



Drought Information Statement for Southwest LA and Southeast TX

September, 29, 2023

Issued By: Lake Charles NWS

Contact Information: sr-lch.ops@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated Oct, 28, 2023 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/lch/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





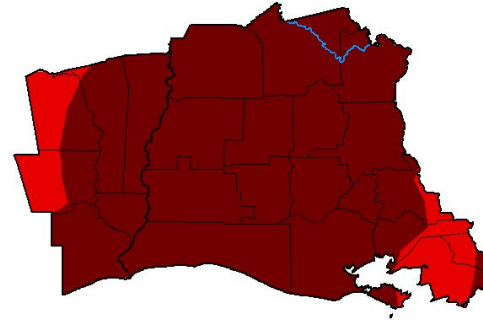
U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for SW Louisiana and SE Texas

- DROUGHT CONDITIONS CONTINUE ACROSS THE ENTIRE AREA
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D4 (Exceptional Drought): The vast majority of southwest Louisiana and Southeast Texas.
 - D3 (Extreme Drought): Portions of lower Acadiana in south-central Louisiana, as well as parts of Tyler and Hardin Counties in southeast Texas.

U.S. Drought Monitor Lake Charles, LA WFO

September 26, 2023
(Released Thursday, Sep. 28, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	99.99	88.88
Last Week 09-19-2023	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	92.71
3 Months Ago 06-27-2023	4.13	95.87	5.35	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2023	87.39	12.61	4.28	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	50.42	49.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 09-27-2022	50.42	49.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

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NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 7am CDT September 28th.





Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for SW Louisiana and SE Texas

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Portions of the Atchafalaya Basin and east-central Louisiana.
 - No Change: Most of west-central, southwest and south-central Louisiana, plus the bulk of southeast Texas.
 - Drought Improved: Portions of Tyler and Hardin Counties in southeast Texas.

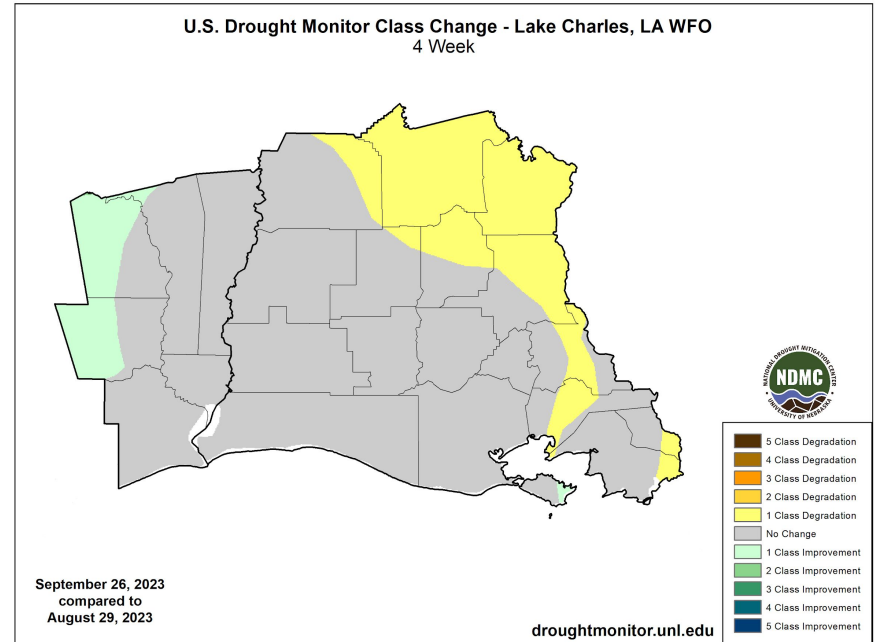


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 8am EDT September 26th.

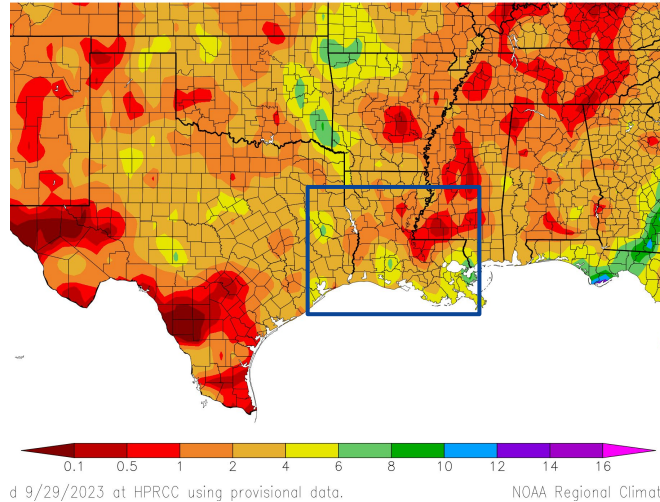




Precipitation

- Precipitation has been well below normal over the last 30 days with the exception of Acadia Parish.

Precipitation (in)
8/30/2023 – 9/28/2023



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/30/2023 – 9/28/2023

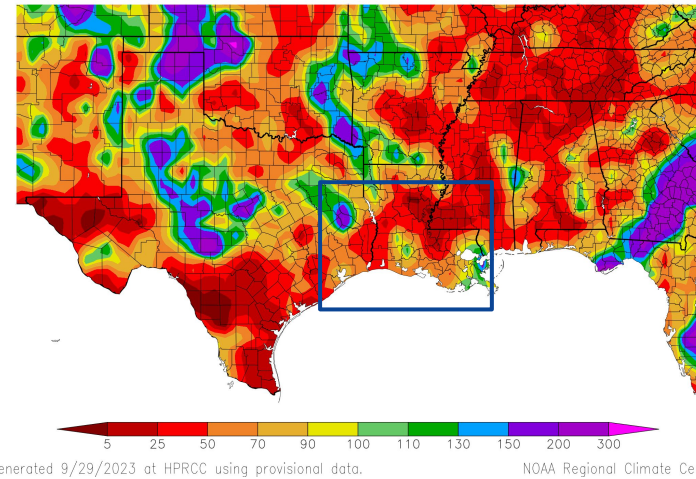


Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount for [area]
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for [area]
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending Sep, 28, 2023

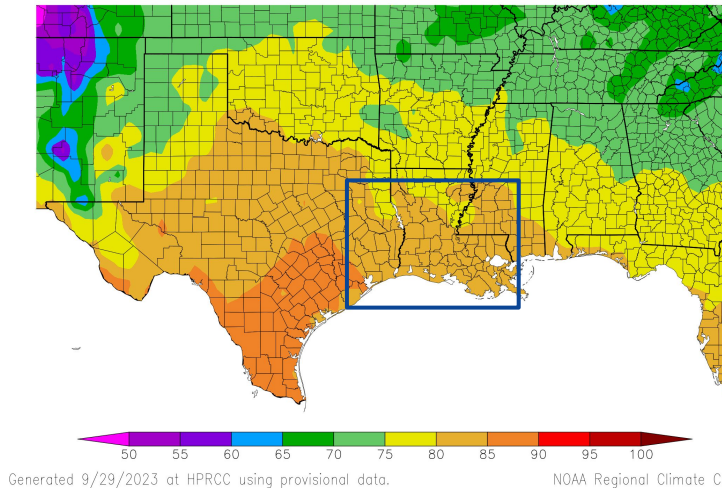




Temperature

- Continued above normal temperatures are causing evaporation rates of 0.20 to 0.30 of an inch per day.

Temperature (F)
8/30/2023 - 9/28/2023



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/30/2023 - 9/28/2023

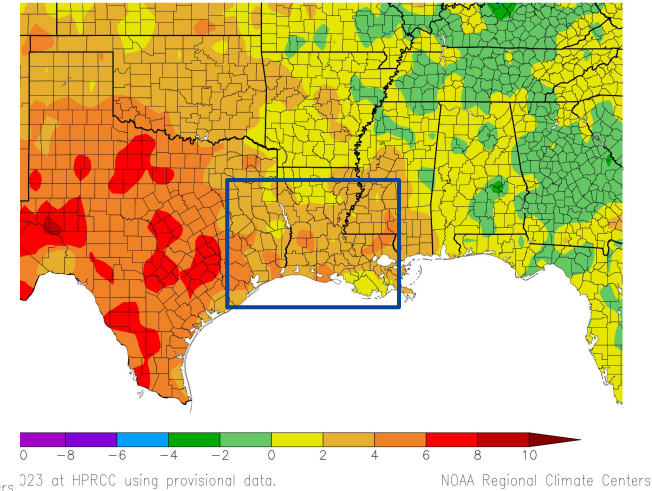


Image Captions:
Left - Average Temperature
Right - Departure from Normal Temperature
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending Sep, 28, 2023





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Many streams are running below to much below normal.

Agricultural Impacts

- Hay production across the area will not meet winter demands.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire activity will continue to be above normal.

Mitigation Actions

- Many municipal water systems have implemented water conservation messaging.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow conditions are well below normal in the Village Creek and Calcasieu river watersheds. While the Sabine, Mermentau and Vermilion River watersheds are running below normal.

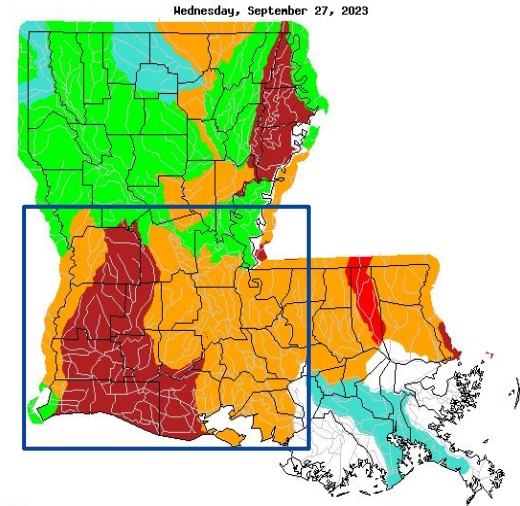
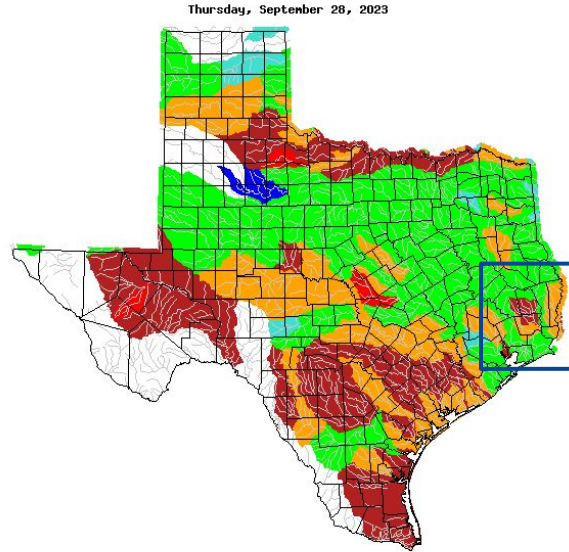


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid Sep 27 2023





Agricultural Impacts

- Hay production is well below average this season. Livestock sales have been numerous.

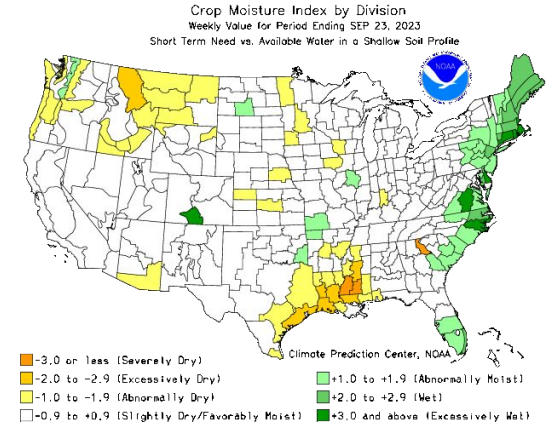
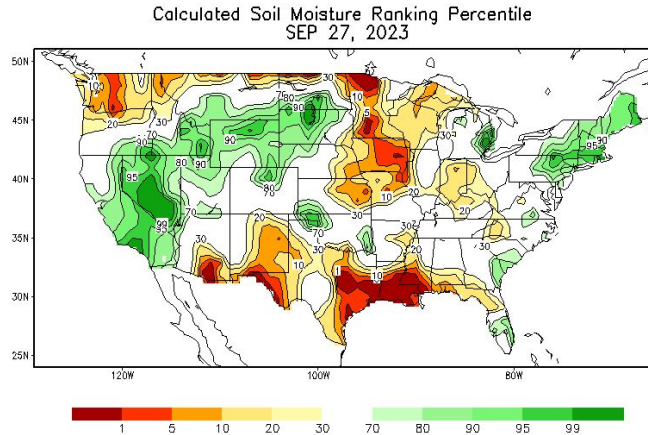


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid September 27, 2023

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending September 23, 2023





Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Fires have been above average in number and size across the area due to very dry fuels and burn bans remain in effect for many counties and parishes.

Latest TX Burn Ban map available [here](#).

Latest LA Burn Ban map available [here](#).

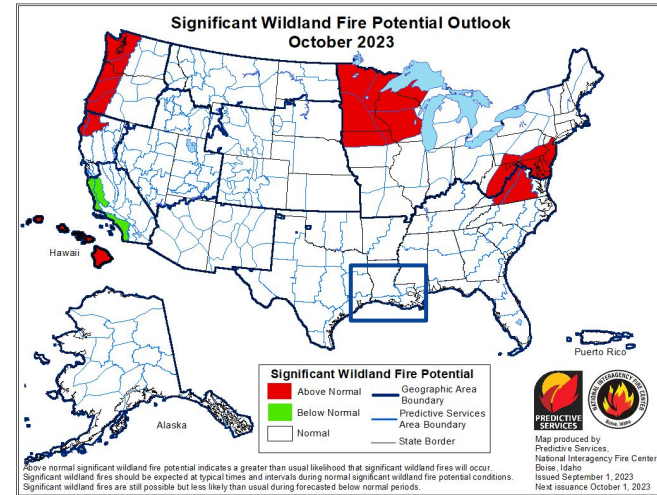
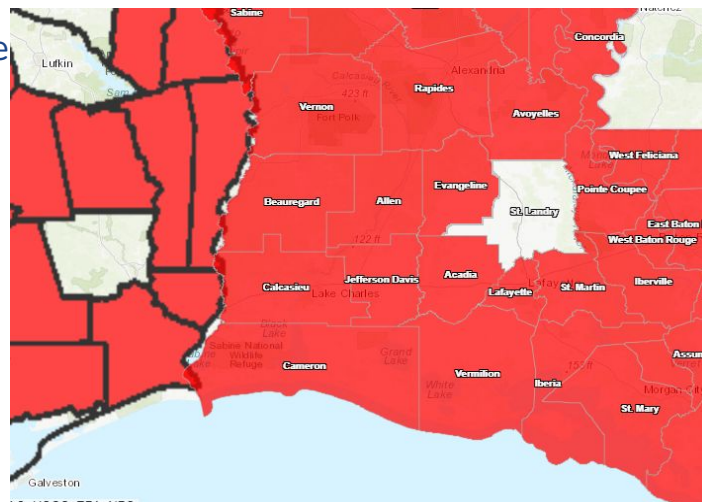


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for October 2023





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Minimal rainfall amounts are expected across the area, especially southwest Louisiana, until late next week.

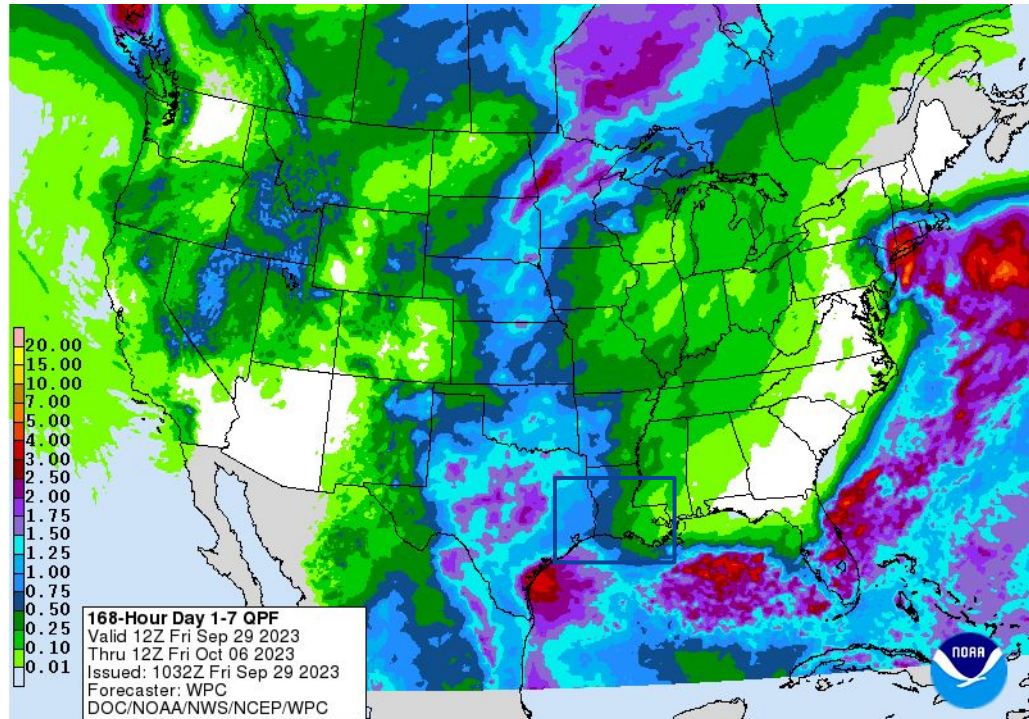


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Thursday September 21 to Thursday October 5.



Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Chances significantly favor above normal temperatures with equal chances for near normal precipitation during the month of October.

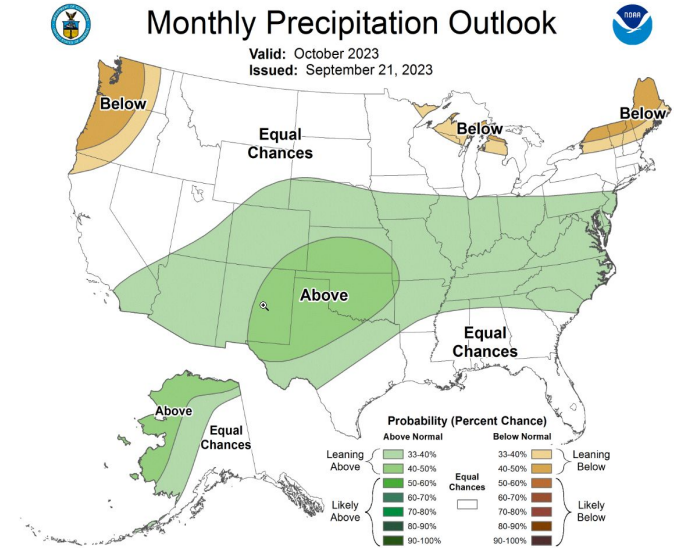
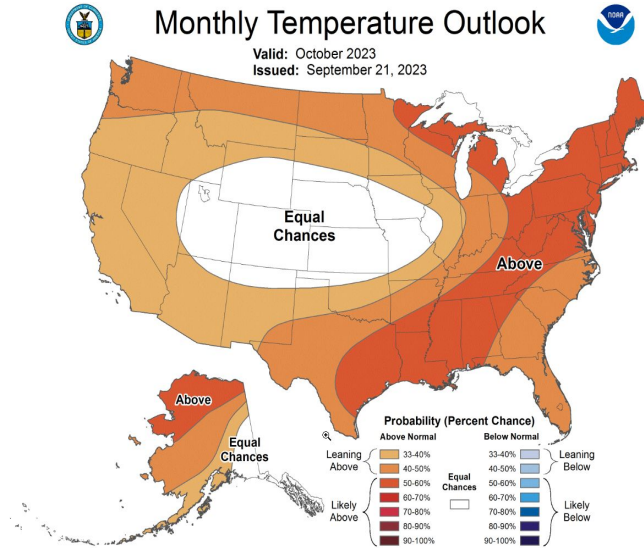


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook](#),

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook](#).

Valid October 2023





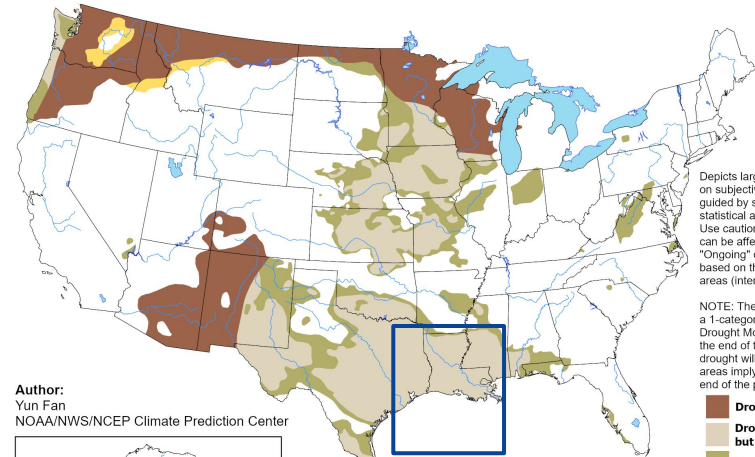
Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are expected to persist through the remainder of the year, however improvement is likely.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for September 21 - December 31, 2023
Released September 21, 2023

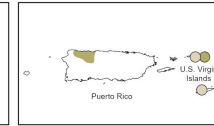
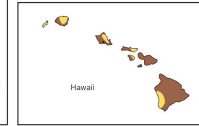
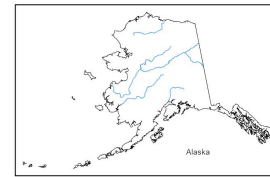


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists
- Drought remains, but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely
- No drought

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<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released September 21, 2023, valid for September 21-December 31, 2023.

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
Lake Charles, LA