

SKYWARN

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE - PORTLAND, OREGON

Weather Spotlight
The Pacific NW Spotter Newsletter

Summer 2009: One for the Record Books

The summer of 2009 will go down in history as one of the warmest on record for many locations across southwest Washington and Northwest Oregon.

Various daily, monthly, and all-time climate records were shattered between late July and early August. For all stations where official records are kept, no other station set as many new records as the Portland Airport.

Here is a summary of records set in Portland during late July and early August (highlighted in red):

Top 5 Hottest Months on Record

1. 74.1°F - July 1985
2. **73.6°F - July 2009**
3. 72.9°F - August 1967
4. 72.3°F - August 1986
5. 72.1°F - August 1981

Top 4 Hottest 3-Day Periods

1. **88.0°F - July 27-29, 2009**
2. **86.7°F - July 28-30, 2009**
3. 85.7°F - July 15-17, 1941
4. 85.3°F - August 8-10, 1981

Record Afternoon Highs

(Old Record/Year)

- 7/27 - 103 (102/1958)
- 7/28 - 106 (101/1998)
- 7/29 - 106 (100/2003)
- 8/1 - 95 (93/1986)

Top 5 Consecutive Days with Temperatures ≥ 90°F

1. **10 days - July 25-August 3, 2009**
2. 8 days - August 12-19, 1967
3. 7 days - August 3-9, 1972
4. 7 days - September 4-10, 1944
5. 6 days - July 22-27, 1996

Top 5 All-Time Hottest Average Daily Temperatures

1. **90°F - July 28th, 2009**
2. **89°F - July 29th, 2009**
3. 87°F - July 17th, 1941
4. **86°F - July 27th, 2009**
5. 86°F - July 28th, 1998

Record Warm Overnight Lows

(Old Record/Year)

- 7/28 - 74 (70/1998)
- 7/29 - 71 (65/1974)
- 8/1 - 67 (65/2003)
- 8/2 - 65 (62/2007)

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TRIVIA CORNER

What is the largest snowflake ever observed?

(answer on page 3)



NOAA: El Niño to Help Steer U.S. Winter Weather

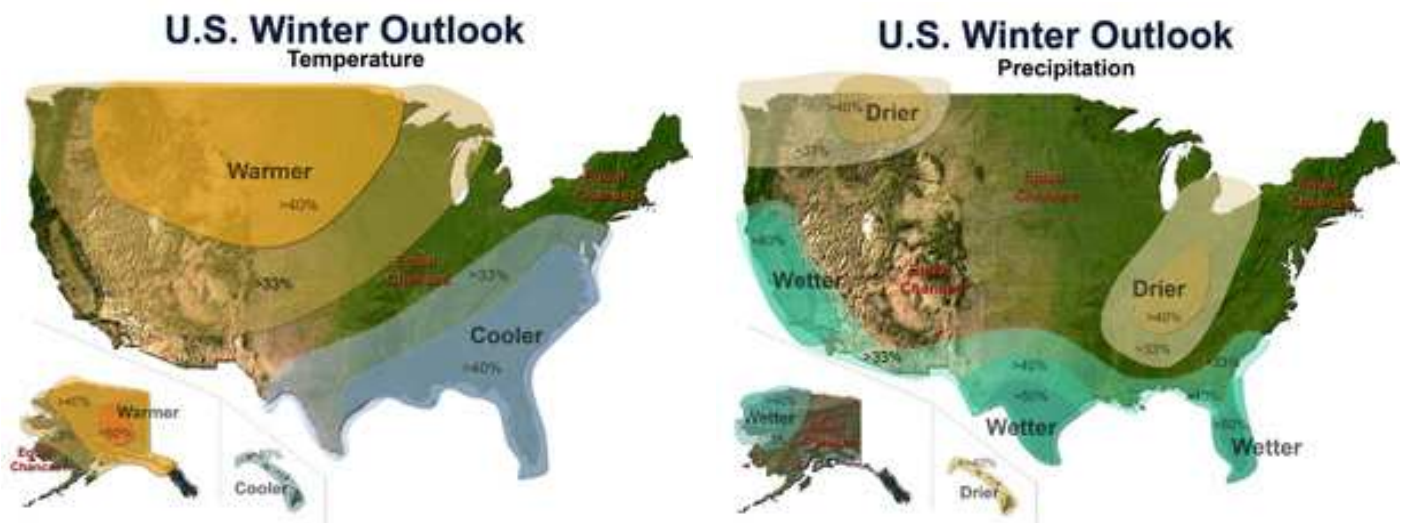
El Niño in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean is expected to be a dominant climate factor that will influence the December through February winter weather in the United States, according to the 2009 Winter Outlook released today by NOAA's Climate Prediction Center. Such seasonal outlooks are part of NOAA's suite of climate services.

"We expect El Niño to strengthen and persist through the winter months, providing clues as to what the weather will be like during the period," says Mike Halpert, deputy director of the Climate Prediction Center – a division of the National Weather Service. "Warmer ocean water in the equatorial Pacific shifts the patterns of tropical rainfall that in turn change the strength and position of the jetstream and storms over the Pacific Ocean and the U.S."

"Other climate factors are also likely to play a role in the winter weather at times across the country," added Halpert. "Some of these factors, such as the North Atlantic Oscillation are difficult to predict more than one to two weeks in advance. The NAO adds uncertainty to the forecast in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic portions of the country."

Highlights of the U.S. Winter Outlook (December through February) include:

- **Warmer-than-average temperatures** are favored across much of the western and central U.S., especially in the north-central states from Montana to Wisconsin. Though temperatures may average warmer than usual, periodic outbreaks of cold air are still possible.
- **Below-average temperatures** are expected across the Southeast and mid-Atlantic from southern and eastern Texas to southern Pennsylvania and south through Florida.
- **Above-average precipitation** is expected in the southern border states, especially Texas and Florida. Recent rainfall and the prospects of more should improve current drought conditions in central and southern Texas. However, tornado records suggest that there will also be an increased chance of organized tornado activity for the Gulf Coast region this winter.
- **Drier-than-average** conditions are expected in the Pacific Northwest and the Ohio and Tennessee River Valleys.



Taken from a NOAA Press Release - "NOAA: El Niño to Help Steer U.S. Winter Weather", October 15, 2009



GET INVOLVED...

Skywarn Spotters are the Eyes of the West, and your observations are crucial to our success in forecasting critical weather. Here are ways for you to get that information to us.

We want your Spotter Reports!

1-800-428-2585

*(unlisted number—
do not give out)*

TRIVIA CORNER

On Jan. 28, 1887, a few snowflakes of 15" in diameter were measured in Ft. Keough, MT.

*Source: The Handy Weather Answer Book, by Walter A. Lyons, PH.D.—
1997*

REMINDER: Spotter Reporting Criteria

Wind	50 mph or stronger
Hail	3/4 inch (penny or dime size) or larger in diameter
Tornado	Any tornado or rotating cloud
Flooding	Any significant amount of water in normally dry areas
River Flooding	Any river rising above their normal bank level
Heavy Rain	Rain rates of 1 inch per hour AND Rain greater than 1 inch in 24 hours
Snow	Call for any snow amount with the beginning and ending accumulation time
Low Visibility	Visibility less than 1/2 mile due to fog, dust, rain, or snow
Freezing Rain	Any freezing rain

Be A Part of the Citizen Weather Observing Program

Would you like to share your weather data with the world?

If so, you may be interested in joining the Citizen Weather Observing Program (CWOP). CWOP is a private-public partnership with three main goals: 1) to collect weather data contributed by citizens; 2) to make these data available for weather services and homeland security; and 3) to provide feedback to the data contributors so that they have the tools to check and improve their data quality.

CWOP members send their weather data by internet alone and internet-wireless combination to the findU server and then every 15 minutes, the entire data set is sent from the findU server to the NOAA MADIS server. The data are checked for quality and then redistributed to users. There are over 500 different user organizations of the CWOP mesonet data. To see where YOUR data could end up, visit the MesoWest webpage at <http://mesowest.utah.edu> and click on Oregon or Washington.

For more information, visit the CWOP website: www.wxqa.com



PREPARE NOW!!



Winter season is upon us.... Be prepared before extreme weather hits with the following helpful tips.

Instructions for Properly Measuring Snow

Measuring snow can be easy when you follow a few simple steps:

1. The best surface to measure on is a 2'x2' plywood board painted white, set in a well exposed location.
2. Using a ruler or yardstick, measure snow as time allows and before melting occurs.
3. For long duration events, measure every 6 hours during the event. After the first measurement, clean off half the board. For the next measurement, you can then measure new snow, and total accumulated snow.
4. You may need to take the average of 3 representative measurements.
5. Don't be surprised if your 6-hourly observations don't add up to the total—remember, snow compacts under the weight of new fallen snow.

Important Reminders:

1. Measure snow on surfaces that don't retain heat
2. Avoid pavement and bare ground
3. Avoid areas prone to drifting



Did You Know...?

The greatest Christmas Day snow depth in recorded history at the Portland airport was 10", which occurred just last year, in 2008.



Tips on How to Clean Your Rain Gage

Is your rain gage full of leaves and dirt, making it hard to read?

Over the course of the year, each raindrop collects microscopic nuclei as it falls through the air and ends up collecting in your rain gage. These particles end up looking like a bathtub ring in the bottom of your rain gage.

It only takes a few minutes to clean your rain gage to prepare for this winter season. Cleaning it will make it a lot easier to view the water which ends up yielding more accurate measurements. Pour some bleach and hot water into the gage or measuring tube. Allow it to sit for awhile, then rinse it with hot water. That should do the trick. If your rain gage has a lot of sediment and a green texture, it may take 2 or 3 rounds of soaking and cleaning.

Another cleaning alternative is to use denture cleaning tablets and warm water. Soak for a few hours and then rinse out. It will look practically new!



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JOIN US! Two Remaining Fall Spotter Training Sessions

...training sessions will be offered again in the Spring...

Spotter training sessions have begun, and you are invited to come and brush up on your spotter knowledge. Each session begins at 7 pm and lasts no longer than a couple hours.

We would love to see you there!

Wednesday, October 28

Seaside, OR @ 7 pm

Seaside Public Library
1131 Broadway
Seaside, OR 97138

Tuesday, November 17

Netarts, OR @ 7 pm

Netarts Fire Station
1235 5th St. Loop
Netarts, OR 97143

