WHY HEAT AND DROUGHT COULD BE IN THE CARDS THIS SUMMER

As La Nina comes on, the prospects of a droughty and hot summer are increasing. Historically this has especially been the case after El Nino winters as shown below.

![Mean June to August US Temp](chart.png)
In virtually every case, that scenario has produced a hot and drier than normal summer.

Drought and heat would of course be blamed on global warming but the historical plots of drought show there is no tendency for a steadily increased frequency of drought during the last century.
Clearly drought was more severe in the 1930s and 1950s than recent years with a few exceptions. That era was a period with a warm Atlantic mode. As the following shows we have reentered that mode.
As McCabe et al found in 2004, drought probability is more likely when the Atlantic is in its warm phase. When the Pacific is cold as is currently the case, there is a tendency for a dry eastern and central Corn Belt and southwest (bottom right map below), both currently the case. Only a wet Texas after a wet winter and spring disagrees.

The current dryness is shown below:
History suggest rains perhaps through tropical activity comes to the south Atlantic but with high summer temperatures and evapotranspiration rates, the drought areas inland should only grow. The wild card of course is a tropical system that rolls inland and dumps heavy rains over dry areas.