NWS Wilmington, Ohio
May 2026
Regional Weather Summary

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The first part of the month featured damp conditions and below normal temperatures. The warmest temperatures of the month occurred in the third week, setting up repetitive rounds of heavy downpours and thunderstorms. By the end of the month, observed temperature averages were well below normal. Rainfall amounts were multiple inches above normal.

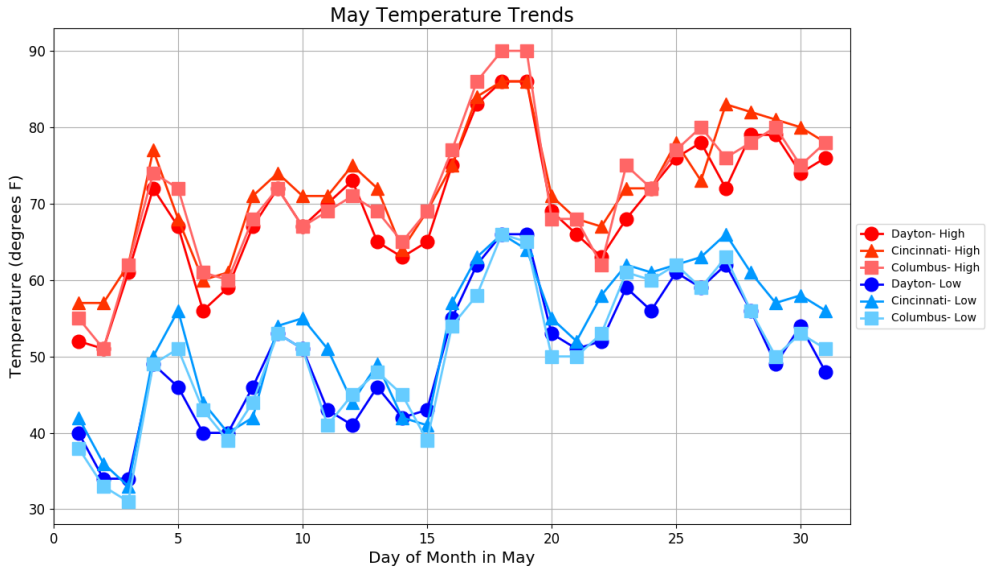
Temperatures

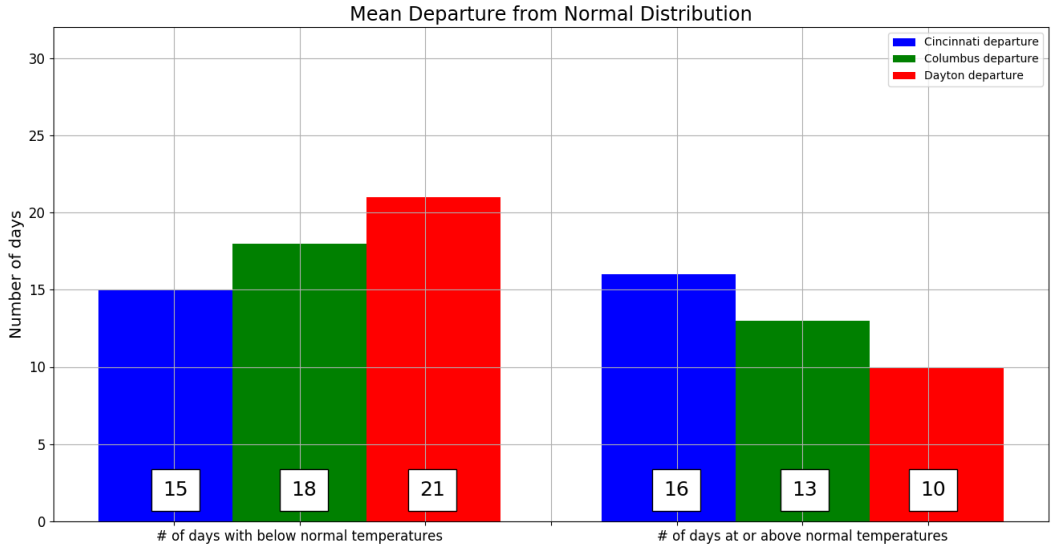
While some days were within a few degrees of normal, the first two weeks of the month were largely below normal, with multiple days over ten degrees below normal. Heading into the third week of the month, a brief late spring heat wave brought very warm temperatures which climbed into the upper 80s and lower 90s. These values were high, but stayed below daily records.

The final two weeks of the month featured a very wet pattern. This allowed for limited daily high temperatures but some warmer nights. The more critical part is that the negative daily temperature departures which occurred earlier in the month were unable to be equalized by the conclusion of the month. For Dayton, this ranked as the 32nd coolest May through the 133 year record.

Site	Avg Temp (°F)	Avg High Temp (°F)	Avg Low Temp (°F)	Departure From Normal (°F)	Maximum Temperature (°F)	Minimum Temperature (°F)
Cincinnati (CVG)	62.7	72.4	52.9	-1.4	86 on 18th and 19th	33 on 3rd
Columbus (CMH)	60.9	71.5	50.4	-2.4	90 on 18th and 19th	31 on 3rd
Dayton (DAY)	60.0	69.7	50.2	-4.0	86 on 18th and 19th	34 on 2nd and 3rd

Temperatures (Continued)





Precipitation

Due to the cooler conditions, the first two weeks of the month only offered a few modest rainfall events. Therefore, monthly totals through the first two weeks were around normal. That would change significantly for the latter half of the month.

Repetitive rounds of showers and thunderstorms the 16th through the 20th would saturate the ground. This would set the stage for multiple days of localized but impactful flooding. Area rivers would also experience minor flooding. The worst days of flooding occurred on the 22nd, 23rd, 24th and the 27th. In fact, the 2.12" recorded at Columbus on the 27th was a daily rainfall record. Despite the 2.65" recorded at Dayton on the 23rd, it was not a daily record due to the previous record of 3.17" in 1989.

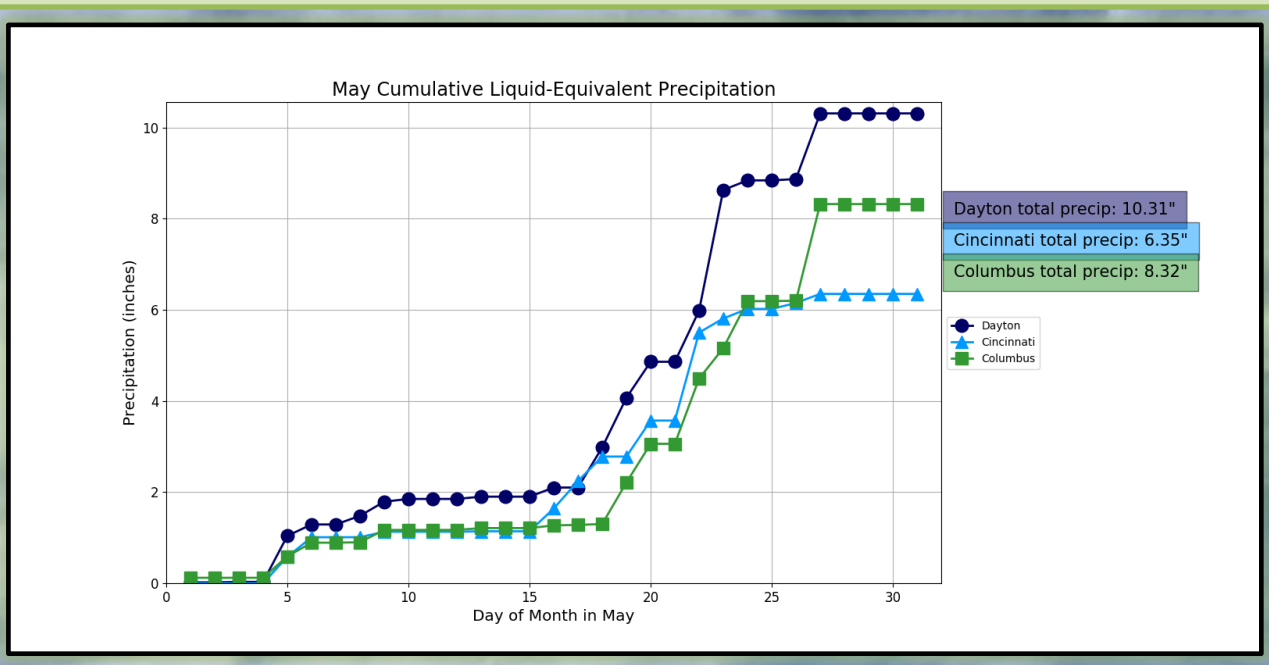
There were some significant differences in the rainfall amounts across the area (page 6), with parts of west-central Ohio and south-central Ohio observing between 3 and 5 inches, much closer to normal.

Rankings for the month:

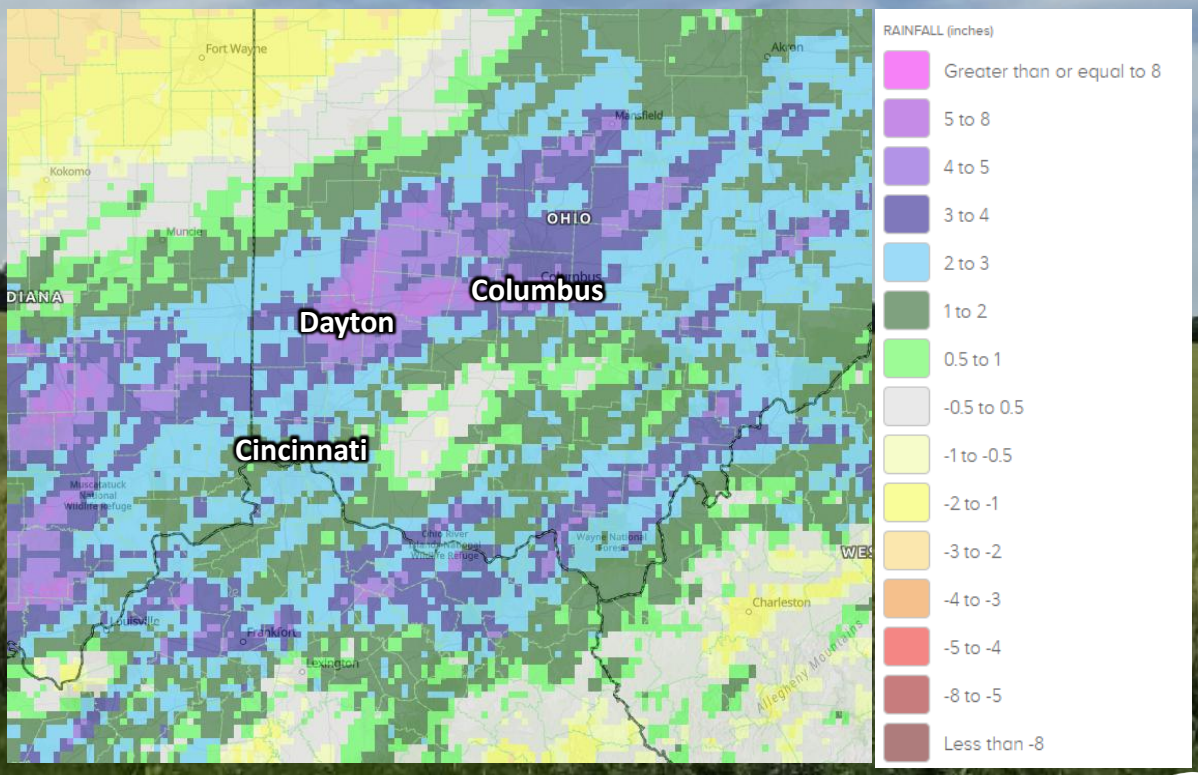
Cincinnati: 20th wettest
Columbus: 4th wettest
Dayton: 1st wettest

Site	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure From Normal (in.)	Max Daily Precipitation (in./date)	
Cincinnati (CVG)	6.35	+1.68	1.93	22nd
Columbus (CMH)	8.32	+4.33	2.12	27th
Dayton (DAY)	10.31	+5.80	2.65	23rd

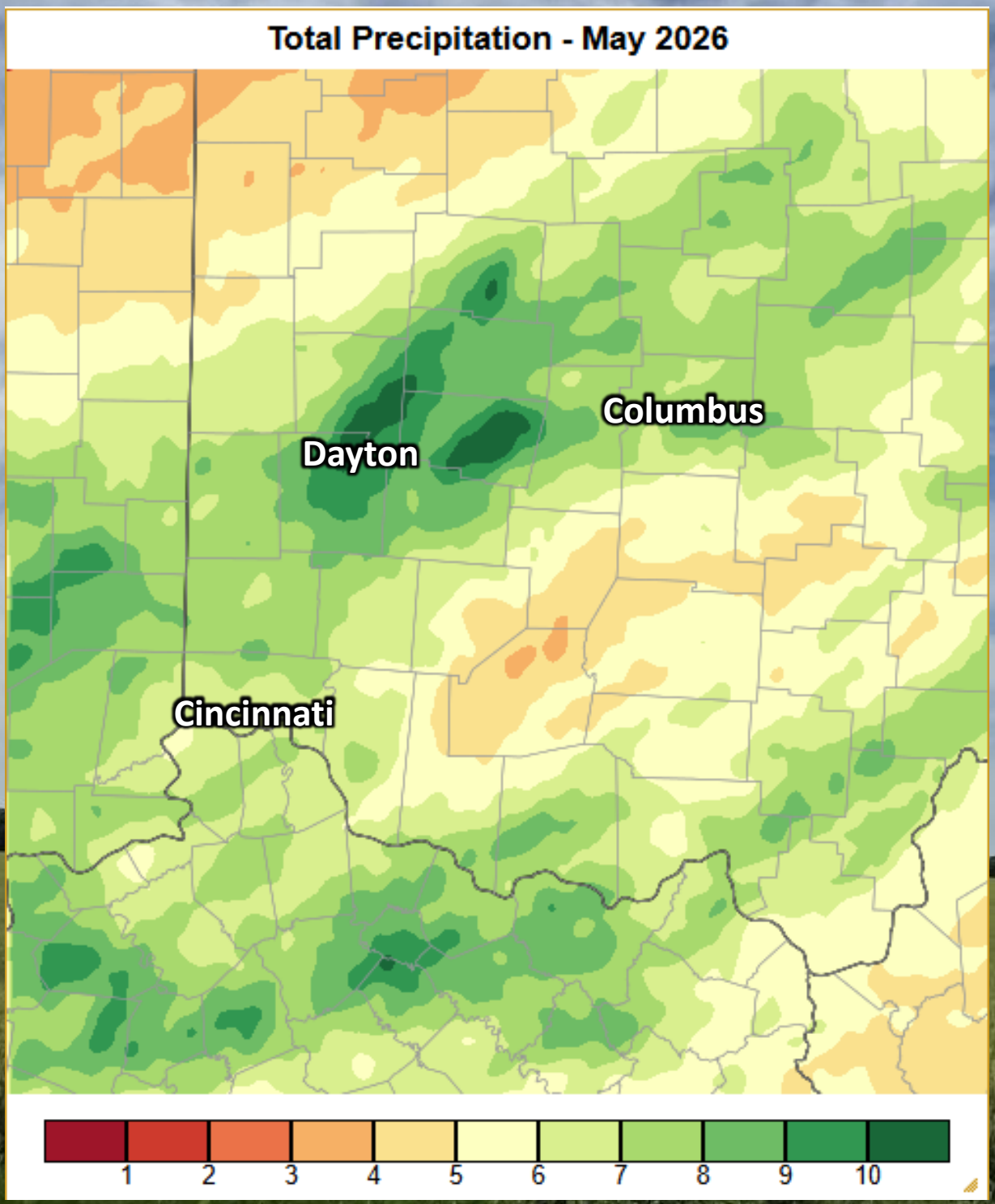
Precipitation (Continued)



May Precipitation Departure From Normal (In.)



Precipitation Inches



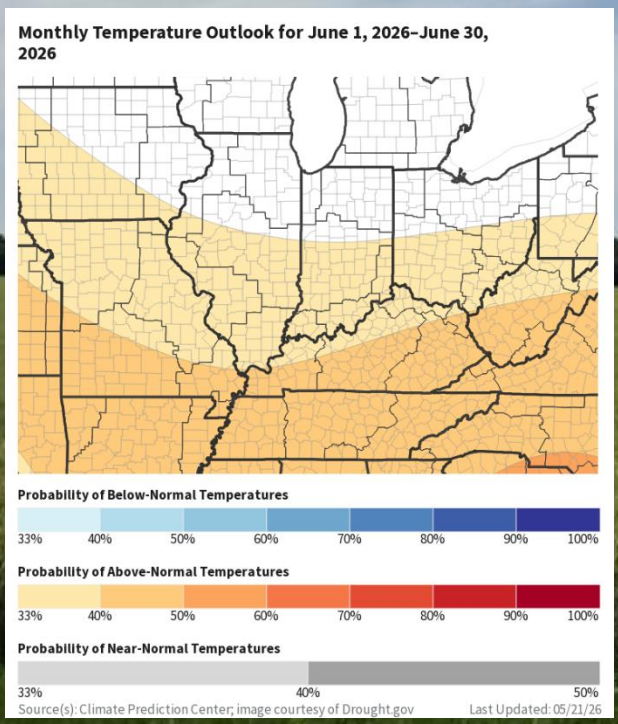
June Outlook

The latest outlook from the Climate Prediction Center calls for an increased likelihood for above normal temperatures and equal chances for below normal, near normal, and above normal rainfall.

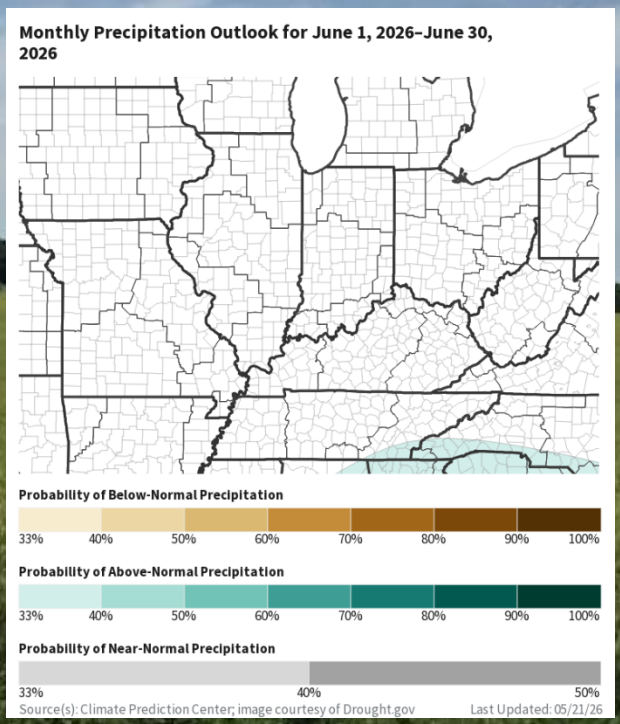
Site	Normal Avg Temp (°F)	Normal High (°F)	Normal Low (°F)
Cincinnati (CVG)	72.3	82.6	62.1
Columbus (CMH)	71.9	82.2	61.6
Dayton (DAY)	72.7	82.6	62.7

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

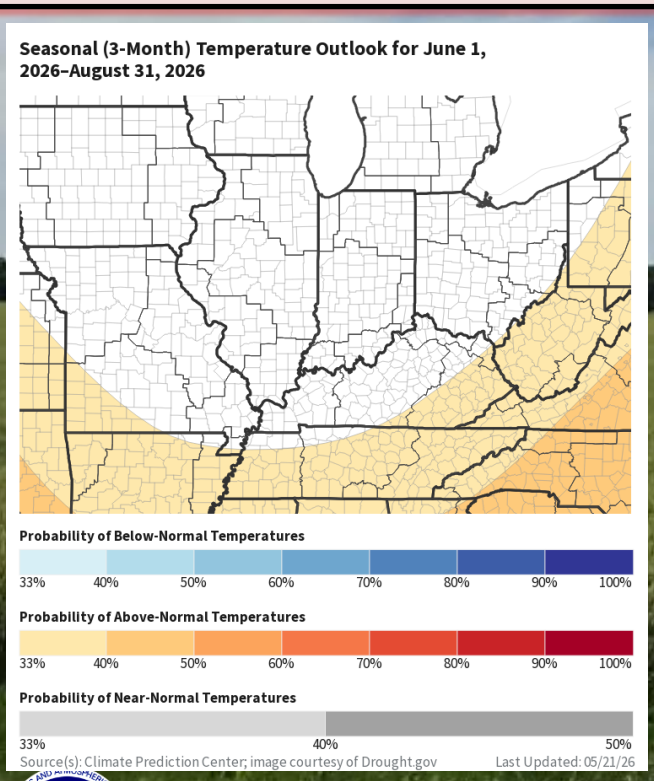


June-August Outlook

The latest outlook from the Climate Prediction Center calls for equal chances for below normal, near normal, and above normal temperatures and precipitation.

An El Niño Watch is in effect and is likely to emerge (82% chance) this summer. There is a very high chance (96% chance) the El Niño continues through the winter season.

Three-Month (JJA) Temp. Outlook



Three-Month (JJA) Precip. Outlook