

# Drought Information Statement for The Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles

Valid April 27, 2026

Issued By: WFO Amarillo

Contact Information: [sr-ama.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-ama.webmaster@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated on or before May 30th 2026.
  - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
  - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/AMA/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
  - Please visit [https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/\[link\]](https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/[link]) for regional drought status updates.
- 
- Temperatures continued to stay above average for the time of year with little to no beneficial rainfall. Some areas saw rain that slowed degradations but not enough to reverse drought impacts.



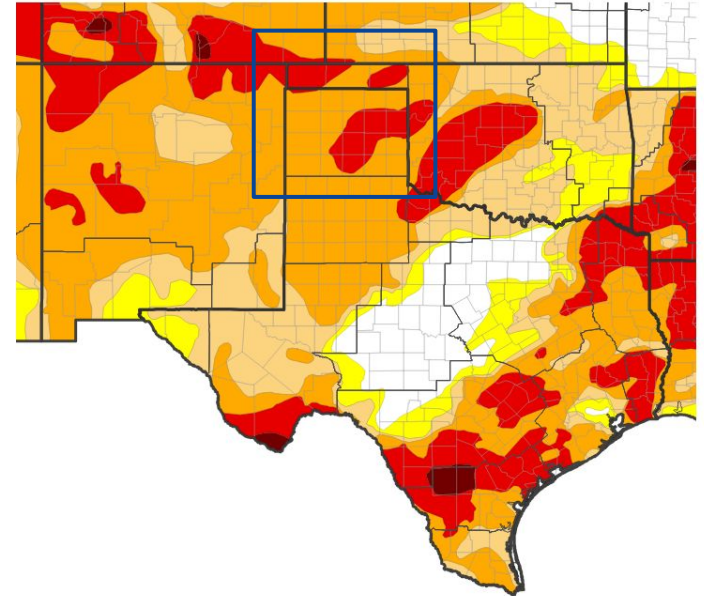


# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for [The Southern Plains]

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Cimarron County into Texas County. A good portion of Beaver County. A swath from Amarillo along the Highway 60 corridor into Canadian, TX.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought):** The entire Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles that are not in D3.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** None
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** None

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 04/21/26



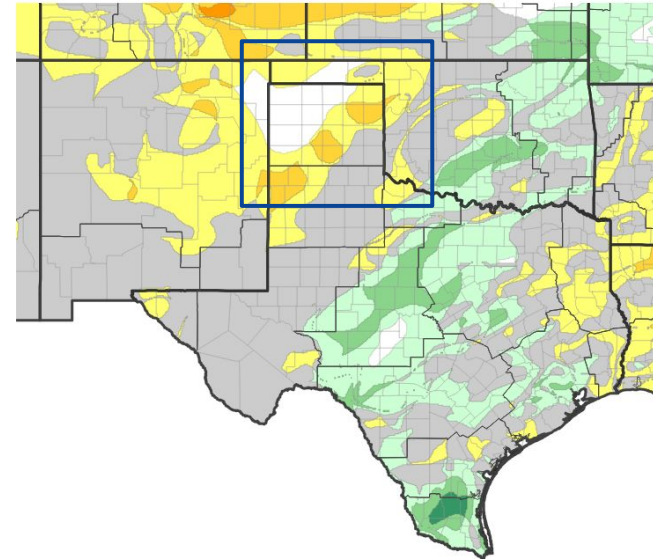


# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for [The Southern Plains]

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: Parts of the Oklahoma Panhandle and the central Texas Panhandle saw 1 to 2 category degradations in drought.
  - No Change: The northwestern third of the Texas Panhandle. And the far southeastern Texas Panhandle
  - Drought Improved: None

U.S. Drought Monitor 4-Week Change Map



Drought Degradation



Drought Improvement



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

Data Valid: 04/21/26

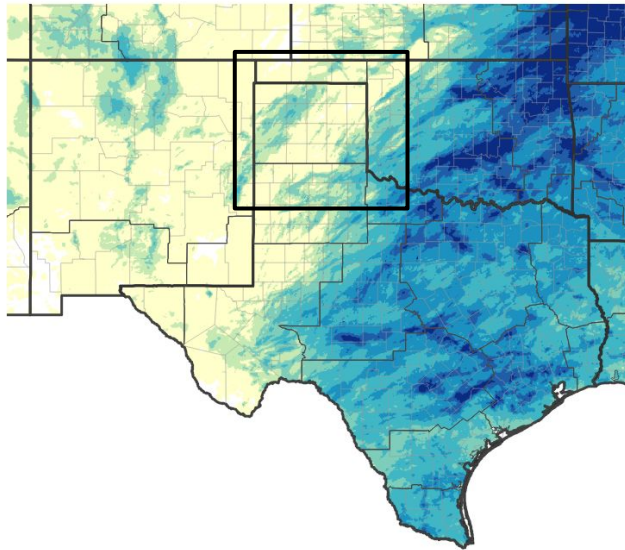




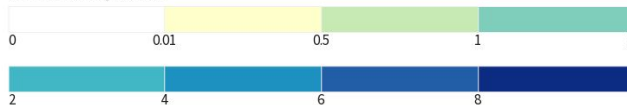
# Precipitation

- One rain event brought very isolated areas up to near normal for the month of April. However, 90 to 120 day deficits remain, leaving continued drought conditions.

### 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

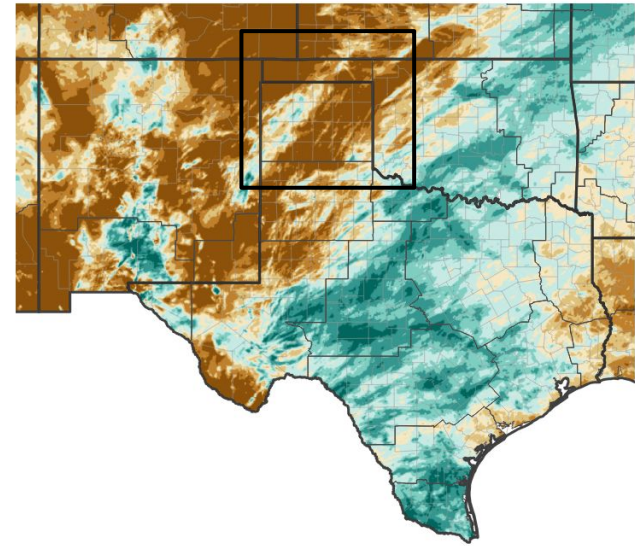


#### Inches of Precipitation

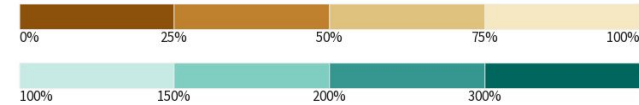


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/27/26

### 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 Last Updated: 04/27/26

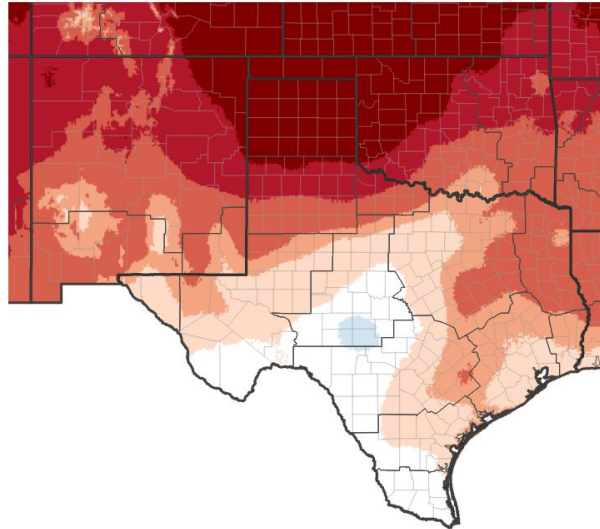




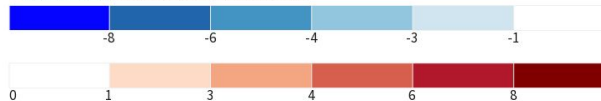
# Temperature

- Over the last 30 days, temperatures continue to average 6 to 10 degrees above normal across the combined Panhandles.

30-Day Temperature Anomaly

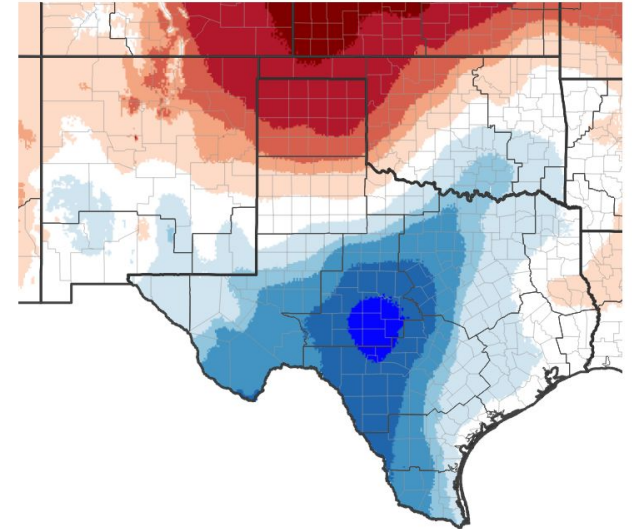


Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 04/23/26

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: 04/23/26





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

## Agricultural Impacts

- Estimates for winter wheat lost due to drought upwards of 80 percent.
- Supplemental livestock feeding is taking place.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Lack up green-up is leaving grasses and brush very volatile at the end of April going into May.

## Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

## Mitigation Actions

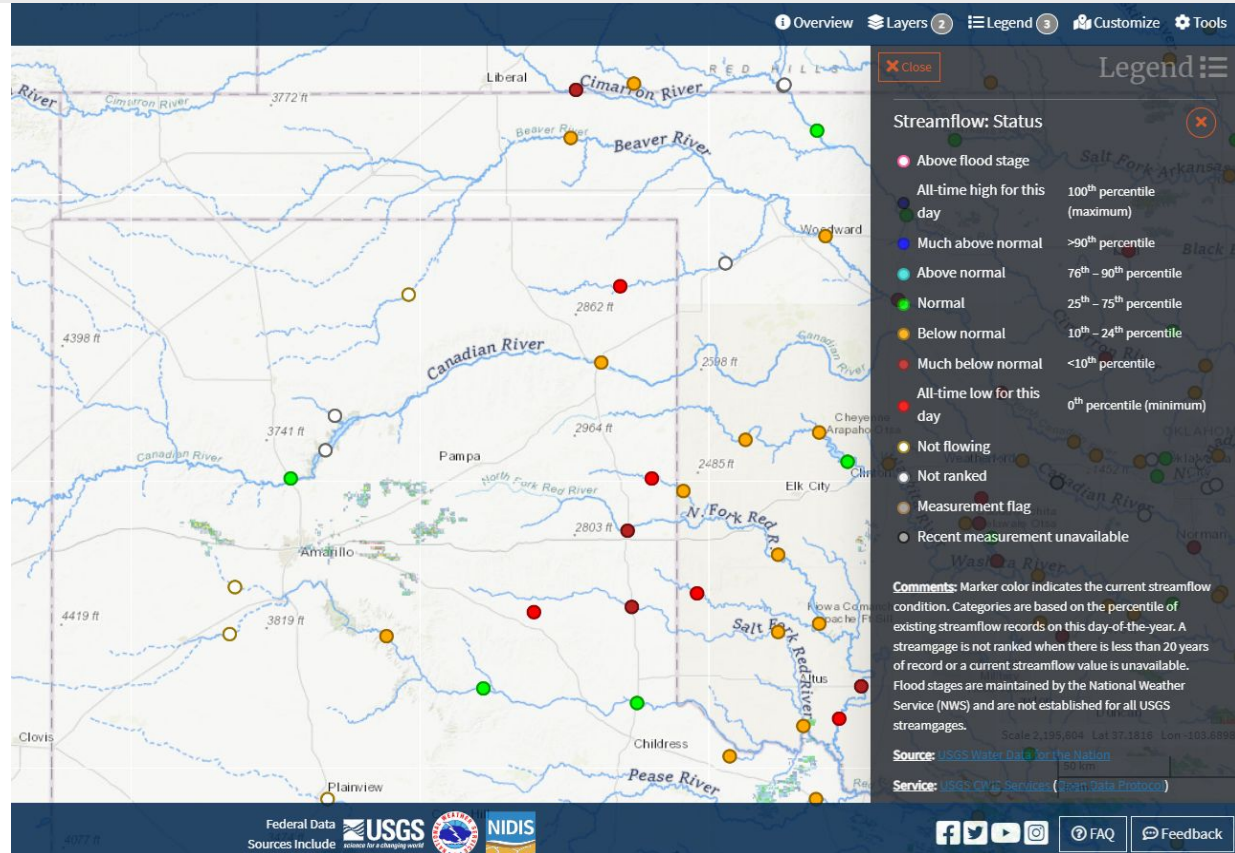
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.
- Avoid activities involving sparks and flames on elevated and critical fire weather days.
- Clear brush from homes and property to mitigate threats of wildfires.





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

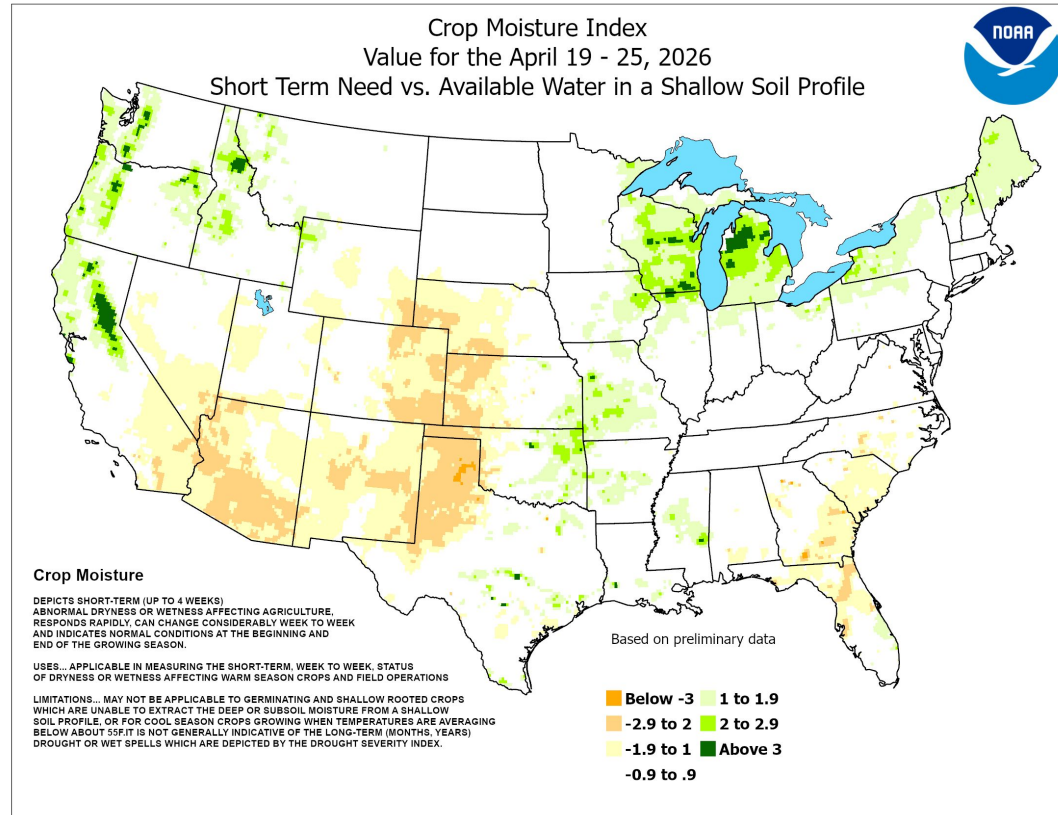
- Streamflow is near normal for gauges in the central combined Panhandles; while eastern Panhandle gauges are below normal.





# Agricultural Impacts

- Crop moisture remains Abnormally Dry (-1.0 to -1.9), to Excessively Dry (-2.0 to -2.9).
- Abnormally dry soils continue to impact agriculture.

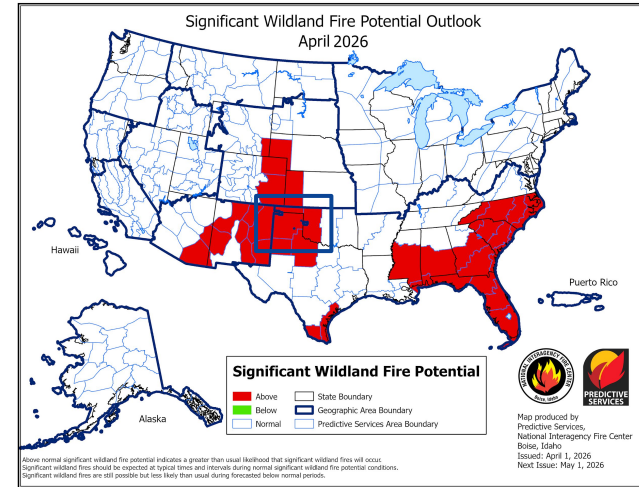
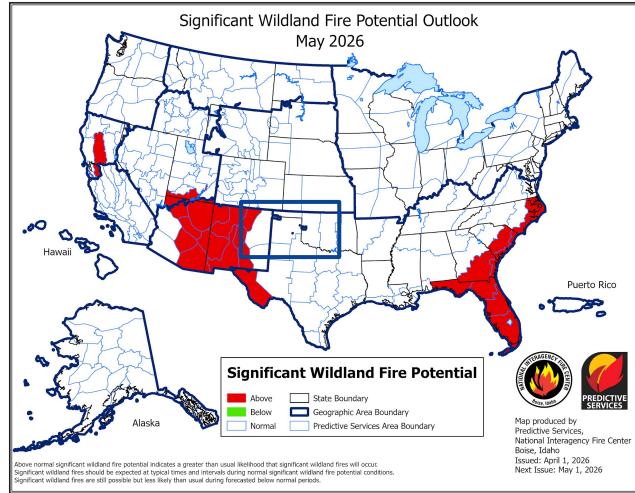




# Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

- Elevated to critical fire weather conditions remain a concern, especially during high wind days.
- Slow green-up leaves fuels in a volatile state.
- All counties except Beaver remain in a burn ban in the combined Panhandles.



Latest TX Burn Ban map available [here](#).

Latest OK Burn Ban map available [here](#).

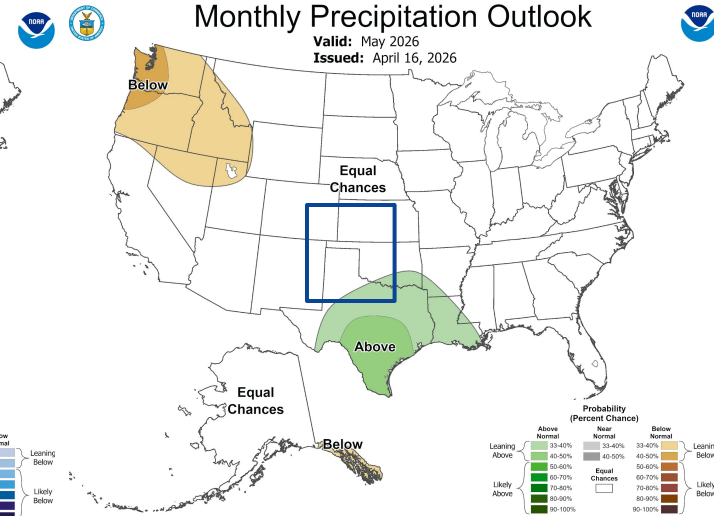
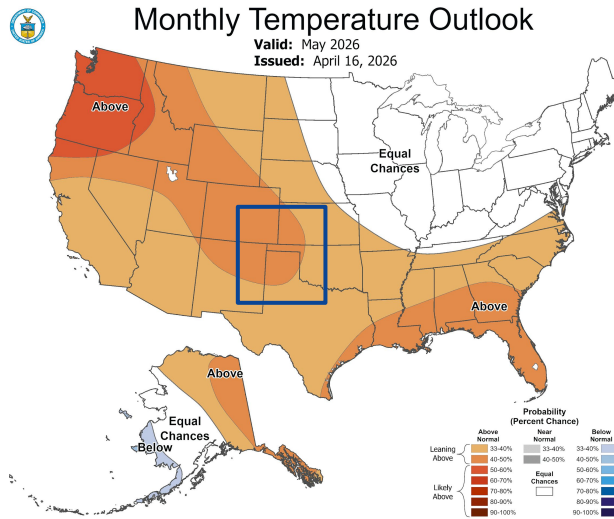




# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The combined Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles have an equal chance to see May have above, below, or near normal precipitation per CPC monthly outlook.
- The combined Panhandles are favoring above normal temperatures for the month of May. (40-50% chance for temperatures to average above normal for the entire month of May)



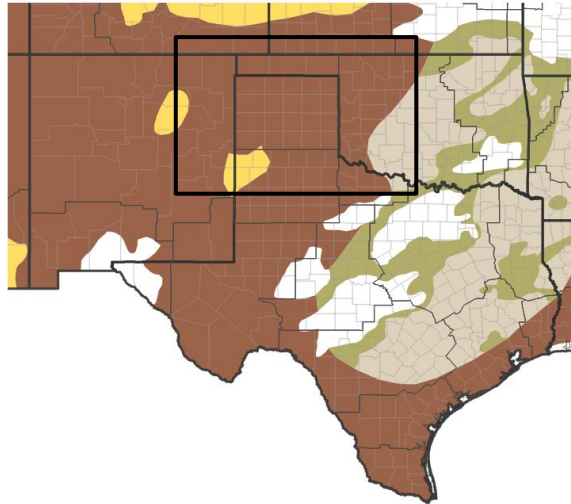


# Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions expected to persist across the combined Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles from late spring into early summer.

1-Month Drought Outlook for April 1, 2026–April 30, 2026



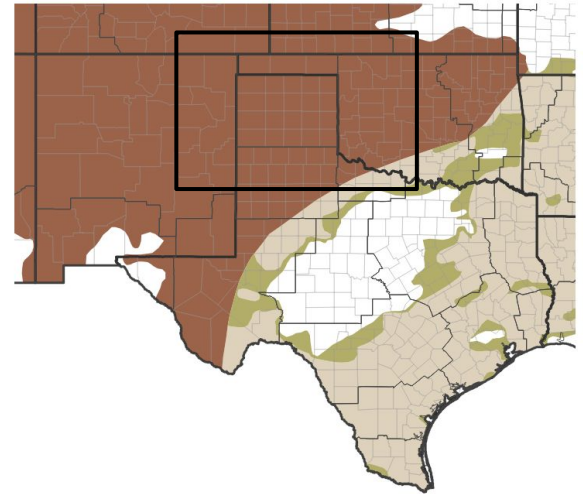
Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 03/31/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for April 16, 2026–July 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 04/16/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Amarillo, Texas