Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

June 5, 2025

Main Points

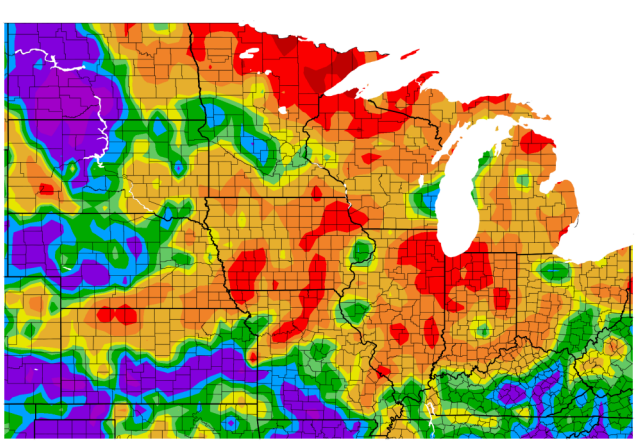
- Recent rains have relieved some drought conditions in the Plains, however dryness persists across the central portion of the region.
- Temperatures have been cooler than normal for the southern half of the region.
- Crop progress is mainly ahead of the 5-year average, slower in the wetter eastern Corn Belt states.
- Monthly outlooks suggest warmer than normal temperatures for the region and equal chances of above/below normal precipitation for most.
- Seasonal outlooks show increased chances for warmer and drier conditions in the Plains and adjacent areas increasing chances for drought conditions.

Current Conditions

Precipitation over the last 30-days has been less than 90% of normal for most of the northern and central portions of the North Central Region. Northern Minnesota has received less than 1 inch of precipitation with most around the region receiving at least 3.5 inches. Precipitation was much welcomed to the dry regions of the Plains, ending some burn bans across Nebraska. Precipitation totals for the last 30-days were 5 to 8 inches in locations, doubling the average precipitation received for some locations during this time period. The southern portion of the region from Kansas, though southern Missouri into Kentucky received several rounds of precipitation resulting in totals of over 6.5 to 11 inches for many of the southern states.

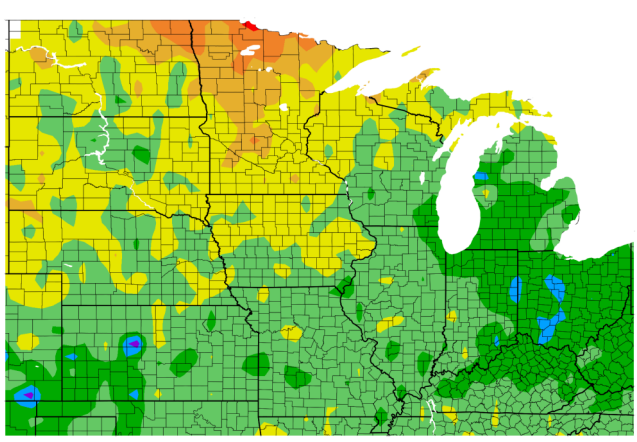
Average monthly temperatures ranged from the low 50°Fs near Michigan and Wisconsin to the mid 60°Fs along the southern border of the region. For many states across the region the first 15 days was relatively warm with cooler temperatures closing out the second half. Monthly temperatures were near normal (±2°F) to cooler than average for most of the region. Indiana, Michigan,

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
5/6/2025 – 6/4/2025



Generated 6/5/2025 using provisional data. ACIS Web Services

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
5/6/2025 – 6/4/2025



Generated 6/5/2025 using provisional data. ACIS Web Services

Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: ACIS Climate Maps. Generated: 06/05/2025.

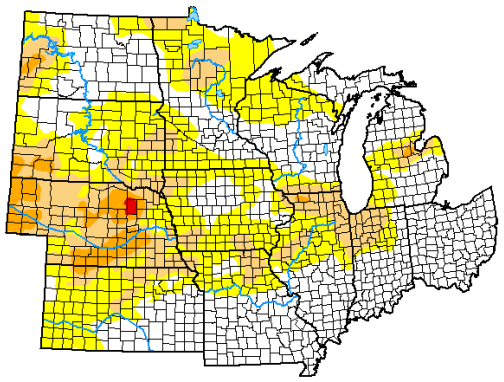
Ohio, and Kentucky were particularly cool, averaging 2 to 4°F below normal with pockets of 4 to 6°F below normal temperatures. In contrast, northern North Dakota and Minnesota were 2 to 4°F above normal.

The total accumulated modified Growing Degree Days (GDD) since April 1st ranges from 300 GDD in Michigan and Wisconsin to over 800 GDD in the southern states of our region. Cooler temperatures through the region have slowed down the accumulation of GDD for many states, resulting in a slightly below average accumulation for this time of the year. However, expected warmer temperatures will push GDD accumulation further along as June progresses. Producers and managers can access the Corn Growing Degree Day decision support tool to determine how their corn compares to average accumulation.

Impacts

Drought

As of June 3rd, 45% of the North Central region is classified as no drought category, 34% as abnormally dry (D0), 16% as moderate drought (D1), 4% as severe drought (D2), and less than 1% as extreme drought (D3). Nebraska continues to experience a pocket of extreme drought, and severe drought is still present in the northern Plains and small pockets of the Great Lakes region. Over the past month the USDM improved by 1 to 3 classes throughout the Plains and northern Midwest. However, in comparison to last month, the USDM degraded by 1 to 2 classes in Nebraska through Michigan and northern Wisconsin and Minnesota.



U.S. Drought Monitor
North Central States

June 3, 2025
(Released Thursday, Jun. 5, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	45.15	34.05	16.32	4.32	0.16	0.00
Last Week 05-27-2025	44.33	32.61	16.82	5.65	0.59	0.00
3 Months Ago 03-04-2025	21.60	23.51	40.51	12.20	2.18	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	30.52	24.01	31.13	11.66	2.68	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	18.32	46.64	26.11	7.47	1.02	0.43
One Year Ago 06-04-2024	85.67	8.94	3.72	1.59	0.08	0.00

Intensity:
None
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

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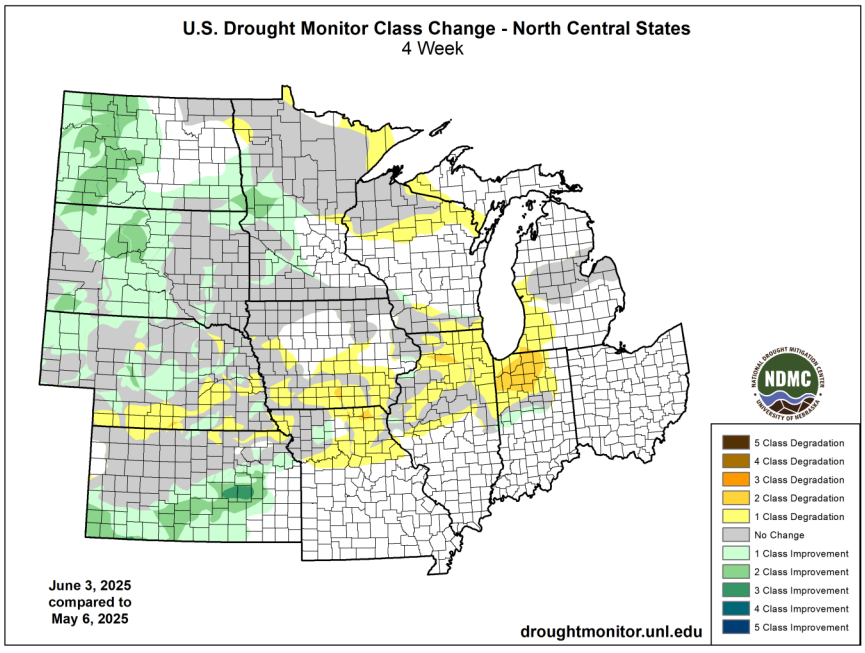
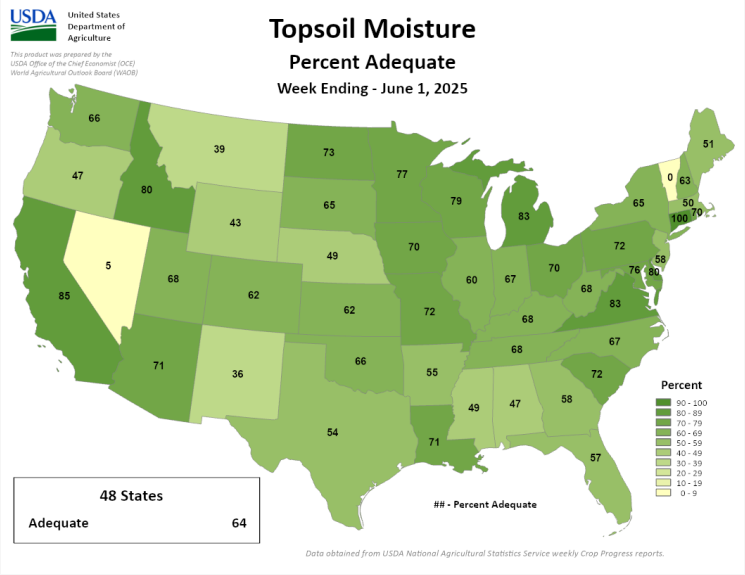
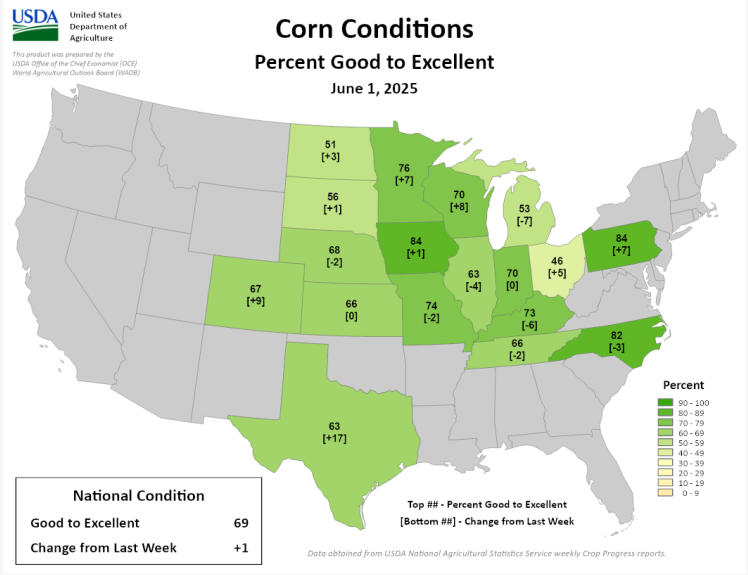
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

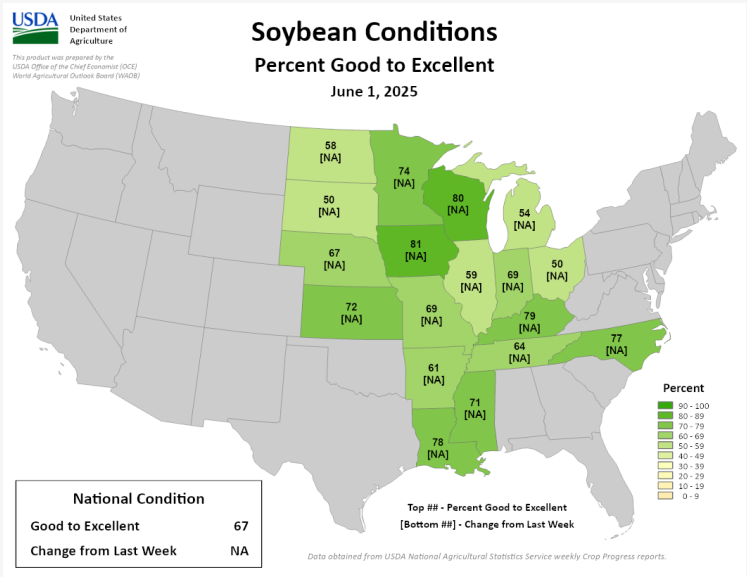


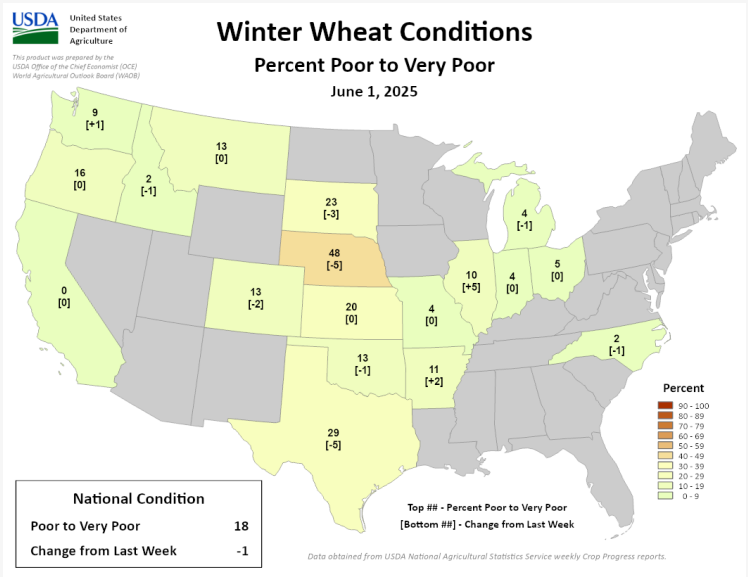
As of the week ending June 1st, topsoil moisture conditions are adequate across most of the region, ranging from 49 to 79% classified as adequate. Whie recent rainfall has generally improved soil moisture conditions, 49% of topsoil moisture is short to very short in Nebraska, and 28% in South Dakota, Iowa, and Illinois. As expected, subsoil moisture has been slow to improve and 41% and 65% of subsoil moisture in South Dakota and Nebraska is short to very short. As we enter June, soil moisture conditions are generally supporting crop progress, but many states in the region could benefit from added moisture in the soil profile, particularly Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa, northern Illinois, and western Minnesota.

Maps generated by the National Drought Mitigation Center.







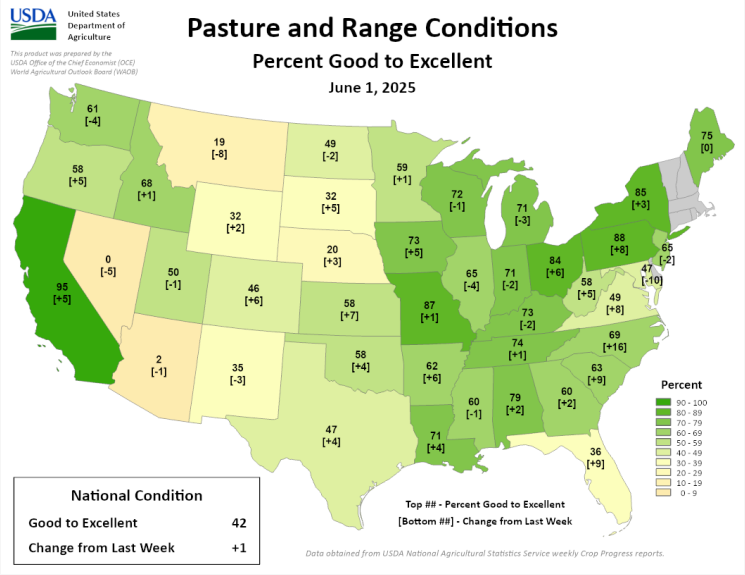


Maps generated by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Soils, Crops and Livestock

As we enter June, on average, 90% of corn has been planted and 73% has emerged across states in the North Central region. In comparison to the 5-year average, the western portion of the region is ahead of average, while the eastern portion lags slightly behind. In terms of soybean progress, 82% has been planted and 58% of soybeans have emerged across states in the North Central region, with Iowa leading in emergence. Similar to corn progress, the far eastern portion of the region lags behind the 5-year average in soybean emergence, while the western and central portions are trending above. The majority of spring wheat has emerged across the northwest corner of the region, and on average 84% of oats have emerged across states in the region. While emergence has generally been good, some crops have been replanted in some instances due to poor emergence and crop damage. In South Dakota, 21% of winter wheat has headed, and 80% has headed in Nebraska.

According to USDA-NASS, 65% of corn and 66% of soybeans are in good to excellent condition across states in the North Central region, with the central portion of the region fairing the best. For spring wheat, 48%, 52%, and 85% is in good to excellent condition in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota, respectively. In contrast, winter wheat continues to feel the impact of dry conditions, with 23% and 48% in poor to very poor condition in South Dakota and Nebraska, respectively. Similarly, 56% of pasture and rangeland is in poor to very poor condition across Nebraska, as soil moisture struggles to recover. However, looking across the region, pasture and range conditions are generally good to excellent, especially for the eastern portion of the region.



Map generated by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Currently, many across the region are reporting low pest pressure and disease presence. However, folks in Wisconsin are reporting pest concerns for specialty and vegetable crops. Examples of pests to keep an eye on include first generation seed corn maggot, onion maggot, and Colorado potato beetle. In South Dakota, windy conditions have made it difficult to spray herbicide for weeds, making it a catch-up game for weed control.

River Levels and Flooding

According to the National Water Prediction Service, minor to moderate flooding is forecasted in Kansas and Missouri. Along the Ohio River, action levels are currently reported. While Nebraska was in need of rainfall, heavy rainfall over a short period of time resulted in flash flooding in portions of the state.

Severe Weather

The month of May brought multiple active weather systems to the region, often times resulting in damaging wind, hail, and at times, destruction. In mid-May, two rounds of severe weather impacted the Upper Midwest, bringing damaging winds to South Dakota, Minnesota, and tornados to Wisconsin. The following day, multiple strong, deadly tornadoes touched down across Illinois, Missouri, and Kentucky. A dust storm also impacted central Illinois during this period, reducing visibility to nearly zero.

Fire

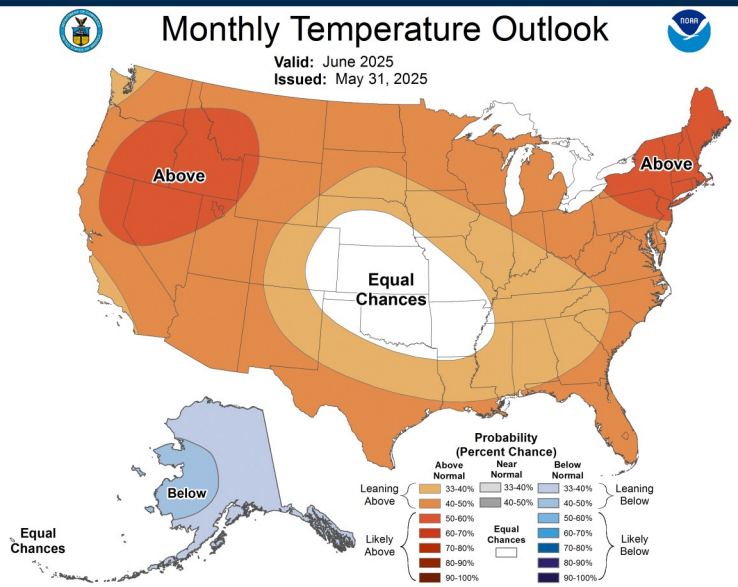
Over the past month, firefighters battled three wildfires in northeastern Minnesota. Additionally, over the past week, much of the Upper Midwest has been impacted by wildfire smoke and poor air quality, as smoke traveled south from Canadian wildfires. According to the National Interagency Fire Center, there is elevated fire risk for northern Wisconsin and northern Minnesota through the month of June.

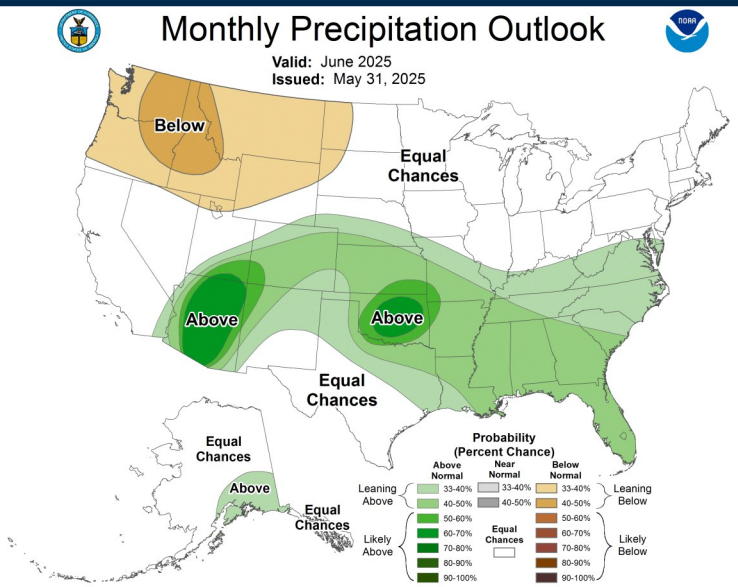
Outlook

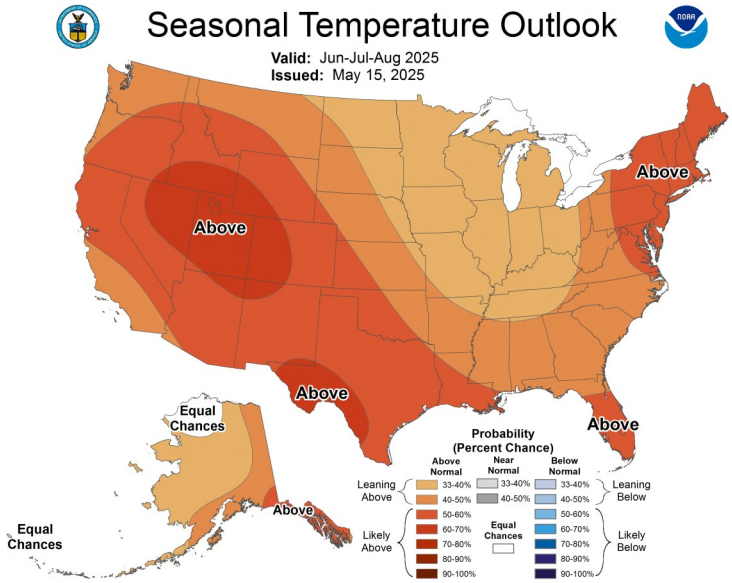
The monthly outlook for June from the Climate Prediction Center is leaning to above normal temperatures for most of the region. Except for the southern Plains states of our region which have equal chances of above or below normal temperatures for June. Higher chances for above normal precipitation in Kansas through Kentucky are due to an active period expected early in the month. Central and northern regional states have equal chances of above or below normal precipitation. Far western Plains states are leaning toward below normal precipitation for the month.

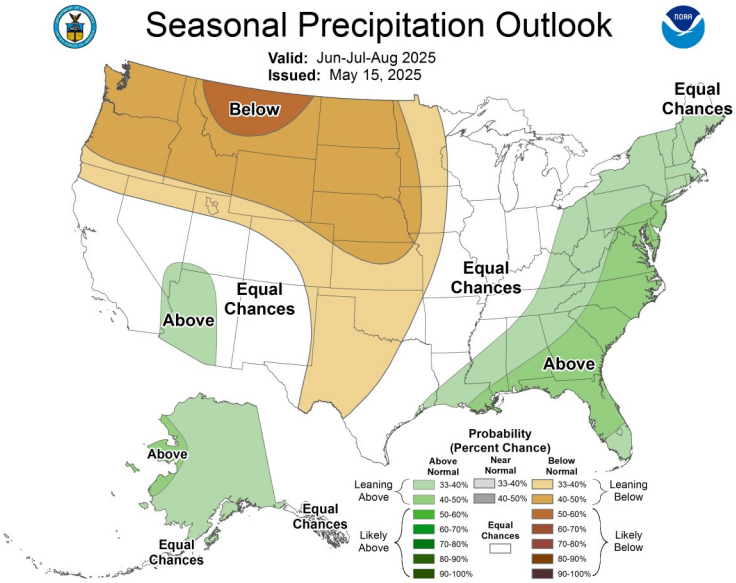
The seasonal temperature outlook for June through August has the region leaning toward above normal temperatures. While the seasonal precipitation outlook has the western half of the region leaning toward below normal precipitation totals for the summer months. Elsewhere is an area of equal chance of above or below normal precipitation. The combination of possibly warmer temperatures with decreased precipitation does create concern for worsening drought severity and coverage in the Plains possibly extending into parts of Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri. This should be monitored closely especially given some currently drier soils.

The El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) continues to remain in neutral conditions, which are expected to persist through the summer.









Outlooks provided by the Climate Prediction Center.

Partners and Contributors

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Climate Prediction Center (CPC)

National Weather Service (NWS)

National Center for Environmental Information (NCEI)

National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC)

National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)

Midwestern Regional Climate Center (MRCC)

Midwest State Climatologists

High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC)

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