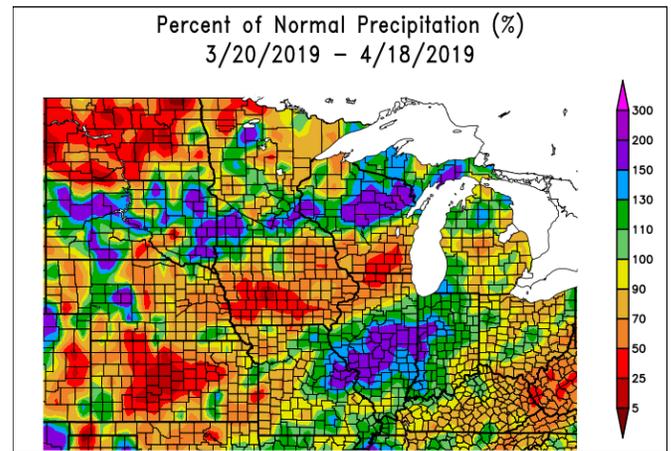
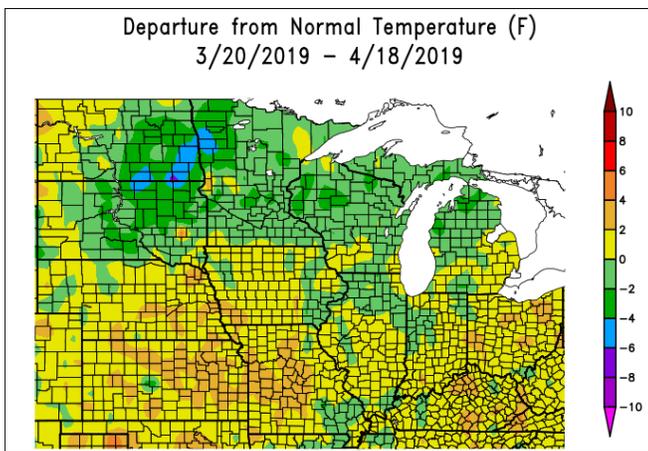


Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

Current Conditions

A mixture of conditions cover the region heading into the main part of the planting season. The extreme cold of the late winter/early spring has tempered. The last 30 days have been close to average over the whole region (within a few degrees below or above). The coldest area has been caused by existing snow and wet soils across northern areas. Much less precipitation has fallen, despite a couple major storm events. Large areas have seen less than half-average precipitation. Only pockets in WY, SD, NE and IL have been much above average. Longer term totals (not pictured) from 90 days out to a year are still much wetter than average leaving soils still quite wet across the region and many rivers still well into flood stage.



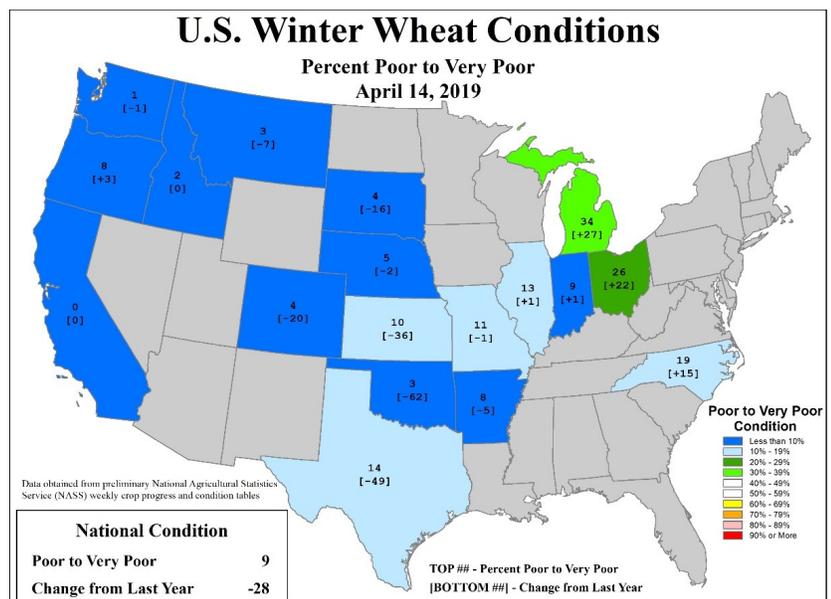
Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: [ACIS Climate Maps](#). Generated: 4/19/2019



Impacts

The wet soils combined with cold temperatures and precipitation has slowed field progress. Despite the recent dryness most states report concerns with wet soils. Small grains planting is the main early crop planted. All states in the region report late small grains planting. Early corn planting has been limited with all states behind early totals. Most row crop work has been focused on field preparation (anhydrous and herbicide applications). Some work was delayed due to the wet fall. Some small grains have been planted in drier parts of ND. Parts of OH and southern corn areas have begun planting.

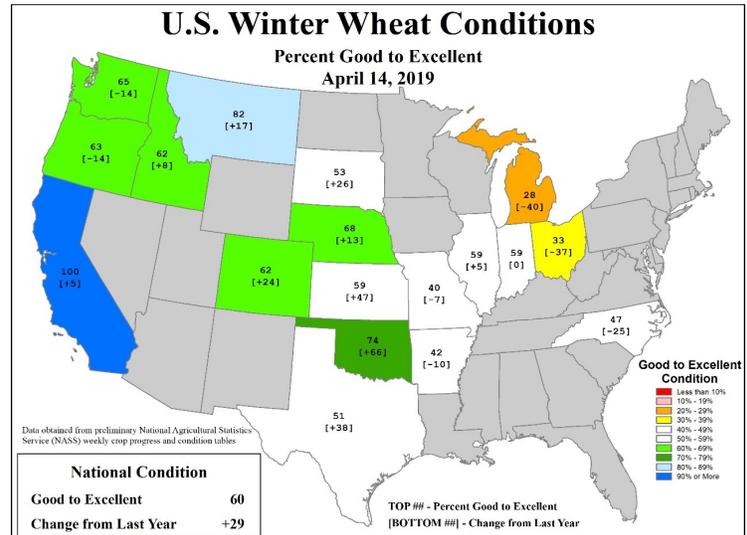
Winter wheat in the eastern states is showing the effects of poor fall establishment in the wet conditions and possibly winter kill or other issues. Reports of winter kill in alfalfa have been common from IA to OH.



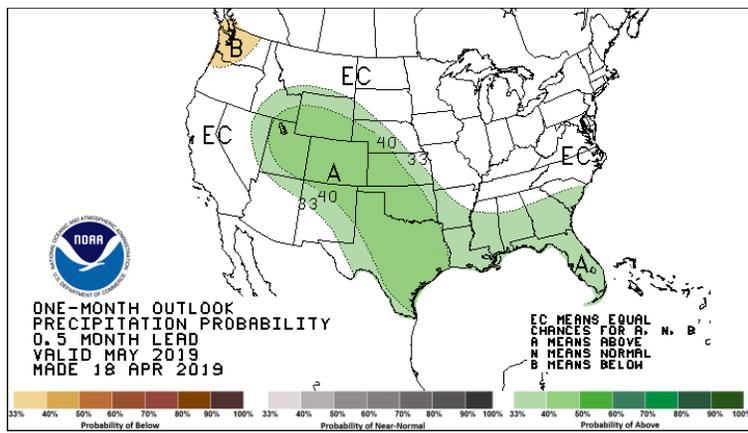
Flooding is still a problem along major rivers and rivers in the eastern Dakotas and MN where the last of the snow melt is running off. Decent numbers of acres in eastern NE, western IA and parts of the Dakotas will likely not be planted this year due to trash/sand from flooding, ongoing flooding/wetness or even in a few cases, lack of field access from damaged roads.

There is a very limited drought coverage in the region (only far western areas (parts of MT, WY, CO). The rest of the area is drought free. Midwest states have been completely drought free for eight weeks now, the longest period in the US Drought Monitor period (since 2000).

U.S. Winter Wheat Maps Supplied by Brad Rippey (USDA – World Agricultural Outlook Board)

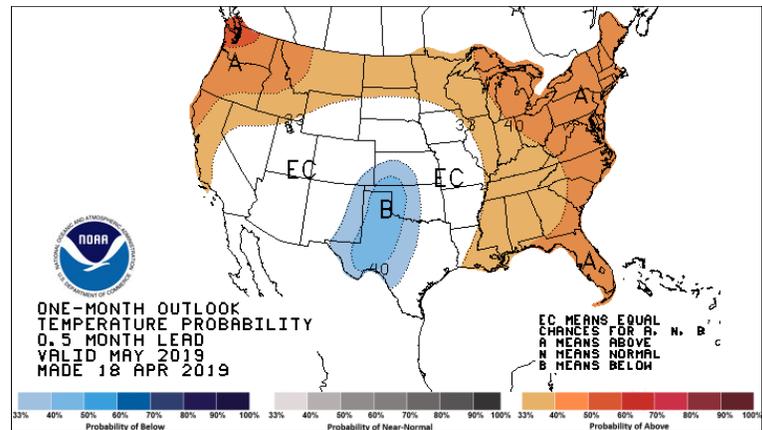


Outlook



The longer term outlooks (not shown) confine warmer chances into the far eastern and western areas. Above average precipitation chances do cover a decent part of the region except for the Great Lakes area. This could lead to some ongoing wetness/disease issues during the summer and will need to be monitored.

A weak-moderate El Niño is expected to continue into summer impacting the outlooks. Some of the overall wetness issues are likely to ease a little over most of the region for planting. Typical spring rains are likely to occur, but NOAA's outlooks into May show an increased chance of warmer conditions over much of northern and eastern areas of the region. That same area has equal chances (below-above) for precipitation. While initial ag activity has been slowed, planting will likely progress decently. Wet/flooded areas are still likely to have issues pending more local rainfalls.



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](#)
- [High Plains Regional Climate Center \(HPRCC\)](#)

[Climate Prediction Center](#)

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