



Drought Information Statement for Portions of Northern AL and Southern Middle TN

Valid April 16, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Huntsville, AL

Contact Information: nws.huntsville@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated by May 15, 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/hun/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.

- **Drought has Intensified, with Severe Drought (D2) Conditions Across Most (over 80%) of the Area**



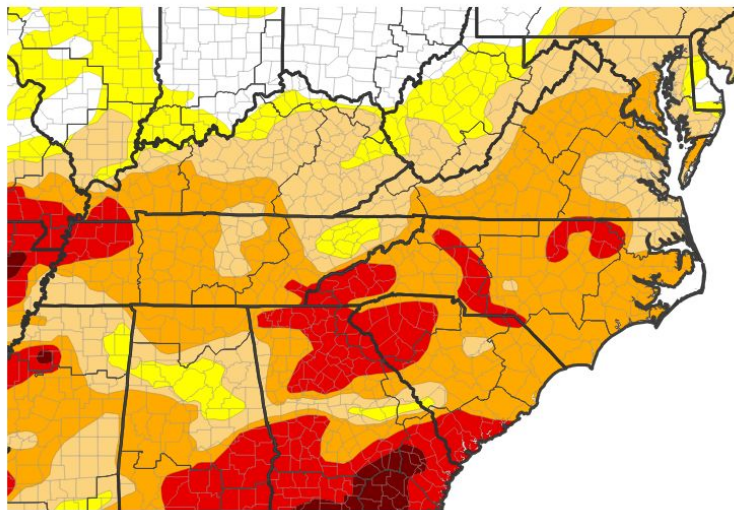


U.S. Drought Monitor - April 14, 2026

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Portions of Northern AL and Southern Middle TN

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: All of the Huntsville County Warning and Forecast Area, with the exception of southwest portions of Colbert and Franklin Counties, central/southern areas of Cullman, Marshall and DeKalb Counties.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Southwest portions of Colbert and Franklin Counties, a broad swath of central Cullman County, southern/central areas of Marshall and DeKalb Counties.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: A small portion of southern Cullman County

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

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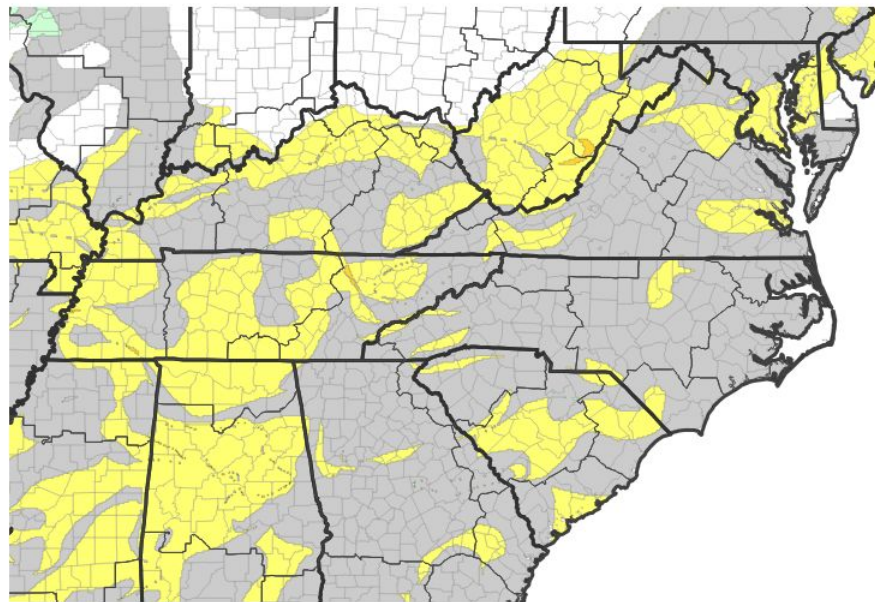


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

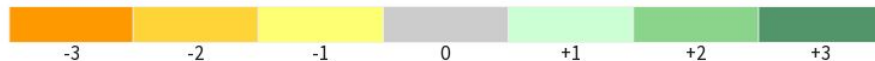
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Portions of Northern AL and Southern Middle TN

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Drought conditions worsened in all of Lincoln, Moore, and Franklin Counties in TN, and in all of Lauderdale, Limestone, Madison, Morgan, and Lawrence Counties in northern AL. Drought worsened across much of Colbert, Franklin, and Jackson Counties in AL. Drought also worsened in southern and northern portions of Cullman County, northern Marshall County and small areas of western and northern DeKalb County.
 - No Change: Drought conditions remain unchanged since last week in southwest portions of Colbert and Franklin (AL) Counties, portions of central Cullman and southern Marshall County, a small area of eastern Jackson County, and much of DeKalb County.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



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

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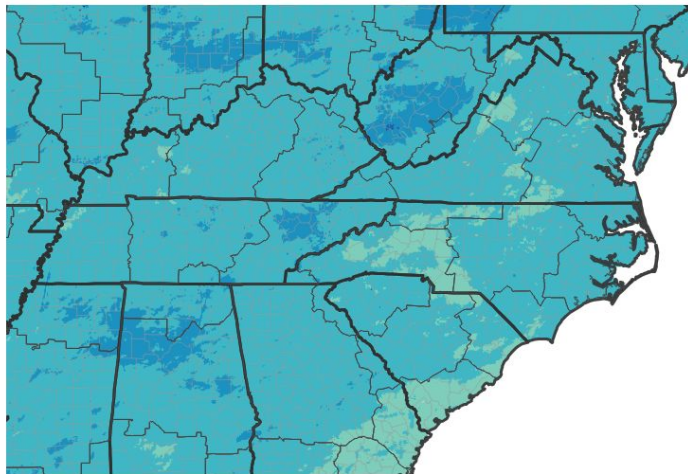
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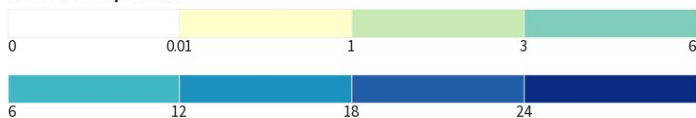
Precipitation

- Over the past 90-days, precipitation has totaled around 9-12 inches, which is around 50-75% of normal for most areas.

90-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



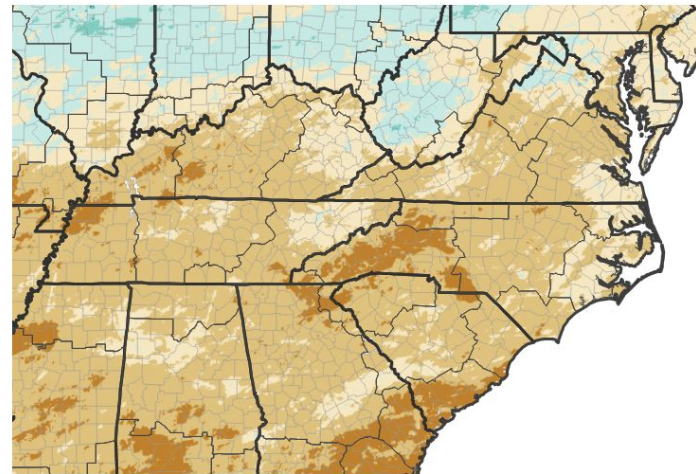
Inches of Precipitation



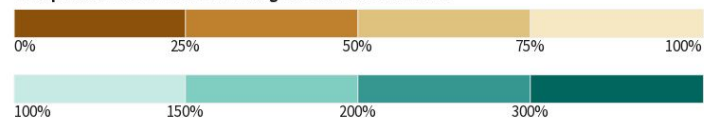
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

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90-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

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Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Low water availability in creeks, ponds, and cisterns has been reported

Agricultural Impacts

- Supplemental feeding has been required for livestock; planted crops are struggling to sprout and dry soils are impacting ability to plant

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Approximately 434 acres have burned across northern AL over the last 30 days, including a 123 acre fire in Lauderdale County from Apr 4-8.

Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Mitigation Actions

- On April 2nd, the Alabama ADECA Office of Water Resources placed all northern Alabama counties in Zone 1 in a Drought Warning. Cullman County, in Zone 3, has been placed in a Drought Watch. See more information here: <https://adeca.alabama.gov/wp-content/uploads/DroughtDeclaration.pdf>
- On April 13th, the Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) issued a Statewide Fire Alert. See the AFC website for more information: <https://forestry.alabama.gov/>

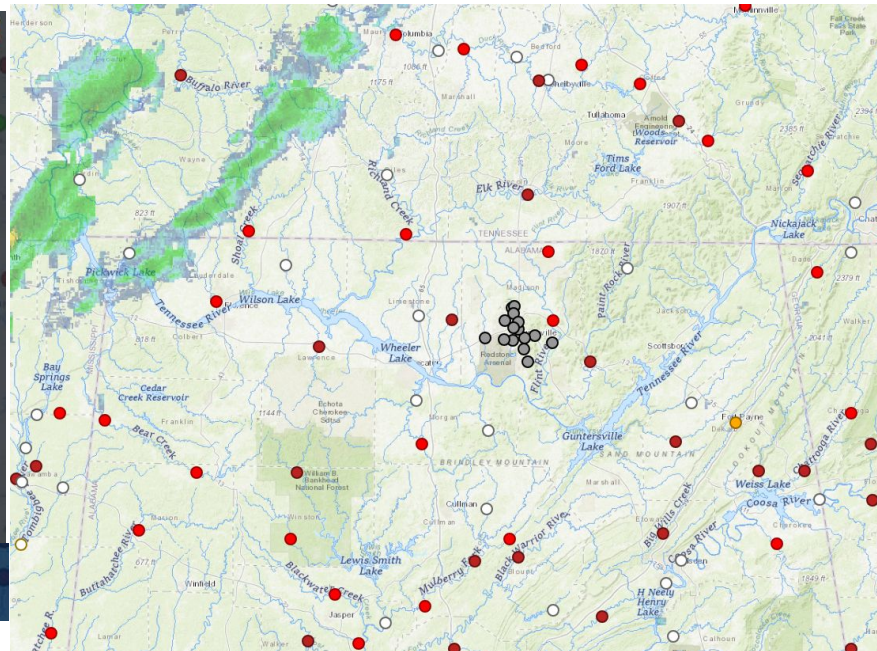




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Link: USGS [National Water Dashboard](#)

- Most stream gauges indicate that flows are much below normal or at an all-time low for this time of year. This includes the primary TN River tributaries, such as the Paint Rock, Flint, Big Nance, and Elk.



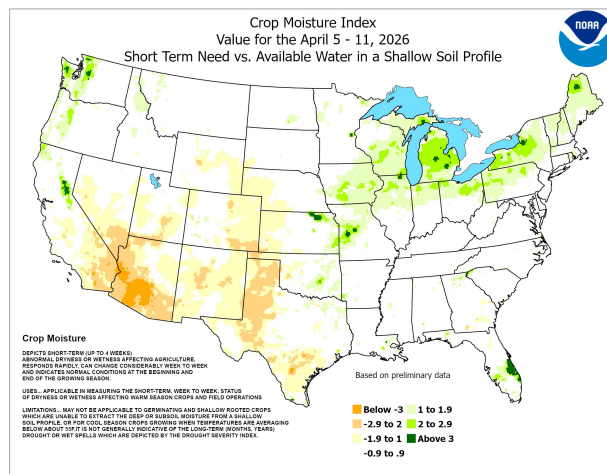
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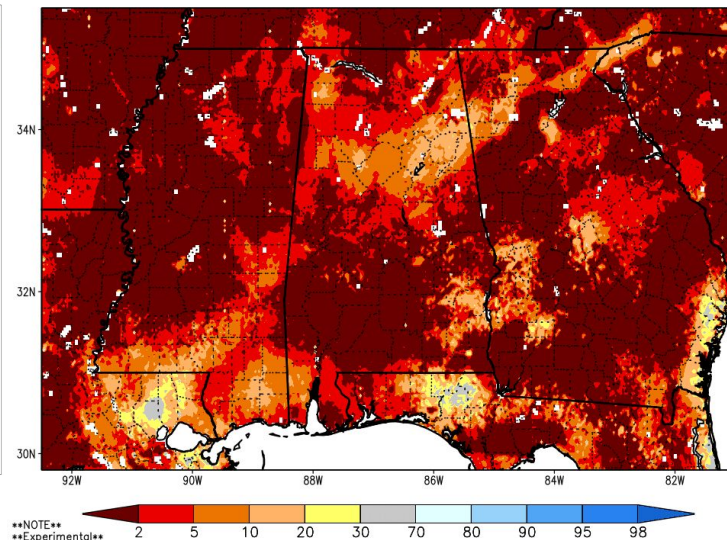


Agricultural Impacts

- Despite continuing dry conditions, recent Crop Moisture Index indicates generally sufficient water availability for short-term needs in a shallow soil profile. However, soil moisture percentiles rank below the 5th percentile for most of Alabama, per the NASA SPoRT Land Information System.



SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 16 Apr 2026

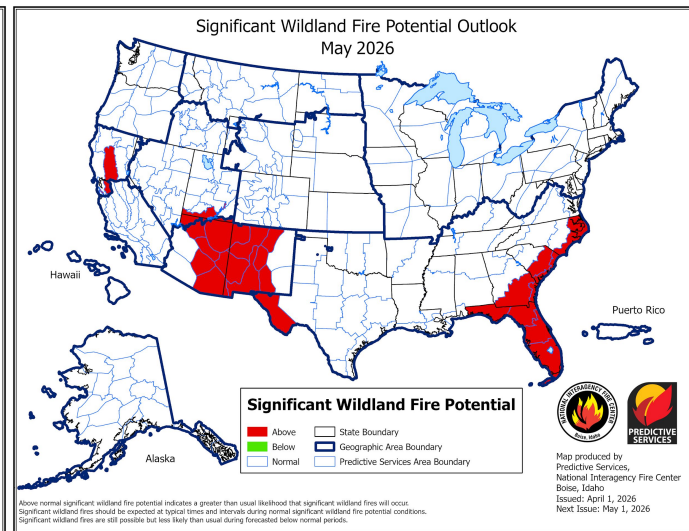
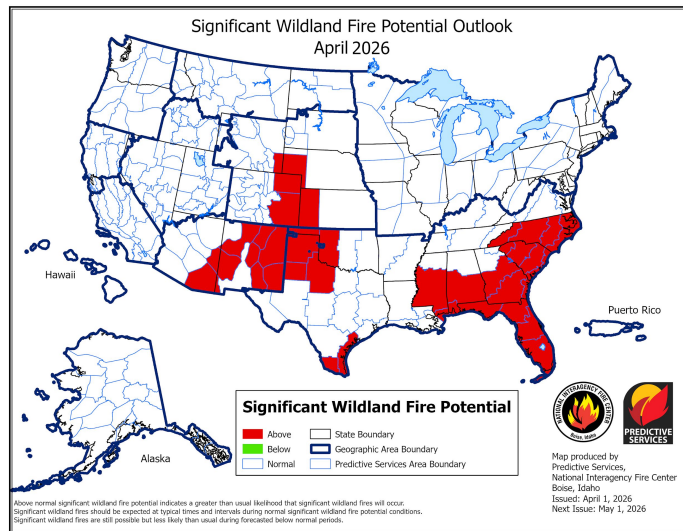




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- The National Interagency Fire Center has placed northern Alabama in the Normal category for Significant Wildland Fire Potential for April and May. However, areas of central/southern AL have been place in the Above Normal category for April.



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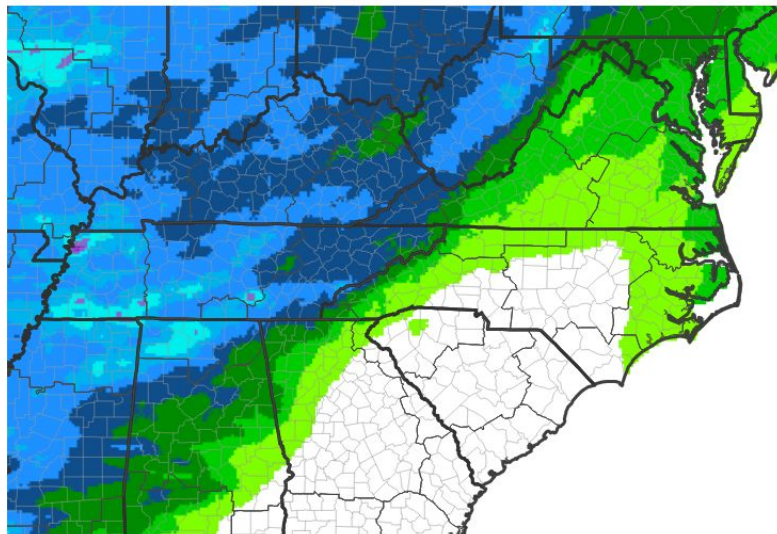


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

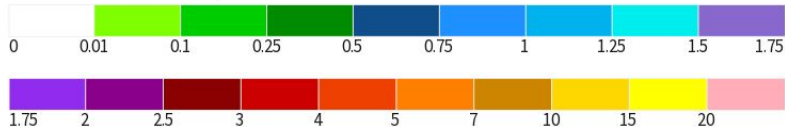
Link to [Weather Prediction Center forecast precipitation](#)

- Precipitation is forecast to be around 1.00 to 1.50 inches across portions of northwest Alabama for the week ending April 23rd. Lesser amounts around 0.25-1.00 inch are anticipated elsewhere in the Huntsville forecast area. Normal weekly precipitation for the period is around 1.25-1.50 inches.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for April 16, 2026–April 23, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

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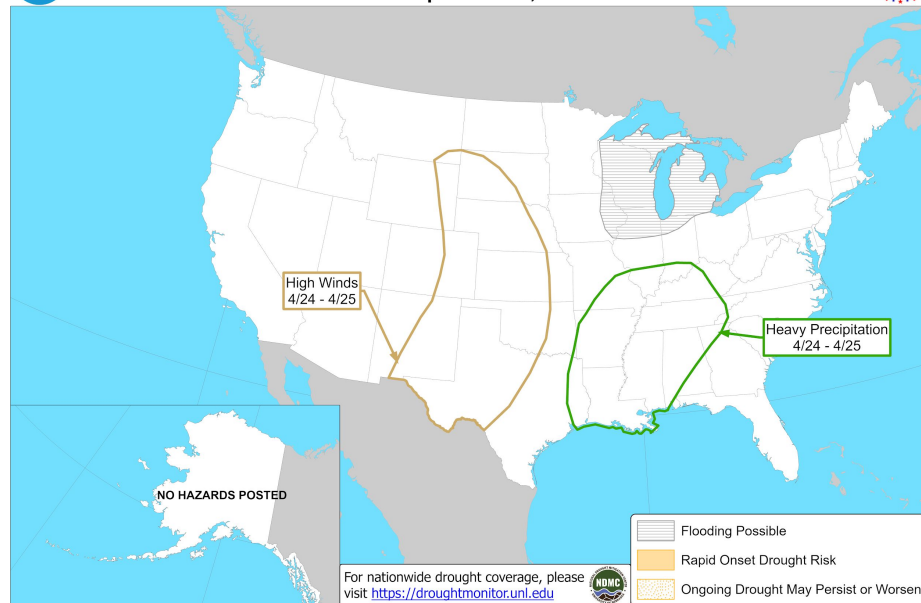
Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- Rapid Onset Drought is not Forecast for the area at this time.
- However, there is a Moderate Risk (40-60% chance) for Heavy Precipitation (up to one inch) during the April 24-25 period.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook Valid: April 24 - 30, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: April 16, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

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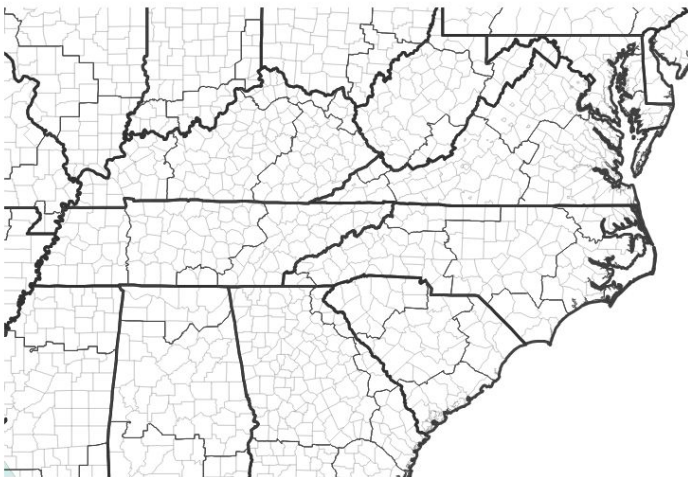


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The area is included in Equal Chances for Below, Near, or Above Normal Precipitation for May 2026.
- The area is slightly favored (33-40% chance) for Above Normal Temperatures in May.

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



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



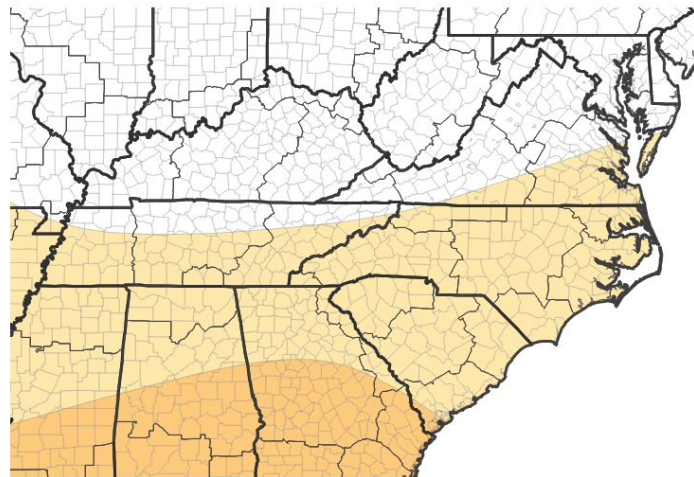
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

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



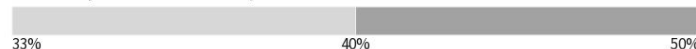
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

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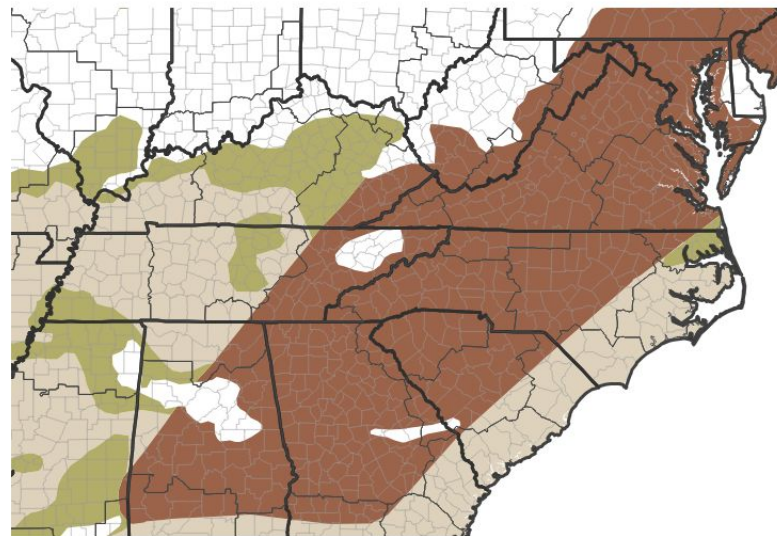


Drought Outlook

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

- According to the latest seasonal Drought Outlook from the Climate Prediction Center, drought conditions are predicted to persist mainly in portions of northeast Alabama for the mid-April through July period through June period. However, drought conditions are expected to improve or end for the remainder of the area.

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

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Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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