# Autumn (September-November) 2025 Outlook: Perspective for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas Region

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

**August 26, 2025**

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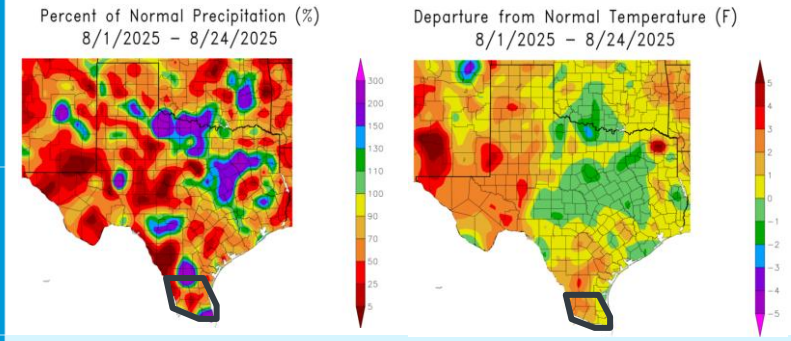
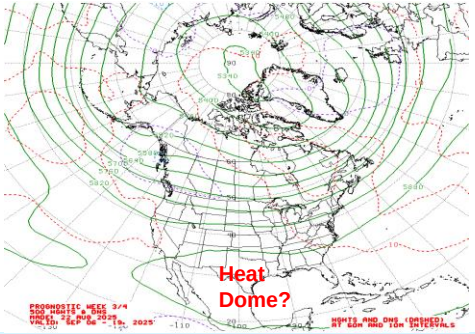
NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, Texas

**Normal to hotter than normal conditions are expected to continue; precipitation odds remain a toss-up; heat risk, precipitation trends, and water supply issues remain in focus**







# August 2025: Top 5-15 Hottest Month Was Dented by Scattered to Numerous Thunderstorms at Times

**Maximum 24-Day Mean Avg Temperature for BROWNSVILLE S PADRE ISLAND INTL AP, TX**

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

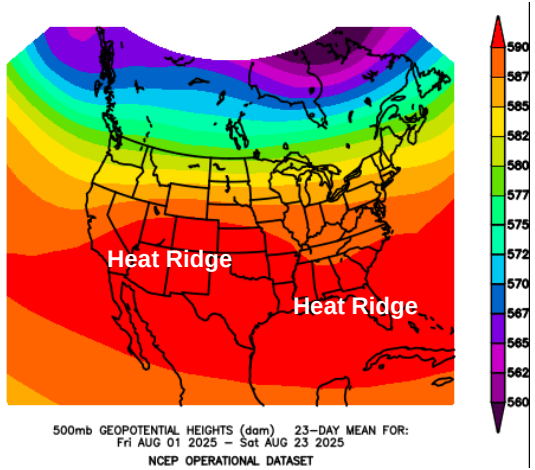
| Rank | Value | Ending Date | Missing Days |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 90.0 | 2023-08-24 | 0 |
| 2 | 89.1 | 2019-08-24 | 0 |
| 3 | 87.8 | 2024-08-24 | 0 |
| 4 | 87.8 | 2018-08-24 | 0 |
| 5 | 87.8 | 2025-08-24 | 0 |
| 6 | 87.5 | 2011-08-24 | 0 |
| 7 | 87.5 | 2022-08-24 | 0 |
| 8 | 87.4 | 2010-08-24 | 0 |
| 9 | 87.2 | 2016-08-24 | 0 |
| 10 | 87.2 | 2021-08-24 | 0 |
| Last value also occurred in one or more previous years. | | | |
| Period of record: 1898-12-01 to 2025-08-24 | | | |

* Tied for 3rd w/ 2024 and 2018

**Maximum 24-Day Mean Avg Temperature for MCALLEN MILLER INTL AP, TX**

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

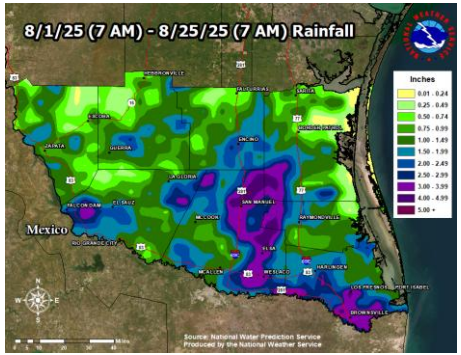
| Rank | Value | Ending Date | Missing Days |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 92.2 | 2009-08-24 | 0 |
| 2 | 91.5 | 2019-08-24 | 0 |
| 3 | 91.0 | 2015-08-24 | 0 |
| 4 | 91.0 | 2016-08-24 | 0 |
| 5 | 90.9 | 2017-08-24 | 0 |
| 6 | 90.8 | 2018-08-24 | 0 |
| 7 | 90.8 | 2023-08-24 | 0 |
| 8 | 90.5 | 2011-08-24 | 0 |
| 9 | 90.4 | 2024-08-24 | 0 |
| 10 | 90.2 | 2012-08-24 | 0 |
| 11 | 90.1 | 2025-08-24 | 0 |
| 12 | 89.8 | 1998-08-24 | 0 |
| 13 | 89.5 | 2014-08-24 | 0 |
| - | 89.5 | 1997-08-24 | 0 |
| 15 | 89.0 | 2002-08-24 | 0 |
| Period of record: 1961-01-14 to 2025-08-24 | | | |

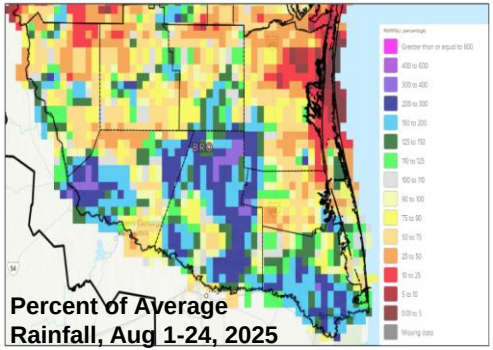



**Top Image:** 500mb mean geopotential heights from Aug 1-25, 2025.

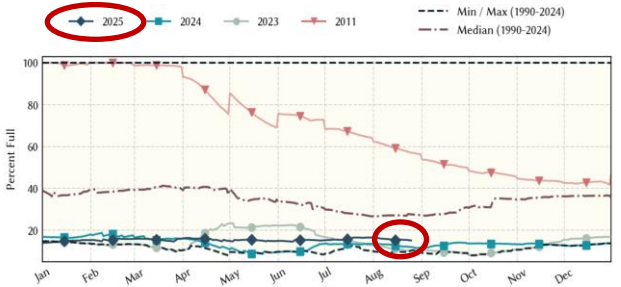
The first 14 days of August were largely rain-free. On the 15th, tropical disturbance AL-98 provided generally 1 to 2.5" of rain along the Rio Grande from Pharr to Brownsville, including Harlingen. Scattered to locally numerous mainly afternoon showers/thunderstorms arrived on the 20th and continued through the 25th. Monthly "winners" included Cameron, much of Hidalgo, and southwest Starr. Northeast Kenedy and parts of the Brush Country had notably less rainfall.

Heat ridges over the desert southwest and much of the central/eastern Gulf helped average temperatures (through the 26th) rank among the top fifteen hottest on record for most Valley locations.



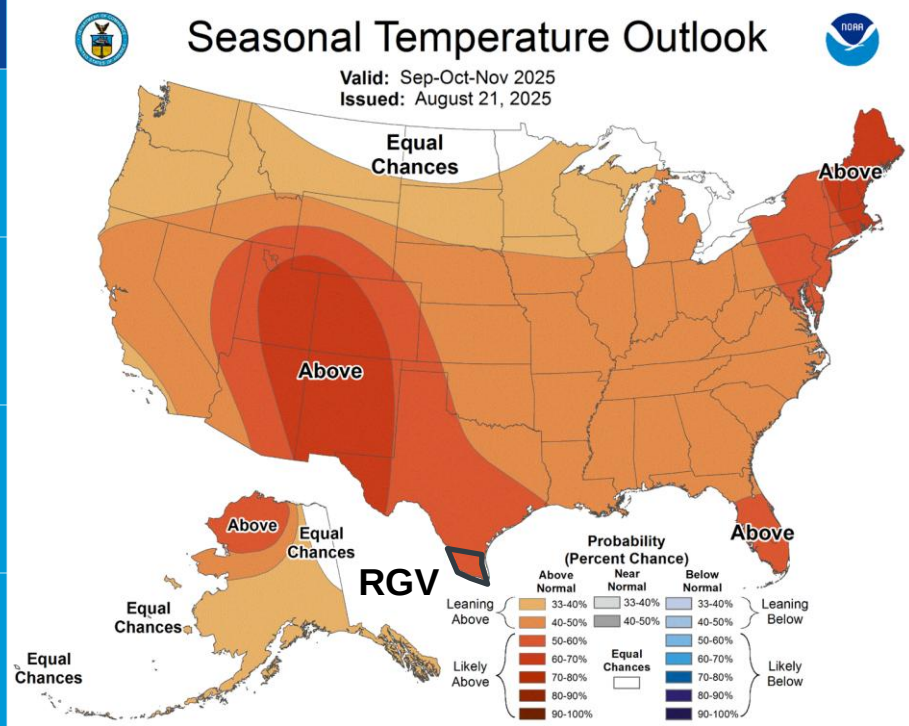

**Bottom left images:** On the left is the precipitation footprint from August 1-25 (7 AM), 2025. On the right is the precipitation percent of average through August 24, 2025.

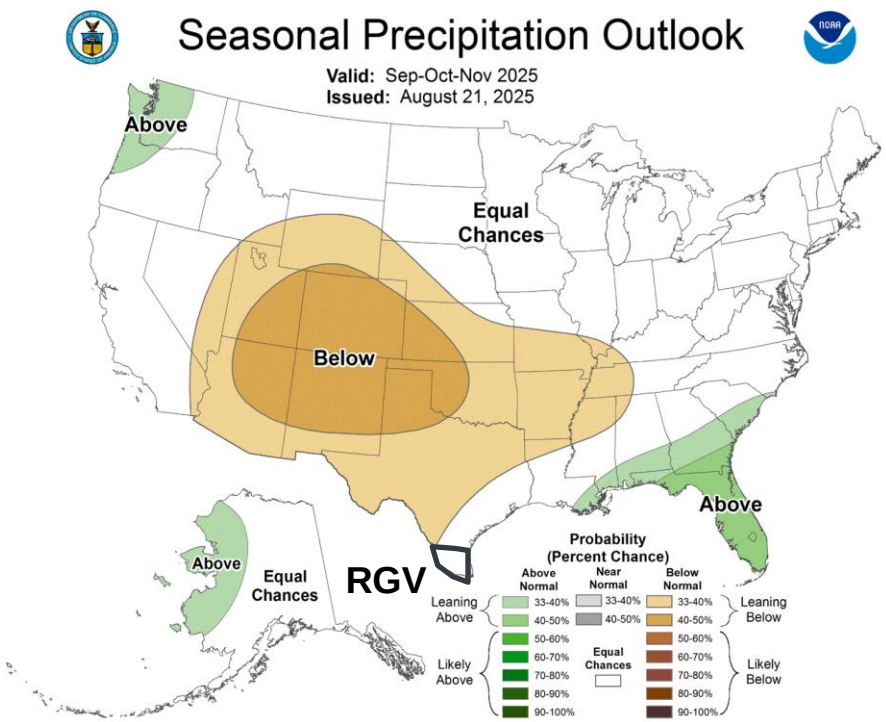



Latest data from the **Rio Grande Reservoirs (Texas Share)** continue to indicate 2025 levels are at or below 30 year lows and near records.

**Image Above:** Texas Water Development Board

# Seasonal Forecast, September – November 2025 USA



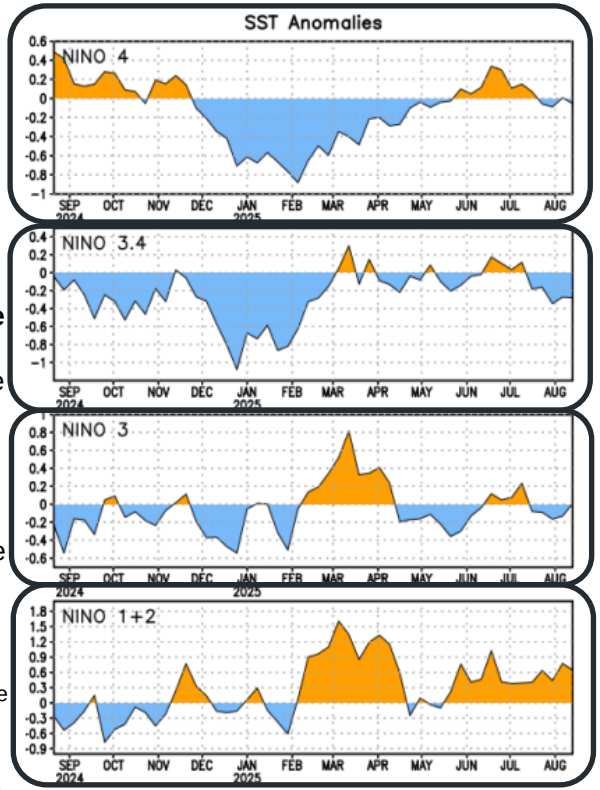
# Key Takeaways: Autumn (September-November) 2025 Outlook

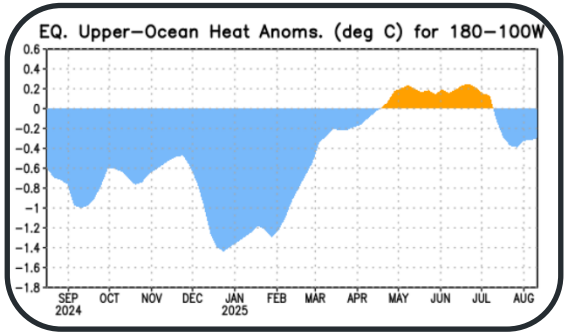
- A **warmer/hotter than normal** outlook is anticipated during the **September-November 2025** timeframe for the Rio Grande Valley/Deep South Texas region. **Precipitation remains a toss-up** across much of the region but trends lean drier than average, especially in October-November. **Note: September is normally our wettest month of the year, and now looks to begin wet (first 10-15 days)**
- Long-range models continue to indicate the **core of the heat** largely remaining over the Southwestern U.S., but likely to extend eastward into Texas at times. **Heat Risk concerns will remain on the table across the Valley and Deep South Texas** in September and potentially through mid-October. The magnitude of the heat **could rival** 2023 and 2024 through autumn overall.
- Rains through August has kept drought in check for the lower/mid Valley. As a result, **drought/dryness and wildfire** concerns remain limited to start September. Warm to hot conditions and high evaporation rates should prevail, and **dryness/drought may worsen across the Brush Country and spread into the mid/upper Valley** by October and November. **Moderate to Severe Drought potential will increase**.
- Falcon Int'l Reservoir remained **near historic lows at the end of August**. **Confidence remains high (80-90%) on total storage remaining just above record lows through Autumn.** The threat for **tropical cyclone remnants** to reach the reservoirs/tributaries that feed Falcon is **diminishing rapidly.**
- Confidence remains **medium-high (60-80%)** that temperatures will run **normal to hotter than normal** through autumn. Confidence is **medium (40-60%)** on precipitation trends for the period. Confidence is **medium (40-60%)** that **drought/dryness** will redevelop over the Rio Grande Valley, and **worsen over the Brush Country, by October or November**.
- **Showers and thunderstorms with origins from the tropics producing heavy rainfall and localized flooding** should still be taken into consideration through early October.

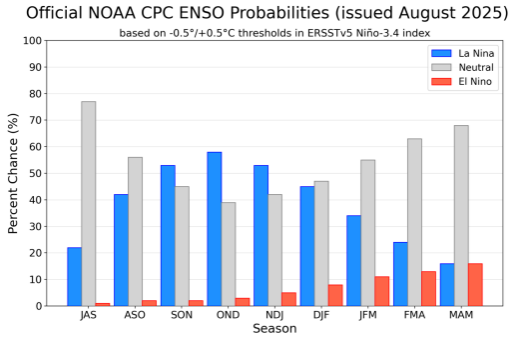
# The “Why” of the Forecast: ENSO Neutral, soil moisture, long-term trends, and other key climate teleconnections to play a role

| Year | DJF | JFM | FMA | MAM | AMJ | MJJ | JJA | JAS | ASO | SON | OND | NDJ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2022 | -1.0 | -0.9 | -1.0 | -1.1 | -1.0 | -0.9 | -0.8 | -0.9 | -1.0 | -1.0 | -0.9 | -0.8 |
| 2023 | -0.7 | -0.4 | -0.1 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.8 | 1.1 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 2.0 |
| 2024 | 1.8 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 0.7 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.0 | -0.1 | -0.2 | -0.3 | -0.4 | -0.5 |
| 2025 | -0.6 | -0.4 | -0.2 | -0.1 | -0.1 | -0.1 | | | | | | |

- With ENSO Neutral conditions remaining in place, **ENSO will continue to have little influence on our weather and climate pattern going forward**. That said, analogs and long term trends continue to suggest that normal to **warmer than normal temperatures** are favored to continue through October and potentially longer, when transitioning from a La Nina to ENSO Neutral. **As for precipitation odds, it remains a toss-up** across Deep South Texas.
- Given that ENSO in the tropical Pacific will play less of a role in our weather pattern, the **placement of the heat ridge, tropical moisture influx, soil moisture, amongst other weather/climate variables** will serve as vital roles in various weather events, such as increased **heat risks** and instances of **heavy rainfall/flooding** through October.
- **Note:** An ENSO Neutral trending towards a La Nina towards the end of the year could support a little more rain potential for Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley, which gives credence to the precipitation outlook toss-up through the Fall Season!

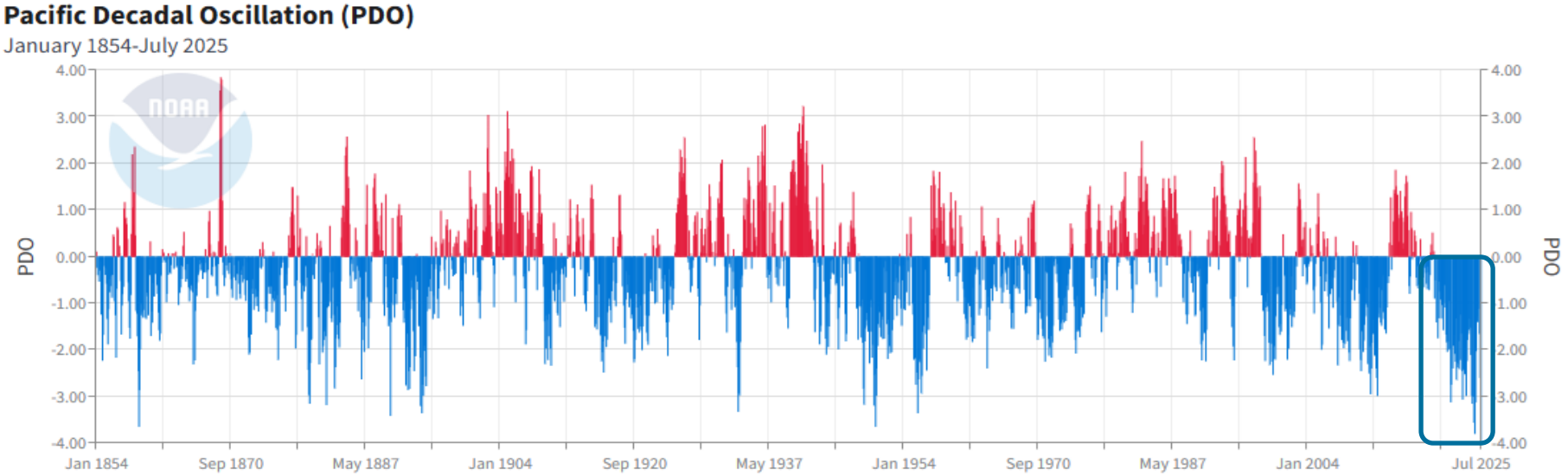


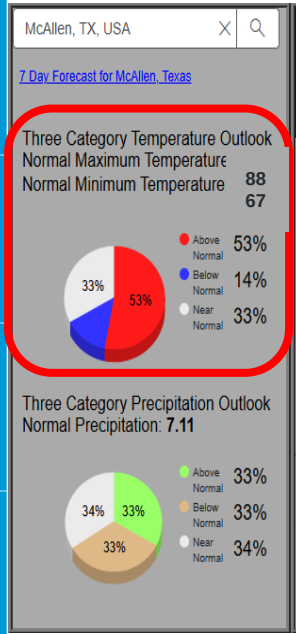

*Above right: Oceanic Niño Index. Values below -0.5 (**light blue**) for five consecutive 3-month periods indicated La Niña. El Niño (**red,** +0.5) officially began in April-June 2023, reached strong levels (**+1.5**) by August-October 2023, strengthened further through November-January, then weakened rapidly through early summer. Neutral conditions arrived for April-June 2024.

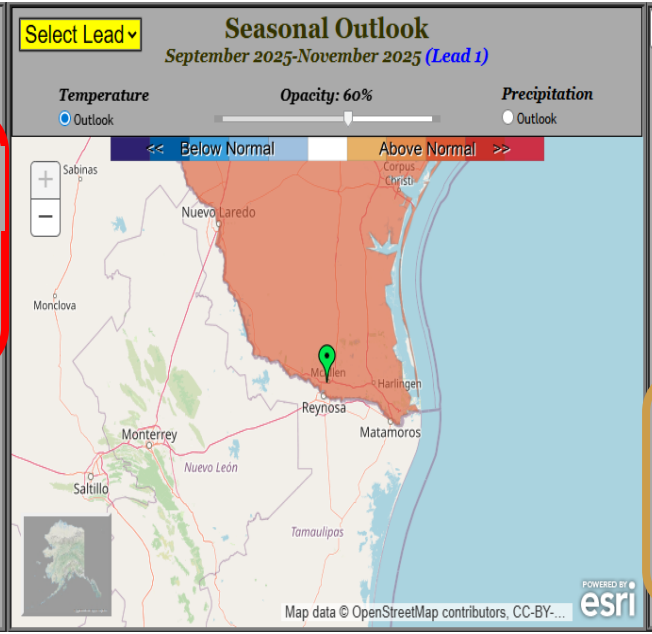
# The “Why” of the Forecast: Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO) remains in Sharp Negative Phase

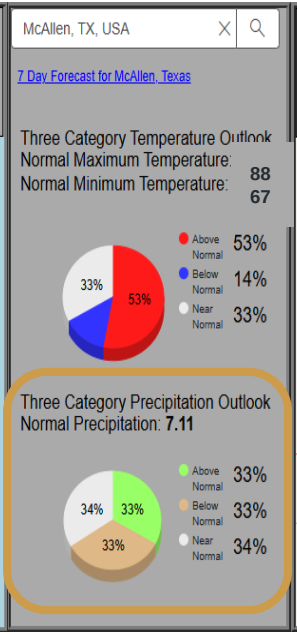


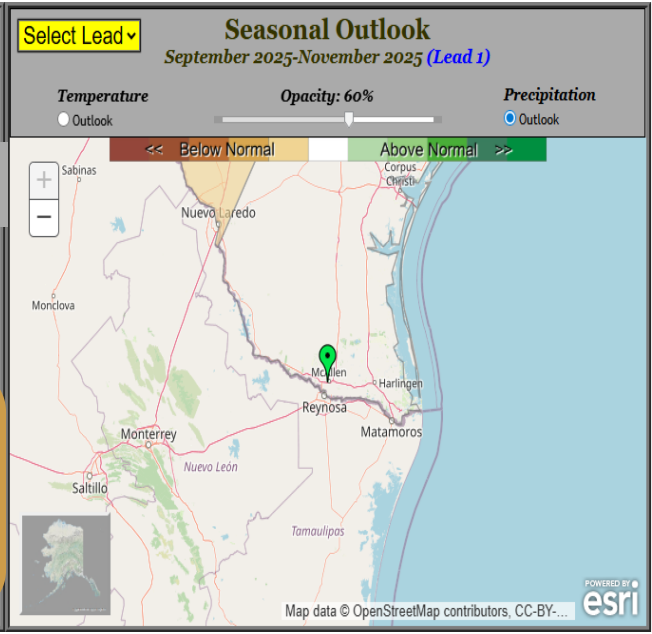

- The 2021-2025 **prolonged and strong negative PDO has persisted**, and should remain the case through Autumn 2025. This **continues to support confidence** for a **warmer than normal pattern to persist through the upcoming Autumn Season.**
- Despite the sharply negative PDO in place, an ENSO Neutral/leaning La Niña supports a toss-up (equal chances) in precipitation outcome. Other weather/climate variables will play a vital role in precipitation outcomes into Autumn 2025. **Confidence remains high** for a sharply negative PDO to continue.

# The Autumn (September-November) 2025 Outlook: Rio Grande Valley (McAllen as Anchor Point)



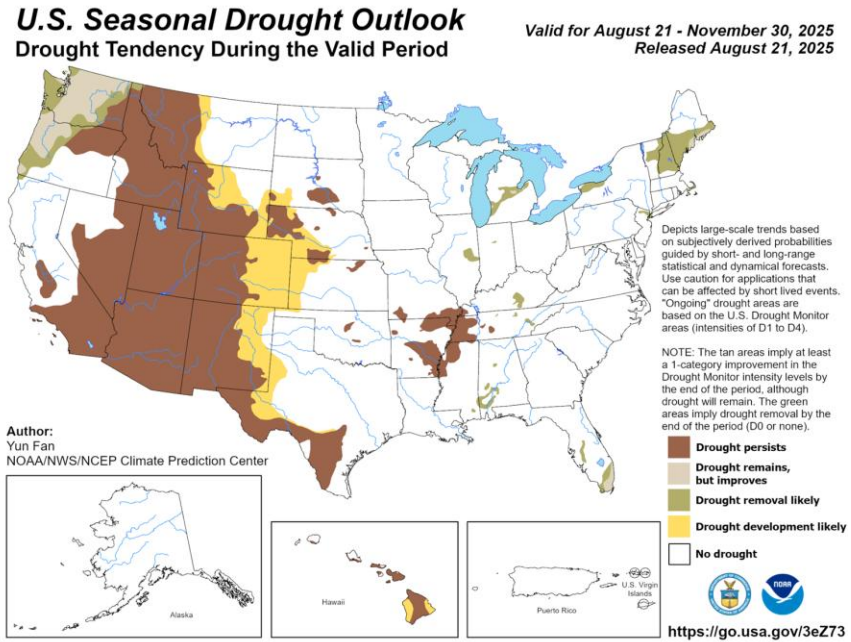



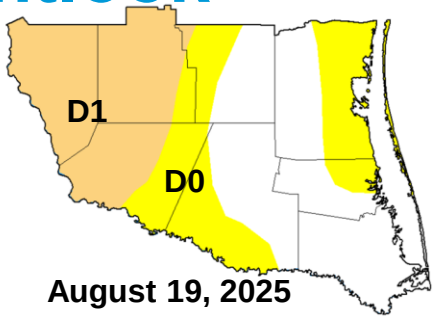



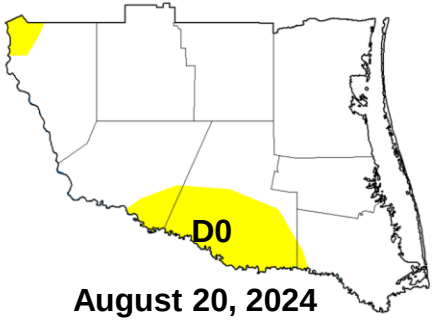

- **<u>Temperature:</u> Warmer to hotter than normal temperatures (a 53% chance of above average, a 14% chance for below average). (Confidence: High).** RGV averages: Afternoon – Mid to Upper 90s in early September; mid 70s by the end of November. Wake-up: Mid to upper 70s in early September, falling to the 50s by the end of November.
- **<u>Precipitation:</u> Toss-up (33% chance of above, average, or below). Confidence: Medium (lean is below average after early-mid September).** RGV averages: 7 to 11.5 inches (most in September).

# The Autumn 2025 “Droughtlook”

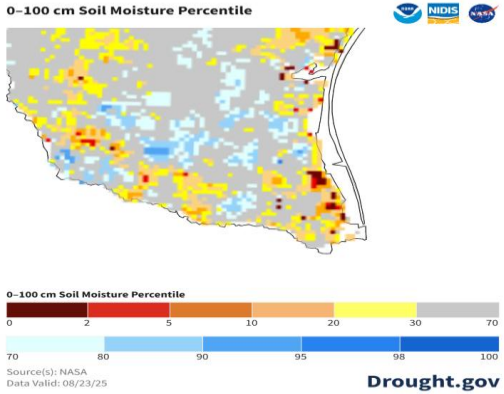



August 19, 2025



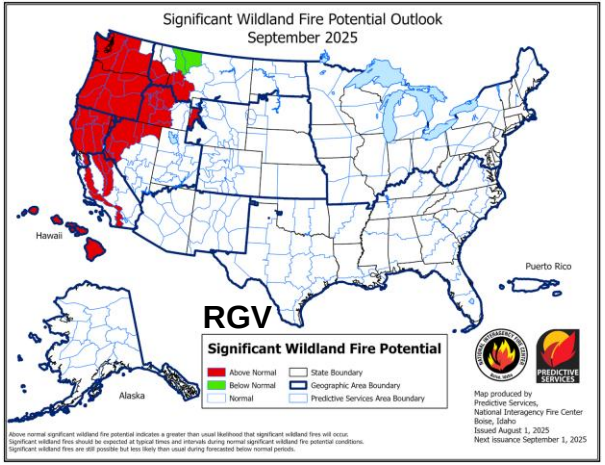

August 20, 2024

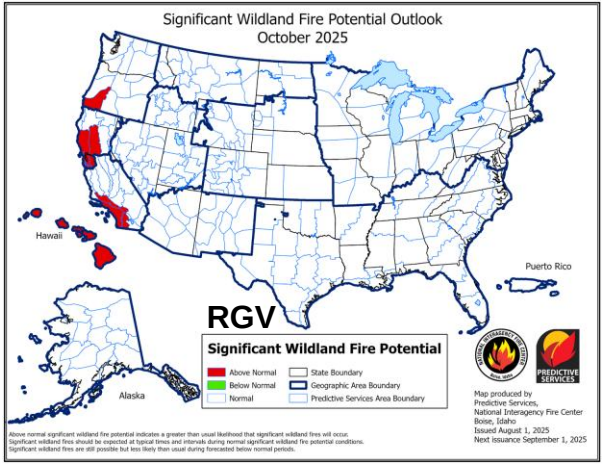


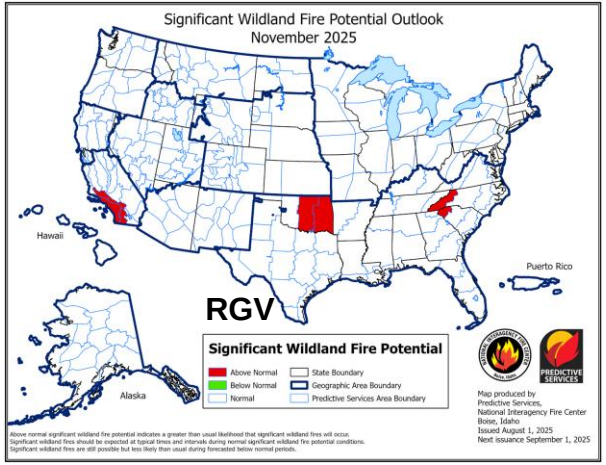


- **Year-over-Year (YoY) drought/dryness** shows slight worsening of drought across the Brush Country compared with 2024. Rainfall between August 21 and 25 likely improved drought in some of the D1 area shown above.
- **While the seasonal drought outlook suggests no changes in either direction (wet or dry), we will keep close watch on the weather pattern and precipitation trends going forward! Most of August was mostly dry, but rains on the 15th and again between the 20th-25th helped. Note: September is our wettest month of the year…but a drying trend is likely thereafter.**

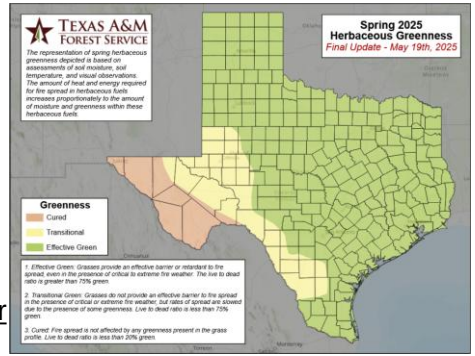
# Wildfire Concerns Remains In Check Going Into August…things could develop late this year into early 2026!




- There is now **general greenness** along/east of IH-69C/US 281, in large part thanks to the **March 26-28, 2025 drought busting rain storm** and occasional rains April-August. Wildfire spread concerns will remain limited for the foreseeable future before **potentially returning again by late autumn into early 2026!**
- The Zapata/Jim Hogg/Starr area had a "just-in-time" rain reprieve for wildfire potential by the end of August. However, a drier and hotter than average late September would set the stage for wildfire spread potential in October-November.
- **Moisture levels** will continue to be largely be **dependent on rain and wind**. Days with stronger southerly flow could aid initial attack wildfire. As we move into autumn, trends should continue to favor higher humidity near the coast but potentially drier conditions along and west of **IH-69C/US 281** that could spread into the lower/mid Valley by late October-November.
- Following the historic late March rains and occasional rains in April through July, fuel moisture will remain **moderate to high through at least early September** with moisture levels **thereafter dependent on rain and persistence of it**.

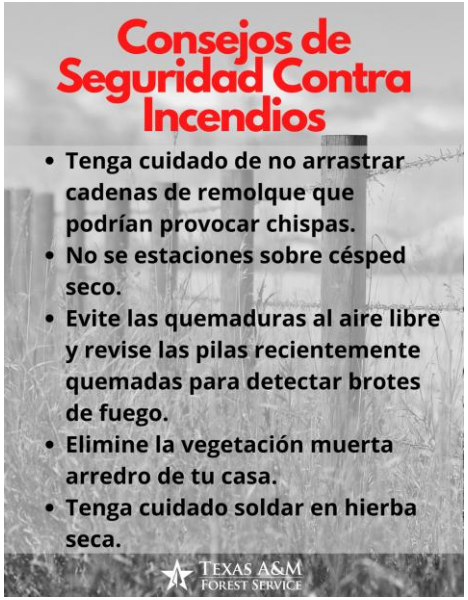



Spring 2025 Herbaceous Greenness Map for Texas (May 19, 2025). **Note: effective green** is in place across Deep South Texas.

# Wildfire Prevention Review

- While conditions were stable for most locations at the end of August, wildfire spread potential may increase as early as late September in the Rio Grande Plains/Brush Country **if rains are limited**. Such a situation would renew drought and cure recently-grown fine fuels such as rangeland and brush.
- Continue to focus on **farm, ranch workers**, and **other persons who might drive hot vehicles** on parched brush on critical/near-critical days – especially on hot, breezy days during a dry spell.

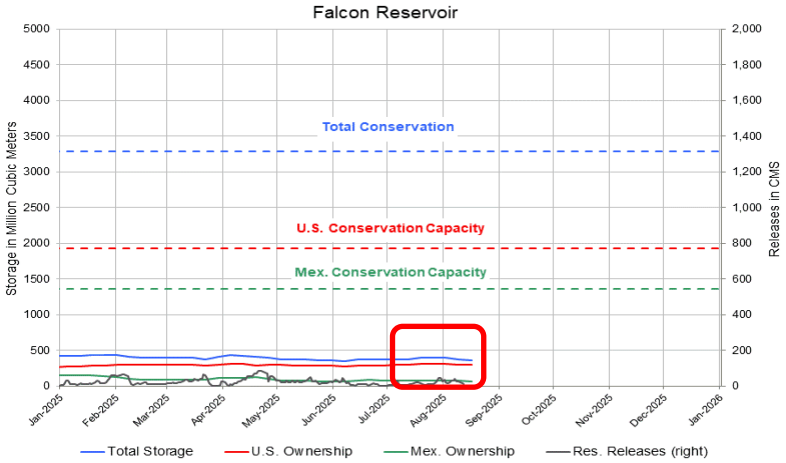
# Infographics for Wildfire Prevention

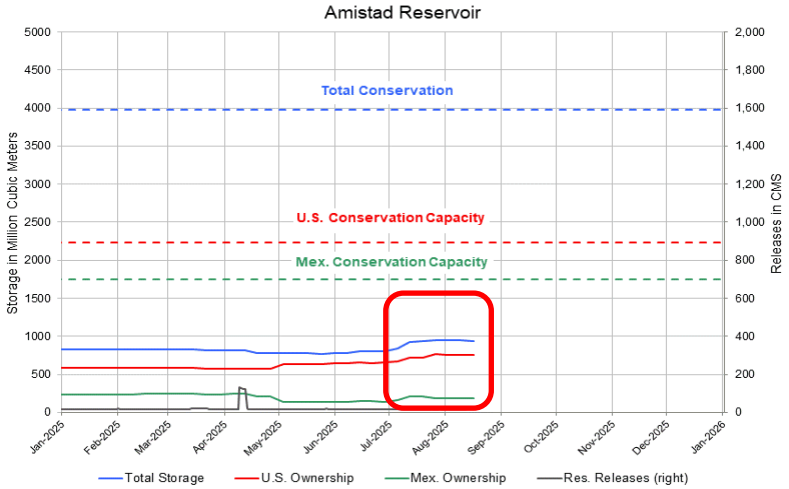





- ~50 in all (20 in Spanish)!
- Thanks to **Texas A&M Forest Service** for Many of These!

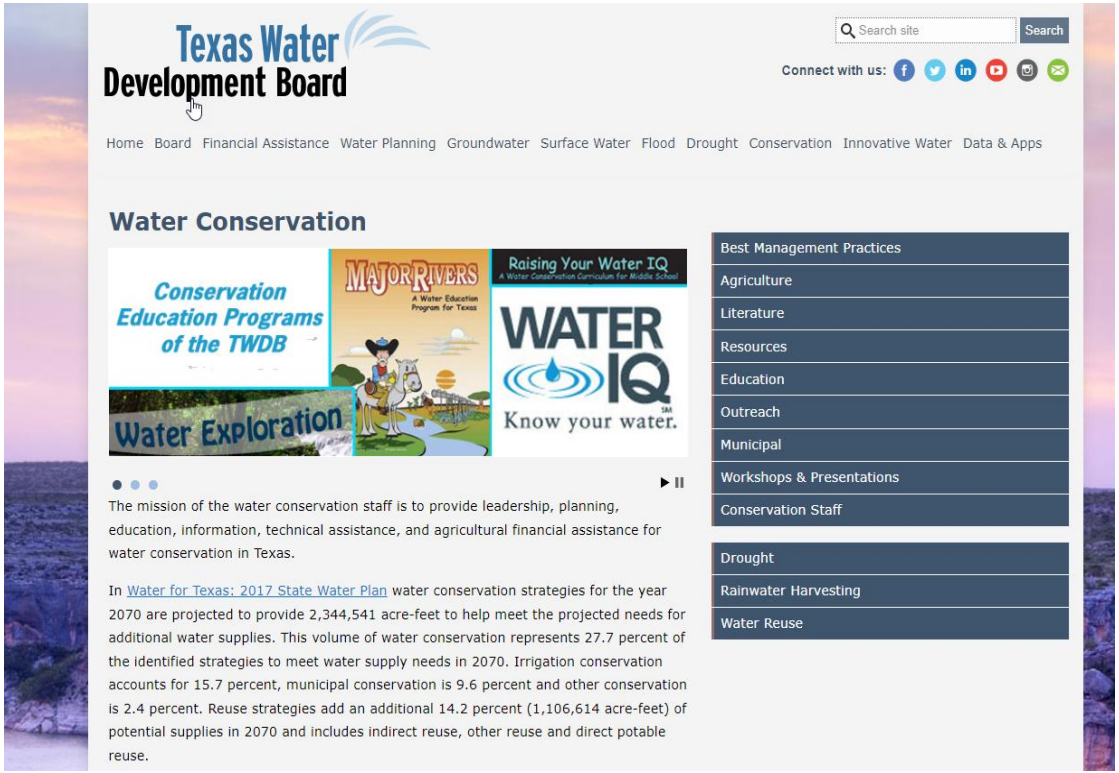
# Amistad and Falcon Reservoirs remained just above record lows going into the 2nd half of 2025



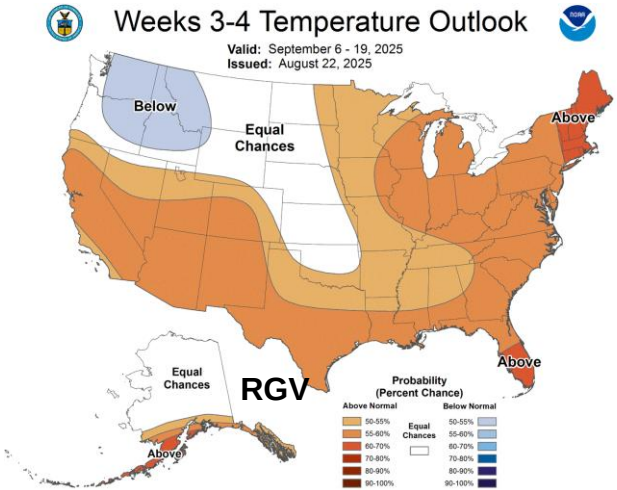

- **Falcon had fallen again to 10.9 percent** as of August 26 (down from **12.3% in late July**). Levels may not change much through October - and will fall a bit more without rain or inflows. We'll be watching the **first 15 days of September for a potential, but unknown, boost**.
- **Amistad also remained nearly steady and slightly above all-time record lows as of late August.** Levels were at **23.8% on August 24th** (slightly higher than the **23.4% from late July**). Levels may not change much through November; we'll be **watching early-mid September for a potential boost**.
- Any additional rises would likely come from **monsoon rainfall in the Rio Conchos basin**, or an **eastern Pacific tropical cyclone** that moves across northern Mexico in late September or October.

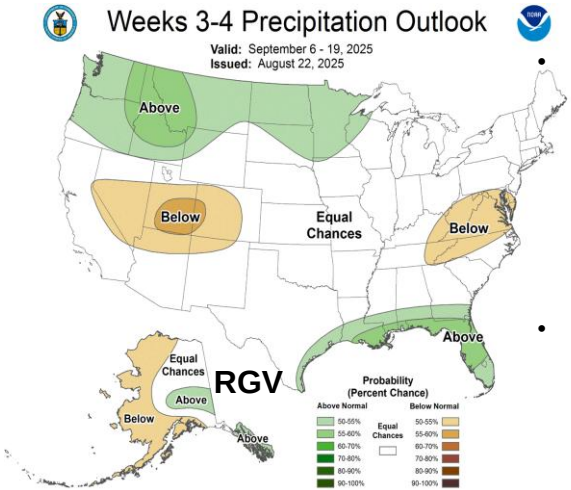
# Water Conservation is Key Until Further Notice!

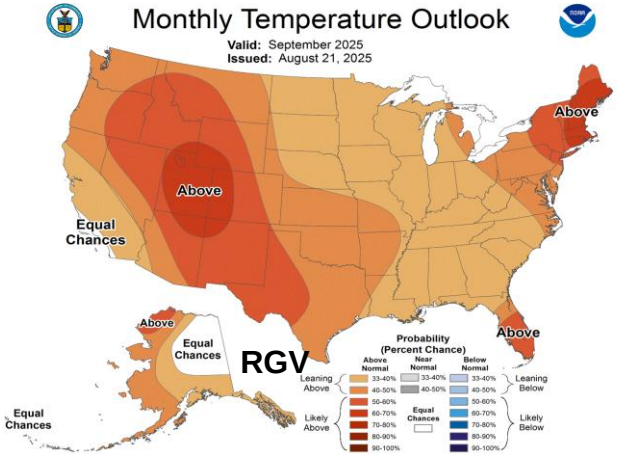


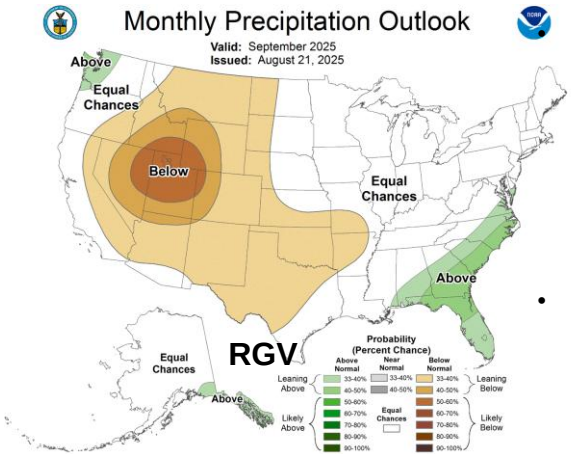

- "Stage 2/3" Restrictions continued through spring 2025 and are likely to continue **until further notice** based on inflows from Amistad and Falcon.
- Learn more at the Texas Water Development Board's Conservation Page

## September 2025: Confidence: Medium-High (60-80%) on Temperature and Low-Medium (20-40%) on Precipitation Trends



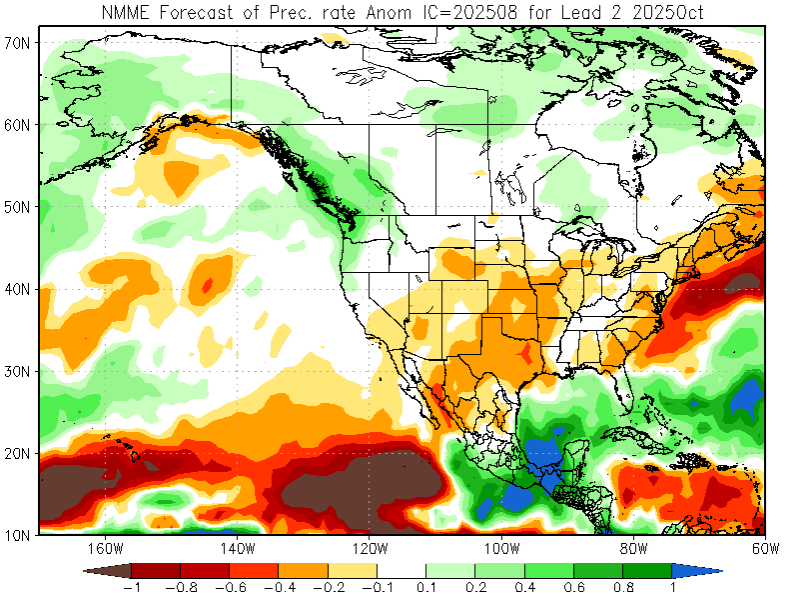




- While late-August pleasant weather reached the Northeast U.S., Mid-South, and Mississippi Valley Regions in late August, medium to long-range models continue to favor a **hotter than normal** pattern through much of September for the RGV/Deep South Texas as the **heat ridge shifts between the southwest Gulf and the desert southwest.**
- We continue to expect periodic moderate to occasionally major **Heat Risk through much of September**. This can still pose a dangerous impact to health, and may extend into early October. Overall, 2025 should be hotter than 2024 but not as hot as 2023.
- Equal chances for above, below, or average rainfall (33.3 percent for each) remains on the table, but there is a **dry "lean" for the Rio Grande Plains and perhaps the upper Valley/Brush Country** for September. Still, there is a potential that **a periodic wetter pattern could develop, starting with the first 15 days of September.**
- Though precipitation odds remain a toss-up, **heavy rainfall or flooding events can still impact the region.** Continue to check our latest forecasts on the potential for showers and storms that could **produce additional heavy rainfall and flood risk**!

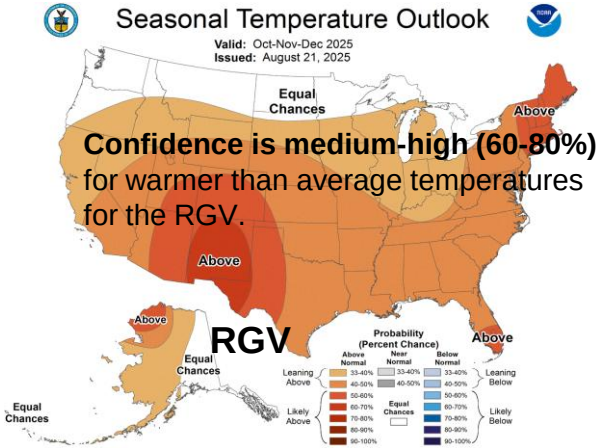
# Early Look: October 2025

**Potential rainfall rate anomaly, October 2025**

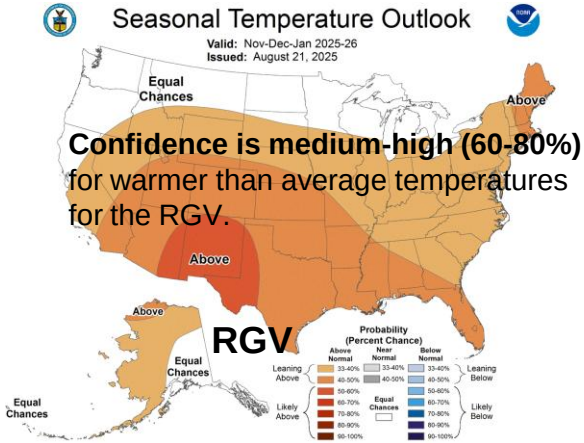



- This model's forecast for October hints at potential wetness (early) into the lower Valley, but a drier pattern resuming across the upper Valley, Brush Country, and Rio Grande Plains.
- It's important to keep in mind that **all it takes is one event to create flash flooding**. Despite there being many dry days this summer, shower and thunderstorm chances will remain in play from disturbances with tropical moisture into early October. Some of these showers and storms could result in additional, but local, cases of flash flooding.
- Tropical cyclone threats appear diminished in October across the RGV/Deep South Texas, but we will continue to monitor.

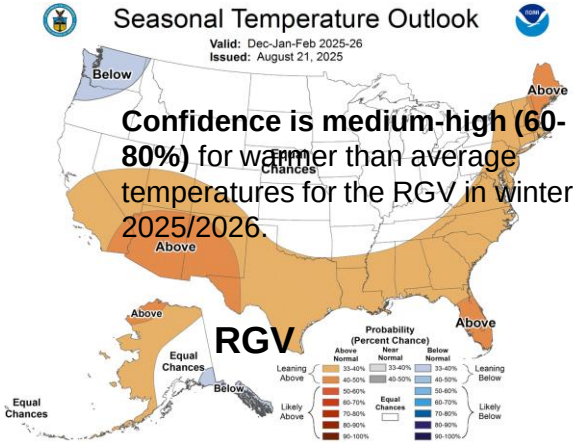
# Late Autumn 2025 through Winter 2025/2026: Warmer than normal trends are favored; Precipitation trends are drier as the end of 2025 approaches



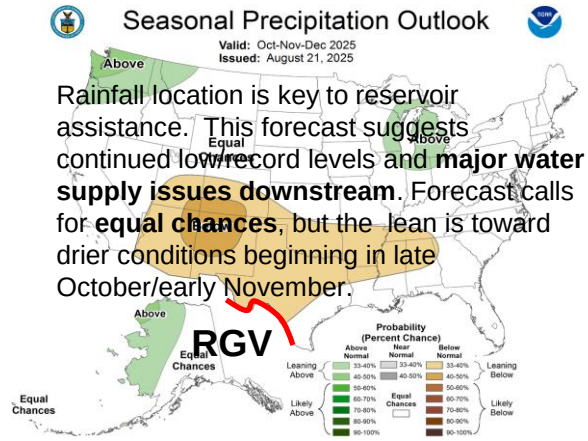

**Confidence is medium-high (60-80%)** for warmer than average temperatures for the RGV.



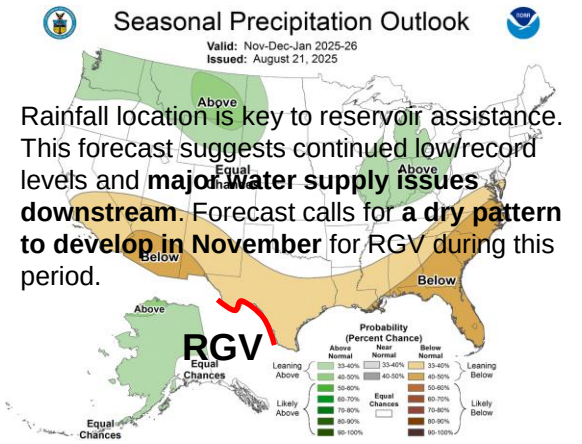

**Confidence is medium-high (60-80%)** for warmer than average temperatures for the RGV.



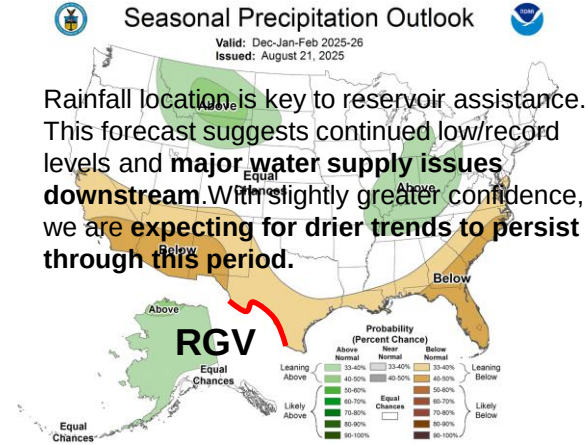

**Confidence is medium-high (60-80%)** for warmer than average temperatures for the RGV in winter 2025/2026.




Rainfall location is key to reservoir assistance. This forecast suggests continued low/record levels and **major water supply issues downstream**. Forecast calls for **equal chances**, but the lean is toward drier conditions beginning in late October/early November.

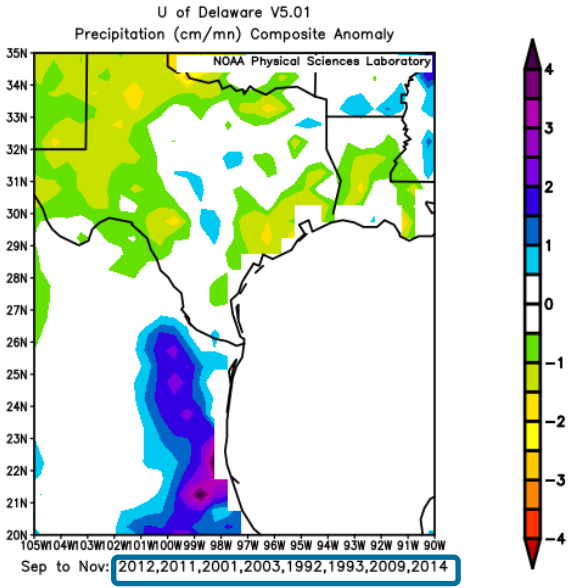



Rainfall location is key to reservoir assistance. This forecast suggests continued low/record levels and **major water supply issues downstream**. Forecast calls for **a dry pattern to develop in November** for RGV during this period.

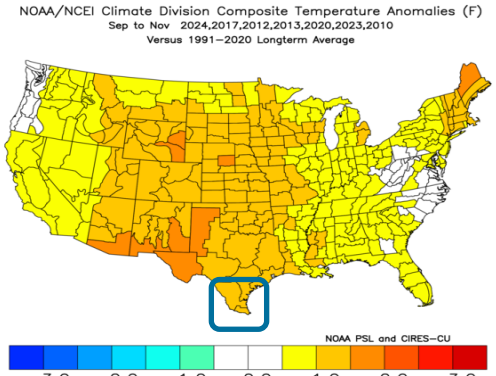


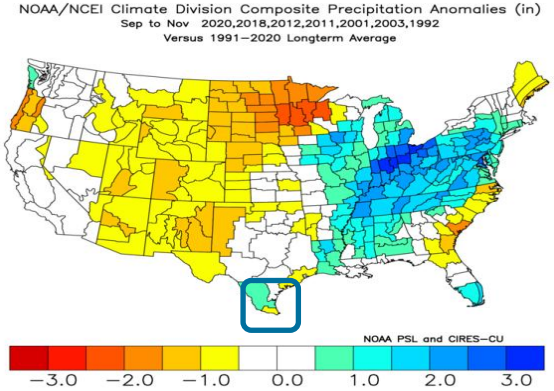

Rainfall location is key to reservoir assistance. This forecast suggests continued low/record levels and **major water supply issues downstream**. With slightly greater confidence, we are **expecting for drier trends to persist through this period.**

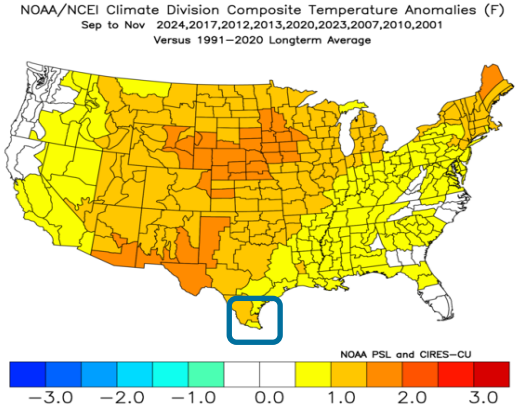
# Comparing Similar La Nina to Neutral Episodes mostly within the last 30 years; September-November Periods

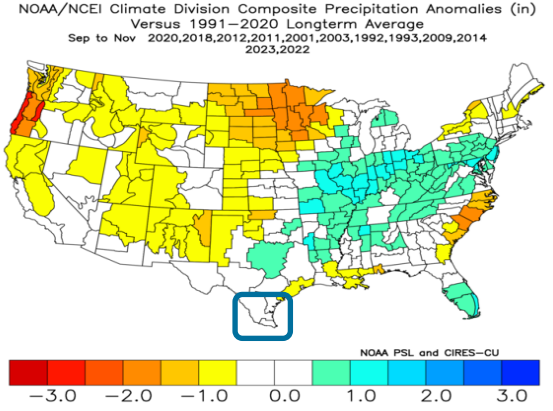



Composite departure from average rainfall for years of similar La Nina to Neutral transition episodes in the September-November window.




- **Top:** Composite temperature (left) and precipitation (right) anomalies for similar La Nina to Neutral transition episodes leading into August-October, since 1950.
- **Bottom Left:** Same, except added the 2001 season.
- **Bottom Right:** Same, except added the 1993, 2009, 2014, 2023, and 2022 seasons.

# Bottom Lines

- **Hotter/warmer than normal** conditions are expected to persist through the September-November 2025 period. **Heat risk concerns will remain on the table through September and perhaps into early October. Note:** Climatological averages begin to fall in September and more steadily in October.
- Sufficient inflows from Mexican and International reservoirs serving the Lower Rio Grande watershed **remain unlikely.** The **combined share of water in Amistad and Falcon should continue below Stage 2 and 3 triggers (25% or less), but confidence is a bit lower.** Water conservation, smart irrigation, and rainwater harvesting are **critical actions to continue as we move through into autumn 2025. The odds of tropical cyclone remnants to significantly help the reservoirs are dwindling rapidly.**
- **Precipitation odds remain a toss-up.** However, confidence leans towards a **drier outcome/pattern through autumn overall** given the heat ridge placement ranging from the Desert Southwest into south Texas/northern Mexico. That said, a **wetter pattern could develop at times in September and early October. Note: September is our wettest month of the year!**
- **Fire weather and drought concerns/issues** remain minimal to start September, but **could return by October and November** if warm/hot, breezy, and below-average rainfall dominates September/early October - with additional fuel loads (grass/brush) from spring and late-summer rains.
- We'll continue to monitor the tropics, though potential for an impactful event for the RGV/Deep South Texas ranchlands **is fading fast.** There remain some indications of early autumn activity favoring the eastern and central Gulf. All that said, **we'll need to keep an eye out,** especially in September.