



Drought Information Statement for southeast MS, southwest AL, and the western FL Panhandle

Valid 10/5/2023

Issued By: WFO Mobile/Pensacola

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated Oct. 12, 2023 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/mob/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



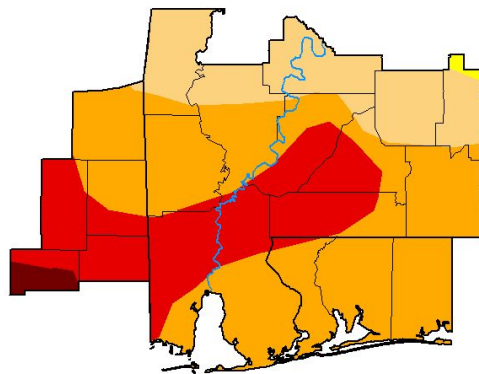


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the SE US and central Gulf Coast

- Exceptional Drought Persists over Portions of Southwest Sections of Interior Southeast Mississippi.
- Severe to Extreme Drought Expands South of the US Highway 84 Corridor.
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D4 (Exceptional Drought): Much of Stone Co. MS.
 - D3 (Extreme Drought): Expands into Portions of Southwest Alabama.
 - D2 (Severe Drought): For Remainder of the Area south of US Highway 84.
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): Areas North of US Highway 84.

U.S. Drought Monitor Mobile, AL/ Pensacola, FL WFO



October 3, 2023

(Released Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	99.65	79.67	27.91	1.45
Last Week 09-26-2023	0.00	100.00	89.36	74.41	16.63	1.45
3 Months Ago 07-04-2023	99.98	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2023	46.95	53.05	17.97	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	0.00	100.00	89.36	74.41	16.63	1.45
One Year Ago 10-04-2022	5.53	94.47	21.25	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author

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CPC/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor NWS Mobile/Pensacola Forecast Area valid 8am EDT October 3rd.



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Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [1-week change map](#) for the SE US and central Gulf Coast

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: For areas over the Lower Tombigbee and Alabama River Valleys. For Areas along and north of US Highway 84.
 - No Change: Much of remainder of the local area.

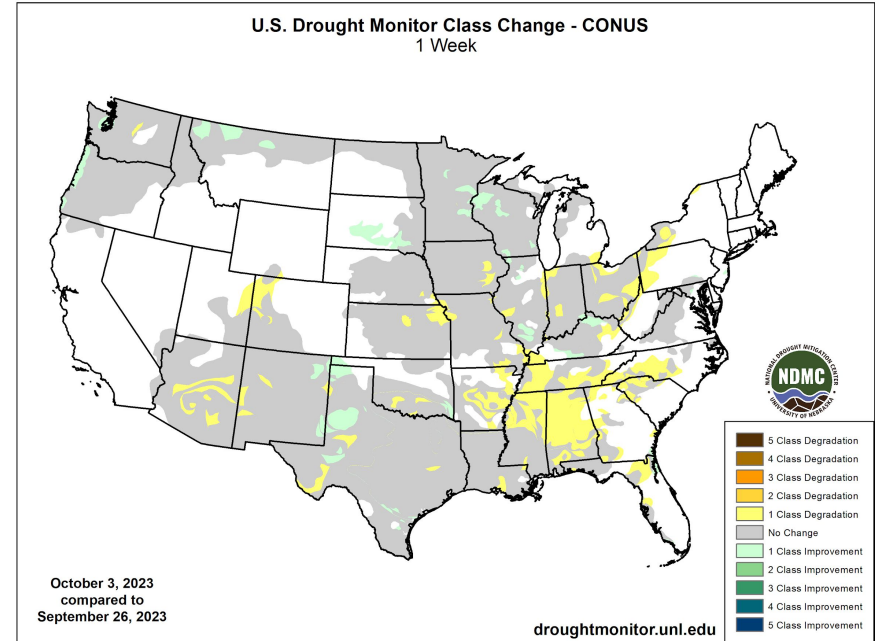


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map valid 8am EDT October 3rd.





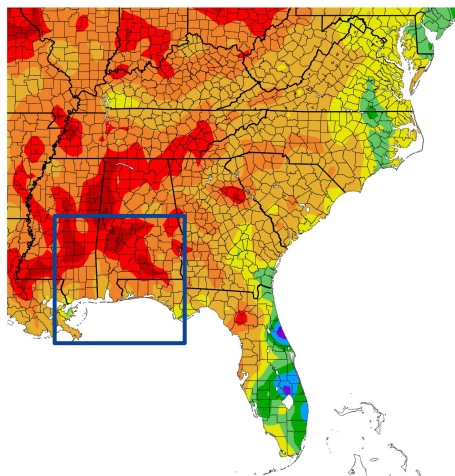
Precipitation

Table of Accumulated Rainfall (Inches) from Select Locations - Period: August 1 to October 5, 2023

Station	Observed	Normal	Departure
Brewton AL 3NNE (COOP)	2.32*	14.22	-11.90
Niceville FL (COOP)	6.99	17.00	-10.01
Atmore AL (COOP)	1.93	11.64	-9.71
Fairhope AL 2NE (COOP)	4.97	14.56	-9.59
Beaumont MS (COOP)	1.51*	10.49	-8.98
Bay Minette AL (COOP)	6.28	15.21	-8.93
Pensacola FL (ASOS)	6.05	14.95	-8.90
Pensacola FL 7NNE (COOP)	5.20	13.52	-8.32
Mobile AL (ASOS)	4.92	12.89	-7.97
Crestview FL (ASOS)	4.19	12.12	-7.93
Evergreen AL (ASOS)	2.43*	10.31	-7.88
Dauphin Island AL (COOP)	4.56	11.88	-7.32
Leakesville MS 6WSW (COOP)	4.64	10.39	-5.75
Downtown Mobile AL (ASOS)	6.79	12.25	-5.46
Waynesboro MS 2W (COOP)	4.75	9.04	-4.29

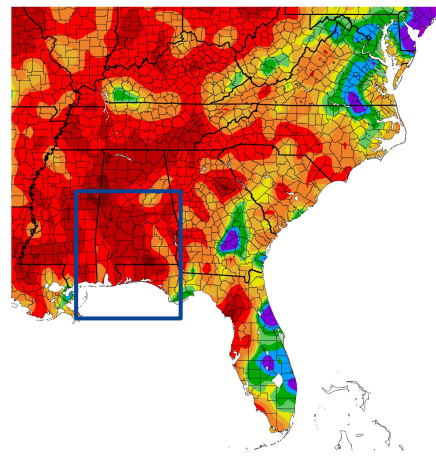
* Indicates Record Lowest Amount Recorded for Period

Precipitation (in)
9/5/2023 – 10/4/2023



Generated 10/5/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/5/2023 – 10/4/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 23 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

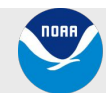
Image Captions:

Left - The box inset shows the central Gulf Coast region at mostly 0.1 to 2 inches for the period.

Right - The box inset shows most areas generally 5 to 25% of Normal for the period.

Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.

Data over the past 30 days ending October 4, 2023



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Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Many local streams/rivers over southwest AL/western Florida remain in low flow and stage at below or much below normal levels. Typically, deeply submerged objects will likely become closer to the surface or exposed. This can lead to damage of watercraft hulls as well as increased difficulty in safe navigation of recreational boating and commercial waterway needs.

Agricultural Impacts

- Crop condition in the driest of areas remains very poor and pasture lands provide little to no livestock feed. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- The risk of wildfire remains above normal over southeast Mississippi and southwest Alabama.

Societal Impacts

- Increase in air-borne allergens likely to create problems for respiratory sensitive groups.

Mitigation Actions

- Water conservation techniques are strongly encouraged in drought areas. Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information. Local water restriction ordinances may be in place.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Select River/Stream Points at Below Normal Levels - Valid 8AM October 5, 2023

River/Stream Point	Discharge(cfs)	Stage(ft)	%Class, Rating
Cyprus Creek near Janice MS	7	5.62	14, Below Normal
Red Creek at Vestry MS	127	4.02	9, Much Below Normal
Big Creek at Co. Rd 63 near Wilmer AL	14	1.47	9, Much Below Normal
Chickasaw Creek near Kushla AL	35	2.56	6, Much Below Normal
Styx River near Elsanor AL	104	1.57	7, Much Below Normal
Pine Barren Creek near Snow Hill AL	19	2.12	6, Much Below Normal
Alabama River at Claiborne L&D	4330	34.60	9, Much Below Normal
Blackwater River near Bradley AL	30	0.66	15, Below Normal
Eleven Mile Creek near West Pensacola FL	23	4.69	3, Low
Perdido River at Barrineau Park FL	205	1.17	4, Much Below Normal
Shoal River near Crestview FL	265	2.18	1, Low
Yellow River at Milligan FL	194	0.49	7, Much Below Normal

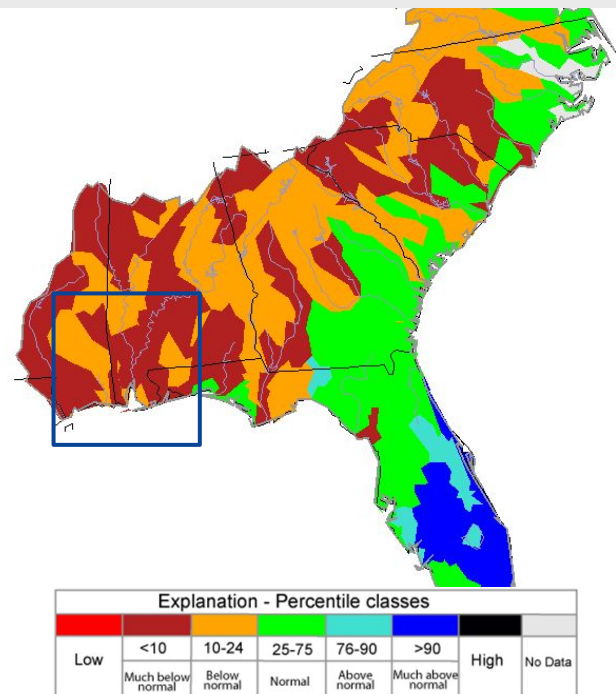


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid 10/5/2023. Box Inset - Below to much below normal stream/river flow persists over the central Gulf Coast.

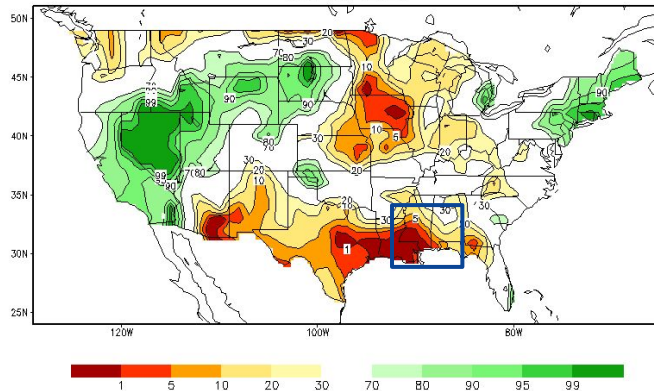




Agricultural Impacts

- Severe to excessively dry crop moisture for much of the local area. In these areas, crop condition is very poor.
- Crop disease and insect damage elevated.
- Pasture lands provide little to no livestock feed. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.
- Leading to very poor crop conditions is the parched sub-soil moisture makeup.
- The latest state-wide top soil moisture content short to very short metrics vs 5 year means (Depth 6", courtesy of USDA 10/1/23).
 - MS: 78% Dry (Avg: 35%).
 - AL: 66% Dry (Avg: 36.2%).
 - FL: 28% Dry (Avg: 23.2%).

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
OCT 03, 2023



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending SEP 30, 2023
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

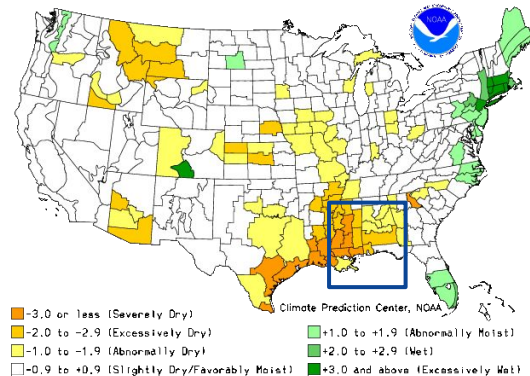


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid October 3, 2023

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending Sep 30, 2023



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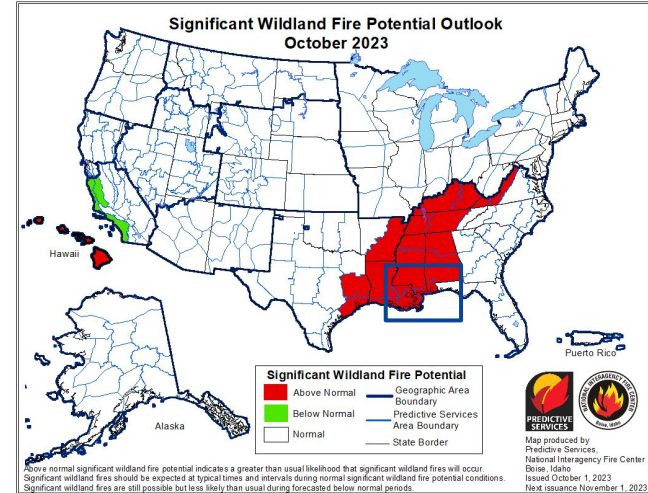
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Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Decayed timber and very dry underbrush in area forests along with dry grasslands pose an above normal risk for significant wildfire potential over the entire state of Mississippi and Alabama.
- Local park campers are strongly urged to follow park instructions on campfires. Keep camp fires contained in enclosed screens if available. Ensure fires are put out before going to bed.
- To view the seven day significant fire potential maps, please refer to the link above.



Latest Burn Bans and/or Advisories By State:
[Mississippi](#)
[Alabama](#)
[Florida](#)

Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for October 2023
Note: Image updates are the first of each month or the first work day of each month.





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Some rain looks to move over the deep south through the end of next week.
- Although isolated pockets of basin average rains greater than 0.75" are forecast over southern MS, rainfall for much of the area appears light and would not be close to a "drought buster" by any means.

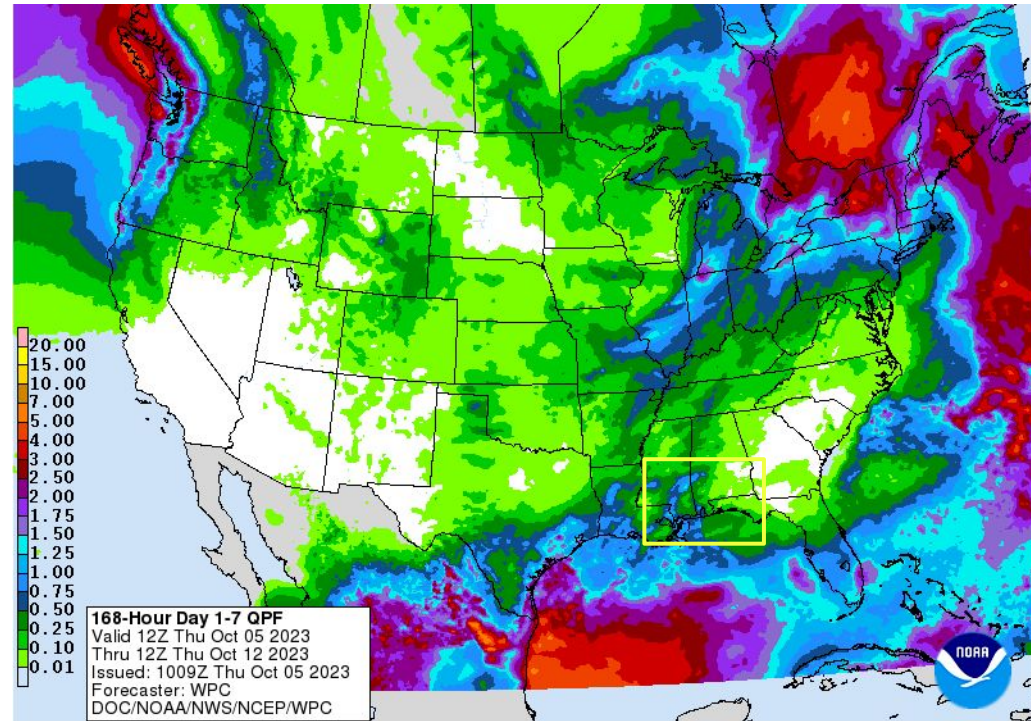


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Thursday October 5 to 12, 2023 shows pockets of greater than 0.75".





Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Temperatures are favored to lean above normal from the Mid-Atlantic coast, Southeast US to the Gulf coast through the close of the 2023.
- The potential of above normal precipitation is favored from the Mid-Atlantic, southwest to across the Deep South.

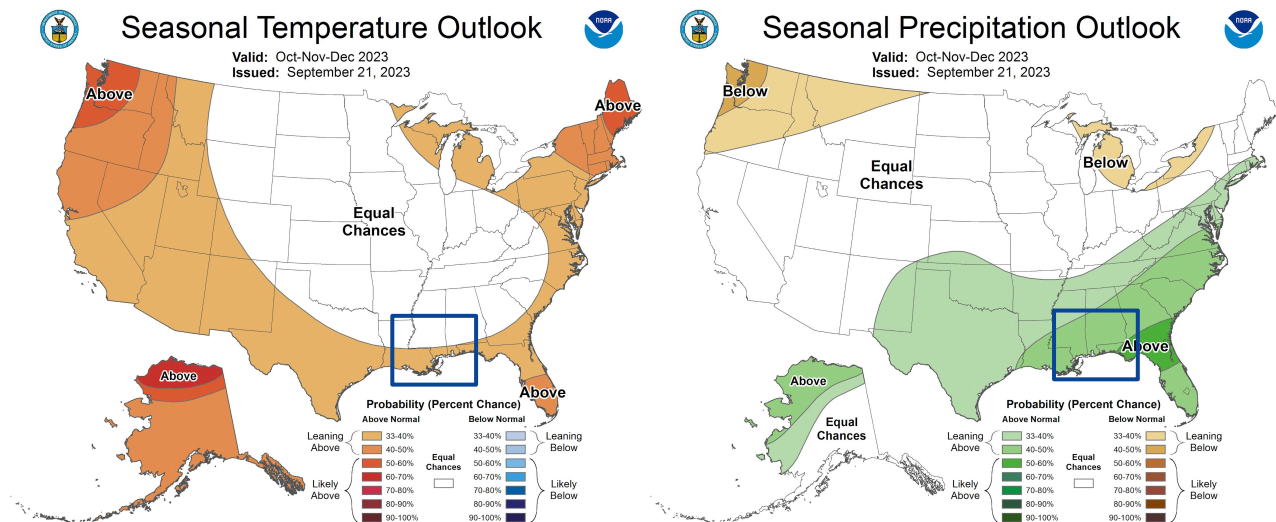


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook](#).

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook](#).

Valid October-November-December 2023



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Drought Outlook

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

- Through the month of October, drought is favored to persist over the local area.

U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for October 2023
Released September 30, 2023

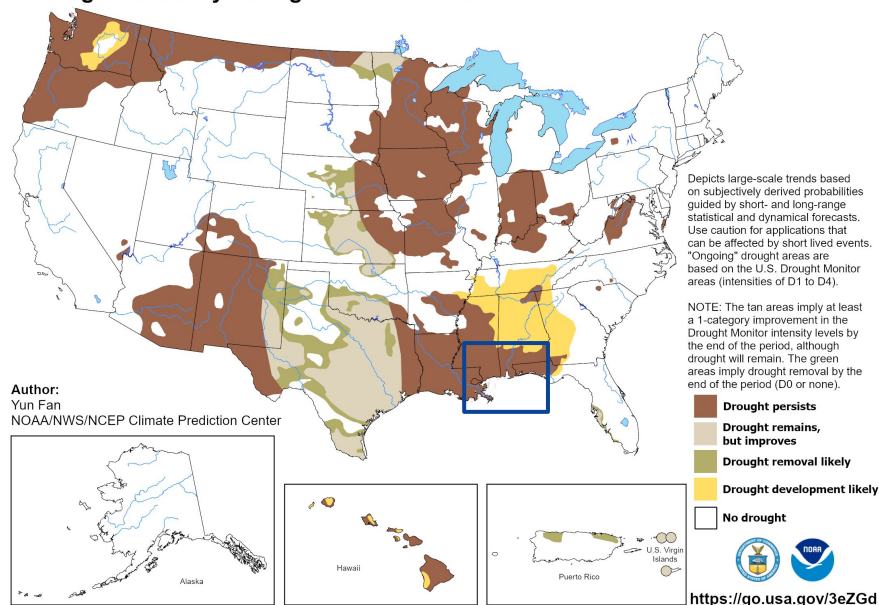


Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released
September 30, 2023 valid for October 2023

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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