



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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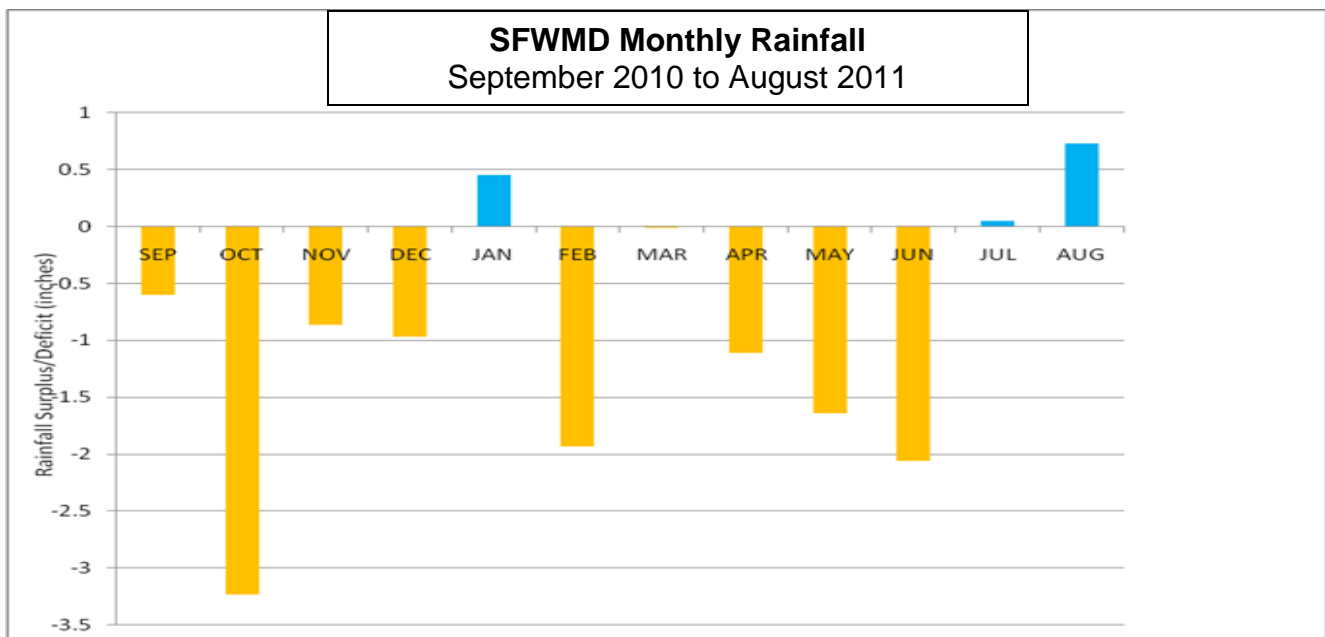
South Florida Water Management District

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August Rainfall Improves Drought Conditions in Most Areas *Despite the recent rainfall, Lake Okeechobee remains far below normal*



Eight of the last 12 months experienced below-average rainfall. August provided some drought relief.

West Palm Beach, FL – August rainfall provided a steady soaking of the 16-county region, but much more rainfall is needed in anticipation of transitioning into the dry season next month.

August rainfall was $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch above average, providing an average of 8.51 inches of rain throughout South Florida.

“The daily rainfall we experienced through much of August was ideal to recharge groundwater and surface water levels,” said Susan Sylvester, SFWMD Chief of the Water Control Operations Bureau. “However, we are entering the home stretch of the wet season, and we’re hopeful that this type of rainfall continues before the dry season sets in.”

From the Upper Kissimmee's 8.59 inches in August to 9.33 inches in Big Cypress Preserve, rainfall helped to fill canals, lakes, rivers and groundwater. The rainfall was particularly beneficial on the east coast, where drought conditions were substantially alleviated. For the month, eastern Palm Beach County saw 9.84 inches of rain, 1.78 inches above normal, and eastern Broward County received 9.71 inches of rain, 2.28 inches above normal.

However, Lake Okeechobee remains far below normal for this time of year. As the back-up water supply for South Florida, the lake is at 10.67 feet NGVD – more than three feet below normal for this time of year.

Hurricane Irene remained offshore and drew moisture away from Florida, resulting in lowered rainfall totals, but the overall continuous rainfall throughout the month allowed the SFWMD to store as much rainwater as possible in preparation for the dry season.

Meteorologists are predicting a drier-than-normal dry season. In South Florida, the daily afternoon thunderstorms typically begin to taper off by mid-October. In the Kissimmee region north of Lake Okeechobee, rainfall totals typically decline even sooner, by the beginning of October.

If the remainder of the wet season does not provide significant rainfall, such as a well-placed tropical system, the water shortage is likely to continue through the spring. Water shortage orders remain in place due to low lake levels and the pending dry season.

Information about water shortage orders and warnings, current weather and water conditions and water-saving tips can be found at www.sfwmd.gov/waterwatch.

For the latest Water Watch Briefing with helpful links and water levels in key locations , [click here](#).

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About the South Florida Water Management District

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.