



# Drought Information Statement for Central North Carolina

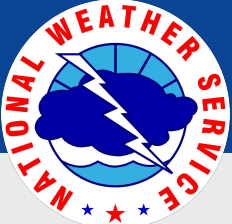
Valid October 23, 2025

Issued By: NWS Raleigh

Contact Information:

- This Drought Information Statement will be updated by November 7, 2025.
  - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
  - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/RAH/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
  - Questions or comments can be sent to [barrett.smith@noaa.gov](mailto:barrett.smith@noaa.gov)
- 
- Severe Drought (D2) expanded in the north-central Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont, and also developed into the southern Piedmont.
  - Moderate Drought (D1) expanded across nearly all of the Piedmont.





# Current Drought Conditions

October 23, 2025  
12:44 PM EDT

Graphic Courtesy of the North Carolina State Climate Office

## North Carolina Drought Update

Created By:

North Carolina  
Drought Management Advisory Council  
[www.ncdrought.org](http://www.ncdrought.org)

NORTH CAROLINA  
CLIMATE OFFICE  
[climate.ncsu.edu](http://climate.ncsu.edu)

NC STATE  
[@NCSCO](https://twitter.com/NCSCO)

For the assessment period ending **Oct. 21, 2025**  
*From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC*

### The Main Takeaway

Conditions continue to degrade statewide, with the expansion of Moderate (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) in central and eastern North Carolina over the past week.

### This Week's Summary

Moisture from our mid-month Nor'easter soaked in quickly with little replenishment last week, as we saw less than half an inch of rain statewide during Sunday's cold frontal passage. These fronts can also bring gusty winds and low-humidity air, which ramps up fire danger, as we've already seen this Wednesday and Thursday. Expect the fire season to ramp up as leaf fall continues.

### Next Week's Outlook

Our temperatures will tumble this weekend, with patchy frost possible on Saturday morning. By early next week, moisture may return with light rain across the state.

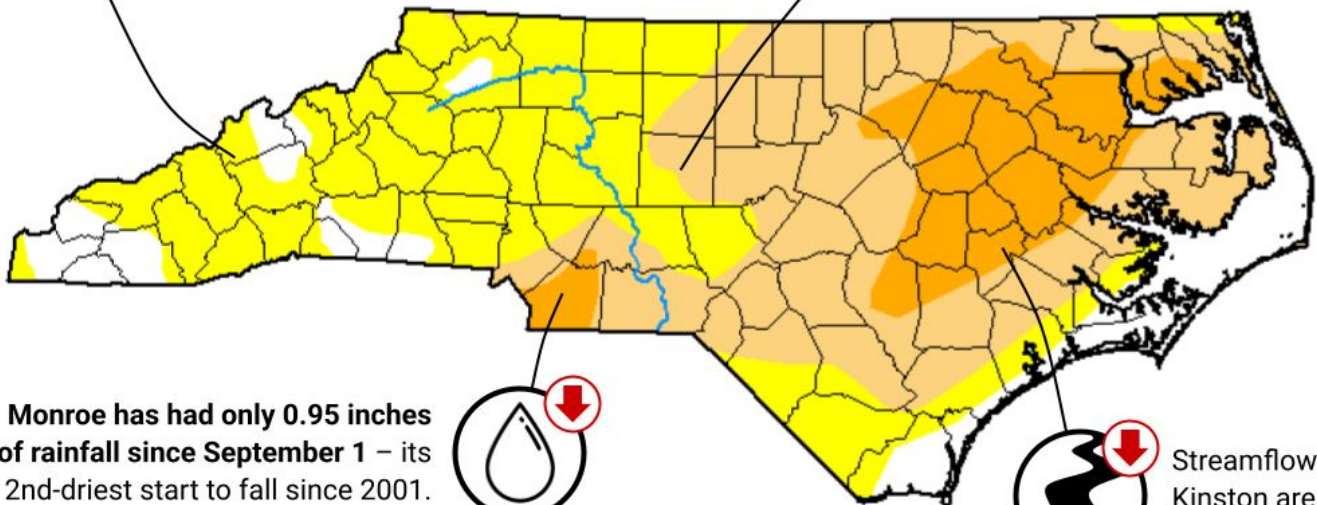
For your local drought status, visit [www.ncdrought.org](http://www.ncdrought.org)



A Madison County CoCoRaHS observer reports **dry soil up to 6 inches deep** and little to no water flowing through creeks.



Randolph County Extension notes that **cool-season forage crops are struggling**, resulting in slow growth at the moment.



Monroe has had only **0.95 inches of rainfall since September 1** – its 2nd-driest start to fall since 2001.



Streamflows on the Neuse River at Kinston are **at preliminary record low levels over the past 28 days**.

### Last Week's Drought Status



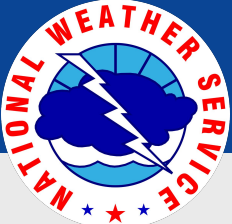
### Statewide Coverage by Category

| Category                | Current Coverage | Change Since Last Week |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| D0: Abnormally Dry      | 38.45%           | -3.99%                 |
| D1: Moderate Drought    | 37.90%           | +0.83%                 |
| D2: Severe Drought      | 15.41%           | +11.01%                |
| D3: Extreme Drought     | 0.00%            | 0.00%                  |
| D4: Exceptional Drought | 0.00%            | 0.00%                  |



National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

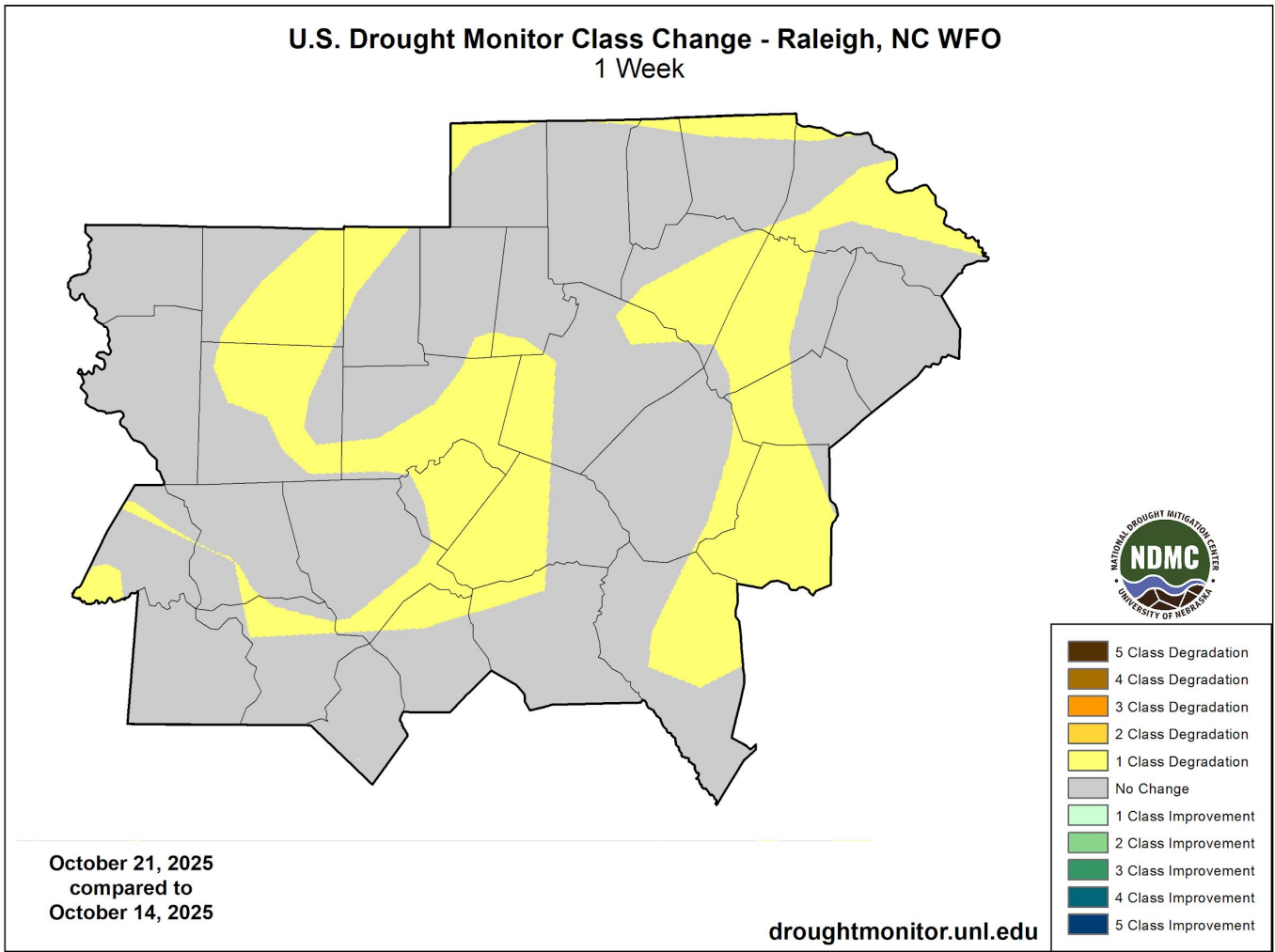
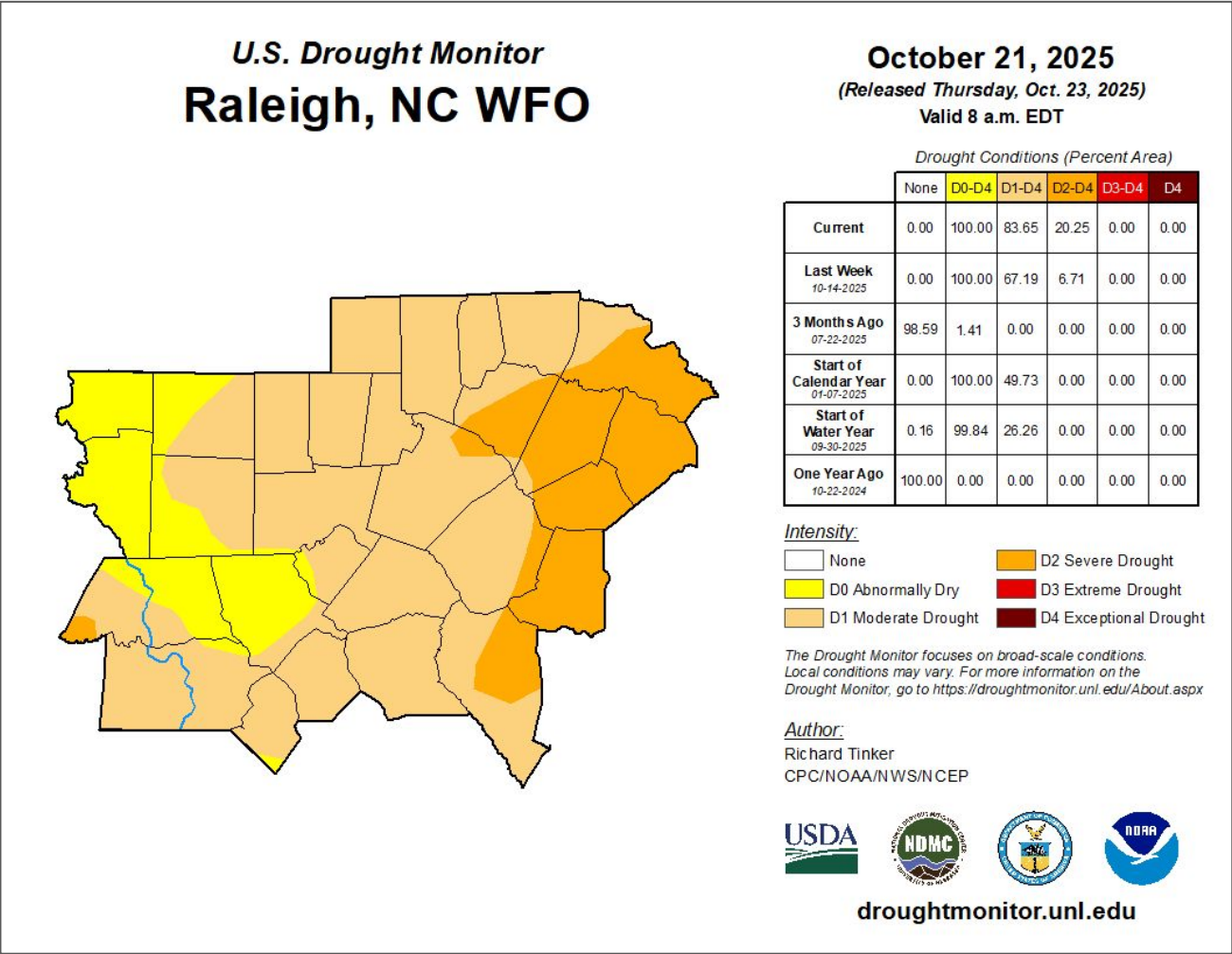
National Weather Service  
Raleigh, NC



# Current Drought Conditions

October 23, 2025  
12:44 PM EDT

Latest U.S. Drought Monitor Map and One-Week Change



## Main Takeaways

- Severe Drought (D2) expanded in the north-central Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont, and also developed into the southern Piedmont.
- Moderate Drought (D1) expanded across nearly all of the Piedmont.

Image Caption:

Left: [U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am October 21st.](#)

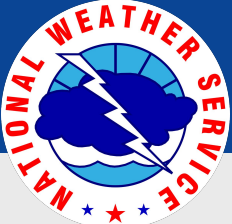
Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map valid 8am October 21st.](#)



National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

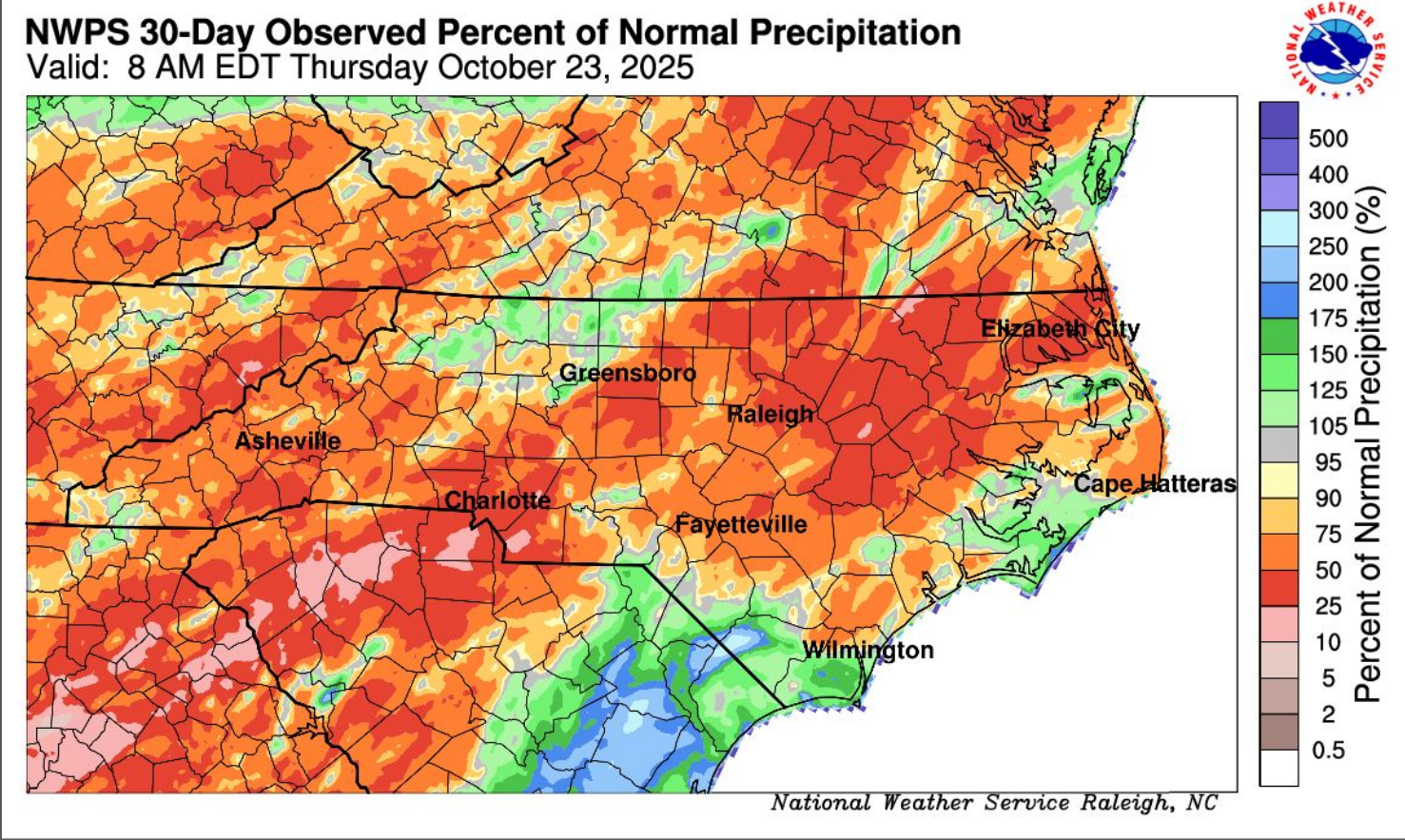
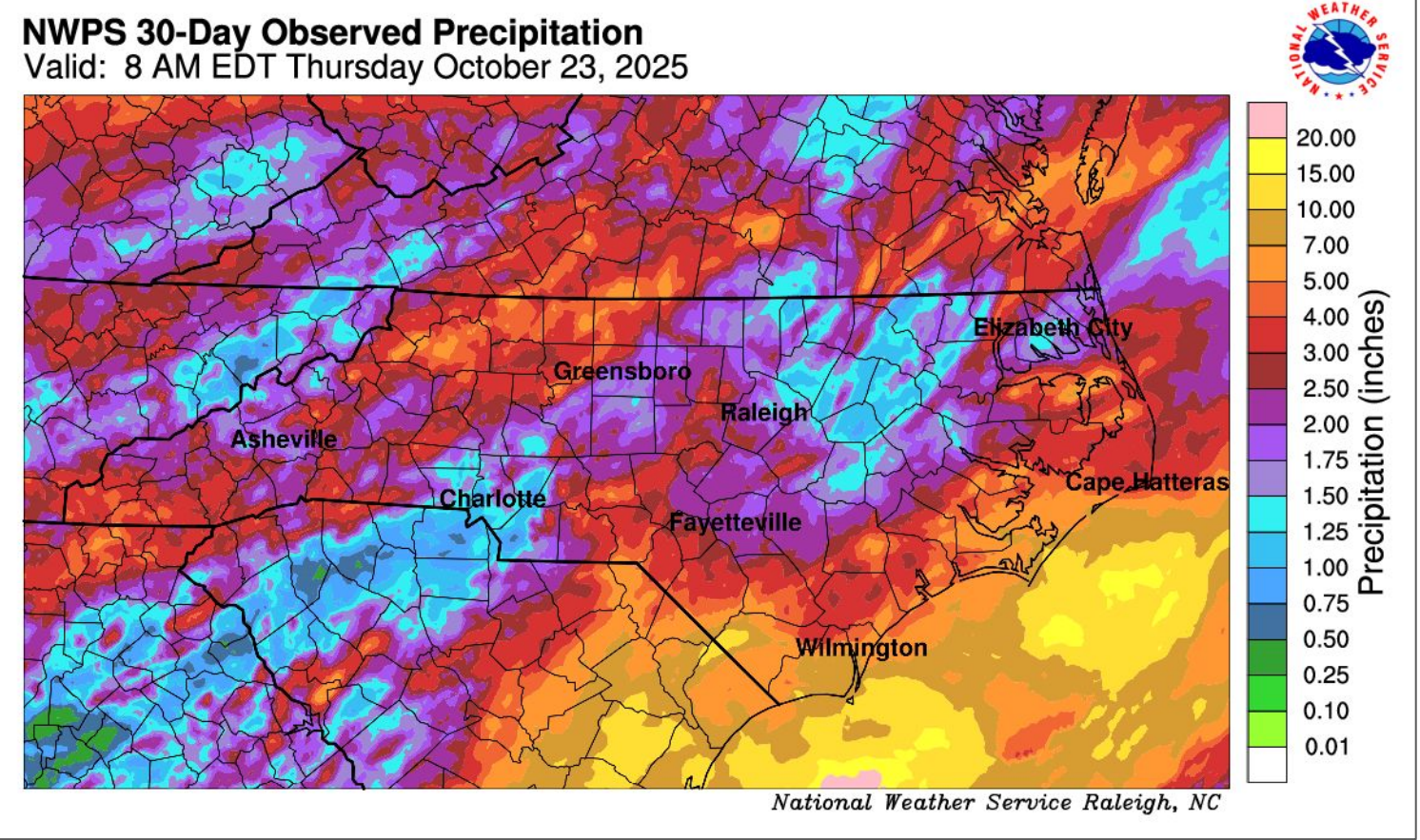
National Weather Service  
Raleigh, NC



# Observed Precipitation

October 23, 2025  
12:44 PM EDT

Latest 30-Day Rainfall and Percent of Normal Rainfall

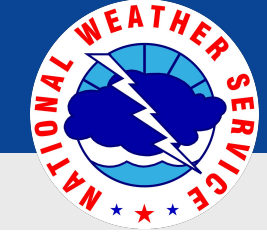


## Main Takeaways

- Rainfall deficits continue to grow in the Coastal Plain, where rainfall in the past 30 days has been 25-50 percent of normal. A CoCoRaHS observer in Rocky Mount has reported only 1.06 inches of rain since the beginning of September.

| Past 30 Days Stats | Observed Precipitation | Departure From Normal | Percent of Normal |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Raleigh-Durham     | 1.82                   | -1.94                 | 48%               |
| Piedmont Triad     | 1.61                   | -1.74                 | 48%               |
| Fayetteville       | 2.03                   | -1.72                 | 54%               |

Image Captions:  
Left - Precipitation Amount for NC; Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for NC  
Data Courtesy NWS National Water Prediction Service. Data over the past 30 days ending October 23, 2025



# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

October 23, 2025  
12:44 PM EDT

- Streamflow is below normal across much of the Coastal Plain, and particularly low in the Tar River Basin.
- The Neuse River at Clayton has been hovering near its required minimum flow levels for multiple weeks.

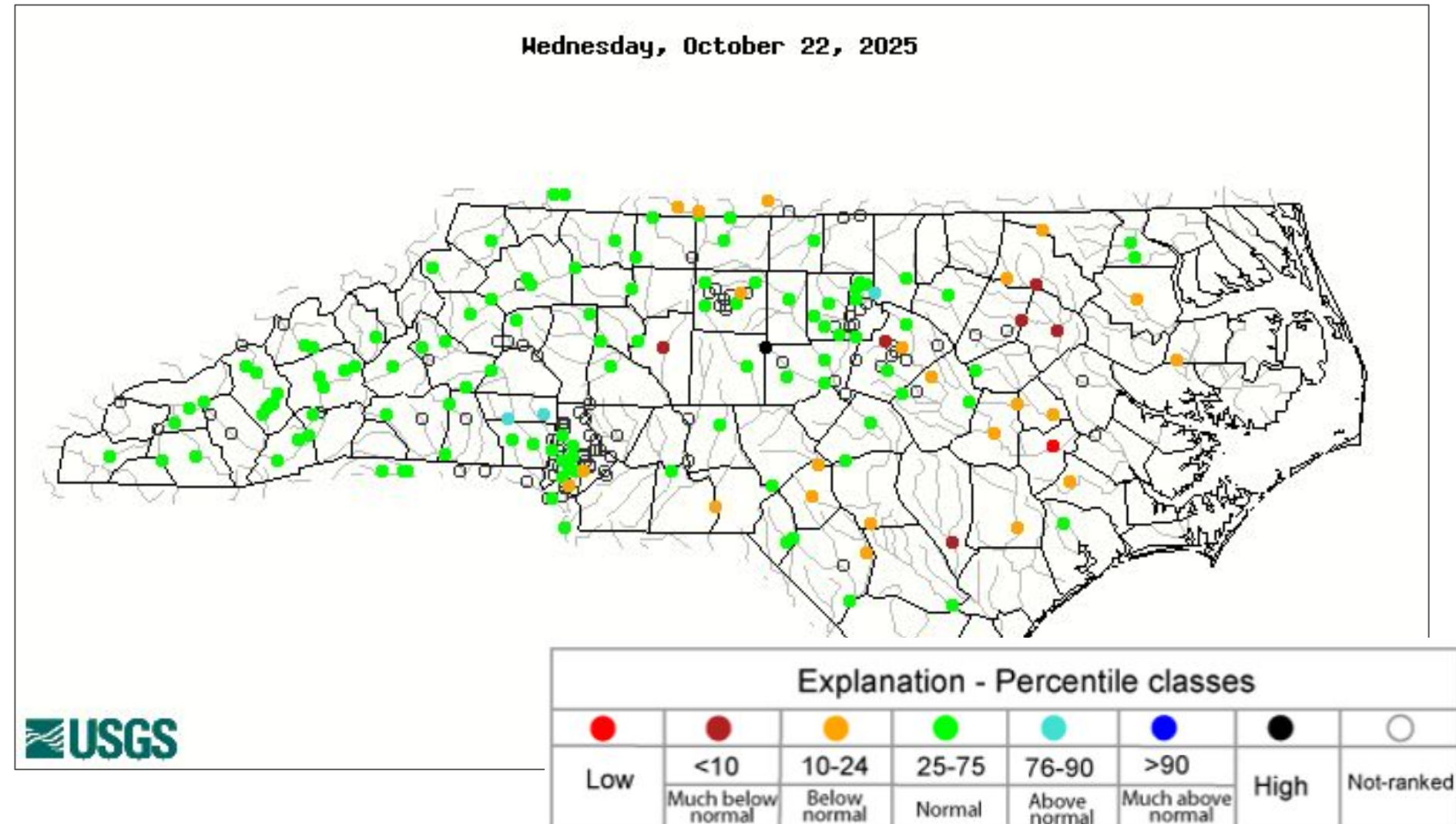
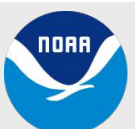
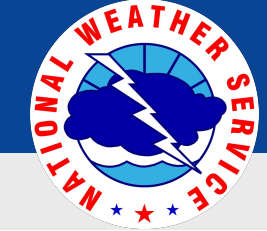


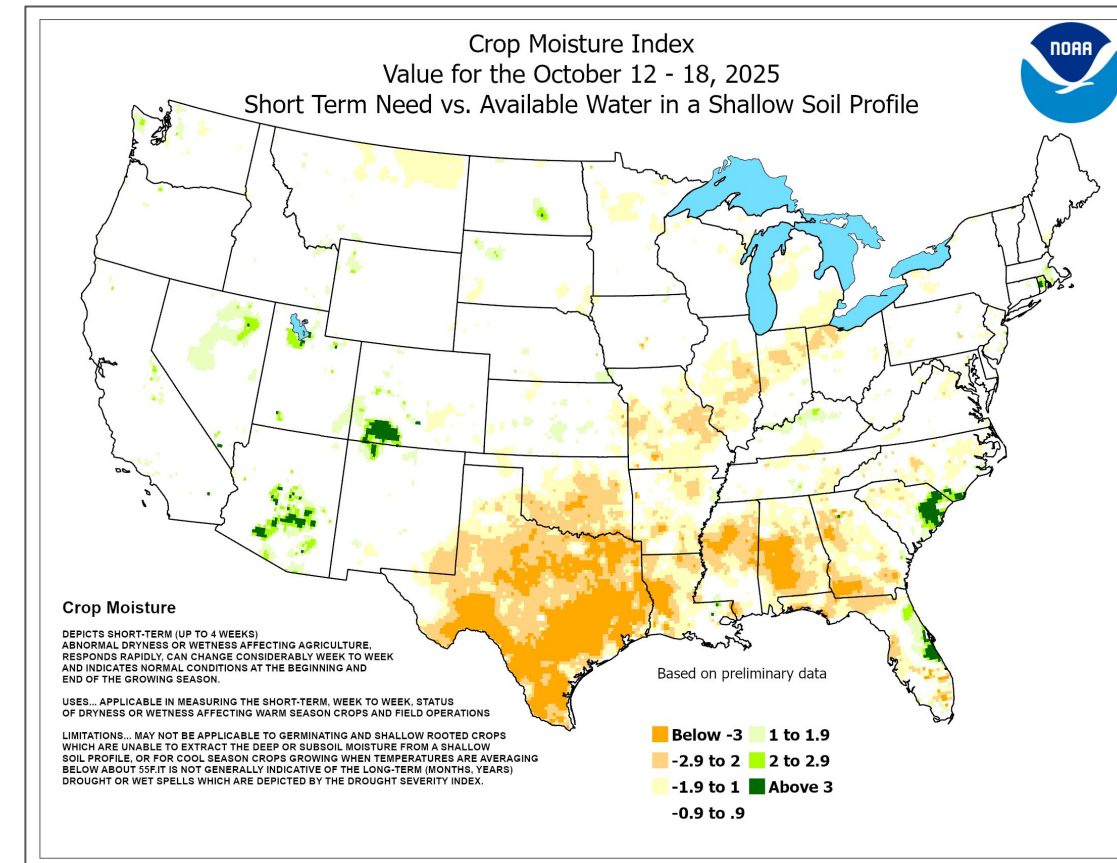
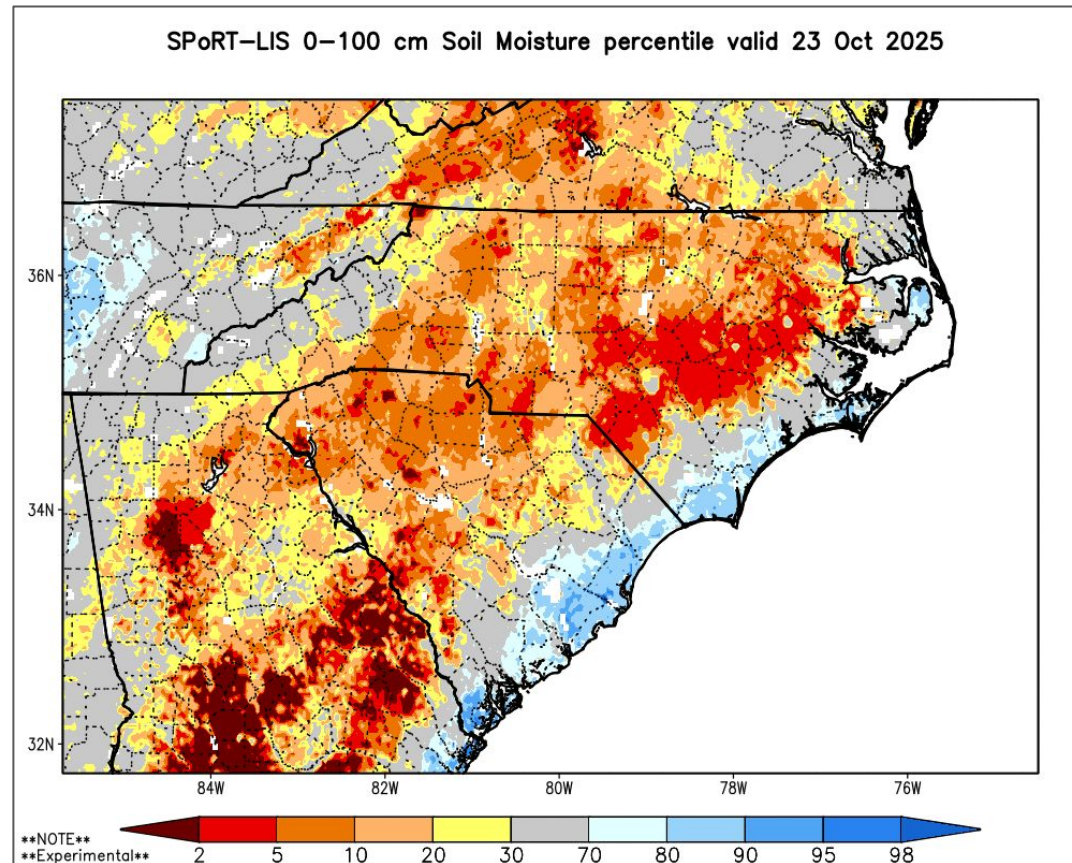
Image Caption: USGS 28 day average streamflow valid 10/22/2025





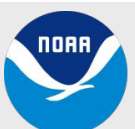
# Agricultural Impacts

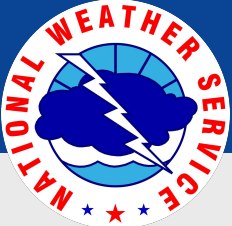
October 23, 2025  
12:44 PM EDT



- Across much of the Coastal Plain, soil moisture is in the lowest 5-10th for this time of year and the short term Crop Moisture Index is between -1 and -3.
- There have been some reported agricultural impacts, including lower soybean production and cool-season forage crop issues.

Left: NASA SPoRT LIS [Soil Moisture 100cm Soil Moisture Percentile](#) valid October 23, 2025  
Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending October 18, 2025





# Precipitation Forecast

October 23, 2025  
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Latest 7-Day Precipitation Forecast

- Next 7 days:
  - A coastal low will track along the NC coast early next week and bring the chance of a couple of rounds of rainfall to central NC.
  - As much as 1-2 inches of rain is possible across much of central NC.
  - There is still some uncertainty in the amounts, but current forecasts imply near to above normal rainfall through late next week.

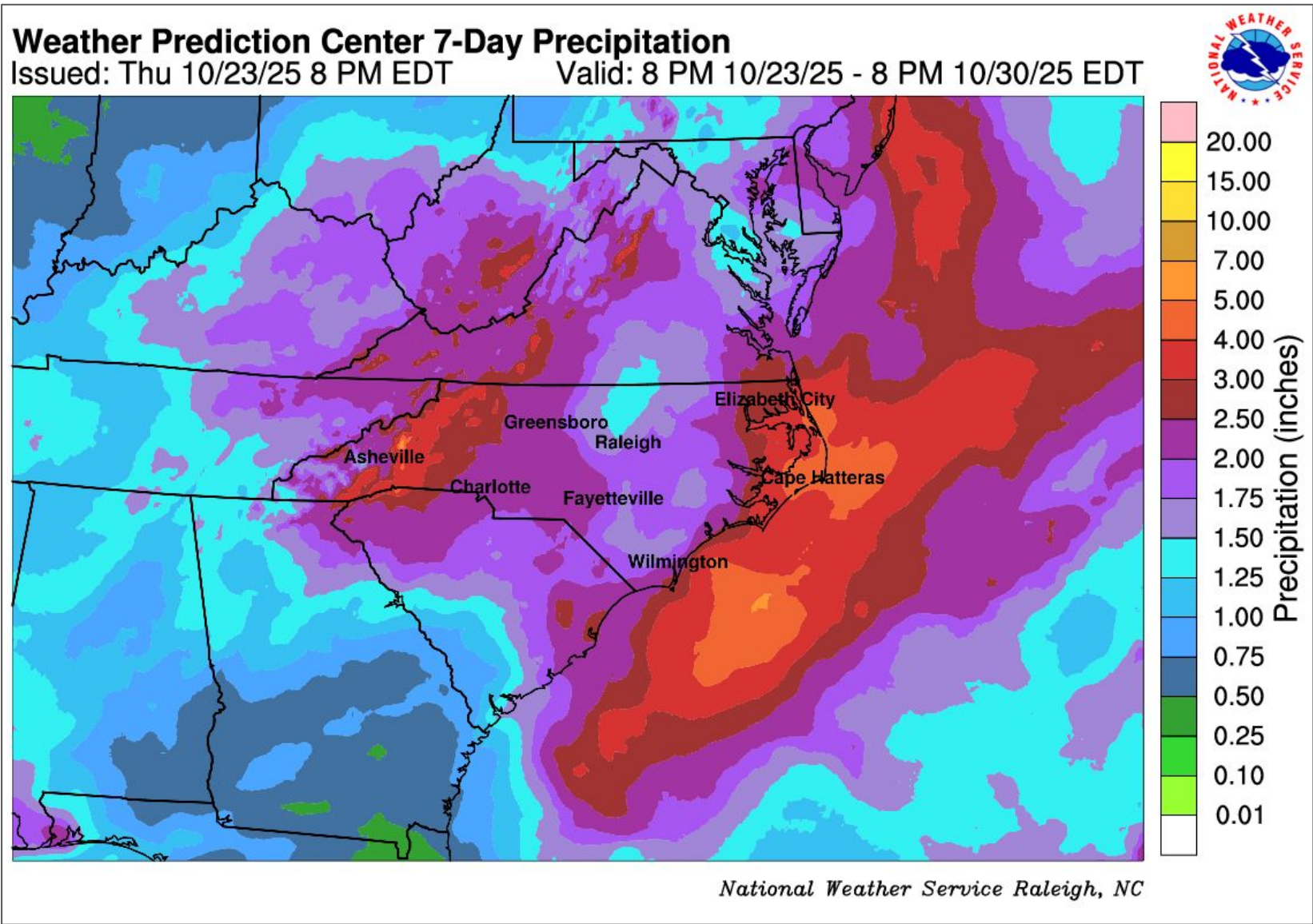


Image Caption:

Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Friday October 23 to Friday October 30, 2025





# 8-14 Day Outlook

October 23, 2025  
12:44 PM EDT

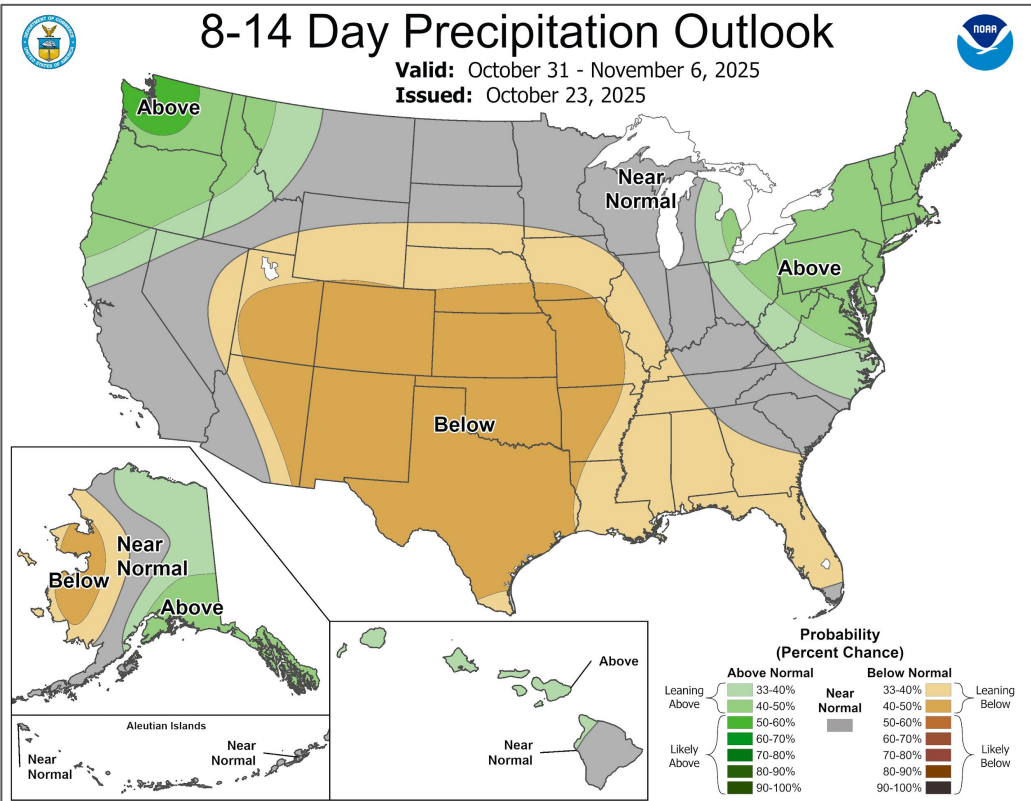
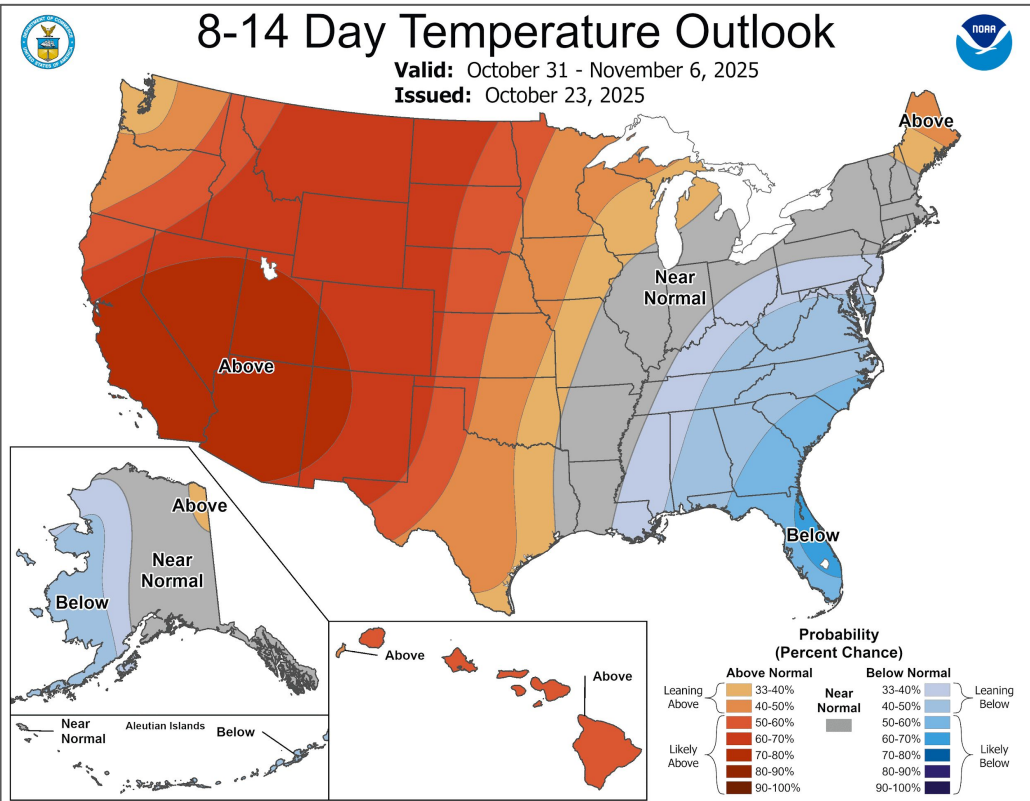
## Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

### Main Takeaways

- The Days 8-14 Outlooks favors below normal temperatures.
- There are slightly increased chances (33-40%) of above normal precipitation in Days 8-14.

### Possible Impact

- Without more significant rainfall in the next 7 days, drought conditions are likely persist or worsen.



### Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook.](#)  
Right - [Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook.](#)

Valid October 31-November 6,, 2025





# Weeks 3-4 Outlook

October 23, 2025  
12:44 PM EDT

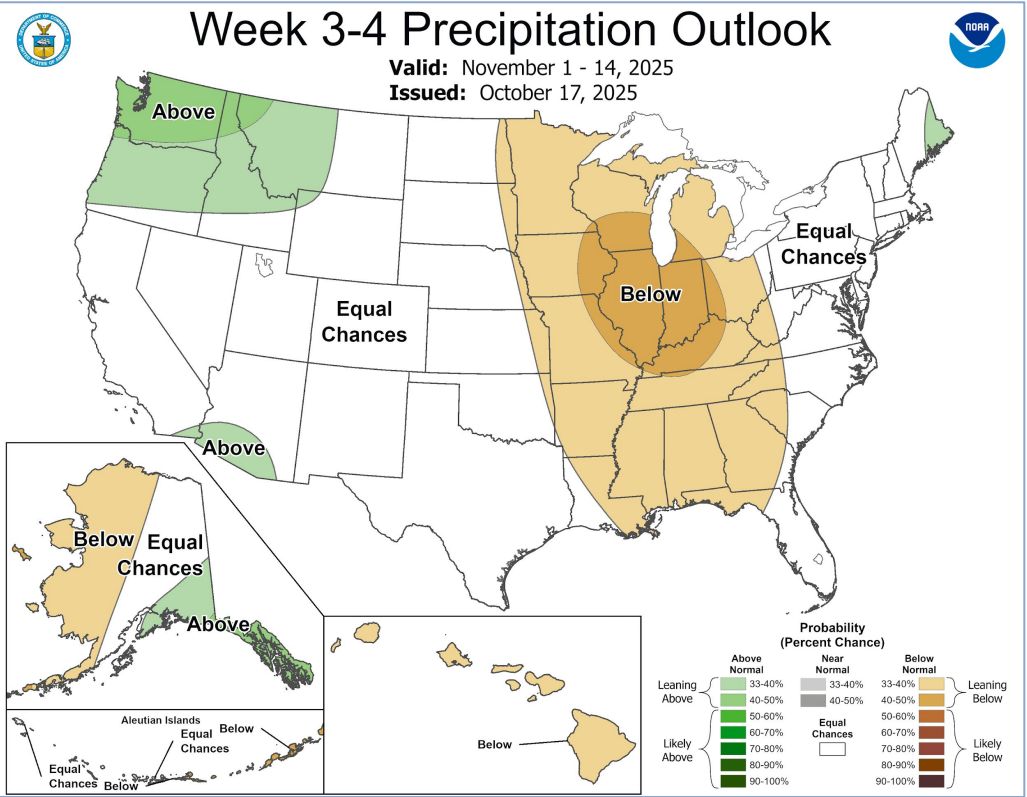
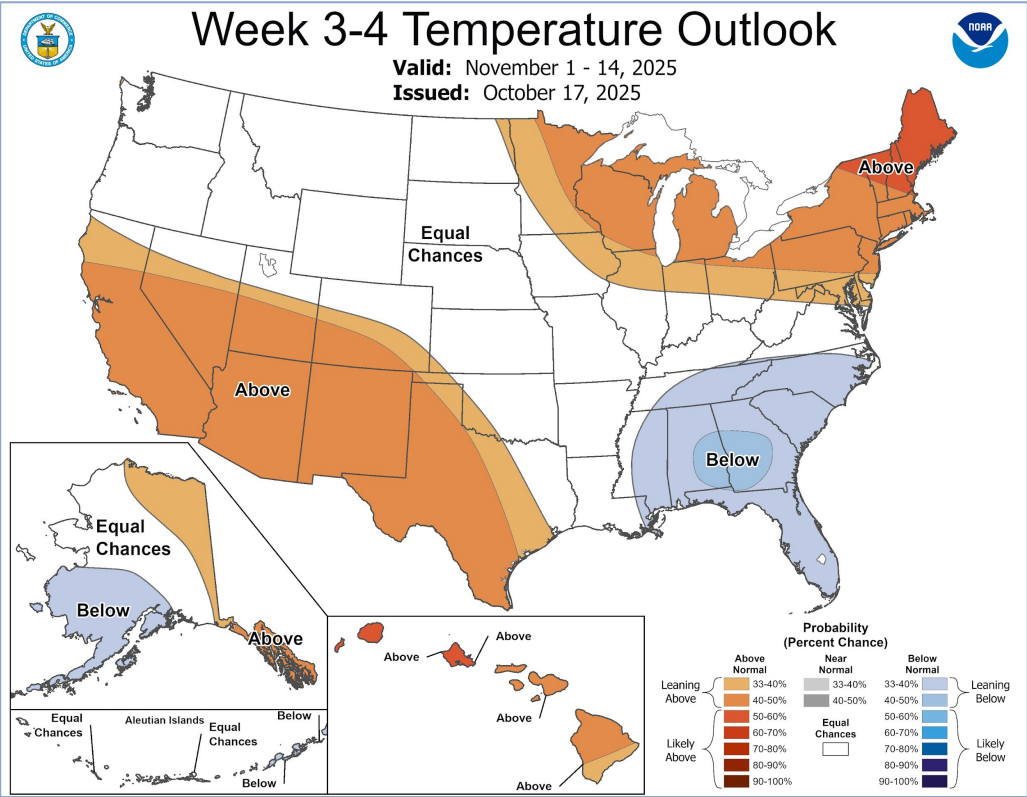
## Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

### Main Takeaways

- There is a slight lean (33-40%) to below normal temperatures across NC.
- The 3-4 Week Outlook favors equal chances of above or below normal precipitation across central NC for early November.

### Possible Impact

Below normal temperatures and at least an equal chance of near to above normal rainfall is favorable for drought persistence or improvement instead of worsening. However, the pattern does favor below normal rainfall to areas just west of central NC.



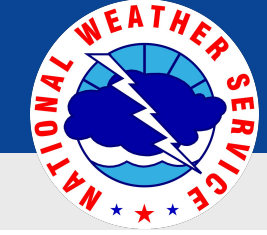
### Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Weeks 3-4 Temperature Outlook.](#)

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Weeks 3-4 Precipitation Outlook.](#)

Valid November 1 - 14, 2025

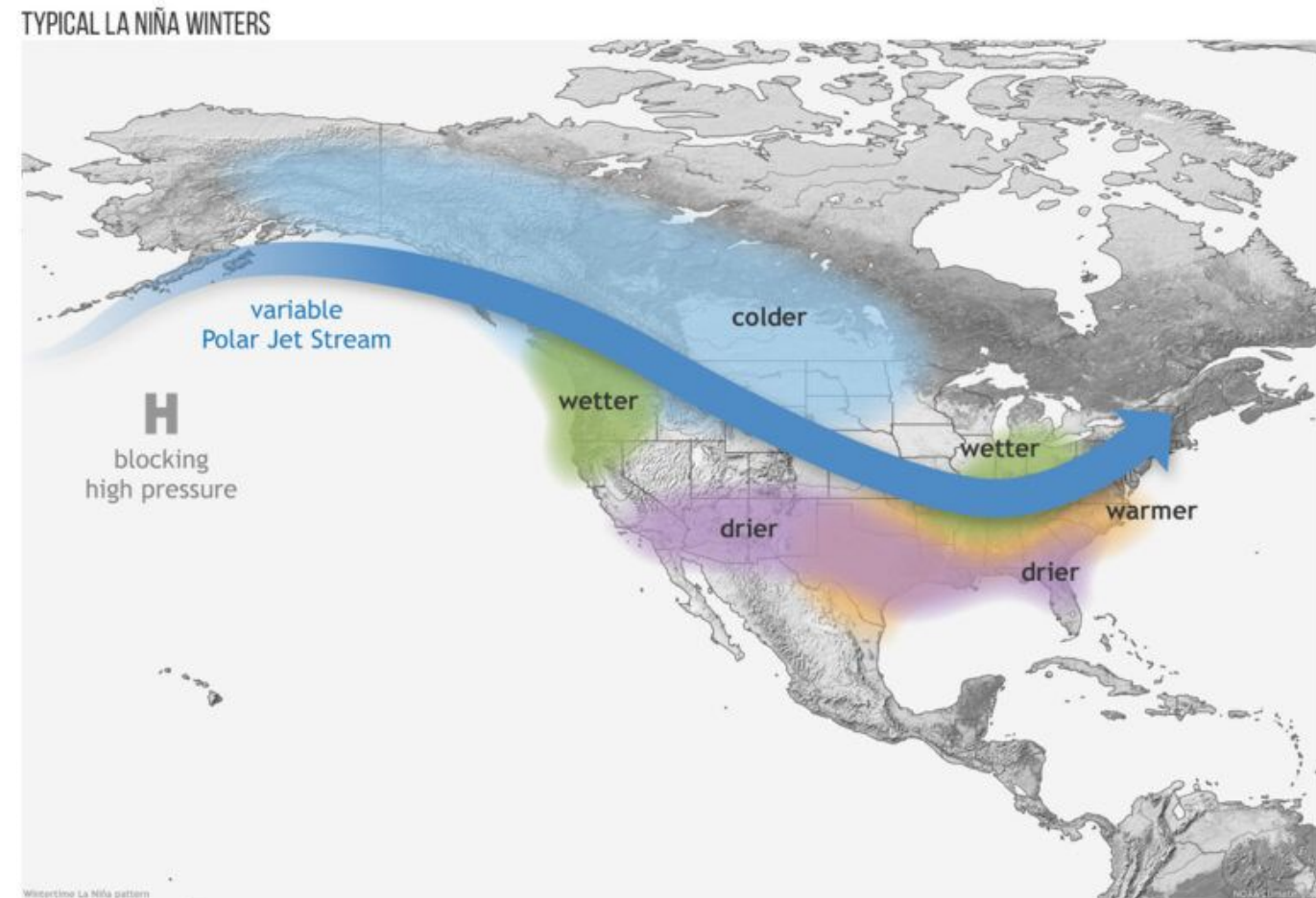




**We are currently in a La Niña phase and La Niña is forecast to continue through February 2026, with a transition to ENSO-neutral likely by March 2026 (55% chance).**

La Niña Winters Favor drier conditions along the southern tier of the CONUS with warmer conditions favored across the southeast.

Keep in mind these conditions are an average over the seasonal time period, so variations between warm/cold and wet/dry will still occur.





# Seasonal (3-Month) Climate Outlook

July 9, 2024  
9:22 AM

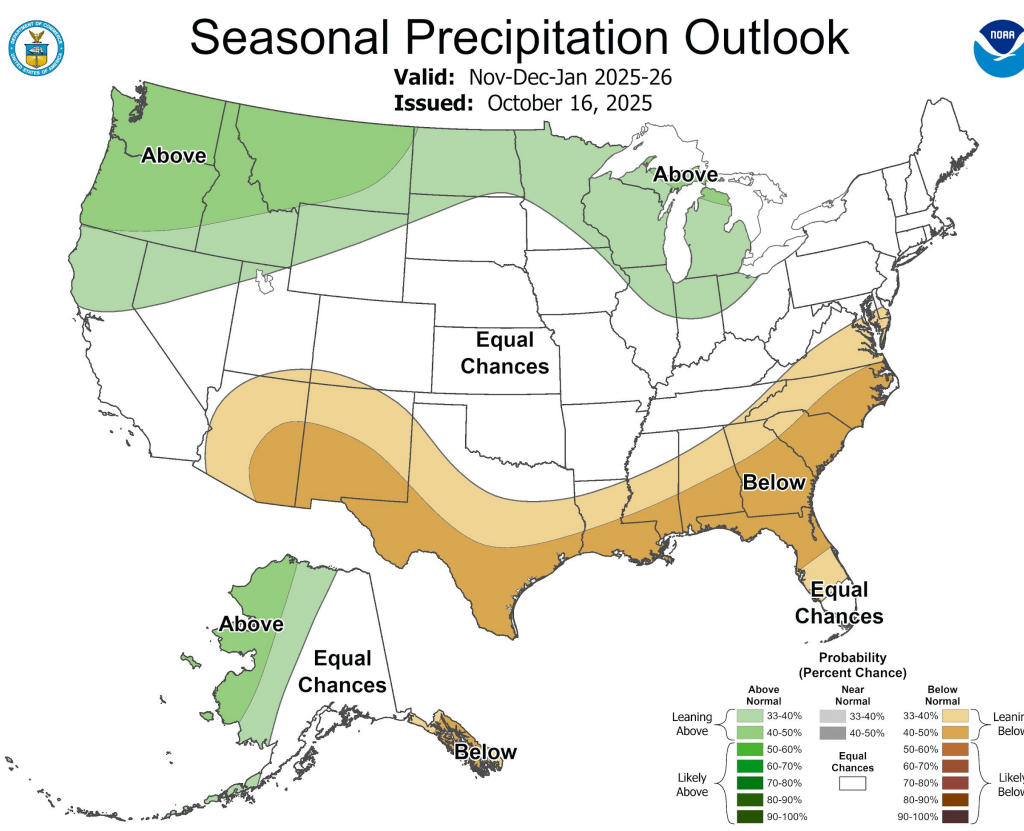
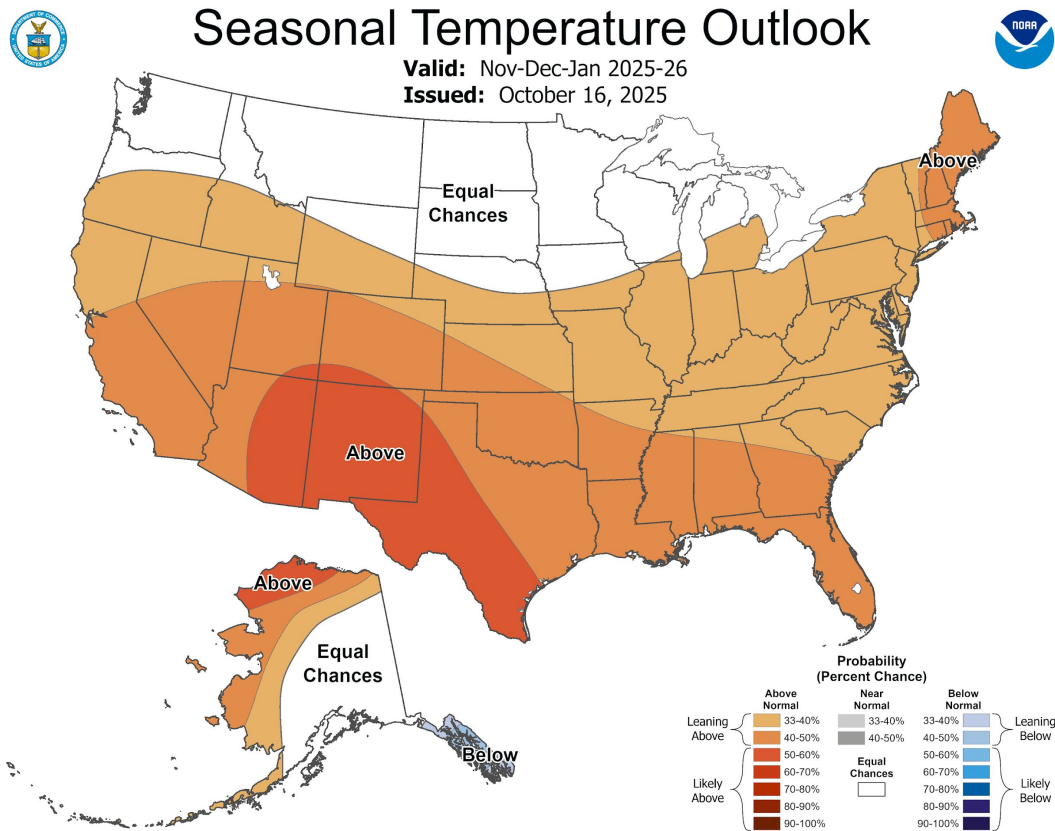
## Seasonal Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

### Main Takeaways

- There are increased probabilities of above normal temperatures across the southern and eastern U. S.
- Below normal rainfall is favored for November through February

### Possible Impact

- While week to week variations in weather will occur, a La Niña winter could favor the persistent or worsening of drought if rainfall is below normal across NC,



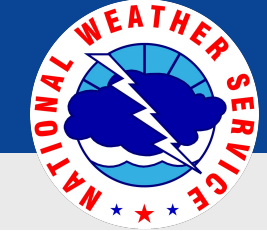
### Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook](#).

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook](#).

Valid November, 2025 to February, 2026.





# Drought Outlook

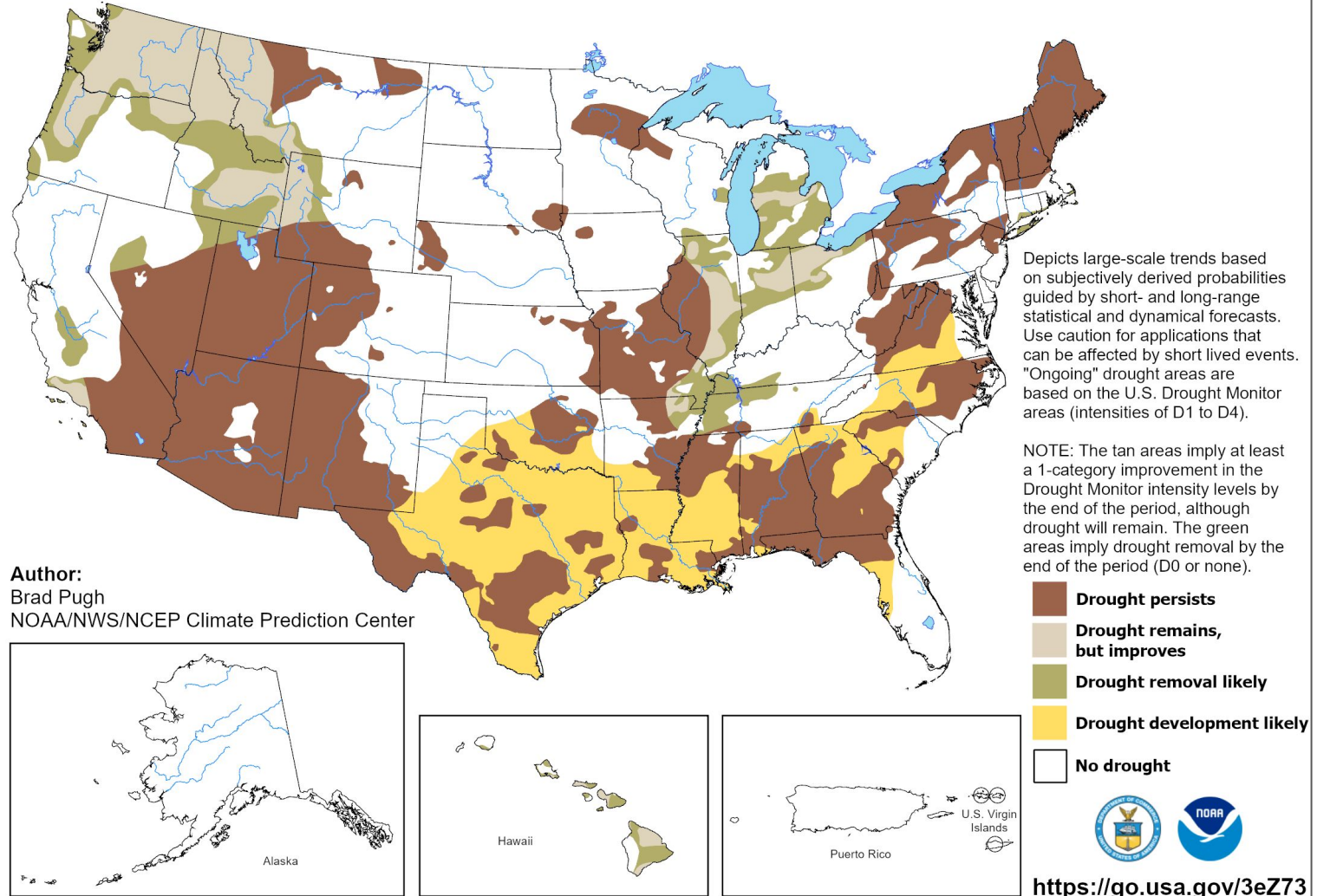
October 23, 2025  
12:44 PM EDT

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

- Drought is expected to persist across portions of eastern NC through the winter and possibly continue to expand across the western Piedmont.

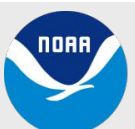
## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for October 16, 2025 - January 31, 2026  
Released October 16, 2025



Links to the latest:

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



National Oceanic and  
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U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Raleigh, NC