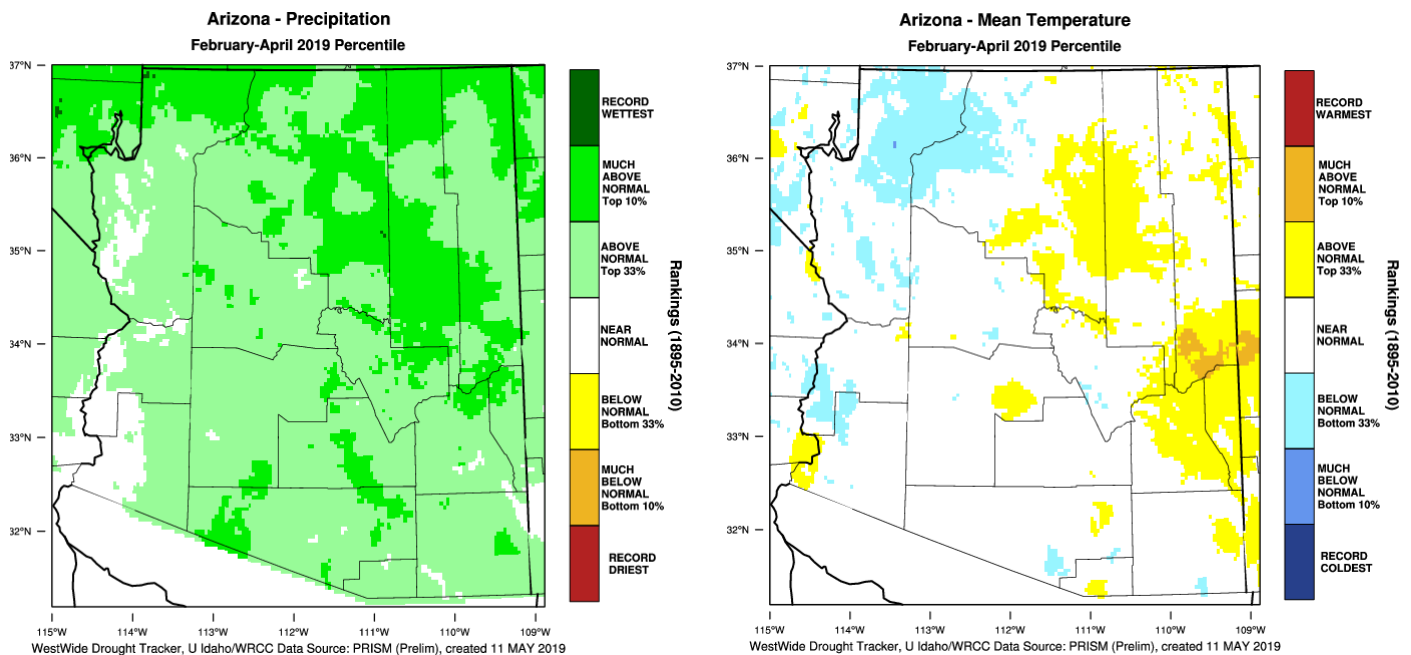




Arizona Seasonal Climate Summary: Spring 2019

May 13, 2019 - Wetter than average conditions continued through much of the spring while temperatures were largely near average through the February-April period. An active winter weather pattern brought above-average precipitation to much of the continental U.S. leaving the last three months as a top ten wettest February-April period in records going back to 1895. For Arizona, it was the 112th wettest February through April period (in the 125 year record) an almost top ten showing. February was the wettest month in the last three as the winter storm track took aim at Arizona several times with several cold and strong low pressure systems passing through the state. One event, in mid-February, brought accumulating snow to desert areas as low as 2000'. Precipitation and temperatures were near average in March across the state. The weather pattern shifted to drier and warmer conditions in April, more typical of average spring conditions. Southern Arizona observed the biggest dry out during April with only trace amounts of precipitation falling during the month.

Overall, the above-average precipitation and near-average temperatures have helped to continue to boost soil moisture conditions and replenish local water resources. Short-term drought conditions continue to improve as frequent precipitation events since last summer continue to occur across the state. The U.S. Drought Monitor (May 9th edition) indicates that almost of all of Arizona is drought-free, except for far northeast portions of the state where abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions continue to persist. Weak, but persistent El Niño conditions in the Pacific Ocean may continue to influence weather conditions across the Southwest in coming months with above-avg precipitation.



November-January precipitation and temperature rankings from the WestWide Drought Tracker

(<http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/>)



More information available at :
<http://cals.arizona.edu/climate>
<http://www.climas.arizona.edu>

Questions /comments? Contact Mike Crimmins, crimmins@email.arizona.edu



Generate custom chart and logbook

1. Select the month and day that the summary chart will begin on and then select the chart length in days
2. Label the chart with a site description or gauge name.
3. Click on the 'Generate chart' button and the custom chart and fillable table will appear on the left.
4. Click on the 'Download' button to save a printable file.

Start Month:

6

Start Day:

15

Chart length
(days):

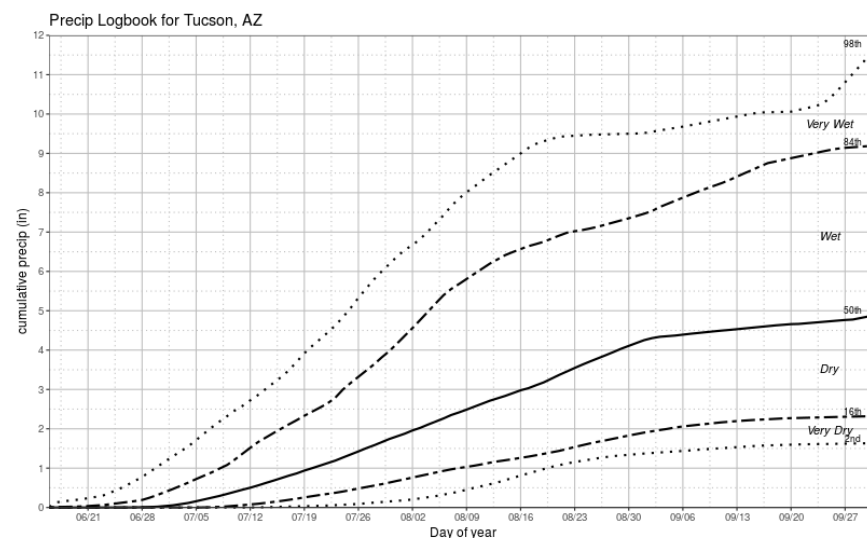
108

Site name:

Precip Logbook for Tucson, AZ

Generate Chart

Cumulative Precipitation Chart



Selected location

This tool called the 'Precipitation Logbook Generator' creates a reference precipitation climatology for any location that can be used to compare observed cumulative precipitation amounts through a season, like the ones captured in typical range monitoring PVC rain gauges. The reference climatology can be created for any time frame within the year (e.g. summer season) and produces a chart of the typical (i.e. median) cumulative precipitation pattern as well as extremely wet or dry values based on historical data (1981-2018 historical period). A printable table is also produced for tracking and manually recording observations in the field. Together the chart and table create a custom *logbook* for that rain gauge location. When an observation is made in the field, the entry for that date can be compared to the typical and extreme historical values to provide context and inform a possible management decision. To create a chart for your location and to learn more about the tool visit <https://uaclimateextension.shinyapps.io/precipChart/>

The July-August-September seasonal precipitation outlook issued by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center in mid-April depicts an increased chance of above-average precipitation across much of Arizona for the upcoming monsoon season. This outlook reflects the expectation that the current weak El Nino event will continue to persist into next fall and enhance the east Pacific tropical storm season. A more active tropical storm season could trigger more moisture influxes into the Southwest and even target southern Arizona with direct hits later in the season. This impact has been observed in September and October over the past several

years with busy east Pacific tropical storm seasons including last October that was record wet for much of Arizona due to tropical storms Rosa and Sergio crossing through Arizona. This outlook needs to be taken with a grain of salt since there is no guarantee that the tropical storms will directly impact Arizona, but could provide some nudges to the monsoon over the whole season. (More info at http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/)

