



Drought Information Statement for Central and Southeast Illinois

Valid October 16, 2025

Issued By: WFO Lincoln, IL

Contact Information: nws.lincoln@noaa.gov

- The next update will be Thursday, October 23, 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 Friday, potentially worsening the drought across Illinois. Widespread rains are expected Saturday and Saturday night with over 1 inch of rain likely.





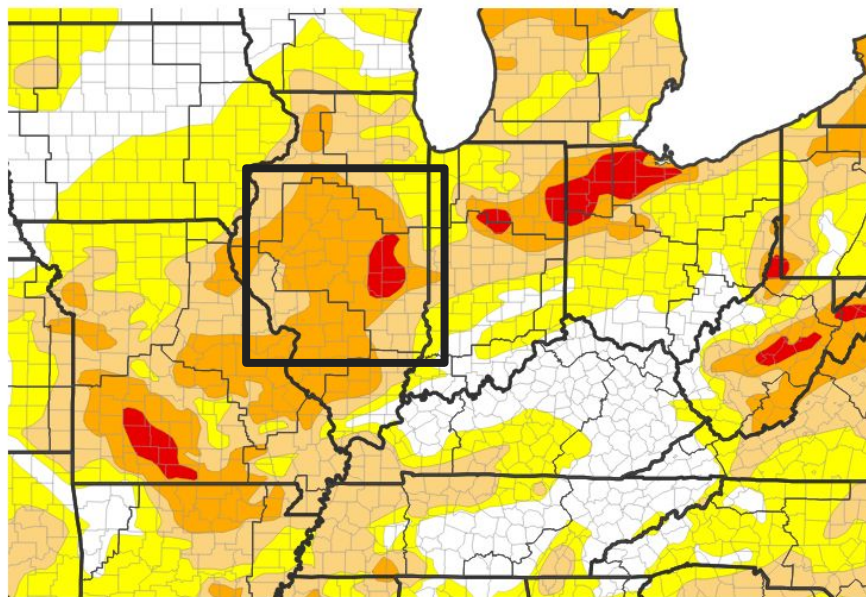
U.S. Drought Monitor

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 over Piatt, Moultrie, Champaign, Douglas and Coles counties.
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Much of central Illinois north of I-70 corridor.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Southeast Illinois south of I-70.
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Small area in southeast Illinois near 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: 10/14/25



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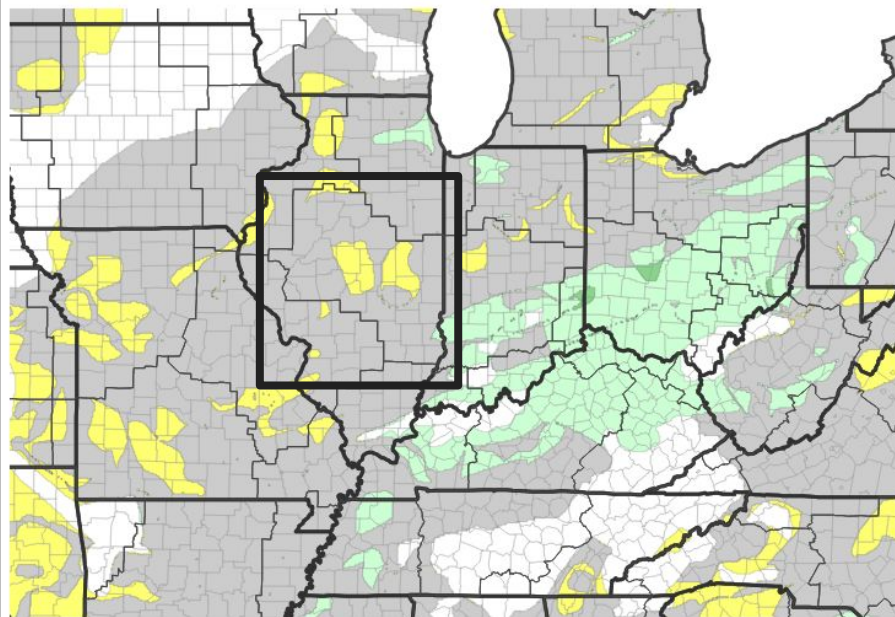


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

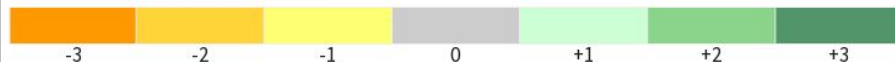
Link to the latest [1-week change map](#) for central and southeast Illinois

- **One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.**
 - Drought Worsened:
 - Portions of central IL east of Springfield to Champaign/Urbana.
 - Drought Improved:
 - Far eastern Crawford county near the Wabash river.
 - 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: 10/14/25





Recent Precipitation

Last 7 days and 30 days

- Little or no precipitation was observed over central and southeast Illinois in the past week since Oct 8th.
- 30-day precip continues to run well below normal for nearly all of central and southeast Illinois.

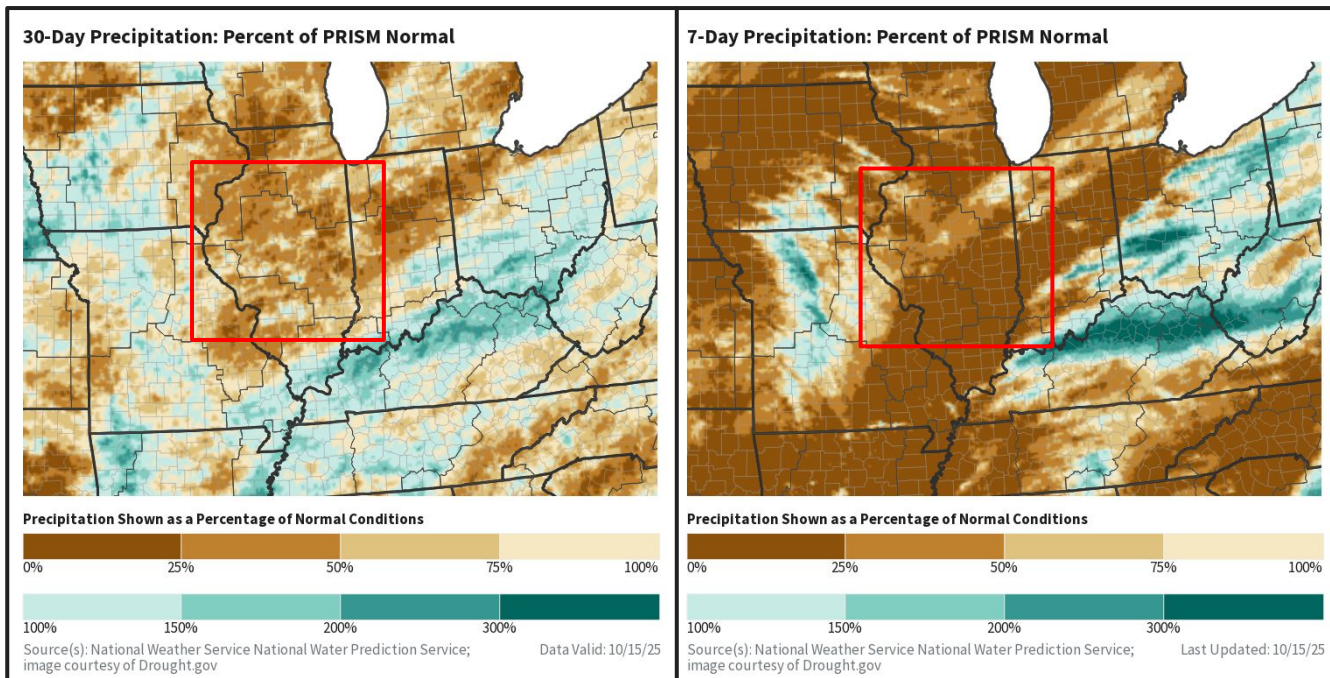


Image Caption: Total precipitation as a percentage of normal, as of October 15. Left image is a 30 day average, right image the last 7 days. Images from Drought.gov.



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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, Mackinaw, Little Wabash and Wabash Rivers is below normal, and some smaller creeks are near zero flow.
- Lake levels: Lake Decatur 2 to 3 feet below seasonal normals (lowering 0.3 ft in past week), Lake Shelbyville about 1.5 feet below, Lake Springfield slipping slightly below normal in the past week. 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. Young trees and landscaping plants are stressed.

Mitigation Actions

- Voluntary water conservation has been requested for Decatur residents due to low lake levels.

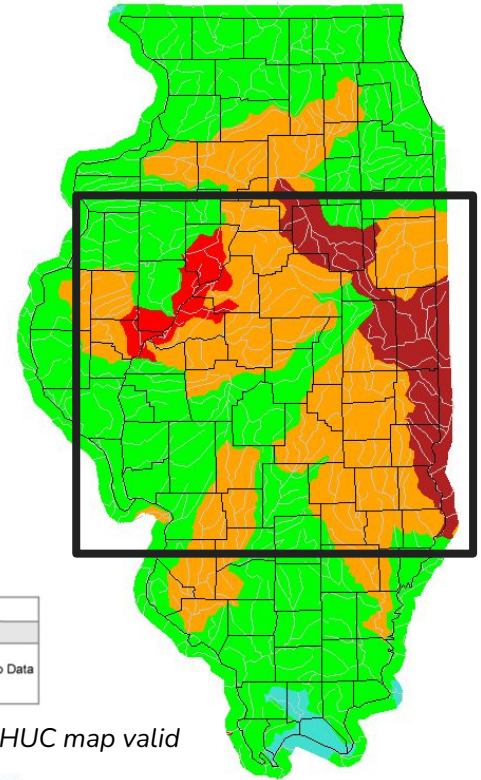




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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

Wednesday, October 15, 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 October 15, 2025.



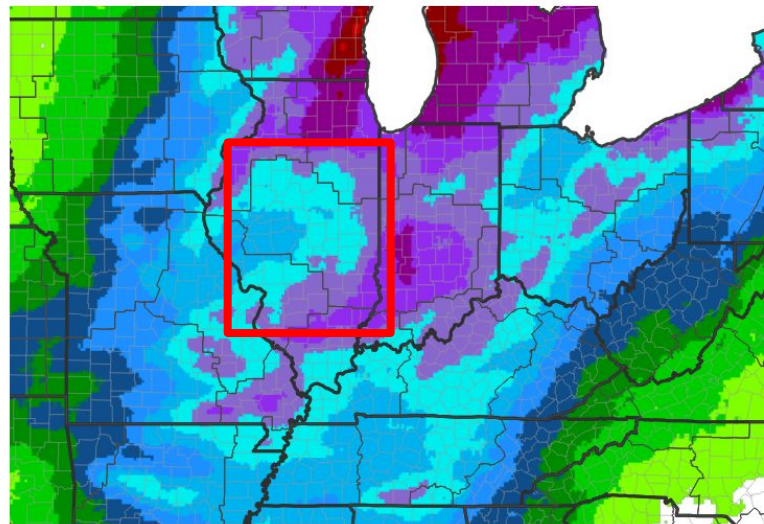


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

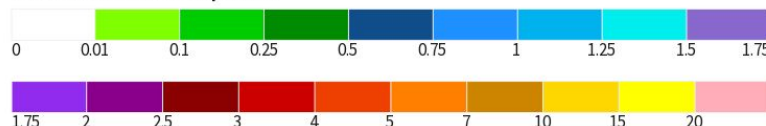
- Rainfall over the next 7 days is forecast to be 1 to 2 inches over most of central Illinois and southeast IL with locally higher amounts possible in east central and southeast IL.
- Much of this 1 to 2 inch rainfall is expected on Saturday and Saturday night (Oct 18-19). Another chance of showers is expected Monday night through Tuesday night, with up to a tenth to quarter inch possible with locally quarter to half inch amounts.

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

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October 16, 2025–October 23, 2025



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 10/16/25



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Drought Outlook

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

- Lack of significant rainfall in the coming months should cause drought to persist or worsen rest of the month over central & southeast IL. There is some trends of improvement of drought conditions in portions of central & eastern IL from November through January.

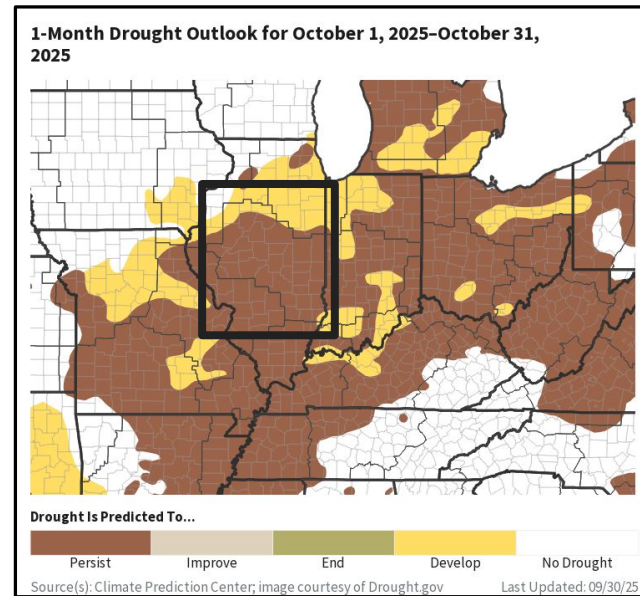
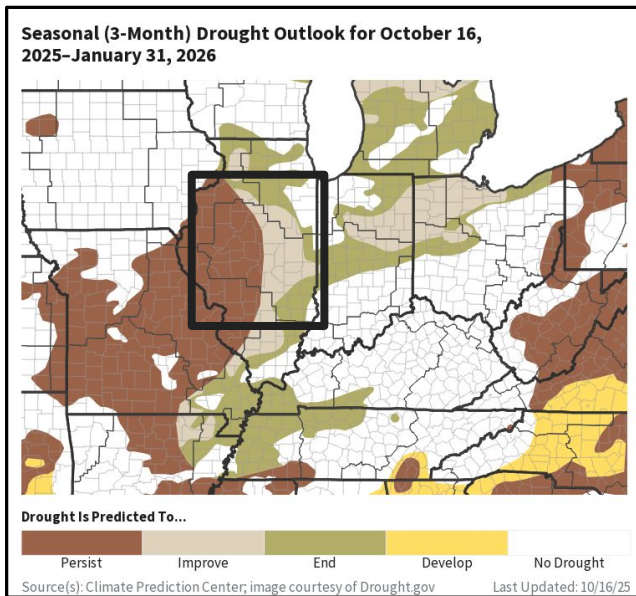


Image Caption:

(Right) Climate Prediction Center 1-Month Drought Outlook for October released Sep 30 and (Left) Seasonal Drought Outlook released Oct 16, valid through January 31, 2026

Links to the latest:

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



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