



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

Valid: September 24, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

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

- This product will be updated by Oct 23, 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 IMPROVING FOR SOME, WHILE OTHERS REMAIN DRY.**
- **AGRICULTURAL & LIVESTOCK/PASTURE IMPACTS CONTINUE, BUT IMPROVEMENTS NOTED OVER PORTIONS OF THE REGION.**



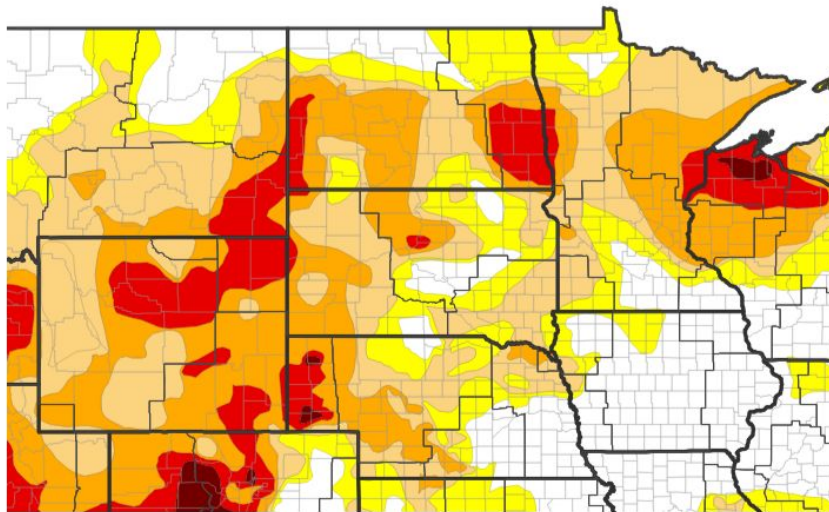
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

• Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Southeast Dewey, southwest Potter, northwest Sully counties.
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Portions of Corson, Dewey, Walworth, Potter, Faulk, and Sully counties, and surrounding areas. Also, northern Roberts and Traverse counties.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Portions of central/north central SD, also parts of northeast SD and west central MN.
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Portions of central and northeast SD.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 09/22/26





Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

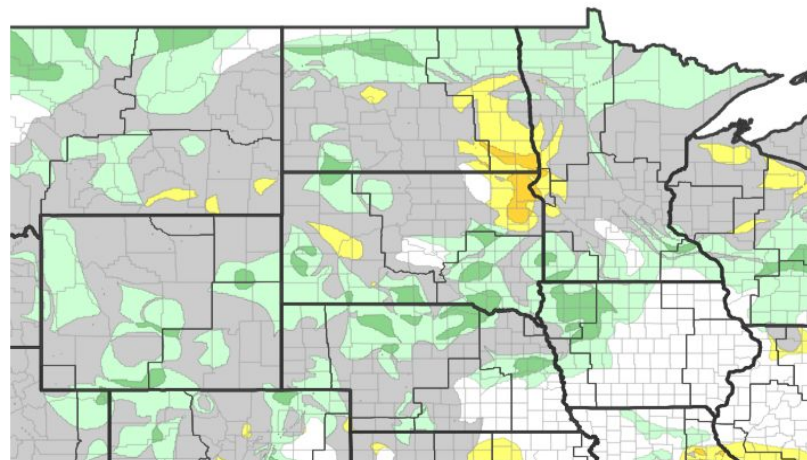
4-Week Drought Monitor Class Change

- Drought Worsened: Portions of northeast SD and west central MN saw a **1-class to 2-class degradation in drought conditions**. 2-class degradation included parts of Roberts, Grant, Codington, Day, Marshall, Big Stone, and Traverse counties.
- Drought Improved: Portions of central and northeast SD saw a **1-class to 2-class improvement**. 2-class improvement noted over southern Spink and southern Clark counties.

1-Week Drought Monitor Class Change (not pictured)

- 1-class improvement over portions of Dewey and Corson counties, as well as Hand, Spink, Buffalo, and Clark counties.

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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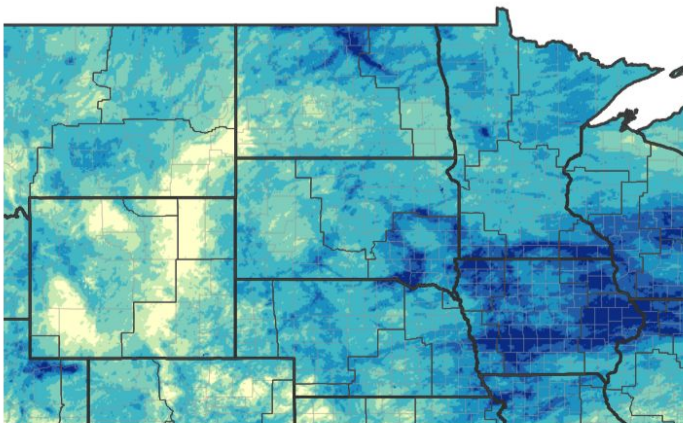
National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD



Precipitation: Past 30 Days

- **Only 50-75% of normal precipitation** over parts of northeast SD during the past 30 days.
- This area aligns with the 1-class to 2-class degradation in drought conditions.
- **General wetness** over parts of central SD led to improving conditions for some.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



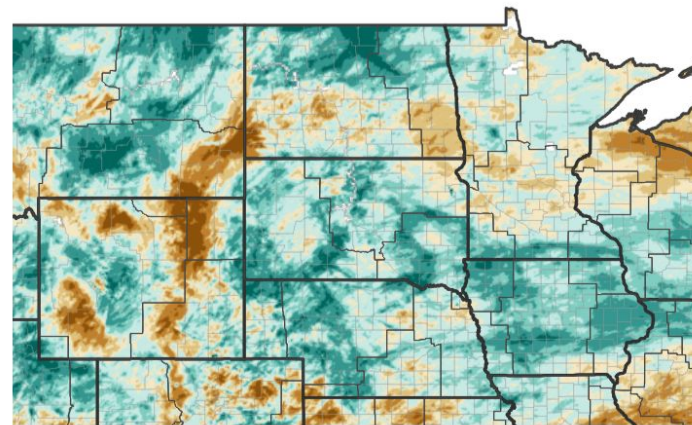
Inches of Precipitation



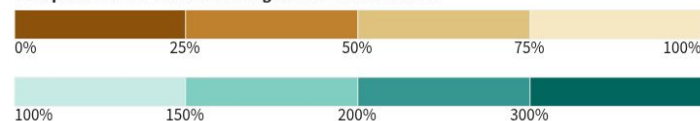
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

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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

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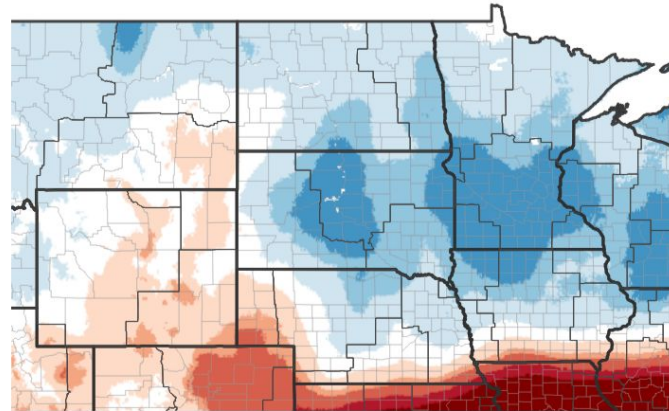




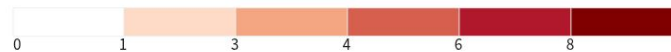
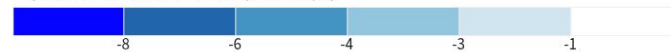
Temperature

- 7-day temperature anomalies (ending 9/20) are **below normal by 3 to 6 degrees** over most of the region.
- 30-day anomalies are **1 to 4 degrees above normal** across the region.
- Warmest over northeast SD where drought conditions worsened.**

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



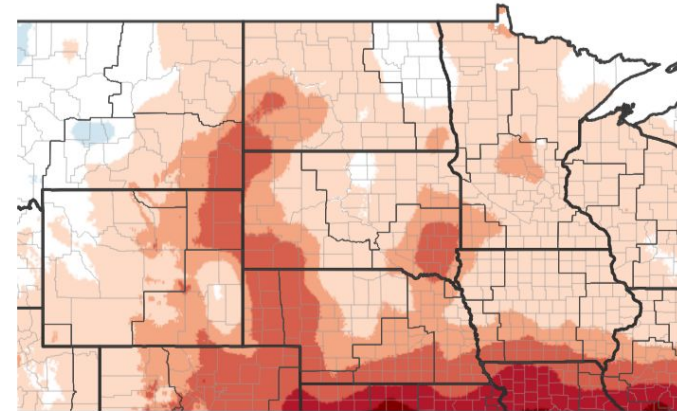
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



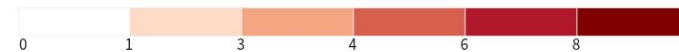
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/20/26

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: 09/20/26





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 central/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 33 percent poor or very poor. ***Pasture & Range condition rated 66 percent poor or very poor. Topsoil moisture rated 64 percent short to very short. Subsoil moisture rated 75 percent short to very short.*** 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. Although, a wetter, cooler, and more humid pattern recently (mid/late September) has reduced wildfire potential.

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.



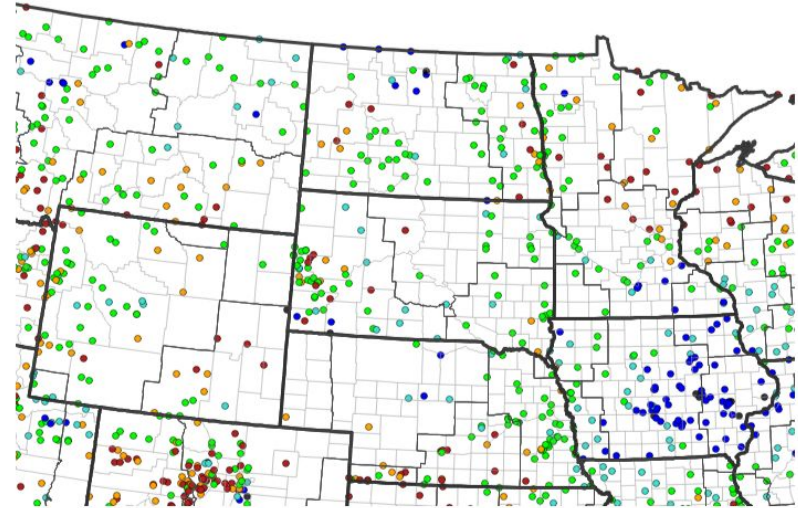


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow conditions (1-day average) are showing ***much below normal*** (<10th percentile) across north central SD.
- This includes the Moreau River near Whitehorse, SD.
- Conditions elsewhere are near normal.

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		

1-Day Average Streamflow Conditions



Streamflow Conditions



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

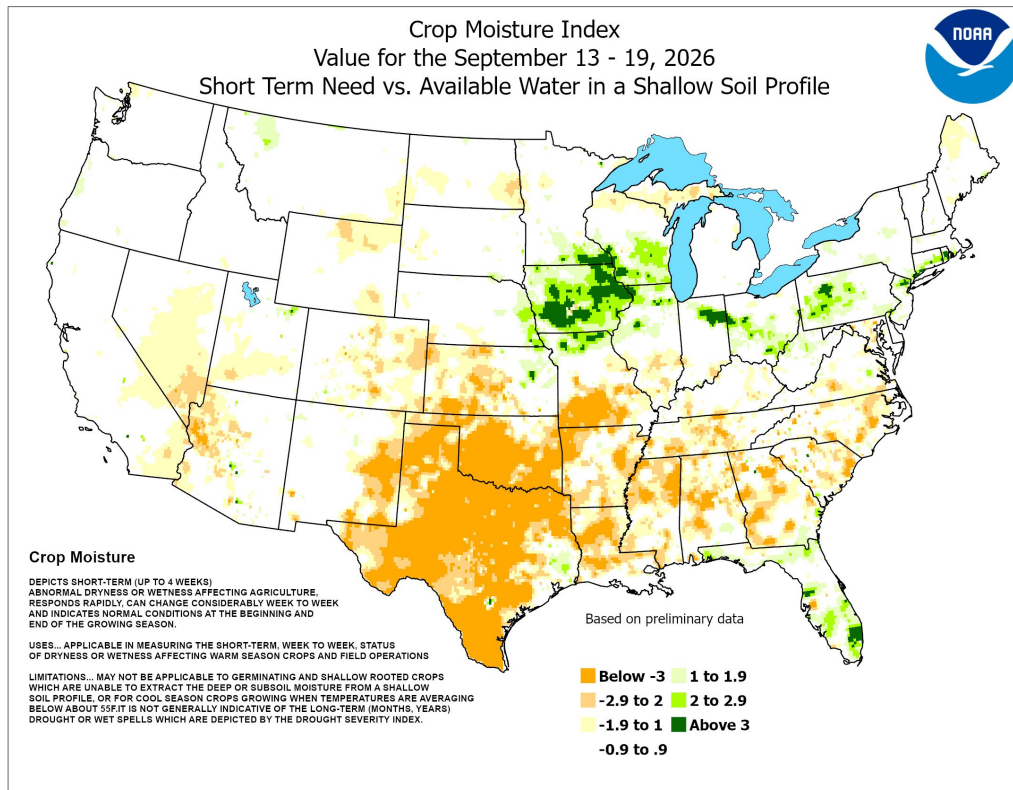
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Agricultural Impacts

- Crop stress across central/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 in areas where D1 to D3 drought remain.
- Reduced pasture forage; supplemental feed needed in drought areas.
 - [Livestock & Forage Data Table](#)

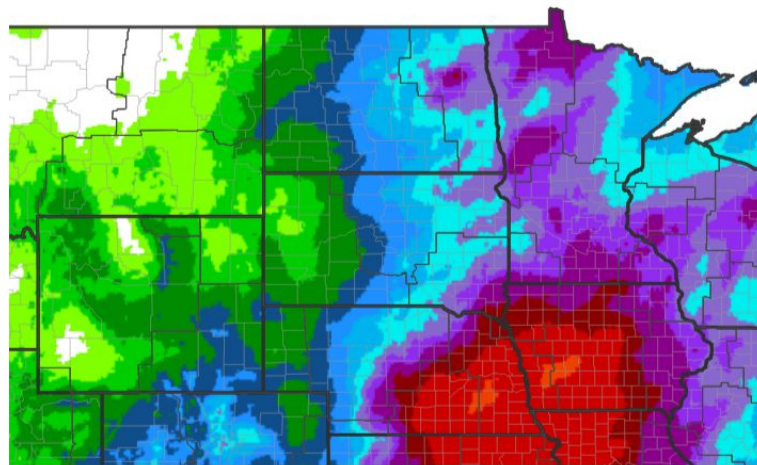




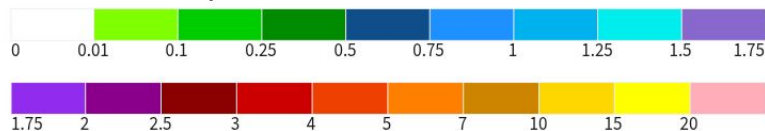
Seven-Day Precipitation Forecast

- Forecast precipitation for September 24 - October 1 is ***generally between 1 to 2 inches east of the Missouri River.***
- Lesser amounts forecast over western SD.
- ***Additional rainfall in excess of an inch or two would continue to ease drought conditions across the region.***

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for September 24, 2026–October 1, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

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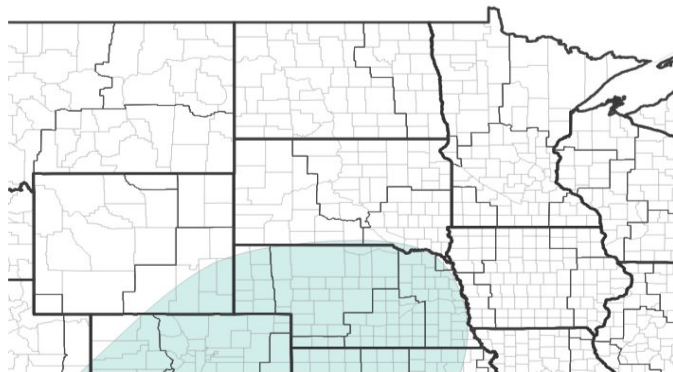


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Precipitation outlook for October is “**equal chances**” for above or below normal.
- Temperature outlook for October “**leans above normal**” (33-40% chance) across much of the region.
- “Equal Chances” means there is no clear climate signal to favor one outcome over another.

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



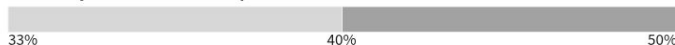
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



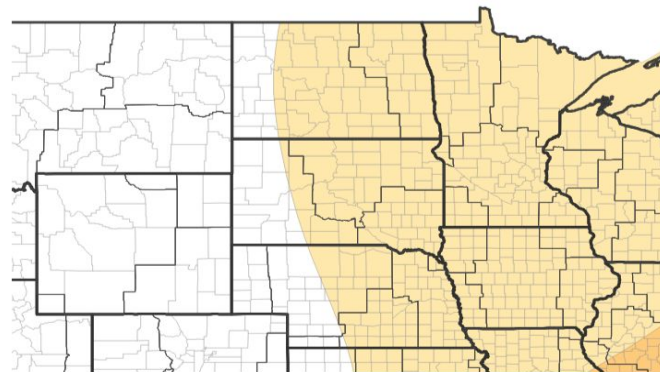
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

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



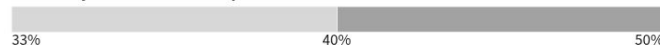
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 09/17/26



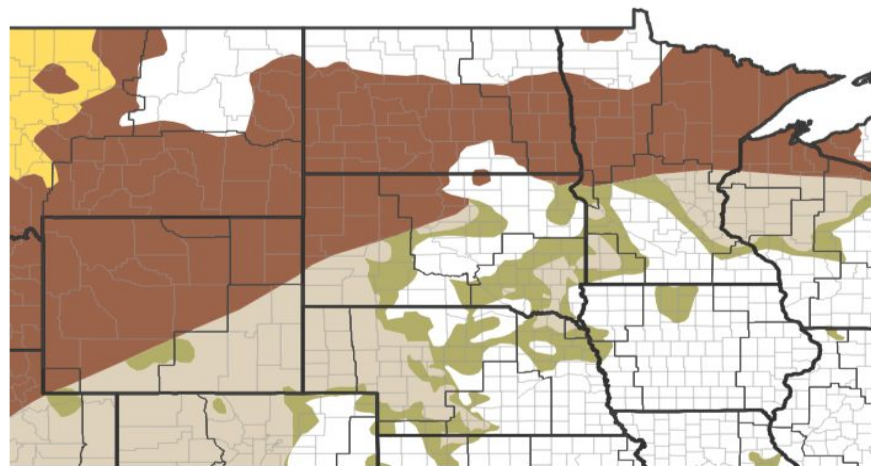


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions forecast to persist across north central SD, as well as portions of west central MN.
- Drought conditions are forecast to improve or end across parts of central and northeast SD, as well as west central MN.
- This is valid through December 31, 2026.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for September 17, 2026–December 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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