

OCTOBER 2026 DROUGHT & RAINFALL REPORT FOR BOARD

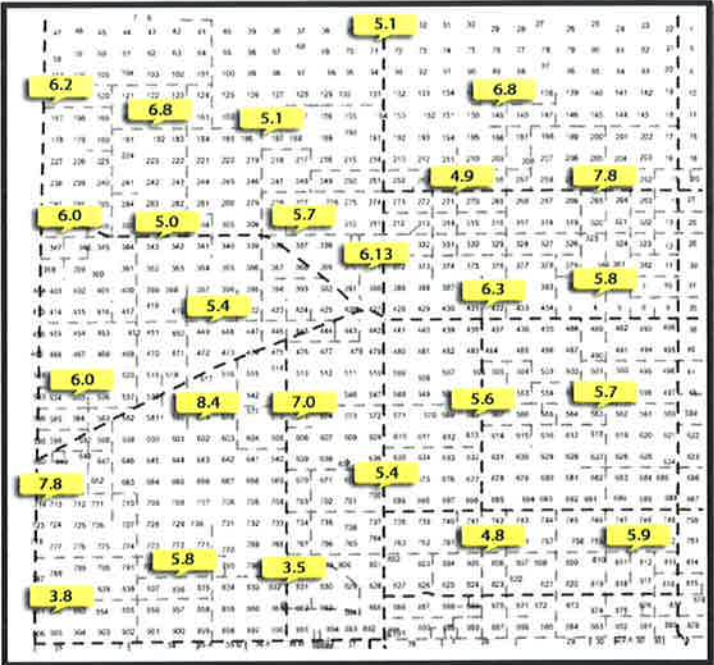
SEPTEMBER 2026 DATA

PLAINS MESONET READING : 6.13
DISTRICT AVERAGE: 5.87

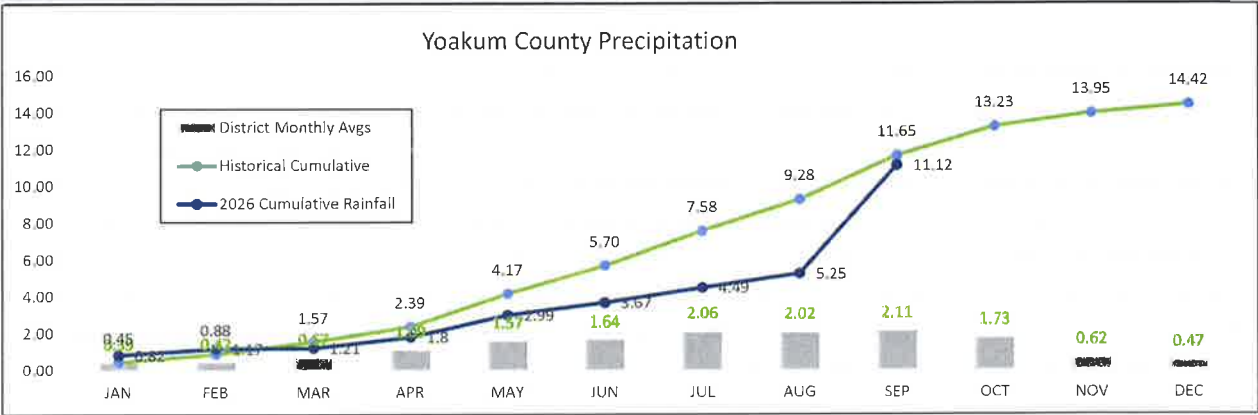
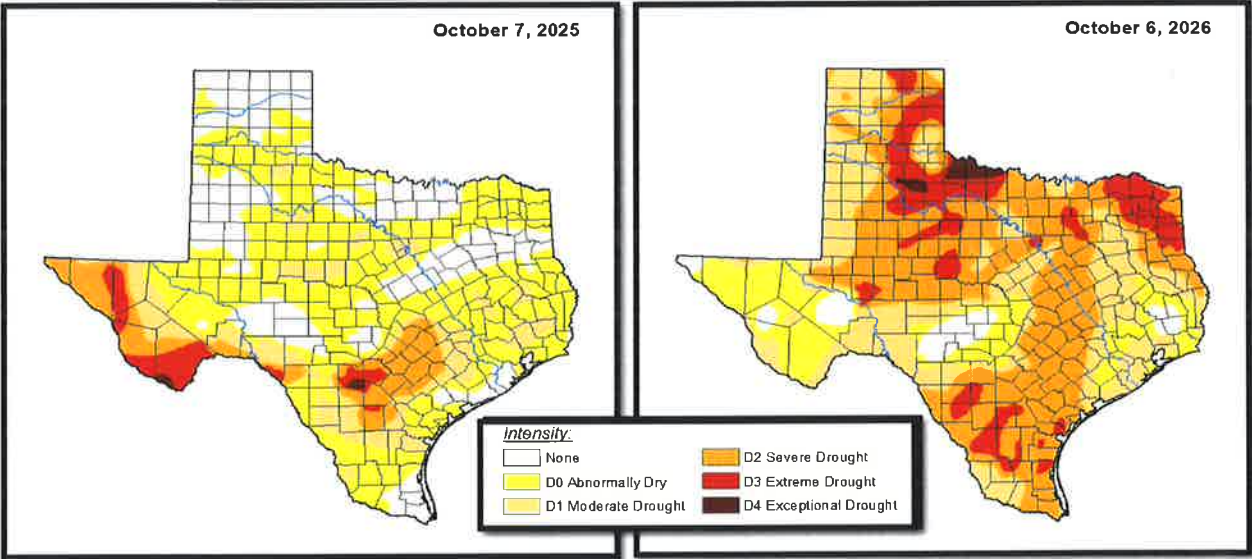
MONTHLY MESONET HISTORICAL AVG (02-26): 2.37

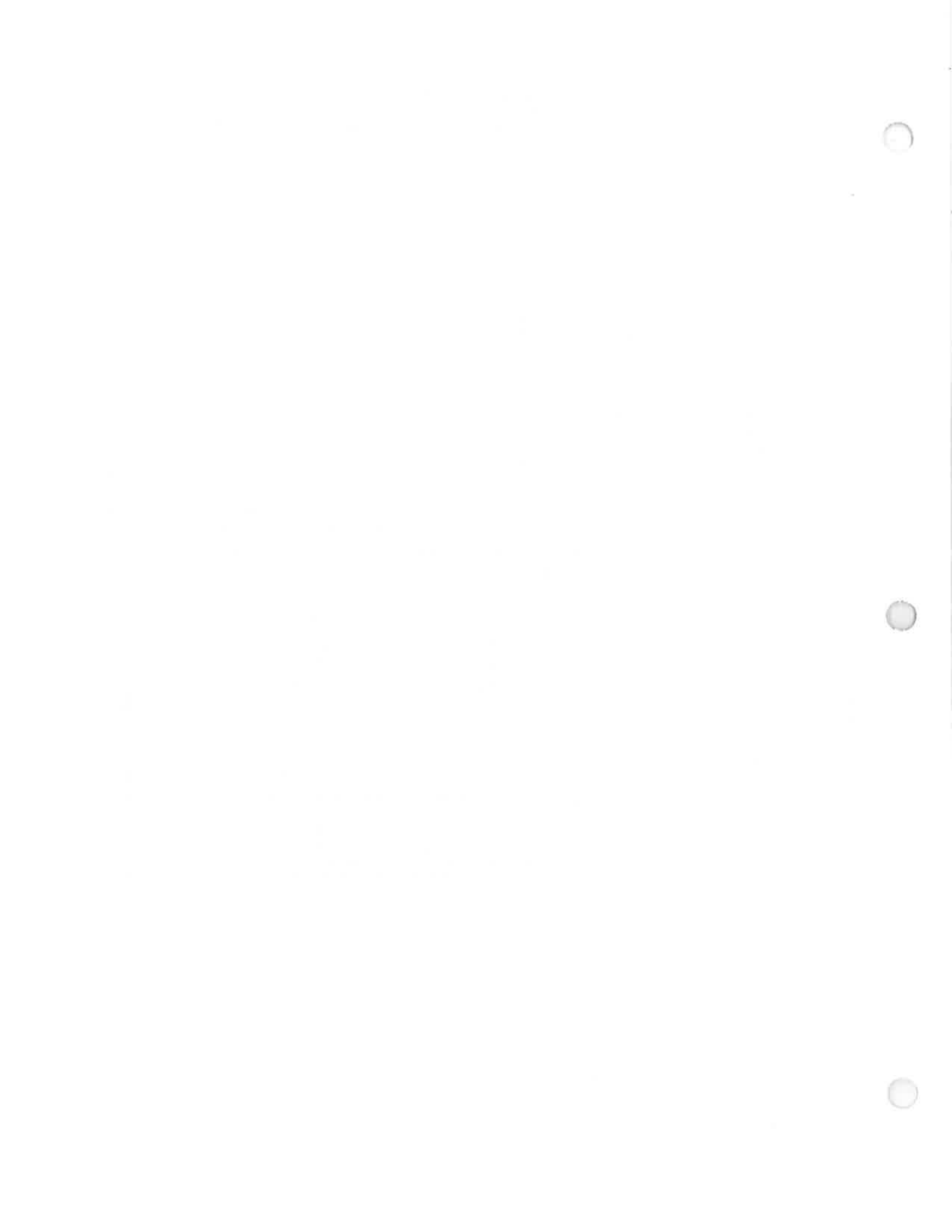
MONTHLY DISTRICT HISTORICAL AVG (02-26): 2.11

575	7	255	4.9
579	8.4	308	5.7
535	6	187	5.1
852	3.8	163	6.8
793	5.8	167	6.2
832	3.5	298	6
759	4.8	342	5
753	5.9	34	5.1
563	5.7	148	6.8
568	5.6	371	6.13
432	6.3	420	5.4
1	5.8	673	5.4
265	7.8	714	7.8



2025 vs 2026 Drought Map Comparison





October 2026 Weather Update

An El Niño Advisory remains in effect and the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) stated El Niño continues to strengthen, with a strong-to-very strong El Niño likely January-March 2027 (remaining greater than an 83% chance). The current Niño re-

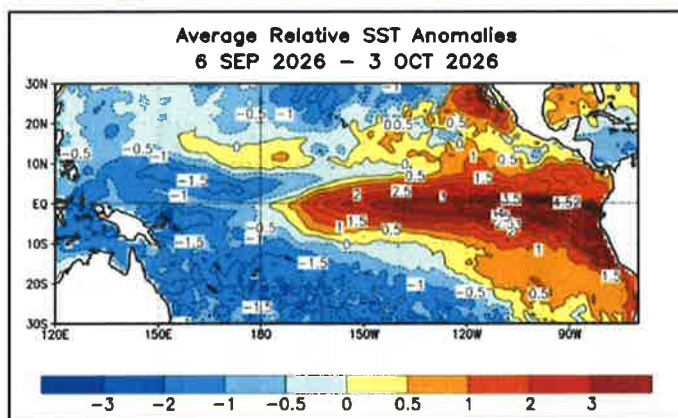


Figure 1: Average relative sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies across Pacific Ocean from 09/06/26–10/03/26.

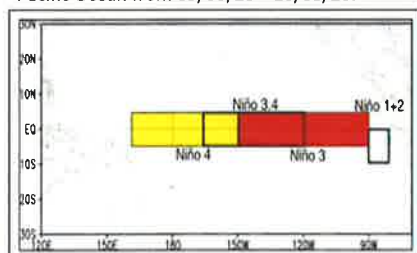


Figure 2: Niño regions.

gions (Figure 2) weekly departure from normal are 0.1°C at Niño 4, 2.3°C at Niño 3.4, 3.3°C at Niño 3, and 4.5°C at Niño 1+2. The seasonal average Niño 3.4 SST anomaly is forecasted to peak in December at approximately 3.7°C. This would be the highest observation since recording began and surpass the previous record of 2.6°C in November 2015-January 2016. North

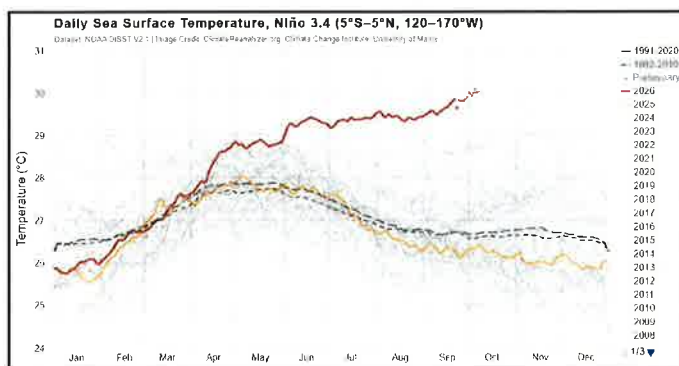


Figure 3: Daily SST at Niño 3.4 for years 1981–2026. Gray lines represent data from 1981–2024. Red represents 2026 and orange represents 2025.

America has already begun to see affects of El Niño with a decrease in Atlantic Basin hurricanes and an increase of Pacific Basin hurricanes. Our pattern has also shifted with the break down of the southwestern high pressure that plagued the majority of the summer keeping us warm and dry.

September rains did bring some minor relief to west Texas and the Panhandle; however, the U.S. Drought Monitor still has the majority of Texas in a severe to exceptional

drought. Yoakum County saw a decrease from severe to moderate drought which is also true for the majority of the surrounding counties. (Full October 6, 2026 U.S. Drought Monitor map on the back.)

Temperatures in September continued to be significantly warmer than normal. All sites reported above the normal average which ranged from 6.9°F warmer at Denver City to 9.4°F warmer at Plains NWS. (Figure 4) A new high record temperature was set on September 12 at Midland, Lubbock and Amarillo. Lubbock had a high of 102°F which broke the old rec-

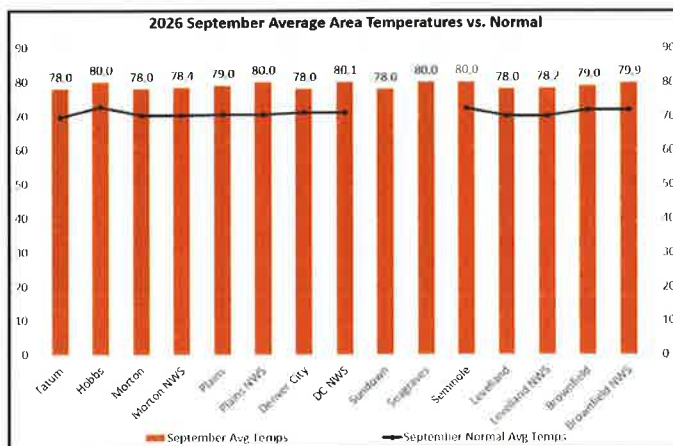


Figure 4: 2026 September average area temperatures compared to the normal.

ord of 100°F from 1930. The NOAA seasonal temperature outlook is beginning to show the trend of El Niño with warmer temperatures forecasted across the northern portion of the U.S. (Figure 5)

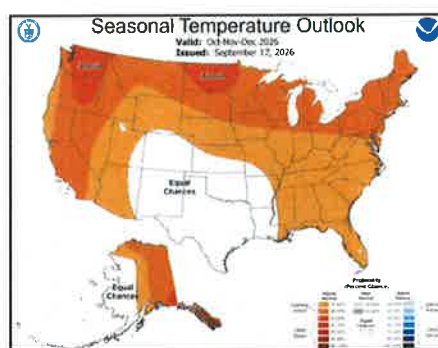


Figure 5: NOAA seasonal temperature outlook.

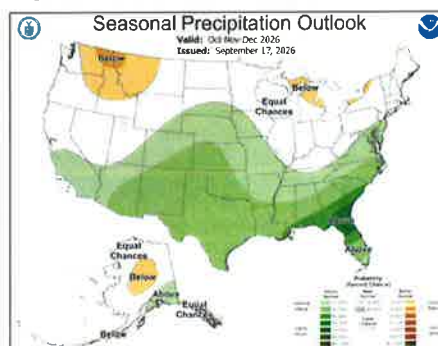


Figure 6: NOAA seasonal precipitation outlook.

Precipitation was above normal at all the sites in September with the exception of Seminole. Rainfall received ranged from 7.69 inches at Morton NWS to 0.85 inches at Seminole. (Full chart is on the back.) Similar to the seasonal temperature outlook the seasonal precipitation outlook is showing the trend of El Niño with above average precipitation forecasted across the southern tier of the U.S. (Figure 6)

