



Drought Information Statement for Southern Indiana and Central Kentucky

Valid April 24, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service WFO Louisville, KY

Contact Information: nws.louisville@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated May 1, 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) expanded across southwest KY
 - Severe Drought (D2) expanded across south central KY
 - Moderate Drought (D1) expanded across most of KY and southwest Indiana
 - Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions exist across portions of northern KY and southern Indiana



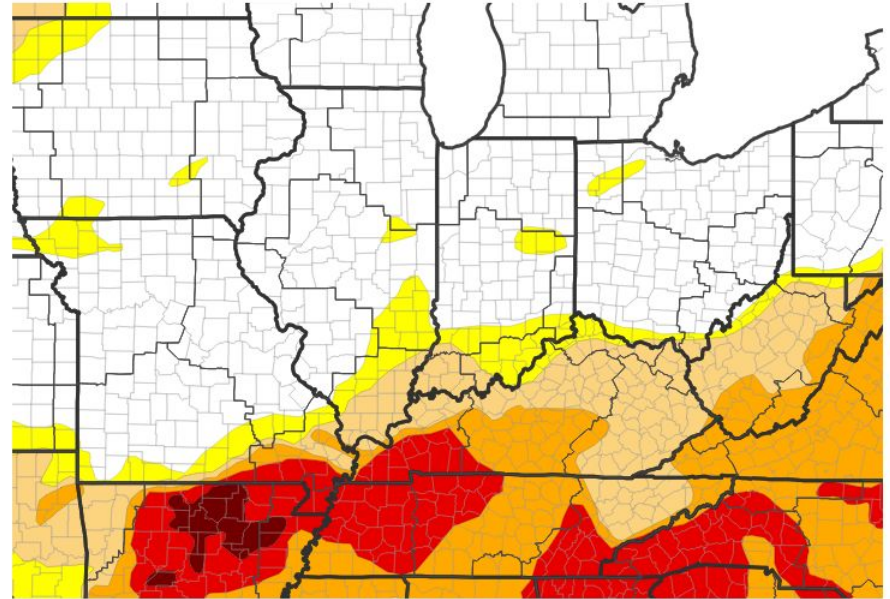


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Southwest KY
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: South central KY
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Most of Kentucky and southwest Indiana
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Southern Indiana and a small portion of northern Kentucky

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 04/21/26



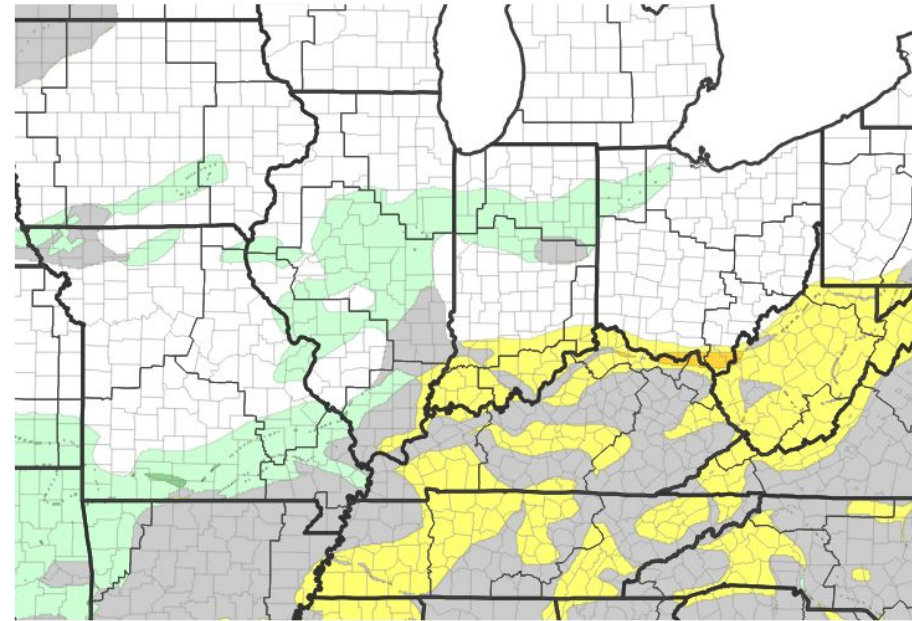


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

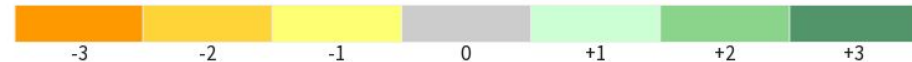
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Southern Indiana and Central Kentucky

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Across a large portion of Kentucky and southern Indiana
 - 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

Data Valid: 04/21/26

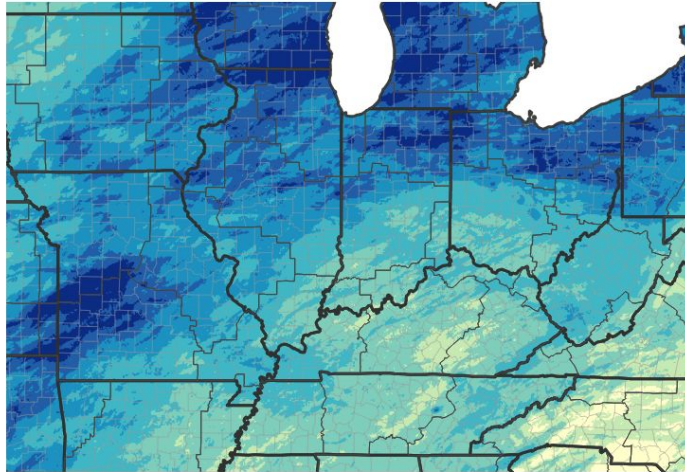




Precipitation

- Over the past 30 days, approximately 0.5 to 4 inches of rain fell across southern IN and KY.
- These 30 day rainfall totals fall mostly in the 0 to 50 percent range of normal precipitation

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



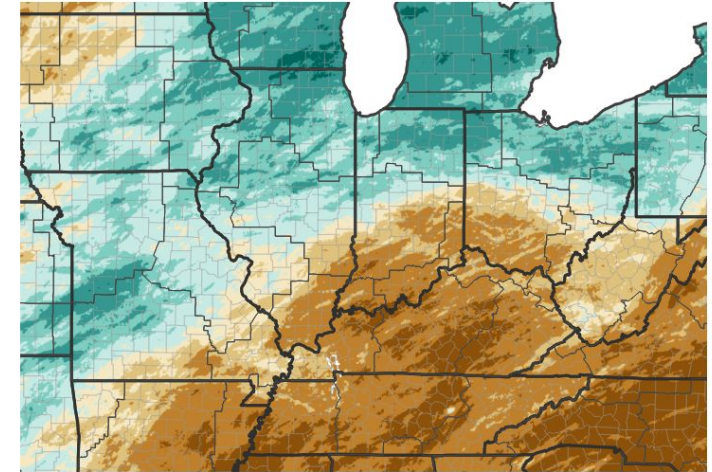
Inches of Precipitation



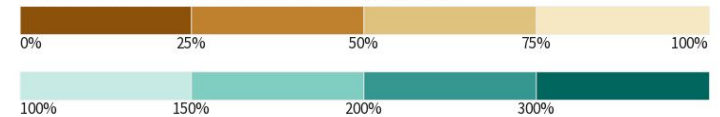
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 04/24/26

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: 04/24/26

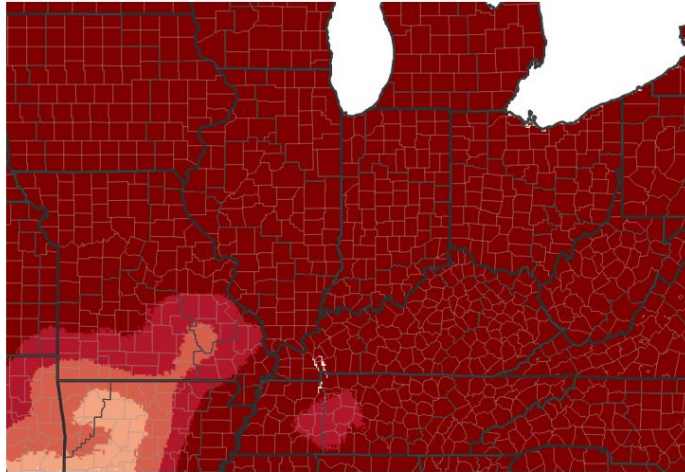




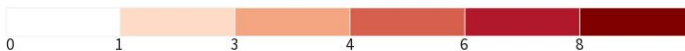
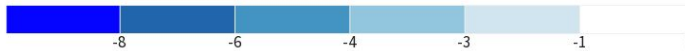
Temperature

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

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



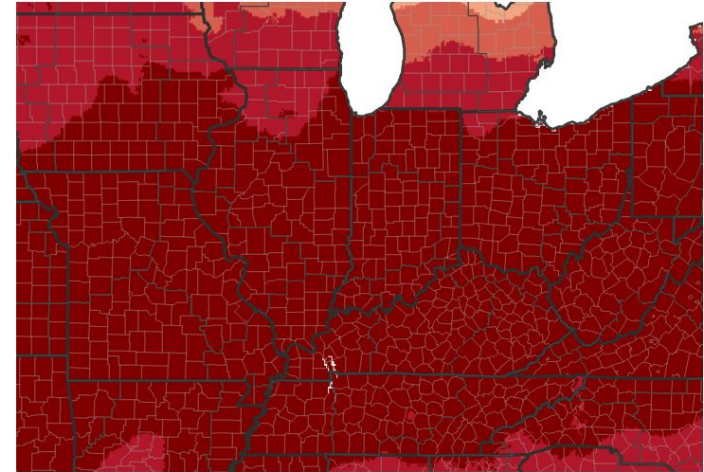
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



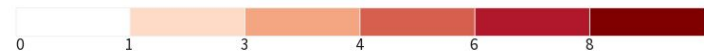
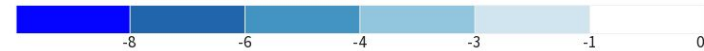
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/19/26

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: 04/19/26





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 show numerous streams and rivers at the lowest recorded level for this time of year.
- The lack of winter and spring precipitation is putting pressure on lakes and reservoirs to return to normal pool. This includes small local reservoirs, but also USACE reservoirs that have yet to return to normal summer pool. (KY Division of Water)

Agricultural Impacts

- The US Crop Report shows 64% of topsoil and 63% of subsoil in Kentucky rated as short to very short. This is a degradation of 9% for topsoil and 10% 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 0.46" of precipitation over the past week, 0.65" below normal. Since Jan 1st, the state has averaged 8.77", 6.51" below normal. (MRCC)

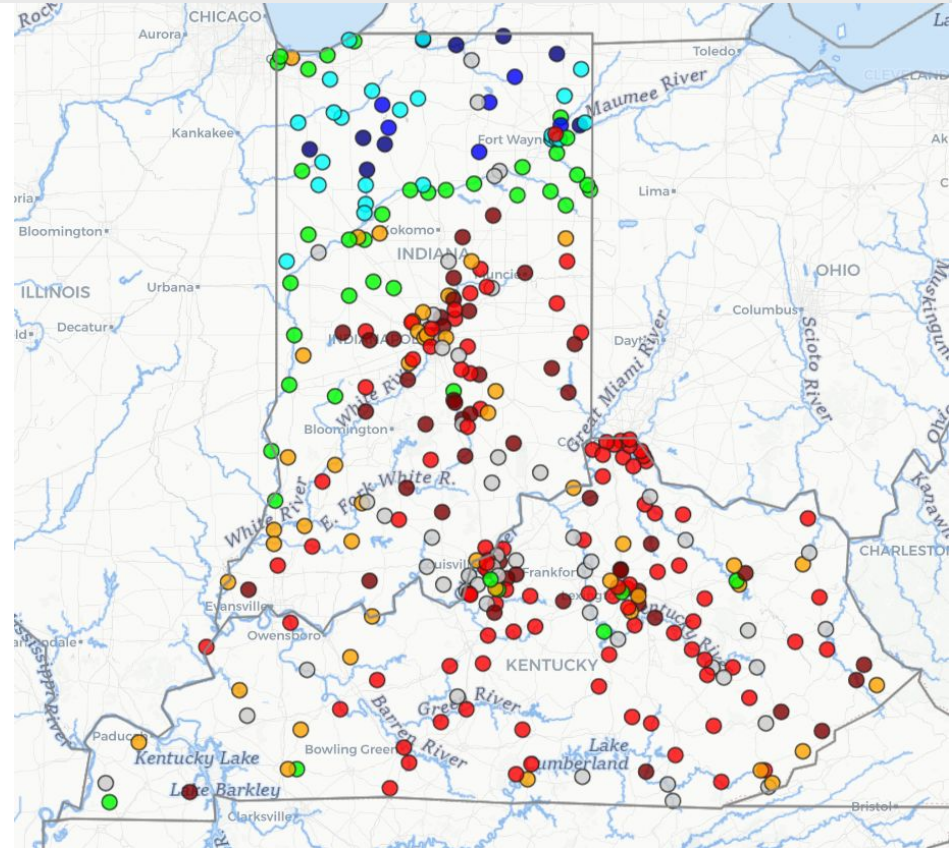




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

7 Day Average Streamflow

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



Explanation - Percentile classes

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

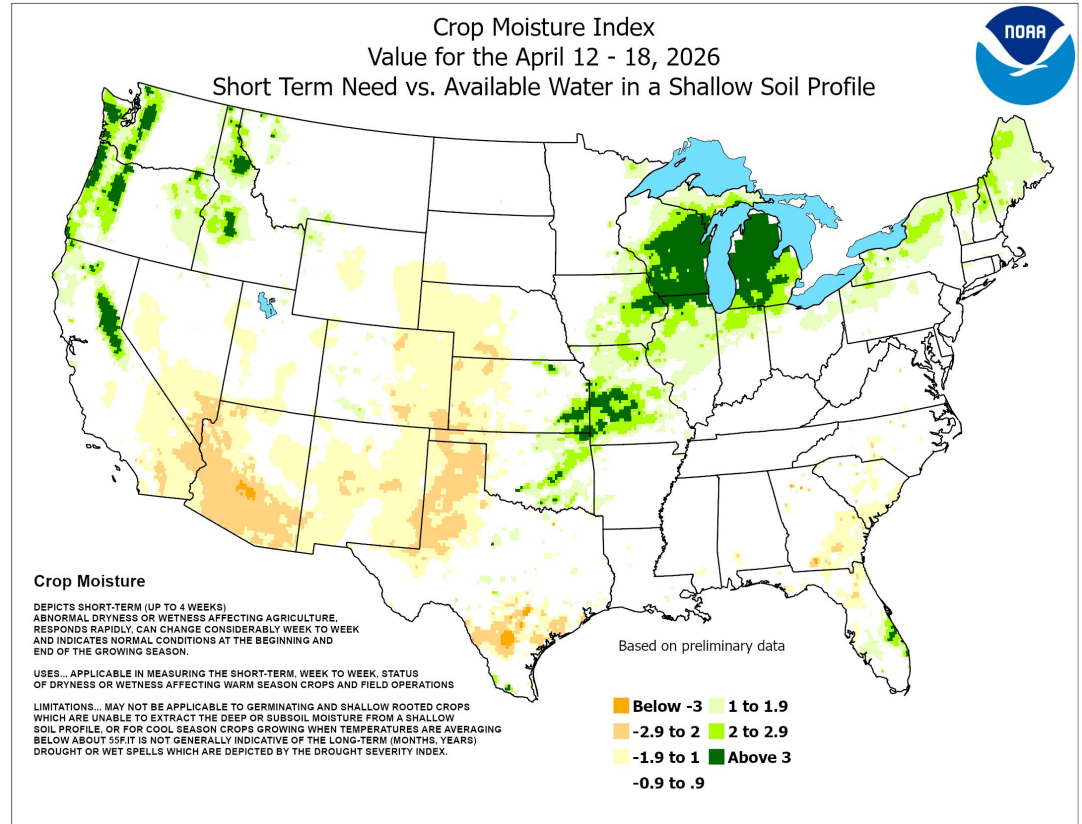




Agricultural Impacts

Source: National Crop Bulletin

- The US Crop Report shows 64 percent of topsoil is short to very short for KY.
- The US Crop Report shows 27 percent of topsoil is short to very short for Indiana.
- Agricultural impacts are starting to develop especially in pastures.
- Due to lack of rain, several farm ponds are shallow for this time of year especially over western and central KY.

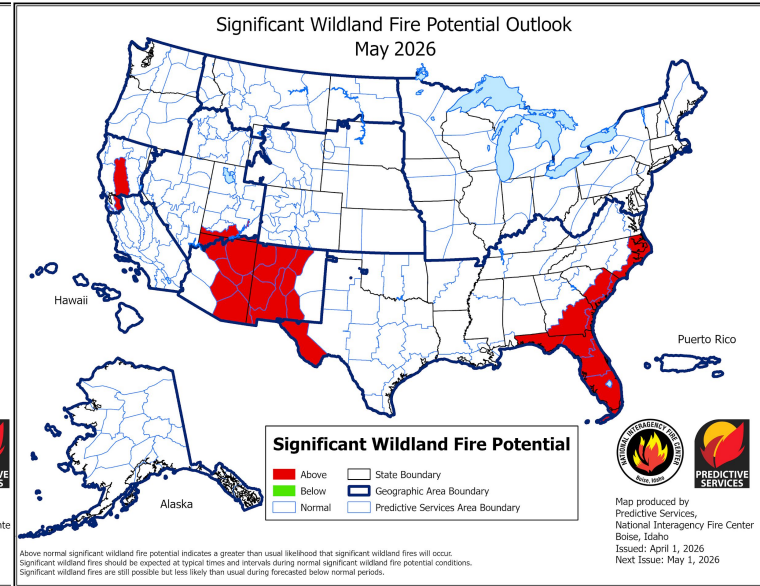
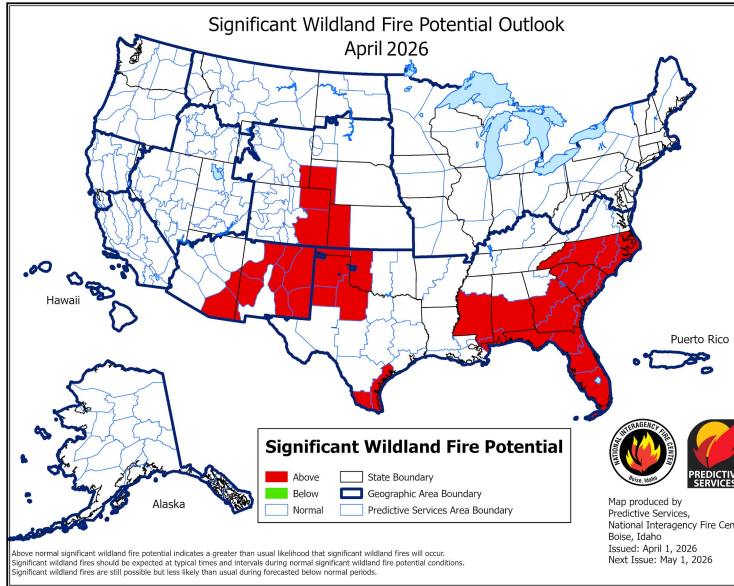




Fire Hazard Impacts

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, Marion, McCreary, Morgan, Spencer, Warren, and Wayne Counties are all currently under burn bans.

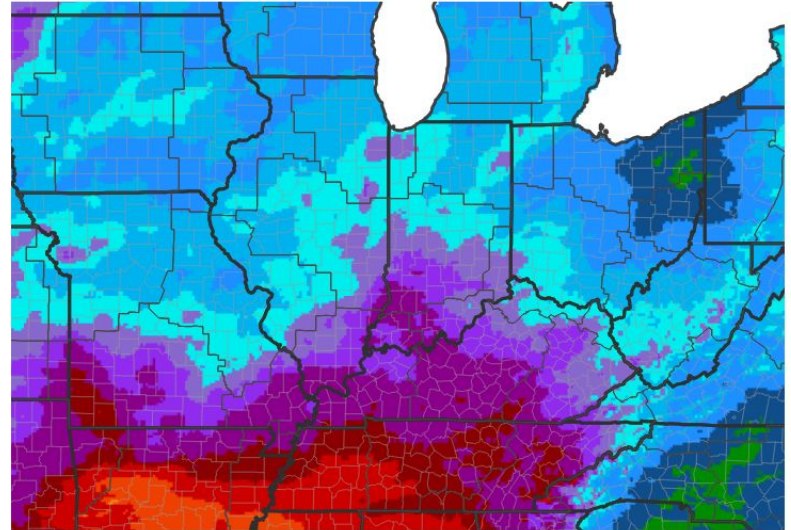




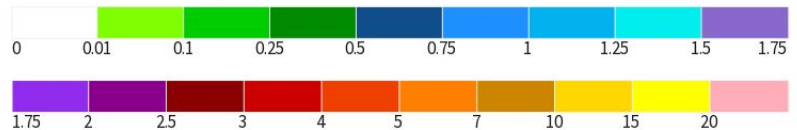
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A cold front sweeps through the region resulting in showers and storms Friday 4/24 through early Saturday 4/25 with expected rainfall accumulations of less than 1 inch.
- A strong storm system passing through the Ohio Valley will bring showers and storms Monday 4/27 and Tuesday 4/28 with expected rainfall accumulations of 0.5-1.5 inches.
- The weather pattern looks to remain active into late next week resulting in a forecasted 7 day rainfall total of 1-3+ inches over the area.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for April 24, 2026–May 1, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 04/24/26





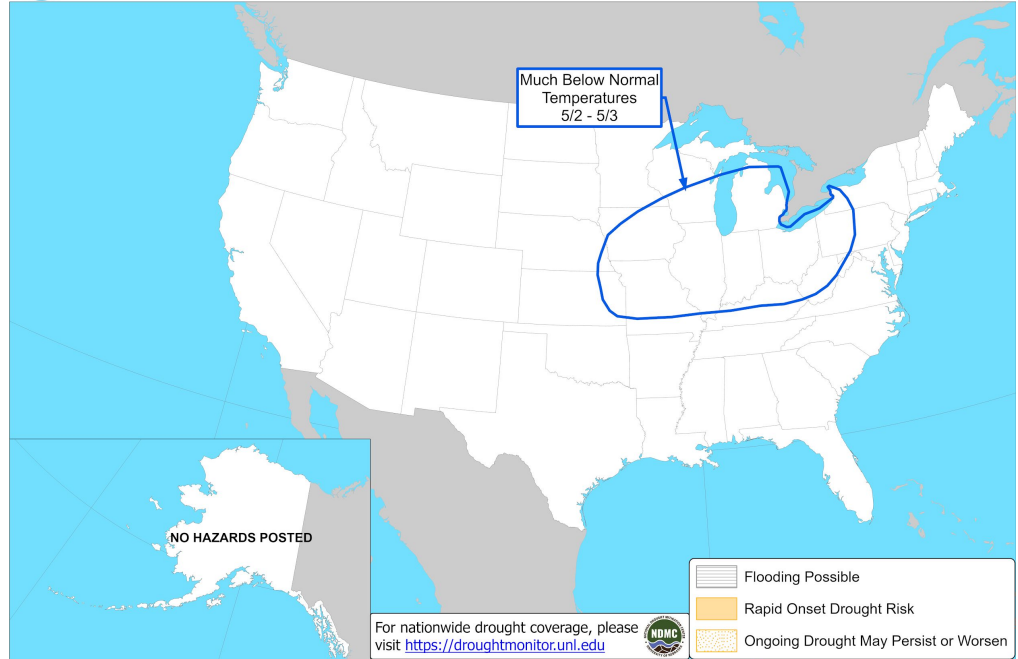
8-14 Day Significant Hazards Outlook

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

- Much Below Normal Temperatures are possible 5/2-5/3.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook Valid: May 2 - 8, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

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

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



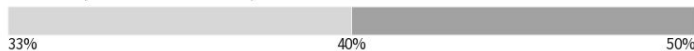
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



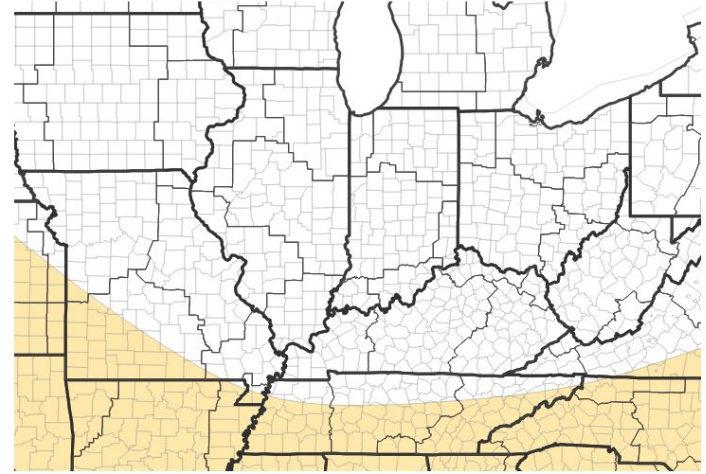
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 04/16/26

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



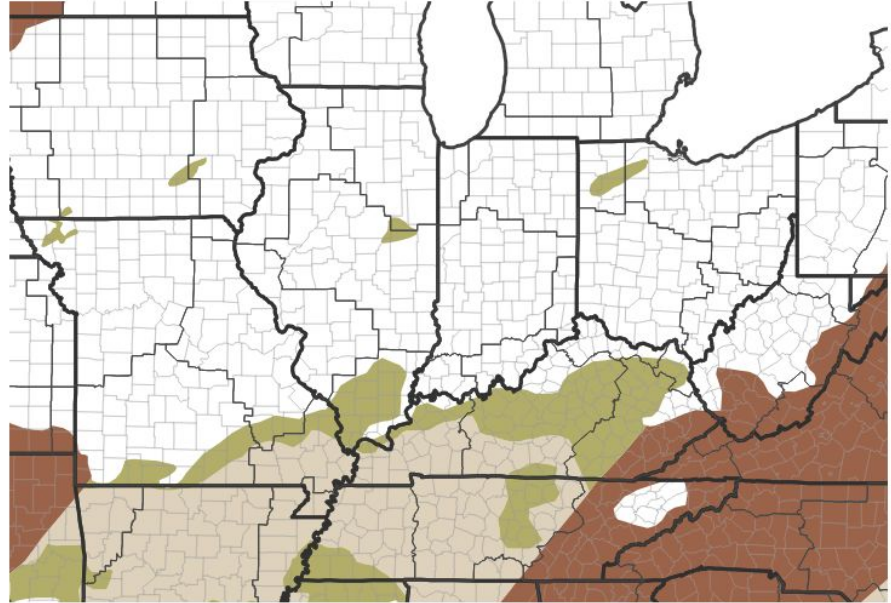


Drought Outlook

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

- An active weather pattern over the next 1-2 weeks looks to bring beneficial rain to the area.
- These rains should improve current drought conditions or at the very least keep drought from becoming worse over the next week.
- The Seasonal Drought Outlook (April-July) calls for improving or ending drought conditions across much of KY.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for April 16, 2026–July 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



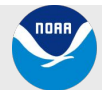
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 04/16/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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