Southwest Florida Water Management District
2379 Broad Street, Brooksville, Florida 34604-6899
(352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only)
TDD only 1-800-231-6103 (FL only)
WaterMatters.org

An Equal Opportunity Employer

The Southwest Florida Water Management District (District) does not discriminate on the basis of disability. This nondiscrimination policy involves every aspect of the District's functions, including access to and participation in the District's programs and activities. Anyone requiring reasonable accommodation as provided for in the Americans with Disabilities Act should contact the District's Human Resources Bureau Chief, 2379 Broad St., Brooksville, FL 34604-6899; telephone (352) 796-7211 or 1-800-423-1476 (FL only), ext. 4702; TDD 1-800-231-6103 (FL only); or email *ADACoordinator@WaterMatters.org.*

NEWS RELEASE

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**The Southwest Florida Water Management District urges year-round water conservation. Water levels may rise and fall, but our water resources remain limited. The District encourages efficient, non-wasteful uses of water to sustain our high quality of life. For more information about ways to conserve water, contact the District at 1-800-423-1476 or visit the District's website at *WaterMatters.org***

**October Water Resource Monthly Update**

**Aquifer* Levels** (percentile)

| Regions ** | Oct. 31 percentile*** | Previous week percentile | Same date last year percentile | Normal range percentile**** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| North | 34 | 34 | 27 | 25-75 |
| Central | 50 | 50 | 28 | 25-75 |
| South | 52 | 53 | 16 | 25-75 |

* Aquifers are underground layers of rock and sand that hold water. In southwest Florida, more than 80 percent of the water supply comes from aquifers.

** **North** (Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Levy, Marion and Sumter counties)
**Central** (Hillsborough, Pasco, Pinellas and Polk counties)
**South** (Charlotte, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Manatee and Sarasota counties)

*** The **percentile** compares current aquifer levels to historical levels during the same time of year on a scale of 0-100. For example, if the groundwater level is at the 50$^{th}$ percentile, it means that half of the historical levels for this time of year were higher and half were lower than the current level.

**** Any level that falls between the 25$^{th}$ and the 75$^{th}$ percentile is considered **normal**. Less than the 25$^{th}$ would be considered below normal and above the 75$^{th}$ percentile is above normal.

**2026 Rainfall** (in inches) *****

| | Oct. 31 | October | | Year to date | January – October | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Actual ** | Historic Avg.*** | Normal Range*** | Actual** | Historic Avg.*** | Normal Range*** |
| North | 6.79 | 2.88 | 1.27 – 4.16 | 44.50 | 48.86 | 44.17 – 53.43 |
| Central | 5.93 | 2.92 | 1.40 – 3.83 | 42.04 | 48.00 | 43.20 – 52.44 |
| South | 4.90 | 3.09 | 1.59 – 3.96 | 40.18 | 48.48 | 43.95 – 53.47 |

**Historic Rainfall** (January - December in inches)

| | 2025 | 2024 | 2023 | 2022 | 2021 | 2020 | 2019 | 2018 | Jan. through Dec. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Actual | Actual | Actual | Actual | Actual | Actual | Actual | Actual | Historic Avg.*** | Normal Range*** |
| North | 39.09 | 58.57 | 48.00 | 51.78 | 60.87 | 47.77 | 57.02 | 66.66 | 53.67 | 48.55 – 58.09 |
| Central | 41.06 | 61.49 | 42.23 | 55.14 | 50.15 | 52.10 | 56.03 | 59.62 | 52.51 | 46.77 – 56.55 |
| South | 37.67 | 55.68 | 40.82 | 60.49 | 45.70 | 52.23 | 48.56 | 56.53 | 52.45 | 46.87 – 56.94 |

***** The rainfall values for the current month and year are considered provisional and subject to revision. The other annual figures are final.

****** Actual rainfall for the time frame referenced at the top of the column.

******* Historical average rainfall for the time frame referenced at the top of the column. The District's historical rainfall records date back to 1914. The "normal range" is defined as rainfall totals that fall on or between the 25th to 75th percentile values derived from the historical data for each month.

**Lake Levels** (in feet, relative to MLM) *

| Regions ** | October levels | Previous month | Same date last year |
|---|---|---|---|
| Northern | -3.01 | -3.89 | -1.54 |
| Tampa Bay | 0.23 | -0.27 | 0.23 |
| Polk Uplands | 0.69 | 0.41 | 1.30 |
| Lake Wales | -1.64 | -1.75 | -0.23 |

***** Each month the District measures water levels in 76 lakes. The lake levels are compared to the lakes' adopted minimum low management (MLM) levels. The MLM level is how low each lake has historically dropped at the end of the dry season each year.

** **Northern** (Citrus, Hernando and Sumter counties)
**Tampa Bay** (Hillsborough and Pasco counties)
**Polk Uplands** (Northern Polk County)
**Lake Wales Ridge** (Portions of Polk and Highlands counties)

**Streamflows ***

| | October percentile ** | Previous month percentile | Same date last year percentile | Normal range percentile *** |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Withlacoochee River near Holder | 9 | 13 | 18 | 25-75 |
| Withlacoochee River near Trilby | 38 | 8 | 8 | 25-75 |
| Hillsborough River near Zephyrhills | 73 | 40 | 15 | 25-75 |
| Peace River at Arcadia | 32 | 23 | 11 | 25-75 |
| Peace River at Bartow | 19 | 5 | 38 | 25-75 |

* **Streamflow**, also known as discharge, is the volume of water passing a location in a certain amount of time, usually measured as cubic feet per second.

** The **percentile** compares current flows to historical flows during the same time of year on a scale of 0-100. For example, if the river is shown at the 50$^{th}$ percentile, it means that half of the historical flows for this time of year were higher and half were lower than the current flow.

*** Any flow that falls between the 25$^{th}$ and the 75$^{th}$ percentile is considered **normal**. Less than the 25$^{th}$ would be considered below normal and above the 75$^{th}$ above normal.