

Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

Main Points



- January was generally dry for most of the region. A large storm in the southern and eastern areas ended some of the dryness.
- The warm December flipped to a mostly colder-than-average January.
- Several agricultural impacts continue despite it being the off-season, especially for food crops and winter wheats.
- La Niña in the Pacific is affecting current and projected conditions.

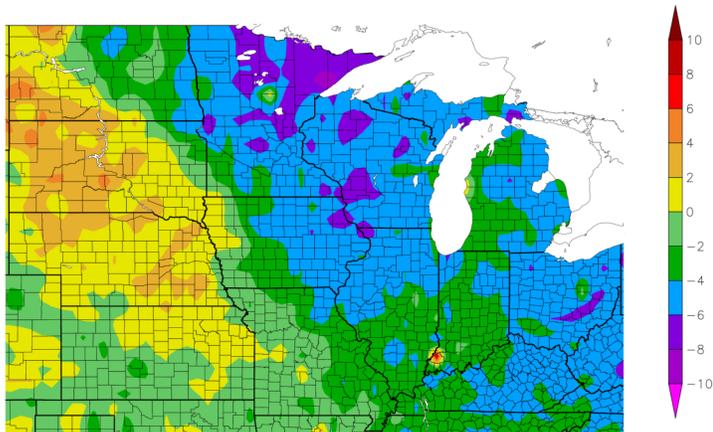


Image from Roger Hill, NRCS Photo Gallery



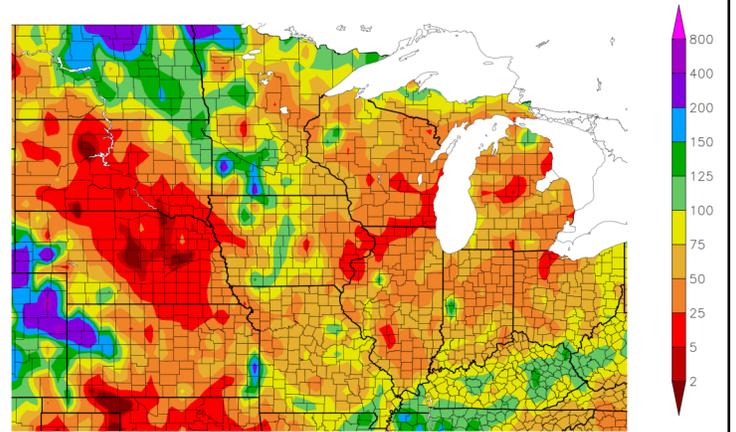
Current Conditions

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/5/2022 – 2/3/2022



Generated 2/4/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data. NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
1/5/2022 – 2/3/2022



Generated 2/4/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data. NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Much colder air covered the eastern part of the region through most of January. Overall temperatures were 6 to 10°F below average. Most of the Plains were above average by 2 to 6°F. Jet stream position and snow cover (or lack of snow cover) heavily influenced the temperature pattern. January is typically a relatively dry month but most of the area was even drier than average except for parts of the Northern Plains and southeastern areas of the Midwest (mostly influenced by the storm in early February). Much of the region was below 50% of average precipitation. (These maps do not incorporate all storm precipitation).

Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: [ACIS Climate Maps](https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/midwest). Generated: 2/4/2022.



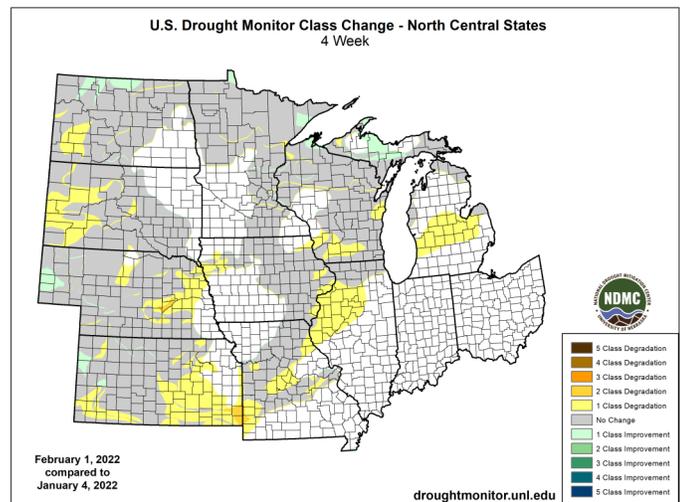
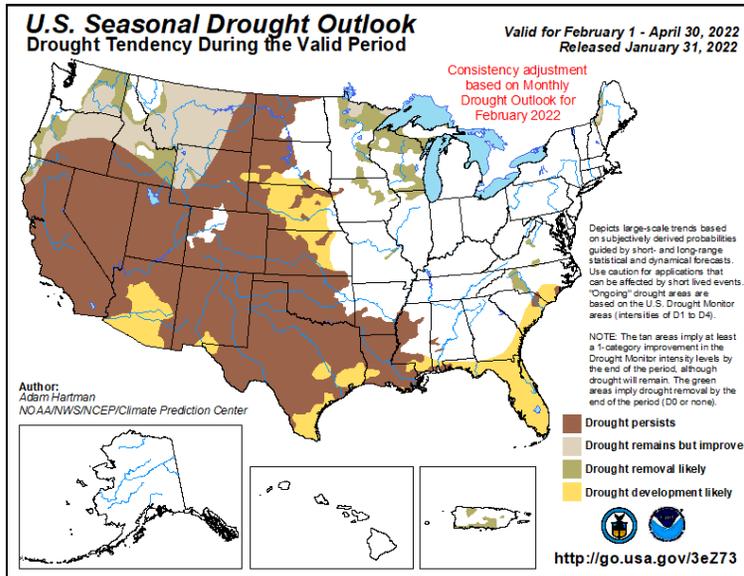
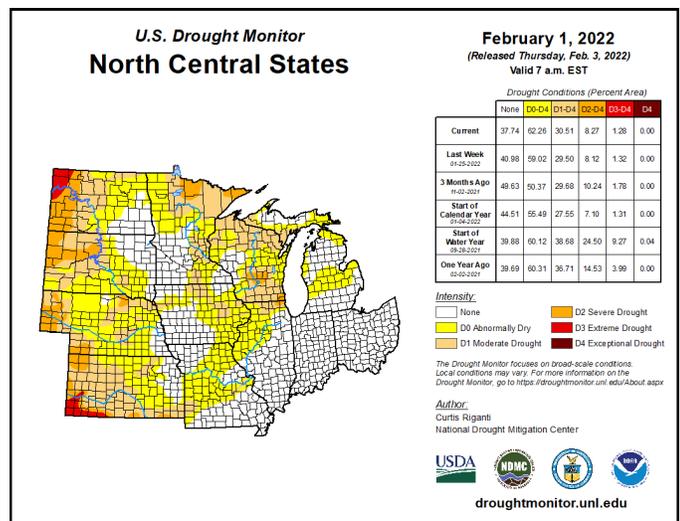
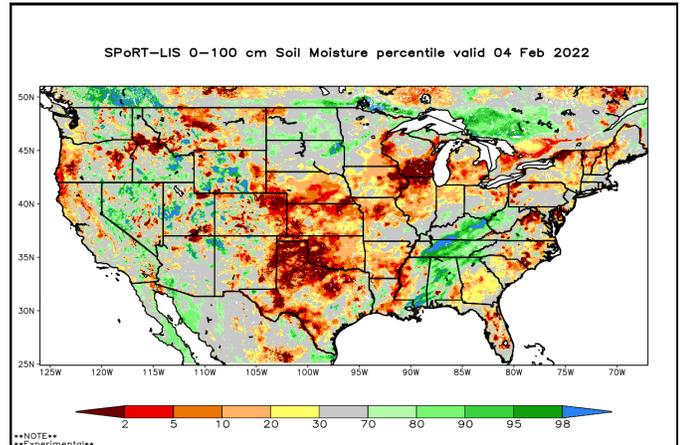
Impacts

Several crop impacts have continued despite being outside the main growing season. Winter wheats across the region were affected negatively by different conditions; drought conditions in the Plains continued to harm winter wheat while several eastern winter wheat areas have been affected by excess wetness or large temperature fluctuations.

Horseradish in Illinois has been difficult to dig because of frozen soil conditions. Cold has also damaged some winter greens that are grown in hoop barns. Excess growth during the warm December has been damaged by colder January temperatures, and the recent cold weather has driven higher heating expenses for hoop barns.

Drought conditions are generally similar to last month, with some modest worsening due to the recent (or ongoing) dryness in some parts of the region. The early February storm has increased soil moisture levels near the Ohio Valley. A little improvement in drought conditions has occurred in a few far northern or western areas.

The **Midwest Climate Hub** would like to hear reports of damage to any crop or horticultural in your region.



Maps Generated by [NASA SPORT](#), the [Climate Prediction Center](#), and the [National Drought Mitigation Center](#).

Outlook



La Niña patterns have continued to affect the monthly and seasonal outlooks; the La Niña conditions are projected to last through the spring and then weaken. Slightly better chances of colder conditions exist in the north (mostly in northwest areas of the region). A small area of possible colder weather extends into Minnesota and adjacent areas in the monthly outlook. Better chances for warmer-than-average conditions exist further south and east, particularly in the seasonal outlook.

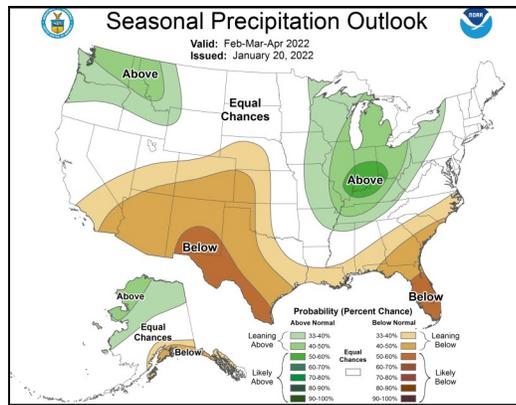
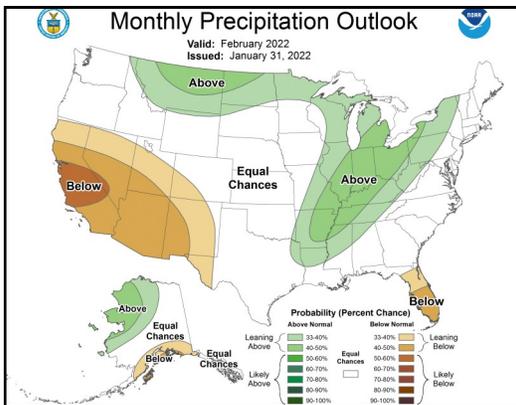
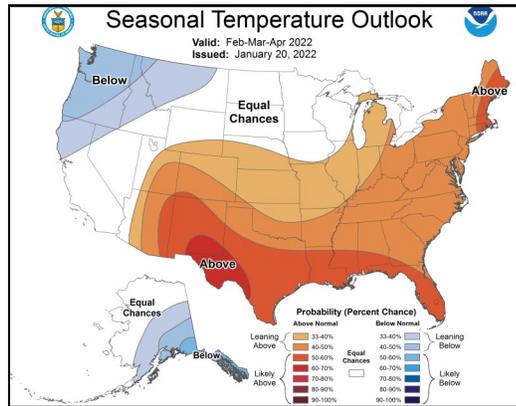
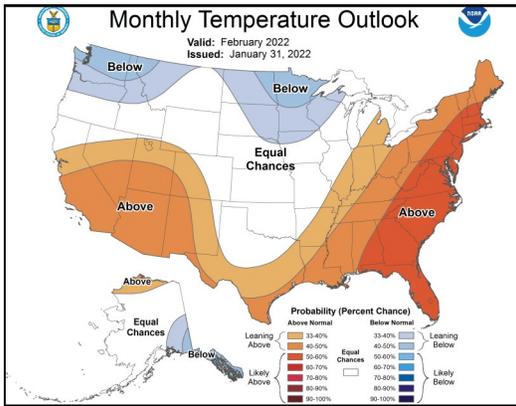
Precipitation chances are slightly increased in parts of the Northern Plains for both the monthly and seasonal outlooks and extend to the Great Lakes/Ohio Valley. In the seasonal outlook, slight chances of drier-than-average conditions exist in the central Plains. Some better chances for precipitation are focused on southern Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio.

Generally, drought conditions are likely to persist or possibly expand in the Plains as increased precipitation is not expected. Some possible improvement could occur in the northwest Plains. The current precipitation expected for February seems

unlikely to mitigate drought conditions in the eastern Midwest.

Wetter conditions are possible for spring in the eastern parts of the region, which could lead to planting delays. Drought conditions seem likely to continue affecting Plains winter wheat and other agricultural operations. Some improvement could occur in the Northern Plains for rangeland and other agricultural interests in that area. Currently, big improvements don't seem likely there, but there may be minor improvements to drought conditions.

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Outlooks provided by the [Climate Prediction Center](#).

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For more information, please visit:
<https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/midwest>