

# Drought Information Statement for Vermont and northern New York

November 25, 2025

Issued By: NWS Burlington, VT

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Please see all currently available products at <u>drought.gov/drought-information-statements</u>.Please visit <u>www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/</u> for regional drought status updates.

Severe drought continues across portions of eastern Vermont.
 Elsewhere, conditions continue to slowly improve with mainly abnormally dry to moderate drought levels present.

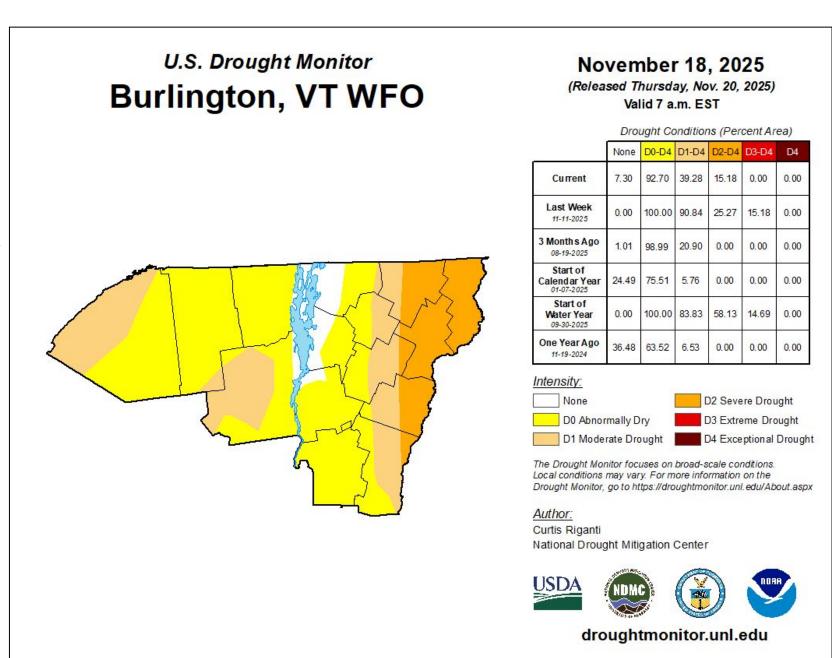






Link to the <u>latest U.S. Drought Monitor</u> for the Northeast

- Drought intensity and Extent:
  - D2 (Severe Drought): Portions of east-central and northeast Vermont.
  - D1 (Moderate Drought): Portions of eastern Vermont, as well as St. Lawrence and Essex Counties in New York.
  - D0 (Abnormally Dry): The majority of the remainder of the area.
  - No Drought: The northern Champlain Valley of Vermont.



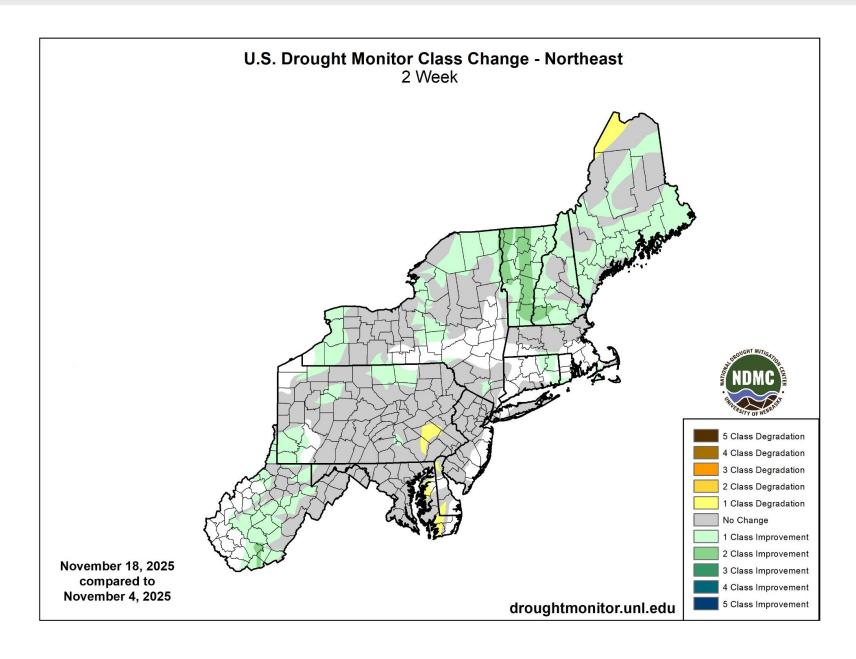
# USDM Drought Class Definitions

| Category | Description            | Possible Impacts  |  |  |  |
|----------|------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| D0       | Abnormally<br>Dry      | <ul> <li>Going into drought:         <ul> <li>short-term dryness slowing planting, growth of crops or pastures</li> </ul> </li> <li>Coming out of drought:         <ul> <li>some lingering water deficits</li> <li>pastures or crops not fully recovered</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |  |  |  |
| D1       | Moderate<br>Drought    | <ul> <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<br>Drought      | <ul> <li>Crop or pasture losses likely</li> <li>Water shortages common</li> <li>Water restrictions imposed</li> </ul>   |  |  |  |
| D3       | Extreme<br>Drought     | Major crop/pasture losses     Widespread water shortages or restrictions  |  |  |  |
| D4       | Exceptional<br>Drought | <ul> <li>Exceptional and widespread crop/pasture losses</li> <li>Shortages of water in reservoirs, streams, and wells creating water emergencies</li> </ul>   |  |  |  |

# Two-Week Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 2-week change map for the Northeast

- Two-Week Drought Monitor Class Change (through Nov 18):
  - Widespread 1 to 2 category improvements seen across the area, most notable in Vermont.
  - Status quo for portions of St. Lawrence and Essex Counties in New York.
- Note: 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.

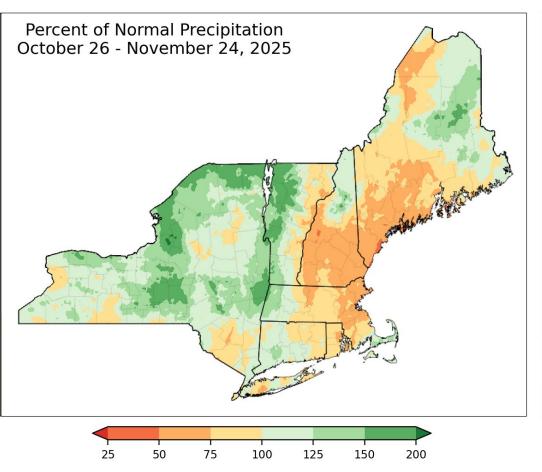


# 30-Day and 60-Day Precipitation Departures

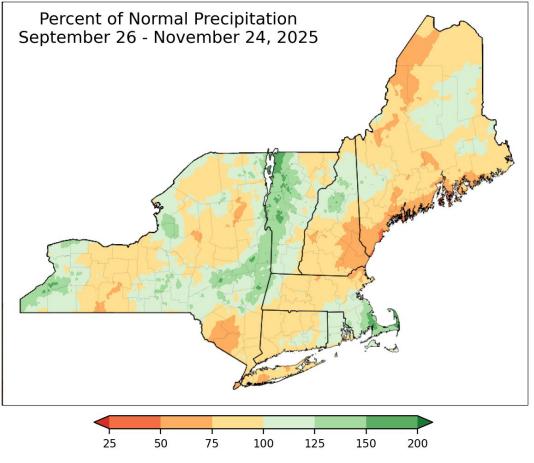
**Ending November 24, 2025** 

- The majority of the area has seen above normal precipitation over the past 30 days. The exception is in eastern Vermont.
- In the 60 day time frame, longer-term dryness is still evident in many areas outside the Champlain Valley.

#### 30 Day Precipitation Departure



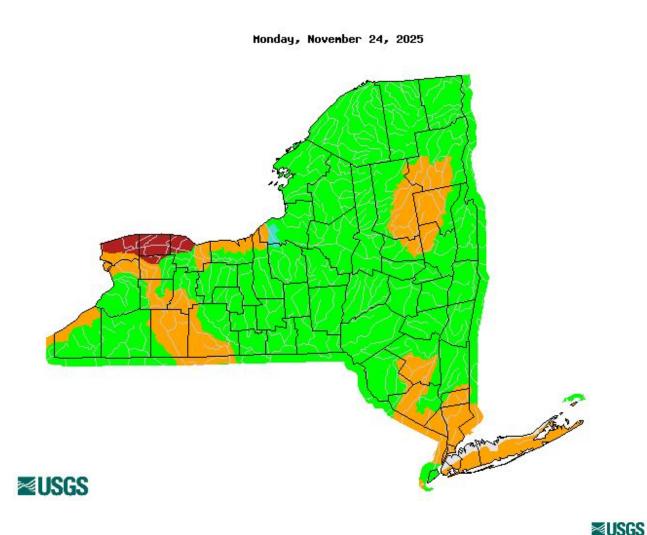
#### 60 Day Precipitation Departure



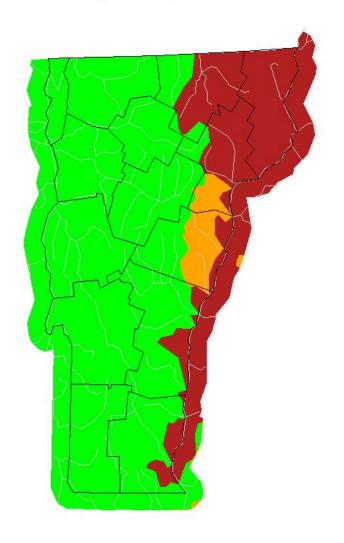


# Hydrologic Conditions - Streamflows

- Streamflows show continued improvement, with most areas falling within the normal 25th to 75th interquartile range.
- Exception in portions of eastern Vermont where more severe drought and longer-term dryness persist.







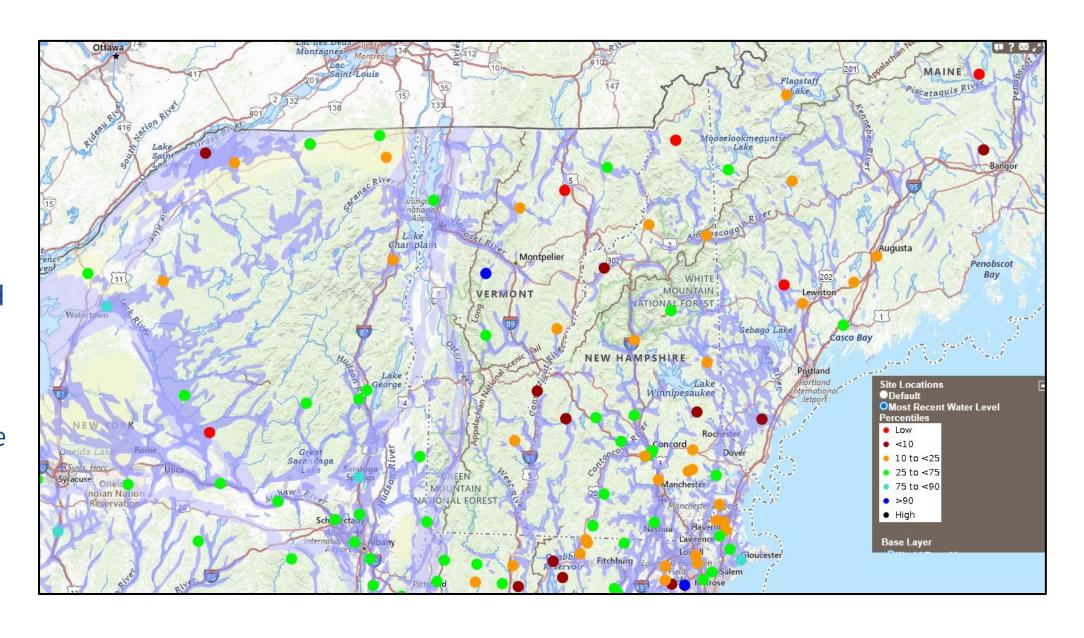
USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC maps valid 11/24/25

|     | Expl                 | anation         | - Perce | ntile cla       | asses                |      |         |
|-----|----------------------|-----------------|---------|-----------------|----------------------|------|---------|
| Low | <10                  | 10-24           | 25-75   | 76-90           | >90                  | Uiah |         |
| LOW | Much below<br>normal | Below<br>normal | Normal  | Above<br>normal | Much above<br>normal | High | No Data |



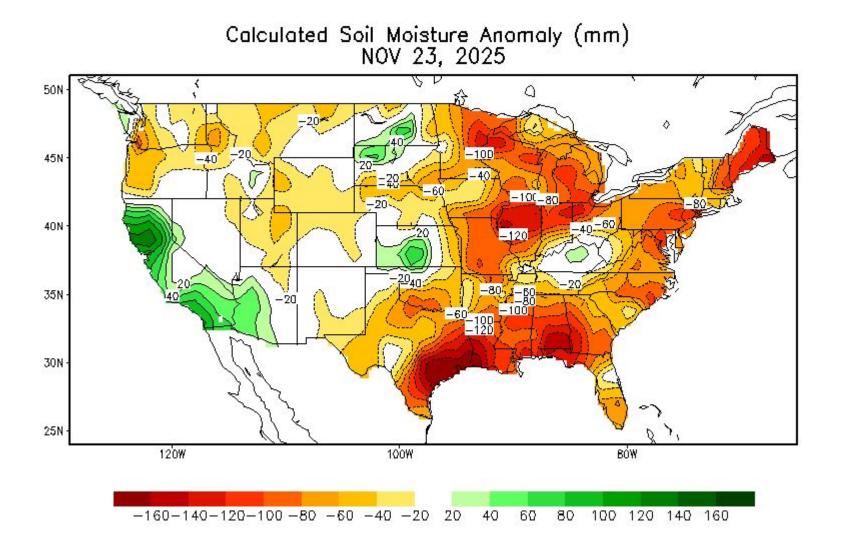
# Hydrologic Conditions - Groundwater

- Current groundwater data showing a mix of near to above normal levels, and below normal levels.
- Dryness most evident in eastern Vermont and portions of the St. Lawrence Valley.
- Note: Important to note that the depth and particular geologic makeup of wells can lead to variable conditions





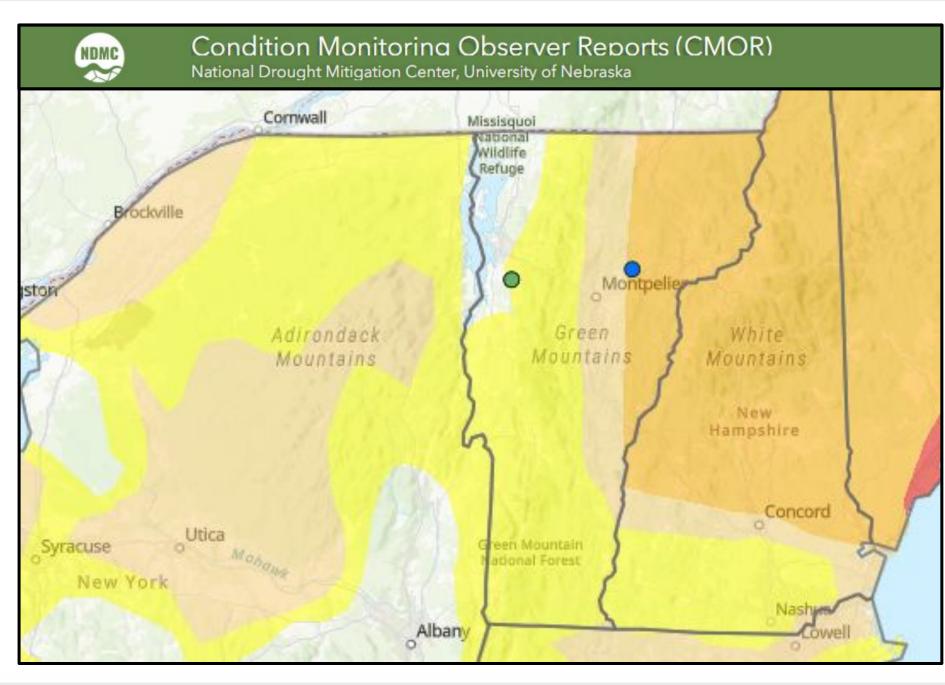
Climate Prediction Center Soil
 Moisture anomalies continue to show
 drier than normal conditions across
 the area, but slow improvements
 continue.



November 13-25, 2025

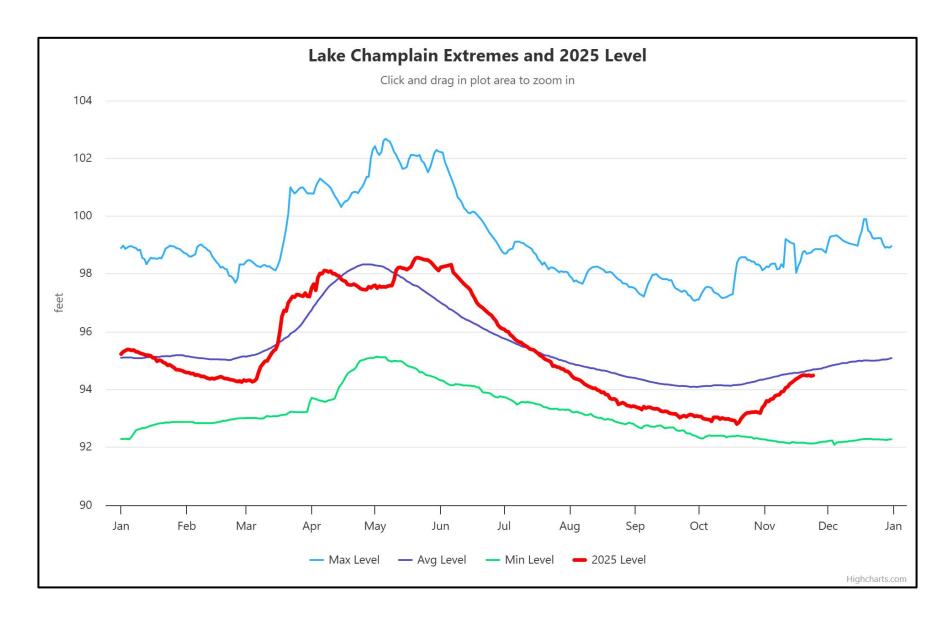
- Only a couple of reports have been submitted via CMOR, and both indicate improvements in drought conditions.
- CMOR link at:
   <u>https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/016ac3b48c5049909106a23e65</u>

   <u>56311b</u>





- Significant recovery in Lake
   Champlain levels in the past 3 weeks.
- Level now near normal with no concerns going forward into the winter.

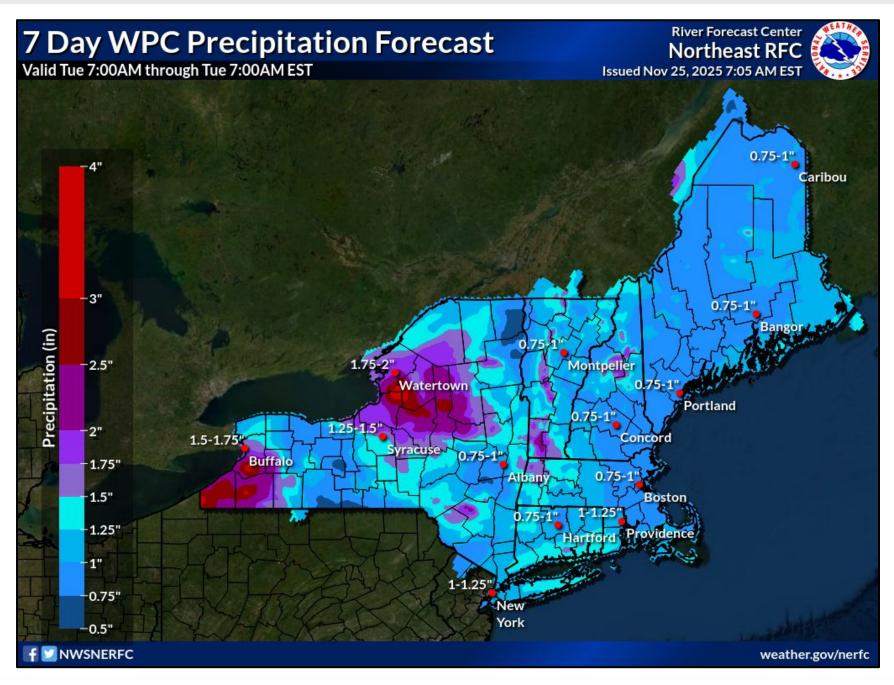


# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

November 25 to December 2, 2025

- A cooler and wetter pattern is expected to continue across the region, with continued chances for rain and snow showers.
- 7-day average precipitation amounts predicted to range from 0.5 to 1.5 inches.

Note: While accumulating snow is often a positive sign for areas experiencing drought, the stored water, measured as Snow Water Equivalent (SWE), does not provide an immediate benefit for drought recovery until it actually melts and begins to enter the wider water system.

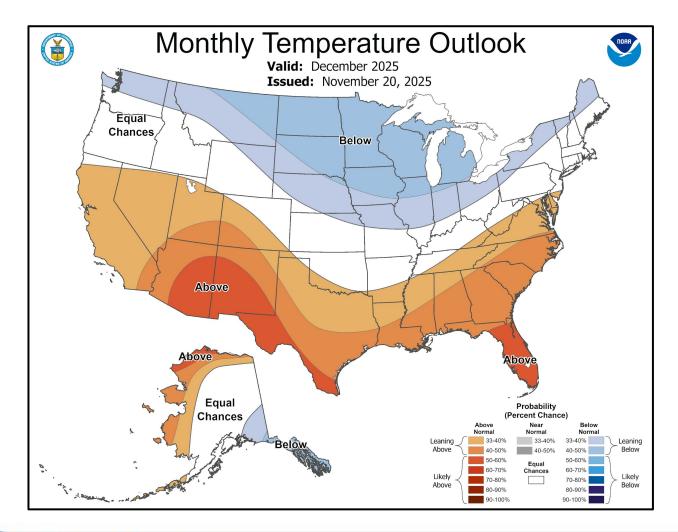


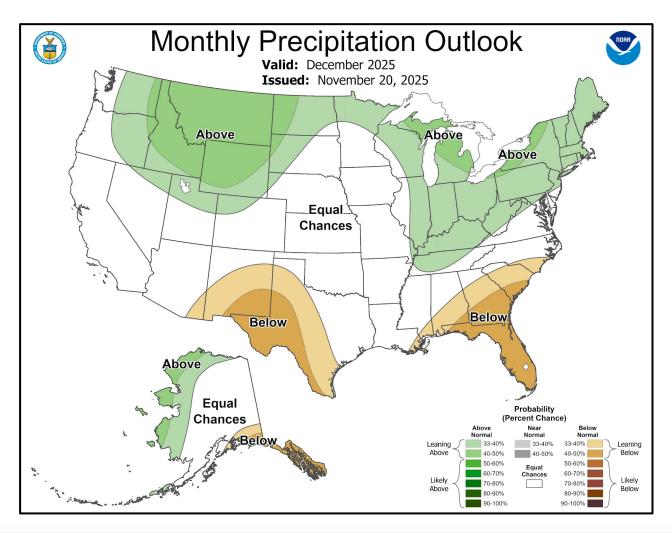


# Monthly Outlook for December

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- There are equal chances of above and below normal temperatures for December, with northern counties leaning slightly below normal.
- Precipitation chances are leaning above normal for the month of December.







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

#### **Hydrologic Impacts**

• Streamflows and groundwater levels have improved to near normal in many areas. Below normal levels remain in eastern Vermont (streamflows and groundwater) and portions of the St. Lawrence Valley (groundwater only)

#### **Agricultural Impacts**

- Some farmers continue to face challenges with procuring winter hay/silage. Future economic impacts will be largely related to water supply for animals and winter feed concerns.
- Impacts to the quality/quantity of next spring's maple syrup production are also possible (source USDA).

#### **Other Impacts**

• A handful of reports of low well water and adequate drinking water access continue in a few areas of eastern Vermont, although to a much lesser extent compared to earlier in late summer/early autumn. A few residences/farms are relying on hauled water and/or buying water due to low wells.

#### **Mitigation Actions**

 Calls to Action: In remaining areas of severe drought (D2) in eastern Vermont, reach out to local/state level officials for guidance.

#### Outlook

• Varying levels of drought are expected to remain across the area over the coming month, but additional improvement is expected through the month of December.





## **Contact and Next Drought Briefing Information**

For northern New York and all of Vermont



### **Next Drought Briefing**

- → Thursday, December 11, 2025
- → Method: Sent via email by 3 PM



#### **Disclaimer**

- → Information contained in this briefing is time-sensitive
- → Do Not Use After: Thursday, December 11, 2025



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