



Drought Information Statement for the South Plains, Rolling Plains, and far Southern Texas Panhandle

Valid September 3rd, 2026

Issued By: WFO Lubbock, TX

Contact Information: lub.webmaster@noaa.gov

- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
 - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/lub/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
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- Drought conditions worsen across the region through August due to a lack of significant rainfall
 - This product will be updated October 1st, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly

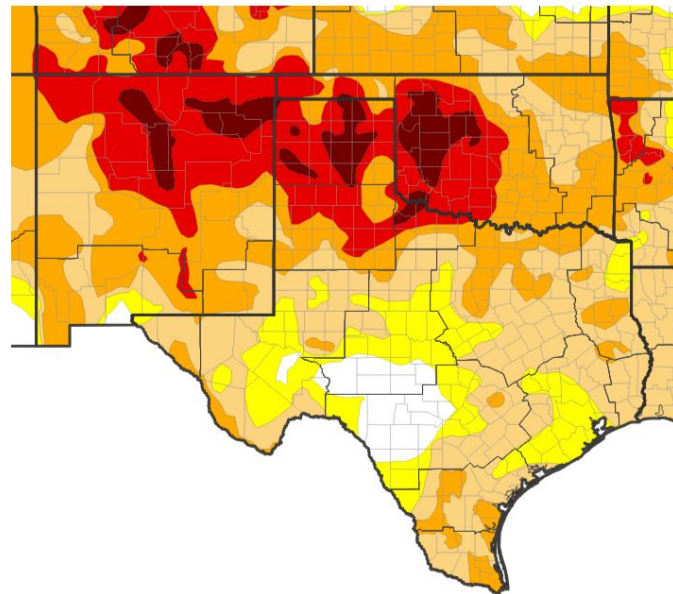


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for South Plains, Rolling Plains, and southern Texas Panhandle

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: A corridor of extreme drought exists across portions of Parmer, Bailey, Castro, Swisher, Briscoe, Hall, Lamb, Hale, Floyd, Motley, Cottle, Crosby, Dickens, King, Kent, Garza, and Childress counties.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Portions of the far southern Texas Panhandle, northern Rolling Plains, Rolling Plains, and South Plains.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Portions of the South Plains.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: A portion of Terry and Lynn Counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 09/01/26



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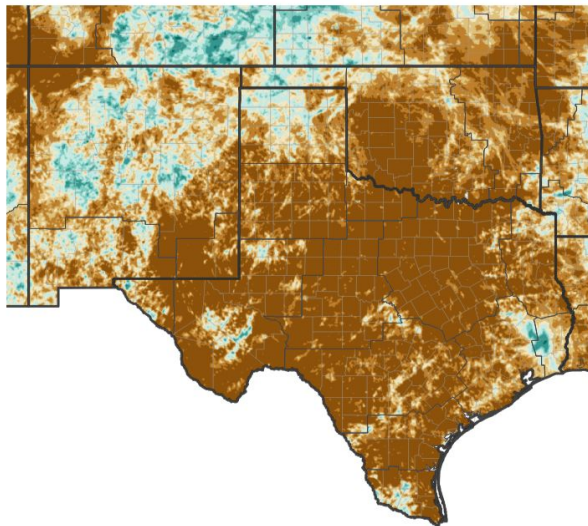


Precipitation

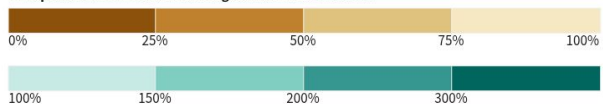
Last 30 days

- Precipitation over the month of August has been in the form of scattered thunderstorms
- This has resulted in inconsistent rainfall with nearly the entire region below 25% of normal rainfall

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



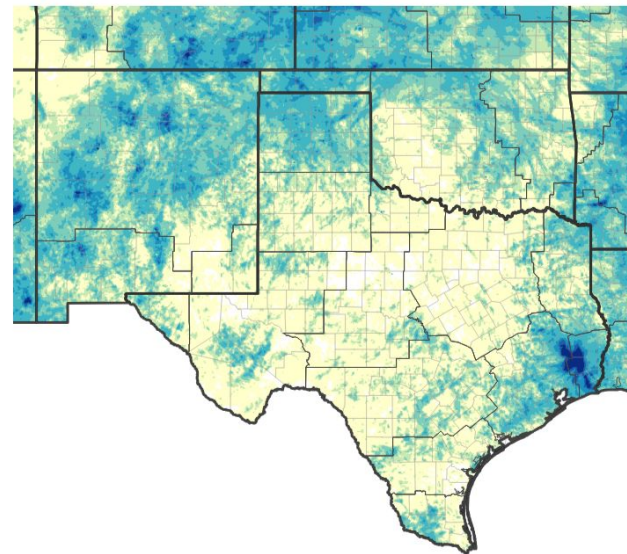
Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



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

Last Updated: 09/03/26

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; Last Updated: 09/03/26



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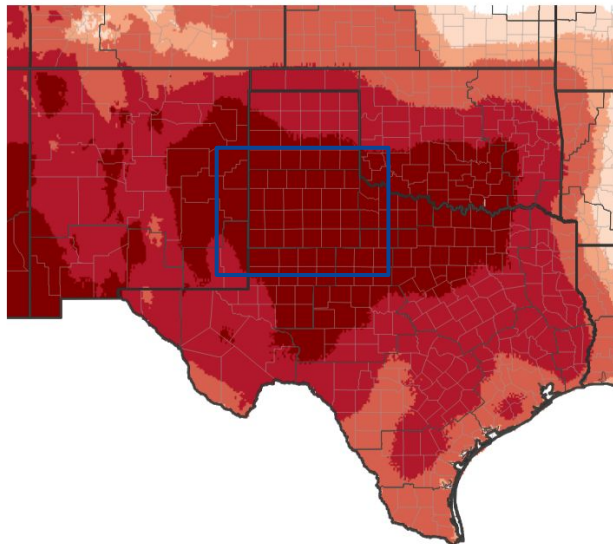


Temperature

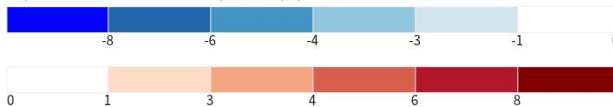
Last 30 days

- Temperatures were well above seasonal averages through August area wide
- Lubbock saw the second warmest August on record with a mean temperature of 85.7°F
- Childress saw the third warmest August on record with a mean temperature of 88.7°F

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



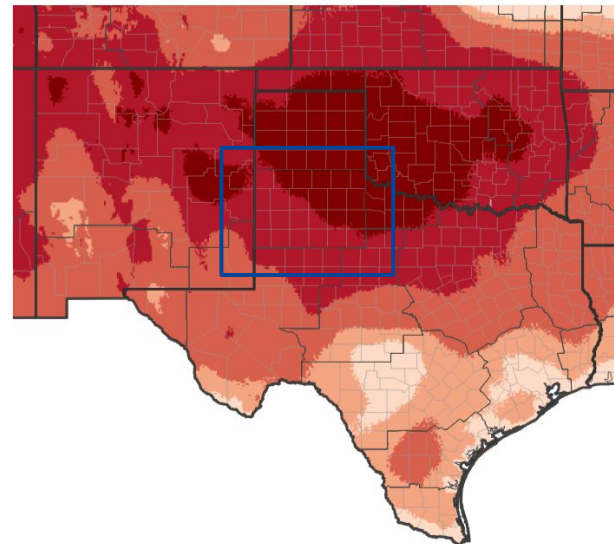
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



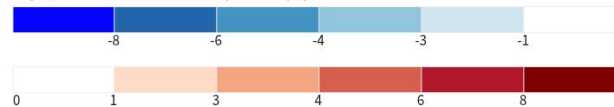
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/30/26

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: 08/30/26



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Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Reservoirs have continued to trend lower over the past month with a lack of widespread rainfall.

Agricultural Impacts

- Agricultural conditions were mixed late this summer but trended worse through August. Please see the latest [Crop and Weather Report](#) from Texas A&M Agrilife.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Isolated thunderstorms during the month of August created several lightning induced wildfire starts.

Other Impacts

- Widespread soil moisture values from 0-100 cm are below the 25th percentile with some locations lower than the 5th percentile. ([NASA SpoRT-LiS](#))

Mitigation Actions

- Burn bans remain in place for almost all counties across the region.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Area reservoirs continued to fall throughout the month of August

Reservoir	Conservation Pool (ft)	Current Elevation (ft)	Percent Full
Mackenzie Lake	3100.0	3018.8	13%
White River Lake	2370.0	2349.5	18%
Lake Alan Henry	2220.0	2209.2	72%
Lake Meredith	2936.0	2889.3	41%

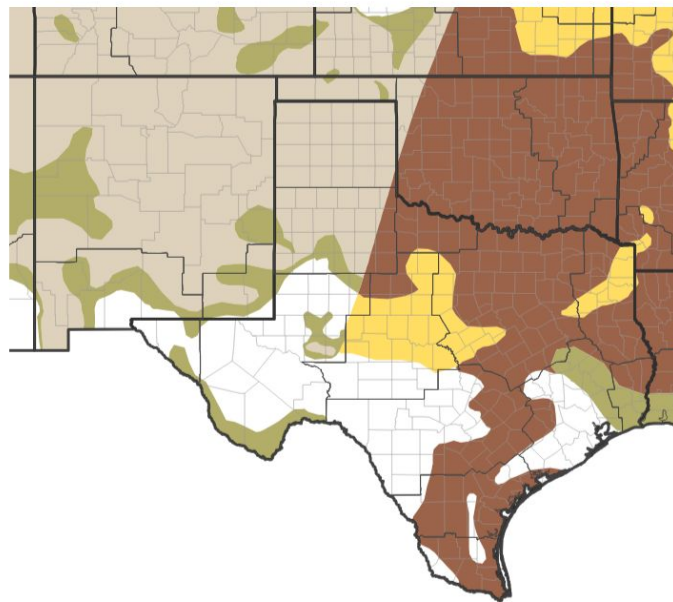


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is expected to improve going into the fall and early winter months due to a strengthening El Niño in the eastern Pacific Ocean

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for August 31, 2026–November 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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