



**NATIONAL
WEATHER
SERVICE**

September-November (Autumn 2026) Outlook: Perspective for the Lower Rio Grande Valley/Deep S. Texas Region

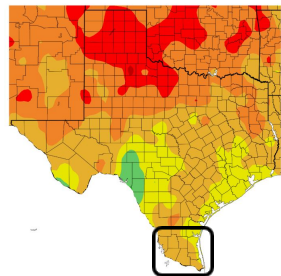
August 30, 2026

Andrei Evbuoma, Barry Goldsmith, & Rodney Chai

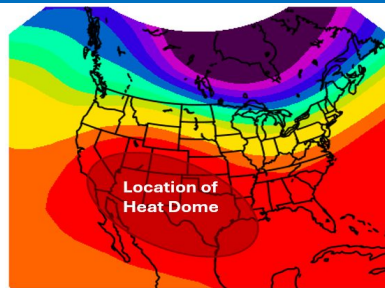
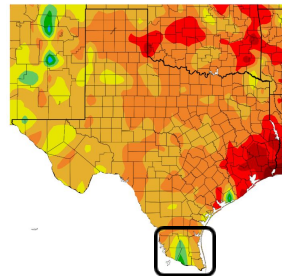
NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, Texas

Warmer/hotter than normal conditions favored through the upcoming Fall 2026 season; precipitation odds is a toss-up; could trend wetter later this Fall; heat risk, drought, fire weather, & water supply issues remain in focus

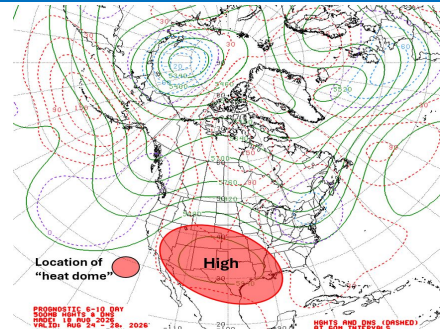
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/1/2026 – 8/23/2026



Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
8/1/2026 – 8/23/2026



500mb GEOPOTENTIAL HEIGHTS (dam) 23-DAY MEAN FOR:
Sat Aug 01 2026 – Sun Aug 23 2026
NCEP OPERATIONAL DATASET



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August 2026: Heat and Dryness Continued In August; will finish amongst the hottest on record

Maximum 27-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	89.9	2023-08-27	0
2	89.8	2026-08-27	0
3	89.3	2019-08-27	0
4	87.9	2018-08-27	0
5	87.6	2024-08-27	0
6	87.6	2025-08-27	0
7	87.4	2022-08-27	0
8	87.3	2011-08-27	0
9	87.3	2010-08-27	0
10	87.1	2021-08-27	0

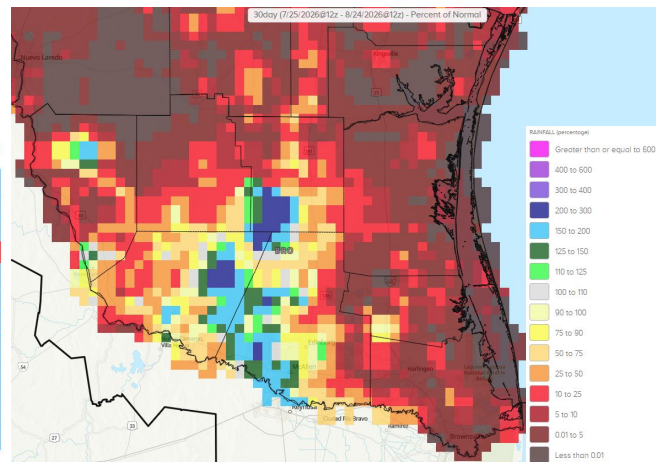
Period of record: 1898-12-01 to 2026-08-27

Maximum 27-Day Mean Avg Temperature for MCALLEN MILLER INTL AP, TX

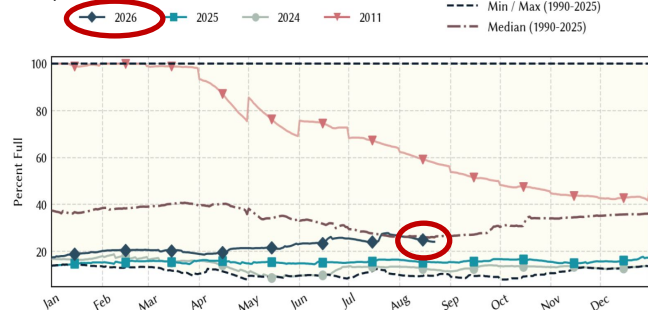
Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date	Missing Days
1	91.9	2009-08-27	0
2	91.7	2019-08-27	0
3	91.6	2026-08-27	0
4	91.0	2018-08-27	0
5	90.9	2016-08-27	0
6	90.9	2017-08-27	0
7	90.7	2015-08-27	0
8	90.5	2023-08-27	0
9	90.3	2011-08-27	0
10	90.3	2024-08-27	0

Period of record: 1961-01-14 to 2026-08-27



Top Image: 30-day percent of normal precipitation from July 25-August 24, 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 August 2026 levels declined slightly due to the persistent hot and dry conditions but remains above 2025 levels. Month-over-month shares have decreased from 27.0% to 23.2%. **Credit:** Texas Water Development Board

Hot and dry weather conditions continued and in earnest across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley during the month of August. Unlike in July, where the heat dome shifted around quite a bit, the **broad and anomalously strong heat dome** encompassed the southern two-thirds of the country during the month of August. The core of the heat dome was focused over the Southwest U.S. and Southern Plains. This resulted in dangerous heat with high heat risk **including all-time record-breaking heat** across the Southwest U.S. and Southern Plains including Deep South Texas.

Due to the persistence and intensity of this heat, August 2026 will finish amongst the hottest on record across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley. Many sites across the region have surged into the top 10. Our 3 climate sites, Brownsville, Harlingen and McAllen will finish the month of August in the top 3 hottest, if not the hottest ever (**see table above**).

The scorching hot temperatures **led to a continuation of very strong evaporation rates through the month**, which further led to the deteriorating of drought conditions across the region. As of late August, most of Deep South Texas was designated under **D1 (Moderate)** to **D2 (Severe) Drought** (**see slide 8 for more information**).

Month-to-date, **Brownsville and Harlingen** only received a **trace and 0.02"** of rain, respectively. That's **-1.70"** and **-1.43"** below normal, respectively. Meanwhile, **McAllen** received **2.13"** of rain which is **0.73"** above normal.

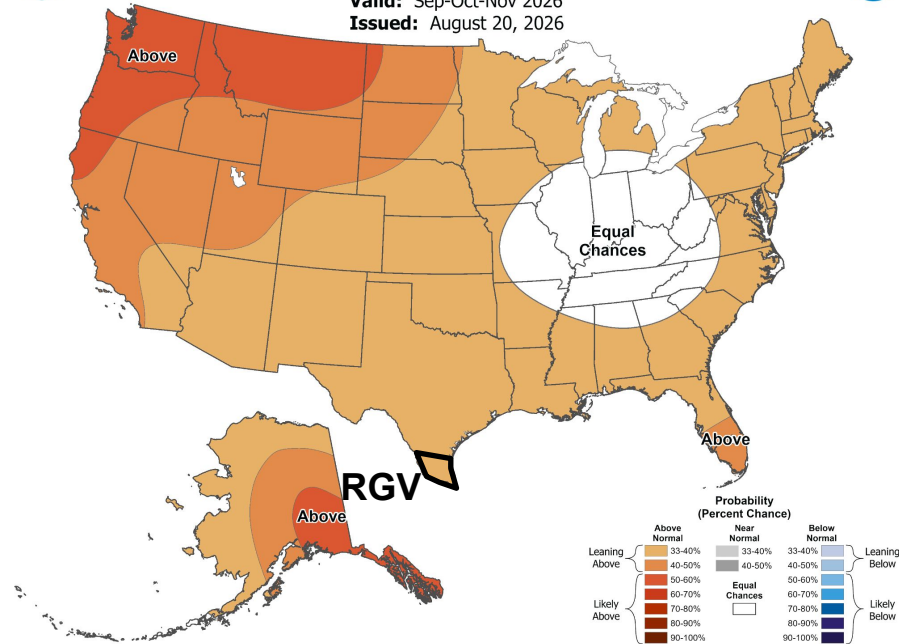


Seasonal Forecast, September-November 2026 USA



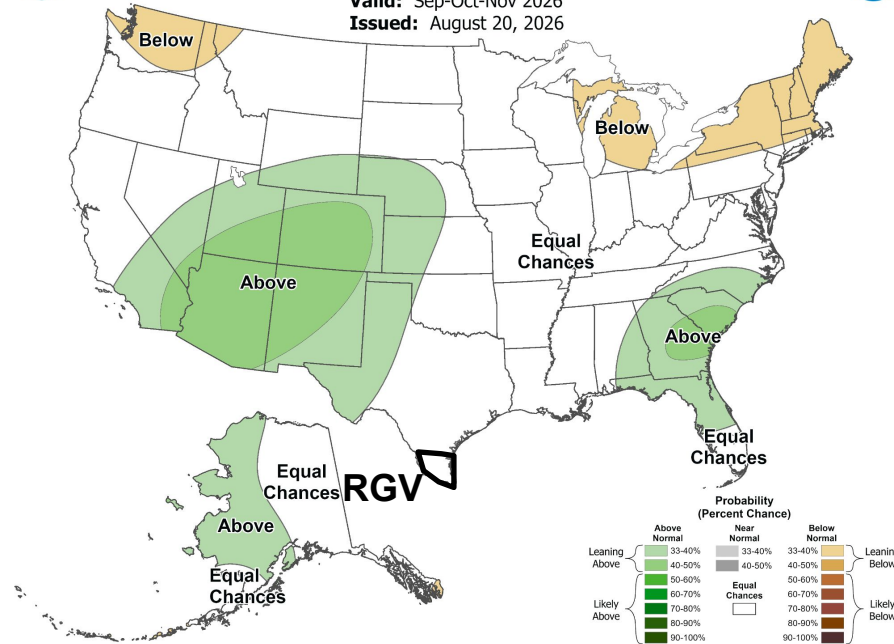
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Sep-Oct-Nov 2026
Issued: August 20, 2026



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Sep-Oct-Nov 2026
Issued: August 20, 2026



Confidence: Low-Medium or “Slight Lean” (30-40%) for **hotter than normal temperatures** during the September-November (SON) period. **Equal Chances** or “Toss-up” for **drier, wetter, or normal precipitation** during the September-November (SON) period. **September** is a **toss-up** and will see a mix of **wet** and **dry**, but a transition towards **wetter than normal** is possible **October through November!** **Confidence:** Low-Medium (20-50%)



Key Takeaways: September-November 2026 Outlook

- An overall **warmer than normal** outlook is favored for the **September-November** period for the RGV/Deep South Texas region. Confidence for hotter than normal is greatest for September. **Note:** October and November are our top two fastest cooling months (where avg temps drop the fastest from the beginning to the end of the month).
- **Precipitation** odds is a **toss-up (equal chances)** during the **September-November timeframe**. September is a toss-up and will see a mix of **wet** and **dry**, but a transition towards a **wetter pattern in October/November** is possible! Confidence is low-medium (20-50%).
- **Moderate (Level 2 of 4) to Major (Level 3 of 4) Heat Risk** will be most pronounced through September.
- **Drought conditions** recently re-emerged across the RGV/Deep South Texas and have since expanded/worsened, courtesy of the persistently hot, rain-free, and breezy conditions resulting in very high evaporation rates.
- As of August 27th, mostly **D1 (Moderate) Drought** and **D2 (Severe) Drought** was reported across Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley (see slide 8 for more information). **Drought conditions could deepen or expand over at least parts of the region through September** as hot and dry conditions continue. **D3 (Extreme) Drought** could develop **early-mid September in Cameron and spread farther inland into mid-late September.**
- **Wildfire concerns** re-emerged during the 2nd half of July and worsened into August due to the persistently hot and dry conditions. Wildfire concerns will remain in play through at least mid-September.
- Amistad Int'l Reservoir remained **slightly above historic seasonal lows at the end of August. Confidence remains near-certain (~100%) on total storage remaining just above record lows through October.** Some improvements is possible by the end of October or November, if the rains materialize.
- Late September through mid-October is the timeframe we're monitoring to **see if a transition to wetter conditions occur, thanks to the very strong (potentially historic) El Nino.** Should a wetter pattern manifest, heavy rainfall from southwest US monsoon/remnant Pacific tropical cyclones could bring **potential significant flooding.**

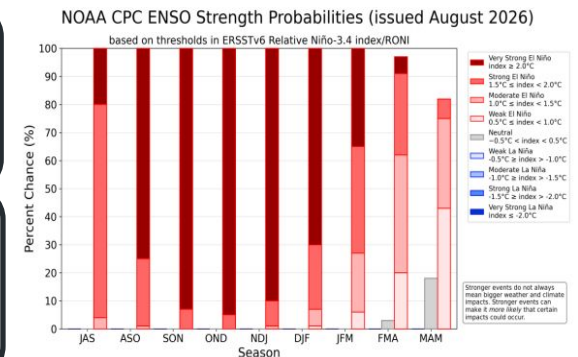
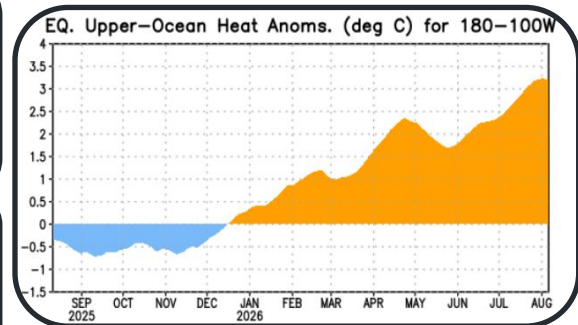
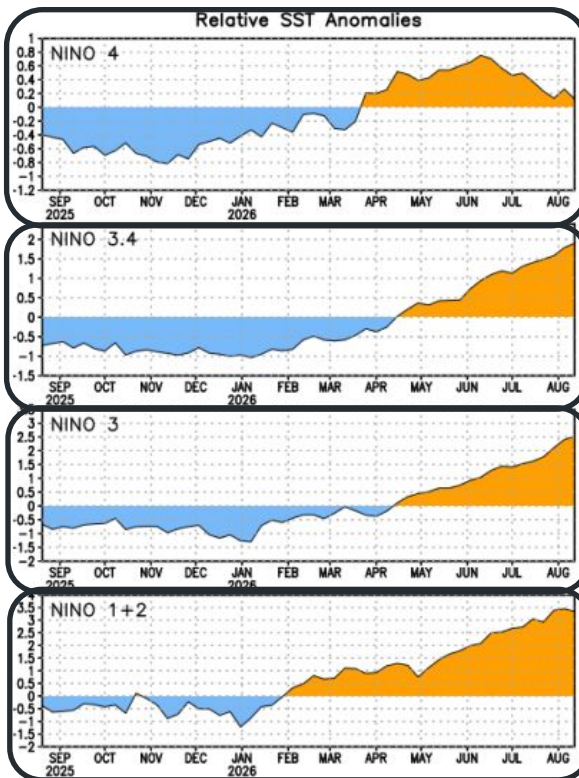


The “Why” of the Forecast: Very strong (potentially historic) El Niño, sea surface temps, long-term trends, and other key climate teleconnections to play a role

- A **Strong El Niño** (Nino 3.4 region temp of 1.8°) is currently in place and is expected to become even stronger in September.
- The combination atmospheric conditions still trying to catch up with the oceanic conditions and a negative Pacific Decadal Oscillation/-PDO should continue to result in a **hotter than normal** and **mainly dry pattern** through **September**.
- Sometime between mid-late September and the first half of October, we'll be closely watching trends 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 and November over the RGV/Deep South Texas.
- The biggest question mark is how much of the -PDO and very warm global sea surface temperatures (SSTs) offset El Niño?? That's a couple of reasons why our confidence in things turning wetter later in the season is **low-medium (20-50%)**.

*Above right: Oceanic Niño Index. A weak to moderate La Niña has persisted through the second half of 2025 into early 2026. Values between -0.5 and -1.0 (blue) indicates a weak La Niña, and -1.0 and -1.5 a moderate La Niña. February-May 2026 ENSO Neutral conditions developed. Values between -0.5 and 0.5 (gray) indicates ENSO Neutral conditions. Just recently, El Niño conditions have quickly emerged and strengthened. Values between +0.5 and +1.0 (red) indicates a weak El Niño, +1.0 and +1.5 a moderate El Niño and above +1.5 a strong El Niño.

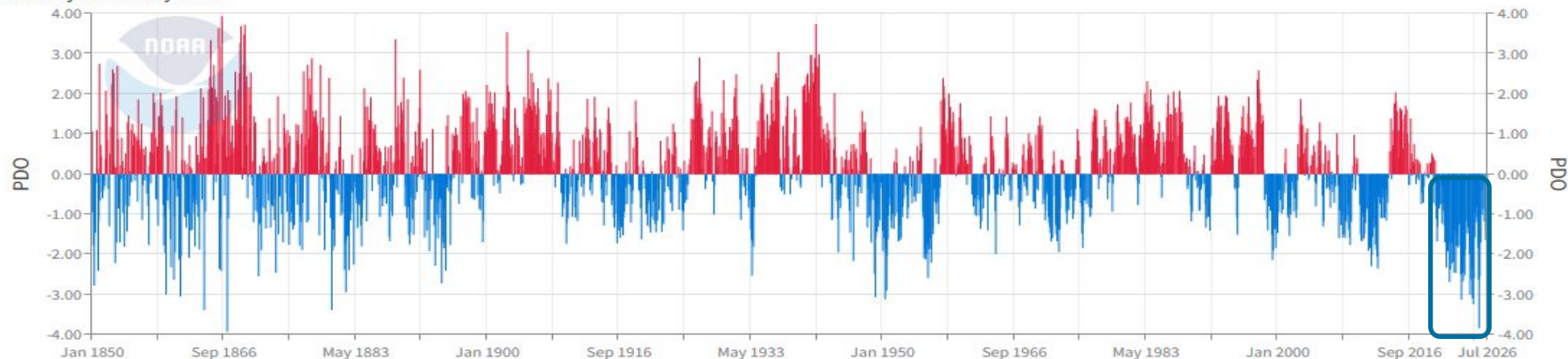
Year	DJF	JFM	FMA	MAM	AMJ	MJJ	JJA	JAS	ASO	SON	OND	NDJ
2023	-0.8	-0.6	-0.4	-0.2	0.1	0.4	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.4	1.5	1.5
2024	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.1	-0.3	-0.5	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-0.8	-0.9	-1.1
2025	-1.1	-0.9	-0.7	-0.5	-0.5	0.0	-0.5	-0.6	-0.8	-0.9	-0.9	-1.0
2026	-0.9	-0.8	-0.4	0.0	0.5	1.0						



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

Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO)

January 1850-July 2026



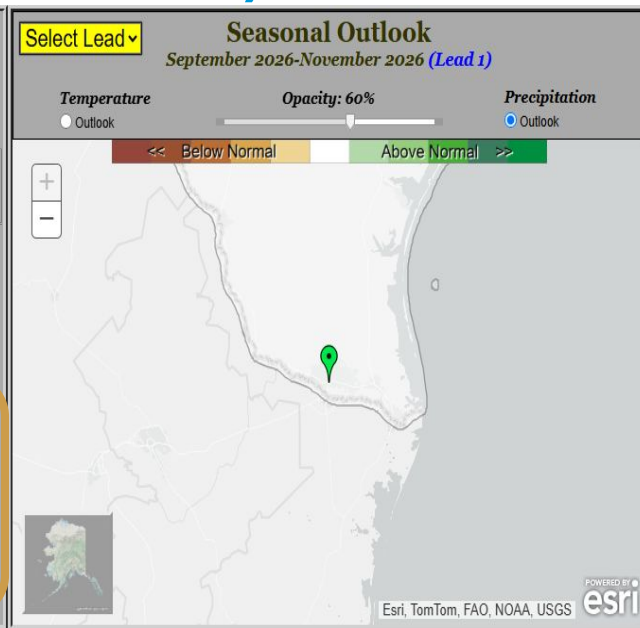
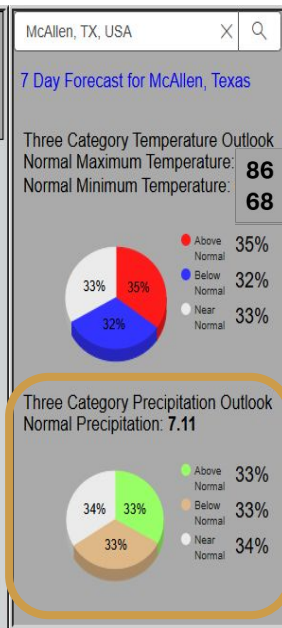
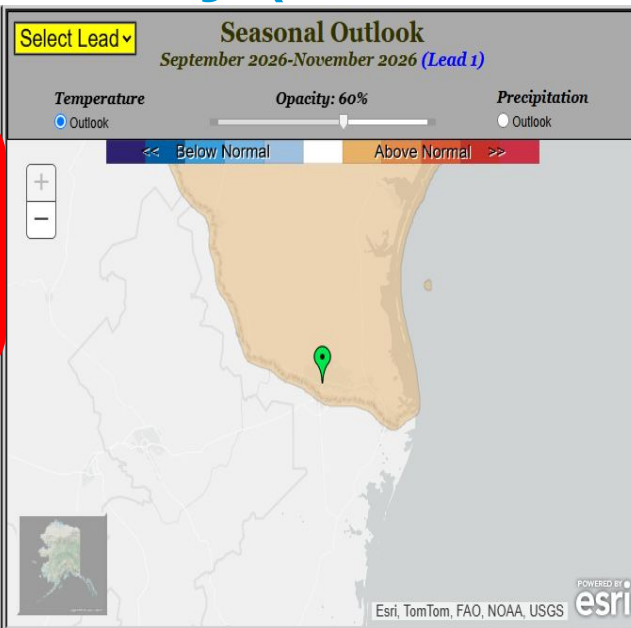
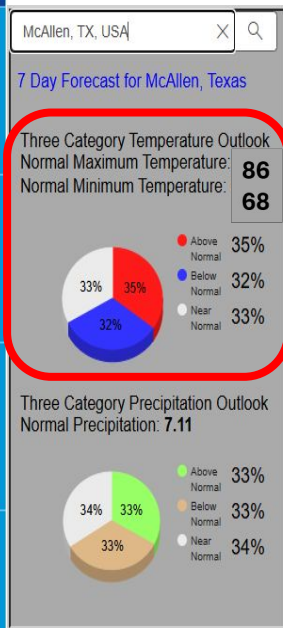
Source: <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/pub/data/cmb/ersst/v5/v6/index/ersst.v6.pdo.dat>

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 and possibly into the early Fall 2026.
- The sharply negative PDO also supports a drier than normal precipitation theme during the September-November (SON) period. However, a very strong, potentially historic El Nino could offset the negative PDO and flip things towards a wetter pattern come October and November. Because of the uncertainty in these two offsetting each other, confidence in things turning wetter later in the season is **low-medium (20-50%)**.
- **Confidence remains high** for a sharply negative PDO to continue.



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



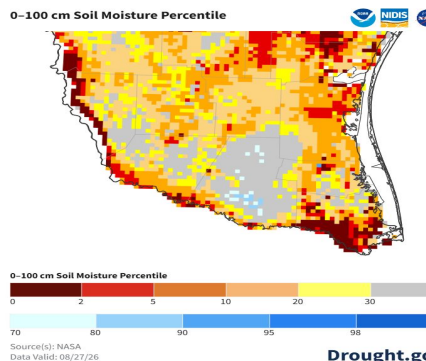
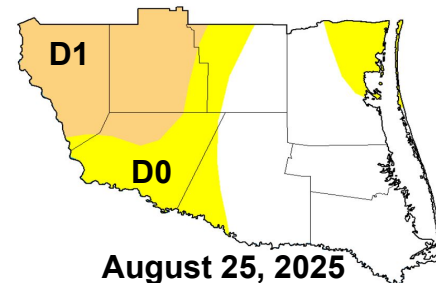
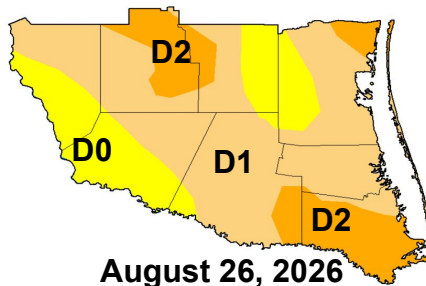
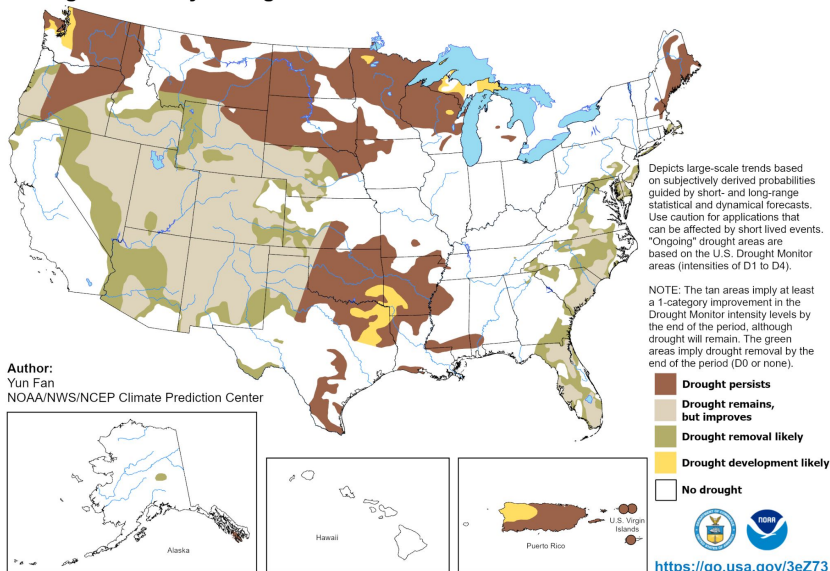
- Temperature:** Slight lean towards hotter than normal temperatures. Confidence: Low-Medium (30-40%). RGV averages: Afternoon – Lower to mid 90s through September; mid 80s to lower 90s through October; mid 70s to lower 80s through November. Wake-up: Mid-upper 70s through mid September; Mid 60s to lower 70s late September through October; Upper 50s to lower 60s through November.
- Precipitation:** Equal chances for drier, wetter, or normal Sept-Nov. September could see a mix of wet and dry. October could flip wetter. Confidence for wet October/November: Low-Medium (20-50%). RGV averages: 8 to 11 inches (most in September).



The September-November 2026 “Droughtlook”

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

Valid for August 20 - November 30, 2026
Released August 20, 2026



Drought Classification



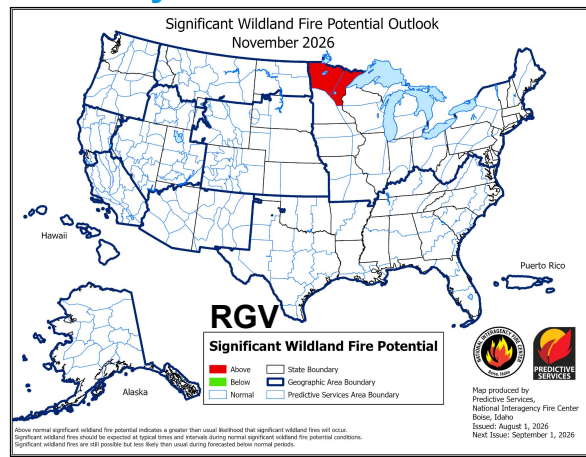
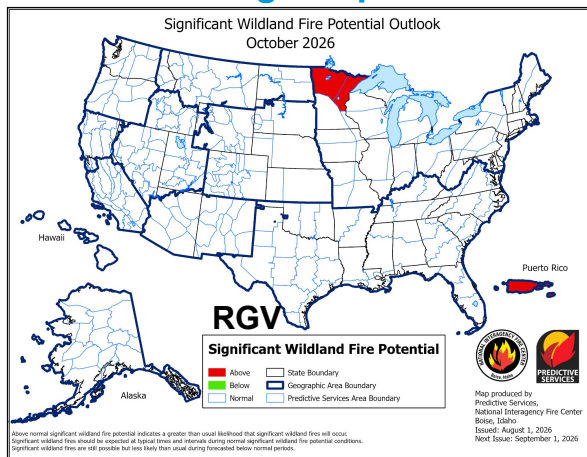
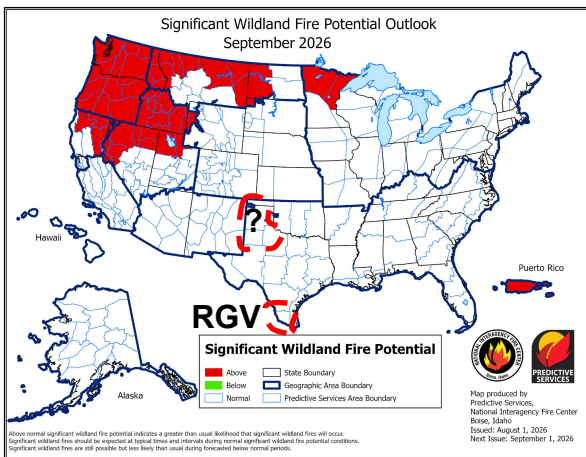
- Hot and rain-free conditions** continued over Deep South Texas and the Rio Grande Valley **through August**. The **intense heat led to a continuation of very strong evaporation rates** that further **exacerbated the dryness**. At the end of August, **more than 75% of Deep South Texas** was under at least **D1 (Moderate) Drought** and **about 20%** of Deep South Texas under a **D2 (Severe) Drought**. In contrast, last year had less drought/dryness issues with D0 and D1 Drought mainly confined to areas west of IH-69C/US-281.
- The NOAA seasonal drought outlook is calling for drought conditions to persist **for parts of Deep South Texas/RGV, and further development (not shown) is likely**. However, it's worth noting that by late September or October, the **pattern could turn wetter** amid the **very strong El Nino**. Confidence in the pattern turning wetter late September or October is low-medium (20-50%) and will depend on if the El Nino can offset negative PDO.



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Wildfire concerns will remain on the table through September as hot and dry conditions continue



- Wildfire spread concerns will remain on the table across Deep South Texas/RGV, based on dry antecedent conditions and a continued hot weather pattern with high evaporation rates (positive feedback loop).
- The weather pattern could flip **wetter** late September into October as the **very 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.

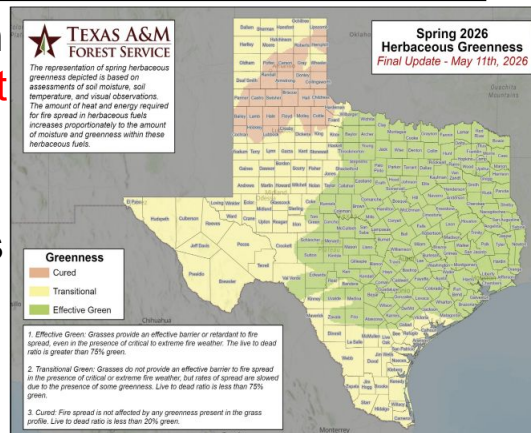
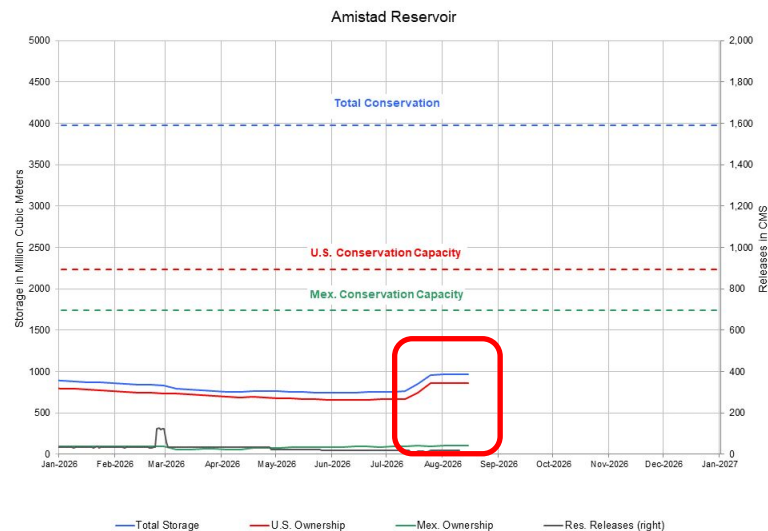
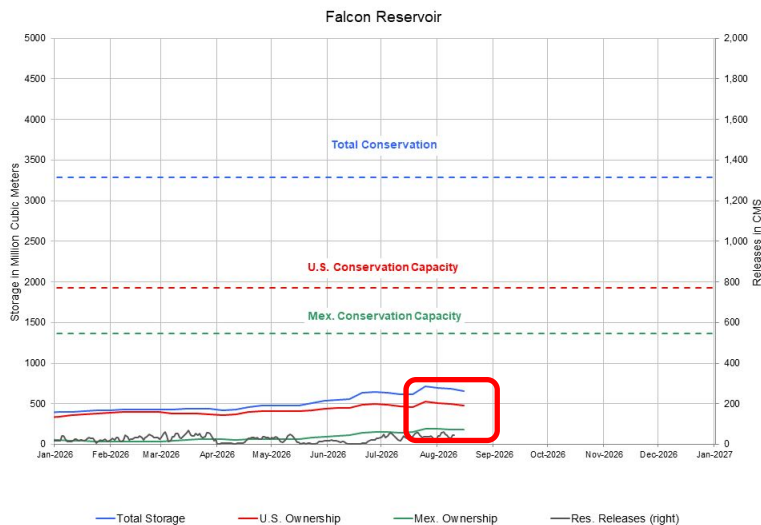


Image: **Transitional Green** was last seen across Texas as of May 11, 2026. This is due to the persistently **hot and dry** conditions since late June.

Amistad and Falcon Reservoirs (combined) will continue to remain just above record lows through the second half of 2026



- **Falcon held steady at 18.8% as of August 28th** (slightly lower than the **19.6% from late July**). Levels should continue to fall slowly but steadily through September.
- **Amistad rose slightly and remains above the all-time record lows as of late August**. Levels were at **24.2% on August 28th** (slightly higher than the **24.1% from late July**). Levels should change little or fall slowly through September.

Water Conservation is Key Until Further Notice!

- [“Stage 2/3” Restrictions](#) will continue through the second half of 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 a carousel of educational materials: "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 the carousel, a paragraph states the mission of the water conservation staff. To the right of the main content is a sidebar with a list of resources: Best Management Practices, Agriculture, Literature, Resources, Education, Outreach, Municipal, Workshops & Presentations, and Conservation Staff. Below this list are links for Drought, Rainwater Harvesting, and Water Reuse.

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

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.

Best Management Practices

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

Drought

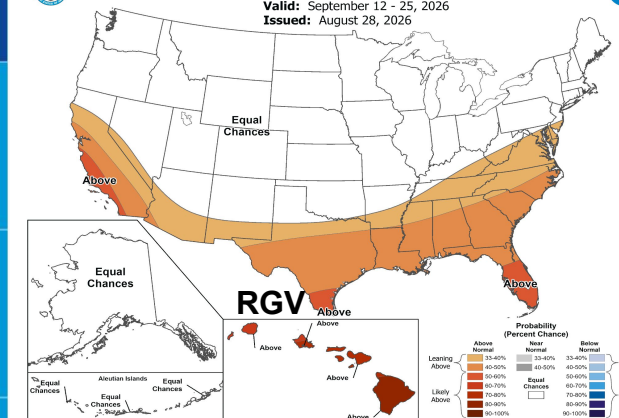
- Rainwater Harvesting
- Water Reuse

September 2026: May see a mix of dry and wet weather; slight lean towards slightly hotter than normal temperatures

temperatures

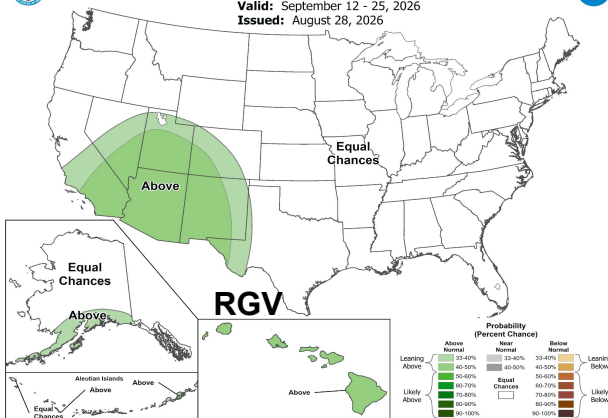
Week 3-4 Temperature Outlook

Valid: September 12 - 25, 2026
Issued: August 28, 2026



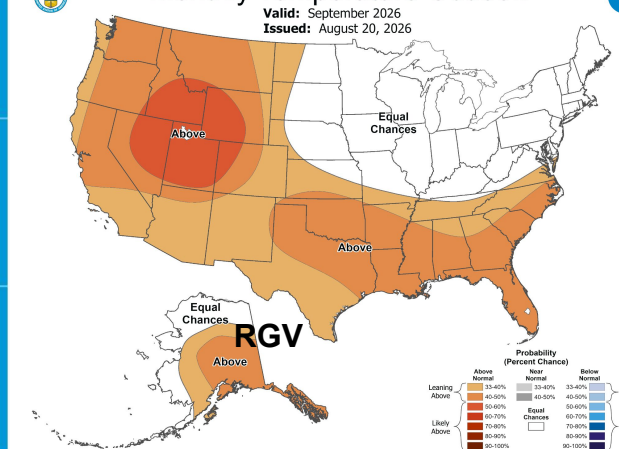
Week 3-4 Precipitation Outlook

Valid: September 12 - 25, 2026
Issued: August 28, 2026



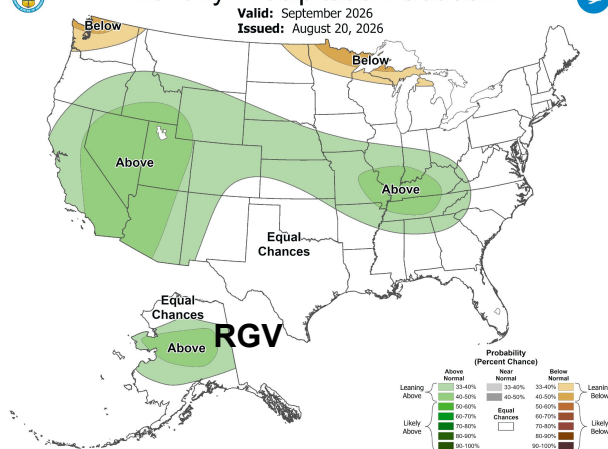
Monthly Temperature Outlook

Valid: September 2026
Issued: August 20, 2026



Monthly Precipitation Outlook

Valid: September 2026
Issued: August 20, 2026



A slight lean towards a **hotter than normal** September is anticipated across the RGV/Deep South Texas.

September is poised to get off to a **hot start** with the first half of the month set to run **solidly hotter than normal**.

However, due to climatology and the potential for the occasional showers and t'storms, the second half of the month, temps will could a little lower (closer to normal levels), but are **still favored to average warmer than normal**.

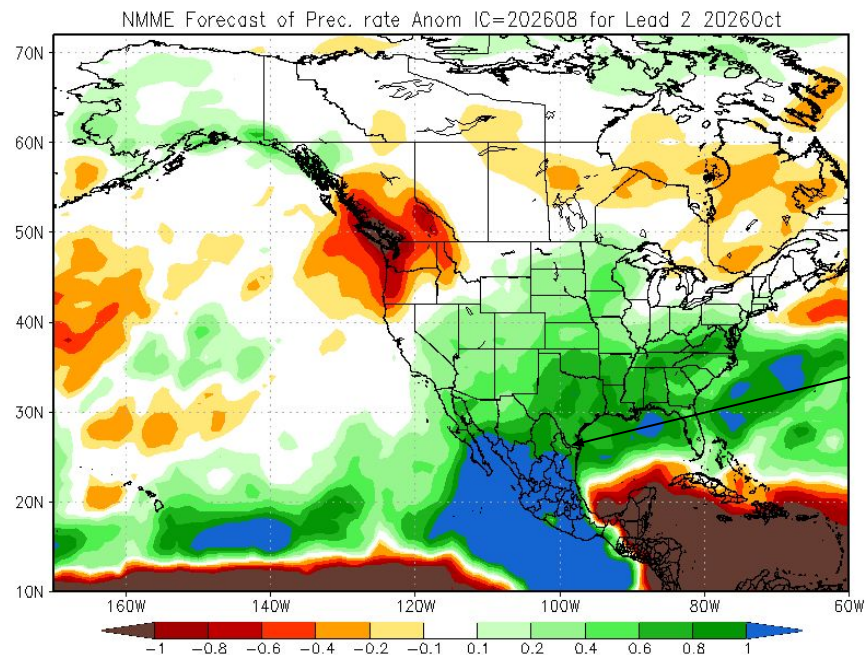
September could see a mix of **dry and wet** weather, as the large-scale pattern favors primarily east-southeasterly flow over the region which could support the potential for **sea breeze showers and a few thunderstorms from time to time** (especially during the second half of September).

The overall placement and strength of the ridge will be key! Because of this, **precipitation odds is a toss-up for September**.



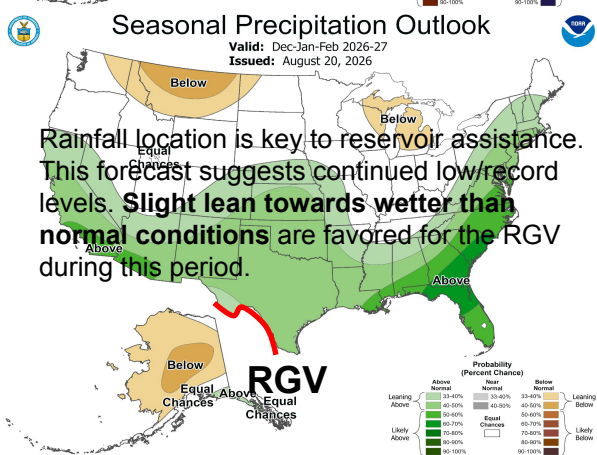
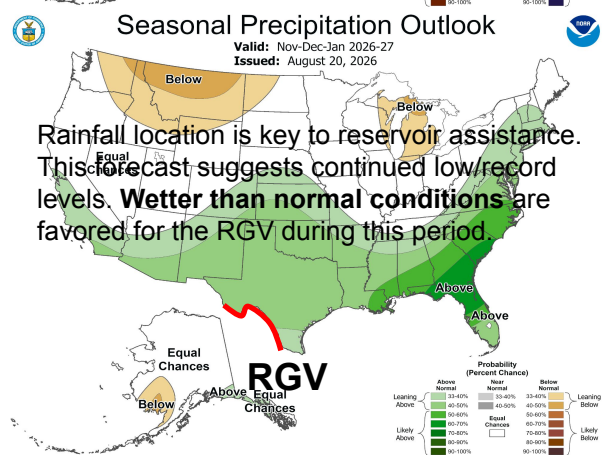
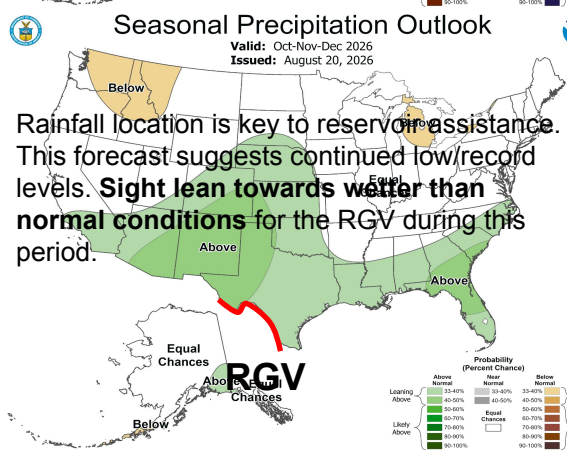
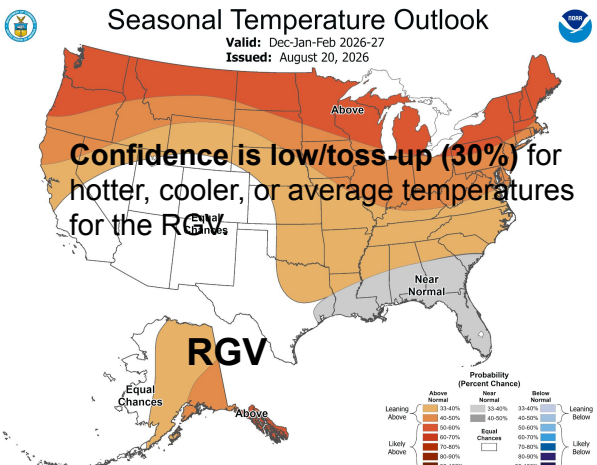
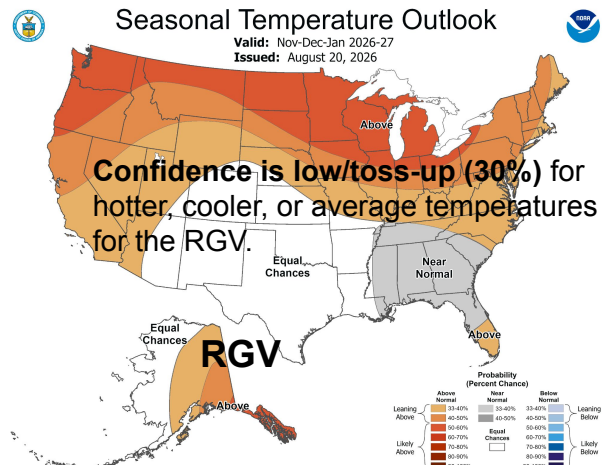
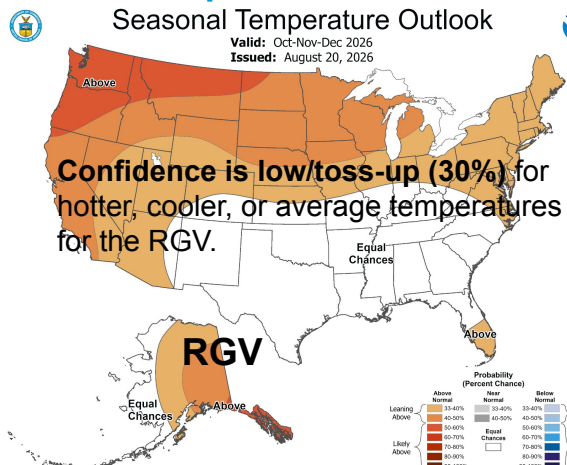
Early Look: October 2026

Potential rainfall rate anomaly, October 2026



- This climate model forecast for October supports a notable flip towards a **wetter pattern**.

Autumn 2026 through Winter 2026: More seasonal temperatures favored due to a potentially wetter than normal pattern

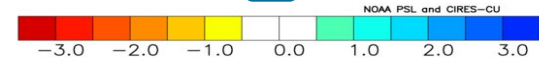
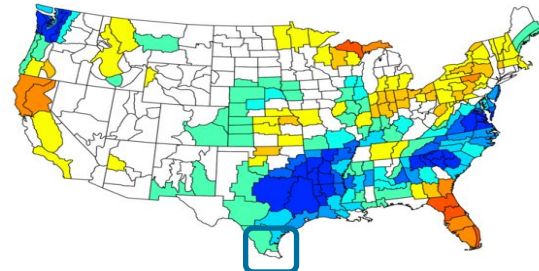
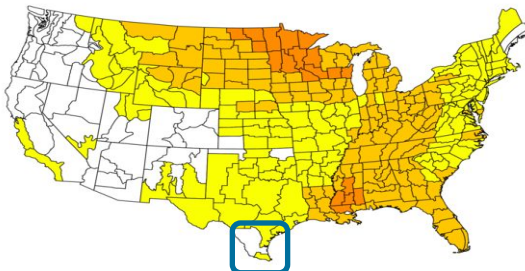
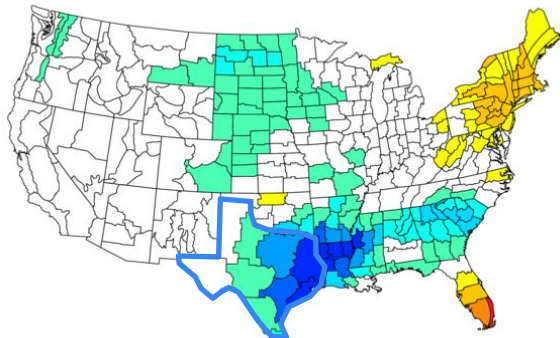


Comparing similar transitions to strong/very strong El Nino episodes mostly within the last 30 years; September-November Periods

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

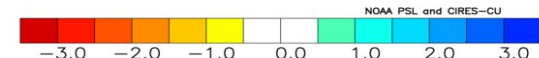
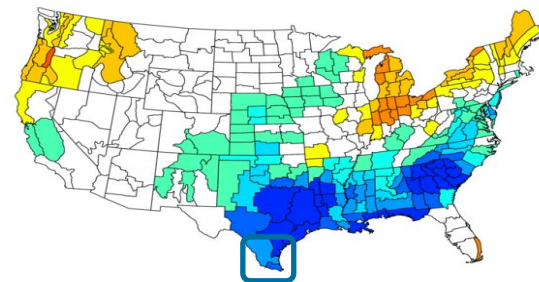
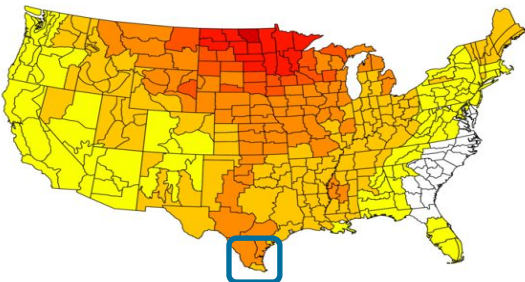
NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Precipitation Anomalies (in)
Sep to Nov 2023,2015,2006,2009,2018,2009
Versus 1991–2020 Longterm Average

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Precipitation Anomalies (in)
Oct 2023,2015,2006,2009,1997,1994,1982
Versus 1991–2020 Longterm Average



NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Temperature Anomalies (F)
Sep to Nov 2023,2015,2009,2024,1991,2025
Versus 1991–2020 Longterm Average

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Precipitation Anomalies (in)
Sep to Nov 2023,2015,2002,2009,2018,1997,1994
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 September-November, since 1950.
- **Bottom Left:** Same, but took out the 2002 and 2018 seasons, and added 1991 and 2025 seasons.
- **Bottom Right:** Same, but took out 2006, and added the 2002, 2018, 1997, and 1994 seasons.

Bottom Lines

- A slight lean towards a **hotter than normal pattern** is anticipated during the **September-November (SON) time period**. **Moderate (Level 2 of 4) to Major (Level 3 of 4) Heat Risk** will be most pronounced in September (especially the 1st half). Meanwhile, September could feature a mix of **wet** and **dry**, and is a **toss-up** as far as precipitation. However, **October** could flip notably **wetter** and persist into **November**, courtesy of the **strong El Nino**.
- **Drought conditions have deepened and expanded** across the region with mostly **D1 (Moderate) Drought** to **D2 (Major) Drought** conditions underway, thanks to the intense heat, strong evaporation rates, and antecedent dryness. Drought conditions are expected to deepen and expand through September, if dryness persist. **Extreme (D3) Drought** is likely in parts of the **lower Valley early-mid September**, and could spread farther inland through the month.
- **Wildfire spread concerns** will also remain on the table **through September, if dryness continues**.
- 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 the Fall Season**. Note that remnants of an eastern Pacific tropical event could provide some help in October/November.
- 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 remains the timeframe which things could flip wetter**. If that happens, **flood concerns, some significant**, from heavy showers and thunderstorms will become an issue.