



Drought Information Statement for Central and Southeast Illinois

Valid October 2, 2025

Issued By: WFO Lincoln, IL

Contact Information: nws.lincoln@noaa.gov

- The next update will be Thursday, October 9, 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:

- Expansion of drought conditions continues to take place over central and southeast Illinois.
- Dry weather is expected through most of the next week, potentially worsening the drought across the forecast area.





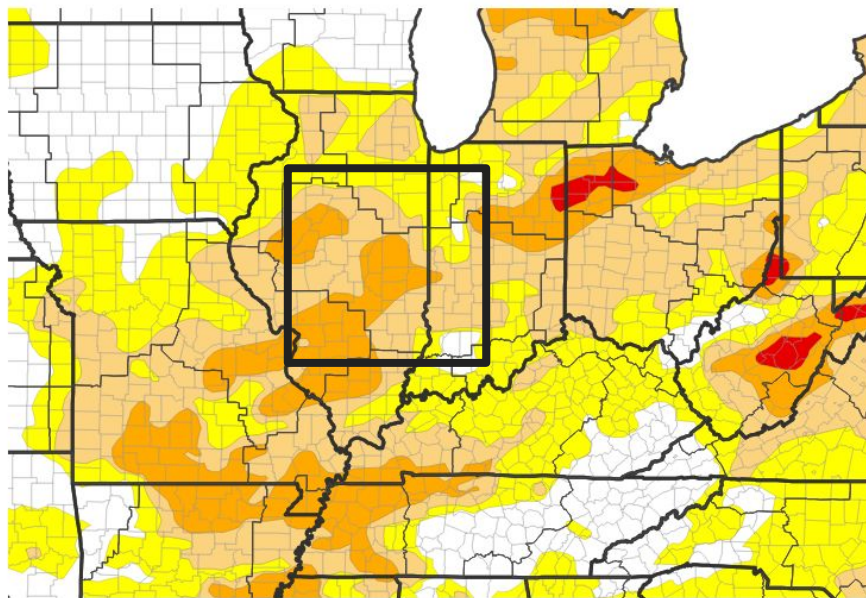
U.S. Drought Monitor

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): Much of the Illinois River Valley and the I-57 Corridor
- D1 (Moderate Drought): Most of the remainder of central and southeast IL
- D0: (Abnormally Dry): N/A

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 09/30/25



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Lincoln, Illinois

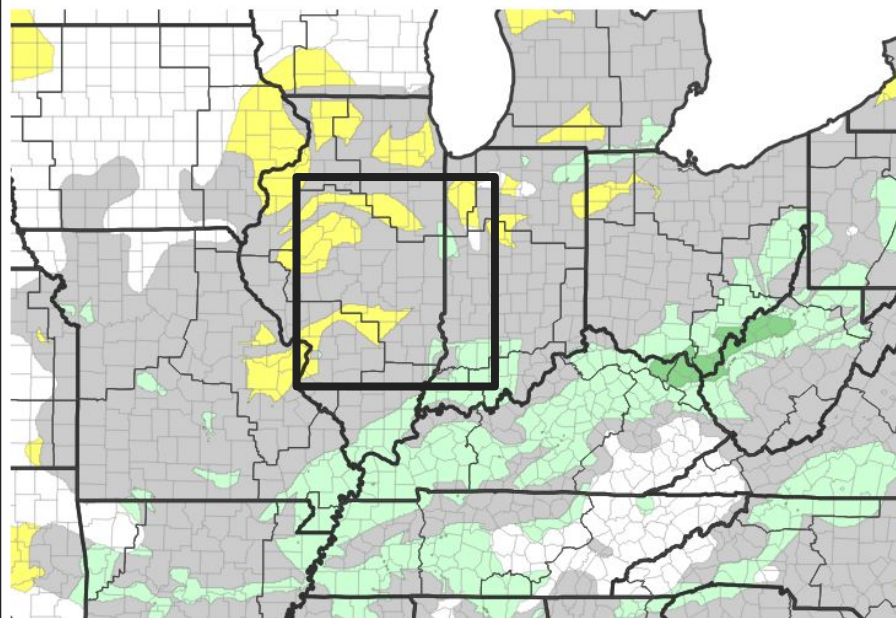


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

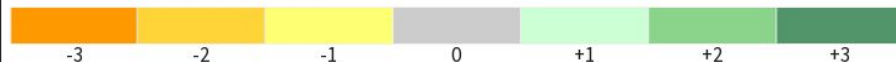
Link to the latest [1-week change map](#) for central and southeast Illinois

- **One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.**
 - Drought Worsened 1 category:
 - Areas along and adjacent to the Illinois River Valley; Portions of Christian, Shelby, Cumberland, and Effingham Counties
 - Drought Improved:
 - Small portions of Vermilion, Lawrence, and Crawford counties
 - No Change:
 - The rest of central and southeastern IL

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: 09/30/25





Recent Precipitation

Last 7 days and 30 days

- Some precip was observed over portions of east central and southeast Illinois over the past week, however much of the remainder of central Illinois west of I-57 received little if any precip.
- 30-day precip continues to run well below normal for nearly all of central and southeast Illinois.

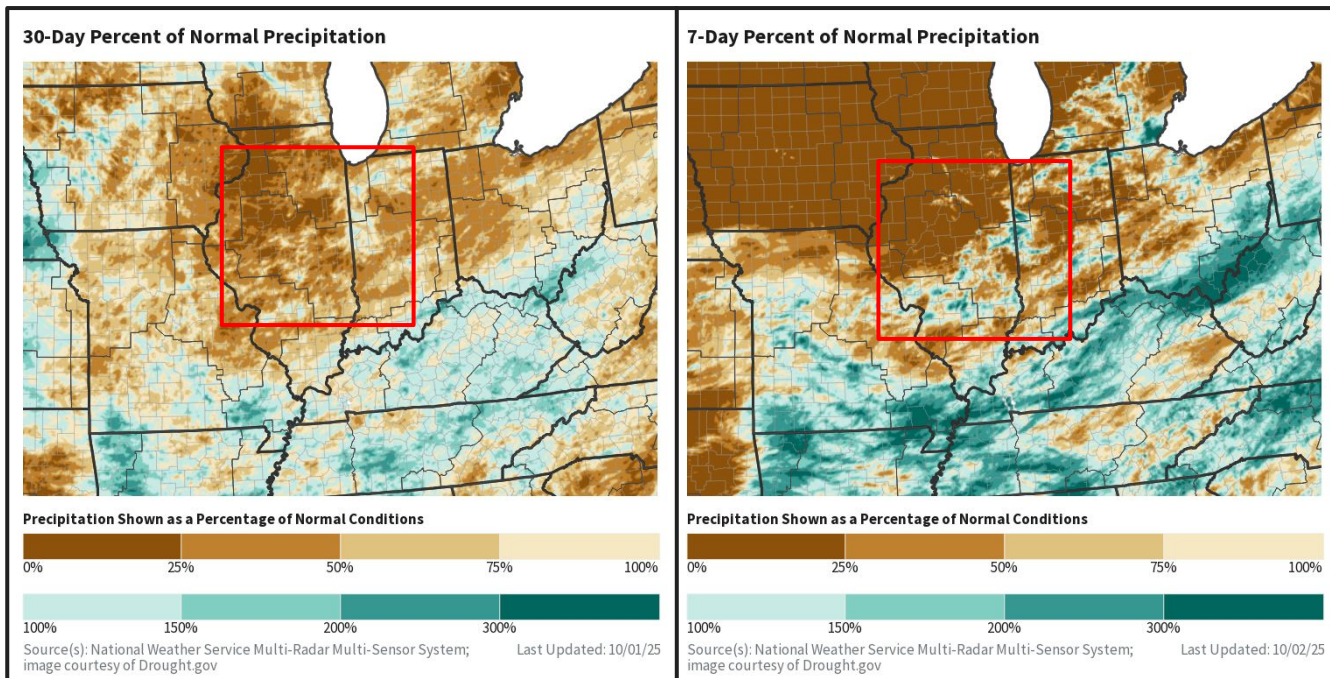


Image Caption: Total precipitation as a percentage of normal, as of October 1 (left) and October 2 (right). Left image is a 30 day average, right image the last 7 days. Images from Drought.gov.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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

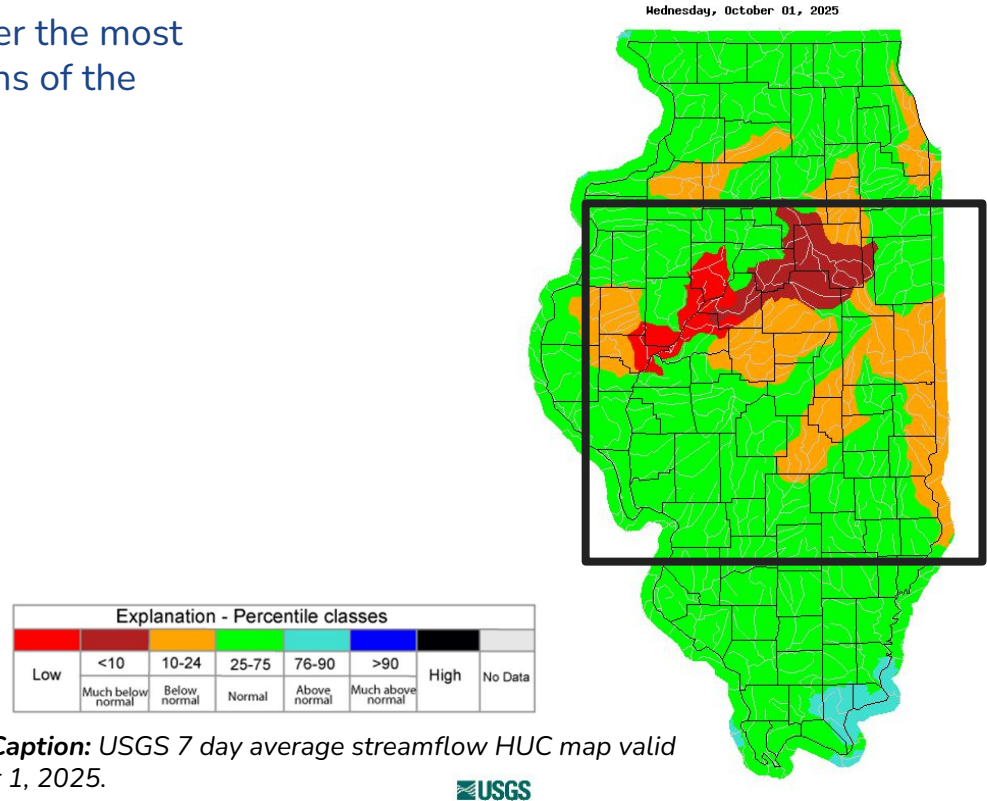


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid October 1, 2025.

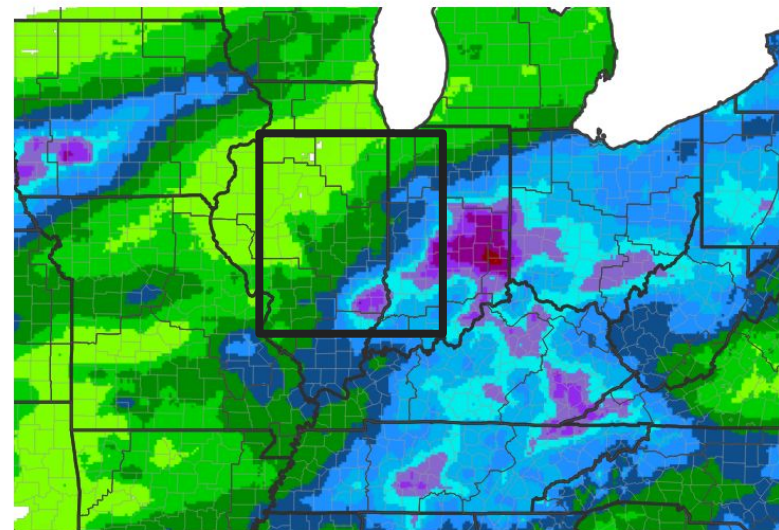


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

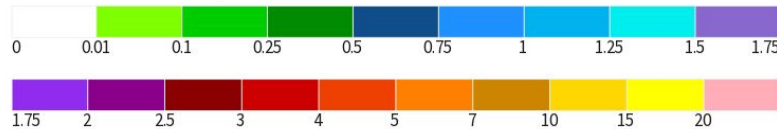
- Rainfall over the next 7 days is forecast to be minimal over most of central Illinois.
- A cold front will push across the region early next week (Monday 10/6 into Tuesday 10/7) and will be the next decent chance for showers and storms, particularly for portions of southeastern Illinois.

Image Caption: Expected rainfall over the next 7 days, valid through Thursday, October 9. Check weather.gov/ilx for updated forecasts.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October 2, 2025–October 9, 2025



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 10/02/25

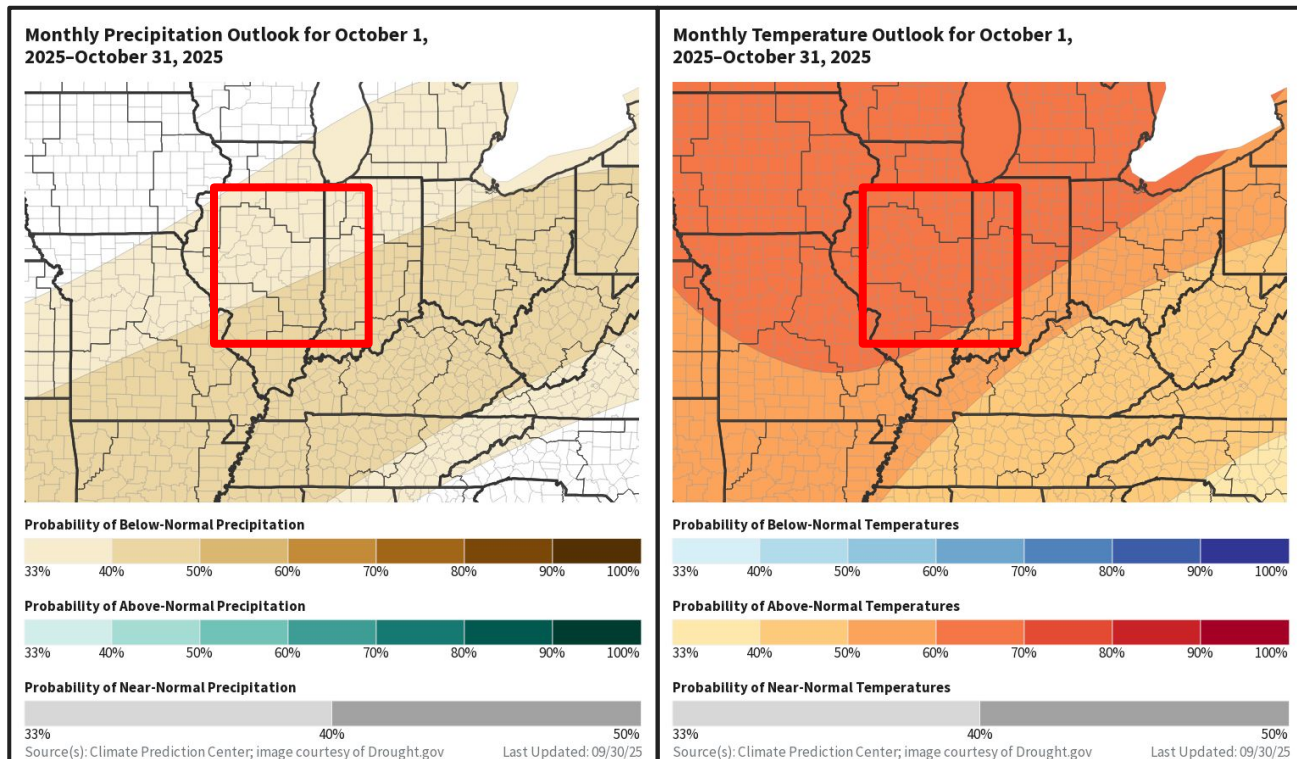




Long Range Outlooks

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

- The precipitation outlook for October has a 33-50% probability of below normal precipitation.
- The October temperature outlook is for a 60-70% chance of above normal temperatures.



Monthly outlook (issued 18th of the month)



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Lincoln, Illinois



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.

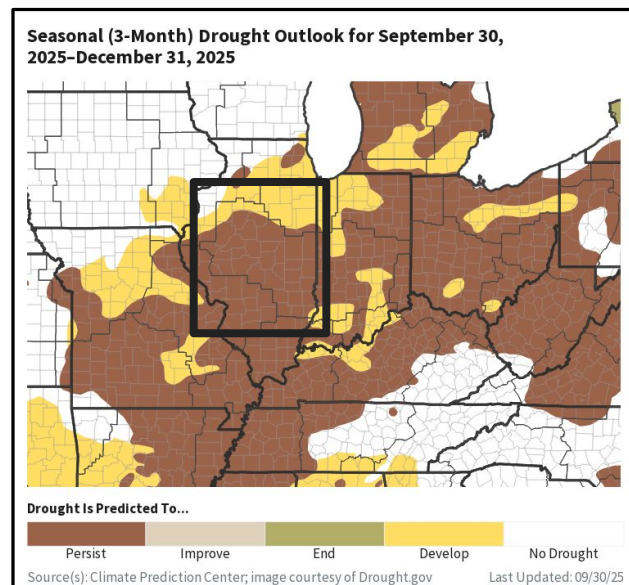
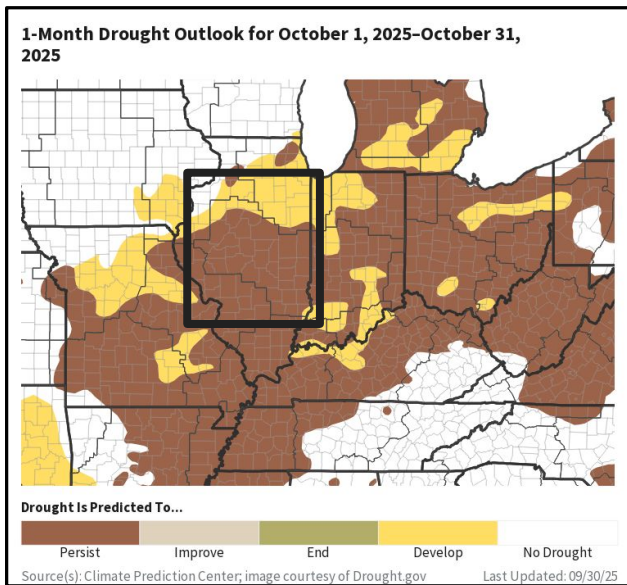


Image Caption:

(Left) Climate Prediction Center 1-Month Drought Outlook for October and (Right) Seasonal Drought Outlook released September 30, valid through December 31, 2025

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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 along the Illinois, Sangamon, Vermilion, and Mackinaw Rivers is below normal, and some smaller creeks are near zero flow.
- Lake levels: Lake Decatur ~2 feet below seasonal normals, Lake Shelbyville about 1.3 feet below, Lake Springfield near normal. Smaller lakes and ponds are low.

Agricultural Impacts

- Crops are drying rapidly with harvest efforts continuing.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Burn bans have been implemented in a number of counties and local municipalities.
- 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

