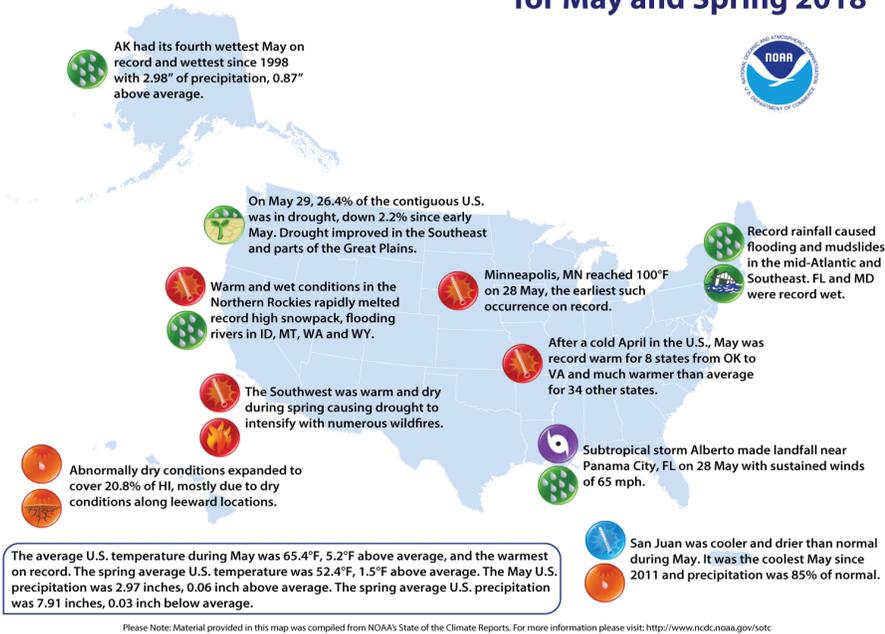




National – Significant Events for March–May 2018

U.S. Selected Significant Climate Anomalies and Events for May and Spring 2018



Significant events for March through May 2018 across the United States.

Highlights for the Midwest

Regionwide temperatures in April ranked as the 2nd coldest since 1895, only 1907 was colder, and were followed by record warm temperatures in May. Regionwide temperatures rose by more than 25°F from April to May when the normal increase is just over 10°F. April also saw heavier than normal snows. Heavy snow in the north set April monthly snow records. A significant storm mid-month dropped more than two feet of snow, but snow also fell on an above-normal number of days. Snow totals in the southern Midwest were modest but still well above normal. The warmer May temperatures and melting of the April snow led to moderate-to-major flooding on the upper Mississippi River and some tributaries.

Regional – Climate Overview for March–May 2018

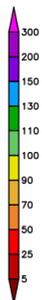
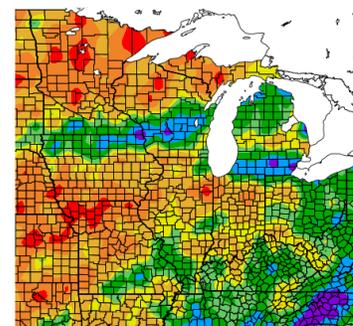
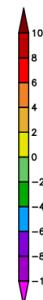
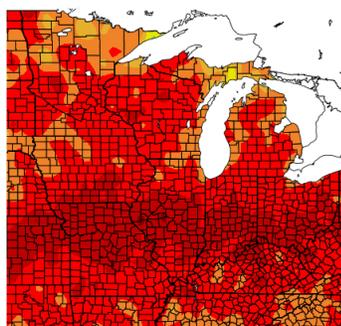
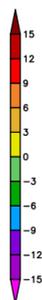
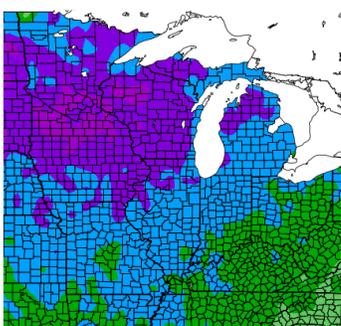
Monthly Temperatures

Spring Precipitation

April Temperature Departures

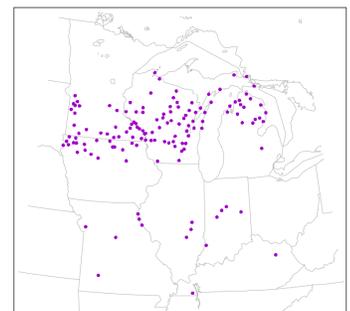
May Temperature Departures

% of Normal Precipitation



Spring temperatures were near normal however a month-by-month look shows an abrupt swing from near-record cold in April to record warmth in May. April averaged 40.8°F, well below the normal of 49.0°F. May was 6.9°F above normal, averaging 66.3°F. Hundreds of stations set records for coldest April and more than a hundred set records for warmest May. Thousands of daily records were set in each month. Spring precipitation was mixed with dry areas in the west split by a wet swath along the Iowa-Minnesota border that extended east across southern Wisconsin and into Lower Michigan. Southeastern Missouri and Kentucky were also above normal. April snowfall was above normal for much of the region. Totals exceeded 30" in northern locations, setting 100 plus monthly records. Farther south, modest totals were also well above normal with some records.

Record April Snow



Regional Impacts – March–May 2018

Transportation

Among multiple April snow storms was the blizzard on the 13th to 16th that stretched across Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan. Heavy snow and high winds impacted transportation in these northern states with the Minneapolis airport grounding all flights for seven hours and hundreds of car accidents in the metro area. The weight of the snow collapsed multiple roofs near Green Bay, Wisconsin.



Snow drifts at the Green Bay, Wisconsin, weather service office from the April 13–16 storm.

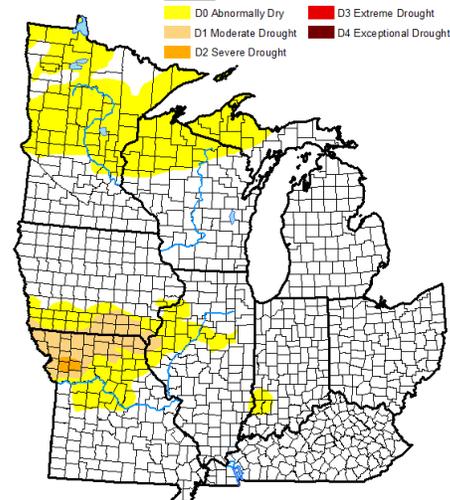
Flooding

Moderate to major flooding, occurred in the upper Mississippi River basin in early May from the melting of April snows. Locks were closed multiple times due to high water. High water was also responsible for barges breaking loose, impacting shipping and causing some sinking.

Agriculture

Cold and snowy conditions delayed planting in early April in the south and throughout April in the north. As soon as the warmer and drier conditions arrived, farmers rapidly planted fields and largely caught up to the 5-year averages in early May in the south and by the end of May in the north. The extreme warmth in May also helped accumulate growing degree days and led to rapid development of the crops such that the planting delays were mostly offset.

Intensity



U.S. Drought Monitor valid for May 29th, 2018. Severe drought in northwest Missouri.

Drought

Persistent dryness has led to continuing moderate drought in southern Iowa and northwestern Missouri. In late May, severe drought emerged in northwestern Missouri covering about 1.5% of the state.

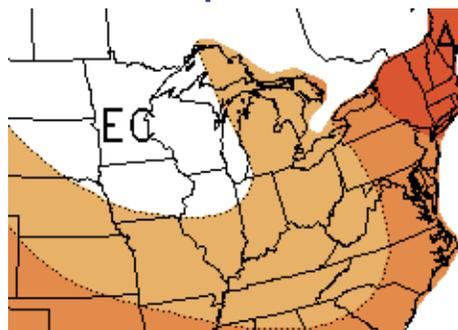
Regional Outlook – July–September 2018

The outlook for summer, July through September, shows an increased risk of above normal conditions across the southern and eastern areas in the Midwest. In the northwestern part of the Midwest, the temperature outlook is for equal chances of above or below normal conditions.

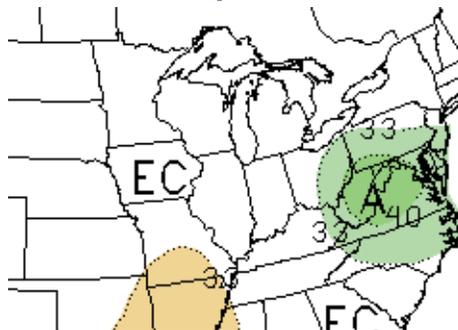
The precipitation outlook for the Midwest for July through September shows equal chances of above or below normal conditions for much of the region. Southern Missouri shows an increased chance of below normal conditions. Eastern areas of Kentucky and Ohio show an increased chance of above normal conditions.

An El Niño Watch has been issued for the upcoming winter. The impact on the Midwest will be monitored as the winter season approaches.

Temperature



Precipitation



A = Above normal N = Normal
B = Below normal EC = Equal chances

Midwest Region Partners

Midwestern Regional Climate Center
mrcc.illinois.edu

State Climatologists
www.stateclimate.org

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
www.noaa.gov

NWS Climate Prediction Center
www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

National Centers for Environmental Information
www.ncei.noaa.gov

National Weather Service Central Region
www.crh.noaa.gov/crh

North Central River Forecast Center
www.crh.noaa.gov/nrcfc

Ohio River Forecast Center
www.weather.gov/ohrfc

Missouri Basin River Forecast Center
www.crh.noaa.gov/mbrfc

National Drought Mitigation Center
drought.unl.edu

National Integrated Drought Information System
www.drought.gov

USDA Midwest Climate Hub
www.climatehubs.oce.usda.gov/midwest

DOI WaterSMART Clearinghouse
www.doi.gov/watersmart