



# Drought Information Statement for North and Central Texas

Valid October 20, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Fort Worth/Dallas, TX

Contact Information: [sr-fwd.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-fwd.webmaster@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated **November 25, 2026** or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
  - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
  - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/fwd/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
  - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
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- Severe (D2) to Extreme (D3) drought conditions persist across North and Central Texas despite the heavy rainfall that occurred at the start of the month.
  - Drought conditions are generally expected to persist, but improve through the remainder of the fall season.



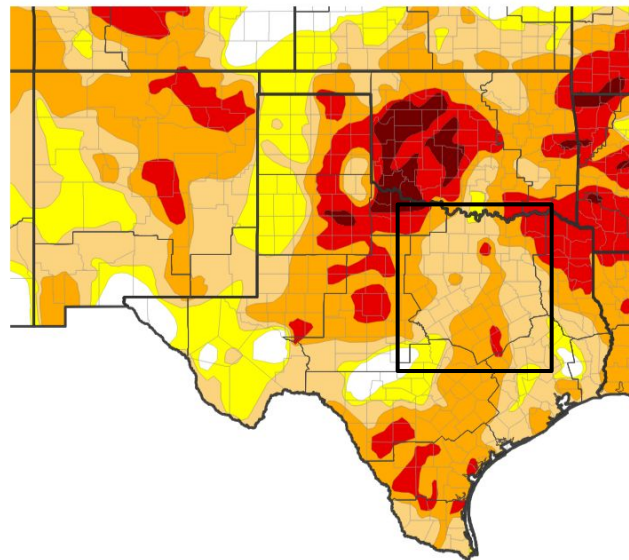


# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for North and Central Texas

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Lamar Co. and portions of the following counties: Delta, Hopkins, Falls, Robertson, and Milam. Locations adjacent to the Red River in Fannin County.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought):** Portions of western North and Central Texas including the Big Country. Along and near the I-35/35E corridor, from Dallas to the Hill Country. Far eastern North Texas.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** The remainder of North and Central TX, west of I-35/35W and east of I-45.
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Portions of southern Lampasas and Cooke Counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 10/13/26



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# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for North and Central Texas

- **Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change:**

- **Drought Worsened:**

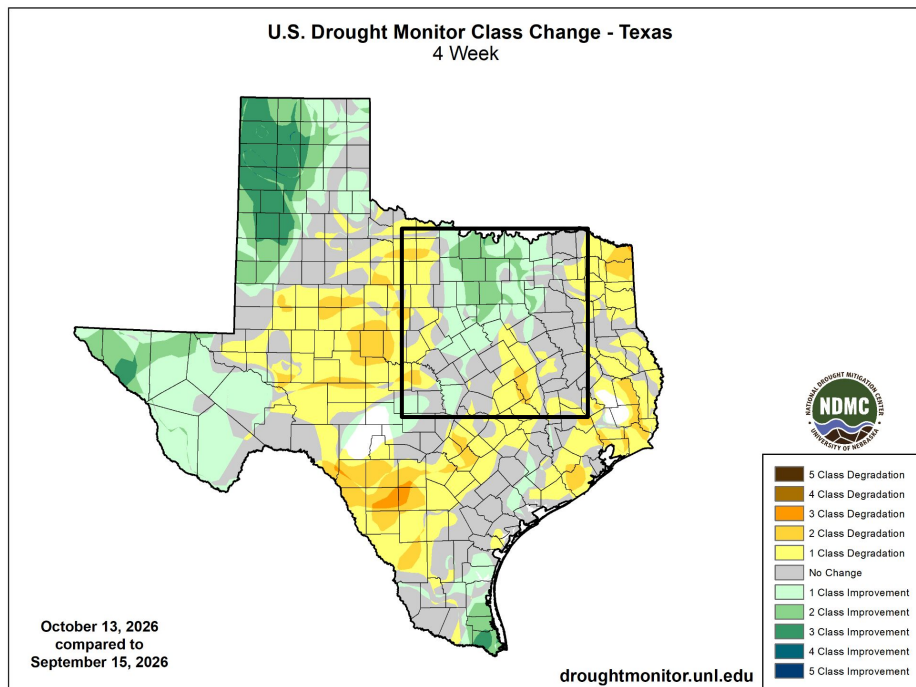
- Areas along and east of the I-35 corridor in Central Texas, and portions of Young, Stephens, Eastland, Comanche, and Hopkins counties has seen **a one to two class degradation**.

- **No Change:**

- Much of East Texas.

- **Drought Improved:**

- Most of North Texas and parts of western Central Texas has seen a **one to two class improvements**.



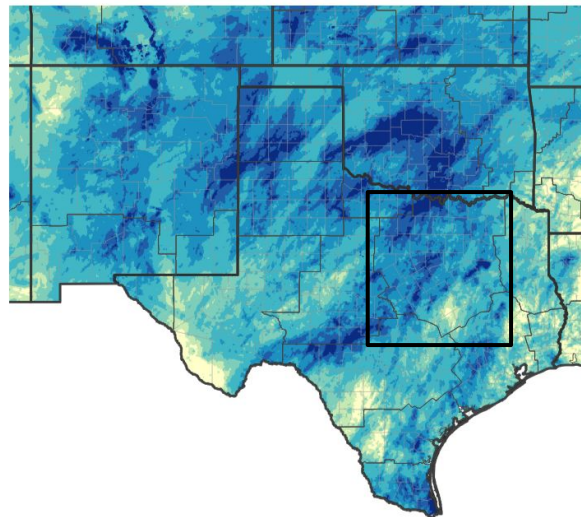


# Precipitation

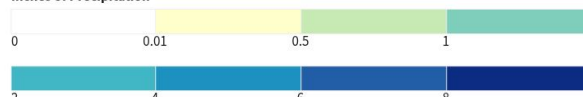
Last 30 Days

- Over the last 30 days (ending at 7 am CDT October 19, 2026), **rainfall totals range from 2 to 8 inches**, with a few isolated areas along the Red River with totals exceeding 10 inches.
- This corresponds to **greater than 100% of normal for most areas along east of I-35/35E**, with much of eastern North and Central Texas ranging from around 85% of normal or less.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

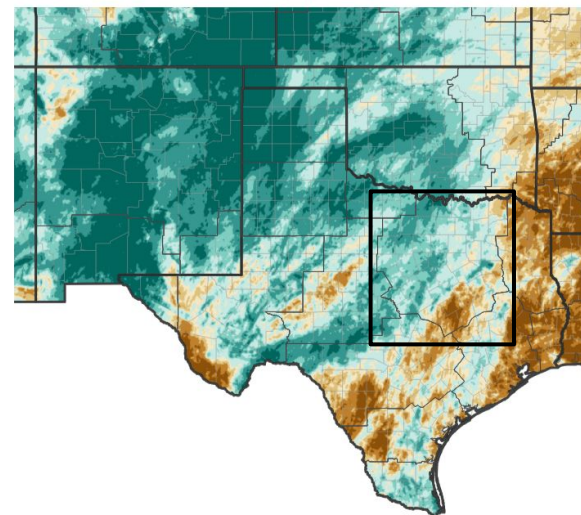


Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 10/19/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 10/19/26



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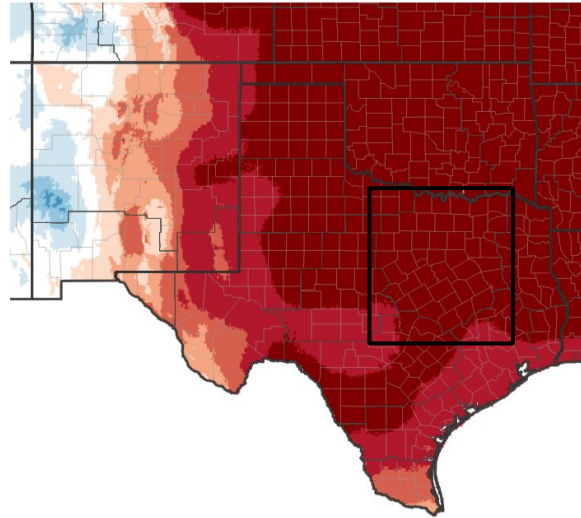
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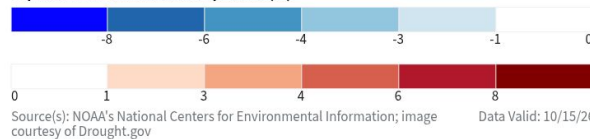
# Temperature

- Over the **last 7 days**, temperatures swung from **well-above normal (10-15°F)** to **below normal (7-10°F)** as the first strong cold front of the season swept through the region.
- Max temperatures over the **last 30 days** averaged **around 5-8°F above normal** across most of the region.

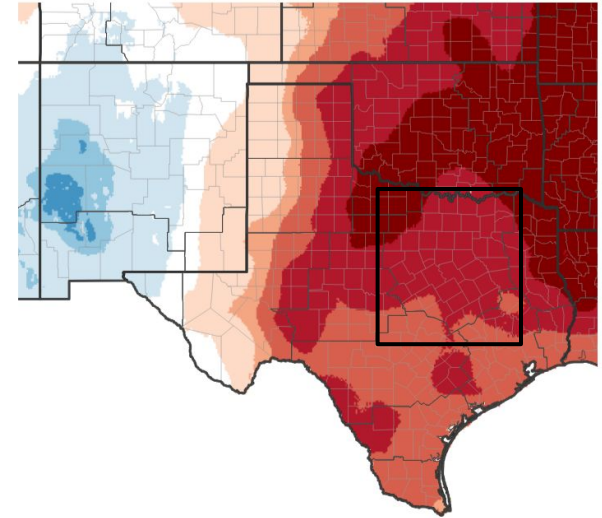
7-Day Temperature Anomaly



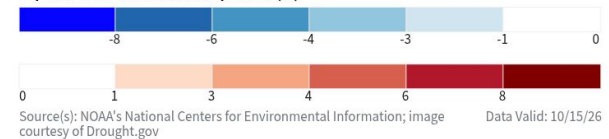
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Increased surface runoff from above-normal rainfall early in the month resulted in a large number of sites reporting near-normal to above-normal streamflow. ([USGS](#))
  - Below normal streamflow still noted in a few areas along the Brazos River in western Central Texas and the Sabine River in eastern North Texas into East Texas.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Despite the multi-day period of heavy rainfall early in the month, dry conditions persist and continue to have significant impacts on livestock and agriculture. ([Crop & Weather Report from Texas A&M Agrilife](#))
- Soil moisture has improved (now ranking between the 30th and 70th percentile) for all areas except for East Texas and eastern Central Texas (generally S of I-20 and E of I-35/45). See CPC Daily Soil Moisture Rankings [here](#).

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- In response to recent rains, several counties across North and Central Texas have dropped the [Outdoor Burn Bans](#) that persisted through much of the summer.
  - As of 10/19/26, Outdoor Burn Bans are in effect for 23 of the 46 counties in our forecast area.

## Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

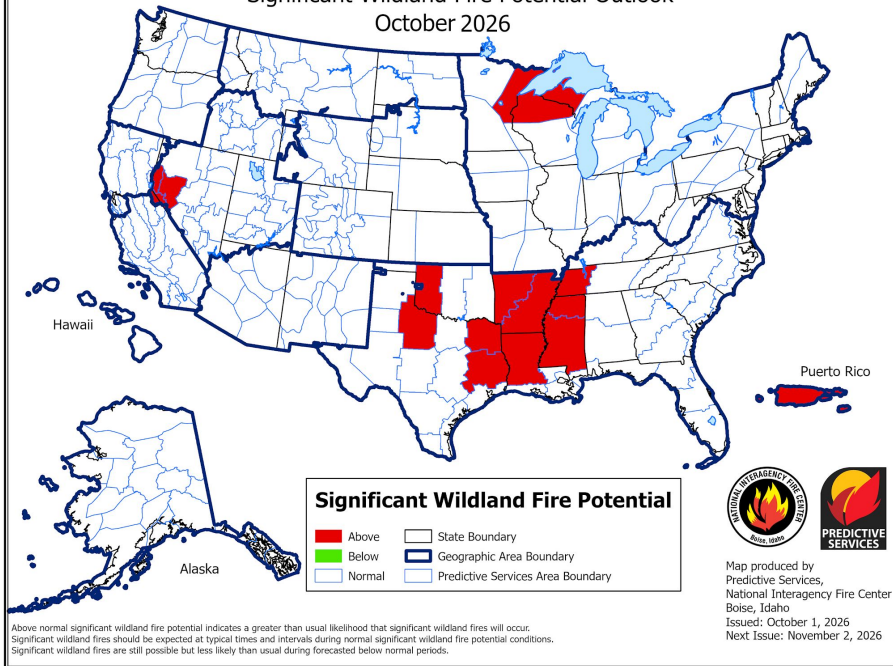




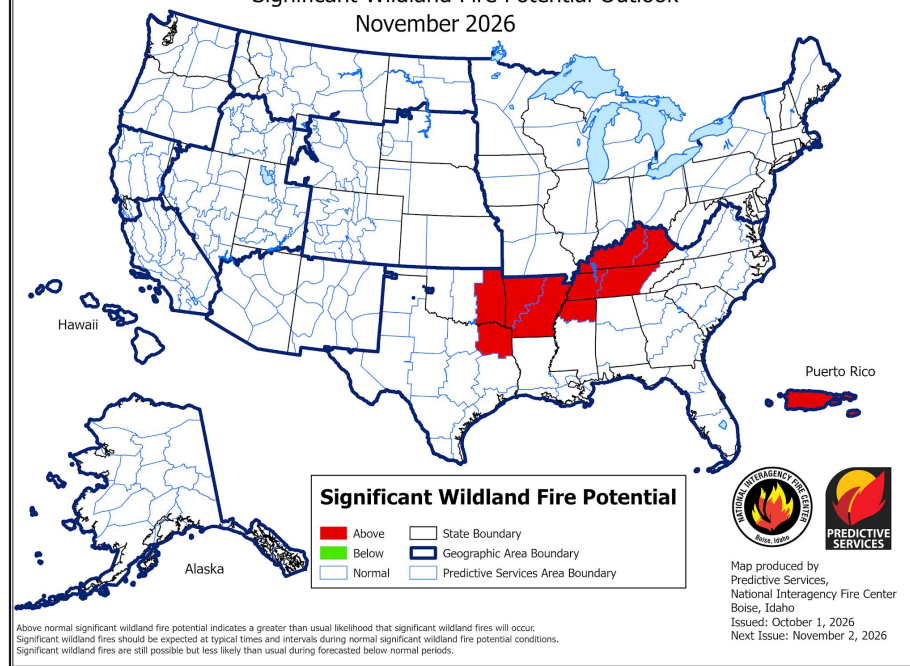
# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook  
October 2026



Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook  
November 2026



**Lingering Moderate (D1) to Extreme (D3) drought conditions across East Texas supports the persistence of above normal fire potential across eastern North Texas through November.**



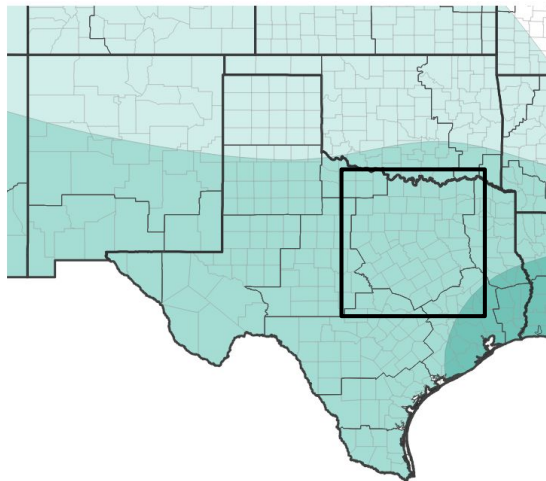


# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- There is no clear signal for temperatures being above or below normal across North and Central Texas through the month of November.
- There is approximately a 40-50% probability of above-normal precipitation during the month of November.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for November 1, 2026–November 30, 2026



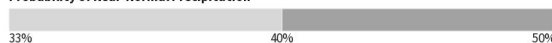
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



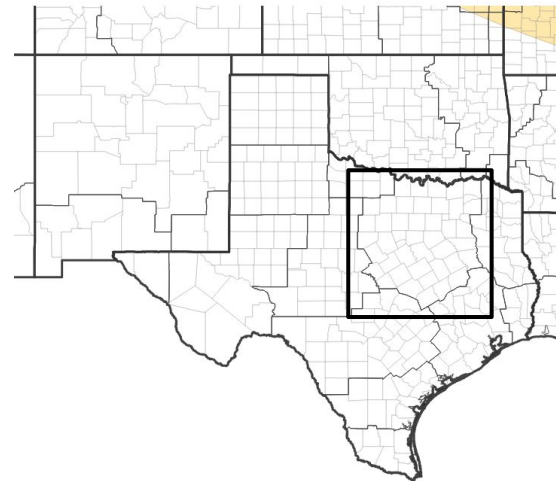
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



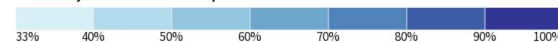
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/15/26

Monthly Temperature Outlook for November 1, 2026–November 30, 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

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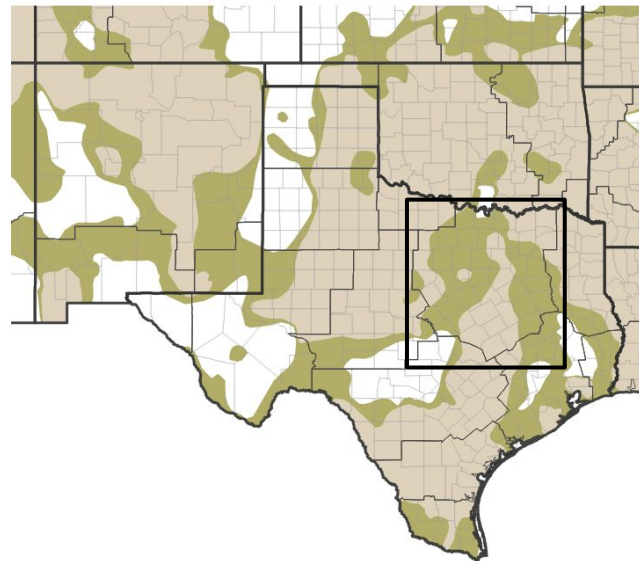


# Drought Outlook

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

The current seasonal drought outlook, covering the mid October through January period, indicates that drought conditions are expected to **improve or end** through the next 3 months.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for October 15, 2026–January 31, 2027



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

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Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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