



Drought Information Statement for Central Pennsylvania

Valid **April 24, 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 **May 8, 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.

- Recent rainfall has continued to produce short-term improvement across Central Pennsylvania, although long-term dryness persists across portions of the south.
- The Climate Prediction Center's seasonal drought outlook calls for existing drought conditions across south-central Pennsylvania to largely persist through at least mid-summer.

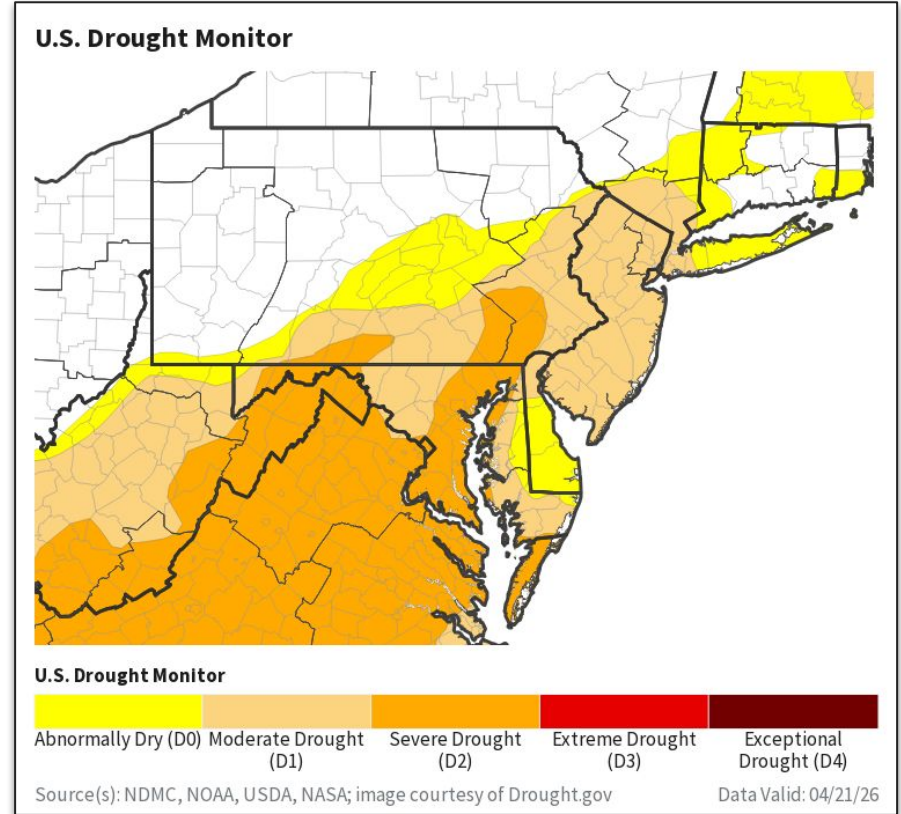




U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought Intensity and Extent for Central Pennsylvania:
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Bedford, Fulton, Franklin, Lancaster
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Schuylkill, Huntingdon, Dauphin, Lebanon, Cumberland, Adams, York
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: Centre, Union, Snyder, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia, Somerset, Mifflin, Juniata, Perry

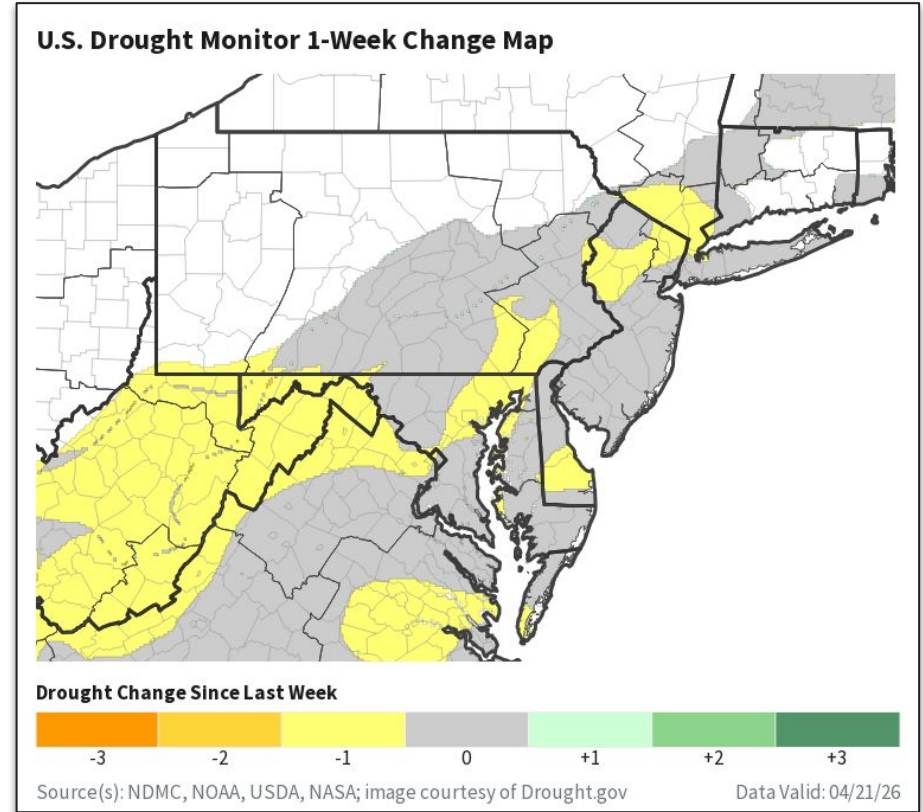




One-Week Change in Drought Intensity

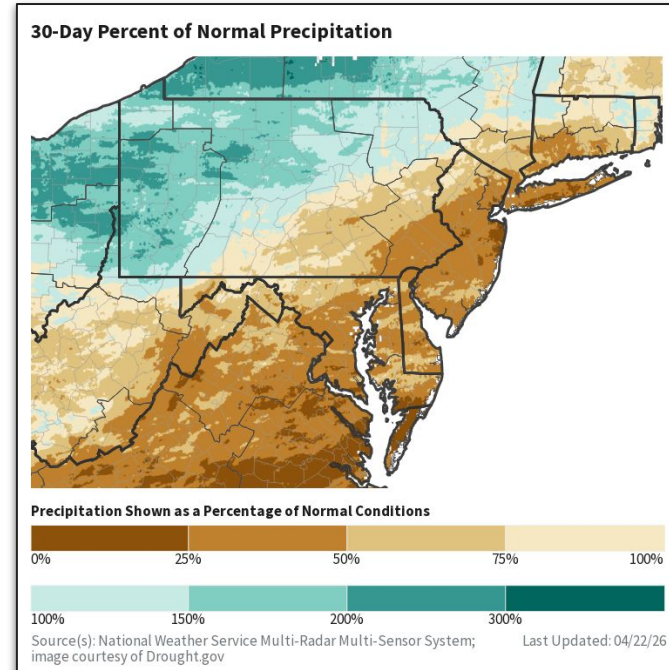
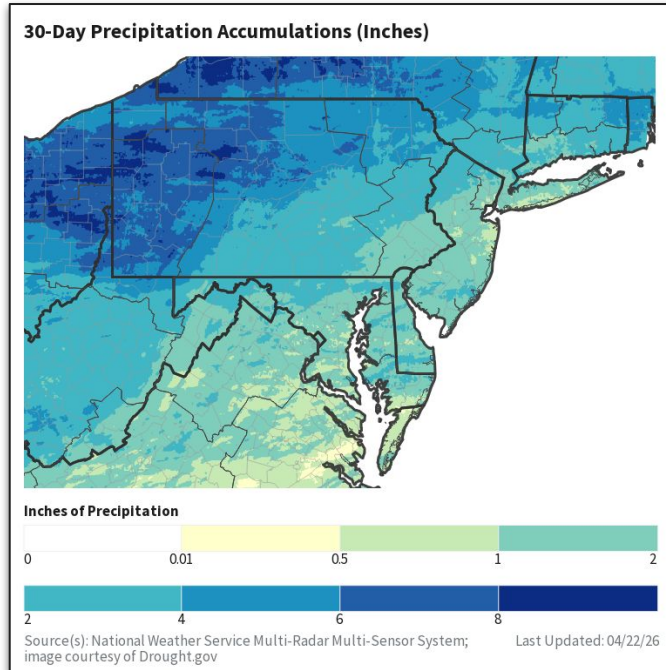
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#)

- One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
 - Conditions continued to deteriorate across portions of south-central Pennsylvania over the past week.





30-Day Precipitation and Percent of Normal

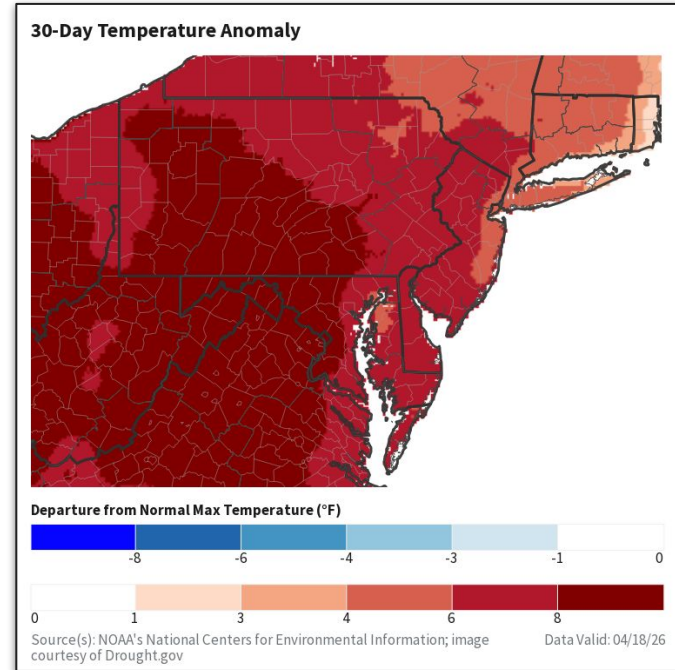
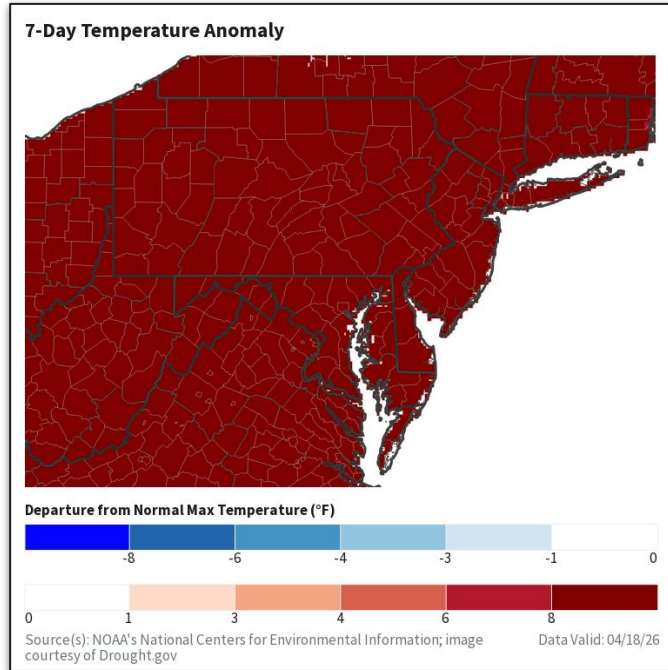


- Precipitation over the past 30 days has ranged from well above average across northern and western Pennsylvania to well below average across the far southeast.





7-Day & 30-Day Temperature Anomalies



- Both 7-day and 30-day temperatures anomalies were well above average statewide.





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Long-term precipitation deficits persist across south-central PA, with conditions continuing to gradually deteriorate.

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture ranged from near average across north-central Pennsylvania to below average across far south-central Pennsylvania. See slide 7 for details on regional soil moisture.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- The significant wildfire potential outlook remains near average across Pennsylvania for May 2026. See slide 8 for a map and details.

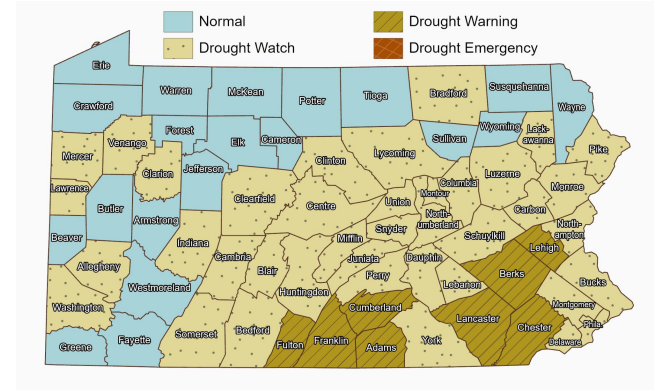
Other Impacts

- As of April 20, 2026, there were no countywide burn bans in effect across central 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:

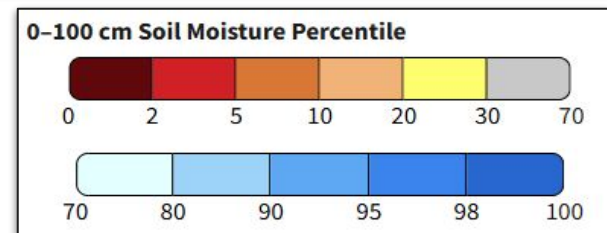
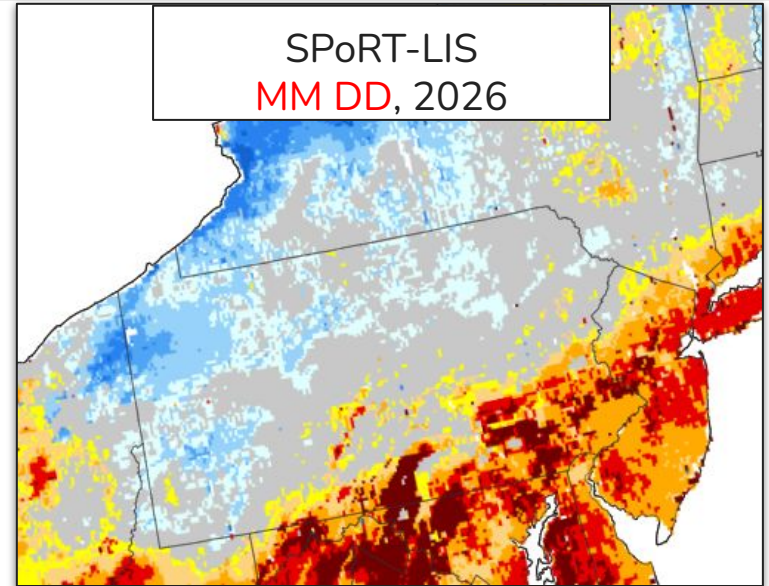


The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has issued a Drought Watches and Warnings for several central Pennsylvania counties. (The NWS does not declare Drought Watches or Warnings.)



Agricultural Conditions

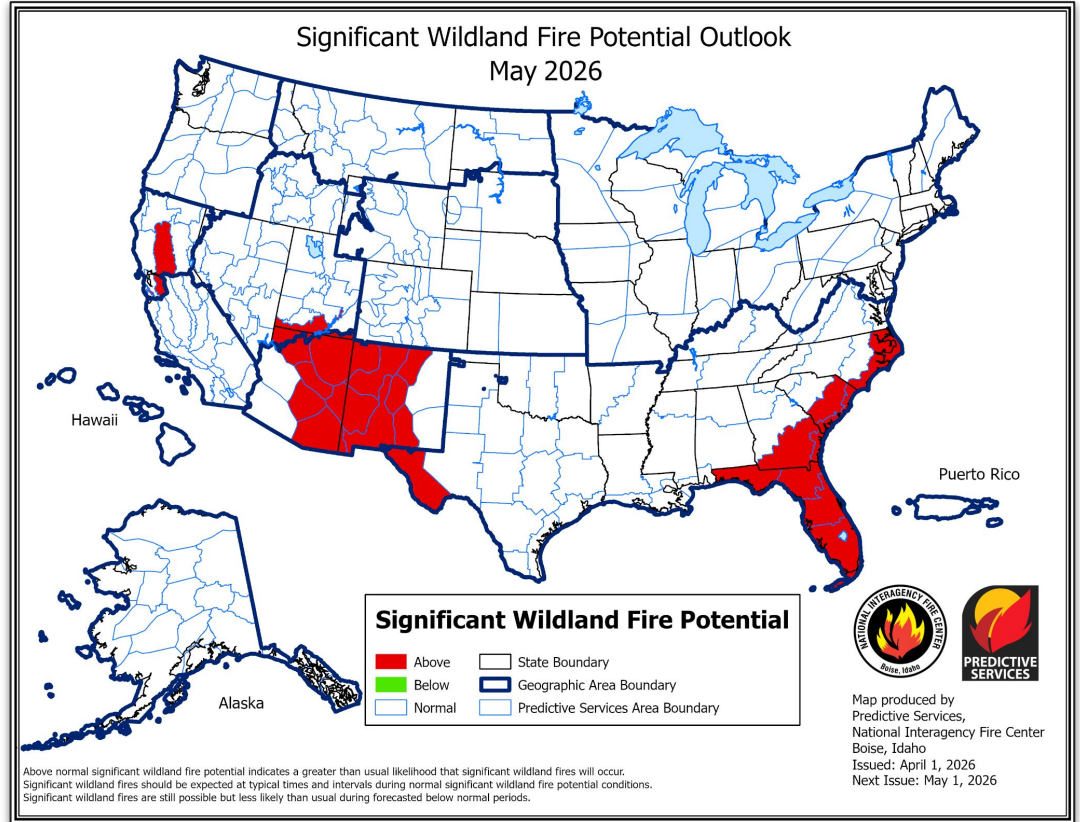
- 0-100 centimeter soil moisture ranges from near to above average across north-central Pennsylvania to well below average in the valleys of south-central Pennsylvania.





Fire Hazard Impacts

- The significant wildfire potential is near average for central Pennsylvania for the month of May 2026.

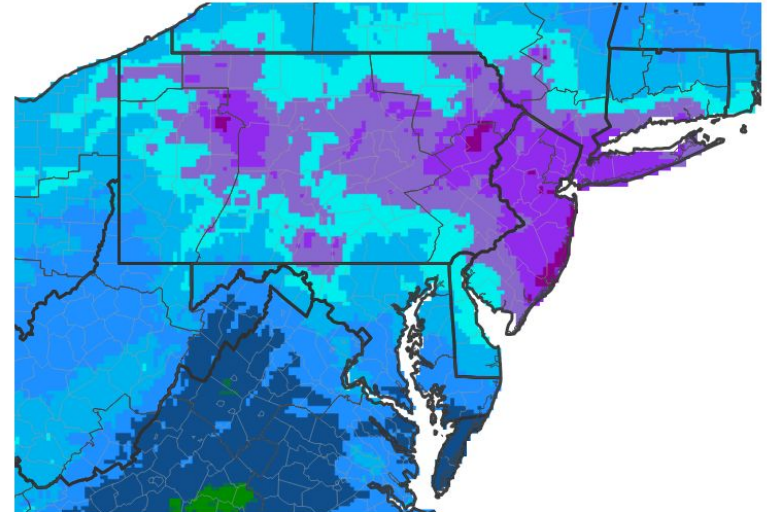




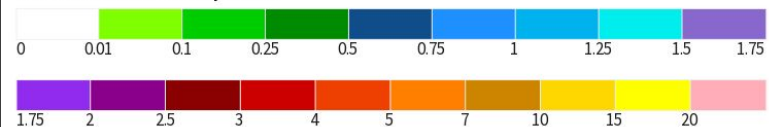
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- 7-day precipitation is expected to generally range from 1-2 inches across central Pennsylvania, which is near to above average.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for April 23, 2026-April 30, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

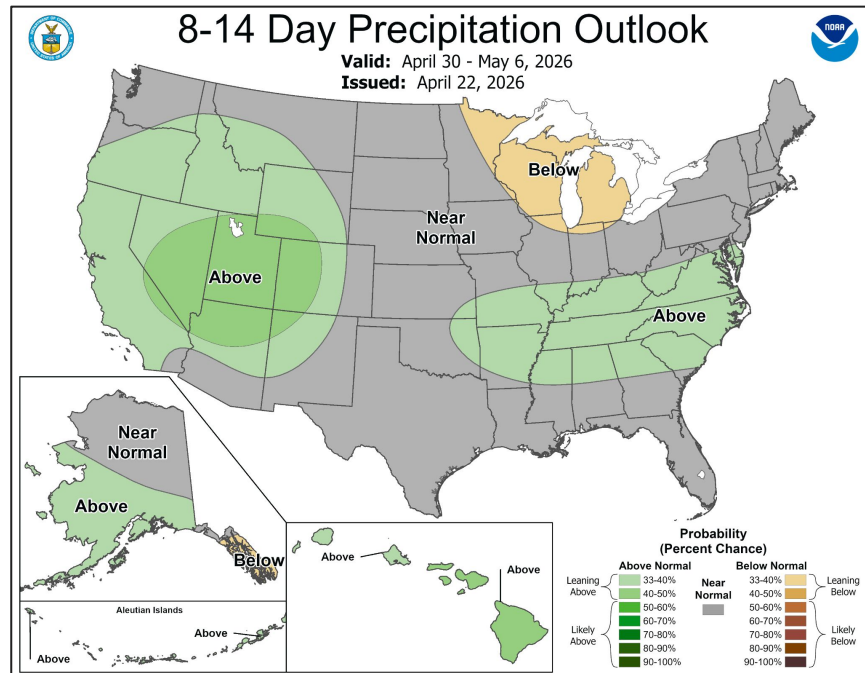
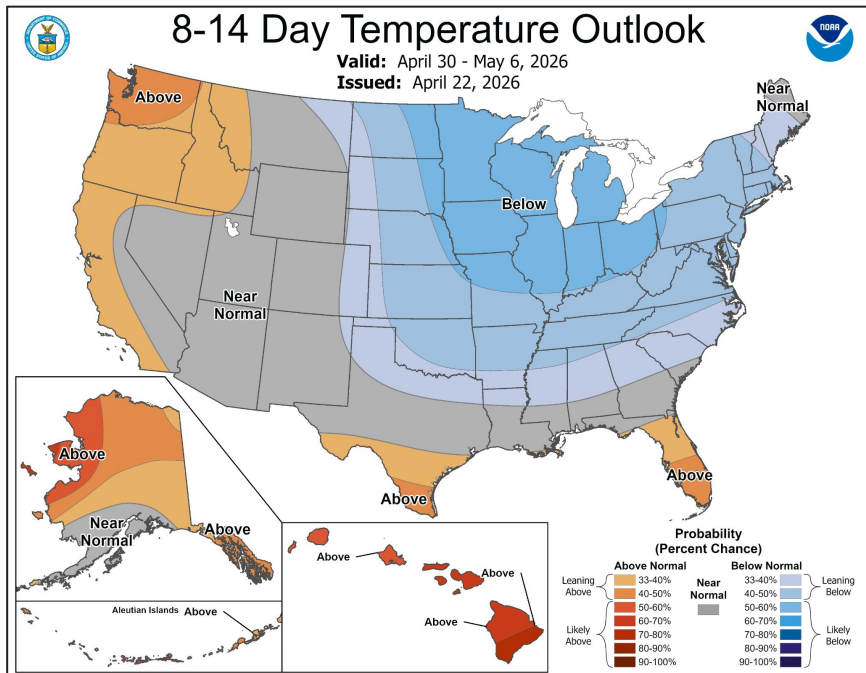
Last Updated: 04/23/26





8-14 Day Outlook

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



- The 8-14 day outlooks call for above-normal temperatures with a trend towards near average precipitation.

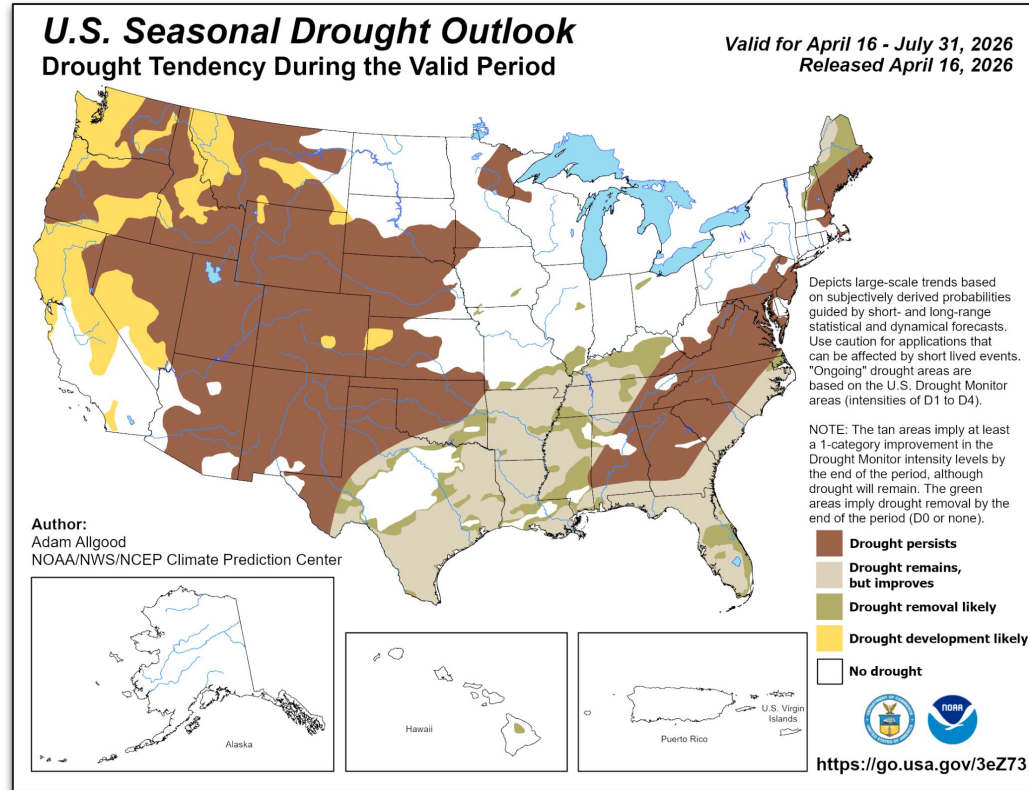




Drought Outlook

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

- The seasonal drought outlook calls for existing drought conditions across south-central Pennsylvania to largely persist through July 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