

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



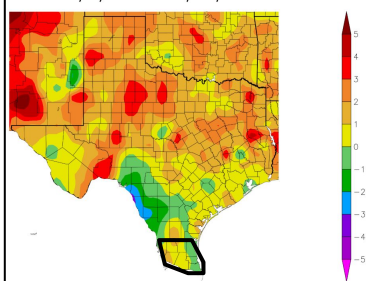
NATIONAL
WEATHER
SERVICE

June 30, 2026

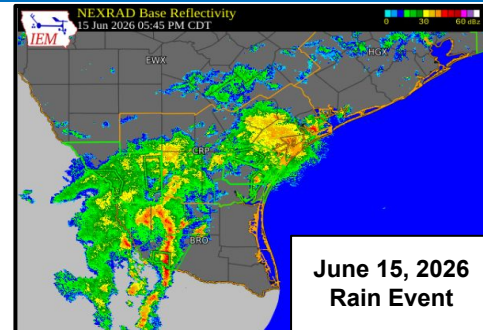
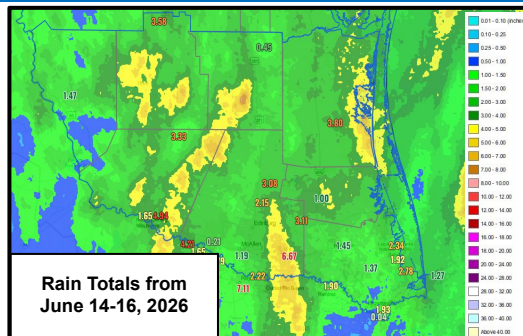
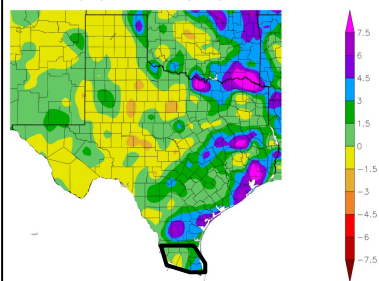
Andrei Evbuoma, Barry Goldsmith, & Rodney Chai
NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, Texas

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
6/1/2026 – 6/24/2026

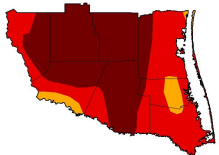


Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
6/1/2026 – 6/24/2026



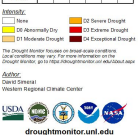
June 2026: All dry/drought designations have been removed and rainfall amounts have been brought to near normal if not well above normal levels courtesy of a continuation of showers and storms in June

U.S. Drought Monitor
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX WFO



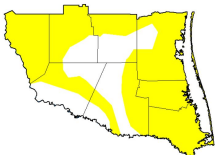
March 31, 2026
(Released Thursday, Apr. 2, 2026)
WFO 8 a.m. EDT

City	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)											
	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9	D10	D11
Current	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Last Week	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1 Month AGO	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3 Month AGO	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
6 Month AGO	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1 Year AGO	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0



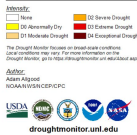
Author: David Swanson
Western Regional Climate Center
USDA NWS NOAA NASA
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX WFO



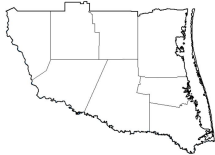
June 2, 2026
(Released Thursday, Jun. 4, 2026)
WFO 8 a.m. EDT

City	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)											
	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9	D10	D11
Current	20.7	79.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Last Week	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1 Month AGO	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3 Month AGO	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
6 Month AGO	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1 Year AGO	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0



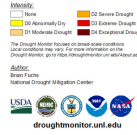
Author: Adam Mizell
NOAA/NWS/CRCP
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX WFO

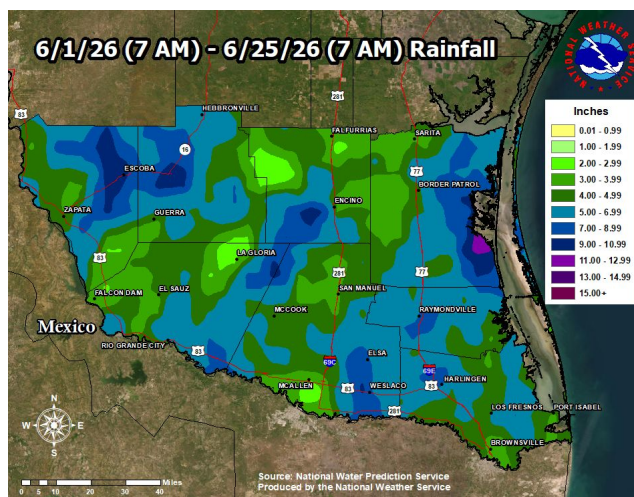


June 9, 2026
(Released Thursday, Jun. 11, 2026)
WFO 8 a.m. EDT

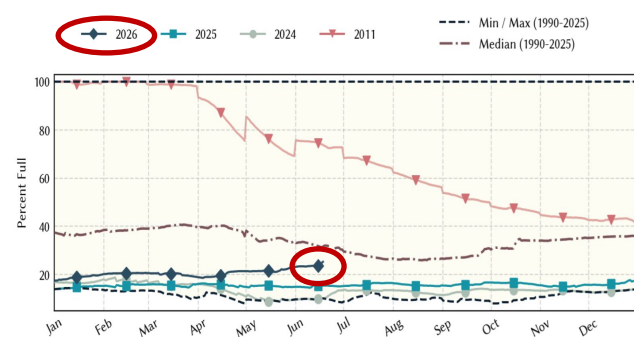
City	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)											
	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9	D10	D11
Current	99.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Last Week	25.7	74.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1 Month AGO	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3 Month AGO	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
6 Month AGO	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1 Year AGO	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0



Author: Brian Tait
Western Drought Mitigation Center
USDA NWS NOAA NASA
droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Top Image: Rainfall footprint for the month of June.



Bottom Image: Latest data from the Rio Grande Reservoirs (Texas Share) continue to indicate June 2026 levels have improved from the recent rains and remains above 2025 levels. Month-over-month shares have increased from 22.2% to 25.8%. Credit: Texas Water Development Board

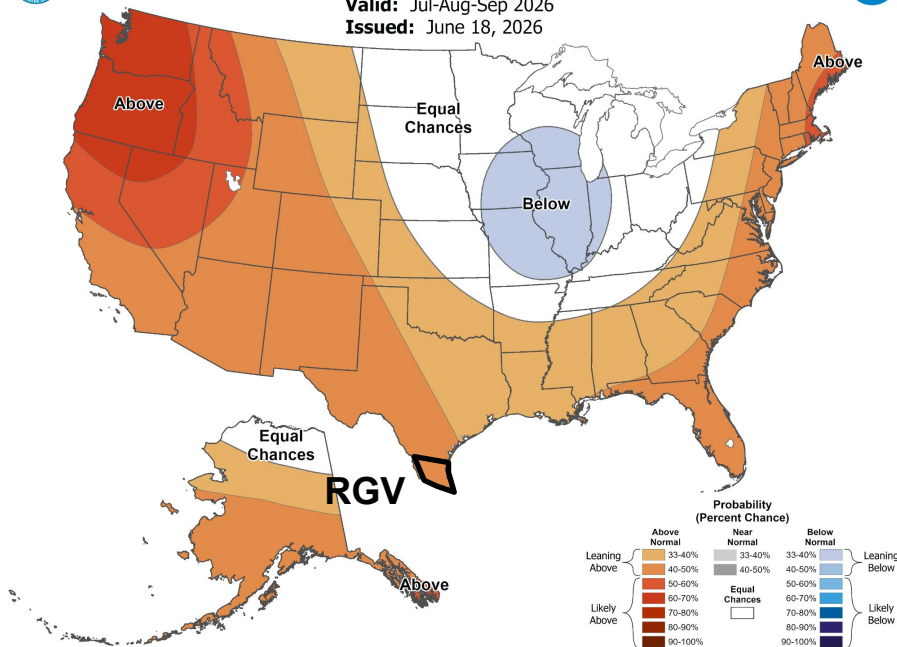
- An active weather pattern of **showers and thunderstorms** April through May helped to end the drought across Deep South Texas. We went from **widespread D3 (Extreme Drought) to D4 (Exceptional Drought) March 31st** to no drought designations by June 2nd, though there still were areas of dryness (see image above). **Additional rainfall** that fell during the early to middle parts of June not only ended any lingering dryness across the region, but increased our totals for the month and for the year to **near normal levels**, if not **well above normal levels**.
- In general, anywhere from 3-7 inches with locally higher amounts up to 12 inches fell across Deep South Texas during the month of June. The heaviest rainfall amounts were hit and miss across the region with a pocket being located over **eastern Zapata and western Jim Hogg**, a **swath over southern Brooks through eastern Starr**, and another swath from **central and eastern Kenedy into Willacy** and finally into **eastern Hidalgo and western Cameron counties** (see top right image).
- As of June 25th, Brownsville's month to date and year to date totals are **3.24"** and **8.59"**, respectively, which is **0.95" above normal** and **0.95 below normal**, respectively. Meanwhile, Harlingen's month to date and year to date totals are **5.98"** and **13.88"**, respectively, which is **4.18" above normal** and **5.03" above normal**, respectively. Finally, McAllen's month to date and year to date totals are **1.59"** and **9.53"**, respectively, which is **0.95" below normal** and **0.66" above normal**, respectively.

Seasonal Forecast, July-September 2026 USA



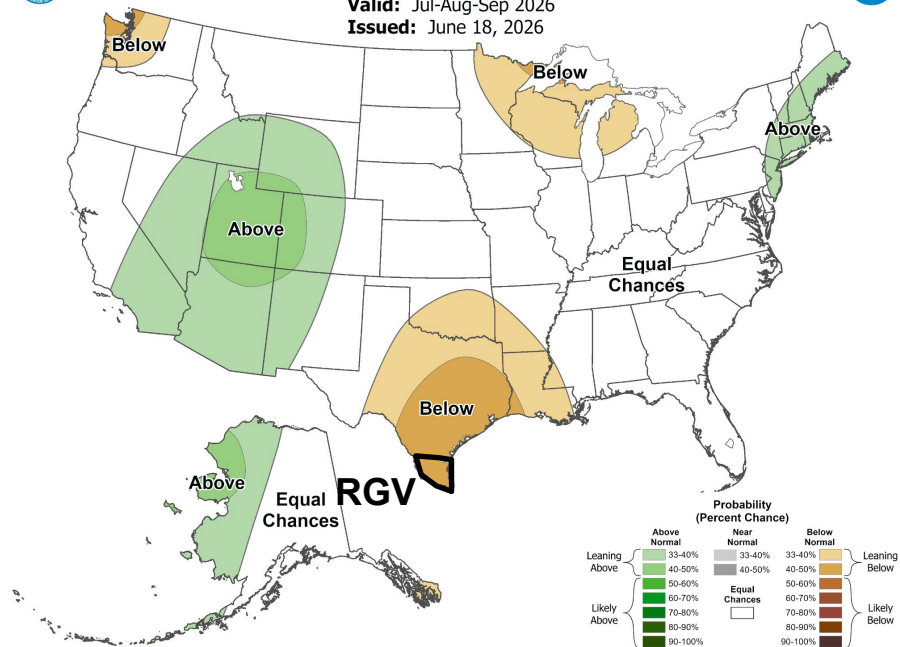
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Jul-Aug-Sep 2026
Issued: June 18, 2026



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Jul-Aug-Sep 2026
Issued: June 18, 2026



Confidence: Medium-High (60-80%) for seasonable to **hotter than normal temperatures** during the July-September (JAS) period. Medium (40-60%) for a **drier than normal pattern** during the July-September (JAS) period.



Key Takeaways: July-September 2026 Outlook

- A **hotter than normal** outlook is anticipated through the **July-September** period for the RGV/Deep South Texas region. Additionally, a **drier than normal pattern** is anticipated across the region during the **July-September** timeframe!
- **Moderate (Level 2 of 4) to Major (Level 3 of 4) Heat Risk** will be the theme through the JAS period. **Heat Risk** will be most pronounced July through mid-September.
- Drought conditions have been eliminated across Deep South Texas, **courtesy of recent rains from April through June**. While mainly dry conditions are expected to prevail July through August, a **wetter** (non-tropical showers and thunderstorms) **pattern could emerge** mid to late September into October, given the **moderate to strong El Niño** in place. **Note:** September is typically our wettest month annually, followed by October. Given the situation, there could be some dryness that develops by August, however, drought and wildfire weather concerns should largely remain muted until further notice.
- Amistad Int'l Reservoir remained **near historic seasonal lows at the end of June**. Falcon received a slight boost in June, but remained very low. **Confidence remains near-certain (~100%) on total storage remaining just above record lows through September**.
- Despite a drier than normal pattern favored, occasional **sea breeze convection** is possible during the JAS period.
- The **2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season is expected to be below average** with moderate to strong El Niño in place. Tropical Storm/Hurricane Risk over Deep South Texas remains low given the **moderate to strong El Niño** in place. We'll continue to closely monitor tropical trends through August.



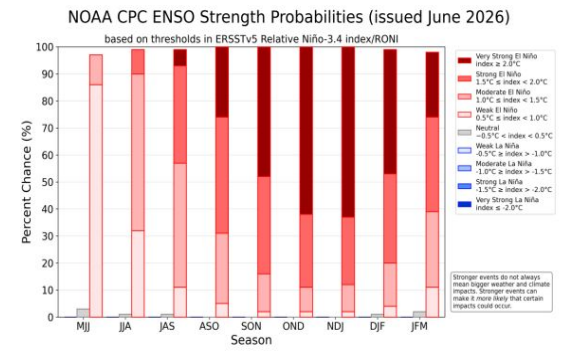
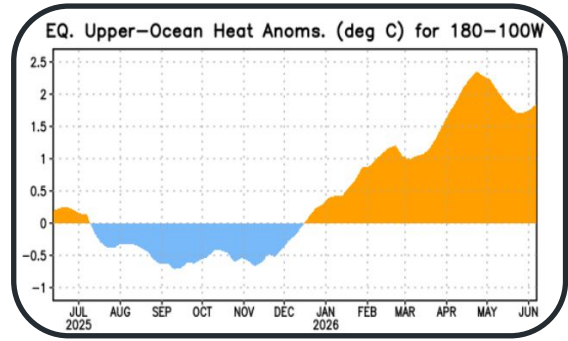
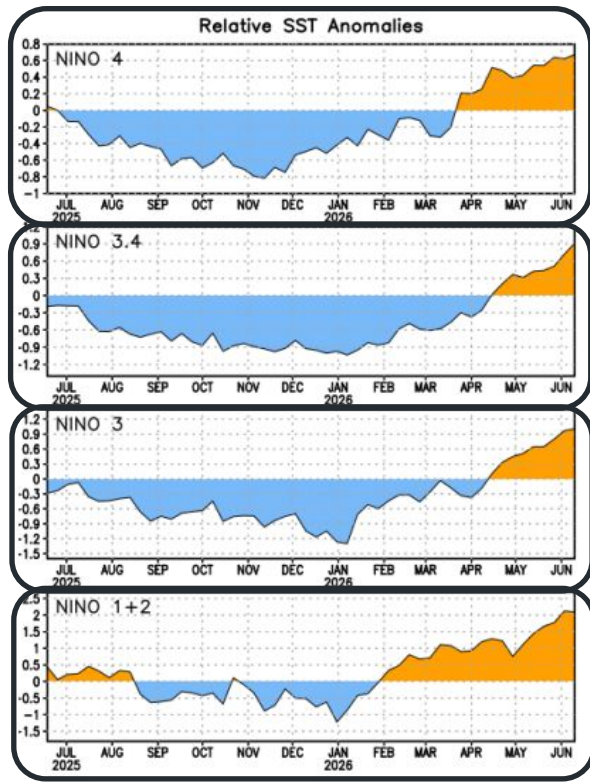
The “Why” of the Forecast: Moderate to Strong El Niño, soil moisture, long-term trends, and other key climate teleconnections to play a role

- A **Moderate El Niño** (Nino 3.4 region temp of 1.1°) is currently in place and could become strong within a few months. While the oceanic conditions reflect a moderate 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, and a -PDO suggests a **hotter than normal** and **drier weather pattern** are favored through at least August.

- However, by 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 sometime late September into October over 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 Niña July 2024. Since then, a weak to moderate La Niña has persisted through early 2026. Just recently have ENSO Neutral conditions developed. Values between -0.5 and -1.0 (blue) indicates a weak La Niña.

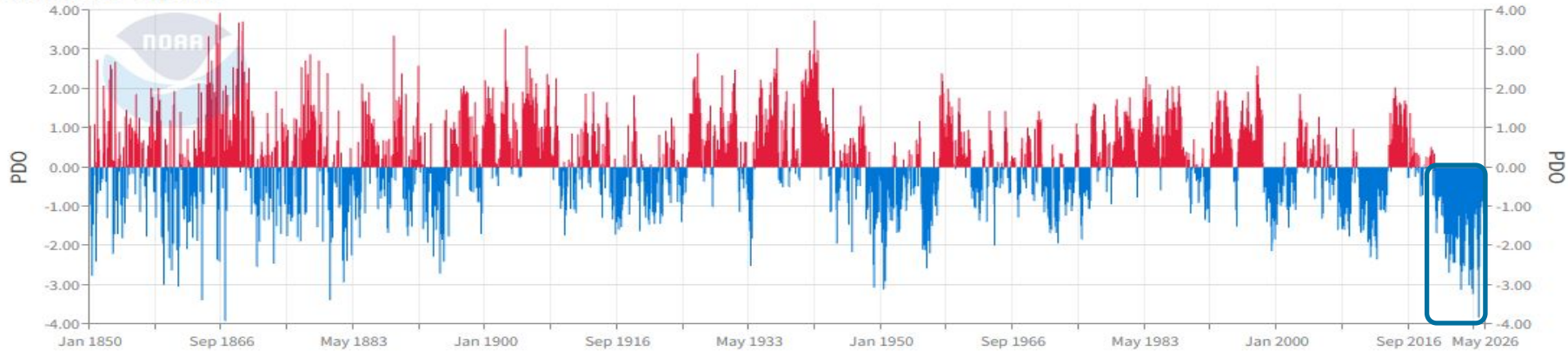
Year	DJF	JFM	FMA	MAM	AMJ	MJJ	JJA	JAS	ASO	SON	OND	NDJ
2023	-0.8	-0.6	-0.4	-0.2	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.5
2024	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.1	-0.3	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-1.1
2025	-1.1	-0.9	-0.7	-0.5	-0.5	0.0	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0
2026	-0.9	-0.7	-0.4	-0.1								



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

Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO)

January 1850-May 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 mid 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 July-September (JAS) period. However, a moderate to strong El Niño and seasonality could support a mainly dry weather pattern through August, **before a possible flip** towards a **wetter pattern** develops in the late September to October timeframe.
- **Confidence remains high** for a sharply negative PDO to continue.



The July-September 2026 Outlook: Rio Grande Valley (McAllen as Anchor Point)

McAllen, TX, USA

7 Day Forecast for McAllen, Texas

Three Category Temperature Outlook
Normal Maximum Temperature: **99**
Normal Minimum Temperature: **79**

Above Normal	41%
Below Normal	26%
Near Normal	33%

Three Category Precipitation Outlook
Normal Precipitation: **7.92**

Above Normal	21%
Below Normal	46%
Near Normal	33%

Select Lead

Seasonal Outlook

July 2026-September 2026 (Lead 1)

Temperature Outlook Opacity: 60% Precipitation Outlook

<< Below Normal Above Normal >>

POWERED BY esri

McAllen, TX, USA

7 Day Forecast for McAllen, Texas

Three Category Temperature Outlook
Normal Maximum Temperature: **99**
Normal Minimum Temperature: **79**

Above Normal	41%
Below Normal	26%
Near Normal	33%

Three Category Precipitation Outlook
Normal Precipitation: **7.92**

Above Normal	21%
Below Normal	46%
Near Normal	33%

Select Lead

Seasonal Outlook

July 2026-September 2026 (Lead 1)

Temperature Outlook Opacity: 60% Precipitation Outlook

<< Below Normal Above Normal >>

POWERED BY esri

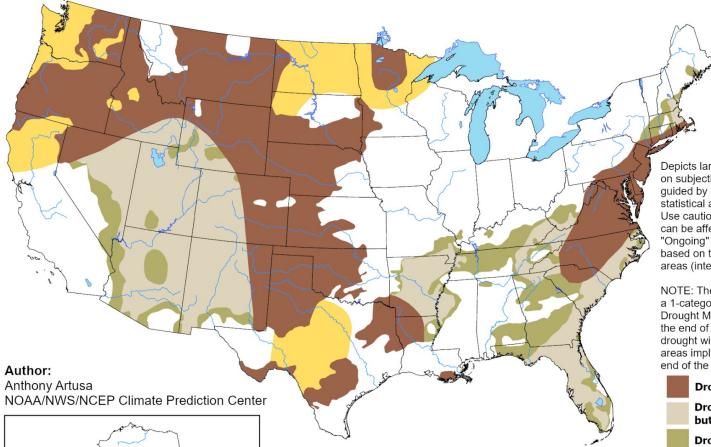
- **Temperature:** **Hotter than normal temperatures** are expected. **Confidence: Medium (60-80%).** RGV averages: Afternoon – Mid 90s-Lower 100s July through August; mid to upper 90s through early September; low to mid 90s mid-late September. Wake-up: Mid-upper 70s through early June; Upper 70s mid-June through August.
- **Precipitation:** **Drier than normal conditions** are expected. **Confidence: Medium (40-50%).** Higher confidence for **July-August.** Lower confidence for **September.** RGV averages: 8-10 inches (**most in September**).



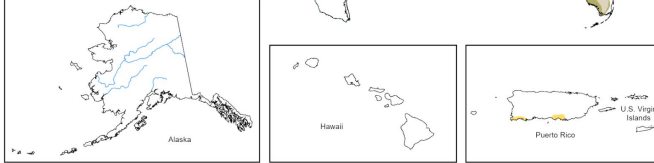
The July-September 2026 “Droughtlook”

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

Valid for June 18 - September 30, 2026
Released June 18, 2026



Author:
Anthony Artusa
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center

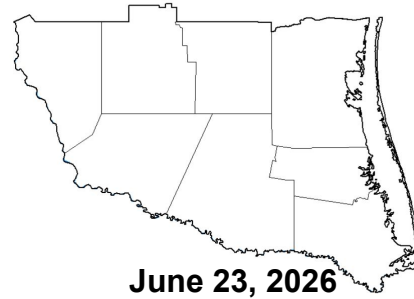


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. *Ongoing* drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to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

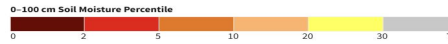
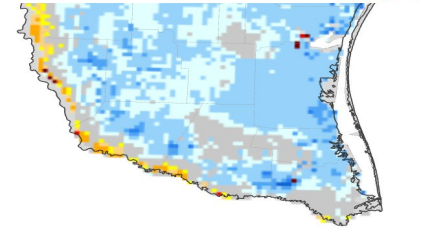
- Drought persists
- Drought remains, but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely
- No drought


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

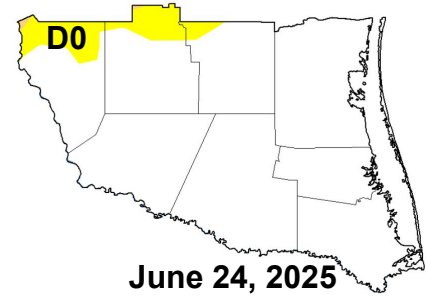


June 23, 2026

0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



Source(s): NASA
Data Valid: 06/24/26
Drought.gov



June 24, 2025

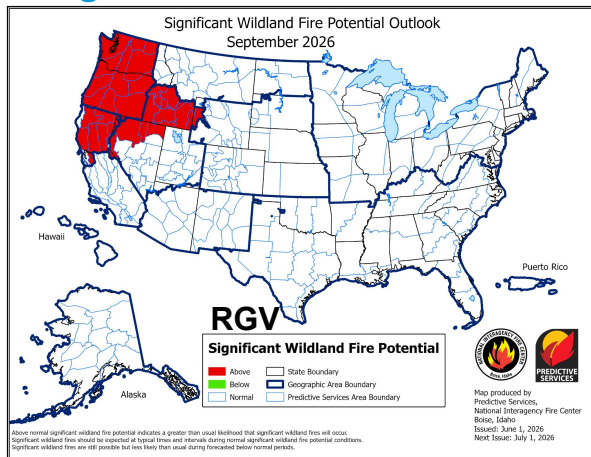
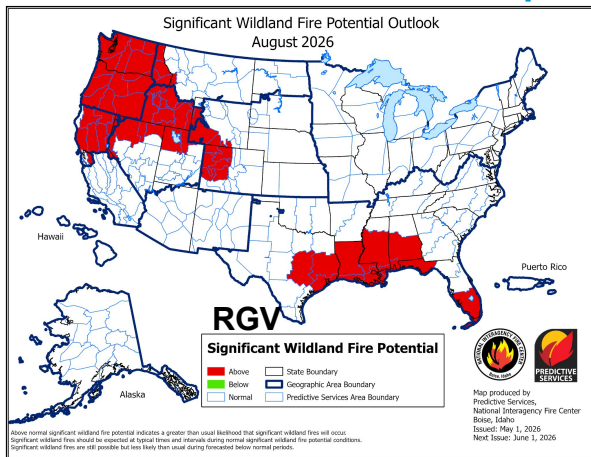
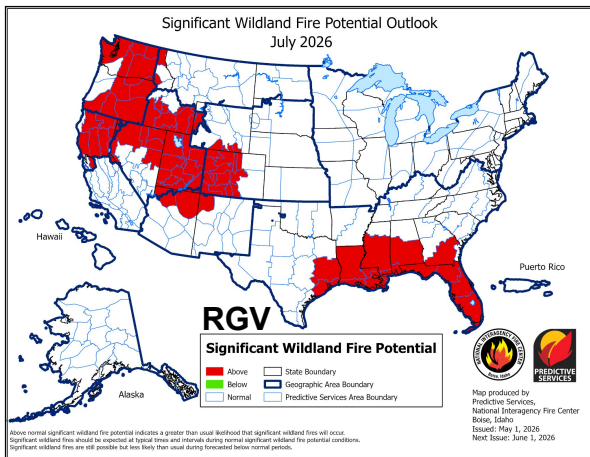
Drought Classification

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

- Thanks to the rains that fell from April through June, no drought is present over Deep South Texas (drought-free). This time last year was similar, but there were some dryness located across the extreme northern portions of Zapata, Jim Hogg, and northwestern Brooks counties.
- The seasonal drought outlook continues to suggest no real changes in either direction for Deep South Texas. Better chances North and West Texas in closer proximity to the heat dome. This suggests that the heat and evaporation rates may not be strong enough to bring widespread dryness in time before a potential wetter pattern flip later in September.



Wildfire Concerns will remain limited after beneficial rains fell April through June



- **Wildfire concerns** will remain limited after **beneficial rains April through June** removed all drought conditions and resulted in significant greenup across the region.
- This is the time of year **when relative humidity (RH) values typically remain above wildfire weather thresholds** due to a lack of cool and dry fronts and more days of southeast winds.
- **Mainly dry conditions** can be expected through at least early September. A positive feedback loop between the hot and dry weather will help in this area. **The main question is how strong will the heat and evaporation rates be (given the location of the heat dome) to support rapid dryness.** Additionally, will there be enough rain via sea breeze convection or monsoonal moisture to offset the drying in spots.
- The weather pattern could flip wetter late September into October as the moderate to strong El Nino atmospherically locks into place. If drier conditions continue though, **wildfire concerns could begin to increase** again September into October, **especially across Brush Country.**

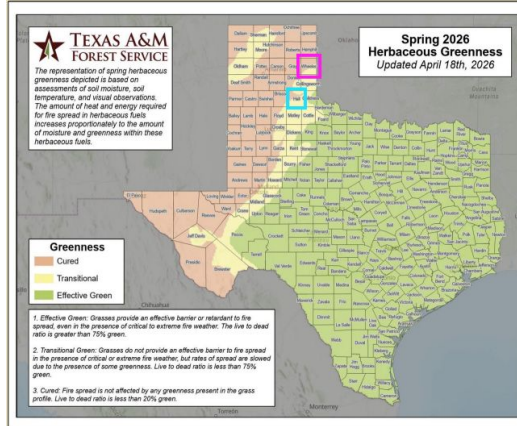
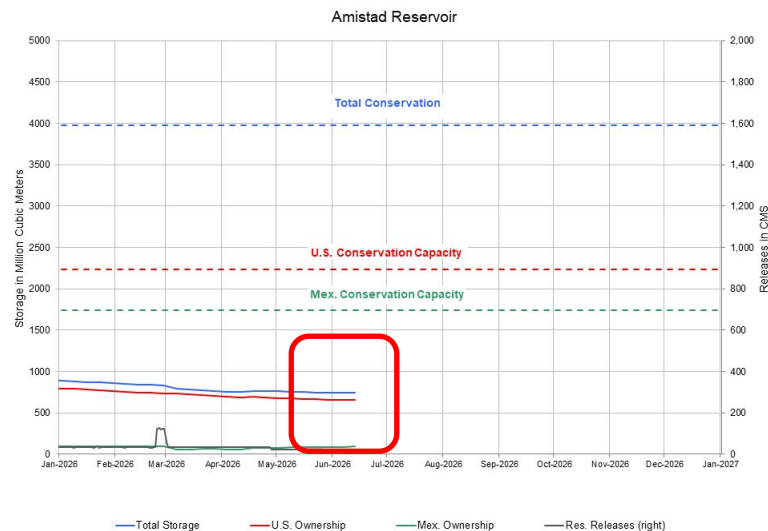
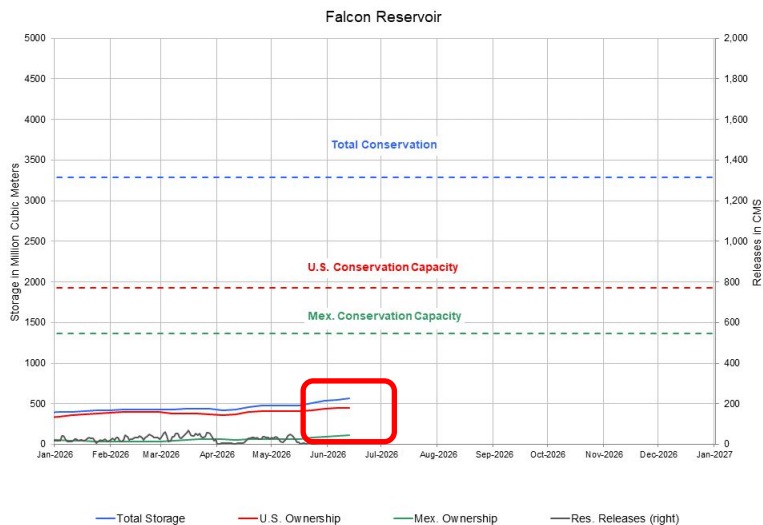


Image: Herbaceous Greenness across Texas as of April 18, 2026. Fire status improved from **greenup** across Deep South Texas amid recent beneficial rains.



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



- **Falcon rose to 19.6% as of June 25th** (higher than the **16.0% from late May**). Levels should change little or fall slowly through August, unless additional releases are provided from Amistad - or additional thunderstorm systems develop.
- **Amistad rose slightly and remains above the all-time record lows as of late June**. Levels were at **19.0% on June 25th** (slightly higher than the **18.7% from late May**). Levels should change little or fall slowly through August, unless additional thunderstorm systems develop.

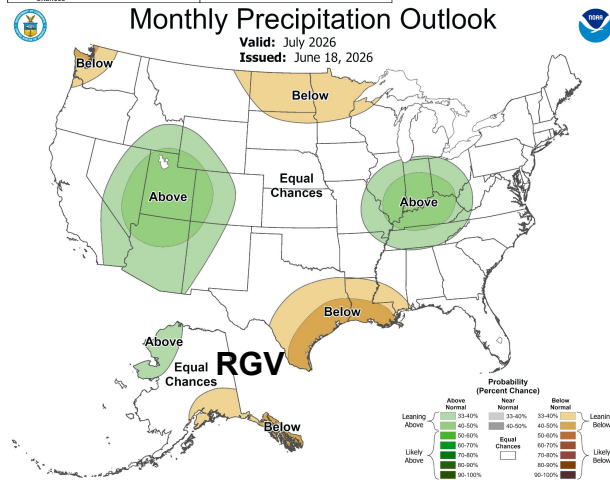
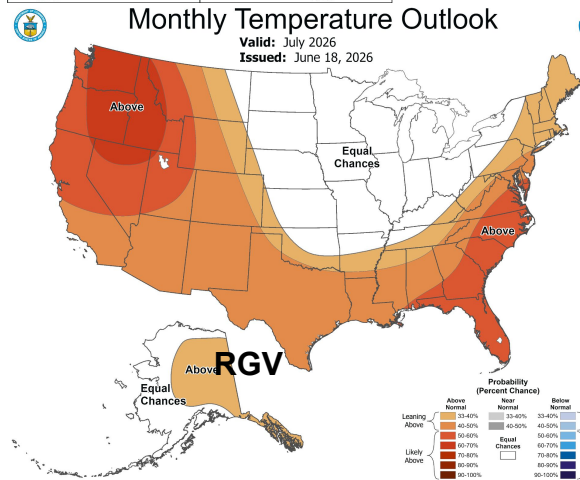
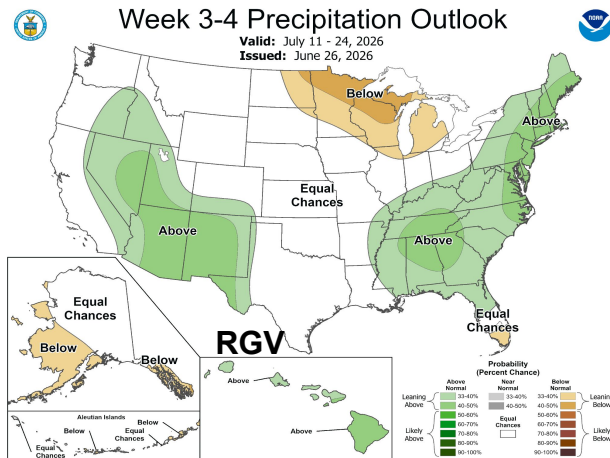
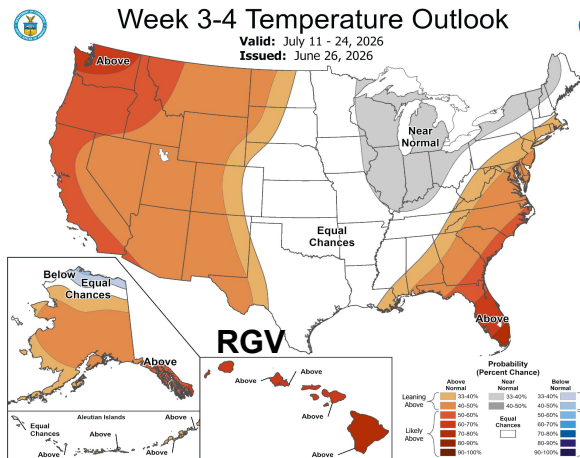
Water Conservation is Key Until Further Notice!

- “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 website. At the top left is the logo with the text "Texas Water Development Board". To the right is a search bar and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube, Instagram, and RSS. Below the navigation bar, the "Water Conservation" section is highlighted. It features three educational materials: "Conservation Education Programs of the TWDB", "MAJOR RIVERS A Water Education Program For Texas" (with an illustration of a cowboy on a horse), and "Raising Your Water IQ A Water Conservation Curriculum For Middle School" (with the "WATER IQ Know your water." logo). A sidebar on the right lists various resources: Best Management Practices, Agriculture, Literature, Resources, Education, Outreach, Municipal, Workshops & Presentations, Conservation Staff, Drought, Rainwater Harvesting, and Water Reuse. Below the materials, a mission statement reads: "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." A paragraph below that states: "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."



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



A **hotter than normal July** is anticipated across Deep South Texas. Several models are showing the heat ridge displaced primarily to our north through the month of July and beyond, though still remaining strong. This will likely translate to **hotter than average temperatures for the remainder of the summer**.

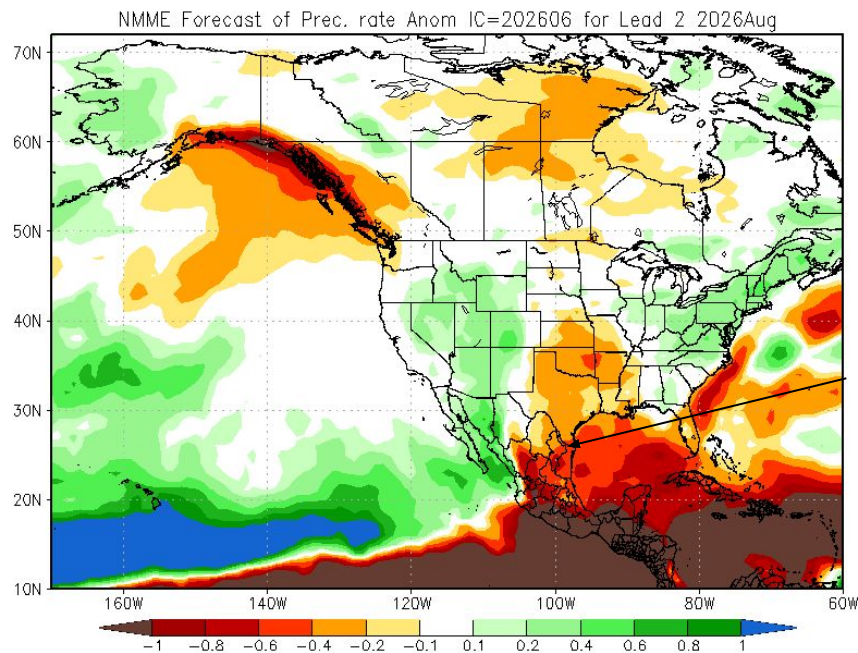
Meanwhile, a **mainly dry pattern will be in place through early September**.

The large-scale pattern forecasted favors primarily east-southeasterly flow over the region which could support the potential for **sea breeze convection from time to time**.

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



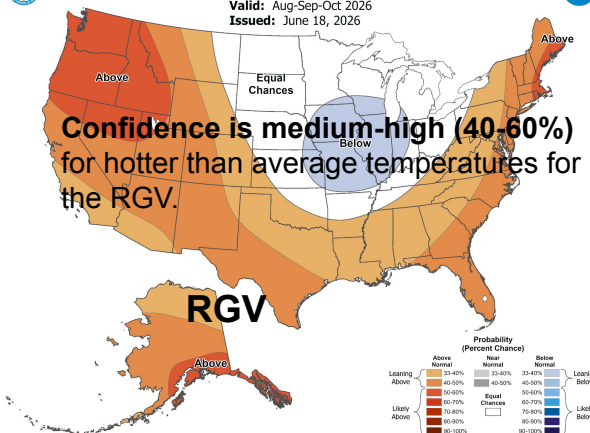
Potential rainfall rate anomaly, August 2026



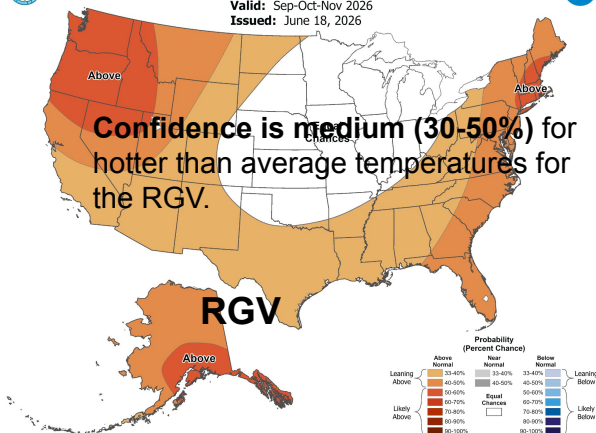
- This model's forecast for August favors a **drier than normal pattern** (note the red and light brown colors nearby).

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

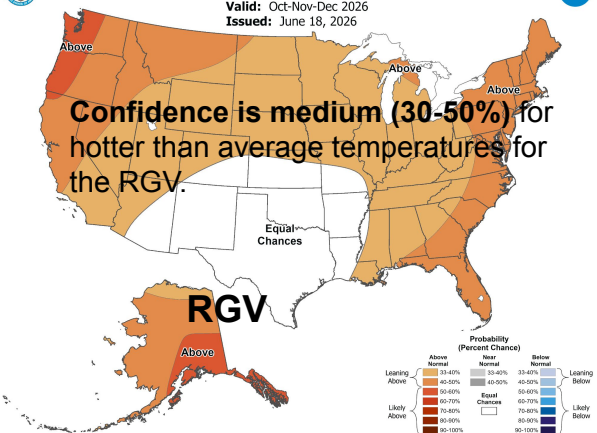
Seasonal Temperature Outlook
Valid: Aug-Sep-Oct 2026
Issued: June 18, 2026



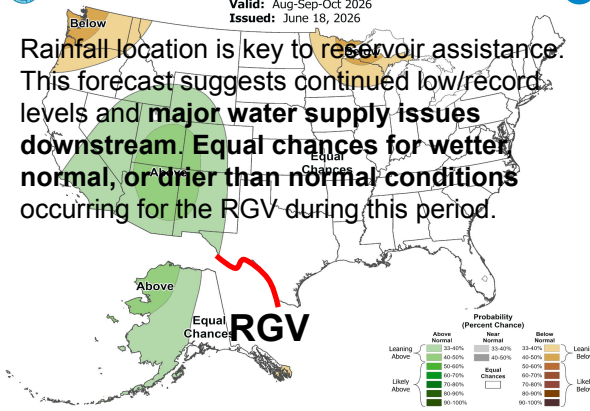
Seasonal Temperature Outlook
Valid: Sep-Oct-Nov 2026
Issued: June 18, 2026



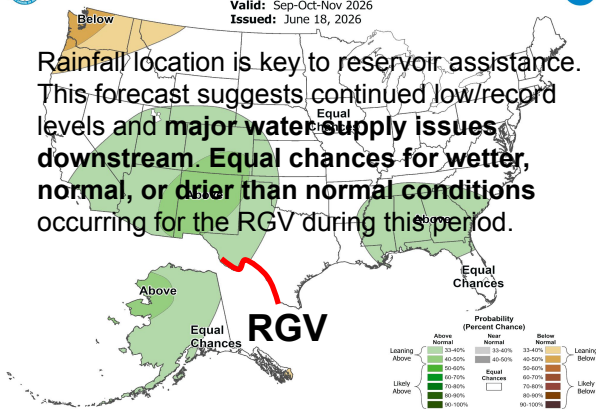
Seasonal Temperature Outlook
Valid: Oct-Nov-Dec 2026
Issued: June 18, 2026



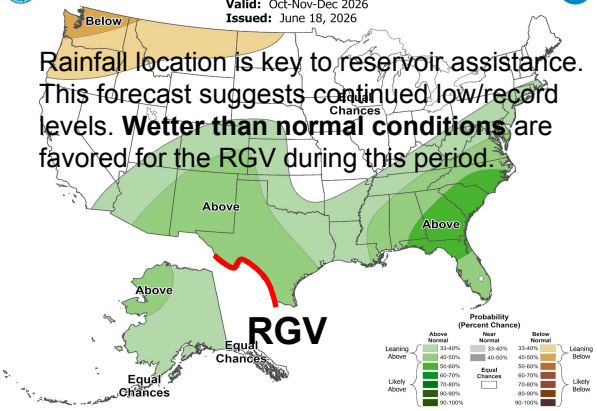
Seasonal Precipitation Outlook
Valid: Aug-Sep-Oct 2026
Issued: June 18, 2026



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook
Valid: Sep-Oct-Nov 2026
Issued: June 18, 2026



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook
Valid: Oct-Nov-Dec 2026
Issued: June 18, 2026



Comparing Similar ENSO Neutral to El Nino Episodes mostly within the last 30 years;

July-September Periods

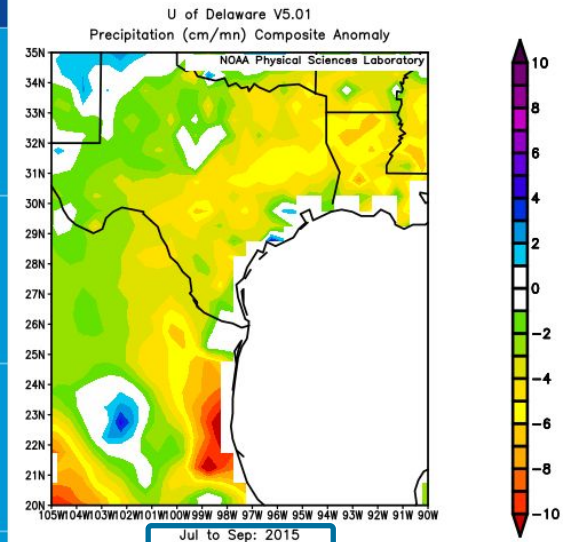
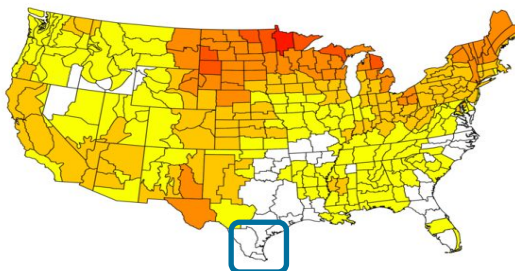


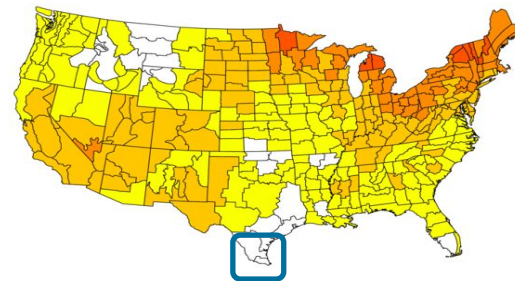
Image Above: Composite departure from average rainfall for years of similar El Nino transition episodes in the **July to September window**. **Note:** Map is not perfectly aligned with the shoreline in Texas/northeast Mexico.

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Temperature Anomalies (F)
Jul to Sep 2002,2015,2024
Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average



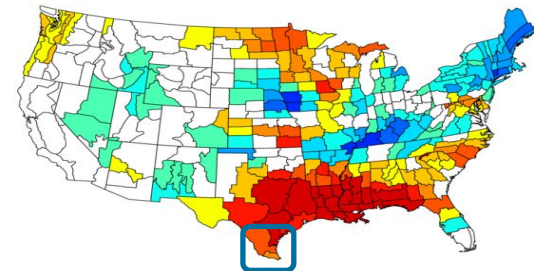
NOAA PSL and CIRES-CU
-3.0 -2.0 -1.0 0.0 1.0 2.0 3.0

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Temperature Anomalies (F)
Jul to Sep 2002,2015,2024,2018
Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average



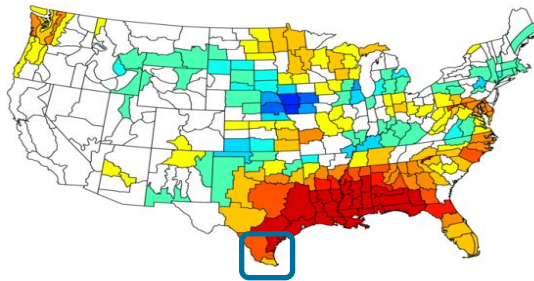
NOAA PSL and CIRES-CU
-3.0 -2.0 -1.0 0.0 1.0 2.0 3.0

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



NOAA PSL and CIRES-CU
-3.0 -2.0 -1.0 0.0 1.0 2.0 3.0

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Precipitation Anomalies (in)
Jul to Sep 2015,2006,2023,1987,2025
Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average



NOAA PSL and CIRES-CU
-3.0 -2.0 -1.0 0.0 1.0 2.0 3.0

- **Top:** Composite temperature (left) and precipitation (right) anomalies for similar El Nino transition episodes leading into July-September, 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 **July-September (JAS)** 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. A **drier than normal pattern** is expected through at least early September, though there could be occasional instances of **sea breeze or monsoonal showers and thunderstorms**.
- 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 into and through the Summer**.
- Thanks to rains that fell April through June, all of Deep South Texas is drought-free. Drought concerns will remain limited through August, despite a **drier than normal pattern**. **Wildfire concerns** will remain limited as well. If any drought or wildfire concerns emerge through mid September, it will be rather isolated and confined to brush country.
- With a **moderate to strong El Nino** in place, a below average 2026 hurricane season is expected. **Remember, it only takes one landfall** to make a season memorable. We'll continue to keep close watch on trends through August!