Drought Information Statement for New Hampshire and Western Maine

November 26, 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.

- The latest USDM has brought modest reductions in Severe Drought (D2) across Maine
- Moderate to Severe drought conditions remain with drought likely to linger into spring

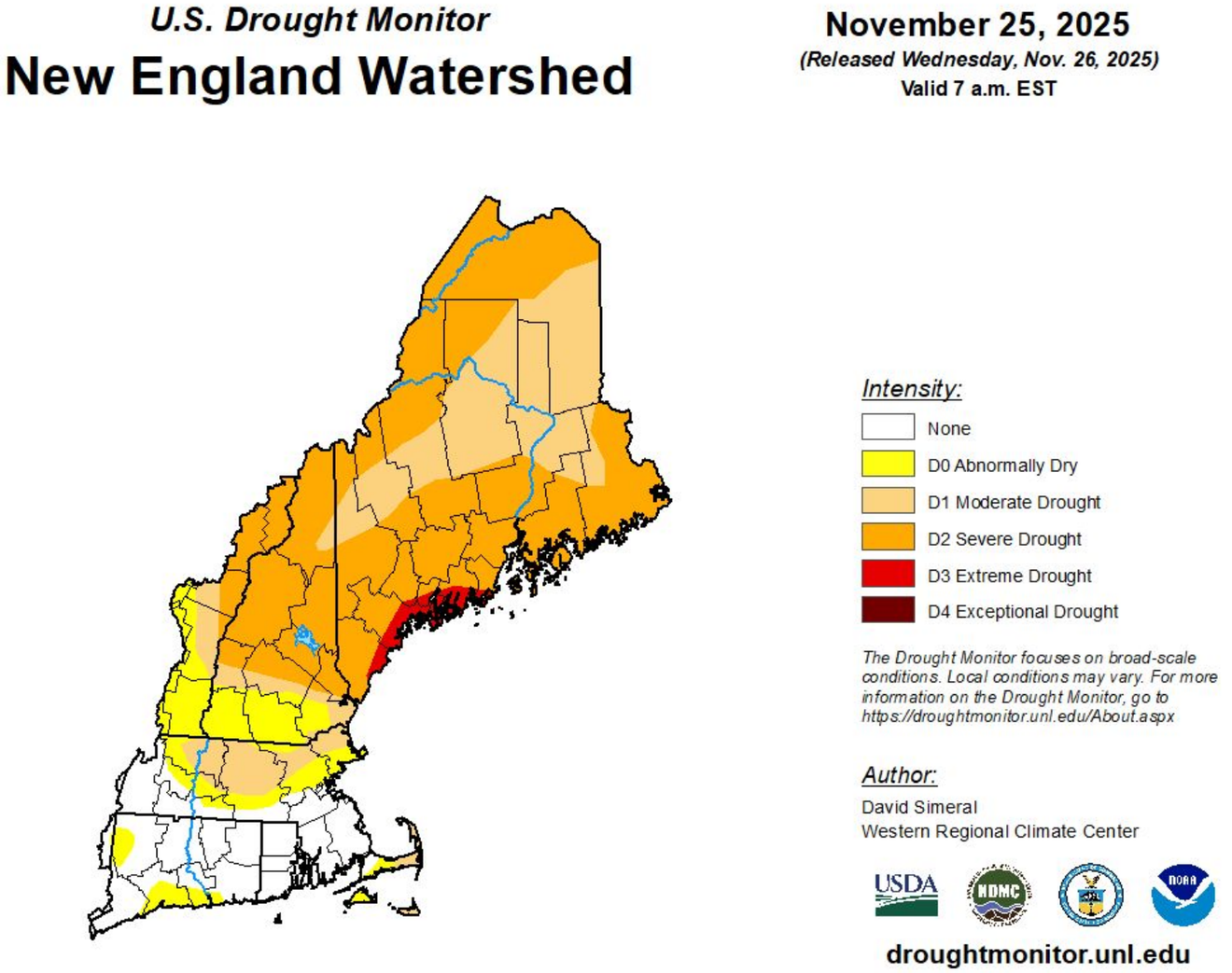
U.S. Drought Monitor

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

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

Drought intensity and Extent

- **D3 (Extreme Drought):**
  - 0% of New Hampshire
  - 3% of Maine
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**:
  - 66% of New Hampshire
  - 63% of Maine
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**:
  - 12% of New Hampshire
  - 34% of Maine
- **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**:
  - 22% of New Hampshire

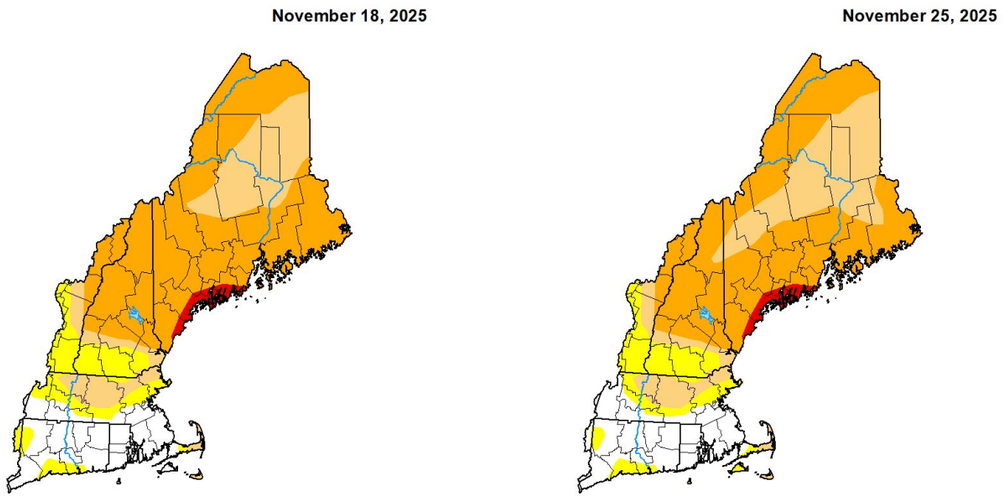


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

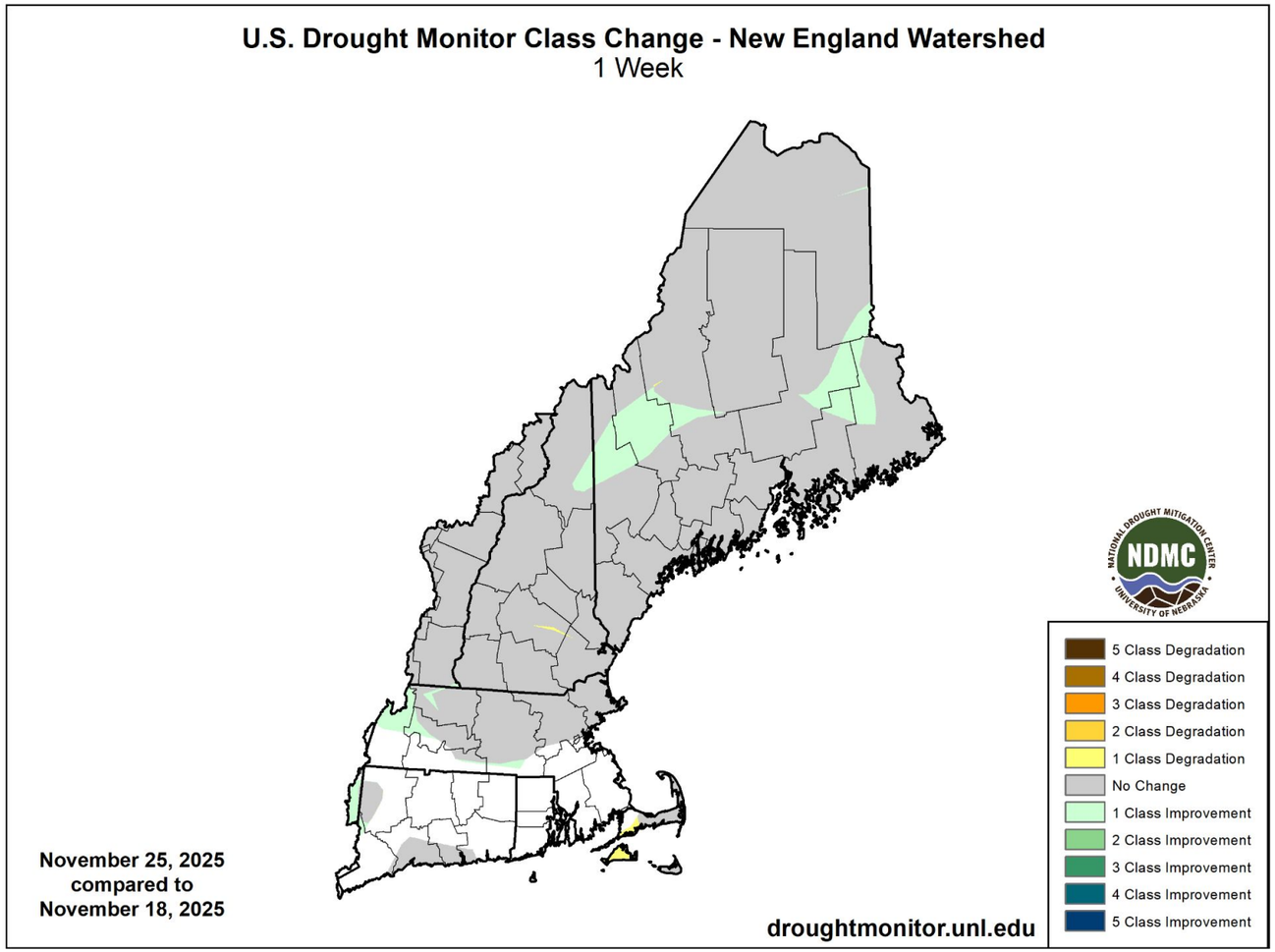
November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

Link to the latest 1 week change map for New England

- The area saw modest reductions in Severe Drought (D2) across Central Maine



U.S. Drought Monitor Weekly Maps

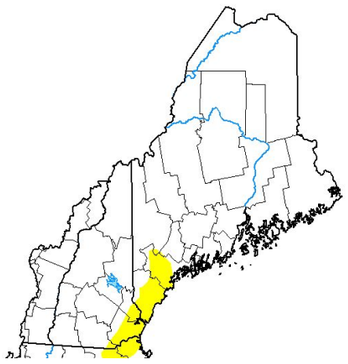


2025 US Drought Monitor

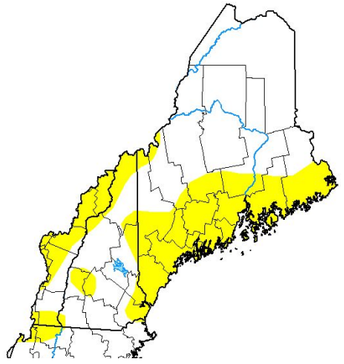
Intensity and Impacts

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)

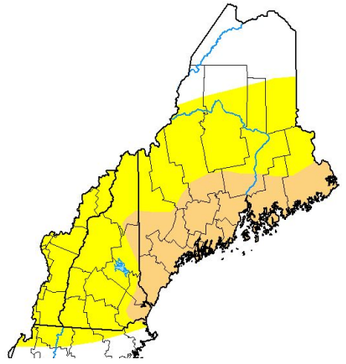
July 29, 2025



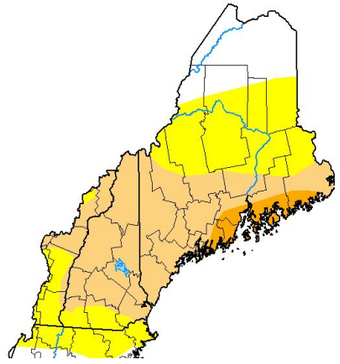
August 5, 2025



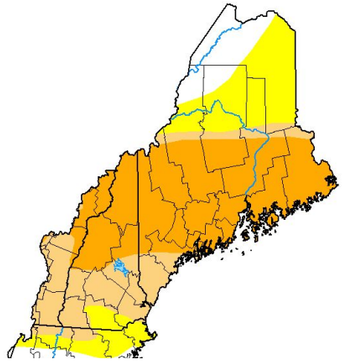
August 12, 2025



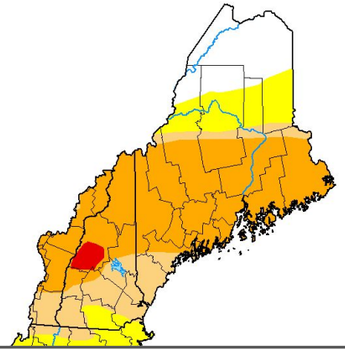
August



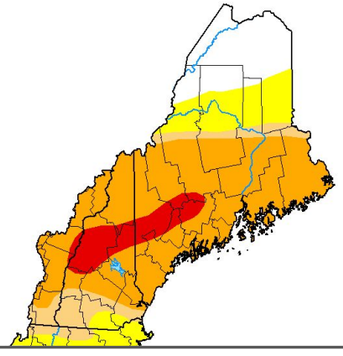
September 2, 2025



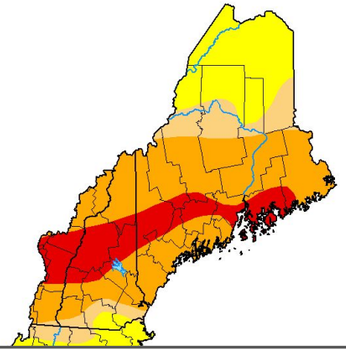
September 9, 2025



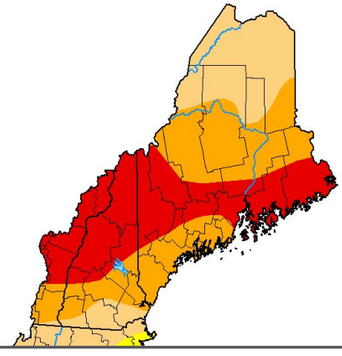
September 16, 2025



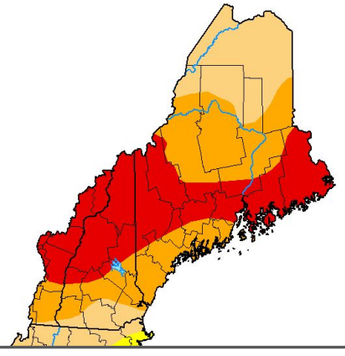
September 23, 2025



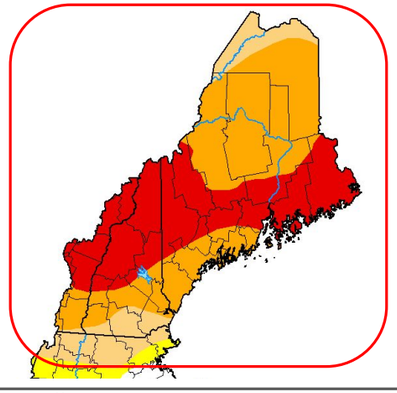
October 7,



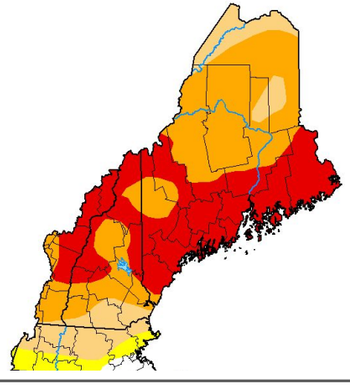
October 14, 2025



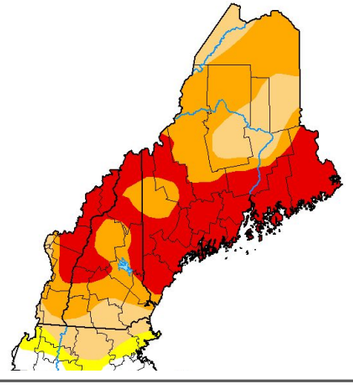
October 21, 2025



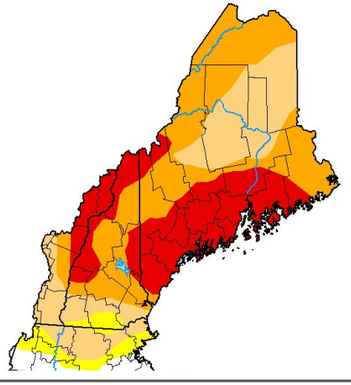
October 28, 2025



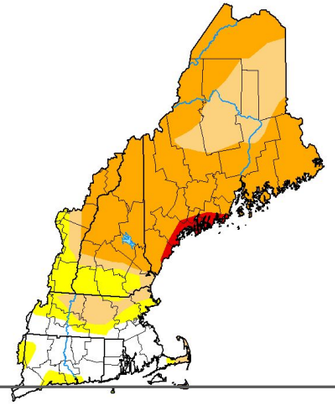
November 4, 2025



November 11, 2025



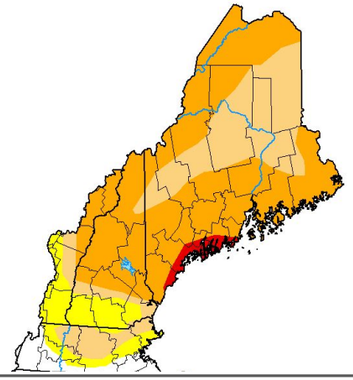
November 18, 2025



Drought “PEAK” 92% ME & 83% NH D2 or D3

2025 US Drought Monitor Continued

November 25, 2025



Intensity and Impacts

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)

Recent Precipitation

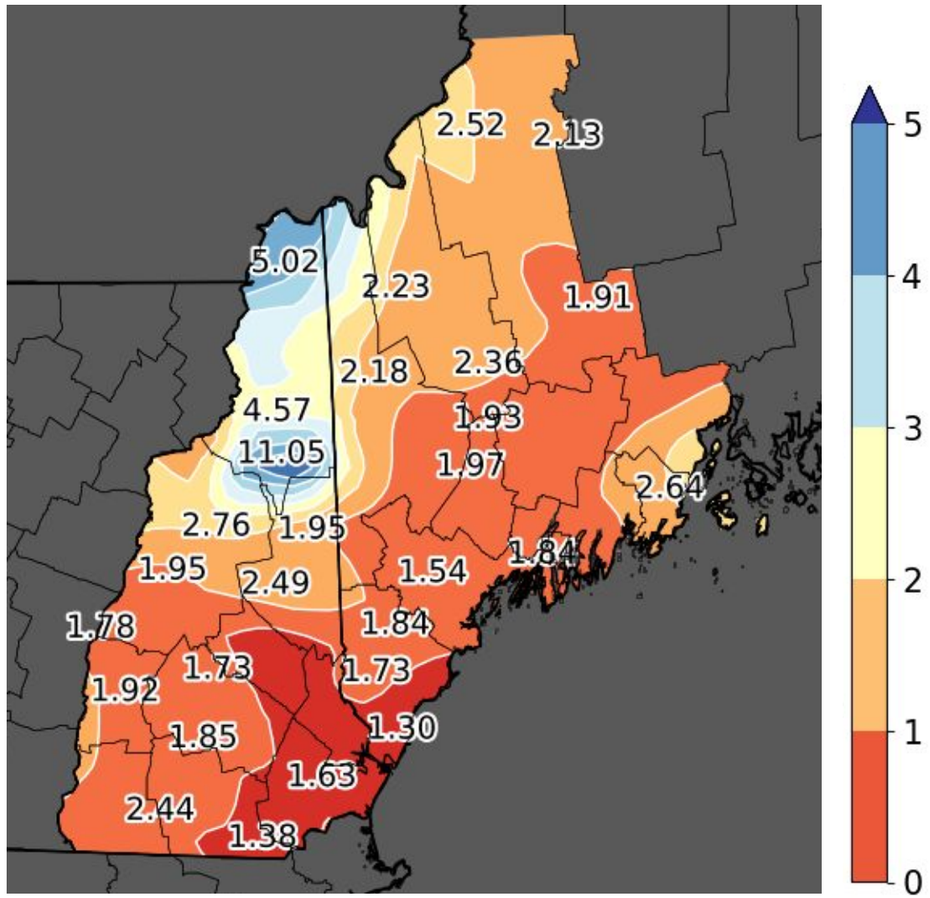
November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

Much of the precipitation in northern counties fell as snowfall, with upslope favoring higher accumulations.

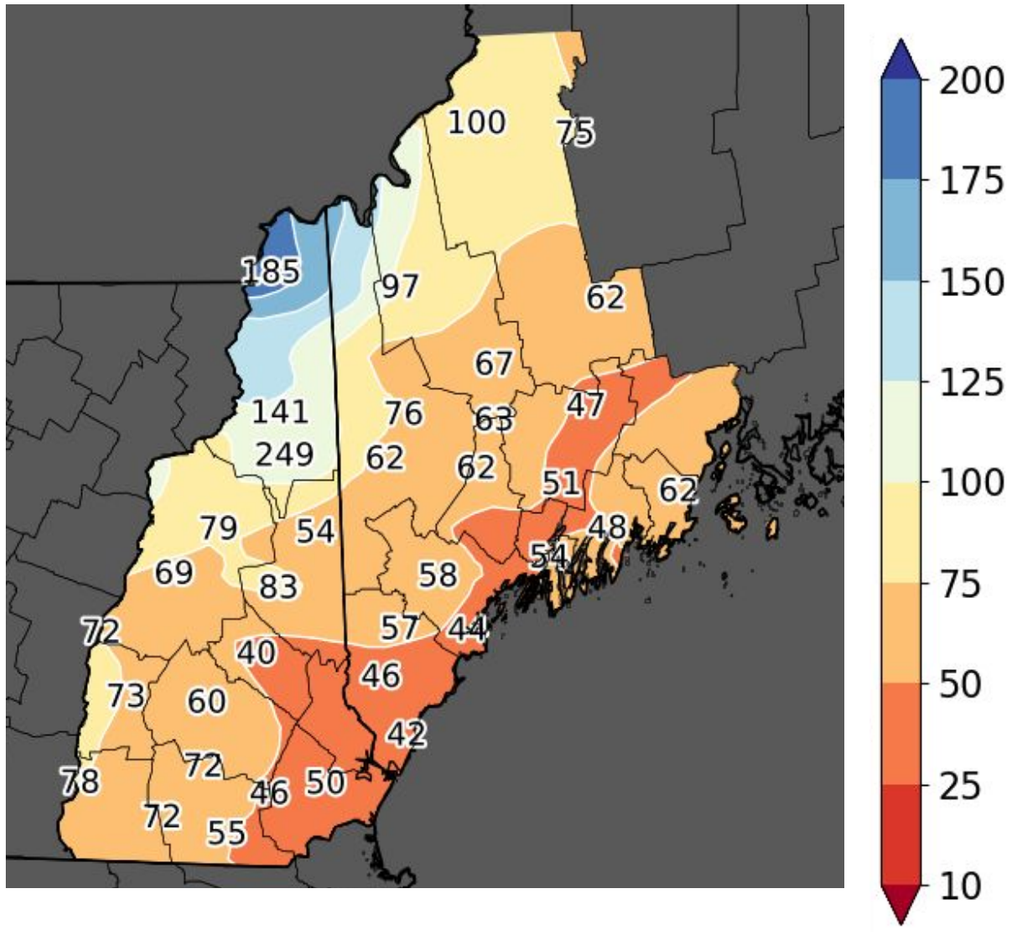
From the foothills southward precipitation was more sparse, and a mix of frozen and liquid throughout the month.

Note: November is often one of the wettest months of the year, and averages close to 5 inches regionally for the month

Month-to-Date Precipitation
Ending November 25 2025



Month-to-Date Precipitation % of Normal
Ending November 25 2025



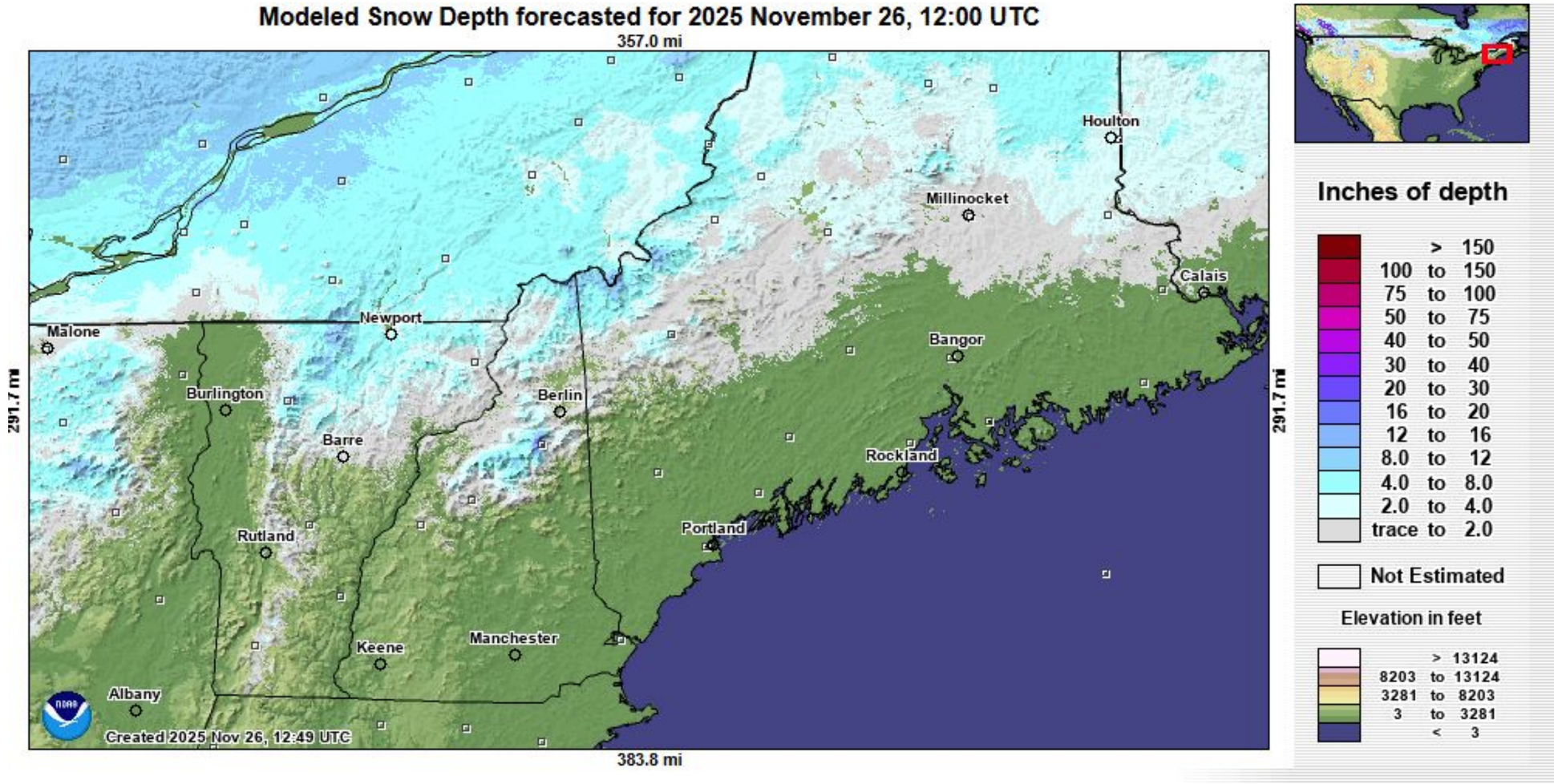
Snowpack

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

NOAA's National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center Modeled Snow Depth

Multiple precipitation events since the beginning of November have produced snowfall, though warm ground conditions and a recent melt event have reduced totals since mid-November.

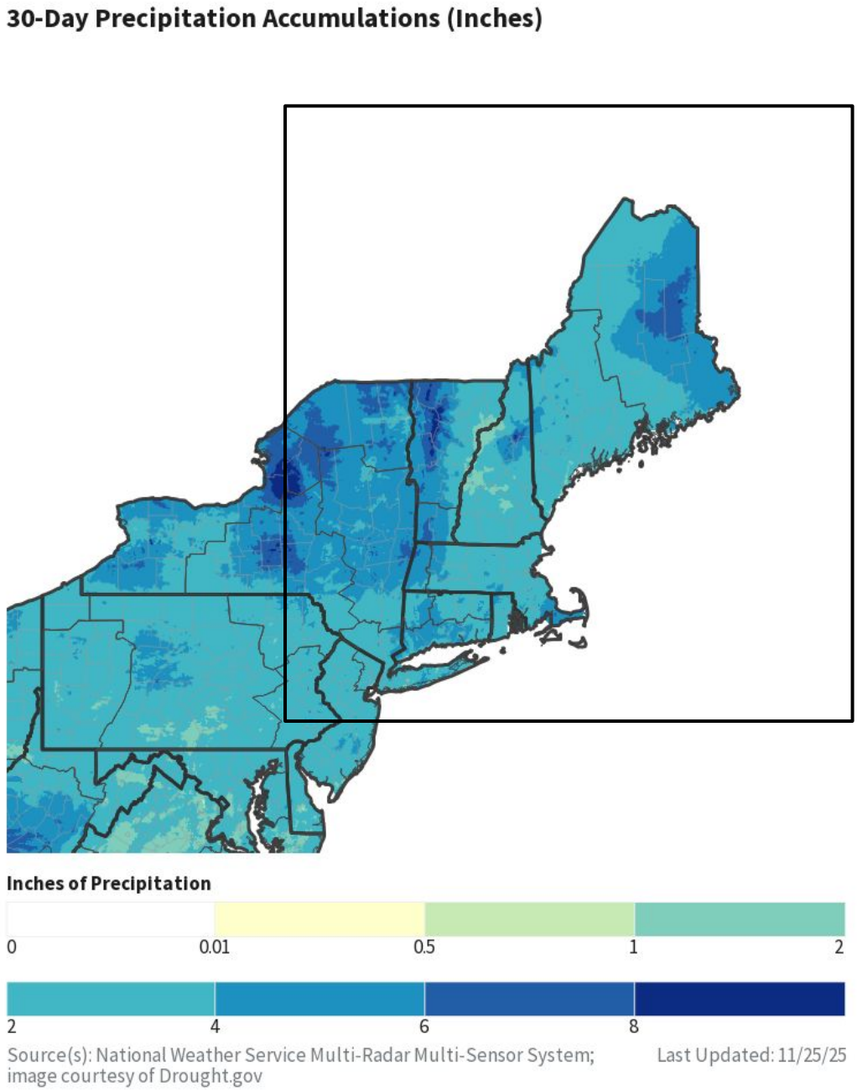
Note: While accumulating snow is often a positive sign for areas experiencing drought, the stored water, measured as Snow Water Equivalent (SWE), does not provide an immediate benefit for drought recovery until it actually melts and begins to enter the wider water system.

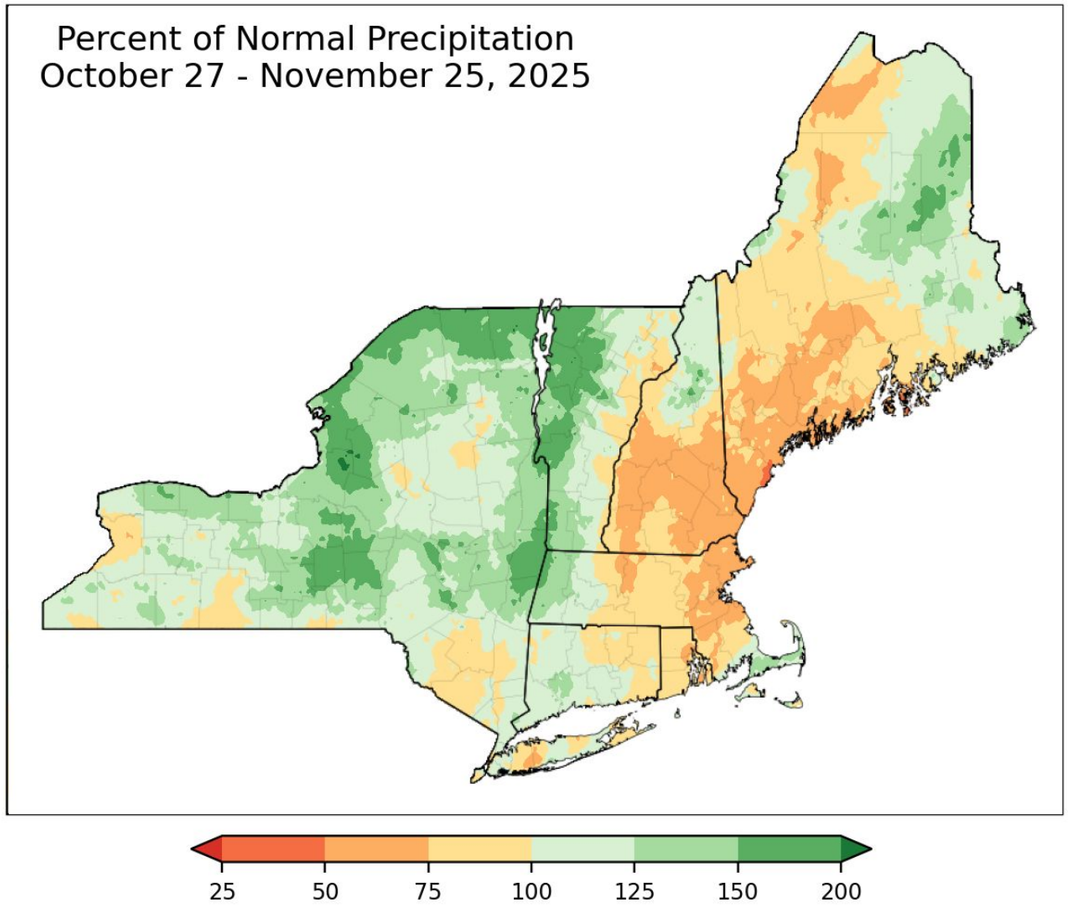


Precipitation- 30 Day

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

Precipitation totals remain below normal for much of the region, apart from upslope portions of the White Mountains and areas northward to the international boundary in NH.

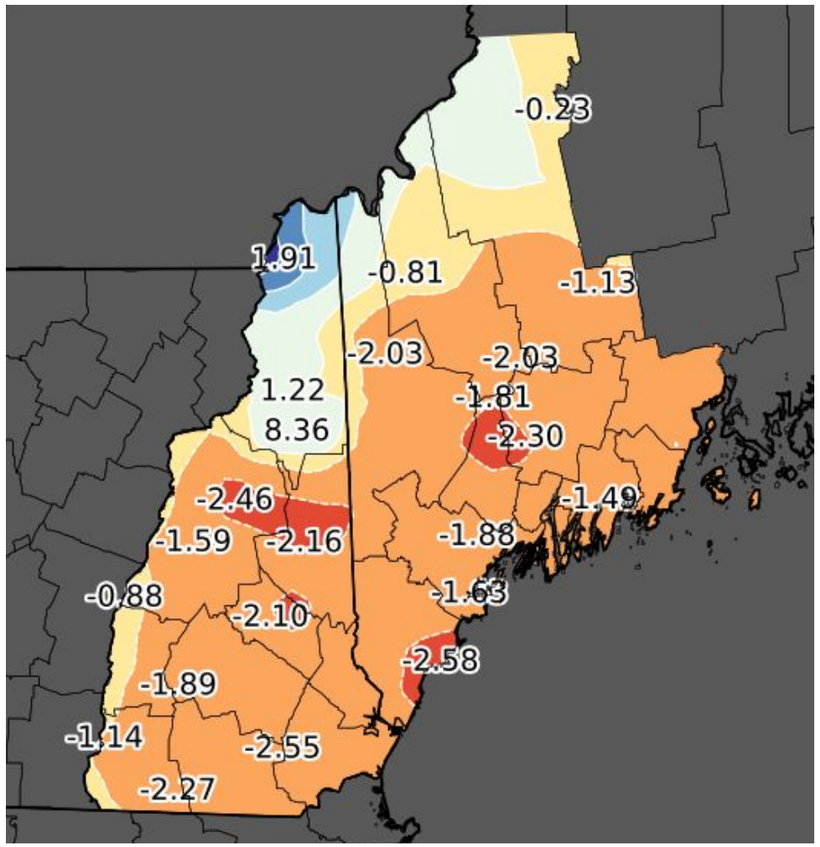




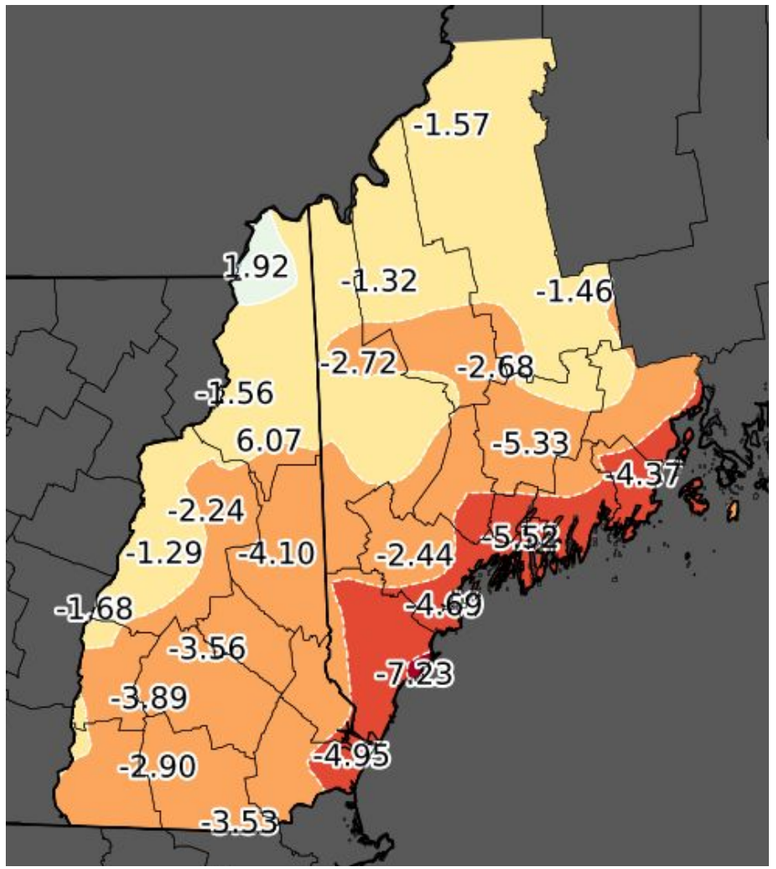
Precipitation Deficits

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

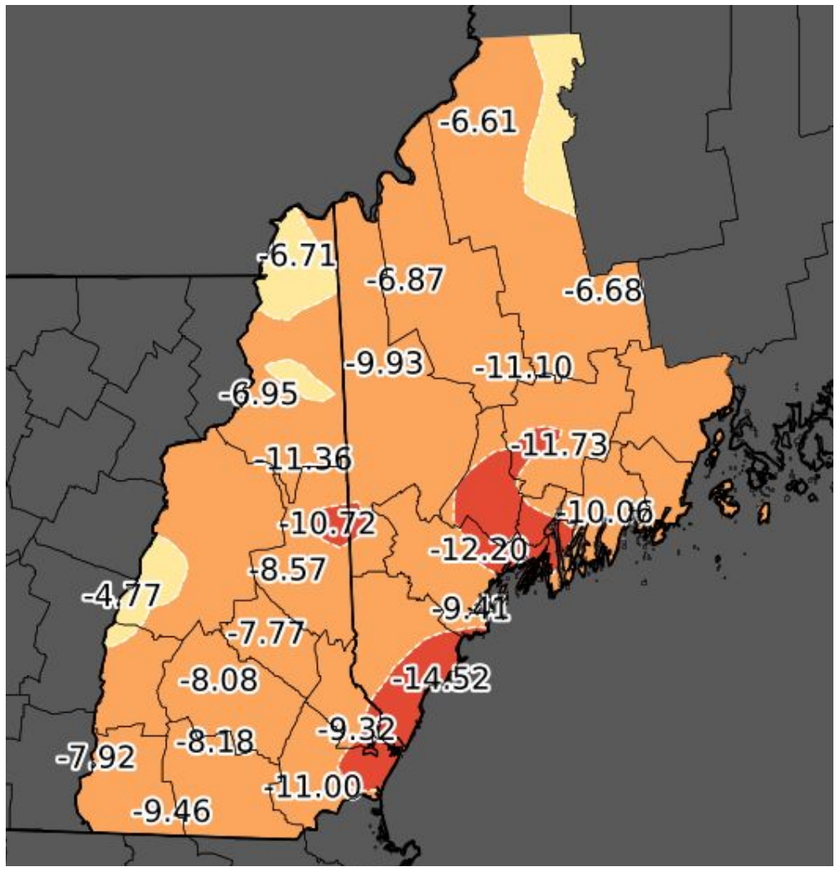
Ending November 25



30 Days



90 Days



Since June 1

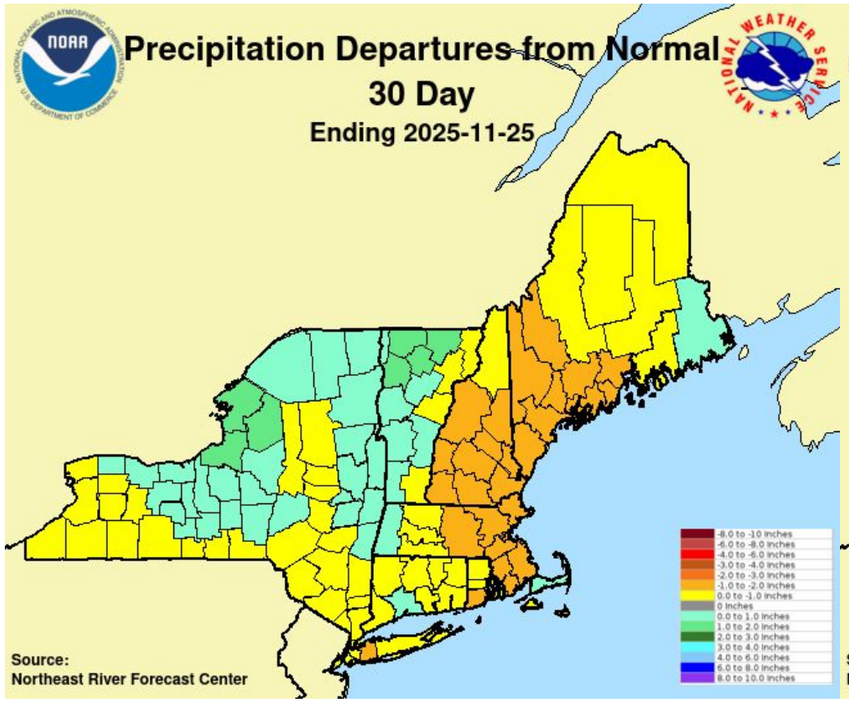
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Gray-Portland, ME

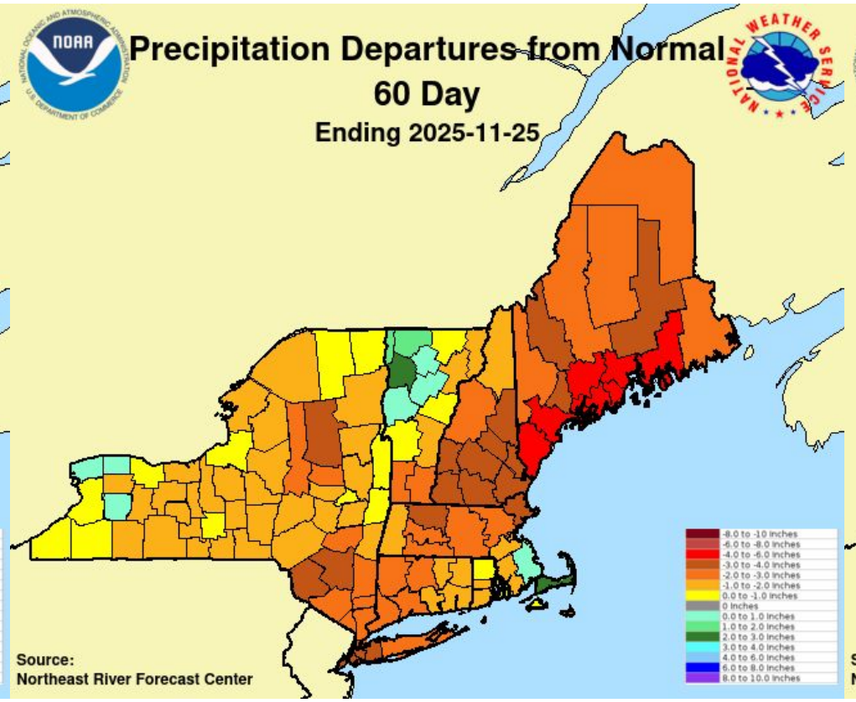
Precipitation Deficits- Regional View

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

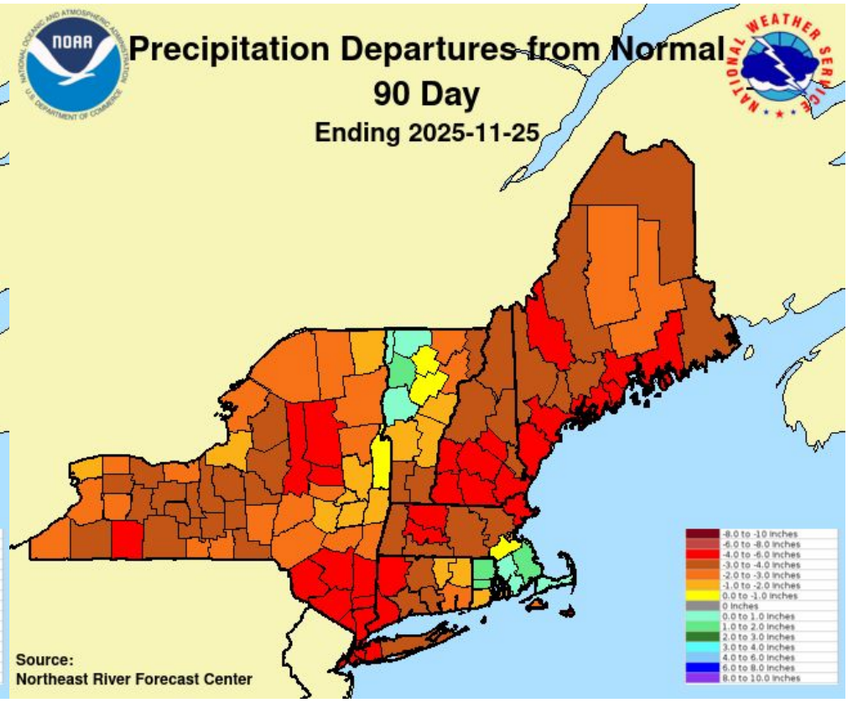
Maps of Departures from Normal by County



Local Departures 0-2”



Local Departures 1-6”



Local Departures 2-7”

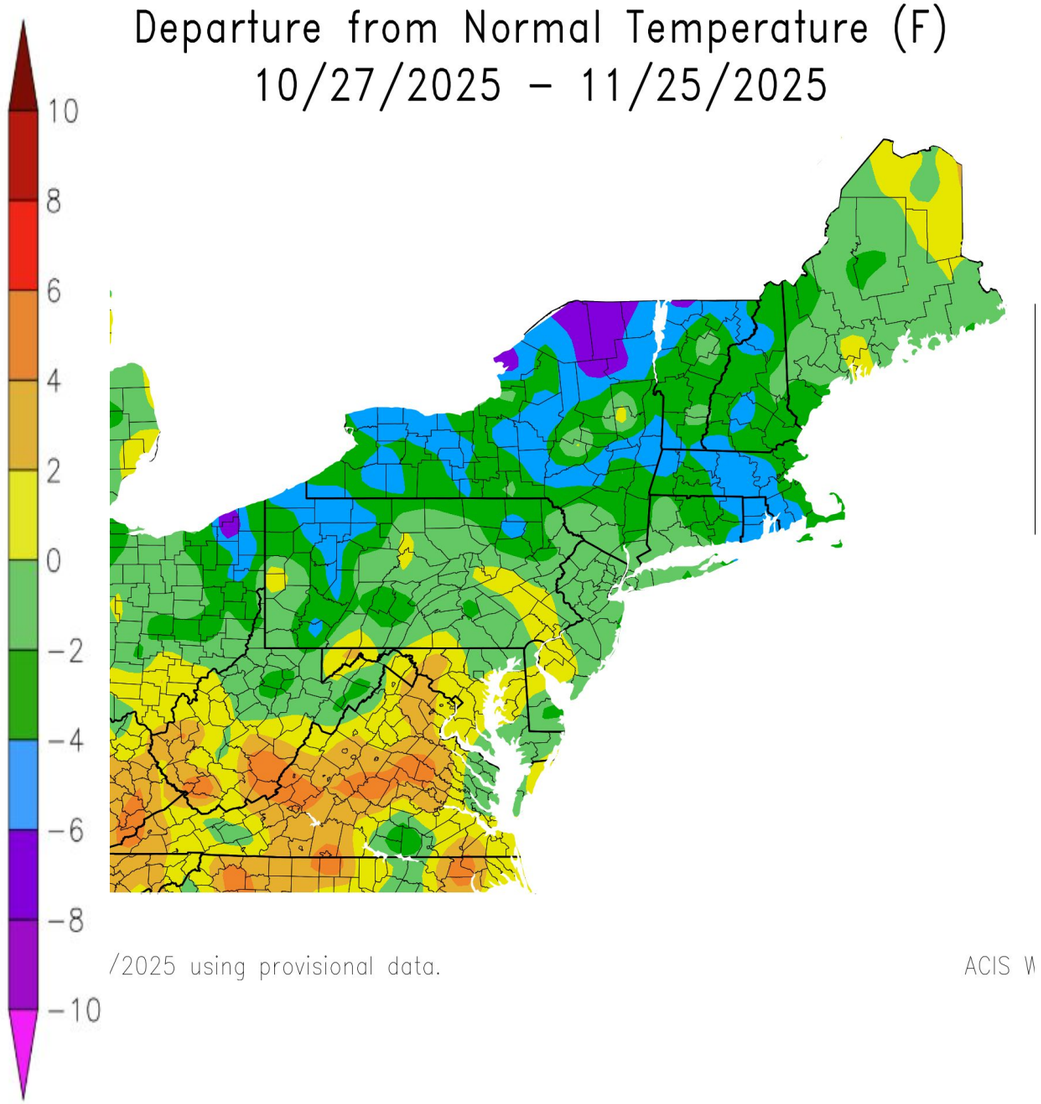
Temperature Anomalies

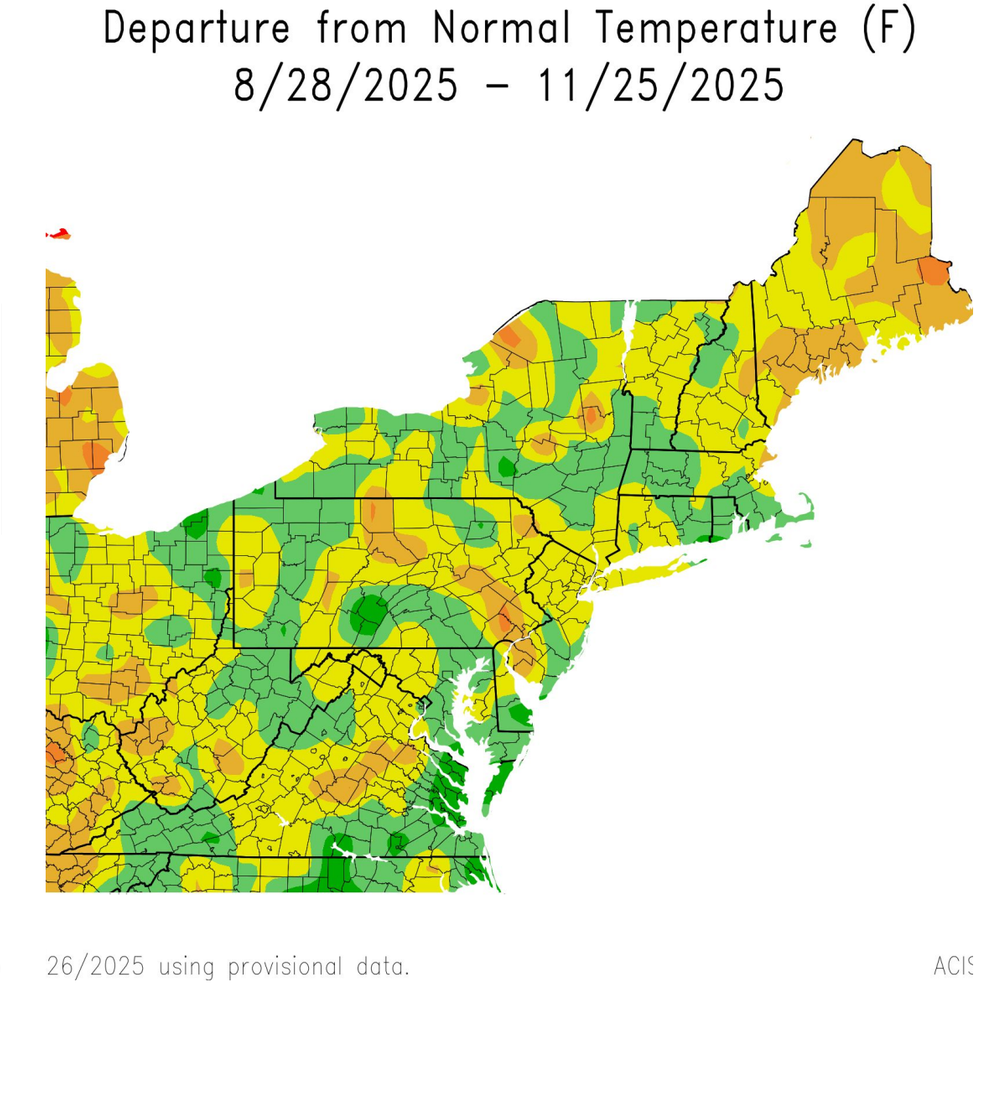
November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

30 Day temperature anomalies registered near to slightly below normal for the first time since the onset of the drought.

90 Day temperature anomalies still indicate above normal temperatures across both Maine and New Hampshire.

The above normal temperatures were the main drivers for excessive evaporation, a primary driver for the drought.





Short Term Drought Index

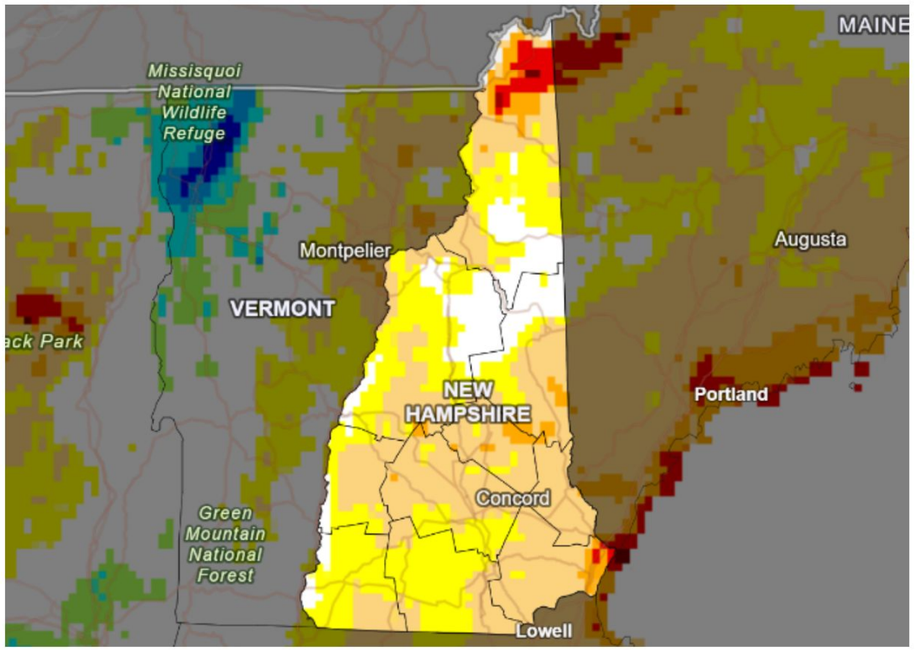
November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

The Short-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index (MIDI) estimates current short-term drought conditions by combining several indicators of drought into a single, map from changes in precipitation and moisture over the past 3 months.

Short term drought conditions indicate significant improvements relative to early Fall.

This experimental map is based on methodology from the NOAA National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center.

Short-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index: New Hampshire



Dry Conditions

D4 D3 D2 D1 D0

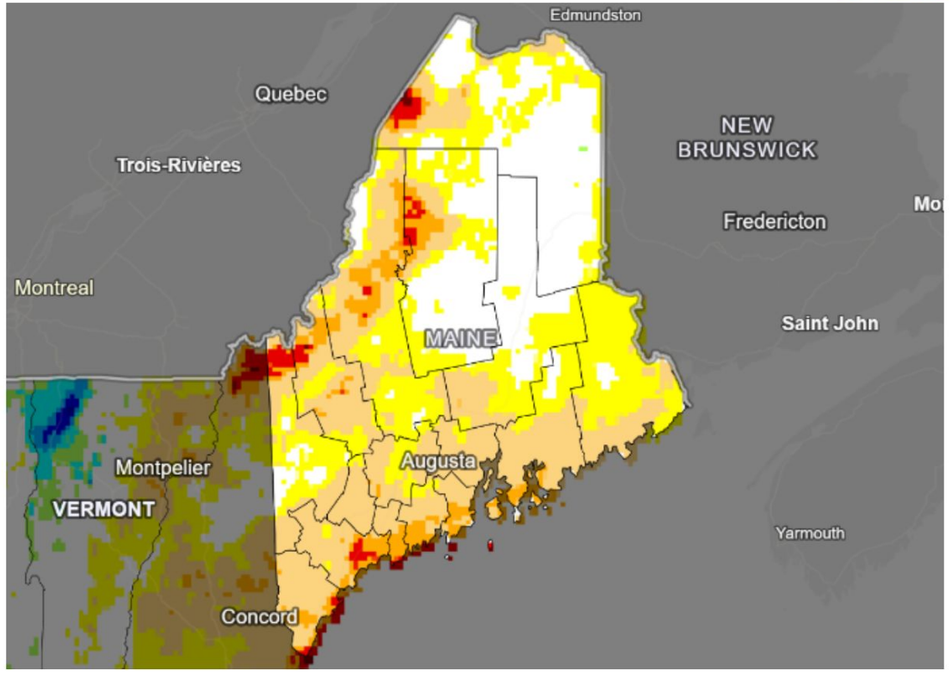
Wet Conditions

W0 W1 W2 W3 W4

Source(s): UC Merced, via Climate Engine
Data Valid: 11/21/25

Drought.gov

Short-Term Multi-Indicator Drought Index: Maine



Dry Conditions

D4 D3 D2 D1 D0

Wet Conditions

W0 W1 W2 W3 W4

Source(s): UC Merced, via Climate Engine
Data Valid: 11/21/25

Drought.gov

Evaporation

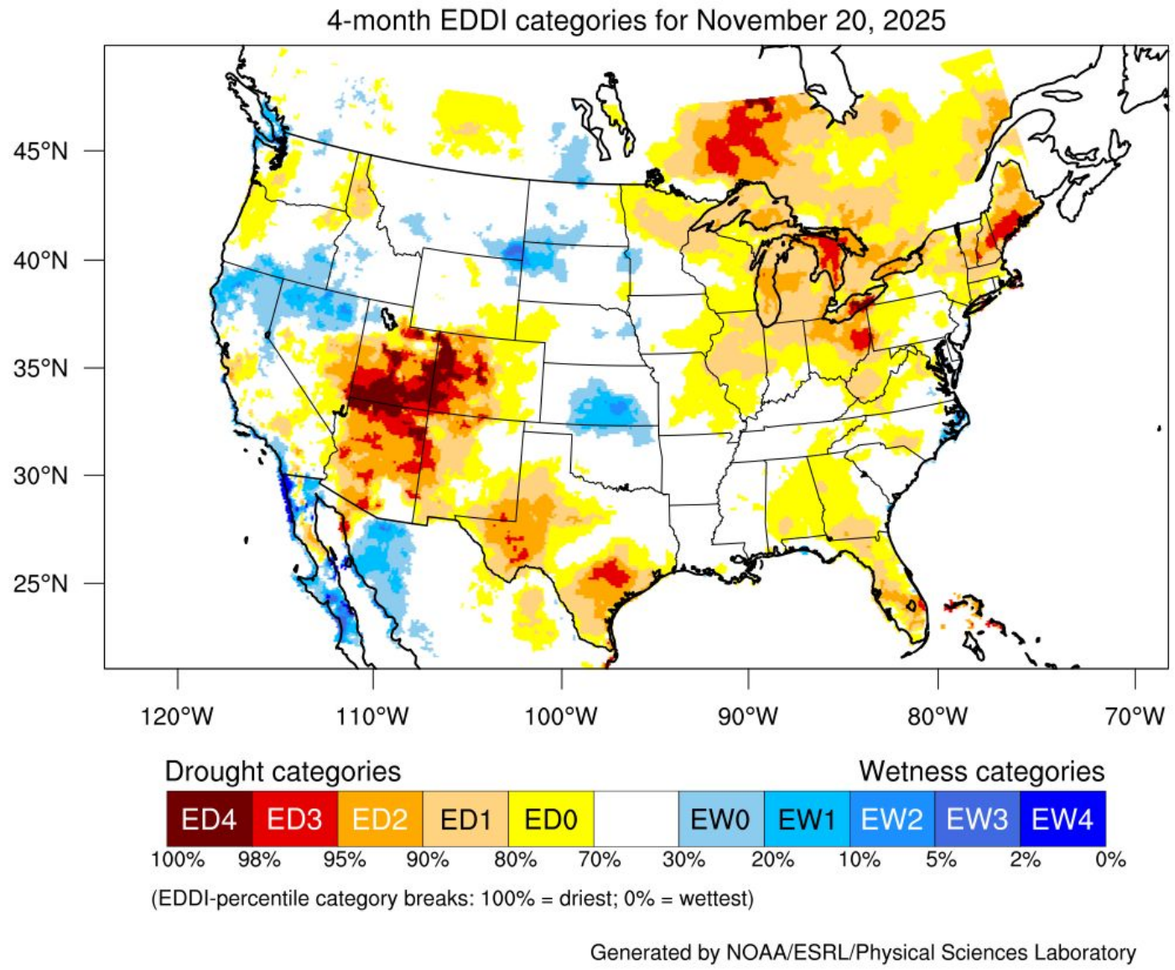
November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

Evaporative Demand Drought Index (EDDI)

Evaporation rates dropped off due to the seasonal transition.

Cumulative EDDI over the last few months were a primary catalyst in the 2025 drought.

Looking at rainfall deficits alone does not quantify the drought magnitude if the evaporative losses aren't included.

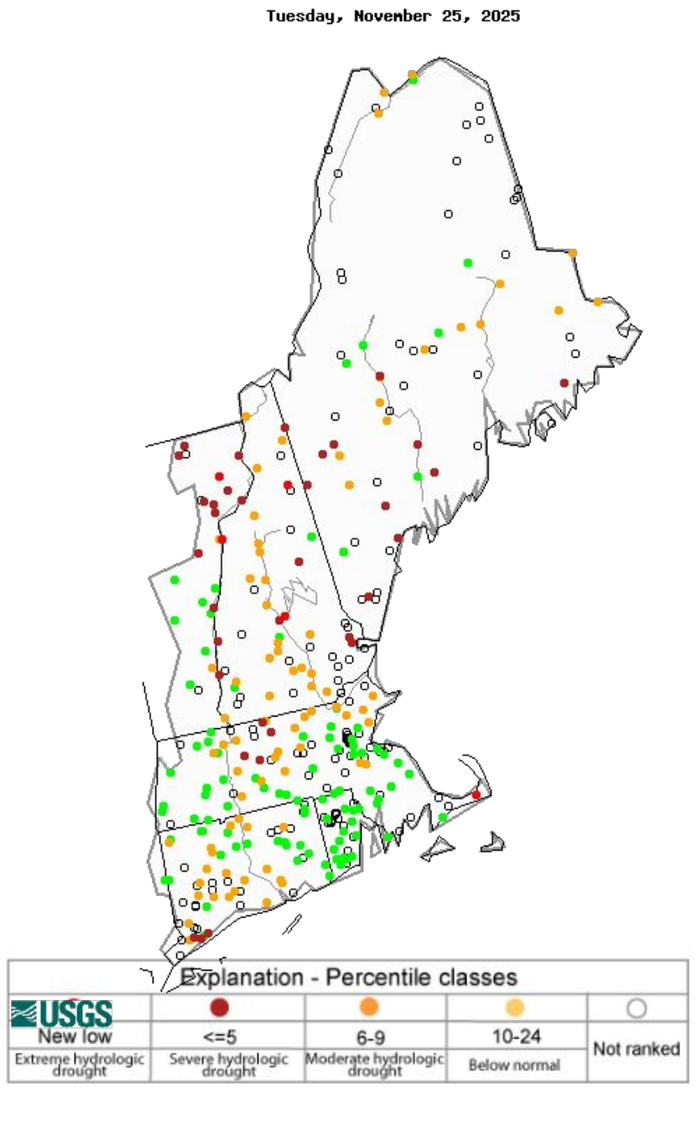


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

USGS Streamgage Information

- A lack of appreciable precipitation and runoff from snowmelt has led to a recession in streamflows for much of the region since mid-November
- Note: Many regulated lakes have recently undergone or are undergoing seasonal drawdowns, which temporarily increase flows



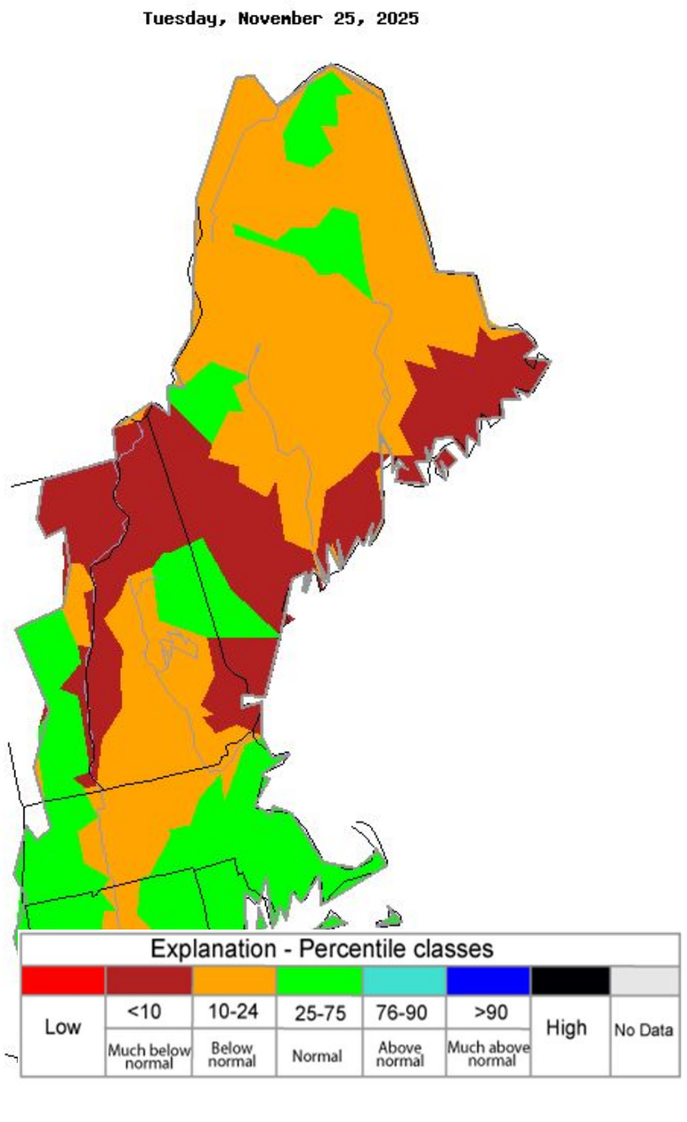


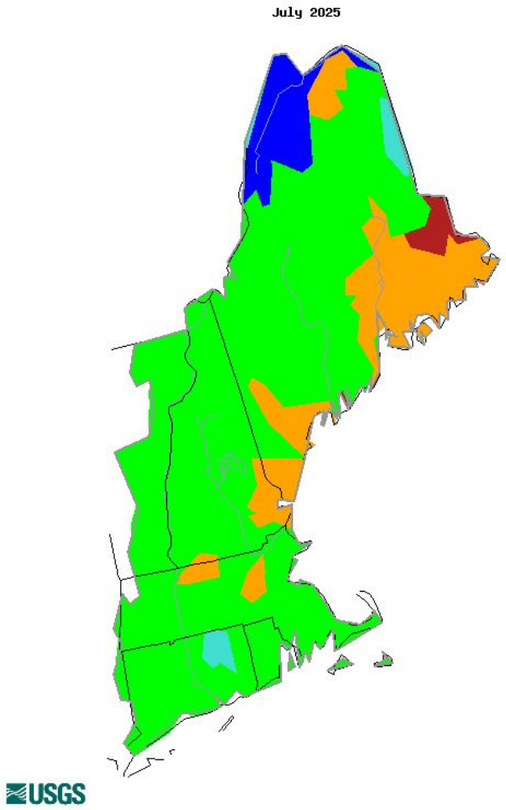
Image 1 (left): USGS 7-Day Streamflow based on the percentile of existing streamflow records on this day of the year.

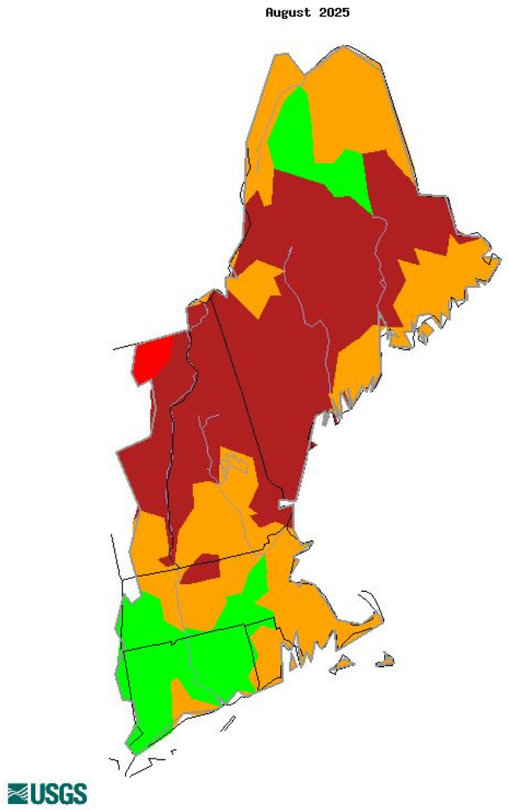
Image 2 (right): USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map.

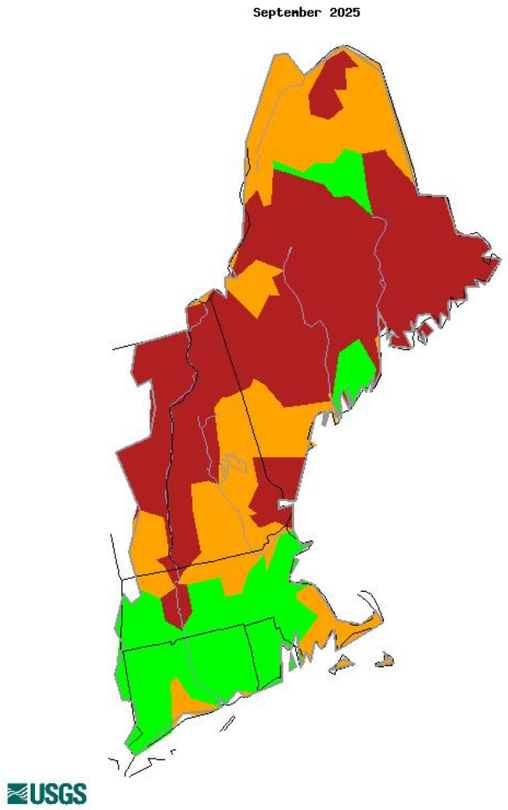
USGS Monthly Streamflows

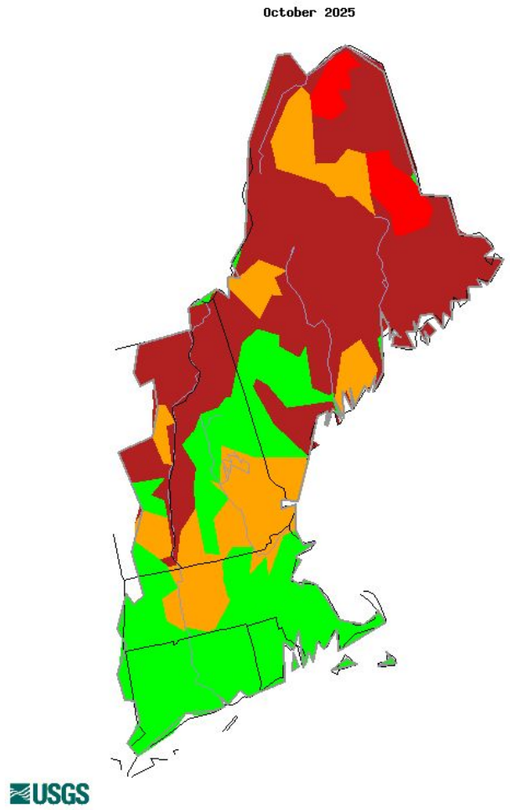
November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

USGS Streamgage Information









Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	Not-ranked
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

USGS Streamgage Information

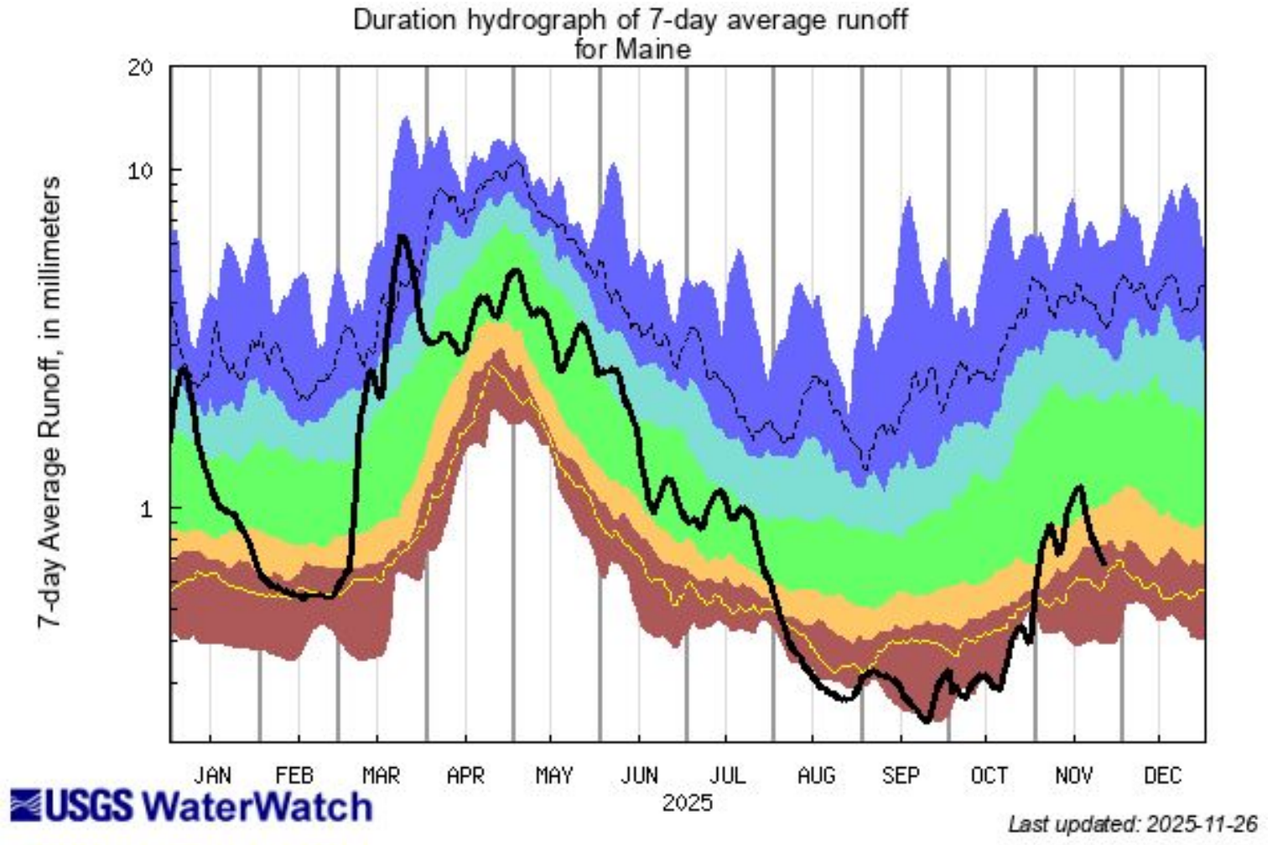


Image 1 (Left): USGS 7-Day Streamflow Runoff Duration Hydrograph for Maine based on the percentile of existing streamflow records on this day of the year.

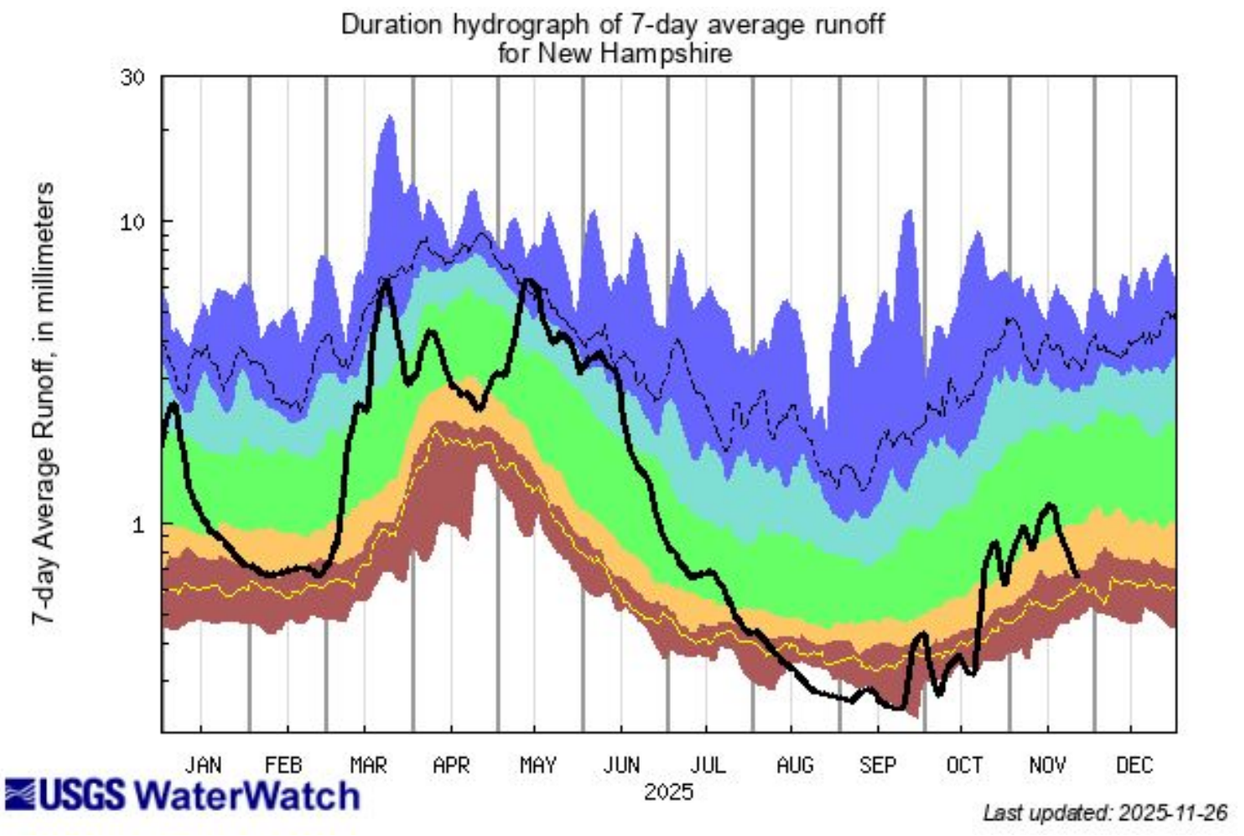
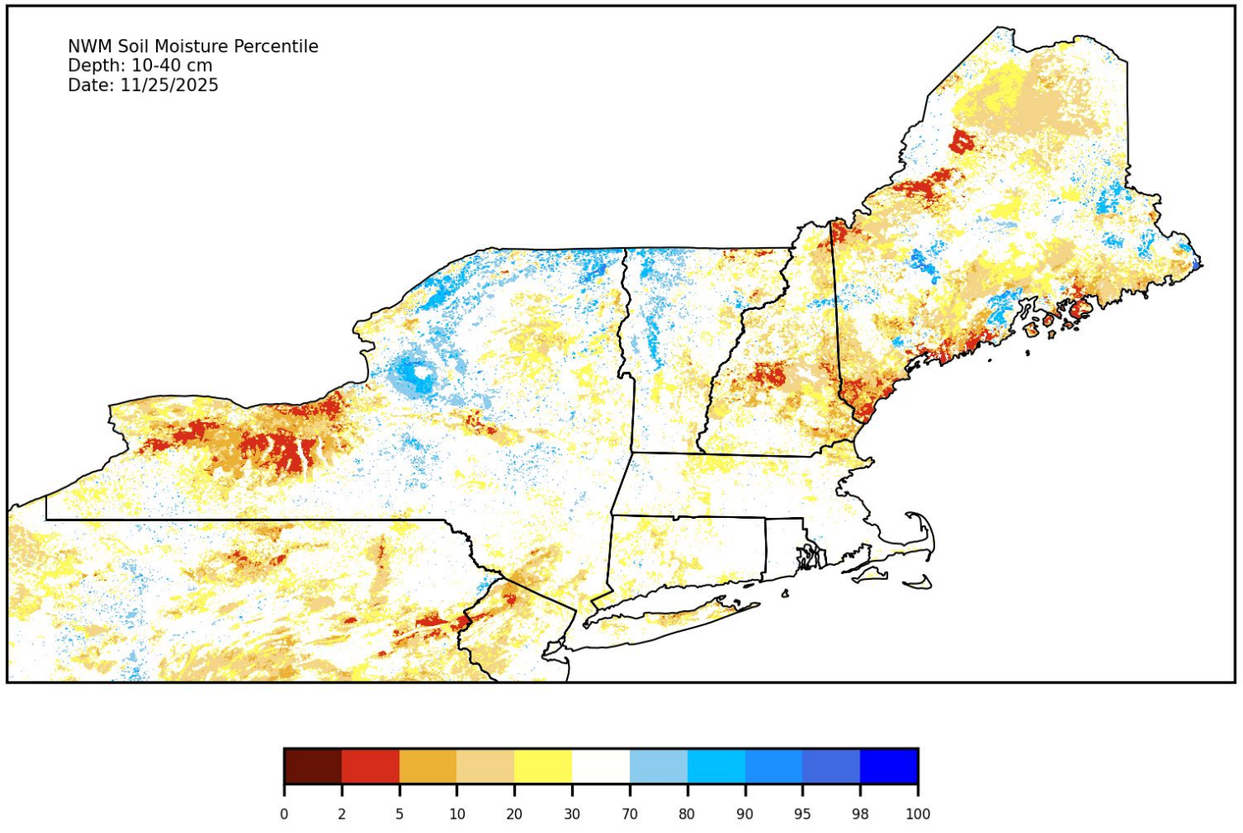


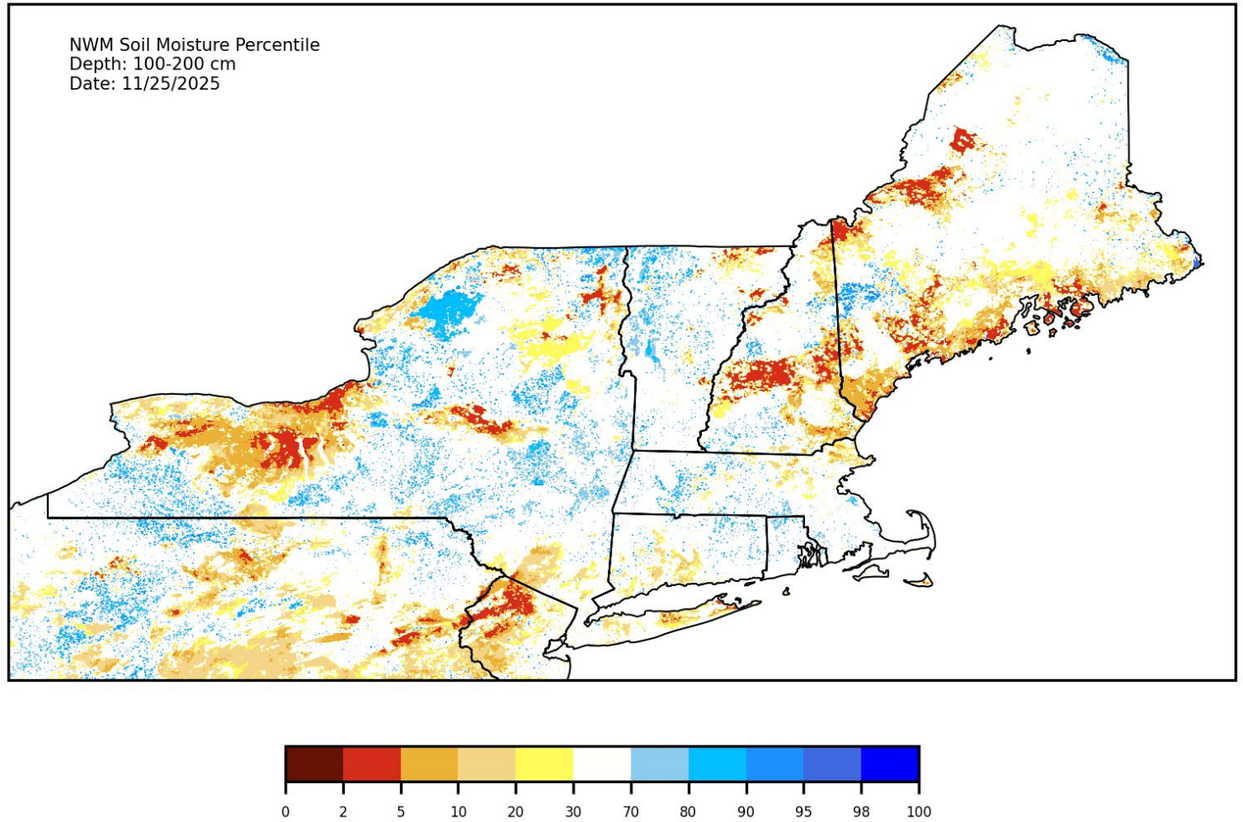
Image 2 (Right): USGS 7 day Runoff Duration Hydrograph for New Hampshire based on the percentile of existing streamflow records on this day of the year.

Soil Moisture

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

National Water Model Soil Moisture Estimates





(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.

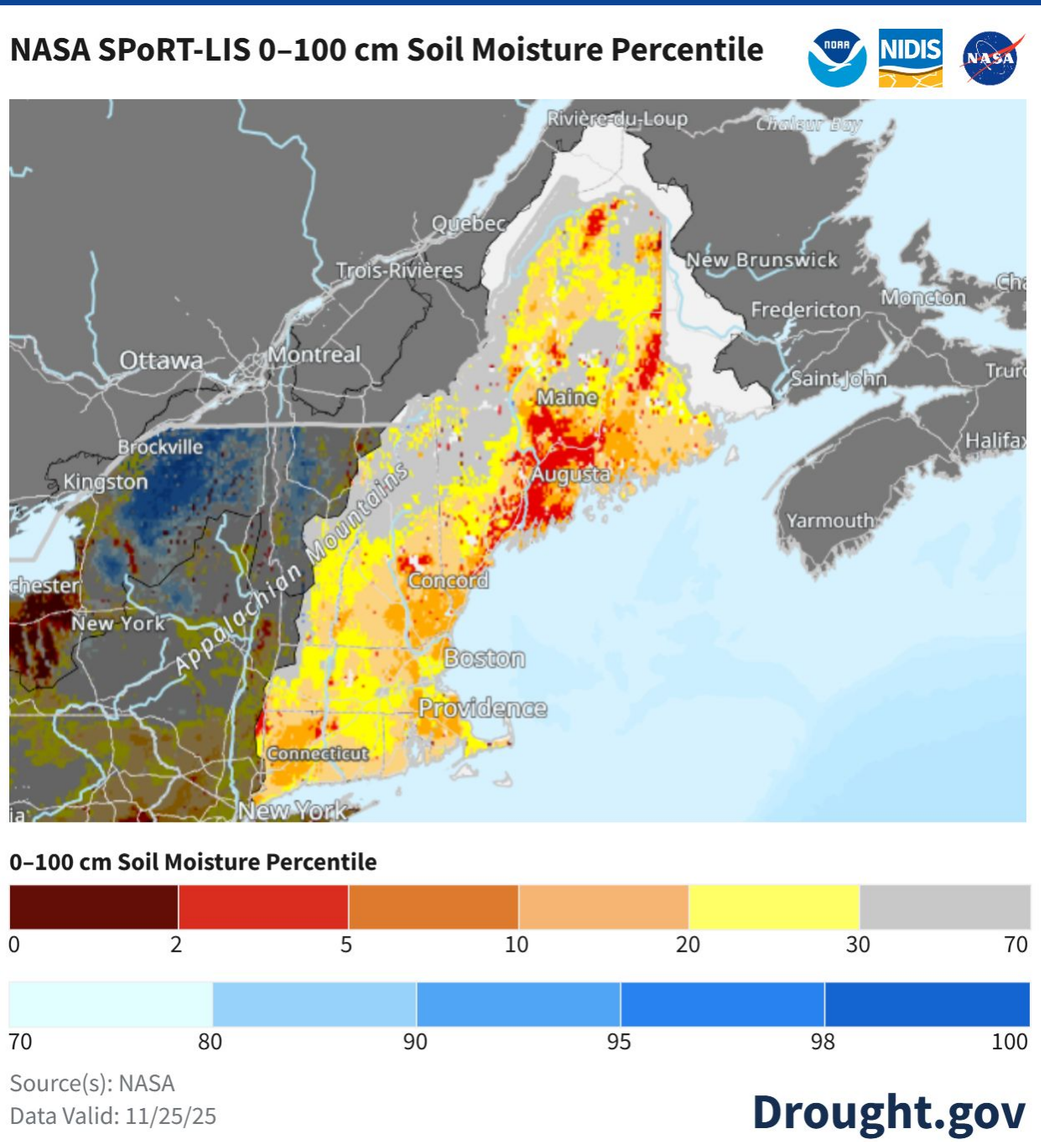
Soil Moisture

Satellite Based

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

- Deeper soil moisture percentiles remain well below climatological normals, confirming that severe and extreme drought conditions remain
- Cold temperatures have frozen some topsoils, but deeper frost depths have yet to develop

This map shows the moisture content of the top 1 meter of soil compared to historical conditions from 1981–2013, based on NASA's Short-term Prediction and Transition Center – Land Information System (SPoRT-LIS).



Soil Moisture

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

Satellite Based

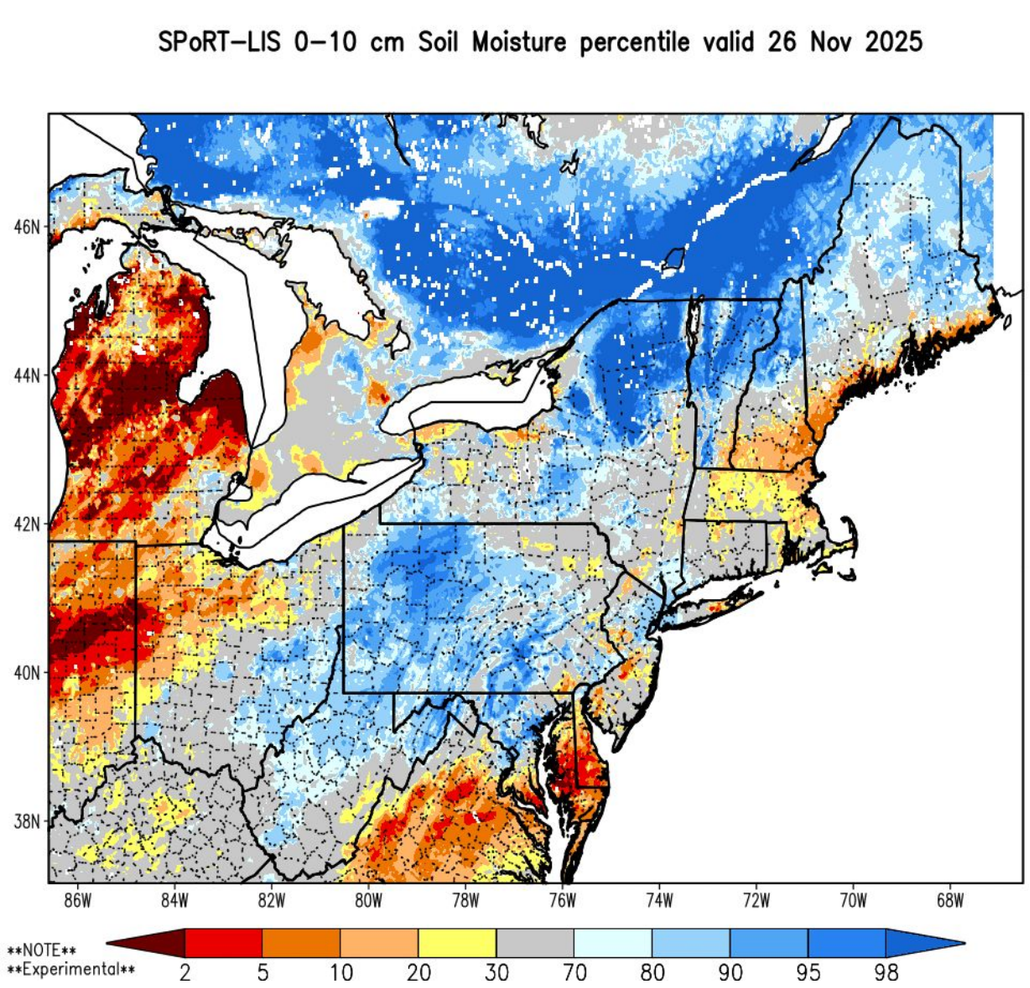


Image: NASA SPoRT-LIS 0-10 cm percentiles soil moisture (top soils)

Surface topsoil (left) moisture levels have rebounded due to reduced vegetation demand, but deeper soil moisture deficits (right) remain

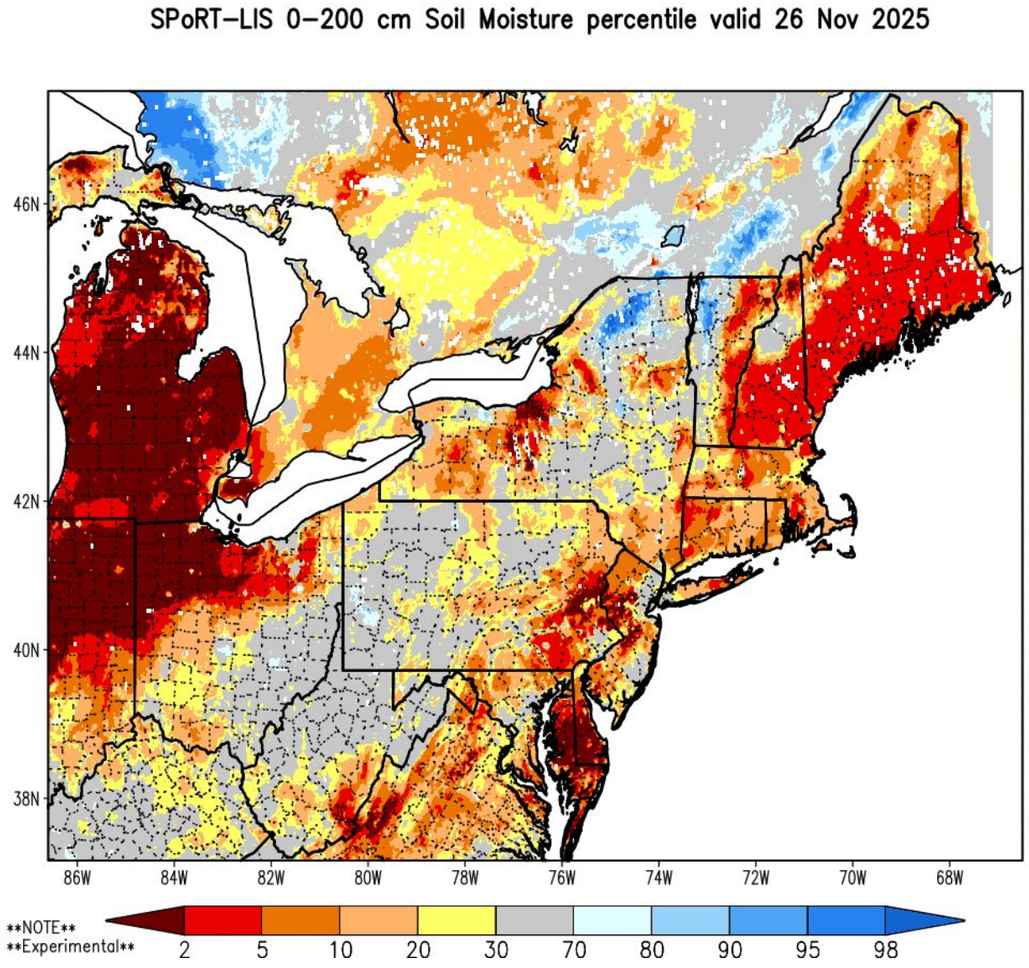
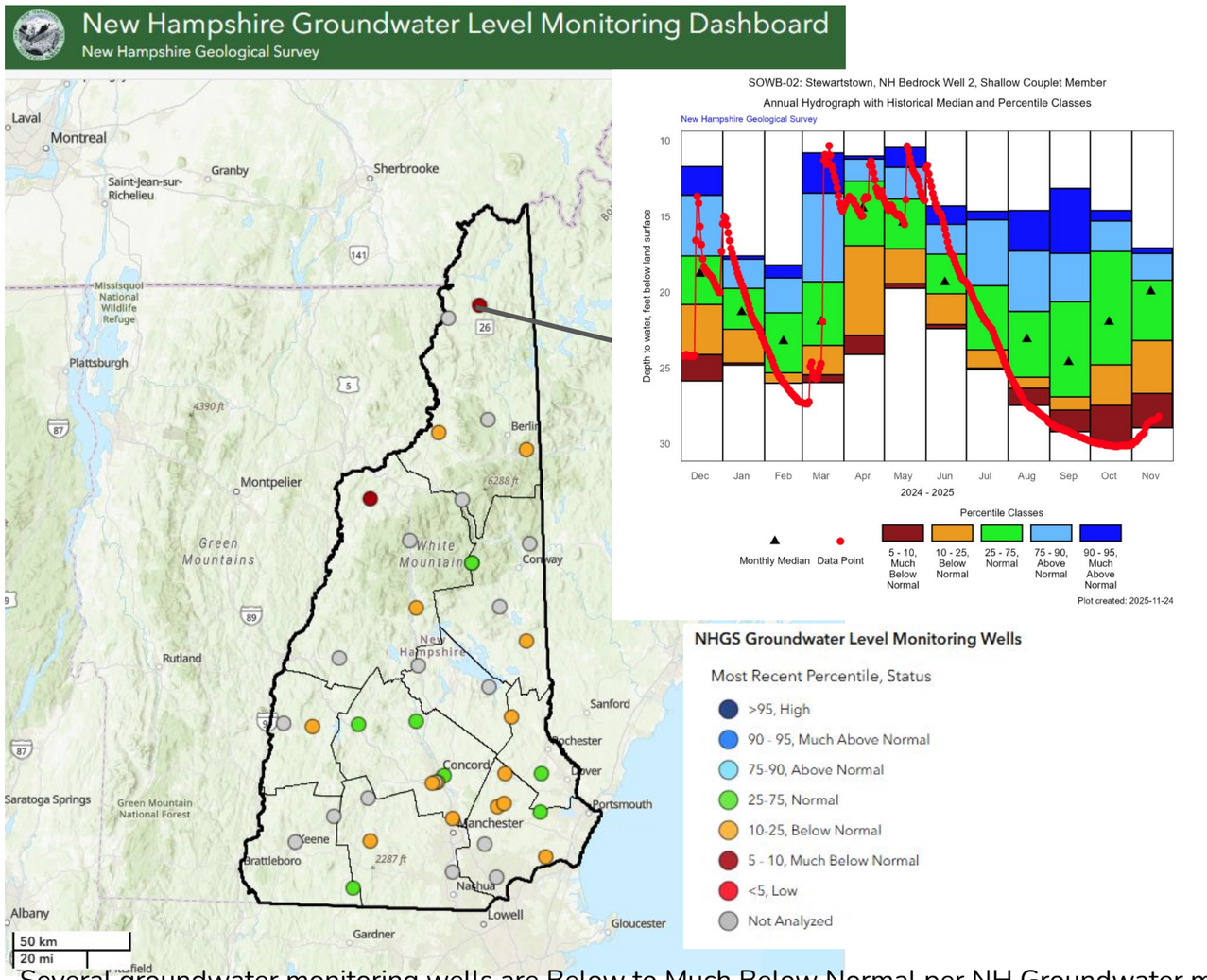
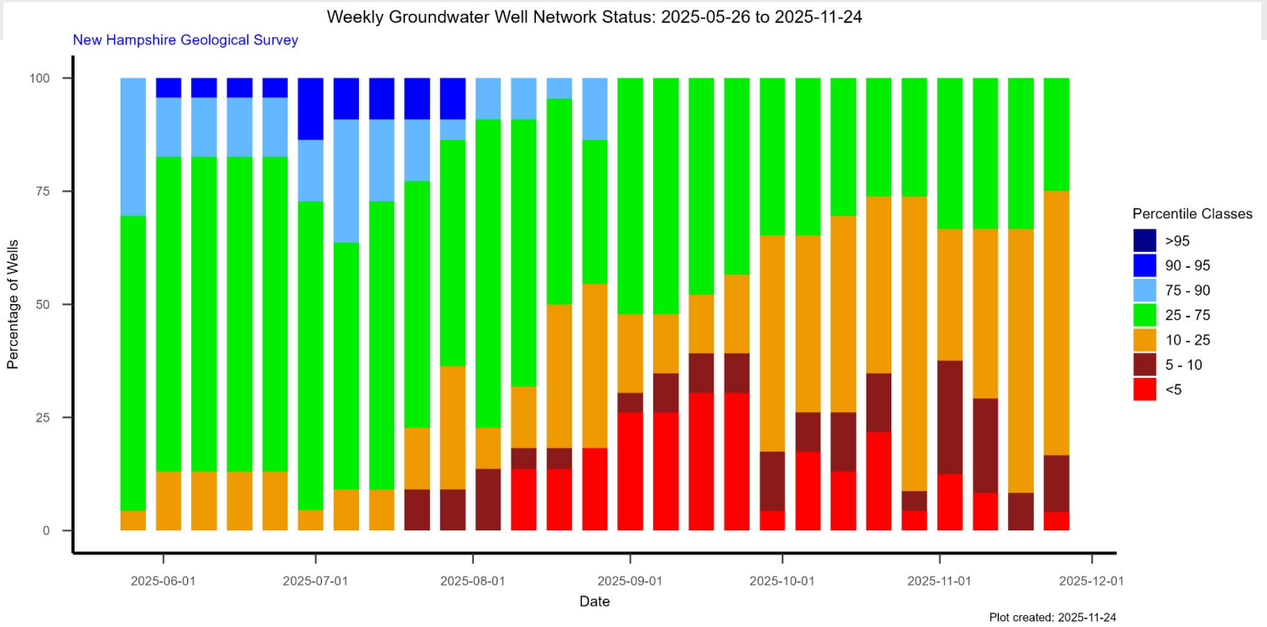


Image: NASA SPoRT-LIS 0-200 cm soil moisture percentiles (0-6ft)

Groundwater Levels- New Hampshire

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST



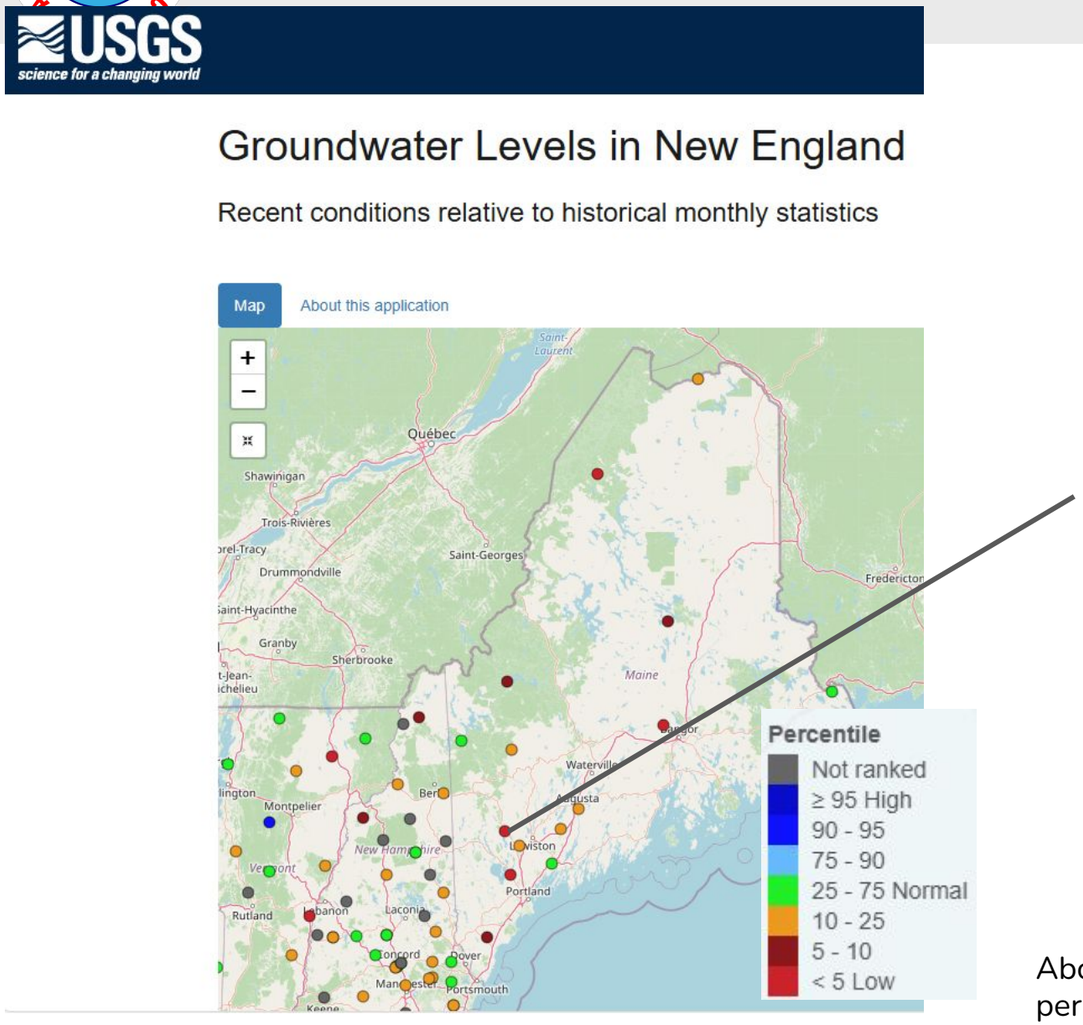


Groundwater levels have shown a seasonal “bounce” with some improvements across the state. Overall aquifers remain below normal to much below normal for the majority of the wells.

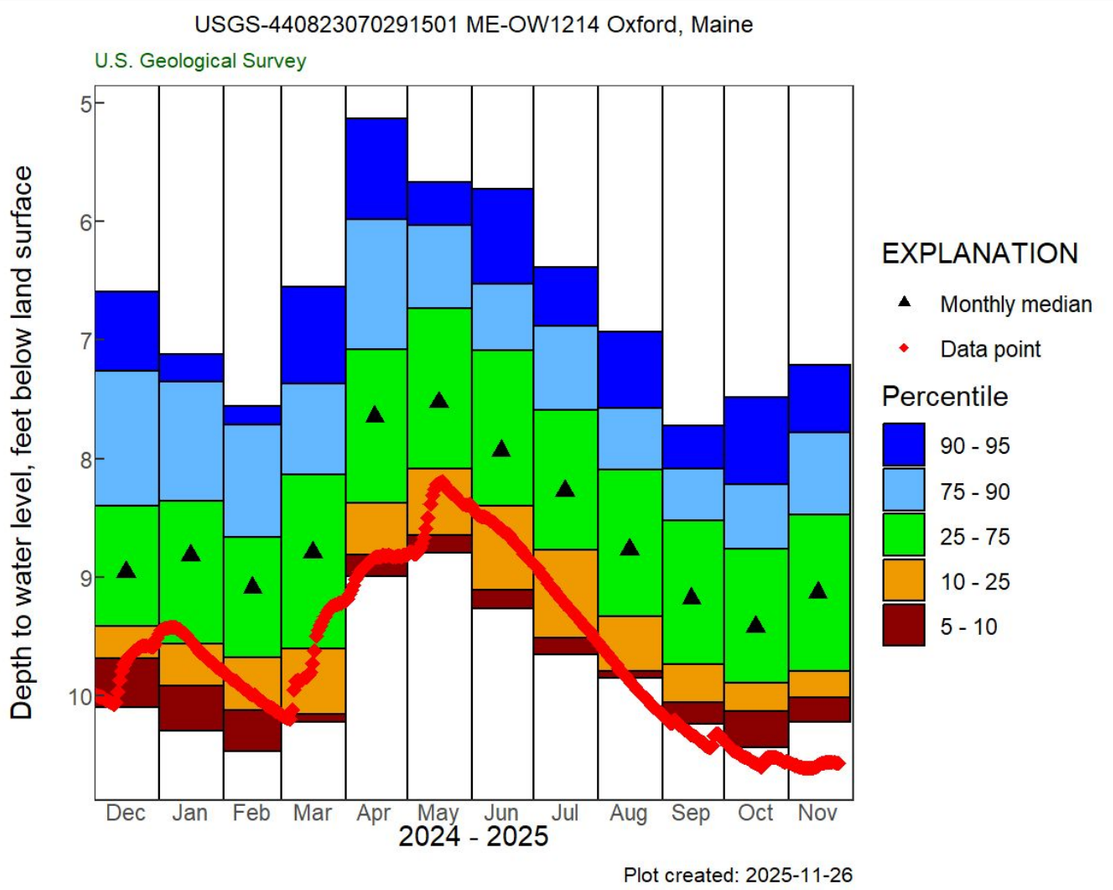
Several groundwater monitoring wells are Below to Much Below Normal per NH Groundwater monitoring dashboard (https://nhdes.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/6b333fa640994c17a31993a9e5298043) and the USGS Groundwater Levels

Groundwater Impacts

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST



USGS Groundwater Levels (https://newengland.water.usgs.gov/web_app/GWW/GWW.html) in New England dashboard.

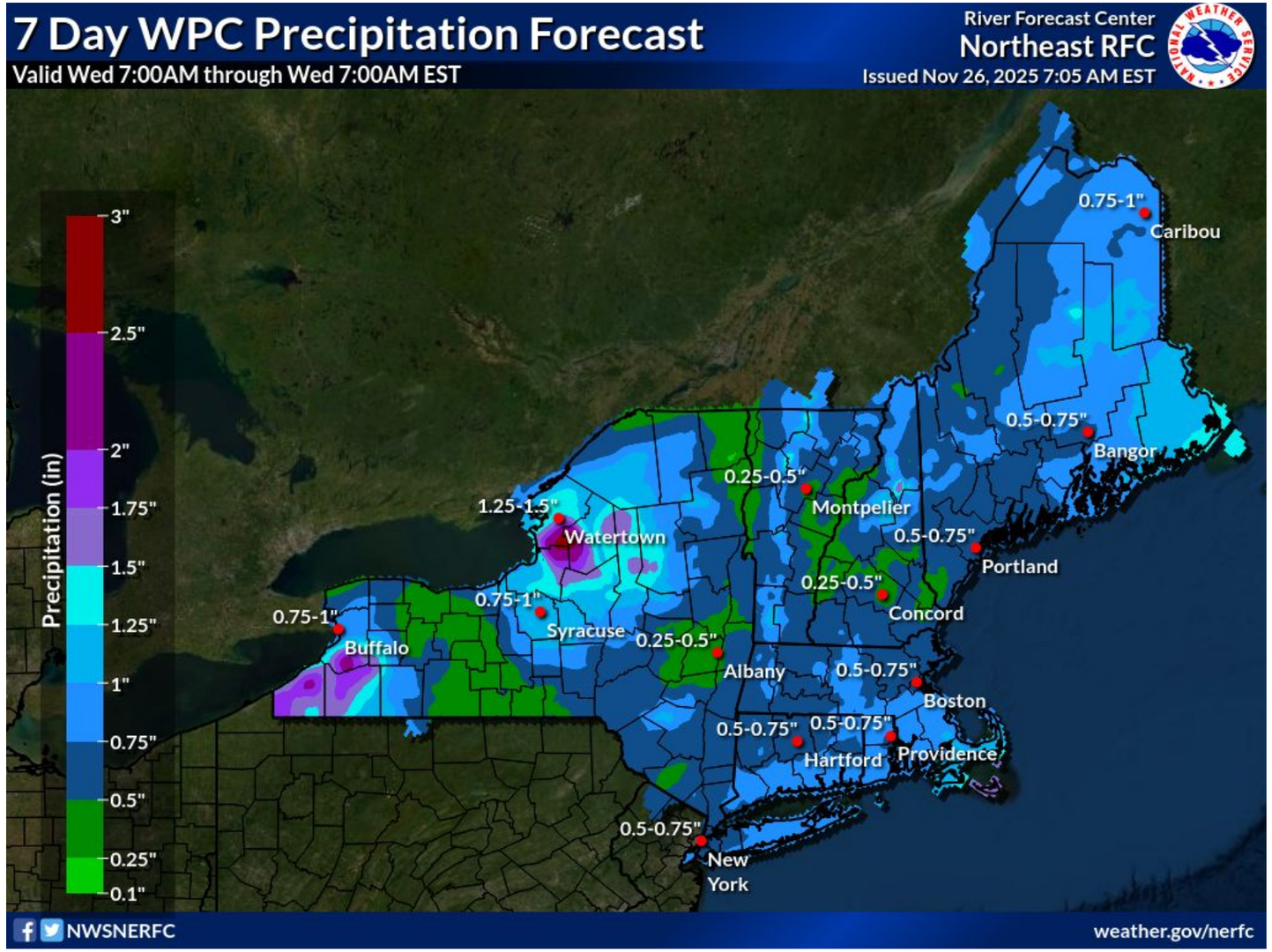


Above is a real-time well observation from a USGS groundwater well in Oxford Maine with a period of record from 1980.

7- Day Rainfall Forecast

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

- Much of the 7-day rainfall forecast is associated with a low pressure systems with mixed precipitation Sunday into Sunday Night with light accumulations of snowfall possible in the north

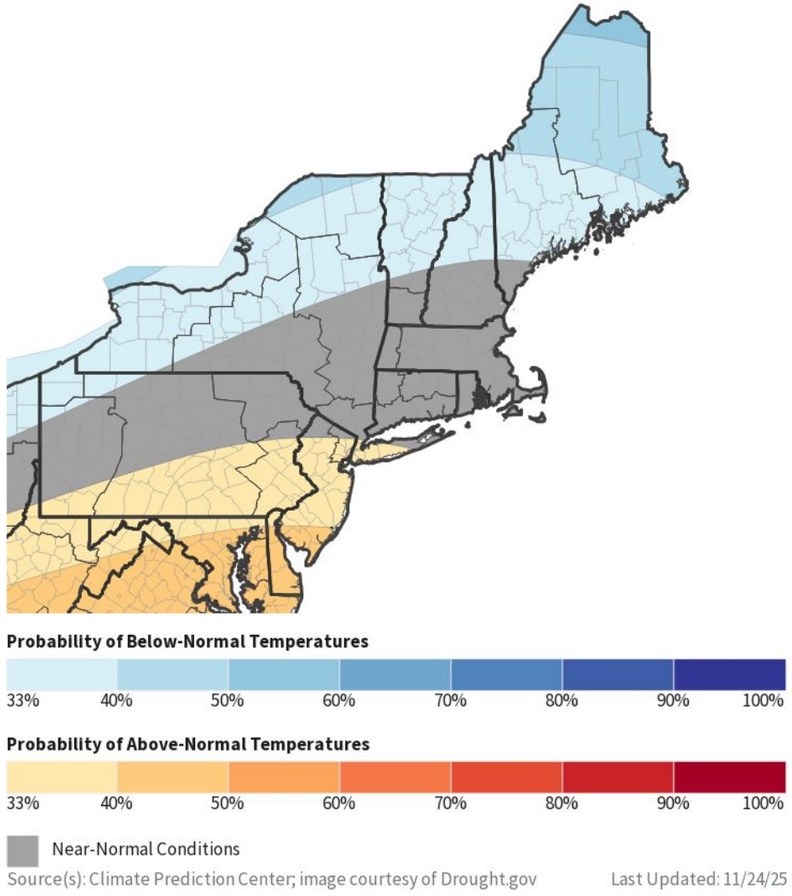


6-10 Day Outlooks

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

- Below normal temperatures are likely for early December
- 40-50% above normal precipitation

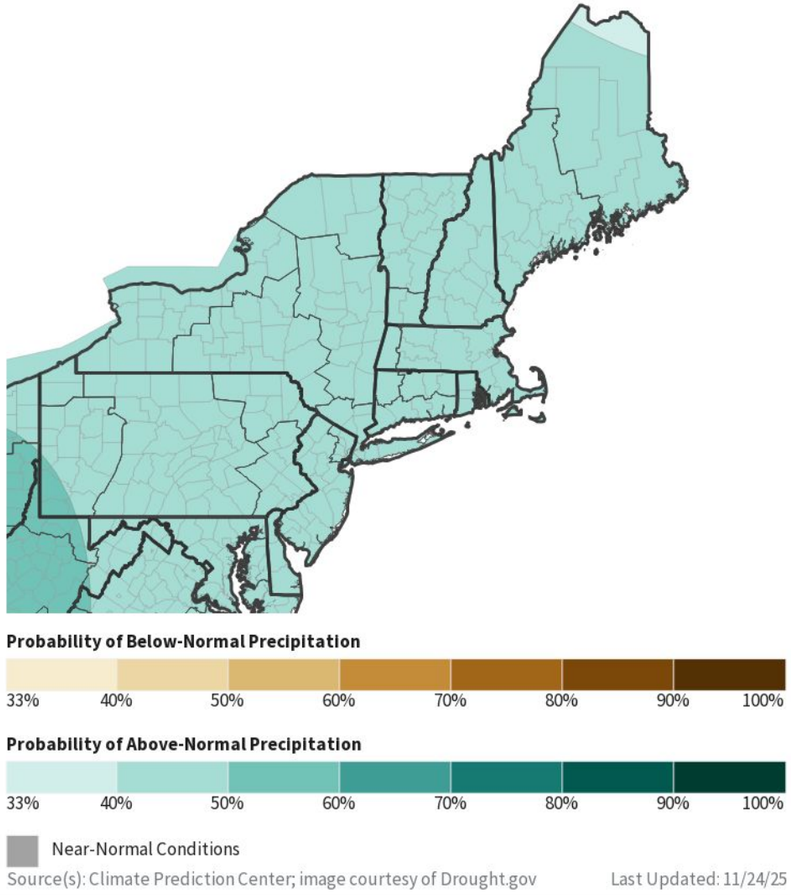
6–10 Day Temperature Outlook for November 30, 2025–December 4, 2025



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 11/24/25

6–10 Day Precipitation Outlook for November 30, 2025–December 4, 2025



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

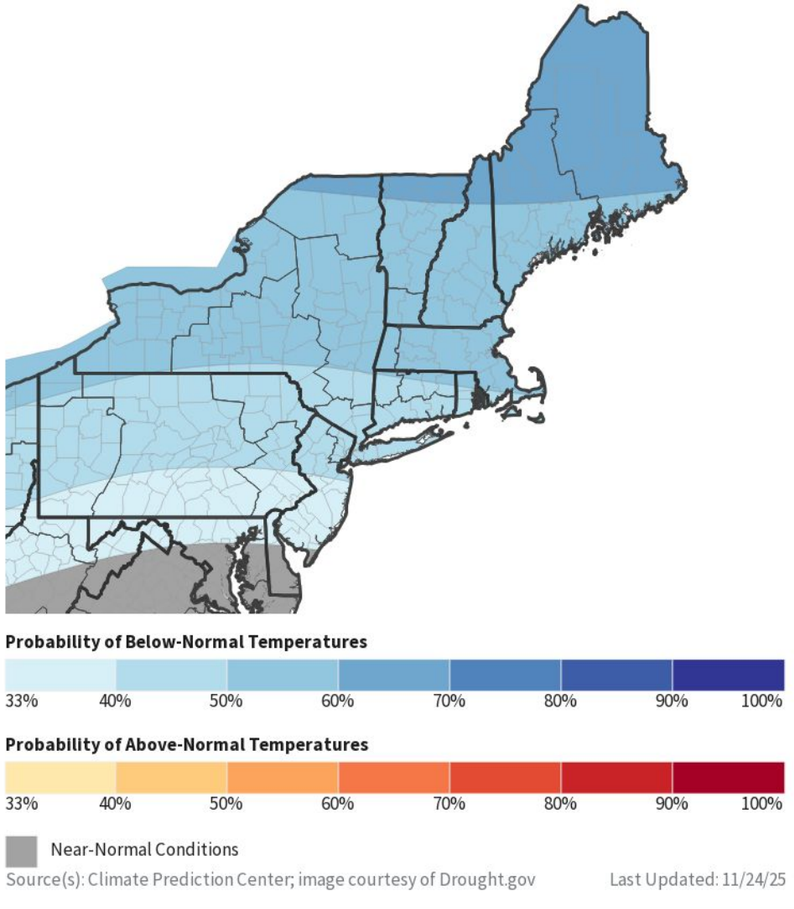
Last Updated: 11/24/25

8-14 Day Outlooks

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

- 60-70% chance of below normal temperatures for early December
- Precipitation chances are slightly higher than average leaning towards above normal through early December

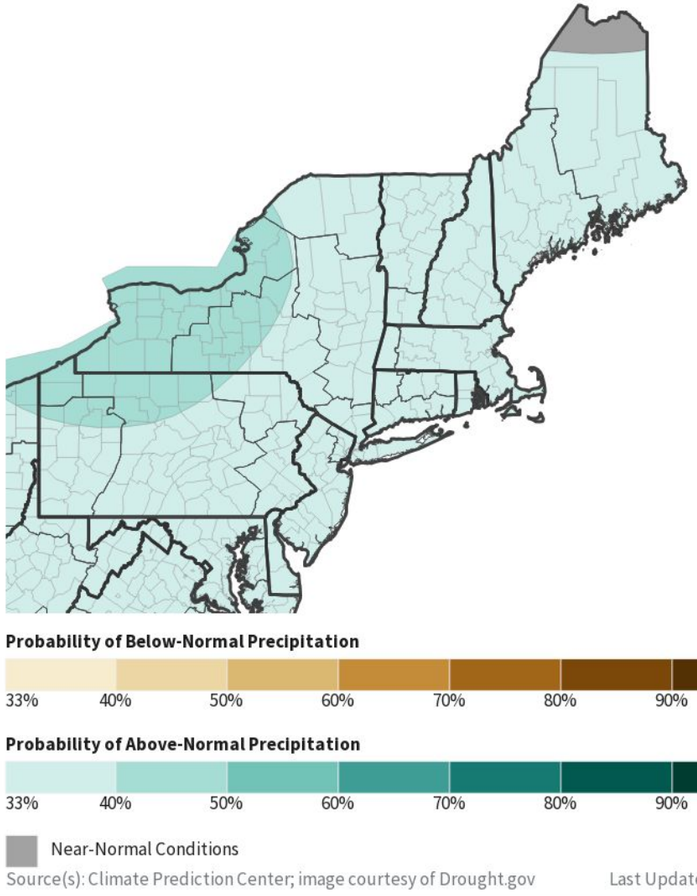
8-14 Day Temperature Outlook for December 2, 2025-December 8, 2025



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 11/24/25

8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook for December 2, 2025-December 8, 2025

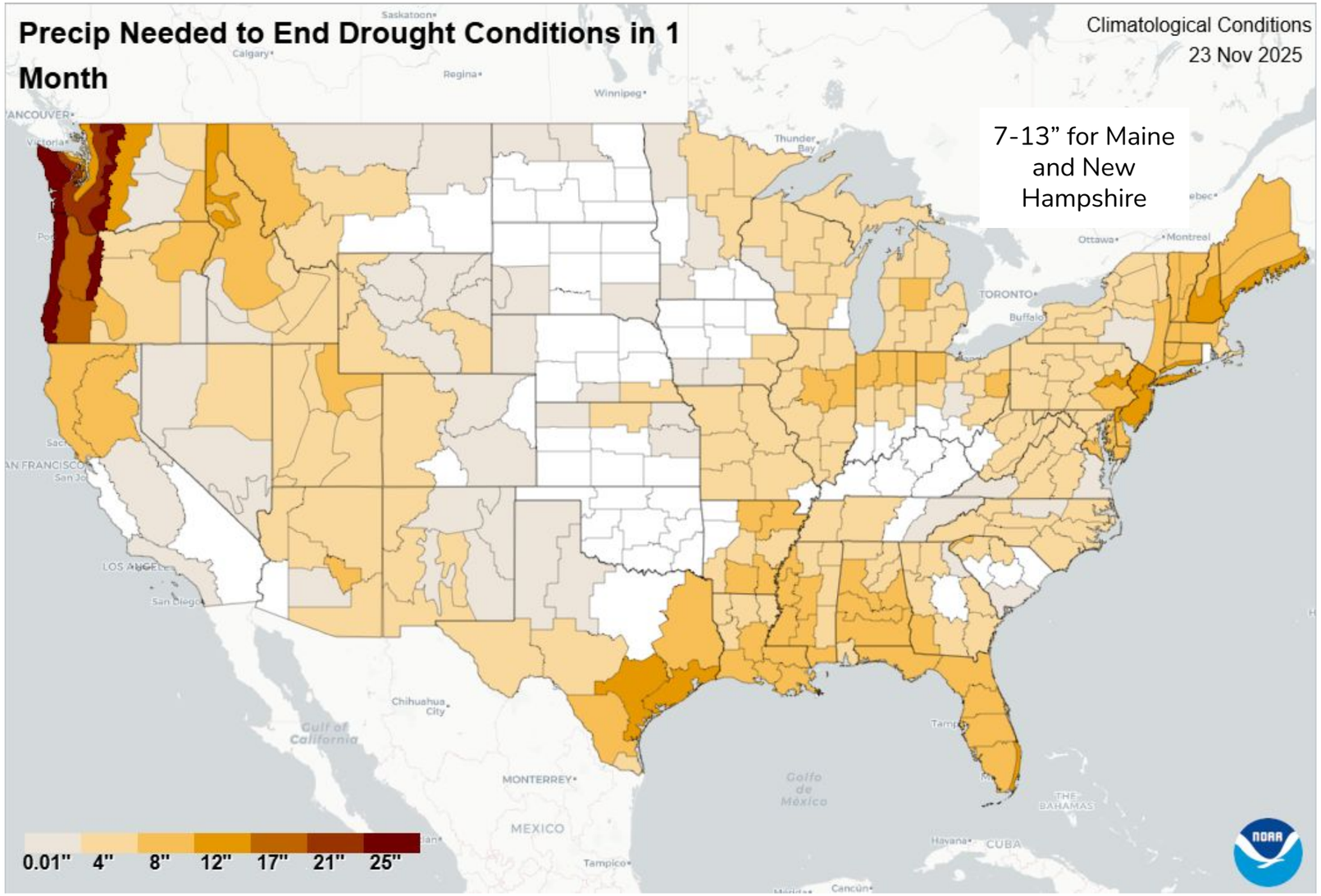


Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 11/24/25

Rainfall needed to “end the drought”

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST



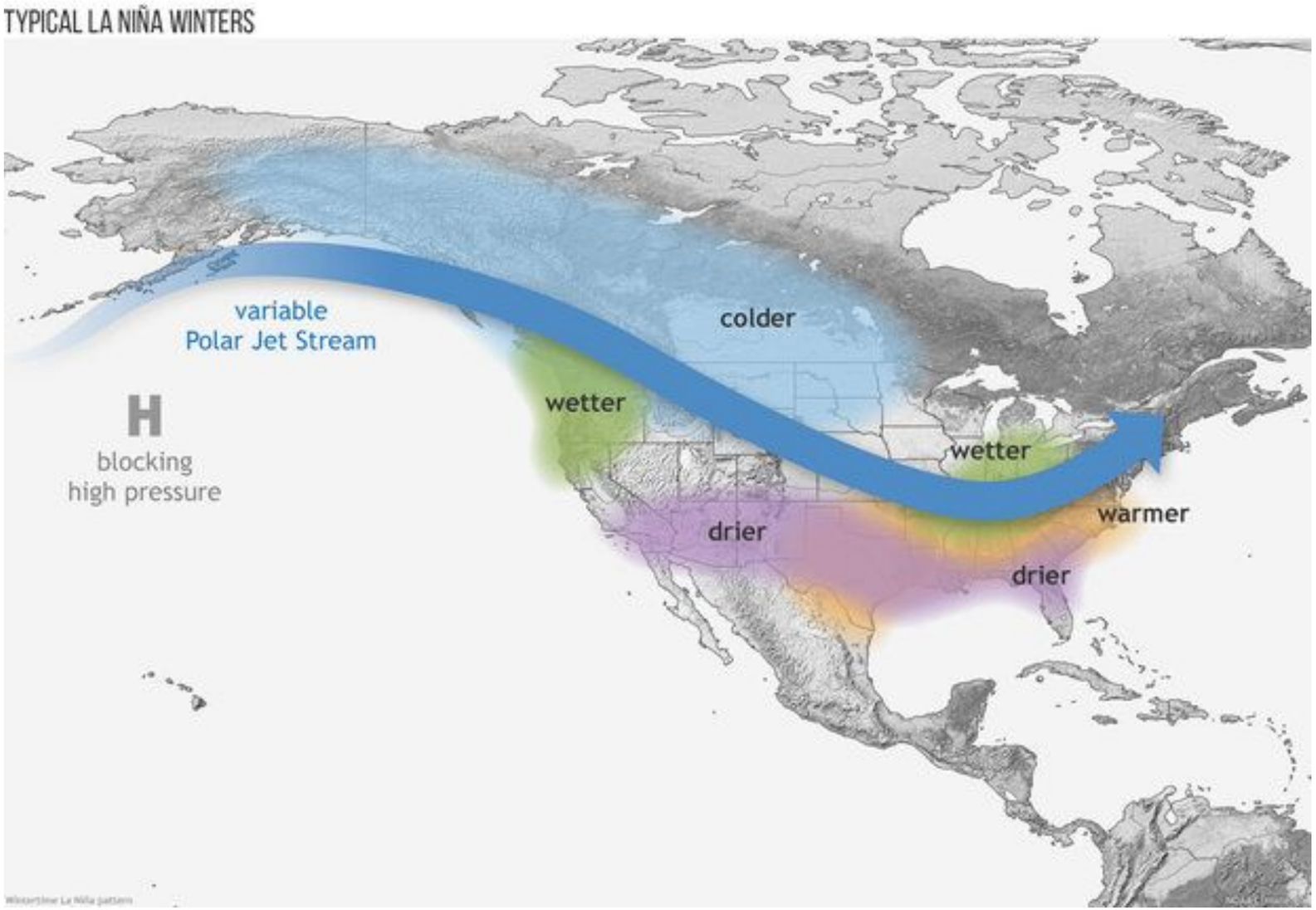
- 200% of normal precipitation over the next month is needed to ameliorate drought conditions <u>before the ground freezes</u>
  - Once frozen, precipitation that would normally replenish groundwater won’t soaking in, leaving wells and aquifers with little recovery until the spring thaw
- Ground frost in ME and NH can start anytime in the North and higher elevations, and mid to late December in southern areas on average, with long cold snaps often necessary to make depths over 4”

Winter Outlook

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

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

- **Persisting**: Climate prediction center is predicting an emerging La Nina to influence the upcoming winter patterns
- This leads to a split storm track over New England
- Past La Nina years have resulted in:
  - Both above and below normal precipitation and snowpacks
  - Often wild temperature swings, though often winters averaged near normal
- Other global indicators suggest some similarities between this year and 2017-2018
  - Active year for nor'easters
  - Large temperature swings



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

Summary of Impacts

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

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

Groundwater Impacts

- New dry wells are reported across both Maine and New Hampshire as groundwater levels decline despite slight rebounds from recent rains.

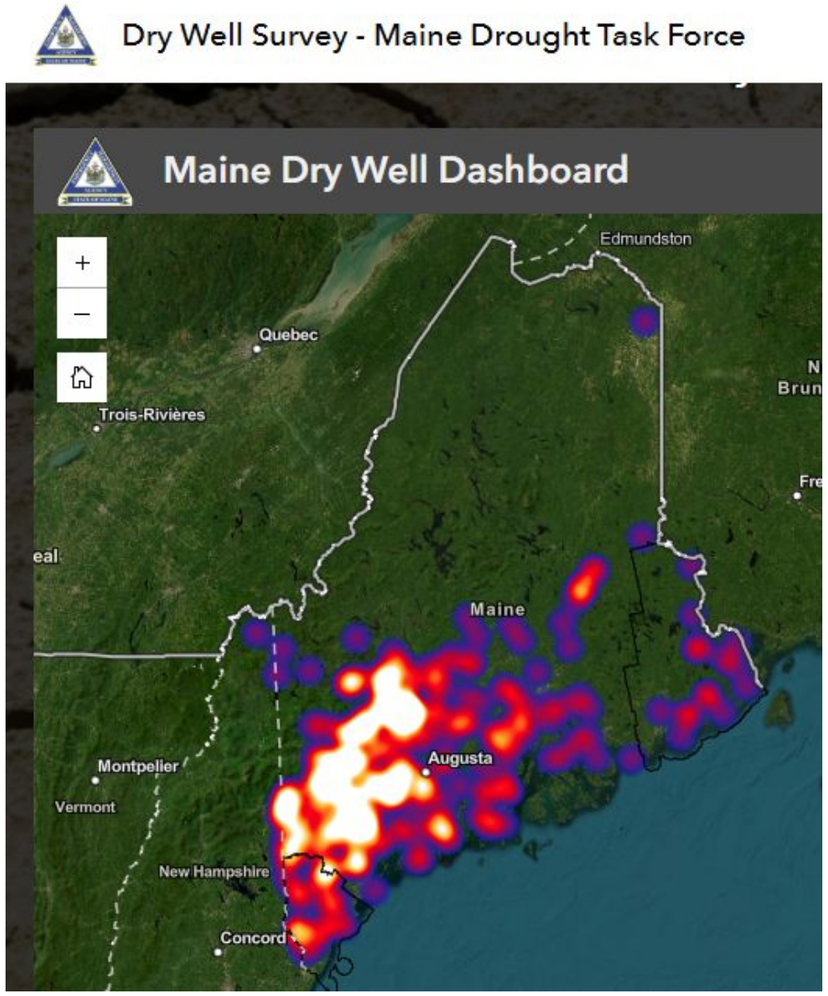
Click on your respective state for a link to report a dry well

Maine Dry Well Survey

New Hampshire Dry Well Survey

The Drinking Water Program strongly discourages homeowners from introducing water into their wells for 3 reasons:

- It's illegal unless specifically allowed in the statute.
- The well is dry because the water table is below the well screen. Any introduced water will dissipate out into the aquifer.
- The delivered water may contaminate the aquifer with bacteria or other potential pathogens. For example, once iron bacteria is introduced into a well, it's difficult (if not impossible) to remove, clogs the well screen, and turns the water reddish-brown.



Maine Dry Well Dashboard screen capture taken November 12, 2025 depicting 508 dry well reports distributed across the state

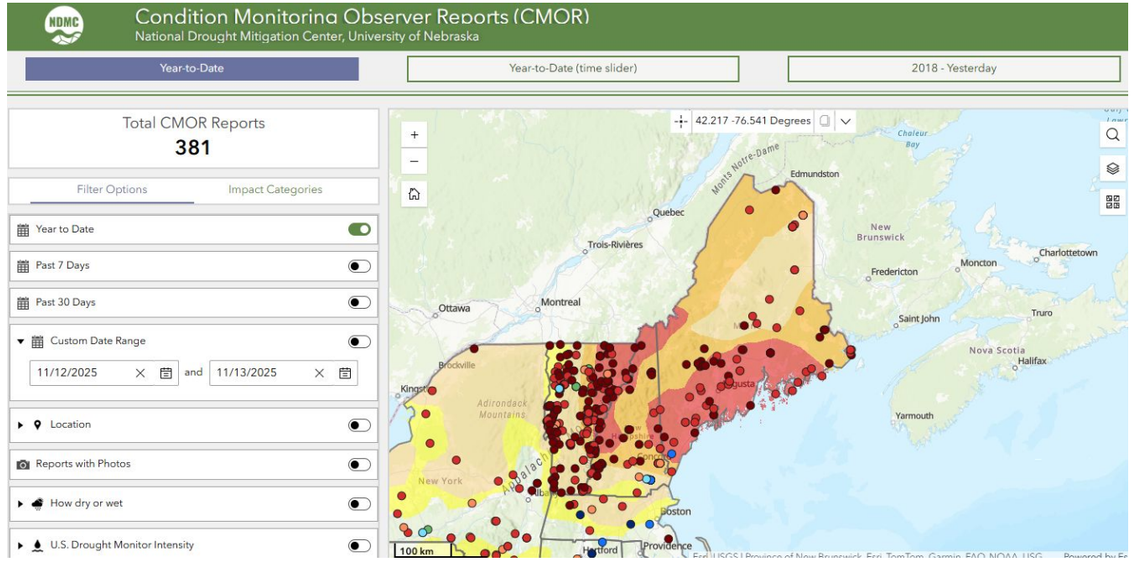
Summary of Impacts

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

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

Winter Hydrologic Impacts

- With well drillers in high demand and soils freezing soon, a primary concern is that some households may not have any water going into winter. State agencies advised against drinking water from roadside springs as an alternate source, which can be hazardous to public health.
- The availability of adequate winter feed for livestock due to poor summer pasture conditions and low hay yields is still a concern.
- The impact of the summer and fall drought on fruit trees and berries may linger into the next growing season. Dry ground may also impact field preparations next year.



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

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information

Have a drought impact to report?

go.unl.edu/cmor_drought

Main Takeaways

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

- Widespread Moderate to Severe Drought continues across Maine and New Hampshire, due primarily to significant groundwater deficits
- **In total, 7-13”** of liquid precipitation is needed before deep ground frost develops to alleviate the drought. This is roughly 200% of normal for the remainder of November and December
- The severity of the drought suggests some degree of long-term drought conditions are likely to **persist** throughout the 2025-26 winter
- The upcoming weather pattern shows limited opportunities for appreciable runoff necessarily to appreciably improve conditions
- Accumulating snow can be beneficial to drought by insulating the ground before it has a chance to freeze, plus it stores water that can melt and contribute to groundwater recharge
- The potential for long-term drought lingering into the next warm season will come down to the amount of recharge observed during the spring thaw
    - The ***timing and rate of snowmelt*** will be vital to sustaining base flow in rivers and lakes the next warm season
    - Even an active flood season can be insufficient to fully recharge aquifers in severe drought conditions

Contact Information

November 26, 2025
8:27 EST

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: December 5th, 2025

Contact Information

Web

➔ www.weather.gov/gyx

Phone (public)

➔ (207) 688-3216

Email

➔ gyx.skywarn@noaa.gov
➔ sarah.jamison@noaa.gov

Facebook

➔ NWSGray

Twitter

➔ @NWSGray