



Drought Information Statement for NE Minnesota & NW Wisconsin

Valid August 20, 2026

Issued By: NWS Duluth, MN

Contact Information: nws.duluth@noaa.gov

- Next Update: Friday, September 4, 2026
- 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.

- **Addition of Extreme (D3) Drought conditions to northwest Wisconsin**
 - **For context, this is the first Extreme (D3) Drought designation in Northland since 2023.**
- **Severe (D2) Drought conditions for nearly the rest of the Northland.**





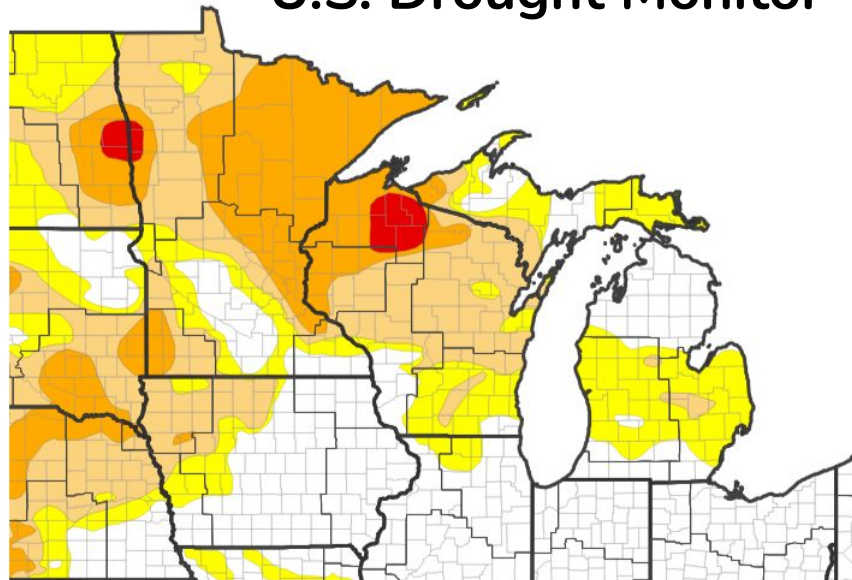
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Northwest Wisconsin.
 -
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):** Nearly all of the region.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Sliver of Koochiching and Price Counties
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Not Applicable.

U.S. Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 08/18/26



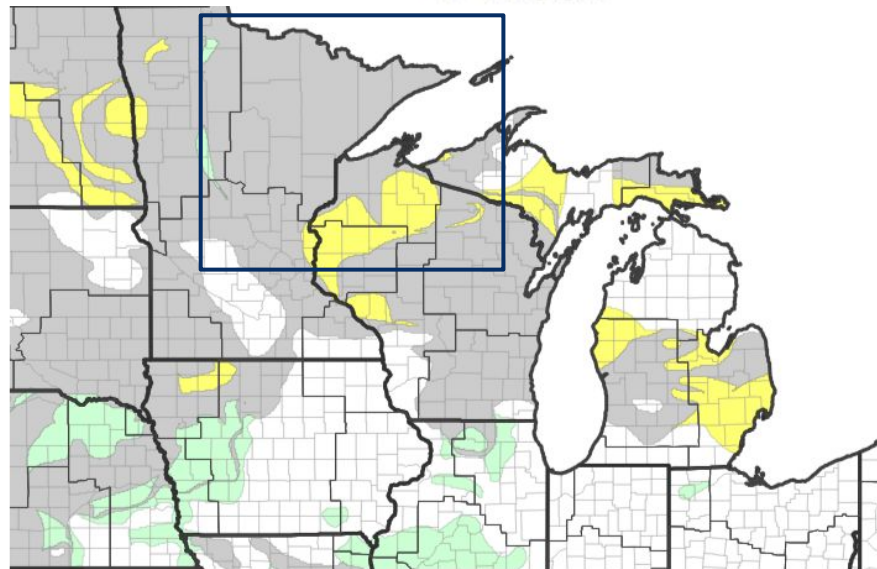


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

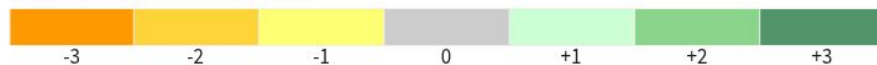
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Much of northwest Wisconsin.
 - Drought Improved: Not applicable.
 - No Change: Remainder of the area.

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change 1 Week



Drought Change Since Last Week



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

Data Valid: 08/18/26

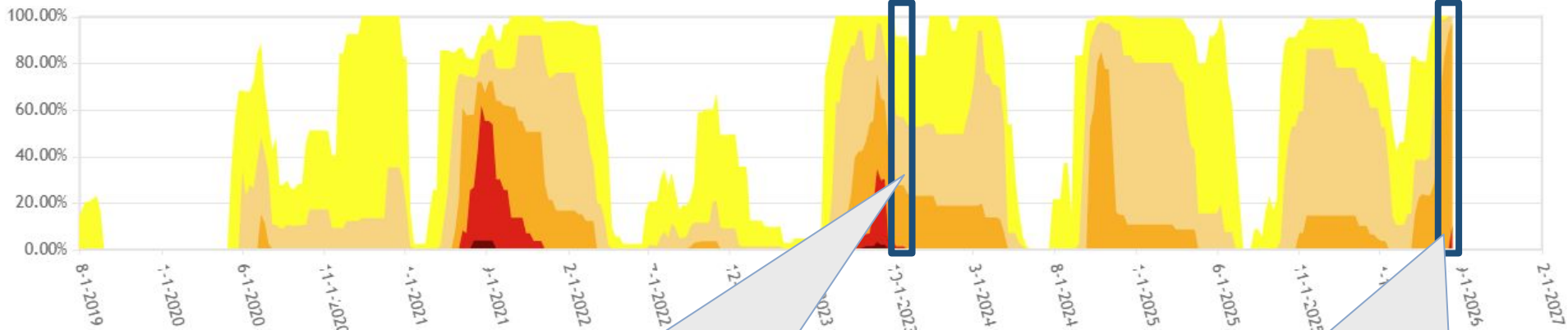




First Extreme (D3) Drought in Northland since 2023

Link to [view a timeline](#) to of drought conditions in the Northland since 2000

Northland Percent Area in Drought Monitor by Year



October 2023 was the last time there has been Extreme (D3) Drought conditions in the region

Extreme (D3) Drought conditions introduced back to Northland August 18, 2026

U.S. Drought Monitor



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Duluth, MN

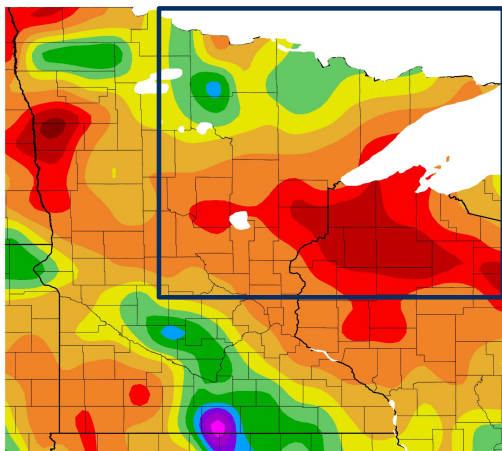


Precipitation

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

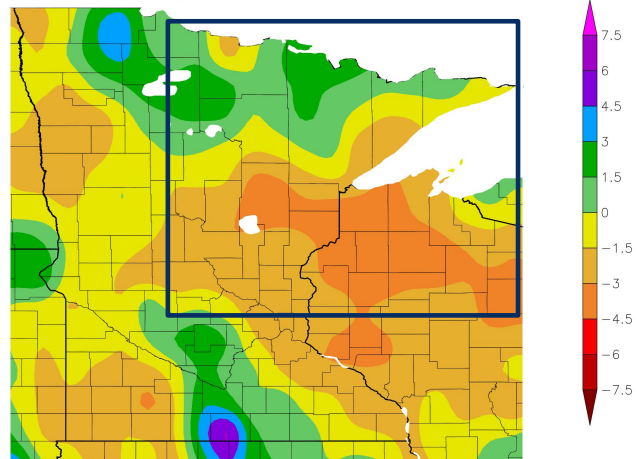
- Rainfall has ranged from 0.1 - 4 inches from mid-July to mid-August.
- This rainfall is well below normal south of the Iron Range and near to slightly above normal for the Borderlands and tip of the Arrowhead.

Precipitation (in)
7/21/2026 - 8/19/2026



Generated 8/20/2026 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
7/21/2026 - 8/19/2026



ACIS Web ServiGenerated 8/20/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Service



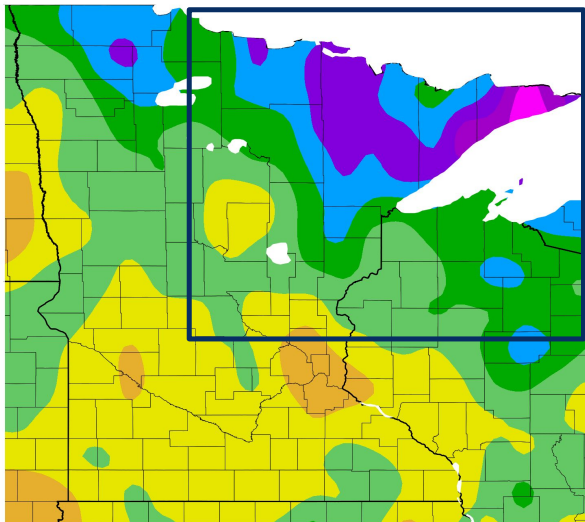


Temperature

Temperatures that were observed in the Northland over the last month

- Average temperatures were 1-4 degrees above normal.
- The North Shore and Borderlands were the only locations that saw near or below normal average temperatures, which were in the upper-50s to upper-60s.

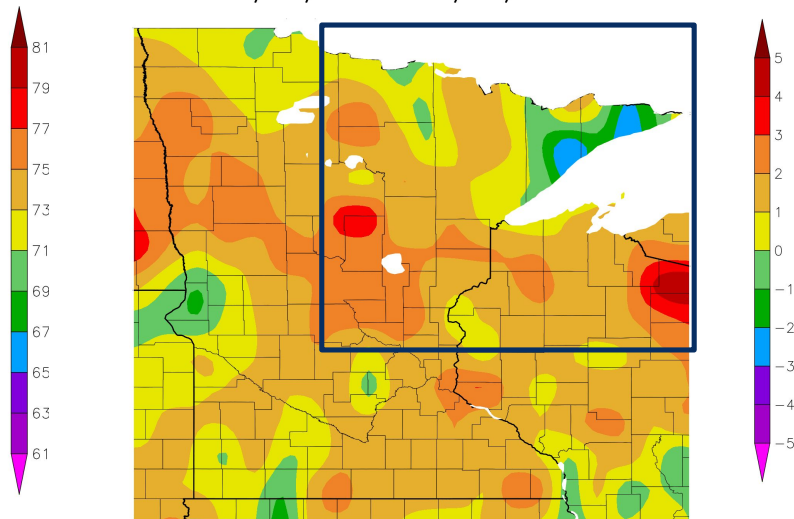
Temperature (F)
7/21/2026 – 8/19/2026



ated 8/20/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Ser

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
7/21/2026 – 8/19/2026



ed 8/20/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streams are running below to much below normal for nearly the entire region ([USGS Streamflow](#)).

Agricultural Impacts

- Below normal soil moisture in all of northeast Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin. ([Soil Moisture](#)).
- Farmers report very poor crop conditions and supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock conditions. Rangeland and hayfields not producing any grasses.
- Hauling water due to lack of flows in area creeks and drainages.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire danger is Low to High in Minnesota. ([MN Fire Danger](#)). Fire danger is Low to High in northwest Wisconsin ([WI Fire Danger](#)).

Other Impacts

- Residents in the cities of Duluth, Hermantown, Rice Lake and Proctor are being asked to practice water conservation as members of the Western Lake Superior Watershed. This stems from the Drought Warning response phase of the Minnesota Statewide Drought Plan administered by the MN DNR.

Mitigation Actions

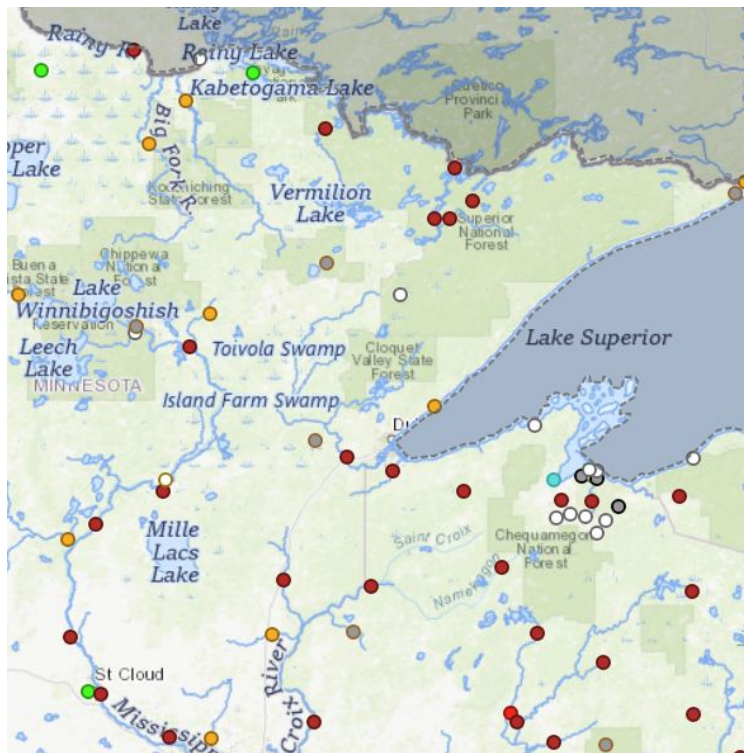
- Burn Restrictions - Elevated burning restrictions are in effect in Cook, Lake, and central & northern St. Louis counties. No burning permits will be issued or activated; campfires are not allowed for dispersed, remote, or backcountry camping. Fireworks are restricted outside of city limits.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streams are running below to much below normal for most of the region.
- Farmers reporting creeks with no water and having to haul water for animals.



Streamflow: Status	
Above flood stage	
All-time high for this day	100 th percentile (maximum)
Much above normal	>90 th percentile
Above normal	76 th – 90 th percentile
Normal	25 th – 75 th percentile
Below normal	10 th – 24 th percentile
Much below normal	<10 th percentile
All-time low for this day	0 th percentile (minimum)
Not flowing	
Not ranked	
Measurement flag	
Recent measurement unavailable	

Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow map valid 8/13/2026



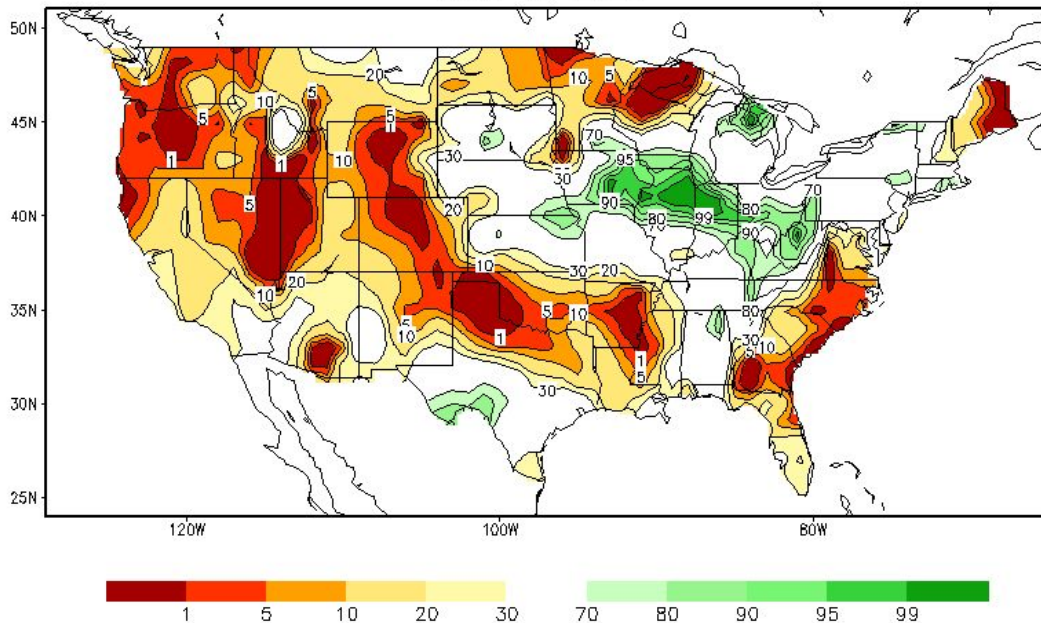


Agricultural Impacts

See more Soil Moisture plots [here](#).

- Below normal soil moisture across all of northeast Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin.
- Farmers report very poor crop conditions.
- Estimates from farmers in northwest Wisconsin that the one hay crop from earlier this summer could be the only one this growing season, with none into this fall.
- Farmers report rangeland and hayfields not producing any grasses so supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock conditions.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
AUG 19, 2026

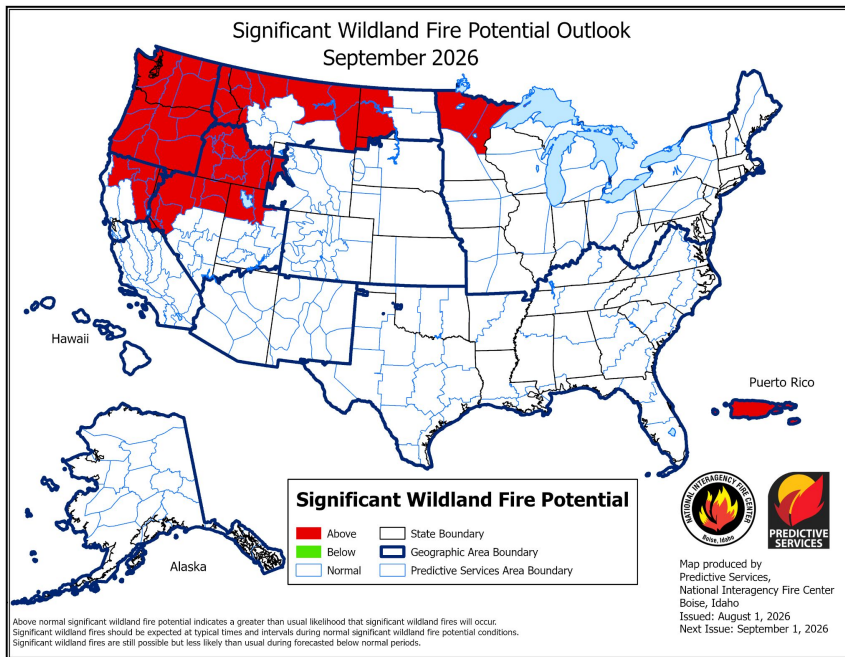




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- **Significant Wildland Fire Potential**
conditions are Above Normal for September in northern Minnesota, near-normal in northwest Wisconsin.



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

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



National Oceanic and
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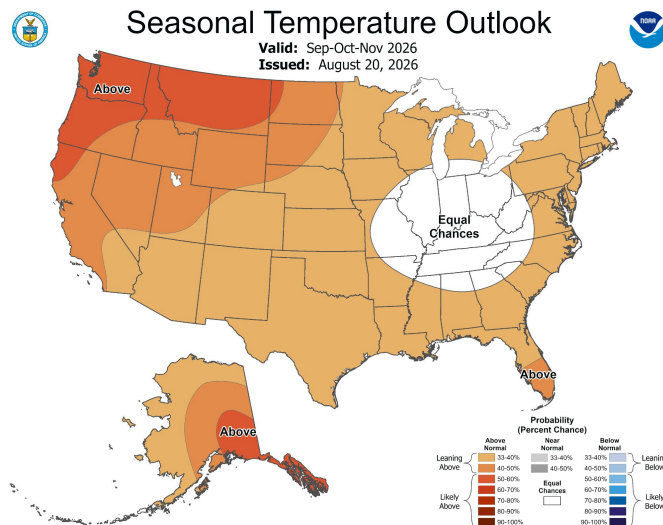
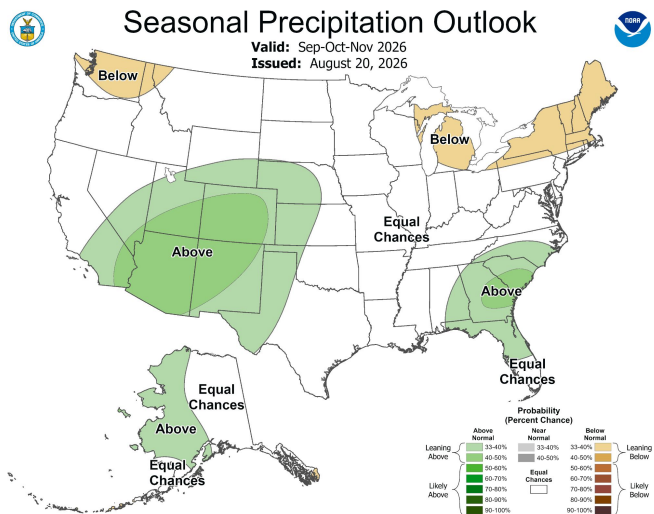
National Weather Service
Duluth, MN



Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Longer-term forecasts show equal chances for above, below, or near normal precipitation through November.
- Longer-term forecasts lean slightly towards above normal temperatures through November.



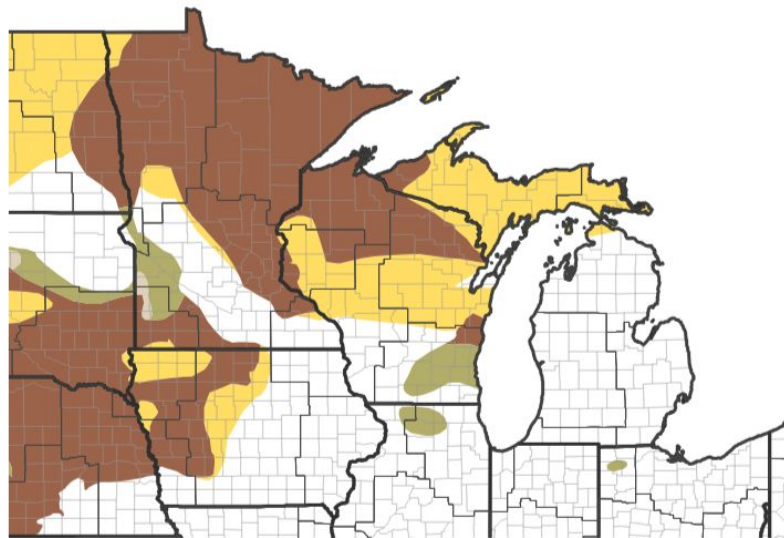


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is ongoing with D1 through D3 Conditions across the entire Northland and are expected to persist.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for July 31,
2026–October 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 07/31/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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