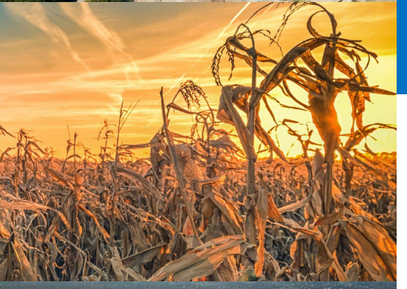



Drought Information Statement for New Hampshire and Western Maine

October 2 2025

Issued By: NWS Gray Maine

Contact Information: gyx.skywarn@noaa.gov

- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/ for regional drought status updates.

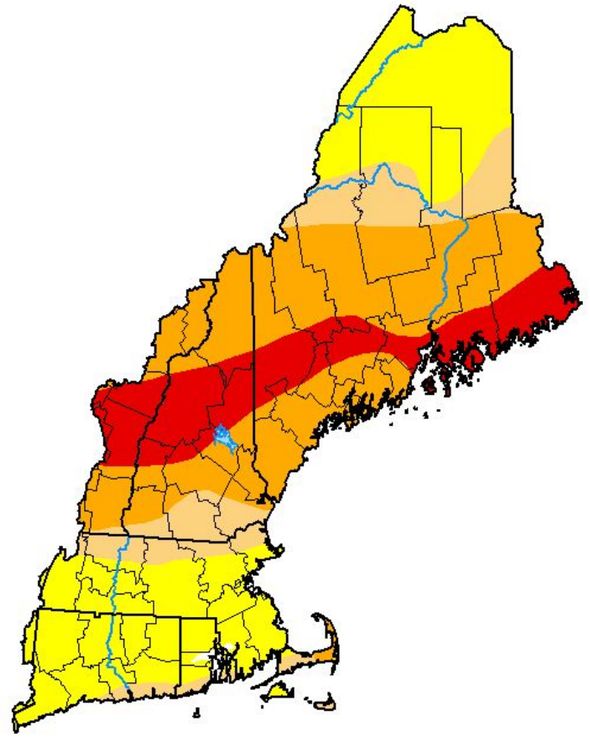
- Worst drought conditions in over 20 years for parts of Maine and New Hampshire with Extreme Drought Conditions (D3) present
- New Hampshire had its highest coverage of extreme drought in the history of the U.S. Drought Monitor (since 2000) at 32.80%
- Recent rain brought some brief relief, but no sustainable drought improvements

U.S. Drought Monitor

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for the Northeast

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Grafton & Carroll Counties, plus small sections of other counties in New Hampshire, Southern Oxford / Franklin / Somerset, Northern Cumberland, Androscoggin, and Kennebec / Waldo Counties in Maine.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Northern Grafton, Southern Carroll, Coos Counties, Sullivan, Merrimack, Belknap, Strafford, and northern Rockingham Counties in New Hampshire. Northern Oxford and Franklin Counties, Southern Androscoggin and Kennebec Counties, Waldo, Knox, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Southern Cumberland, and Somerset counties in Maine.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Cheshire,Hillsborough, and Rockingham Counties in New Hampshire.



September 30, 2025
(Released Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.15	99.85	65.35	51.83	16.74	0.00
Last Week 09-23-2025	0.00	100.00	63.46	51.55	14.53	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-01-2025	96.28	3.72	0.67	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	3.97	96.03	49.54	4.02	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	40.60	59.40	6.61	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 10-01-2024	40.60	59.40	6.61	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:
- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

Author:
Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

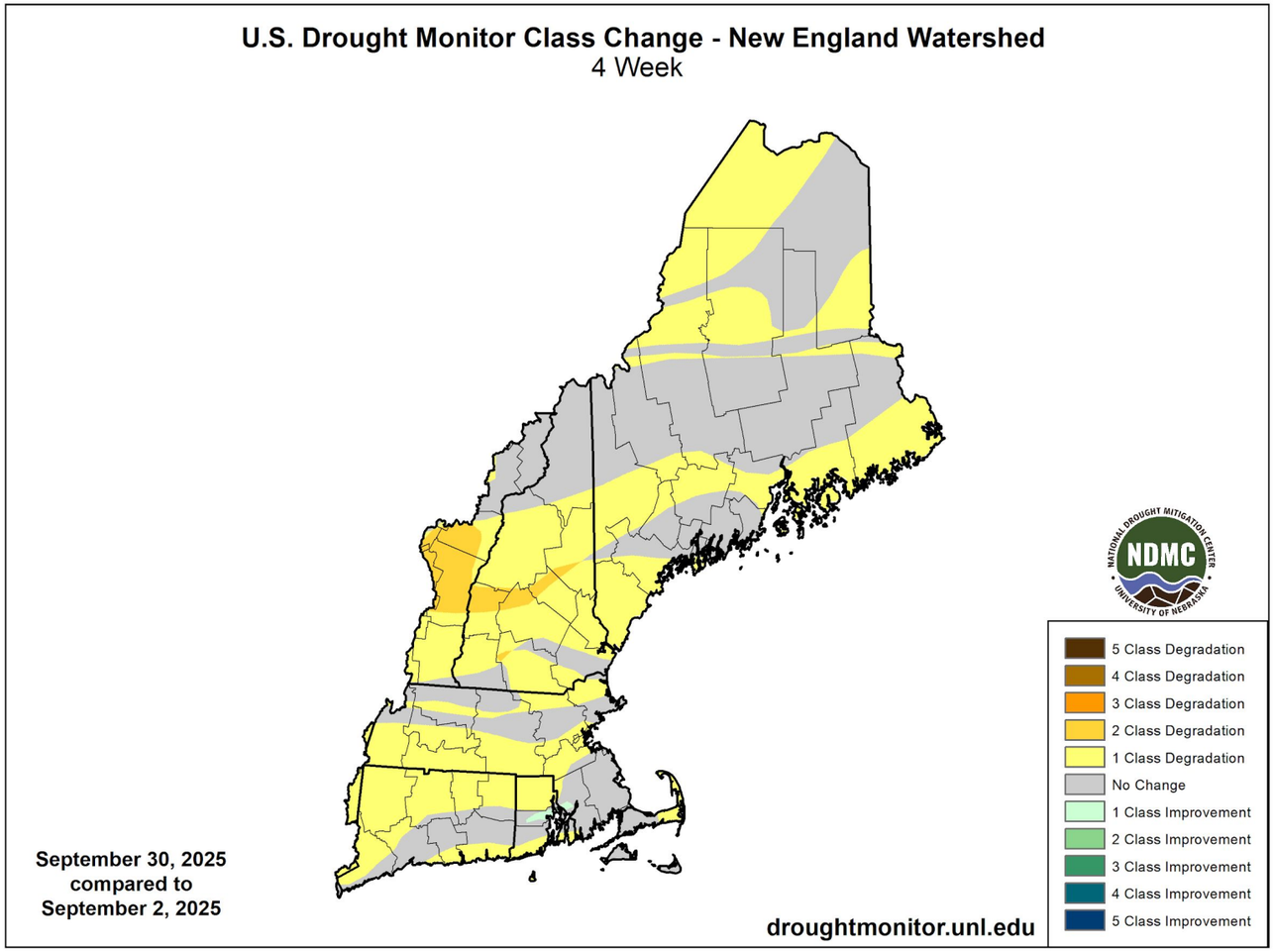
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT

Link to the latest 4-week change map for New England

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - 2 class degradation in the White Mountains of New Hampshire
  - Generally 1 class degradation or no change elsewhere

- Drought impacts can vary based on type of sector (fire, agriculture, water management, recreational, etc.) and on local infiltration rates based on soil types. A drought category defines the general regional level of impact, but local impacts can be more or less severe than the categories suggest.

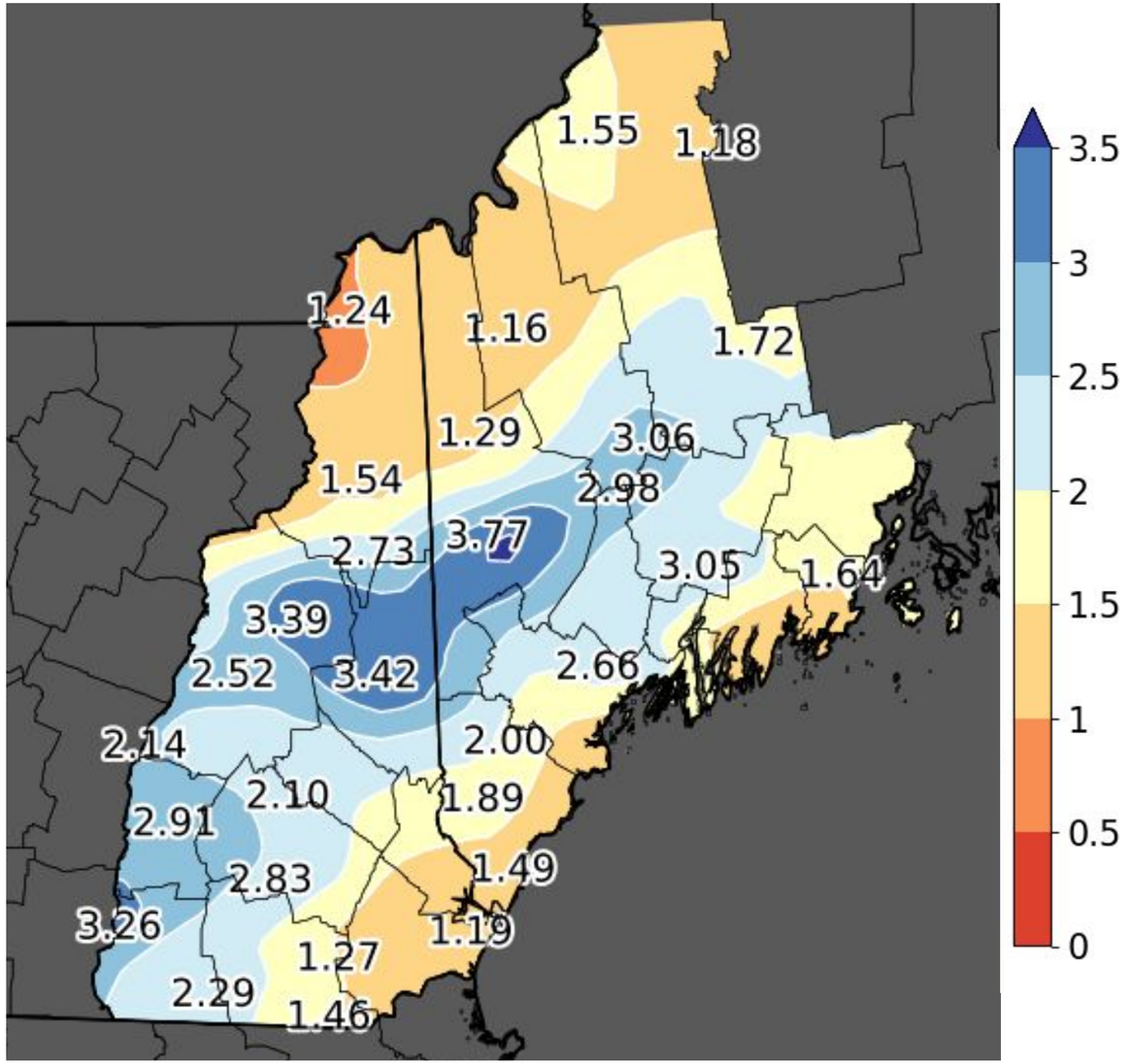


Precipitation

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT

7 Day Observed Precipitation
Sep 25 - Oct 1

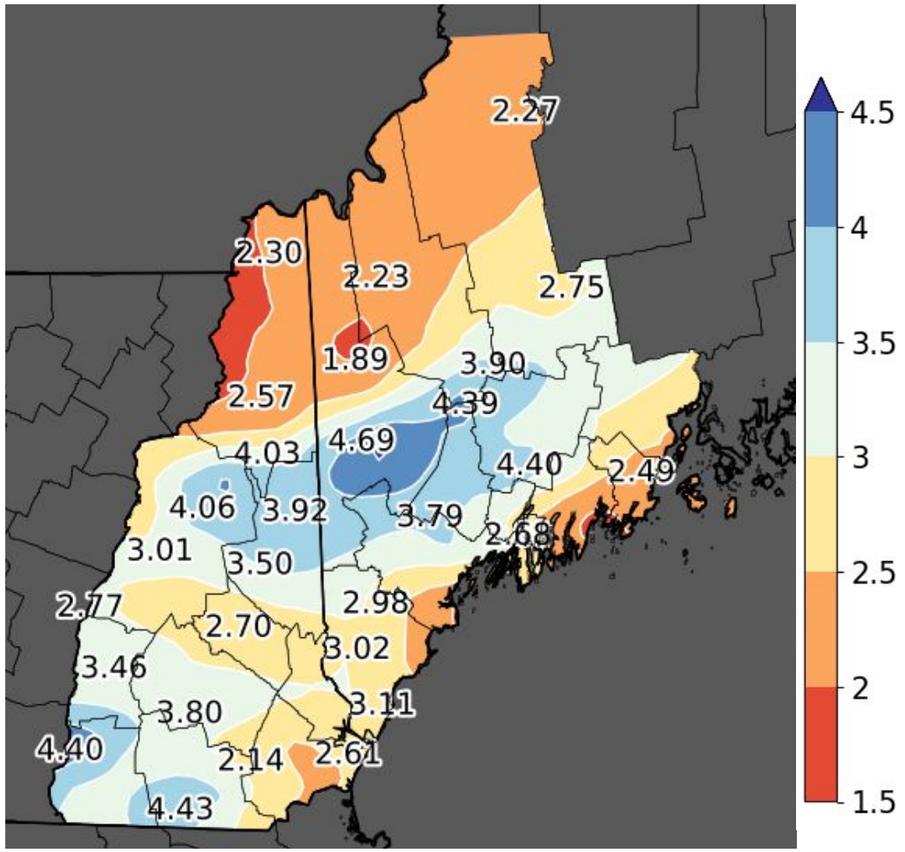
- Maine and New Hampshire saw beneficial rainfall last week, but for most areas, it only provided a temporary reprieve from severe to extreme drought conditions.
- The heaviest rainfall of 2 to 3+ inches fell over the most drought stricken areas
- Dry weather conditions followed the rainmaker of the 26th

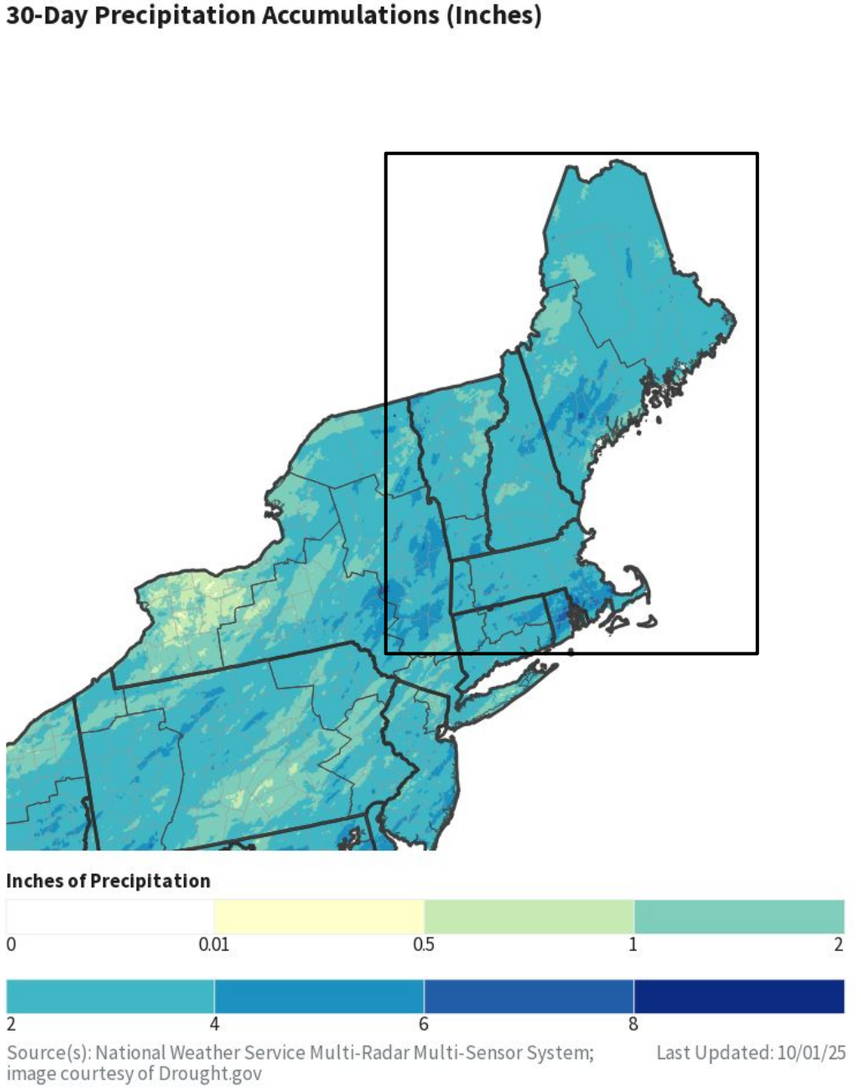


Precipitation- 30 Day

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT

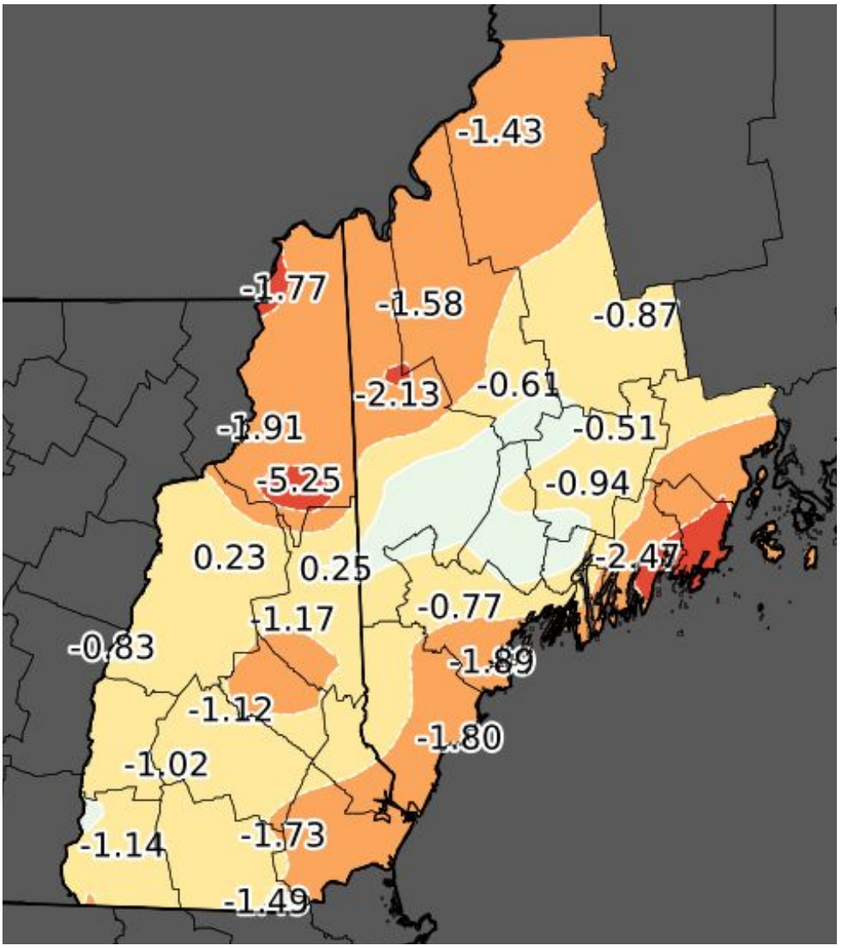
30 Day Precipitation
Ending Oct 1, 2025



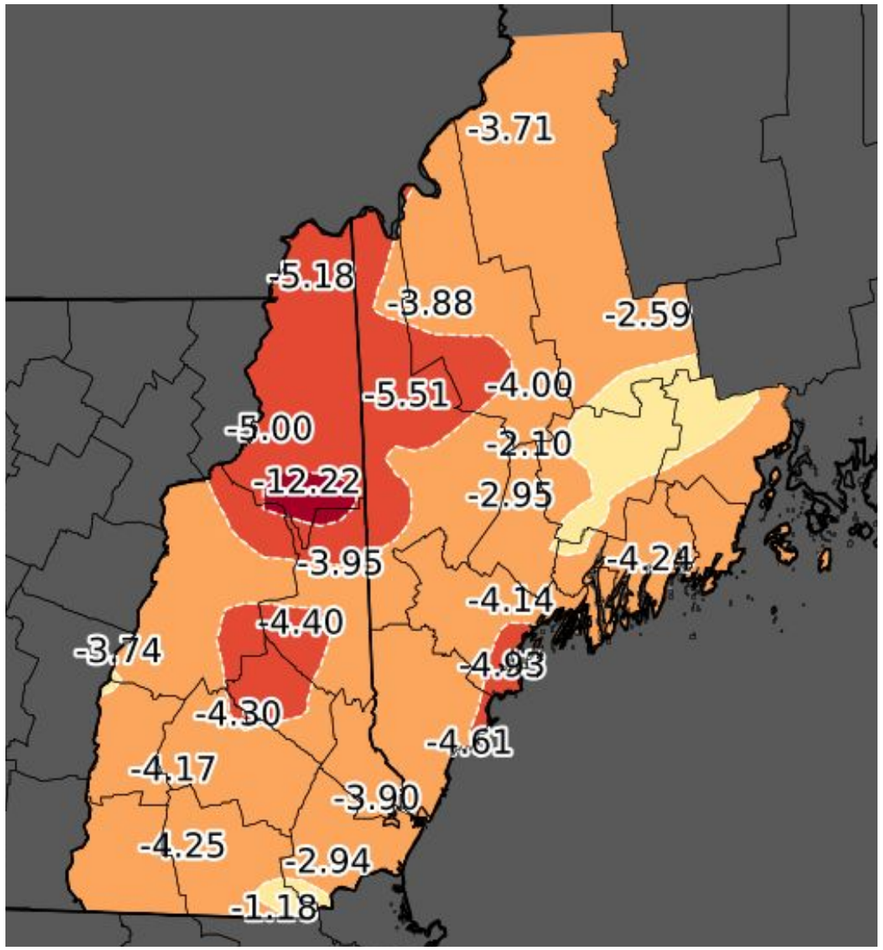


Precipitation Deficits

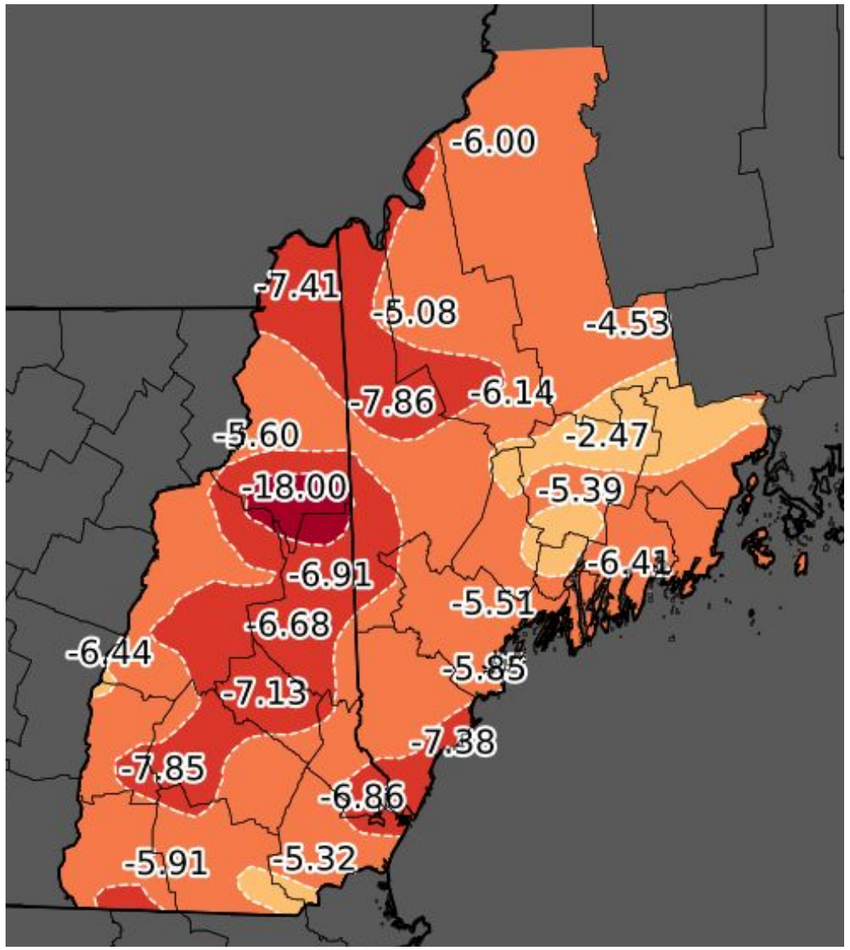
October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT



30 Day Ending Sep 30



60 Day Ending Sep 30



90 Day Ending Sep 30

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

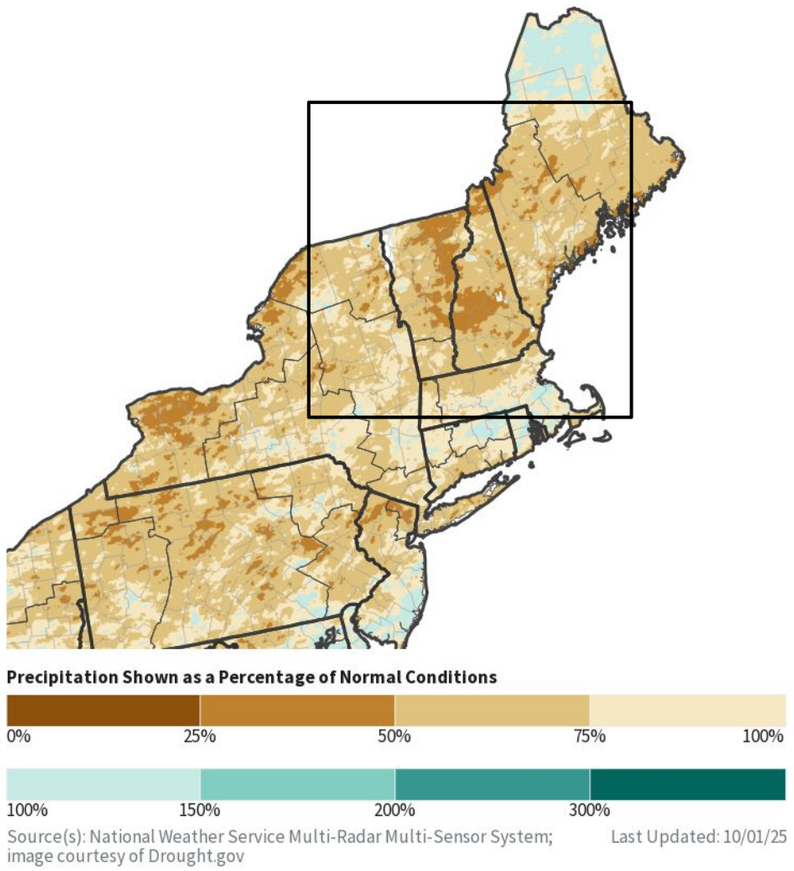
National Weather Service
Gray-Portland, ME

Precipitation % of Normal

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT

- Precipitation anomalies were near normal for central Maine, but generally below normal for the region for September
- The last 90 days have been around 50% of normal or less

90-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

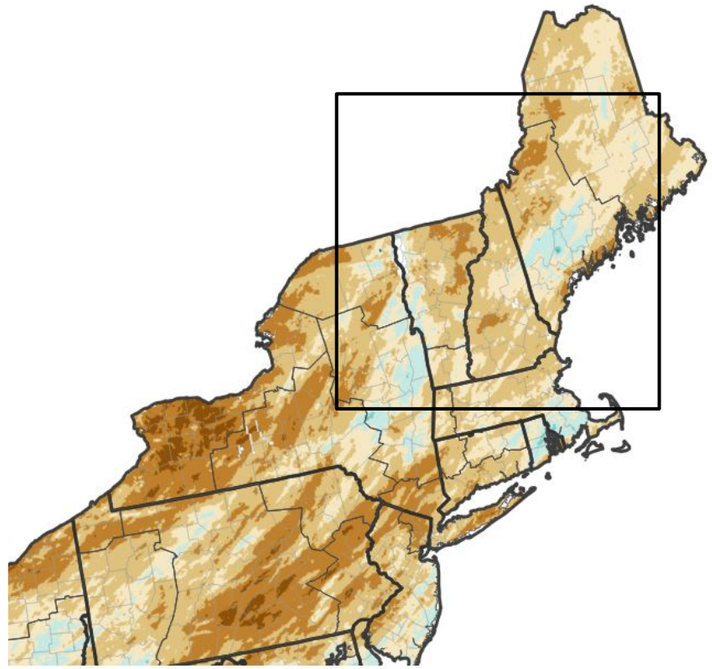
0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

100% 150% 200% 300%

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/01/25

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

100% 150% 200% 300%

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

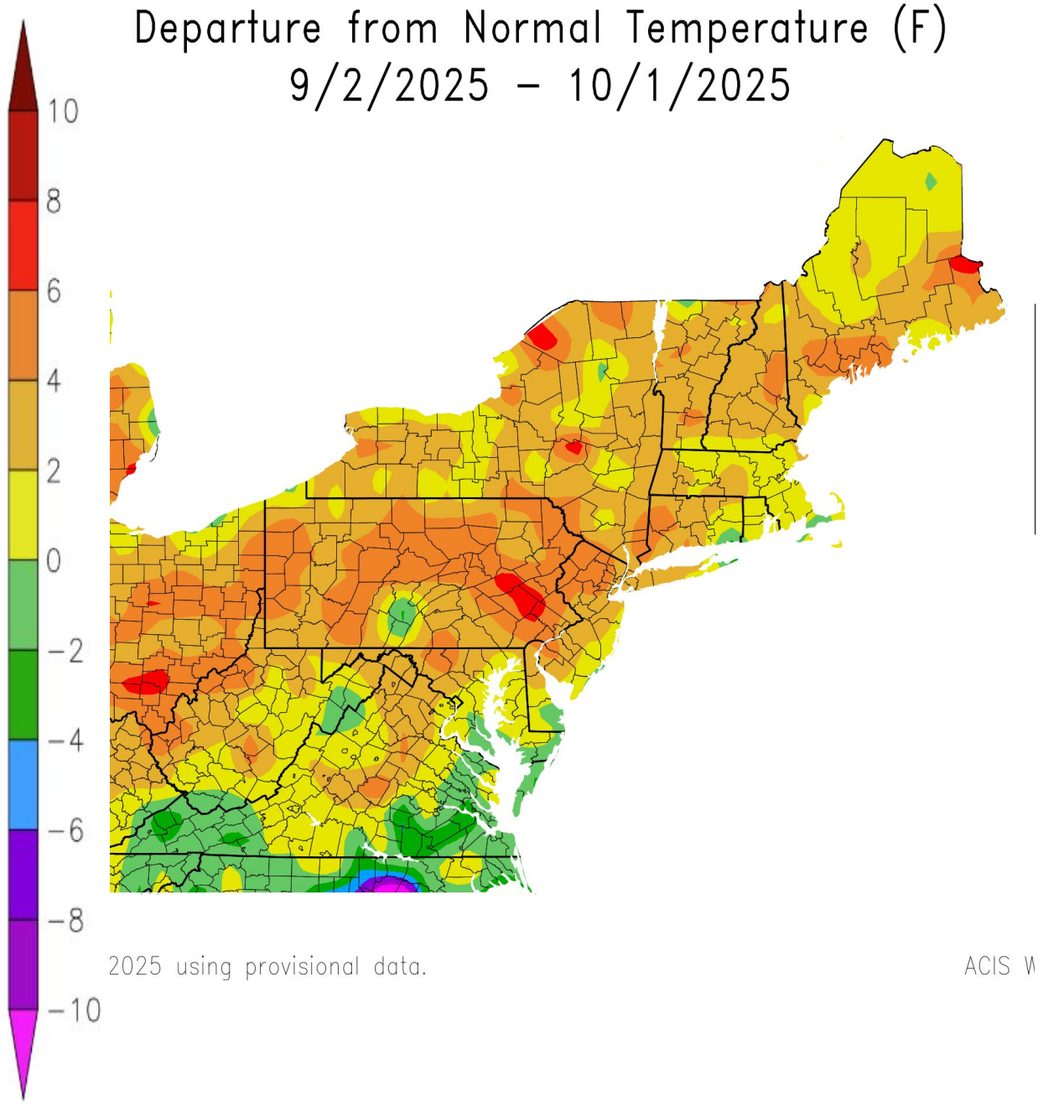
Last Updated: 10/01/25

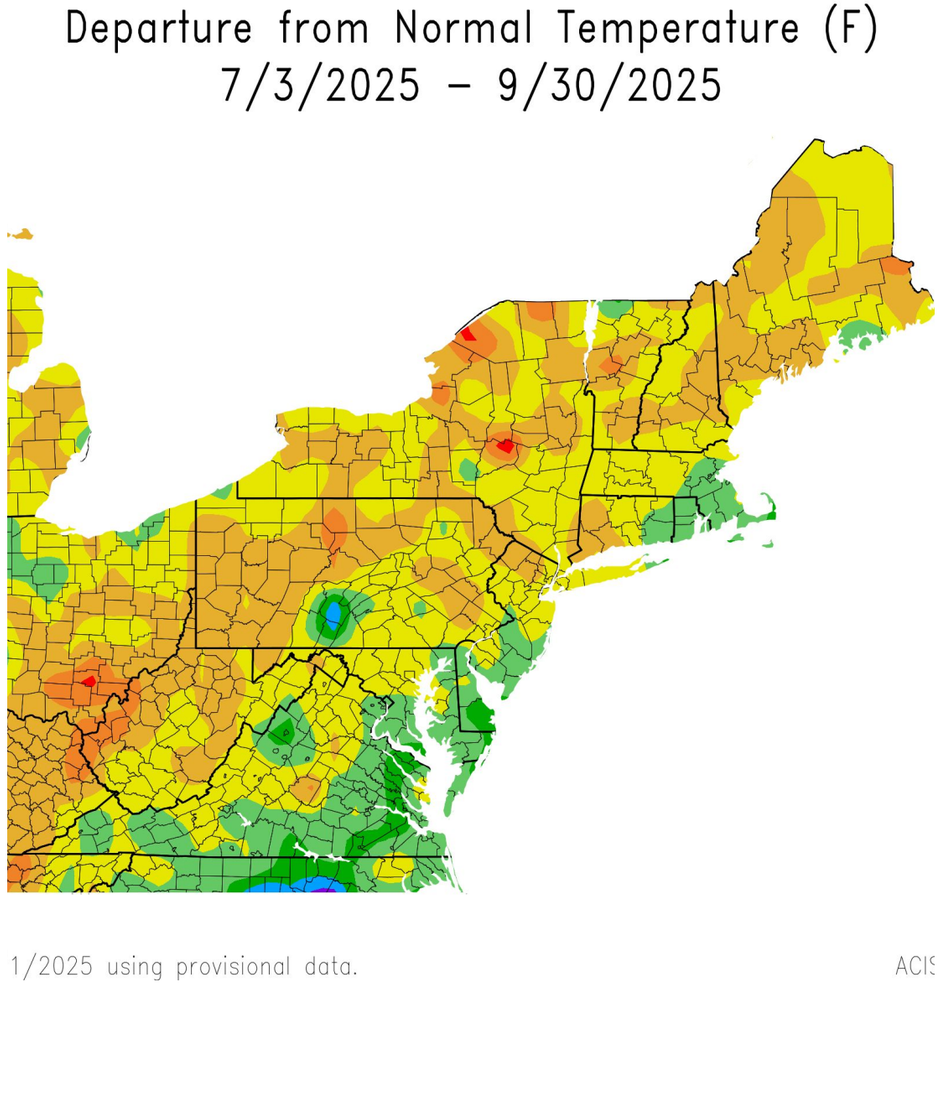
Temperature Anomalies

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT

Temperatures were well above normal for September, and above normal during the summer season.

Evaporation was well above normal as a result.





Evaporation

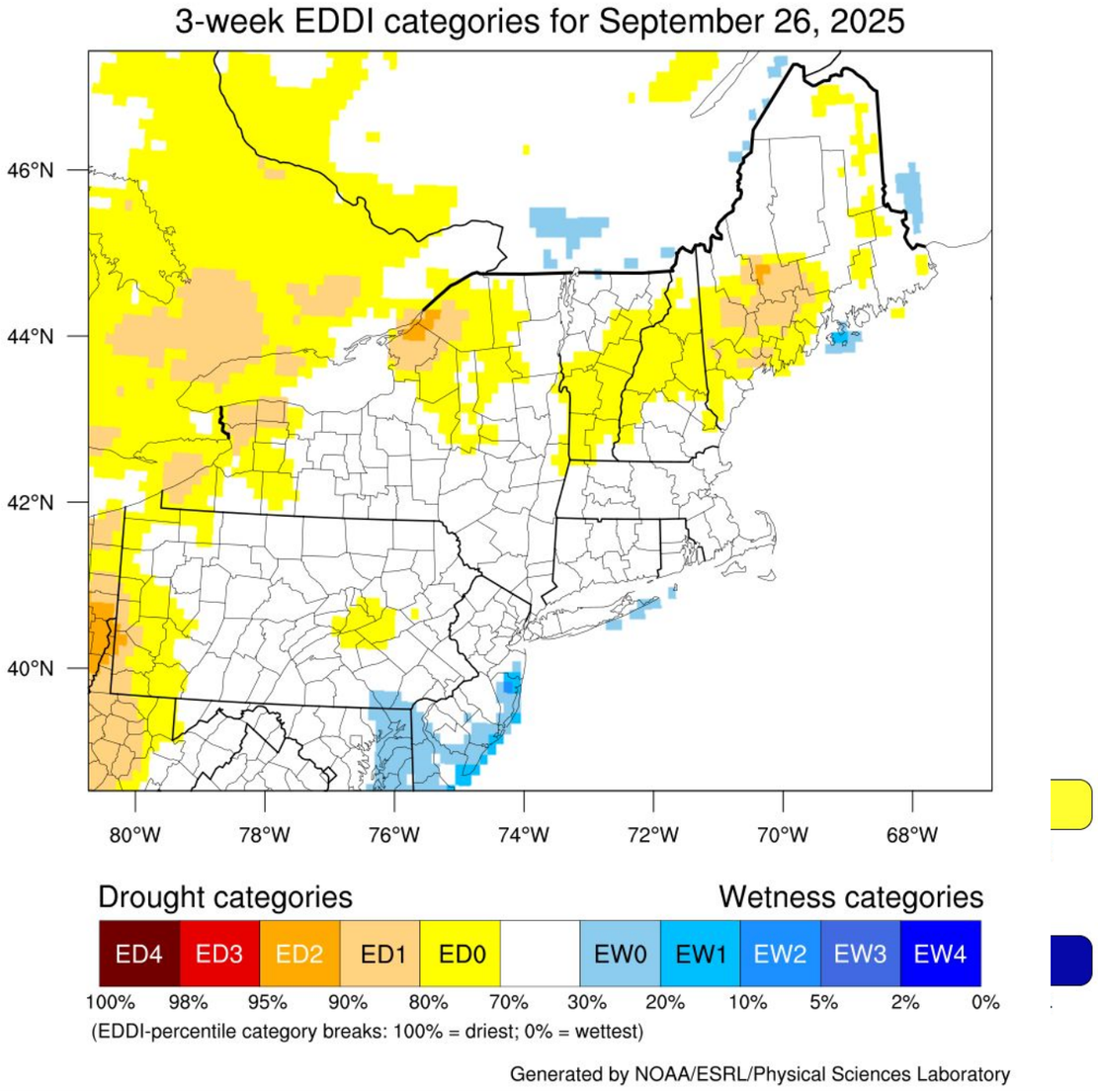
October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT

3 Week Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI)

EDDI is a drought monitoring tool that shows the anomaly in daily evaporative demand over a given period of time.

Above normal temperatures and a stretch of 14-17 days of no rainfall in September led to above normal evaporation across the region.

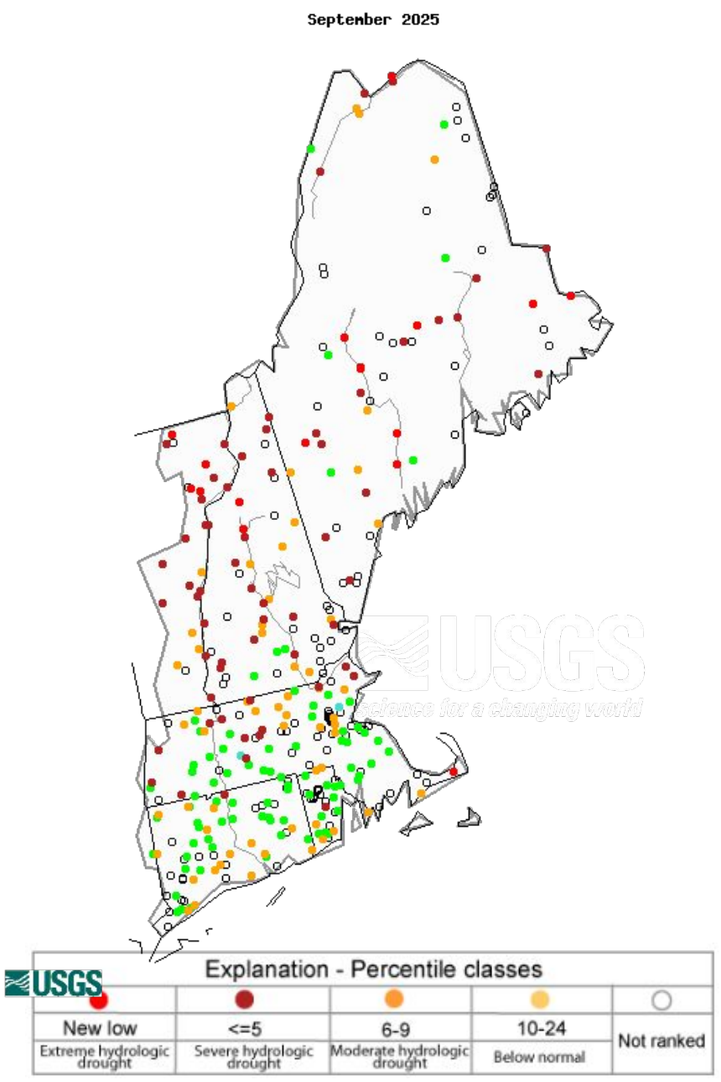
Unusually high evaporative demand can lead to moisture stress on the land surface, and ultimately to drought—even when precipitation has been near-normal.



Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT

- Drought conditions have reduced rivers to **much below** to **new all time daily recorded low** levels for September based on USGS streamflow stations.
- Streamflows briefly returned to normal levels at the end of September, but quickly receded to near pre-storm levels due to the severe drought conditions



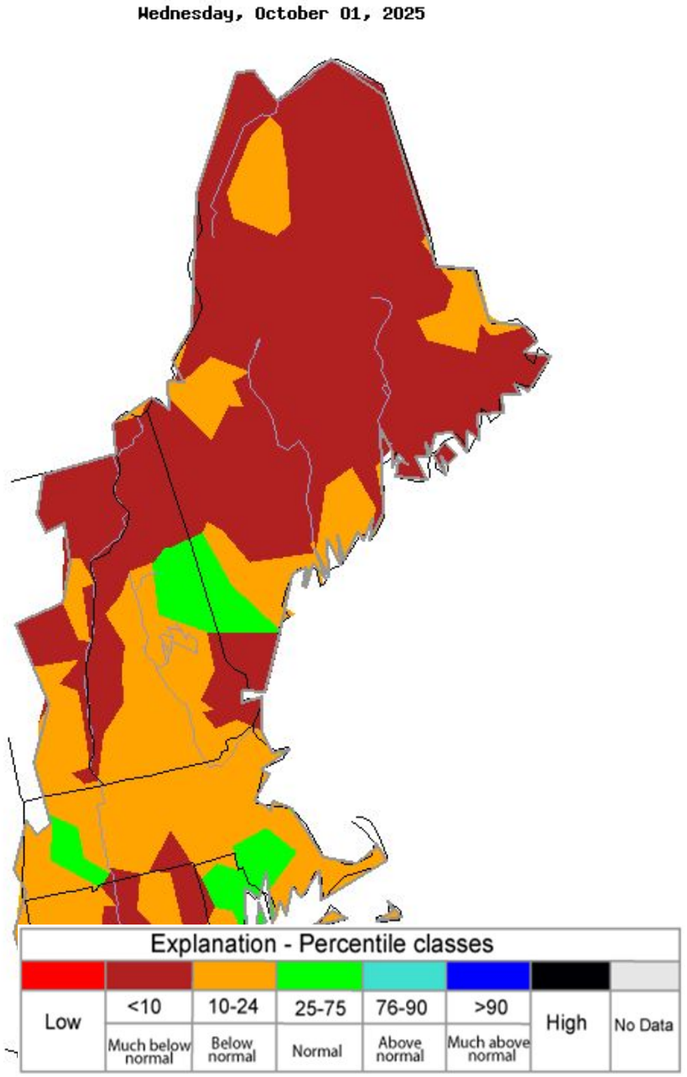


Image 1 (left): USGS 7-Day Streamflow based on the percentile of existing streamflow records on this day of the year.

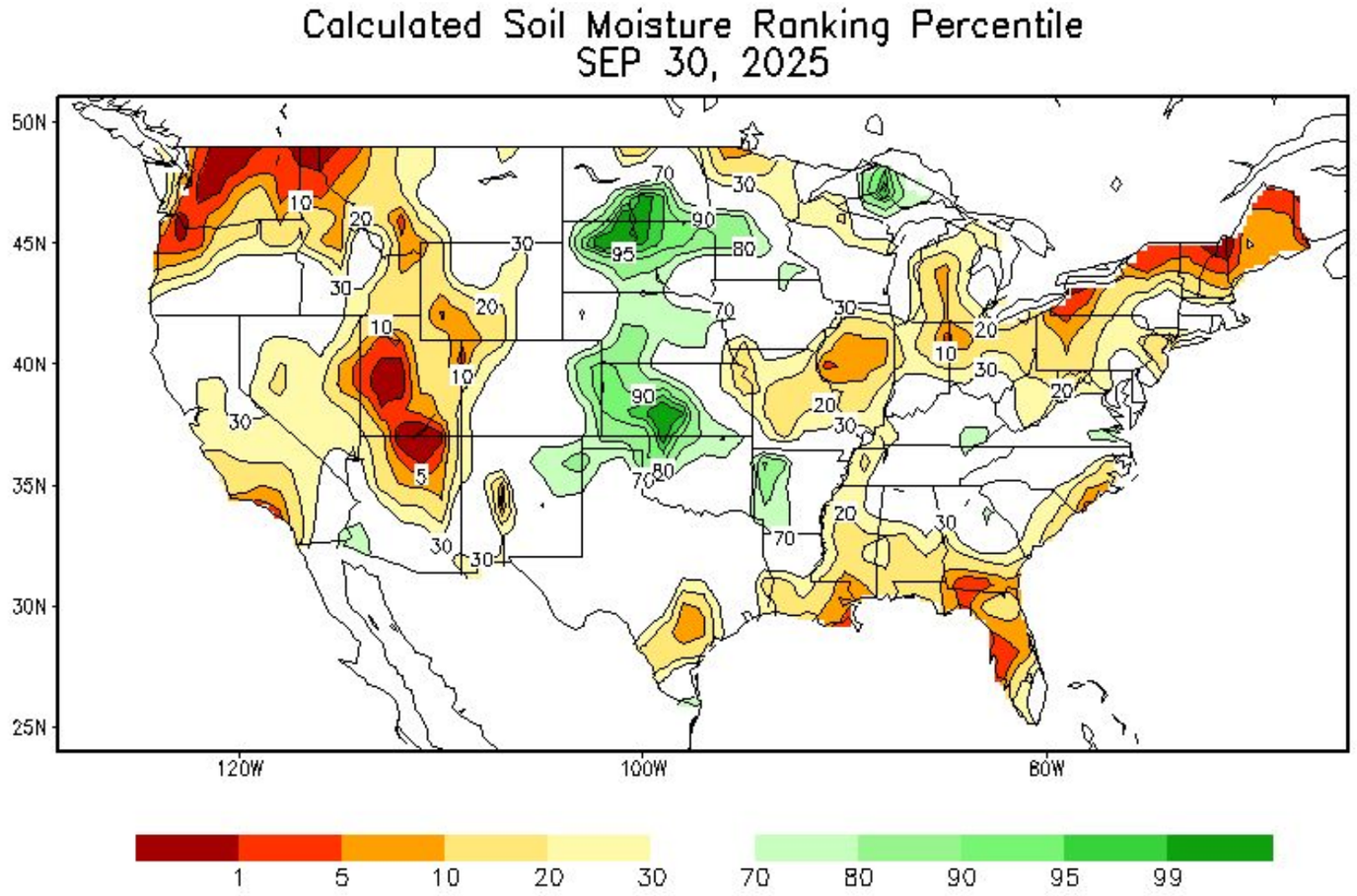
Image 2 (right): USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map.

Agricultural Impacts

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT

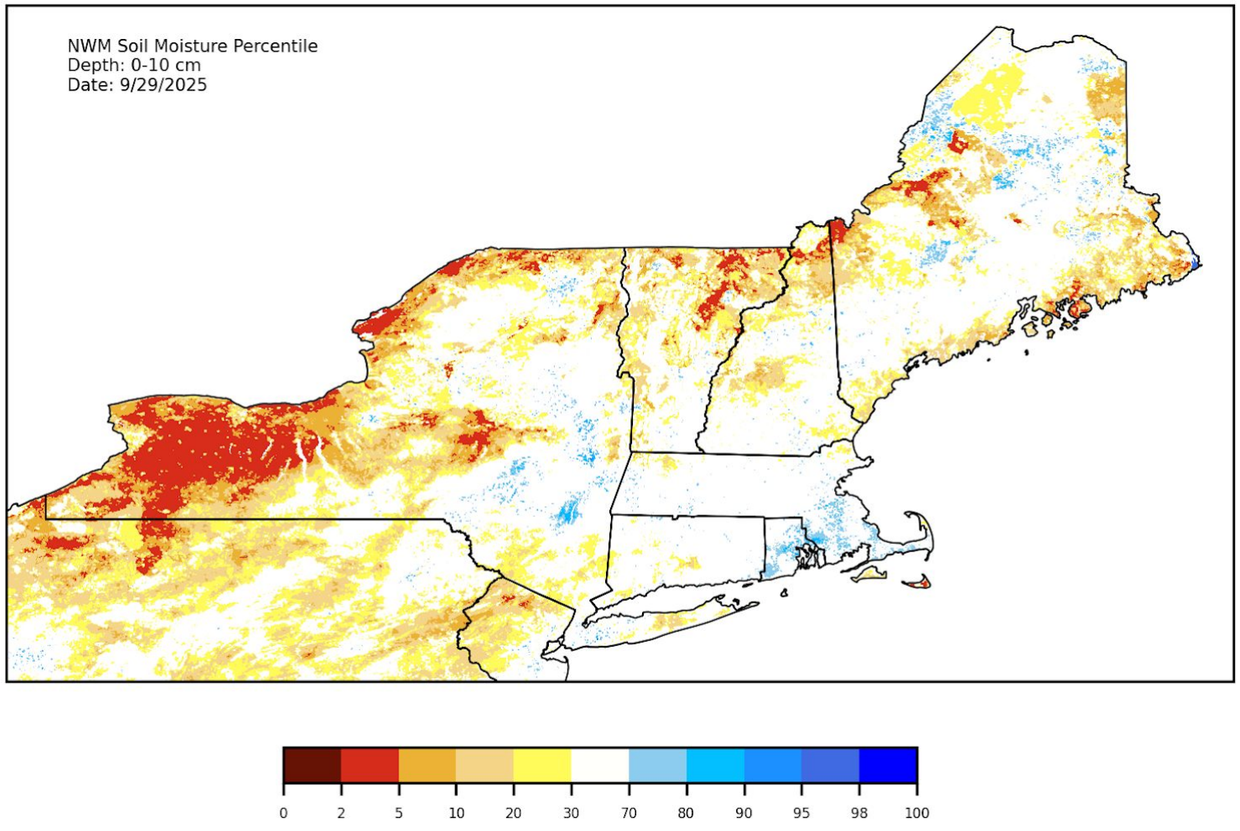
- Despite soaking rainfall on September 26, by the 30th soil moisture percentiles were well below climatological normals, confirming the severe and extreme drought conditions

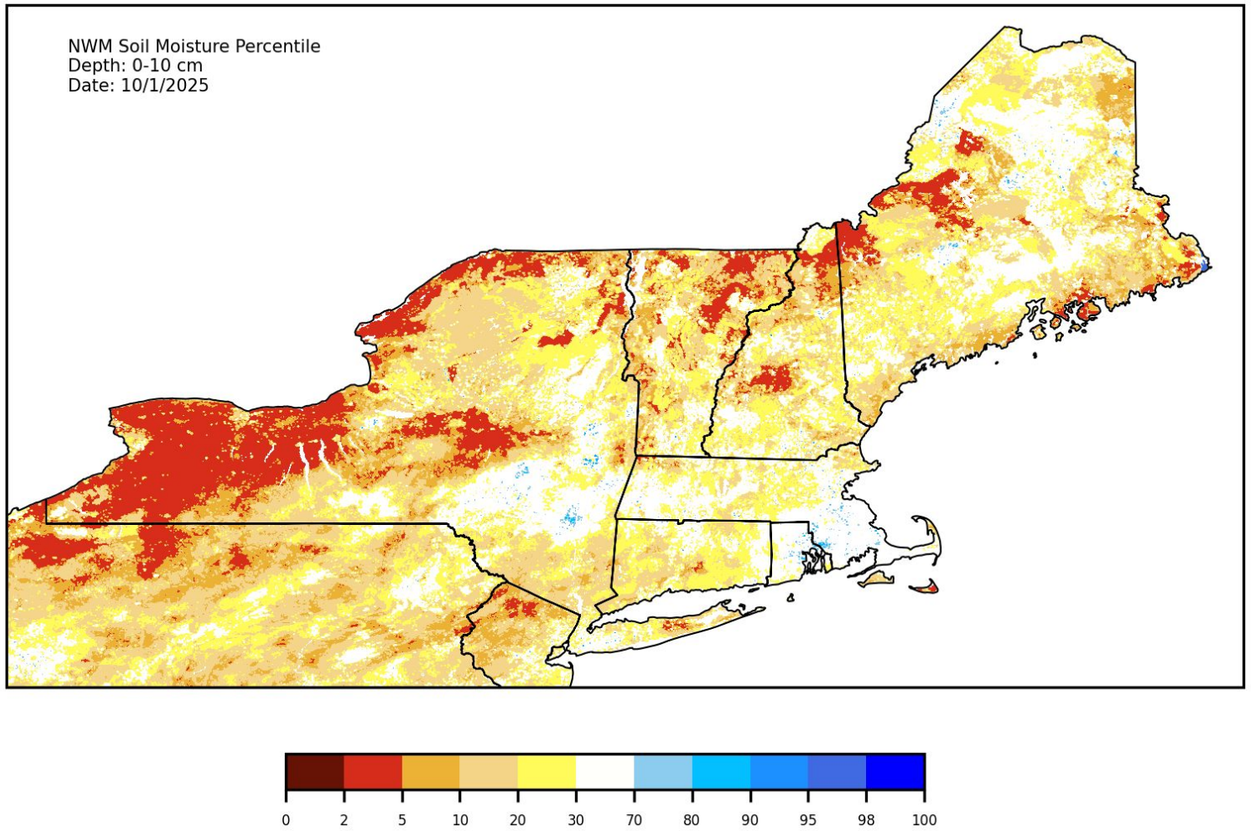
- Note: Soil moisture percentiles already take into account seasonality and fall is already the driest time of year, so being dry at the driest time of year is exceptional.



Top Soil Moisture

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT

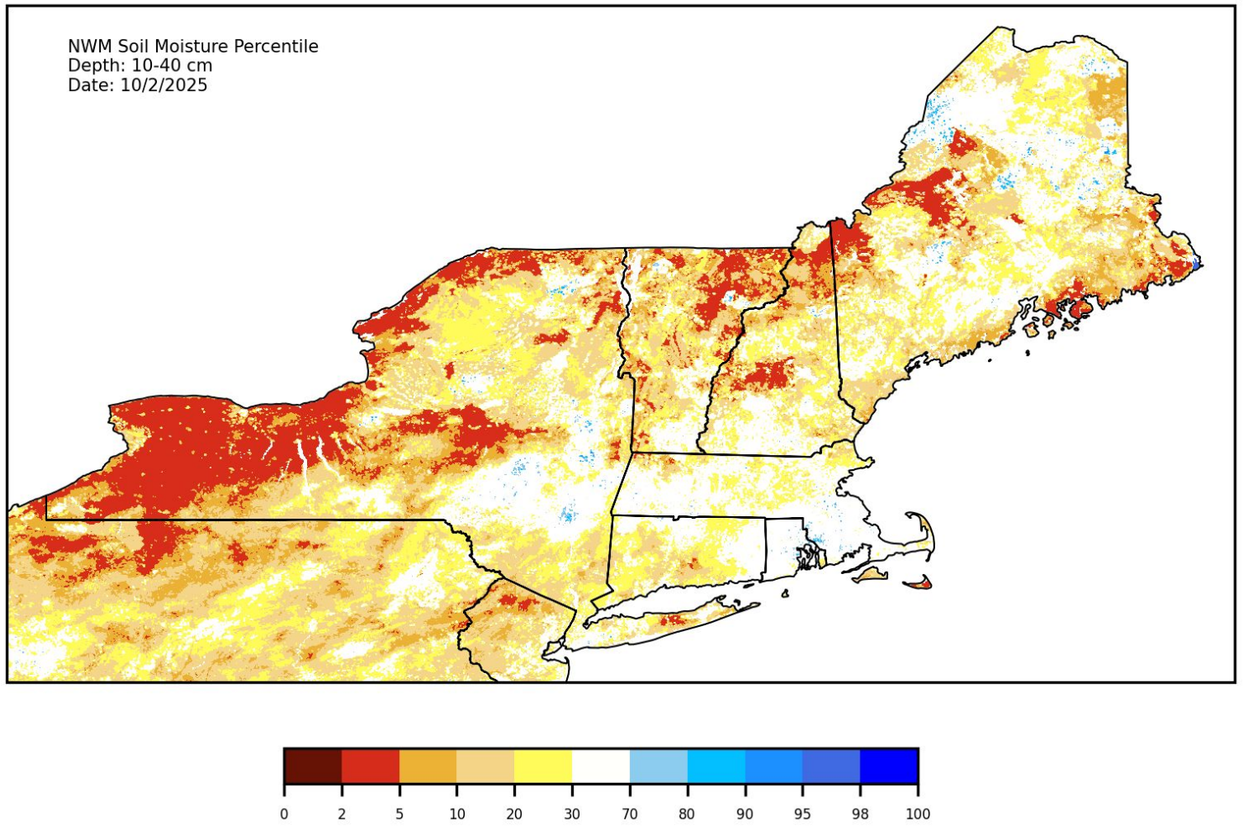


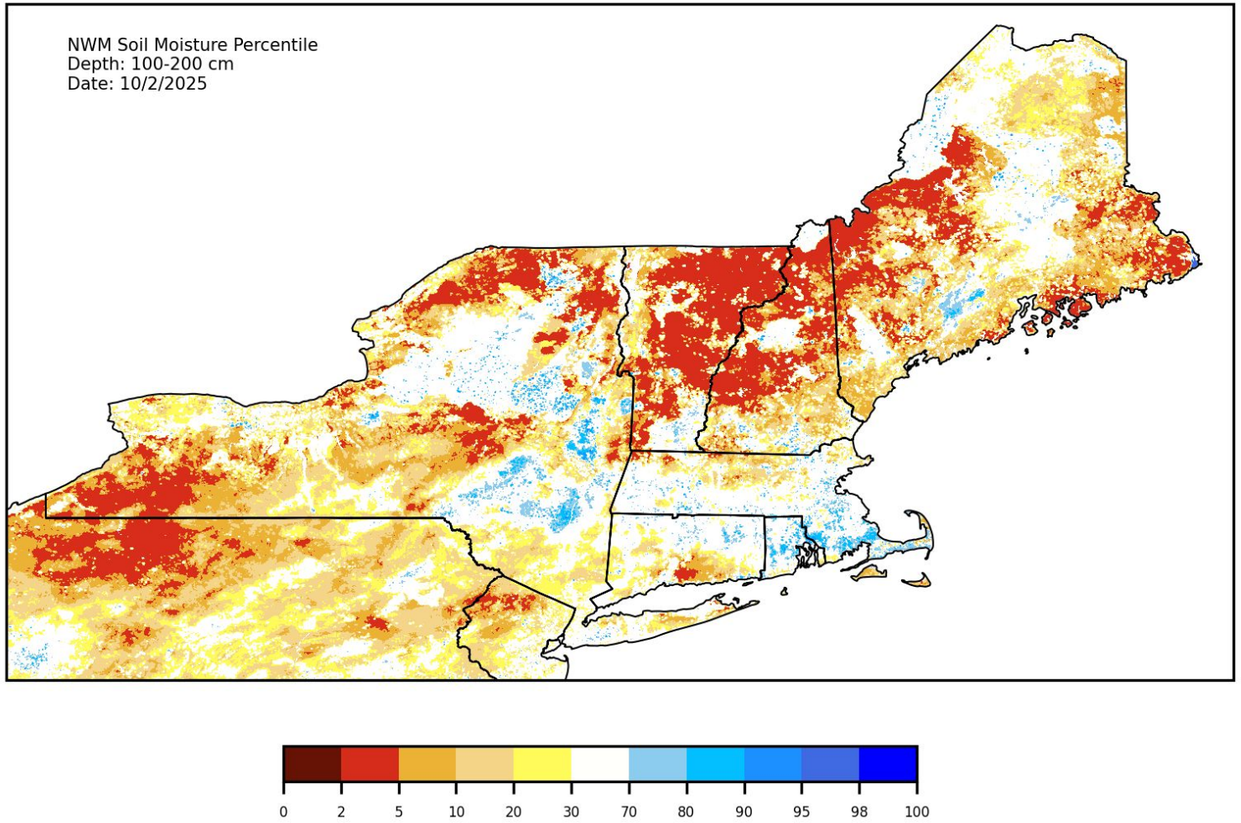


NWM Soil Moisture Map indicating the moisture content of the top 4 inches of soil compared to historical conditions based on NOAA's National Water Model. Note the soil moisture depletion between **September 29 and October 1** due to drier conditions below the topsoils and evaporative loss at the surface.

Soil Moisture

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT



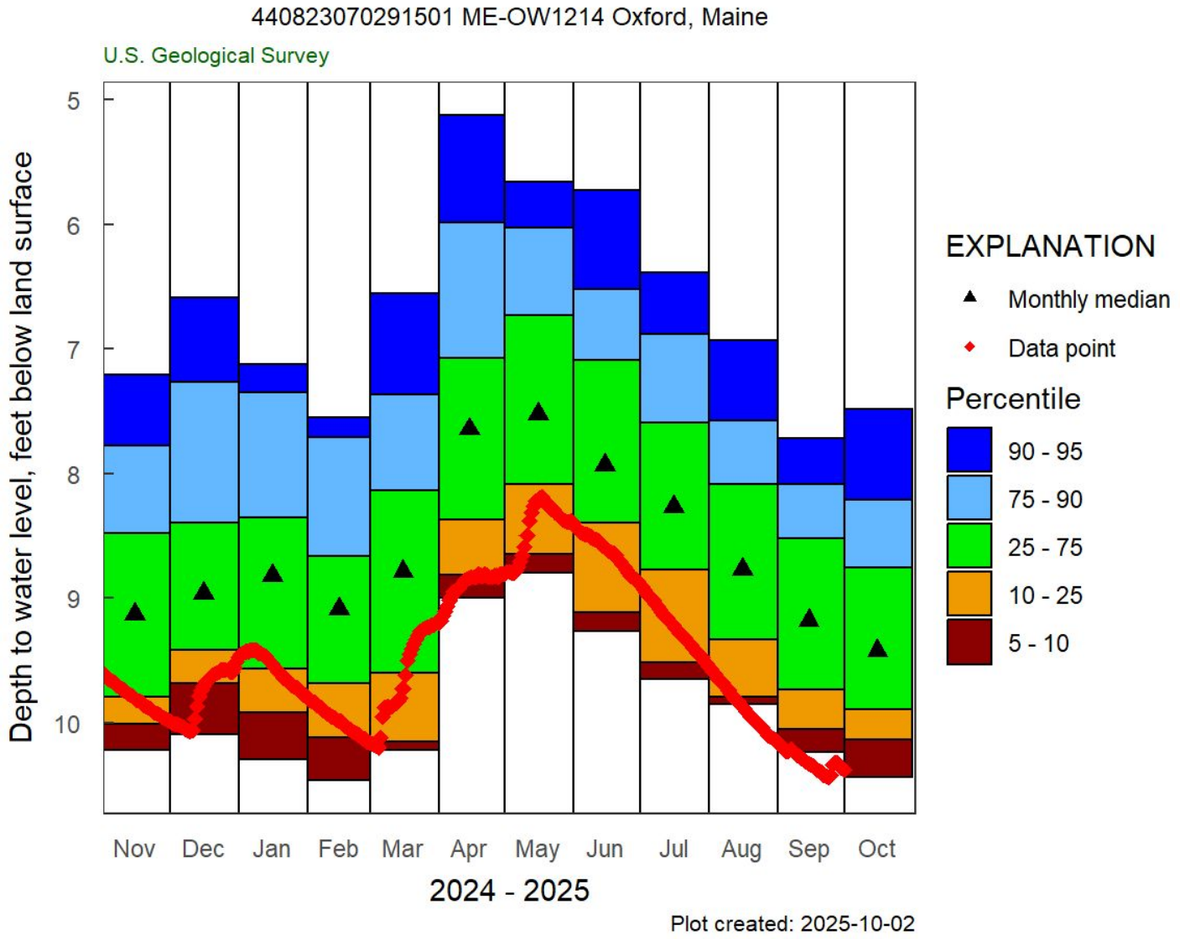


(Left) NWM Soil Moisture Map indicating the moisture content of 4-16 inches of soil compared to historical conditions based on NOAA's National Water Model.

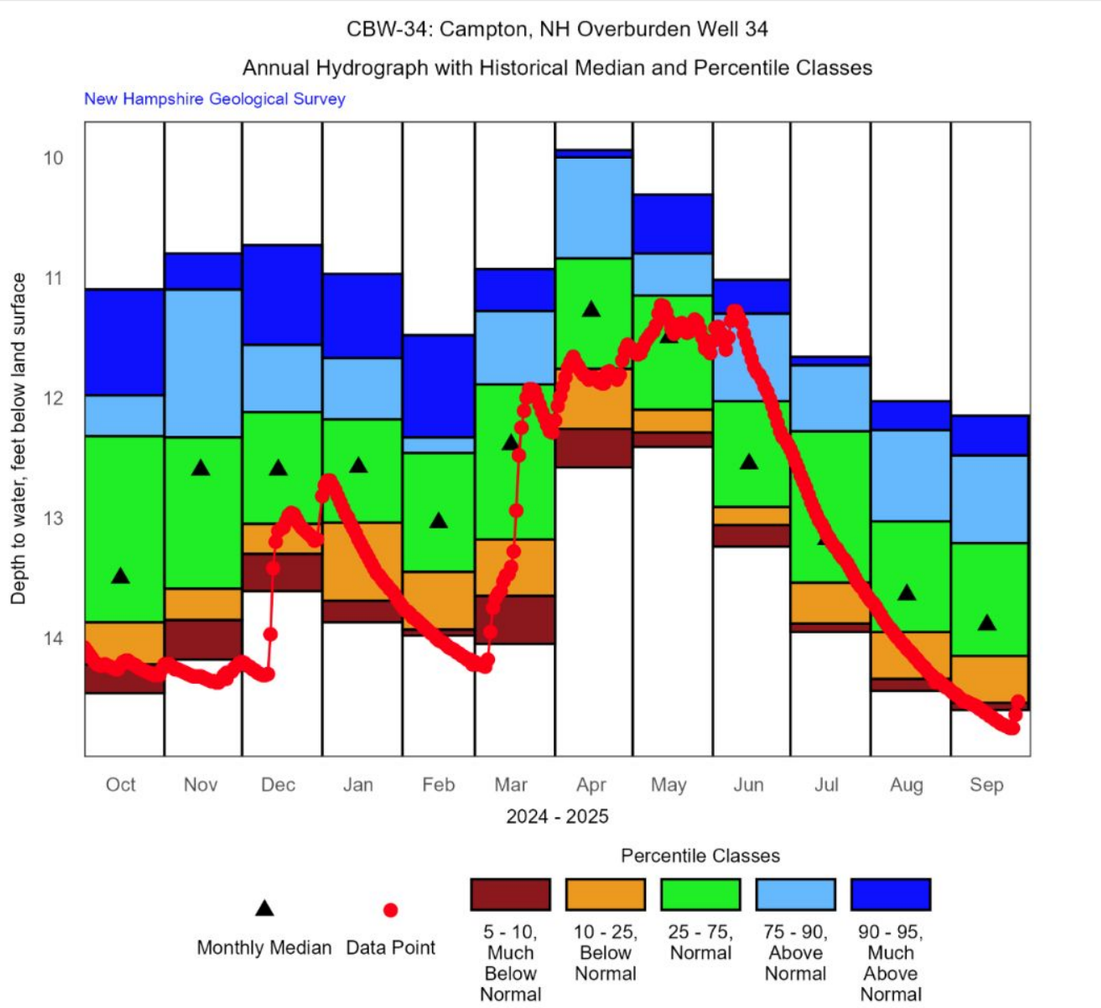
(Right) NWM Soil Moisture Map indicating the moisture content of the 40-79 inches of soil compared to historical conditions based on NOAA's National Water Model.

Groundwater Impacts

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT



Location: Oxford County, Maine



Location: Carroll County, New Hampshire

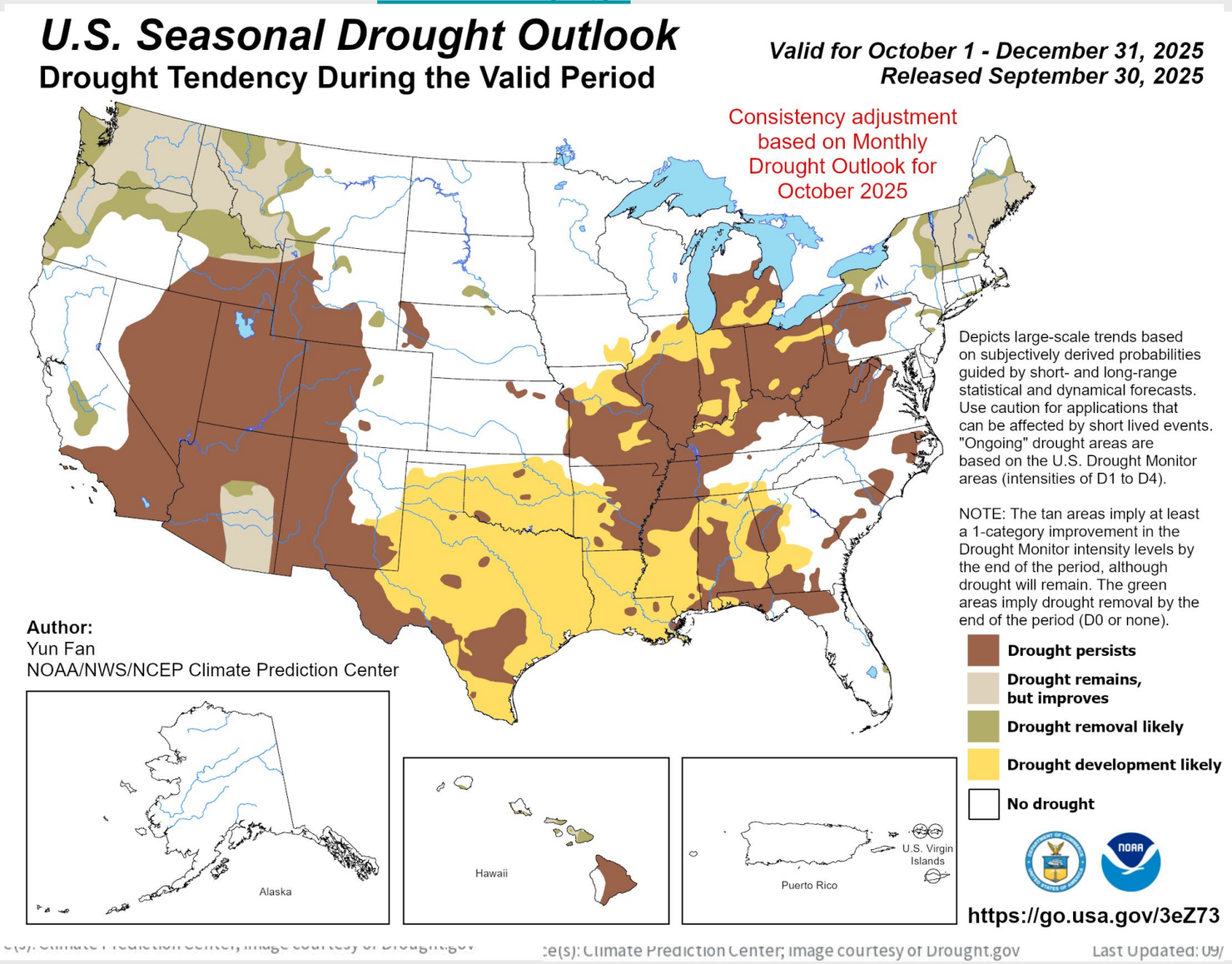
Several groundwater monitoring wells are Below to Much Below Normal.

Drought Outlook

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- Climate prediction center drought outlooks favor drought persistence with some improvement by late December
- October and November are often the wettest months in Maine and New Hampshire
- The end of the growing season means less water demand and more water used for groundwater recharge



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook

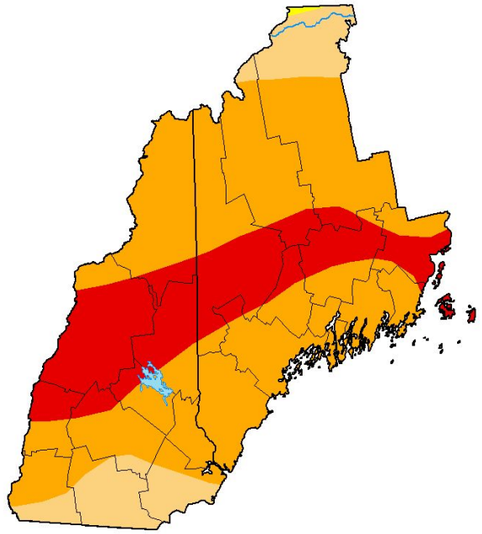
:e(s): Climate Prediction Center; Image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 09/

Rainfall needed to “end the drought”

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT

- Generally speaking, much of drought-stricken areas needs 125-175% of normal precipitation over the next few months to ameliorate drought conditions <u>before the ground freezes</u>
    - Once frozen, precipitation that would normally replenish groundwater won’t soaking in, leaving wells and aquifers with little recovery until the spring thaw
- Steady, light-rain events with high absorption rates are ideal
- As little as **6”** above normal rainfall could be sufficient for some locations
- Harder hit areas may need as much as **12”** of extra rainfall spread out over months to see full recovery

Month	Normal Rainfall Inches
October	4.5-5
November	4.5-5
December	4.0-4.5
Total	13-14.5



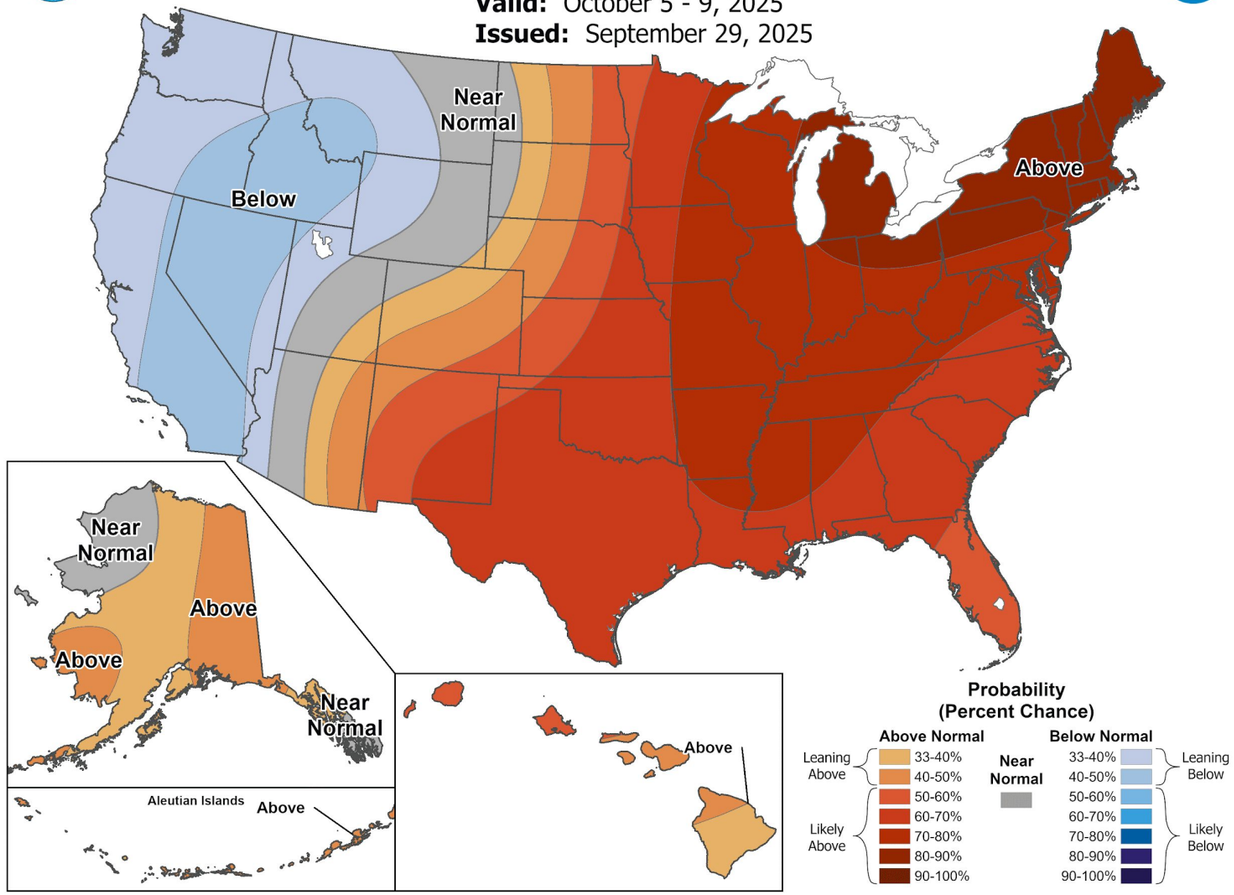
Much of the area needs 6 or more inches of <u>additional</u> rainfall to “end the drought”

6-10 Day Outlooks

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT

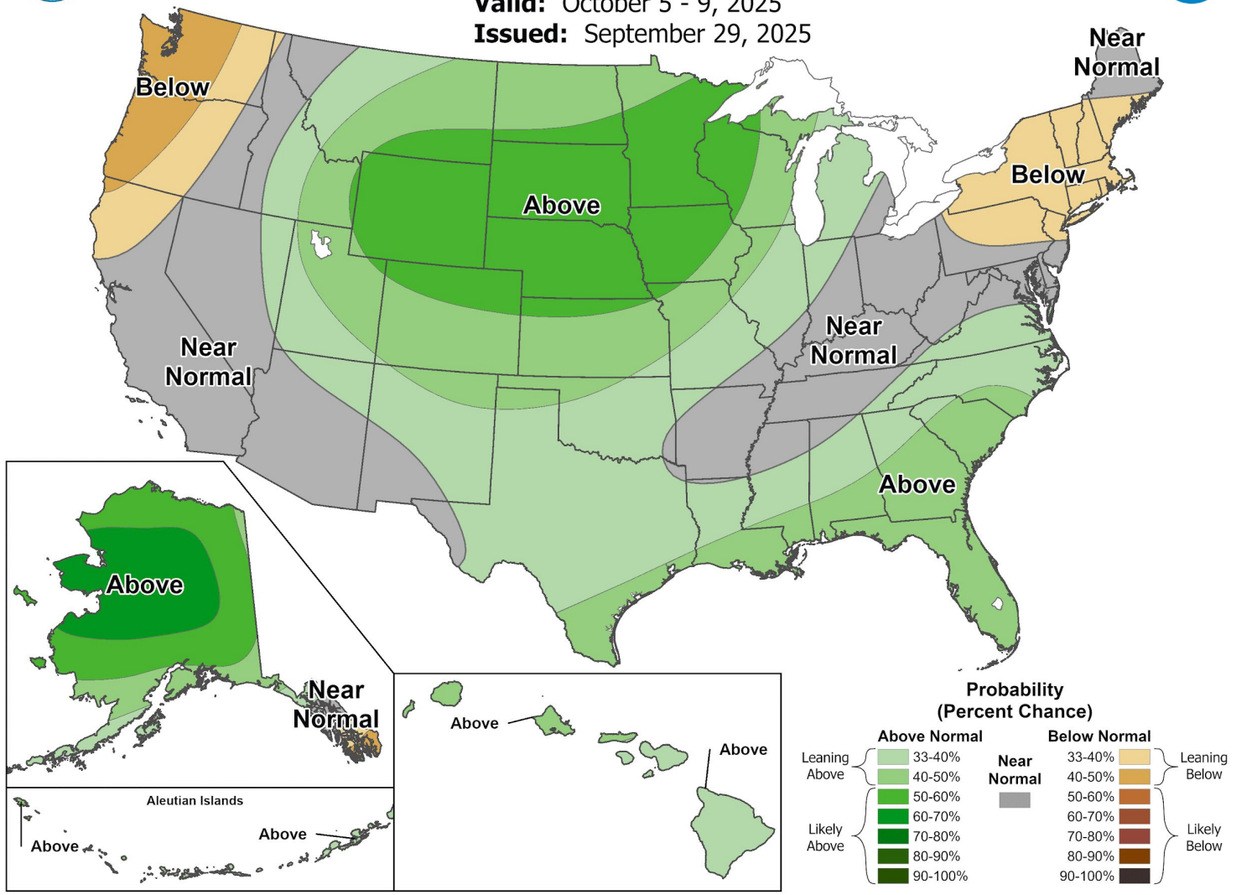
6-10 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: October 5 - 9, 2025
Issued: September 29, 2025



6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: October 5 - 9, 2025
Issued: September 29, 2025



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

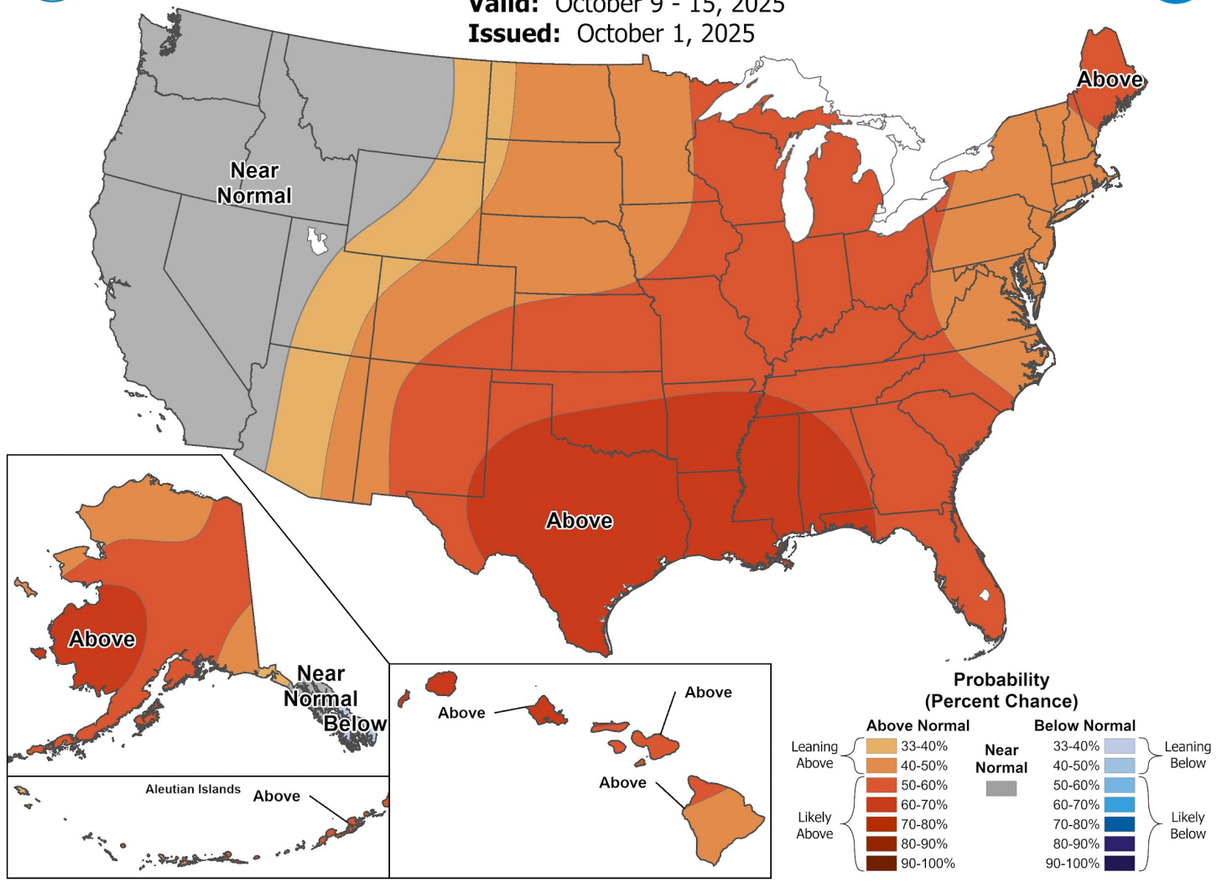
National Weather Service
Gray-Portland, ME

8-14 Day Outlooks

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT

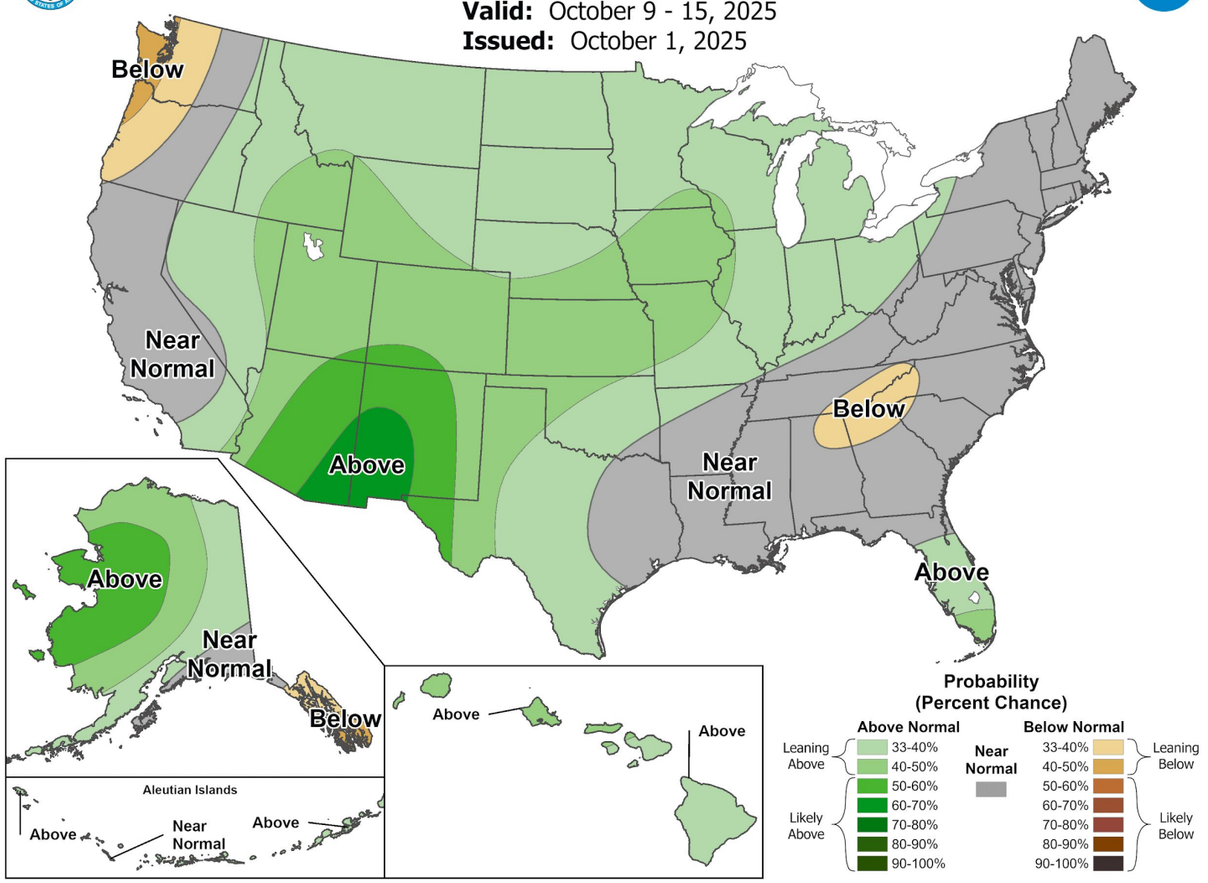
8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: October 9 - 15, 2025
Issued: October 1, 2025



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: October 9 - 15, 2025
Issued: October 1, 2025



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

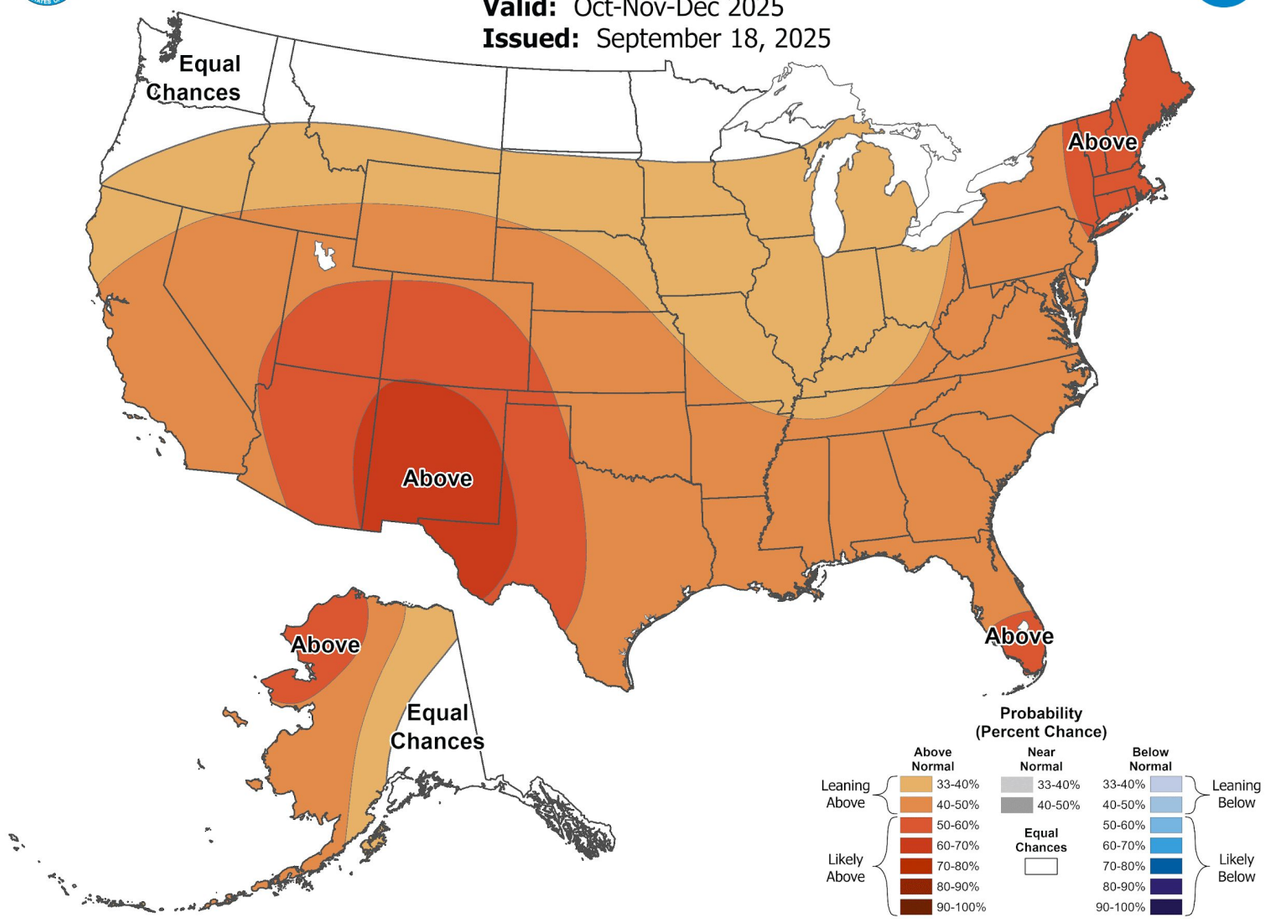
National Weather Service
Gray-Portland, ME

Fall Outlook

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT

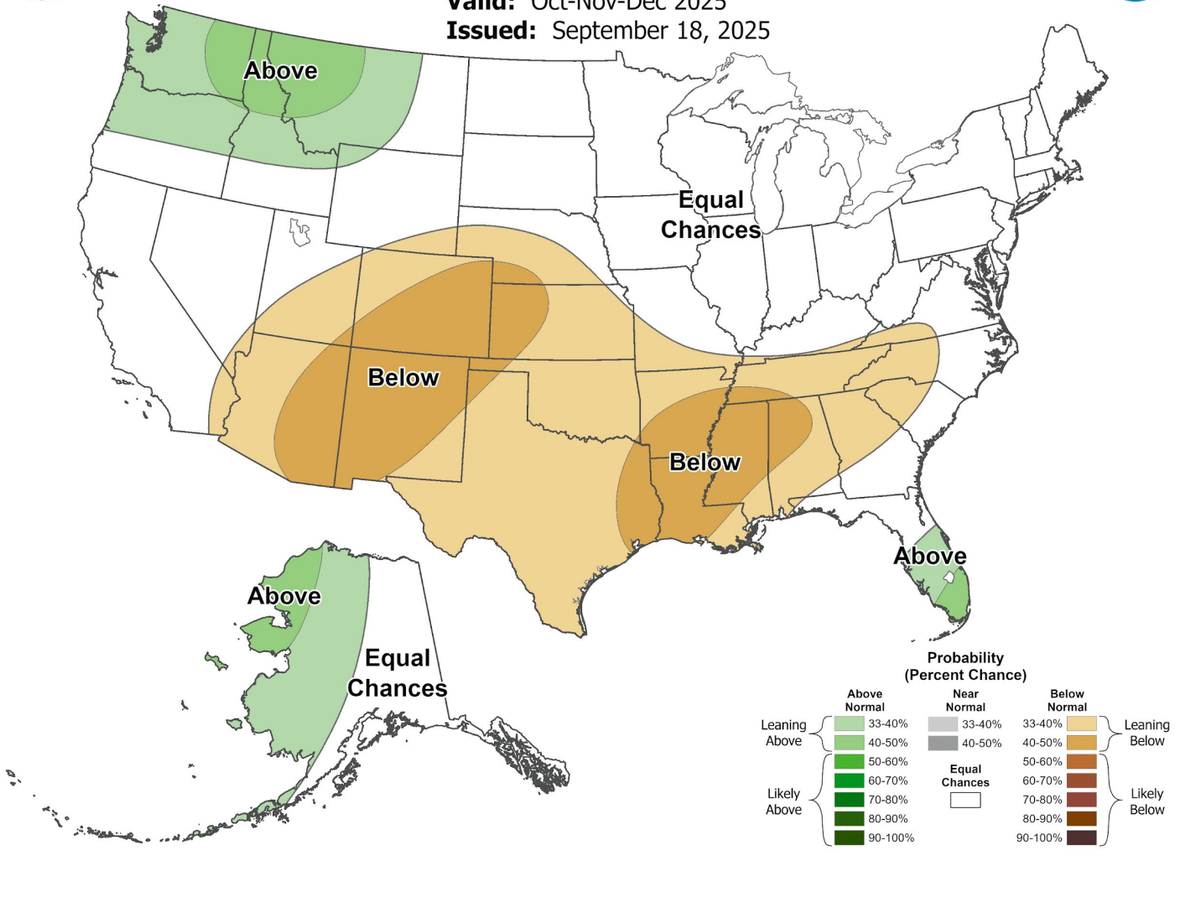
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Oct-Nov-Dec 2025
Issued: September 18, 2025



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Oct-Nov-Dec 2025
Issued: September 18, 2025



The Climate Prediction Center outlook for Fall (OND) indicates strong signals favoring above normal temperatures but does not show any strong climate signals for precipitation. Conditions are similar to last fall.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Gray-Portland, ME

Fire Hazard Impacts

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.]

- Prolonged drying conditions have rapidly depleted the moisture from our last significant rainfall with elevated fire weather concerns expected to return as a result.
- Temperatures trend well above normal through Monday (10/6) which will increase drying of fuels.
- Some precipitation is looking likely toward the middle of next week (10/7-8), but confidence on significant amounts is low.

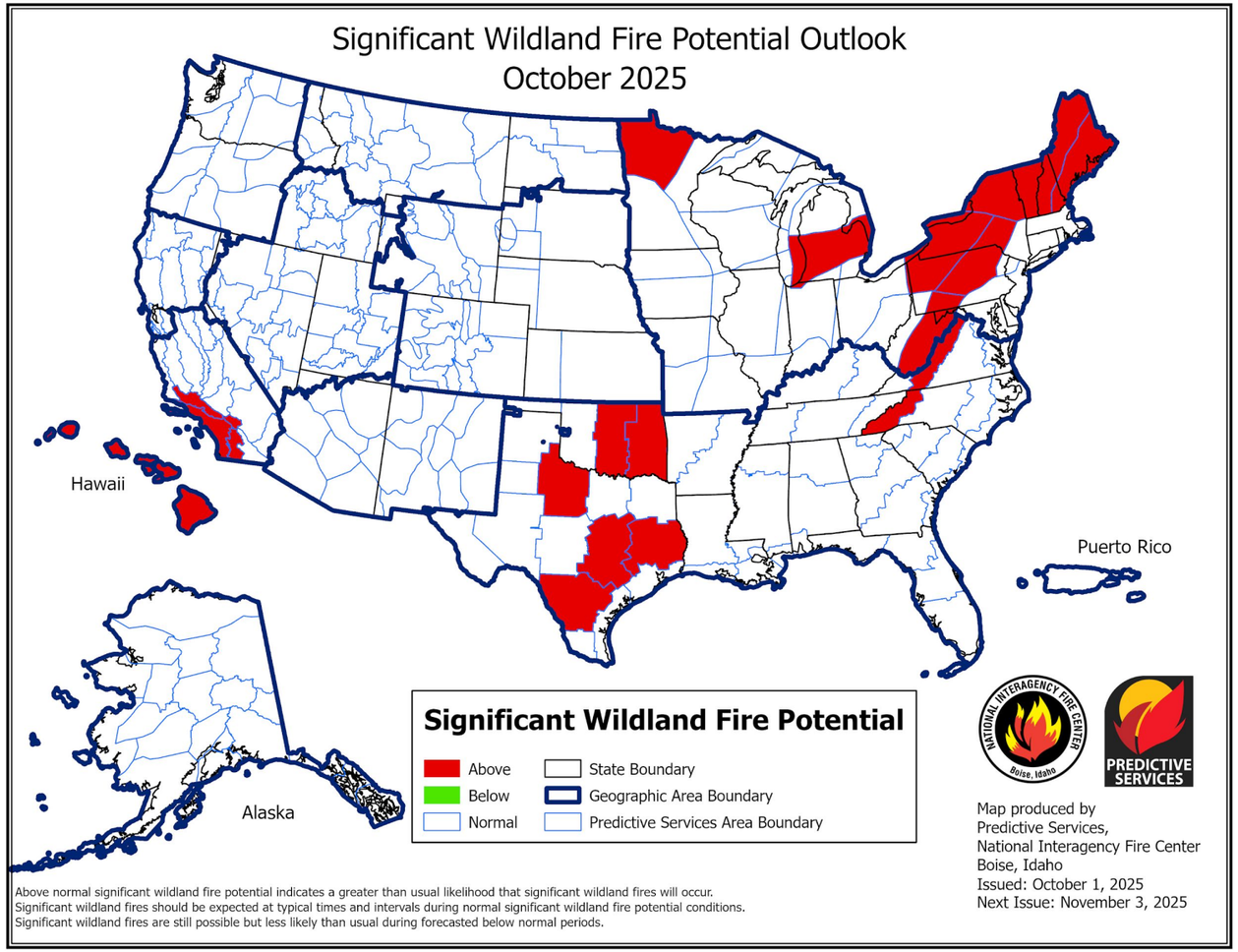


Image Captions: [NIFC September Significant Fire Potential Outlook]

Summary of Impacts

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT

Links: See/submit Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) and view the Drought Impacts Reporter

Hydrologic Impacts

- Despite recent rises, most rivers and streams have receded back to well below normal levels for this date based on USGS gauges.

Groundwater Impacts

- Dry wells have been reportedly increasing across both Maine and New Hampshire as groundwater levels decline despite slight rebounds from recent rains. Click on your respective state for a link to report a dry well New Hampshire Dry Well Survey Maine Dry Well Survey

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Limited soil moisture continues to put stress on trees leading to early shedding of leaves. Colder temperatures will be realized further south as Fall continues, leading to annual grasses shutting down in those areas as well.

Other Impacts

- Water management, agricultural, fisheries, and forestry impacts have been reported. Reach out to the various representatives from those sectors for more information regarding specific impacts.

Mitigation Actions

- Call to Actions: Conserve water, practice fire prevention, and follow directions from local officials.

Main Takeaways

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT

- The latest US Drought Monitor has 100% of Maine and 100% of New Hampshire classified as D0 or greater drought conditions, and 33% of New Hampshire and 16% of Maine experiencing an **Extreme Drought (D3)**
- Beneficial rainfall brought short-term and limited relief to drought stricken areas in late September, but it was insufficient to improve drought categories and much of that rainfall has already been depleted either by vegetation, runoff, or evaporation
- Streamflows were low to very low - 10th to 24th percentile or less with several sites in daily record lows
- Additional impacts include but are not limited to declining lake levels, dried swamps and a growing number of dry wells being reported.
- D1 or more severe drought regions need **6 or more inches of additional rainfall**, roughly 125-175% of normal, between now and when the ground freezes to improve drought conditions, otherwise drought could linger through the winter
- Drought-reducing rainfall is not on in the forecast at this time, however shorter days and cooler temperatures will lessen evaporation compared to the the past few months.
- Steady state in the drought classification is likely over the next week.

Contact Information

October 2, 2025
2:08 EDT

Briefing Webpage

www.weather.gov/gyx/EMhome
→ https://www.weather.gov/gyx/drought

Disclaimer

- Information contained in this briefing is time-sensitive
- Do Not Use After: October 9, 2025

Contact Information

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