



Drought Information Statement

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

Valid September 26, 2025

Issued By: NWS Charleston, WV

Contact Information: rlx.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated Friday October 3, 2025
 - 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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- Most areas saw no change from previous week
 - Extreme drought expanded across the mountains
 - Agricultural impacts expanding





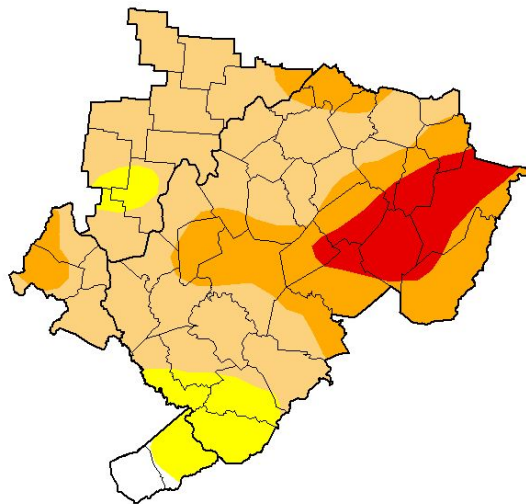
Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor

Main Takeaways

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Expansion across the mountains
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Slight expansion across WV mountains and Kanawha Valley
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Slight expansion across southeast WV
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Introduction across southwest VA and improvement in parts of southeast OH

U.S. Drought Monitor Charleston, WV WFO



September 23, 2025

(Released Thursday, Sep. 25, 2025)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	1.79	98.21	88.52	35.11	10.23	0.00
Last Week 09-16-2025	3.38	96.62	87.22	27.60	7.11	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-24-2025	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 09-24-2024	0.00	100.00	98.91	90.97	84.84	25.36

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



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

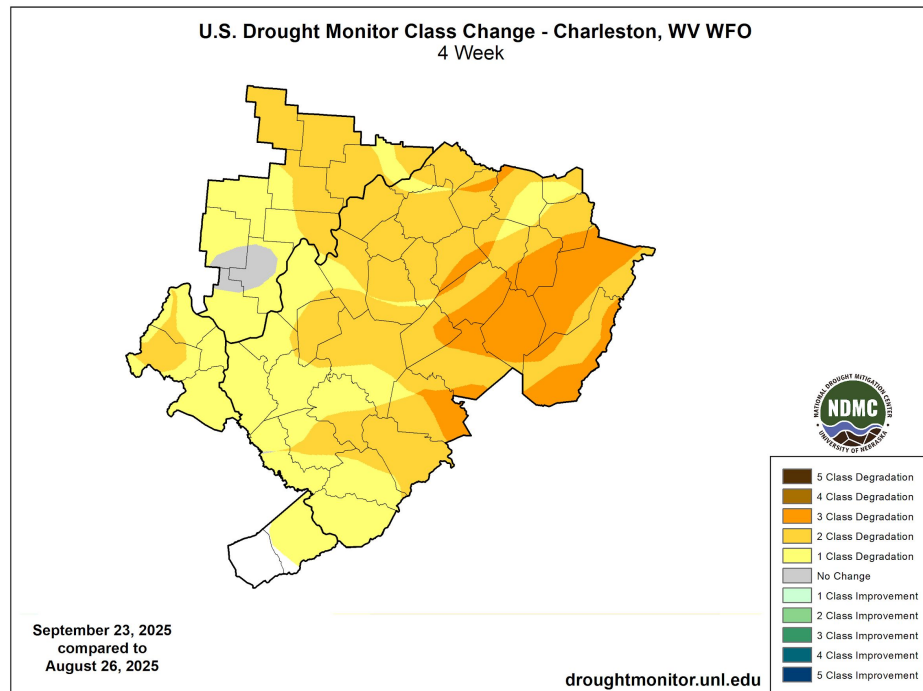
National Weather Service
Charleston, WV



Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor 4-Week Change

- **Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change**
 - **Drought Worsened:** All areas except a small portion of southeast OH and southwest VA
 - **No Change:** Small portion of southeast OH
 - **Drought Improved:** None





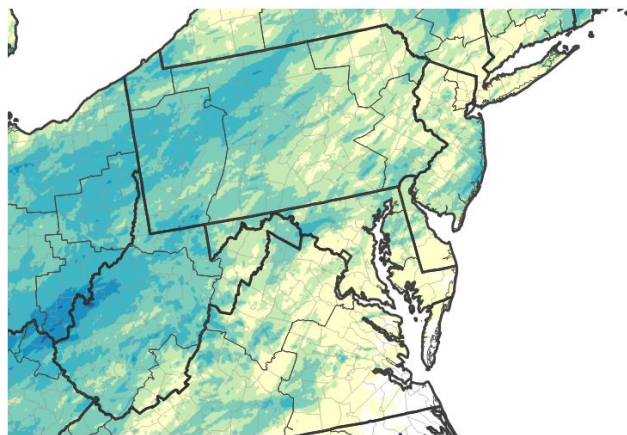
Observed Precipitation

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

Main Takeaways

- Significant rain fell close to the Ohio River with lesser amounts elsewhere
 - A narrow stripe of 4-6 inches observed
- A flip to above normal rainfall now across northeast KY, southern OH, and western WV
 - Pronounced deficits remain across the mountains

7-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



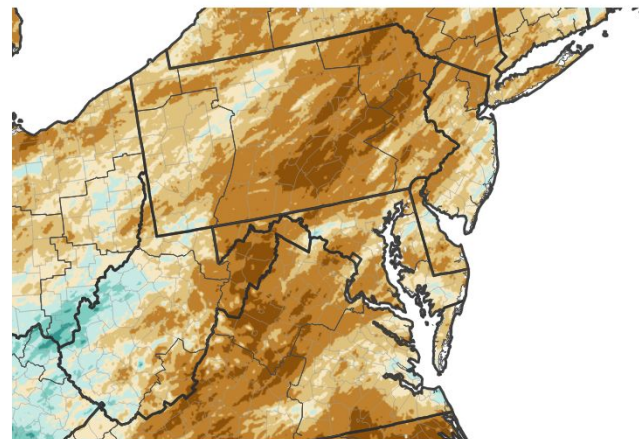
Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 09/26/25

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

Last Updated: 09/26/25



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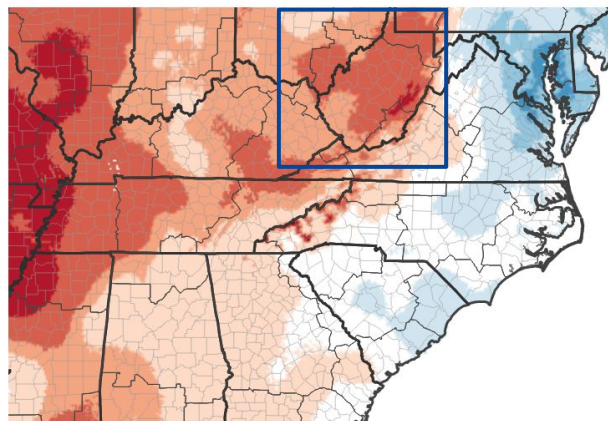
Observed Temperature

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



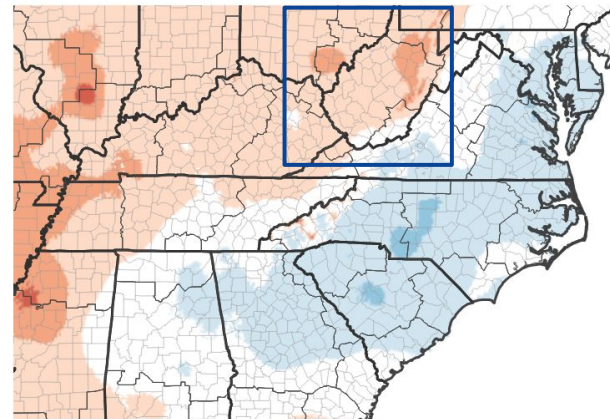
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



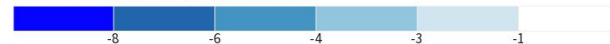
0 1 3 4 6 8
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 08/22/25

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



0 1 3 4 6 8
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 have improved over the past few days due to recent rains ([USGS](#))
 - Below normal flows remain across Tygart, Cheat, Kanawha, and Greenbrier basins
- Low water levels in creeks and streams in August and early September 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
 - Improvement not expected until first frost/freeze
- Groundwater monitoring wells are lowering, especially in the D2/D3 areas ([USGS](#))

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture slightly improved due to recent rains ([NIDIS](#))
- Pumpkin crop yields greatly reduced in Greenbrier Valley (Farm Service Agency)
- 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 low

Mitigation Actions

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





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

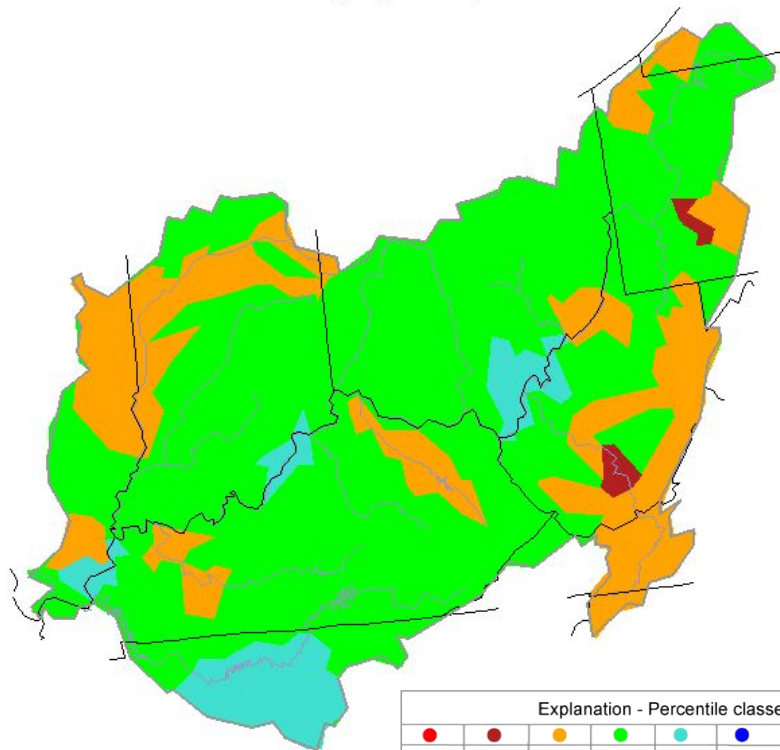
Thursday, September 25, 2025

Main Takeaways

- Streamflows have improved somewhat due to recent rains
 - Considerable improvement along the Ohio River
 - Tygart, Cheat, Greenbrier, Kanawha basins less improvement
- Groundwater wells continue to slowly decline compared to September normals
- 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



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High	Not-ranked





Agricultural Impacts

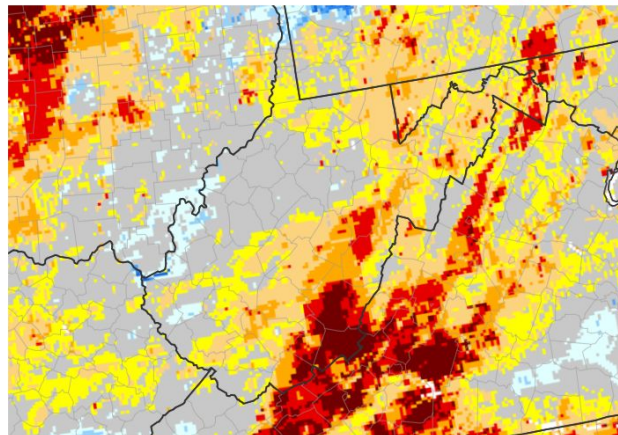
Main Takeaways

- Topsoil improving in southeast OH, northeast KY, and western WV
- Tree canopy stress noted in many areas with early leaf drop observed

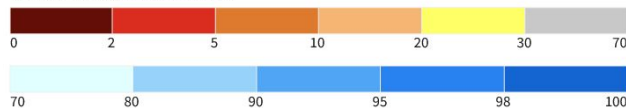
Impacts

- Hay shortage remains with supplemental feeding needed for livestock producers
- Pumpkin yields considerably low in Greenbrier Valley
- 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: 09/25/25

Drought.gov

USDA Crop Progress and Condition Weekly Reports

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

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



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Fire Hazard Impacts

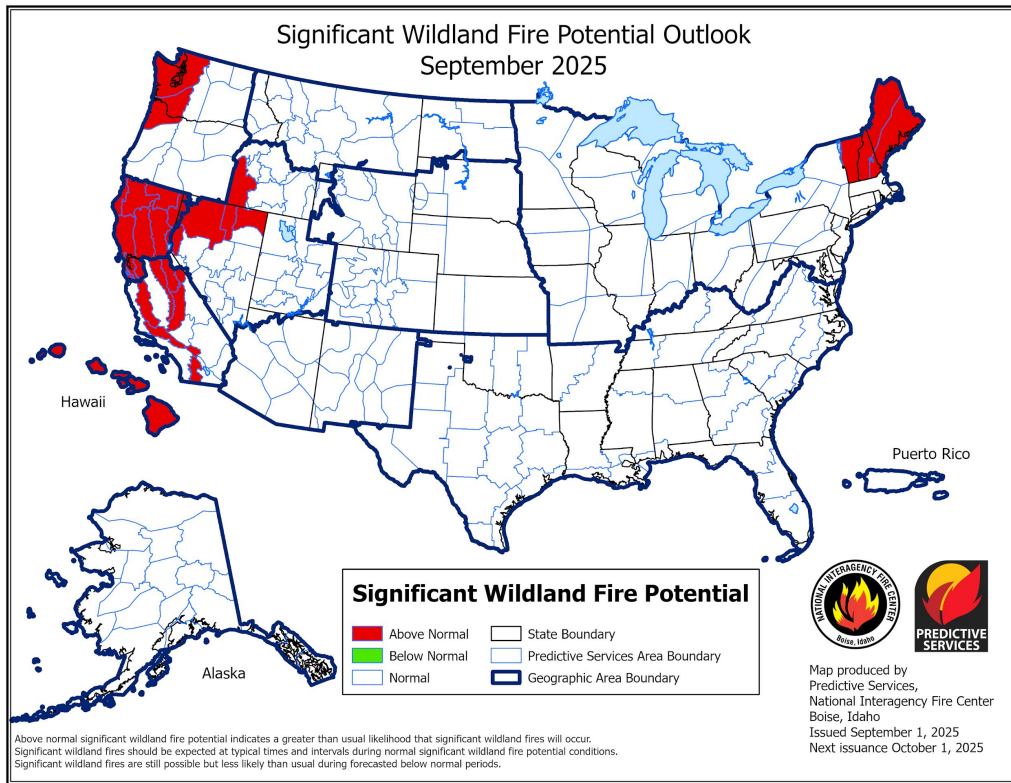
Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

Main Takeaways

- Generally low fire danger over the past week given the rain
- Significant wildfire outlook is normal for September

Impacts

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



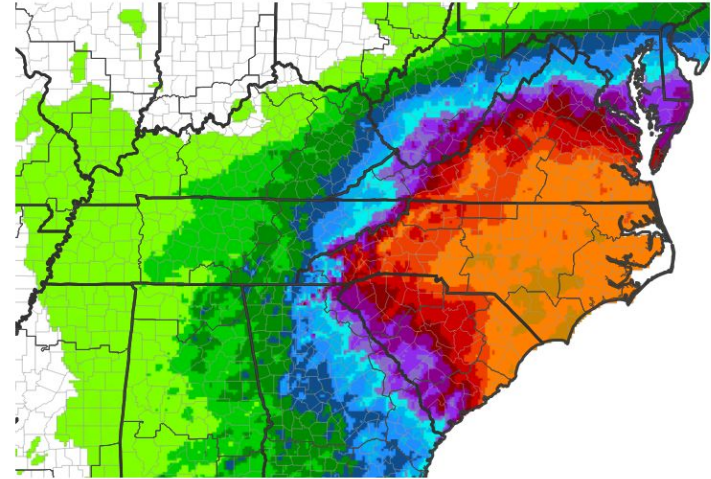


7 Day Precipitation Forecast

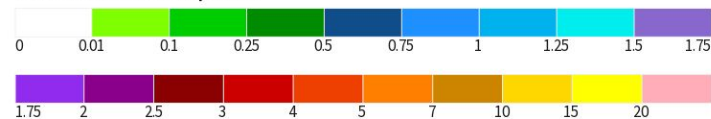
Next 7 days:

- Upper level system lingers this weekend with showers across the mountains and adjacent lowland counties Saturday with drying areawide Sunday
- Watching southeast coast for potential tropical system early next week
 - Low confidence on ultimate track and impacts to WV
- High pressure and dry mid to late next week

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for September 26, 2025–October 3, 2025



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 09/26/25





8-14 Day Outlook

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

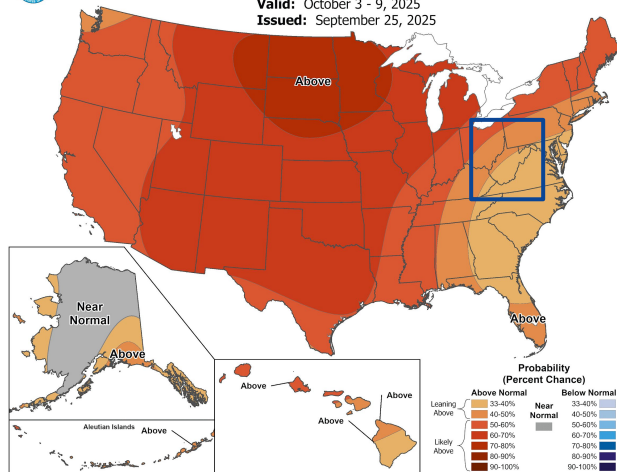
- Above normal temperatures favored with a tilt toward below normal rainfall



8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: October 3 - 9, 2025

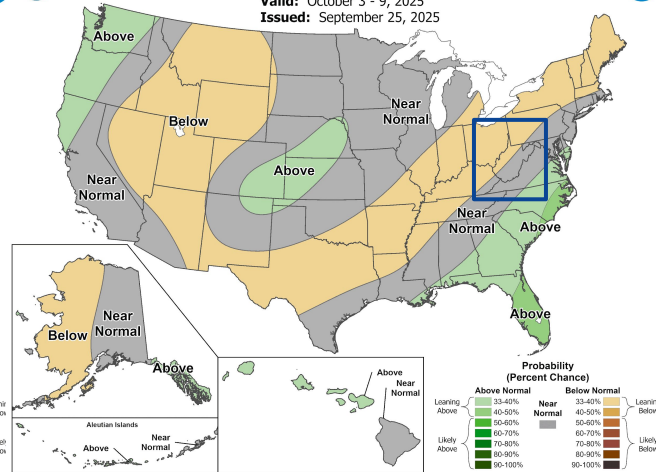
Issued: September 25, 2025



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: October 3 - 9, 2025

Issued: September 25, 2025





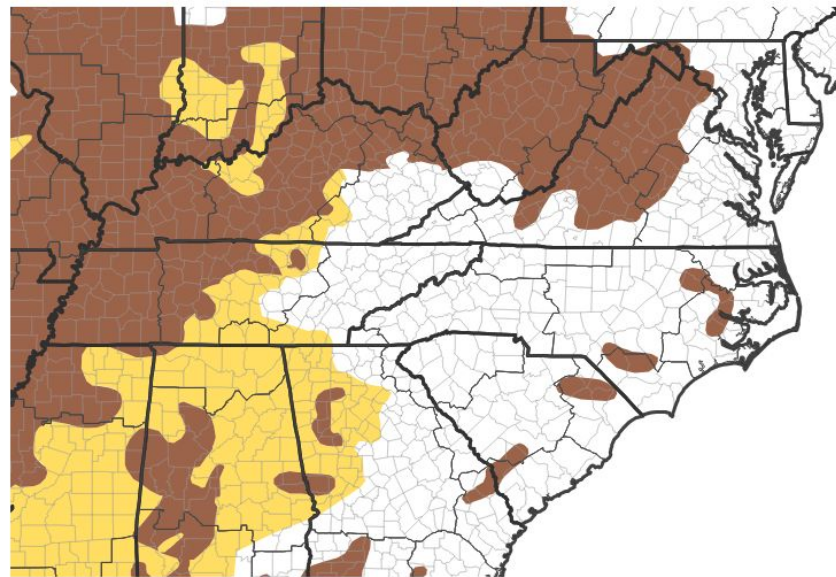
Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook

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

