

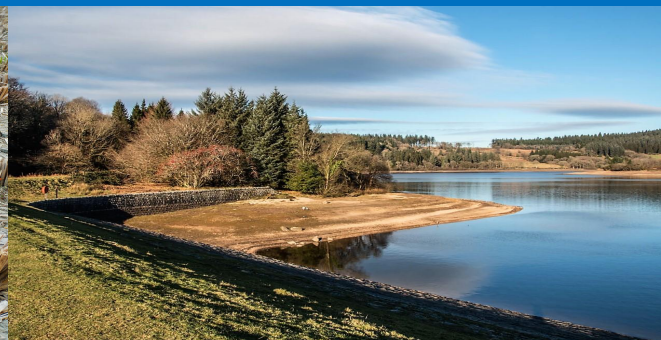
Drought Information Statement for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands

Valid July 17th, 2026

Issued By: WFO San Juan, PR

Contact Information: sr-sju.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated when drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/sju/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the Caribbean

DROUGHT CONDITIONS: Extreme drought conditions have developed in the Virgin Islands, while a Severe Drought persist along the southern plains of Puerto Rico.

Drought Intensity and Extent:

- **U.S. Virgin Islands:** Extreme Drought (**D3**) conditions.
- **Puerto Rico:** Severe Drought (**D2**) conditions are present along the southern plains, from Cabo Rojo to Cidra. Moderate drought (**D1**) is present along the entire eastern and southern half. Abnormally Dry conditions (**D0**) cover the north-central and northwest.

U.S. Drought Monitor Caribbean

July 14, 2026
(Released Thursday, Jul. 16, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	17.68	82.32	59.30	14.28	0.00	0.00
Last Week 07-07-2026	17.35	82.65	61.39	10.53	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 04-14-2026	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2026	78.70	21.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	95.49	4.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 07-15-2025	60.89	39.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Note: Statistics do not include areas represented by points.

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

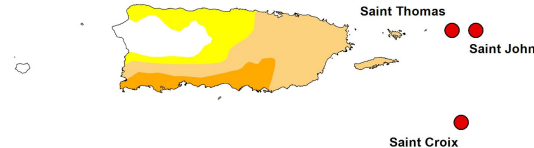


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8 AM EDT July 14th, 2026 .



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U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
San Juan



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change:

- **1 to 2 Classes degradation** is observed for a big portion of Puerto Rico.
- **2 Class degradation** is observed across the U.S. Virgin Islands.

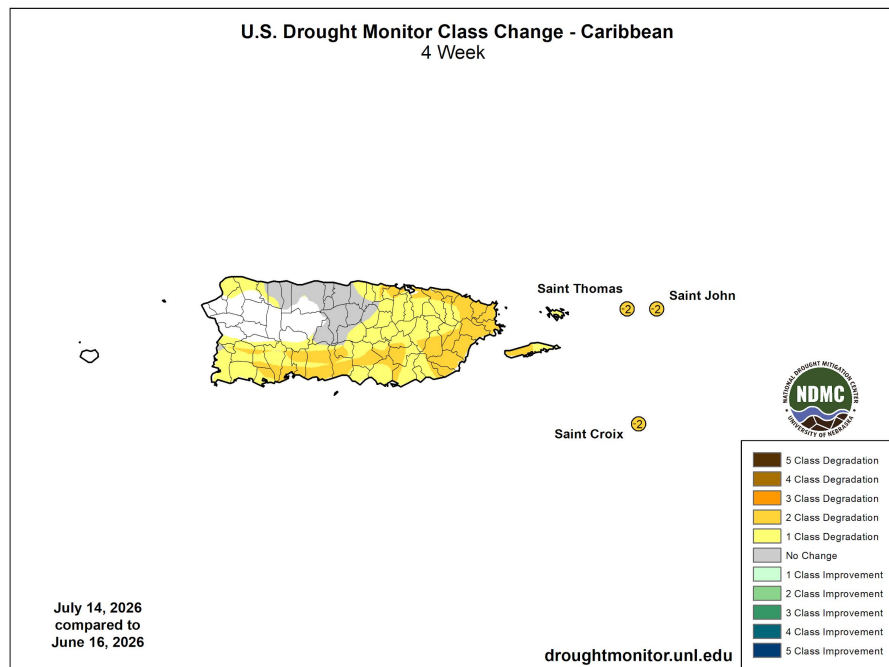


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 8 AM AST July 14th, 2026.



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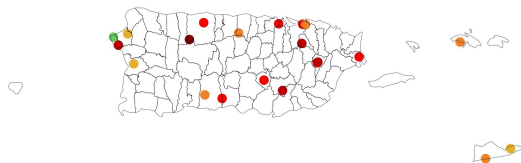


Rainfall

Link to generate the latest [ACIS Climate Maps](#)

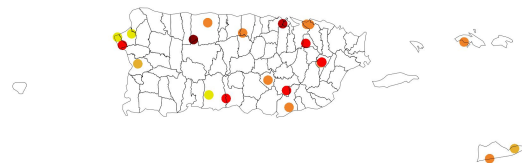
- Based on 60 and 90-days average, almost all COOP and CoCoRaHS stations are showing below normal precipitation values.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
5/18/2026 – 7/16/2026



Generated 7/17/2026 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
4/18/2026 – 7/16/2026



ACIS Web Services Generated 7/17/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Image Captions:

Left - 60-day Departure of Normal Precipitation for Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands
Right - 90-day Departure of Normal Precipitation for Puerto Rico and US Virgin Islands
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center/NWS COOP Stations.





Summary of Impacts

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

Water Supply Impact

- Lago Carraizo, Lago Cidra and Lago Matrullas are at Observation Level, which shows potential impacts to operations and water availability. Most of the other lakes are in Optimal conditions, but decreasing rapidly. Small water intakes across the area are losing water as well, especially across the northeast. There is no rain water to fill the cisterns across the Virgin Islands.

Agricultural Impact

- USGS monitored wells show less amount of available water along southeast Puerto Rico. Farmers in the Valle de Lajas are using the irrigation channels systems for the first time in the last 10 years. There are economical lost since the produce cannot be sold. There is not enough food or water to maintain the cattle in the south.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Numerous brush fire reports arrive each day. The focus of the fires is along the southern plains of Puerto Rico.

Mitigation Actions

- Water rationing will be implemented in the northeast. Water rationing was implemented in the southwest, but only for agricultural purposes.





Long-Range Outlooks

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

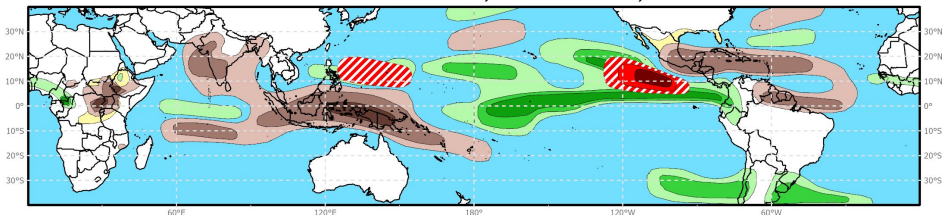


Global Tropics Hazards Outlook

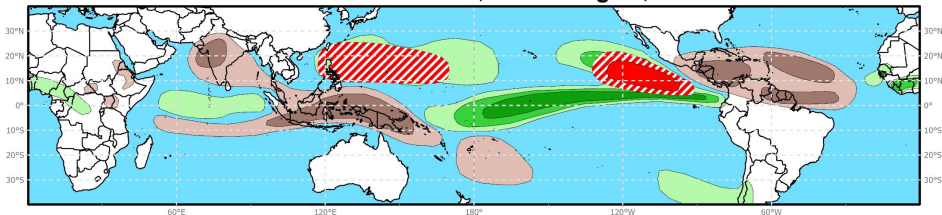
Climate Prediction Center



Week 2 - Valid: Jul 22, 2026 - Jul 28, 2026



Week 3 - Valid: Jul 29, 2026 - Aug 04, 2026



Tropical Cyclone (TC)
Formation Probability

>20% >40% >60%

Tropical Depression (TD)
or greater strength

Above-Average
Rainfall Probability

>50% >65% >80%

Weekly total rainfall in the
Upper third of the historical range

Below-Average
Rainfall Probability

>50% >65% >80%

Weekly total rainfall in the
Lower third of the historical range

Above-Average
Temperatures Probability

>50% >65% >80%

7-day mean temperatures in the
Upper third of the historical range

Below-Average
Temperatures Probability

>50% >65% >80%

7-day mean temperatures in the
Lower third of the historical range

Issued: 07/14/2026

Forecaster: Novella

This product is updated once per week and targets broad scale conditions integrated over a 7-day period for US interests only.
Consult your local responsible forecast agency.

Image Caption: Global Tropics Hazards Outlook for July 22- August 4, 2026.

- The **Global Tropics Hazards Outlook** indicates below normal precipitation chances for the northeastern Caribbean through at least early August



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San Juan



Long-Range Outlooks

The latest three-months precipitation outlook can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- In the **North American Multi-Model Ensemble (NMME)**, favors much **BELOW** normal precipitation for the period of August-September-October 2026 (> 70% chance).

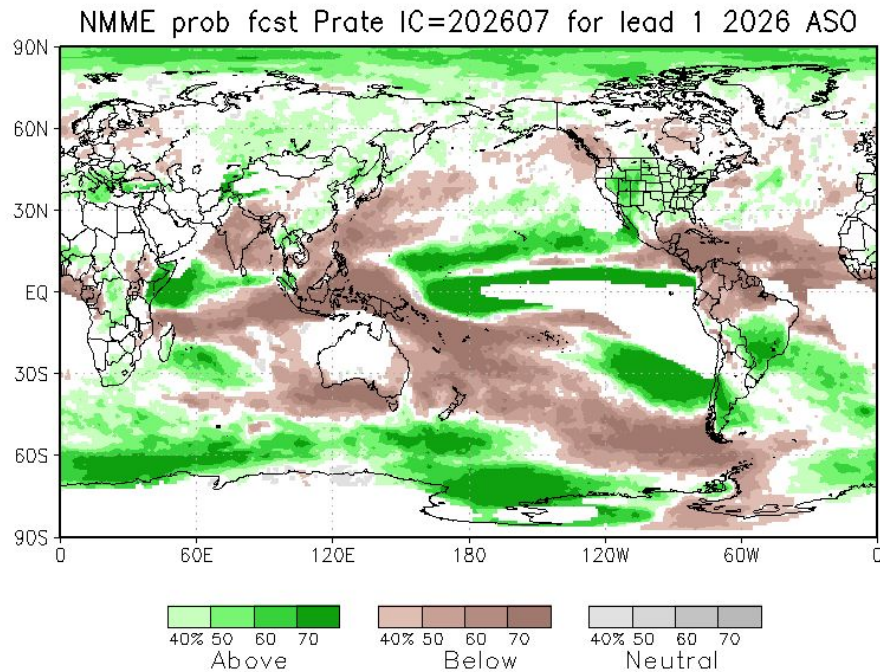


Image Caption: NMME precipitation forecast issued for August-October 2026.

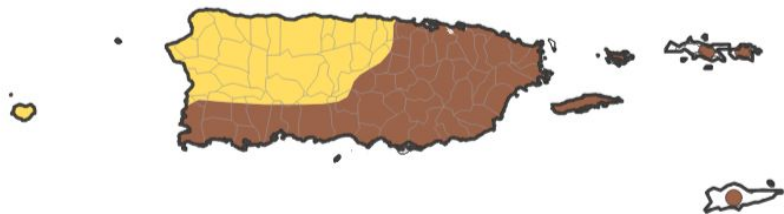




Drought Outlook

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

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



Drought Is Predicted To...



- Based on the latest forecast, drought conditions are expected to develop across the northwest of Puerto Rico and expected to develop in the northwest.



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