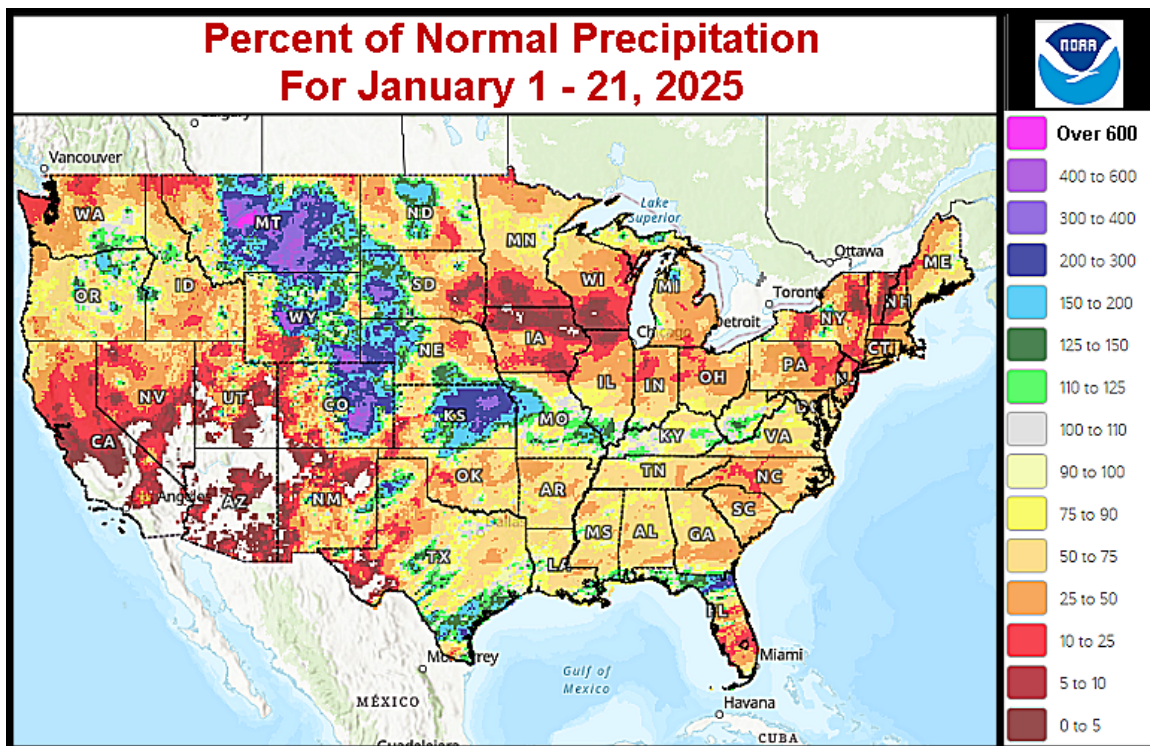


Upper U.S. Midwest Late Winter, Early Spring Bias Remains Dry

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, January 22 (World Weather Inc.) – Abnormally dry and various levels of drought were noted in the upper U.S. Midwest during the autumn. Weather conditions in recent weeks have not offered much of a change and the trend is expected to prevail, despite some brief periods of precipitation in coming weeks. The odds are quite good that parts of the western Corn and Soybean production region will begin spring drier than usual. Producers will be hoping for better April and May precipitation as time moves along.

The first three weeks in January were dominated by a northwesterly wind flow pattern aloft forcing waves of cold air into the central and eastern parts of the nation from Canada. Such a flow pattern in the middle of winter brings very little moisture to the upper Midwest, northeastern Great Plains and various other Midwest locations. Precipitation has been well below normal from Wisconsin and northern Illinois to eastern South Dakota and eastern Nebraska. Portions of Ohio, Indiana and Michigan have also been notably drier biased as well, though soil moisture in the eastern Midwest is many times greater than that in the northwest.

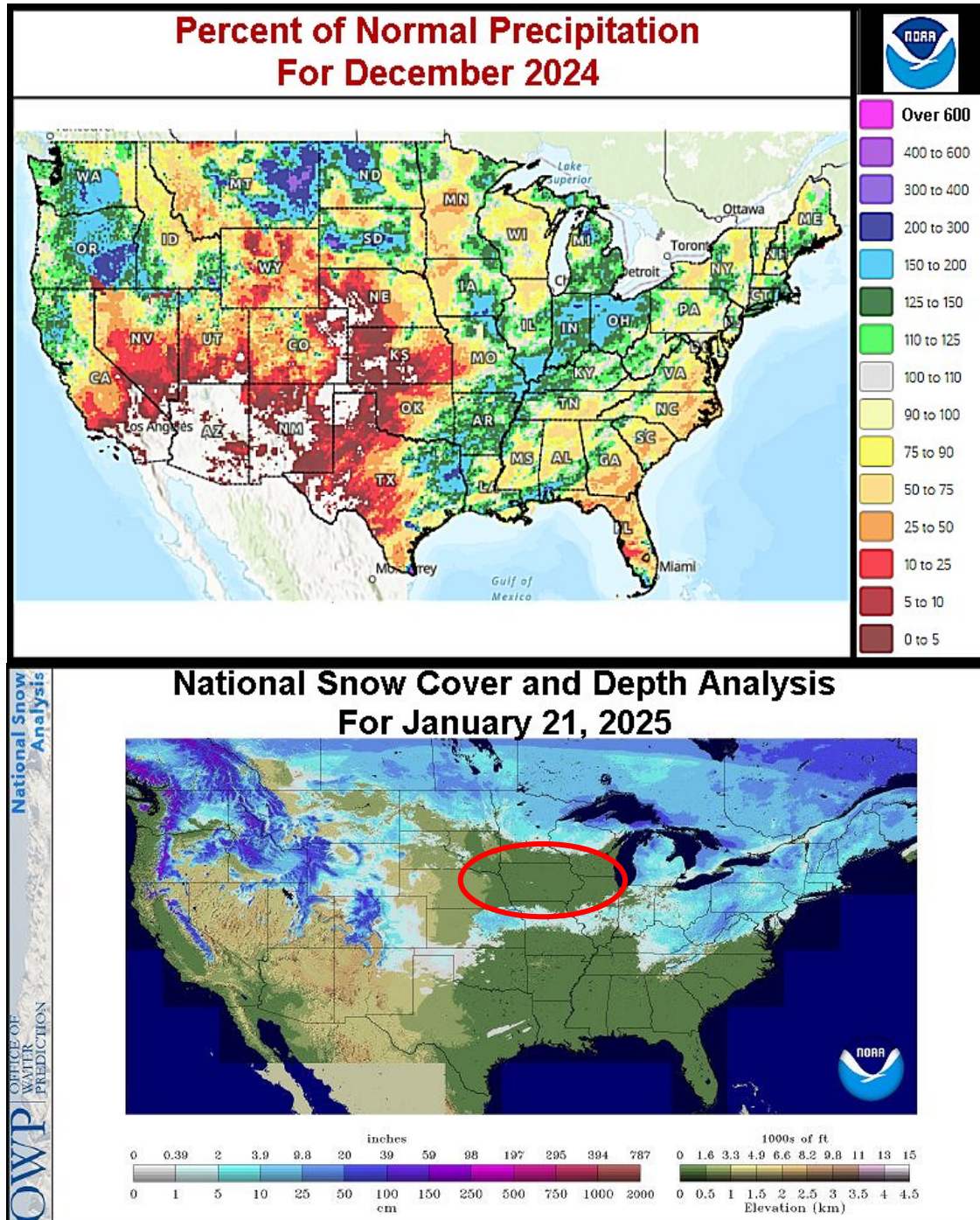


Some of the dryness had its roots in late summer 2024 and precipitation during the autumn and early winter has not provided much change, although a better mix of precipitation and sunshine occurred in November and December resulting in lower moisture deficits and a more hopeful environment for spring moisture. Cool temperatures at times have been very helpful in curbing the drying rates and conserving soil moisture. The region is still drier than usual, but the environment would have been more threatening had the

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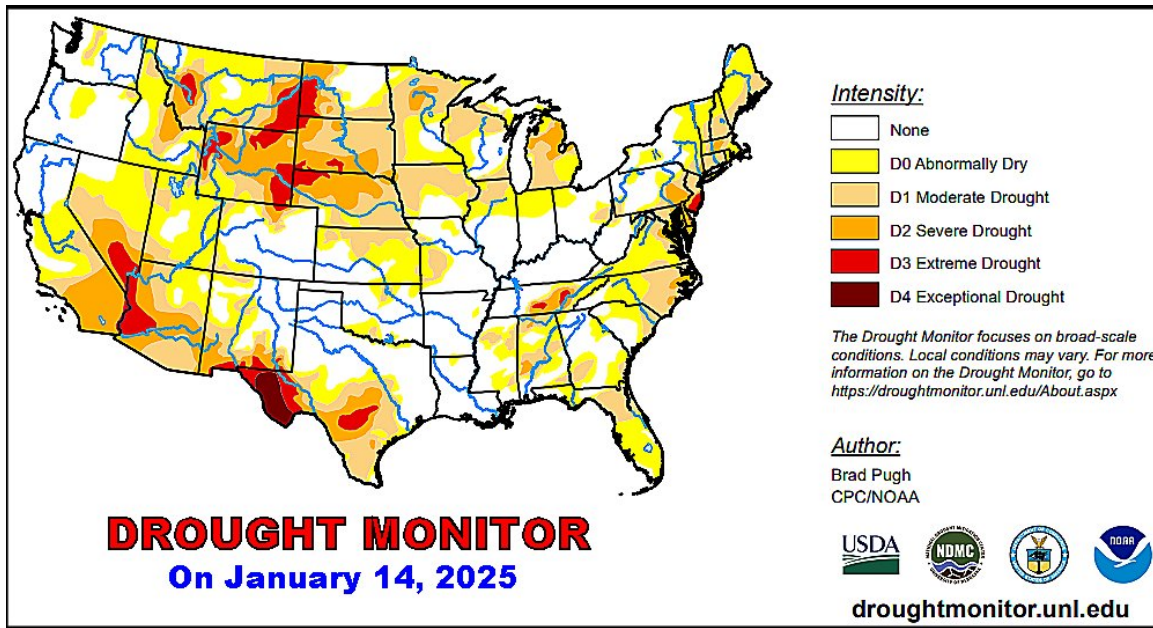
temperatures remained warmer than usual. December precipitation anomalies were not as great as those in January, although the upper Midwest was still reporting below normal precipitation.

The December precipitation anomaly was looking very much like a classic La Nina pattern with above normal precipitation in the western parts of the Pacific Northwest, the northwestern U.S. Plains and from eastern Texas and the Delta into the eastern Midwest. The southeastern states and much of the southwestern parts of the nation were also very dry.



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The lack of precipitation in recent weeks has also kept snow cover to a minimum in the areas from eastern South Dakota and eastern Nebraska through Iowa to northwestern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. *The lack of snow on the ground leaves no moisture source for early spring while precipitation is minimal. That places a higher degree of pressure on improved spring precipitation; however, many of the indicators are pointing toward ongoing colder and drier than usual conditions through March.*



April may trend warmer and wetter, but it is not clear how much of the central U.S. will get precipitation. The odds are relatively high that parts of Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska and immediate neighboring areas will continue to see less than usual precipitation. February and March precipitation should be relatively well mixed, although it will still be the cool season and most of the “normal” precipitation at this time of year is not very great leaving a need for greater moisture. April should trend warmer than usual and that will accelerate drying rates across the Plains and Midwest. The greatest precipitation at that time may be in the northern Plains far northern parts of the Upper Midwest and a portion of Canada’s Prairies, although a disturbance or two should provide temporary relief from dryness that has been prevailing in the region. A drier-than-usual bias may continue in portions of the central and western Midwest, despite the brief encounter with some rain.

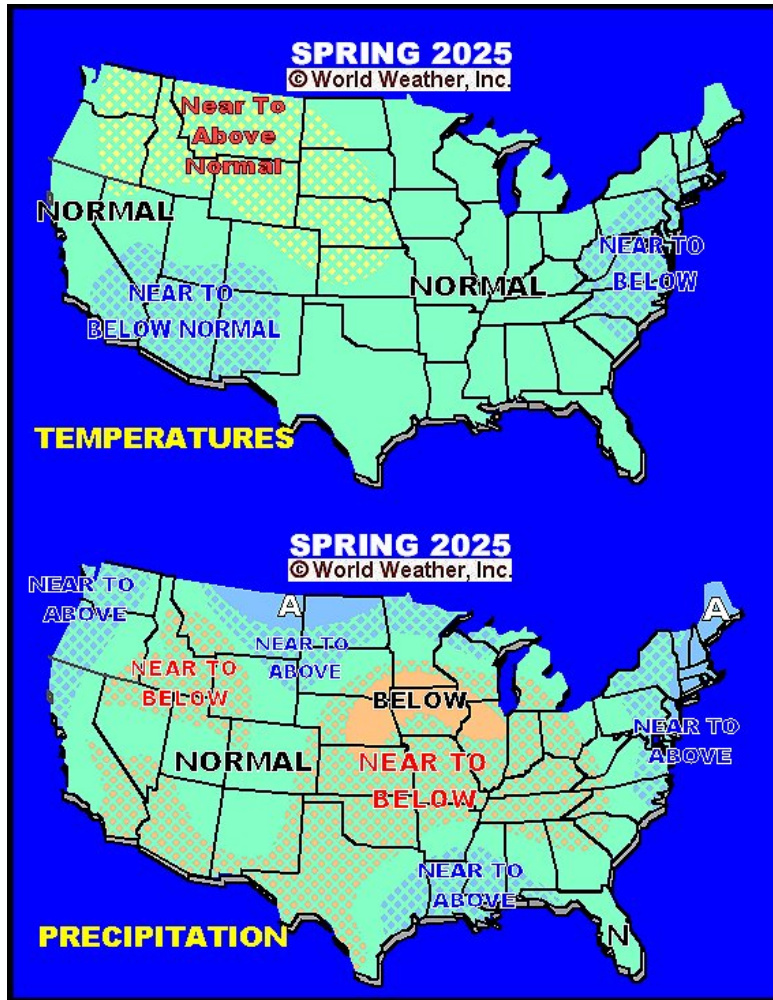
There is potential for improved rainfall in the western Midwest and Great Plains during April, May and June, but temperatures will have much to say about the potential with April looking warmer than usual. May and June may trend a little cooler once again which may conserve soil moisture. There are a few other features that could limit rainfall during the spring including:

- The negative phase of Pacific Decadal Oscillation
- Lingering La Nina conditions
- The 18-year Lunar Cycle
- A parallel with 1953
- Similar conditions to 1895

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- The solar maximum may help to generate a little rain

As noted above there will be a drier bias to the spring this year in portions of the Midwest and the Great Plains.



The colder than usual temperatures expected in March and the warmer than usual conditions in April should lead to relatively normal three month temperatures across Much of the Midwest, Delta and southern Plains and interior southeastern states. Near to above normal temperatures are likely in the northwestern and west-central Plains and the Pacific Northwest while near to below normal temperatures impact the middle Atlantic Coast States and the southwestern desert region.

Despite some timely precipitation events in the Midwest during the spring this year, most of the precipitation expected should prove to be a little disappointing and there will be potential for some dryness during periods of high

evaporation. Most of the Midwest, southwestern and central Great Plains and lower and eastern Midwest will be receive less than usual rainfall. Wetter-biased conditions are expected to occur mostly in the northeastern states, the northwestern Great Plains and portions of the far uppermost Midwest. Western portions of the Pacific Northwest will be wetter biased and a final area of wet conditions is expected along the central Gulf of Mexico coast including the lower Delta.

If the spring weather outlook verifies there is liable to be some significant moisture deficits as summer begins. That will put extra pressure on timely rainfall to stave off a more threatening hot and dry pattern.

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