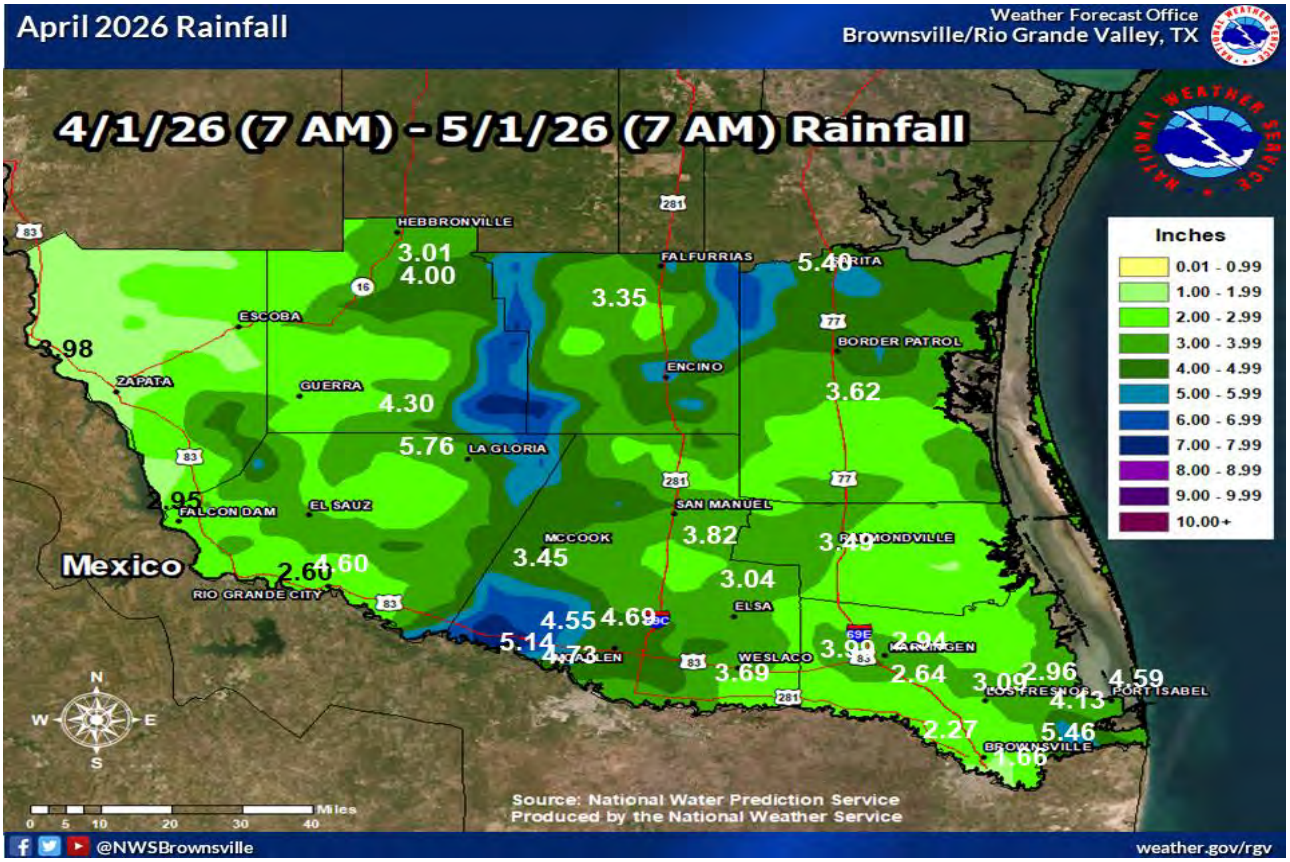


Figure 8. April rainfall for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas ranch country, annotated with data from CoCoRaHS, ASOS, and Texas Mesonet locations, among others.

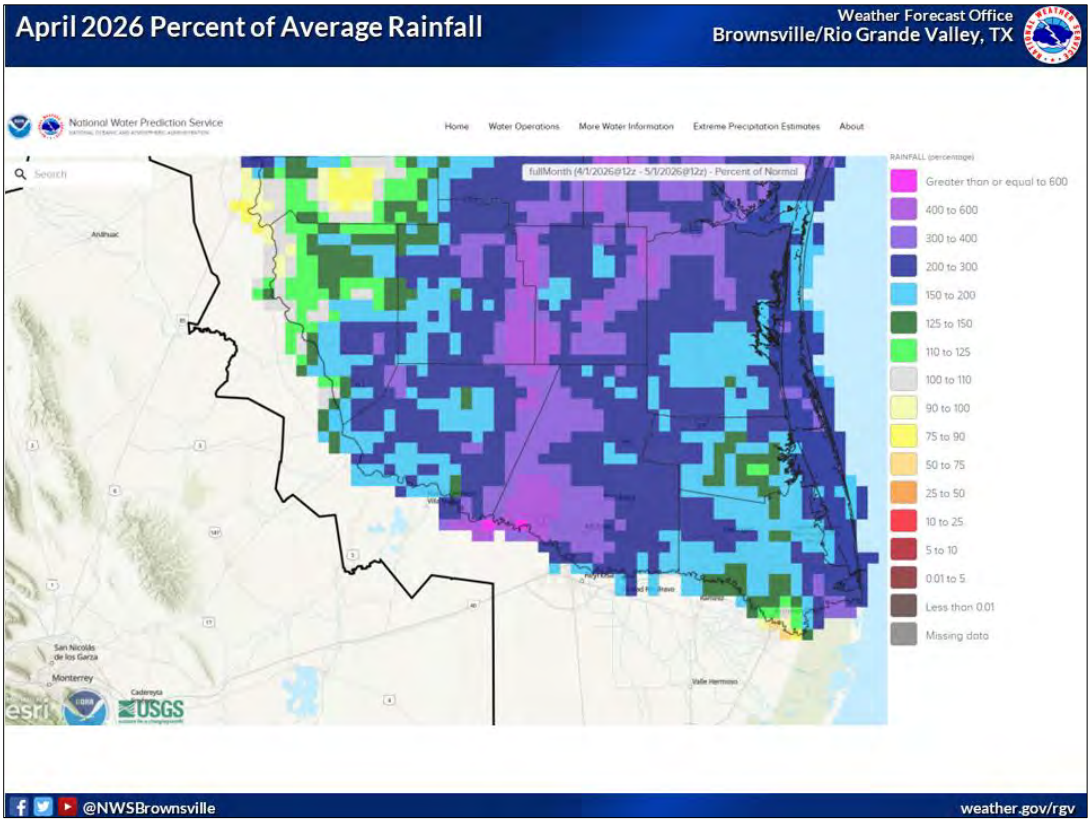


Figure 9. April percentage of average rainfall for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas ranch country.

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

April: What a difference a month made! The month began with a continuation of hot and rain-free weather through the afternoon of the 4th. Change began late that afternoon and evening, as a slow-moving cluster of thunderstorms developed along the Jim Hogg/Brooks County line, and moved/redeveloped into far western and southwestern Hidalgo County. Radar estimates of 3-5+" were the pre-cursor to a more widespread rain event – the most since July 1-2, 2025 (associated with the remains of Tropical Storm Barry) – on Easter Sunday (April 5th) across the populated Lower Rio Grande Valley behind a robust mid-spring cold front, which dropped temperatures into the 50s for many areas during the steady, beneficial rainfall. The Eastern Sunday event dropped 1 to 3", accounting for the majority of the month's rain for locations east of the aforementioned April 4th event. For many, the two-day rainfall was 2 to 3 times the *monthly* average for April.

Additional light to locally moderate rain fell between the 8th and 11th, with another robust cold front on the 18th into the 19th providing sufficient lift for locally heavy rainfall (0.75 to 2") on the 18th into the 19th, as daytime temperatures (19th) held in the low to mid 60s for many - 20°F below average for the date.

Monthly totals generally ranged from 2" to more than 6" – two to more than four times the April average (Figures 8 and 9). The rains chipped away at the worst drought in thirteen years; by the end of April, widespread Extreme (level 3 of 4) to Exceptional (level 4 of 4) Drought had been improved to Moderate (level 1 of 4) to Severe (level 2 of 4) (Figure 10).

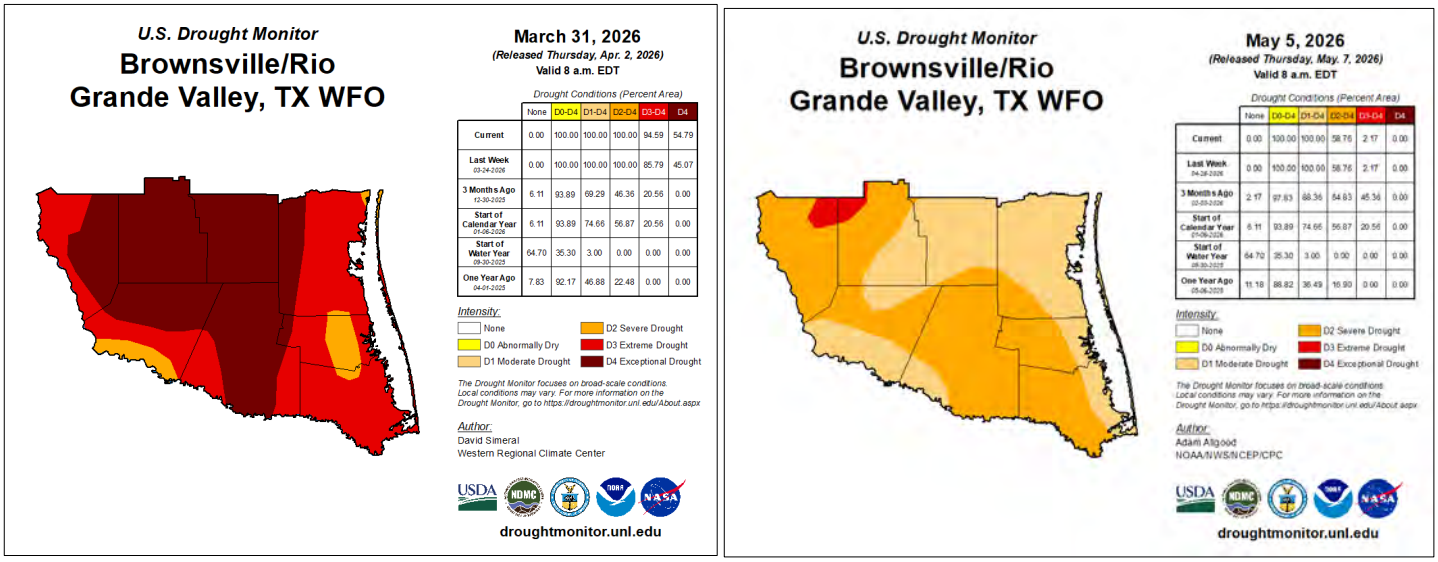


Figure 10. Drought improvement for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas ranchlands between March 31, 2026 (left) and May 5, 2026 (right).

The periodic rains, and passage of two notable cold fronts, did knock down temperatures relative to monthly 1991-2020 averages – but not in every case. Brownsville, which received less than 2" of monthly rainfall and was on the edge of the April 18/19 front, ended the month ranked 6th warmest overall. McAllen and Weslaco ranked among the top 25 warmest (and ~ top 20% warmest), while Harlingen, Raymondville, and Rio Grande City were in the top 33% warmest on record (Figure 11).

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

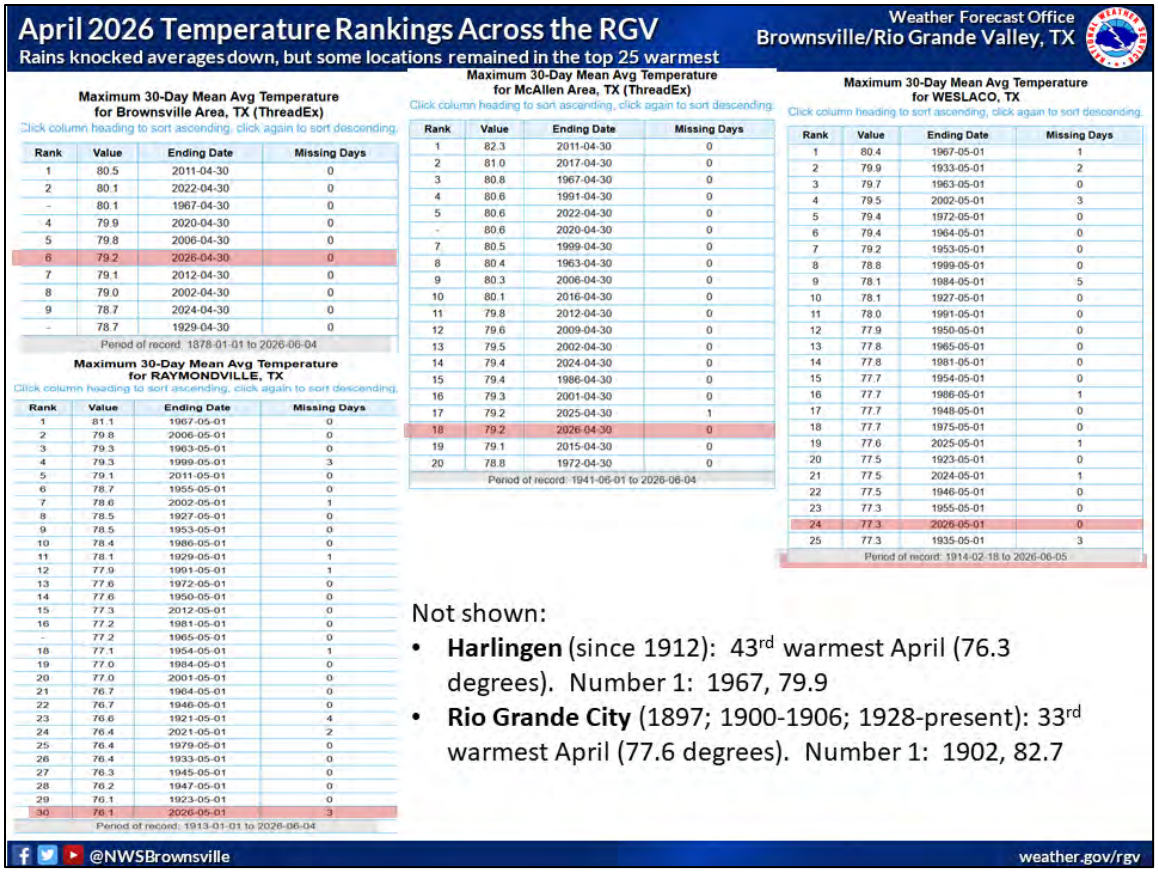


Figure 11. Temperature rankings, April, for select cities of the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

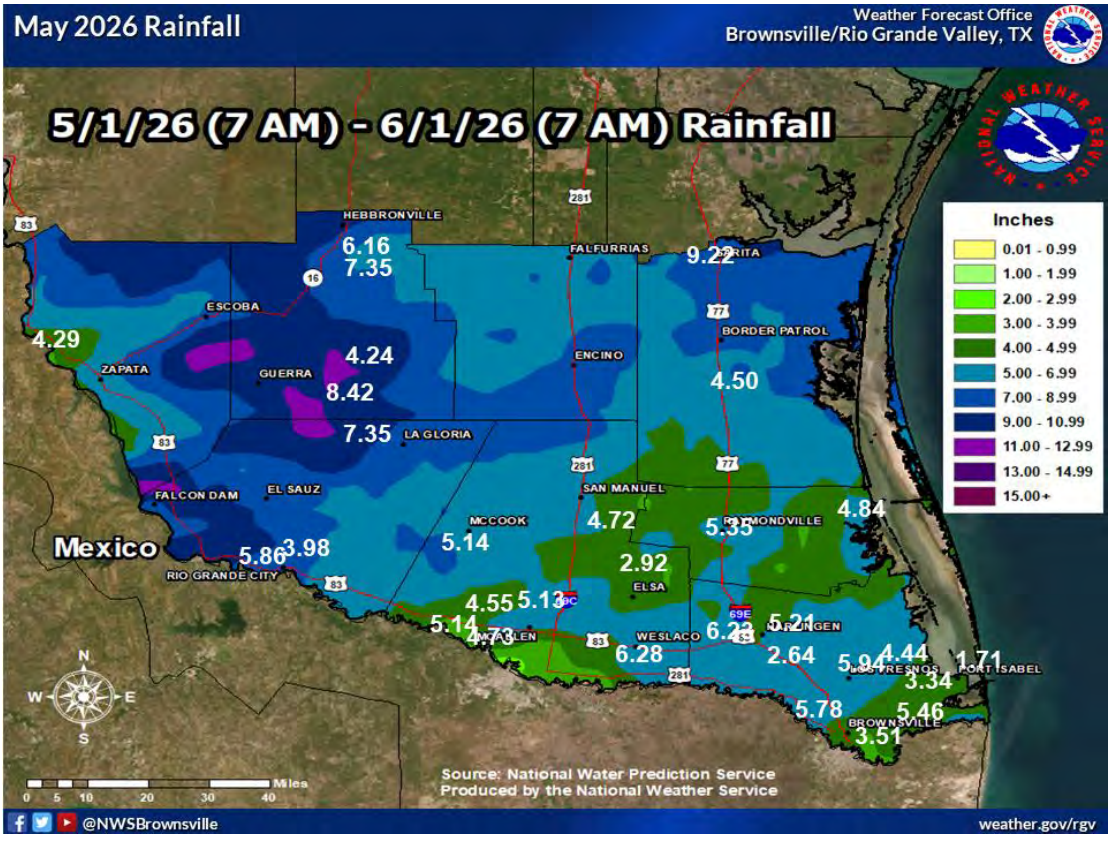


Figure 12. May rainfall for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas ranch country, annotated with data from CoCoRaHS, ASOS, and Texas Mesonet locations, among others.

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

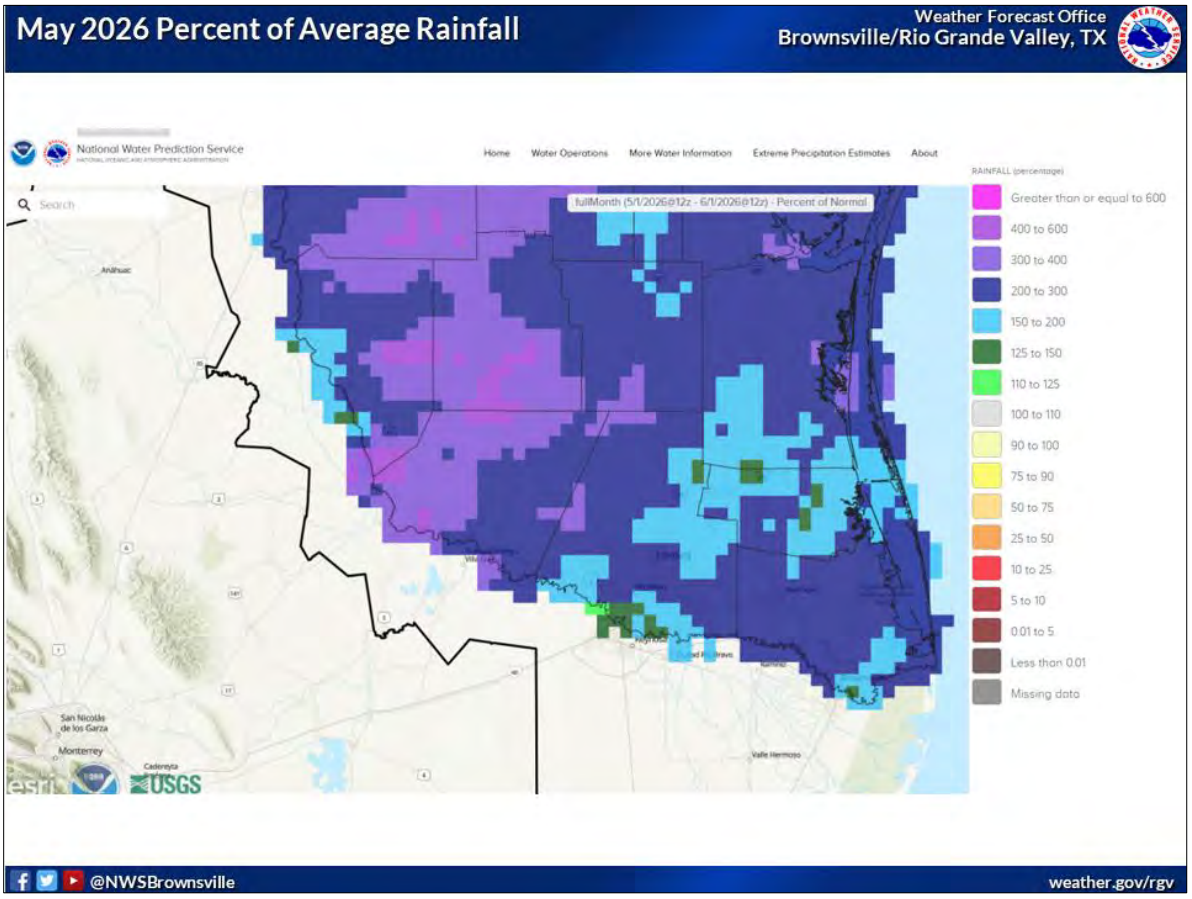


Figure 13. May percentage of average rainfall for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas ranch country.

May finished, in terms of rainfall and drought removal, what April 2026 began. Following one final spring (and late) cold front on the 1st into the 2nd , generally seasonal heat returned – but the atmosphere remained "active" with a persistent trough of low pressure over the southwest U.S. and northwest Mexico and Baja California (Figure 16, below) allowing short-wave energy to emit from this trough several times, leading to atmospheric lift that helped generate thunderstorm lines or cluster along/east of the Sierra Madre or across central or north-central Texas – several which moved southeast and reached all or part of the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas ranchlands. Highest rainfall occurred across Starr, western Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, and eastern Hidalgo (Figure 12, above), with two to four+ times the average monthly rainfall (8 to 12"; the 1991-2020 average is generally 2 to 2.5"), with other locations at 1.5 to nearly 3 times average (Figure 13, above).

Severe weather, mainly in the form of straight-line winds, impacted parts of the region, beginning with a wet microburst from southeastern Hidalgo through central Cameron County on May 9th that produced estimated and measured wind gusts of 65 to 82 mph that damaged or destroyed several substandard buildings and continuing with spotty gusts over 60 mph on May 20th near the coast, and a supercell that rolled through northeast Kenedy County late on May 22 that produced large hail in Sarita and a wind gust to 94 mph along Laguna Madre.

Thunderstorm clusters and squall lines produced observed and radar-estimated heavy rain events on the following days:

- May 9, Starr and Hidalgo (1 to 2")
- May 20 (pre-dawn), Kenedy and Brooks (0.5 to 2")

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

- May 21 (pre-dawn), Starr, Jim Hogg, and eastern Zapata (3 to 5+")
- May 23/24, southern Zapata, northern Starr, southern Jim Hogg, Brooks (1 to 3+")
- May 26 (evening/overnight), northern Zapata and northern Jim Hogg (2 to 4")
- May 27 (morning/early afternoon), Cameron, Willacy, southern Kenedy (2 to 3.5")

Ranch rains provided welcome relief for livestock water needs and rangeland growth; minor urban flooding occurred during the morning/early afternoon of May 27th in Cameron and Willacy County. In all areas, green and thick grasses and brush replaced the parched, dusty landscape at the end of May – less than two months after the worst of the early spring drought.

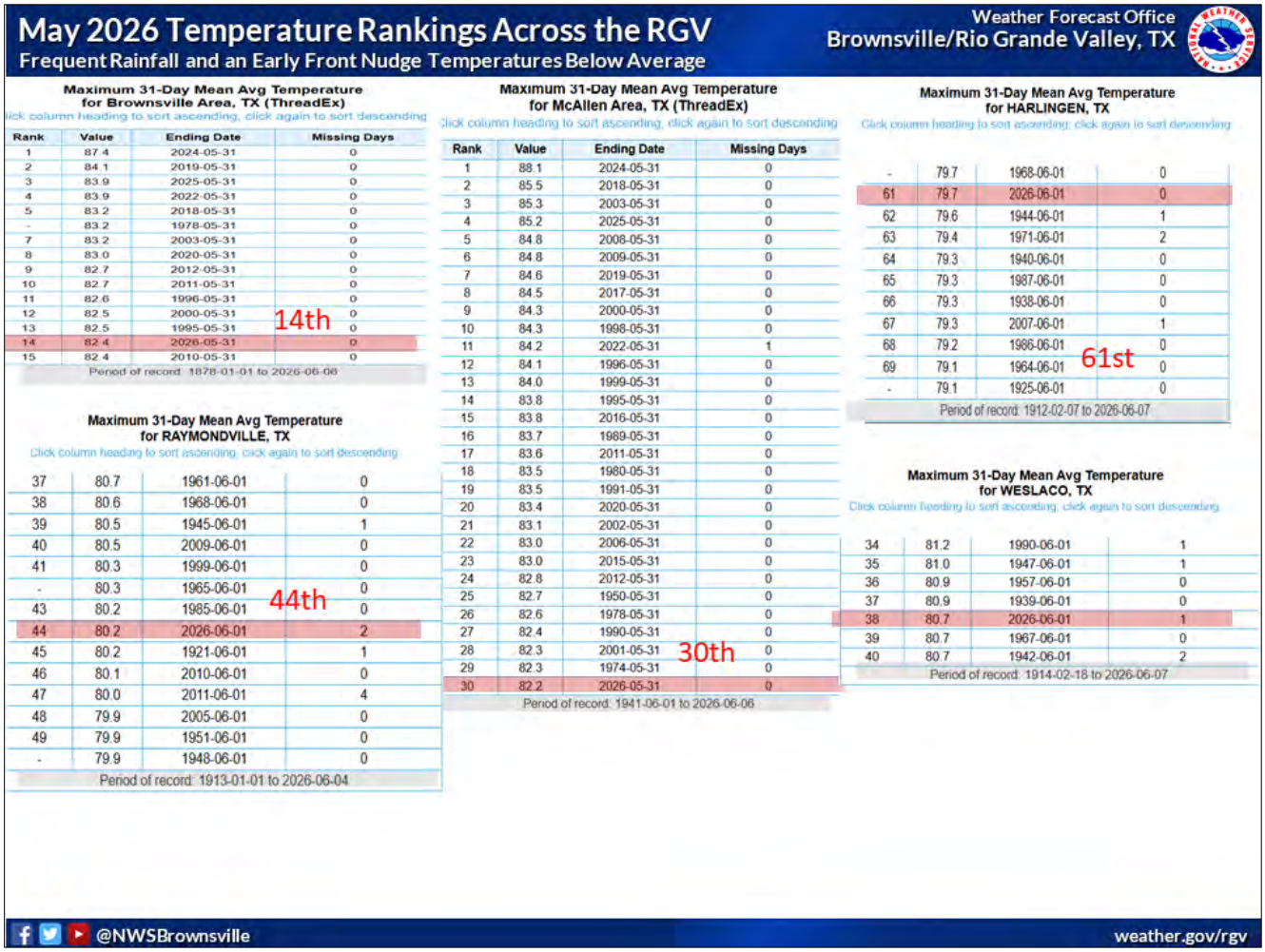


Figure 14. Temperature rankings, May, for select cities of the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Not surprisingly, monthly average temperatures were impacted by the frequent rains, with most locations ending at or just below the 1991-2020 average. That said, most locations ended up in the top 50% of record, with Brownsville still ranking 14th hottest despite seeing above average rainfall (3.51" vs. 2.22" on average).

Reservoir Response

The April, and especially May, rainfall aided inflows into the Lower Rio Grande river basin, which included the Rio Salado and other tributaries. Conservation storage levels rose from just under 11% at the end of March to just below 17% at the end of May at Falcon International Reservoir – which also provided a few targeted releases for crop growers and municipalities of the Lower Rio Grande Valley during the period. Unfortunately, upstream Amistad International Reservoir only saw a minor rise from early to mid-April, before a slow drop thereafter…down to 18.7%, near the all-

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

time low value since the dam/reservoir constitution in 1970-1971. Amistad – Falcon Percent of Conservation Capacity continued to remain near record lows, with a slight uptick in the U.S. percentage since early 2025 being countered by near record low Mexican percentages during the same period (Figure 15).

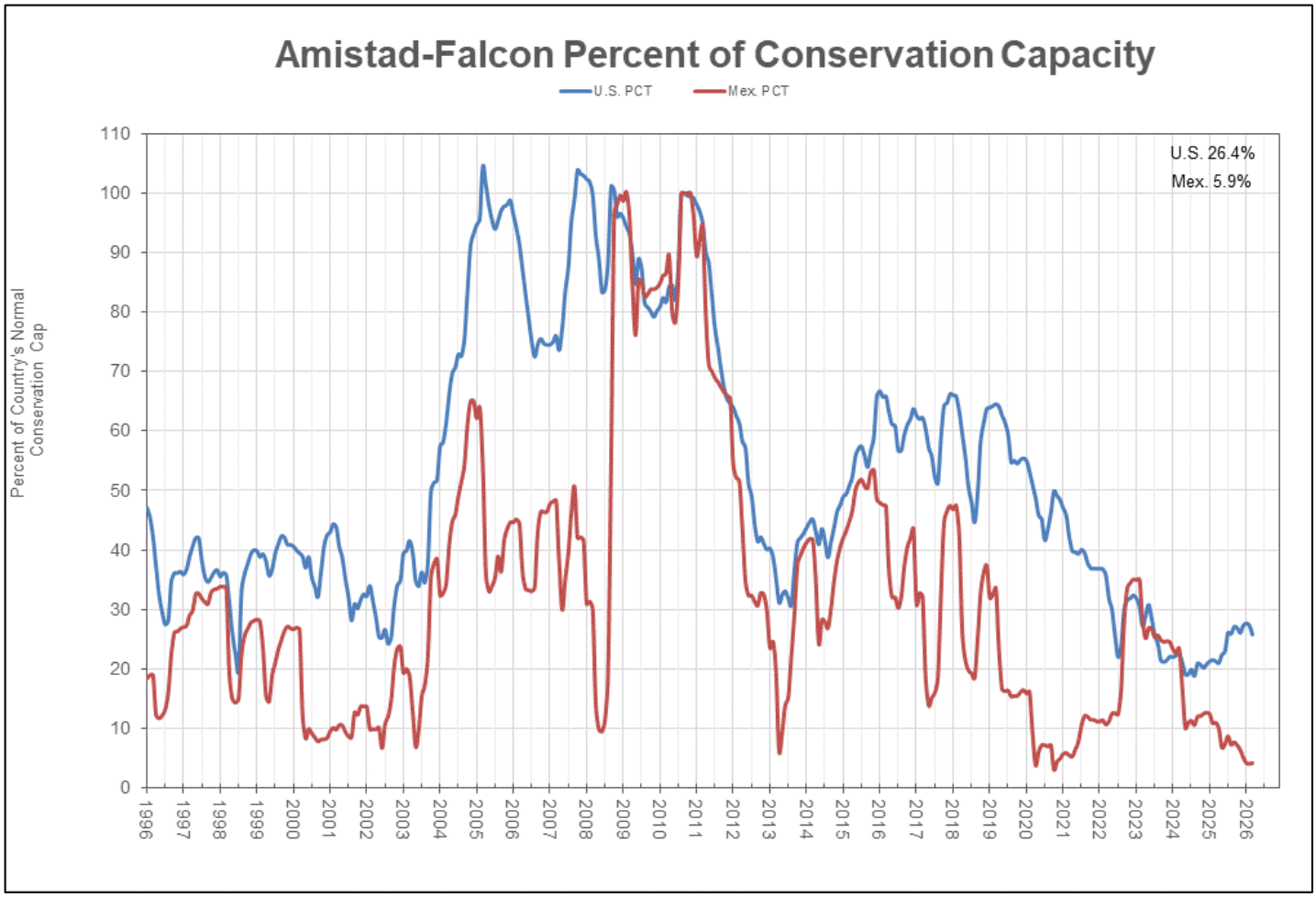


Figure 15. Amistad minus Falcon International Reservoir Percent of Conservation Capacity, 1996 through present.

Rio Grande Valley Regional Summary (continued)

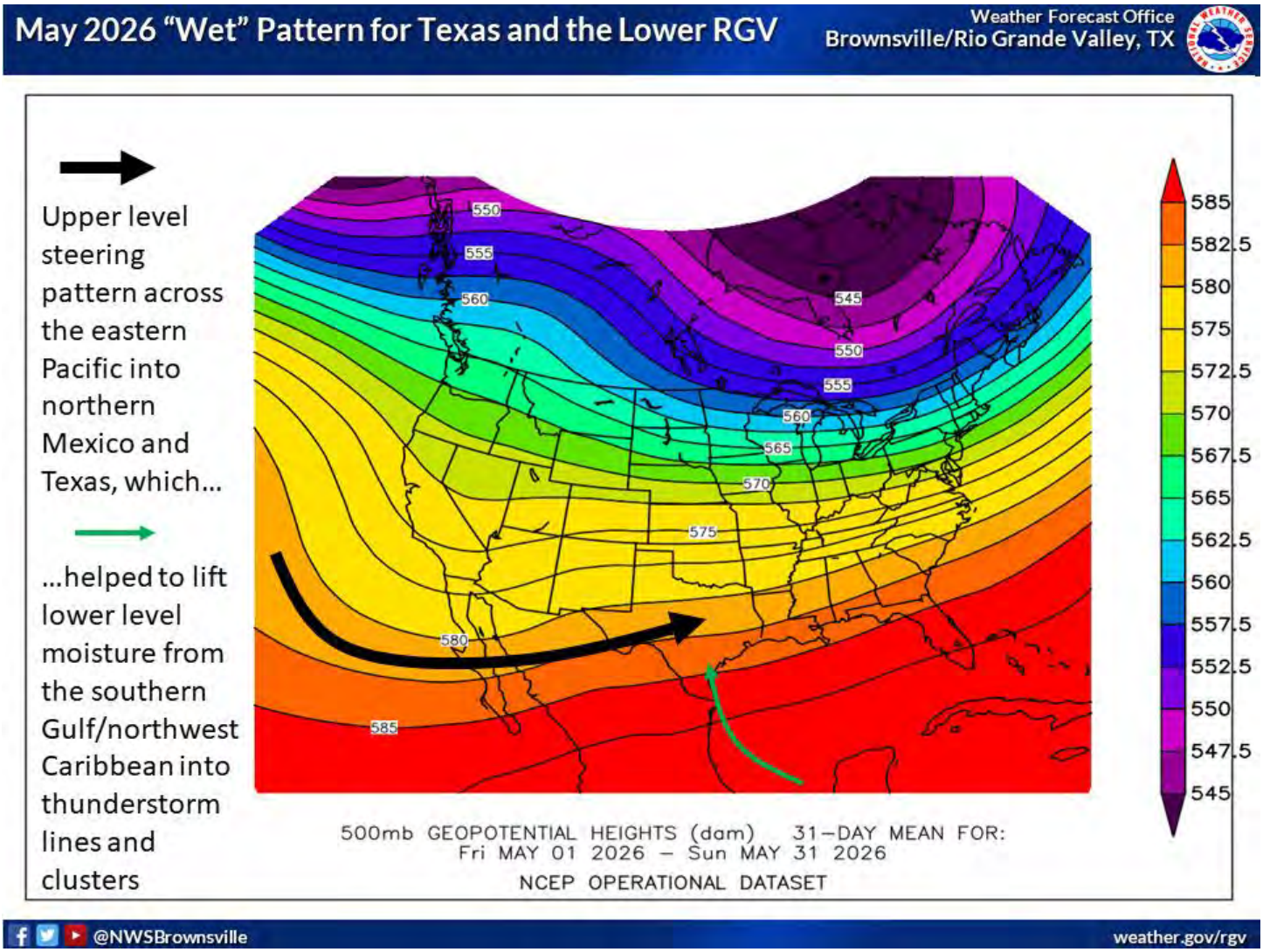


Figure 16. May 2026 steering pattern, at around 18 thousand feet above ground level, across the United States.

Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary

Active Spring leads to short term Drought Improvement Across all of South-Central Texas

By Mack Morris, Meteorologist at NWS Austin/San Antonio

Spring 2026 will go down as a far more active spring compared to recent years. South Central Texas has largely missed out on meaningful rainfall in the spring months since 2021 and as a result, long term drought continues to worsen. There are signs of changes and hope for long term relief, but we will likely see continued long term impacts through the summer months.

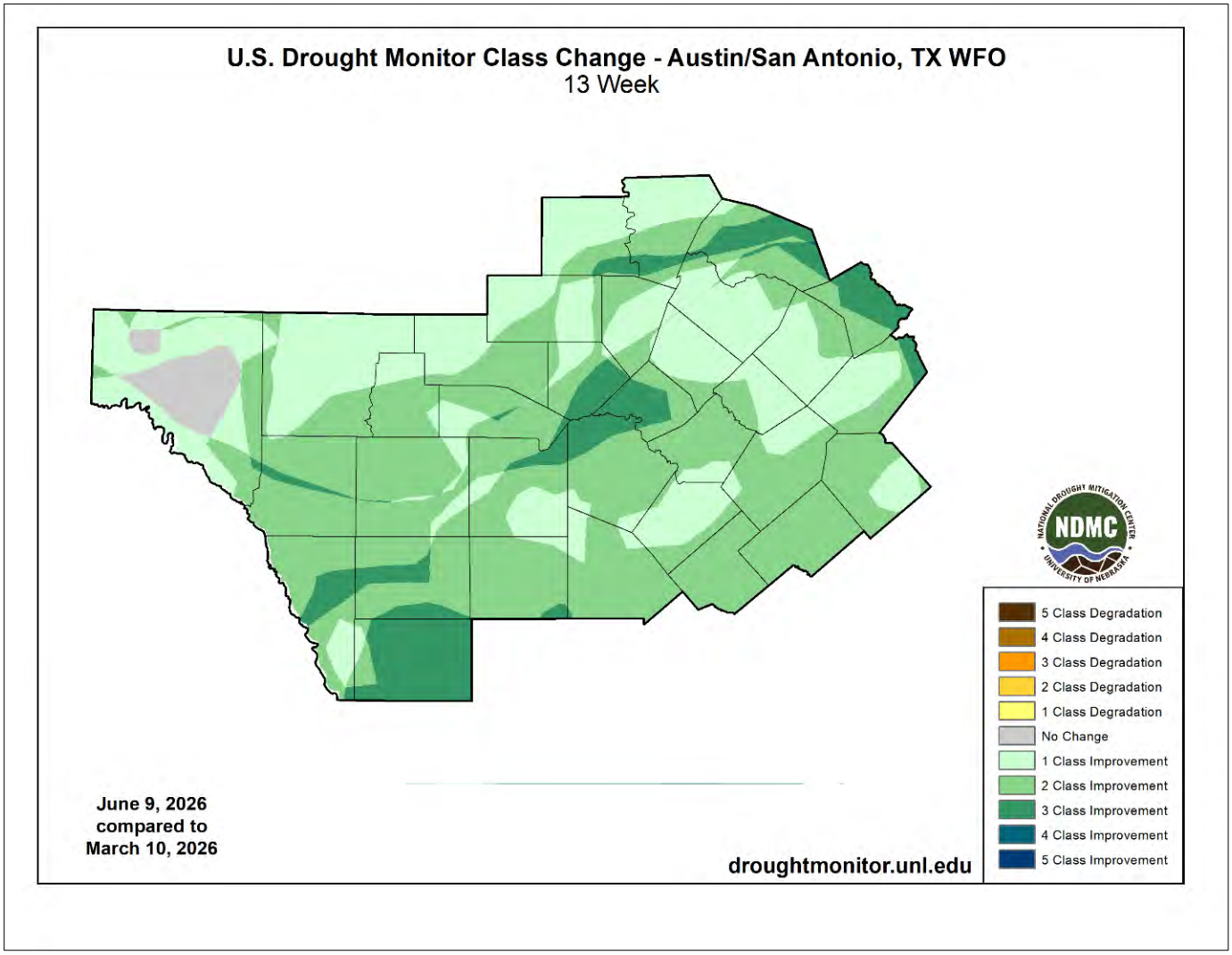


Figure 1: US Drought Monitor 13 week change map March 3 to June 2, 2026

Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary (continued)

March 2026

The month of March was actually quite dry for the region, with below normal rainfall for the vast majority of the area. Localized portions of the Hill Country, Rio Grande Plains, and Winter Garden saw above normal rainfall for the month. The month was also the warmest March on record for 3 of the 4 long term climate sites in South Central Texas.

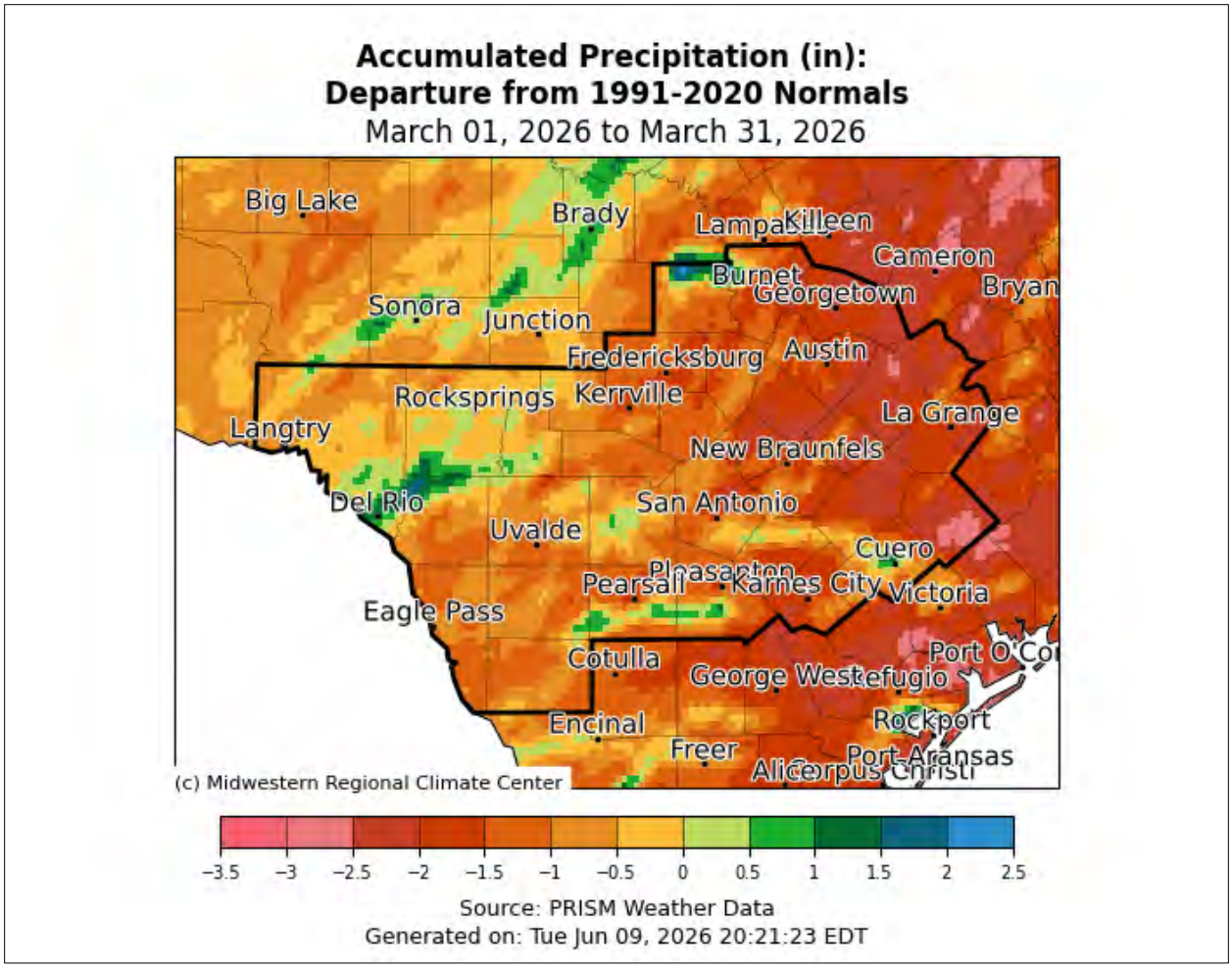


Figure 2: March departure from normal precipitation

Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary (continued)

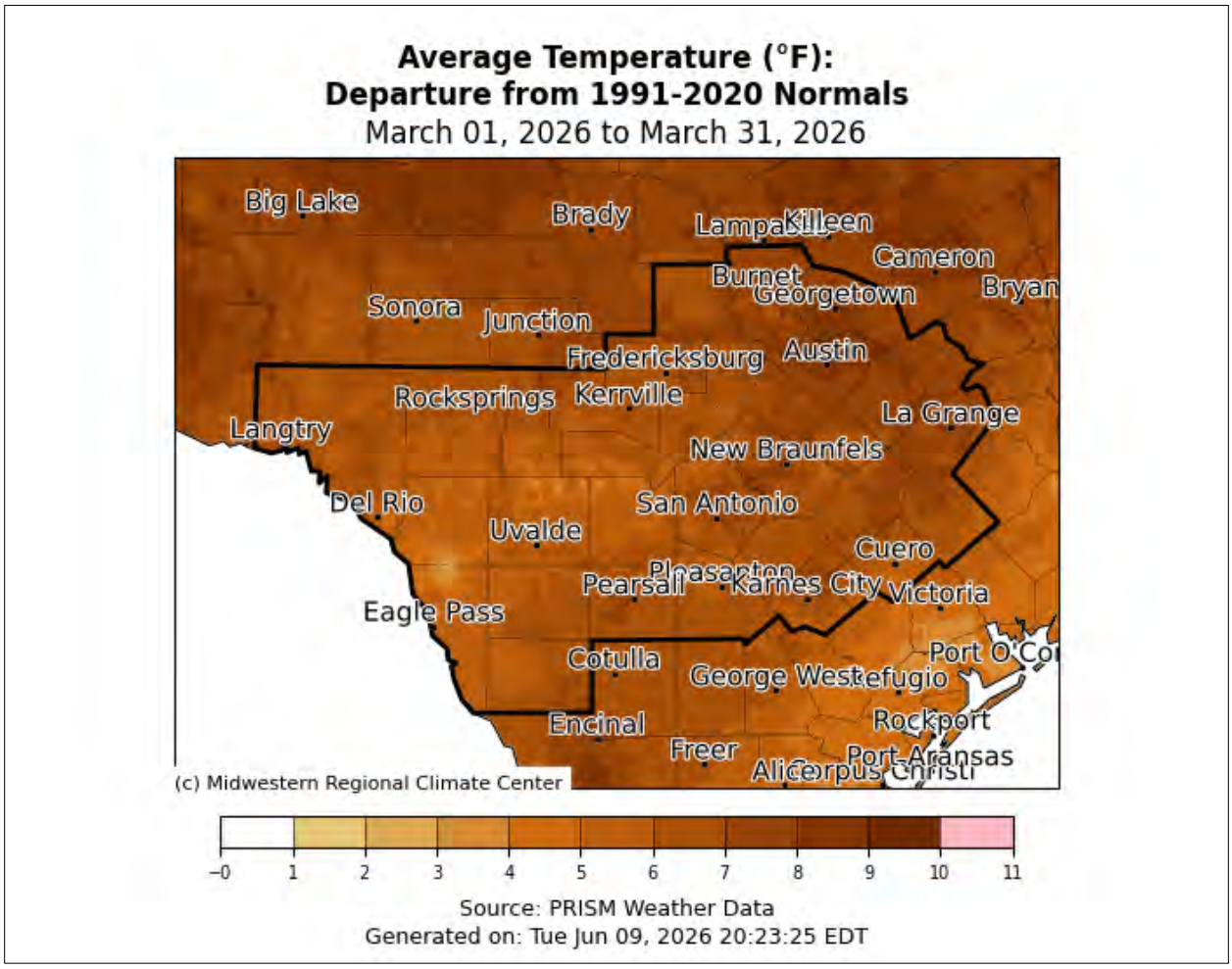


Figure 3: March departure from normal temperatures

On the evening of the 4th, Llano County saw significant rainfall from storms training across northern Llano and northwestern Burnet Counties. CoCoRaHS observers in the Lake Buchanan and Tow areas recorded 3-4" of rainfall with these storms as they moved through slowly on the evening of the 4th.

The second week of March brought several rounds of severe weather to South Central Texas. At Del Rio, a 74 mph wind gust was recorded, and the wettest March Day on record occurred on the 10th. Observers in Del Rio reported between 1.5-3.10" of rainfall from storms on the evening of the 10th. Hail up to golf ball size was reported on the northeast side of Del Rio, along with torrential rainfall. Observers noted flooding in the city along with several high-water rescues. Despite the 74 mph wind gust at the airport, significant damage wasn't reported in town. In addition to the hail, wind, and flooding, a brief tornado occurred over rural Kinney County late on the evening of the 10th. Storms over Del Rio moved east northeast and eventually dropped even bigger hail over southern Real and Bandera Counties. Grapefruit sized hail was reported south of Camp Wood in Real County by storm chasers in the area. Hail up to 5" in diameter was also reported just east of Camp Wood to the south of Leakey. CoCoRaHS in the Leakey area reported between 2-2.5" of rain along with hail up to baseball size. Moving further east, the storm finally started to weaken, but not before dropping tennis ball sized hail to the north of the city of Medina. In addition to the severe weather, widespread beneficial rainfall was noted across South Central Texas, with between .5"-2.5" for the I-35 Corridor and points west.

Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary (continued)

Figure 4: Hail near Camp Wood from Nick Henniger via Facebook

Temperatures steadily increased through the next several days, culminating in the hottest day of the month on March 15th, with highs in the upper 90s at all four climate sites and throughout South-Central Texas. The area went from record highs to record cold the morning of the 17th. For example, San Antonio went from a high of 98 on the 15th to a low of 36 on the morning of the 17th! Austin Bergstrom was even more extreme, going from 98 to 29! The temperature roller coaster would continue through the following week, with highs climbing back into the lower to middle 90s by the 21st-22nd. The month of March finished out warm and mostly dry for South Central Texas, with the record warmest at San Antonio and Austin climate sites.

Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary (continued)

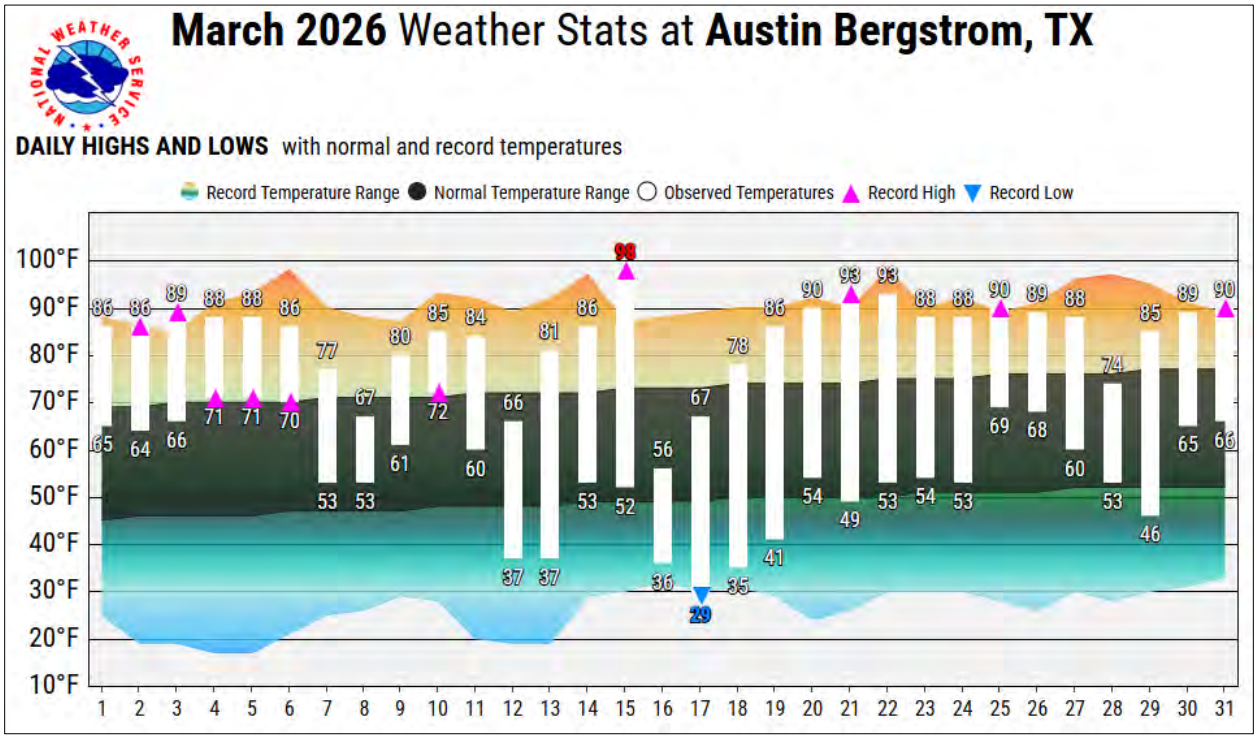


Figure 5: March 2026 Temperature Summary at Austin Bergstrom (Note the massive temperature swing from March 15th-17th from 98 to 29!)

April 2026

April was the start of an active period of weather for South Central Texas that didn't really let up through the remainder of the spring months. A persistent polar jet stream and adequate low and mid-level moisture through April and stretching through the month of May meant welcome rainfall for the region. However, the rainfall wasn't without severe weather, as is typical for our region in the spring months. Beneficial rainfall occurred on the 2nd of April over the I-35 Corridor and Hill Country, as 0.5" to upwards of 2" of rain fell in the area. Additionally, a brief tornado occurred in Giddings rated as EF0 with winds up to 70 mph. The tornado briefly touched down southwest of town and lifted as it moved into town. Sporadic damage to power lines, tree limbs, and tin sheds was noted.

Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary (continued)

Figure 6: Tornado Damage in Downtown Giddings on April 2nd.

Easter weekend turned soggy for South Central Texas, with most of the area seeing widespread rain showers, particularly on the 4th where heavy rains with totals ranging from 1.75” to 2.6” in the San Marcos area were observed. Elsewhere, in eastern and east-central Medina County, significant rain fell, with totals from 2-3” noted by CoCoRaHS observers.

Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary (continued)

After a break from the rain for a few days, a more long-term active pattern began on April 9th, stretching through the 15th. Rain was observed at Austin Bergstrom, Austin Camp Mabry, and San Antonio International each day. In total, CoCoRaHS observers in the area reported between 1 and 2" for the week. Several parts of the area received significant rainfall on the 11th and 12th of April, notably portions of Burnet, Llano, Val Verde, Edwards, Kerr, and Gillespie received between 1-3" of rainfall, while heavy rains also impacted Gonzales, Fayette, and Lavaca Counties on the morning of the 12th. Storms stalled over the Coastal Plains, leading to rainfall totals between 3" and 8", particularly over southeastern Gonzales, northern Lavaca and southern Fayette Counties. A Flood Watch was in place at the time for a good chunk of South-Central Texas. In particular, Moulton, Shiner, Schulenburg, and Gonzales were hit the hardest, with gauges measuring from 5-9" of rainfall!

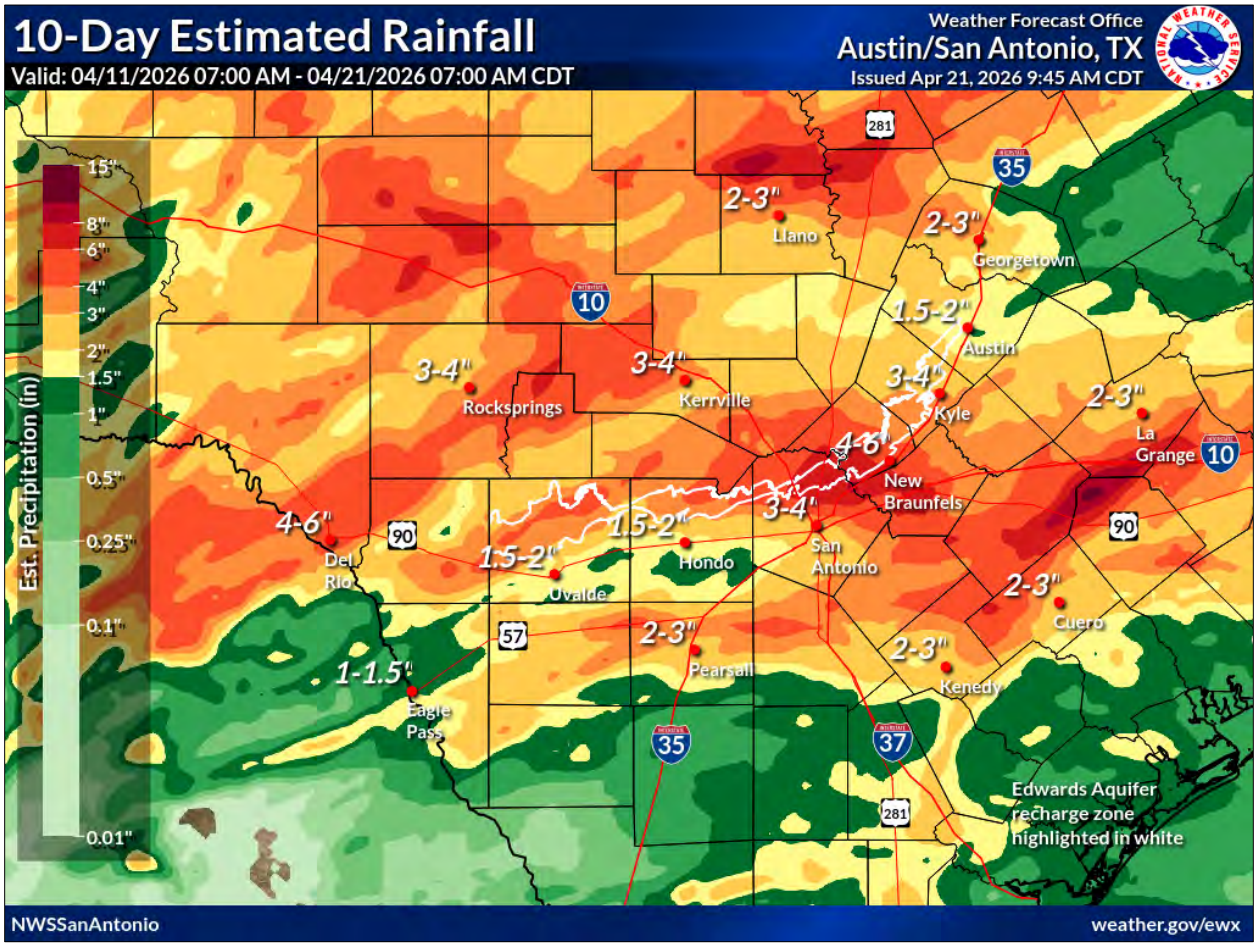


Figure 7: 10 Day Rainfall from the wet second and third weeks of April

Mid to late April brought continued active weather to South Central Texas with unusually late season cold front on the 18th dropping highs from the upper 80s and lower 90s, to the 70s on the 18-19th, then in the 60s on the 20-21st. Normal highs are in the low to mid 80s, so it was unusual for April. After a brief lull in heavy rainfall the 15-17th, significant rain occurred along the aforementioned cold front on the 18th. A swatch of 1-2" fell from western Bexar County through Comal, eastward into southwestern Hays. Totals greater than 2" were noted by CoCoRaHS in Canyon Lake and Mico in northeastern Medina County. Additional rainfall occurred on the 19th, but not as heavy as on the 18th of April. Significant rainfall and flooding occurred on the afternoon of April 20th over northern Bexar, southern Kendall, Comal, and Guadalupe Counties. Between 2-6" of rain fell in these areas, with the highest amounts around

Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary (continued)

Hollywood Park, Schertz, Cibolo, Seguin, and New Braunfels. This rainfall led to flooding in northern Bexar County resulted in high water rescues along Salado Creek, which tragically led to at least 1 fatality. In total, 22 high water rescues occurred in northern Bexar County as a result of the flooding. The flooding didn't stop there as additional heavy rainfall occurred over Williamson County on the 21st. Days of rainfall preceding this event led to saturated soils that couldn't take on additional water, so runoff occurred quickly. Rainfall amounts from 2-3" upstream of Berry Creek in north-central Williamson County led to flooding downstream. Observers in Sun City northwest of Georgetown noted 1.5"-2.6" of rain out of storms early in the morning on the 21st. One more thing to note: San Antonio International Airport had its third wettest April day on record and it wasn't even the wettest for the calendar day. The airport recorded 4.42" on the 20th, but the daily record is still 4.64".

Figure 5: October 2025 Estimated Rainfall Totals

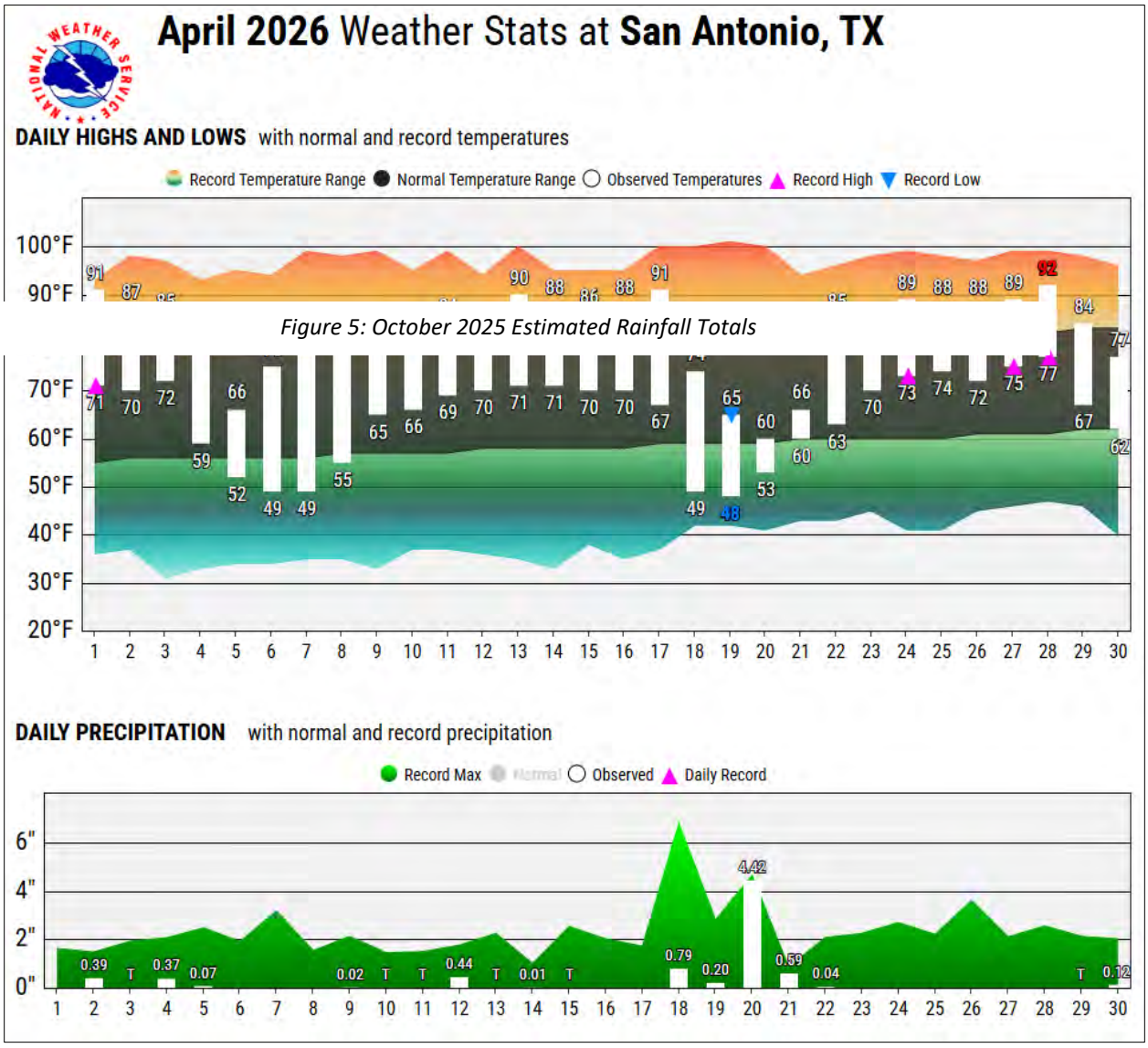


Figure 8: April 2026 Rainfall/Temperatures at SAT (Note the heavy rain event on the 20th)

A much-needed break in the rain occurred from the 22nd through 29th, helping the region to dry out a bit before yet another unusually late season cold front moved through on the 30th. Severe storms developed the evening of the 29th ahead of the cold front, over the Rio Grande Plains/Edwards Plateau, resulting in massive hail once again in southern Real, Edwards, and northern Uvalde Counties. The larger hail appears to have missed any CoCoRaHS sites

Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary (continued)

based on the lack of hail reports, but hail up to 5” in diameter was reported by storm chasers in the area. Heavy rain developed ahead of a southward advancing cold front late on the evening of the 30th and continued through the early morning hours of the 1st of May. Multiple rounds of heavy rain moved through the region, particularly over the I-35 Corridor and Coastal Plains, but additional heavy rainfall occurred in Llano and Burnet Counties. Between 1-4” of rain was noted across much of South-Central Texas by CoCoRaHS observers, with the highest totals in central and eastern Bexar County, as well as Guadalupe, northern Gonzales, and southern Caldwell Counties.

Figure 9: Massive hailstone measured near 5 inches by Meteorologist Matthew Cappucci

May 2026

The final month of spring 2026 did not disappoint in the rain department as our active weather pattern continued. By the end of the month, short term drought impacts would be all but eliminated across South Central Texas, but long-term impacts at area reservoirs and lakes would continue.

Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary (continued)

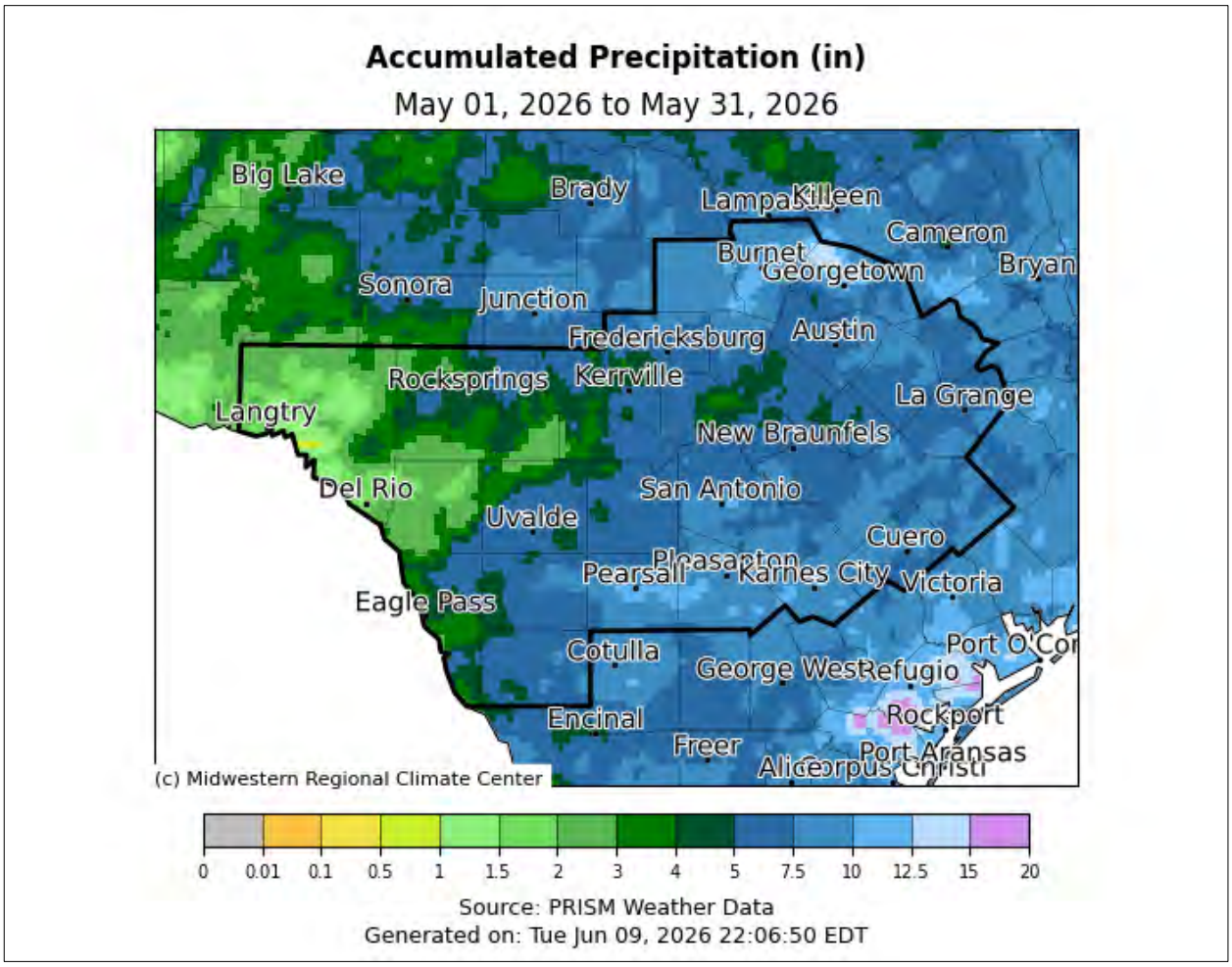


Figure 10: May Rainfall for South Central Texas

After the 1st of May, the first week or so was quiet in the weather department. The weather turned active again on the 6th with severe storms over the Hill Country producing significant hail. Hail up to the size of baseballs was observed in Gillespie County to the northeast of Fredericksburg. Hail up to 2" in diameter was also observed in Llano and near Lake Buchanan. Rainfall from these storms was mostly 1" or less as the storms were quick movers.

Mother's Day 2026 would go down as a stormy one for South Central Texas as strong to severe thunderstorms developed along yet ANOTHER late season cold front. A line of severe storms developed late on the evening of the 10th, with damaging winds and large hail reported in the Hill Country and I-35 Corridor. In fact, a 75 mph wind gust was reported at Hondo Regional Airport in Medina County as storms rolled through late evening. A 64 mph gust was also recorded at Austin Bergstrom International Airport. CoCoRaHS observers reported between 0.5" to as much as 4" of rain as storms rolled through late in the evening hours. Cooler temperatures with highs in the lower 80s and mornings in the upper 50s to lower 60s were observed following the passage of the cold front.

Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary (continued)

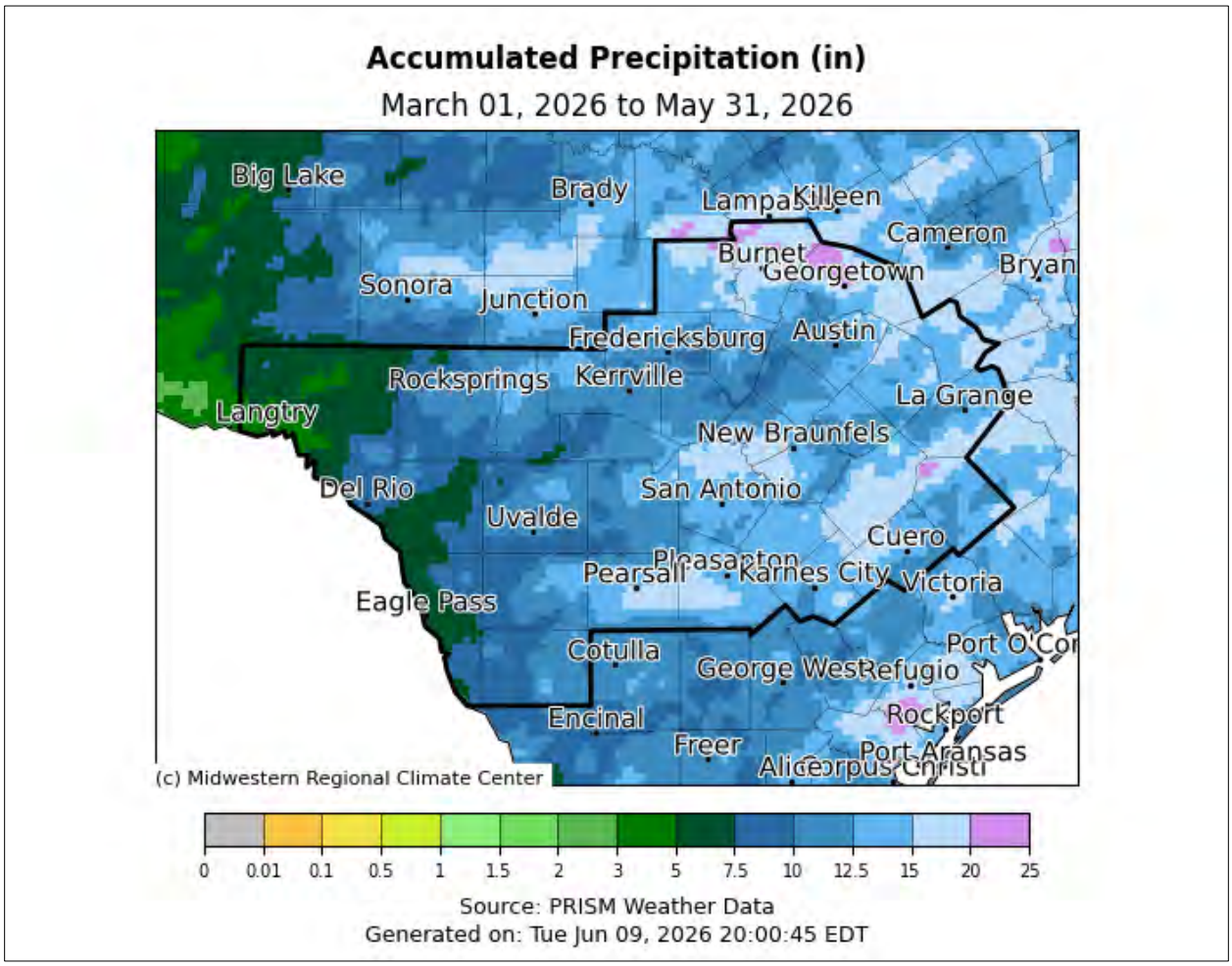


Figure 11: Observed rainfall March 1st through May 31st

The weather turned warm and dry for the next week or so before another active two week stretch began on the 19th of May. Storms originated over the Hill Country and then began to pivot south and east through late evening on the 19th. Significant rainfall was reported in central and northern Williamson County, with observers northwest of Georgetown reporting from 3-5” of rain. Some observers noted high winds as storms rolled through and Georgetown did report winds from 60-74 mph. Damage was noted from straight-line winds. A secondary line of storms developed over the Edwards Plateau and moved through Kerrville, producing wind gusts measured between 60 and 65 mph in addition to torrential rain. Kerr County received from 1-3” of rain with these storms. May 19th was the start of an active stretch of weather with measurable rain reported in most locations between the 19th and 24th.

Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary (continued)

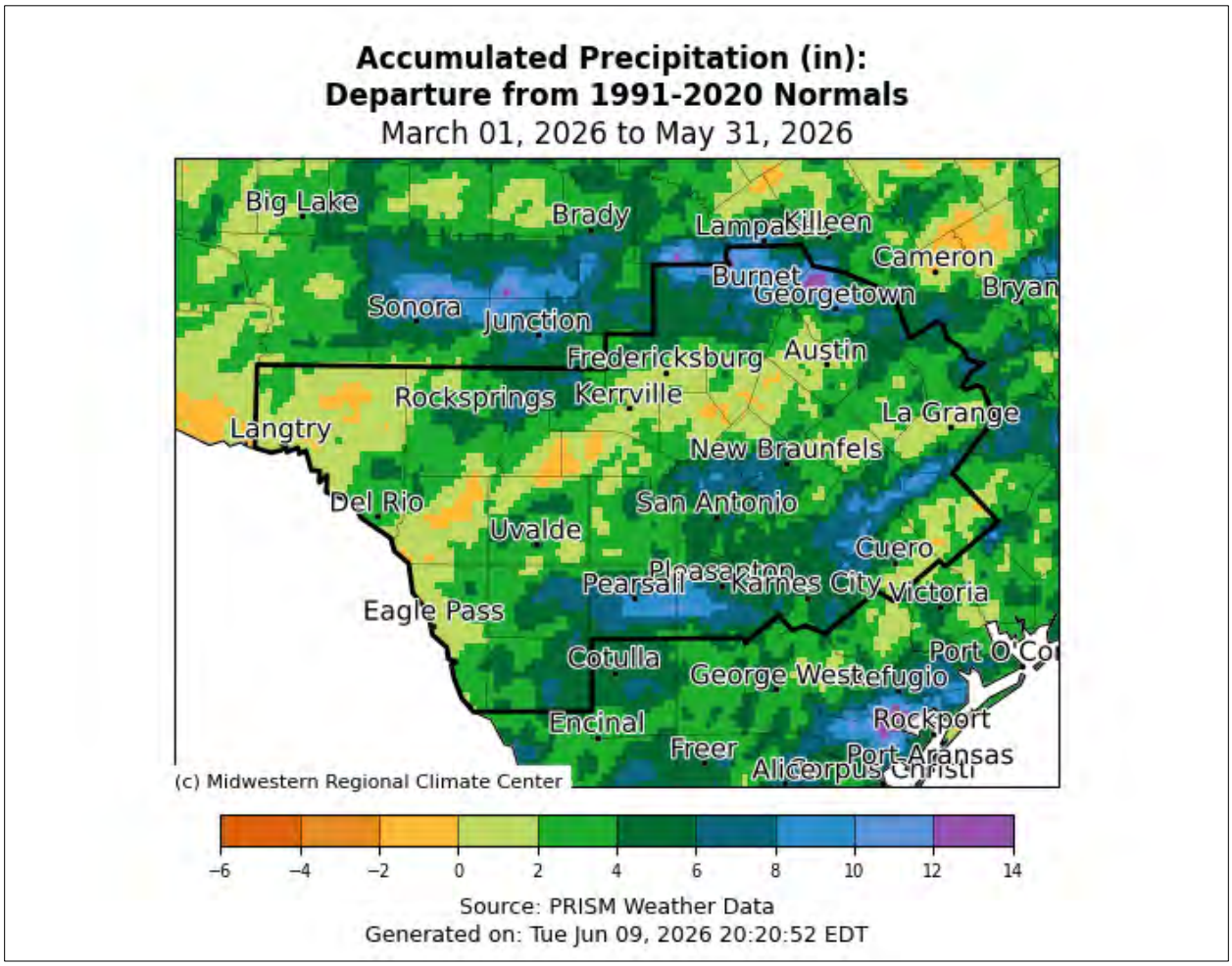


Figure 12: Observed departure from normal rainfall March 1st through May 31st

One final round of flooding rains occurred on the 26th of May, with a Flood Watch in place for the I-35 Corridor, Hill Country, and Edwards Plateau. As soils became saturated from repeated rounds of rain, flash flooding risk increased for the evening of the 26th. In addition to the flooding risk, severe weather became a factor on the 26th as well, with two different tornadoes reported: One in Maverick County which was a brief one to the north of Quemado and a second report in Guadalupe County. The tornado in Guadalupe was rated EF1 by a survey team with winds estimated around 105 mph. The most significant damage occurred a few miles north of New Berlin with widespread tree damage noted. With regard to rainfall, numerous flash flood warnings were issued with rainfall totals from 2-4” for most CoCoRaHS observers in the Hill Country, I-35 Corridor, and Coastal Plains.

Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary (continued)

Figure 13: Tornado damage to trees in Guadalupe County on the 26th of May

Overall, spring 2026 would go down as a very active and wet spring for South Central Texas, primarily from April 1st and onward. Rainfall totals from CoCoRaHS observers from April 1st through May 31st totaled between 6” and 25”. Some areas, such as northern Williamson and Burnet County received as much as 10-16” above normal rainfall for the period. Short term drought was all but eradicated across South Central Texas this spring, however long-term persists.

Austin/San Antonio Regional Summary (continued)

There is continued hope for long term relief for area lakes, reservoirs and streams as El Nino develops late this summer and likely persists through the fall and winter months. This typically results in above normal rainfall in the fall and winter months over South Central Texas.

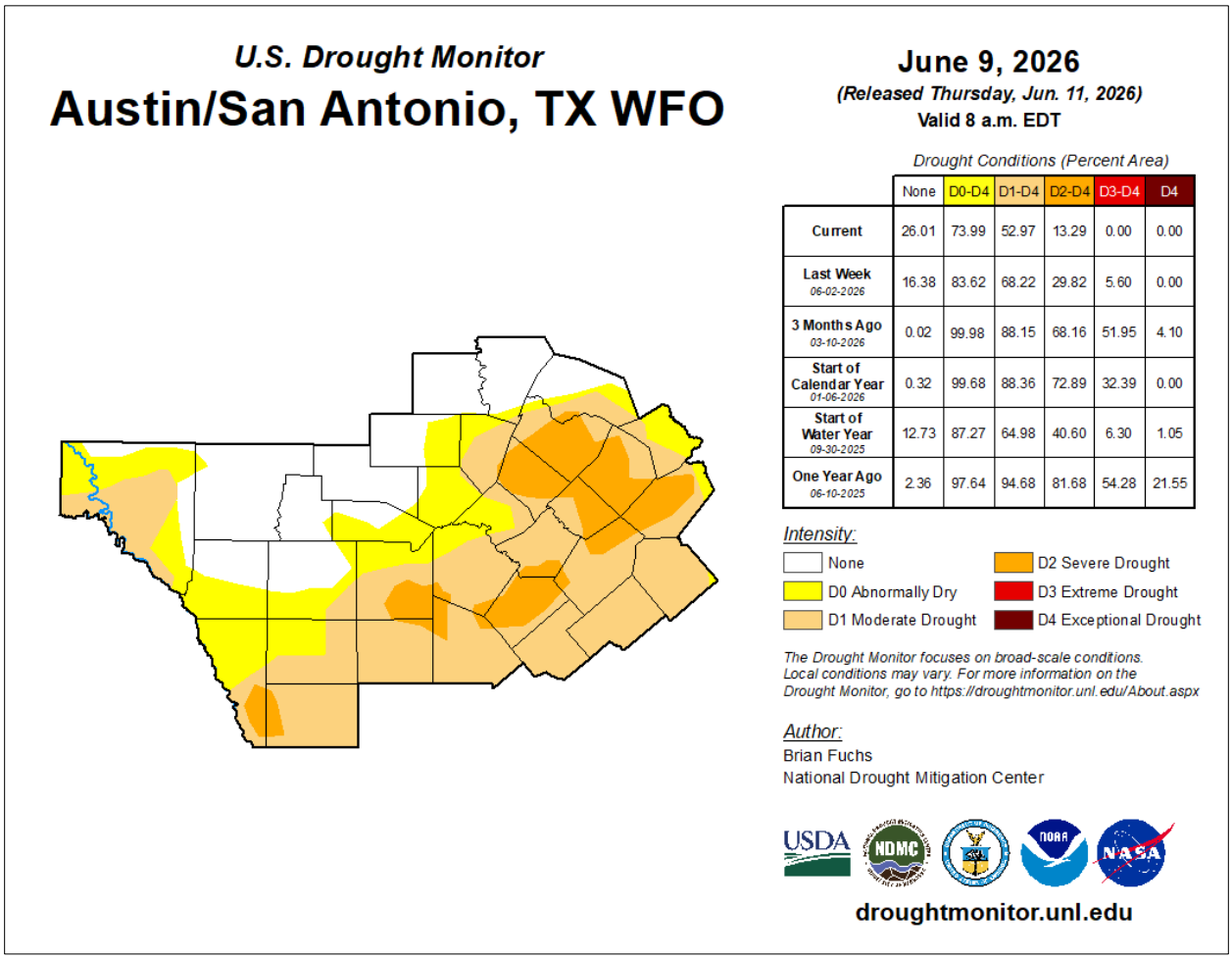


Figure 14: The latest drought monitor for the service area

Wichita Falls Regional Summary

Rain Falls in the East but Less so in the West this Spring

By Charles Kuster, Meteorologist for the National Severe Storms Laboratory

In general, our area experienced a slightly drier than normal spring, and that was especially true across our western counties (Fig. 1a). However, the eastern third of our region did see either near normal precipitation or slightly above normal precipitation. At the same time, the entire region experienced warmer than normal temperatures this spring (Fig. 1b). This west-to-east rainfall gradient is also apparent when looking at CoCoRaHS station rainfall totals across the month of April. Across western portions of our region, CoCoRaHS observers generally reported less than 3.0" of rain for the month, while those in the eastern portions of our region generally reported over 3.0" of rain for the month, with some reporting over 8.0" of rain (Fig. 2). This map also highlights the need for new CoCoRaHS observers especially in our southern three counties, so if you have a friend living in those areas, please consider telling them about CoCoRaHS!

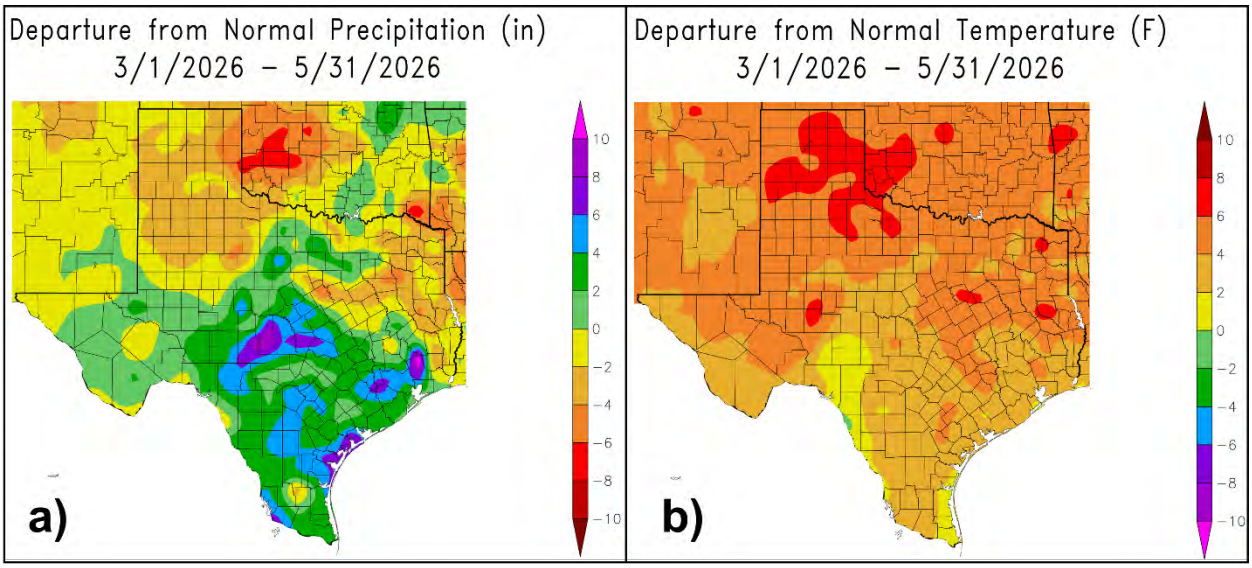


Figure 1. Departure from normal a) precipitation and b) temperature for the beginning of March 2026 through the end of May 2026. Warm colors indicate below normal precipitation (a) and above normal temperatures (b), while cool colors indicate above normal precipitation (a) and below normal temperatures (b).

Wichita Falls Regional Summary (continued)

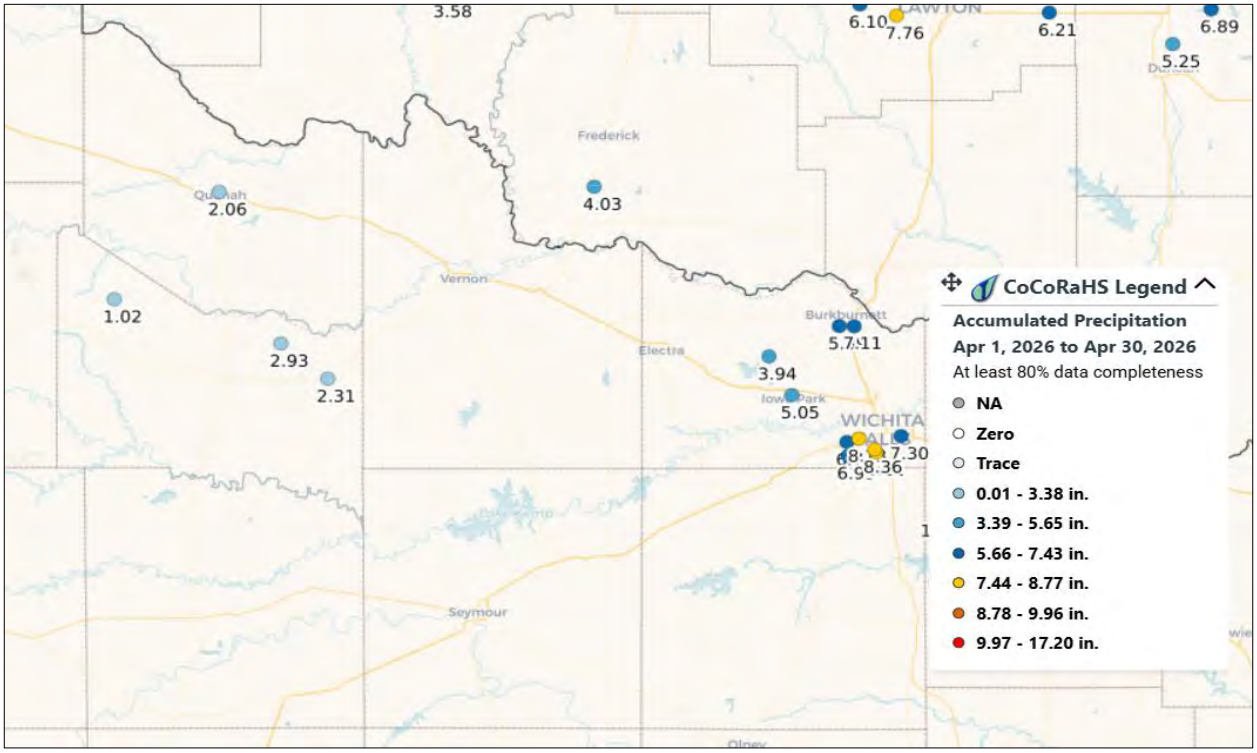


Figure 2. CoCoRaHS rainfall totals for April 2026 in the Wichita Falls area.

There were also several instances of severe weather across our area this spring, especially in April. All seven counties had at least one report of severe weather in April with the most significant severe weather occurring on April 25. On this day, two tornadoes touched down in Archer County and 3.0" hail was also reported in far northern Archer County near Lakeside City. In total, we saw 10 days with severe weather reports in our region and eight of those days occurred in April.

In total, we experienced 64 dry days (all CoCoRaHS stations reported less than 0.05") and 28 wet days (at least one CoCoRaHS station reported 0.05" or more) this spring. For comparison, last spring we experienced 59 dry days and 33 wet days. These days combined with the west-to-east gradient in rainfall resulted in worsening drought across our western counties and some drought improvement across our eastern counties, according to the Drought Monitor data (Fig. 3).

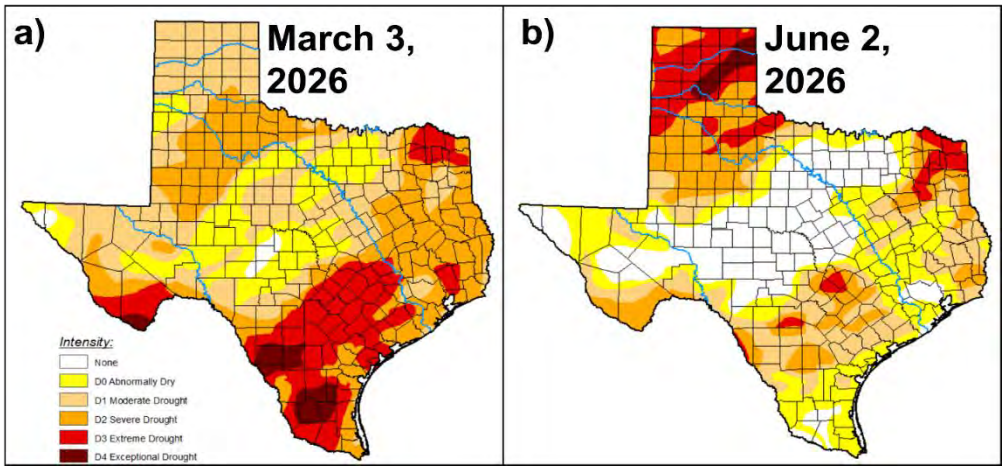


Figure 3. Changes in drought conditions over the spring according to the U.S. Drought Monitor for Texas on a) March 3, 2026 and b) June 2, 2026. Drought Monitor maps are available at https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/.

Abilene/ San Angelo Regional Summary

Climate and Meteorological Anomalies this Spring

By Joel Dunn – Senior Service Hydrologist, NWS Abilene/San Angelo

March 2026

The arrival of spring in 2026 brought several climate anomalies to West Central Texas. Globally and nationally, atmospheric patterns primed the region for unseasonal warmth, driving average monthly temperature. Across West Central Texas, average temperatures for March finished between 5 and 10 degrees above normal.

	Average Temp	Normal Temp	Departure From Normal
Abilene	66.8°F	58.1°F	**8.7°F**
San Angelo	67.6°F	59.4°F	**8.2°F**
Junction	66.1°F	59.4°F	**6.7°F**

Table 1 - Observed, normal and departure from normal for March 2026

The primary driver of this high monthly average was a historic heat spike that culminated during the third week of the month. On March 21st, an intense thermal ridge pushed into the region, causing temperatures to skyrocket. San Angelo officially recorded a high temperature of 100°F. This marked the earliest triple-digit temperature ever recorded in the city since official records began in 1907. This singular event underscored the sheer strength of the high-pressure system dominating the regional weather pattern.

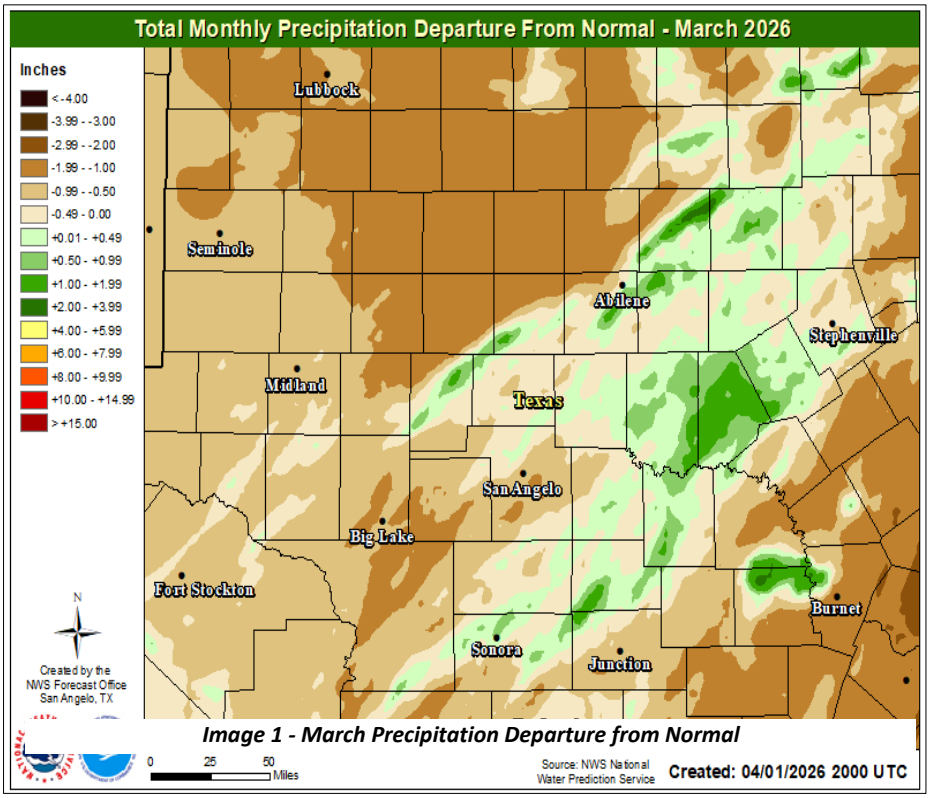


Image 1 - March Precipitation Departure from Normal

While the heat was uniform, precipitation was anything but consistent. North of Interstate 20 corridor, regular shortwave disruptions tracking across the Plains managed to tap into low-level moisture. This brought consistent, rolling rainfall events to the Big Country area. By the end of the month, these communities finished with nearly an inch of rainfall above their typical March averages, providing a healthy boost to local agricultural soil moisture.

South of the Interstate 20 corridor, a completely different weather story unfolded as a stifling cap of dry air left the region starved for moisture. In these southern sectors, rain was scarce throughout the month. This persistent dryness created a notable monthly precipitation deficit, with totals missing the mark by anywhere from a half-inch to a full inch.

Abilene/ San Angelo Regional Summary (continued)

	March Rainfall	Normal Rainfall	Departure From Normal
Abilene	2.57”	1.76”	**+0.84”**
San Angelo	0.67”	1.48”	**-0.81”**
Junction	1.42”	2.02”	**-0.60”**

Table 2 - March Rainfall, Normal, and Departure from Normal

Whether moisture was plentiful in the north or scarce in the south, any atmospheric instability that did break through was frequently violent. Severe weather setups materialized on a regular basis as cold fronts collided with the unseasonably warm air mass. The National Weather Service kept busy tracking these fast-moving storms, ultimately issuing 23 warnings over the course of the month.

Interestingly, despite the frequent threat of storms, the month actually concluded with below-average convective activity from a historical standpoint. Climatological data for West Central Texas shows that the 20-year average for March stands at 28 issued warnings. Therefore, while the severe weather events of March 2026 felt highly volatile to residents on the ground, the final tally actually represented a quieter-than-normal month for early-spring severe weather frequency.

Remarkably, despite the lack of rainfall across the southern half of West Central Texas the region showed surprisingly low levels of drought stress, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The Concho Valley, Northern Edwards Plateau, and Northwest Hill Country exhibited only abnormally dry to moderate drought. Compared to March 2025 when severe drought was reported. This is largely thanks to residual moisture retention from late-winter weather systems that shielded the vegetation from the immediate impacts of the March dry spell.

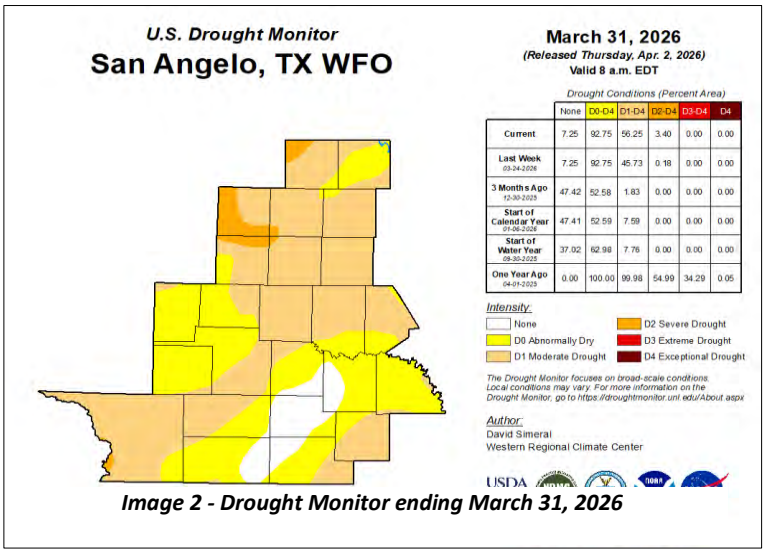


Image 2 - Drought Monitor ending March 31, 2026

April 2026

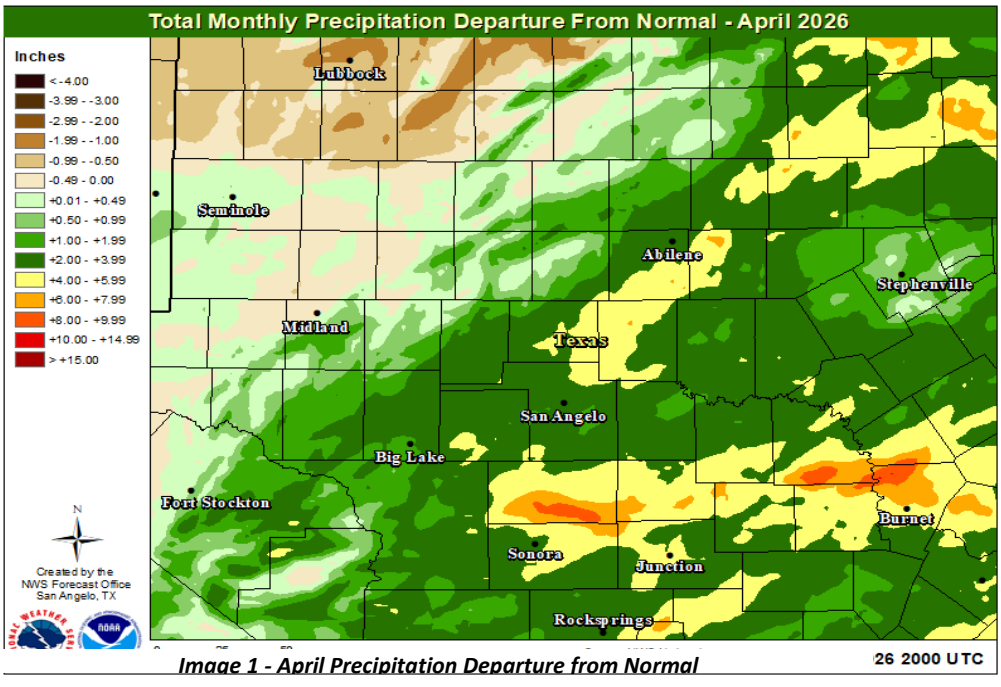


Image 1 - April Precipitation Departure from Normal

While the entire region enjoyed a soaking month, the heaviest downpours targeted the southern fringes of the area. Southern San Saba County became one of the epicenters of the month’s extreme rainfall events, ultimately measuring a staggering total of nearly 10 inches of rain by the end of April. This deluge triggered significant localized flash flooding but also successfully saturated the local water tables. The incredible monthly totals in San Saba County highlighted the efficiency of the slow-moving, moisture-rich storm systems that repeatedly set up over the area. Further north along the Interstate 20 corridor, major weather milestones were also being shattered.

Abilene/ San Angelo Regional Summary (continued)

	Average Temp	Normal Temp	Departure From Normal
Abilene	69.6°F	66°F	**3.6°F**
San Angelo	69.3°F	67.1°F	**2.2°F**
Junction	69.6°F	66.9°F	**2.7°F**

Table 3 - April average temperature, normal, and departure from normal

On April 12th, a powerful convective system stalled over the Big Country, unleashing a historic torrential downpour.

Abilene officially recorded a record-breaking 24-hour rainfall total of 2.27" on that single day. This event broke previous daily records and served as a prime example of the intense rainfall rates that characterized the month's stormy pattern.

In typical Texas climatology, such heavy rainfall and persistent cloud cover usually trigger a cooling effect, suppressing daytime highs and leading to below-normal monthly temperatures. However, April 2026 proved to be a fascinating meteorological anomaly. The air mass responsible for delivering the copious amounts of rain was also inherently warm and humid, effectively trapping heat at the surface. Consequently, instead of a cool down, the average temperature across West Central Texas remained elevated, finishing a notable 2 to 3 degrees above historical normals.

This combination of high heat and high humidity created a deeply unstable atmosphere, fueling regular rounds of strong to severe thunderstorms. Yet, despite the generous amounts of rainfall and constant convective threat, the total number of severe weather products issued by meteorologists was surprisingly low. A look at regional weather history reveals that, on average, 64 severe weather warnings are issued during the month of April based on data compiled over the past 20 years.

In contrast, the National Weather Service only issued 52 warnings throughout April 2026. This lower-than-normal tally indicates that while the storm systems were highly efficient rain-producers and covers large swaths of territory, they were generally less prone to producing the destructive tornadic activity or widespread severe hail that often characterizes April in West Central Texas. The month ultimately wrapped up as a remarkably wet, unseasonably warm, and thankfully manageable period of spring weather.

May 2026

Climatologically, May holds the title as the wettest month of the year for West Central Texas, and the final stretch of spring 2026 partially lived up to that reputation. However, the atmospheric moisture was far from evenly distributed, creating a sharp geographical divide across the region. The heaviest and most consistent rainfall targeted the southern counties running along the Interstate 10 corridor as well as the Concho Valley and Heartland. Fed by a stalled sub-tropical jet stream and a relentless influx of Gulf moisture, these southern communities saw their monthly precipitation totals soar well above seasonal expectations.

As can be seen in image 5, the rainfall was concentrated along I-10. Over the course of the month, Junction recorded a staggering 8.39" of rainfall, a massive departure that landed 5.45" above the normal monthly average. This continuous rainfall led to significant rises in local river basins and provided vital aquifer recharge for the Northern Edwards Plateau and Northwest Hill Country, solidifying an incredibly wet spring for the southernmost tier of the region.

Abilene/ San Angelo Regional Summary (continued)

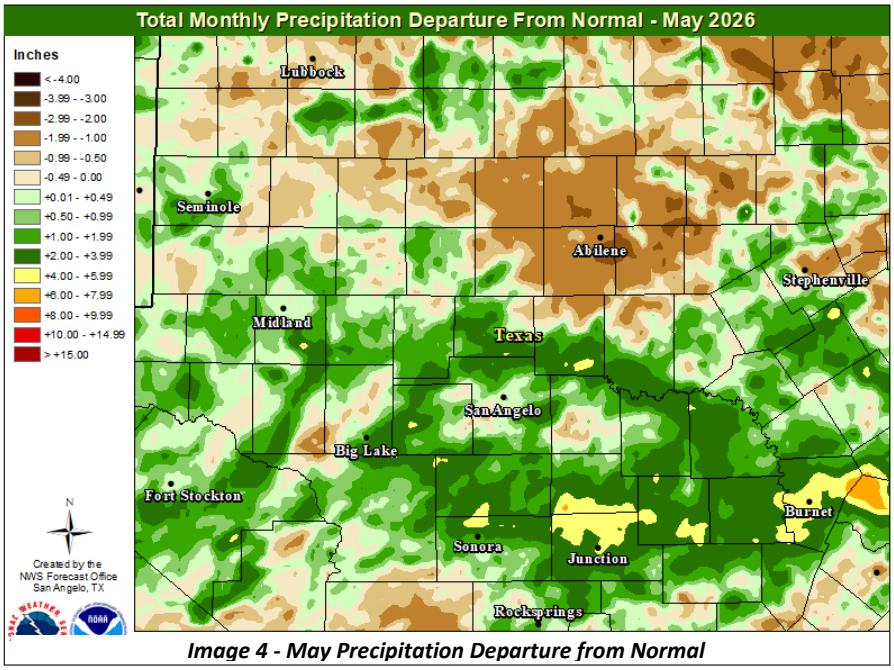


Image 4 - May Precipitation Departure from Normal

However, moving north of the Interstate 10 corridor revealed a completely different meteorological reality. The rich Gulf moisture that slammed the south failed to make significant headway northward, leaving the northern counties of West Central Texas largely missed by the heaviest storm complexes. Below-normal precipitation was observed across these areas. By the time the storm tracks reached the Big Country and the Interstate 20 corridor, rain was remarkably scarce, creating a stark contrast to the soaking conditions experienced just a few counties to the south.

While rainfall patterns split the region, a uniform trend emerged regarding temperatures. In a complete reversal from the unseasonal warmth of March and April, May observed cooler-than-normal temperatures across all of West Central Texas, with monthly averages tracking 1 to 3 degrees below historical normals. This refreshing drop in temperature was primarily driven by a highly progressive upper-air pattern that pushed regular, late-season cold fronts deep into the state, successfully suppressing the typical late-spring heat.

	May Rainfall	Normal Rainfall	Departure From Normal
Abilene	1.06”	2.97”	**-1.91”**
San Angelo	2.45”	2.84”	**-0.39”**
Junction	8.39”	2.94”	**+5.45”**

Table 4 - May rainfall, normal rainfall, and departure from normal

This active clash between late-season cold fronts and lingering moisture ensured that severe weather remained a constant threat throughout the month. Severe thunderstorm and flash flood setups materialized on a regular basis, keeping regional forecasters highly active. Over the course of the 31 days, the National Weather Service ultimately issued 110 severe weather warnings to protect life and property across West Central Texas.

When placed into a historical context, this final warning tally came in just slightly below the climatological normal. Over the past 20 years, the month of May has averaged 123 issued warnings for the region, making it traditionally the most volatile month of the year. While May 2026 fell just short of that benchmark, the 110 warnings issued proved that the spring season refused to go quietly, wrapping up a memorable three-month stretch of historic heat waves, heavy regional rainfall, and sharp atmospheric contrasts.

Southeast Texas Regional Summary

Heavy Rains and Storms Return to Southeast Texas this spring

By Ron Havran, Southeast Texas CoCoRaHS Regional Coordinator, HCFCD Hydrologist Technician

March

The dry and warm pattern across the region in February continued into March with temperatures getting much warmer. Precipitation was in short supply. Burn bans were in place and the forecast for rain was dismissal with three weeks straight with no observable rainfall for most locations to the middle to latter half of the month. 83% of Southeast Texas was in at least severe drought conditions with 30% of Southeast Texas in extreme drought conditions. The Houston/Galveston Section had a CoCoRaHS observer county rainfall average of 2.01". The Golden Triangle Section was worse with a CoCoRaHS observer county rainfall average of 1.94". Temperature departures from normal were from 4.0°F to 6.1°F above normal. Thanks to all CoCoRaHS observers that reported their daily zeros each and every day during the month. CoCoRaHS observer daily zeros are the largest source of data that determines Drought Monitor Map contours. I bet you never thought reporting something of nothing was so **IMPORANT.**

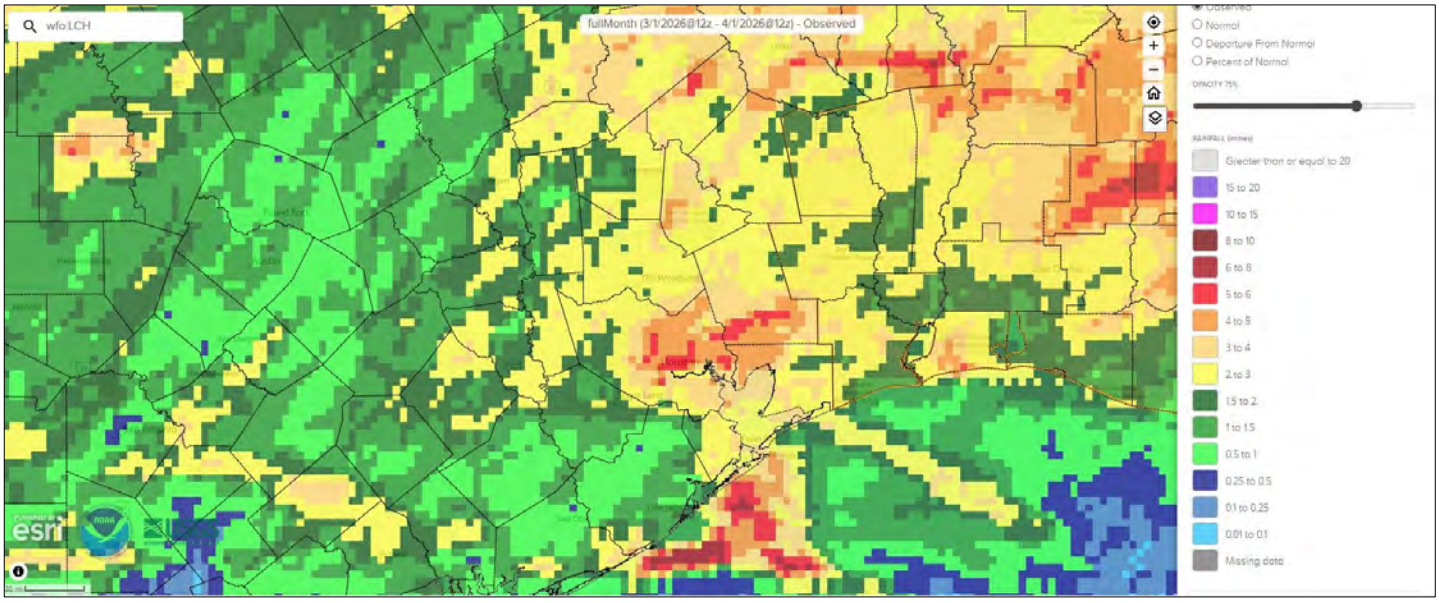


Fig. 1: Southeast Texas Precipitation Map for March 2026.

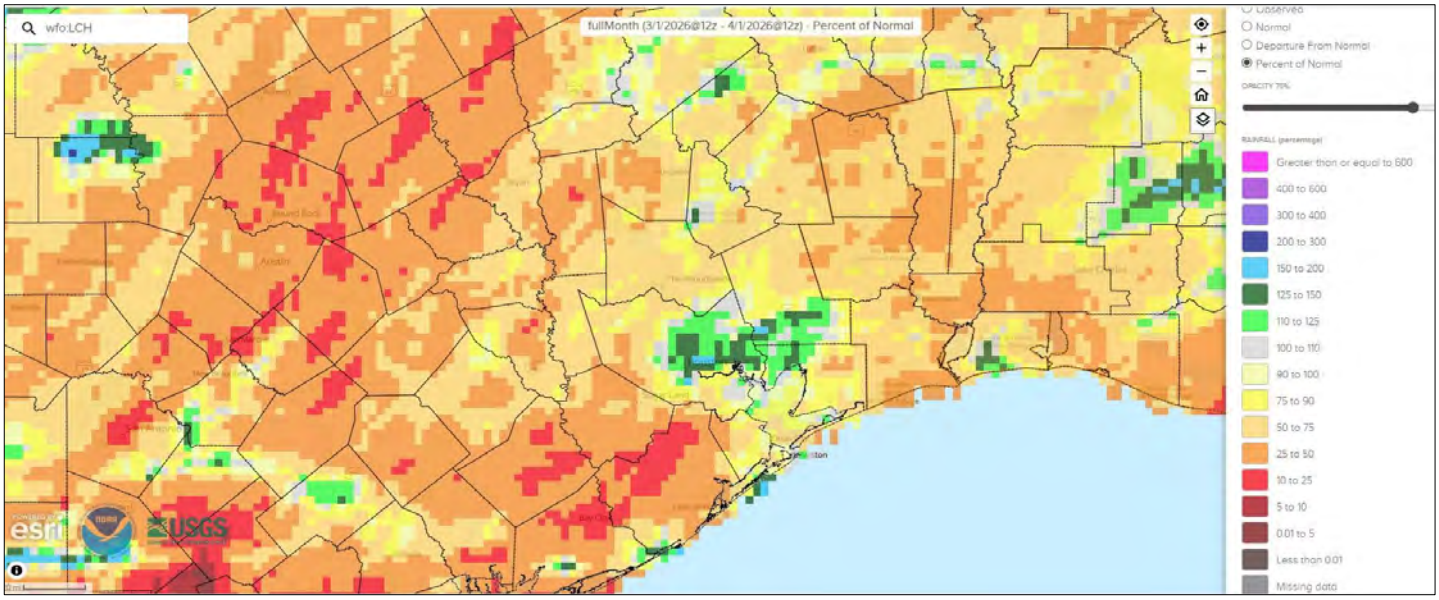


Fig. 2: Southeast Texas Percent of Normal Precipitation Map for March 2026.

Southeast Texas Regional Summary (continued)

April

The spring rains finally returned to Southeast Texas with multiple rounds of heavy rainfall throughout the month. Drought relief started slowly at first then increased as thunderstorms delivered very heavy rainfall amounts. The Houston Galveston Section had a CoCoRaHS observer county average rainfall of 5.21” for the month. The Golden Triangle had a CoCoRaHS observer county average rainfall of 4.21” for the month. Austin County had the highest CoCoRaHS observer county rainfall average at 8.56” followed by Colorado County with a CoCoRaHS observer county rainfall average of 8.22”. These two counties had some of the worse drought conditions at the start of spring so these rains brought much needed relief. Elsewhere counties had plentiful rains such as Liberty (6.59”) and Tyler (5.14”).

Temperature were still running much above normal in both sections of Southeast Texas from 3.2°F to 4.2°F. Coastal counties were running with the highest precipitation departures from normal on the dry side (Fig.13). Inland counties had more rain.

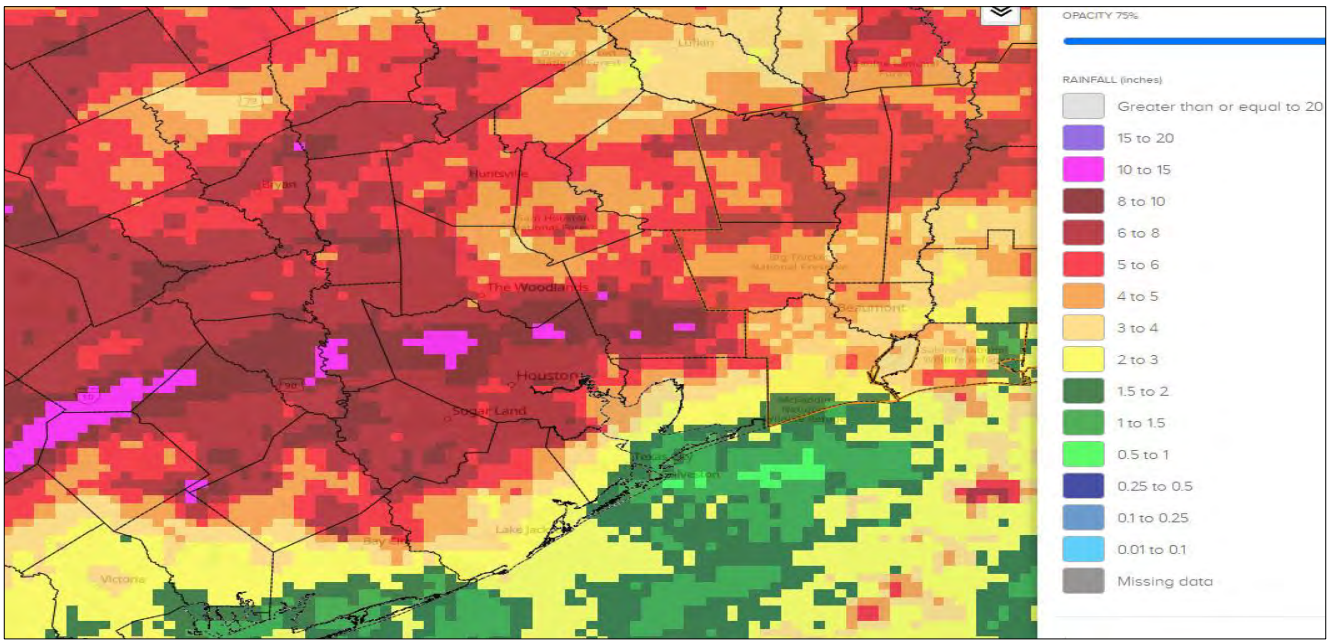


Fig. 3: Southeast Texas Precipitation Map for April 2026.

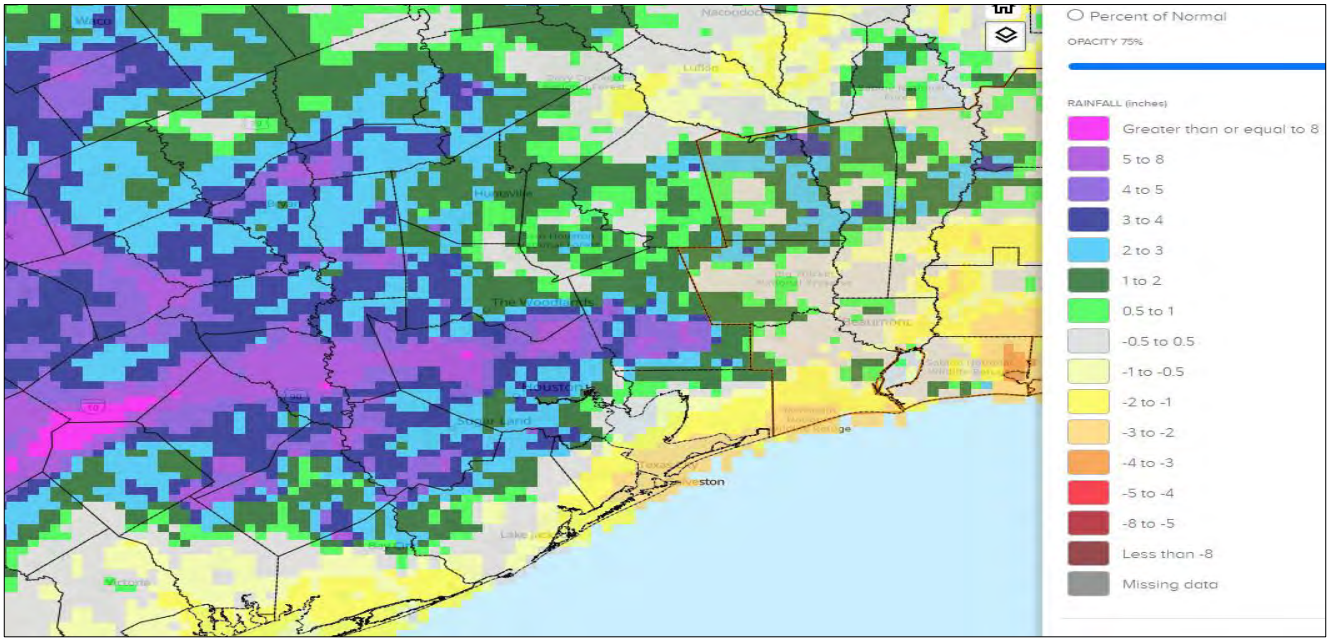


Fig. 4: Southeast Texas Departure from Normal Precipitation Map for April 2026.

Southeast Texas Regional Summary (continued)

May

The month of May was particularly rainy with multiple heavy rainfall events leading to a drastic improvement in drought conditions. The most prominent of the rainfall events occurred towards the end of the month which lead to isolated instances of river flooding along such rivers as the San Bernard. Urban Street flooding was an issue in the Houston/Galveston area. All counties had CoCoRaHS observers reporting high rainfall amounts from heavy thunderstorms. The Houston Galveston Section had a CoCoRaHS observer county average rainfall of 7.68" for the month. The Golden Triangle had a CoCoRaHS observer county average rainfall of 6.64" for the month.

With the heavy thunderstorms and thick thunderstorm cloud decks very high in the atmosphere blocking the strong spring sun, this kept temperatures slightly below normal over most of Southeast Texas. The only problem with this setup was the extreme dew points in the 80's°F. This made the temperatures feel much higher than it was. So goes spring weather in Southeast TX.

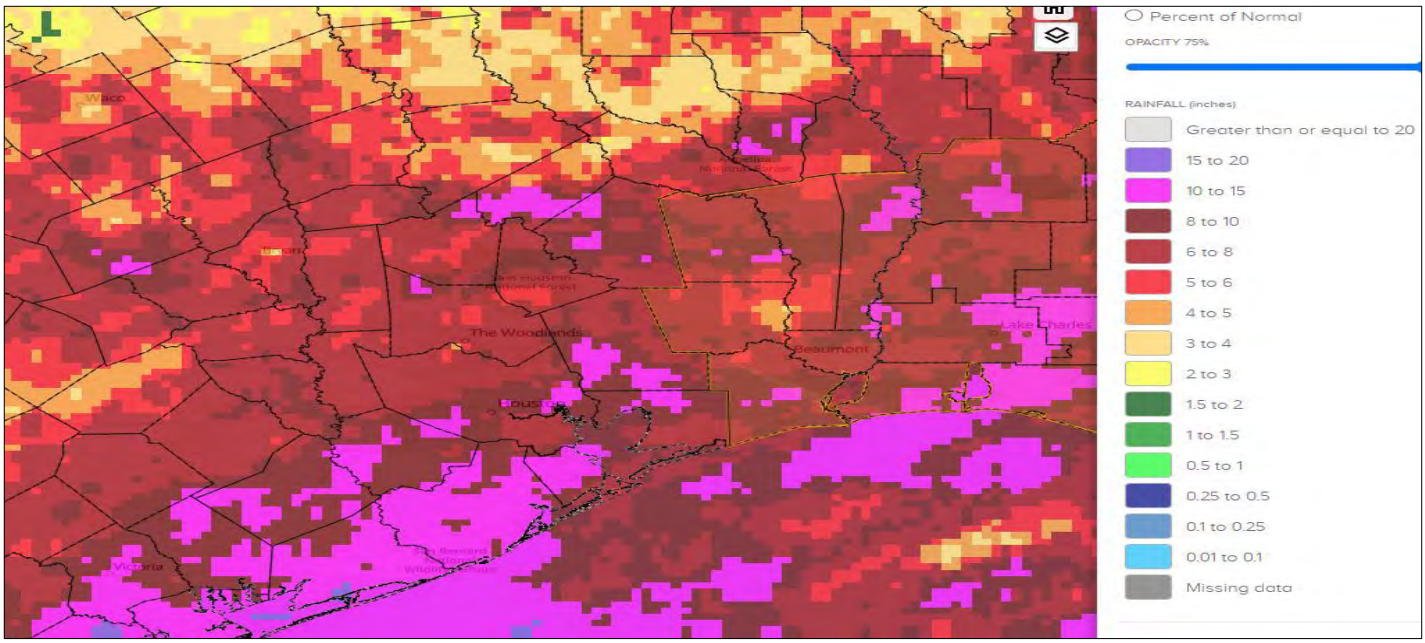


Fig. 5: Southeast Texas Precipitation Map for May 2026.

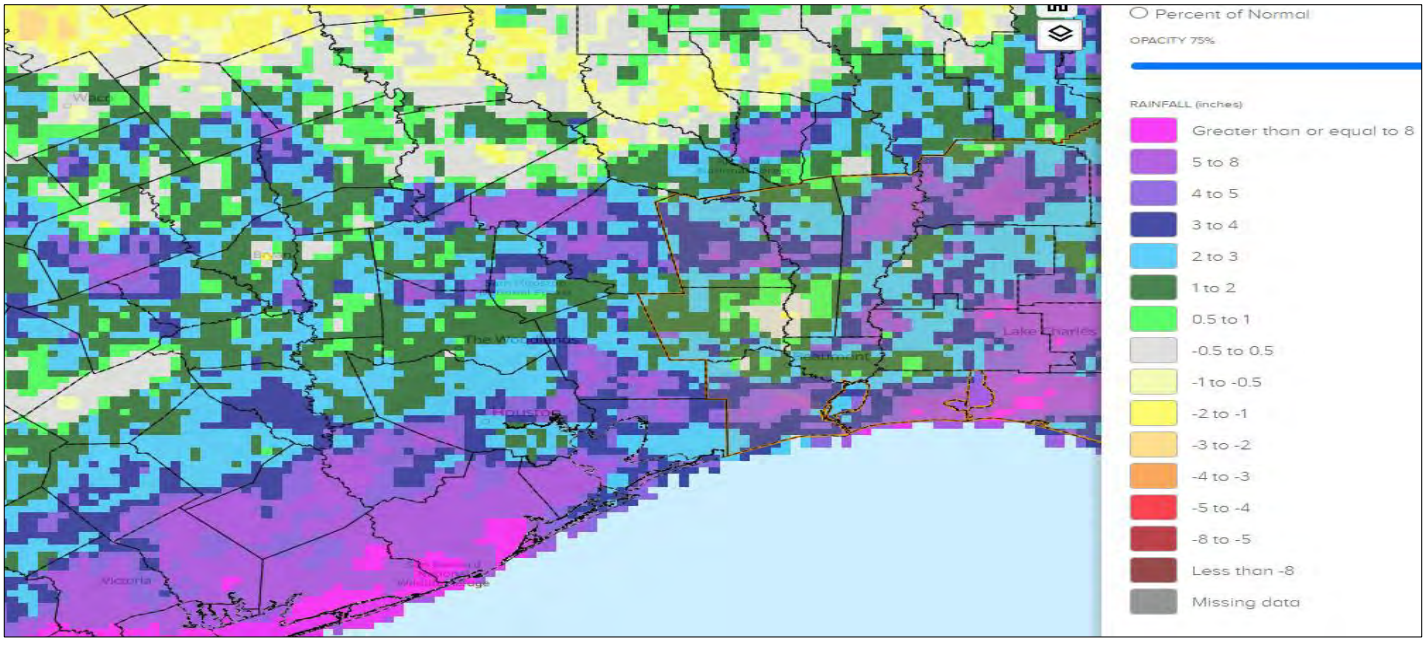
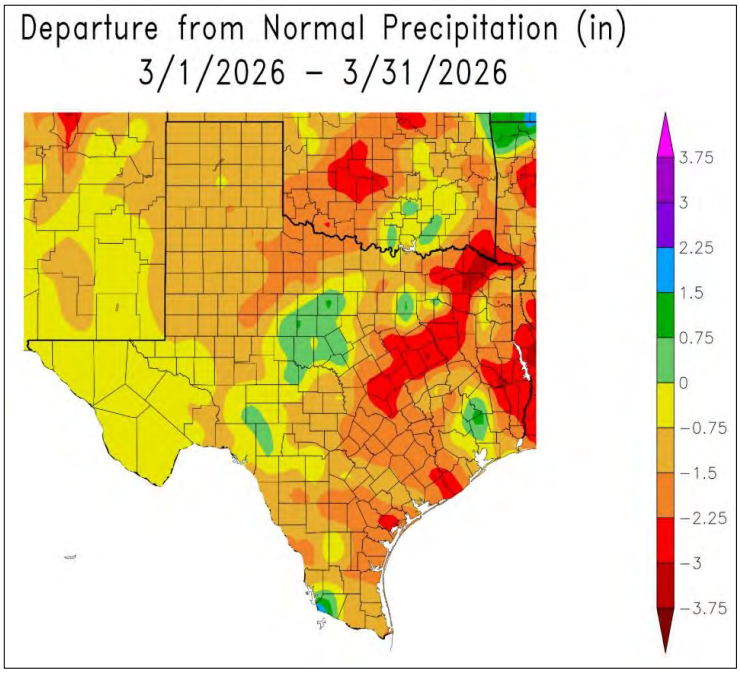


Fig. 6: Southeast Texas Departure from Normal Precipitation Map for May 2026.

Southeast Texas Regional Summary (continued)

Texas Temperature Departures from Normal this Spring Season



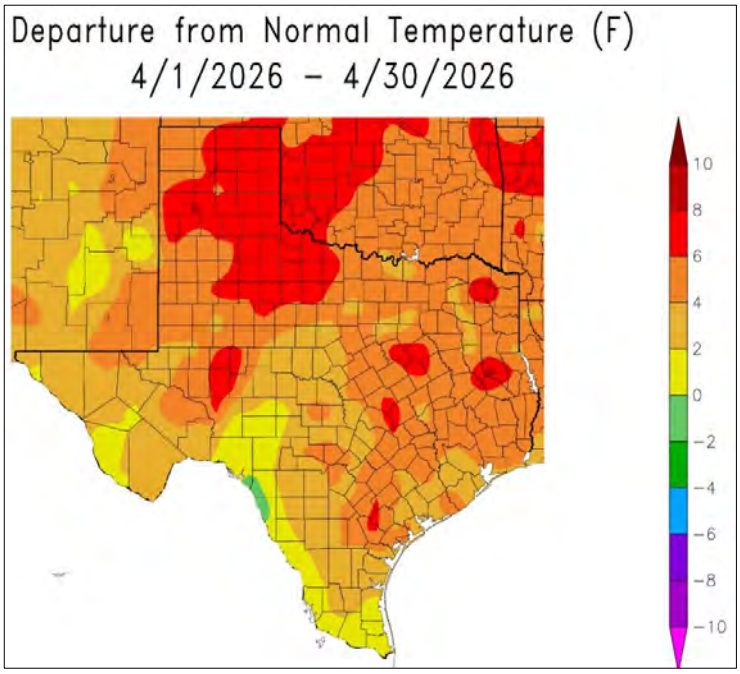
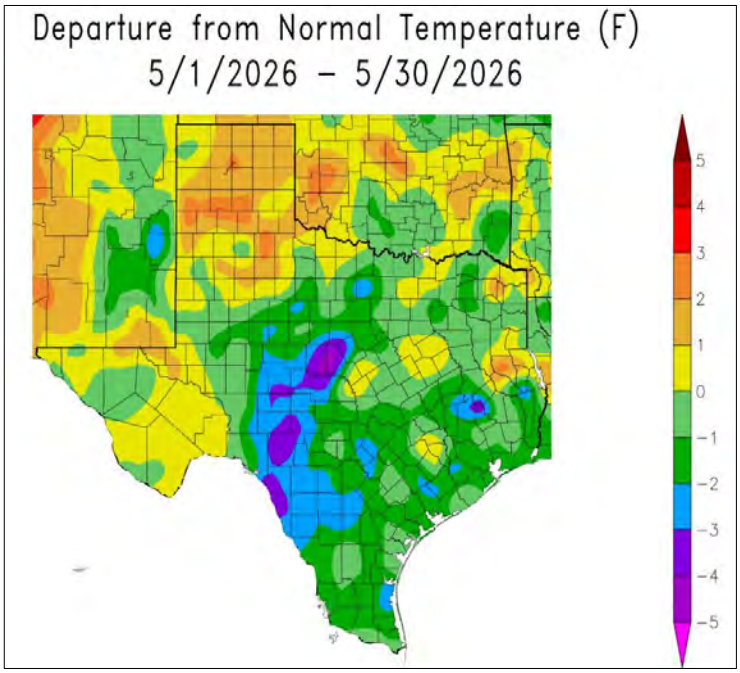


Fig. 7 & 8: Texas Departure from Normal Temperature Map for March 2026 and April 2026.



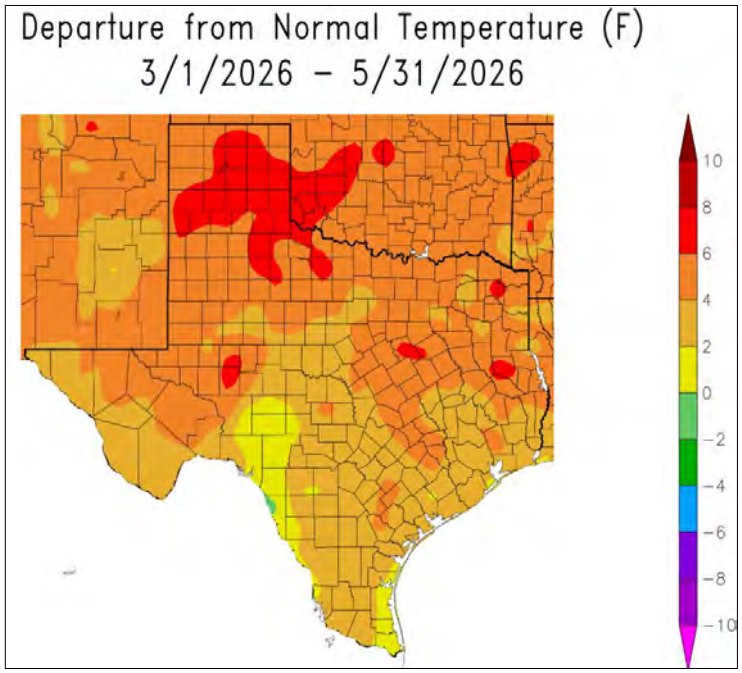


Fig. 9 & 10: Texas Departure from Normal Temperature Map for May 2026 and the Spring Season 2026.

Southeast Texas Regional Summary (continued)

Climate Data from several first order Stations in Southeast Texas

Houston/Galveston Temperature & Rainfall Data for 2026 Spring Season

	March Climate						
Site Location (record start)	Hi	Lo	Mean	Departure	Rain	Normal	Departure
Bush Airport (1888)	80.7	59.1	69.9	6.1	3.45	3.47	0.02
Hobby Airport (1930)	79.6	60.9	70.3	5.6	2.40	3.28	-0.88
Galveston (1871)	74.2	63.4	68.8	3.6	1.98	3.02	-1.04
Sugar Land (2000)	80.8	59.2	70.0	5.3	1.61	3.49	-1.88
	April Climate						
Site Location (record start)	Hi	Lo	Mean	Departure	Rain	Normal	Departure
Bush Airport (1888)	81.3	66.2	73.8	3.8	5.43	3.95	1.48
Hobby Airport (1930)	81.3	67.6	74.5	4.0	5.54	4.08	1.46
Galveston (1871)	79.6	70.0	74.8	3.3	1.04	2.06	-1.02
Sugar Land (2000)	81.1	65.8	73.5	3.2	5.76	4.26	1.50
	May Climate						
Site Location (record start)	Hi	Lo	Mean	Departure	Rain	Normal	Departure
Bush Airport (1888)	85.1	67.7	76.4	-1.0	8.84	5.01	3.83
Hobby Airport (1930)	85.1	68.7	76.9	-0.7	6.15	5.42	0.73
Galveston (1871)	81.9	71.2	76.6	-1.6	4.29	3.04	1.25
Sugar Land (2000)	84.7	67.0	75.9	-2.0	7.92	5.24	2.68

Table 1: *Houston/Galveston temperature and rainfall climate data at select stations*

Golden Triangle Temperature & Rainfall Data for 2026 Spring Season

	March Climate						
Site Location	Hi	Lo	Mean	Departure	Rain	Normal	Departure
Beaumont Port Arthur	77.7	57.7	67.7	4.4	3.04	3.63	-0.59
Beaumont Research Center	78.0	57.6	67.8	5.4	2.54	3.89	-1.35
Orange 9N	54.2	75.8	65.0	4.7	1.29	3.52	-2.23
	April Climate						
Site Location	Hi	Lo	Mean	Departure	Rain	Normal	Departure
Beaumont Port Arthur	81.2	65.8	73.5	4.2	2.08	3.92	-1.84
Beaumont Research Center	80.7	64.9	72.8	4.2	2.02	3.65	-1.03
Orange 9N	78.1	61.8	70.0	4.0	2.21	4.18	-1.97
	May Climate						
Site Location	Hi	Lo	Mean	Departure	Rain	Normal	Departure
Beaumont Port Arthur	83.5	66.8	75.2	-1.4	7.56	4.70	2.86
Beaumont Research Center	83.4	66.7	75.1	-0.8	6.54	5.08	1.46
Orange 9N	81.0	63.5	72.3	-1.3	10.05	5.14	4.91

Table 2: *Golden Triangle temperature and rainfall climate data at select stations*

Southeast Texas Regional Summary (continued)

CoCoRaHS Observer average Rainfall by counties for the 2026 Spring Season

Spring 2026 CoCoRaHS SE Texas Houston/Galveston Section Rainfall

CoCoRaHS Station measured county rainfall averages in inches per month

County	March	April	May	Spring Total
	AVG.	AVG.	AVG.	Mar.-May
Austin	1.48	8.56	6.60	16.64
Brazoria	0.90	3.83	10.78	15.51
Chambers	3.85	5.40	7.99	17.24
Colorado	1.61	8.22	5.58	15.41
Fort Bend	1.33	5.65	8.22	15.20
Galveston	2.21	3.16	8.90	14.27
Harris	2.85	7.01	7.77	17.63
Jackson	1.45	3.10	7.91	12.46
Liberty	3.29	6.59	7.76	17.64
Matagorda	1.33	2.98	9.33	13.64
Montgomery	2.14	5.38	6.48	14.00
Polk	2.30	3.51	5.88	11.69
San Jacinto	2.78	4.41	5.40	12.59
Wharton	0.65	5.15	8.85	14.65
Region Totals	2.01	5.21	7.68	14.90

Color indicates highest avg. rainfall total for a county in a month

Color indicates lowest avg. rainfall total for a county in a month

Note: Counties without a significant # of observers reporting are not listed on the chart.

Table 3: *Houston/Galveston county observer Rainfall averages for Southeast Texas*

Spring 2026 CoCoRaHS SE Texas Golden Triangle Section Rainfall

CoCoRaHS Station measured county rainfall averages in inches per month

County	Mar.	Apr.	May	SpringTotal
	AVG.	AVG.	AVG.	Mar.- May
Hardin	2.31	4.37	5.54	12.22
Jasper	2.06	5.04	5.85	12.95
Jefferson	1.78	3.21	6.89	11.88
Orange	1.09	3.30	7.18	11.57
Tyler	2.45	5.14	7.72	15.31
Region Totals	1.94	4.21	6.64	12.79

Color indicates highest avg. rainfall total for a county in a month

Color indicates lowest avg. rainfall total for a county in a month

Note: Counties without a significant # of observers reporting are not listed on the chart.

Table 4: *Golden Triangle county observer Rainfall averages for Southeast Texas*

Southeast Texas Regional Summary (continued)

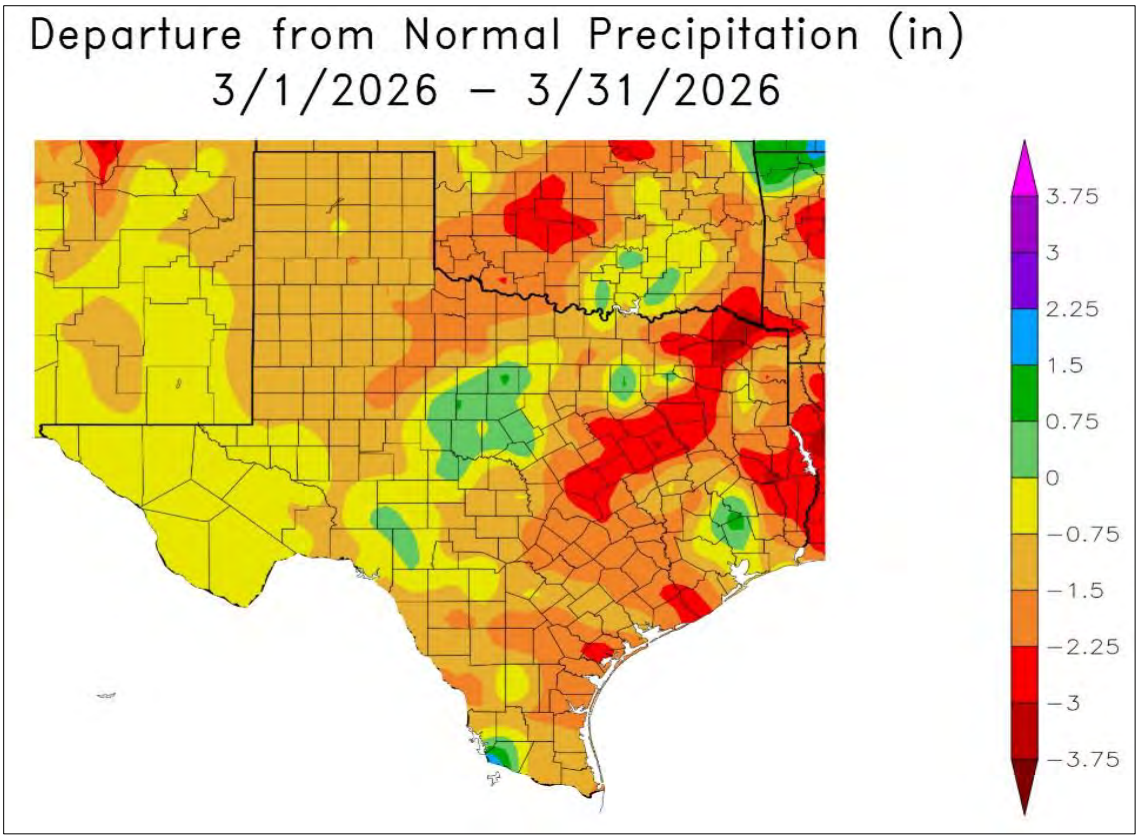


Figure 11: Precipitation departure from normal across Texas for March 2026

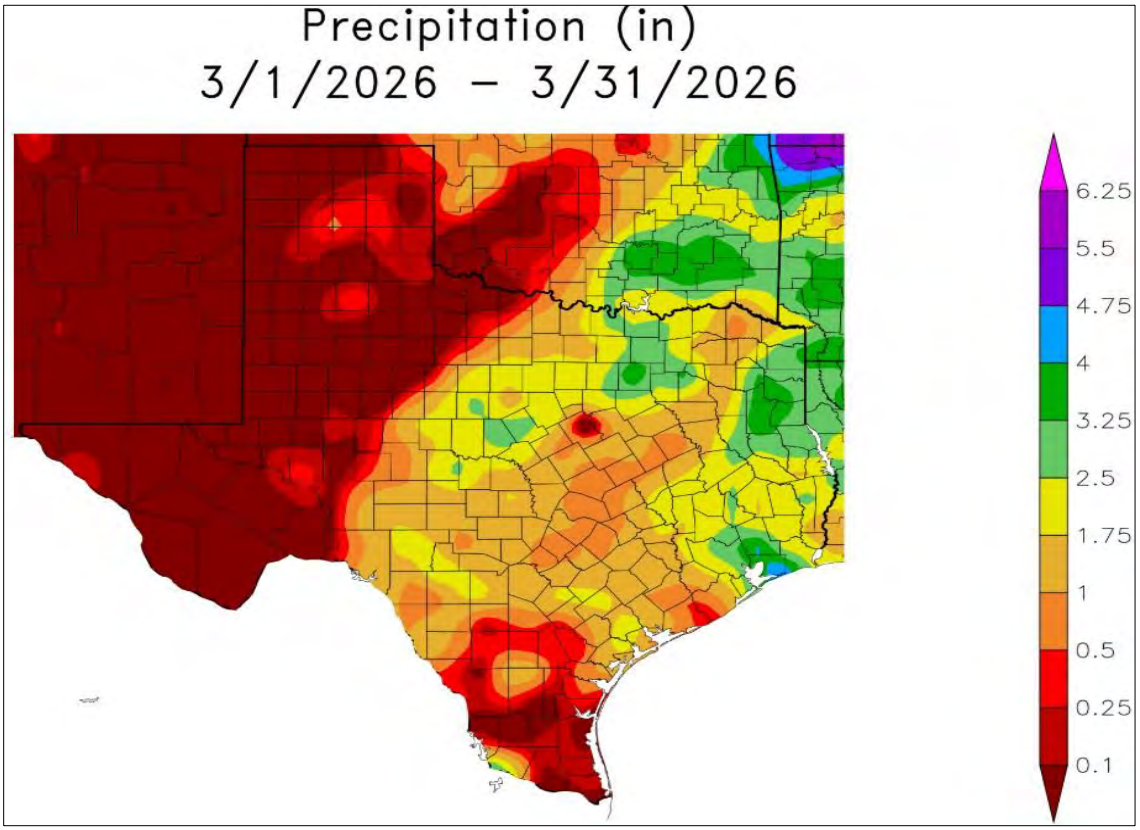


Figure 12: Precipitation totals across Texas in March 2026.

Southeast Texas Regional Summary (continued)

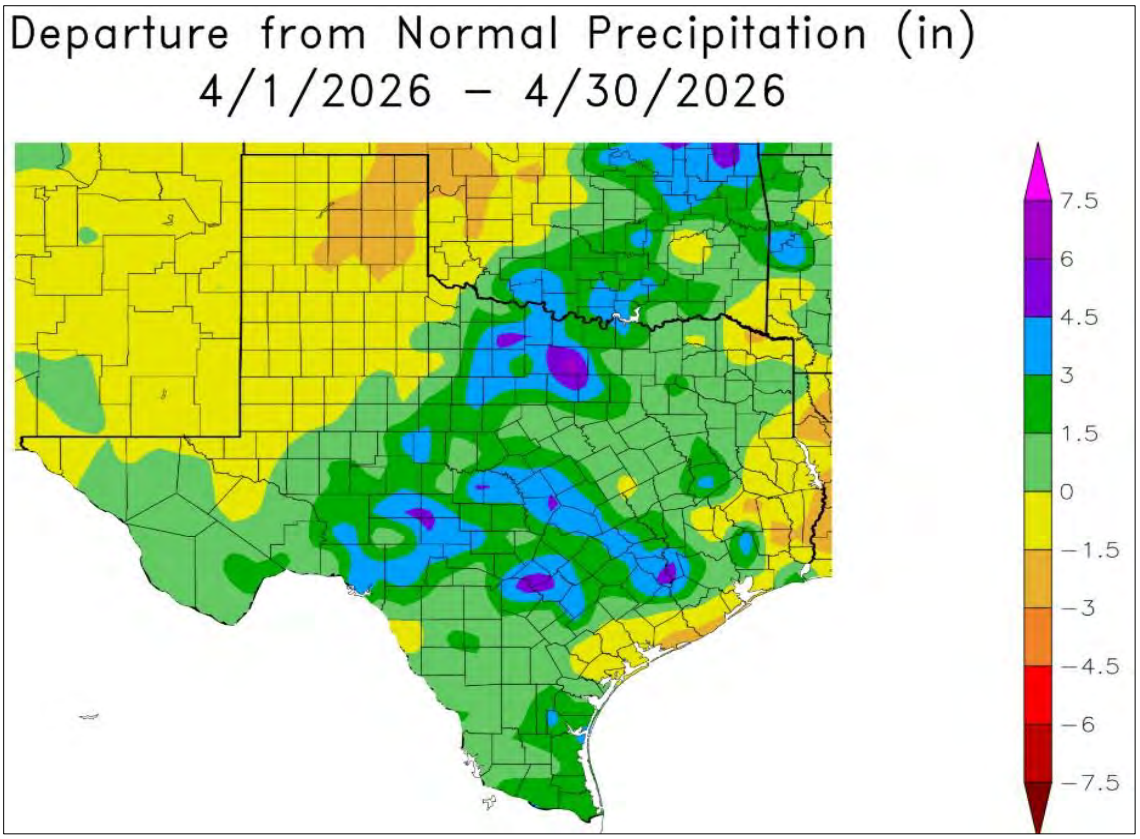


Figure 13: Precipitation departure from normal across Texas for April 2026

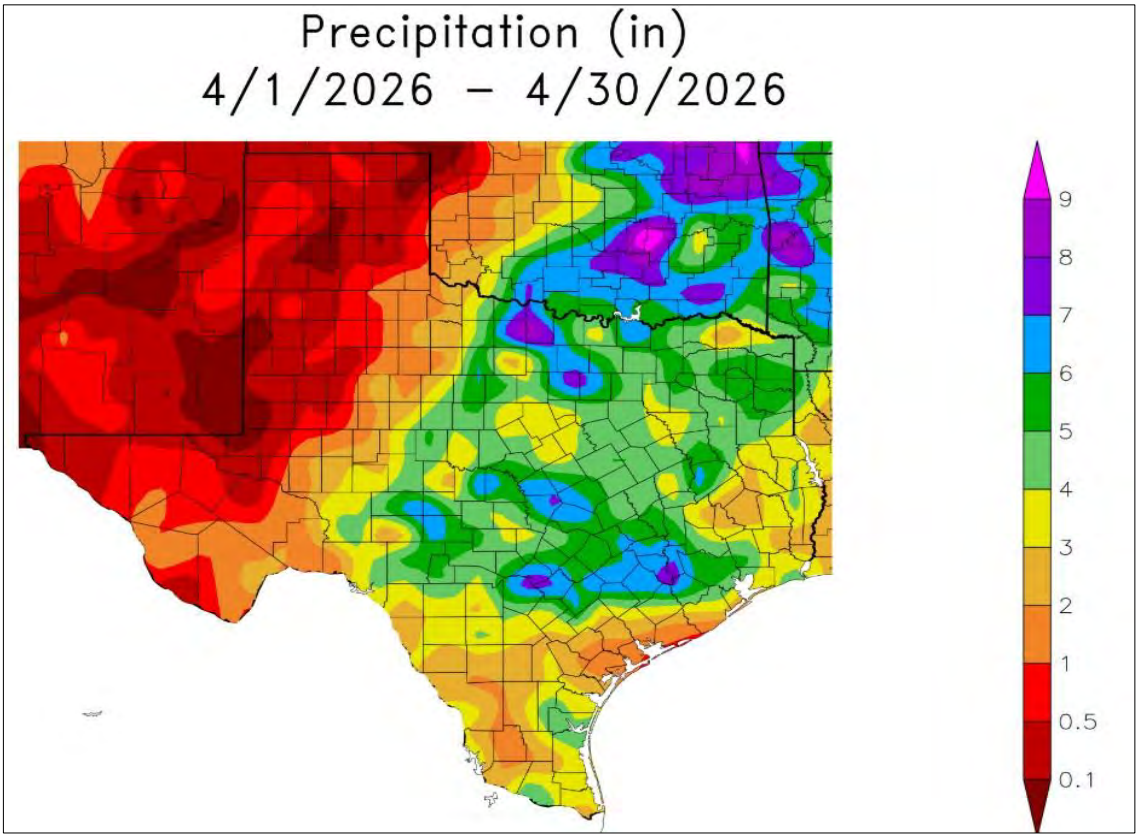


Figure 14: Precipitation totals across Texas in April 2026.

Southeast Texas Regional Summary (continued)

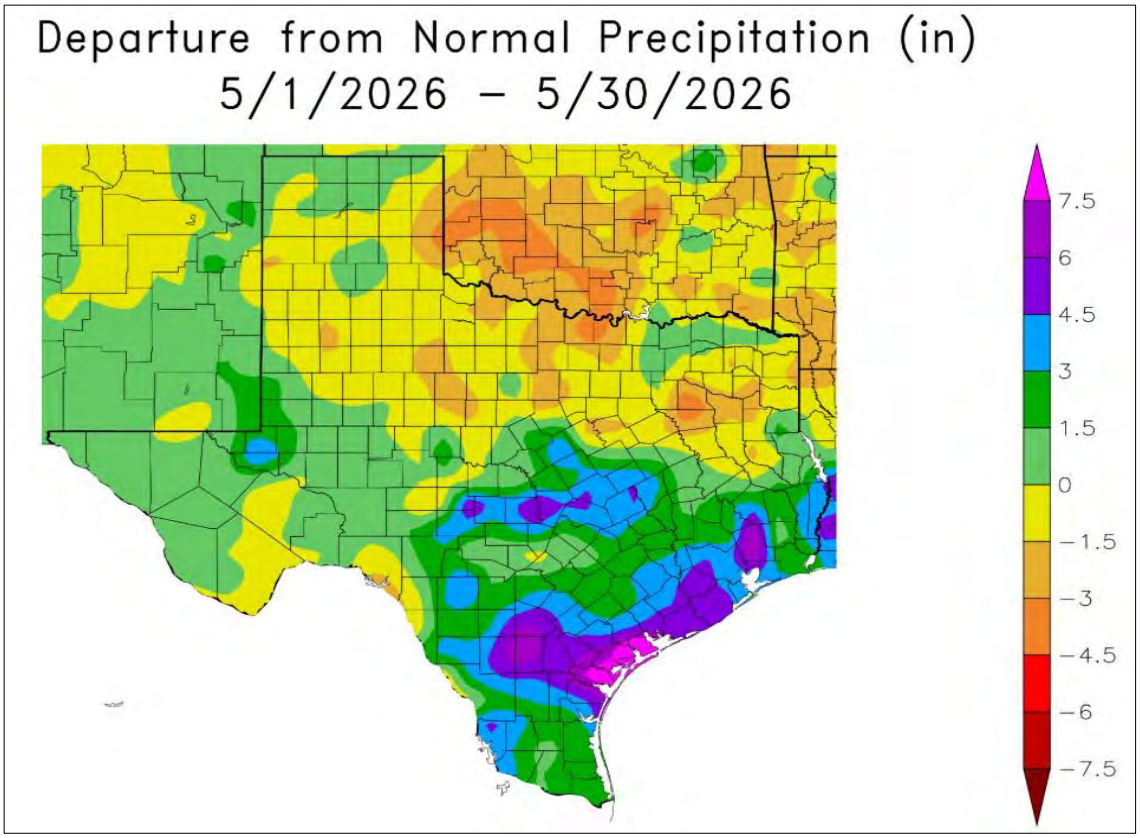


Figure 15: Precipitation departure from normal across Texas for May 2026

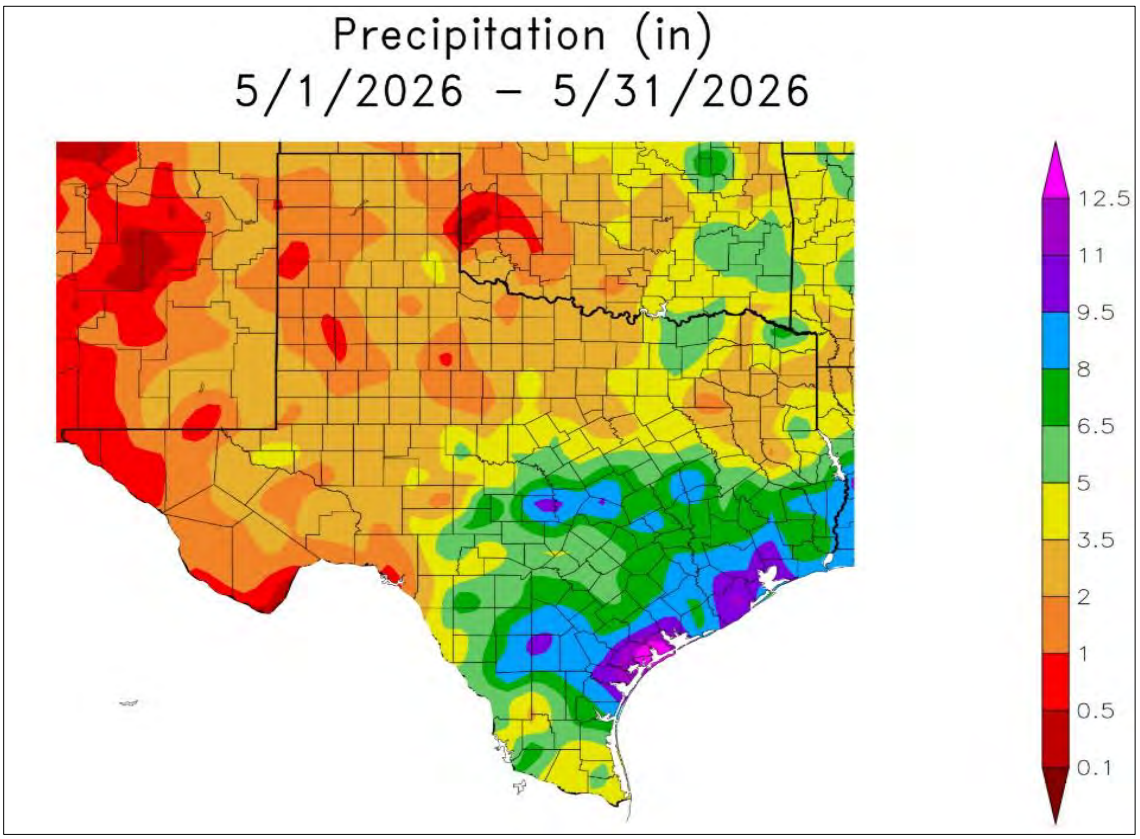


Figure 16: Precipitation totals across Texas in May 2026.

Amarillo Regional Summary

Mostly Dry and Warm Spring Season

By: Ron Havran, Texas CoCoRaHS Assistant State Coordinator

The weather across the Texas Panhandle this spring was mostly very warm and dry. March average precipitation recorded by CoCoRaHS observers was 0.43". April had an average of 0.17" and May was better with an average of 1.57" as a few storm systems brought storms to the region. Severe weather was limited this season as very warm temperatures were in place with a persistent ridge in place delaying the start of severe weather season. The very warm temperatures were 9.6°F above normal in March and 5.1°F above normal in April. With a little more rain in May temperatures were only 1.2°F above normal.

The highest precipitation amounts were in the southeastern Panhandle. Days with significant precipitation were March 3rd and 31st, April 11th and 12th, May 22nd, 23rd, and 26th. Very few and weak tornadoes occurred this season and were mainly of the weak landspout variety. Storm chasers had to travel far north on the plains to see severe storms with supercells producing tornadoes. The tornado drought extended into Oklahoma as severe weather was way down this spring. Figure 1 shows some of the precipitation amounts from CoCoRaHS observers.

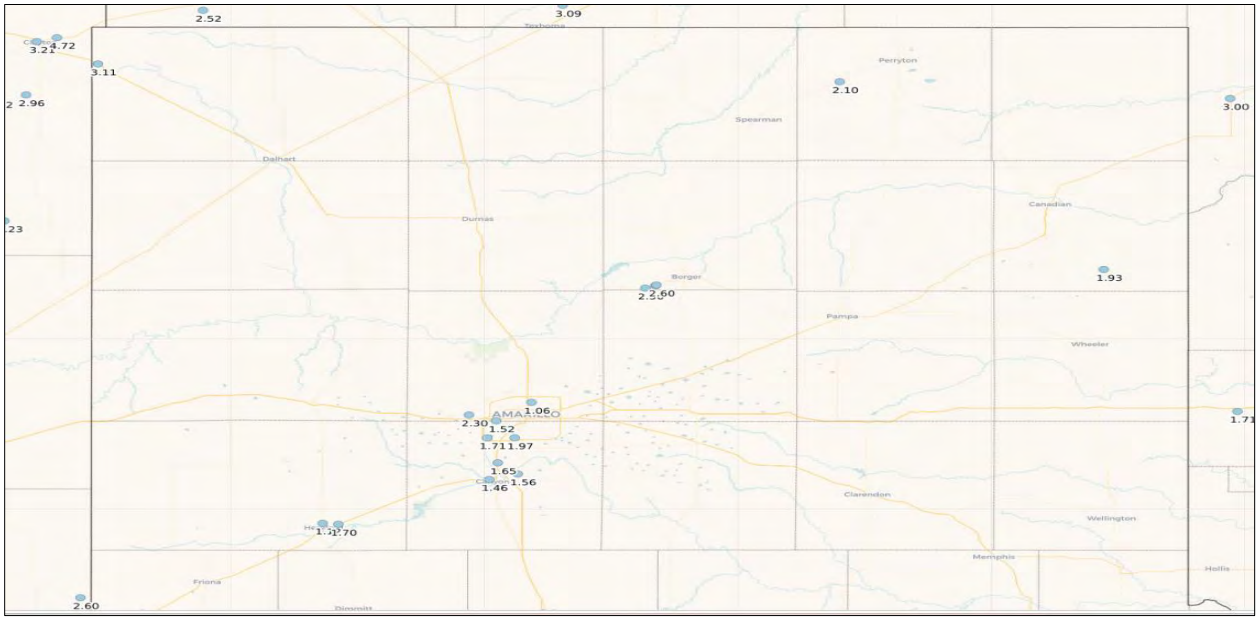


Fig. 1: Map of Amarillo region with spring total precipitation across the region from CoCoRaHS observers

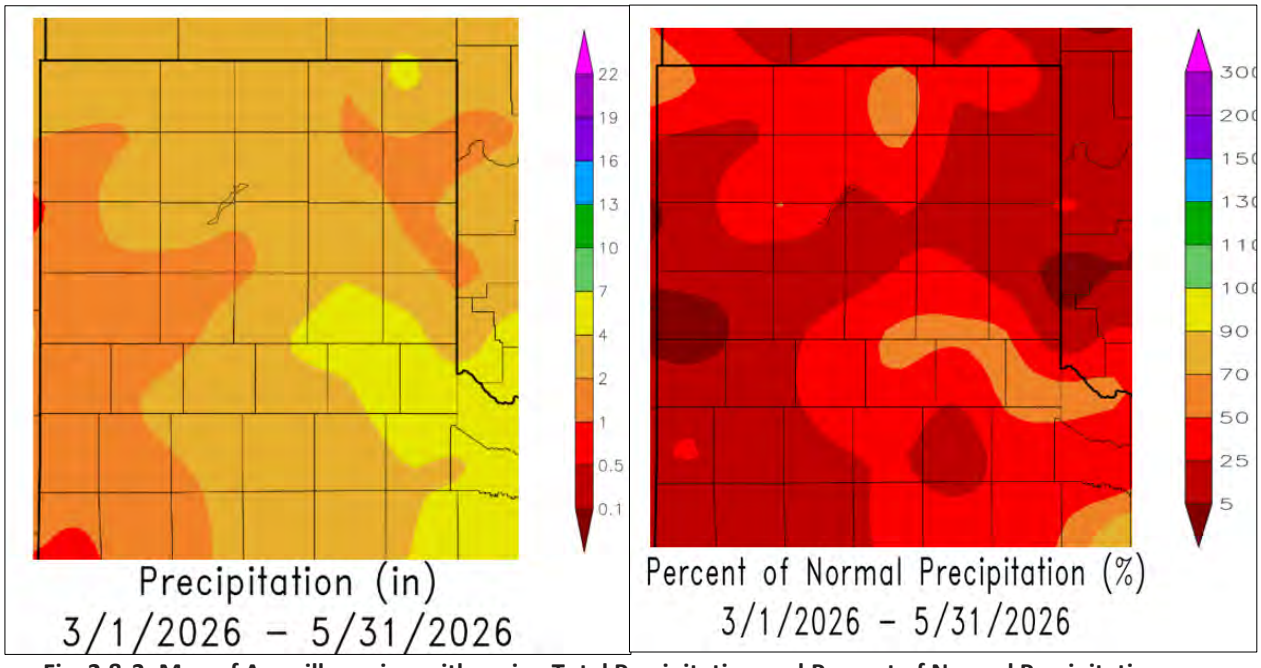


Fig. 2 & 3: Map of Amarillo region with spring Total Precipitation and Percent of Normal Precipitation

Lubbock Regional Summary

Mostly dry with a few Severe Storms

By: Ron Havran, Texas CoCoRaHS Assistant State Coordinator

Dry weather with some hail storms and isolated severe storms were the precipitation pattern for the region. Temperatures were well above normal in March (9.5°F) and April (4.7°F). Significant precipitation fell on March 5th, March 30th – April 1st, April 11th, May 1st, May 10th, May 22nd to 26th, and May 31st. CoCoRaHS Observers recorded an average of 0.10" for March, 0.55" for April, and 1.90" for May. There were areas that had isolated heavy rainfall totals but not any CoCoRaHS observers near those storms to record some of the heavy isolated totals that occur on dryline afternoon and evening convection.

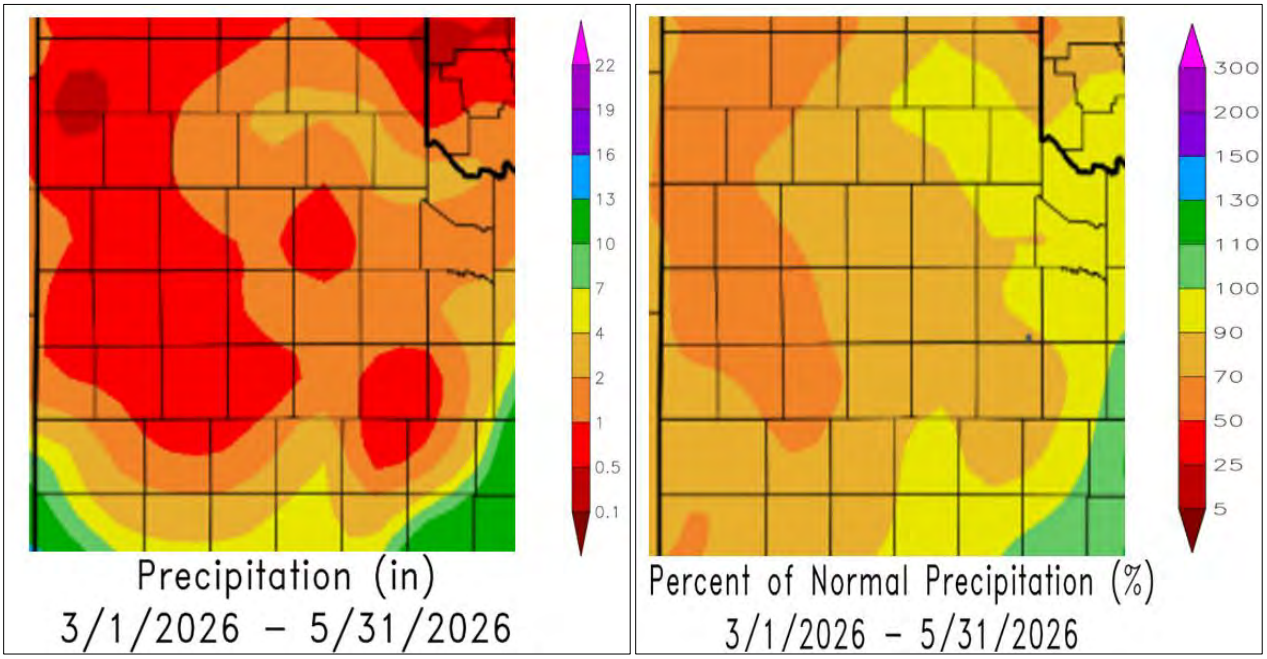


Figure 1 and 2: Spring Precipitation and Percent of Normal Precipitation across the Lubbock Region

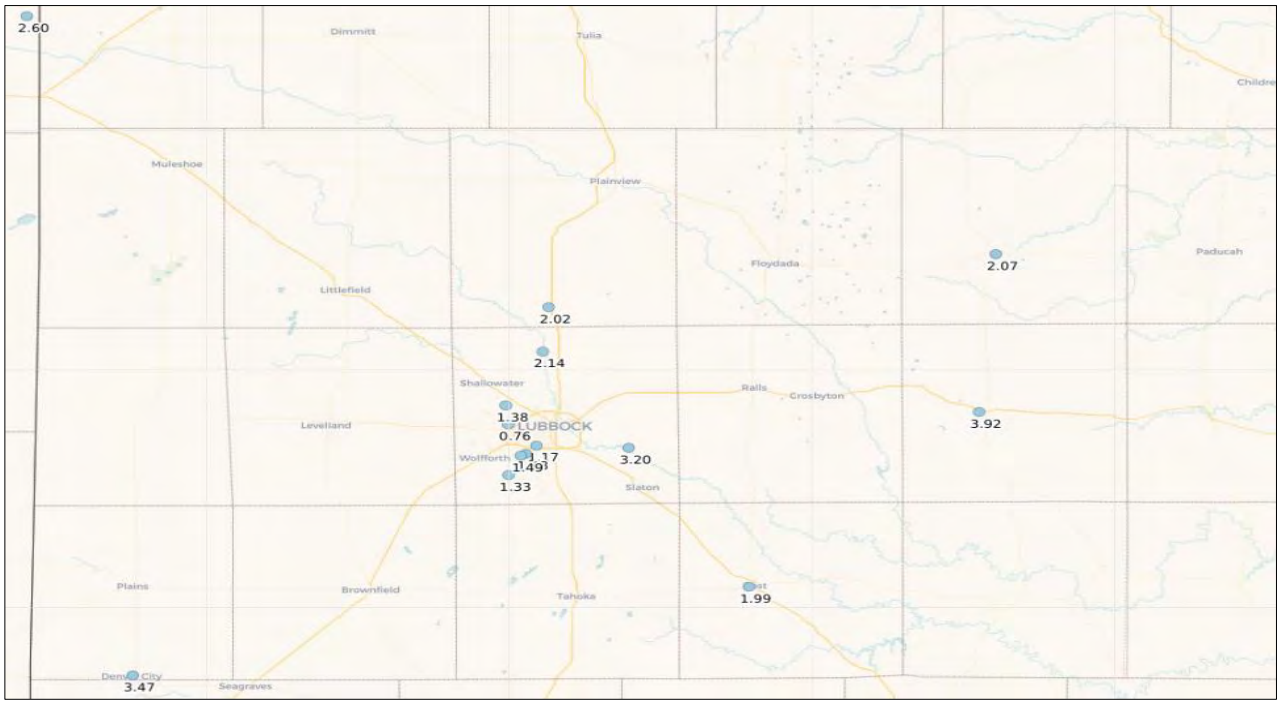


Figure 3: Map of Lubbock region with spring Total Precipitation across the region from CoCoRaHS observers

Texas Summer Weather Outlook

By Bob Rose, Lower Colorado River Authority Meteorologist

Much of Texas caught a break from blistering heat last summer as widespread July rains helped to keep the dreaded summer heat dome from setting up over Texas. For the summer of 2026, the atmospheric setup is looking much different from last year and heavy July rains are not anticipated. Our summer luck from last year will likely be on shaky ground this year as the summer heat dome is expected to make its home closer to Texas compared to last year.

Texas will be facing a hotter-than-average summer in 2026, with an increasing likelihood for above-average temperatures and oppressive humidity, especially in July and August. This summer's global circulation will be heavily influenced by the development of El Niño in the central and eastern tropical Pacific. While there will be a lot of talk about El Niño in the news this summer, El Nino's typically don't have a strong direct influence on temperature and rainfall across Texas in the summer months. El Niño's do tend to promote a strong subtropical ridge of high pressure, or heat dome, somewhere across the western and southwestern U.S. and sometimes across Texas.

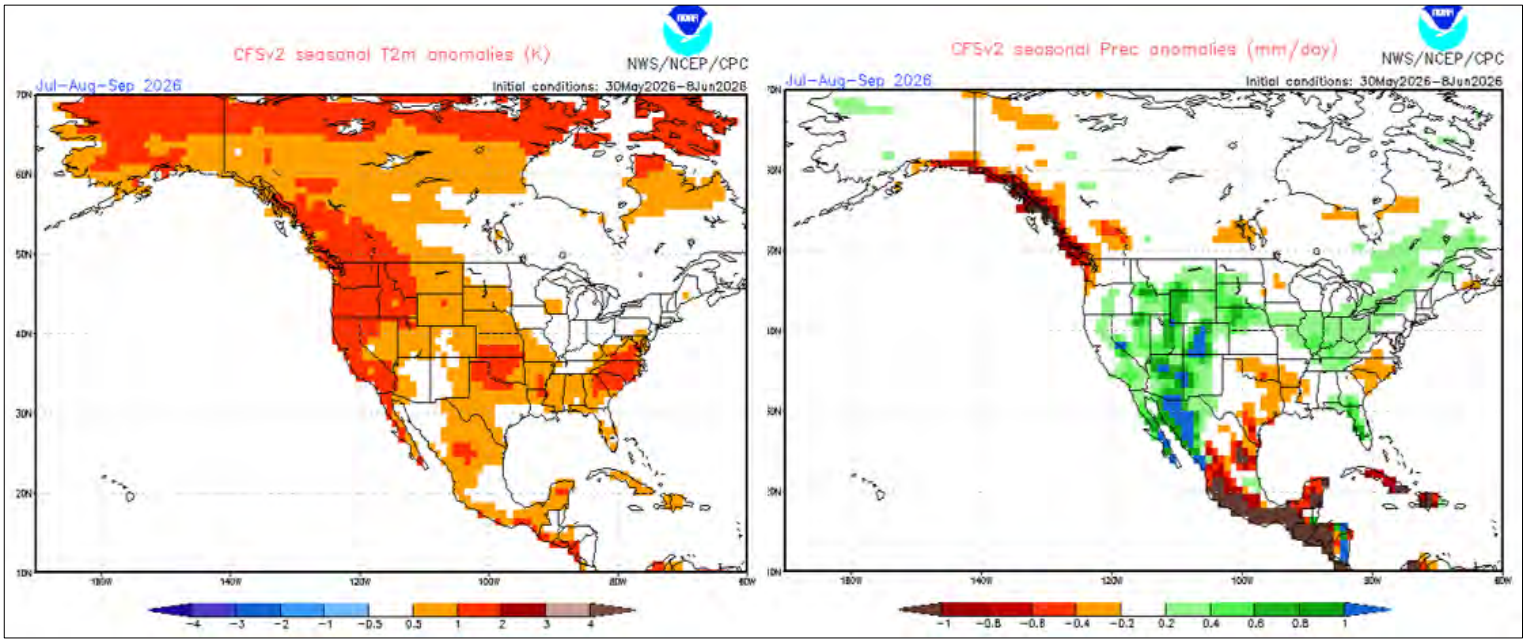
History does provide us with some clues about typical El Niño summer weather across Texas. Looking back over the past 25 years, most El Nino summers during this period featured hotter than average temperatures and near normal to slightly below normal rainfall. A persistent heat dome somewhere close to Texas appears to have played a significant role in the hotter than normal weather and below normal rainfall.

Most forecast solutions for this summer agree with the historical El Niño year analogs. The National Weather Service's Climate Forecast System version 2 solution calls for summer temperatures across the state to average up to one degree above normal. Parts of the Panhandle and the Red River Valley could see temperatures up to two degrees above normal. The precipitation forecast calls for near normal to slightly below normal rainfall in most areas. Interestingly, parts of Far West Texas could see above normal rainfall as the summer monsoon brings frequent periods of rain.

Texas Summer Weather Outlook (continued)

Forecast for Temperature

Forecast for Precipitation



Climate Forecast System Version 2 (CFSv2) Temperature and Rainfall Forecast for July/August/September

Texas summers are famous for heat and the lack of significant rain. This summer doesn't look to be too much different. It will likely be hotter than summer 2025, with more triple-digit temperatures. We should expect to see periods of rain from time to time, but nothing unusually wet. Of course, like in any year, the summer pattern could be interrupted or changed by a potential tropical cyclone tracking inland from the Gulf or the eastern tropical Pacific. We'll all need to keep a close eye on the tropics while we try to stay cool and hydrated.

CoCoRaHS Webinars & Information

Upcoming WxTalk Webinars:

Webinar #97 - September 2026

Weather and Agriculture

Eric Snodgrass
Nutrien Agronomy
Tolono, IL

Webinar #98- November 12, 2026 - 1 PM EST

SNOTEL: How does one measure an entire season's snow accumulation without moving it? With a pillow.

TBA
Colorado Snow Survey Program
USDA /NRCS
Denver, CO

More Updates in the Months Ahead

CoCoRaHS Webinars & Information (continued)

Most Common Type of Errors found by CoCoRaHS Quality Assurance and Quality Control

Most errors we find in CoCoRaHS data are ***reporting*** errors, not measurement errors. Here are some of the most common types of errors:

***Typo/Decimal**
Observer mistypes the amount into the precipitation field, or misplaces the decimal point. **Solution:** Always check your observation on the View Data section for Daily Precipitation Reports for your county and make sure you typed in the correct amount. Observers entering data by an I-phone make these kind of errors the most. Please be careful to type data in correctly.

***False Zero**
Observer entered zero but evidence suggests value should be >0. **Solution:** Make sure you read your gauge every day to see if rainfall is in your gauge or condensation collected in it, and always empty any condensation out of the gauge. Always empty your gauge everyday so you know for certain if any rain falls over the next 24 hours that the amount is for only 24 hours.

***Incorrect date**
Observer enters the incorrect date for the observation. These usually occur when the observations are entered one or more days after the observations were made, and often occur in pairs, i.e. ob1 is entered for date2, and ob2 is entered for date1. **Solution:** Please remember to make a Multi-Day Report if you didn't make a Daily Report the previous day. This is best way to avoid this type of error.

***Multi-day Accumulation Entered as a Daily Amount**
Observers often forget that a different entry form (***Multi-Day Report Form***) is needed to enter accumulations occurring over a period of 2 or more days, and enter the amount using the Daily Report Form. **Solution:** Please remember to make a Multi-Day Report if you didn't make a Daily Report the previous day. You may think that this is getting old by us saying this again and again but until all observers remember to use the Multi-Day report we will keep mentioning this. This is the number one reporting error we see with the entered data being useless and contaminating the rainfall data base.

*A significant storm item such as heavy rainfall well after the 7am daily reporting time in the afternoon or evening being entered as a Daily Report in the afternoon or evening for the observation time of 7am that morning when the observer hadn't yet entered their normal Daily Report. **Solution:** Please use a ***Significant Weather Report*** for those type of storms or events. Please remember a ***Significant Weather Report*** is a real time report that goes directly to the National Weather Service for ***storm warning purposes only*** and is a separate report by itself. A Daily Report is for rainfall since the last mornings Daily Report and should be made at the normal 7am observation time each morning covering rainfall over the previous 24 hours. This a separate report by itself as well.

Texas CoCoRaHS Observer
The official newsletter of Texas CoCoRaHS

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Questions, Comments, and Suggestions about this newsletter are welcomed at the above email addresses.