Drought Information Statement for Northern and Eastern Maine

Valid September 18, 2025

Issued By: WFO Caribou, ME

- This product will be updated September 18, 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.

- Severe Drought remains in the Downeast, Bangor Region and portions of the Central Highlands.
- No changes over Northern Maine.

U.S. Drought Monitor

September 18, 2025
12:06 PM EDT

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

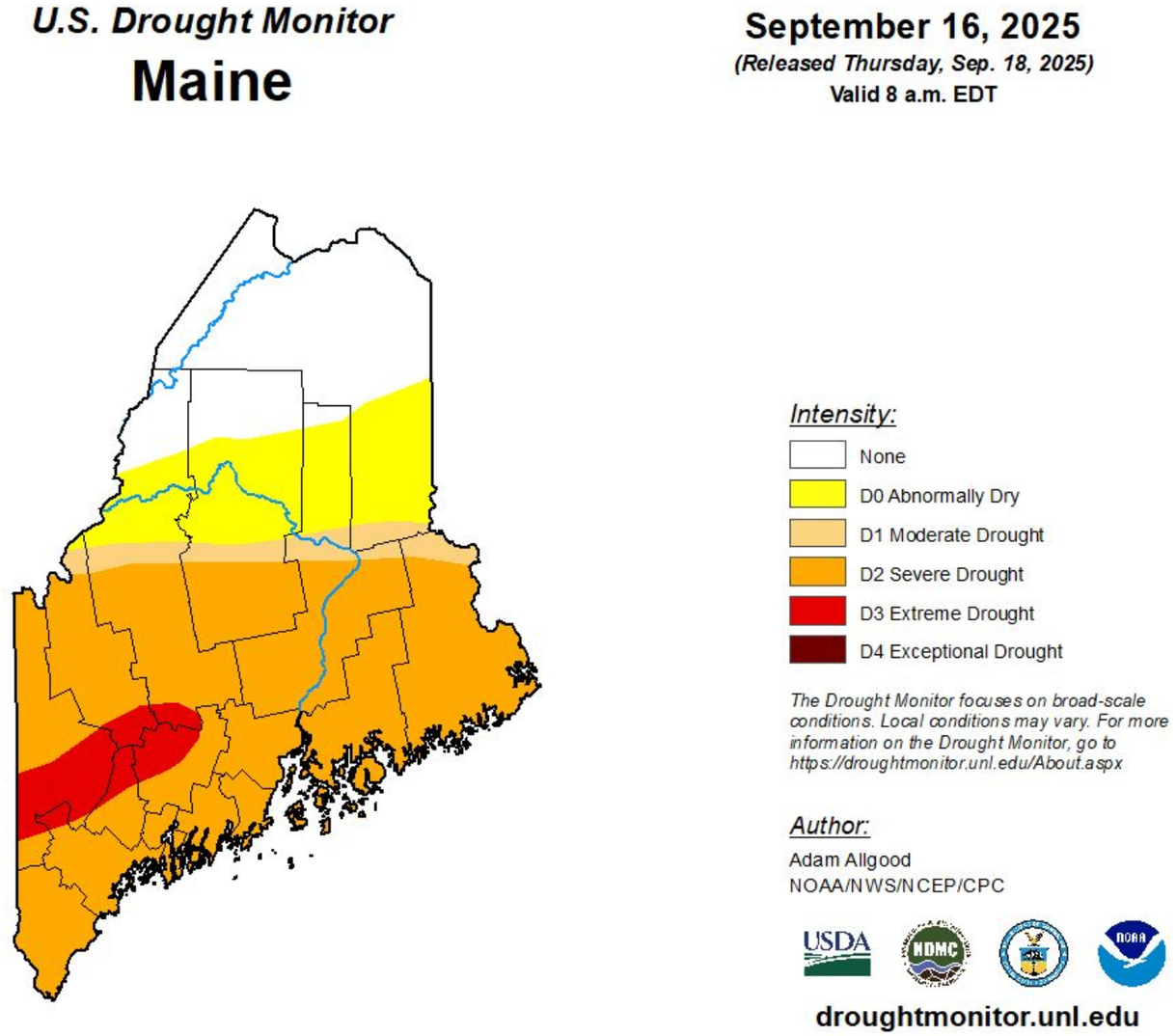
- **Drought Intensity and Extent:**
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Much of Washington County, All of Hancock County, Southern & Central Penobscot County and Southern Piscataquis County.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Narrow areas of Central Piscataquis, Central Penobscot counties, far Northern Washington County and far Southern Aroostook County.
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Portions of Northern Somerset, Northern Piscataquis, Northern Penobscot and Southern Aroostook counties.

Percentage of Maine in Drought Conditions

- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: 15.60%
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: 4.72%
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**: 52.26%

Percentage of Maine Not in Drought

21.72%



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

September 18, 2025
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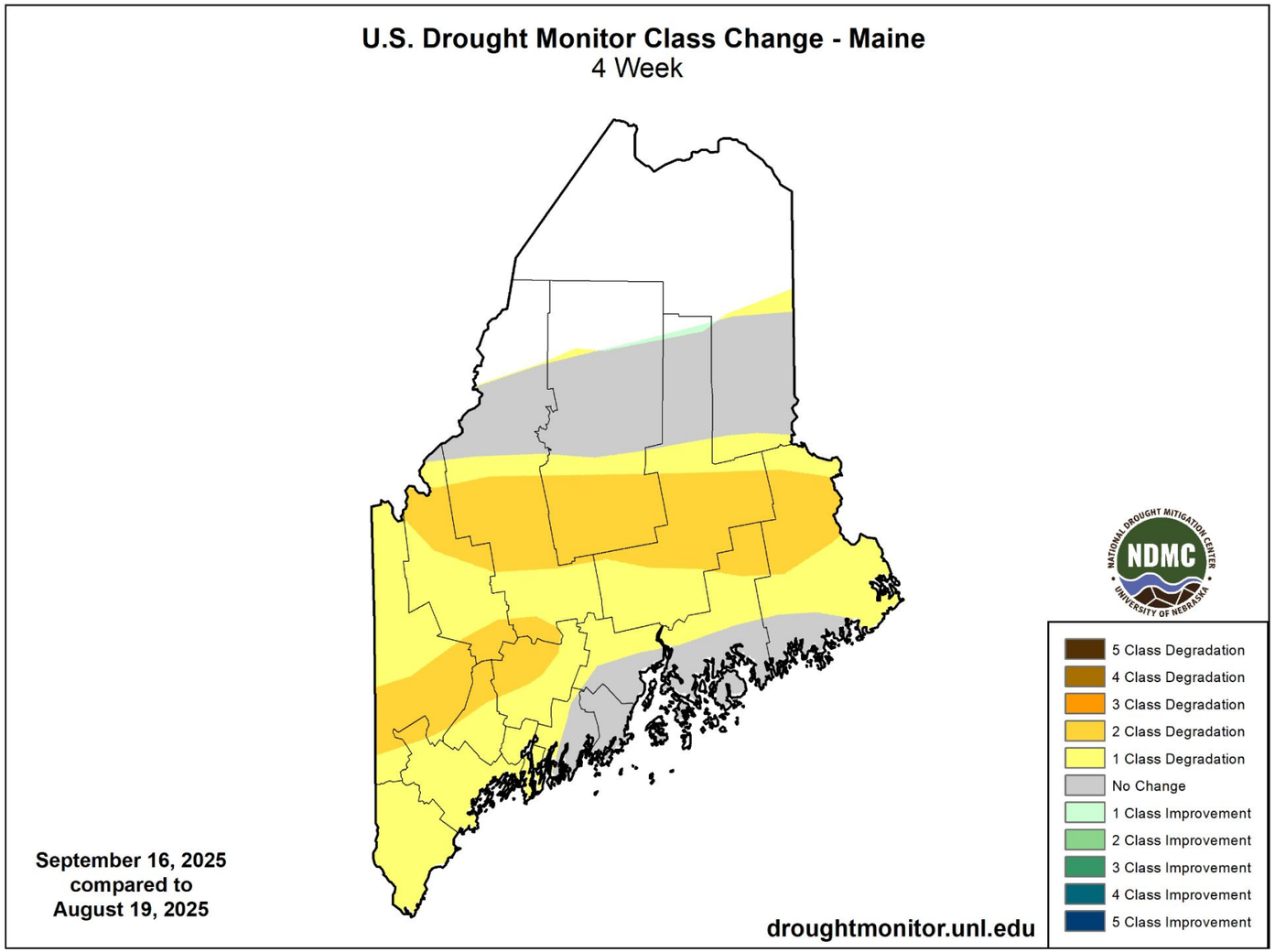
Link to the latest 4-week change map for Northeast U.S.

- Four week drought monitor class change:
  - **Drought Worsened:** Moosehead Region, Interior Downeast Maine, Bangor region, Upper Penobscot Valley, and portions of the Central Highlands.
  - **Dry Conditions Steady:** Baxter Region into Southern Aroostook County.
  - **No Change:** North Woods & St. John Valley

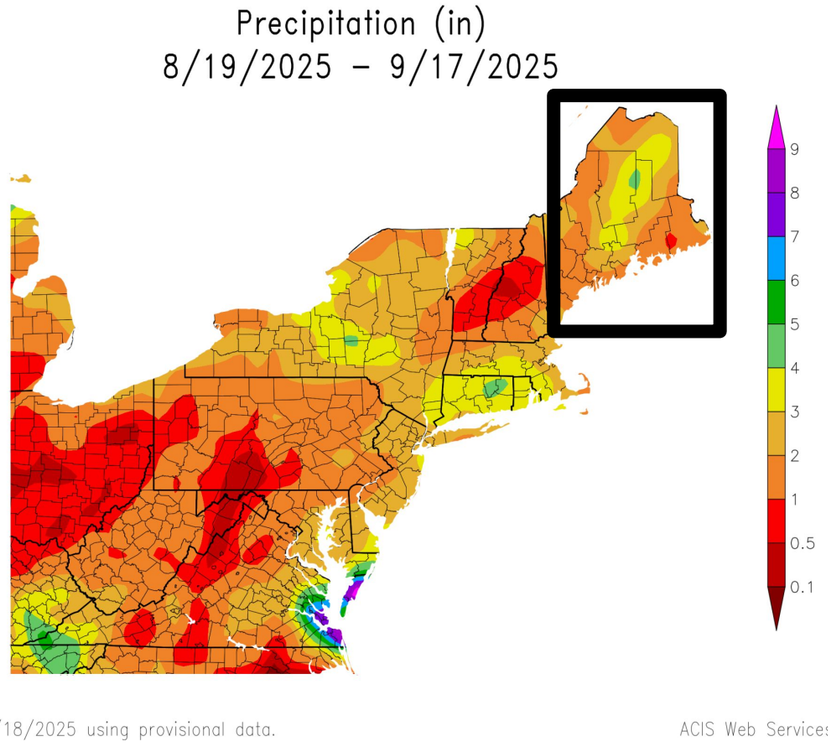


Precipitation

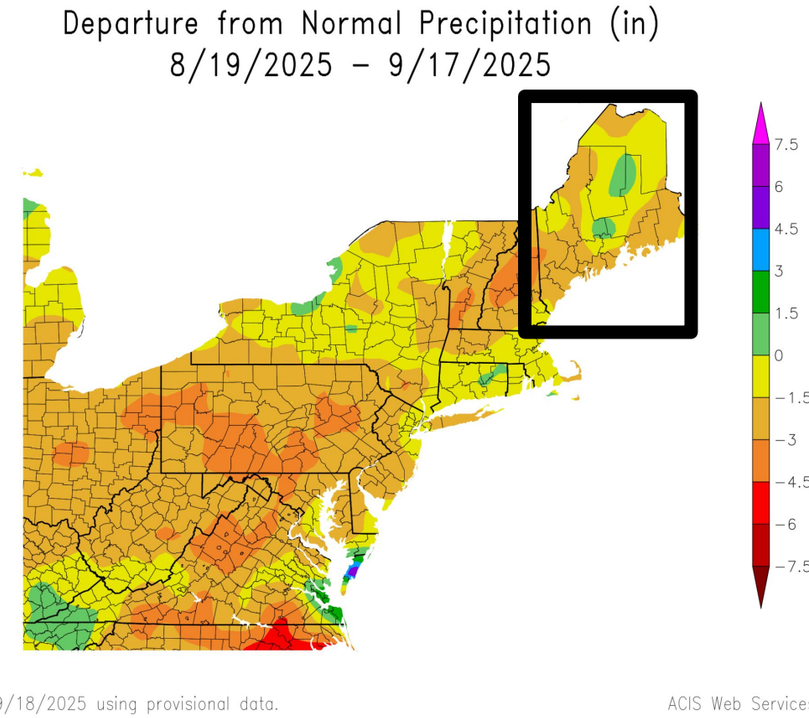
September 18, 2025
12:06 PM EDT

Link to Northeast Regional Climate Center

- Very minimal rainfall in the past week. We continue to see areas lacking rainfall when events occur.
- 30 day deficits still remain in much of the Downeast region.



Total precipitation over the past 30 days



Percent of normal precipitation for the past 30 days

Temperature

September 18, 2025
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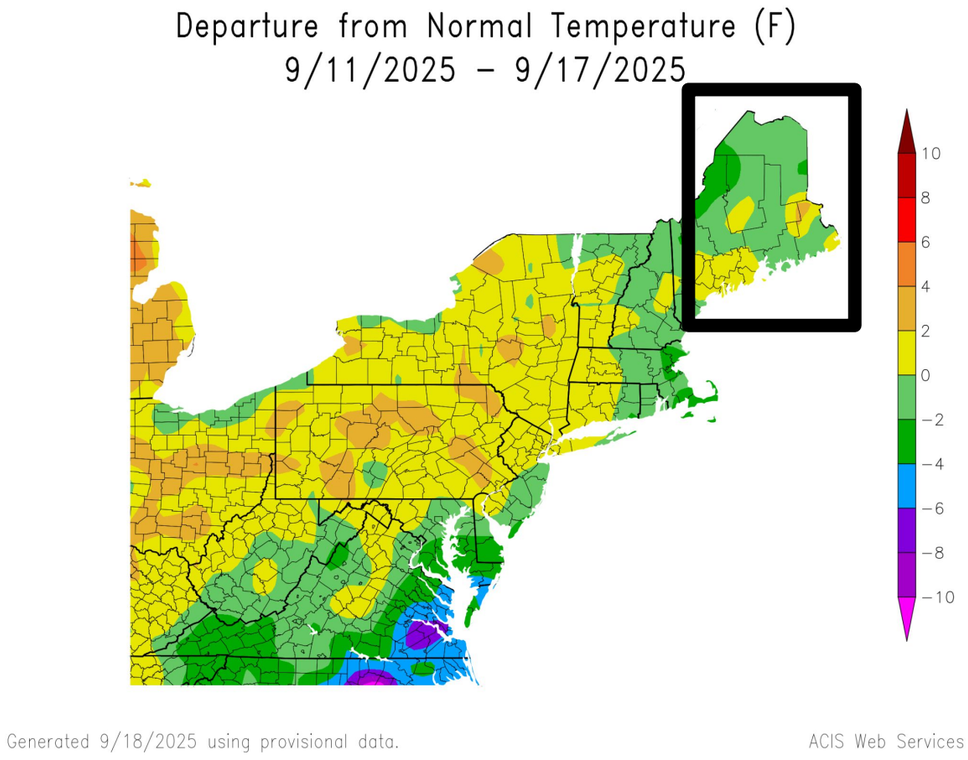
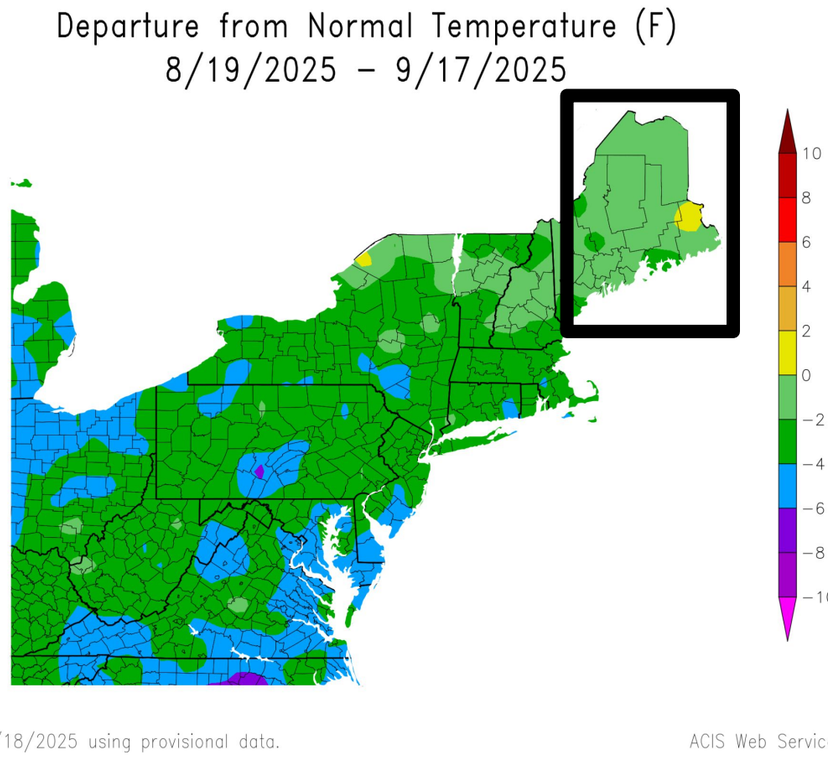
Link to Northeast Regional Climate Center

- 7 day trends have featured slightly below normal temperatures across much of the area.
- 30 day trends have been mostly slightly below normal, with northern Washington county being slightly above normal.



Temperature departure from normal over the past 7 days



Temperature departure from normal over the past 30 days

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- The majority of streamflows across the southern and central areas of the service area remain within the “Below” to “Much Below Normal” percentile. (USGS)
- A few sites approaching, or at, record low flows for this time of year.

Agricultural Impacts

- Irrigation impacts; increased usage of irrigation, water supply from ponds running low. Crops dying.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Wildfire activity was well above average in August. Activity continues in September.
- Wildfires have been burning actively at night, burning deep into the ground, and completely consuming larger fuels, all indicative of dry conditions.
- Vegetation is showing signs of drought stress, with birch and other hardwood trees beginning to change color and drop leaves earlier than normal.

Other Impacts

- Dry wells can occur during periods of drought and have been reported over the past few weeks.

Mitigation Actions

- Conserve water, practice fire prevention and follow directions from local officials.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

September 18, 2025
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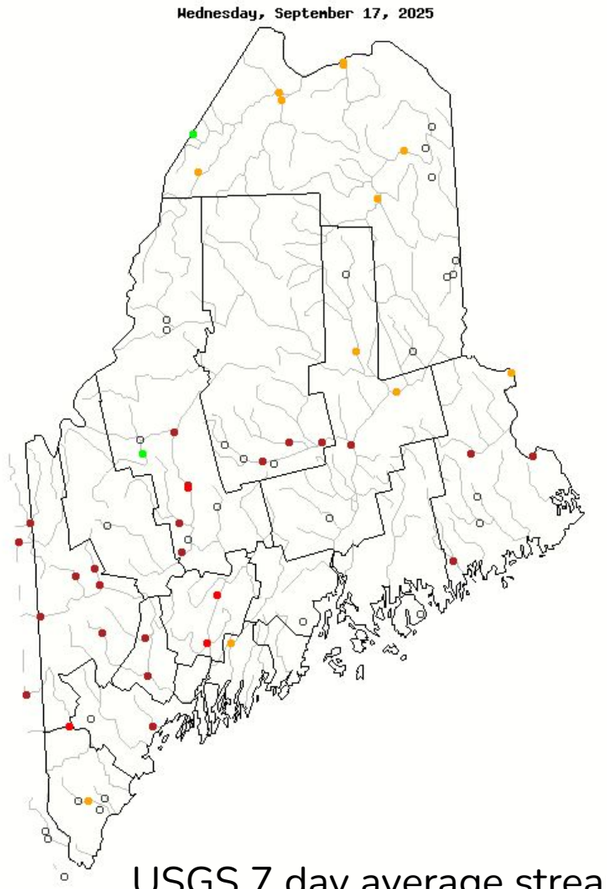
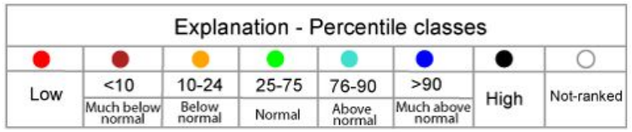
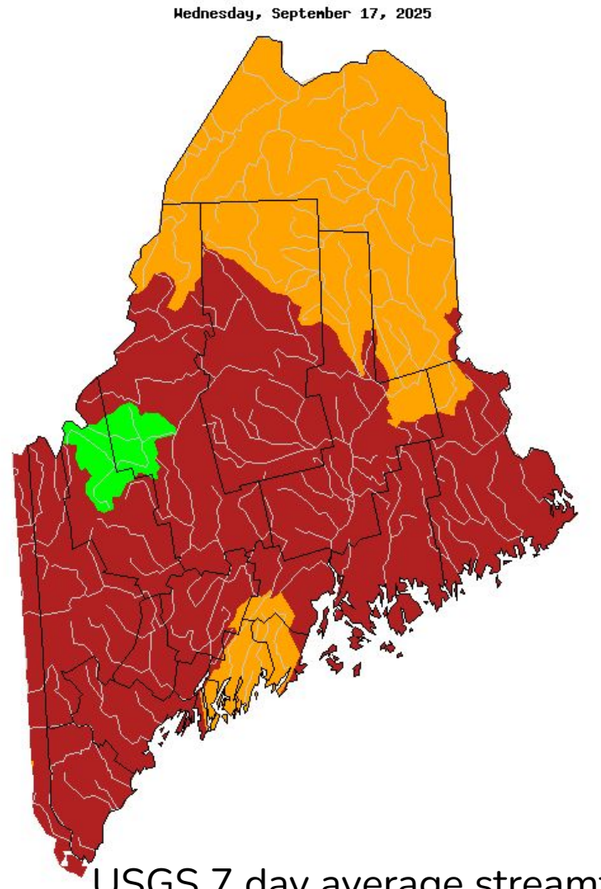
- Majority of the stream flows across the southern & central service area remain in the “below normal” or “much below normal” percentiles.
- Only far northwestern watersheds are near or within the “normal” percentile.

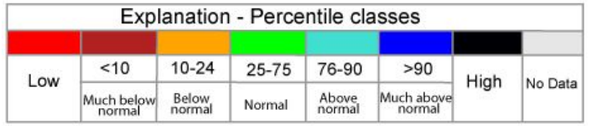


USGS 7 day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow





USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map



Agricultural Impacts

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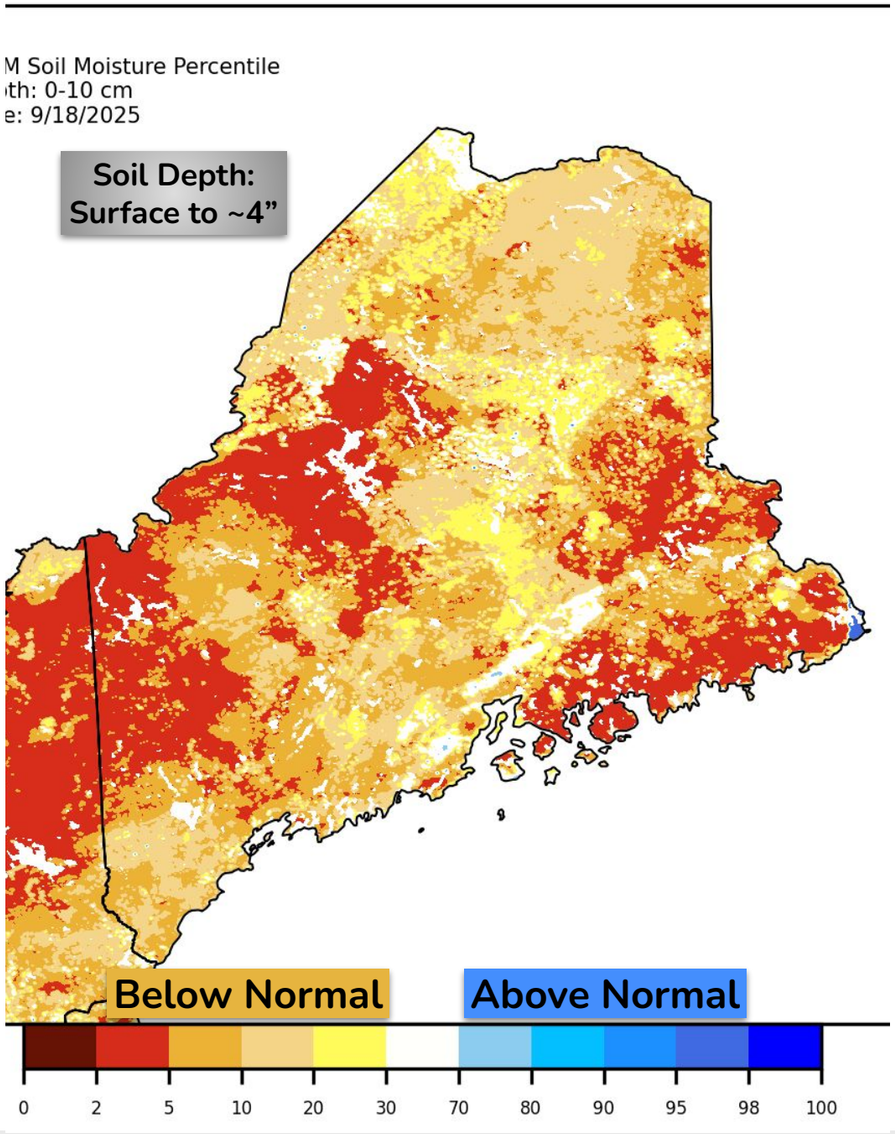
- Soil moistures are slightly below normal in northern Maine.
- Soil moisture is significantly below normal in Downeast Maine, Bangor Region, parts of Eastern Aroostook & Moosehead Region.



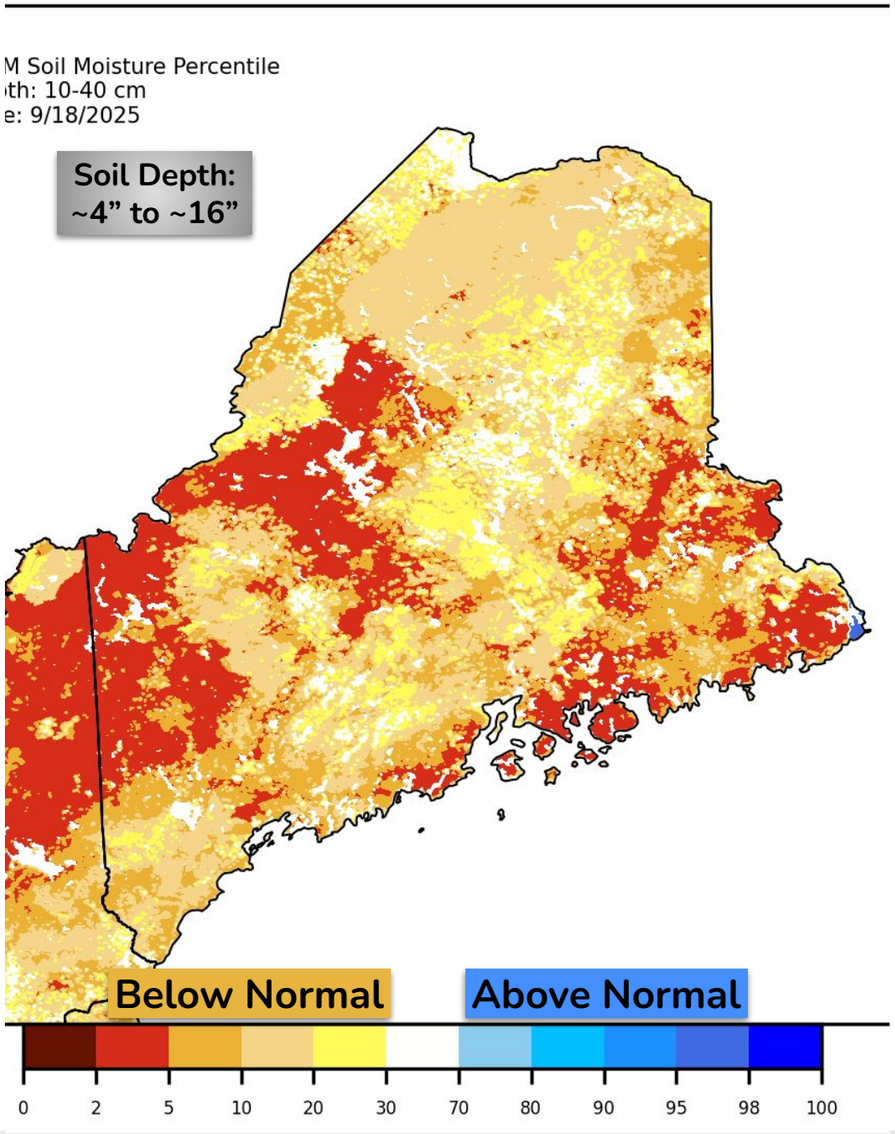


Image Captions:
National Water Model
Soil Moisture Percentile 0-10cm Depth
Soil Moisture Percentile 10-40cm Depth

Groundwater Impacts

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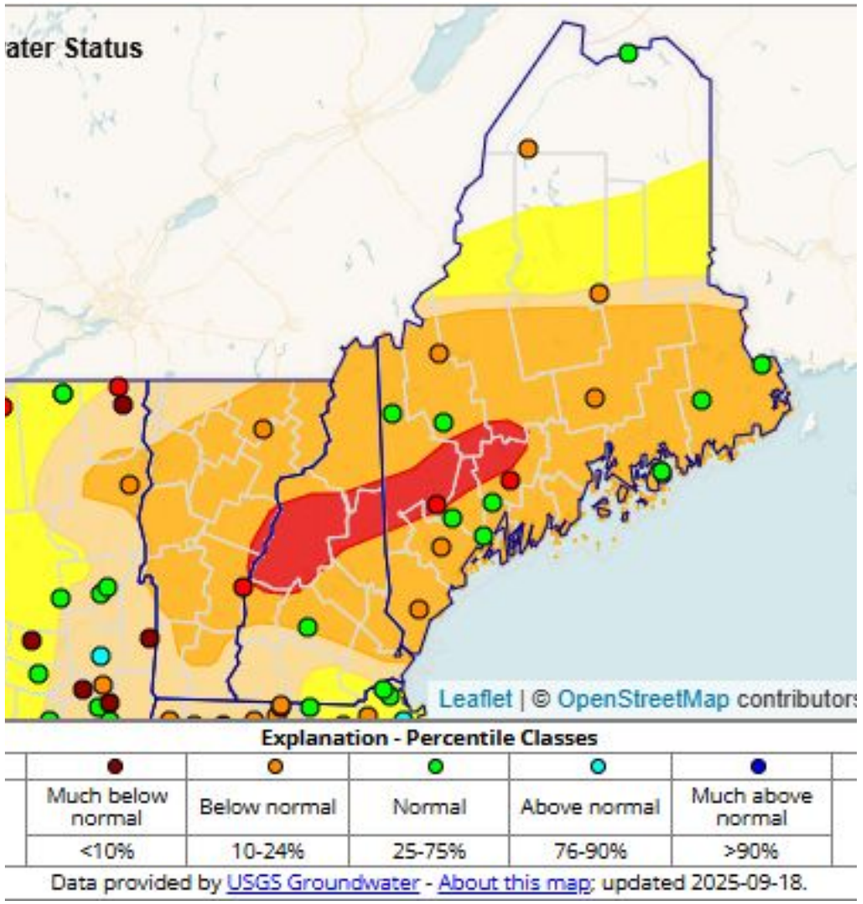
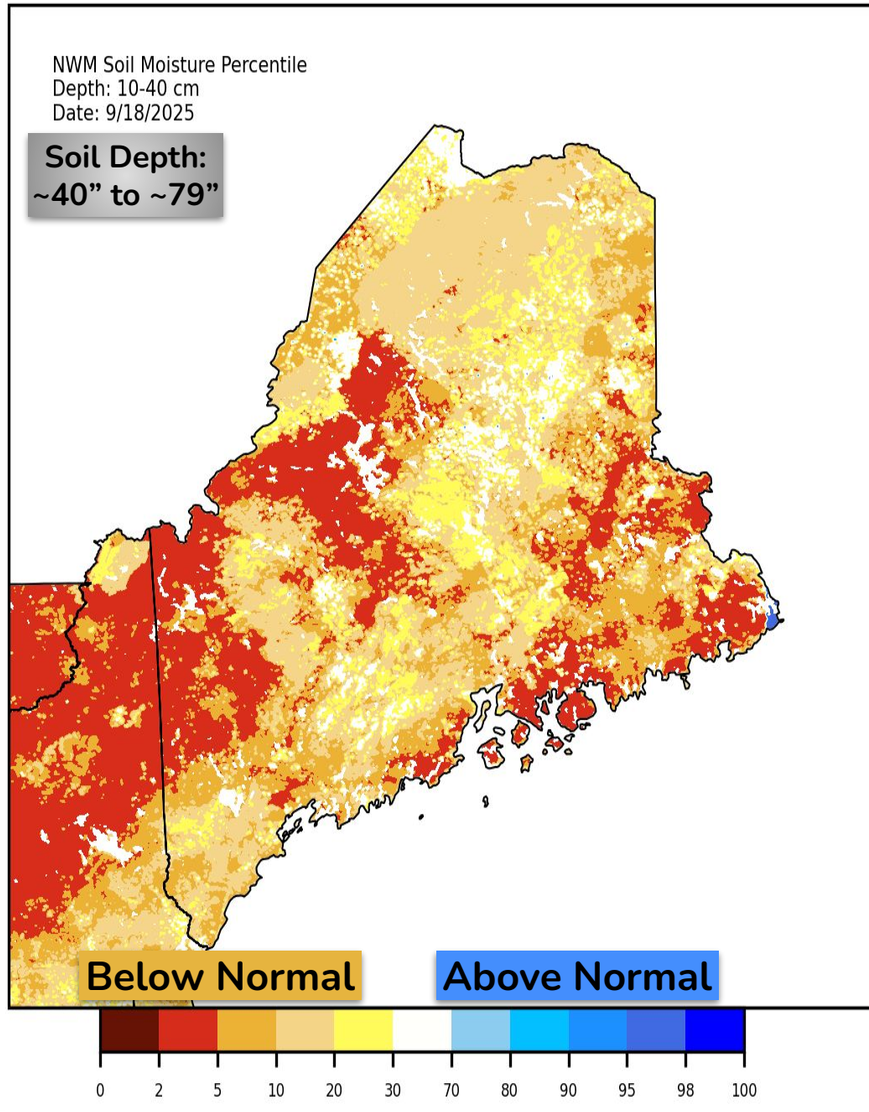
- Significant impacts to deeper soil moisture conditions with a few groundwater gauges below normal.
- Maine Drought Task Force Dry Well Survey reporting page here.





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

Fire Hazard Impacts

September 18, 2025
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Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.]

- High fire danger statewide as conditions dry out again in most locations.
- Showers are expected in the upcoming week, but expecting most locations see light accumulations.

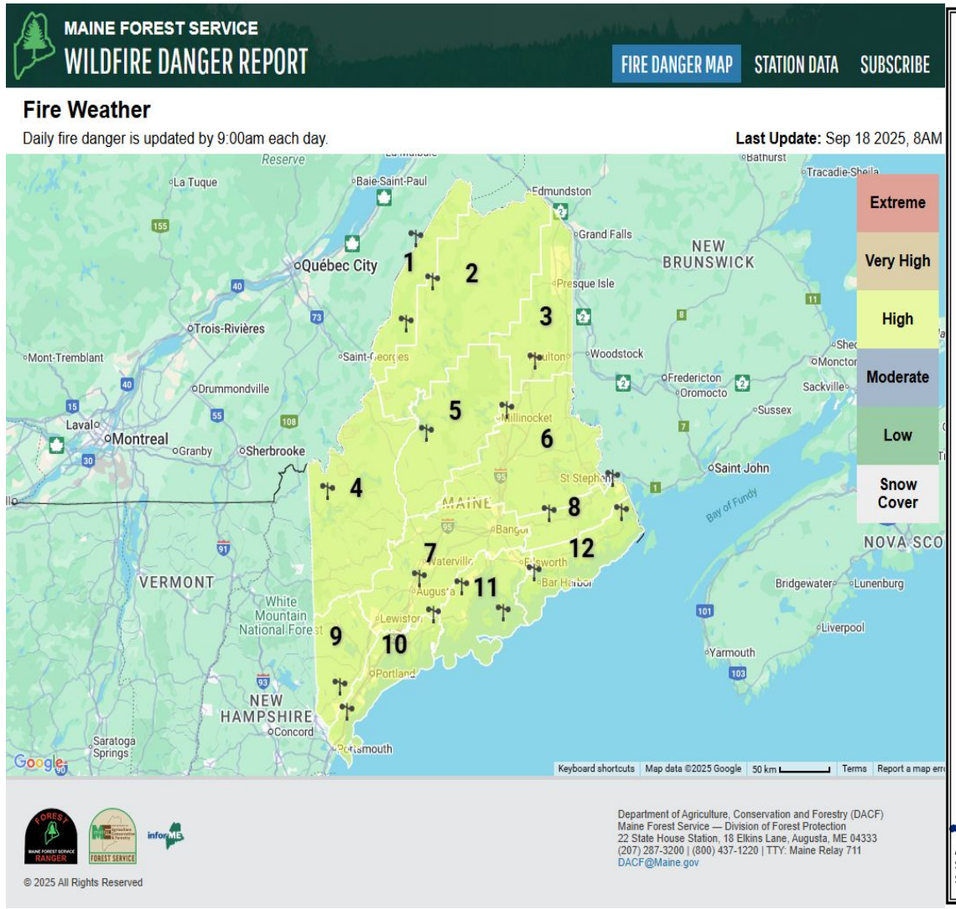

Image Captions:
Maine Wildfire Danger Report

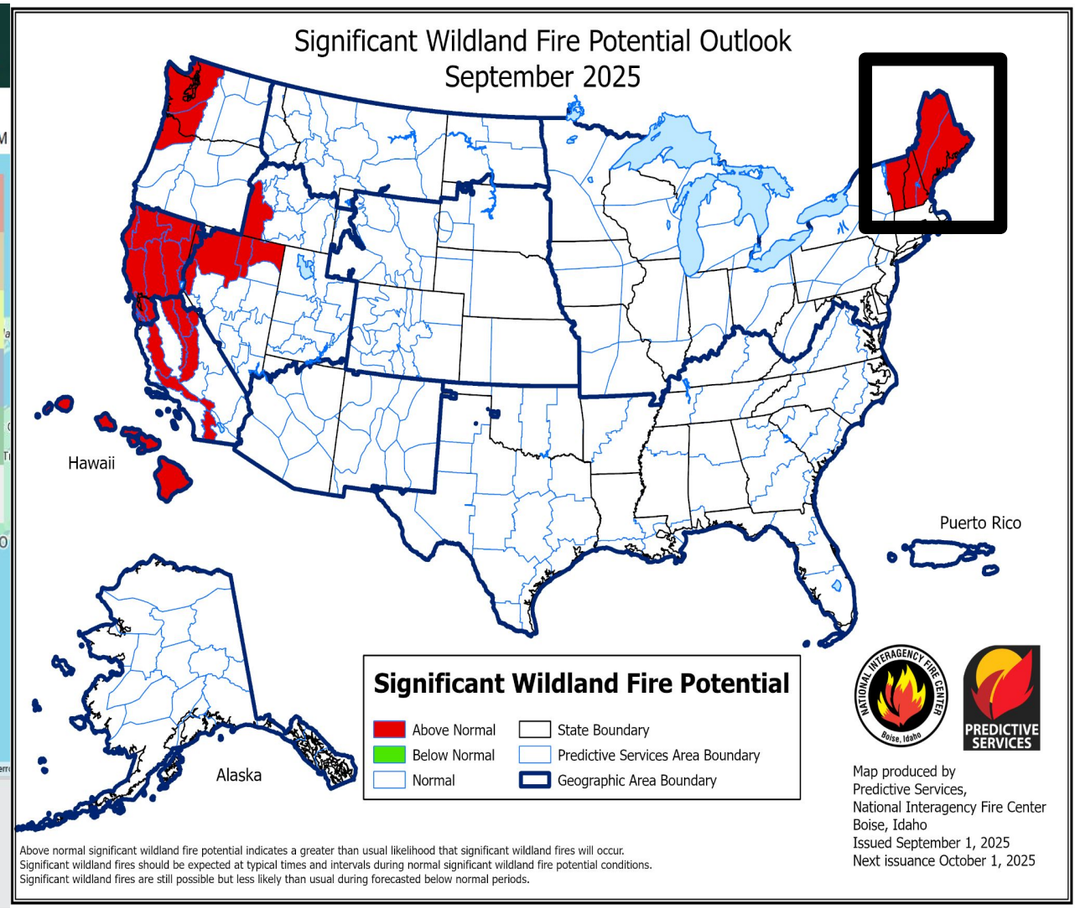

Image Captions:
NICC September 2025 Significant Fire Potential

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

September 18, 2025
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- Slight chance for showers in the far north on Monday. A cold front will cross the region early-to-mid next week, with some rain showers. Isolated wetting rains but most locations remain rather dry with only temporary help.

- Otherwise, mostly dry conditions with a high pressure system over the region this weekend.

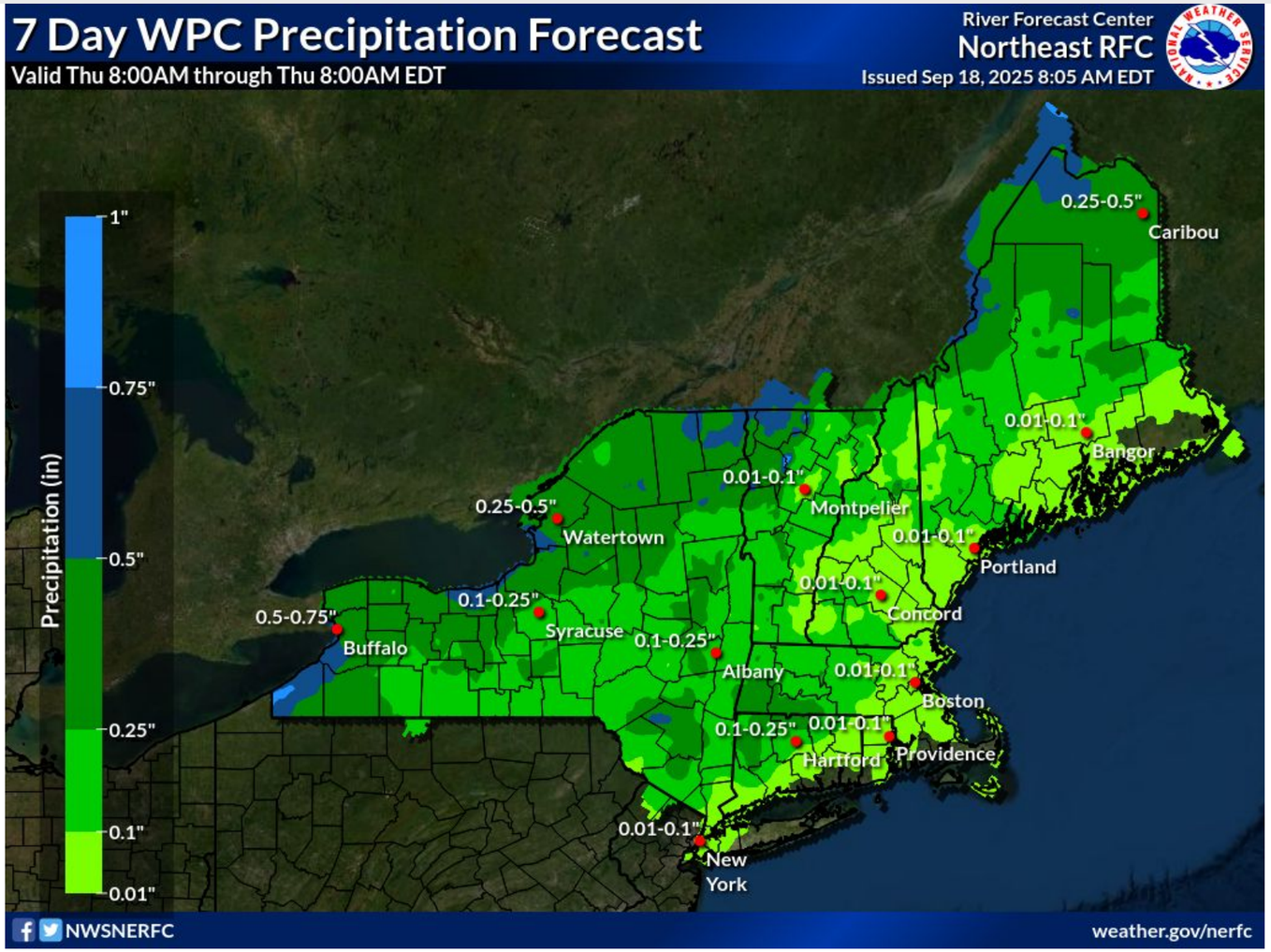

Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid 09/18 8AM to 09/25 8AM

Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

September 18, 2025
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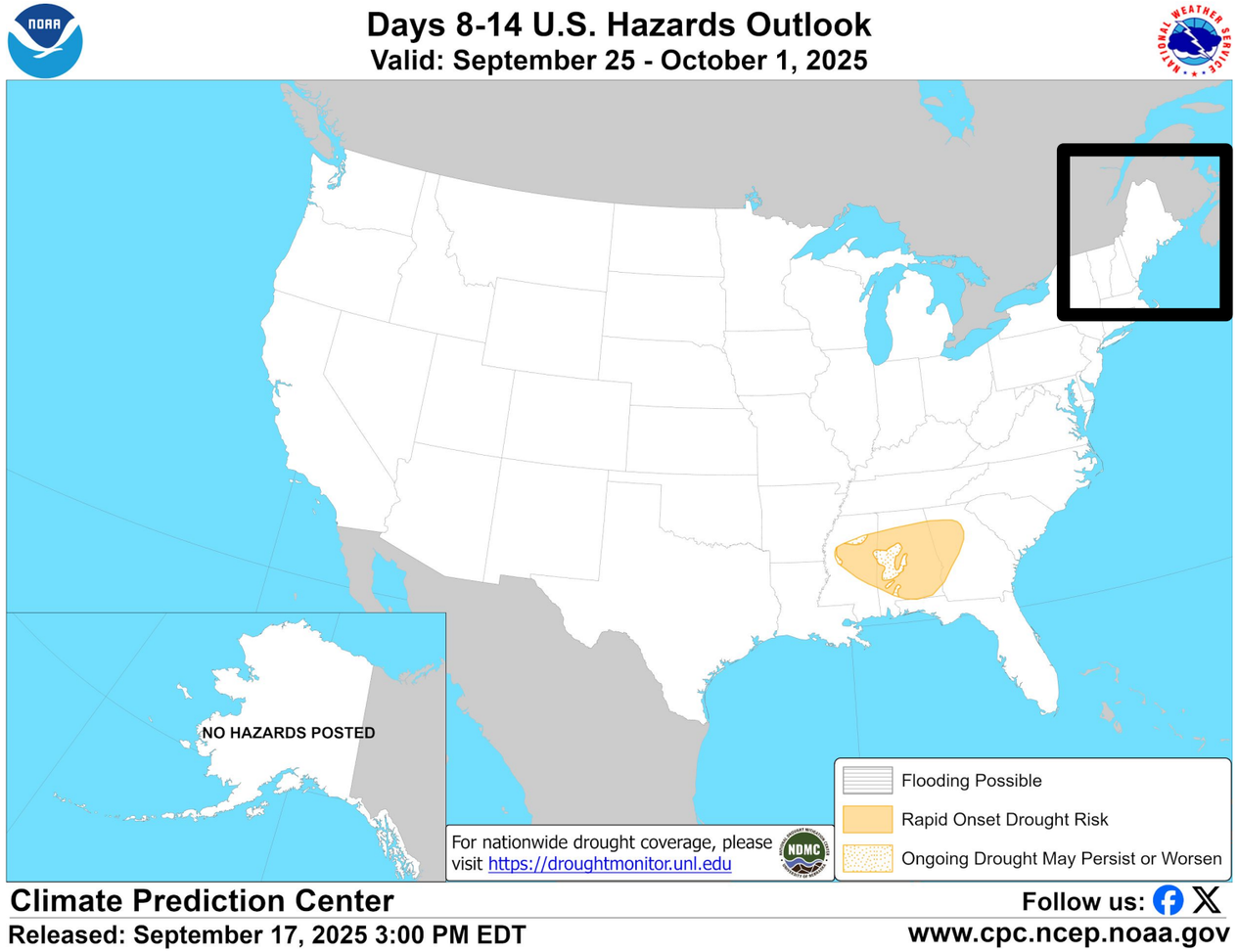
- Currently no rapid drought risk forecast in the next two weeks.



8 to 14 Day Outlooks

September 18, 2025
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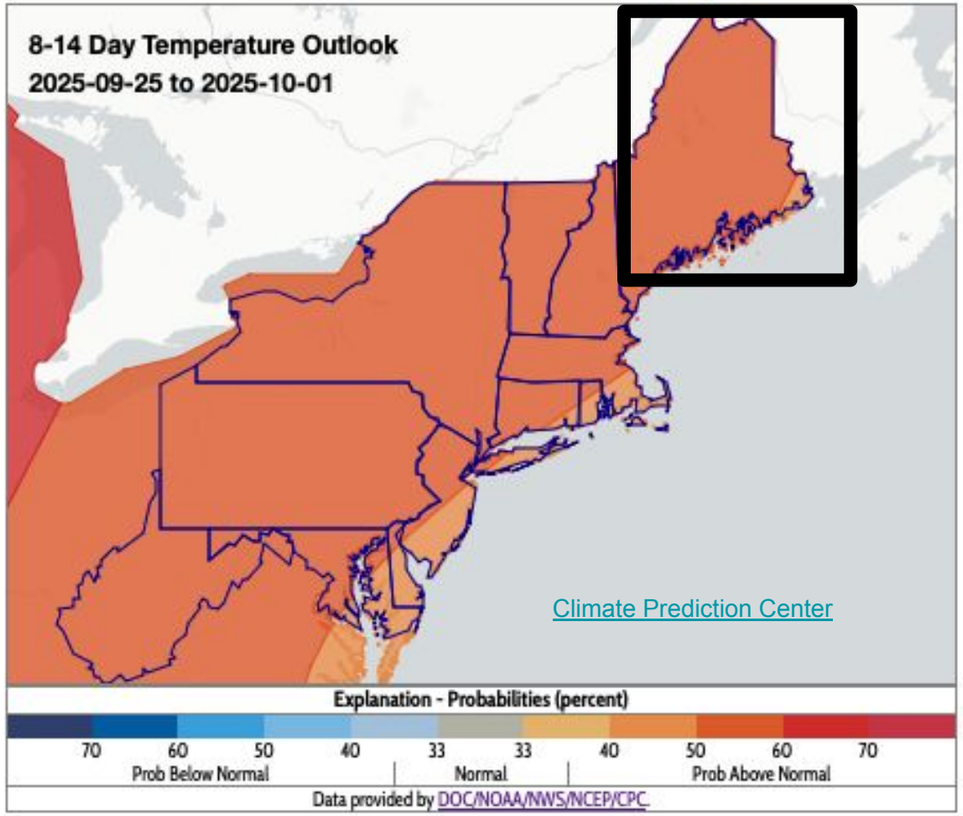
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

Main Takeaways for the 2 Week Timeframe:

- Stronger signal of *above* temperatures expected.
- Weak signal of precipitation being slightly *below normal*.

Possible Impact

- Without above average rainfall, precipitation deficit will persist.



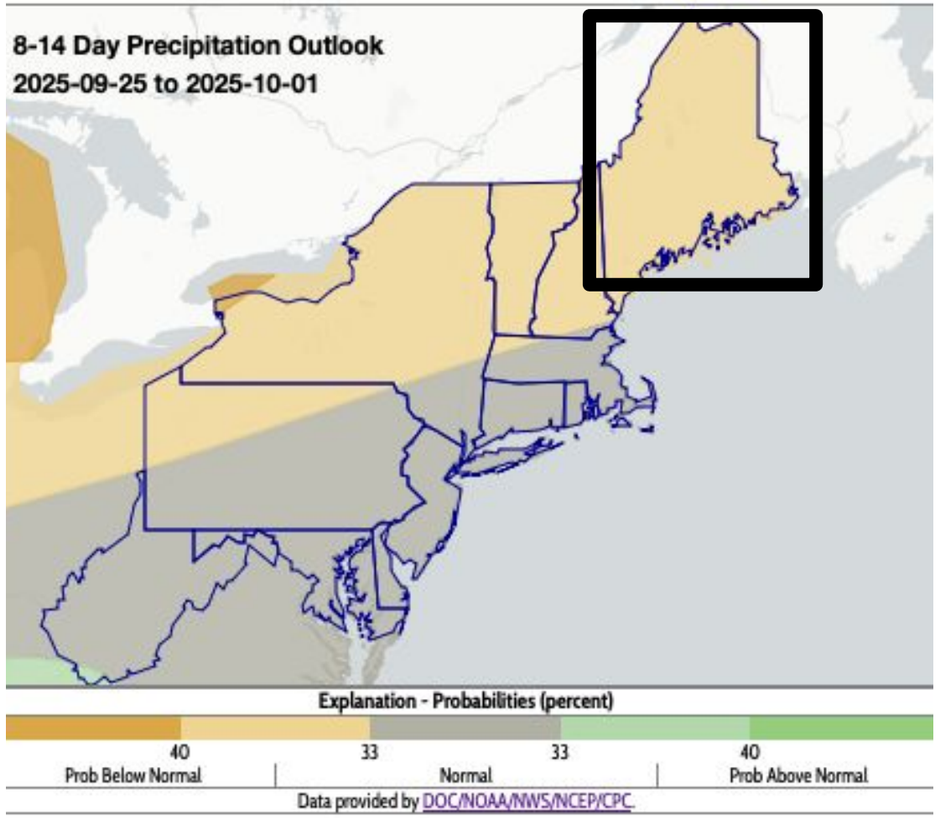


Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook.
Valid Sep 18 to 24.

Long Range Outlooks

September 18, 2025
12:06 PM EDT

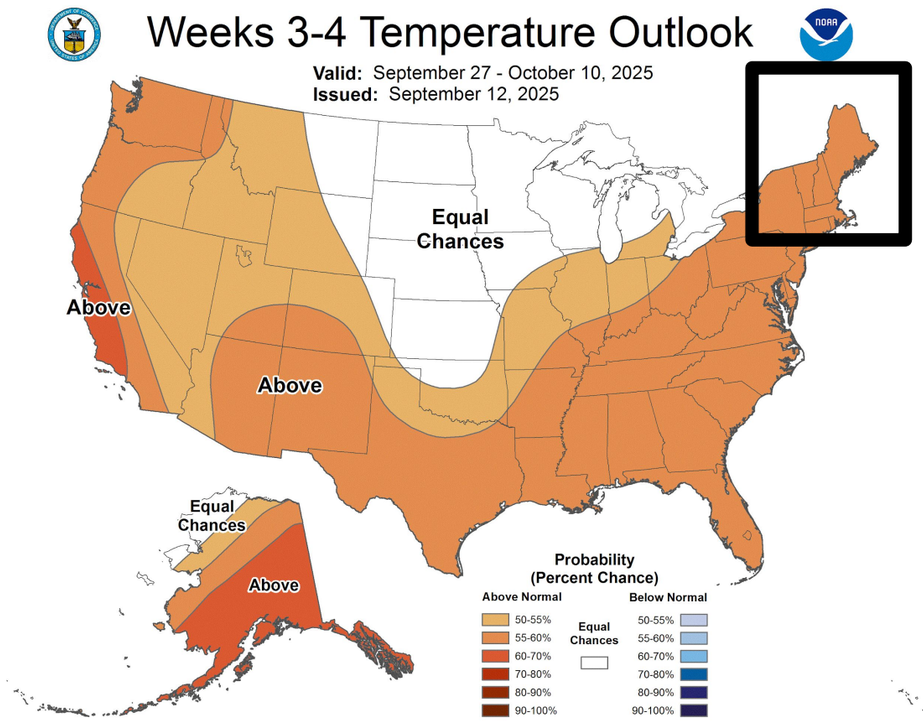
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

Main Takeaways for the Remainder of September:

- Signals for *Above* average temperatures.
- No signals for either *Above or Below normal* precipitation amounts.

Possible Impact

- Above average temperatures with no strong signal of precipitation will not help Maine catch up in its moisture deficit.



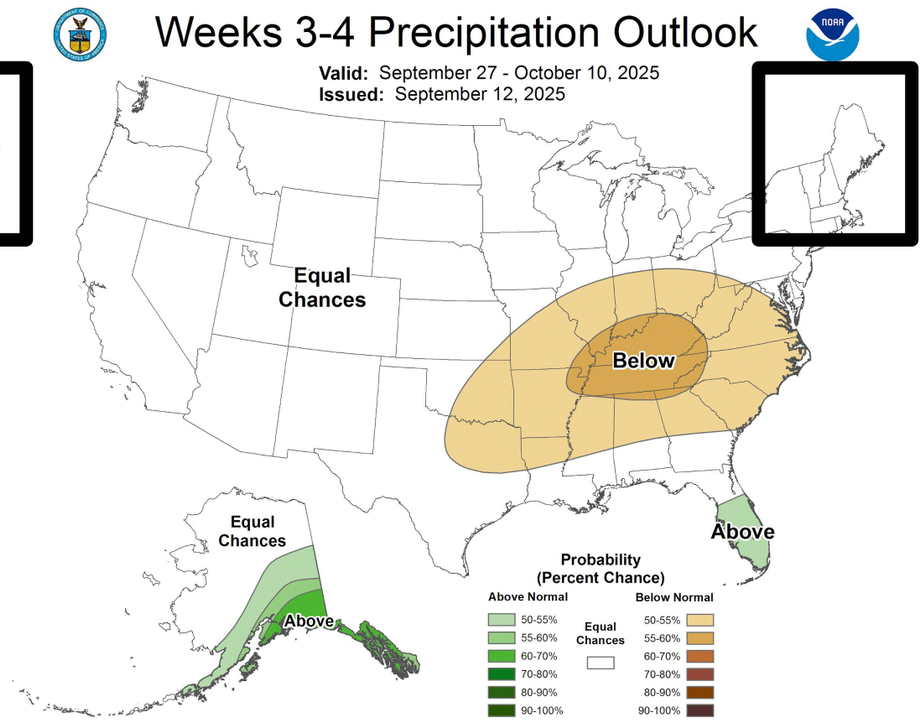


Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center Weeks 3-4 Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center Weeks 3-4 Precipitation Outlook.
Valid September 20 - October 3, 2025.

Drought Outlook

September 18, 2025
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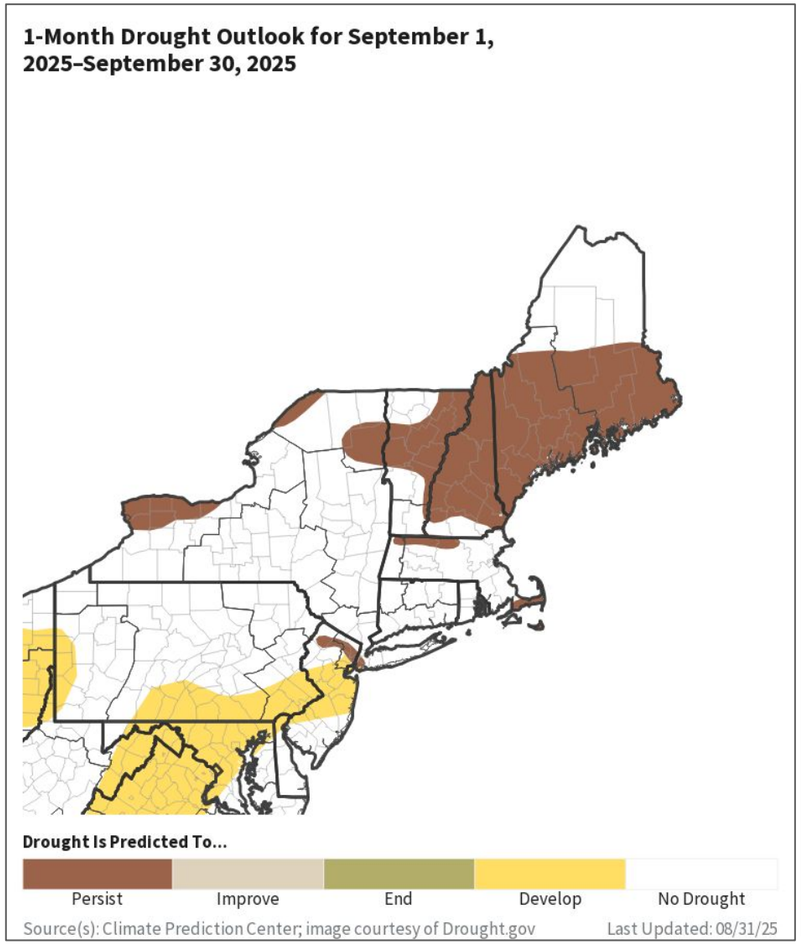
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

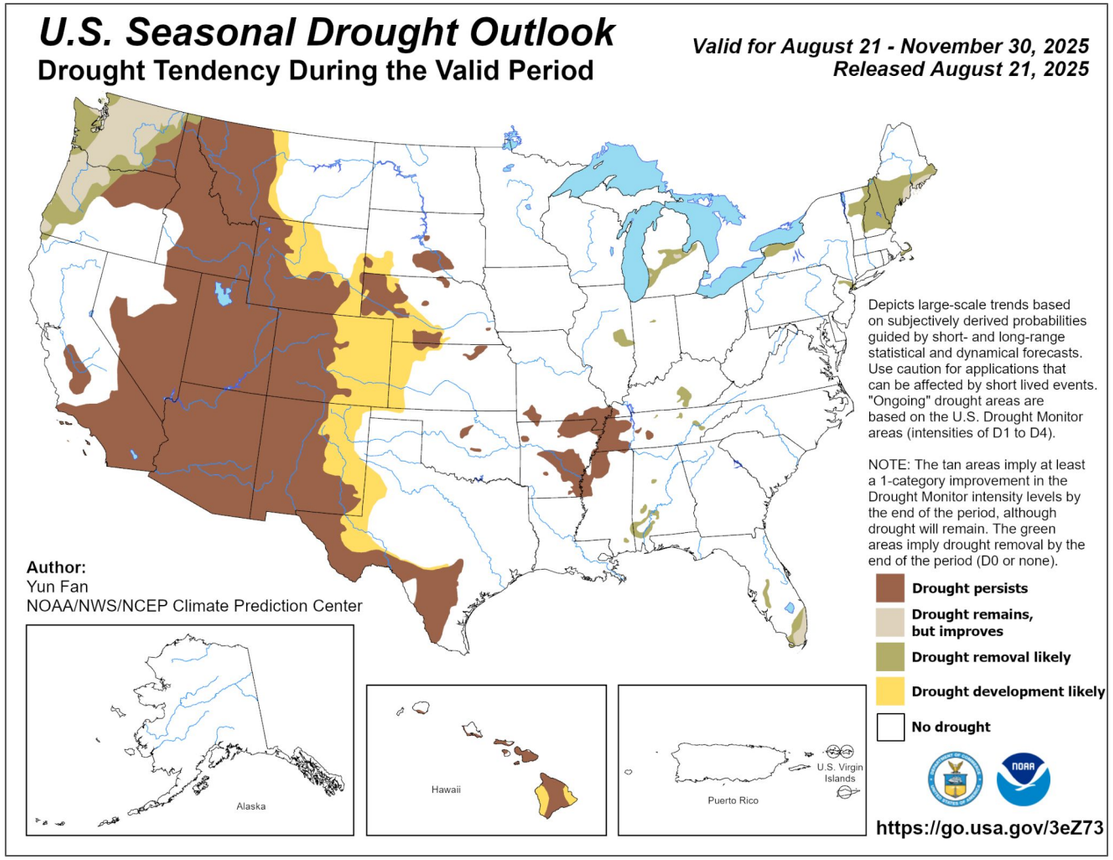
Main Takeaways

- No projected change in drought this month.
- Downeast coast expected to have drought removal by end of the 3-month seasonal outlook.

Possible Impact

- Potential for some improved conditions in drought heavy areas in the next few months.





Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook

Main Takeaways

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12:06 PM EDT

- The drought was driven by periods of hot temperatures in July and August, during which time less than 50% of normal rainfall was observed.
- Above normal temperatures increased evapotranspiration, depleting soil moisture rapidly.
- These conditions occurring during the peak growing season are responsible for crop and forest stress.
- Additional impacts include, but not limited to, declining streamflows, lake levels, crop production and groundwater.
- The latest forecast and outlooks going forward favor limited opportunities for relief through the rest of September.

Contact Information

Web

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

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