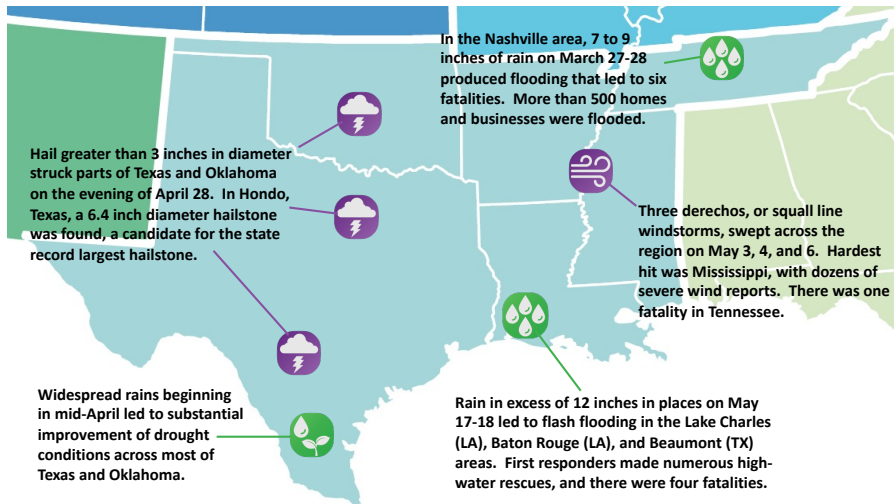


Southern Region Significant Events — Spring 2021



Overview

La Niña springs are likely to be a bit drier and warmer than normal across much of the southern United States, but spring 2021 did not stay true to form.

March was relatively warm, about 3 °F to 5 °F above the long-term average, a welcome recovery from the cold blast in mid-February. The eastern part of the Southern Region was particularly wet in March, with Tennessee averaging more than 10 inches in March for the first time since 1975.

April and May were both on the cool side across the region, typically about 1 °F to 2 °F below the long-term average. Precipitation remained plentiful, with Louisiana having its eighth-wettest April on record and both Texas and Louisiana having their fifth-wettest May.

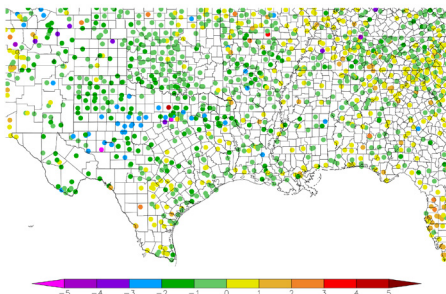
During this spring's severe weather season, the primary threat was flash flooding rather than tornadoes. There were only two fatalities from tornadoes in the region, while at least ten lost their lives because of flash flooding in Tennessee and Louisiana. Despite this, Tennessee has already exceeded its annual average number of tornadoes, according to preliminary reports.

Regional Climate Overview — Spring 2021

Temperature and Precipitation

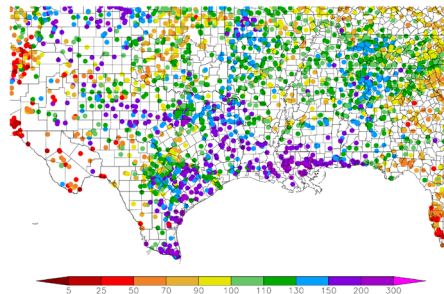
Departure from Normal Temperature °F

3/1/2021 – 5/31/2021



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)

3/1/2021 – 5/31/2021

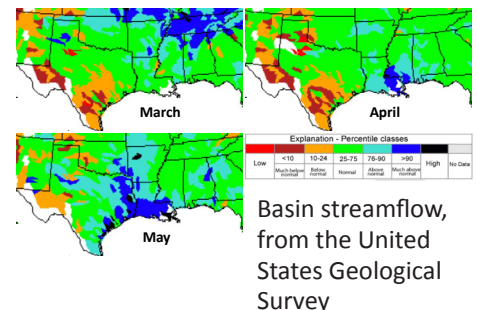


On the whole, temperatures during Spring 2021 averaged quite close to normal in the Southern Region. Few stations were more than 1 °F warmer than normal, while a swath more than 2 °F below normal extended across northern Texas from Midland to the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Spring 2021 featured more than double the normal rainfall amounts in many parts of the Gulf Coast from South Texas to Mississippi. Most of the region received above-normal precipitation. Notable exceptions included much of West Texas and the western half of Oklahoma. The Mississippi Delta was also on the dry side.

Surface Water

Monthly Average Streamflow



Stream flow was near to above normal across most of the Southern Region throughout the spring. Low stream flows in southern Texas in March and April improved considerably by May. All states except Oklahoma had at least one basin with record monthly stream flows.

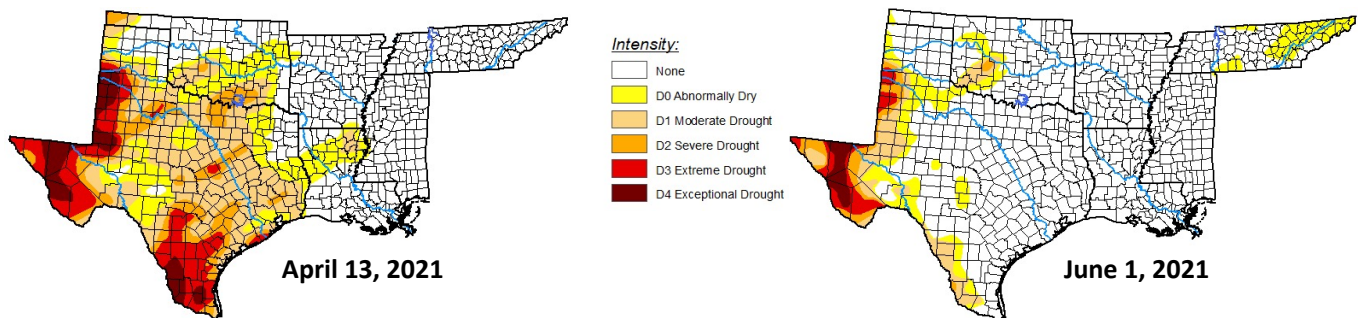
Southern Regional Impacts

Drought, Agriculture, and Water Supply

Drought conditions peaked in mid-April across the Southern Region. According to the US Drought Monitor released April 13, over 56% of the region was at least abnormally dry (D0), over 41% was in drought (D1), and over 12% was in extreme drought (D3). After mid-April, above-normal precipitation led to rapid amelioration of drought conditions in many areas. By June 1, only about 20% of the region was abnormally dry, almost 11% was in drought, and little more than 3% was in extreme drought.

The drought conditions in South Texas motivated some culling of cows and calves in March and April. Cold weather in April produced considerable fruit, vegetable, and garden damage in eastern Tennessee. Some winter wheat in Texas showed damage from the February cold. The ongoing cool and wet weather meant that corn, soy, and peanut plantings were well behind schedule in Oklahoma and cotton and soy plantings were well behind schedule in Louisiana.

Water supplies were generally adequate. In Jackson, Mississippi, water service was restored to most residents by mid-March following a crisis triggered by the February cold.



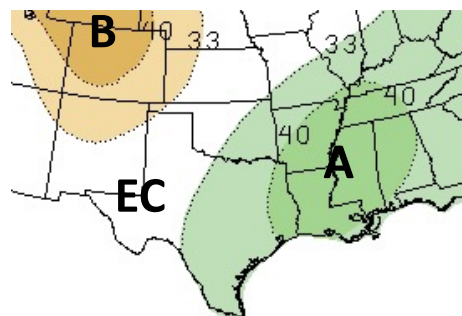
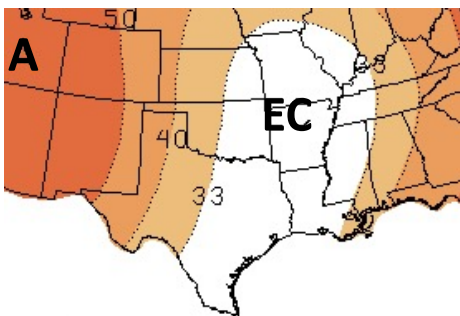
US Drought Monitor depiction of the Southern Region. The US Drought Monitor is produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center, the USDA, and NOAA.

Seasonal Outlook

Temperature

Precipitation

Outlook for July-September 2021



A: Above normal; N: Near normal; B: Below normal
EC: Equal chances of above, near, or below normal

The seasonal temperature outlook from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center calls for equal chances of above, near, or below normal across most of the Southern Region for July-September. Above normal is the most likely category for the rest of western Texas, western Oklahoma, most of Tennessee, and southeastern Mississippi and Louisiana.

Most of the Southern Region has enhanced chances of above-normal precipitation, except for western Texas and Oklahoma. Note that temperature and precipitation normals are now based on 1991-2020.

Hurricane Outlook

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center predicts a 60% chance of an above-normal season, a 30% chance of a near-normal season, and a 10% chance of a below-normal season. A repeat of the activity in the historic 2020 season is unlikely.

Southern Partners

Earth Scan Laboratory at Louisiana State University (esl.lsu.edu)

NOAA/NWS Climate Prediction Center (cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (coastalscience.noaa.gov)

NOAA Gulf of Mexico Collaboration Team (regions.noaa.gov/gulf-mexico)

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.tamu.edu)