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## U.S. Outlook For October and Winter

Thursday, September 19, 2013

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### About

This report coincides with today's release of the monthly temperature and precipitation outlooks for the U.S. from the Climate Prediction Center (CPC).

### U.S. CPC October and Winter Outlook

The CPC is forecasting above-average temperatures and near- to below-average precipitation across key grain, oilseed, and livestock areas next month ([2](#), [3](#)). Near- to above-average temperatures and near-average precipitation are forecasted for the winter months of December-January-February ([4](#), [5](#)).

### Neutral Conditions Persist

As discussed in our [report on September 5](#), water temperatures across the equatorial Pacific Ocean are neither warmer nor cooler than usual, which indicates that neutral conditions (neither El Niño nor La Niña conditions) persist. Neutral conditions are forecasted to persist through at least early next year ([6](#)).

Long-range weather is most predictable when oceanic temperatures deviate far from average to the warm or cool side. In other words, long-range weather is most predictable when it is apparent that a strong El Niño or La Niña exist or are likely to exist. Since neutral conditions exist and are expected to persist, we do not have a strong weather clue for October weather and forward.

### T-storm Weather October and Winter Outlook

For October, we generally agree with the CPC temperature outlook given the recent / upcoming history of warmth, and that is fairly apparent that Arctic cold will remain locked in the Arctic Circle for at least two to three weeks. It is difficult to forecast precipitation given that one major rain event would ruin and otherwise accurate outlook. We are not comfortable forecasting above-average precipitation given developing drought, though we are also not comfortable forecasting a worsening of drought given that October weather is driven by different fundamental reasons than in the summer (when drought re-flared) ([7](#)). These competing factors lead us to agree with the CPC forecast for near-average precipitation in most areas next month. As a result, near-average corn / soybean harvesting and winter wheat planting rates should occur (though rounds of rain will be needed to keep wheat moist leading into dormant phases that begin in November).

For the upcoming winter, a strong weather clue does not exist. It is best for us to forecast near-average temperatures and precipitation given the lack of an oceanic signal, which is slightly cooler than forecasted by the CPC.

### U.S. Freeze Probability

The probability for a killing freeze in the heart of the Corn Belt reaches 5 in 10 in mid-October and 9 in 10 by late-October; a killing freeze is most likely to hold until within this period given this climatology with some support from the foreseeable weather pattern that does not include early coldness ([8](#)).

### Summary

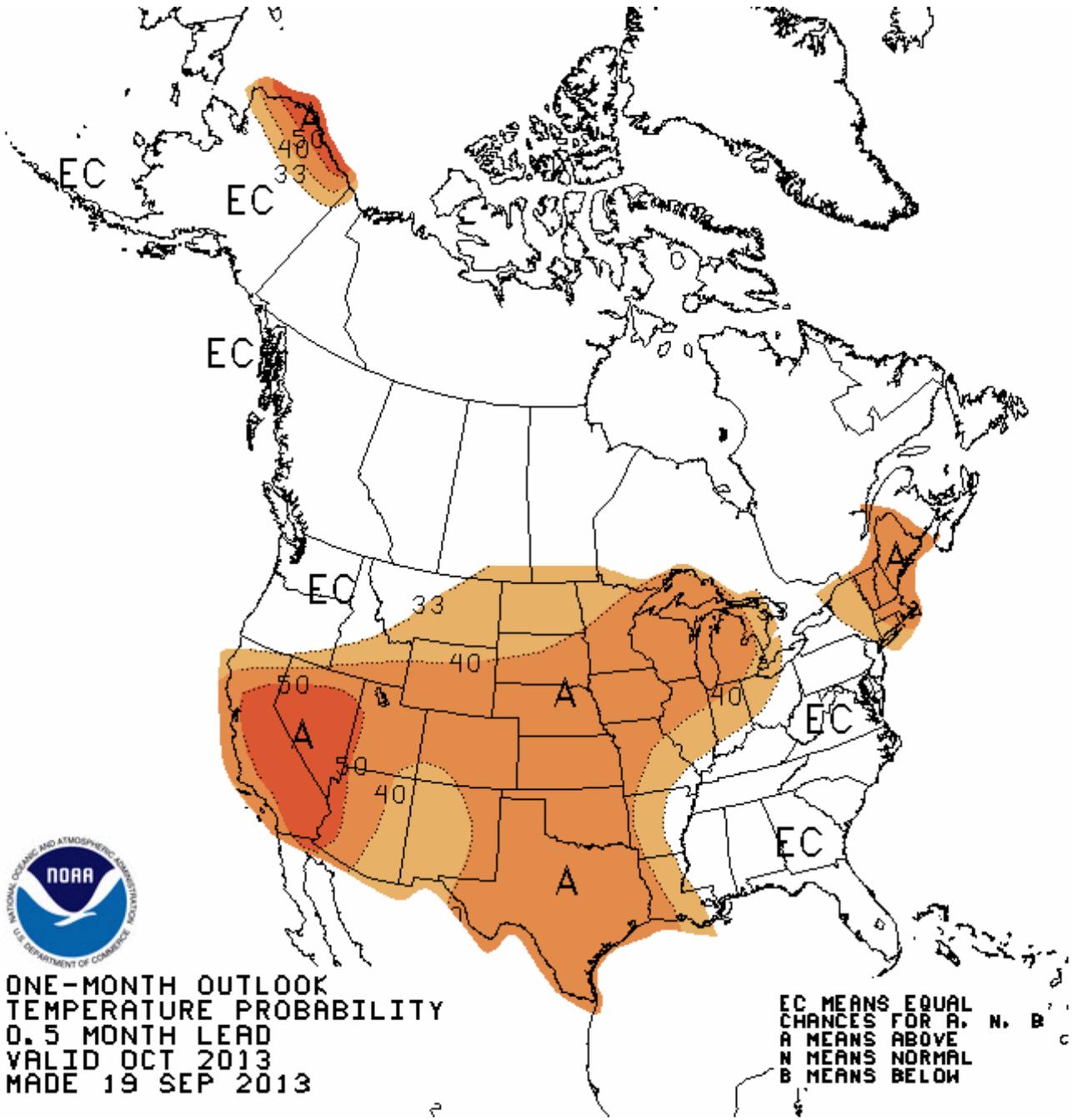
The CPC is forecasting above-average warmth and near- to below-average precipitation across key grain, oilseed, and livestock areas in October, and near- to above-average temperatures with near-average precipitation in the winter. We generally agree with the October forecast given recent and upcoming weather trends, but believe their winter outlook is slightly too warm given the lack of an oceanic signal. The first killing freeze of the year is most likely to hold until within October 15-30 given climatology and foreseeable weather.

**U.S. Outlook For October and Winter**

Thursday, September 19, 2013

[return to page 1](#)

**Temperature Outlook**  
October



**ONE-MONTH OUTLOOK  
 TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY  
 0.5 MONTH LEAD  
 VALID OCT 2013  
 MADE 19 SEP 2013**

**EC MEANS EQUAL  
 CHANCES FOR A, N, B  
 A MEANS ABOVE  
 N MEANS NORMAL  
 B MEANS BELOW**

Source: Climate Prediction Center

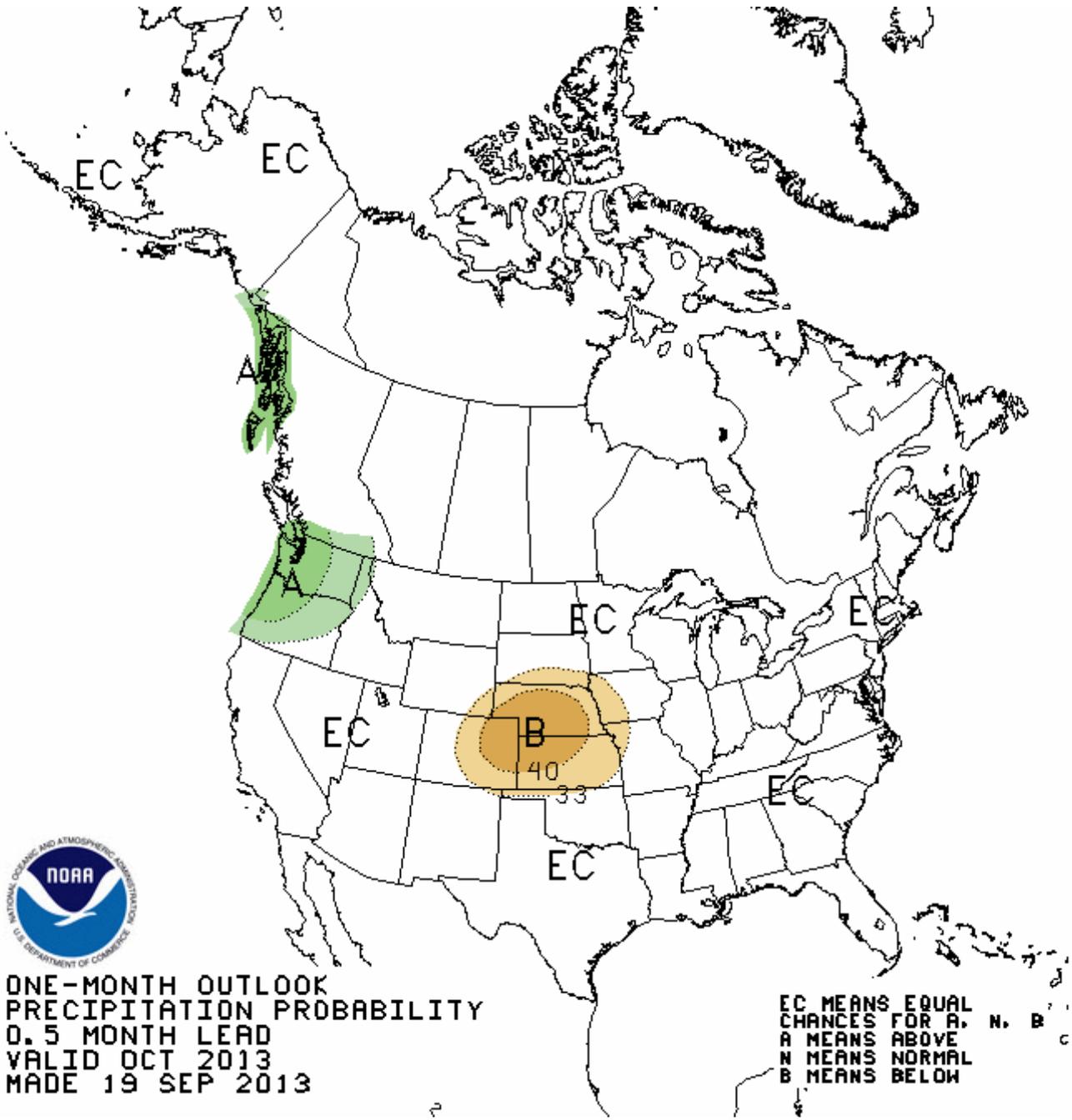
Note: areas in orange are expected to be warmer than average, while areas in blue are expected to be cooler than average

## U.S. Outlook For October and Winter

Thursday, September 19, 2013

[return to page 1](#)

### Precipitation Outlook October



Source: Climate Prediction Center

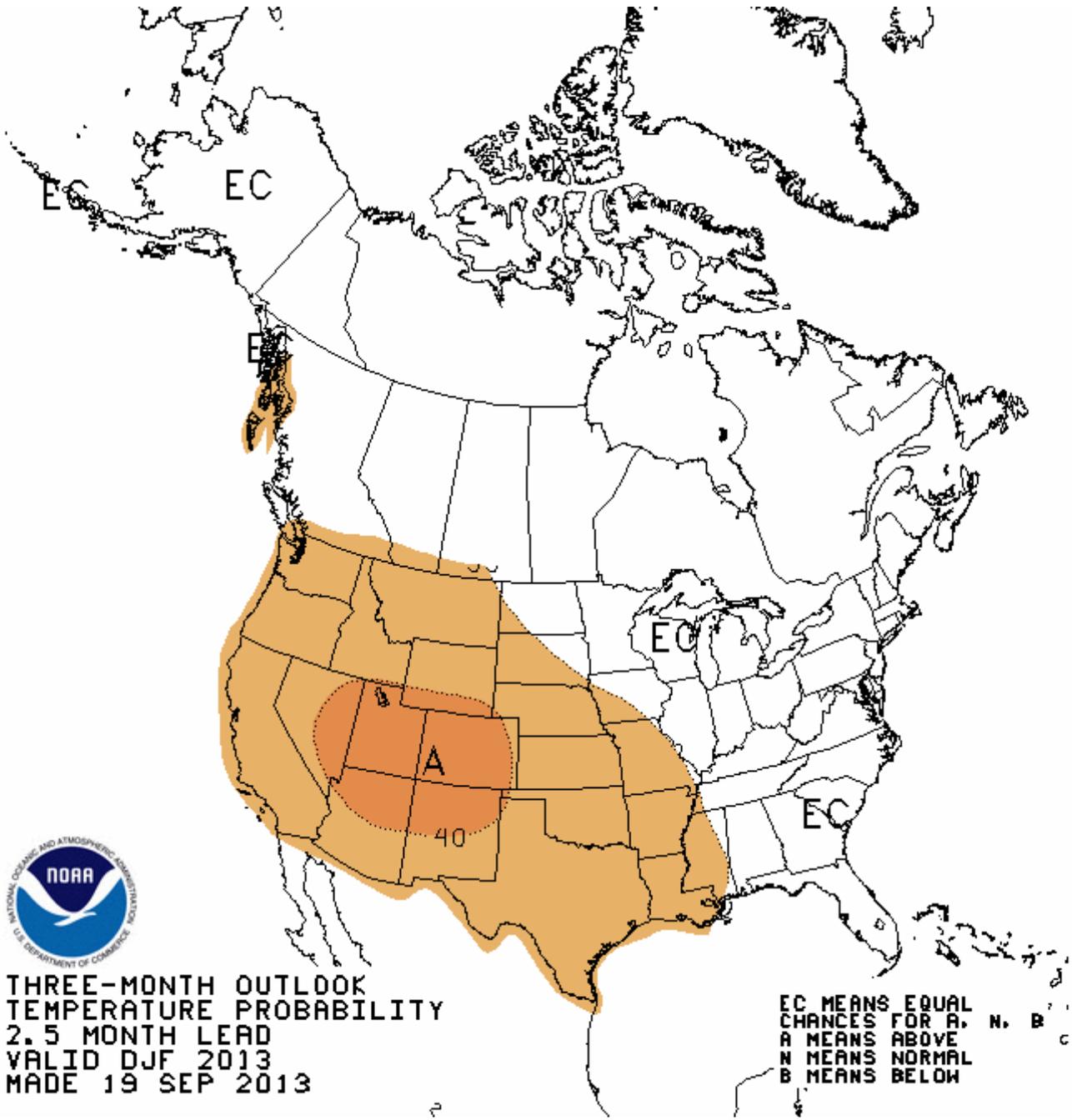
Note: areas in brown are expected to be drier than average, while areas in green are expected to be wetter than average

**U.S. Outlook For October and Winter**

Thursday, September 19, 2013

[return to page 1](#)

**Temperature Outlook**  
 December-January-February



Source: Climate Prediction Center

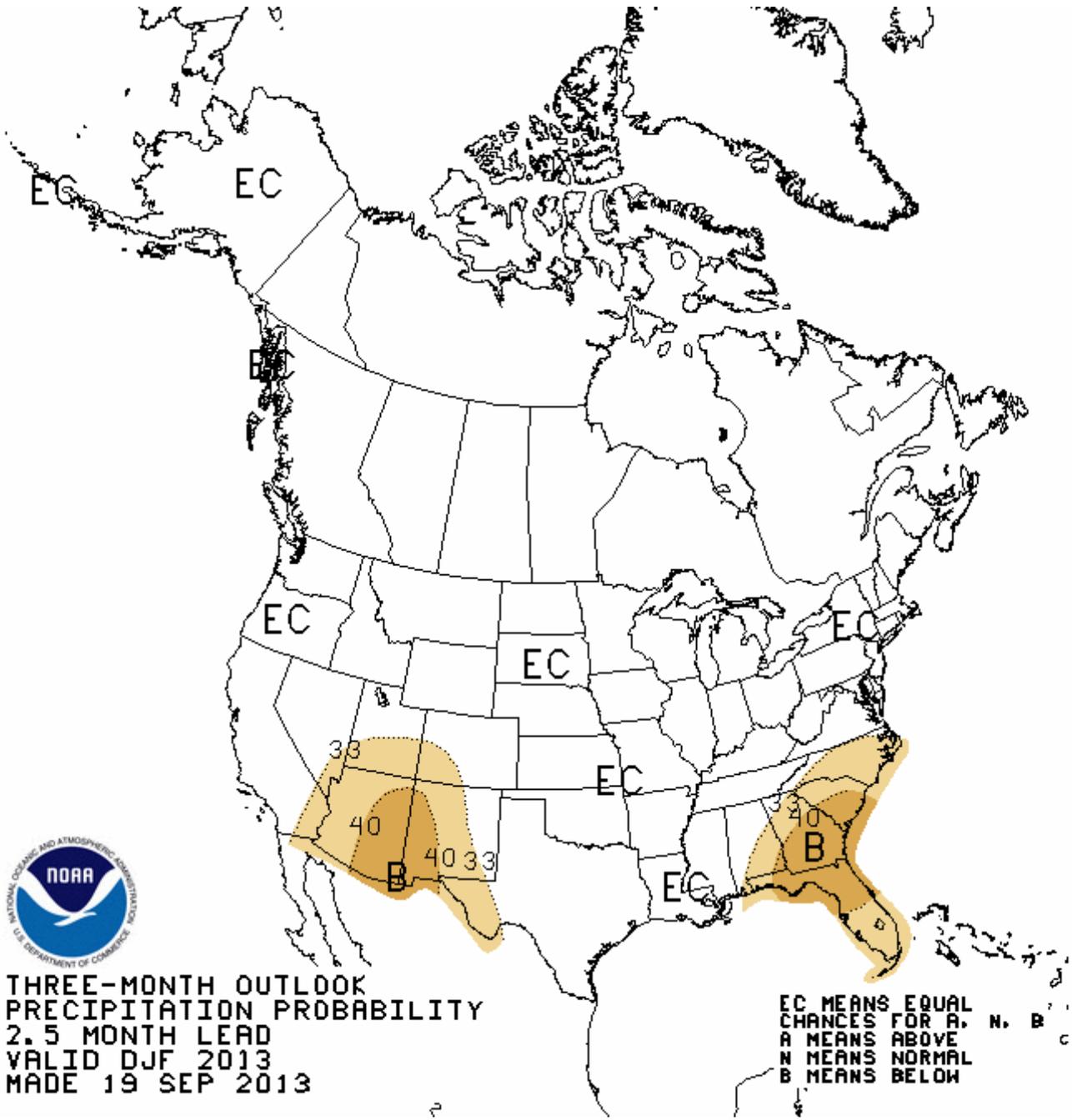
Note: areas in orange are expected to be warmer than average, while areas in blue are expected to be cooler than average

**U.S. Outlook For October and Winter**

Thursday, September 19, 2013

[return to page 1](#)

**Precipitation Outlook**  
December-January-February



**THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK  
 PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY  
 2.5 MONTH LEAD  
 VALID DJF 2013  
 MADE 19 SEP 2013**

**EC MEANS EQUAL  
 CHANCES FOR A, N, B  
 A MEANS ABOVE  
 N MEANS NORMAL  
 B MEANS BELOW**

Source: Climate Prediction Center

Note: areas in brown are expected to be drier than average, while areas in green are expected to be wetter than average

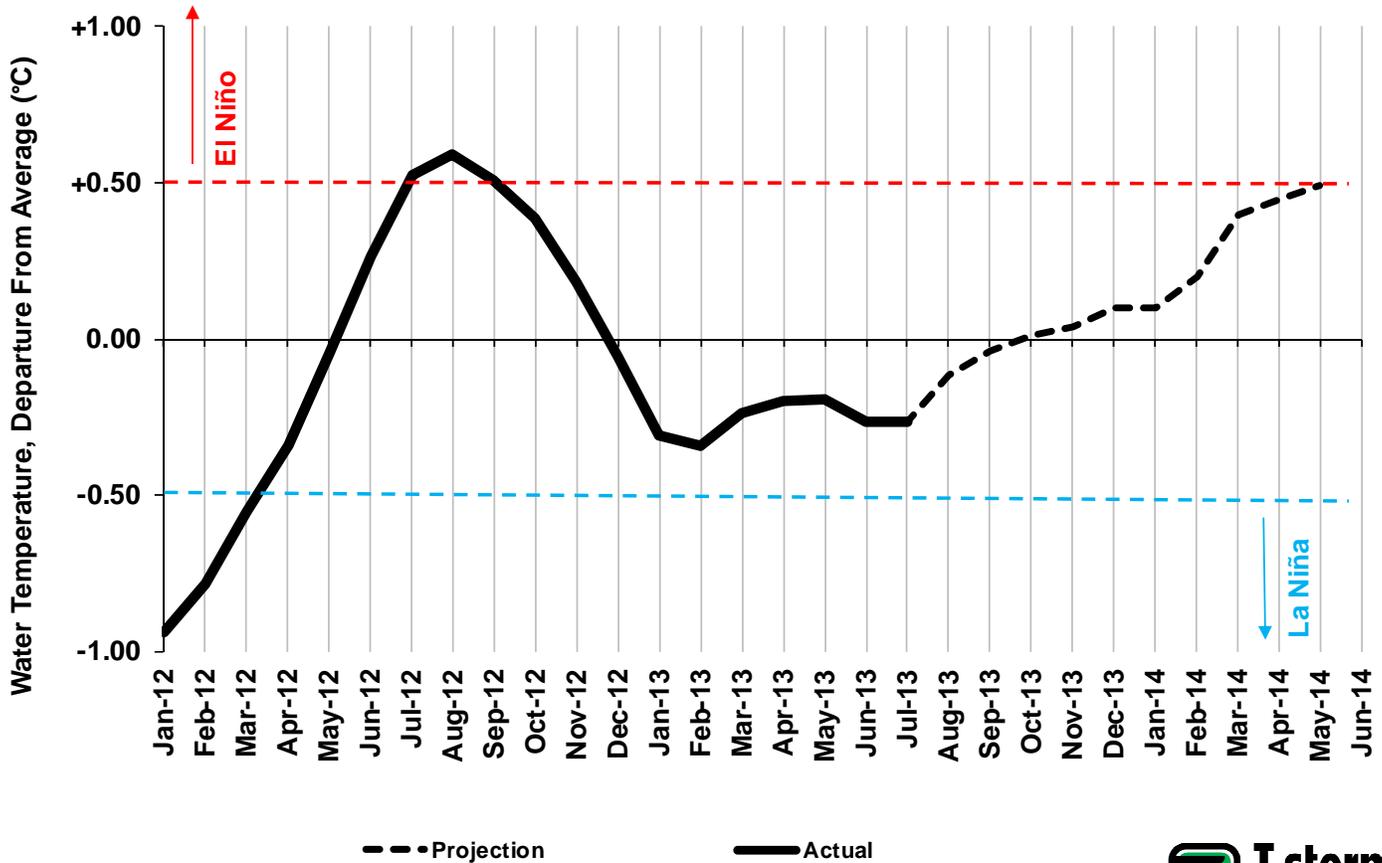
## U.S. Outlook For October and Winter

Thursday, September 19, 2013

[return to page 1](#)

### Monthly Ocean Temperature Observations and Forecast, Niño Region 3.4

January 2012 – June 2014



**Notes:**

Each month shows the three-month average water temperature

*El Niño, La Niña, or neutral conditions only technically exist when water temperatures for 5 consecutive three-month periods are above, below, or near average, respectively.*

Data source: National Weather Service

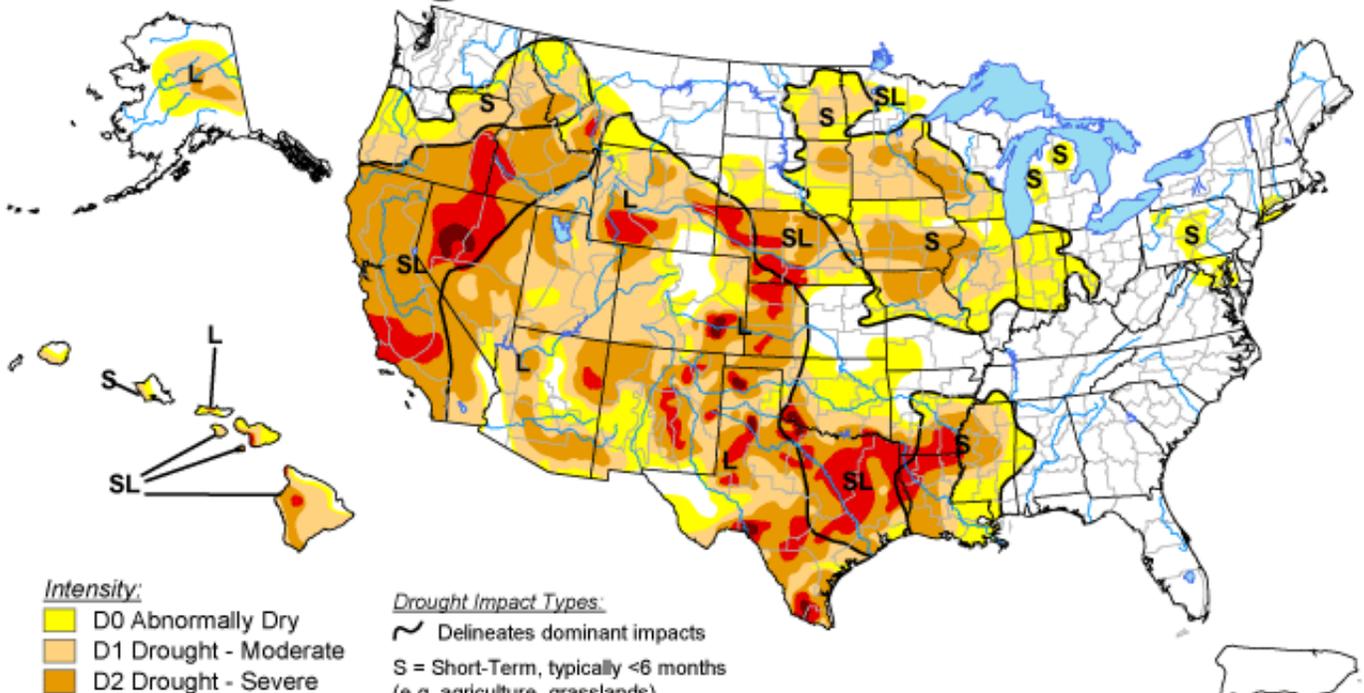
\* 2013 data is actual through June and projected based on CPC charts from July forward

**U.S. Outlook For October and Winter**  
 Thursday, September 19, 2013

[return to page 1](#)

**U.S. Drought Monitor**  
 As of Tuesday, September 17

**U.S. Drought Monitor**      **September 17, 2013**  
 Valid 7 a.m. EDT



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

- Drought Impact Types:
- Delineates dominant impacts
  - S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
  - L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

*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, September 19, 2013**  
**Author: David Miskus, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC**

Source: Climate Prediction Center  
 Note: areas in orange are expected to be warmer than average, while areas in blue are expected to be cooler than average

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## U.S. Outlook For October and Winter

Thursday, September 19, 2013

[return to page 1](#)

### Probability For Minimum Temperatures of at 28°F or Cooler (Killing Freeze) By Each Date

City	State	1 in 10 Years	5 in 10 Years	9 in 10 Years
Fargo	North Dakota	09/19	10/05	10/20
Sioux Falls	South Dakota	09/22	10/06	10/20
Madison	Wisconsin	09/24	10/10	10/26
Albert Lea	Minnesota	09/29	10/14	10/30
Ames	Iowa	10/05	10/17	10/28
Lincoln	Nebraska	10/02	10/18	11/03
Kokomo	Indiana	10/02	10/20	11/07
Jackson	Michigan	10/03	10/20	11/05
Kirksville	Missouri	10/08	10/25	11/10
Peoria	Illinois	10/11	10/27	11/12
Lima	Ohio	10/14	10/31	11/17
Lawrence	Kansas	10/24	11/08	11/23
Jonesboro	Arkansas	10/29	11/15	12/03

Source: National Climatic Data Center