# Drought Information Statement for Northern and Eastern Maine

## Valid September 25, 2025

## Issued By: WFO Caribou, ME

- This product will be updated October 2, 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.

- Drought worsens across the Central Highlands and Downeast Maine
- Abnormally Dry Conditions and Moderate Drought expands North

# U.S. Drought Monitor

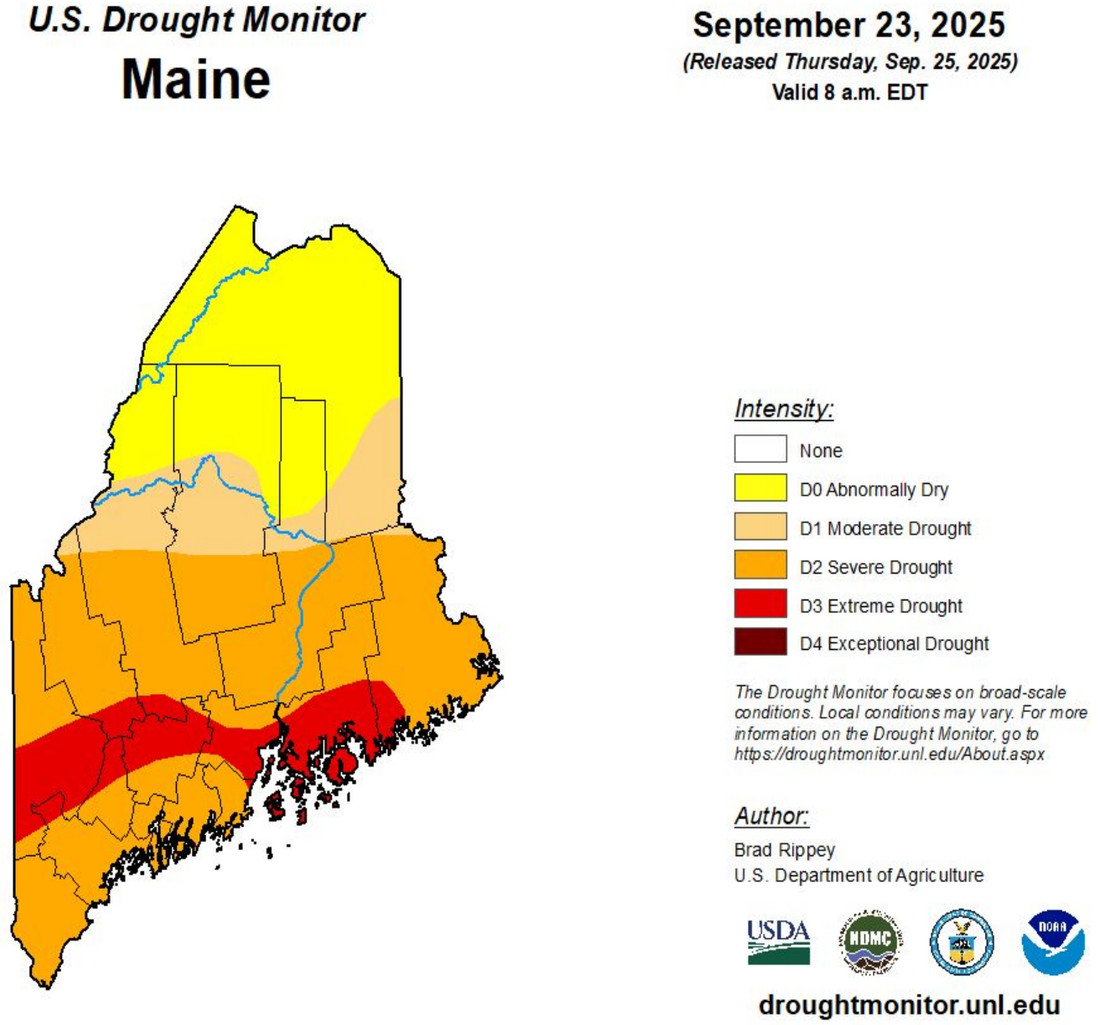
**September 25, 2025**
**11:00 AM EDT**

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

- **Drought Intensity and Extent:**
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Southern Hancock & far southwest Washington counties.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Much of Washington, northern Hancock, southern & central Penobscot and southern Piscataquis counties.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Southeast Aroostook, small portion of central Penobscot, central Piscataquis counties.
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Northern Somerset, northern Piscataquis, northern Washington counties along with the rest of Aroostook County.

**Percentage of Maine in Drought**

- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: 28.08%
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: 12.41%
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**: 46.95%
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: 12.56%

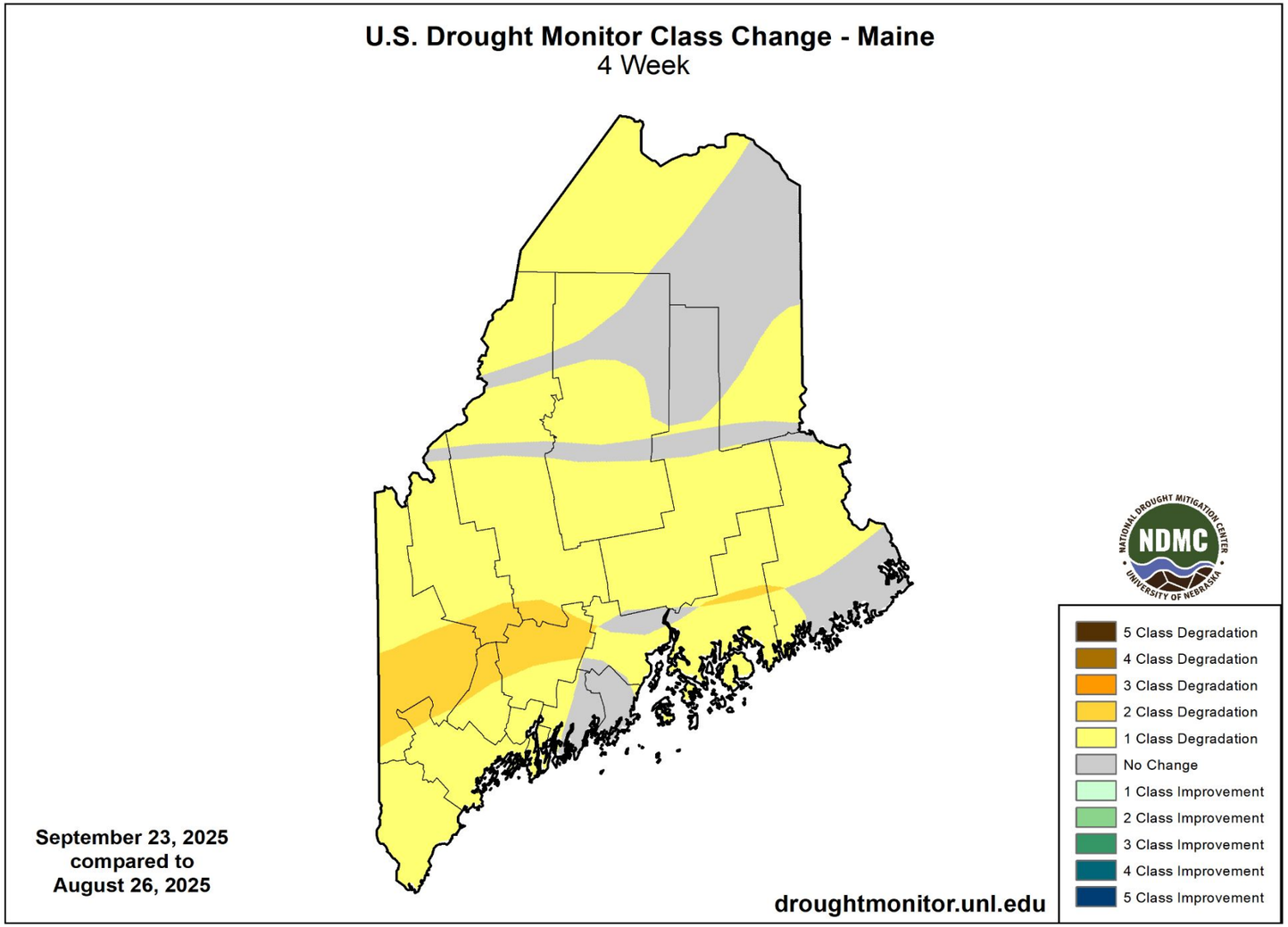


# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

September 25, 2025
11:00 AM EDT

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

- Four week drought monitor class change:
  - **Drought Worsened:** Much of Eastern and Central Maine.
  - **Dry Conditions Worsened:** Large portions of Northern Maine.
  - **No Change:** Far Downeast and portions of the Baxter Region to NE Aroostook County.

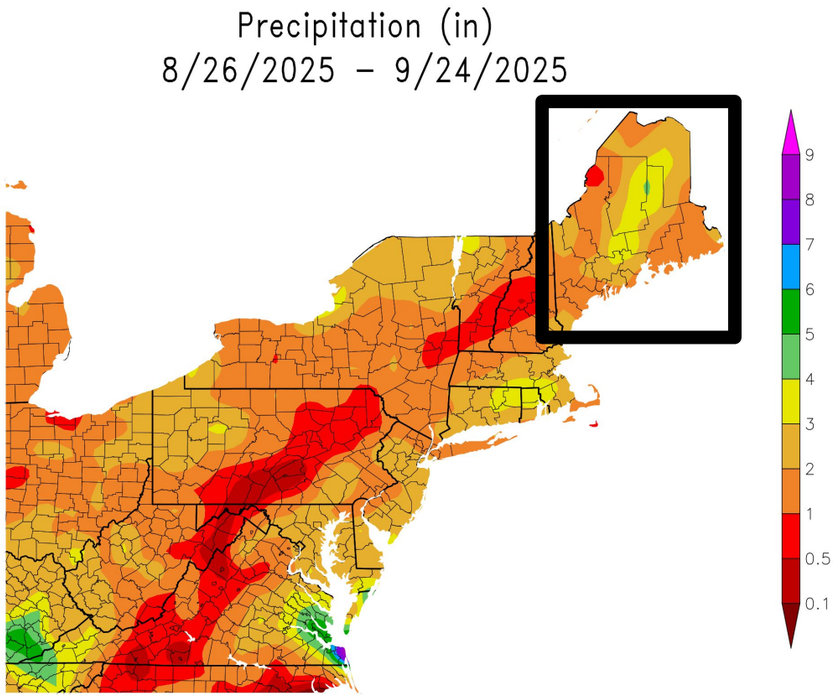


# Precipitation

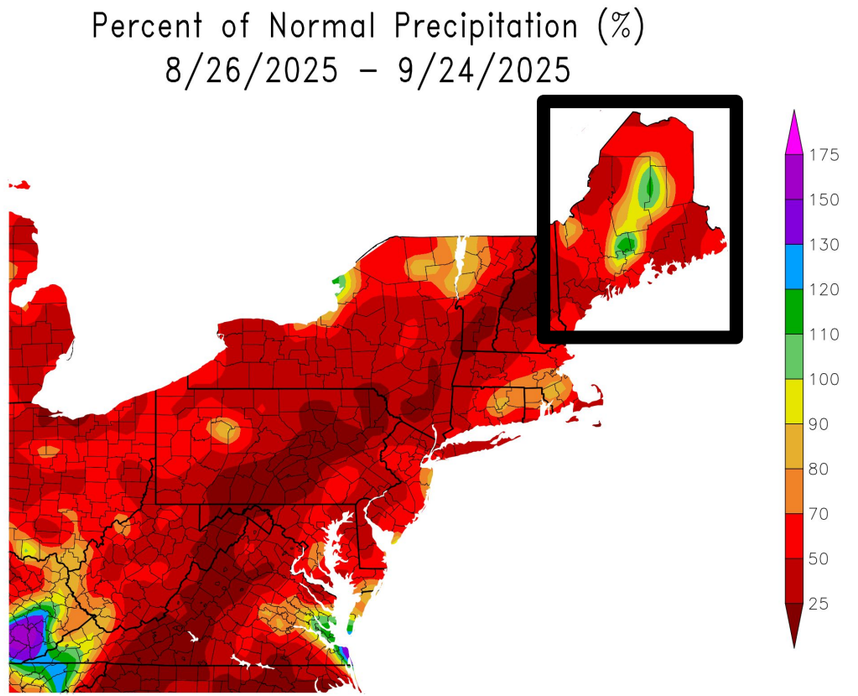
September 25, 2025
11:00 AM EDT

Link to Northeast Regional Climate Center

- Continued dry conditions over the last 30 days with the only above normal rainfall from Kennebec Valley to Baxter State Park region.
- Only a couple of small areas had a surplus, with most of the state running 15 to 70% of normal.




Total precipitation over the past 30 days



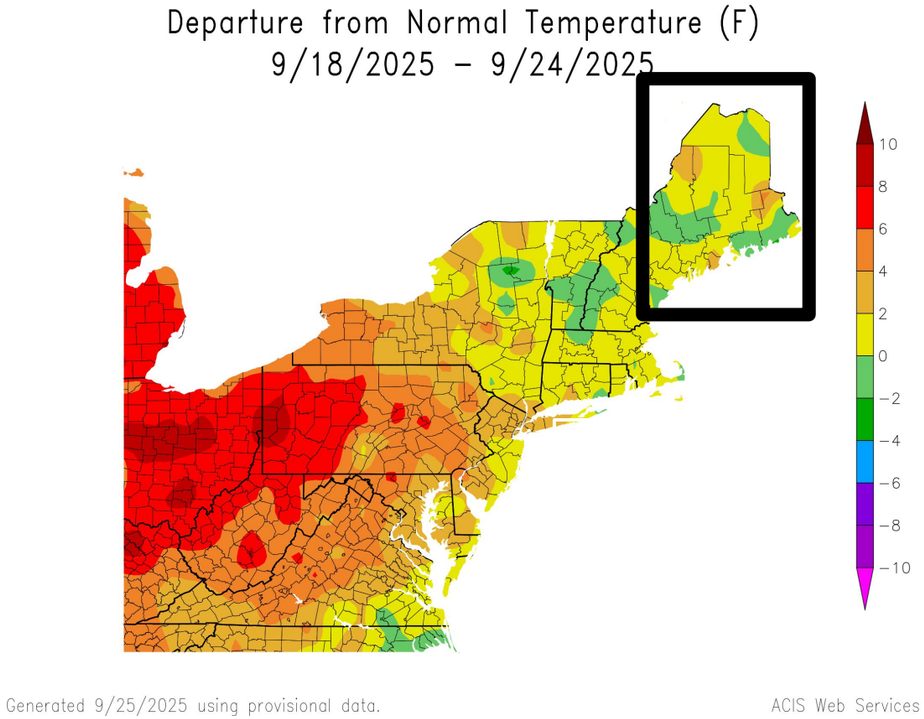

Percent of normal precipitation for the past 30 days

# Temperature

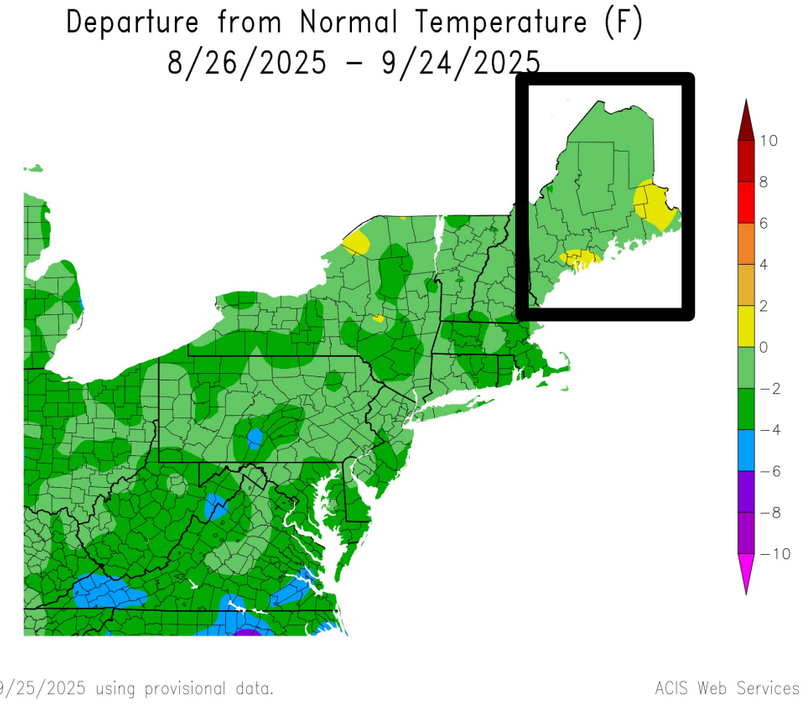
September 25, 2025
11:00 AM EDT

Link to Northeast Regional Climate Center

- 7 day trends have featured near normal to slightly above normal temperatures across much of the area.
- 30 day trends have been near normal for most locations.




Temperature departure from normal over the past 7 days




Temperature departure from normal over the past 30 days

# Summary of Impacts

September 25, 2025
11:00 AM EDT

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- The majority of streamflows across the service area continue to remain within the “Below” to “Much Below Normal” percentiles. (USGS)
- A few sites approaching record low flows for this time of year.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Remaining harvest underway; crop losses due to ongoing drought conditions.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Wildfire activity has been above average in Maine since August.
- 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.

## Other Impacts

- Dry wells can occur during periods of drought and have been reported over the past few weeks.
- Maine EMA Dry Well Survey: https://maine-dry-well-survey-maine.hub.arcgis.com/

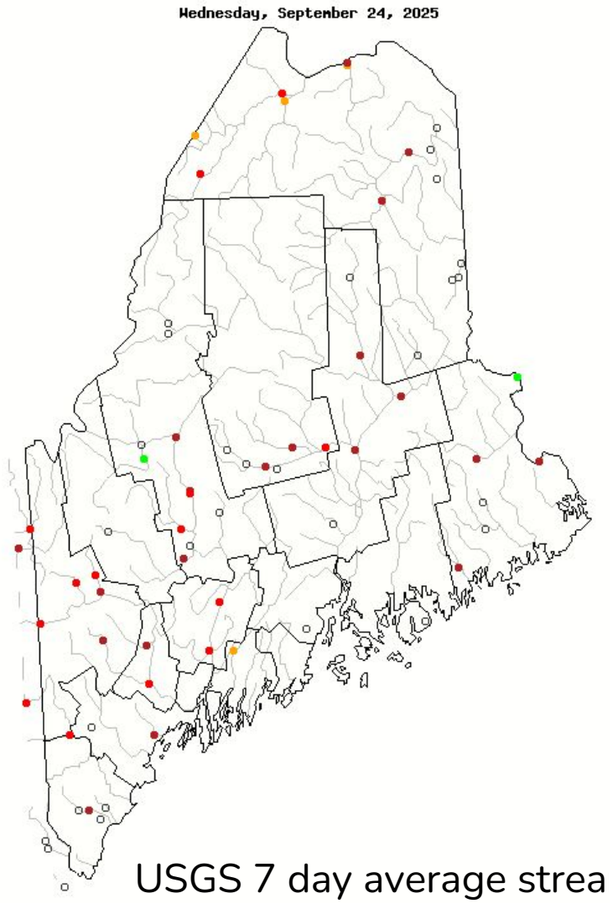
## Mitigation Actions

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

# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

September 25, 2025
11:00 AM EDT

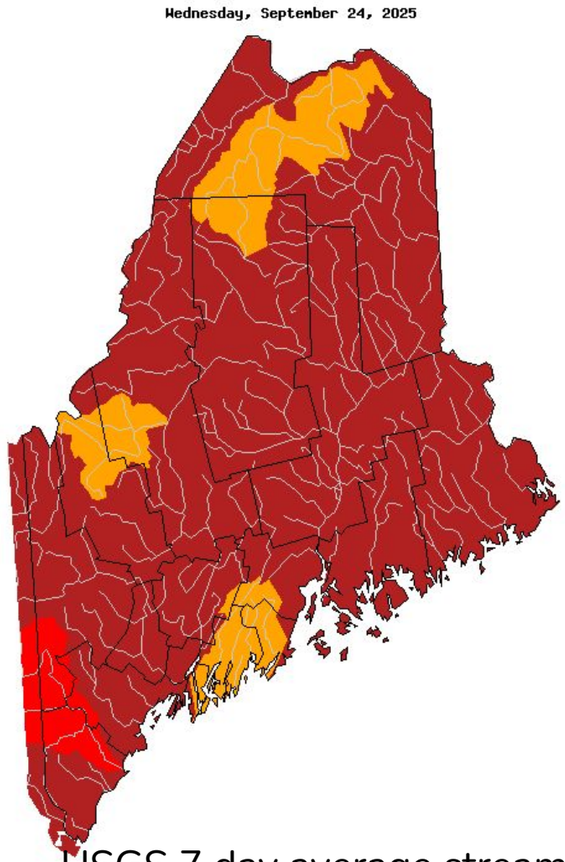
- Majority of the stream flows across the southern, eastern & central service area remain in the “below normal” or “much below normal” categories.
- A few locations are now at record low flows for this time of year.
- Only a few isolated spots are within the “normal” category.




USGS 7 day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow

USGS

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




USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map

USGS

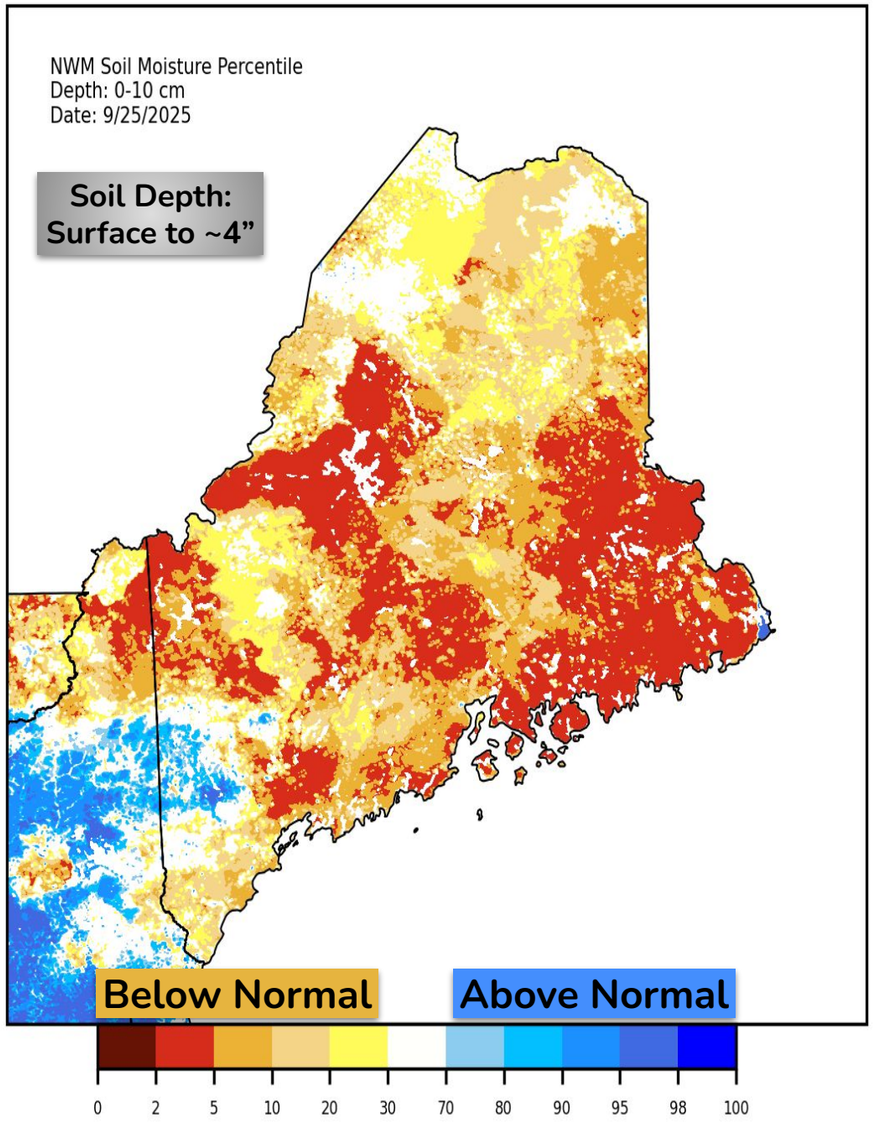
| Explanation - Percentile classes | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | | | |
| Low | <10 | 10-24 | 25-75 | 76-90 | >90 | High | No Data |
| | Much below normal | Below normal | Normal | Above normal | Much above normal | | |

# Agricultural Impacts

September 25, 2025
11:00 AM EDT

- Soil moistures are below normal across Northern Maine. As the influence from previous rainfall dries up.

- Soil moisture is significantly below normal in the Central Highlands, Downeast Maine, Bangor Region & Southern Aroostook County.



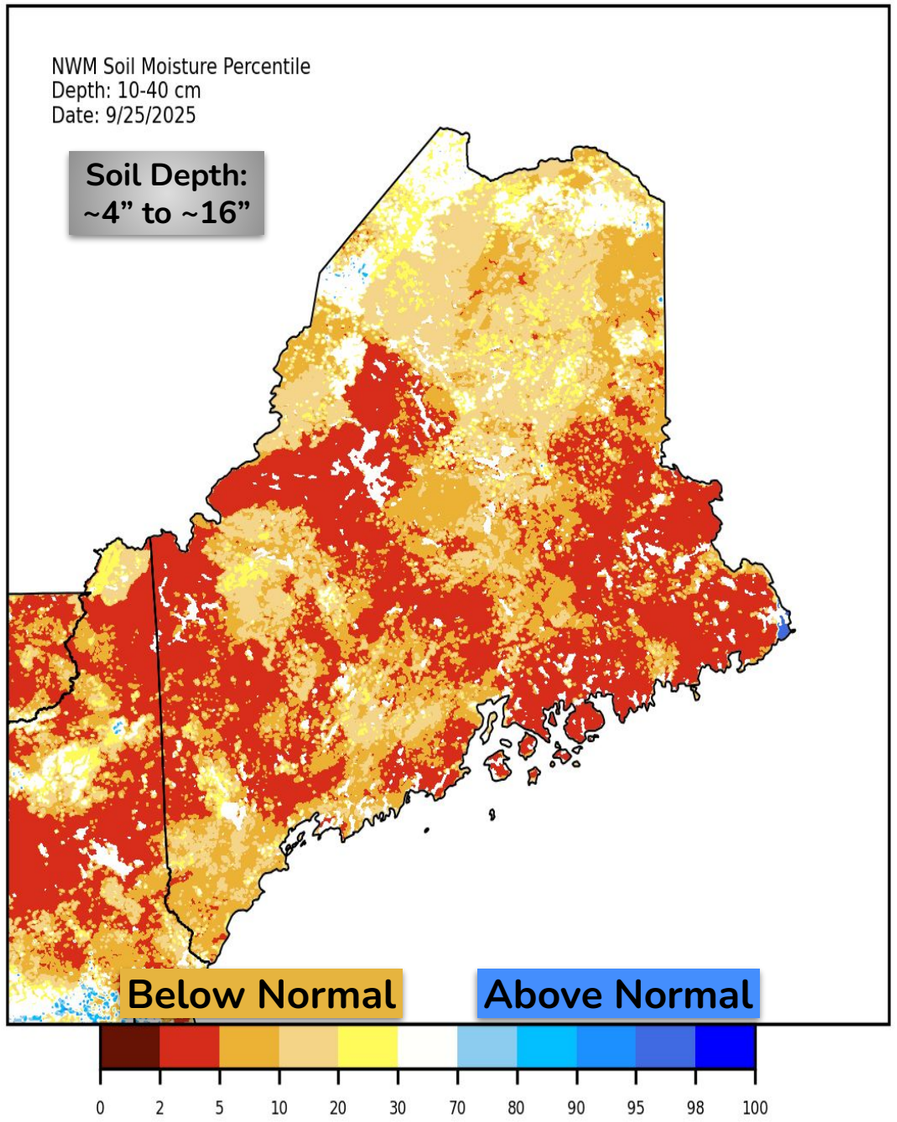




Image Captions:
National Water Model
Soil Moisture Percentile 0-10cm Depth
Soil Moisture Percentile 10-40cm Depth

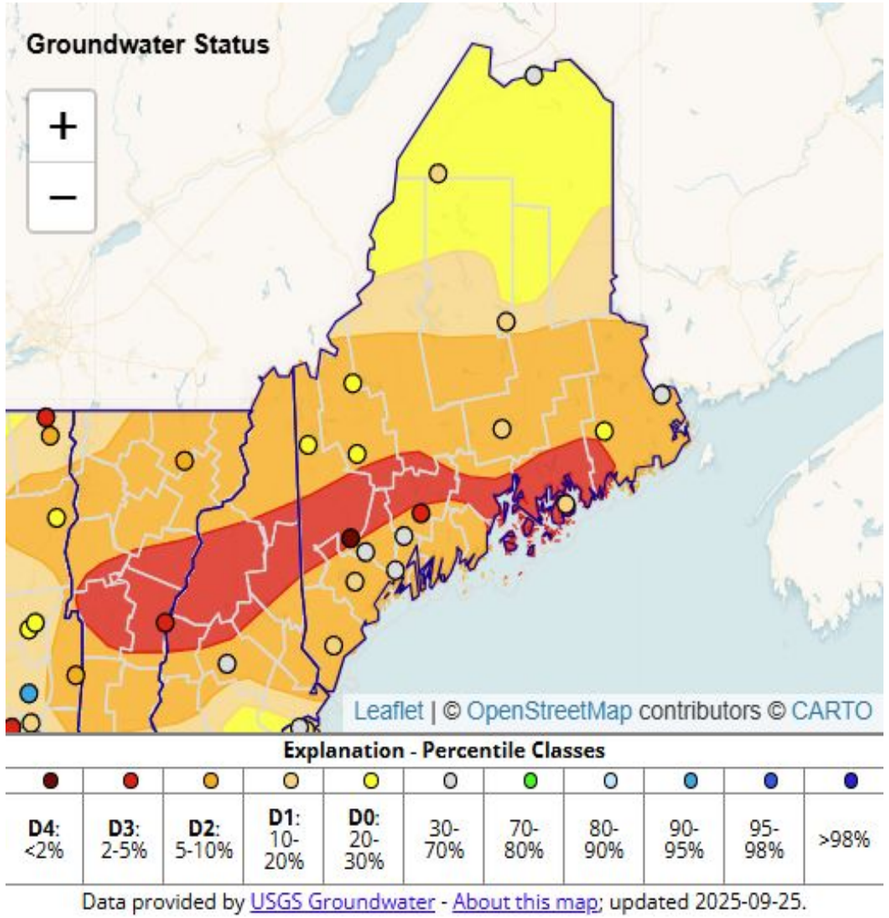
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Caribou, ME

# Groundwater Impacts

September 25, 2025
11:00 AM EDT

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



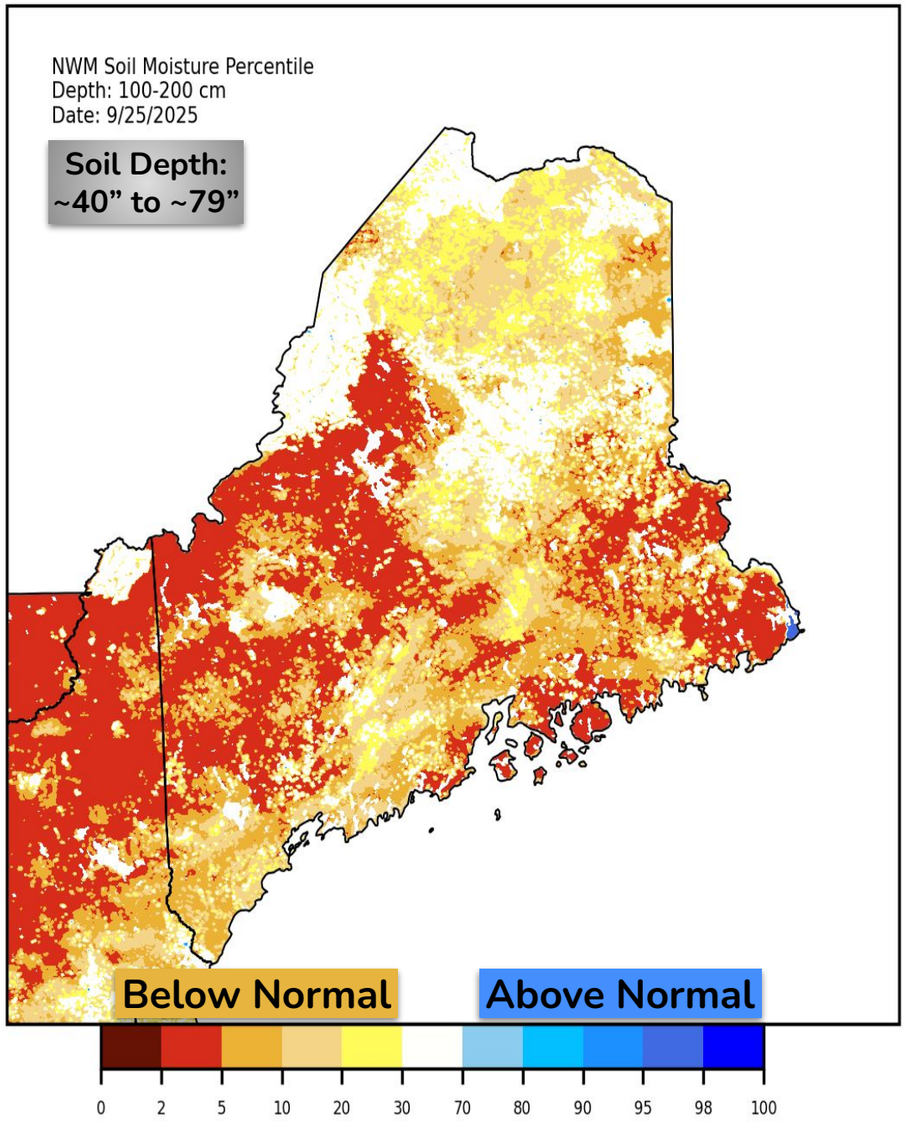




Image Captions:
USGS Groundwater Gauge Status
Soil Moisture Percentile 100-200cm Depth

# Fire Hazard Impacts

September 25, 2025
11:00 AM EDT

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.]

- Moderate fire danger statewide as rainfall & cooler temps have developed.
- Precipitation in the near term will tamper fire weather concerns for a few days.
- Dry and windy weather will worsen drying conditions next week.

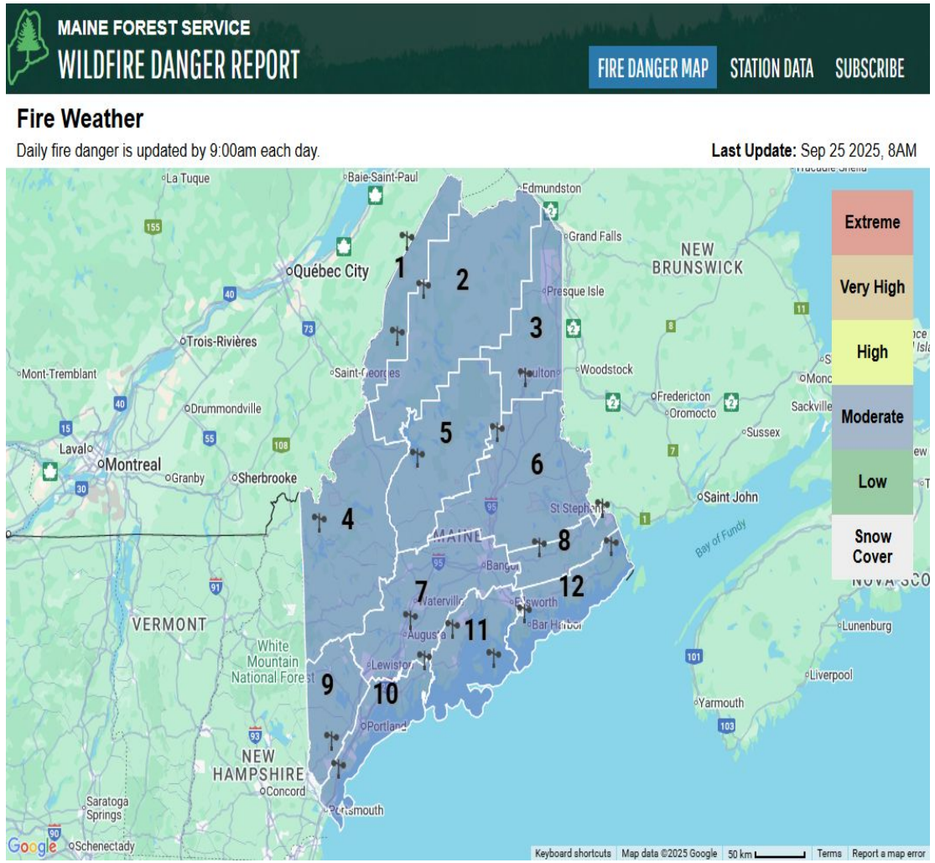



Image Captions:
[Maine Wildfire Danger Report]

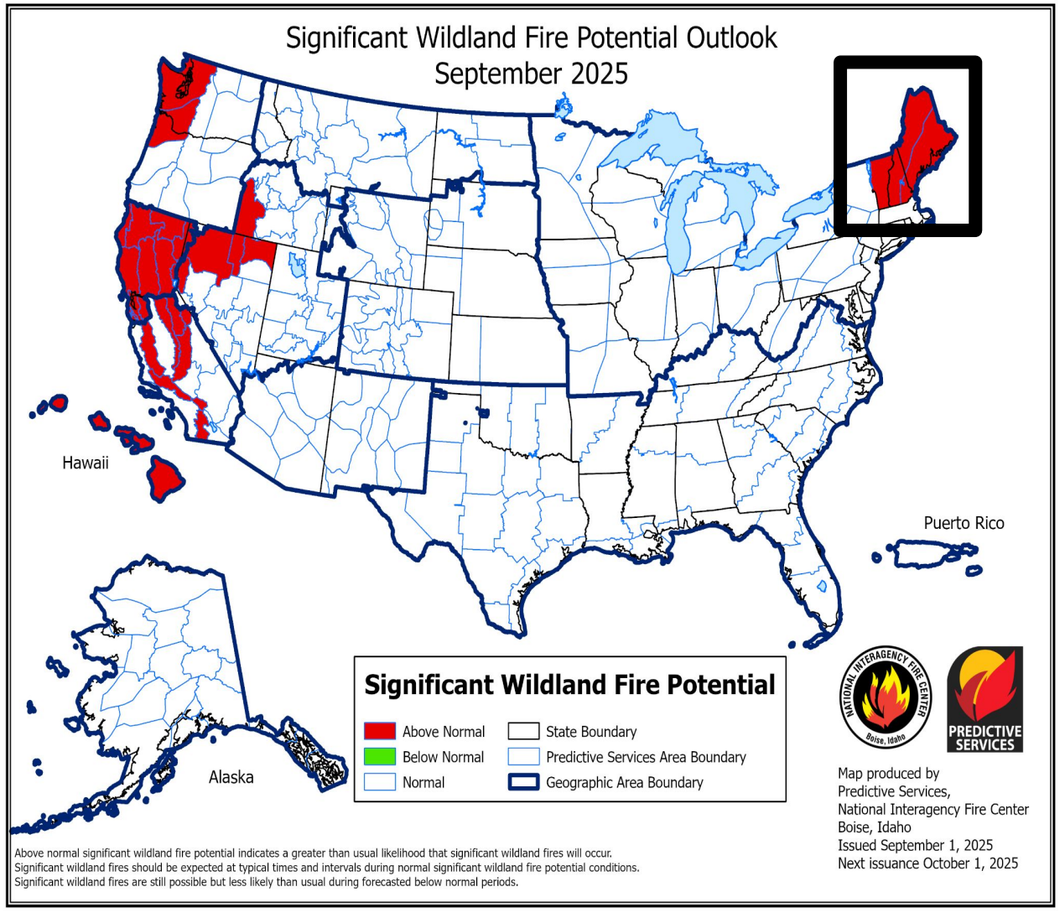



Image Captions:
[NICC September 2025 Significant Fire Potential]

# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

September 25, 2025
11:00 AM EDT

- Low pressure tracks through the state tonight into tomorrow with rainfall.
- Drier weather returns for the weekend into next week with breezy northwest winds.
- Next 7 days features widespread beneficial wetting rains but no drought busting rains.

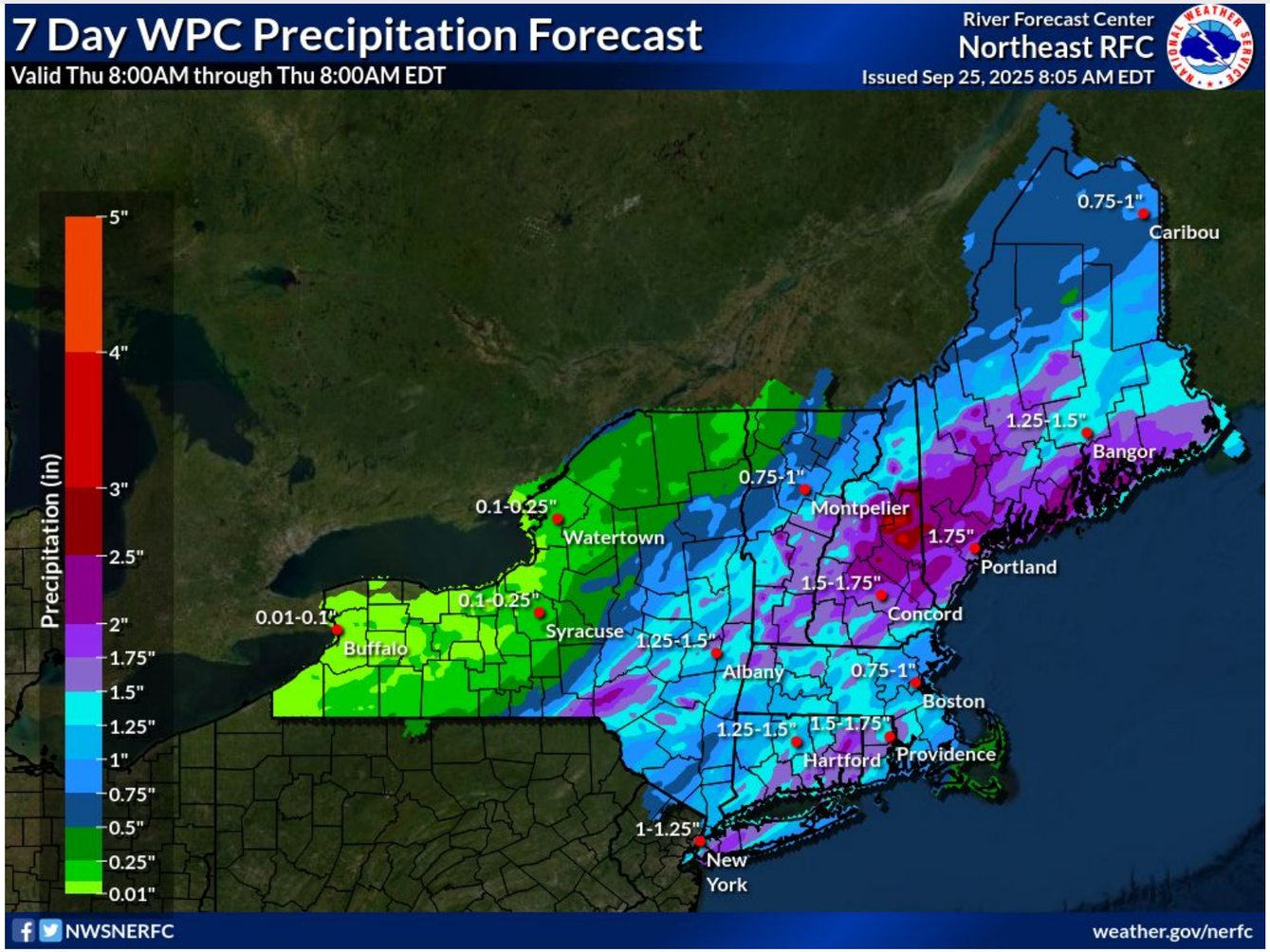



Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid 09/25 8AM to 10/2 8AM

# 8 to 14 Day Outlooks

September 25, 2025
11:00 AM EDT

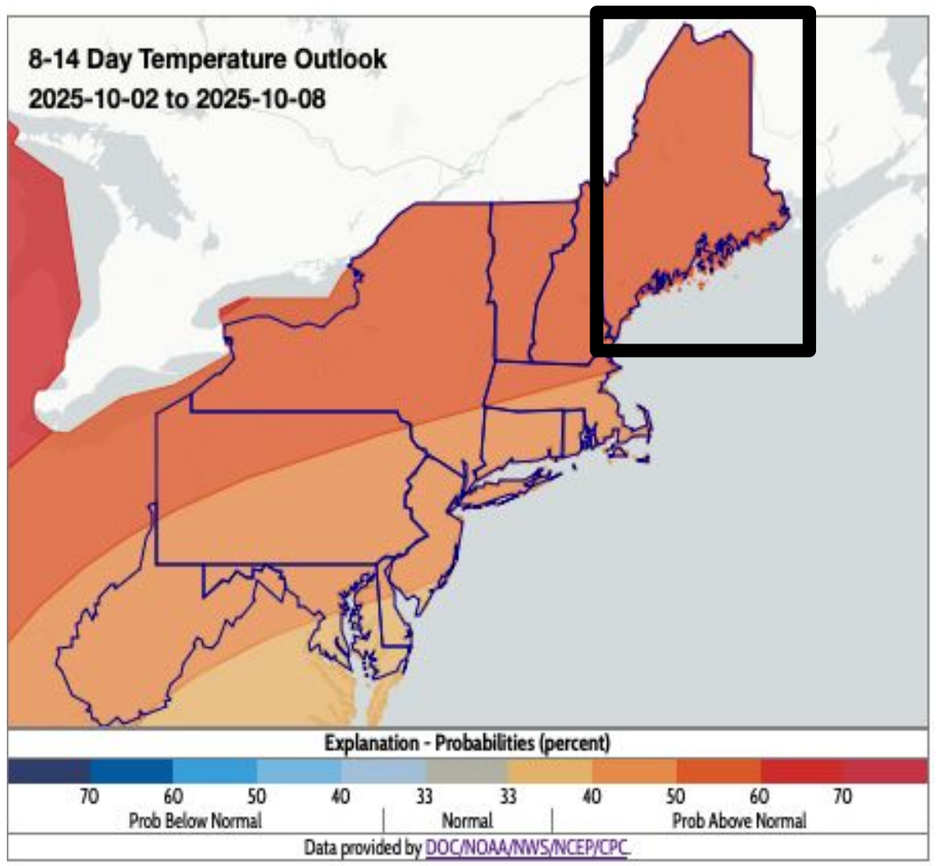
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

## Main Takeaways for the 2 Week Period:

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

## Possible Impact

- Without above average rainfall, precipitation deficit will persist.



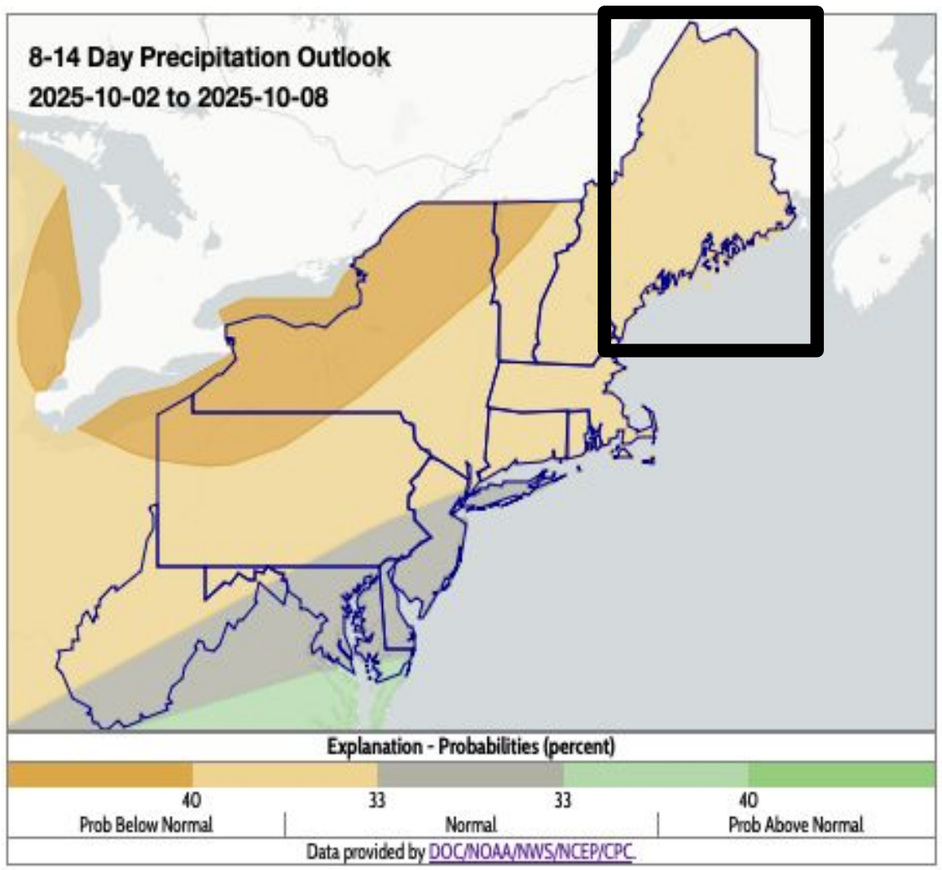




Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook.
Valid Sep 18 to 24.

# Long Range Outlooks

September 25, 2025
11:00 AM EDT

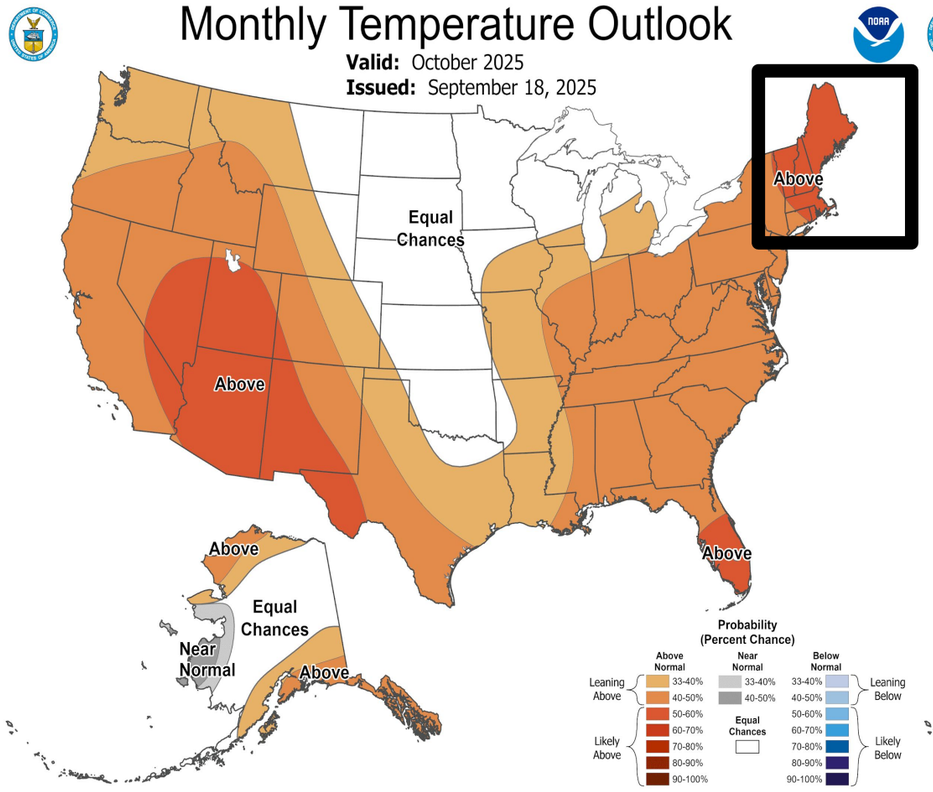
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

## Main Takeaways for the Next Month:

- Strong signal for *Above Normal* temperatures.
- *No strong signals* for either wetter or drier than average precipitation.

## Possible Impact

- High uncertainty on precipitation does not indicate a trend toward drought improvement. This may impact the fall fire weather season as leaves begin to fall.



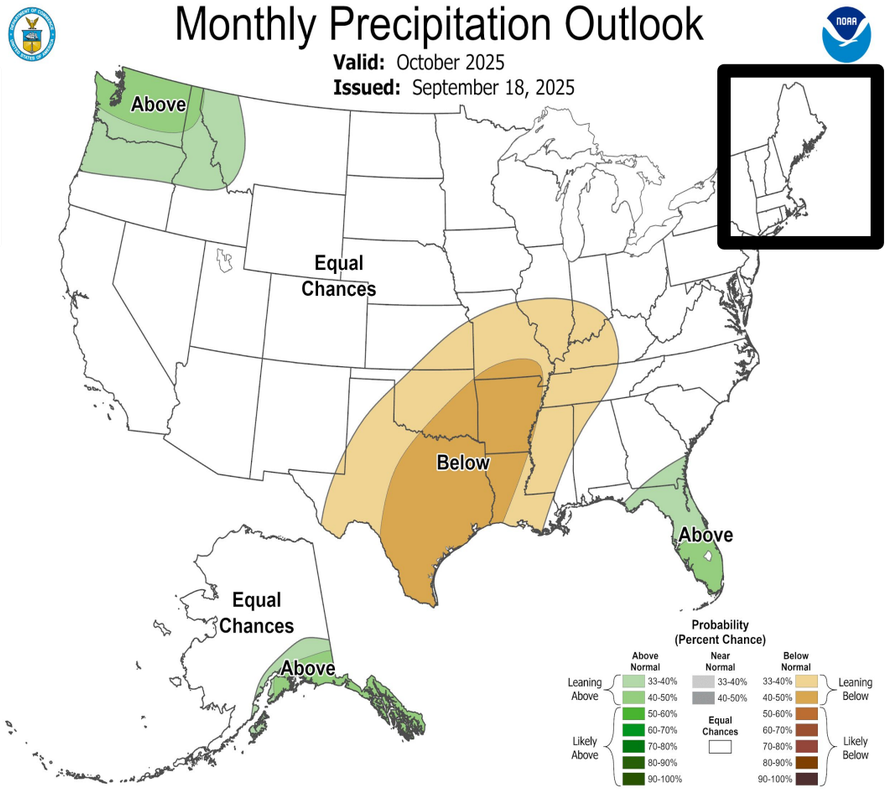




Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center October Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center October Precipitation Outlook.
Valid Oct 2025.

# Main Takeaways

September 25, 2025
11:00 AM 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. Drought worsened with below normal rainfall in September.
- Above normal temperatures during this period 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, and groundwater.
- The latest forecast and outlooks going forward favor limited opportunities for relief through October.

## Contact Information

### Web

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

### Questions? Email

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