



# Drought Information Statement for The Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles

Valid October 20, 2023

Issued By: WFO Amarillo TX

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

- This product will be updated Nov 19, 2023 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/ama/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





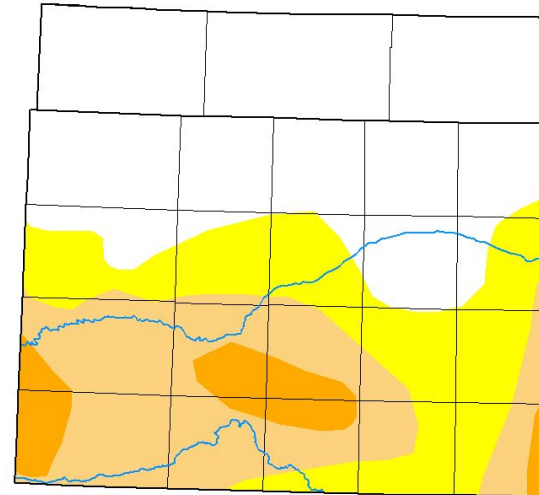
# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for WFO Amarillo

- The southern Texas Panhandle continues to miss out on beneficial rain, both north and south of I-40.
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - D4 (Exceptional Drought): None
  - D3 (Extreme Drought): None
  - D2 (Severe Drought): Potter, Randall, Carson, Armstrong, Deaf Smith, and Collingsworth County
  - D1 (Moderate Drought): Hartley, Oldham, Deaf Smith, Randall, Carson, Armstrong, Gray, Donley, Hemphill, Wheeler, and Collingsworth County
  - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Hartley, Moore, Hutchinson, Carson, Armstrong, Gray, Donley, Hemphill, Wheeler, and Collingsworth County

## U.S. Drought Monitor Amarillo, TX WFO

October 17, 2023  
(Released Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



### Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme 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:

Rocky Blotia  
NCEI/NOAA



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT October 17th.





# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for CONUS

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: Much of the southern Texas panhandle on both sides of I-40 continue to see expansions of Severe Drought (D2) develop
  - No Change: The northeastern and eastern zones in the combined Panhandles have mostly stayed unchanged.
  - Drought Improved: The far northwestern Texas Panhandle and far western Oklahoma Panhandle have seen improvements to drought status by at least one category.

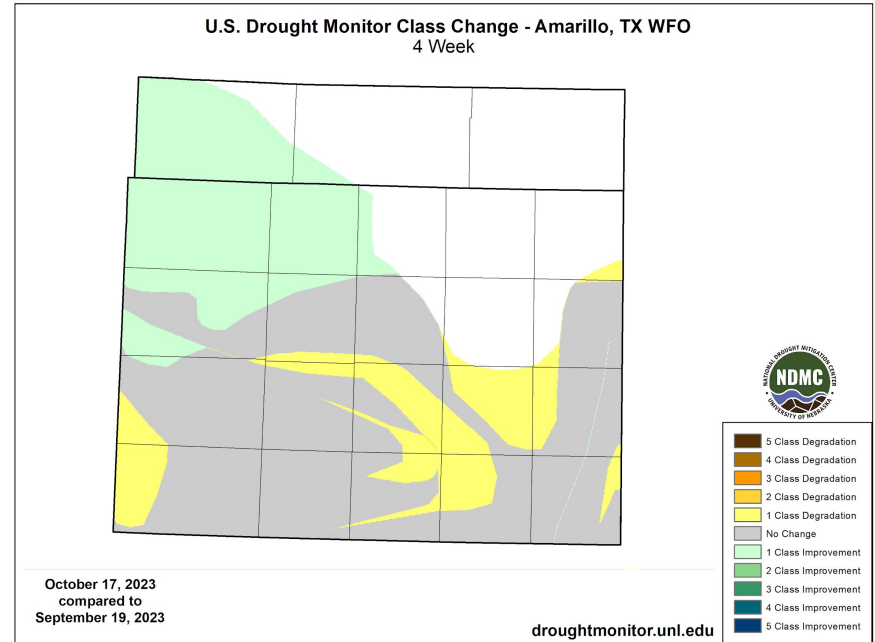


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 8am EDT October 17th.

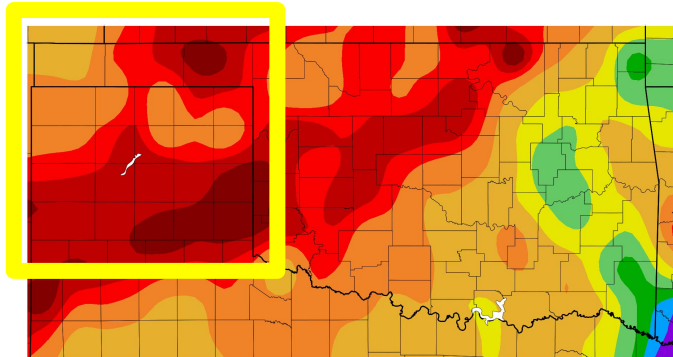




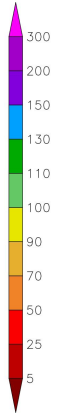
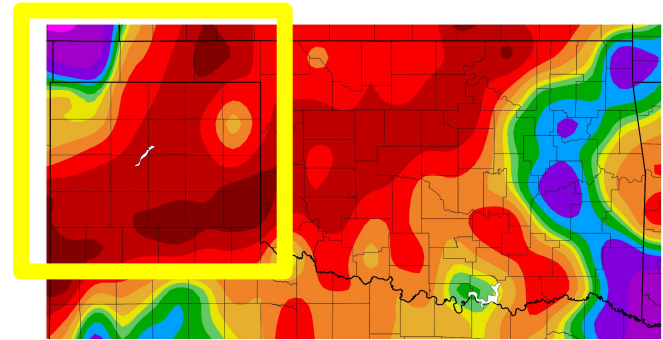
# Precipitation

- The southern Texas Panhandle continue to see below normal rainfall with many areas only seeing 5 to 25% of normal precipitation. This goes for portions of eastern OK Panhandle and north central Texas Panhandle over the last 30 days.

Precipitation (in)  
9/20/2023 - 10/19/2023



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
9/20/2023 - 10/19/2023



Generated 10/20/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Image Captions:

Left - Precipitation Amount for the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles  
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles

Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.  
Data over the past 30 days ending October 19th, 2023

Generated 10/20/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers



**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
U.S. Department of Commerce

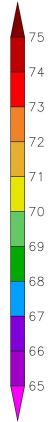
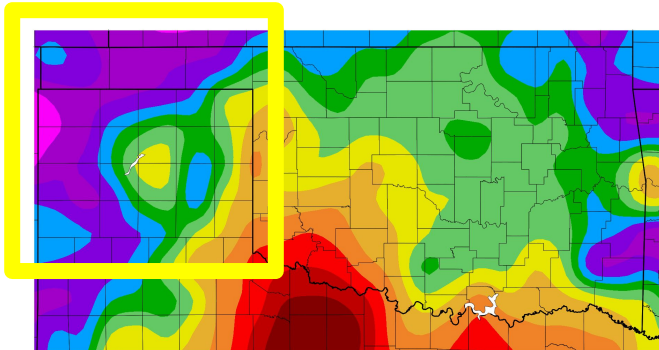
**National Weather Service**  
Amarillo, Texas



# Temperature

- Over the last 30 days much of the combined Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles saw temperatures 2 to 8 degrees F above normal.

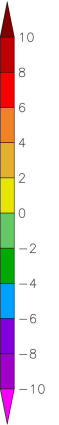
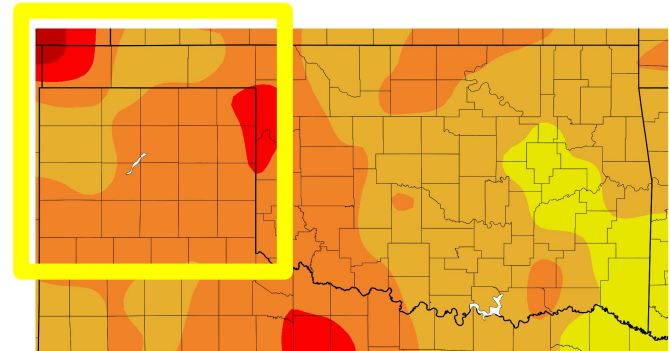
Temperature (F)  
9/20/2023 – 10/19/2023



Generated 10/20/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
9/20/2023 – 10/19/2023



Generated 10/20/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Image Captions:  
Left - Average Temperature  
Right - Departure from Normal Temperature  
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.  
Data over the past 30 days ending October 19, 2023





# 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

- Irrigated cotton crop was in good condition. Dry land cotton that survived was harvested.
- Most of the corn harvested was used for silage instead of grain.
- Fair conditioned pastures and rangelands continue to dry down and go dormant.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Prolonged heat and dry conditions could lead to increased fire risks.

## Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

## Mitigation Actions

- Follow all burn bans placed by county officials.

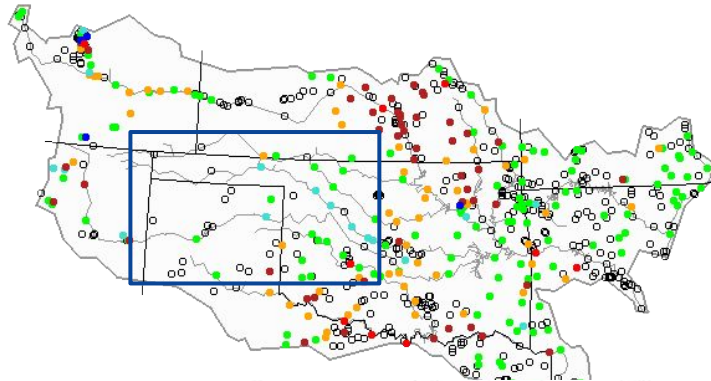




# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow remains near normal to above normal for the majority of the combined Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles.

Friday, October 20, 2023 09:31ET



Explanation - Percentile classes						
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	

USGS

Image Caption: Map of real-time streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the day of the year (Arkansas-White-Red) Valid October 20, 2023

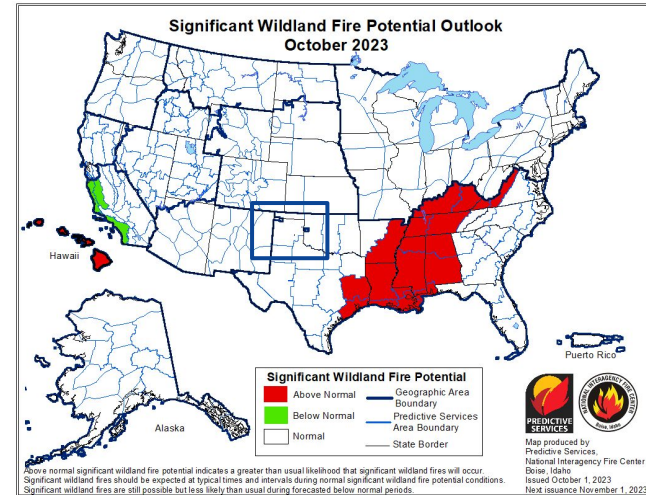
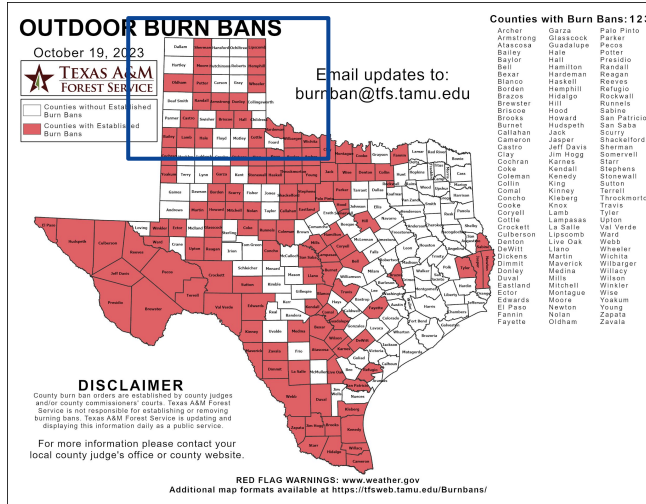




# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Grass fires will continue to be of concern across parts of the combined Panhandles as grasses continue to dry and cure going into the cooler season with much colder overnight lows.



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

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

Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for October 2023







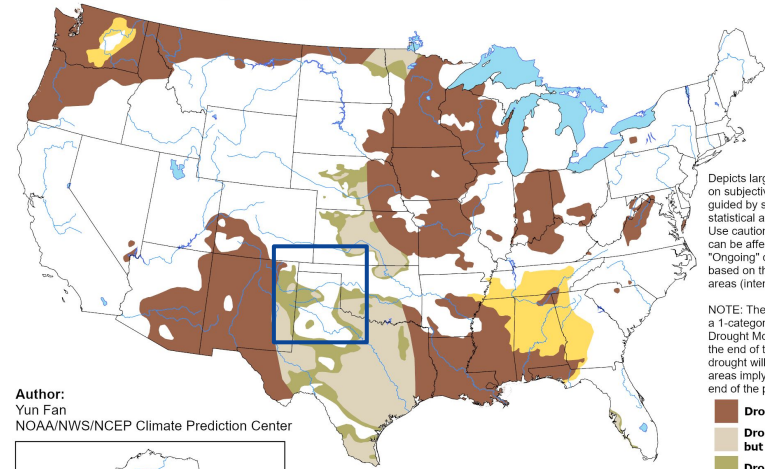
# Drought Outlook

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

- Current conditions as well as expected weather patterns in the near future, has portions of the combined Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles already in drought or drought development is expected.

## U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

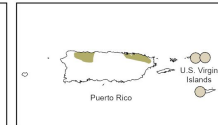
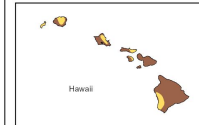
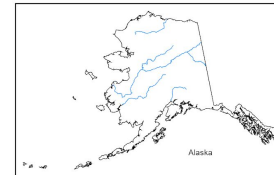
Valid for October 2023  
Released September 30, 2023



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. \*Ongoing\* drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

Author:  
Yun Fan  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



- Drought persists
- Drought remains, but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely
- No drought



<https://go.usa.gov/3eZGd>

Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released September 30th, 2023 valid for October 2023

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