



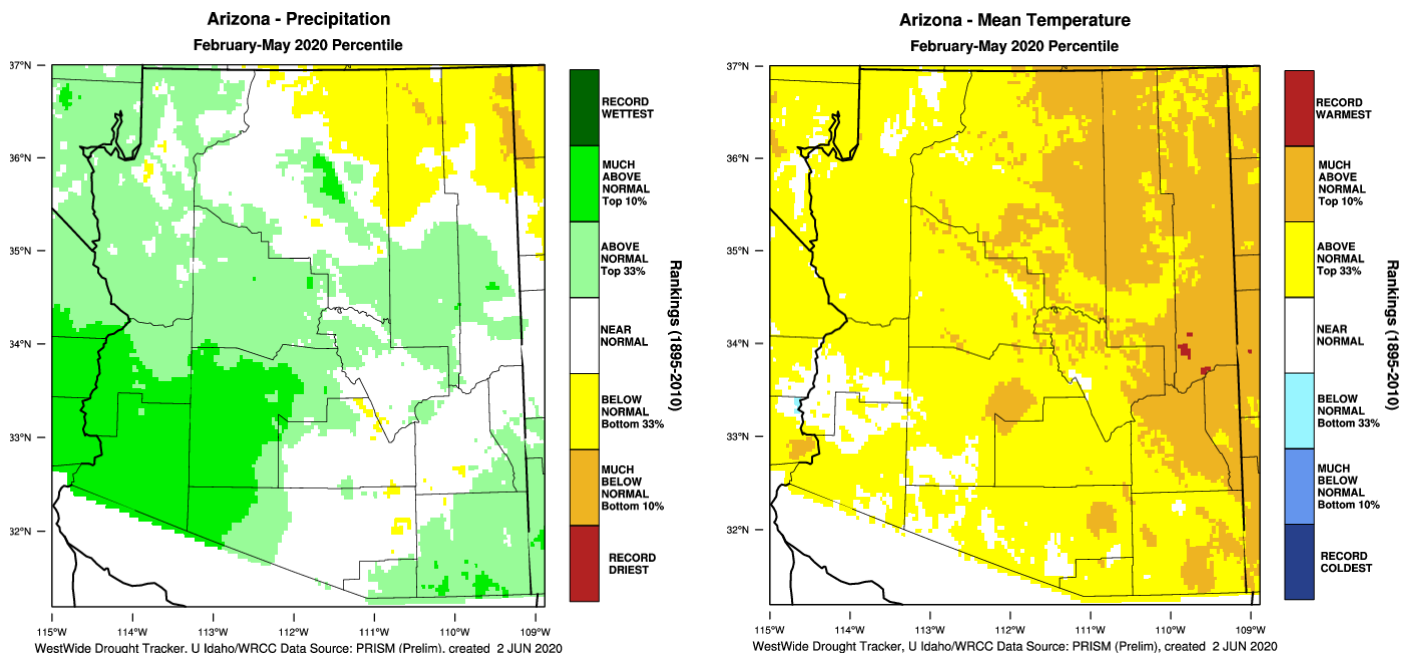
Arizona Seasonal Climate Summary:

Spring 2020

June 3, 2020 - The February through May period was generally wetter than average for much of Arizona, while temperatures were much above-average for the whole state. Conditions weren't quite as wet as spring of 2019, but near-average for the eastern half of the state while much-above average for the low deserts of western Arizona. The far northeast corner of Arizona, near the Four Corners still could not catch much of a break and continued to see below-average precipitation over the past several months. Temperatures were above-average to much above-average mostly due to record warmth that settled across the region in late April and for much of the month of May.

March was the wettest month of the February through May period with Arizona observing an extended period of unsettled weather in the middle of the month. A slow-moving upper-level low pressure system sparked widespread precipitation across Arizona bringing unusually heavy rain to parts of western Arizona. Areas in western Maricopa and Yuma counties observed record wet conditions in March while the entire state observed above-average precipitation for the month.

The average to above-average precipitation helped most of Arizona remain drought-free on the U.S. Drought Monitor, but longer-term drought conditions continue to persist across the Four Corners region. Severe to moderate drought conditions are present across much of northeast Arizona and have been present since last monsoon season when precipitation across this area was below-average.



Aug-Oct precipitation and temperature rankings from the WestWide Drought Tracker

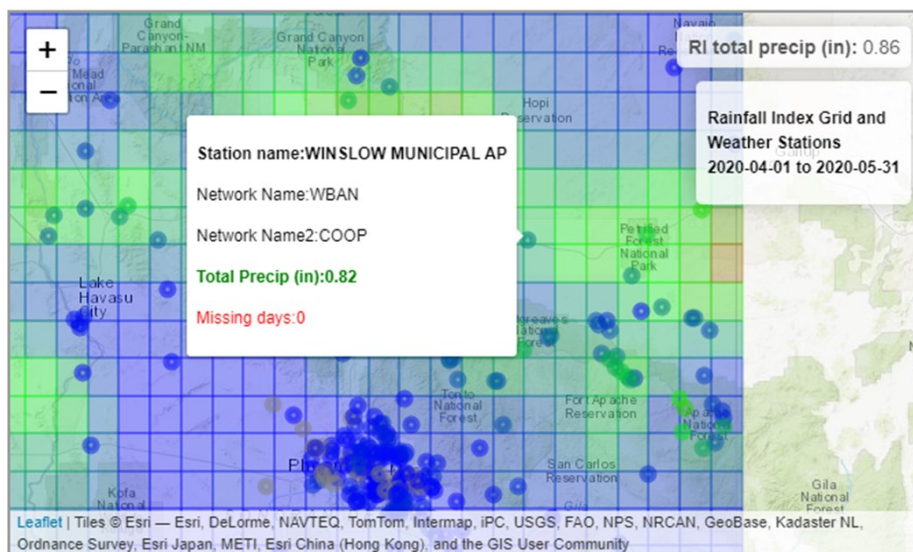
(<http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/>)



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

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





The USDA Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Insurance program uses a Rainfall Index to trigger payments based on different thresholds. This index is based on a gridded precipitation product produced by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center on a monthly basis. It produces estimates of precipitation by interpolating observations from an often sparse network of weather stations. There is often a question of what stations are used in the calculation of the Rainfall Index and how close are the estimates to other observations not used in its calculation. This website (<https://cals.arizona.edu/climate/misc/RI/RainfallIndexMaps.html>) produces maps of 2-month total precipitation using the Rainfall Index dataset and station data to compare precipitation amounts. The interactive maps allow users to interrogate gridded precipitation estimates and nearby stations to assess which stations may have been used in the gridded estimate and to compare to stations not used in its calculation. The maps are updated each month for the previous two months. Maps are currently available for all two month periods from July 2019 to present. More information on the Rainfall Index and comparison maps can be found at: <https://cals.arizona.edu/climate/misc/RI/RainfallIndexMaps.html>

The July-August-September seasonal precipitation outlook issued by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center in mid-May depicts equal-chances of above, below, or average precipitation for the upcoming summer monsoon season. This 'equal-chances' outlook indicates lack of confidence in any larger-scale climate patterns tilting the odds towards above or below average precipitation for the monsoon. The El Niño-Southern Oscillation is currently neutral and only has a small impact on the monsoon anyways with mature El Niño or La Niña conditions, so this lack of signal leaves little to grab on to for a forecast. Temperatures, on the other hand are expected to be above-average, largely due to long-term trends. (More info at http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/)

