

Ohio Quarterly Climate Summary: Dec-Jan 2019

Temperature Summary:

- The 2019 winter season ranks as the 23rd warmest in Ohio since 1895*. This is mainly due to a warm December and February.
- Temperature averages ranged from 25-30°F across northern Ohio to 35-40°F near the Ohio River (Fig. 1).
- Compared to the 1981-2010 climatological mean, temperatures ran 1 to 3°F above average (Fig. 2).

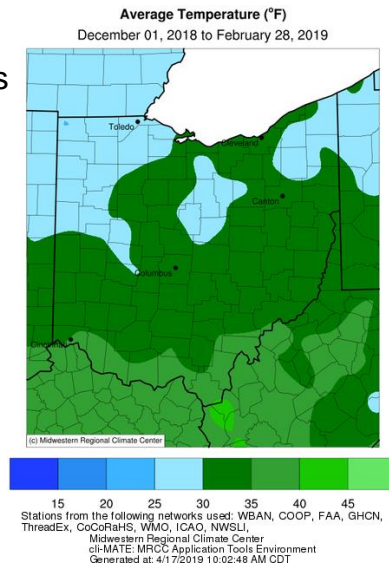


Figure 1

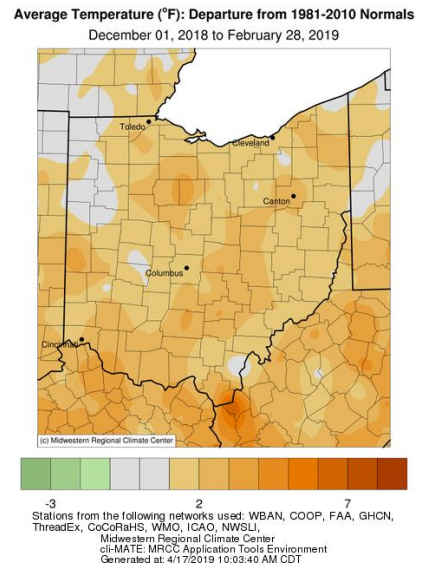


Figure 2

Precipitation Summary:

- Winter 2019 precipitation was well above average and ranks as the 11th wettest since 1895*.
- The highest totals were located across the southern counties where 15-20" fell (Fig. 3).
- This represents upwards of 200% of normal (dark blue shading) with slightly less than average precipitation for the far northwestern counties (Fig. 4).

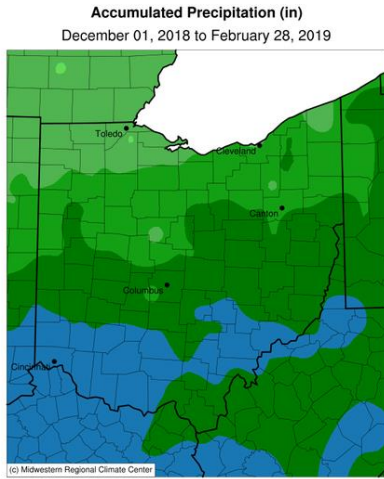


Figure 3

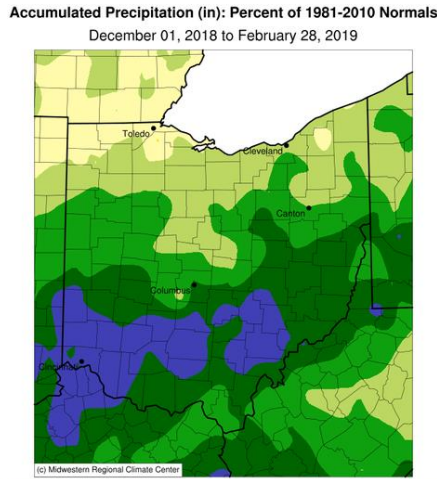


Figure 4

*Regional summary provided by NOAA: <https://www.drought.gov/drought/documents/quarterly-climate-impacts-and-outlook-midwest-region-june-2018>.
*Maps provided by cli-MATE, Midwestern Regional Climate Center, Illinois State Water Survey, Prairie Research Institute, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, <http://mrcc.illinois.edu/CLIMATE>.



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Hot Topic Corner:

- Ample precipitation throughout the winter season led to persistently high stream flows and elevated soil moisture.
- Figure 5 shows the calculated soil moisture ranking percentile for March 2019. Due to the excessive precipitation since autumn 2018, much of Ohio is in the 90th percentile or above, with the southern third of the state in the 99th percentile for calculated soil moisture.
- This wetness, combined with a lack of snow cover and infrequent, but extreme cold temperatures have left wheat and forage stands in poor shape heading into the early spring season.

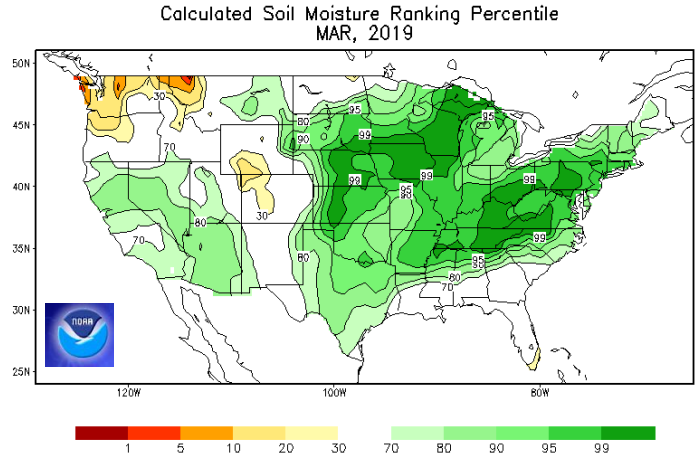


Figure 5: Available online at <https://tinyurl.com/y3krwxdz>.

Outlook:

- The Climate Prediction Center depicts a ***slightly elevated probability (>33%) of above average temperatures*** across Ohio for April through June (AMJ; Fig. 6).
- The precipitation outlook calls for a ***slightly elevated chance (>33%) of above average precipitation*** (Fig. 7).

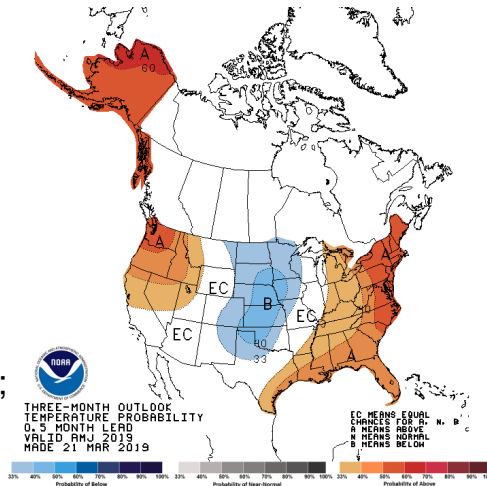


Figure 6

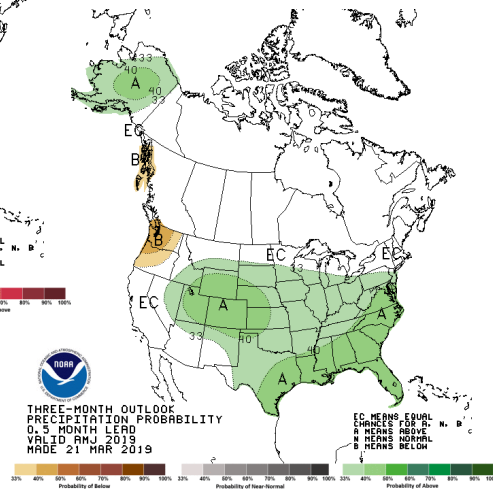


Figure 7

