

National Significant Events – March–May 2025

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

Just before Memorial Day weekend, a rare May nor'easter brought heavy rain to the Northeast, snow to NH's higher elevations, and set record-cold daytime high temperatures at several sites.

March

On Mar 16, seven tornadoes touched down in PA, likely the state's largest March tornado outbreak since 1976.

April

On Apr 29, a widespread, long-lived line of severe thunderstorms with destructive winds impacted western PA, resulting in extensive power outages and several fatalities.

Highlights for the Northeast

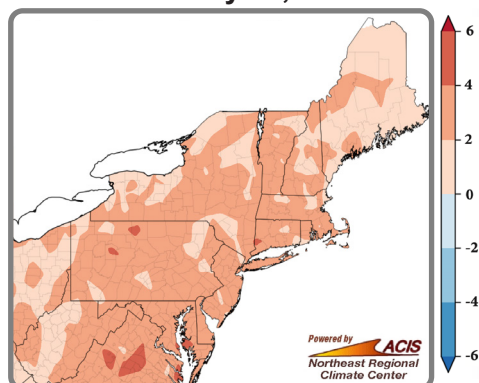
- Multiple sites had one of their **10 warmest Marches** on record. At month's end, Islip, NY, tied its warmest March temperature of 82°F, while Dulles Airport, VA, had its warmest March low temperature of 66°F. Soon after, an **exceptionally strong cold front** caused temperatures to plummet. For instance, New Brunswick, NJ, went from **76°F to 53°F in five minutes**.
- The overall warmth in March contributed to **record- or near-record low monthly snowfall totals** for multiple areas. It was the **first March on record** that Allentown, PA, did not record even a trace of snow.
- After a cool start, April wrapped up with **above-normal temperatures**. Monthly **snowfall was below or near normal** for most locations.
- May was soggy, ranking as the **wettest May** (and 10th all-time wettest month) for Harrisburg, PA, and among the 10 wettest Mays for some sites.
- It was among the **10 warmest springs** on record for multiple sites, with **snowfall generally below normal**. Wet weather **delayed planting**. Caribou saw a **record-tying 50 days with measurable precipitation** this spring.
- Drought and abnormal dryness **eased** during spring. A few states including New Jersey, Delaware, West Virginia, and New York became **drought free** for the first time since fall 2024. Even so, some areas saw **persistently below-normal groundwater levels**. Dry conditions contributed to New Jersey's **second-largest wildfire in 20 years**.
- It was an active season for **severe weather and flash flooding**. This included Pennsylvania's largest March tornado outbreak in nearly 50 years, extreme rainfall that produced **top 10 high water levels**, and damaging winds that resulted in multiday power outages and **several fatalities**.

The contiguous U.S. had its second-warmest spring with an average temperature at 3.2°F above the 20th-century average. Average temperatures for March, April, and May were 5.4°F above average (sixth warmest), 2.6°F above average, and 1.5°F above average, respectively. Globally, it was the third-warmest March, the second-warmest April, the second-warmest May, and the second-warmest spring. The contiguous U.S. spring precipitation was 0.97 inches above average. During March, April, and May, precipitation was 0.13 inches below average, 0.30 inches above average, and 0.72 inches above average, respectively.

Regional Climate Overview – March–May 2025

Temperature

Departure from Normal (°F)
March 1–May 31, 2025

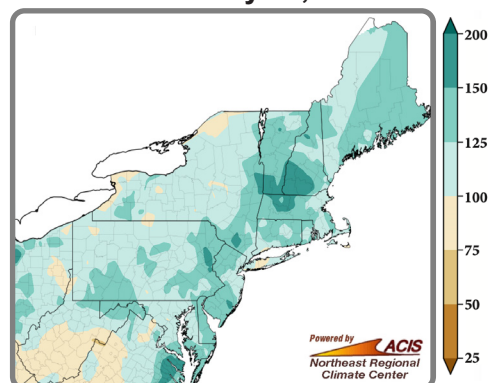


Climate normals based on 1991–2020 data; rankings based on 1895–2025.

The Northeast had its **10th-warmest spring** at 2.2°F above normal. It was among the 20 warmest springs for all 12 Northeast states. The region had its **12th-warmest March** at 4.9°F above normal. It was among the 20 warmest Marches for all 12 states. The region had its **20th-warmest April** at 1.6°F above normal. It was among the 20 warmest Aprils for eight states. **May's** average temperature was exactly normal, in the **middle third** of all years. Delaware had its 18th-warmest May.

Precipitation

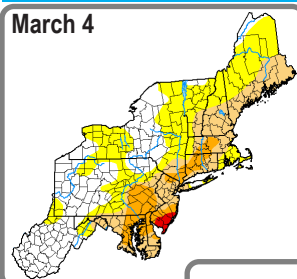
Percent of Normal (%)
March 1–May 31, 2025



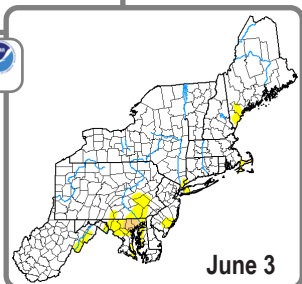
The Northeast had its **17th-wettest spring** with 117% of normal precipitation. It was among the 20 wettest springs for eight of the 12 Northeast states. **March** precipitation was 84% of normal, in the **driest third** of all years. It was among the 20 driest Marches for Pennsylvania and West Virginia. **April** precipitation was 103% of normal, in the **middle third** of all years. The region had its **third-wettest May** with 159% of normal precipitation. It was among the 20 wettest Mays for 11 of the states (all but Maine).

Regional Climate Overview – March–May 2025

March 4



Intensity:
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Drought - Moderate
D2 Drought - Severe



Drought in the Northeast

As of [March 4](#), the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) showed 31% of the Northeast in drought and 36% as abnormally dry. Abundant precipitation during spring allowed **drought and abnormal dryness to ease** in most areas. For the first time since summer 2024, **extreme drought was erased** from the Northeast, while Pennsylvania became **free of severe drought**. A few states became **drought free** or had both drought and abnormal dryness erased. The [June 3](#) U.S. Drought Monitor showed 1% of the Northeast in drought and 6% as abnormally dry. For current conditions, see the [Northeast DEWS Dashboard](#).

At times during spring, **record- or near-record low** streamflow and/or groundwater levels were observed, with some water suppliers in [Pennsylvania](#) and [Massachusetts](#) having **mandatory water restrictions**. Even when surface water conditions improved, some places continued to see **lower-than-normal groundwater levels**. A few locations in [Pennsylvania](#) and [Maryland](#) issued **temporary burn bans** in March. Drought conditions in New Jersey likely played a role in a wildfire that burned over 15,000 acres, its [second largest in 20 years](#), and led to [reduced air quality](#) in a few states. Dry conditions also likely contributed to [a large wildfire](#) in central Pennsylvania.

Regional Impacts and Updates – March–May 2025

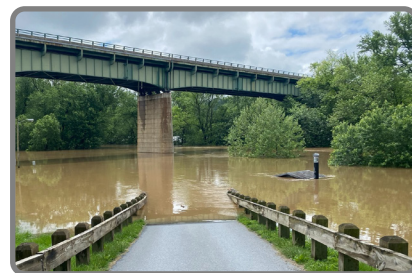
Spring Conditions

There were multiple severe weather and flash flooding events during spring.

- **March 16:** Seven tornadoes touched down in Pennsylvania, likely the **state's largest March tornado outbreak since 1976**. Straight-line winds of up to 100 mph also caused damage in Pennsylvania and western New York. The airport in Clarksburg, WV, had its **highest wind gust** on record since 1974 of 71 mph.
- **April 14:** Hail as large as 2.25 inches pelted [parts of West Virginia](#), damaging vehicles and buildings.
- **April 19:** A [long-lived, severe thunderstorm](#) produced **significant wind damage** along a roughly 250-mile path across parts of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. Measured wind gusts reached 81 mph, while estimated wind gusts peaked at 95 mph. There were downed trees and [power poles](#), [damaged buildings](#) and vehicles, and power outages that lasted a few days. The storm resulted in [lost revenue and inventory](#) for businesses, multiday school closures, and several injuries.
- **April 29:** Severe thunderstorms caused [extensive wind damage](#) in parts of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York. Measured wind gusts reached 79 mph, with **estimated wind gusts up to 120 mph**. Downed power lines and trees blocked roadways and fell on vehicles and buildings, causing damage and trapping some occupants. The winds [toppled power poles](#) and a cell phone tower, destroyed barns, and [blew off siding, shingles, and roofs](#). Over 400,000 customers in Pennsylvania [lost power](#), some for several days. Some schools were closed or had delays. There were [at least four storm-related deaths](#) in Pennsylvania and a few injuries across the three states.
- **May 1–6:** Severe weather and/or flash flooding occurred in the Northeast every day. This included **four tornadoes** and [hail up to 2.50 inches](#) in Pennsylvania. Several storm-related injuries were reported.
- **May 13–14:** Parts of eastern West Virginia, western Maryland, and south-central Pennsylvania saw **up to 7 inches of rain**. Flash flooding resulted in numerous [evacuations](#), water rescues, road closures, and flooded buildings. A **Flash Flood Emergency** was issued for part of western Maryland, where 200 students and staff were [rescued by boat from a school](#). A few waterways reached [one of their 10 highest levels](#) on record. This was part of a broader heavy rainfall and flooding event in the Mid-Atlantic. Other flooding impacts included [sewage overflows](#), [disruption of rail service](#), and damage and/or closures of recreational areas including the [Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park](#).
- **May 16:** Four tornadoes [touched down in the Mid-Atlantic](#), including one that caused damage in Baltimore, MD. Hail up to 2.50 inches was also reported. Some areas saw flooding including southeastern Pennsylvania, where [multiple water rescues](#) were performed.

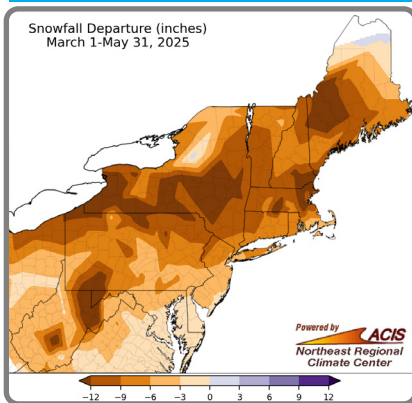


Tornado damage in western Pennsylvania in mid-March.
Credit: NWS Pittsburgh



Flooding along the Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O) Canal in central Maryland in mid May. Credit: National Park Service

Regional Impacts and Updates – March–May 2025



Spring Snowfall

March snowfall was below normal for almost the entire Northeast, with deficits exceeding 12 inches in several locations. In fact, multiple sites saw **record- or near record low snowfall**. It was the first March on record that Allentown, PA, did not record even a trace of snow and one of only five or fewer Marches with no snow in places like Harrisburg, PA, and Central Park, NY, which both have records back to the late 1800s.

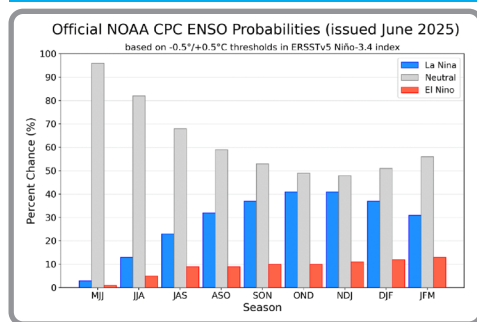
Much of the Northeast saw **below- or near-normal April snowfall**, with the largest deficits in higher elevations of eastern West Virginia and western Maine. However, a few sites, especially in northern New York and central Massachusetts, had a **surplus of up to 6 inches**, which mostly fell during the first half of the month.

As is typical in **May**, there was **little to no snow** for most areas. However, a late-season nor'easter brought Mount Washington, NH, 6.6 inches of snow on May 24, making it the site's

third-latest snowfall of six or more inches since 1949. **Spring snowfall** was **below normal** for almost the entire Northeast, with the largest deficits exceeding 12 inches. It was the **first spring on record** that Allentown, PA, did not see even a trace of snow and only the second spring on record without even a trace for sites like Bridgeport, CT; Newark, NJ; and Kennedy Airport, NY.

While much of the Northeast saw **below- or near-normal snowfall** for the **snowfall season** (October–May), the lake-effect area in northern New York was quite snowy. For instance, Lowville accumulated 168.2 inches of snow, its **fifth-snowiest October–May** since 1917, while the Highmarket COOP had its sixth-snowiest such period since 1955 with 274.2 inches. Interestingly, several sites including Scranton, PA, and Albany and Binghamton, NY, had their **largest snowfall of the season in November**, which is somewhat unusual.

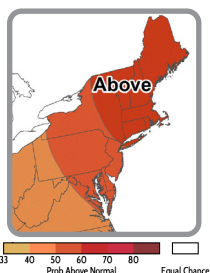
Regional Outlook – Summer 2025



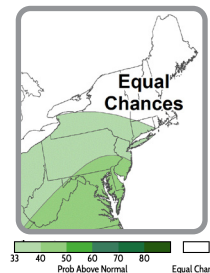
ENSO

La Niña-like conditions of the tropical atmosphere faded to ENSO-neutral conditions in early spring and continued to be present in the equatorial Pacific Ocean as of early June. According to NOAA's [Climate Prediction Center](#), **ENSO-neutral conditions are likely during summer**, with an 82% chance, and favored during autumn, with over a 50% chance. For the November–January period, ENSO-neutral is favored but with lower confidence at 48% as there is a smaller chance, 41%, that La Niña conditions could form.

Temperature and Precipitation



Normal July–September average temperatures range from the low 60s in parts of New England and New York to the mid 70s in some coastal areas. [NOAA's Climate Prediction Center](#) favors **above-normal temperatures** for **July–September** for the entire Northeast (map left), driven by factors like long-term trends. Normal July–September precipitation ranges from less than 10 inches in western New York to more than 15 inches in eastern New York and parts of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. **Above-normal precipitation** is favored for **July–September** in the Mid-Atlantic, parts of New York, and a portion of southern New England (map right) due in part to long-term trends. **Equal chances** of below-, near-, or above-normal precipitation were forecast elsewhere.



| | 2025 Atlantic Season Outlook | 1991–2020 Average Season |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Number of Named Storms | 13–19 | 14 |
| Number of Hurricanes | 6–10 | 7 |
| Number of Major Hurricanes | 3–5 | 3 |

Atlantic Hurricane Season

[NOAA is expecting](#) an **above-normal Atlantic hurricane season** with 13–19 named storms, of which 6–10 are expected to become hurricanes,

including 3–5 major hurricanes. Multiple factors such as ENSO-neutral conditions, warmer-than-normal Atlantic ocean temperatures, and forecast weak wind shear are expected to align to potentially make this season more active. The Atlantic hurricane season runs from June 1 through November 30, peaking from mid-August to late October. The Northeast Regional Climate Center's [webinar in August 2025](#) will focus on the updated hurricane outlook.

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