



Drought Information Statement for Central and Southeast Illinois

Valid October 23, 2025

Issued By: WFO Lincoln, IL

Contact Information: nws.lincoln@noaa.gov

- The next update will be Thursday, October 30, 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:

- After heavy rain last weekend, some improvement has occurred near/south of the I-70 corridor into southern IL.
- Occasional chances for rain are possible this weekend and early next week, but amounts are expected to be light.





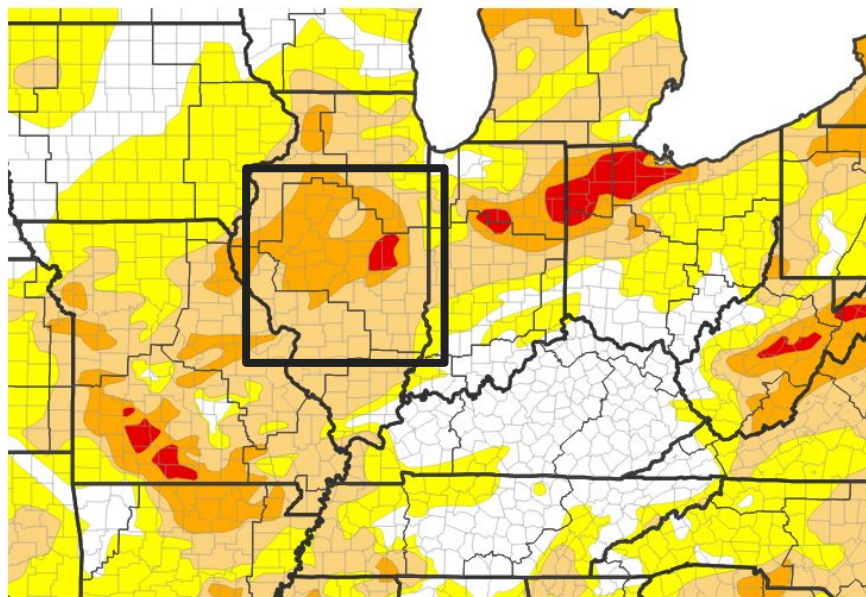
U.S. Drought Monitor

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 and Champaign counties.
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Most of central Illinois near and north of I-72, except Vermilion county and portions of McLean, Woodford, and Tazewell counties.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Near and south of I-72.
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Small area in southeast Illinois near Wabash river in Lawrence and southeast Crawford counties as well as in parts of eastern Vermilion county.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 10/21/25



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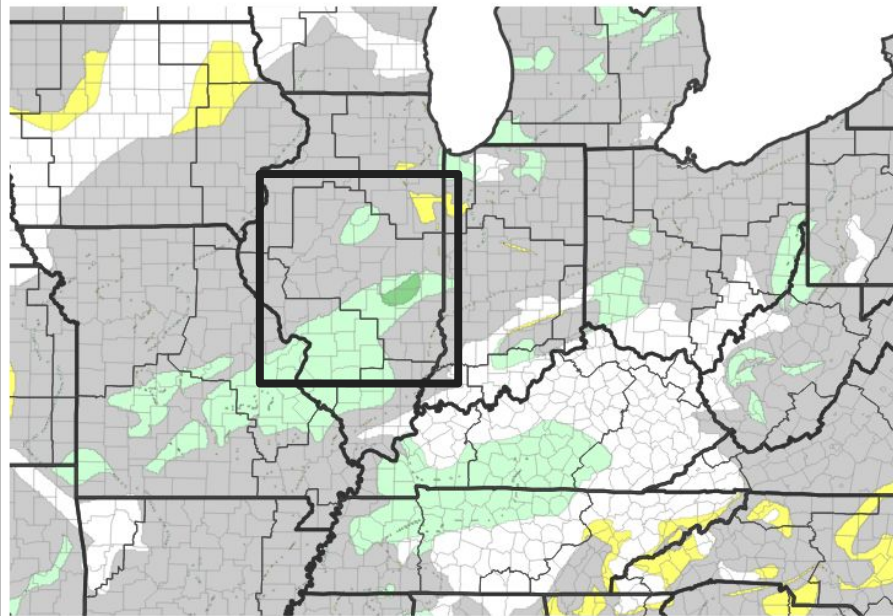


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

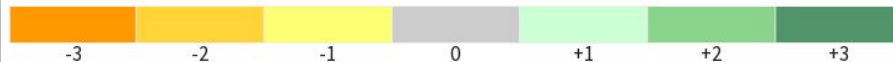
Link to the latest [1-week change map](#) for central and southeast Illinois

- **One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.**
 - Drought Worsened:
 - N/A
 - Drought Improved:
 - Between I-72 and I-70, and portions of McLean, Woodford, and Tazewell 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: 10/21/25





Recent Precipitation

Last 7 days and 30 days

- Above normal precipitation was observed over central and southeast Illinois in the past week since Oct 15th.
- 30-day precip continues to run well below normal north of I-72. Near to above normal shift for south of I-72.

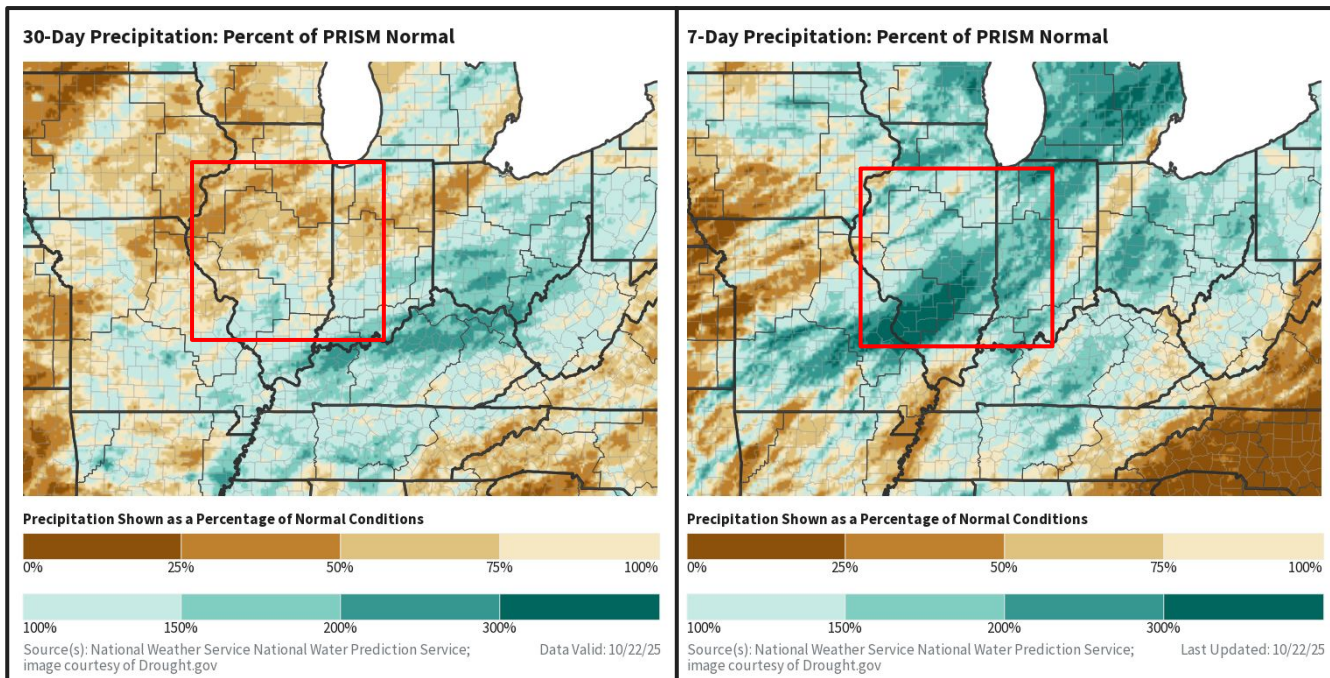


Image Caption: Total precipitation as a percentage of normal, as of October 22. Left image is a 30 day average, right image the last 7 days. Images from Drought.gov.



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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 slightly below normal in the past week. Smaller lakes and ponds are low.

Agricultural Impacts

- 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.
- Last weekend's rain has greened some pastures in central and southeast IL, but more rain is needed.

Mitigation Actions

- None brought to attention

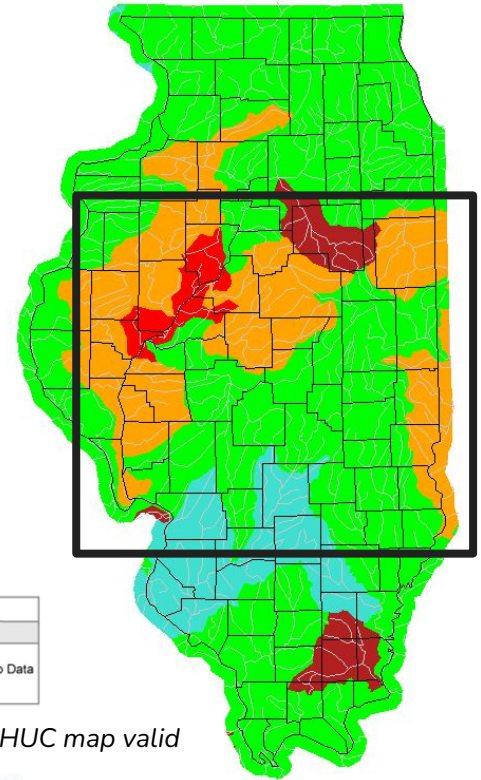




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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

Wednesday, October 22, 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 22, 2025.



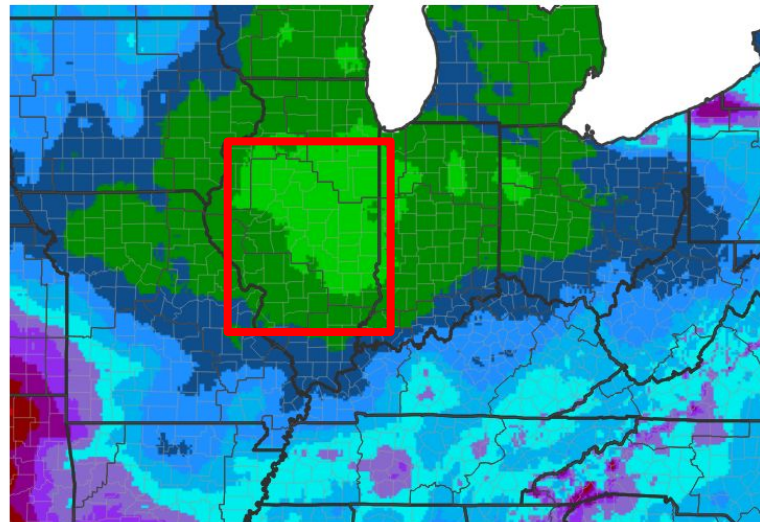


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

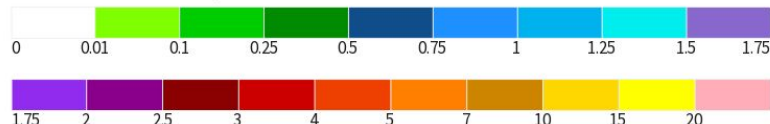
- Rainfall over the next 7 days is forecast to be 0.1-0.5 inches over most of central Illinois and southeast IL.

Image Caption: Expected rainfall over the next 7 days, valid through 7 PM Wednesday, Oct 29. Check weather.gov/ilx for updated forecasts.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October 23, 2025–October 30, 2025



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 10/23/25



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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 the rest of the month over central & southeast IL.
- There are some signs of improvement of drought conditions in portions of central & eastern IL from November through January.

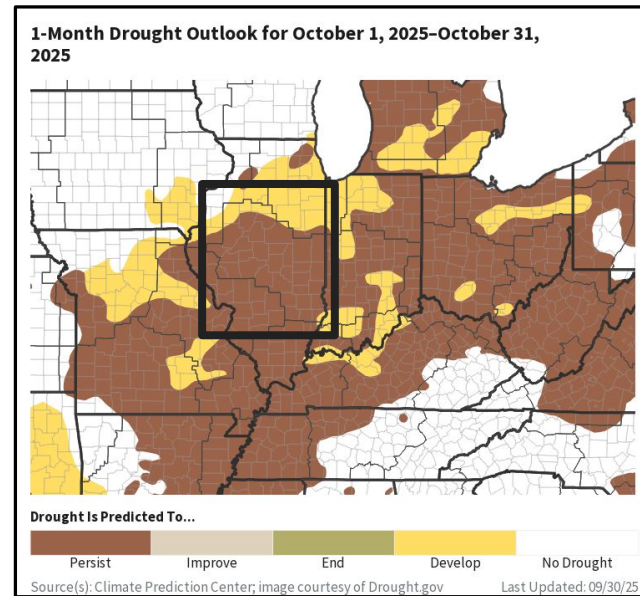
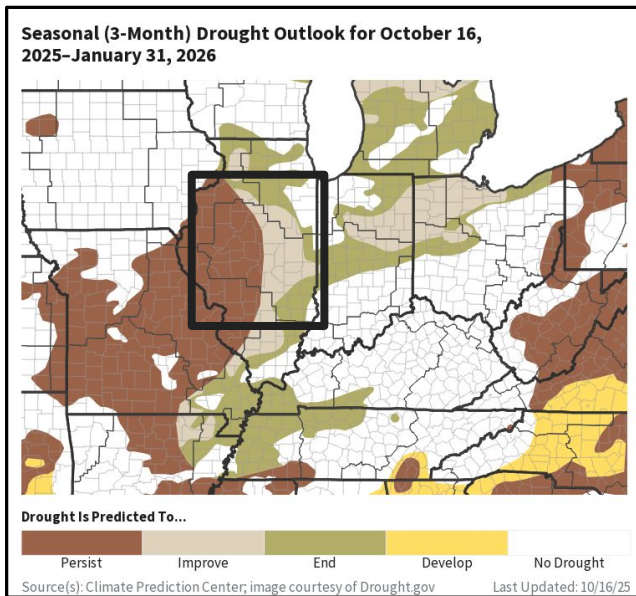


Image Caption:

(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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