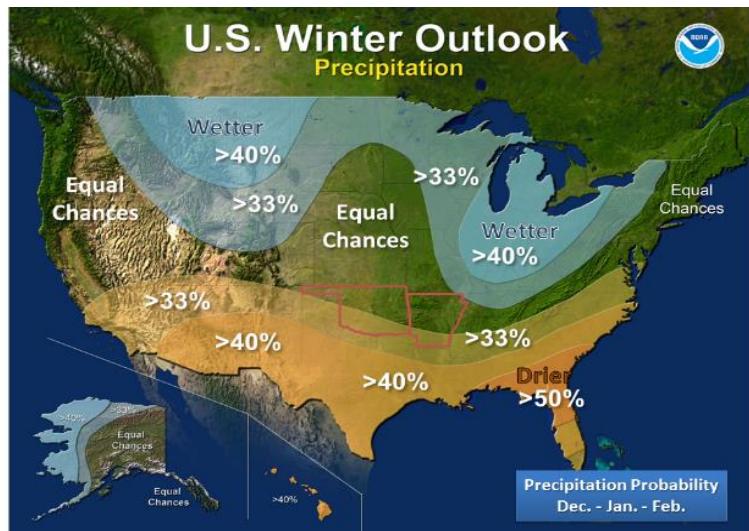
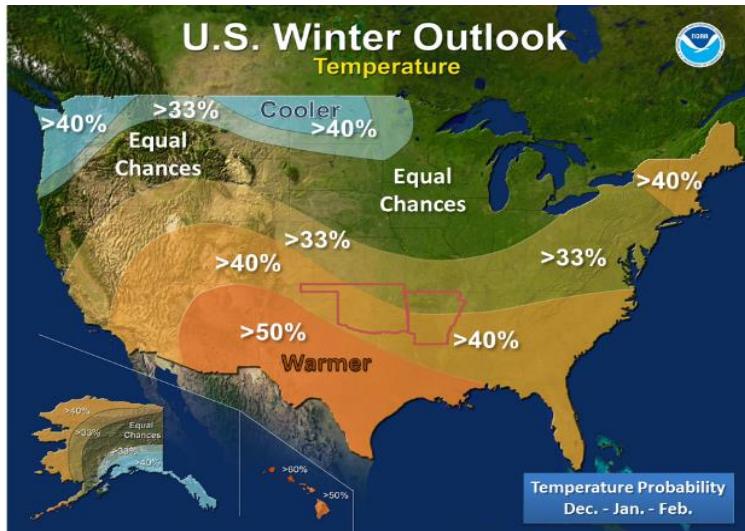


2017 – 2018 Winter Weather Outlook



Now that we have more or less put the summer gardens to bed, it's time to take a look ahead at the upcoming winter. The National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center released their official winter outlook on October 19, and indicates we may see increased odds for above normal temperatures for the season. The odds are about equal for above, near or below normal precipitation in the Tulsa area. For what it's worth (spoiler alert: not much), the official outlook for last winter was actually quite similar, and we ended up well above normal for temperatures and a little below normal for precipitation.

Much like last year, the outlook is at least partly influenced by the growing threat of La Niña, the associated sea surface temperature and atmospheric changes in the equatorial Pacific that lead to cooler-than-normal waters in that region. The cooler water and associated atmospheric changes impact weather around the world. For our little corner of the earth, the tendency is for drier and warmer than normal weather during the winter (December–February).

While the odds for La Niña development are about 55-65% within the December-February time frame, there are still mixed signals as to its ultimate strength (i.e., the "colder" those waters get, the "stronger" the La Niña). The official outlook states that if La Niña conditions develop, it will be weak and potentially short-lived, but it could still shape the character of the upcoming winter. Typical La Niña patterns during winter include above average precipitation and colder than average temperatures in the North with below normal precipitation and drier conditions across the South. The stronger climate signals tend to be to the north and south of our region, however.