Drought Information Statement for

Northeast IA, Southeast MN, & Western, WI

Valid September 24, 2026

Issued By: WFO La Crosse, WI

Contact Information: w-arx.webmaster@noaa.gov

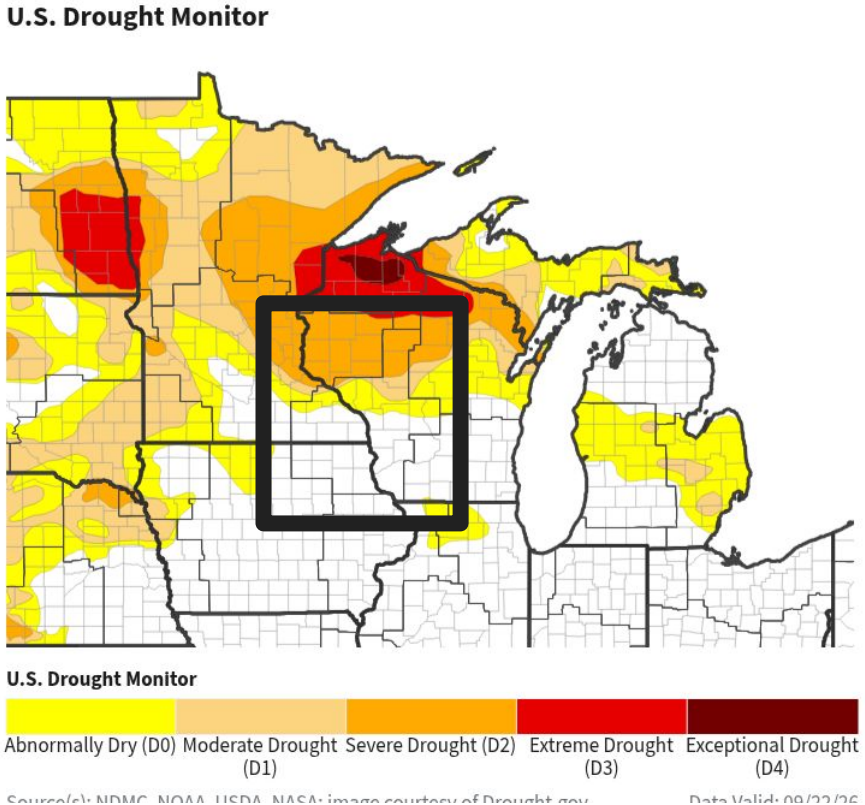
- This product will be updated when abnormally dry or drought conditions once again develop in the area.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/ARX/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/ for regional drought status updates.

- **Moderate (D1) to severe (D2) drought continues mainly north of Interstate 94.**
- **The abnormally dry (D0) conditions south of Interstate 90 has been removed due to 2” to 8” of rain during the past week.**

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for Upper Midwest

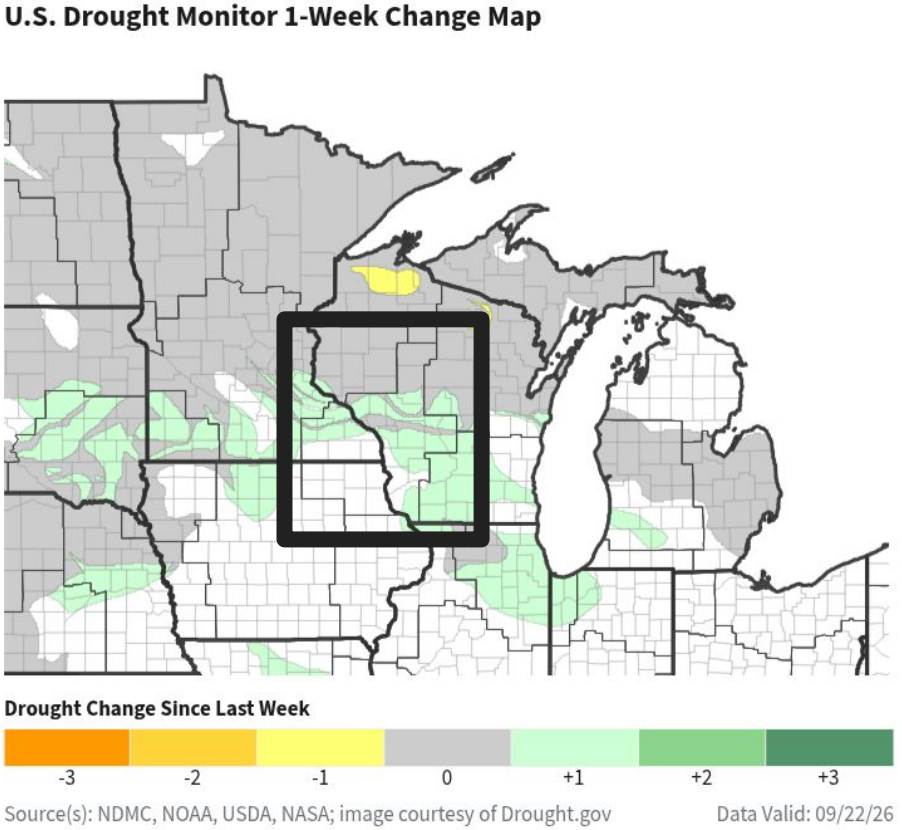
- **Severe drought (D2)** continues across Taylor (WI), the northern two-thirds of Clark (WI), northwest Buffalo (WI), and far northern Wabasha (MN) counties.
- **Moderate drought (D1)** continues across parts of Wabasha (MN), Buffalo (WI), Jackson (WI), and southern third of Clark (WI) counties.



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for Northeast IA, southeast MN, & Western IA

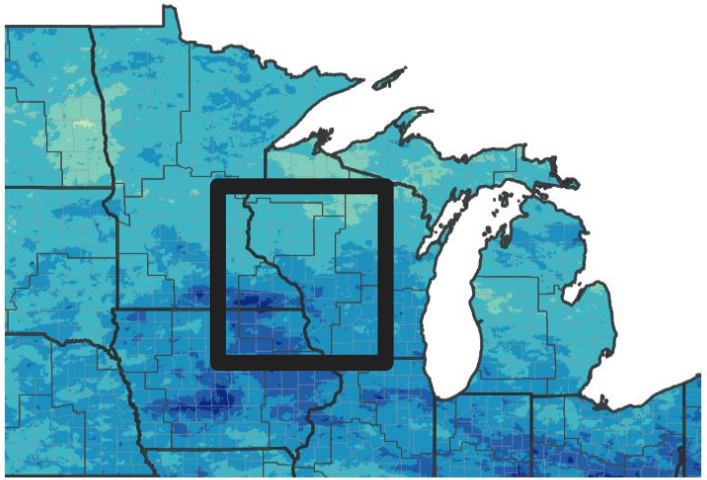
- 1-Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Some of the **moderate (D1) drought** was changed to **abnormally dry (D0)** in between Interstate 90 and 94.
  - **Abnormally dry (D0)** was removed south of Interstate 90.



Precipitation

- Rainfall north of Interstate 94 has been anywhere from 50 to 75% of normal since mid-June. This has resulted in the development of **moderate (D1)** to **severe (D2)** drought.
- Recent rain (2-8”) has alleviated the **abnormally dry (D0) conditions** south of I-90.

90-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



Inches of Precipitation

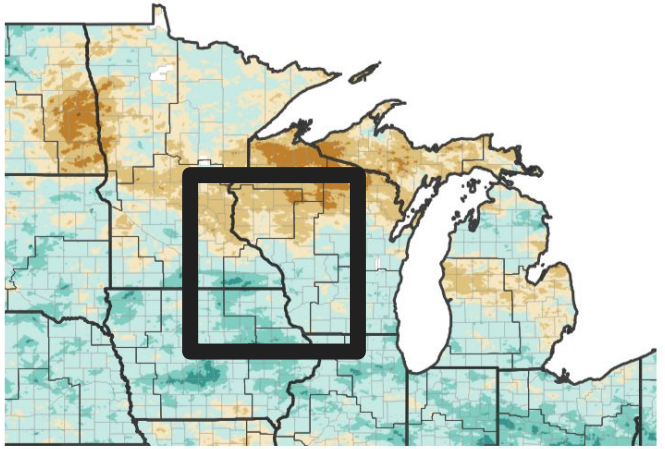
0 0.01 1 3 6

6 12 18 24

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 09/24/26

90-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

100% 150% 200% 300%

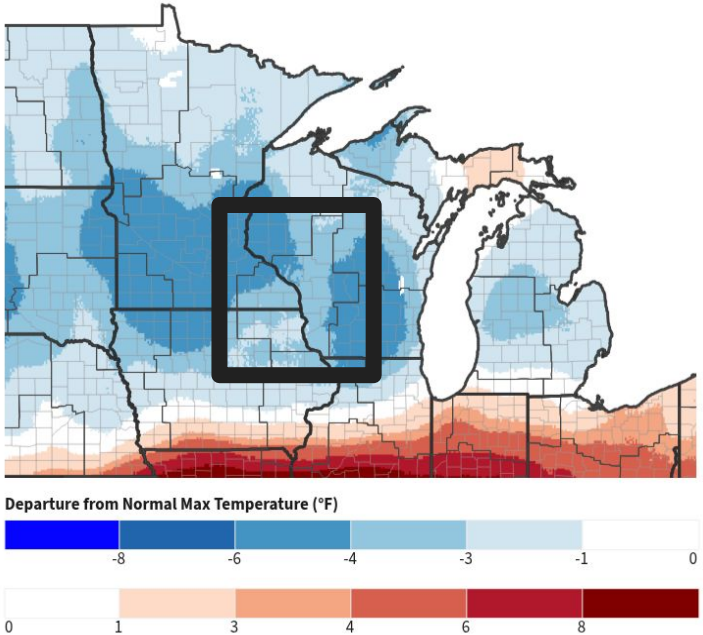
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 09/24/26

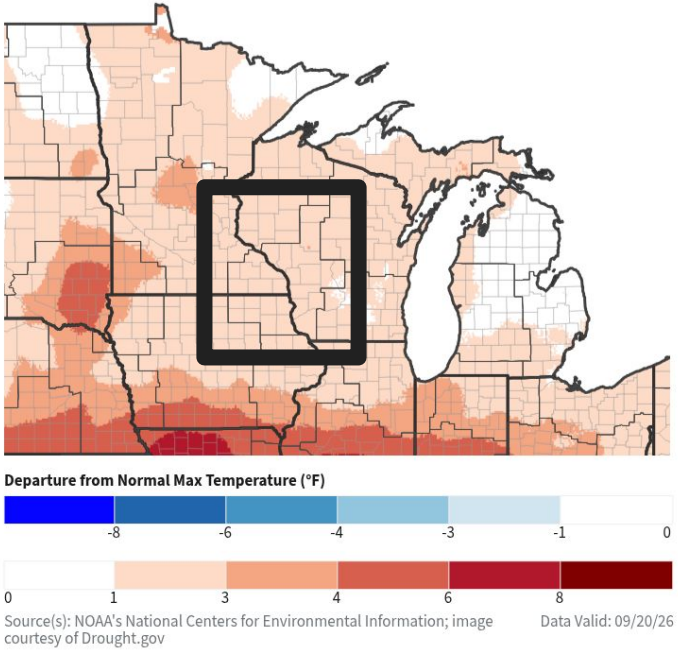
Temperature

- During the past 7 days, high temperatures averaged up to 6°F colder than normal.
- During the past 90 days (since mid-June), temperature departures ranged from 1 to 3°F warmer than normal.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/20/26

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

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- As of the morning of September 22, fire danger was low (fires are not easily started) across northeast Iowa, southeast Minnesota, and from southwest into central Wisconsin.

Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

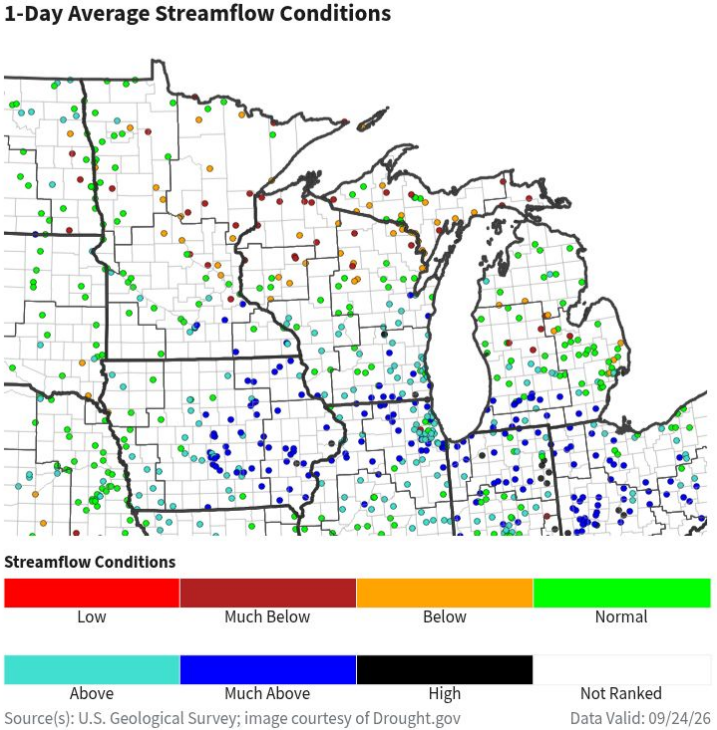
Mitigation Actions

- No known actions are taking place in northeast Iowa, southeast Minnesota, and western Wisconsin.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Recent rain (2-8”) has alleviated the **abnormally dry (D0)** conditions south of Interstate 90.

- As of the morning of September 22, streamflows remain below normal north of Interstate 94. Due to this **moderate (D1)** to **severe (D2)** drought continue in these areas.

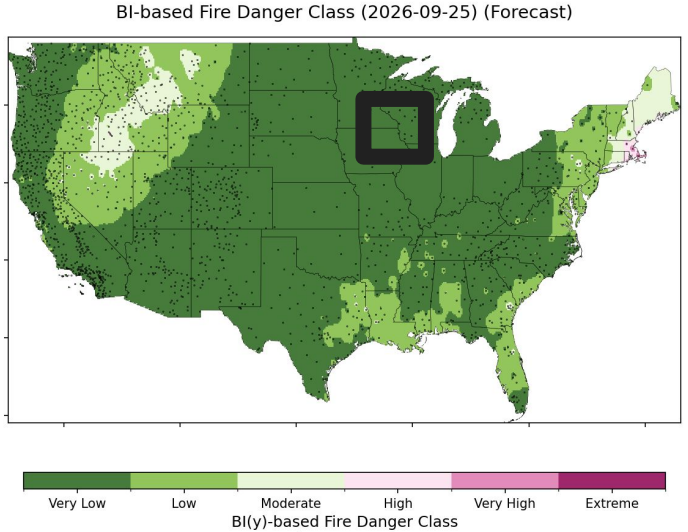


Fire Hazard Impacts

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

As of the morning of September 22...

- fire danger was low (fires are not easily started) across northeast Iowa, southeast Minnesota, and from southwest into central Wisconsin.



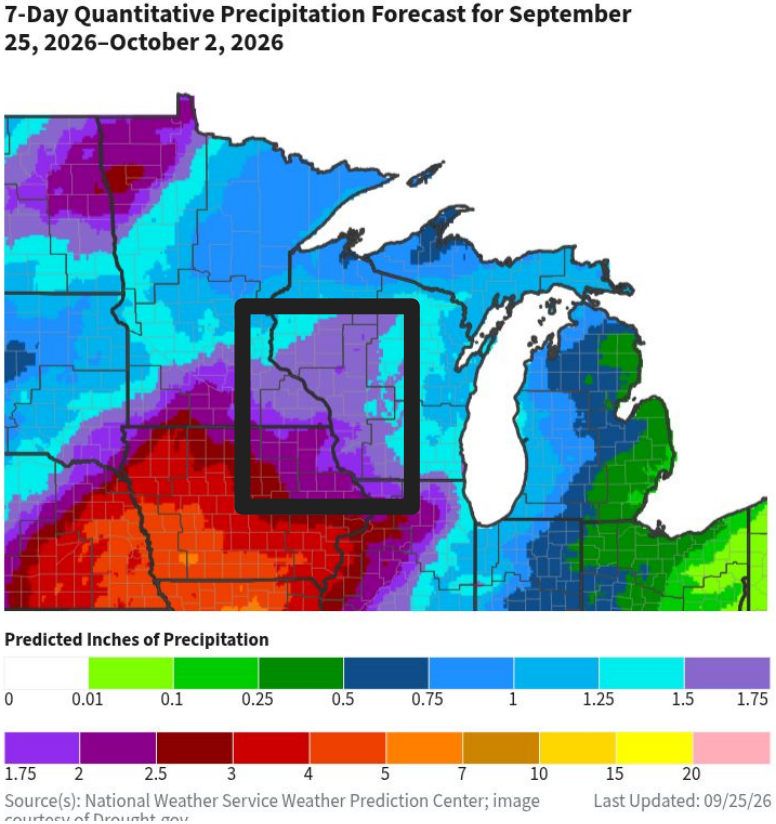
For updated DNR Fire Conditions consult the following Web Sites:

- Iowa
- Minnesota
- Wisconsin

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- From September 25 through October 2, the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is forecasting anywhere from a 1½” to 4” of rain across the Upper Mississippi River Valley. The greatest rainfall amounts are forecast to be in northeast Iowa.

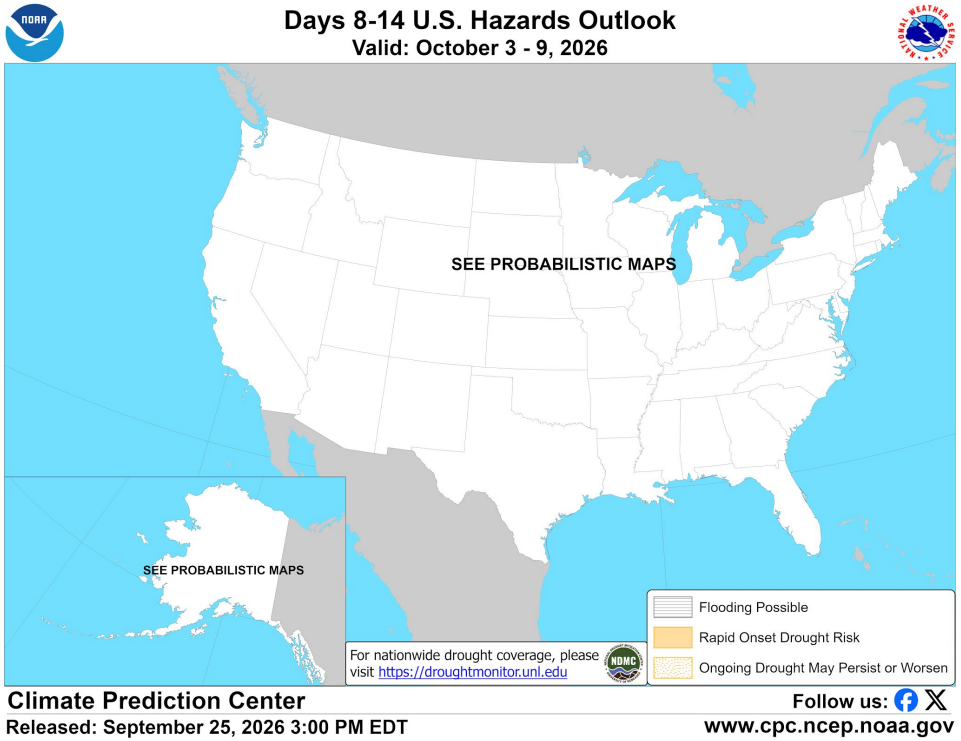
- Normal precipitation is between 0.8” and 0.9” for this time period.



Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day Temperature Outlook and Precipitation Outlook.

- From October 3 through October 9, rapid onset drought (at least a 2-category degradation) is not expected in northeast Iowa, southeast Minnesota, and from southwest into central Wisconsin.

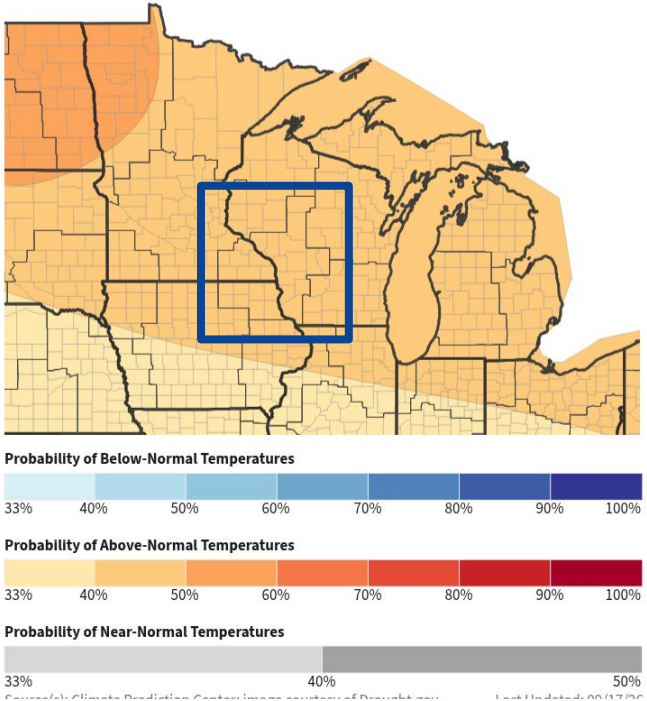


Long-Range Outlooks

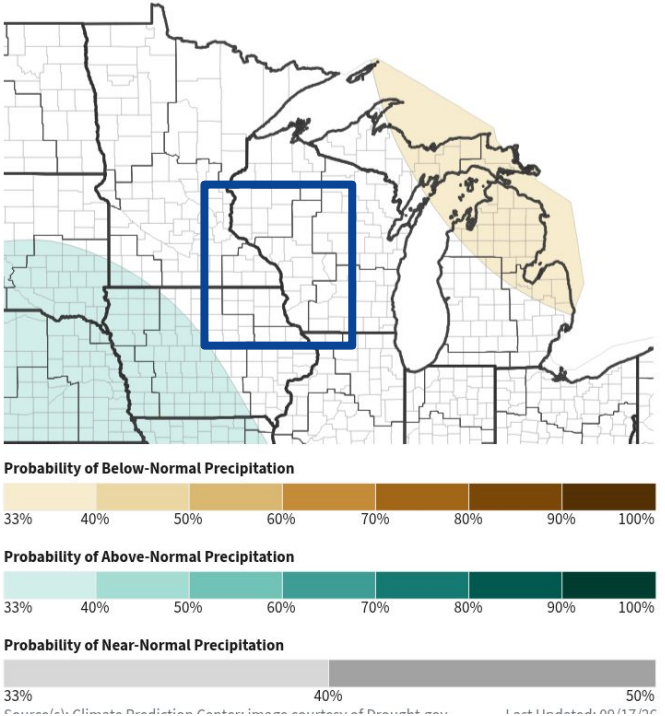
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- From October-December, the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) has tilted the odds toward temperatures warmer than normal (40-50%) across the Upper Mississippi River Valley.
- Equal chances of above-, near-, and below-normal precipitation is expected.
- During strong and very strong El Niño, the odds are tilted toward very wet, but it is not a statistically significant signal.

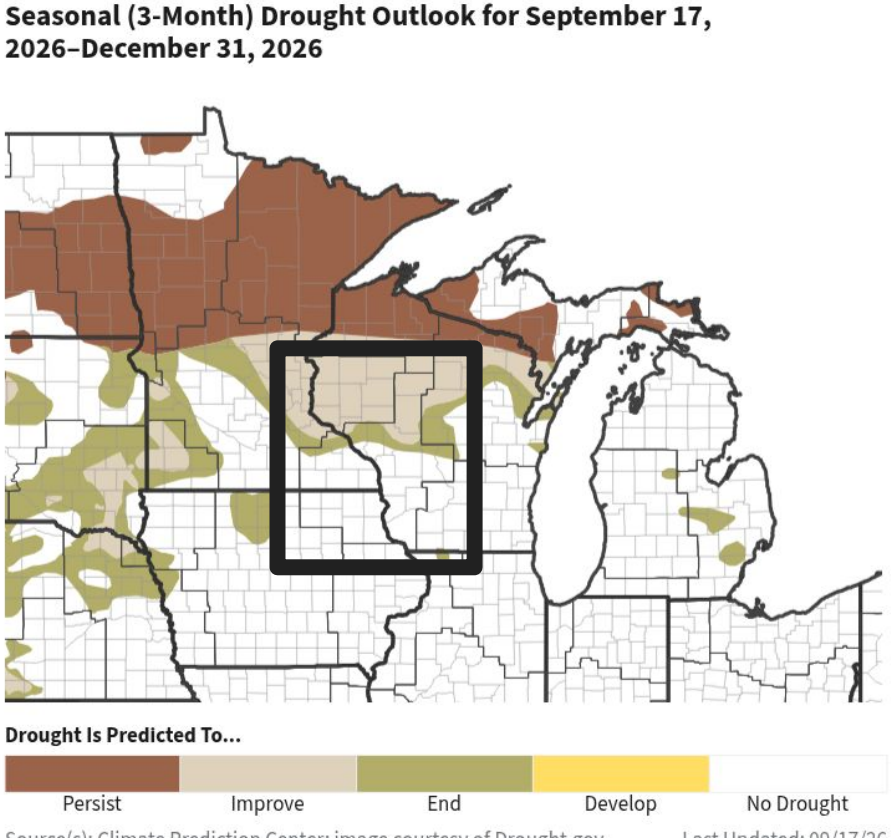
Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for October 1, 2026–December 31, 2026



Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for October 1, 2026–December 31, 2026



Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal drought outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- Drought is expected to improve or end north of Interstate 94 through the end of 2026.