



Drought Information Statement for For East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, and Southwest North Carolina Valid May 15, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Morristown, TN

Contact Information: sr-mrx.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated May 22, 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/MRX/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.

- All of the NWS Morristown area remains covered by some drought category with 30% covered by D3.
- Drought has remained the same in our area, except for slight improvement in the southern Plateau and slight worsening in southwest Virginia



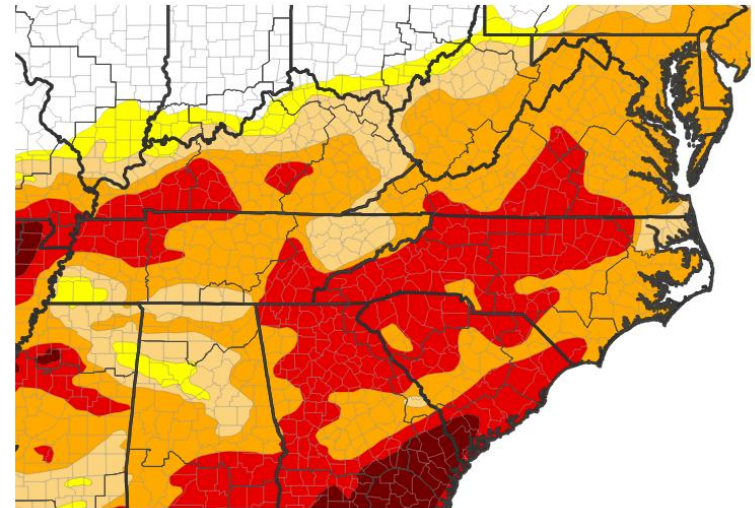


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for For E Tennessee, SW Virginia, and SW North Carolina

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: None.
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Most of southeast Tennessee, and part of the southern Valley and Cumberland Plateau
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Northern Cumberland Plateau, Tennessee mountains, northeast Tennessee, and southwest Virginia
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Remaining areas of East Tennessee and southwest Virginia
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: None

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 05/12/26



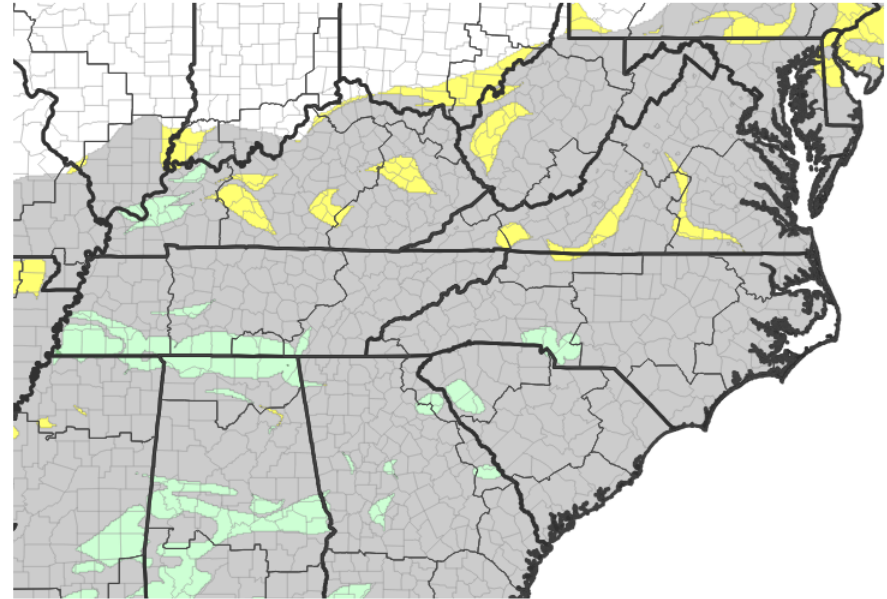


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

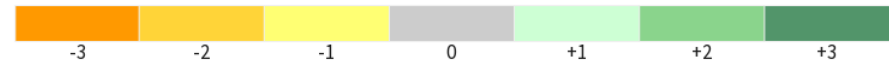
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for For E Tennessee, SW Virginia, and SW North Carolina

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: eastern Washington County, VA
 - No Change: Entire area
 - Drought Improved: Portions of Marion and Sequatchie Counties

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



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

Data Valid: 05/12/26

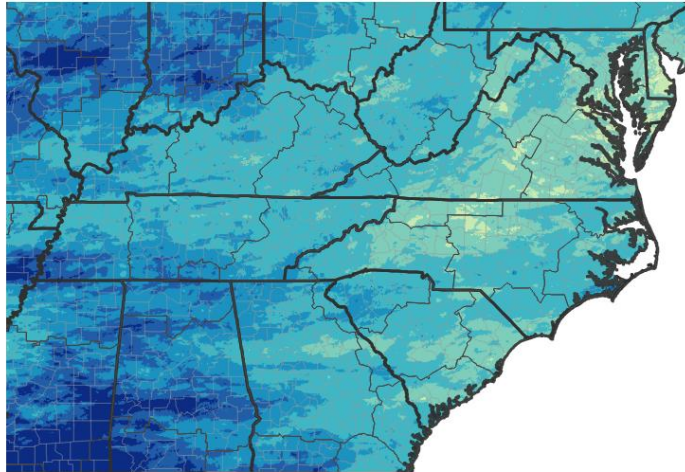




Precipitation

- Multiple rounds of showers lead to variable precipitation across the region.
- Most places were generally around or less than 75% of normal for the last 30 days

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



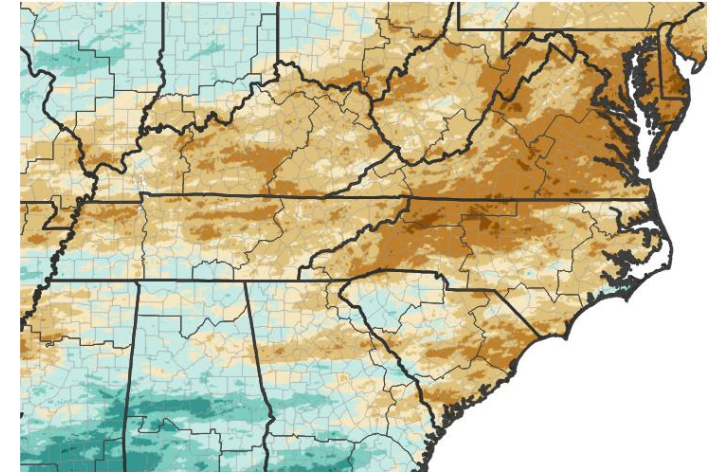
Inches of Precipitation



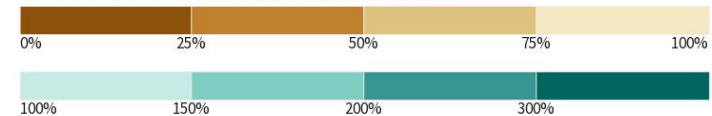
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 05/14/26

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: 05/14/26

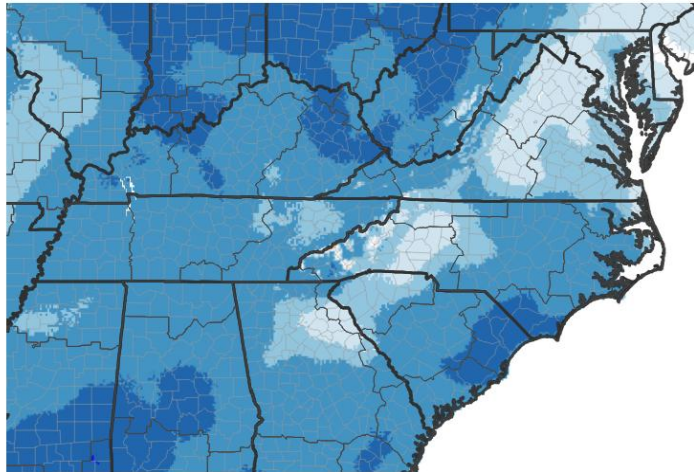




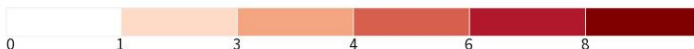
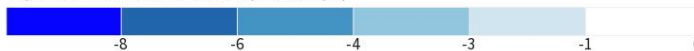
Temperature

- Temperatures have been well below normal in the last week but still slightly above normal for the last 30 days

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



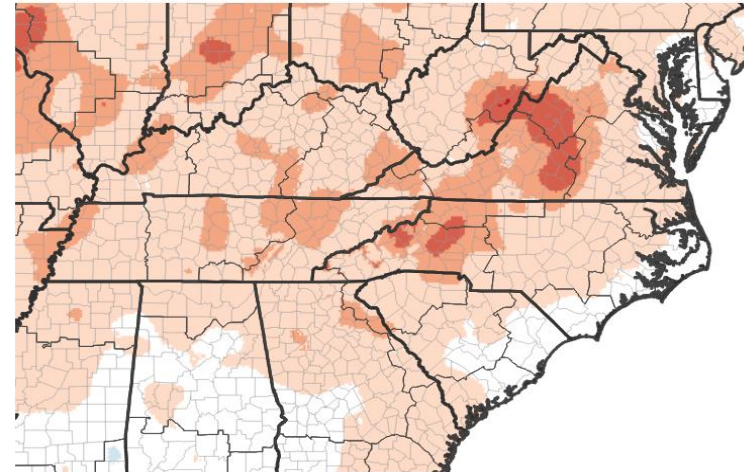
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



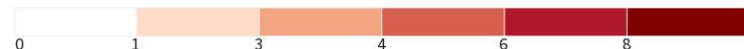
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/10/26

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: 05/10/26





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

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

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is below the 5th percentile for most of the area

Fire Hazard Impacts

- As we move through the late spring into early summer, fire weather concerns continue to decrease

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.

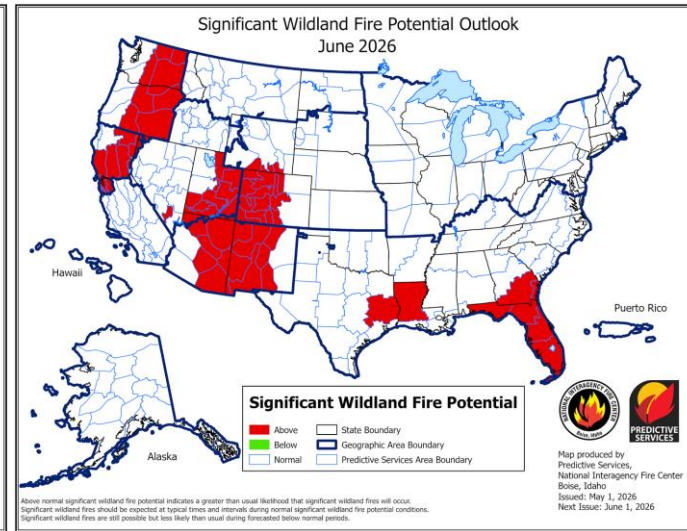




Fire Hazard Impacts

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](#).

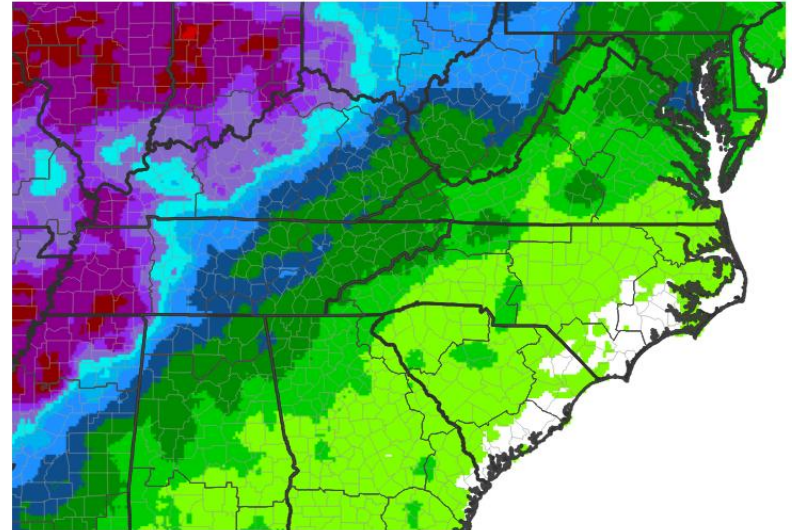




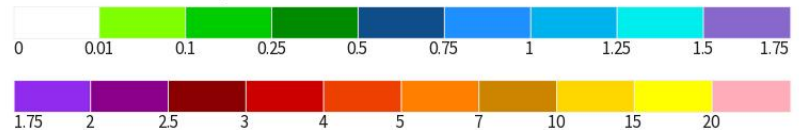
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Chances for rain do not return until mid to late next week with very hot temperatures beforehand
- Most places are forecast to get 0.25" to 0.50"

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for May 14, 2026–May 21, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 05/14/26





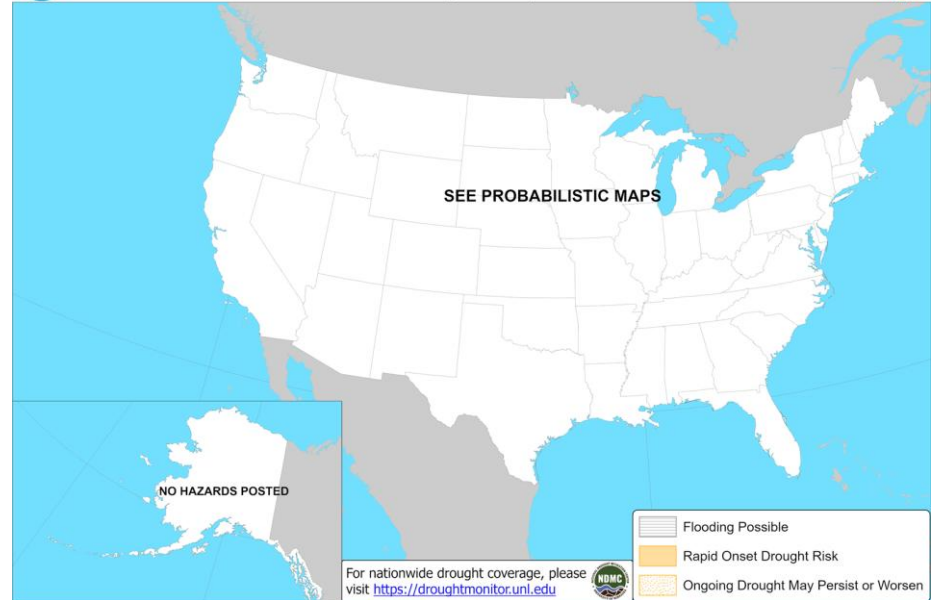
Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

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

- No strong signal for any hazards in our region



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook
Valid: May 22 - 28, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: May 14, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

Follow us:

www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Morristown, TN

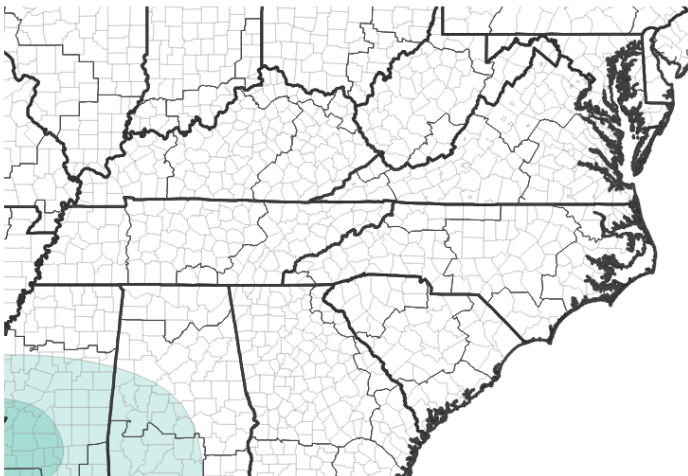


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Slight signal for below normal temperatures in the month of May.
- No notable signal with regard to precipitation chances for the month of May.

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



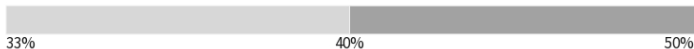
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



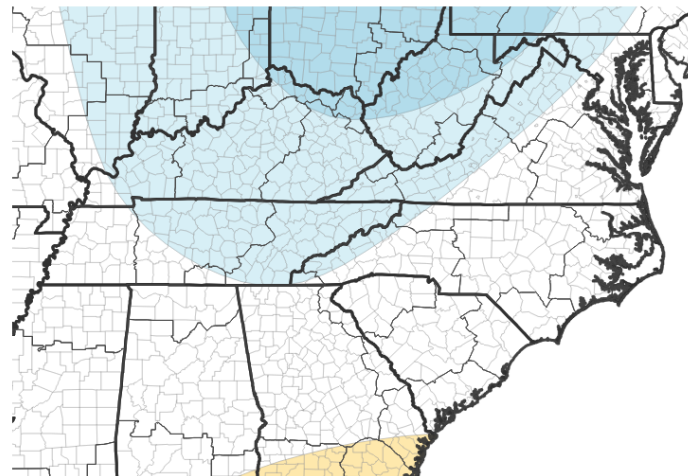
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 04/30/26

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



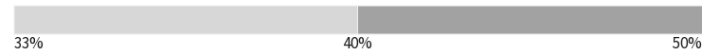
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 04/30/26



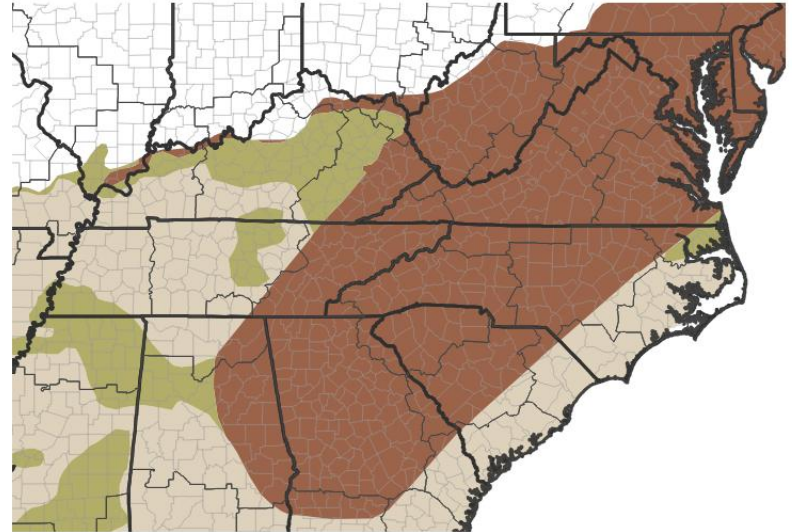


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are expected to persist across most of the area with some improvements possible along far western areas

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for April 30, 2026–July 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 04/30/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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

National Weather Service
Morristown, TN