North Central U.S. Climate Summary & Outlook
May 19, 2016

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EF1 tornado
Lincoln, NE
May 9
Photo by Bill Sorensen

Golf course
Lincoln, NE
Image courtesy Terry Sohl

Hailstones
Lincoln, NE
Image courtesy Andrew Ozaki

Photo by Bill Sorensen
General Information

• Providing climate services to the Central Region
  • Collaboration activity between:
    • Doug Kluck (NOAA)
    • American Association of State Climatologists
    • Midwest and High Plains Regional Climate Centers
    • NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center
    • National Drought Mitigation Center

• Next Climate/Drought Outlook Webinar
  • June 16th 2016, Brian Fuchs (National Drought Mitigation Center)

• Access to Future Climate Webinars and Information
  • [http://www.drought.gov/drought/content/regional-programs/regional-drought-webinars](http://www.drought.gov/drought/content/regional-programs/regional-drought-webinars)

• Past recorded presentations and slides can be found here:
  • [http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/webinars.htm](http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/webinars.htm)
  • [http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/webinars.php](http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/webinars.php)

• Open for questions at the end
Agenda for Today

• Conditions since first of the year
• April recap
• May and current conditions
• Impacts
• Climate outlooks
• Questions/Comments
The contiguous United States average temperature since January 1 was the warmest on record.
The contiguous United States precipitation since January 1 was in the above average category.
The contiguous United States average April temperature was 2.1°F above the 20th century average, making it the 24th warmest April.
The North Central U.S. experienced a split personality this April with warmth in the south and west and cool conditions in the north and east.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
4/1/2016 – 4/30/2016

Generated 5/11/2016 at HPRCC using provisional data.

http://hprcc.unl.edu
The contiguous United States April precipitation average was 2.95 inches, which is 0.43 inches above the 20th century average.
Precipitation conditions were much above normal in most of the west with pockets of dryness in the east.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
4/1/2016 - 4/30/2016

http://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps
Average temperature and departure from mean for May 1-18, 2016

Temperature (F)
5/1/2016 - 5/18/2016

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
5/1/2016 - 5/18/2016
Accumulated precipitation and departure from mean for May 1-18, 2016

Precipitation (in)
5/1/2016 - 5/18/2016

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
5/1/2016 - 5/18/2016
High = The estimated streamflow is the highest value ever measured for the day of the year.

http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/?id=ww_current
The Missouri River Basin mountain snowpack normally peaks near April 15. On May 19, 2016 the mountain Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) in the “Total above Fort Peck” reach is currently 6.5”, 64% of average and 43% of this year’s peak. The mountain SWE in the “Total Fort Peck to Garrison” reach is currently 8.0”, 81% of average and 66% of this year’s peak. The mountain snowpack has peaked in both reaches - on April 1 for the “Total above Fort Peck” reach with 15.0” SWE, 95% of average, and on April 2 for the “Total Fort Peck to Garrison” reach with 12.2” SWE, 89% of average.

*Generally considered the high and low year of the last 20-year period.

Provisional data. Subject to revision.

The North and South Platte River Basin mountain snowpacks normally peak near April 15 and the end of April, respectively. As of May 18, 2016, the mountain snowpack SWE in the "Total North Platte" reach is currently 17.1", 140% of average. The mountain snowpack SWE in the "Total South Platte" reach is currently 13.1", 128% of average.

Source: USDA, Natural Resource Conservation Service

Provisional Data. Subject to Revision
Western U.S. snow water equivalent

![Map showing snow water equivalent percentages across the Western U.S. as of May 18, 2016. The map is color-coded to indicate different percentages of normal snow water equivalent.](http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/gis/snow.html)
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/
Extent of Subsoil Moisture – Short or Very Short

Subsoil Moisture
Percent Short to Very Short
Week Ending - May 15, 2016

48 States
Short to Very Short 14
Change from Last Week 0

Top ## - Percent Short to Very Short [Bottom ##] - Change from Last Week

Data obtained from USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service weekly Crop Progress reports. These reports are available through http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/.

Lake Michigan stages impressive rebound, rise of 4ft since Jan, 2013 (precipitation, ice cover, evaporation cited as causes).

Air quality alerts issued in early May due to wildfires.

Frost damage to field peas in South Dakota.

Water supplies from mountain snowmelt on track to be good this year.

Alleviation of some of dryness in southeast.

Possibility of frost damage to wheat in the west.

Concerns of high flow coming into Platte as snowmelt progresses.

Freeze damage being assessed.

Freeze damage being assessed. Crop progress is good.

Freeze damage to corn is not expected.

No major concerns. Crop progress is good.

Crop progress is good.

Some reports of stripe rust in wheat.

No major concerns.

No major concerns.

Cool temps and recent wetness led to planting delay.

Received needed moisture.

Alleviation of some of dryness in southeast.

No significant impacts to report. Moisture received when needed.

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## Crop Progress as of May 15, 2016

### Corn Percent Planted

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These 18 States planted 93% of last year's corn acreage.

### Corn Percent Emerged

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These 18 States planted 93% of last year's corn acreage.

### Winter Wheat Condition by Percent

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NASS Report

Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin

Vol. 103, No. 20, May 17, 2016
## Crop Progress as of May 15, 2016

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These 18 States planted 95% of last year's soybean acreage.

### Oats Percent Planted

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These 9 States planted 68% of last year's oat acreage.

### Oats Percent Emerged

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<tr>
<td>ND</td>
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<td>25</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Sts</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These 9 States planted 68% of last year's oat acreage.

### Barley Percent Emerged

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Prev Year</th>
<th>Prev Week</th>
<th>May 15</th>
<th>5-Yr Avg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
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<td>72</td>
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<td>63</td>
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<tr>
<td>MN</td>
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<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>MT</td>
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<td>52</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Sts</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These 5 States planted 82% of last year's barley acreage.

### Sugarbeets Percent Planted

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Prev Year</th>
<th>Prev Week</th>
<th>May 15</th>
<th>5-Yr Avg</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>99</td>
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<tr>
<td>MI</td>
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<td>89</td>
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<tr>
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<td>99</td>
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<tr>
<td>ND</td>
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<td>97</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>61</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Sts</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These 4 States planted 84% of last year's sugarbeet acreage.

---

< 10% emergence
• 7-day precipitation forecast
• 8-14 day outlook
• Significant river flood outlook
• La Niña watch
• Drought outlook
• Summer and fall outlook
Forecast Precipitation Amounts (7-day)

http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/day1-7.shtml
May 2016 El Niño/La Niña update: Switcheroo!

Historical NINO3.4 Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly

http://iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/enso/current/

https://www.climate.gov/news-features/department/enso-blog
Most models predicting El Niño conditions will come to an end in early summer.

- Some areas of near or below average already appearing.

- Large pool of cool water under the surface is helping confidence of forecasts.

https://www.climate.gov/news-features/department/enso-blog
La Niña Watch: Issued when conditions are favorable for the development of La Niña conditions within the next six months. (CPC definition)
June Temperature & Precipitation Outlook

[Map showing temperature outlook for June]

Temperature

[Map showing precipitation outlook for June]

Precipitation

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/
Jun-Jul-Aug Outlook

Temperature

Precipitation

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/
Drought Outlook through July 31, 2016

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for May 19 - August 31, 2016
Released May 19, 2016

Author:
Adam Allgood
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short-lived events. “Ongoing” drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).


http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73
Aug-Sep-Oct Outlook

Temperature

Precipitation

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/
Oct-Nov-Dec Outlook

Temperature

Precipitation

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/
Recent Conditions

- Received needed precipitation across the southern tier of the North Central Region.
- Corn acres planted is in good shape for most of Region (MI is exception).
- Delay for soybean planting for states except northern tier.
- Flood concerns for the Platte River with main reservoir near capacity (Lake McConaughy at 90.9% capacity)
Outlooks

- Highest precipitation amounts expected for southern part of region over the next week.

- For this summer, Jun-Jul-Aug, an enhanced likelihood for above normal temperatures is anticipated for northern and eastern North Central Region.

- For this summer, Jun-Jul-Aug, an enhanced likelihood for above normal rainfall is anticipated for WY, CO, southern MT, SD, NE, KS, western IA and MO; Equal chances elsewhere.

- An area to watch for increased dryness is eastern ND and northern MN.

- La Niña Watch, ~ 70% likelihood La Niña will emerge by Aug-Sep-Oct.
• Today’s and Past Recorded Presentations and:
  • [http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/webinars.htm](http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu/webinars.htm)
  • [http://www.hprcc.unl.edu](http://www.hprcc.unl.edu)

• NOAA’s National Centers for Environmental Information:

• Monthly climate reports (U.S. & Global):
  [www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/)

• NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center:
  [www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

• Current Weather Forecasts:
  [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

• Climate Portal:
  [www.climate.gov](http://www.climate.gov)

• U.S. Drought Portal:
  [www.drought.gov](http://www.drought.gov)

• National Drought Mitigation Center:
  [http://drought.unl.edu/](http://drought.unl.edu/)

• State climatologists
  • [http://www.stateclimate.org](http://www.stateclimate.org)

• Regional climate centers
  • [http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu](http://mrcc.isws.illinois.edu)
  • [http://www.hprcc.unl.edu](http://www.hprcc.unl.edu)
Thank You and Questions?

• Questions:
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    • Natalie Umphlett: numphlett2@unl.edu; 402 472-6764
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