



Drought Information Statement for Central and Southeast Illinois

Valid January 15, 2026

Issued By: WFO Lincoln, IL

Contact Information: nws.lincoln@noaa.gov

- The next update will be around Thursday, January 22nd, if conditions persist or worsen.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/ilx/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.

Key Messages:

- Showers and storms brought pockets of heavy rain last week, which overlapped with a few of the hardest hit drought areas. Otherwise, light precipitation fell areawide over the last 7 days.
- Minor improvements to the D1 and D2 drought areas were noted in parts of western and central IL.





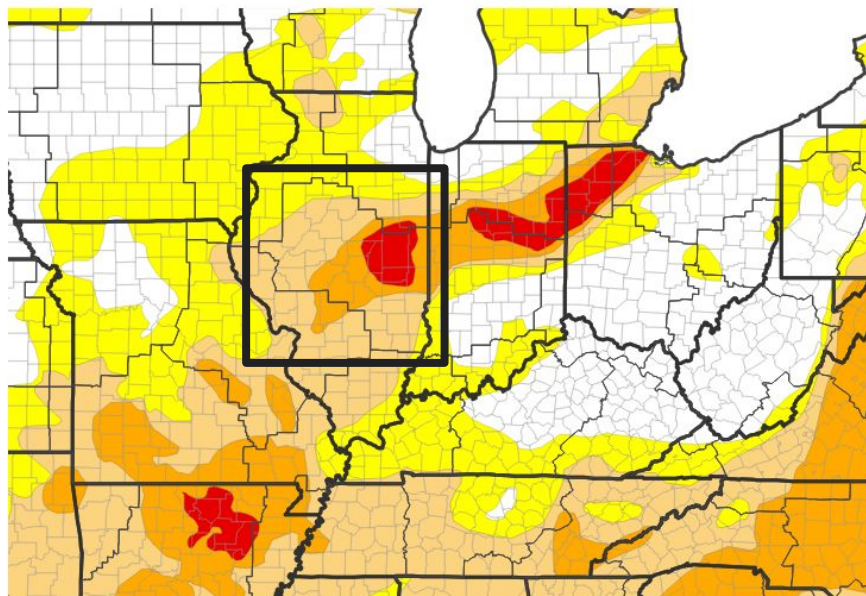
U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for central and southeast Illinois

- **Drought Intensity and Extent:**

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** N/A
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Portions of east-central Illinois including Piatt, Douglas, and Champaign Counties, and parts of Moultrie, De Witt, McLean, Coles, Edgar, and Vermilion Counties.
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Most of east-central Illinois.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** The vast majority of counties across western, central, and southeast Illinois.
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Small area west of the IL River and in southeast Illinois near the Wabash River in Lawrence and southeast Crawford counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 01/13/26





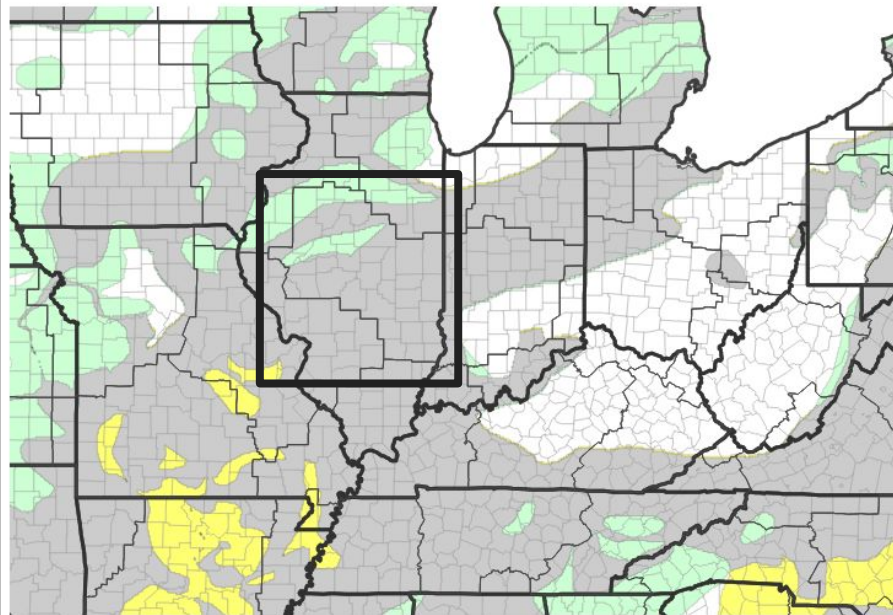
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [1-week change map](#) for central and southeast Illinois

- **One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.**
 - Drought Worsened:
 - None.
 - Drought Improved:
 - Portions of western and central Illinois.
 - No Change:
 - The majority of the area remains unchanged.

Image Caption: One week change in drought monitor categories. Image from [Drought.gov](#).

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



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

Data Valid: 01/13/26





Recent Precipitation

Last 7 days and 30 days

- Pockets of heavy rain fell with showers and storms last week, bringing areas of near to above normal rainfall to parts of central IL (right).
- The past 30 days (left) generally had a mix of above and below normal precipitation, with the driest areas across central and southeast IL.

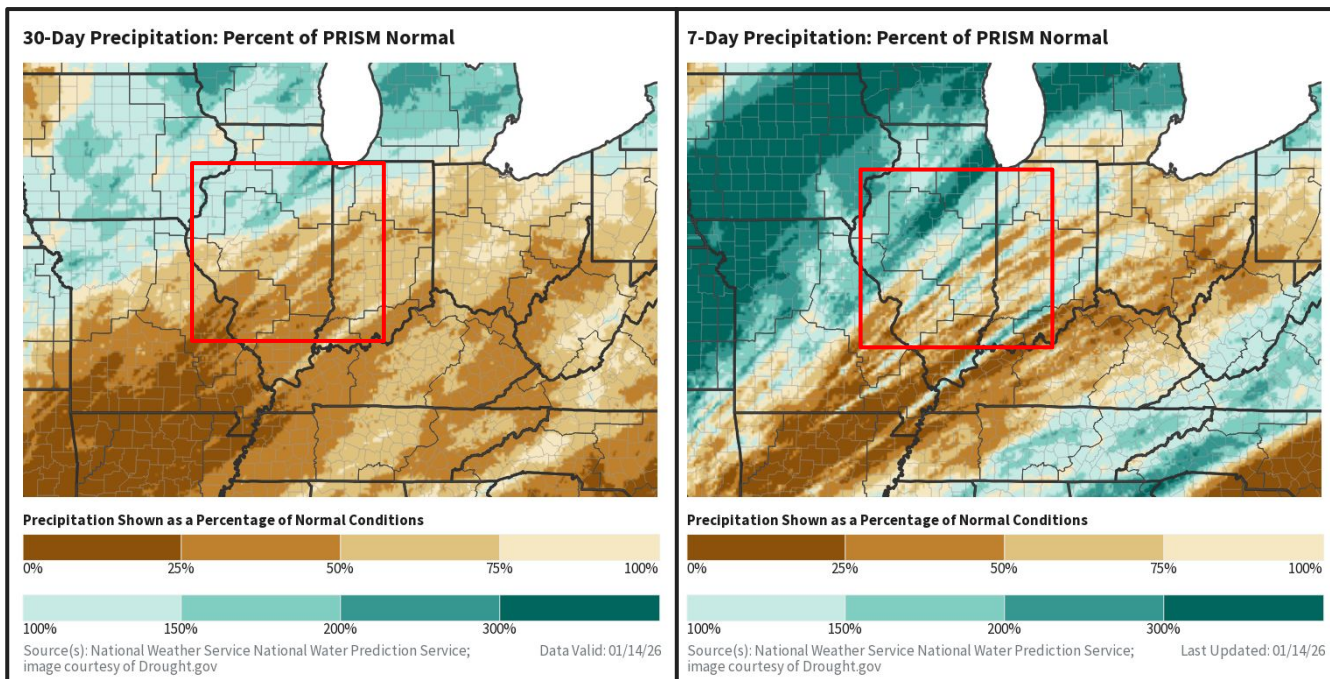


Image Caption: Total precipitation as a percentage of normal, as of January 14. Left image is a 30 day average, right image the last 7 days. Images from [Drought.gov](https://drought.gov).



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Lincoln, Illinois



Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflow on most rivers is below normal, with many basins below the 25th percentile and several below the 10th percentile.
- Near record low flow on the east end of the Sangamon River basin is impacting water supplies of Lake Decatur downstream.

Agricultural Impacts

- No recent impacts reported in the past week.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- None reported.

Other Impacts

- Extremely poor to record low water table and deep soil moisture conditions.

Mitigation Actions

- Voluntary Stage 1 water rationing is in effect in Decatur.
- Voluntary water conservation requested in Bloomington.

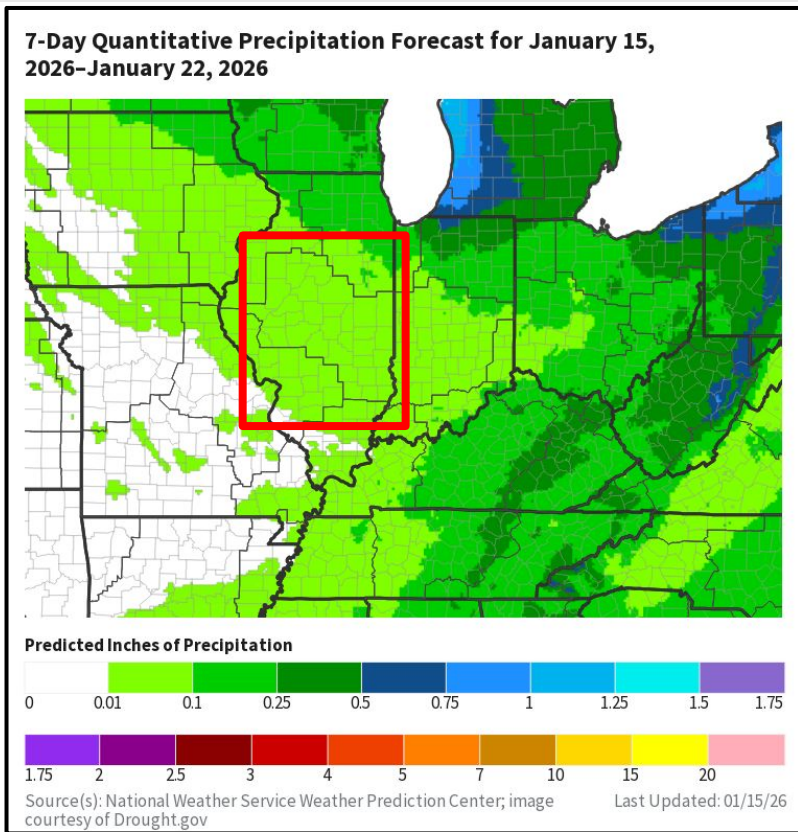




Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A few quick hitting snow systems will bring light precipitation (<0.10" of liquid equivalent) to the area through next week. This will likely result in little change or worsening conditions with the next update.

Image Caption: Expected rainfall over the next 7 days, valid through 6 PM Thursday, January 22. Check weather.gov/ilx for updated forecasts.





Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is forecast to improve or end across the area through the end of April.

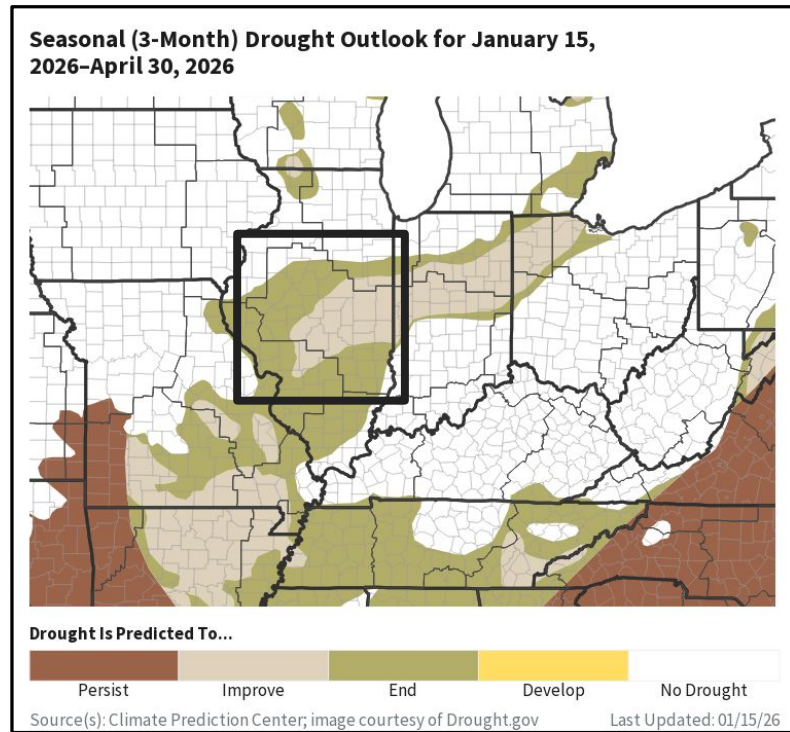


Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook released Jan. 15, valid through April 30, 2026. Images from [Drought.gov](#).

