



Drought Information Statement for the Quad State Region

Valid May 14, 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.
-
- Extreme Drought (D3) remains across southern portions of southeast MO and western KY.
 - Severe Drought (D2) remains along a corridor just north of the extreme drought.
 - The 6 month period from November through April was the driest on record across these areas, averaging 12-13" below normal.



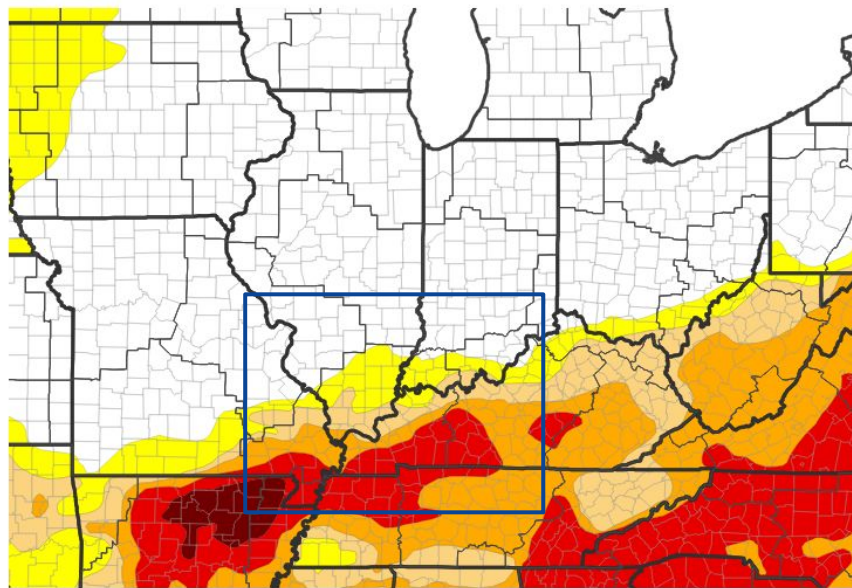


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought conditions have remained primarily status quo.
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Southern portions of southeast MO and western KY (24% of our service area)
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Covers much of the southern half of our area, encompassing additional areas in southeast MO and west KY (45% of the area is in at least D2 drought).
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Covers additional areas of southeast MO and western KY along with far southern IL and Spencer County IN. (66% of our region is in at least D1 drought)
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Covers additional parts of our along and north of a line from Perryville, MO to Marion, IL to Henderson, KY. (95% of our area is 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: 05/12/26



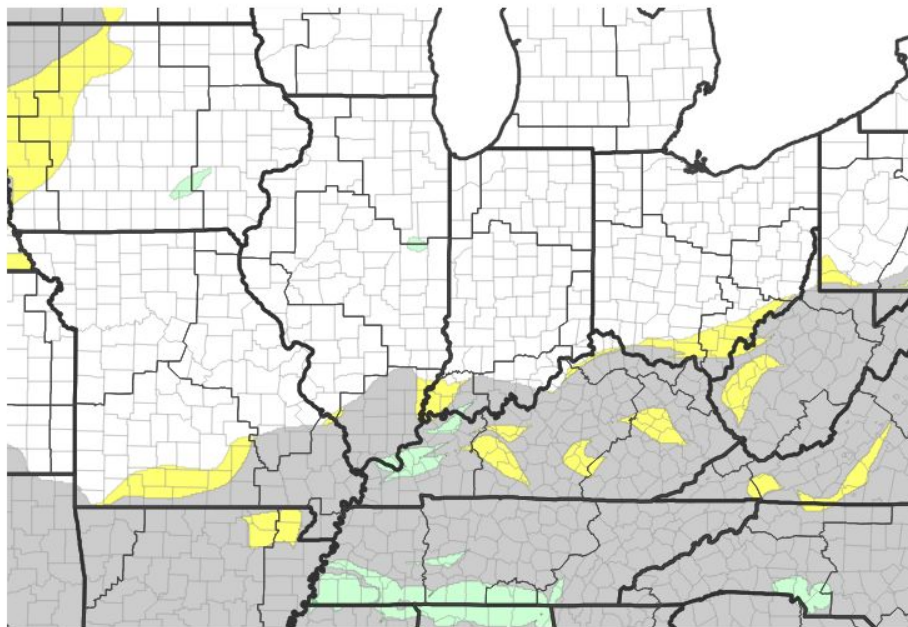


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

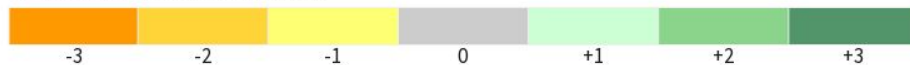
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for southeast MO, southern IL, southwest IN, and west KY

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change
 - **Drought Improved:** Small slivers of western KY near the Ohio River along with parts of Massac and Pope counties in southern IL.
 - **Drought Worsened:** Portions of the Wabash Valley in southwest IN and southeast IL.

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



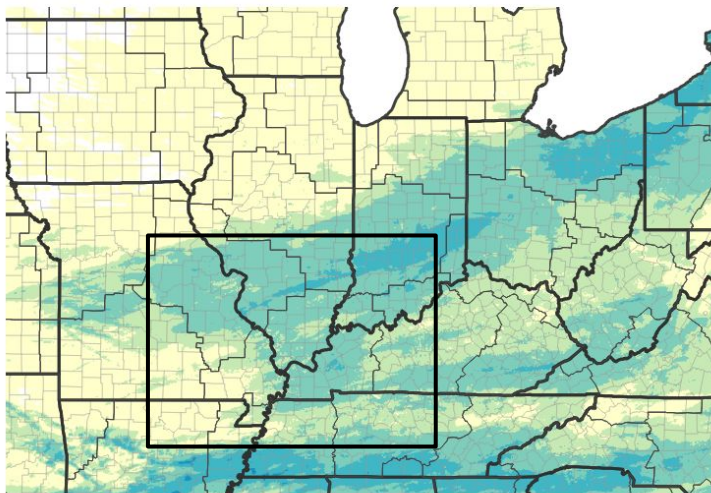


Precipitation

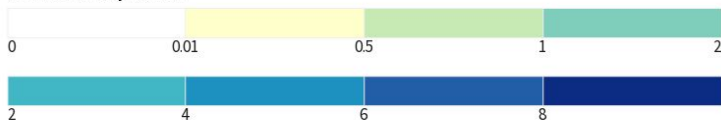
Last 7 Days Total and Percent of Normal

- Much of our region received 1 to 1.5" of rain this past week, which was on par for an average week in May. Thus, enough to prevent drought deterioration but not enough for much improvement.

7-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

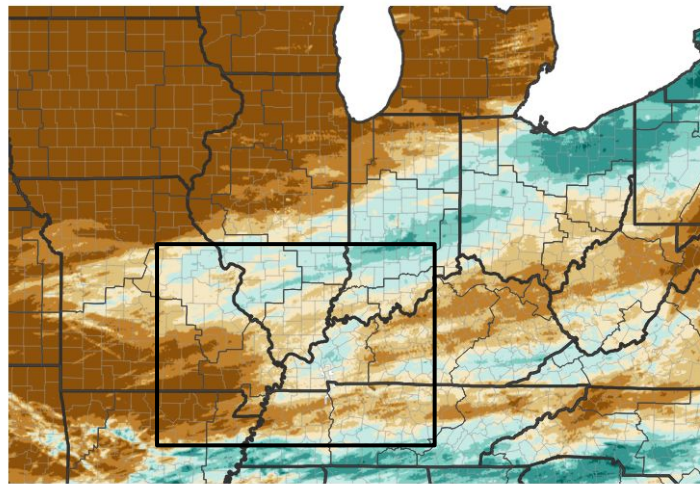


Inches of Precipitation

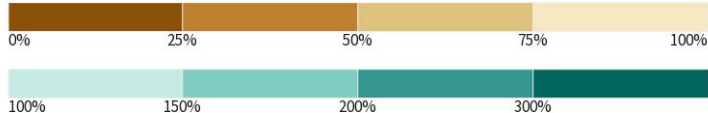


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; Last Updated: 05/14/26

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: 05/14/26



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Paducah, KY

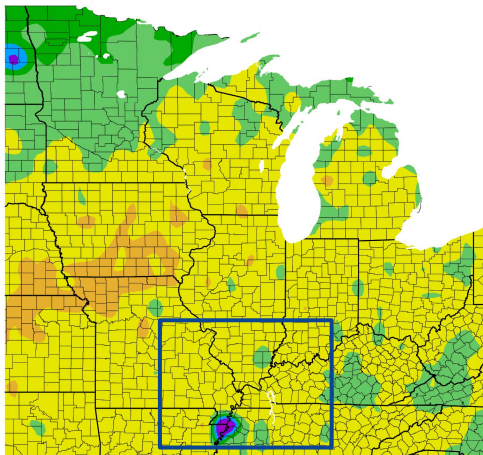


Temperature

Last 30 Day Average and Departure

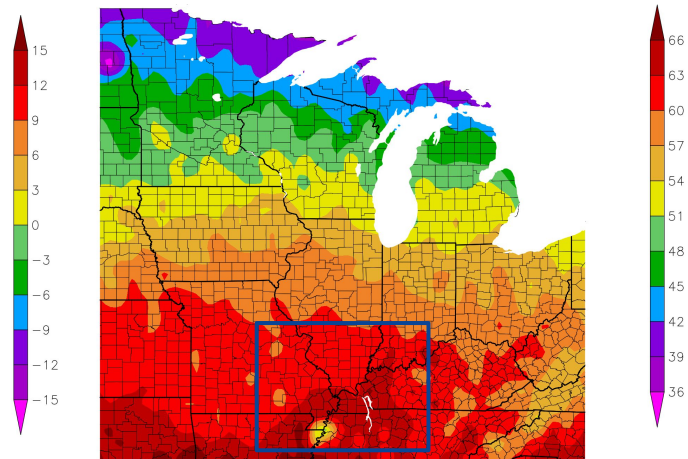
- Temperatures were well above normal in April, leading to the warmest April on record in many locations across our area.
- We have trended cooler in May though, with temperatures around 5 degrees below normal so far this month.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
4/14/2026 – 5/13/2026



Generated 5/14/2026 using provisional data.

Temperature (F)
4/14/2026 – 5/13/2026



ACIS Web Services 026 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

- Most our region is in a hydrologic drought, with streamflows running below to well below normal (10-25th percentile). Some sites remain below the 10th percentile.

Agricultural Impacts

- Limited Ag impacts so far aside from very low farm pond levels. Planting is ahead of schedule due to the dry conditions. Ag impacts will likely increase rapidly if we don't receive notable rainfall over the coming weeks, as subsoil and topsoil conditions remain quite poor.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Wildfire activity remains elevated but there are no known impacts at this time.

Other Impacts

- Precipitation deficits continue to mount. The west KY climate division experienced their driest Nov-Apr on record with only 12.68", which was 12.63" below normal. Similar story in the bootheel of southeast MO.

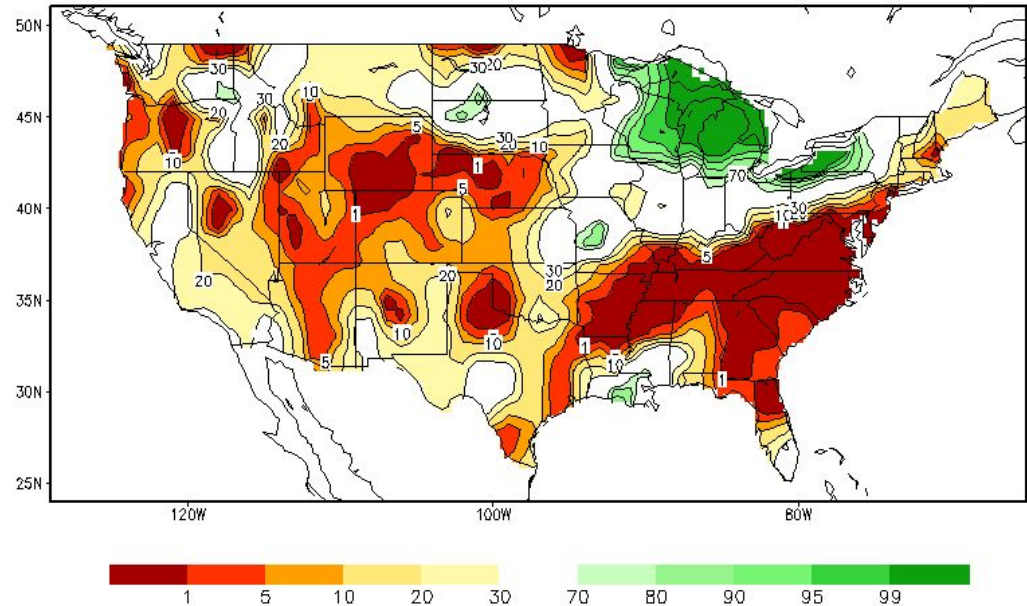




Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture remains extremely low across much of our region and a large part of the southeastern U.S.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
MAY 13, 2026

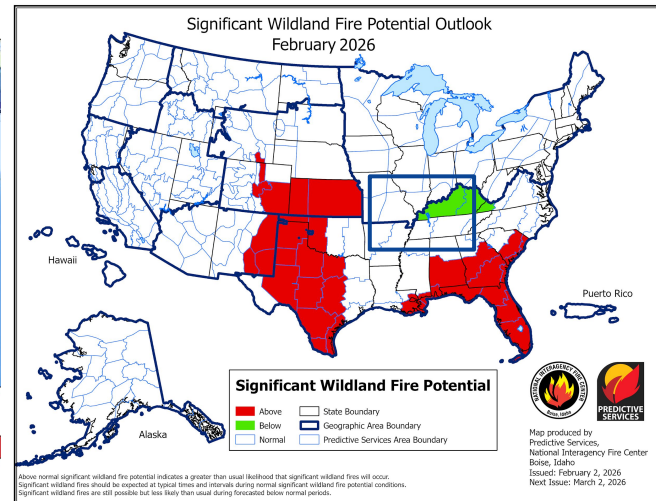
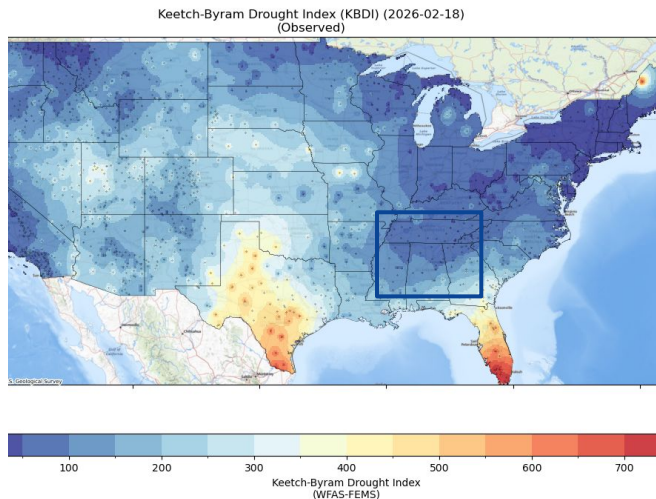




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Many counties have enacted burn bans across west Kentucky, along with a few areas in southern Illinois and southwest Indiana.



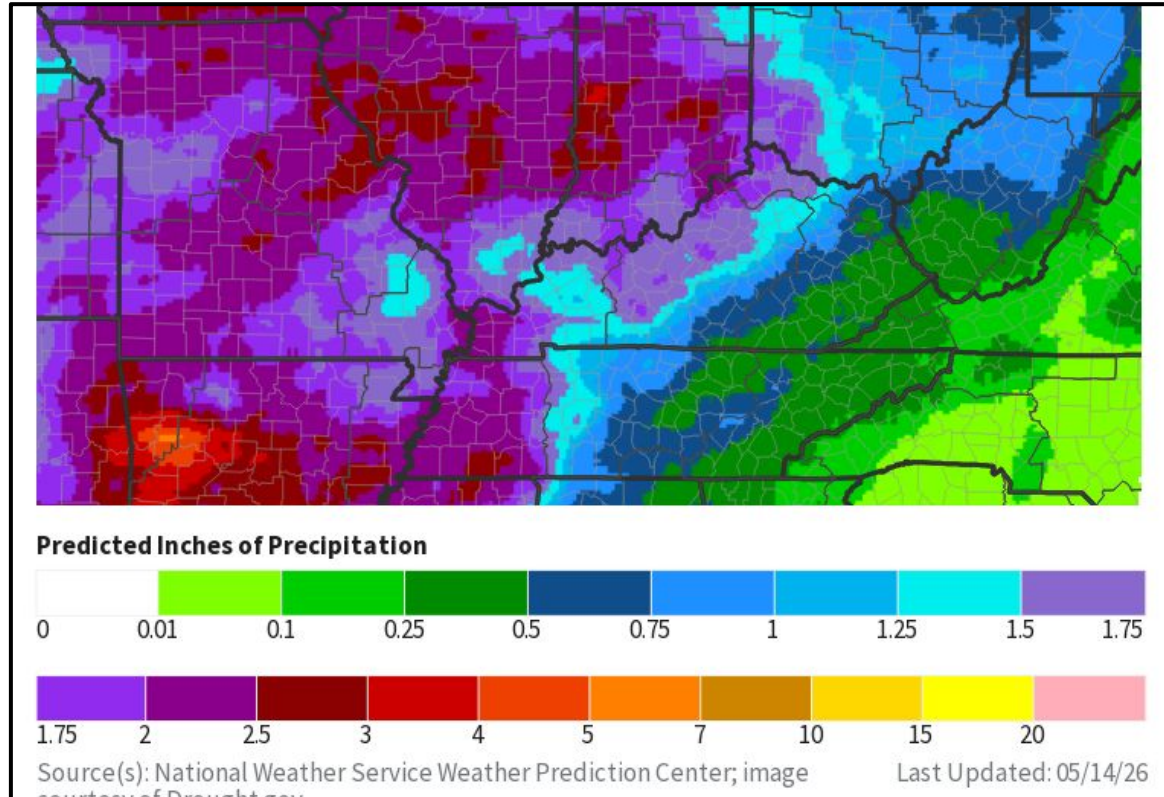
[Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook Month 2](#)
[Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook Month 3](#)
[Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook Month 4](#)





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Rainfall amounts over the next week are forecast to range from 1 to 2”.

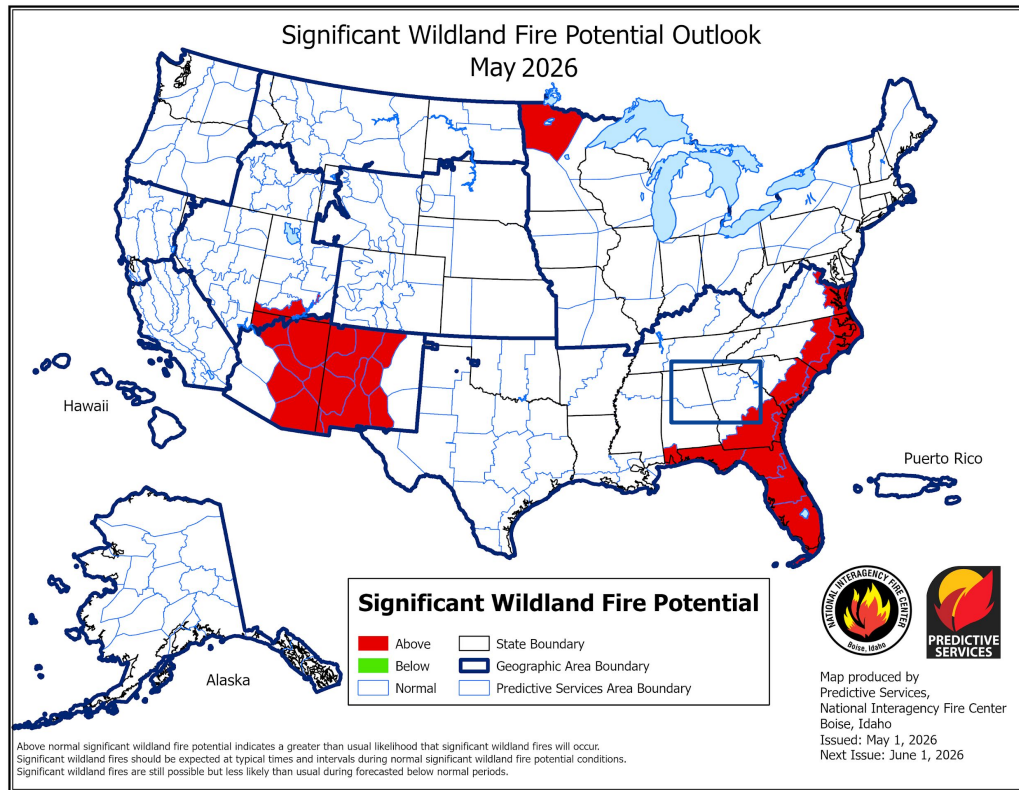




Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

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

- Rapid Onset Drought may continue to expand and worsen across much of the lower Ohio and middle Mississippi Valleys. However, confidence is lower in the 8-14 day period as compared to areas to our south.



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Long-Range Outlooks

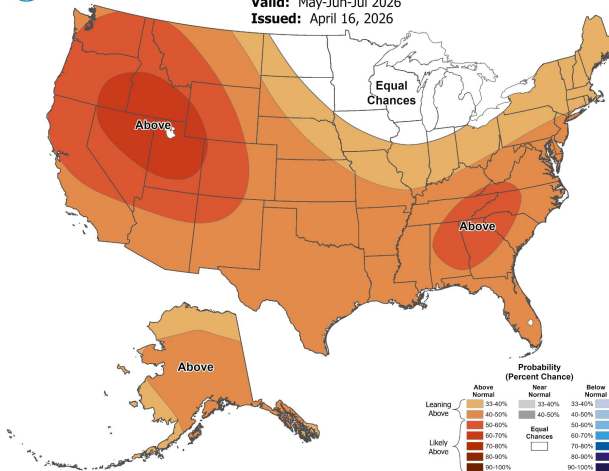
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- There is a signal for temperatures to average above normal through the next 3 months. Meanwhile, there isn't a strong enough signal to sway precipitation chances away from equal chance.



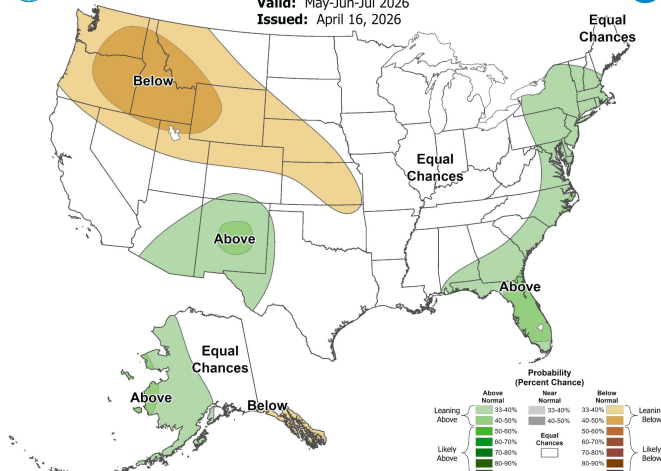
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: May-Jun-Jul 2026
Issued: April 16, 2026



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: May-Jun-Jul 2026
Issued: April 16, 2026



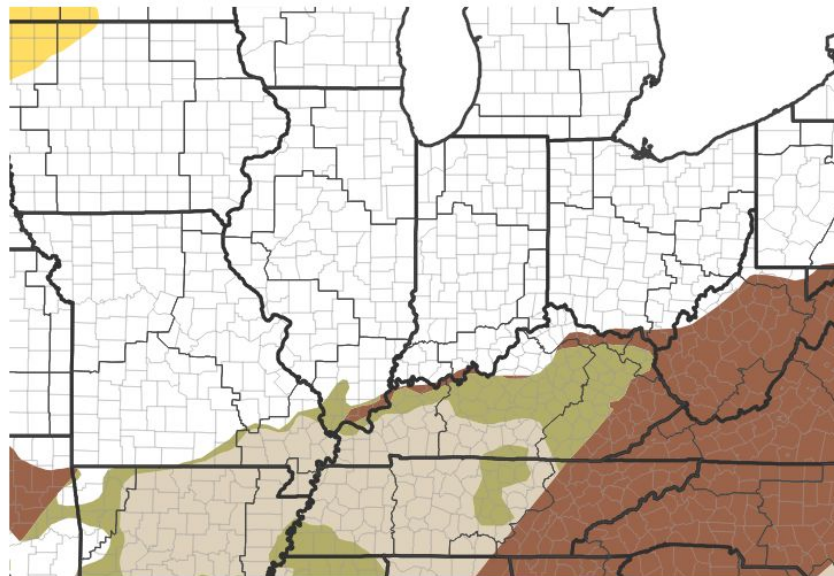


Drought Outlook

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

- There are at least some prospects for decent rainfall over the next week that may provide some relief.
- The seasonal Drought outlook calls for improving conditions across our area and possibly removal altogether in some 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](#)



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