



# Drought Information Statement for Southern Indiana and Central Kentucky

## Valid May 19, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service WFO Louisville, KY

Contact Information: [nws.louisville@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.louisville@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated May 29, 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) slightly expanded to cover most of southern KY
  - Severe Drought (D2) expanded across KY, especially eastern KY
  - Moderate Drought (D1) slightly expanded across northern KY
  - Abnormally Dry (D0) across northern Kentucky
  - Moderate Drought (D1) and Abnormally Dry (D0) remain mostly unchanged across southern Indiana



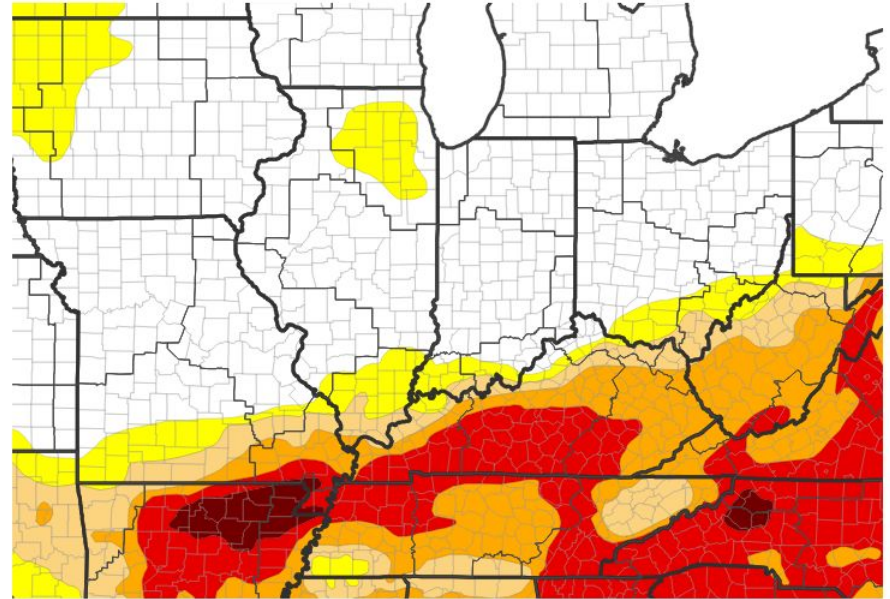


# U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- **NOTE: The data cutoff for Drought Monitor is each Tuesday at 8 a.m. EDT.**
- Drought Intensity and Extent
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Most of the southern half of Kentucky
  - **D2 (Severe Drought):** Across central KY and most of eastern Kentucky
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Across much of northern Kentucky and a small portion of southern 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: 05/19/26



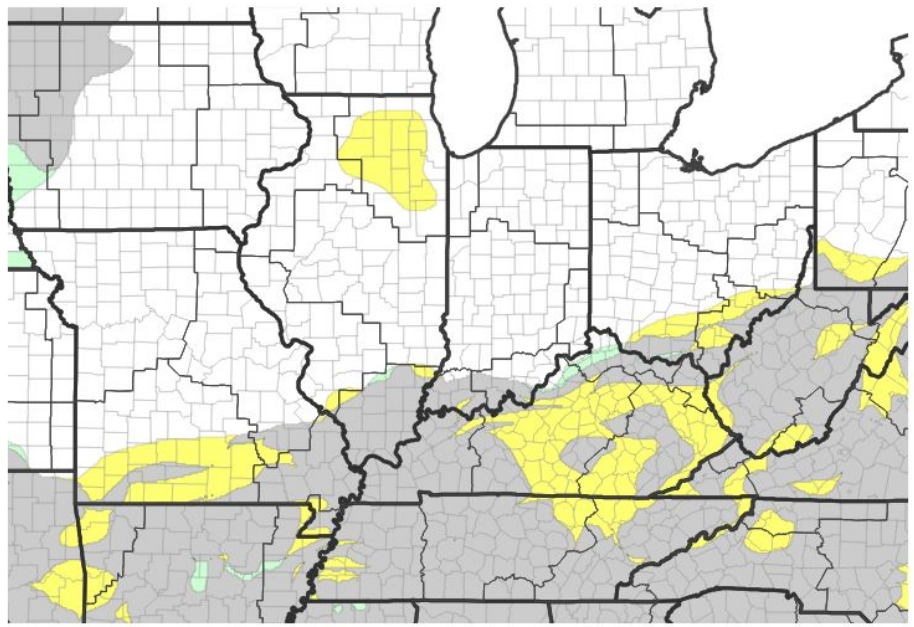


# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

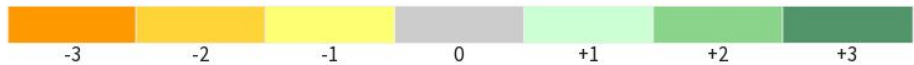
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Southern Indiana and Central Kentucky

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change
  - No change across western Kentucky and portions of central, eastern, and northern Kentucky.
  - No change across most of southern Indiana.
  - One class improvement over a small portion of northern Kentucky.
  - One class degradation across portions of central and eastern Kentucky.

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: 05/19/26

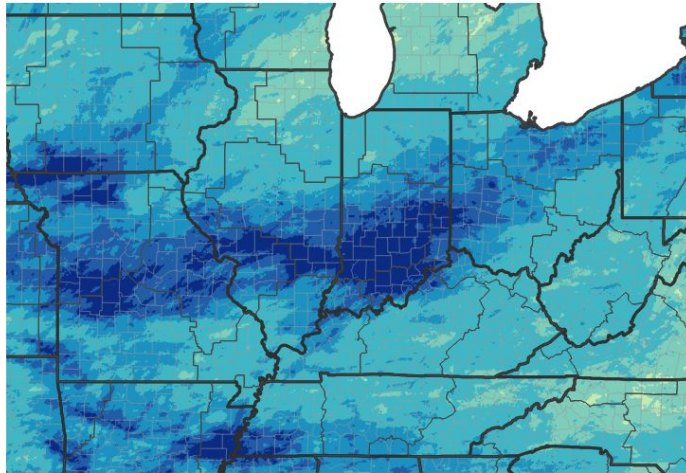




# Precipitation

- Over the past 30 days, most of the region received approximately 2 to 6+ inches of rain, with southern Indiana receiving the higher amounts.
- For KY, most of these totals fall in the 25 to 75 percent range of normal.
- Most of southern Indiana experienced 100 to 300 percent of normal rainfall.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



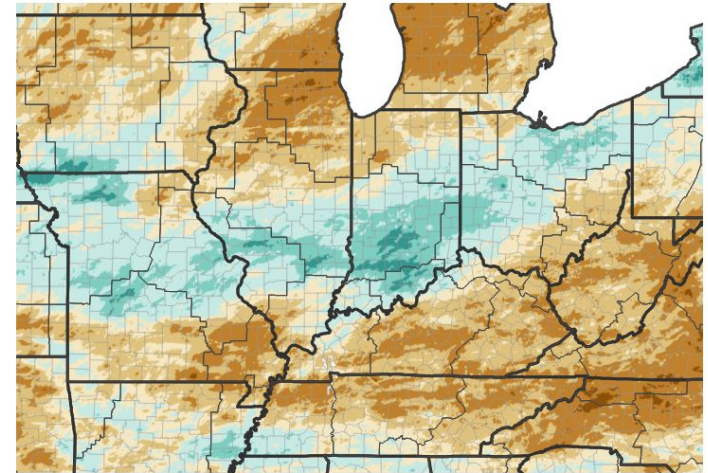
Inches of Precipitation



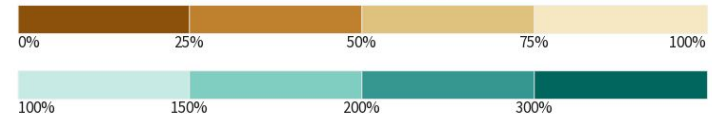
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 05/21/26

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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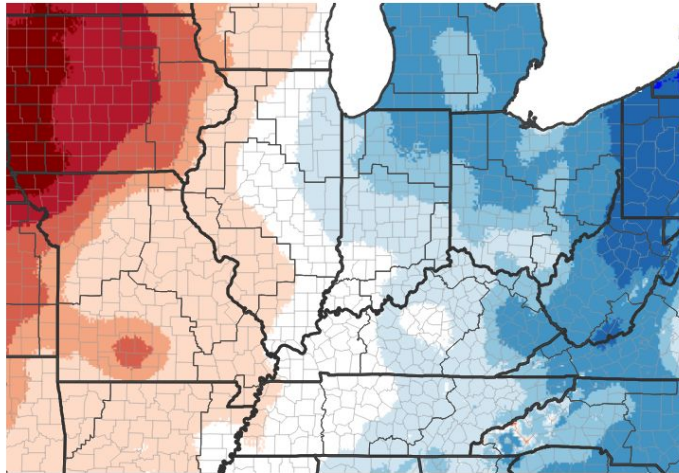




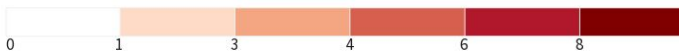
# Temperature

- Over the past 7 days, much of the region saw 1 to 3 degrees below normal temps, with western KY near normal and eastern KY 3 to 6 degrees below normal.
- Over the past 30 days, some locations across KY saw 1 to 3 degrees above normal, while most of the region experience normal temperatures.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



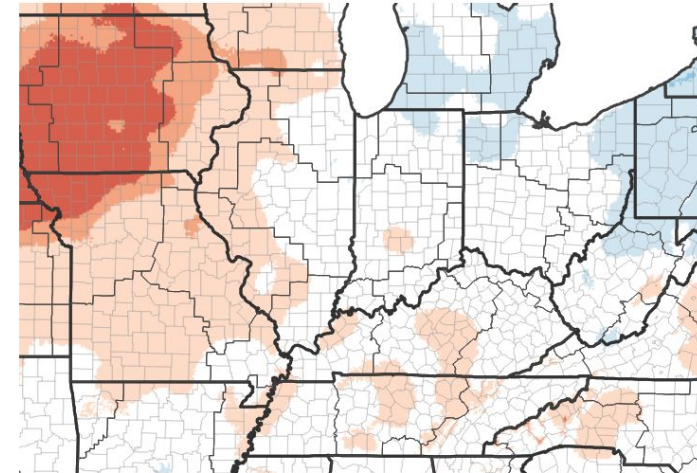
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



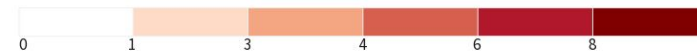
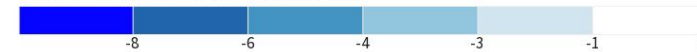
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/16/26

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: 05/16/26





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Most of Kentucky remains in Hydrologic Drought as of Tuesday morning (5/19). There have been small improvements in western Kentucky, but continued drying across the rest of Kentucky. **Rainfall this week into next week will likely lead to further improvements.**

## Agricultural Impacts

- The US Crop Report shows 69% of topsoil and 68% of subsoil in Kentucky rated as short to very short.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

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

## Other Impacts

- From 5/13 thru 5/19, KY averaged 0.24" of precipitation, 0.90" below normal. Since Jan 1st, the state has averaged 11.79", 8.47" below normal. (MRCC)





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

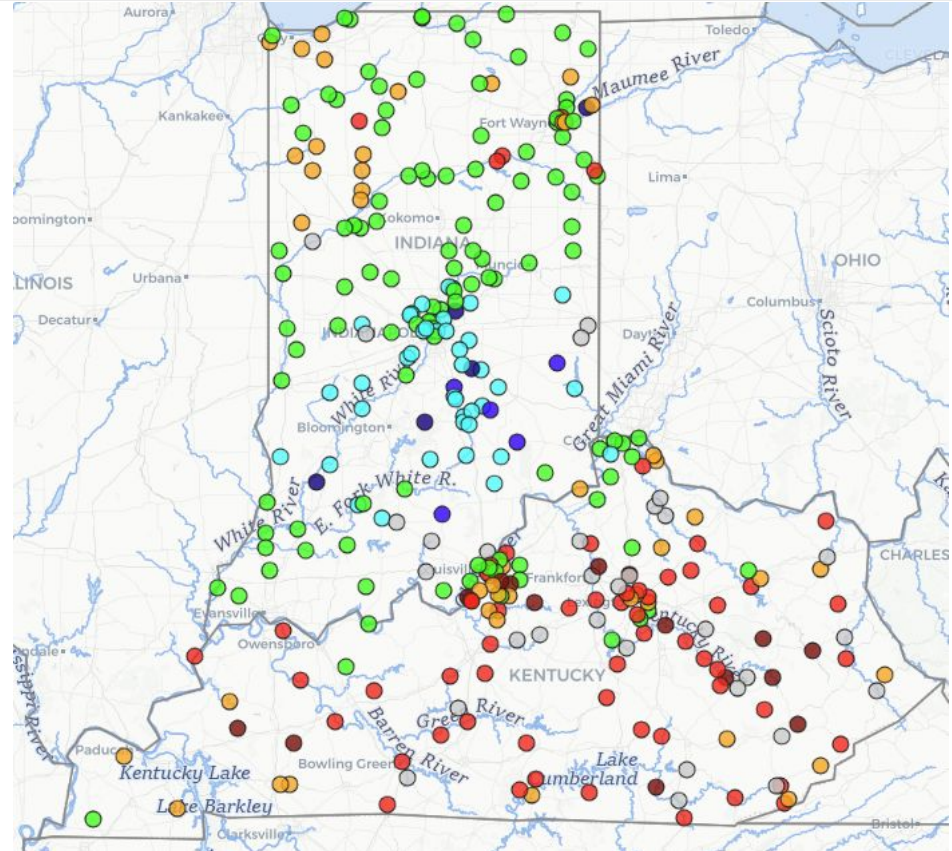
## 7 Day Average Streamflow

- Many streams are experiencing all-time low flows across Kentucky
- Mostly normal streamflow across southern Indiana and along the Ohio River in northern Kentucky

### 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

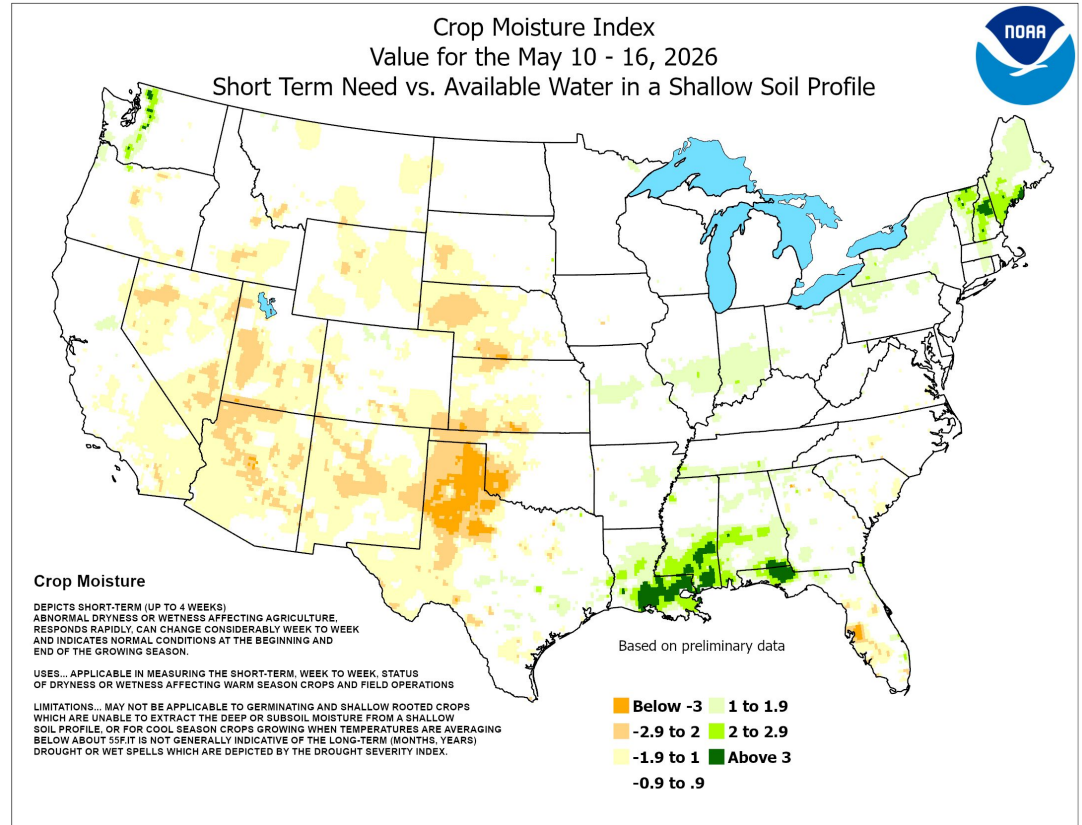




# Agricultural Impacts

Source: National Crop Bulletin

- The US Crop Report shows 69 percent of topsoil is short to very short for KY.
- The US Crop Report shows 16 percent of topsoil is short to very short for Indiana.
- Due to low winter and spring total rainfall, several farm ponds and small water supply reservoirs remain low for this time of year.

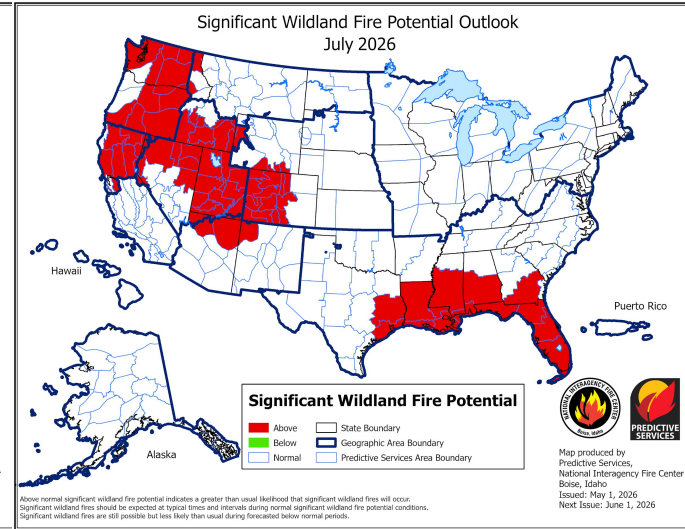
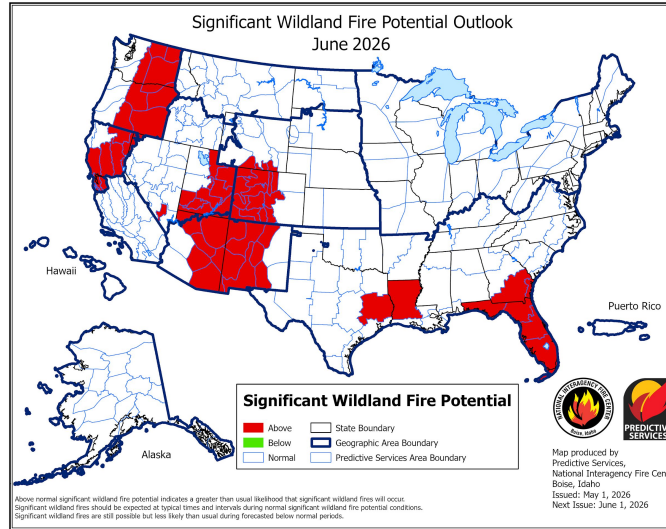




# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- As of now, no significant wildfire potential exists through July.
- There are currently no burn bans reported for any counties in Indiana or Kentucky as of 5/22/2026.

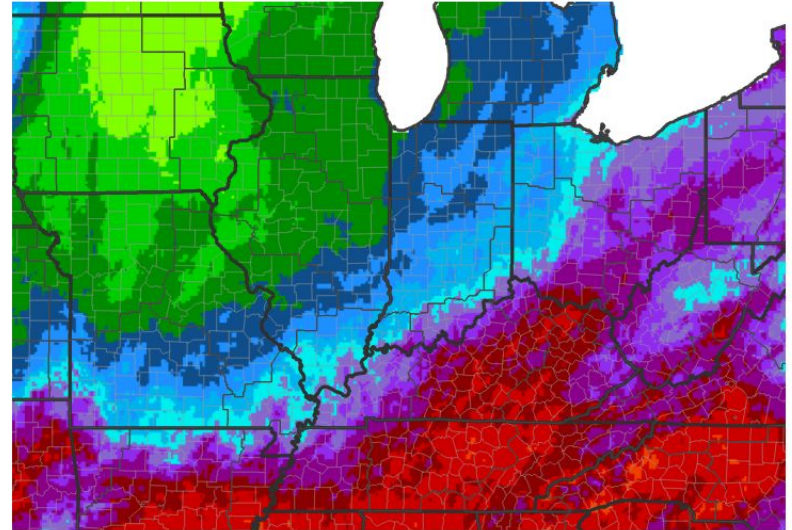




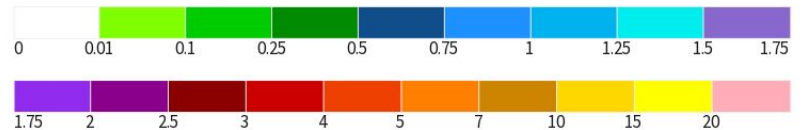
# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Warm front moves north through the area today (5/22), bringing widespread rain Friday morning with showers and thunderstorms in the evening into the overnight hours.
- Episodic bouts of showers/storms are expected to continue through the weekend and into the middle of next week. Localized excessive rainfall may result in flooding in some areas.
- Rainfall totals over the next week are forecast to be 1 to 3+ inches, with the highest totals over southeastern KY.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for May 21, 2026–May 28, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 05/21/26





# 8-14 Day Significant Hazards Outlook

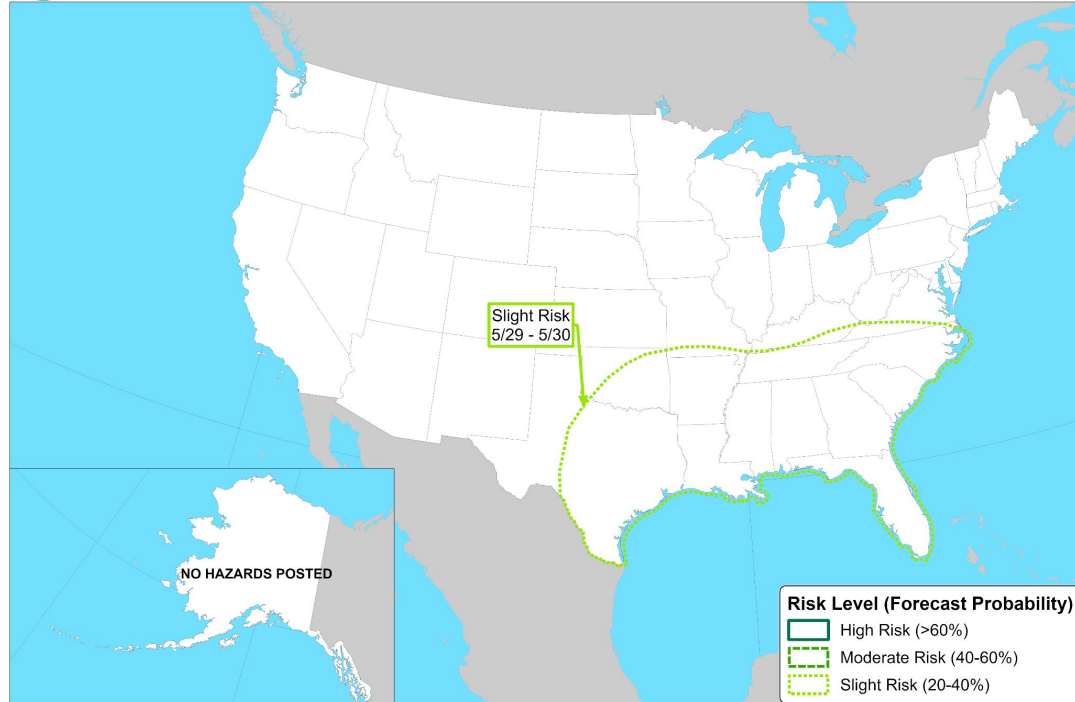
Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- A wet pattern has set up a slight risk for heavy precipitation across much of the southern US, including southern Kentucky.



## Risk of Heavy Precipitation

Valid: May 29 - June 4, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: May 21, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

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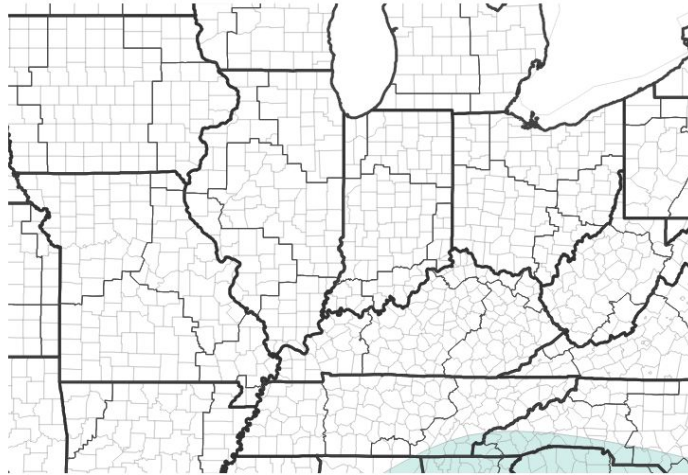


# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- There is roughly equal chances of seeing above/below normal precipitation for the month of June.
- There is a 33 to 50 percent chance of the region seeing above normal temperatures throughout the month of June.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for June 1, 2026–June 30, 2026



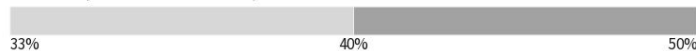
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



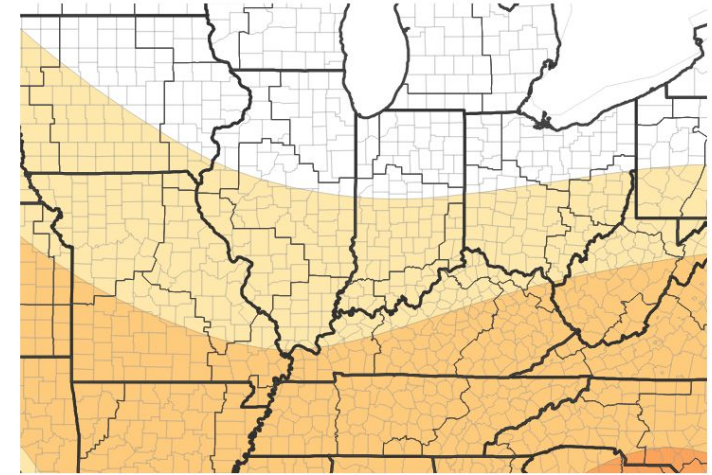
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

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Monthly Temperature Outlook for June 1, 2026–June 30, 2026



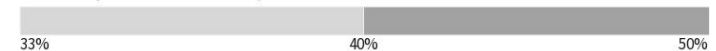
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

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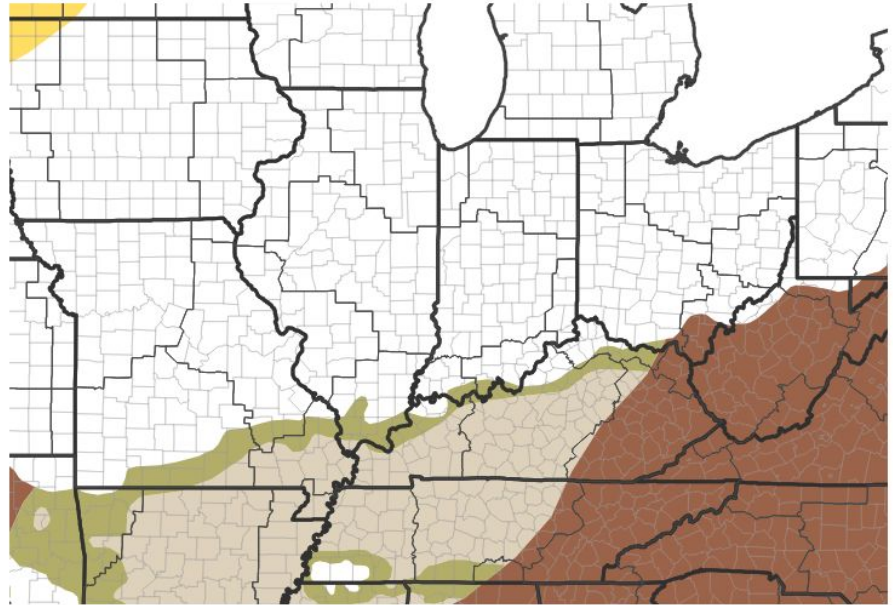


# Drought Outlook

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

- Wet conditions over the next will lead to improvements in drought conditions.
- The Seasonal Drought Outlook (May-Aug) calls for improving or ending drought conditions across much of KY.

## Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for May 21, 2026–August 31, 2026



### Drought Is Predicted To...



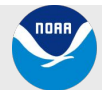
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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