



Drought Information Statement for Central and Southeast Illinois

Valid September 18, 2025

Issued By: WFO Lincoln, IL

Contact Information: nws.lincoln@noaa.gov

- The next update will be Thursday, September 25, 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.
- A period of rain chances over the next week could stall worsening of drought conditions, but an extended period of much above normal temperatures and little rainfall favors continuation of drought.





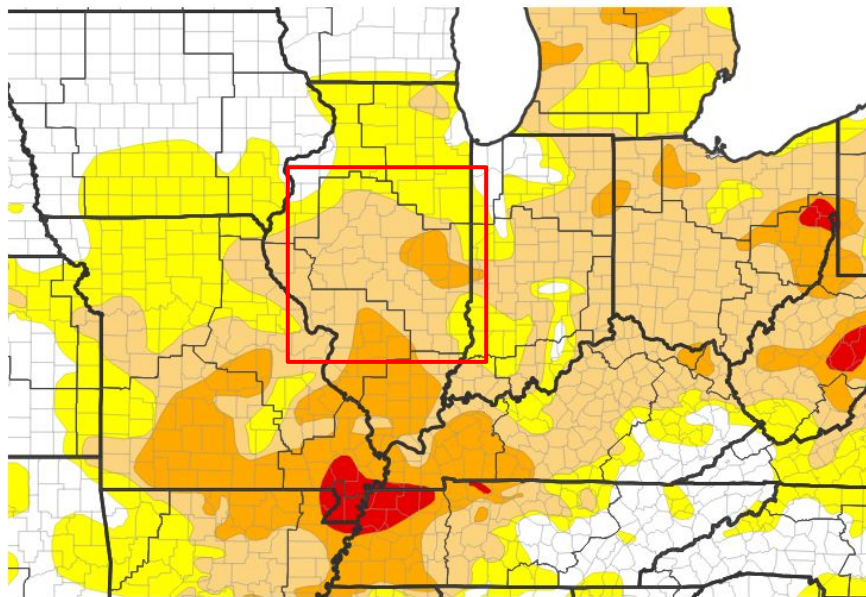
U.S. Drought Monitor

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):** Champaign, Piatt, Douglas, and Edgar Counties
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Most of central and southeast IL
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Knox, Stark, Marshall, Crawford, and portions of Lawrence and Clark Counties

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 09/16/25



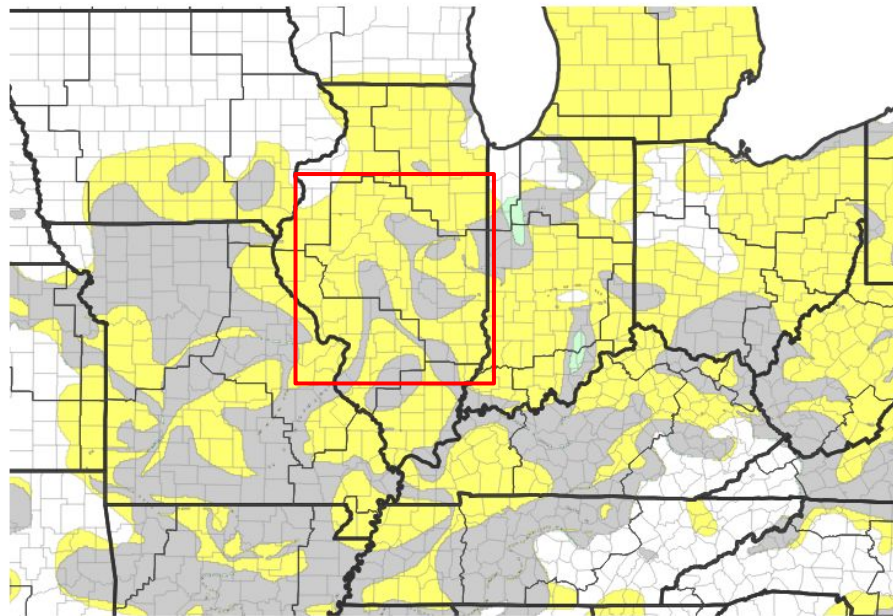


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

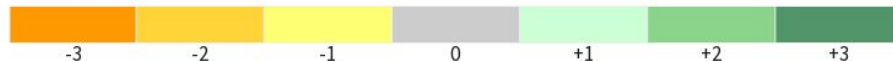
Link to the latest [1-week change map](#) for central and southeast Illinois

- **One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.**
 - Drought Worsened 1 category:
 - Most of central and southeast IL
 - Drought Improved:
 - None
 - No Change:
 - Portions of a broad corridor from Springfield to Danville areas, including Bloomington, Decatur, and Mattoon. Also Clay County.

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: 09/16/25



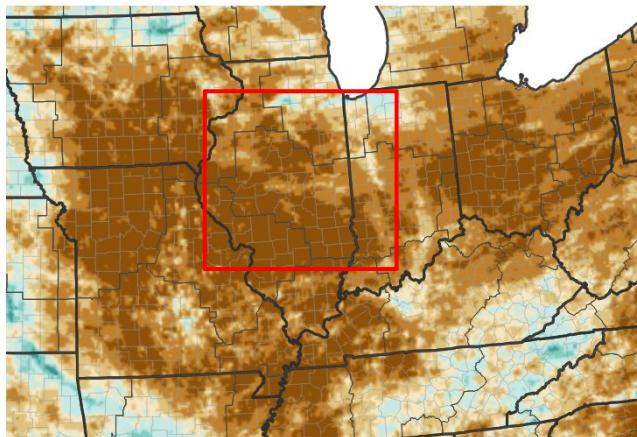


Precipitation

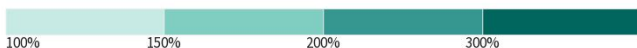
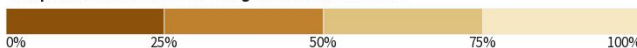
Last 30 days

- Very little rain has fallen since mid August. 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" near I-74 from Champaign to Danville.

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



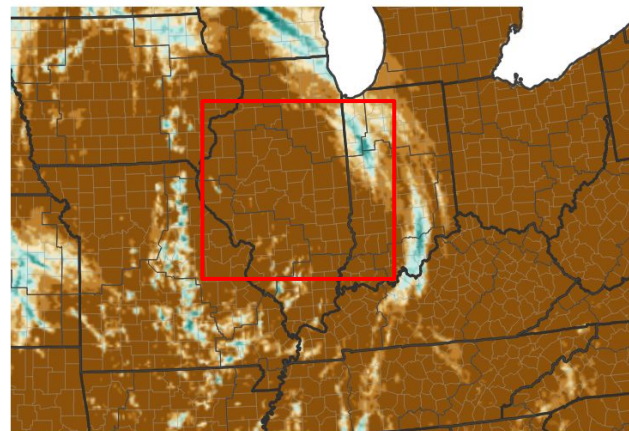
Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



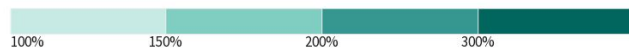
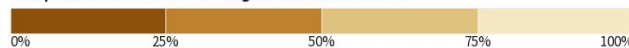
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/17/25

7-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



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

Last Updated: 09/17/25

Image Caption: Total precipitation as a percentage of normal, as of September 17. Left image is a 30 day average, right image the last 7 days. Images from Drought.gov.



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Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflow along the Illinois, Sangamon, Vermilion, and Mackinaw Rivers is 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 near normal. Smaller lakes and ponds are low.

Agricultural Impacts

- Crops are drying rapidly with harvest efforts continuing. Crop yield loss is expected.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Burn bans have been implemented in the following areas: Lawrence, Clay, Coles, Edgar, Macon, Moultrie, Christian, and Champaign Counties, and local bans have been implemented in portions of Sangamon, Peoria, Shelby, Cumberland, McLean, and De Witt Counties.
- There is a field fire risk as farmers run hot equipment through dry fields during harvest.

Other Impacts

- Lawns are turning brown. Trees, and landscaping plants are stressed.

Mitigation Actions

- None

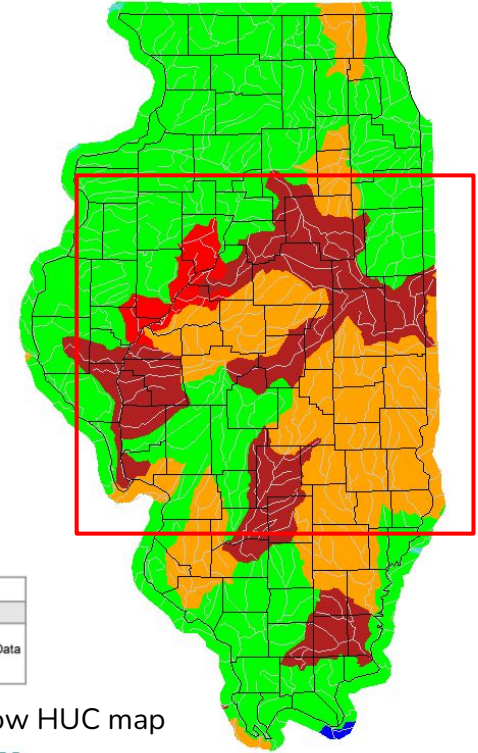




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Most streamflows are below normal, however the most significant streamflow impacts are on portions of the Illinois, Sangamon, Mackinaw, and Vermilion Rivers.

Wednesday, September 17, 2025



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

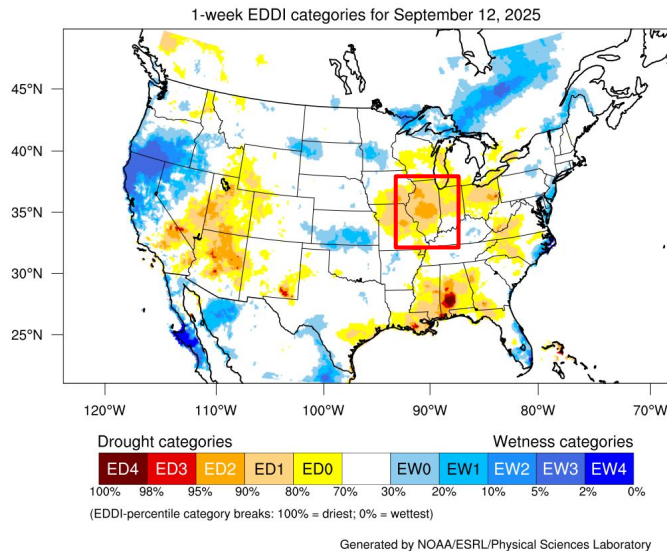
Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid September 17, 2025.





Agricultural Impacts

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



Evapotranspiration for 7-day Period: 9/10/2025 - 9/17/2025

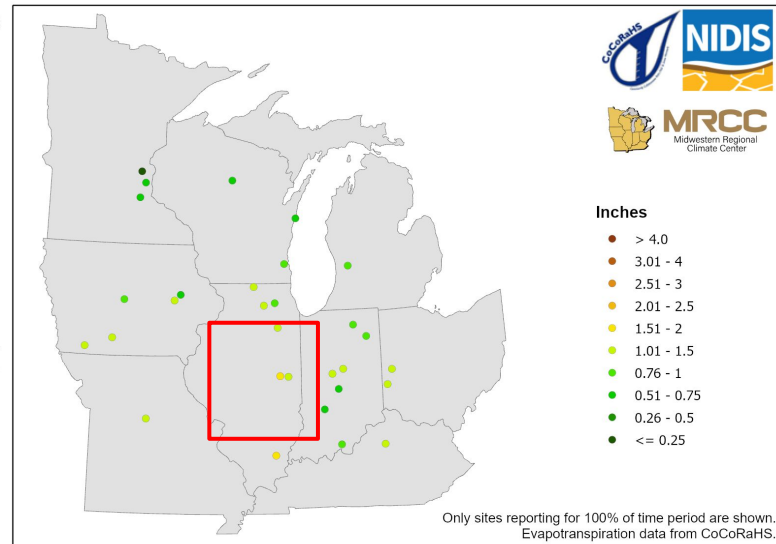


Image Captions:

Left: 1-week Evaporative Demand Drought Index valid September 12, courtesy of NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory.

Right: 7-day Evapotranspiration ending September 17, courtesy of Midwestern Regional Climate Center.



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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.

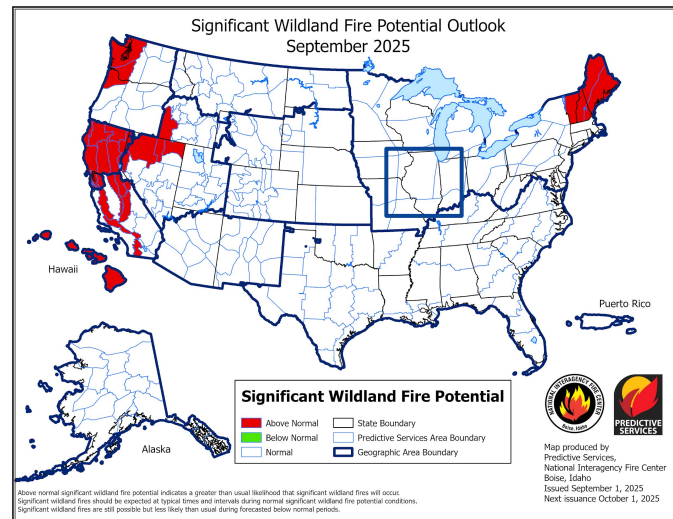
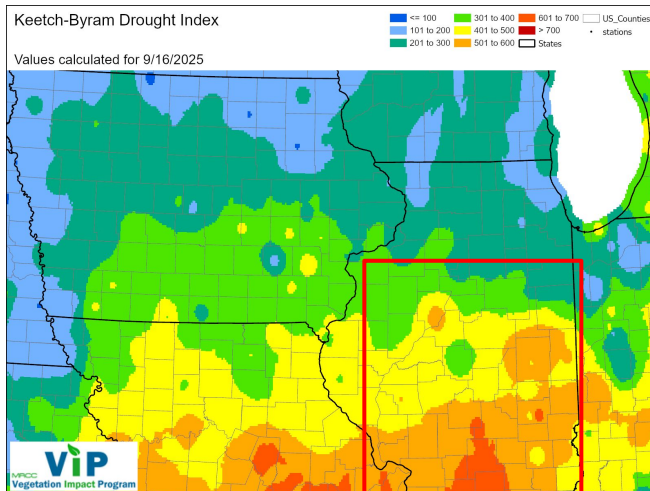


Image Captions:

Left: [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center, valid September 16.

Right: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for September, courtesy of the National Interagency Fire Center.



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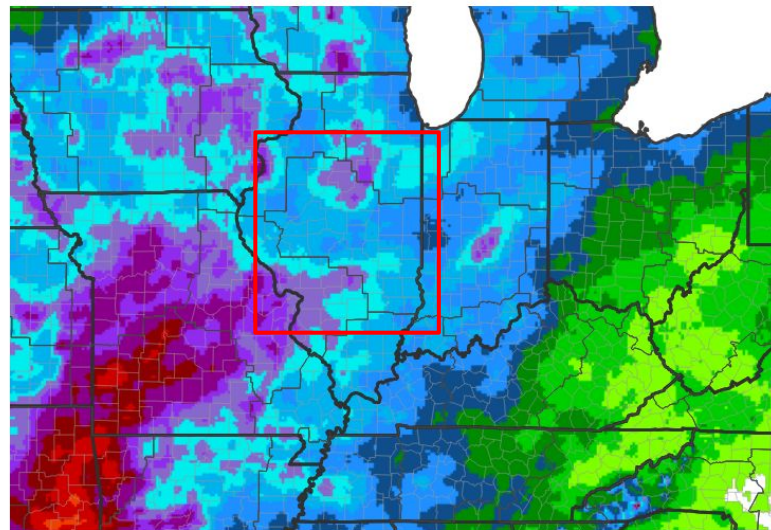


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

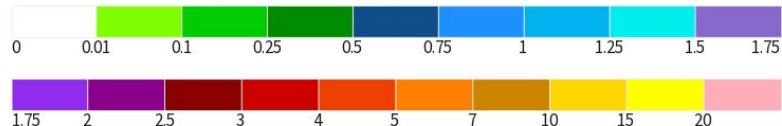
- Rainfall over the next 7 days is forecast to range from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1.5 inches over most of central and southeast IL. This would be enough to prevent further deterioration of drought conditions, but would be unlikely to significantly mitigate the drought.

Image Caption: Expected rainfall over the next 7 days, valid through Thursday, September 25. Check weather.gov/ilx for updated forecasts.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for September 18, 2025–September 25, 2025



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 09/18/25



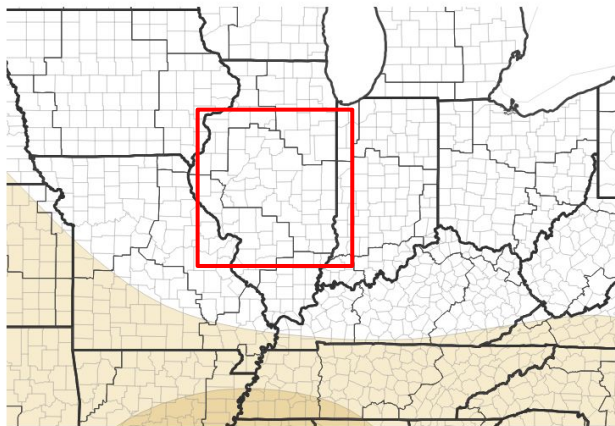


Long Range Outlooks

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

- The precipitation outlook does not favor a particular trend, meaning equal chances of above normal, near normal, or below normal rainfall.
- The fall temperature outlook is for a 33-40% chance of average temperature above normal, only a slight shift in probability toward warmer than normal conditions.

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for October 1, 2025–December 31, 2025



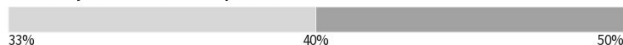
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



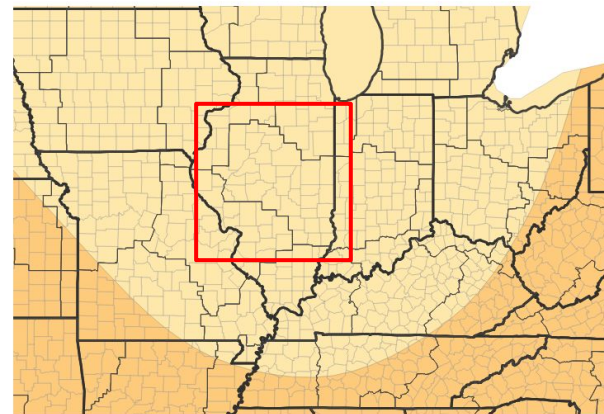
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 09/18/25

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for October 1, 2025–December 31, 2025



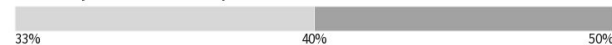
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 09/18/25

Seasonal outlook (issued 3rd Thursday of month)



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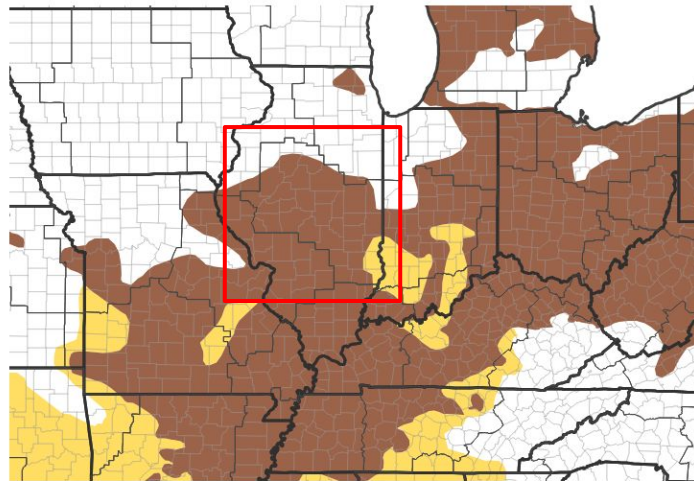


Drought Outlook

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

- The lack of significant rainfall in the coming months should cause drought to persist or worsen.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for September 18, 2025–December 31, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 09/18/25

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 September 18, valid through December 31, 2025



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