



Drought Information Statement for Central and Southeast Illinois

Valid March 26, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Lincoln, IL

Contact Information: nws.lincoln@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated around April 2, 2026 unless drought conditions improve significantly.
- 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:

- **Recent Precipitation:** Portions of central and southeastern IL saw heavy rain on Sunday. This rainfall had beneficial impacts on the ongoing drought.
- **Water table levels** continue to be low due to long term precipitation deficits.





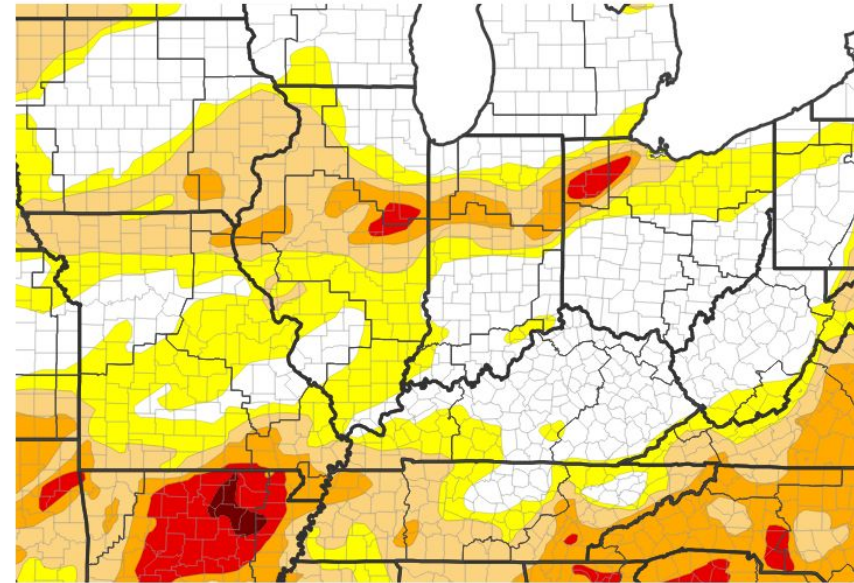
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- **Drought intensity and Extent**

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Southeastern McLean County, far northern Piatt, Champaign, and far northwestern Vermilion Counties
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Parts of west central and central IL, as well as areas surrounding the Extreme Drought
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Remainder of central IL north of a Cass County to Edgar County line.
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** South of a Cass County to Edgar County line.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 03/24/26



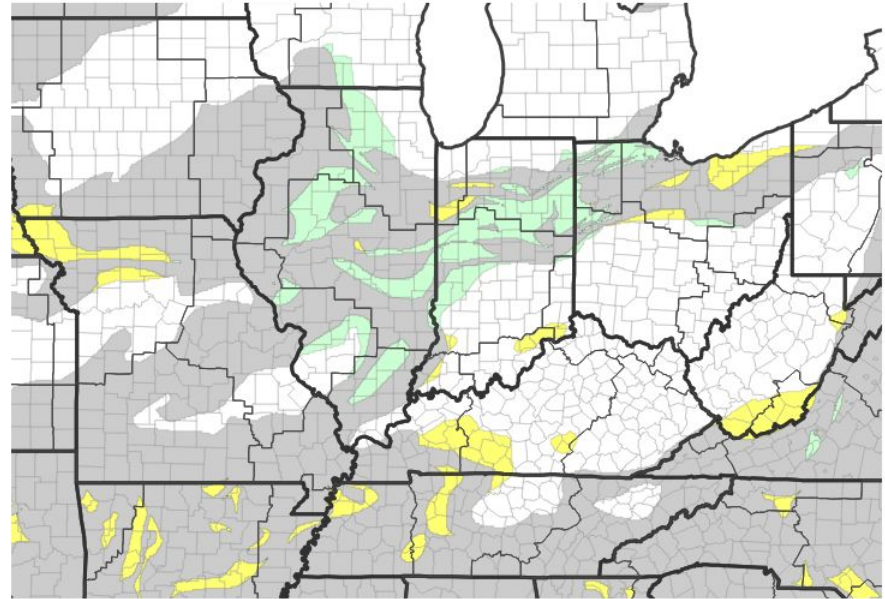


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

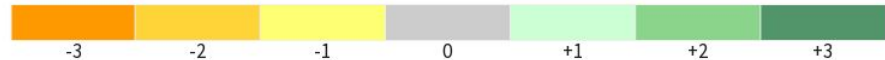
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Central and Southeast Illinois

- **One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.**
 - Drought Worsened: none
 - No Change: Most of central and southeast IL
 - Drought Improved: Areas along and northwest of the Illinois River, and narrow areas in central and east central IL

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: 03/24/26



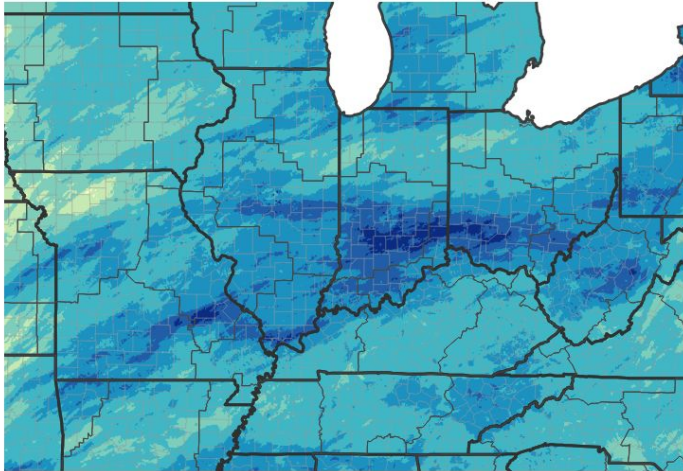


Precipitation

Over the past 30 days, precipitation has been above normal across all of central and southeastern IL. As much as 2-3+ times normal (200-300+%) was noted for much of the area near the I-72 corridor.

However, the D3 area was notably closer to normal precipitation for the past 30 days (100-150% of normal).

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

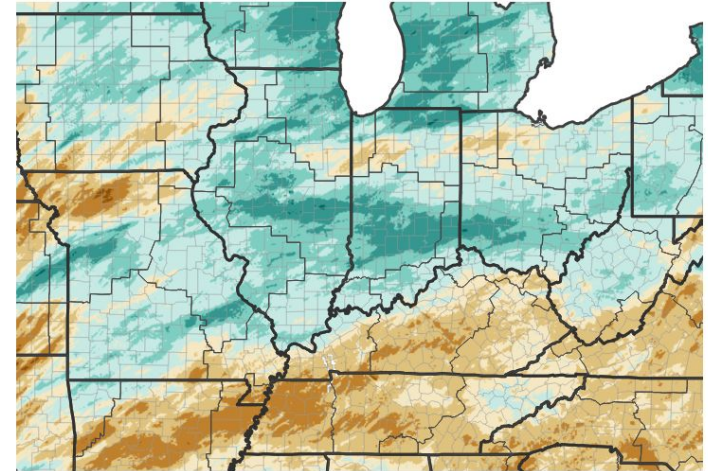


Inches of Precipitation

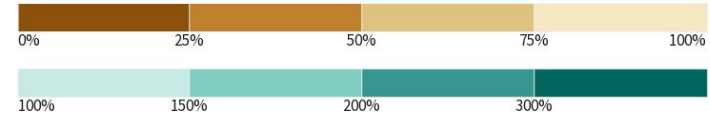


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 03/26/26

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 Last Updated: 03/26/26





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows remain below normal in much of the D1-D3 areas, especially on the Sangamon River north of Champaign which remains at an all-time low flow for the date.

Agricultural Impacts

- No recent impacts.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- No recent impacts.

Other Impacts

- Deep soil moisture remains below normal around D3 Drought areas, but has otherwise recovered at most observing sites.
- Water table levels remain low due to long term drought and recent rainfall has not been enough to recharge groundwater.

Mitigation Actions

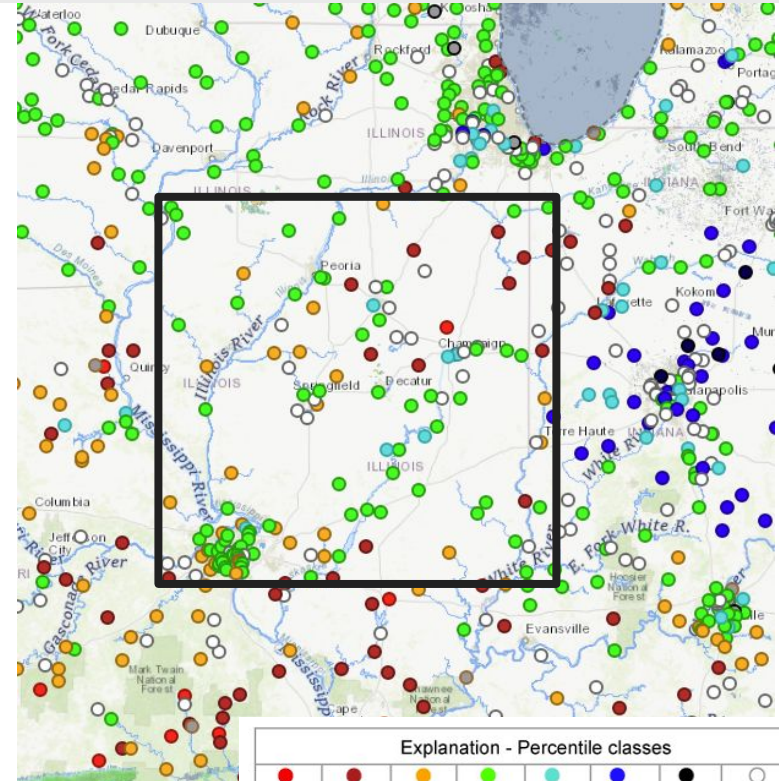
- Voluntary Stage 1 water rationing is ongoing in Decatur.
- A water emergency continues in Sullivan, with water conservation measures requested.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows remain below normal in much of the D1-D3 areas, especially on the Sangamon River north of Champaign which remains at an all-time low flow for the date.



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	Not-ranked
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Image Caption: USGS average streamflow valid March 27, 2026

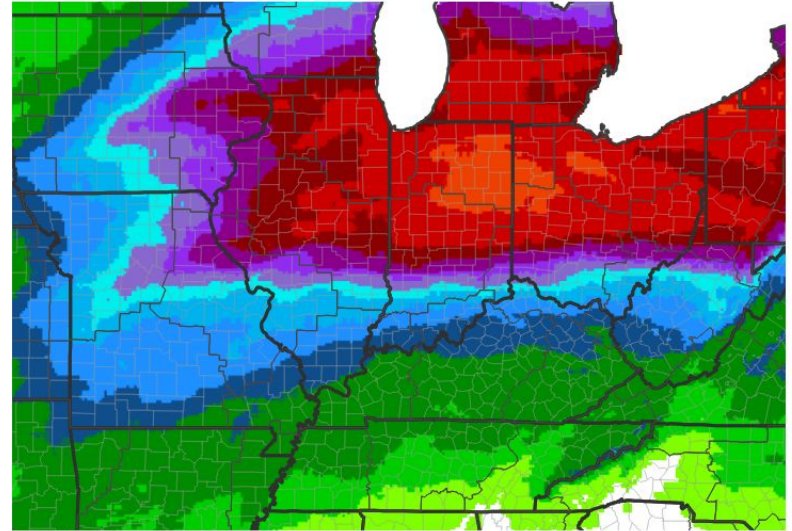




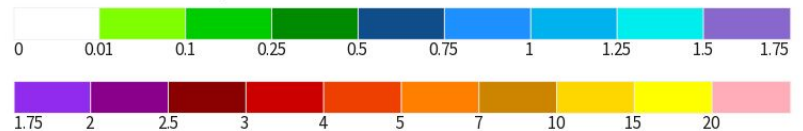
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Rainfall of around 1/2 to 1 inch occurred Thursday night over portions of the area. This will be added to the additional rainfall that is expected early next week, resulting in total amounts of 2.5 to 4 inches over the next 7 days. This should lead to a continued lessening of the drought.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for March 26, 2026–April 2, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 03/26/26





Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

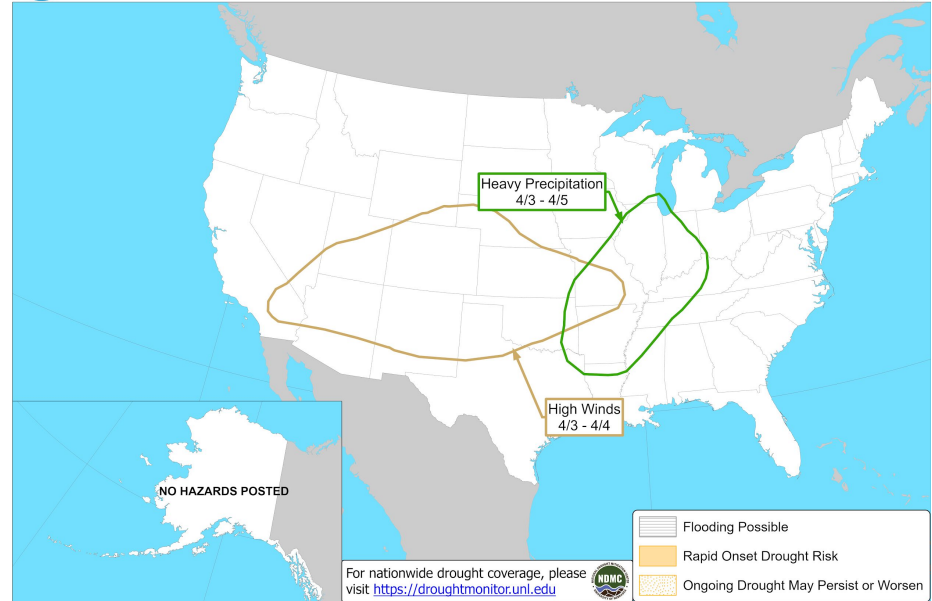
Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- Heavy precipitation is forecasted across the area for early April. This will help to lessen the drought conditions.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook

Valid: April 3 - 9, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: March 26, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

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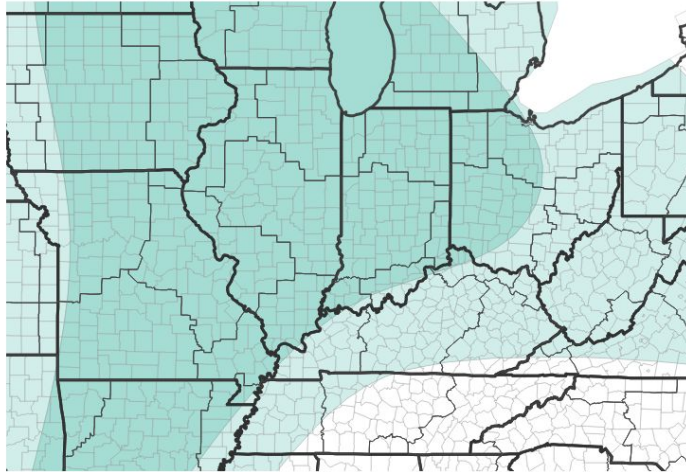
Long-Range Outlooks

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

Probabilities are leaning in the direction of above normal precipitation (40-50% chance) in the month of April.

The month of April is also leaning slightly towards above normal temperatures (33-50% chance).

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for April 1, 2026–April 30, 2026



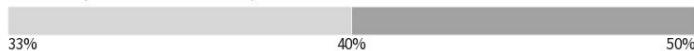
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



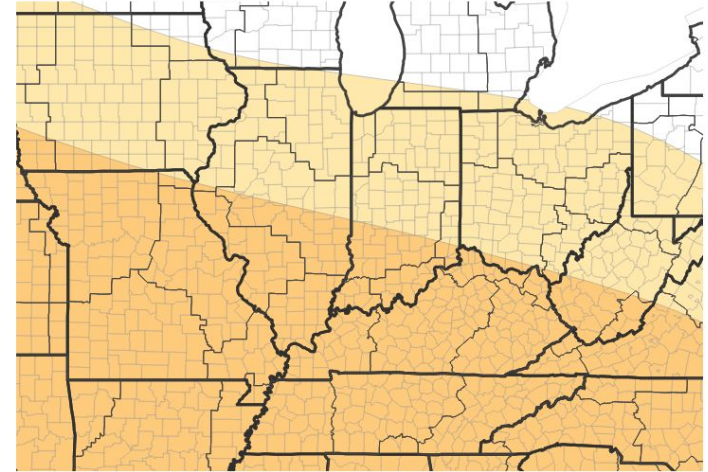
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 03/19/26

Monthly Temperature Outlook for April 1, 2026–April 30, 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: 03/19/26



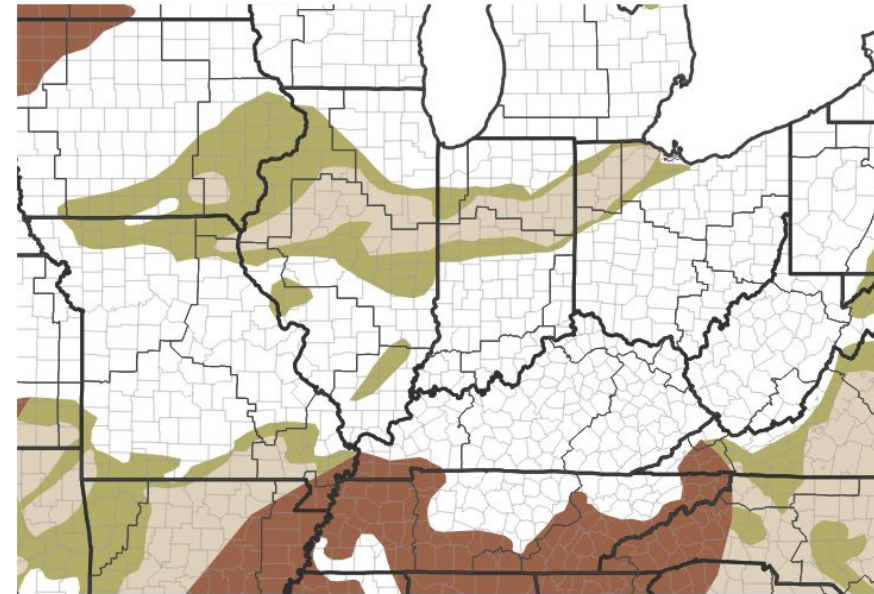


Drought Outlook

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

Drought is projected to improve or end across much of the area through the end of June.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for March 19, 2026–June 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 03/19/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

