



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

Valid: August 20, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

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

- This product will be updated by Sep 24, 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.

- **EXTREME DROUGHT (D3) CONDITIONS EXPANDING ACROSS PORTIONS OF NORTH CENTRAL & NORTHWEST SOUTH DAKOTA.**
- **AGRICULTURAL & LIVESTOCK/PASTURE IMPACTS CONTINUE.**



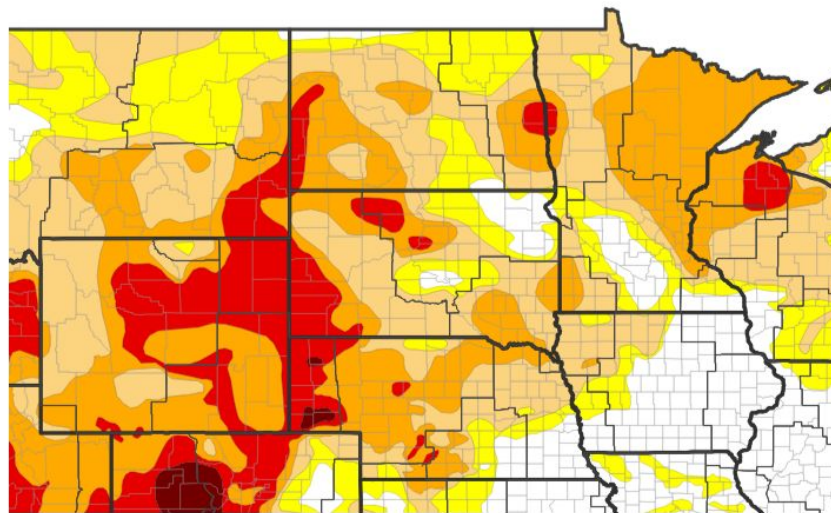
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

U.S. Drought Monitor

- **Drought Intensity and Extent**

- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Western Corson, portions of Dewey, Potter, and Sully counties.
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Portions of Corson, Dewey, Potter, and Sully counties, and surrounding area.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Portions of central SD, also parts of west central MN.
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Much of central SD, parts of northeast SD and west central MN.



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 08/18/26





Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

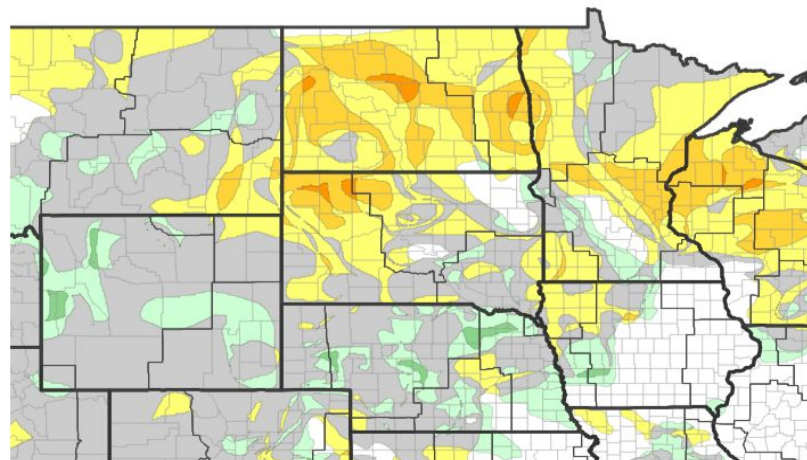
- **4-Week Drought Monitor Class Change**

- Drought Worsened: Portions of Corson & Dewey counties saw a **2-class to 3-class degradation in drought conditions**. Parts of central & northeast SD saw a **1-class degradation**.
- Drought Improved: Portions of south central, northeast SD & west central MN saw a **1-class improvement**.

- **1-Week Drought Monitor Class Change (not pictured)**

- No change noted across the Aberdeen County Warning Area (CWA).

U.S. Drought Monitor 4-Week Change Map



Drought Degradation



Drought Improvement



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

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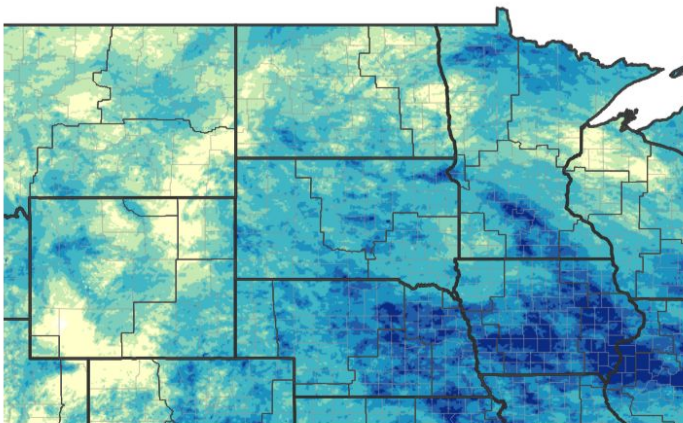




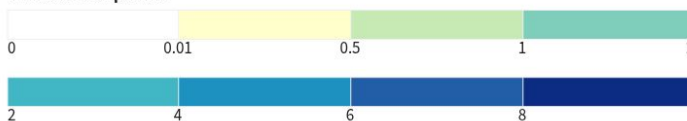
Precipitation: Past 30 Days

- Only 25-50% of normal precipitation over north central SD during the past 30 days. **Less than 25% in some cases.**
- This area aligns with current D2 to D3 drought conditions.
- Spotty thunderstorms brought isolated pockets of wetness.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

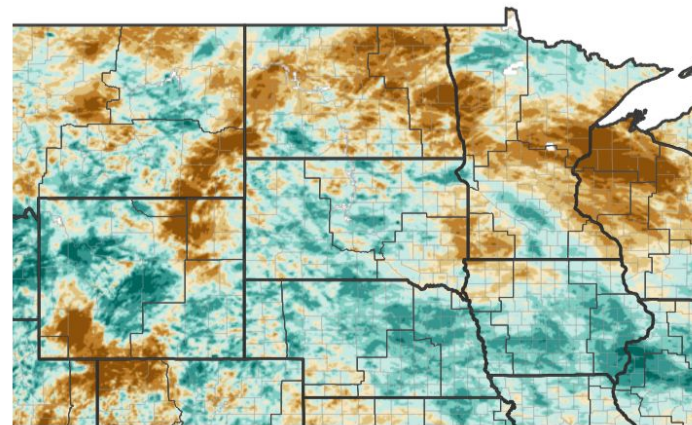


Inches of Precipitation

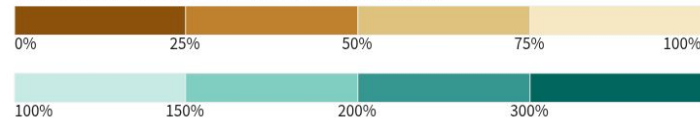


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 08/20/26

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: 08/20/26

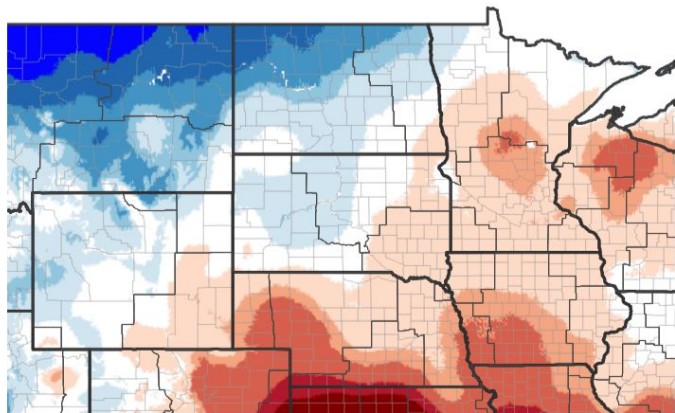




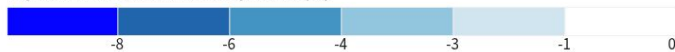
Temperature

- 7-day temperature anomalies (ending 8/16) are slightly below normal over central SD; slightly above normal over eastern SD.
- 30-day anomalies **4-6 degrees above normal across north central SD (D2/D3 drought area).**
- Hot/above normal temperatures have exacerbated drought conditions.**

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



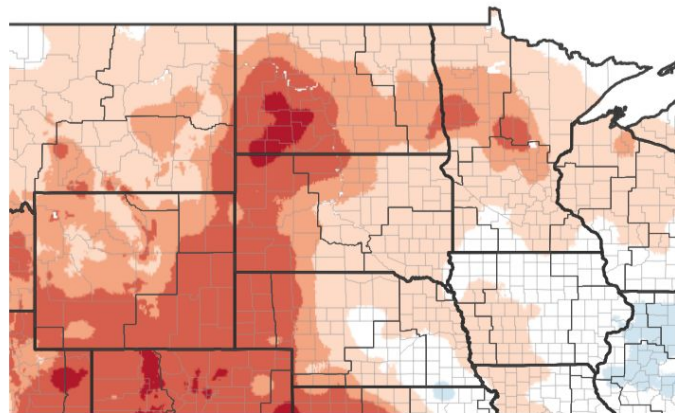
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



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

Data Valid: 08/16/26

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: 08/16/26





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. A below normal runoff is forecast by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Missouri River, with water conservation measures in place for the reservoir system. [\(USGS National Water Dashboard\)](#)

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. [\(CMOR\)](#)
- Statewide corn condition rated 28 percent poor or very poor. Pasture & Range condition rated 66 percent poor or very poor. 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.

Mitigation Actions

- SD Drought Task Force initiated May 6, 2026. SD Governor issued [Executive Order 2026-10](#) to expand SD Wildland Fire assistance and resources to help rural departments outside the Black Hills Forest Fire Protection District. In addition, the Governor extended the provisions of [Executive Order 2026-08](#) on flexibility for hay hauling.

Other Impacts/Mitigation

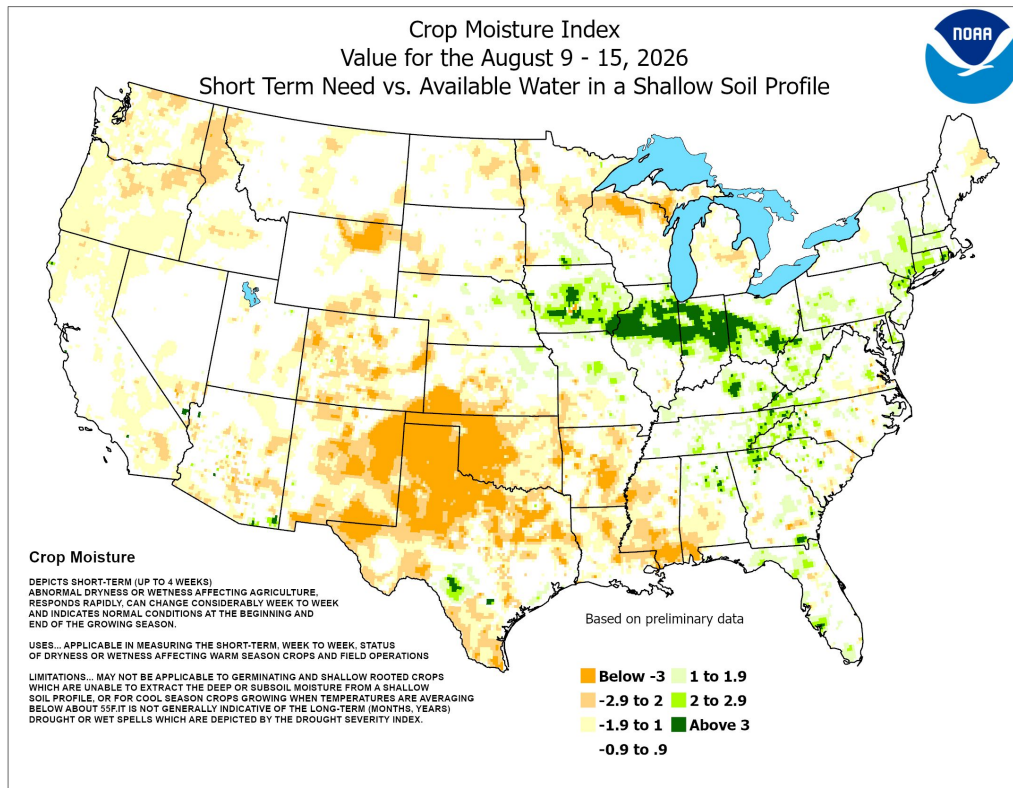
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





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](#)

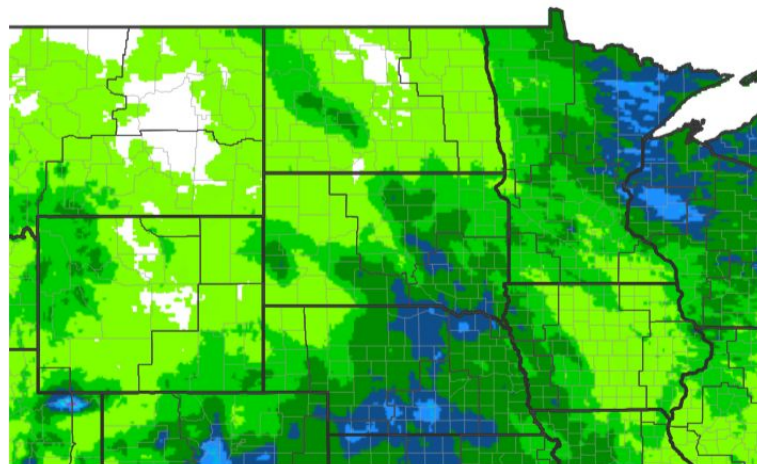




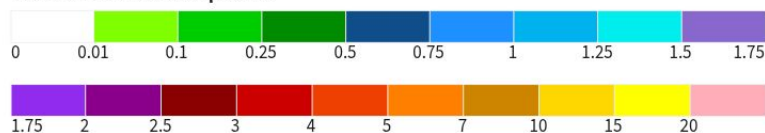
Seven-Day Precipitation Forecast

- Forecast precipitation for August 20-27 is ***generally between 0.10in and 0.50in across the region.***
- Localized amounts above 0.50in across central/south central SD. Locally higher amounts in any heavier thunderstorms.
- ***Minimal amounts of precipitation forecast for the D3 drought area across north central and northwest SD.***

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for August 20, 2026–August 27, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 08/20/26



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD



Long-Range Outlooks

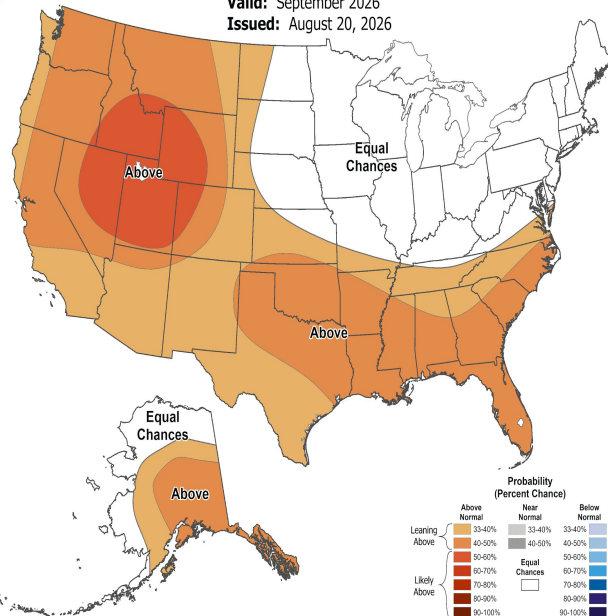
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Precipitation outlook for September is “**equal chances**” for above or below normal.
- Temperature outlook for September is “**equal chances**” for above or below normal.
- “Equal Chances” means there is no clear climate signal to favor one outcome over another.



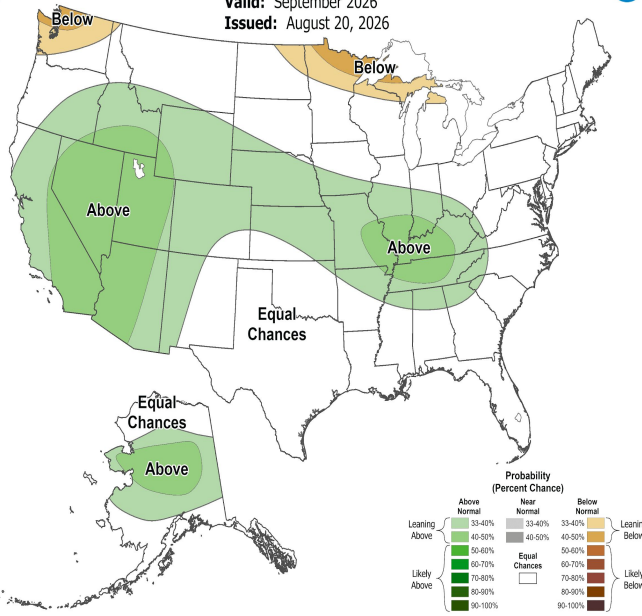
Monthly Temperature Outlook

Valid: September 2026
Issued: August 20, 2026



Monthly Precipitation Outlook

Valid: September 2026
Issued: August 20, 2026





Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions forecast to persist across central SD, as well as portions of west central MN.
- This is valid through November 30, 2026.

Seasonal Drought Outlook

Valid: Aug 20 - Nov 30 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 07/31/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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Aberdeen, SD