Drought Information Statement for Deep South Texas

Valid December 20, 2025

Issued By: NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX

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

- This product will be updated around January 6, 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

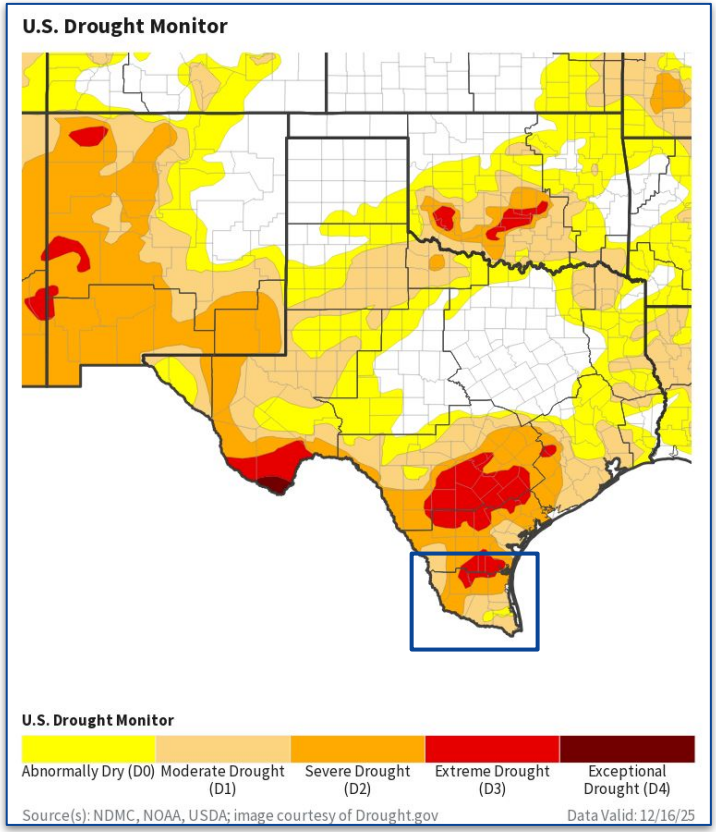
- **Extreme Drought Conditions Continue Across Portions of Jim Hogg, Brooks, and Kenedy Counties**
- **Moderate to Severe Drought Conditions Continue Across Most of Deep South Texas**

U.S. Drought Monitor

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

Drought Intensity and Extent

- **Extreme Drought (D3)** conditions are being observed across over 8% of Deep South Texas, including northeastern Jim Hogg, northern Brooks, and northwestern Kenedy counties.
- **Severe Drought (D2)** conditions are being observed across nearly 45% of Deep South Texas, including most of Jim Hogg, Starr, Brooks, southern to eastern Zapata, northern Kenedy, and extreme northern Hidalgo counties.
- **Moderate Drought (D1)** conditions are being observed across over 40% of Deep South Texas, including the remainder of Starr and Kenedy counties, as well as most of Zapata, Hidalgo, Willacy, and Cameron counties.
- **Abnormally Dry (D0)** conditions are being observed across the remaining 6% of Deep South Texas, including the remainder of Hidalgo, Willacy, and Cameron counties in the Rio Grande Valley.

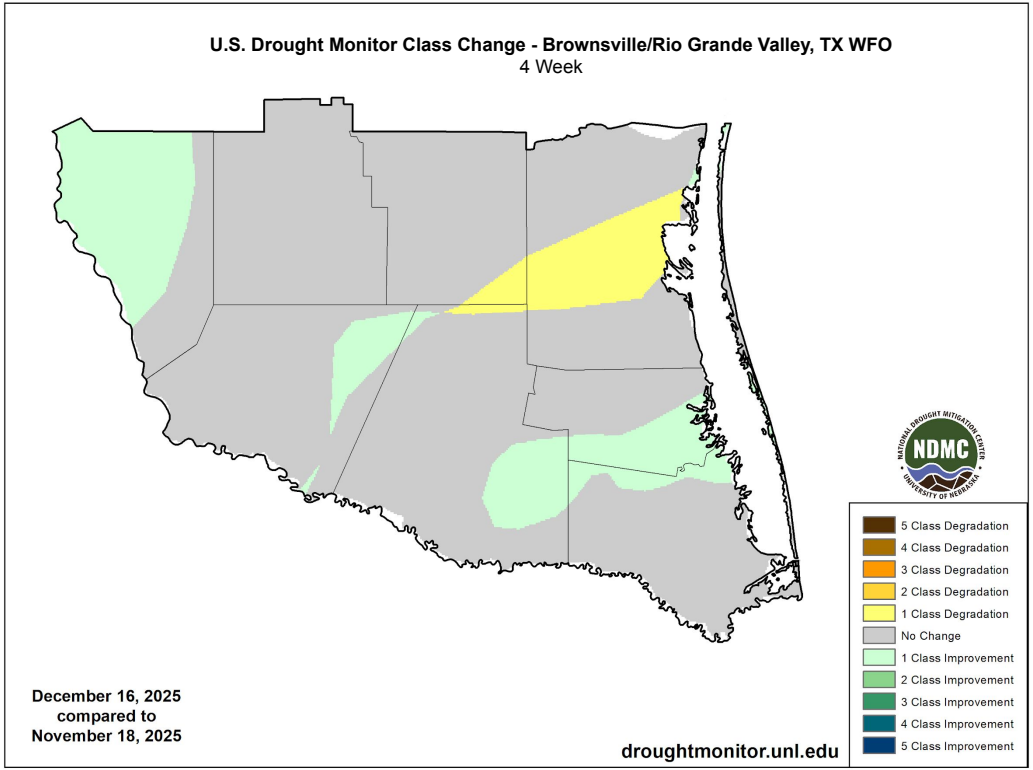


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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 **1 class improvement** to drought conditions across most of Zapata, northeastern Starr, eastern Hidalgo, southern Willacy, and northern Cameron counties.
- In the past 4 weeks, there has been **no change** to drought conditions across most of Deep South Texas.
- In the past 4 weeks, there has been a **1 class degradation** across southeastern Brooks, northern Hidalgo, and central Kenedy counties.

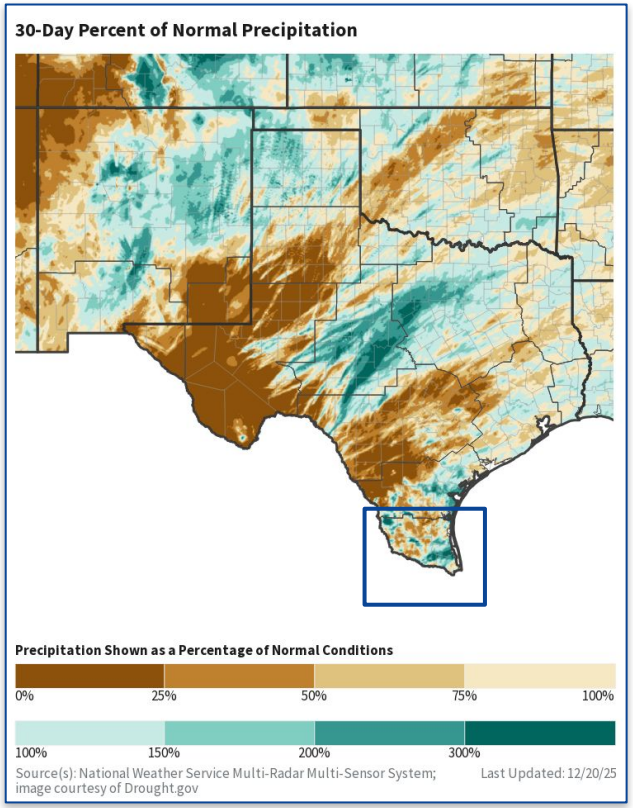


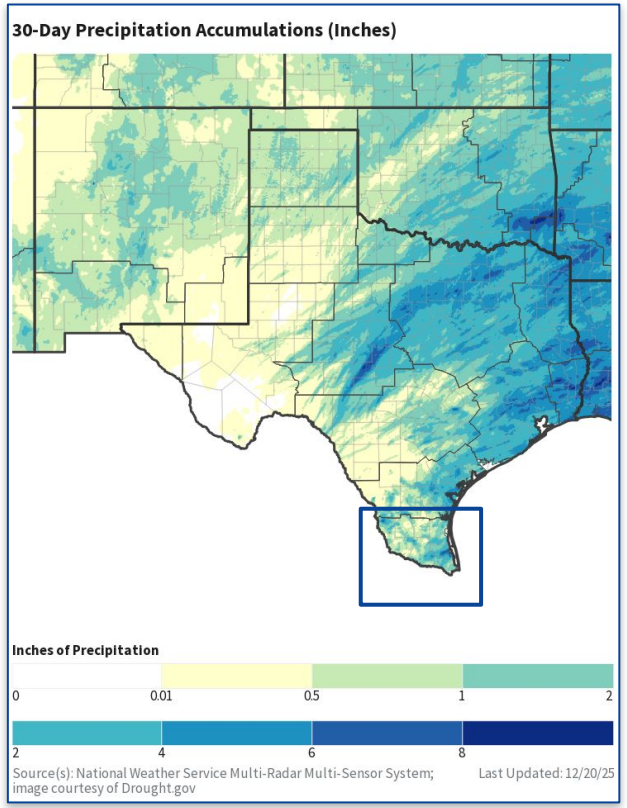
Precipitation

National Water Prediction Services

- Over the past 30 days, most of Jim Hogg, Brooks, Starr, western Kenedy, southern Zapata, western Hidalgo, and southeastern Cameron counties have received between 50-100% of normal rainfall, with northern Zapata, eastern Kenedy, northeastern Starr, most of Hidalgo, most of Cameron, and Willacy counties receiving between 100-400% of normal rainfall.

- Over the past 90 days, most of Deep South Texas has received between 25-90% of normal rainfall, with portions of northern Zapata and southeastern Willacy receiving between 90-150% of normal rainfall.

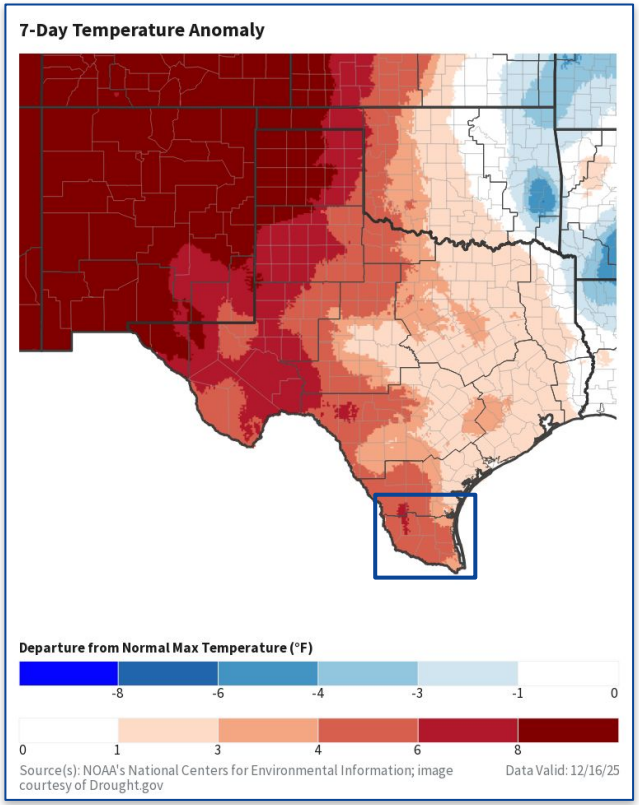


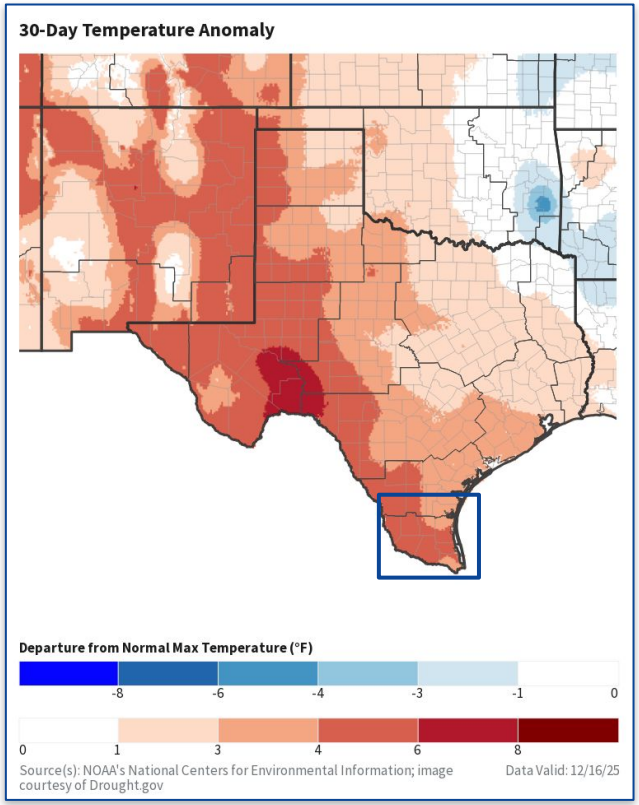


Temperature

Daily Climate Summary: BRO | HRL | MFE

- Average Maximum Temperatures over the past 30 days across Deep South Texas have ranged **near to above normal** between 70-80 degrees.
- Average Minimum Temperatures over the past 30 days across Deep South Texas have ranged generally **near to above normal** between 50-60 degrees.
- Overall, both maximum and minimum temperatures are expected to be **well-above normal** through Saturday, December 27th.





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows remain below normal into late December.
- Texas water share values have persisted near 35% at Amistad and have risen above 16% at Falcon Lake.

Agricultural Impacts

- Please see the latest Crop and Weather Report from Texas A&M AgriLife.
- Soil and crop moistures are below to well below normal across all of Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, especially across the brush country.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Normal wildland fire activity is expected through January 2026, with above normal wildland fire activity expected February and March 2026 for all of Deep South Texas.
- Burn bans remain in effect for all of Deep South Texas except Kenedy County.

Mitigation Actions

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

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

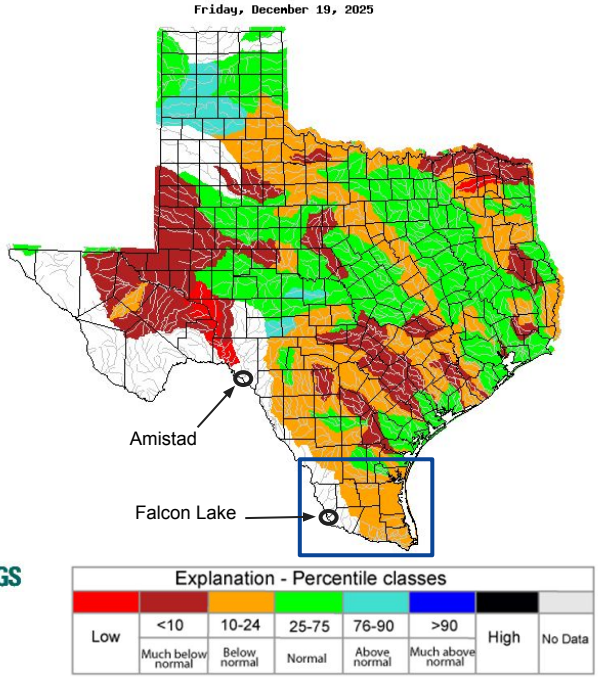
[Current Amistad Reservoir Data](#) | [Current Falcon Lake Reservoir Data](#)

- Streamflows over the past 7 days have remained **below normal** due to a lack of persistent rainfall.
- Most of the streamflow across Deep South Texas is **between the 10th and 24th percentile** for this time of year (orange shading on the map).
- Texas water share values have persisted near 35% at Amistad have risen to 16% at Falcon Lake, still near historic lows.

Reservoir	Pool Elevation* (ft)	Current Elevation* (ft)	Percent Full*
Amistad	1117.00	1055.20	34.6%
Falcon Lake	301.20	254.13	16.2%

Percent Full*	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Amistad	34.7%	35.7%	26.5%
Falcon Lake	15.1%	15.7%	13.3%

* = Current Texas Water Share

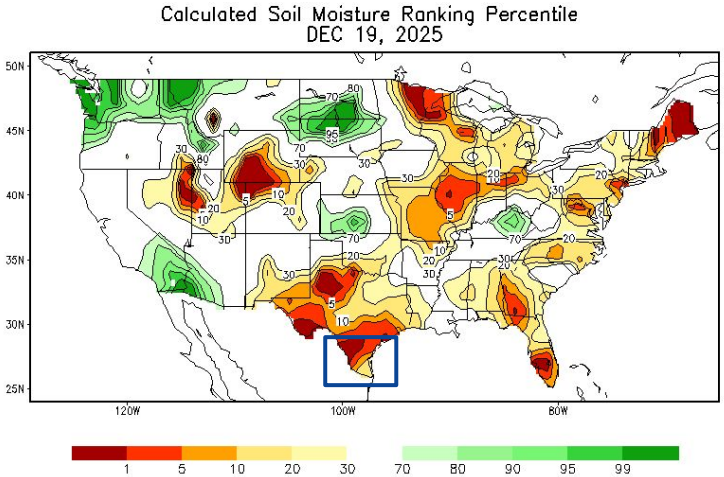


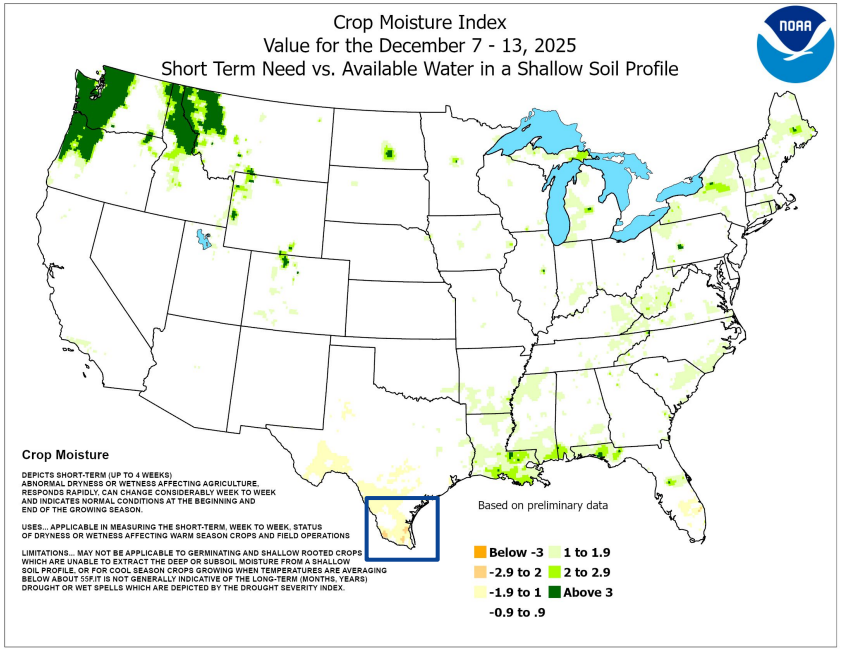
Captions:
Left: TWDB Reservoir conditions as of December 20, 2025
Right: USGS 7 Day Streamflows for Texas valid December 19, 2025

Agricultural Impacts

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

- Soil moistures remain below to well below normal across all of Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, especially the brush country.
- Crop moisture indices are below to well-below normal across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley.

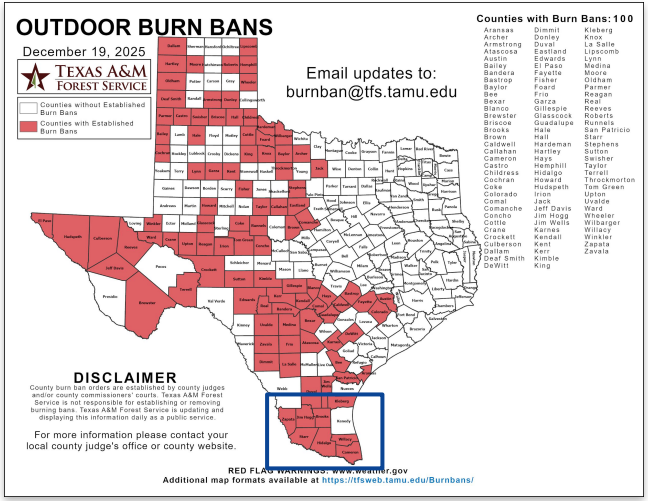


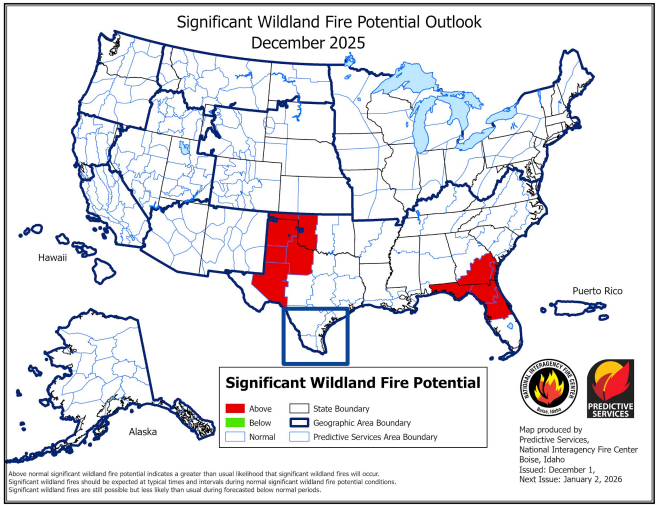


Fire Hazard Impacts

National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) Wildfire Potential Outlooks

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index values generally range from 400-600 across Deep South Texas, with 200-400 in northern Zapata, northeastern Starr, northwestern and eastern Hidalgo, coastal and southern Kenedy, southeastern Willacy, and northern Cameron counties.
- Normal wildland fire potential is expected through Jan 2026, with above normal wildland fire potential Feb-Mar 2026 for Deep South Texas.
- Burn bans are in effect for all of Deep South Texas except Kenedy County.

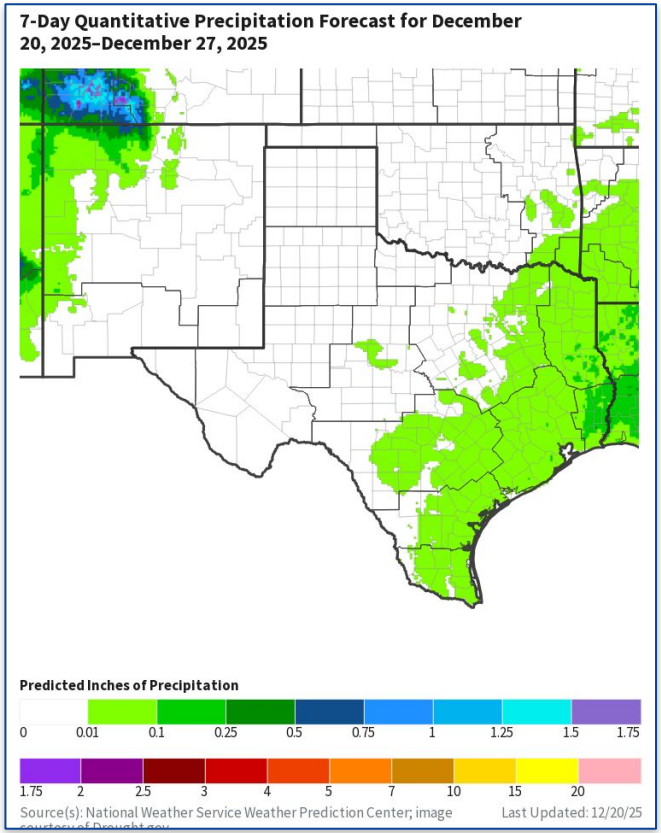




Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

CPC 6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook | WPC Precipitation Forecasts

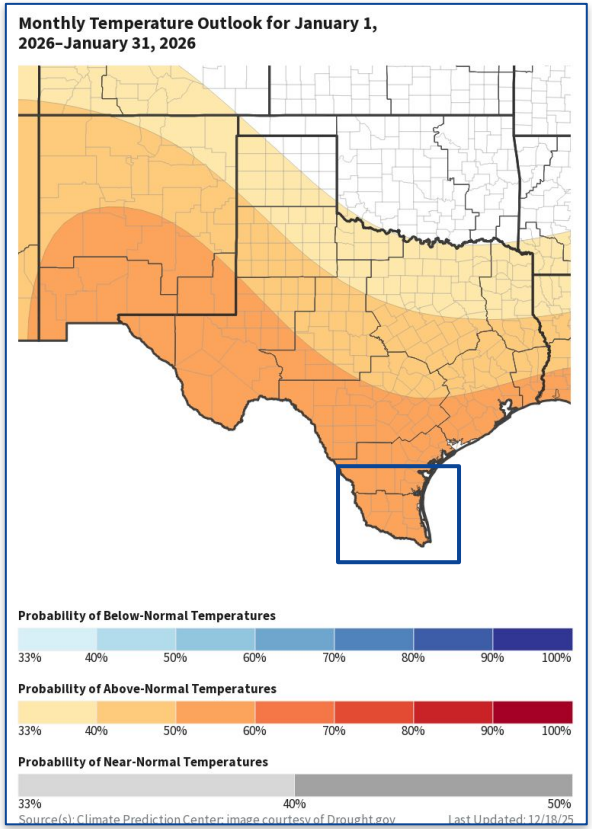
- The chance of rain generally remains very low (less than 10%) on Sunday, December 21st and from Tuesday, December 23rd through Saturday, December 27th.
- There is a low (10-20%) chance of rain on Monday, December 22nd, mainly along the lower Texas coast with an increase in moisture and weak low pressure across the western Gulf.
- Any precipitation is expected to be light at generally a trace to one-tenth of an inch total through Saturday, December 27th.
- Overall, rain chances through Tuesday, December 30th, 2025 are **leaning towards above normal** at 40-50% for all of Deep South Texas.

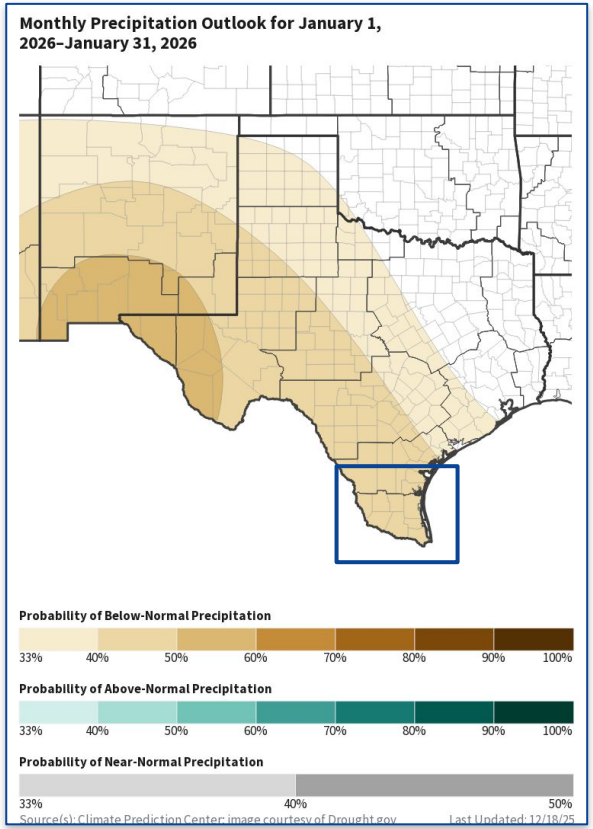


Long-Range Outlooks

CPC Seasonal Temperature Outlook | CPC Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

- There is a **50-60% probability of above normal temperatures** across Deep South Texas through the month of January.
- There is a **33-40% probability of below normal rainfall** across Deep South Texas through the month of January.
- Through March 2026, chances are **leaning towards above normal temperatures** and **leaning towards below normal** rainfall across Deep South Texas.





Drought Outlook

Climate Prediction Center | Monthly Drought Outlook | Seasonal Drought Outlook

- **Drought is expected to persist** across most of Deep South Texas through March, 2026
- **Drought is expected to develop** across portions of eastern Hidalgo, southern Willacy, and northern Cameron counties through March, 2026.