



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

Valid May 8, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Huntsville, AL

Contact Information: nws.huntsville@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated by June 5, 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.
-
- Recent Rainfall Leads to Some Improvement, but Severe (D2) and Moderate Drought (D1) Conditions Continue Across Most of the Area



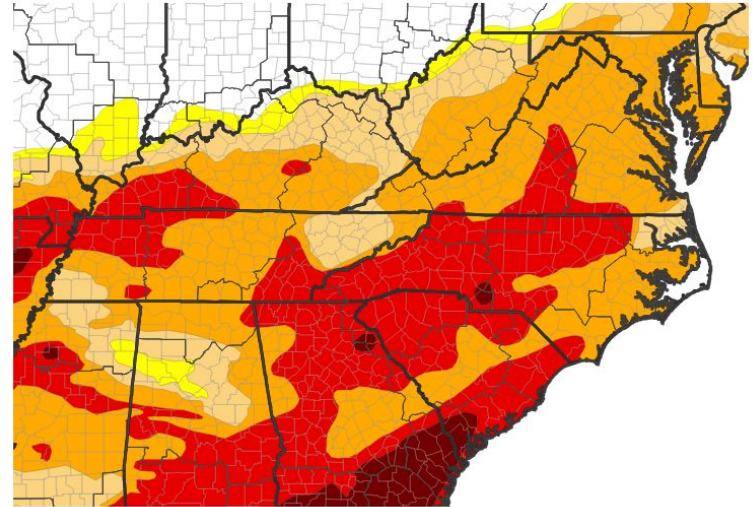


U.S. Drought Monitor - May 5, 2026

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 except for the aforementioned areas in D3 Drought, but also southern portions of Franklin (AL), Lawrence, Morgan, and Marshall Counties, and nearly all of Cullman County
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: The aforementioned areas of southern Franklin (TN), Lawrence, Morgan, and Marshall Counties, and most of Cullman County
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: A small area in southern Cullman County

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 05/05/26





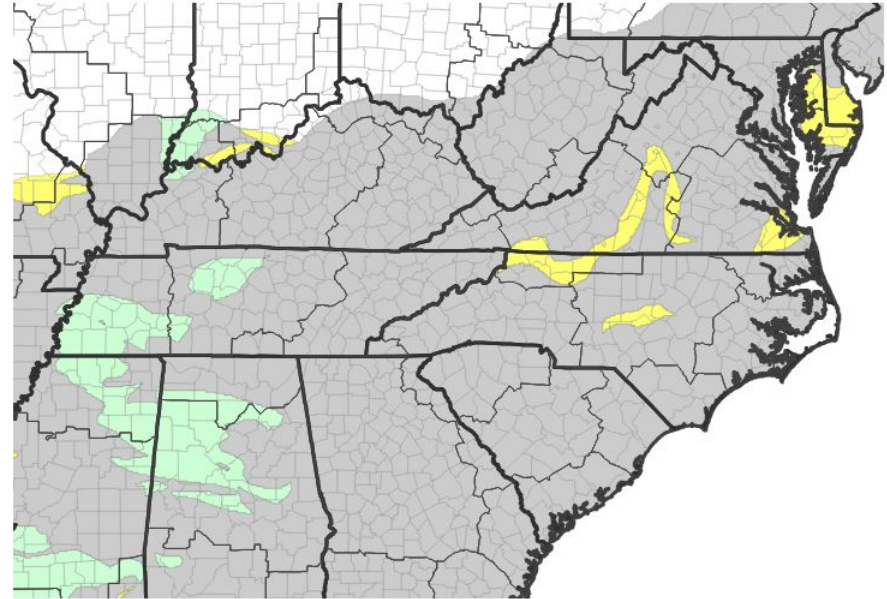
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

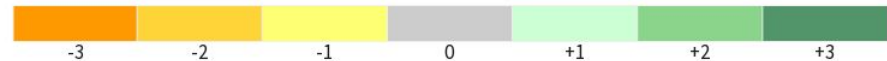
- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Improved: Drought conditions improved by one category in southern portions of Franklin (AL), Lawrence, Morgan, and Marshall Counties, and nearly all of Cullman County

Information on Drought and Drought changes: It's important to note that conditions for consideration for the U.S. Drought Monitor end on Tuesday mornings at 1200 GMT. Thus, rainfall and other data are not considered after the Tuesday 1200 GMT cutoff each week. Also, it's important to understand that drought development and amelioration are typically slowly evolving phenomena, and meaningful longer-term changes need to be observed in water storages, such as soils, streams, lakes, reservoirs, and groundwater.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



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

Data Valid: 05/05/26

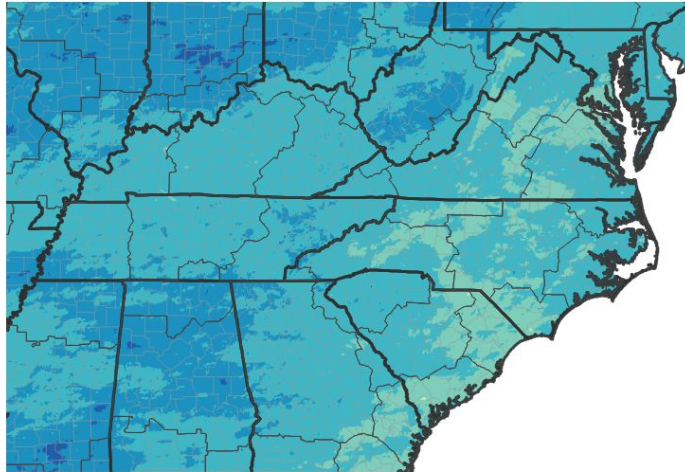




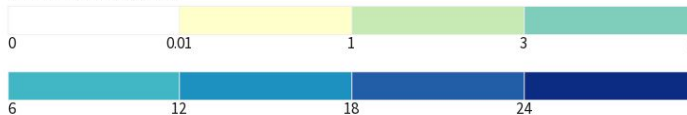
Precipitation

- Over the past 90-days, precipitation has totaled around 11-16 inches, which is largely around 60-80% of normal for most areas.
- However, the roots of this drought go back into last year. This ranks as a top-25 driest period for many longer term stations going back to October.

90-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

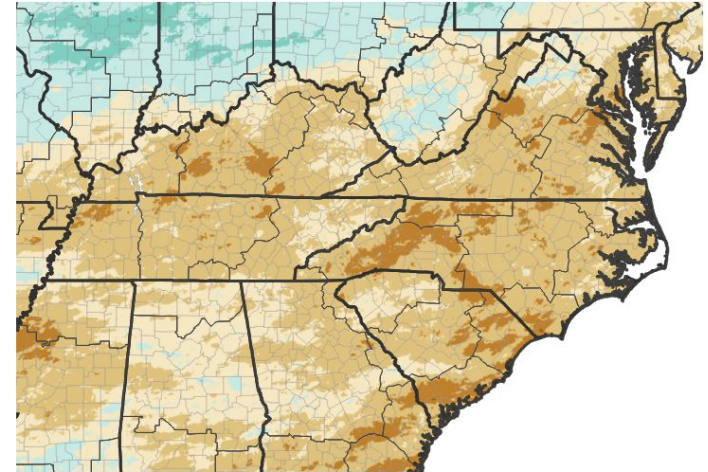


Inches of Precipitation

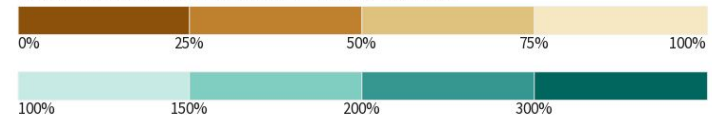


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 05/08/26

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 Last Updated: 05/08/26





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; due to dry conditions in much of March and April, planted crops had struggled to sprout and dry soils impacted the ability to plant

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Approximately 535 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

- As of April 23rd, 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>
- The Alabama Forestry Commission (AFC) has lifted the Fire Alert, but a Fire Danger Advisory remains in effect due to the ongoing drought. See the AFC website for more information: <https://forestry.alabama.gov/>.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

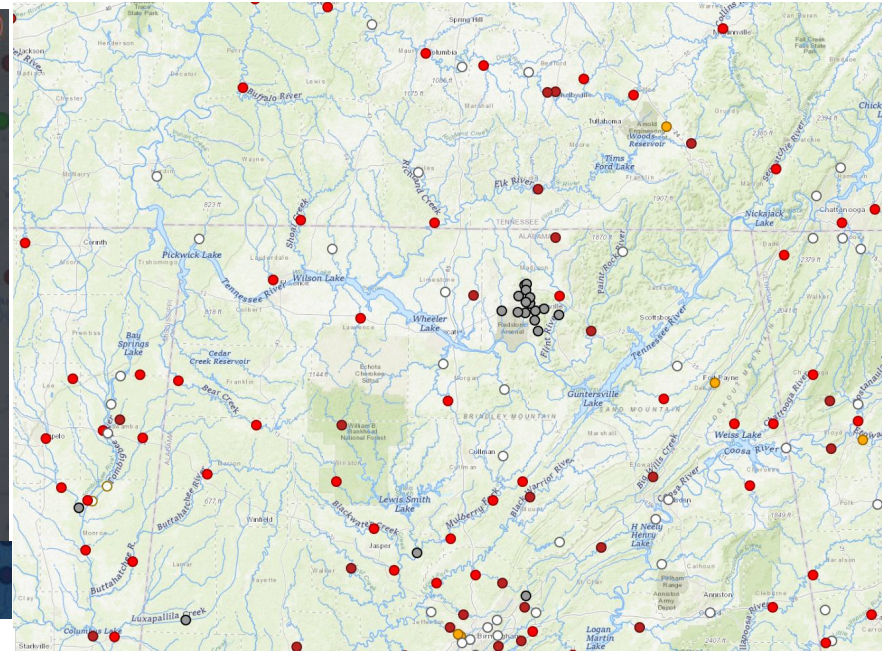
Link: [USGS National Water Dashboard](#)

- Updated data/imagery from the USGS was not available at the time of this statement. The graphic shown was from April 24th. It is planned to update this the week of May 11th.

Streamflow: Status

- Above flood stage
- All-time high for this day 100th percentile (maximum)
- Much above normal >90th percentile
- Above normal 76th - 90th percentile
- Normal 25th - 75th percentile
- Below normal 10th - 24th percentile
- Much below normal <10th percentile
- All-time low for this day 0th percentile (minimum)
- Not flowing
- Not ranked
- Measurement flag
- Recent measurement unavailable

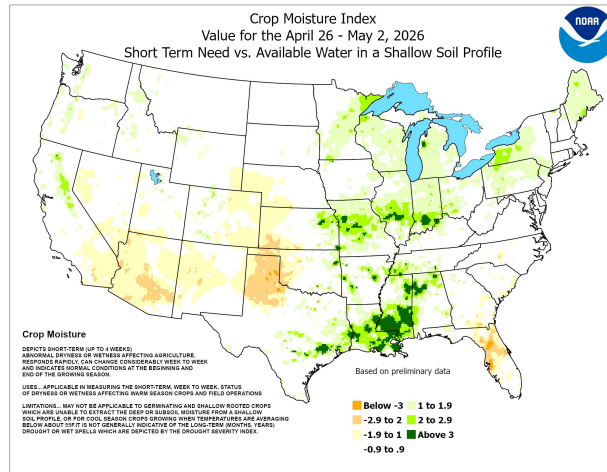
Federal Data Sources Include



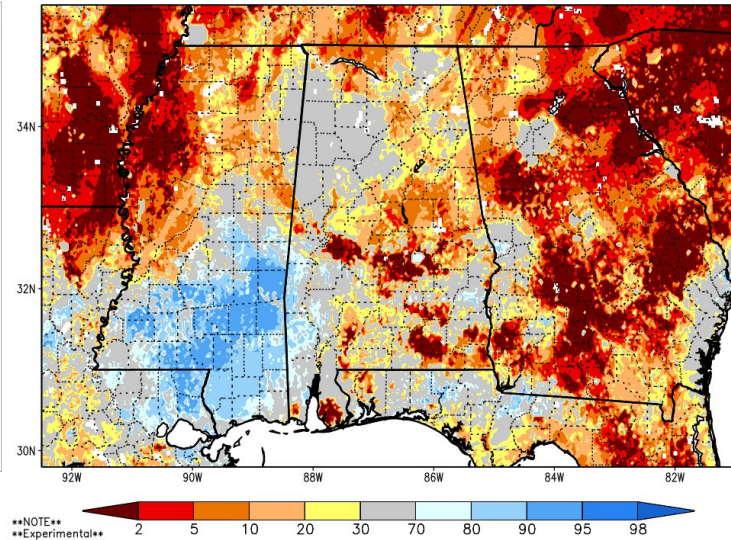


Agricultural Impacts

- Despite continuing dry conditions, recent Crop Moisture Index indicates generally sufficient water availability for short-term needs in a shallow soil profile. However, per the NASA SPoRT Land Information System, soil moisture percentiles are rather varied across the region, but indicate dry 0-100 cm soils across much of northern AL and southern Middle TN.



SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 05 May 2026

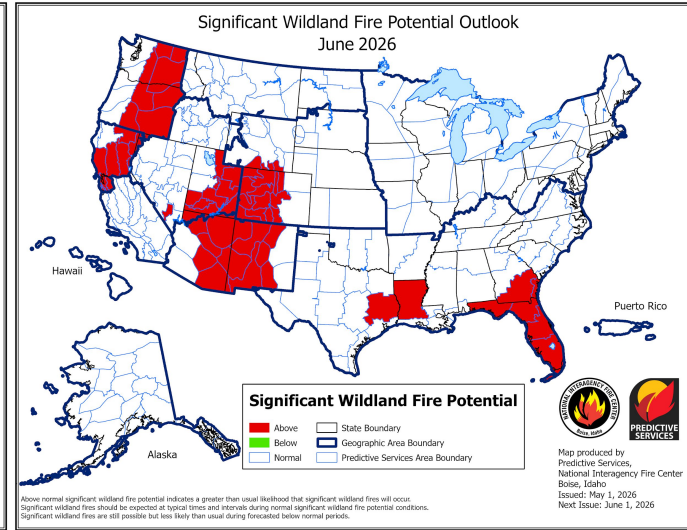
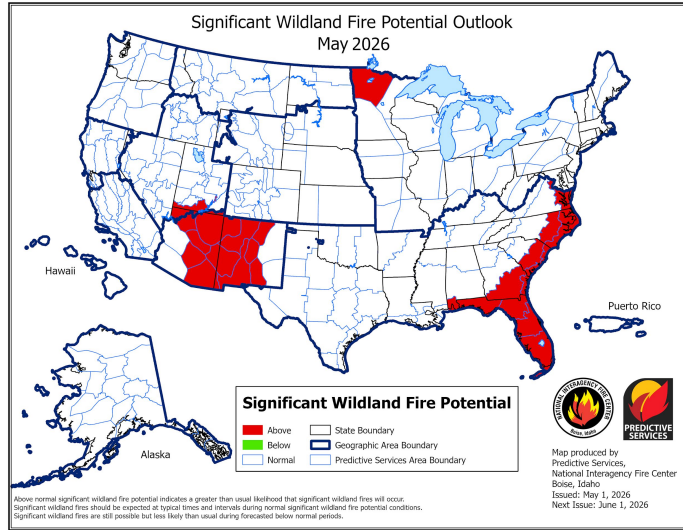




Fire Hazard Impacts

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 May and June.



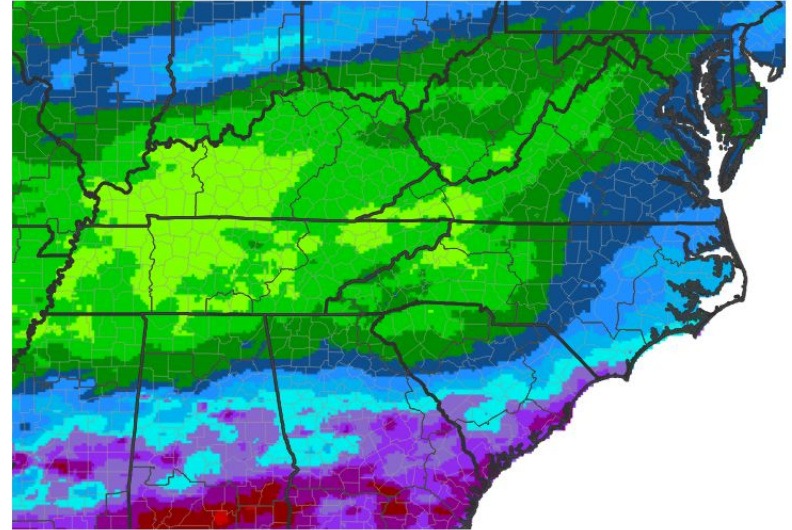


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

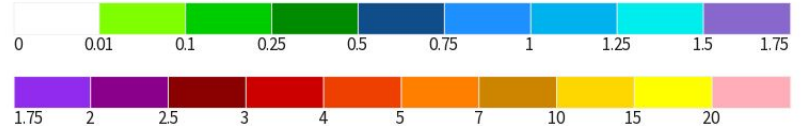
Link to [Weather Prediction Center forecast precipitation](#)

- Precipitation is just forecast to be around 0.10 to 0.50 inch across the area over the next seven days. Normal precipitation for the period is around 1.25 inches.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for May 8, 2026–May 15, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 05/08/26





Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

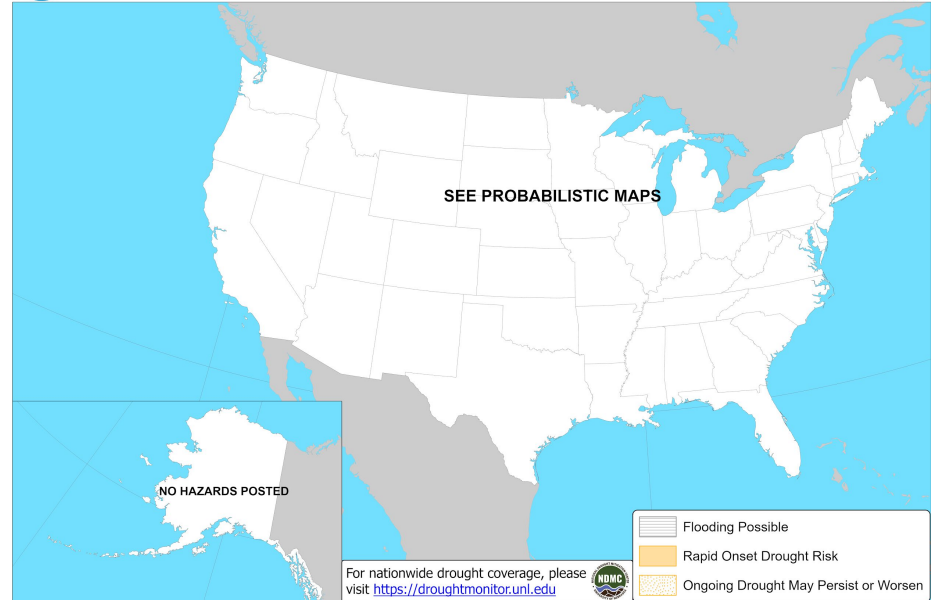
Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- Rapid Onset Drought is not Forecast for the area at this time.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook

Valid: May 16 - 22, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: May 8, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

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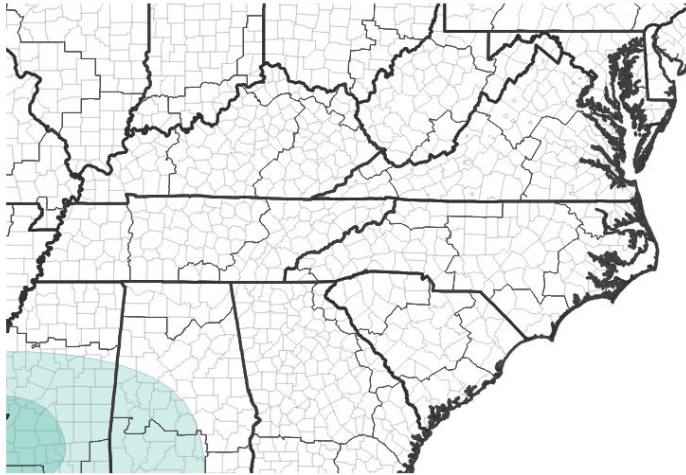


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- **May 2026**
Precipitation: the area is included in Equal Chances for Below, Near, or Above Normal Precipitation.
- **May 2026**
Temperatures: the area is also included in Equal Chances for Below, Near, or Above Normal Temperatures. with the exception of a small area of southern Middle TN, which is slightly favored (33-40% chance) for Below Normal Temperatures.

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



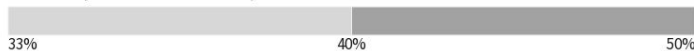
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



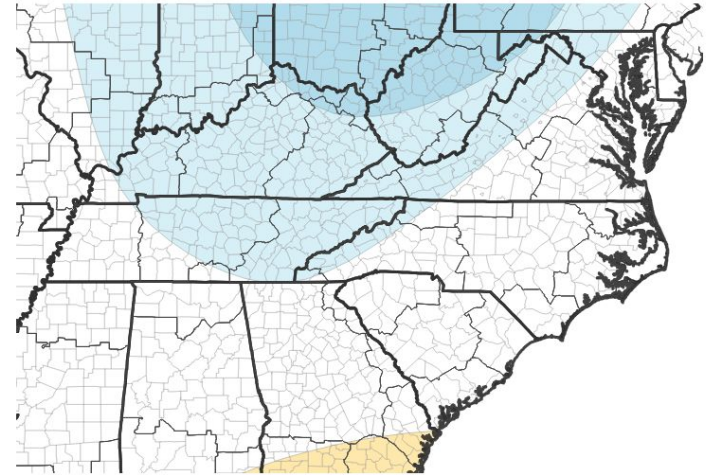
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 04/30/26

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



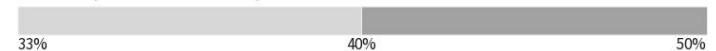
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 04/30/26



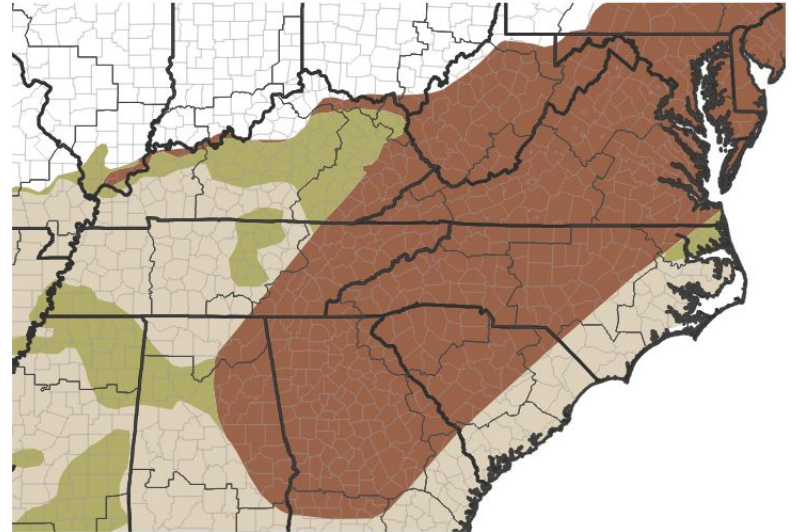


Drought Outlook

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 late-April through July period. However, drought conditions are expected to improve or end for the remainder of the area.

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

Links to the latest:

- [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

