



unfold, water conservation remains the best strategy to help achieve that delicate balance amid the variability in Florida's weather."

One year ago, November 2008 marked the start of the driest six-month period in South Florida, according to District records dating back to 1932. Water managers were faced with an average 10.13-inch rainfall deficit across the 16-county District by the end of the dry season in April 2009.

Historical data has shown the wet season can start as early as April or as late as June. This year, the sea-breeze cycle ushered in the wet season in May. With 9.04 inches of rain falling across the District, May 2009 became the wettest May on record, according to District records dating back to 1932.

For the 2009 wet season, District meteorologists reported 40.09 inches of rain fell across the District from May through the last days of October, representing a nearly average amount of rain for this time period.

Some areas saw drier conditions between May and October:

- Lake Okeechobee stood at 14.1 feet NGVD on October 30, more than a half-foot lower than a year ago.
- Eastern Palm Beach County recorded a 2.17-inch rainfall deficit.
- Martin/St. Lucie recorded a 3.81-inch rainfall deficit.
- Southwest Florida recorded a 1.36-inch rainfall deficit.

October 2009 is on track to become one of the driest Octobers on record, with only 1.11 inches of rain falling to date compared to a historical average of 3.76 inches.

The SFWMD continues to closely monitor water levels and is urging residents and businesses to conserve water and follow landscape irrigation restrictions to stretch available supplies. More information about irrigation restrictions by area is available on the District's [water restrictions](#) Web site. For water saving tips, visit [www.savewaterfl.com](http://www.savewaterfl.com).

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**About the South Florida Water Management District – [Celebrating 60 Years \(1949-2009\)](#)**

*The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state's five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.*