

# How Will Climate Change Affect the Great Plains?

Climate change means the Great Plains states face rising temperatures and more severe weather.

In addition to national data, the [Third National Climate Assessment](#) has chapters that explore how climate change will affect different regions of America.

## Among the National Climate Assessment's [findings for the Great Plains](#):

- The Great Plains should expect more frequent and more intense droughts, more severe rainfall events, and more heat waves in the future.
- **North Dakota's** increase in annual temperature over the past 130 years is the fastest in the contiguous U.S.
- The number of days with temperatures of **more than 100 degrees Fahrenheit** is expected to **double** in the northern Great Plains, and **quadruple** in the southern Great Plains, by the middle of the century.
- Very heavy rains are expected to increase in the northern portions of the Great Plains, leading to increased runoff and flooding that will reduce water quality and erode soil. More intense rains will also contribute to **urban flooding**.
- Large parts of **Texas** and **Oklahoma** are projected to see longer dry spells and more droughts.
- The expected rise in sea level will result in the potential for greater damage from storm surge along the **Gulf Coast of Texas**.
- The magnitude of expected changes will exceed those experienced in the last century across the region. Existing adaptation and planning efforts are inadequate to respond to these projected impacts. More will need to be done.



Regions in the Nation Climate Assessment

Want even more info? Check out these [state-by-state fact sheets](#) on the White House web site.