

## Weather Review: Louisiana, 2006

Louisiana's weather highlights for 2006 featured a lack of hurricane activity, which was much welcomed after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005. Numerous severe weather events took place in 2006, including drought, tornadoes, and heavy rainfall. Statewide, annual temperature averaged 68° F, which was 1°F above normal. Louisiana experienced a drier-than-normal year with the annual rainfall totaling 57.18 inches, which is 2.91 inches below normal.

**January:** The New Year came in with record warmth across the state, followed by roller-coaster temperatures for the first couple of weeks. An F1 tornado touched down in Concordia Parish. In the final two weeks of the month, cold fronts produced widespread rains that helped to alleviate drought. Temperatures for the month were 6° F above normal.

**February:** February highlights include an F1 tornado in Jefferson Parish and an F2 tornado in Orleans Parish. Hail and high winds were also prevalent during the first week of the month. The second week of February brought a hard freeze statewide, which was shocking after the mild January. The end of the month brought an icing event to North Louisiana, followed by repeated frontal passages that produced rain.

**March:** March opened with warm and dry weather, though North Louisiana was pounded with severe weather during the second week. Dry conditions followed which persisted for the latter half of the month.

**April:** The first couple of weeks were really arid, further contributing to drought. Some spotty rains were produced in the third week of the month, but not enough to make a difference; more substantial rains finally arrived at the end of the month.

**May:** Severe weather and rainfall were common at the beginning of the month, further nipping away at the state's drought, though the ensuing three weeks were very dry. The only respite was a late season front that brought some cool weather near the end of the month. The month ended with less than half the normal amount of rain received.

**June:** Despite some hit and miss showers, June was also exceptionally dry, and the month ended with less than half of the normal amount of rainfall again.

**July:** Scattered thunderstorms throughout the month helped to alleviate the drought to some extent, but rains for the month were still a little below normal. Temperatures also soared in mid-month, reaching a maximum of 106° F in Shreveport on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

**August:** Over the first two weeks, hit and miss thunderstorms kept the drought from worsening. However, during the middle of the month, a heat wave brought triple-digit temperatures for nearly a week to north Louisiana. The final week of the month brought beneficial rains, including some limited flash flooding, especially to North Louisiana.

**September:** A cold front passage brought the first taste of fall during the first week of the month. High pressure then parked over the state for the second week bringing more dry, though less humid conditions. Several fronts crossed the state during mid-month bringing more beneficial rains, though the month ended on a dry note.

**October:** The first couple of weeks were dry, which is typical for October. Mid-month, however, was characterized by extremes in rainfall accompanied by some tornadoes. Over 10 inches fell in under a week at several northern locations, and several northern parishes experienced tornado touchdowns. During the final week of October, more frontal rains hit the state, this time in the Southwest, where three stations had more than 10 inches in a day. Despite beginning dry, October ended up averaging over 10 inches of rain across the state.

**November:** Typical November weather brought several frontal passages and some cold weather outbreaks. However, rain was deficient at the end of the month. In addition, a severe cold front occurred on the 30<sup>th</sup> which brought a light freeze to the state.

**December:** The mornings of the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> brought hard freezes to state, though these were followed by very mild temperatures at mid-month. Heavy rains then pelted south Louisiana, resulting from a cold front on the 21<sup>st</sup>. One-day rains of over 7 inches were recorded at some stations.