



# Drought Information Statement for Central/Southern MN and Western WI

## Valid May 21, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Twin Cities/Chanhassen, MN

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

- This product will be updated June 18, 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/MPX/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
  - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
- 
- Driest conditions remain in southwest and western MN
  - Rainfall May 17-18 enough to keep drought expansion at bay



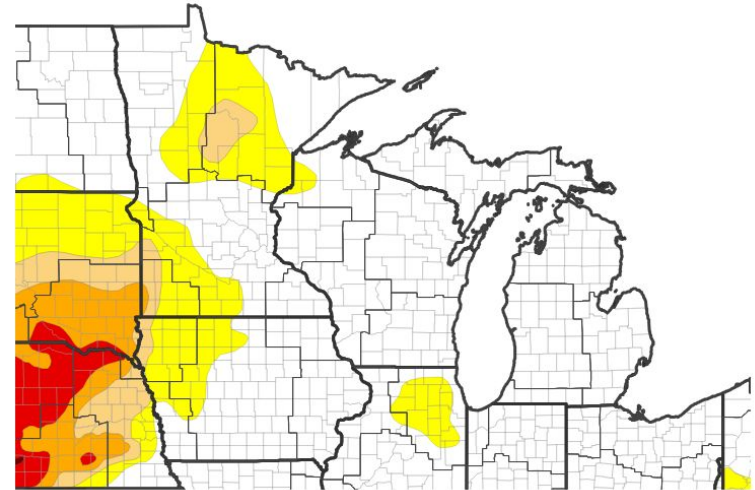


# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Central/Southern MN and Western WI

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: No areas.
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: No areas.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: No areas.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Portions of Lac Qui Parle and Yellow Medicine counties in western MN
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Parts of central MN and west central into south central MN

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 05/19/26



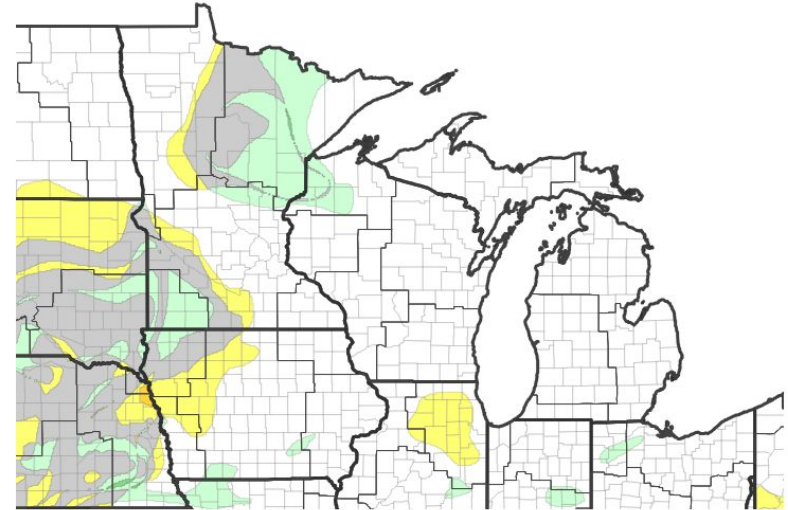


# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Central/Southern MN and Western WI

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: west central into south central MN
  - No Change: Most of the region
  - Drought Improved: Some small portions of southwest and central MN

U.S. Drought Monitor 4-Week Change Map



Drought Degradation



Drought Improvement



Sources(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/19/26

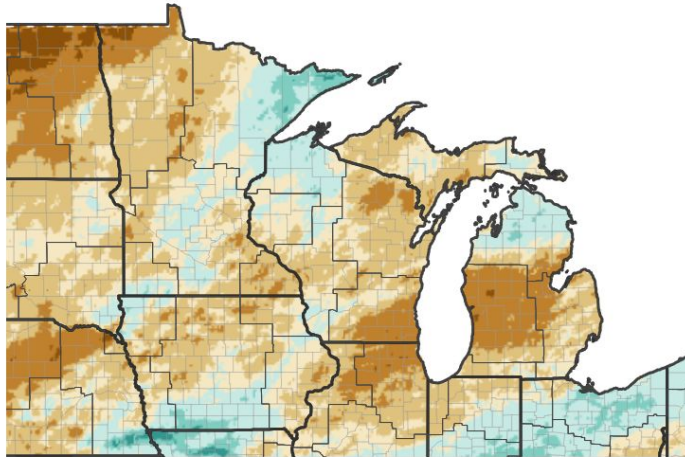




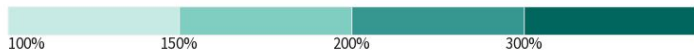
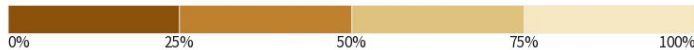
# Precipitation

- Over the last 30 days, the region has seen near to below normal precipitation.
- Over the last 90 days, the dryness in western MN stands out

**30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal**



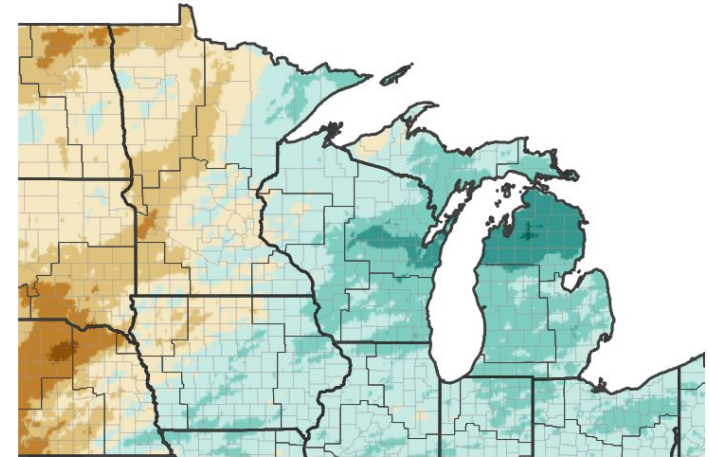
**Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions**



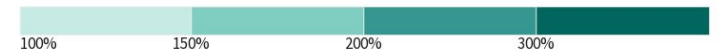
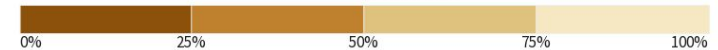
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/21/26

**90-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal**



**Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions**



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

Data Valid: 05/21/26

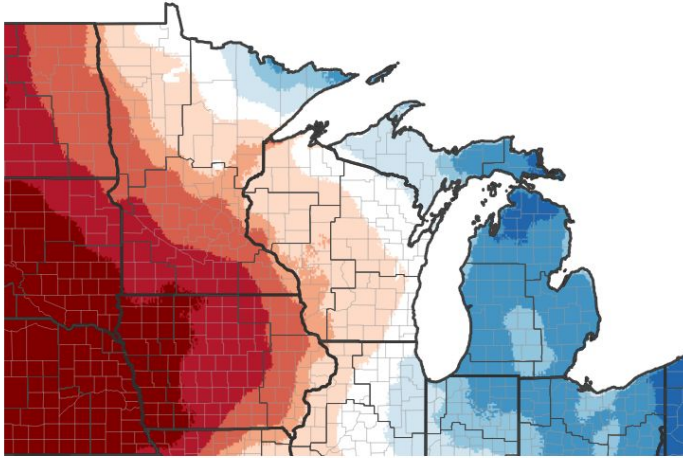




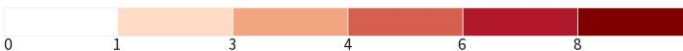
# Temperature

- Going back the last 30 days, temperatures have been running at to above normal across the region.
- The greatest warm temperature departures have been observed from west central through south central MN

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



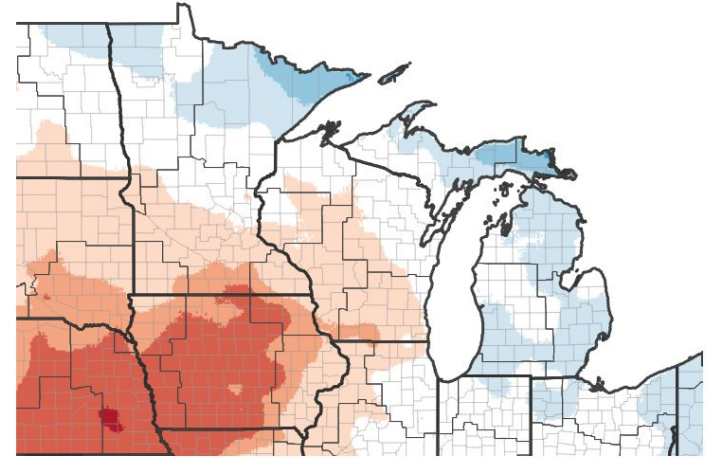
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



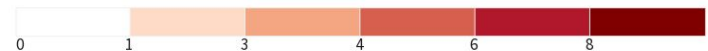
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Stream flows are trending toward the lower end of the normal band ([USGS Streamflows](#), [MN Streamflow](#))

## Agricultural Impacts

- The planting season is quickly winding down, with soil moisture currently near normal ([State USDA Crop Reports](#))

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- The combination of recent rain, cooler temperatures, and green vegetation, the fire danger has decreased considerably since the start of May ([MN Fire Danger](#), [WI Fire Danger](#))

## Other Impacts

- No known additional impacts at this time.

## Mitigation Actions

- None currently in place.



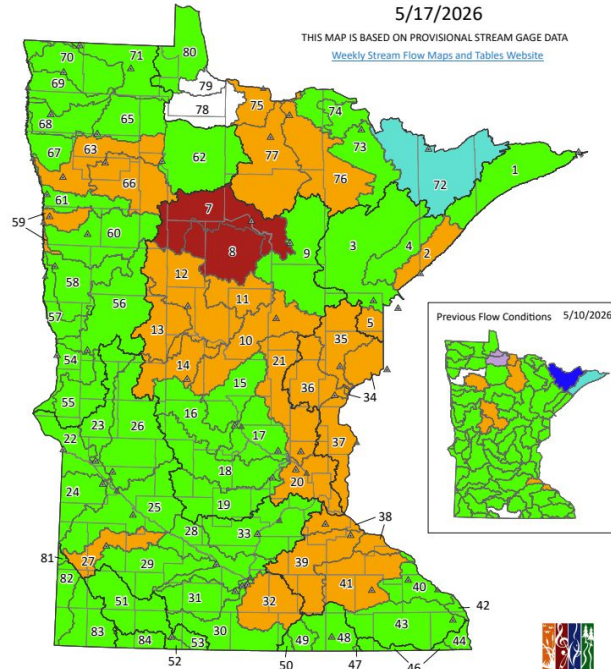


# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- As rainfall has come up short of normal in May, we're starting to see some streams just dropping into low flow levels.
- Lowest streamflows are currently being observed in the Mississippi River headwaters.

## Minnesota Weekly Stream Flow Report 5/17/2026

THIS MAP IS BASED ON PROVISIONAL STREAM GAGE DATA  
[Weekly Stream Flow Maps and Tables Website](#)

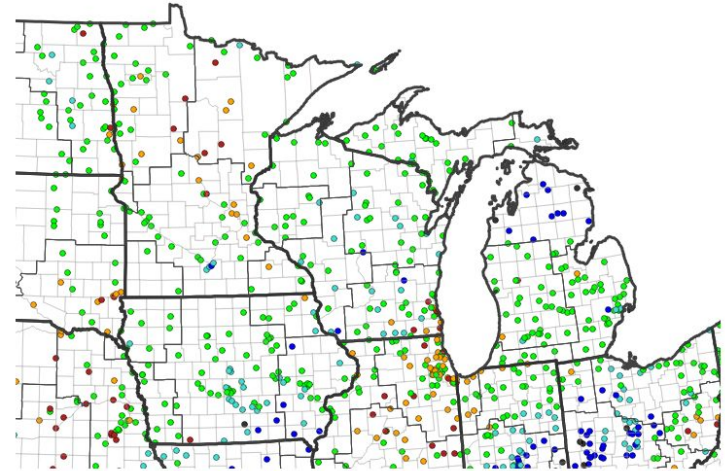


- Flood Flows: flows exceed established Flood Stage or the highest monthly Q10
- High Flows: flows exceed the monthly Q25
- Normal Flows: flows are between monthly Q25 and monthly Q75 exceedance levels
- Low Flows: below monthly Q75 exceedance levels
- Minimum Flows: below the annual Q90 or an established protection level
- No Data
- Ice affected
- Flow affected by backwater
- Rating in Development
- ▲ Designated major watershed gage
- ▲ Designated main stem river gage



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

## 1-Day Average Streamflow Conditions



### Streamflow Conditions



Source(s): U.S. Geological Survey; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/21/26

### Explanation - Percentile classes

|                                    |  |                                       |                                      |                                     |                                     |                                      |                                      |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <span style="color: red;">●</span> | <span style="color: darkred;">●</span> | <span style="color: orange;">●</span> | <span style="color: green;">●</span> | <span style="color: cyan;">●</span> | <span style="color: blue;">●</span> | <span style="color: black;">●</span> | <span style="color: white;">○</span> |
| Low                                | <10<br>Much below normal               | 10-24<br>Below normal                 | 25-75<br>Normal                      | 76-90<br>Above normal               | >90<br>Much above normal            | High                                 | Not-ranked                           |



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

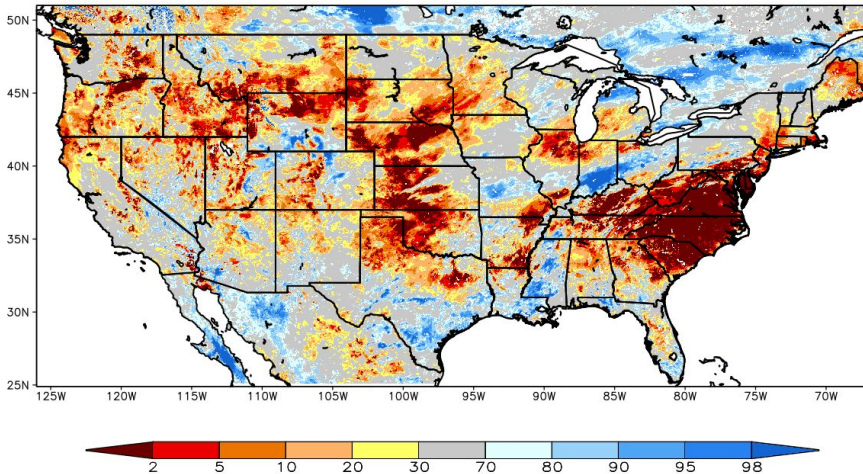
National Weather Service  
Twin Cities/Chanhassen, MN



# Agricultural Impacts

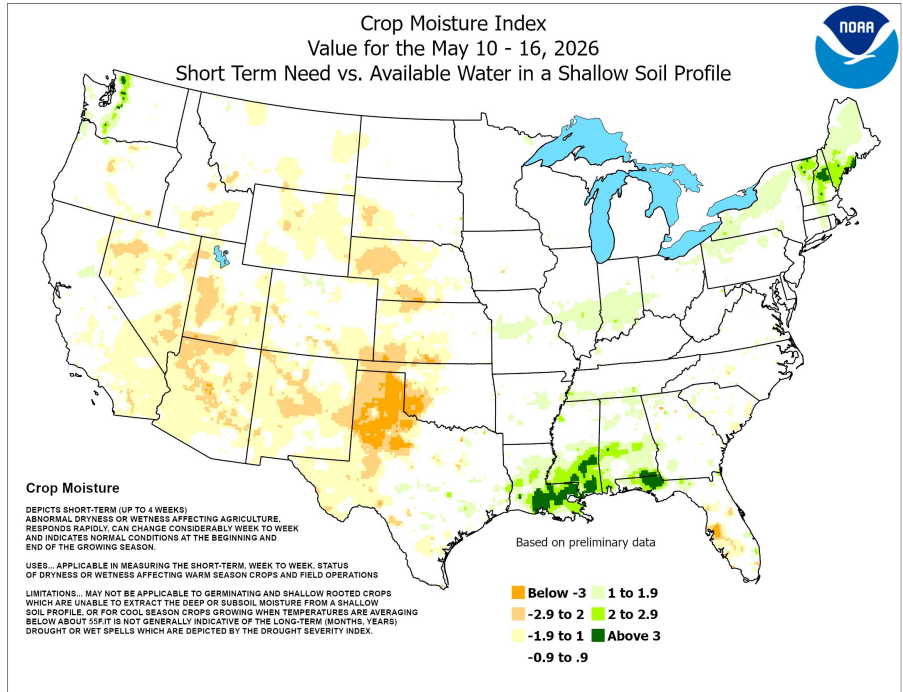
- Crop moisture is still holding near normal.
- Satellite derived soil moisture is showing some drying out of soils, especially in southwest MN.

SPoRT-LIS 0-40 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 21 May 2026



\*\*NOTE\*\*  
\*\*Experimental\*\*

- More points if you need them

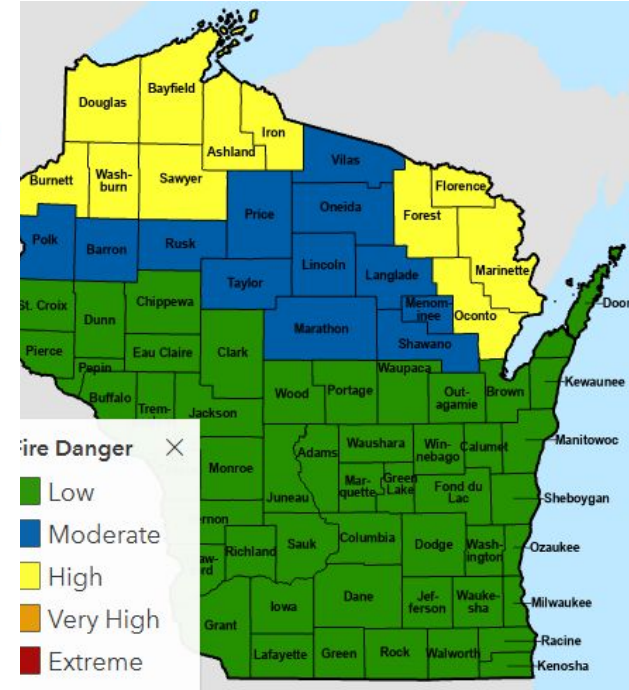
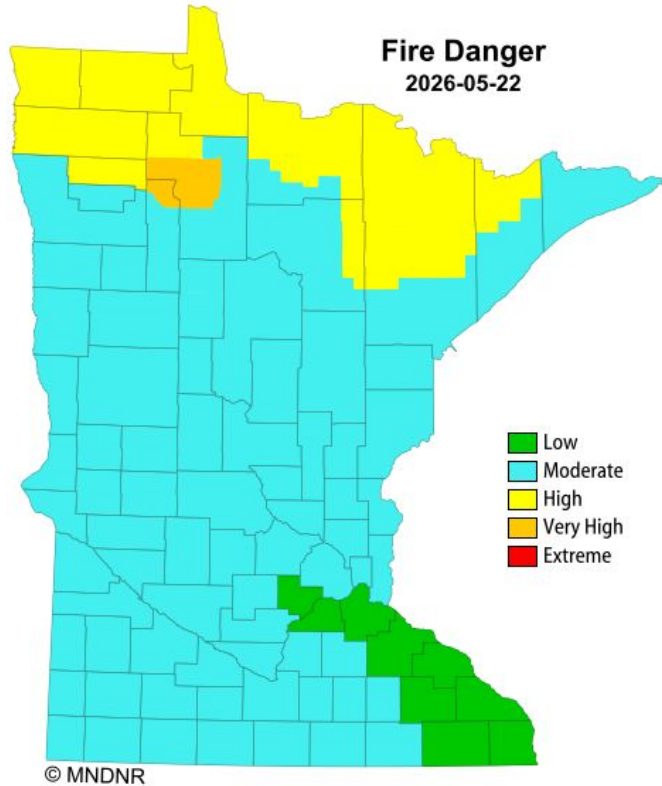




# Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [MN DNR Wildfire Danger](#) and [WI DNR Wildfire Danger](#)

- Fire danger in southern MN and western WI has come down considerably since the start of May

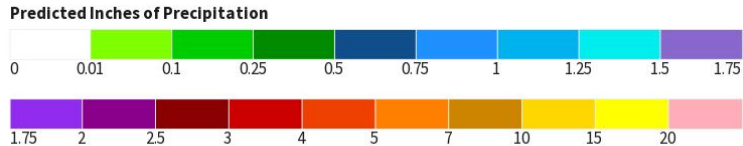
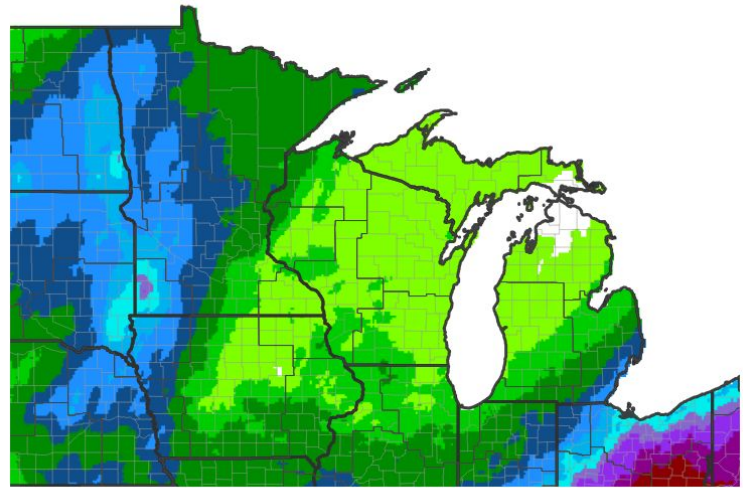




# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

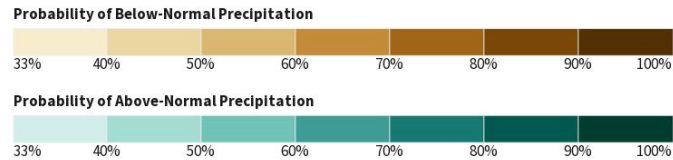
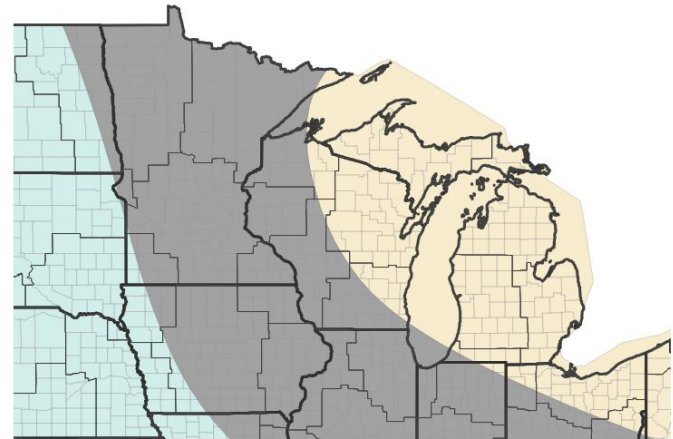
- Beneficial rains were forecast for western MN on May 22nd
- After that, it looks generally dry for the next 2 weeks

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for May 22, 2026–May 29, 2026



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 05/22/26

8–14 Day Precipitation Outlook for May 29, 2026–June 4, 2026



■ Near-Normal Conditions  
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 05/21/26



# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- There is high uncertainty for the June outlooks
- This results in no strong signal for above or below normal temperatures or precipitation

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



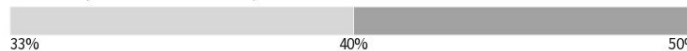
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



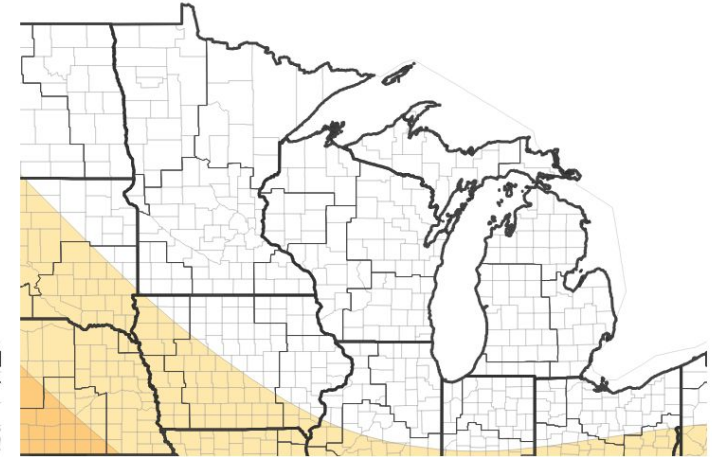
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 05/21/26

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



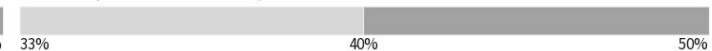
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 05/21/26



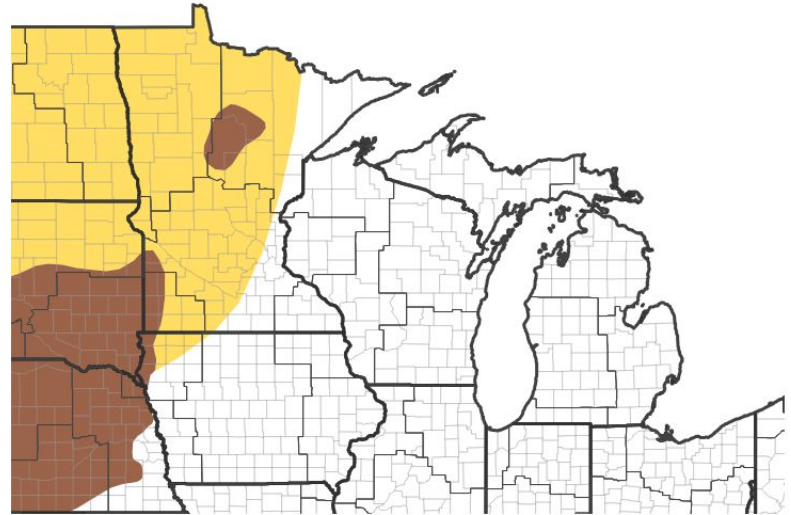


# Drought Outlook

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

- Drier than normal conditions going into the summer are expected to result in expansion of drought across MN

**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

Last Updated: 05/21/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

