



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

Valid October 1, 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 improve some starting late in September for areas on the caprock
 - Drought conditions worsened over the Rolling Plains with continued lack of meaningful rainfall
 - This product will be updated November 5, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly

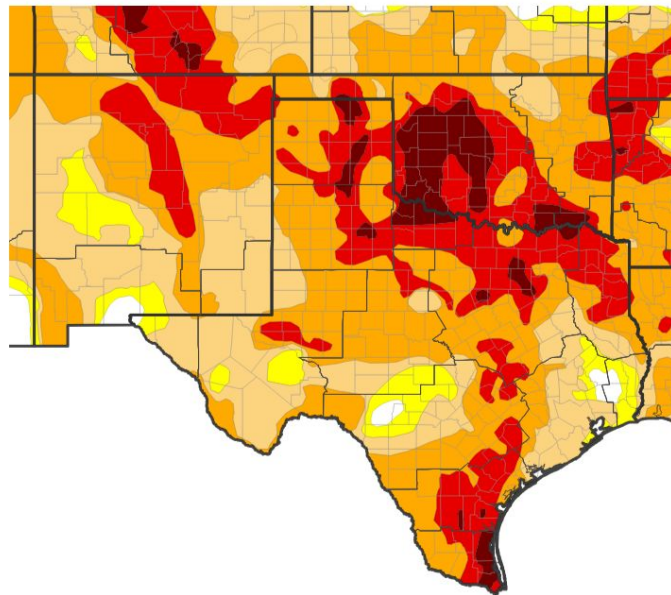


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: Isolated pockets of exceptional drought exists across portions of Briscoe, Motley, Cottle, King, and Dickens counties.
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: A corridor of extreme drought exists across Swisher, Briscoe, Hall, Floyd, Motley, Crosby, Dickens King, Stonewall, Kent, and Garza counties.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Most areas across the Caprock region, including the far southwestern Texas Panhandle and South Plains.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Most areas near the Texas/New Mexico state line.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 09/29/26



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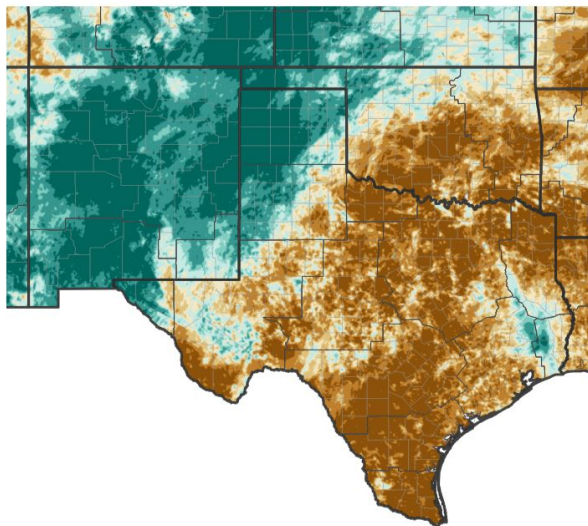


Precipitation

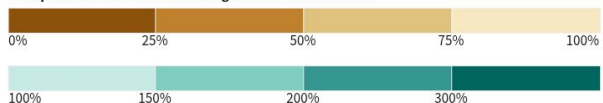
Last 30 days

- Precipitation early in the month was isolated to scattered at best. Towards the end of the month, more widespread precipitation occurred across the Caprock while areas off the Caprock saw isolated to scattered precipitation at best.
- This has resulted in areas across the Caprock nearly 150% above normal. While inconsistent rainfall off the Caprock remaining about 25% to 50% below normal.

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



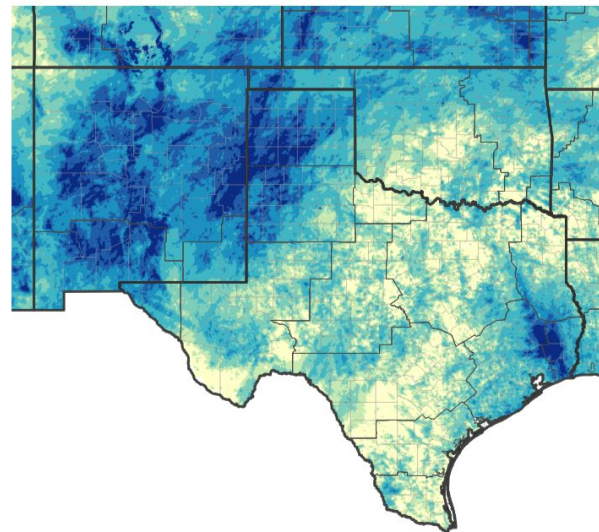
Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



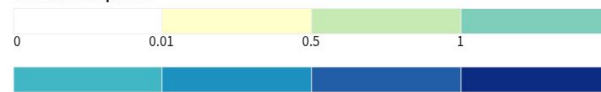
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/01/26

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: 10/01/26



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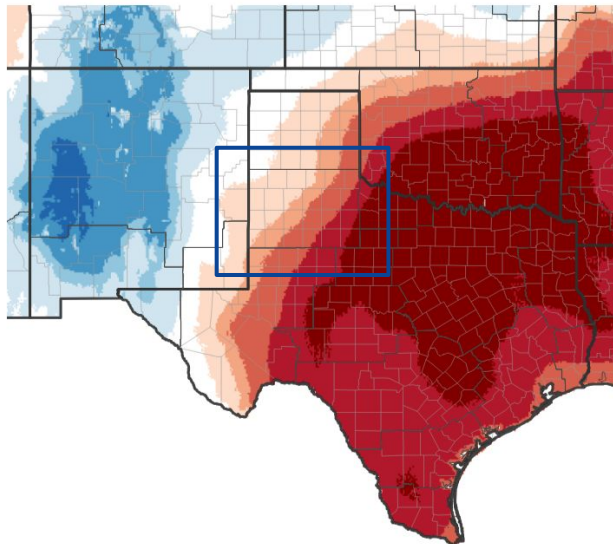


Temperature

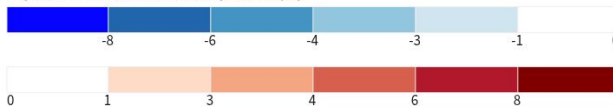
Last 30 days

- Temperatures were well above seasonal averages through September area wide
- Lubbock saw the warmest September on record with a mean temperature of 80.8°F
- Childress saw the warmest September on record with a mean temperature of 84.3°F

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



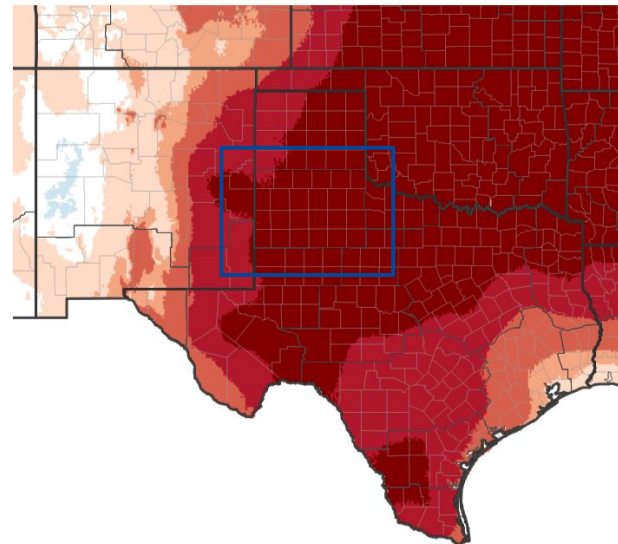
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



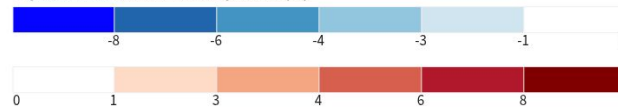
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/27/26

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: 09/27/26



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Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Area reservoirs have gradually trended lower through the month but should start to respond positively to very recent heavy rainfall.

Agricultural Impacts

- Many crops, mostly all dryland, remained poor to fair through September. There was little change near the end of the month as the growing season is ending. Please see the latest [Crop and Weather Report](#) from Texas A&M Agrilife.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- There were several wildfires early to mid September, with many started by lightning. Few fires were observed near the end of September after beneficial rainfall.

Other Impacts

- Soil moisture values vary widely across the region, ranging as low as the 2nd percentile to as high as the 95th percentile. ([NASA SpoRT-LiS](#))

Mitigation Actions

- Many county level burn bans remain in place.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Area reservoirs have continued to trend lower through September, but a slight upward trend is expected as a result of heavy rainfall at the end of September.

Reservoir	Conservation Pool (ft)	Current Elevation (ft)	Percent Full
Mackenzie Lake	3100.0	3018.6	13%
White River Lake	2370.0	2348.9	16%
Lake Alan Henry	2220.0	2208.6	71%
Lake Meredith	2936.0	2889.6	42%

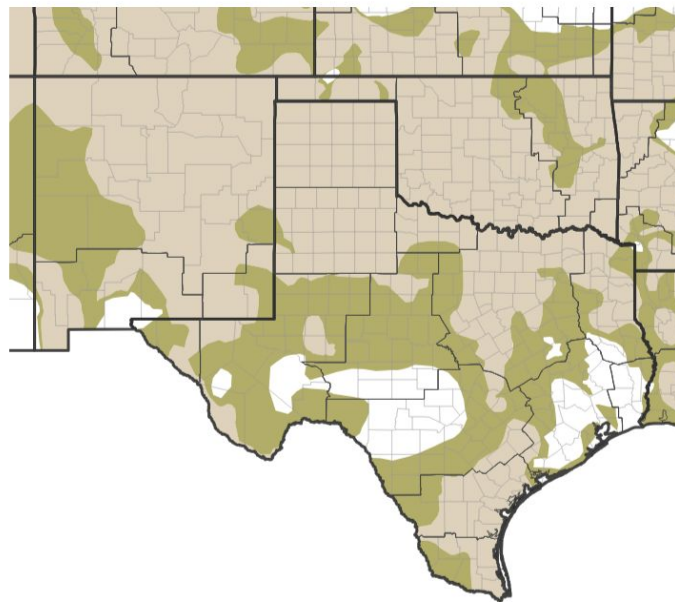


Drought Outlook

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 September 30, 2026–December 31, 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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