



# Drought Information Statement for Central and Southeast Illinois

Valid September 26, 2024

Issued By: WFO Lincoln, IL

Contact Information: [nws.lincoln@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.lincoln@noaa.gov)

- The next update will be Thursday, October 3, 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.

- Drought conditions continue across parts of the state though some improvement has occurred in southeast Illinois. Beneficial rains are expected near and south of I-70 late this week into the weekend as the remnants of Hurricane Helene approach.

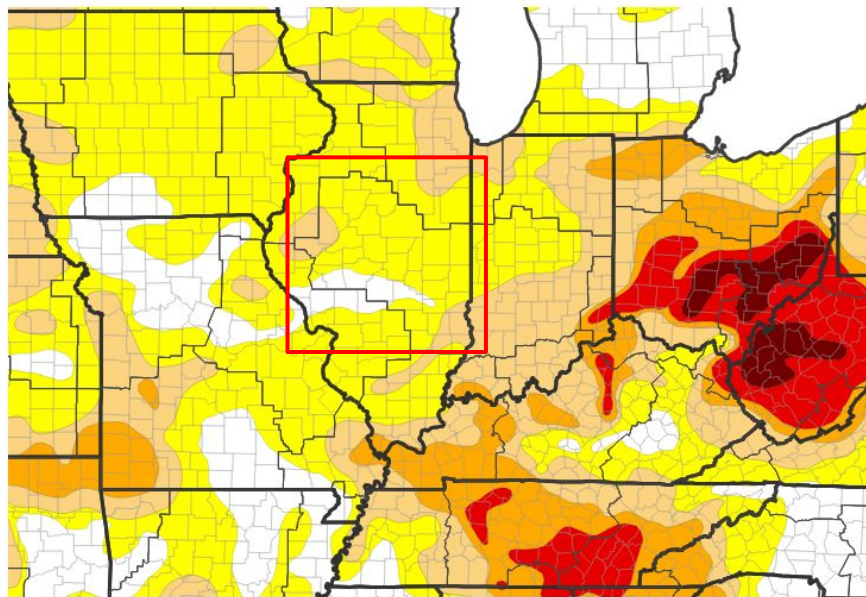


# U.S. Drought Monitor

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):** N/A
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Portions of the following counties: Fulton, Schuyler, Mason, Cass, Clark, Jasper, Crawford, Clay, Richland, and Lawrence
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Most of the state of Illinois

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 09/24/24



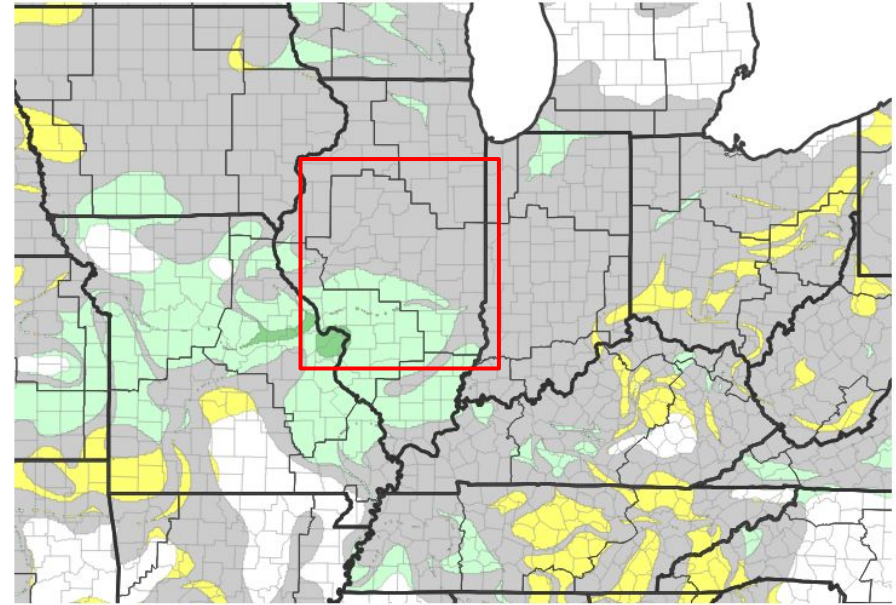


# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

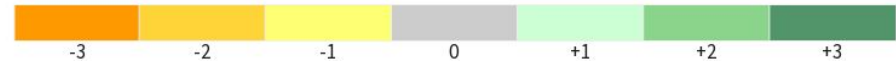
Link to the latest [1-week change map](#) for central and southeast Illinois

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened:
    - Nowhere
  - Drought Improved:
    - Effingham, Clay, and parts of Jasper Richland, Lawrence, and Shelby counties.
  - No Change:
    - Crawford, Fulton, Schuyler, and portions of Mason and Cass counties

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: 09/24/24





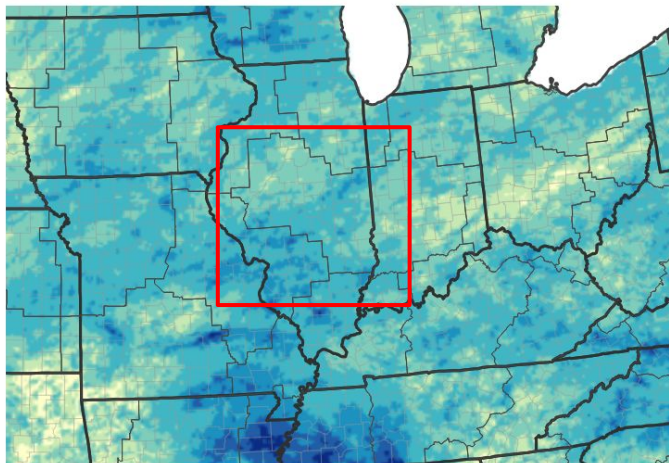


# Precipitation

Last 30 days

- Much of the area has only seen 50% or less of their normal rainfall over the last 30 days.
- Recent rain did bring some improvements with some spots near the I-72 corridor approaching 100% of normal rainfall.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)



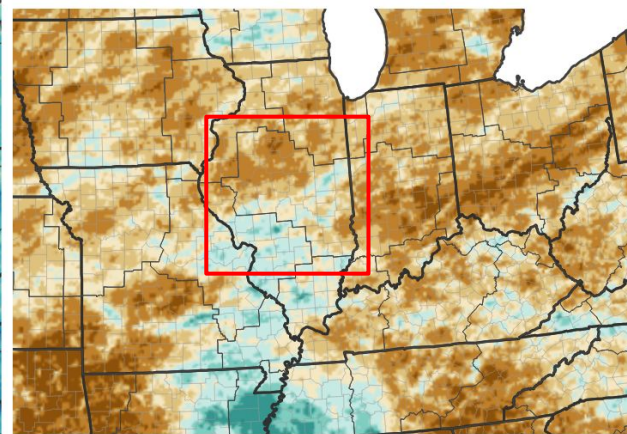
Inches of Precipitation



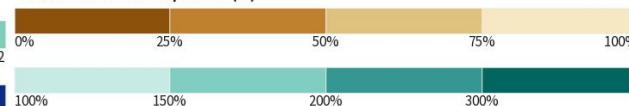
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;

Data Valid: 09/25/24

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



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

Data Valid: 09/25/24



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

National Weather Service  
Lincoln, Illinois

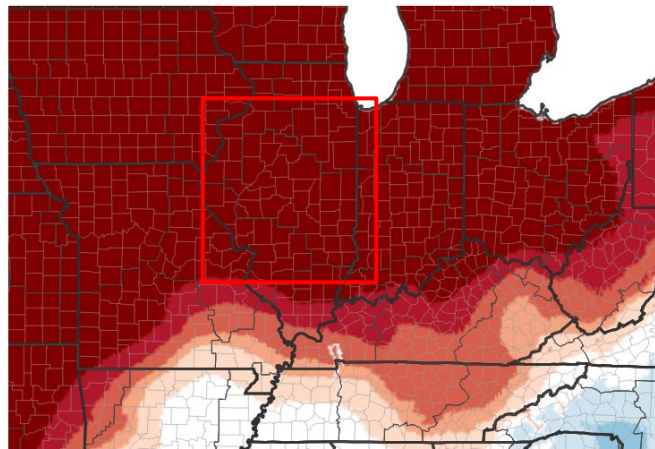




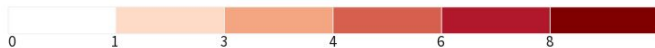
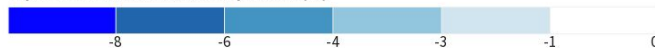
# Temperature

- Temperature stretches through September have been both above and below normal. Over the last 7 days temperatures have ranged from near normal to 10-15 degrees above normal.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



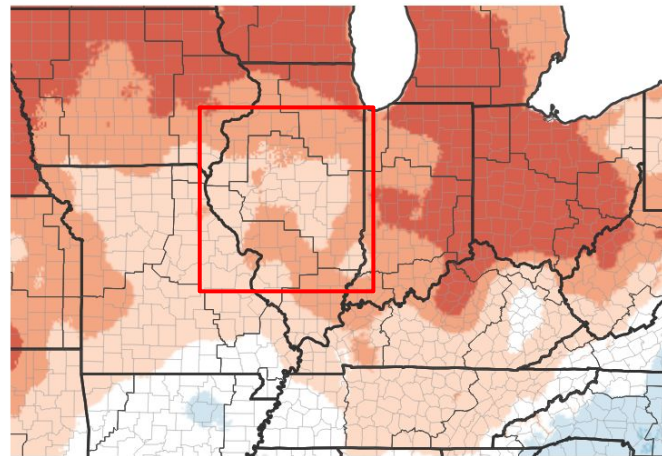
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



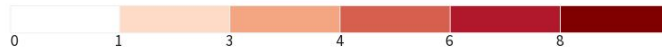
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/22/24

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/22/24



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

- The Illinois River Carriers Association has noted that there is some constriction of the navigable channel along the Illinois River due to low water levels.
- Pond levels are running low and many creeks have stopped flowing.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Crops are drying rapidly, but still standing well.
- Brown spots are developing in lawns.
- Trees are dropping leaves with little color change.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- The recent hot and dry conditions do come with a field fire risk as farmers run hot equipment through dry fields during harvest.

## Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

## Mitigation Actions

- Some burn bans may still be in place. Please refer to your municipality for the latest information specific to your area.

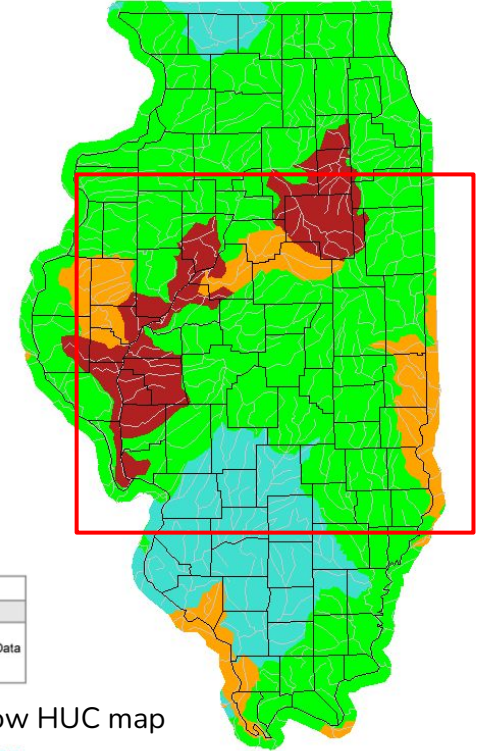




# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows are normal in many areas across the state with some running above normal in far northern and southwest Illinois. Below normal flow (10th-24th percentile) continues along the Illinois and Wabash Rivers with spots of well-below normal flow (below 10th percentile) along portions of the Illinois River.

Tuesday, September 24, 2024



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 24, 2024.



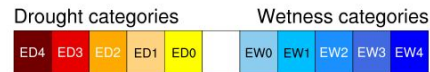
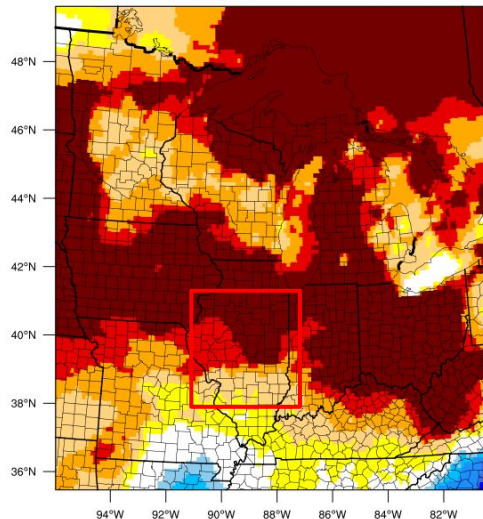




# Agricultural Impacts

- Rapidly drying crops has led to ahead of schedule harvesting. However, the impact to pastures has been greater, with the need to supplement feed and hay coming earlier than expected.

1-week EDDI categories for September 21, 2024



100% 98% 95% 90% 80% 70% 30% 20% 10% 5% 2% 0%  
(EDDI-percentile category breaks: 100% = driest; 0% = wettest)

Generated by NOAA/ESRL/Physical Sciences Laboratory

Evapotranspiration for 7-day Period: 9/18/2024 - 9/25/2024

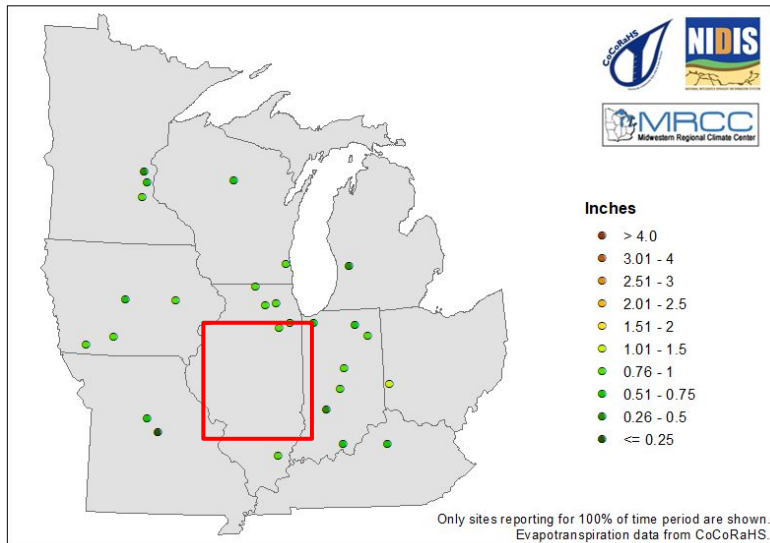


Image Captions:

Left: 1-week Evaporative Demand Drought Index valid September 21, 2024.

Right: 7-day Evapotranspiration ending September 25, 2024.



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

National Weather Service  
Lincoln, Illinois



# Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

- Fire hazard impacts are limited as conditions remain typical for early fall. However, field fire risk is a concern as farmers run hot equipment through dry fields.

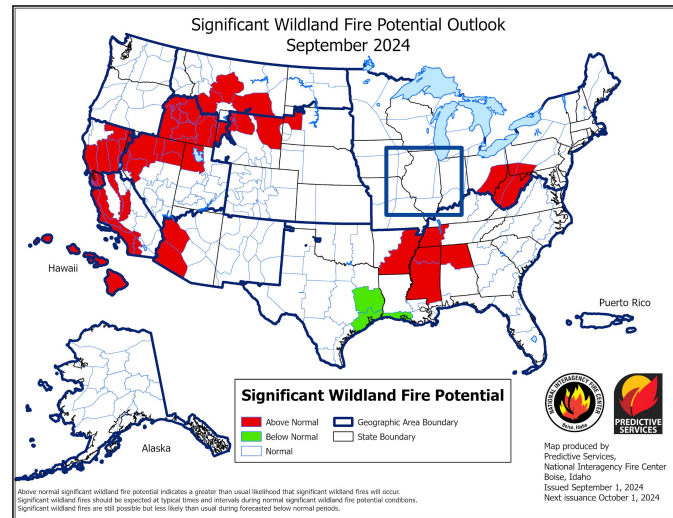
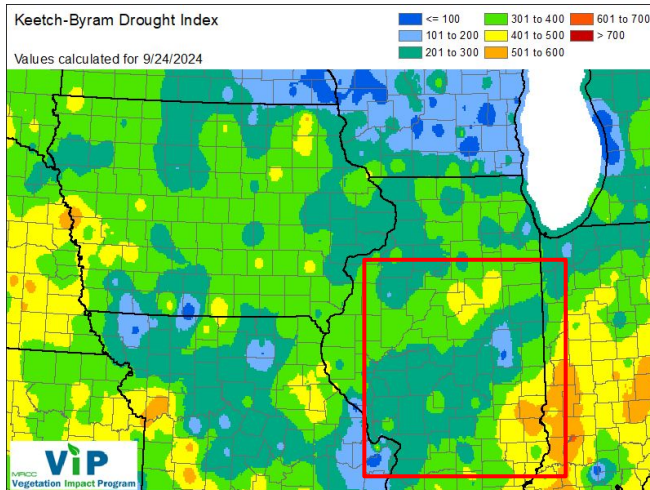


Image Captions:

Left: [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) courtesy of the Midwestern Regional Climate Center, valid August 31, 2023

Right: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for August 2023



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

National Weather Service  
Lincoln, Illinois



- Check [weather.gov/ilx](https://weather.gov/ilx) for updated forecast, as this packet is not regularly updated.





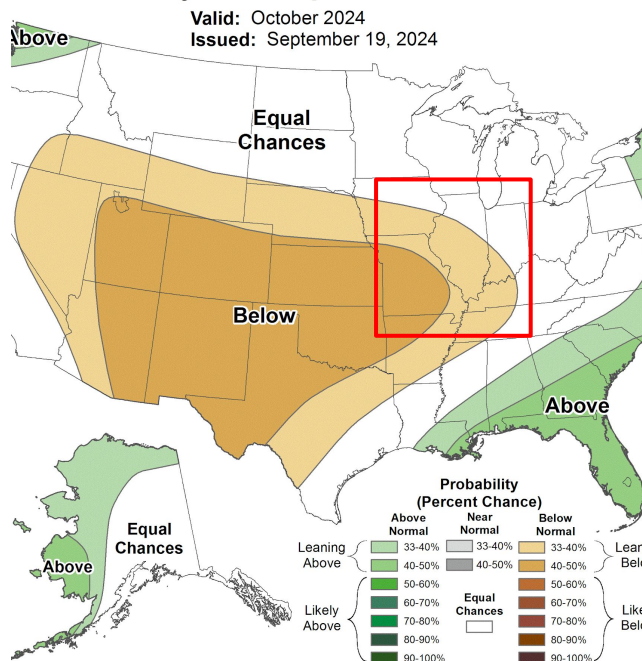


# Long Range Outlooks

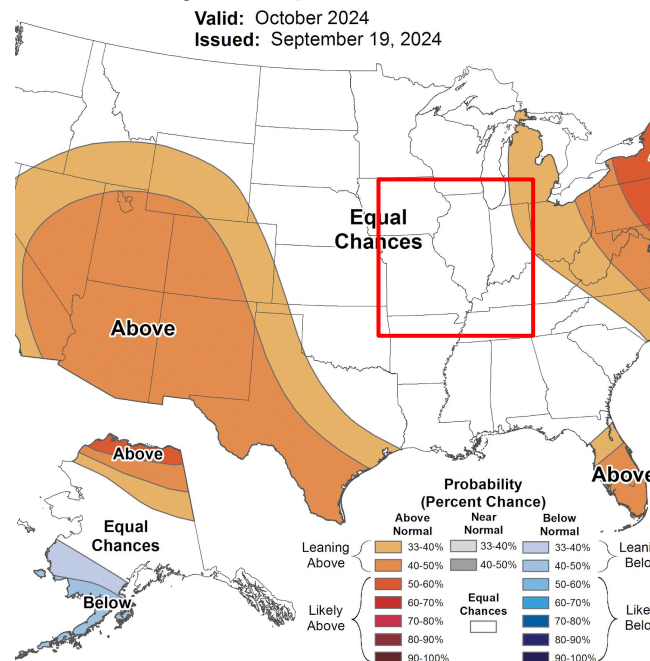
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Current outlooks for the month of October indicate equal chances of above or below normal temperatures, and favor below normal precipitation chances (33-40%).

## Monthly Precipitation Outlook



## Monthly Temperature Outlook



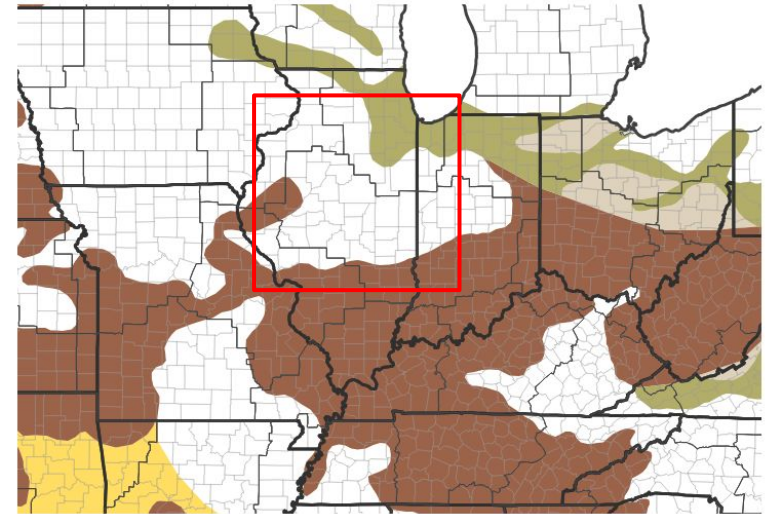


# Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are favored to persist across portions of west-central and southern IL. However, heavy rain associated with the remnants of Hurricane Helene *should* continue to eat away at drought conditions south of I-70.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for September 19, 2024–December 31, 2024



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 09/19/24

Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released September 19, 2024 valid through through December 31, 2024

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