



Drought Information Statement for Central/Southern MN and Western WI

Valid September 17, 2026

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

Contact Information: nws.twincities@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated October 15, 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.
-
- Drought continued to expand across eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin.
 - Minor improvements across portions of Goodhue, southern Dakota, and eastern Rice Counties.

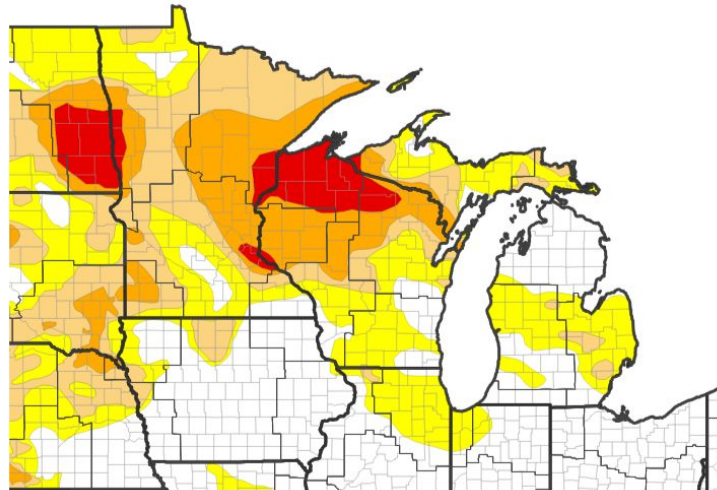


U.S. Drought Monitor

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)**: Portions of Rusk and Pierce Counties in WI. Portions of Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Dakota, and Goodhue Counties in MN.
 - **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: 09/15/26



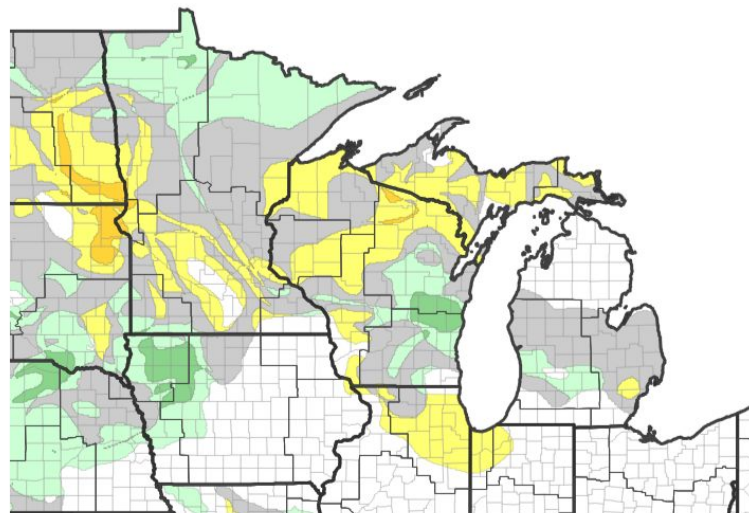


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Across portions central and eastern MN along with west central and northwest WI.
 - No Change: Much of west central, south central, and southeast MN.
 - Drought Improved: Portions of southern Goodhue County and portions of Todd and Morrison Counties.

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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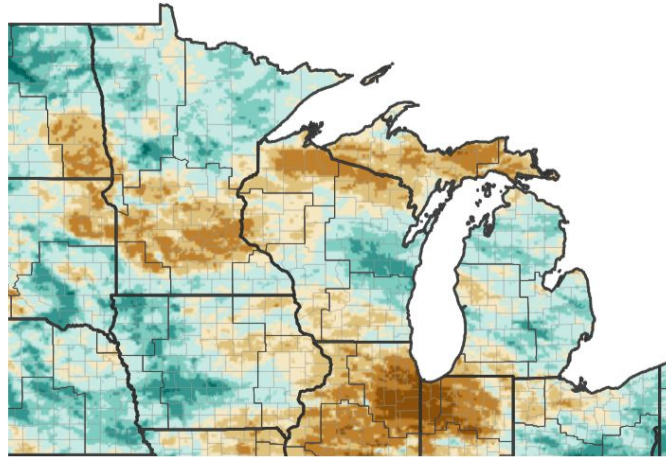
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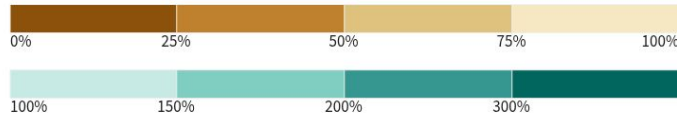
Precipitation

- Continued dryness has occurred over the last 30 days across central MN, with large portions of the Twin Cities metro into west central MN seeing less than 50% of normal rainfall.
- This 30 day dryness bleeds into the last 3 months as well.
- This dry signal at 30 and 90 days quickly flips to above normal precipitation along the I-90 corridor in south central MN

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



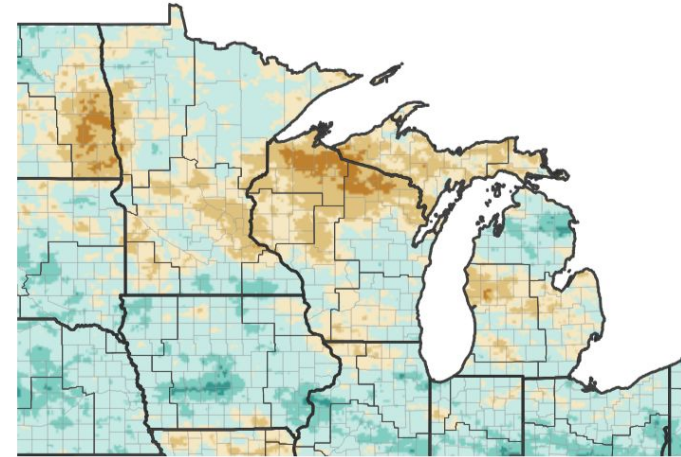
Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



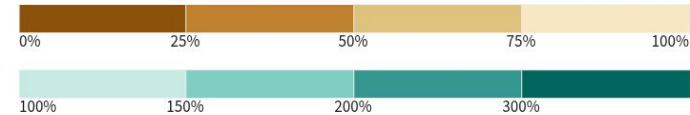
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/15/26

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: 09/15/26

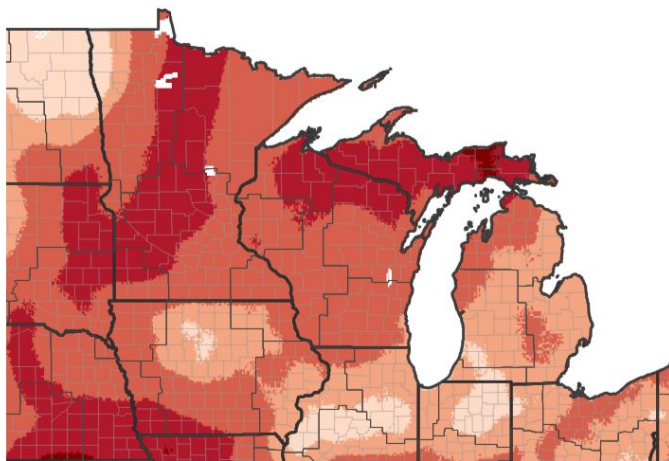




Temperature

- 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 across portions of the region.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



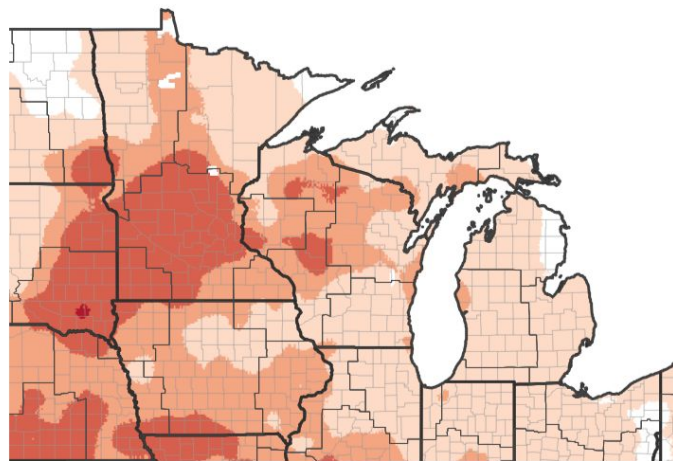
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



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

Data Valid: 09/13/26

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: 09/13/26





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, nearly 80% of soybean, corn, and pasture conditions in MN and WI are rated as Fair to Good (3 to 4 out of 5). ([State USDA Crop Reports](#))

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Enough rain has been observed in September to keep fire dangers low in MN and WI. ([MN Fire Danger](#), [WI Fire Danger](#))

Other Impacts

- No known additional impacts at this time.

Mitigation Actions

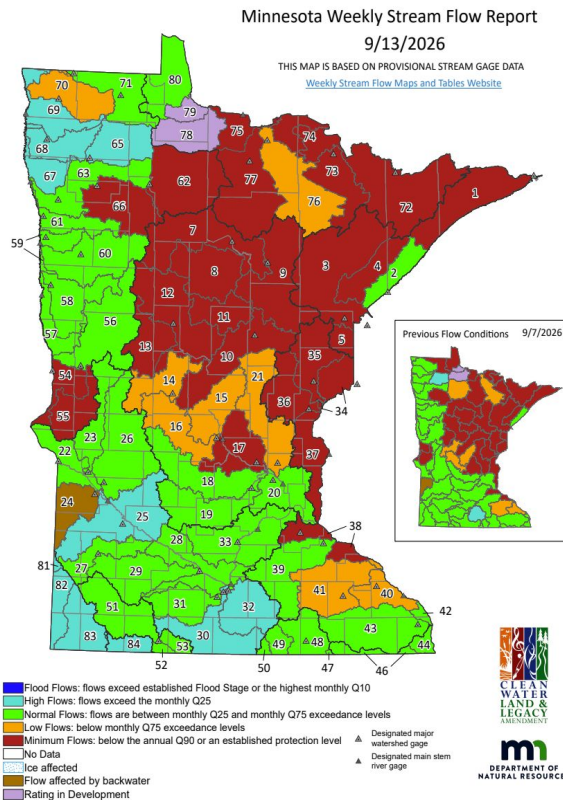
- There are currently no known abnormal mitigation measures implemented.



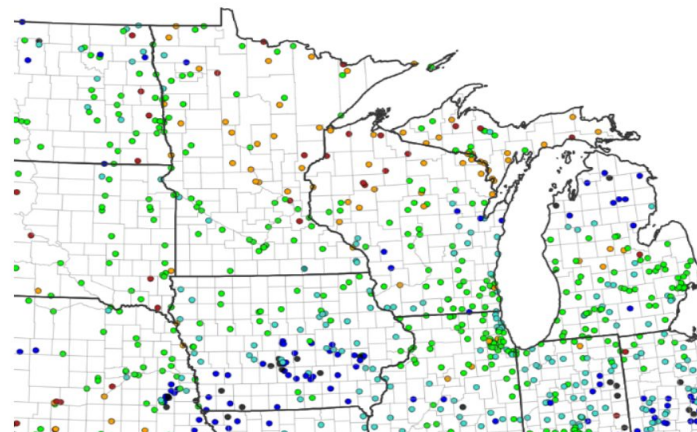


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Stream flows continue to run well below normal from the Mississippi headwaters the St. Croix valley and western WI.



1-Day Average Streamflow



Streamflow Conditions



Source(s): U.S. Geological Survey

Data Valid: 09/16/26

Drought.gov

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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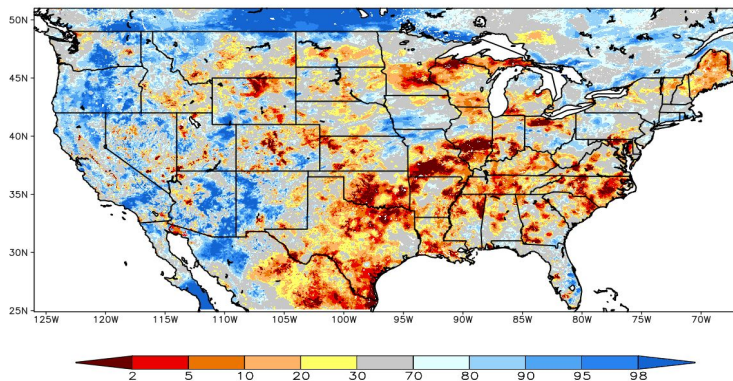
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Agricultural Impacts

- 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 80% of corn and soybean crops in MN and WI are rated as fair or better.

SPoRT-LIS 0-40 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 17 Sep 2026



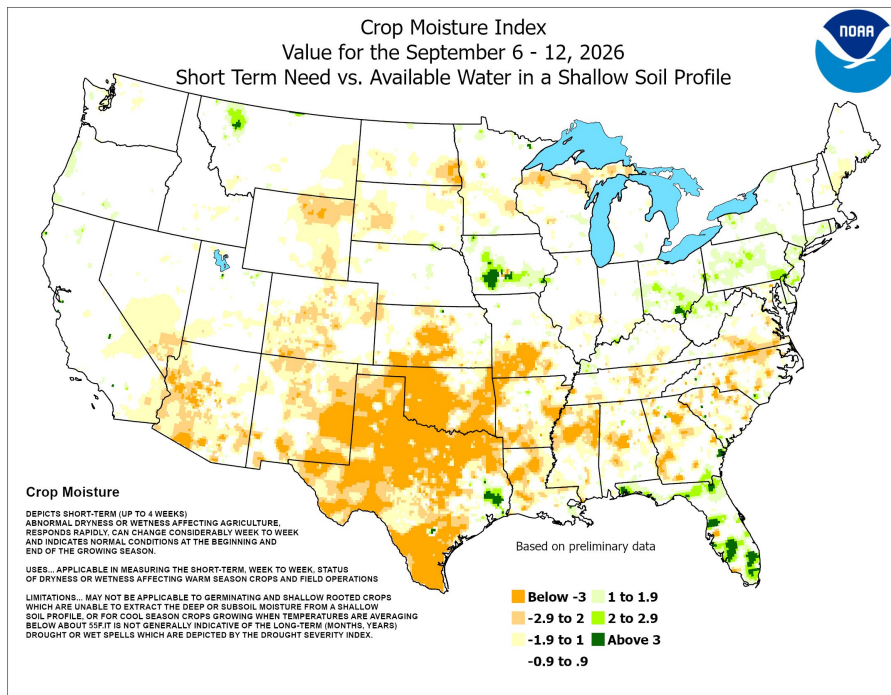
NOTE
Experimental
Experimental



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- More points if you need them



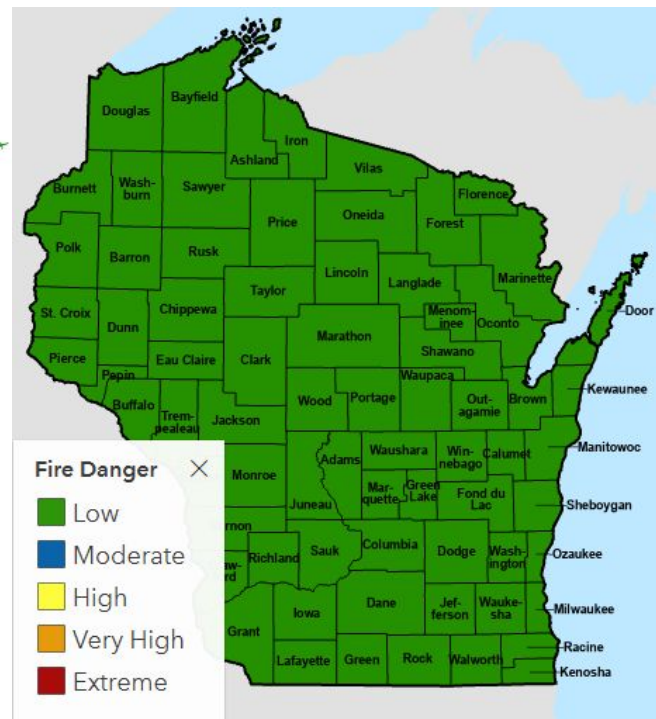
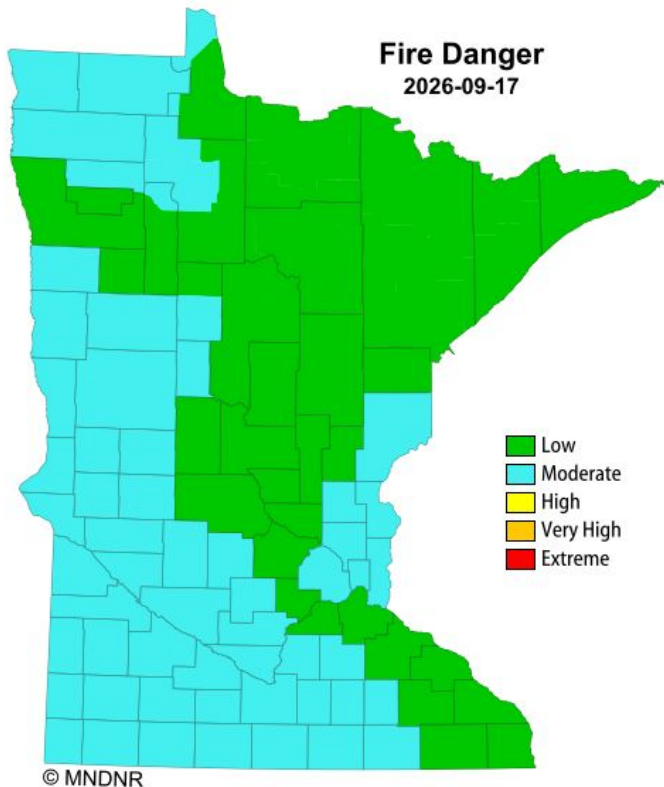
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Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Given occasional rains we have seen in MN and WI in September, we've been able to keep fire dangers reduced.
- However, we are now getting into the start of the traditional fall fire season for MN and WI.

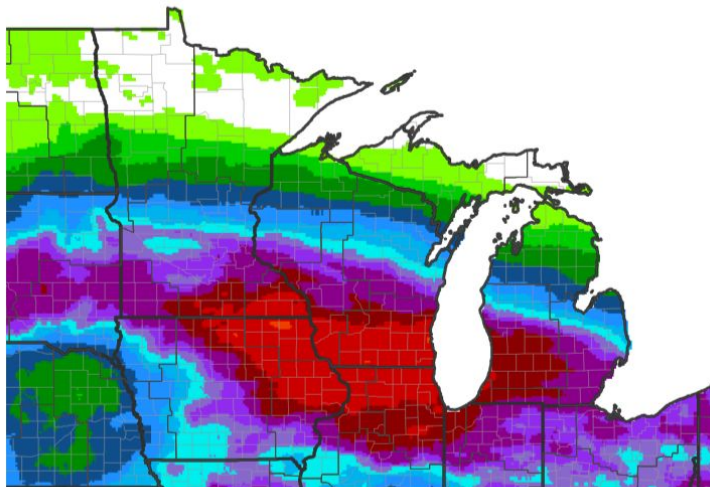




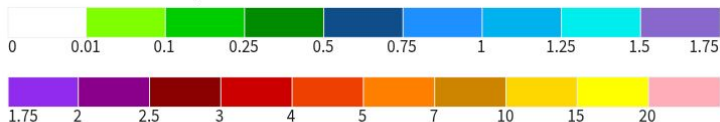
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Over the next 7 days, beneficial rain is expected across southern half of MN and WI.
- For the end of September, there is a slight favoring toward above normal precipitation over much of MN.

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



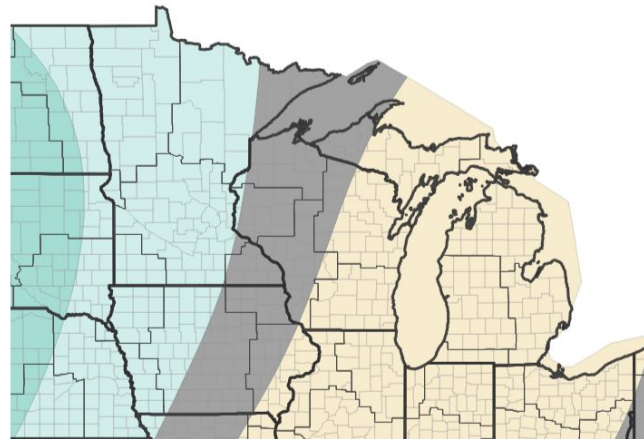
Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 09/17/26

8–14 Day Precipitation Outlook for September 24, 2026–September 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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Long-Range Outlooks

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

- For October, there is no strong signal toward above or below precipitation across MN and WI.
- Slight favoring for above normal temperatures for October across the region.

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



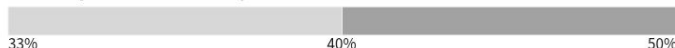
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



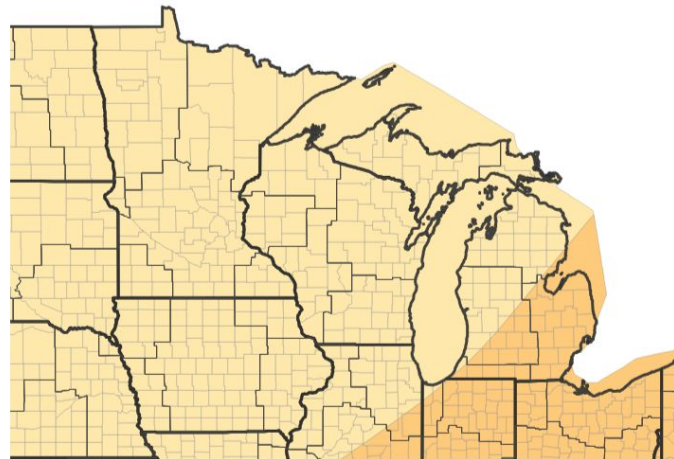
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

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Monthly Temperature Outlook for October 1, 2026–October 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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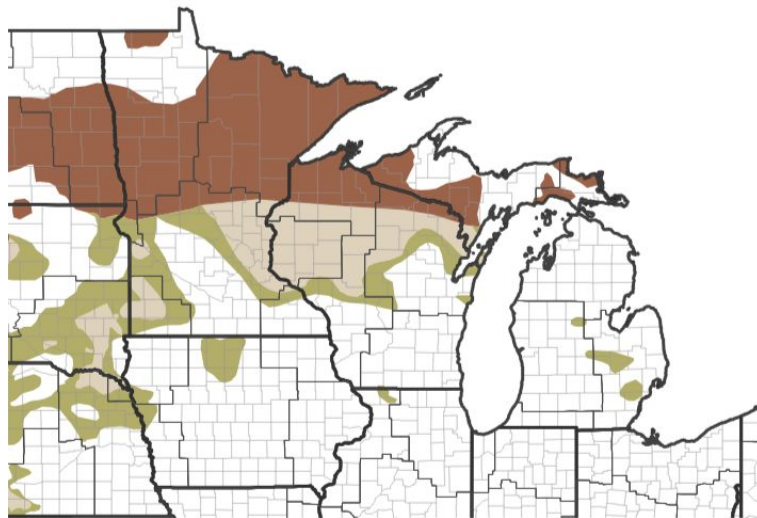


Drought Outlook

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

- Continued improvement in drought across eastern MN and western WI as we move through the fall.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for September 17, 2026–December 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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