



Drought Information Statement for Western and North Central Nebraska

Valid July, 21, 2026

Issued By: NWS-North Platte, NE

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated August 20, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
 - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
 - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/LBF/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/> for regional drought status updates.
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- Seasonal temperatures and sporadic rainfall, led to some improvements in drought conditions over the past month.



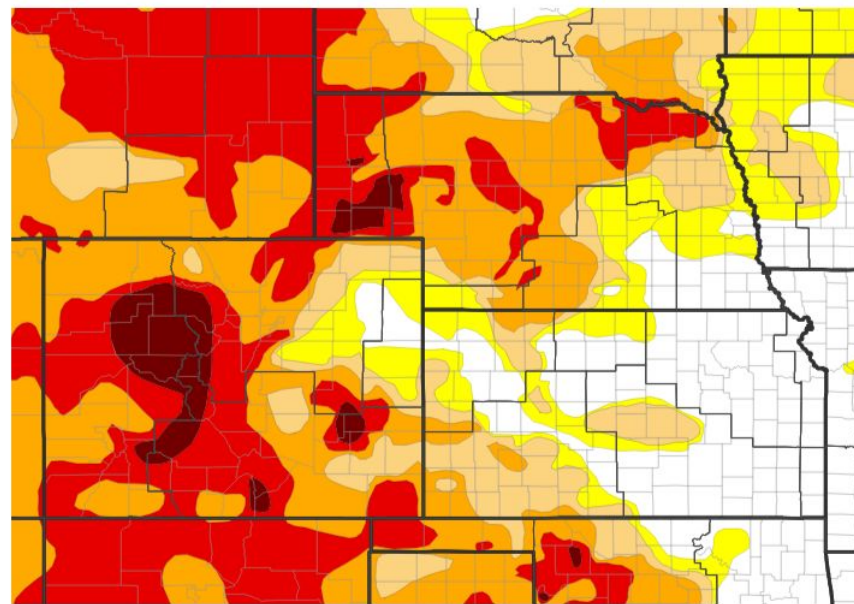


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: Garden County.
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Sheridan, Cherry, Boyd, Holt, Garden, Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Wheeler, Arthur, McPherson, Logan, Custer, Deuel, Lincoln, Hayes and Frontier Counties.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Sheridan, Cherry, Rock, Keya Paha, Brown, Boyd, Holt, Garden, Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Deuel, Keith, Lincoln, Custer, Perkins, Chase, Hayes and Frontier Counties.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Cherry, Brown, Keya Paha, Perkins, Hayes and Chase Counties.
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: Cherry, Keya Paha, Brown and Chase Counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Date Valid: 07/14/26



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

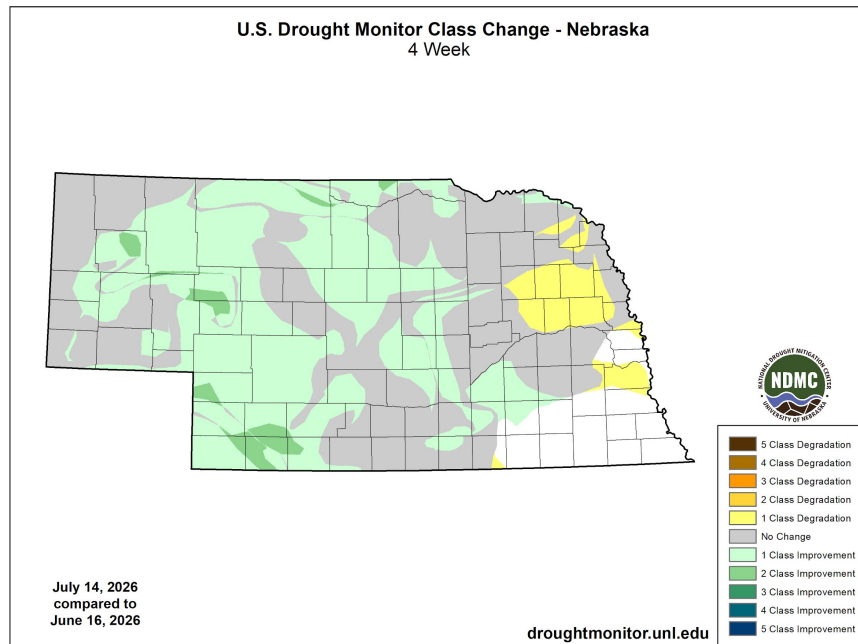
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North Platte, NE



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for The High Plains

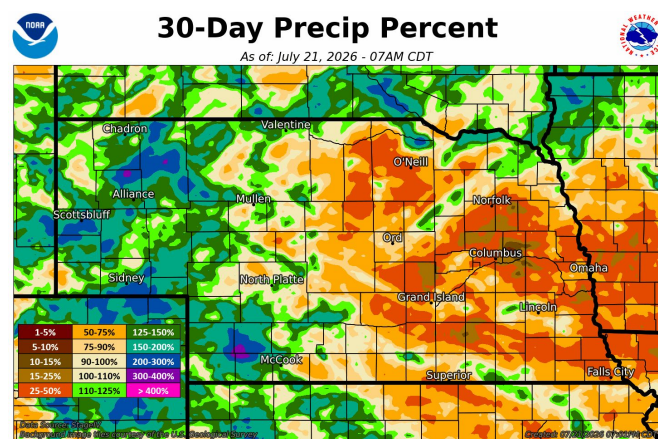
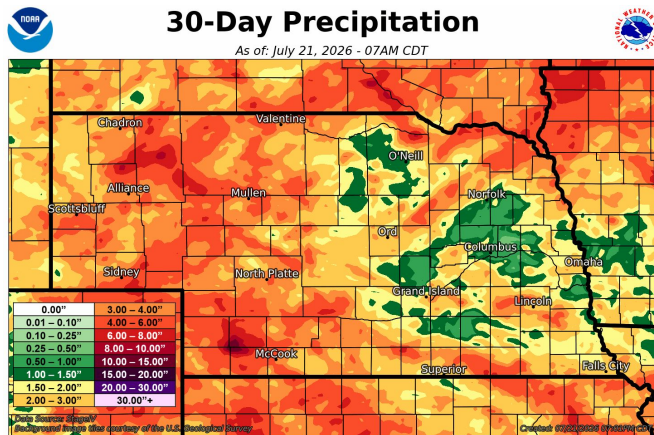
- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: No counties.
 - No Change: Sheridan, Cherry, Keya Paha, Rock, Boyd, Holt, Garden, Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Arthur, McPherson, Logan, Custer, Deuel, Lincoln, and Frontier counties.
 - Drought Improved: Sheridan, Cherry, Keya Paha, Brown, Rock, Boyd, Holt, Garden, Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Arthur, McPherson, Logan, Custer, Deuel, Keith, Lincoln, Chase, Hayes and Frontier counties.





Precipitation

- Precipitation amounts for the past 30 days were an inch up to six inches.
- Precipitation was generally 25 to 100 percent of normal over the past 30 days with 100 to 200 percent of normal in the panhandle and eastern Sandhills
- There were a couple of small pockets in the northeastern Nebraska Panhandle where precipitation was 200 to 400 percent of normal.

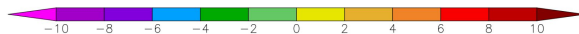
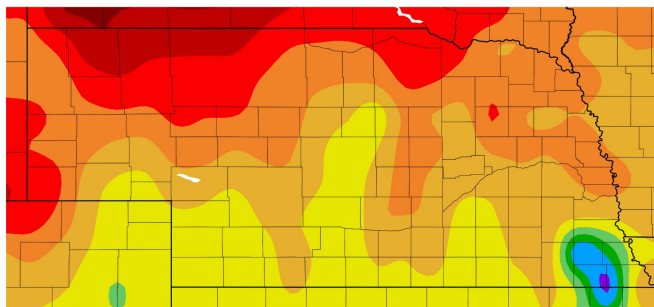




Temperature

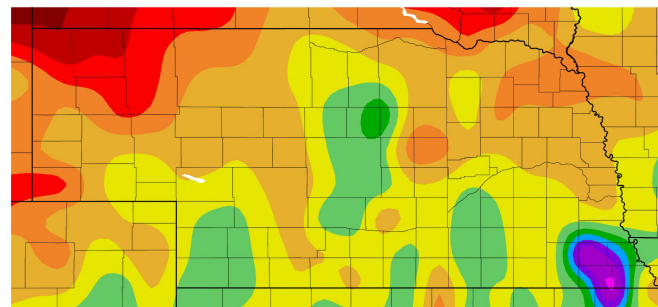
- Over the past week, temperatures have normal to well above normal across all of western and north central Nebraska.
- Over the past 30 days, temperatures were above normal across most of western and north central Nebraska. Some pockets of near normal to below normal temps were present over SW and Central Nebraska.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
7/14/2026 – 7/20/2026



Generated 7/21/2026 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
6/21/2026 – 7/20/2026



ACIS Web Services Generated 7/21/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- “There are no known impacts at this time”

Agricultural Impacts

- Pasture conditions continue to be below average and recent heat has led to deterioration in pasture conditions.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- One hour fuels, including grasses, are partially cured in western and north central Nebraska and will burn under ideal conditions.

Other Impacts

- “There are no known impacts at this time”

Mitigation Actions

- “None reported”

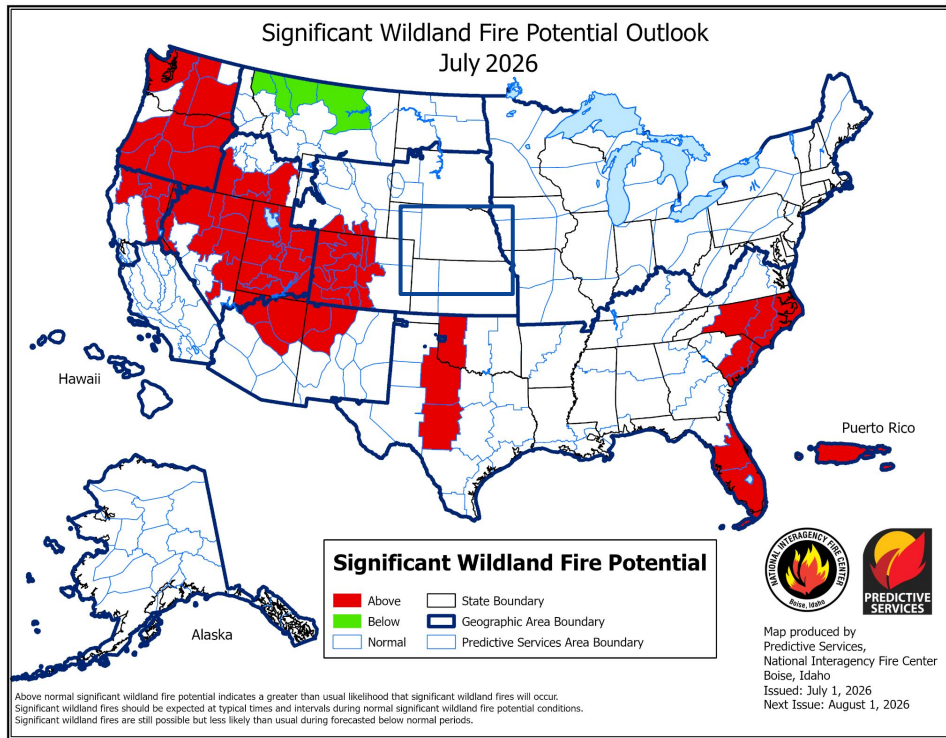




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Significant wildland fire potential is normal for all of western and north central Nebraska for this time of year.



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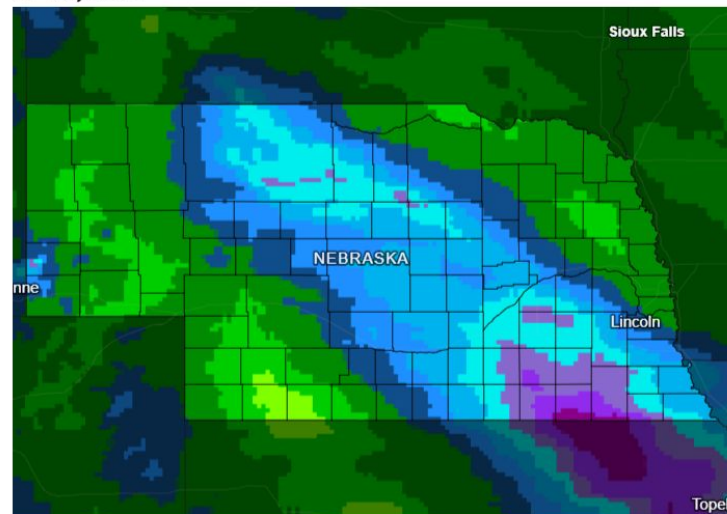
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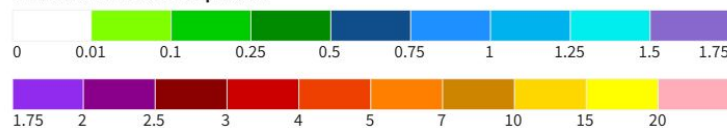
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- The precipitation forecast over the next 7 days calls for a broad swath of 0.50 to 1.50 inches of precipitation from Cherry County, southeast into portions of the eastern Sandhills and central Nebraska.
- Precipitation amounts between a 0.10 and 0.50 inches are possible elsewhere.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for July
21-28, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center
Last Updated: 07/21/26

Drought.gov





Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

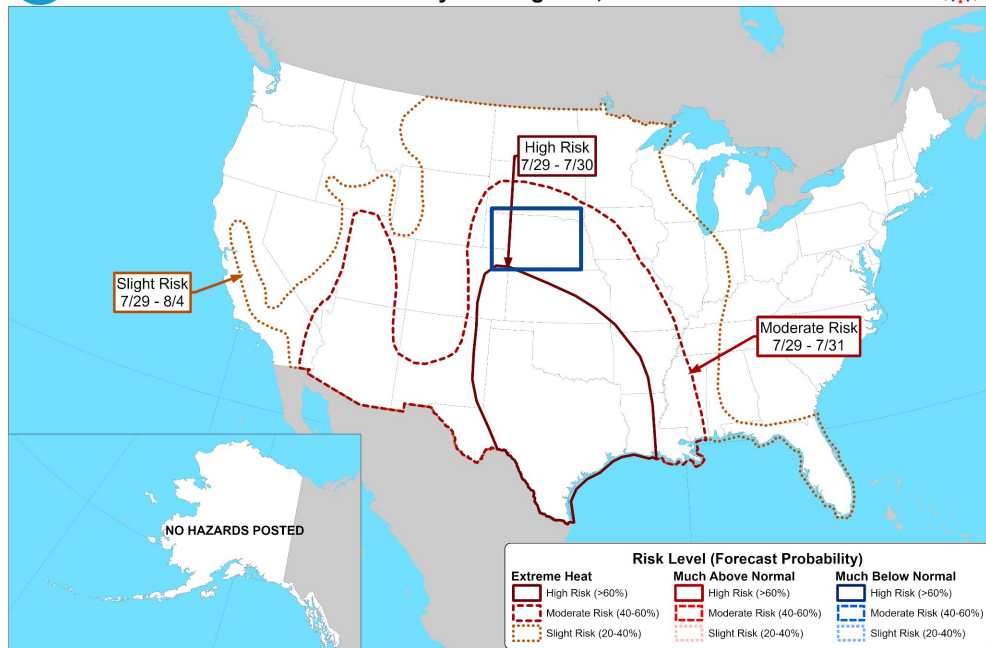
Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- Rapid onset of drought is possible over western and north central Nebraska over the next couple of weeks. There is a moderate risk for extreme heat during the last week of July.



Risk of Hazardous Temperatures

Valid: July 29 - August 4, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: July 21, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

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Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The temperature outlook for August calls for equal chances for above, below or near normal temperatures.
- The precipitation outlook for August is for above normal precipitation.

