



Drought Information Statement for Southern Indiana and Central Kentucky

Valid April 17, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service WFO Louisville, KY

Contact Information: nws.louisville@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated April 24, 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/LMK/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
-
- Extreme Drought (D3) introduced in far SW KY
 - Severe Drought (D2) conditions expanded across SW KY into south central KY
 - Moderate Drought (D1) conditions expanded across most of KY
 - Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions exist across portions of KY and southern Indiana



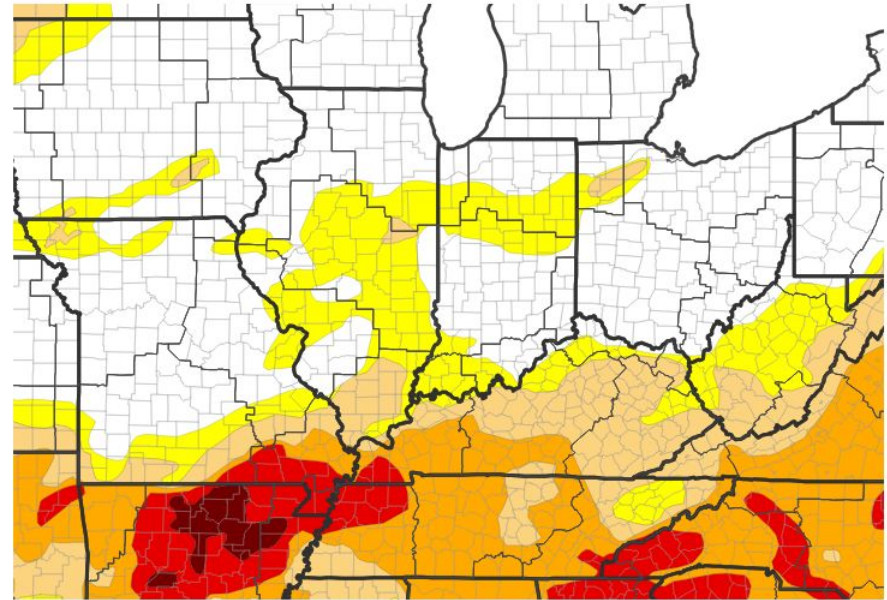


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Southern Indiana and Central Kentucky

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Far SW KY
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Southwest into south central KY
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Most of Kentucky
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Small portion of SW Indiana and portions of Kentucky

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 04/14/26



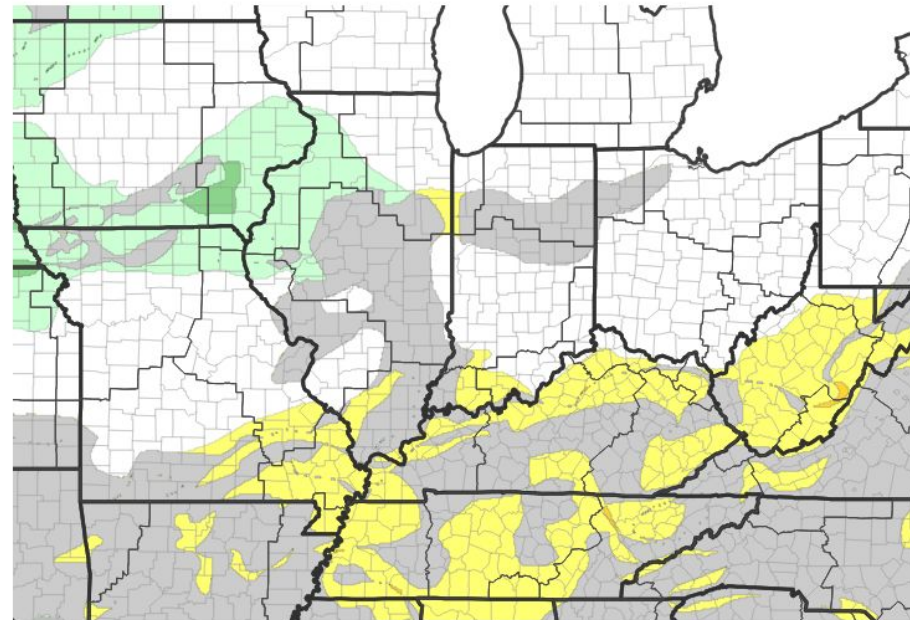


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

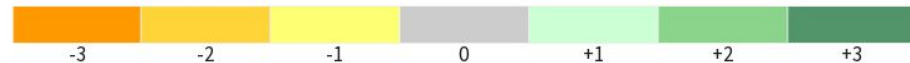
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Southern Indiana and Central Kentucky

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Across a large portion of western, north central, and eastern Kentucky
 - No Change: Across a large portion of Kentucky
 - Drought Improved: No improvements over the past week

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



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

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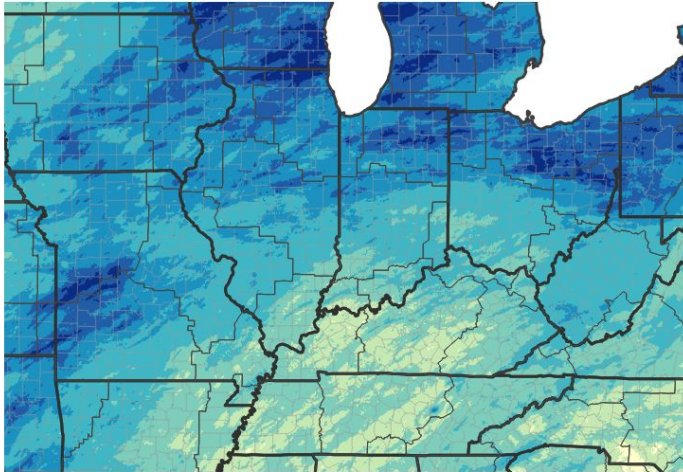




Precipitation

- Over the past 30 days, approximately 1 to 4 inches of rain fell across southern IN and KY.
- These 30 day rainfall totals fall mostly in the 25 to 75 percent range of normal precipitation

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

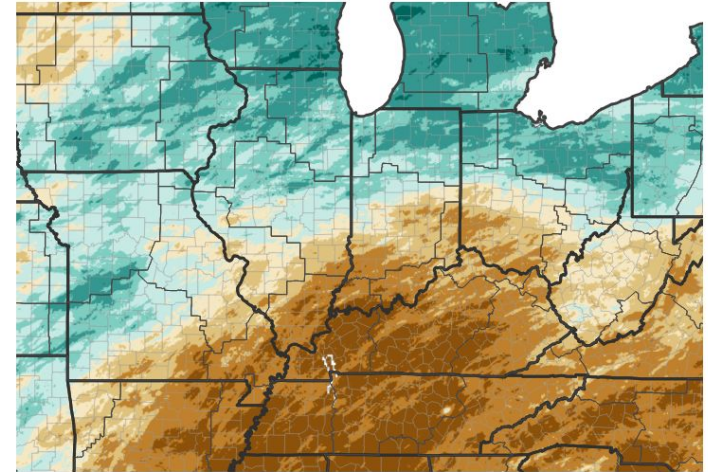


Inches of Precipitation

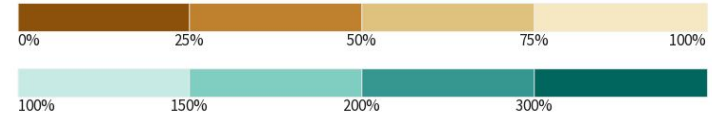


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/17/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/17/26

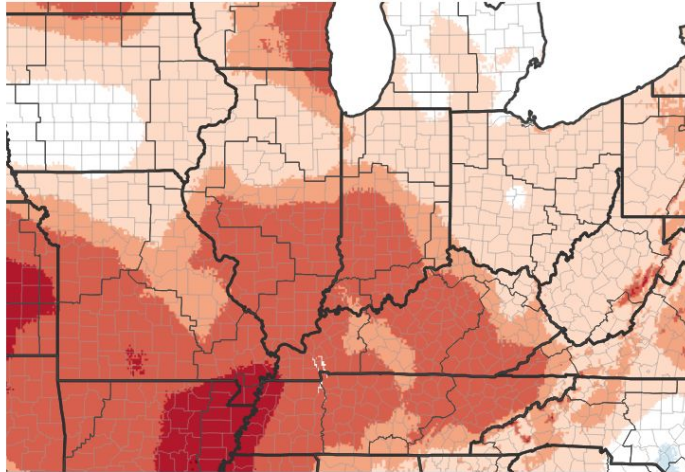




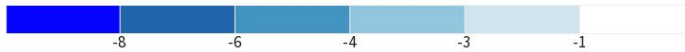
Temperature

- Over the past 7 days, most locations across southern Indiana and central Kentucky experienced 3 to 6 degrees above normal temperatures
- Over the past 30 days, the region experienced 6 to 8+ degrees above normal temperatures

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



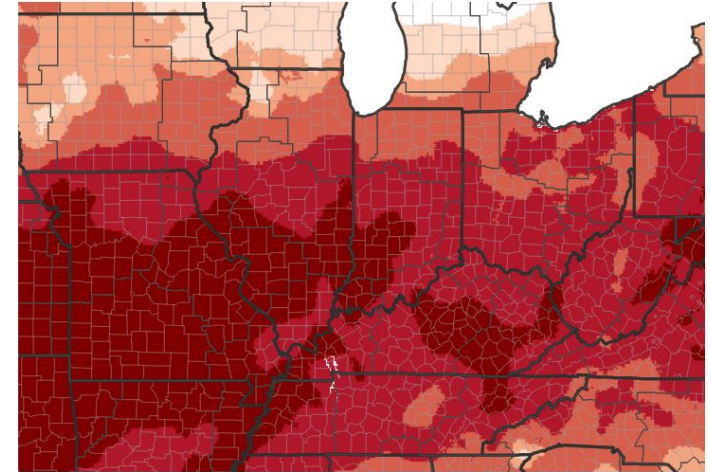
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



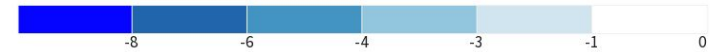
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/13/26

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: 04/13/26





Summary of Impacts

Sources: University of Kentucky Agriculture Department and Kentucky Division of Water

Hydrologic Impacts

- Most of Kentucky is in Hydrologic Drought. USGS gage stations continue to show streamflow across much of the Commonwealth as below normal to much below normal. Flows are lowest in the Green, Salt, and Kentucky River basins.

Agricultural Impacts

- The US Crop Report shows 55% of topsoil and 53% of subsoil is short to very short. This is a degradation of 16% for topsoil and 17% for subsoil. (KY Division of Water)

Fire Hazard Impacts

- It is currently Spring Forest Fire Hazard Season in Kentucky until April 30. Wildfire activity remains elevated though there are no known impacts over central Kentucky at this time. (KY Division of Water)

Other Impacts

- The state averaged 0.08" of precipitation over the past week, 1.11" below normal. Since Jan 1st, the state has averaged 8.36", 6.11" below normal. (MRCC)

Mitigation Actions

- No mitigation actions communicated at this time.



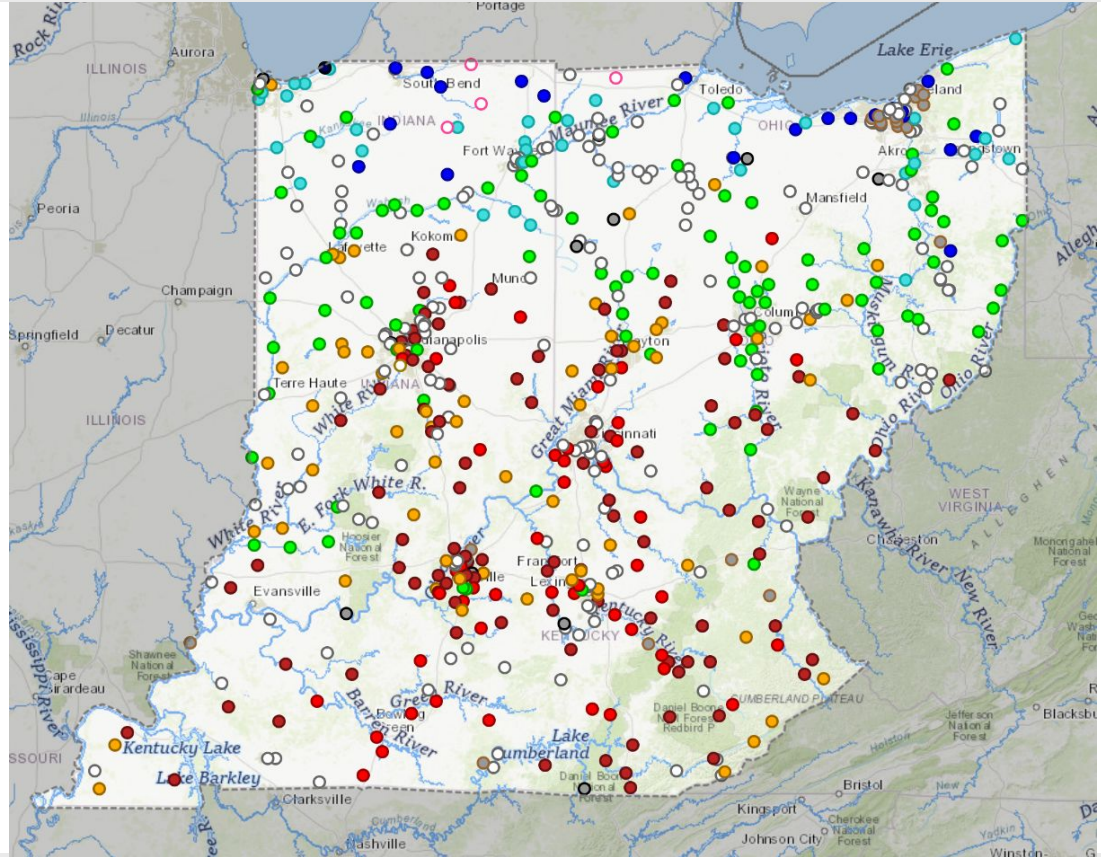


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Much Below Normal to Low Streamflow in central Kentucky
- Below Normal to Much Below Normal Streamflow in southern Indiana

Explanation - Percentile classes

Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High	Not-ranked

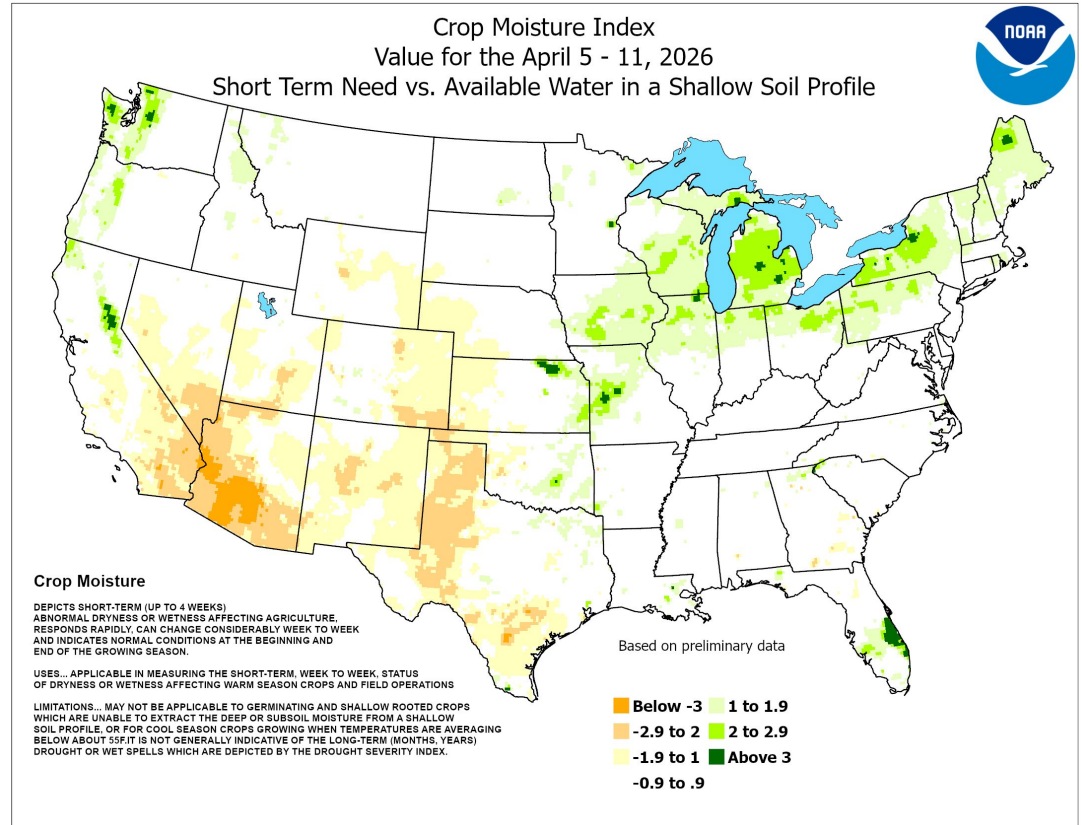




Agricultural Impacts

Source: National Crop Bulletin

- The US Crop Report shows 55 percent of topsoil is short to very short for KY.
- The US Crop Report shows 16 percent of subsoil is short for Indiana.
- Hay, Livestock and Winter Wheat were in good condition as of early April.
- Mild and dry weather has promoted pasture growth and eased the strain on hay stocks.
- Due to lack of rain, some farm ponds are shallow for this time of year.

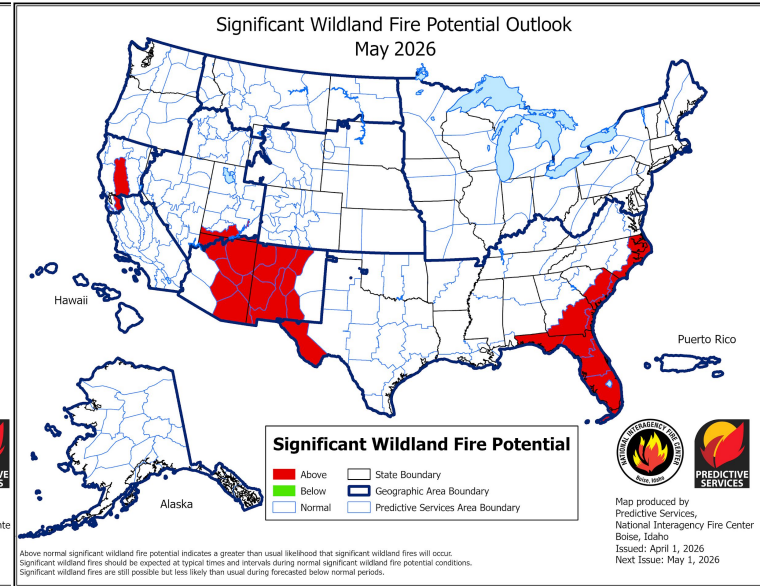
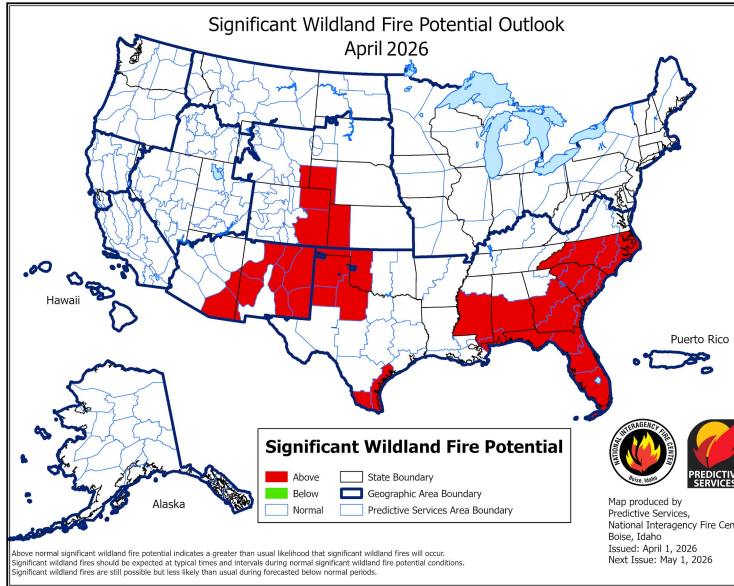




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- As of now, no significant wildfire potential exists through May.
- Edmonson, Knott, Letcher, Logan, McCreary, Morgan, Warren, and Wayne Counties are all currently under burn bans.

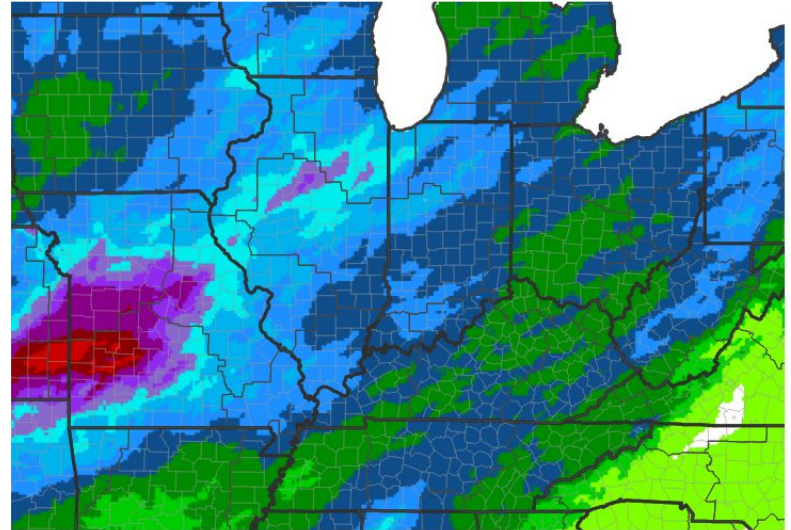




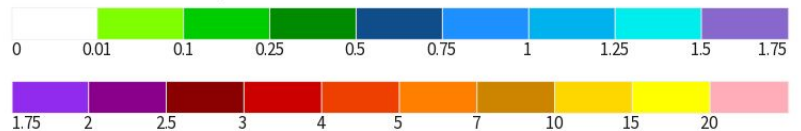
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A cold front sweeps through the region Saturday 4/18 resulting in showers and thunderstorms tonight and Saturday with expected rainfall accumulations of around 1 inch or less.
- Dry conditions expected early next week as high pressure dominates the region.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for April 17, 2026–April 24, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 04/17/26





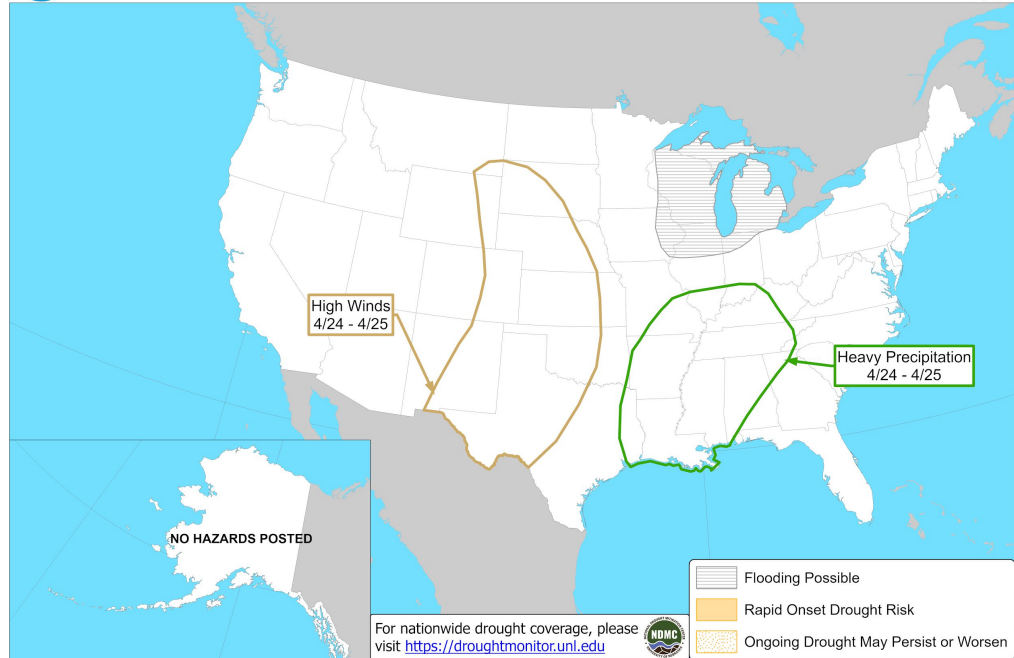
Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

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

- A signal exists for heavy precipitation on 4/24 - 4/25 over portions of central and western KY.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook Valid: April 24 - 30, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: April 16, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

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National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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WFO Louisville, KY



Long-Range Outlooks

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

- There is roughly equal chances of seeing above/below normal precipitation for the month of April.
- There is roughly equal chances of above/below normal temperatures for the month of April.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for May 1, 2026–May 31, 2026



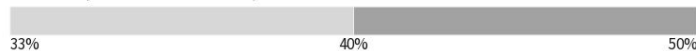
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



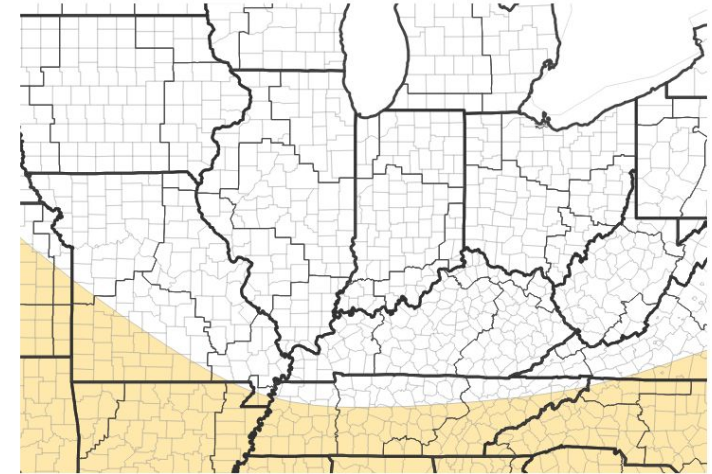
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

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Monthly Temperature Outlook for May 1, 2026–May 31, 2026



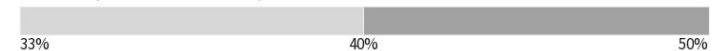
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 04/16/26



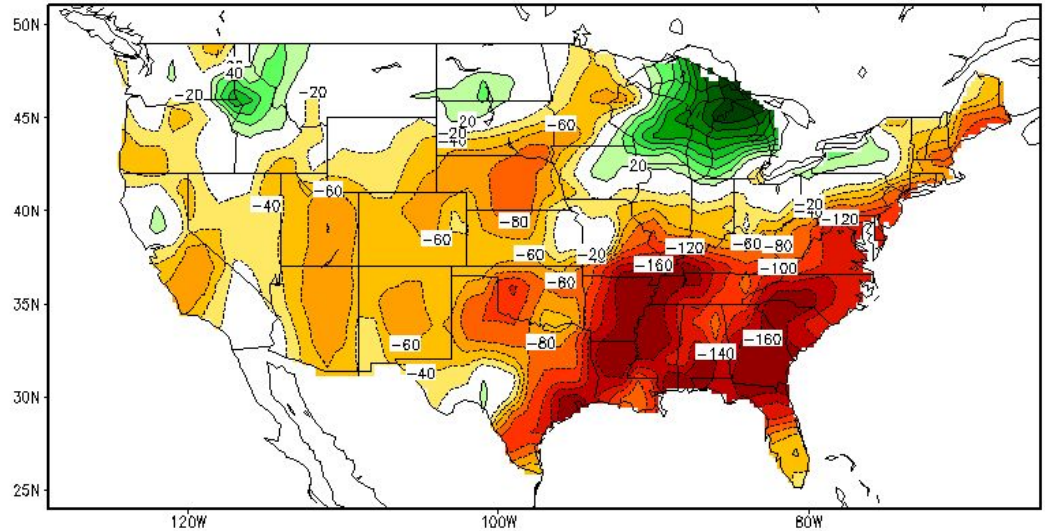


Drought Outlook

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

- Predicted Soil Moisture Anomaly continues to suggest worsening soil moisture conditions
- 7-day rainfall accumulations are forecast to be less than an inch
- Given the above factors, expect drought conditions to either remain the same or worsen over the next week.

Predicted Soil Moisture Anomaly (mm)
(15Apr2026–22Apr2026)



Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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