



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

Valid May 14, 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.

- WIDESPREAD DROUGHT CONTINUES, FOCUSED IN SOUTH DAKOTA WITH SEVERE TO LOCALIZED EXTREME DROUGHT CONDITIONS
- LONG RANGE OUTLOOKS FAVOR DROUGHT CONDITIONS PERSISTING OR EXPANDING





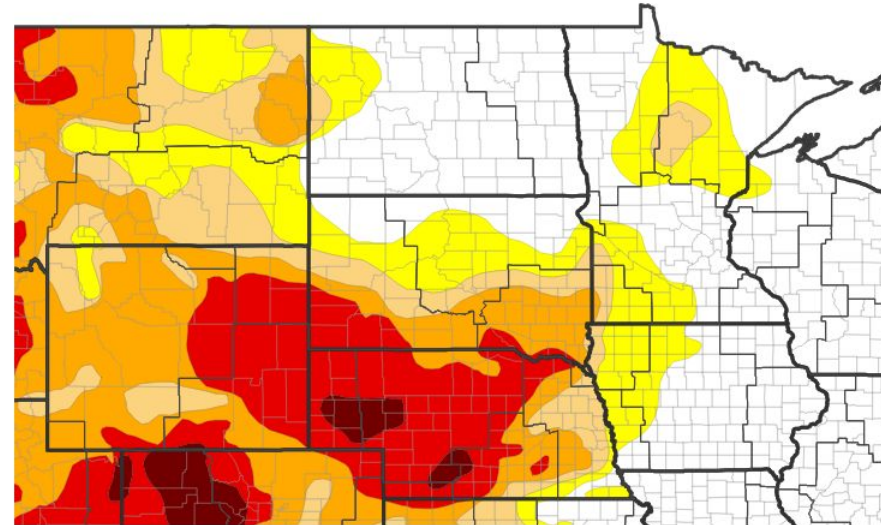
Latest U.S. Drought Monitor

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.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 05/12/26



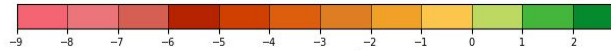
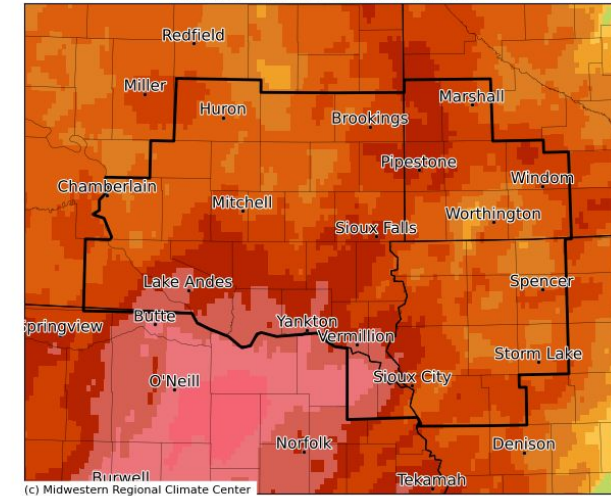


Precipitation Departure From Normal

- Some areas across southern South Dakota are running as much as a 5-9 inch precipitation deficit for the Water Year (since Oct 1st)
- Minimal precipitation has fallen so far this May (climatologically one of our wettest months)
- Normal rainfall this time of year is between 0.5-1 inch per week. Not receiving consistent rainfall this time of year quickly adds to the deficit.

**Accumulated Precipitation (in):
Departure from 1991-2020 Normals**

October 01, 2025 to May 13, 2026

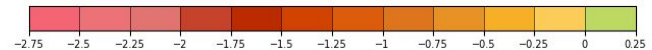
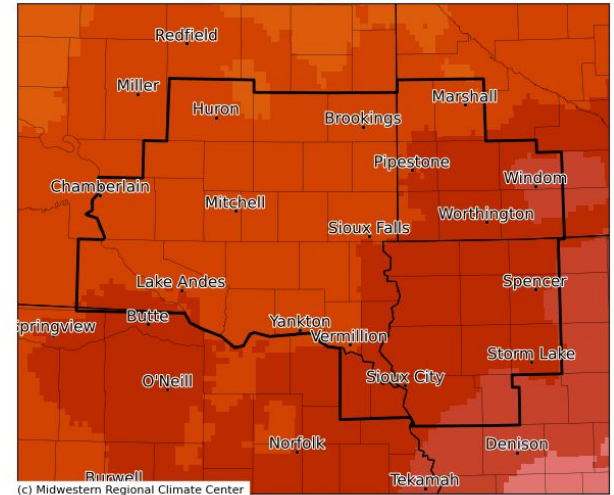


Source: PRISM Weather Data
Generated on: Thu May 14, 2026 09:14:07 EDT

**Precipitation Departure From Normal
Water Year (Since Oct 1st)**

**Accumulated Precipitation (in):
Departure from 1991-2020 Normals**

May 01, 2026 to May 13, 2026



Source: PRISM Weather Data
Generated on: Thu May 14, 2026 09:17:42 EDT

**Precipitation Departure From Normal
Month to Date**





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- River and stream levels are generally below, to well below normal, through portions of the Big Sioux and Vermillion basins and within normal ranges elsewhere. 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

- Reports of pasture land being well behind schedule and concern about livestock. Stock ponds also beginning to dry up.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Red Flag Warning continue to be issued well into May, marking some of the historically latest issued warnings for the season. Burn bans have been, or remain, in effect in some locations.

Other Impacts

- None reported

Mitigation Actions

- Monitoring notifications for water rights sent to some users.





Hydrologic Conditions

- Below to well below normal stream levels through portions of the Big Sioux and Vermillion Basins.
- Groundwater well data from Renner, SD has generally remained steady, rising some after late April rain.

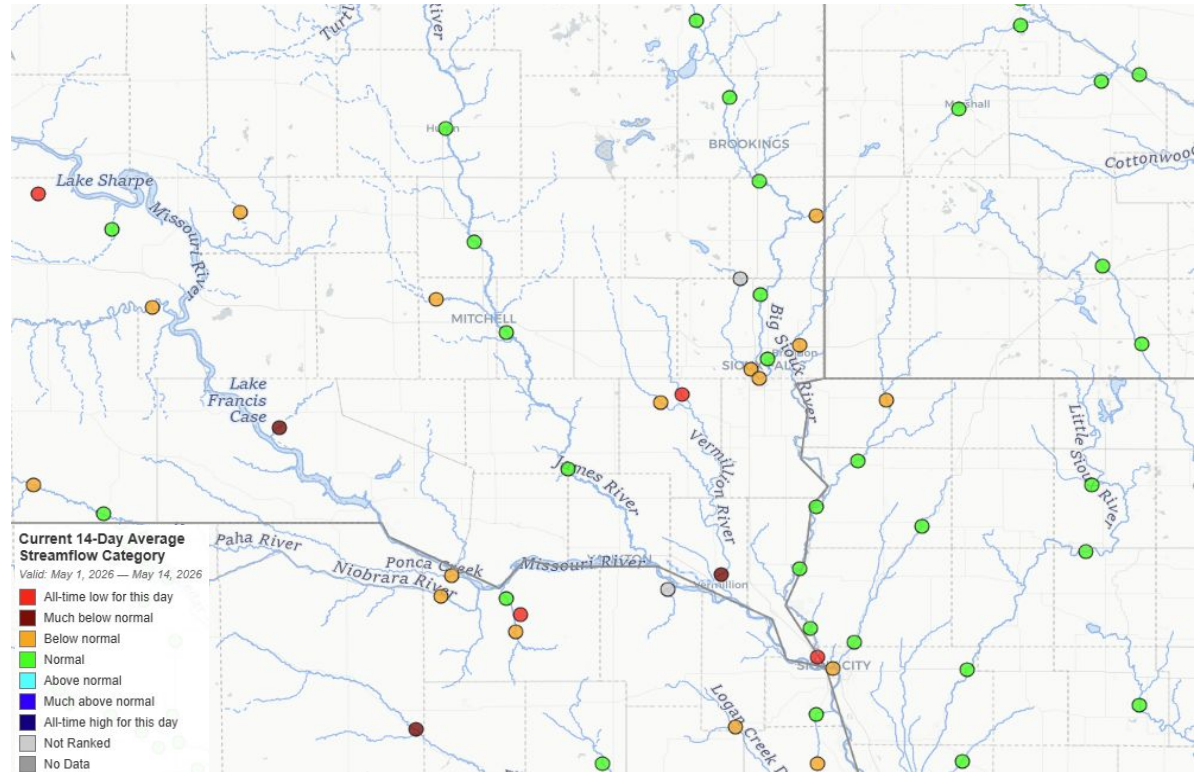
USGS Streamflow Data:

[National Water Dashboard](#)

Groundwater Wells Data:

[Renner, SD](#)

[Near Huron, SD](#)



USGS Streamflow Status Map - 14 Day Average (valid 05/14/2026)





Agricultural and Soil Moisture Impacts

SD

| As of May 10th | Very Short Moisture | Short Moisture | Adequate Moisture | Moisture Surplus |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Topsoil | 20% | 34% | 44% | 2% |
| Subsoil | 27% | 28% | 43% | 2% |

IA

| As of May 10th | Very Short Moisture | Short Moisture | Adequate Moisture | Moisture Surplus |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Topsoil | 3% | 23% | 68% | 6% |
| Subsoil | 3% | 18% | 74% | 5% |

MN

| As of May 10th | Very Short Moisture | Short Moisture | Adequate Moisture | Moisture Surplus |
|----------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Topsoil | 4% | 34% | 57% | 5% |
| Subsoil | 4% | 29% | 64% | 3% |

USDA Crop Progress and Condition Reports

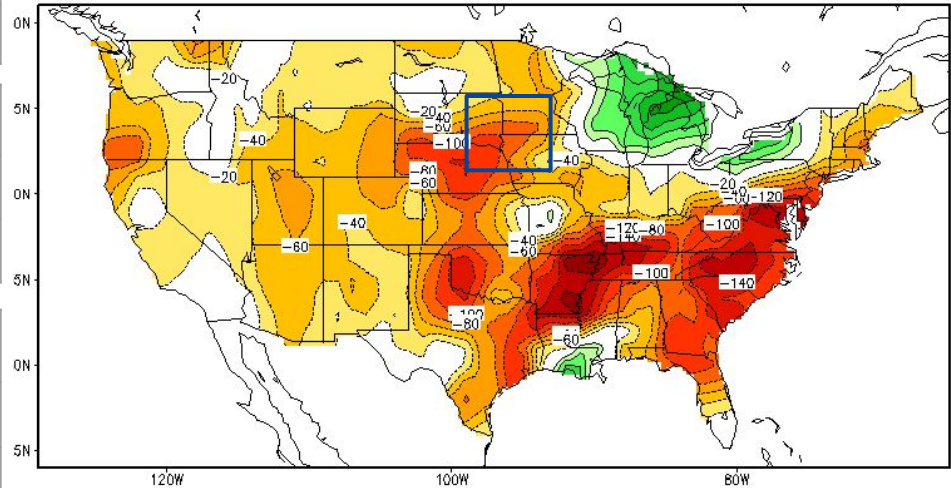
[South Dakota](#)

[Minnesota](#)

[Iowa](#)

[Nebraska](#)

Calculated Soil Moisture Anomaly (mm) MAY 13, 2026



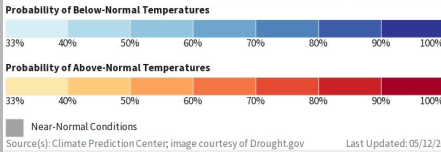
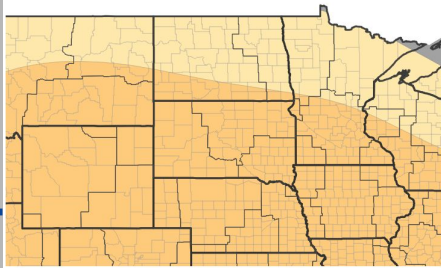


Medium and Long-Range Outlooks

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

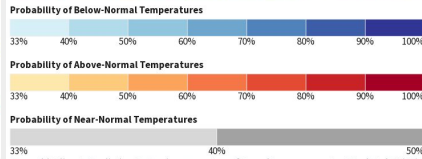
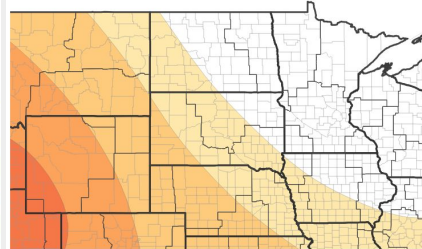
Temperature

8-14 Day Temperature Outlook for May 20, 2026-May 26, 2026



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 05/12/26

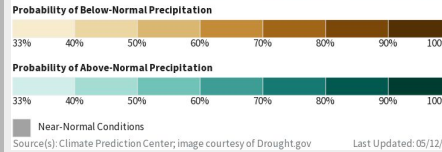
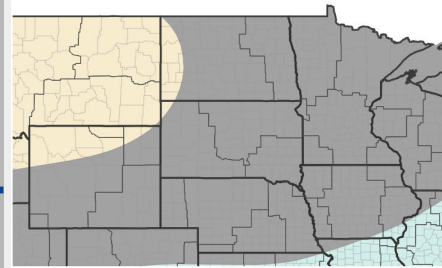
Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for May 1, 2026-July 31, 2026



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

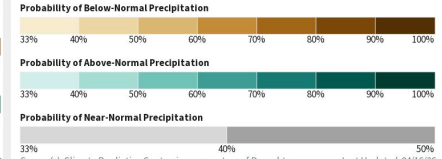
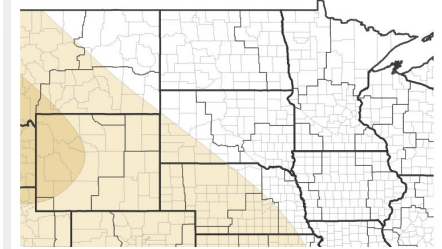
Precipitation

8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook for May 20, 2026-May 26, 2026



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 05/12/26

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



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

Short Range Outlook

→ Rain and thunderstorm chances exists for May 16th-18th. While this may bring beneficial moisture to some areas, how widespread any more significant rainfall will be is still uncertain given thunderstorm generated rainfall can be more localized.

Medium to Long Range Outlook

→ Medium to long range outlooks generally favor near to above normal temperatures and near to below normal precipitation through late spring into the summer months.



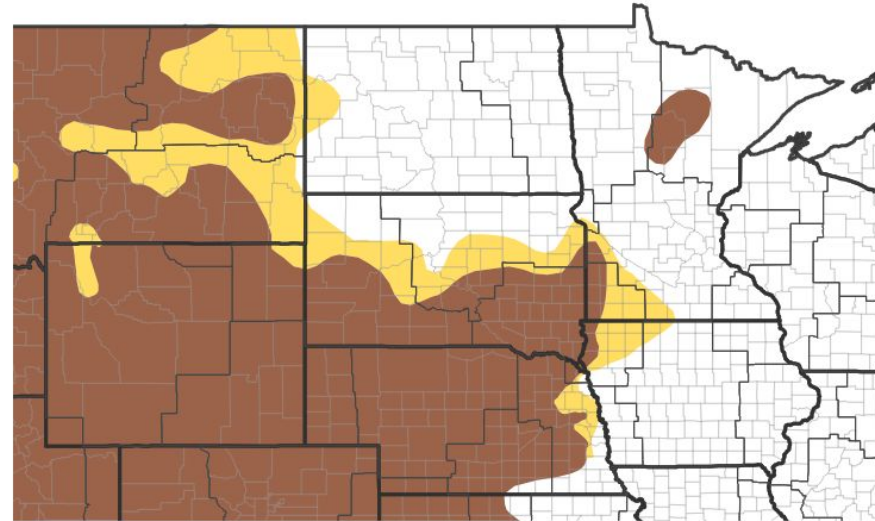


Drought Outlook

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

- Significant long term precipitation deficits exist over much of the region with the greatest deficits across southern South Dakota.
- A lack of consistent rainfall this time of year can quickly add to these deficits.
- While rain chances exists over the next 7 days, any widespread relief is uncertain as thunderstorm generated rainfall can be more localized.
- 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 30, 2026–July 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 04/30/26

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.

