Drought Information Statement for

Northeast IA, Southeast MN, & Western, WI

Valid October 29, 2026

Issued By: WFO La Crosse, WI

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

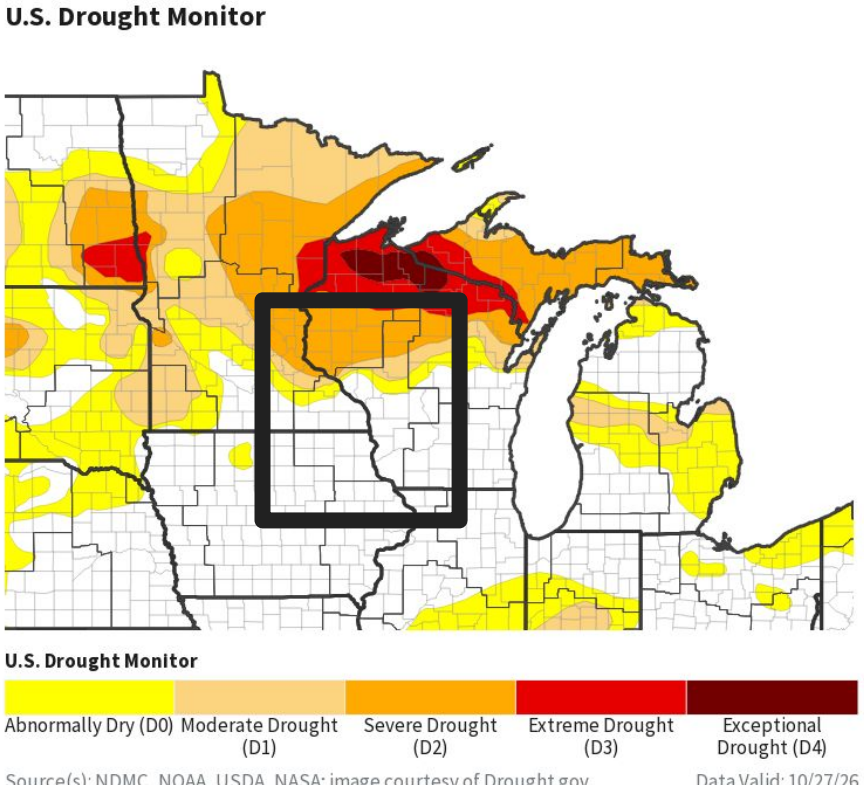
- This product will be updated Thursday, November 5, 2026.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/ARX/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/ for regional drought status updates.

- **Moderate (D1) to severe (D2) drought continues north of Interstate 94.**

U.S. Drought Monitor

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

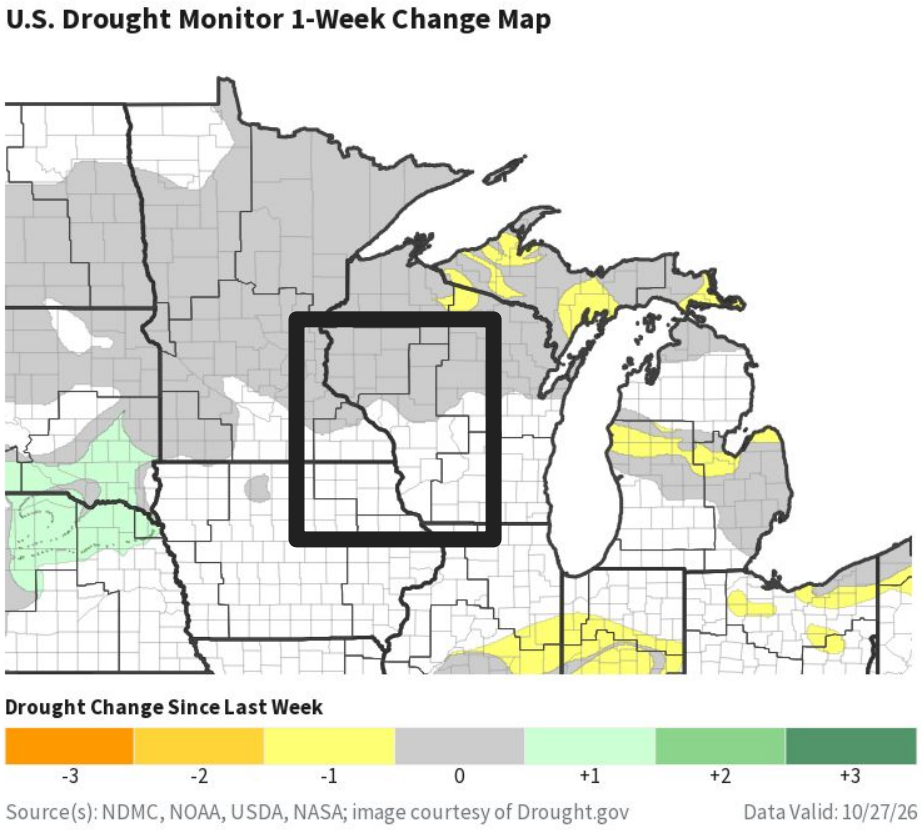
- **Severe drought (D2)** continues across Taylor (WI), northern half of Clark (WI), northwest Buffalo (WI), and far northern Wabasha (MN) counties.
- **Moderate drought (D1)** continues across the northern half of Wabasha (MN), northern Buffalo (WI), far northern Trempealeau (WI), northwest Jackson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



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

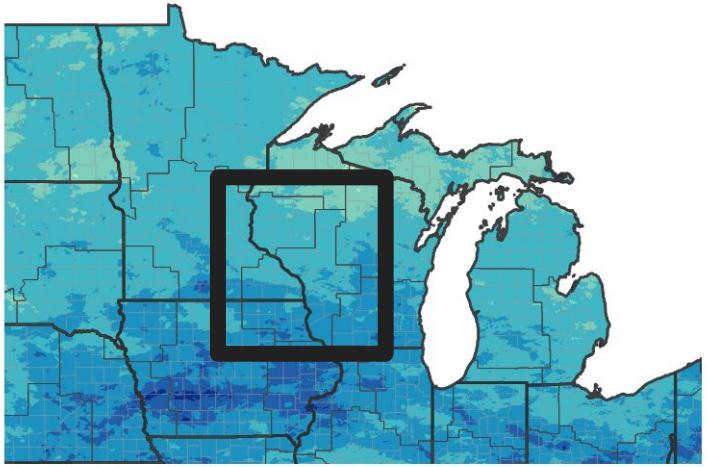
- 1-Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - There was no changes in the **moderate (D1)** to **severe (D2) drought** north of Interstate 94.



Precipitation

- Rainfall north of Interstate 94 has been anywhere from 25 to 75% of normal since late July.
- This has resulted in the development of **moderate (D1)** to **severe (D2)** drought north of Interstate 94.

90-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



Inches of Precipitation

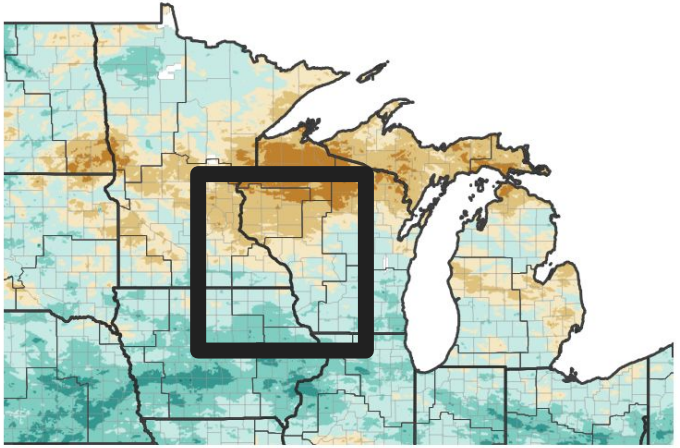
0 | 0.01 | 1 | 3 | 6

6 | 12 | 18 | 24

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

Last Updated: 10/29/26

90-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

0% | 25% | 50% | 75% | 100%

100% | 150% | 200% | 300%

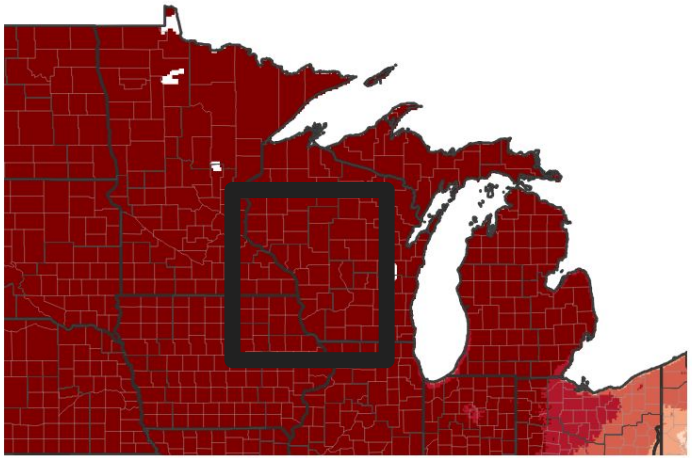
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/20/26

Temperature

- During the past 7 days, temperatures were 8°F to 10°F warmer than normal.
- Many places will see one of their top 5 warmest Octobers and their warmest since 1963.
- During the past 90 days (since late-July), temperature departures ranged from 6°F to 10°F warmer than normal.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

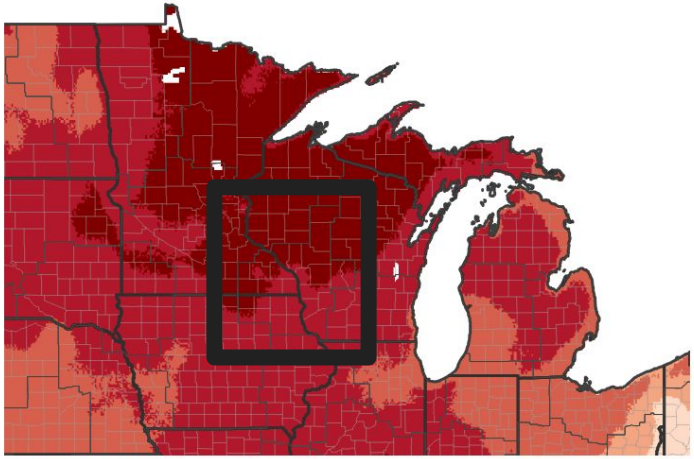
-8 -6 -4 -3 -1 0

0 1 3 4 6 8

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

Data Valid: 10/25/26

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: 10/25/26

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 27, fire danger was moderate (fires start easily and spread at a moderate rate) in southwest into central Wisconsin. Meanwhile, fire danger was low (fires are not easily started) in Taylor County (WI), northeast Iowa, and southeast Minnesota.

Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

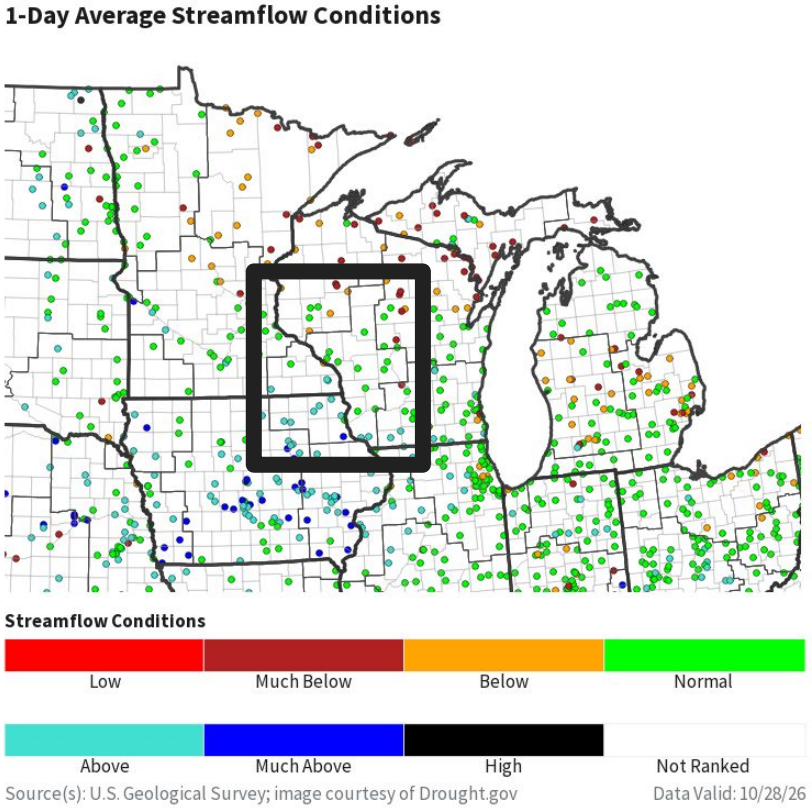
Mitigation Actions

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

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- As of the morning of October 28, 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.



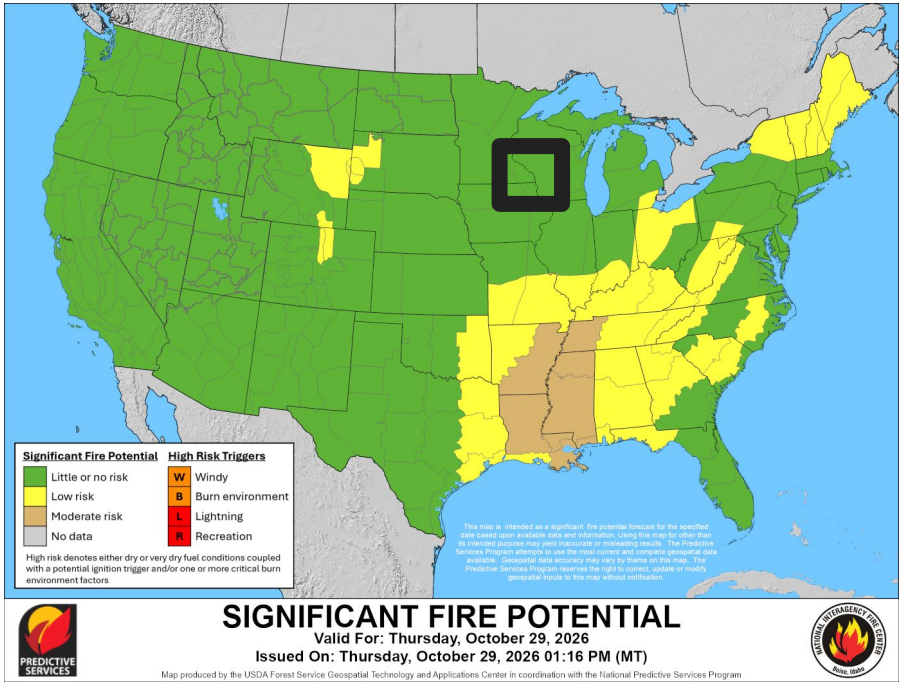
Fire Hazard Impacts

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

As of the morning of October 27…

- Moderate (fires start easily and spread at a moderate rate) fire danger in southwest into central Wisconsin.

- Low (fires are not easily started) fire danger in Taylor County (WI), northeast Iowa, and southeast Minnesota.



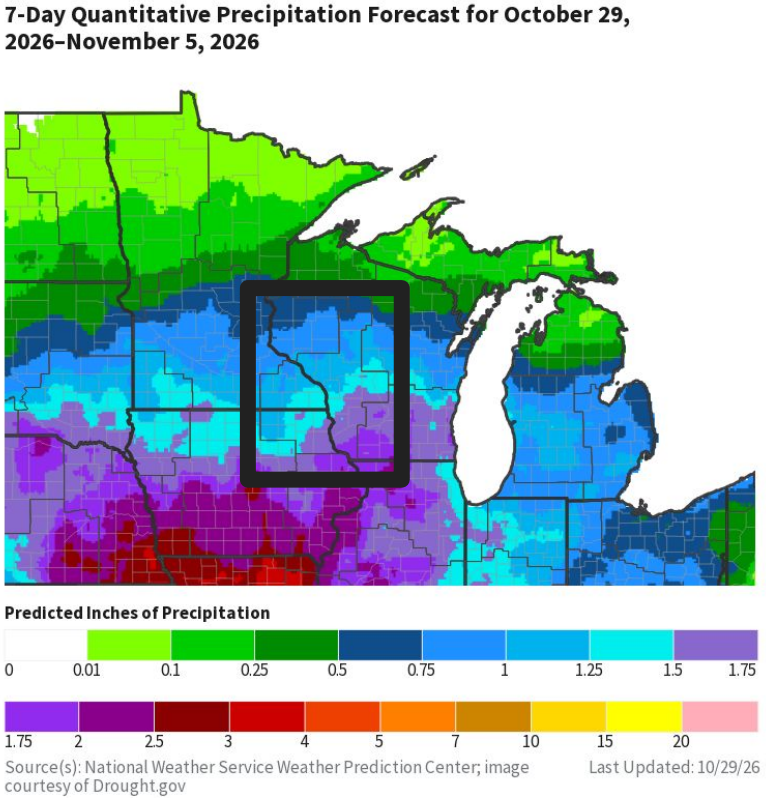
For updated DNR Fire Conditions consult the following Web Sites:

- Iowa
- Minnesota
- Wisconsin

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- From October 29 through November 5, the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is forecasting anywhere from a 0.5” to 2”. The highest (1-2”) will be seen south of Interstate 94.

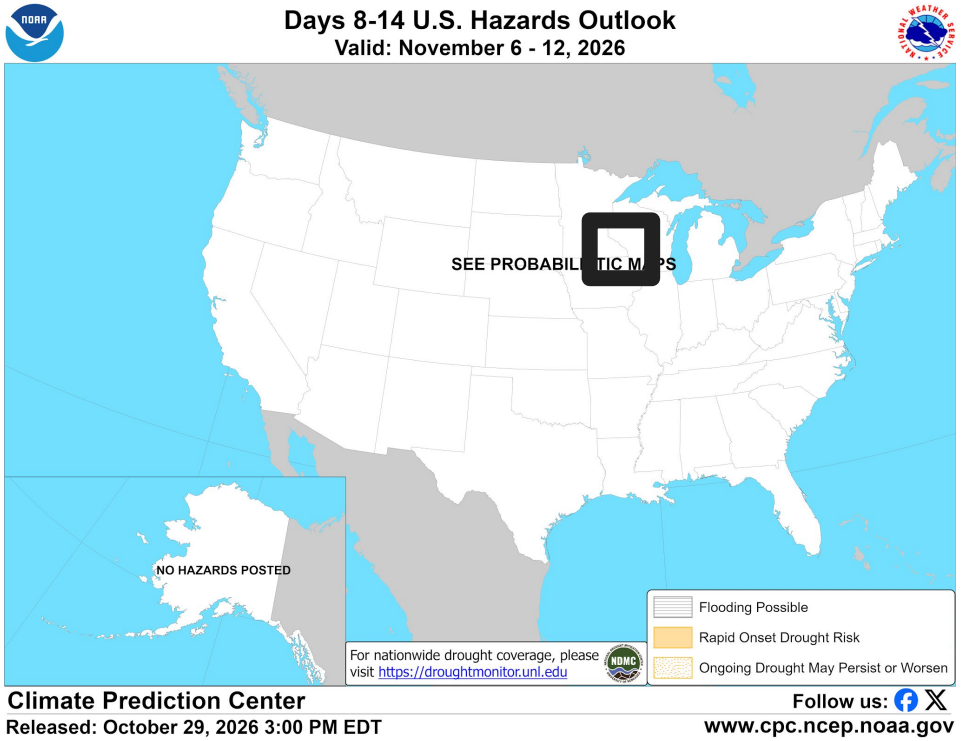
- Normal precipitation is around 0.5” for this time period.



Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

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

- From November 6 through November 12, rapid onset drought (at least a 2-category degradation) is not expected in northeast Iowa, southeast Minnesota, and from southwest into central Wisconsin.

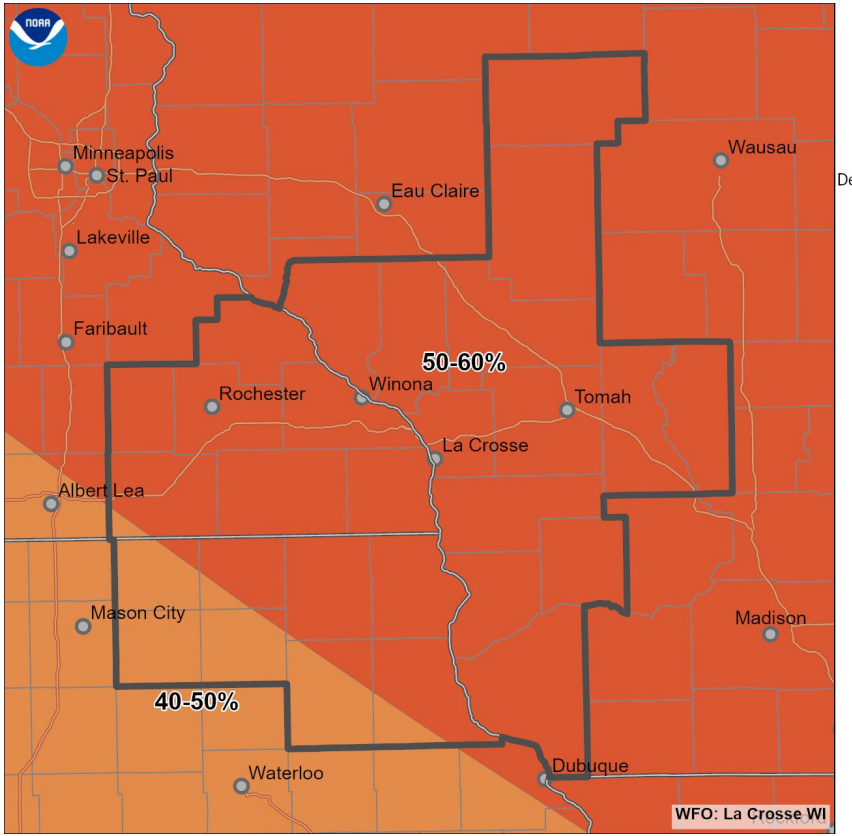


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- From December 2026-February 2027, the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) has tilted the odds toward warmer than normal (45-60%) temperatures across the Upper Mississippi River Valley.

- For La Crosse, 18 out of 27 winter months (66.7%) and 5 out of 9 winters (55.6%) were among the warmest third. This includes the 5th and 9th warmest winters. In addition, the 2 warmest winters (1877-78 & 2023-24) were El Niño winters.



Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid:
December, 2026 - February, 2027

Probability (Percent Chance)

Above Normal
- Likely Above: 90-100%, 80-90%, 70-80%, 60-70%, 50-60%
- Leaning Above: 40-50%, 33-40%

Near Normal
33-40%
40-50%

Below Normal
- Leaning Below: 33-40%, 40-50%
- Likely Below: 50-60%, 60-70%, 70-80%, 80-90%, 90-100%

Equal Chances

Climate Prediction Center
Issued:
October 15, 2026

www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

Long-Range Outlooks

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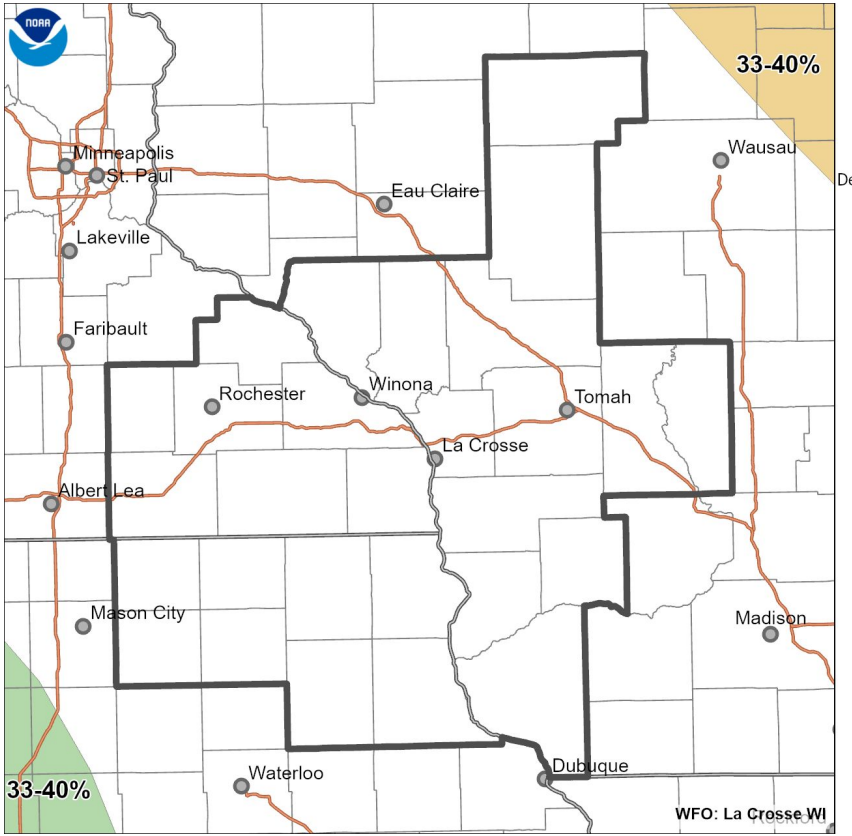
- From December 2026-February 2027, the Climate Prediction Center (CPC) has equal chances of above-, near-, and below-normal precipitation is expected.
- During strong and very strong El Niño, the odds are tilted toward very wet, but it is not a statistically significant signal.
- For La Crosse, 13 out of 27 winter months (48.1%) and 6 out of 9 winters (66.7%) were among the wettest third. This includes the wettest winter month (Dec 2015) & wettest winter (2015-16).



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

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December, 2026 - February, 2027

Probability (Percent Chance)

Above Normal
- Likely Above: 90-100%, 80-90%, 70-80%, 60-70%, 50-60%
- Leaning Above: 40-50%, 33-40%

Near Normal
33-40%
40-50%

Below Normal
- Leaning Below: 33-40%, 40-50%
- Likely Below: 50-60%, 60-70%, 70-80%, 80-90%, 90-100%

Equal Chances

Climate Prediction Center
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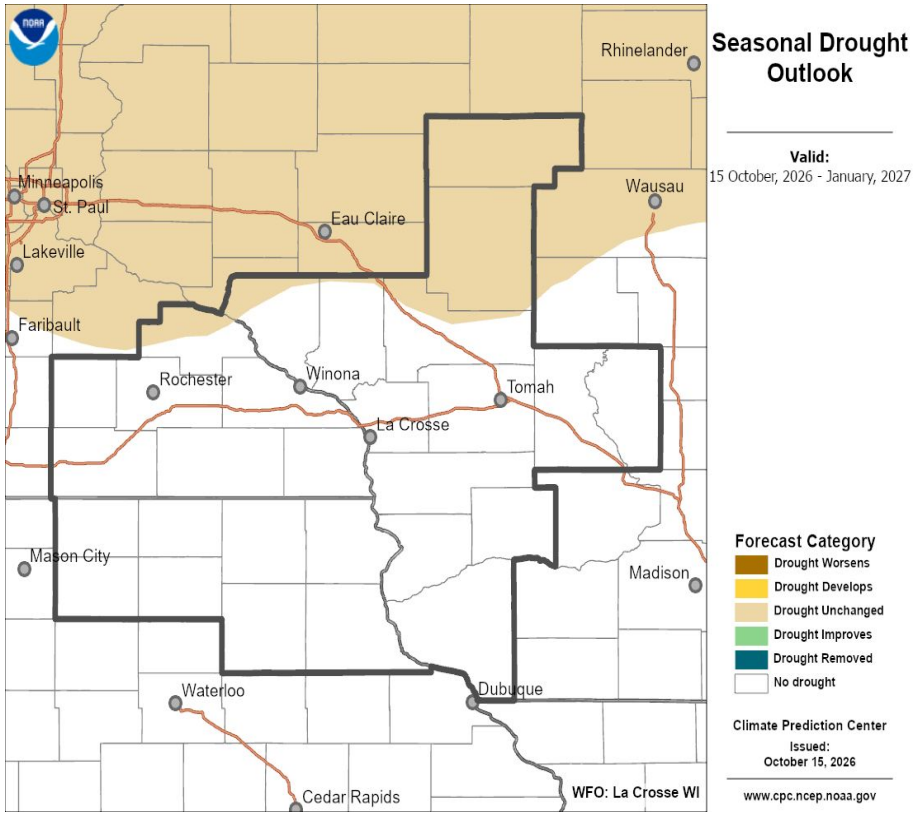
Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is expected to remain unchanged north of Interstate 94 through the end of January 2027.