



Drought Information Statement for Eastern NE and Southwest IA

Valid October 20, 2023

Issued By: NWS Omaha/Valley, NE

Contact Information: nws.omaha@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated November 17, 2023 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://weather.gov/oax/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



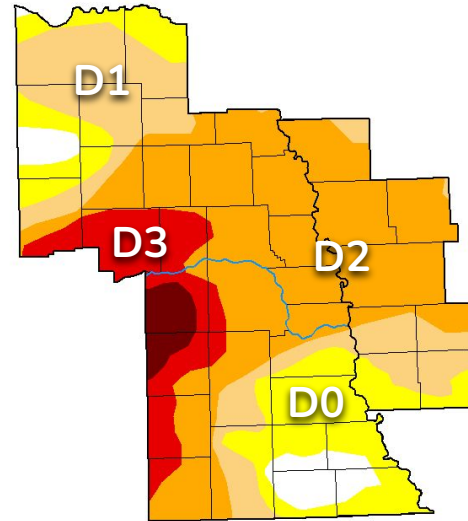


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

- Drought conditions have improved over much of northeast Nebraska and deteriorated in southeast Nebraska
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** Portions of Butler and Seward.
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Boone, Platte, Colfax, Butler, Saunders, Seward, Lancaster, Saline, Jefferson, Dodge in eastern NE.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):** Thurston, Wayne, Madison, Stanton, Cuming, Burt, Boone, Colfax, Dodge, Washington, Saunders, Dodge, Washington, Douglas, Sarpy, Seward, Lancaster, Cass, Saline, Jefferson, and Gage counties in Eastern NE. Monona, Harrison, Shelby, Pottawattamie, Mills and Montgomery in southwest IA.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Portions of northeast NE, southeast NE, and southwest IA.
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry):** Portions of northeast NE, southeast NE and far southwest IA.

U.S. Drought Monitor Omaha/Valley, NE WFO



October 17, 2023
(Released Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

| | None | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4 |
|---|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Current | 4.62 | 95.38 | 76.61 | 55.76 | 12.53 | 2.38 |
| Last Week 10-10-2023 | 3.20 | 96.80 | 82.15 | 63.84 | 21.87 | 2.38 |
| 3 Months Ago 07-18-2023 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 93.85 | 74.96 | 38.76 | 4.58 |
| Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2023 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 99.29 | 77.57 | 47.08 | 24.75 |
| Start of Water Year 09-26-2023 | 6.93 | 93.07 | 81.14 | 63.83 | 21.87 | 2.38 |
| One Year Ago 10-18-2022 | 0.00 | 100.00 | 92.73 | 59.20 | 40.28 | 12.46 |

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

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption:
U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT October 17th, 2023





Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#)

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - **Drought Worsened:** portions of southeast NE and far southwest Iowa.
 - **No Change:** A very large area of eastern NE and western IA.
 - **Drought Improved:** Wide swaths of northeast Nebraska, parts of Monona County, Iowa and Jefferson County in Nebraska.

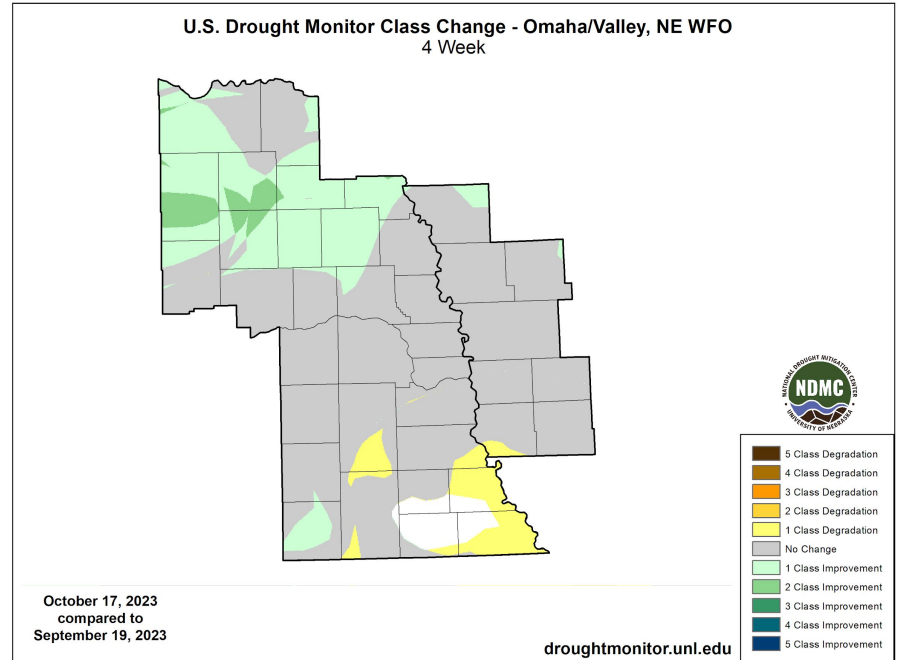


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 8am EDT October 17th.



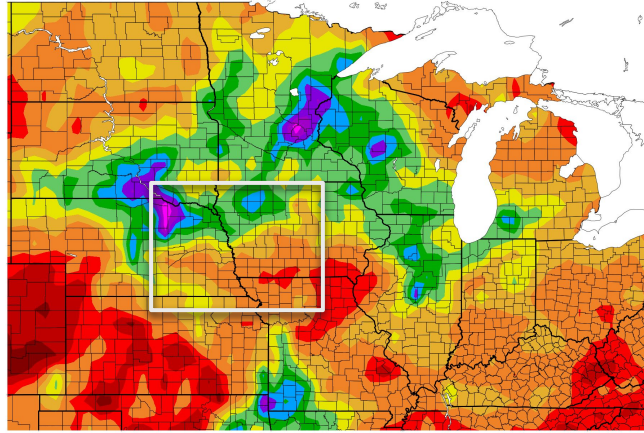


Precipitation

Over the Past 30 Days

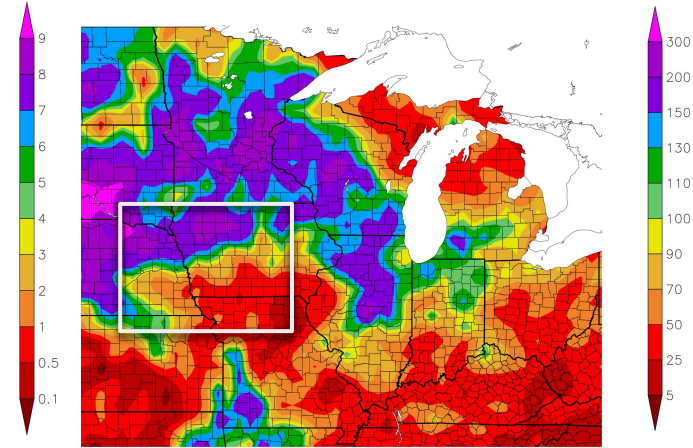
- A tale of two halves: Precipitation across the region over the previous 30 days has been well below normal over the southern half of the area and well above normal over the northern half.
- Precipitation has been 25-50% of normal over most of southern Iowa.

Precipitation (in)
9/20/2023 - 10/19/2023



Generated 10/20/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/20/2023 - 10/19/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers '23 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Center:

Image Captions:
 Left - Precipitation Amount for Midwest US
 Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Midwest US
 Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
 Data over the past 30 days ending October 19, 2023



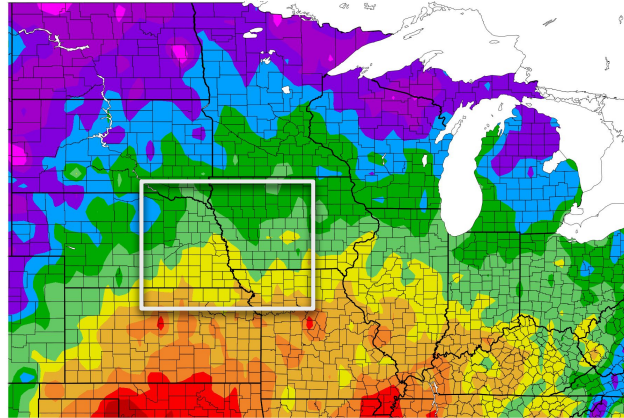


Temperature

Over the Past 30 Days

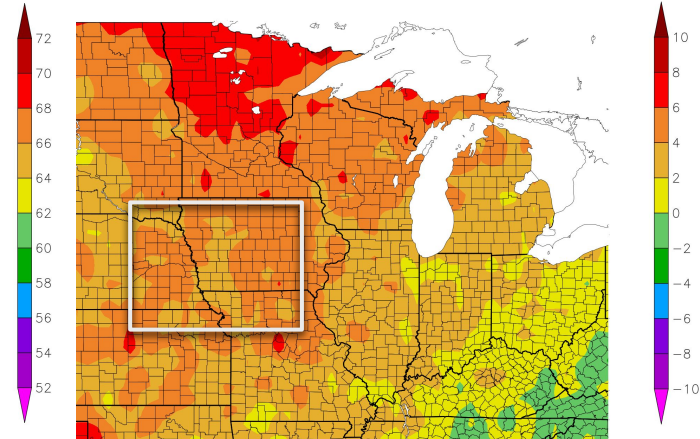
- Temperatures over the previous 30 days have been above normal, generally 2 to 6° above normal over the entire area.

Temperature (F)
9/20/2023 - 10/19/2023



Generated 10/20/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/20/2023 - 10/19/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Image Captions:
 Left - Average Temperature Midwest US
 Right - Departure from Normal Temperature Midwest US
 Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
 Data over the past 30 days ending October 19, 2023





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Local streamflow is 10-25% of normal over the southern half of the area. Precipitation deficits for the year are running 4-8” below normal ifor most of the area.

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture remains low in areas south and east of the Omaha metropolitan area.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- All counties in the area are considered to now have “critical” fuel status. The majority of fuels (dried corn in many cases) will support extreme fire behavior and spread when the weather conditions meet Red Flag criteria.

Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Mitigation Actions

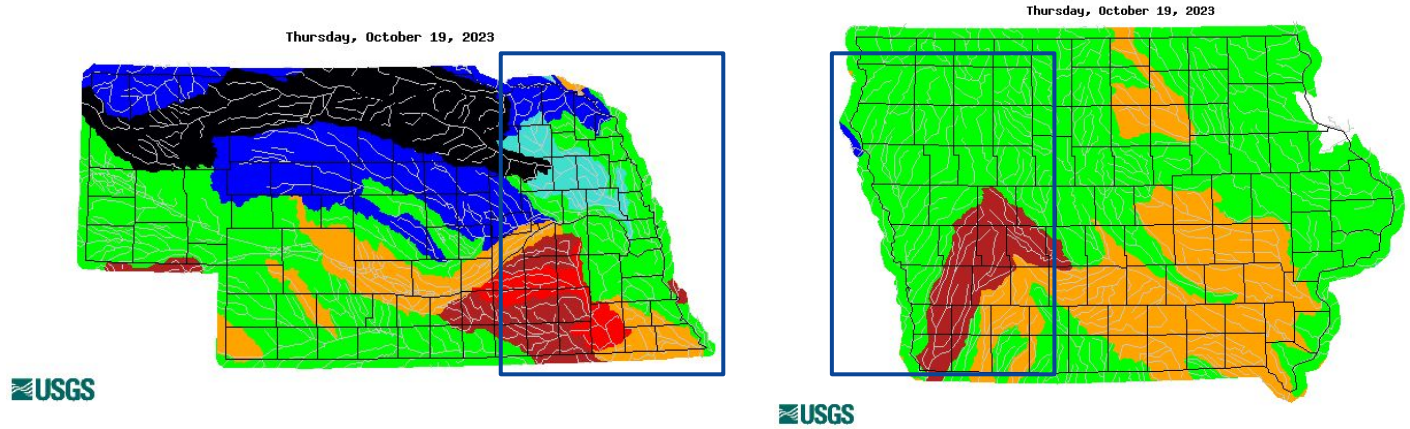
- In October, Shenandoah, IA enacted water restrictions for the first time in 23 years.
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow reflects where the precipitation has been falling over the past 30 days.
- Much of northeast Nebraska is flowing above normal.



| Explanation - Percentile classes | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------|--------------|-------------------|------|---------|--|
| | | | | | | | | |
| Low | <10 | 10-24 | 25-75 | 76-90 | >90 | High | No Data | |
| | Much below normal | Below normal | Normal | Above normal | Much above normal | | | |

Image Captions:

Left USGS 7 day average streamflow NE HUC map

Right USGS 7 day average streamflow IA HUC map

Both valid October 18, 2023





Agricultural Impacts

Link to the Latest [USDA Crop Progress Reports](#) by State

- Soil moisture has improved dramatically in northeast Nebraska.
- Soil moisture continues to run below normal for the remainder of the area.
- The crop moisture index is running Near Normal to Abnormally Moist.

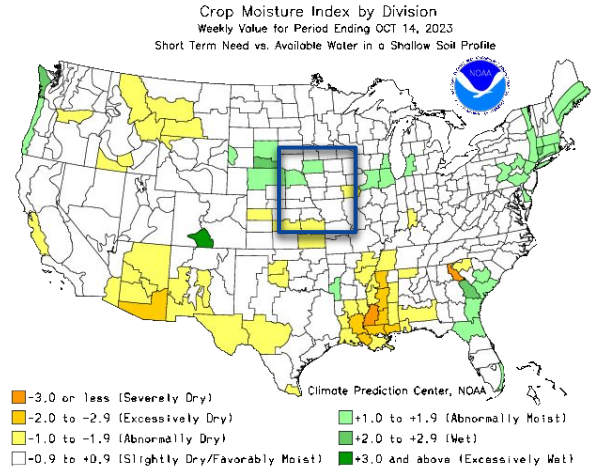
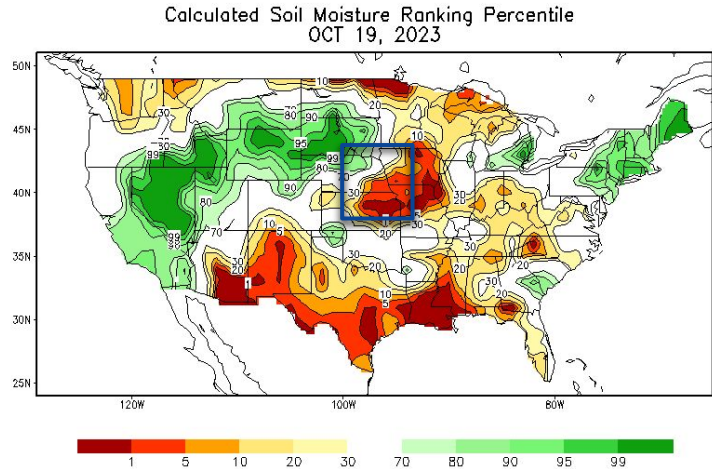


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid September 27, 2023

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending October 14, 2023





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- We do have a few chances of precipitation in the coming week, with best chances on Tuesday, October 24th.
- Rainfall forecasts in the in the 0.25” expected in our western tier of counties to nearly 2” in far southwestern portions of the area.

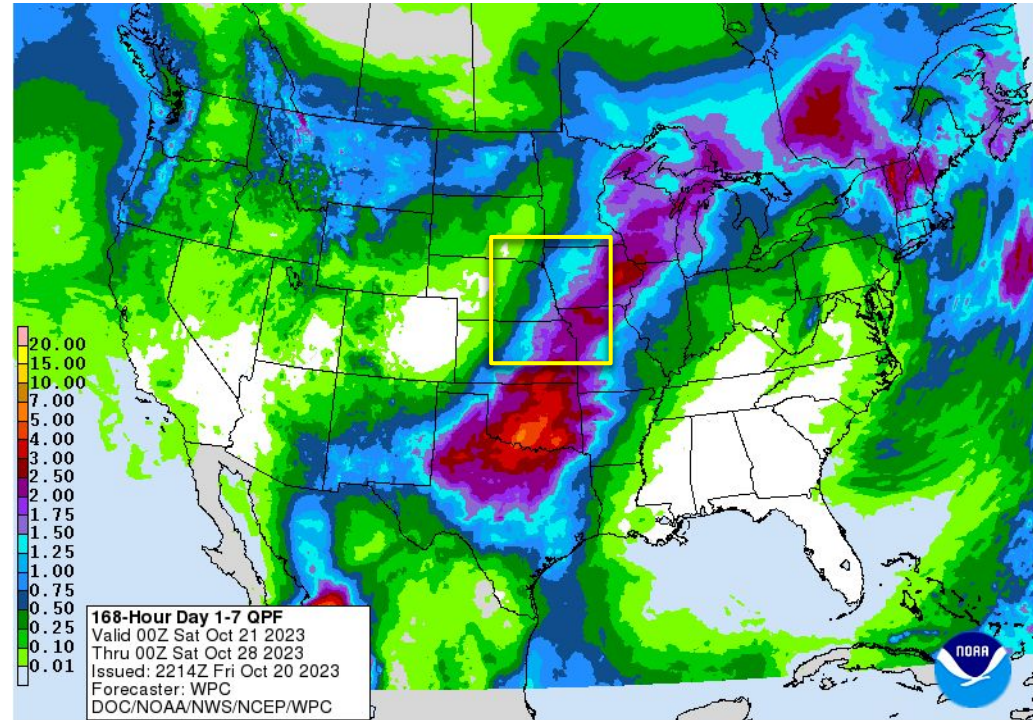


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Thursday October 21, 2023 to Wednesday, October 28, 2023





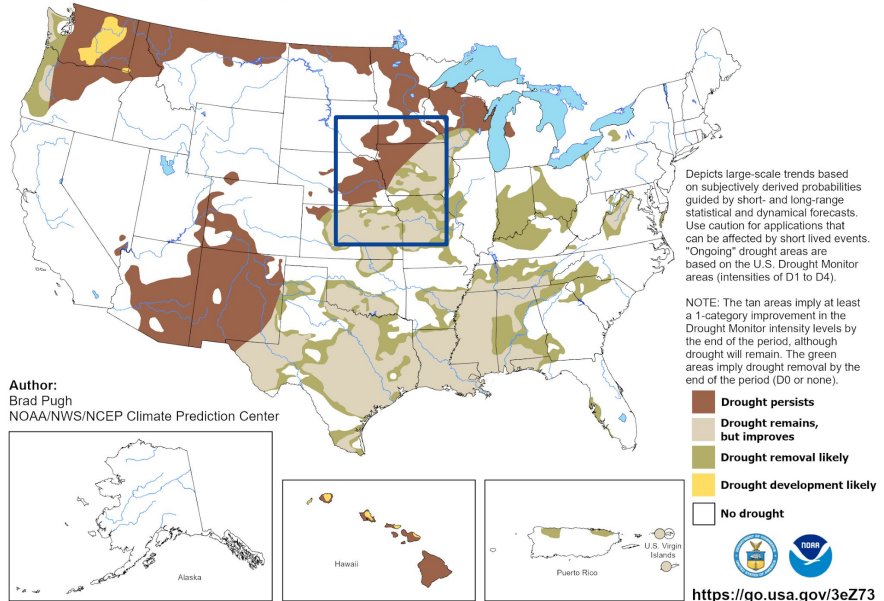
Drought Outlook

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

- The drought outlook for late October through January calls for drought to remain, but there could be some improvement in the far southwestern portions of the area.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for October 19, 2023 - January 31, 2024
Released October 19, 2023



Links to the latest:

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

Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released October 19, 2023, valid October 19 - January 31, 2024

