

May-July 2026 Outlook: Perspective for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas Region



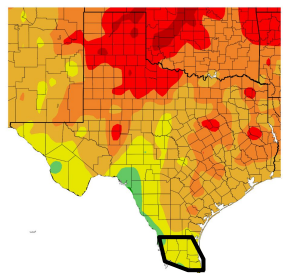
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

April 28, 2026

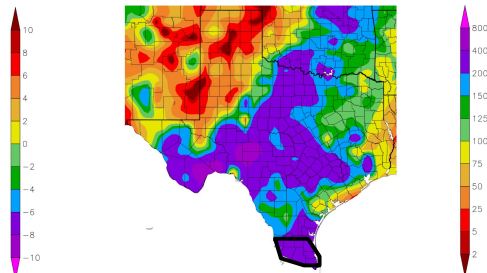
Arei Evbuoma, Barry Goldsmith, & Rodney Chai
NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, Texas

Hotter than normal conditions are favored to continue into the upcoming summer season; precipitation outlook remains a toss-up; drought, heat risk increases, occasional heavy rain/flooding, & water supply issues are in focus

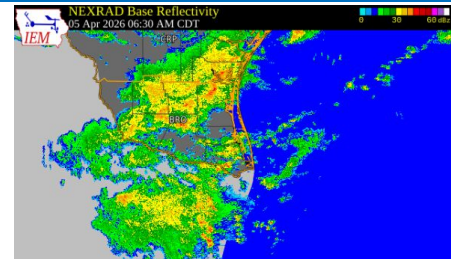
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
4/1/2026 - 4/25/2026



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
4/1/2026 - 4/25/2026



April 2026 greenup in the Lower RGV.



April 4-5, 2026 Rain Event



April 2026: Rainfall (some more places than others) in April helped to reduce the severity of drought in many places while also keeping the heat in check

Maximum 27-Day Mean Avg Temperature for BROWNSVILLE S PADRE ISLAND INTL AP, TX

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	80.7	2011-04-27	0
2	80.0	1967-04-27	0
3	79.9	2022-04-27	0
4	79.9	2020-04-27	0
5	79.7	2006-04-27	0
6	78.7	2012-04-27	0
7	78.6	2026-04-27	0
8	78.5	2001-04-27	0
9	78.4	2002-04-27	0
-	78.4	1963-04-27	0

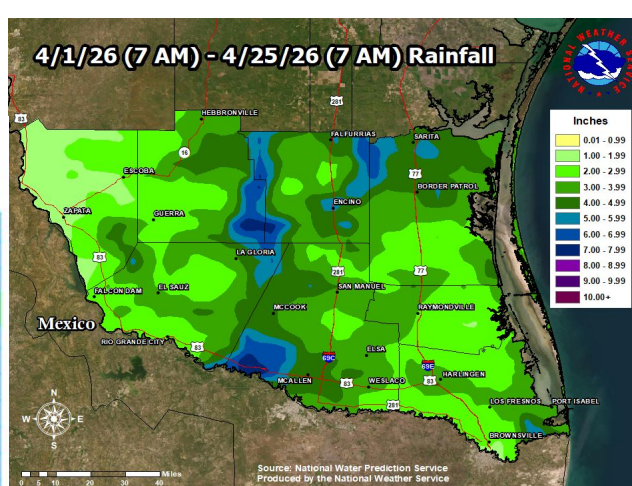
Period of record: 1898-12-01 to 2026-04-27

Maximum 27-Day Total Precipitation for MCALLEN MILLER INTL AP, TX

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	5.90	1992-04-27	0
2	5.80	2004-04-27	0
3	4.73	2026-04-27	1
4	4.59	2015-04-27	0
5	4.40	2010-04-27	0
6	4.01	1966-04-27	0
7	3.26	2023-04-27	0
8	3.15	1976-04-27	0
9	2.95	1981-04-27	0
10	2.11	2012-04-27	0

Period of record: 1961-01-14 to 2026-04-27

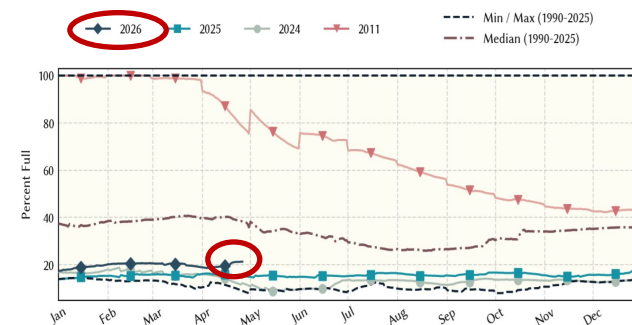


Top Image: Rainfall footprint for the month of April.

After months of being in a perpetual dryness, periods of **showers and thunderstorms** brought much-needed rainfall to Deep South Texas during the month of April. Widespread **D3 (Extreme Drought)** to **D4 (Exceptional Drought)** at the beginning of the month has since improved to widespread **D1 (Moderate Drought)** to **D2 (Severe Drought)**, as of April 28th, thanks to the recent rainfall. **Western Hidalgo, eastern Jim Hogg, Brooks, and northern Kenedy counties** were amongst the areas that received the most rainfall during the month of April.

Month to date, as of April 28th, Brownsville's rainfall of 1.66" is **0.33" above normal**. Harlingen's rainfall of 2.94" is **1.62" above normal**. Finally, McAllen's rainfall of 4.73" is **3.45" above normal (3rd wettest all-time for the month of April)**.

The combination of clouds and rainfall helped to keep the heat in check. Despite a very warm ending to the month, **April will fall short of reaching the top 10, with the exception of Brownsville, which could finish amongst the top 5 hottest for the month of April.**



Bottom Image: Latest data from the **Rio Grande Reservoirs (Texas Share)** continue to indicate Feb 2026 levels are near 30 year lows and records, but above 2025 levels. Month-over-month shares have increased from 19.5% to 21.3%. **Credit:** Texas Water Development Board

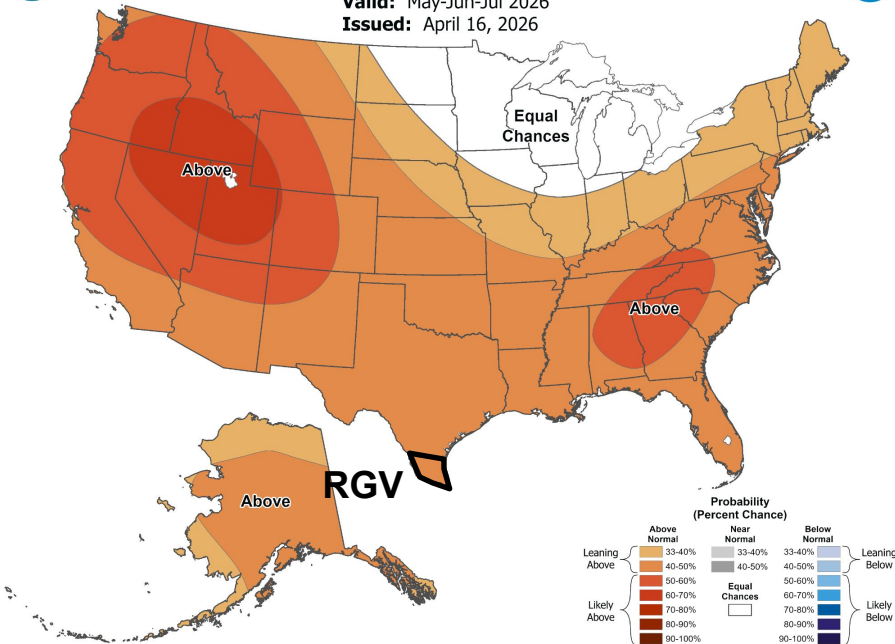


Seasonal Forecast, May-July 2026 USA



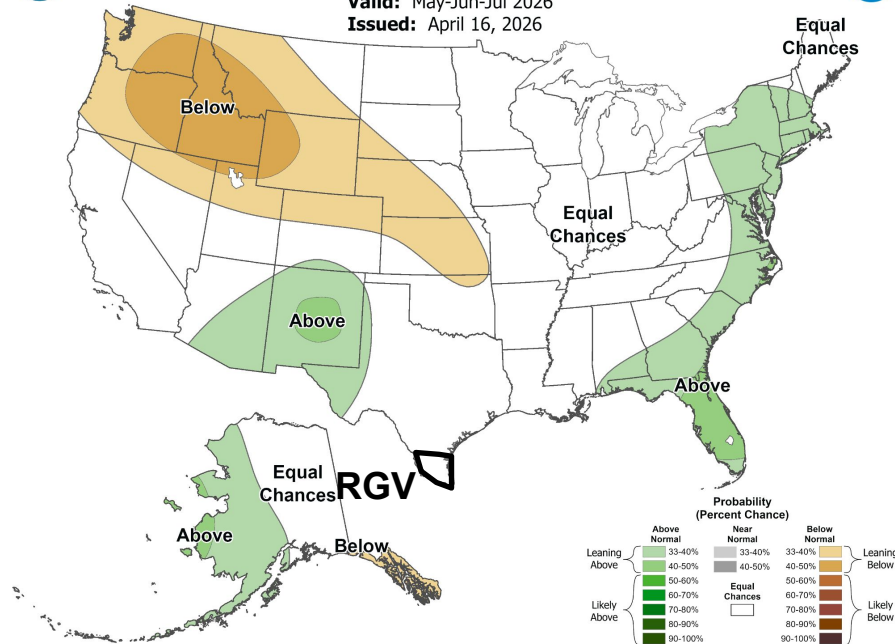
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: May-Jun-Jul 2026
Issued: April 16, 2026



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: May-Jun-Jul 2026
Issued: April 16, 2026



Confidence: Medium-High (50-70%) for hotter than normal temperatures during the May-July (MJJ) period. Precipitation: Equal chances for above, normal, or below normal precipitation. Precipitation Confidence: Low-Medium (33%).



Key Takeaways: May-July 2026 Outlook

- **A hotter than normal outlook** is anticipated through the **May-July** period for the RGV/Deep South Texas region. **Precipitation outlook remains a toss-up across the region during the May-July timeframe!**
- Long-range models are signaling a **heat ridge beginning to shift northward from central Mexico through South Texas** late May into early June. **Heat Risk trends** will continue to **increase** in time, especially **late May into June** across the RGV/Deep South Texas region due to model trends and climatology.
- **Wildfire concerns** are no longer in focus after beneficial rains yielded **substantial greenup** across the region recently. However, if additional rains fail to materialize, high evaporation rates could yield renewed **wildfire weather issues later in June or July**.
- Some beneficial rains in April helped to reduce drought conditions across the region. By late April, mainly **D1 (Moderate Drought)** to **D2 (Severe Drought)** conditions were observed across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley (see slide 8 for more information). Depending on how precipitation plays out through June, additional drought improvements are possible over at least parts of the area.
- Falcon Int'l Reservoir remained **near historic seasonal lows at the end of April**. **Confidence remains near-certain (~100%) on total storage remaining just above record lows through July**.
- As we go through the May-July time period, **severe thunderstorms (winds, hail, tornadoes)**, **heavy rainfall, and localized flooding** has to be taken into consideration as the prospects for showers and storms could increase.
- The **2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season is expected to be below average** with ENSO Neutral conditions expected to develop into an El Nino later this summer into the Fall season. NOAA outlook comes out in late May.

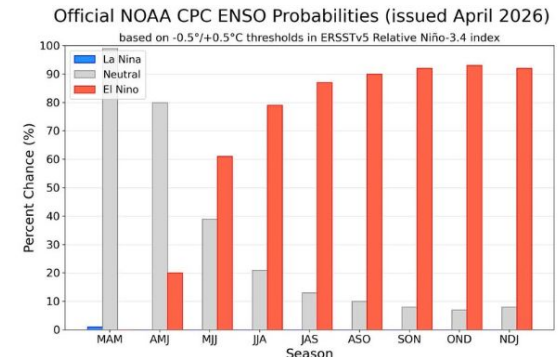
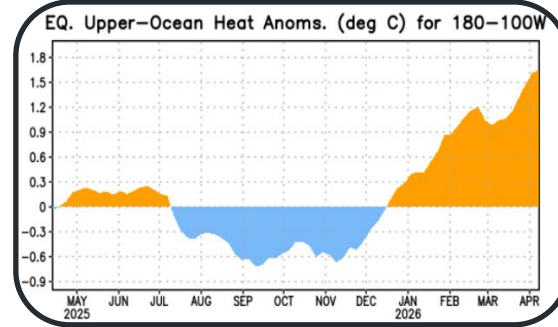
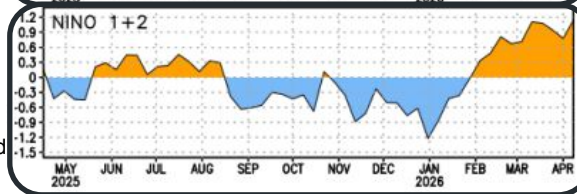
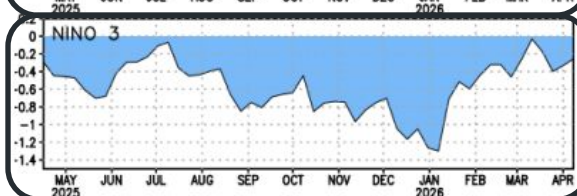
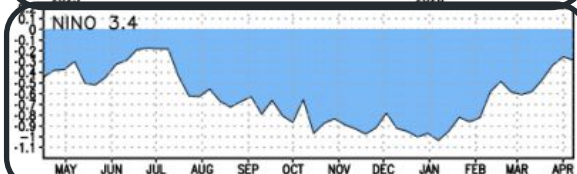
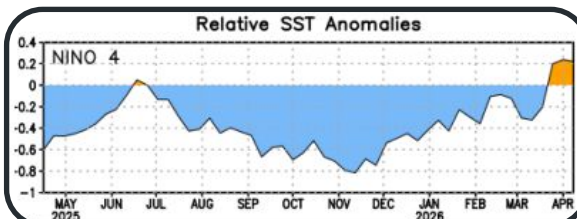


The “Why” of the Forecast: ENSO Neutral to El Niño transition, soil moisture, long-term trends, and other key climate teleconnections to play a role

- **ENSO Neutral conditions**, which are currently in place, is expected to trend towards an **El Niño** in the next few months. The combination of analogs and long term trends such as a negative Pacific Decadal Oscillation (-PDO), and model trends suggest that a **hotter than normal pattern** is **avored** across Deep South Texas/RGV in the **May-July (MJJ) period**.
- This transition towards an **El Niño**, could briefly cause a **wetter pattern** to develop during this Spring Season, particularly in the May-June timeframe. **The uncertainty in this being relaized combined with an extensively long-term drought is why our precipitation outlook remains a toss-up (50/50 chance for a dry or wet pattern).**

*Above right: Oceanic Niño Index. Values between -0.5 and 0.5 (gray) indicates ENSO Neutral conditions April-June 2024. ENSO Neutral conditions transitioned to a mainly weak La Nina July 2024 has persisted to present. Values between -0.5 and -1.0 (blue) indicates a weak La Nina.

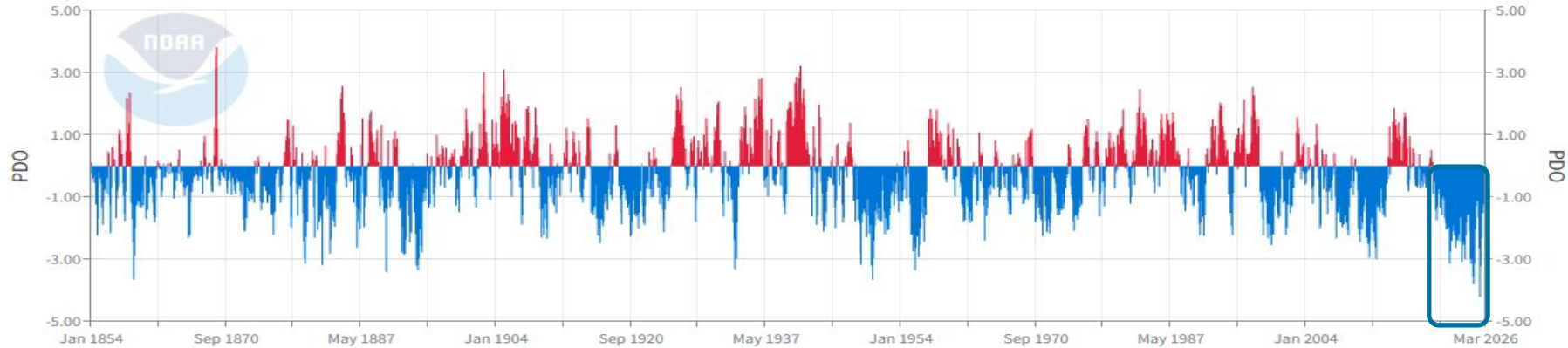
Year	DJF	JFM	FMA	MAM	AMJ	MJJ	JJA	JAS	ASO	SON	OND	NDJ
2023	-0.8	-0.6	-0.4	-0.2	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.5
2024	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.1	-0.3	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-1.1
2025	-1.1	-0.9	-0.7	-0.5	-0.5	0.0	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0
2026	-0.9	-0.7										



The “Why” of the Forecast: Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) remains in Sharp Negative Phase

Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO)

January 1854-March 2026



Source: <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/cmb/ersst/v5/index/ersst.v5.pdo.dat>

Powered by ZingChart

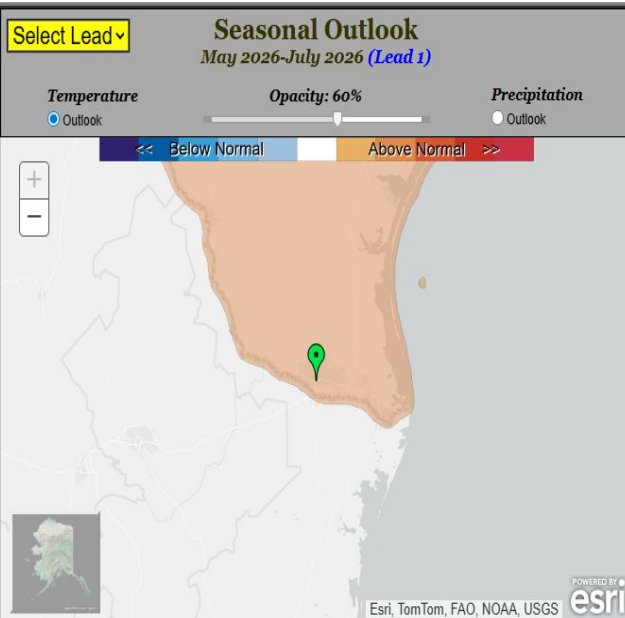
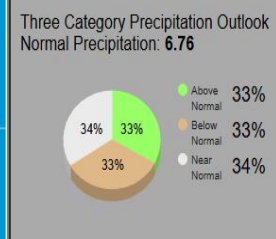
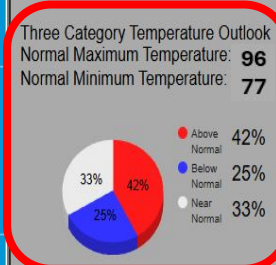
- The 2021-2026 **prolonged and strong negative PDO has persisted**, and will remain the case through mid 2026. This **continues to support confidence** for a **hotter than normal pattern to persist through mid 2026**.
- In addition to the sharply negative PDO, an ENSO Neutral and an ongoing drought in place will support a **drier than normal precipitation theme** through the May-July (MJJ) period. However, seasonality plus a transition to an El Niño this summer supports a brief shift towards a **wetter pattern** across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley through this Spring Season and possibly into June. July may end up dry based on this combination and recent history (2023). Overall, **precipitation odds May-Jul remains a toss-up! Confidence remains high** for a sharply negative PDO to continue.



The May-July 2026 Outlook: Rio Grande Valley (McAllen as Anchor Point)

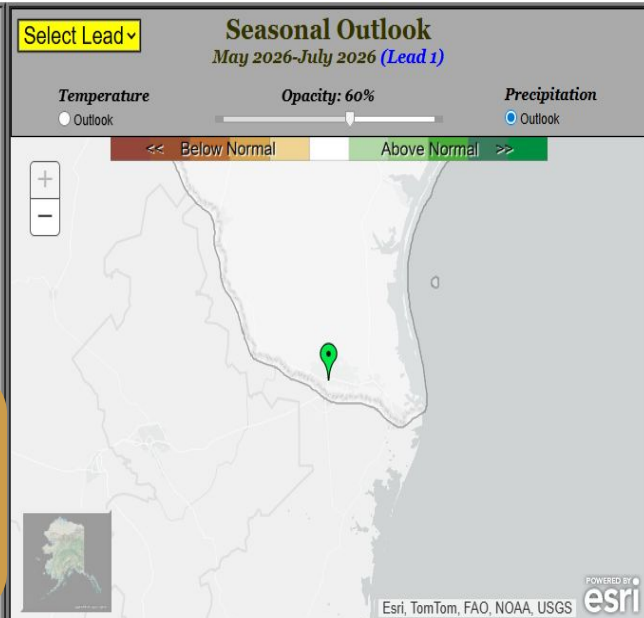
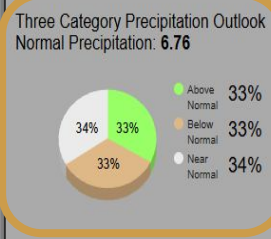
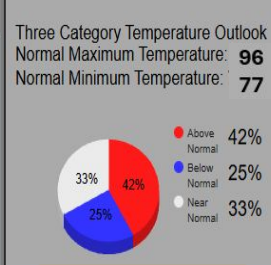
McAllen, TX, USA

7 Day Forecast for McAllen, Texas



McAllen, TX, USA

7 Day Forecast for McAllen, Texas

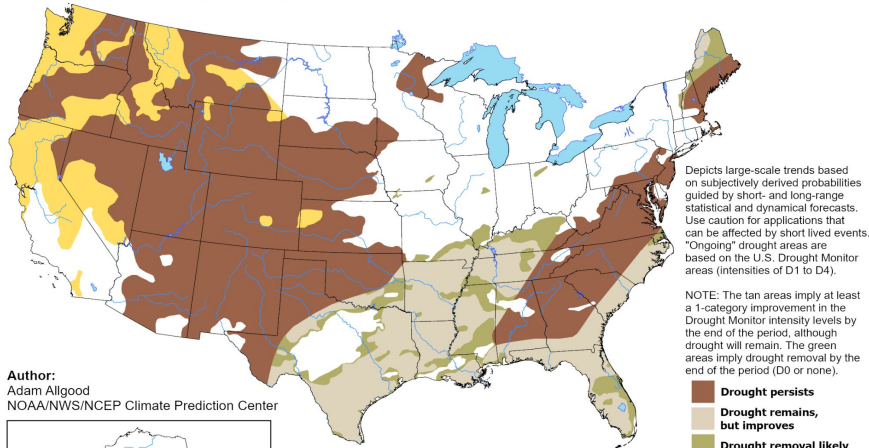


- **Temperature:** **Hotter than normal temperatures** are expected. **Confidence: Medium-High (50-70%).** RGV averages: Afternoon – Upper 80s-Lower 90s through mid-May; Lower to upper 90s late May through July. Wake-up: Low to mid 70s through May; Mid to upper 70s June through July.
- **Precipitation:** Odds remain a toss-up. **Confidence: Low-medium (33% for above, normal, or below normal).** RGV averages: 7 to 7.5 inches (**most in June**).

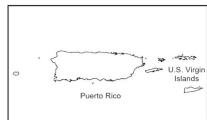
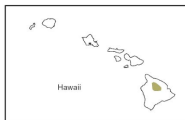
The May-July 2026 “Droughtlook”

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

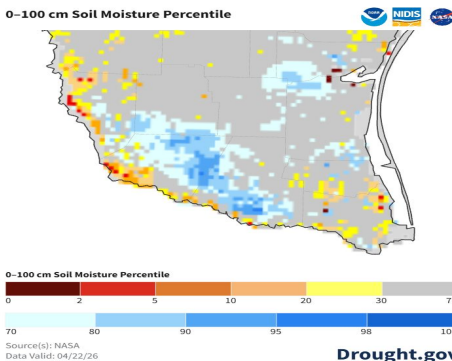
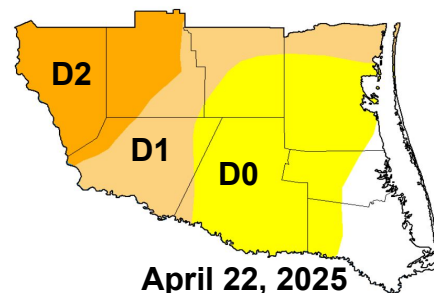
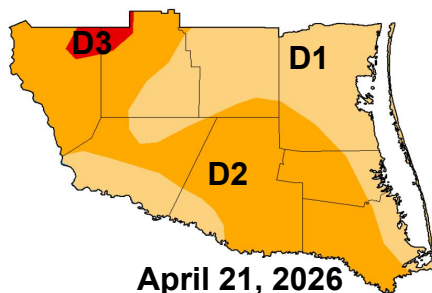
Valid for April 16 - July 31, 2026
Released April 16, 2026



Author:
Adam Allgood
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>



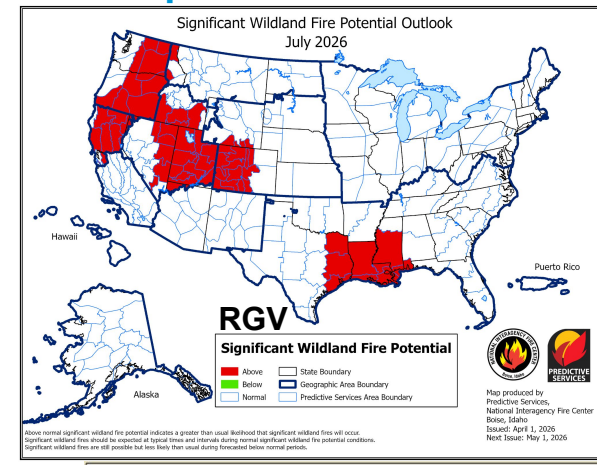
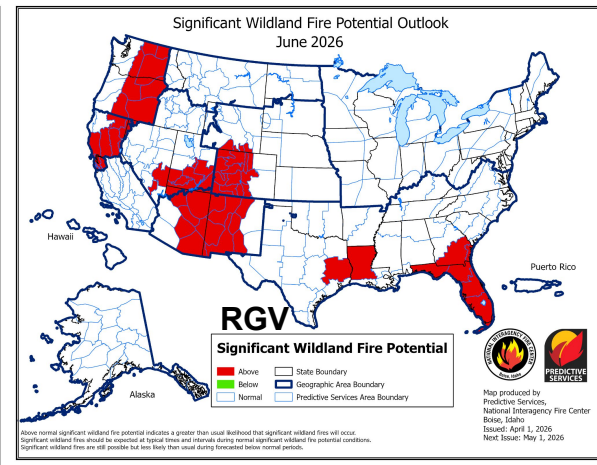
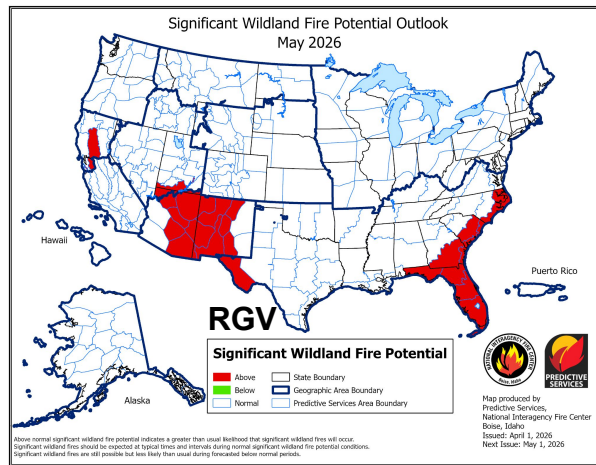
Drought Classification



- Despite recent improvements, **Year-over-Year (YoY) drought/dryness** still shows a deeper and more expansive drought across Deep South Texas this year compared to 2025.
- **Extreme Drought (D3)** conditions are being observed across 2% of Deep South Texas, including extreme northeastern Zapata and extreme northwestern Jim Hogg counties. **Soil moisture percentages remain very low** in this area.
- **Severe Drought (D2)** conditions are being observed about 59% of Deep South Texas, including all of Zapata county, most of Hidalgo, western and central Willacy and Cameron counties, southwestern Kenedy county, extreme southern Brooks county, western and northern Jim Hogg county, and central Starr county.
- The seasonal drought outlook suggests **drought conditions/dryness improving slightly** overall, but confidence is low as to how much more.



Wildfire Concerns will remain limited after some beneficial rains fell in April



- Wildfire concerns will remain limited after beneficial rains improved drought conditions and resulted in significant greenup across the region.
- This is the time of year where **moisture** in the form of **humidity and showers/thunderstorms increase**. Dry cool fronts will become less common, allowing **relative humidity (RH) values to typically remain above wildfire weather thresholds**.
- Days with a return flow out of the south boosting relative humidity (RH) values **will be greater than** days with winds out of the north.
- **If additional showers and thunderstorms are realized** through June, not only will it help to continue to improve the extensive drought across the region, but it will **promote additional greenup** over the region.
- **July** could signal a transition back to drying fuels if rains don't come and afternoon humidity decreases, leading to higher evaporation. Confidence remains uncertain now.

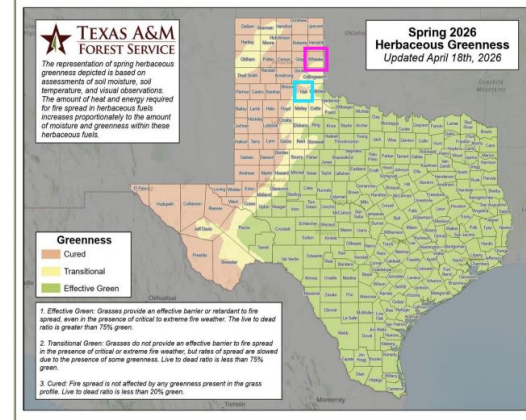
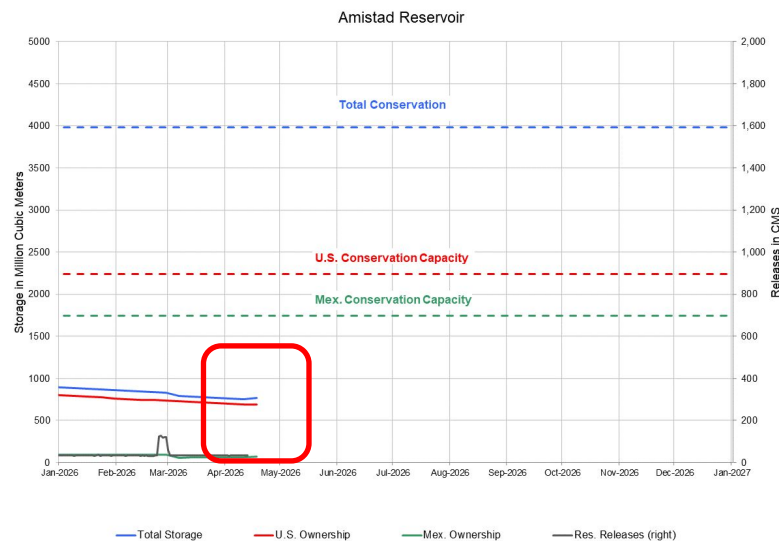
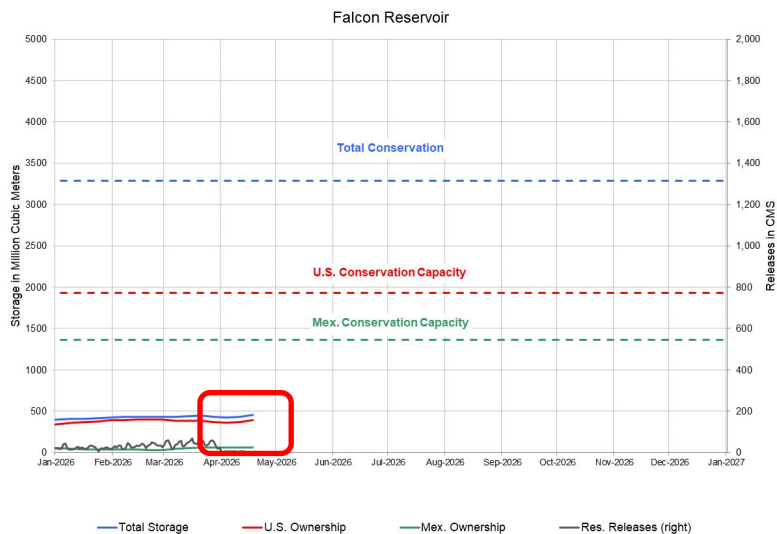


Image: Herbaceous Greenness across Texas as of April 18, 2026. Fire status improved from **greenup** across Deep South Texas amid recent beneficial rains.



Amistad and Falcon Reservoirs have and will continue to remain just above record lows through early 2026



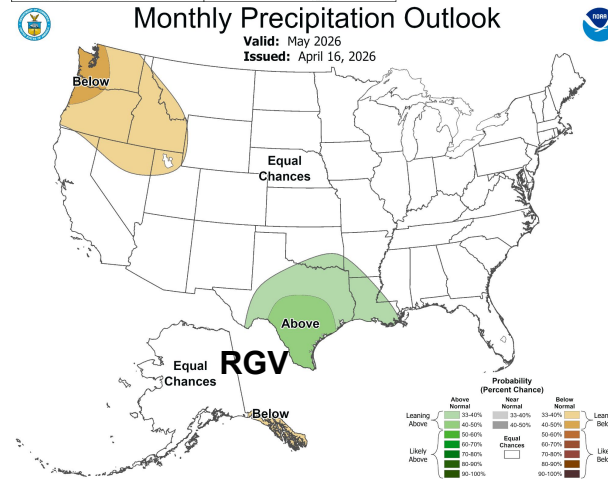
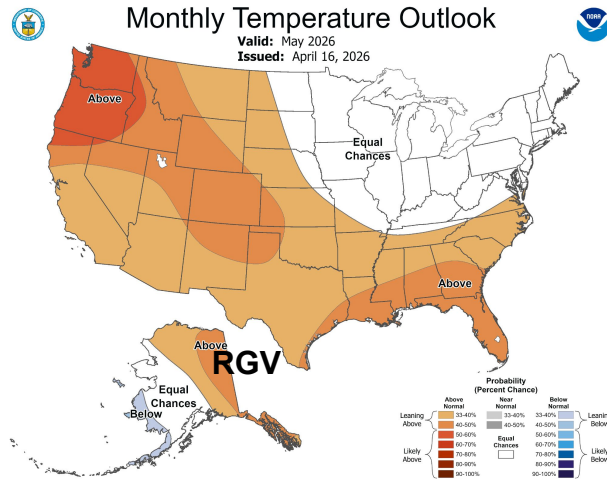
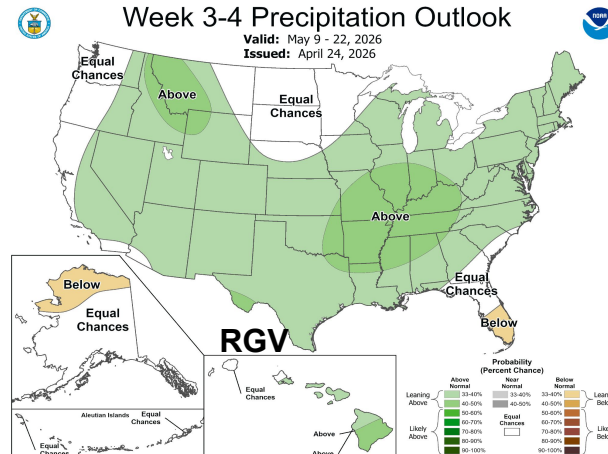
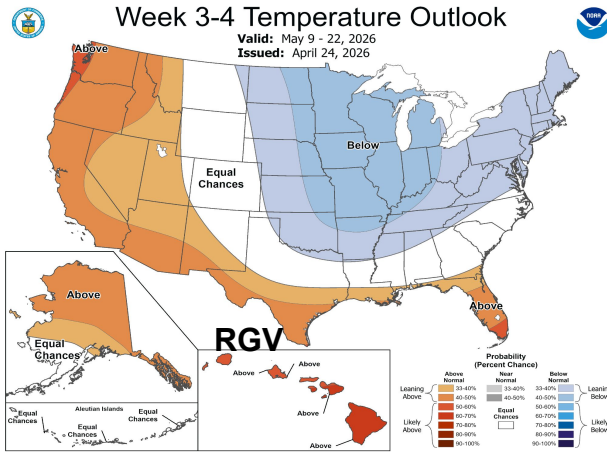
- **Falcon rose slightly, at 14.4% as of April 26th** (slightly higher than the **13.7% from late March**). Levels are likely to fall slowly through June, unless additional releases are provided from Amistad - or periodic thunderstorm systems develop.
- **Amistad fell slightly and remains just above all-time record lows as of late April**. Levels were at **19.2% on April 26th** (slightly lower than the **19.5% from late March**). Levels should change little or fall slowly through June, unless periodic thunderstorm systems develop.

Water Conservation is Key Until Further Notice!

- “Stage 2/3” Restrictions will continue through early 2026 (at least) in some areas, and are likely to continue **until further notice** based on inflows from Amistad and Falcon.
- Learn more at the [Texas Water Development Board’s Conservation Page](#).

The screenshot displays the Texas Water Development Board website. At the top left is the logo with the text "Texas Water Development Board". To the right is a search bar and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Instagram, and RSS. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: Home, Board, Financial Assistance, Water Planning, Groundwater, Surface Water, Flood, Drought, Conservation, Innovative Water, and Data & Apps. The main content area is titled "Water Conservation" and features three featured items: "Conservation Education Programs of the TWDB", "Water Exploration", and "Raising Your Water IQ: A Water Conservation Curriculum for Middle School". To the right of these items is a vertical menu with categories: Best Management Practices, Agriculture, Literature, Resources, Education, Outreach, Municipal, Workshops & Presentations, and Conservation Staff. Below this menu is a "Drought" section with sub-links for Rainwater Harvesting and Water Reuse. The main text below the featured items states: "The mission of the water conservation staff is to provide leadership, planning, education, information, technical assistance, and agricultural financial assistance for water conservation in Texas." It then references the "Water for Texas: 2017 State Water Plan" and provides statistics for projected water conservation strategies for the year 2070, including irrigation (27.7%), municipal (15.7%), other (9.6%), and reuse (14.2%) conservation, totaling 67.6% of potential supplies.

May 2026: Medium (40-50%) Confidence on Temperature; Low to Medium (30-50%) for Above Normal Precipitation



The combination of an **ENSO Neutral**, a **negative Pacific Decadal Oscillation (-PDO)**, and an **extensively long-term drought** should continue to continue to **support hotter than normal temperatures prevailing through July** across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley.

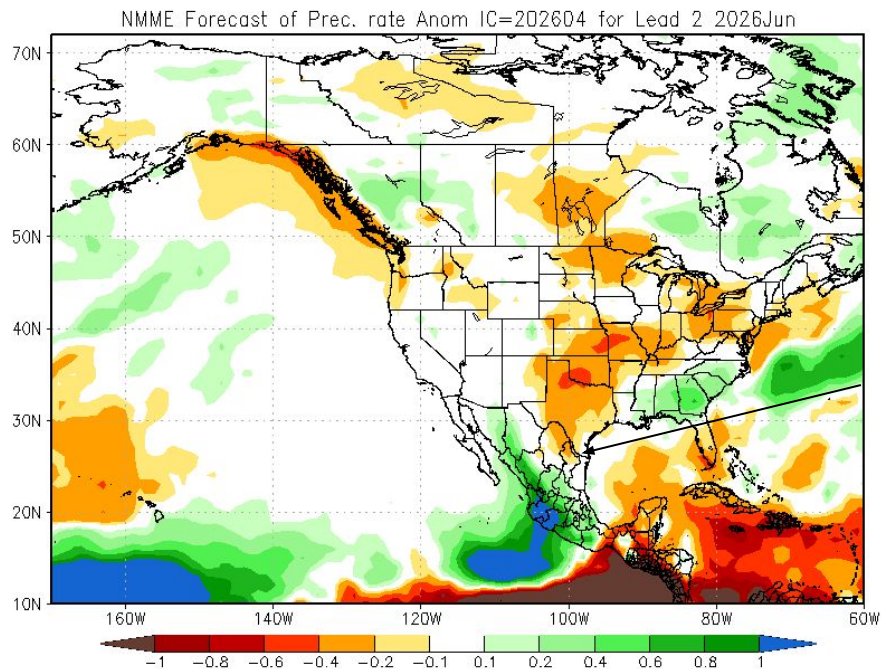
- **Medium to long-range models are favoring a hotter than normal pattern with increased heat risk developing late May into early June.** Overall, a **hotter than normal pattern** is expected through July.

Overall, our **confidence is medium (40-50%) chance for a hotter than normal May**.

- Precipitation odds remain equal for above, normal, or drier than normal. Factors include a **-PDO**, a **neutral ENSO**, and **climatology**.
- Should the weather pattern flip wetter, **showers and storms** will be capable of producing **heavy rainfall and localized flooding**. **Severe storms** capable of **damaging winds, large hail, and/or tornadoes** will also be possible in any storms that develop.

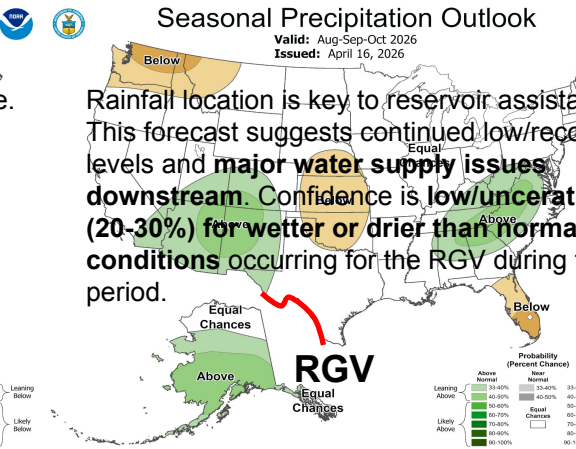
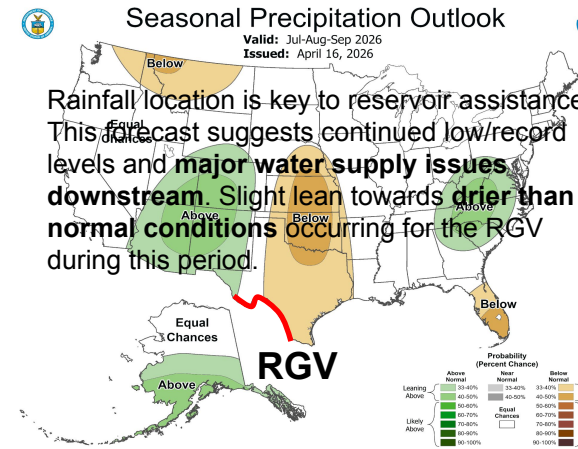
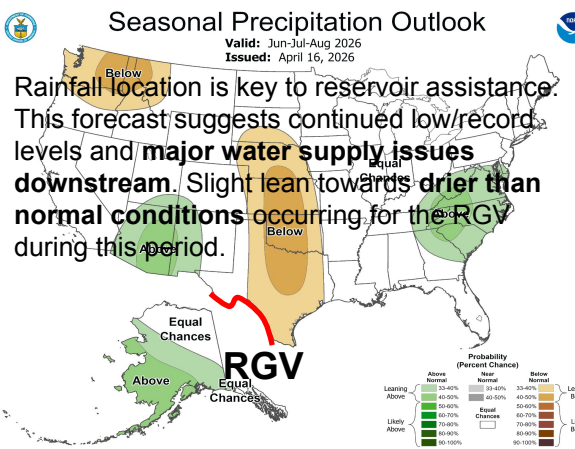
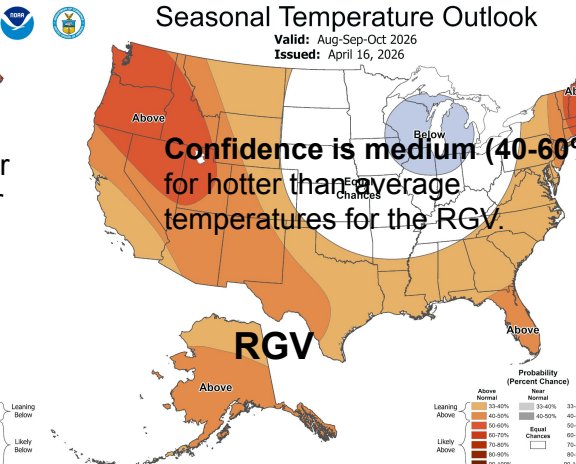
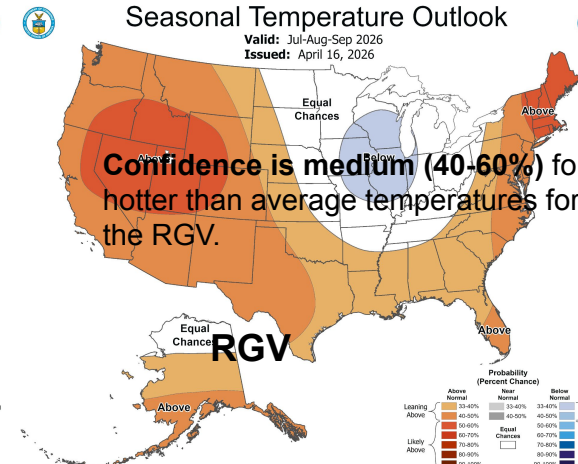
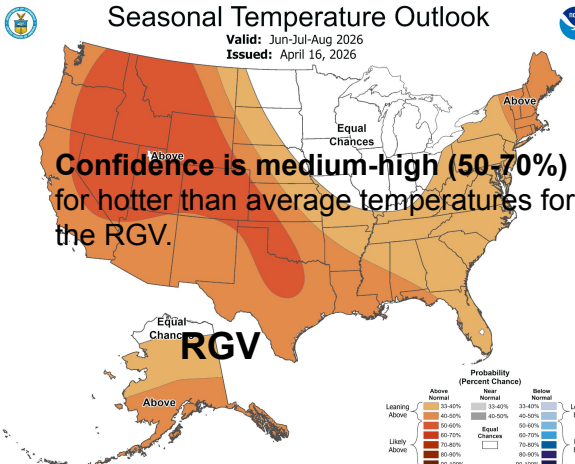


Potential rainfall rate anomaly, June 2026



- This model's forecast for June favors a **near normal to slightly drier than normal pattern** (note the golden or light brown colors nearby) **developing**.

Summer 2026 through mid Autumn 2026: Hotter than normal trends favored; Drier than normal conditions are favored through the Summer (equal chances towards the Fall)

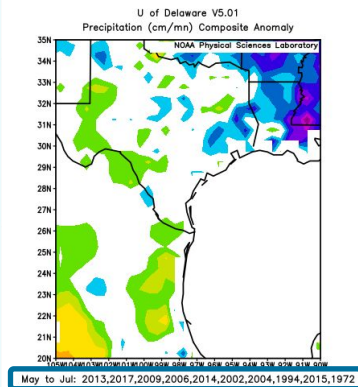


Comparing Similar ENSO Neutral to El Nino Episodes mostly within the last 30 years;

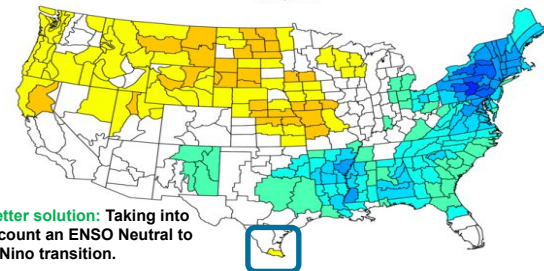
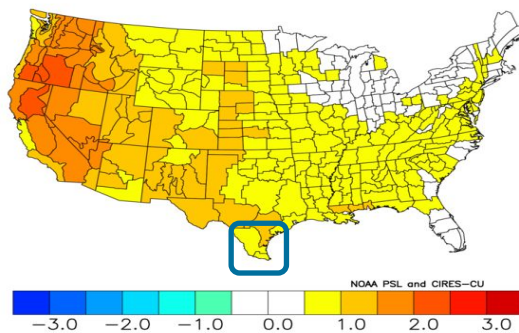
May-July Periods

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Temperature Anomalies (F)
May to Jul 2002,2006,2018,2024,2009,2015
Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average

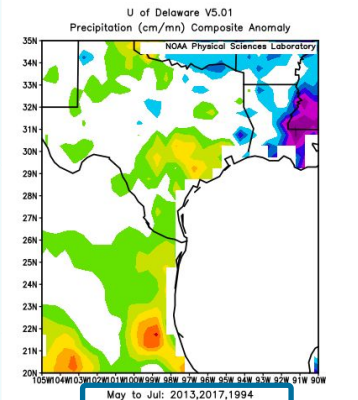
NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Precipitation Anomalies (in)
Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average
May to Jul 2013,2025,2017,2009,2006,2022,2014,2002,2004,1994
2015,1972



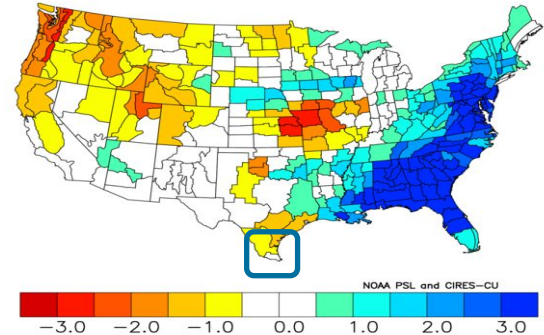
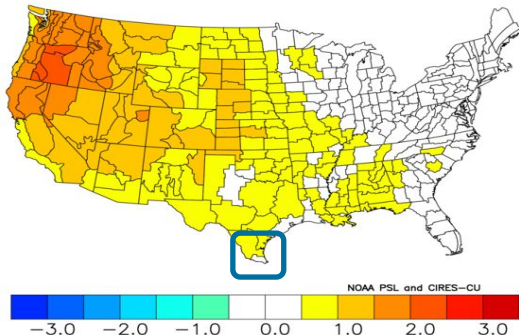
Wet Case



Wetter solution: Taking into account an ENSO Neutral to El Nino transition.



Dry Case



- **Top:** Composite temperature (left) and precipitation (right) anomalies for similar Neutral to El Nino transition episodes leading into May-July, since 1950.
- **Bottom Left:** Same, but took out the 2024 season.
- **Bottom Right:** Same, but added 2018 and took out 2009, 2006, 2022, 2014, 2002, 2004, 2015, and 1972 seasons.

Composite departure from average rainfall for years of similar Neutral to El Nino transition episodes in the May to July window.



Bottom Lines

- A **hotter than normal pattern** is anticipated during the **May-July (MJJ) time period** with ENSO Neutral conditions in place. **Heat Risk** could really begin emerging late May into early June, peaking in July. **Precipitation odds are a toss-up.**
- Sufficient inflows from Mexican and International reservoirs serving the Lower Rio Grande watershed remain **unlikely**. The **combined share of water in Amistad and Falcon will likely to continue at or below Stage 2/3 triggers (25% or less) until further notice**. Water conservation, smart irrigation, and rainwater harvesting are **critical actions to continue as we move into the Summer**.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)** to **D2 (Severe Drought)** conditions are in place across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley following beneficial rains that fell in April. Depending on how precipitation plays out through June, drought conditions could undergo further, but slight, improvements.
- **Wildfire concerns have been reduced and are limited after beneficial rains that fell in April led to significant greenup across the region**. A return to persistently hot, breezy, and low-rainfall May-June could result in an increased threat; more likely, a hotter and drier July could see fire danger return.
- Don't "sleep" on the potential for **flash flooding**, through June. While a repeat of March 26-28, 2025, is not expected, **flood safety and readiness** needs to be in back of mind. Any storms that develop could become **severe producing damaging winds, large hail, and/or tornadoes**.
- Latest ENSO projections (i.e. a developing El Niño later this Summer) suggest a below average 2026 hurricane season. **Remember, it only takes one landfall** to make a season memorable. We'll keep close watch on trends in June and July!