



# **2025 Winter Forum**

*Weather Overview and Forecast*  
*September 18, 2025*

# Jeff Jensen

Bachelor of Science | Meteorology | Iowa State University

Broadcast Meteorologist | Alabama, Kentucky, Iowa and Nebraska

Customer Service Representative | Northern Natural Gas |  
Omaha, Nebraska | 2008 - present



# The Seasons

## **Fall:**

September – October – November

## **Winter:**

December – January – February

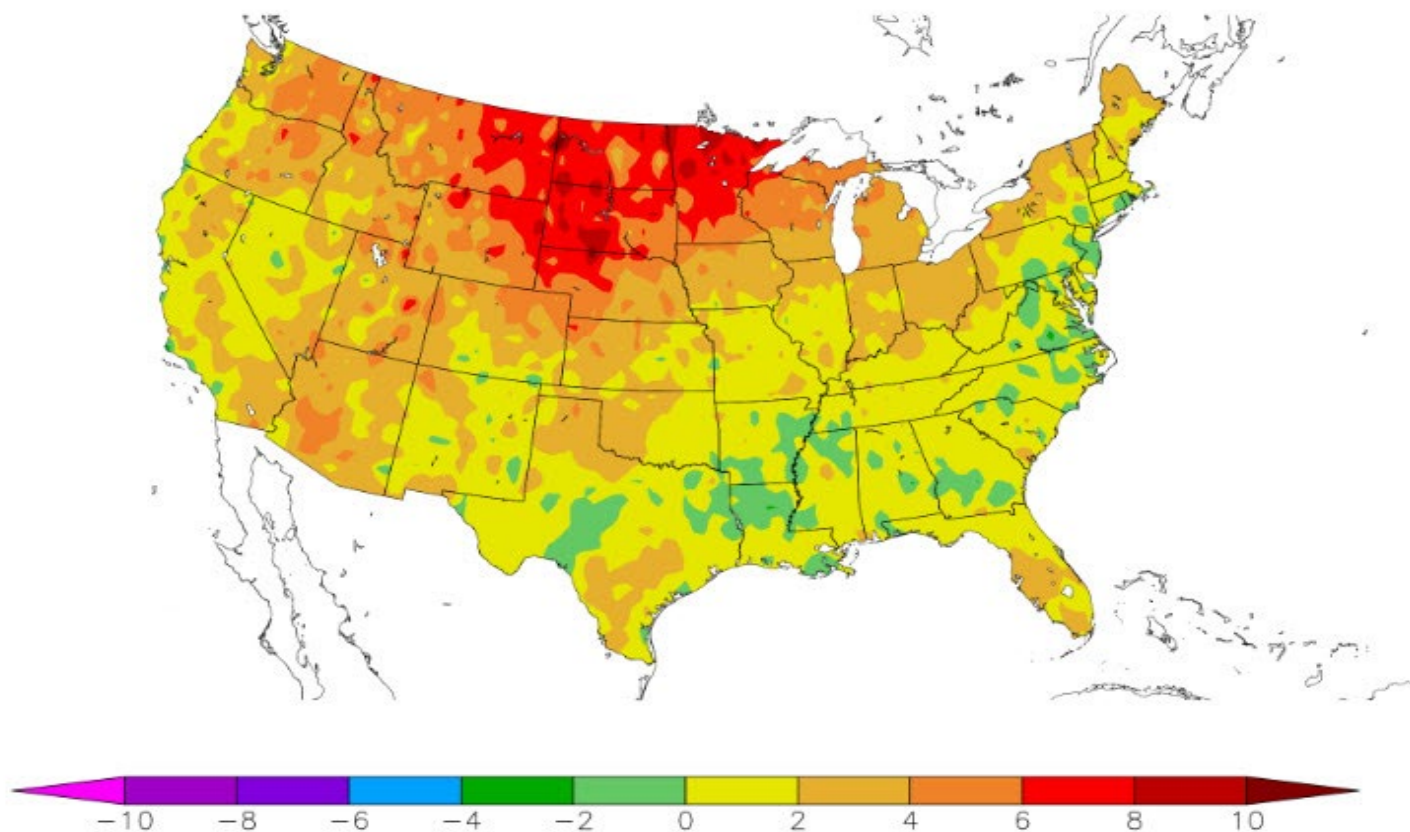
## **Spring:**

March – April – May

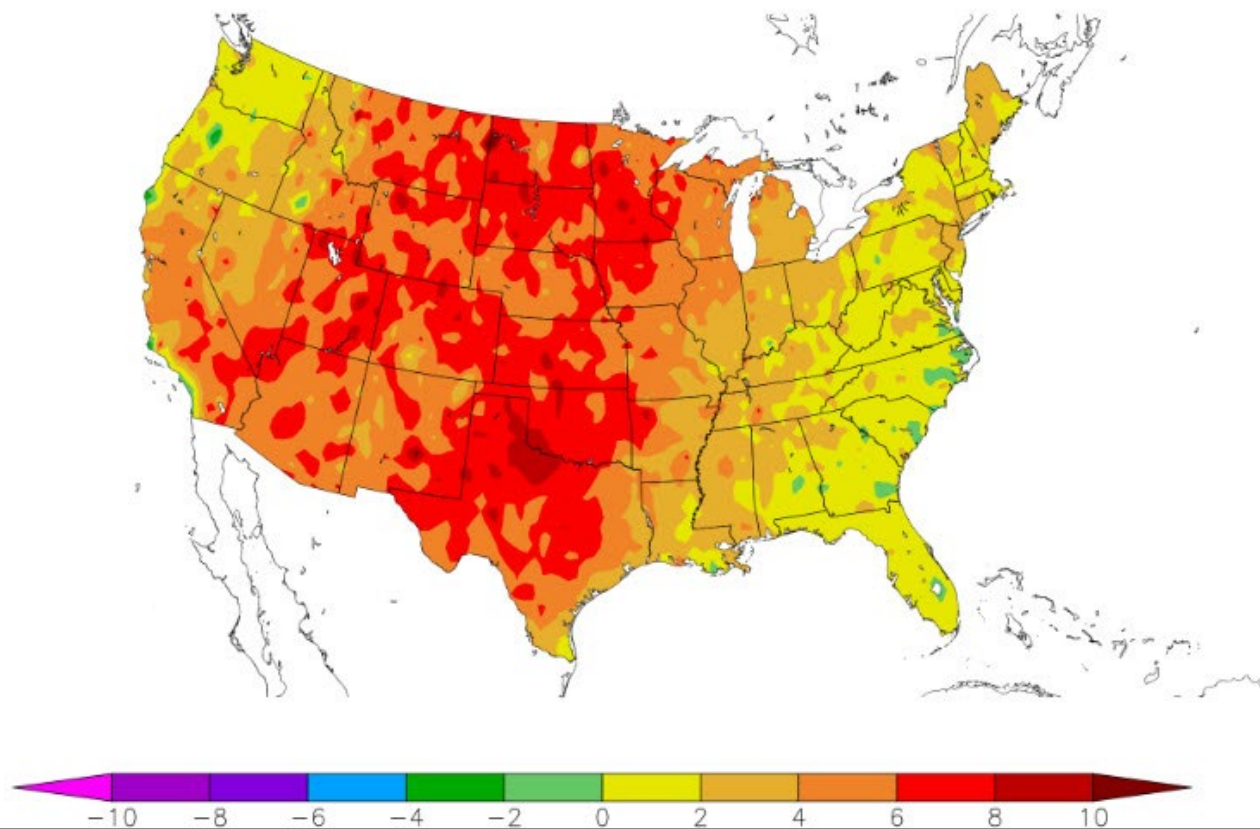
# **Review of 2024 – 2025 Weather**



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
9/1/2024 – 9/30/2024



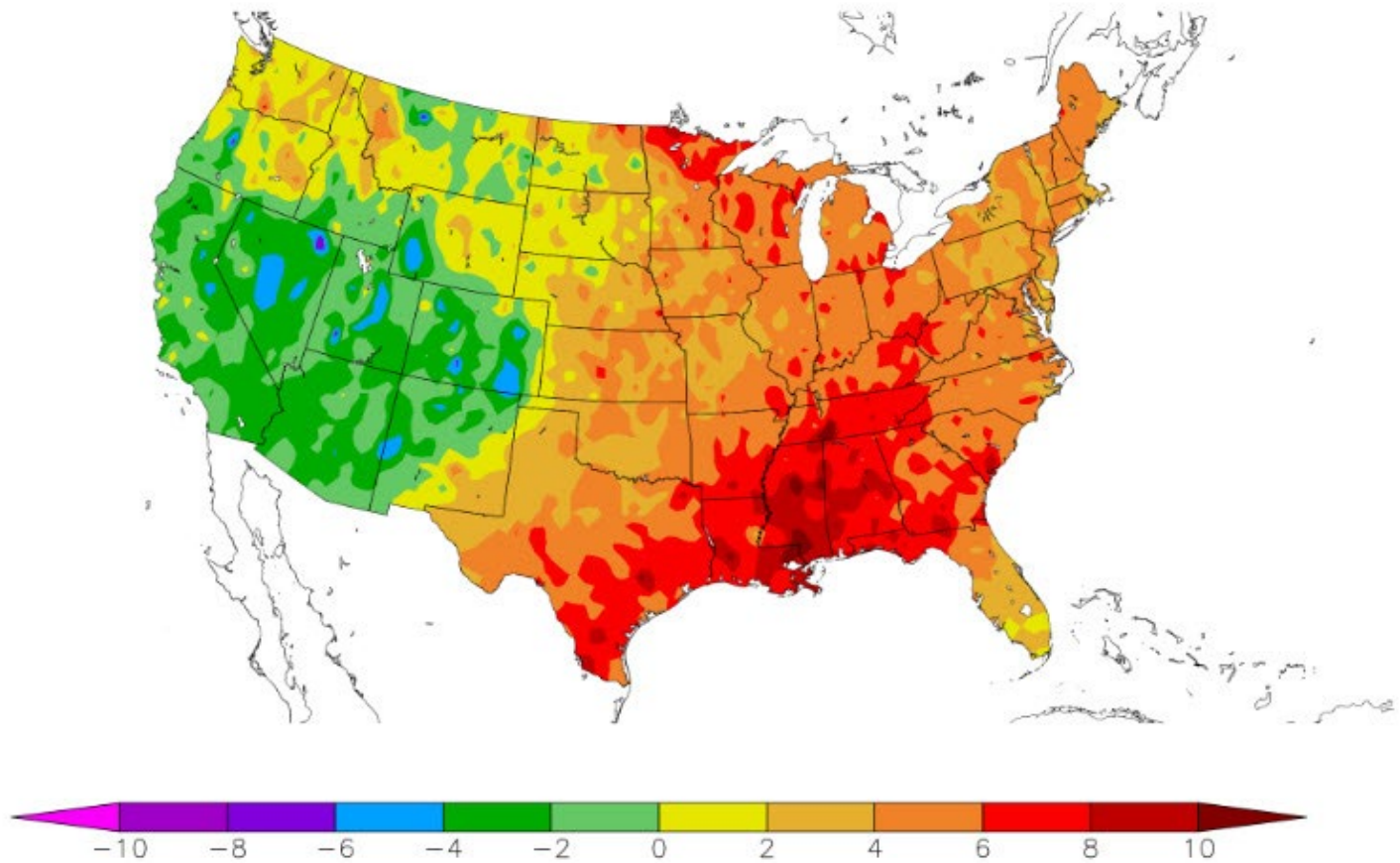
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
10/1/2024 – 10/31/2024



# November 1, 2024



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
11/1/2024 – 11/30/2024





# Actual Fall Departures

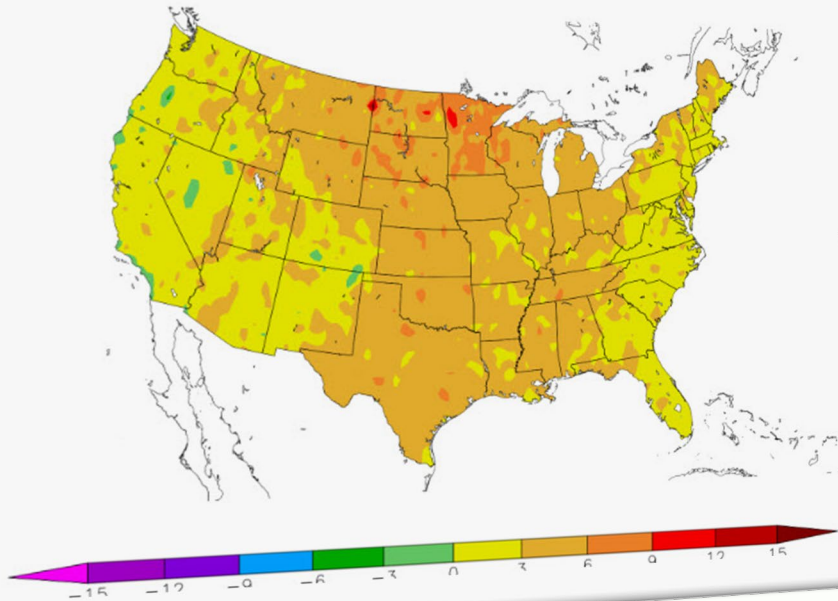
September – October – November

2024

2024

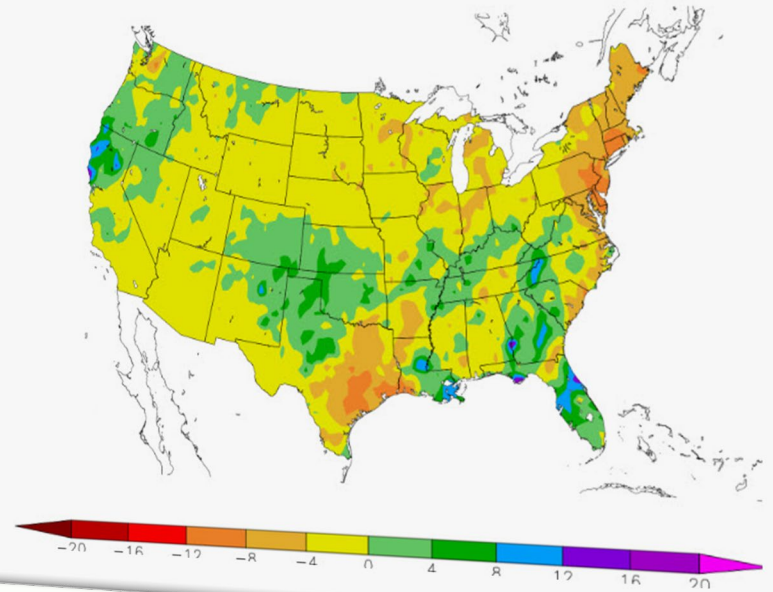
2024

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
9/1/2024 – 11/30/2024



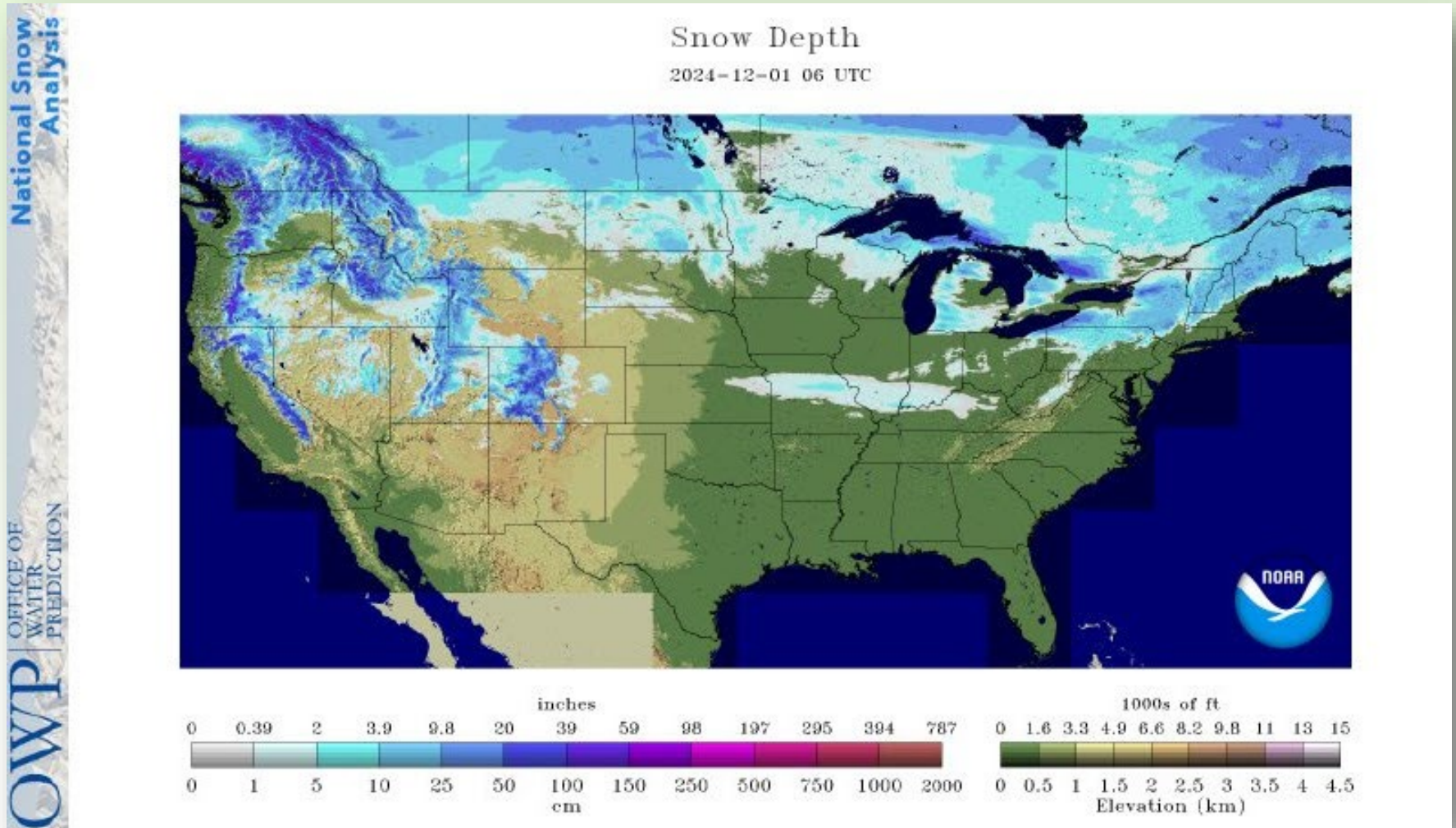
**TEMPERATURE**

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
9/1/2024 – 11/30/2024

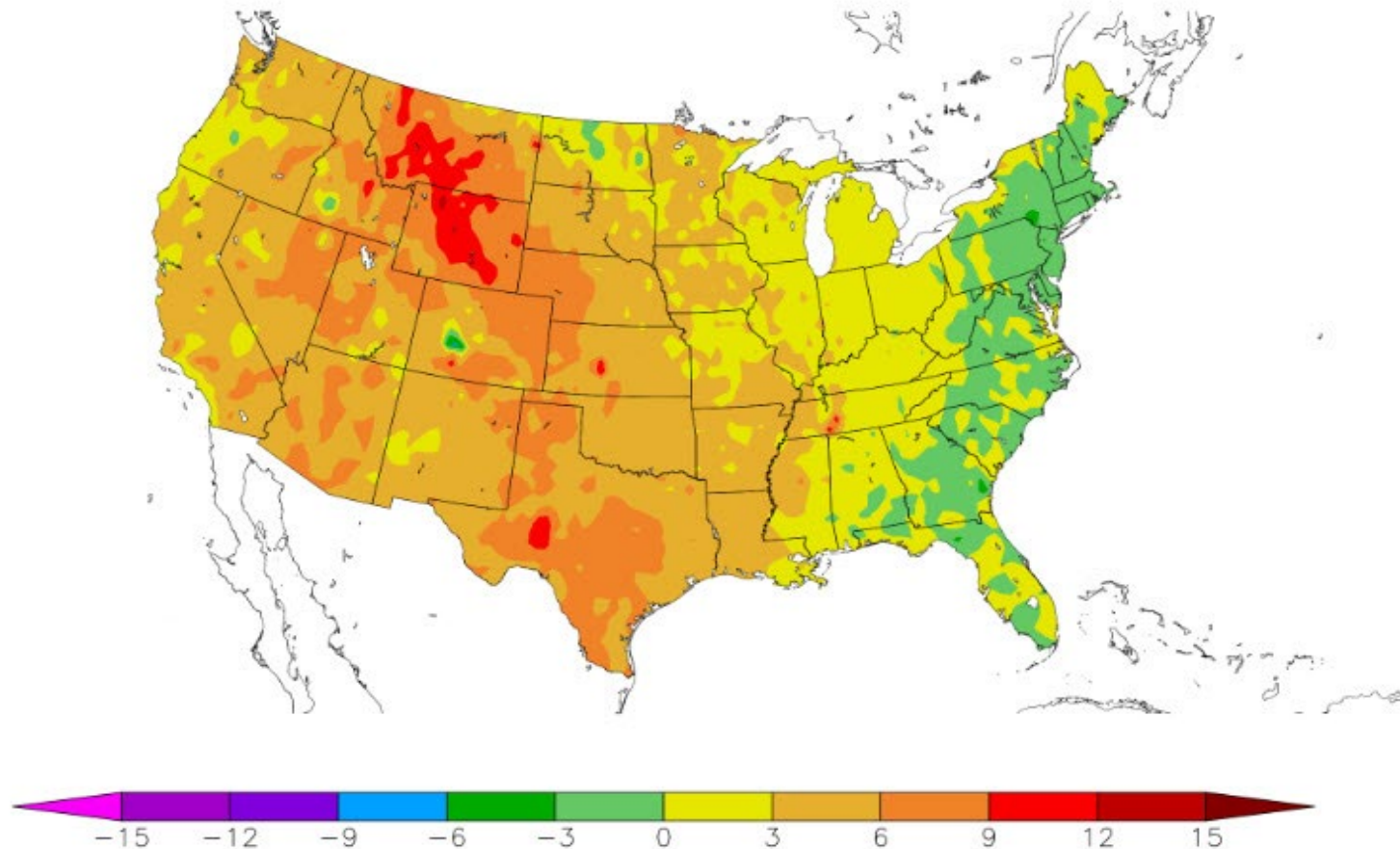


**PRECIPITATION**

# December 1, 2024



# Departure from Normal Temperature (F) 12/1/2024 – 12/31/2024





# Almost no Great Lakes ice to start 2025

U. S. NATIONAL ICE CENTER

USCG DISTRICT 9 GREAT LAKES ICE

ICE CONCENTRATION AND LEVEL ICE THICKNESS

ICE DATE: 05 JAN 2025

MAP PRODUCED: 05 JAN 2025



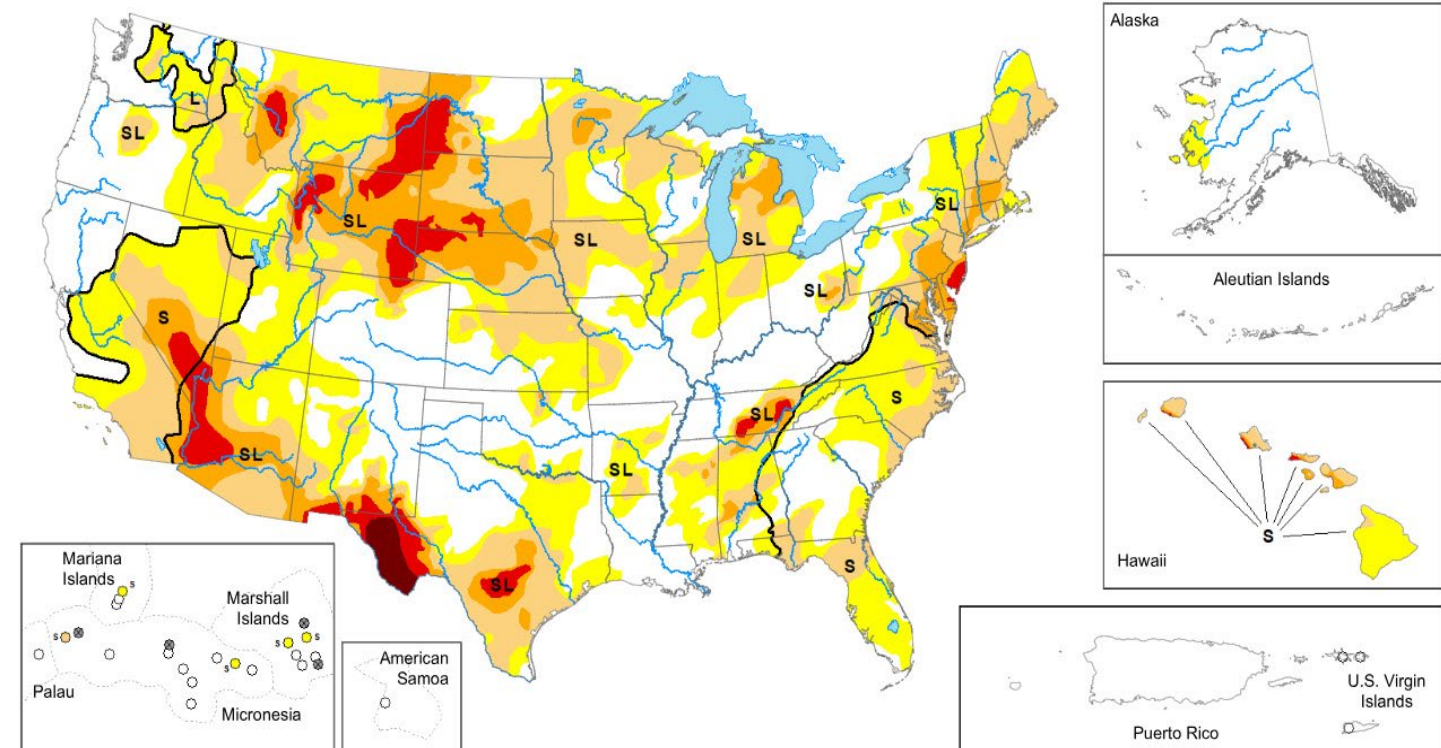


# Drought over the western United States

Map released: January 1, 2025

Data valid: December 31, 2024

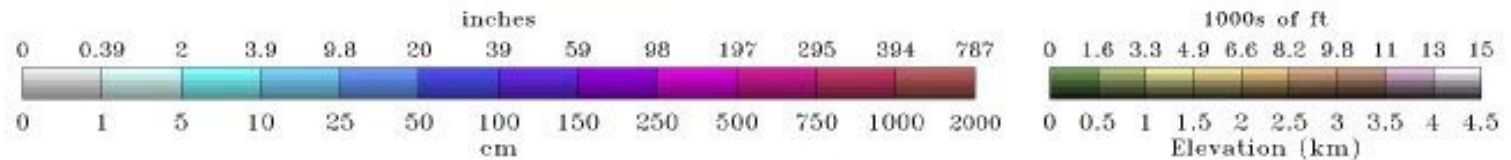
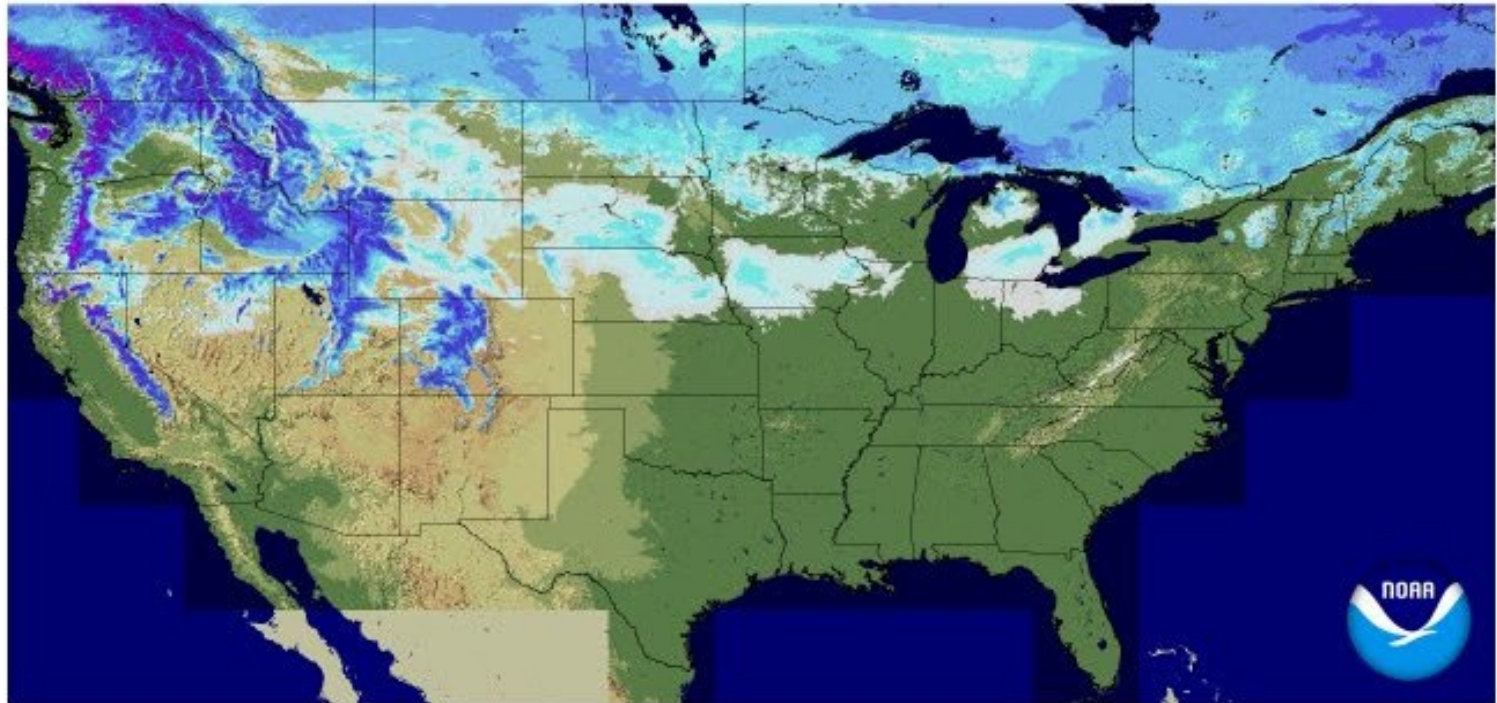
☐ View grayscale version of the map



# January 1, 2025

## Snow Depth

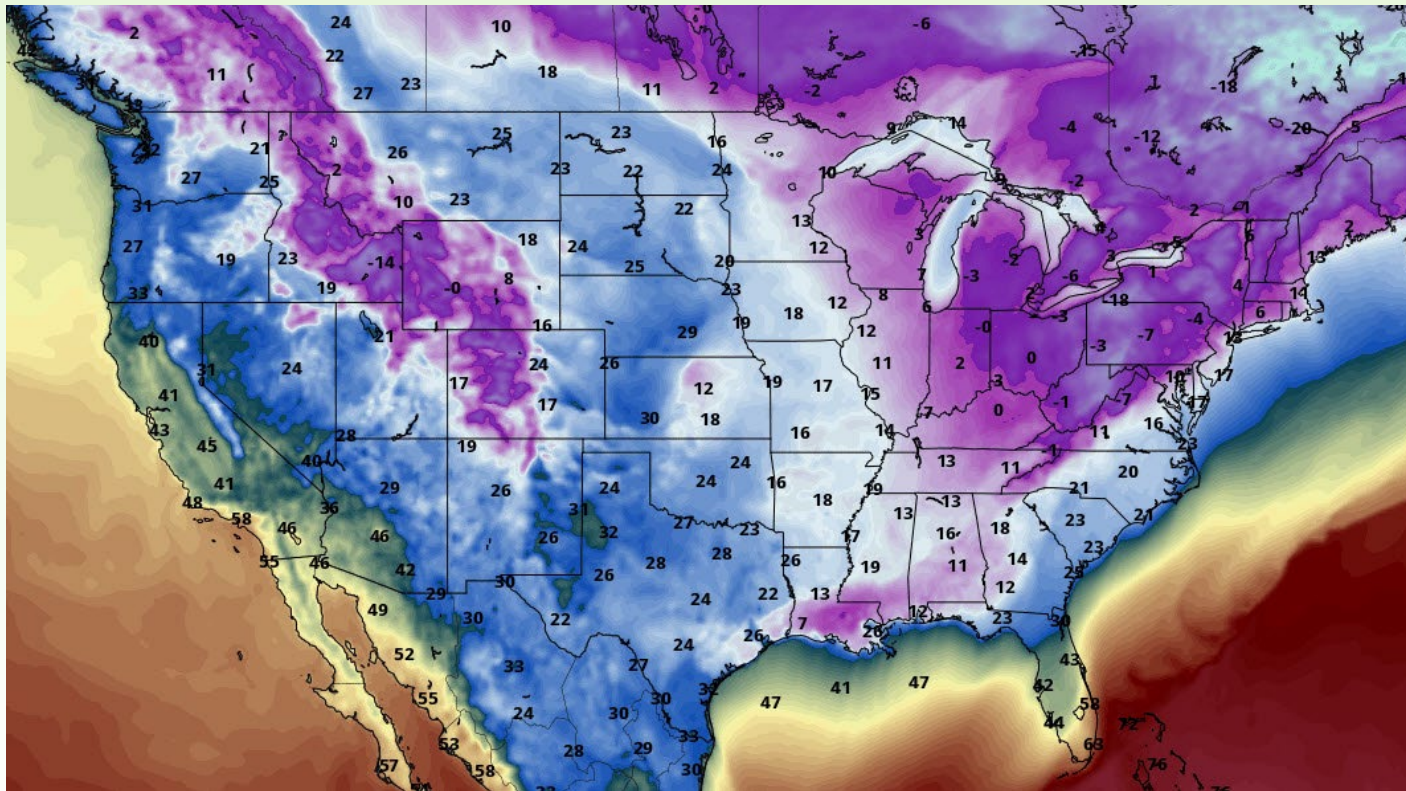
2025-01-01 06 UTC





# Mid January Gulf Coast Snow

*January 21, 2025*



*Below freezing temps to the Gulf Coast*

# Mid January Gulf Coast Snow

*January 21, 2025*



*Up to 10" of snow for New Orleans metro*

# Mid January Gulf Coast Snow

*January 21, 2025*



*Up to 10" of snow for New Orleans metro*



# Mid January Gulf Coast Snow

*January 21, 2025*



*Pensacola, Florida saw 5 inches of snow*

# Mid January Gulf Coast Snow

*January 21, 2025*



*Charleston, South Carolina*

# Mid January Gulf Coast Snow

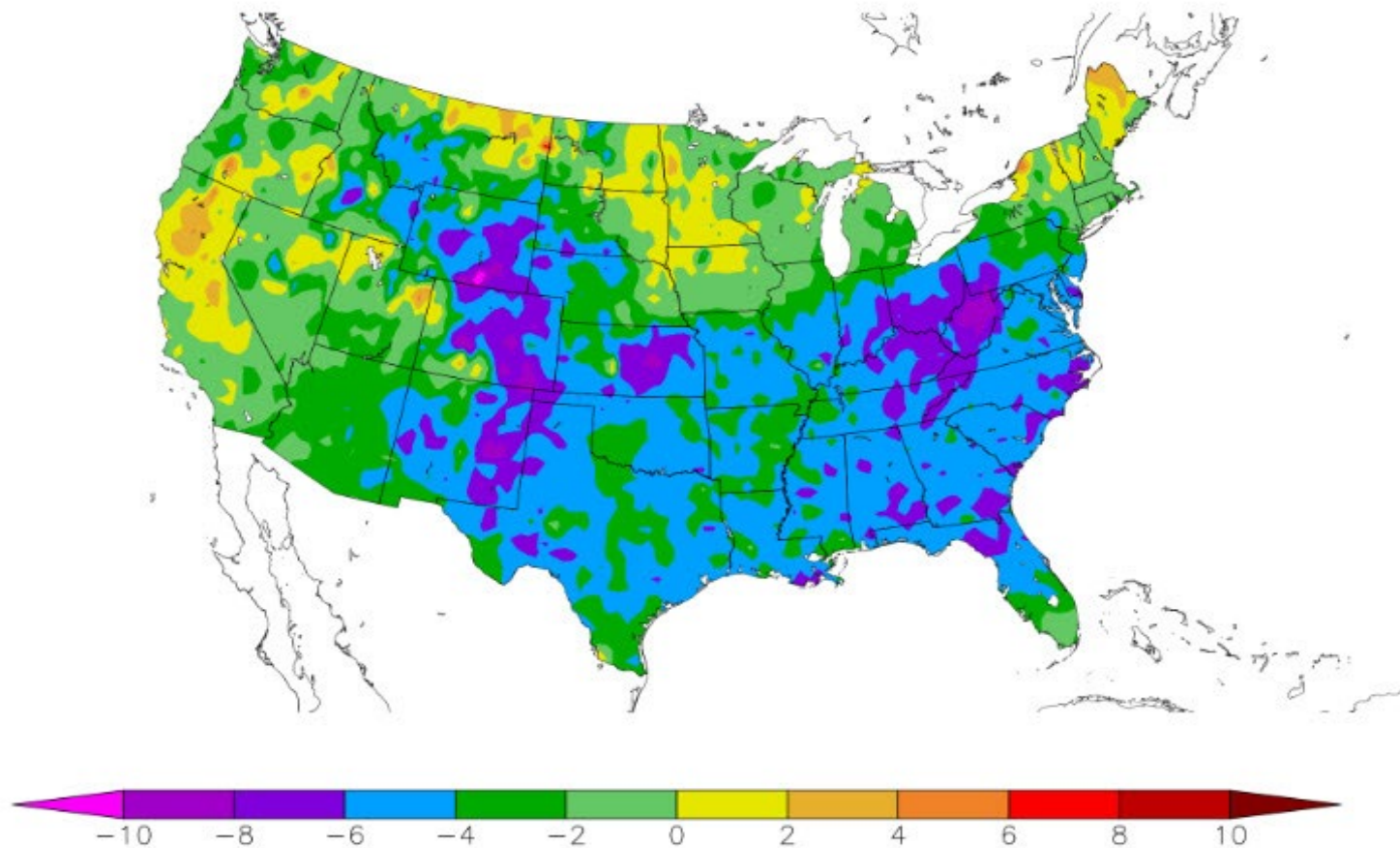
*January 21, 2025*



*Snow on the beaches!*



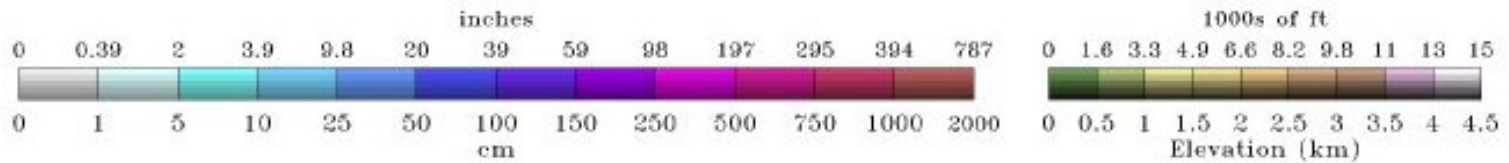
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
1/1/2025 – 1/31/2025



# February 1, 2025

## Snow Depth

2024-02-01 06 UTC





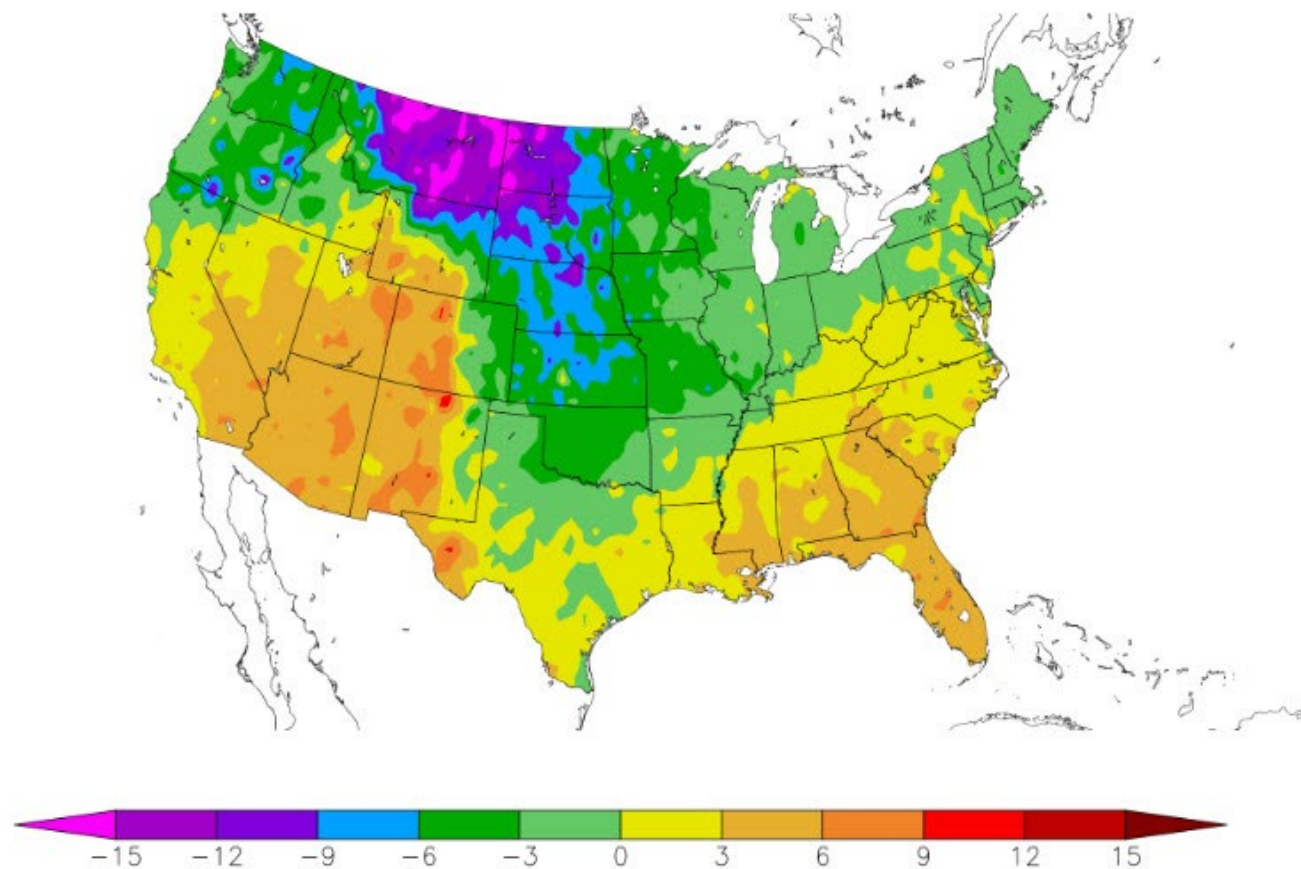
# First significant snow in Omaha

*February 12-17, 2025*



*8.7" snow accumulated over six days*

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
2/1/2025 – 2/28/2025



# Actual Winter Departures

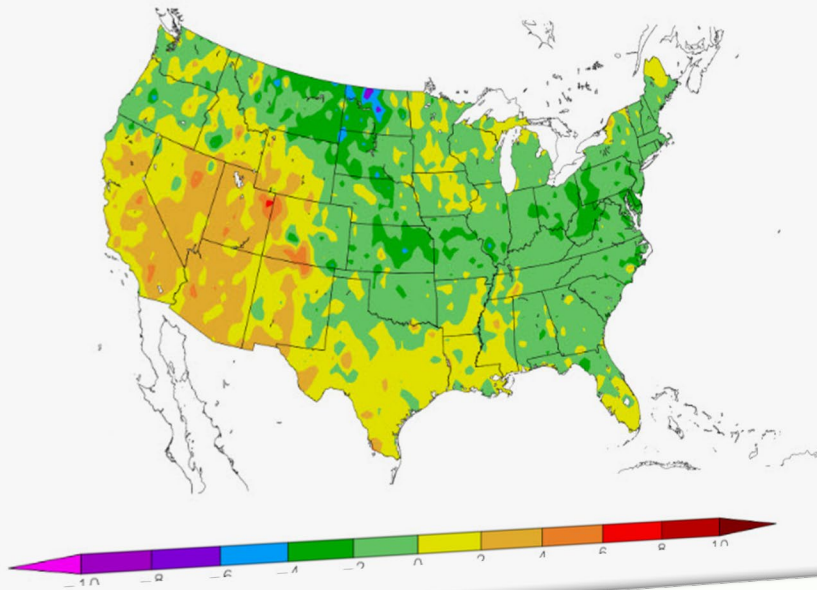
December – January – February

2024

2025

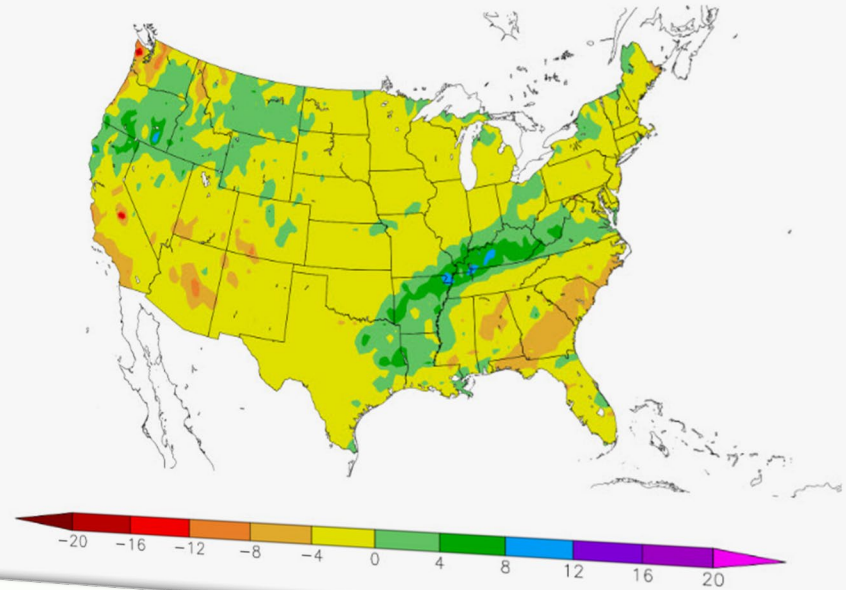
2025

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
12/1/2024 – 2/28/2025



**TEMPERATURE**

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
12/1/2024 – 2/28/2025



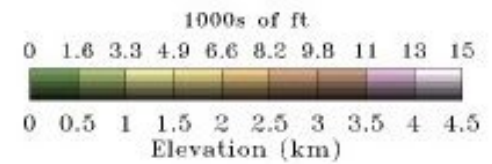
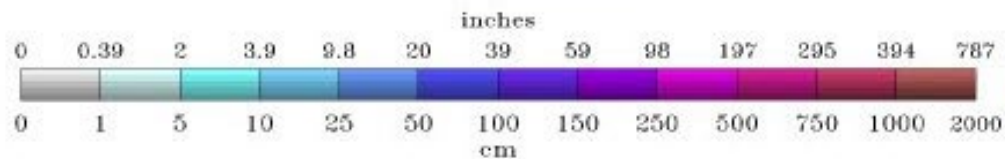
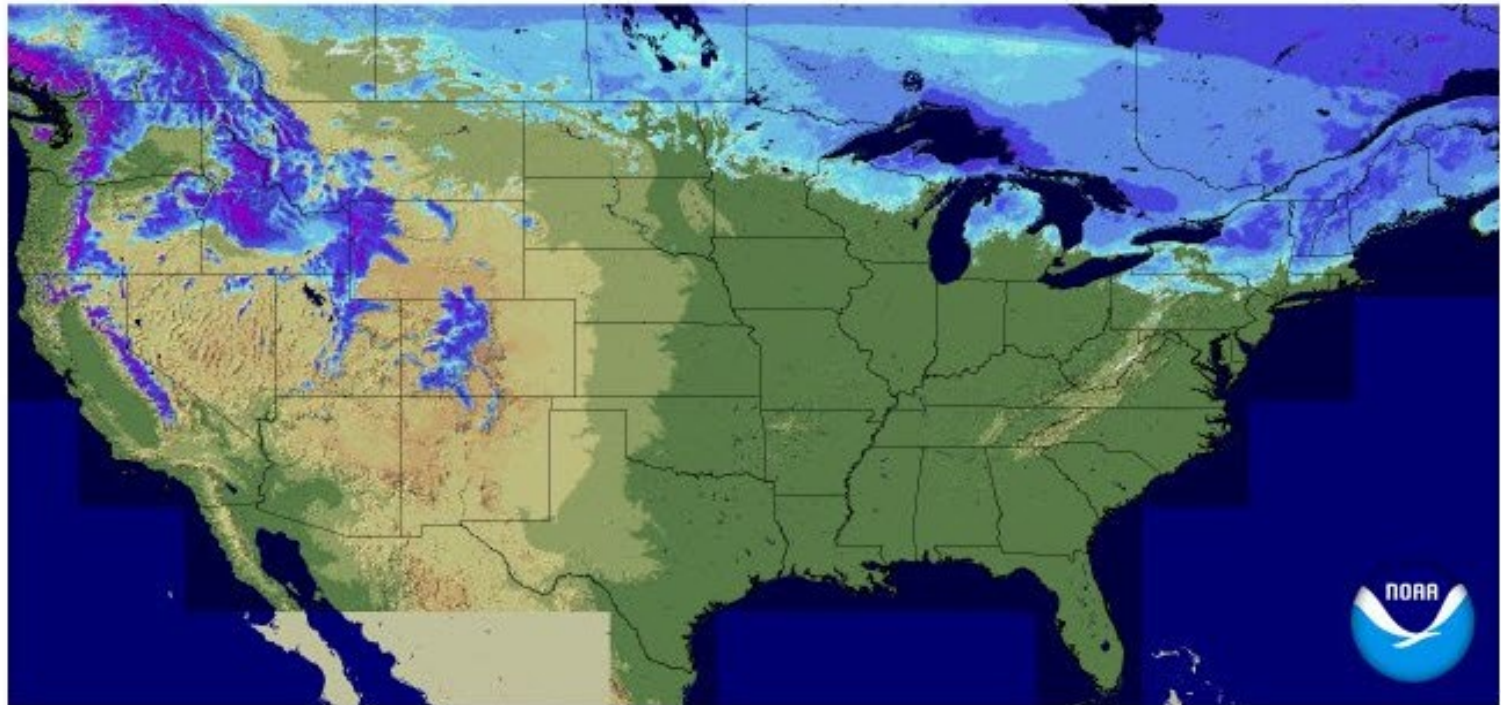
**PRECIPITATION**



# March 1, 2025

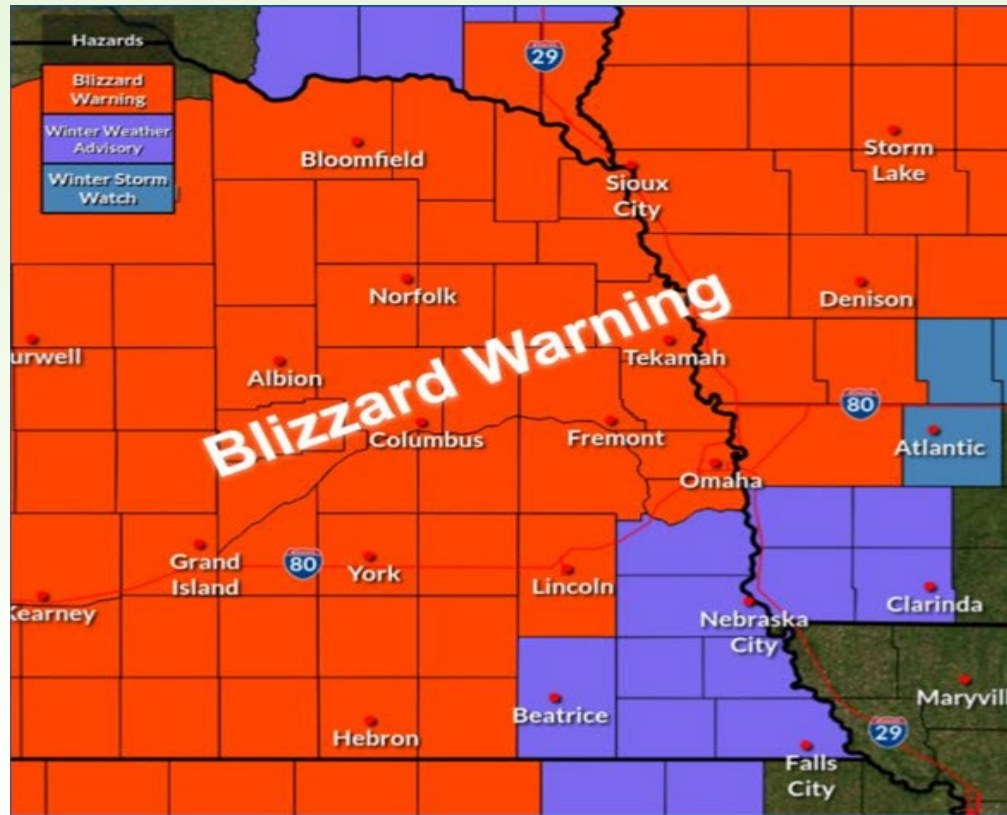
## Snow Depth

2025-03-01 06 UTC



# Second March Blizzard in Omaha

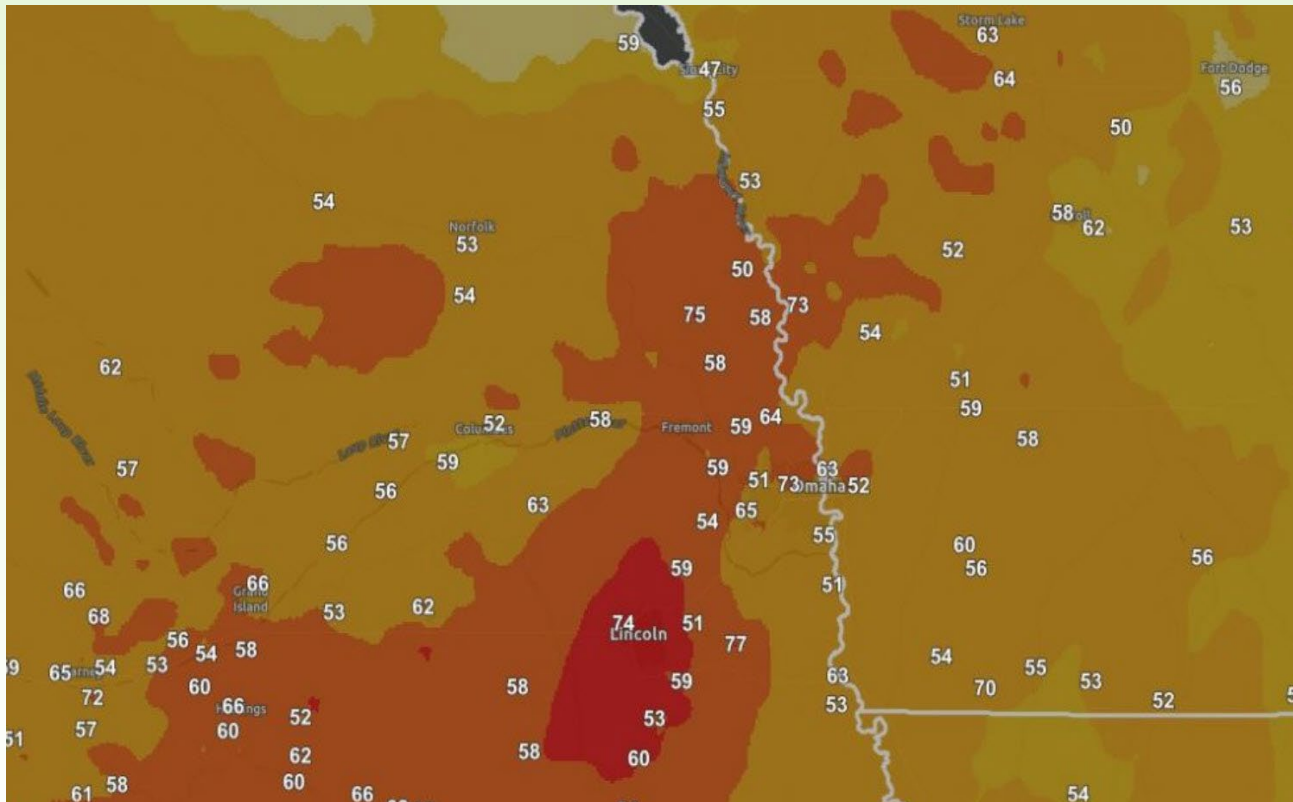
*March 19, 2025*



*Winds over 35 mph + snow, reducing visibilities  
to less than a ¼ mile for over 3 hours*

# Second March Blizzard in Omaha

*March 19, 2025*



*55 – 70 mph gusts common*



# Second March Blizzard in Omaha

*March 19, 2025*



*Power out for days due to downed lines*

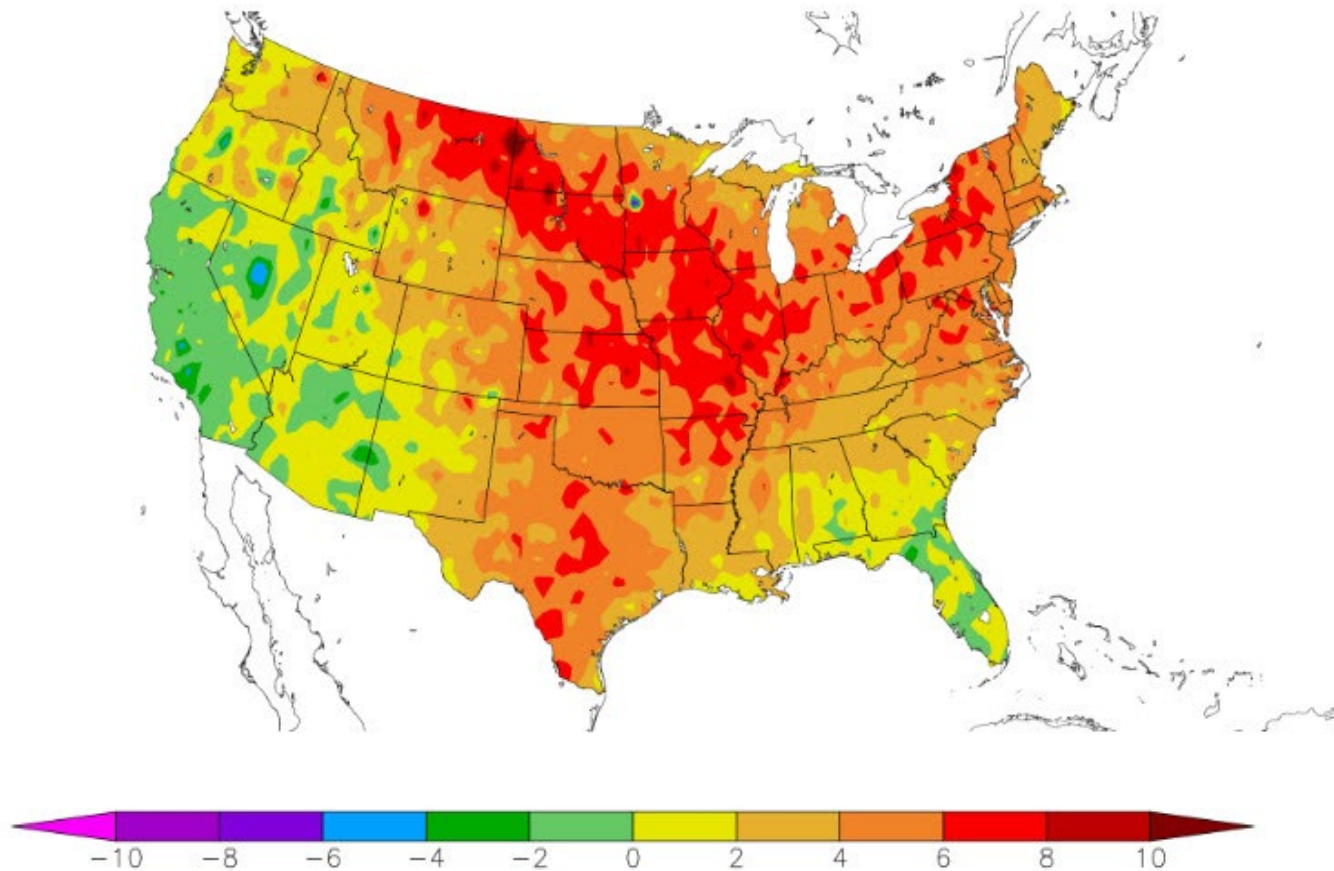
# Second March Blizzard in Omaha

*March 19, 2025*



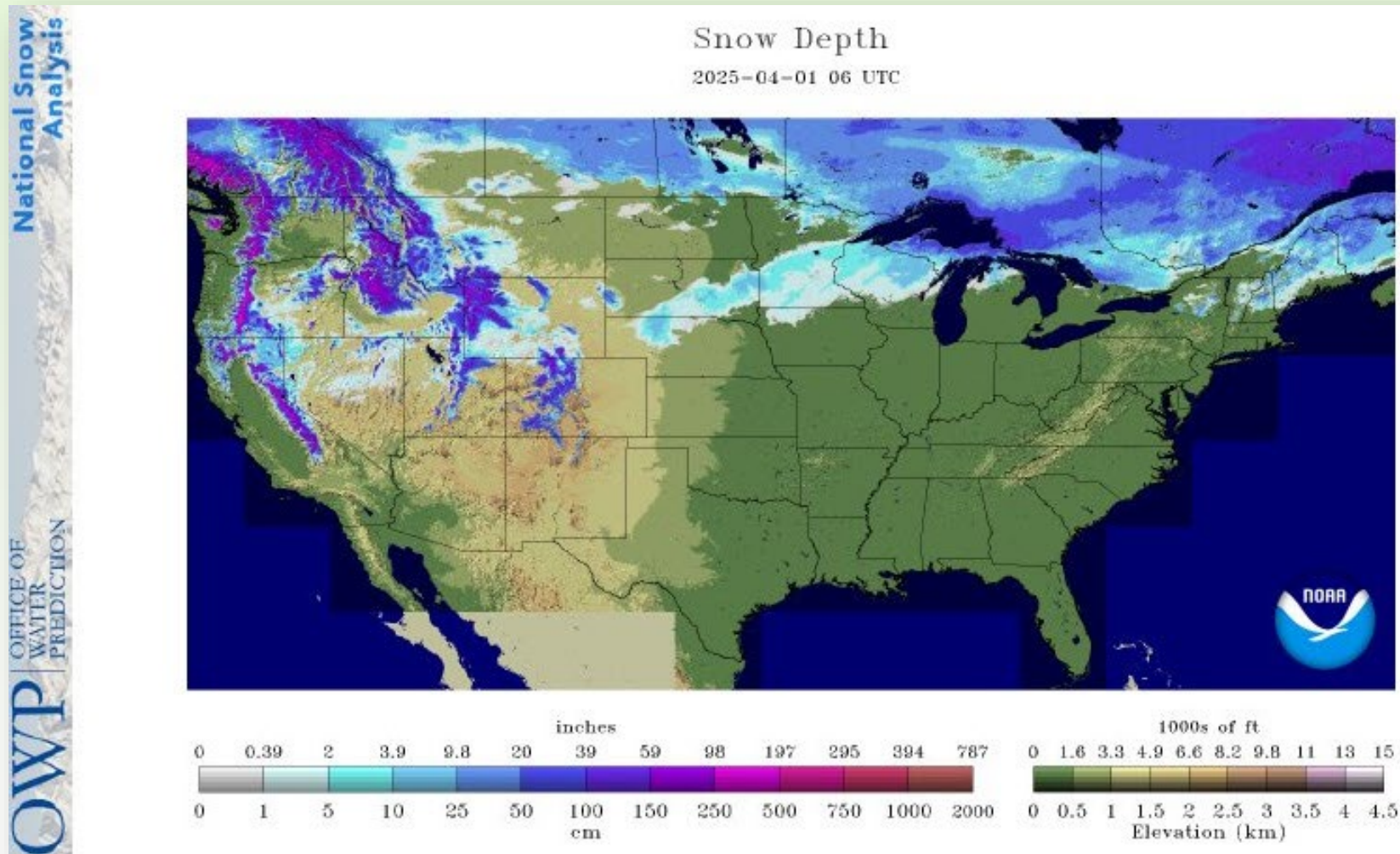
*Power out for days due to downed lines*

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
3/1/2025 – 3/31/2025



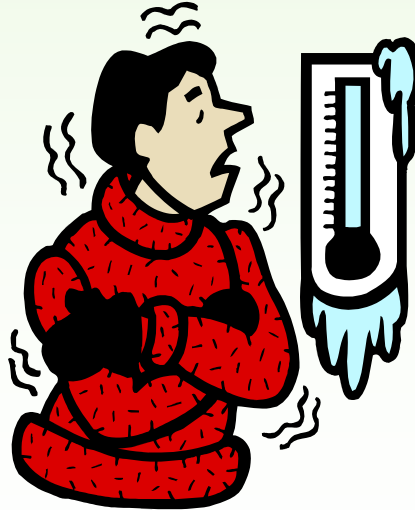


# April 1, 2025



# 2024 – 2025 Heating Season Results

Northern's Market Area temperatures were **-0.5 degrees colder than normal** during the heating season of November 1 – March 31.



# 2024 – 2025 Heating Season Results

System-Weighted Temperature vs Normal					
	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
November	9%	1%	11%	7%	4%
December	8%	7%	13%	27%	7%
January	13%	14%	7%	4%	6%
February	27%	21%	2%	23%	14%
March	15%	14%	23%	5%	11%
Heating Season	3%	8%	7%	14%	1%
Colder than Normal					
Warmer than Normal					

**4<sup>th</sup> straight dry Omaha winter!**

**Omaha's '*Normal*'  
Seasonal Snowfall**

**27.1"**

**2024 – 2025 Snowfall**

**17.4" (-9.6")**



**Dry North as well!**

**Minneapolis' *'Normal'*  
Seasonal Snowfall**

**45.3"**

**2024 – 2025 Snowfall**

**30.0" (-15.0")**





**Dry North as well!**

**Milwaukee's '*Normal*'  
Seasonal Snowfall**

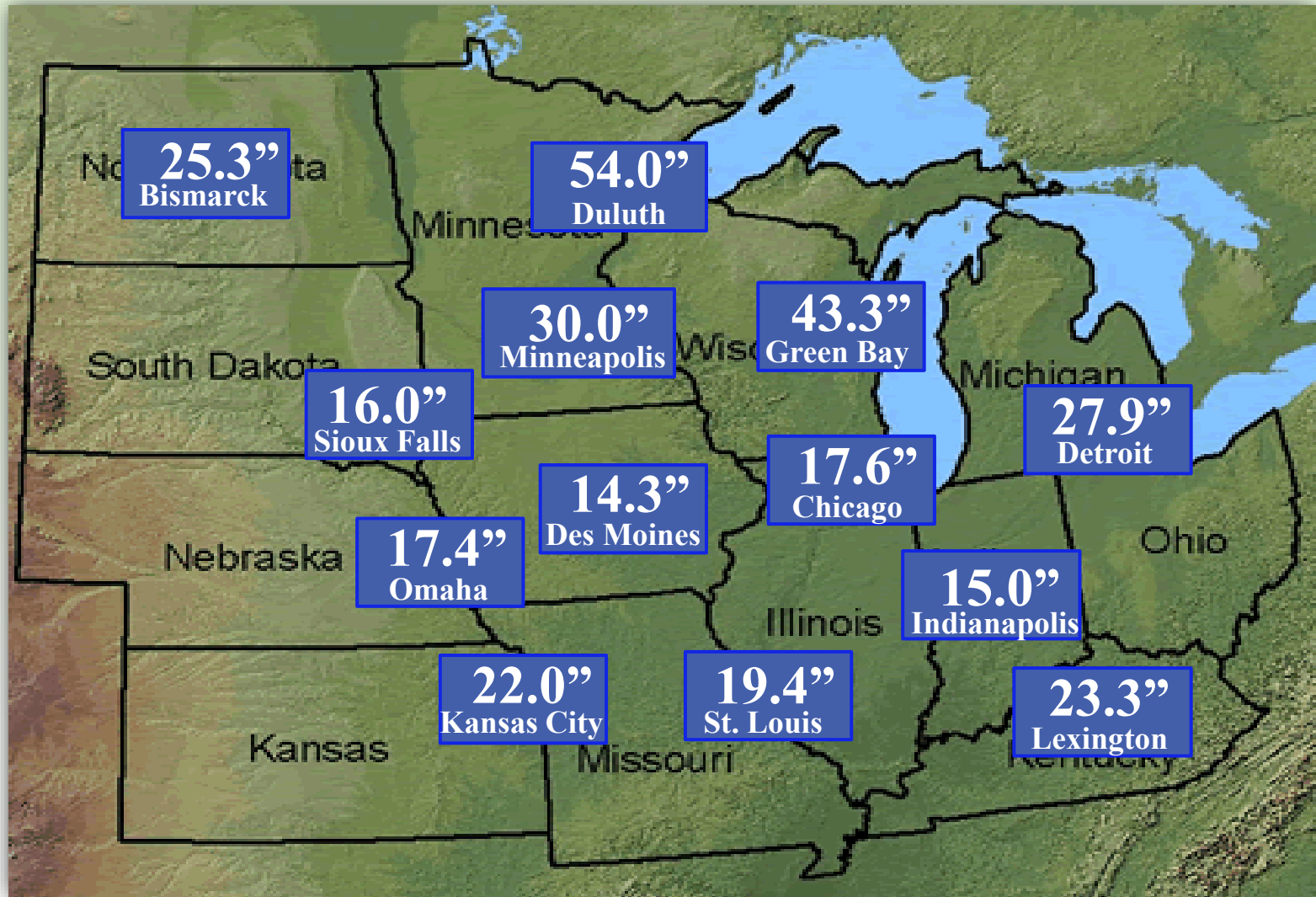
**48.0"**

**2024 – 2025 Snowfall**

**30.3" (-17.7")**

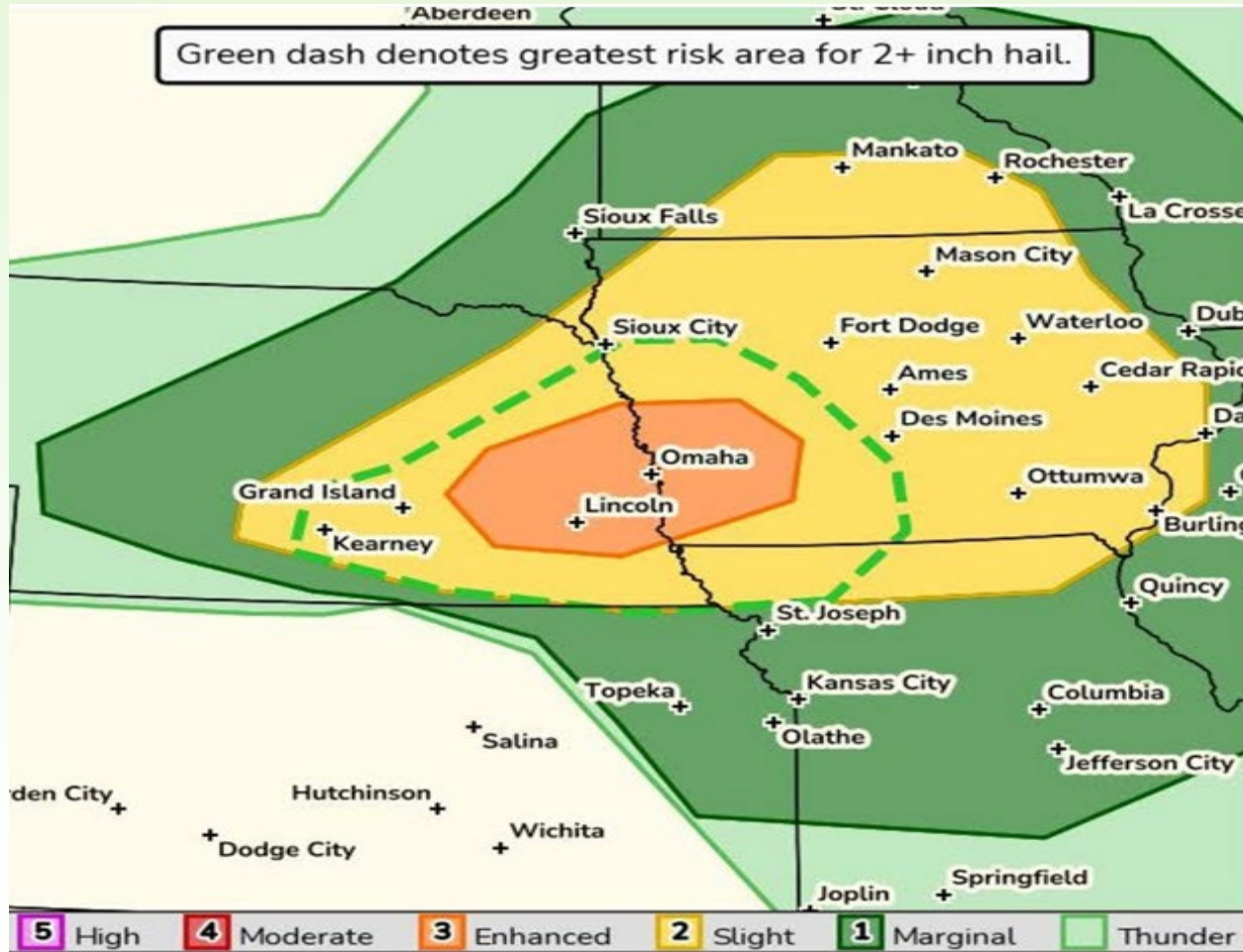


# 2024 – 2025 Snowfall Totals



# Nebraska/Iowa Severe Storms

*April 17, 2025*





# Nebraska/Iowa Severe Storms

*April 17, 2025*



*Fremont, Nebraska*



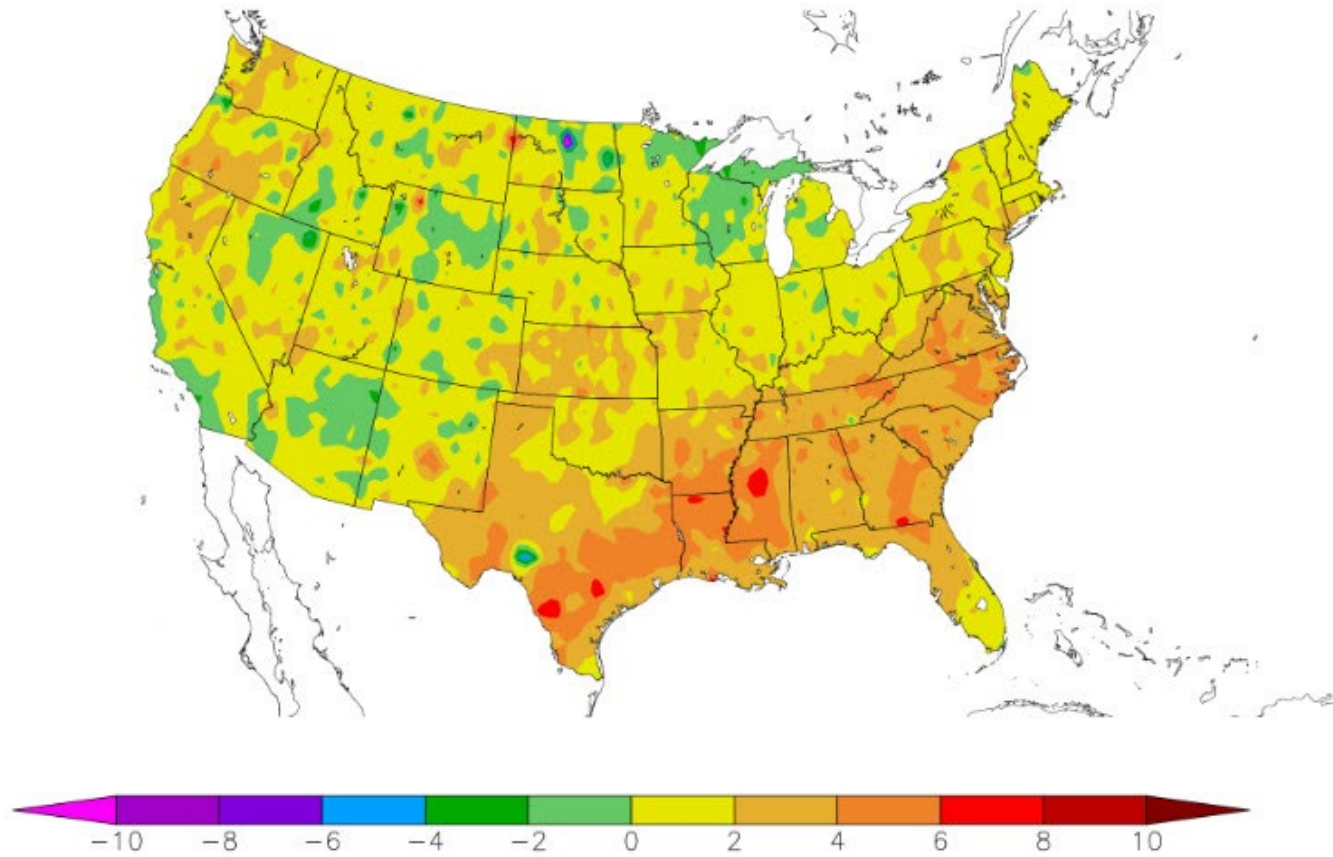
# Nebraska/Iowa Severe Storms

*April 17, 2025*

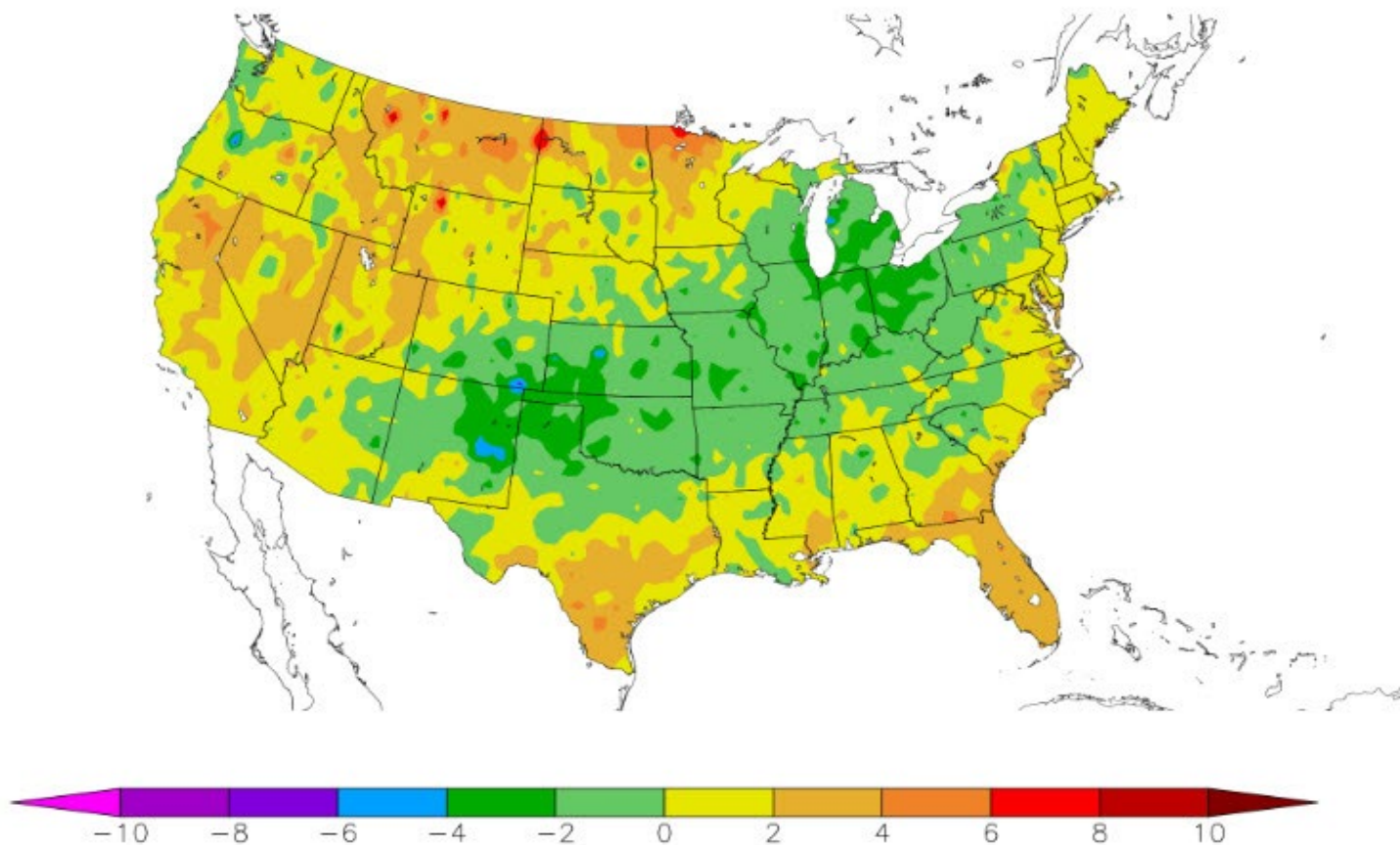


*Tornado viewed from Eppley Airfield*

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
4/1/2025 – 4/30/2025



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
5/1/2025 – 5/31/2025

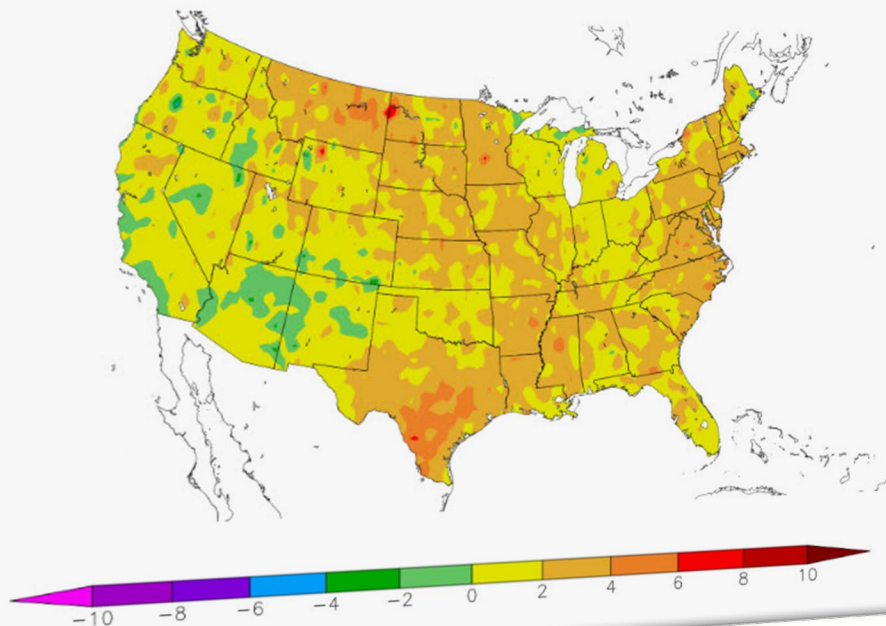


# Actual Spring Departures

March – April – May

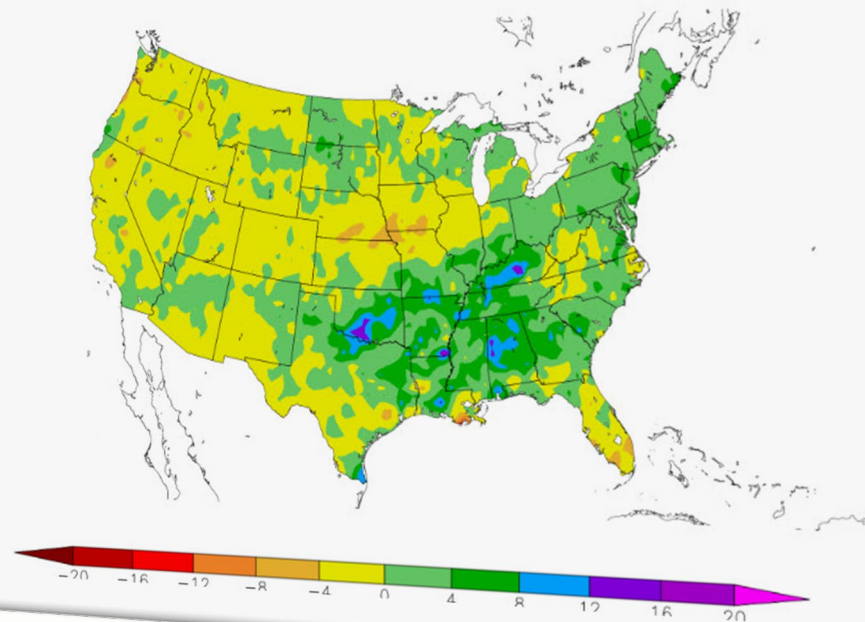
2025 2025 2025

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
3/1/2025 – 5/31/2025



**TEMPERATURE**

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
3/1/2025 – 5/31/2025



**PRECIPITATION**

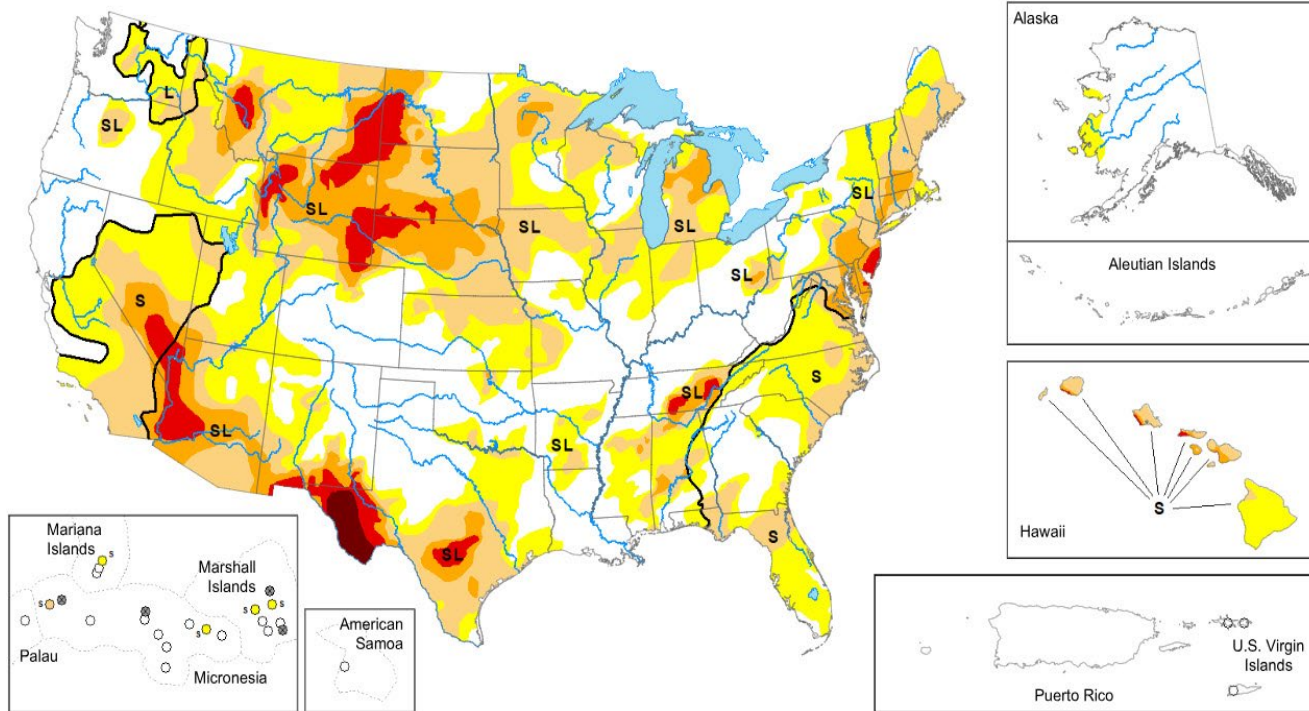


# Drought over most of the nation

Map released: January 1, 2025

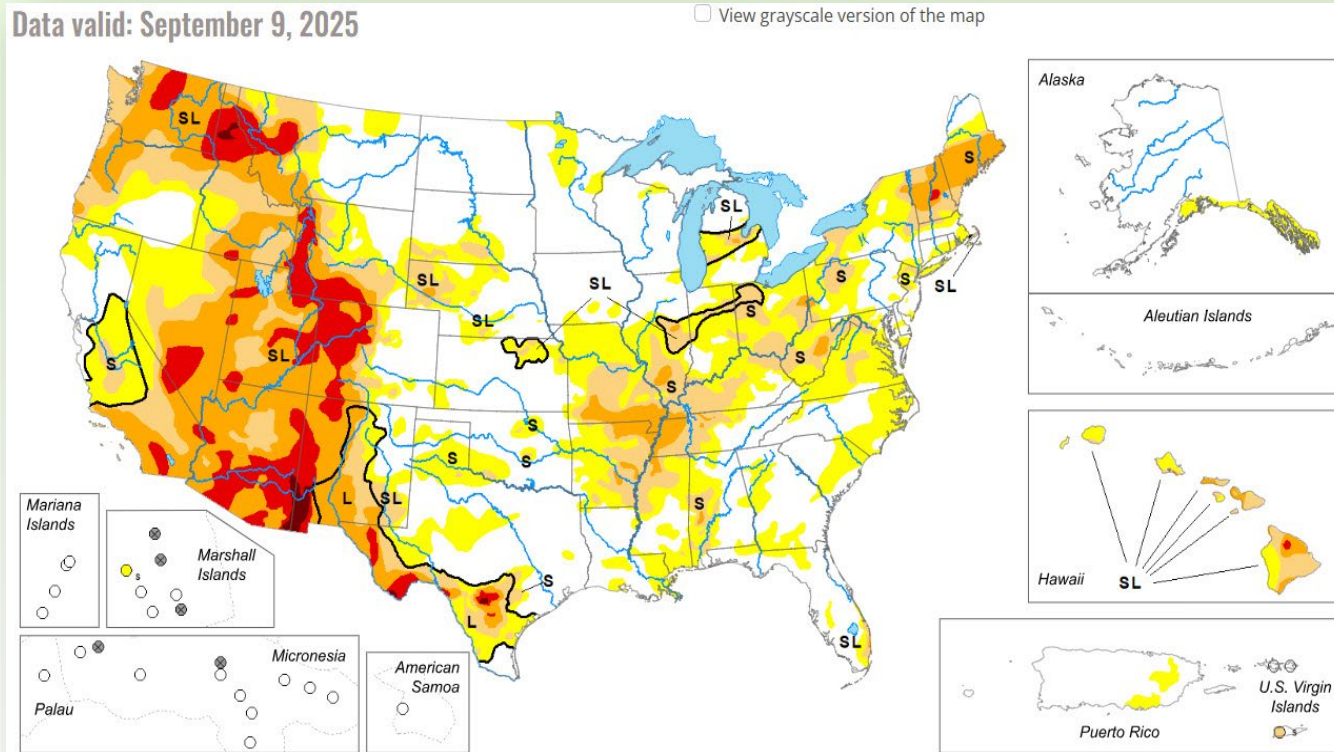
Data valid: December 31, 2024

☐ View grayscale version of the map



*December 31, 2024*

# Drought worsens in west



September 9, 2025

# Near Gary, SD

*June 28, 2025*



*Over 1,400 tornadoes reported in the US this year so far.....*

# Weather Trivia Time

*Which country has the second most tornado related deaths in 2025 after the United States?*

***Brazil***

***Canada***

***China***

***Bangladesh***





# Weather Trivia Time

*Which country has the second most tornado related deaths in 2025 after the United States?*

**Brazil**

**Canada**

**China**

**Bangladesh**



# Long Range Forecasting

# The Woolly Bear Caterpillar Technique



*13 weeks of winter. 13 bands on the Woolly Bear caterpillar. The more brown seen, a milder forecast. The more black, the colder it should be.*

# The Woolly Bear Caterpillar Technique

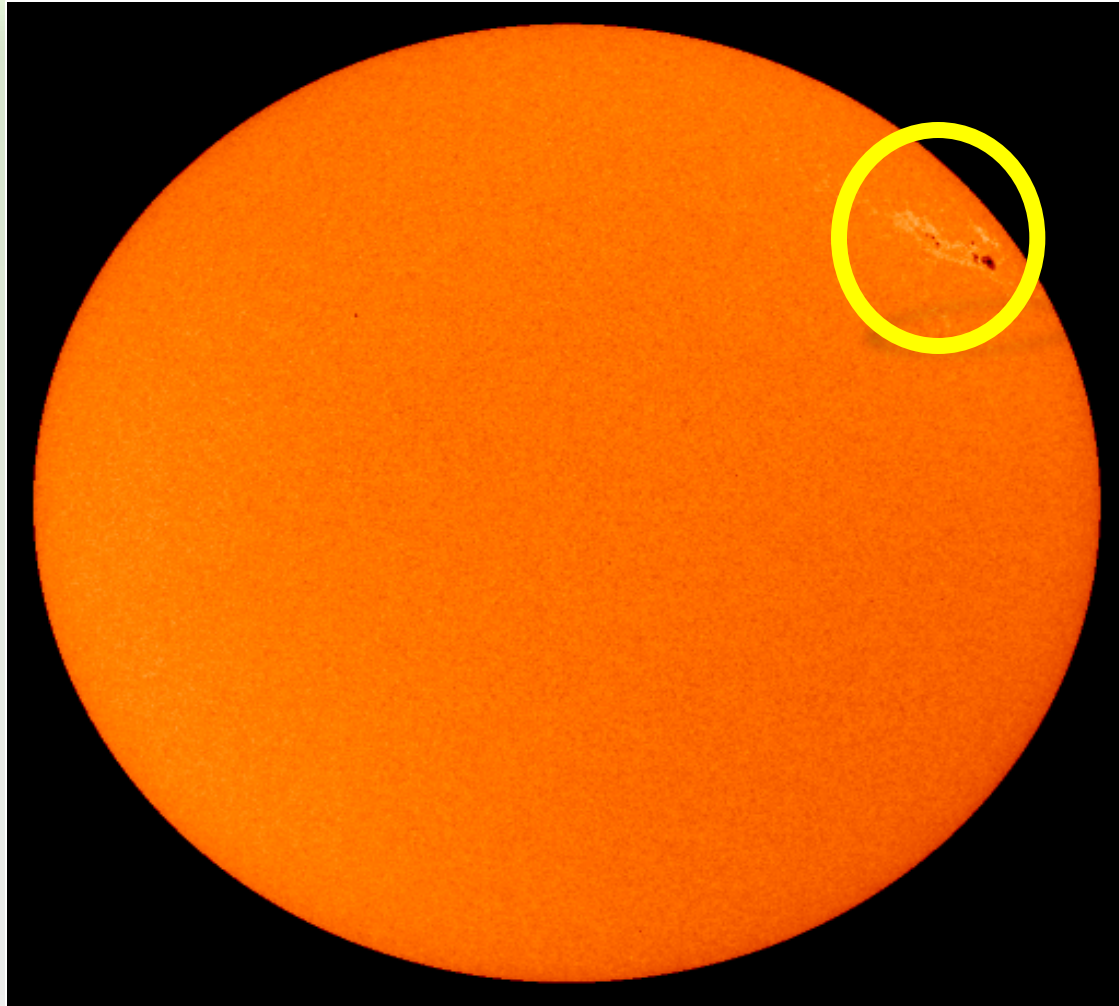




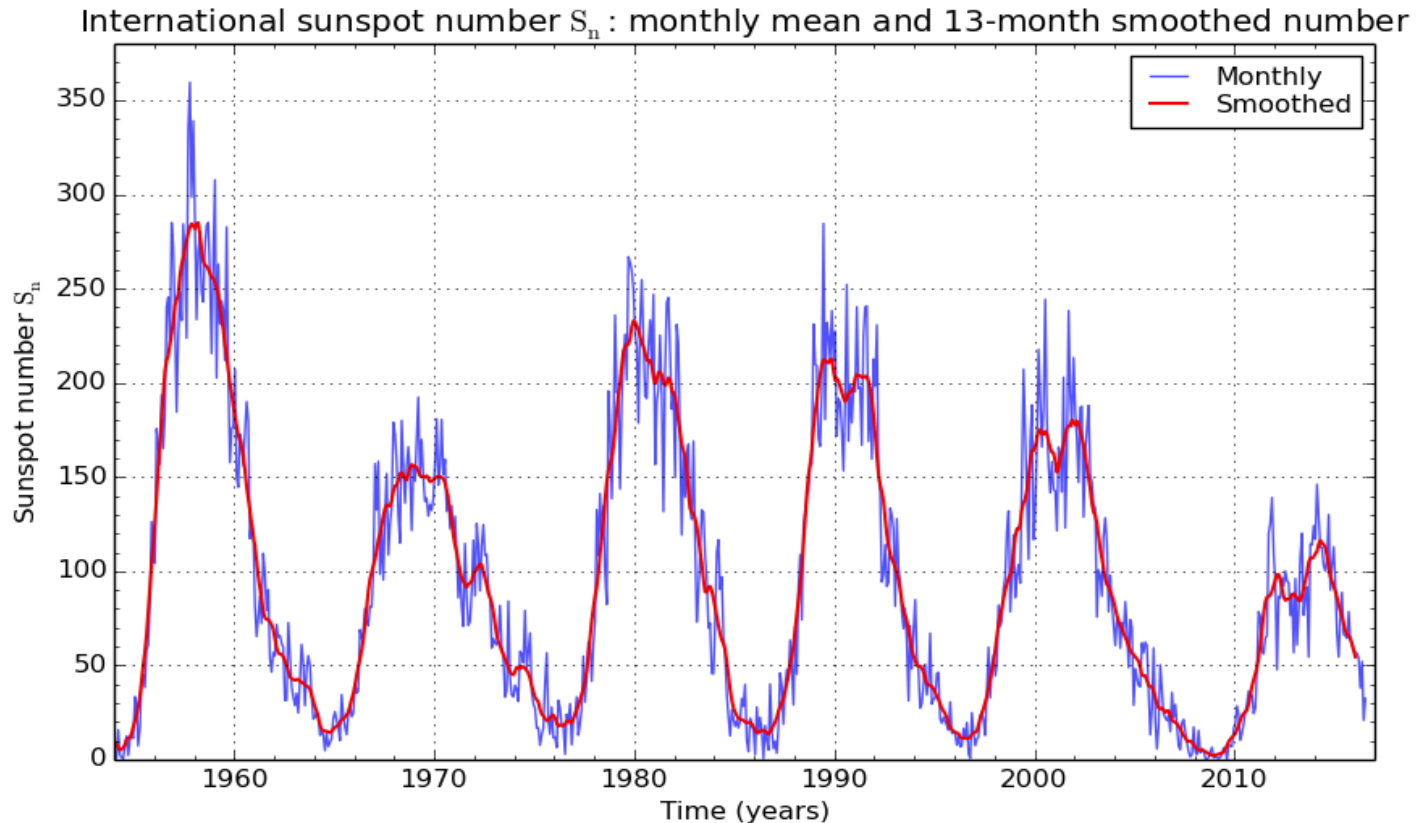
# The Woolly Bear Caterpillar Technique



# Sunspots



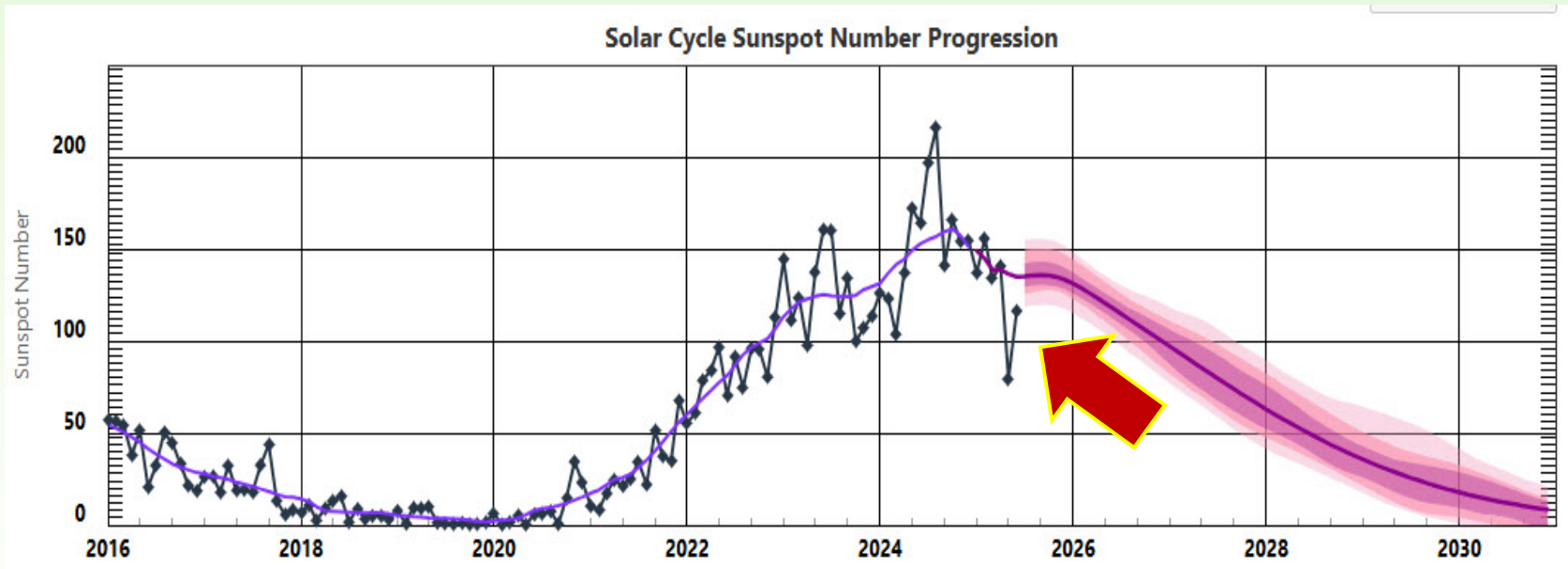
# Sunspot Cycles



SILSO graphics (<http://sidc.be/silso>) Royal Observatory of Belgium 2016 August 1

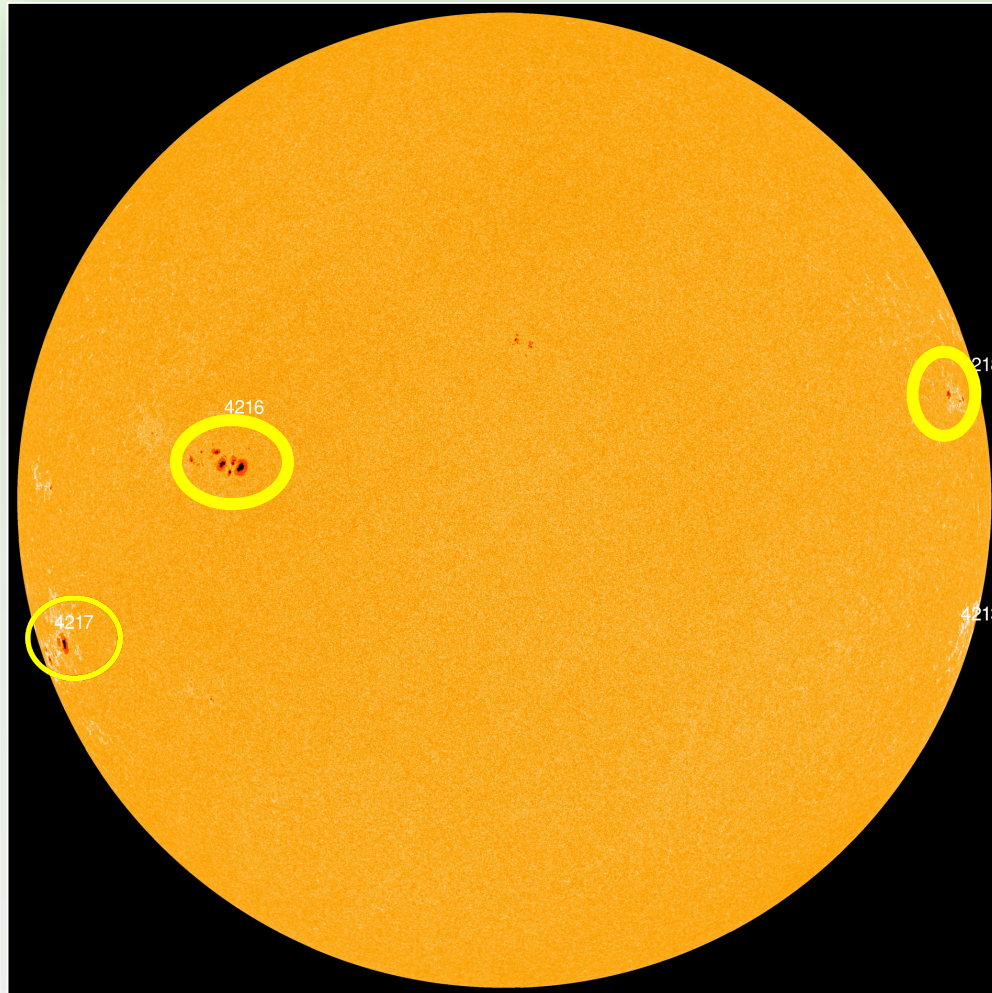
*Number of sunspots cycle from high to low every 13 years.*

# Recent Sunspot Cycles

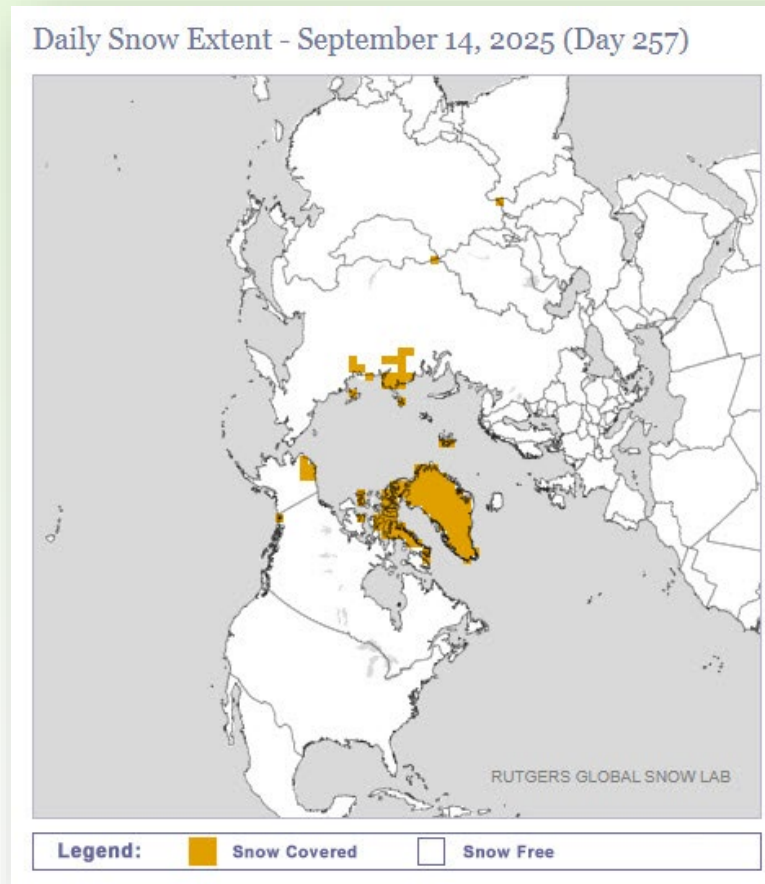




# Current Sunspot Activity



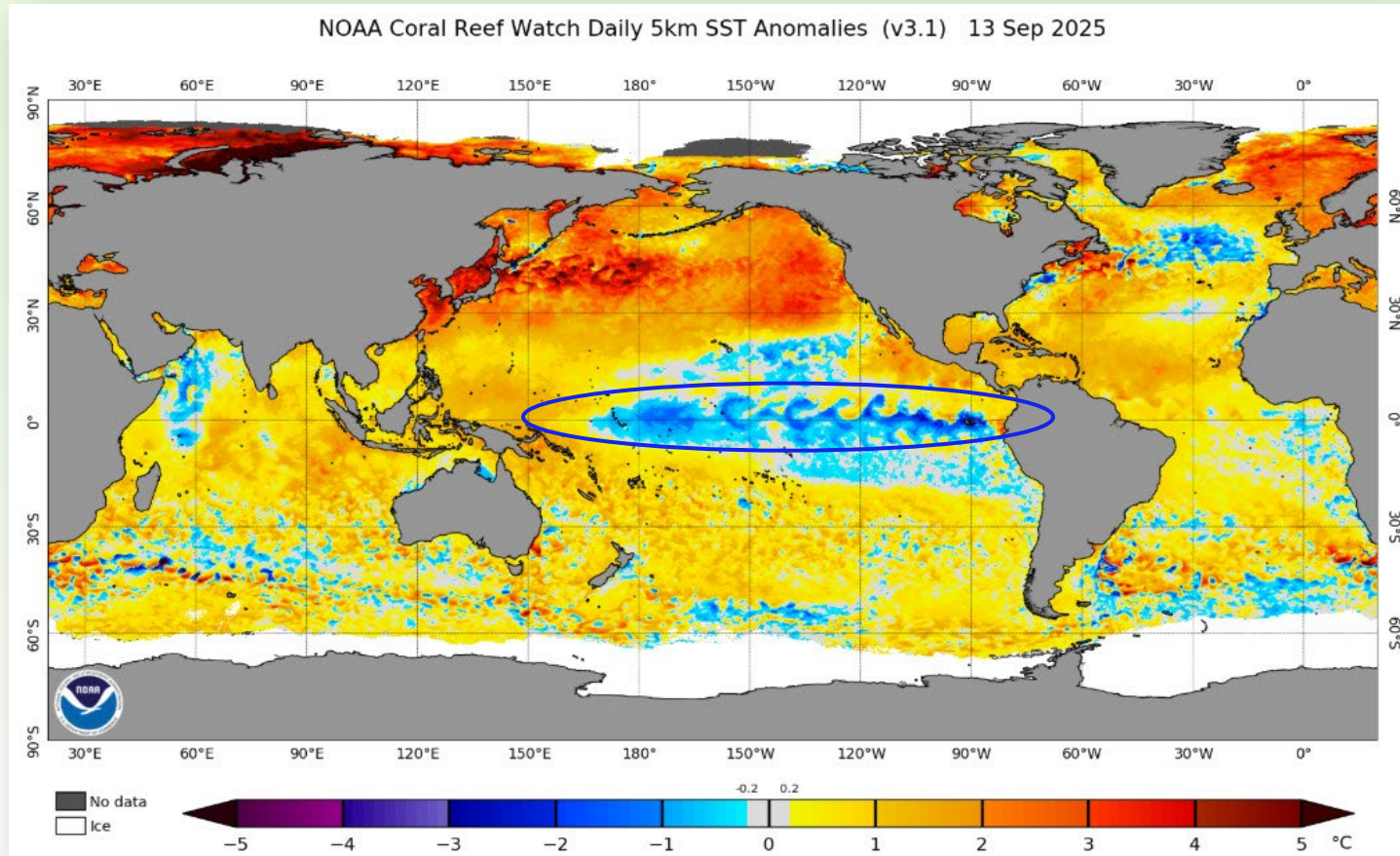
# Snow Cover in the Northern Hemisphere



*September 14, 2025*

# Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies

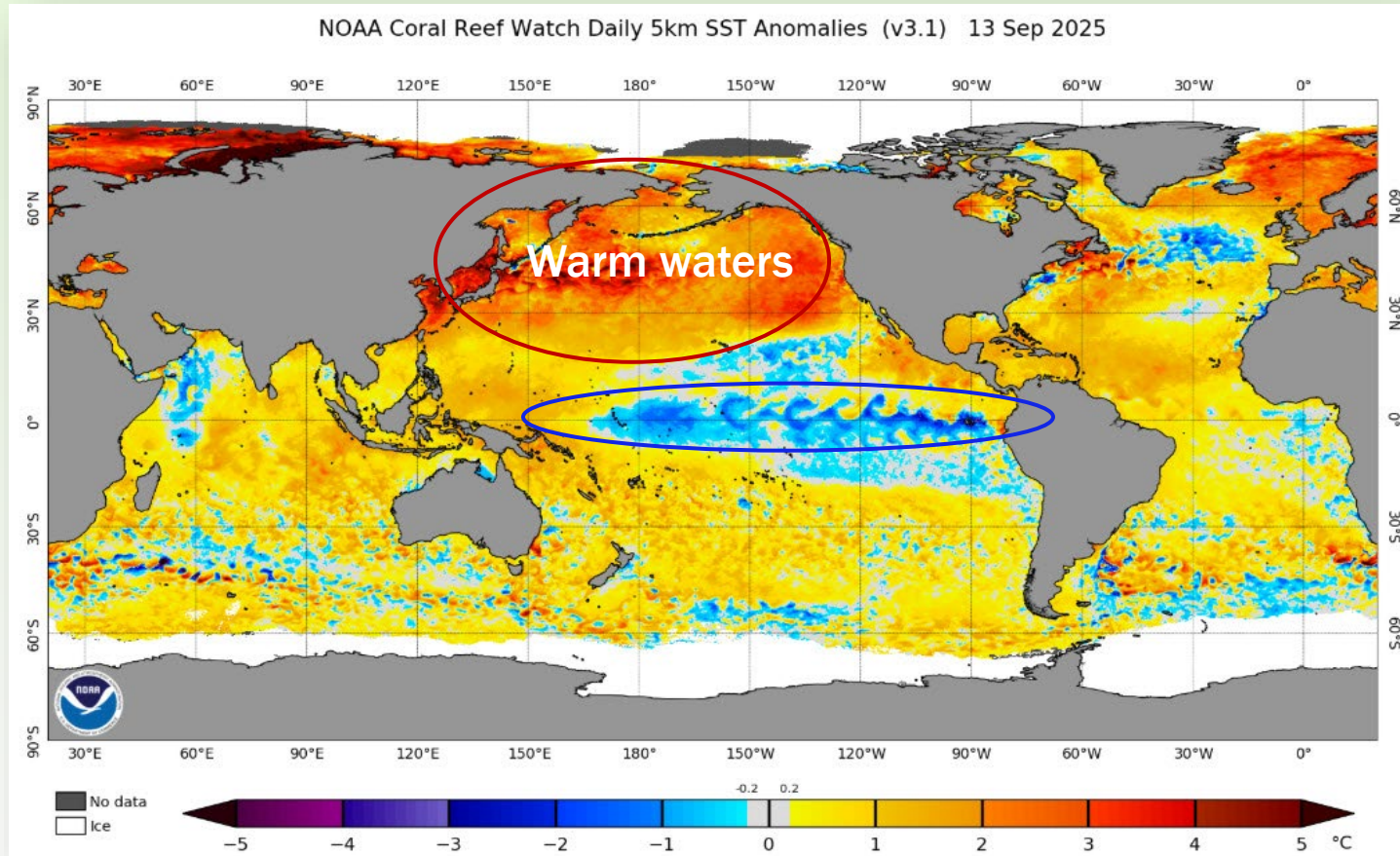
## September 13, 2025





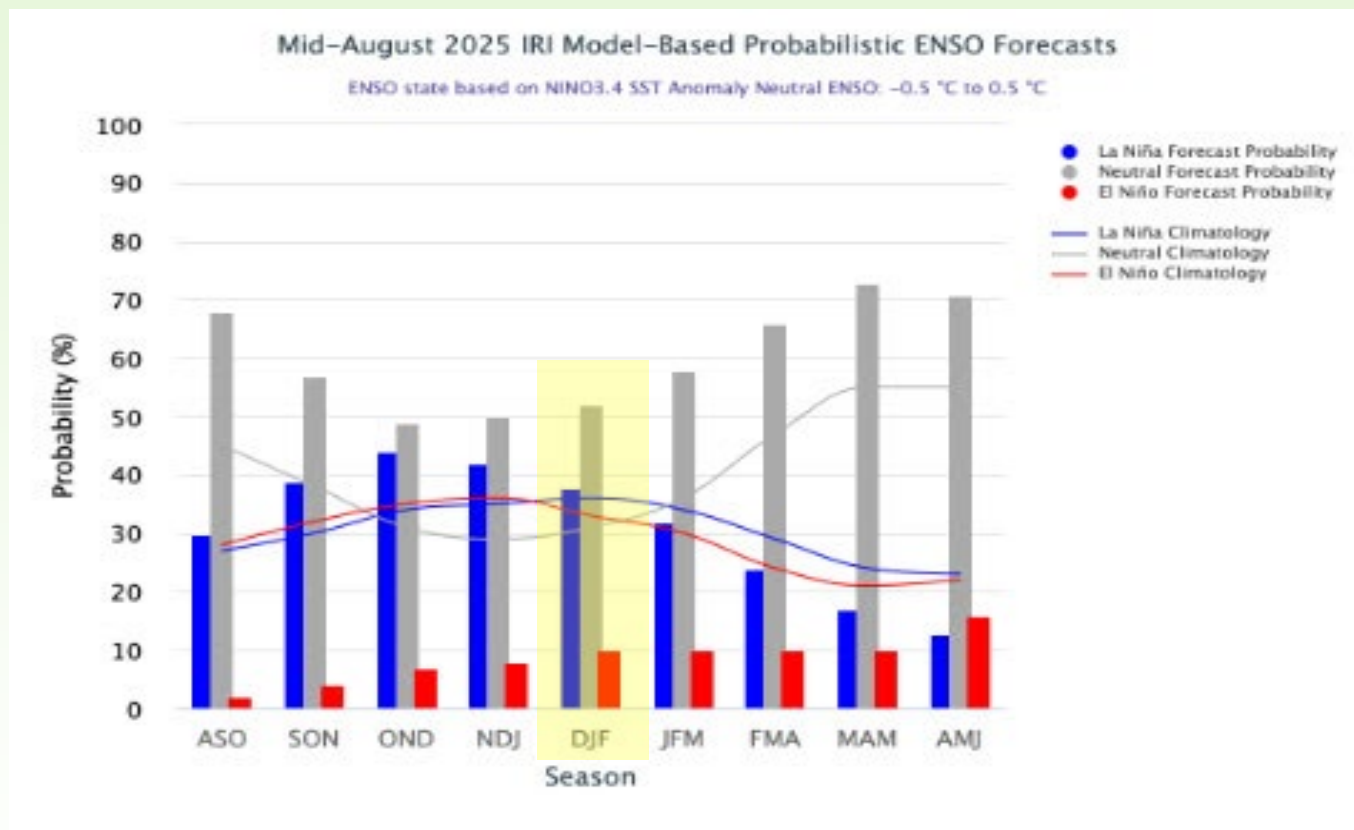
# Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies

## September 13, 2025



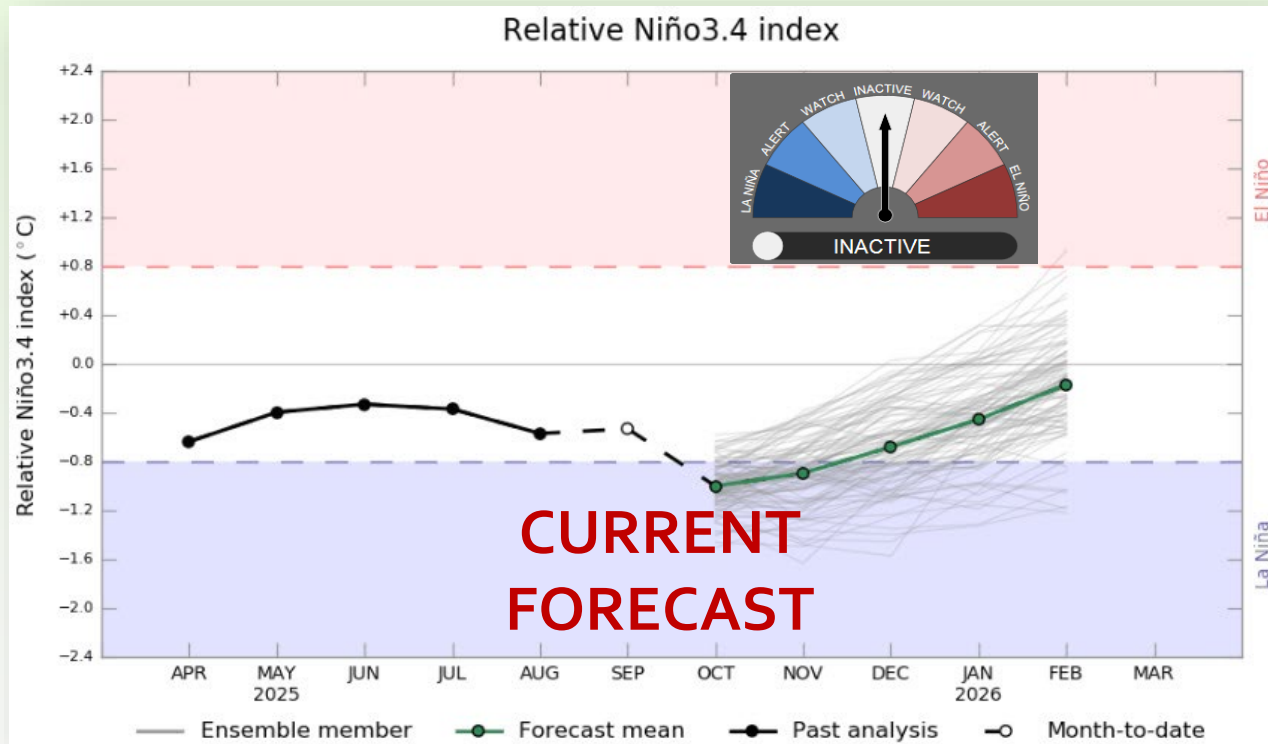


# A neutral forecast for Winter 2025 – 2026?



*Mid August 2025*

# Predictive Ocean Atmosphere Model from Australia



# Last Winter = “weak” La Nina Winter

El Niño - 27				La Niña - 25		
Weak - 11	Moderate - 7	Strong - 6	Very Strong - 3	Weak - 12	Moderate - 6	Strong - 7
1952-53	1951-52	1957-58	1982-83	1954-55	1955-56	1973-74
1953-54	1963-64	1965-66	1997-98	1964-65	1970-71	1975-76
1958-59	1968-69	1972-73	2015-16	1971-72	1995-96	1988-89
1969-70	1986-87	1987-88		1974-75	2011-12	1998-99
1976-77	1994-95	1991-92		1983-84	2020-21	1999-00
1977-78	2002-03	2023-24		1984-85	2021-22	2007-08
1979-80	2009-10			2000-01		2010-11
2004-05				2005-06		
2006-07				2008-09		
2014-15				2016-17		
2018-19				2017-18		
				2022-23		
				2024-25		

# **A Look at Jeff's 2025 – 2026 Forecast**



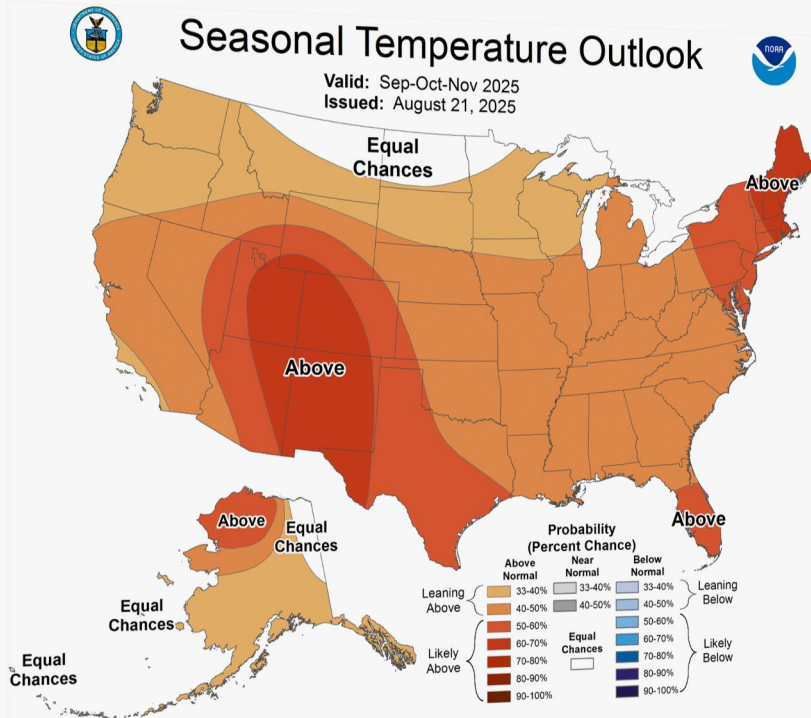
# NOAA Fall Outlook

## September – October – November

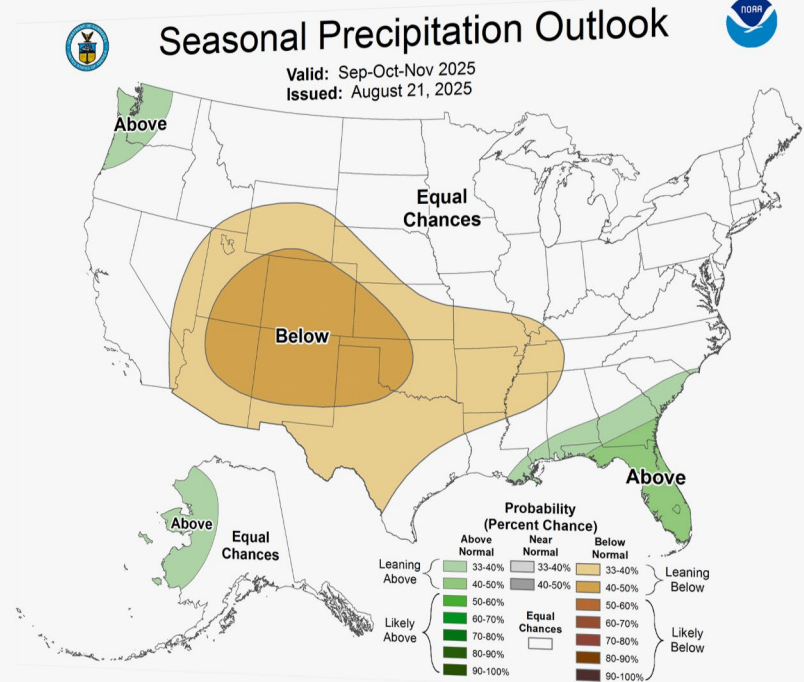
2025

2025

2025

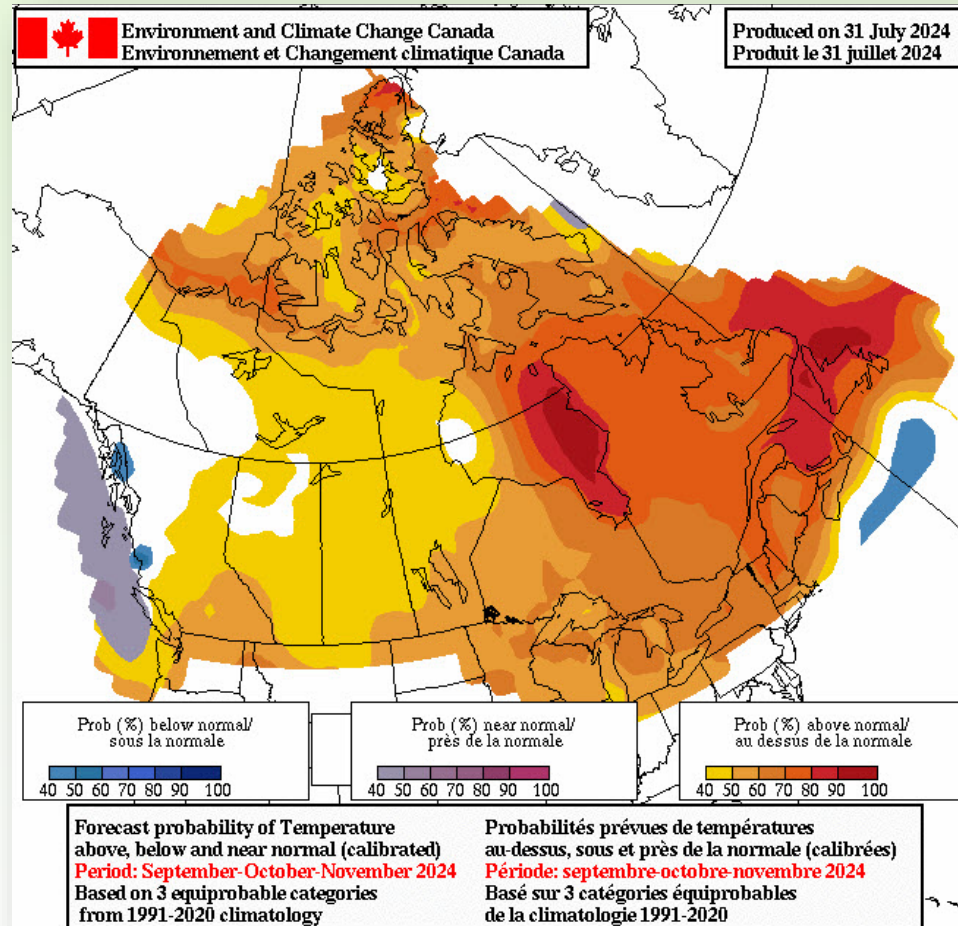


# TEMPERATURE



## PRECIPITATION

# Fall Long Range Forecast, Temperatures



Environment Canada



# Jeff's Fall Forecast

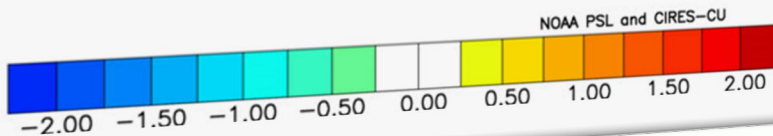
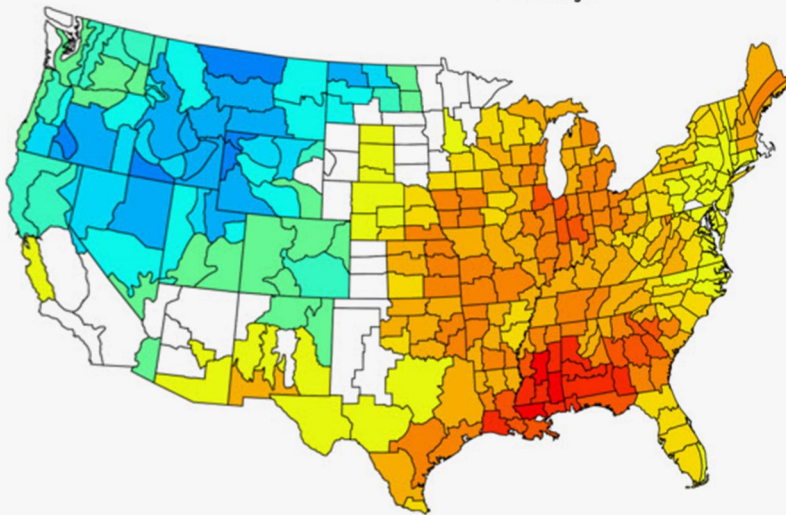
September – October – November

2025

2025

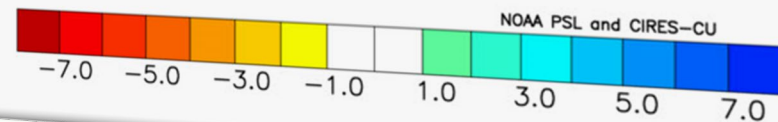
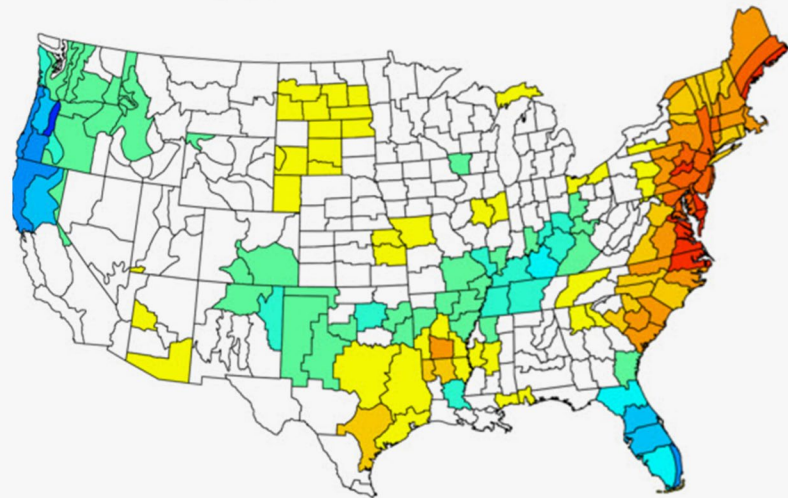
2025

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Temperature Anomalies (F)  
Sep to Nov 2024,2017,1984  
Versus 2007–2016 Longterm Average



TEMPERATURE

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Precipitation Anomalies (in)  
Sep to Nov 2024,2017,1984  
Versus 2007–2016 Longterm Average



PRECIPITATION

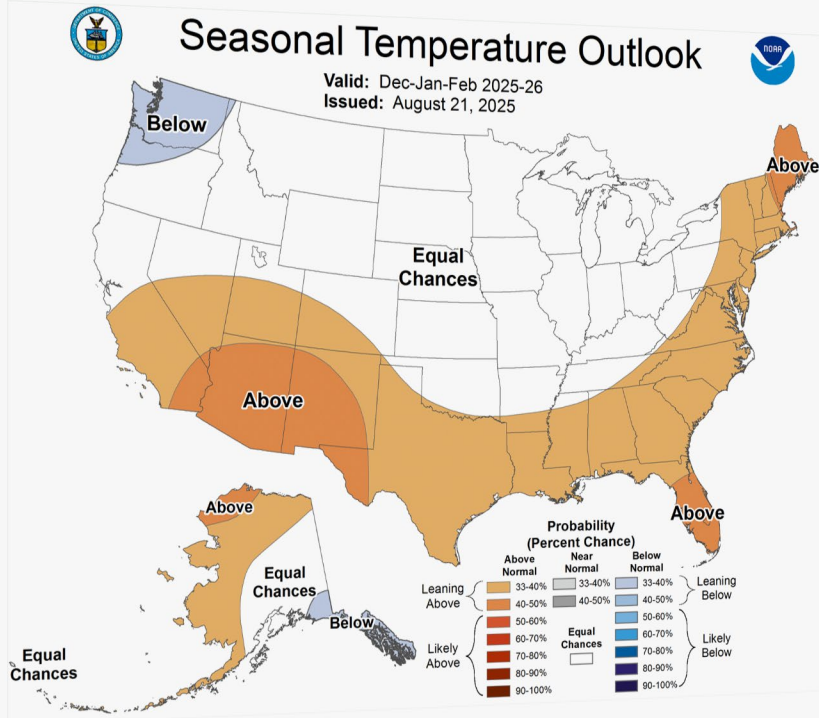
# NOAA Winter Outlook

December – January – February

2025      2026      2026

## Seasonal Temperature Outlook

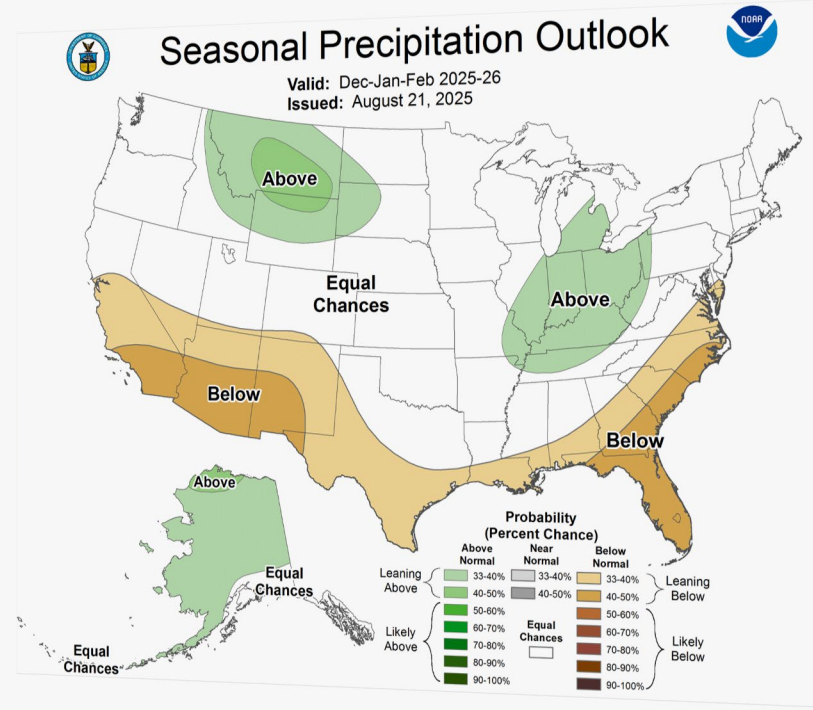
Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2025-26  
Issued: August 21, 2025



TEMPERATURE

## Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2025-26  
Issued: August 21, 2025



PRECIPITATION



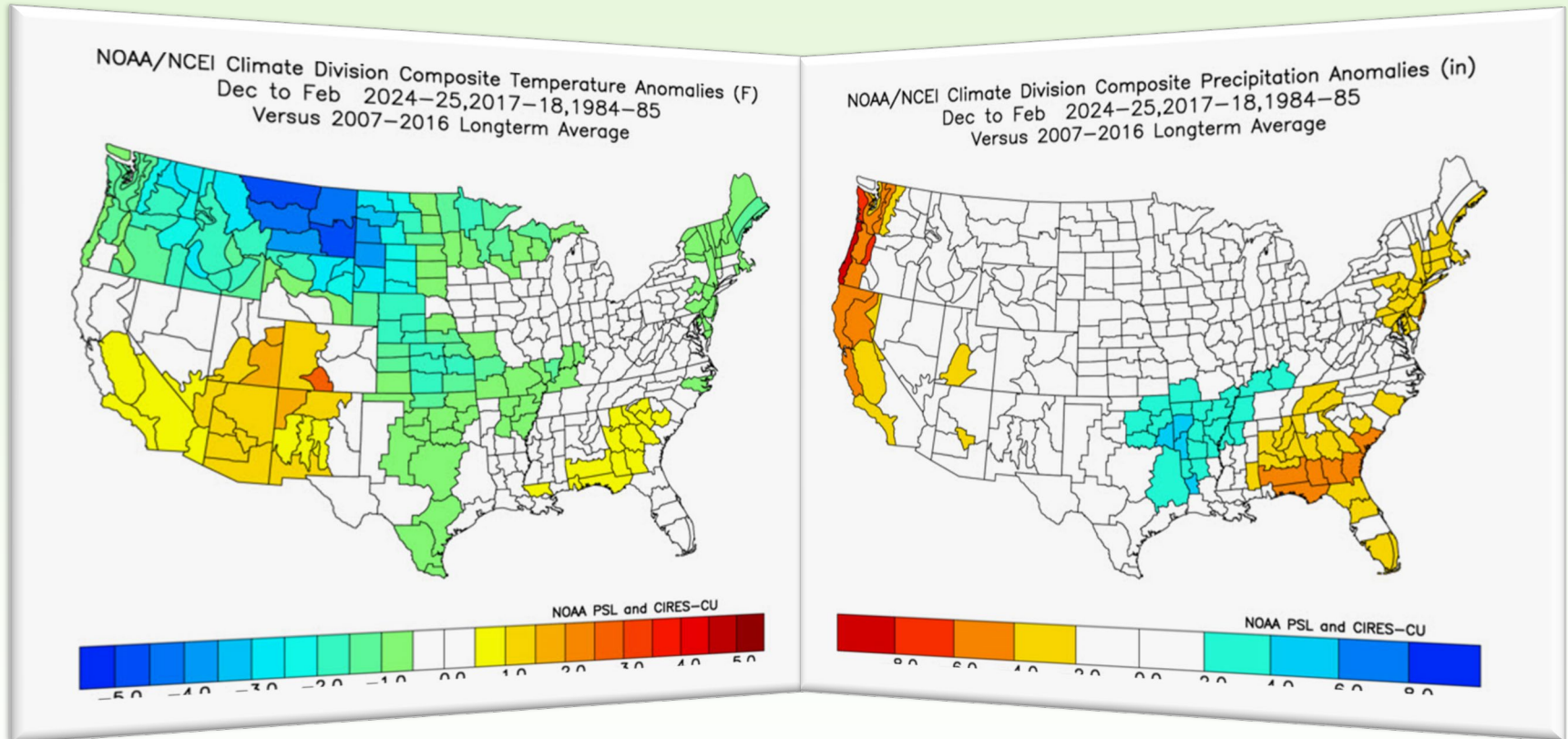
# Jeff's Winter Forecast

December – January – February

2025

2026

2026



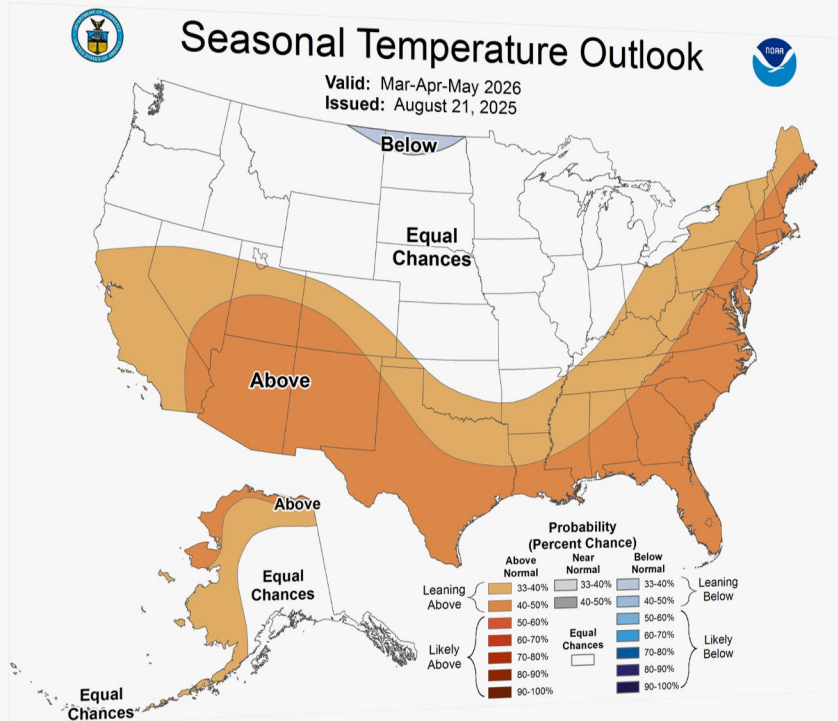
TEMPERATURE

PRECIPITATION

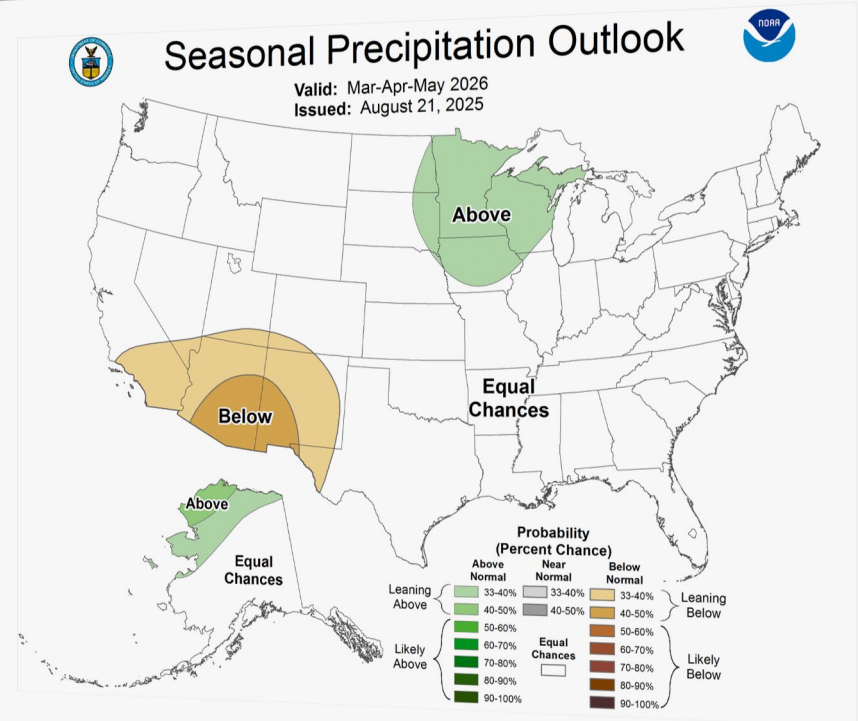
# NOAA Spring Outlook

March – April – May

2026    2026    2026



TEMPERATURE



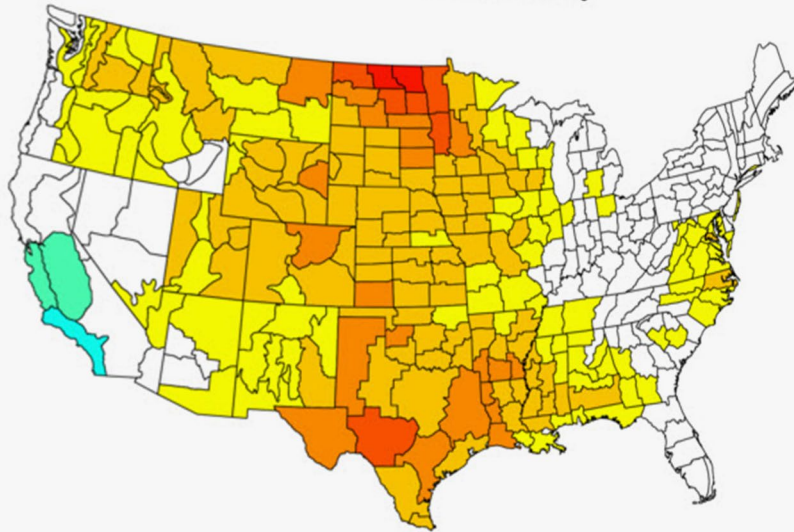
PRECIPITATION

# Jeff's Spring Forecast

March – April – May

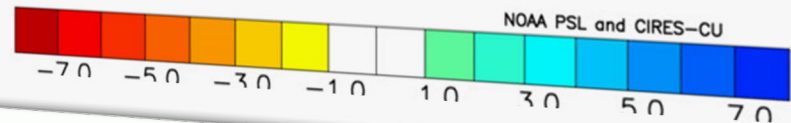
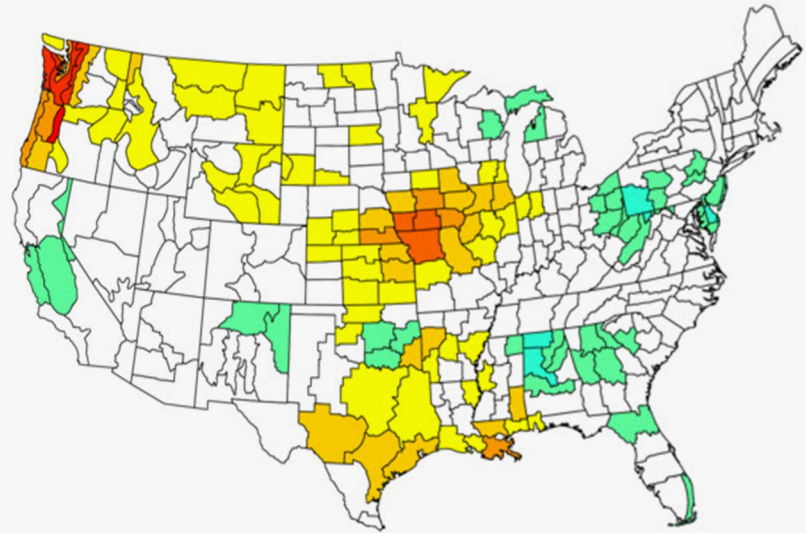
2026 2026 2026

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Temperature Anomalies (F)  
Mar to May 2025,2018,1985  
Versus 2007–2016 Longterm Average



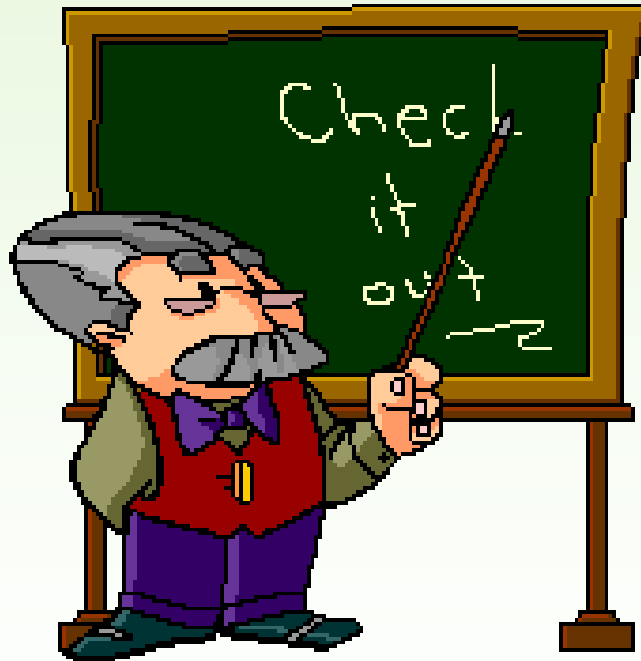
TEMPERATURE

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Precipitation Anomalies (in)  
Mar to May 2025,2018,1985  
Versus 2007–2016 Longterm Average



PRECIPITATION

*To conclude.....*





# Jeff's 2025-2026 Forecast

**FALL:**     *Normal/slightly above normal temperatures* – Most of the nation  
*Slightly cooler temperatures* – Western United States  
*Wetter than normal weather* – Pacific NW, Florida & the Ohio Valley

**WINTER:**

**SPRING:**

# Jeff's 2025-2026 Forecast

- FALL:**    *Normal/slightly above normal temperatures* – Most of the nation  
*Slightly cooler temperatures* – Western United States  
*Wetter than normal weather* – Pacific NW, Florida & the Ohio Valley
- WINTER:**    *Slightly above normal temperatures* – SW States into the Gulf Coast  
*Seasonal to below normal temperatures* – Most of the U.S.  
*Wetter than normal* – Pacific NW, S Mississippi Valley, New England  
*Below normal precipitation* – Central United States

**SPRING:**

# Jeff's 2025-2026 Forecast

- FALL:**    *Normal/slightly above normal temperatures* – Most of the nation  
*Slightly cooler temperatures* – Western United States  
*Wetter than normal weather* – Pacific NW, Florida & the Ohio Valley
- WINTER:**    *Slightly above normal temperatures* – SW States into the Gulf Coast  
*Seasonal to below normal temperatures* – Most of the U.S.  
*Wetter than normal* – Pacific NW, S Mississippi Valley, New England  
*Below normal precipitation* – Central United States
- SPRING:**    *Mild temperatures* – Most of the nation  
*Slightly cooler than normal* – SW United States  
*Above normal rainfall* – East of the Rocky Mountains

# Thank You!



*“Actually, it’s pronounced ‘mil-e-wah-que’, which is Algonquin for ‘the good land’”.*