Drought Information Statement for Deep South Texas

Valid September 18, 2026

Issued By: NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX
Contact Information: sr-bro.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated around October 2nd, 2026 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/bro/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates for regional drought status updates

- **Exceptional Drought Conditions Are Now Being Observed Across Portions of Kenedy, Willacy, and Cameron Counties**

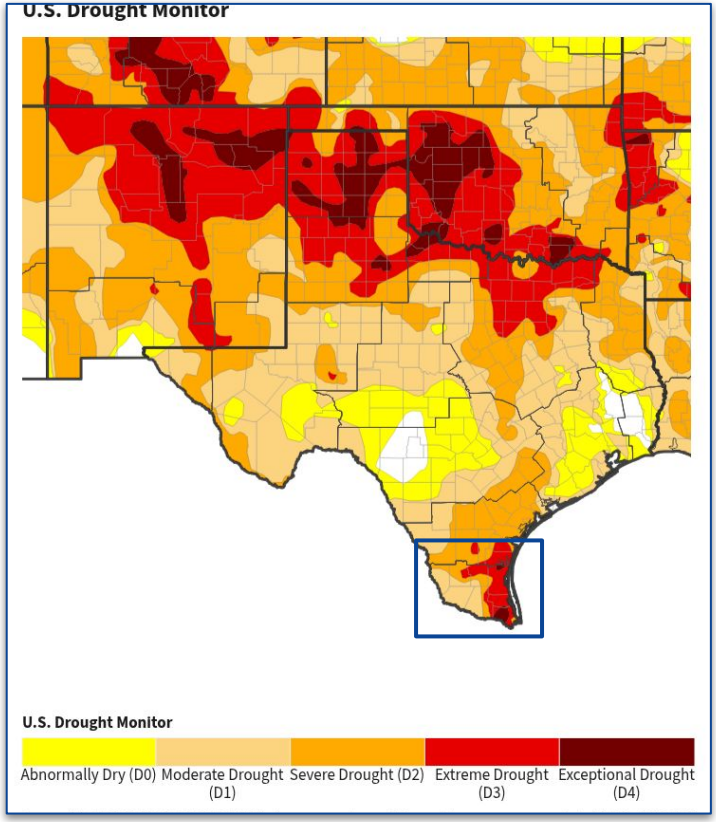
- **Moderate to Extreme Drought Conditions Are Being Observed Across the Remainder of Deep South Texas**

U.S. Drought Monitor

[Latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) | [Latest Drought Monitor for Deep South Texas](#)

Drought Intensity and Extent

- **Exceptional Drought (D4)** conditions are now being observed across nearly 6% of Deep South Texas, including portions of northern Kenedy, southern Willacy, and central to western Cameron counties.
- **Extreme Drought (D3)** conditions are now being observed across over 34% of Deep South Texas, including eastern Jim Hogg, northern Brooks, most of Kenedy, the remainder of Willacy, eastern Hidalgo, and both western and central-east Cameron counties.
- **Severe Drought (D2)** conditions now being observed across over 20% of Deep South Texas, including northern Zapata, most of Jim Hogg, northwestern and southern Brooks, western Kenedy, eastern Hidalgo, and southeastern Cameron counties.
- **Moderate Drought (D1)** conditions are being observed across the remaining nearly 39% of Deep South Texas, including most of Zapata, all of Starr, southern Jim Hogg, southwestern Brooks, and western to central Hidalgo counties.

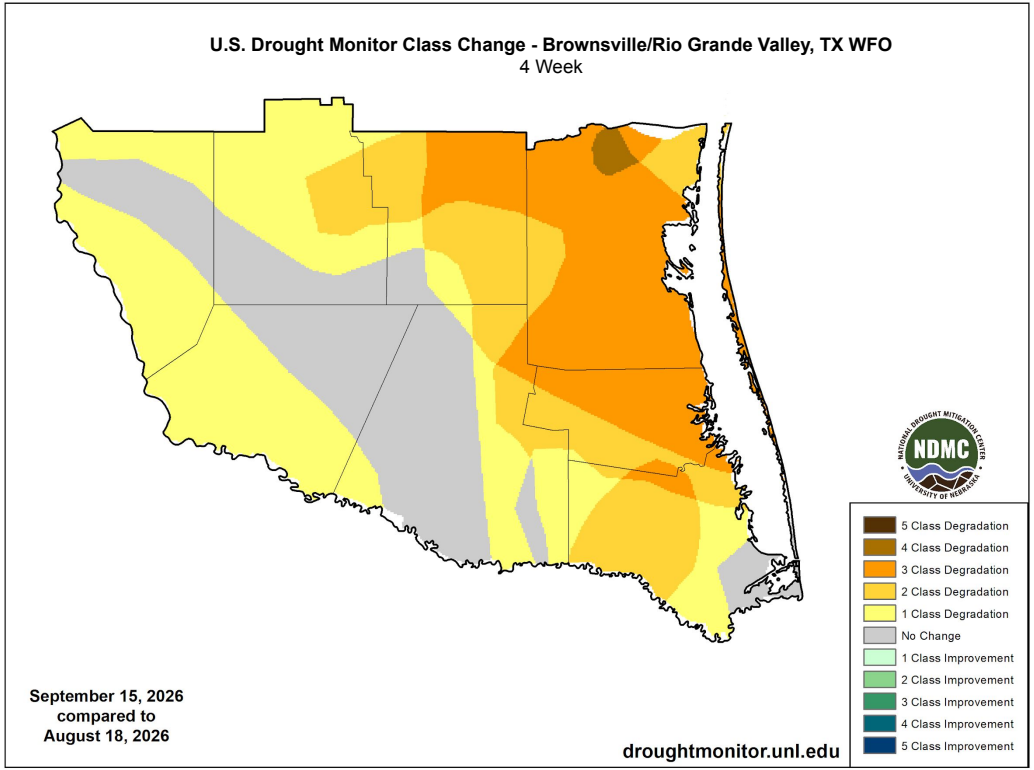


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Latest U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change | Latest 4 Week Change Map for Deep South Texas

Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change

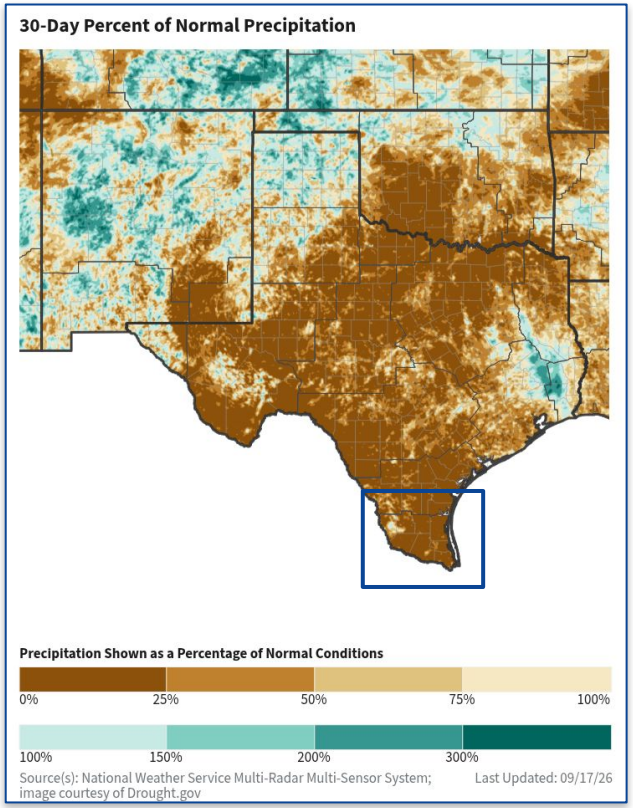
- In the past 4 weeks, there has been a **4 class degradation** across northern Kenedy County.
- In the past 4 weeks, there has been a **3 class degradation** across northeastern Brooks, most of Kenedy, northeastern Hidalgo, most of Willacy, and northern Cameron counties.
- In the past 4 weeks, there has been a **2 class degradation** across portions of eastern Jim Hogg, most of Brooks, western and northeastern Kenedy, northeastern Hidalgo, southern Willacy, and central to northern Cameron counties.
- In the past 4 weeks, there has been a **1 class degradation** across most of Zapata, southern Starr, most of Jim Hogg, western and southern Brooks, eastern Hidalgo, southwestern Willacy, and both western and eastern Cameron counties.

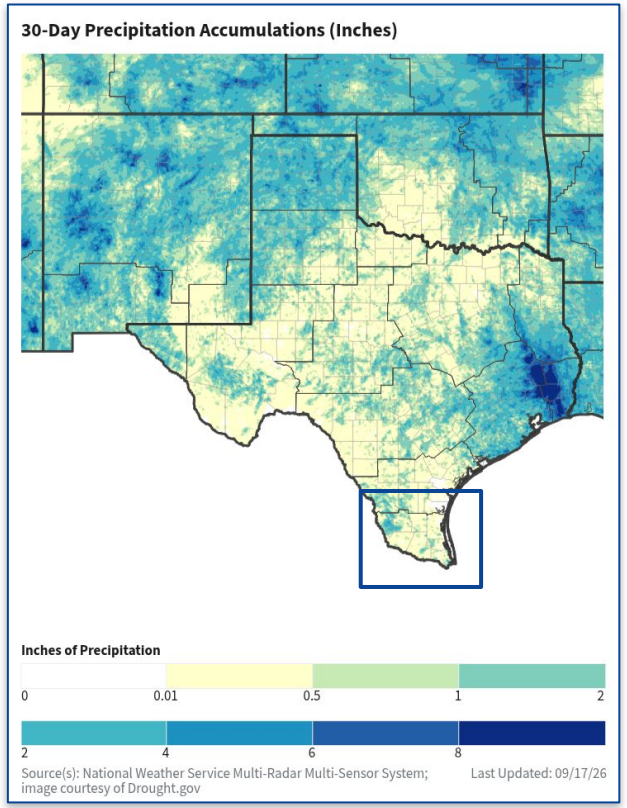


Precipitation

National Water Prediction Services

- Over the past 30 days, most of Deep South Texas has received between 5-25% of normal rainfall, with portions of central to southern Zapata and western Jim Hogg receiving between 50-110% of normal rainfall.
- Over the past 90 days, most of Deep South Texas has received between 25-50% of normal rainfall, with portions of Zapata, eastern Jim Hogg, southwestern Brooks, northeastern Starr, and northwestern Hidalgo receiving between 75-125% of normal rainfall.

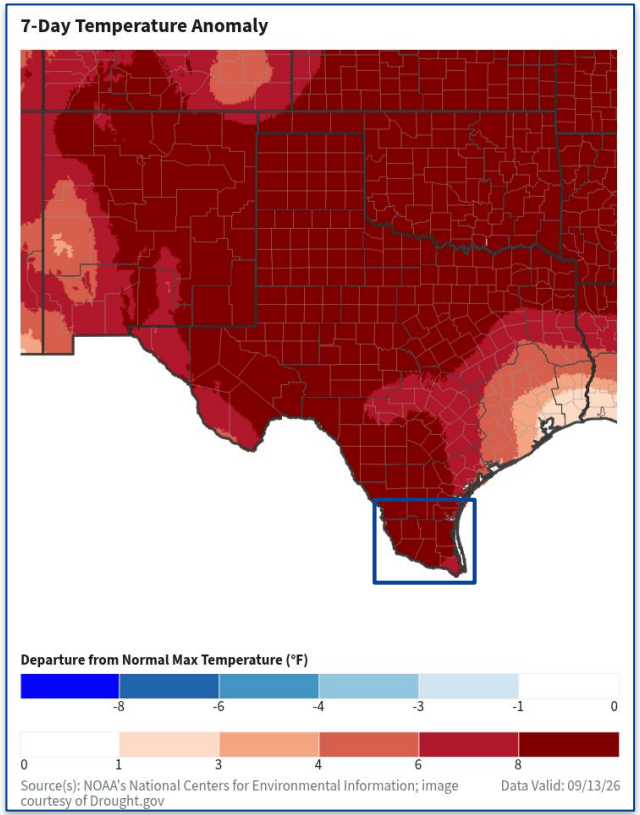


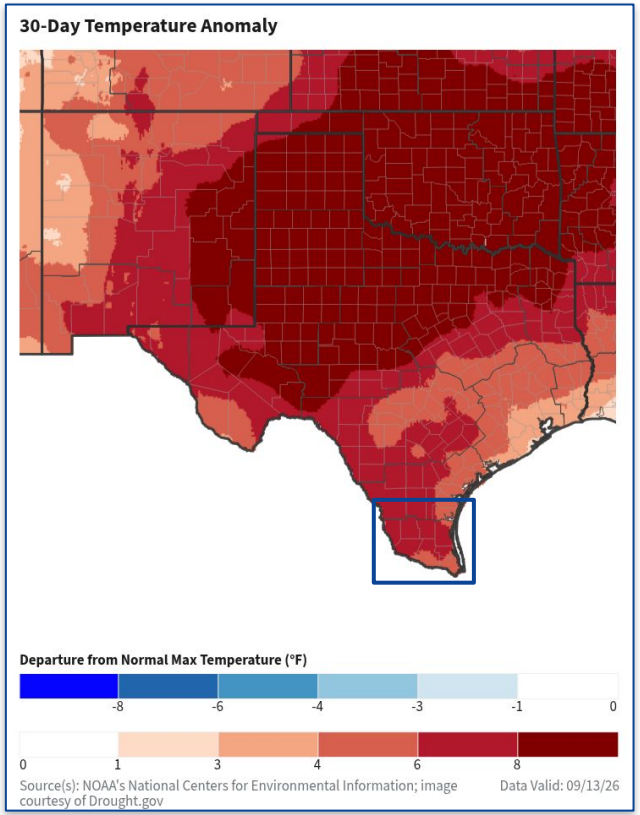


Temperature

Daily Climate Summary: BRO | HRL | MFE

- Average Maximum Temperatures over the past 30 days across Deep South Texas have ranged **above normal,** at generally 100-105 degrees, with 95-100 along the lower Texas coast.
- Average Minimum Temperatures over the past 30 days across Deep South Texas have ranged generally **near normal,** between 75-80 degrees.
- Overall, high and low temperatures are expected to remain **above normal** across Deep South Texas through at least Wednesday, September 23rd, with some relief possible late next week.





Summary of Impacts

View or Submit: Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) | Drought Impacts Reporter

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows across South and Deep South Texas have dropped to below and well-below normal due to the lack of additional rainfall into mid-September.
- Texas water share values have fallen to 38.9% at Amistad and 20.8% at Falcon Lake.

Agricultural Impacts

- Please see the latest Crop and Weather Report from Texas A&M AgriLife.
- Soil moistures and crop moisture indices are being reported as well-below normal across most of Deep South Texas, especially across the Rio Grande Valley.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Above normal wildland fire potential is expected across all of Deep South Texas through the remainder of September, with near normal wildland fire potential October through December.
- Burn bans remain in effect for all of Deep South Texas except for Kenedy and Cameron counties.

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.
- TCEQ Known Municipality Restrictions.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

USGS National Water Dashboard | Current Amistad Reservoir Data | Current Falcon Lake Reservoir Data

- Streamflows across South and Deep South Texas have dropped to **below and well-below normal** due to the lack of rainfall through mid-September.
- Texas water share values have fallen to 38.9% at Amistad.
- Texas water share values have fallen to 20.8% at Falcon Lake.

Reservoir	Pool Elevation* (ft)	Current Elevation* (ft)	Percent Full*
Amistad	1117.00	1056.38	38.9%
Falcon Lake	301.20	260.98	20.8%

Percent Full*	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Amistad	38.3%	29.4%	35.7%
Falcon Lake	24.5%	25.3%	15.7%

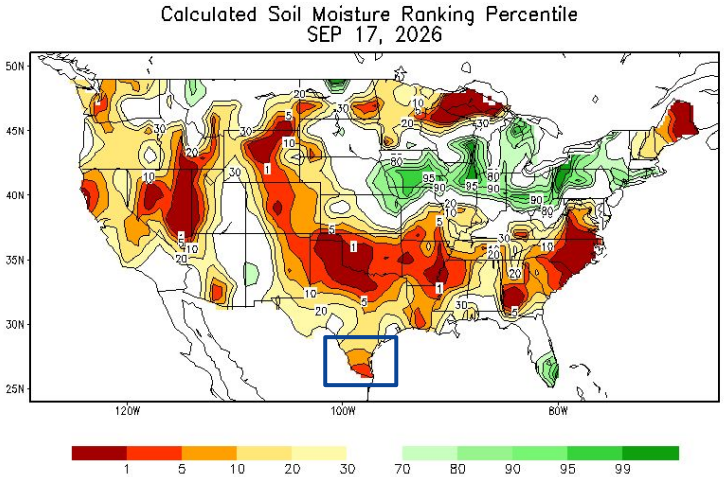
TWDB Reservoir conditions as of September 18, 2026

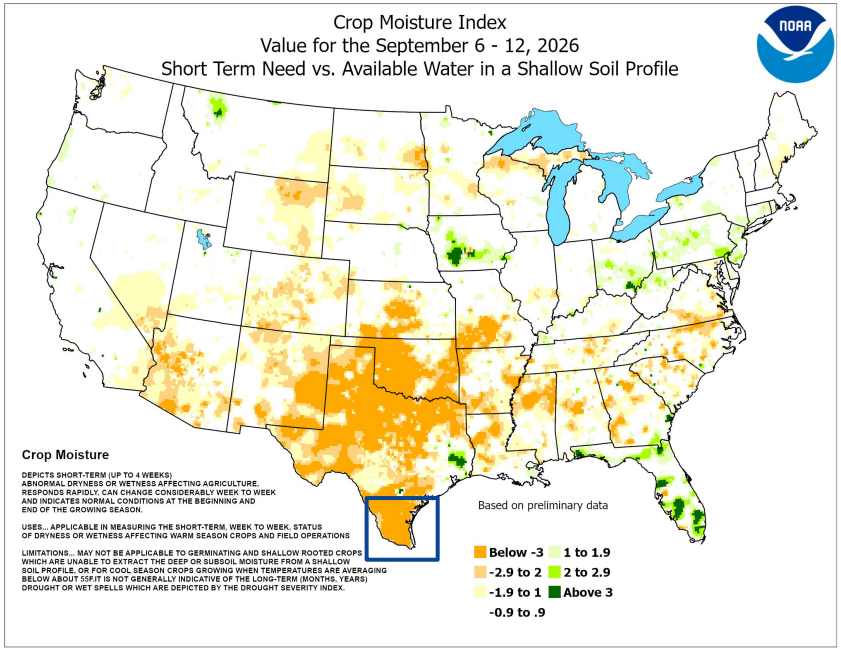
* = Current Texas Water Share

Agricultural Impacts

[Latest Crop and Weather Report from Texas A&M AgriLife](#) | [Climate Prediction Center (CPC) Drought Page](#)

- Soil moistures are being reported as well-below normal across Deep South Texas, especially across the Rio Grande Valley.
- Crop moisture indices continue to be well-below normal across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley.

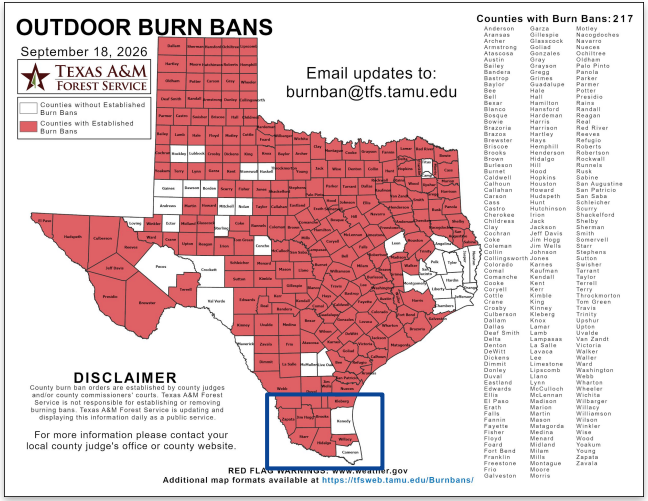


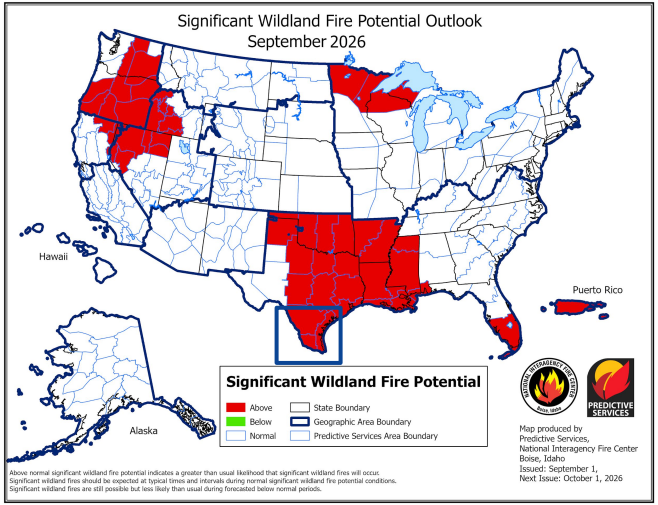


Fire Hazard Impacts

National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) Wildfire Potential Outlooks

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index values generally range from 500-800 across Deep South Texas, with central Zapata and southwestern Jim Hogg KBDI values ranging between 400-600.
- Above normal wildland fire potential is expected across all of Deep South Texas through the remainder of September, with near normal wildland fire potential October through December.
- Burn bans are in effect for all of Deep South Texas, except for Kenedy and Cameron counties.





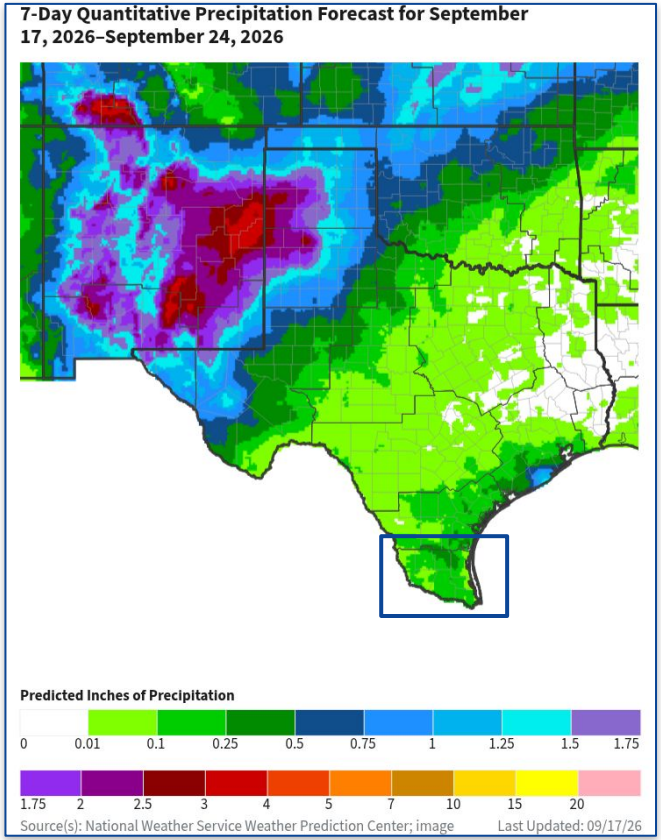
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

[CPC 6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook](#) | [WPC Precipitation Forecasts](#)

- There is a low to medium (20-40%) chance of sea breeze showers and thunderstorms each afternoon through the forecast period, mainly this afternoon and Tuesday, September 22nd through Thursday, September 24th.

- Early estimated precipitation of 0.10 to 0.50 of an inch is expected across most of Deep South Texas, especially in typical sea breeze locations, generally along and east of US-281/I-69C through Thursday, September 24th. A few locations may briefly receive up to 1-2 inches where any showers can persist or consistently develop day to day into late next week.

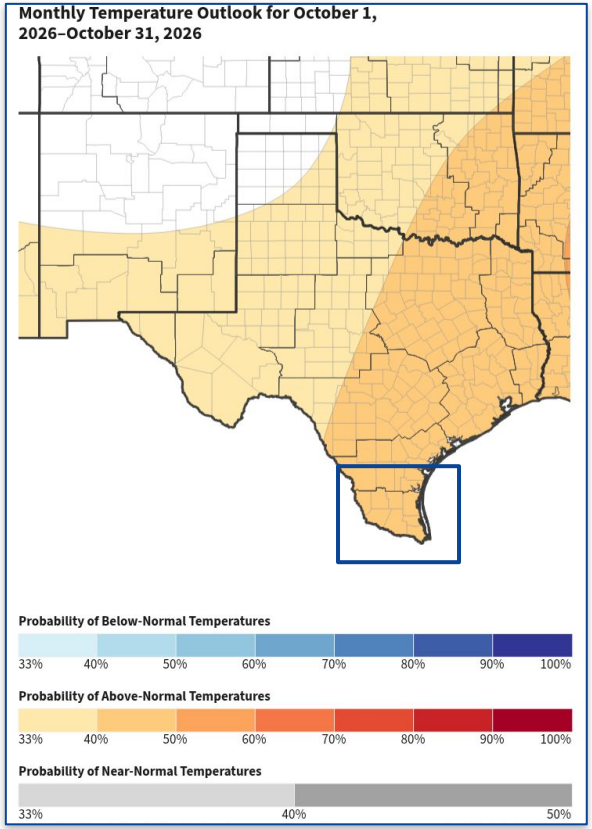
- Overall, through Sunday, September 27th, there is a **medium (40-50%) chance of above normal rainfall** across Deep South Texas.

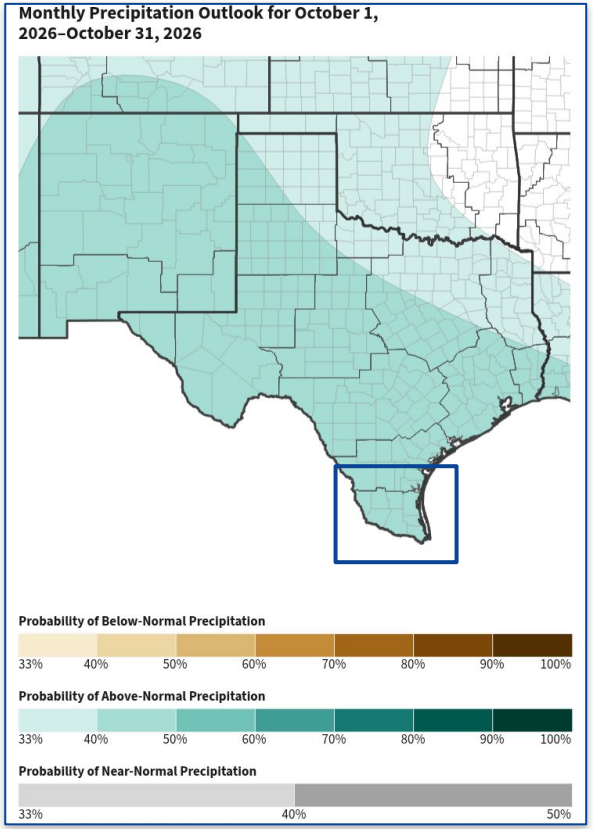


Long-Range Outlooks

CPC Seasonal Temperature Outlook | CPC Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

- There is a **medium (40-50%) chance of above normal temperatures** across Deep South Texas through October.
- There is **a medium (40-50%) chance of above normal rainfall** across Deep South Texas through October.
- Through December, there is **an equal chance of above or below normal temperatures** and a **medium (40-50%) chance of above normal rainfall** across Deep South Texas.





Drought Outlook

Climate Prediction Center | Monthly Drought Outlook | Seasonal Drought Outlook

- **Drought is expected to persist** through September across most of Deep South Texas, including most of Zapata, Jim Hogg, western Brooks, eastern Kenedy, northeastern Starr, most of Hidalgo, Willacy, and Cameron counties.
- **Drought is expected to end** across most of Zapata, Starr, western Hidalgo, southern Jim Hogg, and southwestern Brooks counties through December.
- **Drought is expected to improve** across northern Zapata, northern Jim Hogg, eastern Hidalgo, most of Brooks, and all of Kenedy, Willacy, and Cameron counties through December.