Drought Information Statement for Central and Southeast Illinois

Valid September 11, 2025

Issued By: WFO Lincoln, IL

Contact Information: nws.lincoln@noaa.gov

- The next update will be Thursday, September 18, 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.

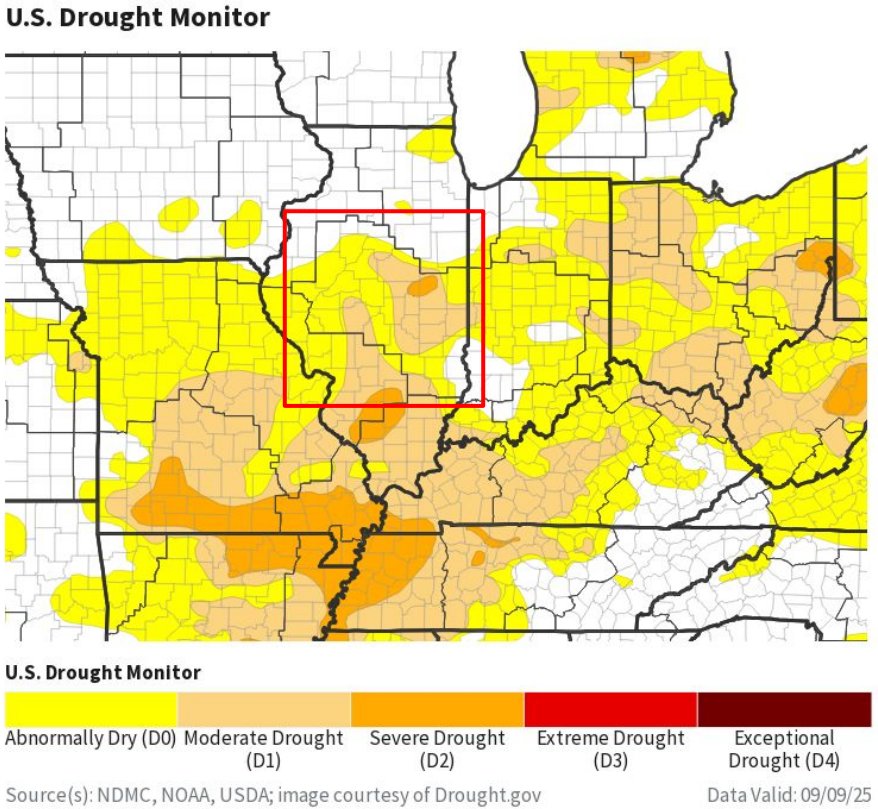
Key Messages:

- Rapid expansion of drought is taking place over central and southeast Illinois.
- An extended period of much above normal temperatures, and little rainfall, favors additional worsening of the drought.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for central and southeast Illinois

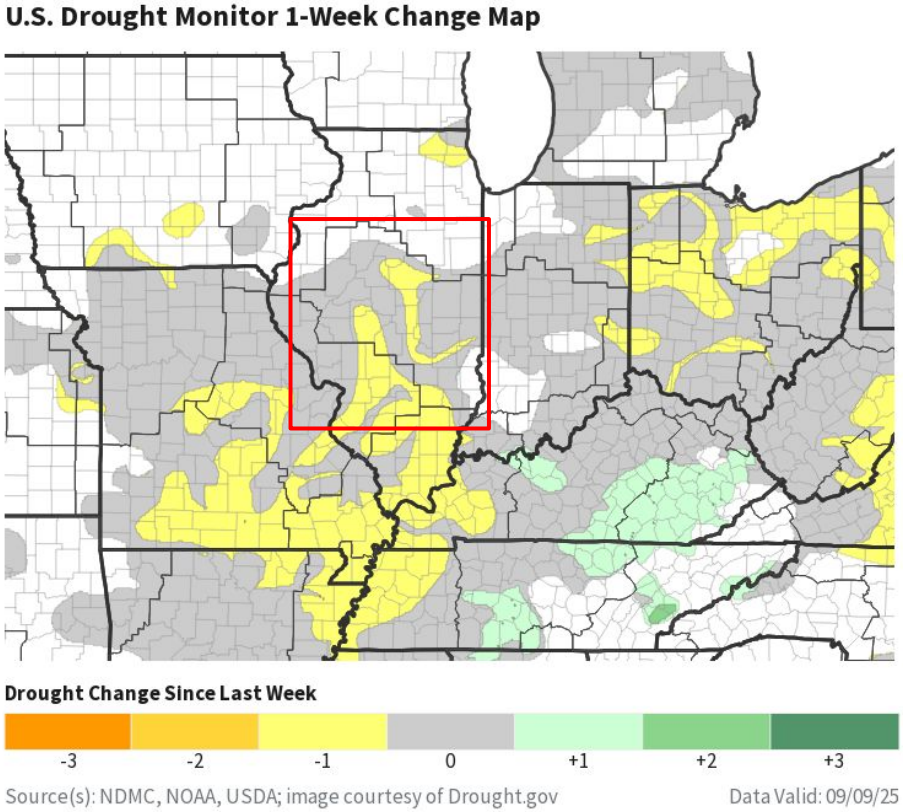
- **Drought Intensity and Extent:**
  - D4 (Exceptional Drought): N/A
  - D3 (Extreme Drought): N/A
  - D2 (Severe Drought): Northern portions of Champaign and Piatt Counties
  - D1 (Moderate Drought): Portions of Champaign, Christian, Clay, Coles, Cumberland, De Witt, Douglas, Edgar, Macon, McLean, Menard, Moultrie, Sangamon, Shelby, Tazewell, and Woodford Counties
  - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Portions of Cass, Clark, Effingham, Fulton, Jasper, Lawrence, Logan, Mason, Morgan, Peoria, Richland, Schuyler, Scott, and Vermilion Counties



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:
    - Corridor from near Bloomington south to Shelbyville, from Petersburg and Springfield south, and also near Flora
  - Drought Improved:
    - None
  - No Change:
    - Illinois River Valley, much of east central Illinois, much of southeast Illinois



Precipitation

Last 30 days

- Very little rain has fallen since mid August, especially south of I-74. Some portions of south central Illinois have seen less than a tenth inch of rain.

- Rainfall during September has mainly been less than 0.10”, with isolated heavier amounts of 1-2” along I-74 near Champaign.

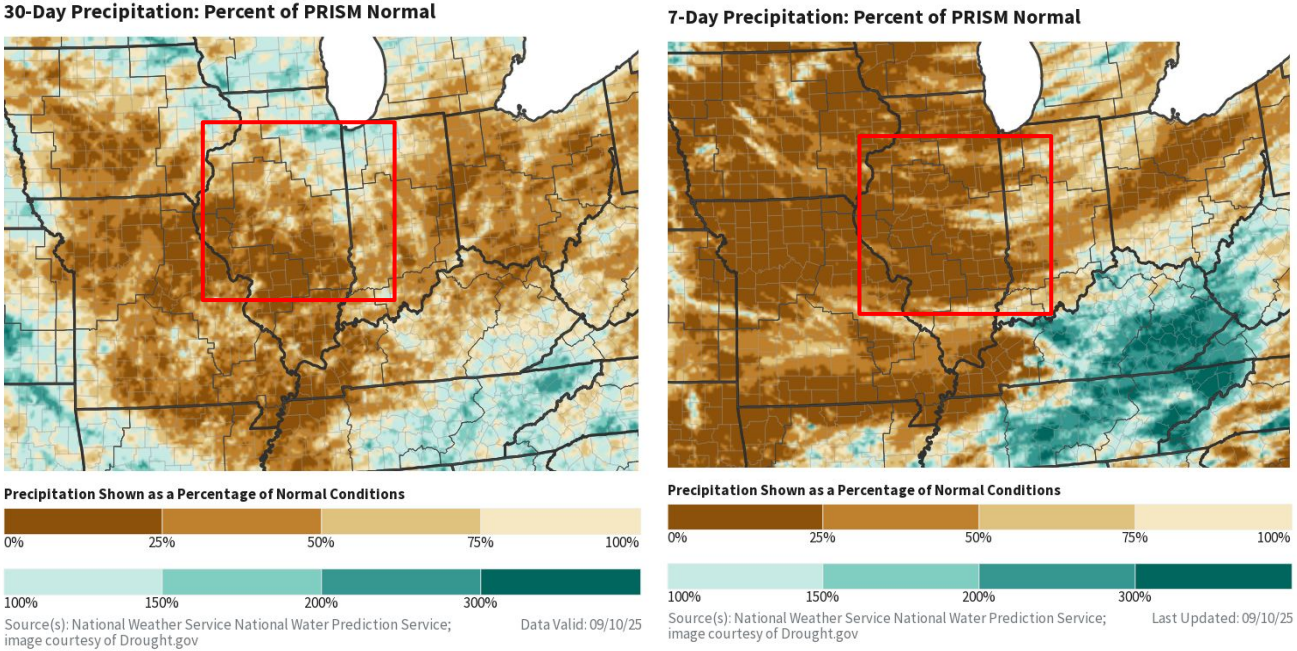
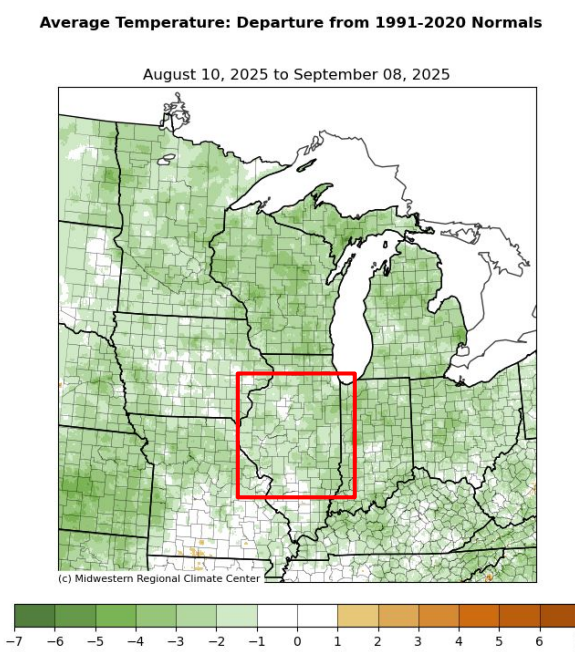


Image Caption: Total precipitation as a percentage of normal, as of September 10. Left image is a 30 day average, right image the last 7 days. Images from Drought.gov.

Temperature

- Average temperatures have been running below normal in most areas since about August 24th
- Averages for September to date are running 6 to 10 degrees below normal



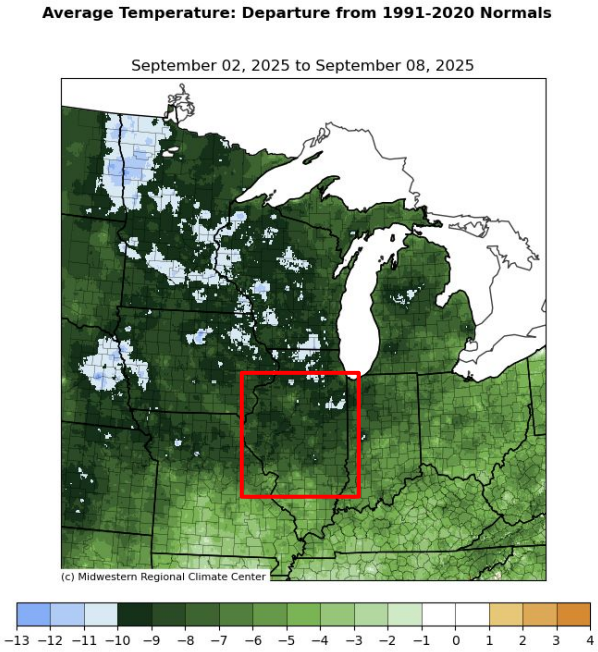


Image Caption: Average temperatures vs. normal, as of September 8. Left image is a 30 day average, right image the last 7 days. Images from Midwestern Regional Climate Center.

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflow along the Sangamon, Vermilion, and Mackinaw Rivers in the eastern half of central Illinois is much below normal, and some smaller creeks are near zero flow.
- Lake levels: Lake Decatur about 1 foot below seasonal normals, Lake Shelbyville about 1 foot below, Lake Springfield 0.6 feet below.

Agricultural Impacts

- Crops are drying rapidly with harvest efforts beginning.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Burn bans have been implemented in the following areas: Clay and Lawrence Counties, and local bans in Sherman and Pawnee (both in Sangamon County).
- There is a field fire risk as farmers run hot equipment through dry fields during harvest.

Other Impacts

- Yards are stressed and turning brown.

Mitigation Actions

- None

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- The most significant streamflow impacts are on portions of the Sangamon, Mackinaw, and Vermilion Rivers. However, middle portions of the Illinois River basin are also well below normal.

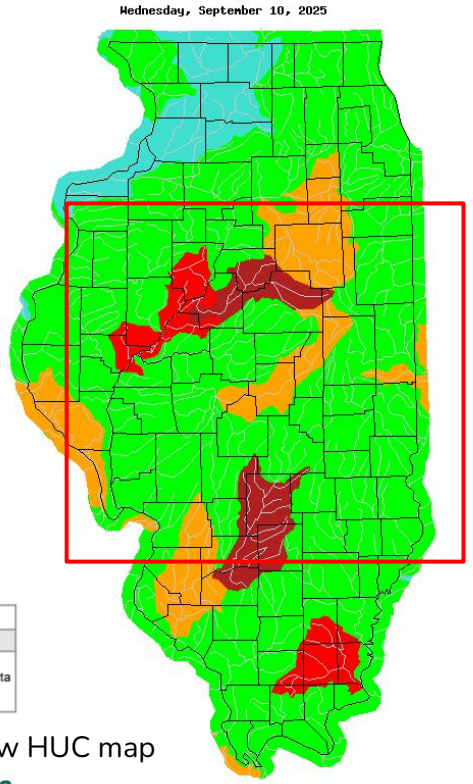
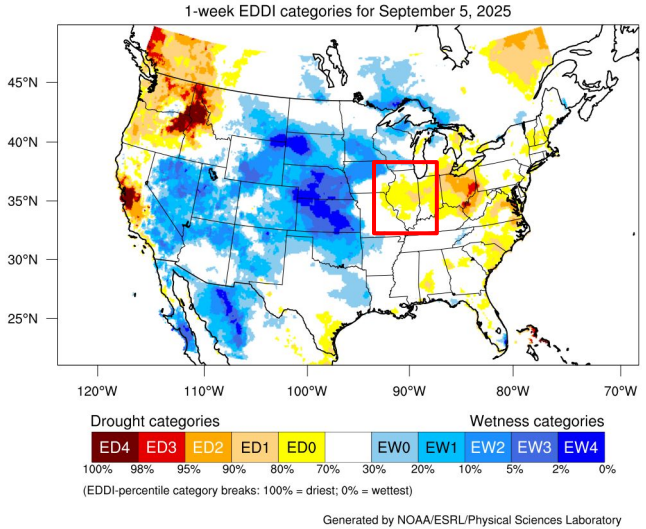


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid September 10, 2025.

Agricultural Impacts

- Rapidly drying crops have led to ahead of schedule harvesting across the state.



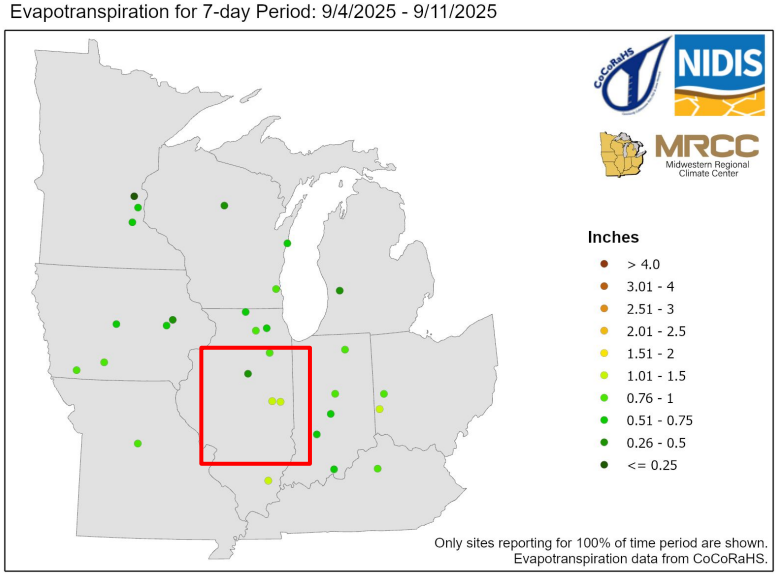
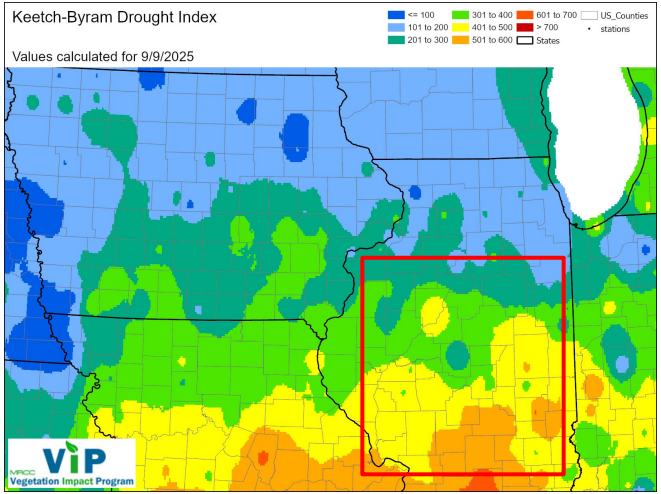


Image Captions:
Left: 1-week Evaporative Demand Drought Index valid September 5, courtesy of NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory.
Right: 7-day Evapotranspiration ending September 11, courtesy of Midwestern Regional Climate Center.

Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.]

- Field fire risk is a concern as farmers run hot equipment through dry fields.



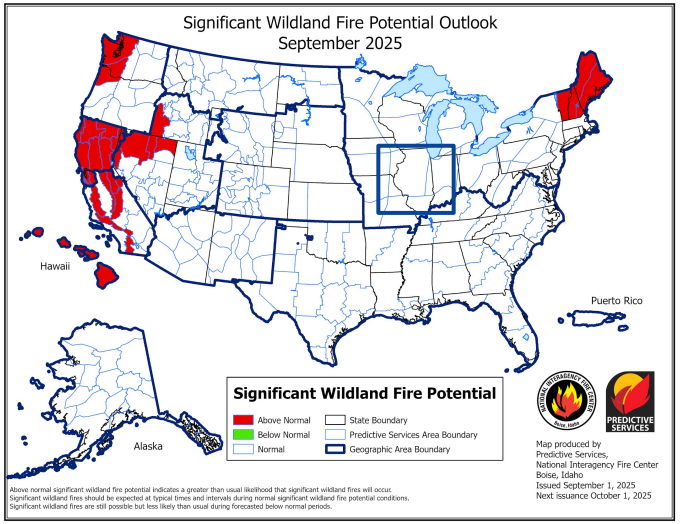


Image Captions:
Left: Keetch-Byram Drought Index courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center, valid September 9.
Right: Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook for September, courtesy of the National Interagency Fire Center.

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Rainfall over the next 7 days is expected to be sparse, with any rain chances generally less than 20%.

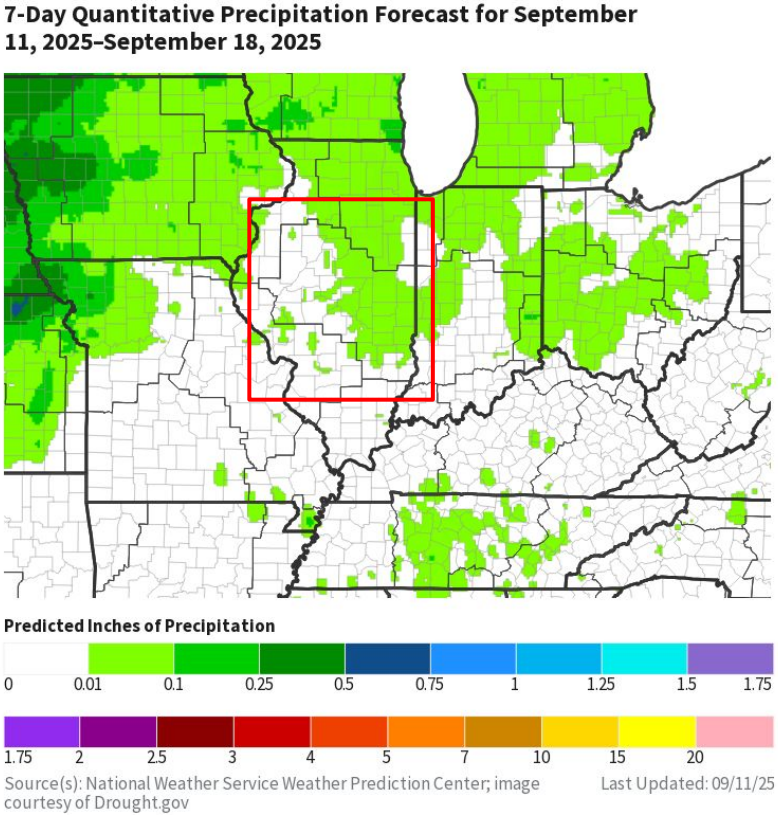


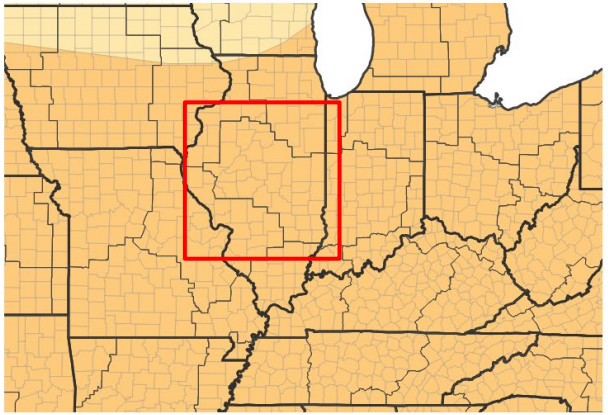
Image Caption: Expected rainfall over the next 7 days, valid through Thursday, September 18. Check weather.gov/ilx for updated forecasts.

Long Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- The fall temperature outlook favors a 40-50% chance of average temperature above normal.
- The precipitation outlook does not favor a particular trend, meaning equal chances of above normal, near normal, or below normal rainfall.

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for September 1, 2025–November 30, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

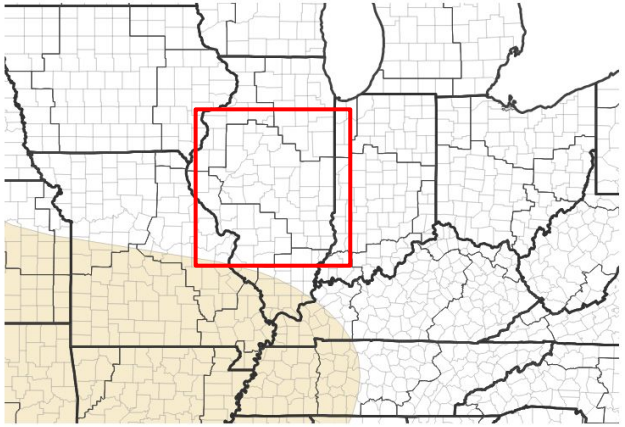
33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 08/21/25

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for September 1, 2025–November 30, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation

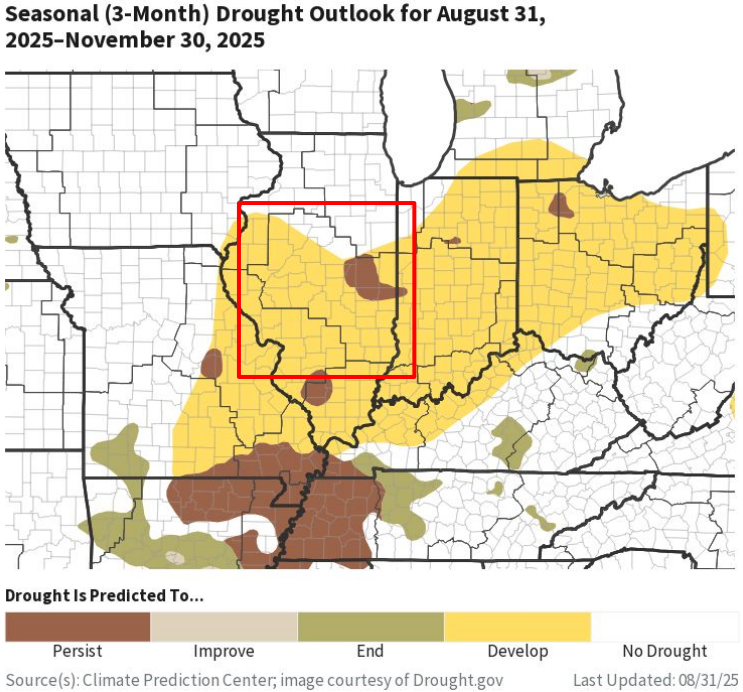
33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 08/21/25

Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- An extended period of dry weather may worsen conditions across the state in the coming weeks.



Links to the latest:
[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook]
[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook]

Image Caption:
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook released August 31, valid through November 30, 2025