



Drought Information Statement for Central/Southern MN and Western WI

Valid August 20, 2026

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

Contact Information: nws.twincities@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated September 17, 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.
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- Drought continues to expand across eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin.
 - Beneficial rain and some improvements to drought conditions since the end of July have been seen along the upper Minnesota River Valley

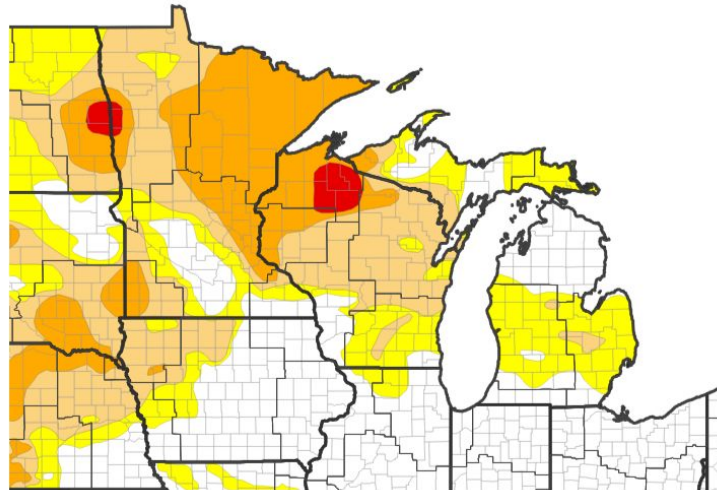


U.S. Drought Monitor

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)**: Small portion of northern Rusk county in WI
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Central MN into the St. Croix River valley.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: West central and southwest MN and from Alexandria into the Twin Cities metro area
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: South central MN and up along the upper MN River Valley

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 08/18/26



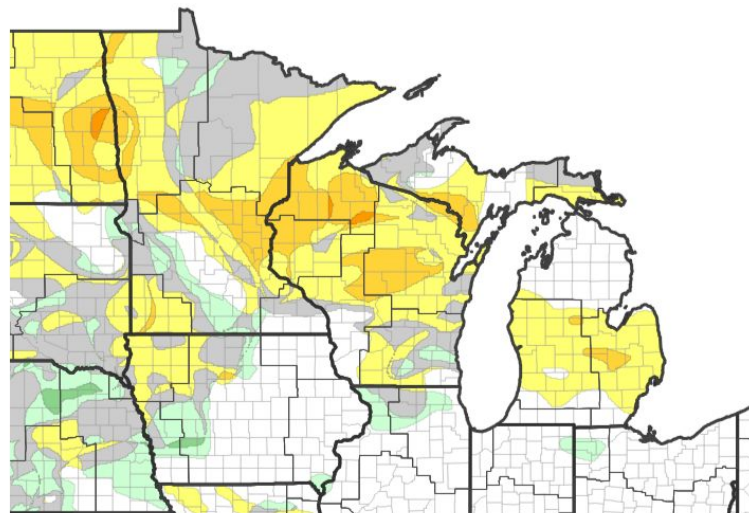


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Across central and eastern MN along with west central and northwest WI.
 - No Change: Small portions of west central, south central, and southeast MN.
 - Drought Improved: Along the upper MN River valley and along the I-90 corridor in south central MN.

U.S. Drought Monitor 4-Week Change Map



Drought Degradation



Drought Improvement



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

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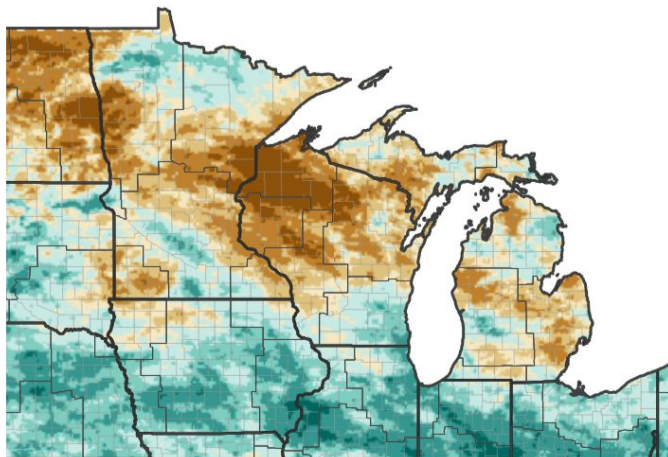




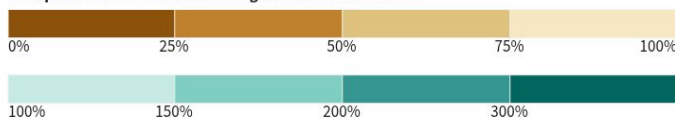
Precipitation

- Intense dryness has occurred over the last 30 days north of the I-94 corridor, with large portions of northwest and western WI seeing less than 25% of normal rainfall.
- This 30 day dryness bleeds into the last 3 months as well.
- This dry signal quickly flips to above normal precipitation along the upper MN River valley into south central MN.

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



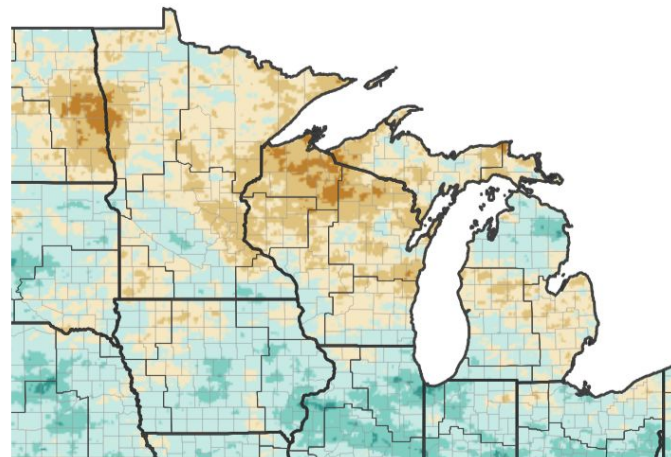
Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



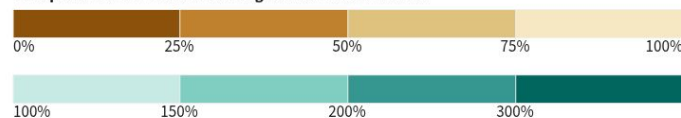
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/19/26

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: 08/19/26



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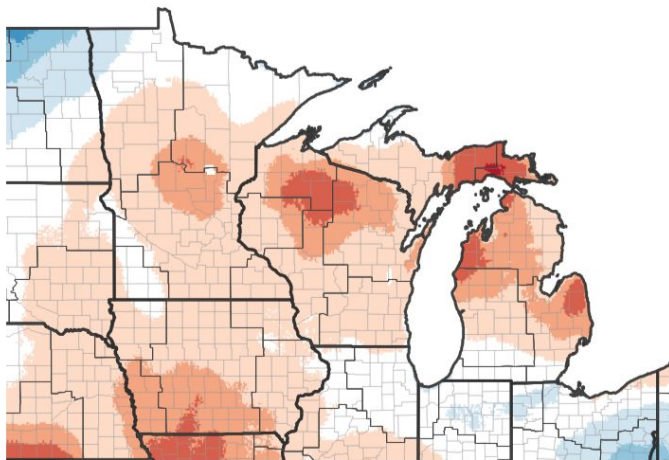
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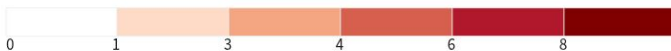
Temperature

- Any dryness that has been observed over the last 30 days has been accompanied by slightly above normal temperatures as well.
- Above normal temperatures and below normal rainfall has helped the drought spread.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



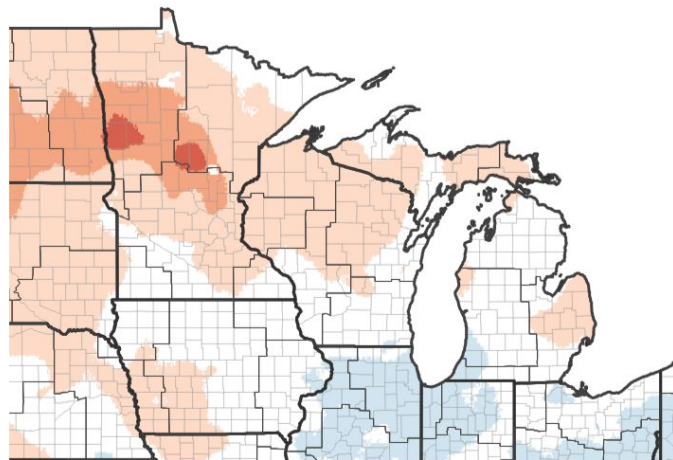
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



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

Data Valid: 08/17/26

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: 08/17/26





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Very low stream flows are being observed in the upper MS River and St. Croix River valleys. ([USGS Streamflows](#), [MN Streamflow](#))

Agricultural Impacts

- Although soil moisture is drying out, crop conditions remain in fairly good condition in both MN and WI. ([State USDA Crop Reports](#))

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Rains have reduced fire danger across northern MN, but building dryness in northern WI has led to increased fire danger there. ([MN Fire Danger](#), [WI Fire Danger](#))

Other Impacts

- No known additional impacts at this time.

Mitigation Actions

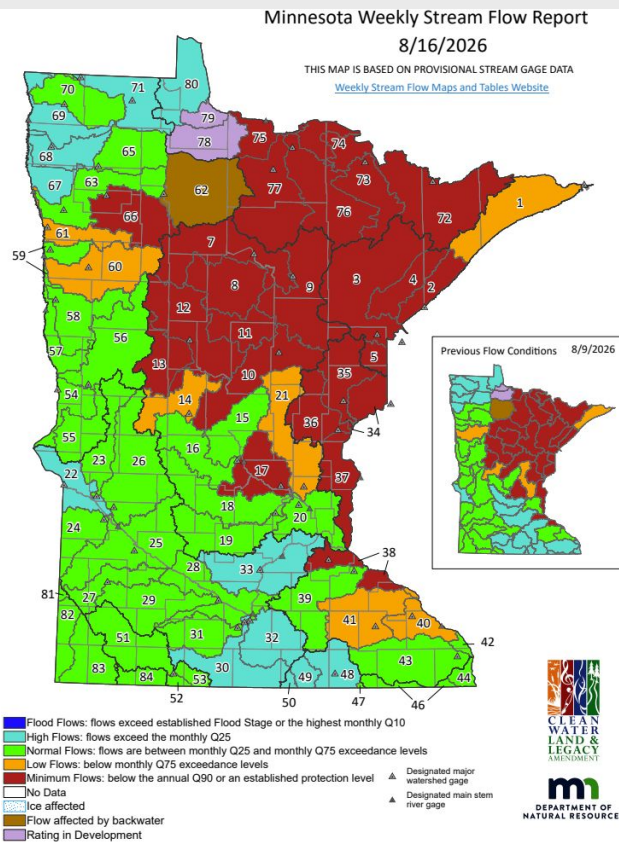
- There are currently no known abnormal mitigation measures implemented



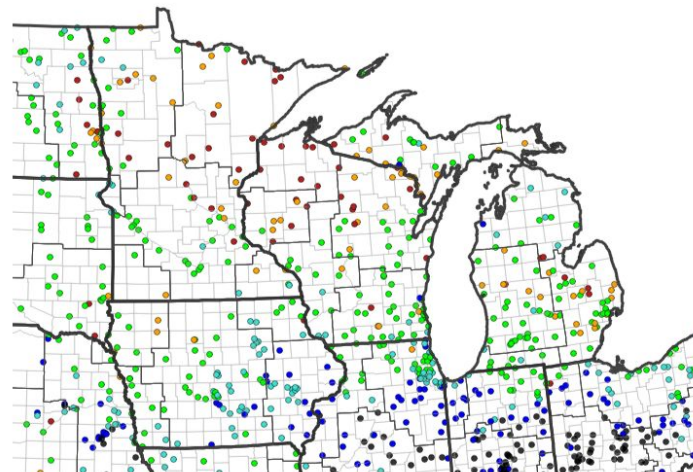


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Stream flows are now running well below normal from the Mississippi headwaters and MN Arrowhead, southeast into the St. Croix valley and western WI



1-Day Average Streamflow Conditions



Streamflow Conditions



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

Data Valid: 08/20/26

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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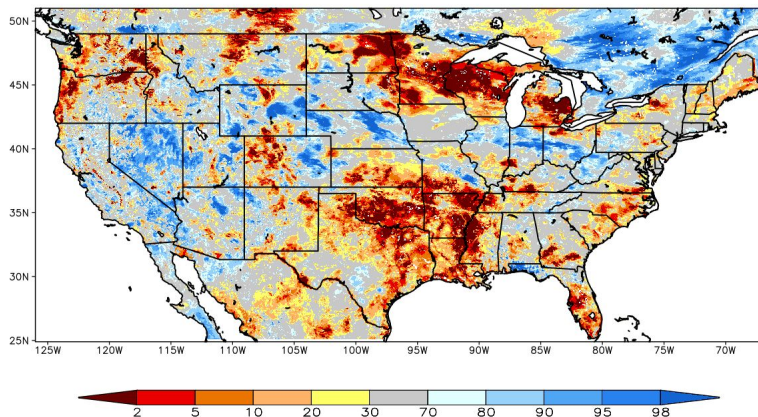
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Agricultural Impacts

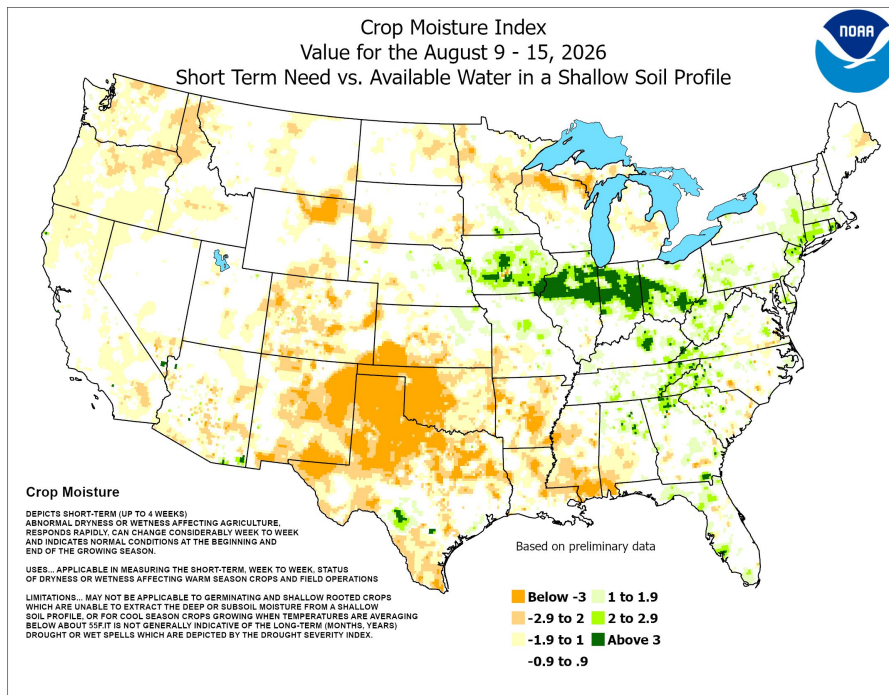
- Soil moisture continues to dry out across much of the region, with greatest moisture stress seen across central MN into northwest WI.
- Despite these dry conditions, over 85% of corn and soybean crops in MN and WI are rated as fair or better.

SPoRT-LIS 0-40 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 20 Aug 2026



NOTE
Experimental

- More points if you need them



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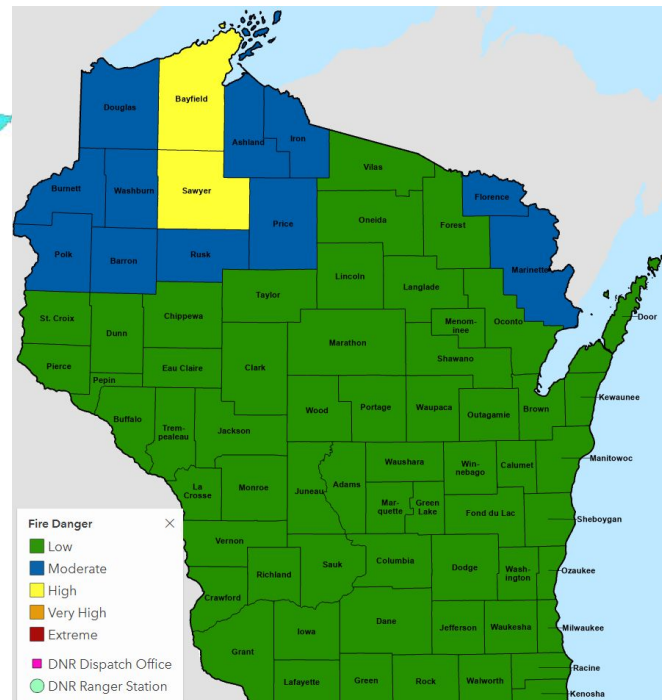
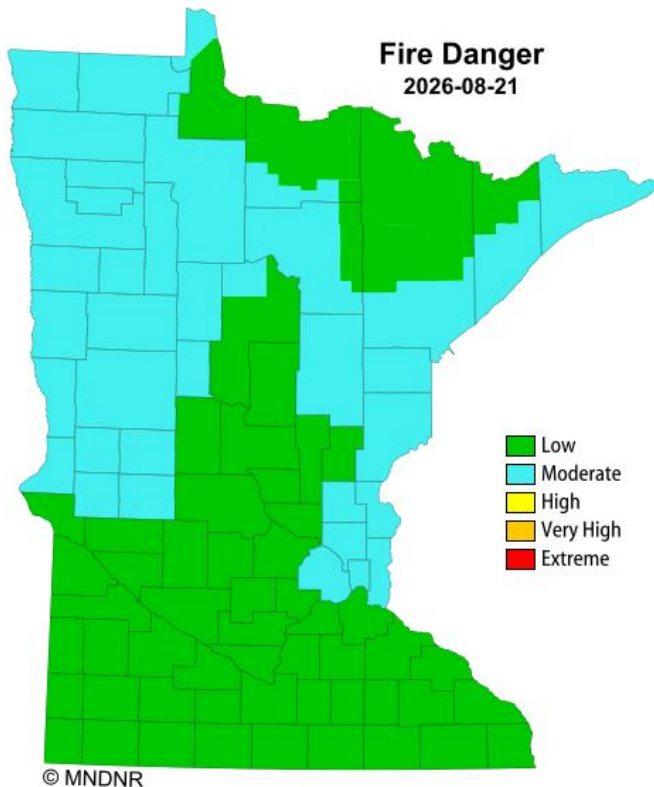
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Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Enough rains since the end of July has been observed in MN to greatly reduce the fire danger in the state.
- The lack of rain across northwest WI has lead to increasing fire danger in that portion of the state

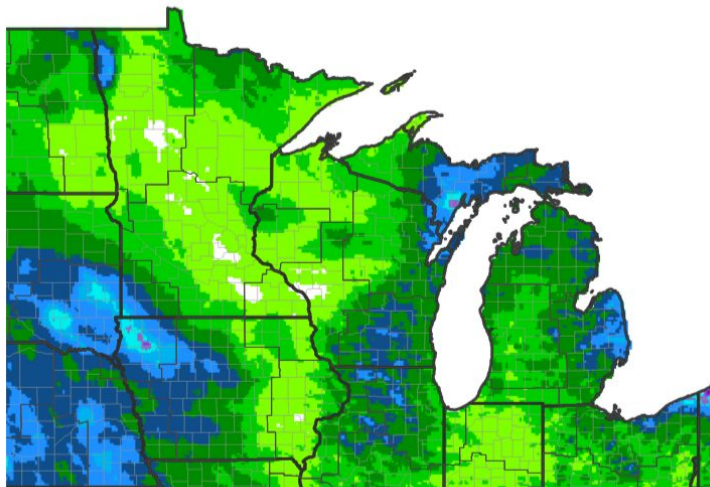




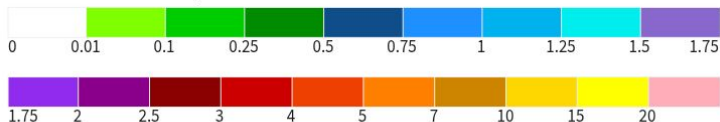
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Over the next 7 days, not significant amounts of precipitation are expected to alter the current drought
- For the end of August and start of September, there is a slight favoring toward above normal precipitation over much of MN, though not enough rain to significantly modify the drought is not expected.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for August 21, 2026–August 28, 2026



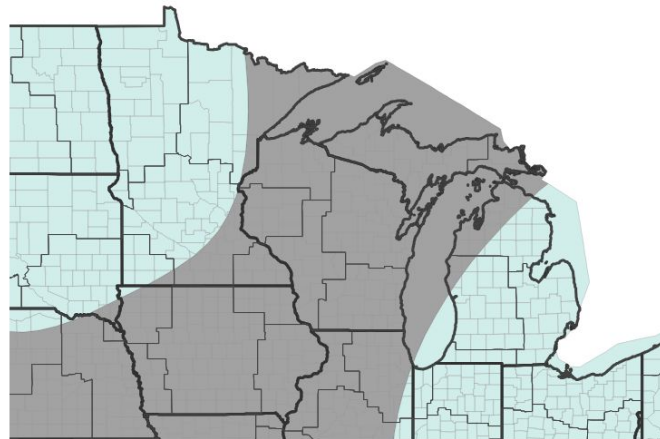
Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 08/21/26

8–14 Day Precipitation Outlook for August 29, 2026–September 4, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



■ Near-Normal Conditions

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

Last Updated: 08/21/26



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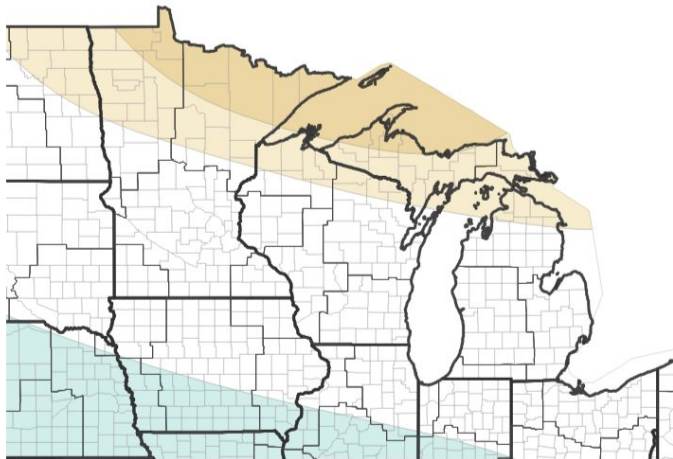


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- For September, drier than normal conditions are favored across northern MN and WI
- There is no clear signal for above or below normal temperatures in September

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



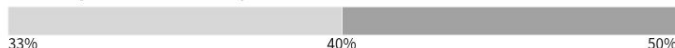
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 08/20/26

Monthly Temperature Outlook for September 1, 2026–September 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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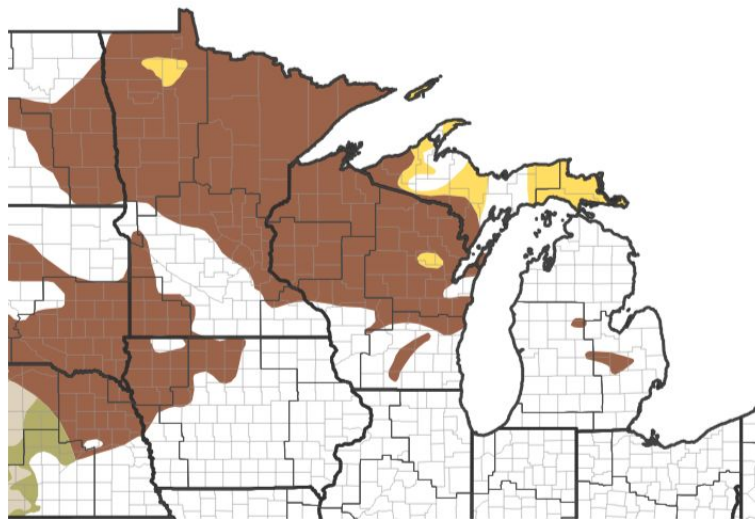


Drought Outlook

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

- Little change in drought conditions are expected through the fall.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for August 20, 2026–November 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 08/20/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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