Drought Information Statement for SE SD, SW MN, NW IA, Far NE Neb

Valid March 13, 2026

Issued By: WFO Sioux Falls, SD

Contact Information: w-fsd.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated if drought conditions significantly worsen again.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/fsd/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates for regional drought status updates.

- BELOW NORMAL WINTER PRECIPITATION HAS RESULTED IN EXPANDING AND DEGRADING DROUGHT CONDITIONS ENTERING THE NEW GROWING SEASON

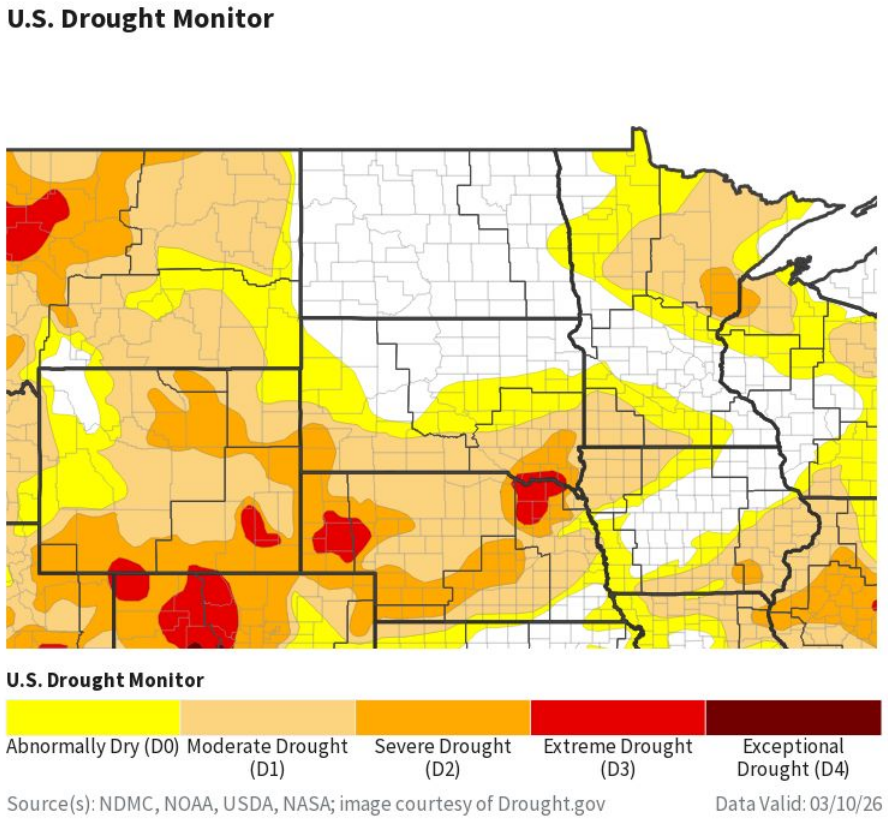
- LONG RANGE OUTLOOKS FAVOR DROUGHT CONDITIONS PERSISTING

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for SE South Dakota, SW Minnesota, NW Iowa, far NE Nebraska

...Widespread Abnormally Dry to Moderate Drought Conditions with Localized Severe to Extreme Drought...

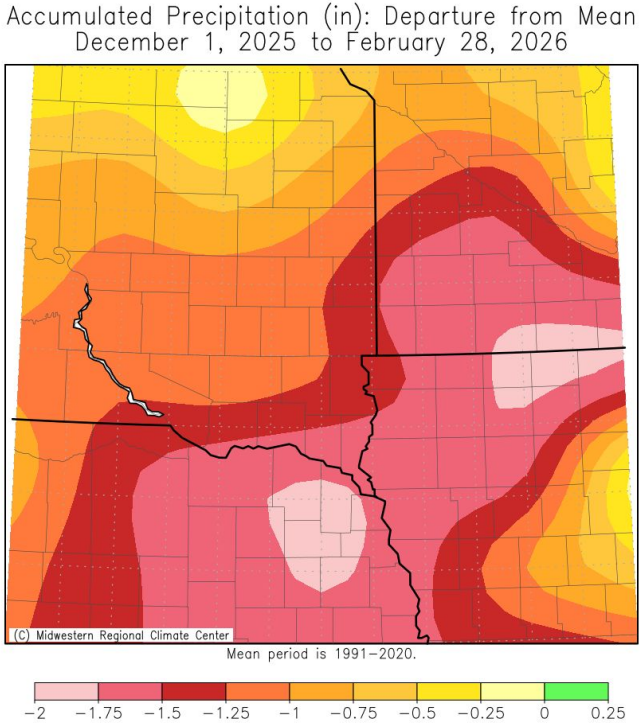
- Drought Intensity and Extent
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Extreme southeast South Dakota into portions of northeast Nebraska
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Portions of southeast South Dakota into northeast Nebraska
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Most location south of Hwy 14 in southeast South Dakota, southwest Minnesota and northwest Iowa
  - **D0 (Abnormally Dry):** Remaining areas not in more substantial drought coverage in eastern South Dakota and southern Minnesota.

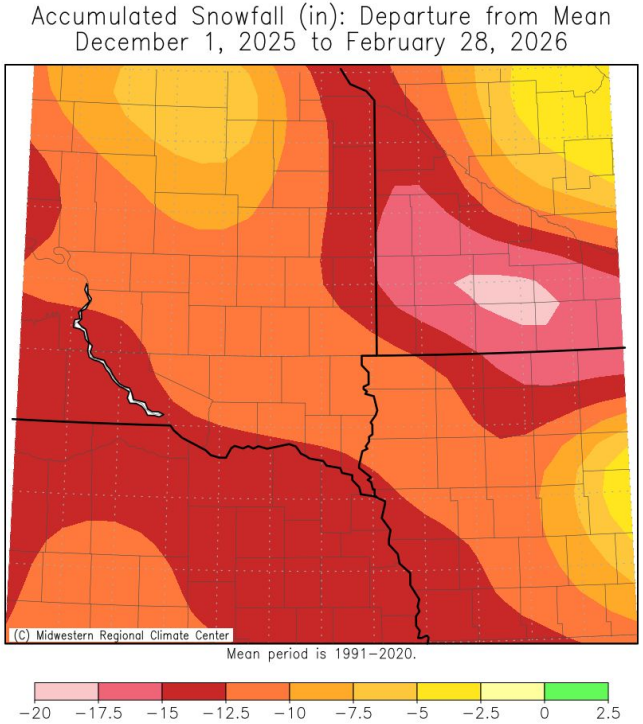


Precipitation - This Past Winter

- Overall precipitation, as well as snowfall, both were below to well below normal across the immediate area this past winter (December through February).

- With many locations already running a precipitation deficit from the fall months, this has allowed for expanding and degrading drought conditions.





Images Via: Midwest Regional Climate Center

Summary of Impacts.

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- River and stream levels remain at or below normal levels coming out of winter freeze-up.

Agricultural Impacts

- No recent reports

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Several late winter and early spring grass fires have been reported.

Other Impacts

- There are no reported impacts at this time

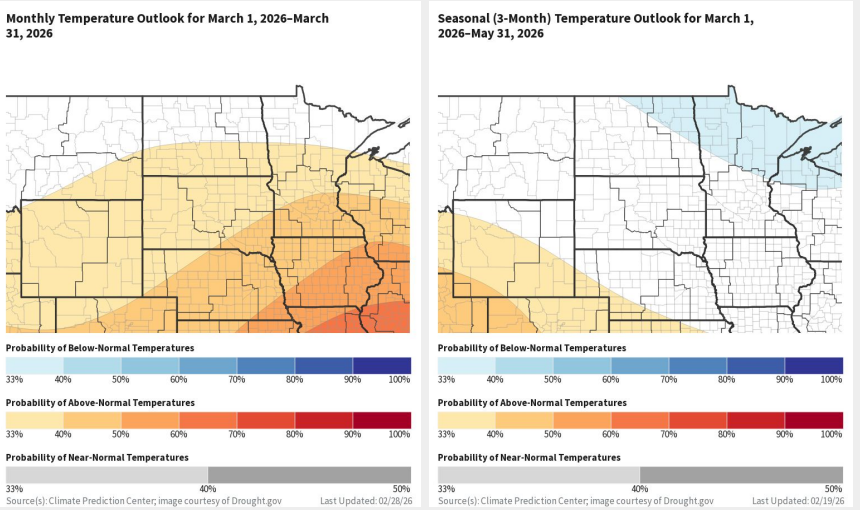
Mitigation Actions

- None reported

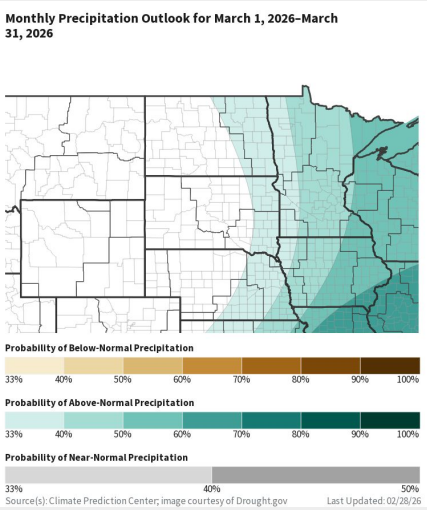
Medium and Long-Range Outlooks

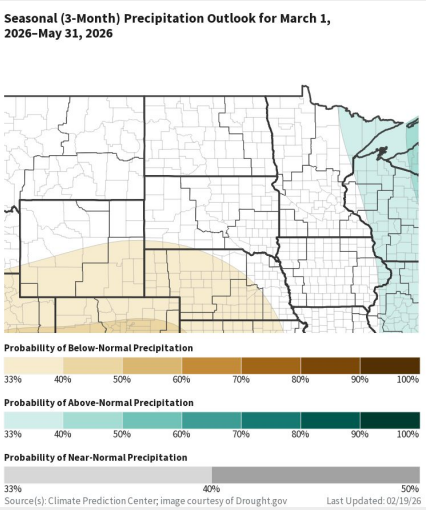
The latest medium range and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

Temperature



Precipitation





Medium Range Outlook

➔ Outlooks for the month of March generally reflect odds favoring near to above normal temperatures as well as near to above normal precipitation. This added precipitation may not be sufficient for meaningful drought improvement however.

Seasonal Outlook

➔ With a transition from La Nina to Neutral ENSO conditions, no clear signal in temperature or precipitation trends exists in the seasonal outlooks for the remainder of spring (through May).

Drought Outlook.

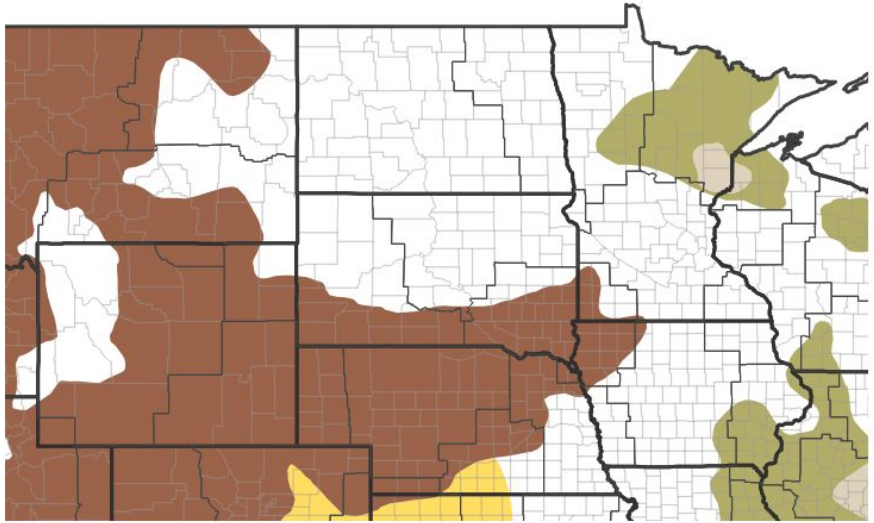
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- A dry fall and winter has resulted in expanding and degrading drought conditions across the region.
- While spring typically brings beneficial precipitation, at least some form of drought is favored to persist into the start of a new growing season.
- The latest drought-related information can be found at: weather.gov/fsd/drought. Additional Drought Statements will be issued as conditions warrant.

Acknowledgements

The drought monitor is a multi-agency effort involving NOAA's National Weather Service and National Climatic Data Center, the USDA, state and regional center climatologists and the National Drought Mitigation Center. Information for this statement has been gathered from NWS and FAA observation sites, cooperative and volunteer observations, USDAFS, the USDA and USGS.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for February 28, 2026–May 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...

Persist | Improve | End | Develop | No Drought

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

Last Updated: 02/28/26