Oklahoma Monthly Climate Summary

APRIL 2012

OKLAHOMA CLIMATOLOGICAL SURVEY

Oklahoma's exceptionally warm weather continued into April following the warmest March on record, and significant severe weather plagued the state right through the month's final moments. April was not warm enough to earn a number one ranking, but still mustered enough heat to crack the top 10. According to data from the Oklahoma Mesonet, the statewide average temperature finished at 63.9 degrees to rank as the 10th warmest April on record for the state, 4.8 degrees above normal. Statewide statistics date back to 1895. As is often customary during the spring, the abundance of rainfall was accompanied by a surplus of severe weather. According to preliminary counts from the National Weather Service, more than 25 tornadoes touched down during April, doubling the average number of 11 for the month. The most significant of those tornadoes struck Woodward after midnight on the 15th. The tornado tore through the western side of the city, killing six, including three children. The storm damaged 224 homes and businesses in Woodward County and injured 39. The tornado was rated an EF3 on the Enhanced Fujita tornado intensity scale. The northern one-third of the state saw several tornadoes touch down the evening of the 30th. The twisters and associated severe storms left several small towns without power, damaged homes and outbuildings, and produced widespread flooding. Large hail reports, from golf ball to softball size, were numerous with each bout of severe weather throughout the month.

APRIL 2012 Statewide Extremes

Description	Extreme	Station	Day
High Temperature	105°F	Altus, Erick	25
Low Temperature	32°F	Beaver, Boise City	8, 16
High Precipitation	12.61 in.	Blackwell	--
Low Precipitation	0.89 in.	Burneyville	--

PRECIPITATION

Parts of the state, north central Oklahoma in particular, experienced a two or three month's worth of rainfall in just a few storms. The Mesonet site at Blackwell received 12.6 inches of rainfall during April, shattering that town's previous record for April of 8.59 inches, set back in 1991. Official rain gauges in Ponca City recorded between 11.54 inches and 12.12 inches of rain, breaking that location's April record as well. Normal April rainfall for those locations is approximately 3.5 inches. While much of northern Oklahoma was experiencing deluges, the southeastern half of the state was largely going without. North central Oklahoma recorded an average of 6.03 inches of rainfall during the month and finished with the fifth wettest April on record. In contrast, the southeast recorded an average of 2.63 inches, the 19th driest April on record for that section of the state. The Mesonet site at Burneyville recorded a meager 0.89 inches of rain during April, nearly 3 inches below normal.

TEMPERATURE

April's heat helped propel the January-April period to the warmest on record at 52.3 degrees, 5.5 degrees above normal. The first two months of spring are also on pace to be the warmest on record at 61.5 degrees, 6.9 degrees above normal. The Mesonet sites at Altus and Erick each reached 105 degrees on the 25th, the second highest April temperature ever recorded in Oklahoma dating back to 1893. Mangum holds the record at 106 degrees from April 12, 1972. Frigid weather, normally a frequent visitor during the first half of April, was largely missing during the month. Of the 120 Oklahoma Mesonet stations, only two – Beaver and Boise City – reached the freezing point, and both for less than an hour. The National Weather Service's cooperative observer at Goodwell recorded 30 degrees on April 16.

APRIL 2012 Statewide Statistics

Temperature

	Average	Depart.	Rank (1895-2012)
Month (April)	63.9°F	4.8°F	10th Warmest
Season-to-Date (Mar-Apr)	61.5°F	7.0°F	1st Warmest
Year-to-Date (Jan-Apr)	52.3°F	5.5°F	1st Warmest

Precipitation

	Average	Depart.	Rank (1895-2012)
Month (April)	3.81 in.	0.45 in.	42nd Wettest
Season-to-Date (Mar-Apr)	8.70 in.	2.23 in.	12th Wettest
Year-to-Date (Jan-Apr)	12.44 in.	2.76 in.	14th Wettest

Depart. = departure from 30-year normal

APRIL DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 1-3: The month's first day was quite muggy as moisture streamed north from the Gulf of Mexico. An approaching storm system kicked off showers and storms in the state on the second. Hooker had over 2 inches of rain on the second while other areas had less than an inch. A cold front entered the on the third and more showers and storms moved across the state. The heaviest rainfall throughout the period occurred in south central Oklahoma. Burneyville recorded over 3 inches of rain. Most of the state had totals of less than an inch. There was not much in the way of severe weather, although reports of large hail and high winds were scattered about. High temperatures rose into the 80s and 90s on the first and second but cooled down in the wake of the front on the third.

APRIL 4-6: This three-day period was cool and mostly dry following the cold front. Lows dipped into the 30s and 40s in spots before warming into the 60s and 70s for highs.

APRIL 7-11: A strong upper-level system and a cold front helped kick off an active weather patter across the state. Showers and storms began early on the seventh in the northwest and then moved into north central and central Oklahoma. The showers and storms continued over the next couple of days. The most severe weather conditions developed on the ninth. A supercell near Woodward dropped hail to the size of softballs in that city, damaging structures and automobiles. A couple of tornadoes were also reported with this particular storm. Highs across the state during these three days were mostly in the 60s and 70s. More showers and storms struck SW OK the morning of the 10th. Those storms came with heavy rains and lots of lightning. The storms continued to form along the stationary front near the Red River. The front moved back to the north on the 11th as a warm front, separating the two air masses – cooler to the north and warmer to the south. More strong storms hit north central Oklahoma that morning, with golf ball size hail and strong winds. Highs were in the 60s north of the front and the 70s and 80s to the south.

APRIL 12-15: The stalled front once again lifted to the north on the 12th. A brief lull in the active weather gave way to a violent outbreak over the next three days. The state would see 28 tornadoes touch down during this period. The storms started on the 13thand dropped lots of large hail in western Oklahoma. A 70-mph wind gust was recorded near Cooperton in Kiowa County as well. Those same storms spawned several weak tornadoes during the day as they marched to the northeast. An EF-1 tornado ripped through west Norman before dissipating on the northeast side of town. Lots of structural damage was reported to go along with 20 injuries, but no fatalities. More storms formed in northwestern Oklahoma the following afternoon. Those storms again dropped lots of large hail and spawned tornadoes. The most significant of those tornadoes would unfortunately become a killer. An EF-3 tornado struck the western side of Woodward, killing six and injuring many more. Major damage was done to the west side of that city. More tornadoes formed as the storms moved into northeastern Oklahoma. While there was some heavy rain with the storms, the more robust totals were confined to the I-44 corridor and northwest Oklahoma. Those totals ranged from 2-4 inches. Other totals of around an inch or less were scattered about the state. The cold front that moved through on the 15th cooled temperatures down into the 60s and 70s.

APRIL 16-20: This period saw a warming trend and mostly tranquil weather. Highs were generally in the 70s and 80s after lows in the 40s and 50s. A cold front on the 20th kicked off a few strong storms. Tennis ball size hail was reported in Caddo County. Rainfall amounts were mostly light with these storms.

APRIL 21-27: Dry and hot weather, especially for April, besieged the state during this period. Lows and highs were 15-25 degrees above normal. Erick and Altus reached 105 degrees on the 25th, the highest temperatures for the month. A potent storm system moving west out of Colorado kicked up winds and brought moisture back into the state on the 27th.

APRIL 28-30: Mother Nature ended Oklahoma's April with a bang. A stationary front divided the state on the 28th. Heavy storms formed along and north of that boundary and continually dumped rain over the same area through the 30th. Over 10 inches of rain fell in parts of Grant and Kay Counties. Blackwell recorded 10.9 inches of rainfall and Newkirk received 7.4 inches. Severe weather was widespread on the 29th and 30th. Eleven tornadoes touched won on the 30th to go along with large hail and severe winds. A wind gust of 84 mph was recorded by the Mesonet site at Medford. Widespread flooding was reported across the area.

Hail
(2 inches in diameter or greater)

Size (in.)	Location	County	Day
2.75	1 N Woodford	Carter	9
2.75	1 N Woodward	Woodward	9
2.75	10 SE Selman	Harper	9
2.50	2 N Woodward	Woodward	9
4.25	2 N Woodward	Woodward	9
4.00	2 W Woodward	Woodward	9
2.00	4 NW Okesa	Osage	9
2.50	5 N Woodward	Woodward	9
3.50	5 W Sharon	Woodward	9
2.00	6 NE Barnsdall	Osage	9
2.25	6 NW Woodward	Woodward	9
4.25	Woodward	Woodward	9
2.50	1 W Rocky	Washita	13
3.00	12 S Sayre	Beckham	13
2.50	6 SSW Eakly	Caddo	13
2.75	7 S Carter	Greer	13
2.50	Anadarko	Caddo	13
2.00	10 SSW Weatherford	Washita	14
2.75	11 NNE Selman	Woods	14
3.00	15 N Woodward	Harper	14
3.00	6 E Arnett	Ellis	14
2.50	11 N Gracemont	Caddo	19

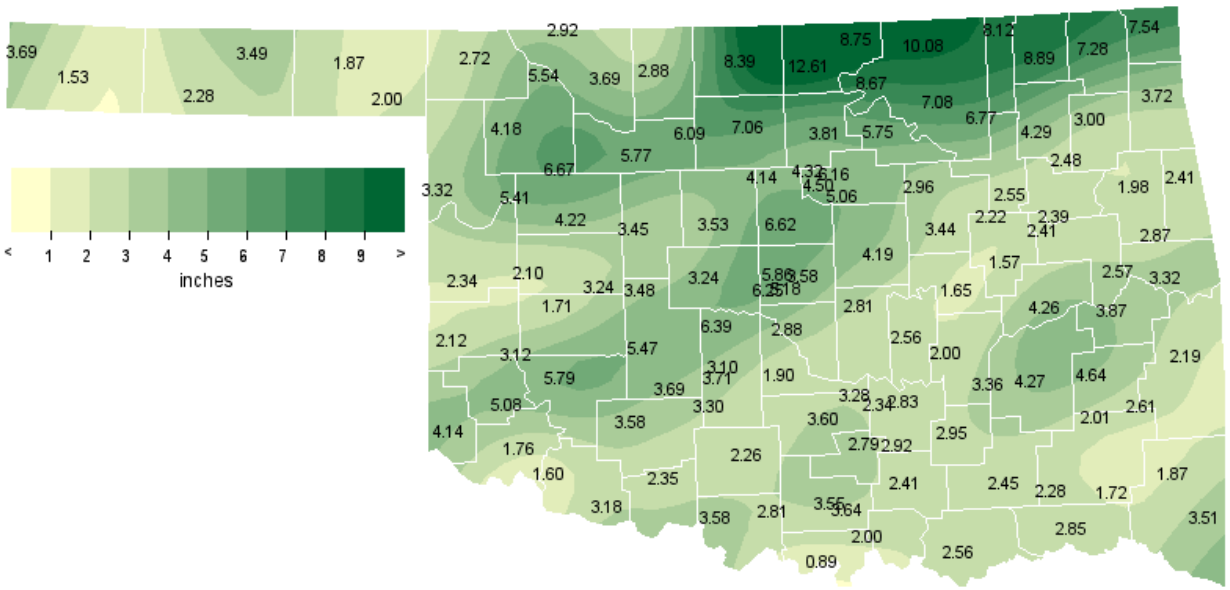
Wind Gusts (70 mph or greater)

Speed (m.p.h.)	Location	County	Day
70	1 S Cooperton	Kiowa	13
70	10 SSW Weatherford	Washita	14
76	3W Gould	Harmon	30
78	2 SSW Minco	Grady	30
84	Medford Mesonet	Grant	30
70	Wynona Mesonet	Osage	30

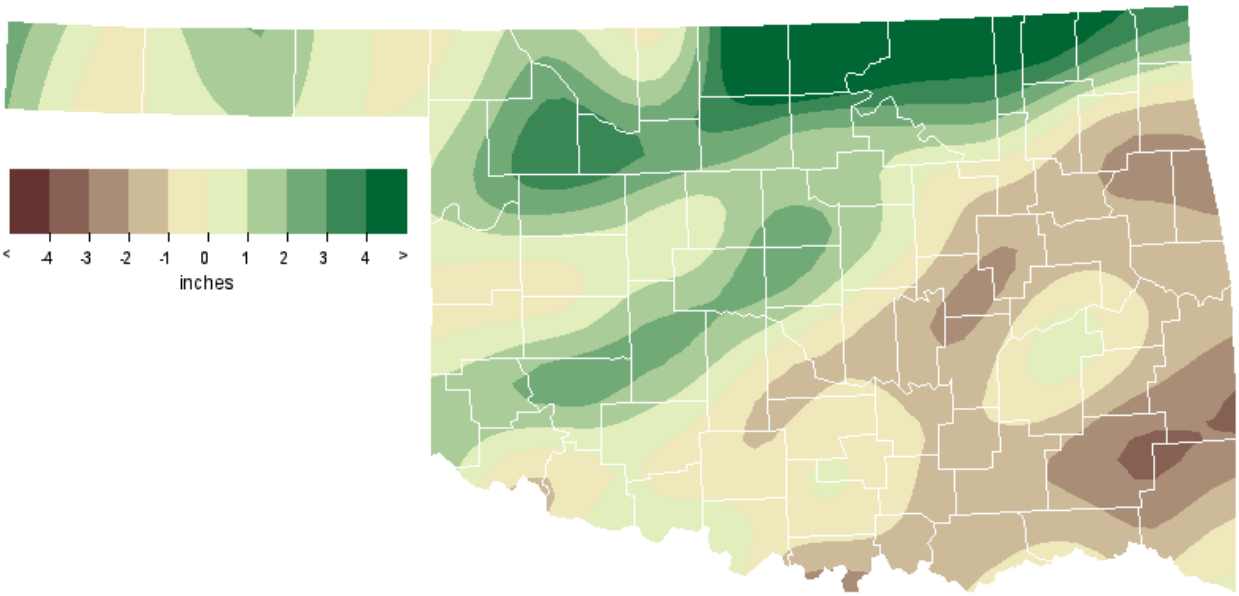
Flooding

Location	County	Day
Turner Falls	Murray	8
3 NNW Ponca City	Kay	29
Ponca City	Kay	29
1 W Ponca City	Kay	30
4 NNW Tonkawa	Kay	30
Braman	Kay	30
Burbank	Osage	30
Grainola	Osage	29
Bigheart	Osage	30
Shidler	Osage	30
Fairfax	Osage	30

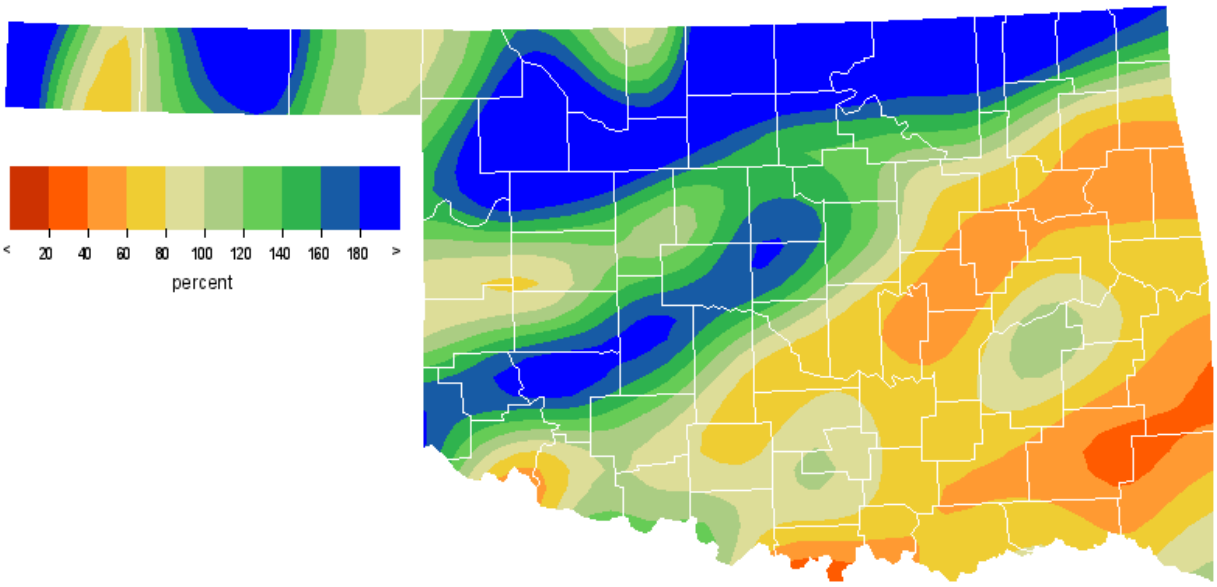
APRIL 2012 OBSERVED PRECIPITATION



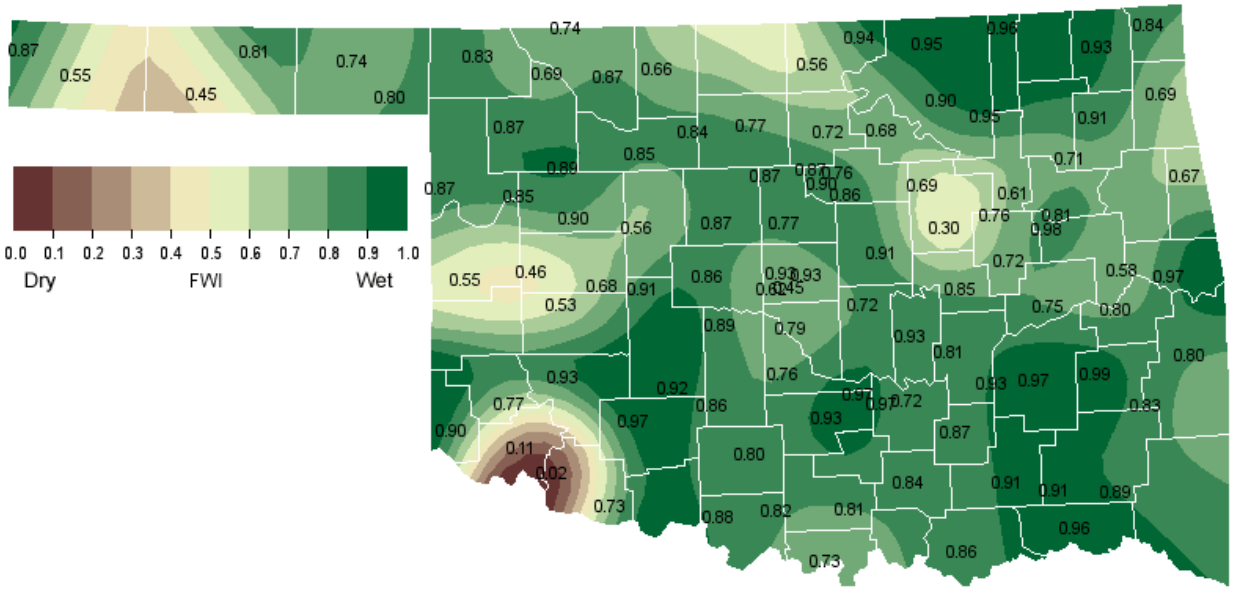
APRIL 2012 DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL PRECIPITATION



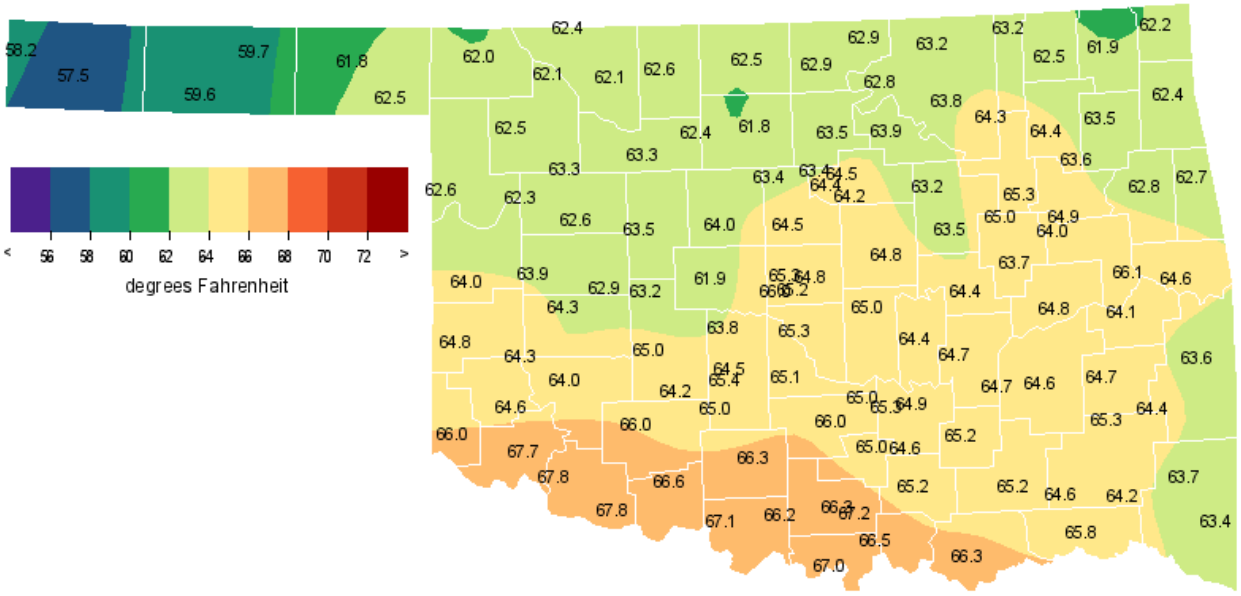
APRIL 2012 PERCENT OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION



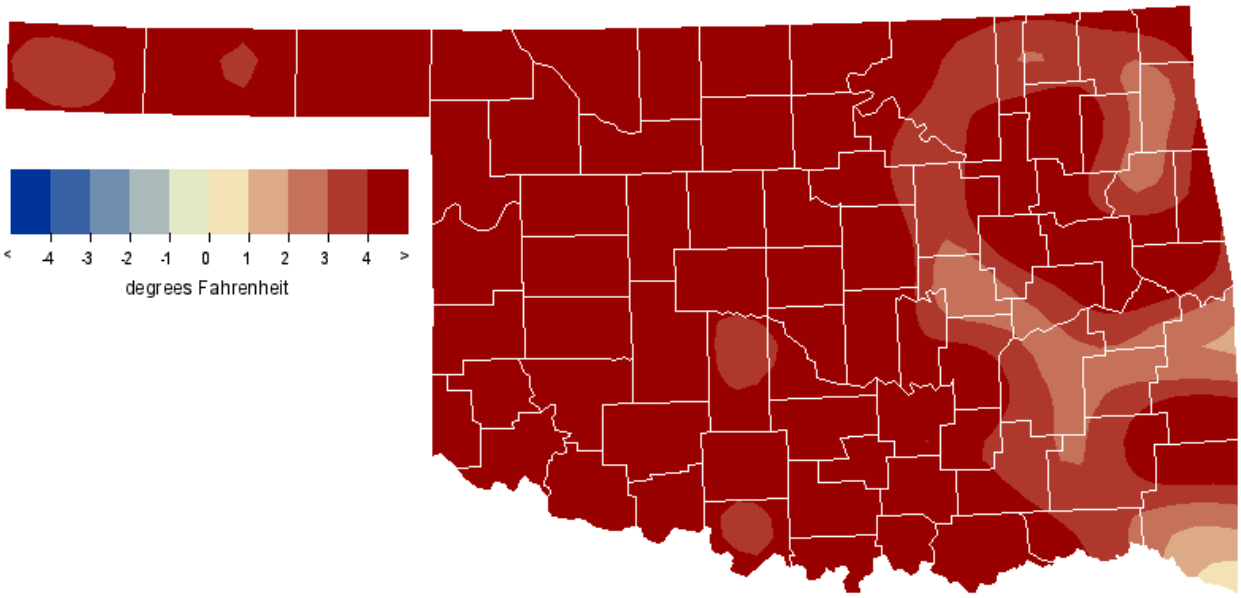
APRIL 2012 AVERAGE SOIL MOISTURE AT 25CM



APRIL 2012 AVERAGE TEMPERATURE



APRIL 2012 DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL TEMPERATURE

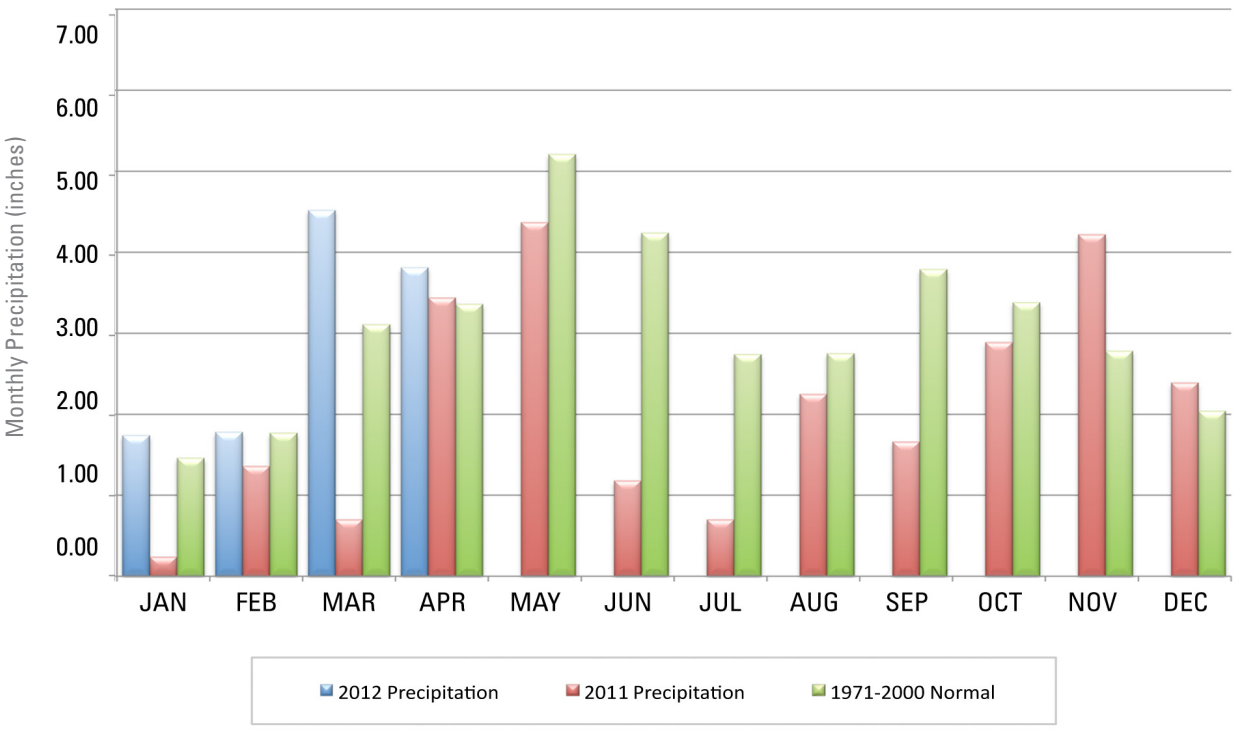


MESONET MONTHLY SUMMARY FOR APRIL 2012

NAME	MEAN TEMP	HIGH TEMP	HIGH DAY	LOW TEMP	LOW DAY	HDD	CDD	TOT PPT	HIGH 24-HR	HIGH DAY
PANHANDLE										
Arnett	62.6	93	25	38	23	132	60	3.32	1.23	29
Beaver	61.8	97	24	32	8	151	53	1.87	.62	14
Boise City	57.5	91	25	32	16	238	13	1.53	.47	11
Buffalo	62.0	96	24	33	8	151	61	2.72	.89	14
NORTH CENTRAL										
Alva	62.1	94	24	35	23	150	62	3.69	2.70	29
Blackwell	63.0	90	25	37	23	125	64	12.61	7.18	29
Breckinridge	61.8	90	25	34	23	156	61	7.06	1.89	14
Cherokee	62.7	95	25	34	23	141	70	2.88	1.68	29
Fairview	63.2	93	25	38	23	126	73	5.77	2.06	14
Freedom	62.0	91	25	35	8	148	59	5.54	1.20	14
Lahoma	62.4	91	25	38	23	140	60	6.09	2.36	29
NORTHEAST										
Bixby	65.3	88	1	38	21	88	97	2.55	.84	15
Burbank	62.8	91	1	37	21	125	58	8.67	3.85	29
Claremore	64.4	88	1	38	21	98	80	4.29	1.00	30
Copan	63.2	90	1	38	21	120	66	8.12	2.91	29
Foraker	63.2	94	1	38	21	118	65	10.08	4.32	29
Inola	63.6	85	26	37	21	110	69	2.48	.92	30
Jay	62.5	87	1	33	21	143	67	3.72	1.04	30
Miami	62.2	85	1	36	21	144	59	7.54	2.99	14
WEST CENTRAL										
Bessie	64.3	97	25	40	23	103	83	1.71	.73	13
Butler	63.9	97	25	37	23	116	83	2.10	1.06	29
Camargo	62.2	92	25	37	23	135	52	5.41	2.07	29
Cheyenne	63.9	96	25	41	4	105	72	2.34	.73	29
Erick	64.8	105	25	37	21	101	96	2.12	.66	13
CENTRAL										
Acme	64.9	90	27	38	23	99	95	3.30	1.23	3
Bowlegs	64.4	86	1	37	23	96	77	2.56	.64	15
Bristow	63.6	89	1	34	21	117	74	3.44	1.09	30
Lake Carl Blac	63.4	91	1	34	23	126	79	4.32	.91	14
Chandler	64.8	89	1	39	21	94	89	4.19	.96	13
Chickasha	64.5	91	27	38	23	103	89	3.10	.92	3
El Reno	62.0	88	25	34	23	151	60	3.24	.74	3
Guthrie	64.5	89	1	39	21	105	90	6.62	3.12	14
Kingfisher	63.9	94	25	36	23	118	85	3.53	.85	29
Marena	64.4	92	1	39	21	106	87	4.50	2.27	14
Minco	63.9	88	25	41	23	102	69	6.39	2.59	13
Marshall	63.3	90	25	36	23	133	83	4.14	1.42	11
EAST CENTRAL										
Cookson	*****	***	***	***	***	****	****	2.87	1.00	15
Eufaula	64.8	84	25	40	21	86	81	4.26	1.91	11
Haskell	64.1	85	25	38	21	102	73	2.41	.89	11
Hectorville	65.0	86	1	41	21	85	86	2.22	.81	15
Holdenville	64.7	84	27	40	21	88	80	2.00	.63	11
McAlester	64.7	86	25	39	23	99	88	4.27	1.65	3
Okmulgee	63.7	86	1	36	21	112	72	1.57	.44	11
SOUTHWEST										
Altus	67.7	105	25	43	23	59	141	1.76	.59	2
Apache	64.1	90	25	42	21	100	74	3.69	.90	3
Fort Cobb	65.0	94	25	41	21	90	91	5.47	2.78	13
Grandfield	67.7	103	25	43	23	61	143	3.18	1.24	3
Hinton	63.1	93	25	39	23	120	64	3.48	1.11	13
Hobart	63.9	96	25	39	23	106	75	5.79	2.77	13
SOUTH CENTRAL										
Ada	65.0	86	27	37	23	87	87	2.83	1.13	8
Ardmore	67.1	90	27	43	23	55	118	3.64	1.74	8
Burneyville	66.9	92	25	37	23	74	132	.89	.40	3
Byars	65.0	87	27	40	21	87	86	3.28	1.37	3
Centrahoma	65.2	84	25	38	23	84	90	2.95	.97	15
Durant	66.2	86	25	41	21	62	99	2.56	1.82	8
Fittstown	64.6	84	27	40	23	88	76	2.92	.97	8
Ketchum Ranch	66.4	90	27	43	23	69	110	2.26	.90	3
Lane	65.2	86	25	39	23	81	88	2.45	.89	3
SOUTHEAST										
Antlers	64.7	85	25	38	21	89	78	2.28	.90	8
Antlers	*****	***	***	***	***	****	****	*****	*****	***
Broken Bow	63.4	85	25	36	23	104	56	3.51	.95	3
Clayton	65.3	86	25	38	21	86	95	2.01	1.52	3
Cloudy	64.3	84	25	40	23	90	69	1.72	.52	8
Hugo	65.8	84	25	42	21	63	87	2.85	1.39	8

NAME	MEAN TEMP	HIGH TEMP	HIGH DAY	LOW TEMP	LOW DAY	HDD	CDD	TOT PPT	HIGH 24-HR	HIGH DAY
Goodwell	59.5	95	24	34	16	193	29	2.28	.53	29
Hooker	59.7	95	24	37	16	186	28	3.49	2.19	2
Kenton	58.1	91	24	33	5	227	21	3.69	1.51	10
Slapout	62.5	96	24	38	16	142	66	2.00	.51	30
May Ranch	62.4	94	24	40	8	144	66	2.92	1.11	14
Medford	62.4	91	25	37	21	144	67	8.39	4.46	29
Newkirk	62.9	92	1	38	21	130	66	8.75	6.07	29
Red Rock	63.5	92	1	36	23	125	79	3.81	.97	30
Seiling	63.3	93	25	37	23	123	71	6.67	2.30	29
Woodward	62.4	91	24	39	8	135	57	4.18	.93	9
Nowata	62.5	87	1	34	21	135	61	8.89	3.23	30
Pawnee	63.9	93	1	36	21	111	77	5.75	2.56	14
Porter	64.9	86	1	40	21	86	84	2.39	.79	11
Pryor	63.5	86	1	36	21	116	70	3.00	1.16	30
Skiatook	64.3	90	1	41	23	95	73	6.77	2.06	30
Vinita	62.0	84	2	37	21	143	52	7.28	2.99	14
Wynona	63.8	92	1	38	21	106	69	7.08	2.61	14
Putnam	62.6	94	25	37	23	135	63	4.22	1.80	29
Retrop	64.3	95	25	42	23	101	80	3.12	1.38	30
Watonga	63.4	95	25	42	23	127	80	3.45	1.15	29
Weatherford	62.9	94	25	39	23	126	62	3.24	1.40	13
Ninnekah	65.4	90	25	40	23	88	99	3.71	1.52	3
Norman	65.3	88	27	41	21	84	94	2.88	.92	3
Oilton	63.1	90	1	34	23	129	73	2.96	.88	30
OKC East	65.3	89	1	40	23	89	97	5.18	1.56	13
OKC North	65.2	89	1	42	23	88	95	5.86	1.91	13
OKC West	65.9	90	1	43	21	74	102	6.25	2.80	13
Okemah	64.4	85	25	38	23	98	81	1.65	.51	15
Perkins	64.2	90	1	38	23	109	86	5.06	2.09	14
Shawnee	65.0	89	27	40	21	93	93	2.81	.61	3
Spencer	64.8	90	1	38	23	101	95	3.58	.72	3
Stillwater	64.5	93	1	37	23	108	92	6.16	2.71	14
Washington	65.1	89	27	41	23	83	87	1.90	.71	3
Sallisaw	64.5	87	1	37	21	97	82	3.32	.92	3
Stigler	64.0	86	25	37	21	106	77	3.87	1.37	3
Stuart	64.7	83	25	41	21	85	76	3.36	1.01	19
Tahlequah	62.8	85	1	33	21	131	65	1.98	.70	30
Webbers Falls	66.1	89	1	40	21	69	101	2.57	.76	11
Westville	62.7	84	1	37	21	129	61	2.41	.98	30
Hollis	66.0	101	25	41	4	72	103	4.14	1.56	9
Mangum	64.6	96	25	37	23	96	83	5.08	2.87	13
Medicine Park	66.0	93	25	46	21	65	95	3.58	.95	30
Tipton	67.8	103	25	41	23	63	145	1.60	.48	3
Walters	*****	***	***	***	***	****	****	*****	*****	***
Madill	66.6	86	25	40	21	62	110	2.00	1.31	8
Newport	66.3	89	27	42	21	67	106	3.55	1.73	8
Pauls Valley	66.0	88	27	40	23	71	102	3.60	1.78	8
Ringling	66.1	90	27	40	21	72	105	2.81	2.08	3
Sulphur	64.9	86	27	37	23	90	86	2.79	1.21	8
Tishomingo	65.2	85	27	40	23	78	83	2.41	.91	8
Vanoss	65.3	87	27	36	23	86	96	2.34	.97	8
Waurika	67.2	93	27	42	23	65	130	3.58	3.12	3
Idabel	64.6	85	25	38	21	****	****	*****	.88	20
Mt Herman	63.7	82	25	38	23	107	69	1.87	.65	15
Talihina	64.4	85	25	38	23	109	91	2.61	1.35	3
Wilburton	64.7	85	25	38	21	95	86	4.64	1.84	3
Wister	63.6	86	1	35	21	117	75	2.19	.73	11

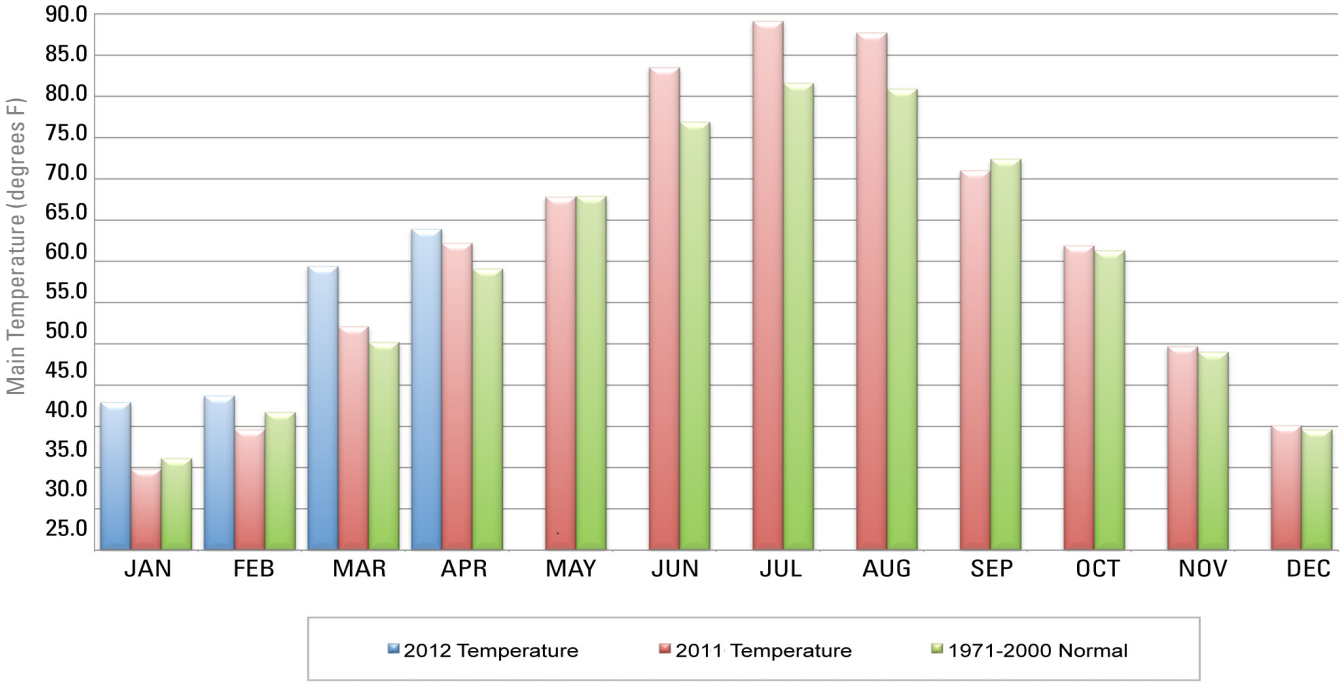
2011 AND 2012 STATEWIDE PRECIPITATION MONTHLY TOTALS VS. NORMAL



APRIL 2012 Mesonet Precipitation Comparison

Climate Division	Precipitation (inches)	Departure from Normal (inches)	Rank since 1895	Wettest on Record (Year)	Driest on Record (Year)	Apr-11
Panhandle	2.61	0.76	21st Wettest	5.28 (1942)	0.00 (1909)	1.30
North Central	6.03	3.07	5th Wettest	7.43 (1999)	0.55 (1989)	1.60
Northeast	5.91	1.91	21st Wettest	9.67 (1942)	0.17 (1989)	5.50
West Central	3.08	0.48	39th Wettest	8.73 (1997)	0.15 (1996)	0.55
Central	4.06	0.53	34th Wettest	9.49 (1942)	0.24 (1989)	2.55
East Central	2.85	-1.48	26th Driest	11.82 (1957)	0.75 (1989)	6.91
Southwest	3.65	0.98	22nd Wettest	7.30 (1997)	0.14 (1989)	0.72
South Central	2.76	-1.00	42nd Driest	11.43 (1942)	0.53 (1989)	2.62
Southeast	2.63	-1.86	19th Driest	12.79 (1957)	0.53 (1987)	8.81
Statewide	3.81	0.45	42nd Wettest	8.50 (1942)	0.58 (1989)	3.33

2011 AND 2012 STATEWIDE TEMPERATURE MONTHLY TOTALS VS. NORMAL



April 2012 Mesonet Temperature Comparison

Climate Division	Average Temp (F)	Departure from Normal (F)	Rank since 1895	Hottest on Record (Year)	Coldest on Record (Year)	Apr-11 (F)
Panhandle	60.5	5.3	5th Warmest	62.2 (1981)	48.2 (1926)	58.5
North Central	62.6	5.0	11th Warmest	65.0 (1981)	50.8 (1983)	59.8
Northeast	63.5	4.6	11th Warmest	66.1 (1981)	52.5 (1907)	61.7
West Central	63.6	5.7	6th Warmest	64.8 (2006)	52.1 (1926)	61.6
Central	64.4	4.8	9th Warmest	66.4 (2006)	53.6 (1983)	63.2
East Central	64.3	4.1	14th Warmest	67.0 (2006)	53.9 (1907)	63.1
Southwest	65.7	5.3	5th Warmest	67.1 (2006)	54.2 (1926)	64.8
South Central	65.8	4.5	12th Warmest	67.6 (2006)	55.9 (1983)	65.1
Southeast	64.4	3.8	14th Warmest	66.7 (1954)	55.3 (2007)	62.7
Statewide	63.9	4.8	10th Warmest	65.5 (2006)	53.2 (1983)	62.3

RECORD EVENT REPORTS

Description	Day	Location	Record	Previous Record	Year
High Temperature	1	McAlester	85	83	2006

MESONET EXTREMES FOR APRIL 2012

Climate Division	High Temp (F)	Day	Station	Low Temp (F)	Day	Station	High Monthly Rainfall (inches)	Station	High Daily Rainfall (inches)	Day	Station
Panhandle	97	24th	Beaver	32	16th	Boise City	3.69	Kenton	2.19	2nd	Hooker
North Central	95	25th	Cherokee	34	23rd	Breckinridge	12.61	Blackwell	7.18	29th	Blackwell
Northeast	94	1st	Foraker	33	21st	Jay	10.08	Foraker	4.32	29th	Foraker
West Central	105	25th	Erick	37	21st	Erick	5.41	Camargo	2.07	29th	Camargo
Central	94	25th	Kingfisher	34	23rd	Lake Carl Blackwell	6.62	Guthrie	3.12	14th	Guthrie
East Central	89	1st	Webbers Falls	33	21st	Tahlequah	4.27	McAlester	1.91	11th	Eufaula
Southwest	105	25th	Altus	37	23rd	Mangum	5.79	Hobart	2.87	13th	Mangum
South Central	93	27th	Waurika	36	23rd	Vanoss	3.64	Ardmore	3.12	3rd	Waurika
Southeast	86	25th	Clayton	35	21st	Wister	4.64	Wilburton	1.84	3rd	Wilburton
Statewide	105	25th	Erick	32	16th	Boise City	12.61	Blackwell	7.18	29th	Blackwell

MAY OUTLOOK

Oklahoma's weather reaches something of a crescendo in May as springtime comes to full flower. May is Oklahoma's wettest (statewide-averaged precipitation of 5.13 inches) and certainly its stormiest month (an average of 19.9 tornadoes, more than one-third of the annual average, occurring on 5.5 days, statewide). Its position in the spring transition season is confirmed by a monthly mean temperature, averaged statewide, of 68.4 degrees that ranks fifth highest among the months. Vestiges of winter are occasionally seen in the far northwestern portions of the state, but mostly May is a time for flowering of most plants, full leafing of deciduous trees, planting of row crops, and the maturing and ripening of the winter wheat that was sowed the previous fall.

Temperature

Mean	68.4 degrees
Warmest May	1896, 75.8 degrees
Coolest May	1907, 62.3 degrees
Hottest recorded	114 degrees, Weatherford, May 25, 2000
Coldest recorded	19 degrees, Hooker, May 1, 1909

May usually is characterized by a pleasant range of temperatures across the state, although there are times most years when it is evident that the hot Oklahoma summer is drawing near. Monthly mean temperatures since 1892 have ranged from 62.3 degrees in 1907 to 75.8 degrees in 1896. Normal daily maximum temperatures across the state vary from 84.6 degrees at Waurika to 76.5 degrees at Arnett. Normal daily minimum temperatures fall between 61.2 degrees at Ardmore and 46.8 degrees at Boise City. Historical extremes of temperature during the month are 114 degrees at Weatherford, reported on May 25, 2000 and 19 degrees at Hooker on May 1, 1909. Temperatures in southwestern Oklahoma, the state's hot spot, reach 100 degrees an average of slightly more than once each May. Freezing temperatures are also rare, occurring less than once per year in the panhandle, rarely elsewhere. Freezes have occurred in the state's most northerly regions as late as the end of the month.

The Oklahoma panhandle's climate differs from the rest of the state in that its primary precipitation season is shifted toward summer, being tied to the patterns of the High Plains, of which it is a part. Elsewhere in the state, May is the month of maximum precipitation and May is, in fact, the panhandle's second wettest month by a small margin. May has produced statewide-averaged monthly precipitation totals ranging from 10.68 inches in 1957 to 1.30 inches in 1988. Extremes of individual station-normal precipitation for the month are 7.06 inches in the southeast at Smithville and 2.29 inches in the western panhandle at Regnier. Miami recorded the greatest May monthly total precipitation, 23.95 inches, in 1943. The record-breaking 1957 statewide-averaged precipitation was amplified by the May total of 22.38 inches of rain recorded at Hennessey, most of which fell during the drought-breaking, flood-producing deluge that hammered much of the state on the 15th and 16th. Purcell apparently holds the single reporting-day precipitation record for May, measuring 13.68 inches of rain on May 11, 1950. Interestingly, the events that produced the Purcell and Hennessey precipitation records (and the widespread flooding that occurred after each) bracket the state's driest ever 7-year period.

Precipitation

Mean	5.13 inches
Wettest May	1957, 10.68 inches
Driest May	1988, 1.30 inches
Wettest location	Smithville, 7.06 inches
Driest location	Regnier, 2.02 inches
Most recorded	22.38 inches, Hennessey, 1957

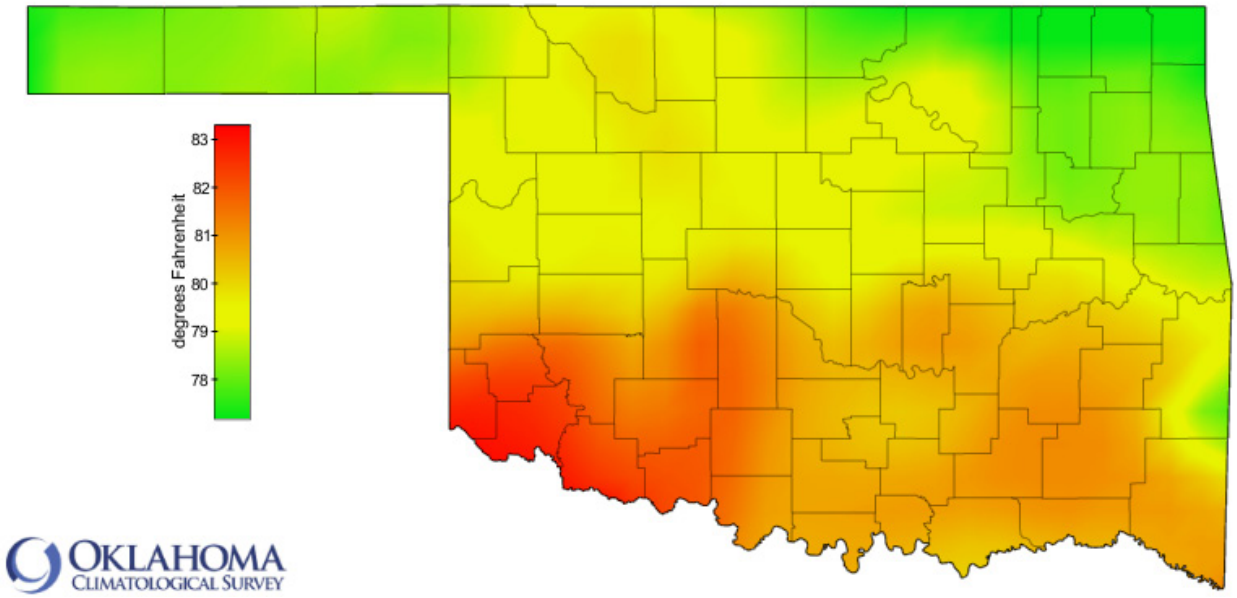
Tornadoes

Average May Tornadoes	21.7
Most	90 (1999, 2010)

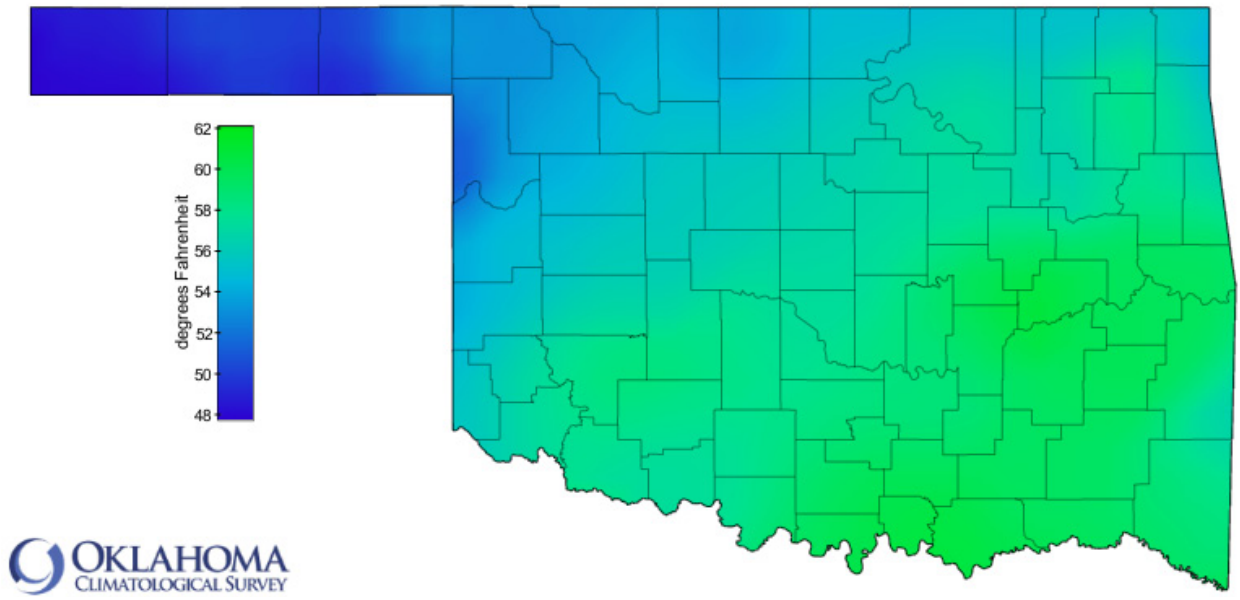
Spring brings with it Oklahoma's noted severe weather season. April is Oklahoma's windiest month and ranks second among the 12 months in the number of tornadoes observed across the state. The state has averaged 10.7 tornadoes each April since 1950, a monthly average exceeded only by May. Eight years of wind observations from the statewide Oklahoma Mesonet have revealed an average April wind speed, statewide, of 10.6 miles per hour, which barely edges March for windiest month honors. South winds prevail in most areas, although passing cold fronts are still capable of turning winds to northerly for a day or so at a time.

Comprehensive records of tornado occurrence are available from 1950 to the present. A total of 579 tornadoes are listed as having struck within Oklahoma during April from 1950 through 2003. Forty of those tornadoes were reported in 1957, easily the most of any April during the period.

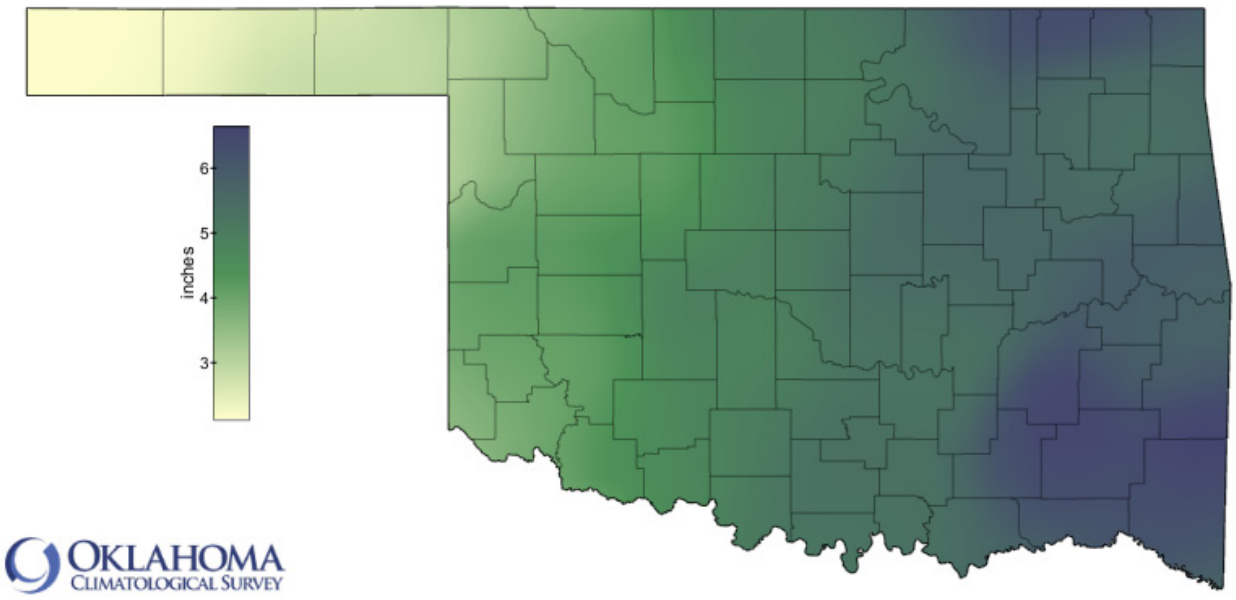
MAY NORMAL DAILY MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE (1981-2010)



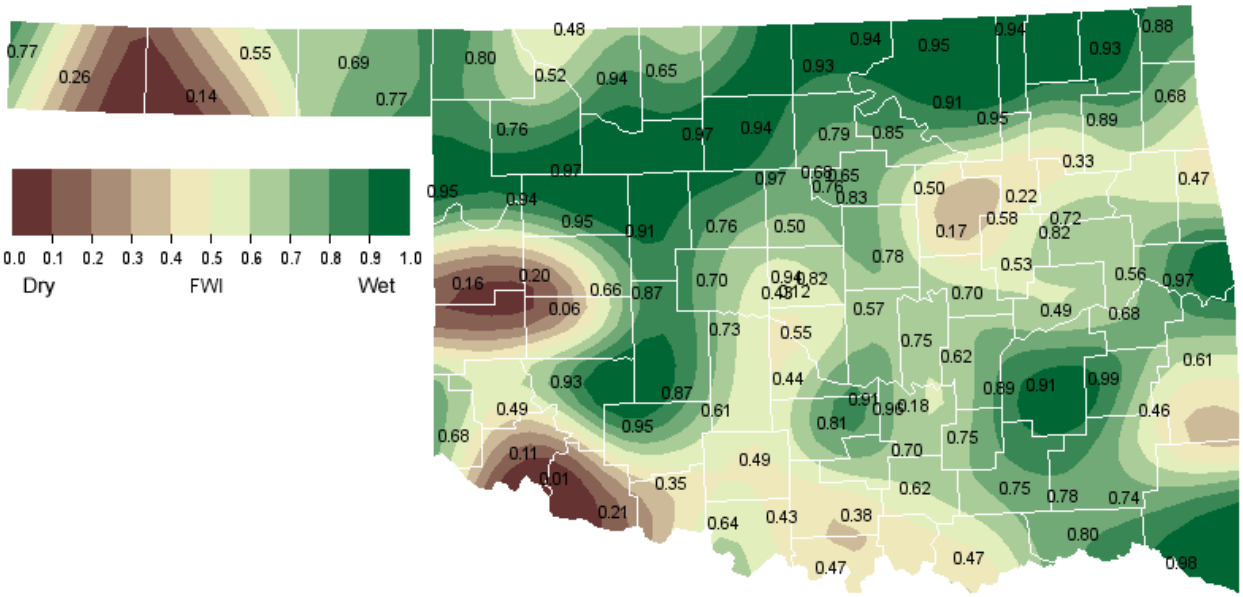
MAY NORMAL DAILY MINIMUM TEMPERATURE (1981-2010)



MAY NORMAL PRECIPITATION (1981-2010)



MAY 1, 2012 SOIL MOISTURE CONDITIONS AT 25CM



MAY 2012 DROUGHT INDICES

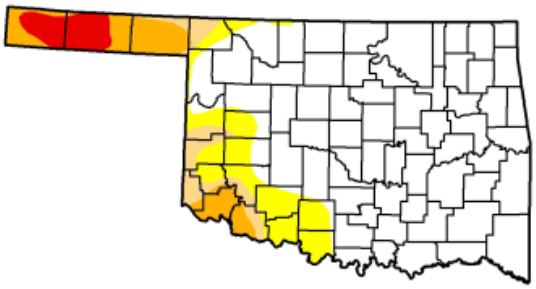
U.S. Drought Monitor

May 1, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Oklahoma

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	75.68	24.32	14.11	9.78	3.27	0.00
Last Week (04/24/2012 map)	74.94	25.06	15.00	9.78	3.27	0.00
3 Months Ago (01/31/2012 map)	24.91	75.09	66.53	49.80	26.62	3.78
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	14.83	85.17	78.76	50.55	27.48	3.33
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	78.97	66.42
One Year Ago (04/26/2011 map)	16.89	83.11	72.45	60.83	38.88	1.95



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

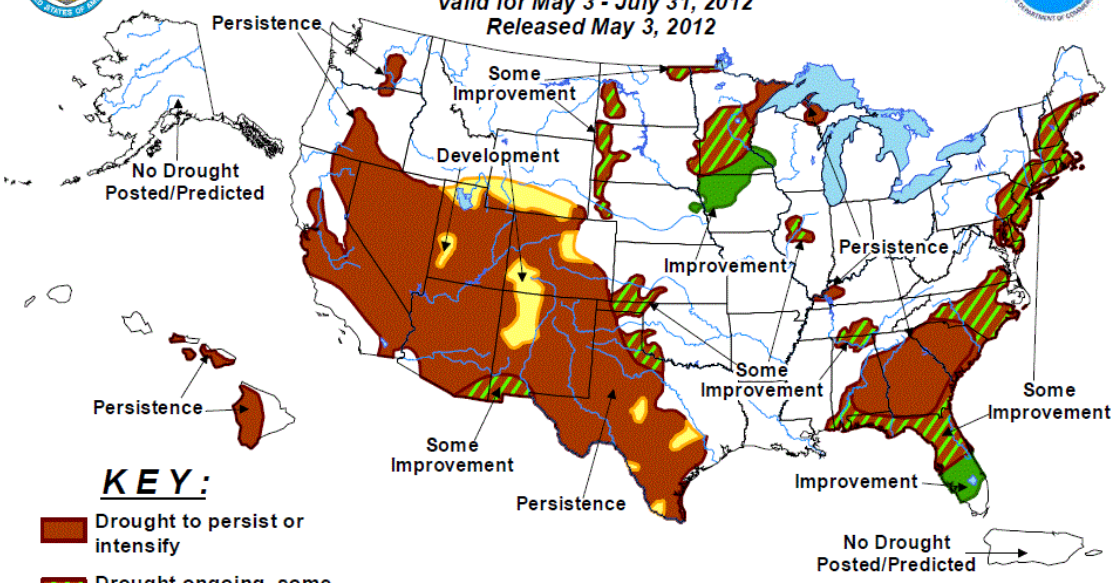
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Released Thursday, May 3, 2012
Matthew Rosencrans, Climate Prediction Center/NCEP/NWS/NOAA

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period
Valid for May 3 - July 31, 2012
Released May 3, 2012

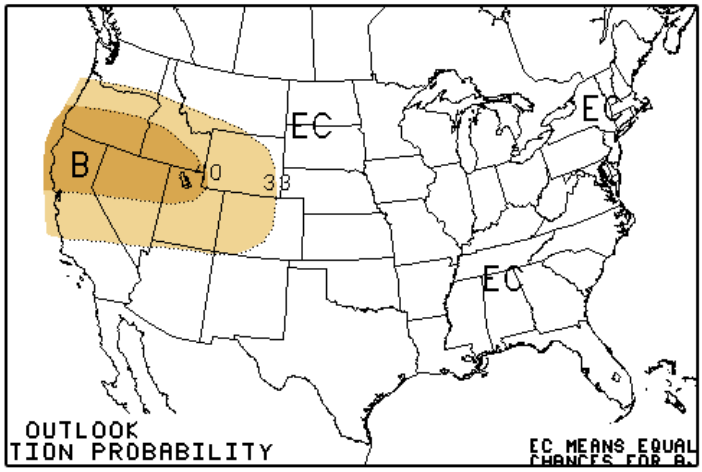


KEY:

- Drought to persist or intensify
- Drought ongoing, some improvement
- Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
- Drought development likely

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.

MAY 2012 U.S. PRECIPITATION FORECAST



Percent Likelihood of Above or Below Average Precipitation*

- 5% - 10%
- 0% - 5%

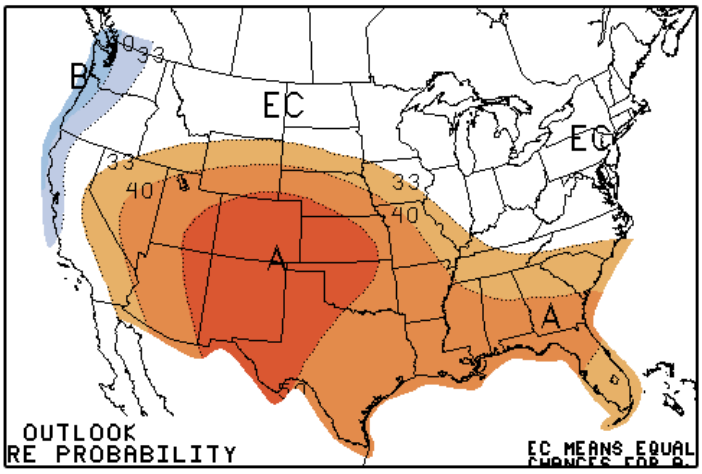
A = Above

- 0% - 5%
- 5% - 10%

B = Below

*EC indicates no forecasted anomalies due to lack of model skill.

MAY 2012 U.S. TEMPERATURE FORECAST



Percent Likelihood of Above or Below Average Temperatures*

- 10% - 20%
- 5% - 10%
- 0% - 5%

A = Above

- 0% - 5%
- 5% - 10%

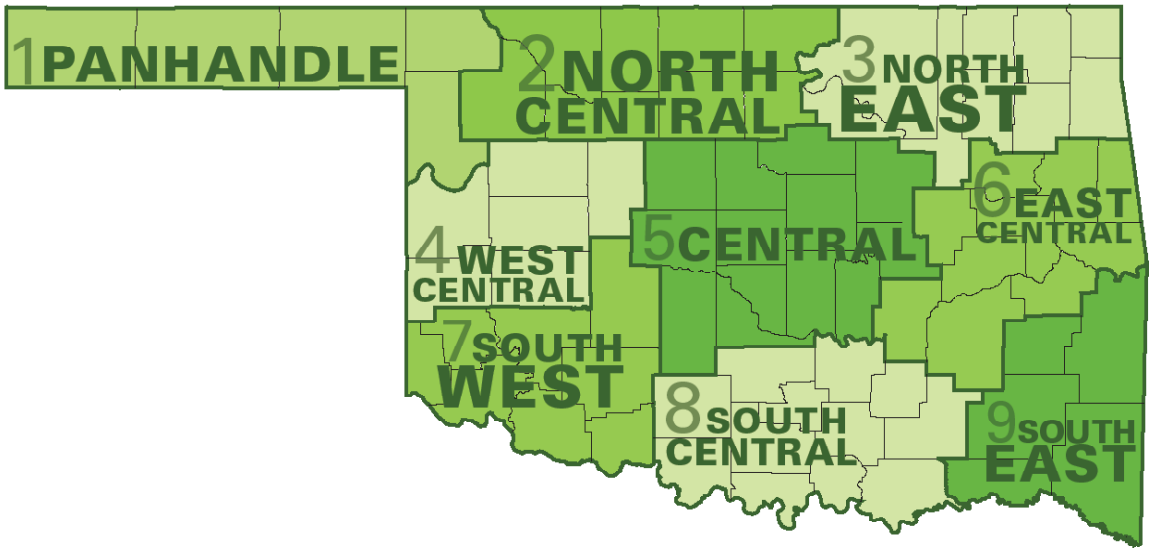
B = Below

*EC indicates no forecasted anomalies due to lack of model skill.

MAY CLIMATE NORMALS

Climate Division	Max. Temperature (°F)	Min. Temperature (°F)	Avg. Temperature (°F)	Precipitation (inches)
1	78.8	50.8	64.8	3.30
2	79.1	54.9	67.0	4.68
3	78.9	56.6	67.8	5.40
4	79.5	55.0	67.3	4.64
5	79.6	57.5	68.6	5.45
6	79.2	57.8	68.5	5.77
7	81.8	56.8	69.3	4.80
8	80.8	58.8	69.8	5.52
9	80.5	57.5	69.0	6.31
Statewide	79.8	56.3	68.1	5.21

Oklahoma Climate Divisions



INTERPRETATION INFORMATION

MEAN DAILY TEMPERATURE: Calculated from an average of the daily maximum and minimum temperatures. Daily averages are summed for each day, and then divided by the number of valid data points – typically the number of days in the month. Although this may differ from the "true" daily average, it is consistent with historical methods of observation and comparable to the normals and extremes for stations and regions of the state.

DEGREE DAYS: Degree Days are calculated each day of the month for which there is a temperature report and the mean temperature for the day is less than (Heating Degree Days) or greater than (Cooling Degree Days) 65 degrees. Daily values are summed to arrive at a monthly total. HDD/CDD are qualitative measures of how much heating/cooling was required to maintain a comfortable indoor temperature. Missing observations may result in an artificially high or low value.

SEVERE WEATHER REPORTS: Only the most significant events are listed. Tornadoes of F2 or greater strength (on the 0-5 Fujita scale), hail of two inches diameter or greater, and wind speeds of 70 miles per hour or above are listed. National Weather Service defines storms as severe when they produce a tornado, hail of three-quarters inch or greater, or wind speeds above 57 miles per hour (50 knots). For additional reports, contact the Oklahoma Climatological Survey, Storm Prediction Center, or your local National Weather Service forecast office.

SOIL MOISTURE: The soil moisture variable displayed is the Fractional Water Index (FWI), measured at a depth of 25 cm. This unitless value ranges from very dry soil having a value of 0, to saturated soils having a value of 1.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

SUNRISE / SUNSET TABLES
U.S. Naval Observatory: http://aa.usno.navy.mil/data

SEVERE STORM REPORTS
Storm Prediction Center: http://spc.noaa.gov/climo/

National Climatic Data Center (more than about 4-5 months old):
http://www4.ncdc.noaa.gov/cgi-win/wwcgi.dll?wwEvent~Storms

SEASONAL OUTLOOKS
Climate Prediction Center:
http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/OUTLOOKS_index.html

CLIMATE CALENDARS AND OTHER LOCAL WEATHER AND CLIMATE INFORMATION
Oklahoma Climatological Survey:
http://climate.mesonet.org or http://climate.ok.gov/

OKLAHOMA CLIMATOLOGICAL SURVEY

Oklahoma Climatological Survey is the State Climate Office for Oklahoma

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