



Lake Okeechobee stood at 14.65 feet NGVD today, which is average for this time of year. The lake was at 14.98 feet NGVD a month ago.

For the first three months of the 2012-2013 dry season, the District has seen 2.81 inches of rain, representing a deficit of 3.37 inches, or 45 percent of average. Evapotranspiration, the loss of water from the ground and growing plants, remains low in January, slowing the decline in surface water levels.

Much of South Florida is also listed as being abnormally dry, or “D0,” as coded by the U.S. Drought Monitor. This designation is the lowest intensity on the drought scale.

While the region continues its winter dry out, water levels remain positioned at adequate levels because of abundant wet season rainfall last year.

**For more information:**

- [SFWMD Weather/ Rainfall Data](#)
- [National Weather Service Dry Season Forecast](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Precipitation Forecast](#)

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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.*

***Just the Facts:  
South Florida’s Dry Season***

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- *November – May*
- *About 18 inches of rain is the average*
- *May and October are important transition months*
- *March, April and May have the highest evaporation rates and lowest rainfall*