



Drought Information Statement for NE Minnesota & NW Wisconsin

Valid October 2, 2026

Issued By: NWS Duluth, MN

Contact Information: nws.duluth@noaa.gov

- Next Update: Friday, October 16, 2026, or sooner if there are significant changes
 - 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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- **Addition of Exceptional (D4) Drought conditions for the South Shore**
 - **Extreme (D3) Drought conditions in far eastern Minnesota and nearly all of northwest Wisconsin.**
 - **Severe (D2) to Moderate (D1) Drought conditions for nearly the rest of the Northland.**





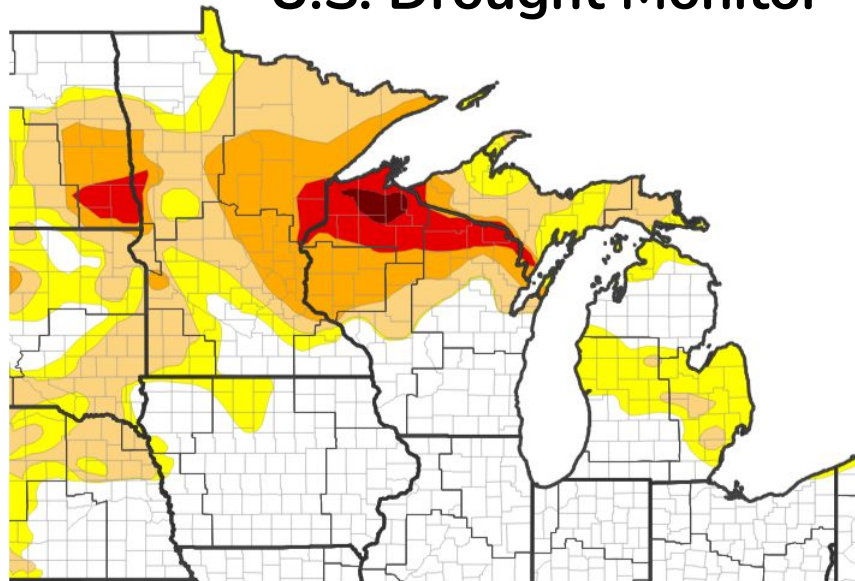
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: South Shore
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: East-central MN to Twin Ports and much of Northwest Wisconsin.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: North Shore to Iron Range southward in Minnesota
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Interior Arrowhead and Borderlands
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Sliver of Koochiching County

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: 09/29/26



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Duluth, MN

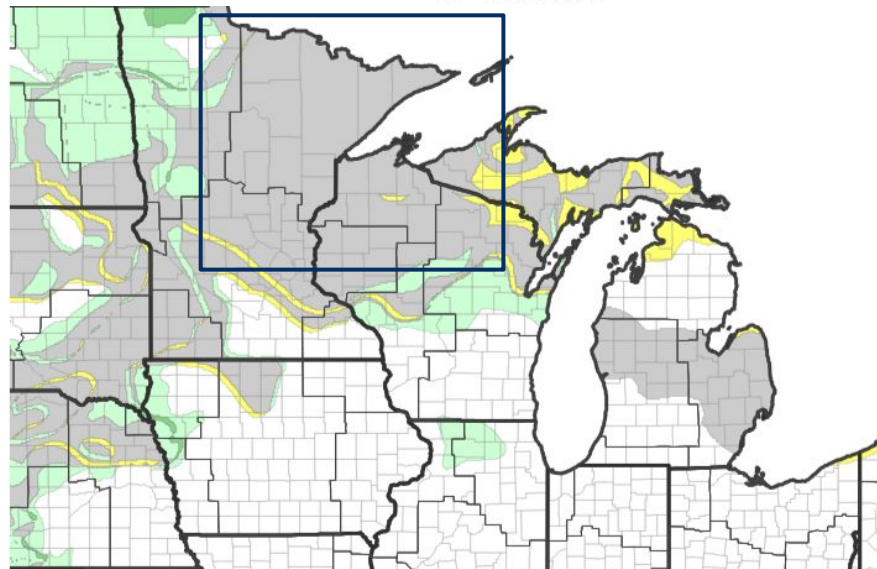


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

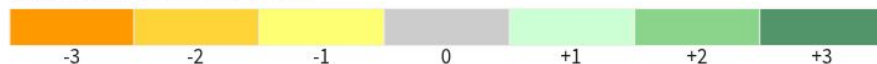
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Sliver of northern Sawyer County
 - Drought Improved: Not applicable
 - No Change: All of the rest of northeast Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin

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: 09/29/26



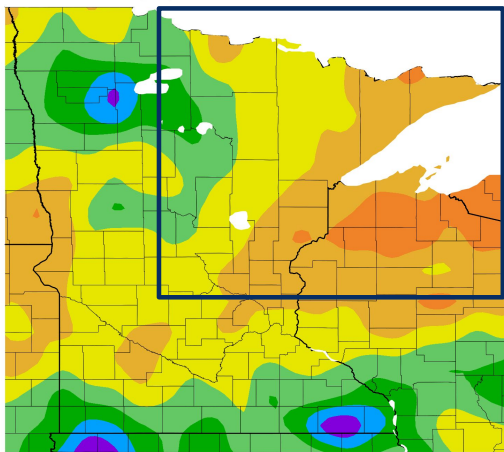


Precipitation

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

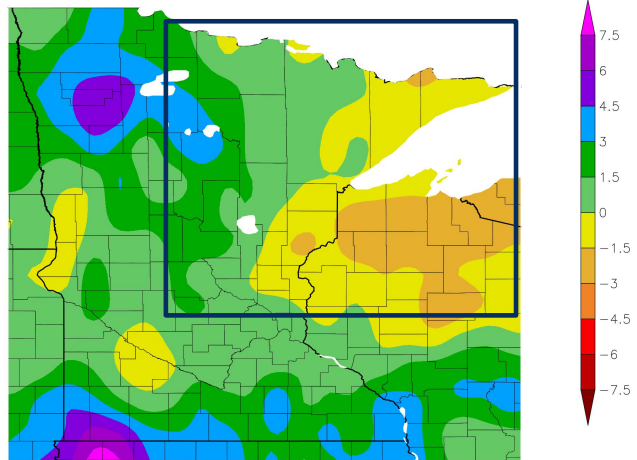
- Rainfall ranged from 2 - 6 inches for the month of September in northern Minnesota.
- Rainfall ranged from 1-3 inches for northwest Wisconsin.
- This rainfall is below normal for northwest Wisconsin and near to slightly above normal for northern Minnesota.

Precipitation (in)
9/1/2026 - 9/30/2026



Generated 10/1/2026 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
9/1/2026 - 9/30/2026



ACIS Web Service Generated 10/1/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Service



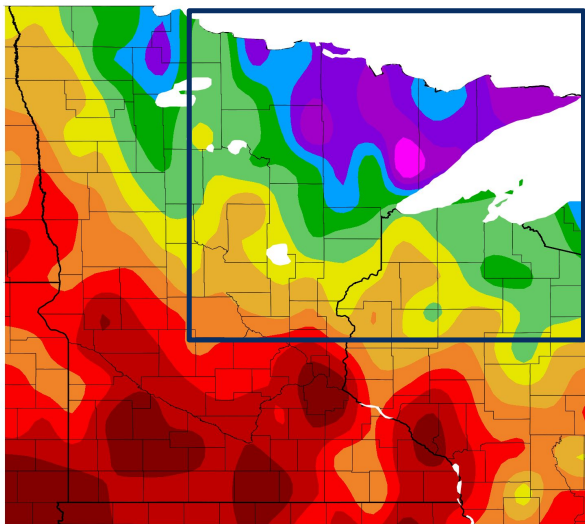


Temperature

Temperatures that were observed in the Northland over the last month

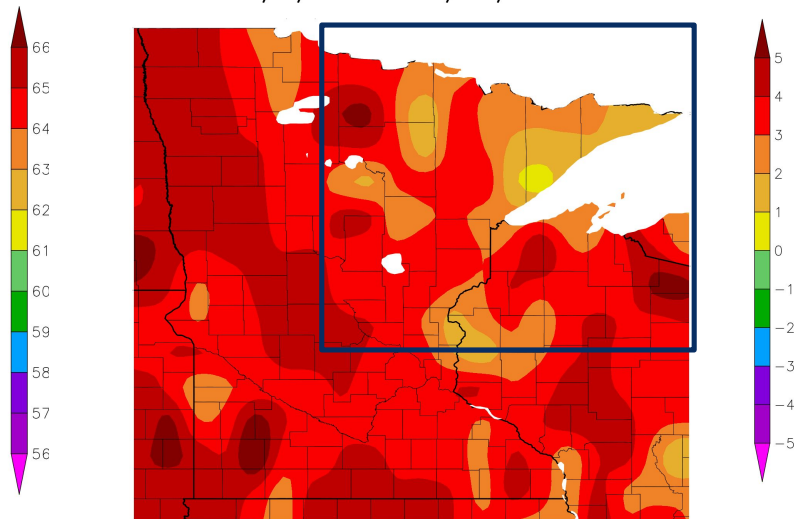
- Average temperatures were well-above normal above normal for the month of September, the exception is along the North Shore where temperatures were near-normal.

Temperature (F)
9/1/2026 - 9/30/2026



ated 10/1/2026 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/1/2026 - 9/30/2026



ated 10/1/2026 using provisional data.
ACIS Web Ser

ACIS Web Services





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Rivers and larger streams are running below to much below normal for nearly the entire region ([USGS Streamflow](#)).
- Small creeks with very little to no water.

Agricultural Impacts

- Well below normal soil moisture northwest Wisconsin and below normal in northeast Minnesota. ([Soil Moisture](#)).
- Silage harvest began early in northern Wisconsin due to low moisture and/or disease pressure ([UW Madison Extension](#)).
- Farmers report very poor crop conditions and supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock conditions. Rangeland and hayfields not producing any grasses.
- Fields with numerous cracks in the ground due to lack of moisture.
- Hauling water due to lack of flows in area creeks and drainages.

Fire Hazard Impacts

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

Other Impacts

- Not applicable

Mitigation Actions

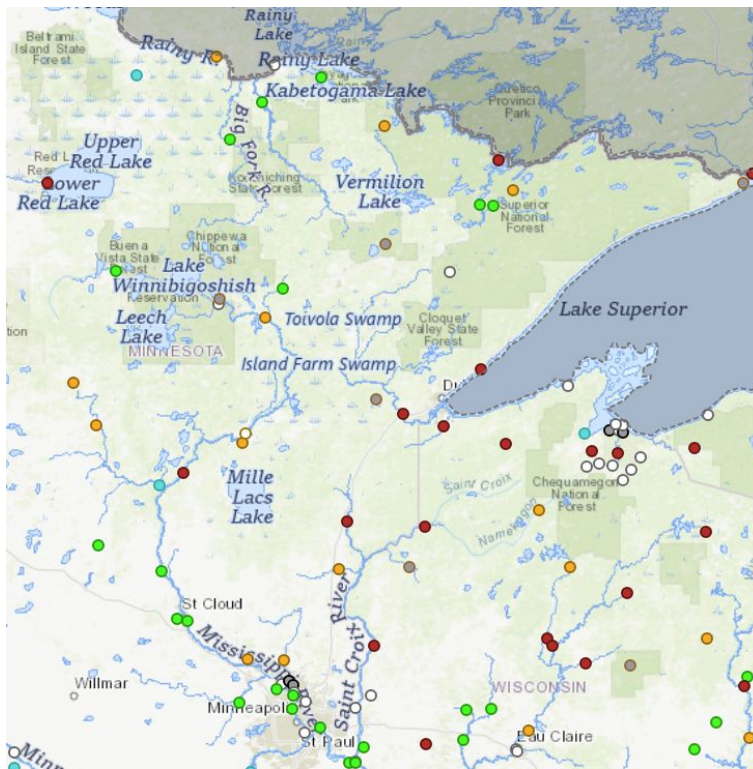
- Residents in the cities of Duluth, Hermantown, Rice Lake and Proctor are being asked to practice water conservation as members of the Western Lake Superior Watershed. This stems from the Drought Warning response phase of the Minnesota Statewide Drought Plan administered by the MN DNR.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streams are running below to much below normal for most of the region.
- Few streams in the Arrowhead and Borderlands are running about normal.
- 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 10/2/2026



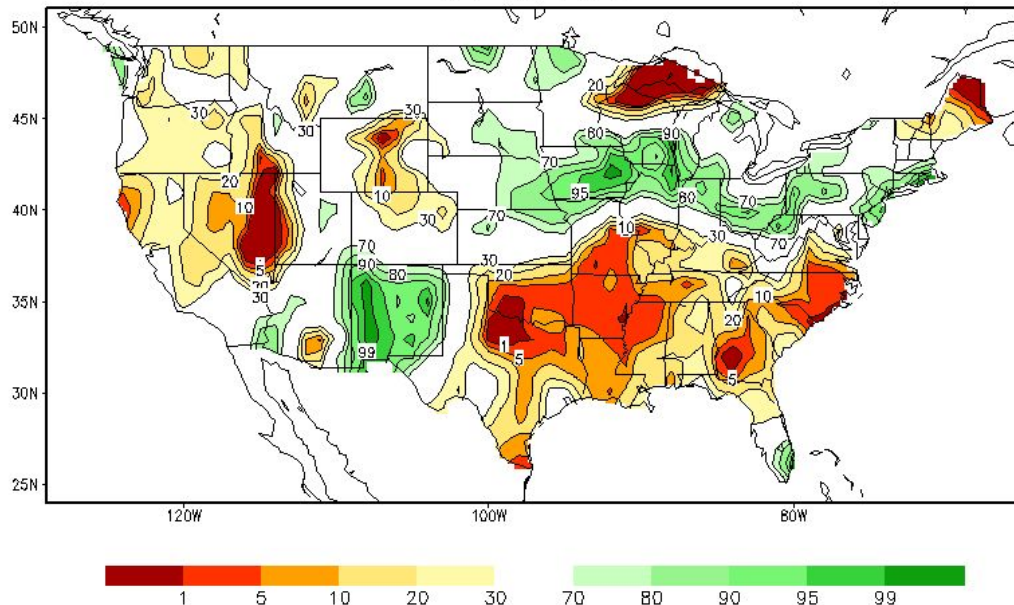


Agricultural Impacts

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

- Well below normal soil moisture across northwest Wisconsin and east-central Minnesota.
- Near (northeast) to slightly above normal (north-central) soil moisture for much of Minnesota
- 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 already being done and required to maintain livestock conditions.
- Silage harvest began early in northern Wisconsin due to low moisture and/or disease pressure ([UW Madison Extension](#)).

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
SEP 30, 2026

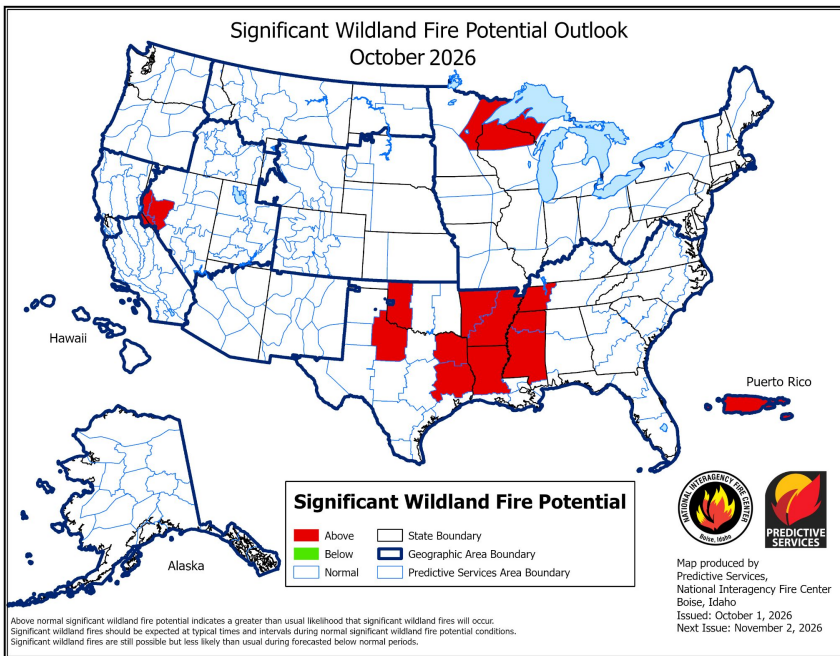




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- **Significant Wildland Fire Potential**
conditions are Above Normal for September in northeast Minnesota and northwest Wisconsin.



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

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



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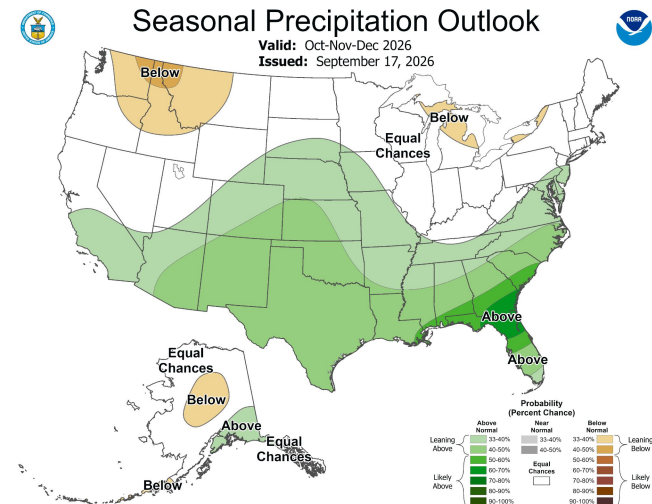
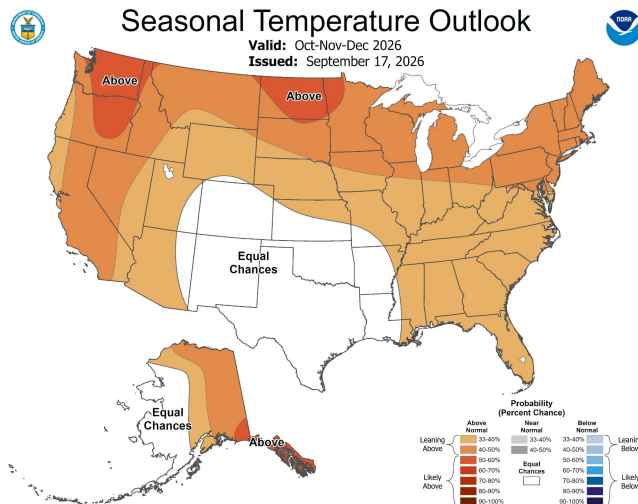
National Weather Service
Duluth, MN



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 towards above normal temperatures through December.





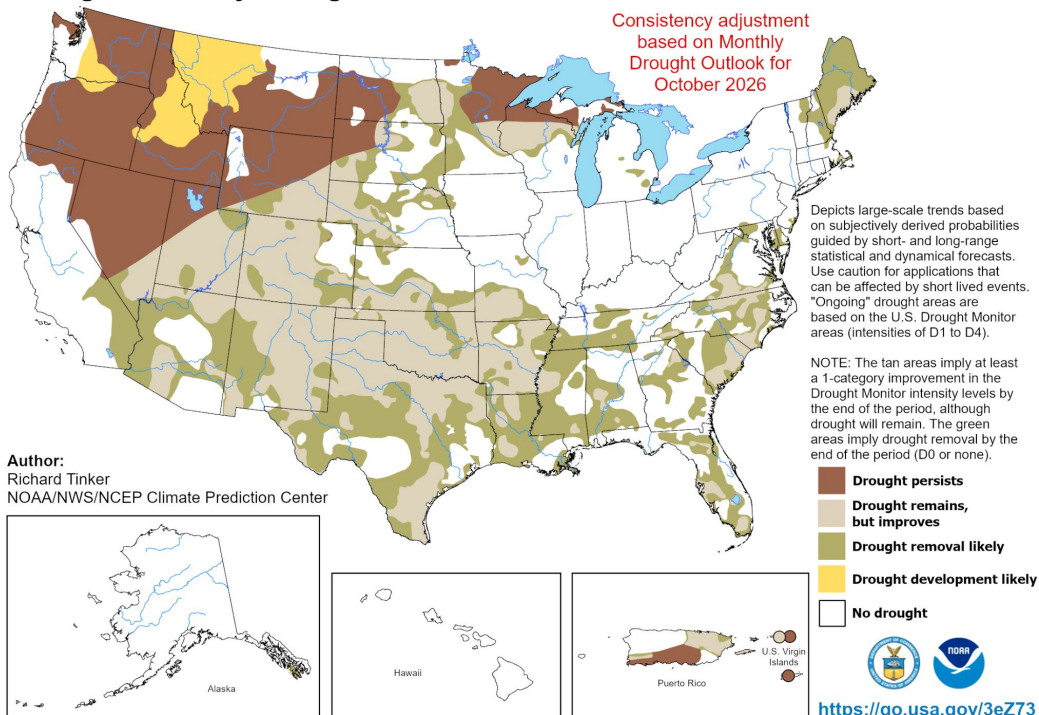
Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are expected to persist for most of the region as is for now
- Improvement in the Drought conditions is possible for east-central MN and inland northwest Wisconsin

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for October 1 - December 31, 2026
Released September 30, 2026



Links to the latest:

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



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