



Drought Information Statement

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

Valid October 16, 2025

Issued By: NWS Charleston, WV

Contact Information: rlx.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated by Friday October 24, 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.

- Slight improvement in extreme drought conditions in mountains





Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor

Main Takeaways

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Some improvement in central mountains
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Some improvement in Gauley basin
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: No change
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Eradication in Twelvepole basin

U.S. Drought Monitor Charleston, WV WFO

October 14, 2025

(Released Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	36.71	63.29	41.25	24.08	5.06	0.00
Last Week 10-07-2025	16.98	83.02	44.93	28.00	7.46	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-15-2025	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 10-15-2024	10.16	89.84	80.11	64.56	44.30	12.11

Intensity:



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:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



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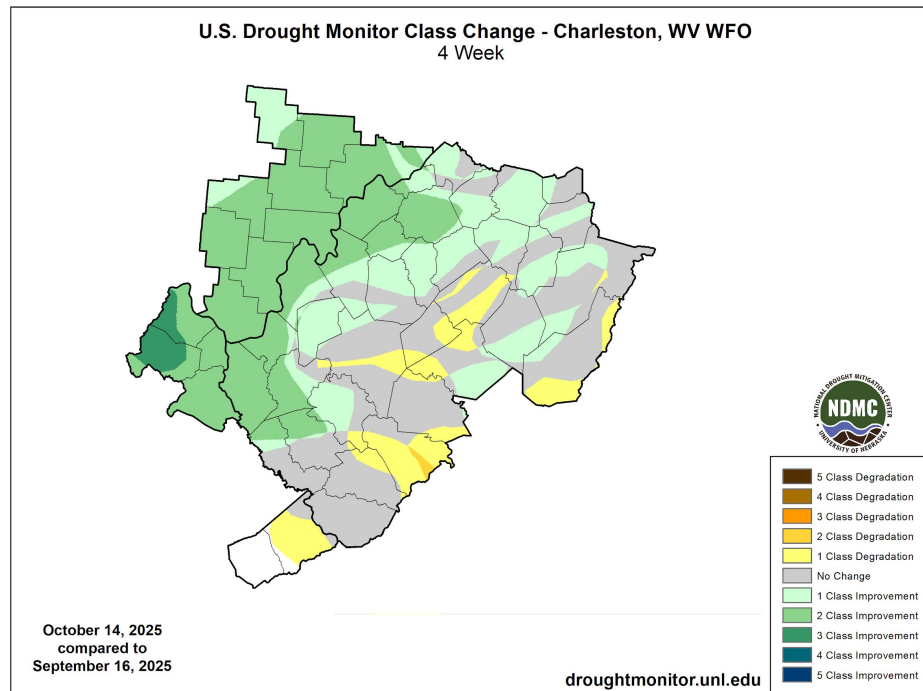
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Charleston, WV



Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor 4-Week Change

- **Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change**
 - **Drought Worsened:** Slivers of WV mountains and adjacent foothill counties
 - **No Change:** Small portion of central and southern WV
 - **Drought Improved:** All of northeast KY and southeast OH; and western WV



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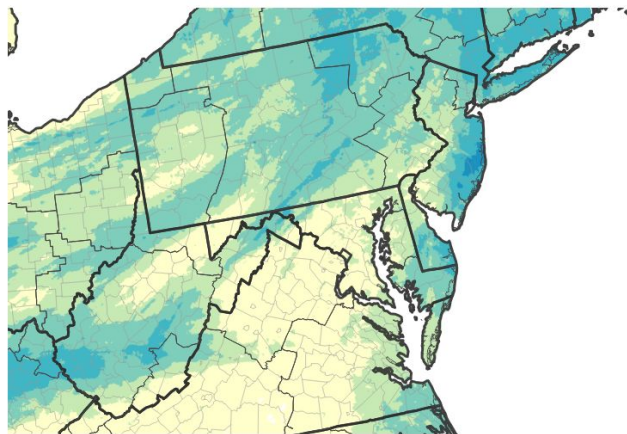
Observed Precipitation

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

Main Takeaways

- A general 1 to 2 inches of rain fell
 - I-79 corridor mostly missed out
- Above normal rainfall across northeast KY, southern OH, and western WV
 - Pronounced deficits remain across the northern WV mountains

7-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



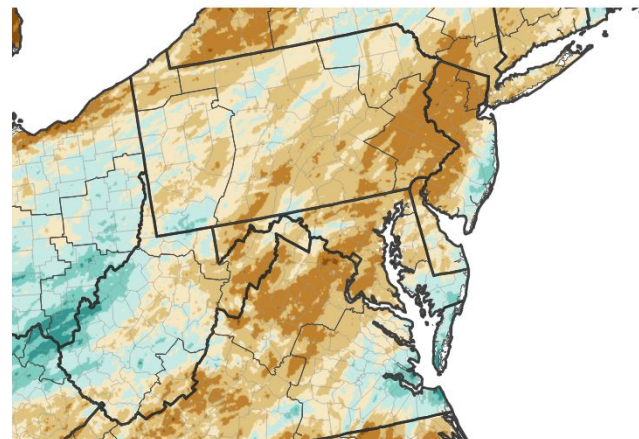
Inches of Precipitation



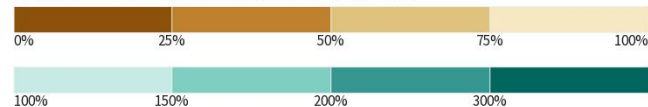
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/16/25

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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Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- 7-day average streamflows remain largely unchanged from last week ([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

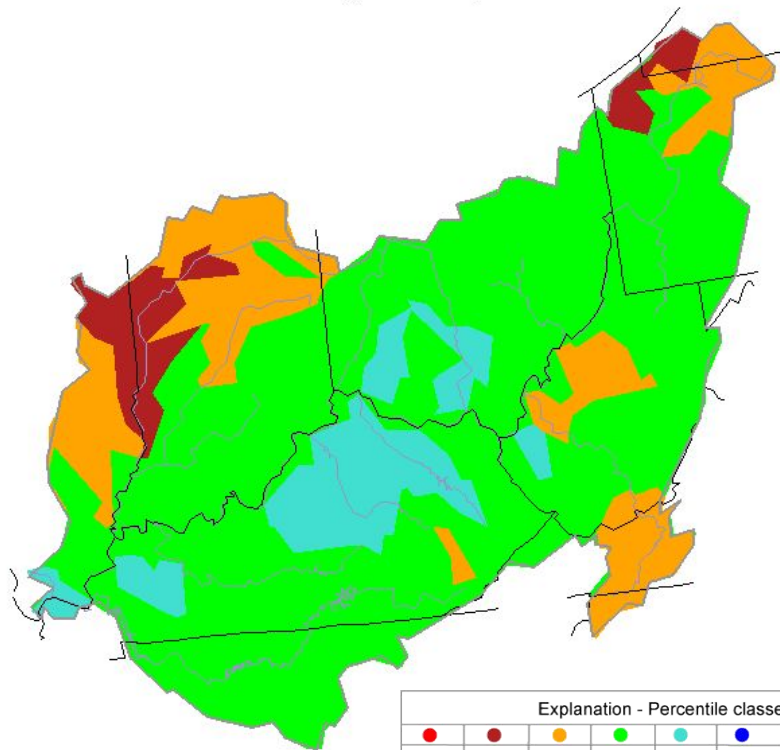
Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Main Takeaways

- Streamflows largely unchanged from last week
- Groundwater wells continue to slowly decline compared to October normals
- Many reservoirs are drawing down to winter pool

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

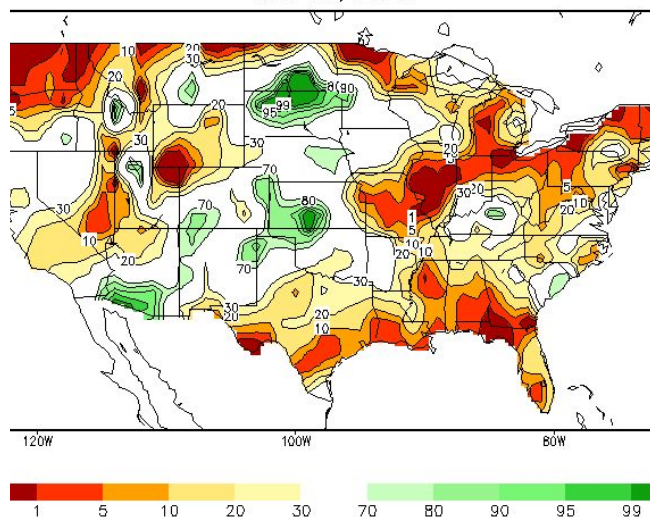
Main Takeaways

- Topsoil largely unchanged from last week
- 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 15, 2025



USDA Crop Progress and Condition Weekly Reports

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

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





Fire Hazard Impacts

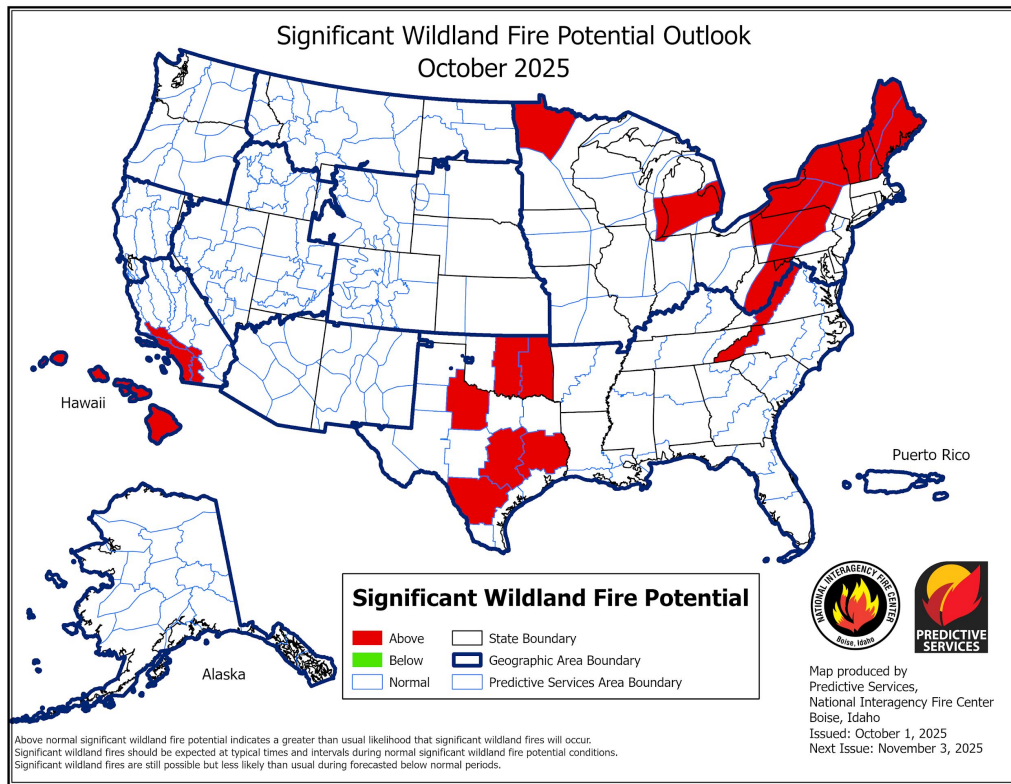
Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

Main Takeaways

- Significant wildfire outlook is above normal for October for WV mountains

Impacts

- Extreme drought conditions across the mountains may lead to increased brush fire activity over the next several weeks
- Danger will be maximized during afternoons which are warm with low relative humidity and wind



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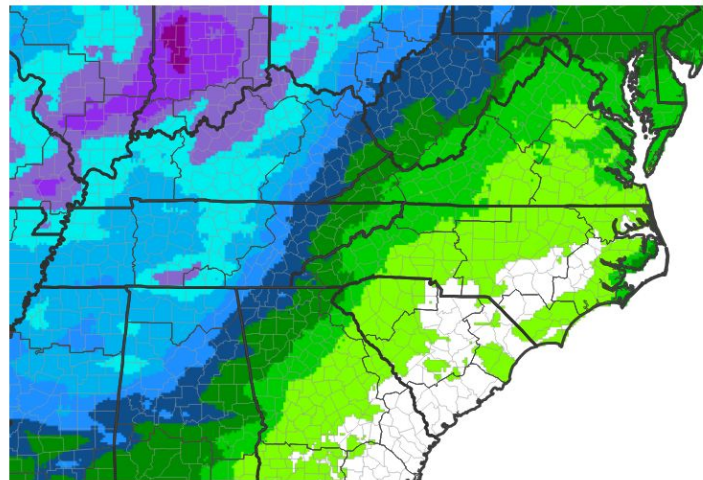


7 Day Precipitation Forecast

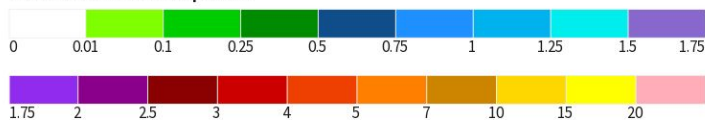
Next 7 days:

- High pressure dominates through Saturday with chilly mornings and seasonal afternoons
- Strong cold front crosses Sunday with gusty showers
 - Gusts to 40 mph possible
 - Rainfall amounts greatest along the Ohio river
- High pressure returns for early next week followed by a fast moving mainly dry cold front long about mid week

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October 16, 2025–October 23, 2025



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

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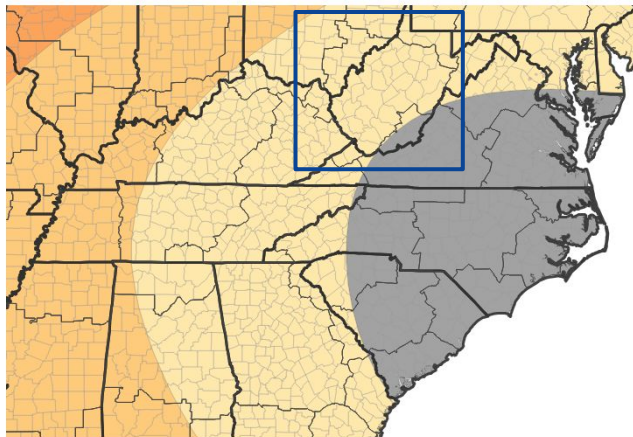
8-14 Day Outlook

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

Main Takeaways

- Above normal temperatures favored with near normal precipitation

8-14 Day Temperature Outlook for October 23, 2025–October 29, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

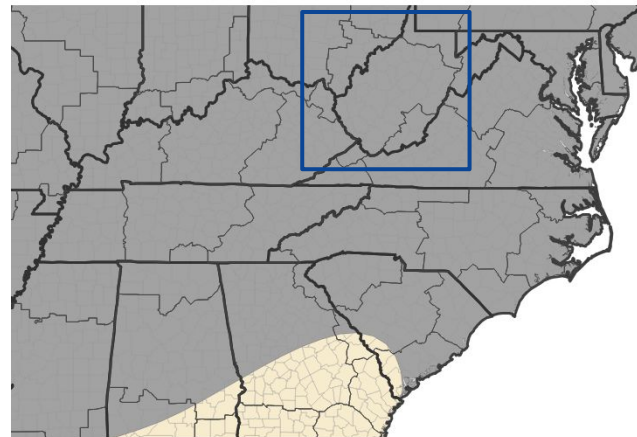


■ Near-Normal Conditions

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

Last Updated: 10/15/25

8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook for October 23, 2025–October 29, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



■ Near-Normal Conditions

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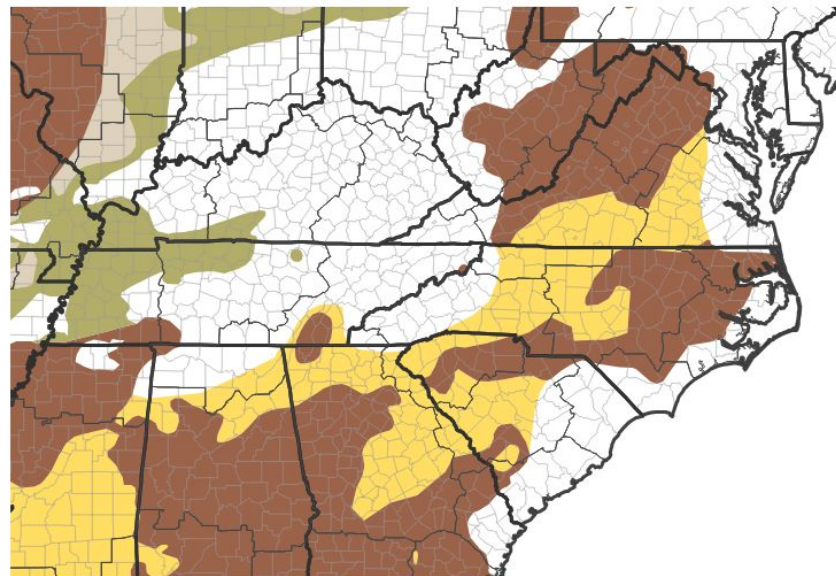
Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook

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

Main Takeaways

- Favors drought lingering across most areas into winter

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for October 16, 2025–January 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 10/16/25

