

Heat Records Continue to “Fall”

Weather/Climate Analysis: October 2020 Report

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Rainfall & Temperature Data:

Meadows	Airport
Rainfall – 4.52 inches (YTD: 56.52 in.) 22 yr. rainfall avg. – 2.43in.	Rainfall – 3.75 inches (YTD: 47.86 in.) Historical rainfall avg. – 3.12 in.
Average high-temp. 89.0 F Above normal high-temp. Days: 25 Record high-temp. Days: 5	Average high-temp. 88.0 F Above normal high-temp. Days: 24 Record high-temp. Days: 1

Analysis: The Meadow’s “dry” season (October-May) began in a rainy fashion. Following a very wet September, we measured 4.52 inches in October (86% above normal). The Airport also recorded above normal (20%) rainfall for October. This month’s excess rain is attributed to a late-year return of the historical summer east-to-west storm pattern. Four of the five major rains (10/4, 10/10, 10/21, 10/26) developed in-land Florida and moved west/northwest towards the Gulf Coast. The fifth and largest rain-maker, a 1.15-inch Halloween-Eve rainfall, came on-shore from the Gulf as part of the season’s first cold front.

As the headline of this month’s column implies, we are five weeks into the ‘Fall’ season and who would believe that high-temperature records continue to be set in the Meadows. In addition to 5 new records this month there were 25 days with above-average temperatures bringing the year-to-date total to 252, 71% above average. With air conditioners running overtime for the tenth consecutive month, 2020 is certainly on track to set a new yearly high-temperature record!

Presented in the graph below are the monthly rainfall and high-temperature data.

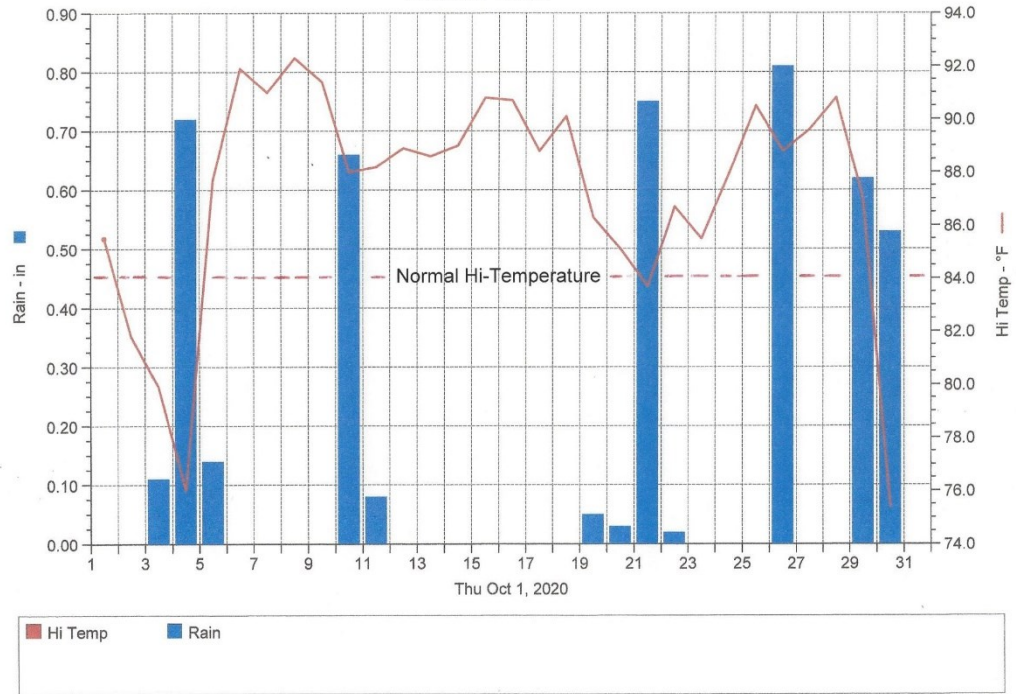
Climate Analysis: After assembling 305 digital data pieces, the 2020 tracking climate change ‘puzzle’ is within two-months of completion. The October YTD Tracking Climate Change graph (below) continues to show record- temperature increases (126%) during the past three decades.

At the time of this writing, the last month of this year's record-setting six-month hurricane season is about to begin. In review, it's clear that climate change influenced abnormally-high Caribbean /Gulf of Mexico water temperatures thus leading to a record number of tropical systems forming in the Caribbean. As these systems developed into hurricanes, they moved into the Gulf then northward making devastating impacts on the mainland United States.

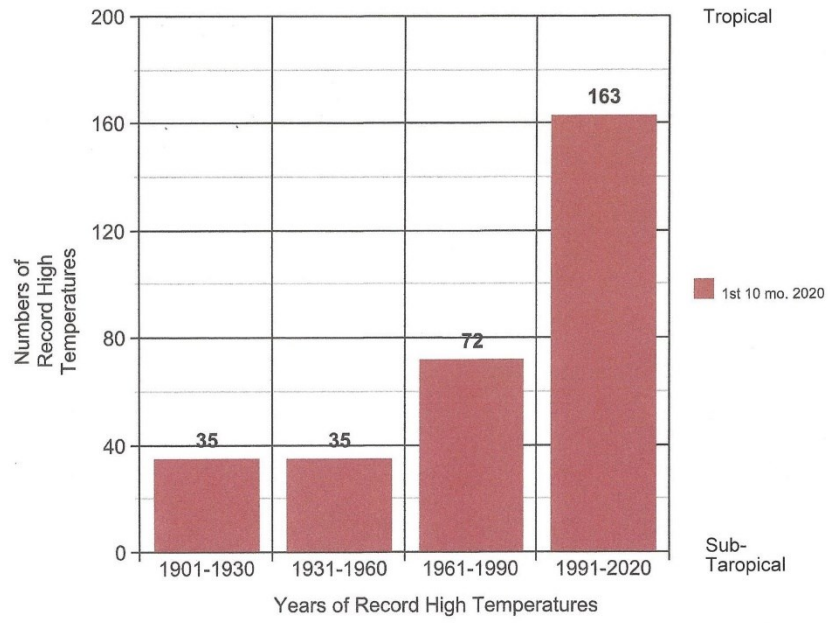
Because Caribbean water temperatures remain very warm, another tropical storm has formed in the eastern Caribbean basin. Tropical storm Eta is expected to become a hurricane during the first week of November and move into Central America. There is a possibility that the remnants of Eta could then move northward into the southern Gulf of Mexico by November 8th where it would regain strength in the warm Gulf waters. With that in mind, residents in southwest Florida should remain vigilant. We never know when one of these rapidly forming late-season tropical storms suddenly decides to head in our direction!

Send comments and questions about this month's report to: roywys8@msn.com.

Meadows Rainfall and High-Temperatures October 2020



Tracking Climate Change in Sarasota, Florida



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