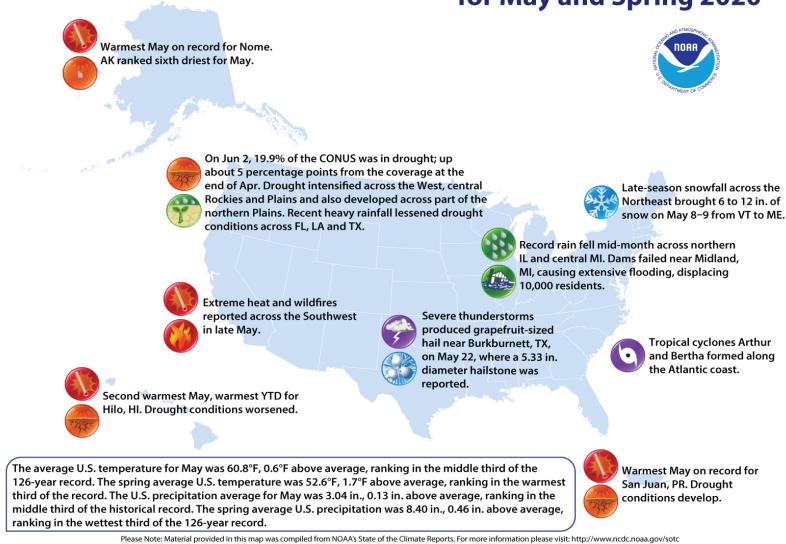


National — Significant Events for May and Spring, 2020

U.S. Selected Significant Climate Anomalies and Events for May and Spring 2020



The average U.S. temperature for May was 60.8°F, 0.6°F above average, ranking in the middle third of the 126-year record. The spring average U.S. temperature was 52.6°F, 1.7°F above average, ranking in the warmest third of the record. The U.S. precipitation average for May was 3.04 in., 0.13 in. above average, ranking in the middle third of the historical record. The spring average precipitation was 8.40 in., 0.46 in. above average, ranking in the wettest third of the 126-year record.

Highlights for the Region

After a warm March, temperatures were cooler in April and May. This created a north-to-south pattern with below-normal temperatures in the north and above-normal temperatures in the south.

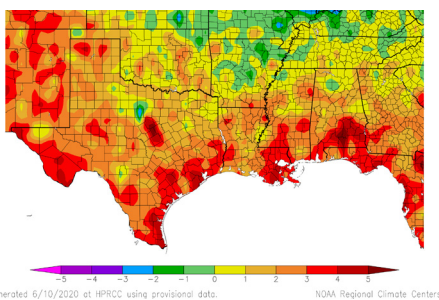
Precipitation was primarily above normal. Parts of every state received precipitation 150 percent or more of normal, with the western part of the region drying out as the spring progressed.

The main impact this spring was extreme precipitation and its impacts on drought across the region.

Regional — Climate Overview for March 2020 to May 2020

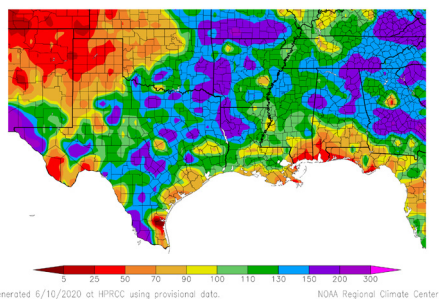
Temperature and Precipitation Anomalies

Departure from Normal (°F) 03/01/2020–5/31/2020



Spring temperatures exhibited a north-to-south pattern, with cooler than normal temperatures in the north and warmer than normal temperatures in the south. Temperatures ranged between 1–2 degrees below normal to 4–5 degrees above normal. Louisiana experienced its sixth-warmest spring on record (1895–2020).

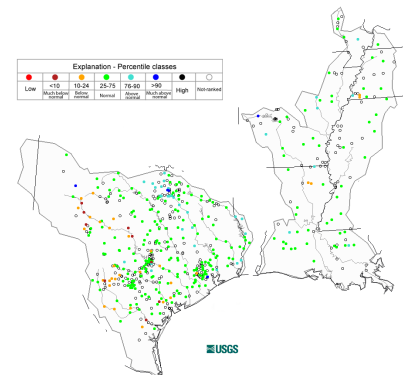
Percent of Normal (%) 03/01/2020–5/31/2020



Spring precipitation varied across the region but was primarily above normal, with most of the Gulf Coast and the northwestern part of the region below normal. Parts of Texas, Oklahoma, and Mississippi received 50 percent or less of normal precipitation while parts of every state in the region received 150 percent or more of normal precipitation.

Streamflows

May Average Streamflow vs. Historical Streamflow



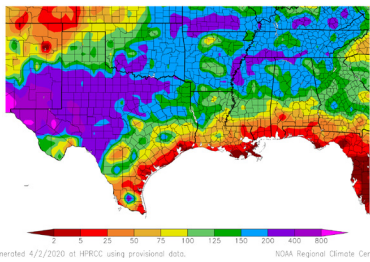
The above figure illustrates May average streamflows in the Texas Gulf and Lower Mississippi Basins as compared to historical streamflows. Streamflows in the Lower Mississippi Basin were primarily normal while streamflows in the Texas Gulf basin were normal to above normal in the east and below normal in the west.

Regional Impacts — for March 2020 to May 2020

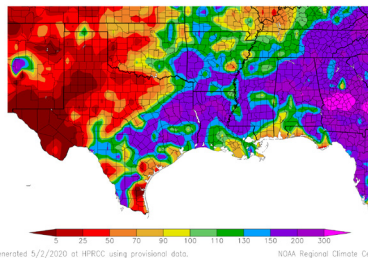
Extreme Precipitation and Drought

The Southern Region experienced extreme precipitation this spring, which in turn affected drought coverage across the region. In March, parts of central and western Texas, southwestern and northeastern Oklahoma, northern and eastern Arkansas, northern and northeastern Mississippi, and southern Tennessee received precipitation 200 percent or more of normal, while parts of western Texas received precipitation 400 percent or more of normal. Oklahoma experienced its fifth-wettest March on record and Texas experienced its seventh-wettest March on record (1895–2020). In April, parts of northern Louisiana, eastern Texas, eastern Mississippi, and eastern Tennessee received precipitation 200 percent or more of normal while parts of northern and western Texas received precipitation 5 percent or less of normal. In May, parts of southern Texas received precipitation 300 percent or more of normal while parts of northern and western Texas received precipitation 25 percent or less of normal. As a result, drought conditions already present in southern Texas deteriorated in March, with exceptional drought conditions developing. April saw gradual improvement, with the removal of exceptional drought conditions and the reduction of extreme and severe drought conditions. By the end of May, drought conditions in southern Texas were greatly improved, but the region saw drought conditions begin to deteriorate across western Oklahoma, northern and western Texas, and southern Mississippi.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
3/1/2020 – 3/31/2020

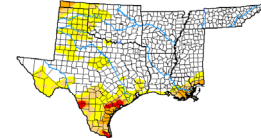


Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
4/1/2020 – 4/30/2020



U.S. Drought Monitor
South

May 12, 2020
(Released Thursday, May 14, 2020
Valid 8 a.m. EDT)



Intensity:

- None
- D1 Abnormally Dry
- D2 Moderate Drought
- D3 Severe Drought
- D4 Extreme Drought
- D5 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on areas with significant land conditions that may be more vulnerable to the drought because of an impact through the loss of available water.

Author:
Lead: David Turner
Drought Monitor/USDA/NOAA/NWS/USACE

Logos for USDA, NOAA, NWS, and USACE.

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

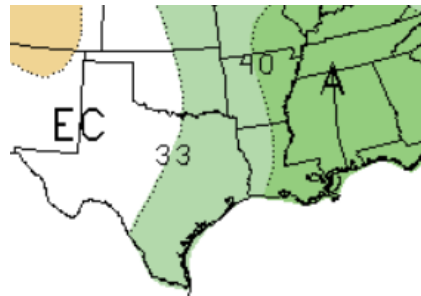
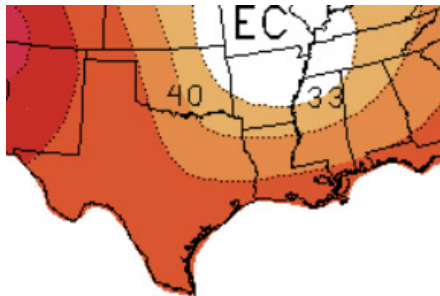
Above: Percent of normal precipitation maps for March (left) and April (middle), map showing maximum area with at least abnormally dry conditions (right)

CPC — Three-Month Outlook

Temperature

Precipitation

Outlook for July to September



A = Above-normal temperatures EC = Equal chances
B = Below-normal rainfall N = Normal

According to the Climate Prediction Center, July through September temperatures are expected to be above normal across most of the region. Chances increase to the south and west, and the greatest chances for above-normal temperatures are located across far western Texas.

Precipitation has an elevated chance to be above normal across the eastern and central parts of the region, with the greatest chances centered in the east.

2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season

As of June 17, there have been three named storms and no hurricanes. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s seasonal forecast predicts a 60 percent chance for an above-average season, with potentially 13–19 named storms, 6–10 hurricanes, and 3–6 major hurricanes.

Gulf Regional Partners

- Earth Scan Laboratory at Louisiana State University (esl.lsu.edu)
- NOAA/NWS Climate Prediction Center (cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)
- NOAA Gulf of Mexico Collaboration Team (regions.noaa.gov)
- NOAA/NESDIS National Centers for Environmental Information (ncei.noaa.gov)
- NOAA/NWS Southern Region (weather.gov/srh)
- Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (southernclimate.org)
- Southern Regional Climate Center (srcc.lsu.edu)

