

Drought Information Statement for South Texas

Valid October 4, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Corpus Christi, TX

Contact Information: sr-crp.webmaster@noaa.gov

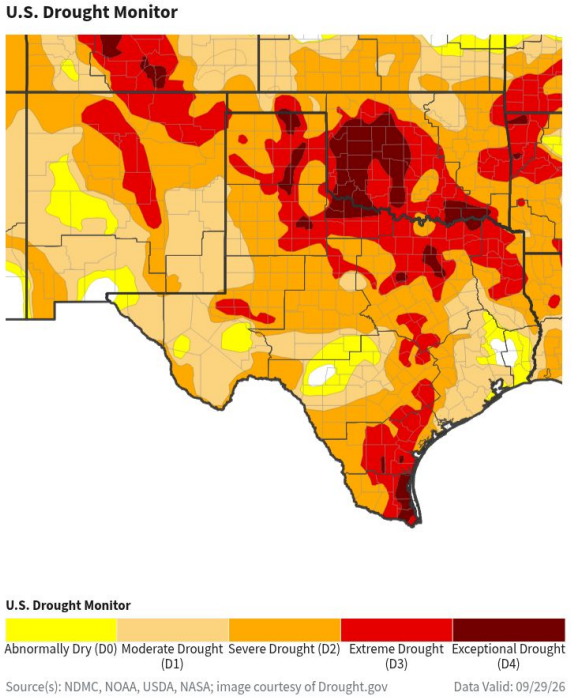
- This product will be updated November 7, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/crp/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates for regional drought status updates.

- **Drought Severity:** Exceptional to Extreme Drought (D3-D4) affects much of South Texas, with D4 in Nueces and Duval counties.
- **Recent Trends:** Drought worsened over the past 4 weeks with a 1-3 class degradation across most of South Texas.
- **Precipitation Deficits:** September rainfall was well below normal (0-25%), with most areas receiving 0.5" or less in 30 days.
- **Elevated Temperatures:** Temperatures averaged 6-8+°F above normal across South Texas over the last 7 to 30 days.
- **Outlook:** Moderate chance (60-70%) of above normal precipitation in October and Drought conditions through December expected to improve or end across South Texas.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for South Texas

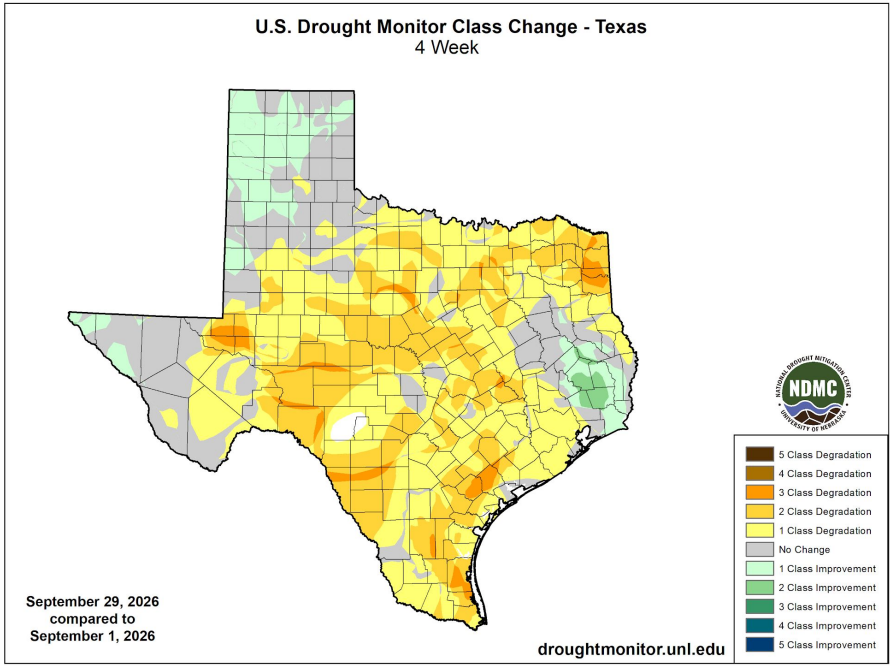
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: Small portions of Nueces and Duval counties.
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Kleberg, Nueces, Jim Wells, Duval, Goliad, portions of Victoria, Refugio, Bee, San Patricio, Live Oak and McMullen counties.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Aransas, Webb, La Salle, and portions of McMullen, Live Oak, Bee, San Patricio, Refugio, Victoria, and Calhoun Counties.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Portions of Calhoun and Victoria Counties.



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for South Texas

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: A 2 - 3 class degradation was observed across much of the Coastal Plains and portions of the Brush Country, and a 1 class degradation across much of the Coastal Bend/Brush Country.
  - Drought Improved: Limited improvement across the Texas Panhandle and east Texas.
  - No Change: A sliver across the Brush Country.

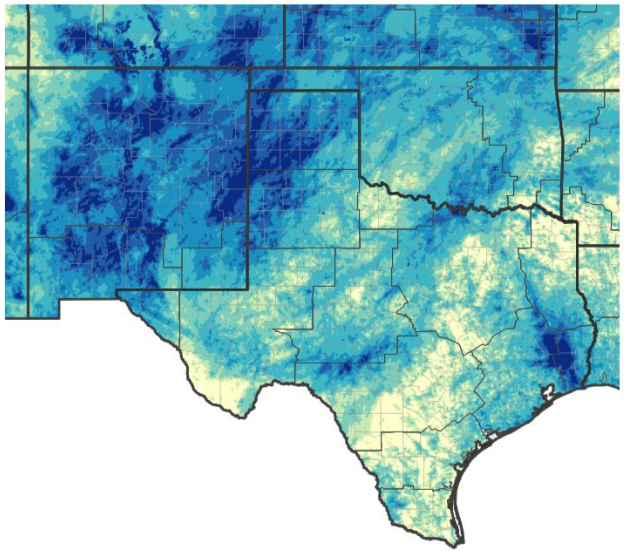


Precipitation

Much of the Coastal Plains, Brush Country and southern Coastal Bend received 0.5” or less of rainfall over the past 30 days. Much of the Victoria Crossroads and scattered localized areas received up to 2.0 inches and a few localized areas received over 2.0 inches.

Most of South Texas was well below normal (0-25%) for precipitation during the month of September.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



Inches of Precipitation

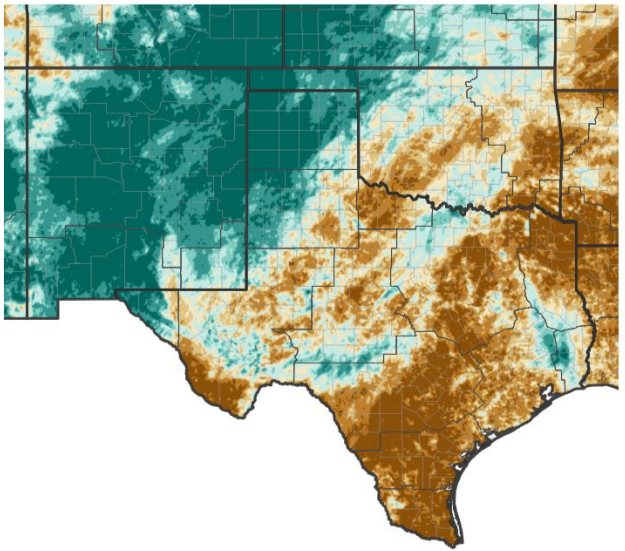
0 0.01 0.5 1 2

2 4 6 8

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/02/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

100% 150% 200% 300%

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

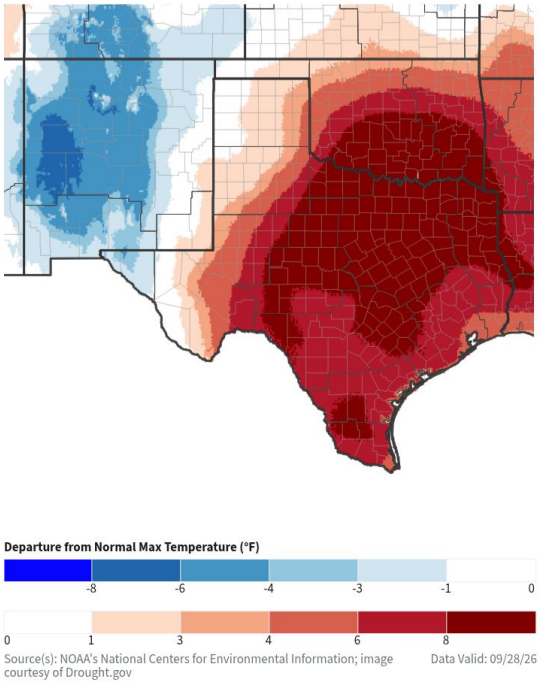
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Temperature

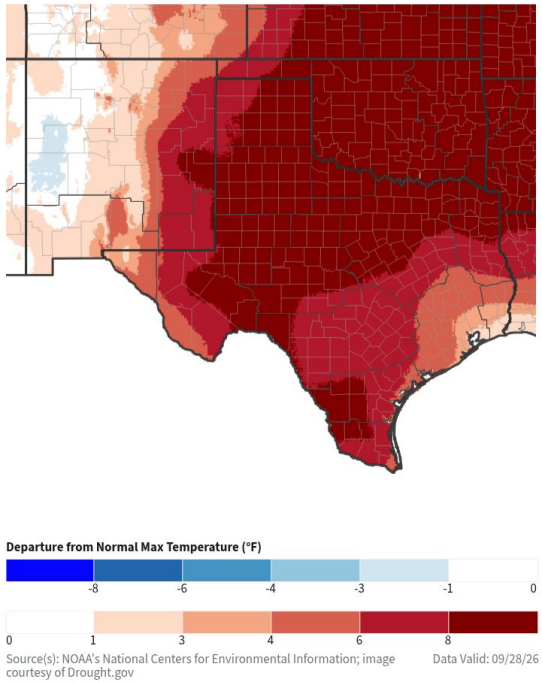
Over the last week, temperatures have been generally 6-8°F above normal across South Texas with a southern portion of the Brush Country exceeding 8°F above normal.

Over the last 30 days, temperatures have generally been 6-8+°F above normal across South Texas.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Varying levels of water restrictions are in force across much of South Texas.
- Currently, the combined storage levels of Lake Corpus Christi and Choke Canyon are 39.5% as of Oct 3rd compared to 41.1% one month ago. Lake Corpus Christi is currently at 84.7% and Choke Canyon is at 22.0%.

Agricultural Impacts (https://agrilifetoday.tamu.edu/2026/09/29/texas-peanut-growers-adjust-to-market-and-weather-in-2026/)

- Coastal Bend: Hot, dry conditions persisted, with weekly temperatures still in the high 90s. A few small showers greened up scattered areas, but no widespread rain fell. Topsoil and subsoil moisture levels were very short to short, and fall fieldwork was delayed by dry, hard soil. Cotton was in poor to good condition, and harvest was nearly complete in much of the district, though late-planted acres were expected to carry harvest into late October. Gins ran around the clock, and round modules were arriving at gins. Corn and rice harvests finished. Sorghum was in poor to good condition, and soybeans were very poor to fair. The last of the cotton and sorghum plantings may not make a crop and could be zeroed out. Soil preparation for winter pasture continued, though some producers slowed because of high diesel prices. Pasture and rangeland conditions were very poor to good and continued to decline. Some pastures with low stocking rates were holding in fair condition. Haying was slow and needed rain to finish the season strong. Livestock conditions were very poor to excellent, and hay supplementation continued for some herds.

- South: Hot, dry and humid conditions persisted, with temperatures around the 100-degree mark most days before moderating late in the week. Scattered and spotty showers reached parts of the district; however, most of the district saw no measurable rain. Topsoil and subsoil moisture levels were very short to adequate. Much of the Lower Rio Grande Valley remained in extreme to exceptional drought. Cotton was in fair to good condition, and harvest was complete in the Lower Rio Grande Valley and continued elsewhere. Ginning had concluded in some areas. Corn and sorghum harvests were complete. Peanuts were in good condition, maturing under irrigation, and early planted acres were harvested. High fuel costs delayed tillage and left farmers waiting on a rain to begin fall fieldwork. Cool-season vegetable planting began on limited irrigated acreage, and some producers used herbicides to keep fields clean ahead of rainfall. Hay fields remained under irrigation ahead of the next cutting. Pasture and rangeland conditions were very poor to good and continued a steady decline, with irrigated improved pastures the exception. Prickly pear was yellowing and wilting. Livestock conditions were very poor to good. Stock tank levels ran low, and producers hauled water and feed. Supplemental feeding of hay, cubes and protein continued at a high rate for both livestock and wildlife, and hay and feed were in great demand. Cattle markets were mixed and depended largely on the auction barn. Calf prices increased 10-20 cents per pound for lighter calves and 2-5 cents per pound for heavier calves, while slaughter cow and bull prices declined another 5-10 cents per pound. Prices held steady across all classes at some markets and decreased at others. Whitetail bucks began scraping velvet and were approaching hard antler stage.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Fire Hazard Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Other Impacts

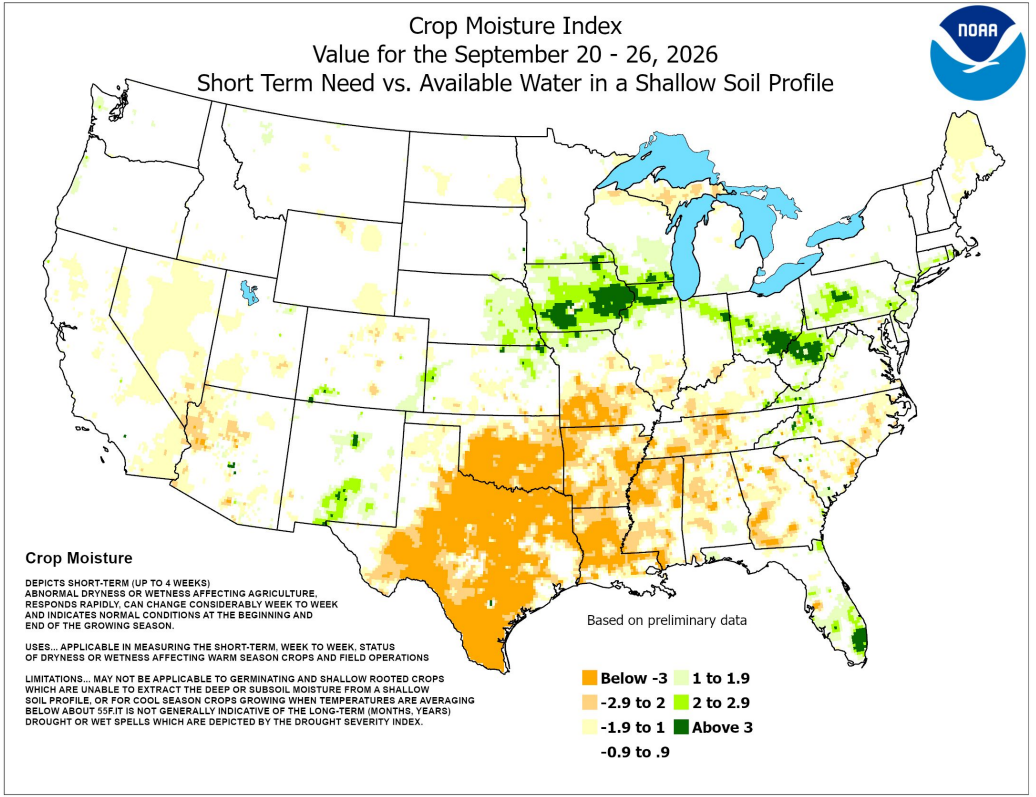
- Beeville Stage 4 Amended Water Restrictions continue (08/27/26) (https://www.beevilletx.gov/news/post/11198/)
- Corpus Christi, Portland, Aransas Pass, Mathis under stage 1 water restrictions (https://www.corpuschristitx.gov/news/posts/city-manager-peter-zanoni-declares-stage-1-water-restrictions/)
- Kingsville returns to stage 1 water restrictions (09/14/2026) (https://stwa.org/)
- Laredo under stage 2 water restrictions (https://laredoutilities.com/water-conservation-program/)
- Victoria under stage 1 water restrictions (https://www.victoriatx.gov/m/NewsFlash/Home/Detail/2222)
- Other South Texas communities under restrictions can be found here

Mitigation Actions

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

Agricultural Impacts

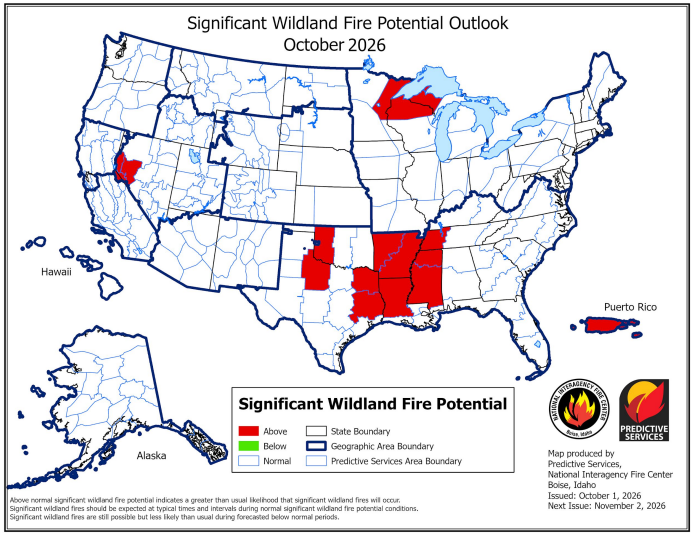
- Crop Moisture Index for South Texas is below -3.

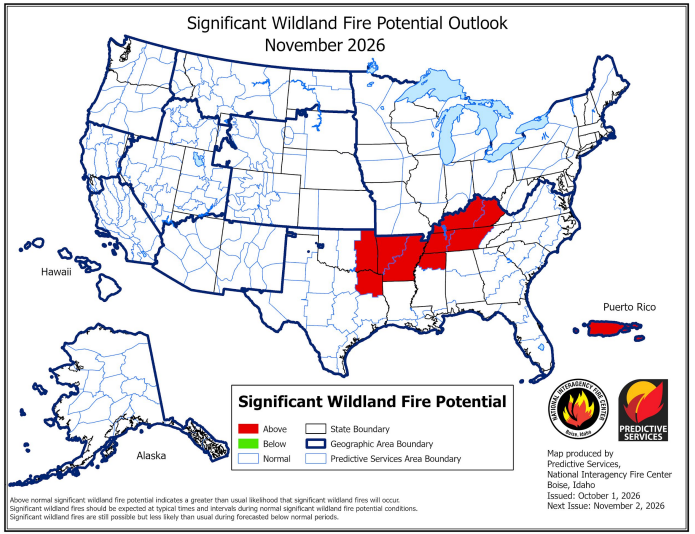


Fire Hazard Impacts

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

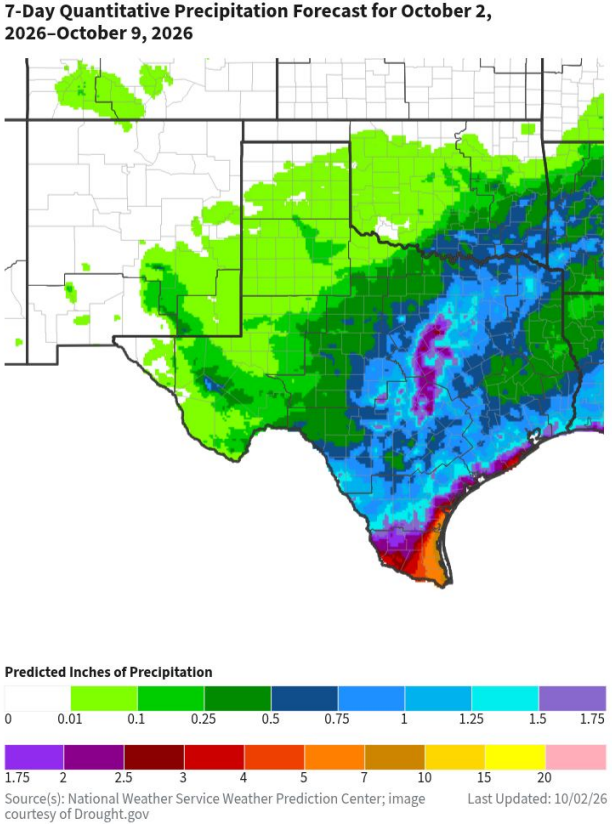
- The Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for October and November is forecast to be normal across South Texas and much of the state.





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Most of South Texas will see 0.75-1.25 in. with the Coastal Bend from under 2.0 inches to around 5-7 inches across the southern Coastal Bend of rainfall through October 9th.

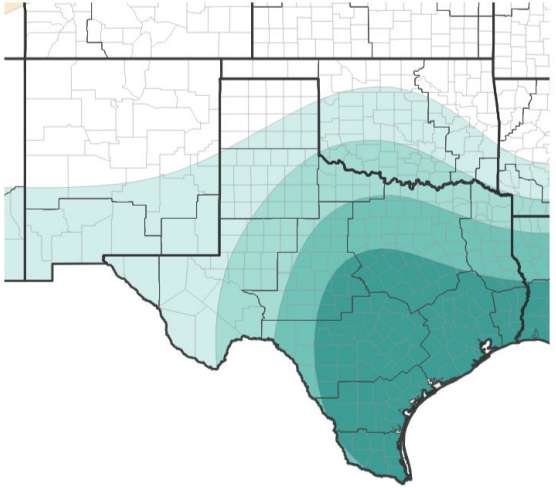


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Precipitation outlook for October across all of South Texas has a 60-70% of having above normal chances for precipitation.
- Temperature outlook for October across most of South Texas has a 33-40% chance of having above-normal temperatures.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for October 1, 2026–October 31, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

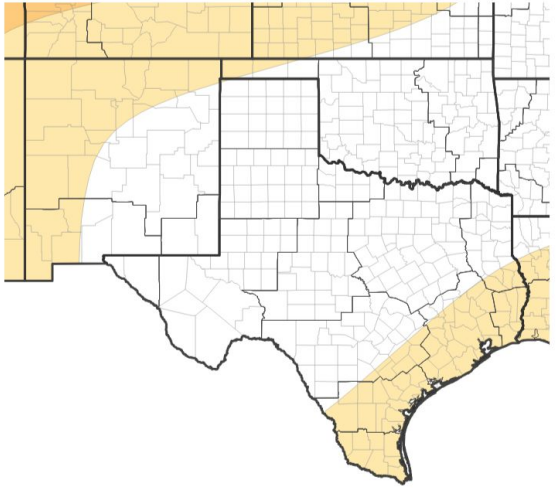
33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 09/30/26

Monthly Temperature Outlook for October 1, 2026–October 31, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures

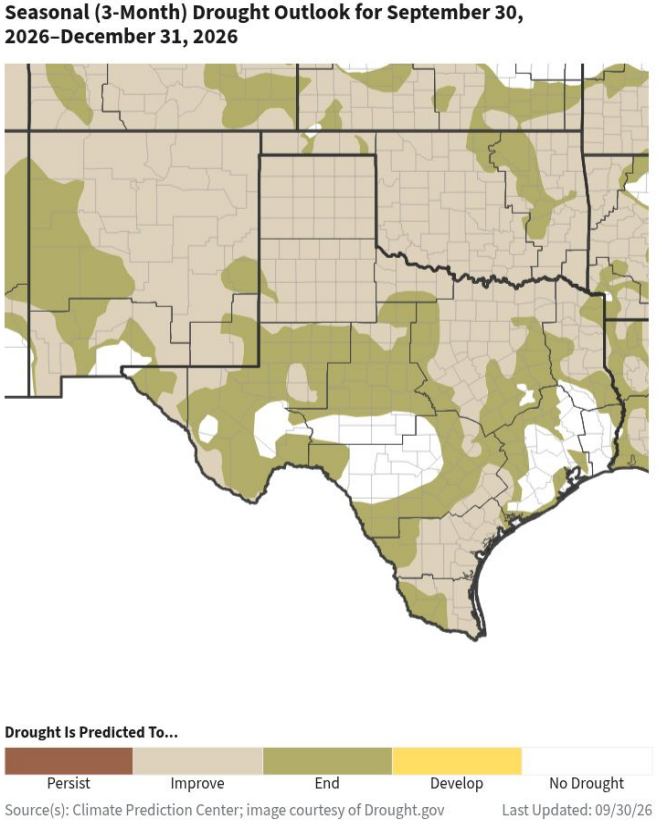
33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 09/30/26

Drought Outlook

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

- Drought across South Texas is forecast to improve or end through December.



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