



# Drought Information Statement for Vermont and northern New York

October 16, 2025

Issued By: NWS Burlington, VT

Contact Information: [nwsbtv.info@noaa.gov](mailto:nwsbtv.info@noaa.gov)

- Please see all currently available products at [drought.gov/drought-information-statements](https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements). Please visit [www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/](https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/) for regional drought status updates.
- Extreme drought has expanded to include much of Vermont while moderate to severe drought has expanded to include most of the rest of the region.





# U.S. Drought Monitor

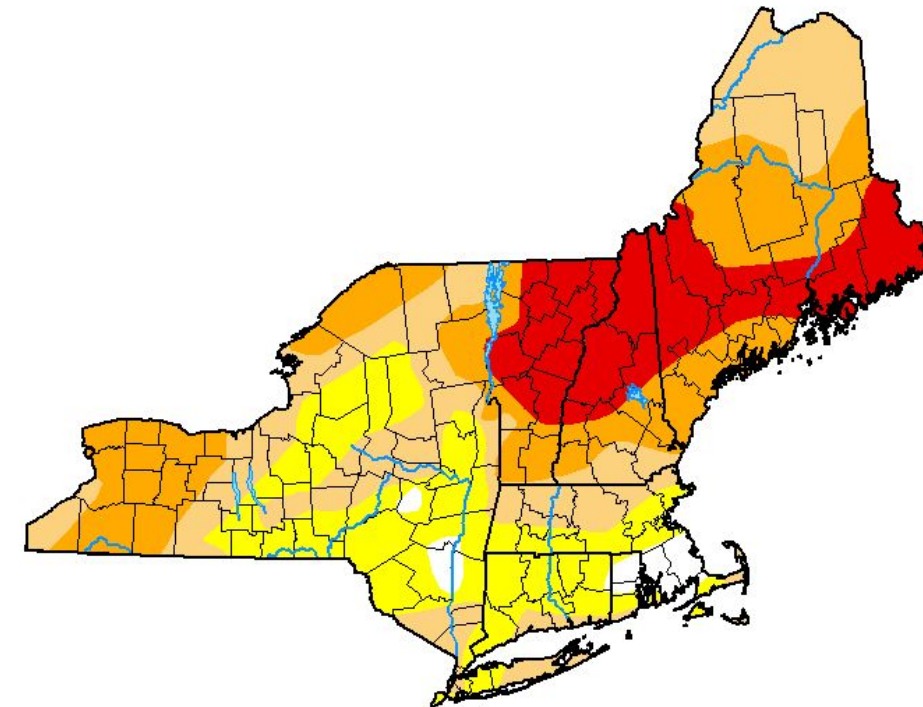
October 16, 2025  
8:24 AM

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the Northeast

- Drought intensity and Extent:
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Most of central and northern Vermont.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: The rest of Vermont and most of Essex County, New York. Smaller portions of Clinton, St. Lawrence and Franklin counties in New York.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: The rest of northern New York.

## U.S. Drought Monitor Northeast DEWS

October 14, 2025  
(Released Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



### Intensity:

|                        |
|------------------------|
| None                   |
| D0 Abnormally Dry      |
| D1 Moderate Drought    |
| D2 Severe Drought      |
| D3 Extreme Drought     |
| D4 Exceptional Drought |

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

### Author:

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CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



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# USDM Drought Class Definitions

| Category | Description         | Possible Impacts                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| D0       | Abnormally Dry      | Going into drought: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• short-term dryness slowing planting, growth of crops or pastures</li></ul> Coming out of drought: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• some lingering water deficits</li><li>• pastures or crops not fully recovered</li></ul> |
| D1       | Moderate Drought    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some damage to crops, pastures</li><li>• Streams, reservoirs, or wells low, some water shortages developing or imminent</li><li>• Voluntary water-use restrictions requested</li></ul>                                                                |
| D2       | Severe Drought      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Crop or pasture losses likely</li><li>• Water shortages common</li><li>• Water restrictions imposed</li></ul>                                                                                                                                         |
| D3       | Extreme Drought     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Major crop/pasture losses</li><li>• Widespread water shortages or restrictions</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                              |
| D4       | Exceptional Drought | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Exceptional and widespread crop/pasture losses</li><li>• Shortages of water in reservoirs, streams, and wells creating water emergencies</li></ul>                                                                                                    |



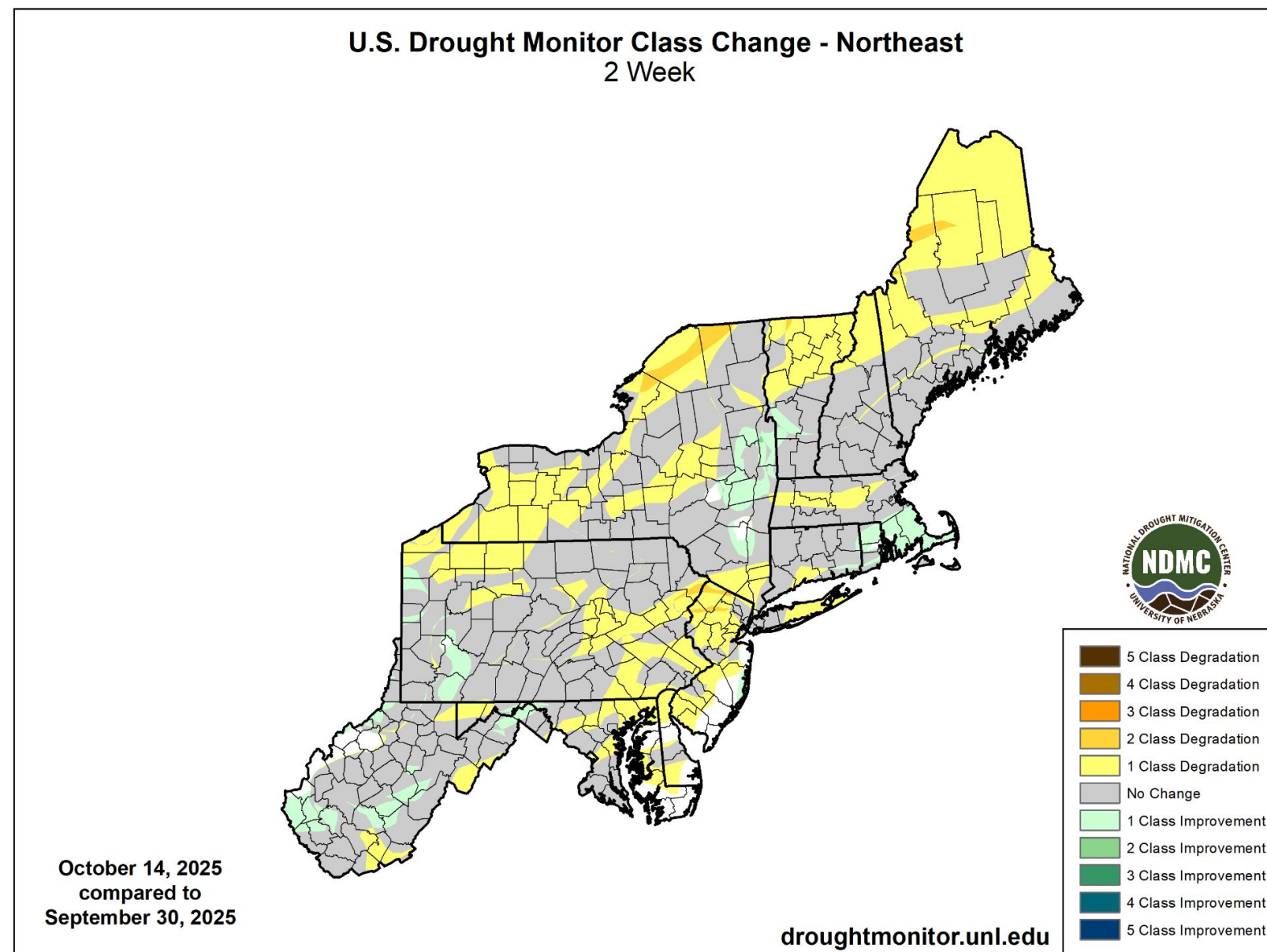


# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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Link to the latest [2-week change map](#) for the Northeast

- Two-Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
  - Most of northern Vermont, and St. Lawrence and Franklin counties in NY saw about one category of degradation. Extreme drought expanded across much of Vermont, while severe and moderate drought expanded across much of northern New York.
- Drought impacts can vary based on type of sector (fire, agriculture, water management, recreational, etc...) and on local infiltration rates based on soil types. Drought severity levels define the general regional level of impact, but local impacts can be more or less severe than the categories here suggest.





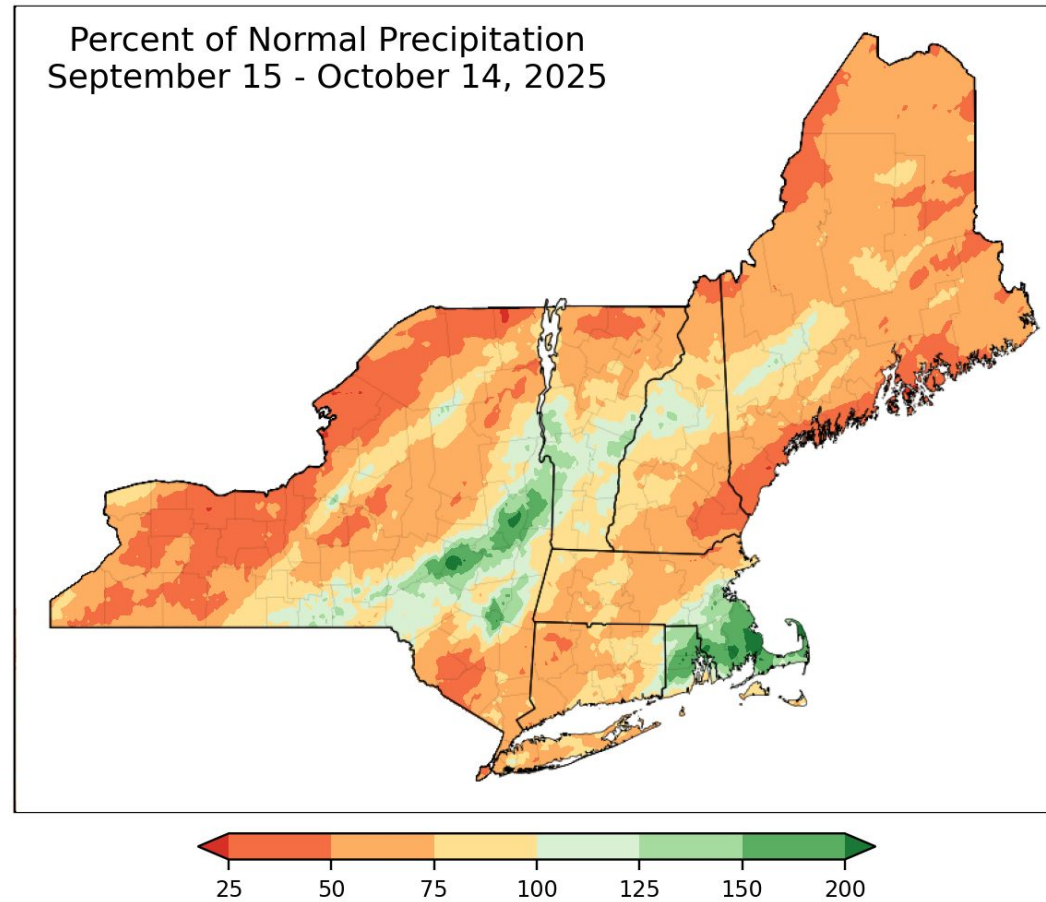
# 30-Day and 60-Day Precipitation Departures

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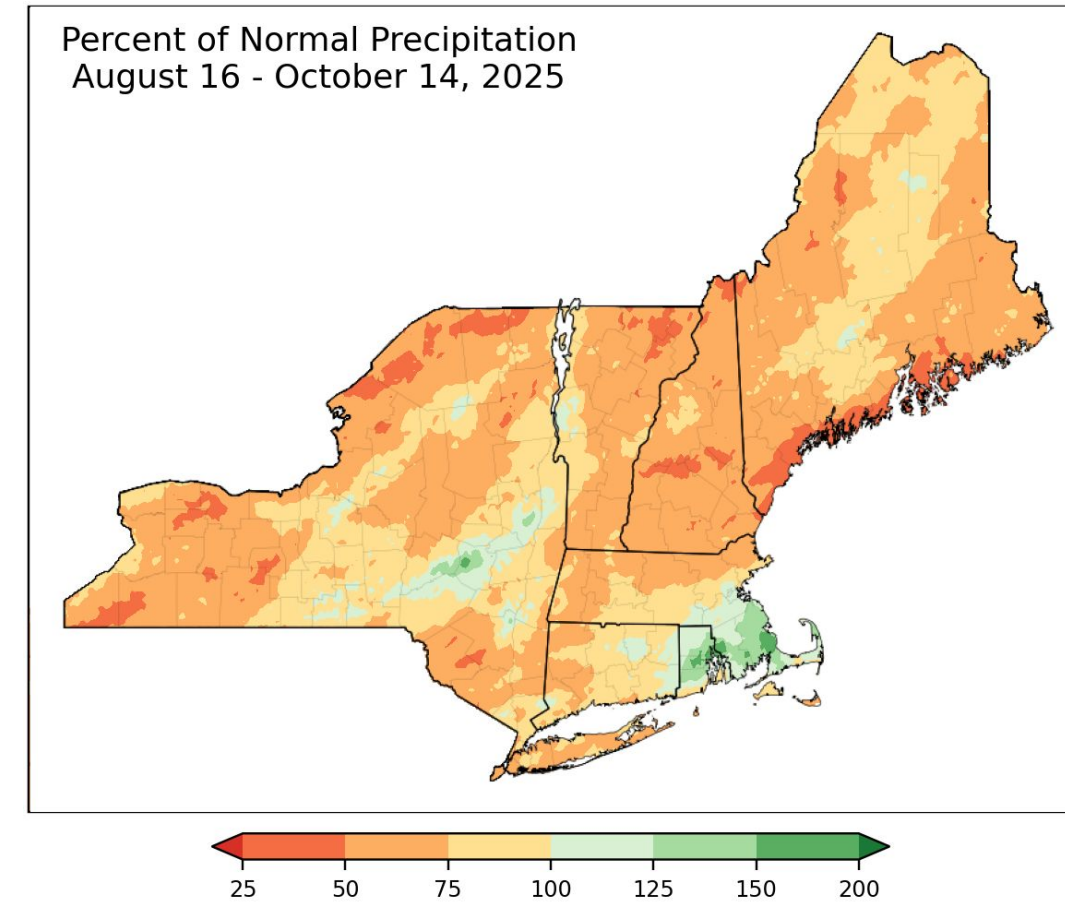
Ending September 30, 2025

- Areas of central and southern Vermont have seen close to normal precip in the last 30 days while northern areas have seen much less.
- During the last 60 days, most areas saw significantly less than normal precip. In the first 30 days (Aug 16-Sep 16) central and southern areas saw the least (not shown) while northern areas saw more.

## 30 Day Precipitation Departure



## 60 Day Precipitation Departure

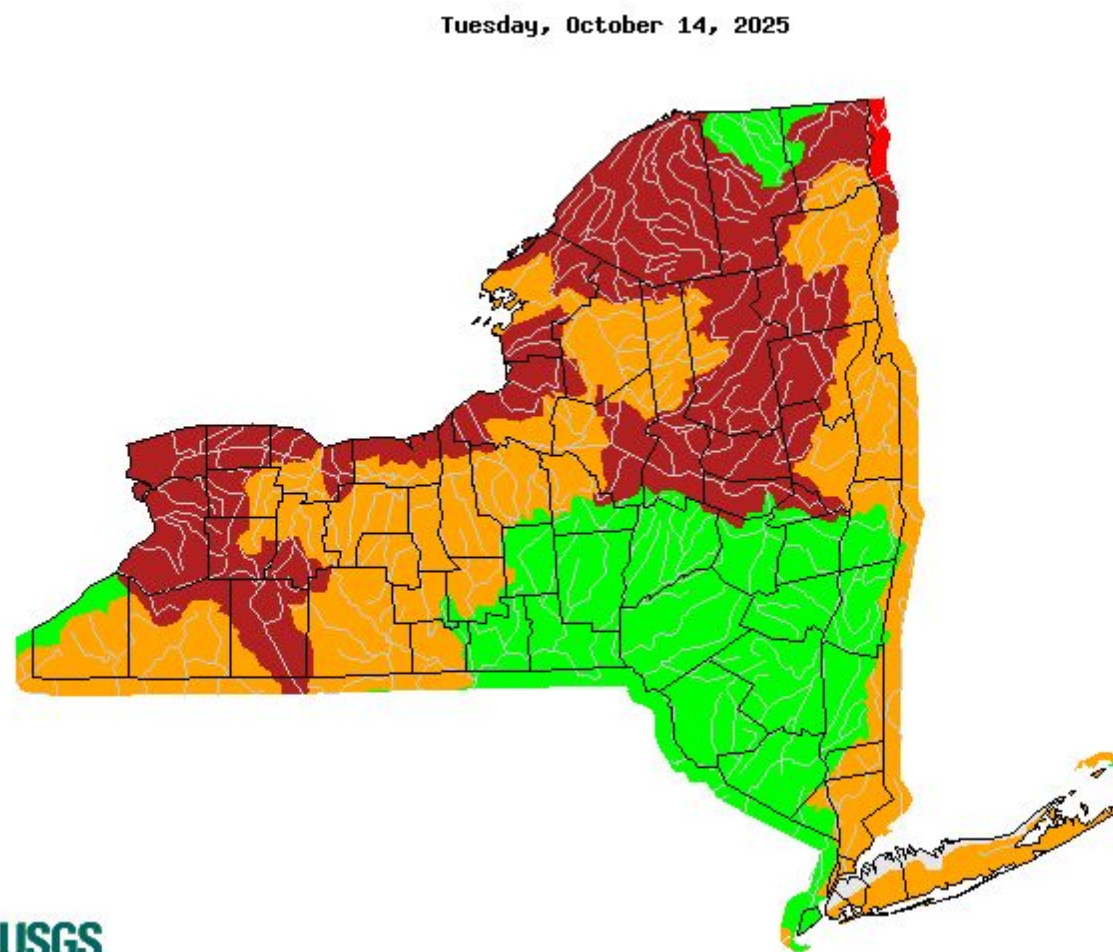




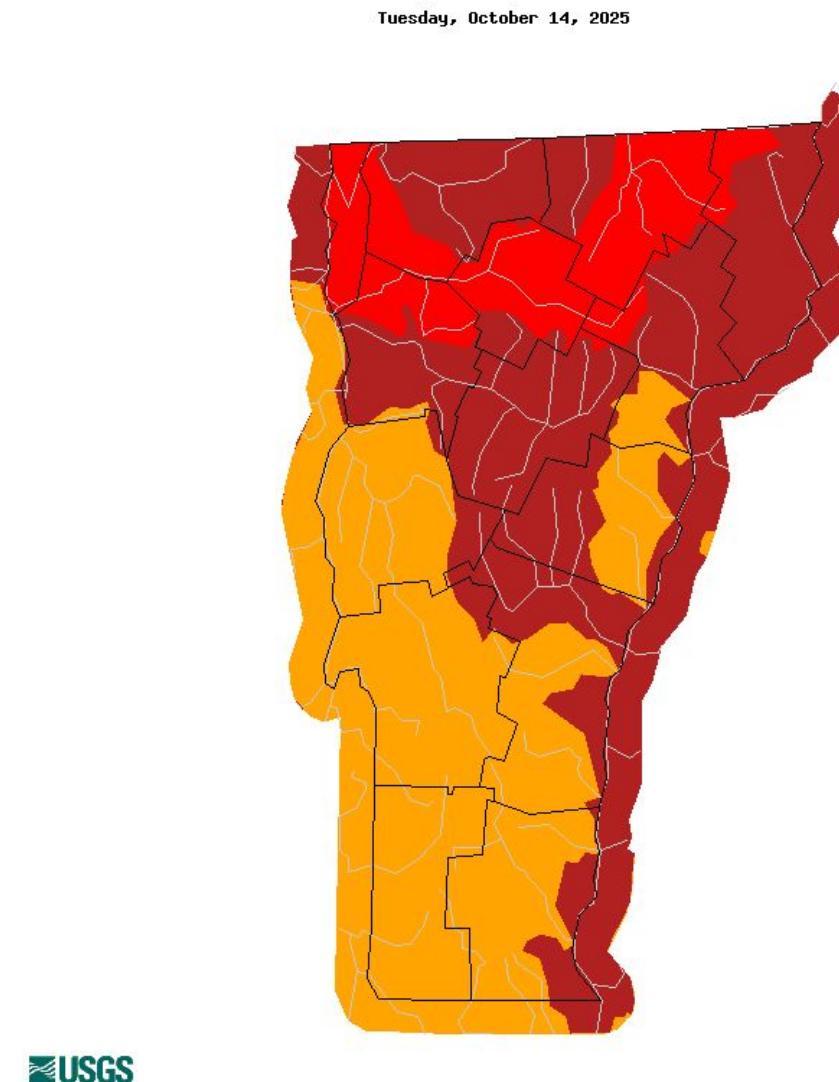
# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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- Streamflows are running below normal throughout the northeast, and have declined significantly since October 1.
- Drought impacts are occurring across the region, including crop and tree stress, dry wells, an increase in wildfire activity, and water restrictions.



USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid 10/14/25



| Explanation - Percentile classes |                   |              |        |              |                   |      |         |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------|--------------|-------------------|------|---------|
|                                  |                   |              |        |              |                   |      |         |
| Low                              | <10               | 10-24        | 25-75  | 76-90        | >90               | High | No Data |
|                                  | Much below normal | Below normal | Normal | Above normal | Much above normal |      |         |

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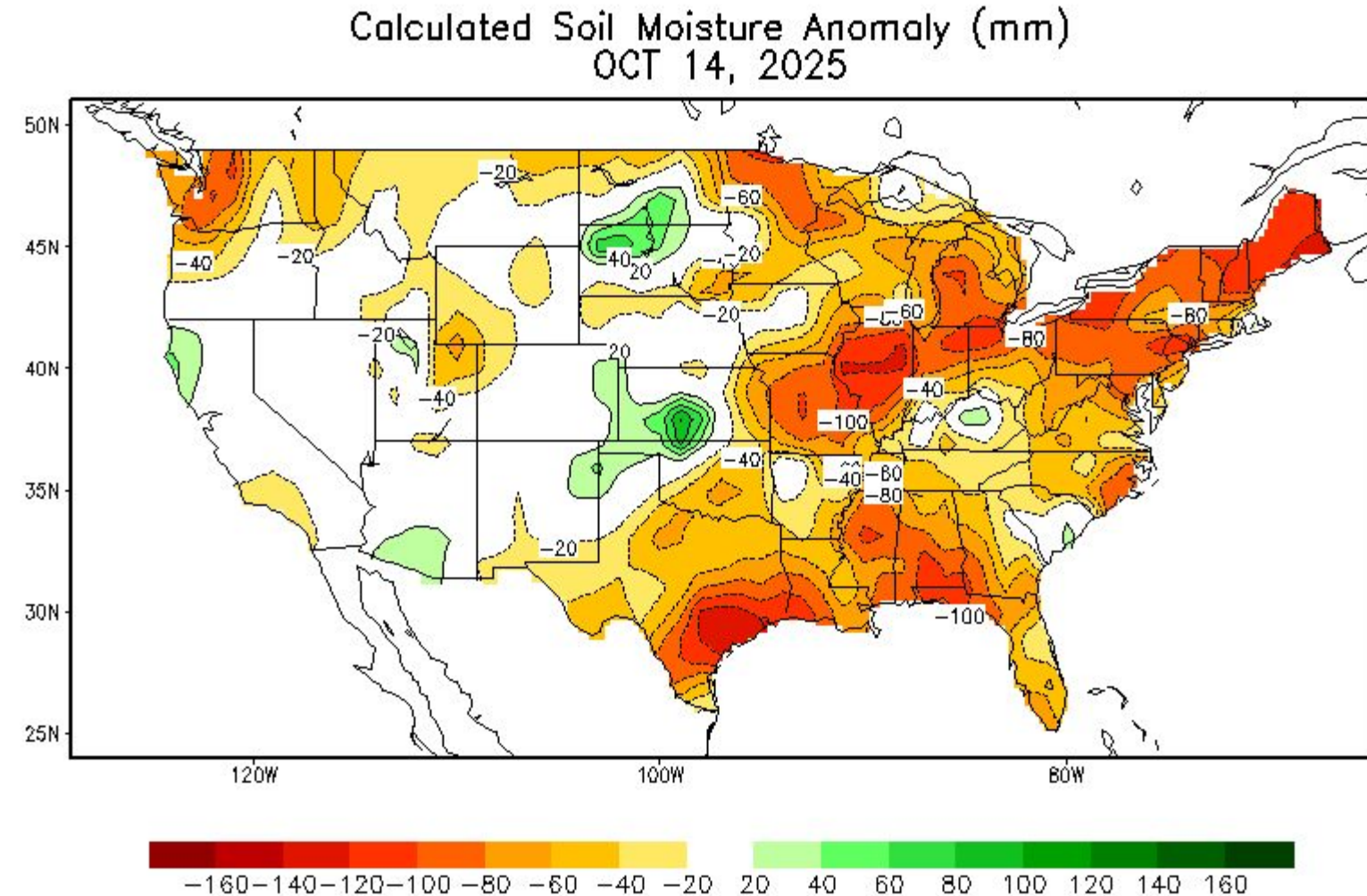
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# Soil Moisture and Agricultural Impacts

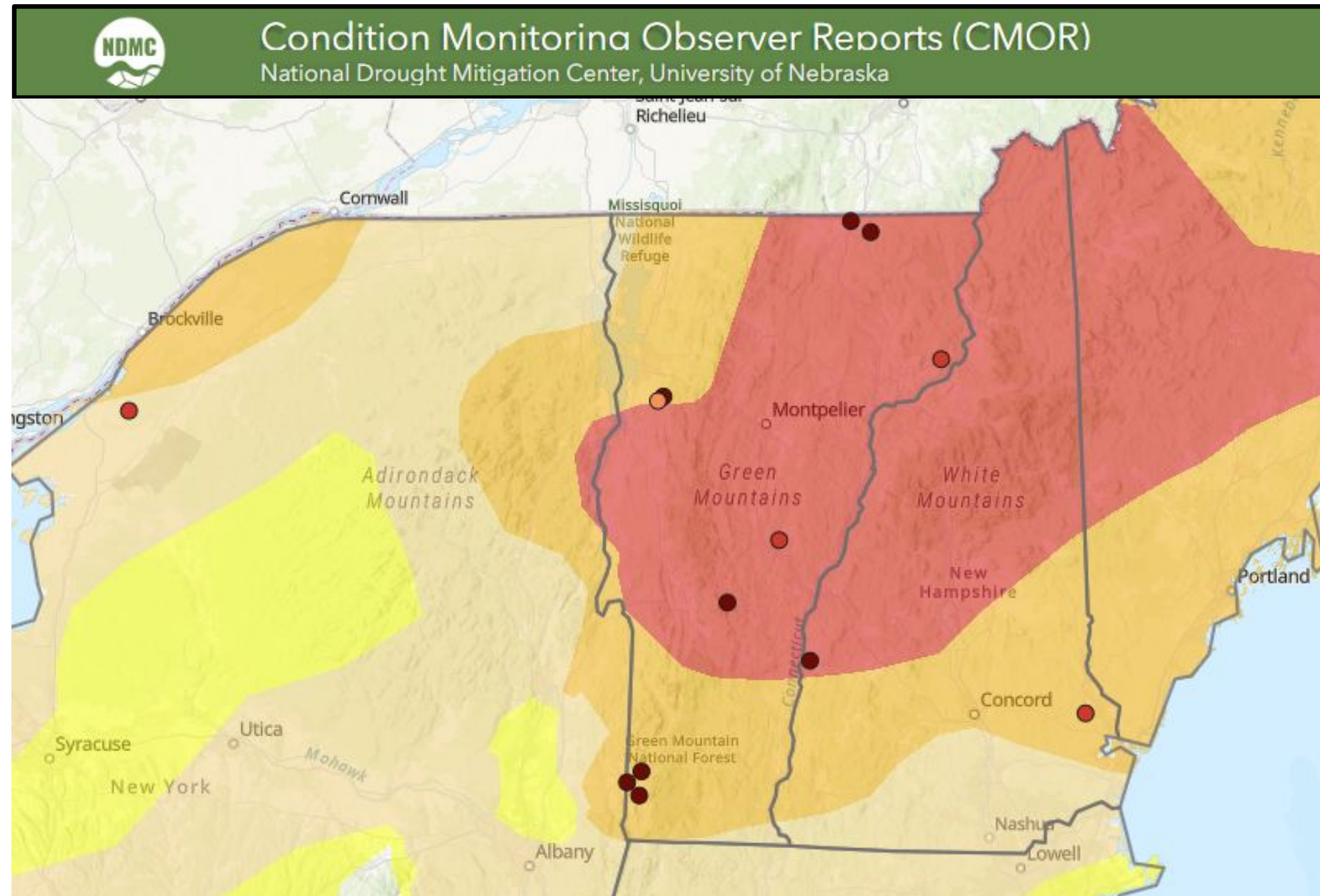
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- Climate Prediction Center Soil Moisture products show dry topsoils resulting in deteriorating pasture conditions and increased watering needs.
- The drought has produced negative consequences for crop yields. Estimated crop failures have been reported in many areas.





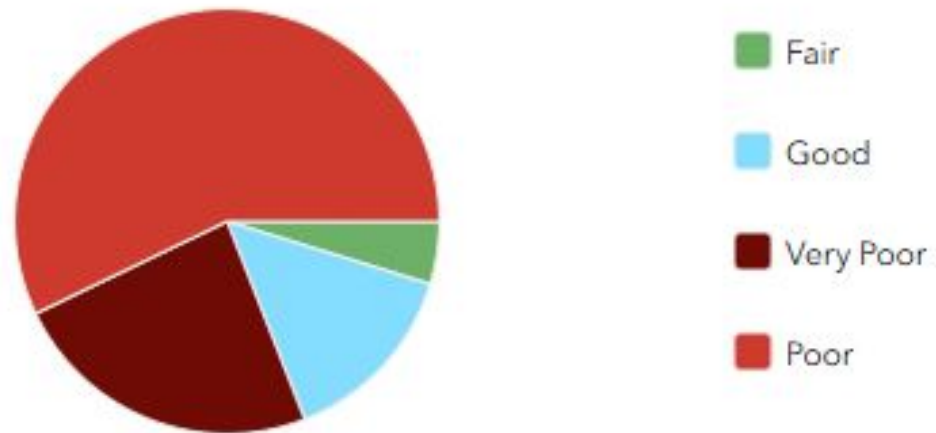
- Several drought reports from the public in the past two weeks have been submitted via CMOR. Many more were reported in the preceding weeks.
- CMOR link at:  
<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/016ac3b48c5049909106a23e6556311b>



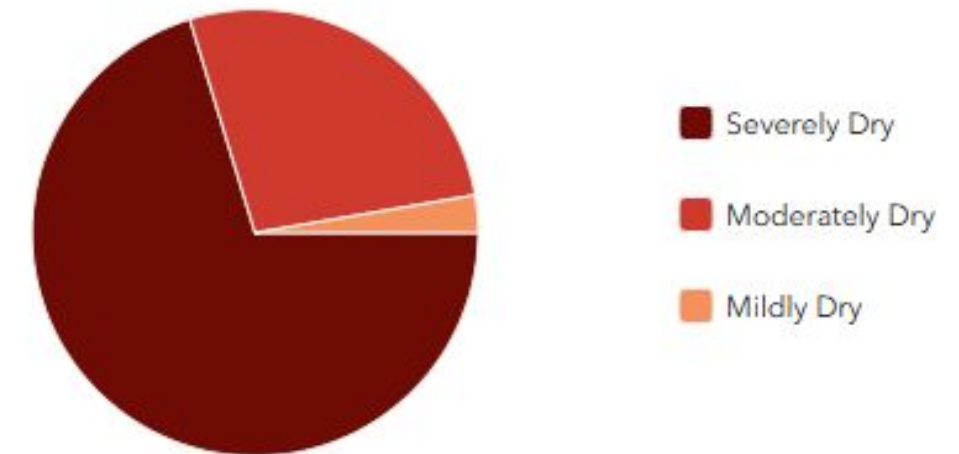


- CMOR crop reports largely rank poor to very poor. Localized areas are seeing fair to good crop conditions.
- Most reports show moderately to severely dry conditions.
- VT DEC Drought Reporter website has received numerous reports of well water shortages and other drinking water-related issues.

Crop Conditions



Reports by How Dry or Wet





[Link to Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.](#)

- Wildfire agencies in New York and Vermont have routinely issued high to very high fire danger ratings recently due to very dry fuels this month. Several fires have occurred over the past few weeks.

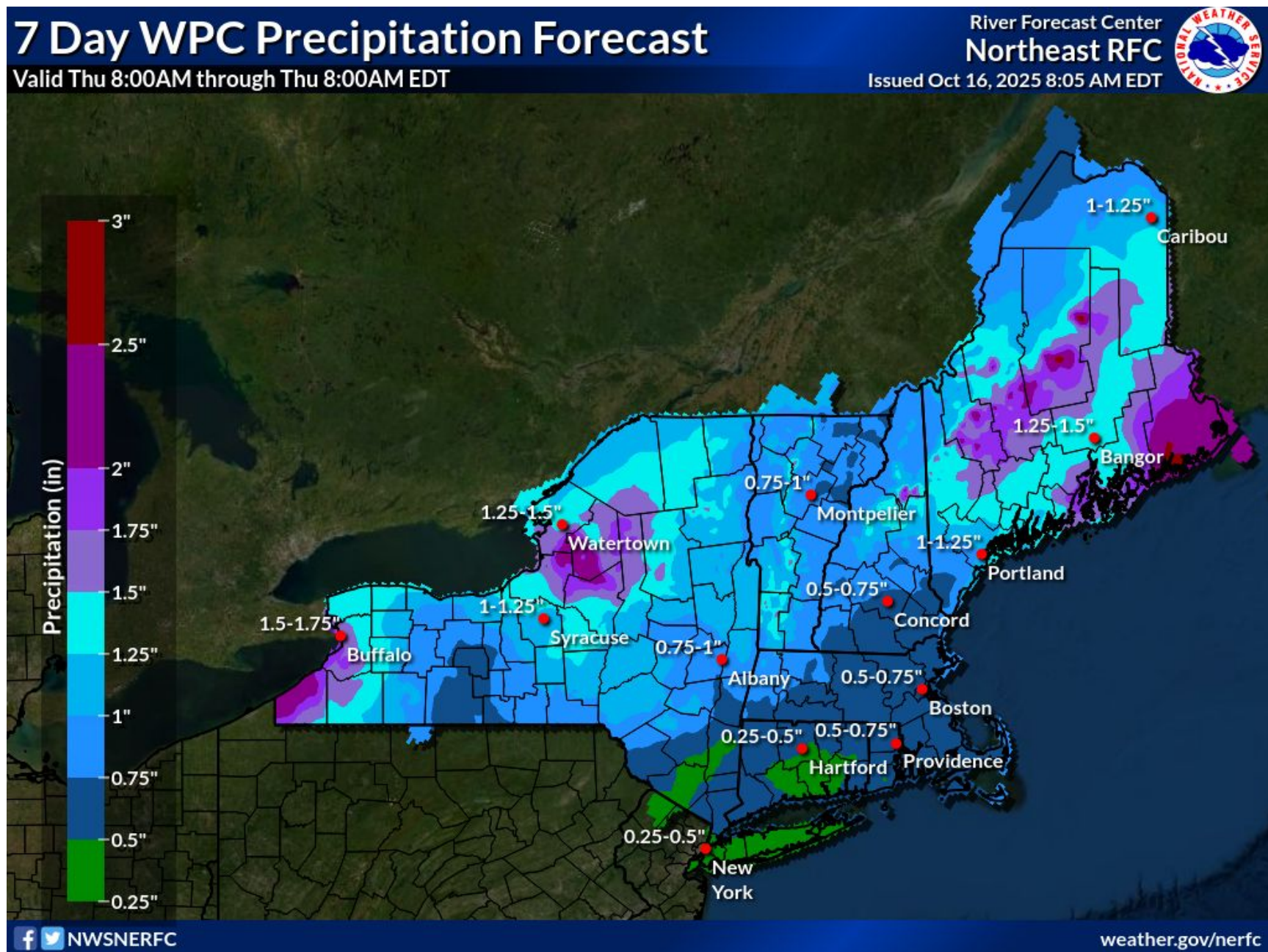




# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

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- Widespread totals of around an inch of rain are expected for the region through next week
- Most of the rain looks to fall between 10/20-10/23



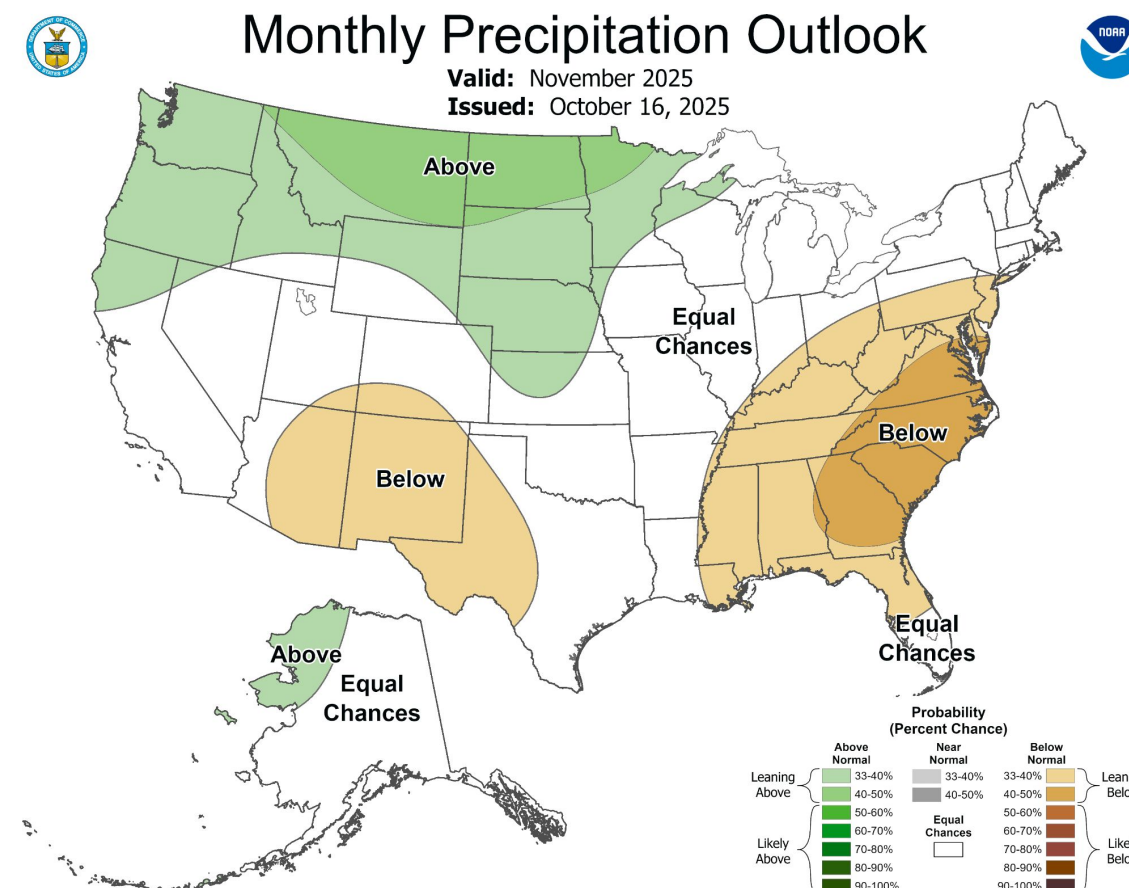
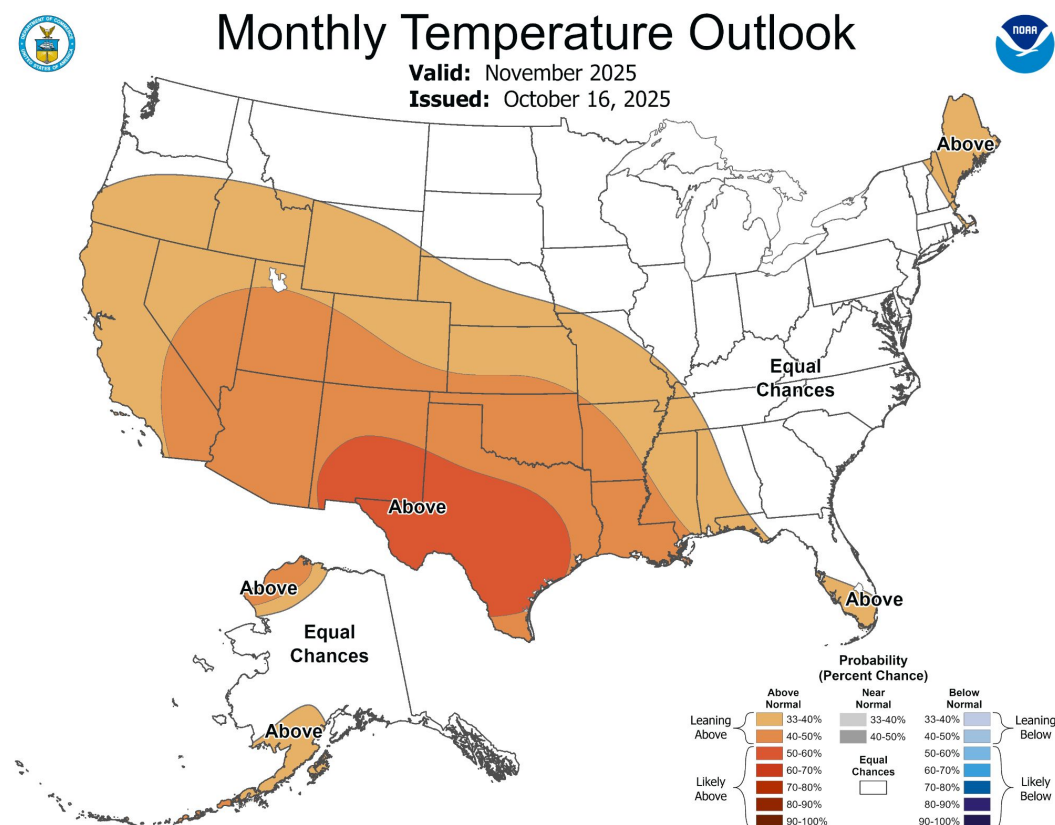


# Monthly Outlooks

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The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- There are about equal chances for above normal and below normal precipitation for the rest of October (not shown) and November.
- Warmer than normal temperatures are forecast for the rest of October (not shown) while there are equal chances of above and below normal temperatures for November.





# Drought Outlooks

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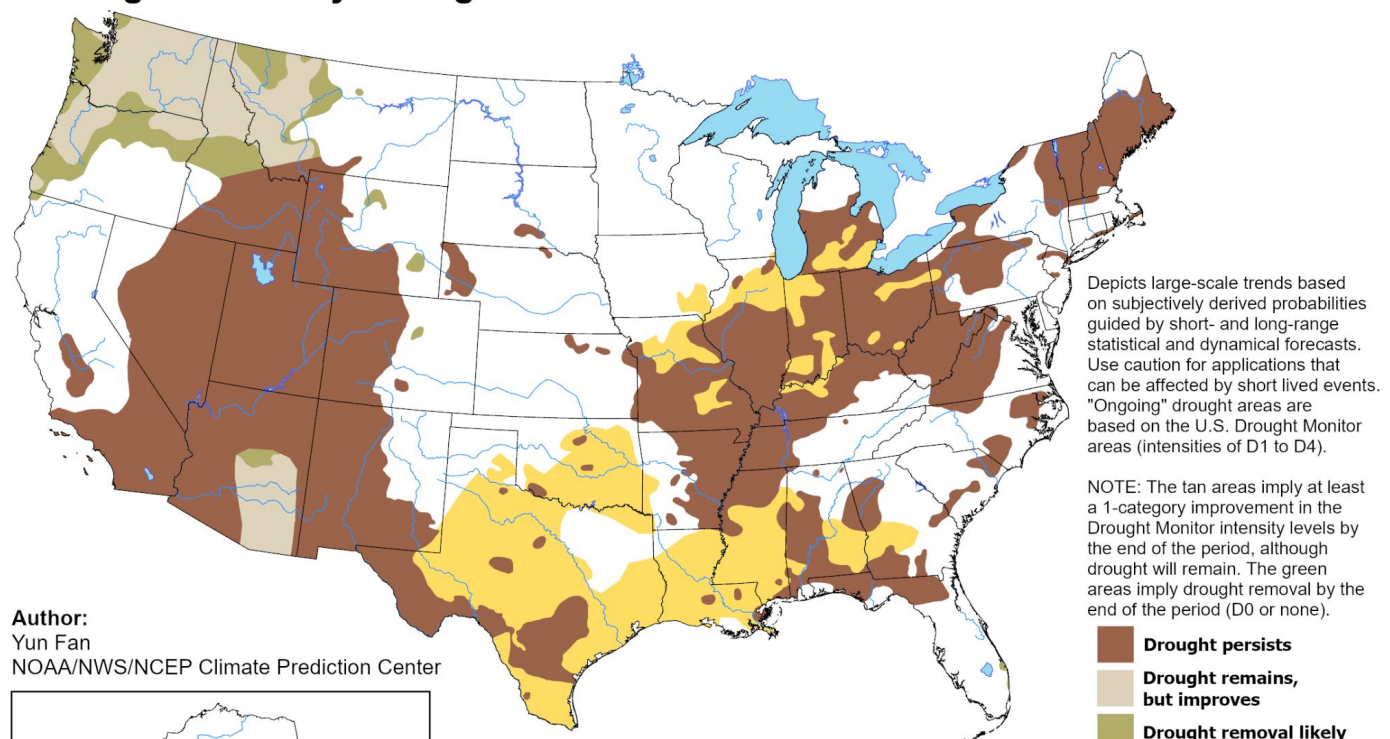
Other information can be viewed at the following link. [Drought Outlooks](#)

- Drought is expected to remain in a similar form for the rest of the month, before gradually improving in November and December.

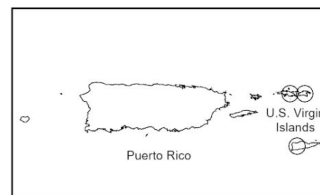
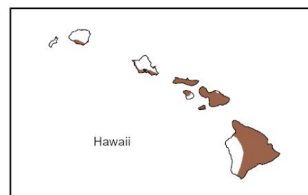
## U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for October 2025  
Released September 30, 2025



Author:  
Yun Fan  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



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

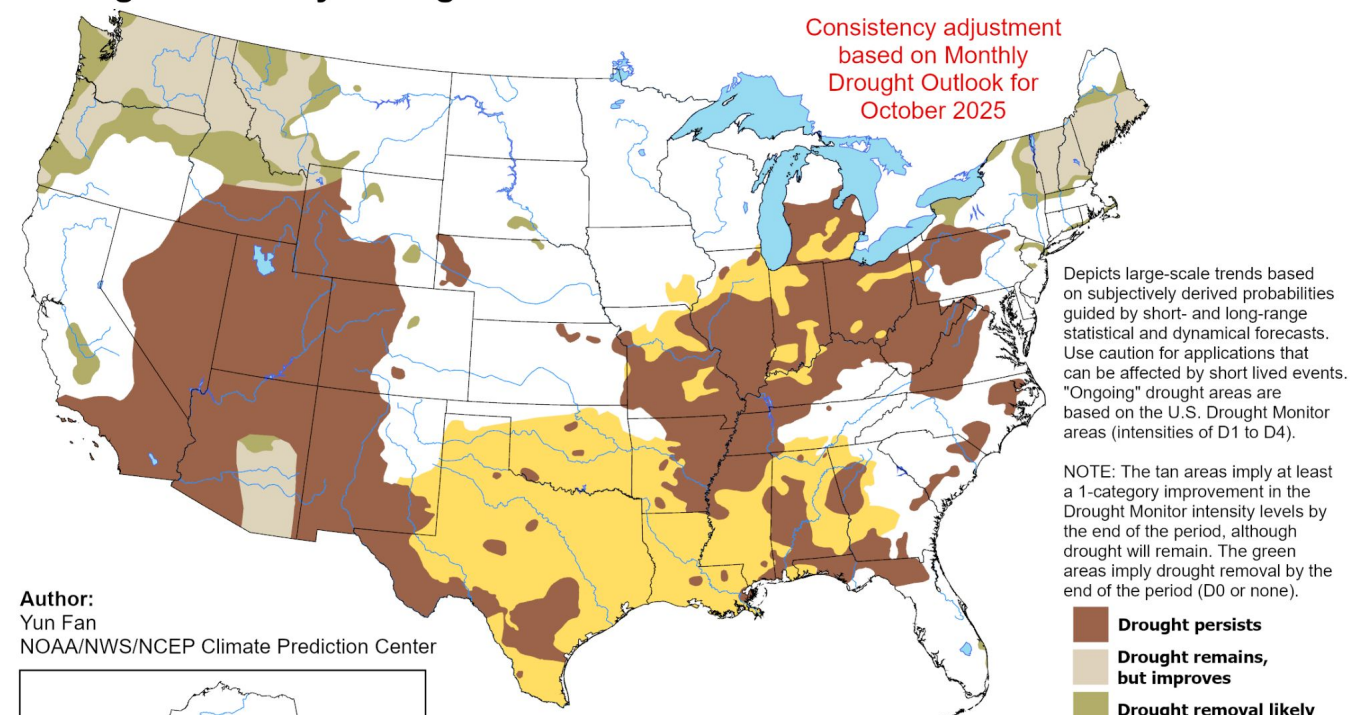


<https://go.usa.gov/3eZGd>

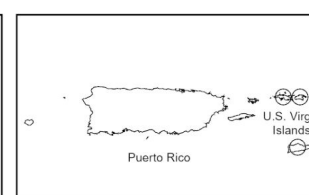
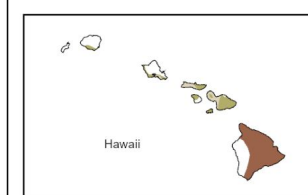
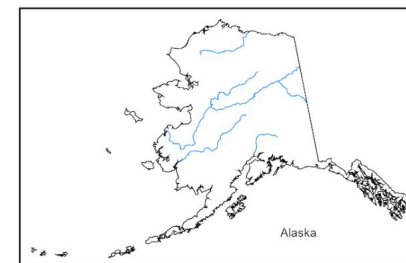
## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for October 1 - December 31, 2025  
Released September 30, 2025



Author:  
Yun Fan  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



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



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



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# Summary of Impacts and Outlook

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Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows and groundwater levels are well below normal across the majority of our area for this date in October based on USGS gages.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Farmers are facing challenges with crops and livestock due to the lack of adequate rainfall, forcing them to implement water conservation measures and even truck in water. Many reports of yield loss or near total crop failure have been reported.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Prolonged dry periods have helped weaken and kill off vegetation, creating dry fuel that can ignite easily. First frosts and freezes have occurred and expedited this process.
- Stress on trees is leading to early shedding of leaves and shutting down of annual grasses. Trees are rapidly going bare.

## Other Impacts

- Reports of dry wells and drinking water problems/restrictions have increased across both Vermont and northern New York over the past two weeks.

## Mitigation Actions

- Calls to Action: Conserve water, practice fire prevention, and follow directions from local officials.

## Outlook

- Drought is expected to remain in a similar form for the rest of the month, before gradually improving in November and December.





# Contact and Next Drought Briefing Information

October 16, 2025  
8:24 AM

For northern New York and all of Vermont

## Contact Information

### Next Drought Briefing

- Thursday, October 30, 2025
- Method: Sent via email by 3 pm

### Disclaimer

- Information contained in this briefing is time-sensitive
- Do Not Use After: Thursday, October 30, 2025

### Web

- [weather.gov/burlington](https://weather.gov/burlington)

### Phone

- (802) 862-2475

### Email

- [nwsbtv.info@noaa.gov](mailto:nwsbtv.info@noaa.gov)

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