



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

Valid September 29, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Huntsville, AL

Contact Information: nws.huntsville@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated by October 30, 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.

- Increases in Drought Conditions Again in Recent Weeks



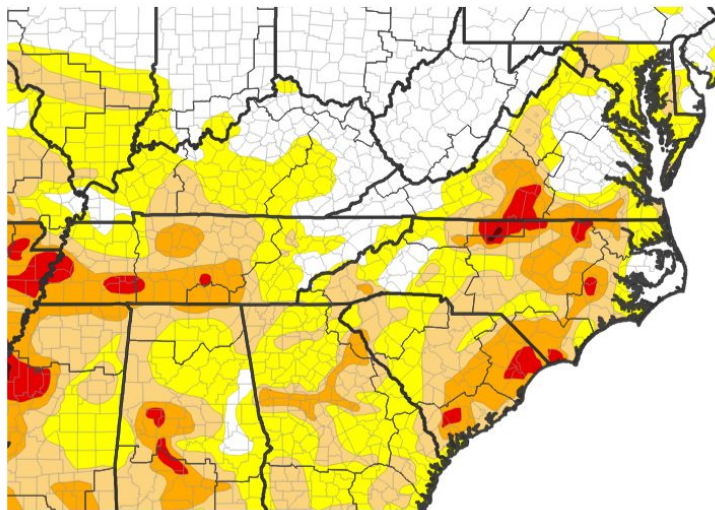


U.S. Drought Monitor - September 29, 2026

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: A very small area in northern Moore County.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Far northern portions of Alabama, near the TN border, and Lincoln, Moore, and Franklin Counties in TN. This also includes a very small area in NW Colbert County.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Most of Lauderdale, County, Colbert, Franklin (AL) counties; portions of Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Jackson and DeKalb Counties.
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: The remainder of the area not in D1-D3 drought is under a D0 designation, which includes portions of Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Jackson, and Dekalb Counties, while all of Morgan, Marshall, and Cullman Counties is in D0 drought.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 09/29/26



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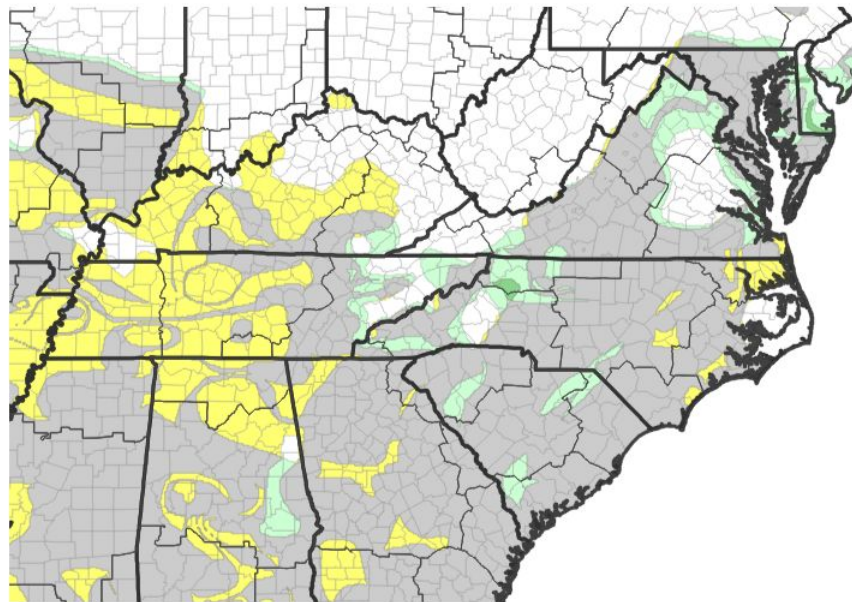
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

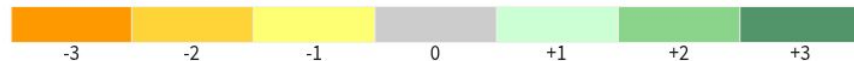
- **Four Week** Drought Monitor Class Change.

- **Drought Worsened:** Drought conditions have worsened across the entire area over the last month, especially in southern Middle Tennessee and in adjacent areas of far northern Alabama.

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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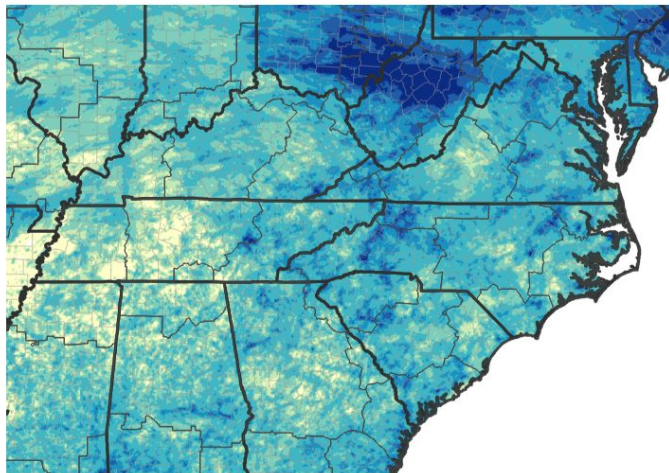




Precipitation

- Over the past 30-days, precipitation has totaled around one inch or less across the area, with some locations receiving less than one tenth of an inch.
- This is less than 25% of normal for many locations, especially in northern locations where conditions have deteriorated most significantly.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



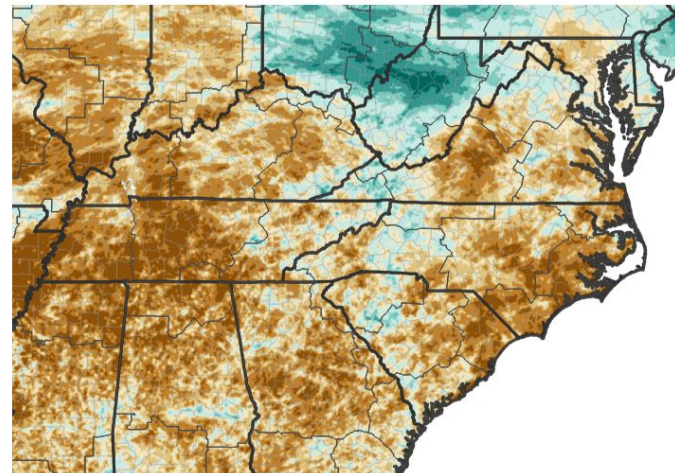
Inches of Precipitation



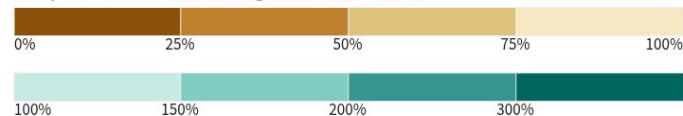
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

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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

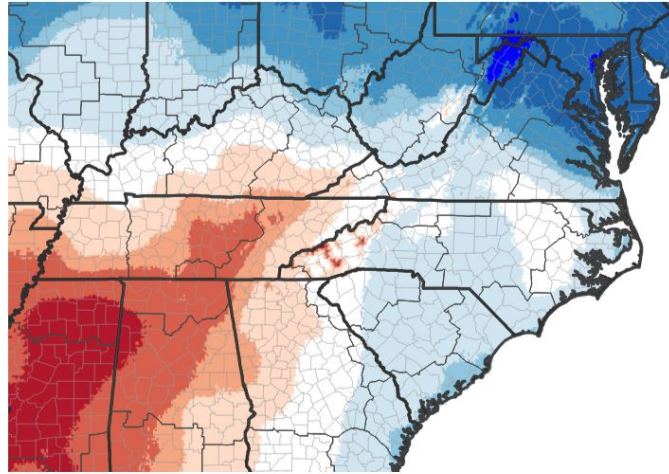
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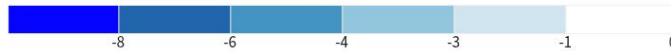
Temperature

- Temperatures for 7-Day and 30-Day timescales ending in late September were around 3-6 degrees above normal, which contributed to deteriorating drought conditions.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



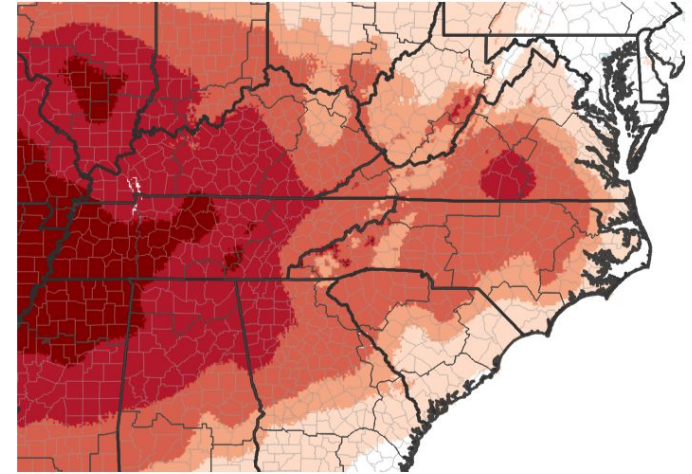
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



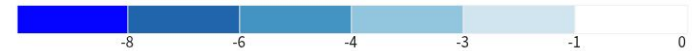
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/27/26

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



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

Data Valid: 09/27/26





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Falling water tables, decreased water availability for irrigation, decreased water in ponds and creeks has been reported

Agricultural Impacts

- Plant/crop stress, with pastures providing marginal feed for livestock, supplemental feeding of hay has been required in some areas

Fire Hazard Impacts

- No significant fires have been reported in the last 30 days in the Huntsville County Warning and Forecast area, per the latest information from the Alabama Forestry Commission and the Tennessee Division of Forestry.

Other Impacts

- There are no known significant impacts at this time

Mitigation Actions

- No recent declarations or mitigation actions known at this time

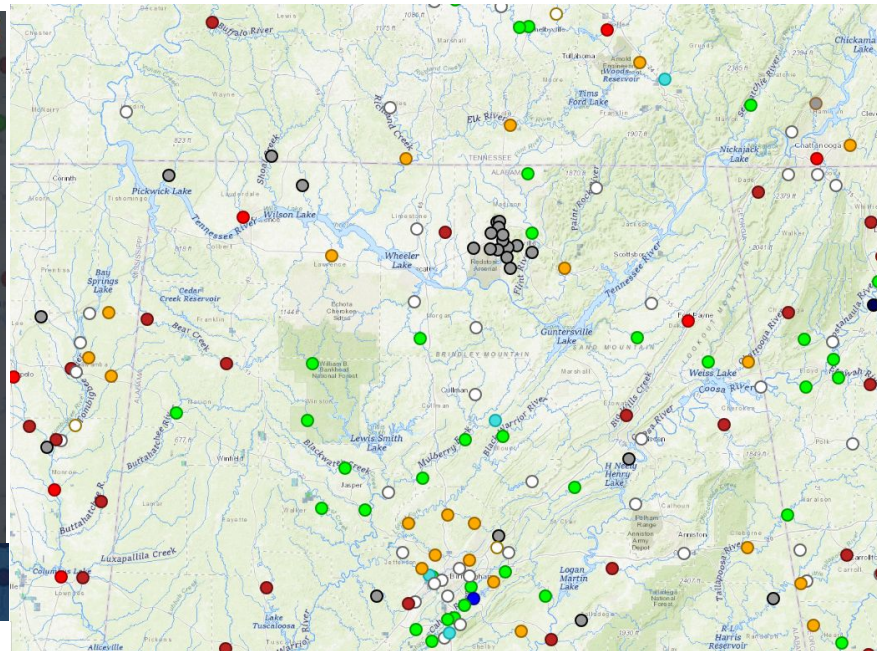




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Link: USGS [National Water Dashboard](#)

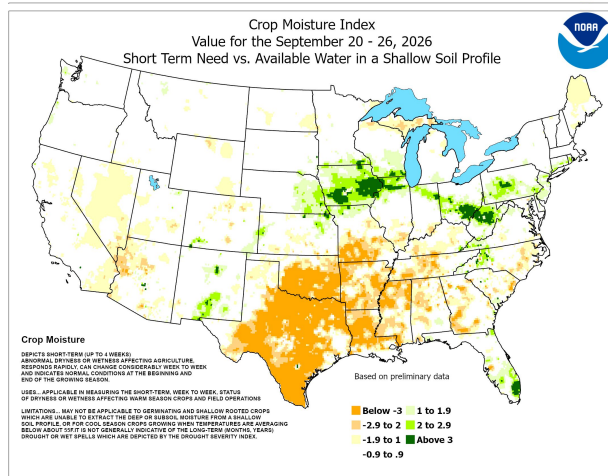
- Streamflows are rather mixed for this time of year despite the rapid development of drought conditions. Some locations remain near normal, although several locations are below normal or significantly below normal, such as Limestone, Cypress, and Bear Creeks.



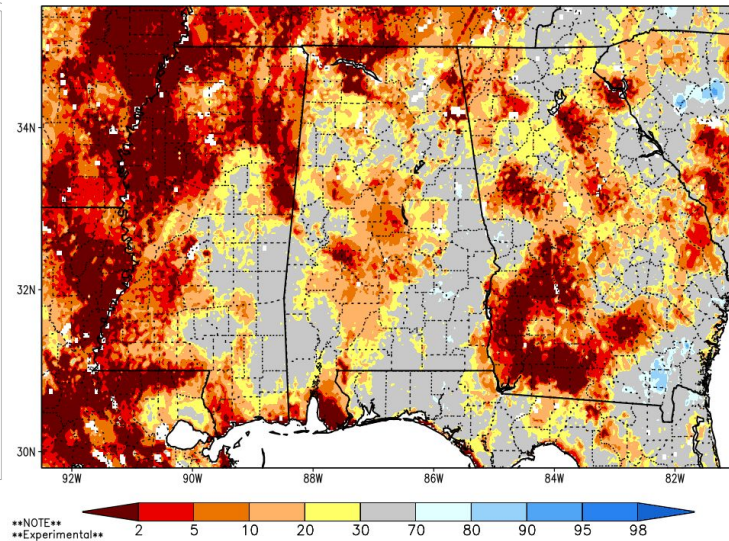


Agricultural Impacts

- The Crop Moisture Index indicates significant abnormal soil dryness for agriculture for the late September period across much of the area.
- NASA SPoRT-LIS soil moisture data indicates soil moisture is significantly below normal across much of the area, concentrated in NW Alabama and southern Middle TN.



SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 01 Oct 2026

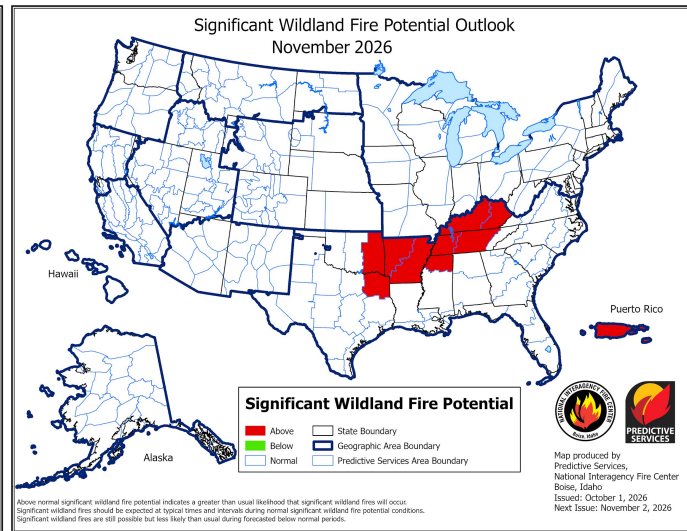
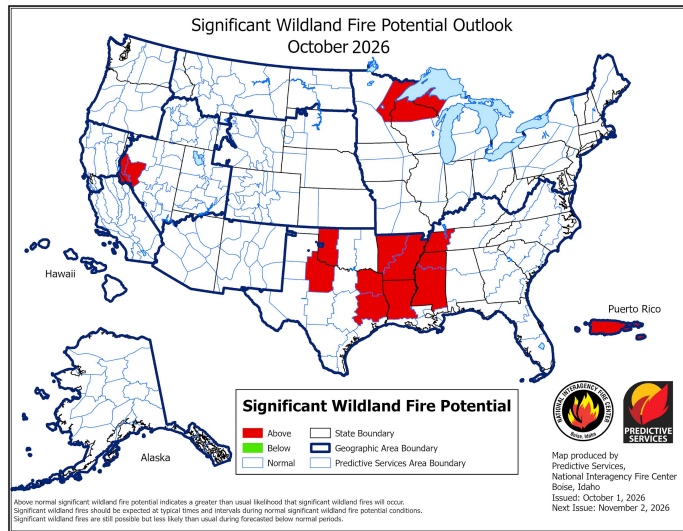




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Northern Alabama is not included in Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlooks at this time for October and November.



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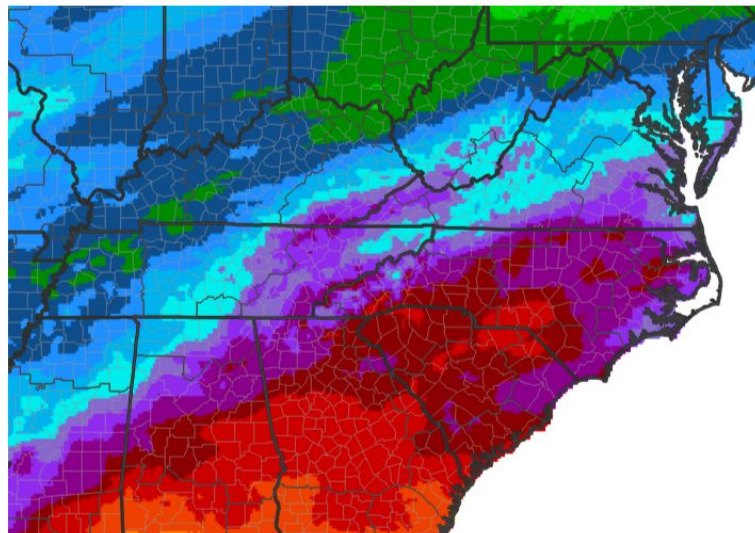


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

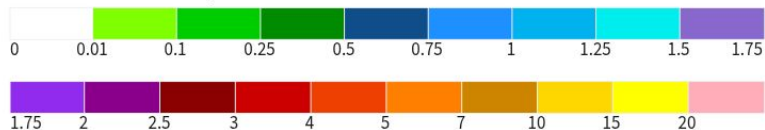
Link to [Weather Prediction Center forecast precipitation](#)

- Precipitation is forecast to be around 1.00 to 1.50 inches generally across northwestern AL and southern Middle Tennessee for the next week, which are currently among the most drought-stricken areas. Rainfall amounts are expected to be higher in southeast portions of the area, generally around 1.50 to 2.00 inches. Normal rainfall for this time of year is around 1.00 inch.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October 1, 2026–October 8, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

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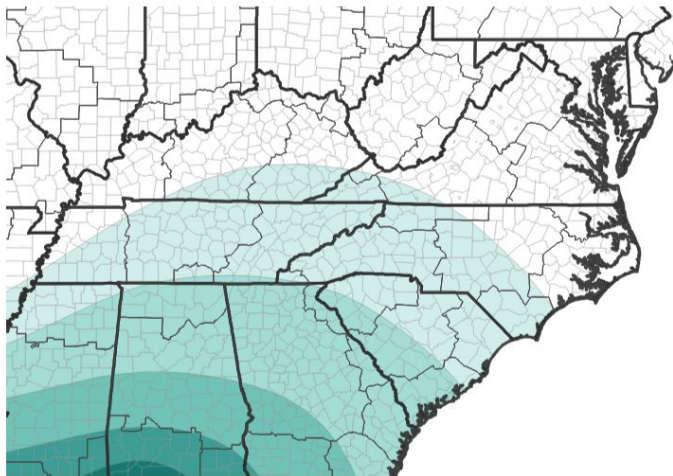


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Most areas are included in a Moderate Chance (40-50%) for Above Normal Precipitation for October, while far northern areas are favored slightly (33-40%) for Above Normal Precipitation.
- The area is included in Equal Chances for Below, Near, or Above Normal for Temperatures for October.

**Monthly Precipitation Outlook for October 1,
2026–October 31, 2026**



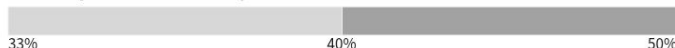
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



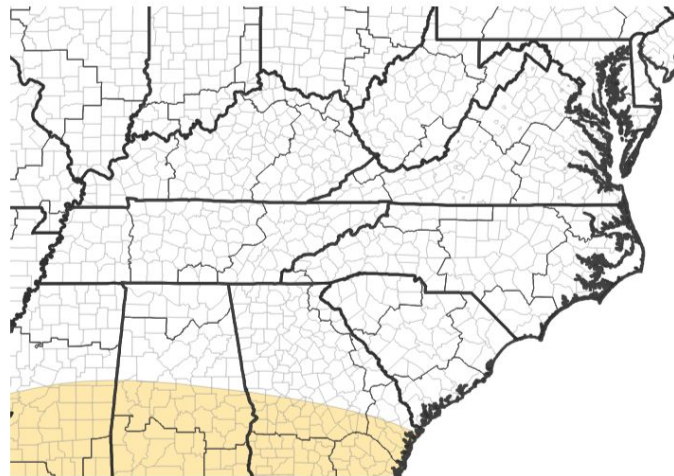
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

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**Monthly Temperature Outlook for October 1,
2026–October 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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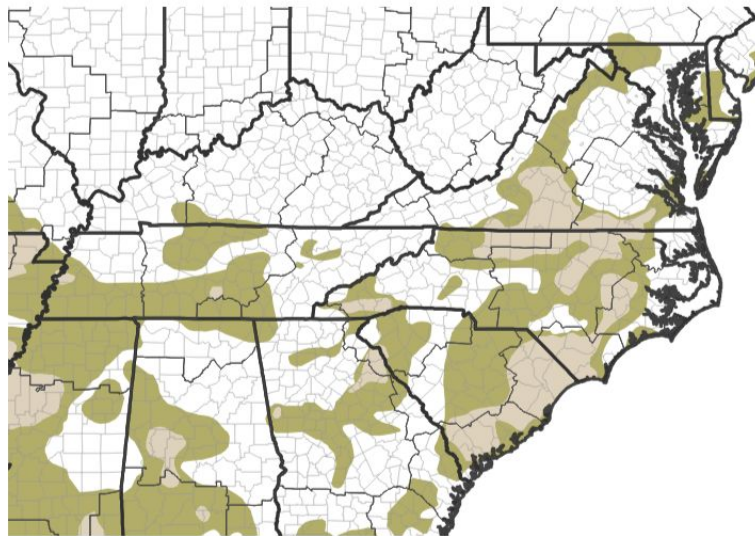


Drought Outlook

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 end across the area by the end of the year.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for September 30, 2026–December 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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