



Drought Information Statement

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

Valid October 2, 2025

Issued By: NWS Charleston, WV

Contact Information: rlx.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated by Friday October 10, 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.
-
- Eradication of drought along the OH River surrounded by improvement across southeast OH and western WV
 - Extreme drought continues across the mountains





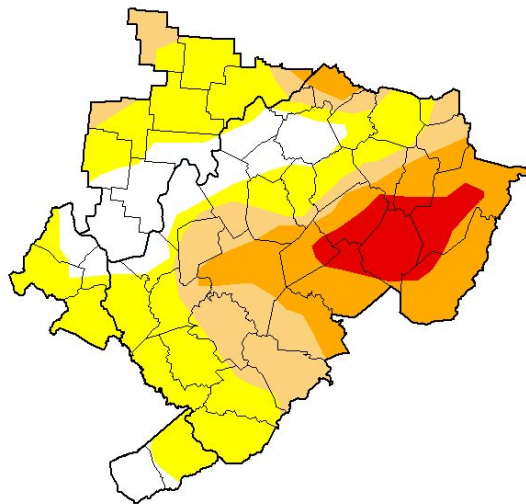
Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor

Main Takeaways

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Slight improvement across northern WV mountains
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Eradication of drought across northeast KY
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Extent dwindles across southeast OH and western WV
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Improvement from D1 to D0 across southeast OH and western WV

U.S. Drought Monitor Charleston, WV WFO



September 30, 2025

(Released Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

| | None | D0-D4 | D1-D4 | D2-D4 | D3-D4 | D4 |
|---|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Current | 16.98 | 83.02 | 44.93 | 26.20 | 7.46 | 0.00 |
| Last Week 09-23-2025 | 1.79 | 98.21 | 88.52 | 35.11 | 10.23 | 0.00 |
| 3 Months Ago 07-01-2025 | 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 10-01-2024 | 6.96 | 93.04 | 84.92 | 68.72 | 44.92 | 12.11 |

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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droughtmonitor.unl.edu



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

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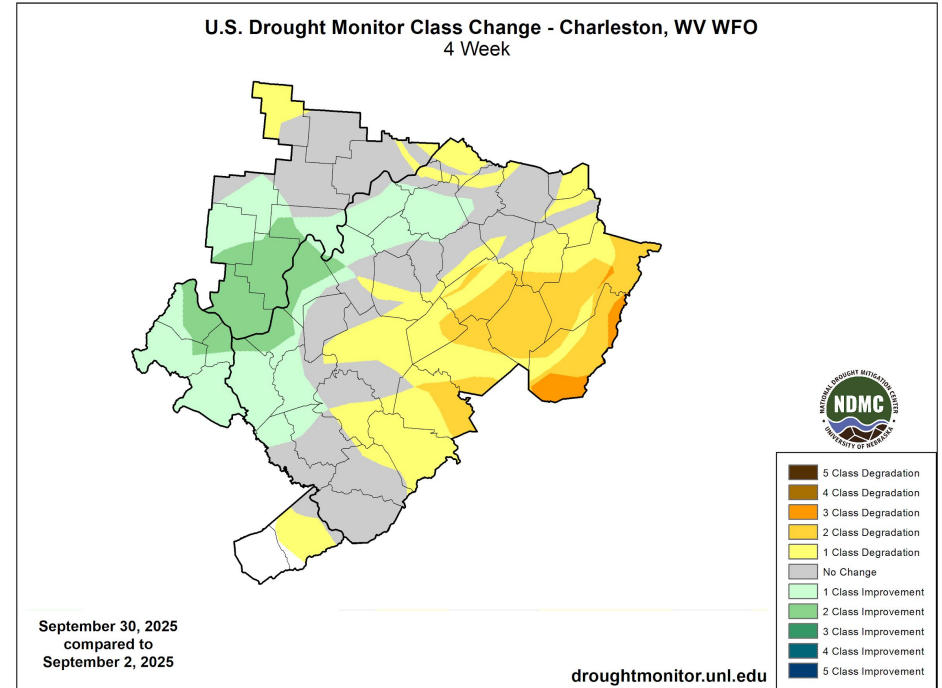
National Weather Service
Charleston, WV



Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor 4-Week Change

- **Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change**
 - **Drought Worsened:** WV mountains and adjacent foothill counties
 - **No Change:** Small portion of southeast OH, central and southern WV
 - **Drought Improved:** Areas along OH River including all of northeast KY, large portion of southeast OH, and far western WV



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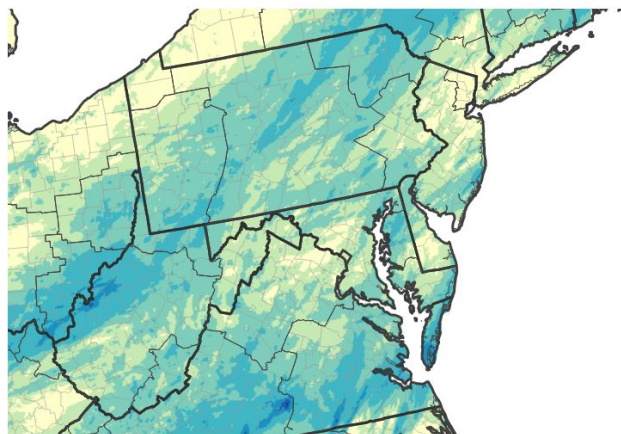
Observed Precipitation

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 northeast WV mountains

7-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

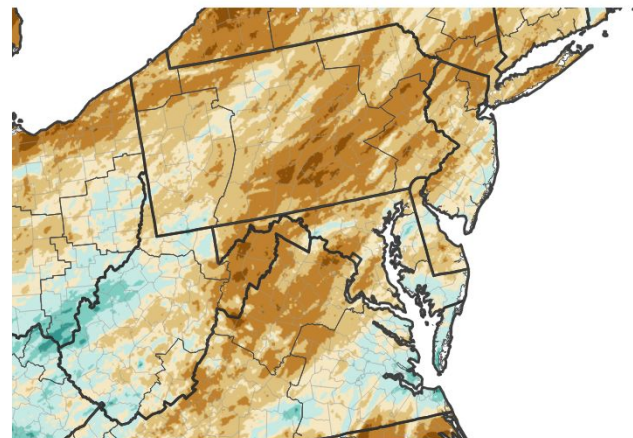


Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 10/02/25

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: 10/02/25





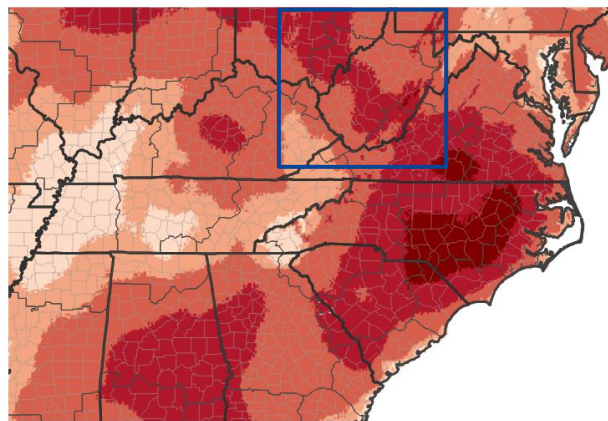
Observed Temperature

Latest 7 and 30-Day Temperature Anomaly

Main Takeaways

- Max temperatures 4 to 6 degrees above normal over the last week and near normal over the last month

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



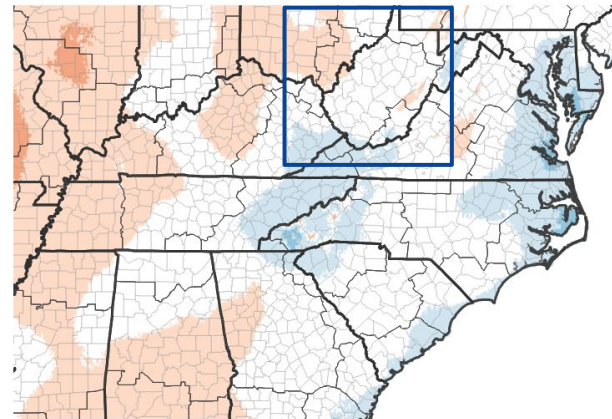
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



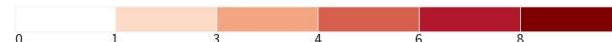
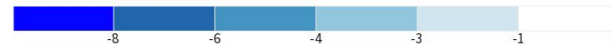
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/27/25

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: 09/27/25



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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 significantly over the past few days due to recent rains ([USGS](#))
- 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 continue slow decline, 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

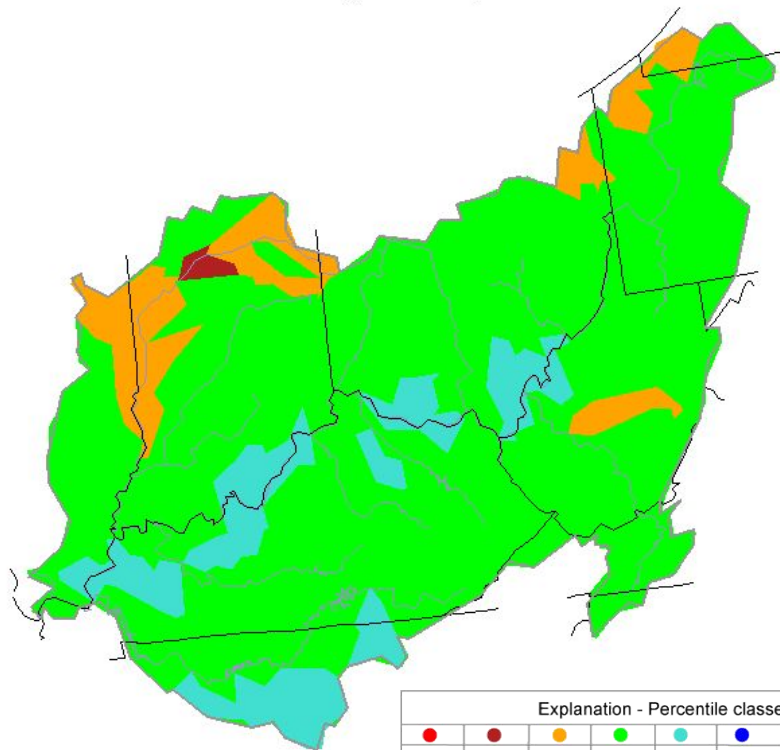
Wednesday, October 01, 2025

Main Takeaways

- Streamflows have improved significantly over the past week
 - Still below normal across Elk River basin
- Groundwater wells continue to slowly decline compared to September normals
- Many reservoirs are beginning draw down to winter 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

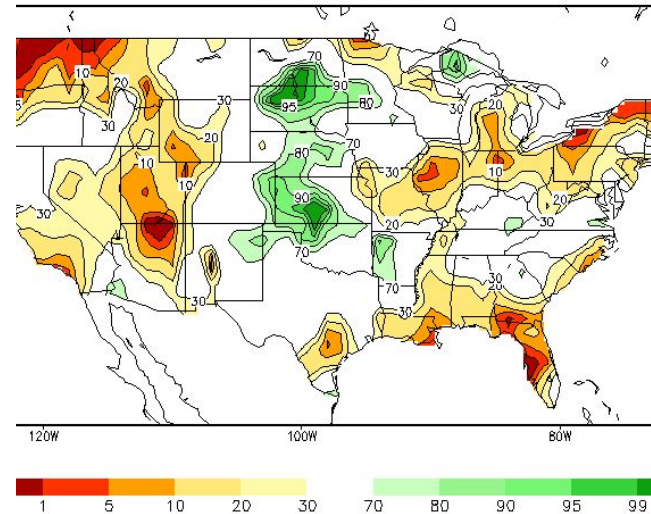
Main Takeaways

- Topsoil improving in southeast OH, northeast KY, and western WV
- Tree canopy stress noted in many areas with early leaf drop observed over the past several weeks
- Reports of irrigation wells drying up in the mountains

Impacts

- Hay shortage remains with supplemental feeding needed for livestock producers
- Pumpkin yields considerably lower in Greenbrier Valley
- Some reports of relocation of cattle and early sales due to drought
- Many reports of hauling of water for livestock

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
OCT 01, 2025



USDA Crop Progress and Condition Weekly Reports

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

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





Fire Hazard Impacts

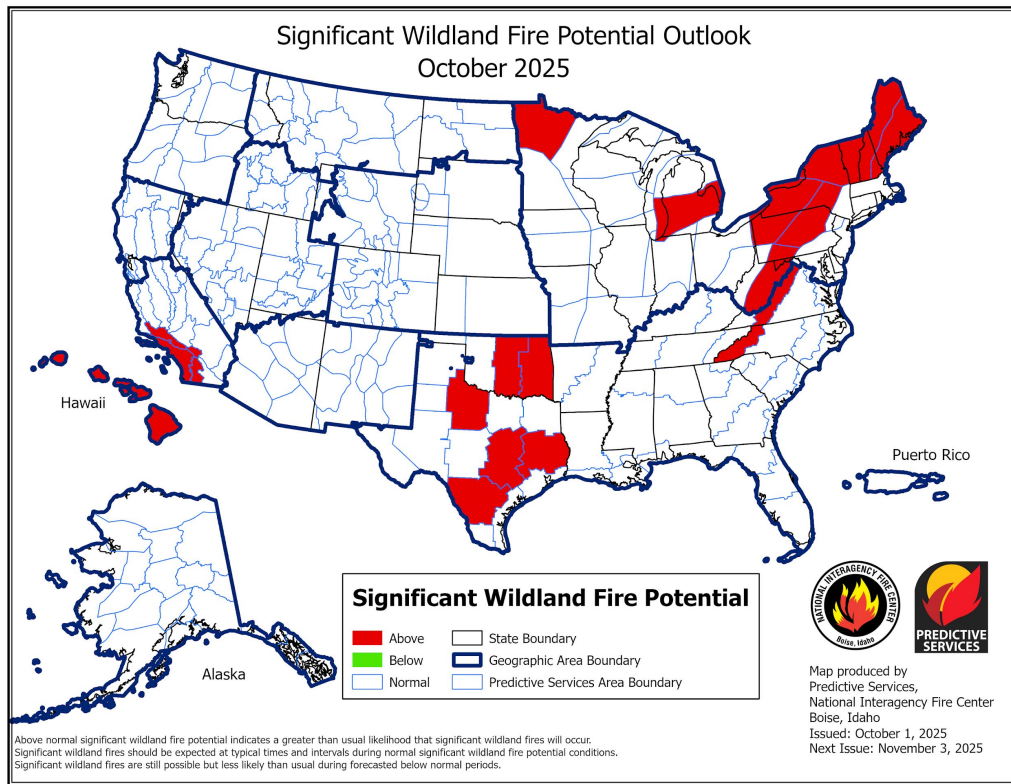
Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Fire Center](#).

Main Takeaways

- Generally moderate fire danger now
- Significant wildfire outlook is now above normal for October for WV mountains

Impacts

- Extreme drought conditions in place for increased brush fire activity over the next several weeks
- Danger will be maximized during afternoons which are warm with low relative humidity and wind



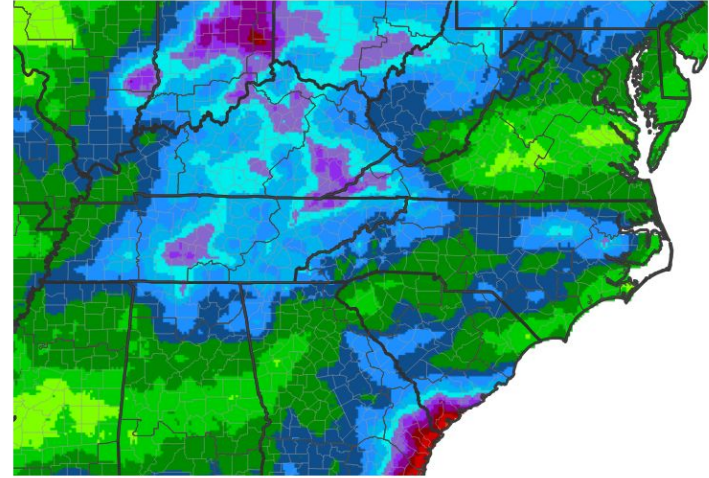


7 Day Precipitation Forecast

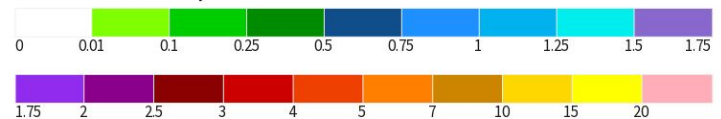
Next 7 days:

- High pressure dominates through Monday with cool mornings and warm afternoons
- Strong cold front arrives mid week with good chance of rain
 - Amounts up to an 1 inch possible
- Cool high pressure and dry late week

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October 2, 2025–October 9, 2025



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 10/02/25





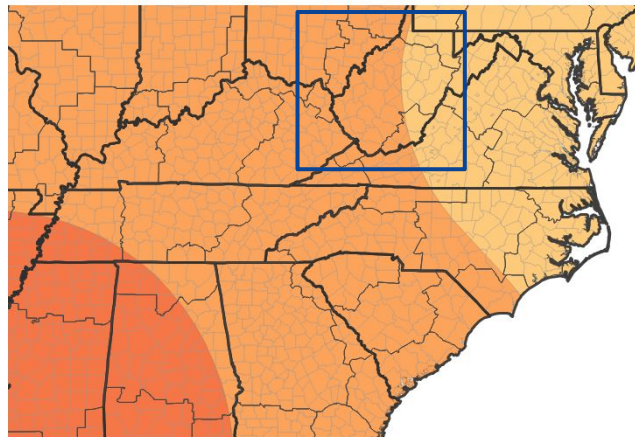
8-14 Day Outlook

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

Main Takeaways

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

8-14 Day Temperature Outlook for October 9, 2025–October 15, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

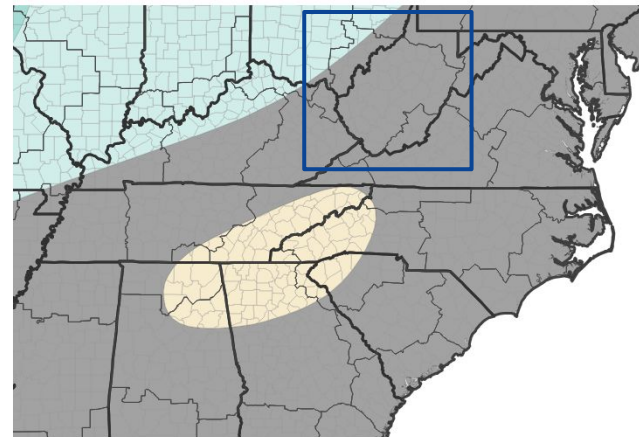


■ Near-Normal Conditions

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

Last Updated: 10/01/25

8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook for October 9, 2025–October 15, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



■ Near-Normal Conditions

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

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Weeks 3-4 Outlook

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- Increased probability of above normal temperatures
- Increased probability of below normal precipitation

Impacts

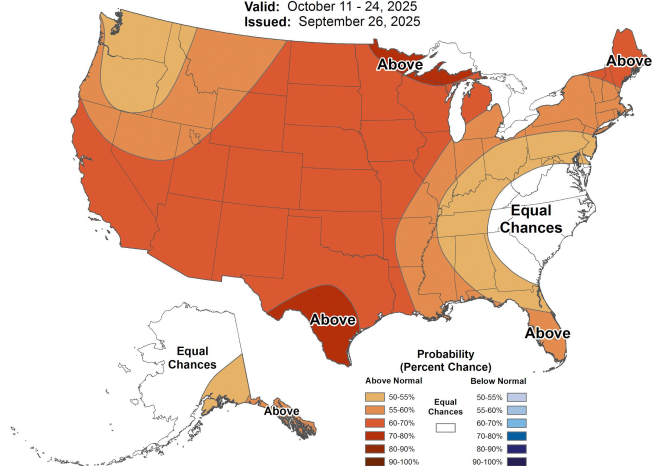
- Worsening drought conditions possible across many locations



Weeks 3-4 Temperature Outlook



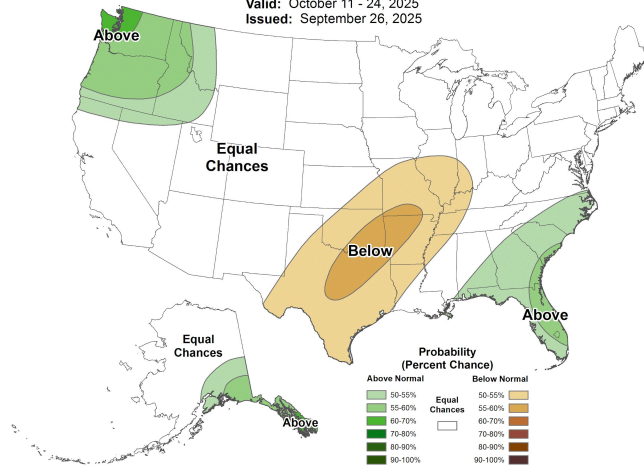
Valid: October 11 - 24, 2025
Issued: September 26, 2025



Weeks 3-4 Precipitation Outlook



Valid: October 11 - 24, 2025
Issued: September 26, 2025





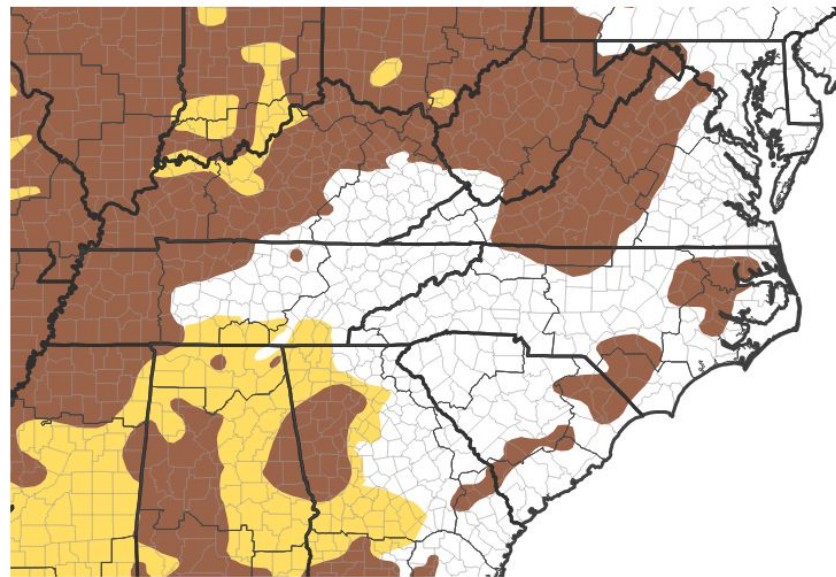
Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook

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 30, 2025–December 31, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 09/30/25

