



Drought Information Statement for Portions of Western NY

Valid October 23, 2025

Issued By: NWS Buffalo

Contact Information: bufstorm.report@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated October 31, 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.
-
- Recent and ongoing rainfall across western NY has prevented any expansion of drought conditions across these areas, and precipitation deficits still do exist in these areas preventing any improvement.
 - East of Lake Ontario, slight expansion of the D1 (Moderate Drought) across a portion of eastern Oswego and central Lewis Counties.





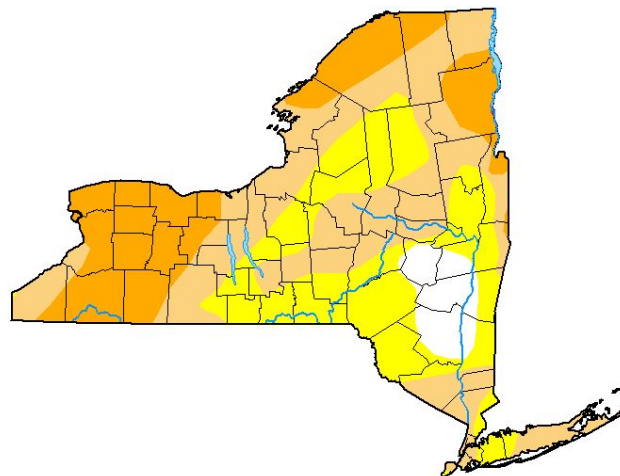
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Niagara, Orleans, Monroe, Genesee, Wyoming, Livingston, as well as most of Erie, Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties, southeastern Chautauqua, western Wayne, western Ontario and northern Jefferson Counties.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Western Chautauqua, southwestern Erie, extreme northwestern Cattaraugus, extreme southeastern Allegany, eastern portions of Ontario and Wayne, Northern Cayuga, northern Lewis, western Oswego and southern Jefferson Counties.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Western southeastern Oswego and southern Lewis Counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor New York

October 21, 2025
(Released Thursday, Oct. 23, 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>

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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 Conditions Worsened:
 - Eastern Oswego and central Lewis Counties.
 - Drought conditions remained largely unchanged for the remainder of the area.

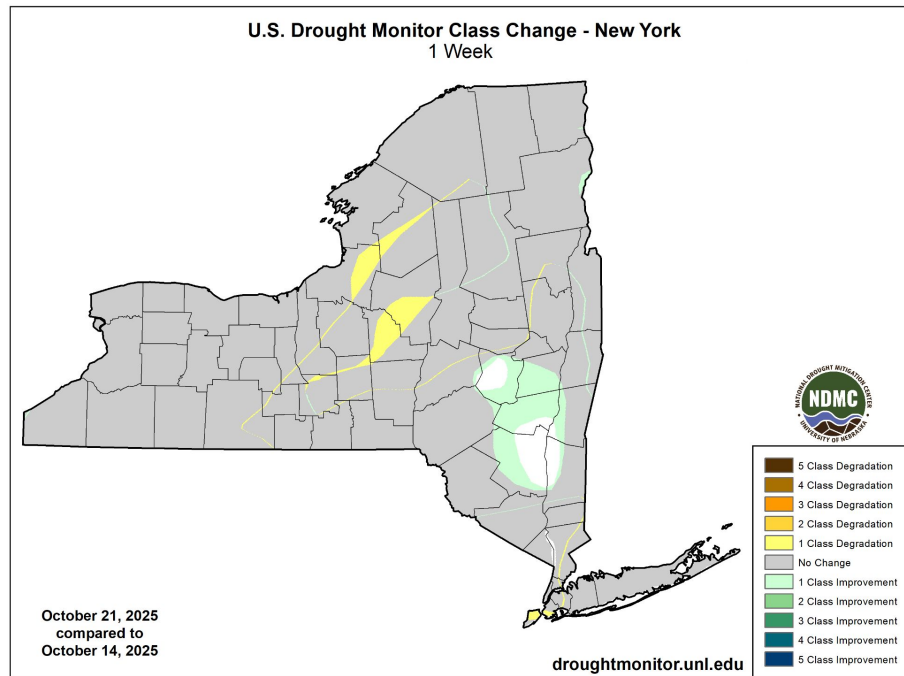


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map from Oct 14, 2025 to Oct 21, 2025.



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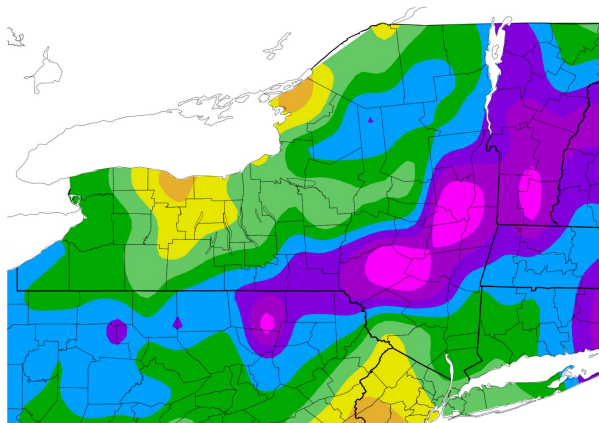


Precipitation

Over the last 30 days

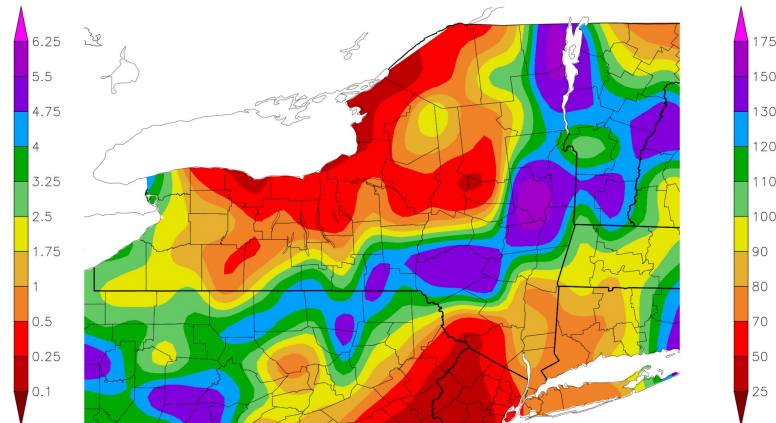
- Despite the precipitation over the last week and ongoing precipitation, it wasn't enough to offset long term dry conditions.

Precipitation (in)
9/23/2025 - 10/22/2025



Generated 10/23/2025 using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/23/2025 - 10/22/2025



ACIS Web Services rtd 10/23/2025 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.



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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 of smaller streams and creeks in the Lake Ontario drainage basins is running in the below normal range for streamflow, with some basins in the moderate to severe hydrologic drought conditions east of Lake Ontario. Some groundwater wells are still running much below to extremely below normal. However, larger rivers including the Black and Genesee are closer to normal.

Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Fire Hazard Impacts

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

Other Impacts

- The Town of Ripley still has a State of Emergency due to low levels of the Ripley Reservoir, although the recent rainfall is helping considerably.

Mitigation Actions

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

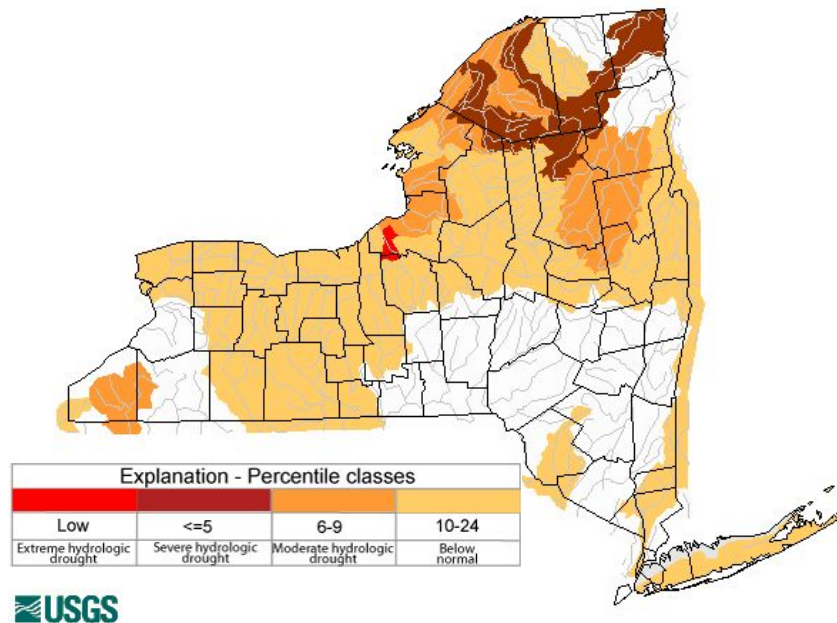




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

- Recent rainfall has allowed streamflow across western NY to improve over the last week, across the upper Genesee, the Buffalo Creeks and the Allegheny River Basins.
- Some degradation in drought conditions was noted across the middle Genesee, Oswego and Black River Basins, as well as the northwestern Adirondack and western St. Lawrence Basins.



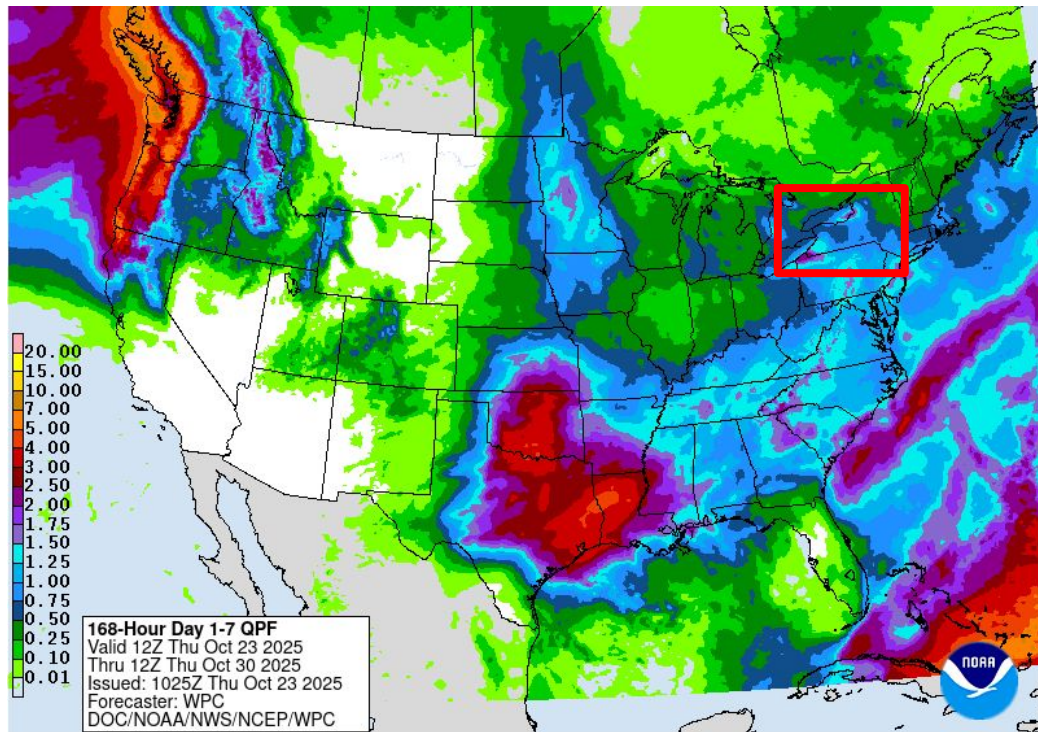
Map of USGS 7-day average compared to historical streamflow





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Lake effect rain will start to diminish east of Lakes Erie and Ontario through Saturday. This will bring some much needed rain to the western southern Tier and portions of the Tug Hill region through Saturday.
- An additional storm system is expected to approach the area toward the middle of next week and could bring some additional rainfall.
- There is still some uncertainty in the exact track of these storm systems, resulting in uncertainty in precipitation amounts.



Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Thursday Oct. 23rd through Thursday Oct. 30th.





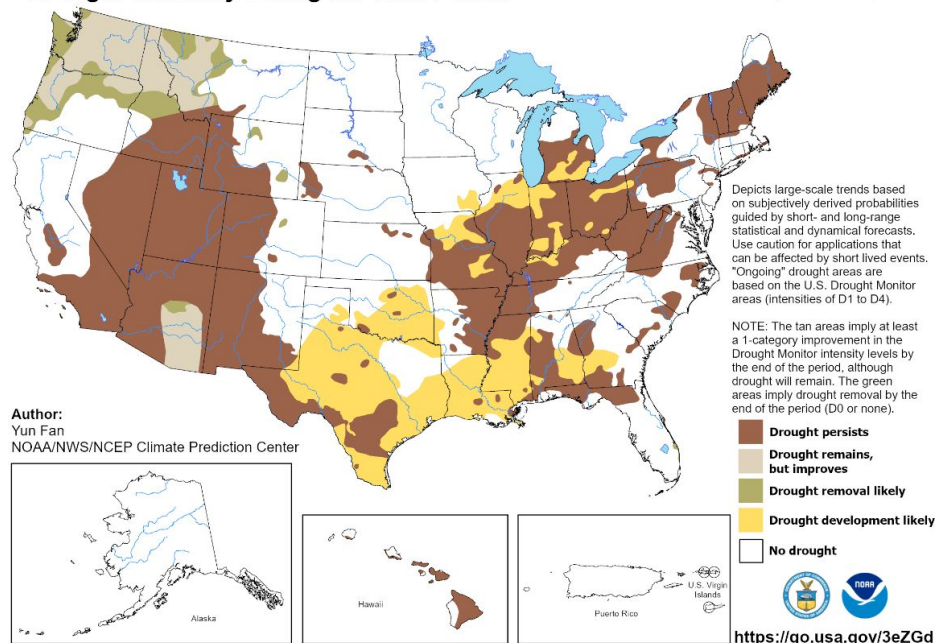
Drought Outlook

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

- The 6 to 10 day precipitation outlook is indicating a slightly higher chance (40% to 50% chance) of above normal precipitation.

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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