Drought Information Statement for Northern and Eastern Maine

Valid November 20, 2025

Issued By: WFO Caribou, ME

- This product will be updated November 27, 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/car/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/car for regional drought status updates.

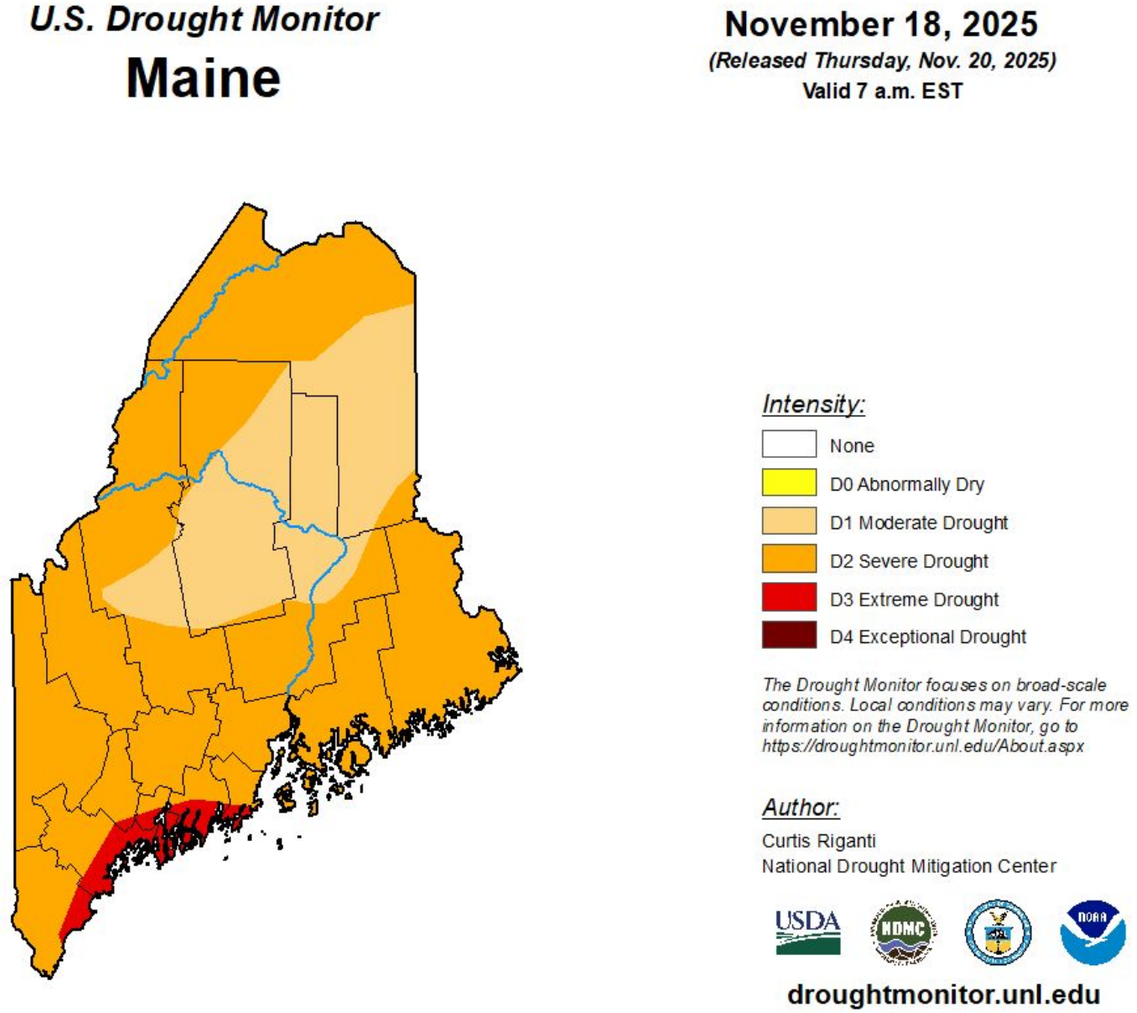
- The entire state of Maine remains in some level of drought
- Rainfall + snowmelt has led to drought improvements statewide
- Seasonal transition will occur soon, limiting change to soil and groundwater conditions over the winter

U.S. Drought Monitor

November 20, 2025
11:48 AM EST

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for Maine

- **Drought Intensity and Extent:**
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Northern Somerset, Northern Piscataquis, Northern & far Southern Aroostook, Southern Penobscot, all of Hancock & Washington counties.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Eastern & Southern Aroostook, Central & Southern Piscataquis, Central & Northern Penobscot counties.
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: No areas.



Percentage of Maine in Drought

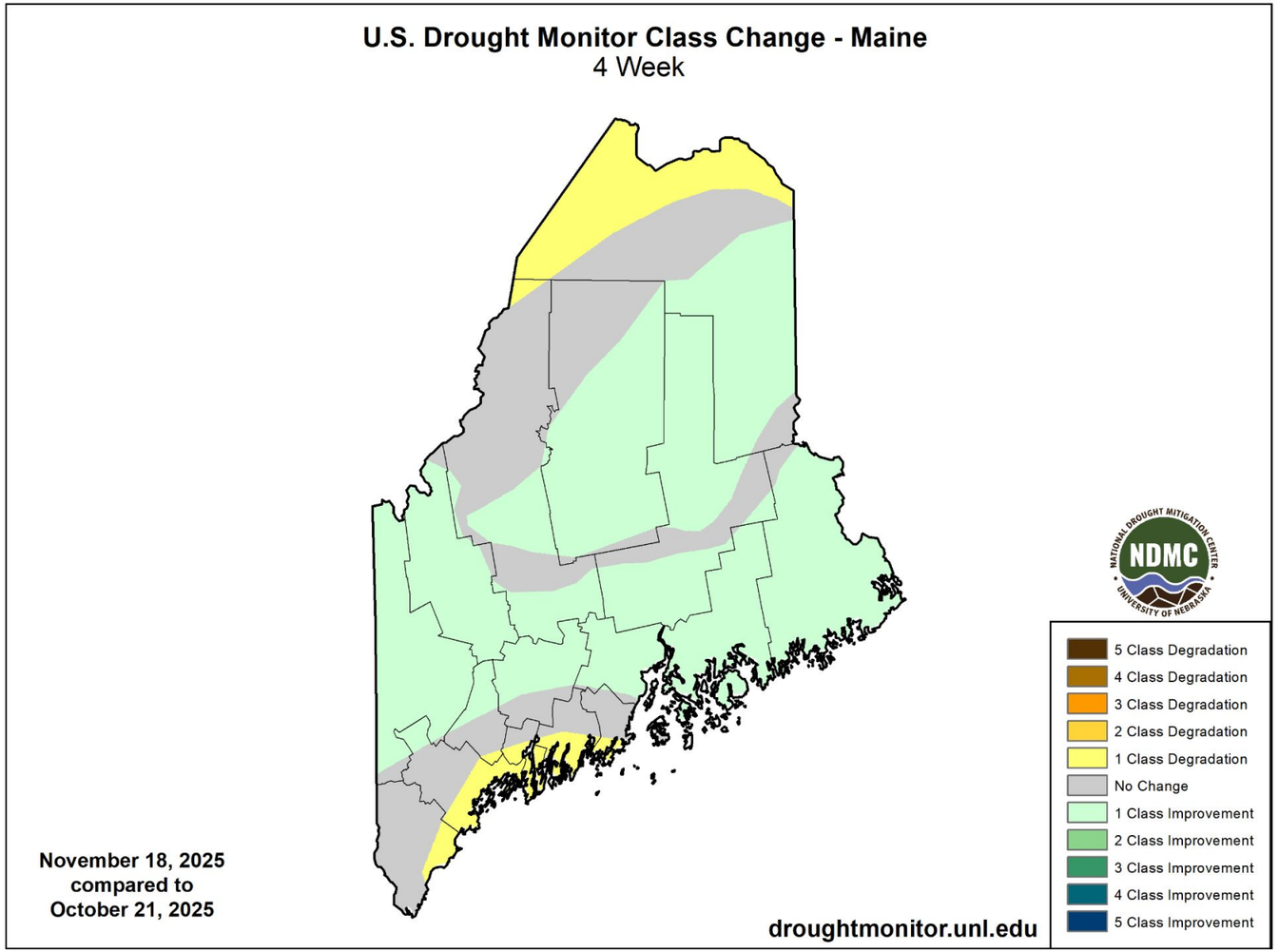
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: 0%
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: 28.15%
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**: 71.85%
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: 3.07%

Recent Change in Drought Intensity

November 20, 2025
11:48 AM EST

Link to the latest 4-week change map for Northeast U.S.

- Four week drought monitor class change:
  - **Drought Worsened:** North Woods & Northern Aroostook County.
  - **Drought Improved:** Much of Eastern Aroostook, Baxter Region, Central Highlands, Bangor Region & Downeast.
  - **No Change:** Northern Somerset, Northern Piscataquis and portions of Northern Aroostook counties.



Precipitation

November 20, 2025
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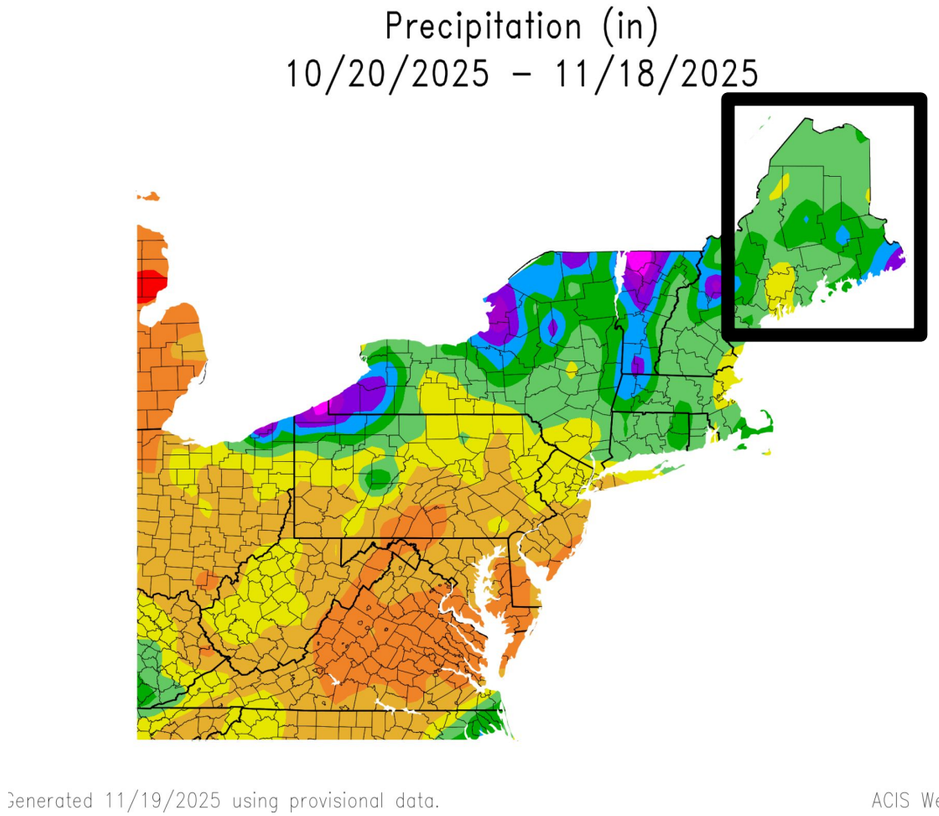
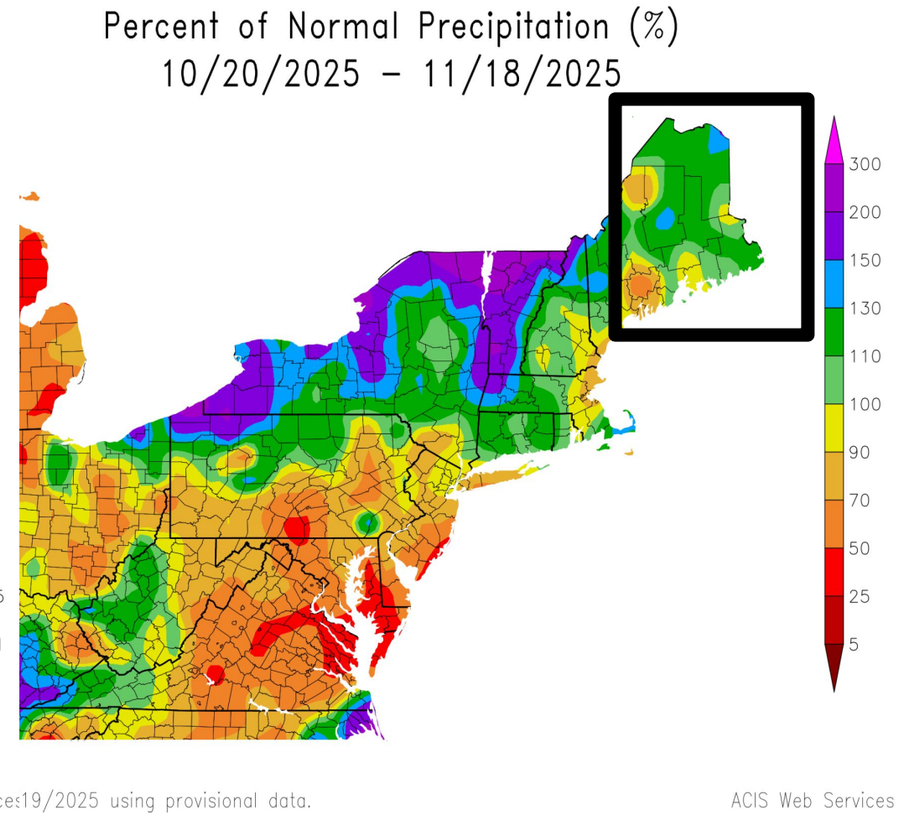
Link to Northeast Regional Climate Center

- Increased rainfall + snow over much of the area has resulted in 30 day precip being 100-130% of normal.
- Portions of the North Woods & Western Downeast locations including the Greater Bangor area precip has been below normal.



Total precipitation over the past 30 days



Percent of normal precipitation for the past 30 days

Temperature

November 20, 2025
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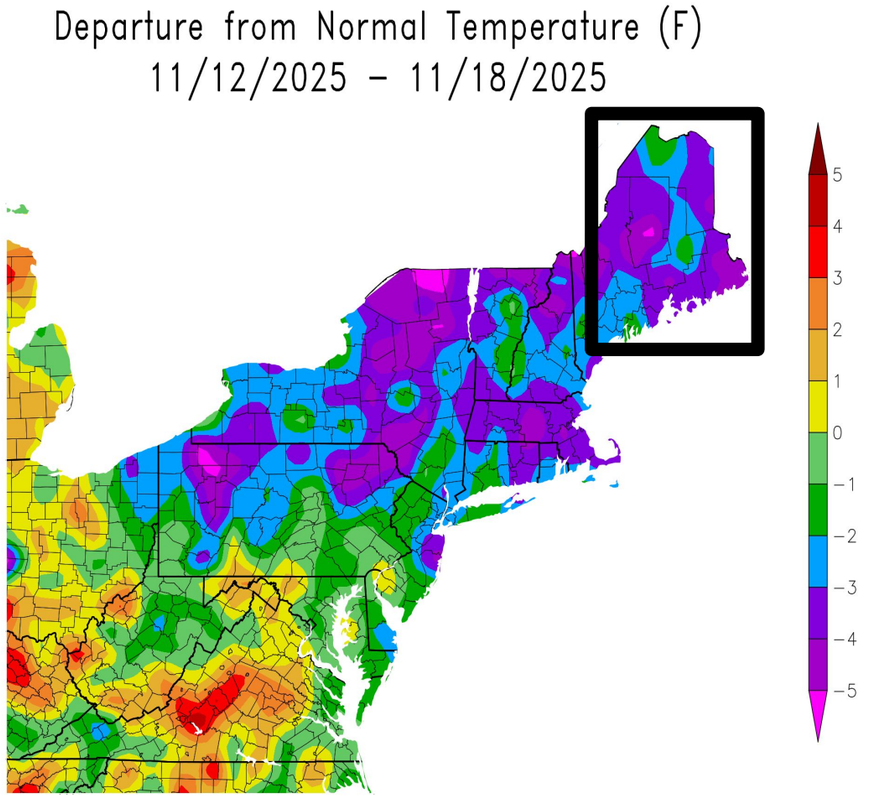
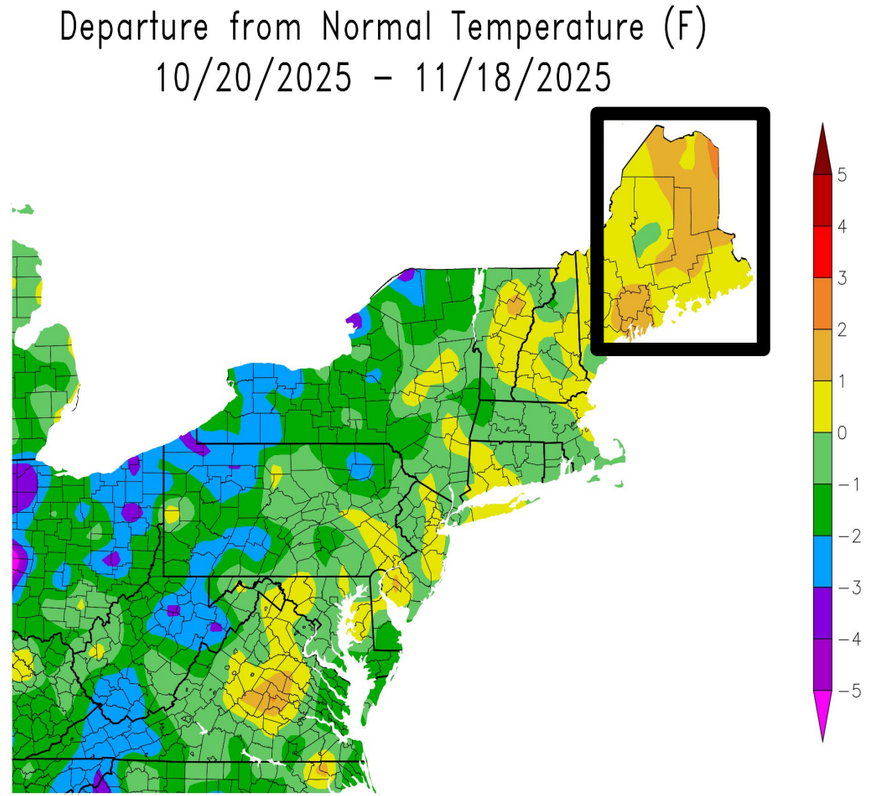
Link to Northeast Regional Climate Center

- 7 day temperature trends have been well below normal.
- 30 day trends are near normal to 2 degrees above normal for most locations.



Temperature departure from normal over the past 7 days



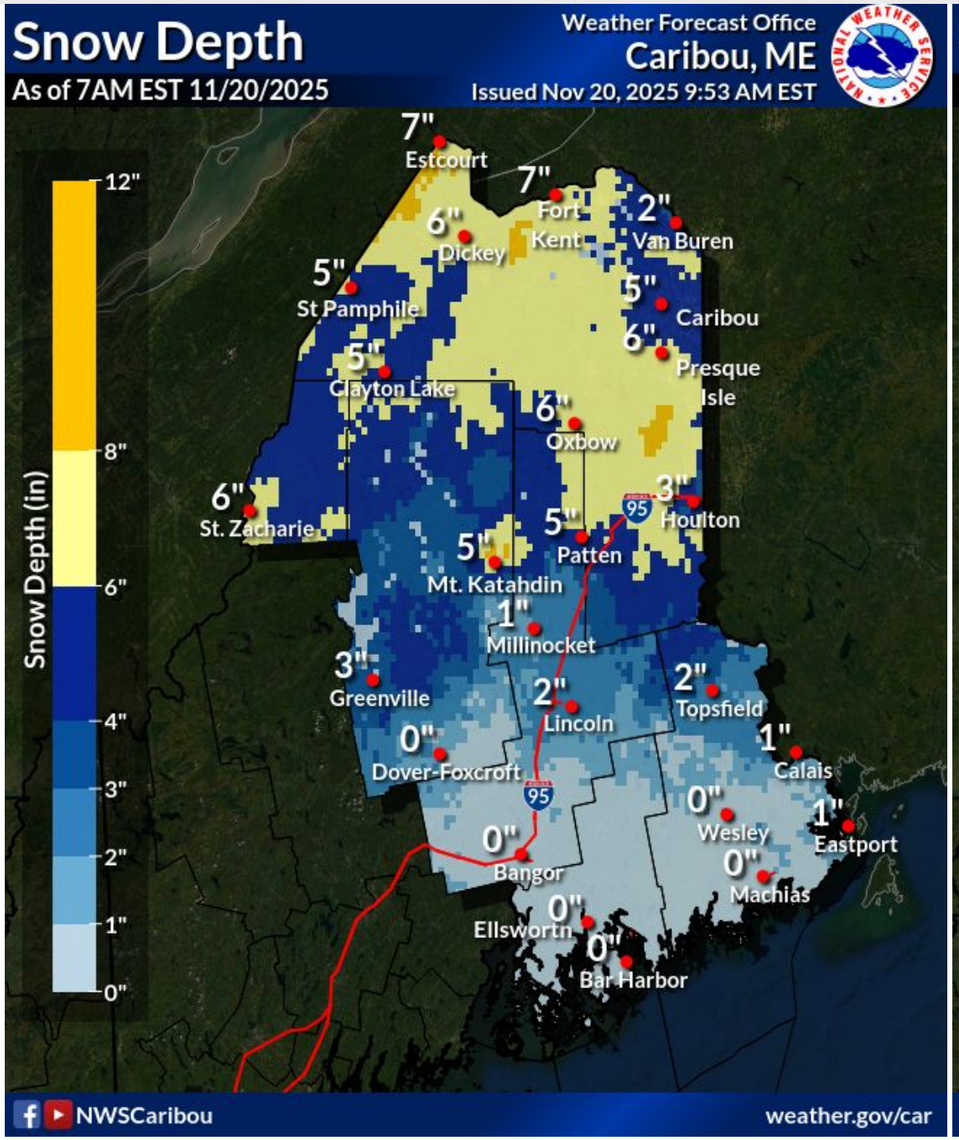
Temperature departure from normal over the past 30 days

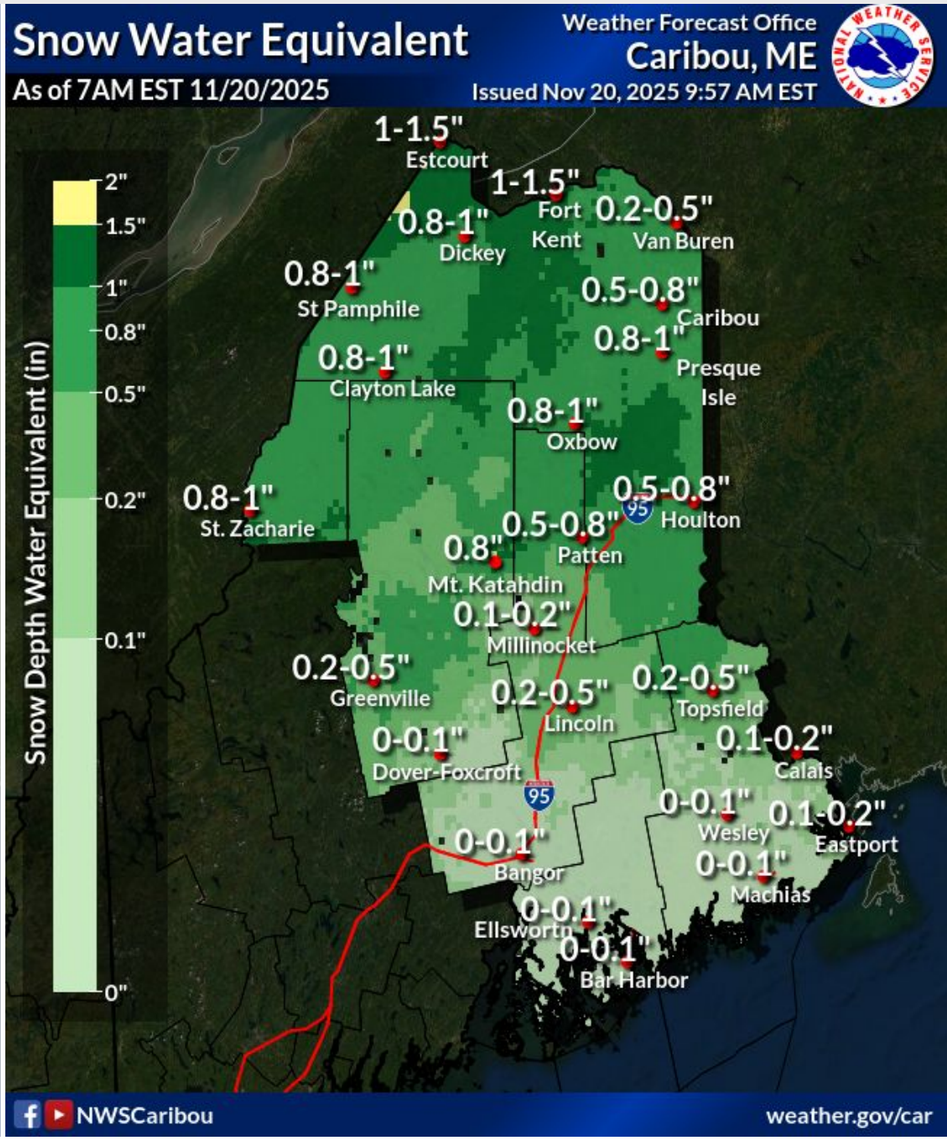
Snowpack & Snow Water Equivalent

November 20, 2025
11:48 AM EST

Link to National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center (NOHRSC)

- Ground remains thawed under the snowpack.
- Although accumulating snow is often a positive sign for areas experiencing drought, the stored water does not provide an immediate benefit for drought recovery until it actually melts and begins to enter the wider water system.





Summary of Impacts

November 20, 2025
11:48 AM EST

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- The majority of the monthly streamflows across the service area have returned to “normal” flows over the last 7 days; just a few in Downeast Maine are “below normal”. (USGS)
- Lakes & ponds are slowly returning to near normal but most remain below normal.
- Continued slight improvements indicated on rivers and streams.

Dry Drinking Water Wells

- Dry well reports continue, although reports have slowed, most of these occurring in Bangor Region and Downeast Maine.
- Maine EMA Dry Well Survey: https://maine-dry-well-survey-maine.hub.arcgis.com/
- Some improvement has been reported in the last week for groundwater levels in Downeast, Eastern Aroostook and Central Highlands.
- Very little groundwater improvement in western Downeast areas, Bangor region, Baxter region and North Woods.

Mitigation Actions

- Conserve water and follow directions from local officials.

Winter Ice Impacts

- Increasing potential of “*anchor ice*” forming in the rivers & streams due to lower flows.
- Ponds/lakes levels low with ice formation exposing rocks posing risk to recreational activities.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

November 20, 2025
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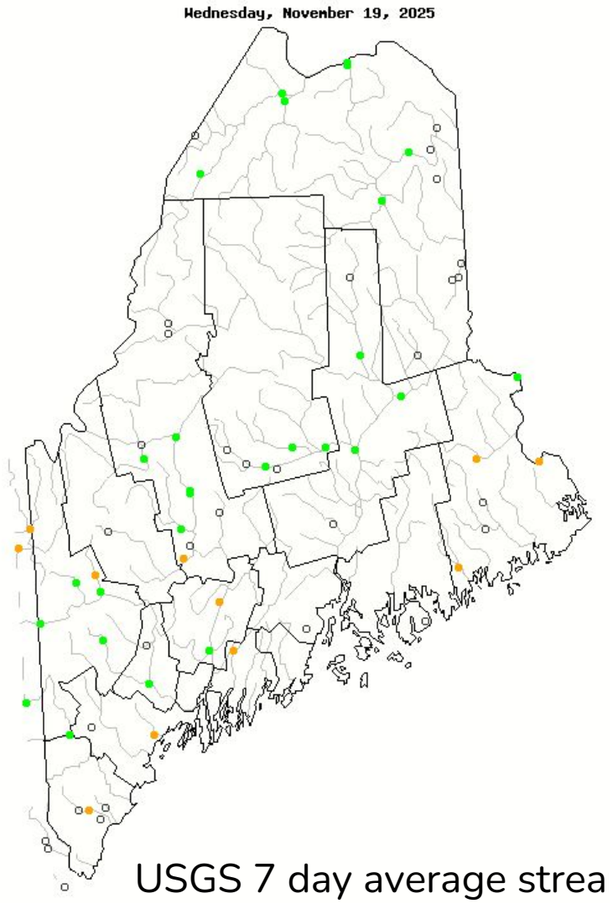
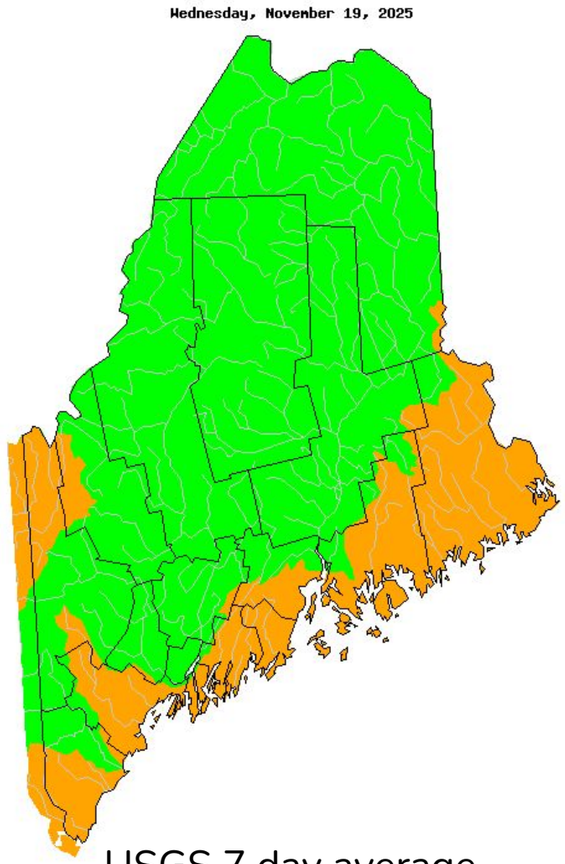
- Recent rainfall & snowmelt has significantly improved 7-day river flows.
- Most locations are now at normal or just below normal.
- The St. Croix and Eastern Coastal basins are in the “below normal” category.



USGS 7 day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow

USGS

Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High	Not-ranked



USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map

USGS

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

Agricultural Impacts

November 20, 2025
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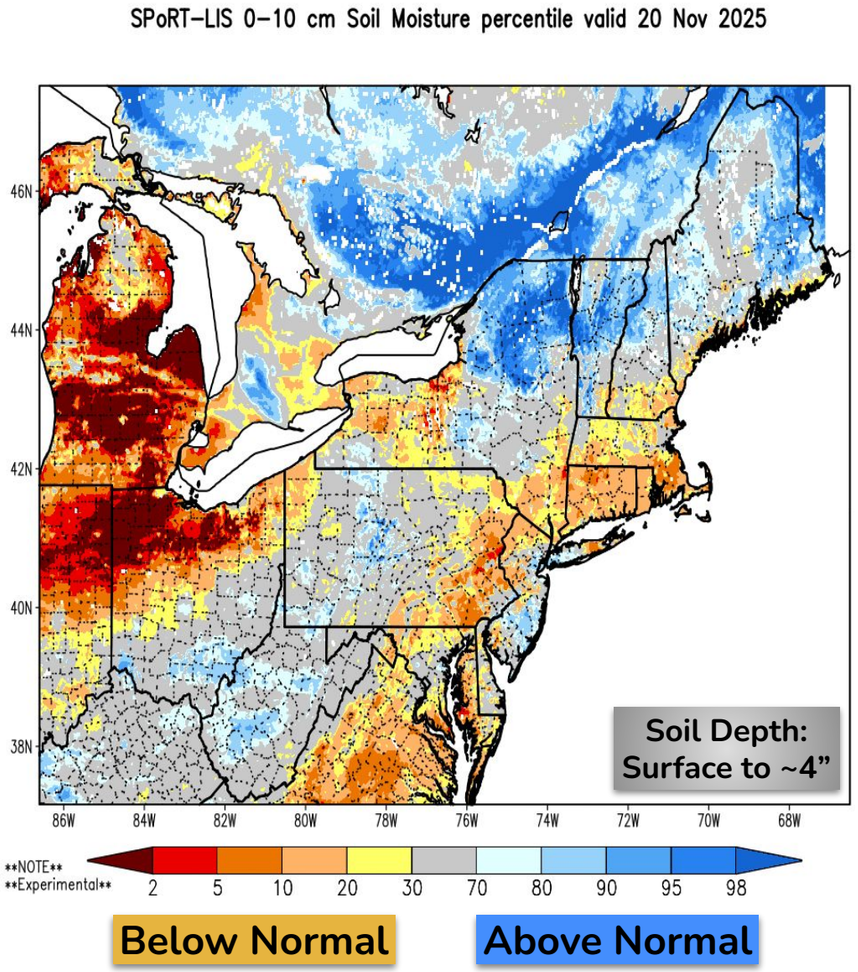
- Near surface soil moisture across much of Maine has improved and is now at or above normal.
- Deeper soil moisture continues to be significantly below normal in the Bangor region, Downeast, Northern Maine and Central Highlands.



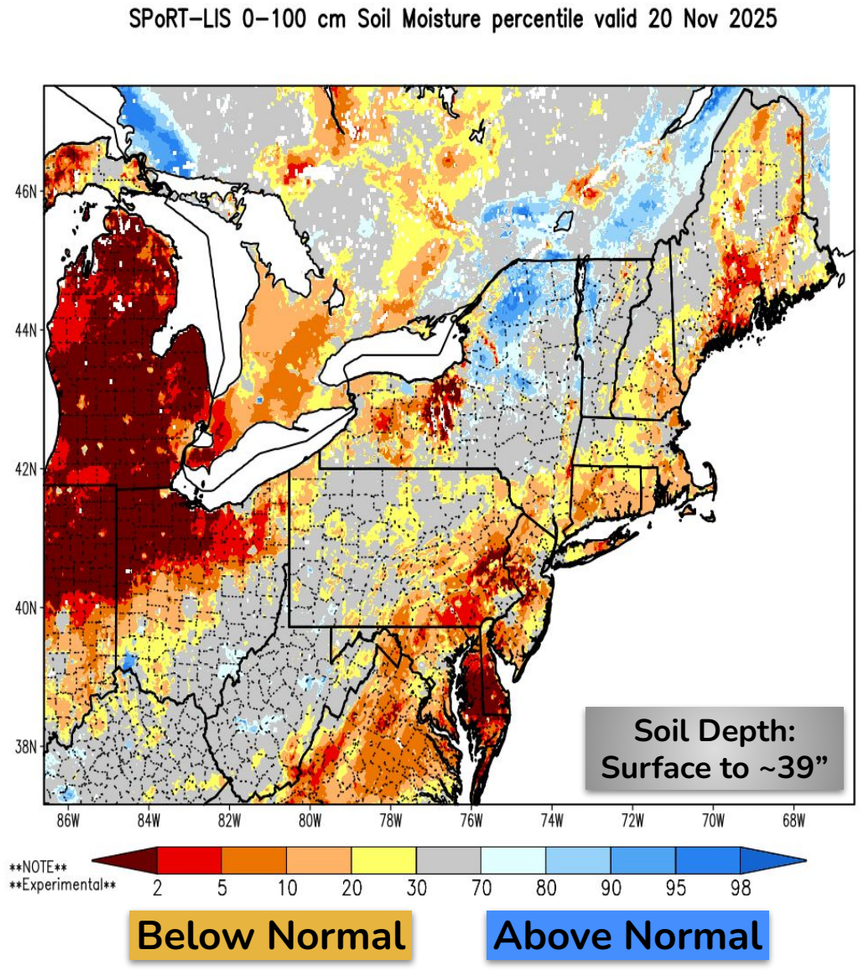


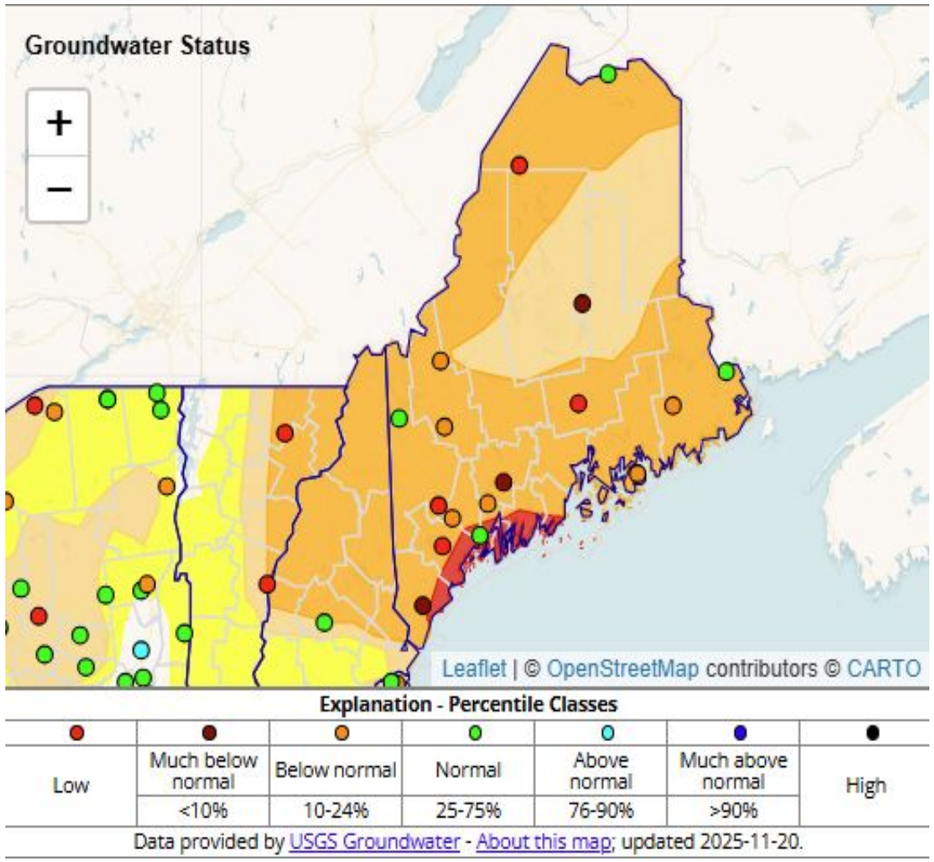
Image Captions:
National Water Model
Soil Moisture Percentile 0-10cm Depth
Soil Moisture Percentile 10-40cm Depth

>This indicator will be less relevant heading into winter as the ground freezes.

Groundwater Impacts

November 20, 2025
11:48 AM EST

- Deep layer moisture continues to be below to much below normal as it takes time for recent events to percolate through the soil.
- Drinking water wells continue to be dry, no significant improvements yet.
- Maine Drought Task Force Dry Well Survey reporting page here.



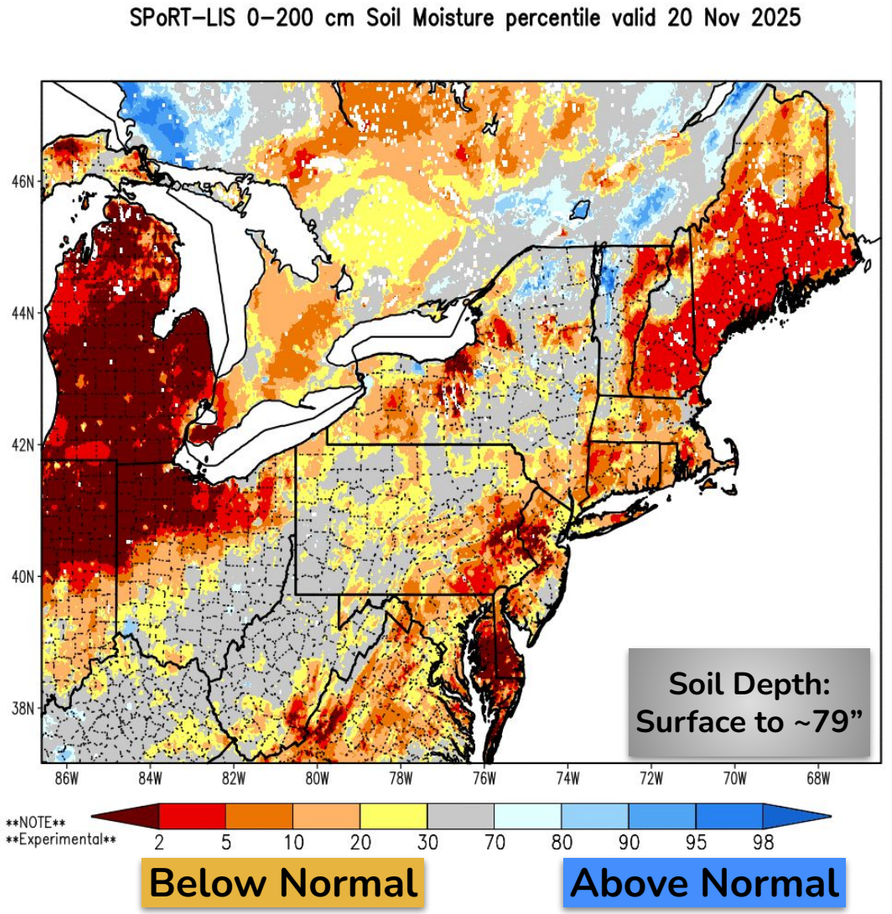


Image Captions:
USGS Groundwater Gauge Status
Soil Moisture Percentile 0-200cm Depth

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

November 20, 2025
11:48 AM EST

- Unsettled but very progressive weather pattern continues into next week. Additional rainfall & snowfall expected to be light. Expect some melting will contribute positively to soil moisture.
- Although no significant rainfall events are expected, any precipitation with no significant cold will allow previous moisture to percolate deeper into the soil.
- Very little drought designation changes next week as the pattern remains dry.

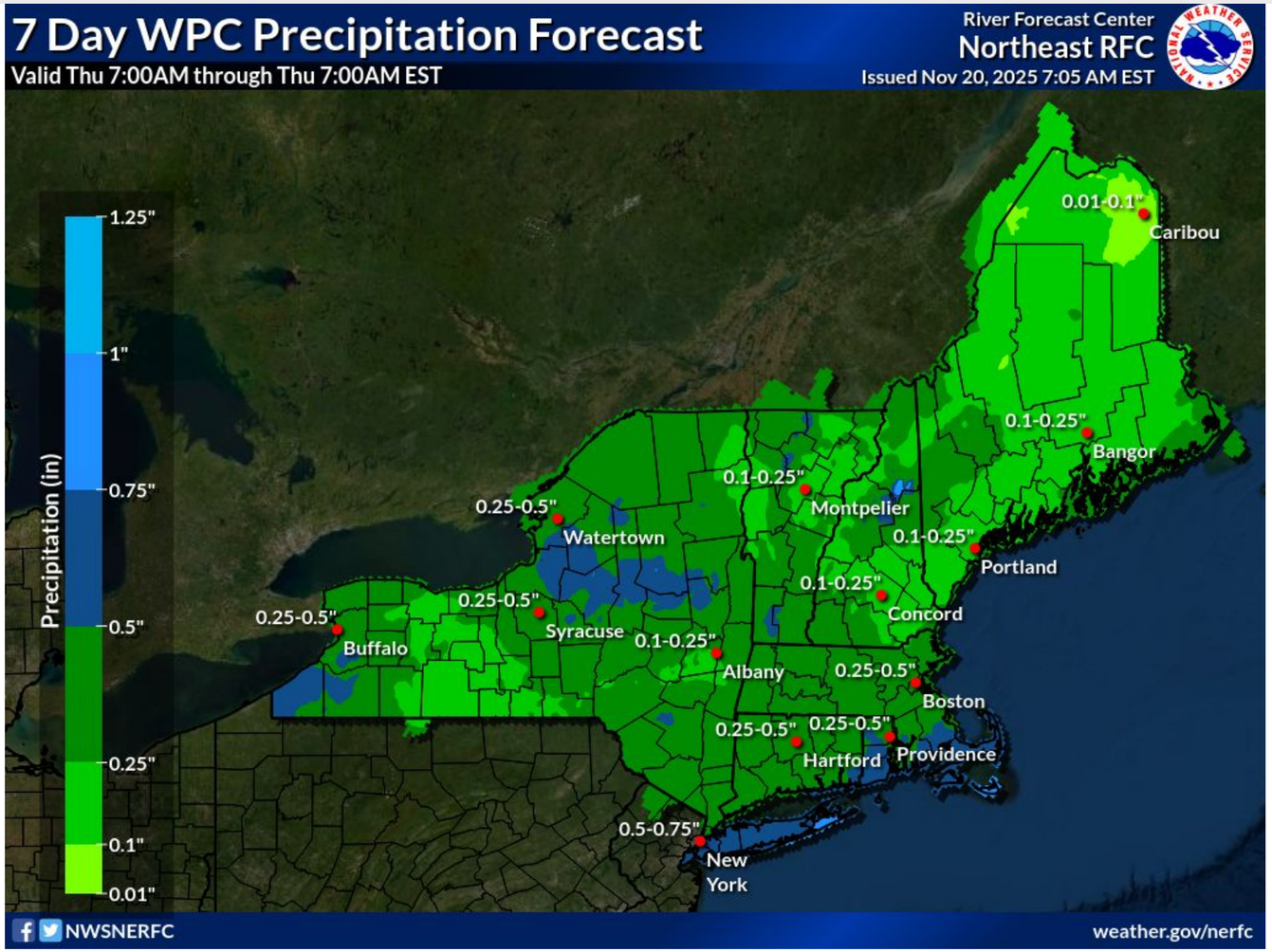
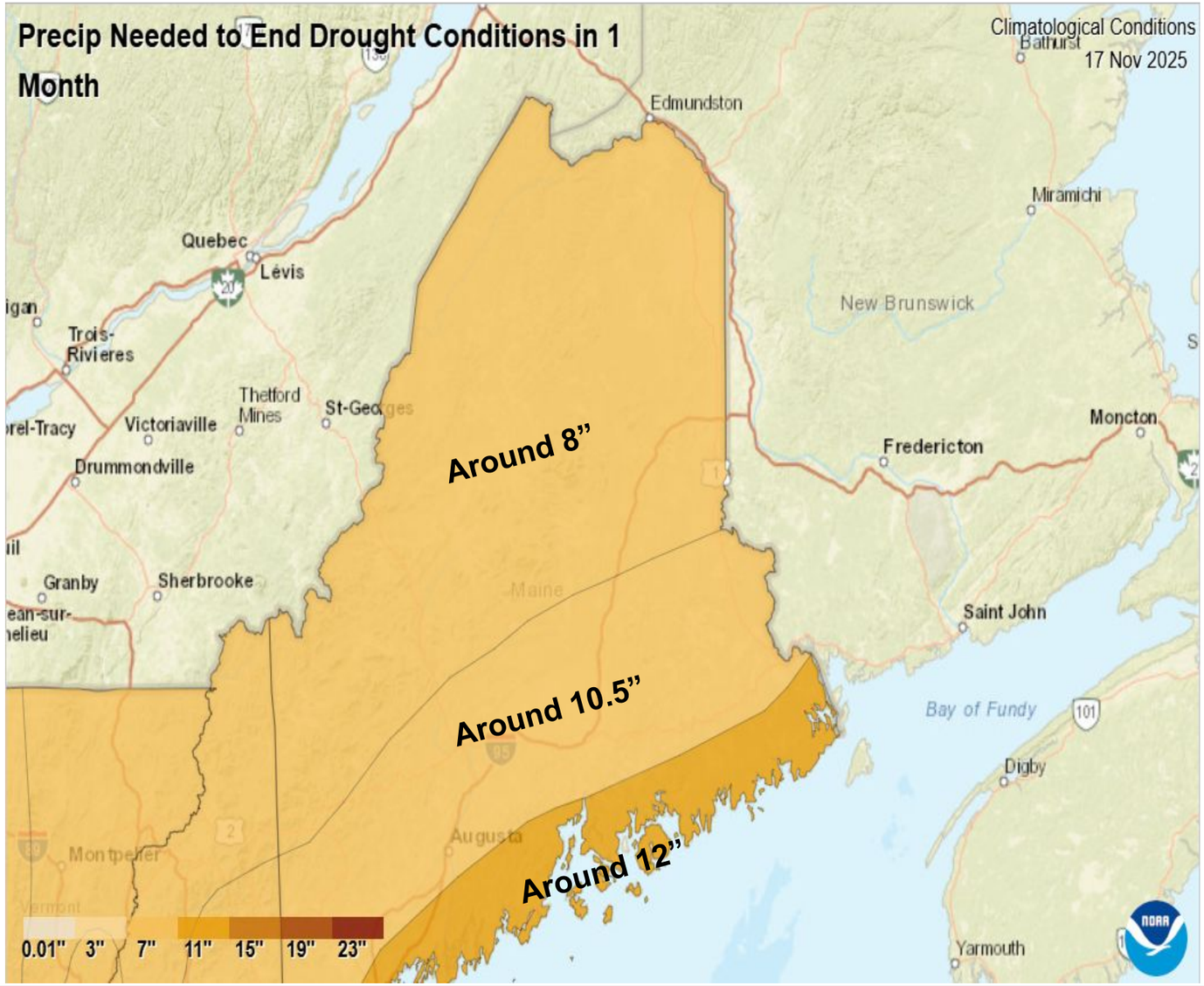


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid 11/20 8AM to 11/27 8AM

Rainfall needed to “end the drought”

November 20, 2025
11:48 AM EST



- 175-225% of normal precipitation over the next month is needed to ameliorate drought conditions <u>before the ground freezes</u>
    - Once frozen, precipitation that would normally replenish groundwater won’t soaking in, leaving wells and aquifers with little recovery until the spring thaw
- Steady, light-rain events with high absorption rates are ideal. Snowfall at night melting during the day is ideal. Lastly, no rapid cold air outbreaks is ideal.
- 5-8” of **above normal or extra** rainfall is needed to see full recovery before the ground freezes
- Ground frost in Maine can start as early as now in the North and higher elevations, and mid to late December in southern areas on average, with long cold snaps often necessary to make depths over 4”.
- 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.

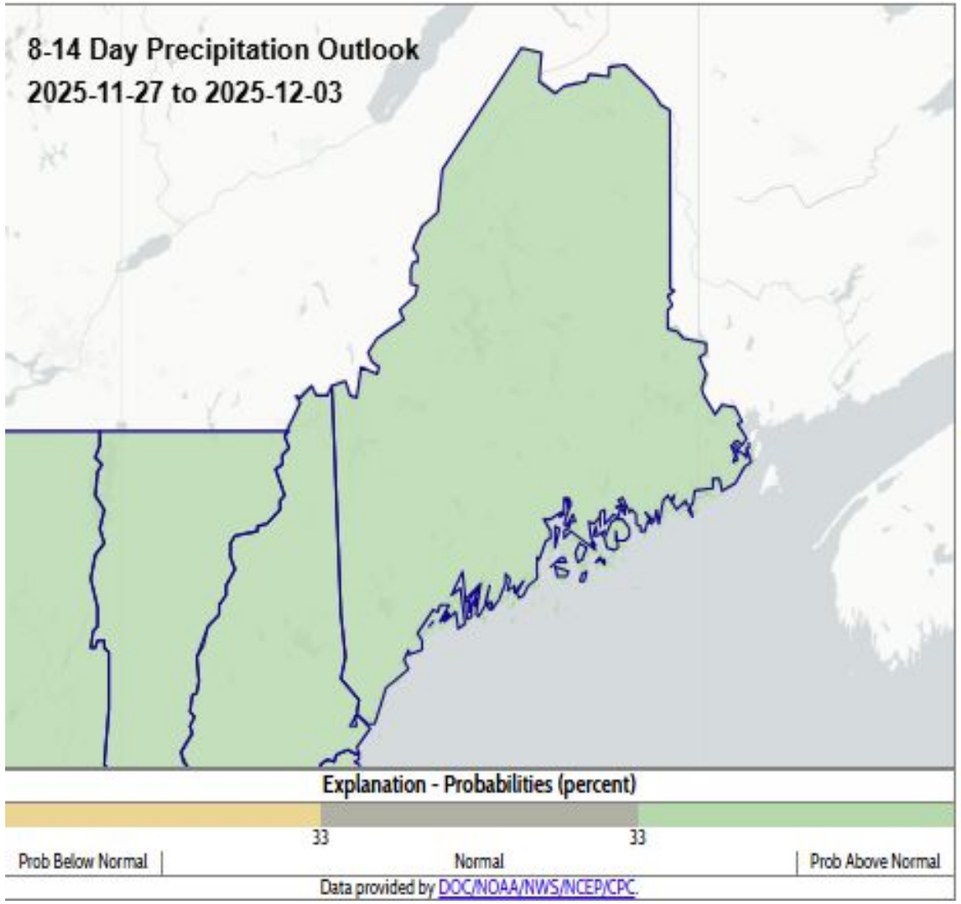
8 to 14 Day Outlooks

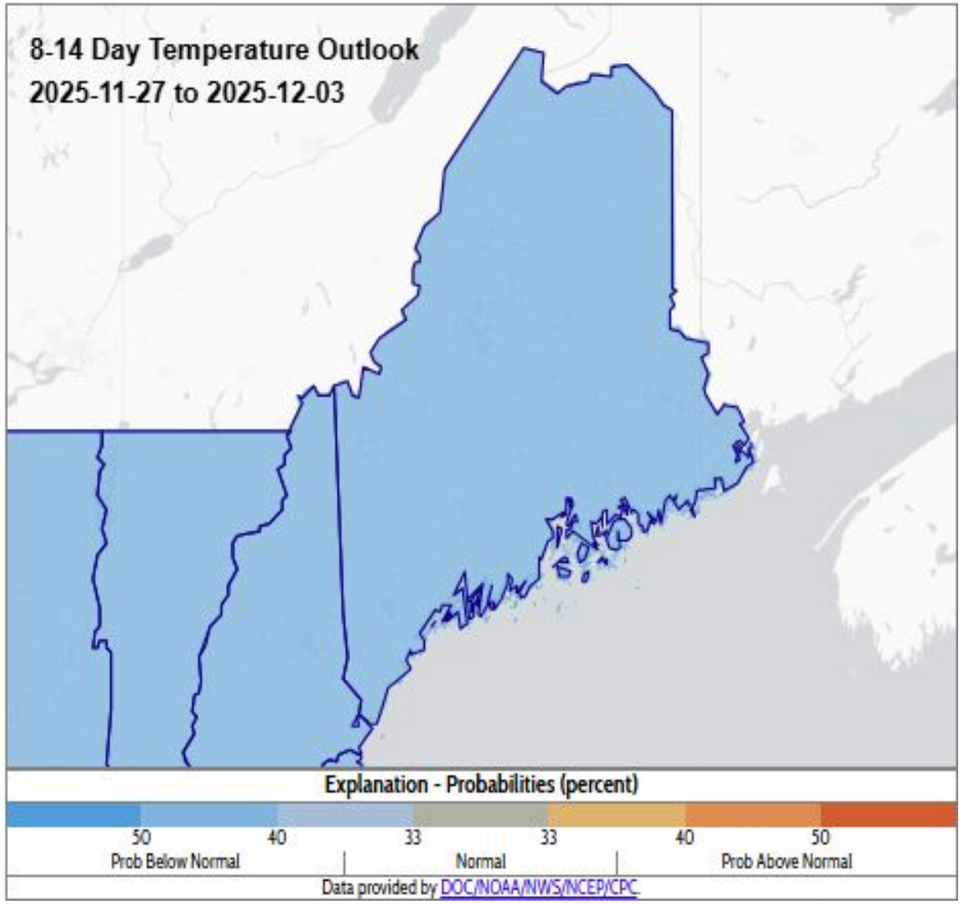
November 20, 2025
11:48 AM EST

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

Main Takeaways for the 2 Week Period:

- Moderate signal of *below normal temperatures* expected.
- A weak to moderate signal for *wetter than average* precipitation (rain or snow).





Possible Impact

- This outlook indicates a potential trend toward improving drought conditions. Freeze-up is expected soon and it is unlikely the drought will be over before then.

Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook.
Valid Nov 27 to Dec 3.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Caribou, ME

Long Range Outlooks (December)

November 20, 2025
11:48 AM EST

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

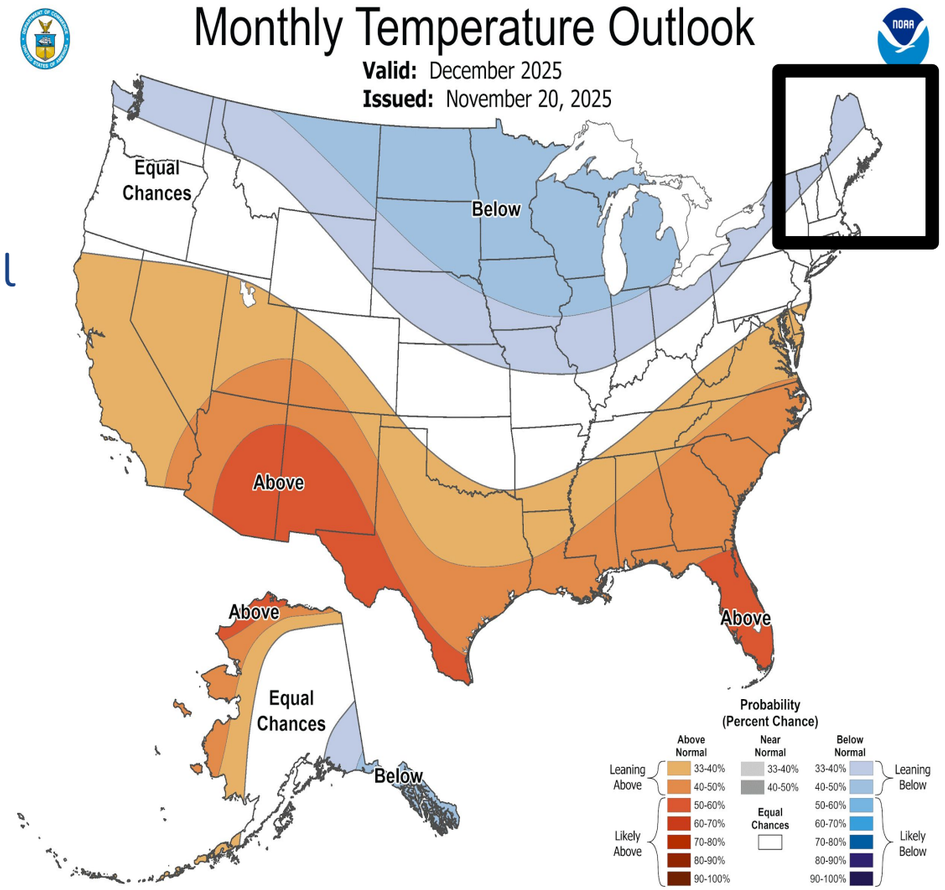
Main Takeaways for the Next Month:

- Weak signal for *Below Normal* temperatures in northern portions of the state. No significant signal for southern areas.

- Weak signals of *above normal precipitation* (snow or rain).

Winter Pattern Outlook

- Weak La Nina will result in subseasonal factors playing larger role in the pattern. It is likely that there will be some improvement, but not enough to prevent us from going through the winter under some drought conditions.



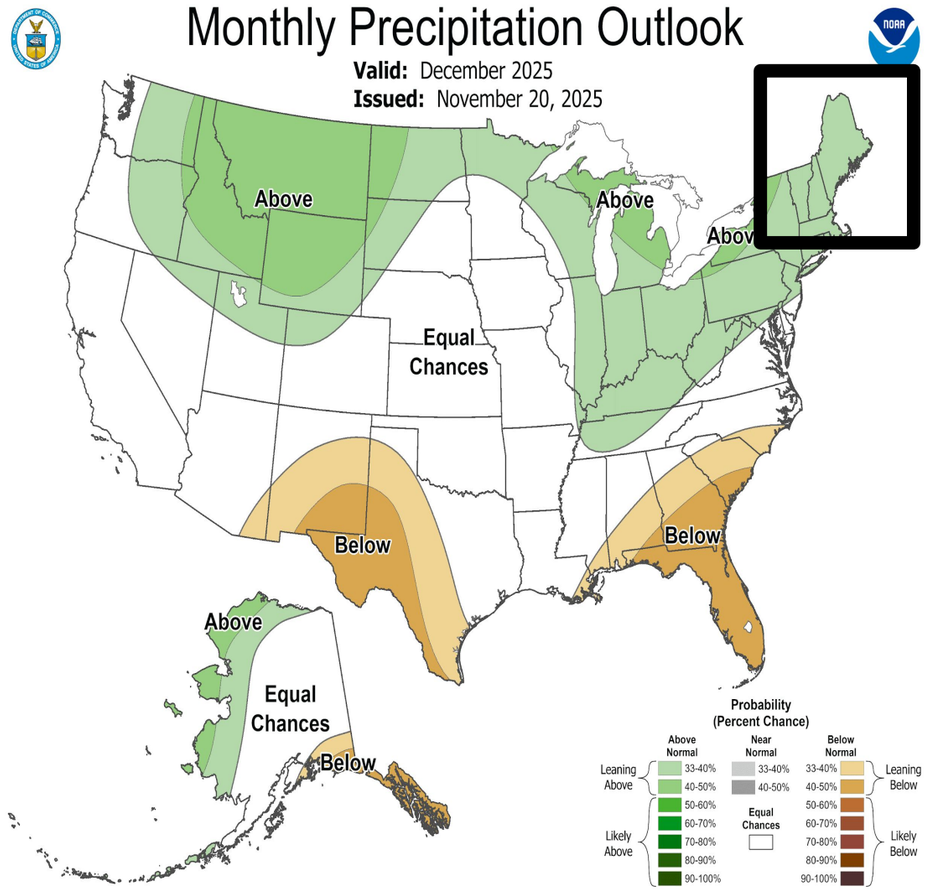


Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center December Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center December Precipitation Outlook.
Valid Nov 20 2025.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Caribou, ME

Main Takeaways

November 20, 2025
11:48 AM EST

- Widespread Moderate to Severe Drought conditions continue across Northern Maine, with some improvements in most locations.
- Impacts include, but are not limited to: Dry drinking water wells, low lake/pond and river/stream levels and dried marshlands.
- Very little improvement expected over the next 7 days. Indications signal for some improvement to arrive into December but overall will not produce enough to overcome the drought.
- 8-12 inches of rainfall, roughly 175-225% of normal, is needed between now and when the ground freezes, otherwise drought will linger throughout the winter.
- Accumulating snow can be beneficial to drought by insulating the ground before it has a chance to freeze; plus it stores water that can melt and contribute to groundwater recharge.
- The severity of the ongoing drought suggests some degree of long-term drought conditions persisting into the 2025-26 winter.

Contact Information

Web

- ➔ www.weather.gov/gyx
- ➔ www.weather.gov/car

Questions? Email

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