



Drought Information Statement for South-Central & Southwest Arizona, and Southeast California

Valid August 27, 2025

Issued By: National Weather Service Phoenix

Contact Information: nws.phoenix@noaa.gov

- This product may be updated around September 20, 2025
 - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>
 - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/psr/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements
 - Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/?dews_region=130&state=All for regional outlook
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- Limited rainfall during the middle of the monsoon results in locally degraded drought conditions
 - Severe to Extreme Drought continues to affect much of central and western Arizona, as well as southeast California

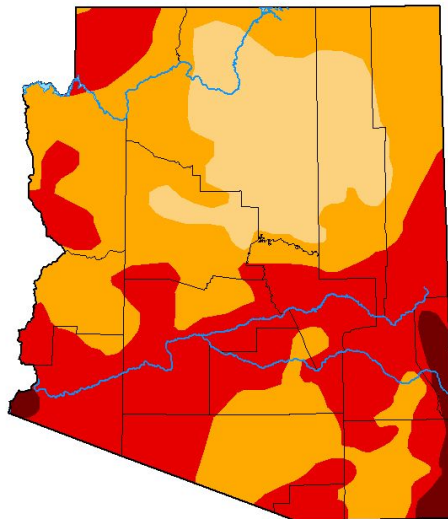


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- SEVERE TO EXTREME DROUGHT CONTINUES ACROSS WESTERN AND CENTRAL ARIZONA
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D4 (Exceptional Drought):** far SW Yuma County
 - D3 (Extreme Drought):** SW La Paz, much of Yuma, Maricopa, Gila, and northern Pinal counties
 - D2 (Severe Drought):** much of La Paz County and a small part of northern Maricopa County, as well as southern Gila County

U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona



August 26, 2025
(Released Thursday, Aug. 28, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	82.80	39.48	2.32
Last Week 08-19-2025	0.00	100.00	100.00	82.80	38.78	2.32
3 Months Ago 05-27-2025	0.00	100.00	99.34	82.18	60.75	6.14
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025	3.74	96.26	76.63	45.54	14.03	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	27.62	72.38	39.91	4.61	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 08-27-2024	17.38	82.62	20.84	1.92	0.00	0.00

Intensity

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

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

Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 5 am MST August 26, 2025



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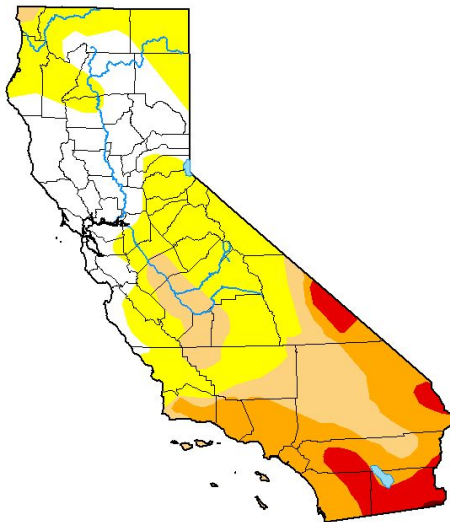


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- MODERATE TO EXTREME DROUGHT CONTINUES THROUGH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Much of Imperial County
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):** much of eastern Riverside and far north-central Imperial counties
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** small part of north-central Riverside County

U.S. Drought Monitor California



August 26, 2025
(Released Thursday, Aug. 28, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	23.99	76.01	39.56	23.01	5.90	0.10
Last Week 08-19-2025	23.99	76.01	39.56	23.01	5.90	0.10
3 Months Ago 05-27-2025	40.22	59.78	39.81	24.73	7.11	0.10
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025	39.11	60.89	35.93	10.43	1.06	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	28.40	71.60	10.67	0.08	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 08-27-2024	58.11	41.89	6.91	0.10	0.00	0.00

Intensity

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

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>

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Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 5 am PDT August 26, 2025



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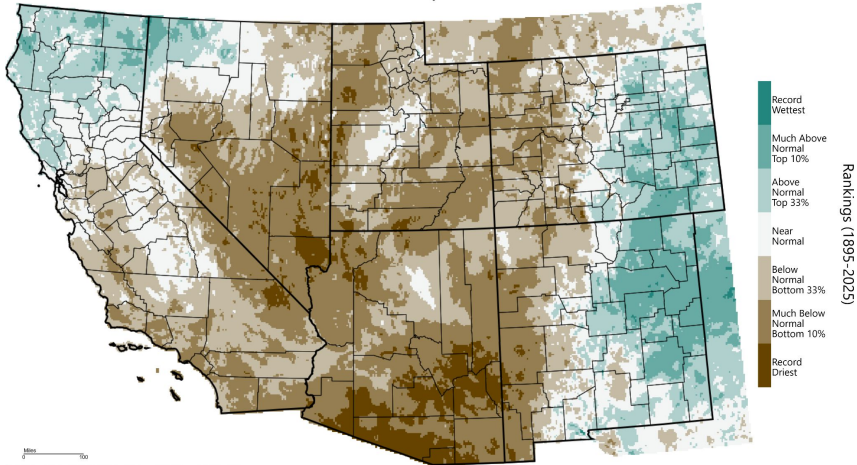
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Precipitation

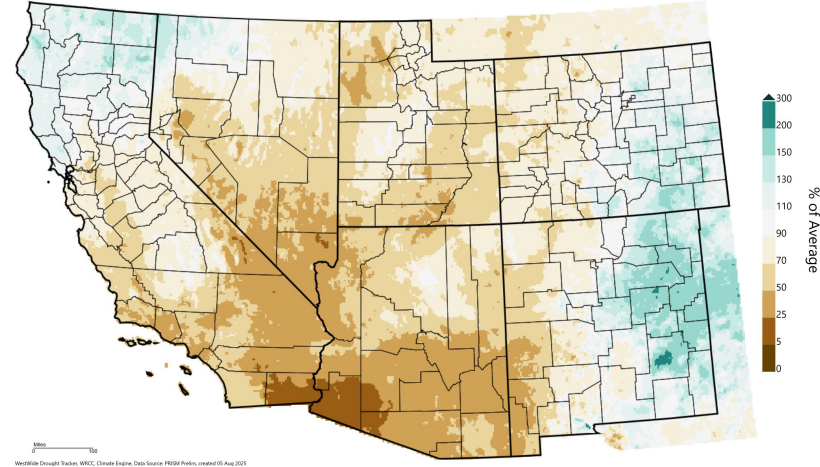
- Rainfall across most of southern Arizona, as well as SE California has been less than 50% of normal so far this Water Year (since Oct 2024)
- Despite early monsoon rainfall, recent lack of rainfall has allowed some areas to fall back into record driest category
- Modest drought degradation have occurred over the past month due to lack of rains

Southwest - Precipitation
October 2024 - July 2025, Percentile



Westwide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Prods, created 05 Aug 2025

Southwest - Precipitation
October 2024 - July 2025, Percent of 1991-2020 Average



Westwide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Prods, created 05 Aug 2025

Image Captions:
Left - Water Year Precipitation Percentile Ranking
Right - Water Year Percent of Normal Precipitation
Data Courtesy [WestWide Drought Tracker](#).
Data over the past 10 months ending July 2025



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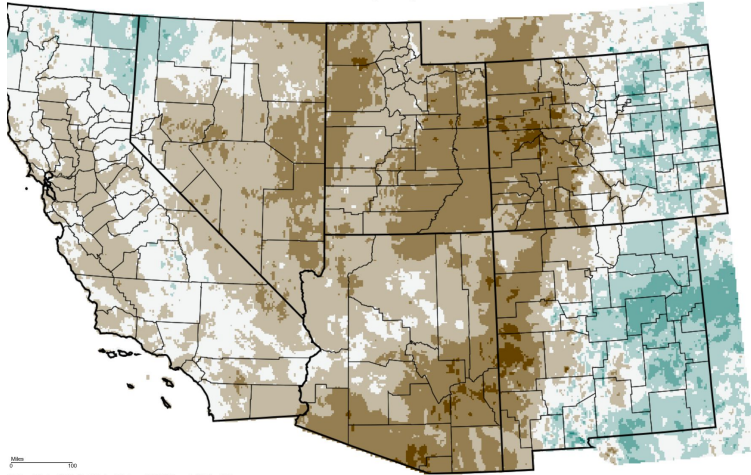
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Precipitation

- Much of 2025 has been drier than normal with much of south-central Arizona and SE California less than 70% of normal
- Many locations in the region sit in the lowest 33rd percentile for the year, though a few spotty areas are hovering in the near normal tercile

Southwest - Precipitation
January - July 2025, Percentile



Map Scale: 0 to 100 Miles
Data Source: WestWide Drought Tracker, WDC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Prods, created 05 Aug 2025

Southwest - Precipitation
January - July 2025, Percent of 1991-2020 Average

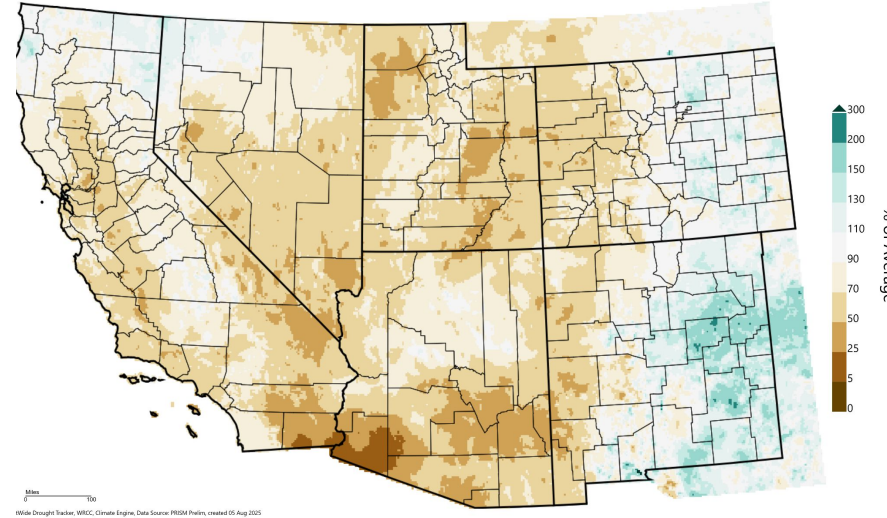


Image Captions:
Left - YTD 2025 Precipitation Percentile Ranking
Right - YTD 2025 Percent of Normal Precipitation
Data Courtesy [WestWide Drought Tracker](#)
YTD 2025 Precipitation ending July 2025



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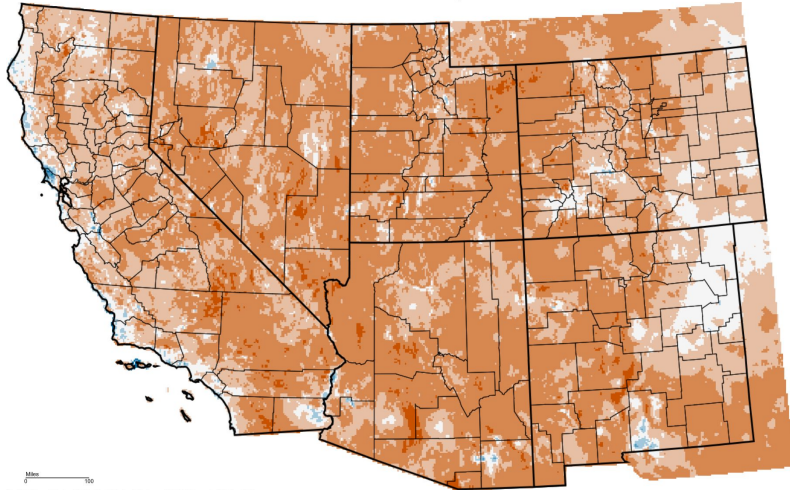
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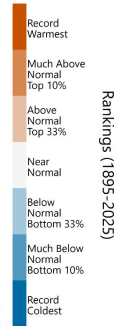
Temperature

- Average temperatures this Water Year (since Oct 2024) are mostly 1-2°F above normal though some areas have retreated closer to normal
- The anomalous warmth in the historical top 10th percentile has more rapidly depleted soil moisture affecting vegetation and streamflow

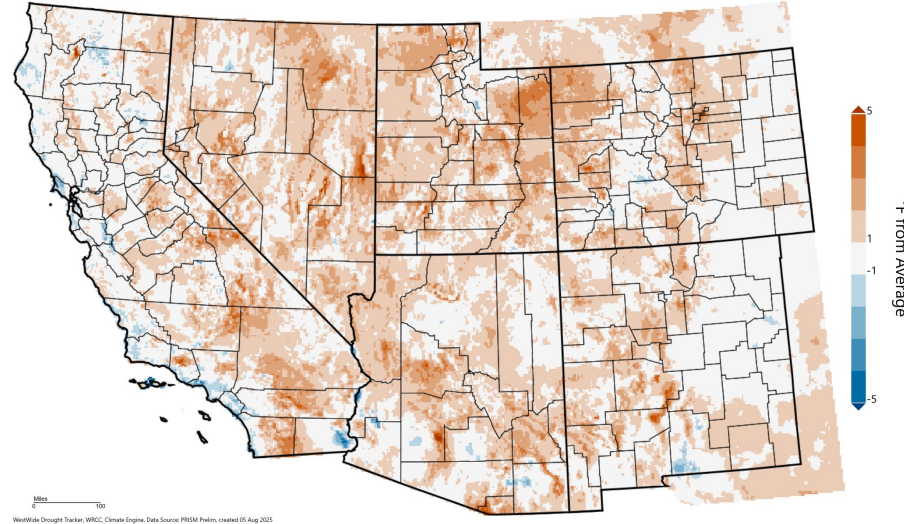
Southwest - Mean Temperature
October 2024 - July 2025, Percentile



WestWide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Projections, created 05 Aug 2025



Southwest - Mean Temperature
October 2024 - July 2025, Departure from 1991-2020 Average



WestWide Drought Tracker, WRCC, Climate Engine, Data Source: PRISM Projections, created 05 Aug 2025

Image Captions:
Left - Water Year Temperature Percentile Ranking
Right - Water Year Departure from Normal Temperature
Data Courtesy [WestWide Drought Tracker](#)
Data over the past 10 months ending July 2025

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Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Tier 1 shortage conditions remain in effect on the Colorado River impacting water deliveries in Arizona for 2025
- Below average unregulated inflow into Lake Powell this past spring/summer will keep Lake Powell and Mead water levels depressed such that Tier 1 restrictions have been announced through 2026.

Agricultural Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Several large wildfire incidents continue across Arizona which is highly unusual for this time of year. Resources remain stressed across the Southwest and prolonged drought may keep an enhanced threat of wildfires the remainder of the year.

Other Impacts

- Ranchers in parts of Arizona have experienced a significant lack of forage growth due to lack of rainfall the past year. Supplemental feed and water hauling have been necessary in many locations.

Mitigation Actions

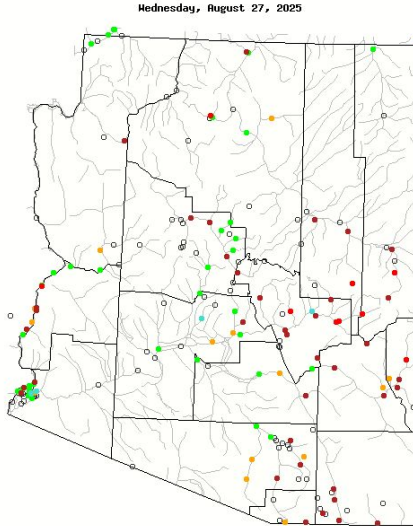
- A Drought Emergency Declaration remains in effect for the state of Arizona as signed by the governor in accordance with the [Arizona Drought Preparedness Plan](#). The continuation of this Drought Emergency has been recommended by the [Drought Interagency Coordinating Group](#)



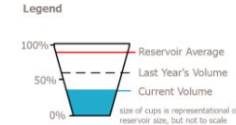


Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Many small unregulated rivers and streams have dropped into a blow or much below category with limited rainfall in early August
- Small to medium sized reservoirs were below levels measured last year and near or below long term averages
- Larger reservoirs on the Colorado river continue to hover well below average forcing shortage conditions and reduced water deliveries



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		



Reservoir	Capacity	Current Storage*	Max Storage*	One-Month Change in Storage*
1. Lake Powell	32%	7,879	24,322	+164.6
2. Lake Mead	31%	8,040	26,159	-153.2
3. Lake Mohave	94%	1,704	1,810	-1.0
4. Lake Havasu	95%	587	619	-7.3
5. Lyman	22%	7	30	-1.3
6. San Carlos	7%	63	875	-31.7
7. Verde River System	51%	146	287	-4.2
8. Salt River System	63%	1,280	2,026	-70.7

*KAF: thousands of acre-feet

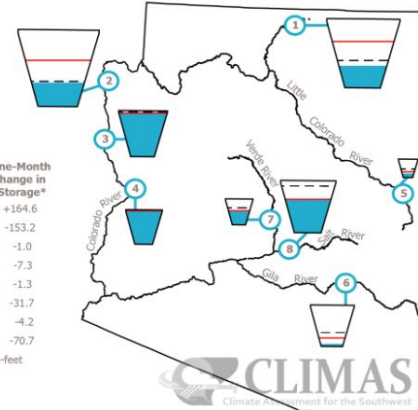


Figure 1. Arizona reservoir volumes for the end of June 2025 as a percent of capacity. The map depicts the average volume and last year's storage for each reservoir. The table also lists current and maximum storage, and change in storage since last month.

Image Caption:

Left: USGS 14 day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow valid August 27, 2025. Data courtesy of [USGS](#)

Right: Arizona reservoir status. Data courtesy of [CLIMAS](#)





Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- With recent rainfall, dead fine fuels have improved above 10% temporarily limiting new wildfire starts
- The threat of significant large wildland fires should remain close to normal in September with occasional thunderstorm activity ending out monsoon 2025

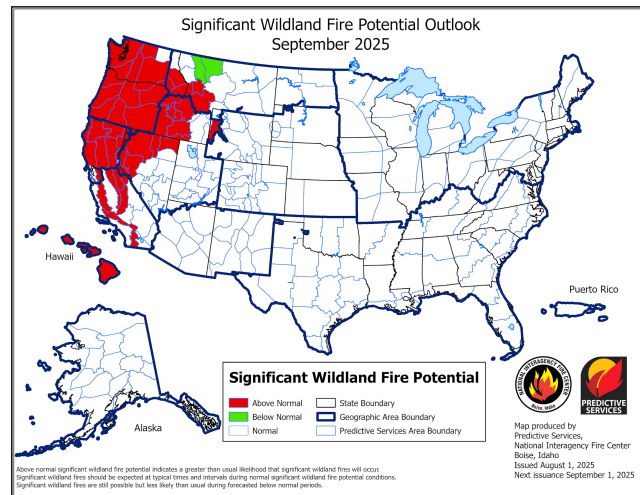
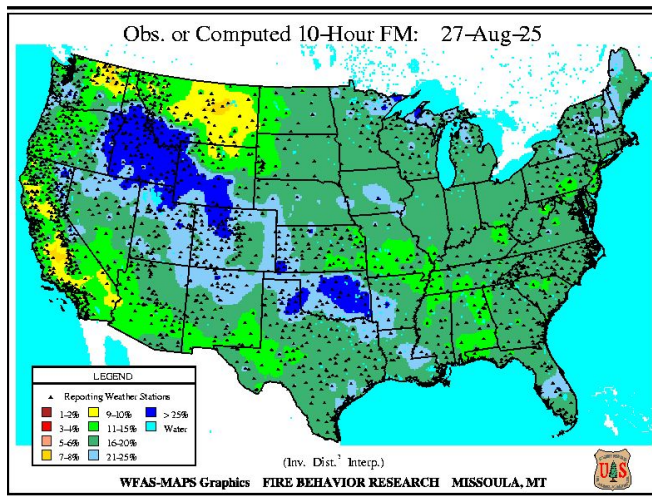


Image Caption: Left - 10-hour dead fuel moisture from [Wildland Fire Assessment System](#)
Right - [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for September 2025



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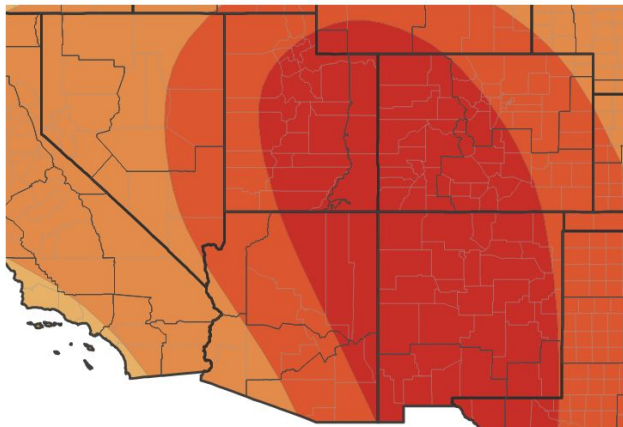


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Temperatures over the next 3 months (Sep-Oct-Nov) have a much better chance of averaging at above normal levels
- Odds of total precipitation during the Sep-Oct-Nov time frame have a slightly better chance of ending in the below normal category

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for September 1, 2025–November 30, 2025



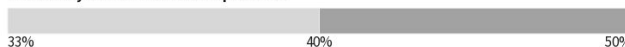
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



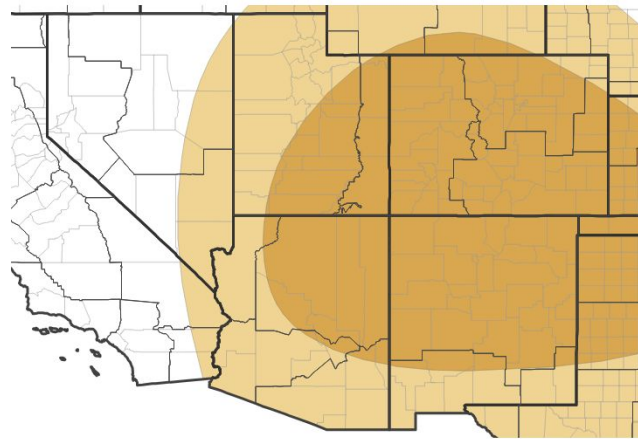
Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 08/21/25

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for September 1, 2025–November 30, 2025



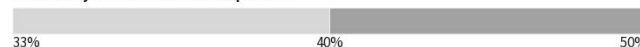
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

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Drought Outlook

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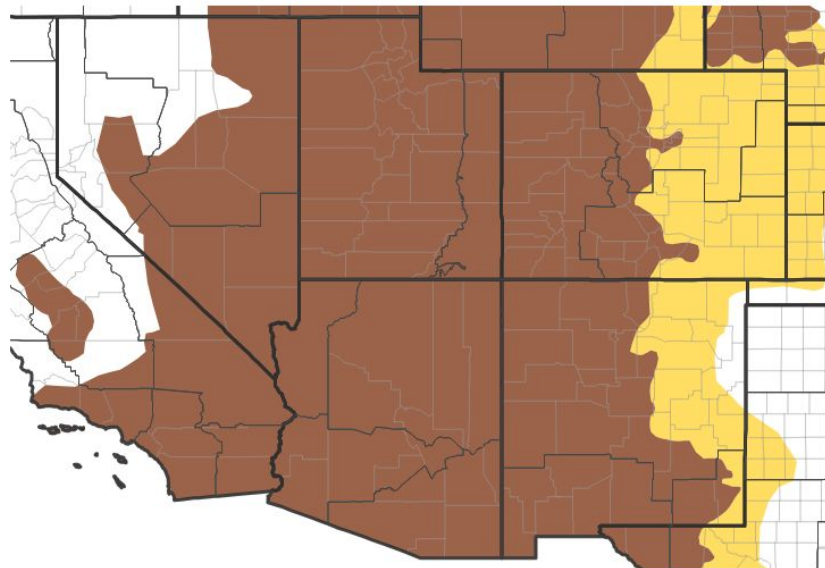
- Widespread Severe to Extreme Drought currently exists over central and western Arizona, as well as southeast California
- Thunderstorms tend to become more isolated and infrequent towards the end of the monsoon, but historically some very large rainfall events have occurred in September
- The most likely outcome is for drought to persist across the Southwest through Fall 2025

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for August 21, 2025–November 30, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

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