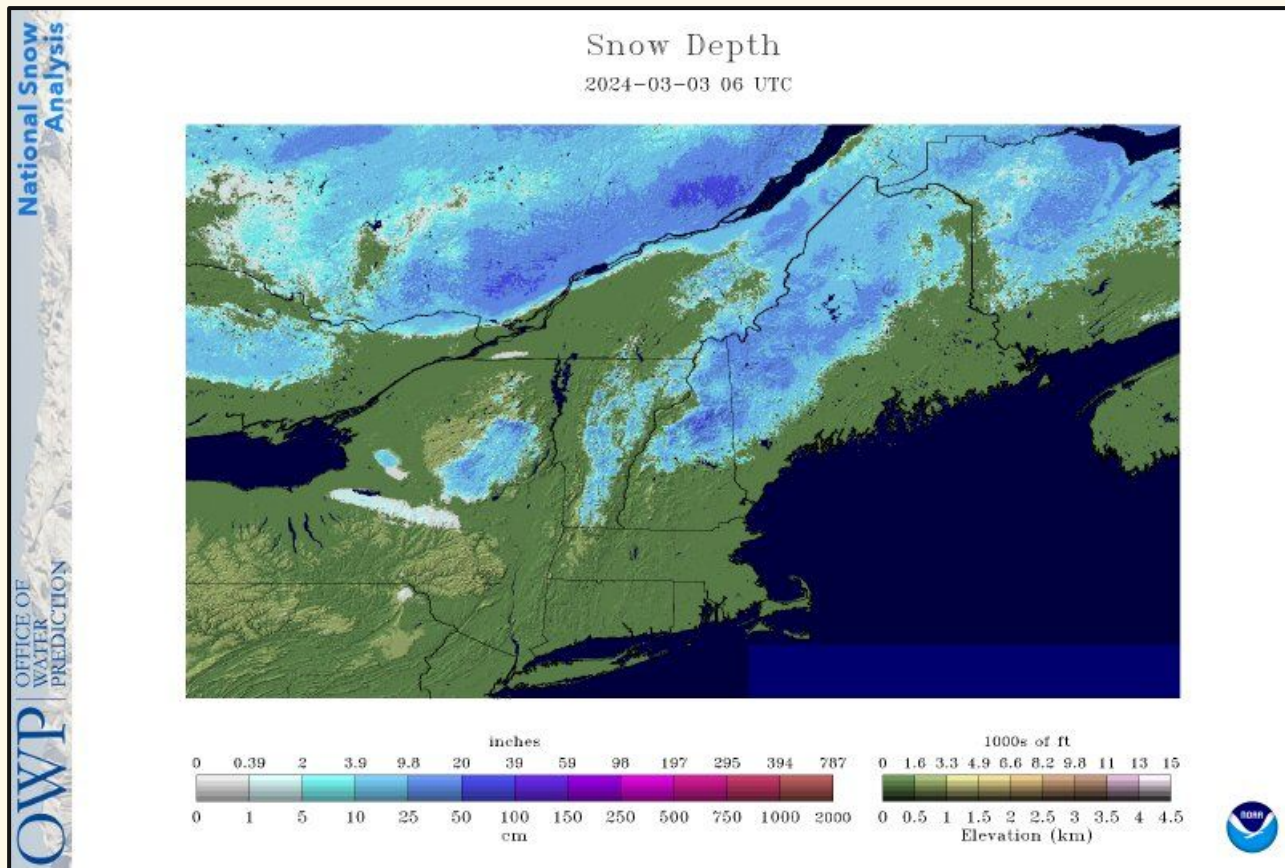




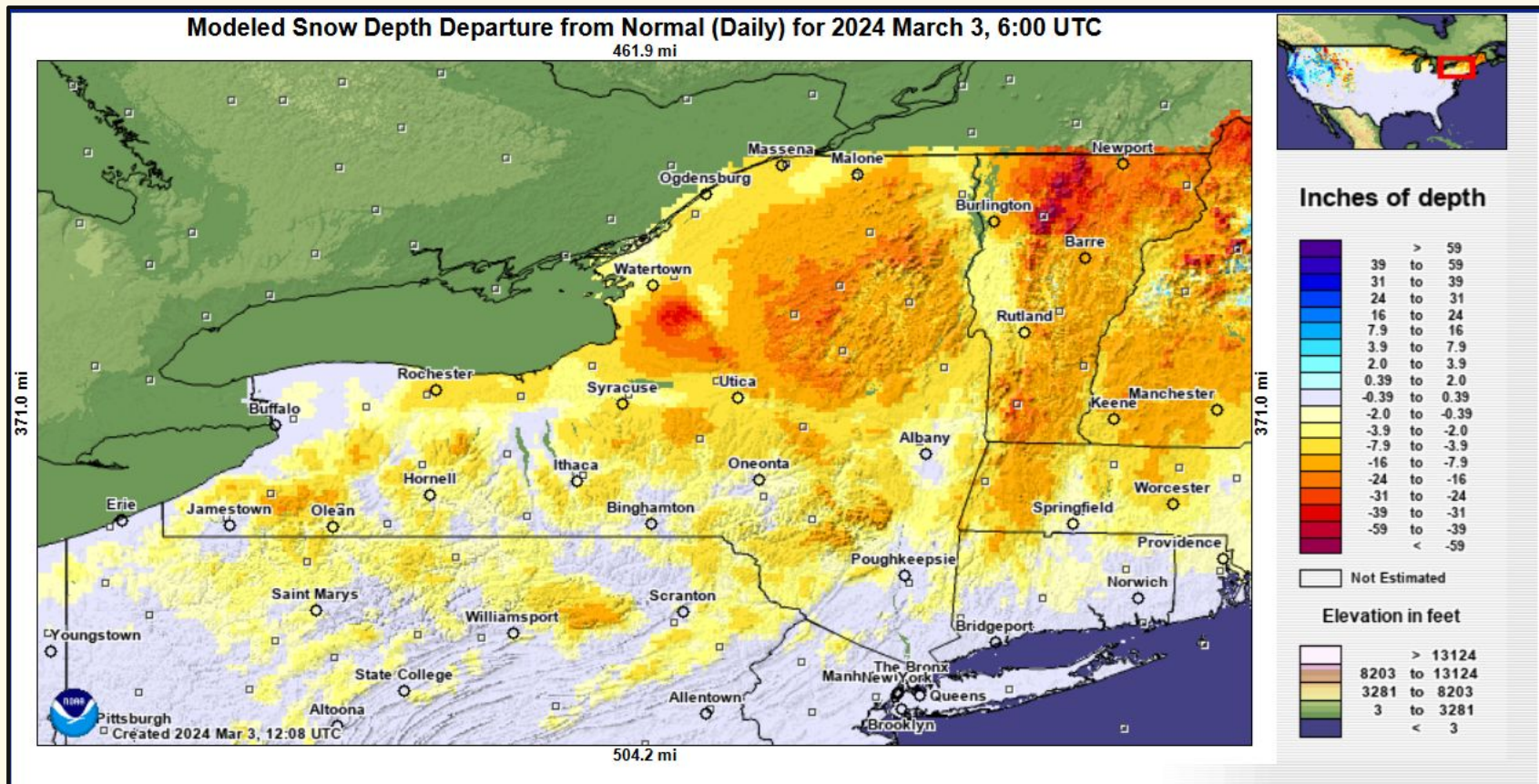
A NWS Look Back at the 2025 Fire Weather Season

Michael Main, NWS Albany

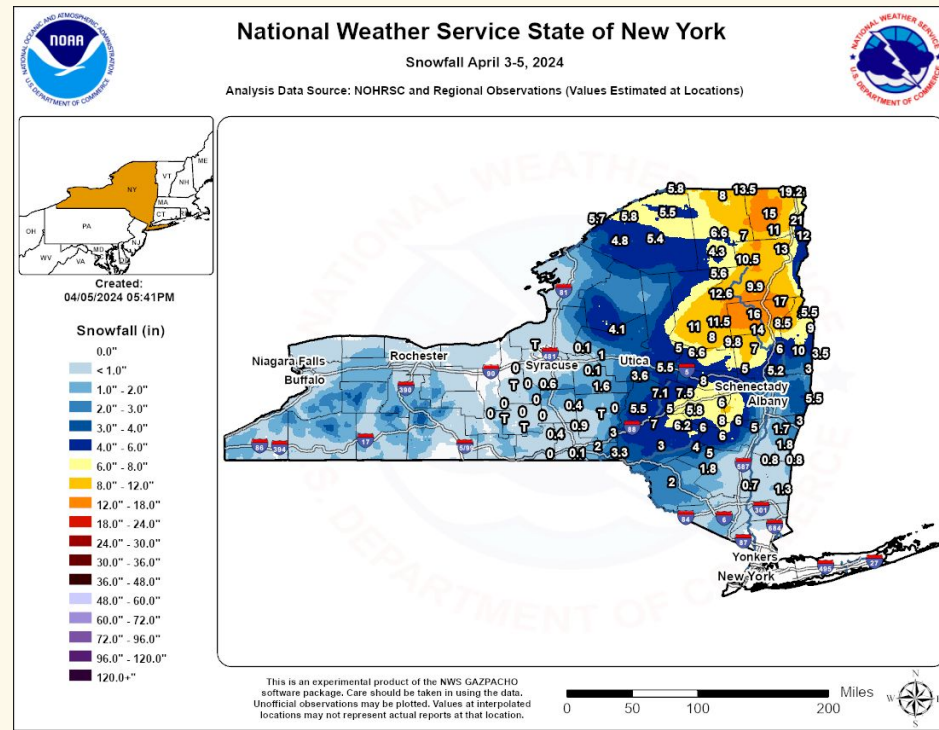
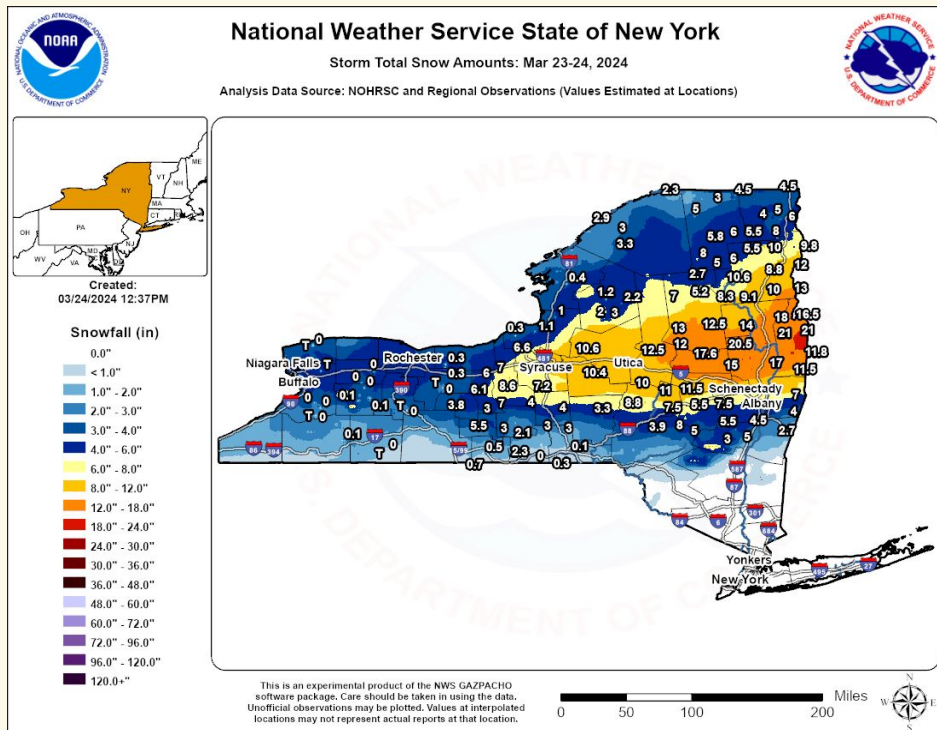
Spring 2024



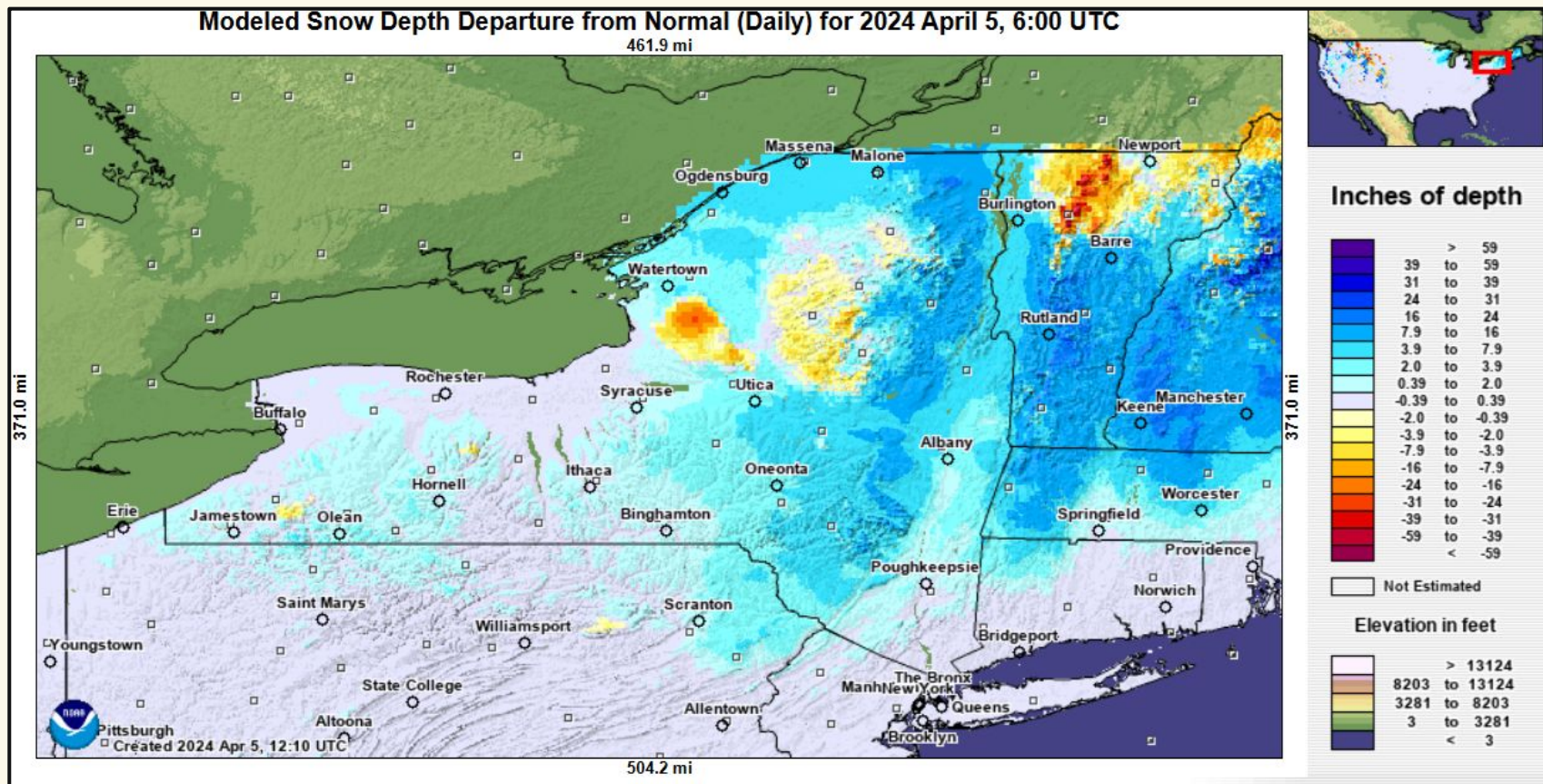
Spring 2024



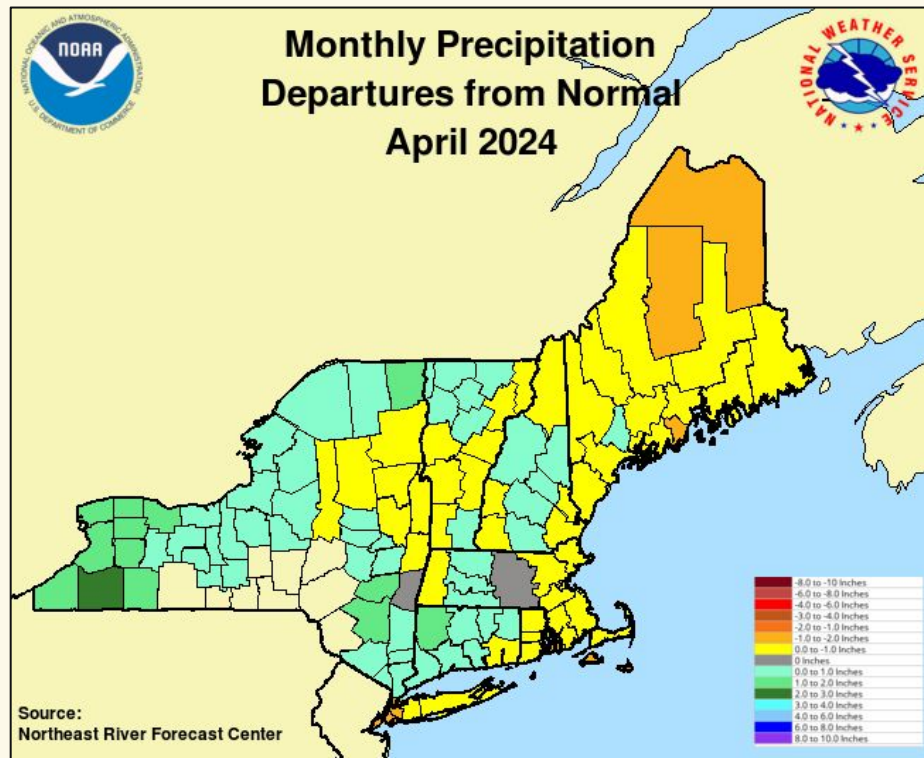
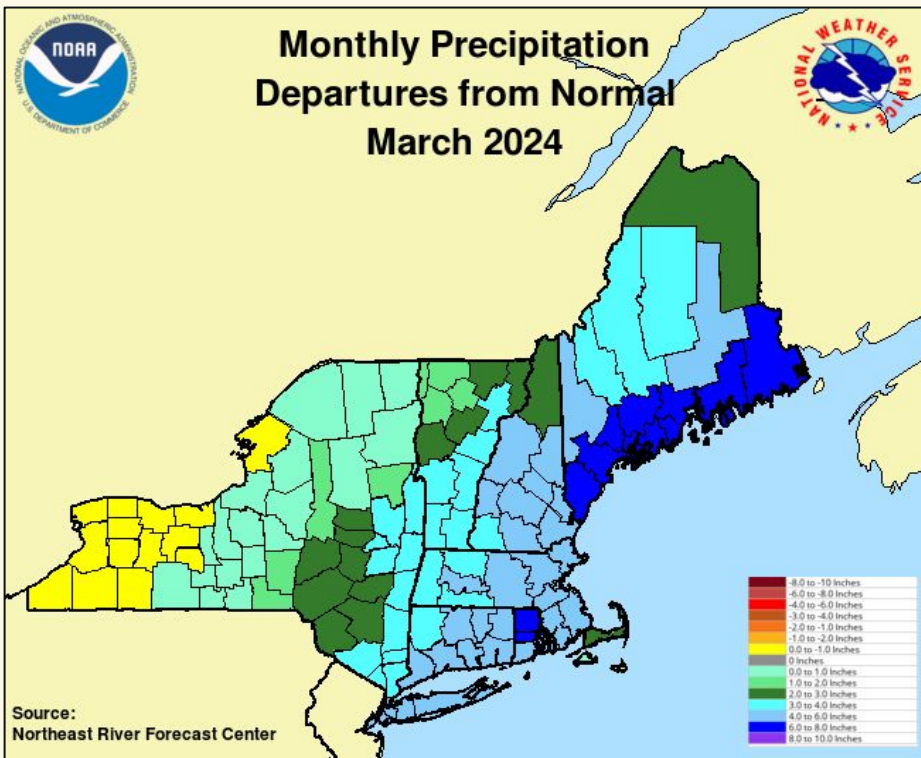
March and April Snow



March and April Snow



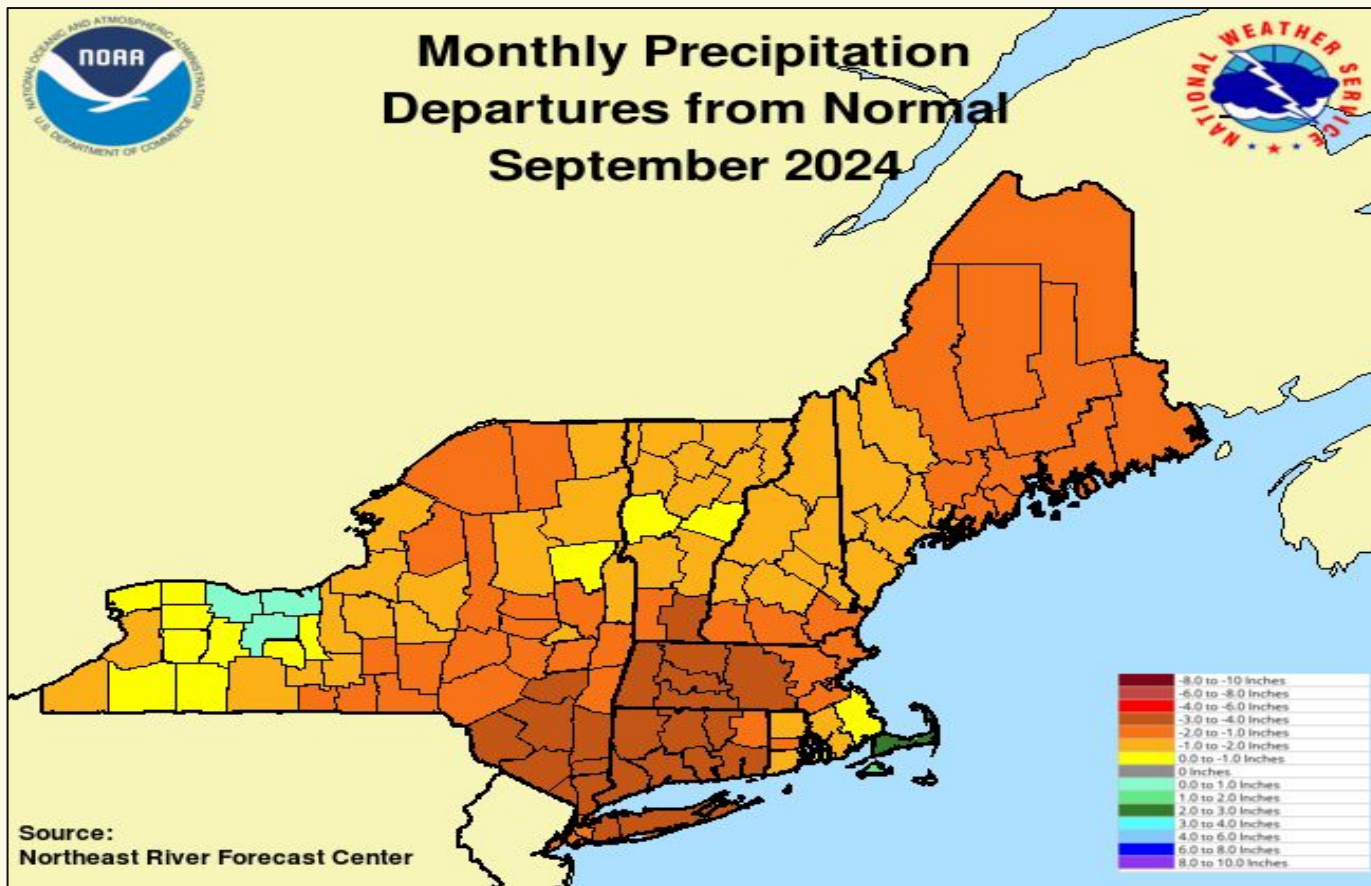
Near to Above Normal Precip in March/April



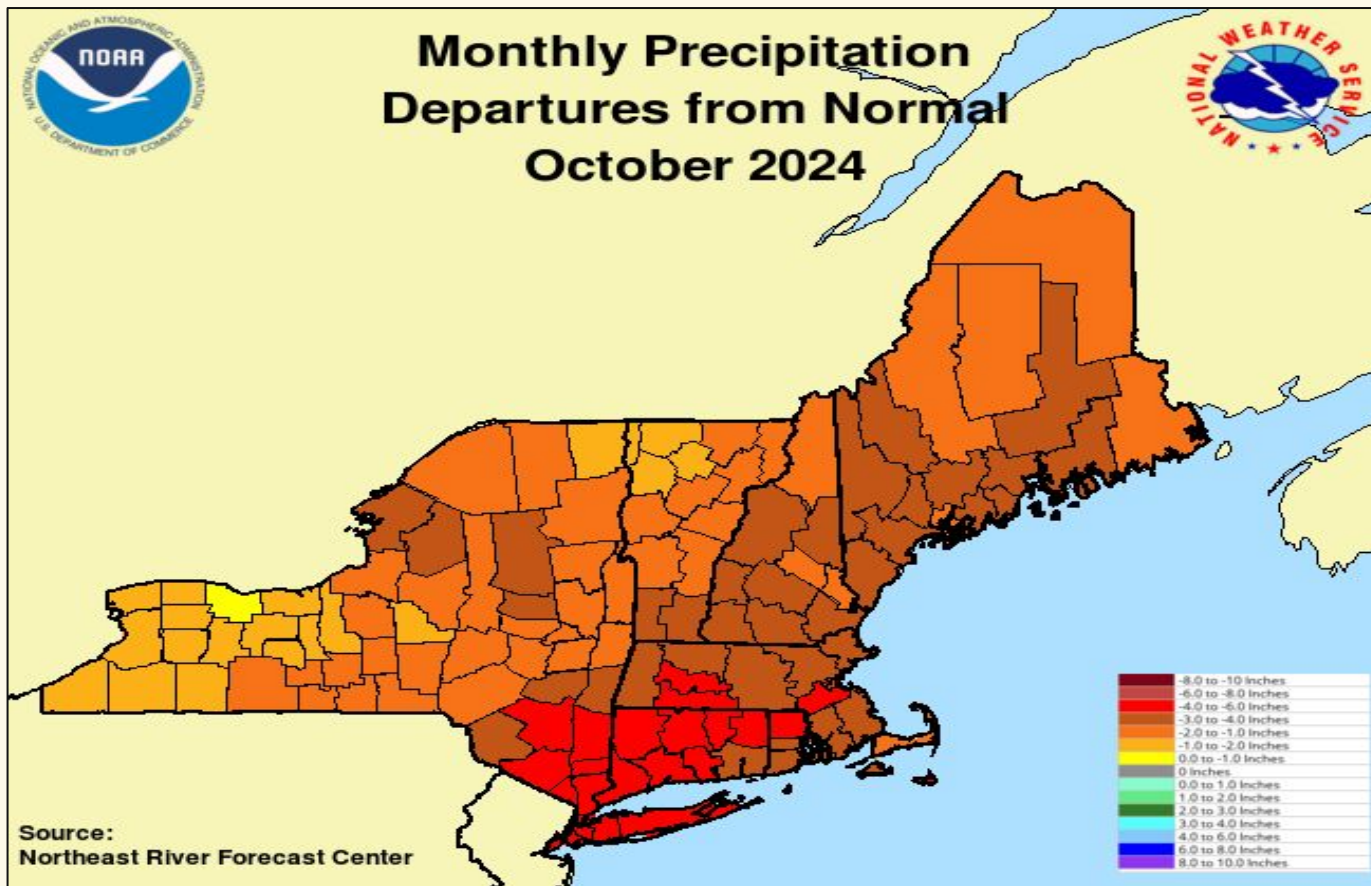
Spring Summary

- No Red Flag Warnings (RFWs) Issued in NY in Spring 2024
- Overall a quiet fire weather season
- Maybe 2024 would be a tame fire weather year...

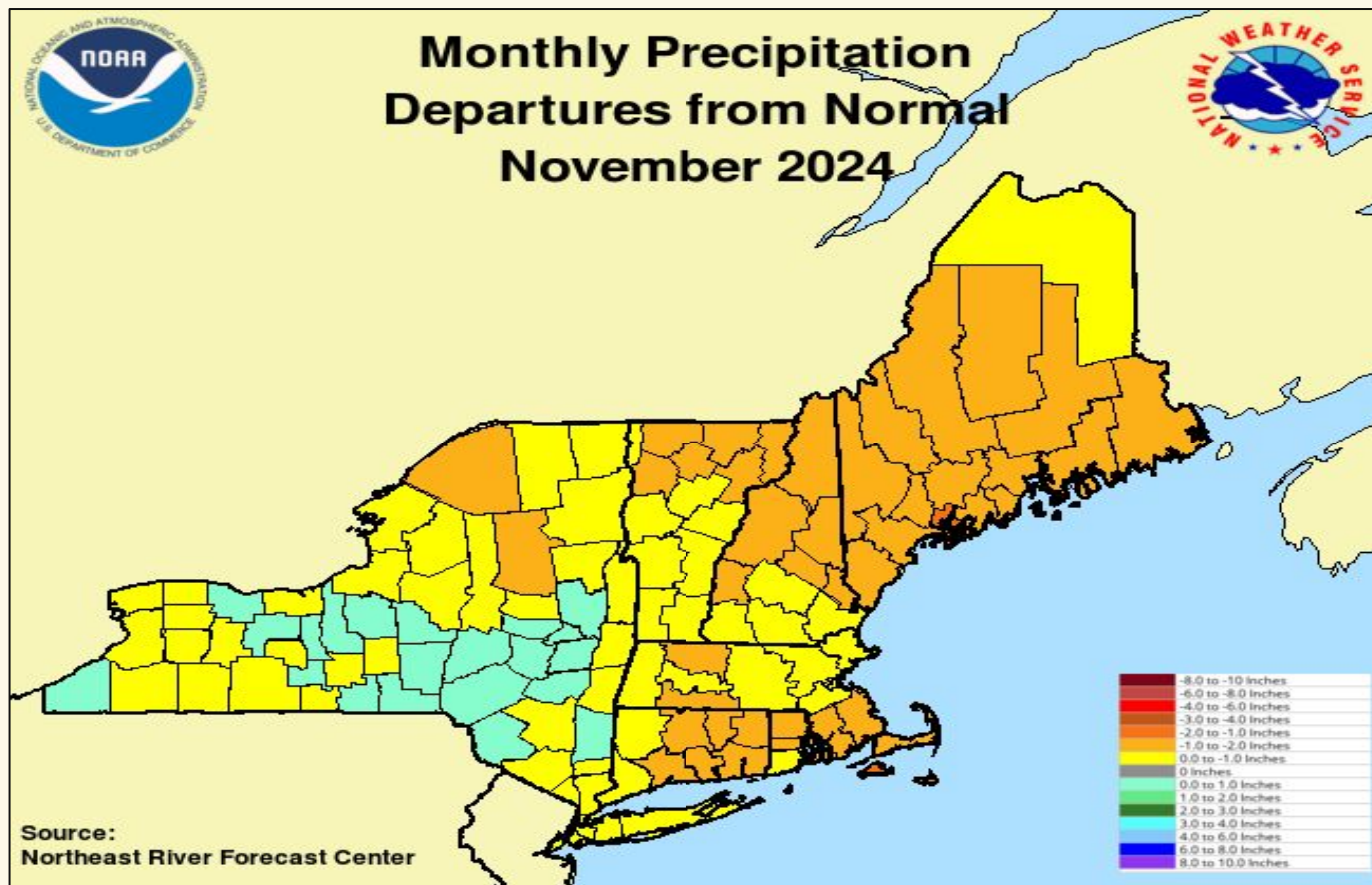
Fall 2024



Fall 2024



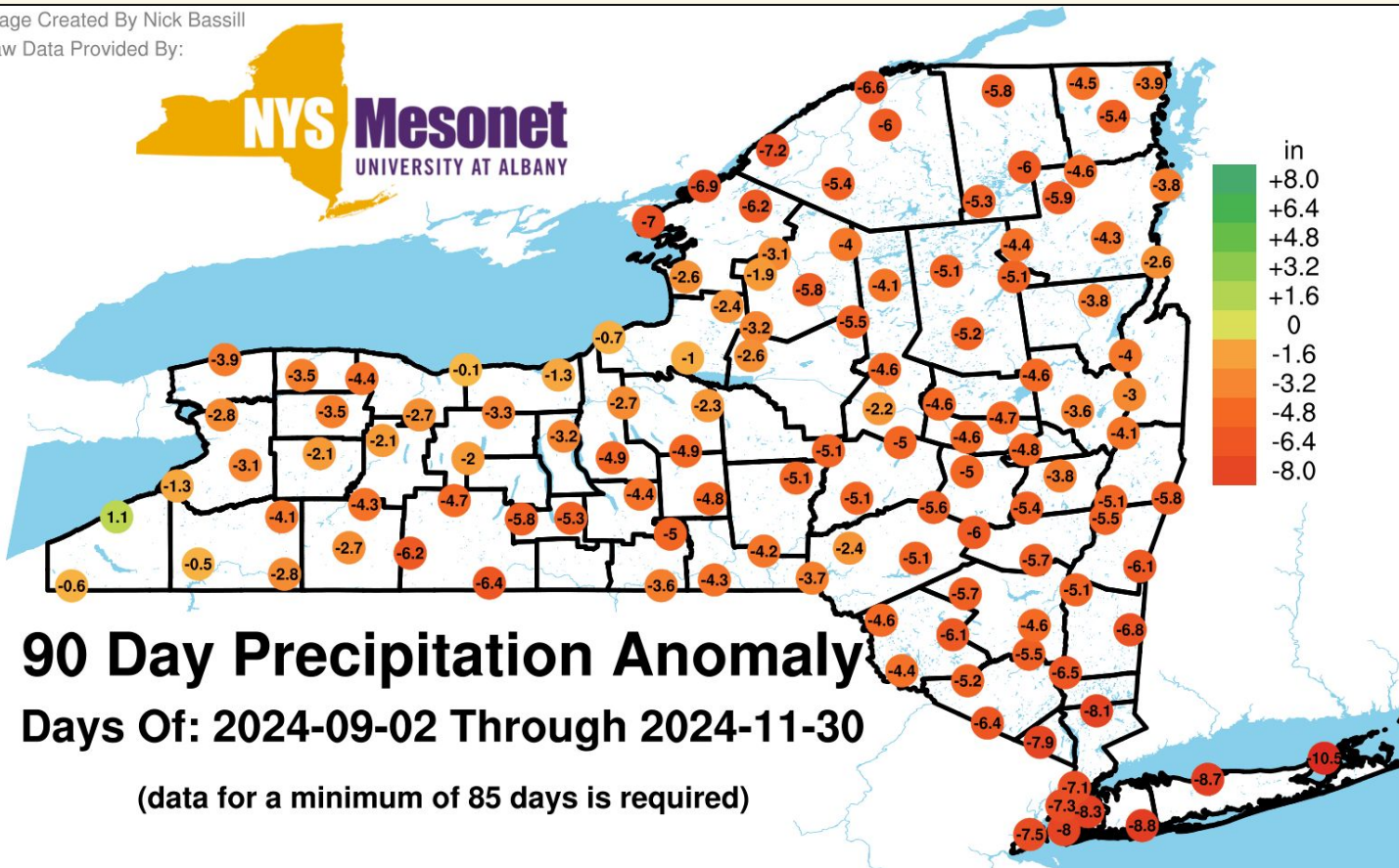
Fall 2024



Fall 2024

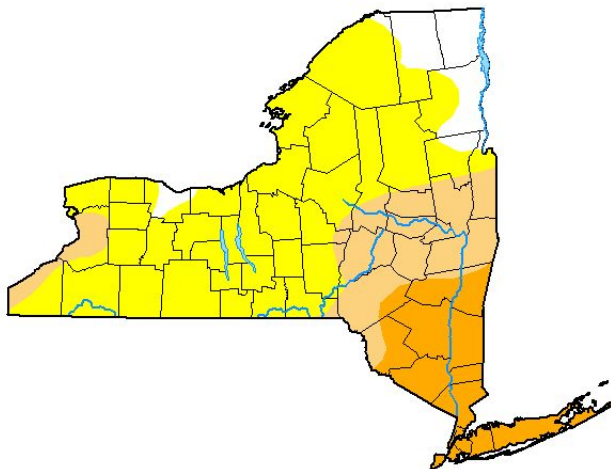
Image Created By Nick Bassill

Raw Data Provided By:



Fall 2024

U.S. Drought Monitor New York



November 26, 2024

(Released Wednesday, Nov. 27, 2024)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	8.55	91.45	33.81	15.04	0.00	0.00
Last Week 11-19-2024	8.53	91.47	33.81	15.04	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 08-27-2024	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	87.07	12.93	5.26	1.72	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	80.73	19.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 11-28-2023	69.37	30.63	5.64	0.98	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

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:

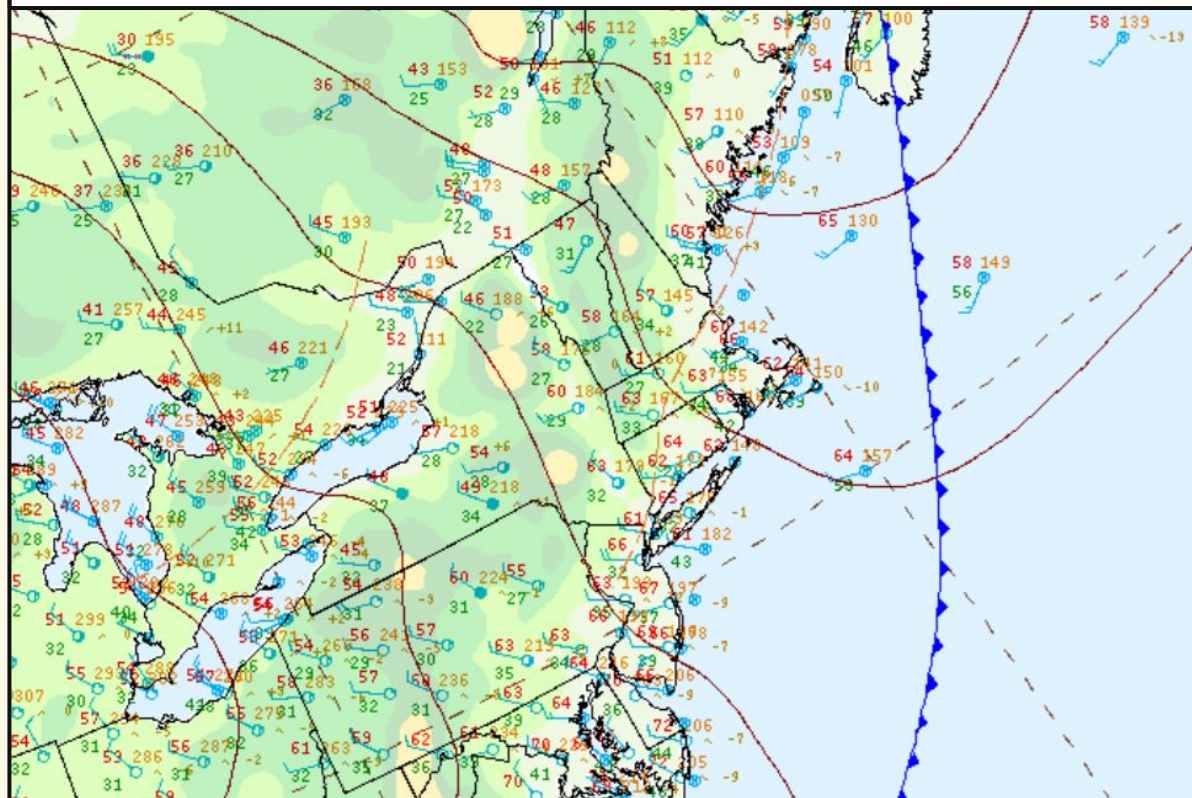
David Simeral
Western Regional Climate Center



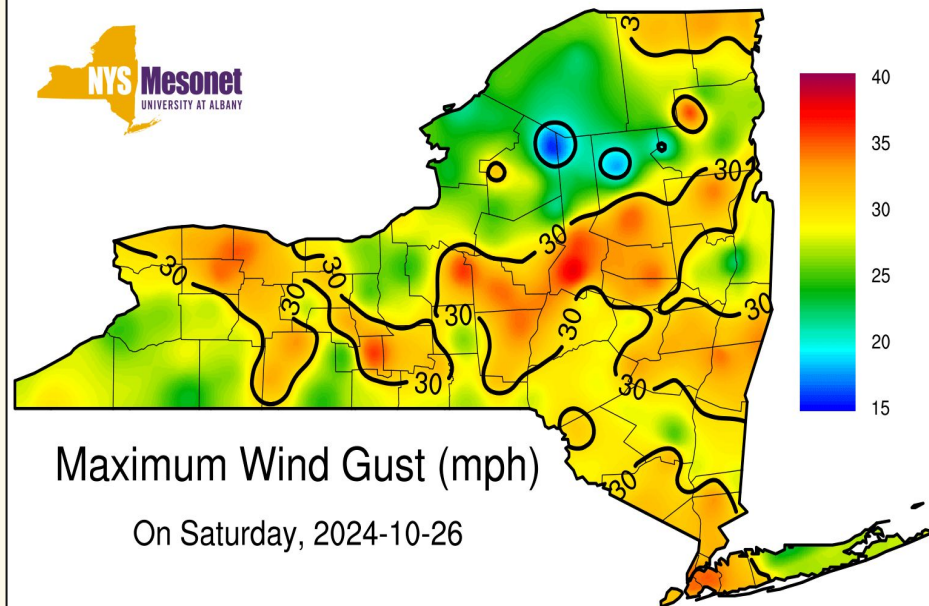
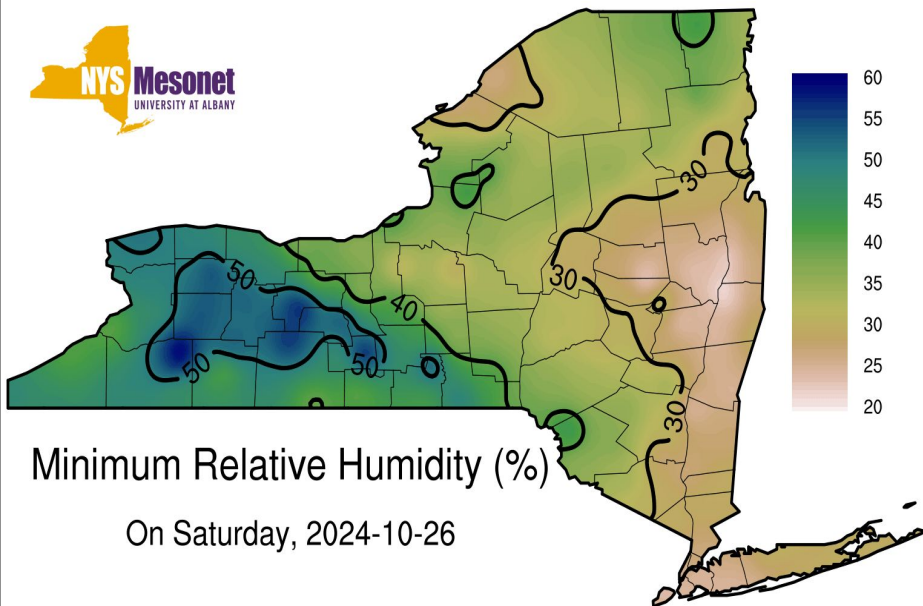
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

October 26: 1st Fall 2024 RFW Day

WPC Surface Analysis Valid 2:00 PM Saturday, OCT 26



October 26, 2024



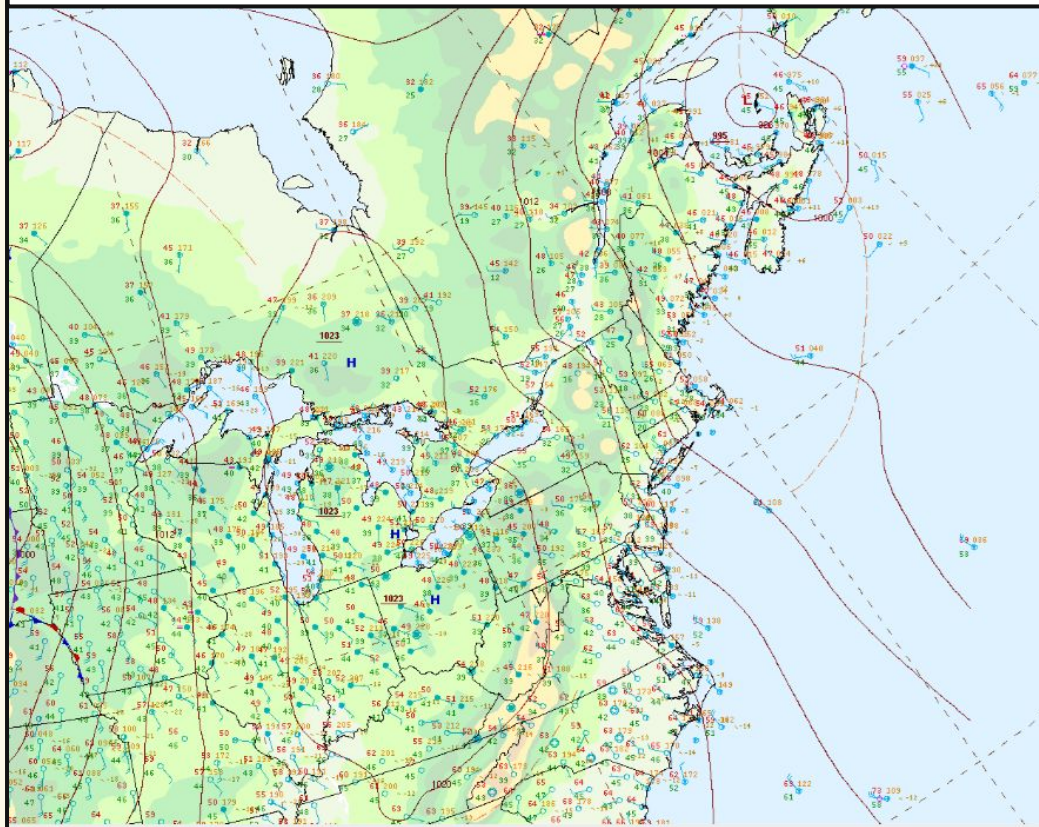
October 26, 2024

- Red Flag Warnings issued for the Hudson Valley and Long Island FDRAs
- NWS uses smaller fire weather zones, so this included the Middle Hudson, Lower Hudson, New York City, and Long Island Fire Weather Zones
- First day with RFWs; SPSSs were issued October 23 and 24 in NY

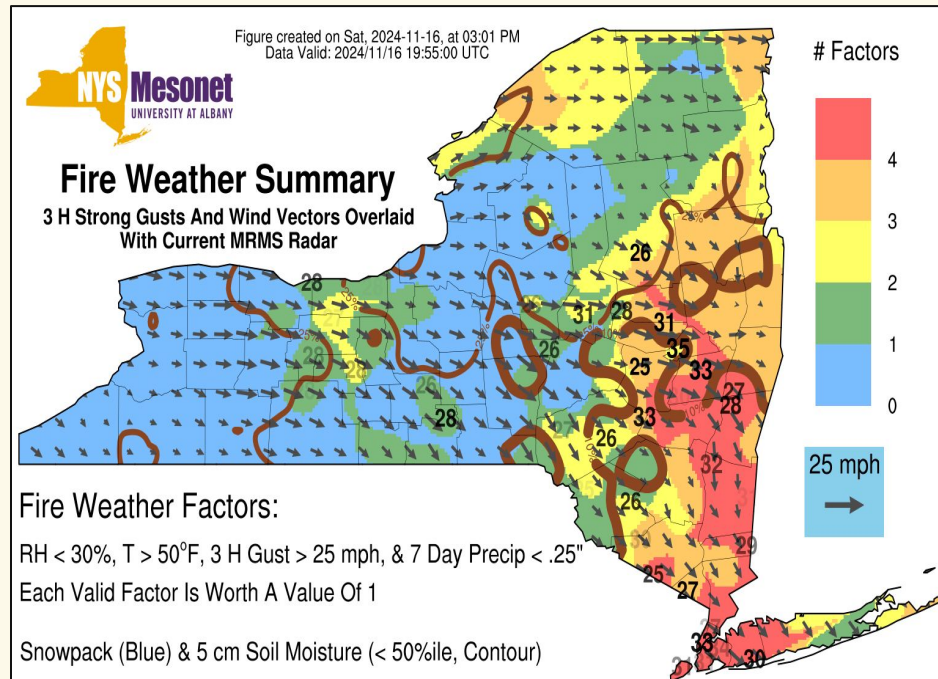


November 16, 2024

WPC Surface Analysis Valid 1:00 PM Saturday, NOV 16



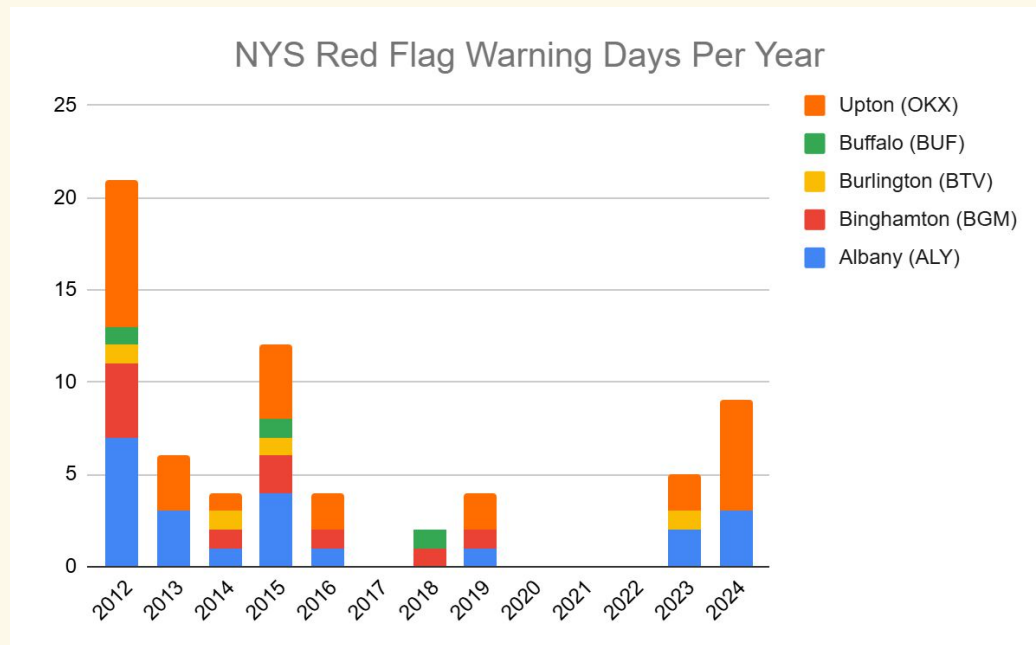
November 16, 2024



- Last day with RFWs in NY
- Enhanced fire weather concerns would continue for another couple days, before we received some much needed rain and mountain snow on November 20th

Fall 2024 Summary

- In total, the NWS issued **22 RFWs** for NY across the following dates:
 - October 26
 - November 1
 - November 8
 - November 12
 - November 13
 - November 16
- Numerous other days in late October through late November featured SPSs for enhanced fire weather concerns.
- Several large fires occurred across the state, including the Jennings Creek Fire that burned over 5000 acres and was the largest fire in NY since 2008.



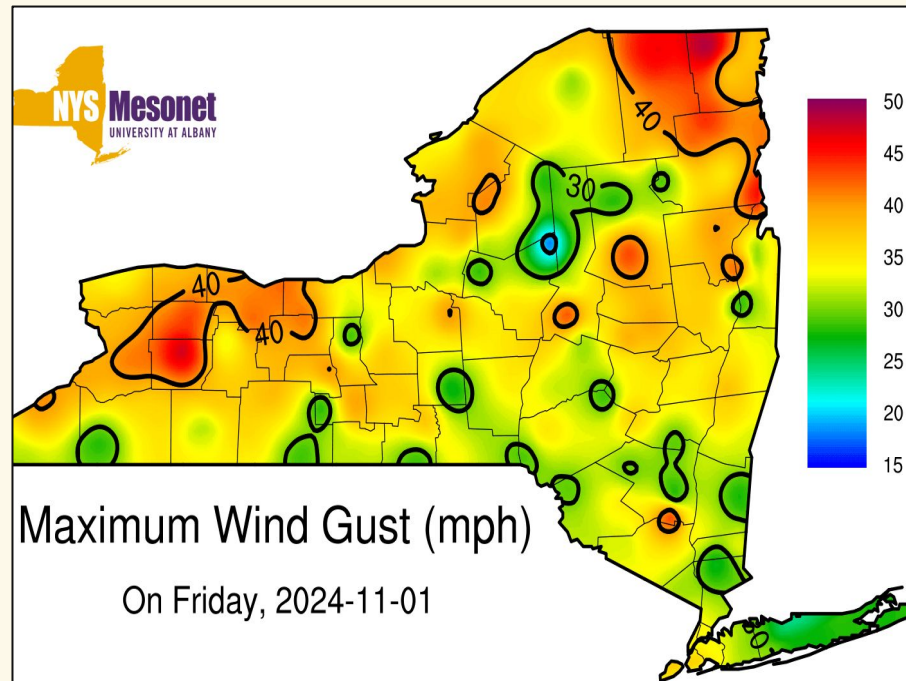
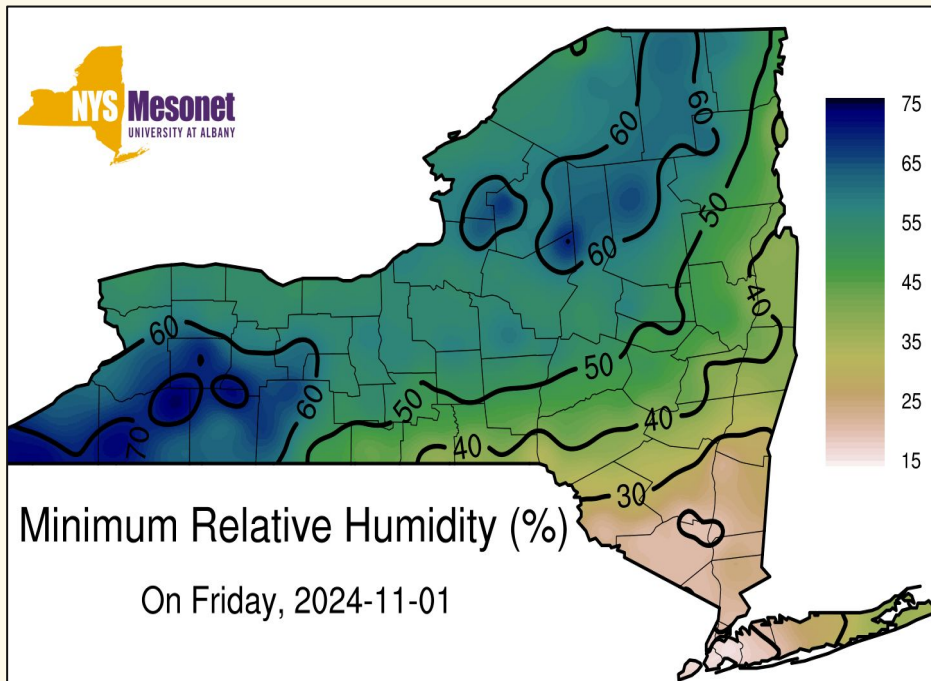
2024 Fire Weather Summary

- The 2024 fire weather season started off relatively quiet in the spring with above normal precipitation and snowfall
- May, June, and July each featured near to slightly below normal rainfall along and south of I-90, with wetter than normal conditions across the North Country
- After above normal precipitation in August, fall of 2024 was unusually dry with moderate to severe drought developing across eastern and southern portions of the state
- The combination of below normal precipitation combined with gusty winds and low RH led to an extremely active fall fire weather season.
- 2024 was the busiest fire weather season since 2015, with all RFW days occurring from late October through mid-late November.
- NY-serving NWS offices devoted significant time to refining forecasts of winds and RH, collaborating fire weather products internally, and coordinating externally with our fire weather partners including the DEC.

Questions, comments, discussion (if time allows)

Case Study (if time allows)

November 01, 2024



November 01, 2024

- RFWs verified across the the Lower Hudson Valley Fire Wx Zone, as well as NYC and Long Island
- In the Mid Hudson Valley, Ulster and Dutchess Counties hit the Wind/RH criteria, but for <2 hours. Other counties in this zone did not hit criteria
- Therefore, by NWS verification standards, this was a correct no-call for a RFW (SPS was in effect).
 - Was this the correct call based on partner needs?

