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WEATHER
SERVICE

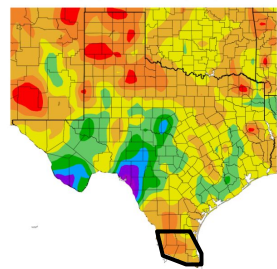
August-October 2026 Outlook: Perspective for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas Region

July 31, 2026

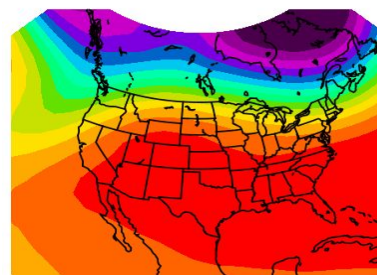
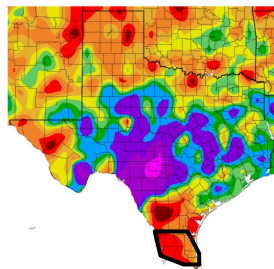
Andrei Evbuoma, Barry Goldsmith, & Rodney Chai
NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, Texas

Hotter than normal conditions are favored through the remainder of the summer season; mainly dry, but could turn wetter towards the Fall; heat risk, drought, fire weather, & water supply issues remain in focus

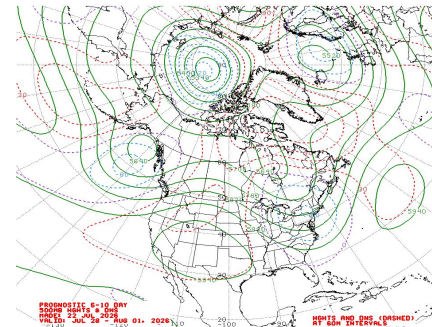
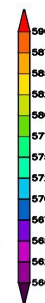
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
7/1/2026 – 7/25/2026



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
7/1/2026 – 7/25/2026



500mb GEOPOTENTIAL HEIGHTS (dam) 25-DAY MEAN FOR:
Wed JUL 01 2026 – Sat JUL 25 2026
NCEP OPERATIONAL DATASET



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July 2026: A Month Defined by Intense and Persistent Heat and Dryness; Will finish amongst the hottest on record; D0-D1 Drought re-introduced

Maximum 30-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	88.7	2023-07-30	0
2	88.2	2026-07-30	0
3	88.1	2022-07-30	0
4	87.6	1980-07-30	0
5	87.5	2018-07-30	0
6	87.3	2019-07-30	0
-	87.3	2016-07-30	0
8	87.2	1969-07-30	0
9	87.1	1998-07-30	0
10	86.9	2009-07-30	0

Period of record: 1898-12-01 to 2026-07-30

Maximum 30-Day Mean Avg Temperature for MCALLEN MILLER INTL AP, TX

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

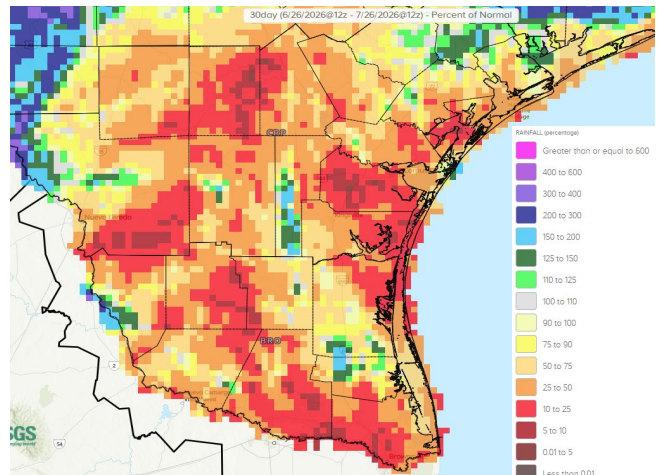
Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	92.7	2009-07-30	0
2	91.3	2016-07-30	0
3	90.7	2026-07-30	0
4	90.1	1998-07-30	0
5	89.9	2018-07-30	0
6	89.8	2017-07-30	0
7	89.7	1980-07-30	0
8	89.5	2022-07-30	0
9	89.3	2023-07-30	0
10	89.2	2015-07-30	0

Period of record: 1961-01-14 to 2026-07-30

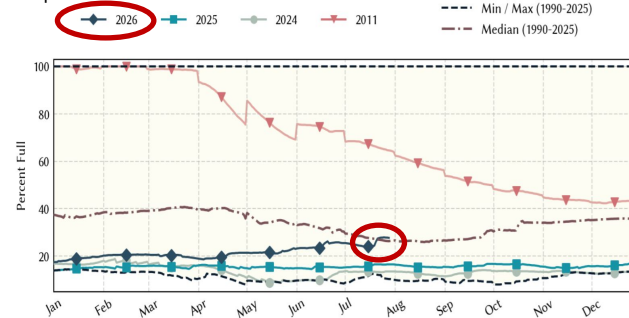
Hot and dry weather conditions emerged and in earnest across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley during the month of July. A **large and anomalously strong heat dome** moved around the country quite a bit from its normal position of the Desert Southwest during the month of July. As this behemoth of a heat dome swung like a pendulum from east to west, **heat waves including all-time record-breaking heat** broke out across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic regions, the Midwest, the Intermountain West and Plains, and finally the coastal western U.S. regions at different times of the month. The **worst of the heat** has been tied to the **Intermountain West, the Plains, and the western sections of the Midwest**.

Even though the core of the heat was located north of the RGV/Deep South Texas, the heat dome was **so expansive** that hotter than normal temperatures were still recorded over the region. These hot temperatures **led to very strong evaporation rates through the month**, which has **reversed** the drought improvements from the **rains that fell April-June**. In fact, **D0 Drought** was introduced to much of the region on July 21st, and **D1 (Moderate Drought)** returned to parts of the area by the 28th.

During the second half of the month, the heat dome was situated across its normal position of the Southwest U.S. Because of that, the **hottest temperatures** across the RGV/Deep South Texas this month has been **felt during the second half of July** with record to near record-breaking heat. Courtesy of the persistence and intensity of this heat, **this year has surged into the top 10 hottest ever most places across the region** (see table above). Our two main climate sites, Brownsville and McAllen will finish in 1st and 2nd place, respectively, for the first seven months of 2026.



Top Image: 30-day percent of normal precipitation from June 26-July 26, 2026. Hot temperatures combined with dry conditions and very high evaporation rates have led to very low percent of normal precipitation over the past month.



Bottom Image: Latest data from the **Rio Grande Reservoirs (Texas Share)** indicates that July 2026 levels have improved thanks to the recent central Texas rains/flooding and remains above 2025 levels. Month-over-month shares have increased from 25.6% to 27.7%. **Credit:** Texas Water Development Board

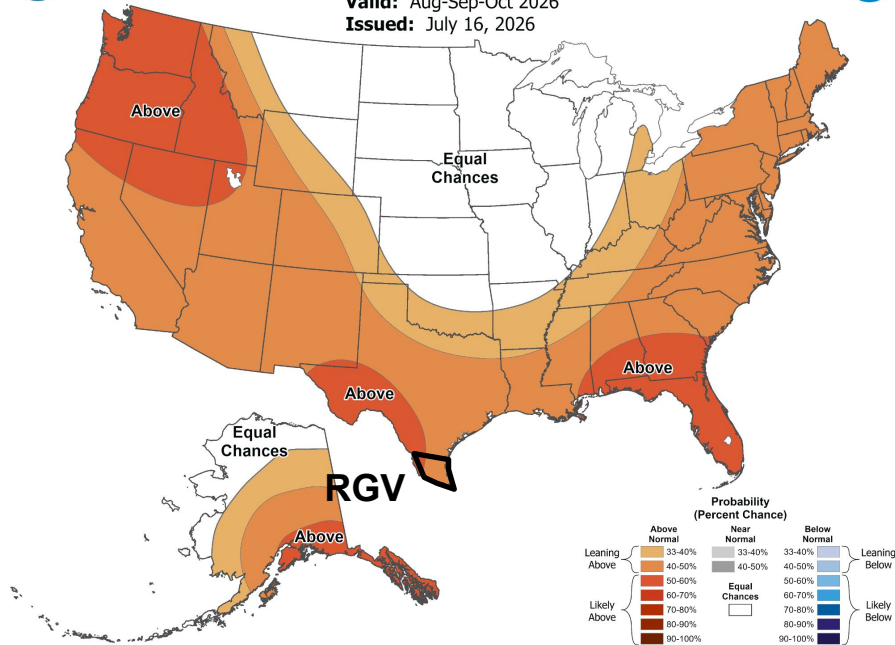


Seasonal Forecast, August-October 2026 USA



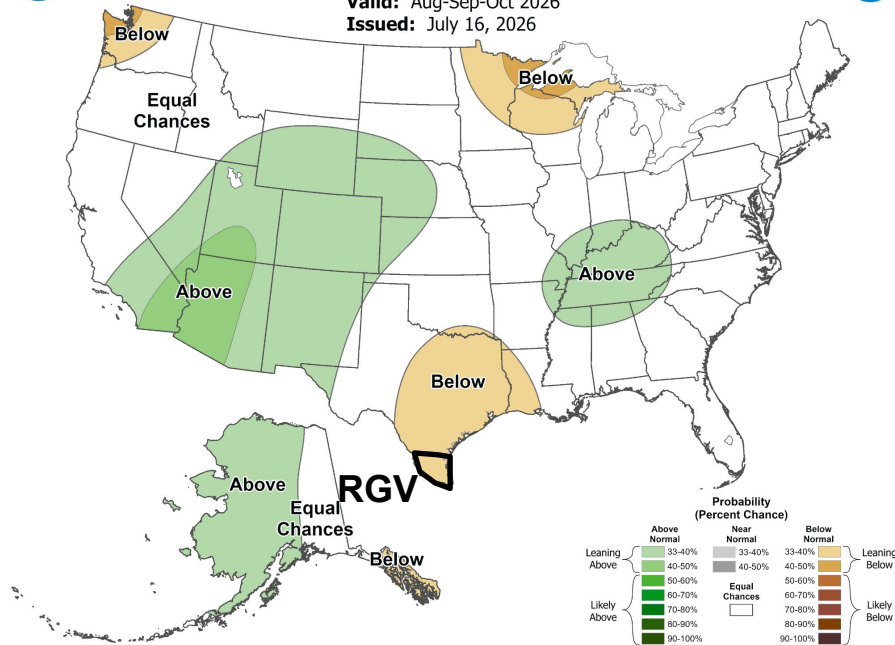
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Aug-Sep-Oct 2026
Issued: July 16, 2026



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Aug-Sep-Oct 2026
Issued: July 16, 2026



Confidence: Medium-High (60-80%) for **hotter than normal temperatures** during the August-October (ASO) period. Medium (40-60%) for a **drier than normal pattern** during the August-October (ASO) period. **Highest confidence for August.** Lower confidence for drier than normal in October. October could see a **transition to wetter conditions!**



Key Takeaways: August-October 2026 Outlook

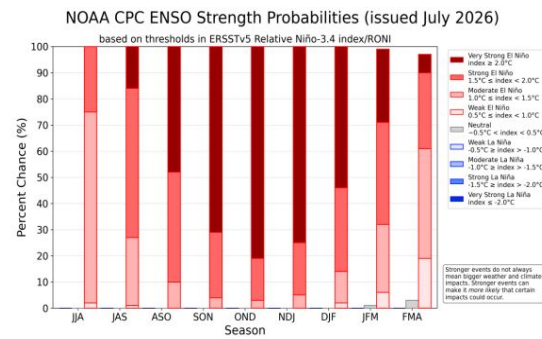
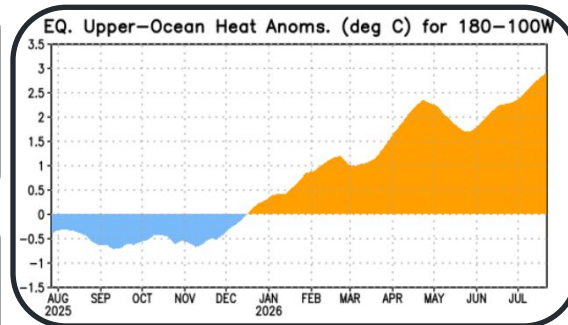
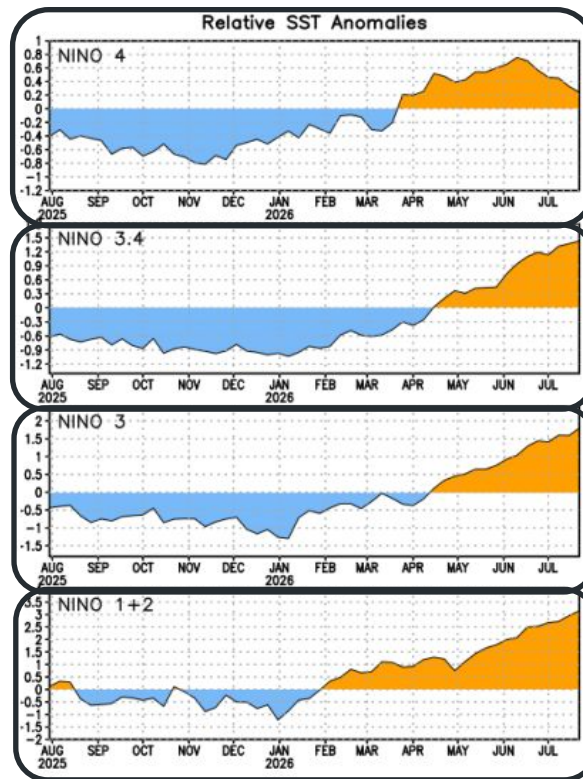
- A **hotter than normal** outlook is expected through the **August-October** period for the RGV/Deep South Texas region. **Confidence is greatest August-September**. Additionally, a **drier than normal pattern** is anticipated across the region during the **August-October** timeframe! Confidence is **greatest during August-September**.
- **Moderate (Level 2 of 4) to Major (Level 3 of 4) Heat Risk** will be the theme through the ASO period. **Heat Risk** will be most pronounced through September.
- **Drought conditions** have re-emerged across the RGV/Deep South Texas, courtesy of the persistently hot, rain-free, and breezy conditions that produced very high evaporation rates. On July 21, D0 (Abnormally Dry) conditions were re-introduced across much of the region. On the 28th, D1 (Moderate Drought) conditions returned to parts of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Jim Hogg amid the ongoing hot and dry weather. **Drought conditions will likely intensify or expand across the region through September** as hot and dry conditions look to continue. **D2 (Severe) to D3 (Extreme)** Drought could develop by **late August into September**.
- **Wildfire concerns** have also re-emerged during the 2nd half of July due to the persistently hot and dry conditions. Wildfire concerns will be in play through at least mid-September.
- Amistad Int'l Reservoir remained **near historic seasonal lows at the end of July**. Falcon received a slight boost in mid-July, but remained very low. **Confidence remains near-certain (~100%) on total storage remaining just above record lows through September**.
- Despite a dry pattern favored to continue through September, October could **see a transition to wetter conditions**. Heavy rainfall from southwest US monsoon/remnant Pacific tropical cyclones could bring flooding.
- The **2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season is expected to be below average** with strong El Niño in place. Tropical Storm/Hurricane Risk over Deep South Texas remains low. We'll continue to closely monitor trends through August.

The “Why” of the Forecast: Strong to very strong El Niño, soil moisture, long-term trends, and other key climate teleconnections to play a role

- A **Moderate (near strong) El Niño** (Nino 3.4 region temp of 1.4°) is currently in place and will become strong or very strong in August. While the oceanic conditions reflect a moderate to strong El Niño, the **atmospheric conditions** have not yet caught up and therefore is not in sync with the oceanic conditions. The combination of the oceanic and atmospheric conditions in a decoupled state plus climatology, analog data, and a -PDO suggests a **hotter than normal** and **drier weather pattern** are avored to continue **through September**.
- However, by late September going into October, we have to see if the atmosphere will have caught up with the oceanic conditions of an El Niño. If so, a **wetter pattern** could emerge in October over the RGV/Deep South Texas.

*Above right: Oceanic Niño Index. Values between -0.5 and 0.5 (gray) indicates ENSO Neutral conditions April-June 2024. ENSO Neutral conditions transitioned to a weak La Nina July 2024. Since then, a weak to moderate La Nina has persisted through early 2026. Just recently have ENSO Neutral conditions developed. Values between -0.5 and -1.0 (blue) indicates a weak La Nina.

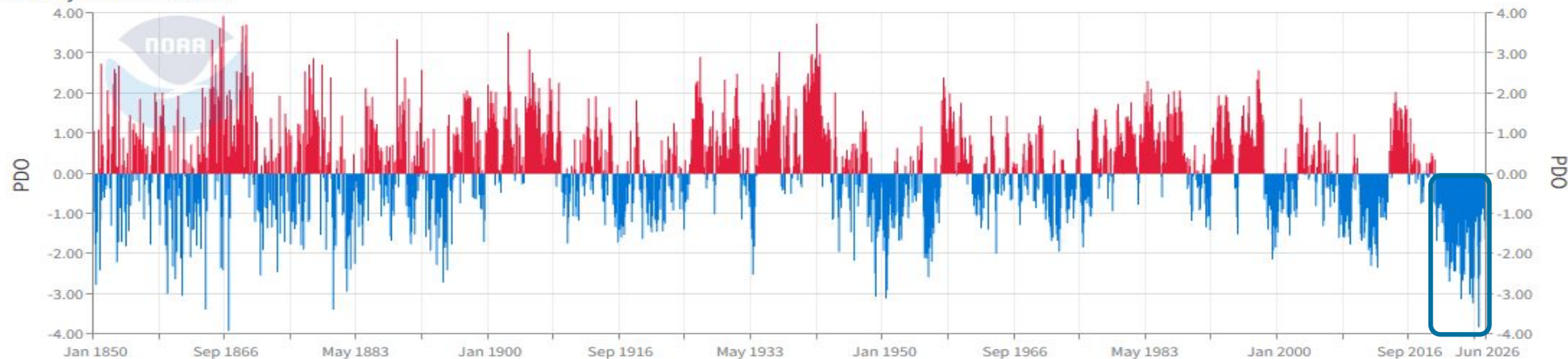
Year	DJF	JFM	FMA	MAM	AMJ	MJJ	JJA	JAS	ASO	SON	OND	NDJ
2023	-0.8	-0.6	-0.4	-0.2	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.5
2024	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.1	-0.3	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-1.1
2025	-1.1	-0.9	-0.7	-0.5	-0.5	0.0	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0
2026	-0.9	-0.7	-0.4	0.0	0.5							



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

Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO)

January 1850-June 2026



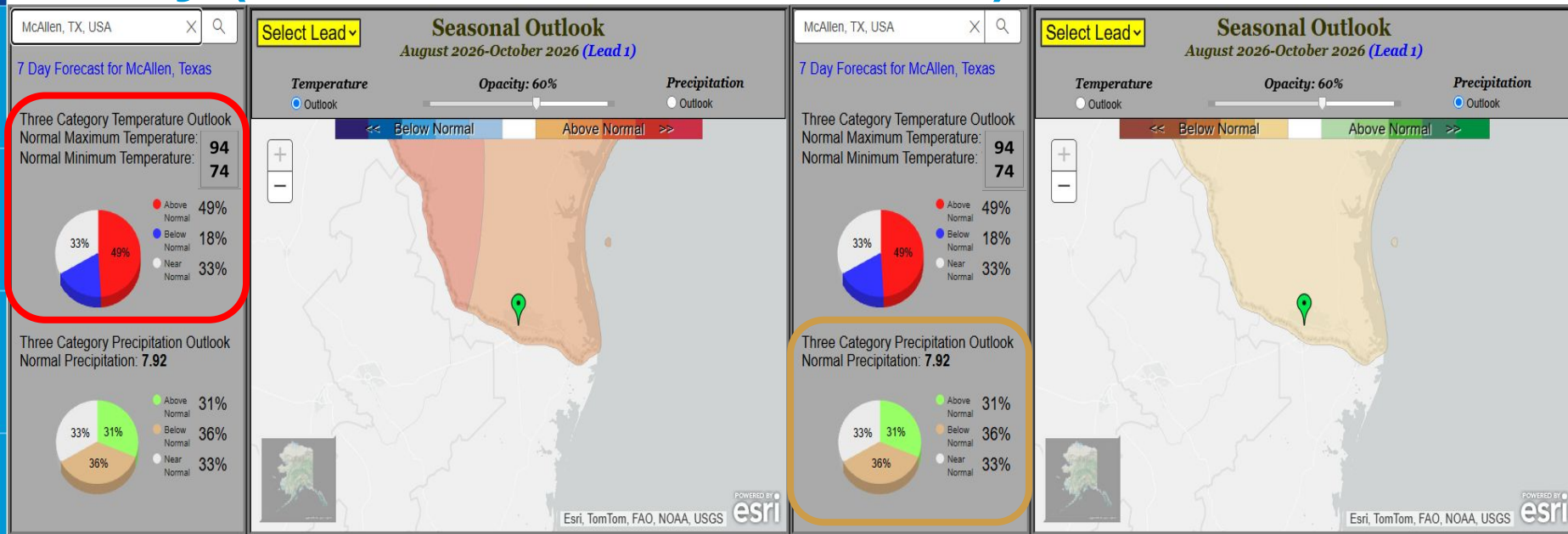
Source: <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/cmb/ersst/v5/v6/index/ersst.v6.pdo.dat>

Powered by ZingChart

- The 2021-2026 prolonged and strong negative PDO has persisted, and will remain the case through 2026. This continues to support confidence for a **hotter than normal pattern to persist through Summer 2026.**
- The sharply negative PDO also supports a **drier than normal precipitation theme** through the August-October (JAS) period. However, a **moderate to strong El Niño** and seasonality could support a mainly dry weather pattern through September, before a possible flip towards a **wetter pattern** develops in October.
- **Confidence remains high** for a sharply negative PDO to continue.



The August-October 2026 Outlook: Rio Grande Valley (McAllen as Anchor Point)

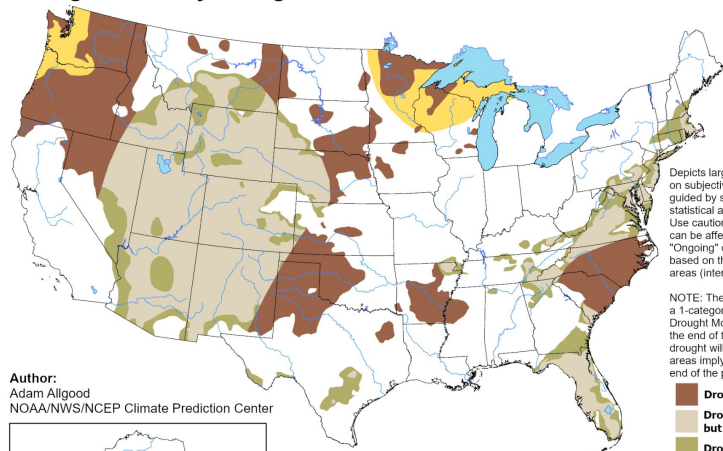


- Temperature:** Hotter than normal temperatures are expected. Confidence: Medium-High (60-80%). RGV averages: Afternoon – Mid 90s-Lower 100s through August; lower to mid 90s through September; mid 80s to lower 90s through October. Wake-up: Mid-upper 70s through mid September; Mid 60s to lower 70s late September through October.
- Precipitation:** Drier than normal conditions are expected (specifically August-September) October could flip wetter. Confidence: Medium-High (60-80% for August-September). Low-Medium (30-50% for October). RGV averages: 8.5 to 12 inches (most in September).

The August-October 2026 “Droughtlook”

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for July 16 - October 31, 2026
Released July 16, 2026



Author:
Adam Algood
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



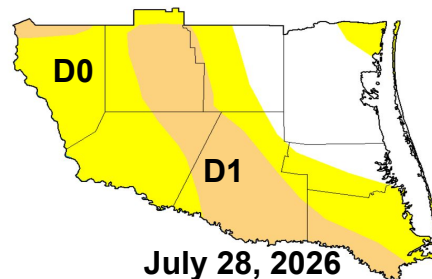
Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. “Ongoing” drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists
- Drought remains, but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely
- No drought

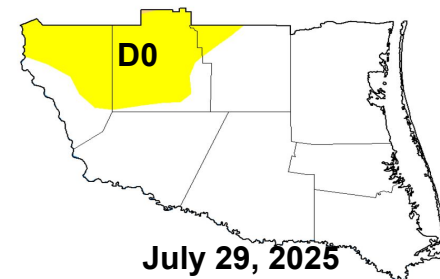
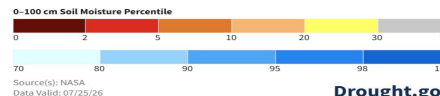
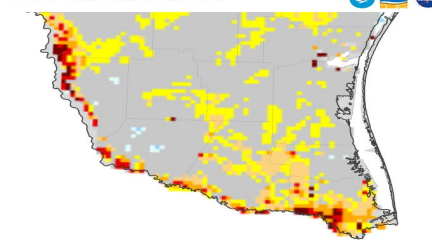


<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>



July 28, 2026

0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



July 29, 2025

Drought Classification

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

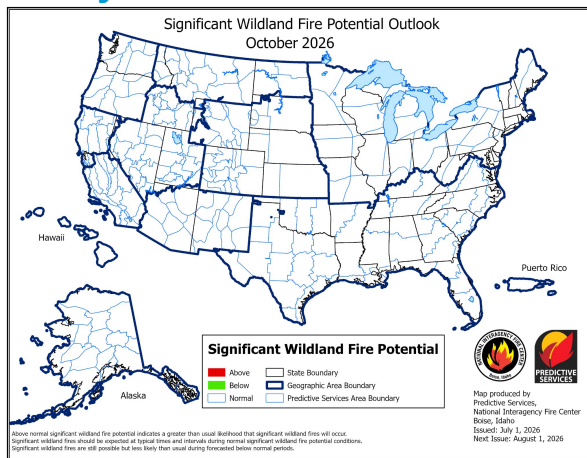
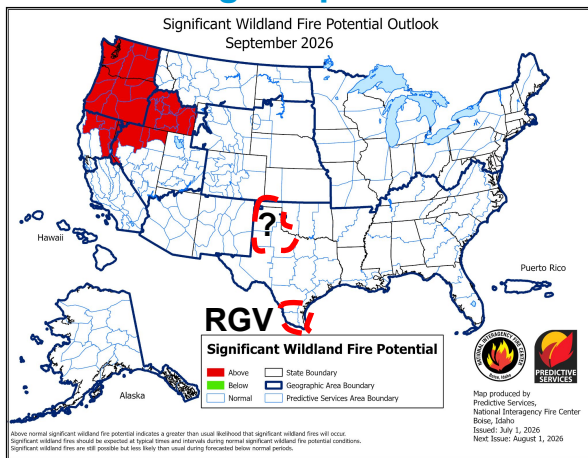
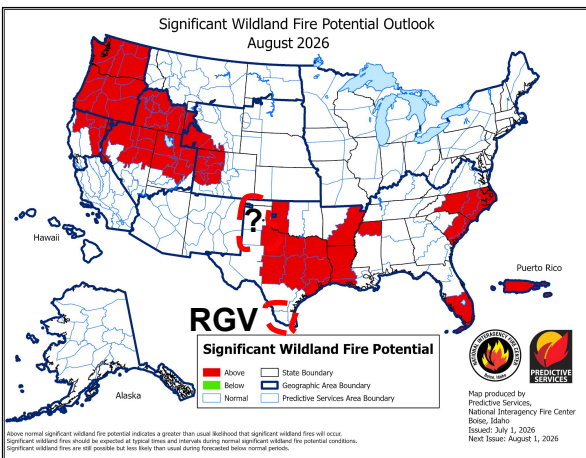
- Hot and rain-free conditions** developed over Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley **late June through July**. The **intense heat** led to **very strong evaporation rates** that exacerbated the dryness. In a short order, the hardest hit areas went from drought-free conditions to having D0-D1 Drought as of July 28. In contrast to last year, this year has more drought coverage and concerns than last year.
- The NOAA seasonal drought outlook continues to suggest **no real changes in either direction for Deep South Texas**. **However, dryness/drought has spread and will continue to spread over the RGV/Deep South Texas** through at least mid-September due to expectations on the hot and rain-free pattern continuing. **Late September and October**, the **pattern could turn wetter** amid the **strong to very strong El Nino**.



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Wildfire concerns will continue/increase throughout September as hot and dry conditions continue



- Wildfire spread concerns are likely to continue/increase in August-September across Deep South Texas, based on dry antecedent conditions and a continued hot weather pattern with high evaporation rates (**positive feedback loop**). Already, we had a wildfire spread quickly to 365 acres in western Brooks County on July 26 before being contained/controlled.
- The weather pattern could flip wetter late September into October as the moderate to strong El Nino atmospherically locks into place. **If a wetter pattern is realized in October, any secondary wildfire threat season would be squelched in October.** If a drier pattern persists through October, the wildfire threat will continue.

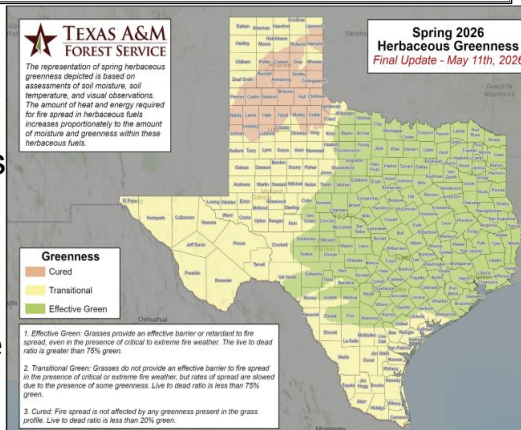
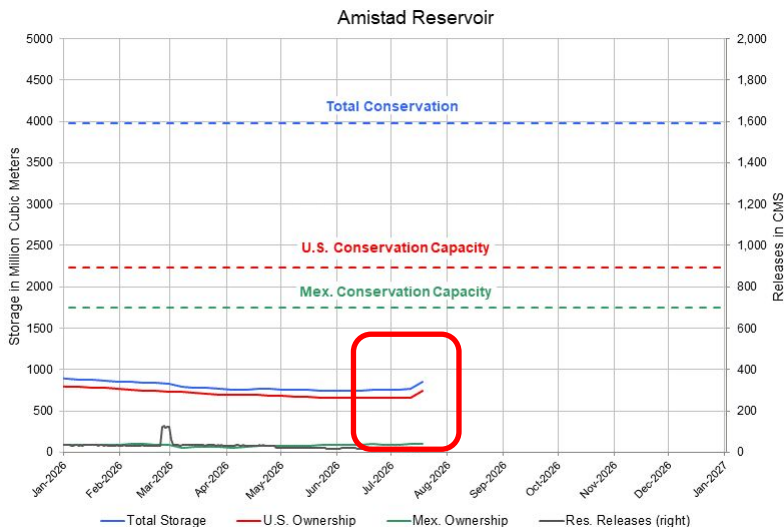
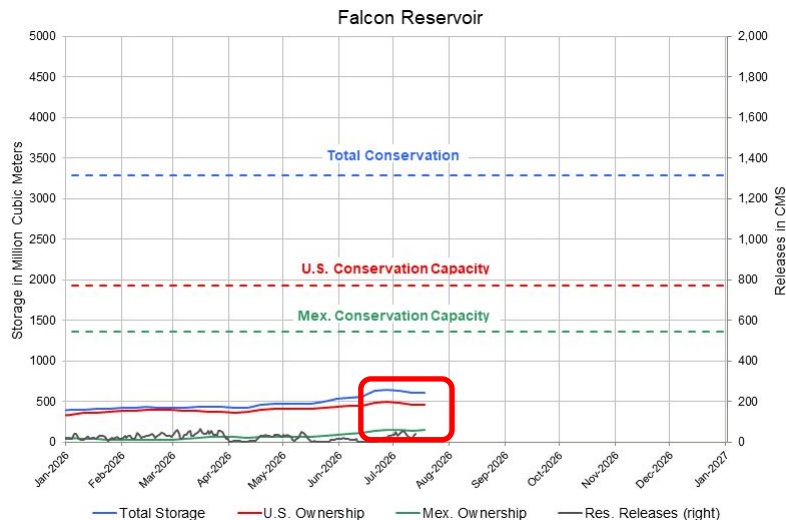


Image: **Transitional Green** was last seen across Texas as of May 11, 2026. This is due to the persistently **hot and dry** conditions since late June.

Amistad and Falcon Reservoirs (combined) will continue to remain just above record lows through mid-2026



- **Falcon rose to 21.7% as of July 28th** (higher than the **19.6% from late June**). Levels should change little or fall slowly through September.
- **Amistad rose slightly and remains above the all-time record lows as of late July**. Levels were at **24.1% on July 28th** (higher than the **19.0% from late June**). Levels should change little or fall slowly through September.

Water Conservation is Key Until Further Notice!

- “Stage 2/3” Restrictions will continue through mid 2026 (at least) in some areas, 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](#).

The screenshot displays the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) website. At the top, the TWDB logo is on the left, and a search bar and social media links are on the right. Below the header is a navigation menu with links: Home, Board, Financial Assistance, Water Planning, Groundwater, Surface Water, Flood, Drought, Conservation, Innovative Water, and Data & Apps. The main content area is titled "Water Conservation" and features three featured programs: "Conservation Education Programs of the TWDB", "MAJOR RIVERS A Water Education Program for Texas", and "Raising Your Water IQ A Water Conservation Curriculum for Middle School". Below these are three more program covers: "Water Exploration", "WATER IQ Know your water.", and "Best Management Practices". A sidebar on the right lists various resources: Agriculture, Literature, Resources, Education, Outreach, Municipal, Workshops & Presentations, Conservation Staff, Drought, Rainwater Harvesting, and Water Reuse. The main text block below the featured programs states: "The mission of the water conservation staff is to provide leadership, planning, education, information, technical assistance, and agricultural financial assistance for water conservation in Texas." It then provides data from the "Water for Texas: 2017 State Water Plan" regarding projected water conservation strategies for 2070.

Texas Water Development Board

Home Board Financial Assistance Water Planning Groundwater Surface Water Flood Drought Conservation Innovative Water Data & Apps

Water Conservation

Conservation Education Programs of the TWDB

MAJOR RIVERS
A Water Education Program for Texas

Raising Your Water IQ
A Water Conservation Curriculum for Middle School

WATER IQ
Know your water.

Water Exploration

Best Management Practices

- Agriculture
- Literature
- Resources
- Education
- Outreach
- Municipal
- Workshops & Presentations
- Conservation Staff

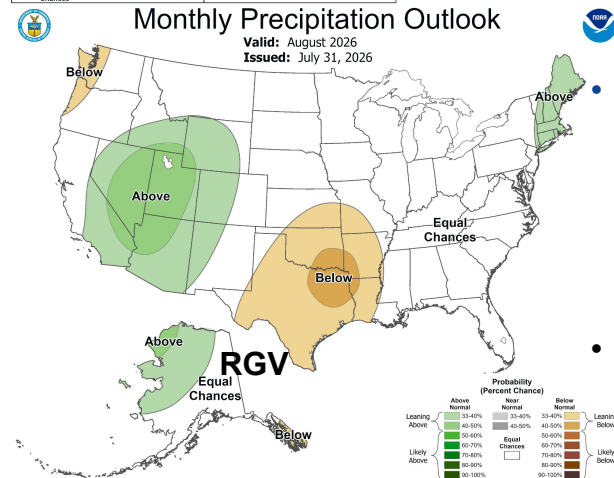
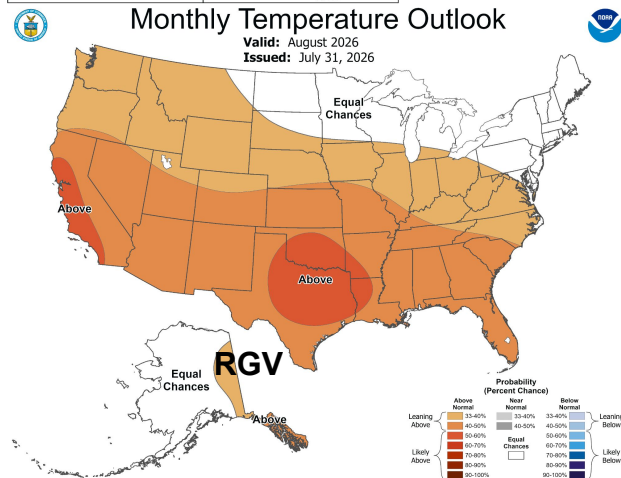
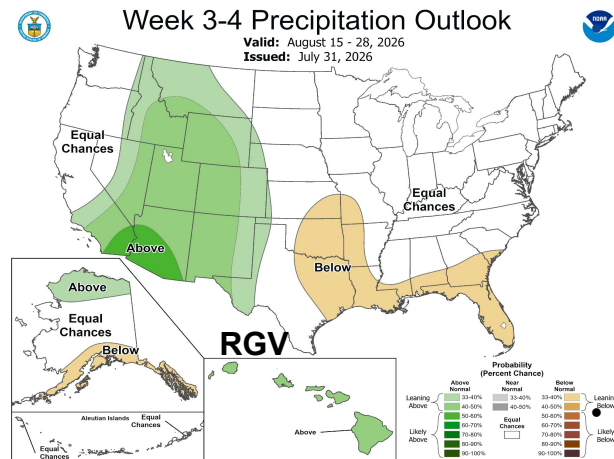
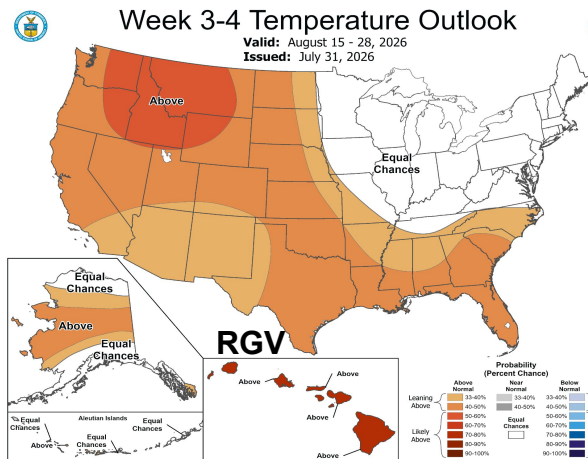
Drought

- Rainwater Harvesting
- Water Reuse

The mission of the water conservation staff is to provide leadership, planning, education, information, technical assistance, and agricultural financial assistance for water conservation in Texas.

In [Water for Texas: 2017 State Water Plan](#) water conservation strategies for the year 2070 are projected to provide 2,344,541 acre-feet to help meet the projected needs for additional water supplies. This volume of water conservation represents 27.7 percent of the identified strategies to meet water supply needs in 2070. Irrigation conservation accounts for 15.7 percent, municipal conservation is 9.6 percent and other conservation is 2.4 percent. Reuse strategies add an additional 14.2 percent (1,106,614 acre-feet) of potential supplies in 2070 and includes indirect reuse, other reuse and direct potable reuse.

August 2026: Confidence: Medium-High on Temperature (60-80%) and Medium on Precipitation (40-50%)



A **hotter than normal August** is anticipated across the RGV/Deep South Texas. Several models are showing the heat ridge stretching across the entire southern U.S. through August. This will likely maintain **hotter than average temperatures** for the remainder of the summer.

Meanwhile, a **mainly drier than normal pattern** will be in place through early September.

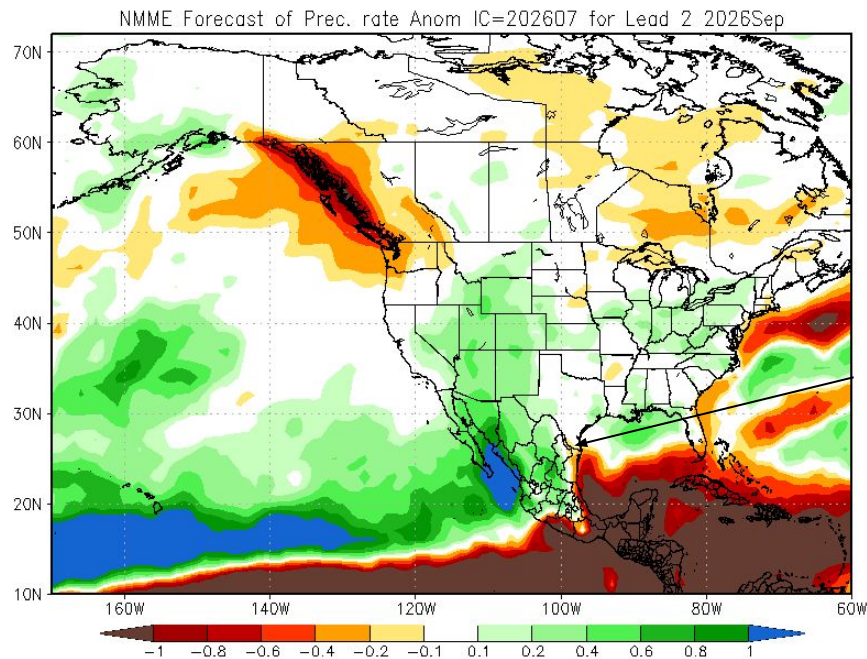
The large-scale pattern favors primarily east-southeasterly flow over the region which could support the potential for **sea breeze showers** and a few **thunderstorms** from time to time.

- Heat ridge location and the atmospheric and oceanic interaction associated with it will continue to be key!



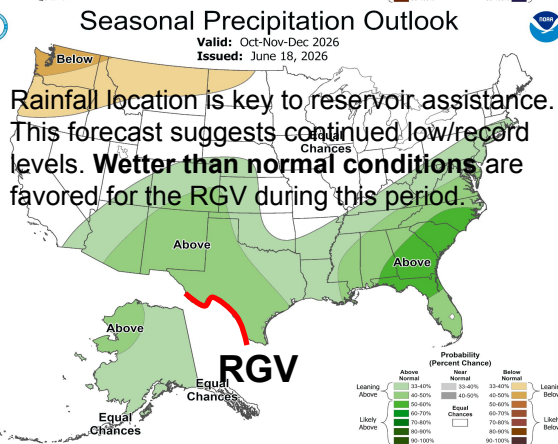
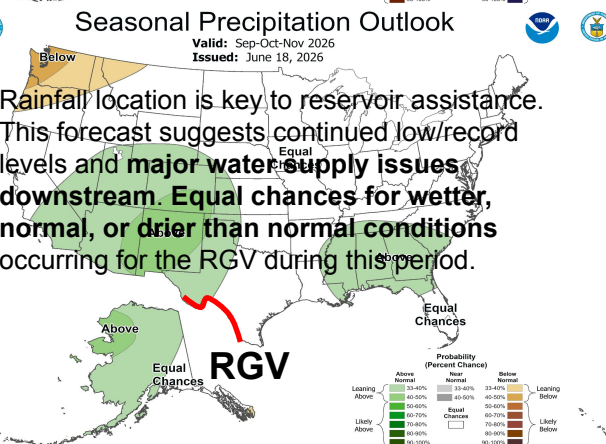
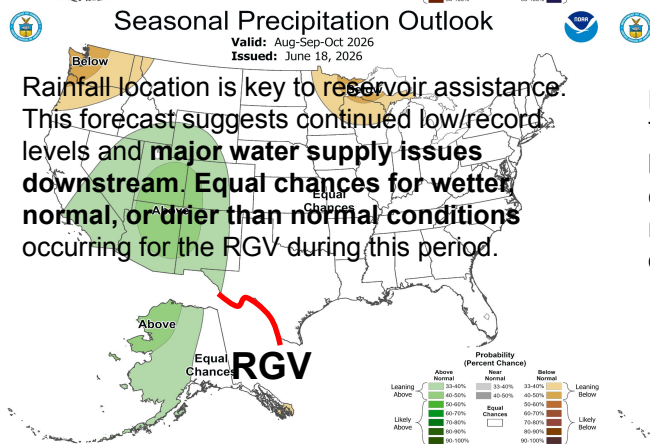
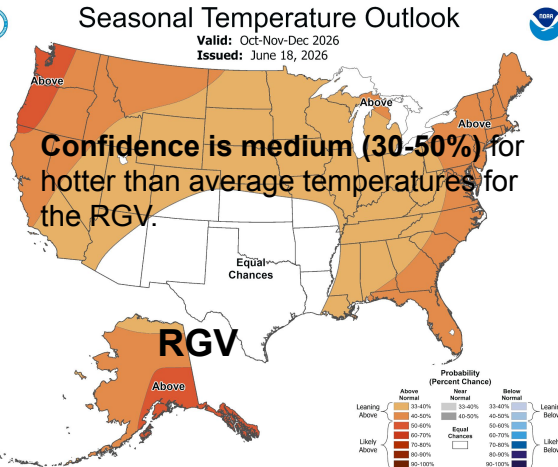
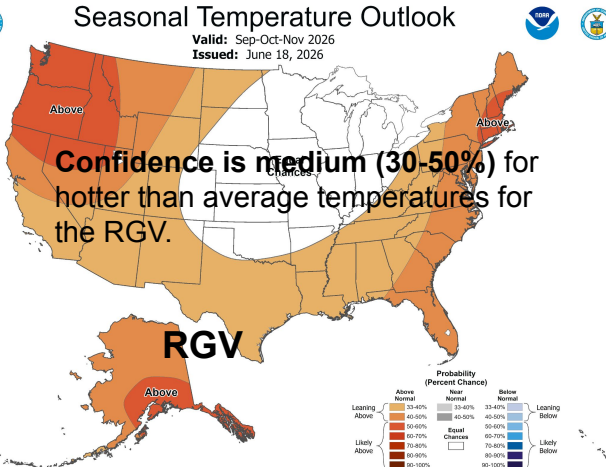
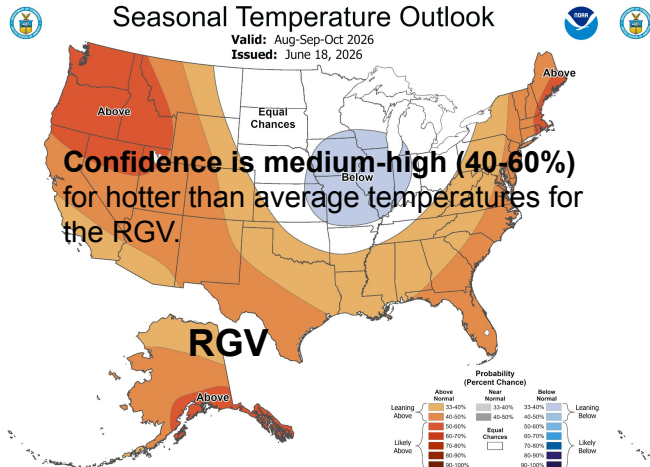
Early Look: September 2026

Potential rainfall rate anomaly, September 2026



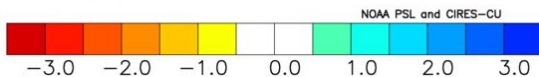
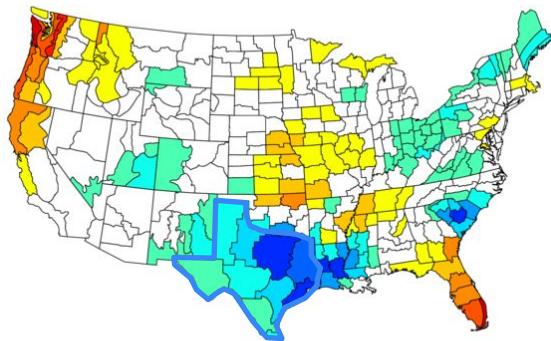
- This climate model forecast for September signals the persistently dry pattern trying to break over Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley. This means that **while the 1st half of September may feature mainly dry conditions**, the **pattern could potentially begin to turn wetter by late September**, potentially offsetting the dry start (note how much of the area is shaded in white).

Late Summer to Autumn 2026: Hotter than normal to seasonal trends favored; Drier than normal trends are favored

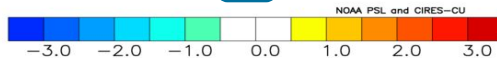
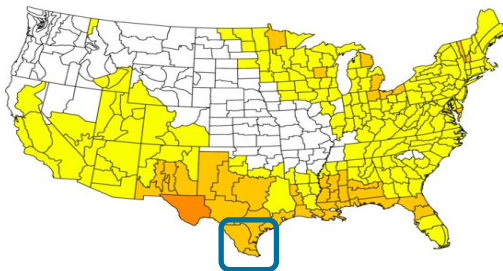


Comparing similar transitions to strong/very strong El Nino episodes mostly within the last 30 years; August-October Periods

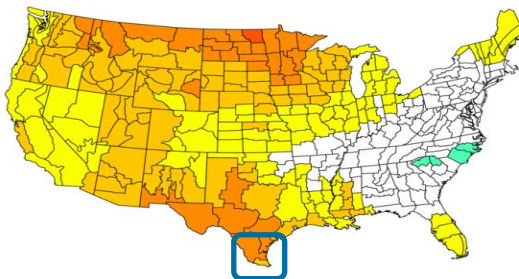
NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Precipitation Anomalies (in)
Oct 2023,2015,2006
Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average



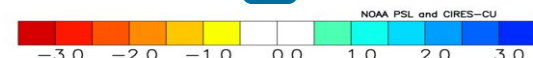
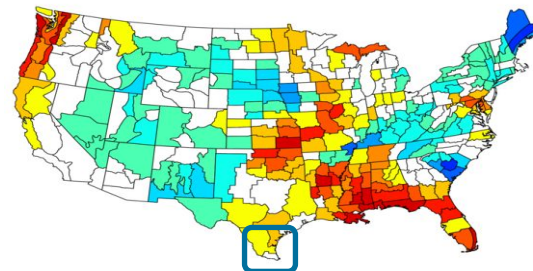
NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Temperature Anomalies (F)
Aug to Oct 2023,2015,2002,2009,2018,2024
Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average



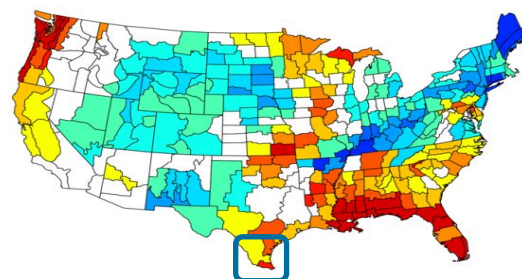
NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Temperature Anomalies (F)
Aug to Oct 2023,2015,2009,2024,1991,2025
Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average



NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Precipitation Anomalies (in)
Aug to Oct 2023,2015,2006
Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average



NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Precipitation Anomalies (in)
Aug to Oct 2023,2006
Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average



Top Image: Similar years of transitions to a strong/very strong El Nino where October turned **wetter**.

- **Top:** Composite temperature (left) and precipitation (right) anomalies for similar El Nino transition episodes leading into August-October, since 1950.
- **Bottom Left:** Same, but added the 2018 season.
- **Bottom Right:** Same, but added the 1987 and 2025 seasons.

Bottom Lines

- A **hotter than normal pattern** is anticipated during the **August-October (ASO) time period**. **Moderate (Level 2 of 4) to Major (Level 3 of 4) Heat Risk** will be the theme through the remainder of the summer. Meanwhile, **drier than normal pattern** is expected through at least mid-late September. However, October could flip wetter.
- **Drought conditions have re-emerged** across the region with Abnormal Dryness to Moderate Drought underway, thanks to the intense heat, strong evaporation rates, and prolonged dryness. Drought conditions are expected to deepen and expand through September. **Severe (D2) to Extreme (D3) Drought** is possible **by September**.
- **Wildfire spread concerns** have also re-emerged and is expected to continue/increase **through at least September**.
- Sufficient inflows from Mexican and International reservoirs serving the Lower Rio Grande watershed remain **unlikely**. The **combined share of water in Amistad and Falcon will likely to continue at or below Stage 2/3 triggers (25% or less) until further notice**. Water conservation, smart irrigation, and rainwater harvesting are **critical actions to continue as we move through the Summer and into the early Fall**. Note that remnants of an eastern Pacific tropical event could provide some help in October.
- Recent history has shown that in a quick transition to a strong to very strong El Nino, **hot and dry conditions prevail through late summer** before a rather dramatic transition to a **wet Autumn with increased rain and flood potential**, and near average temperatures. **October is the timeframe which things could flip wetter**. If that happens, flooding concerns from monsoon showers and thunderstorms will become an issue.
- With a **strong to very strong El Niño** in place, a **below average 2026 hurricane season** is expected. We'll continue to keep close watch on trends through August!