



NWS Wilmington, Ohio March 2020 Regional Climate Summary

Regional Climate Summary

The weather pattern in March got a jumpstart on a spring like feel, as warmer and wetter than normal conditions evolved through much of the month for the region. In fact, most areas (especially north of the Ohio River) received 2-3" more rain than is typical for the month of March (with some spots 4-5" above normal), leading to soggy grounds as the calendar flips to April.

Temperatures

The weather pattern that evolved in the region through the month of March was one that didn't feature much in the way of drastic temperature swings as sometimes can be the case in a transition month such as this. Overall, the month featured numerous days with highs in the 40s, 50s, and 60s, with lows in the 20s, 30s, and 40s, which is to be expected from a climatology perspective.

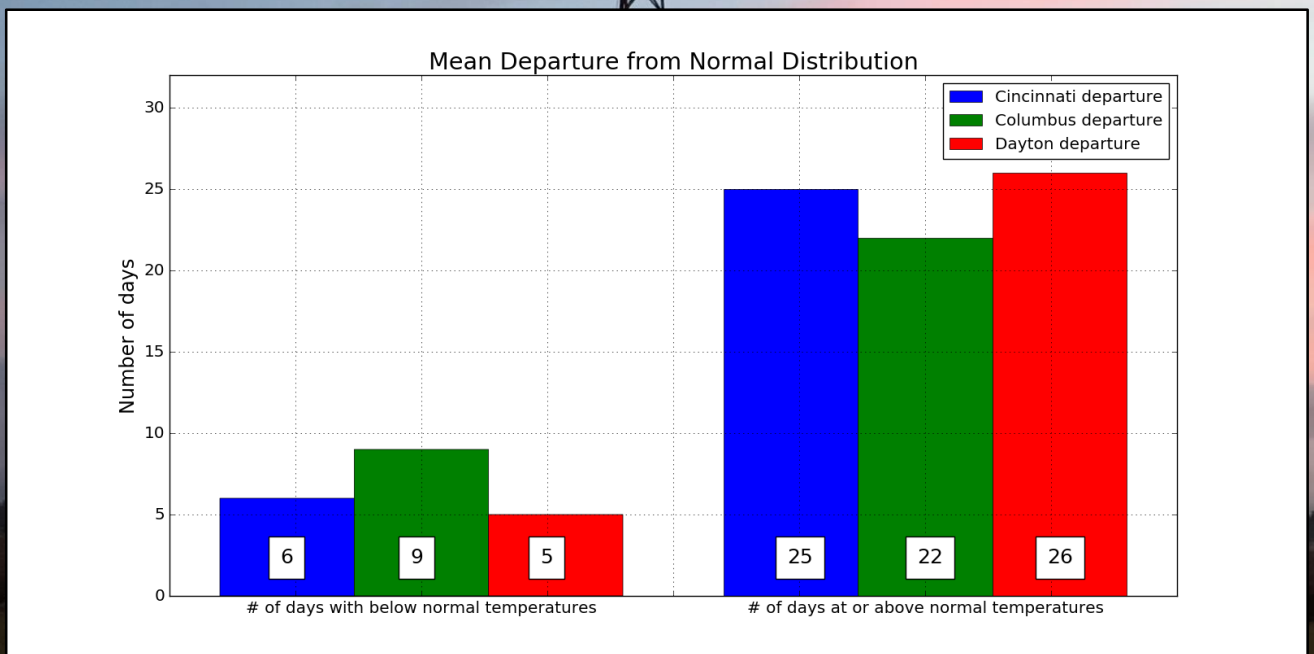
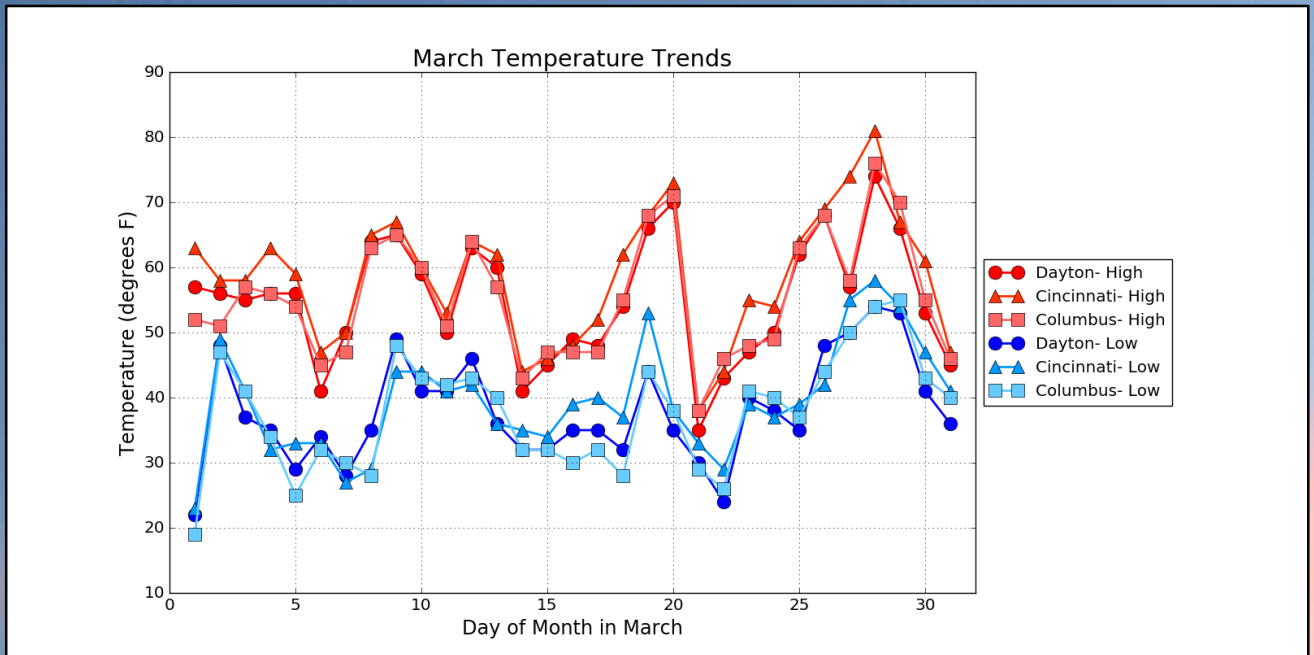
This being said, as a whole, temperatures ended up above normal as an average, with an extended period of above normal temperatures to start the month before slightly cooler air built into the Ohio Valley towards the middle of the month. The cool down was brief, however, as much warmer air quickly returned by the 19th before a sharp cold front brought winter like temperatures into the area on the 21st. But, even with this said, warmer air returned to the area for the final part of the month, even as a cold front ushered in slightly cooler temperatures by the 30th and 31st.

The high temperature of 81°F at Cincinnati (KCVG) on the 28th was the first 80°F+ day of the year/season for the site, with the last occurring in October. In fact, the last time that the site had an 80°F+ temperature in the month of March was back in 2012. Moreover, the 5 days in which the temperature dipped to the freezing mark or colder at Cincinnati was the fewest in the month of March since 2012, and tied for the fewest in March since 1946.

Site	Avg Temp (°F)	Avg High Temp (°F)	Avg Low Temp (°F)	Departure From Normal (°F)	Maximum Temperature (°F)	Minimum Temperature (°F)
Cincinnati (CVG)	49.0°F	58.6°F	39.5°F	+5.4°F	81°F (03/28)	23°F (03/01)
Columbus (CMH)	46.5°F	55.4°F	37.7°F	+4.6°F	76°F (03/28)	19°F (03/01)
Dayton (DAY)	46.5°F	55.0°F	37.9°F	+6.1°F	74°F (03/28)	22°F (03/01)



Temperatures (Continued)



Precipitation

While the region mostly, although not completely, avoided any extended period of heavy rain and flooding for January or February, the same cannot be said for March. The pattern that developed produced several heavy rain events, one in particular from the 19th into the 20th and another from the 28th into the 29th, both of which yielded widespread flooding and flash flooding, sending many rivers above flood stage quite rapidly.

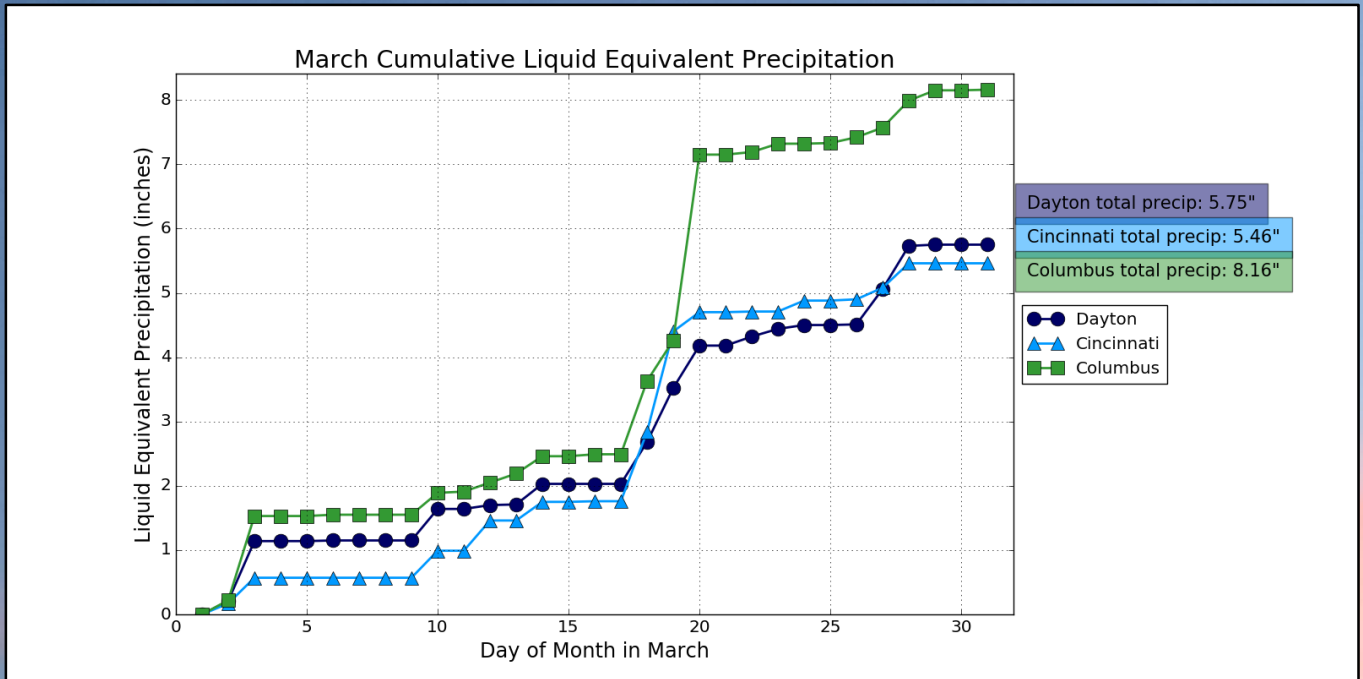
Aside from the individual heavy rain events, of which there were several, one unusual part of the pattern was just how frequently it rained, with many spots observing measurable precipitation nearly 2 out of every 3 days, on average. Most of the days featured less than a tenth, but the persistence of rain/precipitation never allowed the ground to dry out “between events.” In fact, with this in mind, only 12 dry days (i.e. no measurable precipitation) were observed at Columbus (CMH) throughout the month, which is the fewest in any single month at the site since May 2004. All of the rainfall events added up to the 2nd wettest March on record at the site, with a total rainfall of 8.16 inches, falling just behind the March of 1964 (9.59”).

With warmer temperatures settling in through much of the month, snowfall was lacking – especially for southern parts of the region. In fact, the trace of snow at Cincinnati (CVG) was the least amount of snow observed at the site in the month of March since 2010.

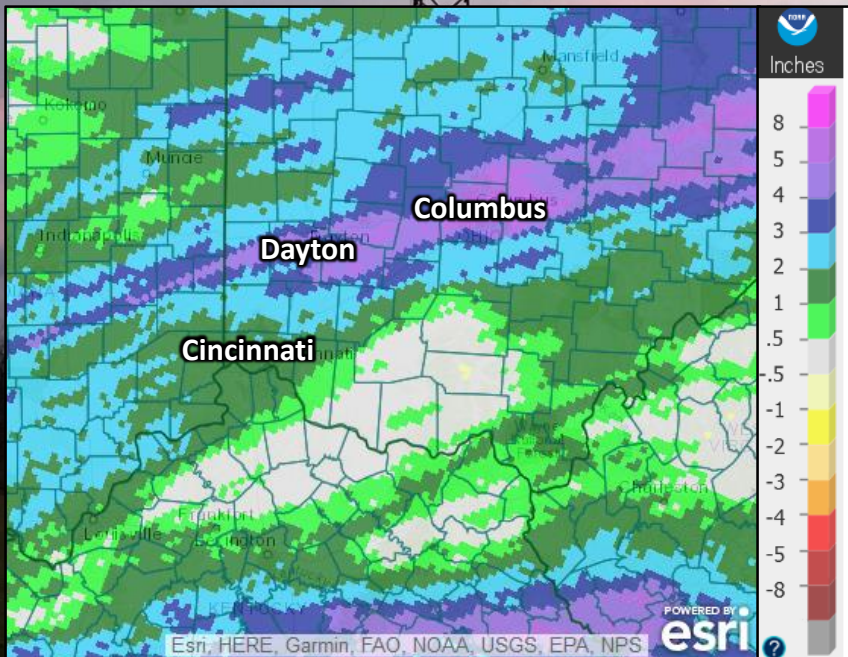
Site	Total Precipitation (in.)	Departure From Normal (in.)	Max Daily Precipitation (in./date)		Total Snowfall (in.)	Max Daily Snowfall (in./date)	
Cincinnati (CVG)	5.46 in.	+1.50 in.	1.56"	03/19	Trace	Trace	03/14
Columbus (CMH)	8.16 in.	+5.14 in.	2.89"	03/20	0.6"	0.6"	03/14
Dayton (DAY)	5.75 in.	+2.41 in.	0.93"	03/03	1.9"	1.9"	03/14



Precipitation (Continued)







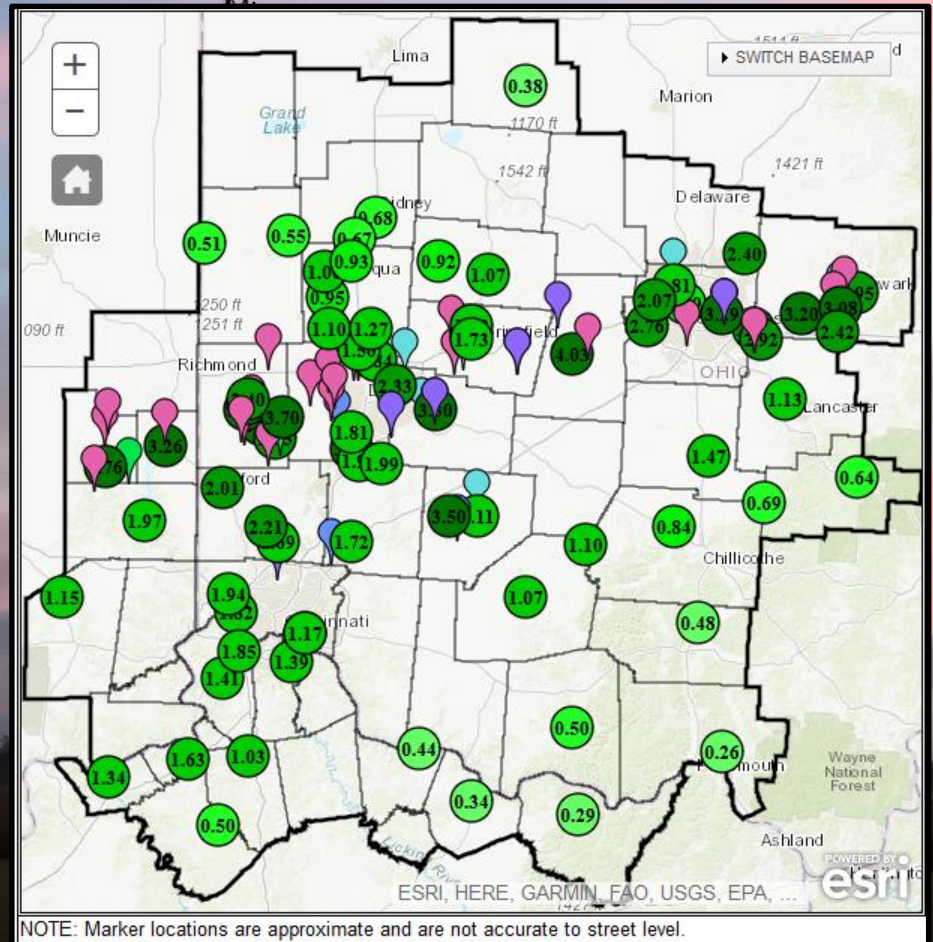
March Precipitation Departure From Normal (In.)



Flooding and Severe Weather: March 19-20




Several rounds of showers and storms moved through from the 19th and the 20th. While there was some strong to severe weather, the primarily hazard was the flash flooding and the flooding. The South Fork Licking River at Interstate 70 near Buckeye Lake reached record levels as well, closing Interstate 70.

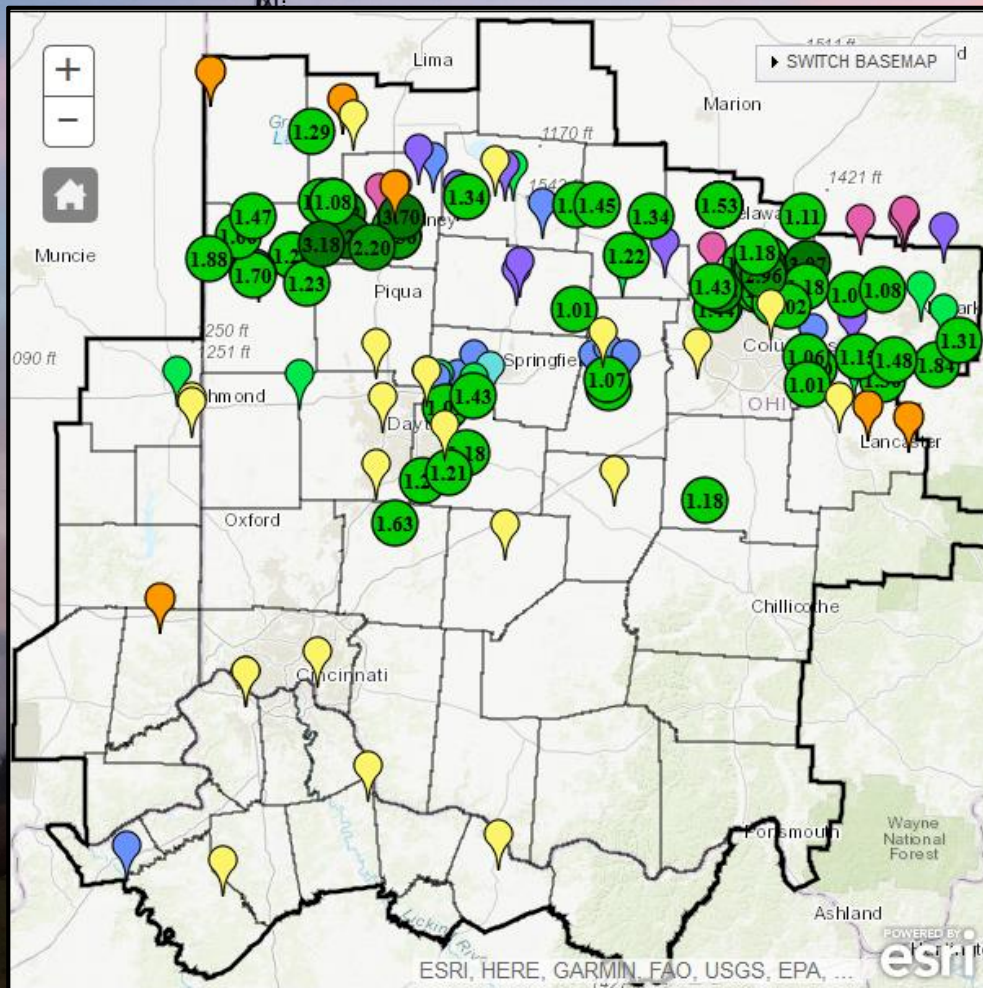
-  Flash Flooding
-  Flooding
-  Thunderstorm Wind Gust
-  Thunderstorm Wind Damage



Flooding and Severe Weather: March 28-29

Several rounds of showers and storms developed during the afternoon of the 28th into the evening, with several storms producing large hail and damaging winds. However, the main threat was the flooding and flash flooding that ensued from 2-4" of rain that fell in some spots just north of the I-70 corridor. Additional storms moved through during the overnight hours before strong winds moved in during the morning and afternoon of the 29th. These synoptically-induced 50+ MPH gusts resulted in some reports of trees downed through the area.

-  Flash Flooding
-  Flooding
-  Thunderstorm Wind Gust
-  Thunderstorm Wind Damage
-  Non-Thunderstorm Wind Gust
-  Non-Thunderstorm Wind Damage



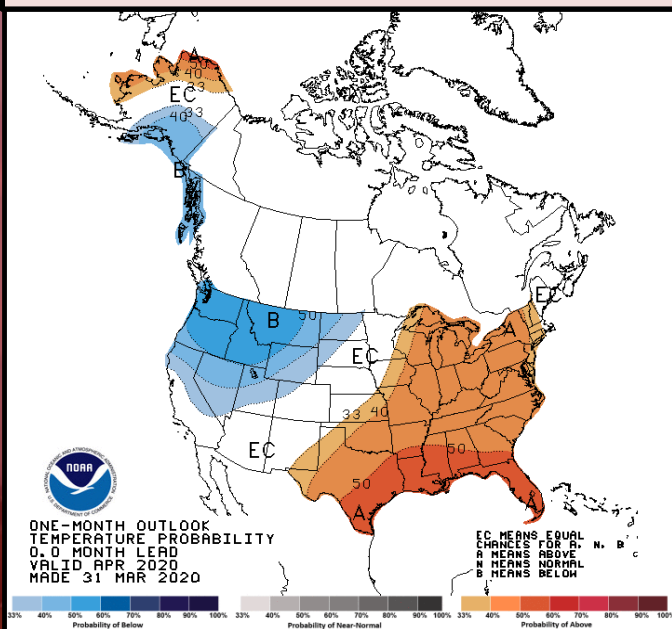
April Outlook

The latest outlook from the Climate Prediction Center calls for an increased likelihood of above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation as well.

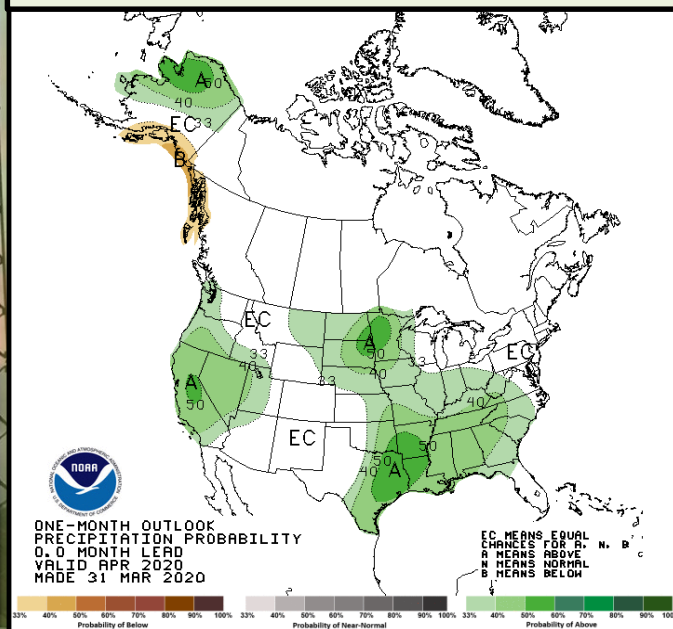
Site	Normal Avg Temp (°F)	Normal High (°F)	Normal Low (°F)
Cincinnati (CVG)	54.2	64.7	43.7
Columbus (CMH)	53.1	63.5	42.6
Dayton (DAY)	51.6	61.9	41.4

Site	Normal Precipitation (in.)	Normal Snowfall (in.)
Cincinnati (CVG)	3.89	0.5
Columbus (CMH)	3.40	1.1
Dayton (DAY)	4.09	0.6

Upcoming Temperature Outlook



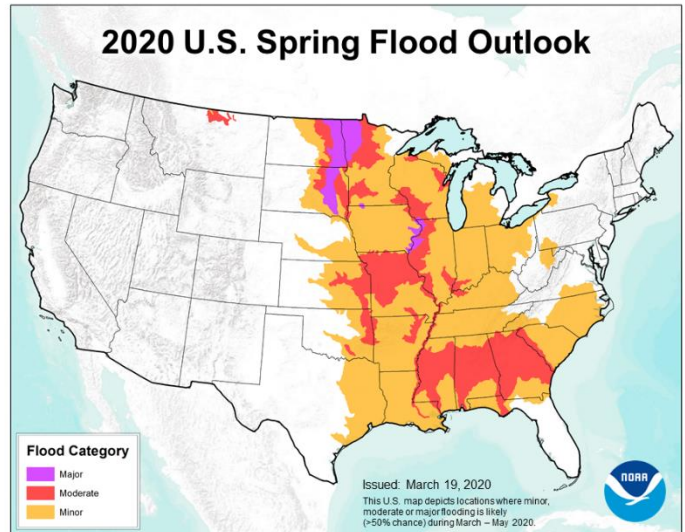
Upcoming Precipitation Outlook



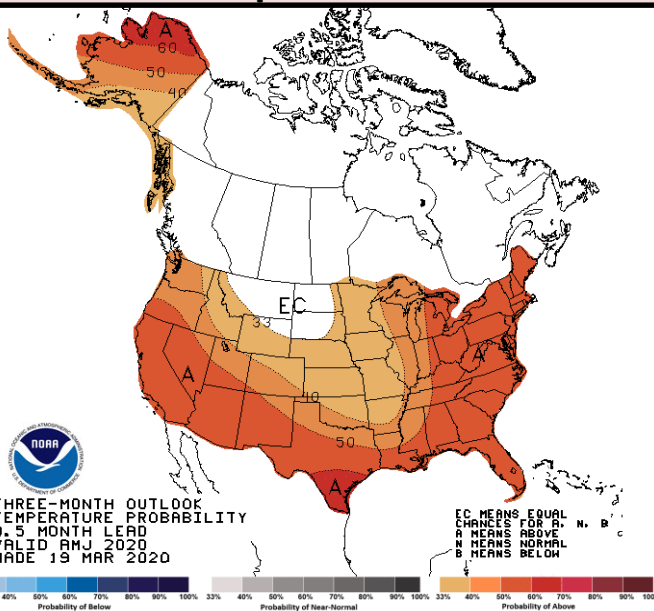
April-June Outlook

The Climate Prediction Center is calling for an increased likelihood of above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation across the region for the April to June timeframe.

Taking a closer look at the 2020 U.S. Spring Flood Outlook (which is for a slightly different time period of March-May) the shaded orange area across much of the region shows where there is a greater than 50-percent chance of minor flooding.



Three-Month (AMJ) Temp. Outlook



Three-Month (AMJ) Precip. Outlook

