Drought Information Statement for Portions of Northern AL and Southern Middle TN Valid April 24, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Huntsville, AL
Contact Information: nws.huntsville@noaa.gov

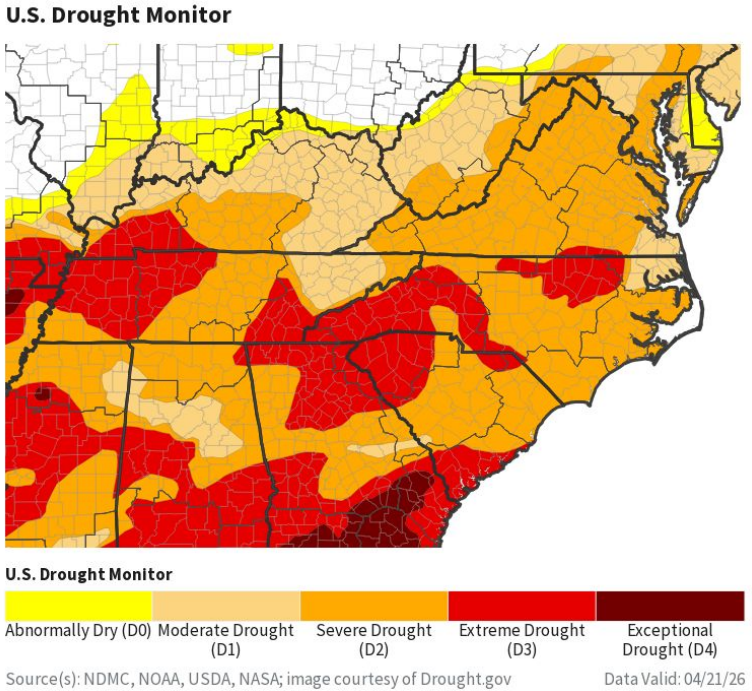
- This product will be updated by May 22, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/hun/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates for regional drought status updates.

- Severe Drought (D2) Conditions Continue Across Most (over 96%) of the Area; However, Increased Rainfall Is on the Horizon

U.S. Drought Monitor - April 21, 2026

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for Portions of Northern AL and Southern Middle TN

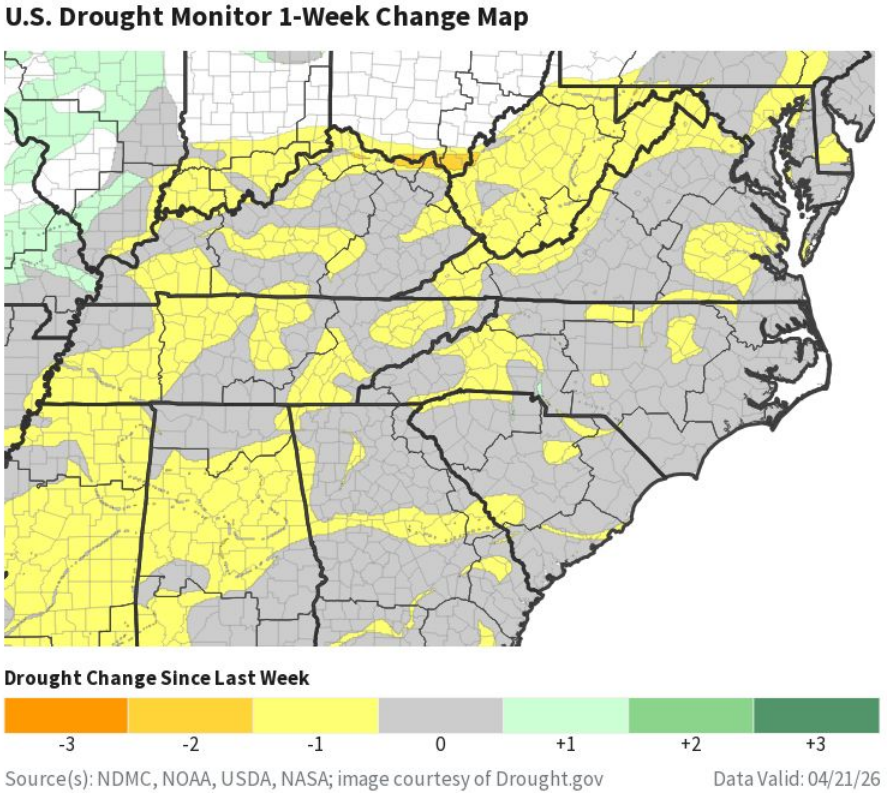
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Northern portions of DeKalb County, and eastern portions of Jackson County
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: All of the Huntsville County Warning and Forecast Area with the exception of northern portions of DeKalb County, eastern portions of Jackson County, and much of southwestern Franklin County (AL).
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Southwestern portions of Franklin County.



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for Portions of Northern AL and Southern Middle TN

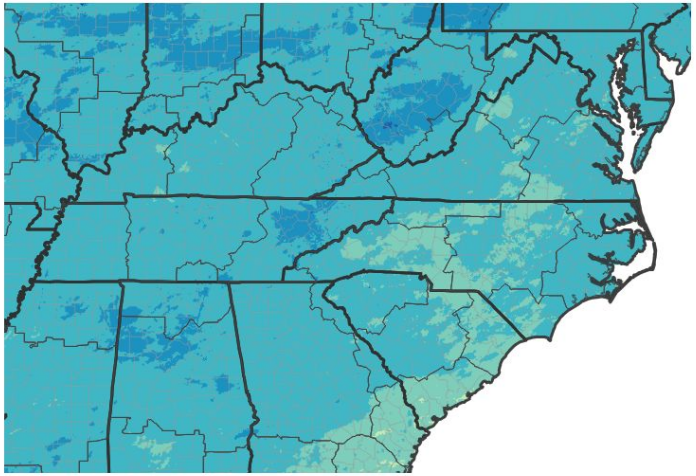
- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
    - Drought Worsened: Mostly southeastern portions of the area from southern Cullman, to Marshall and DeKalb Counties. Also portions of northern DeKalb and eastern Jackson Counties experienced a degradation from D2 to D2 drought.



Precipitation

- Over the past 90-days, precipitation has totaled around 8-12 inches, which is around 50-75% of normal for most areas.
- This ranks among the top-10 driest starts to the year at many locations.

90-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



Inches of Precipitation

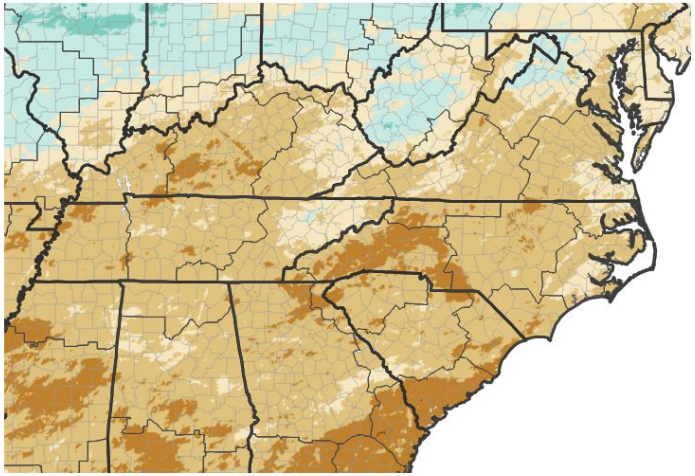
0 0.01 1 3 6

6 12 18 24

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

Last Updated: 04/24/26

90-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

100% 150% 200% 300%

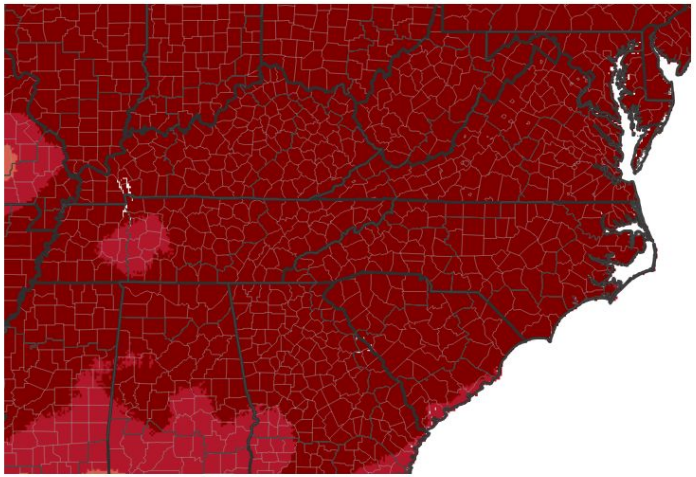
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 04/24/26

Temperature

- Temperatures for the period ending April 19th averaged near or above 8 degrees (F) above normal.
- 30-day temperature anomalies have averaged around 6-8 degrees (F) above normal.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

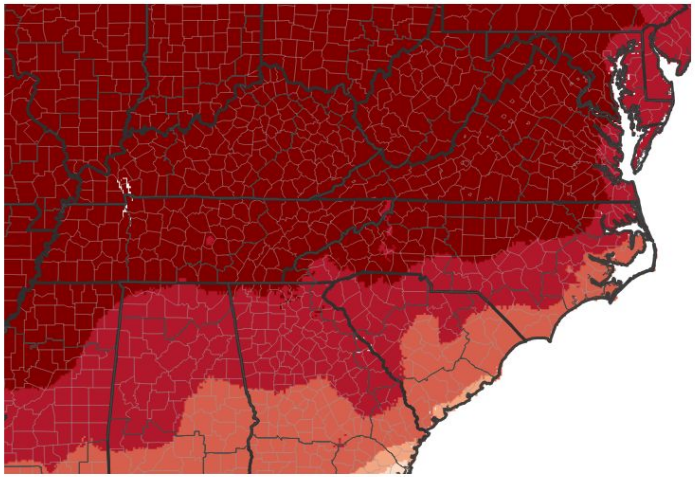
-8 -6 -4 -3 -1 0

0 1 3 4 6 8

Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/19/26

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

-8 -6 -4 -3 -1 0

0 1 3 4 6 8

Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/19/26

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 and early purchasing of hay has been required for livestock; planted crops are struggling to sprout and dry soils have impacted the ability to plant

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Approximately 532 acres have burned across northern AL since early March, including a 123 acre fire in Lauderdale County during April 3rd to 8th.

Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

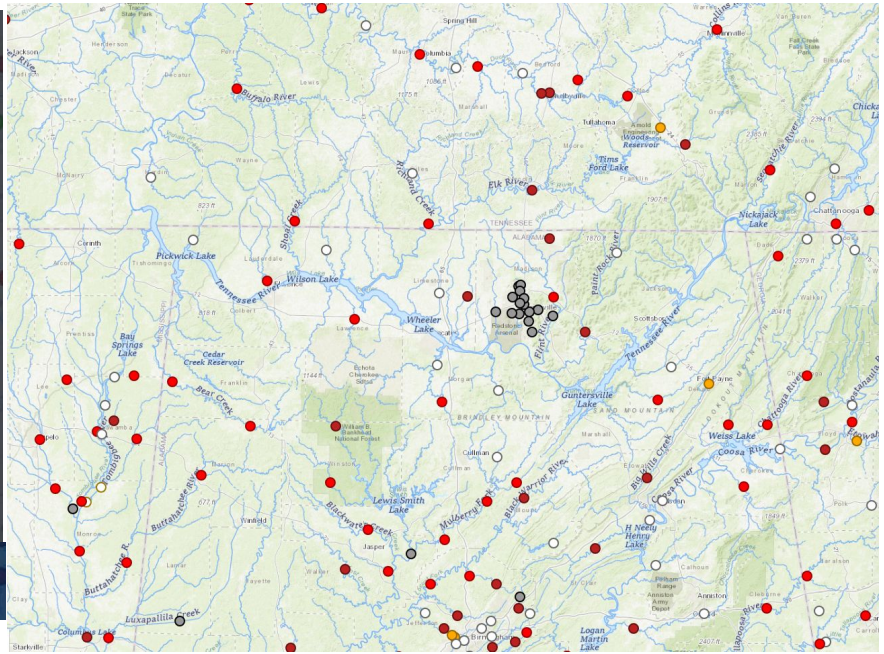
Mitigation Actions

- 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

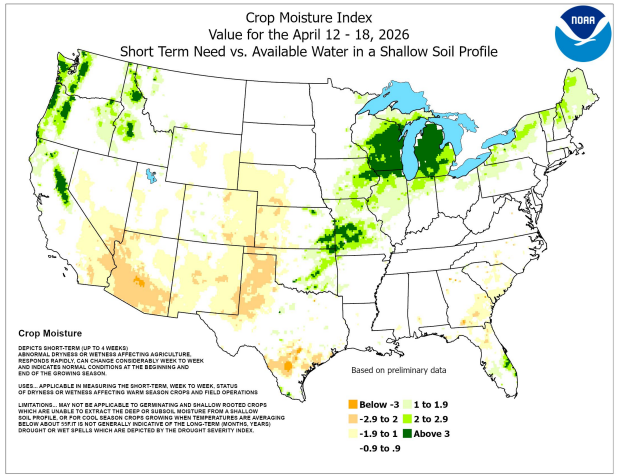
Link: USGS National Water Dashboard

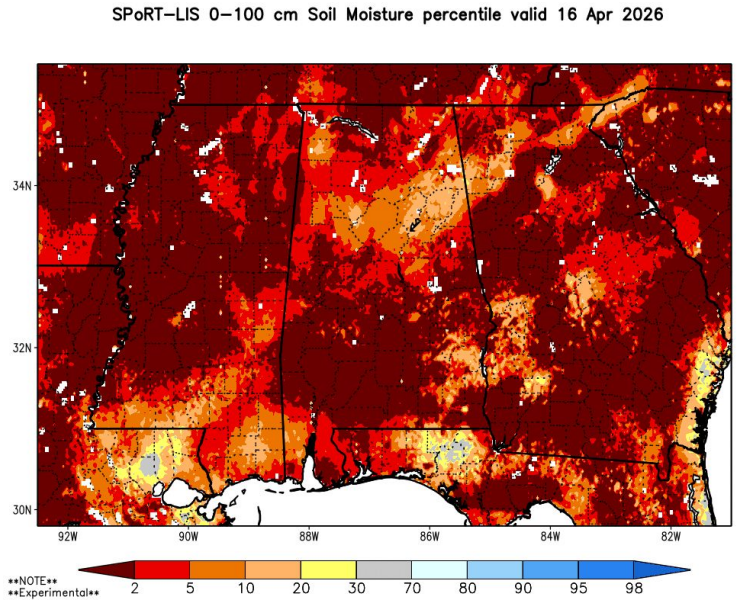
- Most stream gauges indicate that flows are much below normal or at an all-time low for this time of year. This includes the primary TN River tributaries, such as the Paint Rock, Flint, Big Nance, and Elk.



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.

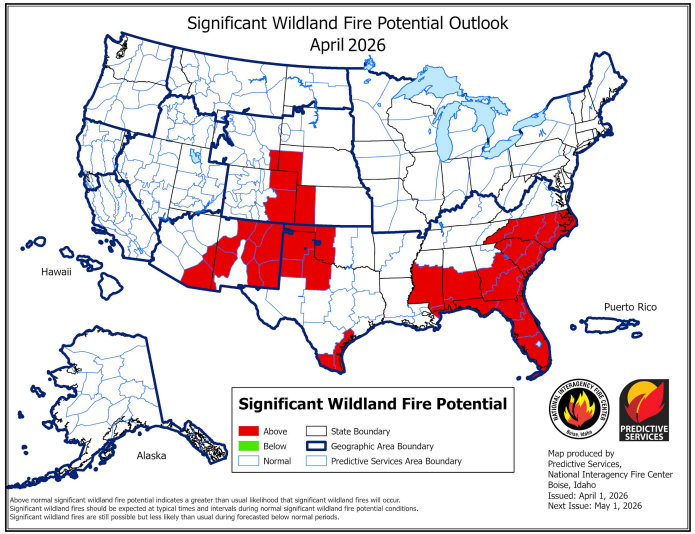




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

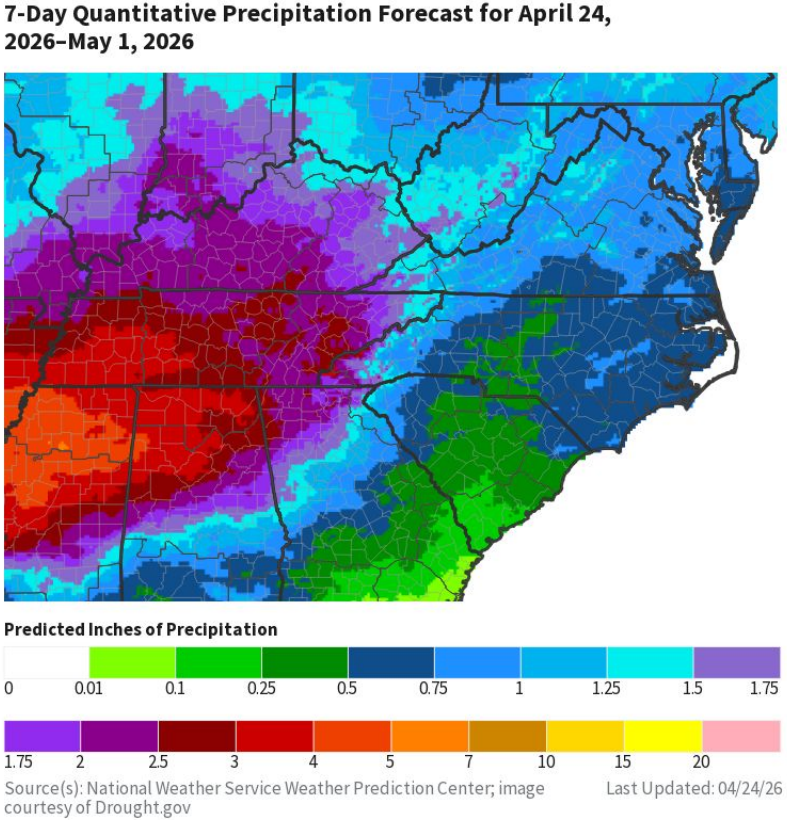
- The National Interagency Fire Center has placed northern Alabama in the Normal category for Significant Wildland Fire Potential for April and May. However, areas of central/southern AL have been placed in the Above Normal category for April.



Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

Link to Weather Prediction Center forecast precipitation

- Preciptiation is forecast to be around 2.50 to 4.00 inches across northern Alabama and southern Middle Tennessee for the week ending May 1st. Normal precipitation for the period is around 1.25-1.50 inches.

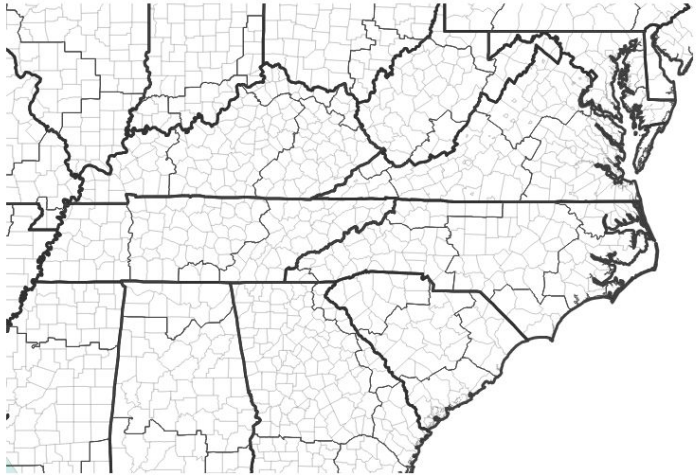


Long-Range Outlooks

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

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

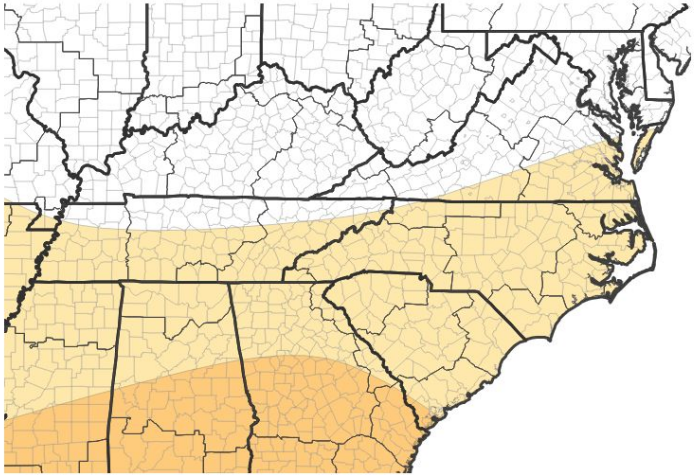
33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50%

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

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



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures

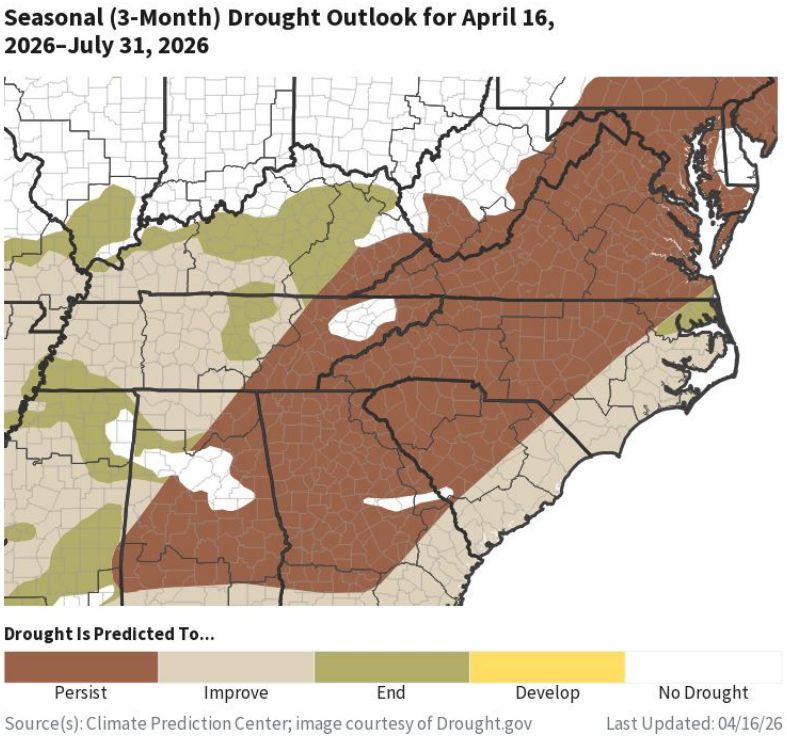
33% 40% 50%

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

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. However, drought conditions are expected to improve or end for the remainder of the area.



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook