



# Drought Information Statement

## For East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, and Southwest North Carolina

Valid April 2, 2026

Issued By: WFO Morristown, TN

Contact Information: [sr-mrx.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-mrx.webmaster@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated in the next week 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/mrx/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





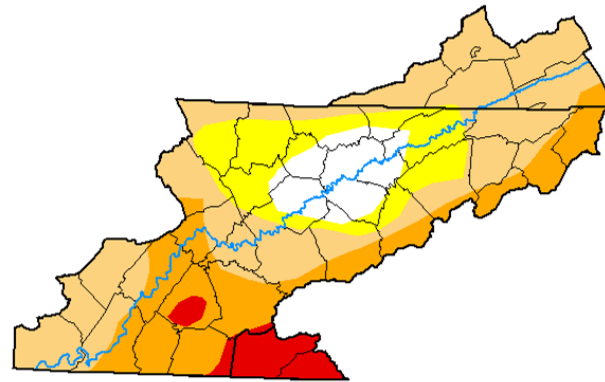
# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the NWS Morristown CWA

## ● Drought intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None.
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Cherokee and Clay counties in NC, and portions of McMinn, Monroe, and Polk counties in TN
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Much of the southern Tennessee Valley, the far east Tennessee mountains, and part of Washington county VA
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Most remaining areas of East Tennessee and southwest Virginia
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** A portion of the central and northern TN valley

## U.S. Drought Monitor Morristown, TN WFO



March 31, 2026

(Released Thursday, Apr. 2, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	9.50	90.50	74.76	29.69	5.73	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 03-24-2026	11.17	88.83	66.03	29.04	0.80	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 12-30-2025	2.84	97.16	52.63	16.91	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-06-2026	0.15	99.85	85.19	33.14	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-30-2025	86.93	13.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 04-01-2025	51.34	48.66	12.39	0.00	0.00	0.00

### Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

### Author:

David Simeral  
Western Regional Climate Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

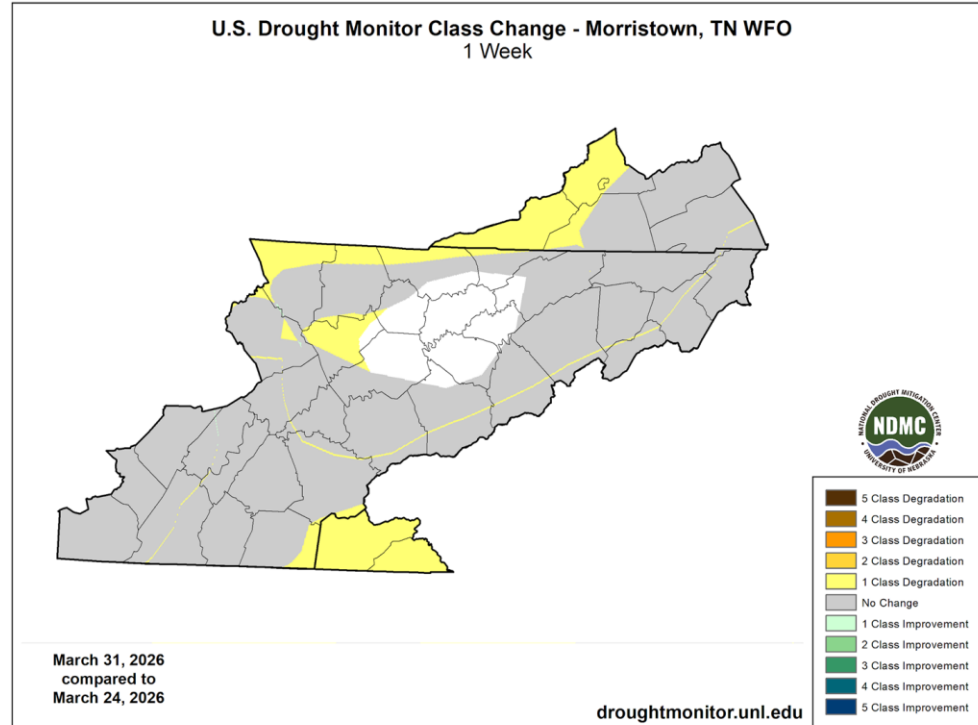
National Weather Service  
Morristown, TN



# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 1-week change map for the Southern Appalachians

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - **Drought Worsened:** Portions of the northern Cumberland plateau, the central Tennessee valley near the Oak Ridge area, parts of southwest Virginia near Lee and Wise counties, and also Cherokee and Clay counties in NC and adjacent areas in the East Tennessee mountains.
  - **No Change:** Most areas.
  - **Drought Improved:** None.

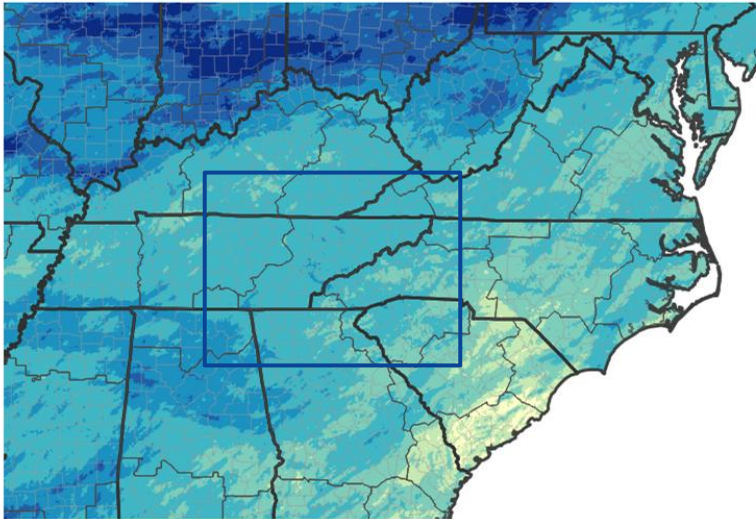




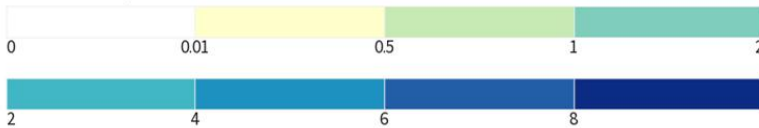
# Precipitation

- Precipitation was 50-75% or normal for most areas.

### 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

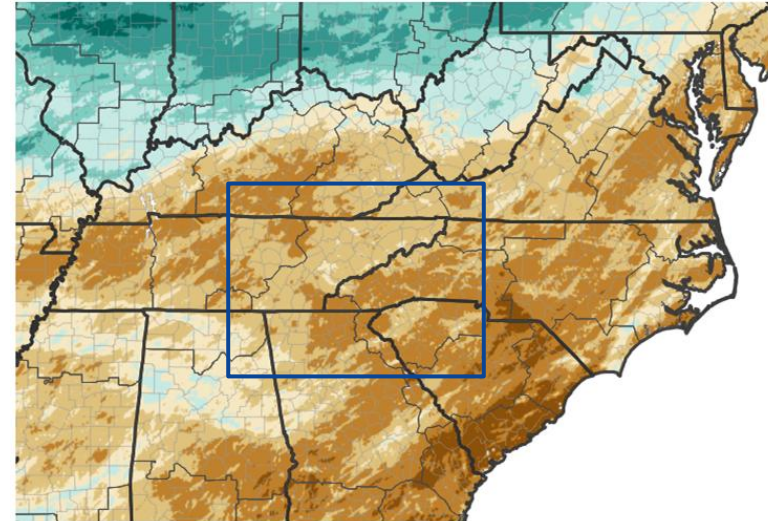


#### Inches of Precipitation

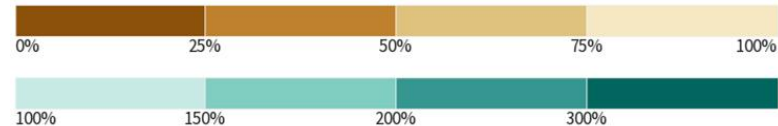


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/02/26

### 30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



#### Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/02/26



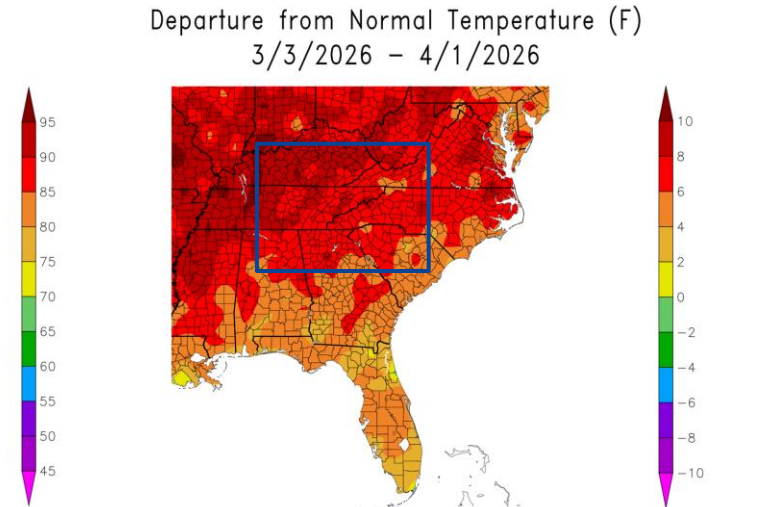


# Temperature

- Temperatures have been above normal the past 4 weeks, with most places 6-8°F above normal.



Generated 4/2/2026 using provisional data.



ACIS Web Services 26 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Stream flows are generally extremely below normal for the entire area.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is between 10-30% below normal across the area.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Tennessee Forestry has reported a notable uptick in fire activity over the last two weeks due to dry and warm conditions. Additionally the outlook for North Carolina is above normal for April.

## Other Impacts

- Stay tuned for future updates.

## Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information. Continue to abide by any local burning bans and regulations.

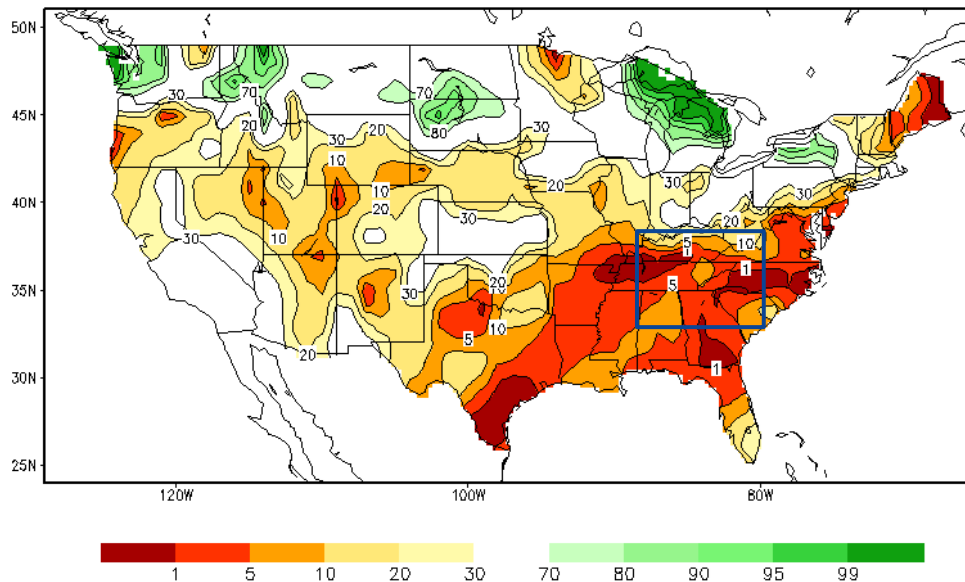




# Agricultural Impacts

- Very dry soil conditions continue across most of the region.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
APR 01, 2026





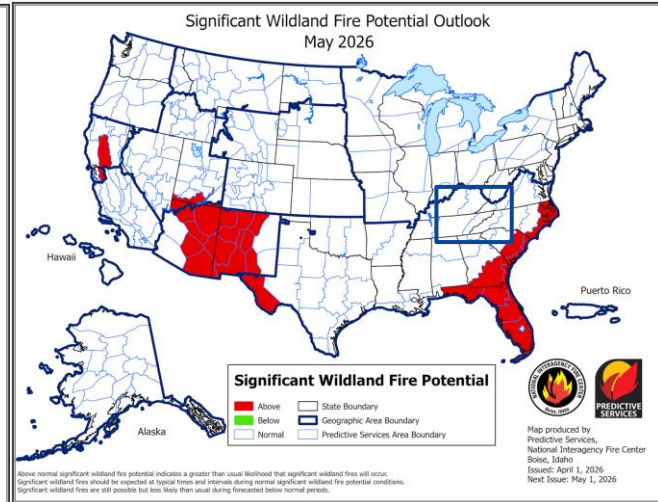
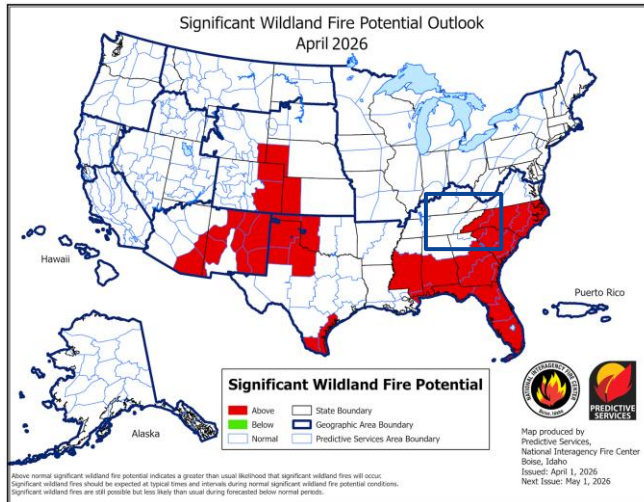
# Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

Latest TN Burn Ban map available [here](#).

Latest VA Burn Ban map available [here](#).

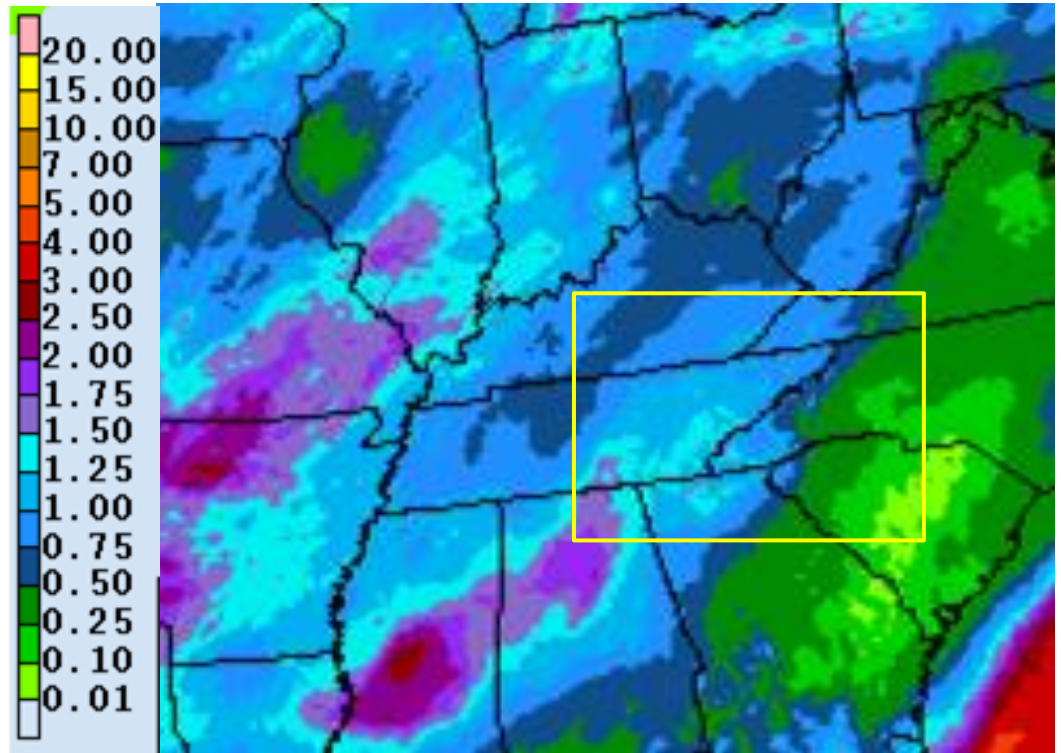
Latest NC Burn Ban information available [here](#).





# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Widespread rainfall is expected this weekend with a cold front.
- Most areas are expected to receive between 0.75" and 1.25" of rain.





# Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

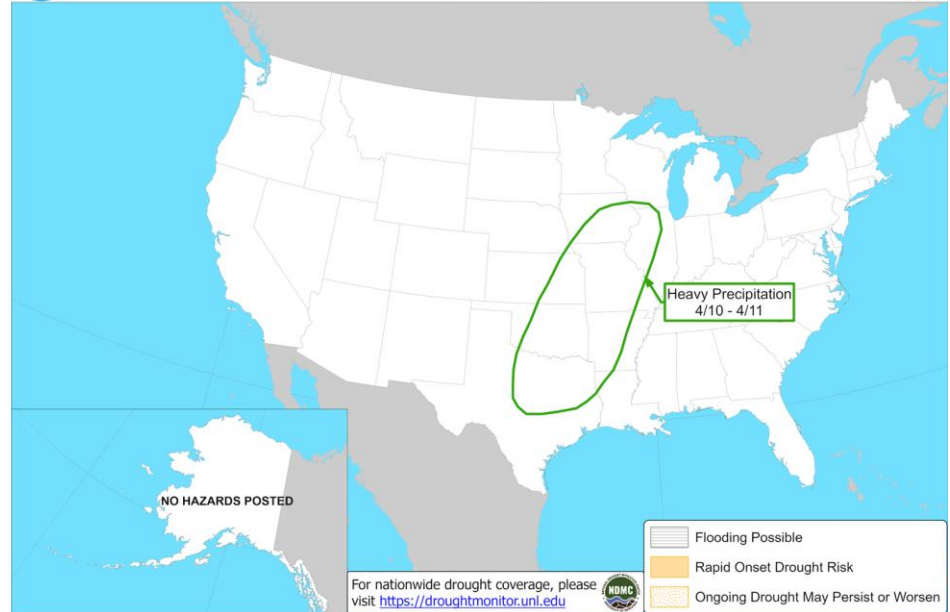
Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- No hazards in our area during Week 2



## Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook

Valid: April 9 - 15, 2026



For nationwide drought coverage, please visit <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Climate Prediction Center

Released: April 1, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

Follow us:

[www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Morristown, TN