

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

Valid April 23, 2026

Issued By: WFO Sioux Falls, SD

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

- This product will be updated as conditions warrant.
- 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.

- DROUGHT DEGRADATION CONTINUES OVER SOUTH DAKOTA AND PORTIONS OF SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA, WITH SOME RECENT IMPROVEMENT ACROSS NORTHWEST IOWA
- LONG RANGE OUTLOOKS FAVOR DROUGHT CONDITIONS PERSISTING





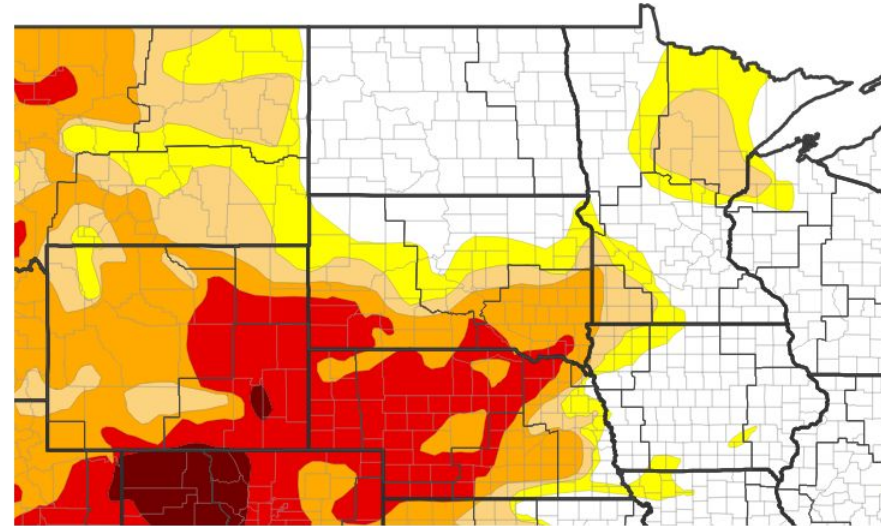
Latest U.S. Drought Monitor

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

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

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

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 04/21/26

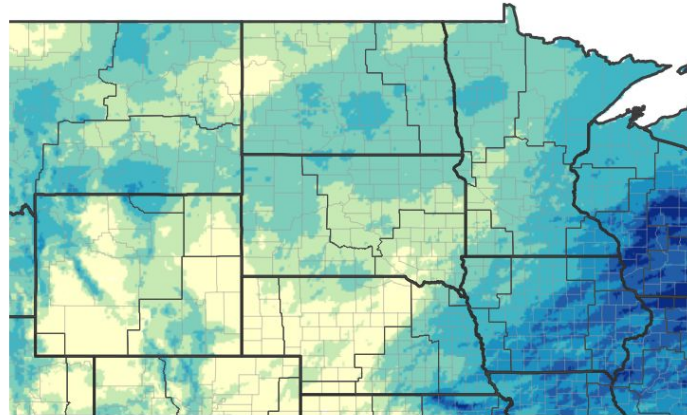




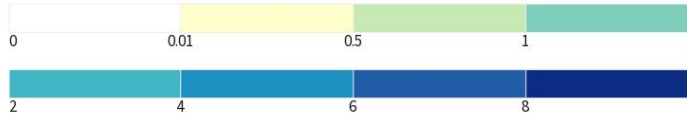
Precipitation - Past 30 Days

- Precipitation has been below normal over most areas the past 30 days, with the most pronounced deficits across South Dakota into western Minnesota.
- Many locations were already running a precipitation deficit from late last year and this past winter. This has allowed for expanding and degrading drought conditions.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



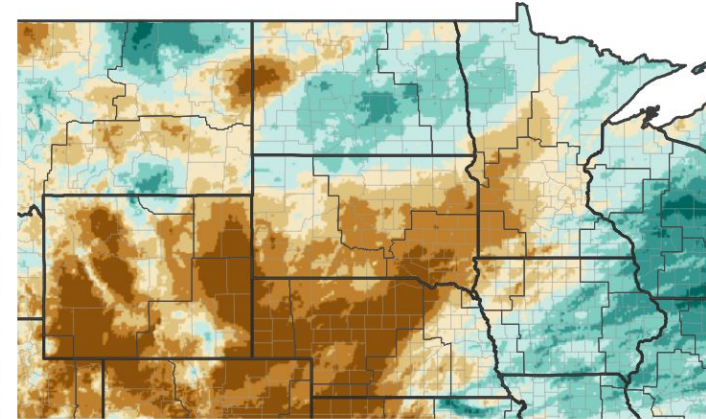
Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/21/26

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/22/26





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. A below normal runoff is forecast by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Missouri River, with water conservation measures in place for the reservoir system.

Agricultural Impacts

- Sporadic reports of dry to very dry conditions with initial assessment of field status by farmers.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Several late winter and early spring grass and field fires have occurred. Burn bans have been, or remain, in effect in some locations.

Other Impacts

- None reported

Mitigation Actions

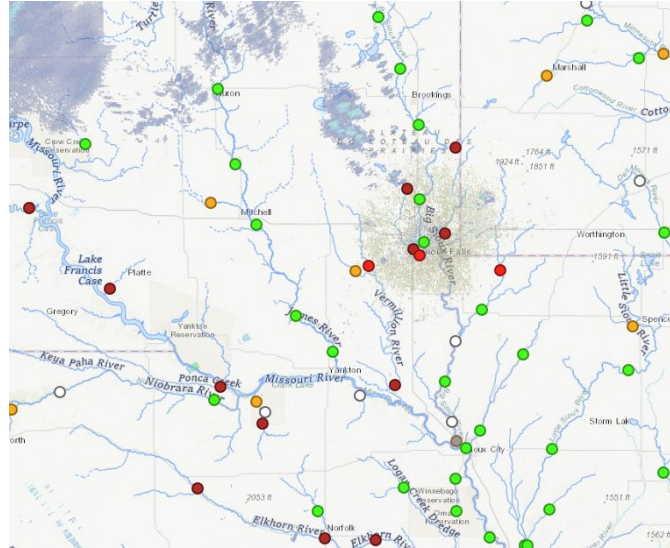
- None reported





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

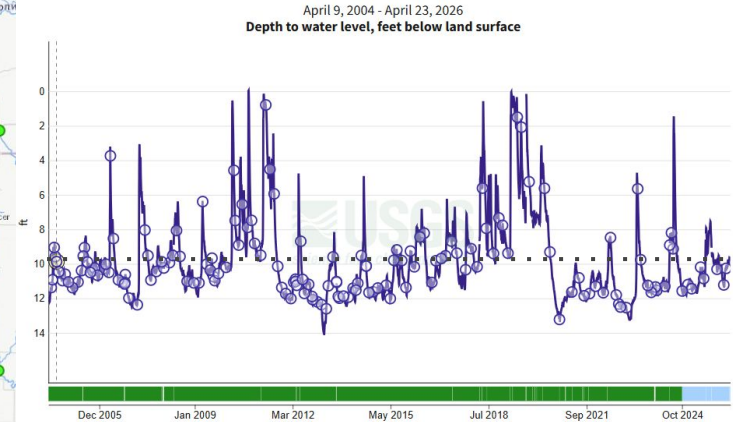
- Most waterways across the region are running at or below normal levels for this time of year.
- Groundwater well data from Renner, SD is generally comparable to April values from the past few years.



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

USGS Streamflow Status Map
valid 04/24/2026

Renner GW Well NO.2 Near Renner, SD - USGS-433726096444501



USGS Groundwater Well near Renner, SD
valid 04/24/2026

USGS Streamflow Data:

[National Water Dashboard](#)

Groundwater Wells Data:

[Renner, SD](#)

[Near Huron, SD](#)





Agricultural and Soil Moisture Impacts

SD

As of April 19th	Very Short Moisture	Short Moisture	Adequate Moisture	Moisture Surplus
Topsoil	26%	33%	37%	4%
Subsoil	30%	26%	39%	5%

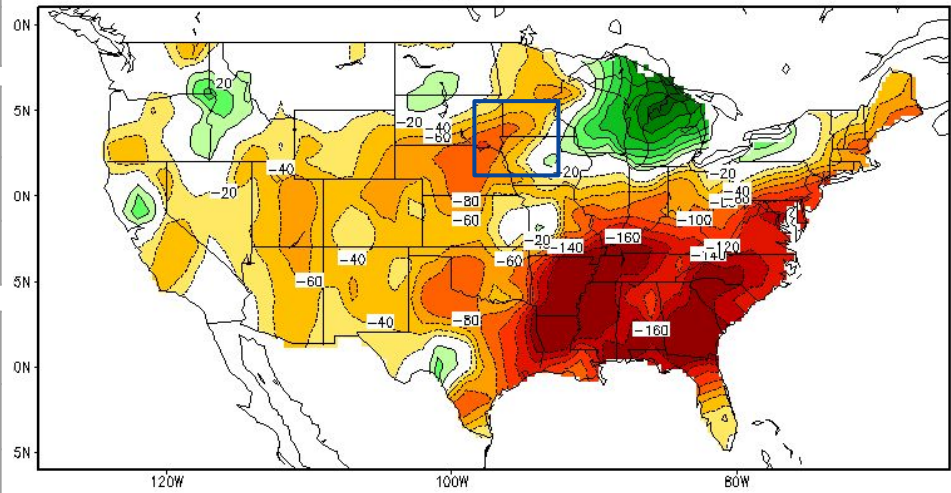
IA

As of April 19th	Very Short Moisture	Short Moisture	Adequate Moisture	Moisture Surplus
Topsoil	2%	8%	72%	18%
Subsoil	3%	16%	68%	13%

MN

As of April 19th	Very Short Moisture	Short Moisture	Adequate Moisture	Moisture Surplus
Topsoil	4%	19%	63%	14%
Subsoil	4%	24%	64%	8%

Calculated Soil Moisture Anomaly (mm)
APR 22, 2026



USDA Crop Progress and Condition Reports

[South Dakota](#)

[Minnesota](#)

[Iowa](#)

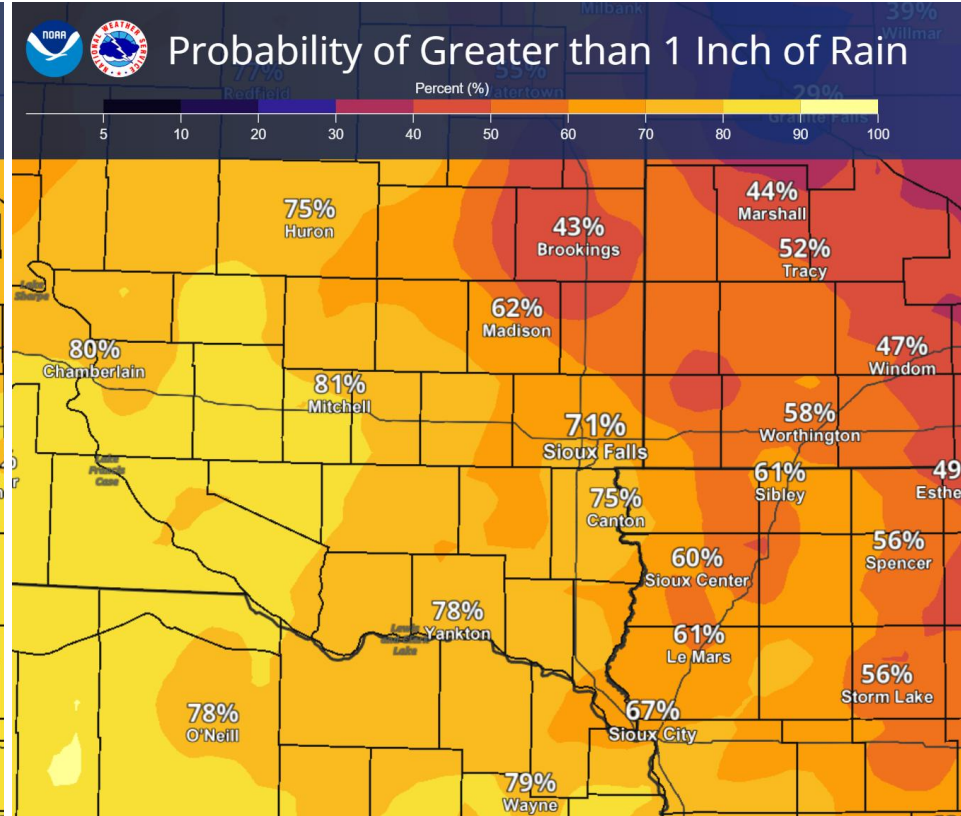
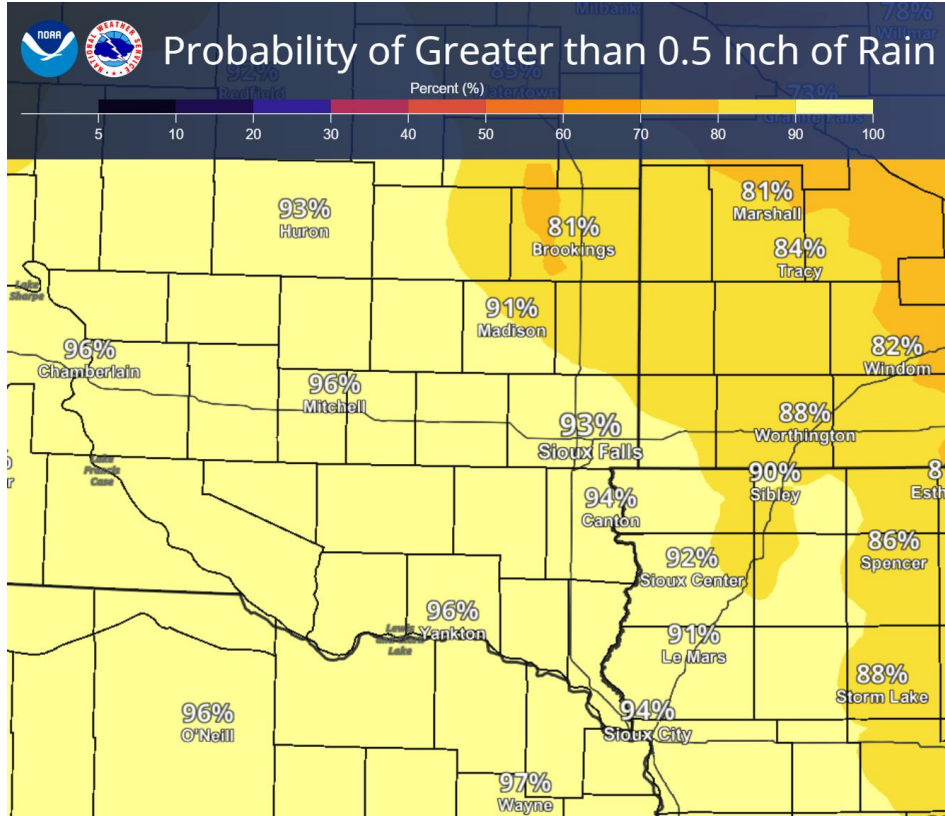
[Nebraska](#)





Five Day Precipitation Outlook

Rainfall Exceedance Probabilities through April 29th. (Data as of Morning of April 24th)



courtesy of Drought.gov



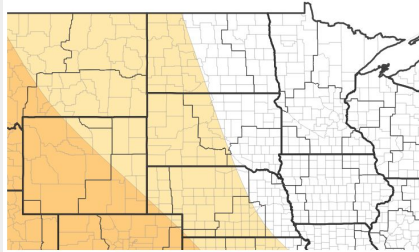


Medium and Long-Range Outlooks

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

Temperature

Monthly Temperature Outlook for May 1, 2026–May 31, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

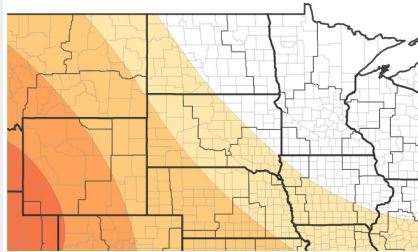


Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/16/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for May 1, 2026–July 31, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



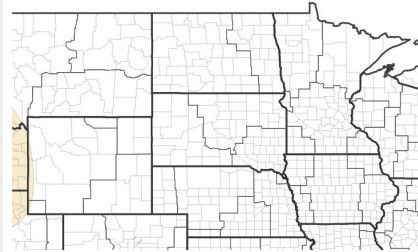
Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/16/26

Precipitation

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for May 1, 2026–May 31, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

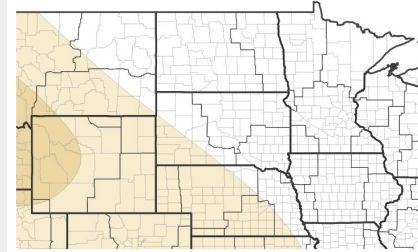


Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/16/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for May 1, 2026–July 31, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/16/26

Medium Range Outlook

→ No clear signal exists in the temperature and precipitation outlooks for the month of May, with perhaps only a slight lean in the odds toward near to above normal temperatures.

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 this summer (through July), with only a slight lean toward above normal temperatures.



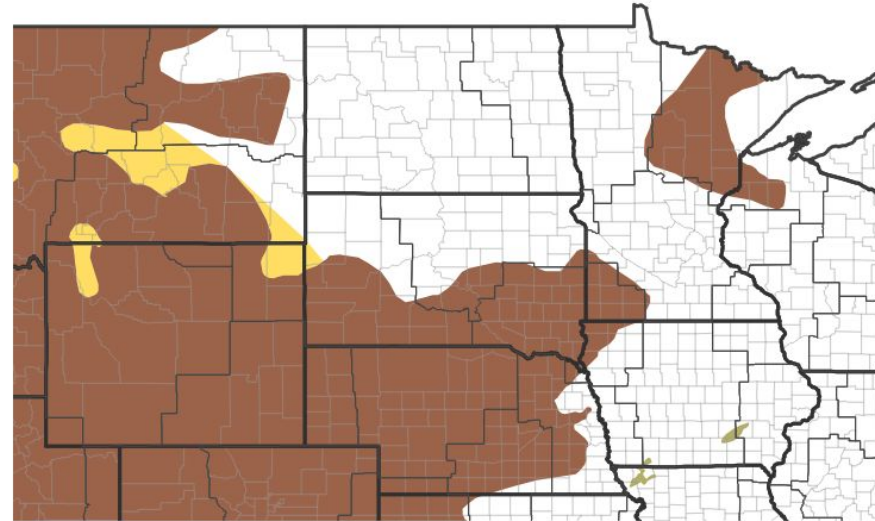


Drought Outlook

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

- Below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures have resulted in expanding and degrading drought conditions, especially near and west of I-29.
- Beneficial rain is expected over the next 5 days which may temporarily halt expansion or perhaps result in some improvement in conditions.
- The latest drought-related information can be found at: weather.gov/fsd/drought. Additional Drought Statements will be issued as conditions warrant.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for April 16, 2026–July 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 04/16/26

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.



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
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