



Drought Information Statement for The Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles

Valid August 31, 2026

Issued By: WFO Amarillo

Contact Information: sr-ama.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated on or before September 30, 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> for regional drought status updates.
-
- The combined Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles remain in mostly D2-D4 drought as of the end of August. Drought conditions worsen with little significant rainfall occurring in August along with continued hot conditions.



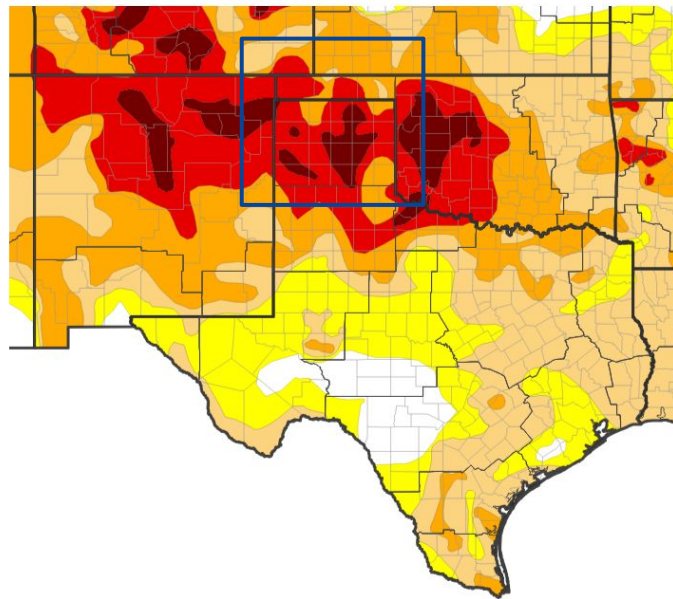


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: Several areas across central and eastern Texas Panhandle and southwest Texas Panhandle
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Most of the Texas Panhandle and portions of the west central Oklahoma Panhandle
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: The vast majority of the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles are at or above this level.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: All areas exceed this level.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: All areas exceed this level.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 08/25/26



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Amarillo, Texas

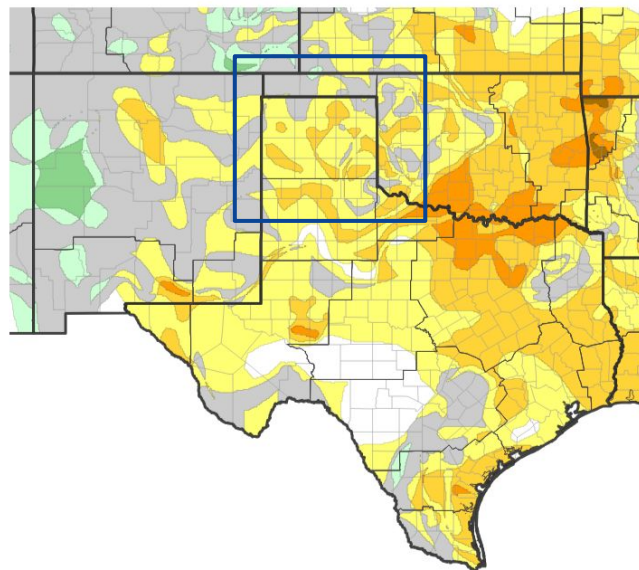


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for combined Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Most of the Texas Panhandle has seen a one to two class degradation.
 - No Change: Most of the Oklahoma Panhandle has seen no change
 - 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

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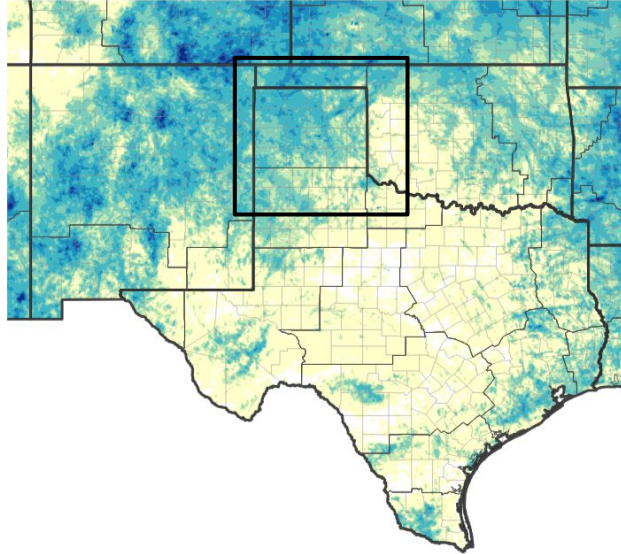
National Weather Service
Amarillo, Texas



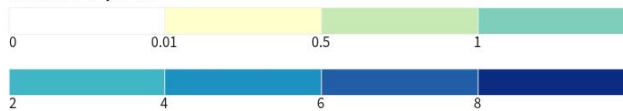
Precipitation

- The majority of the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles have consistently been in a rainfall deficit.
- Some beneficial rain fell near the end of August, resulting in about one to three inches of rain across the combined Panhandles.
- However, much of the eastern Panhandles remained less than 25% of normal for the month. The northwest combined Panhandles did reach over 100% of normal thanks to this late month rainfall.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



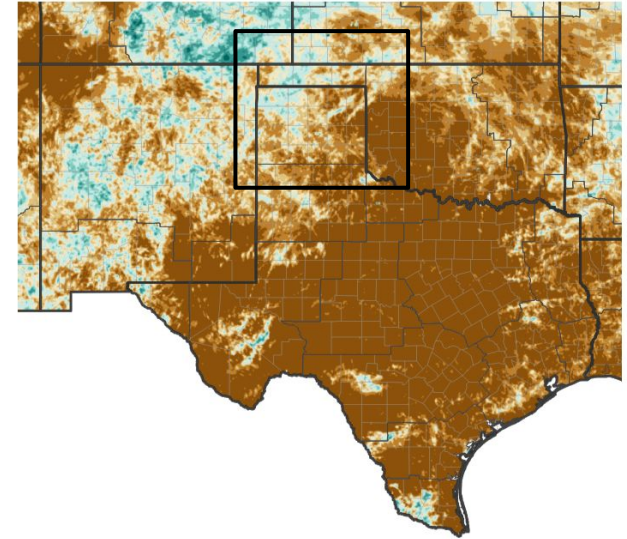
Inches of Precipitation



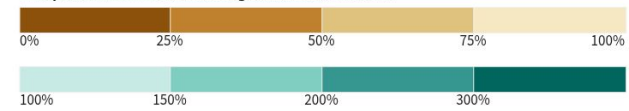
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;

Last Updated: 08/28/26

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: 08/27/26

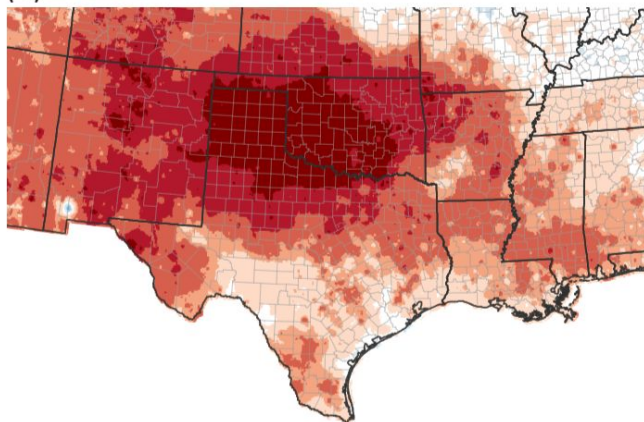




Temperature

- A persistent area of high pressure that has kept rainfall away from the combined Panhandles through much of August also was responsible for continued above average temperatures.
- The combined Panhandles were about four to eight degrees above normal for average temperature in August.

30-Day Departure from Normal Maximum Temperature (°F)



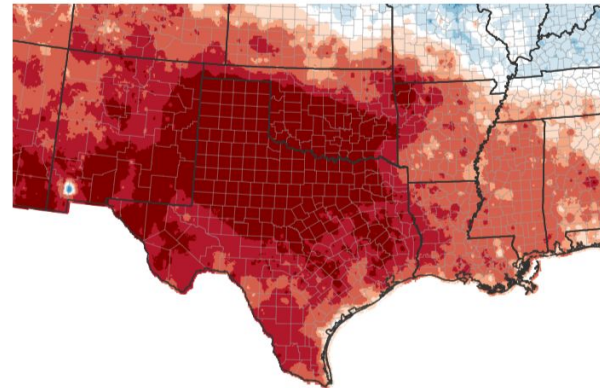
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



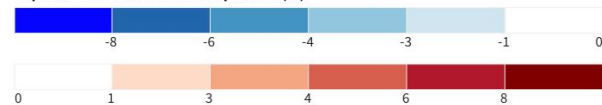
Source(s): UC Merced
Data Valid: 08/25/26

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7-Day Departure from Normal Maximum Temperature (°F)



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): UC Merced
Data Valid: 08/25/26

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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

- Hot, dry conditions severely affected dryland and irrigated fields, halting normal crop development. Rangeland conditions deteriorated, leaving herds highly variable conditions ranging from poor to good.
- Dryland crops had the highest failure rates with many producers abandoning grain harvests entirely.
- Cotton was in an hyper accelerated growth track and prematurely reaching the end of their growth phase.
- Declining pasture quality limits natural grazing and supplemental feed is being used for livestock.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Grasses and brush still remain prime for fire starts thanks to lack of significant rainfall.
- Burn bans are in place for several places in the combined Panhandles.

Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Mitigation Actions

- Amarillo instituted stage 1 of its drought contingency plan after the reservoir dropped to 60% of capacity. This includes voluntary limits to outdoor watering and stopping watering in splash pads and recreation areas.

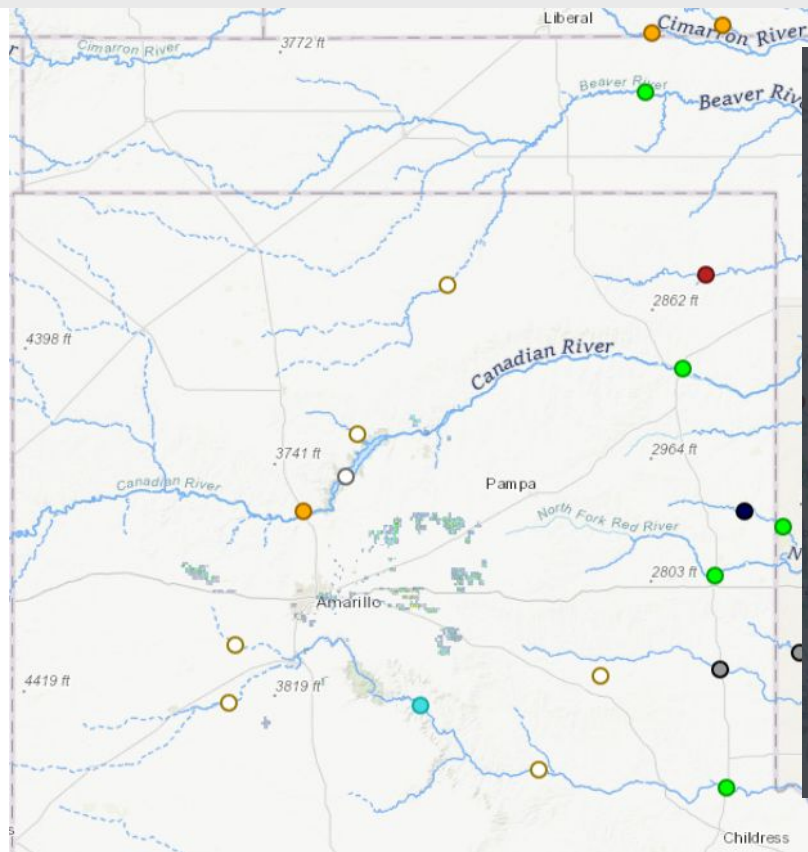




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow is generally normal to above normal in the central Panhandles and below normal to normal in the eastern Panhandles.

<https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/app/nwd/en/?aoi=default>



Streamflow: Status

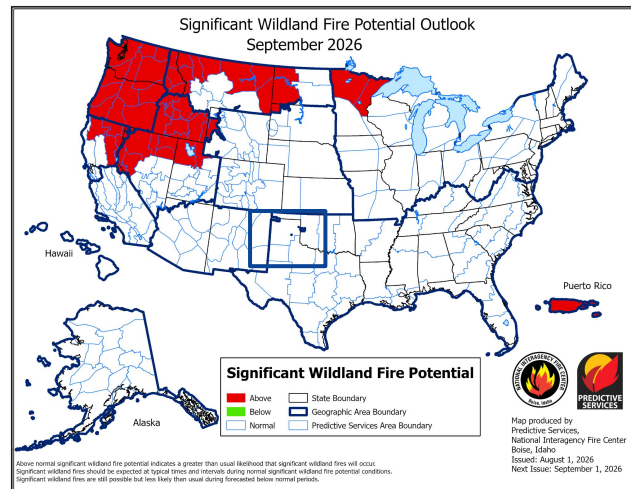
- Above flood stage
 - All-time high for this day
 - Much above normal
 - Above normal
 - Normal
 - Below normal
 - Much below normal
 - All-time low for this day
 - Not flowing
 - Not ranked
 - Measurement flag
 - Recent measurement unavailable
- 100th percentile (maximum)
>90th percentile
76th - 90th percentile
25th - 75th percentile
10th - 24th percentile
<10th percentile
0th percentile (minimum)

Comments: Marker color indicates the current streamflow condition. Categories are based on the percentile of existing streamflow records on this day-of-the-year. A streamgage is not ranked when there is less than 20 years of record or a current streamflow value is unavailable. Flood stages are maintained by the National Weather Service (NWS) and are not established for all USGS streamgages.





- Burn bans continue across the region. Fall is seasonally dry and fire hazards will continue to occur with above normal temperatures and any lack of significant rainfall.



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

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



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Long-Range Outlooks

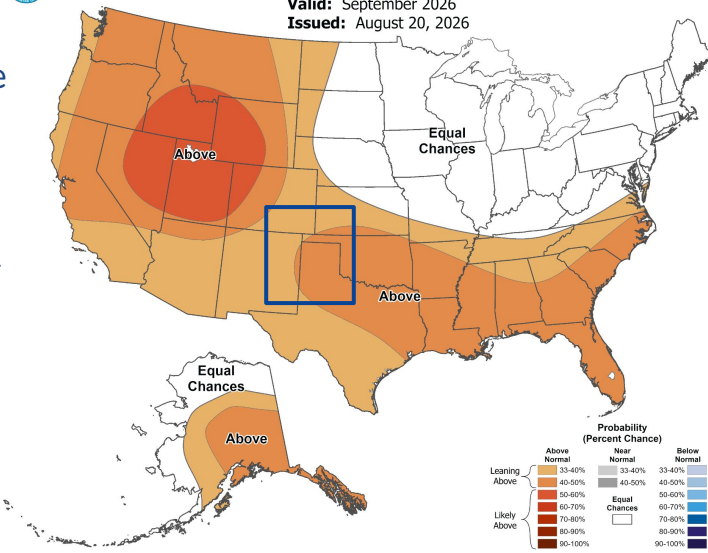
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- The combined Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles have equal chances to see above, below or near normal precipitation during the month of September.
- However, there is a trend for above normal temperatures during September. There is a 40-50% chance of temperatures to average above normal for September.



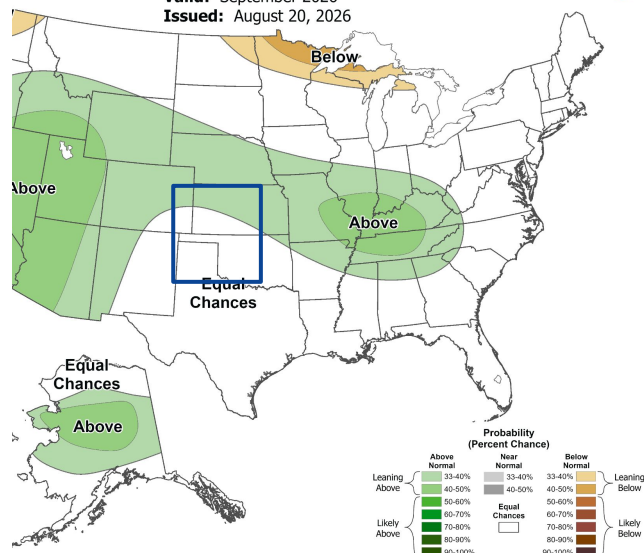
Monthly Temperature Outlook

Valid: September 2026
Issued: August 20, 2026



Monthly Precipitation Outlook

Valid: September 2026
Issued: August 20, 2026



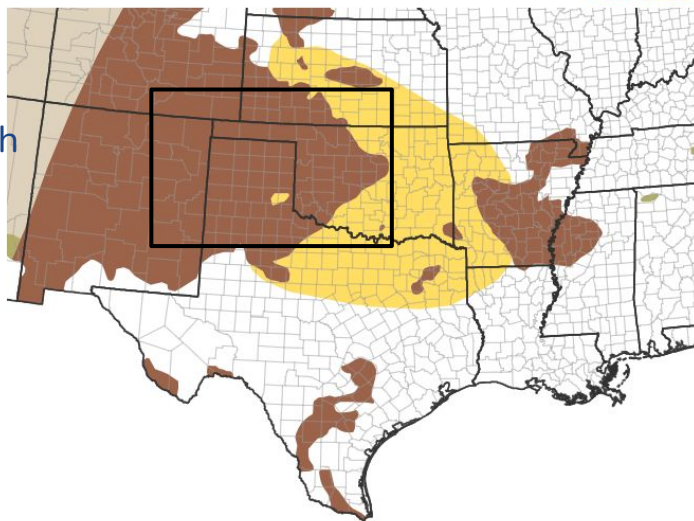


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions persisted in August. They are forecast to improve or the 3 month outlook that extends through November.

1-Month Drought Outlook for August 1–31, 2026

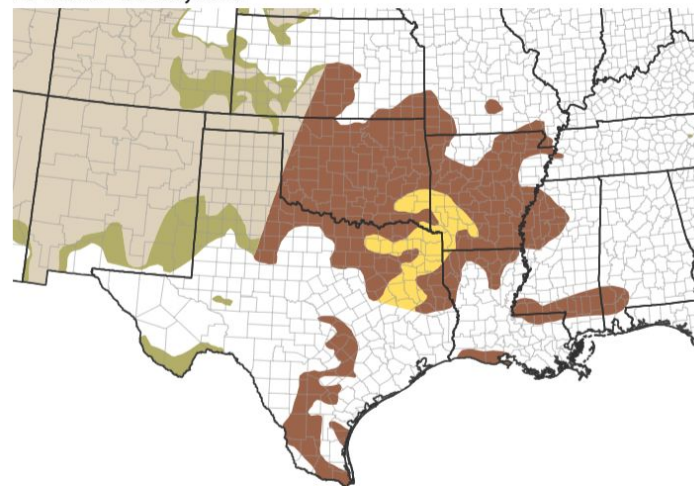


Drought Is Predicted To...

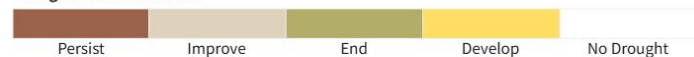


Source(s): Climate Prediction Center
Last Updated: 07/31/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for August 20–November 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center
Last Updated: 08/20/26

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