



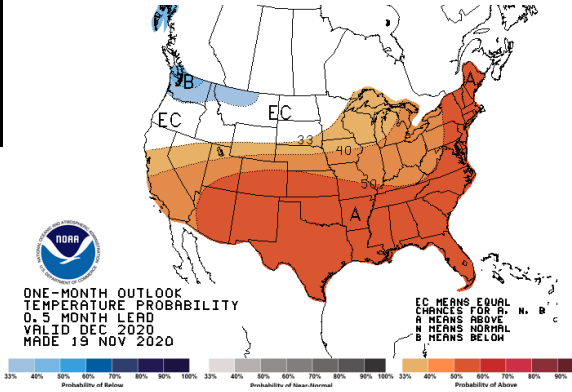
Important Message:
La Niña Strengthens Further

- ✓ La Niña conditions continue to strengthen, and a moderate event is expected, though a strong event remains possible. This will continue to play a large role in the seasonal forecasts through the winter and early spring.
- ✓ Most models predict this ongoing La Niña event will peak in intensity during the Dec-Feb period, and then weaken into the 2021 Spring season.

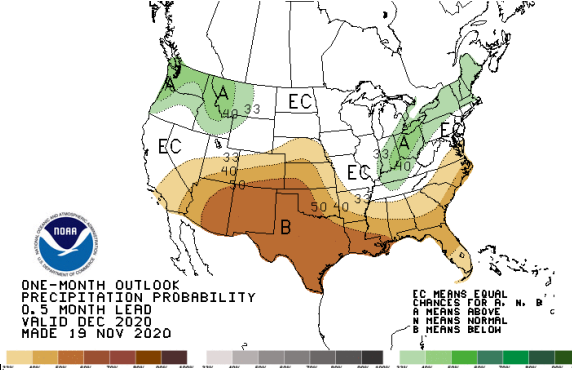
December 2020 Temperature & Precipitation Outlooks

- Above normal temperatures are favored over much of Central Region, in large part due to a strong dynamical model signal in weeks 3-4. The exception is in parts of the Dakotas, northwestern Minnesota, and northern Wyoming where equal chances are forecast.
- Below normal precipitation is forecast for portions of the south-central Plains, eastern Rockies, and western Missouri. Above normal precipitation is favored across the Ohio Valley. Elsewhere, equal chances are forecast.

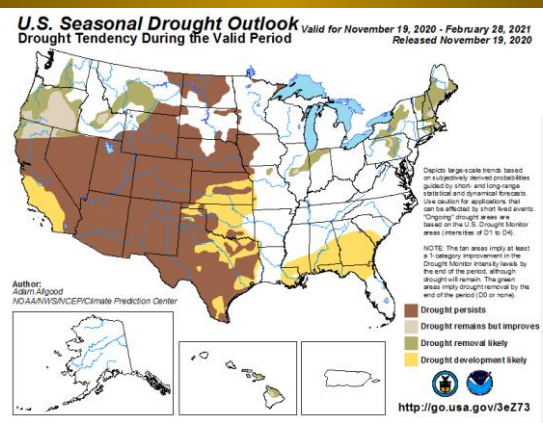
One Month Temperature Outlook



One Month Precipitation Outlook



Seasonal Drought Outlook

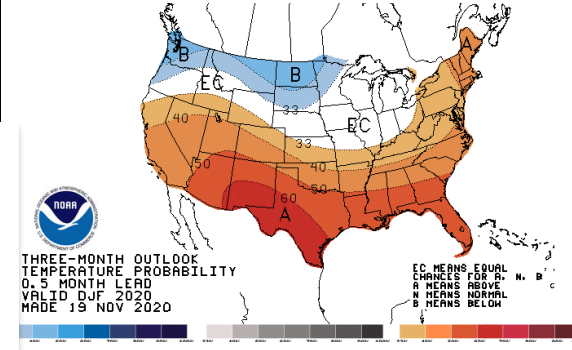


Drought conditions are likely to persist or develop across much of the Plains, eastern Rockies, as well as western Missouri and Iowa. Further east, drought removal or improvement is likely in parts of northeast Missouri, Illinois, and Indiana.

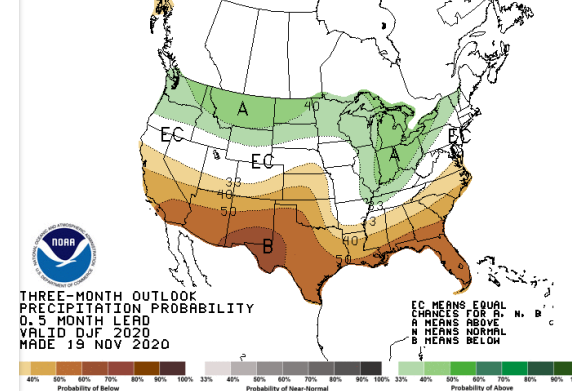
Dec 2020 through Feb 2021 Temperature & Precipitation Outlooks

- Below normal temperatures are favored over the Dakotas and parts of the Upper Midwest. Above normal temperatures are forecast in the south-central Plains, eastern Rockies, and lower Ohio Valley. This is largely based on the influence from the ongoing La Niña.
- Above normal precipitation is favored in northern Wyoming, the northern Plains, Upper Midwest, Great Lakes, and the Ohio Valley. In southeast Colorado and the southern Plains, below normal precipitation is forecast.

Three Month Temperature Outlook



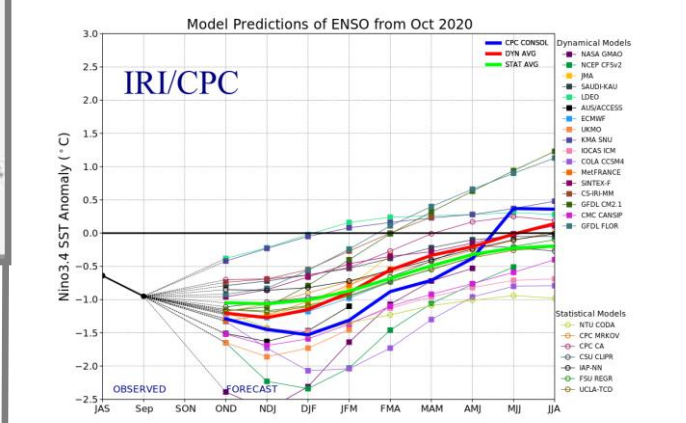
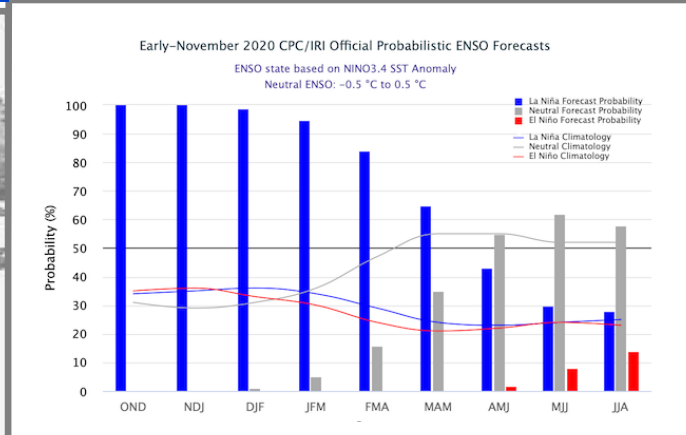
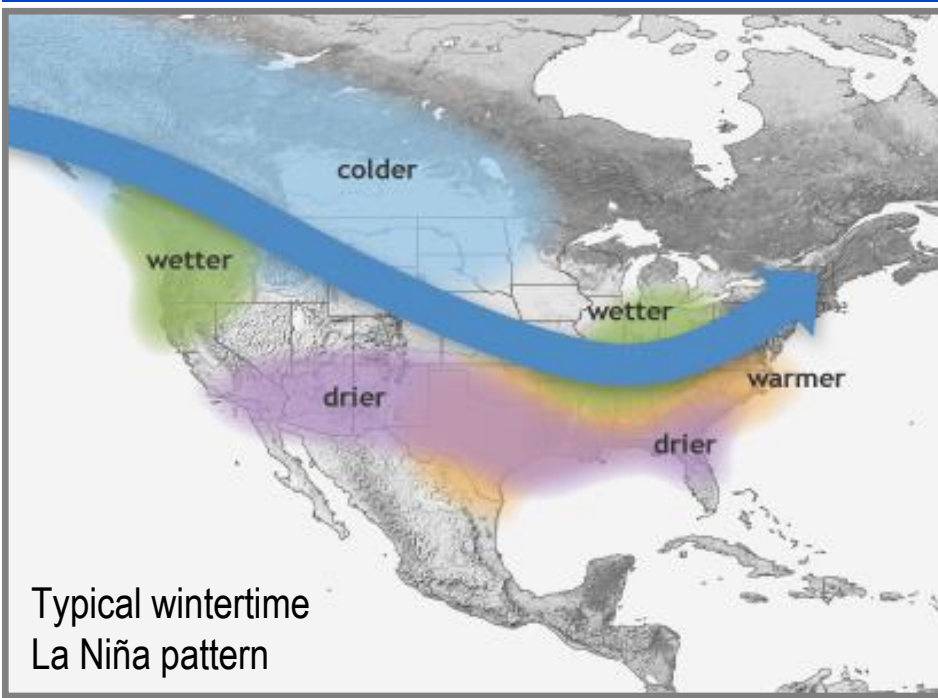
Three Month Precipitation Outlook





ENSO Status: La Niña Advisory

IRI/CPC Probabilistic ENSO Forecast/Plumes



The DJF outlook strongly resembles the typical La Niña wintertime pattern. Colder than normal temperatures are favored in the Dakotas and parts of the Upper Midwest, and wetter conditions in the Ohio Valley.

- Consolidated and Multi Model Ensembles are both indicative of a moderate La Niña event.
- La Niña is likely to peak during the Dec-Feb season, then begin to slowly weaken.
- The chances begin to favor ENSO neutral conditions again by late spring.

Useful Links/Info:

- News from [Climate.gov](https://www.climate.gov)
- [Latest ENSO Blog](#) from Climate.gov
- [Sea Surface Temperatures](#) from the Climate Prediction Center
- [Latest ENSO Discussion](#) from the Climate Prediction Center
- [Drought Information](#) from the US Drought Monitor
- [Interactive GIS Mapping](#) from NCEI (Anomalies/Rankings)
- [Local Climate Analysis Tool \(LCAT\)](#) – Account registration required
- [NWS Forecast Maps](#) from Western Region

Other Teleconnection Effects

- MJO conditions are not expected to play a major role in the monthly forecast due to conflicting model signals and the impact of the maturing La Niña.

