



Drought Information Statement for Central/Southern MN and Western WI

Valid July 16, 2026

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

Contact Information: nws.twincities@noaa.gov

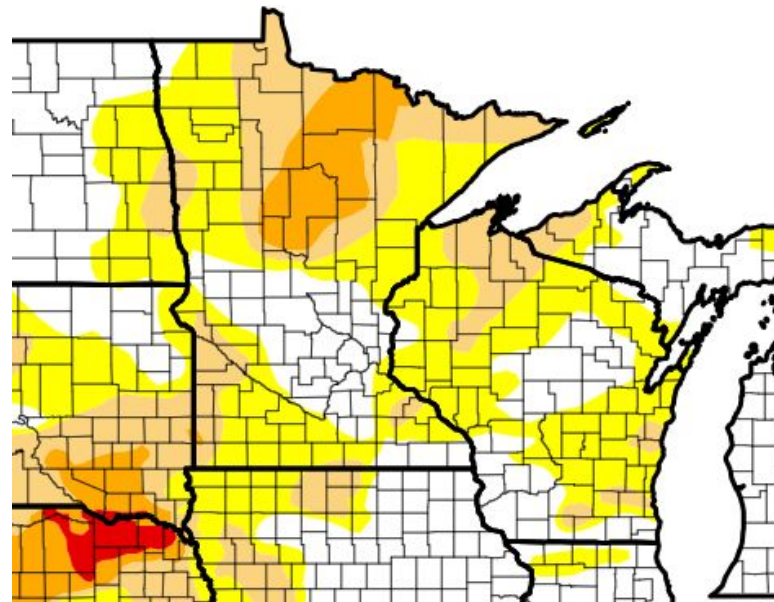
- This product will be updated August 20, 2016 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
 - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
 - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/MPX/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
-
- Little change in drought conditions in the last month
 - However, hot and dry weather since July 10th has us heading toward expanding drought if it remains drier than normal the rest of July



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 locally
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: No areas locally
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: No areas locally
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Yellow Medicine, Lac Qui Parle and surrounding counties in western MN. Far northern portions of Todd and Morrison counties in central MN. Eastern Goodhue county in MN. Portions of Rusk and Chippewa counties in western WI.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Southwest through south central MN and most of west central WI.



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 07/07/26

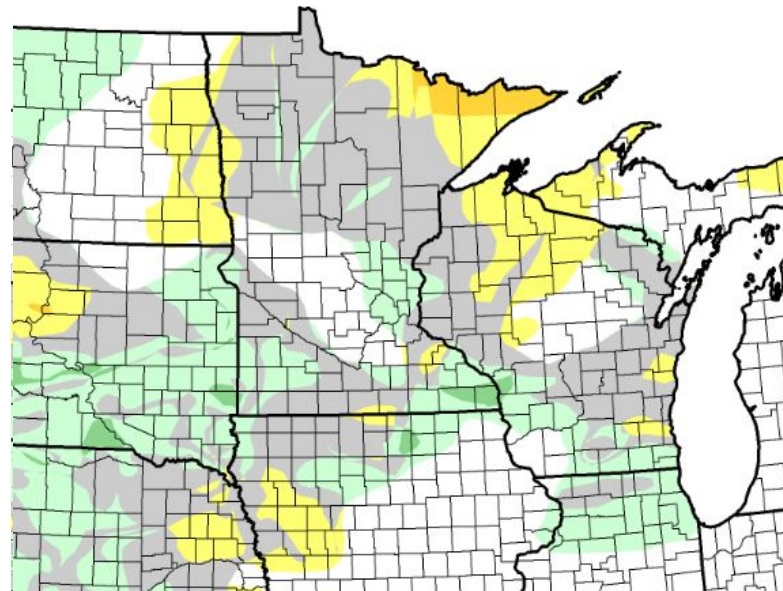




Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: in eastern Goodhue county in MN, across Chippewa and Rusk counties in WI, and along the Iowa border in Faribault and Freeborn counties.
 - No Change: Much of the region
 - Drought Improved: East central Mn and a couple of pockets in southwest and south central MN



Drought Degradation



Drought Improvement



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

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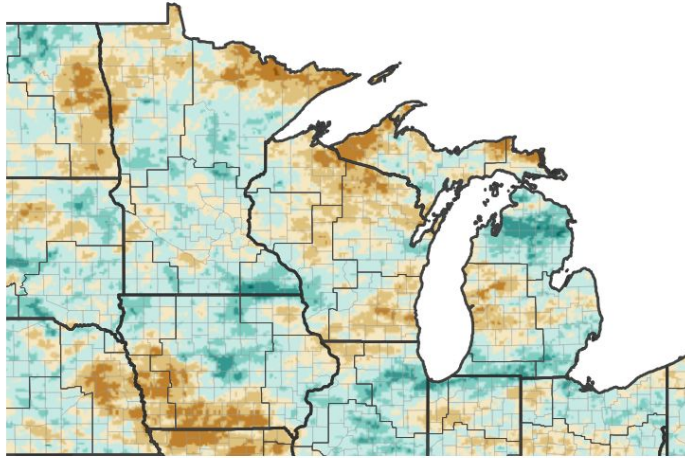




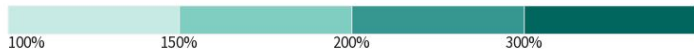
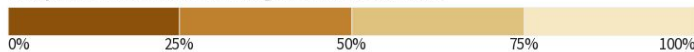
Precipitation

- For the last 30 days, active weather in the first week of July has kept precipitation near normal, which has contributed to the most stable drought conditions
- Over the last 90 days, there are no significant departures above or below normal

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



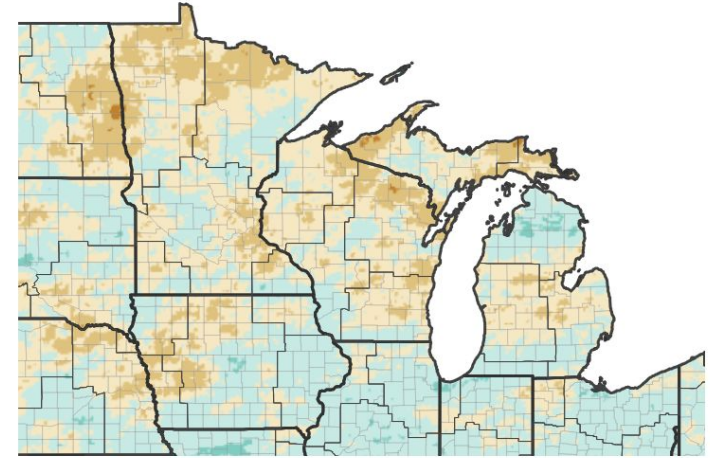
Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



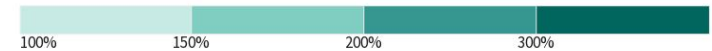
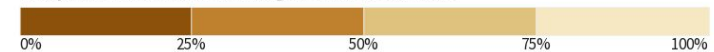
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 07/14/26

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: 07/14/26

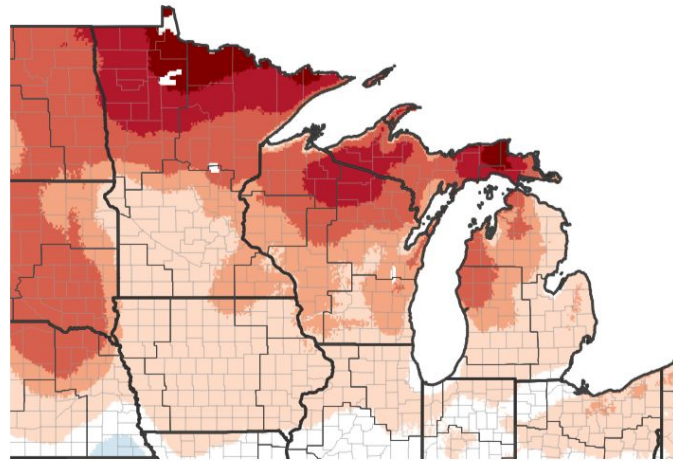




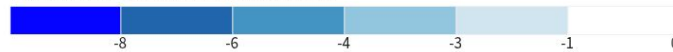
Temperature

- Temperatures have been above normal with a heat wave in the second half of the July 6-13 period.
- Over the last 30 days, temperatures have been near normal.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



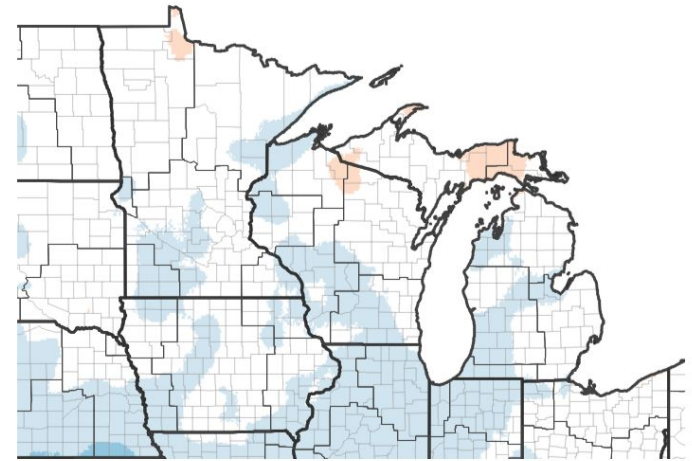
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



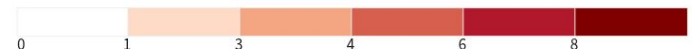
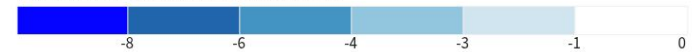
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 07/13/26

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: 07/13/26



Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Other than the Mississippi River headwaters, streamflows are largely within the 25-75% of normal band across the region. ([USGS Streamflows](#), [MN Streamflow](#))

Agricultural Impacts

- Minimal impacts to due dryness have been reported to crops and soil moisture across central and southern MN and western WI. ([State USDA Crop Reports](#))

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Across central and southern MN and western WI, fire danger has remained in a typical summer lull. The high fire danger has been confined to near the Canadian border. ([MN Fire Danger](#), [WI Fire Danger](#))

Other Impacts

- No known additional impacts at this time.

Mitigation Actions

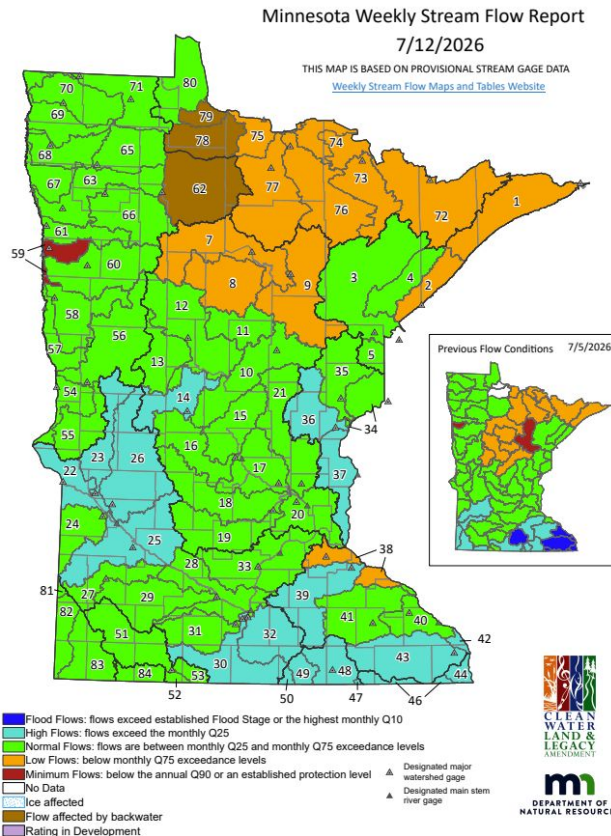
- None currently in place.



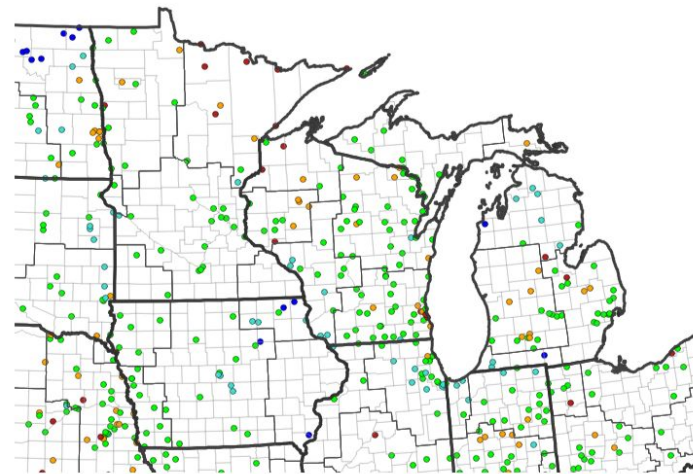


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Only the Chippewa River in WI has seen flows dip into the below normal category.
- Most streams are running within normal ranges.



1-Day Average Streamflow Conditions



Streamflow Conditions



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

Data Valid: 07/16/26

Explanation - Percentile classes

Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	Not-ranked
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		



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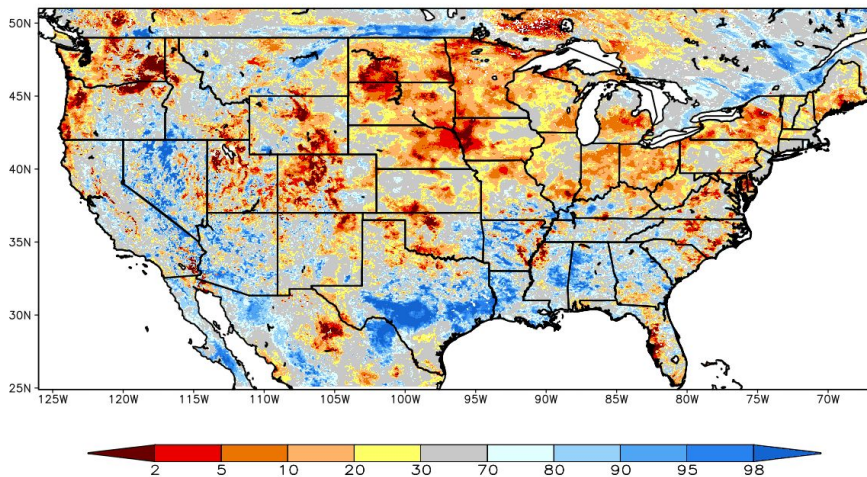
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Agricultural Impacts

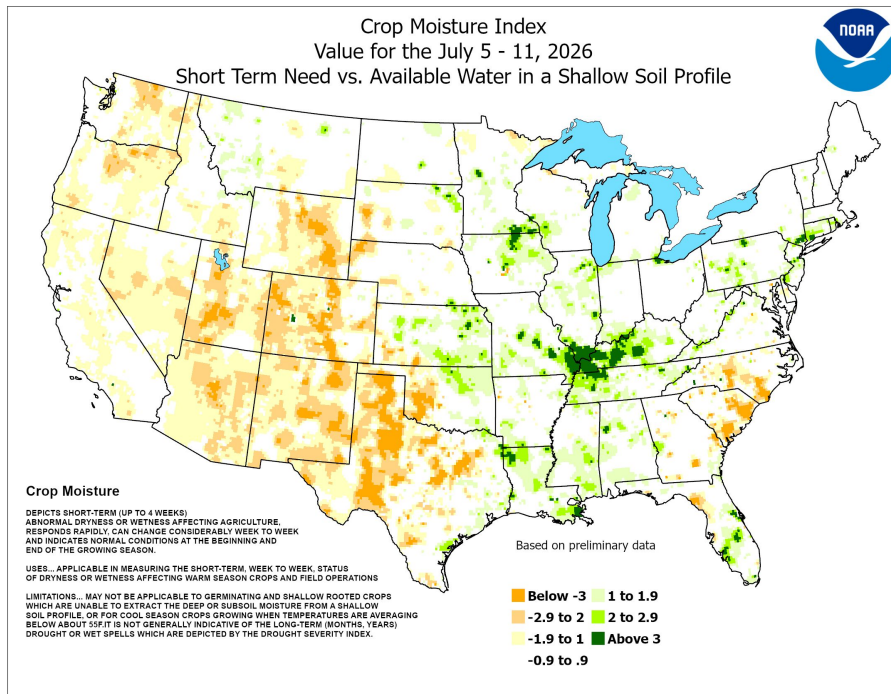
- Crop and soil moisture measurements continue to be adequate in the region
- Satellite soil moisture estimates indicate soils starting to dry out across MN and northern WI

SPoRT-LIS 0-40 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 16 Jul 2026



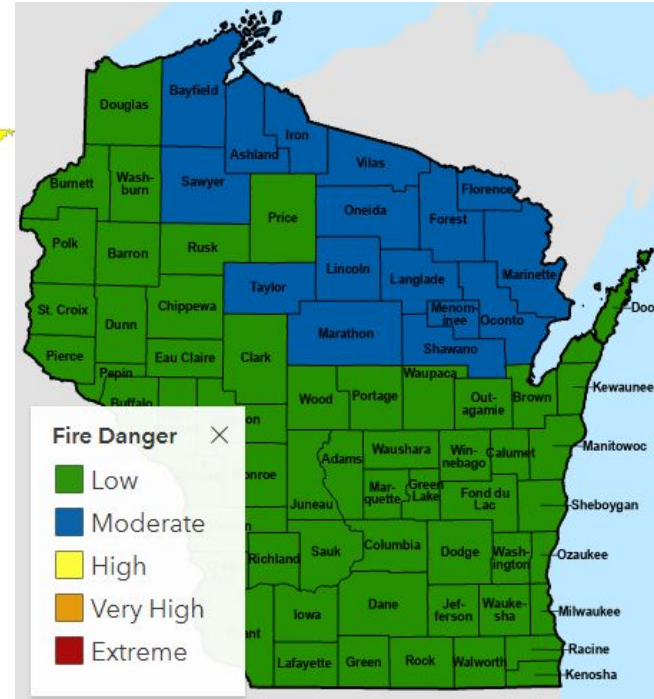
NOTE
Experimental

Crop Moisture Index
Value for the July 5 - 11, 2026
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile





- We're in our typical fire summer danger lull across southern MN and western WI
- High fire danger in MN is up in the Arrowhead

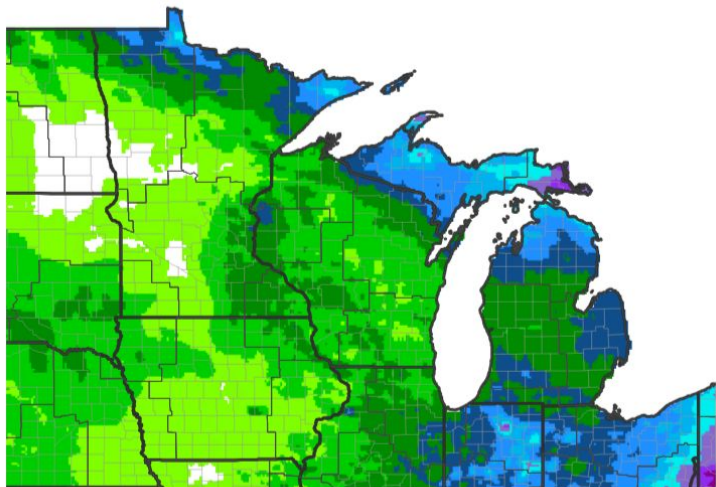




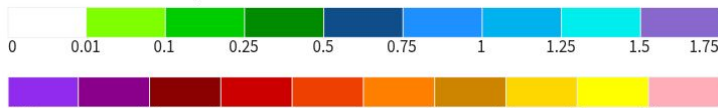
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Best rain chances through July 24th are along the MN/WI border, where 0.25 to 0.5 inch of rain is possible.
- Near normal rainfall is predicted for the last week of July
- Given lack of precipitation since July 10th and no wet signal for the rest of July, much of the region is in risk of slipping into drought.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for July 17, 2026–July 24, 2026



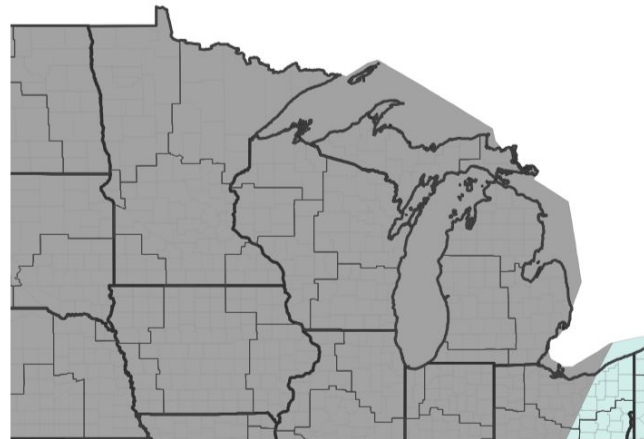
Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 07/17/26

8–14 Day Precipitation Outlook for July 24, 2026–July 30, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



■ Near-Normal Conditions

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

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Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- Summarize conditions and impacts here



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook

Valid: July 25 - 31, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: July 17, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

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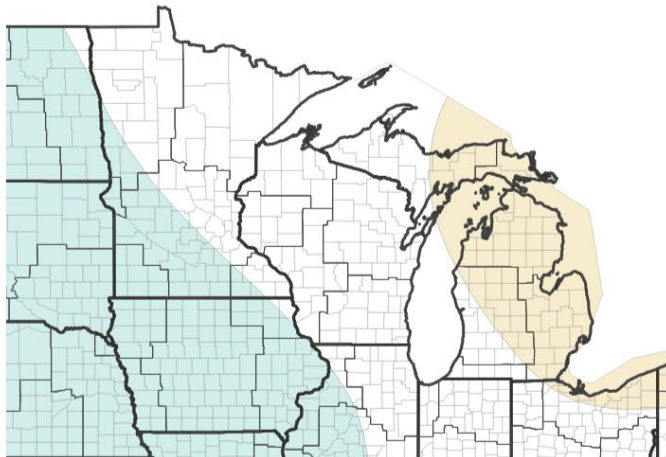


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The outlook for August has a slight favoring of above normal precipitation in southwest MN
- The August temperature outlook has a slight favoring of below normal temperatures into west central MN

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for August 1, 2026–August 31, 2026



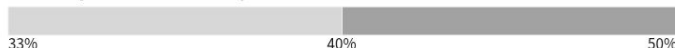
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



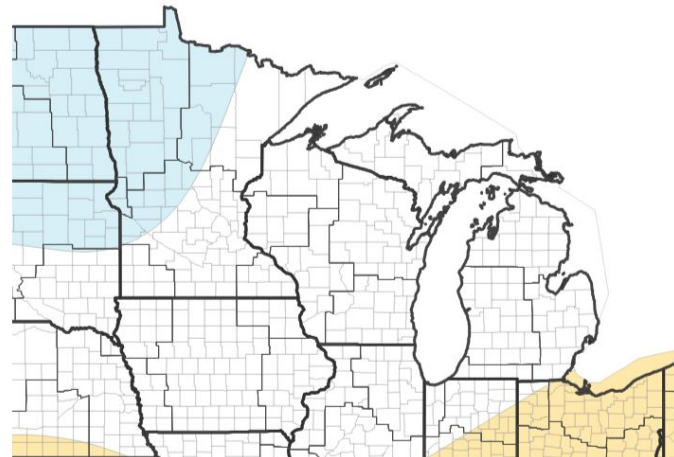
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 07/16/26

Monthly Temperature Outlook for August 1, 2026–August 31, 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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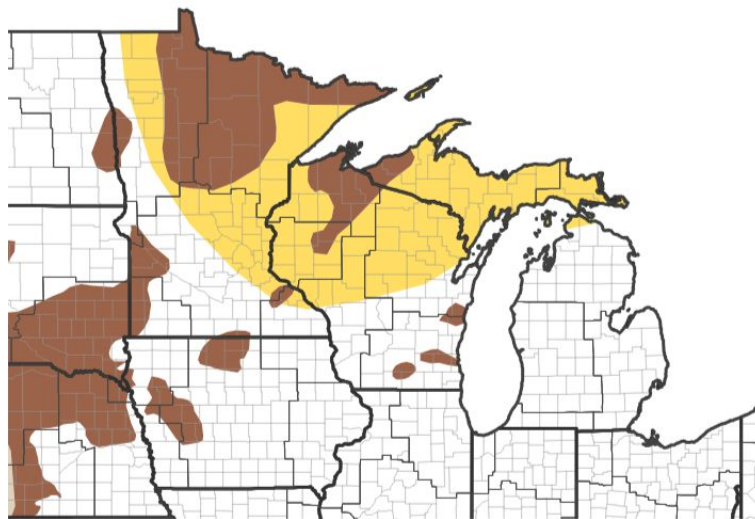


Drought Outlook

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

- With near to below precipitation favored into the fall, expansion of drought is predicted across central and eastern MN and across central and northern WI

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for July 16, 2026–October 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

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Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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