Drought Information Statement for Central and Southern Minnesota and Western Wisconsin

Valid May 22, 2025

Issued By: NWS Twin Cities / Chanhassen, MN

Contact Information:

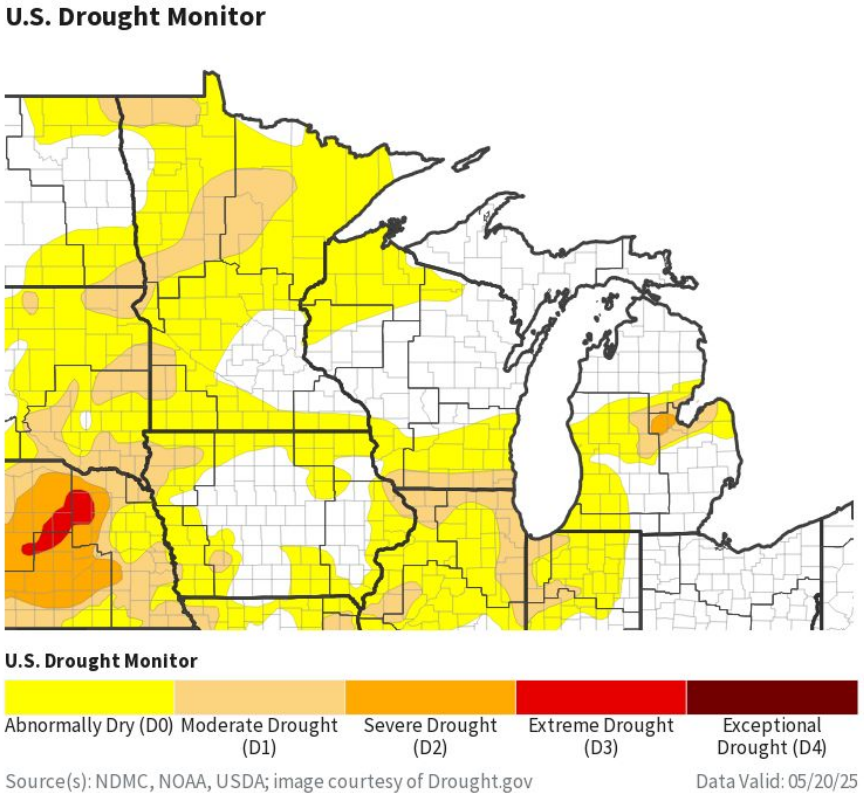
- This product will be updated June 19, 2025 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/MPX/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/ for regional drought status updates.

- We continue to receive just enough rain to continue to slowly chip away at drought conditions

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor

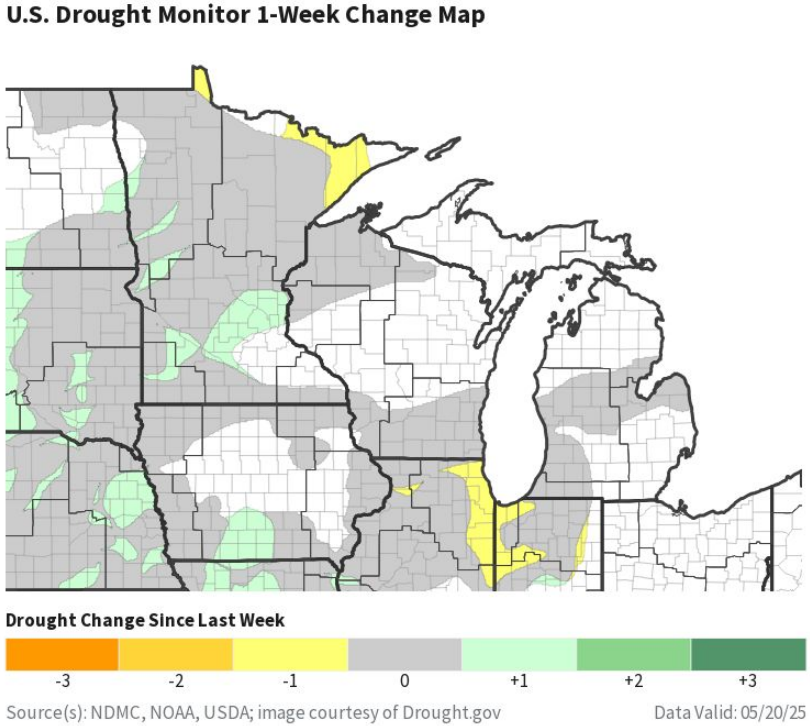
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Southwest Lac Qui Parle County and western Yellow Medicine County in west central Minnesota.
  - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: South central, west central and central Minnesota, and northwest Wisconsin.

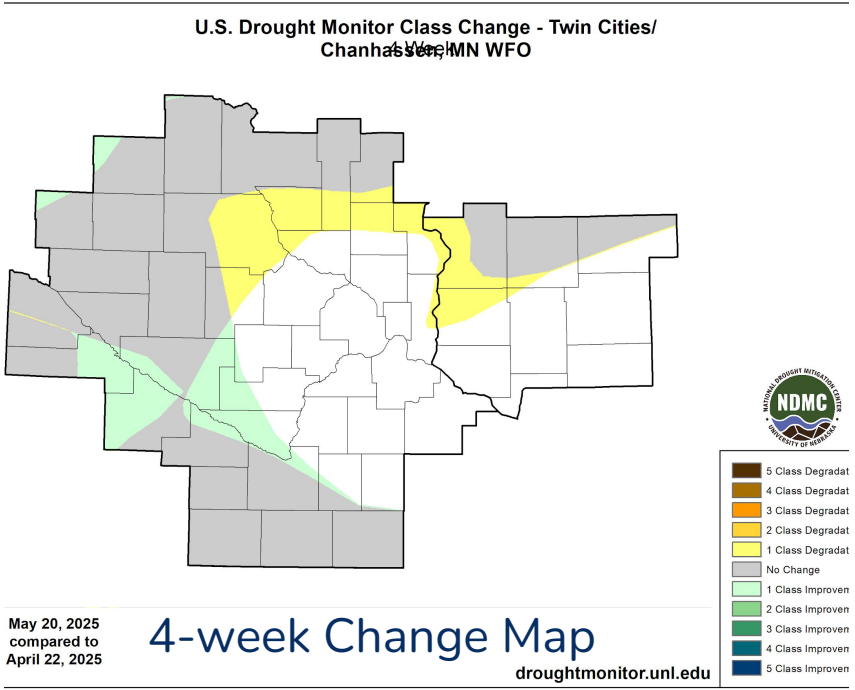


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 1-week change map and 4-week change map for the NWS Twin Cities Region

- Some improvements occurred in the past week, though over the last month, it has been a mix of minor improvements and degradation.

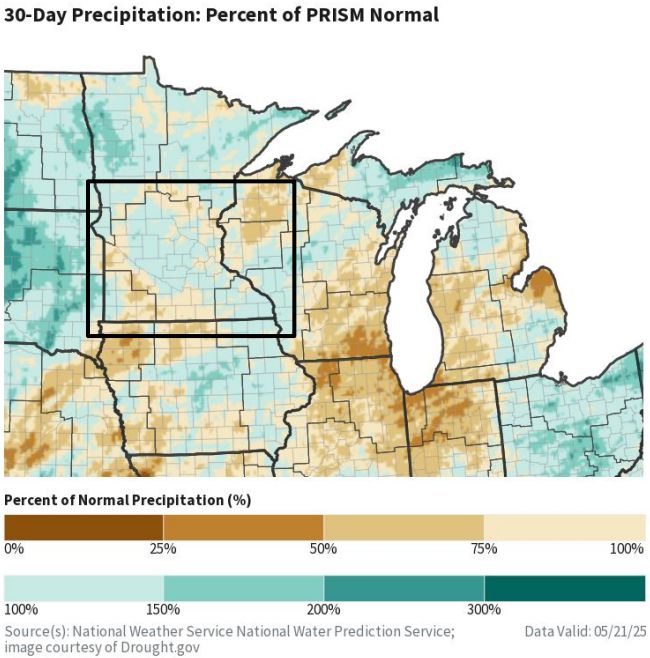


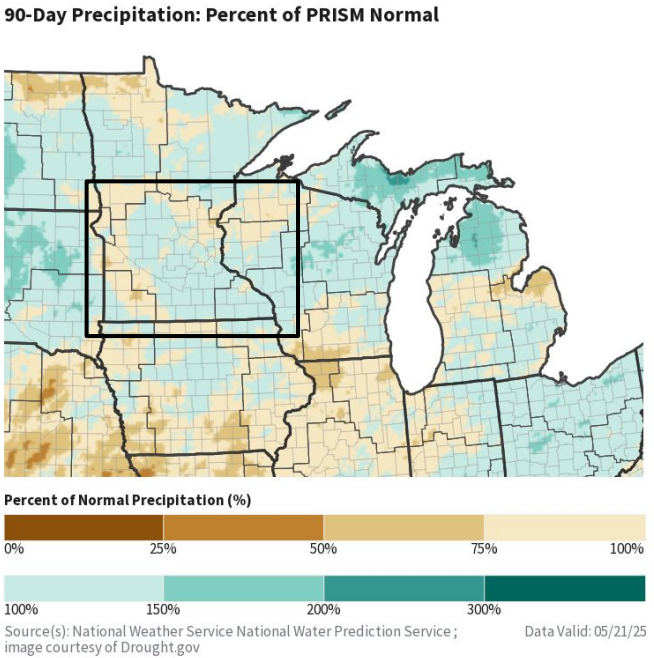


Precipitation Departures

1-month and 3-month percent of normal precipitation

- Near normal precipitation has been observed the last month and 3 months.
- This is a main reason we've seen only marginal changes to the drought status across the region this Spring.

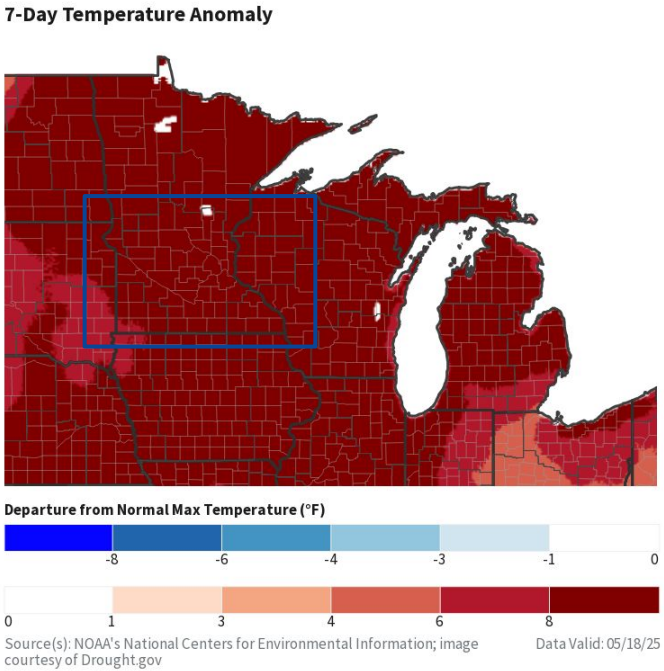


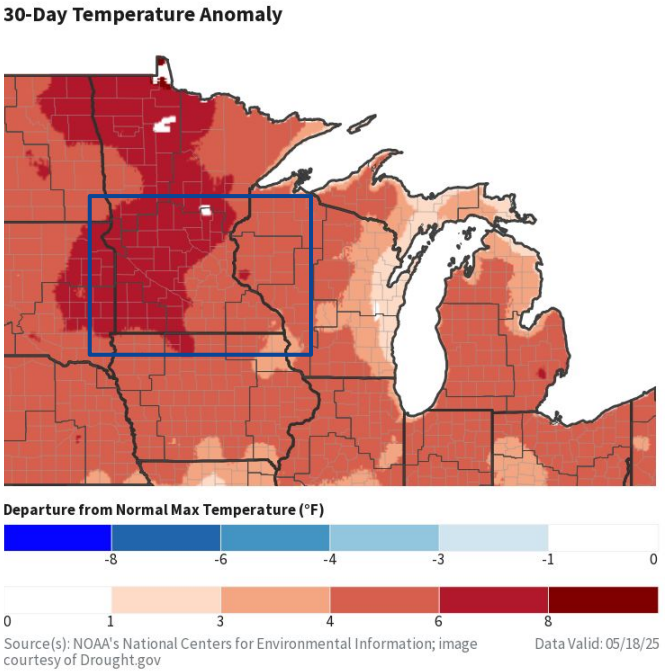


Temperature Departures

1-week and 1-month temperature departure

- Prior to our run of cold and rainy weather May 19-21, we had been experiencing unseasonably warm temperatures through the first half of May before.
- These warmer temperatures and increased evaporation have meant our near normal precipitation has not been able to completely ameliorate the drought.





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- River and lake levels across the region are all running near normal (USGS Streamflow).

Agricultural Impacts

- The dry weather through the first half of May allowed for most planting to be completed before the rains of May 19-21 hit. Recent rains will be very beneficial to getting the agriculture growing season going. (State USDA Crop Reports).

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Before the rains, fire danger was very high across the region, with multiple Red Flag Warnings for high fire danger May 10th-13th (MN Fire Danger, WI Fire Danger).
- On May 10th, there was a 150 acre wildfire near Granite Falls, Minnesota.
- Soaking rains May 19-21 have effectively ended the Spring fire season for central and southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin.

Other Impacts

- No known additional impacts.

Mitigation Actions

- None Currently in place.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Average streamflow for the past 7 days

- Rivers are near normal, though still rising from the rainfall that occurred between May 19th and 21st.

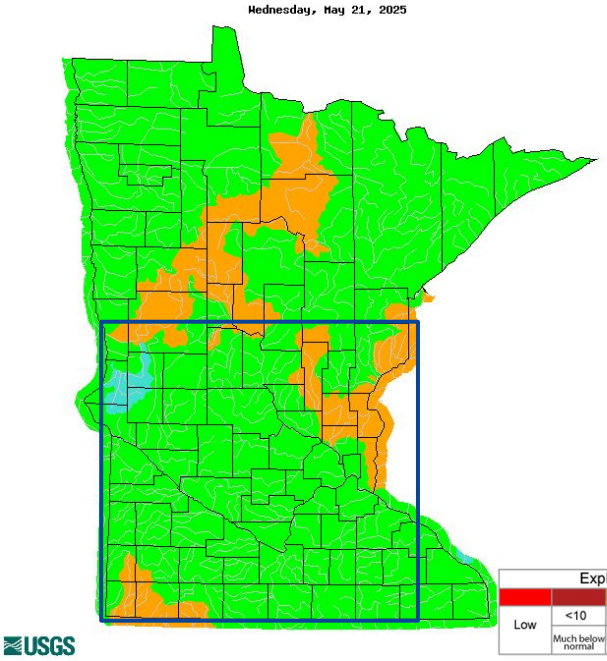


Image Caption: USGS 7-day Streamflow departure from normal for MN. Valid December May 21, 2025

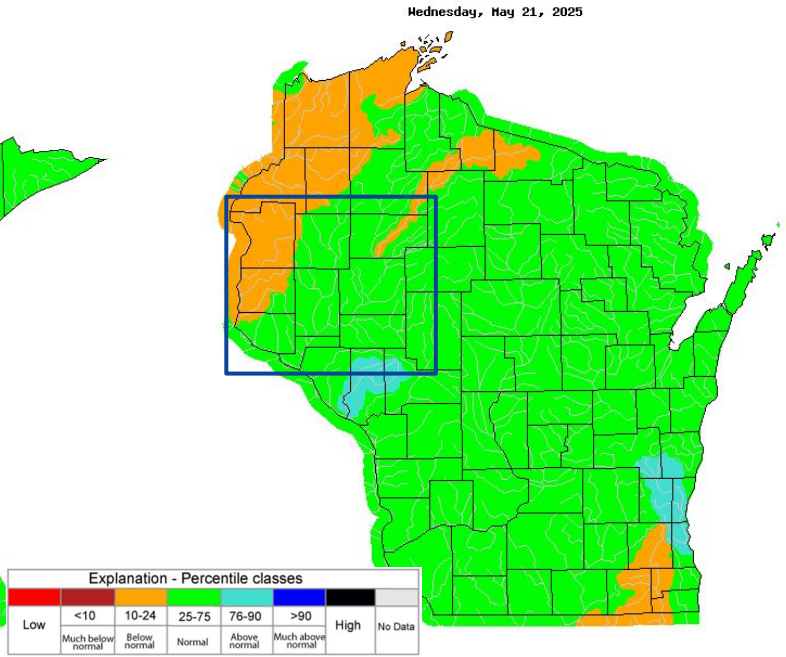


Image Caption: USGS 7-day Streamflow departure from normal for WI. Valid May 21, 2025

Fire Hazard Impacts

Fire Danger ratings valid for the date listed ONLY. Wildfire Danger for MN Wildfire Danger for WI

- Recent rains have shut down the Spring fire season across central and southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin.
- High fire danger still remains in northeast Minnesota, which did not receive any rain during the May 19-21 soaking rain event.

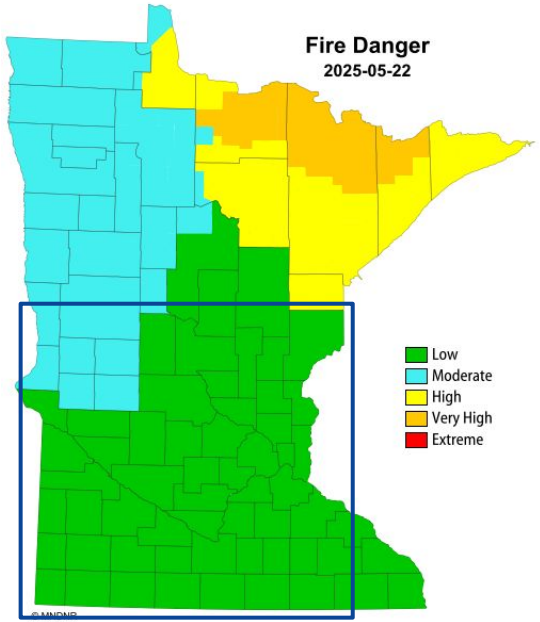


Image Caption: Wildfire Danger for MN. Valid May 22, 2025

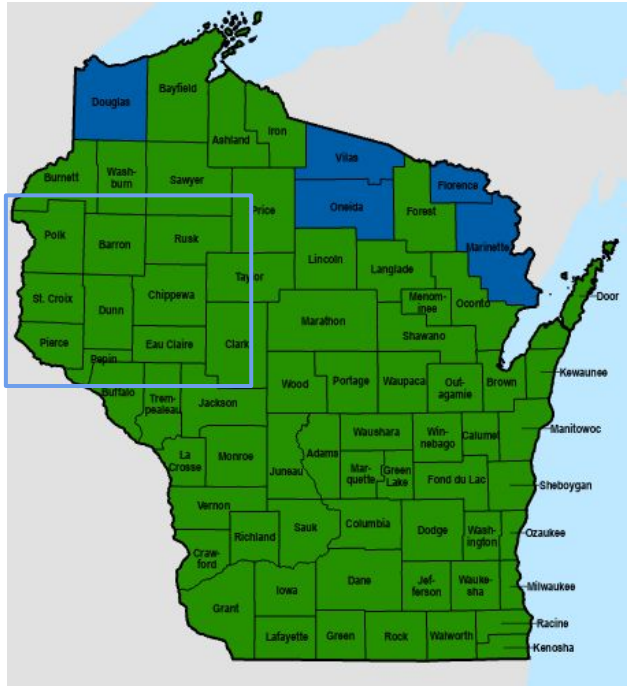
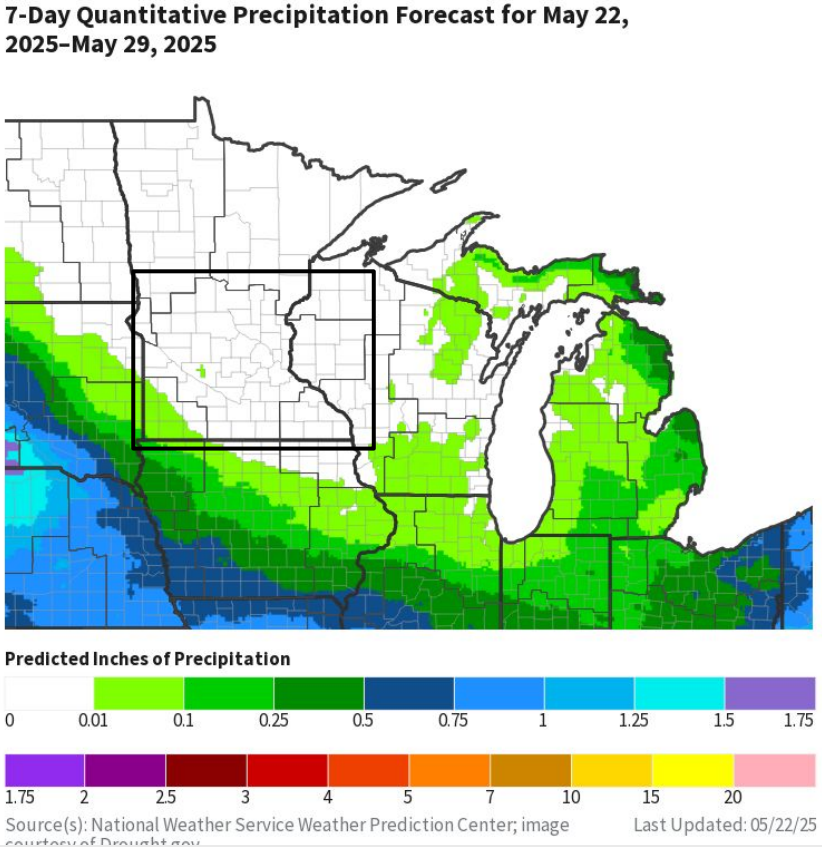


Image Caption: Wildfire Danger for WI. Valid May 22, 2025

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- After three wet days between the 19th and 21st, the rest of May looks dry, with the storm track remaining south of the region.

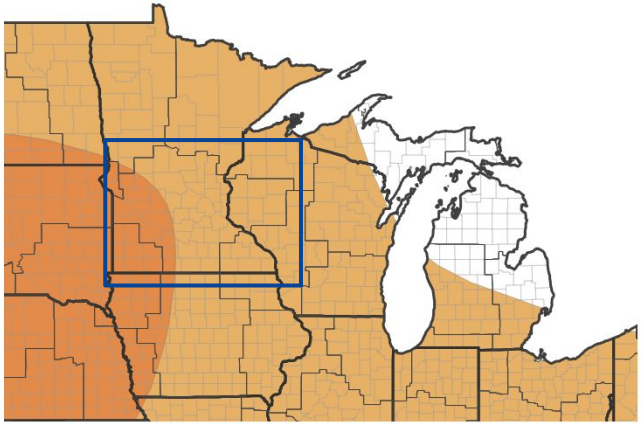


June Outlooks

The latest weekly to seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- As we head into June, a hot ridge of high pressure is expected to build over the Rockies.
- Heat from this ridge will get pulled toward Minnesota and Wisconsin, which leads to the favoring for above normal temperatures in June.
- There is no strong signal for above or below normal precipitation, with equal chances of near, above, and below normal precipitation currently highlighted for Minnesota and Wisconsin in June.

Monthly Temperature Outlook for June 1, 2025–June 30, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures

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

Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

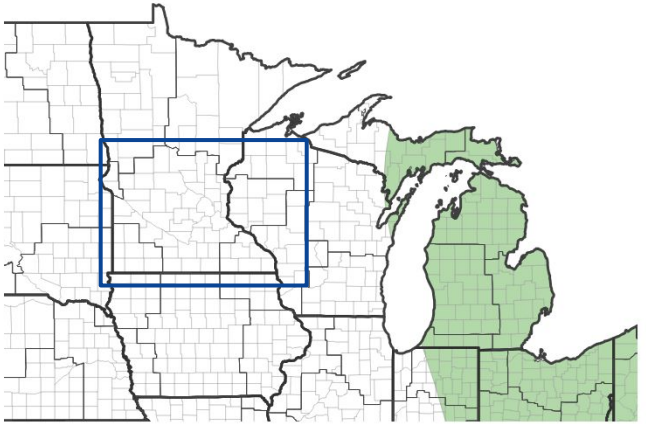
33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 05/15/25

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for June 1, 2025–June 30, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

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Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

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Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation

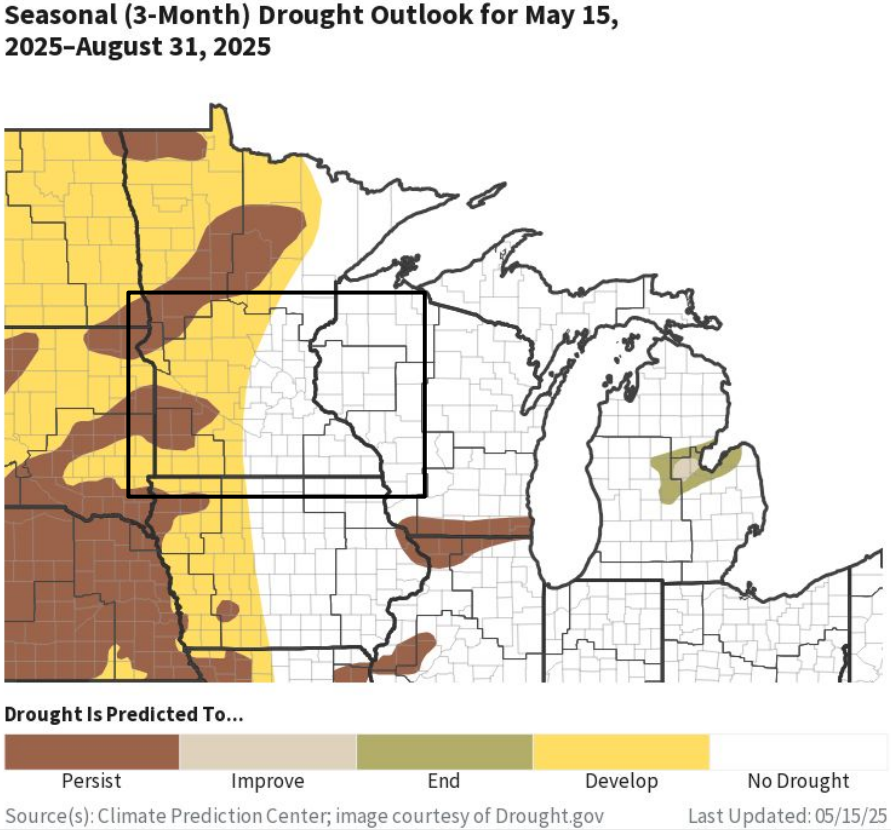
33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 05/15/25

Drought Outlook

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

- With above normal temperatures expected to build in through June, and no strong signal for above normal precipitation, drought conditions are expected to persist and develop across western Minnesota as we head into the Summer



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

Drought Definitions and State Resources

What do those categories mean?

Drought Category Definitions:

D0	**Abnormally Dry**	**Going into drought:** • Short-term dryness slowing planting, growth of crops or pastures	**Coming out of drought:** • Some lingering water deficits • Pastures or crops not fully recovered
D1	**Moderate Drought**	• Some damage to crops, pastures • Streams, reservoirs, or wells low, some water shortages developing or imminent • Voluntary water-use restrictions requested	
D2	**Severe Drought**	• Crop or pasture losses likely • Water shortages common • Water restrictions imposed	
D3	**Extreme Drought**	• Major crop/pasture losses • Widespread water shortages or restrictions	
D4	**Exceptional Drought**	• Exceptional and widespread crop/pasture losses • Shortages of water in reservoirs, streams, and wells creating water emergencies	

Comprehensive Drought Information for Minnesota: http://www.drought.gov/state/minnesota
Comprehensive Drought Information for Wisconsin: http://www.drought.gov/state/wisconsin
These sites contain links to resources from each state, to help you dive into drought information in more detail.