



Drought Information Statement for Central and Southeast Illinois

Valid December 4, 2025

Issued By: WFO Lincoln, IL

Contact Information: nws.lincoln@noaa.gov

- The next update will be Thursday, December 11th, 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:

- Drought largely persists across the region, although some portions of central Illinois have seen modest improvements.
- Recent winter systems produced precipitation across the state, and this has prevented the drought from worsening. Precipitation is expected to be light, less than a quarter inch, over the next week.





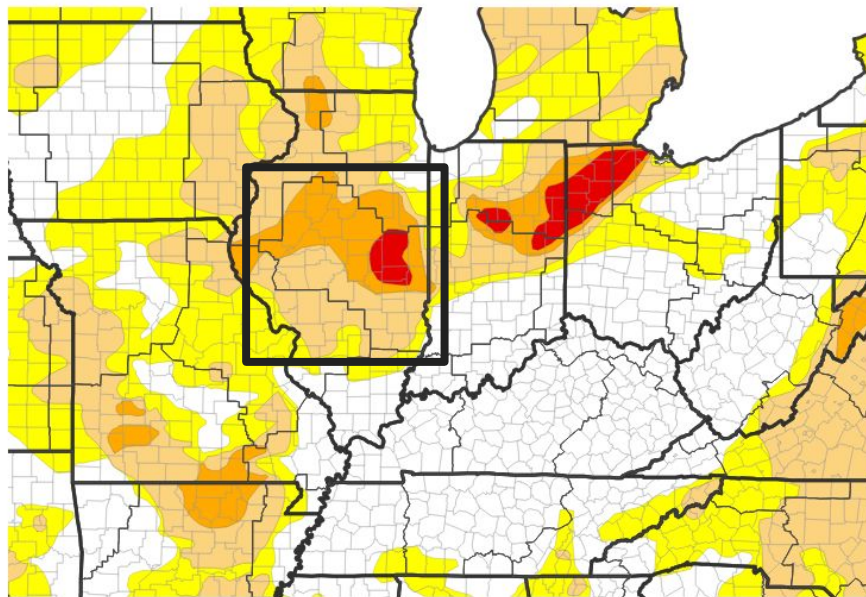
U.S. Drought Monitor

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 including Piatt, Douglas, and Champaign Counties, and parts of Moultrie, Coles, and Edgar Counties.
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Most of central Illinois near and north of a Schuyler to Edgar County line.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Most areas along and south of a Cass to Clark County line. Also including portions of Knox and Marshall Counties.
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Small area in southeast Illinois near the 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: 12/02/25



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

National Weather Service
Lincoln, Illinois



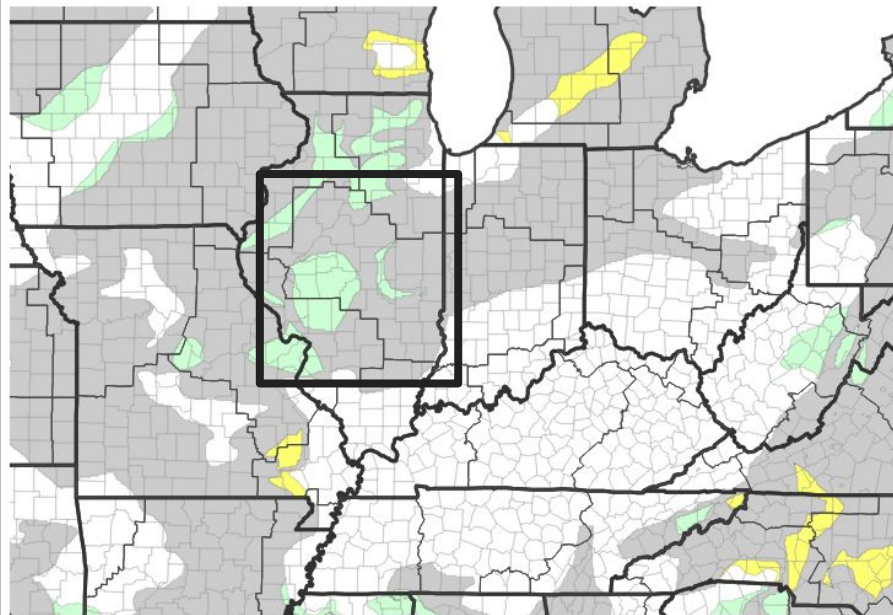
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- **One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.**
 - Drought Worsened:
 - N/A
 - Drought Improved:
 - Across portions of central Illinois including areas south of a Rushville to Lincoln line.
 - No Change:
 - Portions of central and most of southeastern Illinois

Image Caption: One week change in drought monitor categories. Image from [Drought.gov](#).

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: 12/02/25





Recent Precipitation

Last 7 days and 30 days

- Precipitation over the last week was highest in areas west of I-57, as two winter events produced snowfall across these areas. Some of this precipitation is still in the form of snowpack, and has not made its way into the water supply yet.
- Much of central and southeast Illinois has seen below normal precipitation over the last month.

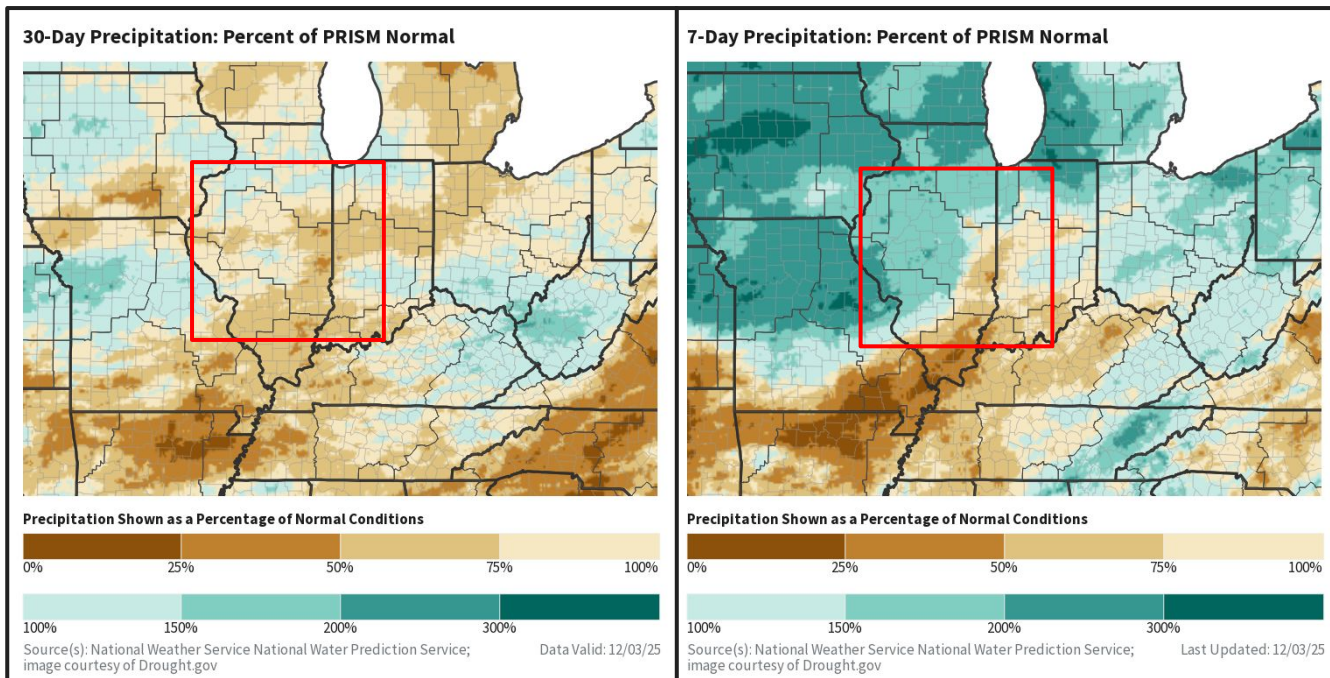


Image Caption: Total precipitation as a percentage of normal, as of December 3rd. Left image is a 30 day average, right image the last 7 days. Images from [Drought.gov](https://drought.gov).





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflow on most rivers is below normal, with most basins below the 25th percentile and several below the 10th percentile.
- Near record low flow on the east end of the Sangamon River basin is impacting water supplies of Lake Decatur downstream.
- Lake levels: Lake Decatur around 2.5 feet below seasonal normals, Lake Shelbyville about 2.7 feet below normal, Lake Springfield 3.0 feet below normal. Smaller lakes and ponds are low.

Agricultural Impacts

- A business had to cancel wreath sales this year due to drought impacts on the evergreen crop.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- None reported.

Other Impacts

- Extremely poor to record low water table and deep soil moisture conditions.

Mitigation Actions

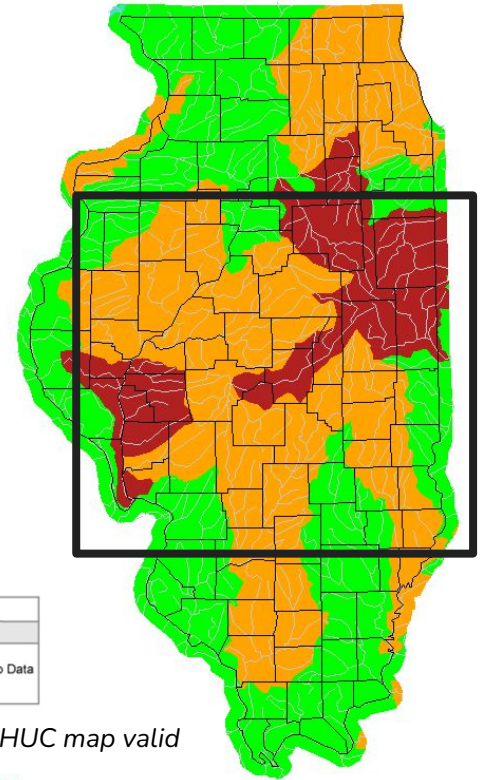
- Stage 1 water rationing is in effect in Decatur.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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



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 December 4, 2025.

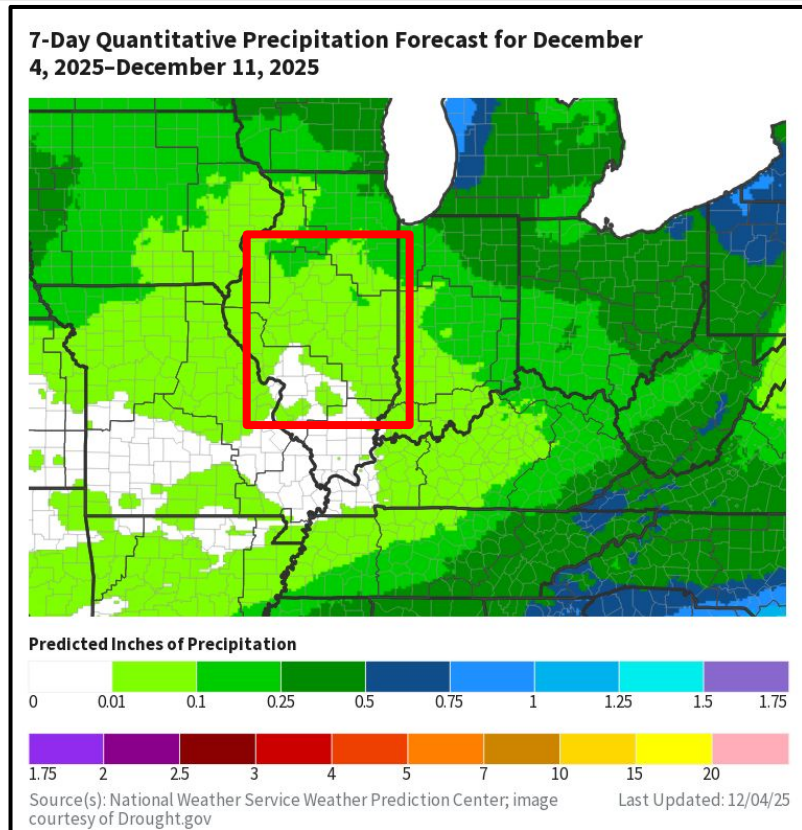




Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A few disturbances could produce light wintry precipitation or rain over the next week.
- Precipitation over the next week is unlikely to meaningfully improve the drought conditions.

Image Caption: Expected rainfall over the next 7 days, valid through 6 PM Thursday, Dec 11. Check weather.gov/ilx for updated forecasts.





Long Range Outlooks

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

- December is off to a cooler than normal start across central Illinois, and below normal temperatures appear likely to continue through at least the first half of the month.
- There is approximately equal chances for above or below normal precipitation for the month of December.

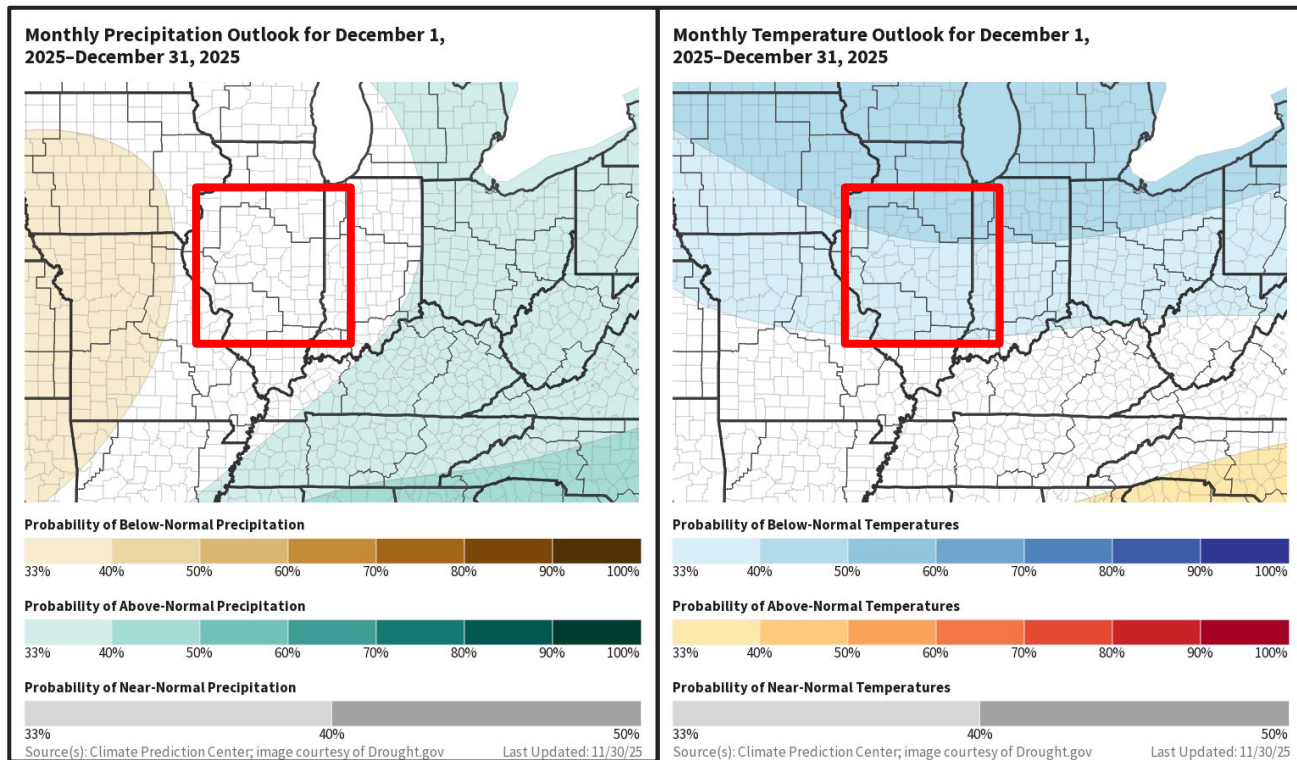


Image Caption: Precipitation (left) and temperature (right) outlooks for December. Check [weather.gov/ilx](#) for updated forecasts.





Drought Outlook

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

- While the drought is forecast to persist through the end of the year, trends are pointing toward improving conditions over the course of the winter season.

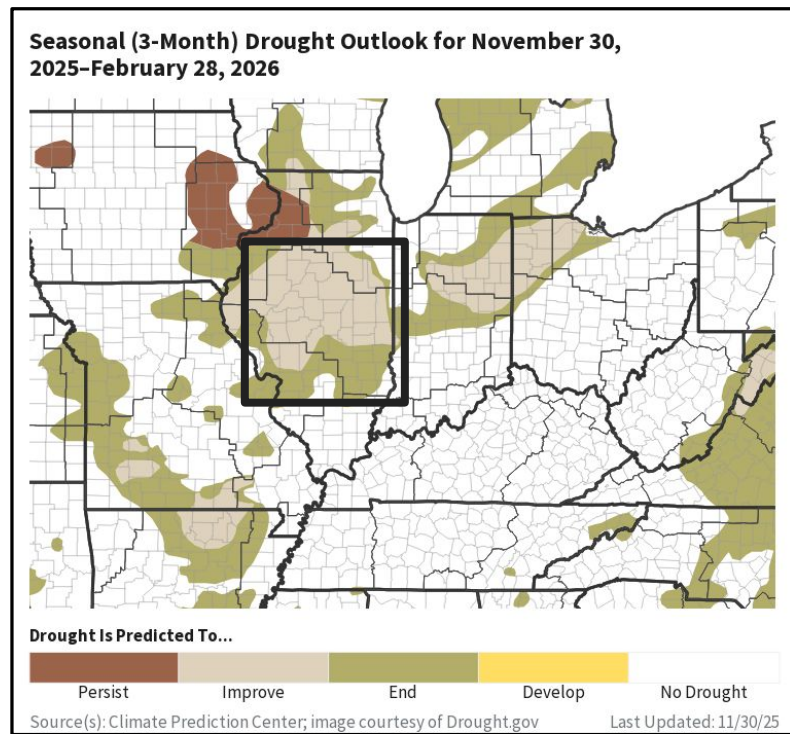


Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook released Nov. 30, valid through February 28, 2026. Images from Drought.gov.

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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