



April Monthly Briefing

April 8, 2025
10:29 AM

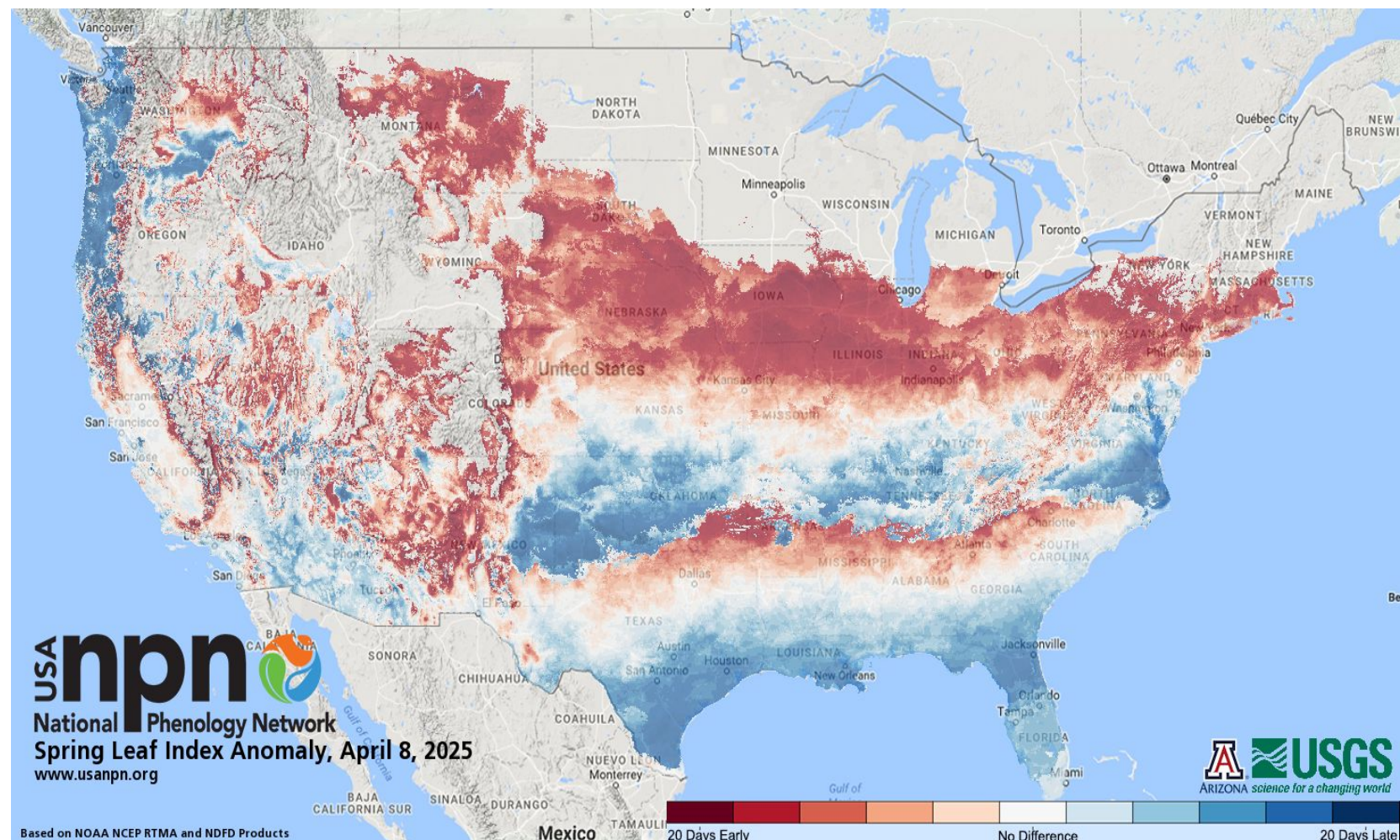
For Southwest Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, and Northern West Virginia

Monthly Outlook Briefing

→ As of April 8, 2025

NEW Key Points

- March was warmer and wetter than normal.
- Lake Erie ice coverage was above-normal this winter.
- This season's snow will finish below average (34.0" if no more). This is more snow than the last 2 years.
- Low predictability in April temperature/precipitation outlook.
- Drought returns to northern West Virginia.
- Spring flood outlooks have decreased risk.
- The spring "green-up" this year is slightly early, but not abnormally so.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Pittsburgh, PA



March 2025 Summary

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For Southwest Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, and Northern West Virginia

202503	Avg. High	High Departure	Avg. Low	Low Departure	Tot.Precip	Precip Departure	Tot. Snow	Snow Departure
Pittsburgh, PA	59.6	10.5	35.2	4.9	1.72	-1.43	4.3	-3.3
Morgantown, WV	62.0	9.4	36.5	3.9	1.92	-1.73		
Wheeling, WV	61.3	11.6	37.7	6.4	1.40	-1.59		
New Philadelphia, OH	58.2	8.2	32.7	2.7				
Zanesville, OH	60.9	8.9	34.6	3.3	1.95	-1.29		
DuBois, PA	55.1	10.9	31.3	5.2				

Temperature Legend

Above Average

Below Average

Precipitation Legend

Above Average

Below Average

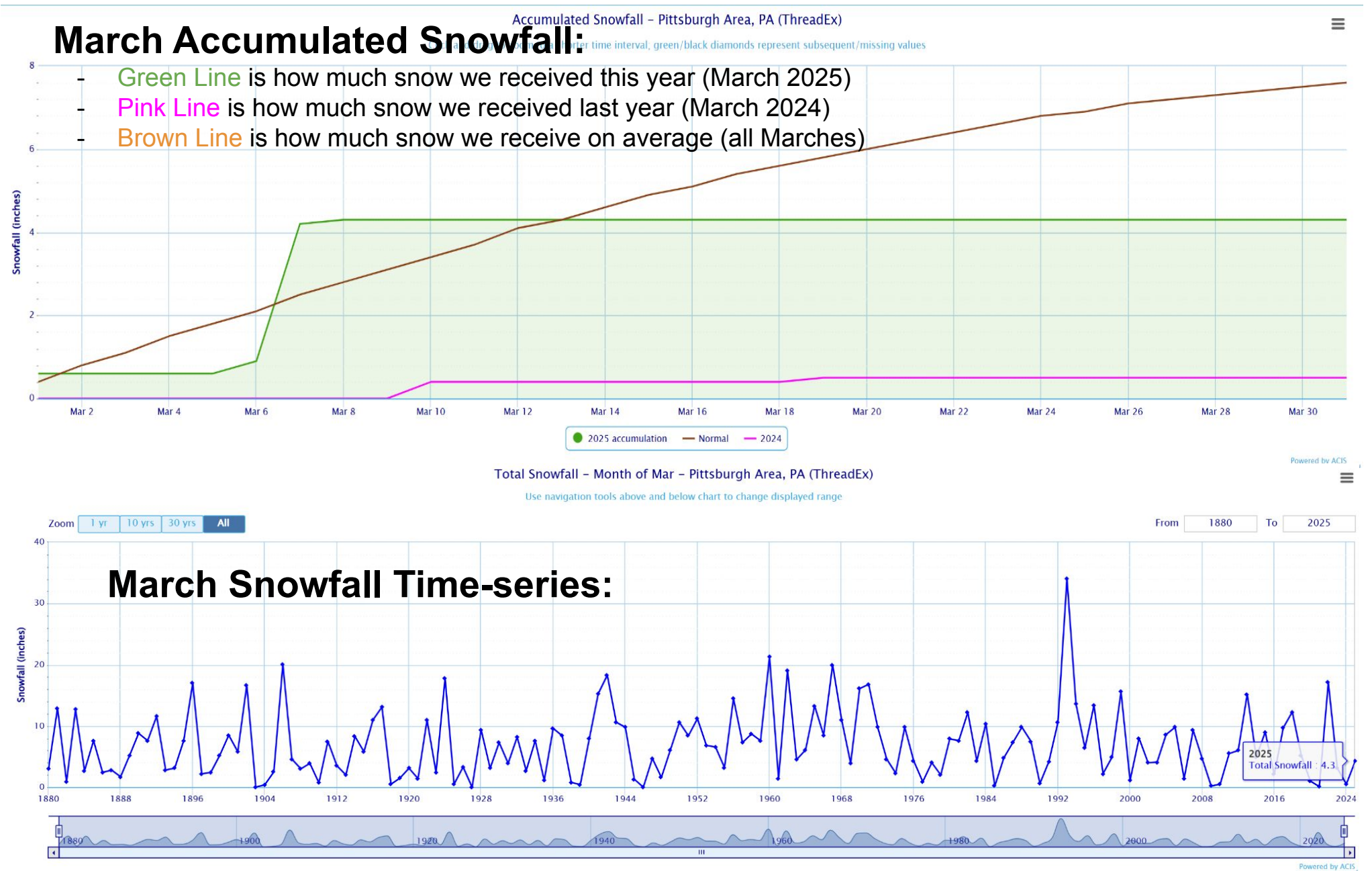
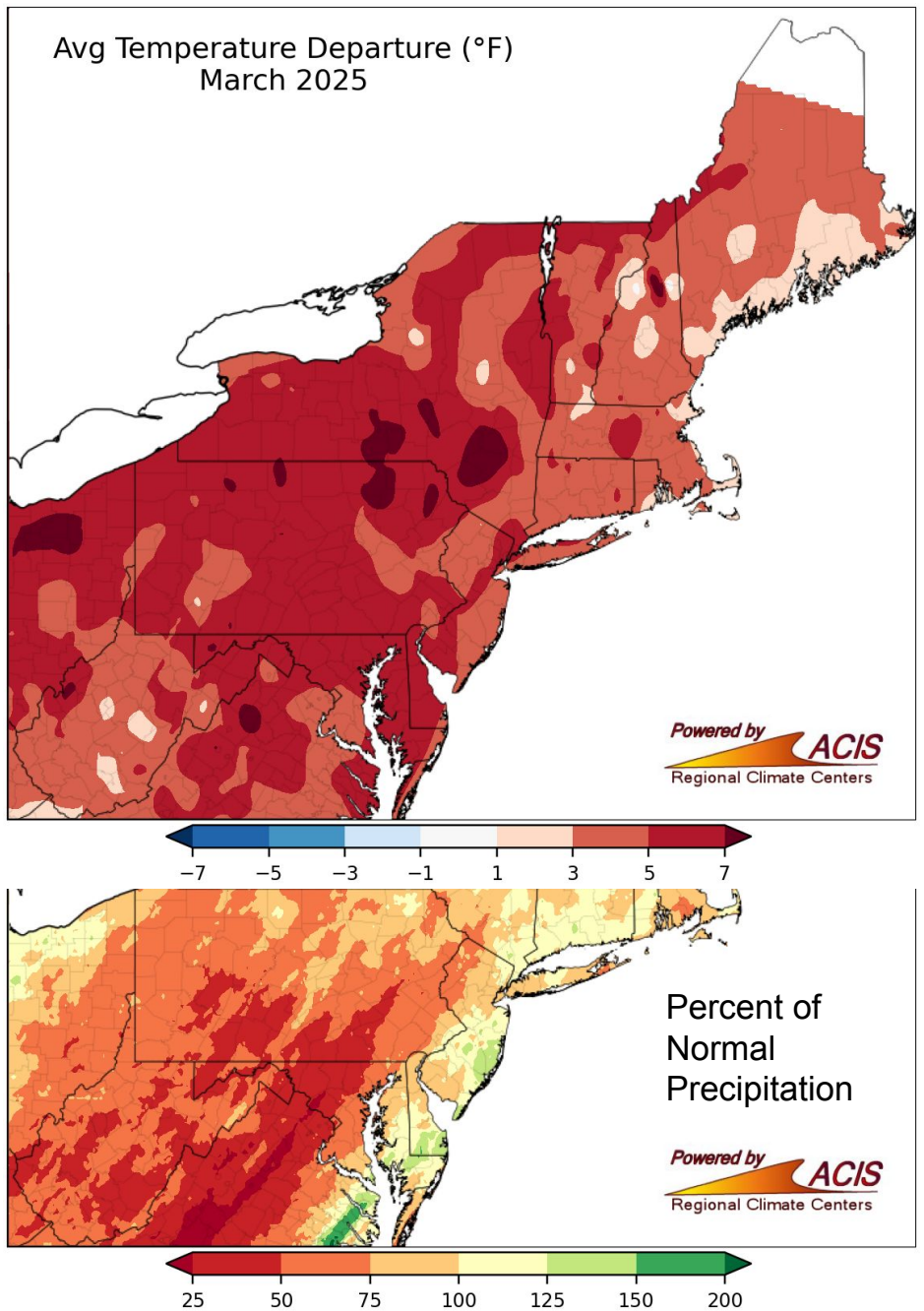
- March temperatures remained well above average.
 - Much of the above average temperatures were due to anomalously warm daytime high temperatures (10 degrees above normal was the standard across all area sites).
 - This would be Pittsburgh’s 12th warmest March, Wheeling’s 5th, Morgantown’s 8th, New Philadelphia’s 6th, Zanesville’s 13th, and DuBois’s 4th.
- Precipitation and snow remained below average.
 - Pittsburgh had it’s 20th driest March, Wheeling its 6th, Morgantown its 23rd, Zanesville its 28th, and DuBois its 10th.
 - 77% of March’s snowfall fell on March 7th. Believe it or not, this is tied for the largest since day snowfall back to April 2022 in Pittsburgh.



March 2025 Summary

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For the Northeast

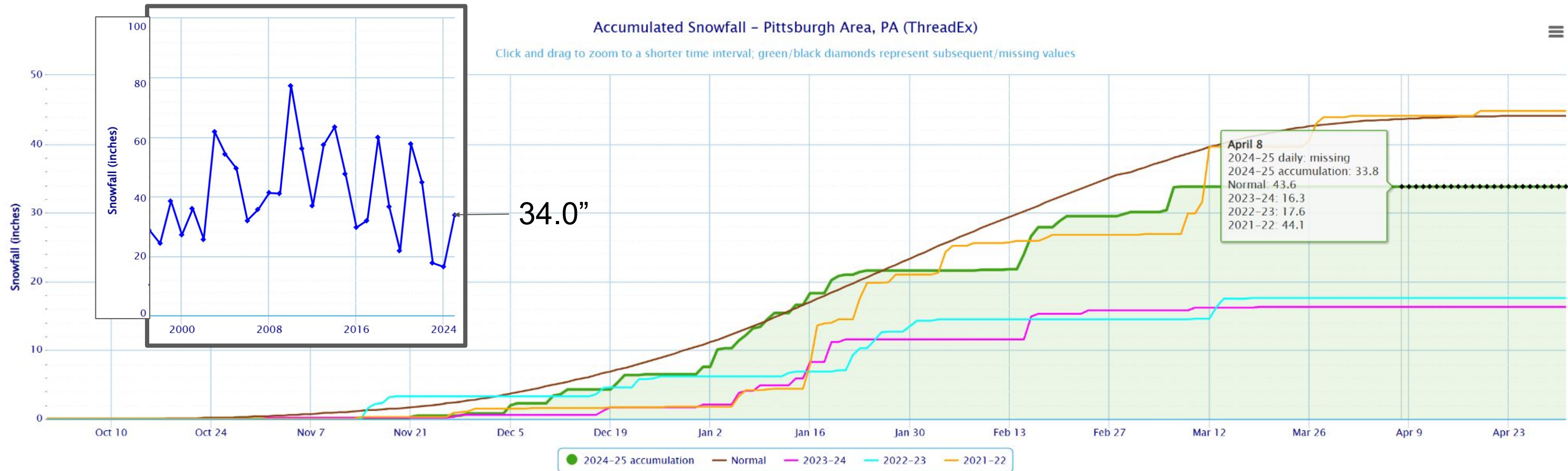




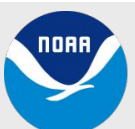
'24 - '25 Winter Snowfall vs. Normal

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For Pittsburgh



- **Green Line** is how much snow we received this year (so far) **Pink Line** is last year, **Cyan Line** is 2022-2023, **Orange Line** 2021-2022 (the last time we had above average snowfall). **Brown Line** is average.
- In the '24 - '25 winter so far, we have received 34.0" (as of April 8th). If April 8th is the last snow, it will be around average (April 6th). This is around the 45th percentile of winter snow (1879-present).
- More snow was observed this year than the last two, but this winter's snow was surpassed by 2021-2022.

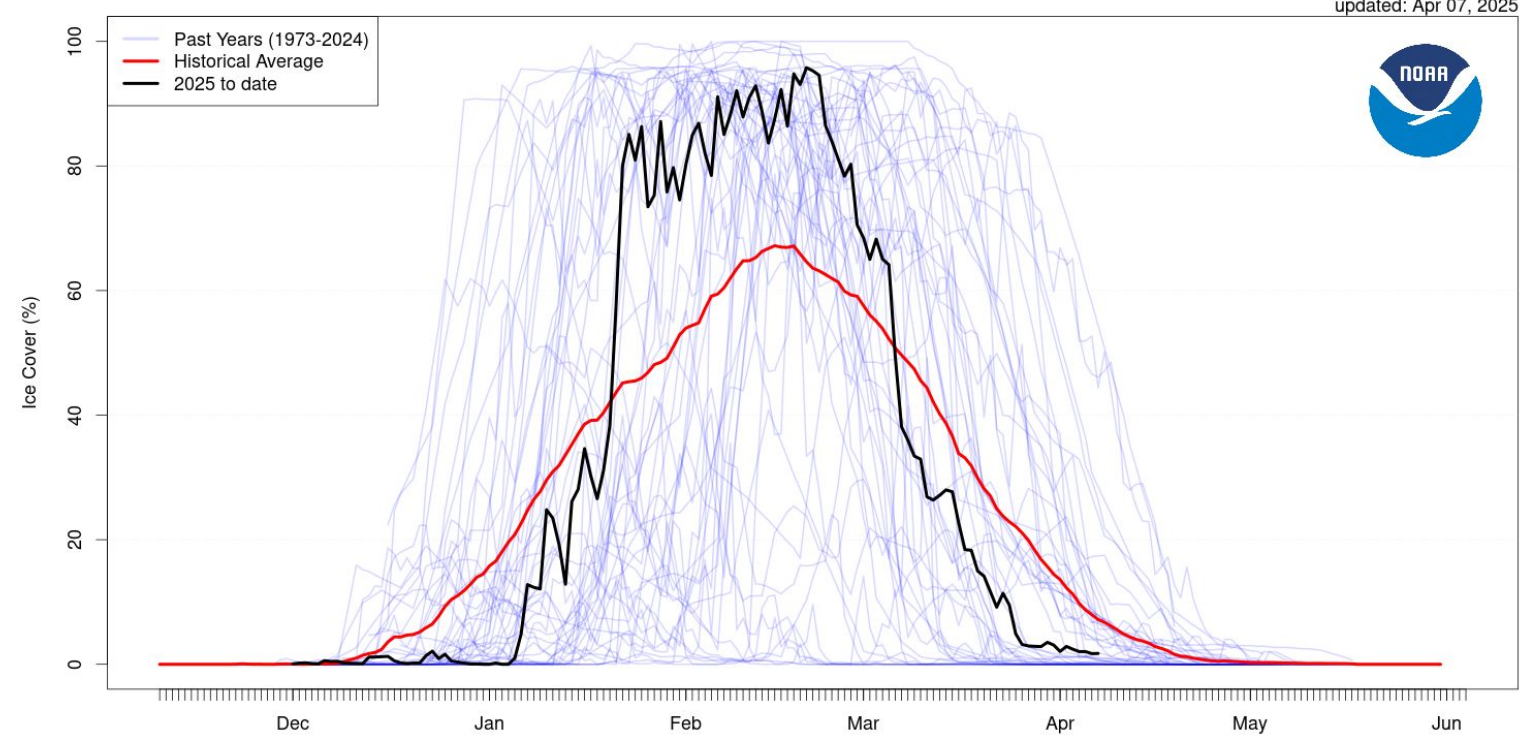




'24 - '25 Lake Erie Ice vs. Normal

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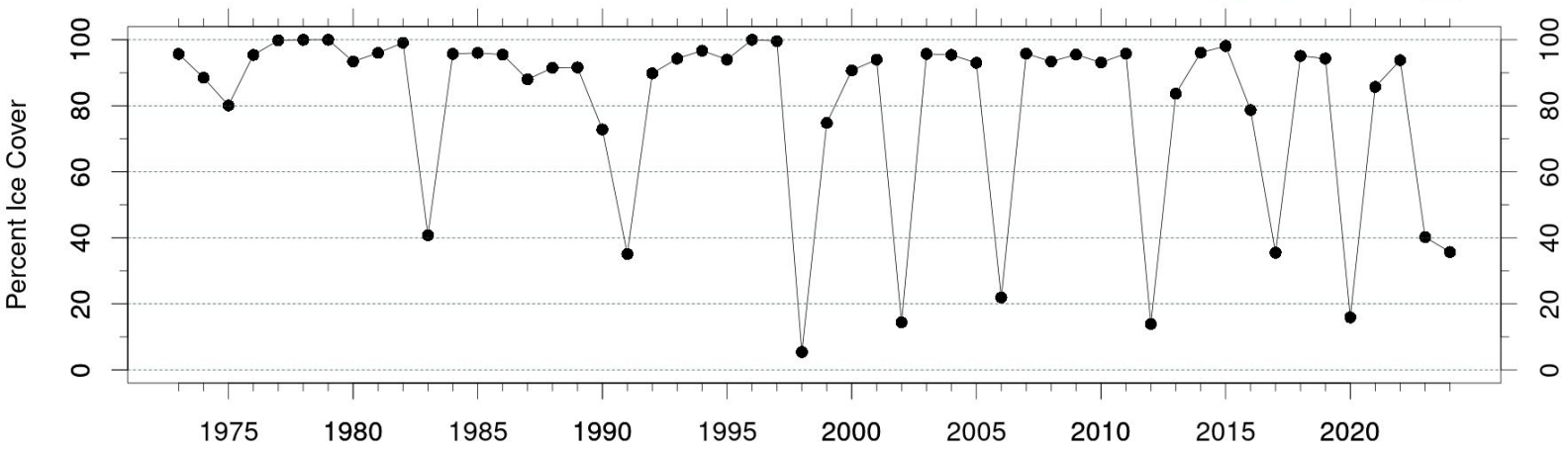
Lake Erie Average Ice Cover



For much of the main ice-growth period this winter (January-February), temperatures were around or slightly below average.

“One significant result of this was an anomalously large ice coverage extent for Lake Erie. On average, Lake Erie ice coverage peaks in mid-February when between 60-70% of the lake is frozen over. This year, however, due to consistently cold temperatures, ice coverage peaked at 95.78% on February 20th. This represents the greatest ice coverage extent Lake Erie has experienced since 2015 and ranks in the top 15 top ice coverages since 1973.” (Tyler Morrow, The Pennsylvania Observer).

Annual Maximum Ice Cover - Lake Erie





April Temperature Outlook

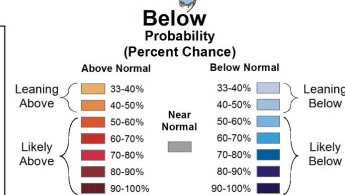
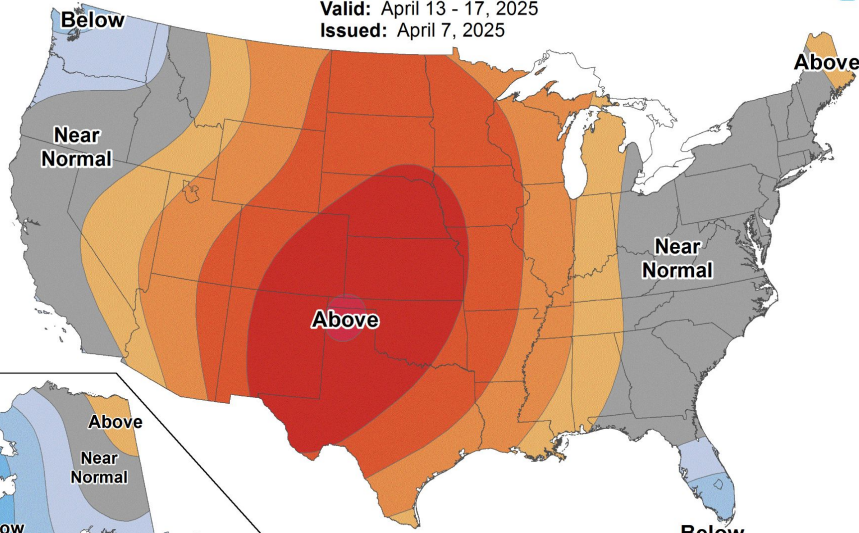
For the Continental United States

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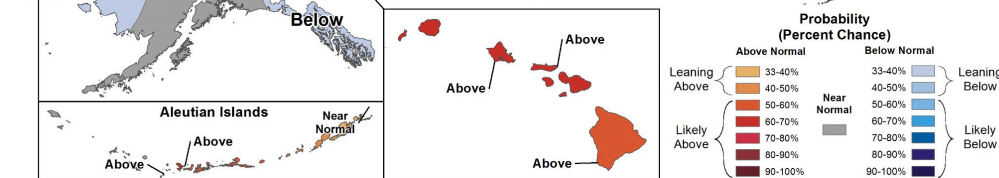
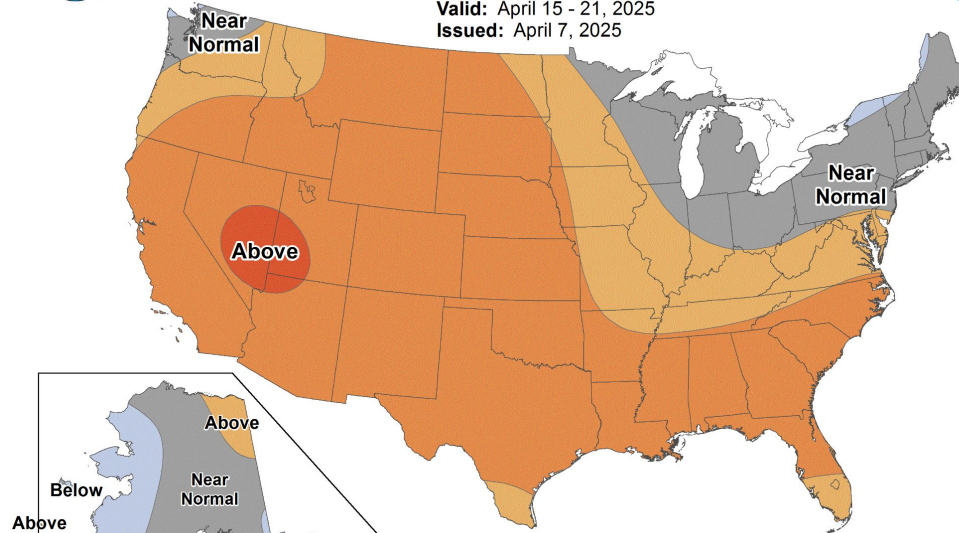
6-10 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: April 13 - 17, 2025
Issued: April 7, 2025



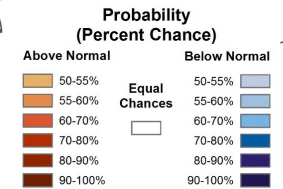
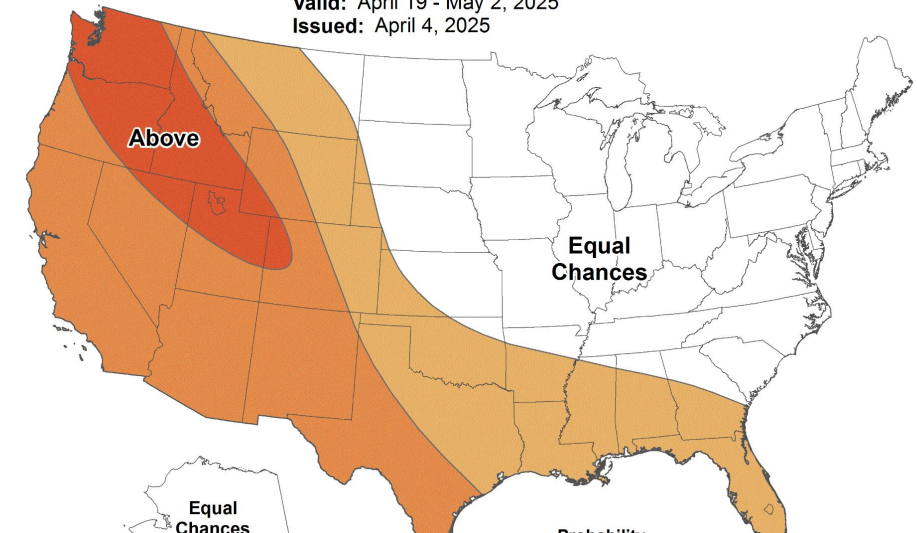
8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: April 15 - 21, 2025
Issued: April 7, 2025



Weeks 3-4 Temperature Outlook

Valid: April 19 - May 2, 2025
Issued: April 4, 2025



- On the 1st of the month, the average high temperature is 56F, but by the end of the month it is up to 68F.
- After a warm first week, and what is favored to be a slightly cooler second week thanks to “blocking” filtering down Canadian air, there is little predictability in how April temperatures will shake out for the rest of the month (33.3% chance of below normal, near normal, and above normal on all timescales).
 - This is related to fairly non-active teleconnections (ENSO, MJO, neutral AO/NAO/PNA by mid-month).





April Precipitation Outlook

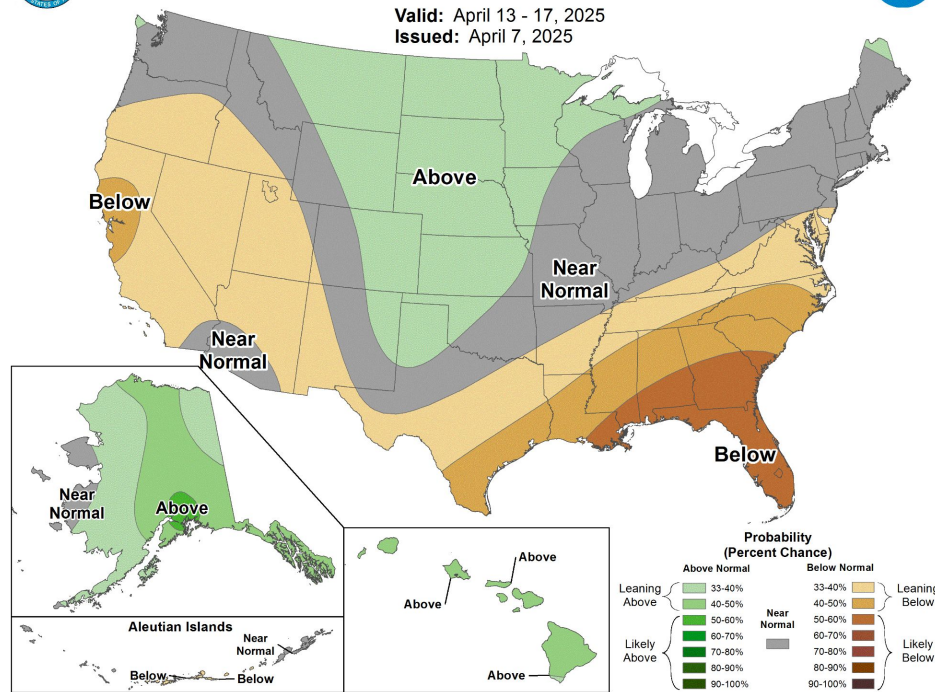
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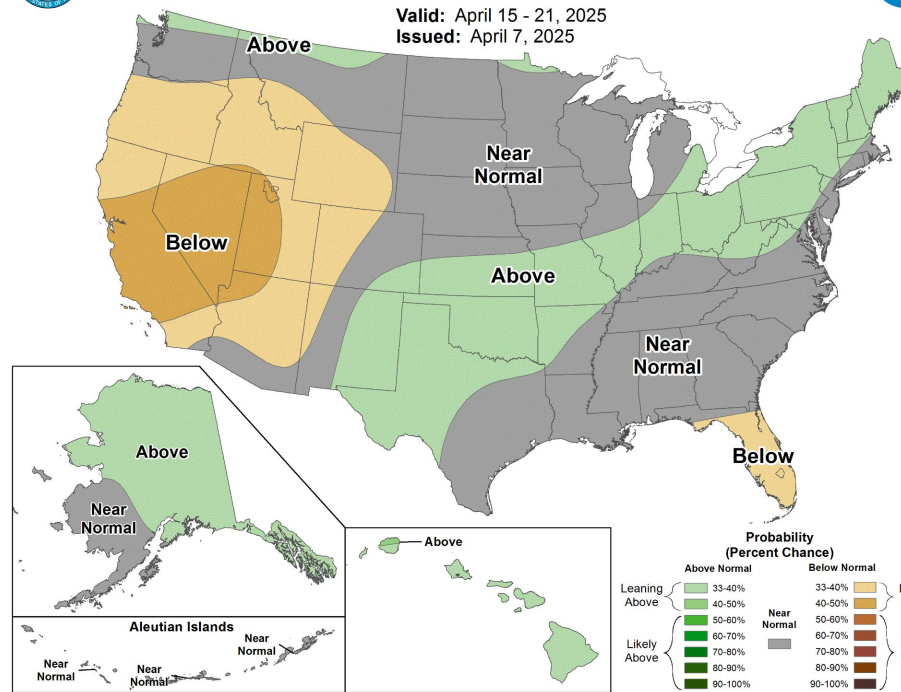
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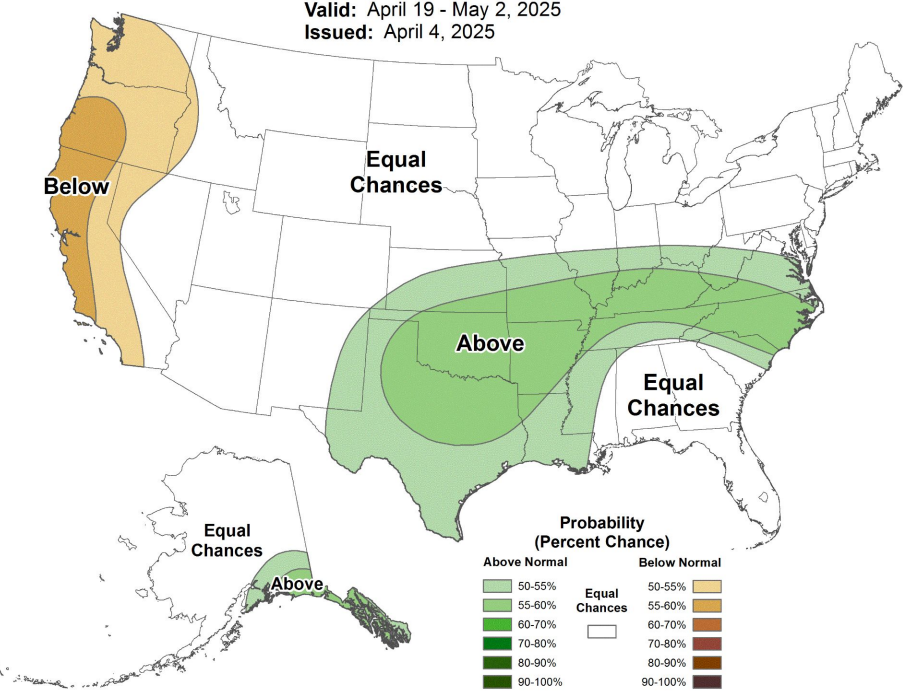
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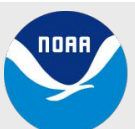


Weeks 3-4 Precipitation Outlook

Valid: April 19 - May 2, 2025
Issued: April 4, 2025



- Given that Pittsburgh has already seen 2.31" of rain this month (around 70% of the monthly normal), this month will likely finish above average, though, for the reasons mentioned previously, there is not much to go on for how the rest of the month will compare to normal.
 - The only period which may slightly favor above average precipitation will be roughly the 3rd week of April, before the main storm track is favored to shift south.



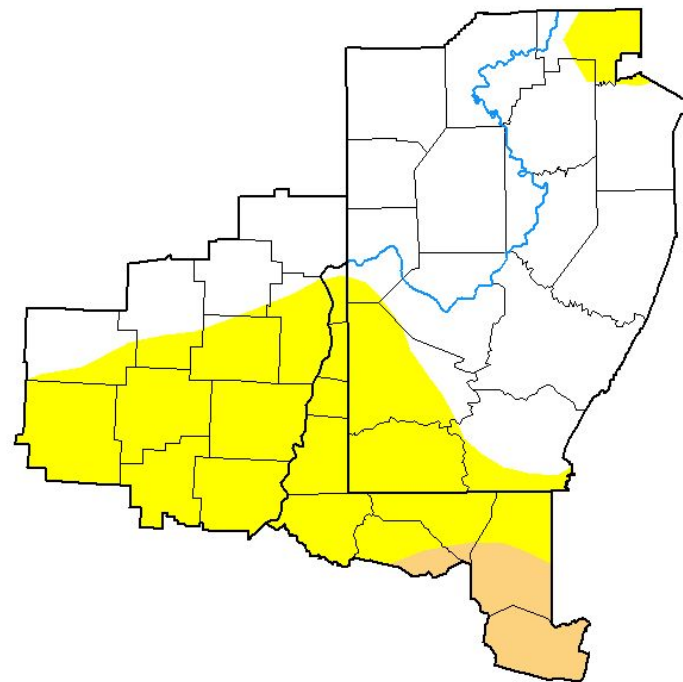


Current and Forecast Drought

April 8, 2025
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For Southwest Pennsylvania, Eastern Ohio, and Northern West Virginia

U.S. Drought Monitor Pittsburgh, PA WFO



April 1, 2025
(Released Thursday, Apr. 3, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	55.33	44.67	4.98	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 03-25-2025	55.35	44.65	4.98	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-31-2024	44.94	55.06	34.87	4.55	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	52.42	47.58	27.04	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	10.17	89.83	69.02	48.43	28.75	10.30
One Year Ago 04-02-2024	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

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

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

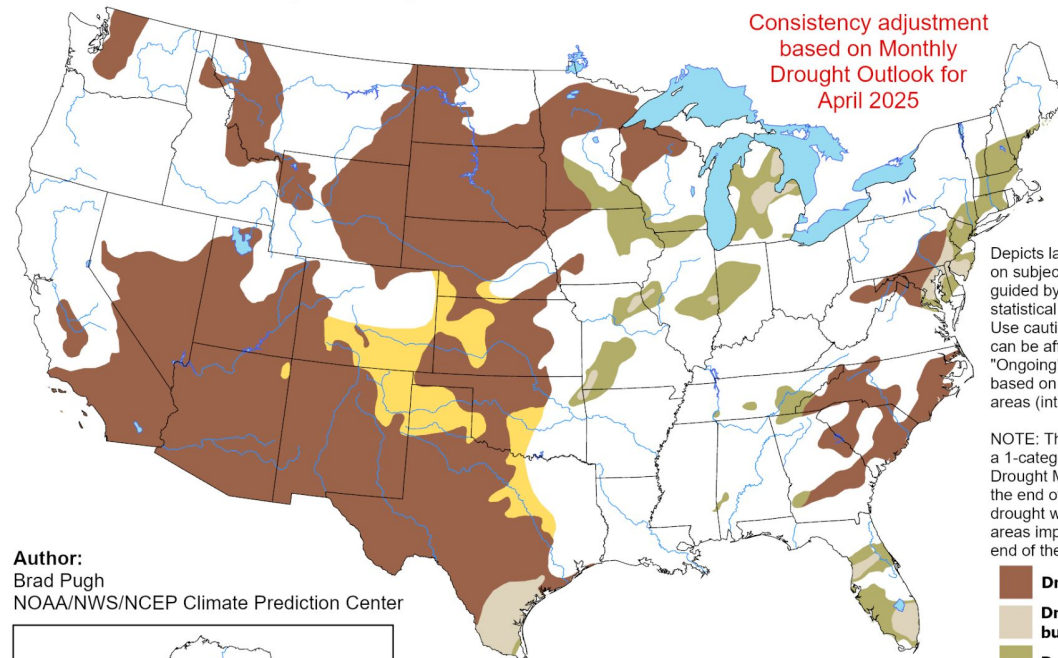
David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



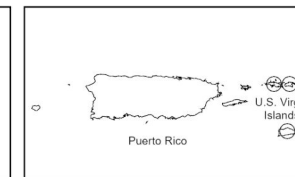
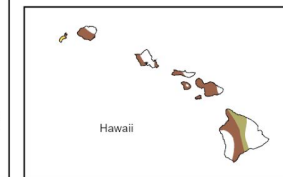
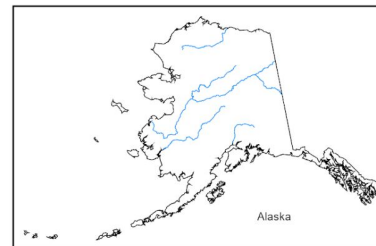
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

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

Valid for April 1 - June 30, 2025
Released March 31, 2025



Author:
Brad Pugh
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

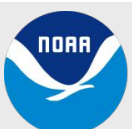
NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

Brown	Drought persists
Tan	Drought remains, but improves
Green	Drought removal likely
Yellow	Drought development likely
White	No drought



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

- Below average precipitation in March has led to a reintroduction of Moderate Drought in northern WV, with an expansion of "abnormally dry" conditions, though this is prior to the most recent precipitation event, so some changes are possible with this week's update.



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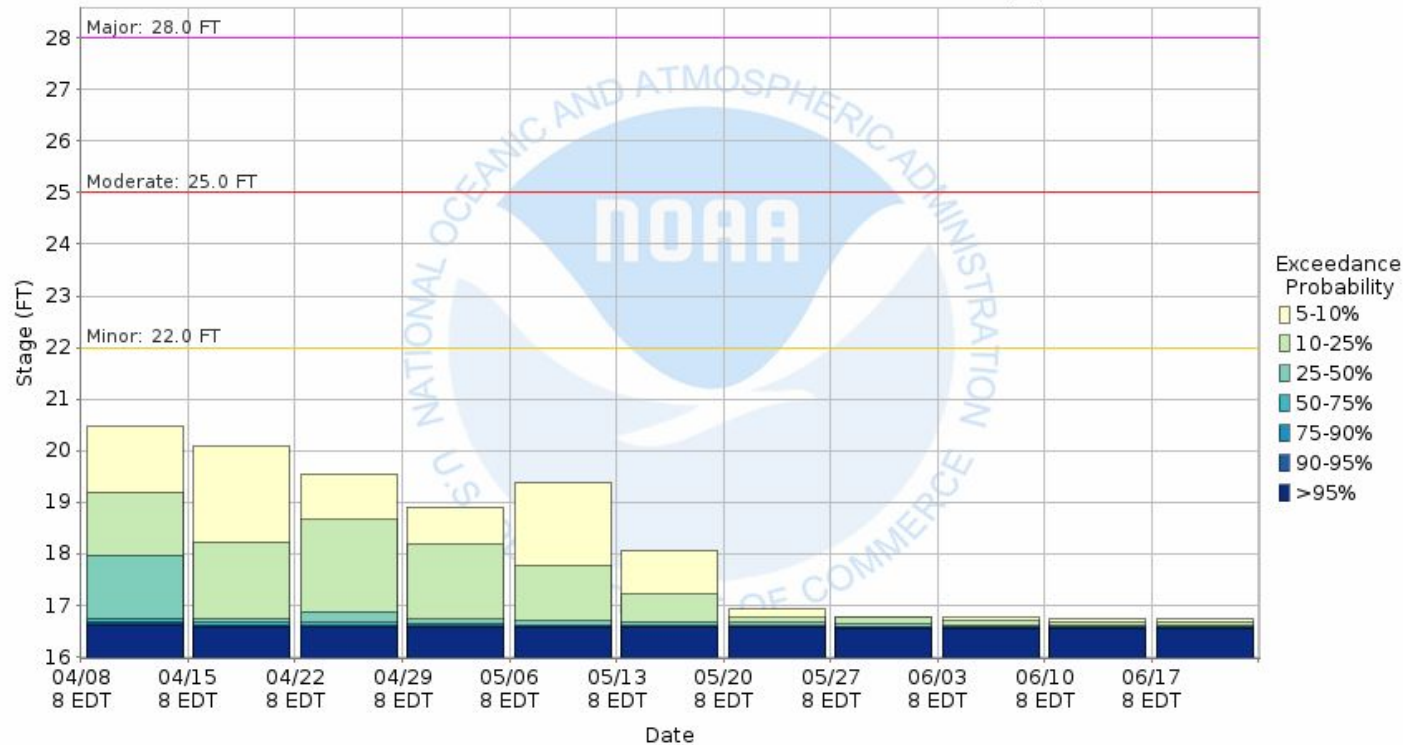


Spring River Flood Outlook

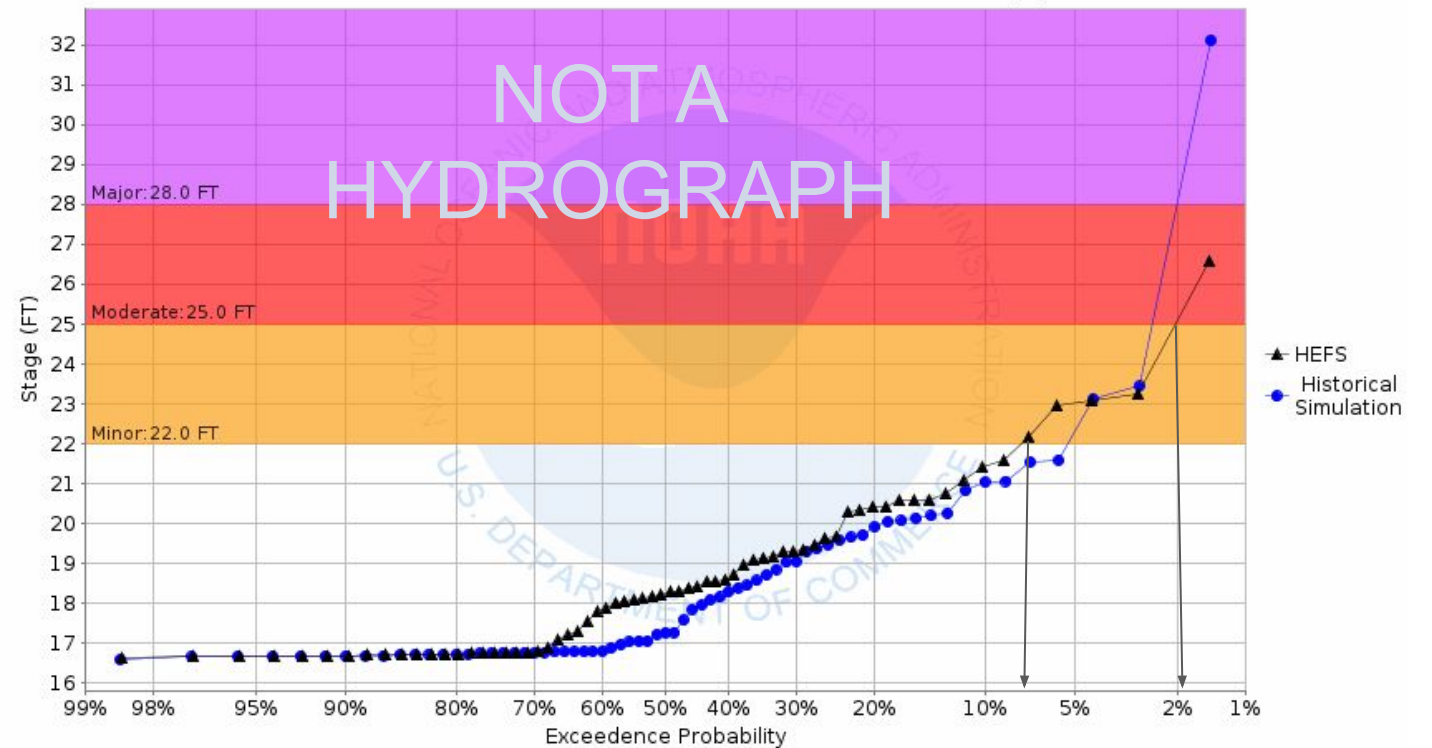
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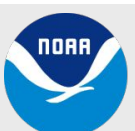
Weekly Chance of Exceeding River Stage on the Ohio River at Pittsburgh, PA (PTTP1)
Forecast for the period 04/08/2025 - 07/07/2025
This is an HEFS simulation based on the current conditions as of 04/01/2025



Chance of Exceeding River Stage on the Ohio River at Pittsburgh, PA (PTTP1)
Forecast for the period 04/08/2025 - 07/07/2025
This is an HEFS simulation based on the current conditions as of 04/01/2025



- The above probabilistic river data is for Pittsburgh, but trends are representative of the region.
 - Chances have decreased since the March update.
- There is a <5% chance of exceeding minor flood (22ft) at Pittsburgh any given week through May (end of flood season).
- Over the next 3 months, there is ~8% chance Pittsburgh reaches minor flood, a ~2% chance of a moderate flood, and a <1% chance of a major flood (as shown on right graph).
 - This is in line with normal seasonal chances (blue line).



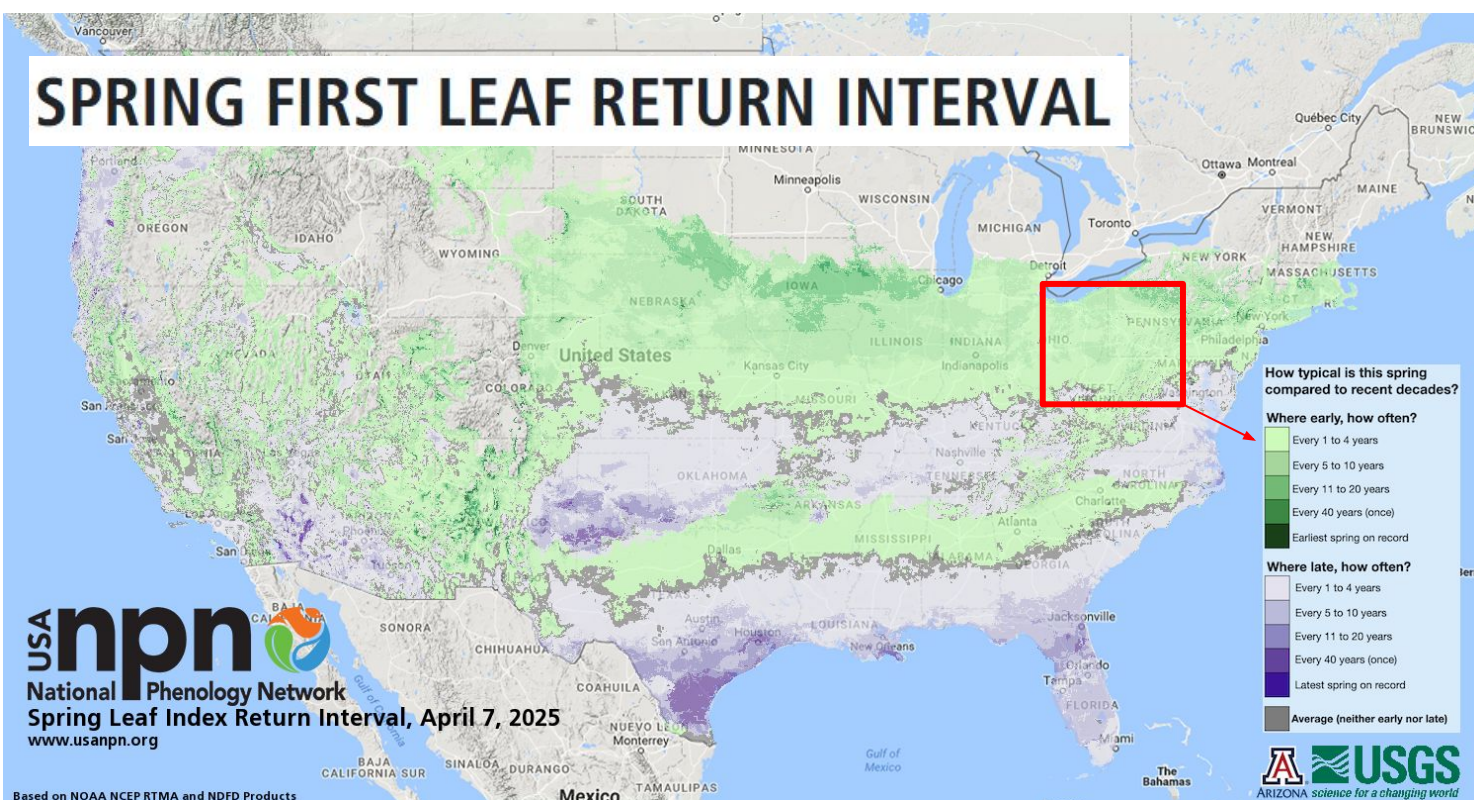


Spring's First Leaf Out / Bloom

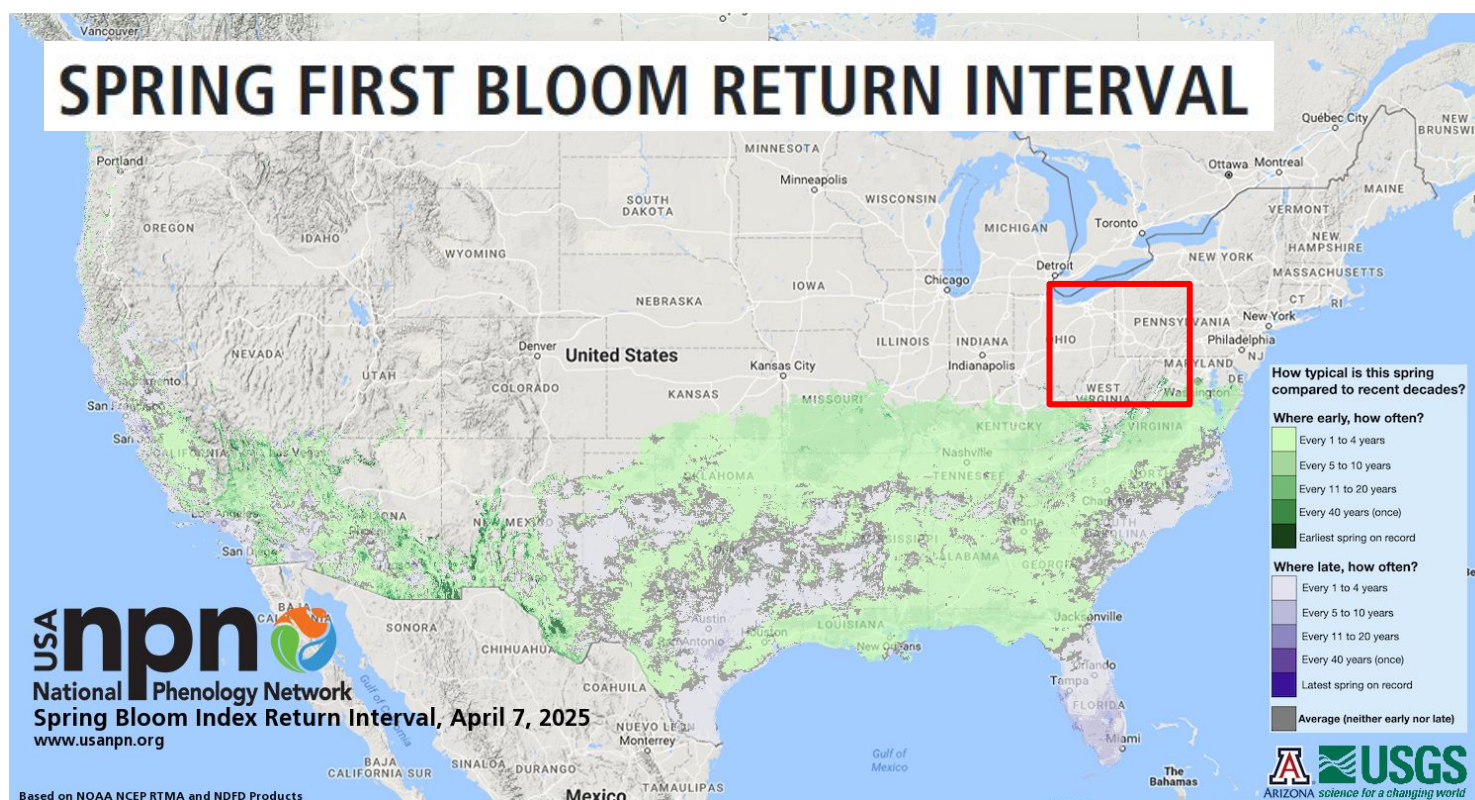
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SPRING FIRST LEAF RETURN INTERVAL



SPRING FIRST BLOOM RETURN INTERVAL



- *The spring green-up came slightly early this year.*
- A green-up this early occurs only about once every 1-4 years; making it not “abnormally early”.
- *The “spring first bloom” has yet to arrive.*
- A brief April cool down may be othouth to slow the northward growth a bit, making arrival right around normal, but may depend on exactly how temperatures perform this month.



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Pittsburgh, PA



Contact and Additional Information

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Contact Information

Next Briefing

- This is a one time briefing for April. The next monthly briefing will be issued in early May. Feel free to contact us for more information.

Disclaimer

- Information contained in this briefing is time-sensitive
- Do Not Use After the end of the current month.

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