



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

Valid September 10, 2026

Issued By: NWS Wakefield, VA

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated on October 8, 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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- Approximately one-quarter of the area remains in some level drought classification (D1-D3).
 - A 1- to 2-class improvement in drought status has occurred over portions of the northeast VA Piedmont and in Dorchester County, MD over the past 4 weeks.



Key Points

- **Impacts:**

- Above normal rainfall totals were observed across southeast MD, the northern VA Piedmont and in portions of northeast NC over the past 30 days.
- 28-day average streamflow anomalies indicate “Normal” status for most river basins in eastern Virginia, northeast North Carolina and southeast Maryland.
- Portions of the middle James and Appomattox River basins, as well as the lower Roanoke River basin still show 28-day average streamflow anomalies in the “Much Below Normal” to “Extreme Low” classification.
- Several municipalities across central VA remain in voluntary water conservation status.
- Crop and pasture conditions across eastern VA, lower MD and northeast NC have shown some improvements in the past couple of weeks.

- **Mitigation Actions:**

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

- **Drought Status Outlook:**

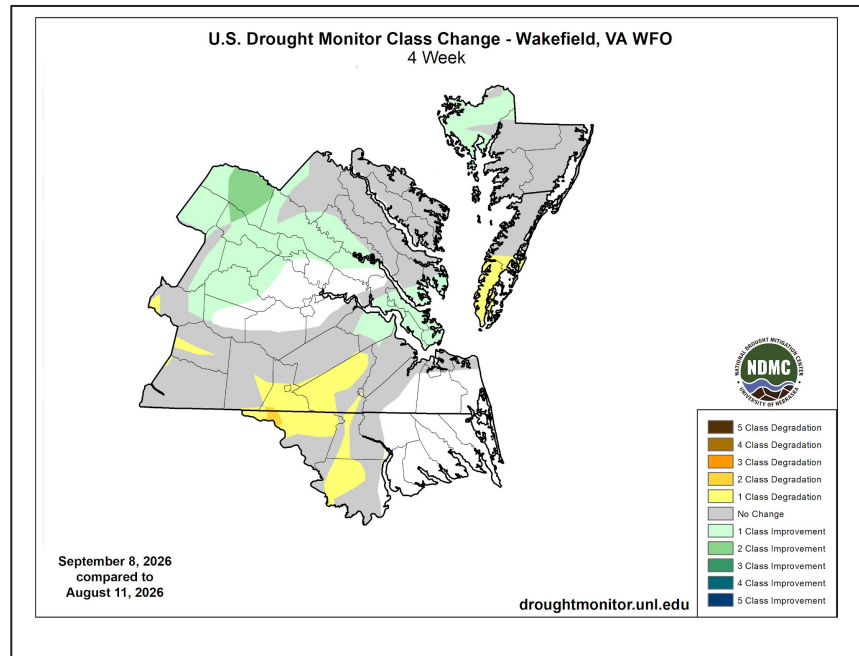
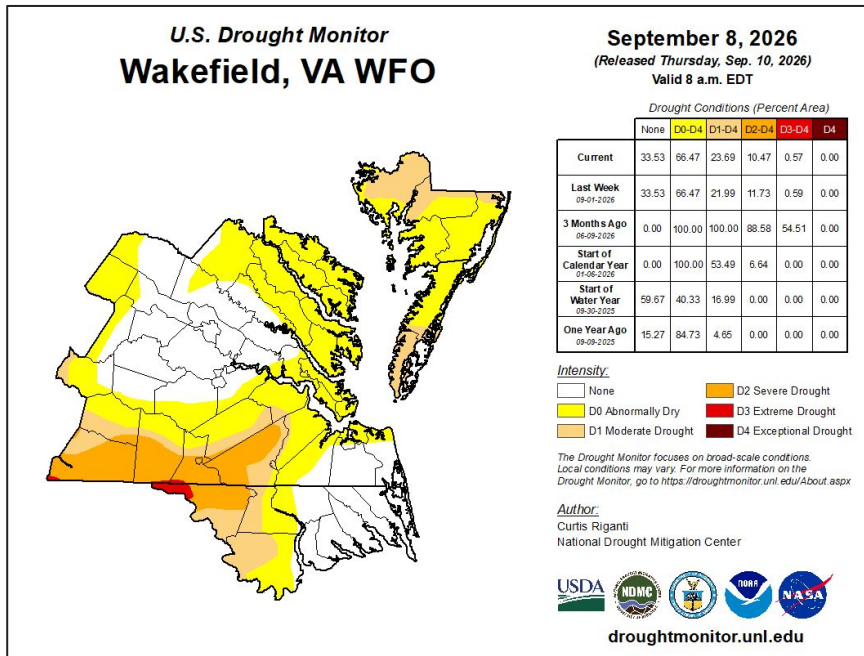
- Further improvement in drought status is probable in the next few months.





Current Drought Conditions

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



Main Takeaways

- A 1- to 2-class improvement in drought status has occurred over the northeast VA Piedmont and in Dorchester County, MD over the past 4 weeks.

Image Caption:
Left: [U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT Sep 10](#)

Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 8am EDT Sep 10](#)



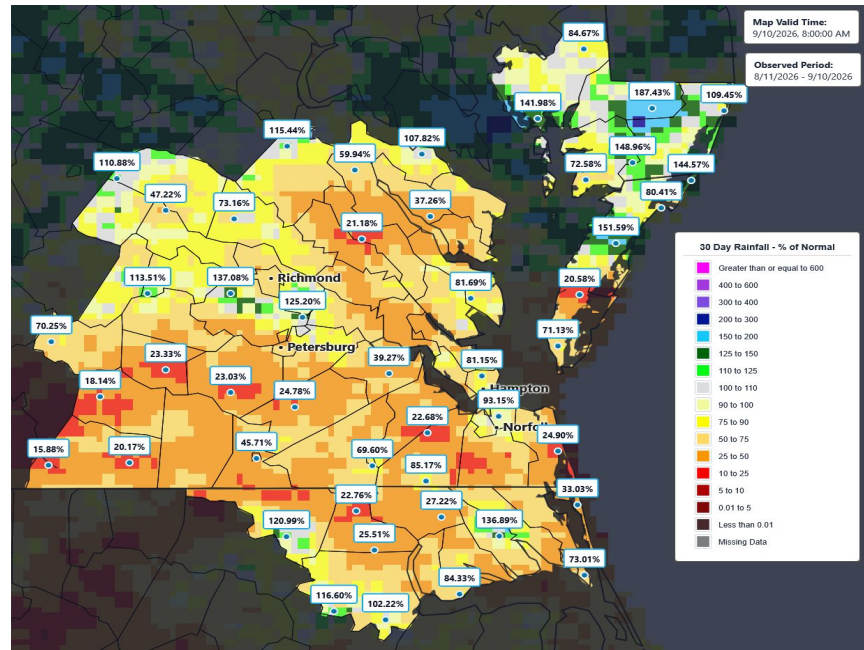
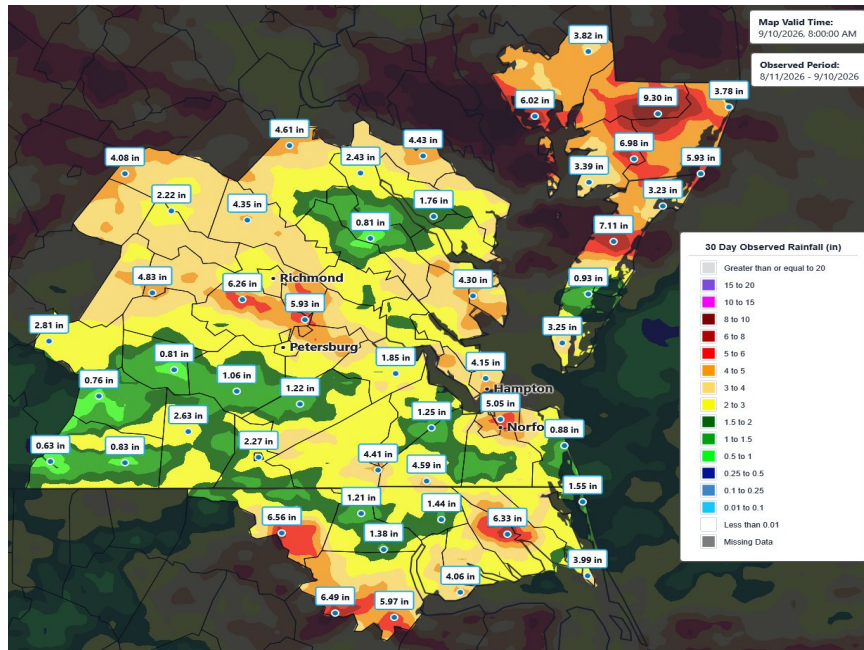
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Observed Precipitation

Latest 30-Day Precipitation and Percent of Normal Precipitation



- Above normal rainfall totals were observed across southeast MD, the northern VA Piedmont and in portions of northeast NC over the past 30 days.
- Unfortunately, much of south-central VA missed out on this rainfall and still indicates below normal totals for the past 30 days.

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 Sep 10

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Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- 28-day average streamflow anomalies indicate “Normal” status for most river basins in eastern Virginia, northeast North Carolina and southeast Maryland.
- Portions of the middle James and Appomattox River basins, as well as the lower Roanoke River basin still show 28-day average streamflow anomalies in the “Much Below Normal” to “Extreme Low” classification.

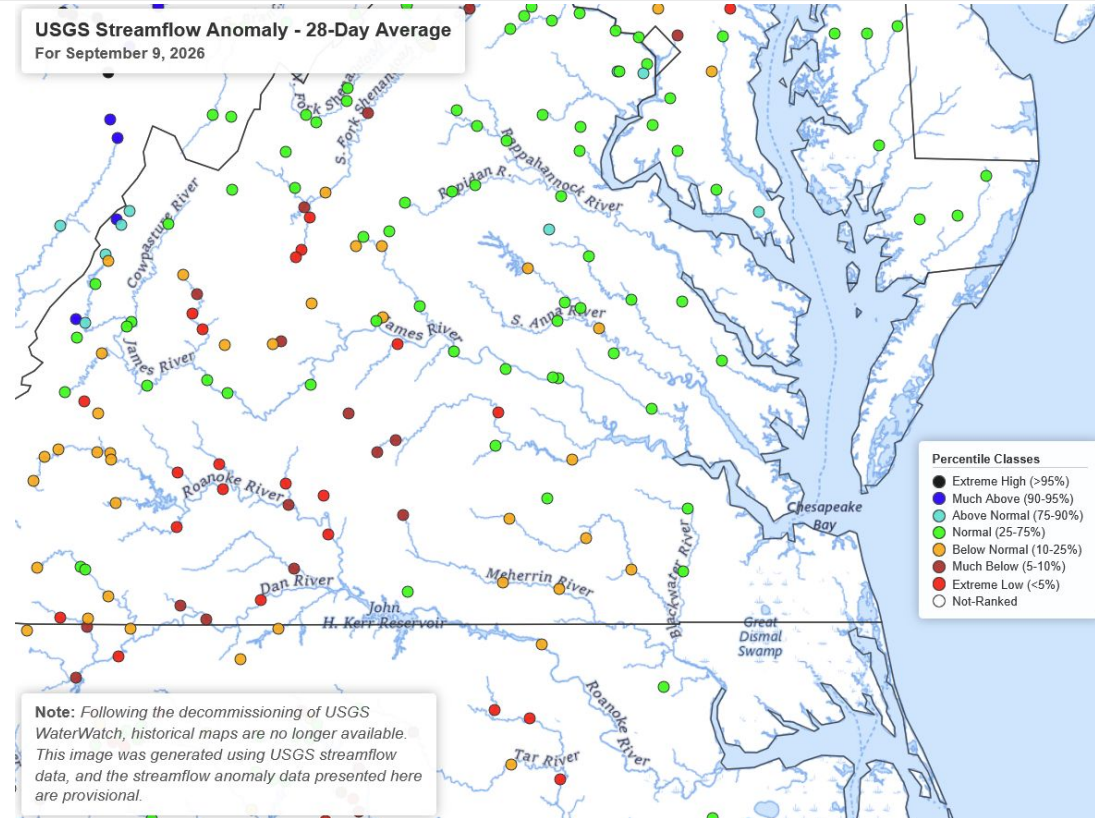


Image Caption: USGS 28 Day Average Streamflow Anomaly valid Sep 9

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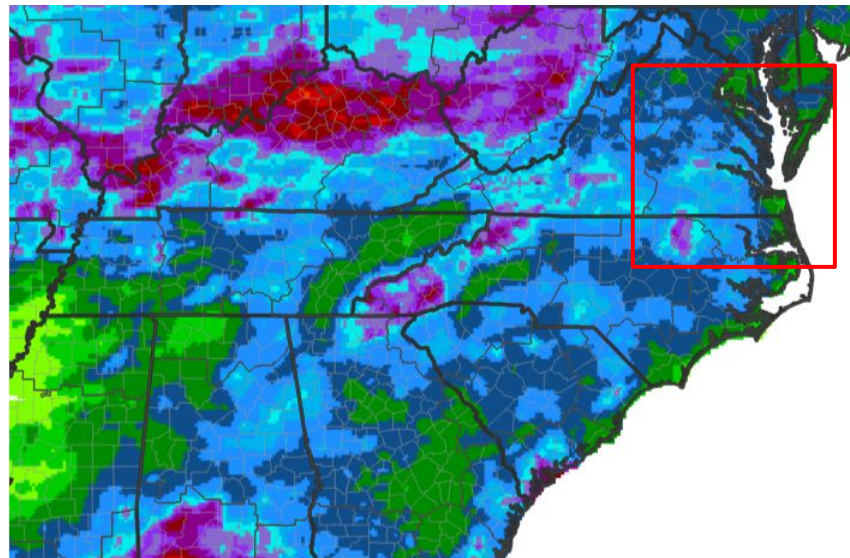
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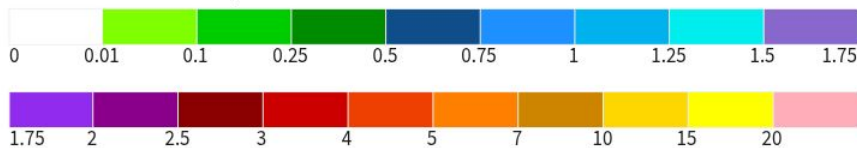
Precipitation Forecast

Latest 7-Day Precipitation Forecast

- Precipitation amounts are forecast to average between 0.25" and 1.5" across central/eastern VA, lower MD and northeast NC over the next 7 days.



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 09/09/26

Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid September 9-16

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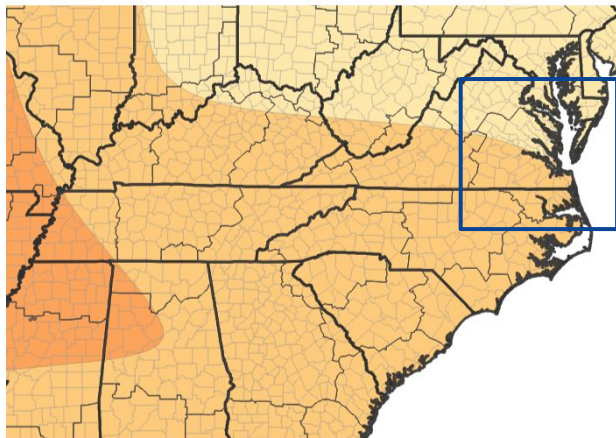


Monthly Outlook - September

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook for September

- Above normal temperatures are favored during September.
- There is a 33-40% chance of below-normal precipitation across southeast VA and northeast NC through the end of September.

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



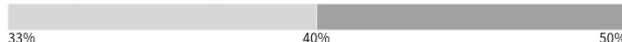
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



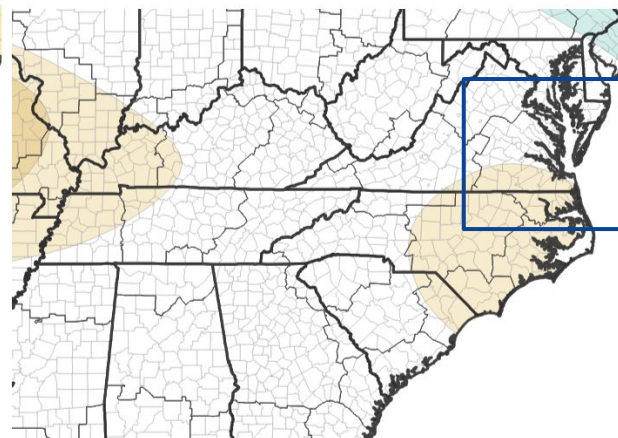
Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

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Monthly Precipitation Outlook for September 1, 2026–September 30, 2026



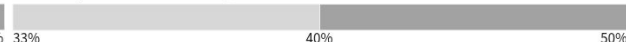
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

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Links to the latest:

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



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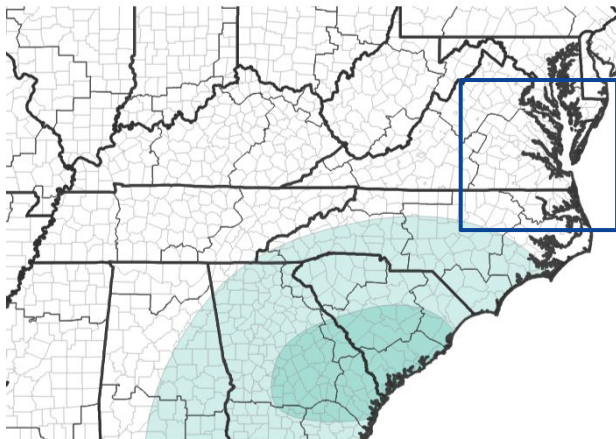


Seasonal Outlooks

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

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

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



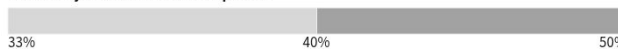
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

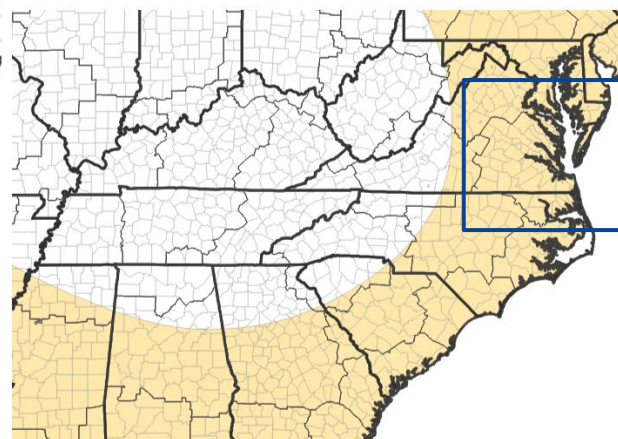


Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

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



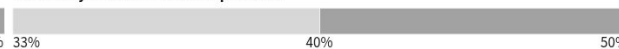
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

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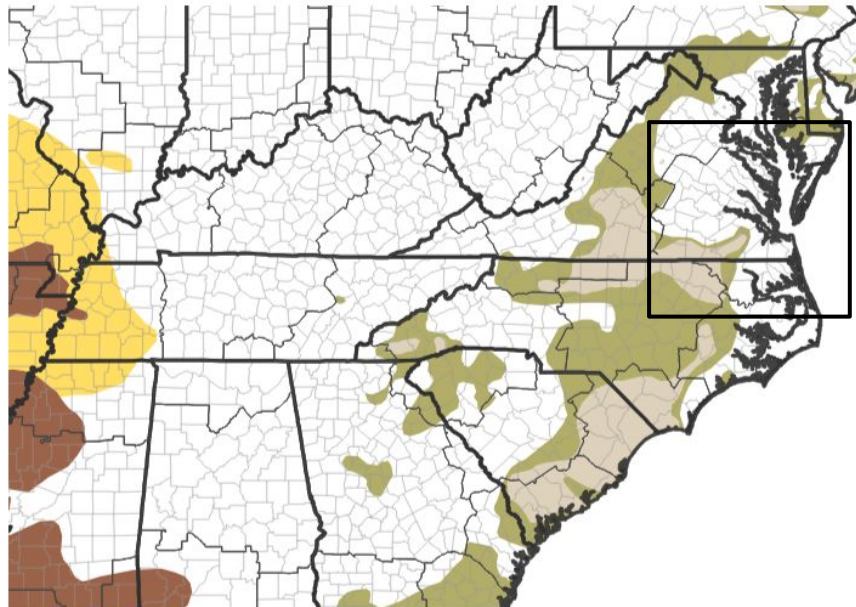


Seasonal Outlook

Drought Outlook

- It is probable that drought conditions will end or continue to improve through the end of November. However, this will be highly dependent on whether or not near- to above-normal precipitation occurs.
- As of right now, there is no clear signal for above or below normal precipitation through the end of November.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for August 31, 2026–November 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 08/31/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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