



Drought Information Statement for Portions of Western NY

Valid October 2, 2025

Issued By: NWS Buffalo

Contact Information: bufstorm.report@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated October 10, 2025 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
 - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
 - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/buf/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
-
- Very dry conditions persist across most of western NY, prompting the downgrade to a D2 (Severe Drought) for the area bordering Lake Ontario from roughly Wilson to Sodus, and extending down to Batavia.
 - Rochester only received 0.30 inches of rain in September, the second driest September on record (since 1871).





U.S. Drought Monitor

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

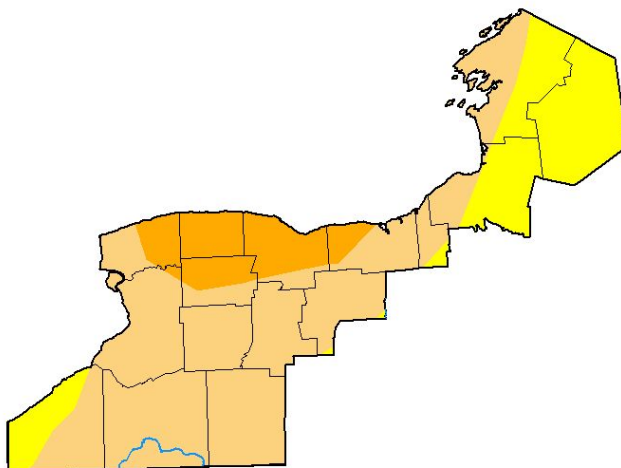
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Eastern Niagara, extreme northeastern Erie, Orleans, northern Genesee, Monroe and western Wayne Counties.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Eastern Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Allegany, Erie, southern Genesee, Wyoming, Livingston, Ontario, eastern Wayne, northern Cayuga, western Oswego and western Jefferson Counties.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Western Chautauqua, eastern Oswego, eastern Jefferson and Lewis Counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor Buffalo, NY WFO

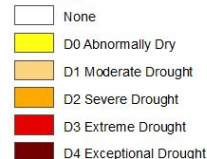
September 30, 2025

(Released Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:



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>

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Buffalo, N.Y.



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [1-week change map](#)

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Degraded:
 - Along Lake Ontario from roughly Wilson to Oswego to Alexandria Bay down into the northern Finger Lakes
 - Southern Erie County
 - Little to no Change: across the remainder of the NWS Buffalo forecast area

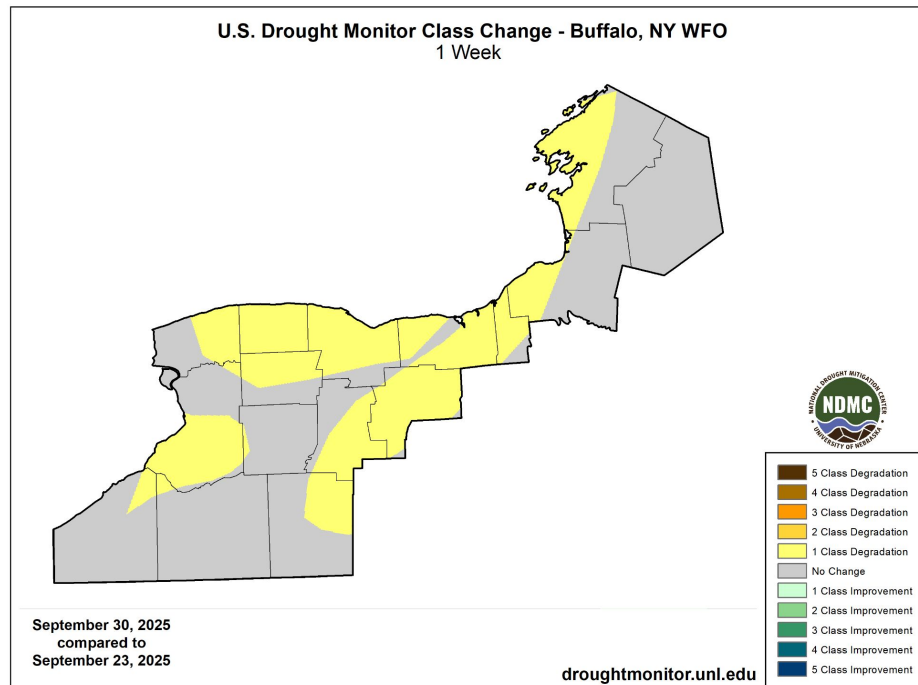


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 2-week change map valid Sept 30, 2025.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

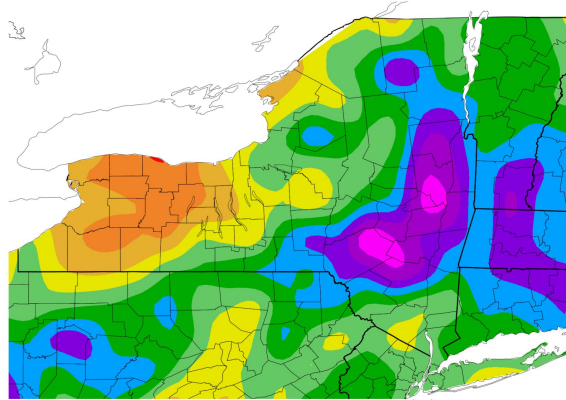
National Weather Service
Buffalo, N.Y.



Precipitation

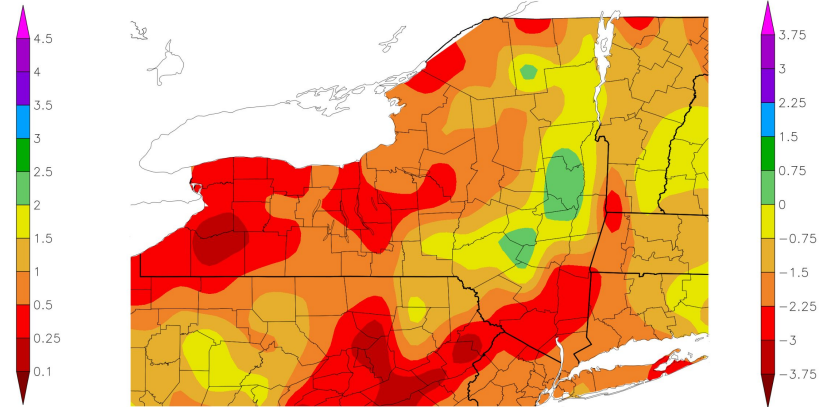
- Scattered precipitation over portions of the Tug Hill and western Adirondacks has prevented drought degradation in these locations, however 30 day precipitation totals of less than an inch have lead to drought degradation across a portion of the area.

Precipitation (in)
9/2/2025 – 10/1/2025



Generated 10/2/2025 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
9/2/2025 – 10/1/2025



ACIS Web Services Generated 10/2/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Image Captions:
Left - 30 day Precipitation Amounts
Right - 30 day Precipitation Departure from Normal
Data Courtesy Regional Climate Center ACIS.





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Seven-day streamflow from the USGS in the Great Lakes drainage basins is generally in the below to much below normal range for streamflow, with groundwater wells running much below to extremely below normal.

Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Fire Hazard Impacts

- NY State DEC reports a High Risk of Fire Danger across western NY and the eastern Lake Ontario Region.

Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

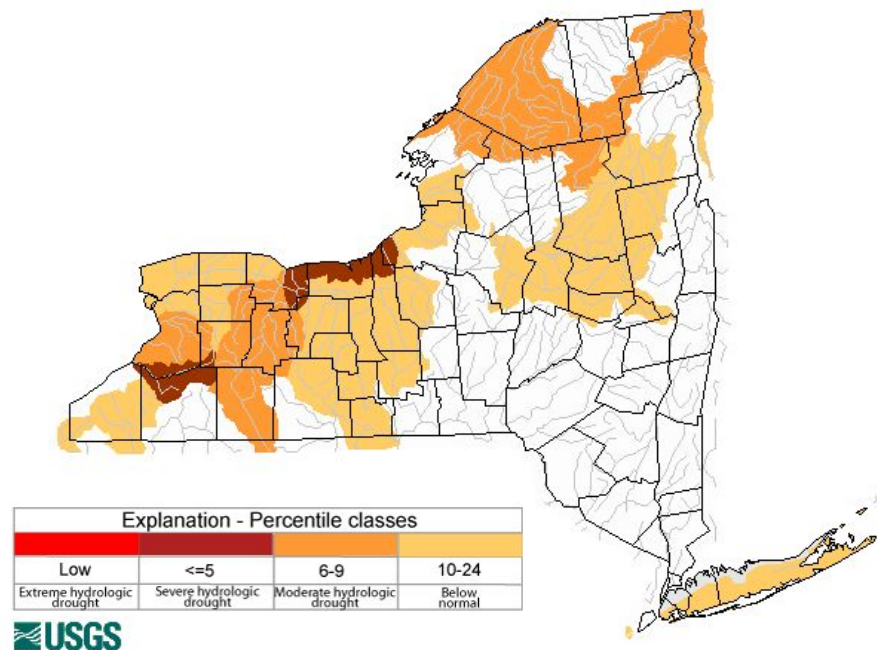




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Wednesday, October 01, 2025

- Very low stream-flows observed across many of the Great Lakes drainage basins.
- The Cattaraugus Creek Basin as well as creeks across eastern Monroe, northern Wayne and northern Cayuga Counties draining into Lake Ontario showing **Severe Hydrologic Drought** conditions.
- The Genesee River and the Buffalo Creeks Basins showing **Moderate Hydrologic Drought** conditions.



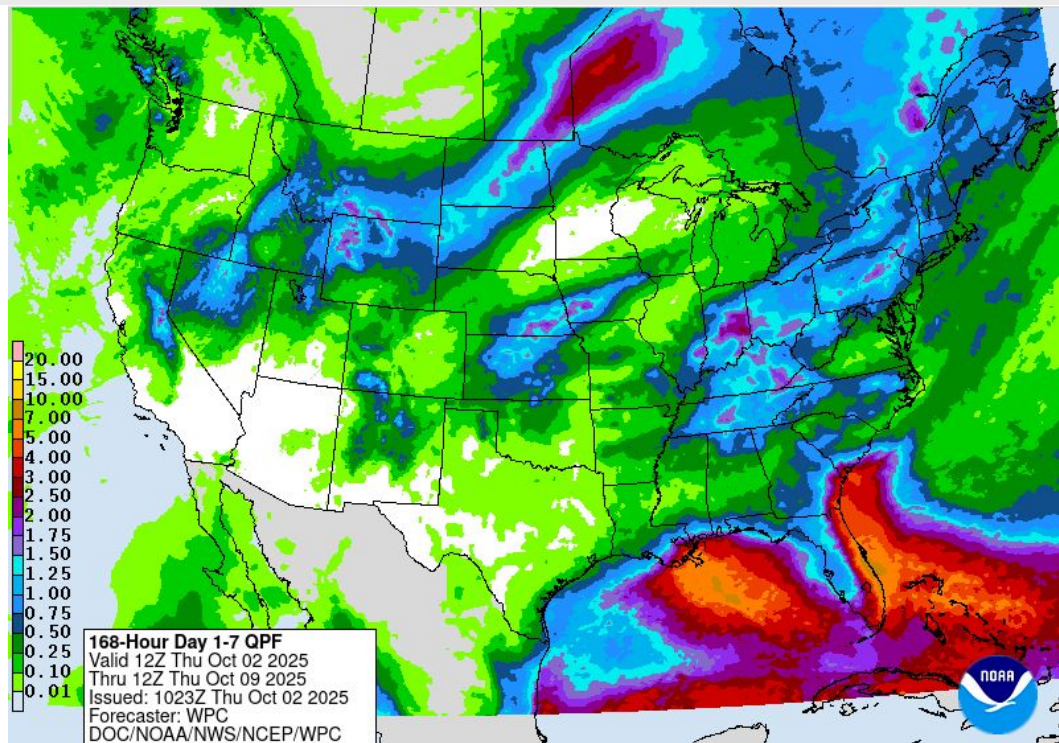
Map of USGS 7-day average compared to historical streamflow





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Dry conditions expected to persist through Monday October 6th across western NY.
- The next chance of precipitation across the area is Tuesday Oct 7th into Wednesday October 8th.



Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Thursday Oct. 2nd through Thursday Oct. 9th.





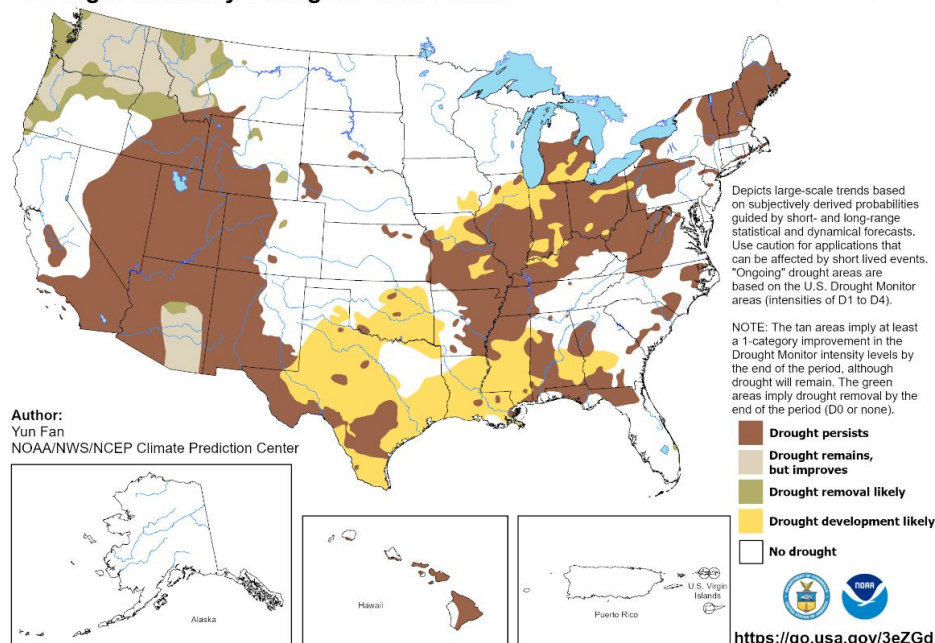
Drought Outlook

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

- Dry weather to persist through the weekend and into early next week.
- The next chance of precipitation will be Tuesday into Wednesday of next week. This may help with drought conditions, although it is still too early to tell how much rain will fall and over what area.

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

Valid for October 2025
Released September 30, 2025



Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released
September 30, 2025 and is valid for the month of October 2025.

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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