



Drought Information Statement for Central Pennsylvania

Valid **March 13, 2026**

Issued by: National Weather Service State College

Contact Information: ctp.stormreports@noaa.gov

- The next update to this Drought Information Statement will be issued by **March 27, 2026**.
 - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
 - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/CTP/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/> for regional drought status updates.
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- Central Pennsylvania has seen some beneficial precipitation recently, and some short-term drought recovery has been observed.
 - However, long-term precipitation deficits remain in many areas.
 - The outlook through late May calls for existing drought to largely persist.

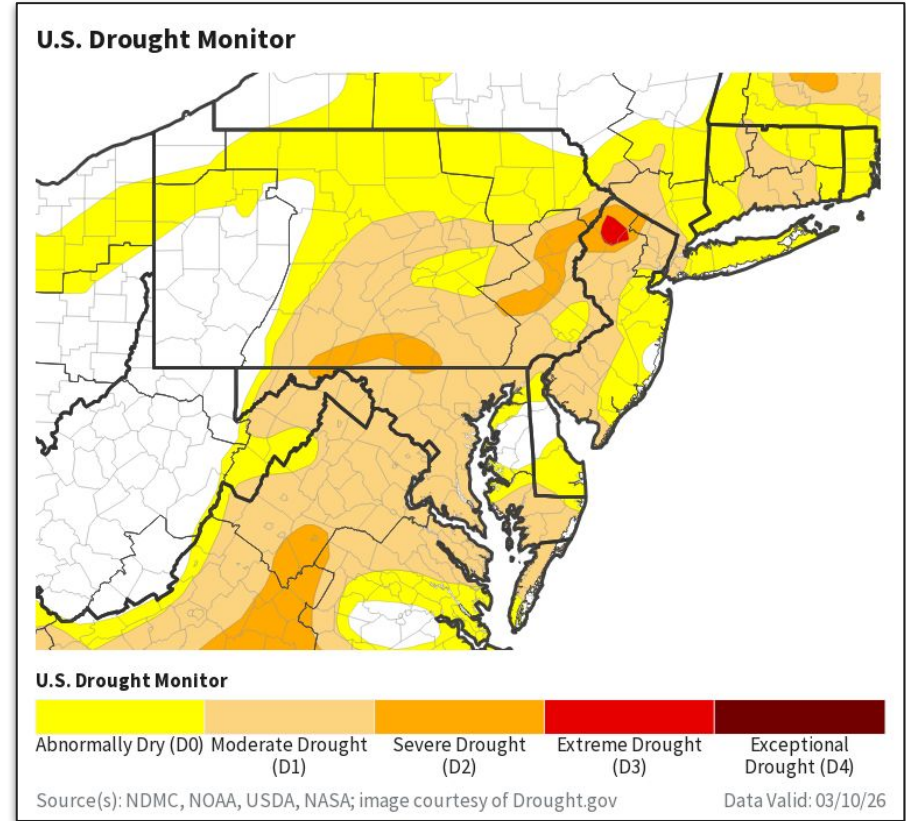




U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought Intensity and Extent for Central Pennsylvania:
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Bedford, Fulton, Franklin, Adams
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Clinton, Lycoming, Centre, Union, Snyder, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Schuylkill, Blair, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Juniata, Perry, Dauphin, Lebanon, Somerset, Cumberland, York, Lancaster
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: Warren, McKean, Potter, Tioga, Sullivan, Elk, Cameron, Clearfield, Cambria

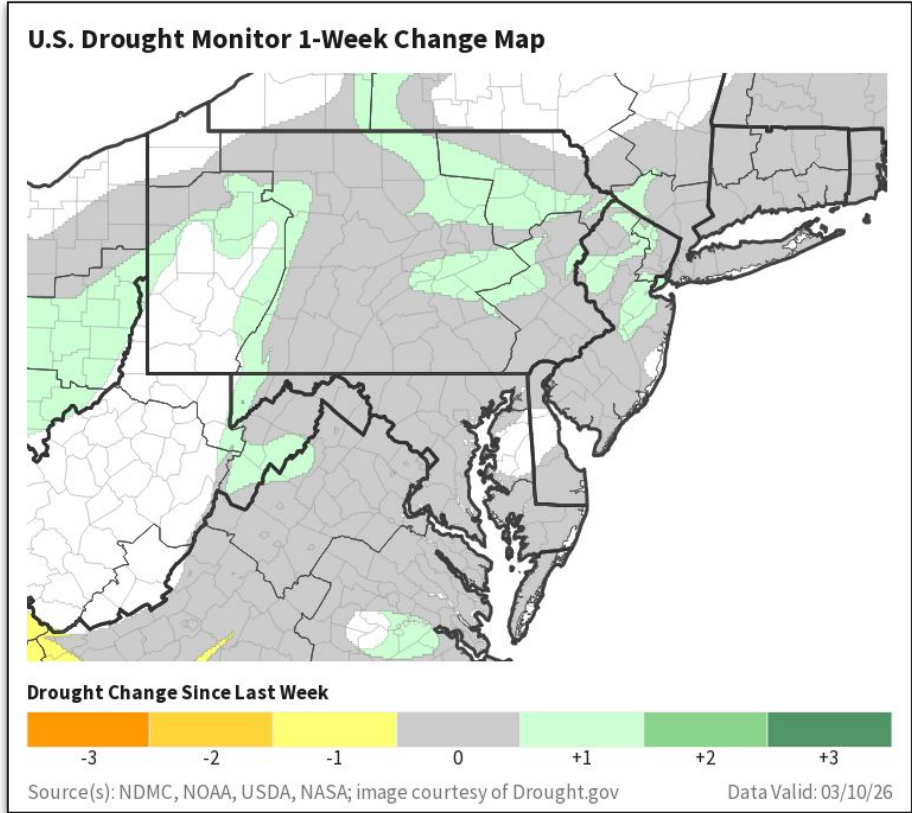




One-Week Change in Drought Intensity

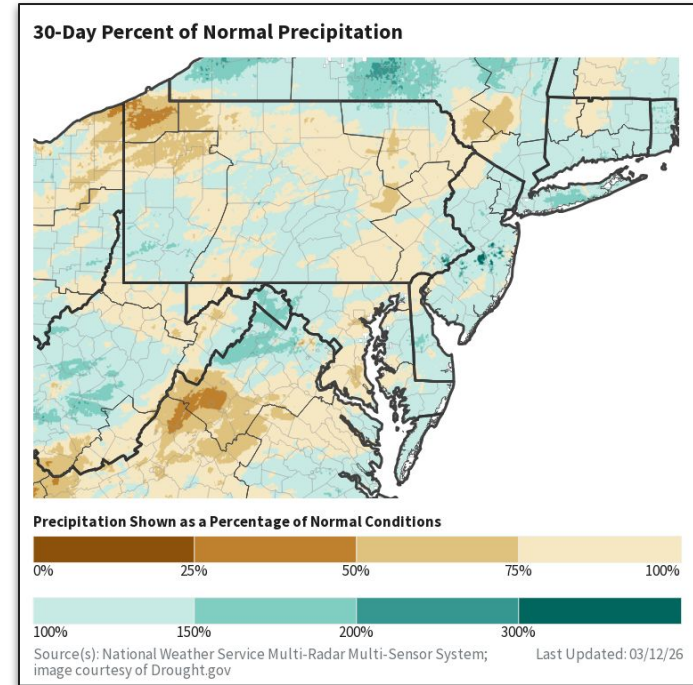
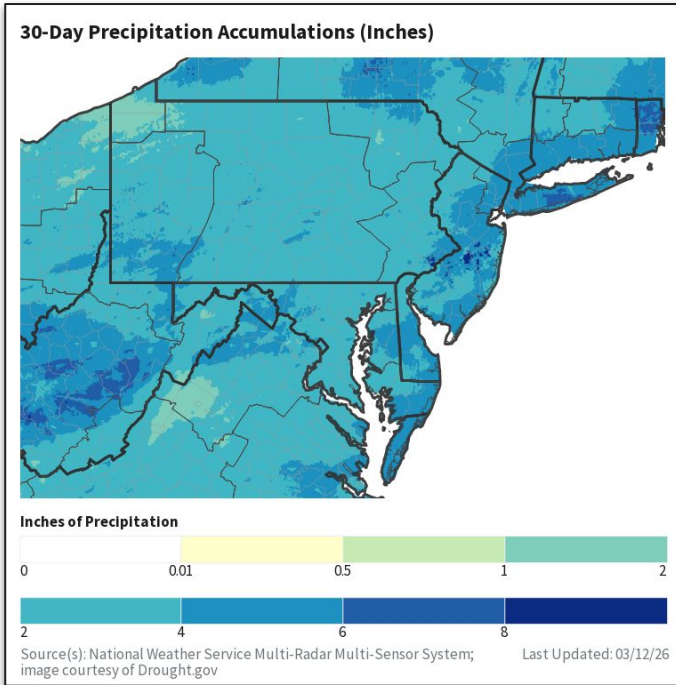
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#)

- One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
 - Some additional improvement was observed over the past 7 days across portions of the western highlands as well as portions of east-central and northeastern Pennsylvania.





30-Day Precipitation and Percent of Normal

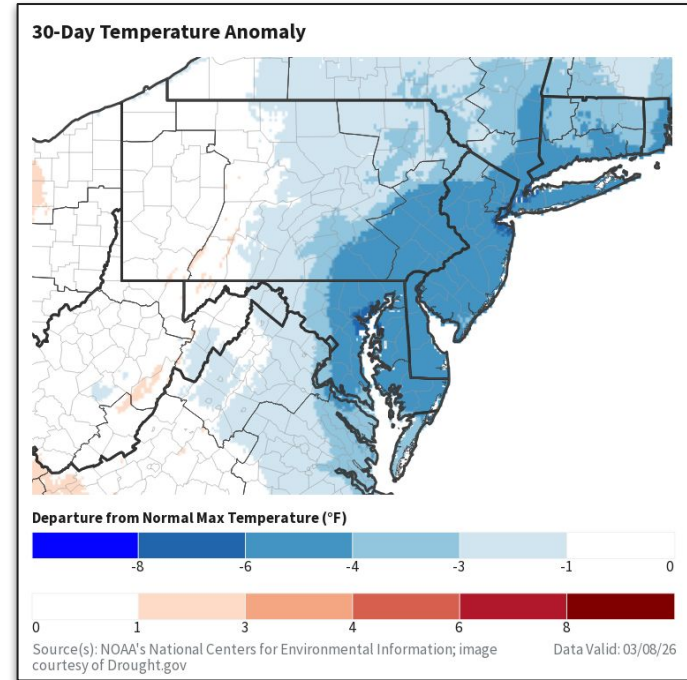
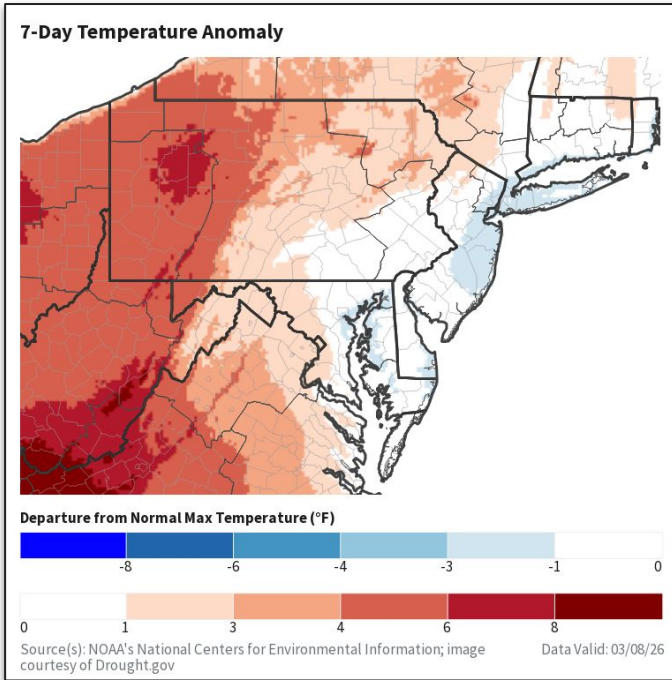


- Most of central Pennsylvania experienced near average precipitation over the past 30 days. The exceptions are Warren and Schuylkill counties, which were solidly below average.





7-Day & 30-Day Temperature Anomalies



- 7-day temperature anomalies were above average across all of central Pennsylvania outside of the Lower Susquehanna Valley. 30-day temperature anomalies were near to below average areawide.





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Snow cover and river ice have largely melted across central Pennsylvania. Precipitation has increased recently, although long-term precipitation deficits remain in many areas.

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture conditions remain abnormally dry across far south-central Pennsylvania, with near to above average soil moisture observed elsewhere. See slide 8 for details on regional soil moisture.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- The significant wildfire potential outlook remains near average across Pennsylvania for March 2026. See slide 9 for a map and details.

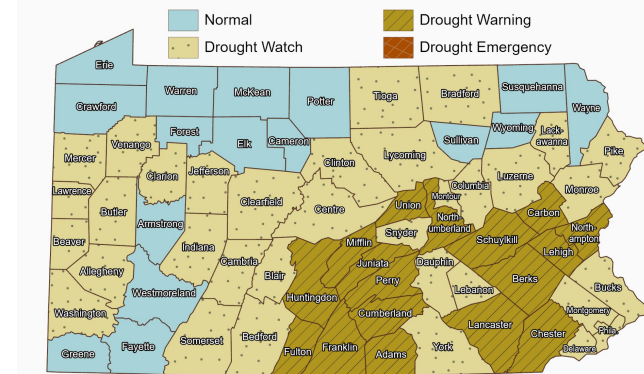
Other Impacts

- As of March 2, 2026, there were no county burn bans in effect across Pennsylvania.

Mitigation Actions

- There are both voluntary and mandatory water restrictions in place for some communities across central Pennsylvania. Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

Latest PA drought designations:



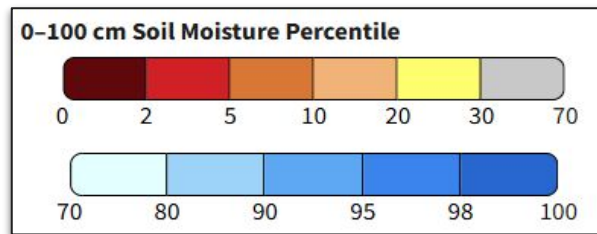
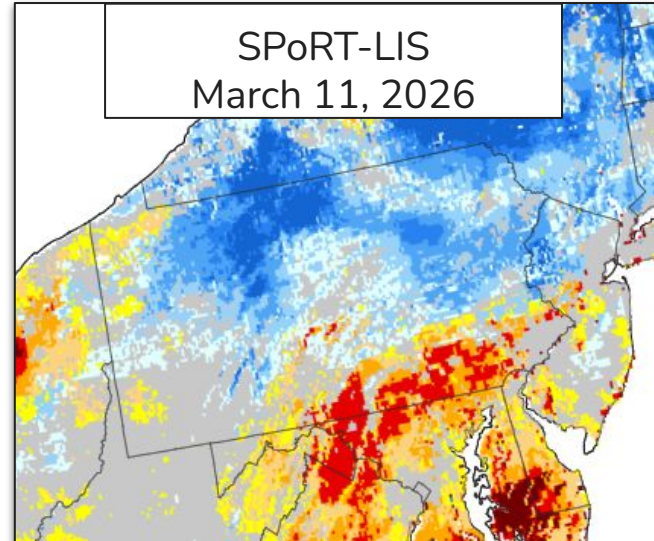
The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has issued a Drought Watches and Warnings for several central Pennsylvania counties. (The NWS does not declare Drought Watches or Warnings.)





Agricultural Conditions

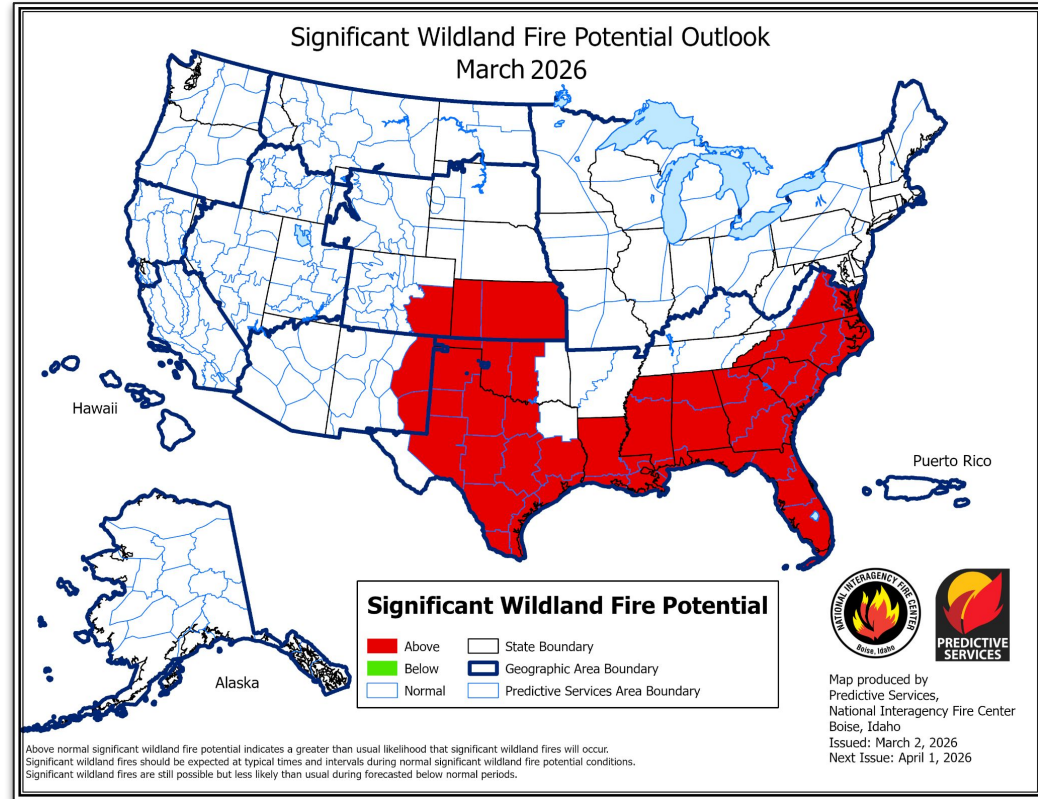
- 0-100 centimeter soil moisture remains below well below average across south-central Pennsylvania, while soil moisture across the remainder of the commonwealth is average to above average.





Fire Hazard Impacts

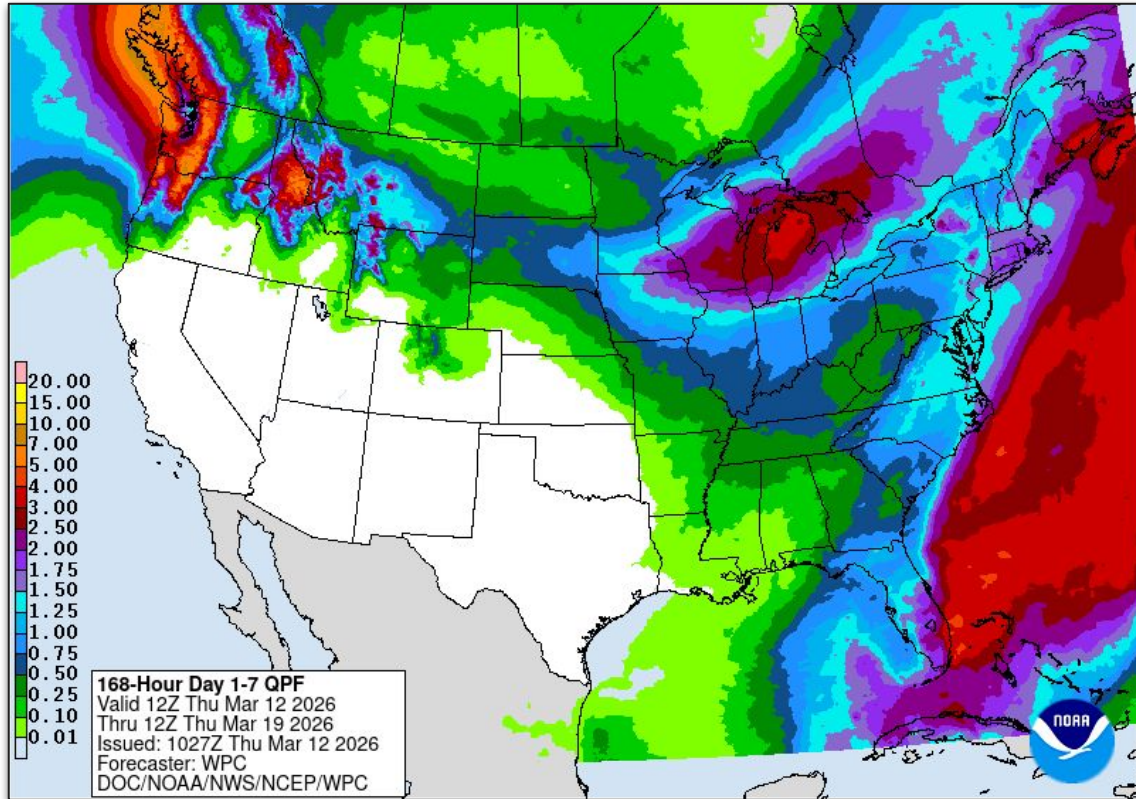
- The significant wildfire potential outlook remains near average across Pennsylvania for March 2026.





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

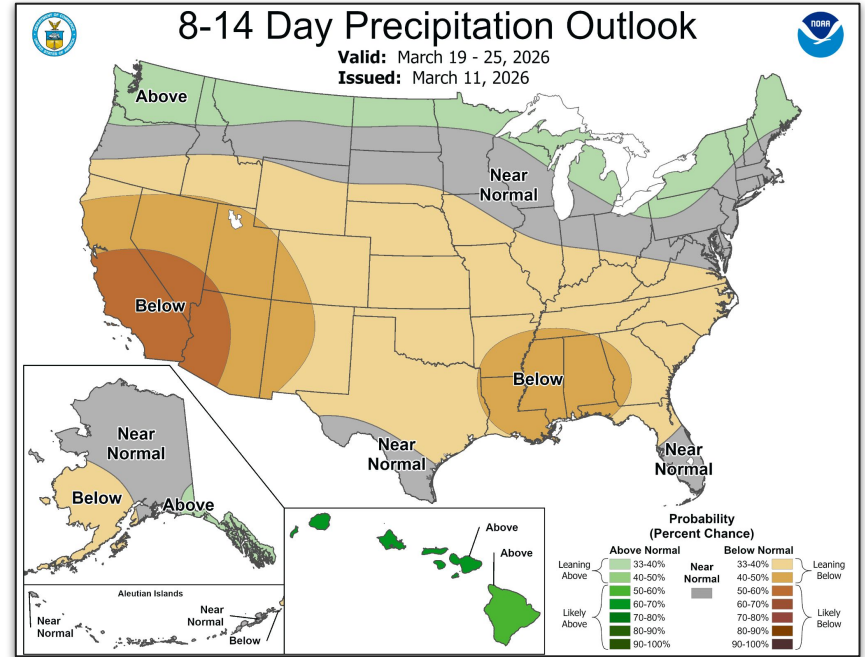
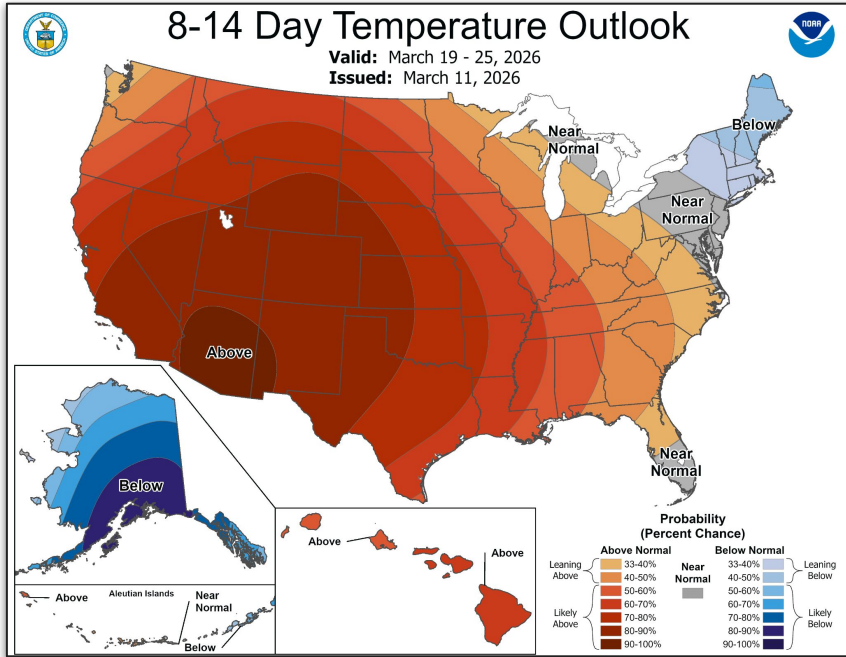
- 7-day precipitation is expected to range from 0.25-0.50" across southwestern Pennsylvania to 1.25-1.50" across eastern Pennsylvania.





8-14 Day Outlook

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



- 8 to 14 day temperatures are expected to be near average across Central Pennsylvania, while precipitation is expected to be near to above average.

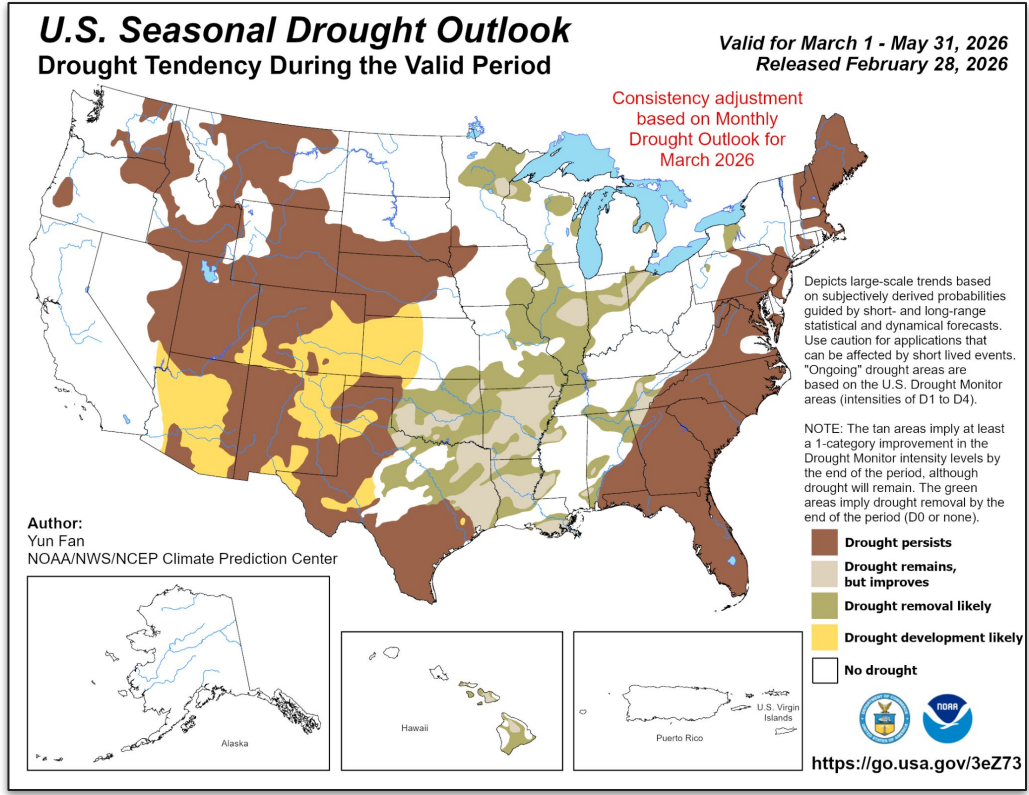




Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are largely expected to persist across much of central and eastern Pennsylvania through the end of May 2026.



Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Central Pennsylvania