

# agweather connection



## WET WEATHER AHEAD?

Long gone are the warm, dry days of summer. With all of the chilly, wet October weather, it's hard to remember recent drought conditions. Last summer, El Niño quietly developed, potentially bringing along some more wet weather.

"Strong El Niño events usually result in more rainfall statewide, but with weaker events, the impacts are not as large," said Kevin Kloesel, OU School of Meteorology. "The current forecast is for a moderate El Niño, and that would suggest above average rainfall in the western part of the state, and near normal rainfall for the central and eastern parts of the state."

By definition, El Niño is the warming of the equatorial Pacific waters. "During El Niño conditions, the jet stream, a river of air that steers large weather systems across the U.S. is further south than normal," said Rick Smith, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service Norman Forecast Office. "This increases the chance for weather systems to affect the southern U.S. including Oklahoma. Generally speaking, this would mean wetter than normal conditions. But it's impossible to predict whether this El Niño will bring those conditions."

Generally, El Niño means more precipitation, but it depends on the strength of it and what state you are discussing, said Bruce Thoren, National Weather Service Meteorologist. "In Texas, Florida and California, a strong El Niño would ultimately mean more precipitation, but for Oklahoma, the signal isn't as great. For us, it's something to be aware of, but it doesn't have the predictability they have south of here," said Thoren.

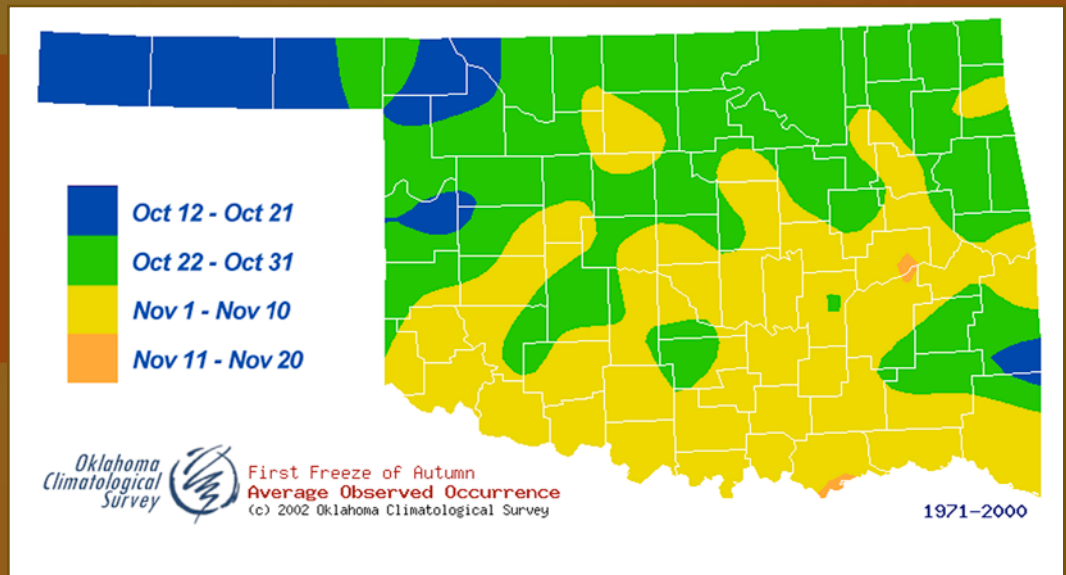
The Climate Prediction Center has reported that El Niño conditions are expected to strengthen and last into early 2010. What that means for Oklahoma remains to be seen. For more information about this winter's El Niño conditions, [click here](#).



# climate trends

## When to expect first freeze

- Start at <http://aqweather.mesonet.org>
- Click "Climate" from the horizontal menu
- Select "OKLAHOMA CLIMATE DATA" from the left menu
- Finally, select "Fall First Freeze Date Map"



## What is normal for your county

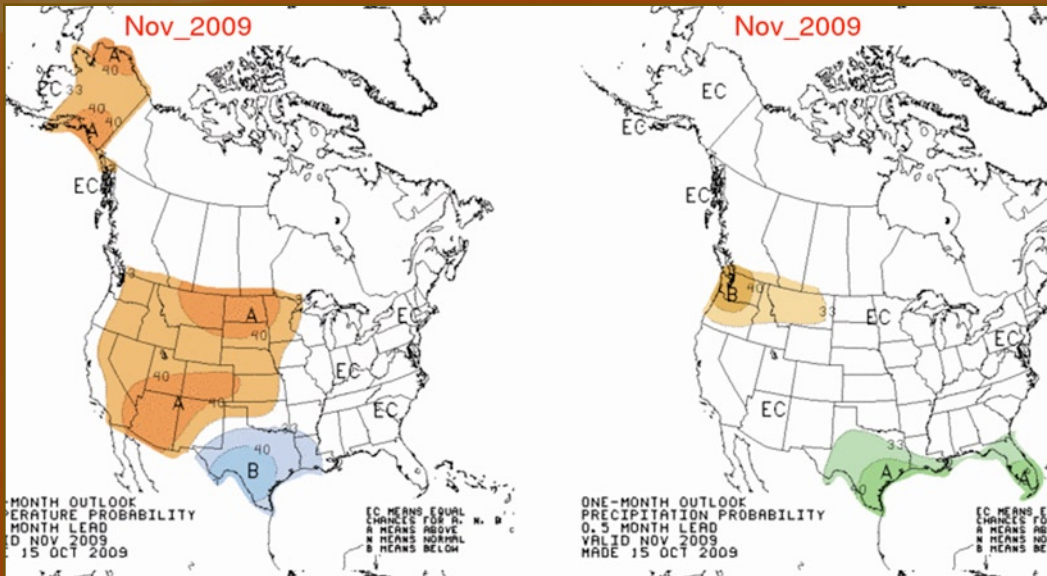
- Start at <http://aqweather.mesonet.org>
- Select "Climate" from the horizontal menu
- Choose "COUNTY CLIMATE DATA" from the left menu
- Click "OK County Climate Normals" from the left menu
- Then select your county

### Climatological Information for Tulsa County, OK

Climate Division	3 (Northeast)
Mean Annual Precipitation	40.9 inches
Mean Annual Temperature	59.6 deg F
Mean Annual Cooling Degree-Days	1854
Mean Annual Heating Degree-Days	3835
County Seat	Tulsa
Population (2000 Census)	563299
Total Area	587 Sq Miles
Land / Water Area	97.2% land / 2.8% water
Tornadoes: 1950-2000	68

### Monthly Means from 1971-2000

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Precip. (in)	1.5	2.0	3.6	3.8	5.7	4.7	2.7	2.7	4.7	3.9	3.5	2.3
Temp. (F)	35.1	40.6	49.9	59.5	67.9	76.5	82.0	81.0	72.6	61.5	49.1	38.9
Heating Degree-Days	930	689	475	202	53	3	0	1	30	162	483	807
Cooling Degree-Days	0	1	4	35	140	346	526	492	255	49	5	0



## Outlook for Nov. Dec. Jan.

- Start at <http://agweather.mesonet.org>
- Select "Forecast" from the horizontal menu
- Choose "LONG RANGE FORECASTS"
- Click "30-day and 90-day Outlooks" from the left menu
- This outlook shows Temperature and Precipitation for 30 days and 90 days in the future

### Oklahoma Monthly Climate Summary

## OCTOBER 2009



November came a bit early this year disguised as October. The month finished nearly 7 degrees below normal to rank as the second coolest October on record. Lots of moisture went along with that cool weather and the statewide average precipitation finished with a surplus of more than 3 inches, enough to rank as the fifth wettest on record. The rainfall amounts became extreme in eastern Oklahoma, exemplified by the 50 reports of flash flooding in that area. The southeastern region had a surplus of over 7 inches that helped it to its second-wettest October on record. Meanwhile, the Panhandle, west central and east central sections of the state experienced their coolest Octobers on record. Severe weather was confined mostly to flooding, but there was a tornado touchdown in Okfuskee County. The twister struck near Weleetka and damaged some roofs but was rated an EF0 on the Enhanced Fujita Scale.

### OCTOBER DAILY HIGHLIGHTS

**OCTOBER 1-4:** A cold front on the first ended a round of showers and storms and brought cooler, drier air to the region. Strong storms that formed along the front moved off by the afternoon. Temperatures had risen into the 80s and 90s south of the front. Surface high pressure moved in following the front and the second turned into a very nice, seasonable day across the state. Low temperatures for the next several days were below normal, from the 30s to the 50s. Oklahoma City broke a record for lowest minimum temperature on the second. More rain developed on the fourth thanks to a weak upper-level disturbance. Rain totals were light, however. Southeastern received the most rainfall during this period, between 1-2 inches in most places.

## Review last month's weather

- Start at <http://agweather.mesonet.org>
- Select "Climate" from the horizontal menu
- Choose "OKLAHOMA CLIMATE DATA" from the left menu
- Click "OK Climate Data"
- Select "Monthly Summaries"
- Finally, choose "October 2009"

# OKLA AVERAGES

October was wet and cold. The statewide average precipitation was 6.89 inches, 3.51 inches above normal and the fifth wettest October on record, dating back to 1895. Wettest was 1941 with 11.32 inches. The statewide average temperature was 54.5 degrees, 6.8 degrees below normal and the second coolest October on record. That was a mere one-hundredth off the coldest on record, 54.4 degrees way back in 1925.

<u>OCTOBER NORMAL</u>	<u>LAST OCTOBER</u>	<u>THIS OCTOBER</u>
TEMP: 61.3°	TEMP: 60.1°	TEMP: 54.5°
RAIN: 3.38"	RAIN: 2.96"	RAIN: 6.89"

<u>NOVEMBER NORMAL</u>	<u>LAST NOVEMBER</u>	<u>THIS NOVEMBER</u>
TEMP: 61.3°	TEMP: 49.5°	WARMER?
PRECIPITATION: 3.38"	PRECIPITATION: 2.96"	WETTER?