



Drought Information Statement for NE Minnesota & NW Wisconsin

Valid October 16, 2026

Issued By: NWS Duluth, MN

Contact Information: nws.duluth@noaa.gov

- Next Update: Friday, October 30, 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.
-
- **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.**





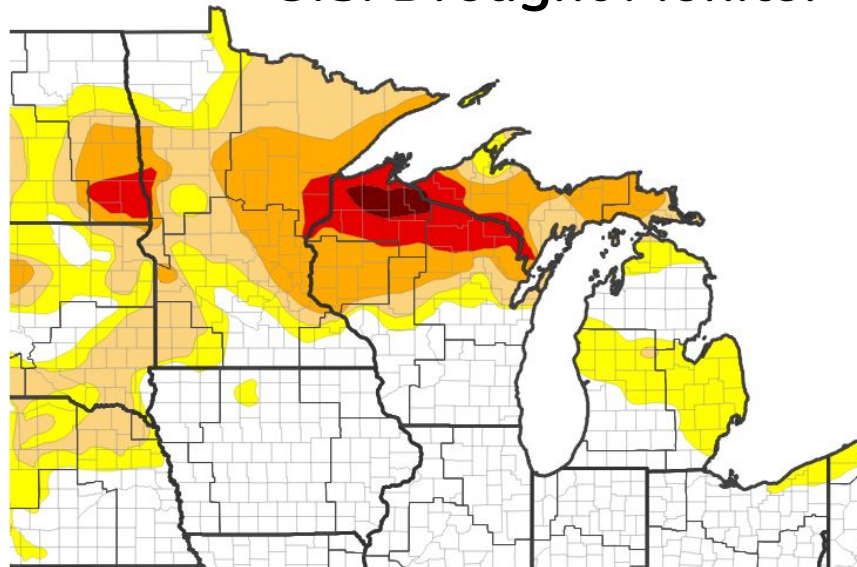
U.S. Drought Monitor

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: 10/13/26



National Oceanic and
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National Weather Service
Duluth, MN

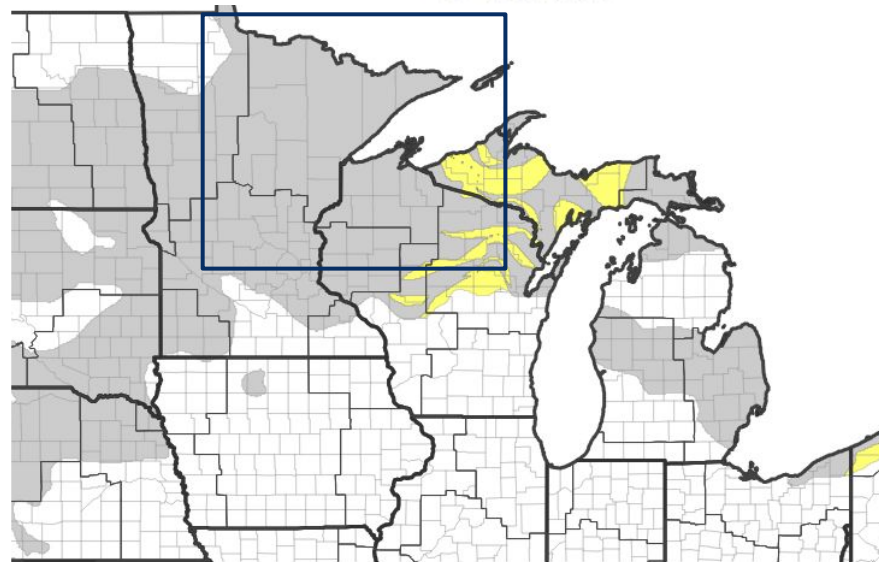


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

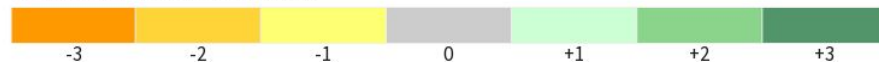
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Not applicable
 - Drought Improved: Not applicable
 - No Change: All 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

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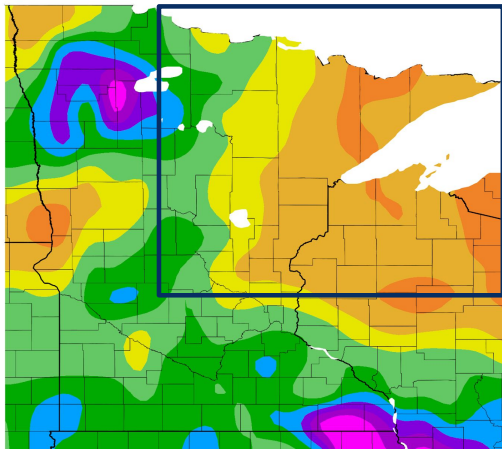


Precipitation

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

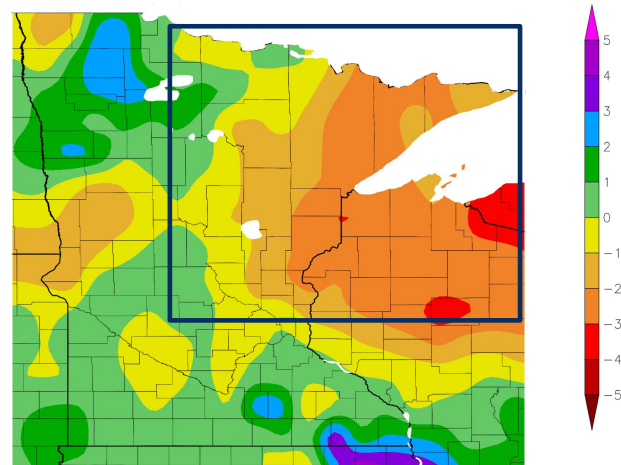
- Rainfall ranged from 0.5 - 3.5 inches for mid-September to mid-October
- This rainfall is below normal for all areas except slightly above normal for north-central Minnesota.

Precipitation (in)
9/16/2026 - 10/15/2026



Generated 10/16/2026 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
9/16/2026 - 10/15/2026



ACIS Web ServiGenerated 10/16/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Service



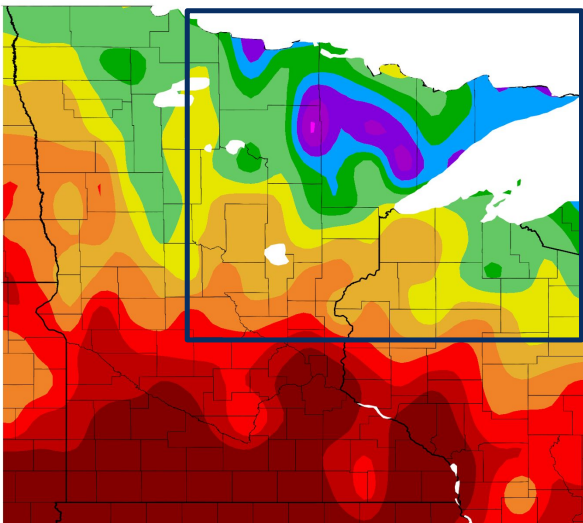


Temperature

Temperatures that were observed in the Northland over the last month

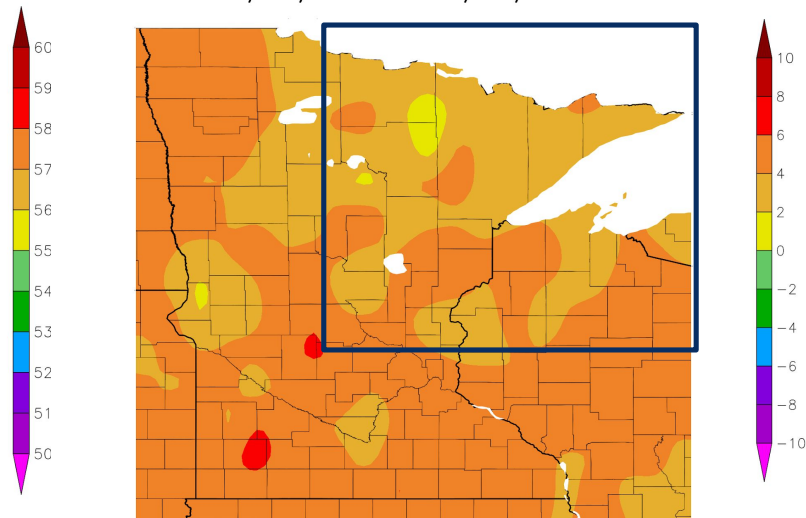
- Average temperatures were above normal above normal for mid-September to mid-October.

Temperature (F)
9/16/2026 - 10/15/2026



ated 10/16/2026 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/16/2026 - 10/15/2026



ed 10/16/2026 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](#)).
- Fields with numerous cracks in the ground due to lack of moisture.
- Hauling water due to lack of flows in area creeks and drainages.
- All of northwest Wisconsin qualifies for USDA Emergency Livestock Assistance Program and Livestock Forage Disaster Program Payments. [USDA Link](#)
- All of northwest Wisconsin are under drought emergency provisions from the State of WI Dept. of Ag., Trade and Consumer Protection. [Reference Link](#). [Reference Link](#).

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

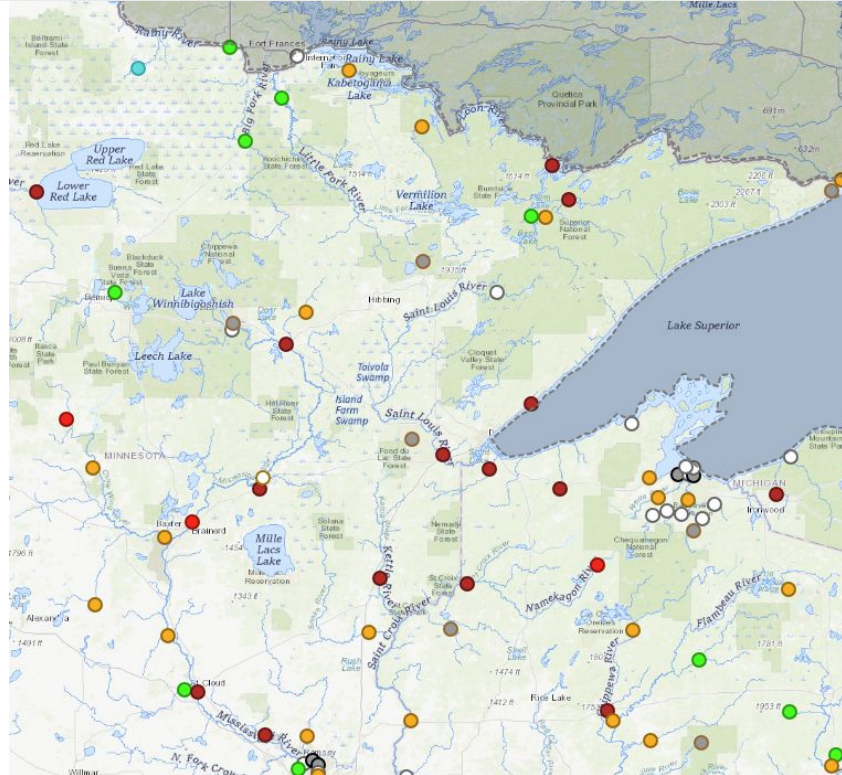
- Residents in the cities of Duluth, Hermantown, Rice Lake and Proctor are being asked to practice water conservation as members of the Western Lake Superior Watershed. This stems from the Drought Warning response phase of the Minnesota Statewide Drought Plan administered by the MN DNR.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streams are running below to much below normal for most of the region.
- A few streams in the 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
 - Much above normal
 - Above normal
 - Normal
 - Below normal
 - Much below normal
 - All-time low for this day
 - Not flowing
 - Not ranked
 - Measurement flag
 - Recent measurement unavailable
- | |
|--|
| 100 th percentile (maximum) |
| >90 th percentile |
| 76 th – 90 th percentile |
| 25 th – 75 th percentile |
| 10 th – 24 th percentile |
| <10 th percentile |
| 0 th percentile (minimum) |

Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow map valid 10/16/2026

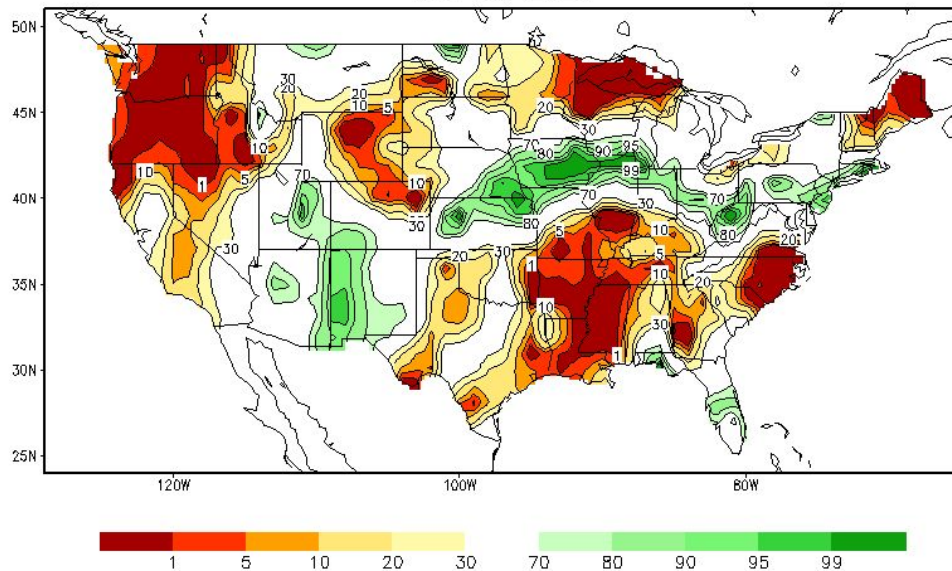


Agricultural Impacts

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

- Well below normal soil moisture in northwest Wisconsin and below normal in northeast Minnesota. ([Soil Moisture](#)).
- Fields with numerous cracks in the ground due to lack of moisture.
- Hauling water due to lack of flows in area creeks and drainages.
- All of northwest Wisconsin qualifies for USDA Emergency Livestock Assistance Program and Livestock Forage Disaster Program Payments. [USDA Link](#)
- All of northwest Wisconsin are under drought emergency provisions from the State of WI Dept. of Ag., Trade and Consumer Protection. [Reference Link](#).
[Reference Link](#).

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
OCT 15, 2026

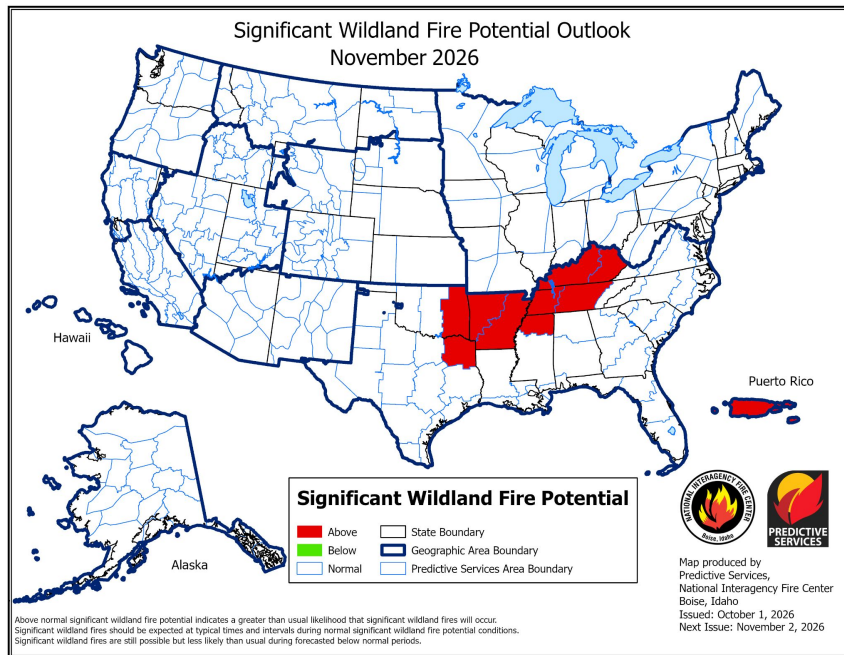




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- **Significant Wildland Fire Potential**
conditions are Normal for November 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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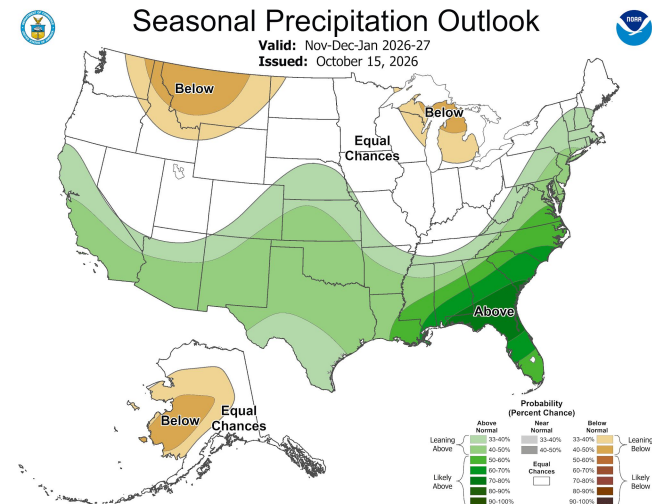
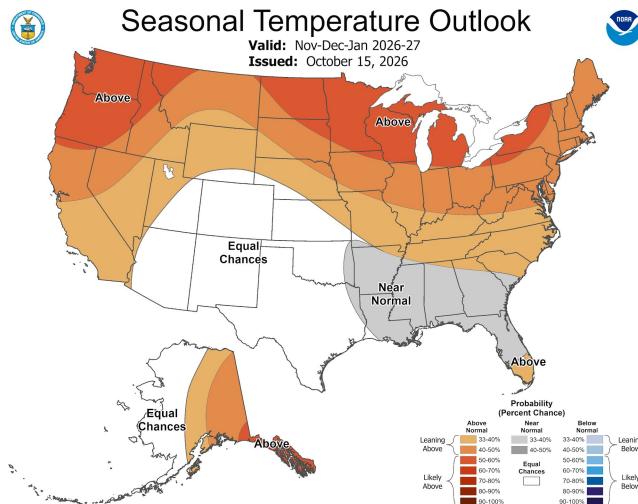
National Weather Service
Duluth, MN



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](#)

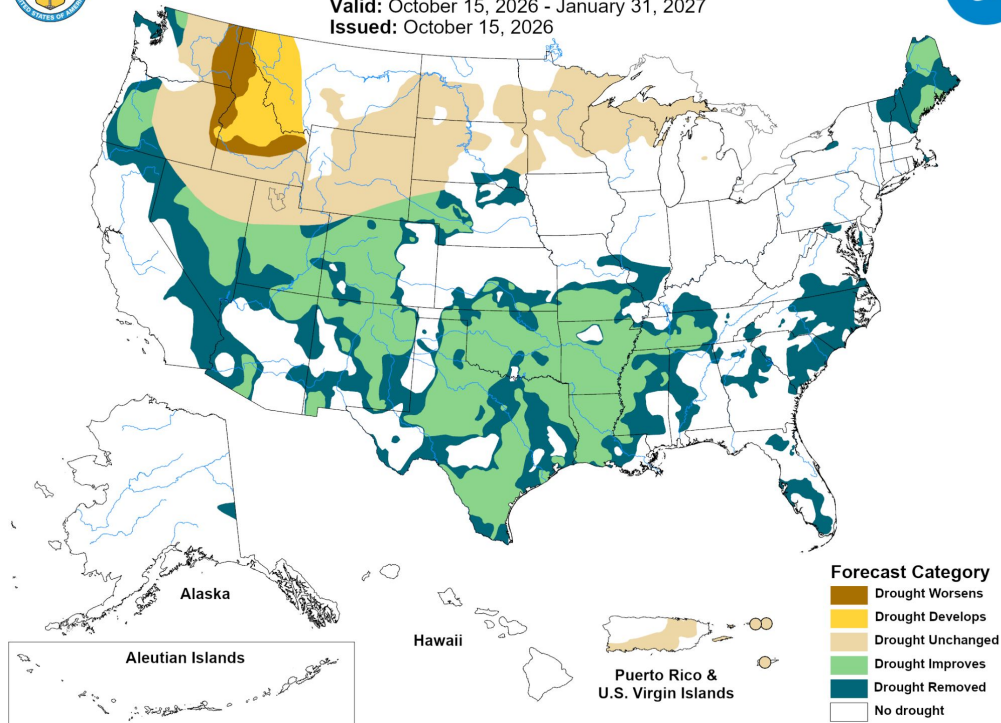
- Drought conditions are expected to persist for the region as is it is now.



Seasonal Drought Outlook

Valid: October 15, 2026 - January 31, 2027

Issued: October 15, 2026



Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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