



Drought Information Statement

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

Valid December 6, 2024

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.
-
- Further improvement across the area
 - Extreme drought no longer exists across the area
 - This will be the last issuance unless D3 drought (Extreme) conditions return





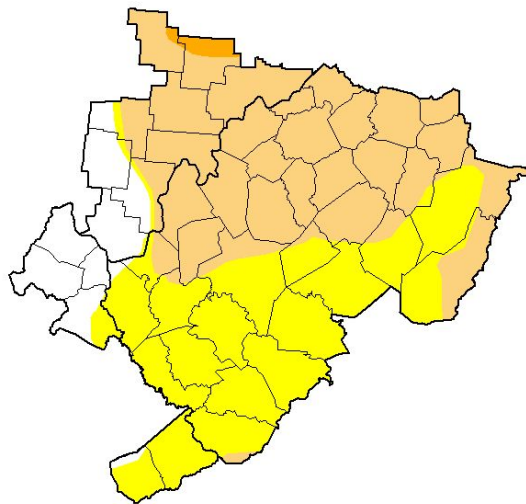
Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor

Main Takeaways

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** None
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Improvement across southeast OH and northern WV
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Improvement across the southern WV
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** None

U.S. Drought Monitor Charleston, WV WFO



December 3, 2024

(Released Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	11.17	88.83	48.42	0.89	0.00	0.00
Last Week 11-26-2024	11.17	88.83	65.92	23.14	0.84	0.00
3 Months Ago 09-03-2024	0.45	99.55	93.17	84.16	61.94	12.25
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	66.08	33.92	15.24	5.04	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 12-05-2023	56.17	43.83	12.07	0.74	0.00	0.00

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

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Western Regional Climate Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption:

Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu) valid 8am EDT December 5, 2024



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Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor Four-Week Change

- **Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change**
 - **Drought Worsened:** None
 - **No Change:** Southwest VA and Pocahontas County WV
 - **Drought Improved:** Large areas of southeast OH and WV

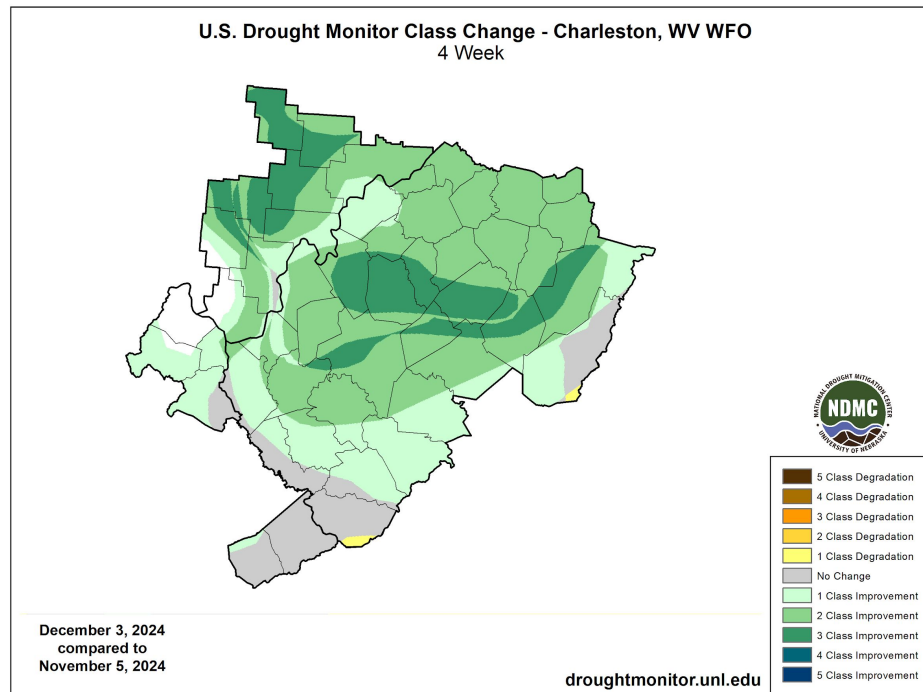


Image Caption:

Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor 4 week change valid 8am EDT December 5, 2024](#)



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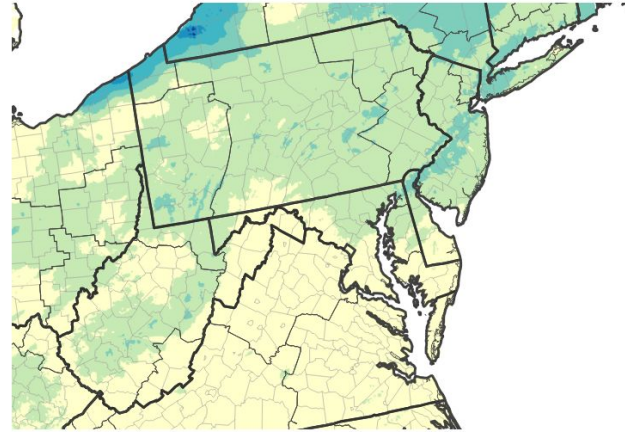
Observed Precipitation

Latest 7 Rainfall and 30-Day Percent of Normal Rainfall

Main Takeaways

- Another week of beneficial rains in the northeast KY, southeast OH, much of WV
- Drought has now been eradicated in the 30 day period
 - Still lingers in the 90 day period

7-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



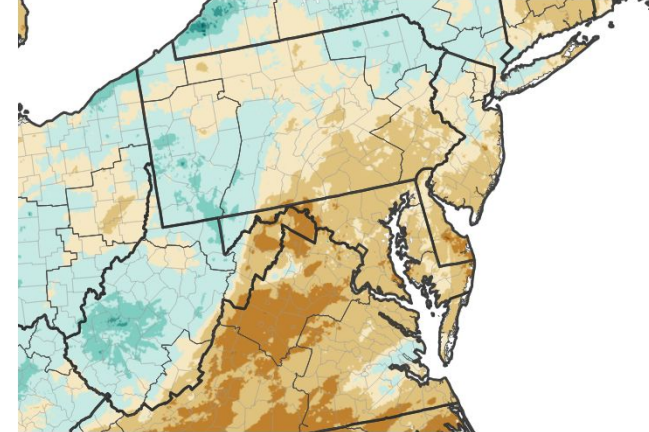
Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 12/05/24

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



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

Image Caption:

Left - 7 Day Precipitation Amount for Mid Atlantic
Right - 30 Day Percent of Normal Precipitation for Mid Atlantic
Data Courtesy NWS National Water Prediction Service
ending December 5, 2024



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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 but remain low, relative to historical averages for early December
- Water levels in residential and agricultural continue to slowly recharge across the area, especially across the Coal Fields and the mountains
- Groundwater monitoring wells have generally stabilized with some recovery noted in the mountains

Agricultural Impacts

- Near surface soil moisture has recovered some across much of the area
 - Dry signal persists in deeper soil profiles
- Supplemental hay feeding needed for winter in parts of southeast OH and WV due to lack of yield during the growing season

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire danger low

Mitigation Actions

- None reported





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

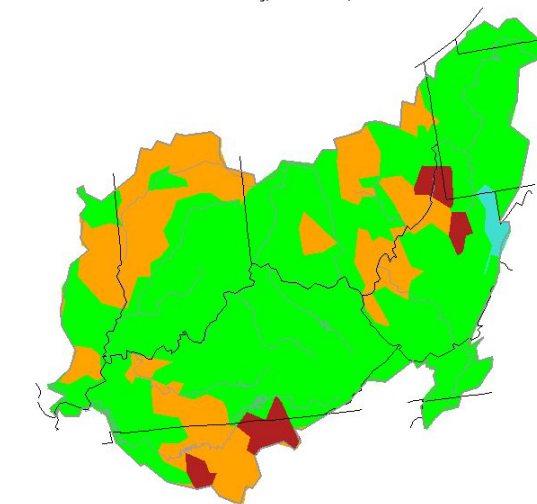
Main Takeaways

- Improving conditions across many basins over the last 7 to 14 days
 - Still low compared to average for December across the northern lowlands
- Groundwater wells have generally stabilized but remain low compared to early December averages across most areas

Impacts

- Most reservoir lakes releases for winter drawdown delayed until mid December due to the extraordinary low summer pools
 - Lower flow in the Little Kanawha than otherwise would be expected

Wednesday, December 04, 2024



USGS

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

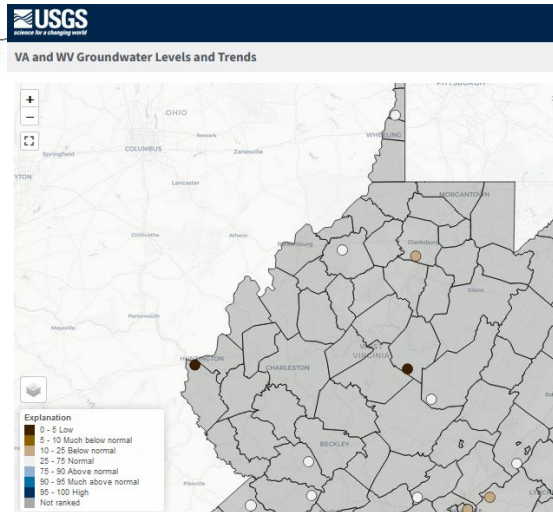


Image Caption:

Left - USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC maps valid December 4, 2024

Right - USGS groundwater wells valid December 4, 2024



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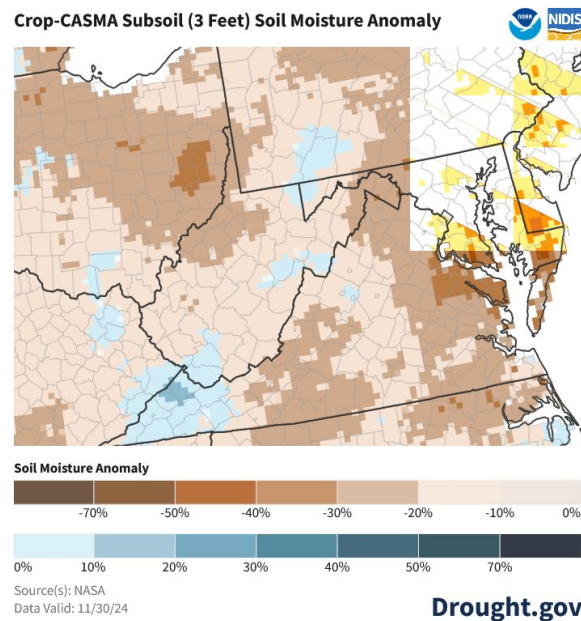
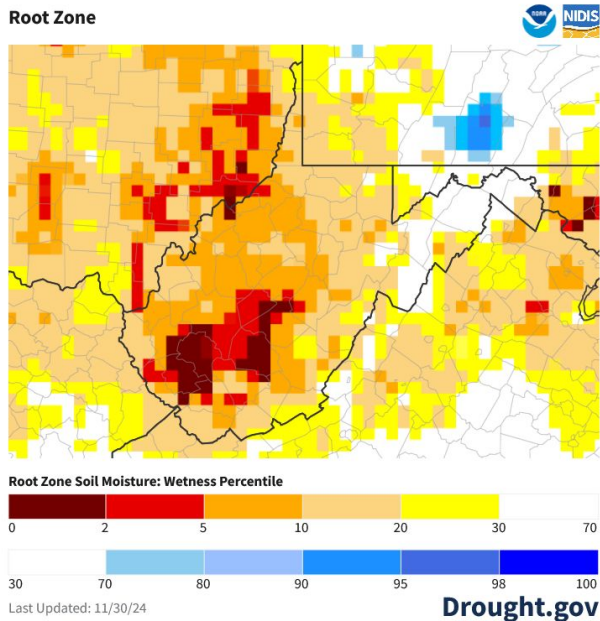
Agricultural Impacts

Main Takeaways

- Topsoil recovery slowly occurring
- Much of the area remains dry in deeper soil profiles

Impacts

- Hay shortage remains with supplemental feeding needed for winter



USDA Crop Progress and Condition Weekly Reports

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

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

Image Captions:

Left: Root Zone soil moisture percentile valid November 30, 2024
Right: CASMA subsoil moisture percentile valid November 30, 2024



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Fire Hazard Impacts

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

Main Takeaways

- Generally low fire danger, aside from brief upticks during post frontal windy and dry days
- Significant wildfire outlook is normal for December

Impacts

- No current impacts

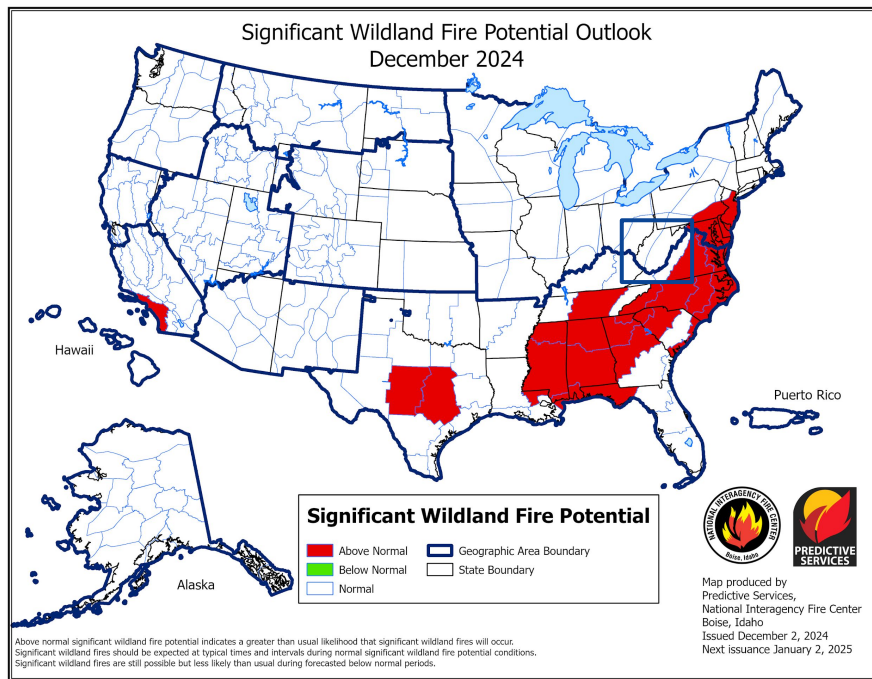


Image Captions:

Left: Significant Wildland Fire Potential monthly outlook valid December, 2024



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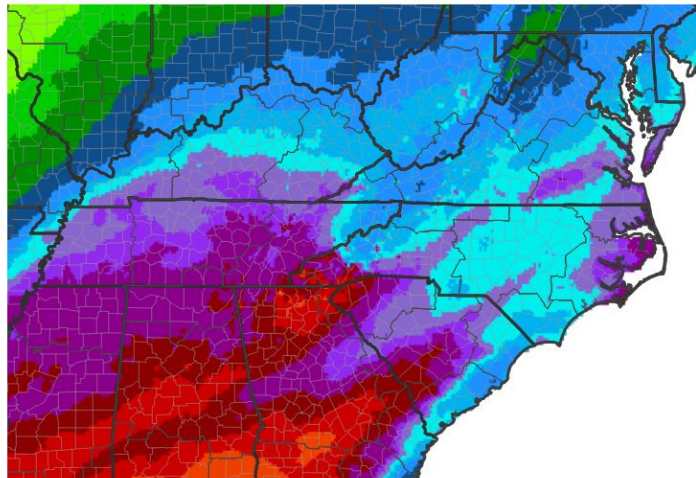


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

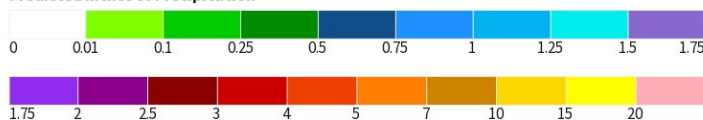
Next 7 days:

- Weak high pressure builds in for the weekend with moderating temperatures and slackening wind
- Much warmer early next week with increasingly moist southwesterly flow ahead
 - Rounds of showers Monday through Wednesday
 - Could end as snow in the mountains or even parts of the lowlands
- Colder air for late next week, moderating next weekend

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for December 5, 2024–December 12, 2024



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 12/05/24

Image Caption:

Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid December 5, 2024



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8-14 Day Outlook

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

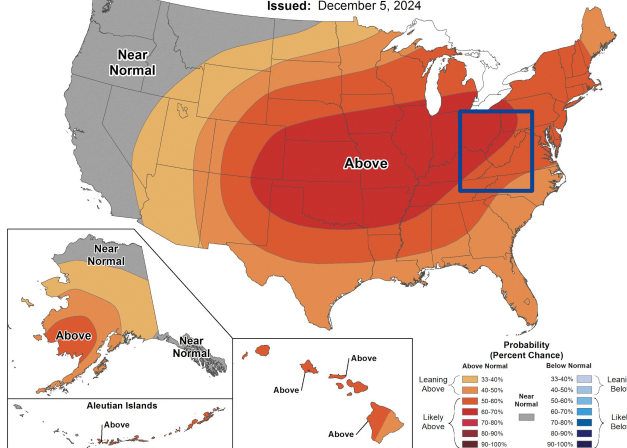
Main Takeaways

- Above normal temperatures favored with below normal precipitation favored



8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: December 13 - 19, 2024
Issued: December 5, 2024



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: December 13 - 19, 2024
Issued: December 5, 2024

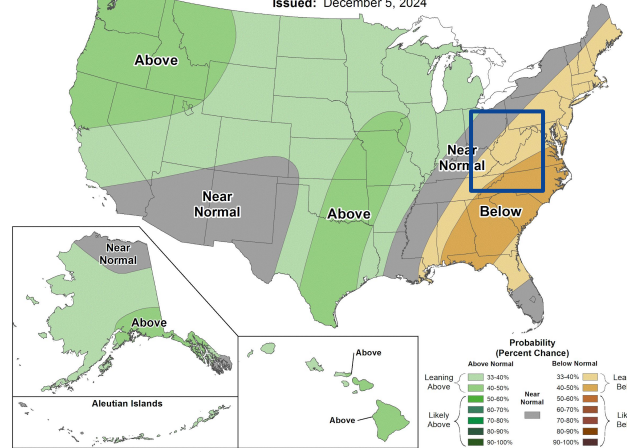


Image Captions:
Climate Prediction Center 8-14 day temperature and precipitation outlook
valid December 5, 2024





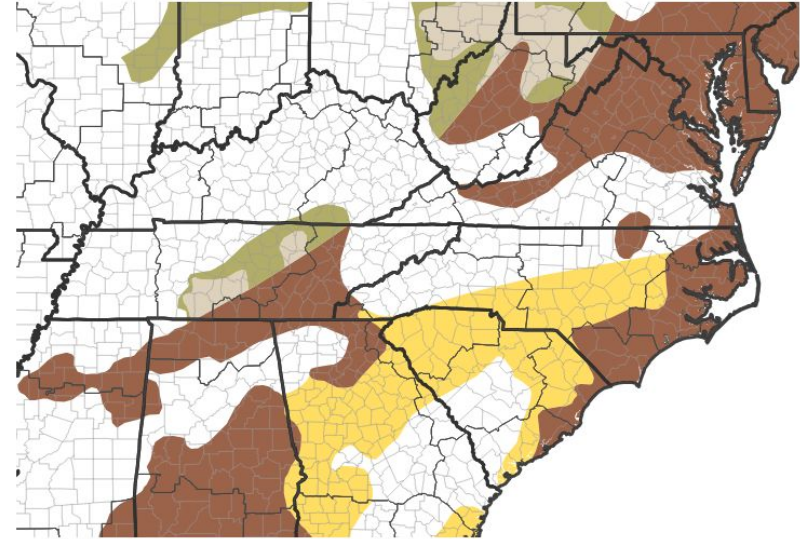
Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook

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

Main Takeaways

- Favors drought improving and/or ending across many areas

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for November 30, 2024–February 28, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 11/30/24

Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released November 30, 2024
Valid November 30, 2024 - February 28, 2024

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