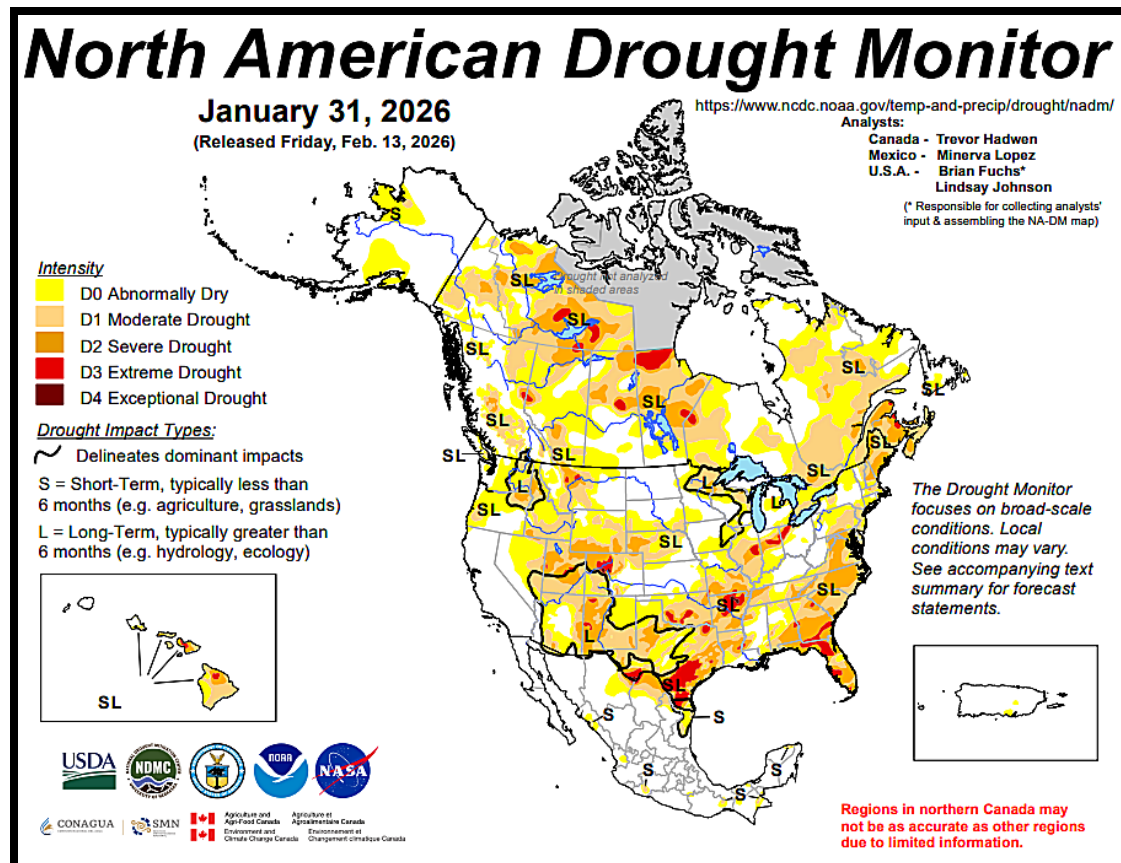


North America Dryness May Factor Into U.S. Spring Weather

By Drew Lerner

Kansas City, February 18 (World Weather Inc.) – *A large part of North America is still dealing with some level of drought and/or dryness which raises some concern for the spring and summer coming up in 2026. This year's outlook may be influenced by the transition from La Nina to El Nino which has often produced some dryness of its own while the lunar cycle is a little less dry unless one looks into the year 1972.*

There is already a strong potential for a high pressure ridge to be present over central parts of North America this spring. That ridge of high pressure will suppress rain and snow from Canada's Prairies into the U.S. Rocky Mountain region and Great Plains. Some of those areas are already dry or in some form of drought. Most of the dryness today is not extreme, but if precipitation fails to increase in the next few weeks, the anticipated high pressure ridge will allow more warm biased conditions while further limiting precipitation raising the potential for greater concern over dryness expansion.

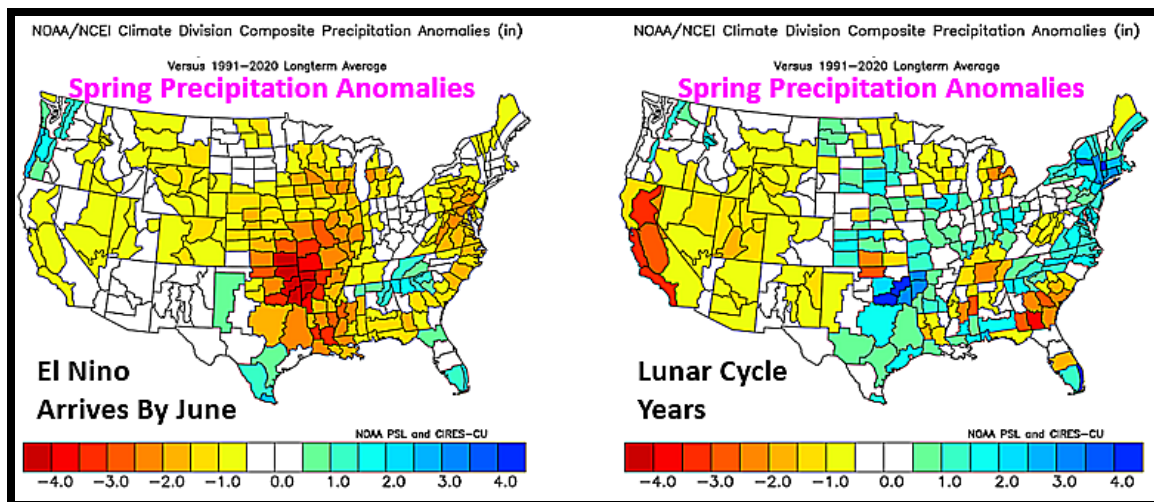


The past few months have already been dominated by a ridge of high pressure over western North America while a trough of low pressure prevailed in the east. At times this pattern has generated some impressive temperature anomalies bringing freezes to the Gulf of America Coast at least six times since October with an impressive freeze in Florida in late January and earlier this month.

North America Dryness May Factor Into U.S. Spring Weather

A similar pattern may appear again during the last days of February and March resulting in colder weather in eastern North America while western parts of the continent are warmer and drier biased. This event is unlikely to be nearly as intense as that which occurred in late January and early February, but it may still raise the potential for ongoing dryness in several areas from the U.S. Plains into southwestern Canada's Prairies. There is also potential for a more serious bout of cold in eastern North America in late April and early May that might nip a few crops in the eastern Midwest and/or the Middle Atlantic Coast region.

The drier bias appears in the analog data that World Weather, Inc. has looked at for this spring multiple times. It appears in the lunar (18-year) cycle data and in some of the January La Nina events that translated to El Nino by summer. This is a concern for the spring more so for winter wheat in a part of the central Plains, but also for spring planting in parts of the Delta and western Corn and Soybean Belt.



The above graphic shows a drier bias for California and the interior western states as well as portions of the Rocky Mountain region and especially in the central Plains and across the central and western Corn and Soybean Belt into the Delta. This is a rather large swath of agriculture country and might have a significant impact on spring planting and crop development. The anomaly charts above are for March through May and the dry anomaly in the Great Plains, Delta and central and western Midwest appears mostly in the years in which we move from La Nina conditions in January to El Nino by June. The imagery is quite disconcerting; though it is possible that much of the dryness comes early in spring and there is some timely rainfall later in the season that will support planting.

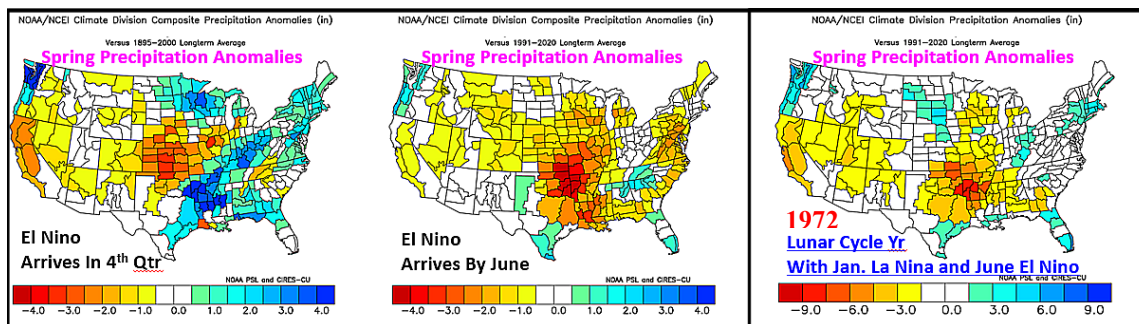
World Weather, Inc. does not believe the dryness will be a serious threat, but it will be a concern. One of the reasons for a little less concern is the abundance of warm water in Gulf of America, Gulf of Alaska and areas west of California. The warm water will provide some moisture accumulation in the atmosphere as storm systems move into the nation helping rain to fall. However, the orientation of the spring jet stream will have the final say on whether it rains significantly or not. A return of the November through January weather pattern featuring a ridge of high pressure in western North America and a trough of low pressure in eastern parts of the continent would not bode well for rain and would likely

North America Dryness May Factor Into U.S. Spring Weather

promote a continuation of dry weather in such a manner to make the January La Nina to June El Nino chart above to verify.

The lunar cycle years are a little more supportive of rainfall this spring; however, a huge word of caution is advised here. Out of five 18-year cycle years three had to be tossed out of the investigation. Two of the years were tossed because of a significant La Nina event playing out during the growing season which is definitely not likely this year. The third year was tossed out because if was 1936 one of North America's worst drought years in recorded history. 1936 was tossed out because it has been World Weather, Inc.'s experience that extreme drought years of the past that appear in repeating patterns like the lunar cycle never repeat and confidence is high that 1936 will not repeat this year.

The two remaining lunar cycle years are 1990 and 1972 and the spring weather in those two years was just about as opposite as one can get. 1990 was wet in all of the areas that were noted above to be drier biased while 1972 reinforced the dryness suggested for the La Nina to June El Nino years. The reason for this is quite simple. 1972 was the only year that appears in both sets of data. It is a member of the lunar cycle and it was a year that started out with La Nina and evolved into a June El Nino. 1972 is a concern because it has certainly tilted the spring bias toward the drier end of the lunar cycle spectrum. World Weather, Inc. is also confident that spring this year will not be nearly as wet as it was in 1990.

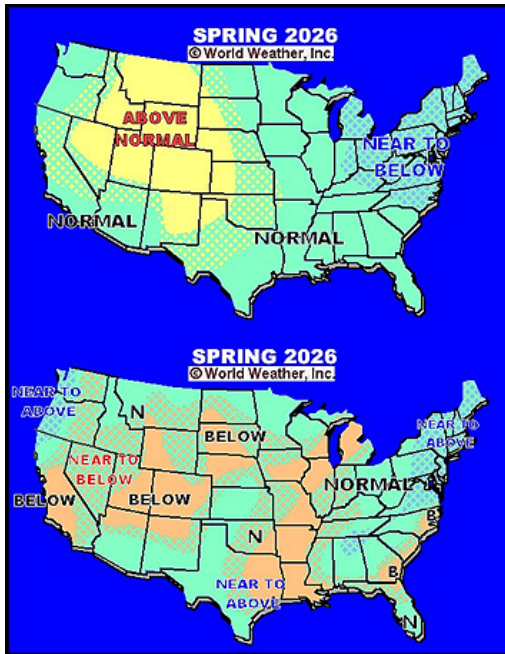


World Weather, Inc. was also concerned that the La Nina to El Nino transition was advertised to occur too quickly and wanted to investigate years in which El Nino was slower evolving. What was discovered in this study was the same as that of El Nino events that arrive in June. In most cases, for years moving from La Nina in January to El Nino sometime in third or fourth calendar quarter seemed to have the same spring impact with dryness in parts of the far western states, in the Rocky Mountains and central Plains with some dryness into a part of the central Midwest. Please note, though, later arriving El Nino years seem to have more moisture in the Delta, eastern Midwest and in the upper Midwest relative to years in which El Nino arrives earlier. It is also wetter in the middle and northern Atlantic Coast states in these years of a later El Nino arrival. Summers in the Midwest are typically wetter in years that La Nina comes later in the year.

The charts all indicate a potential for below normal precipitation during the spring in the western states and in the central Plains as well as a part of the Midwest. Dryness in the Delta certainly appears in the years in which El Nino arrives by June while later arriving El Nino events are not nearly as dry there or in areas off to the northeast into the New England States. The mere fact that 1972 appears in both sets of data gives a little more credence to

North America Dryness May Factor Into U.S. Spring Weather

the belief that below normal precipitation will impact the Delta and parts of the Midwest this spring.



It is also important to remember below normal precipitation does not mean drought necessarily. There is some concern about drought this year because drought is already present, but that should not preclude the potential for some timely rainfall during the spring to protect production potentials.

Certainly, if the upper air wind flow pattern reverts back to that of November through January there may be more potential for that dryness to become significant enough to move markets at least for a while.

World Weather, Inc. anticipates a change late this spring into the summer that should bring some welcome relief, but dryness in the spring may raise at least some temporary concern over winter wheat development potential. Dryness might also have an influence on spring planting in a few areas with the ground staying possibly a little too dry in a part of the central United States.

More detail to the summer outlook will be revealed in another special report coming soon. In the meantime, some of the dryness in the U.S. may contribute to a little more market concern about production in 2026. But this outlook should not be interpreted as a disastrous one because there will be some timely rain and planting will likely move aggressively followed by many hopes and prayers for timely late spring and summer rainfall to support a good crop.

World Weather, Inc. forecasts and comments pertaining to present, past and future weather conditions included in this report constitute the corporation's judgment as of the date of this report and are subject to change without notice. Comments regarding damage or the impact of weather on agricultural and energy as well as comments made regarding the impact of weather on the commodity and financial markets are the explicit opinions of World Weather, Inc. World Weather, Inc. cannot be held responsible for decisions made by users of the Corporation's information in any business, trade or investment decision.

©2025 World Weather, Inc. Any unauthorized redistribution, duplication or disclosure is prohibited by law and will result in prosecution.