



## Temperature and Precipitation

During the winter, Ohio experienced near-normal precipitation levels, while temperatures were below average across the state. The statewide average temperature was 1 to 2°F below normal (Fig. 1a). Most of the state recorded between 7.5 and 10 inches of precipitation, with higher amounts of 10 to 15 inches in the south and lower totals of 5 to 7.5 inches in the northeast (Fig. 1b). Precipitation departures from normal were generally small, with most areas close to average. Some locations saw up to 2 inches below normal, while others, particularly in the south and along the Cleveland-Columbus-Cincinnati corridor, received up to 2 inches above normal (Fig. 1c). The percentage of normal precipitation across the state ranged from 75% to 125% (Fig. 1d). Additionally, the southern portion of the state recorded slightly above-normal snowfall totals this winter.

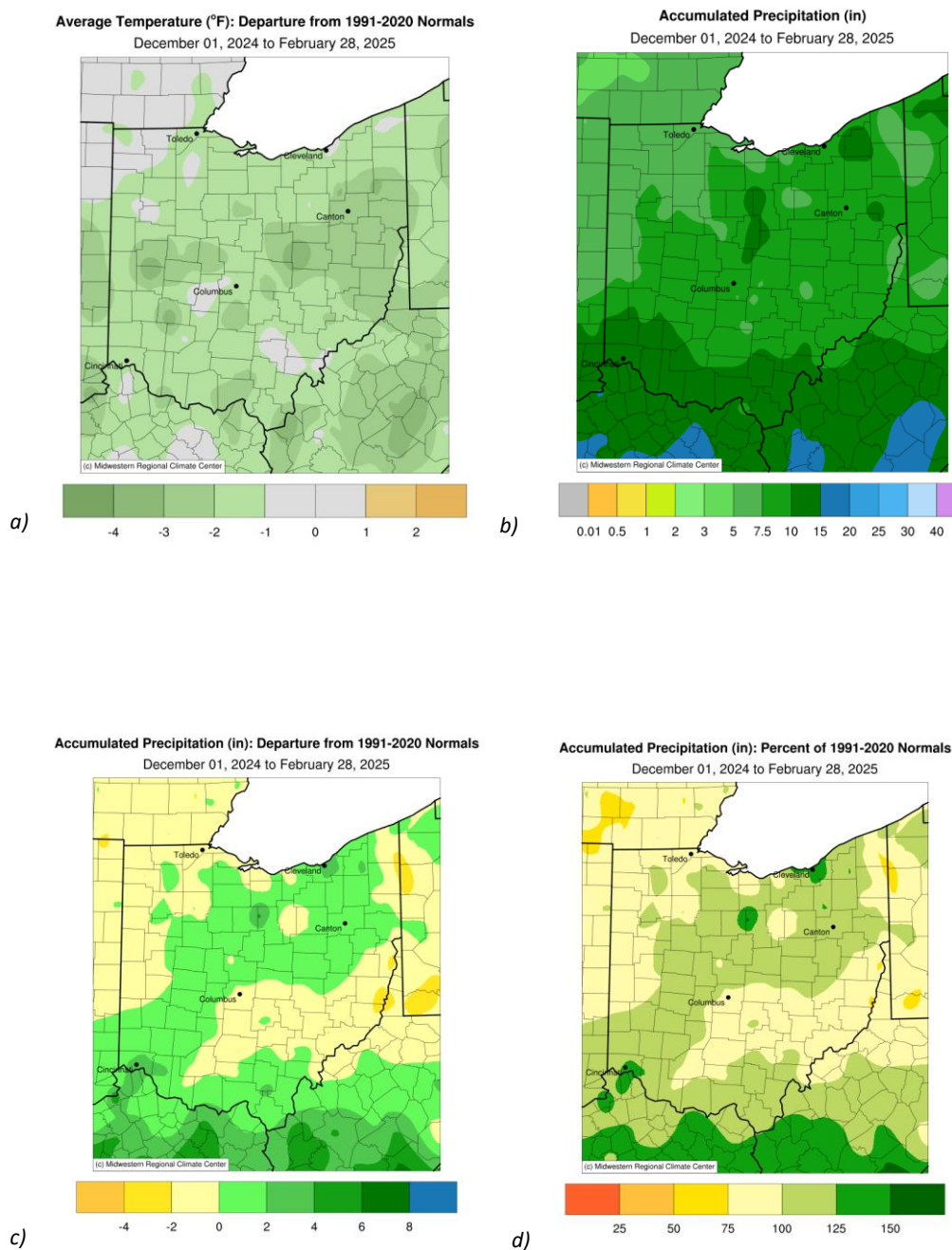
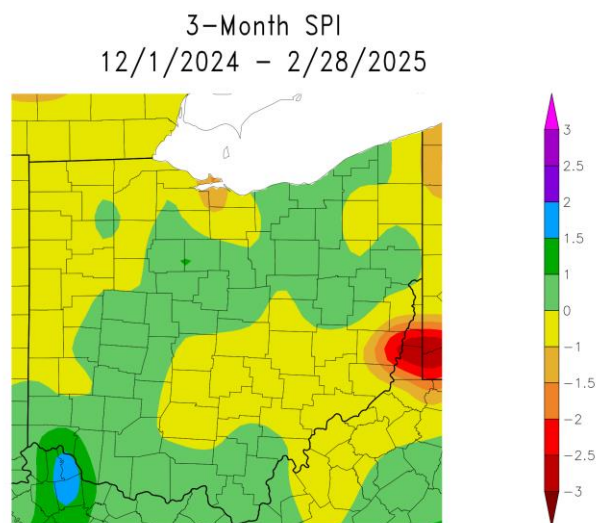


Figure 1: Statewide departures from normal temperature (a) and accumulated precipitation (b) over the winter months at top, followed by statewide accumulated precipitation departures (c) and percent of normals for precipitation (d) at bottom. All data courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center (<http://mrcc.purdue.edu>).



Generated 3/10/2025 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Figure 2: Three-month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) across the state of Ohio from December 2024 through February 2025, used as a proxy for soil moisture conditions. Data courtesy of the High Plains Regional Climate Center (<https://hprcc.unl.edu/>)

## Soil and Energy

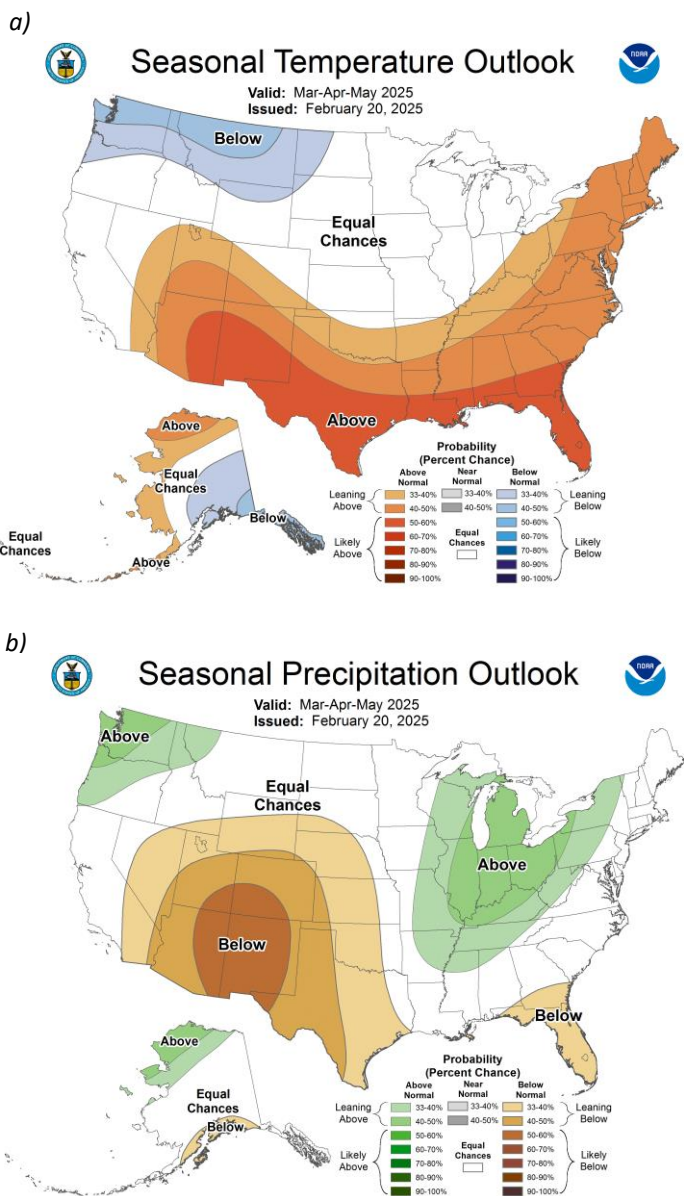
The 3-month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) for the winter season indicates a continued return to near-normal soil moisture conditions. Most of the state recorded SPI values between -1 and +1, reflecting generally balanced moisture levels. However, a small pocket of extremely dry conditions persisted near Belmont County due to a lack of precipitation over already dry soils (Fig. 2).

Most regions of the state experienced above-average heating degree days (HDDs), indicating a colder-than-usual winter. However, divisions 1 and 2 recorded below-normal HDDs, suggesting a warmer-than-usual winter in those areas. Overall, the state was near normal on average. As is typical during the winter season, no cooling degree days (CDDs) were recorded (Fig. 3).

Climate Division	Heating Degree Days	Normal	Departure	Cooling Degree Days	Normal	Departure
1	3400	3444	-44	0	0	0
2	3340	3365	-24	0	0	0
3	3447	3342	105	0	0	0
4	3329	3295	33	0	0	0
5	3249	3185	63	0	0	0
6	3353	3295	58	0	0	0
7	3298	3189	110	0	0	0
8	3152	3073	79	0	0	0
9	2975	2900	75	0	0	0
10	3117	3055	62	0	0	0



Figure 3: (Left) Total December 2024–February 2025 heating & cooling degree days. (Right) Corresponding Ohio Climate Divisions. Data courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center (<http://mrcc.purdue.edu>).



## Looking Ahead

The Climate Prediction Center (CPC) three-month outlook suggests the probability of warmer-than-average temperatures across Ohio, along with the probability of above-average precipitation, though confidence is limited for both. The seasonal temperature outlook indicates an increased likelihood of warmer-than-normal temperatures throughout most of the state, except for northwestern Ohio, where there are equal chances of above- or below-normal temperatures (Fig. 4a). Meanwhile, the seasonal precipitation outlook projects above-normal precipitation across Ohio with moderate confidence (Fig. 4b). A warmer and wetter spring could create favorable conditions for planting by promoting soil moisture and early crop development. However, excessive warmth or precipitation could pose challenges, such as delayed fieldwork, soil saturation, and increased disease risk for certain crops. Additionally, it is important to note that CPC seasonal outlooks provide broad trends rather than week-to-week variability, meaning short-term weather fluctuations—such as late-season frosts, extended dry spells, or excessive rainfall—will play a more significant role in determining optimal planting windows.

Figure 4: a) Nationwide Seasonal Temperature and b) Precipitation Outlook for March - May 2025. Courtesy of the Climate Prediction Center (<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>).

*Note: these outlooks do not provide the quantity of above or below normal conditions, just the likelihood of occurrence (i.e., the probability).*

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