

VERIFICATION OF SEASONAL FORECAST FOR
DECEMBER 1978 THRU MARCH 1979

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Editor's Note: The original forecast appeared in the February 1979 Vol. 4, No. 1 issue of the Digest.

Although the numerical order of magnitude and position of the minima was very good, large errors (greater than two degrees Fahrenheit) in the forecast occurred over the mid Atlantic states to southern New England westward to the northern Great Lakes. Large errors also occurred in western Texas and western Oklahoma. The three classification forecast erred no more than one classification in all but a few spots and gave the general impression of a reasonably accurate forecast.

This forecast followed the tendency of other test years in that the position of maxima and minima was quite accurate with the large error associated with the gradient areas. As with other test years, the seasonal forecast for an area of less than one-twenty-fifth that of the northern hemisphere can be only as accurate as the predictors describing the general circulation for such a small area. Considering the dependent data sample restriction of twenty years, the results of this and other test years are very encouraging.

HENRICKSEN - VERIFICATION

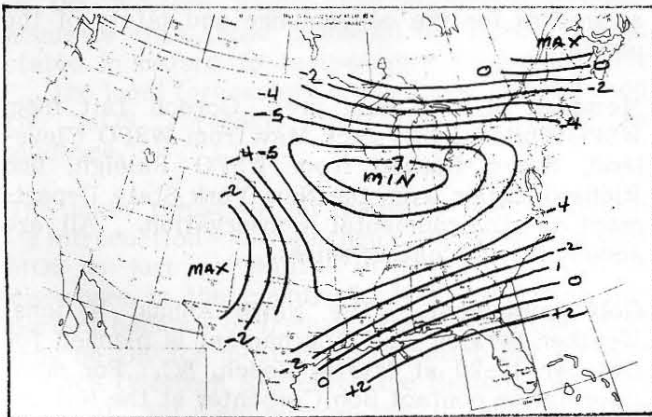


Figure 1. Forecasted departure from "NORMAL", winter (December 1978 through March 1979).

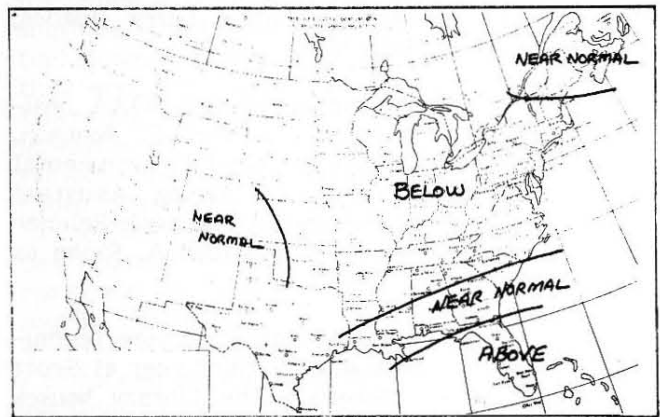


Figure 3. Forecasted departure from "NORMAL" with three classifications, winter (December 1978 through March) 1979.

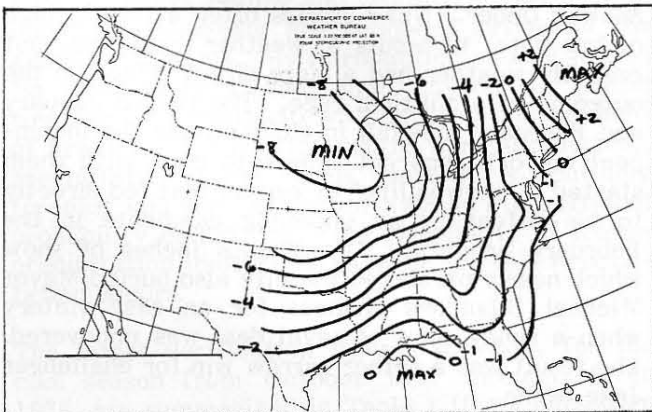


Figure 2. Verification - Observed DN ($^{\circ}$ F) for December 1978 through March 1979.

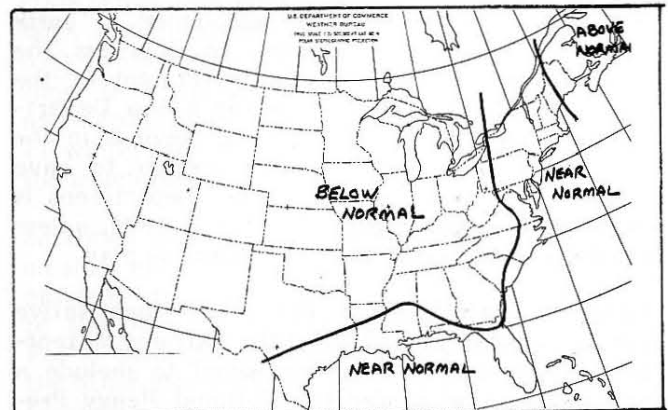


Figure 4. Verification - Observed departure from "NORMAL" with three classifications, December 1978 through March 1979.