



Water and Climate Update

April 27, 2017

The Natural Resources Conservation Service produces this weekly report using data and products from the [National Water and Climate Center](#) and other agencies. The report focuses on seasonal snowpack, precipitation, temperature, and drought conditions in the U.S.

Snow.....	2	Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators	10
Precipitation	3	Short- and Long-Range Outlooks.....	13
Temperature.....	6	More Information.....	15
Drought.....	9		

Precipitation records set in Seattle; Wildfires sparked in Arizona



Photo credit: KOMO5



Photo credit: InciWeb

Since the start of the Water Year on October 1, 2016, 44.69 inches of precipitation has been measured at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. This exceeds the previous October-through-April record for the city set one year ago and is almost 14 inches above the average for the seven months combined.

[Full story >>](#)

In contrast, as of Wednesday a large wildfire in southern Arizona has grown to more than 31 square miles and is forcing evacuation of homes in the area. The so-called “Sawmill Wildfire” burning in the Coronado National Forest is 7% contained. [Full story >>](#)

More Information:

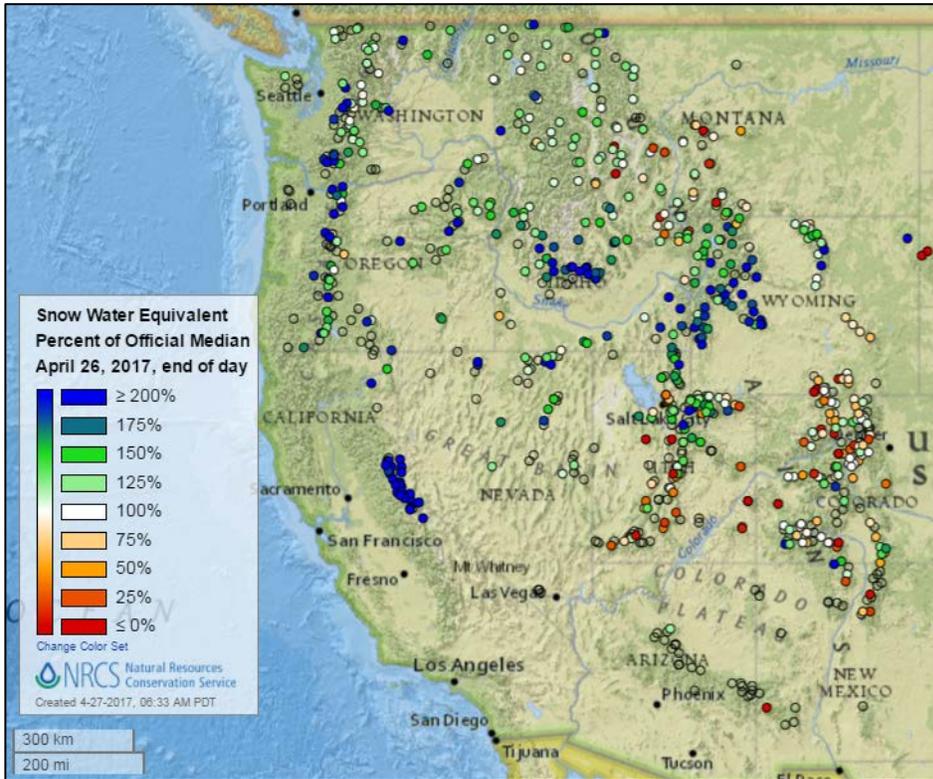
[Seattle Crushes Rain Record, While Rival Portland Wet Too \(ABC News\)](#)

[Soggy Seattle lives up to name, breaks another rain record \(USA Today\)](#)

[Sawmill Wildfire Current Conditions \(InciWeb\)](#)

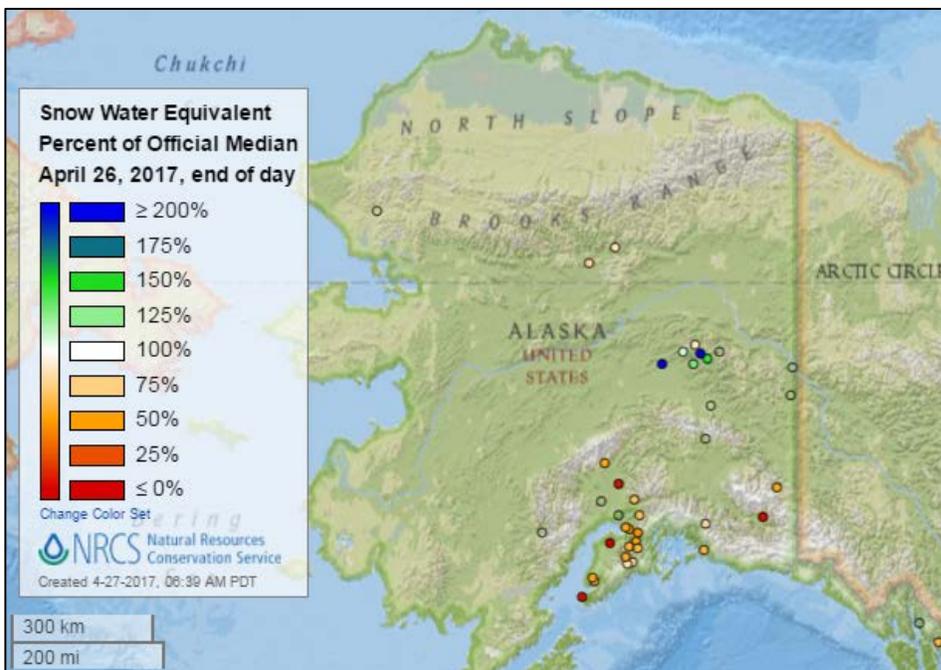
Snow

Current Snow Water Equivalent, NRCS SNOTEL Network



[Snow water equivalent percent of median map](#)

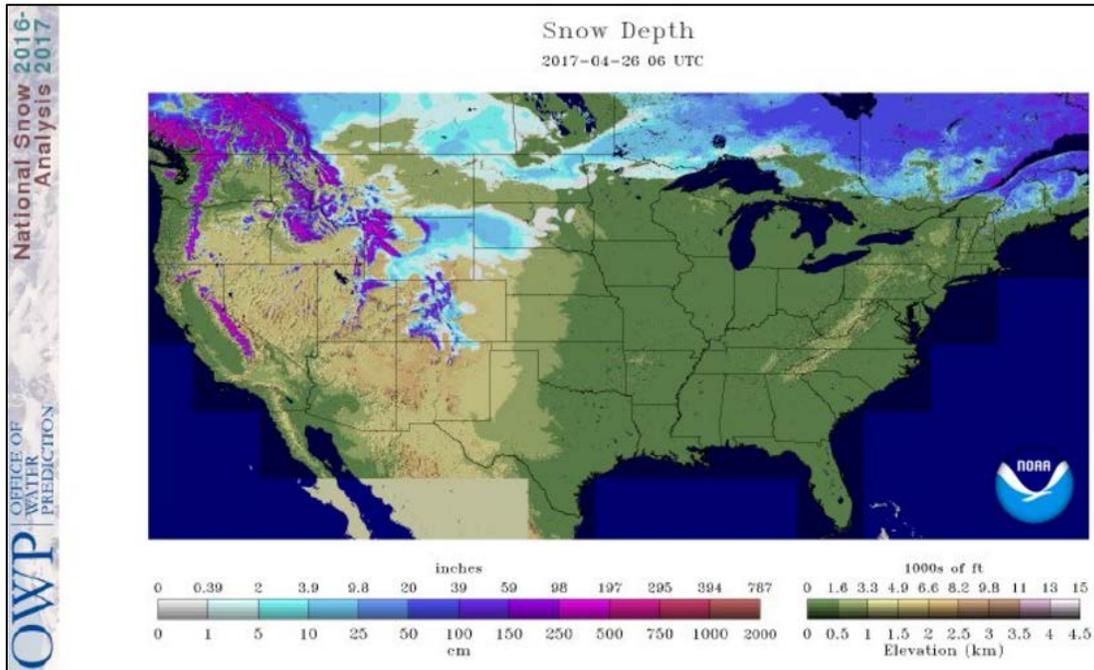
See also:
[Snow water equivalent values \(inches\) map](#)



[Alaska snow water equivalent percent of median map](#)

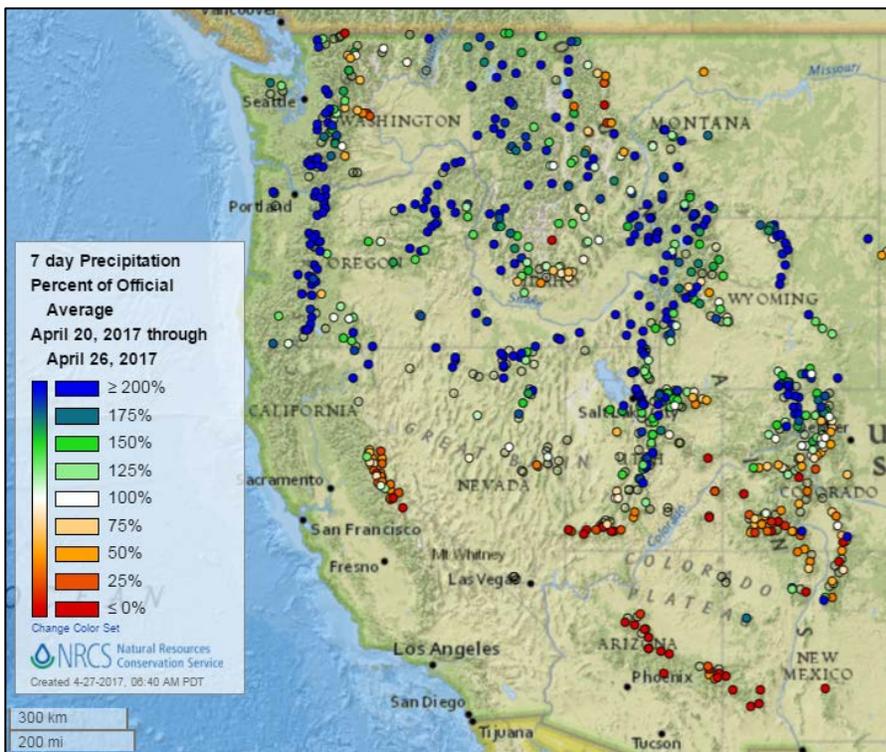
See also:
[Alaska snow water equivalent values \(inches\) map](#)

Current Snow Depth, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks



Precipitation

Last 7 Days, Western Mountain Sites (NRCS SNOTEL Network)

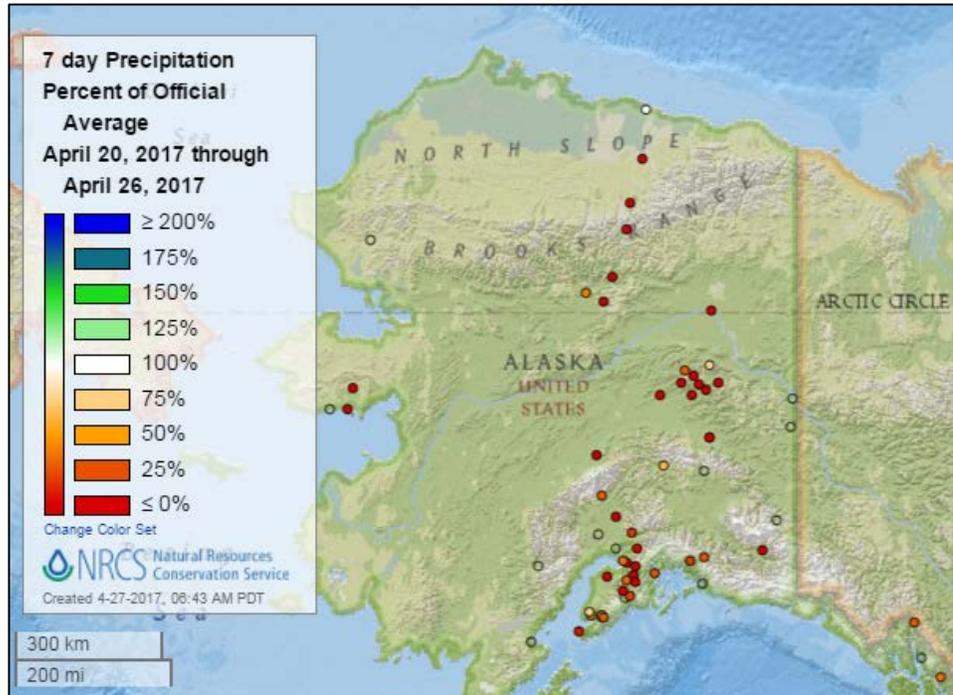


[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also:
[7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

[Alaska 7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also: [Alaska 7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)



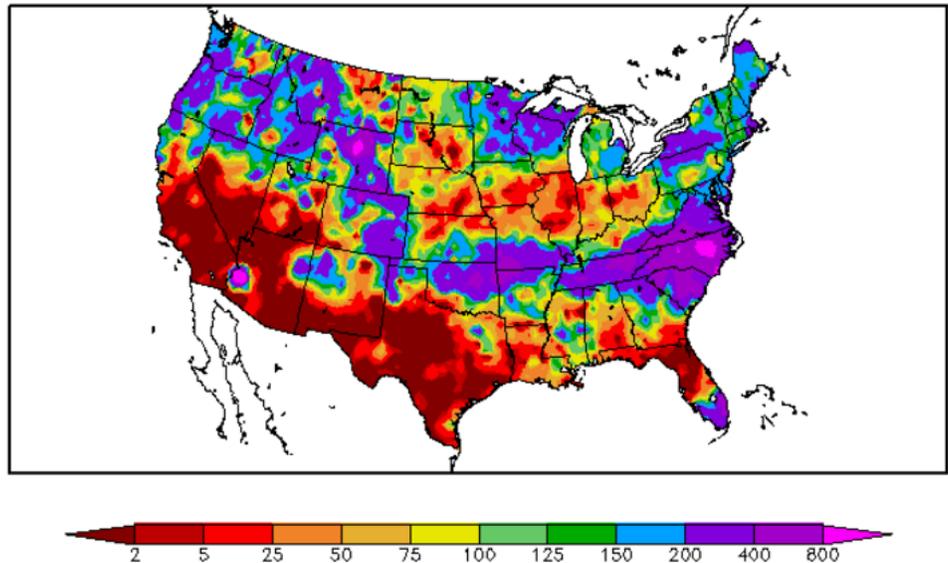
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day precipitation percent of normal map](#) for the continental U.S.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
4/20/2017 – 4/26/2017

See also: [7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)



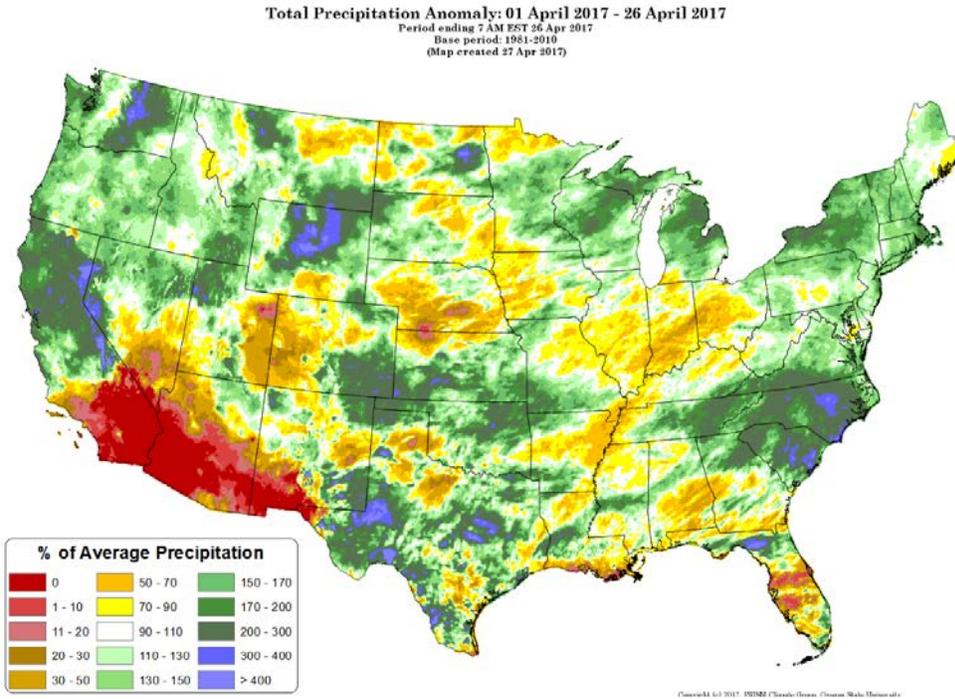
Generated 4/27/2017 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Water and Climate Update

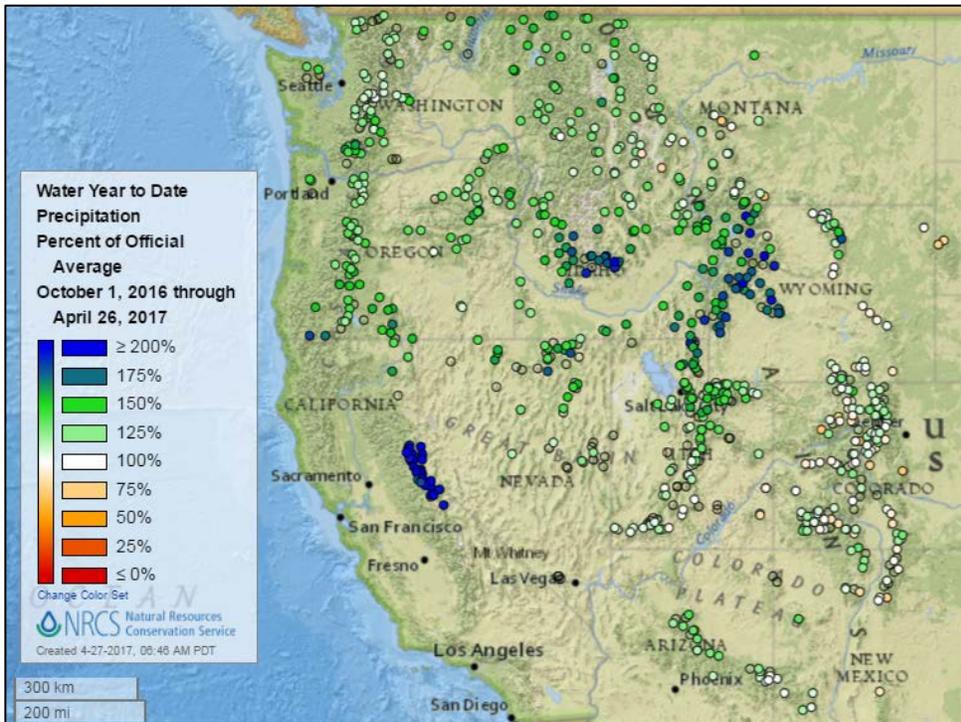
Month-to-Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM



[Month-to-date national precipitation percent of average map](#)

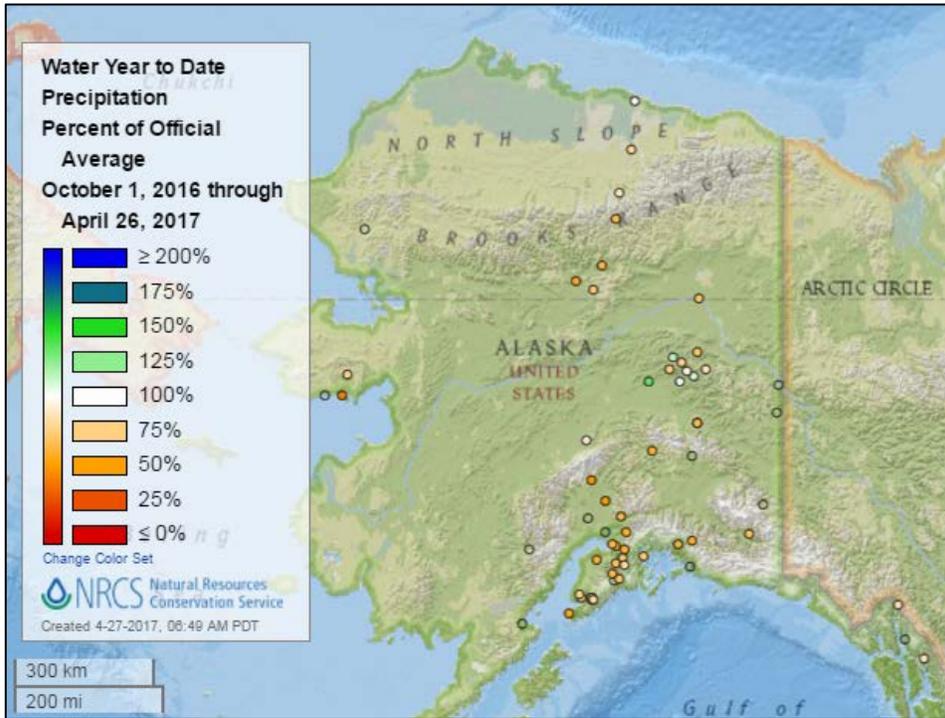
Water Year-to-Date, Western Mountain Sites (NRCS SNOTEL Network)



[2017 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

[See also: 2017 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\)](#)

Water and Climate Update



[Alaska 2017 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

See also: [Alaska 2017 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Temperature

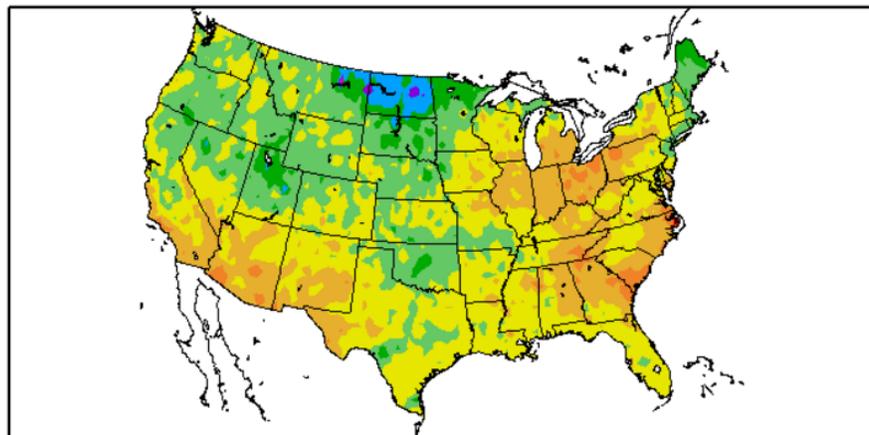
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day temperature anomaly map](#) for the continental U.S.

See also: [7-day temperature \(° F\) map](#)

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
4/20/2017 – 4/26/2017



Generated 4/27/2017 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Water and Climate Update

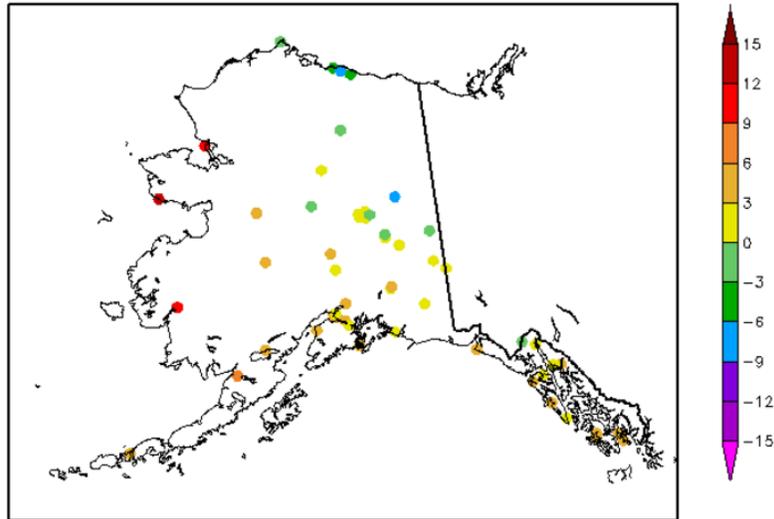
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day temperature anomaly map](#) for Alaska.

See also: [7-day temperature \(° F\) map](#)

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
4/20/2017 - 4/26/2017



Generated 4/27/2017 at HPRCC using provisional data.

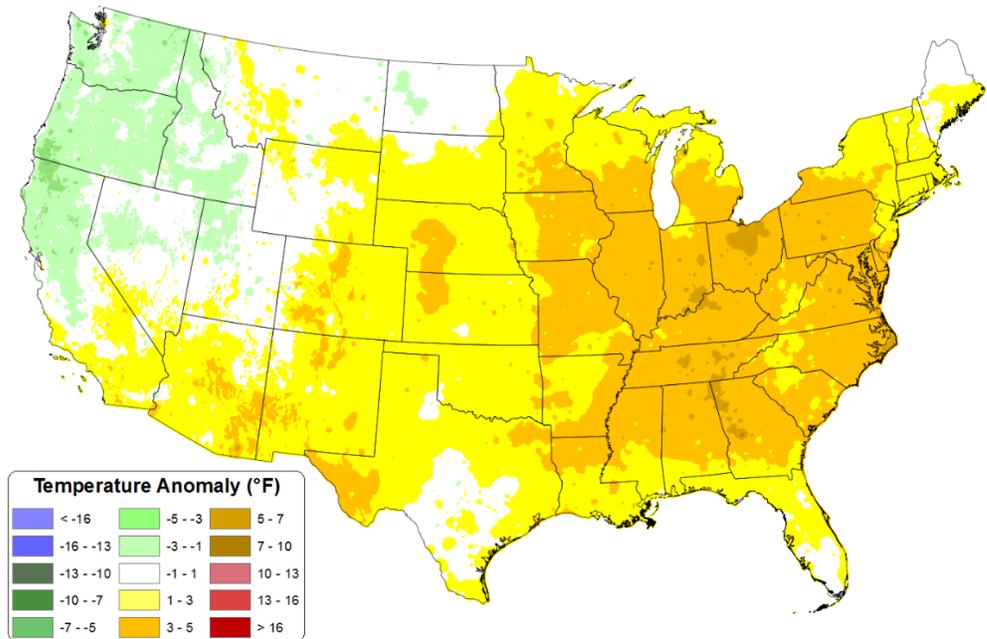
Regional Climate Centers

Month-to-Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

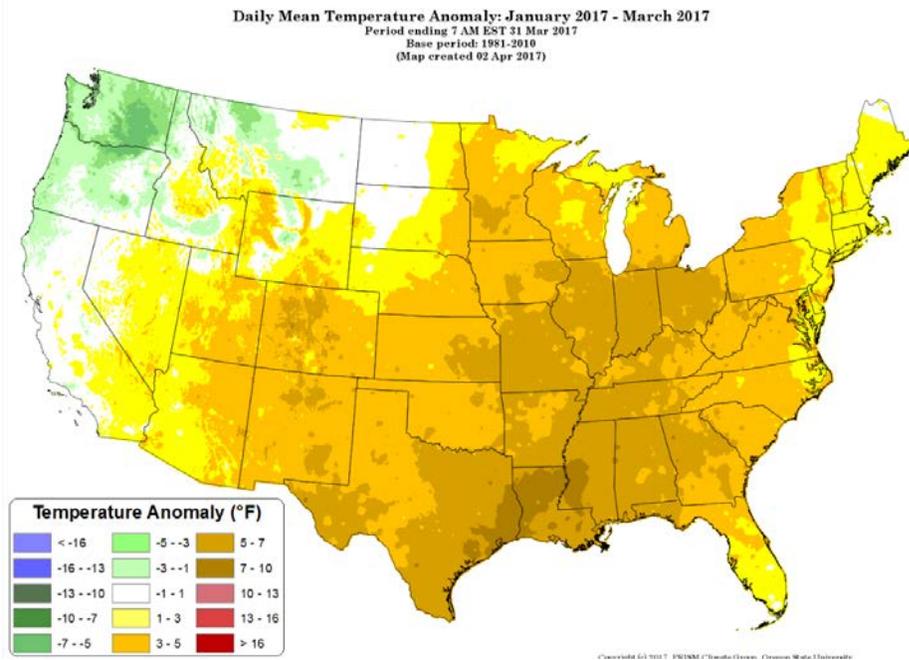
[Month-to-date national daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: 01 April 2017 - 26 April 2017
Period ending 7 AM EST 26 Apr 2017
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 27 Apr 2017)



Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

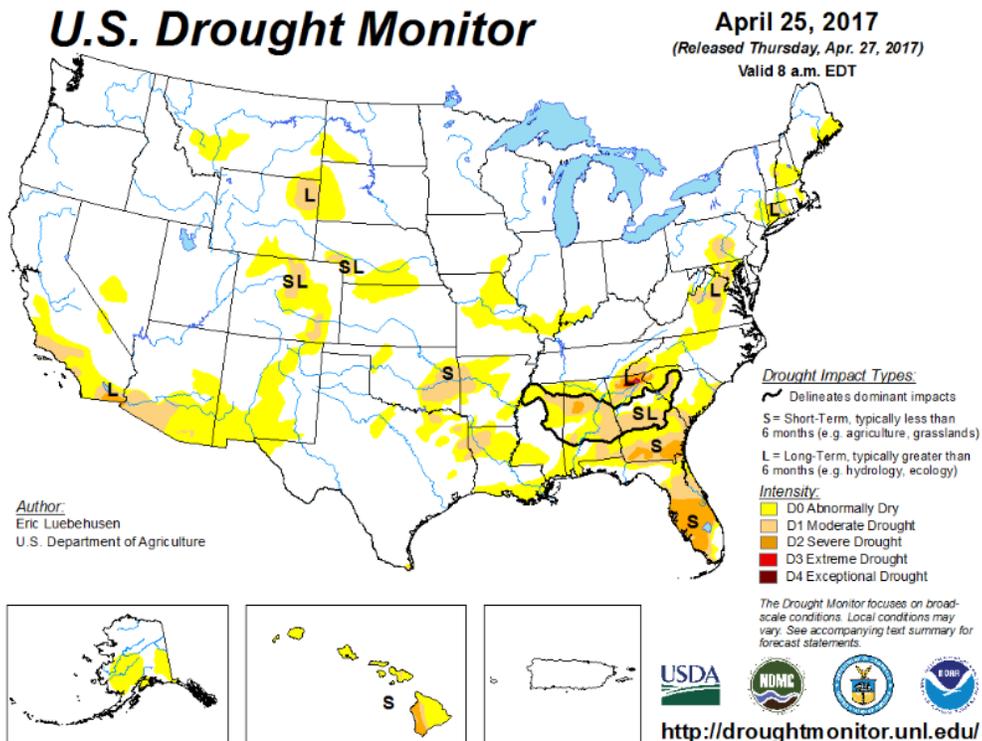


[January through March 2017 daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)

Drought

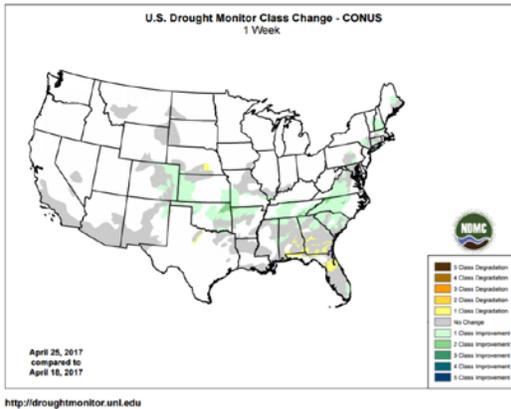
[U.S. Drought Monitor](#) See map below.

[U.S. Drought Portal](#) Comprehensive drought resource.

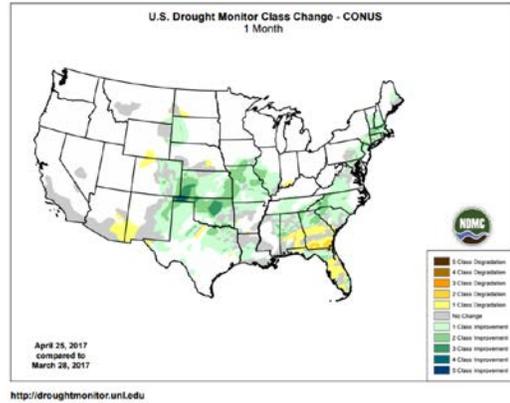


Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

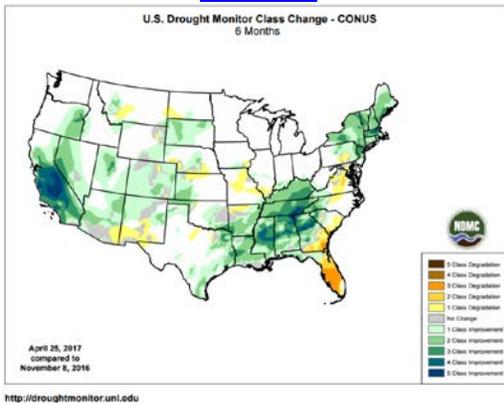
1 Week



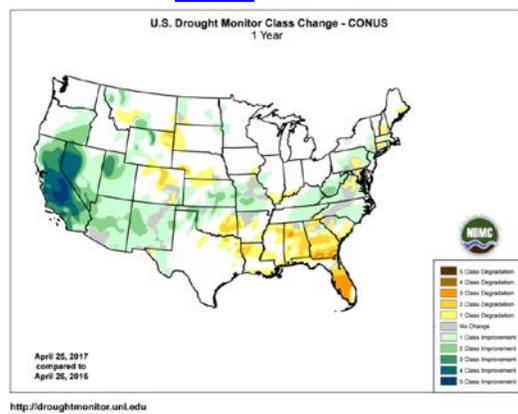
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months

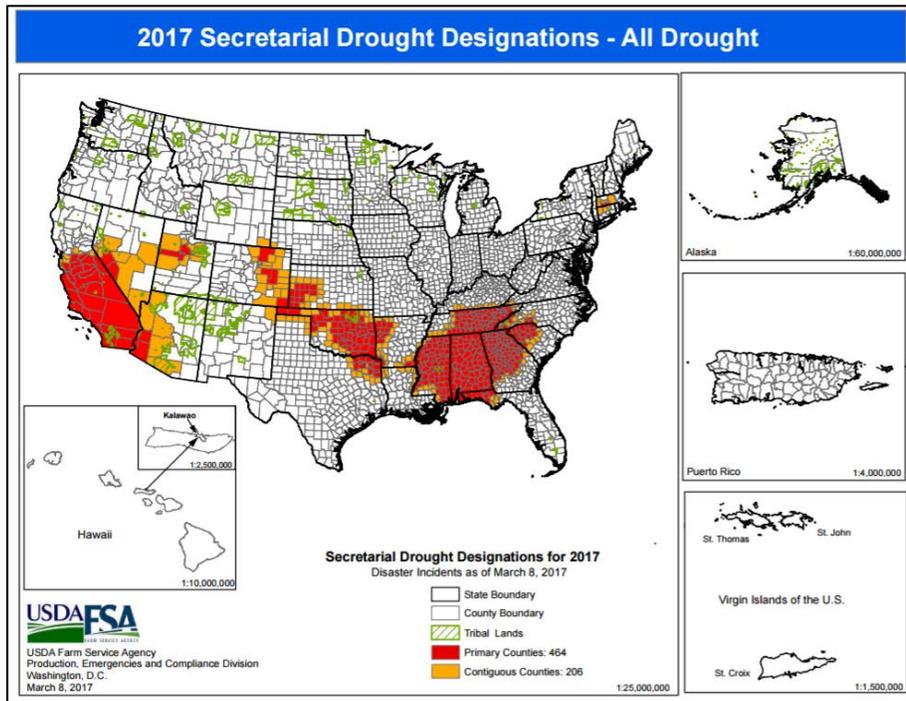
Current National Drought Summary, April 25, 2017

Author: Eric Luebehusen, U.S. Department of Agriculture

“PLEASE NOTE – The Drought Monitor reflects observed precipitation through Tuesday, 1200 UTC (8 am, EDT); any rain that has fallen after the Tuesday 1200 UTC cutoff will be reflected in next week’s map.

During the 7-day period (ending Tuesday morning), widespread heavy rain eased drought but caused local flooding from Oklahoma to the Carolina Coast. In contrast, dry, hot conditions caused drought to intensify over the lower Southeast, though tropical downpours afforded some drought relief in southern Florida. Additional improvements to drought intensity and coverage were noted in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic in response to late-spring rain as well as recovering groundwater levels. Conditions also improved on the central Plains, while drought remained largely unchanged elsewhere.”

USDA 2017 Secretarial [Drought Designations](#)

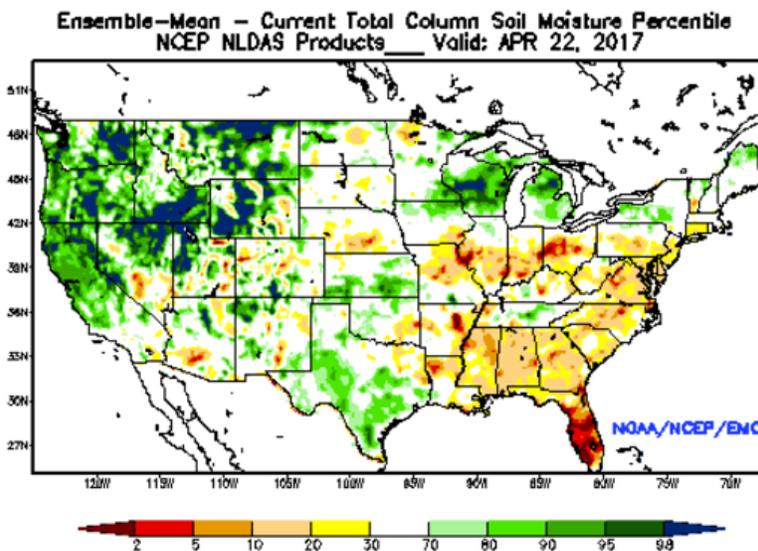


Highlighted Drought Resources

- [Drought Impact Reporter](#)
- [Quarterly Regional Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)
- [U.S. Drought Portal Indicators and Monitoring](#)
- [U.S. Population in Drought, Weekly Comparison](#)
- [USDA Disaster and Drought Information](#)

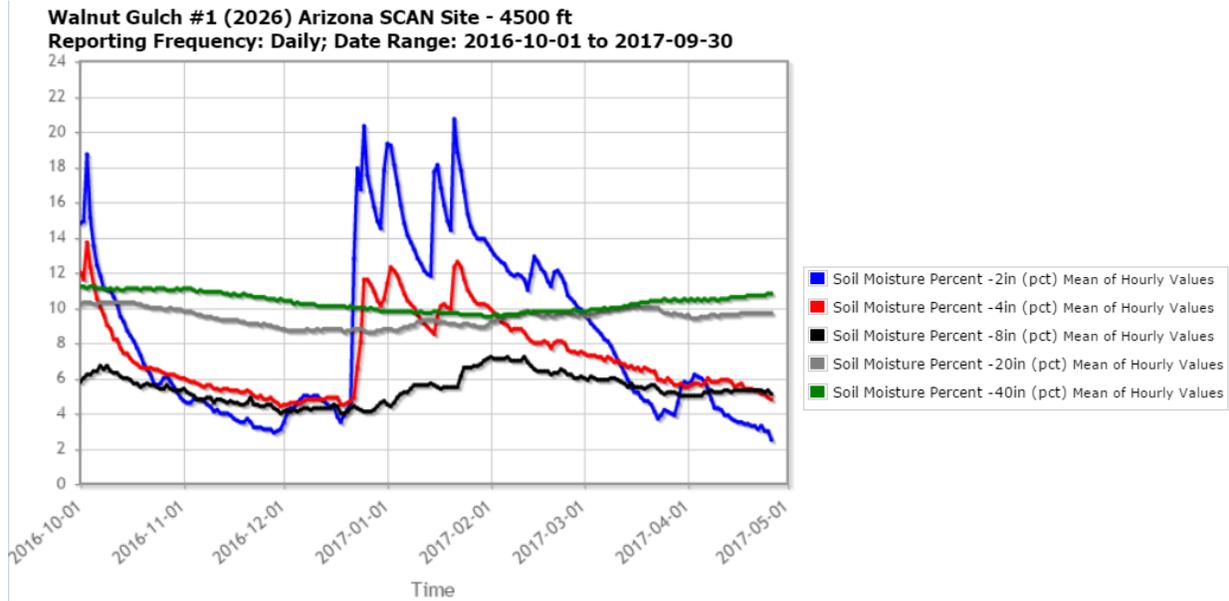
Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of April 22, 2017.

Soil Moisture Data: NRCS [Soil Climate Analysis Network \(SCAN\)](#) (SCAN)



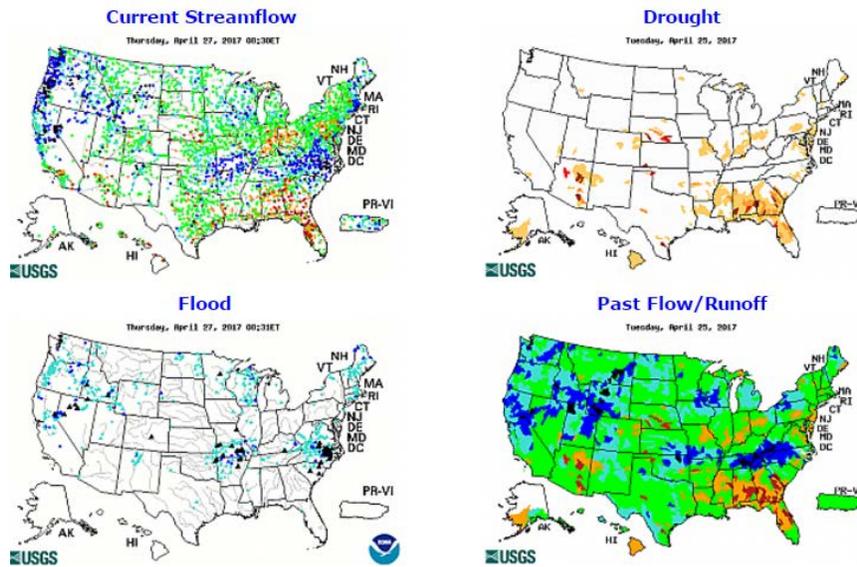
Soil moisture (at 2-, 4-, 8-, 20-, and 40-inch depths) for the 2017 Water Year at the [Walnut Gulch #1 SCAN site](#) in southern Arizona. The 20- and 40-inch sensors showed little response to precipitation events over the past seven months, whereas the shallower sensors reacted more to these events.

Soil Moisture Data Portals

- [CRN Soil Moisture](#)
- [Texas A&M University North American Soil Moisture Database](#)
- [University of Washington Experimental Modeled Soil Moisture](#)

Streamflow

Source: USGS



[Current streamflow maps](#) Click image to enlarge and display legends

Reservoir Storage

[National Water and Climate Center Reservoir Data](#)

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Hydromet Tea Cup Reservoir Depictions:

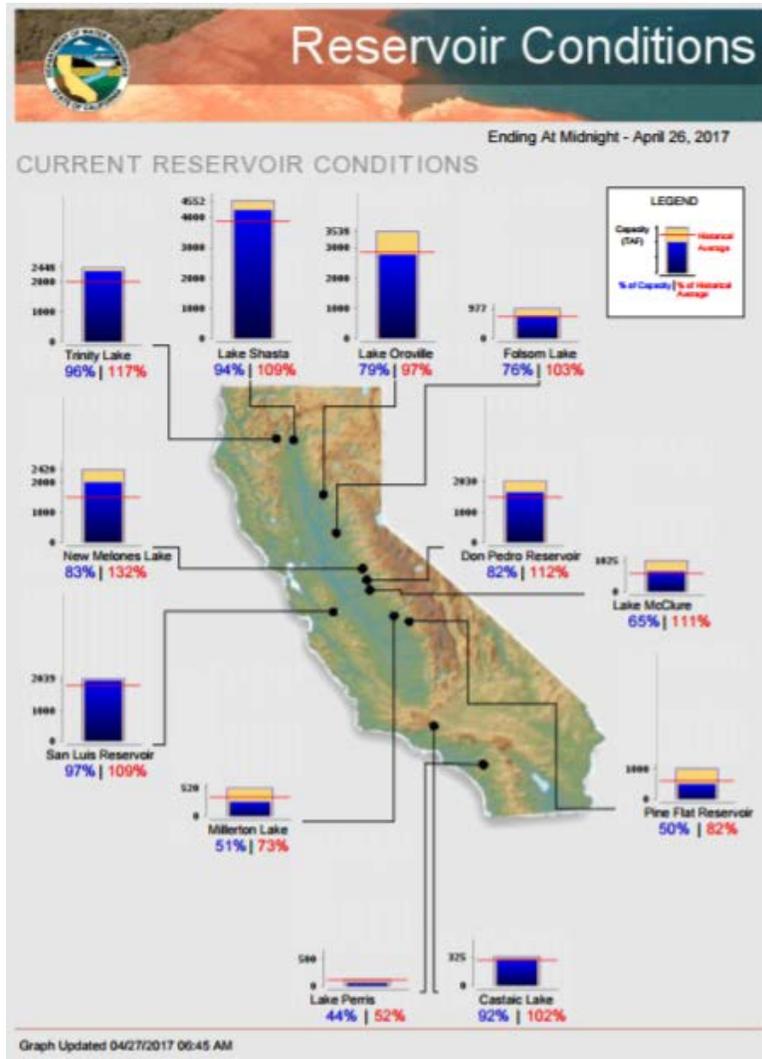
[Upper Colorado](#)

[Pacific Northwest/Snake/Columbia](#)

[Sevier River Water, Utah](#)

[Upper Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas](#)

[California Current Reservoir Conditions](#)



Wildfires: [USDA Forest Service Active Fire Mapping](#)



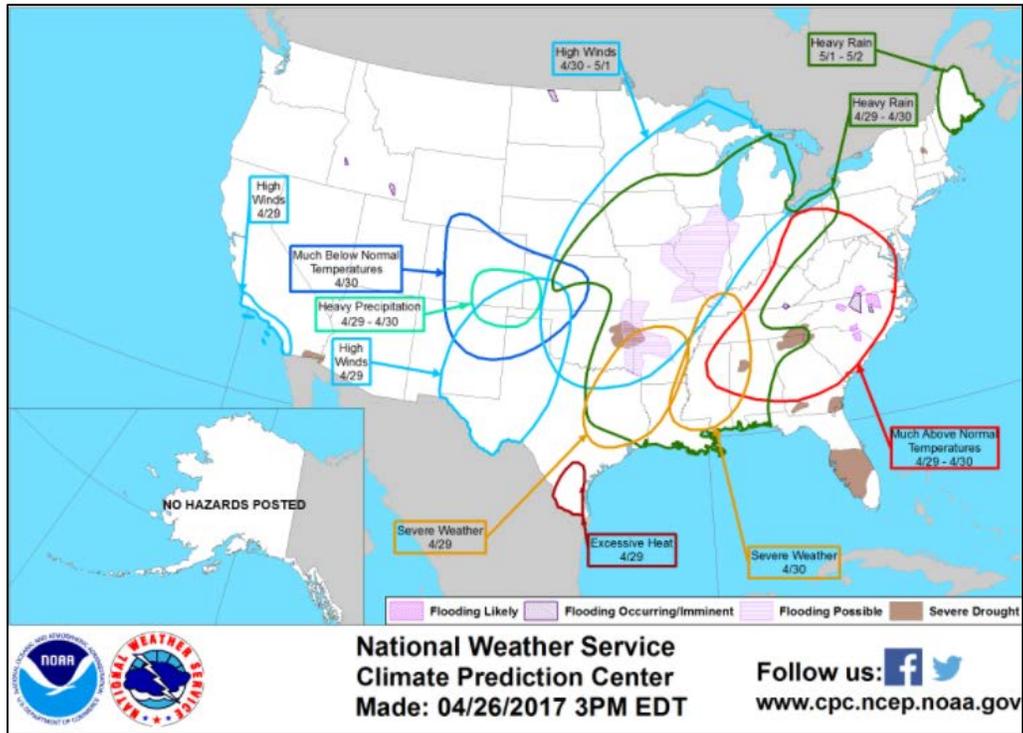
Short- and Long-Range Outlooks

Agricultural Weather Highlights

Author: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB

[National Outlook, April 27, 2017](#): “A fairly impressive spring cold snap will affect much of the western and central U.S. during the next few days. Although chilly air is already in place from the Pacific Coast to the Mississippi Valley, even colder air will surge across the nation’s mid-section in the wake of a departing storm system. That storm, which will arrive on the southern Plains by Saturday and reach the Great Lakes region on Monday, could lead to heavy rain (locally 4 to 8 inches or more) and flooding from the southeastern Plains into the mid-Mississippi Valley; severe thunderstorms from the southern Plains and mid-South into the Ohio Valley; and snow in the central and southern Rockies and adjacent High Plains. Following the storm’s departure, on April 30 – May 1, freezes as far south as northern Texas could threaten heading winter wheat on the High Plains. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for May 2 – 6 calls for the likelihood of below-normal temperatures from the Plains to the western slopes of the Appalachians, while warmer-than-normal weather should prevail in California, the Great Basin, and the Desert Southwest. Meanwhile, near- to below-normal precipitation across most of the central and western U.S. will contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in the East and along a narrow strip from western Montana to western Colorado.”

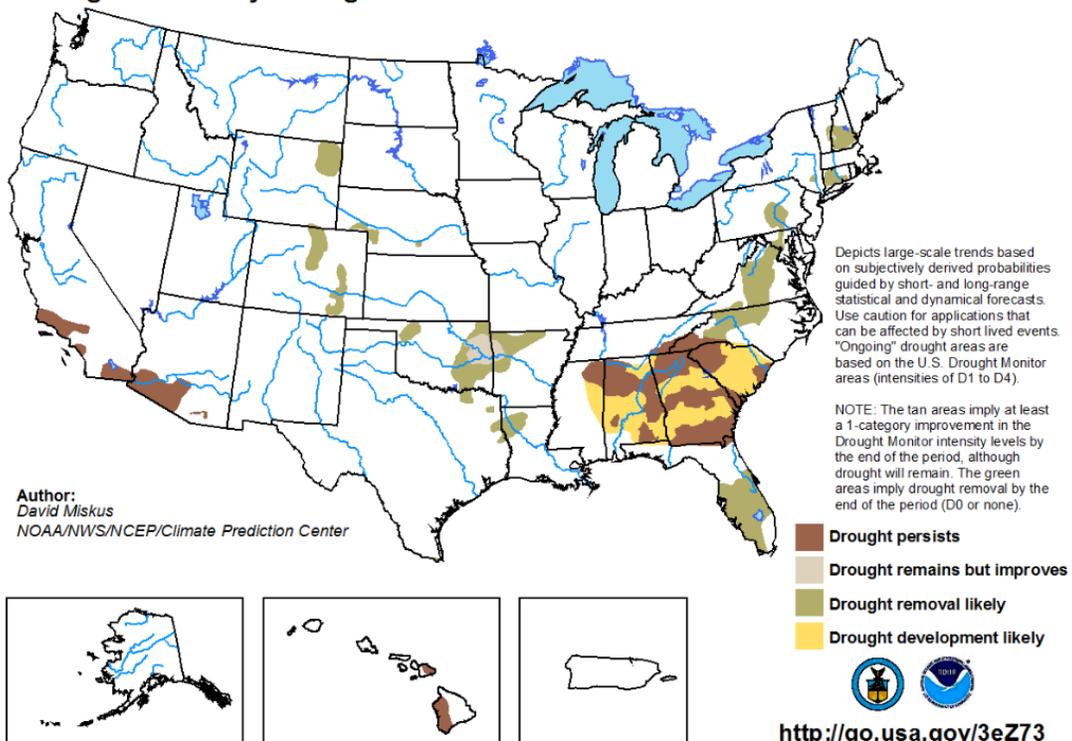
NWS Climate Prediction Center Weather Hazard Outlook: [April 29 - May 3, 2017](#)



NWS Seasonal Drought Outlook: [April 20 - July 31, 2017](#)

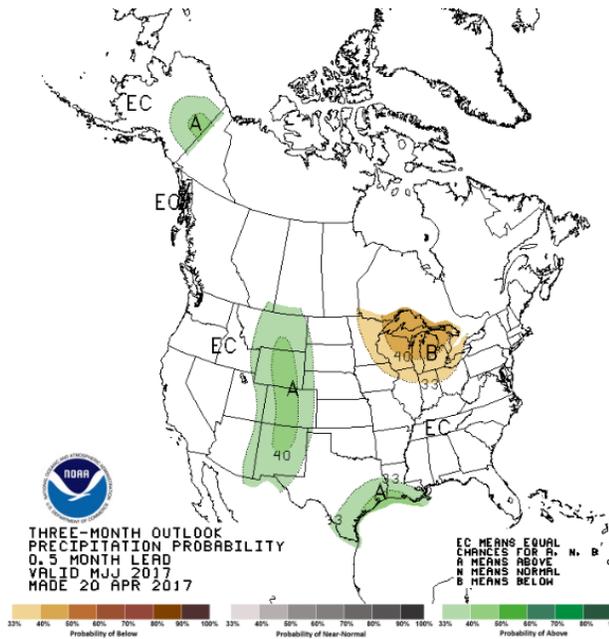
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for April 20 - July 31, 2017
Released April 20, 2017

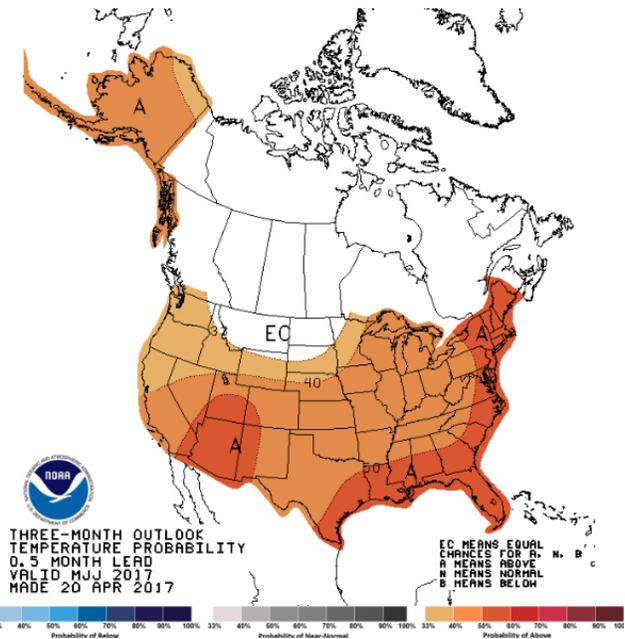


NWS Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

[Precipitation](#)



[Temperature](#)



[May-June-July \(MJJ\) 2017 precipitation and temperature outlook summaries](#)

More Information

The NRCS [National Water and Climate Center](#) publishes this weekly report. We welcome your feedback. If you have questions or comments, please [contact us](#).