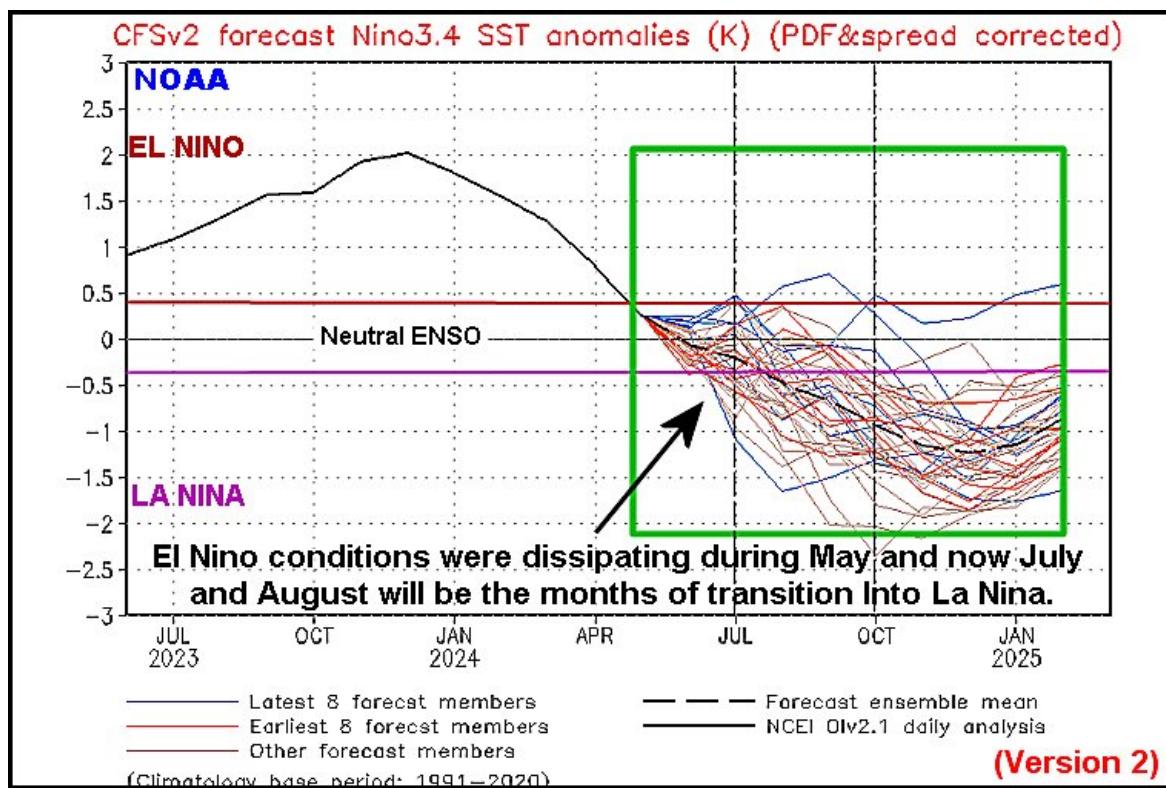


# La Nina's Slow Evolution May Reduce U.S. Dryness Fear

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, May 30 (World Weather Inc.) – Weather in North America during May deviated from expected precipitation in key crop areas in the United States. The greater than expected rainfall has not only been significant in relation to other years in this lunar cycle, but it is much more fitting of slow transition years from El Nino to La Nina. The latest data from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Prediction Center has suggested a further delay in the development of La Nina is underway and that, too, supports a less threatening summer outlook for some Midwestern crop areas. Dryness is still probable in a part of the Plains and some Midwestern locations during the middle to latter part of summer, but other areas in the Midwest will likely see timely rain. New research is suggesting drier conditions in the Middle and Southern Atlantic Coast States.



A much slower transition from El Nino to La Nina is taking place in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. The latest forecast data from NOAA's CFSv2 ENSO forecast model clearly shows the prediction of rapid transition into La Nina this year has not verified. The model is now predicting neutral ENSO conditions will still be in place during July and the transition toward La Nina conditions will occur in late July and August. That is much later than the forecasts from last winter suggesting La Nina would be in place as soon as June.

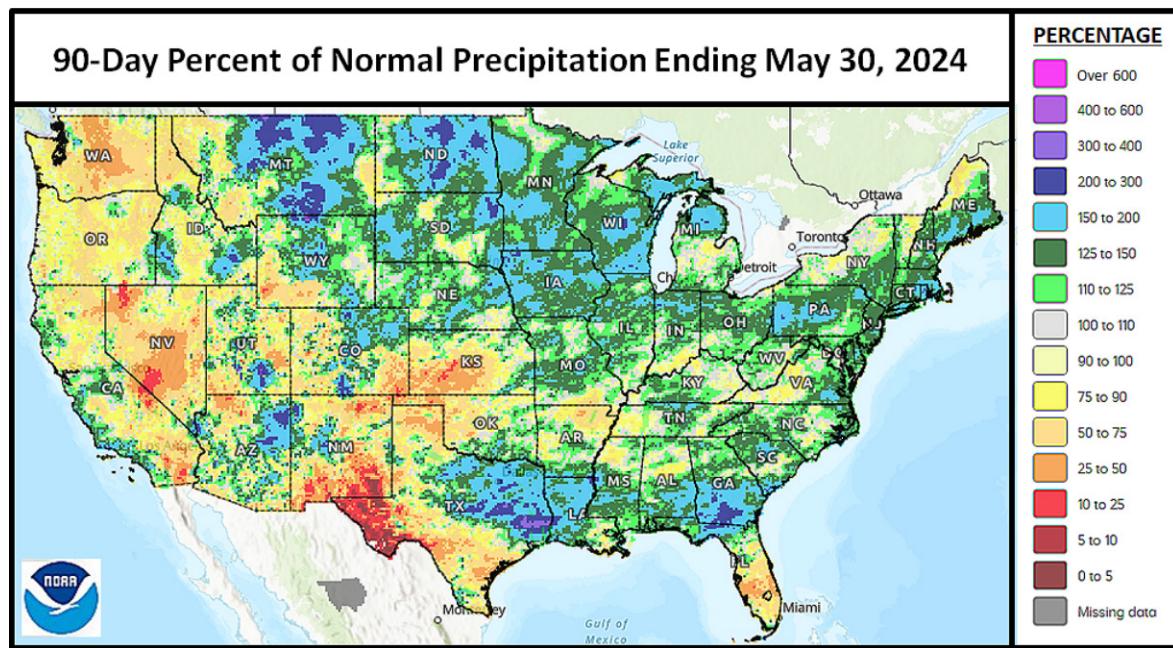
The delay in La Nina development (which was correctly predicted by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology last winter) suggests a possible better rainfall distribution this summer in key U.S. Midwestern corn and soybean production areas (if

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[the only influence on weather was coming from ENSO.](#) This trend was already suggested by World Weather, Inc. earlier this month when looking at the rainfall distribution and comparing it with other years in this lunar weather cycle. The spring of 2024 has become the wettest out of seven lunar cycle years studied for analogs into this summer's weather.

World Weather, Inc. previously reported earlier this month that the wetter bias from late April into early May made the most similar analog year that of 1970 in which similar conditions were noted. The summer of 1970 was favorably mixed for most of the Midwest, Delta and Tennessee River Basin areas while the middle and parts of the lower Atlantic Coast states had a drier bias. The driest weather in 1970 was in the Great Plains and a few western fringes of the Corn and Soybean Belt. Much of the driest conditions in that summer came late impacting the second half of July and especially August.

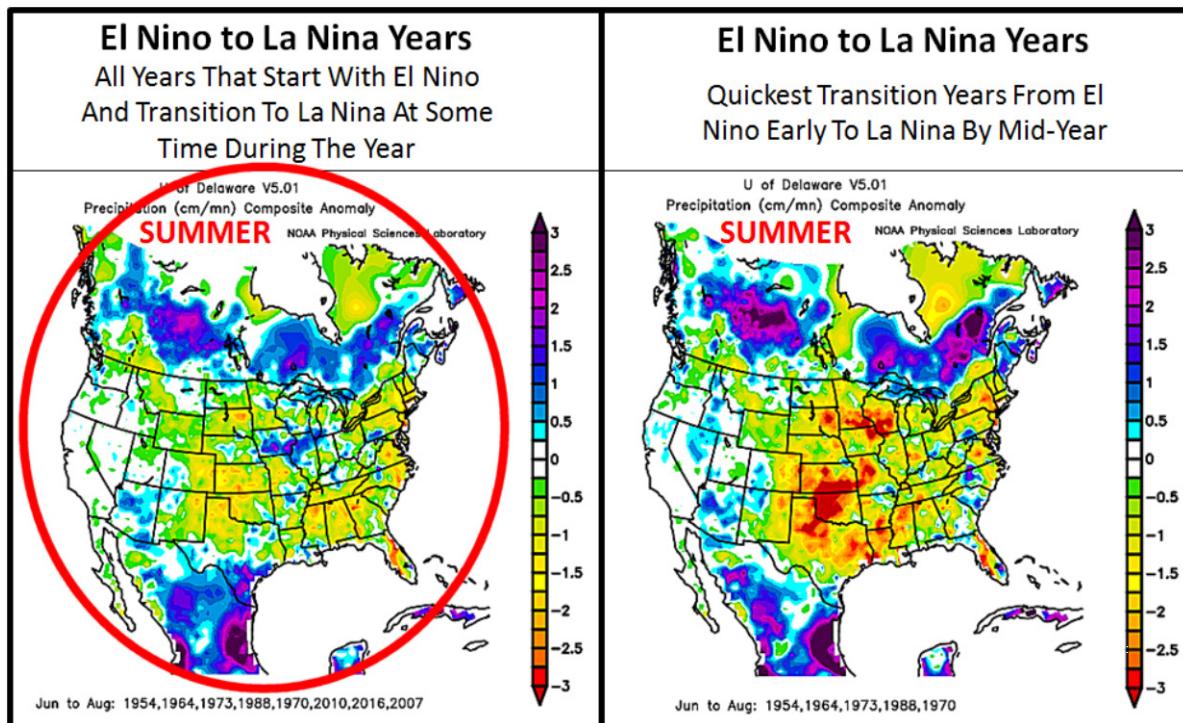
[The dryness in the middle and parts of the lower Atlantic Coast States is a growing area of interest.](#) Earlier this week World Weather, Inc. released research regarding the subtropical high pressure system over the Atlantic Ocean and how it was likely to be weak and easily displaced this summer. [The lack of a strong subtropical high pressure system would likely leave Florida in a drier than usual bias unless a tropical cyclone comes along and there is a relatively good chance that a part of the Carolinas and Virginia may also experience below normal precipitation.](#)



Now that the month of May is nearly over, the latest data shows the rainfall for the month was great enough to skew the entire spring season wetter than any of the 6 previous lunar cycle years in the northern Plains and upper Midwest including Iowa. World Weather, Inc. already declared earlier this month that summer 2024 was unlikely to have enough dryness and heat in it to cause a serious cut in summer production – at least not like 2012 or 1988. That was a possibility earlier this year while the key crop areas in the U.S. were running dry (similar to many of the lunar analog years) and NOAA was predicting a fast transition to La Nina suggesting a high potential for a dryness threat during the summer.

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The significant weather changes that occurred from late April through May have clearly thrown off the potential for a seriously dry summer in a large enough part of the Midwest. That was evident without the NOAA forecast for quickly transitioning El Nino to La Nina conditions changing. However, the latest ENSO forecast data is clearly showing a slower transition for El Nino to La Nina which results in better rainfall for the summer.



Despite all of the chatter here and in the marketplace that a hot, dry, summer is less likely, it is important to note that World Weather, Inc. is still in the midst of new research with new data that might still allow for some dryness to evolve and it may be in different areas of the nation's crop region than was once expected. The assessment of this new research will be made available soon, but the study is ongoing. So far, it looks as though the northwestern Plains will see timely rainfall this summer while the central and southern Plains turn drier and hotter. Some areas in the southwestern Corn and soybean Belt may trend drier this summer, too, and most of that is a part of the same outlook that World Weather, Inc. has been touting for months. There is also some evidence that dryness in the middle and southern Atlantic Coast States may become a feature of concern if the subtropical high pressure system is wavering. An update on the summer outlook will be forth coming soon.

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