



Drought Information Statement for Central Alabama

Valid October 1, 2026

Issued By: NWS Birmingham, AL

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

- This product will be updated only if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/bmx/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.

- EXTREME DROUGHT RETURNS TO PART OF CENTRAL ALABAMA





U.S. Drought Monitor

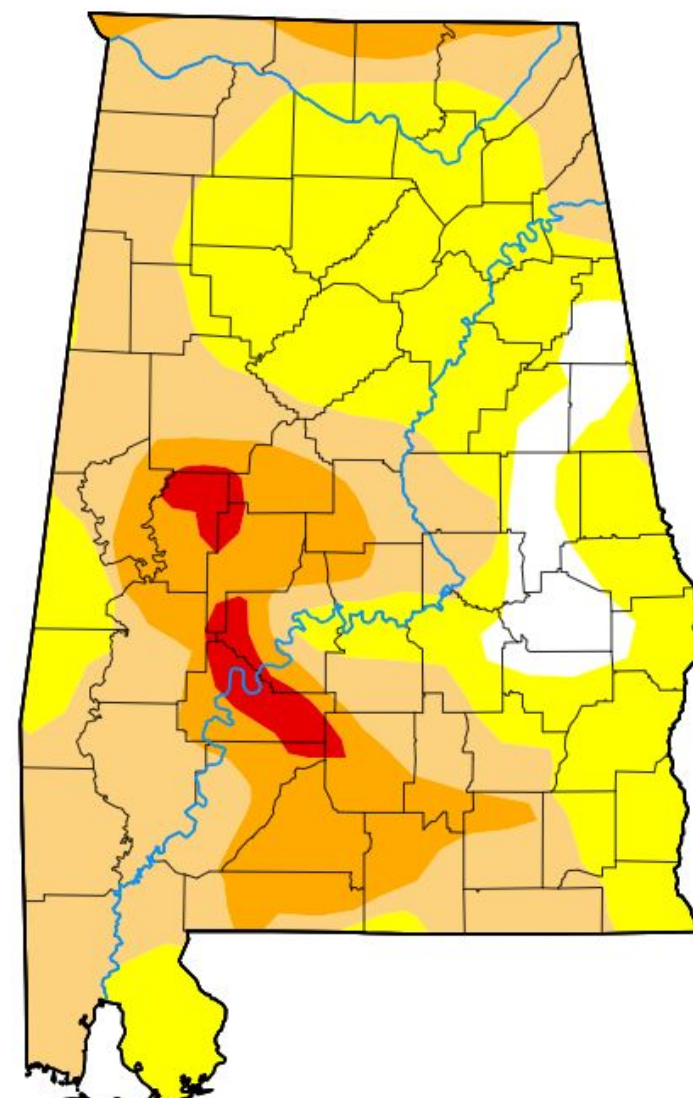
October 1, 2026
11:50 AM CDT

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Central Alabama

[Home](#) / Alabama

- Drought Intensity and Extent for Central Alabama
 - D4 Exceptional Drought: None.
 - D3 Extreme & D2 Severe Drought: Areas from southern Tuscaloosa to southern Dallas and also including parts of Chilton and Autauga.
 - D1 Moderate & D0 Abnormally Dry: Most of the rest of the state is included in one of these categories.
 - None: There is still a small area of no drought conditions that is primarily along the Tallapoosa River basin.

Alabama



Map released: Thurs. October 1, 2026

Data valid: September 29, 2026 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

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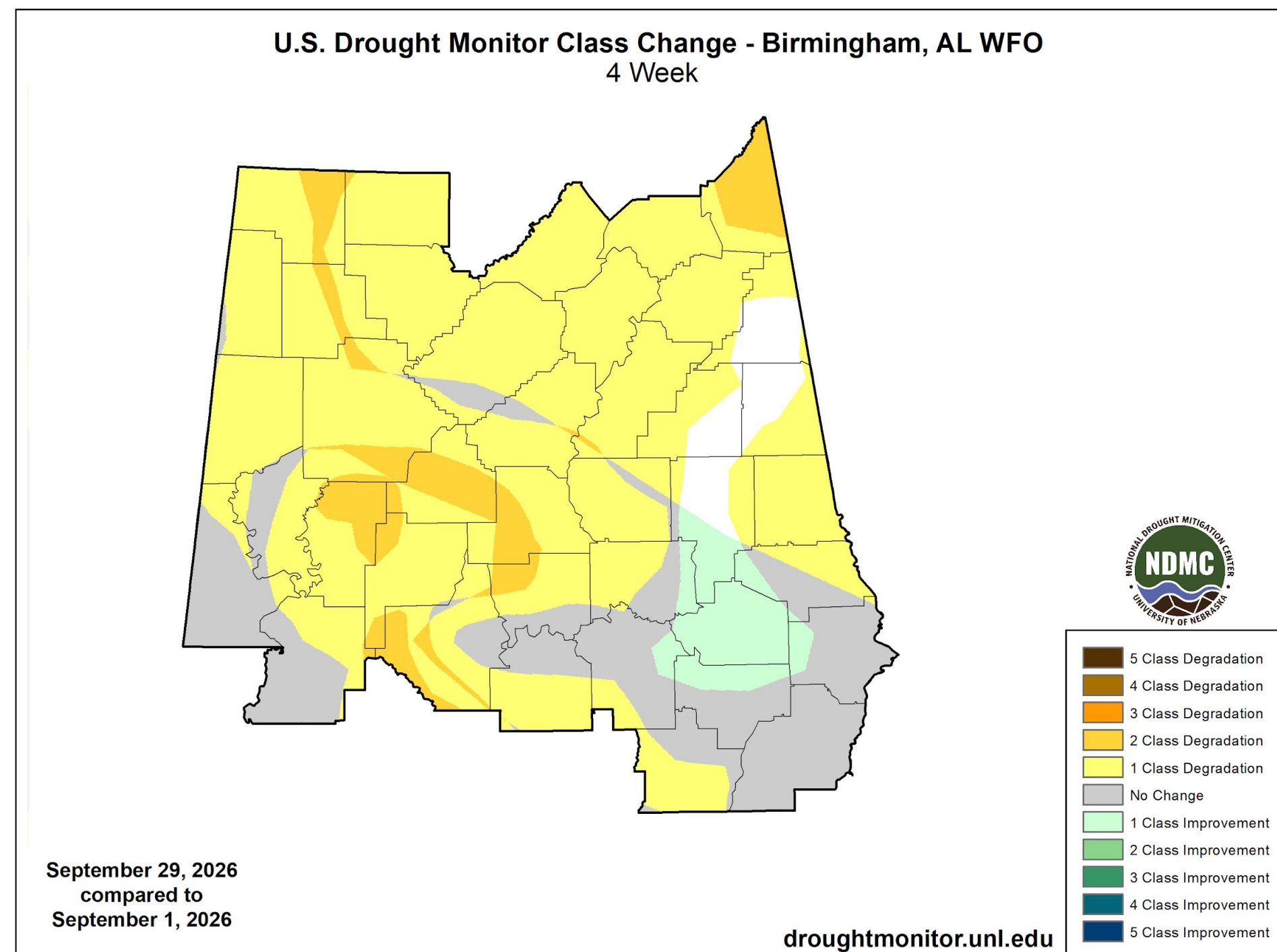


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

October 1, 2026
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Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Central Alabama

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: About two-thirds of the area has seen drought intensification over the past month.
 - No Change: Primarily in the southeast and southwest counties.
 - Drought Improvement: A small area along the southern Tallapoosa basin.



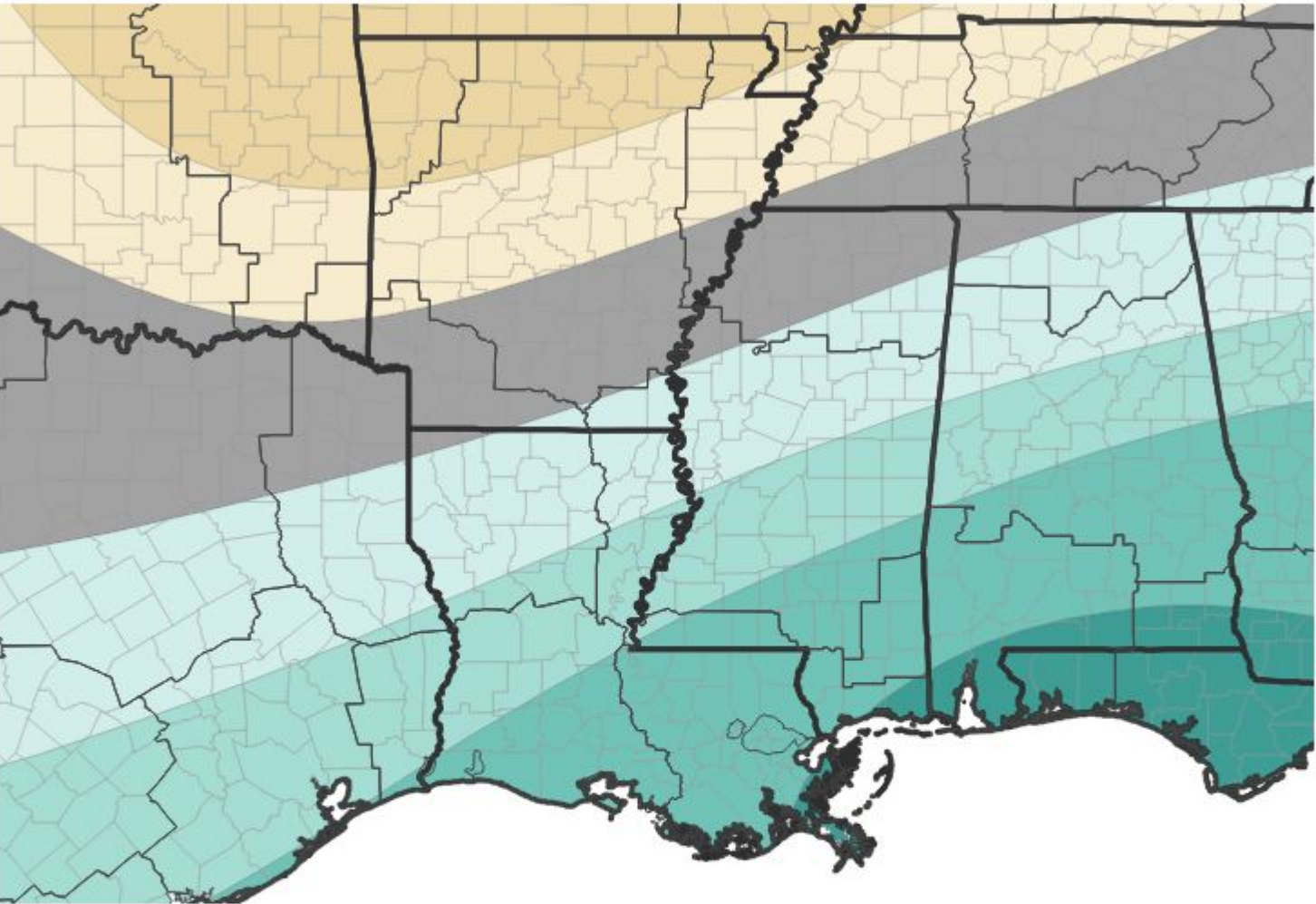


Precipitation and Temperatures

October 1, 2026
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6 to 10 day Outlooks

6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook for October 6, 2026-October 10, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

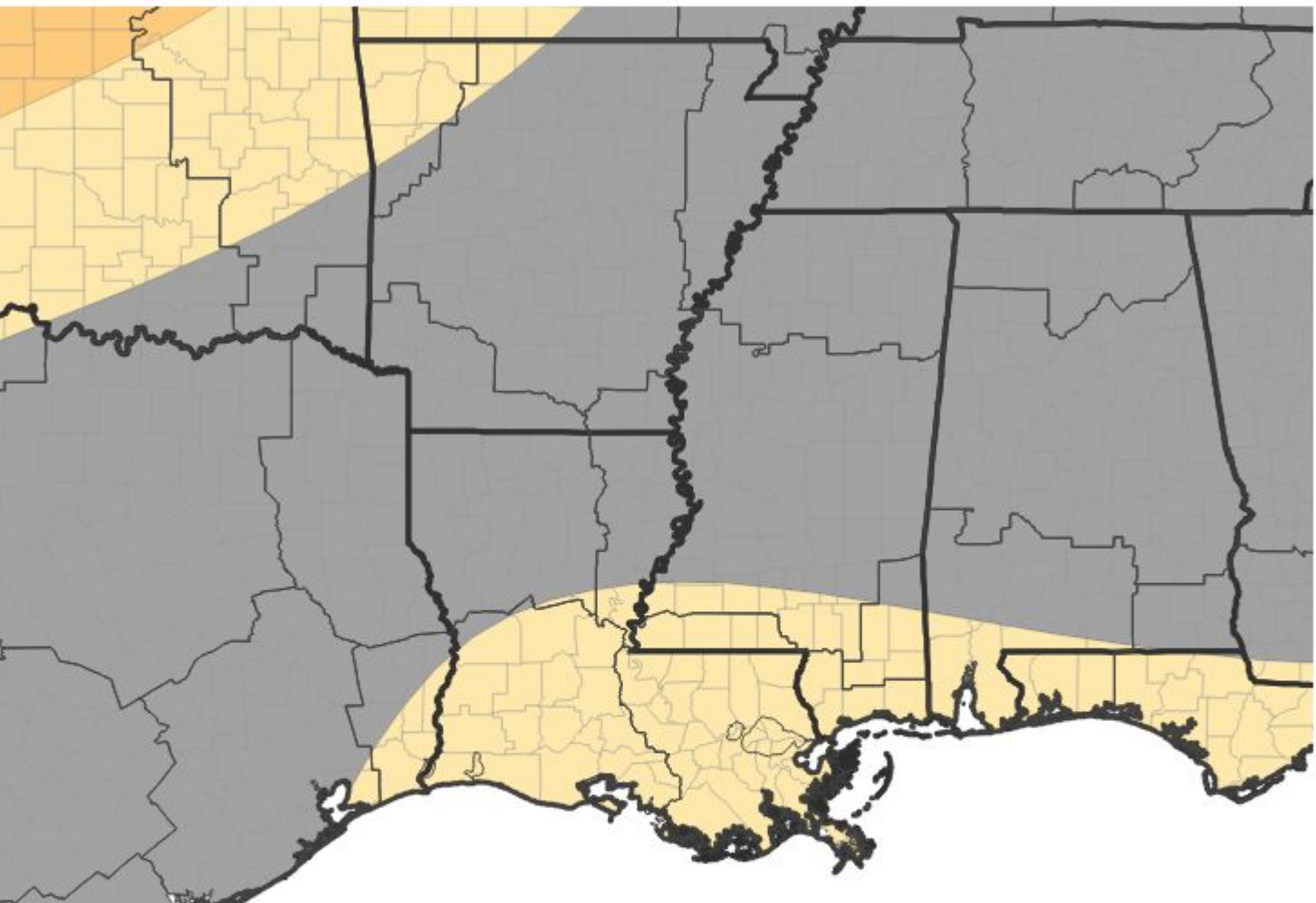


Near-Normal Conditions

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

Last Updated: 09/30/26

6-10 Day Temperature Outlook for October 6, 2026-October 10, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

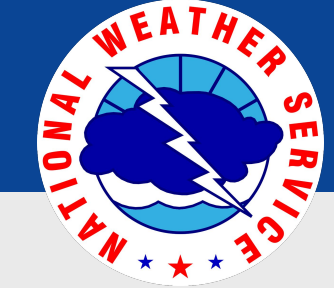


Near-Normal Conditions

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

Last Updated: 09/30/26





Summary of Impacts

October 1, 2026
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Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- The lack of any significant rainfall events over the past several few weeks has caused much of Central Alabama's water table and soil moisture levels to decline. Streams and rivers are experiencing low flow rates and stages.

Agricultural Impacts

- Many areas within the D3 and D2 designations are reporting dry ponds and creek beds for watering cattle. Very dry conditions are also impacting the ability to grow and harvest hay.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Several wildfires have been reported around the area. These numbers have increased over the past couple of weeks.

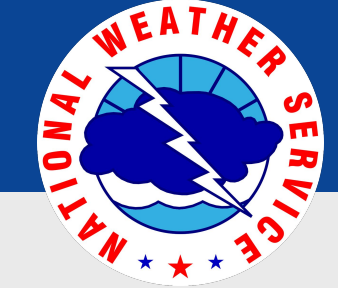
Other Impacts

- None

Drought Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for potential mitigation information.





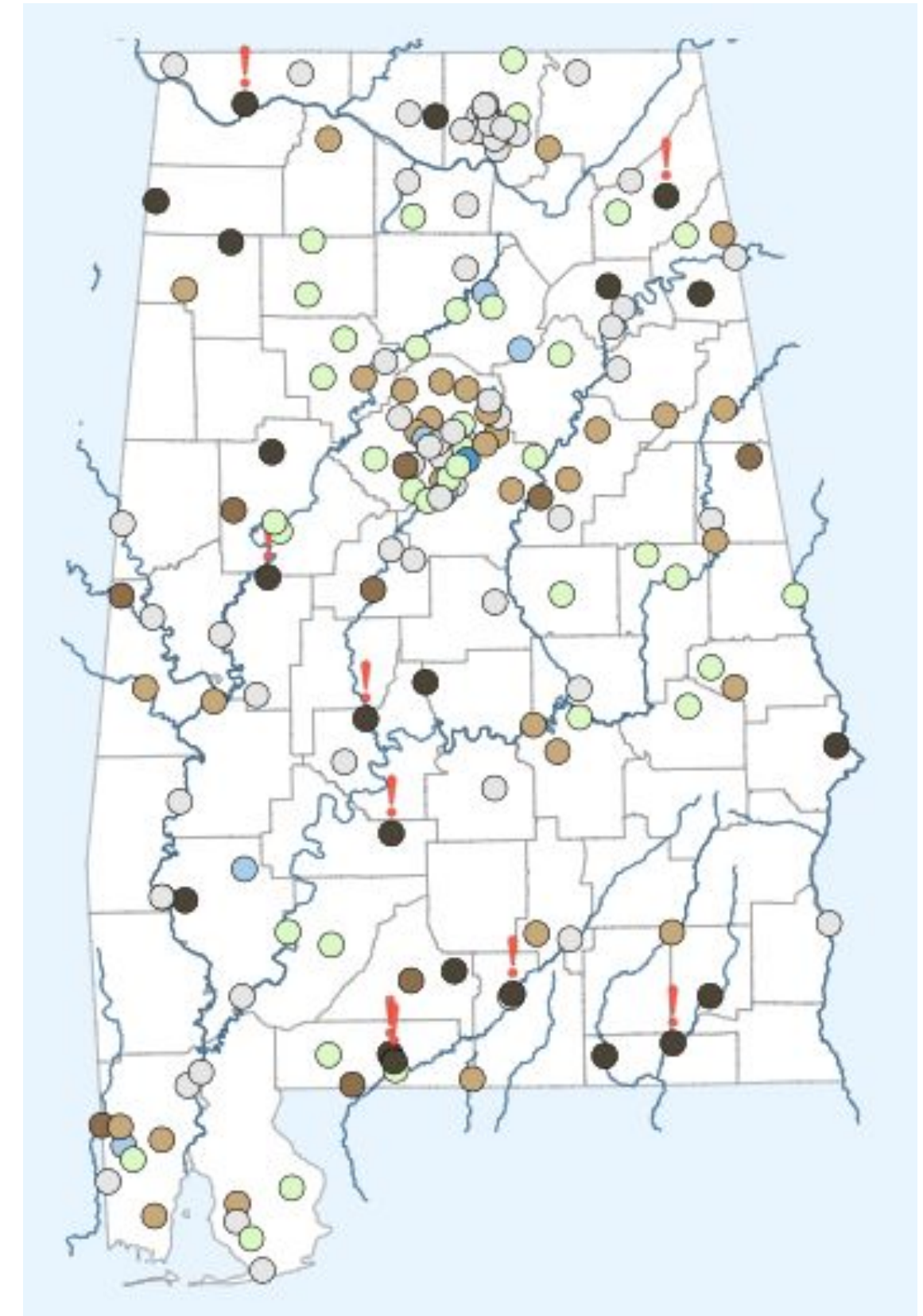
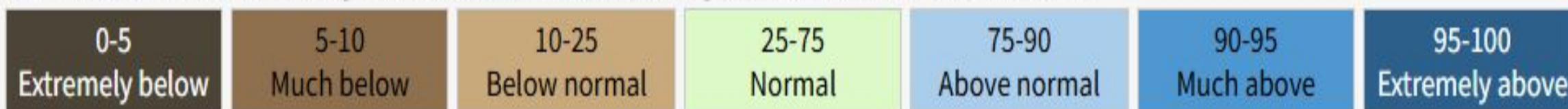
Hydrologic Conditions & Impacts

October 1, 2026
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- Many stream gage locations are now within the zero to 25 percentile range. These numbers continue to decline as rainfall deficits climb.
- Additional information can be found here:
 - <https://waterdata.usgs.gov/state/Alabama/>

Current condition estimate

The condition estimate is based on the latest continuous data value recorded in relation to historic daily averages expressed as percentiles. The percentiles show how a value relates to all the other values for a given day of the year and indicate what percentage of days have an average (mean) value less than the latest recorded value. Extreme conditions are indicated when the latest continuous data value is outside of the percentile range of historic daily averages, meaning current conditions are above the highest or below the lowest daily average ever recorded for this day of the year.

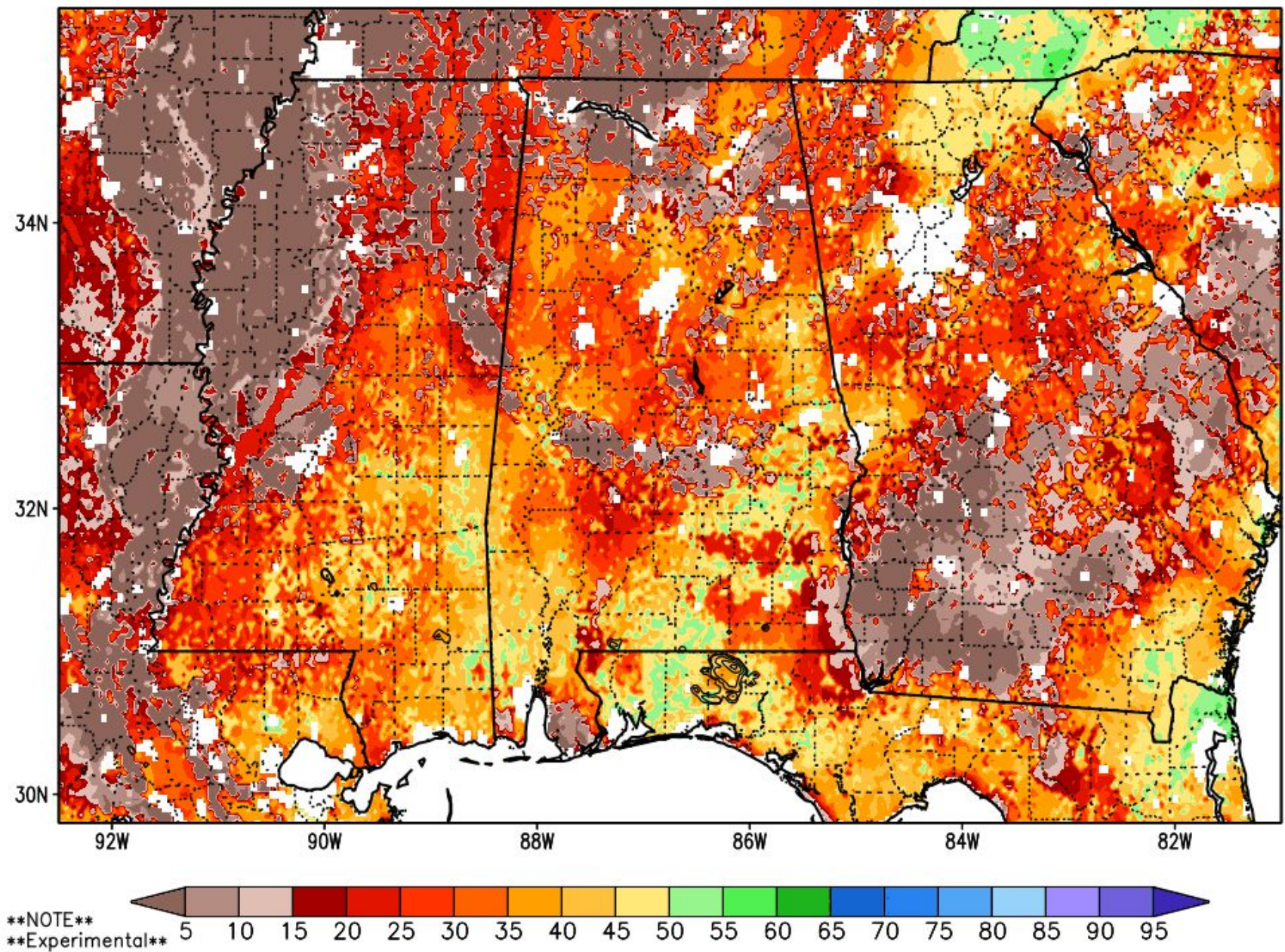




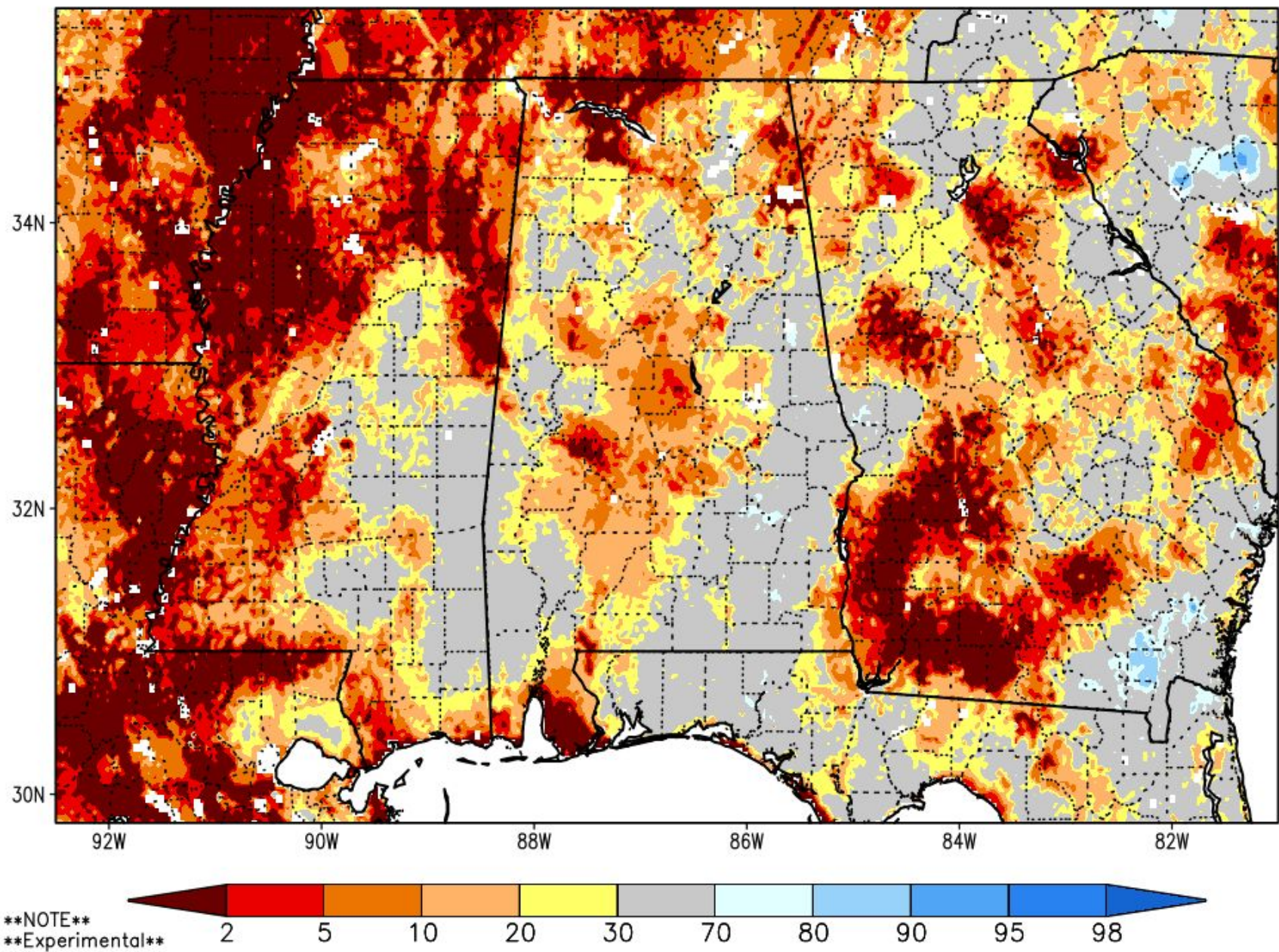
Agricultural Impacts

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0–100 cm Relative Soil Moisture (available water; %) valid 00z 01 Oct 2026
Precipitation in previous hour (1,2,5,10,15,20,25 mm contours)



SPoRT-LIS 0–100 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 01 Oct 2026



- Soil moisture profiles that reach down to 100 cm are showing very dry conditions with the percentiles matching up well with the D3 and D2 areas.



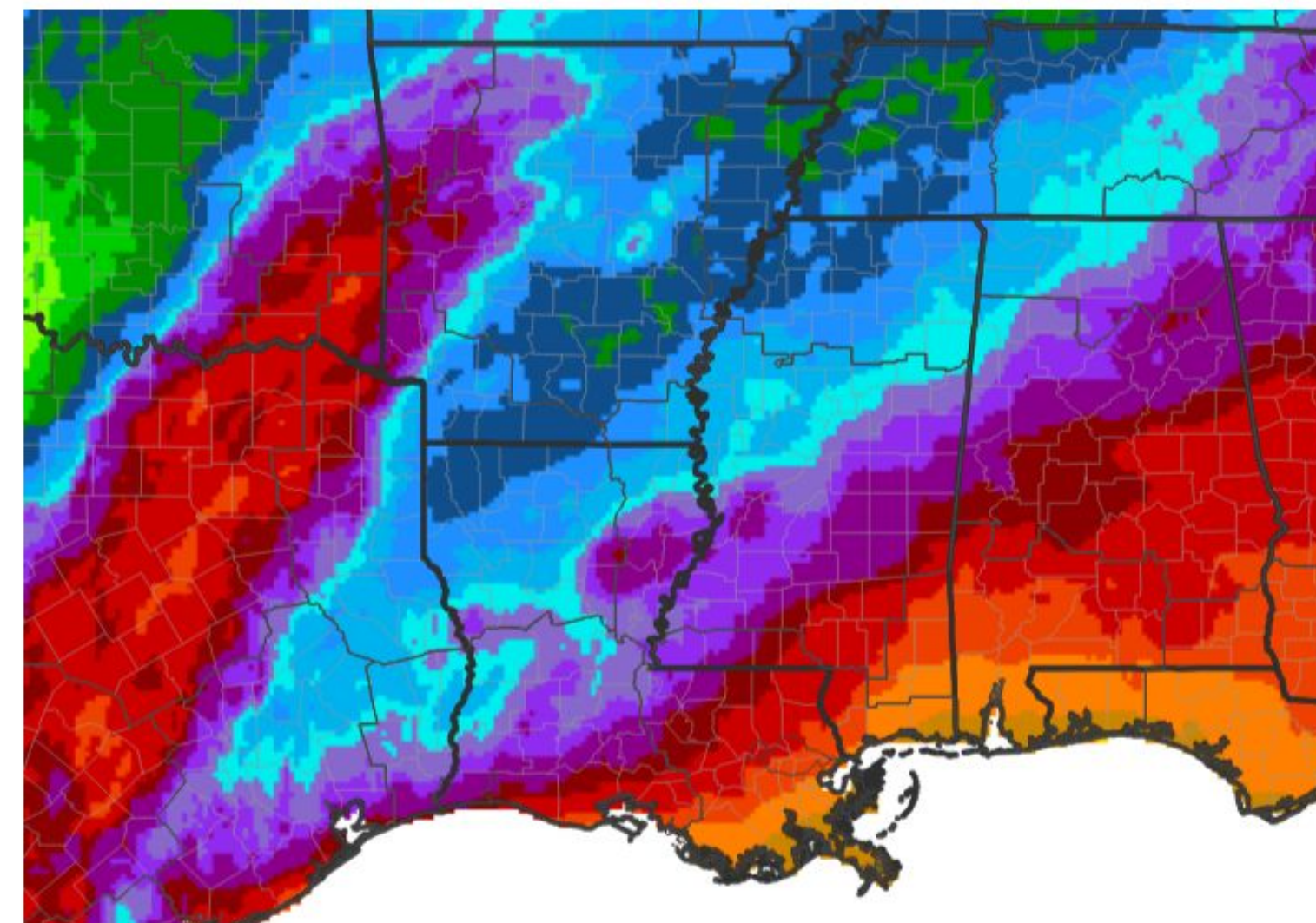


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

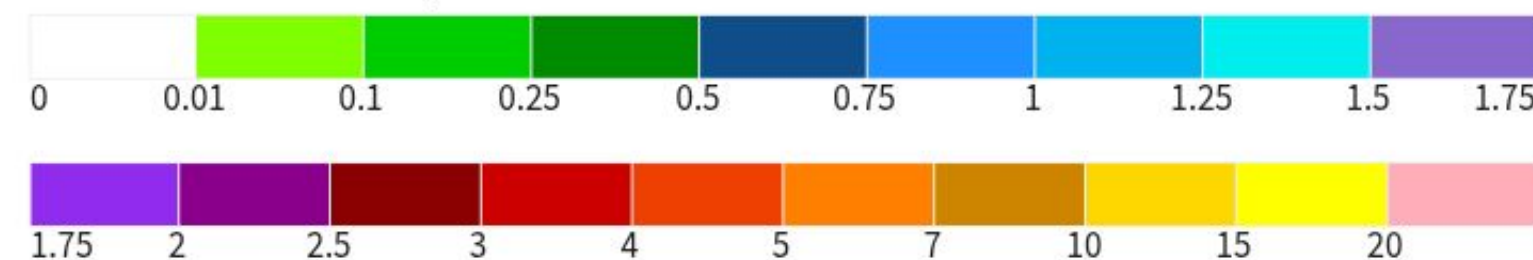
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- The next 7 days originally looked wetter than average across the area but the latest trends are coming in much drier. The current outlook map, on the right, is wetter than the current trends. The heavier rain amounts will likely be limited to the locations along and near the coast with less accumulation in the northern two thirds of the state.
- Typically, Central Alabama should average around 0.85 inches per week in October. A lot of the averages are highly dependent on tropical moisture. October is typically the driest month of the year if it goes without any tropical influence.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October 1, 2026–October 8, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/01/26



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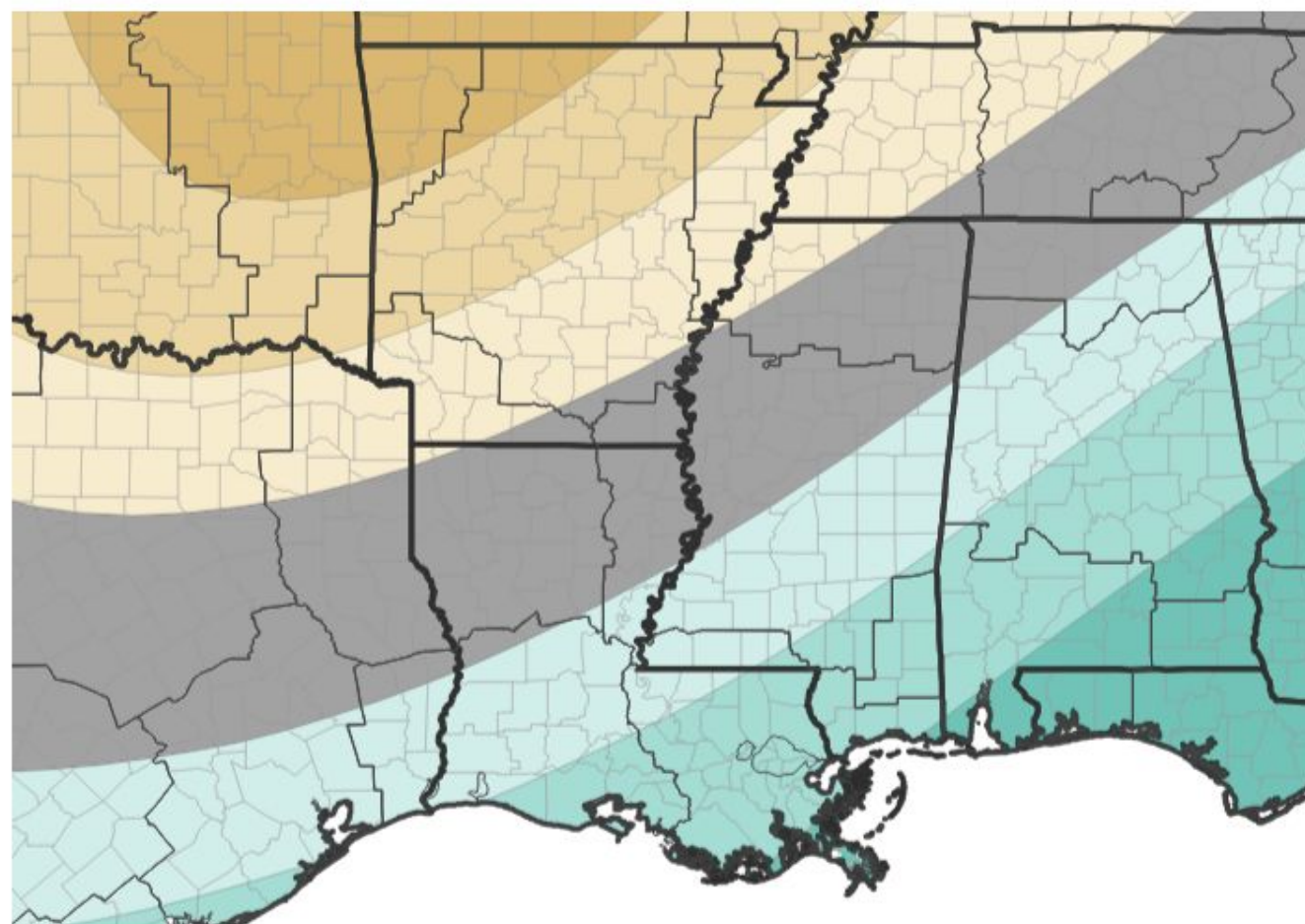
Two Week Outlook

October 1, 2026
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The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- The two week outlook, beginning October 8th and valid through October 14th, shows near normal temperatures are likely.
- Rainfall probabilities during this same time-frame are calling for near normal to above normal rainfall as you cross the area from the northwest to southeast. This increase in precipitation chances is highly dependent on the possible influence of tropical moisture during this timeframe.

8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook for October 8, 2026–October 14, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

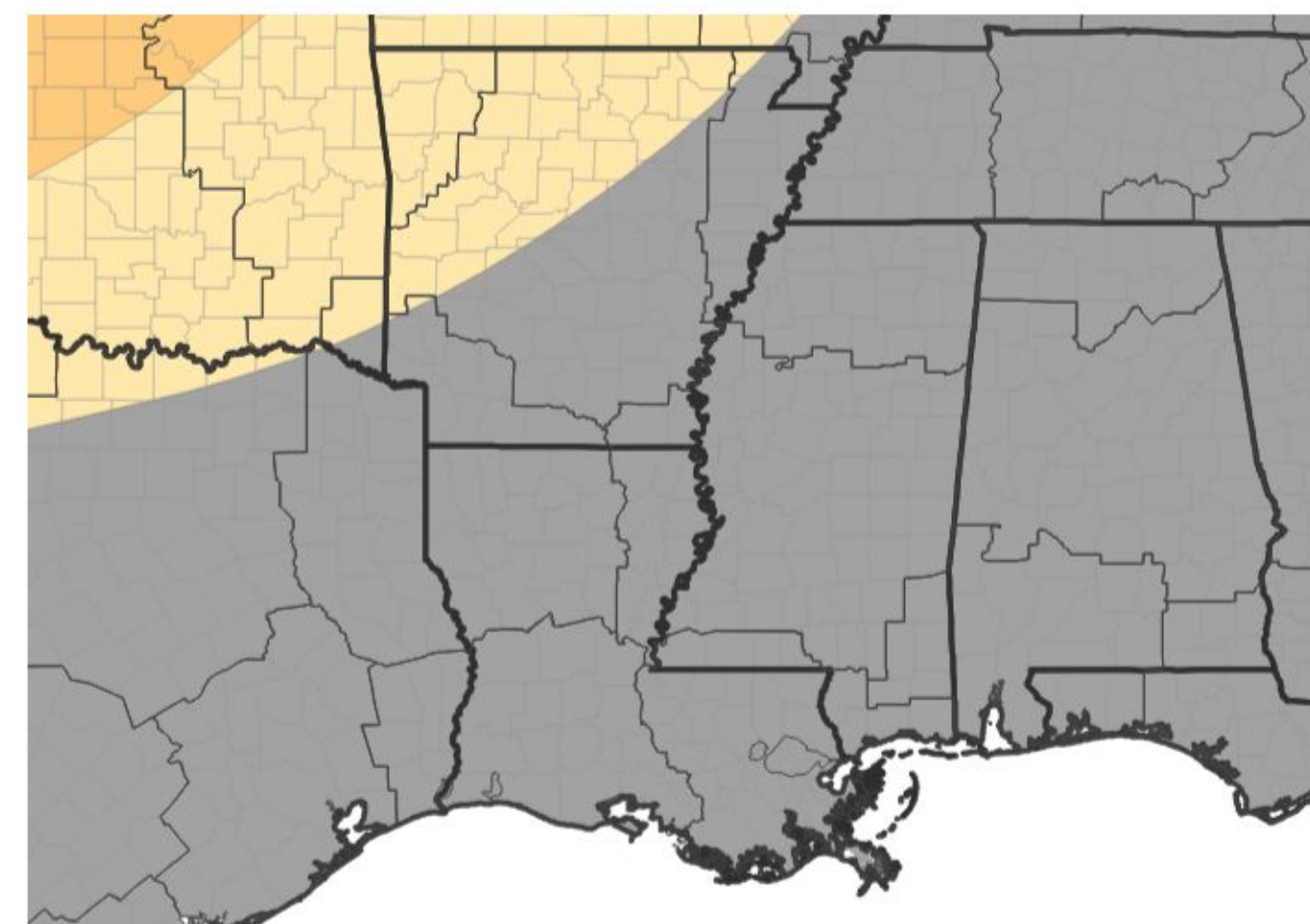


■ Near-Normal Conditions

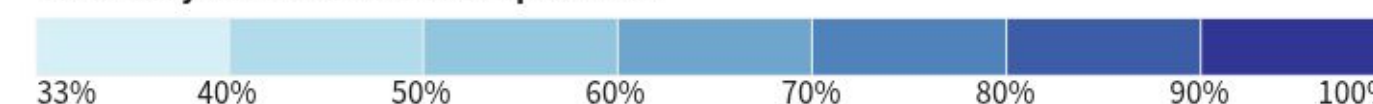
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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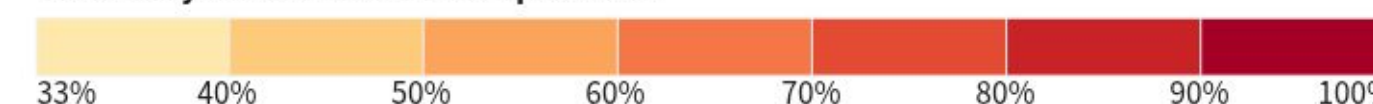
8-14 Day Temperature Outlook for October 8, 2026–October 14, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



■ Near-Normal Conditions

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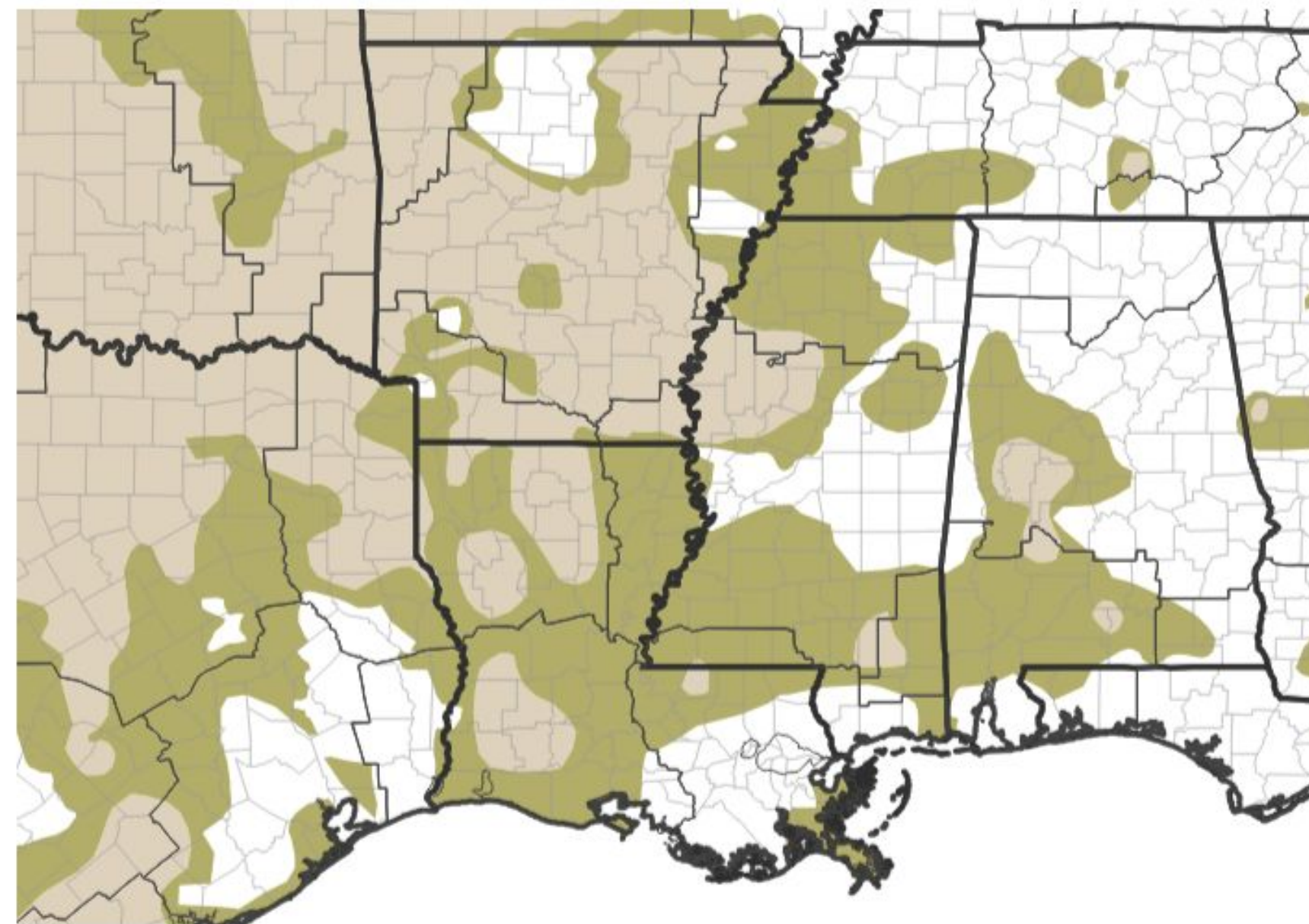
Drought Outlook

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

- The latest seasonal outlook released by the CPC on September 17th and valid through December 31st is showing an end to almost all of the current drought within the state.

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



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

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