

# At The 'Heart of the Matter': the 2022 Weather?

Meadow's Weather Analysis: December 2021 Report

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## **Rainfall & Temperature Data:**

Rainfall: 0.95 inches (YTD: 49.23 in.)

23 yr. December rainfall average: 1.99 in.

Average high temperature: 82 F (normal: 74 F)

Above normal high-temperature days: 30

Record high-temperature days: 7

**Weather Statement:** As we summarize and wrap up December's weather, it's time to get down to the 'heart of the matter' and consider what Mother Nature might have in store for the Meadows in the new year. Will we experience year-long record heat again? Will we be spared the wrath of another hurricane season? Based on (1) the way 2021 finished – perhaps the warmest December on record – and (2) the accelerating rate that our climate is changing from 'temperate' to 'tropical' status, the answer to these questions is yes, and no, respectively. Then again, recognizing how complex and unpredictable the weather can be – who knows. Perhaps only time will tell!

**Temperature Analysis:** After a one-month respite, the heat returned with vengeance in December. In fact, based on preliminary data, December 2021 may be the warmest ever! Every day but one (30 out of 31) produced day-time maximum temperatures above the normal for that day. This statistic is unprecedented! Other possible record-breaking temperature statistics for December include a monthly average temperature of 82 degrees F (8 degrees above normal), seven record hi-temperature days, and two days when the record was tied!

**Rainfall Analysis:** We are on a roll. For the third consecutive month most, if not all, of the month's rainfall was recorded in a one-day rain event. For December, that event occurred on the 21<sup>st</sup> when 100% of the month's total fell. But unlike the previous two months when the single-day rainfall accounted for most of the expected monthly total, only half of December's expectation fell. For this reason,

December was very dry. How dry? Usually there are six rain-days in December. However, there was just the one day this December when it rained.

Total yearly rainfall fell short of the average by 2.4 inches, thus making 2021 the first year since 2015 to have a deficit. For the record, the previous five years averaged 64.8 inches with 80 inches being recorded in 2017 – the wettest year on record in Sarasota!

Monthly temperature and rainfall data are presented in the graph.

Send comments and questions about this month's report to:

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