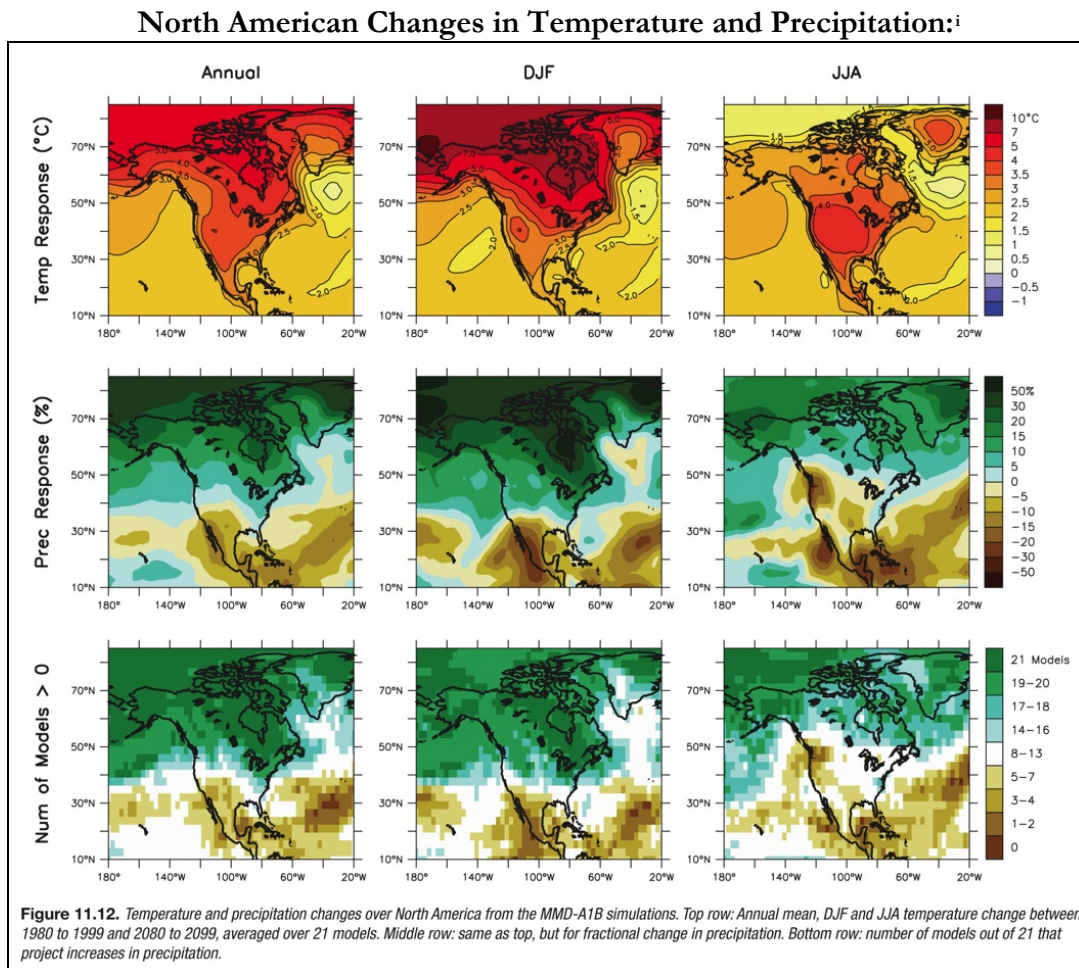


Climate Change 10 — Climate Change in North America

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predictions for North America are shown in the following graphic:



In the above graphic, DJF means December, January, and February, while JJA stands for June, July, and August. The graphic predicts that temperatures will warm across all of North America, but they will warm more as one goes North. In the Northeastern U.S., warming is predicted to be particularly strong during winter. From the Mississippi Valley to the West Coast, it is predicted to be particularly strong during summer. The East Coast is predicted to be wetter during winter. Most of the country is predicted to be dryer during summer.

Many of our best farming regions—including Missouri—lie within the area predicted to experience hotter, dryer summers. It is difficult to know in advance what effect these changes will have on specific states, but summer droughts typically tend to put stress on both flora and fauna, including people. Crop yields are typically reduced. Other possible effects will be discussed in following white papers.

ⁱ Christensen, J.H., B. Hewitson, A. Busuioc, A. Chen, X. Gao, I. Held, R. Jones, R.K. Kolli, W.-T. Kwon, R. Laprise, V. Magaña Rueda, L. Mearns, C.G. Menéndez, J. Räisänen, A. Rinke, A. Sarr and P. Whetton, 2007: Regional Climate Projections. In: *Climate Change 2007: The Physical Science Basis. Contribution of Working Group I to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change* [Solomon, S., D. Qin, M. Manning, Z. Chen, M. Marquis, K.B. Averyt, M. Tignor and H.L. Miller (eds.)]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA, p. 890. Used by permission.