



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

Valid October 20, 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

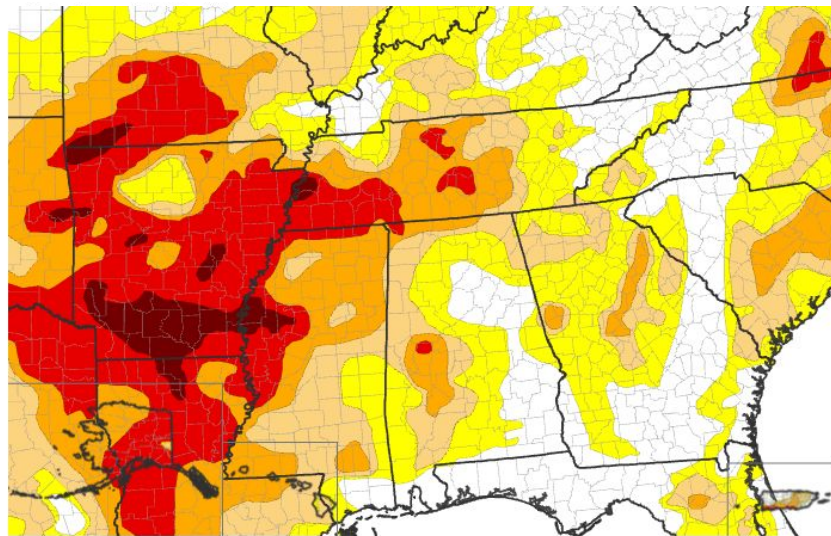


U.S. Drought Monitor - October 20, 2026

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, TN and NW Lauderdale County, AL.
 - **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





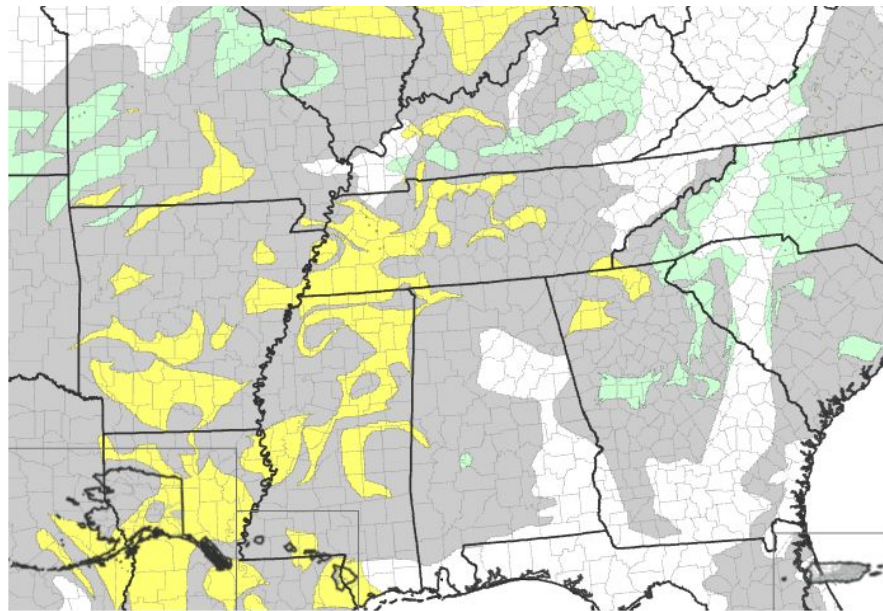
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

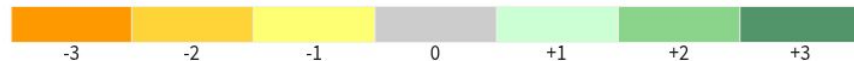
- **Four Week** Drought Monitor Class Change.

- **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

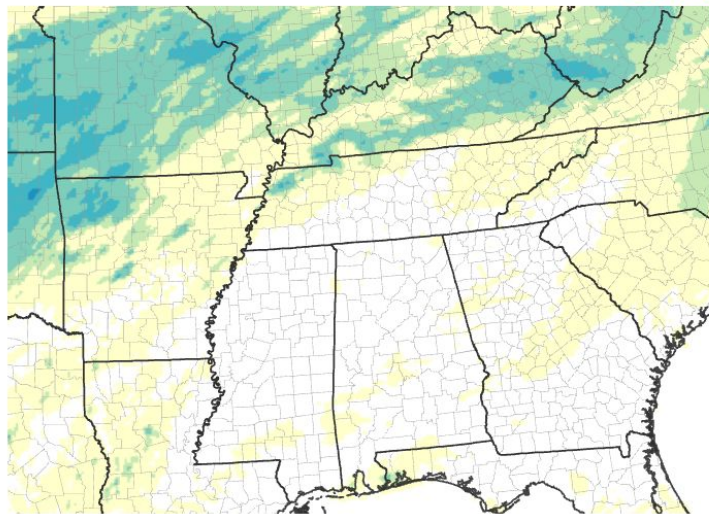




Precipitation

- Over the past 7-days, precipitation has totaled around one half inch to two inches across the area.
- In the past month, the Tennessee Valley was received 25-50% of normal precipitation for many locations, especially in northern locations where conditions have deteriorated most significantly.

7-Day Total Precipitation (Inches)



Inches of Precipitation

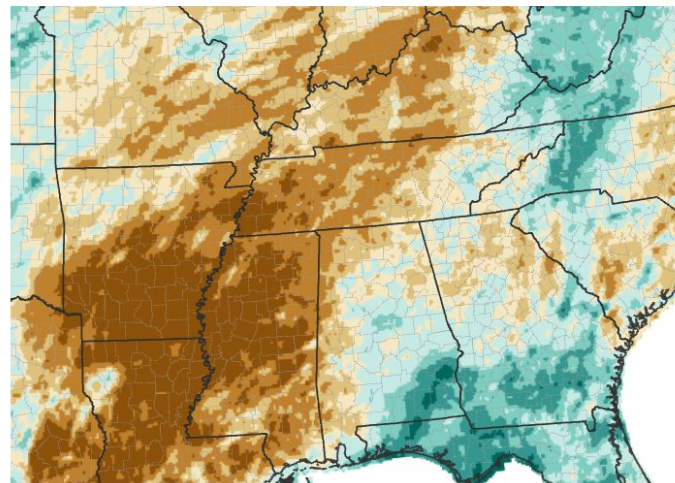


Source(s): UC Merced

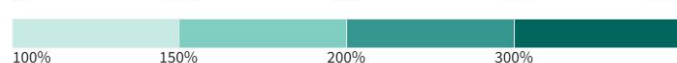
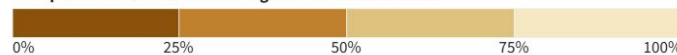
Data Valid: 10/22/26

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30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): UC Merced

Data Valid: 10/22/26

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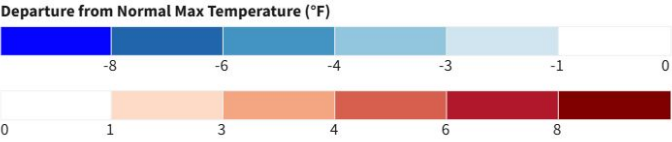
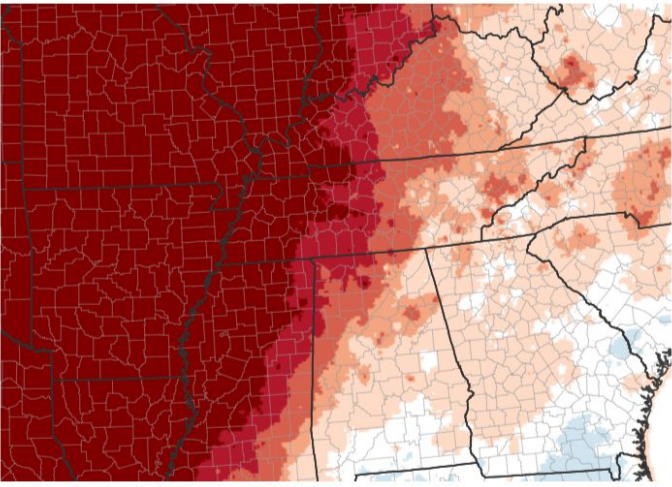
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Temperature

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

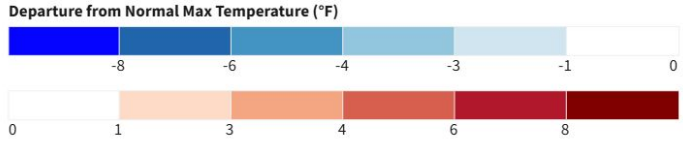
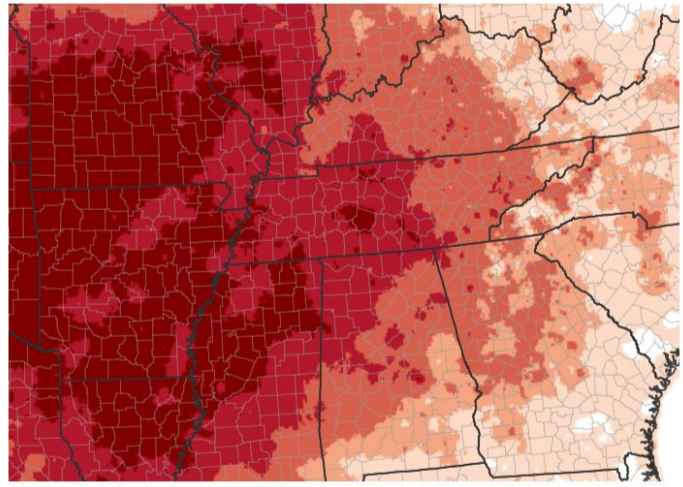
7-Day Departure from Normal Maximum Temperature (°F)



Source(s): UC Merced
Data Valid: 10/13/26

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30-Day Departure from Normal Maximum Temperature (°F)



Source(s): UC Merced
Data Valid: 10/13/26

Drought.gov





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

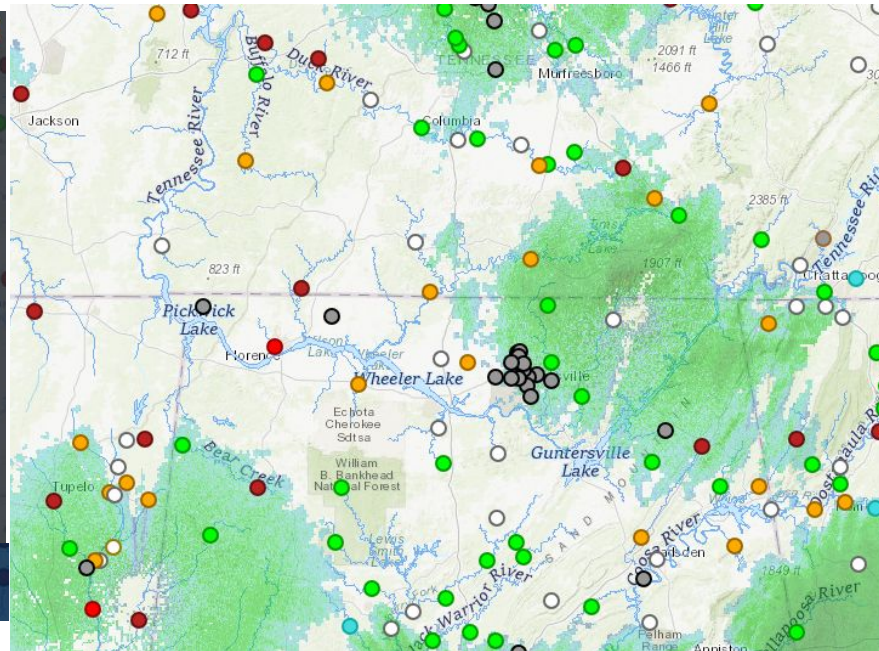




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Link: USGS [National Water Dashboard](#)

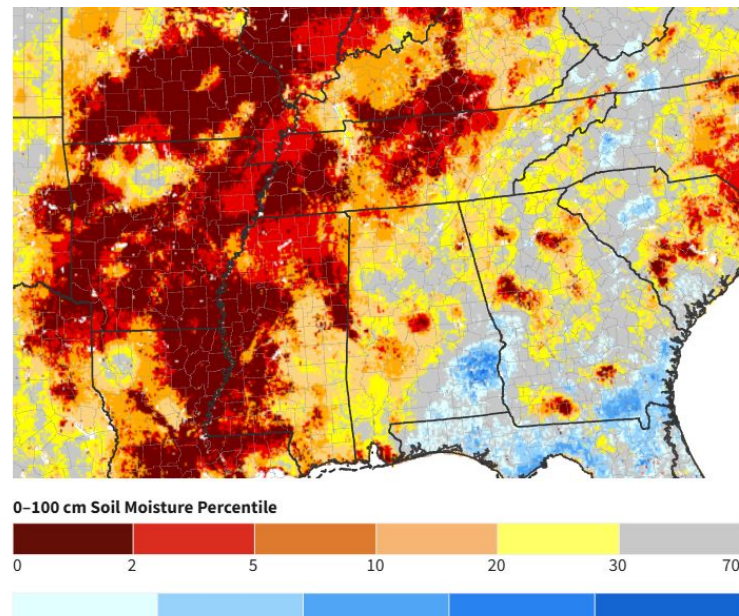
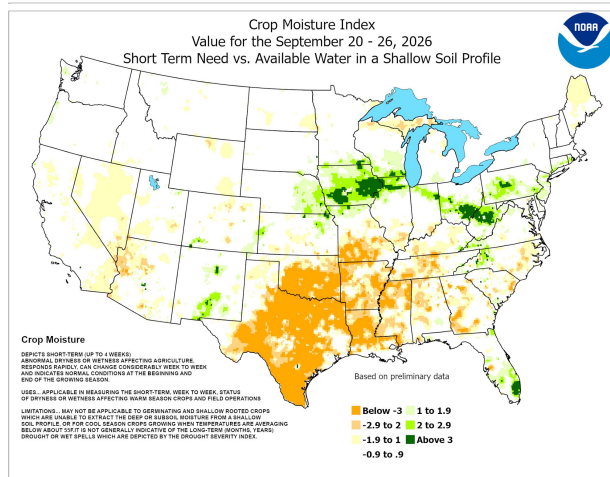
- Streamflows are rather mixed for this time of year despite the rapid development of drought conditions. Some locations remain near normal, although several locations are below normal or significantly below normal, such as Limestone, Cypress, and Bear Creeks.





Agricultural Impacts

- The Crop Moisture Index indicates significant abnormal soil dryness for agriculture for the late September to mid October 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.

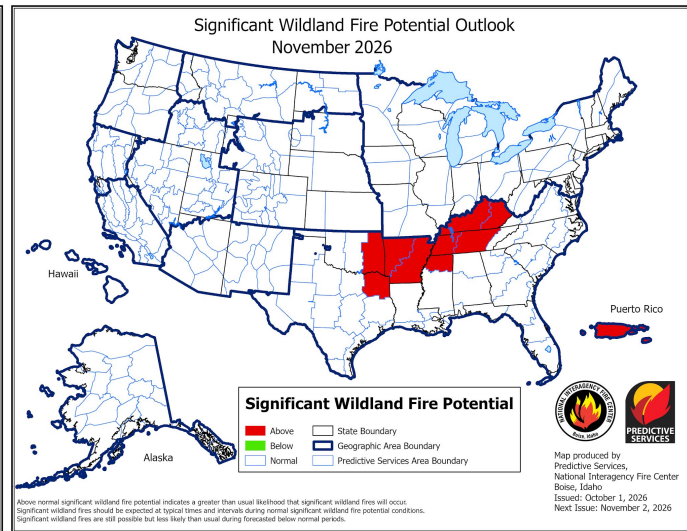
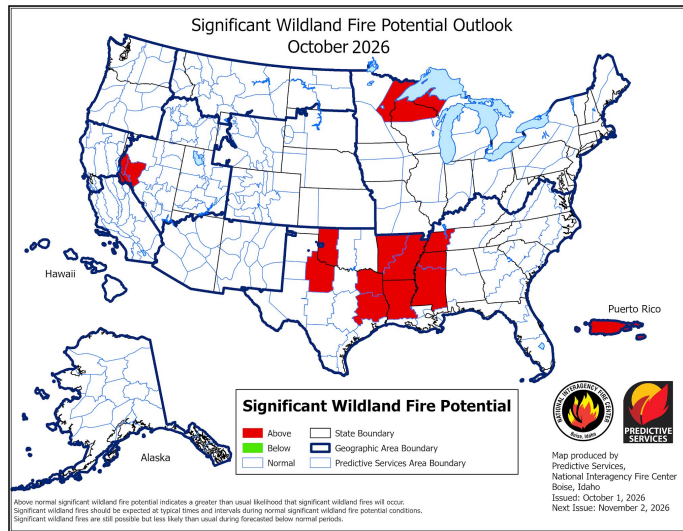




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

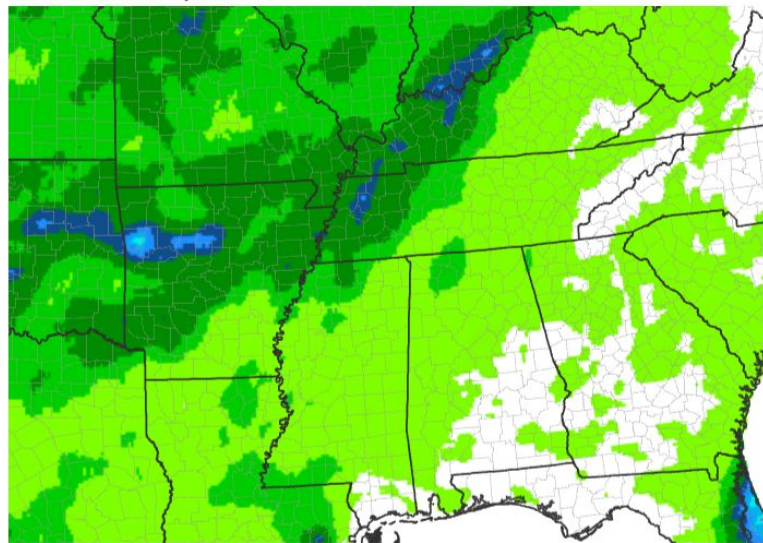
Link to [Weather Prediction Center forecast precipitation](#)

- Precipitation is forecast to be very low and generally one tenth of an inch or less. Normal rainfall for this time of year is around 1.00 inch.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October



25–November 1, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center

Last Updated: 10/25/26

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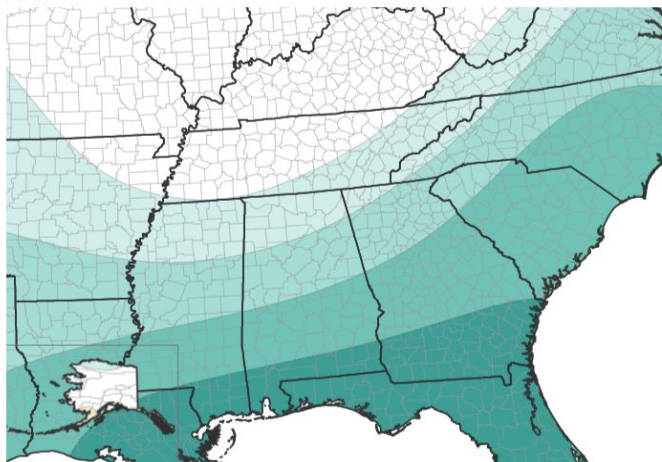


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Most areas are included in a Low Chance (33-40%) for Above Normal Precipitation for November
- The area is included in Equal Chances for Below, Near, or Above Normal for Temperatures for November, with the exception of far northeast Alabama southern middle Tennessee which have a low chance (33-40%) of Above Normal Temperatures.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for November 1–30, 2026



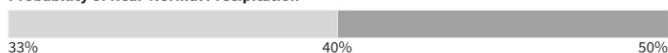
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



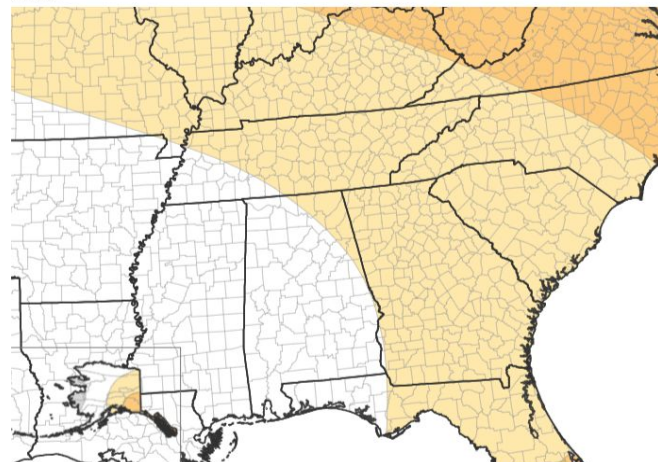
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center
Last Updated: 10/15/26

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Monthly Temperature Outlook for November 1–30, 2026



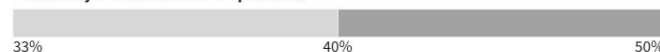
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center
Last Updated: 10/15/26

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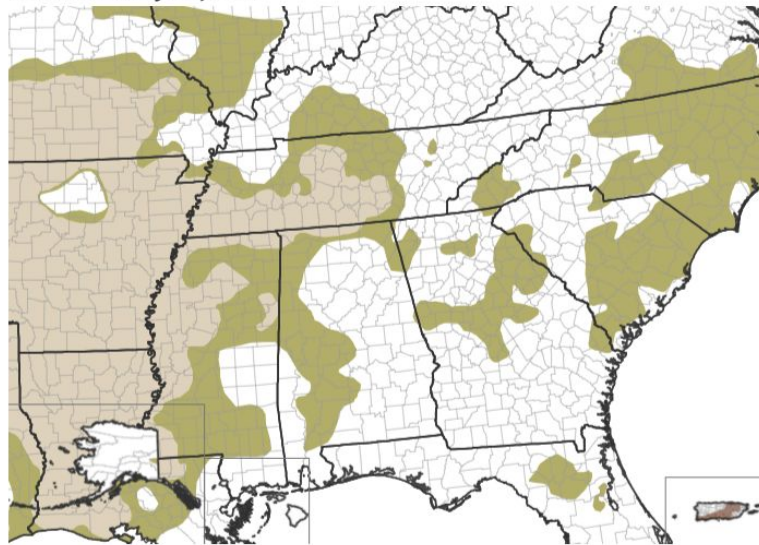


Drought Outlook

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 October 15, 2026–January 31, 2027



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center

Last Updated: 10/15/26

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Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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