



Drought Information Statement for NE Minnesota & NW Wisconsin

Valid April 12, 2024

Issued By: NWS Duluth, MN

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated April 29, 2024 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/DLH/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/> for regional drought status updates.
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- Continued wet weather next week may lead to short term improvements in drought conditions, but drought is expected to persist for most of the Northland over the next 1 to 3 months where drought is currently ongoing.



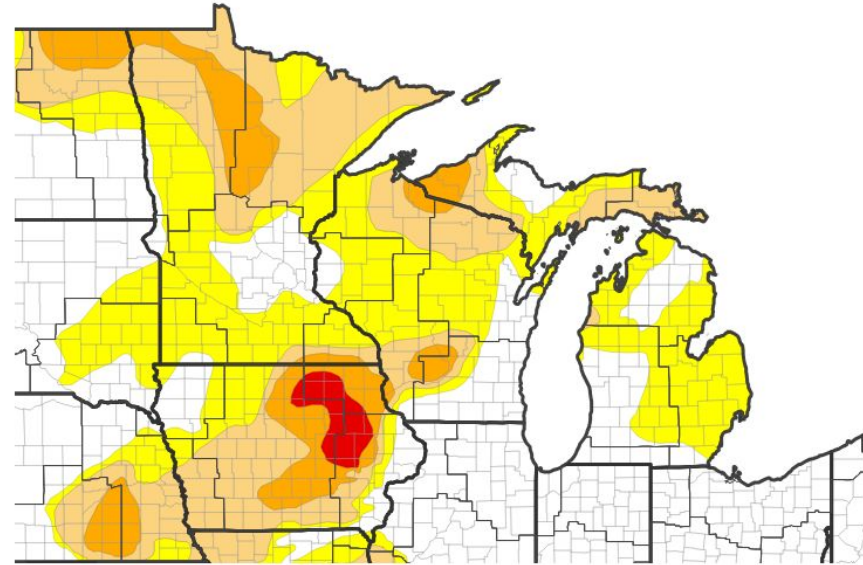


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: North-central Minnesota around the Brainerd Lakes and Walker, and far eastern Ashland County and much of Iron County in northwest Wisconsin.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: The Arrowhead, Iron Range and Aitkin County in northeast Minnesota and Bayfield to Sawyer Counties eastward into north-central Wisconsin.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Small area along the International Border in eastern Koochiching and northwestern St. Louis Counties; most of the North Shore; and counties along the WI/MN stateline, including Washburn County.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/09/24



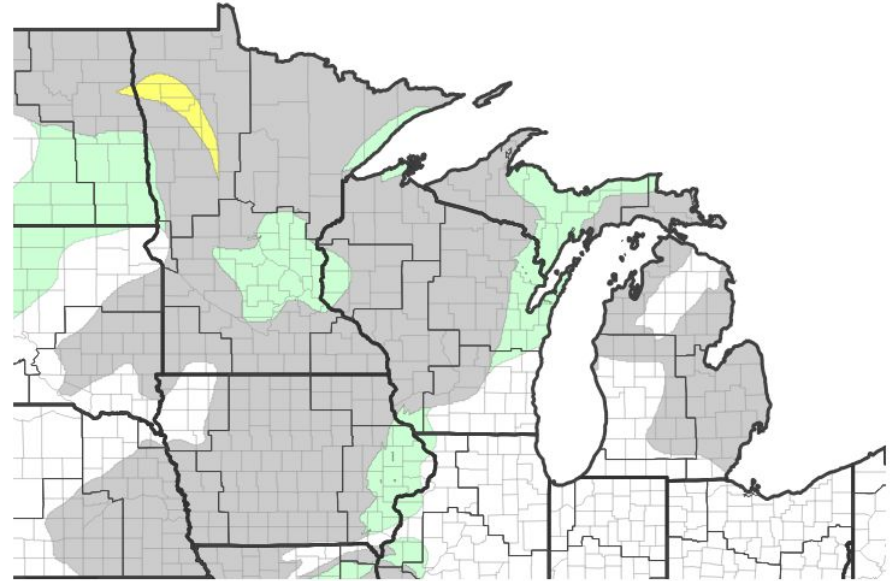


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

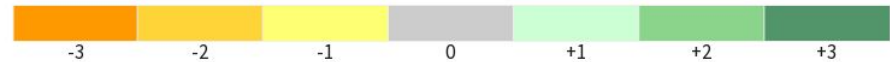
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Not Applicable
 - No Change: north-central and most of northeast Minnesota. Most of northwest Wisconsin.
 - Drought Improved: Most of the North Shore.

One Week Change in the Drought Intensity
As of Thursday, April 11, 2024



Drought Change Since Last Week



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov



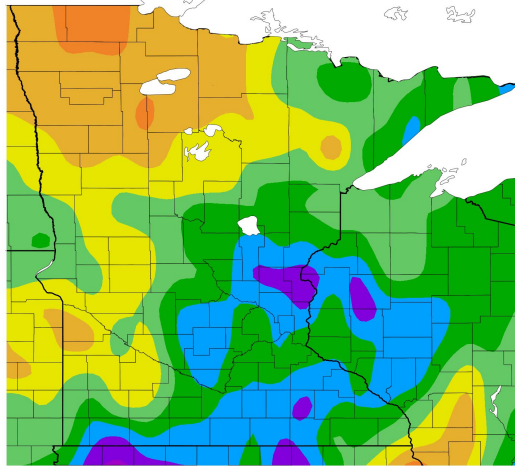


Precipitation

Precipitation (sum of liquid and melted frozen) that was observed in the Northland over the last month

- Regional precipitation in the past month has been near to above normal.
- The exception is slightly below normal precipitation from Cass to Koochiching Counties.
- Little to no snowpack remains across the Northland, though soils are still partially saturated from the recent snowmelt.

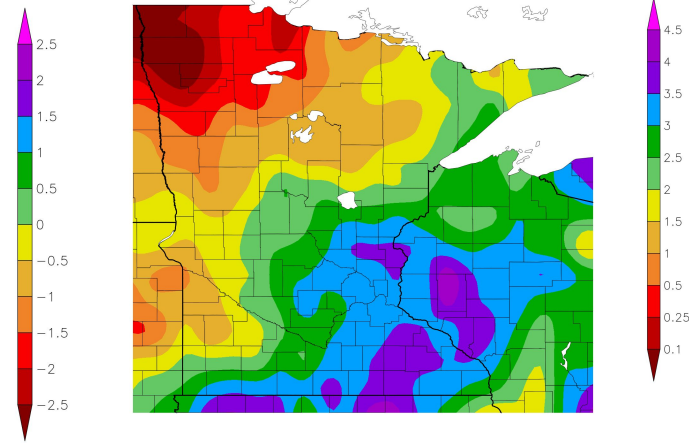
Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
3/13/2024 – 4/11/2024



Generated 4/12/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Precipitation (in)
3/13/2024 – 4/11/2024



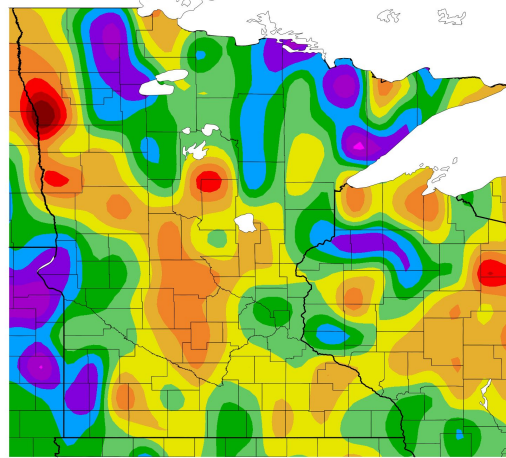


Temperature

Temperatures that were observed in the Northland over the last month

- Temperatures have been generally ± 2 degrees from normal for most of the Northland during the past month, coldest across parts of far northern Minnesota and warmest from the Brainerd Lakes into parts of northwest Wisconsin.

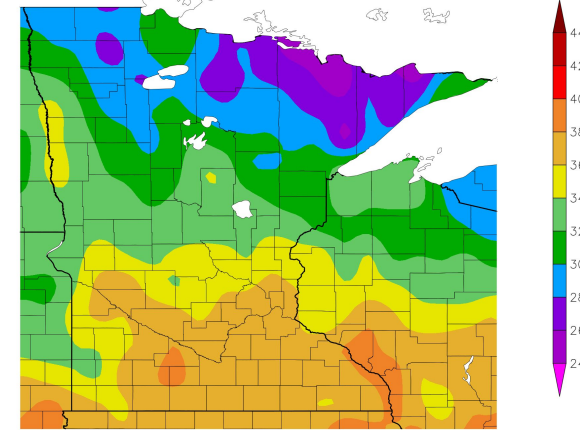
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
3/13/2024 – 4/11/2024



Generated 4/12/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Temperature (F)
3/13/2024 – 4/11/2024



rated 4/12/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows are generally running normal to below normal around the region. Snowpack has completely melted, with some wet soils as a result and a lingering small response in rivers as a result of the recent snowmelt. Ice out on inland lakes and rivers is occurring about 4-5 weeks ahead of the median ice out date per the [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#).

Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- The Significant Wildland Fire Potential remains above normal for April, while improving to normal for May. Fire danger is moderate to high for most of northeast MN and high for all of northwest WI.

Other Impacts

- A record-low snow winter led to large economic losses for areas that rely on winter tourism to sustain them through their slow seasons. Many winter events, such as ski and sled dog races, and snowmobile events, were canceled.

Mitigation Actions

- None reported.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- **Northeast Minnesota** - Streams are running below normal to much below normal in the Brainerd Lakes Region up to Walker and in the Rainy River Basin, while running near normal north of for the rest of the area.
- **Northwest Wisconsin** - All of northwest Wisconsin is running near-normal.

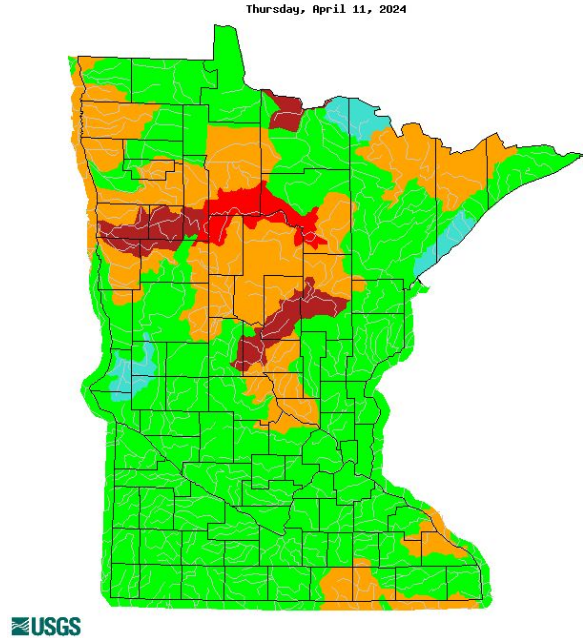
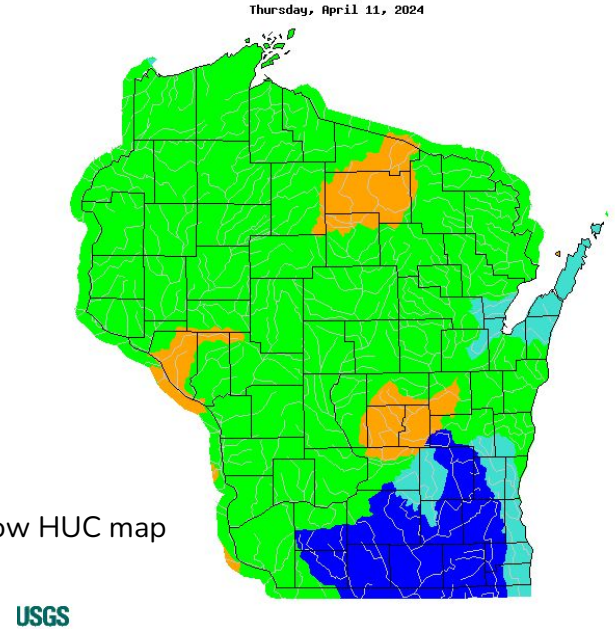


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid 4/11/2024

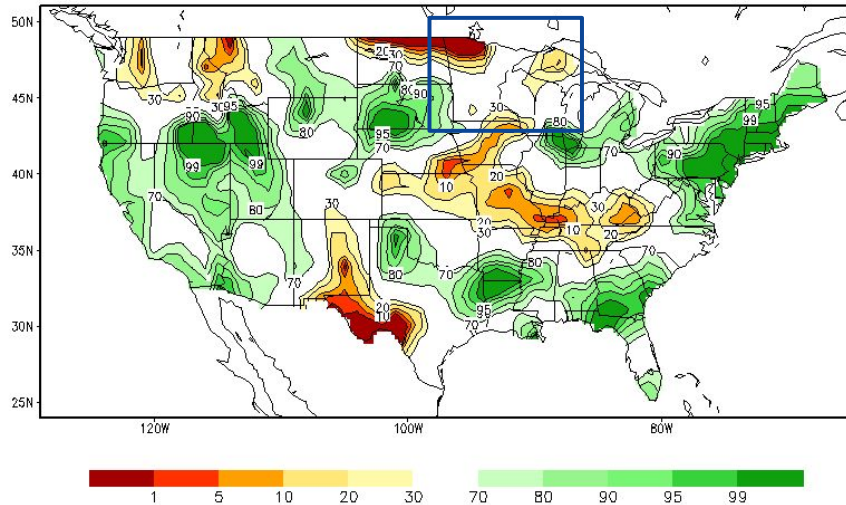




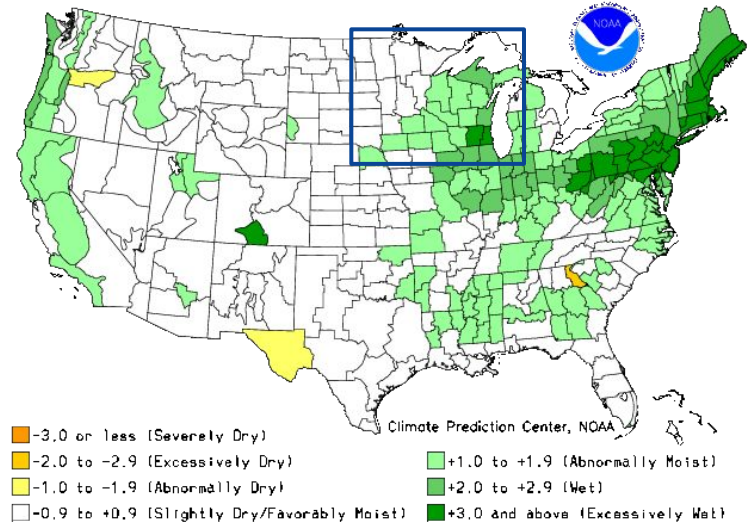
Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is generally around average in the Northland, but areas immediately outside of the region are slightly below normal.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
APR 11, 2024



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending APR 6, 2024
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

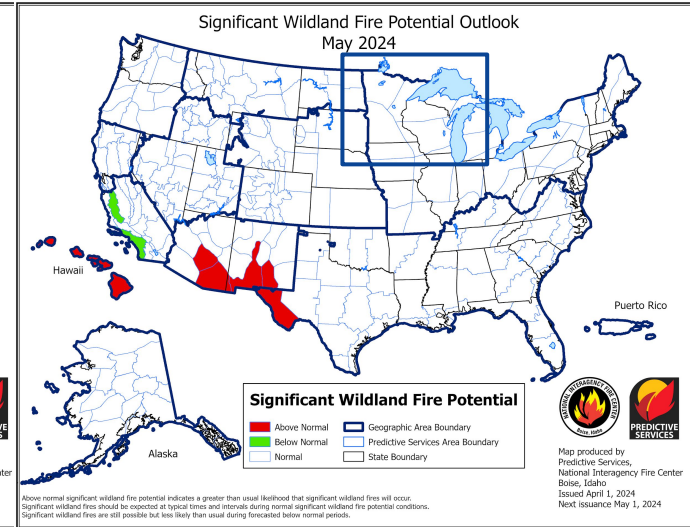
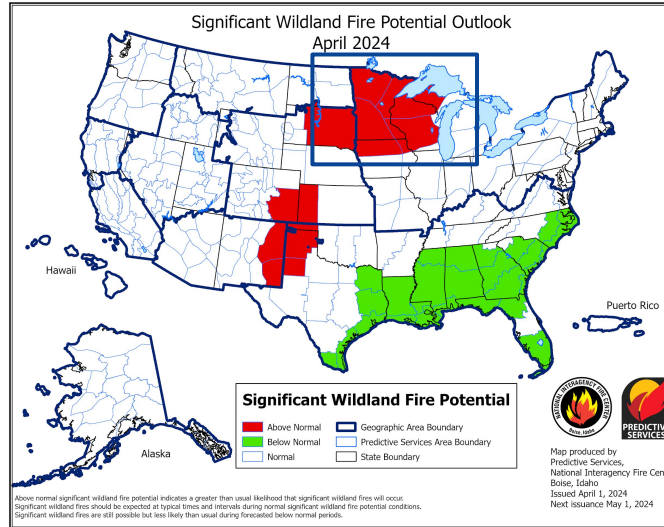




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Below average precipitation and warm temperatures in March are creating persistent elevated fire hazards as shown by the **Significant Wildland Fire Potential** continuing to be **above normal** for April, but **improving to normal** for **May** as the middle part of April turns wetter.



Latest MN burn ban and fire danger information available [here](#).

Latest WI burn ban and fire danger information available [here](#).

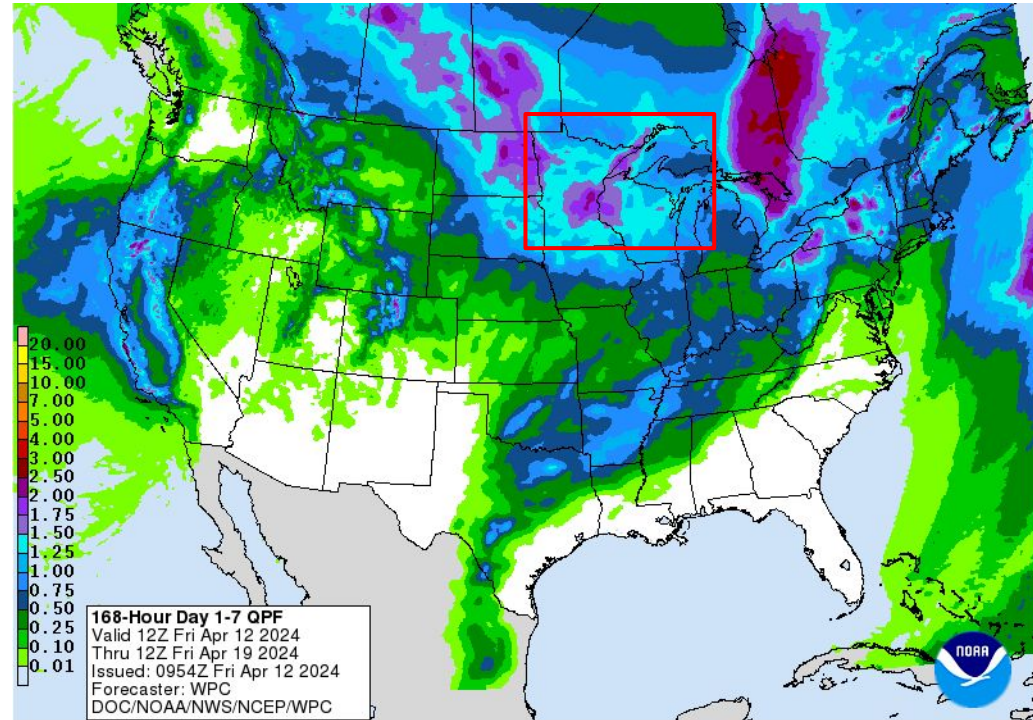




Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

Amount of liquid equivalent precipitation forecast over the next seven days

- A strong low pressure system will lead to a prolonged period of precipitation Monday - Thursday (April 15-18) of next week.
- Most of this precipitation will be in the form of rain, possibly locally heavy, Monday night through Wednesday. Some accumulating snow is possible Wednesday night - Thursday.

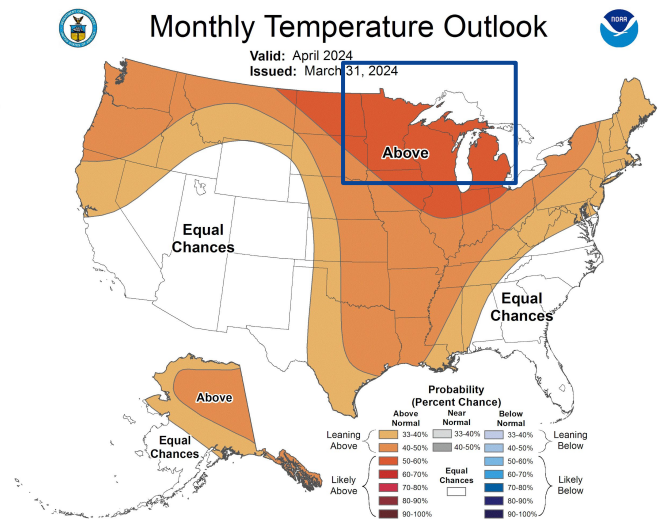
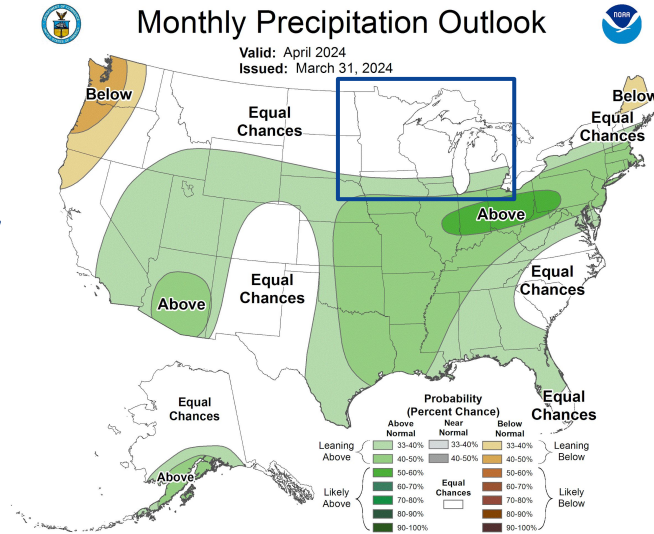




Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Longer-term forecasts show equal chances for above or below normal precipitation for the remainder of April.
- Above normal temperatures are strongly favored (50-60% chance) for the rest of April.



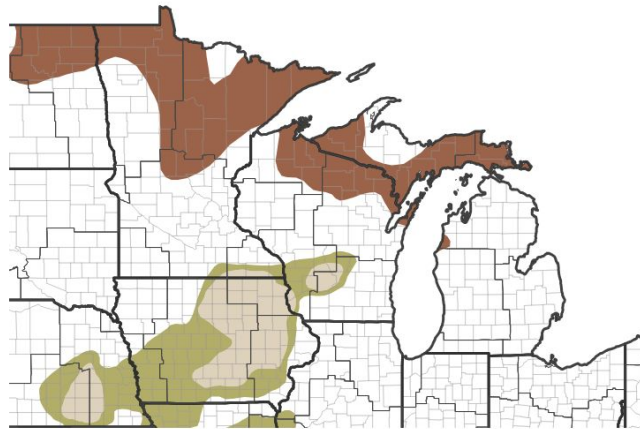


Drought Outlook

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

- Areas that are currently experiencing drought are expected to see drought persist or worsen over the next one to three months.

1-Month Drought Outlook



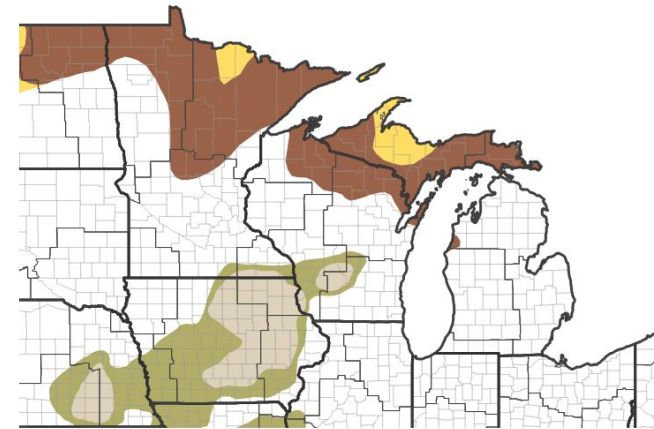
Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/12/24

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/12/24

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

