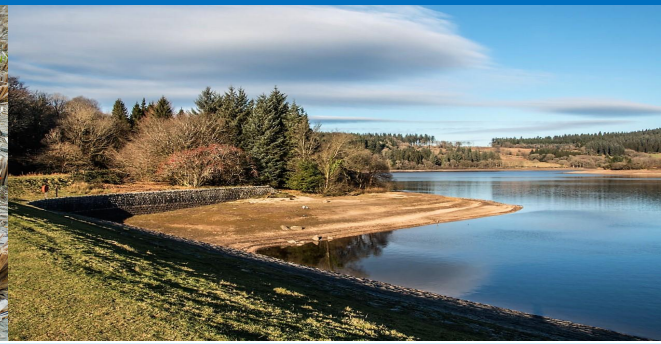
Drought Information Statement for southeast MS, southwest AL, and the western FL Panhandle

Valid 11/23/2023

Issued By: WFO Mobile/Pensacola
Contact Information: sr-mob.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated November 30, 2023 (or sooner) if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at *drought.gov/drought-information-statements*.
- Please visit *weather.gov/mob/DroughtInformationStatement* for previous statements.

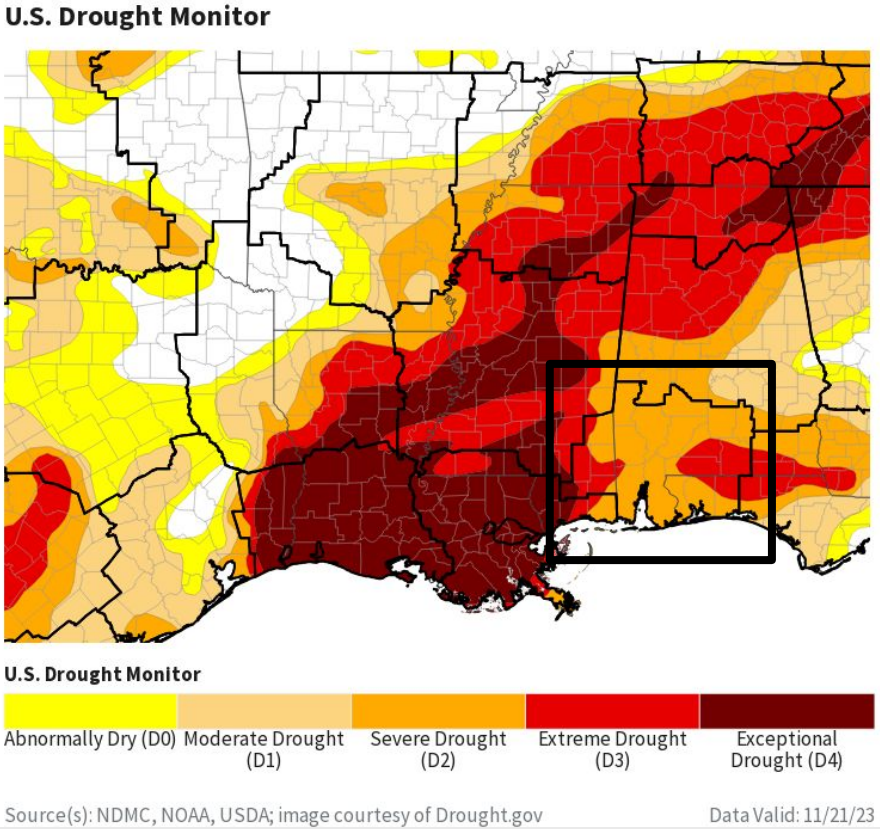


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for the SE US and central Gulf Coast

- Past week rainfall puts a small dent in extreme drought coverage. Severe drought maintains its grip over much of the central Gulf Coast.

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: Persists for western Stone Co. MS.
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Southeast MS and portions of the AL and northwest FL state border.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Holds over the remainder of the local area.

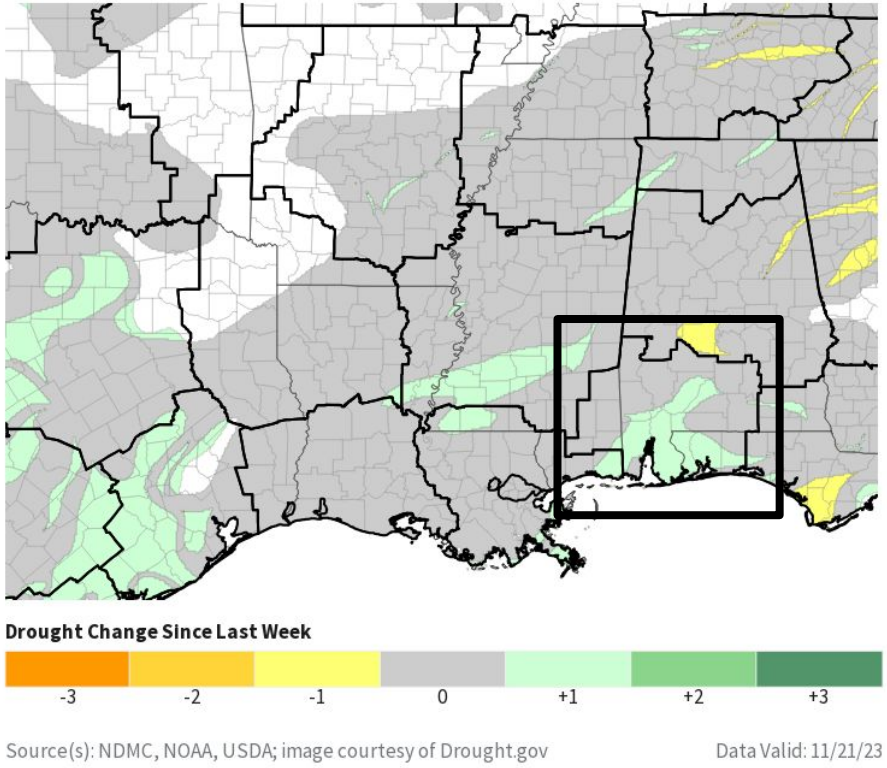


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 1-week change map for the SE US and central Gulf Coast

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
  - **Drought Improved:** Coastal counties of Alabama, eastward to the I-10 corridor of northwest Florida and a small area east of the Lower Alabama River saw a one-class improvement over the past week.
  - **No Change:** The remainder of the local area experienced no change in the drought intensity compared to the past week.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Precipitation

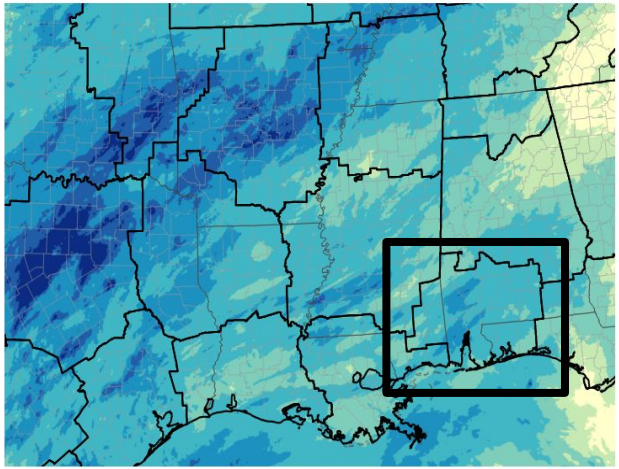
Table of Accumulated Rainfall (Inches) from Select Locations - Period: August 1 to November 22, 2023

Station	Rainfall	Normal	% of Normal
Atmore AL	6.16	18.01	34.2%
Niceville FL	13.23	24.40	54.2%
Beaumont MS*	6.34	16.99	37.3%
Pensacola FL	10.55	22.00	48.0%
Bay Minette AL	12.44	21.59	57.6%
Crestview FL	7.42	18.73	39.6%
Pensacola FL 7NNE	9.36	20.31	46.1%
Mobile AL	10.24	19.54	52.4%
Evergreen AL*	7.00	16.19	43.2%
Downtown Mobile AL	11.31	18.43	61.4%
Waynesboro MS 2W	8.54	15.09	56.6%

Sites include NWS Automated Weather Stations and COOP.

***** *Indicates Record Lowest Amount Recorded for Period*

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



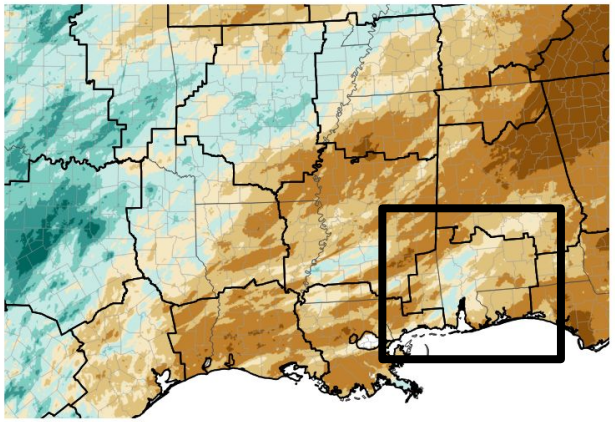
Inches of Precipitation

0 0.01 0.5 1 2 4 6 8

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

Last Updated: 11/22/23

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

100% 150% 200% 300%

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

Last Updated: 11/22/23

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Due to recent, beneficial rains, flow and stage levels on many local streams/rivers continue to reflect improvement.

Agricultural Impacts

- Extreme degree of crop loss to yield potential in the hardest hit areas. Crop disease is elevated along with increased occurrence of insect damage. Reports of winter rye-grass being barely visible and drought stressed. Peanuts and cotton reported to be of lower grade and more difficult to harvest due to lack of rainfall. Livestock stressed as pasture lands provide little to no feed with reports in some areas of 50% hay reduction and 25 to 50% reduction in quality. Increased farmer expense for supplemental feeding initiatives to maintain livestock condition.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- The risk of significant wildfire remains above normal over southeast Mississippi and the entire state of Alabama.

Societal Impacts

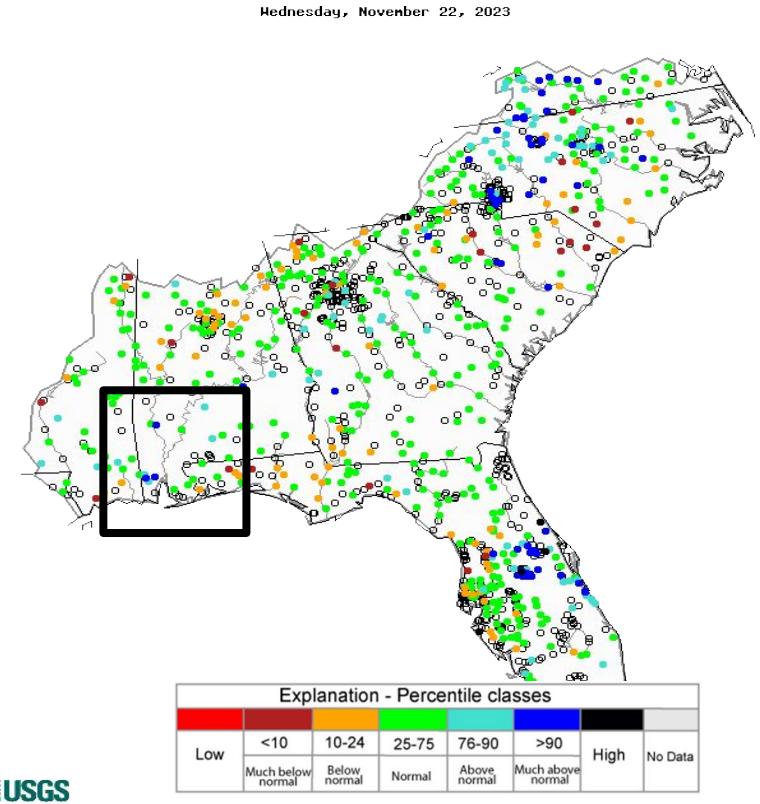
- Increase in air-borne allergens likely to create problems for respiratory sensitive groups.

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

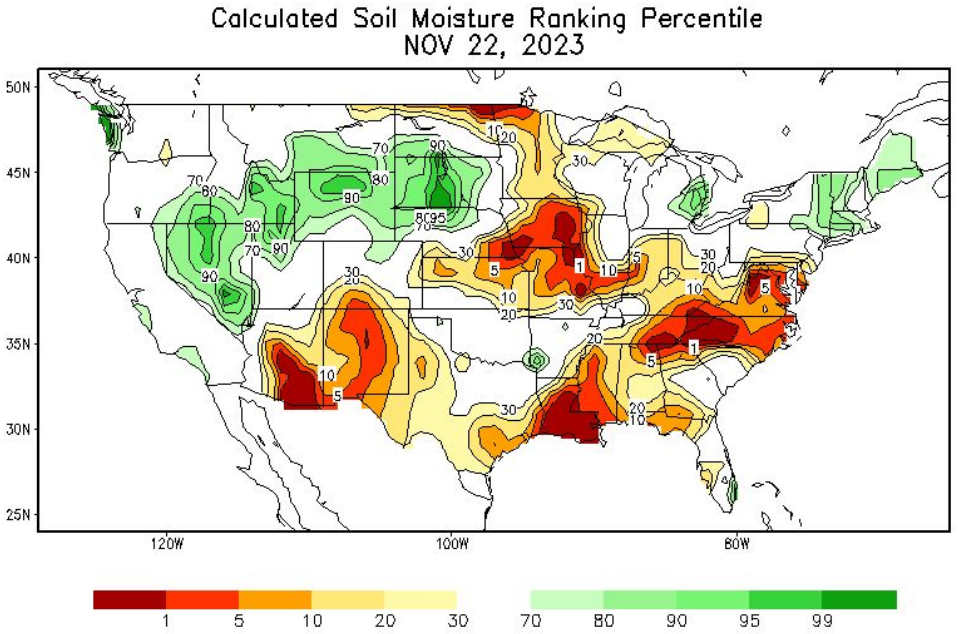
- Due to rains over the past couple weeks, the response in flow and stage levels on many local stream and river points continue to improve. A few river and stream points though continue to run below normal.



Agricultural Impacts

- Winter crop grade is poor to very poor in the hardest hit drought areas. Crop disease, insect damage to fields, and livestock stress is elevated. **It is recommended that farmers reach out to local USDA office for details on available funding assistance.**

- The latest topsoil moisture content short to very short metrics vs 10-year means (Depth 6”, courtesy of USDA 11/19/23):
  - MS: 82% Dry (Avg: 23%)
  - AL: 83% Dry (Avg: 32%)
  - FL: 34% Dry (Avg: 27%)



Fire Hazard Impacts

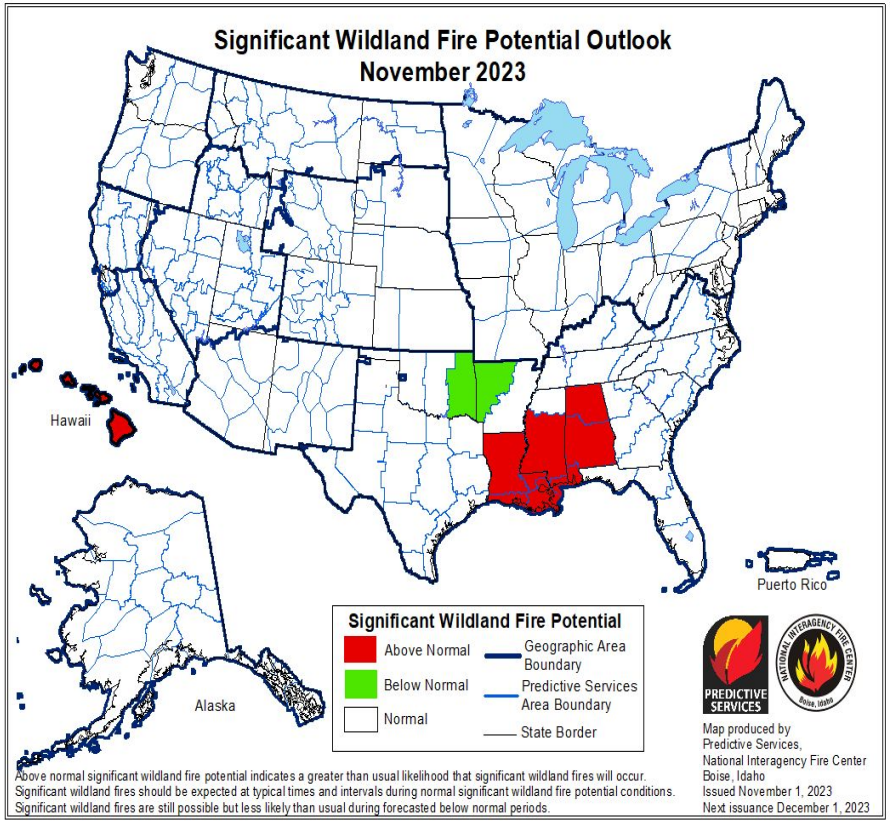
Link to Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.

- Decayed timber and very dry underbrush in area forests along with dry grasslands pose an above normal risk for significant wildfire potential over the central and southern part of the state of Mississippi and all of Alabama. In the event of strong cold frontal passages, periods of critically low daytime humidity in combination gusty northerly winds will only exacerbate the wildfire potential.

- Local park campers are strongly urged to follow park instructions on campfires. If allowed, keep camp fires contained in enclosed screens if available and ensure fires are completely put out before going to bed.

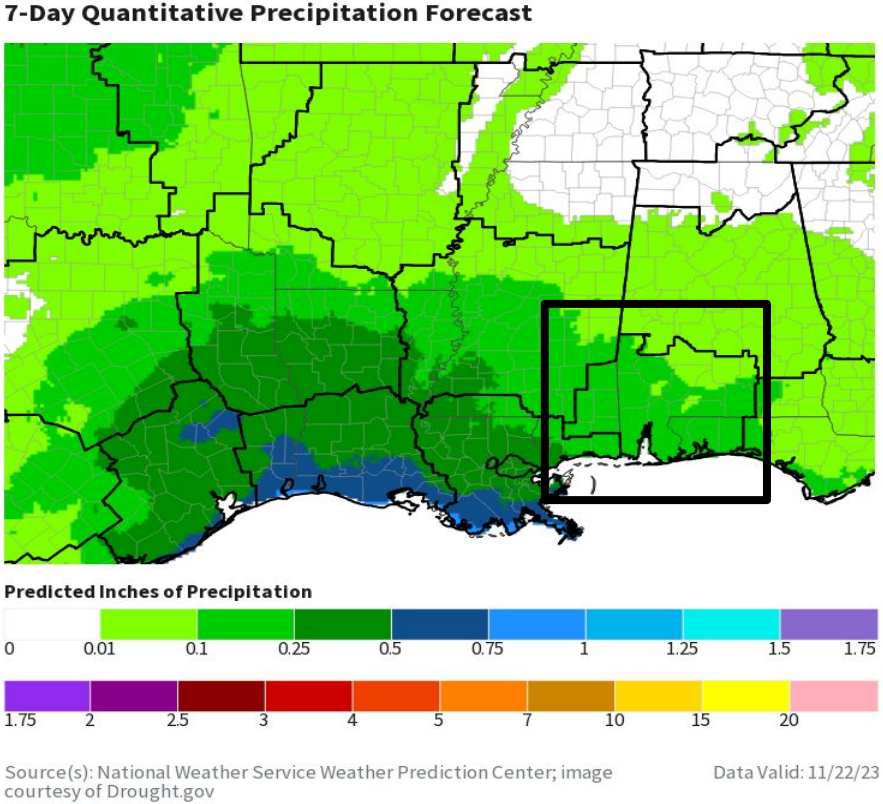
- To view the seven day significant fire potential maps, please refer to the link above.

Latest Burn Bans and/or Advisories By State:
Mississippi and Alabama and Florida



Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Through November 29th, basin average rains are anticipated to be mostly light, at or less than a quarter inch.

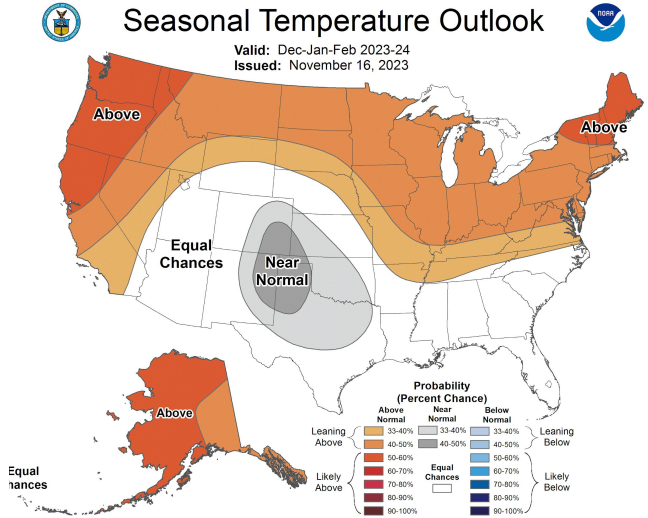


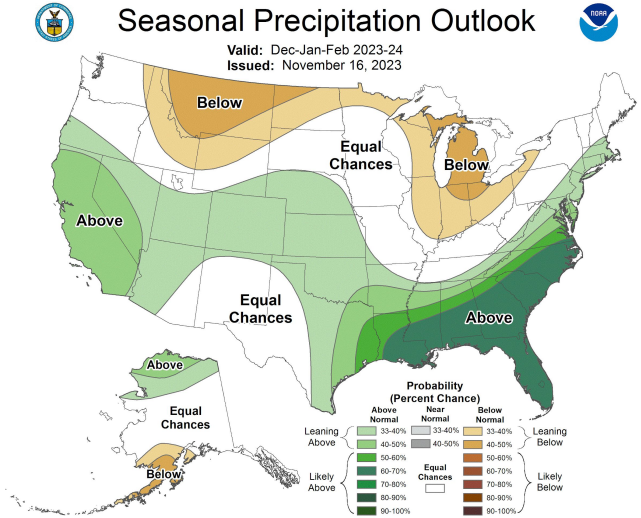
Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- Equal chances of above or below normal temperatures are favored from Nov-Dec-Jan 2023-24.

- The seasonal outlook for precipitation over the same period is now leaning likely above normal from the deep south to the southeast U.S.





Drought Outlook

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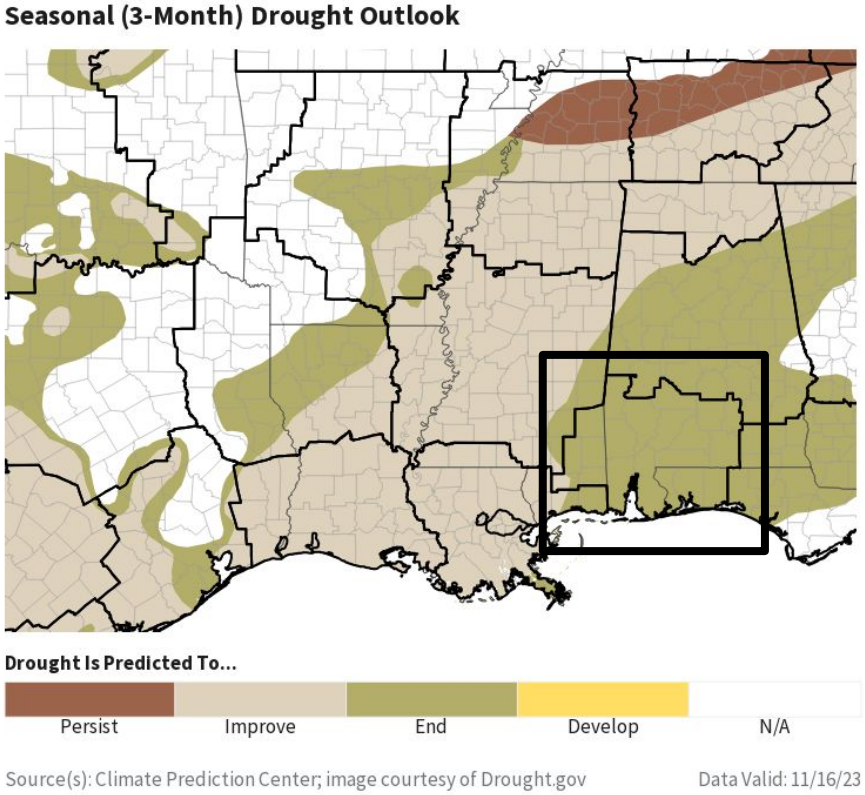
- Indications in the longer term outlook, closing out 2023 and entering the beginning of 2024, reflects an improvement or perhaps an end to drought.



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook