



THE ATMOSPHERIC RESERVOIR

Examining the Atmosphere and Atmospheric Resource Management

WINTER 2022-2023 OUTLOOK

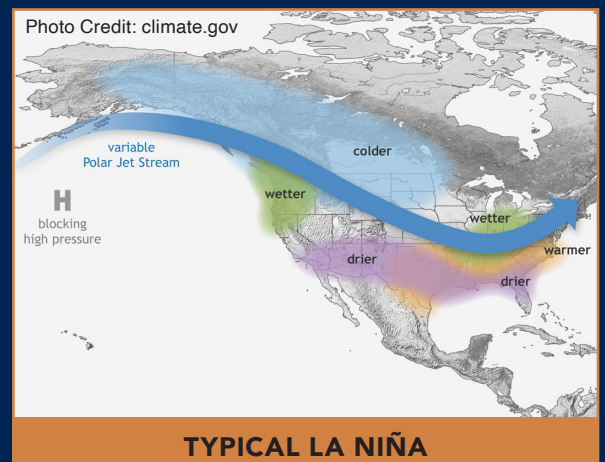
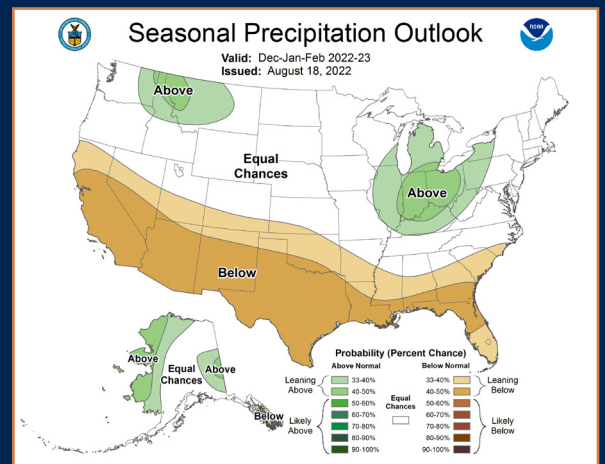
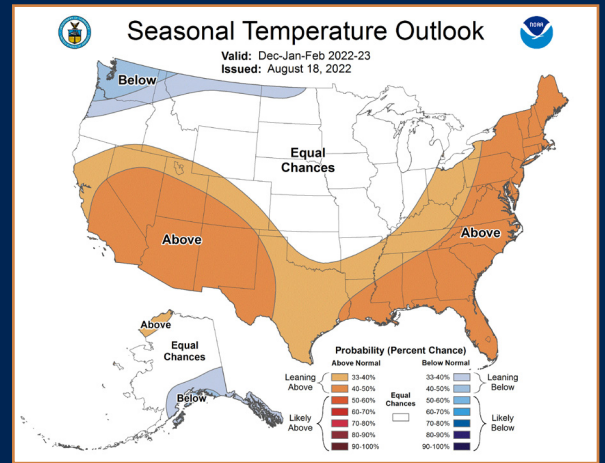
By Mark D. Schneider

The "triple-dip" La Niña that's forecast for the upcoming fall and winter has made weather news headlines recently. Since 1950 when El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) records began, there have only been two occurrences of a three-year La Niña event. Looking at the Climate Prediction Center's temperature and precipitation outlooks for this December through February, there are indications that North Dakota could be influenced by an increased chance for below-normal temperatures and near-normal precipitation. Notice that the graphic showing a "typical" La Niña winter places North Dakota on the colder side of normal. It should be noted though that the current La Niña is a weak one and not expected to strengthen into a moderate or strong event.

In fact, the current La Niña is forecast to potentially weaken to ENSO neutral conditions this coming January through March. Megan Jones, Climate Program Leader for the National Weather Service Bismarck added that, "it would be pretty rare for the La Niña event to terminate so early in the year, but that could potentially limit our lean to below-average temperatures during the late winter and into the early spring."

Jones also points out that, "we will still have large temperature fluctuations since this is North Dakota and it's a very continental climate. We will have some mild periods, sure, and we will also have some very cold periods. The temperature swings we commonly get can make it hard to categorize an entire season."

Abnormally dry conditions and a small area of moderate drought were reemerging across North Dakota in early September when this article was written. The increased chance for near-normal precipitation for this winter would be a good start by helping replenish soil moisture ahead of next year's growing season.



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