

Seasonal Outlook for Construction and Outdoor Work

Amphibian Publishing · October 2026 · odds of a cold or wet season by region, for scheduling and site planning

The short version. A very strong El Niño favours a milder-than-normal fall and early winter across the northern half of the country (fewer freeze-ups, longer pouring and paving windows) and a wetter-than-normal season across the South, Texas, Florida and the Southwest (more rain delays, more site drainage problems). The Pacific Northwest leans drier than usual.

Odds by region: below / near / above normal (percent)

Region	Temperature, Oct-Nov-Dec 2026			Precipitation, Oct-Nov-Dec 2026			Temperature, Nov-Dec-Jan 2026-27			Precipitation, Nov-Dec-Jan 2026-27		
Northeast	17	28	55	30	32	38	21	36	43	36	25	39
	lower cold risk, milder			wet-delay risk near usual			cold risk near usual			wet-delay risk near usual		
Midwest	19	32	48	30	34	37	15	32	53	30	32	38
	lower cold risk, milder			wet-delay risk near usual			lower cold risk, milder			wet-delay risk near usual		
South	26	33	42	17	29	54	37	38	25	14	29	57
	cold risk near usual			elevated wet-delay risk			cold risk near usual			elevated wet-delay risk		
West	13	26	61	32	30	38	16	24	61	27	30	43
	lower cold risk, milder			wet-delay risk near usual			lower cold risk, milder			wet-delay risk near usual		
Texas	28	33	39	10	29	61	36	41	23	11	38	51
	cold risk near usual			elevated wet-delay risk			cold risk near usual			elevated wet-delay risk		
Florida	18	39	43	16	28	57	38	30	32	7	17	76
	cold risk near usual			elevated wet-delay risk			cold risk near usual			elevated wet-delay risk		
California	9	23	68	20	32	48	10	25	65	23	32	44
	lower cold risk, milder			elevated wet-delay risk			lower cold risk, milder			wet-delay risk near usual		
Great Lakes (IL IN MI OH WI)	20	33	47	33	29	38	20	38	41	33	25	42
	lower cold risk, milder			wet-delay risk near usual			cold risk near usual			wet-delay risk near usual		
Mid-Atlantic (NY NJ PA MD VA)	22	29	50	29	32	39	29	37	34	30	24	47
	lower cold risk, milder			wet-delay risk near usual			cold risk near usual			elevated wet-delay risk		
Mountain (CO UT AZ NV)	11	29	60	25	26	50	16	23	60	20	29	51
	lower cold risk, milder			elevated wet-delay risk			lower cold risk, milder			elevated wet-delay risk		
Pacific NW (WA OR)	13	17	70	49	41	11	15	28	57	39	28	33
	lower cold risk, milder			drier than usual likely			lower cold risk, milder			wet-delay risk near usual		

Blue/brown = below normal, grey = near normal, red/green = above normal; 33/33/33 would be a coin toss. Normal = 1991-2020. Odds are averaged over the NOAA climate divisions in each region; your county's figure is available.

How to use it

- **Cold and freeze risk** follows the temperature odds: a strong below-normal lean means budget more cold-weather concrete, heating and lost days; a strong above-normal lean means the usual late-fall cut-off is more likely to slip later. This season the northern tier leans mild.
- **Wet-delay risk** follows the precipitation odds: in the South, Texas and Florida the wet lean is strong, so plan drainage, pump capacity and schedule float accordingly; the Pacific Northwest is the one place leaning drier.
- **What this does not say:** counts of workable days, snowfall totals, or the timing of any storm or cold snap. A mild season can still contain a two-week freeze. Use the odds to size contingencies, not to cancel them.

Track record and NOAA comparison

Over 173 seasons since 2012 these temperature and precipitation outlooks scored higher than NOAA's Climate Prediction Center on the standard skill score, mostly because we commit to a call over more of the map; where NOAA commits it is about as accurate (a few points better on temperature). Every season is scored publicly at amphibianpublishing.com/outlook/verification.

Available monthly

County or metro odds for your project list, two seasons ahead, with the plain-language pattern note; updated around the 10th and again after NOAA's mid-month release. Contact: outlook@amphibianpublishing.com.

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