



NWS Wilmington, Ohio May 2023 Regional Climate Summary

Regional Climate Summary

May certainly offered quite the swing in temperatures liked we'd expect during the Spring season. However, the biggest story this month was the lack of inclement weather, which is fairly atypical for the month of May. This will only be the second time during the month of May (since 1994) that NWS Wilmington, OH did not issue a Severe Thunderstorm Warning. Only a couple of days in the month were conducive to producing thunderstorms, but given the overall lack of convective weather, precipitation totals were well below normal, especially at Dayton and Cincinnati.

Temperatures

There was a very chilly start to the month of May, with high temperatures only reaching the middle 40s in many locations the first two days. In fact, there was a record low maximum temperature of 45 at the Dayton, Ohio Airport on the 1st. This broke the old daily record of 50 degrees set in 1994. Additionally, most of our major climate sites would observe low temperatures in the 30s and lower 40s for about the first five days of the month.

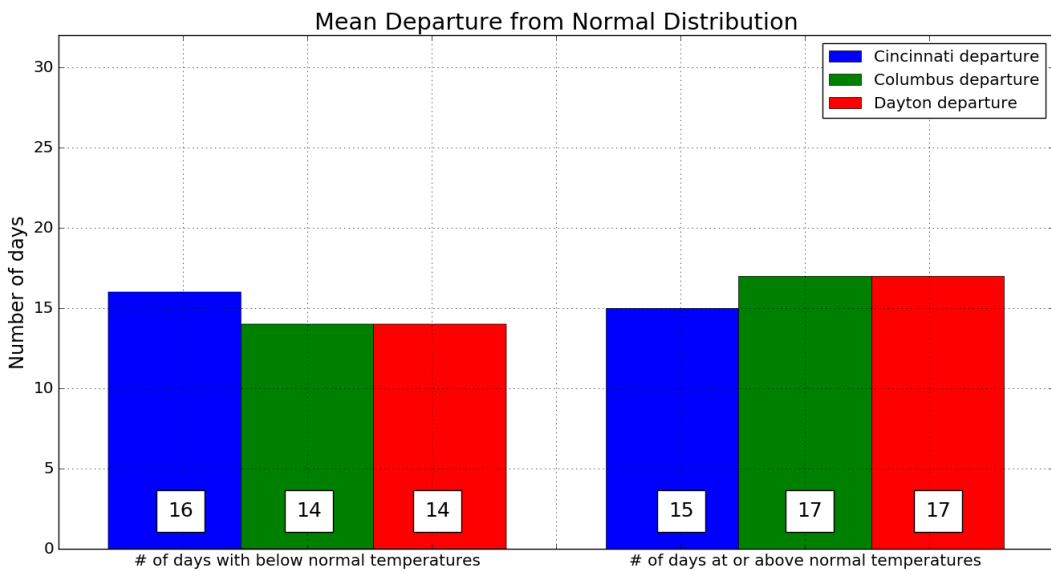
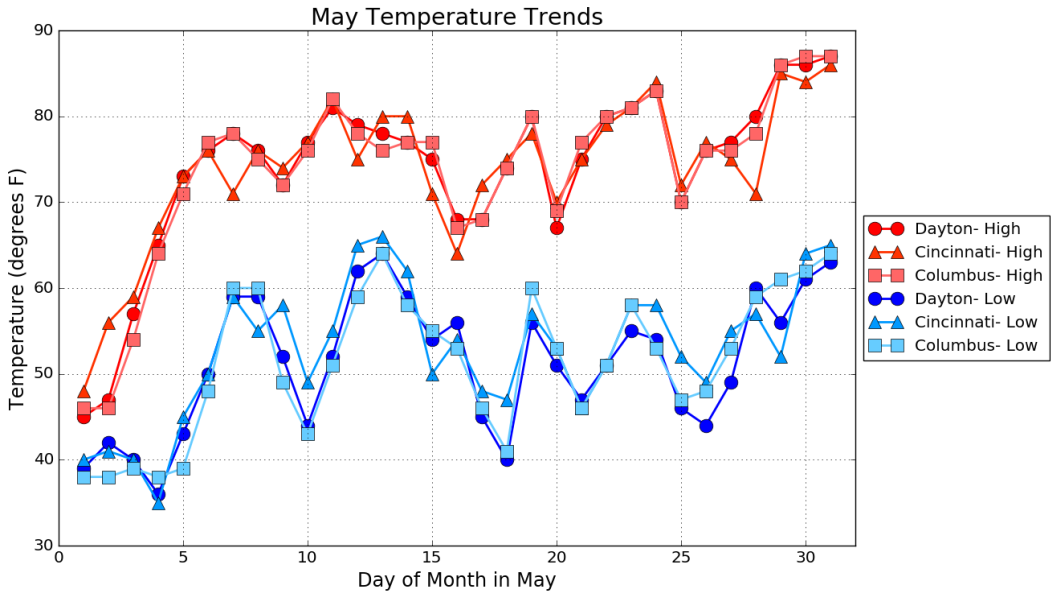
Temperatures would rebound after the first several days of the month, trending back to near seasonal normals about a week in, followed by above normal temperatures through the entire second week of May. As is typical with Spring, there was another fluctuation in temperatures, leading to a cooldown in the middle of the month that dropped temperatures back just below seasonal normals. However, these temperatures were nowhere near as cool as they were to start the month given that highs still reached the upper 60s and lows did not dip into the 30s for our major climate sites.

While temperatures did trend quite warm (middle to upper 80s) the last few days of the month, all of our climate sites observed below normal temperatures for the month, likely driven by the major cool spell at the beginning of May.

Site	Avg Temp (°F)	Avg High Temp (°F)	Avg Low Temp (°F)	Departure From Normal (°F)	Maximum Temperature (°F)	Minimum Temperature (°F)
Cincinnati (CVG)	63.4	74.0	52.8	-0.7	86 on 31 st	35 on 4 th
Columbus (CMH)	62.6	73.8	51.4	-0.7	87 on 30 th /31 st	38 on 4 th
Dayton (DAY)	62.6	74.0	51.3	-1.4	87 on 31 st	36 on 4 th



Temperatures (Continued)



Precipitation

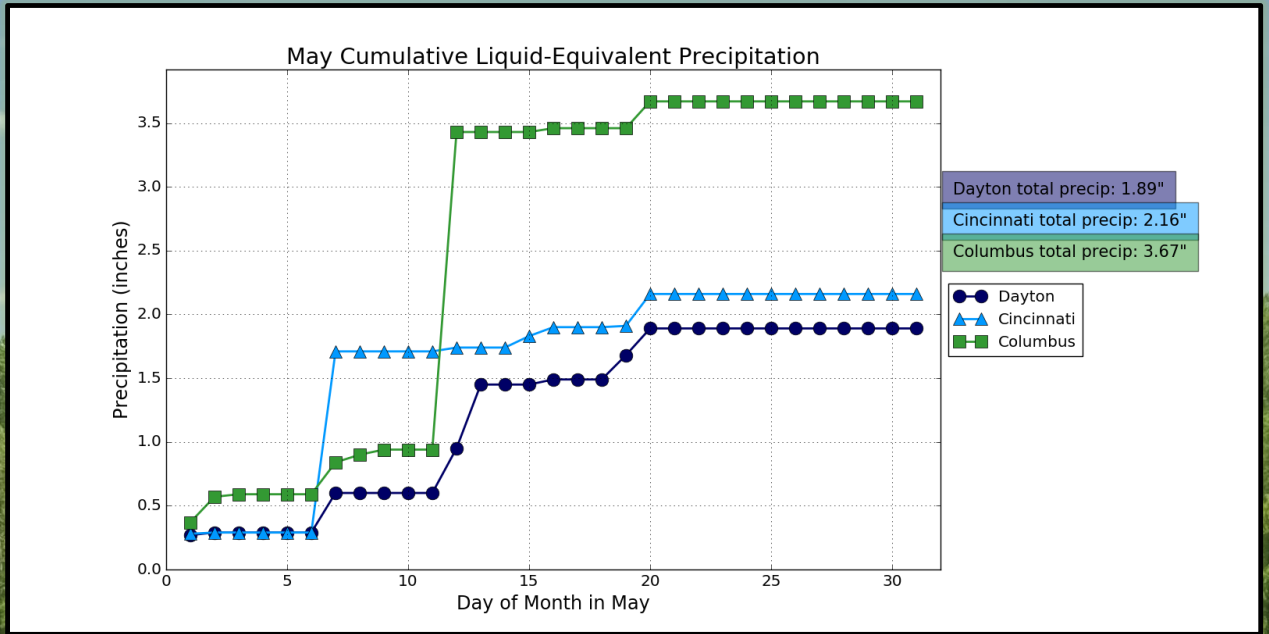
The primary story for the month of May was the lack of severe weather and thunderstorms, which ultimately led to well-below average precipitation totals. The month did however start with consecutive days of measurable rainfall. Each climate site had different dates when the highest measurable precipitation occurred this month, mainly driven by thunderstorm activity. On the 12th, Columbus Airport had a markedly high 2.49" of rainfall that accumulated, while the Cincinnati Airport only observed 0.03" that same day. This is a great example of how much precipitation can vary when scattered thunderstorms develop.

There were a few days with recorded rainfall in the 3rd week of the month. The last day with recorded rainfall was on the 20th, where each climate site observed about a quarter inch of rain. After the 20th, a long dry stretch ensued with the influence of large-scale blocking patterns setting up. This would result in 11 consecutive days without any precipitation for all three climate sites to end the month.

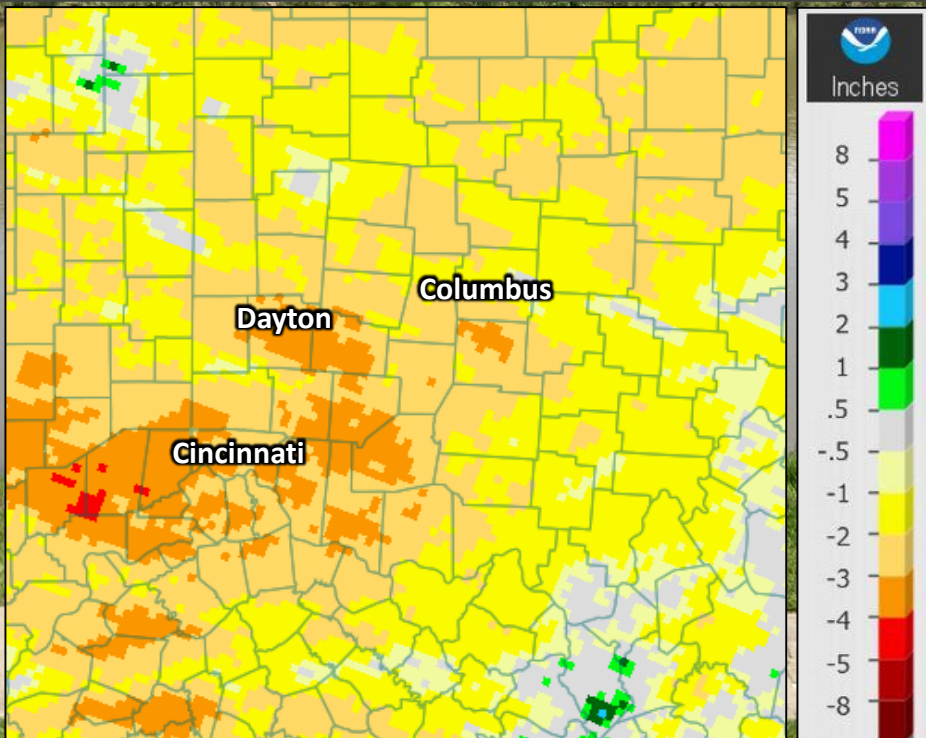
Site	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure From Normal (in.)	Max Daily Precipitation (in./date)	
Cincinnati (CVG)	2.16	-2.51	1.42	7 th
Columbus (CMH)	3.67	-0.32	2.49	12 th
Dayton (DAY)	1.89	-2.62	0.83	12 th /13 th



Precipitation (Continued)

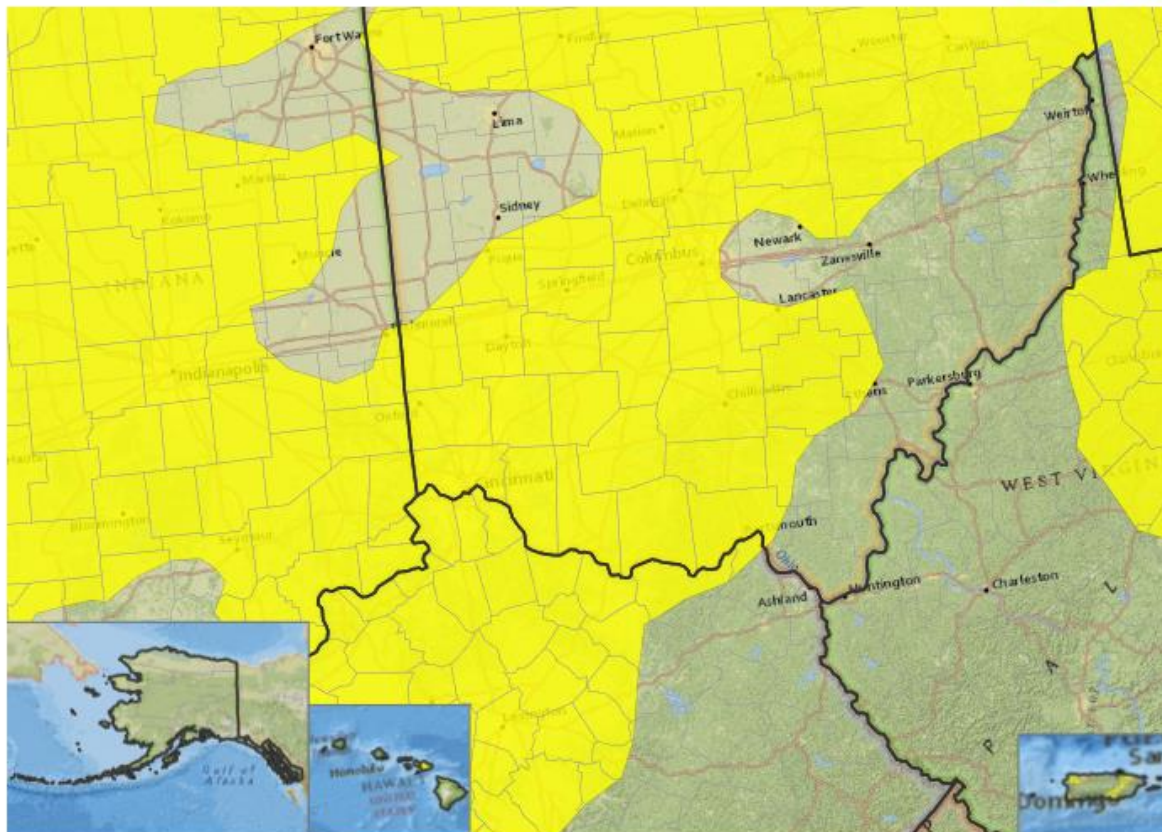


May Precipitation Departure From Normal (In.)



Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor



Basemap Sources: National Geographic, Esri, Garmin, HERE, UNEP-WCMC, USGS, NASA, ESA, METI, NRCAN, GEBCO, NOAA,

U.S. Drought Monitor Category

% of U.S.

	D0 - Abnormally Dry	26.0%
	D1 - Moderate Drought	9.0%
	D2 - Severe Drought	4.1%
	D3 - Extreme Drought	1.7%
	D4 - Exceptional Drought	1.0%

Total Area in Drought (D1-D4)

15.8%

Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA

Updates Weekly: 05/30/23

[Drought.gov](https://drought.gov)



June Outlook

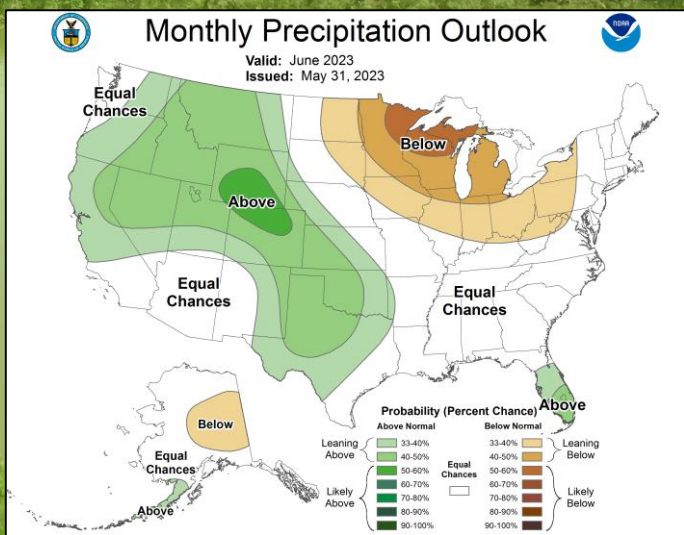
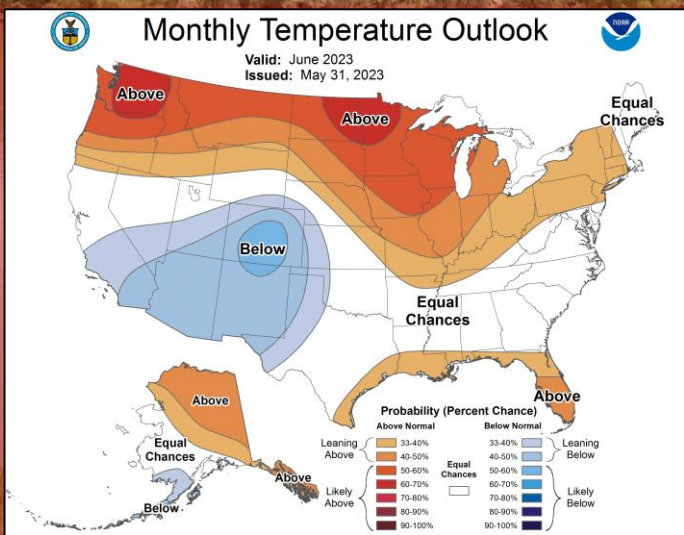
The latest outlook from the Climate Prediction Center is leaning towards a warmer than average June, coupled with below normal precipitation values.

Site	Normal Avg Temp (°F)	Normal High (°F)	Normal Low (°F)
Cincinnati (CVG)	72.3	82.6	62.1
Columbus (CMH)	71.9	82.2	61.6
Dayton (DAY)	72.7	82.6	62.7

Site	Normal Precipitation (in.)	Normal Snowfall (in.)
Cincinnati (CVG)	4.75	0.0
Columbus (CMH)	4.33	0.0
Dayton (DAY)	4.14	0.0

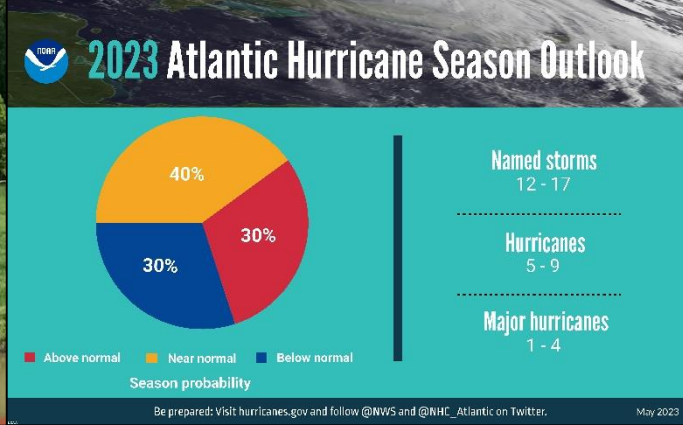
Upcoming Temperature Outlook

Upcoming Precipitation Outlook

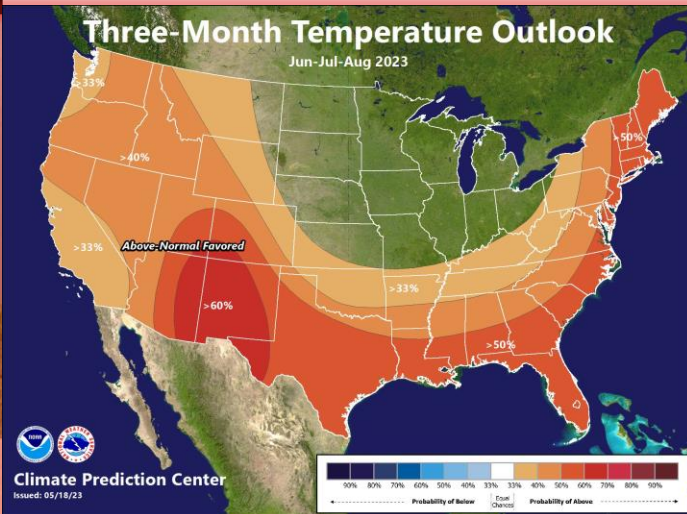


June-August Outlook

An El Niño Watch remains in effect. While ENSO neutral conditions are currently in place, expect El Niño to develop before July. There is a 90% chance of El Niño persisting into the winter months. The entire region has an increased likelihood of above normal precipitation for the June-August timeframe, while most of the region has equal chances of above normal, normal, and below normal temperatures. There is a slight favor of above normal temperatures across portions of Kentucky and southeast Ohio. For those looking for more information on 2023 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook, it is included here.



Three-Month (JJA) Temp. Outlook



Three-Month (JJA) Precip. Outlook

