

# IAG Spring Seasonal Outlook

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## A FAIRLY WET & MILD SPRING EXPECTED FOR CENTRAL & EASTERN U.S...

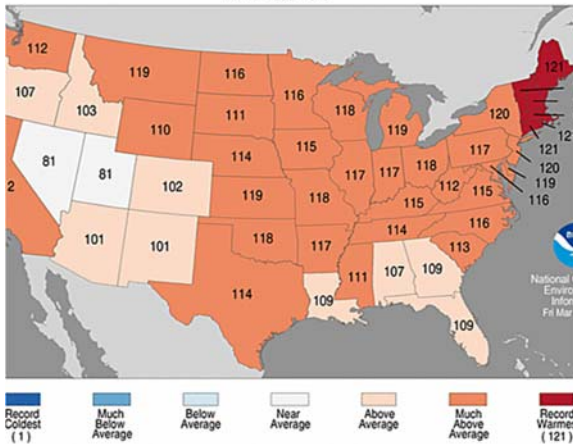
### Outlook Overview

- **Winter 2015-16 was yet another season of extremes, with generally well above average temperatures punctuated by a few brutal cold snaps and apocalyptic snowstorms. With the “top-three” El Niño that delivered the lower 48’s warmest winter in history weakening but still quite strong, look for April and May to yield temperature and precipitation anomalies that are only somewhat closer to climatological averages for the majority of the central and eastern U.S.**
- **The favored pattern based on historical analogs is a progressive jet stream over all of the lower 48, and an active subtropical jet over the eastern United States during April and May. This would generally bring somewhat above average temperatures to the western and eastern U.S. Corn Belt, especially north, and near normal to slightly above average temperatures to the southern tier. This general pattern also means near or below normal precipitation for the western Corn Belt, above average precipitation in the eastern Corn Belt and Mississippi Delta, and somewhat below normal rainfall for the southern Plains. A drier trend may begin zone-wide towards the end of the forecast period.**

### General Outlook for Central and Eastern U.S. Growing Regions

The winter of 2015-2016 was again marked by extreme weather contrasts. Temperature-wise, it’s news to no one that this winter was one of the warmest ever over much of the central and eastern U.S. region. Due to a combination of positive North Atlantic Oscillation anomalies and a very powerful El Niño, this unseasonable warmth was especially significant during a mind-bogglingly hot December, while several strong cold air outbreaks in January and February moderated the seasonal anomalies a bit. In terms of precipitation, El Niño led to brisk subtropical jet flow across the southeastern U.S., adding up to above to well above normal precipitation from the Deep South to New England. A vigorous Pacific jet also kept the Midwest wetter than average, and contributed to the powerful snowstorms seen in the mid-Atlantic, coastal Northeast, and Great Lakes. However, the Plains have turned drier in the past 30 days, while the Mississippi Delta region has seen flooding rainfall in March.

Statewide Average Temperature Ranks  
December 2015–February 2016  
Period: 1895–2016



Statewide Precipitation Ranks  
December 2015–February 2016  
Period: 1895–2016

