

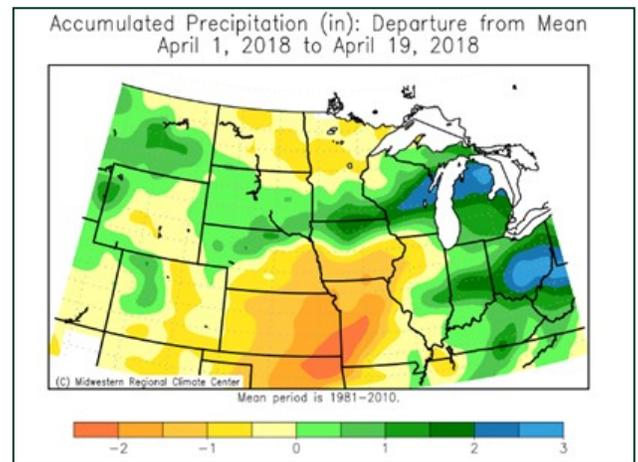
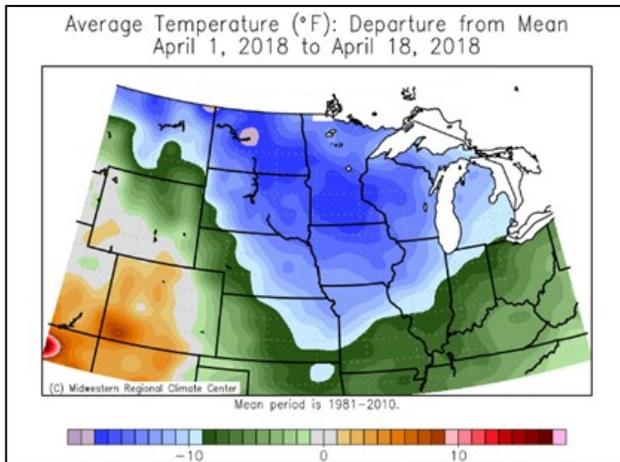
## Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

### Current Conditions



Record low temperatures for the early part of April has been the driving issue across most of the region. Much of the area has seen the coldest first half of April on record (or close to record). The temperatures have been very consistent leading to continuing freezing conditions and cold soils. Temperature deviations have been over 20°F below average over much of the region.

Several storm events have also crossed the region bringing several rounds of snow including a few very large amounts. But regions outside the main snow storms have actually exhibited below average precipitation for the month.



Images from Midwestern Regional Climate Center (MRCC), cli-MATE: MRCC Applications Tools Environment. Generated: 4/19/2018

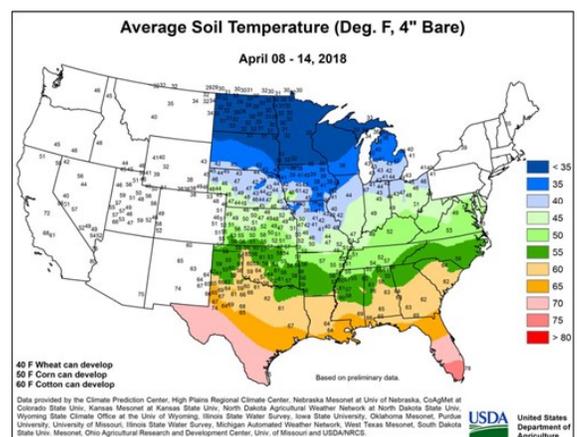


### Impacts

The impacts have been varied because of the cold and snow. Early ag field work including planting has been slowed. Small grains and sugar beet planting have been the slowest starting in the northern plains and Minnesota. Corn planting has not been too delayed yet because of overall cold, wet or snow covered conditions. Planting will be falling behind over the next couple weeks. Soil temperatures have lagged (noted as being the coldest in over 20 year in part of Iowa).

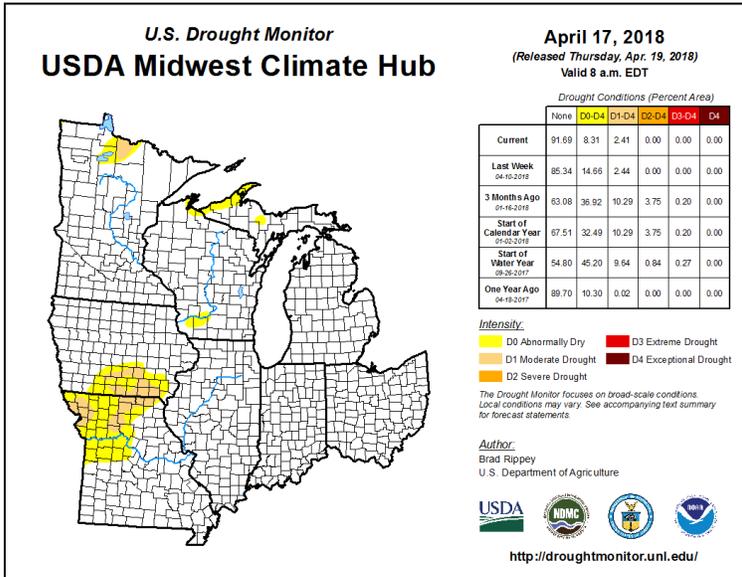
Specialty crop problems have not been serious yet. The overall cold has kept perennials from breaking dormancy. Some problems with nuts in Michigan have been noted. Even growers in hoop buildings have been slowed because of the overall cold.

The consistent cold and heavy snowfall has created difficult conditions for calving and lambing in the plains. The overall impact is still accumulating. The additional mixed precipitation has eased drought conditions a little more in the Dakotas.



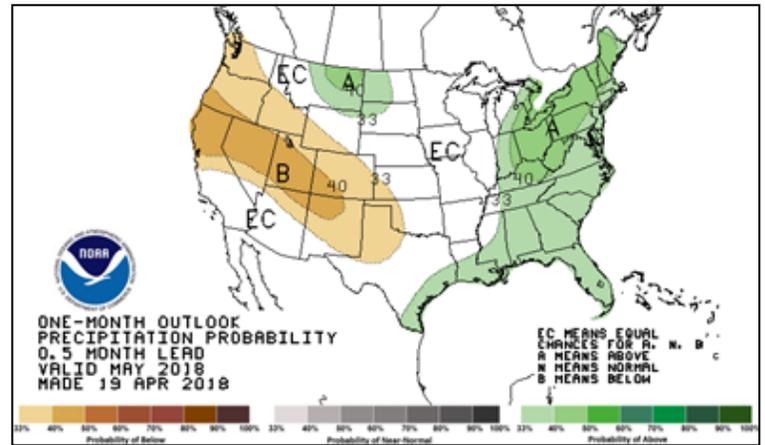
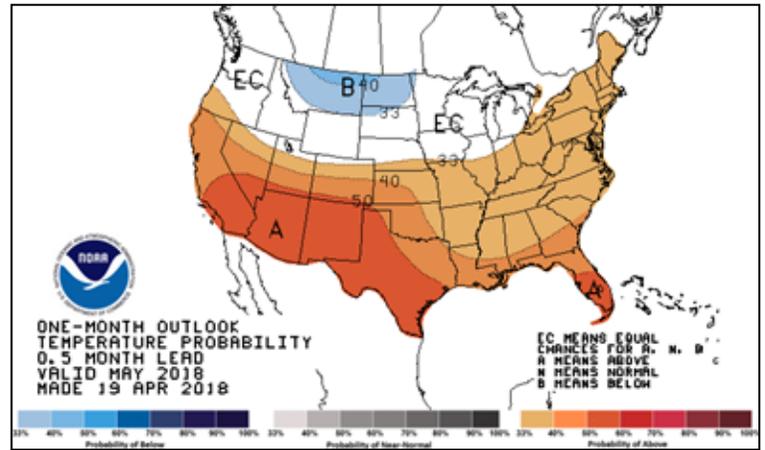
### [Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin](#)

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



A major, late-season storm dumped heavy snow across much of the northern half of the region, sharply reducing the coverage of abnormal dryness (D0). In Wisconsin, April 13-16 storm-total snowfall 24.2 inches in Green Bay and 20.7 inches in Wausau; thereby, breaking all previous storm records for the month of April.

[U.S Drought Monitor](#)



**Outlook**



Warmer temperatures finally spread over most of the area in the latter part of April. This will allow more planting to start in southern areas of the Corn Belt where soil temperatures are closer to 50°F. Further north existing snow and subsequent wetness will continue to slow field progress.

Looking ahead to May, cooler conditions are a little more likely in the far northern plains. Warmer conditions are more possible in the far southern Corn Belt. Wetter conditions are more possible in the far northern plains and far eastern Corn Belt. Planting should be able to make progress, but will be slowed by cold and wet conditions during the latter part of April (especially north). Planting and other field work issues will be compressed time-wise because of delays.

[Climate Prediction Center: One-Month Outlook](#)

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- [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 \(NIDIS\)](#)
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