



NWS Houston, Texas April 2018 Regional Climate Summary

Produced by Nikki Hathaway

... A Near Normal April ...

The month of April was rather dry with below normal rainfall totals reported across SE TX, allowing drought conditions to hold steady along the western coastal counties. In terms of temperatures, all of the primary climate sites reported near normal to below normal conditions. None of the four major climate sites have yet to reach 90 degrees this year. On average, the first 90 degree day is April 30th at College Station, May 7th for both the City of Houston and Houston Hobby Airport, and June 22nd for Galveston.

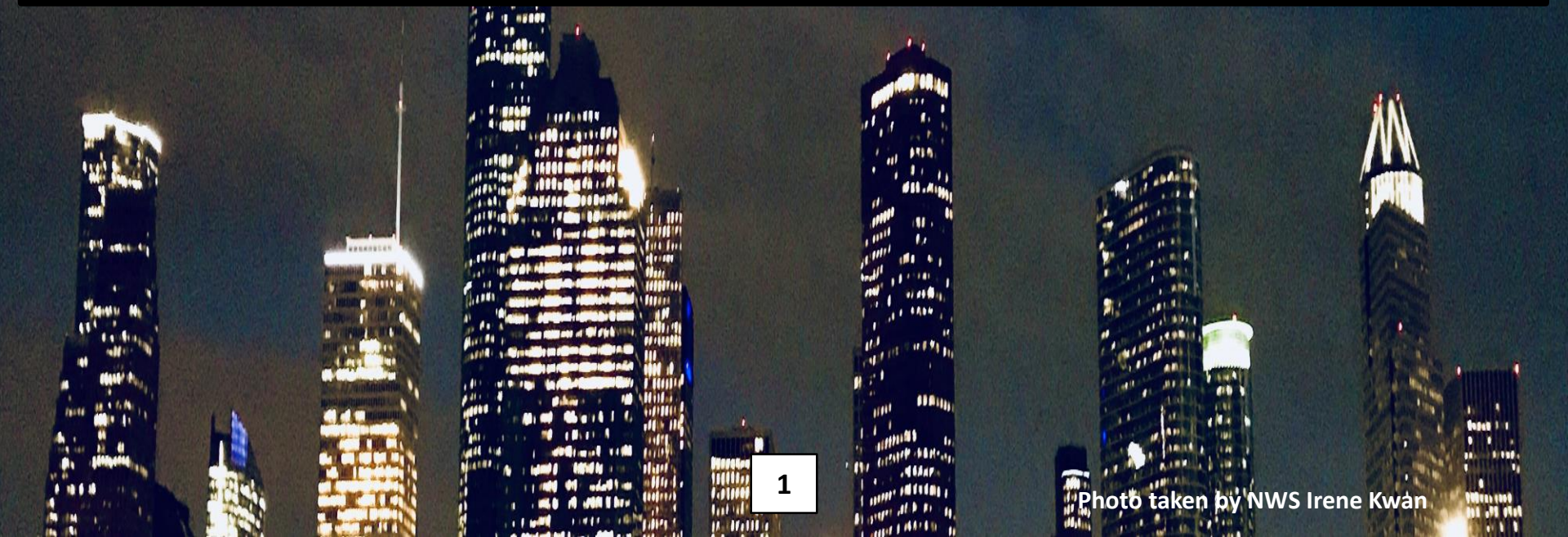


Table of Contents

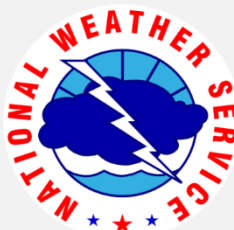
Page Number	Page Title
1	Cover
2	Table of Contents
3	Precipitation
4	Total Monthly Precipitation
5	Total Monthly Precipitation Departure From Normal
6	Drought Conditions
7	Monthly Record Temperature and Rainfall Data
7	Temperatures
8	Temperatures (Continued)
9	April Outlook
10	Climate Primary Site History



Precipitation

Monthly precipitation values were slightly below normal for the month of April. A few frontal boundaries helped to bring some rainfall to the region. As a result rainfall totals ranged from 1 to 3 inches across SE TX. A strong trough brought the best rainfall the third week of April which helped to prevent the expansion of drought conditions across the inland areas, towards the end of the month. Abnormally dry and moderate drought conditions expanded due to the lack of rainfall in over the western coastal counties. The last eight days of the month ended on a rather dry note, with high pressure in place across the region.

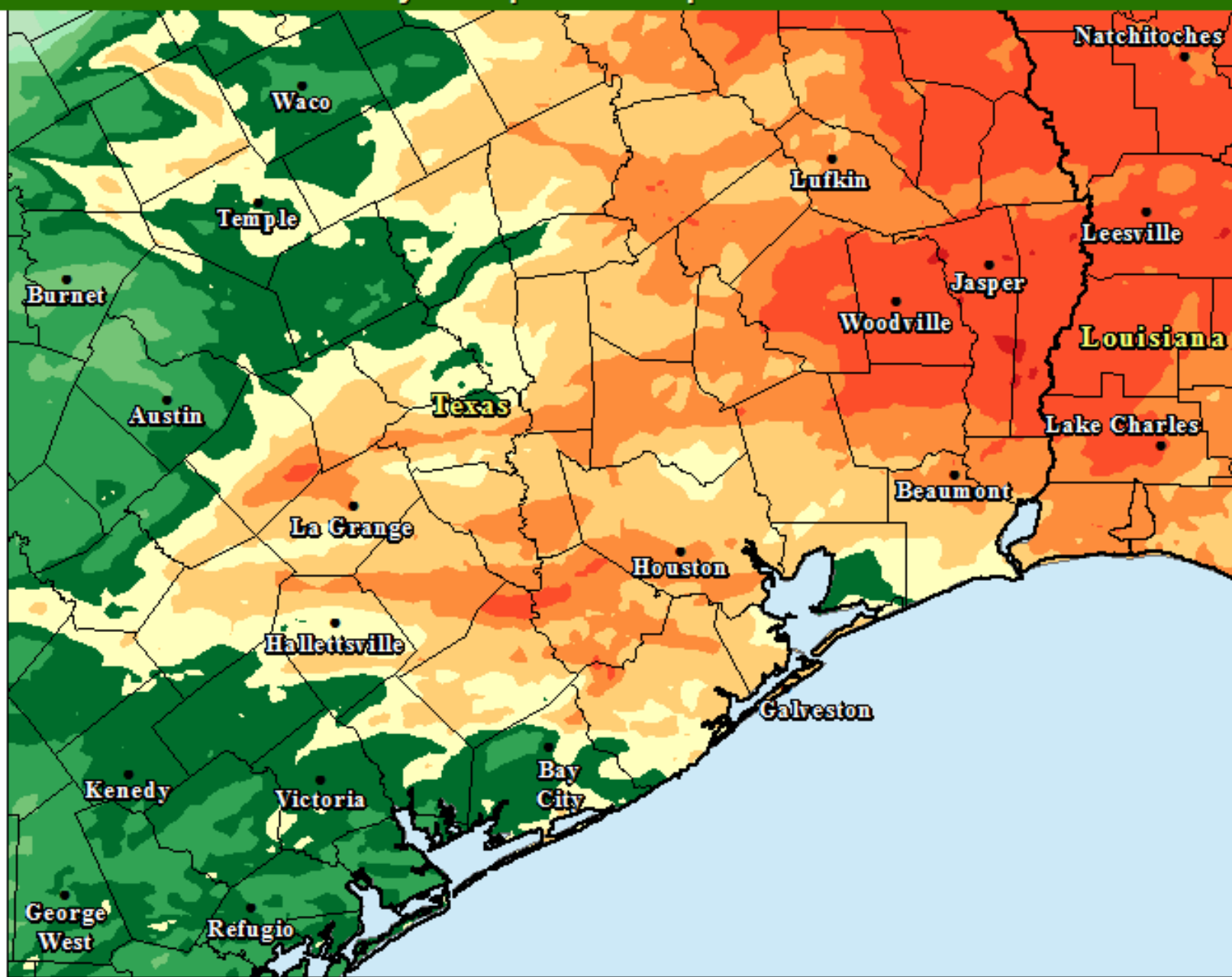
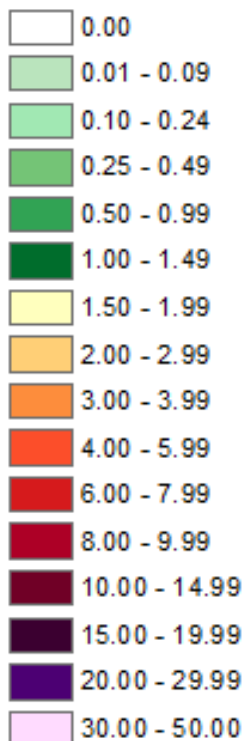
Site	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure from Normal (in.)	Number of Thunderstorm Days	Maximum Daily Precipitation (in./date)	
Galveston (GLS)	1.89	-1.16	6	0.83	Apr 22nd
Houston Hobby (HOU)	2.7	-0.54	6	1.54	Apr 21st
City of Houston (IAH)	1.90	-1.41	5	1.12	Apr 21st
College Station (CLL)	1.48	-1.18	6	0.83	Apr on 21st



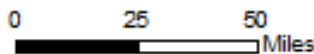
Precipitation (Continued)

Total Monthly Precipitation - April 2018

Inches



Created by the
NWS Forecast Office
Houston/Galveston, TX

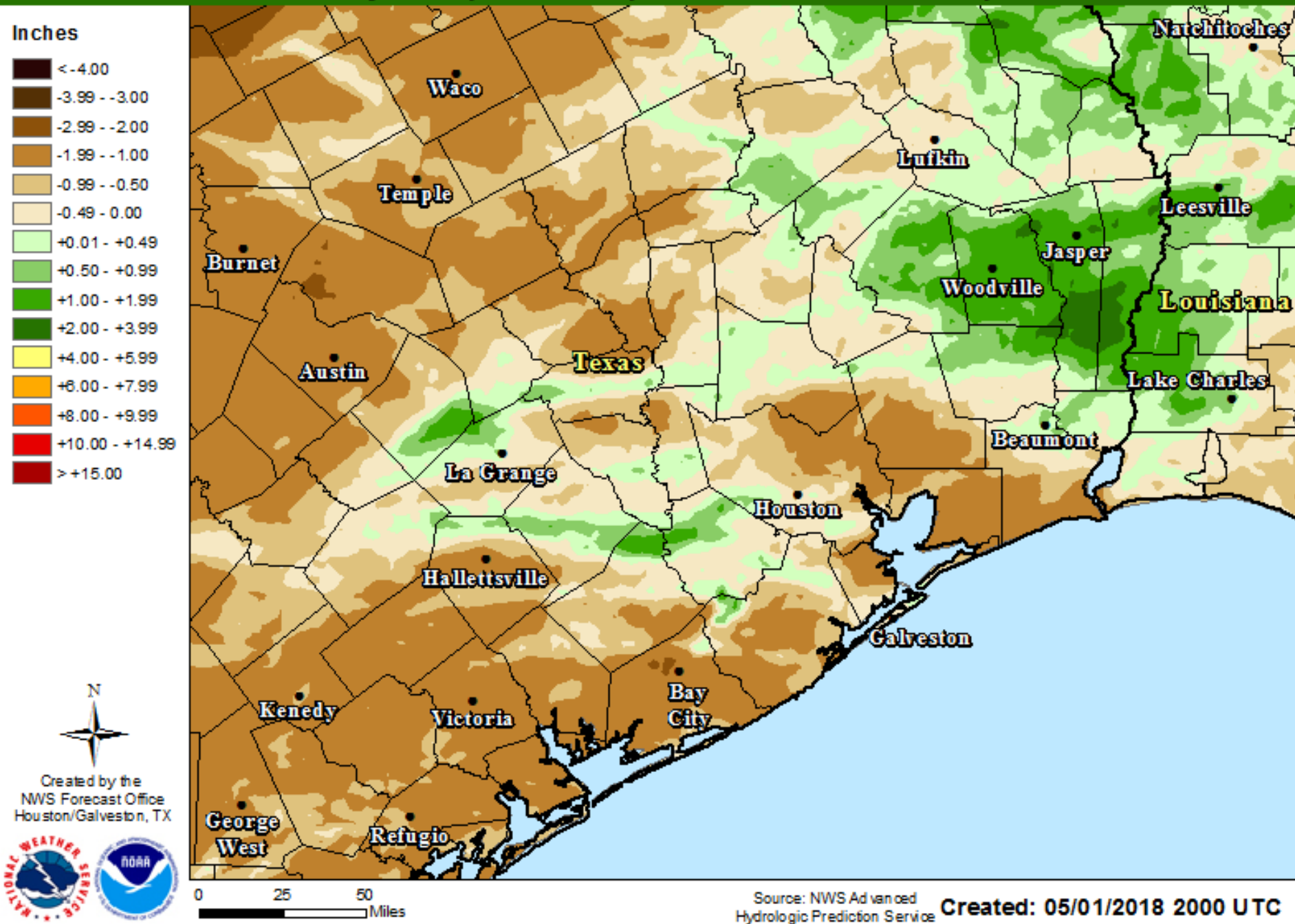


Source: NWS Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service
Created: 05/01/2018 2000 UTC



Precipitation (Continued)

Total Monthly Precipitation Departure From Normal - April 2018

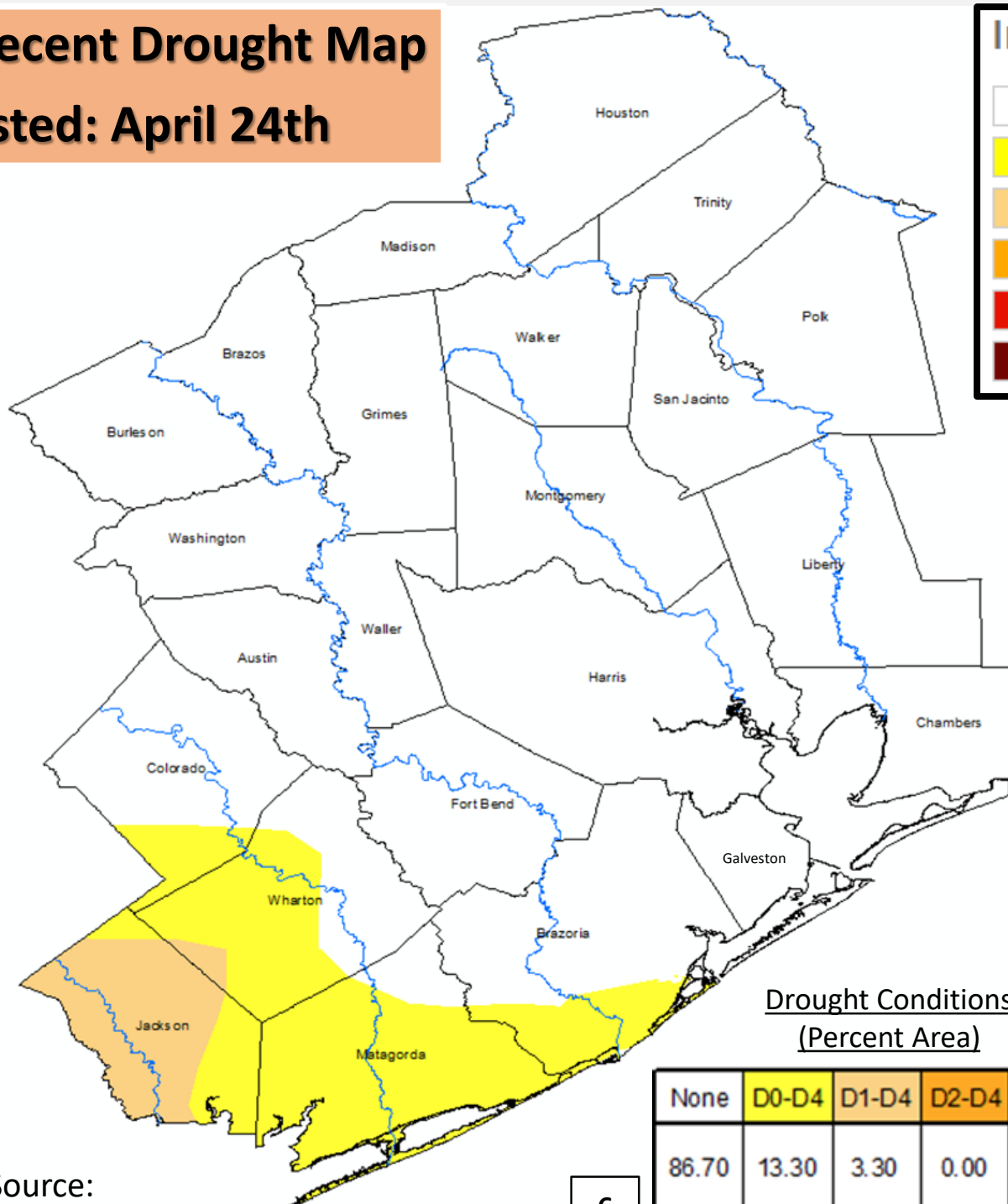


Drought Conditions

April lead to a drastic improvement of drought conditions, due to near normal monthly rainfall totals. Over the last week of April, widespread rainfall amounts of 0.25-1 inch across SE TX with portions of the area experiencing 1-3 inches over helped to keep drought conditions contained along the coast. Coastal counties are currently experiencing slightly below normal conditions when considering a 30-day departure from normal rainfall totals. D0 and D1 drought conditions are still present in Colorado, Wharton, Jackson, Matagorda, and Brazoria counties. Overall, roughly 13% of the forecast area is experiencing drought, with only 3% area under moderate drought criteria.

Most Recent Drought Map

Posted: April 24th



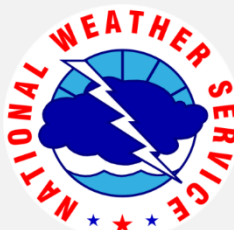
Intensity:

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)

Drought Conditions
(Percent Area)

None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
86.70	13.30	3.30	0.00	0.00	0.00

Source:
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Monthly Record Temperature and Rainfall Data

Only **one** record was set throughout the month of April across all SE TX primary climate sites. This was a near normal month in terms of both temperature and rainfall.

Site	Date	Record Type	New Record	Previous Record
City of Galveston	4/02	High Max Temp	80°	Tied in 2012

Temperatures

Temperatures throughout the month of April were near normal to below normal values by 2-4 degrees. Multiple strong cold fronts in the first two weeks of April helped to send temperatures dipping down into the low 40s with highs in the 60s to low 70s at times. The warm up finally began during the last week of the month, when temperatures rose into the mid to upper 80s.

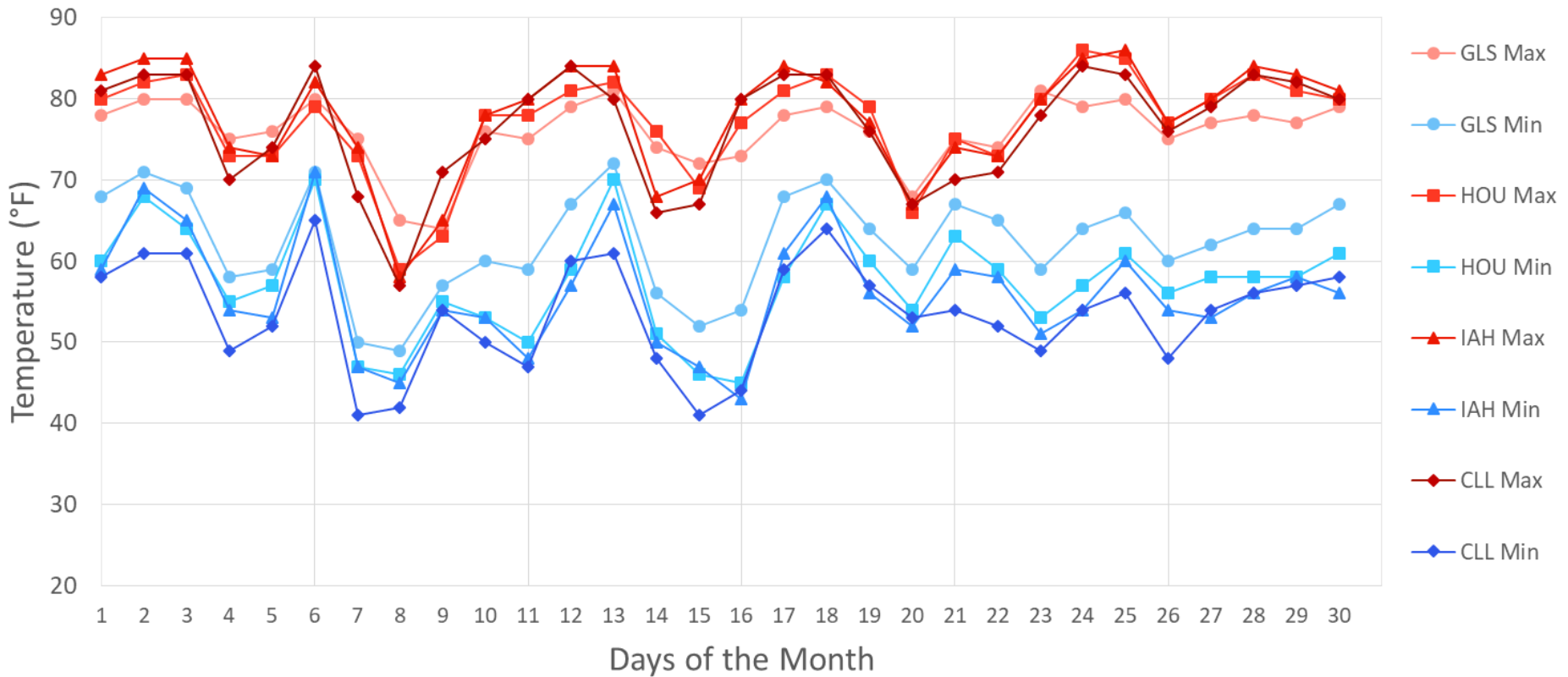
Site	Average Temp (F)	Average High Temp (F)	Average Low Temp (F)	Normal Average Temp (F)	Departure From Normal (F)	Maximum Temperature (F)	Minimum Temperature (F)
Galveston (GLS)	69.2	76.0	62.4	70.1	-0.9	81 on Apr. 23rd & 13th	49 on Apr. 8th
Houston Hobby (HOU)	67.2	77.2	57.3	69.8	-2.6	86 on Apr. 24th	45 on Apr. 16th
City of Houston (IAH)	66.9	77.9	55.9	69.5	-2.6	86 on Apr. 25th	43 on Apr. 16th
College Station (CLL)	65.1	76.6	53.5	68.2	-3.4	84 on Apr. 24th & 12th	41 on Apr. 15th & 7th



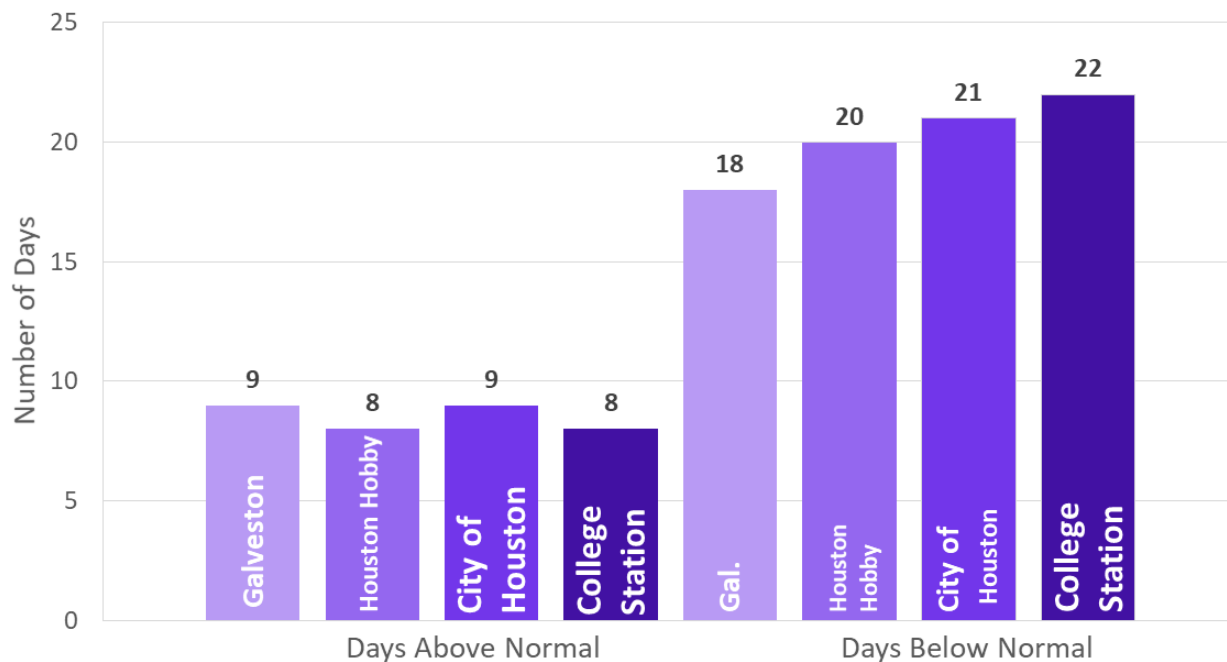
Temperatures (Continued)

Below is a line graph of temperature trends for the four primary climate sites, as well as a bar graph comparing above and below normal temperature days throughout the month of March.

April Temperature Trends



Mean Departure from Normal Distribution



May Outlook

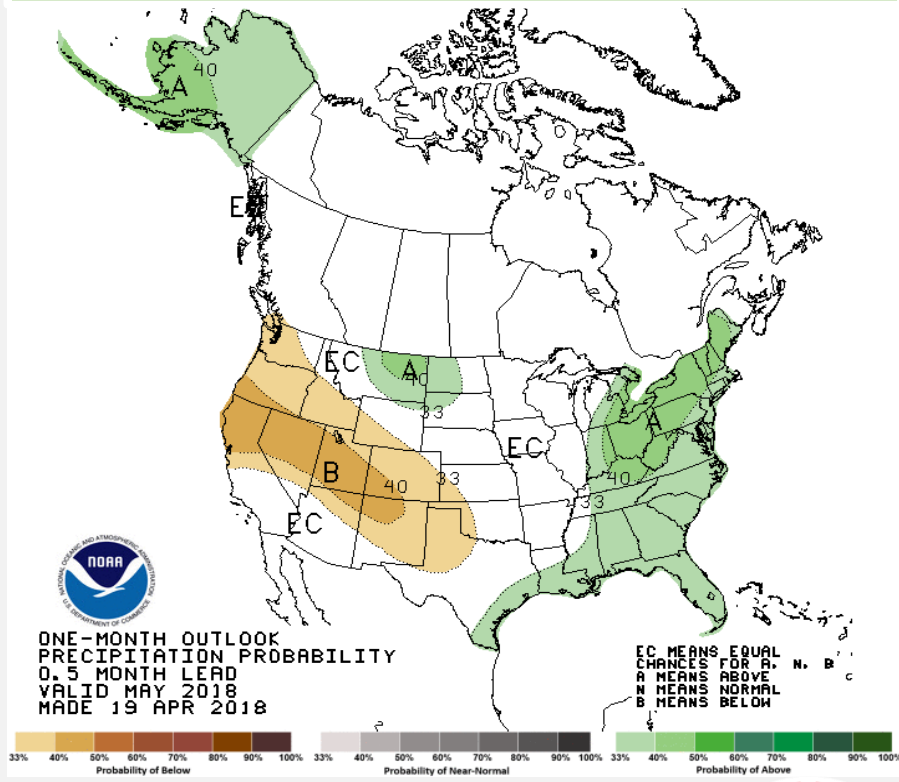
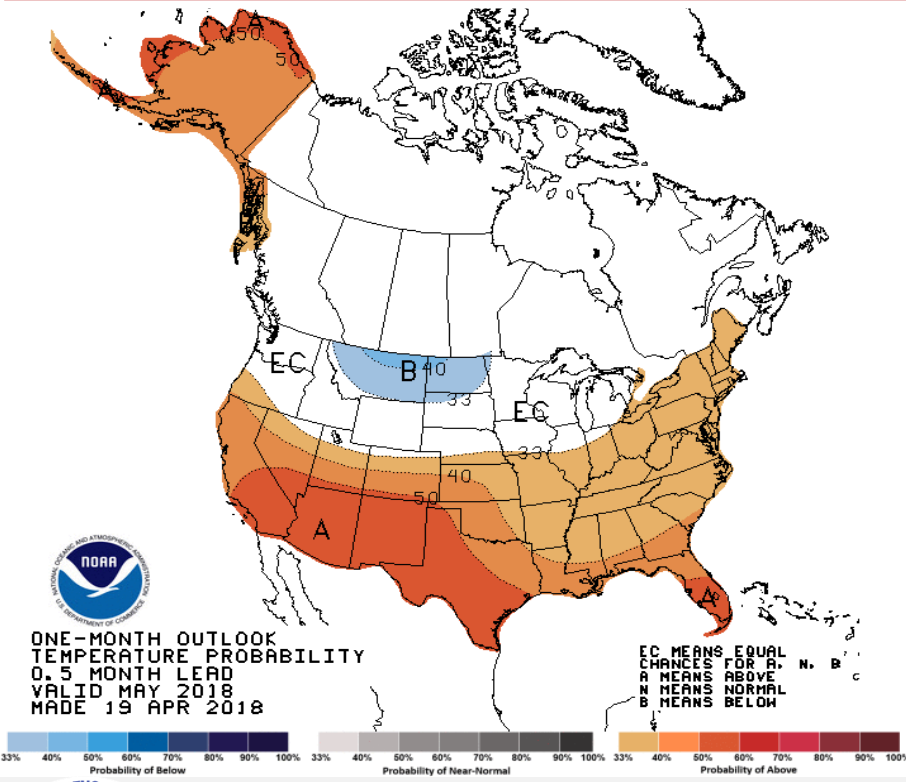
The latest outlook from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) calls for an increased likelihood of above normal temperatures and normal to slightly above normal precipitation for the month of May.

Site	Average Temp(°F)	Normal High (°F)	Normal Low (°F)
Galveston	77.6	83.0	72.3
Houston Hobby	77.0	85.4	68.7
City of Houston	76.9	86.3	67.6
College Station	76.2	85.8	66.6

Site	Normal Monthly Precipitation (in.)
Galveston (GLS)	4.32
Houston Hobby (HOU)	4.75
City of Houston (IAH)	5.09
College Station (CLL)	4.33

Upcoming Temperature Outlook

Upcoming Precipitation Outlook



Climate Primary Site History

Galveston (GLS)

Records for Galveston are from observations at the following locations: 67-69 Strand (April 1, 1871 - Aug 31, 1874); 23rd and the Strand (Sep 1, 1874 - July 29, 1878), 1.75 miles WSW of the previous location; the Custom House at Bath Street and the Strand (July 30, 1878 - May 8, 1882); Colorado and Sante Fe Railroad Building at 25th and the Strand (May 9, 1882 - March 14, 1883); back to the Custom House which later became the Cotton Exchange Building (March 15, 1883 - June 24, 1898), about a 1/3 of a mile E of the previous Custom House location; The Levy Building at 2223 Market Street (June 25, 1898 - Nov 26, 1900); the Trust Building at Tremont and Post Office Streets (Nov 27, 1900 - June 24, 1946), one-quarter mile south of the Levy Building; the U.S. Post Office Building at 601 Rosenberg (June 25, 1946 - 1994); Scholes Field (January 1995 to present).

Houston Hobby (HOU)

Records are based upon observations beginning in August 1931.

City of Houston (IAH)

Records for the City of Houston are from observations at the following locations: Cotton Station from July 1881 through September 1909, Stewart Building at Preston and Fannin from September 1909 through February 1926, Shell Building at Texas and Fannin from March 1926 through August 1938, Federal Building at Franklin and Fannin from August 1938 through May 1969, Intercontinental Airport from June 1969 to the present .

College Station (CLL)

Records from 1893 through July 1951 are based on observations taken at the Texas Agriculture Experiment COOP Station main farm located 6 miles southwest of College Station. Records from August 1951 through the present are based on observations taken at Easterwood field. Normal temperatures are calculated from 1981 to 2000 period.

