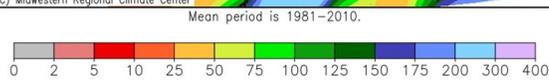
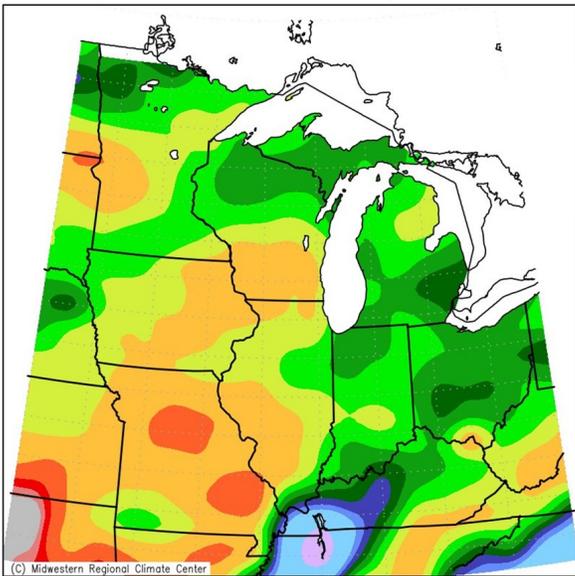


Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook



Current Conditions

Accumulated Snowfall: Percent of Mean
November 1, 2017 to January 31, 2018

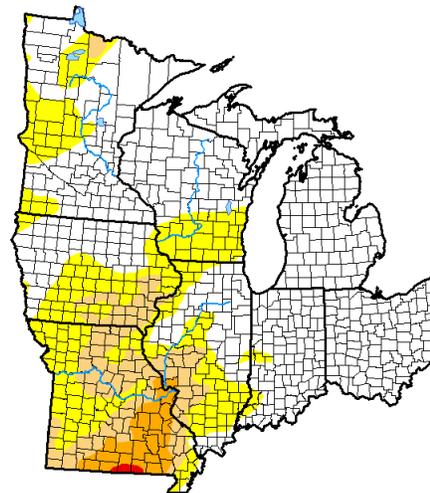


Midwestern Regional Climate Center
cli-MATE: MRCC Application Tools Environment
Generated at: 2/1/2018 11:02:24 PM CST

The winter temperature flip/flop has continued between extreme warm and cold across the region several times this winter. One analysis had most stations in the Midwest with their most variable January temperatures on record. Snow has been generally limited to a few larger events leaving soils uncovered or only marginally covered in many areas. The lack of snow (after a mostly dry fall) has also contributed to conditions on the US Drought Monitor reaching D1-D2 levels in large parts of Missouri and smaller parts of Iowa and Illinois. Carry-over drought conditions still exist in the northern plains.

U.S. Drought Monitor USDA Midwest Climate Hub

January 30, 2018
(Released Thursday, Feb. 1, 2018)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	62.94	37.06	13.62	3.75	0.20	0.00
Last Week 01-23-2018	62.94	37.06	12.36	3.75	0.20	0.00
3 Months Ago 10-31-2017	76.04	23.96	7.80	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2018	67.51	32.49	10.29	3.75	0.20	0.00
Start of Winter Year 09-26-2017	54.80	45.20	9.64	0.84	0.27	0.00
One Year Ago 01-31-2017	83.34	16.66	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:
■ D0 Abnormally Dry ■ D3 Extreme Drought
■ D1 Moderate Drought ■ D4 Exceptional Drought
■ D2 Severe Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
Richard Heim
NCEI/NOAA



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

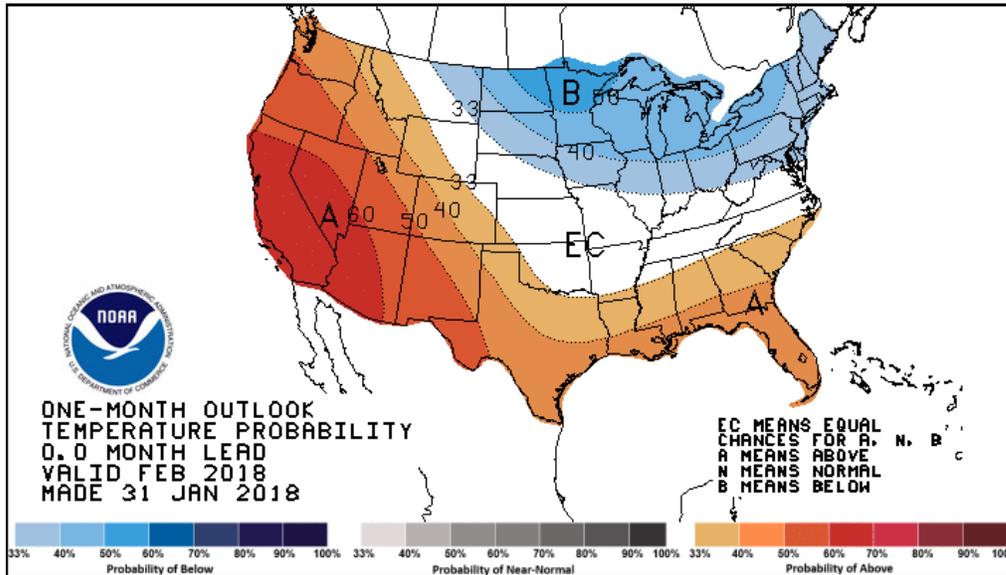
Impacts



Impacts are somewhat limited in agriculture given the time of year. The most apparent ones have been in the drought-impacted locations of MO and IL where lack of feed and low water levels in ponds have forced management changes and some sell-offs in cattle. Some of the extreme cold in late December/early January may have damaged some buds on fruit trees. The cold is expected to help with some pest issues at least this year. The uncovered soil along with cold temperatures has pushed frost depths to 3-4 ft in many areas. Enough to cause some water main breaks and a few other issues.

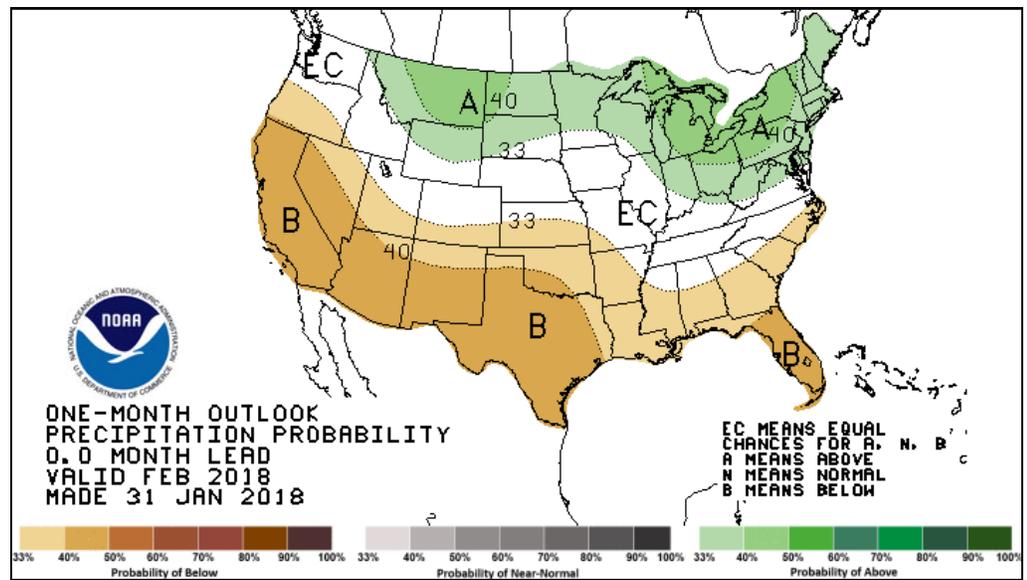


Outlook



Cold is likely to continue overall through February, though easing in the latter part of the month especially further north. Computer models are not handling precipitation well. There are several upcoming small chances for precipitation. Larger events start to become more likely during February.

Looking ahead to planting season – It is still early to say too much. Mostly moderate to dry soils should warm and dry reasonably well. Dry soils in MO, IA, IL, the Dakotas and western Minnesota could still be a problem.



Partners and Contributors

- [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 \(NIDIS\)](#)
- [Midwestern Regional Climate Center \(MRCC\)](#)
- [Midwest State Climatologists](#)



For More Information

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