



Drought Information Statement for Eastern/Central VA, NE NC and Lower MD Eastern Shore

Valid July 30, 2026

Issued By: NWS Wakefield, VA

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated around August 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/AKQ/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Questions or comments can be sent to jonathan.mcgee@noaa.gov.
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- A little more than half of the area remains in some level drought classification (D1-D3).
 - A 1- to 2-class improvement in drought status has occurred over much of central/eastern VA, northeast NC and southeast MD over the past 4 weeks.



Key Points

- **Impacts:**

- Numerous showers and thunderstorms have caused above normal rainfall totals across much of central & eastern VA, northeast NC and southeast MD over the past 30 days.
- 28-day average streamflow anomalies have improved to the “Below Normal” to “Normal” percentile class for the York, Rappahannock, lower James, Chowan and Pocomoke River basins.
- 28-day average streamflow anomalies are characterized as being in the “Much Below” to “Extreme Low” percentile class across the middle James and Roanoke River basins.
- Numerous municipalities across central VA remain in voluntary water conservation status.
- Crop and pasture conditions across eastern VA, lower MD and northeast NC have shown improvements in the past couple of weeks in response to the recent wet weather.

- **Mitigation Actions:**

- State of Virginia continues the drought warning for most of central and eastern Virginia.
- State of Maryland continues the drought warning for the lower Maryland Eastern Shore.
- A drought advisory is in effect for northeast North Carolina due to moderate drought conditions.

- The current outlook calls for near normal precipitation through September. Further improvement in drought status is possible but complete drought elimination for the entire area is not expected.

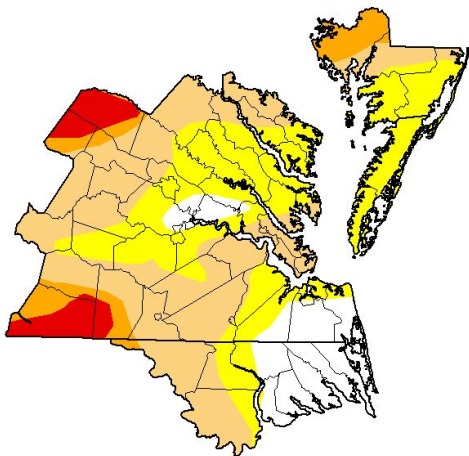




Current Drought Conditions

Latest U.S. Drought Monitor Map and Four-Week Change

U.S. Drought Monitor Wakefield, VA WFO



July 28, 2026
(Released Thursday, Jul. 30, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	13.28	86.72	53.33	12.94	5.94	0.00
Last Week 07-21-2026	0.00	100.00	73.66	32.21	9.85	0.00
3 Months Ago 04-28-2026	0.00	100.00	100.00	70.87	8.46	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	0.00	100.00	53.49	6.64	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2025	59.67	40.33	16.99	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 07-29-2025	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.
Local conditions may vary. For more information on the
Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

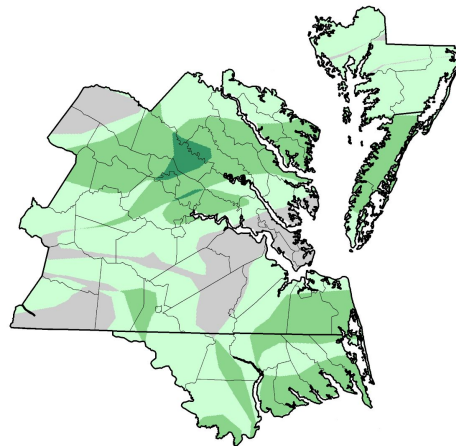
Author:

David Simerali
DRI/WRC



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Wakefield, VA WFO 4 Week



July 28, 2026
compared to
June 30, 2026

droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Main Takeaways

- A 1- to 2-class improvement in drought status has occurred over much of central/eastern VA, northeast NC and southeast MD over the past 4 weeks.

Image Caption:

Left: [U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT July 28](#)

Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 8am EDT July 28](#)



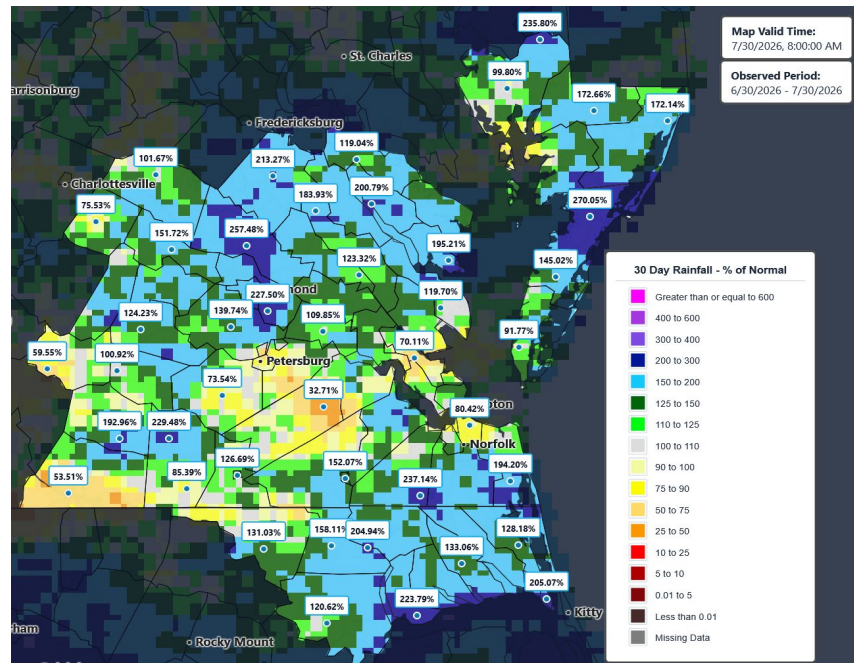
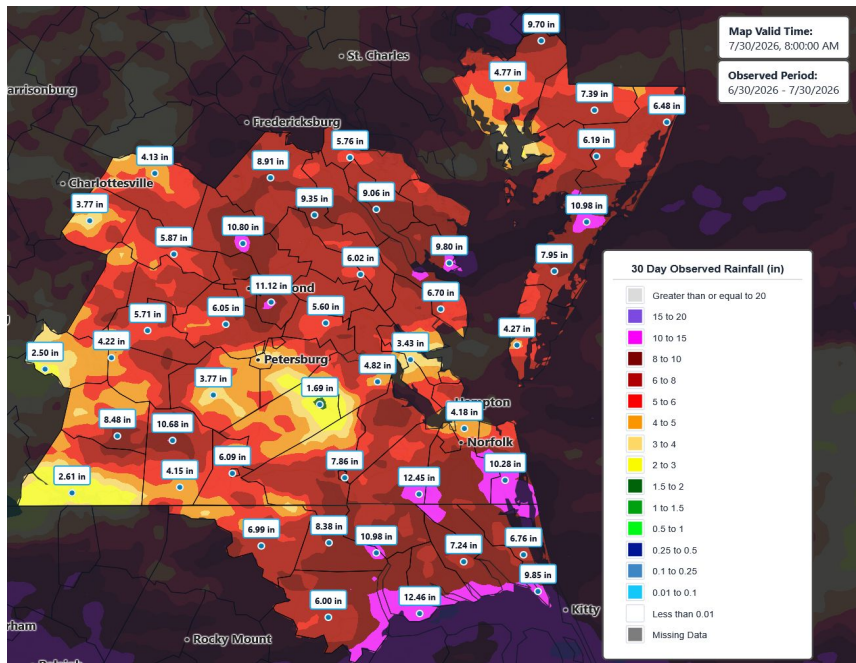
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Wakefield, VA



Observed Precipitation

Latest 30-Day Precipitation and Percent of Normal Precipitation



- Numerous showers and thunderstorms have caused above normal rainfall totals across much of central/eastern VA, northeast NC and southeast MD over the past 30 days.
- Unfortunately, small portions of the eastern VA Piedmont have missed out on this rainfall and still indicate below normal totals.

Image Captions:

Left - 30 Day Observed Precipitation; Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation

Data Courtesy NWS National Water Prediction Service. Data over the past 30 days ending July 30

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Wakefield, VA



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Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- 28-day average streamflow anomalies are characterized as being in the “Much Below” to “Extreme Low” percentile class across the middle James and Roanoke River basins.
- 28-day average streamflow anomalies have improved to the “Below Normal” to “Normal” percentile class for the York, Rappahannock, lower James, Chowan and Pocomoke River basins.

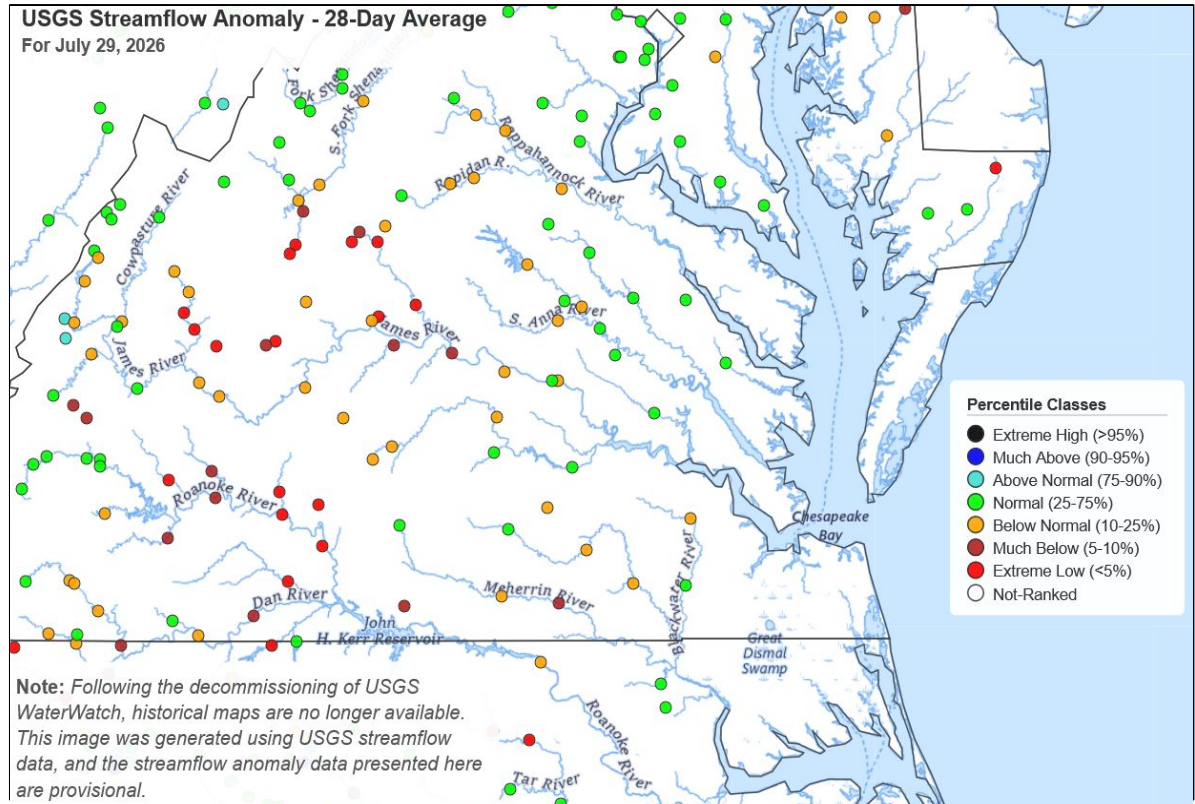


Image Caption: USGS 28 Day Average Streamflow Anomaly valid July 29

National Weather Service
Wakefield, VA





Precipitation Forecast

Latest 7-Day Precipitation Forecast

- Precipitation amounts are forecast to be below normal across most of central/eastern VA, lower MD and northeast NC over the next 7 days.

Weather Prediction Center 7-Day Precipitation

Issued: Thu 07/30/26 8 AM EDT

Valid: 8 AM 07/30/26 - 8 AM 08/06/26 EDT

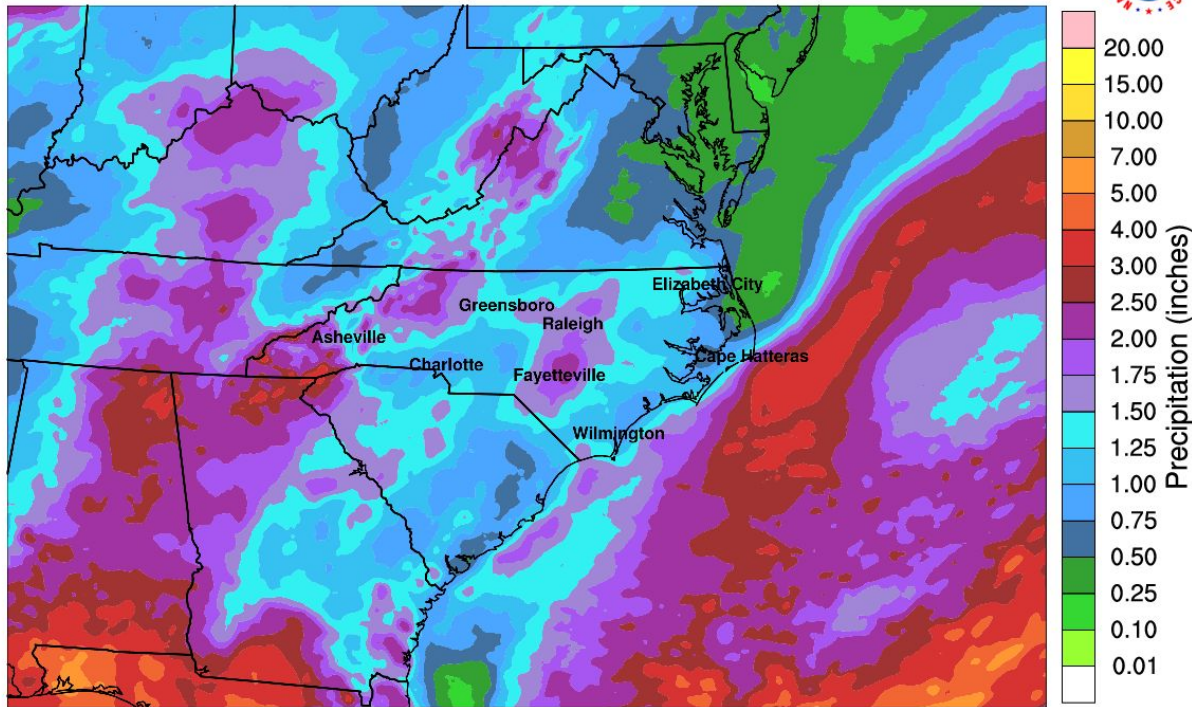


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid July 30-August 6

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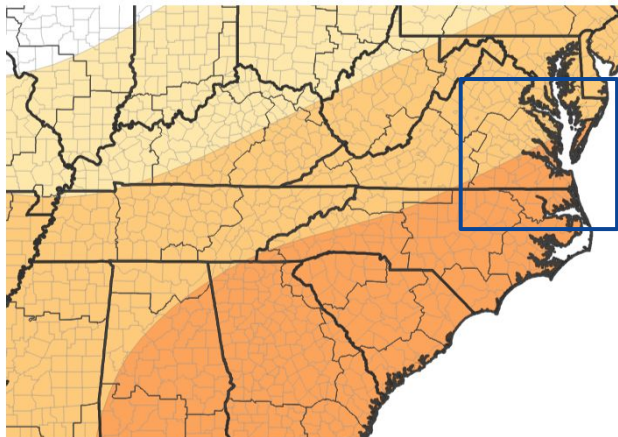


Monthly Outlook - August

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for August

- Above normal temperatures are favored during August.
- Below normal precipitation is favored during August.

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



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%

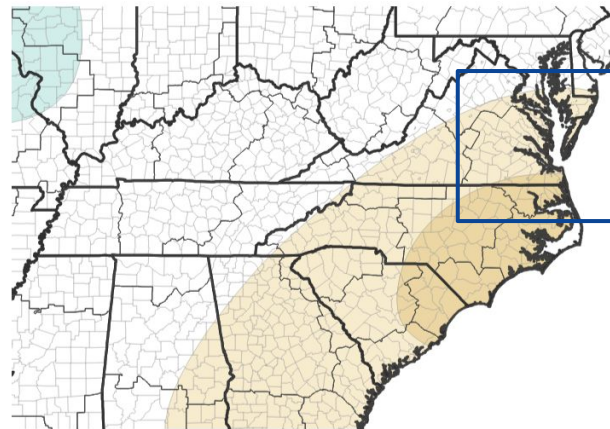
Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50%

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

Last Updated: 07/16/26

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



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

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

Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

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

Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50%

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

Last Updated: 07/16/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly & Seasonal Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks](#)



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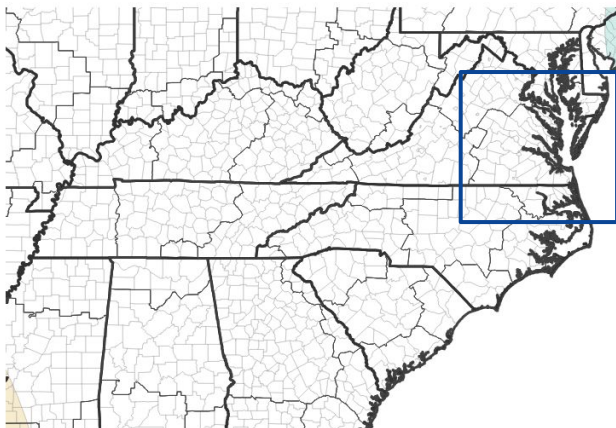


Seasonal Outlooks

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

- There is no clear signal for above or below normal precipitation through September 30, 2026.
- Above normal temperatures are favored through September 30, 2026.

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for July 1, 2026–September 30, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

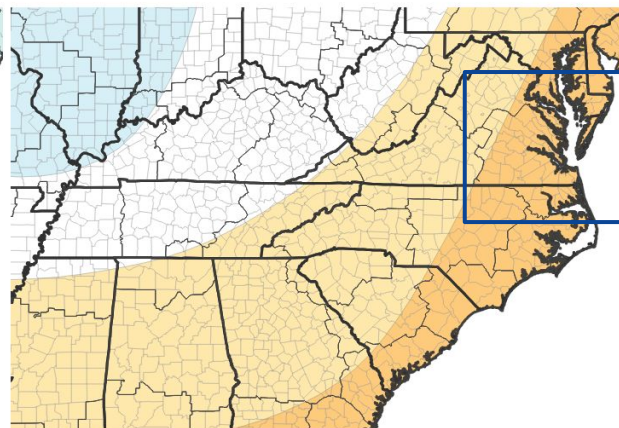


Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for July 1, 2026–September 30, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Last Updated: 06/18/26 Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 06/18/26

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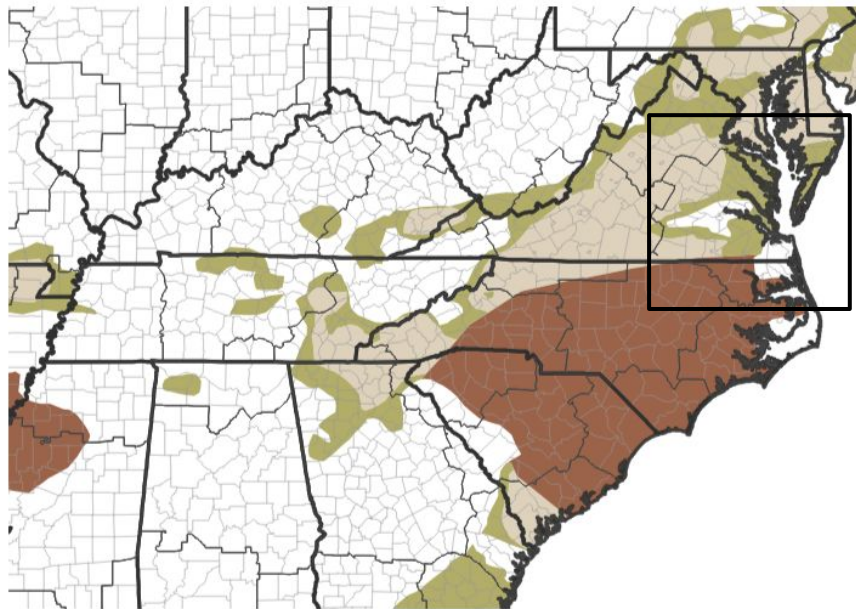


Seasonal Outlook

Drought Outlook

- It is possible that drought conditions will continue to improve through the end of October. However, this will be highly dependent on whether or not the recent wet weather can continue.
- As of right now, below normal precipitation is favored during August with no clear signal for above or below normal precipitation during September & October.

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

Last Updated: 07/16/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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