



Drought Information Statement for Central/Southern MN and Western WI

Valid October 15, 2026

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

Contact Information: nws.twincities@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated November 19, 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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- There has been a mix of improvements and persistence in drought conditions over the last month.
 - Enough rain has occurred to keep any expansion of drought at bay in the last month.



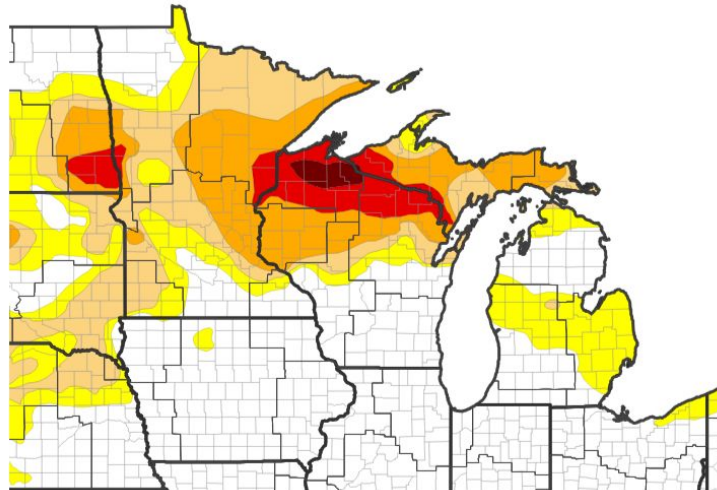


U.S. Drought Monitor

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)**: Far northern Rusk County in WI.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Most of east central MN and western WI and much of Lac Qui Parle county in western MN.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: The rest of central MN into southwest MN.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Surrounding the D1 drought in southwest up into southern portions of central MN and into northern portions of southeast MN.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 10/13/26



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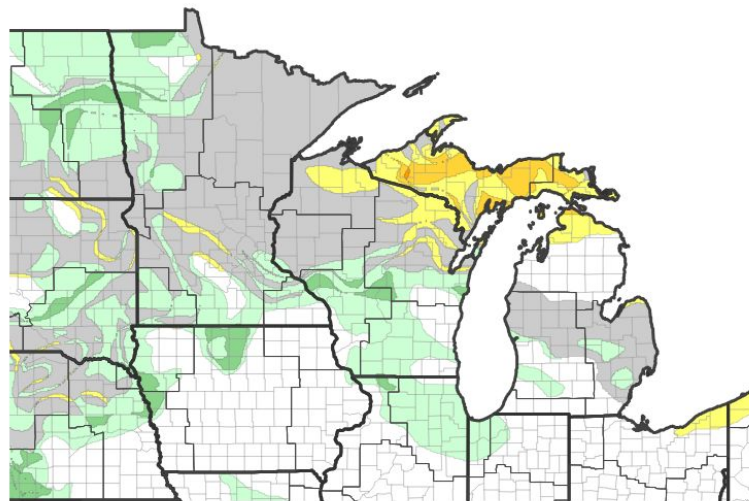


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: small slivers of central MN.
 - No Change: Much of western, central, and eastern MN and most of west central WI.
 - Drought Improved: Southern MN up into the Augusta and Fairchild area of southeast Eau Claire county in WI.

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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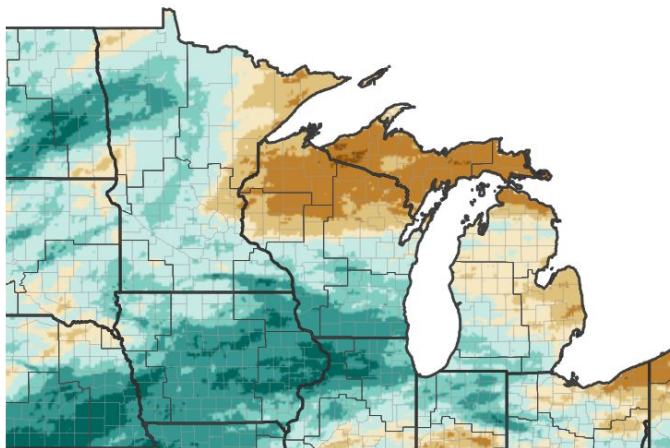
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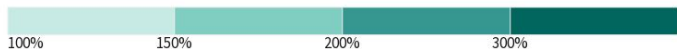
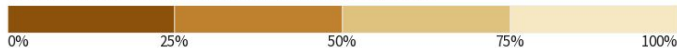
Precipitation

- Dryness over the last 30 days has been centered across the Upper Peninsula of Michigan back west across northern WI into east central MN
- At 90 days, abnormal dryness across central MN appears
- For as dry as it has been across northern WI, very wet conditions have persisted across the I-90 corridor.

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



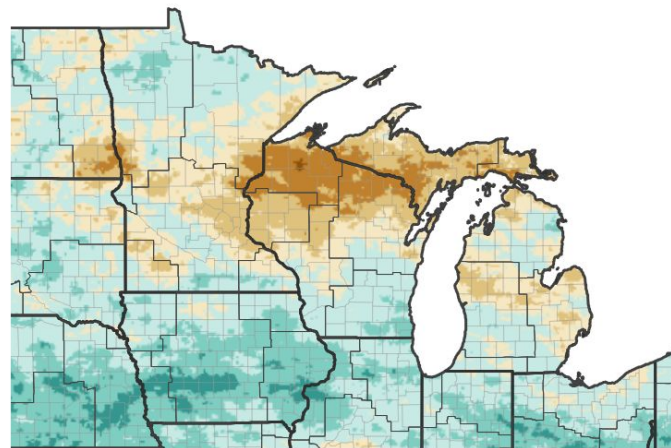
Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



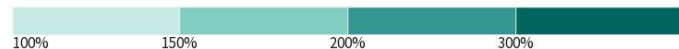
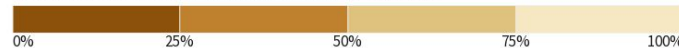
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 10/14/26

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: 10/14/26

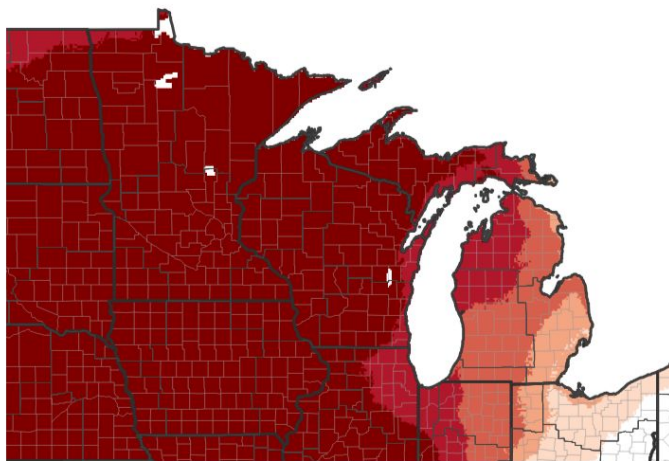




Temperature

- The last 30 days have been very mild across the region
- Through October 15th, much of central and southern MN and western WI had still yet to receive their first freeze of the Fall.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



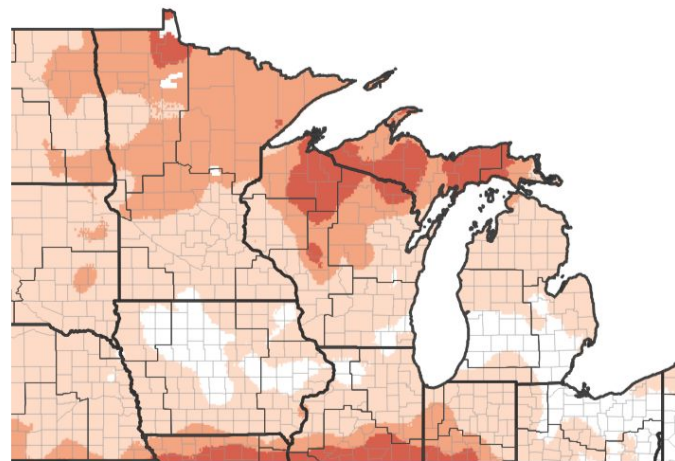
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



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

Data Valid: 10/12/26

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: 10/12/26





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Low stream flows continue to persist in the upper MS River and St. Croix River valleys. ([USGS Streamflows](#), [MN Streamflow](#))

Agricultural Impacts

- Harvest season is progressing quickly, with September rains allowing for some soil moisture recharge in MN, but dryness across western WI has kept soil moistures dry there. ([State USDA Crop Reports](#))

Fire Hazard Impacts

- As vegetation continues to go dormant, we are see occasional high fire danger days when there are stronger winds. ([MN Fire Danger](#), [WI Fire Danger](#))

Other Impacts

- No known additional impacts at this time.

Mitigation Actions

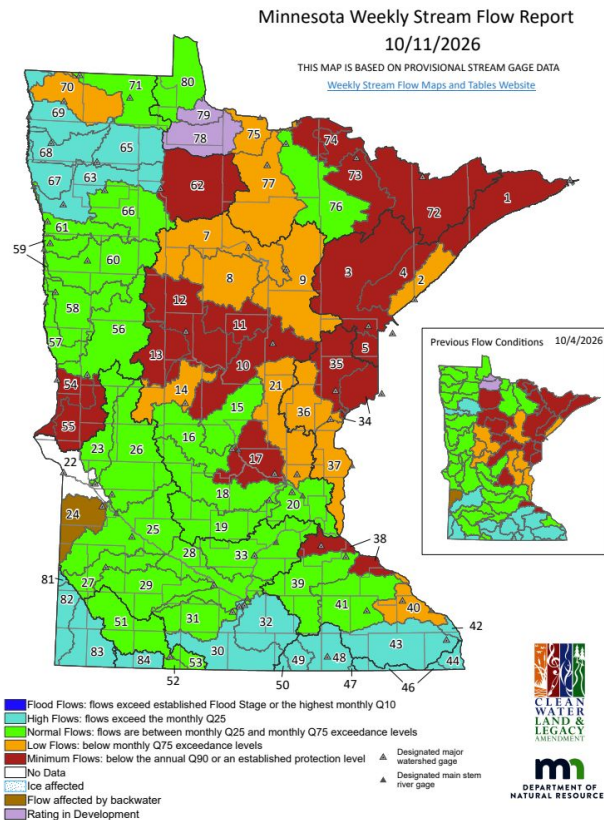
- There are currently no known abnormal mitigation measures implemented.



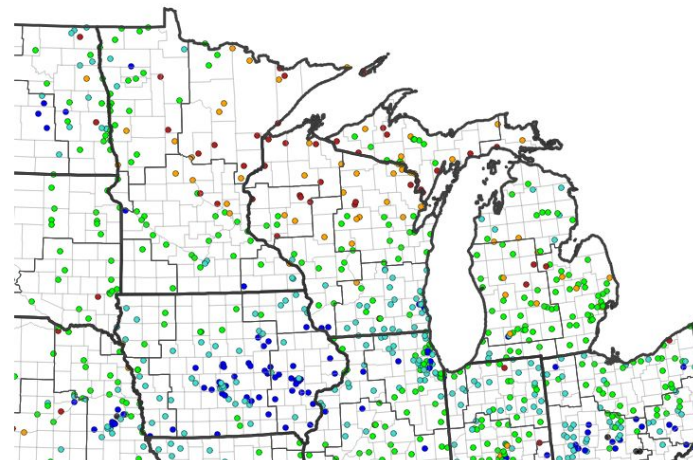


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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



1-Day Average Streamflow Conditions



Streamflow Conditions



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

Data Valid: 10/15/26

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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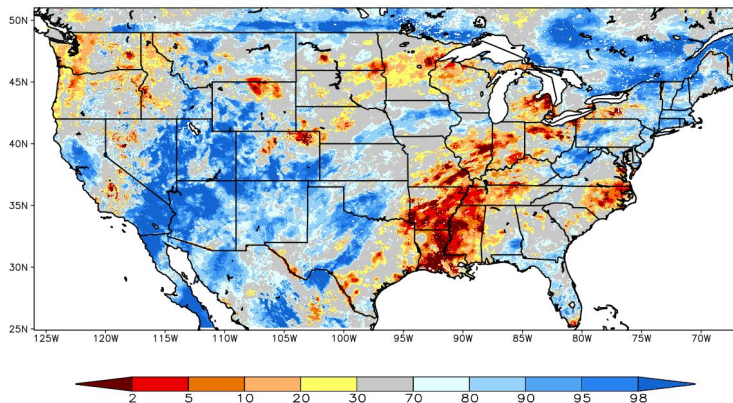
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Agricultural Impacts

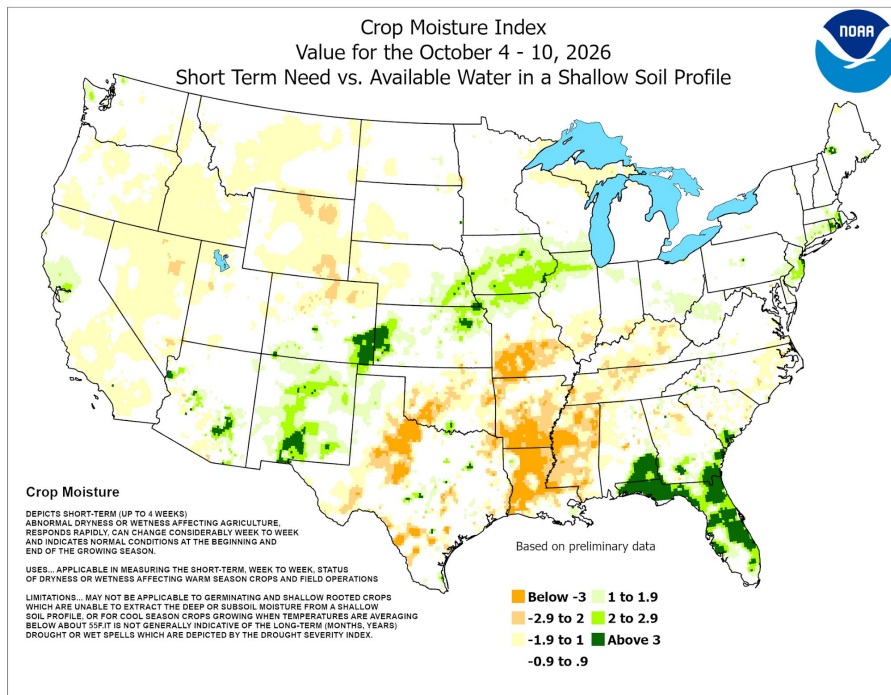
- Soil moisture conditions have begun to improve, though dryness persists across central MN and northern WI as we continue to see the impacts of the summer drought.

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



---NOTE---
Experimental

- More points if you need them



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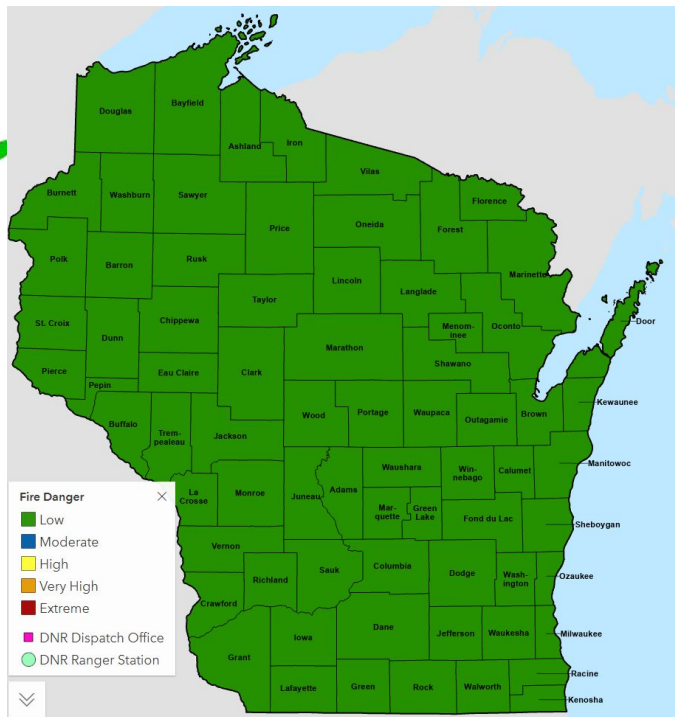
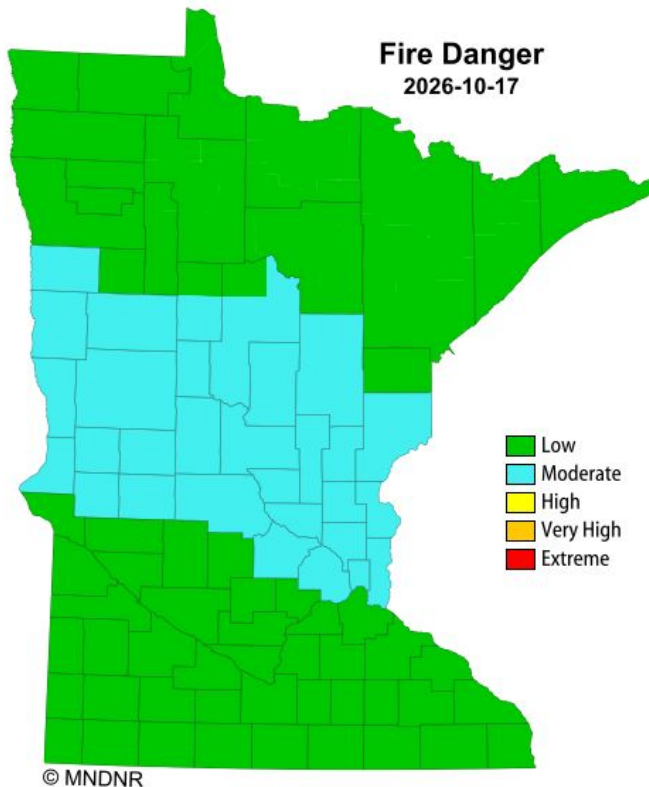
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Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Now that plants are beginning to become dormant, we are seeing a typical increase in the Fall fire danger
- Occasional days of high fire danger are now occurring when stronger winds are observed.

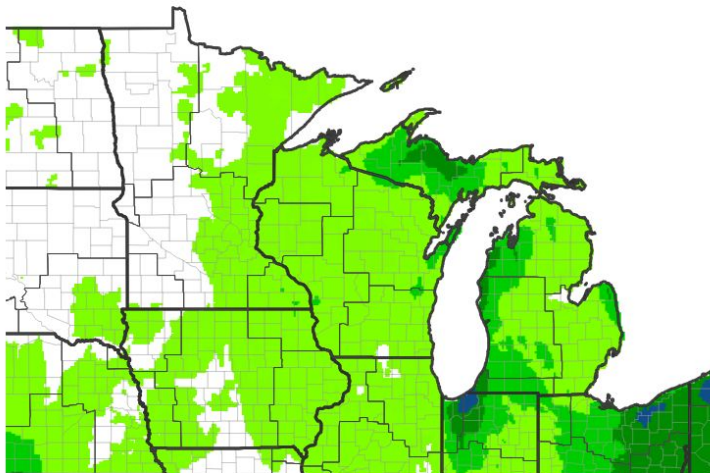




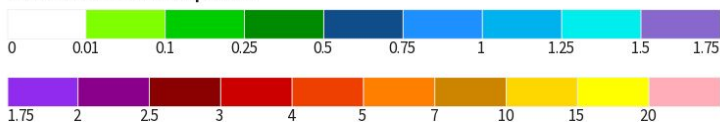
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Very little rain is expected between October 17th and October 23rd
- For the end of October, there is a favoring toward above normal precipitation over southern MN and western WI.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October 16, 2026–October 23, 2026



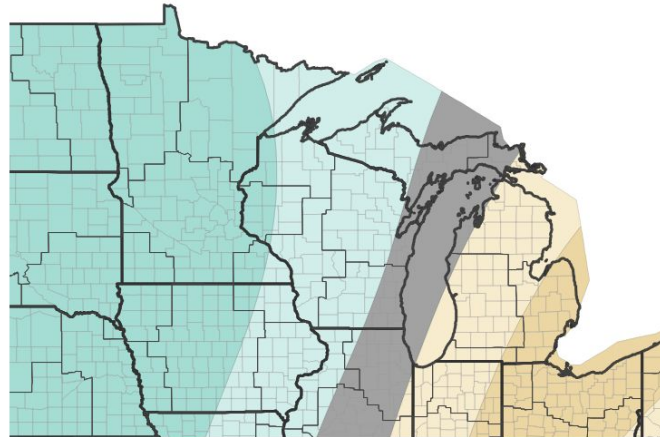
Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 10/16/26

8–14 Day Precipitation Outlook for October 24, 2026–October 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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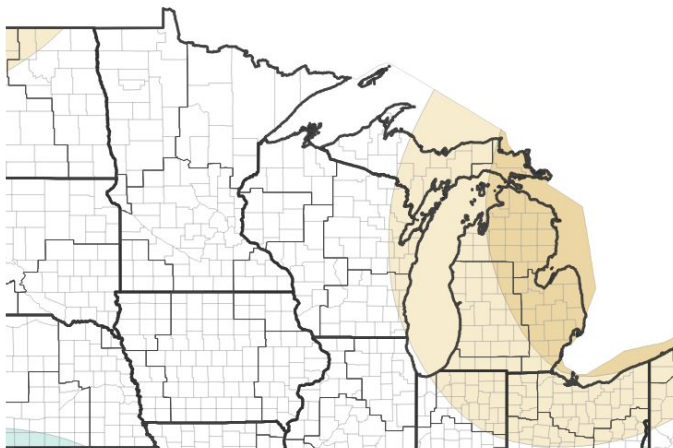


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- For November, there is no strong signal toward above or below precipitation across MN and western WI.
- Weather patterns supporting above normal temperatures are expected to persist into November, with above normal temperature probabilities favored across all of MN and WI.

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



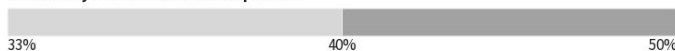
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



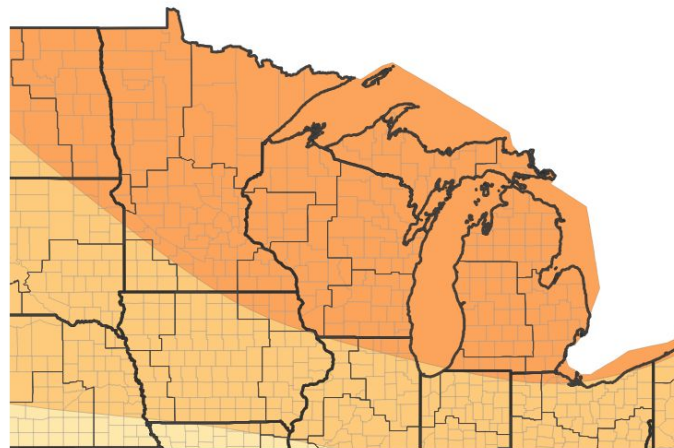
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 10/15/26
Last updated: 03/11/20

Monthly Temperature Outlook for November 1, 2026–November 30, 2026



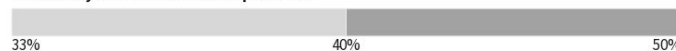
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov
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Last Updated: 10/15/26
Last updated: 03/11/20



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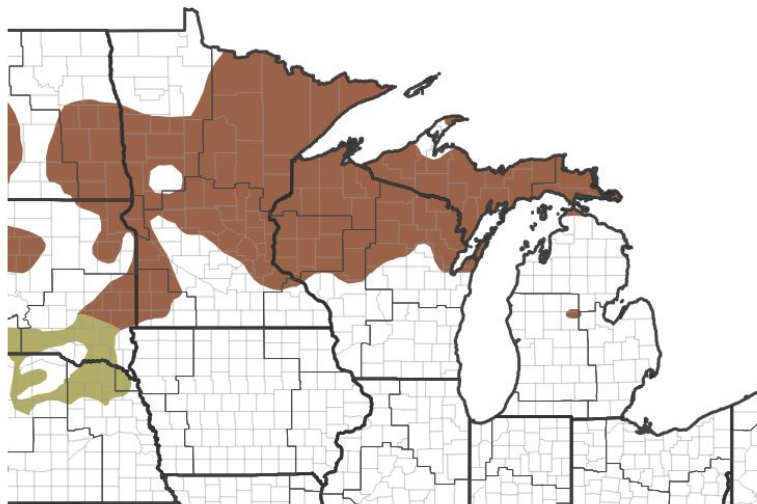


Drought Outlook

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

- We are getting into our climatologically low liquid equivalent precipitation time of the year. Therefore, it is difficult to move the drought needle much in either direction during the cold season, with drought conditions expected to persist through the rest of 2026.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for October 15, 2026–January 31, 2027



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 10/15/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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