



Drought Information Statement for North and Central Texas

Valid November 7, 2023

Issued By: NWS Fort Worth

Contact Information: sr-fwd.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated December 9, 2023 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.



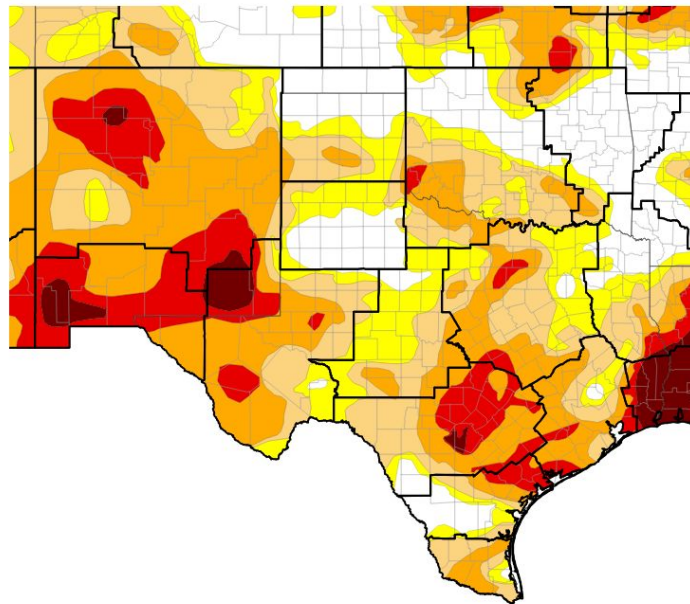


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Abundant October rainfall improved drought conditions across the region.
- Drought Intensity and Extent
 - D4 (Exceptional Drought): ended in late October, after persisting since the beginning of August
 - D3 (Extreme Drought): west/northwest portions of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex in North Texas; Killeen and Fort Cavazos in Central Texas
 - D2 (Severe Drought): portions of North Central Texas, western North Texas, and Central Texas
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): the remainder of the I-35 corridor and the Big Country

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 10/31/23

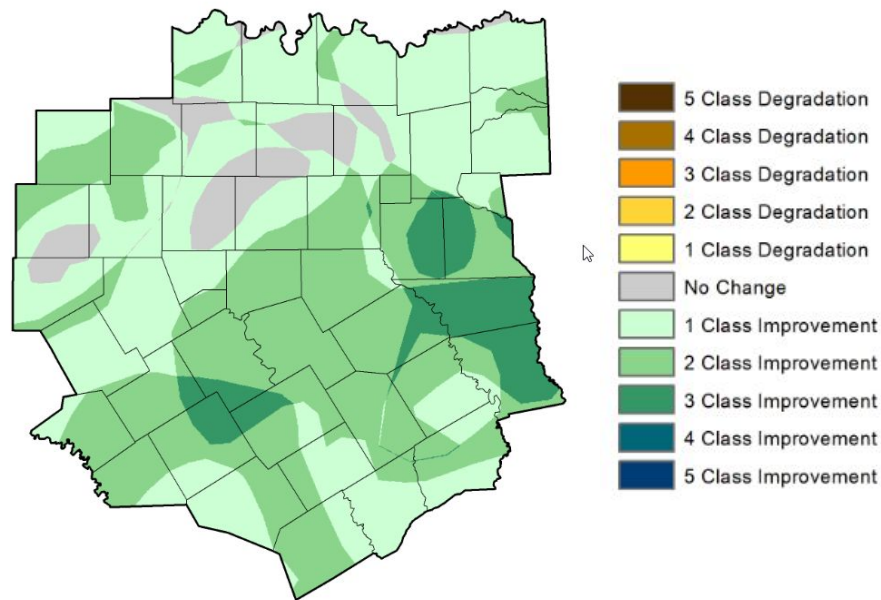




Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [8-week change map](#) for North and Central Texas

- 8-Week Drought Monitor Class Change
 - Drought conditions intensified across nearly the entire region during the summer.
 - But during September and October, many locations experienced 2- to 3-category improvements.



U.S. Drought Monitor 8-week change map
(September 5 to October 31)

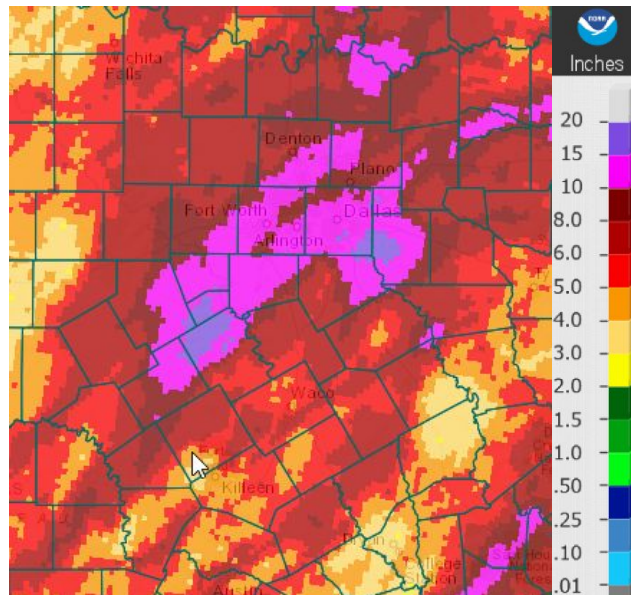
Image from [National Drought Mitigation Center \(NDMC\)](#)



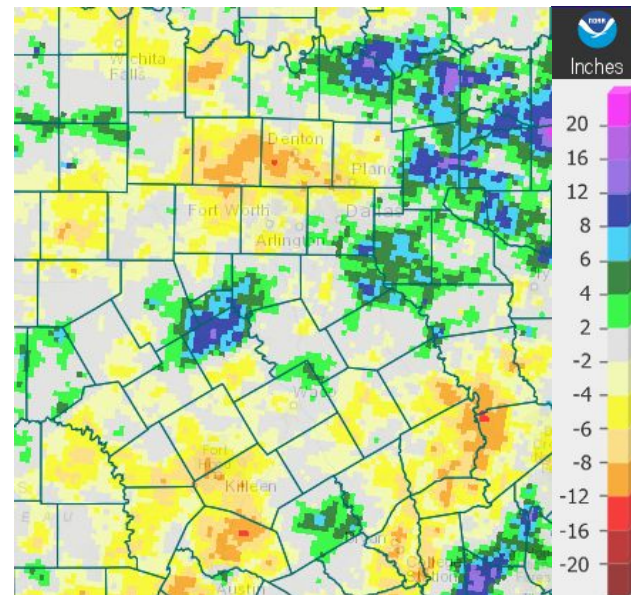


Precipitation

- The image on the left shows October rainfall. Many locations (in red) received more than 5 inches, and a few spots (in purple) topped 15 inches. Normal values range from 3 inches in western North Texas to 5 inches in East Texas.
- The image on the right shows 2023 departures from normal precipitation. Despite autumn rainfall, some locations are still well below normal for the year to date.



October Precipitation Totals



Year-to-Date Departure from Normal Precipitation

Imagery from [Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service \(AHPS\)](#)





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Some reservoirs continue to struggle, but Lake Waco more than doubled in volume during October.

Agricultural Impacts

- October rainfall allowed for planting, but the fall growing season was cut short with early freezes.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Across much of the region, the transition to winter dormancy has begun. Throughout the cold season, this vegetation will remain conducive to fire initiation and spread.

Other Impacts

- For many areas, the current drought is now over 2 years in duration, resulting in deep soil moisture deficits that are adversely impacting native trees.

Mitigation Actions

- Water conservation measures are widespread. Since water restrictions vary, residents should keep informed with the current guidelines from their municipality or water utility provider.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Most reservoirs are at least 90% of capacity, but some continue to struggle, particularly from the Big Country into Central Texas.
 - Lake levels at Belton and Stillhouse Hollow have risen but are still only around 60% full.
 - Lake Palo Pinto is just above 38% full, and Proctor Lake has fallen to 28%.
- Water Conservation Measures:
 - Dallas and Fort Worth - twice-per-week limit, only hand watering 10 am to 6 pm (for Dallas the daytime limit is only from April to October)
 - Killeen - Stage 2: twice-per-week limit, no outdoor watering from 10 am to 8 pm (identical restrictions for Temple, Belton, Harker Heights and Copperas Cove)
 - Waco - mandatory water restrictions were lifted on October 30

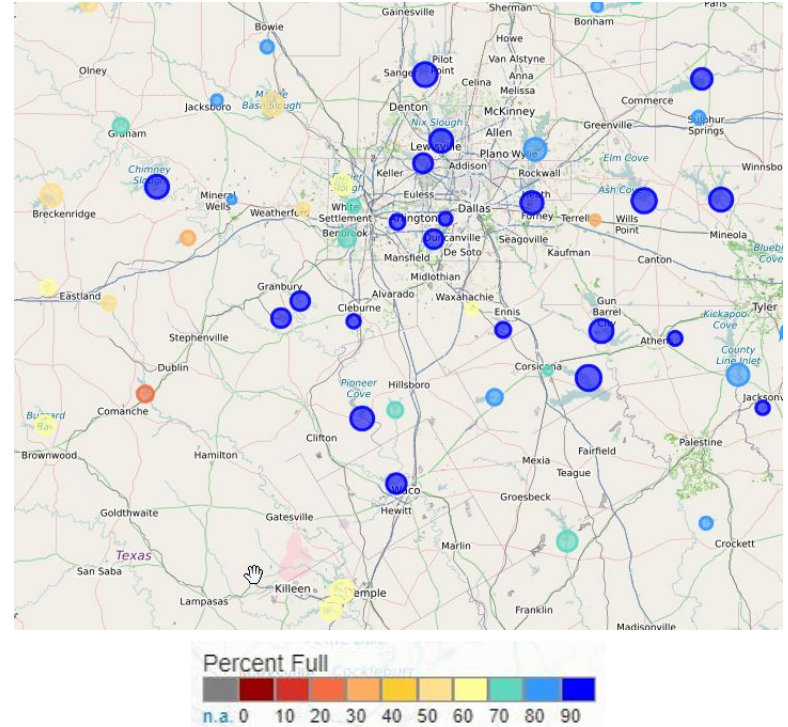


Image from [Texas Water Development Board \(TWDB\)](https://www.twdb.texas.gov/)





Fire Hazard Impacts

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

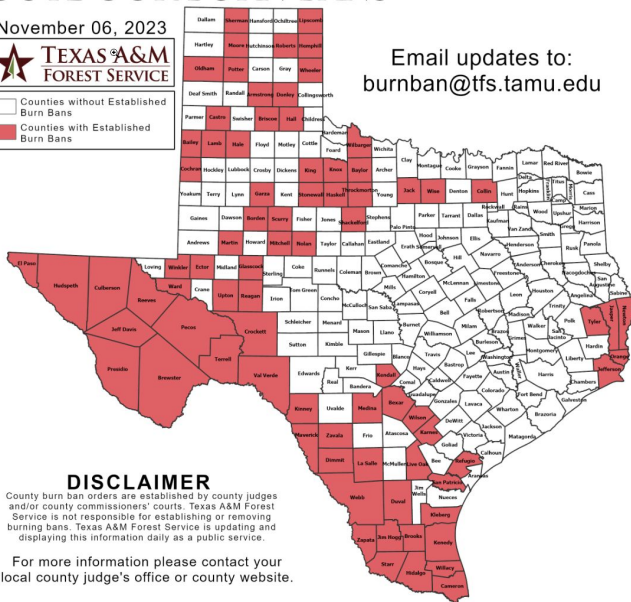
- October rainfall improved vegetative health.
- However, early season freezes arrested the fall growing season in many areas. The resulting dormant vegetation will be conducive to fire initiation and spread.
- The days of greatest concern for wildfires are those that are sunny and warm with low humidity and breezy winds.
- Be vigilant about fire usage. Avoid open flames near dry vegetation, and assure all coals and embers are fully extinguished.

OUTDOOR BURN BANS

November 06, 2023



Counties without Established Burn Bans
Counties with Established Burn Bans



DISCLAIMER

County burn ban orders are established by county judges and/or county commissioners' courts. Texas A&M Forest Service is not responsible for establishing or removing burning bans. Texas A&M Forest Service is updating and displaying this information daily as a public service.

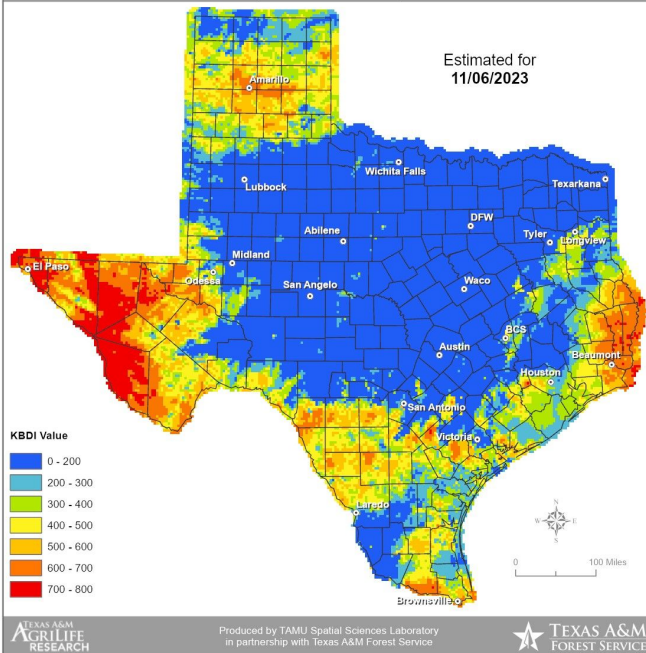
For more information please contact your local county judge's office or county website.

Click [here](#) for the latest map of [Outdoor Burn Bans](#) across Texas.

Keetch-Byram Drought Index

(4 km x 4 km resolution)

Estimated for
11/06/2023



The [Keetch-Byram Drought Index \(KBDI\)](#) is designed to assess fire danger.



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Long-Range Outlooks

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

- El Niño may enhance precipitation amounts throughout the cold season.
- As a result, precipitation outlooks through into early 2024 favor above normal precipitation.

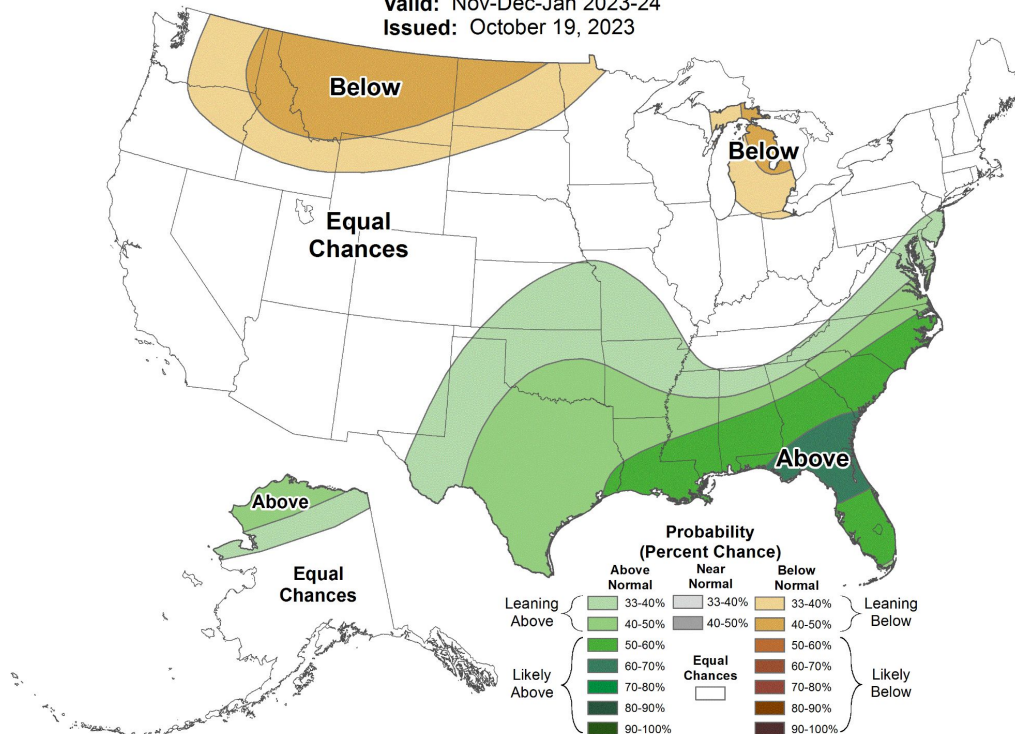


Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Nov-Dec-Jan 2023-24

Issued: October 19, 2023



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Drought Outlook

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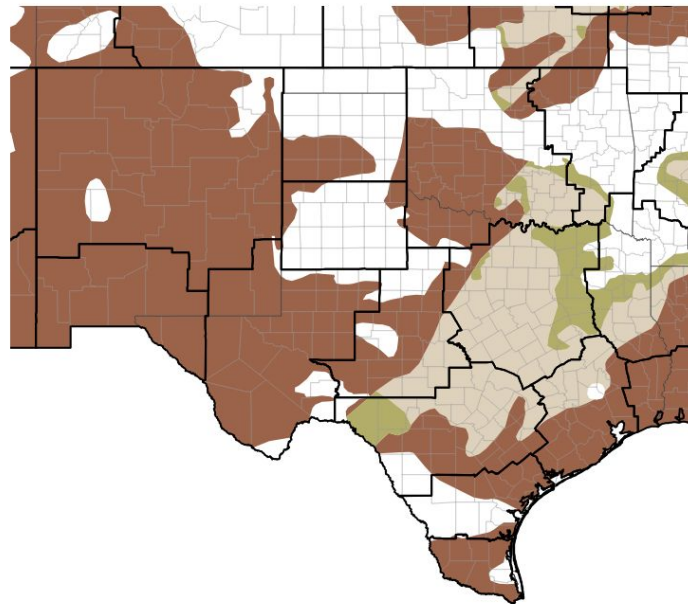
- Although outlooks continue to favor above normal precipitation, it will take some time to reverse the extraordinary deficits across the region.
- Some drought improvement has already occurred and additional improvement is projected during November. However, drought conditions are likely to persist across much of the region.

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center \(CPC\) Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center \(CPC\) Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

1-Month Drought Outlook



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

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