

TFS WEATHER BRIEF

Thursday, September 21

WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS: SEPTEMBER 21-25

- 1. PM RAINS COASTAL PLAINS/ SOUTH-CENTRAL TX TODAY**
- 2. DRY AND BREEZY NORTHWEST PANHANDLE TODAY**
- 3. SCATTERED STORMS HIGH PLAINS/ TRANS-PECOS THIS WEEKEND**
- 4. VERY WET PATTERN WESTERN HALF OF STATE NEXT WEEK**

Today: Gradient winds will increase again this afternoon over the Panhandle with sustained 20 FT southwest speeds of 15 to 20 mph. RH values will dip below 20% in the northwest Panhandle as well. Otherwise, the main weather story will be the noticeable increase in rain coverage over the Coastal Plains and inland about 100 miles to the I-35 corridor from Austin southward. Areas of heavy rain will fall with localized one inch amounts likely, especially south of I-10. Widely scattered pm storms will also fire from the eastern Panhandle to the Trans-Pecos offering a localized 0.25 inch rain total.

Fri: The pocket of cooler air aloft that led to the Coastal Plains' rainfall the previous day will be less prevalent with more typical sea breeze afternoon showers/ storms producing spotty 0.25 to 1 inch amounts, focused south of I-10. Isolated storms will bubble to life westward into the Hill Country. The deepening upper trough in the Rockies will finally bring the first round of strong storms to West TX, aligned from the western Panhandle to the upper Trans-Pecos. The heavier rains will be contained to NM, but areas near Dalhart and Bootleg will receive over 0.50 inch.

DAYS 3-5: SEPT 23-25

Sat-Sun: A lee trough out ahead of the primary polar cold front aligned from eastern NM to the Trans-Pecos late Sat will serve a trigger for scattered late day storms, some heavy. The western half of the Panhandle southward to the central and western Trans-Pecos will receive locally heavy rain amounts over 0.50 inch with this area translating further east Sun afternoon to include much of the Panhandle/ S. Plains/ Permian Basin and Trans-Pecos. Two day rain totals through Sun night will top one inch in many cases. Widely scattered afternoon showers/ storms will also pepper the Coastal Plains and Southeast TX each day.

Mon: It will be very active across West TX with numerous showers and storms extending from the Panhandle/ Rolling Plains southward into the Trans-Pecos and Edwards Plateau. General 0.25 to 1 inch amounts are expected, but isolated 2+ inch totals are likely. A lead upper disturbance will clip areas further east with scattered pm showers that yield less heavy and widespread rain amounts. Temperatures will run much cooler in the Panhandle/ S. Plains but remain seasonably warm and muggy further east.

EXTENDED OUTLOOK: Next Week

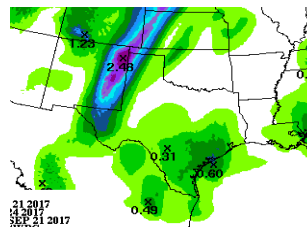
Heavy rain will douse central and western areas Tue-Wed with 1-4 inch amounts. It will turn sharply cooler over West TX Tue behind a stout cold front, warm and muggy elsewhere.

SUMMARY

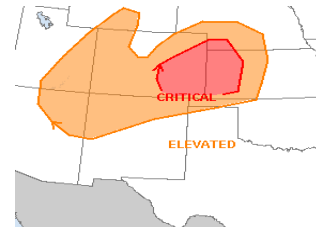
Three day rain totals were generally hit and miss but areas of the Coastal Plains/ Southeast TX, and the western half of the state received the lion's share with localized one inch amounts occurring. The next three days will bring an enhanced area of showers/ storms to the Coastal Plains, primarily today, with welcome rain extending into south-central and southern TX. The beginning rounds of heavy rain destined for West TX will encroach on the High Plains/ Trans-Pecos beginning Fri evening. Meanwhile, breezy and dry conditions will prevail this afternoon over the northwest Panhandle as indicated below.



72 HR Rainfall Totals

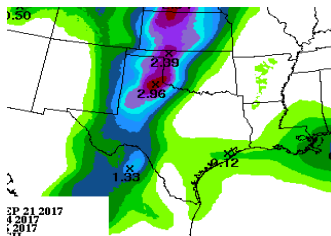


3 Day Rain Forecast (to Sun am)

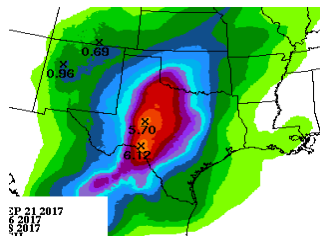


SPC Fire WX Today

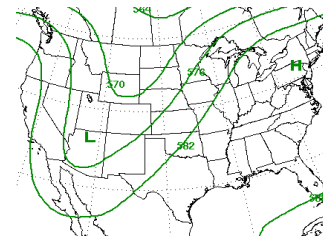
Major TX Rain Event! The combination of a deep upper level trough across the Rockies tapping rich tropical moisture across Mexico from the Pacific, and a slow moving surface cold front will bring healthy rain amounts to the western half of the state next week. Flooding will be a concern with general 1 to 4 inch amounts, locally 6 inches. Rainfall from this system will not be nearly as heavy over the eastern third of the state. Unseasonably cool air will also invade West TX accompanied by post-frontal rain.



2 Day Rain Forecast (Sun-Mon)

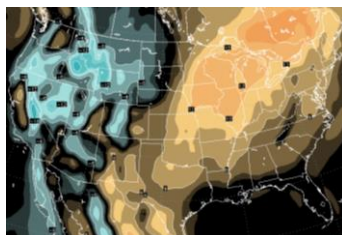


2 Day Rain Forecast (Tue-Wed)

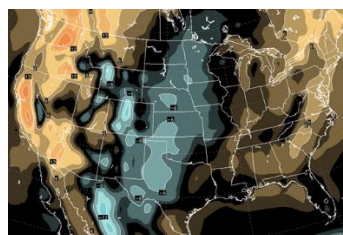


500mb Upper Pattern Tue am

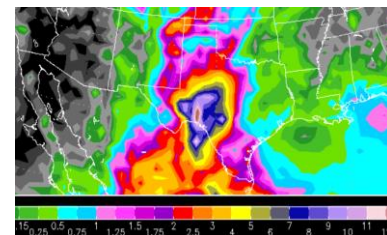
Pattern Change ... autumn!! There is broad agreement of a seasonal pattern shift among the dynamical models. The European model is depicted below. Note the above normal temperature anomalies over much of the state through this weekend, then compare to the following five days next week. Major cooling occurs over much of the state as the first fall cold front translates east. And as mentioned in the above rain discussion, 10 day rain totals over the state will be impressive.



Temp Anomalies (Today-Mon)



Temp Anomalies (Tue-Sat Next Week)



10 Day Total Rainfall (Next Sat)