



Drought Information Statement for Southern Indiana and Central Kentucky

Valid May 12, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service WFO Louisville, KY

Contact Information: nws.louisville@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated May 22, 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) remains across southwest KY and expanded slightly in a small portion of central KY
 - Severe Drought (D2) remains across central KY
 - Moderate Drought (D1) remains across north central KY, eastern KY, and a small portion of southern Indiana
 - Abnormally Dry (D0) remains across a small portion of southern Indiana and northern KY



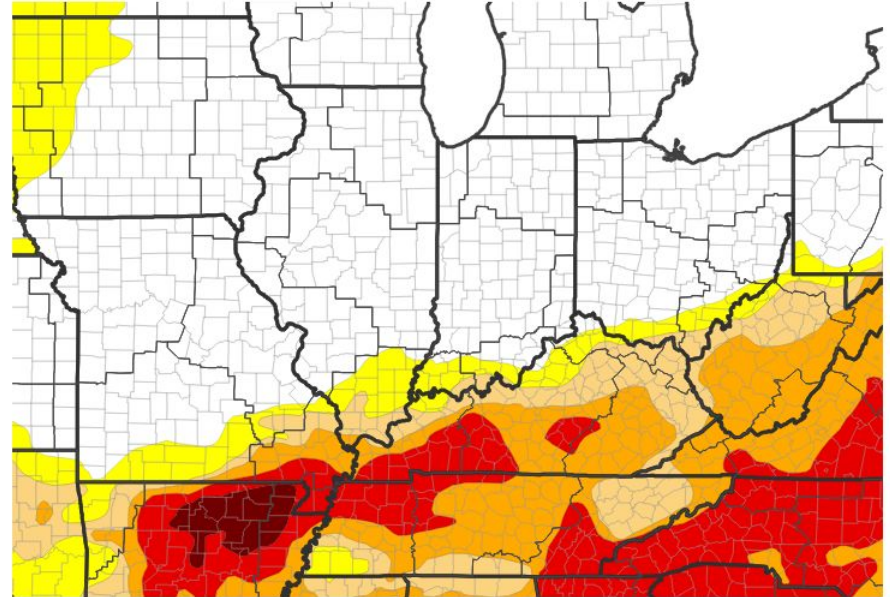


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought Intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Southwest KY and a small portion of central KY
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Most of the southern half of KY
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Most of Kentucky and a small portion of 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: 05/12/26



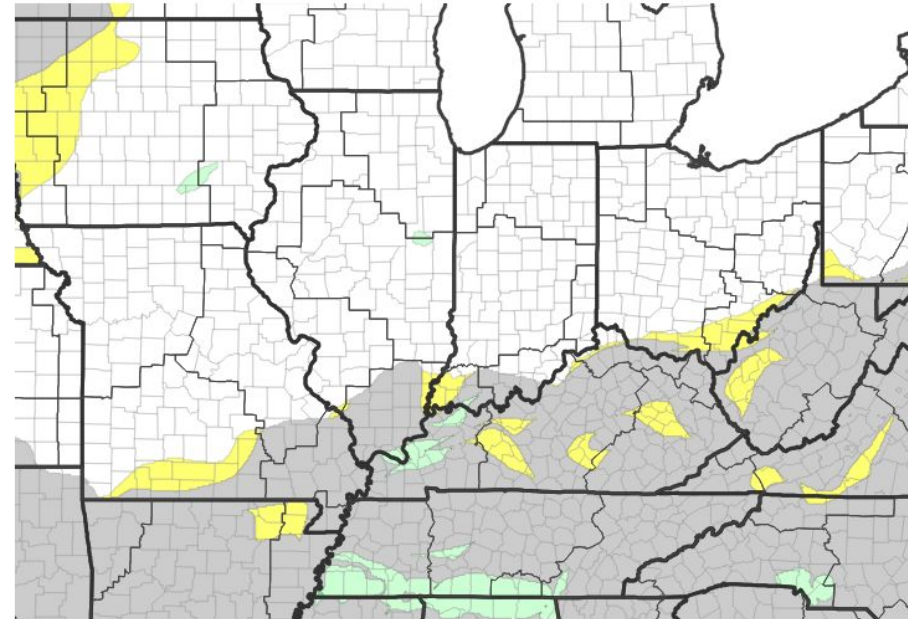


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

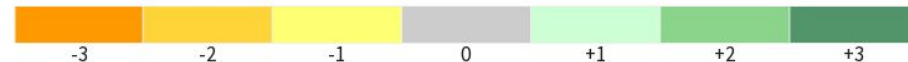
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Southern Indiana and Central Kentucky

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change
 - No change across most of Kentucky and a portion of southern Indiana
 - One class improvement over a small portion of western KY
 - One class degradation across a small portion of far SW Indiana

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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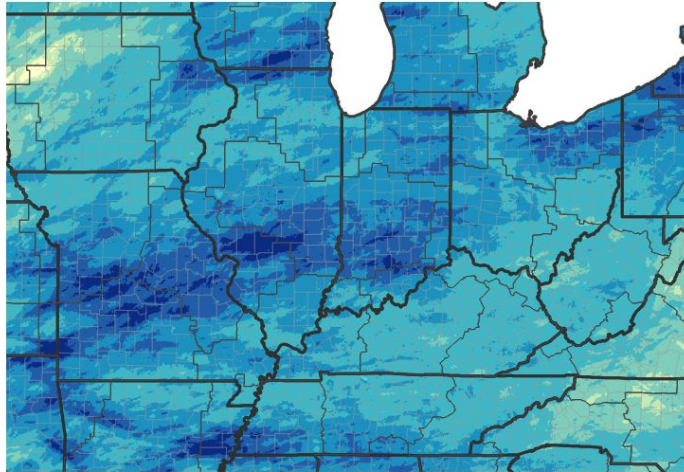




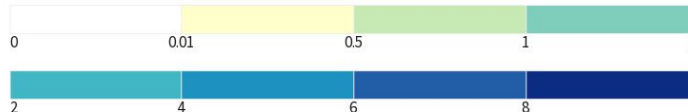
Precipitation

- Over the past 30 days, most of the region received approximately 2 to 5+ inches of rain, with southern Indiana receiving the higher amounts.
- Most of these 30 day rainfall totals fall in the 25 to 75 percent range of normal precipitation, with close to normal in southern Indiana.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



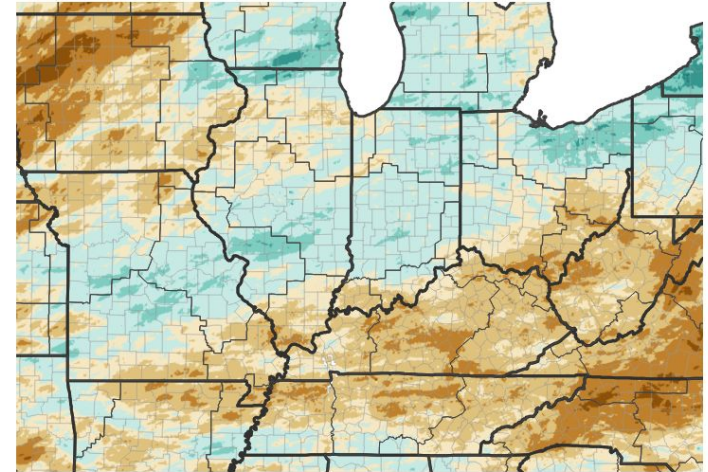
Inches of Precipitation



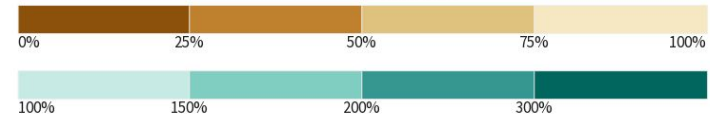
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 05/14/26

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

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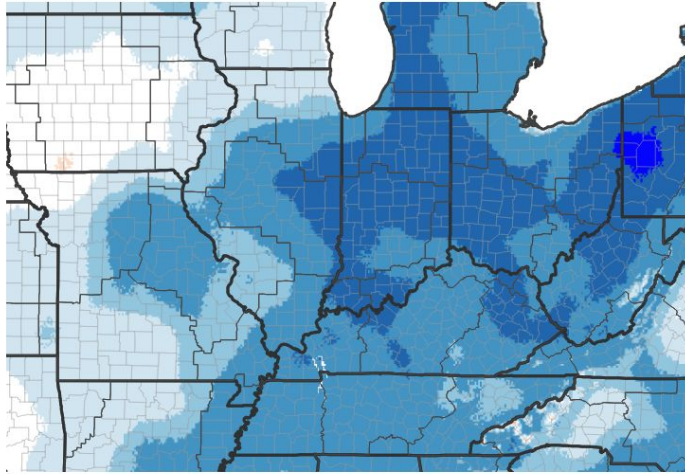




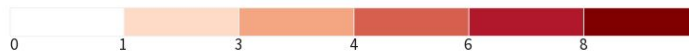
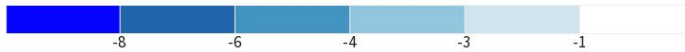
Temperature

- Over the past 7 days, the region has experienced 4 to 8 degrees below normal temperatures.
- Over the past 30 days, the region experienced 1 to 4 degrees above normal temperatures.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



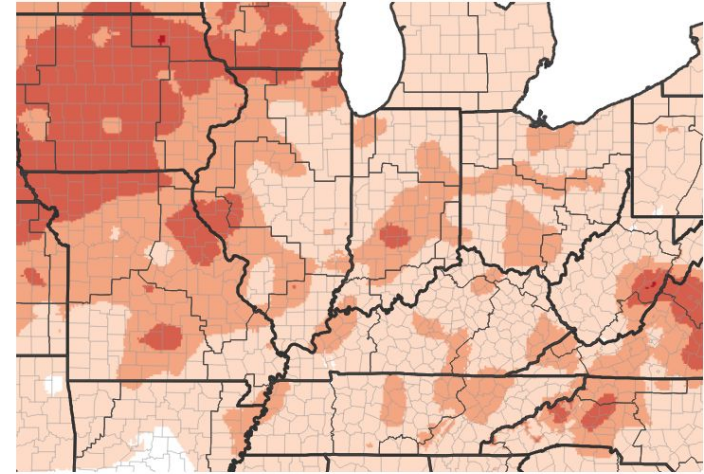
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



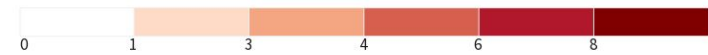
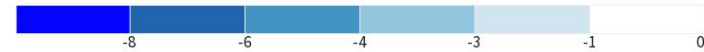
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/10/26

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: 05/10/26





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Most of Kentucky is in Hydrologic Drought. There have been small improvements in western Kentucky, but continued drying across the rest of Kentucky. Recovery from drought will require multiple heavy precipitation events. (KY Division of Water).

Agricultural Impacts

- The US Crop Report shows 51% of topsoil and 54% of subsoil in Kentucky rated as short to very short. This is an improvement of 5% for topsoil and 8% for subsoil (KY Division of Water).

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Wildfire activity remains elevated though there are no known impacts over central Kentucky at this time (National Interagency Fire Center).

Other Impacts

- From 5/6 thru 5/12, KY averaged 0.99" of precipitation, 0.23" below normal. Since Jan 1st, the state has averaged 11.50", 7.62" below normal. (MRCC)





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

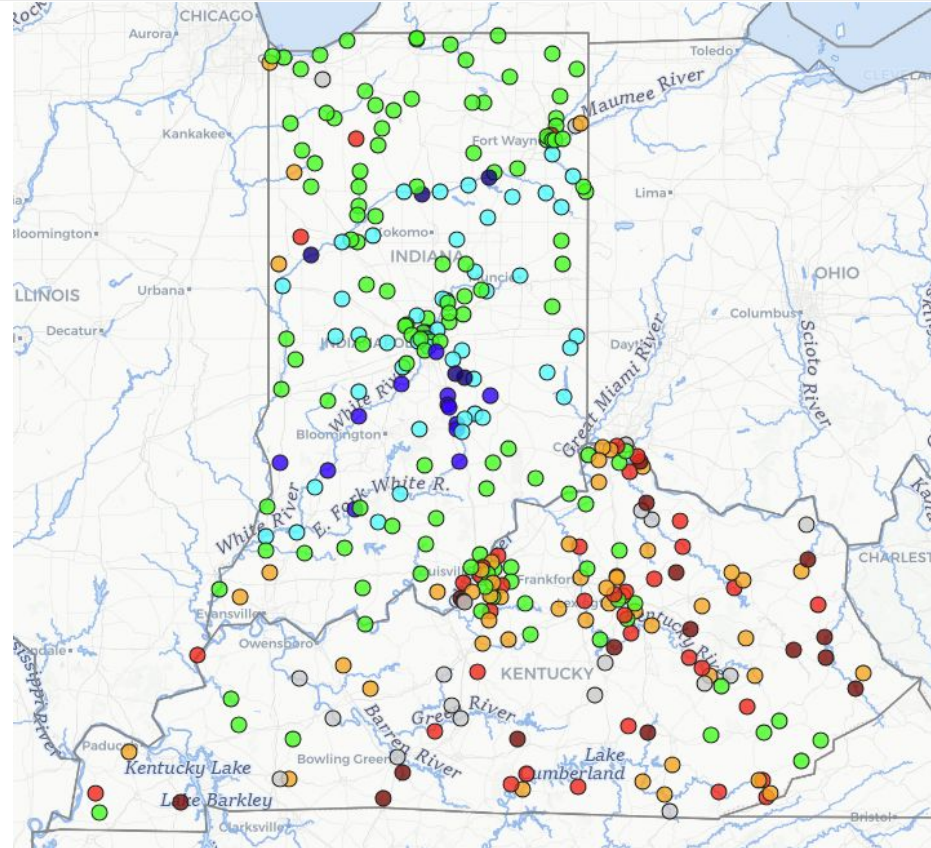
7 Day Average Streamflow

- Below to Much Below Normal Streamflow in south central and east central Kentucky
- Below Normal to Normal Streamflow in north central Kentucky and southern Indiana

Current 7-Day Average Streamflow Category

Valid: May 8, 2026 — May 14, 2026

- All-time low for this day
- Much below normal
- Below normal
- Normal
- Above normal
- Much above normal
- All-time high for this day
- Not Ranked
- No Data

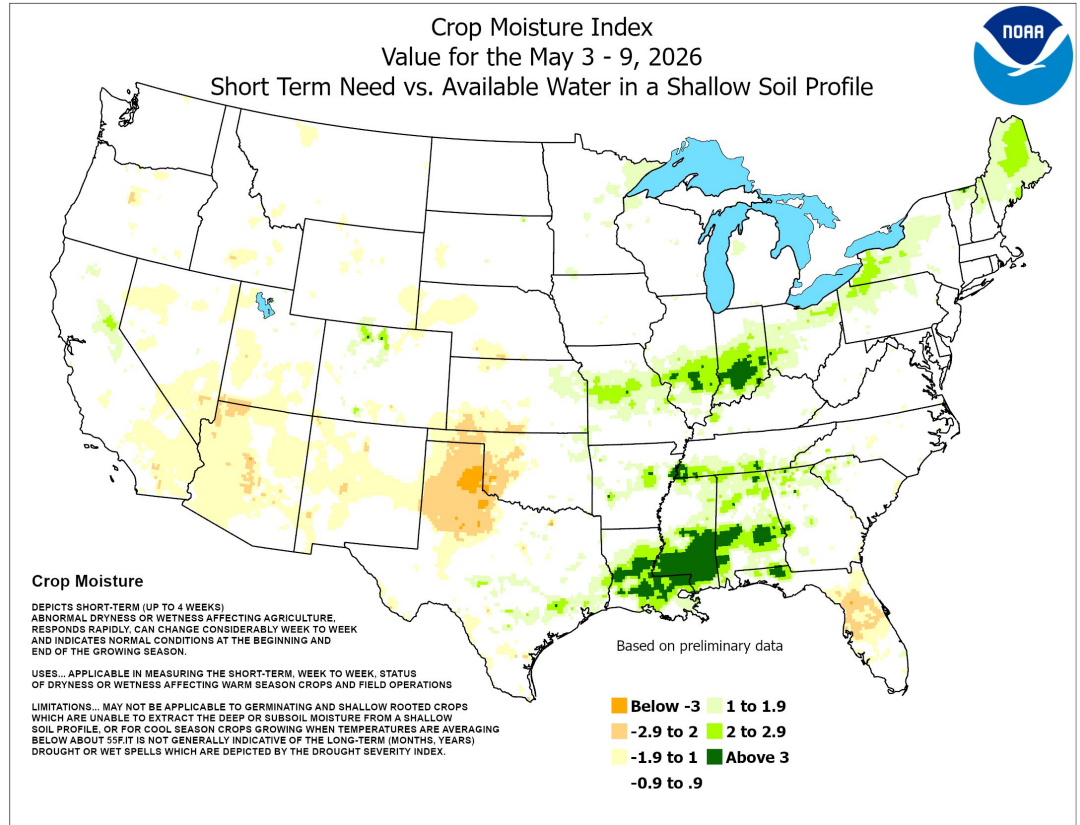




Agricultural Impacts

Source: National Crop Bulletin

- The US Crop Report shows 51 percent of topsoil is short to very short for KY.
- The US Crop Report shows 13 percent of topsoil is short to very short for Indiana.
- Agricultural conditions were relatively unchanged across the area this week.
- Due to low winter and spring total rainfall, several farm ponds and small water supply reservoirs remain low for this time of year.

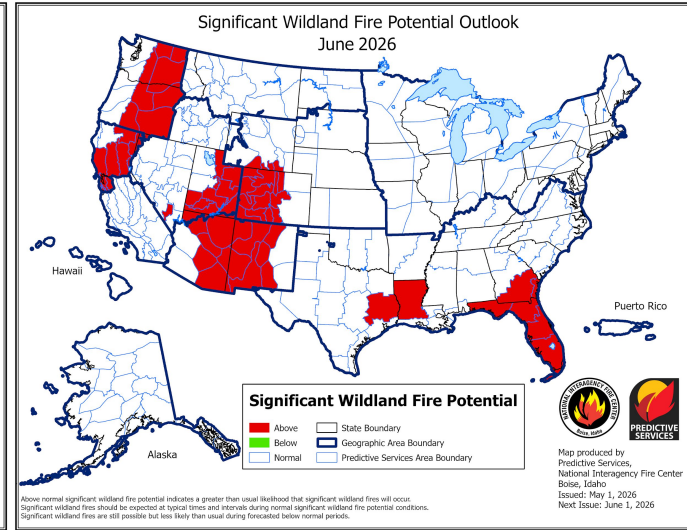
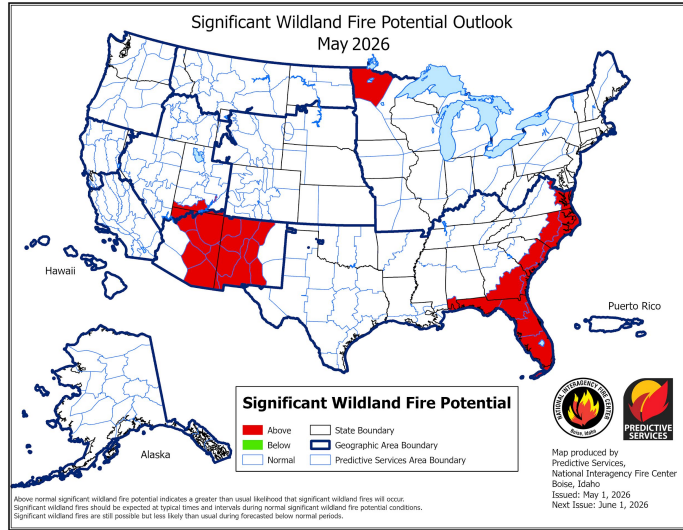




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- As of now, no significant wildfire potential exists through May.
- There are currently no burn bans reported for any counties in Indiana or Kentucky as of 5/8/2026.

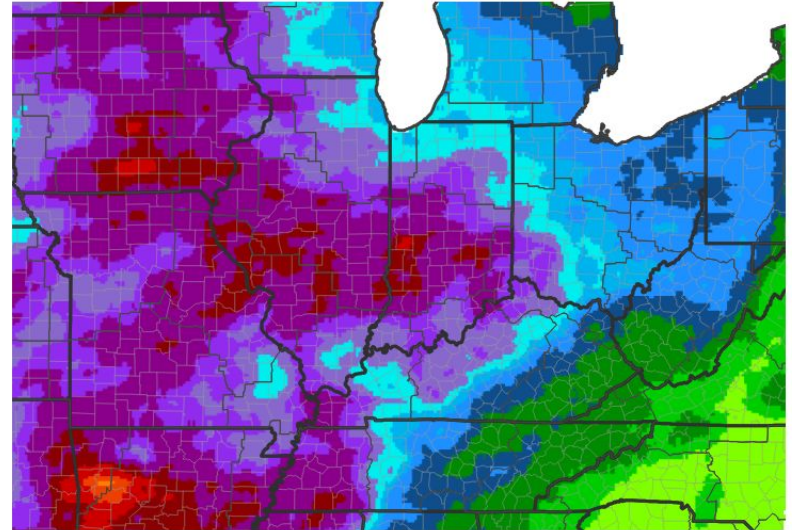




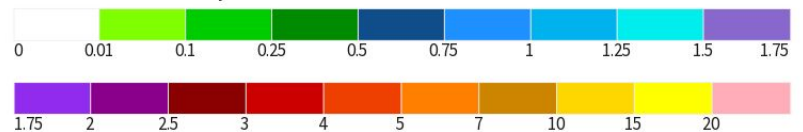
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A couple of small chances for rainfall exist for the region Friday morning (southern Indiana) and Saturday (highest amounts in southern Indiana).
- A larger system will bring showers and thunderstorms to the region Tuesday and Wednesday with accumulations of around 0.50 to 0.75 inches.
- Rainfall totals over the next week are forecast to be a half inch or less across southern KY and between 0.50 to 1.25 inches across the northern half of KY and across southern Indiana.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for May 14, 2026–May 21, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 05/14/26





8-14 Day Significant Hazards Outlook

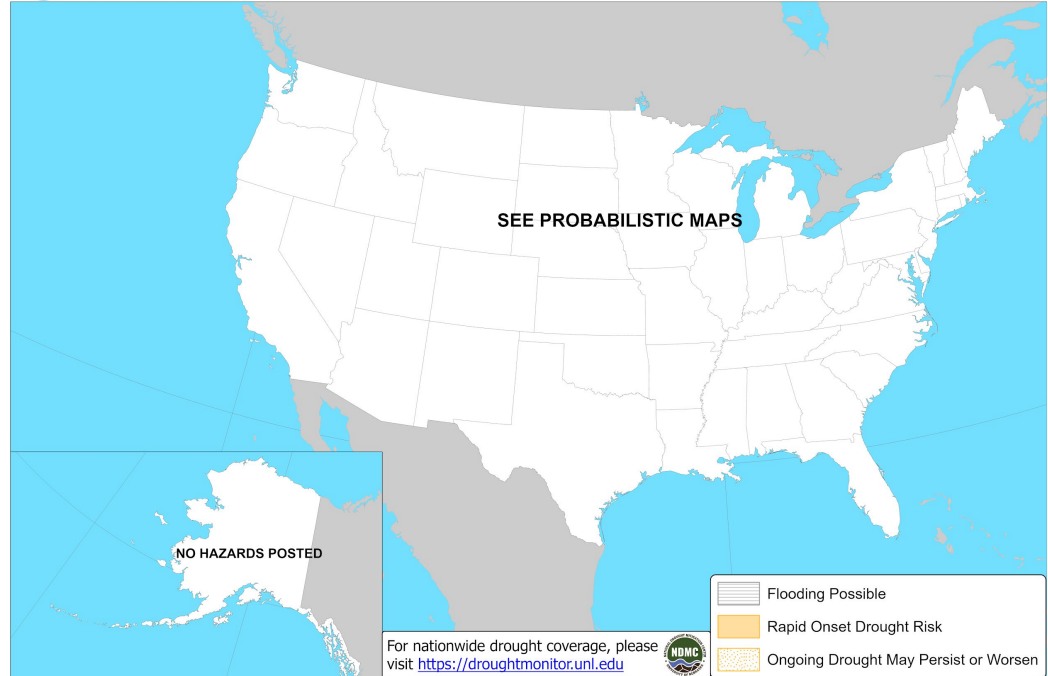
Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- No major hazards are expected.
- First taste of summer heat and humidity arrives this weekend into early next week.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook

Valid: May 21 - 27, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: May 13, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

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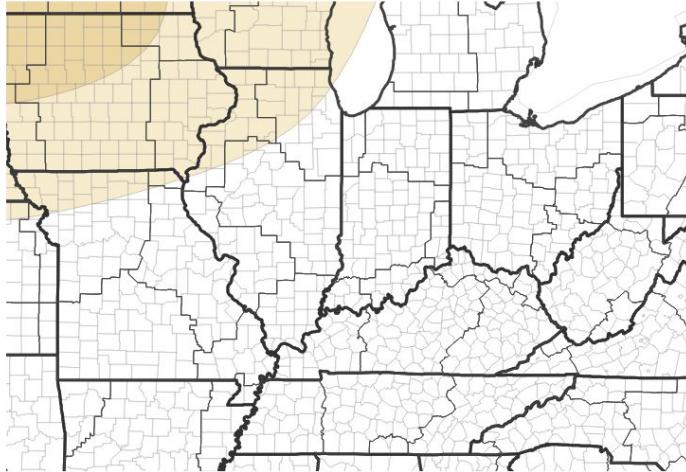


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- There is roughly equal chances of seeing above/below normal precipitation for the month of May.
- There is a 33 to 40 percent chance of the region seeing below normal temperatures throughout the month of May.

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



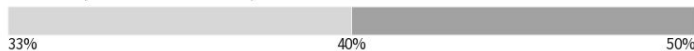
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 04/30/26

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



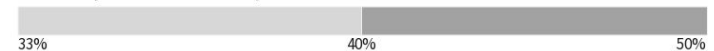
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 04/30/26



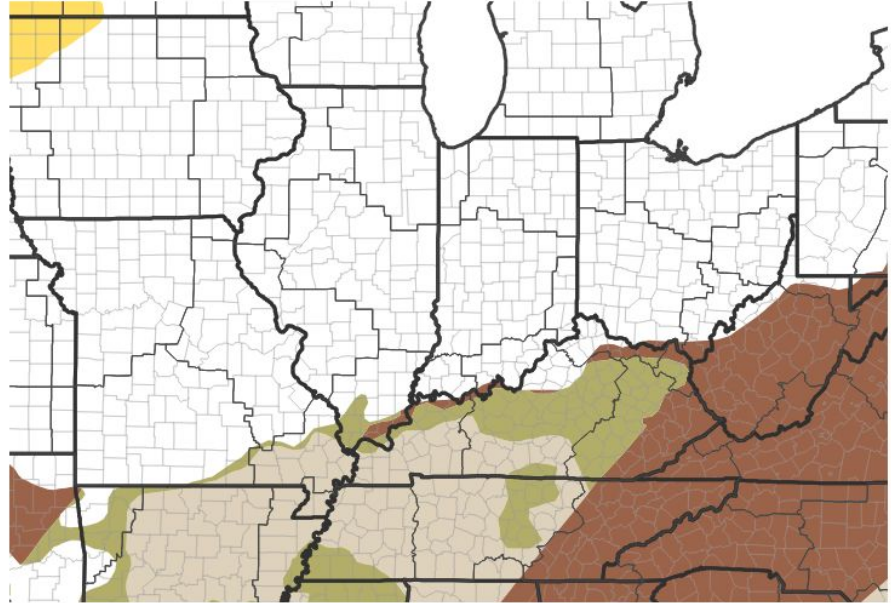


Drought Outlook

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

- A few chances of rain over the next week could result in 0.50 to 1.25 inches across the KY and southern Indiana.
- Some areas could see improvements over the next week, especially the northern half of KY and southern IN.
- The Seasonal Drought Outlook (May-July) calls for improving or ending drought conditions across much of KY.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for April 30, 2026–July 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 04/30/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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