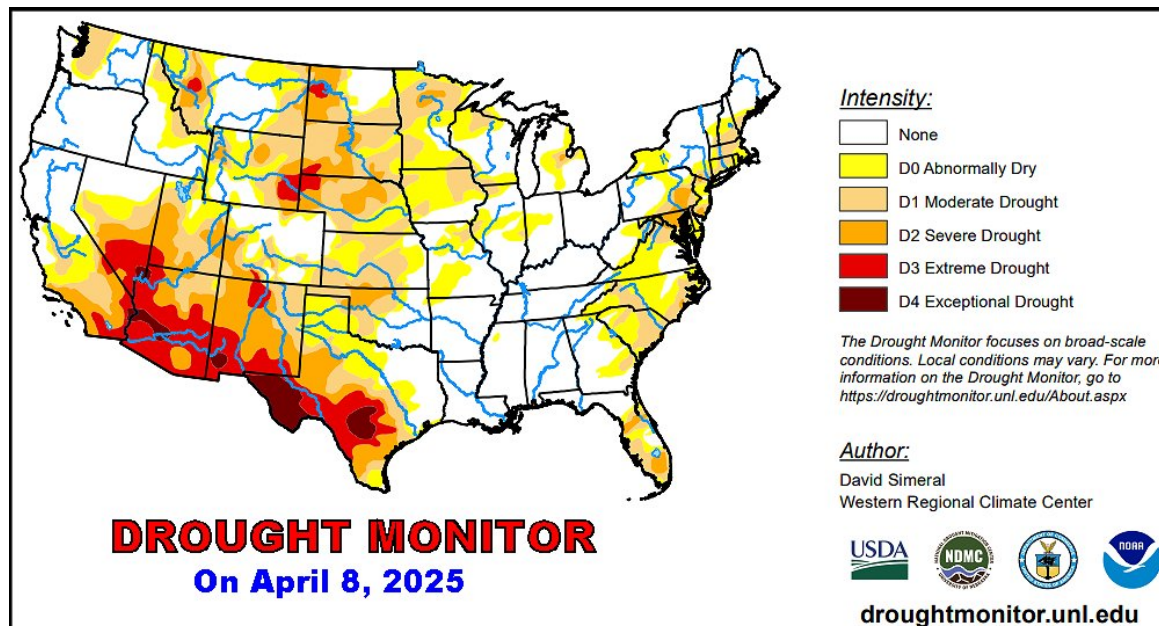


U.S. Midwest, Plains Late Spring Weather To Look Like 1968

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, April 10 (World Weather Inc.) – Weather on planet earth is the result of the mixing of many atmospheric and oceanic parameters and most of those parameters are cyclical in nature. However, each of the influences on weather operate independently resulting in the overlapping of cycles that rarely line up similarly from one year to another. Meteorologists have a tough time making long range predictions because of this situation and will usually use the most dominating weather influences to derive their forecasts. This spring there are three larger influences on weather and they include the solar cycle, the lunar cycle and ENSO (El Nino/Southern Oscillation). World Weather, Inc. has looked at 1968 as a possible analog year for spring 2025 because of its similarity from each of these three patterns. If correct, *the remainder of spring should trend wetter in the northern U.S. Plains, southern Canada's Prairies and the upper U.S. Midwest while the Pacific Northwest receives normal precipitation and more rain falls across the region from eastern Texas to the Delta and lower Ohio River Basin. There may also be ongoing dryness from the southwestern Plains into the west-central Corn and Soybean Belt and in the southeastern states.*

Recent flooding rain in the lower Midwest, Delta and Tennessee River Basin was quite impressive and perhaps a little reminiscent of 2019 which was one of the last truly wet springs that occurred ahead of the recent series of North American drought years. Worry about a wet year was already beginning to surface in the late winter, but the more recent torrential rain event has that concern rising to the top of the usual spring fears over production potential for spring and summer crops.



Rainfall in early April varying from 4.00 to 10.00 inches in the Ohio River Basin and areas south into the northern Delta and parts of the northern Tennessee River may have been a game changer for some producers. Many areas from northern Arkansas to Kentucky

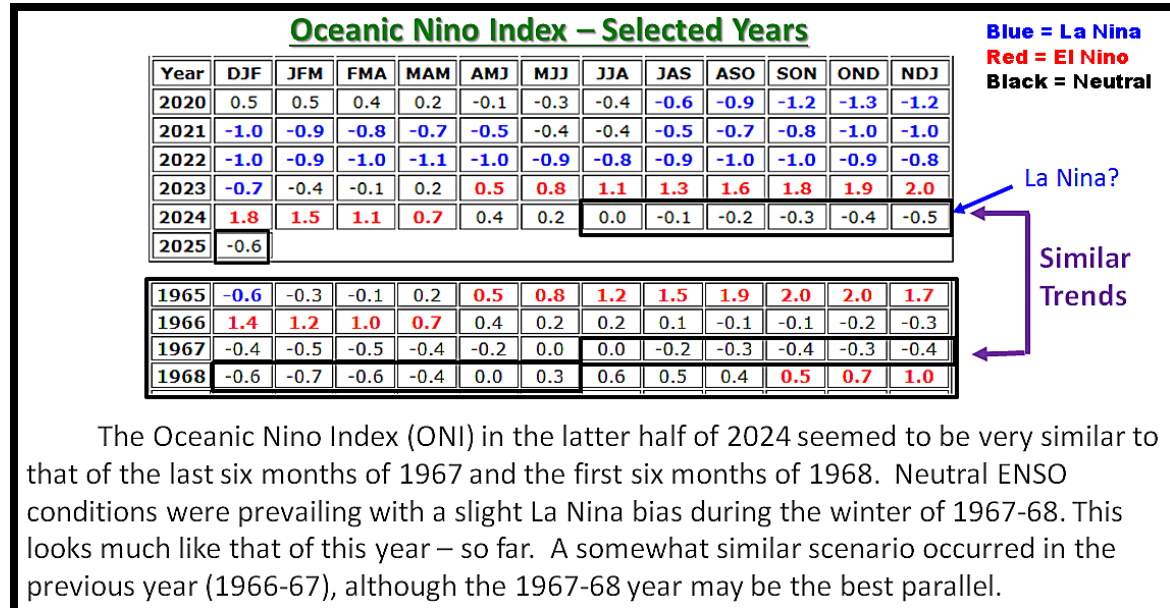
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reported 10.00 to nearly 15.00 inches with a few unconfirmed greater amounts. Flooding was serious and still ongoing in the second week of April.

The wet bias running from northeastern Texas through the Delta to the Ohio River Basin seemed to be a familiar pattern. Indeed many spring seasons generate this pattern and it usually results in delayed field progress. Delays in corn planting because of wet fields might gain a little more attention if Brazil's Safrinha corn crop that was planted three weeks later than usual runs into a problem with dryness. There is also some potential that while it may be too wet in a part of the Delta and lower eastern Midwest there is "some potential" that dryness may also be a feature to deal with in parts of the Great Plains and western Corn and Soybean Belt. Indeed dryness is already an issue throughout the Great Plains and into a part of the western Midwest.

Dryness in the central U.S. in early April and too much moisture in the lower eastern Midwest and Delta is not uncommon and there is plenty of time for the pattern to change; however, there is evidence that any changes may be slow to come and that may lead to a greater level of concern over these weather anomalies.

This year's dominating weather patterns seem to be promoting these anomalies and there is not much reason to anticipate change. *The bias for dryness in the central and southwestern Plains and wet conditions from eastern Texas through the Delta to the lower and eastern Midwest comes from the lunar cycle as well as the solar cycle and the negative phase of Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO).* These anomalies have been discussed in the past, but *another pattern that has recently emerged is associated with the neutral ENSO (El Nino/Southern Oscillation) conditions that have prevailed in recent months and those expected this spring and summer.*



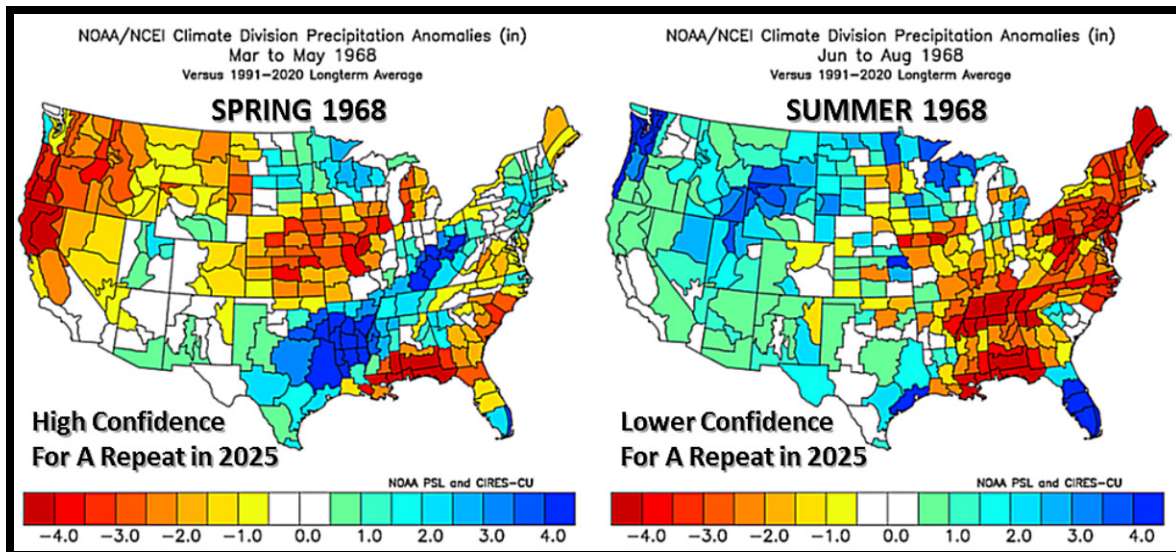
Most of 2024 was a neutral ENSO year, meaning no El Nino or La Nina bias. That is hard to believe since it seemed like all that the media talked about last year was the coming La Nina. Well, La Nina never materialized until December and it lingered into February as a very weak event. This is important since the last time a similar pattern occurred was in 1967-68. La Nina never evolved in that year similar to this year, although

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La Nina-like conditions were prevalent and had influence on North America weather during the winter just like this year. Technically, (based the U.S. Climate Prediction Center's documented definitions of ENSO events) La Nina never fully evolved this year, despite the declaration that it did evolve and the same thing happened in 1968. By definition the Oceanic Nino Index (ONI) must be below -0.5 or above +0.5 for at least five consecutive three-month periods to qualify as an official La Nina or El Nino event respectively.

Regardless of this debate on semantics, neutral ENSO conditions occurred both before and after the winter La Nina like events in both years 2025 and 1968.

To make matters all the more interesting 1967-68 was very near the solar maximum which occurred in November of 1968. The most recent solar maximum occurred in August of 2024 making the sun's influence on weather in North America similar in the two years. That similarity coupled with the Neutral ENSO conditions with a brief interlude of La Nina like conditions during the winter has resulted in an interesting parallel that might influence spring and summer 2025.



Spring (March through May) 1968 looked very similar to what some forecasters are seeing will dominate the rest of April and May. That pattern included above to well above normal rainfall in eastern Texas, the Delta, Tennessee River Basin and lower Ohio River Basin for the March through May period. There was also some dryness in the southeastern United States and especially in the central Plains that extended into Iowa and some neighboring states. There was also an area of wet weather that evolved in the upper Midwest while the Pacific Northwest was drier biased. Each of these anomalies are either present today or expected to evolve in the next few weeks.

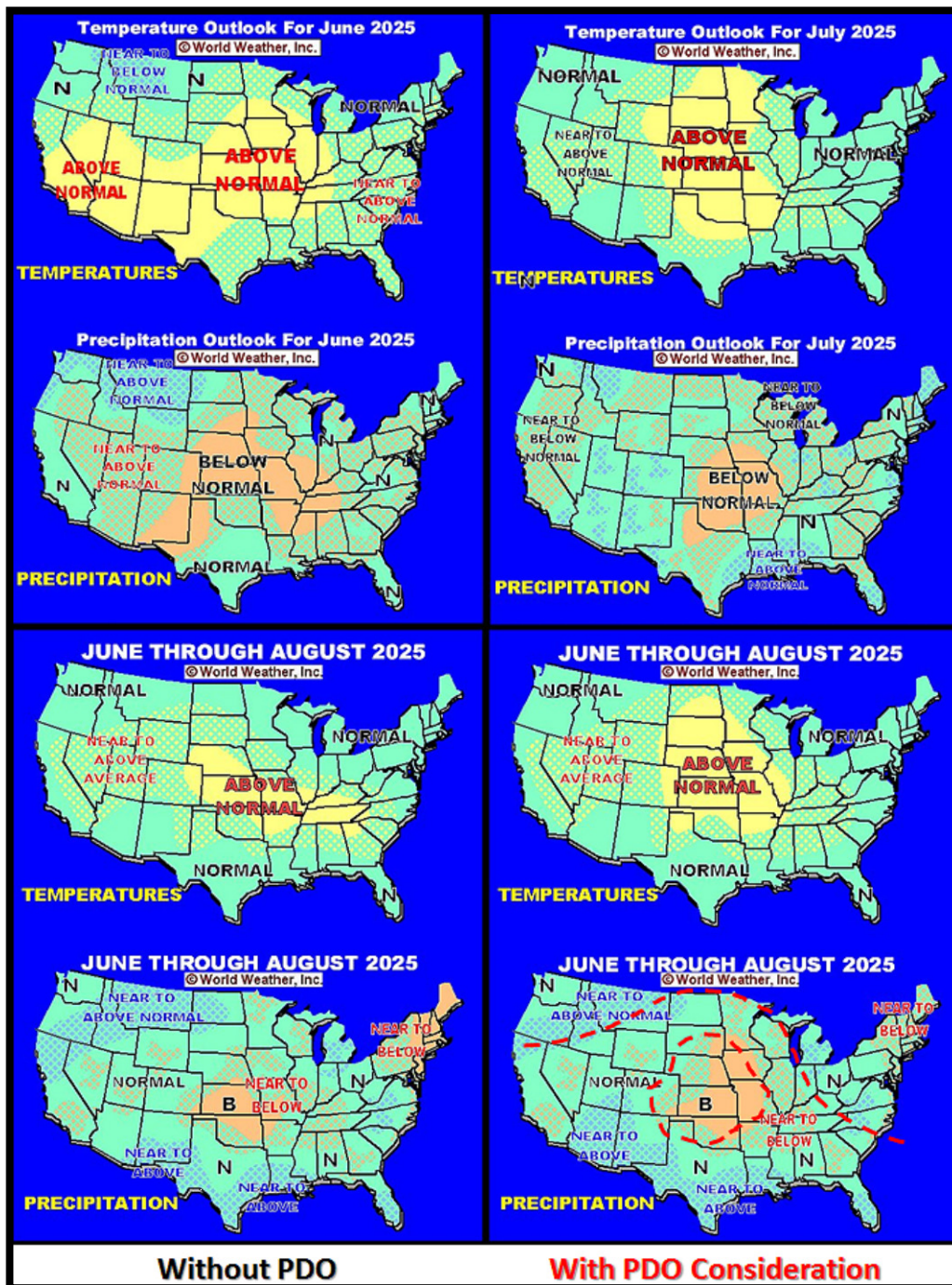
Summer of 1968 brought greater rain to the western and north-central parts of the United States and some greater rain to a part of Canada's southern Prairies. In the meantime, dryness festered in a part of Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, the Delta, Tennessee River Basin and a part of the southeastern states as well as the middle and northern Atlantic Coast States.

Spring 2025 is likely to look like that of 1968 and because of that forecasters are interested in the summer of 1968 which may look somewhat similar to that of 2025.

However, the solar cycle, negative PDO, lunar cycle and warm ocean water surrounding North America will all have an influence on summer weather as well. Interestingly, these

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other influences have a good chance of supporting the 1968 spring bias with a possible westward shift in the driest summer conditions into the central and southern Plains, Delta and southwestern Corn Belt.



The bottom line is that there is a strong potential that spring 2025 will look much like that of spring 1968. There will be potential for deviations from this parallel during the summer, however. Dryness in the summer of 1968 may get displaced farther to the west impacting more of the central and southeastern Plains and a part of the Delta as well as the

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southwestern Corn and Soybean Belt instead of areas farther to the east. There is also potential for better rainfall during summer 2025 in the middle and North Atlantic Coast States relative to that of 1968.

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