

Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

Main Points

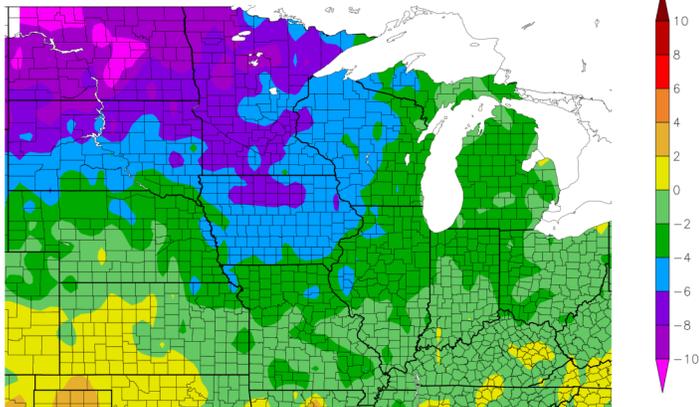


- Temperatures have been cooler than average throughout the Midwest and Plains.
- Precipitation has caused varying issues.
 - ◊ Many areas in the region have received average or below-average rainfall, and northern areas have been wetter than usual.
 - ◊ There have been many days with light rains.
- Soil temperatures are too cold for the main row crops in the Midwest.
- Temperatures are projected to warm up May, but may still be below average.
- Planting progress will still be slowed in May in some areas.



Current Conditions

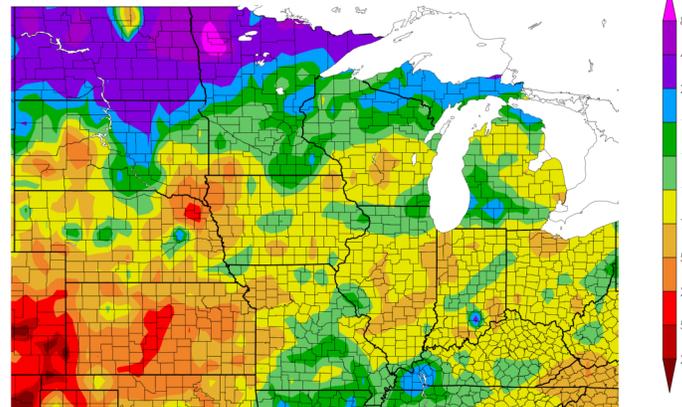
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
4/5/2022 – 5/4/2022



Generated 5/5/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
4/5/2022 – 5/4/2022



Generated 5/5/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Overall, temperatures have remained cold for most of the corn- and soybean-growing areas. Only southern areas have been running closer to average temperatures. Eastern Kansas through to the Ohio Valley has been 0 to 2°F below average over the last 30 days. Northern areas of the Plains, Minnesota, and Iowa have been 6 to 10°F (or more) below average. Precipitation has been close to or below average for most of the region, with the greatest extremes in the Plains with 200 to 400% of average in the north, and areas below 50% of average in Nebraska and Kansas. Soil wetness issues have been driven by frequent smaller rains and the lack of drying conditions (i.e. it has been cool and humid with limited sunlight).

Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: [ACIS Climate Maps](https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/midwest). Generated: 5/5/2022.



Impacts

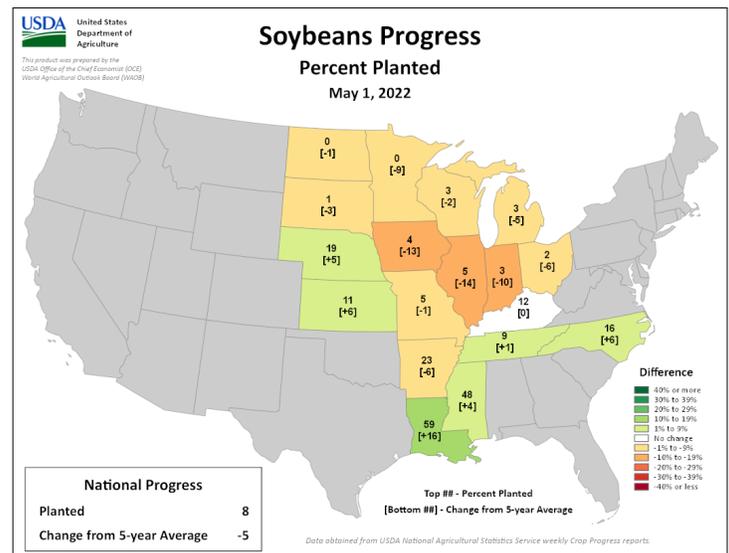
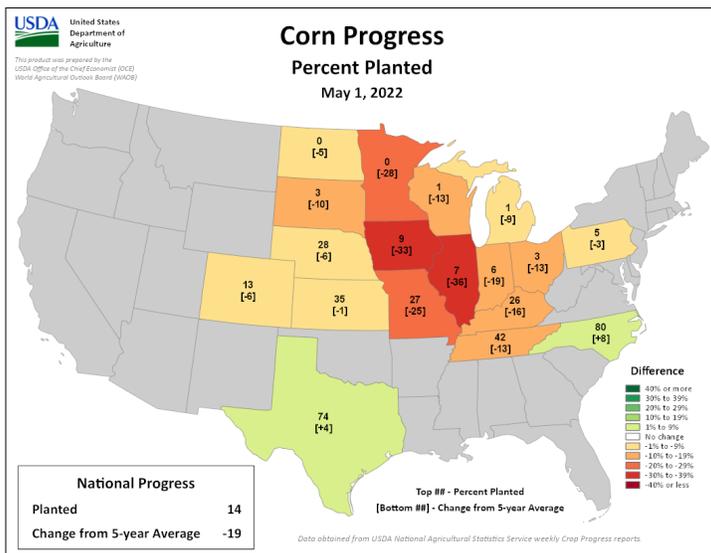
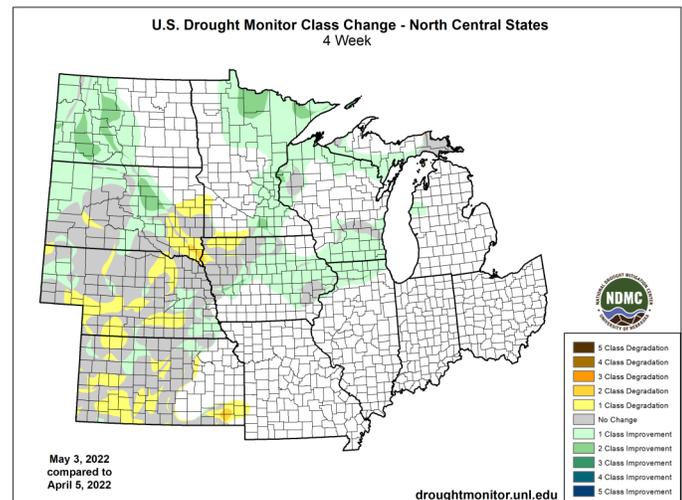
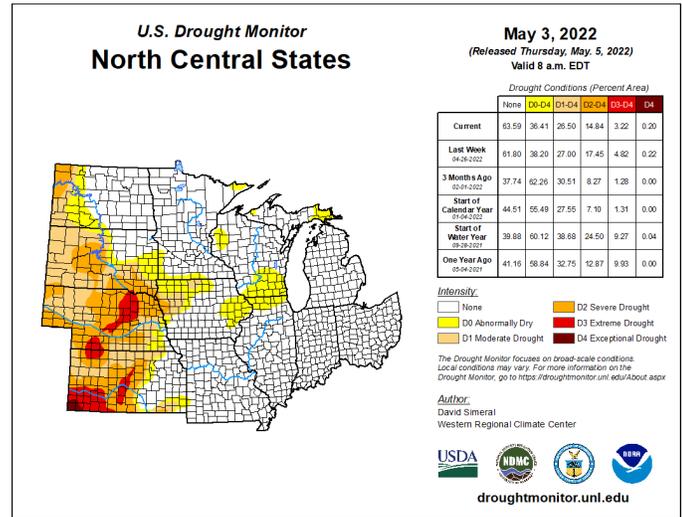
The cold and somewhat wet conditions have kept soils cool. A lack of sun has also played a role in limiting drying and keeping soils from warming. Most soils in the region are not excessively wet, except in areas of the northern Plains where snow and rains have caused wet and flooded conditions in some locations. Owing to the cool soils and, in some areas, wet conditions, planting has been delayed for the major crops. Some small grains in the northern plains and corn and soybeans in southern areas (which are warmer and drier) have been planted. Overall planting progress is well behind average.

Drought conditions have improved with some heavier precipitation in the Plains. The United States Drought Monitor map still reports drought conditions in the Dakotas, Kansas, and parts of Iowa, though drought has eased in many areas. A few areas have seen some worsening where precipitation has been limited recently.

The Plains precipitation has helped winter wheat and pasture/range conditions, though both are still very poor overall at this point.

Freezes that have occurred so far have produced limited damage to specialty crops. The coming warmth may place crops at risk if temperatures subsequently drop below freezing in May.

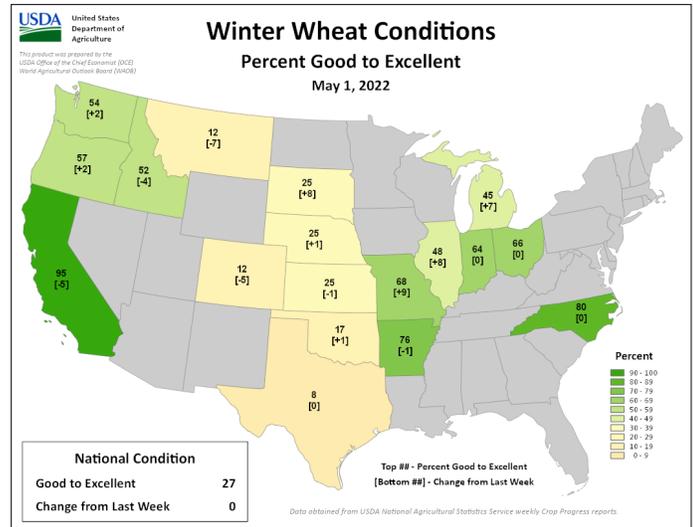
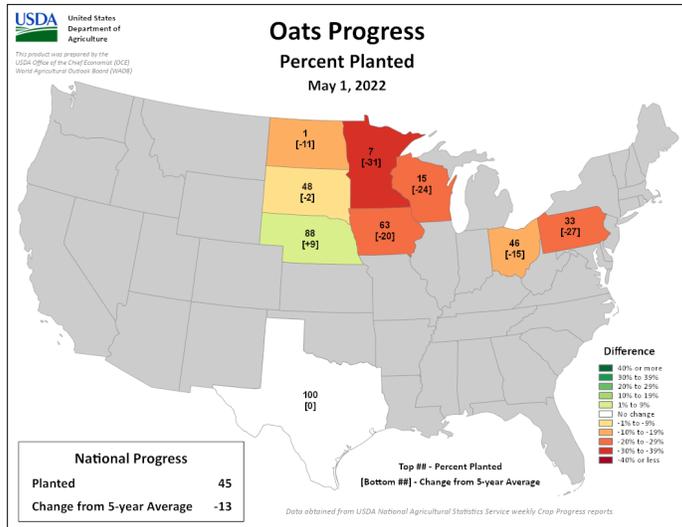
The Midwest Climate Hub would like to hear reports of damage to any crop or horticultural in your region.



Maps Generated by the [National Drought Mitigation Center](http://www.nationaldroughtmitigationcenter.org) and the [National Agricultural Statistic Service](http://www.nationalagriculturalstatistics.com).



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



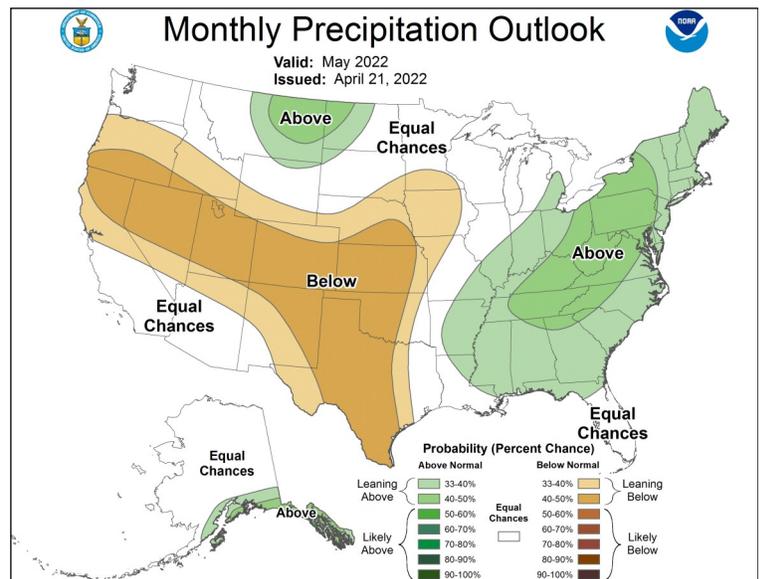
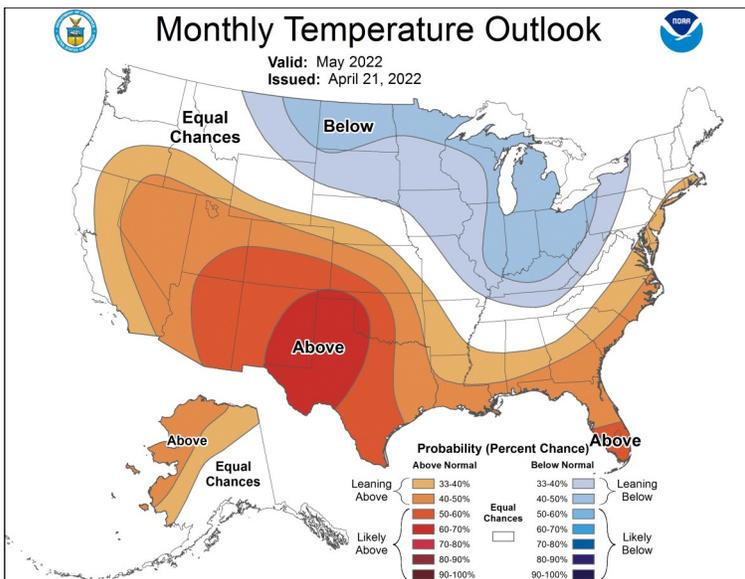
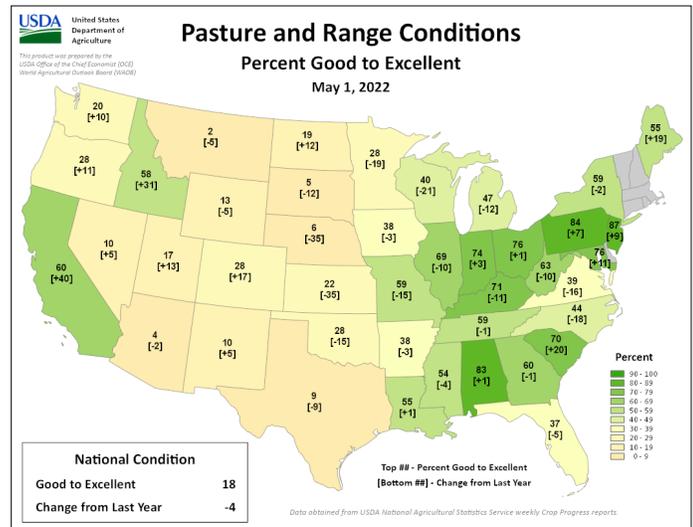
Outlook



The updated May and seasonal outlooks pose a few issues for agriculture in the region.

The May temperature outlook continues to show slightly increased chances for colder-than-average temperatures (particularly for early May) across much of the northern Plains to the eastern Corn Belt. Slight chances for wetter conditions exist throughout most of the Plains, while eastern areas are at equal chances.

The seasonal outlooks continue to reflect a La Niña-type pattern, with warmer and drier conditions more likely in the Plains and some chances for wetter conditions in the eastern Corn Belt. Drier and warmer conditions could extend into the central Corn Belt as the summer progresses.

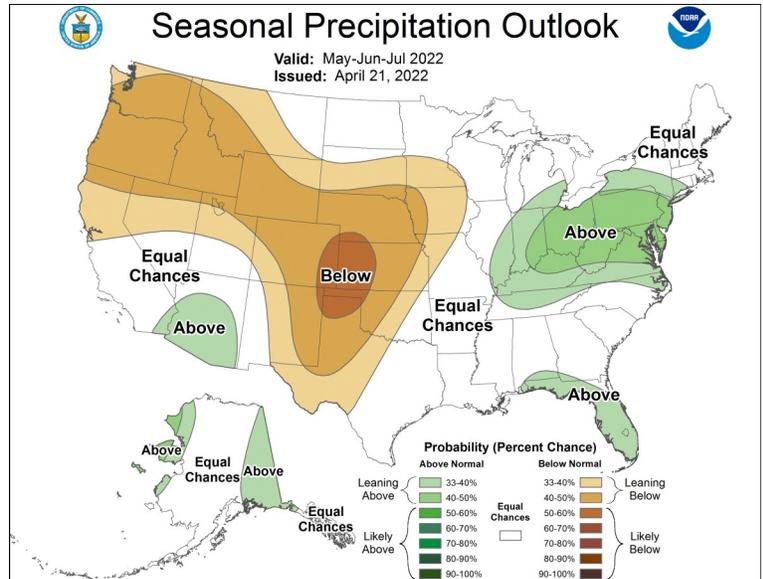
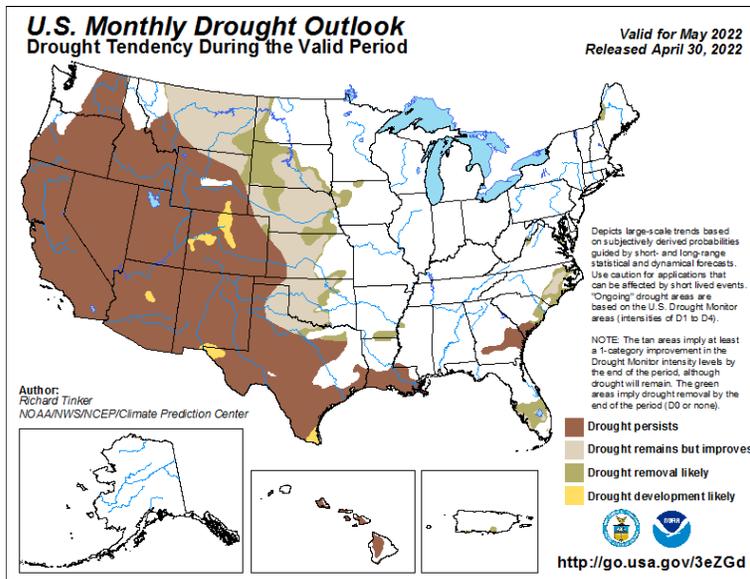
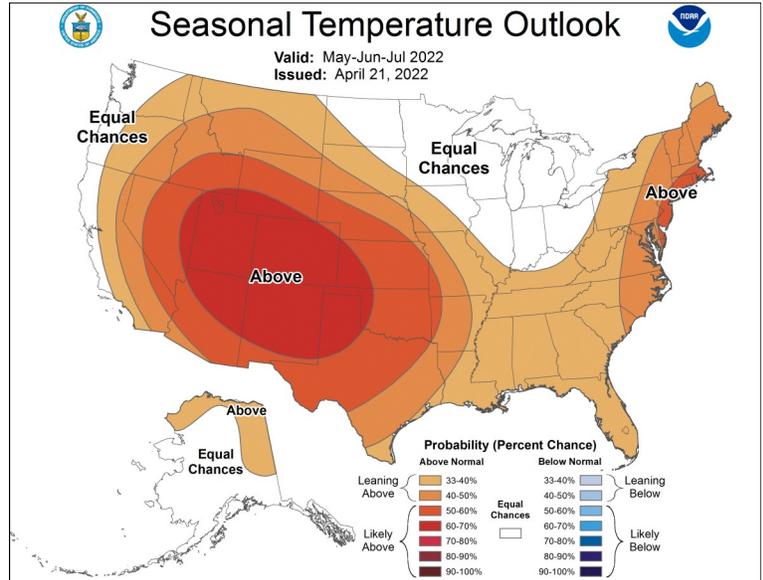


Wetness and continued planting delays are likely in parts of the northern Plains. Most of the Corn Belt is a mixed bag that could make significant planting progress with warmer air and a some drier days. Expected warmth from May 7-10 might help with planting progress. Some yield loss is typically expected with planting delays, if significant progress occurs soon, losses will be limited.

The precipitation in the northern Plains likely occurred too late for significant rangeland improvement, but the precipitation will be helpful. Some areas may see surface runoff for livestock use. Winter wheat is delayed with the cold and likely lost yield with drought and other recent issues.

Summer presents a drought messaging concern because drought has eased to some degree. Heat and dryness are still likely to occur in the Plains and could cause a resurgence of drought issues despite the recent improvement. The Plains, Iowa, and Missouri are still at a greater risk, while the eastern Corn Belt is currently at lower risk of drought. The May drought outlook reflects the potential improvement.

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

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For more information, please visit:
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