



Drought Information Statement for Vermont and northern New York

December 18, 2025

Issued By: NWS Burlington, VT

Contact Information: nwsbtv.info@noaa.gov

- Please see all currently available products at drought.gov/drought-information-statements. Please visit www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/ for regional drought status updates.
- Severe drought continues across portions of eastern Vermont. Elsewhere, conditions have largely remained static over the past few weeks, with abnormally dry to moderate drought levels present.
- The one exception lies in the Champlain Valley of Vermont where drought conditions no longer exist.



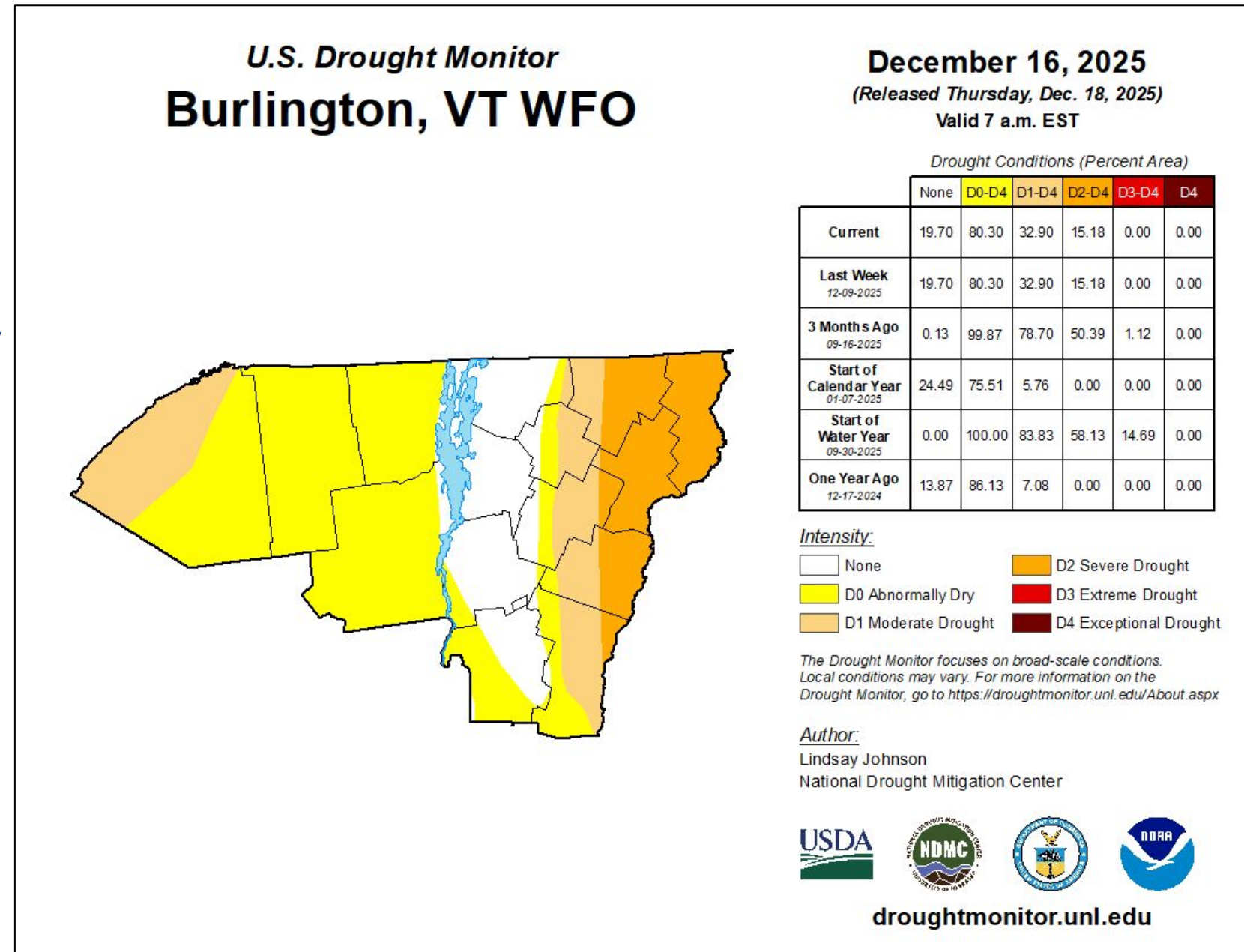


Current U.S. Drought Monitor Map

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

- Drought intensity and Extent:
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Portions of east-central and northeast Vermont.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Portions of eastern Vermont and St. Lawrence County New York.
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: The remainder of northern New York and small portions of Vermont
 - **No Drought**: The Champlain Valley of Vermont, western slopes of the Green Mountains and portions of Rutland County, VT.





USDM Drought Class Definitions

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- Reminder - Severe drought (D2) and higher classifications are largely driven by impacts, not actual levels of streams, wells, etc.

Category	Description	Possible Impacts
D0	Abnormally Dry	Going into drought: <ul style="list-style-type: none">short-term dryness slowing planting, growth of crops or pastures Coming out of drought: <ul style="list-style-type: none">some lingering water deficitspastures or crops not fully recovered
D1	Moderate Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Some damage to crops, pasturesStreams, reservoirs, or wells low, some water shortages developing or imminentVoluntary water-use restrictions requested
D2	Severe Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Crop or pasture losses likelyWater shortages commonWater restrictions imposed
D3	Extreme Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Major crop/pasture lossesWidespread water shortages or restrictions
D4	Exceptional Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Exceptional and widespread crop/pasture lossesShortages of water in reservoirs, streams, and wells creating water emergencies



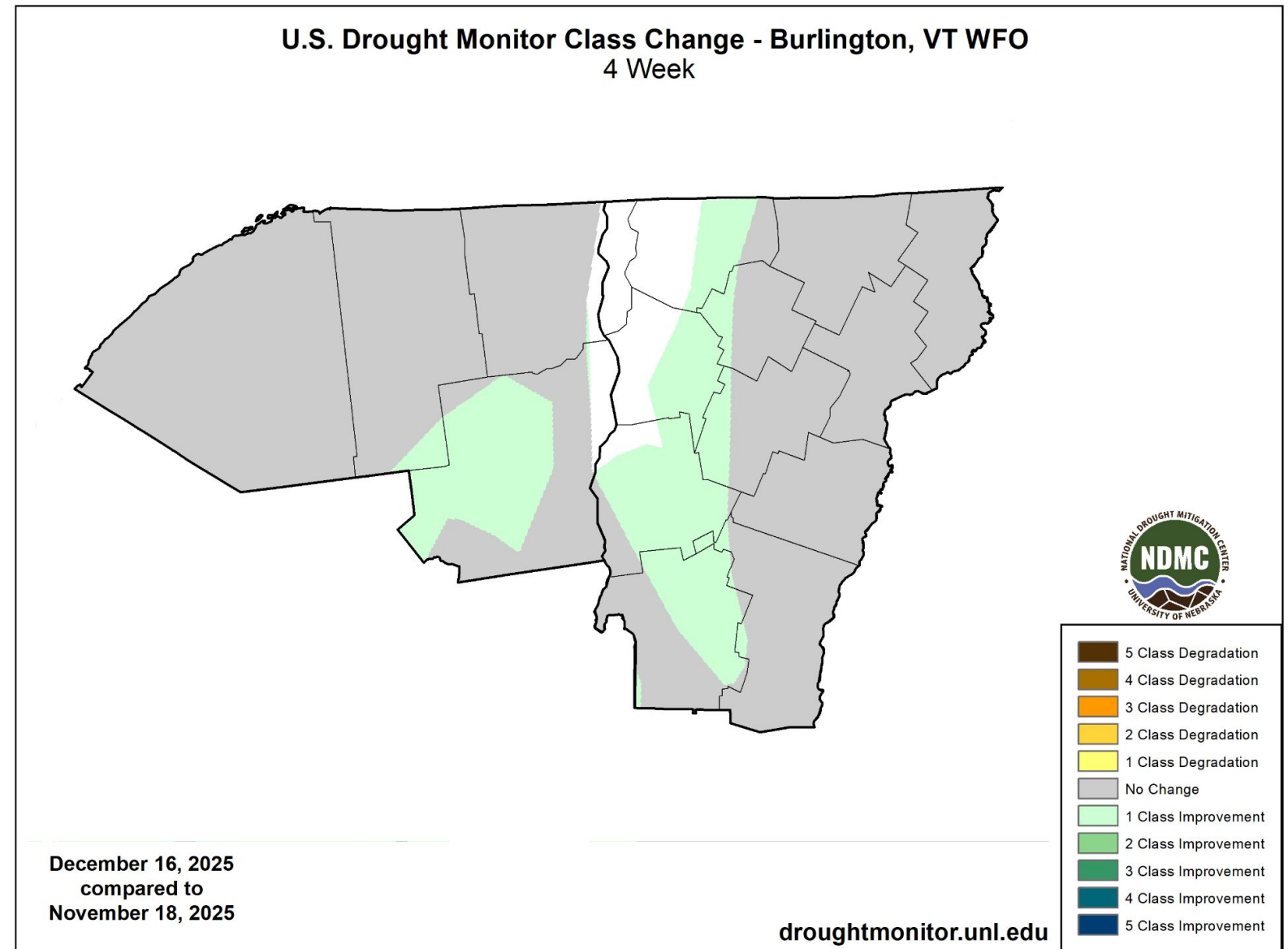


One Month Change in Drought Intensity

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Link to the latest [USDM change maps](#)

- 4-week (1 month) Drought Monitor Class Change (Nov. 18 to Dec. 16):
 - 1 class improvement in portions of the Champlain Valley and Essex County, NY
 - No changes elsewhere
- *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.*





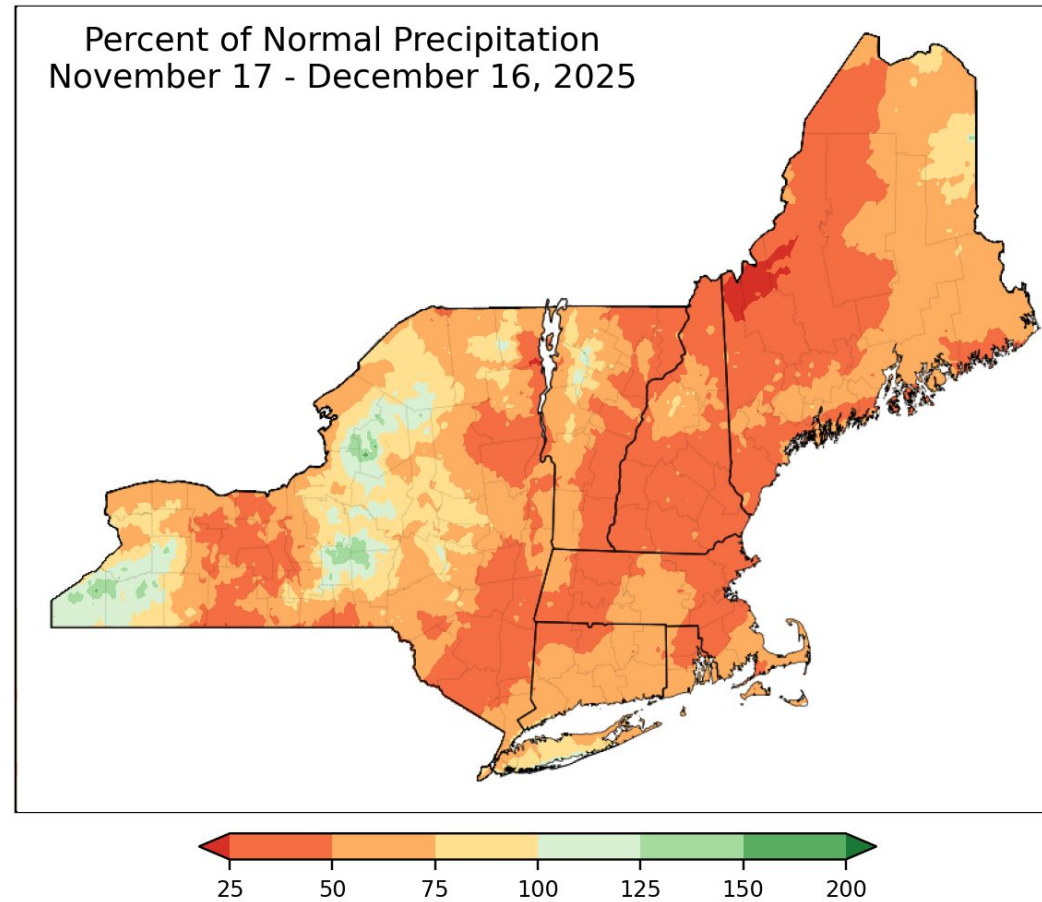
30-Day and 60-Day Precipitation Departures

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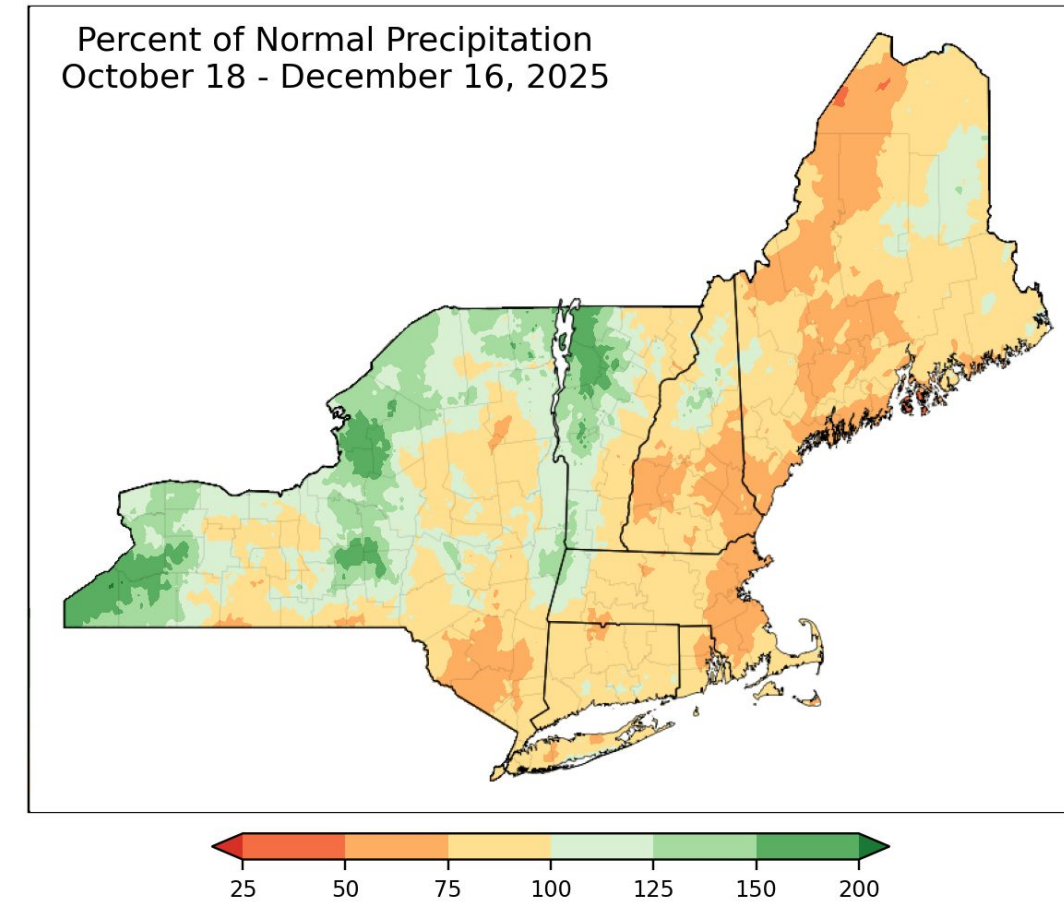
Ending November 24, 2025

- The majority of the area has seen below normal precipitation over the past 30 days. Departures, on average ran 30-80% of normal.
- In the 60 day time frame, longer-term dryness is still evident in eastern Vermont, while the remainder of the region saw more consistent precipitation.

30 Day Precipitation Departure



60 Day Precipitation Departure

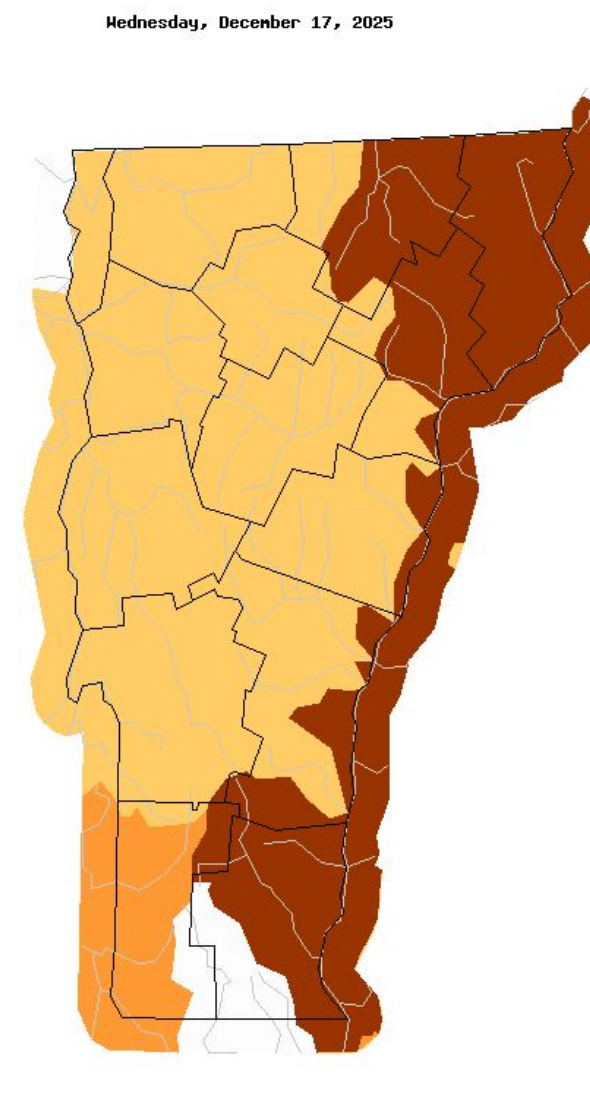
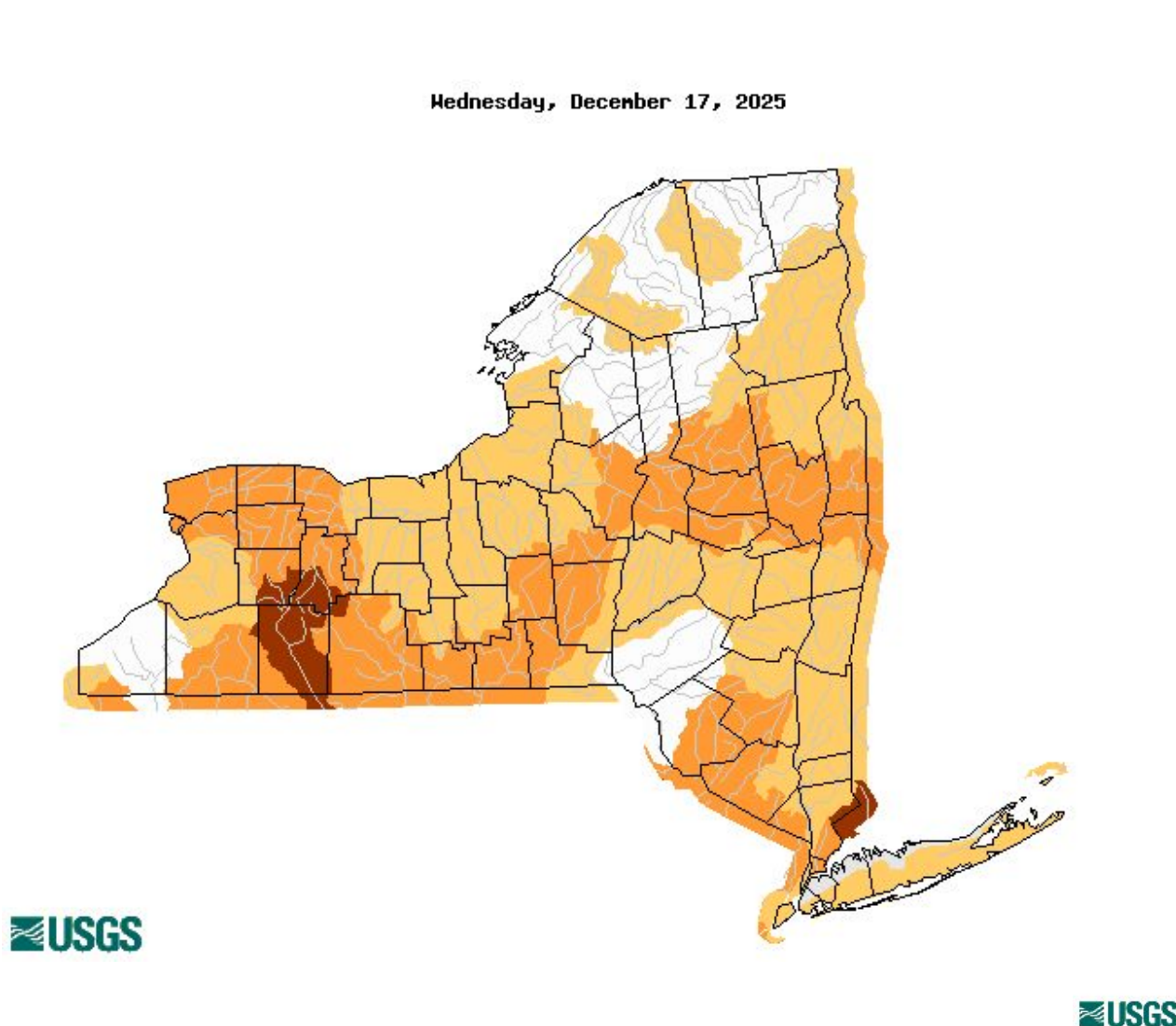




Hydrologic Conditions - Streamflows

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- 7-day streamflow averages have shown deterioration since late November due to recent 30-day dryness.
- Lowest levels continue in east/northeast VT.



USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC maps valid 12/17/25

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		

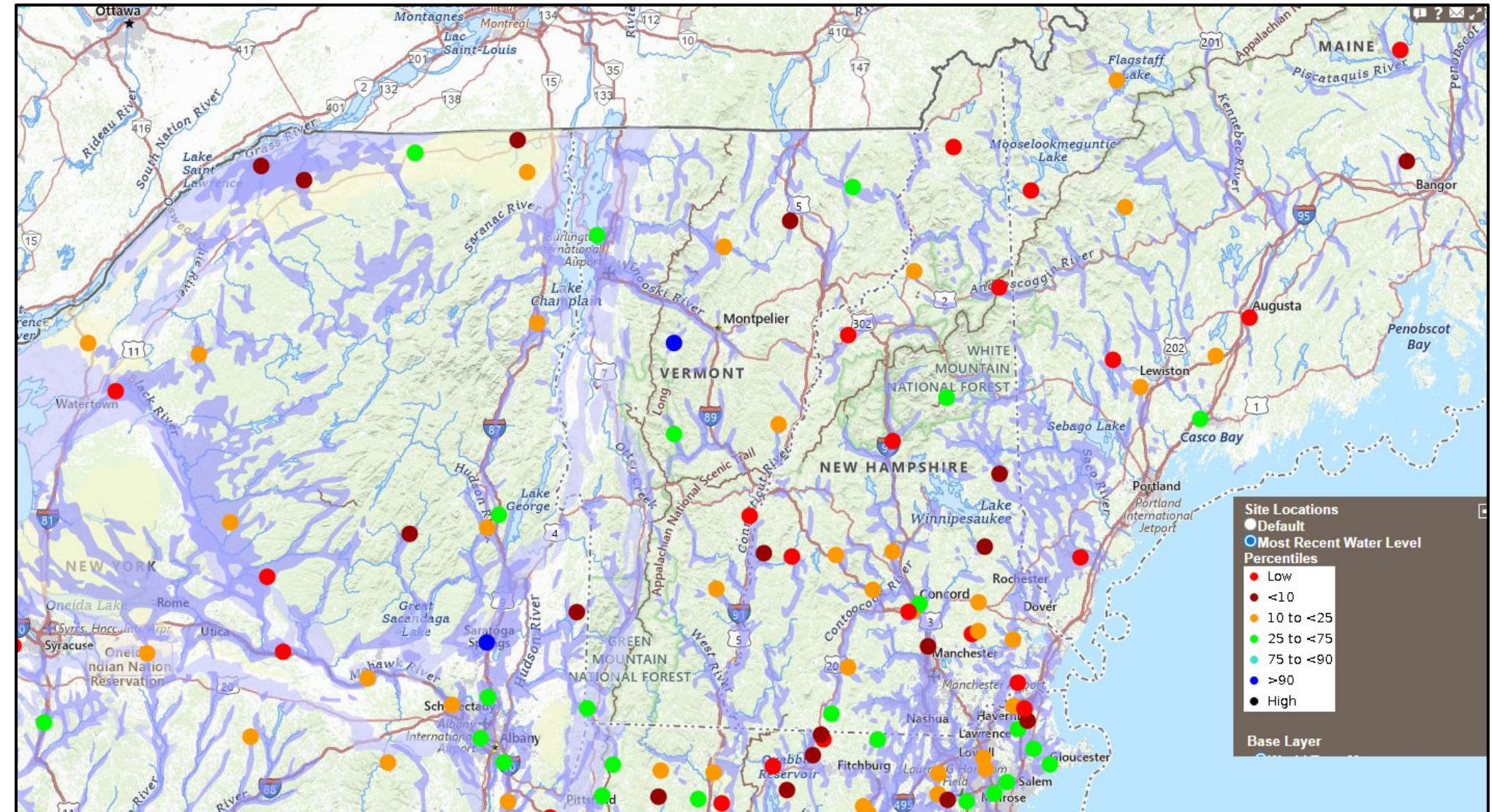




Hydrologic Conditions - Groundwater

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- 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*



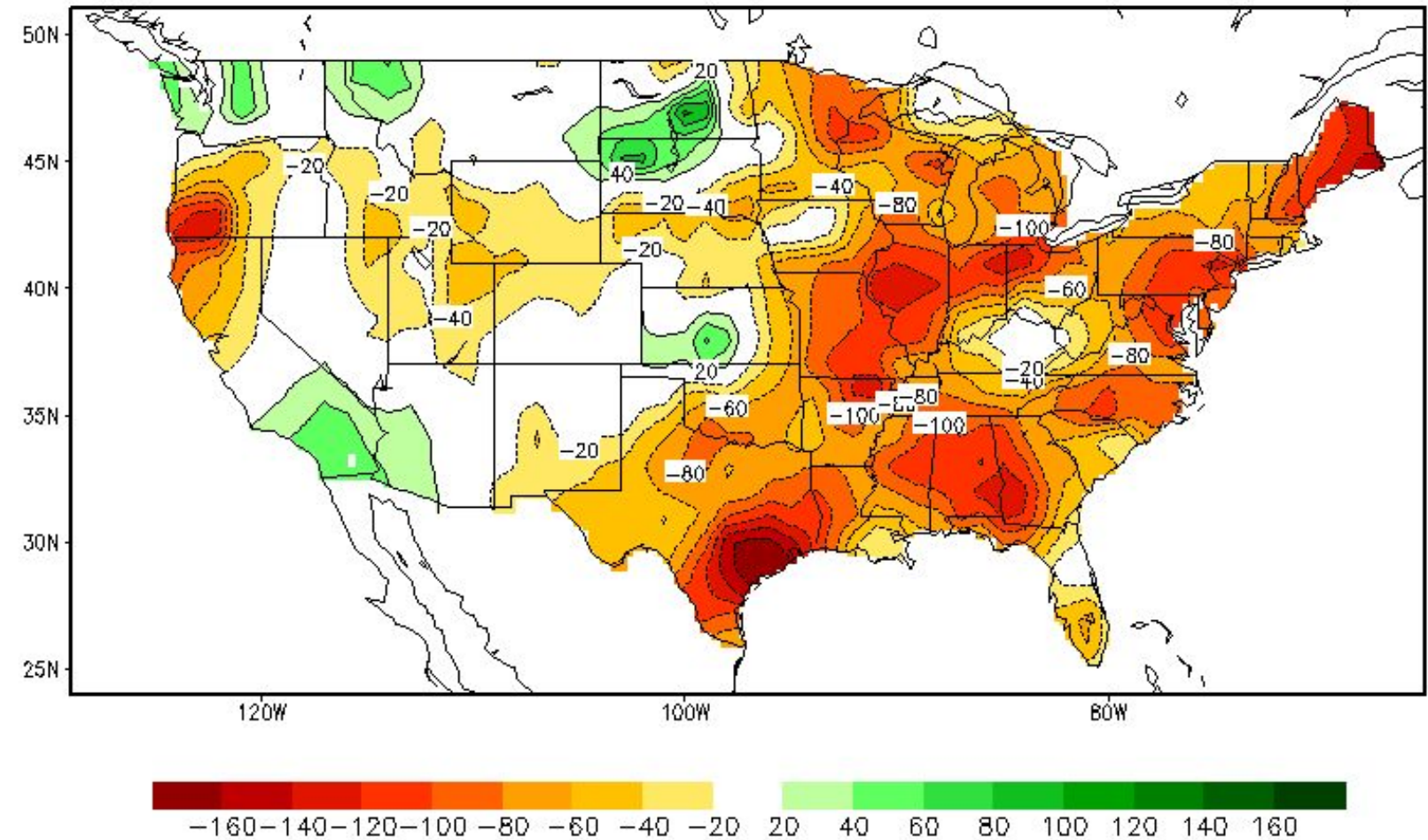


Soil Moisture and Agricultural Impacts

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- Climate Prediction Center Soil Moisture anomalies continue to show drier than normal conditions across the area.

Calculated Soil Moisture Anomaly (mm)
DEC 16, 2025

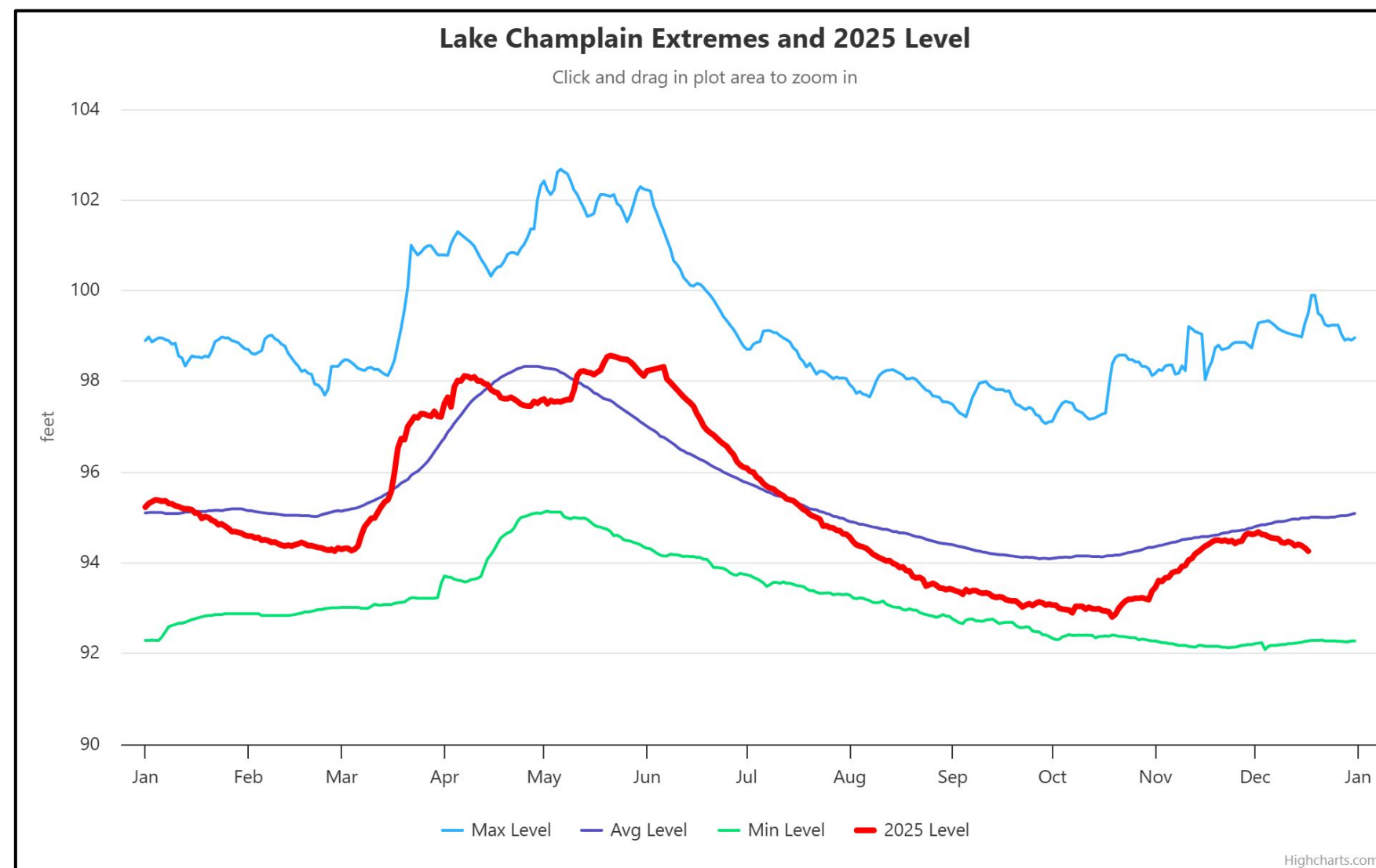




Water Supply/Levels - Lake Champlain

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- Significant recovery in Lake Champlain levels in the past 6 weeks.
- Levels slightly below normal, but no low water/water supply concerns going forward at this point.
- For detailed plots of current and historical lake levels, please see: <https://www.weather.gov/btv/lakeLevel?year=2025>



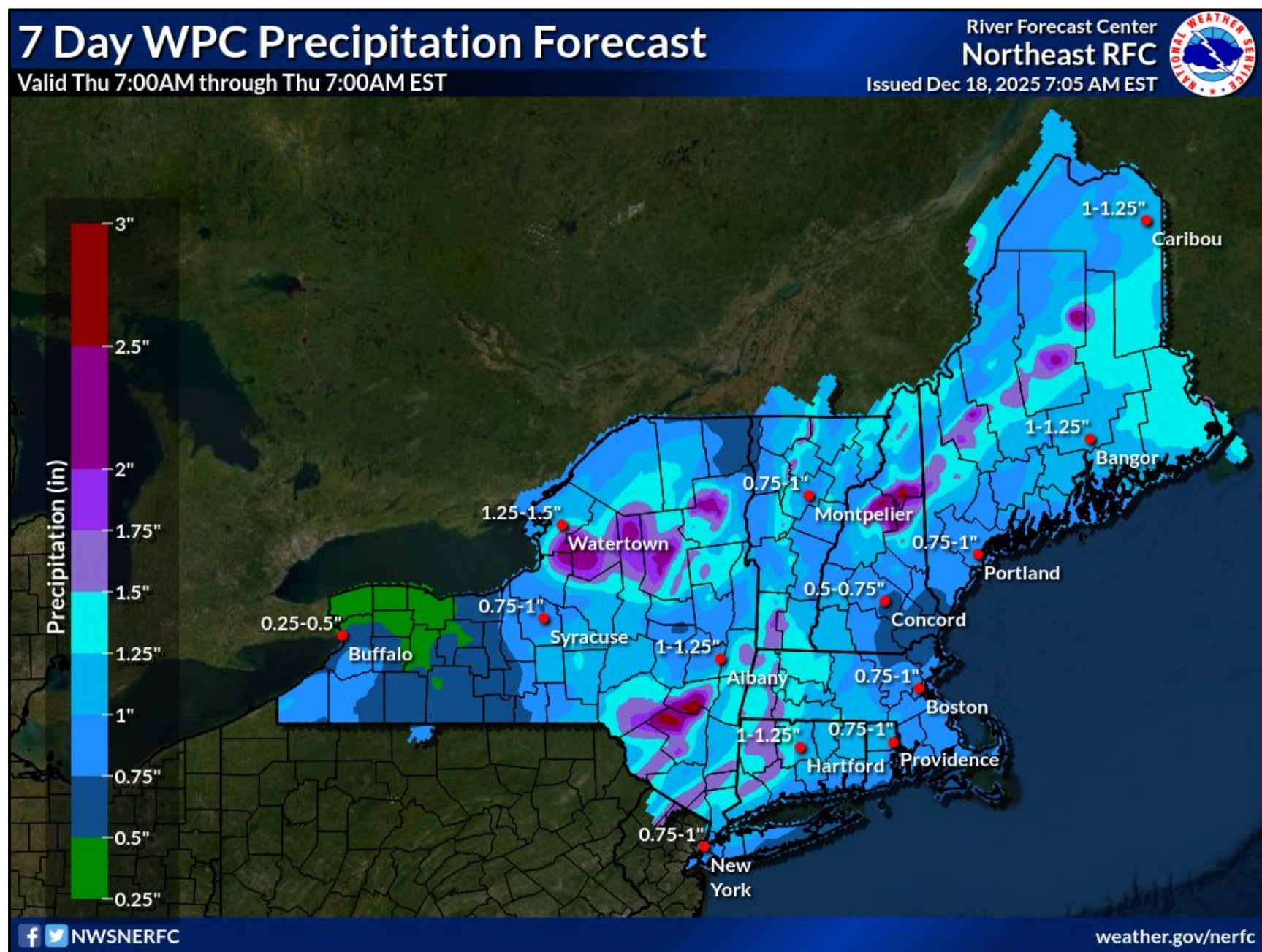


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

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November 25 to December 2, 2025

- A windy/rainy system remains on track to affect the region tonight with precipitation amounts in the 0.50 to 1 inch range.
- Afterward, a cooler, more seasonal weather pattern resumes with on and off light precipitation every few days.
- 7-day average precipitation amounts predicted to range from 0.5 to 1.5 inches, largely driven by amounts from tonight's weather system.



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

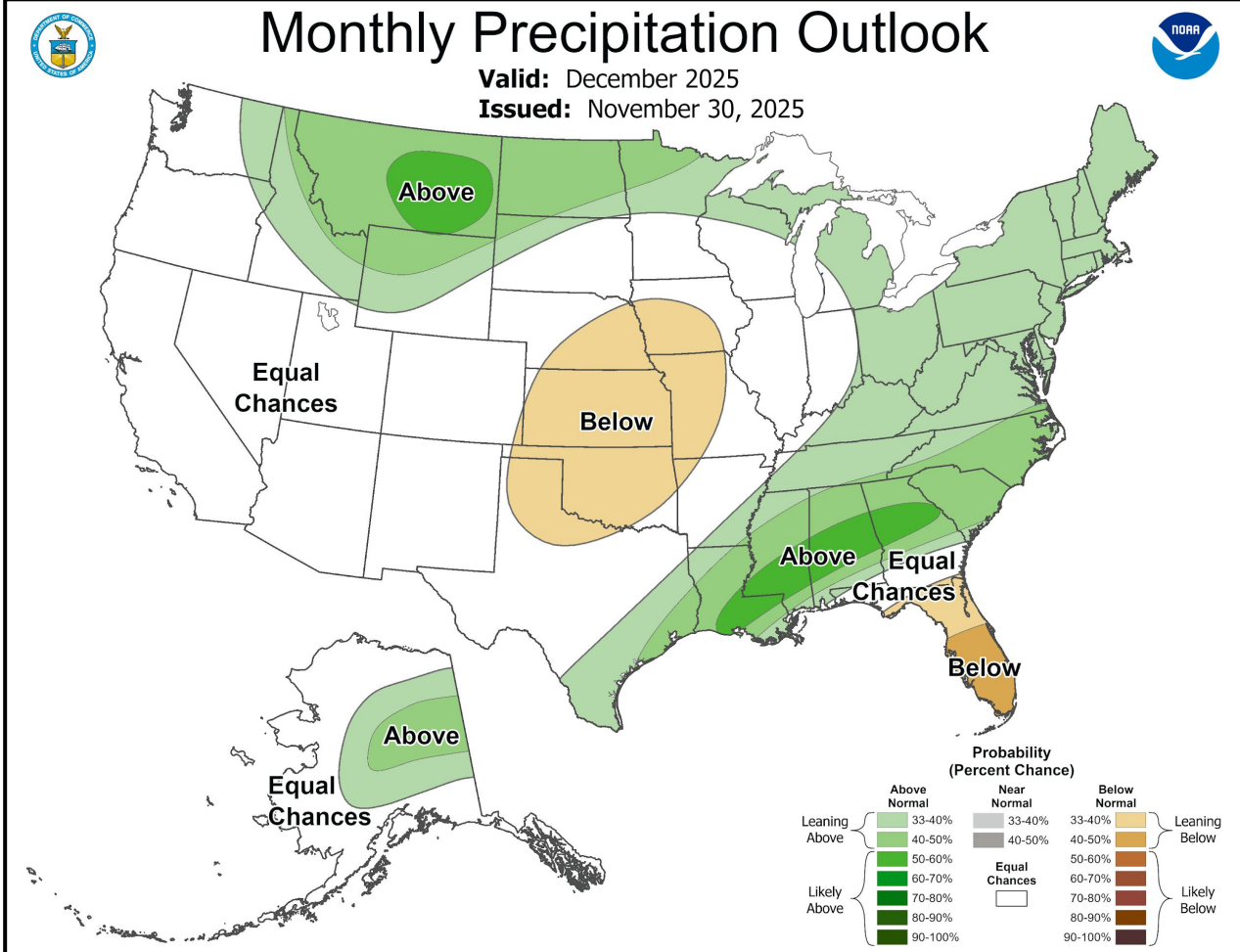
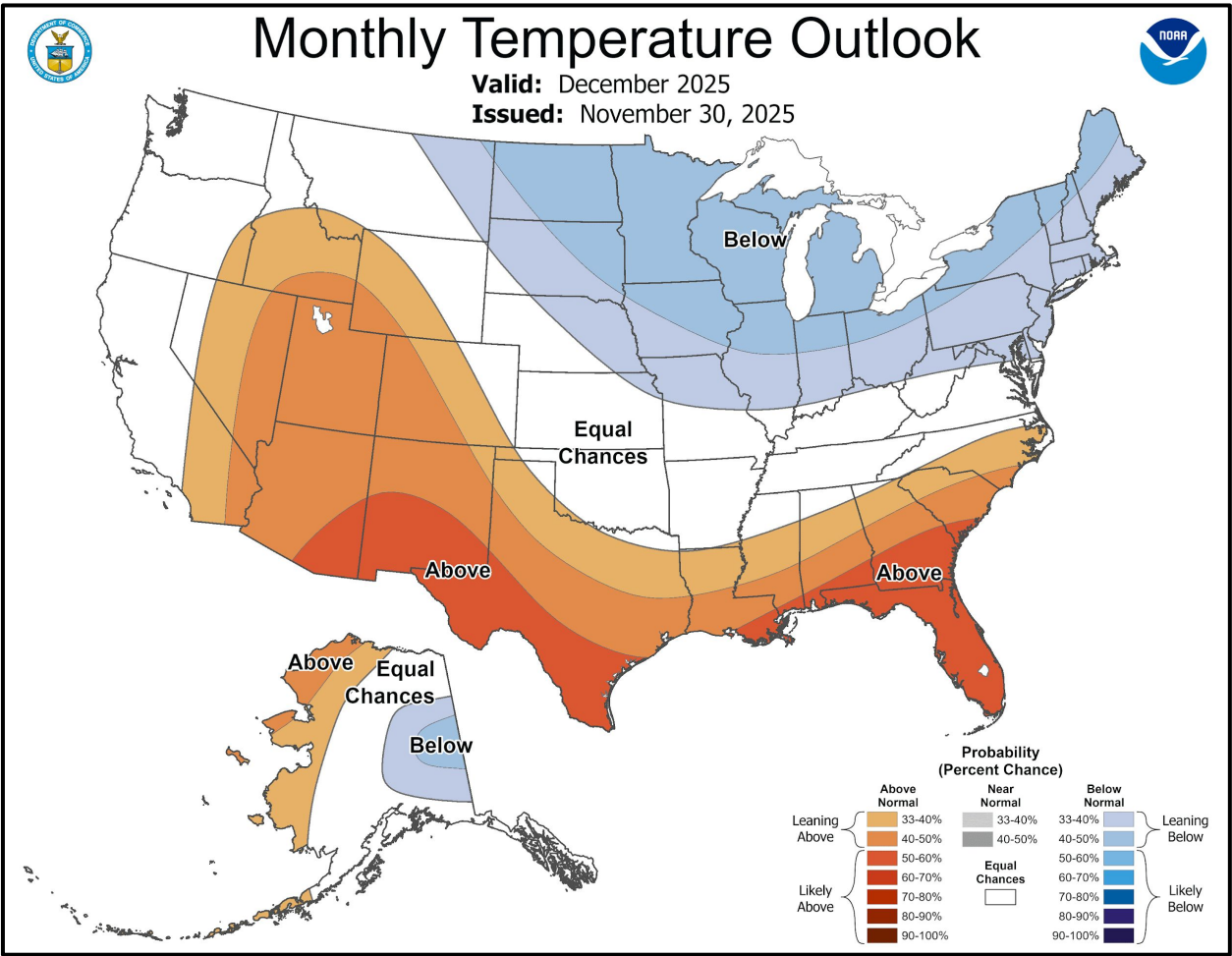
National Weather Service
Burlington, VT



Monthly Outlook for December

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

- Average monthly temperatures continue to look below normal as a whole.
- Precipitation chances are leaning above normal for the month.



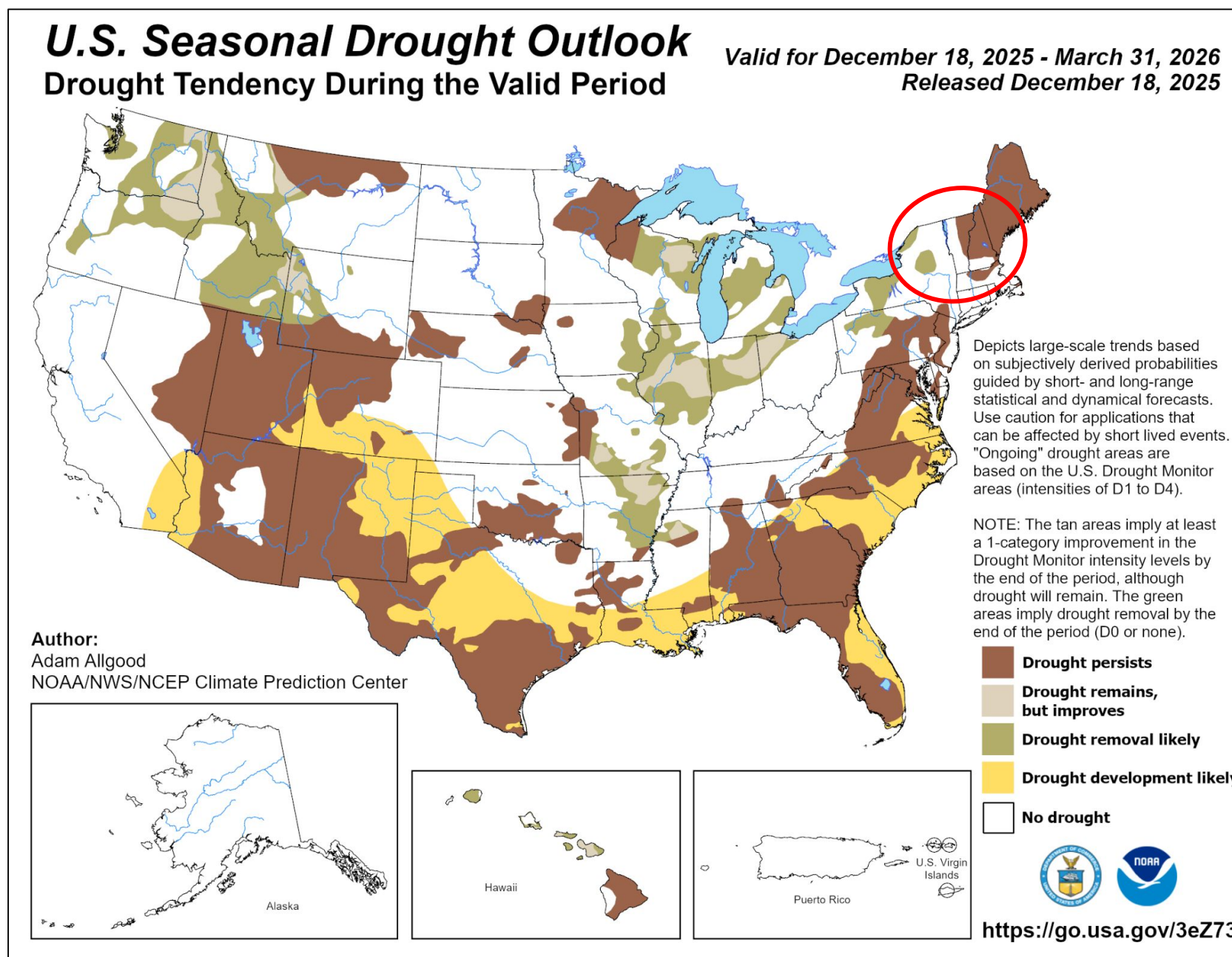


Drought Outlooks

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Other information can be viewed at [this link](#).

- General improvement in drought conditions expected through Winter, except for northeastern Vermont where D1/D2 levels may linger.





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 have fallen since late November due to recent below normal precipitation, and much of that precipitation held in the current snowpack. The lowest levels in streamflow remain across eastern/northeastern VT with varied groundwater levels - lowest in northeastern VT and the St. Lawrence Valley.

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. Vermont ANR Drought Resource Page at: <https://anr.vermont.gov/disaster/drought>.

Outlook

- General improvement in drought conditions are expected through the coming winter months, except for northeast Vermont where modest to locally severe drought conditions may persist into early spring.

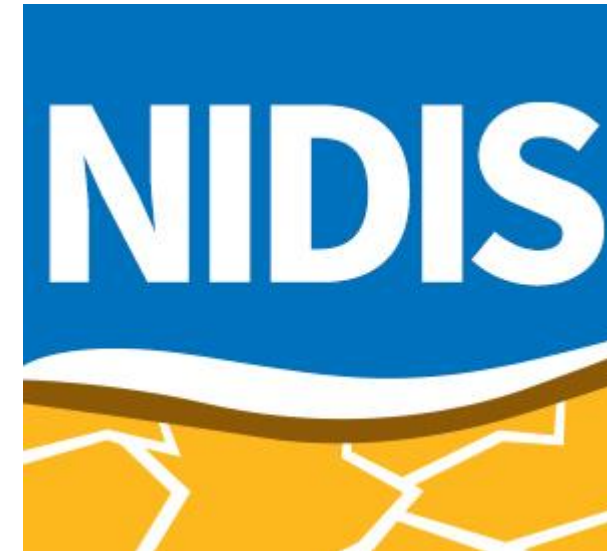




Schedule: Drought Briefings for 2026

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- NWS Burlington will move to monthly (as opposed to bi-weekly) Drought Information Briefings during the winter of 2026 given the slow nature of drought classification changes typically observed in northern climates during the winter months.
- Policy - Drought Information Briefings will continue to be issued as long as at least a portion of the NWS Burlington service area remains at USDM Drought Level D2 or greater.
- The next tentatively planned Drought Information Briefing is scheduled for January 15, 2026.





Contact and Next Drought Briefing Information

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For northern New York and all of Vermont

Contact Information

Next Drought Briefing

- Thursday, January 15, 2026 (tentative)
- Method: Sent via email by 3 PM

Disclaimer

- Information contained in this briefing is time-sensitive
- Do Not Use After: Thursday, January 15, 2026

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