Drought Information Statement for

Northeast IA, Southeast MN, & Western, WI

Valid October 8, 2026

Issued By: WFO La Crosse, WI

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

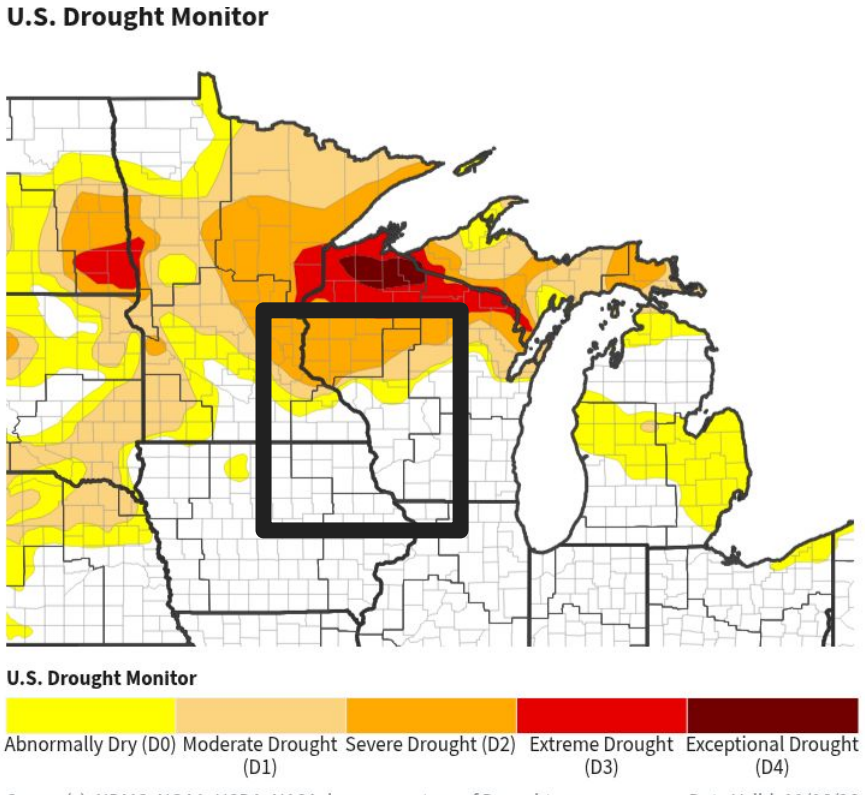
- This product will be updated whenever abnormally dry or drought conditions exist in the area
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/ARX/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please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

- **Moderate (D1) to severe (D2) drought continues north of Interstate 94.**
- **Due to the very wet September, there was improvement in the abnormally dry (D0) and moderate (D1) drought conditions between Interstates 90 and 94.**

U.S. Drought Monitor

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

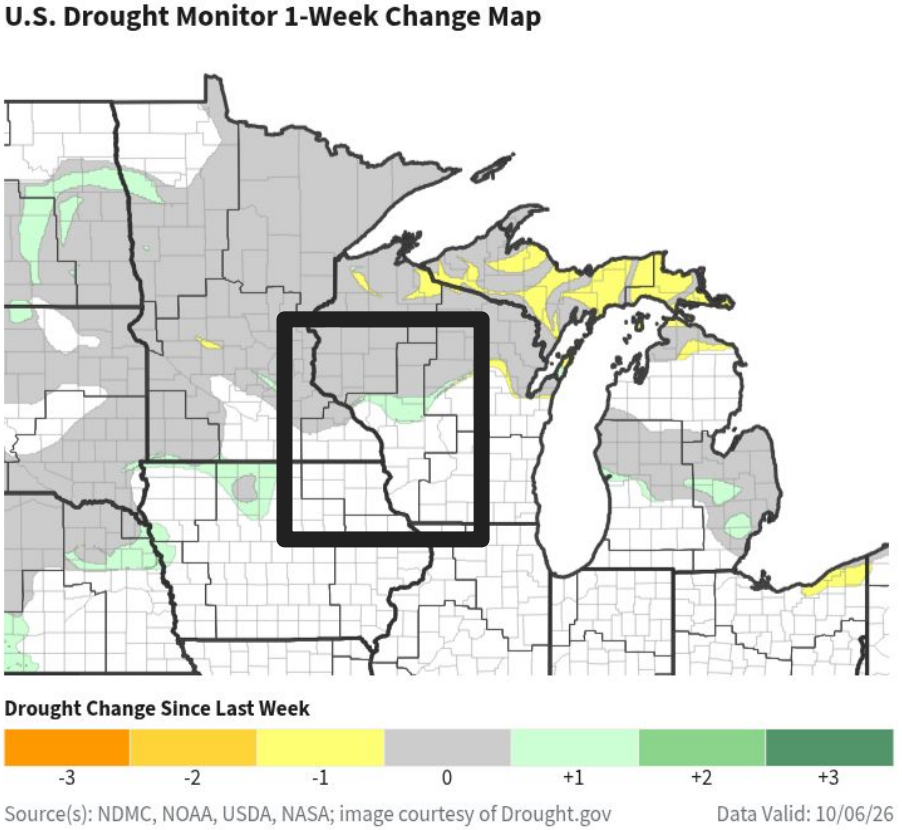
- **Severe drought (D2)** continues across Taylor (WI), northwest Clark (WI), and northwest Buffalo (WI) counties.
- **Moderate drought (D1)** continues across northern Wabasha (MN), northeast Buffalo (WI), far northern Trempealeau (WI), northwest Jackson (WI), and southern two-thirds of Clark (WI) counties.



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.
  - There was 1-category improvement between Interstates 90 and 94 due to the very wet September. This resulted in some removal of the **abnormally dry (D0)** conditions and **moderate (D1) drought**.

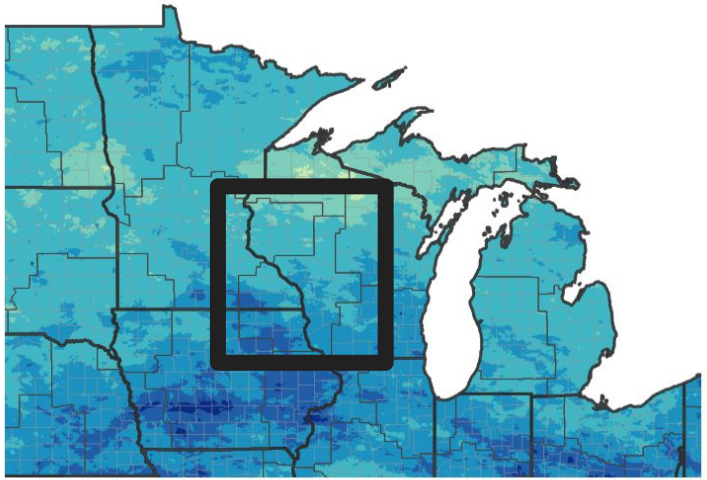


Precipitation

- Rainfall north of Interstate 94 has been anywhere from 25 to 50% of normal since early July. This has resulted in the development of **moderate (D1)** to **severe (D2)** drought north of Interstate 94.

- A very wet September caused some improvement in the dryness between Interstates 90 & 94.

90-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



Inches of Precipitation

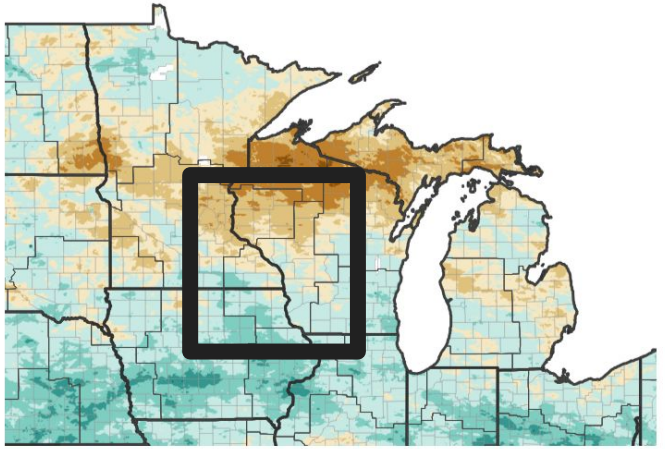
0 0.01 1 3 6

6 12 18 24

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

Last Updated: 10/08/26

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

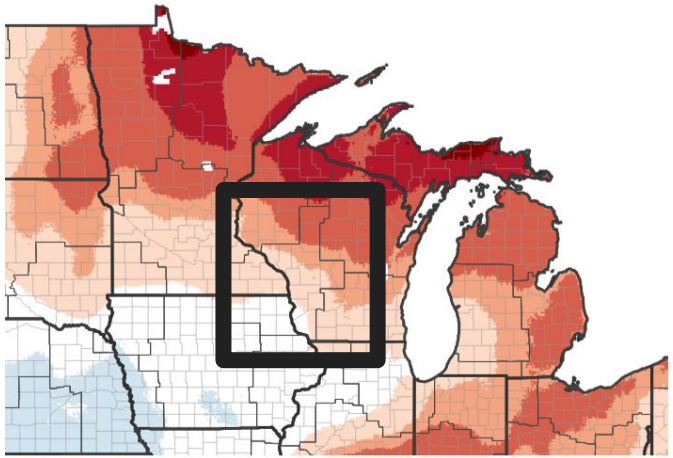
Last Updated: 10/08/26

Temperature

- During the past 7 days, high temperatures have ranged from near normal to 3°F warmer than normal west of the Mississippi River, and from near normal to 8°F warmer than normal elsewhere.

- During the past 90 days (since early July), temperature departures were up to 3°F warmer than normal.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

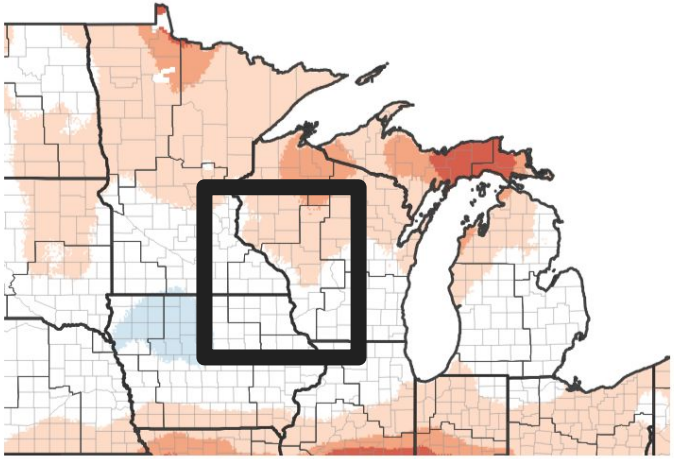
-8 -6 -4 -3 -1 0

0 1 3 4 6 8

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

Data Valid: 10/04/26

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

-8 -6 -4 -3 -1 0

0 1 3 4 6 8

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

Data Valid: 10/04/26

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 October 6, 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.

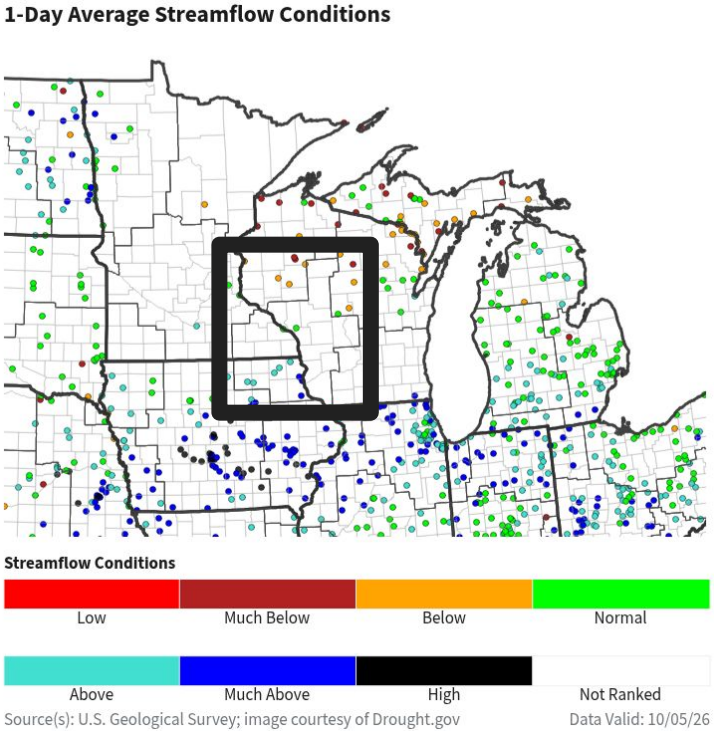
Mitigation Actions

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

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- As of the morning of October 6, stream flows remain below normal north of Interstate 94. Due to this **moderate (D1)** to **severe (D2)** drought continue in these areas.

- Elsewhere, stream flows range from normal to much-above normal.

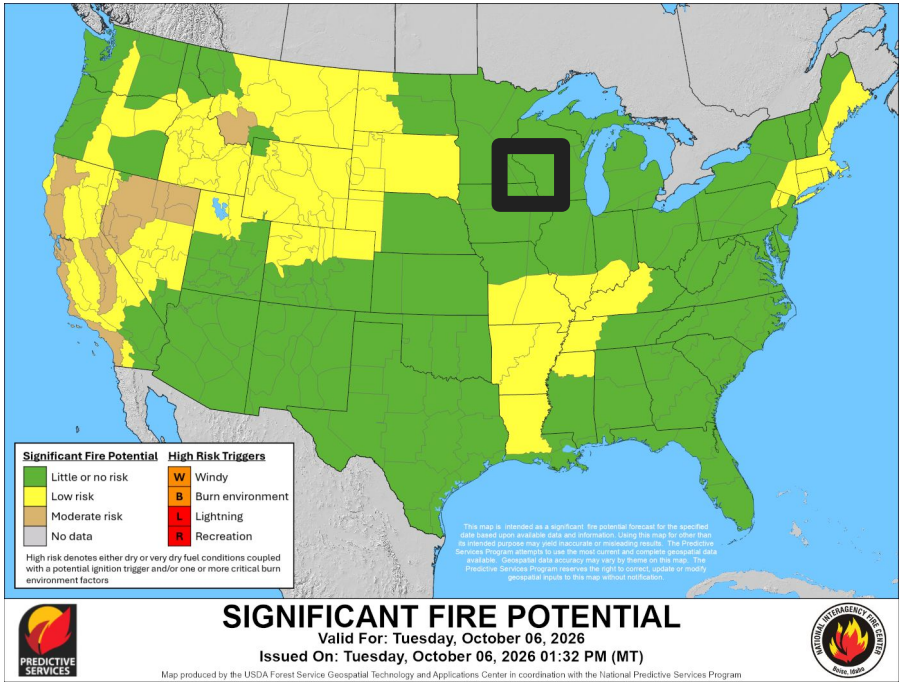


Fire Hazard Impacts

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

As of the morning of October 6…

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

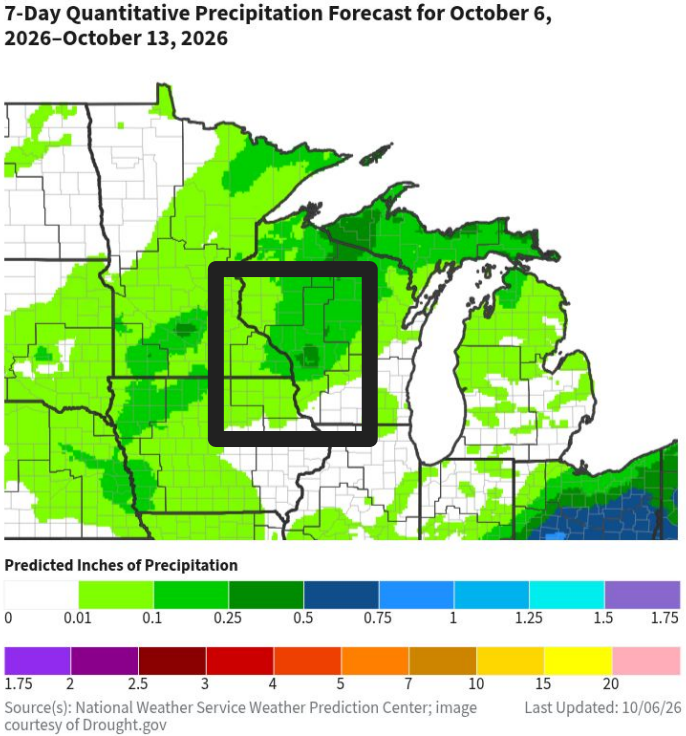


For updated DNR Fire Conditions consult the following Web Sites:

- Iowa
- Minnesota
- Wisconsin

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

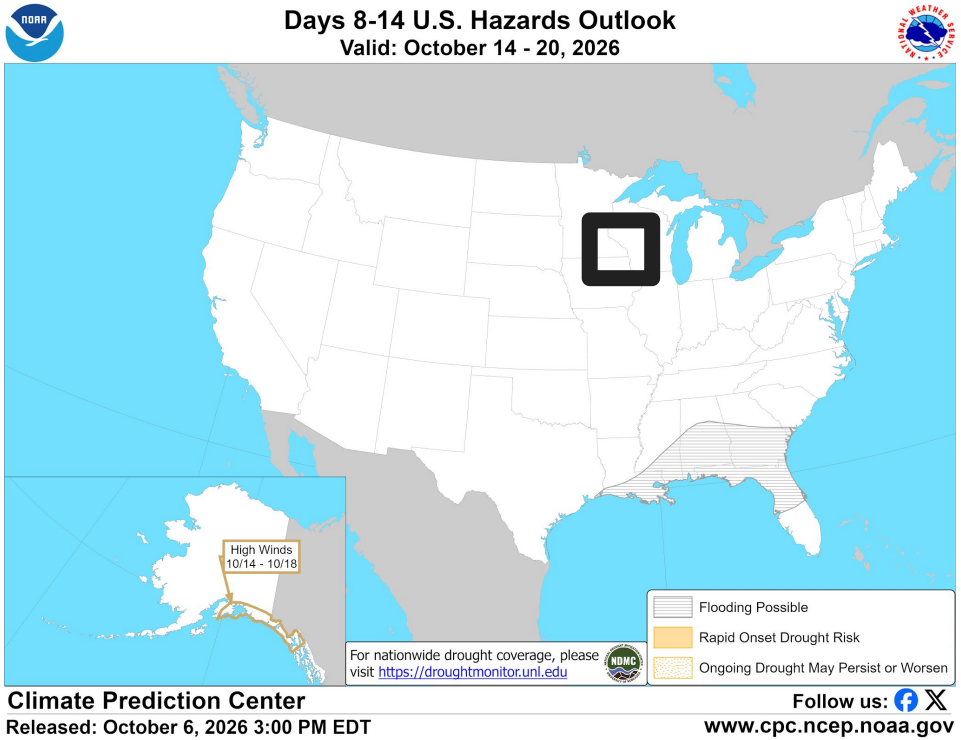
- From October 6 through October 13, the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is forecasting up to a half-inch across the Upper Mississippi River Valley.
- Normal precipitation is around 0.6” for this time period.



Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

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

- From October 14 through October 20, rapid onset drought (at least a 2-category degradation) is not expected in northeast Iowa, southeast Minnesota, and from southwest into central Wisconsin.

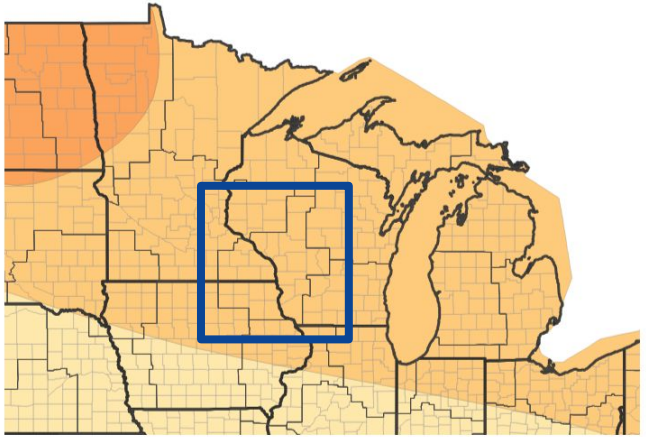


Long-Range Outlooks

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 warmer than normal (40-50%) temperatures 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



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

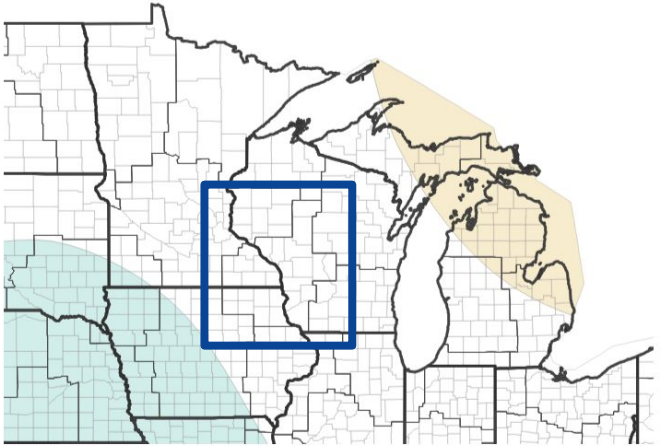
Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50%

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



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation

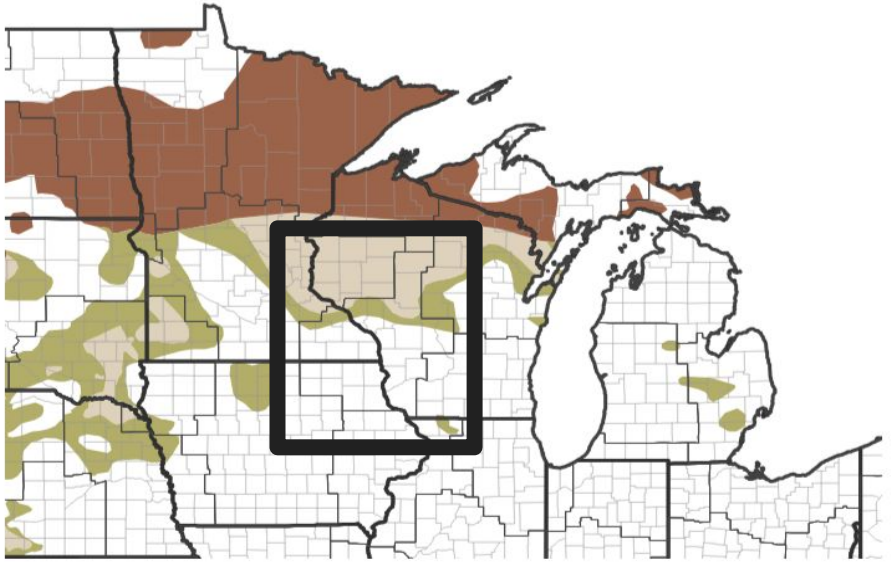
33% 40% 50%

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.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for September 17, 2026–December 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...

Persist | Improve | End | Develop | No Drought

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

Last Updated: 09/17/26