



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

Valid: October 22, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

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

- This product will be updated as conditions warrant.
- 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 HAVE IMPROVED FOR SOME, ALTHOUGH LINGERING IMPACTS REMAIN ELSEWHERE.**
- **D3 DROUGHT CONDITIONS REMOVED, D2 AREAS DIMINISHING AS WELL.**



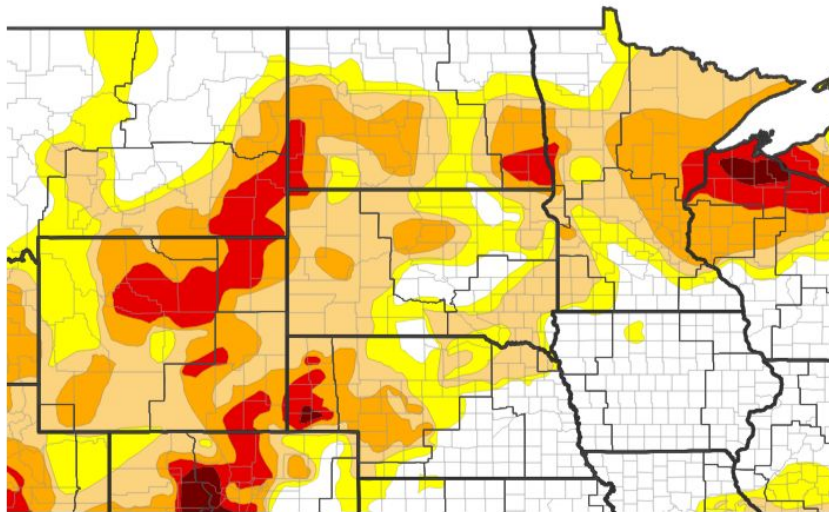
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

• Drought Intensity and Extent

- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** No counties remain in D3 in the ABR CWA.
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Portions of Dewey, Potter, Sully, western Faulk, southern Walworth, and northern 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

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Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

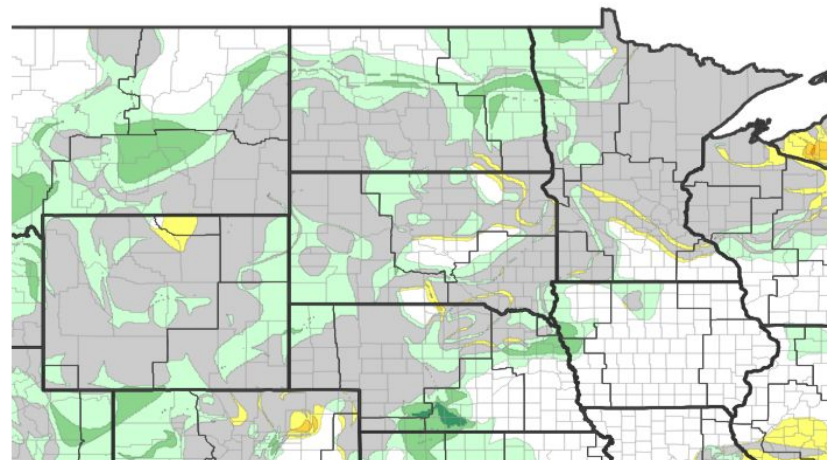
4-Week Drought Monitor Class Change

- Drought Worsened: Small portions of central and northeast SD saw a **1-class degradation in drought conditions**.
- Drought Improved: Portions of central, north central, and northeast SD saw a **1-class improvement**.

1-Week Drought Monitor Class Change (not pictured)

- No change in the 1-week drought monitor conditions.

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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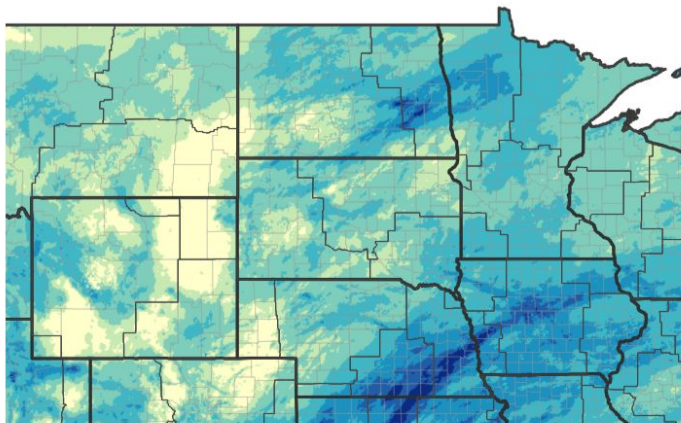
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Aberdeen, SD



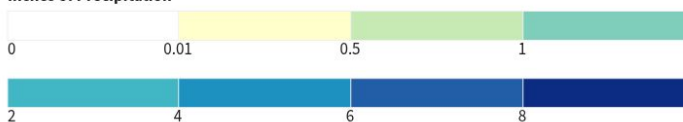
Precipitation: Past 30 Days

- Only 25-50% of *normal precipitation* over parts of central & northeast SD during the past 30 days.
- This area aligns with current D1 and D2 drought conditions.
- *General wetness* over parts of central SD led to improving conditions for some.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



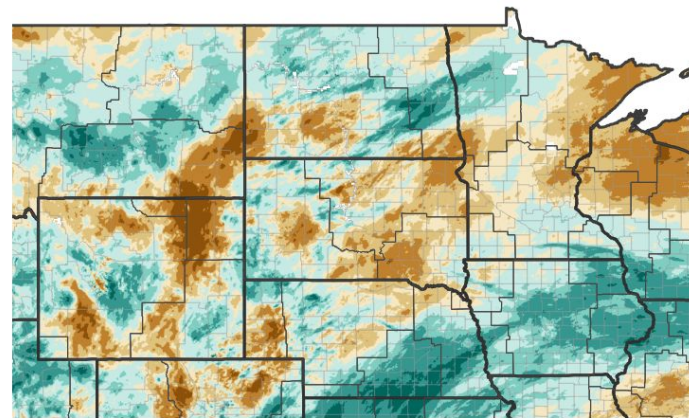
Inches of Precipitation



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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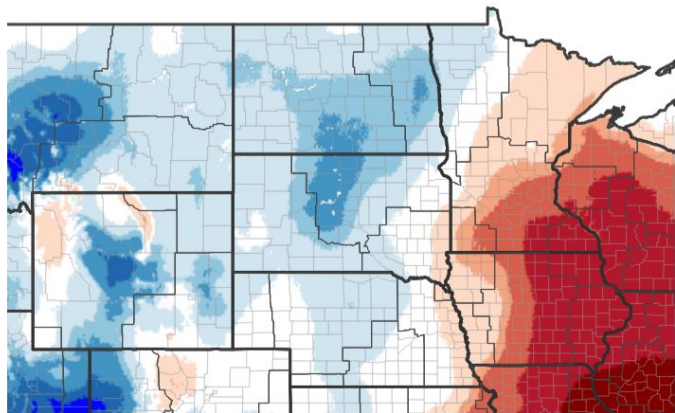




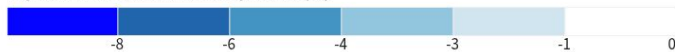
Temperature

- 7-day temperature anomalies (ending 10/18) are **below normal by 4 to 6 degrees** over central SD.
- 30-day anomalies (ending 10/18) are **1 to 4 degrees above normal** across the region.
- Warmest over northeast SD where D1 drought conditions remain in place.**

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



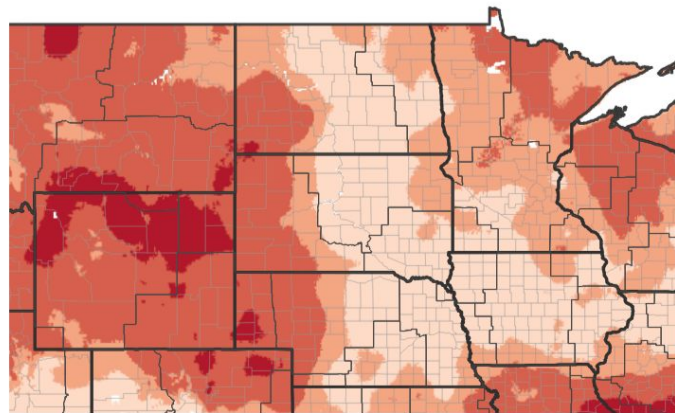
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



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

Data Valid: 10/18/26

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: 10/18/26





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Slight improvement in streamflows over north central SD, hydrologic impacts easing. [\(USGS National Water Dashboard\)](#)

Agricultural Impacts

- Yield losses expected over portions of the region from the summer drought. Reduced pasture forage; supplemental feed needed. [\(CMOR\)](#)
- Statewide corn condition rated 31 percent poor or very poor. **Pasture & Range condition rated 57 percent poor or very poor. Topsoil moisture rated 46 percent short to very short. Subsoil moisture rated 64 percent short to very short.** These numbers are improvements from conditions experienced one month ago. USDA Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin can be found [here](#).

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Windy days combined with cured fuels will bring elevated to critical fire danger at times over the entire region.

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.

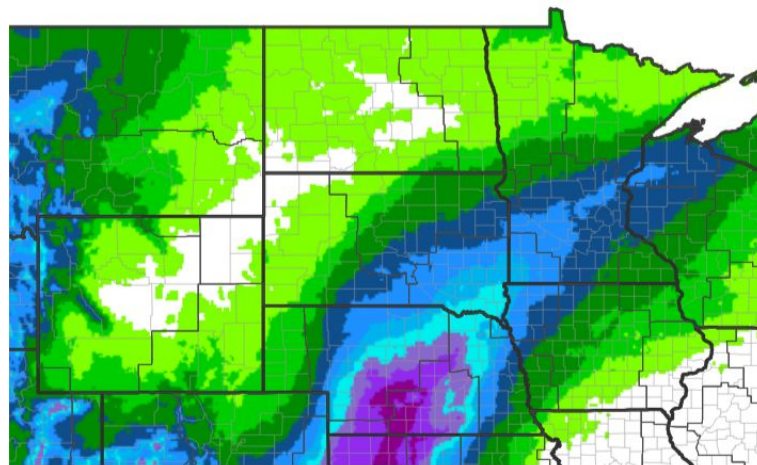




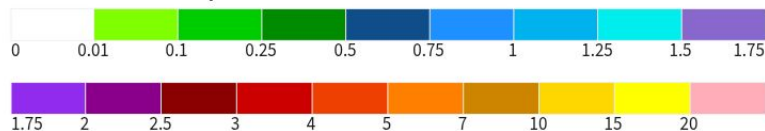
Seven-Day Precipitation Forecast

- Forecast precipitation for October 22 - October 29 is ***generally between 0.50 to 1.50 inches across southeast SD.***
- Lesser amounts forecast over the ABR CWA over central and northeast SD.
- ***Additional rainfall in excess of a half inch or more would continue to ease drought conditions across the region.***

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October 22, 2026–October 29, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

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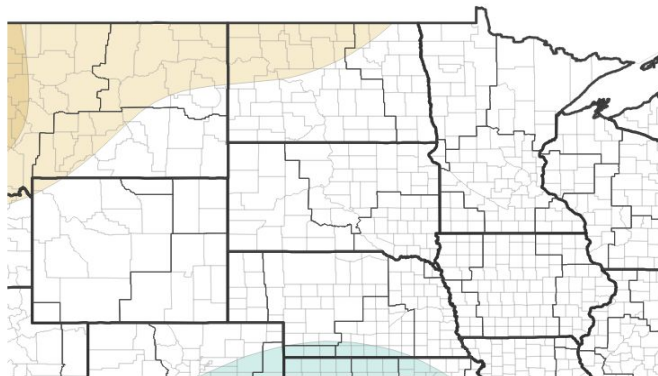


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Precipitation outlook for November is “**equal chances**” for above or below normal.
- Temperature outlook for November “**leans/likely above normal**” (40-60% 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 November 1, 2026–November 30, 2026



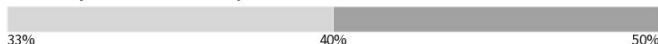
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



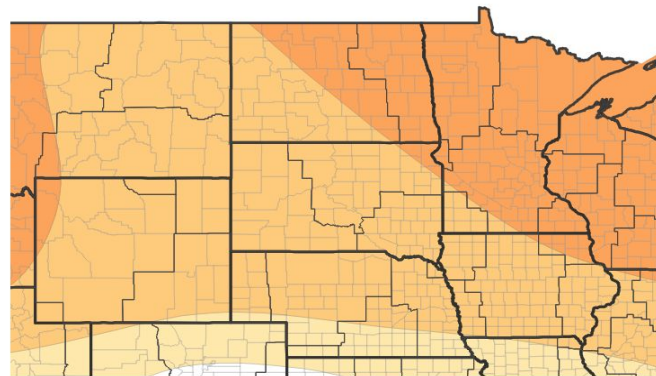
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

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Monthly Temperature Outlook for November 1, 2026–November 30, 2026



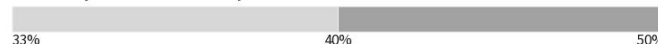
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

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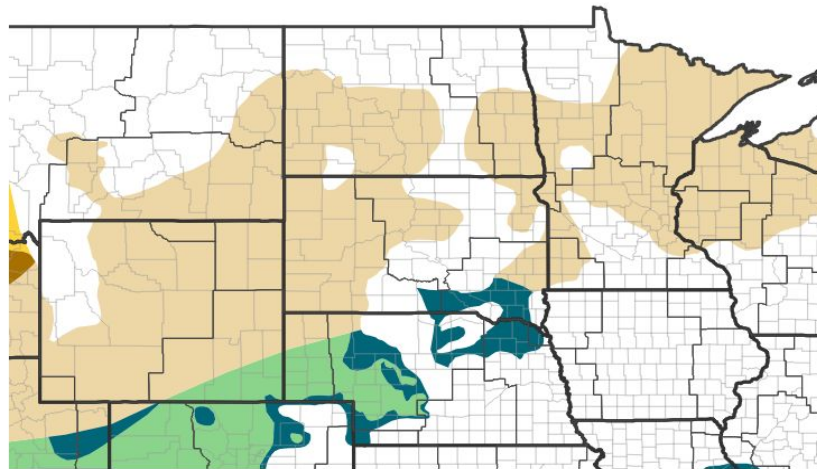


Drought Outlook

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- Drought conditions forecast to “remain unchanged” across north central SD, as well as portions of northeast SD and west central MN.
- This is valid through January 31, 2027.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for October 15, 2026–January 31, 2027



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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