



Drought Information Statement for Central Pennsylvania

Valid **May 22, 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 **June 5, 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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- Short-term improvement is expected in the coming week, although long-term dryness persists across southern Pennsylvania.
 - The Climate Prediction Center's seasonal drought outlook calls for existing drought conditions across south-central Pennsylvania to largely persist through at least late-July.

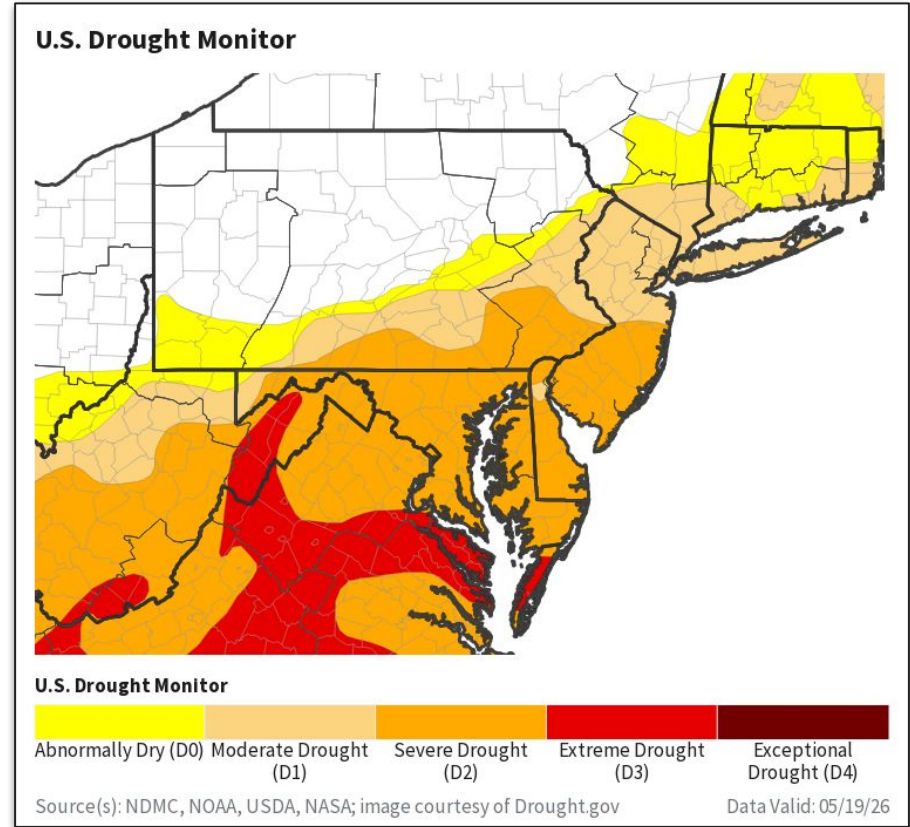




U.S. Drought Monitor

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

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

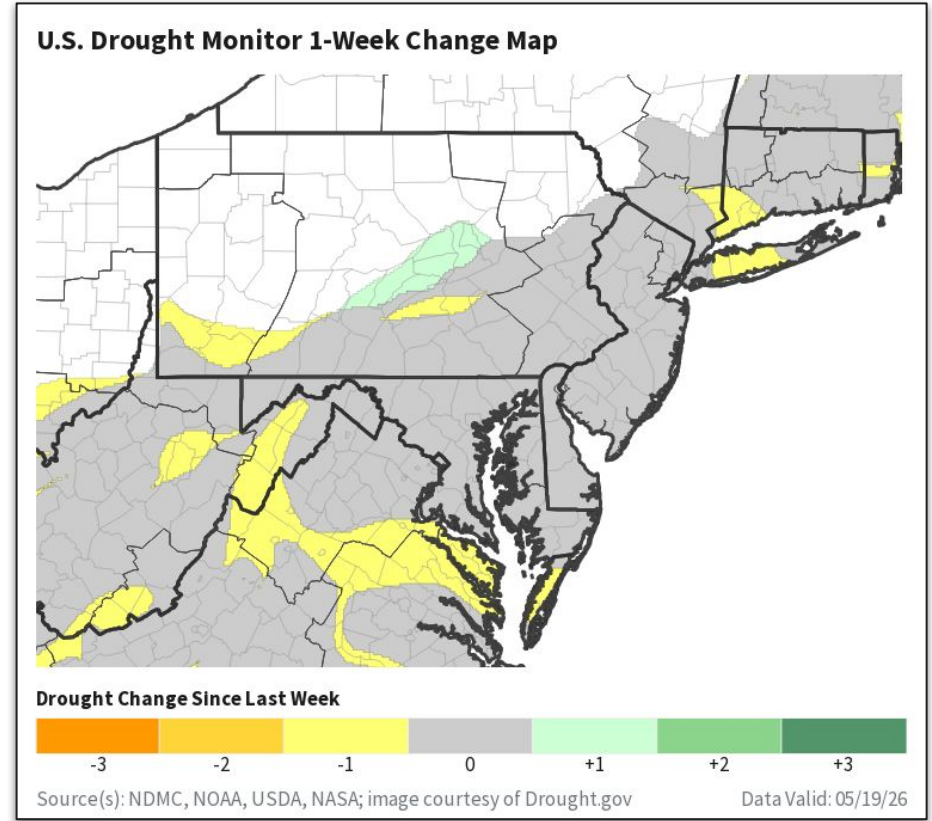




One-Week Change in Drought Intensity

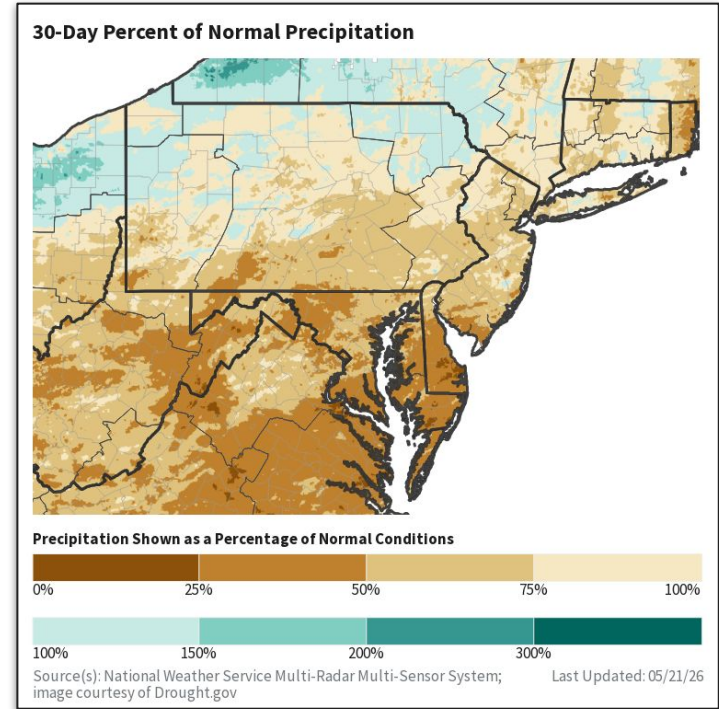
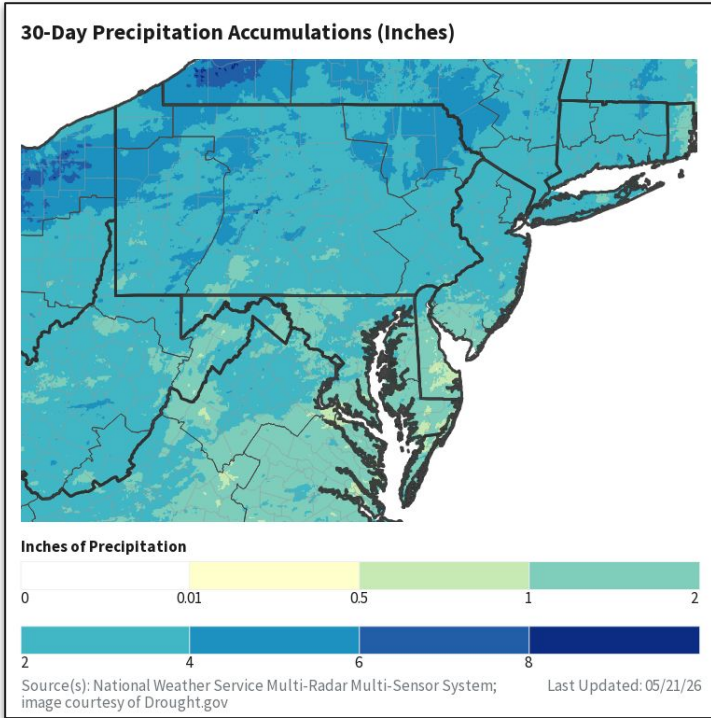
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#)

- One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
 - Some D0 was removed across the middle Susquehanna Valley, while a bit of D0 was added in Somerset County. A sliver of D1 was added in the vicinity of Harrisburg.





30-Day Precipitation and Percent of Normal



- 30-day precipitation was below average across south-central Pennsylvania and closer to average across the north.





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Short-term improvement has been observed, although long-term precipitation deficits persist across south-central PA.

Agricultural Impacts

- 0 to 100 centimeter soil moisture remains anomalously dry across far south-central Pennsylvania, while being near average across north-central Pennsylvania. See slide 6 for details on regional soil moisture.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- The significant wildfire potential outlook remains near average across Pennsylvania for May 2026. See slide 7 for a map and details.

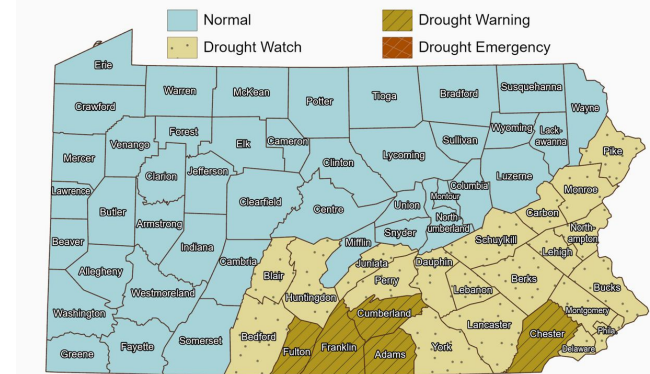
Other Impacts

- As of May 13, 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 mainly south-central Pennsylvania. Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

Latest PA drought designations:



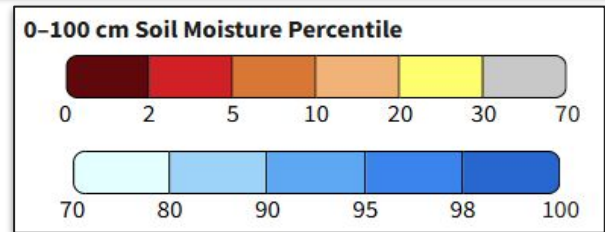
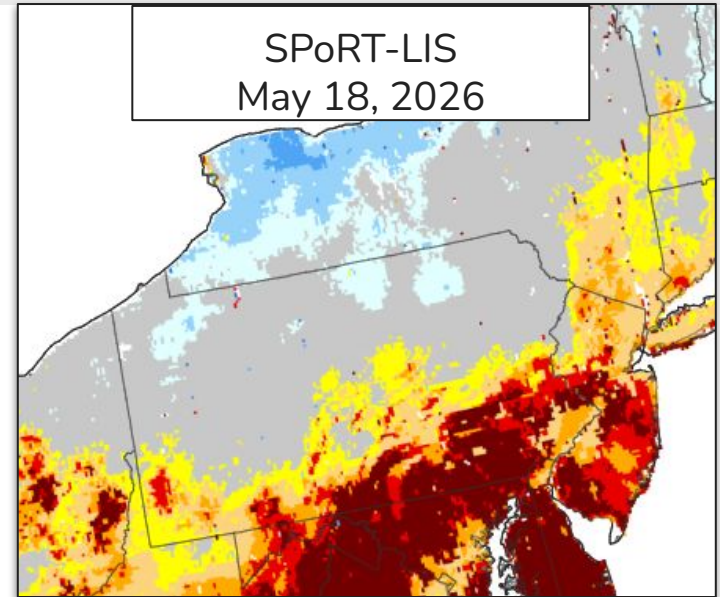
The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has issued a Drought Watches and Warnings for several south-central Pennsylvania counties. (The NWS does not declare Drought Watches or Warnings.)





Agricultural Conditions

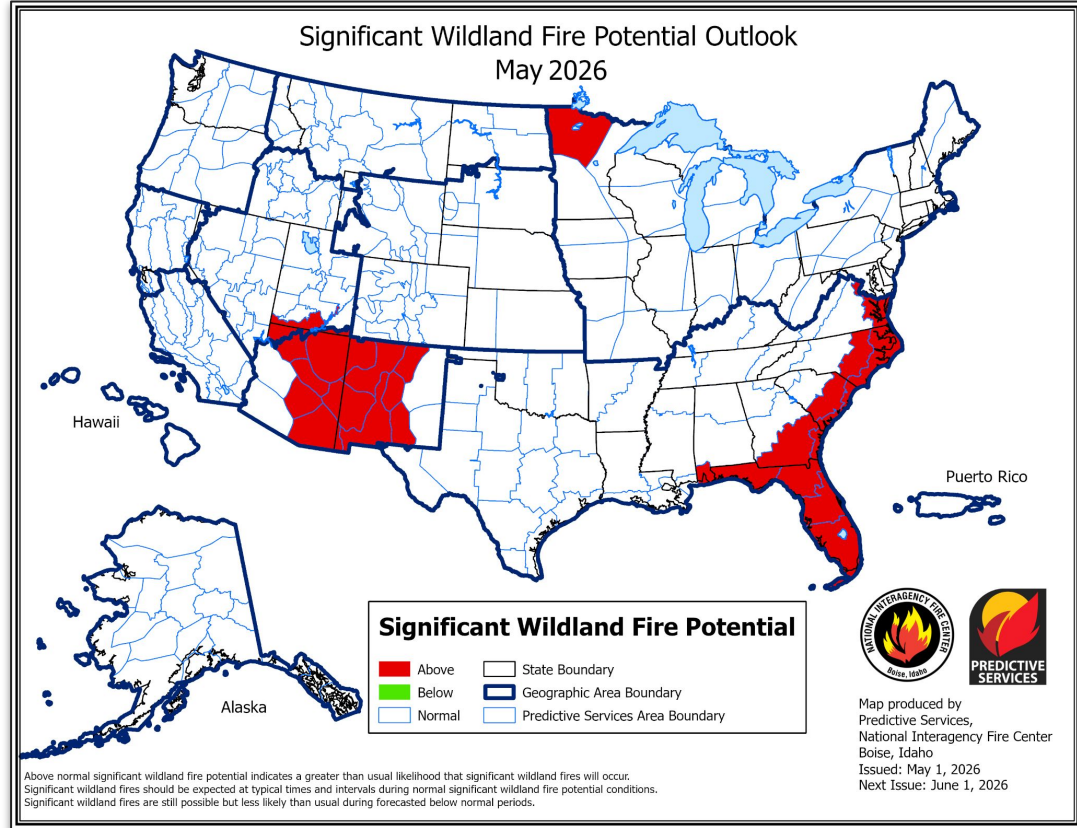
- 0 to 100 centimeter soil moisture remains anomalously dry across far south-central Pennsylvania, while being generally near average across north-central Pennsylvania.





Fire Hazard Impacts

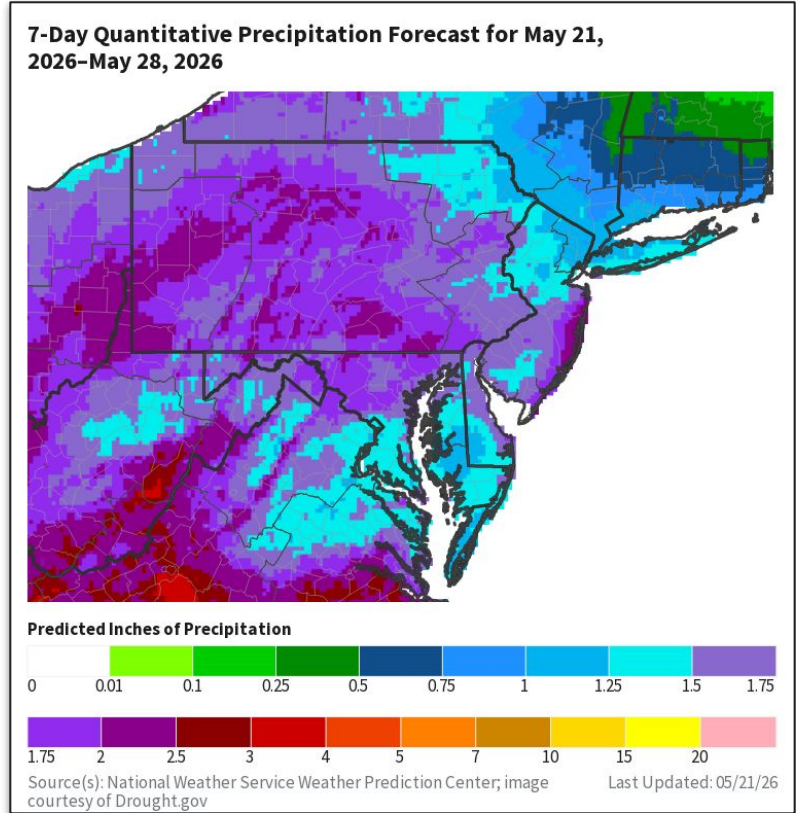
- The significant wildfire potential is near average for Central Pennsylvania for the month of May 2026.





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

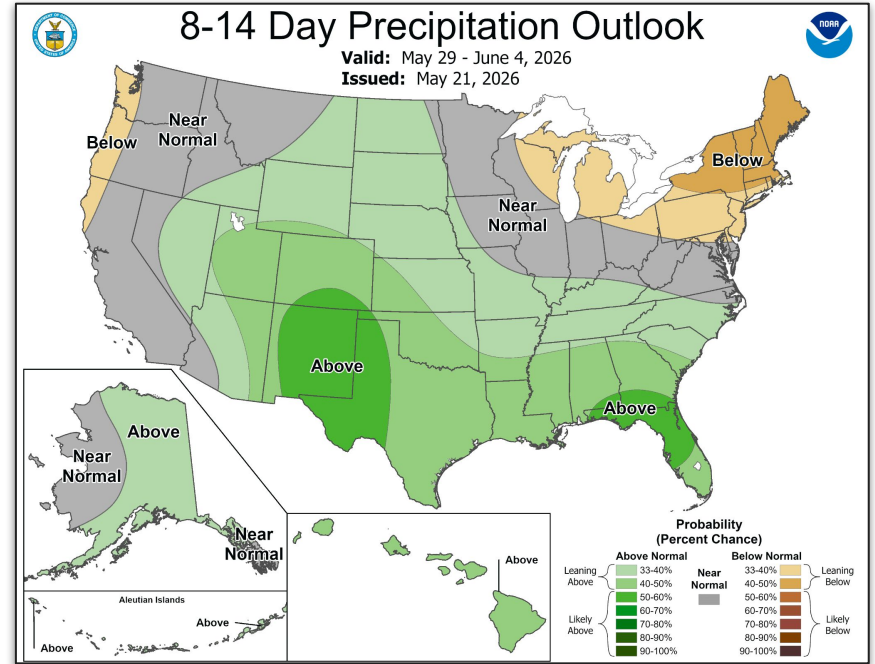
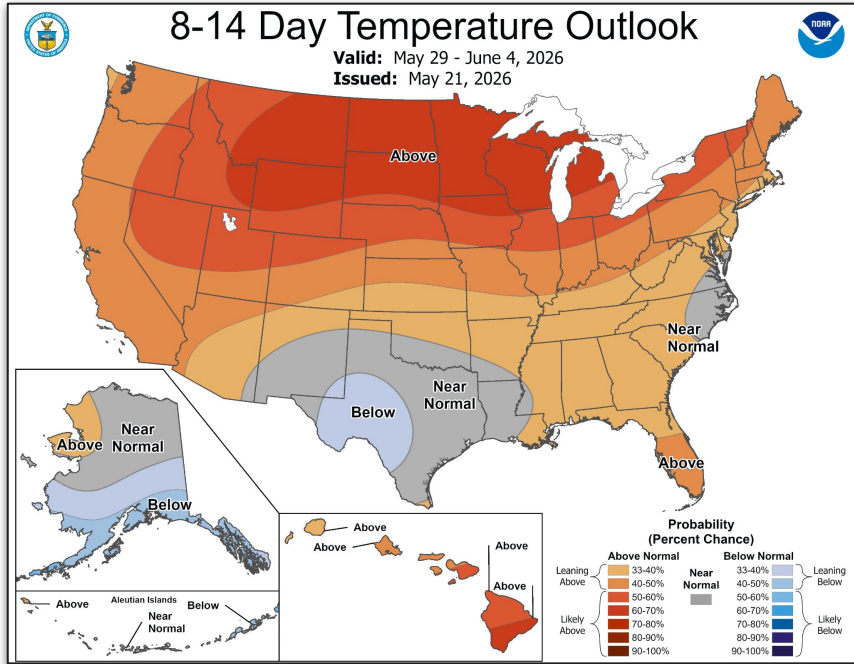
- 7-day precipitation is forecast to range from one and one quarter inches up to more than two inches across Central Pennsylvania, which would be above average for late May.





8-14 Day Outlook

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



- 8-14 day temperatures are expected to trend above average across Central Pennsylvania, with precipitation trending below average.

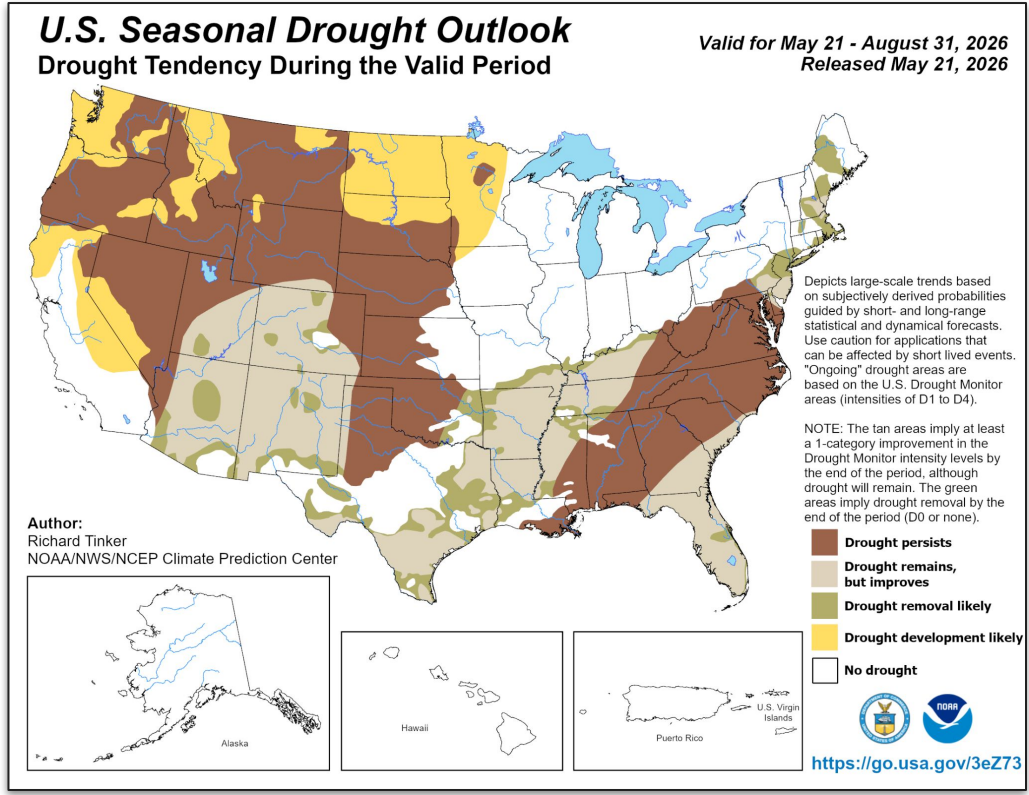




Drought Outlook

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

- The latest CPC Seasonal Drought Outlook calls for lingering drought conditions across south-central Pennsylvania to persist through late August 2026, with some improvement possible across southeastern Pennsylvania.



Links to the latest:

- [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)