

March 2025 Climate Summary

Significant Weather Events:

There is a famous saying for March, “*In like a lion, out like a lamb.*”. The saying typically refers to the harsh winter-like tendencies at the beginning of the month, and the milder springtime conditions at the end. For much of Texas, the “in like a lion” was quite accurate as the beginning of the month began with a tumultuous weather pattern, as a menacing line of thunderstorms took aim at North Texas on the 4th, evolving into a historic wind event that caked the area with blowing dust. The blowing dust would become a recurring theme throughout the month as a restless upper atmosphere engineered powerful surface low-pressure systems every week, sweeping up West Texas dust with the might of a vigorous Category 1 hurricane, and sandblasting areas east with a hazy view apt for a Halloween background. Not to be left behind, a surprise severe thunderstorm mid-month woke many Bryan-College Station residents as celestial golf balls shattered windshields, dented cars, and damaged flourishing vegetation.

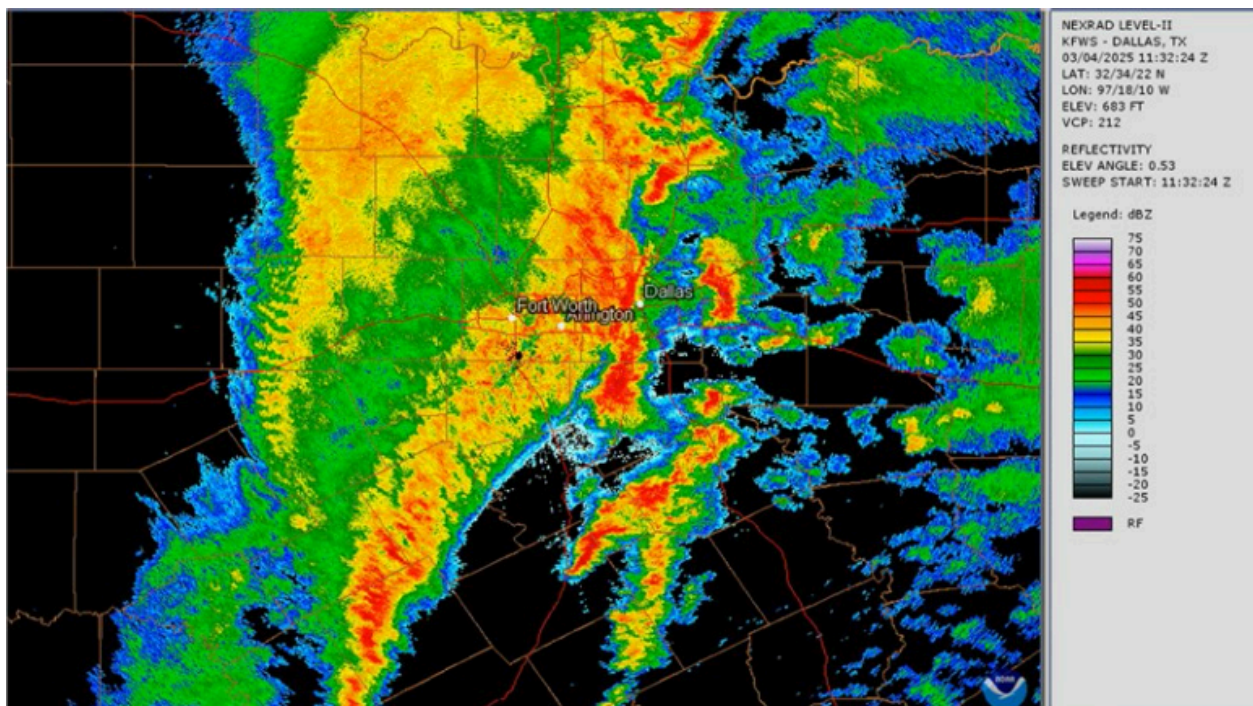
The “*out like a lamb*” part of the saying paints the final week of this month generously, as the springlike tendencies were seen in a very big way across the Rio Grande Valley from a precipitation standpoint. The heavenly irrigation system turned on like a fire hose, dousing many areas in the Texas-Mexico border with *up to several months' worth of rain in a few hours*. This led to catastrophic flooding, dozens of high-water rescues, and multiple deaths across the region.

Significant Dates:

- March 4: A roaring line of thunderstorms produced widespread wind damage as gusts screamed past the 70 mph mark along much of its path. Several tornadoes were reported with this line. That afternoon, the impactful storm system swept up West Texas dust and delivered it to much of the rest of the state, riding on historically high non-thunderstorm gusts, over 50 mph for *most of the state*, with almost half of Texas real estate seeing a multi hour period where winds *routinely gusted to severe thunderstorm criteria with no thunderstorm present*. A hallmark of a **powerful** storm system. DFW recorded its windiest March day and its 8th windiest day on record (25.1 mph daily average) on this day (records go back to 2002).
- March 8-9: A cold front moved through the state, bringing a moderate cool-down for much of Texas.
- March 14: A day with multiple personalities as nighttime thunderstorms pelted the Bryan College Station community with golf ball-sized hail. These storms tracked northeast, leaving a trail of hail reports crossing into Louisiana. That afternoon, an extremely powerful storm system ramped up the winds across mainly the Texas Panhandle, flipping semi trucks in *hurricane-like winds*. The blowing dust and near-zero visibility also

resulted in a multi-car pileup on I-40 near Canyon, Texas. Additionally, Austin reached 97°F on this day, its 3rd hottest recorded temperature for March.

- March 18-19: Yet another behemoth of a storm system tracked through Kansas, resulting in more powerful winds across Texas. Much of the state experienced wind gusts over 40 mph, North Texas saw gusts to 50 mph, and the Texas Panhandle saw wind gusts between 60 and 90 mph *yet again*. DFW recorded its 10th and 9th windiest March days on record on these days (22.8 and 22.9 mph daily averages, respectively)
- March 26-28: A deluge set up across the Rio Grande valley, resulting in dozens of high water rescues and several fatalities. Areas like Harlingen (13.98" three-day total) and McAllen (9.13" three-day total) saw rainfall totals in a three day period **greater than some ANNUAL totals in their climate record.** Areas in South Texas saw their rainiest March on record, beating the previous first place holder by 2-4 times the amount, and a few even recorded their rainiest single month on record.





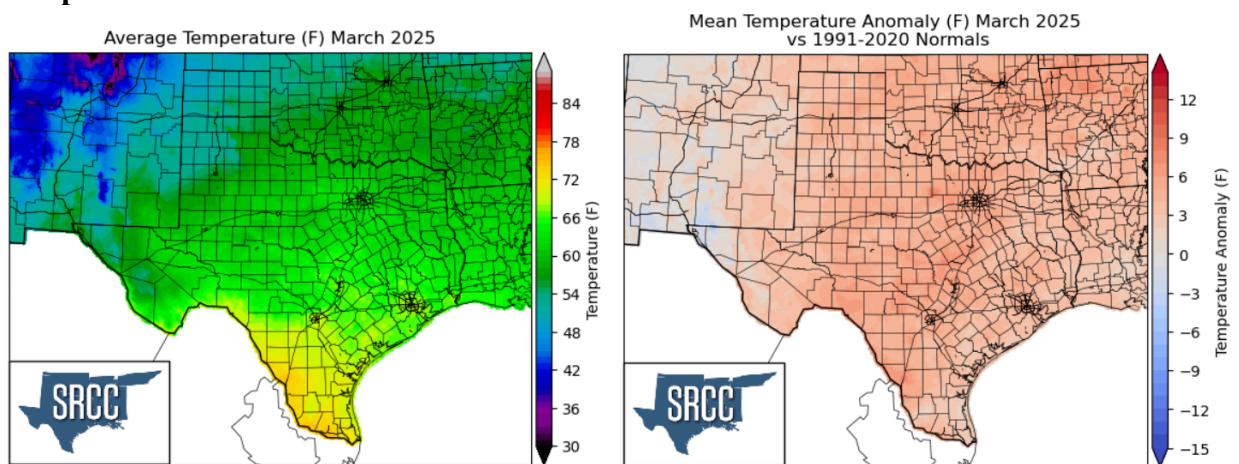
Above is a collage of some of the significant weather events for March. At the top, radar reflectivity shows a powerful line of storms moving into Dallas County, three minutes before a **78 mph wind gust** was recorded at Dallas Love Field (image courtesy of NOAA's Weather and Climate Toolkit). Winds of similar strength tore a Texas flag in half about 15 miles north at a car dealership in Carrollton (2nd image; courtesy of dallastexas_tv on Instagram). To the right of

this, we see ominous red skies in Dallas and Fort Worth as winds rip through, gusting to 60 mph in the metroplex, etching its mark as the 2nd highest non-thunderstorm wind gust recorded at DFW Airport since 2000 (image courtesy of the New York Post).

In the third row, we see a car pileup near Canyon, Texas, as *hurricane-force winds* and quarter-mile visibility caused dangerous driving conditions on March 14 (image courtesy of Texas Storm Chasers). The image to the right shows a car's rear window shattered by golf ball-sized hail in the BCS area (image courtesy of KAGS).

The final row shows Flooding in McAllen, and tornado damage from an EF0 tornado in Hidalgo County (images courtesy of Kayla Garcia and the Serenity Funeral Chapel of Edcouch, respectively).

Temperature:

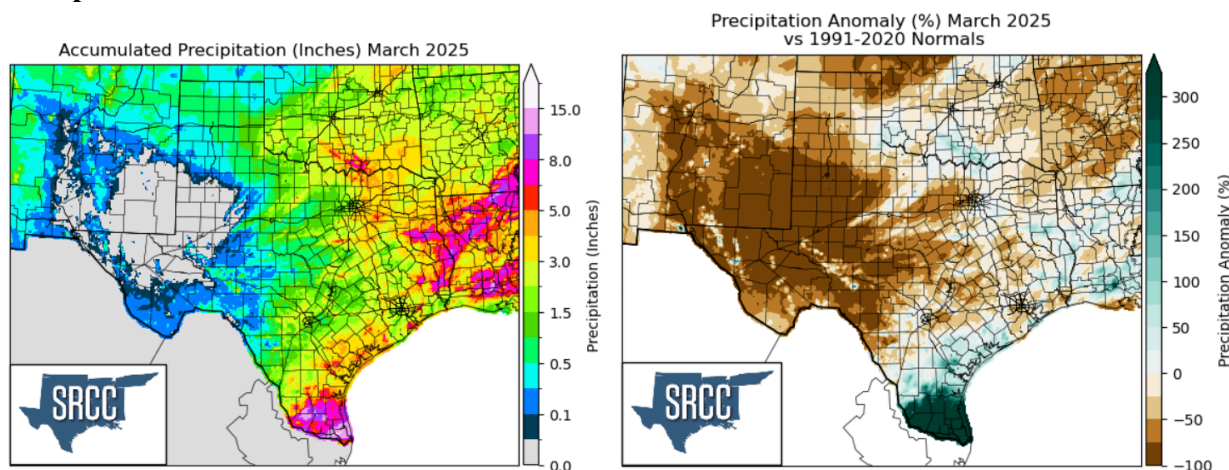


March differed from January and February in that no significant cold air intrusions took place throughout the month. The temperature average for March was **63.0°F** for Texas, the **fifth-warmest** March on record out of 131 years.

Some at-a-glance temperature statistics for Texas are:

- **45.4°F** - The monthly average at the Guadalupe Peak Texas RAWS site in Culberson County, the coldest in Texas.
- **63.6°F** - The average monthly temperature of the 398 Texas reporting stations
 - 2.4°F **above** that of March 2024
 - 11.4°F **above** that of last month
- **76.3°F** - The monthly average at the McAllen Miller International Airport in Hidalgo County, the warmest in Texas
- The **hottest** recorded temperature of the month was **106°F**, seen at the Cotulla La Salle County Airport and the Faith Ranch Airport in La Salle and Dimmit Counties on **March 14, 2025**. This was the hottest temperature recorded in Texas since September 25, 2024
- The **coldest** recorded temperature of the month was **15°F**, seen at the Muleshoe National Wildlife Refuge in Bailey County on **March 21, 2025**

Precipitation:

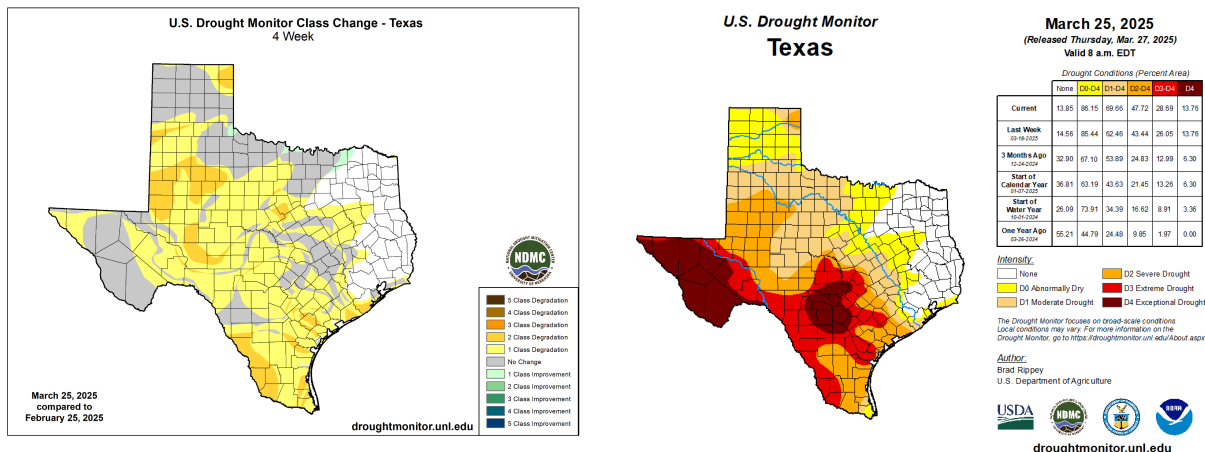


As is typical for the cool season in Texas, we saw lower precipitation amounts to the west and higher precipitation amounts to the east. The deluge in the Rio Grande Valley at the end of the month ensured that they were the only region with monthly rainfall totals well above normal. The precipitation average for March (accounting for geographical distribution) was **1.37"** for Texas, the **52nd driest** March on record out of 131 years.

At a glance, precipitation statistics for Texas are:

- **1.91"** - Average of the 2,409 Texas stations (not accounting for geographical distribution)
 - 0.65" **above** last month
 - 0.49" **below** March 2024
- **18.70"** - Total monthly precipitation at the Lozano 1.4S CoCoRaHS site in Cameron County, the highest monthly total in Texas
- **13.99"** - The rainiest 24-hour period in Texas during March, which occurred between March 27-28, 2025 at the Harlingen 4.4W CoCoRaHS site in Cameron County (Observation from 7 am March 27 through 7 am March 28).

Drought:



The recent record-breaking rainfall event was confined mainly across extreme south Texas, meaning that the drought present across the state only continues to worsen. The maps above cut off before the deluge took place across the Rio Grande Valley, so it will be interesting to see how the drought across this region responds to the event in the coming weeks.

Drought category	End of February (February 25, 2025)	End of March (March 25, 2025)	Change
Abnormally dry or greater	79.9%	86.2%	+ 6.3%
Moderate drought or greater	49.0%	69.7%	+20.7%
Severe drought or greater	27.8%	47.7%	+19.9%
Extreme drought or greater	17.3%	28.7%	+11.4%
Exceptional drought	6.3%	13.8%	+ 7.5%