



Drought Information Statement for the Quad State Region

Valid February 19, 2026

Issued By: WFO Paducah, Kentucky

Contact Information: nws.paducah@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated if drought conditions change significantly.
 - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
 - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/pah/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
-
- A continuation of our dry pattern which began late summer/fall last year has continued into the winter months. Moderate to severe drought is in place across portions of southern Illinois and southeast Missouri along with a small sliver along the KY/TN border.
 - Much of our region has experienced one of their top 5 driest periods on record since December 1st.



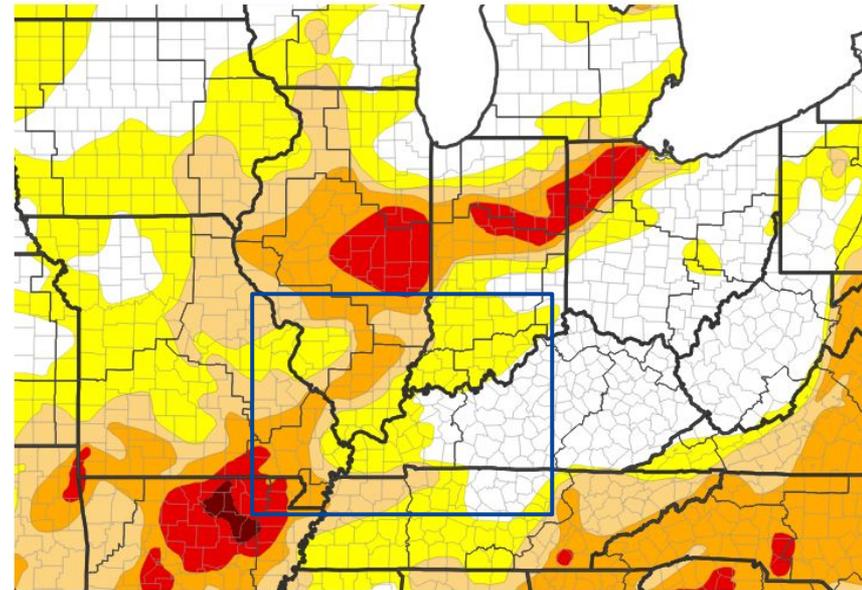


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for southeast MO, southern IL, southwest IN, and west KY

- Drought conditions have remained fairly steady over the past month, but some deterioration has occurred across southeast MO and southern IL.
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Portions of Carter and Ripley Counties in southeast MO are now in D3 (2% of our service area)
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):** Covers much of southeast MO along with parts of southern IL (27% of the service area).
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Covers additional portions of southeast MO along with a decent chunk of southern IL and a small sliver of KY near the TN border. (44% of our region is in at least D1 drought)
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Covers additional parts of the region including much of west KY and southwest IN (88% of our area in at least D0)

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 02/17/26

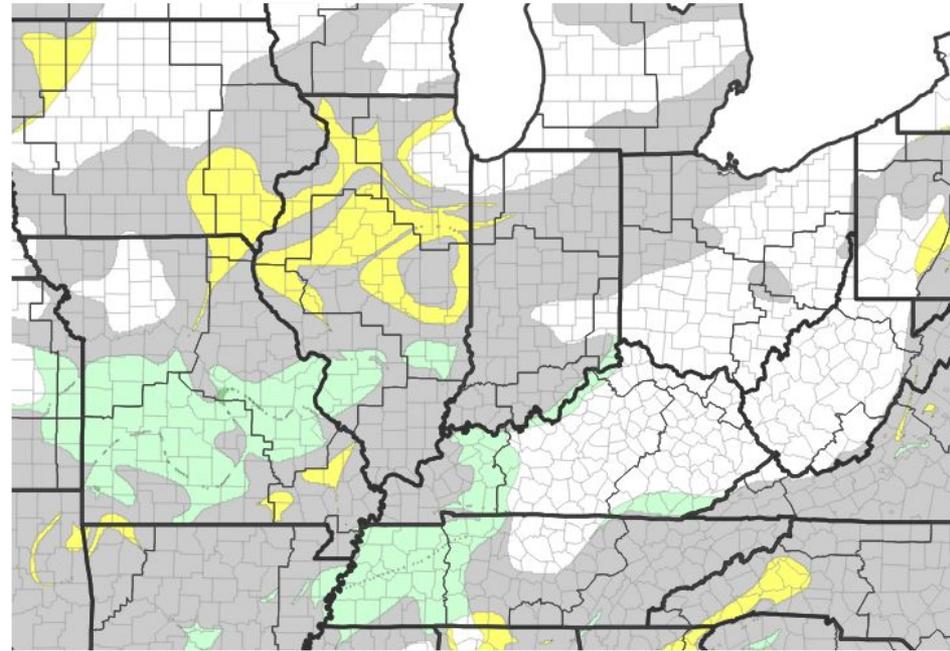




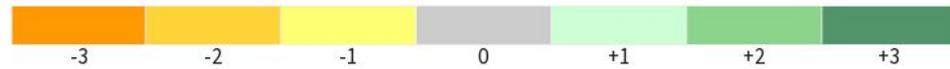
Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for southeast MO, southern IL, southwest IN, and west KY

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change
 - **Drought Improved:** Portions of the Pennyrile region of west Kentucky.
 - **Drought Worsened:** Portions of southeast Missouri from Ripley/Carter northeast to Bollinger county.



Drought Change Since Last Week



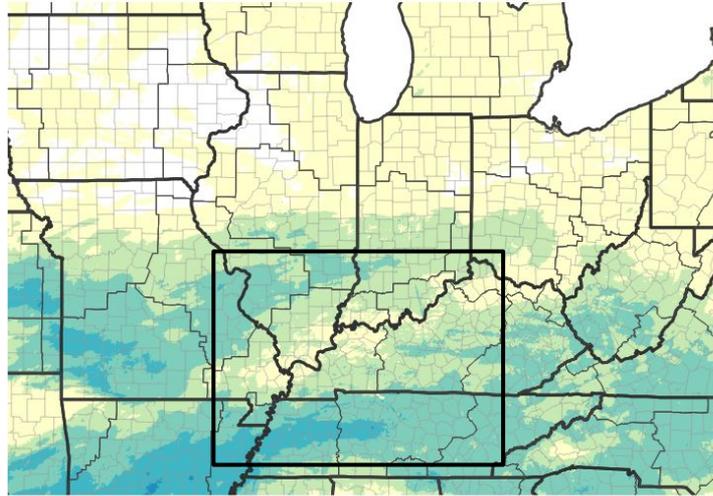


Precipitation

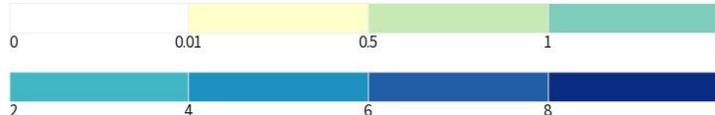
Last 7 Days Total and Percent of Normal

- Much of our region experienced rainfall amounts between 0.25" and 0.50" over the past week. Localized totals up around 1" or slightly higher were observed.

7-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

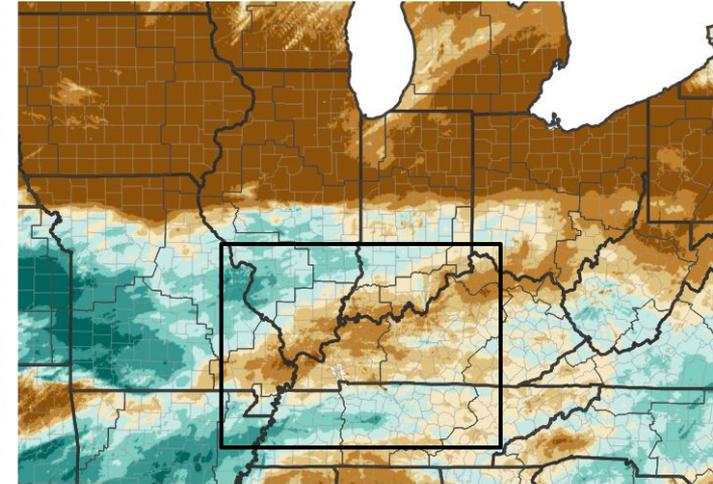


Inches of Precipitation

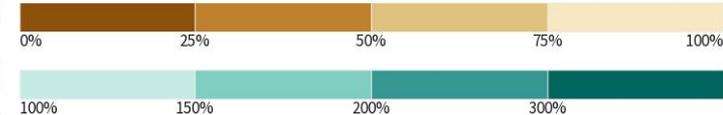


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; Last Updated: 02/19/26

7-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: 02/19/26



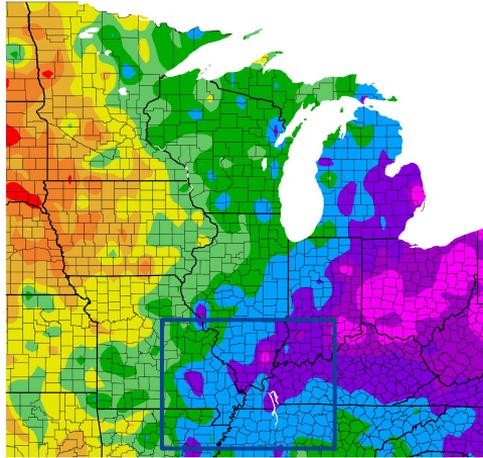


Temperature

Last 30 Day Average and Departure

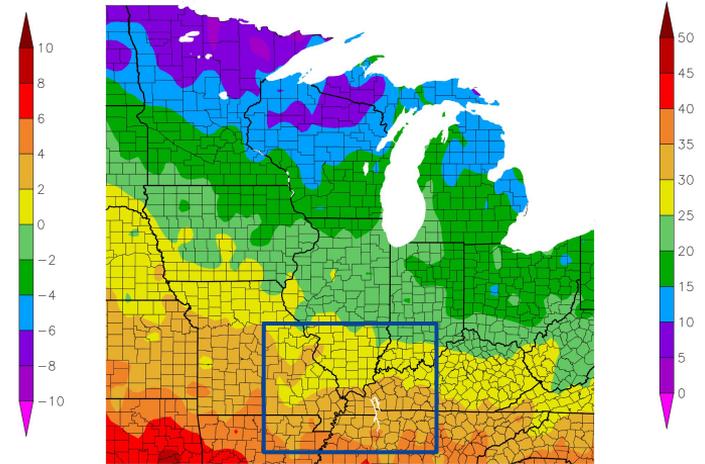
- Temperatures were well below normal from the second half of January into the first week of February. Most of the region had a snow depth of at least 1" for essentially 2 weeks, which was quite rare.
- A pattern change brought warmer than normal temperatures over the past 10 days.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/20/2026 – 2/18/2026



Generated 2/19/2026 using provisional data.

Temperature (F)
1/20/2026 – 2/18/2026



ACIS Web Services⁰²⁶ 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

- 14 day streamflows, according to USGS data, are running in the 10th to 25th percentile across portions of southeast MO and southern IL. Meanwhile, they have actually improved to near normal across much of western KY and southwest IN (even parts of southeast IL).

Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Mitigation Actions

- There are no known impacts at this time.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows have improved on area rivers.
- However, portions of southeast MO continue to run below the 25th percentile and parts of southern IL are still below the 10th percentile.

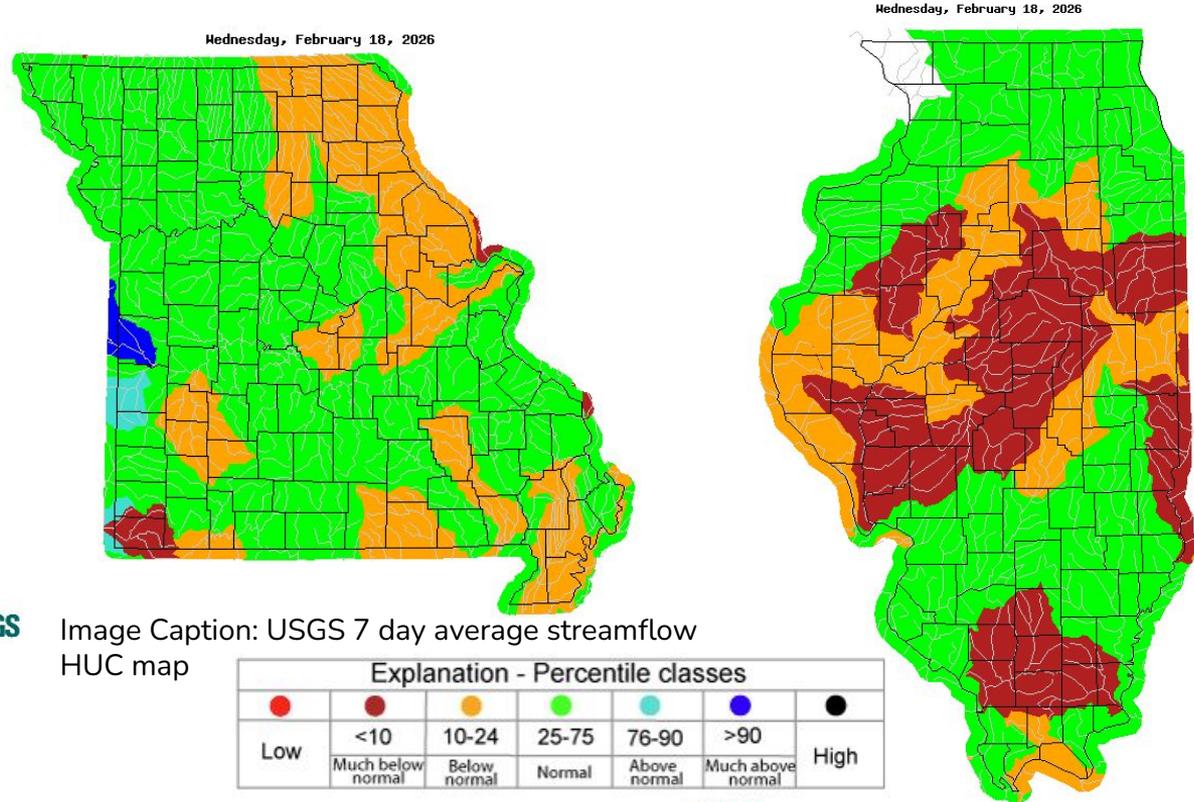


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map

Explanation - Percentile classes						
Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows have largely returned to near normal across southwest IN and western KY.

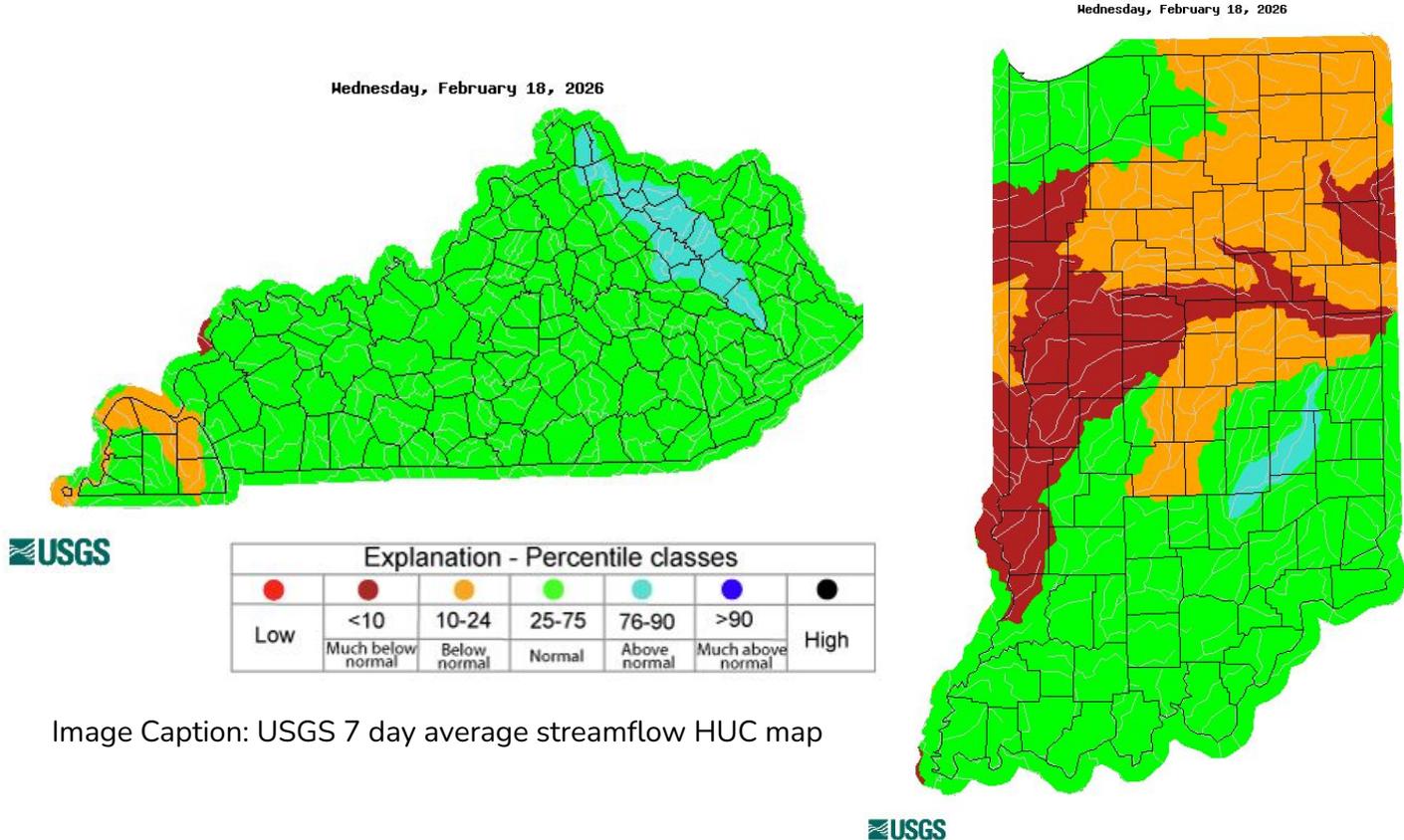


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map

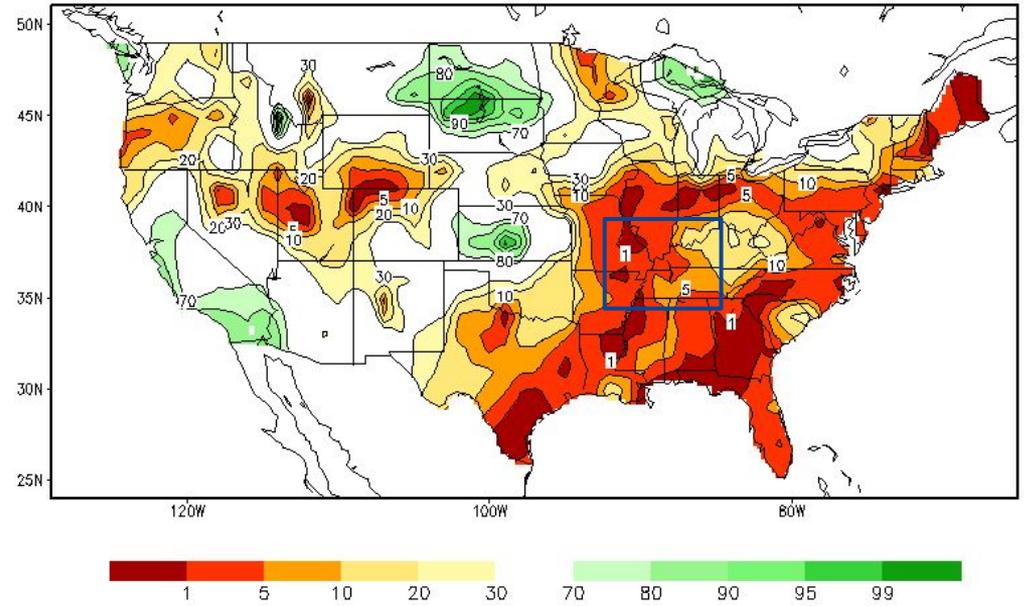




Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture remains low across much of the Mississippi Valley, but has shown some slight improvement over the past week.

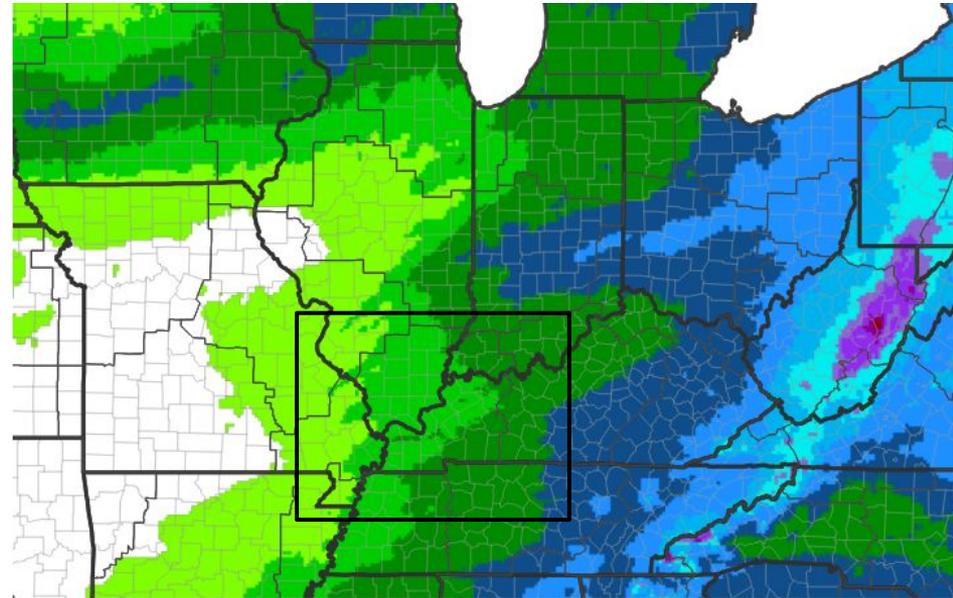
Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
FEB 18, 2026





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Rainfall amounts over the next week are forecast to remain quite light, generally only a tenth to quarter of an inch.



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



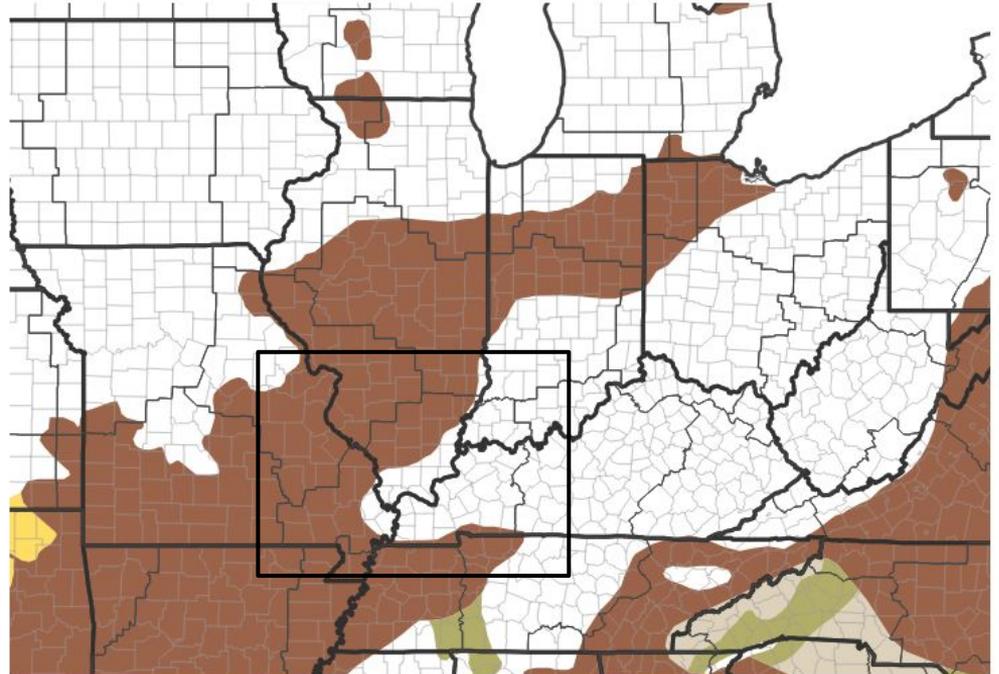


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is expected to improve or end all together through April across much of the mid Mississippi Valley

28, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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
Paducah, KY