

EARTH DAY MORE THAN A CELEBRATION



Roy Wysniewski — The Meadows February Weather Analysis

Earth Day reminds us that as custodians of this beautiful planet we call Earth, we must stop polluting the atmosphere. The atmosphere's Greenhouse Effect acts like a blanket surrounding Earth, thus keeping us warm. Polluting the atmosphere with excess carbon dioxide and methane gases expands this blanket making us warmer than normal.

WEATHER SUMMARY (Records abound)

Meadow's residents will remember February 2023 as a record-breaking month on many weather fronts: average monthly high temperature; number of above normal temperature days; record high-temperature days; least February rainfall; and the streak of rainless days.

TEMPERATURE ANALYSIS

Following last month's record high temperatures, Meadows' residents together with our seasonal tourists were wishing for a temperature 'break' as we entered February. Unfortunately, due to a large stationary high-pressure system just to our north, we experienced what may be the warmest February on record for Southwest Florida! The average high temperature (82.7 degrees F) certainly is a record for the Meadows!

Other February statistics include twenty-six above normal temperature-days and a new record number of 'record-high temperature days' (9).

RAINFALL ANALYSIS

One only had to look at our lawns and lakes to see just how serious the recent eighteen-day drought has been! Typically, February is our

driest month. But this month, rainfall was unusually low (10% of normal) breaking a record in the Meadows. The eighteen-day streak without a drop of rain also is a record! In a normal February, there are six rain days. This year there were only two. Now, that's unusual!

Monthly temperature and rainfall data are presented in the graph.

PRE- HURRICANE SEASON ANALYSIS

Why now, you may ask? Why discuss something that doesn't begin until June? For two reasons.

First, after experiencing the fringe impacts from a cat.4 hurricane and a tropical storm last Fall and seeing how close the Meadows was to serious storm impacts, we concluded that our lengthy tropical cyclone respite is over and that it might be prudent to begin our preparations earlier this year.

Second – and this is very important – we already see weather/climate data that suggests we could have a repeat of the 2022 hurricane season. Record high atmospheric temperatures during January and February combined with consistent above-normal Gulf water temperatures (5-10 degrees F) are the key ingredients for tropical cyclones to form in the Gulf of Mexico. If these patterns continue into late Summer, residents will need to be extra-vigilant!

Send comments and questions? Contact: roywys9@gmail.com.

DID YOU KNOW THAT NATIVE FLORIDA MAGNOLIAS AND PALMS MAKE FOR HIGH WIND AND STORM-WITHSTANDING TREES AND CAN EVEN BE USED AS AN ATTRACTIVE YARD BLOCKADE OR BOUNDARY BETWEEN PROPERTIES?

Rainfall for month:	0.17 in.
Rainfall year-to-date:	2.69 in.
23 yr. monthly rainfall average:	1.60 in.
Average high temperature:	82.7 F (normal: 75 F)
Above normal temperature days:	26
Record high temperature days:	9

