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

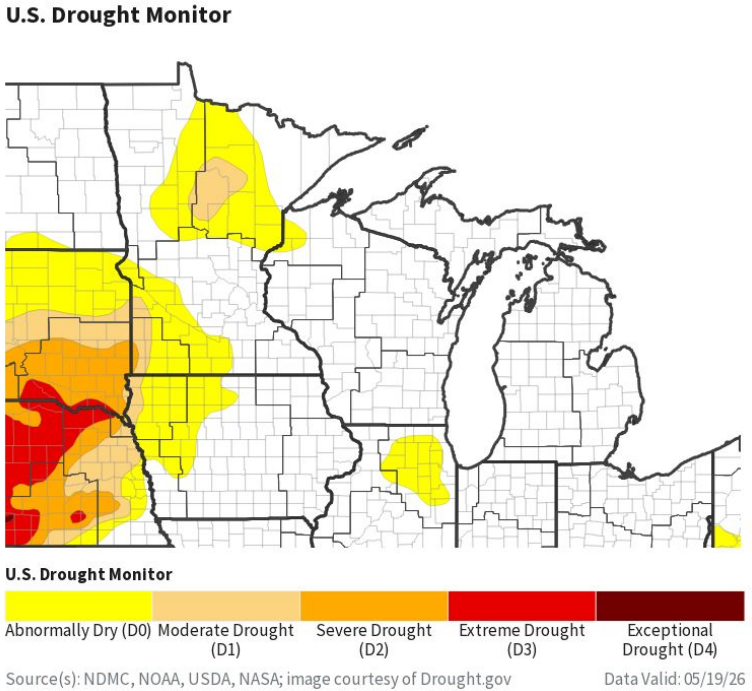
- This product will be updated June 18, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/MPX/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please 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

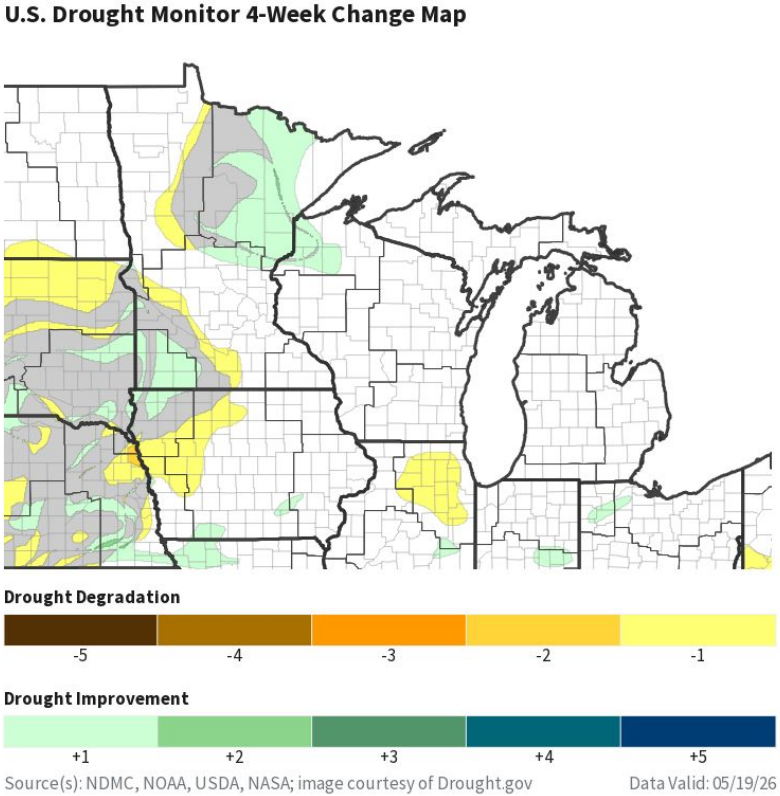
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: No areas.
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: No areas.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: No areas.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Portions of Lac Qui Parle and Yellow Medicine counties in western MN
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Parts of central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



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 4-week change map for Central/Southern MN and Western WI

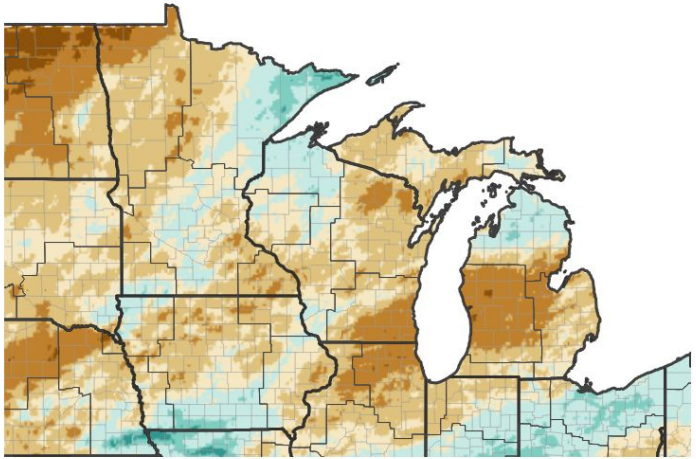
- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: west central into south central MN
  - No Change: Most of the region
  - Drought Improved: Some small portions of southwest and central MN



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

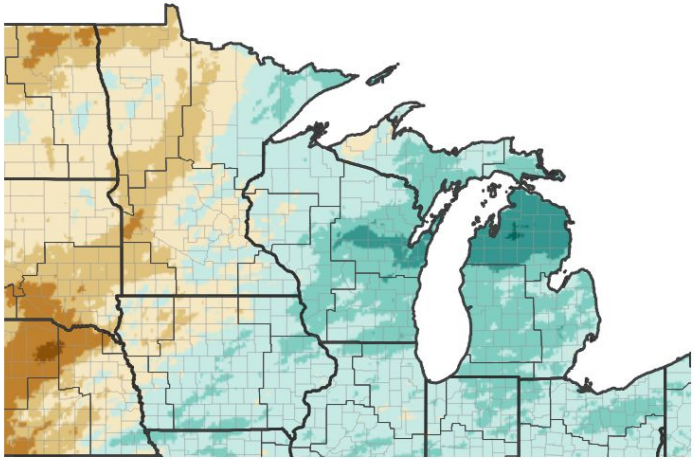
0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

100% 150% 200% 300%

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

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

100% 150% 200% 300%

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

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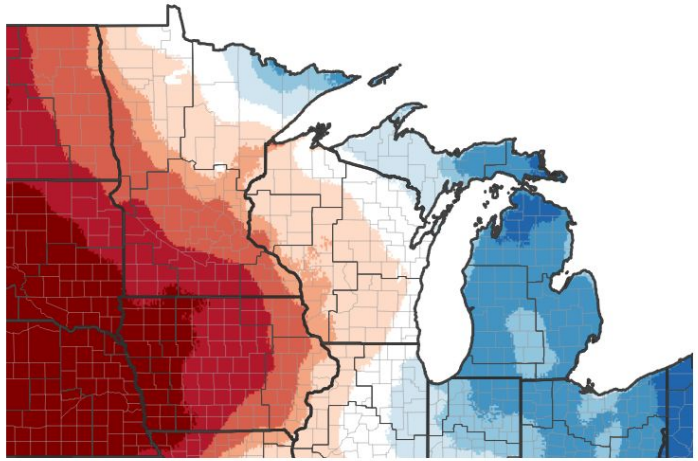
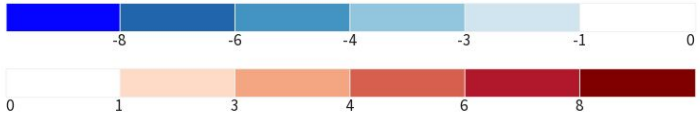
Temperature

- 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



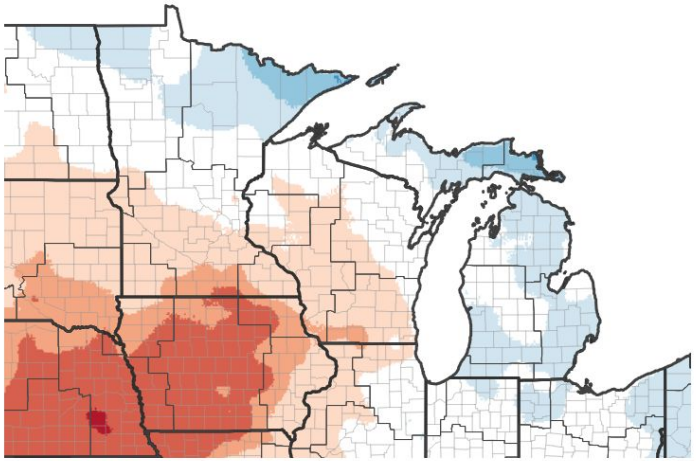
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



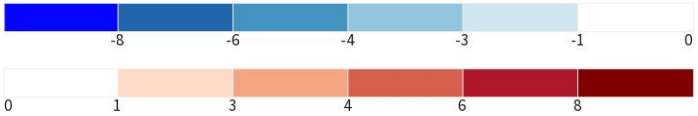
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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

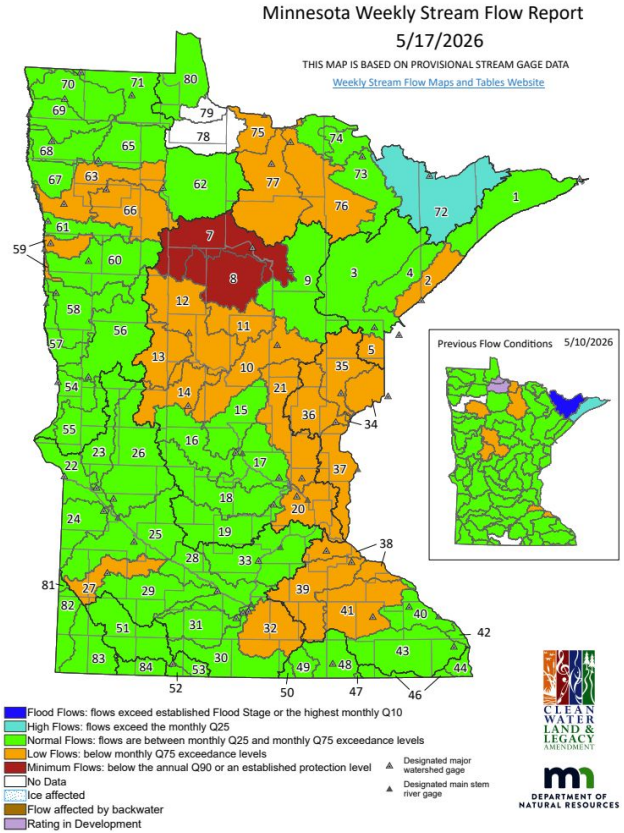
- No known additional impacts at this time.

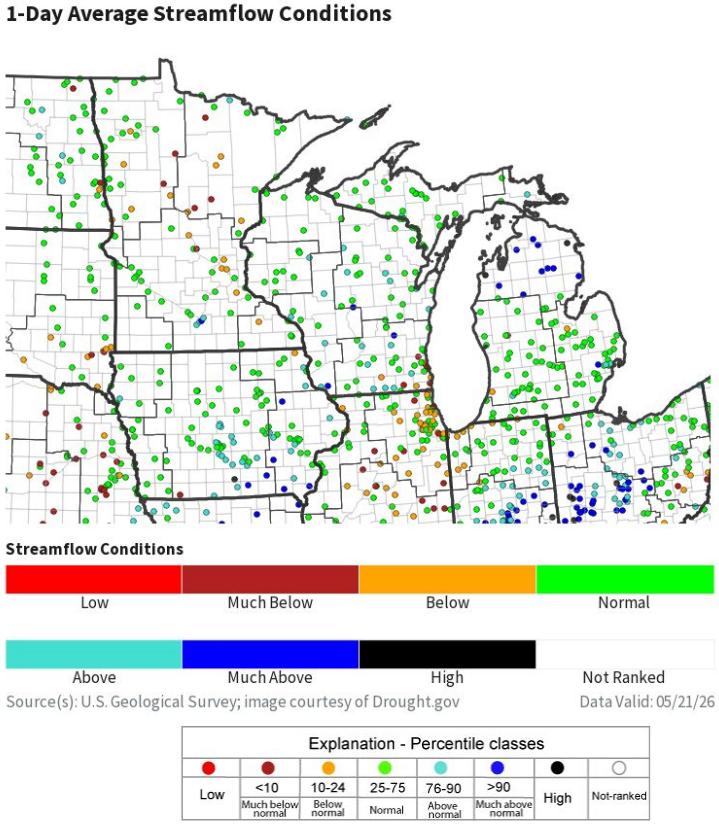
Mitigation Actions

- None currently in place.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

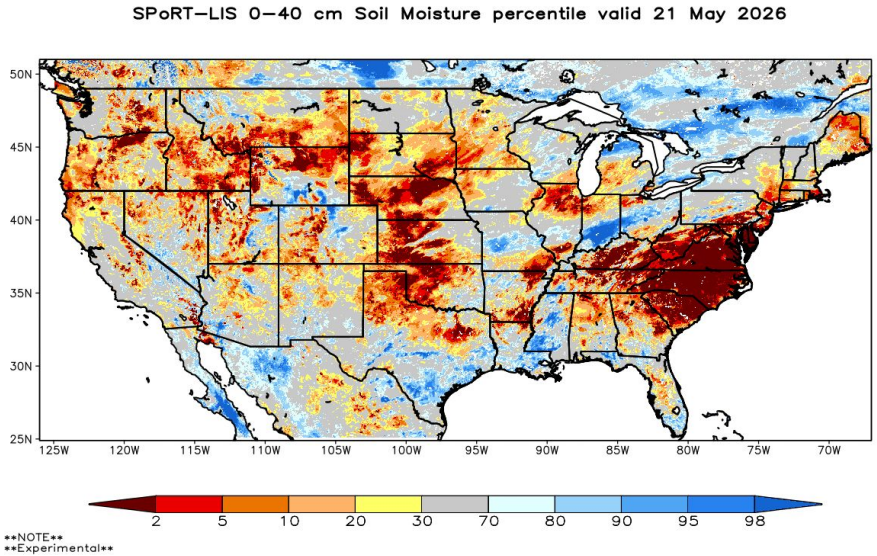
- As rainfall has come up short of normal in May, we're starting to see some streams just dropping into low flow levels.
- Lowest streamflows are currently being observed in the Mississippi River headwaters.



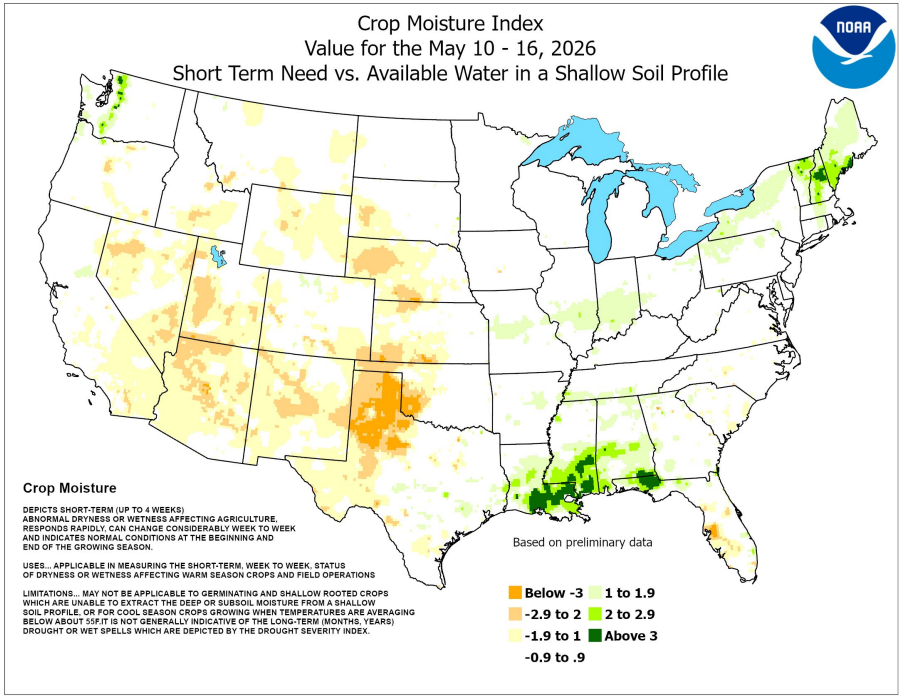


Agricultural Impacts

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



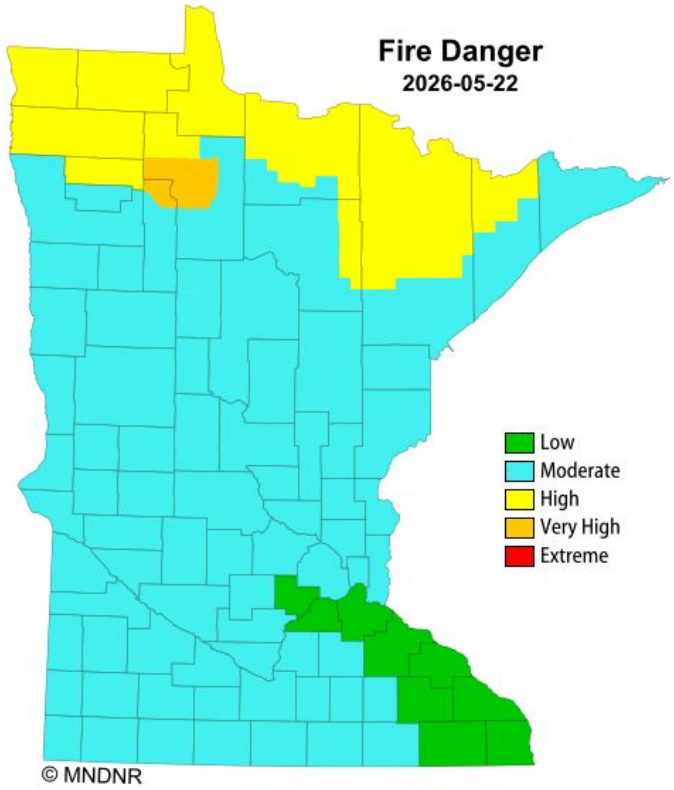
- More points if you need them

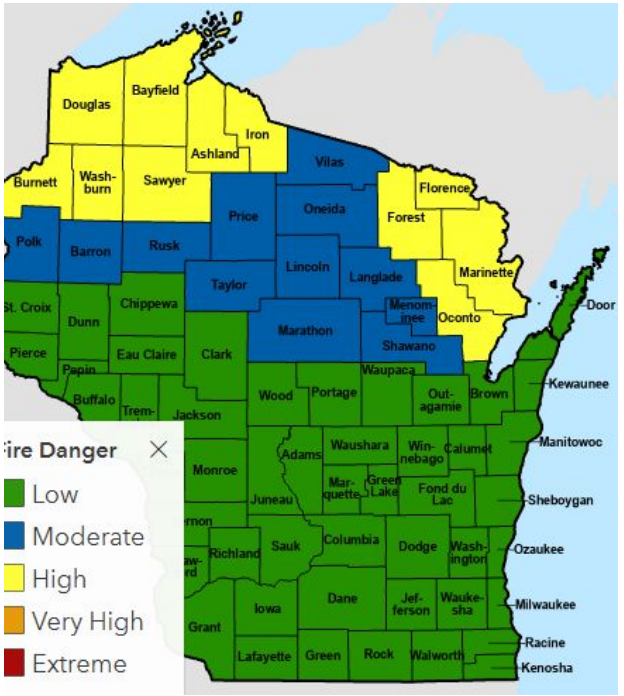


Fire Hazard Impacts

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

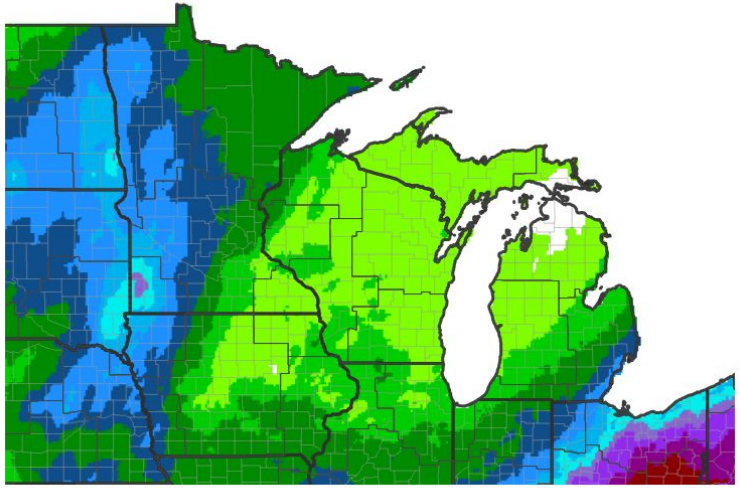




Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- 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



Predicted Inches of Precipitation

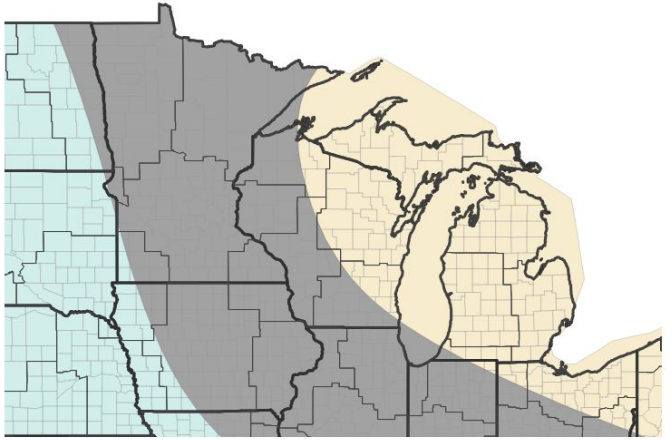
0 0.01 0.1 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 1.25 1.5 1.75

1.75 2 2.5 3 4 5 7 10 15 20

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



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

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

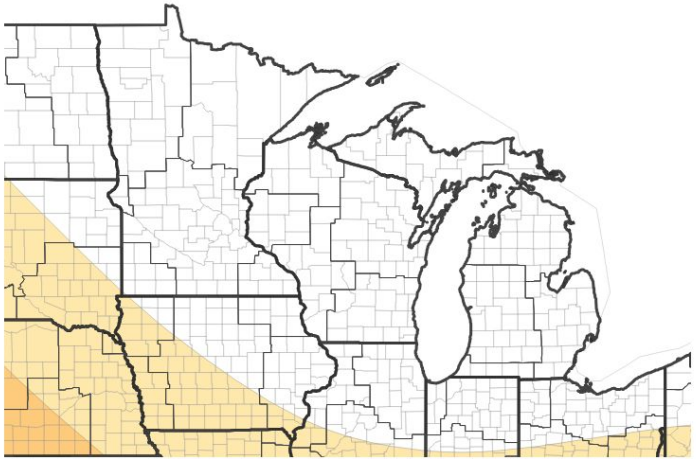
Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

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

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Drought Outlook

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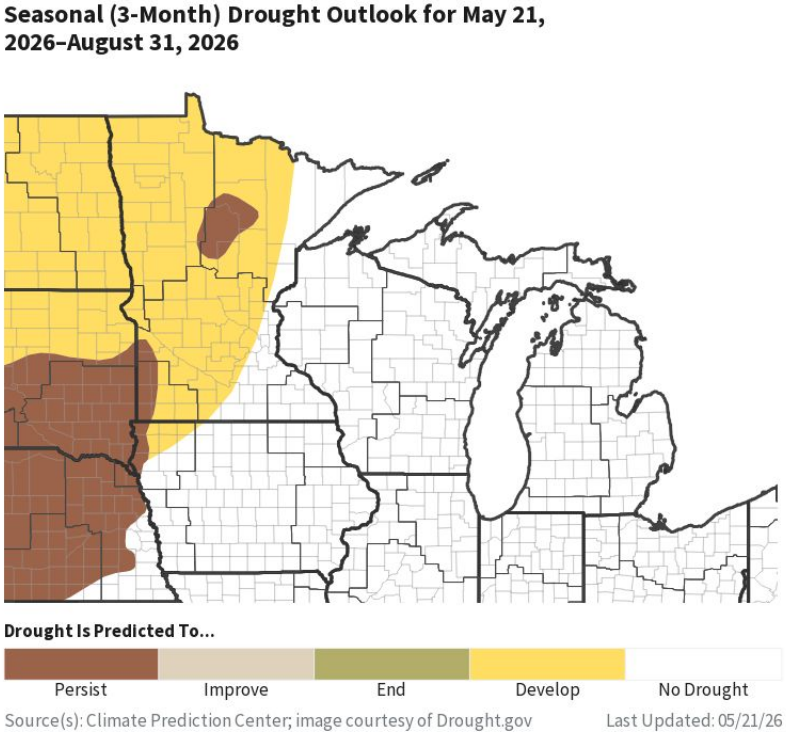
- Drier than normal conditions going into the summer are expected to result in expansion of drought across MN



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