



# Drought Information Statement for Southern Indiana and Central Kentucky

Valid September 18, 2025

Issued By: WFO Louisville KY

Contact Information: [nws.louisville@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.louisville@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated once a month or more frequently if drought conditions change significantly.
  - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
  - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/lmk/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
  - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/> for regional drought status updates.
- 
- The September 18 Drought Monitor expanded Severe Drought (D2) into areas south and west of Bowling Green; Moderate Drought (D1) has significantly expanded across central KY and southern IN.
  - Dry weather will continue through this weekend; rain chances increase next week. There is a 40-60% chance for >1" of rain by the end of next week.

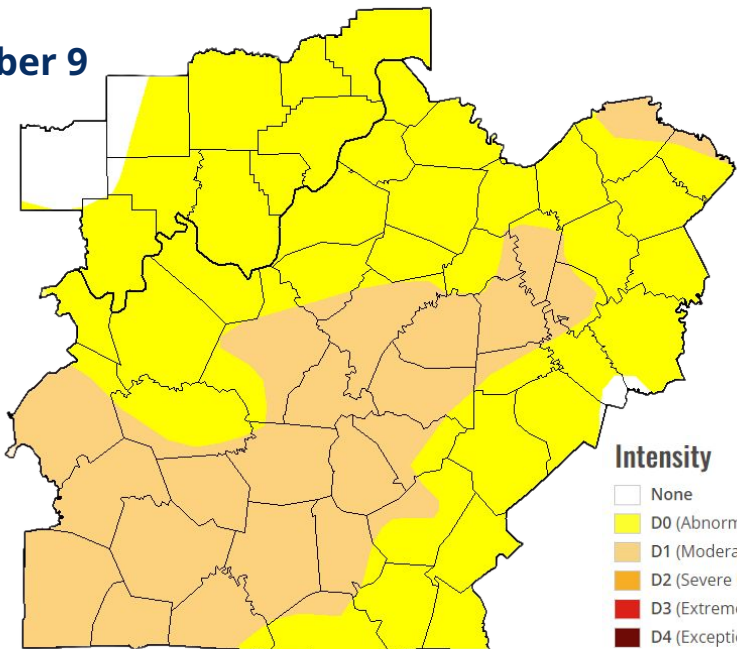




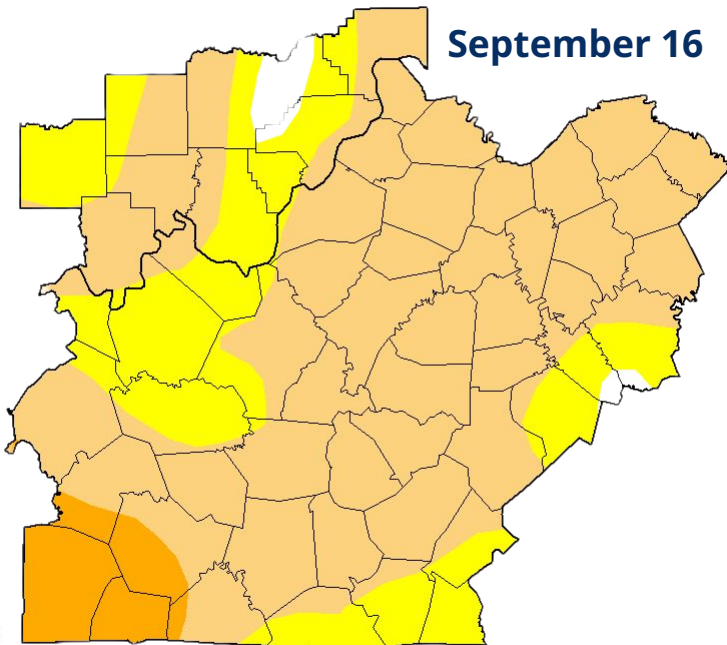
# U.S. Drought Monitor

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

September 9



September 16



## Intensity

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

Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4
2025-09-16	1.58	98.42	74.07	6.16	0.00
2025-09-09	3.36	96.64	37.64	0.00	0.00

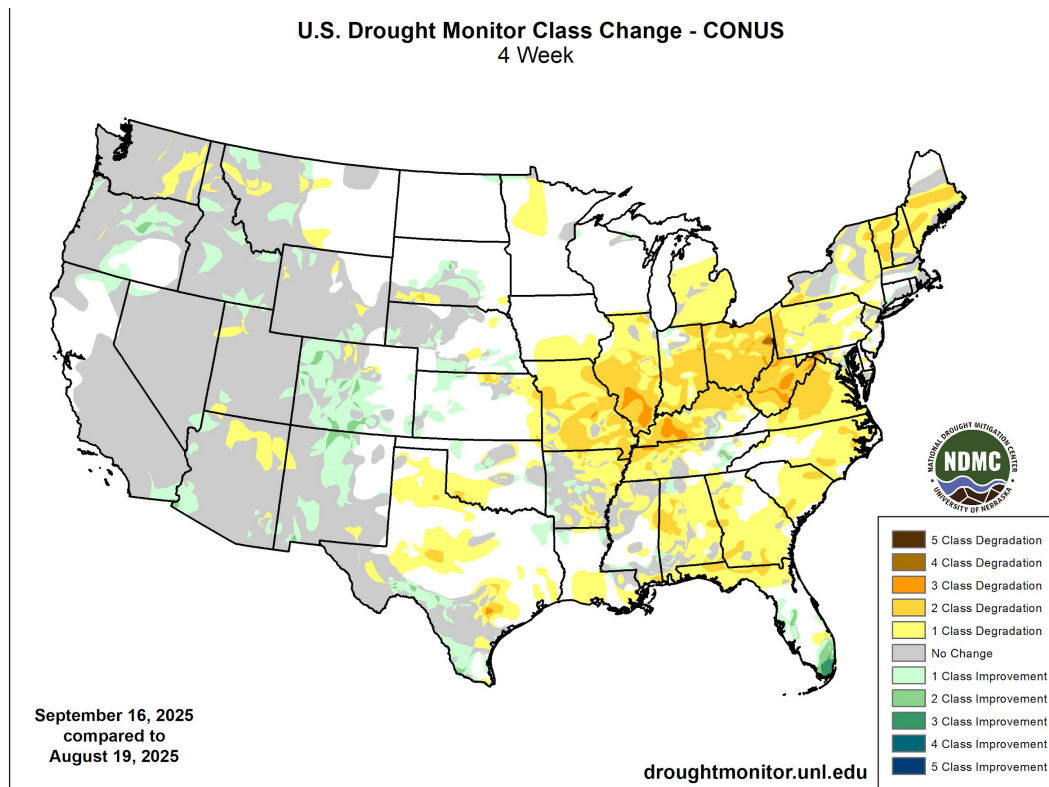




# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [class change maps](#) for the U.S.

Considerable worsening of drought conditions has occurred across the region over the past 4 weeks. Across central Kentucky and southern Indiana, drought degradation of between 1 and 3 classes has occurred.



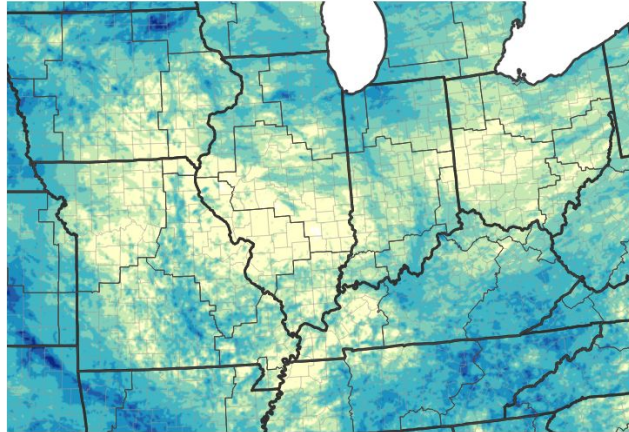


# 30-Day Precipitation

Precipitation totals and departures from normal

- Below normal rainfall has been experienced across the area over the past 30 days.
- Several KY Mesonet sites have measured less than an inch over the past month.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



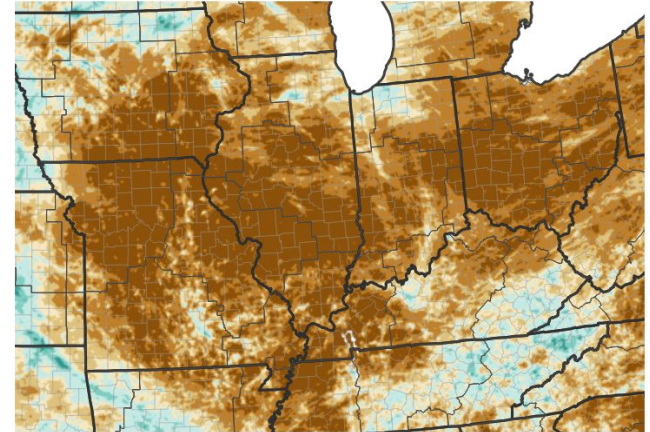
Inches of Precipitation



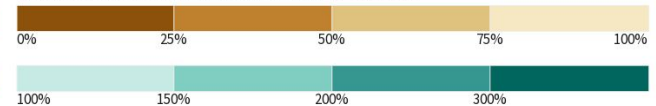
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;  
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 09/18/25

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



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

Last Updated: 09/18/25



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National Weather Service  
WFO Louisville, KY



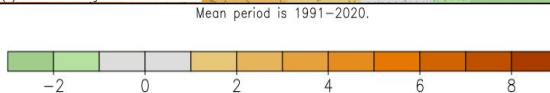
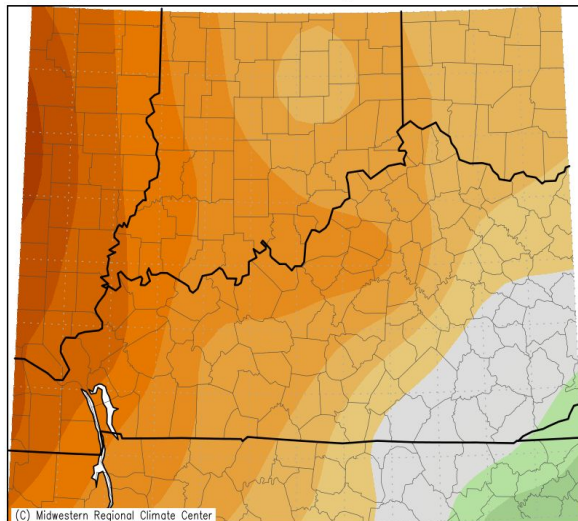


# Temperature

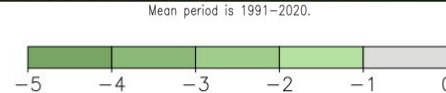
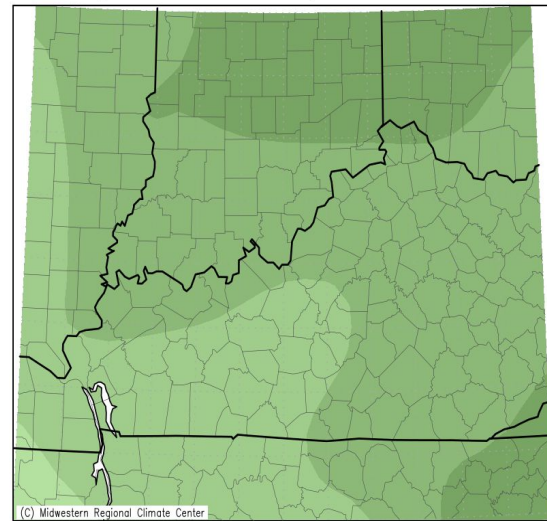
Midwest Regional Climate Center

- Although temperatures were well below normal for much of late August into early September, in the past 7-10 days above-normal temperatures have returned with highs consistently warming into the 80s and lower 90s.

Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean  
September 11, 2025 to September 17, 2025



Average Temperature (°F): Departure from Mean  
August 19, 2025 to September 17, 2025





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows remain mostly normal, with a few USGS gauges showing below-normal flows.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Current crop reports depict 78% of topsoil and 81% of subsoil in Kentucky rated as short or very short for soil moisture. This is a degradation of 4% for topsoil and 10% for subsoil over the past week.
- Crop and pasture conditions continue to decline. According to the USDA Crop Report, 50% of corn and 36% of soybeans were rated as good to excellent. Pasture conditions reported at 23% as being good or excellent. *Source: KY Division of Water*

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- 20 central Kentucky counties and 4 southern Indiana counties have instituted burn bans.

## Other Impacts

- None at this time.

## Mitigation Actions

- None at this time.

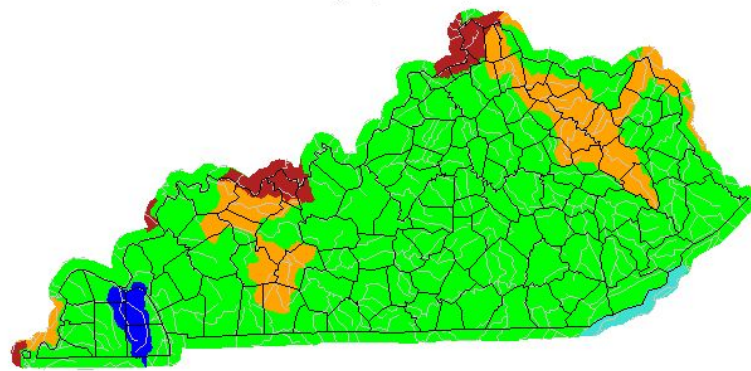




# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Most areas are reporting near-normal streamflows, although a few signs of below normal flows are emerging.

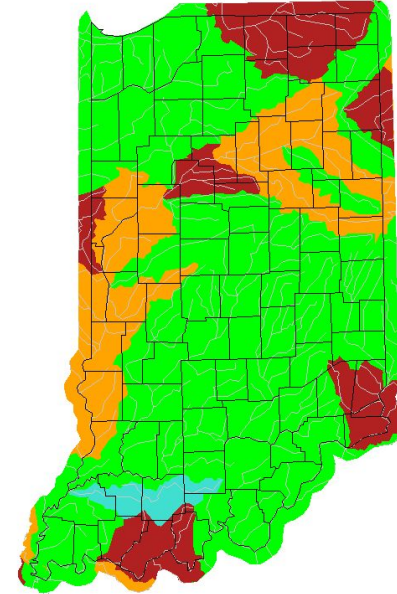
Hednesday, September 17, 2025



USGS

Explanation - Percentile classes							
	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
Low	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Hednesday, September 17, 2025



USGS

USGS 7-day average streamflow Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) maps

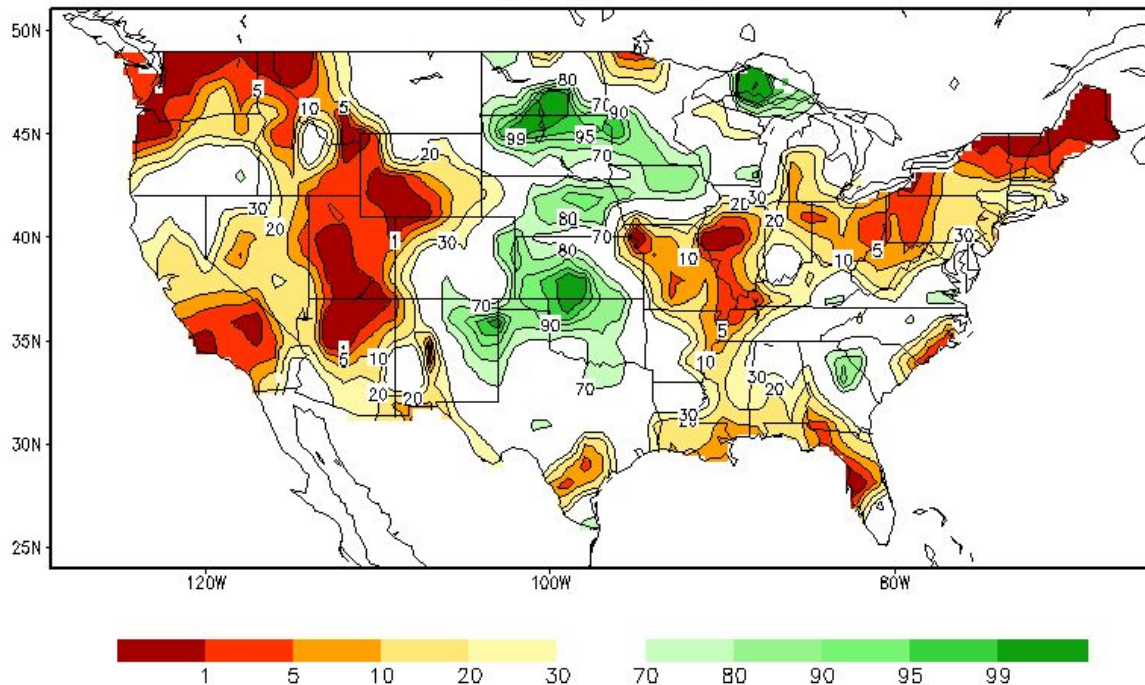




# Agricultural Impacts

<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/soilmst/img/curr.w.rank.daily.gif>

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
SEP 17, 2025





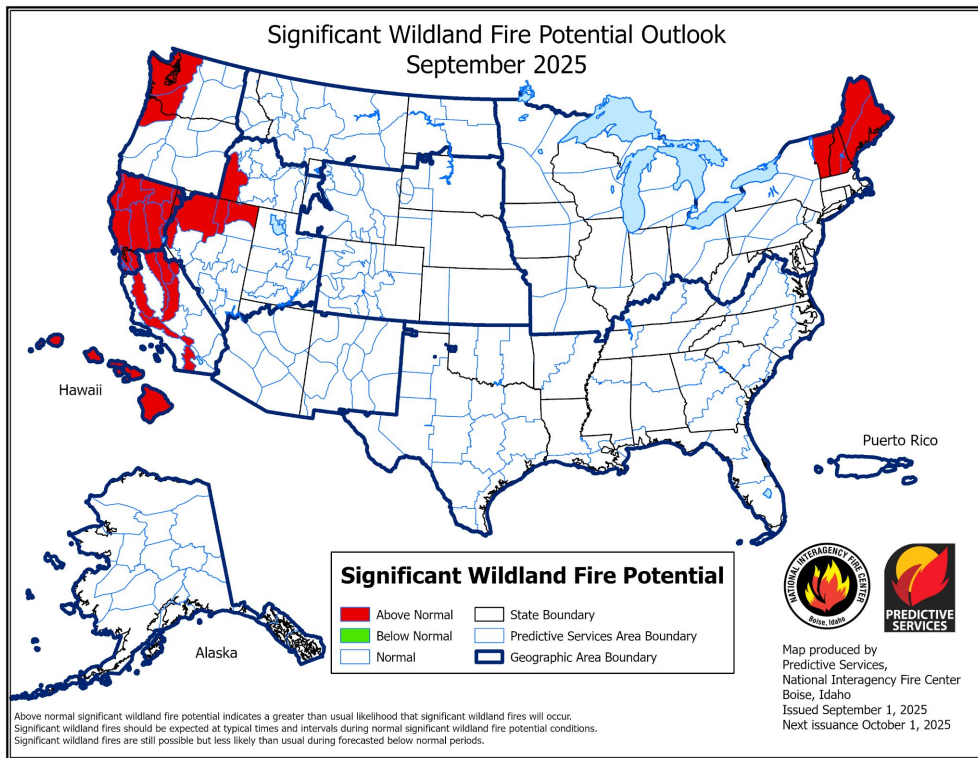


# Fire Hazard Impacts

<https://www.nifc.gov/nicc/predictive-services/outlooks>

- In central Kentucky, the following counties have instituted a burn ban\*:
  - Barren, Bourbon, Clark, Edmonson, Franklin, Harrison, Hart, Henry, Jessamine, LaRue, Logan, Marion, Mercer, Metcalfe, Scott, Shelby, Spencer, Trimble, Warren, and Washington
- In southern Indiana, the following counties have instituted a burn ban\*:
  - Dubois, Orange, Scott, and Washington

*\*As of 09/18/25*



National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

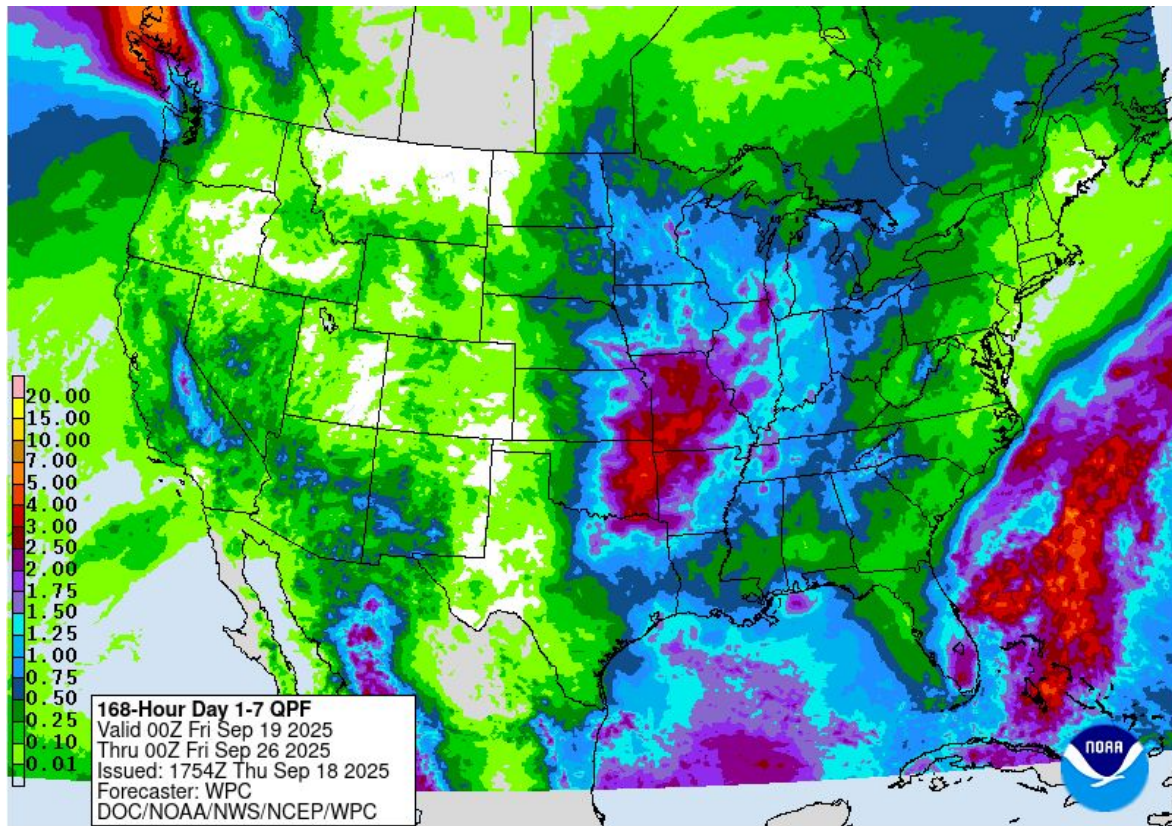
National Weather Service  
WFO Louisville, KY



# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

WPC

- Mostly dry weather is expected to continue through Saturday.
- Daily chances for scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected for much of next week.
- Probability of  $> 0.50''$  of rain through next week (9/26)  $\rightarrow$  70-90%
- Probability of  $> 1''$  of rain through next week  $\rightarrow$  40-60%



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# Long-Range Outlooks

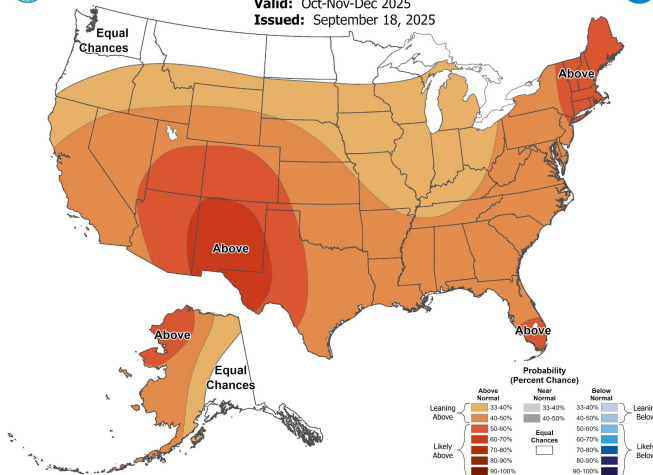
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Odds are slightly favoring an overall warmer than normal October-December period.
- There are equal chances for above, near, and below normal precipitation over the next three months for most of Kentucky and Indiana, with odds slightly favoring below normal precipitation over the Tennessee Valley.



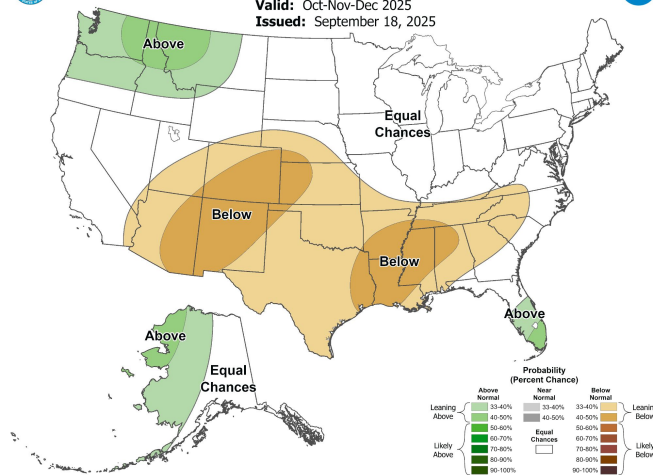
## Seasonal Temperature Outlook

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



## Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

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



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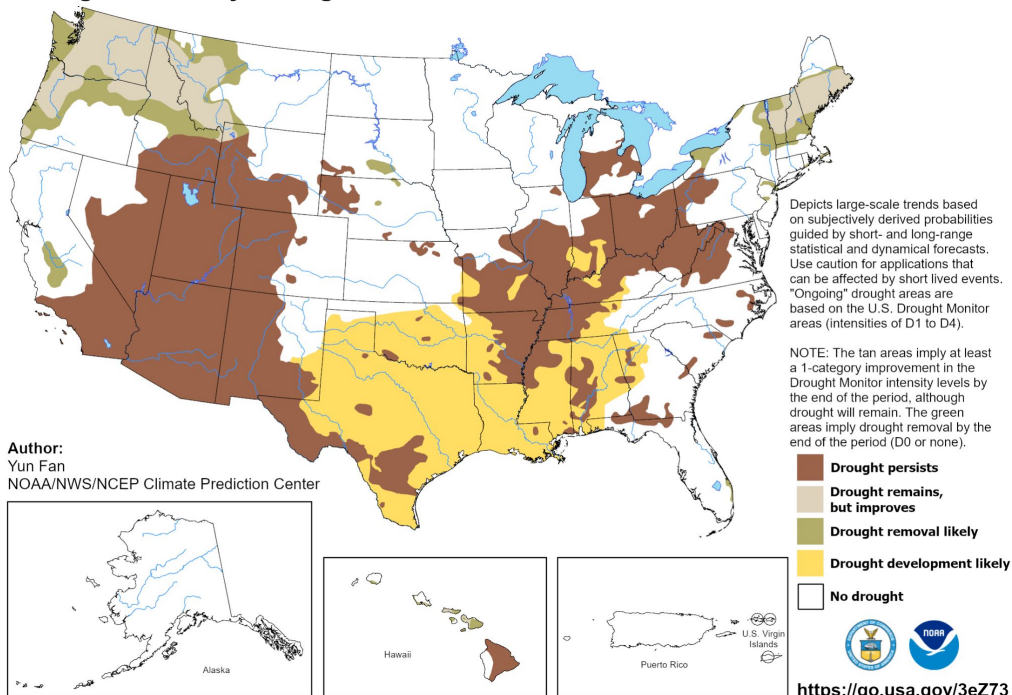
# Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- While much needed rainfall is forecast for next week, amounts will be scattered and not expected to be enough to alleviate drought conditions.
- The next Seasonal Drought Outlook will be issued on September 25th.

## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for September 18 - December 31, 2025  
Released September 18, 2025



Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)  
[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>



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