



Drought Information Statement

for southeast Ohio, northeast Kentucky, southwest Virginia, and much of West Virginia

Valid September 19, 2025

Issued By: NWS Charleston, WV

Contact Information: rlx.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated if D3 (Extreme) drought conditions return
 - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
 - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/RLX/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
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- Drought conditions worsen over much of the area
 - Extreme drought now in the central WV mountains
 - Agricultural impacts expanding





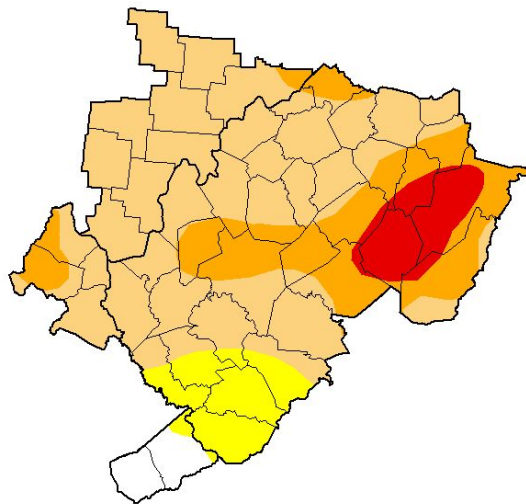
Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor

Main Takeaways

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Introduction across central WV mountains
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Expansion across WV mountains and Kanawha Valley
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Expansion across southeast OH and north-central WV
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Lingering across southern Coal Fields

U.S. Drought Monitor Charleston, WV WFO



September 16, 2025

(Released Thursday, Sep. 18, 2025)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	3.38	96.62	87.22	27.60	7.11	0.00
Last Week 09-09-2025	3.26	96.74	55.18	8.74	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-17-2025	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	90.22	9.78	1.72	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	6.96	93.04	84.92	68.72	44.92	12.11
One Year Ago 09-17-2024	0.00	100.00	99.05	91.00	79.77	23.47

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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NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



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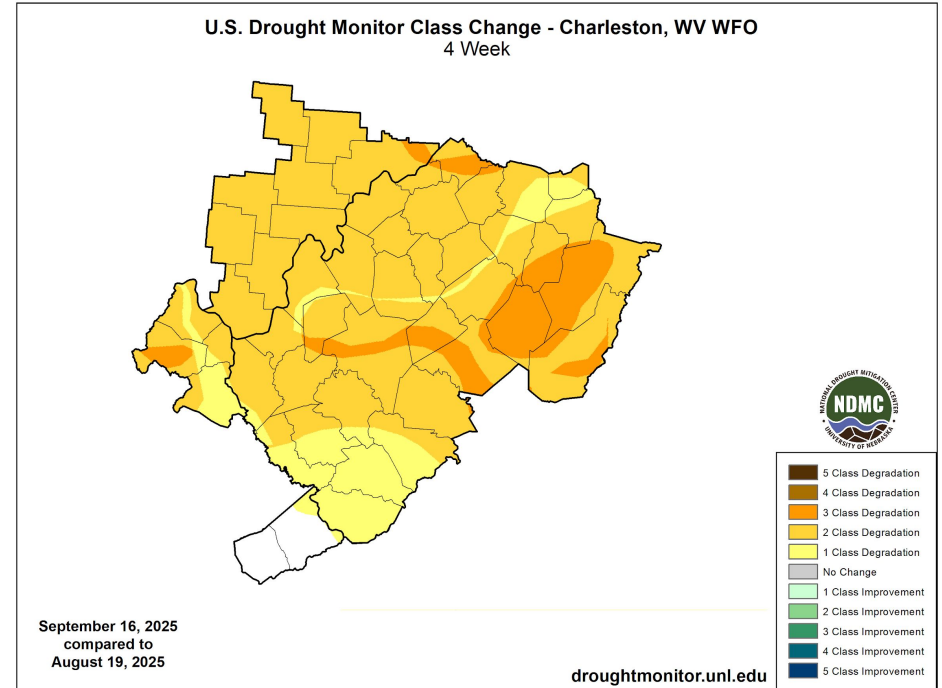
National Weather Service
Charleston, WV



Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor 4-Week Change

- **Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change**
 - **Drought Worsened:** All areas except southwest VA
 - **No Change:** Southwest VA
 - **Drought Improved:** None



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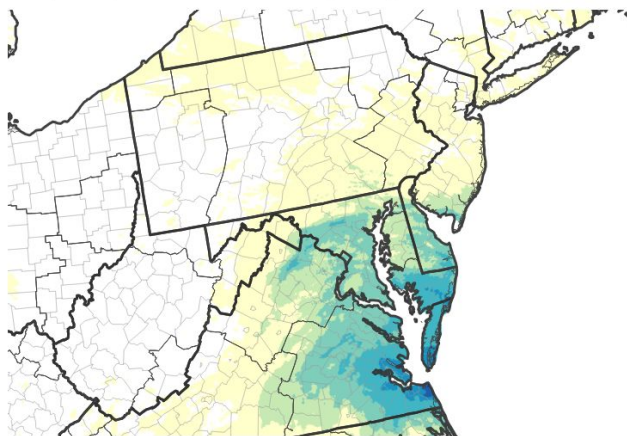
Observed Precipitation

Latest 7-Day Rainfall and 30-Day Percent of Normal Rainfall

Main Takeaways

- No rain observed across the area over the past week
- Much of the area has received less than 50% of normal rainfall over the past 30 days
 - More pronounced across southeast OH where 25% or less was observed

7-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



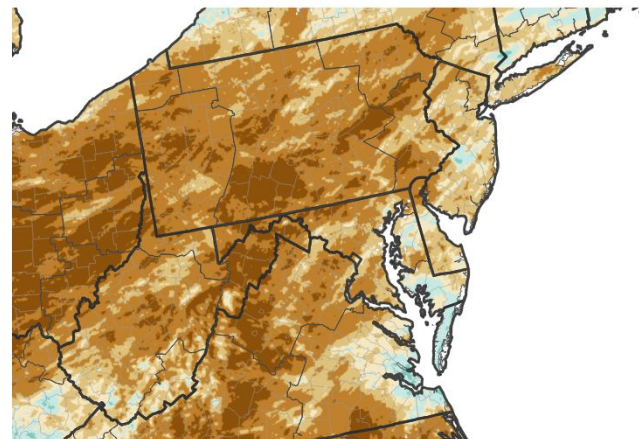
Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 09/18/25

30-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

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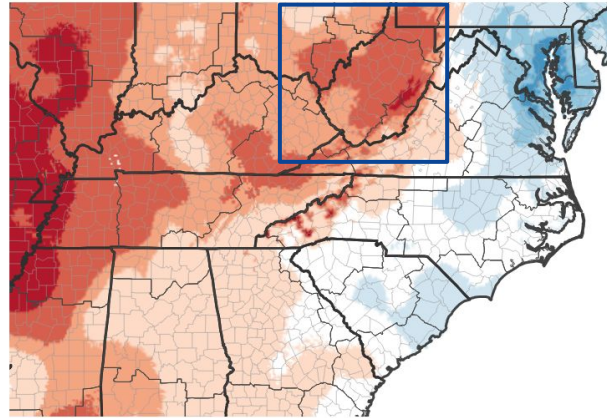
Observed Temperature

Latest 7 and 30-Day Temperature Anomaly

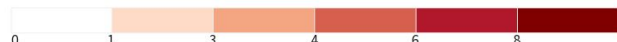
Main Takeaways

- Max temperatures 3 to 6 degrees above normal over the last week and 1 to 3 degrees above normal over the last month

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



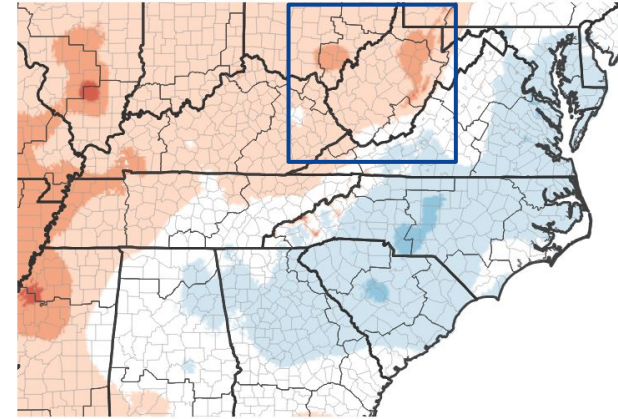
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



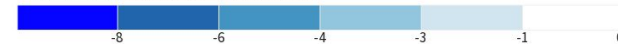
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/22/25

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/22/25





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- 7-day average streamflows continue to fall relative to historical averages for September ([USGS](#))
 - Near record low flows being observed for some gages in the Tygart and Cheat basins
- Low water levels in creeks and streams have led to an outbreak of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in the deer population in southeast OH and western WV (Broadcast and print media, [OH DNR](#), [WV DNR](#))
 - Often fatal for affected deer
 - Exacerbated during drought conditions that occur after a wet beginning to summer
- Groundwater monitoring wells are lowering, especially in the D2/D3 areas ([USGS](#))

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture continues to decline across most areas ([NIDIS](#))
- Supplemental hay feeding and hauling of water reported amongst livestock producers ([Drought Impact Reporter](#), [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports](#))
 - Early cattle sales reported (Farm Service Agency)

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire danger moderate

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

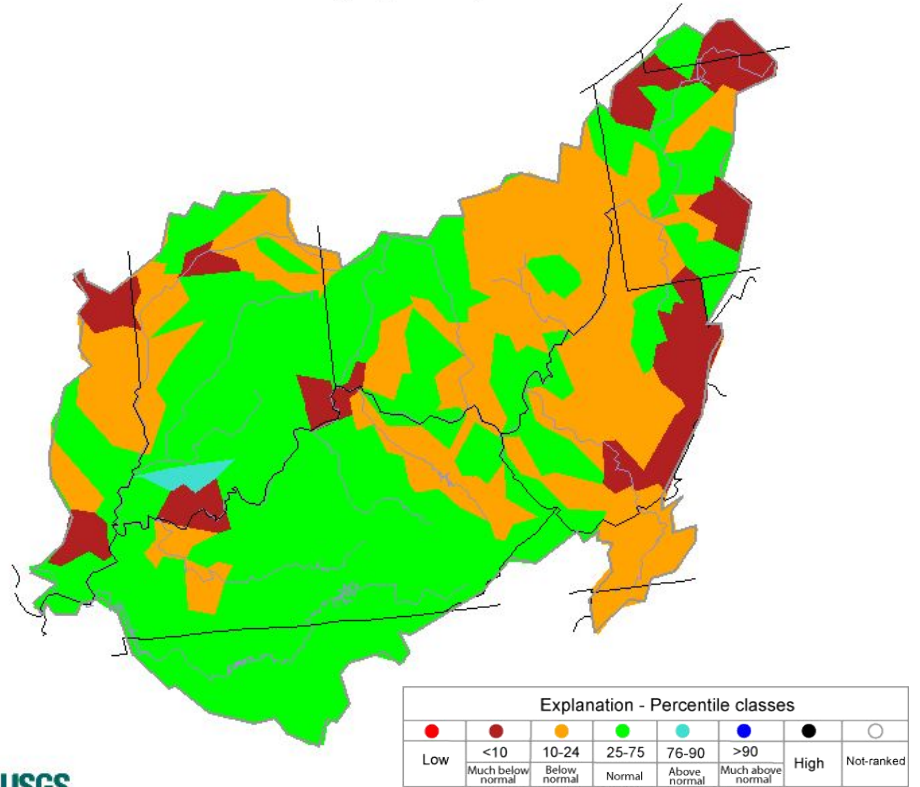
Thursday, September 18, 2025

Main Takeaways

- Streamflows continue to lower with much below normal observed in the Greenbrier, Tygart, and Cheat river basins
 - Near record to record low flows at some gages in the Tygart and Cheat basins
- Groundwater wells have generally stabilized but remain low compared to early December averages across most areas
- Many reservoirs are below summer pool
 - Tygart Lake and Stonewall Jackson Lake are especially affected

Impacts

- Hauling of water reported from livestock producers
- Outbreak of Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) in the deer population in southeast OH and western WV
 - Often fatal for affected deer
 - Exacerbated during drought conditions that occur after a wet beginning to summer





Agricultural Impacts

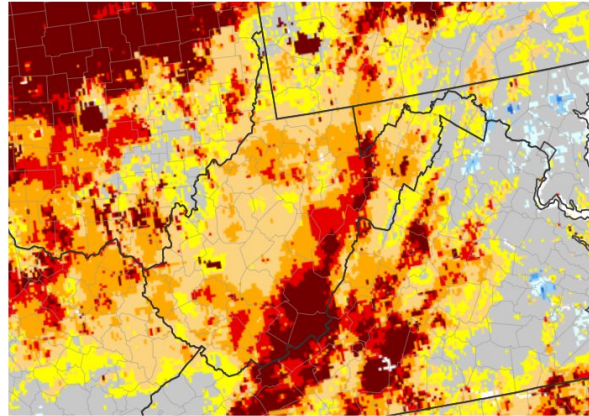
Main Takeaways

- Topsoil rapidly declining
- Deeper soil moisture profiles slower decline due to wet early Summer
- Tree canopy stress noted in many areas with early leaf drop observed

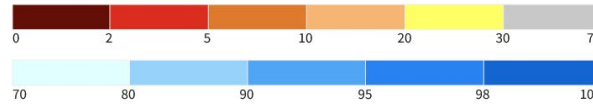
Impacts

- Hay shortage remains with supplemental feeding needed for livestock producers
- Some reports of relocation of cattle due to drought
- Many reports of hauling of water for livestock

0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



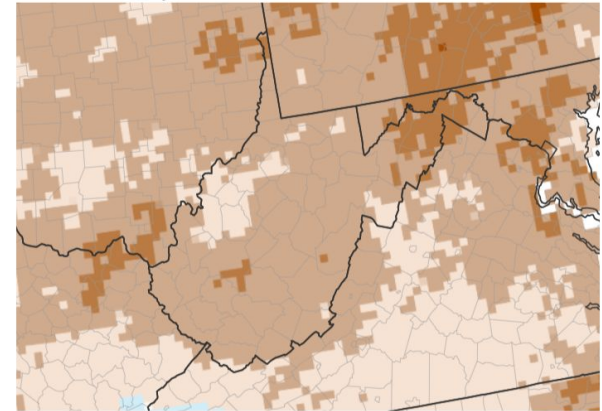
0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



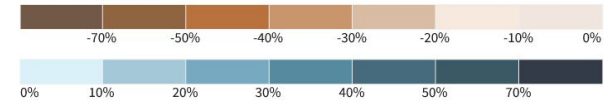
Source(s): NASA
Data Valid: 09/18/25

Drought.gov

Crop-CASMA Subsoil (1 Meter) Soil Moisture Anomaly



Soil Moisture Anomaly



Source(s): NASA, USDA, George Mason University
Data Valid: 09/13/25

Drought.gov

USDA Crop Progress and Condition Weekly Reports

[West Virginia](#)
[Virginia](#)

[Ohio](#)
[Kentucky](#)



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Fire Hazard Impacts

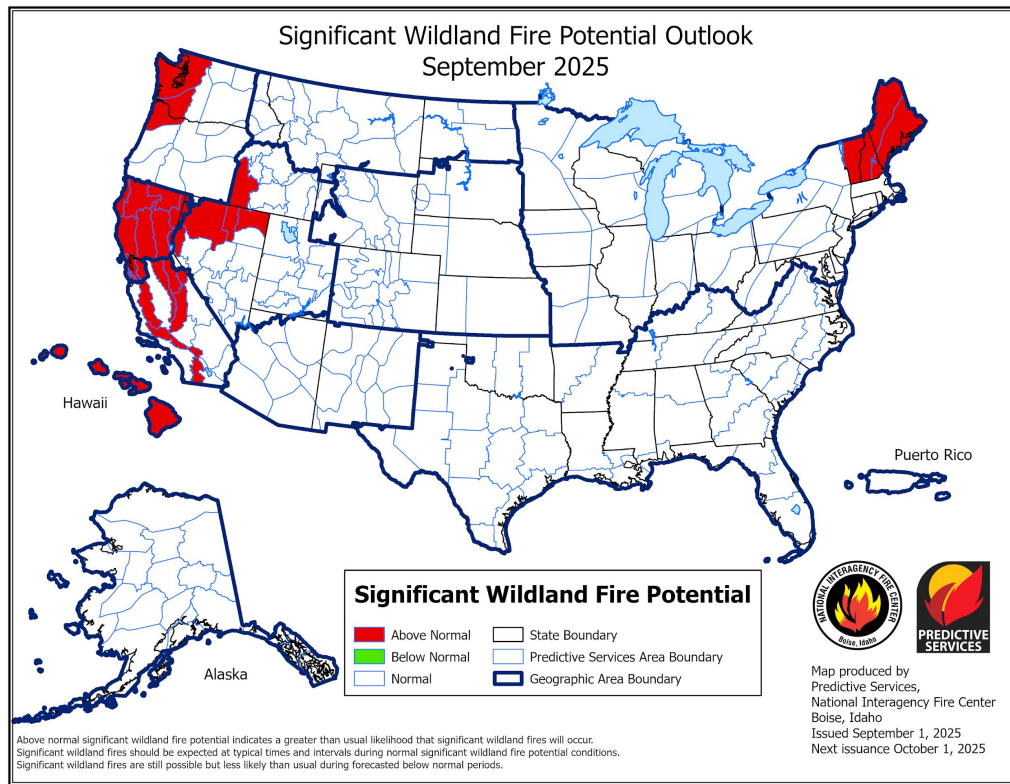
Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

Main Takeaways

- Generally moderate fire danger over the past week
- Significant wildfire outlook is normal for September

Impacts

- Early dry leaf drop may contribute to brush fire threat heading into the Fall fire season



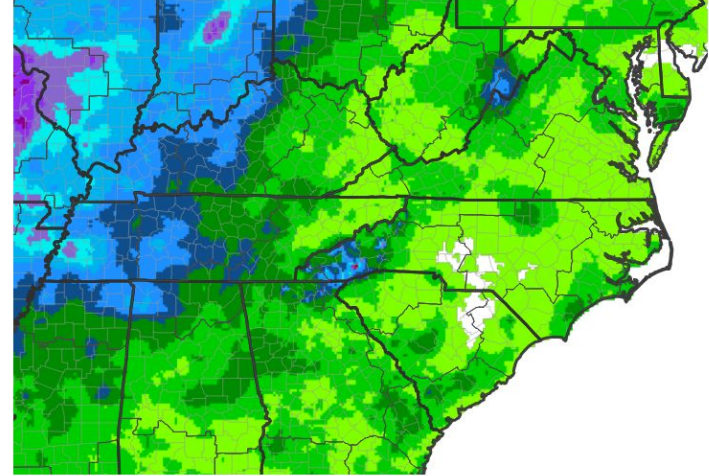


7 Day Precipitation Forecast

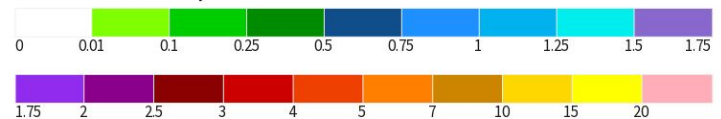
Next 7 days:

- Weak high pressure gives way to approaching upper level system for next week
- Increasing chances for rain next week
 - Confidence low on extent and amounts
 - Not expected to alleviate drought conditions

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for September 18, 2025–September 25, 2025



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 09/18/25





8-14 Day Outlook

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

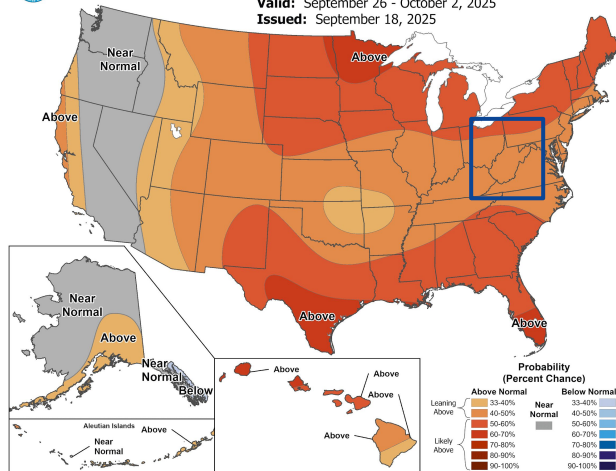
- Above normal temperatures favored with a tilt toward above normal rainfall



8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: September 26 - October 2, 2025

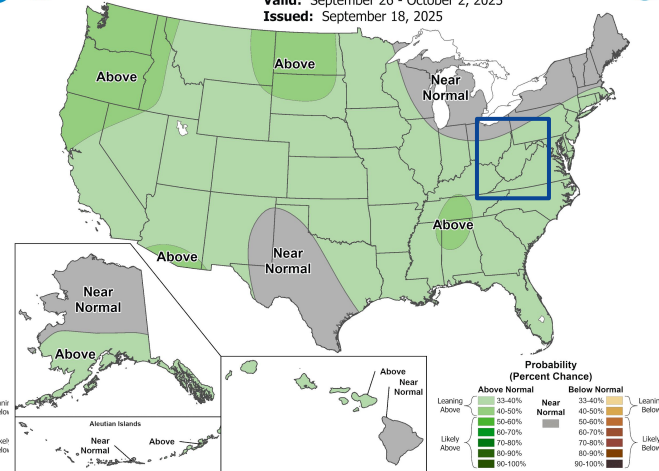
Issued: September 18, 2025



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: September 26 - October 2, 2025

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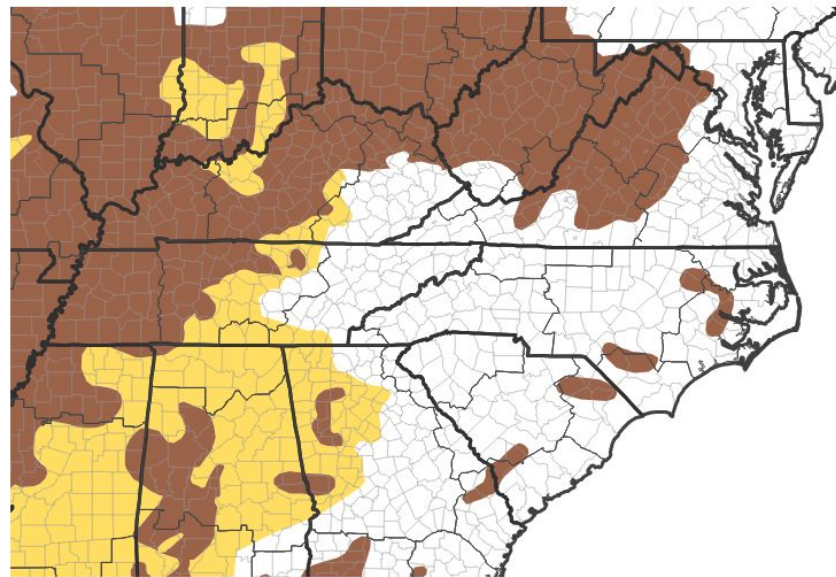
Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook

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

Main Takeaways

- Favors drought lingering across most areas through the Fall season

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for September 18, 2025–December 31, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 09/18/25

