



# Drought Information Statement for For East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, and Southwest North Carolina Valid May 21, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Morristown, TN

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

- This product will be updated May 29, 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.
- 
- Drought has generally worsened in our area before rainfall has recently returned
  - All of the NWS Morristown area remains covered by some drought category with over 40% now covered in D3 / Extreme Drought



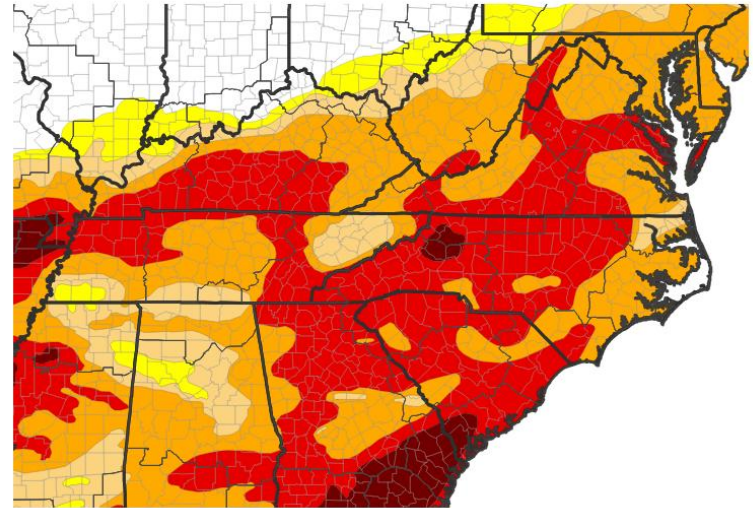


# U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: None.
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Most of southeast Tennessee, Cumberland Plateau, and far eastern portions of the Tennessee mountains and southwest Virginia
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Portions of East Tennessee and most of southwest Virginia
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Remaining areas of East Tennessee
  - **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: 05/19/26



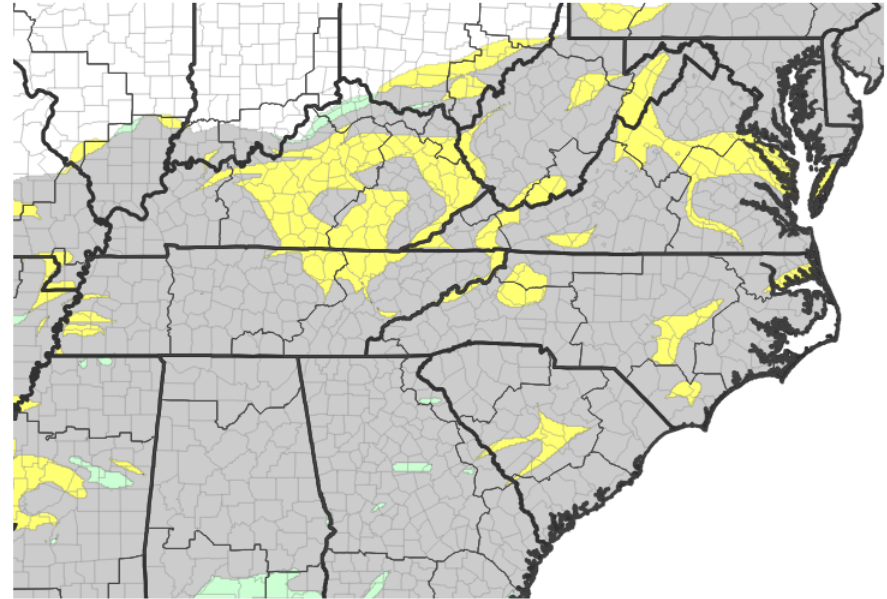


# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

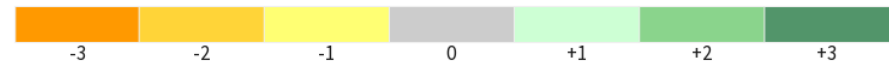
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for For East Tennessee, SW Virginia, and SW North Carolina

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: Most of the northern Plateau and portions of the East Tennessee mountains and southwest Virginia
  - No Change: All remaining areas
  - Drought Improved: None

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: 05/19/26

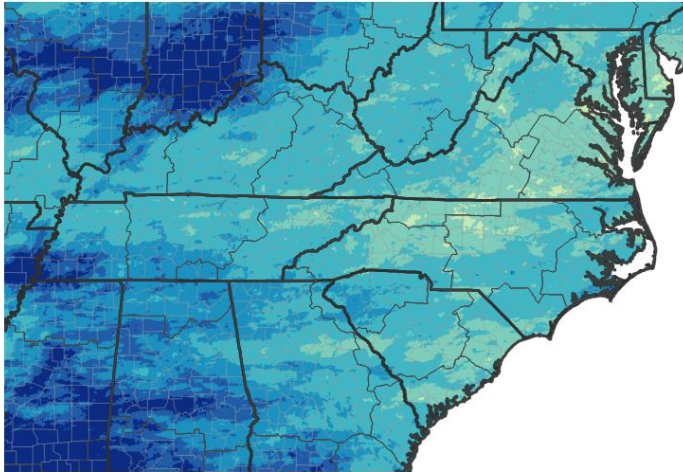




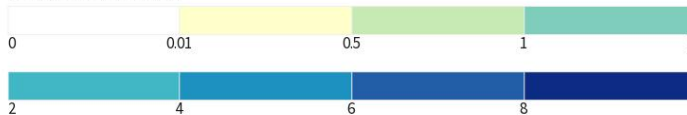
# Precipitation

- Rainfall has picked up during the last month but remained below normal
- Most places were generally around or less than 75% of normal for the last 30 days

### 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

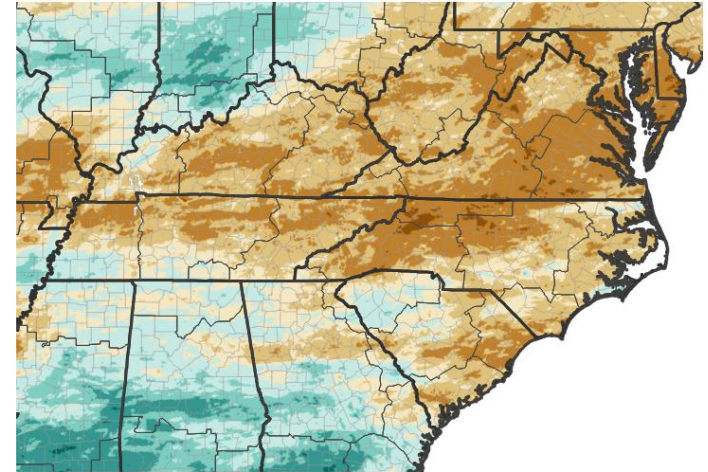


#### Inches of Precipitation

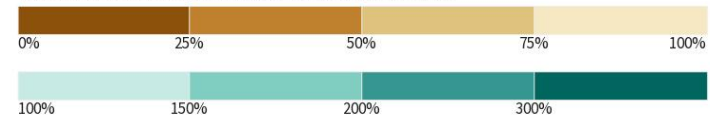


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov  
 Last Updated: 05/21/26

### 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: 05/21/26





# 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.

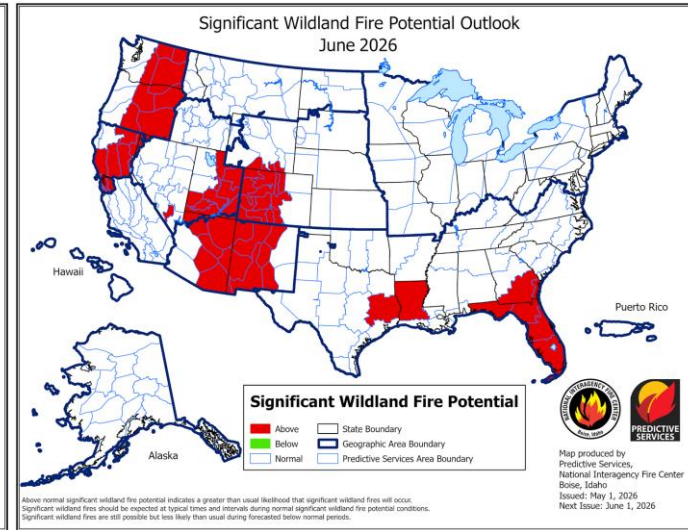




# Fire Hazard Impacts

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](#).

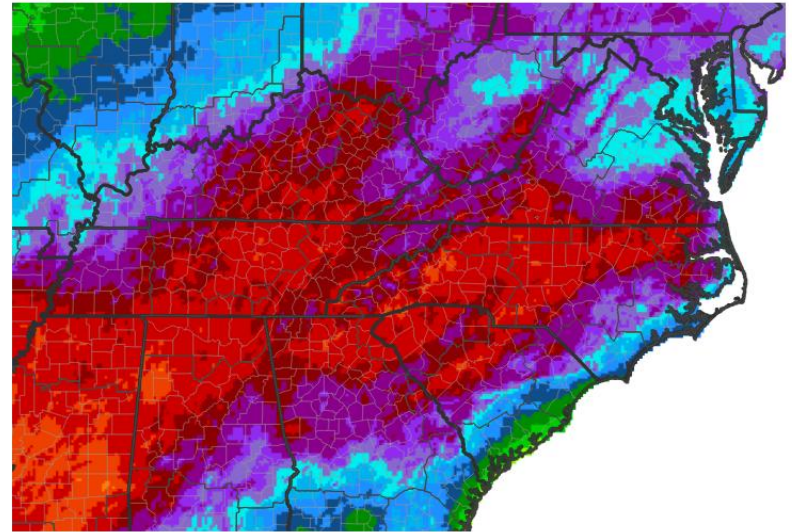




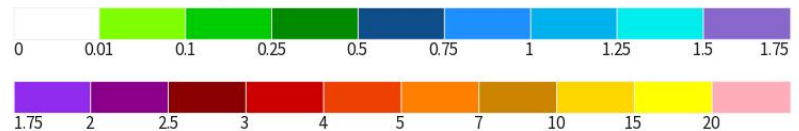
# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A wet pattern has returned and will remain in place for at least the next week.
- Most places are expected to get at least 2" to 3" of rainfall with locally higher amounts possible

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



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 05/21/26

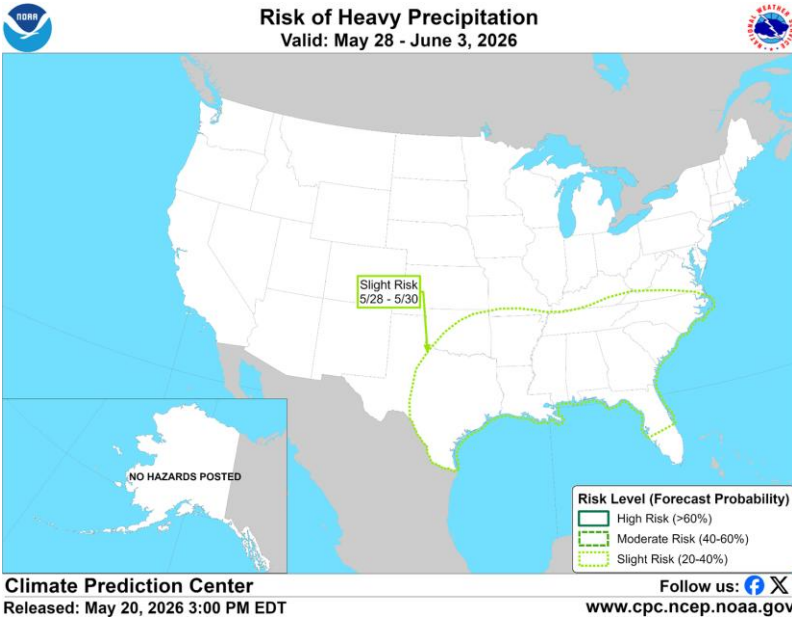




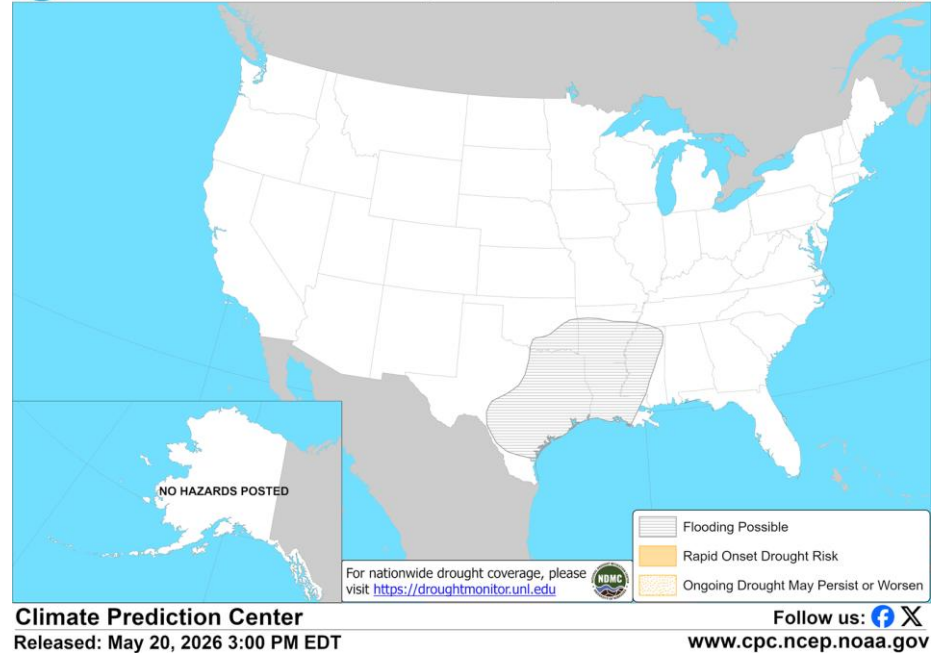
# Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

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

- No strong signal for hazards in our region
- A Slight Risk for Heavy Precipitation has been outlined for May 28 - May 30:



## Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook Valid: May 28 - June 3, 2026



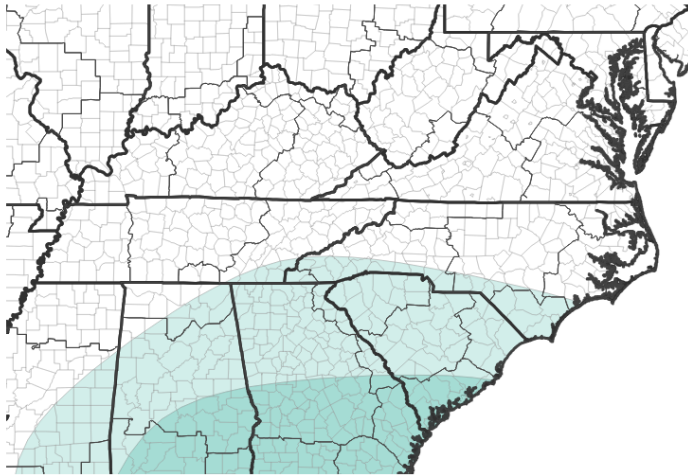


# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Above normal temperatures are favored with 40% - 50% probability
- For rainfall, generally equal chances are anticipated with no strong signal

### Monthly Precipitation Outlook for June 1, 2026–June 30, 2026



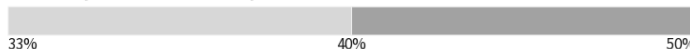
#### Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



#### Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



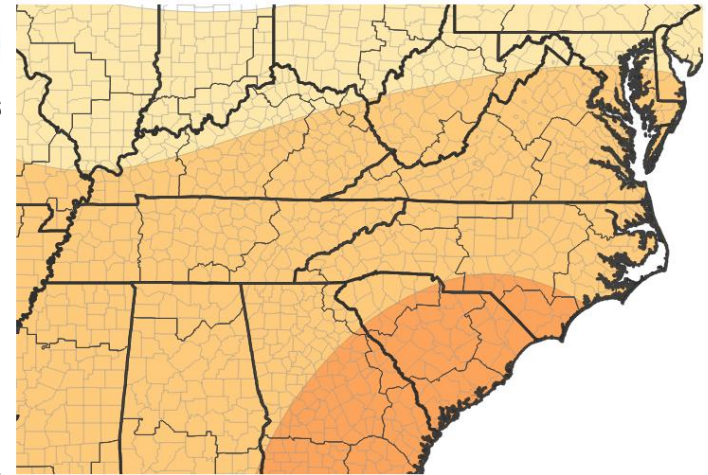
#### Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 05/21/26

### Monthly Temperature Outlook for June 1, 2026–June 30, 2026



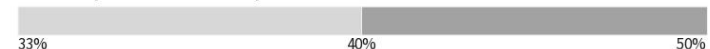
#### Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



#### Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



#### Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 05/21/26



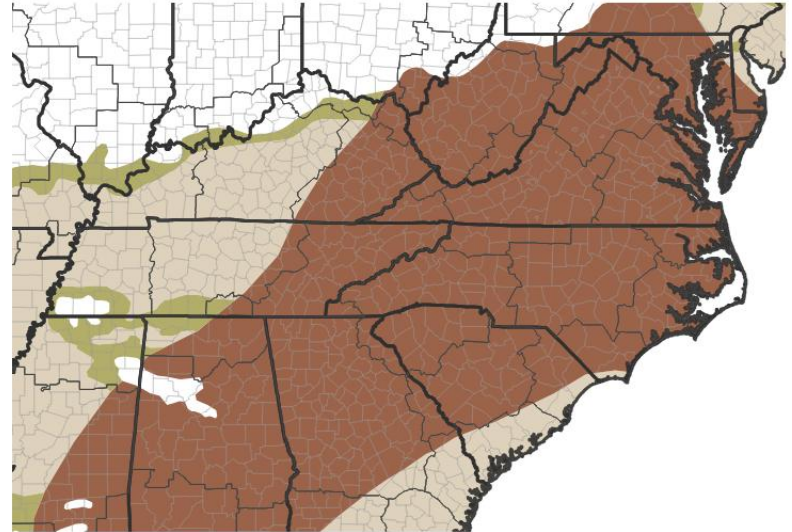


# Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are expected to persist across the entire area

**Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for May 21, 2026–August 31, 2026**



**Drought Is Predicted To...**



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

Last Updated: 05/21/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

