



Drought Information Statement for Central/Northeast SD & West Central MN

Valid: July 23, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Contact Information: w-abr.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated by Aug 27, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/abr/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.

- **DROUGHT CONDITIONS WORSENING ACROSS PORTIONS OF NORTH CENTRAL SOUTH DAKOTA.**
- **AGRICULTURAL & LIVESTOCK/PASTURE IMPACTS EMERGING.**



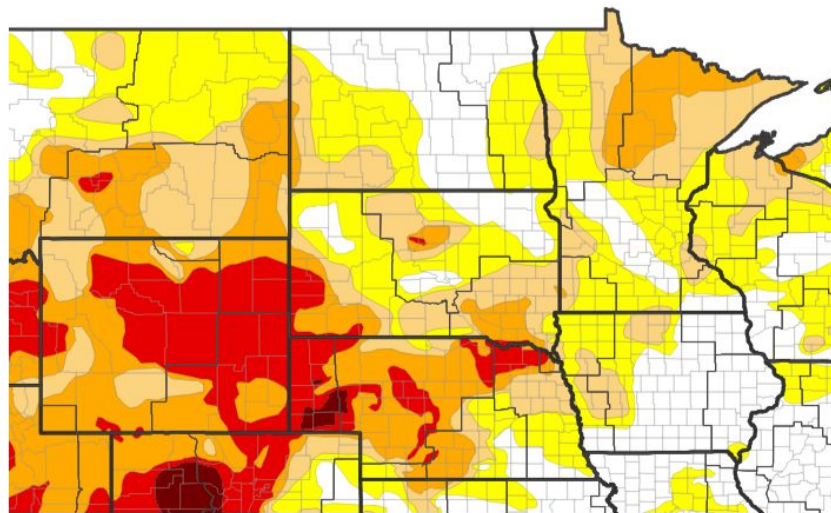
U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Central/Northeast SD & West Central MN

U.S. Drought Monitor

- **Drought Intensity and Extent**

- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Far southeast Dewey and far southwest Potter counties.
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Potter, southeast Dewey, and northern Sully counties.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Portions of north central & south central SD, west central MN.
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Portions of central & northeast SD, west central MN.



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 07/21/26



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Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Central/Northeast SD & West Central MN

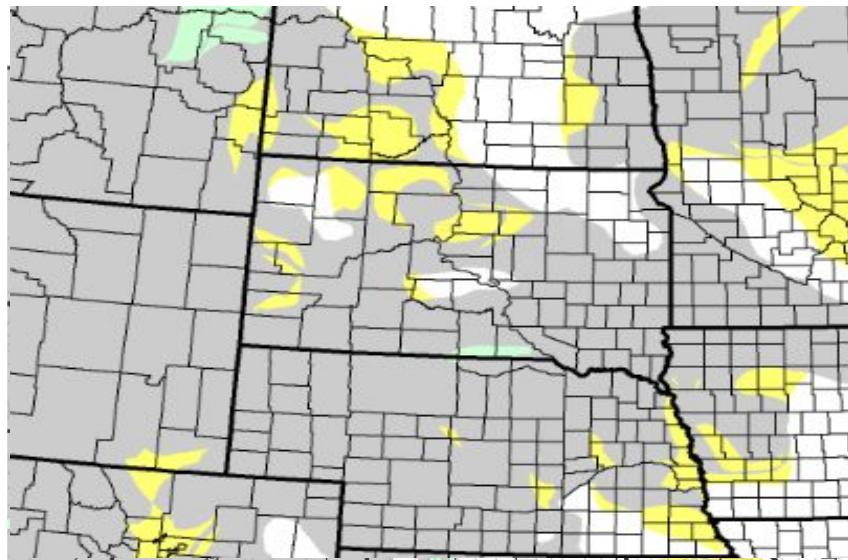
- **4-Week Drought Monitor Class Change**

- Drought Worsened: Portions of north central SD, including Dewey, Potter, and Sully counties. ***2-class to 3-class degradation in drought conditions.***
- Drought Improved: Portions of south central SD, including Jones, Lyman, and Buffalo counties. Also parts of northeast SD and west central MN.

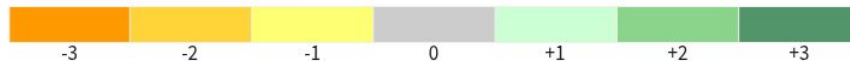
- **1-week Drought Monitor Class Change**

- Drought Worsened: Portions of north central SD saw a 1-class degradation.
- No Change: Much of central SD and parts of northeast SD and west central MN.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 07/14/26

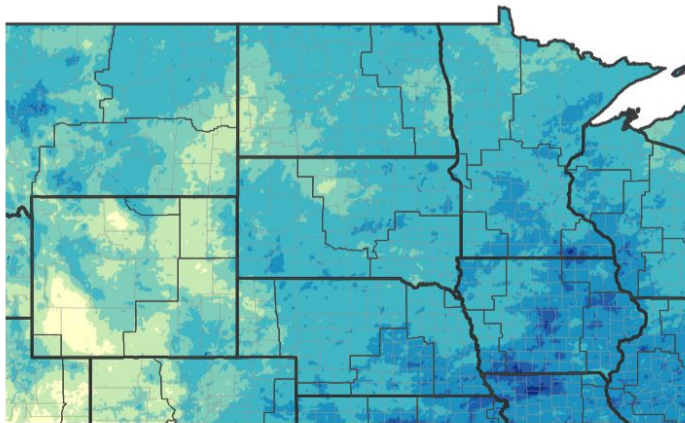




Precipitation: Past 90 Days

- Only 25-50% of *normal precipitation* over north central SD during the past 90 days. *Less than 25% in some cases.*
- This area aligns with current D1 to D3 drought conditions.

90-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



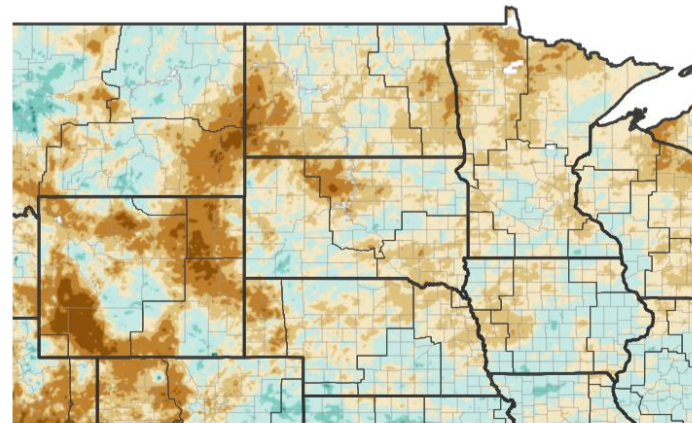
Inches of Precipitation



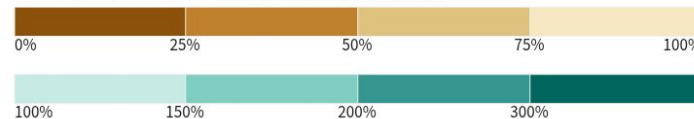
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 07/23/26

90-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

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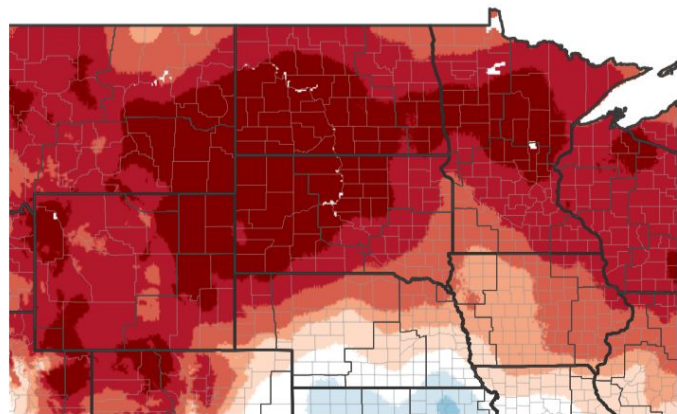




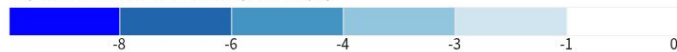
Temperature

- 7-day temperature anomalies (ending 7/19) are **6-8+ degrees above normal across central/NE SD.**
- 30-day anomalies **1-3 degrees above normal across the region.**
- Hot/above normal temperatures have exacerbated drought conditions.**

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



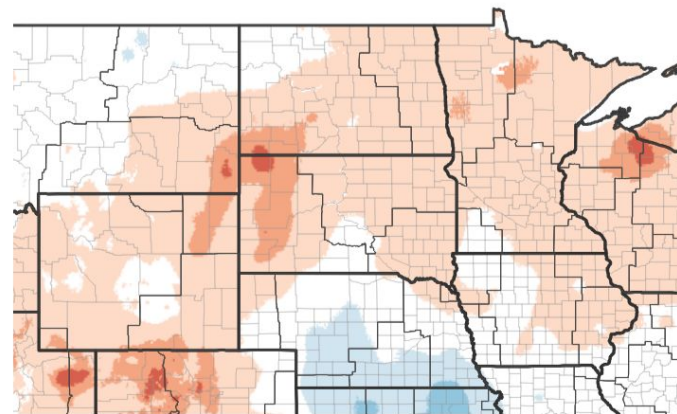
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



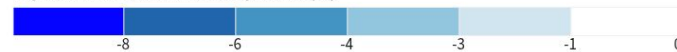
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 07/19/26

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 07/19/26





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Below normal streamflows across portions of north central South Dakota. [\(USGS National Water Dashboard\)](#)

Agricultural Impacts

- Crop stress across north central SD noted in corn, wheat, and beans. Yield losses expected. Stock ponds drying up and becoming poor water quality. Reduced pasture forage; supplemental feed needed. [\(CMOR\)](#)
- USDA Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin can be found [here](#).

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Windy days combined with drying fuels over central SD bring elevated to critical fire danger at times.

Other Impacts

- SD Drought Task Force initiated May 6, 2026. SD Governor issued [Executive Order 2026-08](#) to allow truckers carrying hay to be on the road longer hours (among other accommodations), to allow moving of feed and/or livestock with a no-cost permit.

Mitigation Actions

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



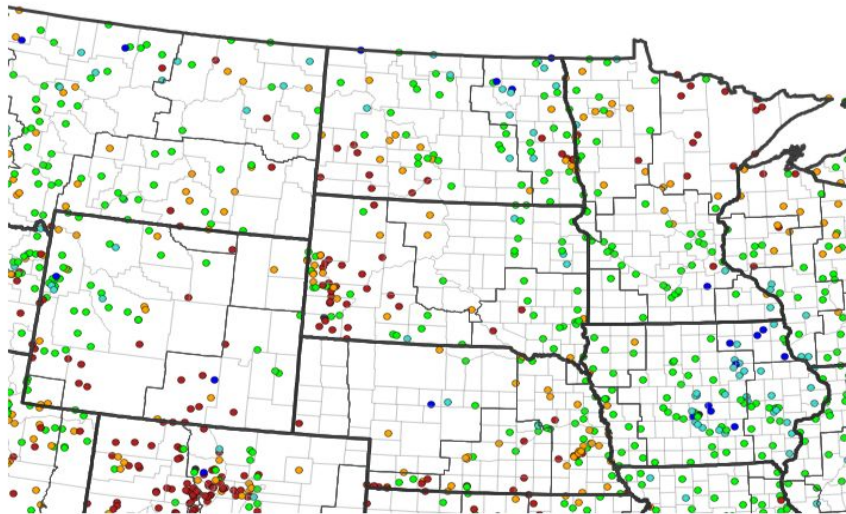


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow conditions (1-day average) are showing **below normal** (10th-24th percentile) across north central SD.
- This includes the Grand River near Little Eagle, SD and the Moreau River near Whitehorse, SD.

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

1-Day Average Streamflow Conditions



Streamflow Conditions



Source(s): U.S. Geological Survey; image courtesy of Drought.gov

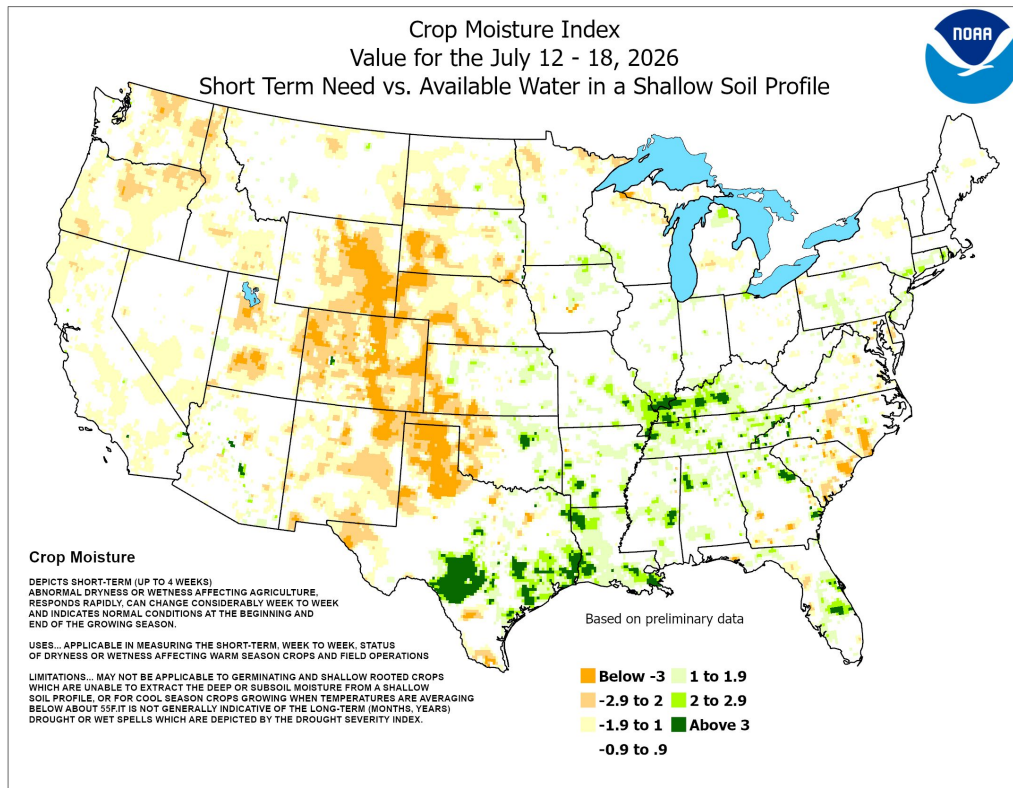
Data Valid: 07/22/26





Agricultural Impacts

- Crop stress across north central SD noted in corn, beans, and wheat. Yield losses expected.
 - [Percentage of crop affected by drought](#)
- Stock ponds drying up and showing poor water quality.
- Reduced pasture forage; supplemental feed needed.
 - [Livestock & Forage Data Table](#)

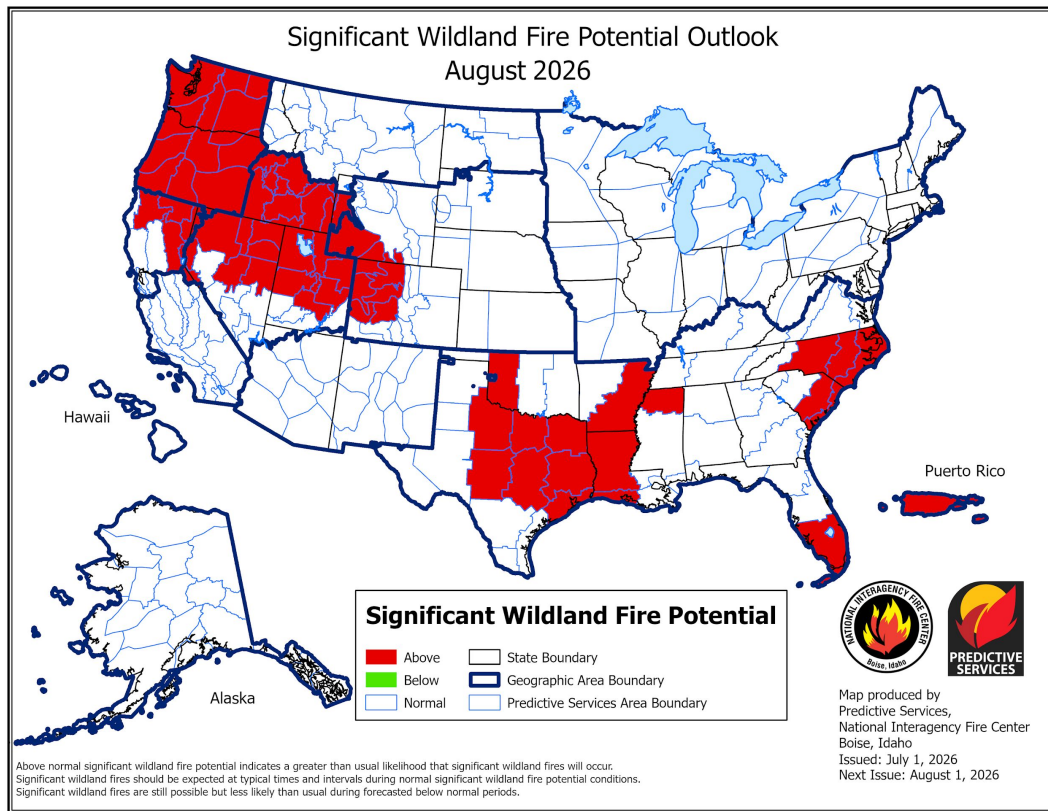




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Increasing number of grass fires across central SD in July.
- Periods of strong winds and low humidity bringing elevated to critical fire danger.
- Link to the [Predictive Services 7-day Significant Fire Potential](#).
- Current Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for August generally near normal across SD.

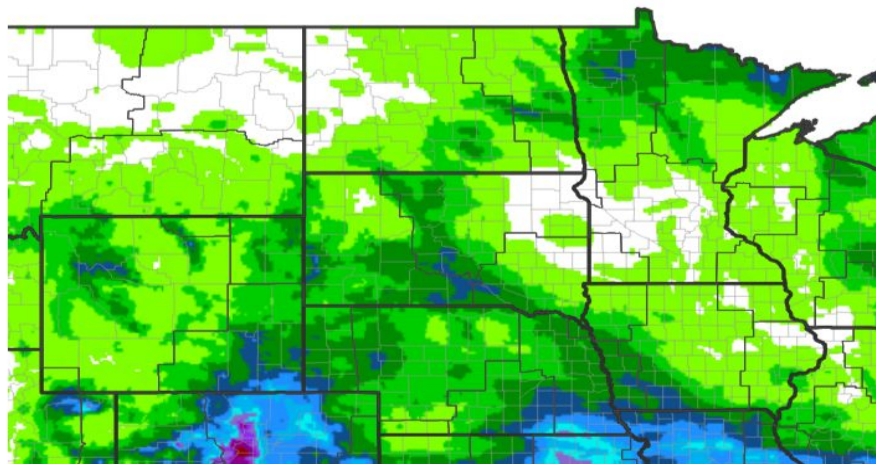




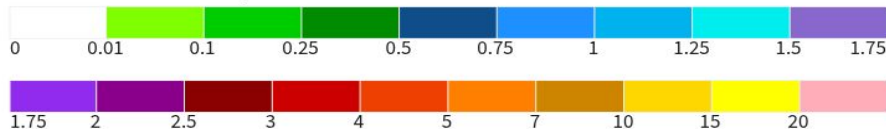
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Forecast precipitation for the last week of July is **generally below 0.50in across the region.**
- Localized amounts above 0.50in across south central SD.
- Little, if any precipitation forecast across northeast SD and west central MN.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for July 23, 2026–July 30, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 07/23/26



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Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

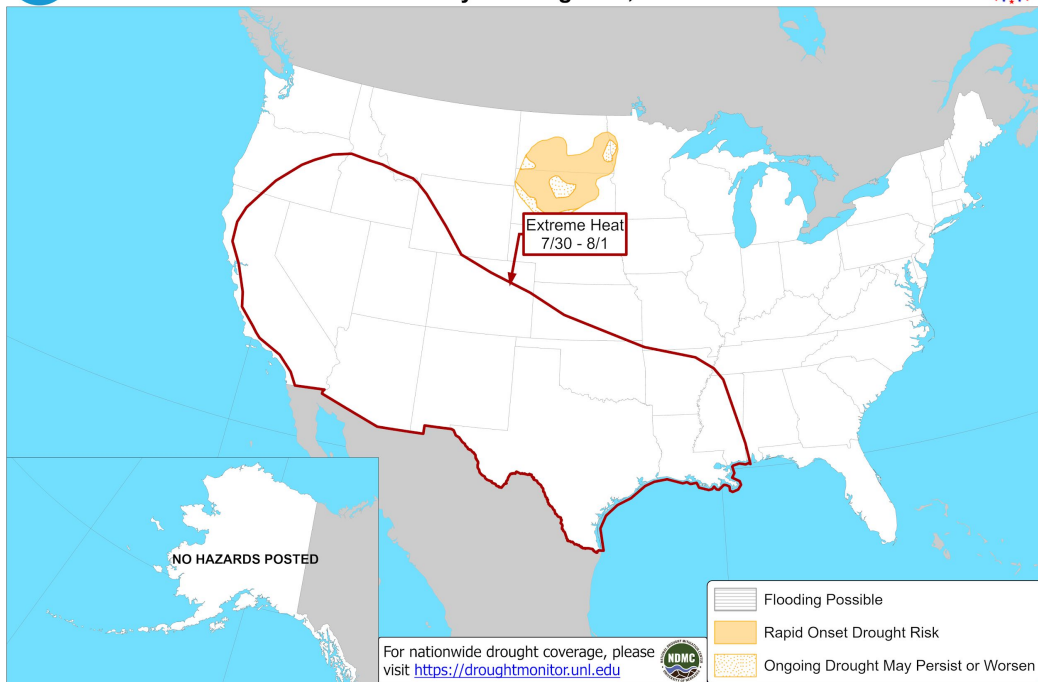
Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- Rapid onset drought risk continues across parts of central and northeast SD from late July into early August.
- Hot temperatures in the 90s to low 100s through the end of July, combined with limited precipitation, will lead to increased potential for rapid drought onset.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook

Valid: July 30 - August 5, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: July 22, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

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www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov



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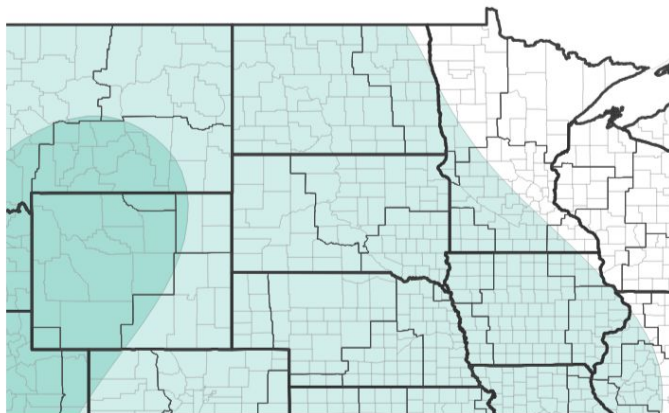


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Precipitation outlook for August is **leaning “above normal”** for SD and west central MN.
- Temperature outlook for August is **leaning “below normal”** for northern SD and west central MN.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for August 1, 2026–August 31, 2026



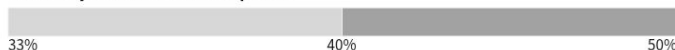
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



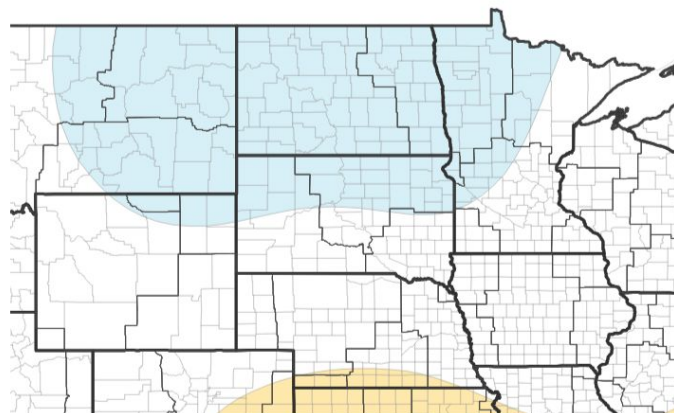
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 07/16/26

Monthly Temperature Outlook for August 1, 2026–August 31, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

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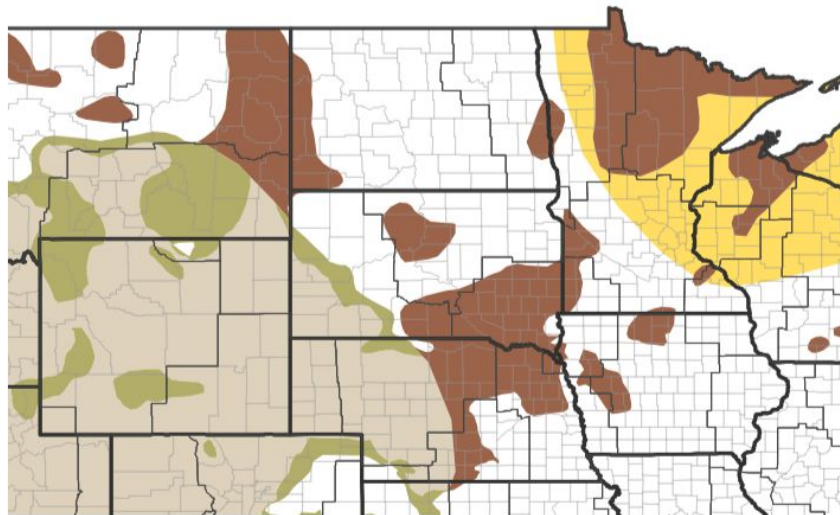


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions forecast to persist across north central & south central SD, as well as portions of west central MN.
- This is valid through October 31, 2026.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for July 16, 2026–October 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

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Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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