Drought Information Statement for the Mid-South

Valid September 18, 2025

Issued By: NWS Memphis, TN

Contact Information: nws.memphis@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated when drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/MEG/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates for regional drought status updates.

- Hot and dry conditions continue to worsen ongoing drought
- Extreme drought conditions introduced in the Missouri Bootheel, West Tennessee, and northeast Arkansas

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for the Mid-South

Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**

  None

- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**

  Portions of West Tennessee, the Missouri Bootheel, and northeast Arkansas

- **D2 (Severe Drought)**

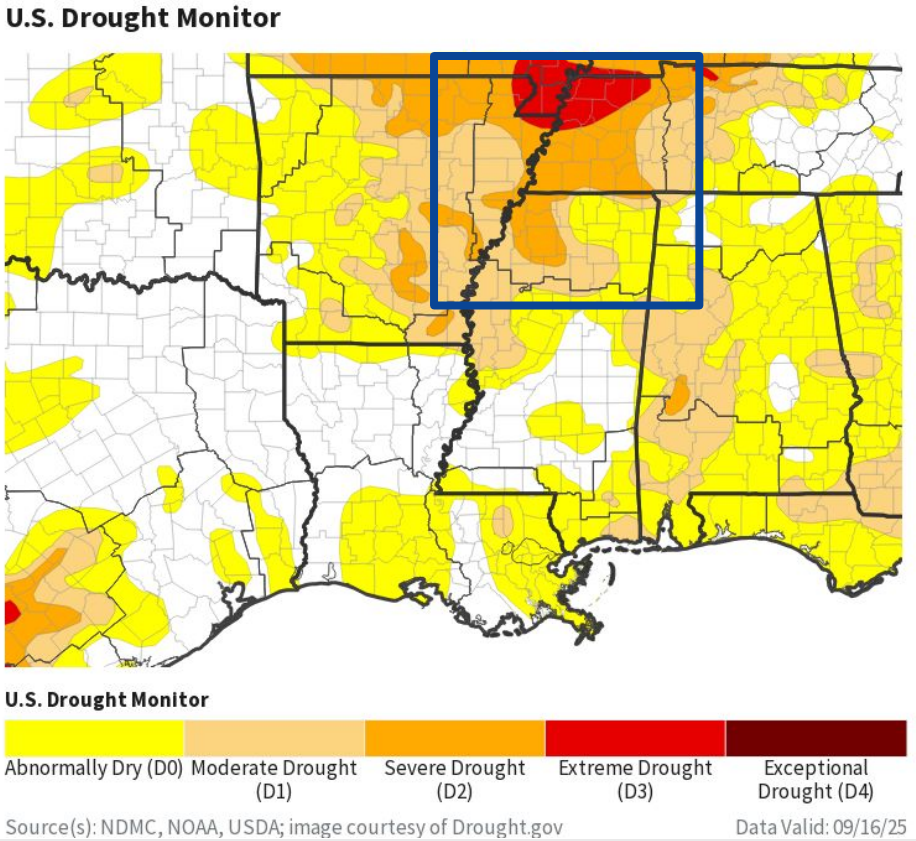
  Portions of West Tennessee, northeast Arkansas, and northwest Mississippi

- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**

  Portions of eastern Arkansas, north Mississippi, and a sliver of West Tennessee

- **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**

  Portions of northeast Mississippi

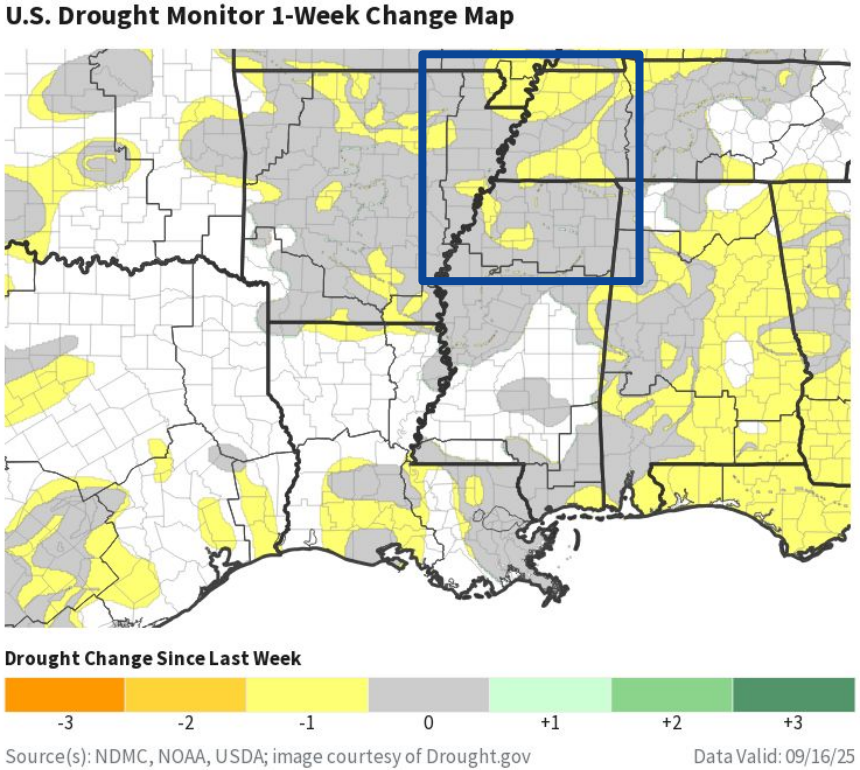


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for the Mid-South

One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change

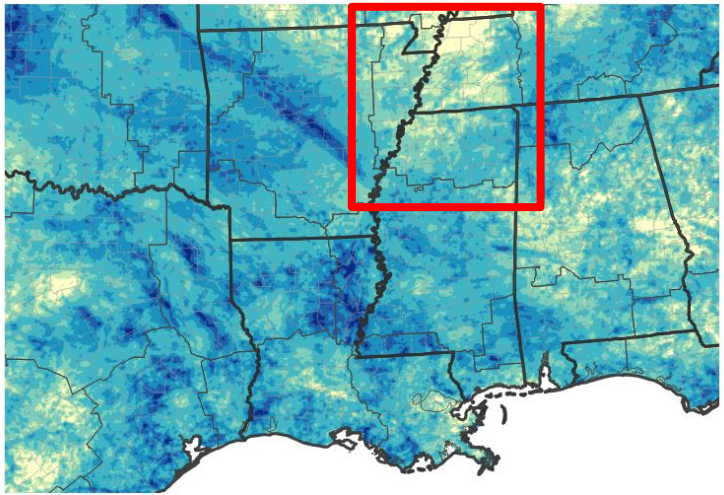
- **Drought Worsened**
  The Missouri Bootheel, West Tennessee, northeast Arkansas, and northwest Mississippi
- **Drought Improved**
  None
- **No Change**
  The remainder of the Mid-South



Precipitation

- Precipitation totals over the past 30 days generally ranged from 0.01-3 inches
- Rainfall amounts over the past 30 days were widely below normal across the region

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



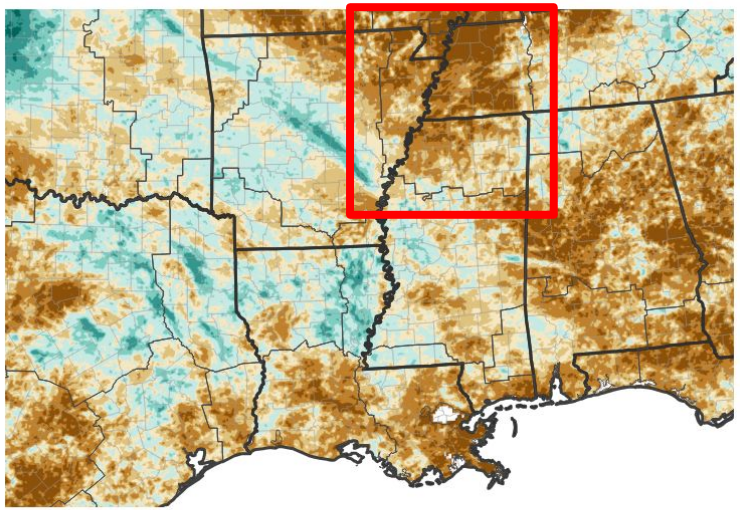
Inches of Precipitation

0 | 0.01 | 0.5 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 8

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

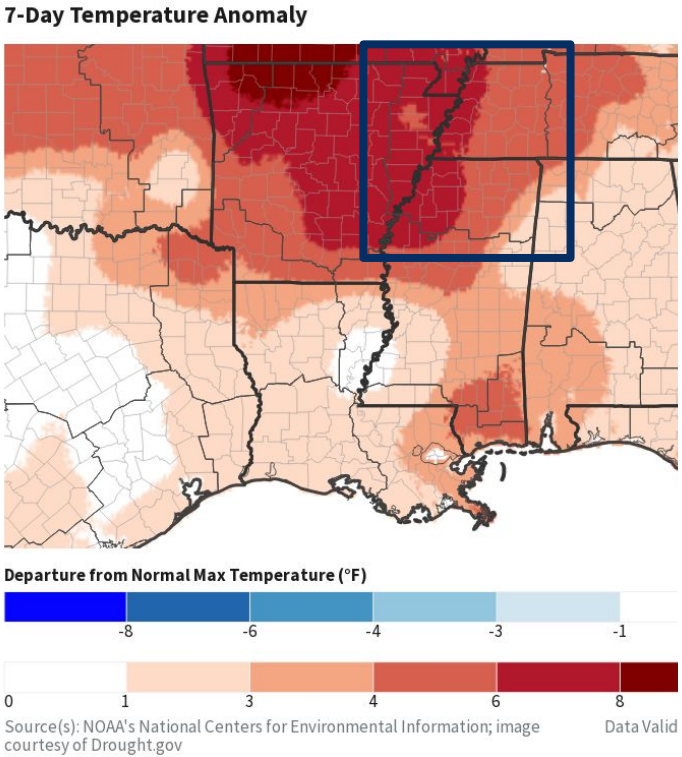
0% | 25% | 50% | 75% | 100% | 100% | 150% | 200% | 300%

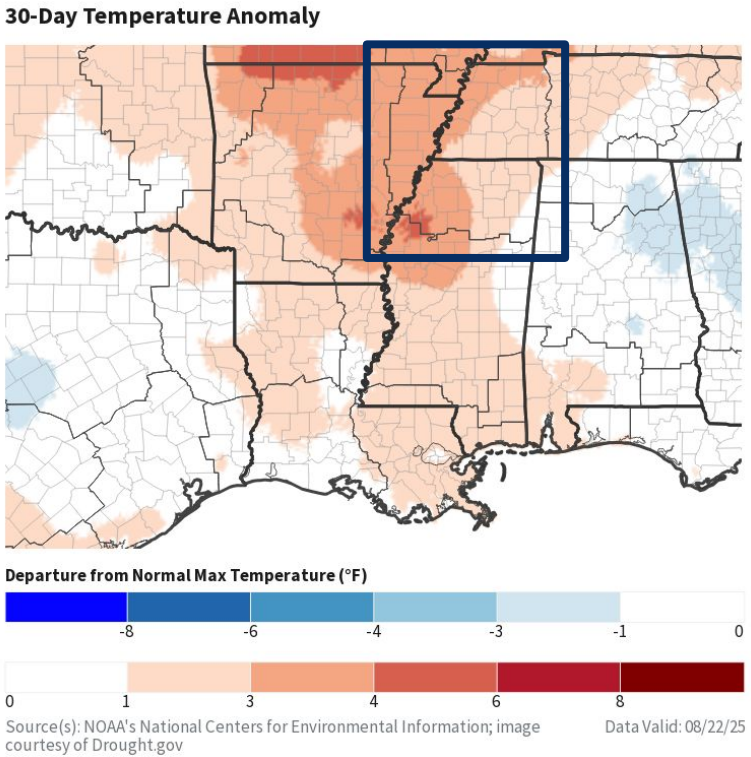
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 09/18/25

Temperature

- Average temperatures were above normal to above normal by 1-8 degrees over the last week
- Average temperatures were above normal by 1-6 degrees over the last 30 days





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflow is normal to much below normal across the lower Mississippi Basin and the Tennessee River basin. The Mississippi River is falling below low water thresholds

Agricultural Impacts

- Pastures provide very little or no feed. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition across West Tennessee, north Mississippi, and northeast Arkansas
- Extreme degree of loss to yield potential, complete or near crop failure across northwest Tennessee

Fire Hazard Impacts

- The following counties in Arkansas are under a burn ban: Clay, Crittenden, Greene, and Poinsett

Other Impacts

- There are no known additional impacts at this time

Mitigation Actions

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

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

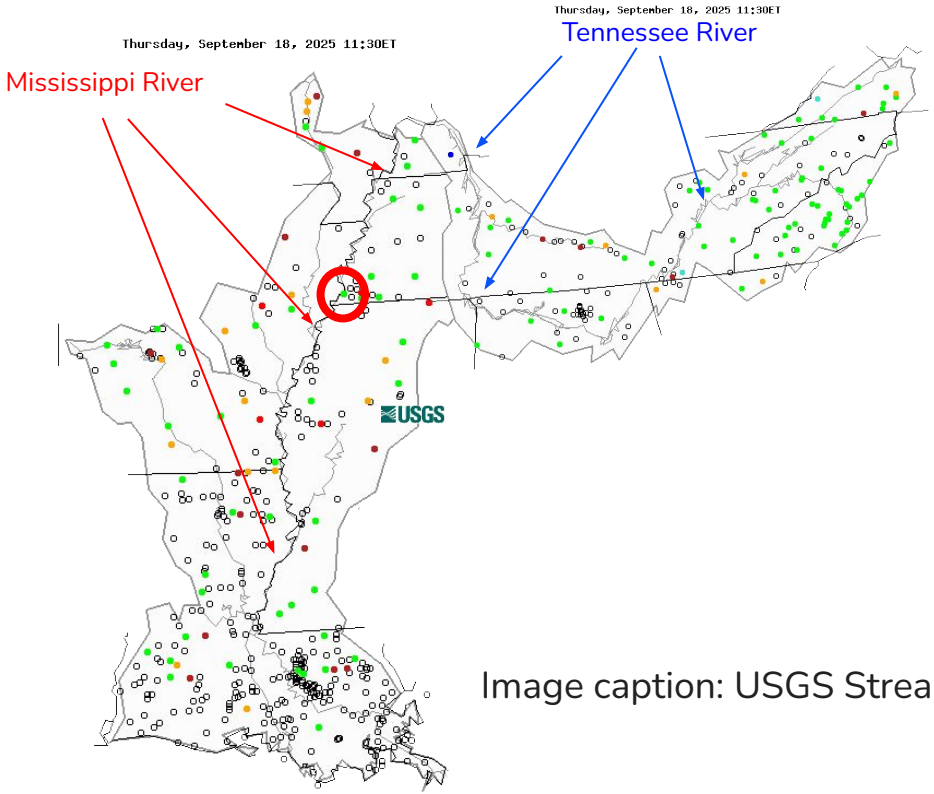
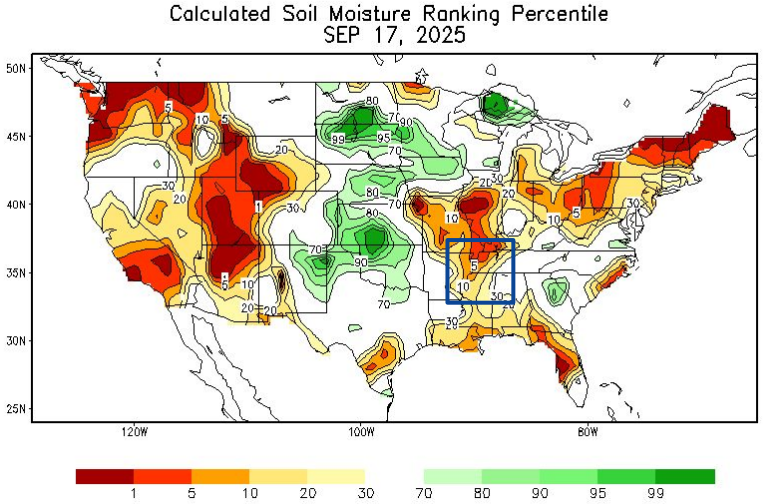


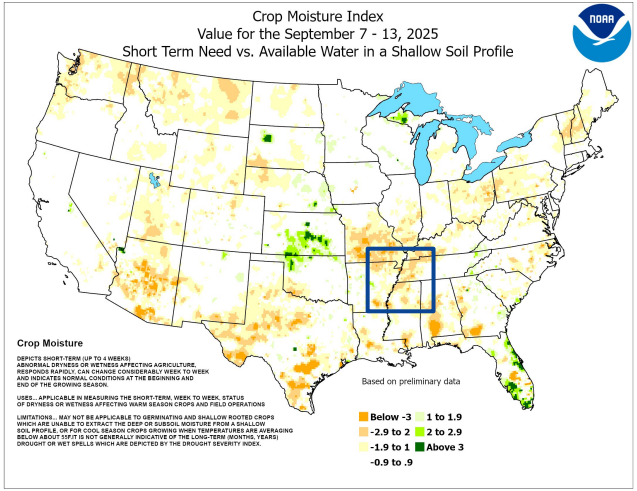
Image caption: USGS Streamflow

- The **Mississippi River at Memphis** is currently experiencing near normal flow. The extended river forecasts continues to show water levels continuing below low water thresholds
- The Tennessee River feeds into the Mississippi River and is experiencing normal to below normal flow at Savannah, TN, and Kentucky Lake

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture anomalies are widely below normal across the Mid-South (20th percentile or less across most of the area)
- The crop moisture index is below normal across the Mid-South

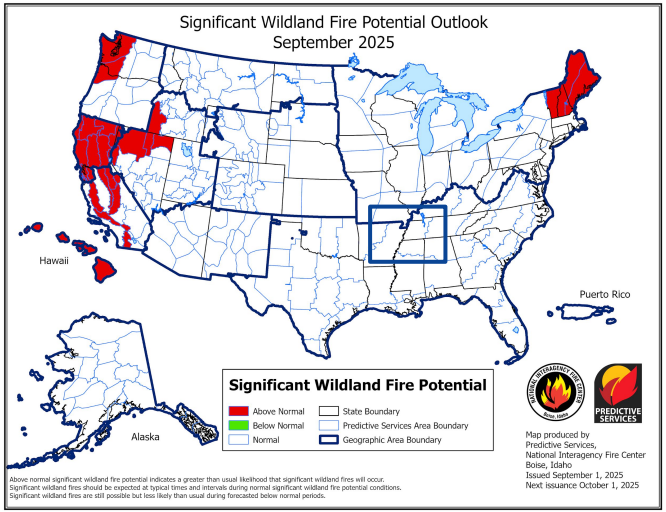


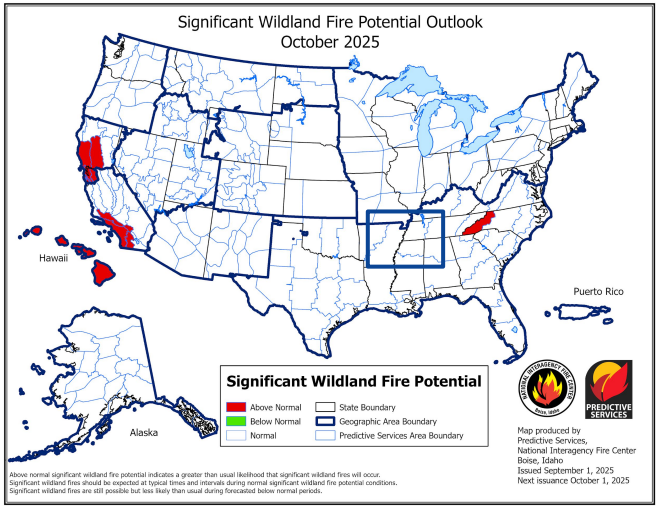


Fire Hazard Impacts

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

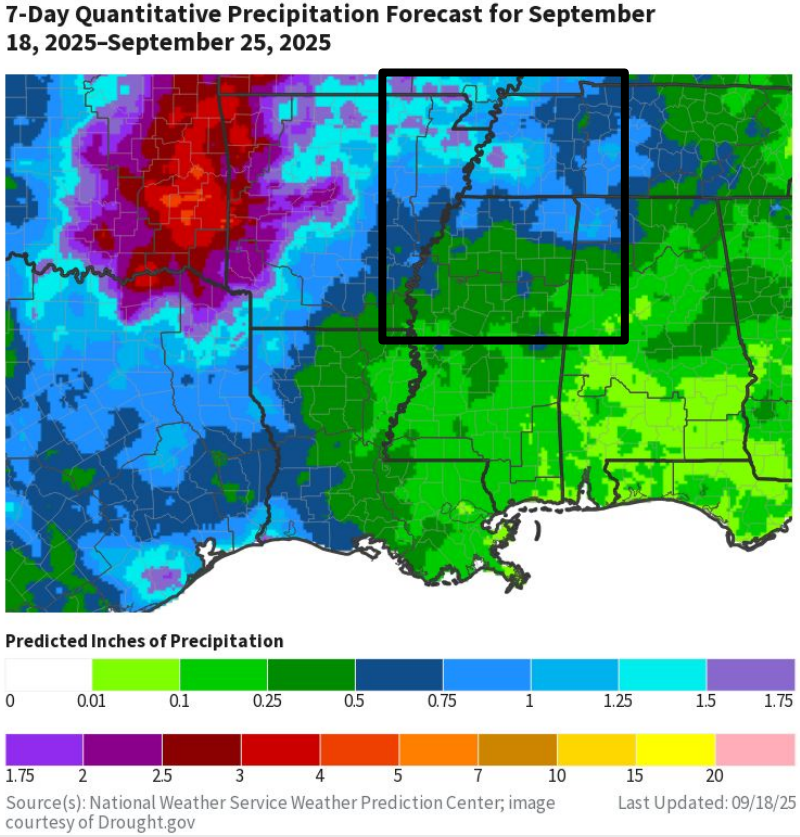
- Normal wildland fire is expected for the entire Mid-South for the rest of September and October
- Burn Bans currently in effect for:
  - Arkansas: Clay, Crittenden, Greene, and Poinsett
  - Missouri: None
  - Mississippi: None
  - Tennessee: None





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

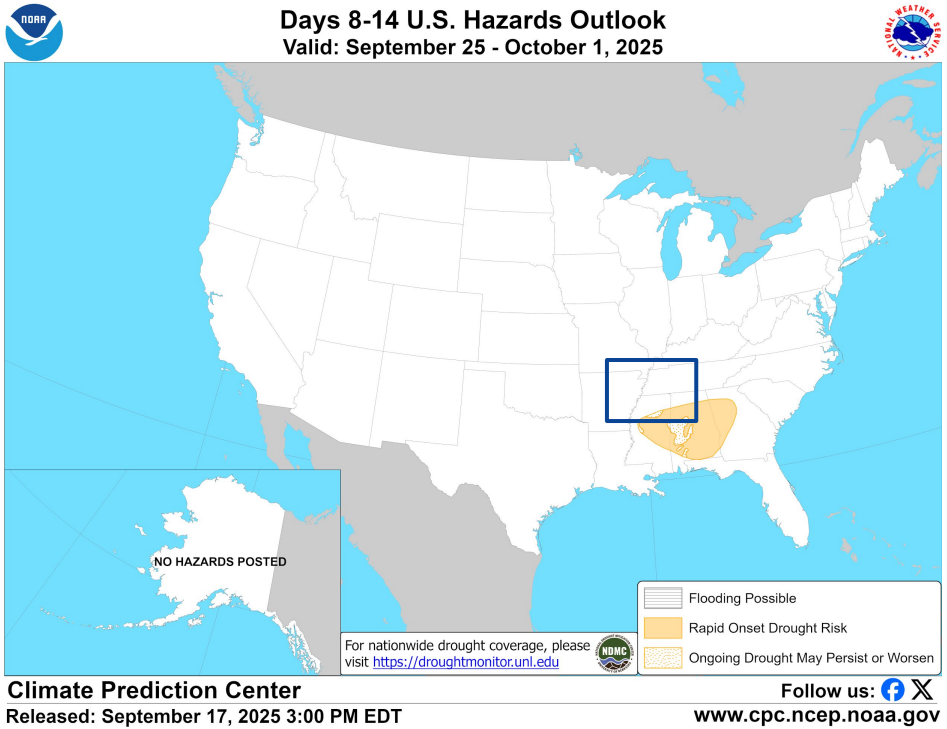
- Forecast precipitation over the next week is less than an inch



Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14-day Temperature Outlook and Precipitation Outlook.

- Ongoing drought conditions may persist or worsen
- Portions of north Mississippi are at risk for rapid onset drought

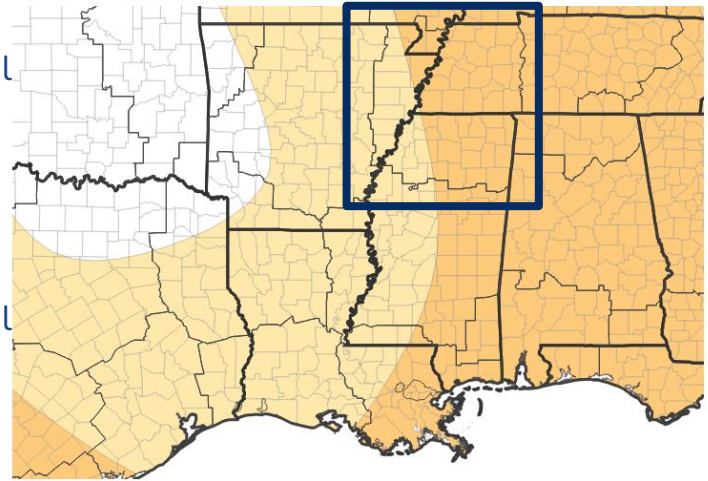


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The Mid-South has equal chances of experiencing above or below normal temperatures for the remainder of September
- The Mid-South has equal chances of experiencing above or below normal precipitation for the remainder of September

Monthly Temperature Outlook for October 1, 2025–October 31, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

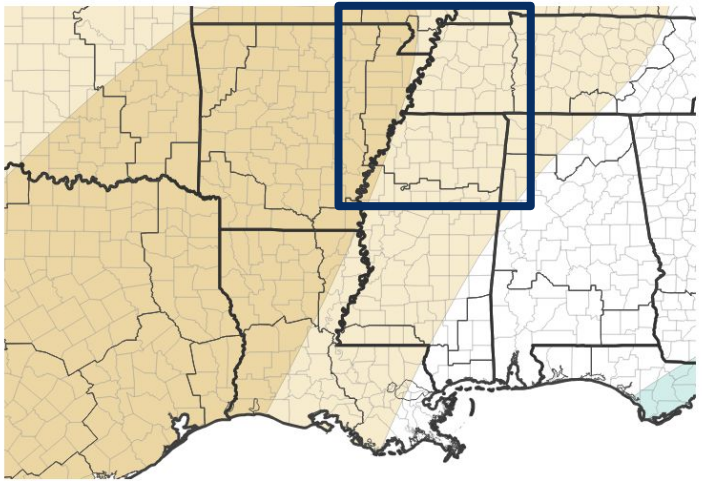
33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 09/18/25

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for October 1, 2025–October 31, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

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Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

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Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation

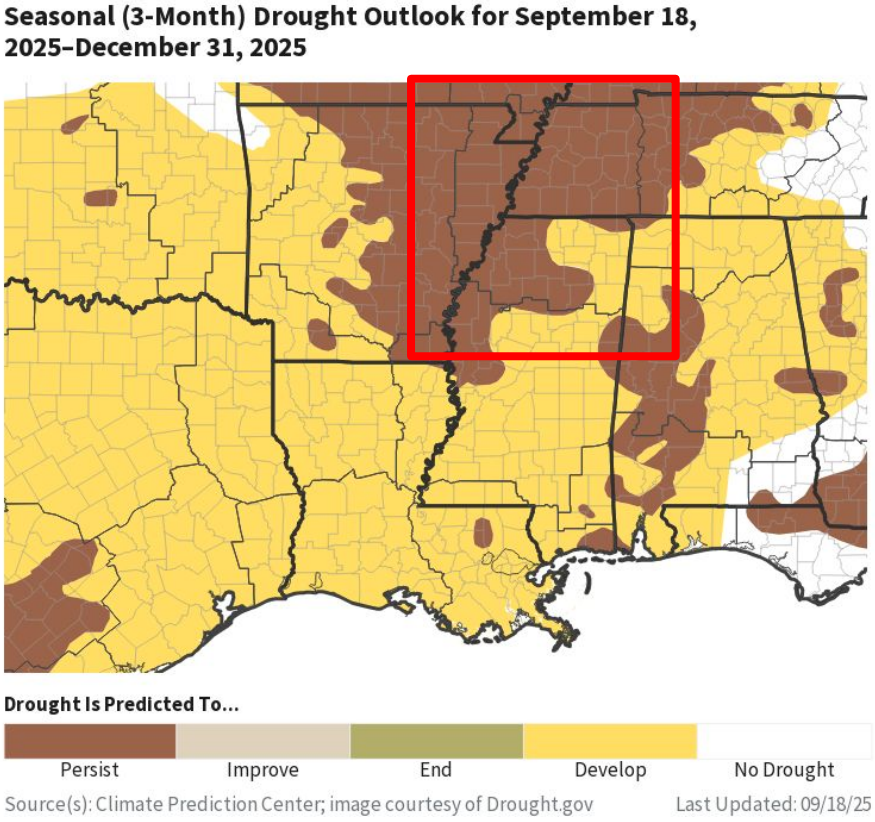
33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 09/18/25

Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are expected to develop and/or persist across the Mid-South through November



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