

# What is El Niño?

El Niño is a part of a routine climate pattern that occurs when sea surface temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean rise to above-normal levels for an extended period of time. The opposite of El Niño, La Niña, is when sea surface temperatures in the central Pacific drop to lower-than-normal levels.

These warm and cool phases are part of a recurring climate pattern that occurs across this section of the Pacific, known as the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The formation of El Niño can mean significant changes for the weather around the world, particularly in the United States. When an El Niño is underway, it can have a substantial impact on the amount of tropical systems that develop during the Atlantic hurricane season.

El Niño creates stronger vertical wind shear across the Gulf of Mexico, the Caribbean and the tropical Atlantic," AccuWeather Senior Meteorologist Dan Kottlowski said. Wind shear, or the change of wind speed and direction with altitude, can inhibit tropical development.

When wind shear is not present a tropical cyclone's center will be vertically aligned, which keeps it intact and allows it to strengthen. However, when upper-level winds come over the top of a system, they can tilt the system in one direction and make it harder for the system to intensify further.

This is similar to a spinning top that, when completely upright, can spin continuously without problem. However, when it becomes angled or tilted, it can unravel and come to a halt. The most notable impacts from El Niño in the United States occur during the winter.

"Typically, El Niño tends to peak during the winter months," Kottlowski said. "Often times [this occurs] in November and December, but it can peak a little bit later than that." During a typical El Niño, the storm track will shift farther south, bringing more opportunities for rain and storms to California and the southwestern U.S.

The southeastern U.S. also tends to be stormier during an El Niño winter because of the split jet stream which brings more tropical moisture across the southern U.S. An El Niño winter in the Northeast is often warmer, but the region can still be stormy with frequent snowstorms.

A June 14, 2018, report from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center (CPC) stated that there is a 50 percent chance for El Niño to develop during the fall (starting with the months spanning August to October). That percentage is forecast by the CPC to increase to around 65 percent during the winter of 2018-19.

El Niño occurs when water temperatures across the equatorial Pacific Ocean rise above normal for an extended period of time. The opposite effect of cooler weather over a similar time period is known as La Niña.

While this year's Atlantic hurricane season started early with Alberto, El Niño may keep the number of named storms near to below normal. Due to the anticipated onset of El Niño, AccuWeather Hurricane Expert Dan Kottlowski stated that a much less active season can unfold.

Residents in hurricane-prone areas should not let their guard down. The season could end below normal, but the strength of the storms is still something to worry about and how that translates to impacts to land. It only takes one tropical storm or hurricane to devastate an area with flooding rain and/or destructive winds.

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## Weather Forecast – Later-Than-Usual Frost

Just as the September was being printed AccuWeather released its analysis of upcoming weather forecast. Primarily the 2018 Canada autumn forecast indicated: Extended wildfire season in store for British Columbia; Warmth to grip Ontario, Quebec. We are now at the end of September, and will have just passed from summer into fall, but we thought it important to give you an insight into what has been happening and why.

Warmth will linger well into autumn across much of Canada, extending the already active wildfire season and delaying the first chill of the season. One reason for the widespread warmth is the anticipated development of El Niño. El Niño occurs when the waters in the tropical Pacific Ocean are warmer than normal, influencing the global weather pattern.

Warm pattern to persist across Quebec, Ontario which means a mild autumn is on tap for much of eastern Canada, including Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick.

"The projected weather pattern favors a later-than-usual frost and freeze across much of southern Canada," AccuWeather Senior Meteorologist Brett Anderson said. "The best opportunity for an early season cold outbreak appears to be across far-northern Quebec into Labrador."

Drought concerns may grow across the southern Prairies as a warm and dry weather pattern is predicted to dominate much of the Prairies this season. "This may be beneficial to the early fall harvest," Anderson said. However, it will lead to drought concerns for others.

Wildfire threat to continue across British Columbia will mean the active wildfire season across British Columbia this summer will continue into the fall, extending the risk of far-reaching smoke and poor air quality. According to Anderson: "High fire danger likely to linger through early fall across much of western Canada with smoke continuing to be an issue, especially from southern British Columbia through the southern Prairies."

Warm pattern to persist across Quebec, Ontario - A mild autumn is on tap for much of eastern Canada, including Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. "The projected weather pattern favors a later-than-usual frost and freeze across much of southern Canada," AccuWeather Senior Meteorologist Brett Anderson said.

"The best opportunity for an early season cold outbreak appears to be across far-northern Quebec into Labrador," he said. This widespread warmth will impact the fall foliage across much of the region, potentially delaying the peak season by one or two weeks.

Areas closer to the Great Lakes can expect spells of wet weather to accompany the warm autumn.

"There will be plenty of opportunities for showers and late-season thunder around the Great Lakes," Anderson said. Once colder air moves in late in the season, the Great Lakes could see rain squalls that produce small hail and even a few waterspouts.

Meanwhile, Atlantic Canada will see fewer storms this autumn with a below-average risk of landfalling tropical cyclones.

Drought concerns may grow across the southern Prairies - A warm and dry weather pattern is predicted to dominate much of the Prairies this season. "This may be beneficial to the early fall harvest," Anderson said. However, it will lead to drought concerns for others.

Much of the region has been drier than normal throughout the summer

months with moderate to severe drought in some areas, according to the Canada Drought Monitor. As of July 31, some of the worst drought conditions were located north of Winnipeg and west of Regina. The anticipated weather this fall could cause drought to expand into other parts of the Prairies.

The active wildfire season across British Columbia this summer will continue into the fall, extending the risk of far-reaching smoke and poor air quality. More than 1,800 wildfires have been recorded across the region since April 1, burning over 3,800 square kilometers of land. This makes 2018 the fourth most active wildfire season on record for British Columbia, according to the British Columbia Wildfire Service.

Many storms moving into western Canada will be directed to the northern half of British Columbia and the southwestern part of the Yukon Territory, Anderson said, promoting dry conditions where a majority of the fires have been burning. Similar to areas farther east, the warm and dry conditions will also impact the region's foliage, delaying the peak season across the Canadian Rockies.



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## Blueberrys at Learning Centre

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boasts of selling Fabric and more had a Pop-Up Shop at the Wentworth Blueberry Festival. One of the joys of vending in Wentworth is the sense of community and warmth of the people.

Amid the sounds of joy of kids enjoying the soap and water slippery slide, people stopped and enjoyed the Quilt Show and Pop-Up Shops along the hallways of the old school, now the Learning Centre

In the kitchen, the Blueberry Cafe treated guests to the all-day breakfasts consisting of different kinds of pancakes and desserts. Outside the Firemen hosted a BBQ.

The kids' zone consisted of a 24 foot rock climbing wall, two bouncy castles, a slip and

slide, and a "loose parts" playground. A loose parts playground consists of re-purposed junk including old tires, bathtubs, etc. Kids take the parts and build things with their imagination. It opens up a whole new part of their brain and is great for mental health.

In addition to the interesting remarks of some vendors, Councillor for District 6, Barbara Palmer added her spirited comments which adds to the quality of facts already presented: "August 19 was a fun filled day...People of all ages came out to show their support and participate...As the cars participating in the car show began to fill the field, there was the a delicious breakfast of pancakes (with

blueberry sauce), sausages, bacon, eggs, and toast being served. Available through the day were desserts such as blueberry muffins and cheese-cake served with blueberry sauce and blueberry pie. People were admiring the many local quilts on display, some of which were available for purchase. Vendors were offering quilting supplies, maple products, fresh strawberries and blueberries, homemade soaps and more.

Outside, along with the car show, people enjoyed climbing the rock wall, kids enjoyed playing with the slip and slide and bouncy house. At the Trider beer display, you could try a sample of blueberry beer and also buy it. A table was set up for a 50/50 draw and draws for other prizes. In the afternoon, a BBQ provided ham-

burgers, hot dogs, and cold beverages.

It was great to see the community support for a local event. There was something for everyone. An event like this is not possible without countless hours put in by volunteers. Each and everyone who took part in this event should be proud of their contribution in making this event a success."

In return, Councillor Barbara Palmer is to be congratulated for her wonderful support for the events happening in Wentworth and her support in encouraging a viable economic, cultural, social and educational rural environment for its residents of all ages.



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