



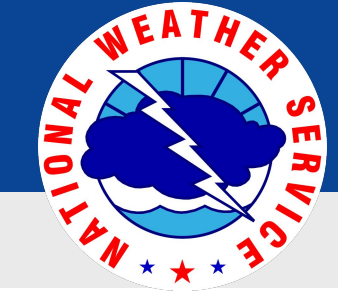
Drought Information Statement for Southeast Alabama, Southwest Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle & Big Bend

Valid July 9, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Tallahassee, FL

Contact Information: kelly.godsey@noaa.gov; cameron.young@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated by July 23, 2026
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/TAE/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
- **Extreme Drought Continues in the Southeast Florida Big Bend.**
- The drought is long term in character with hydrologic impacts persisting throughout the Southeast Florida Big Bend with low river flows and surface water levels.
- Rainfall has become more spotty over the region of the last couple of weeks, but more rain is in the forecast in the coming days.



U.S. Drought Monitor

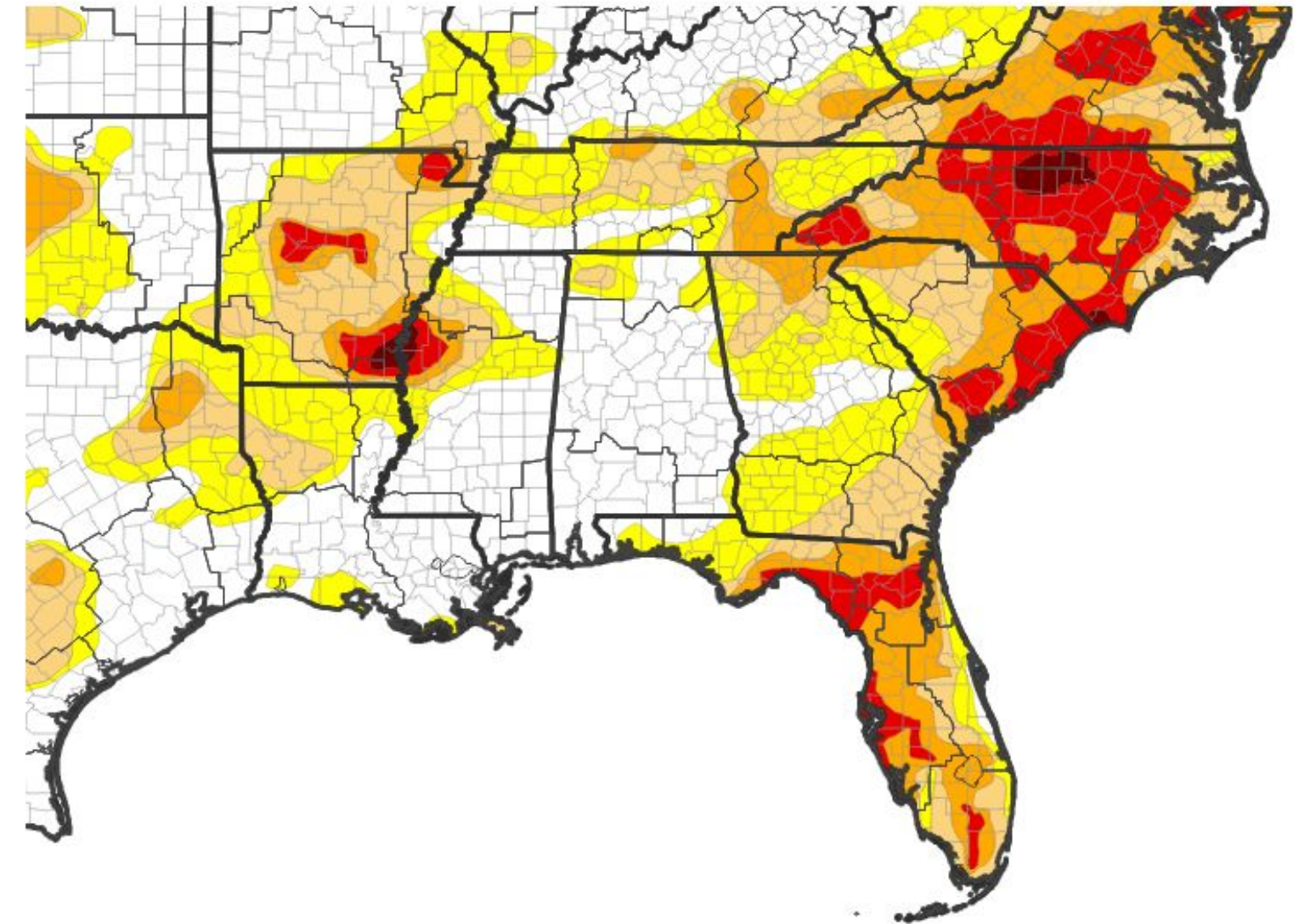
Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Southeast Alabama, Southwest Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle & Big Bend

- With the onset of a summer rainy pattern, scattered storms have brought some relief to the drought, but without widespread heavy rainfall, drought severity changed very little this week.

Drought intensity and Extent:

- D3 (Extreme Drought):**
 - In Florida: from Coastal Franklin County eastward to the SE Florida Big Bend.
- D2 (Severe Drought):**
 - In Florida: from Inland Franklin County northeast to Southern Leon County and then east to the Suwannee River.
- D1 (Moderate Drought):**
 - In Florida: North of I-10 from Leon County eastward to the Suwannee River.
 - In Georgia: Thomas County northeast to Berrien County and south to the GA/FL Border.
- D0 (Abnormally Dry):**
 - From Southern Walton County northeast to Henry County Alabama and eastward to the Moderate Drought area.

U.S. Drought Monitor

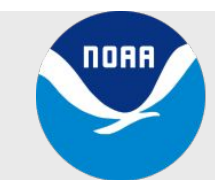


U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 07/07/26



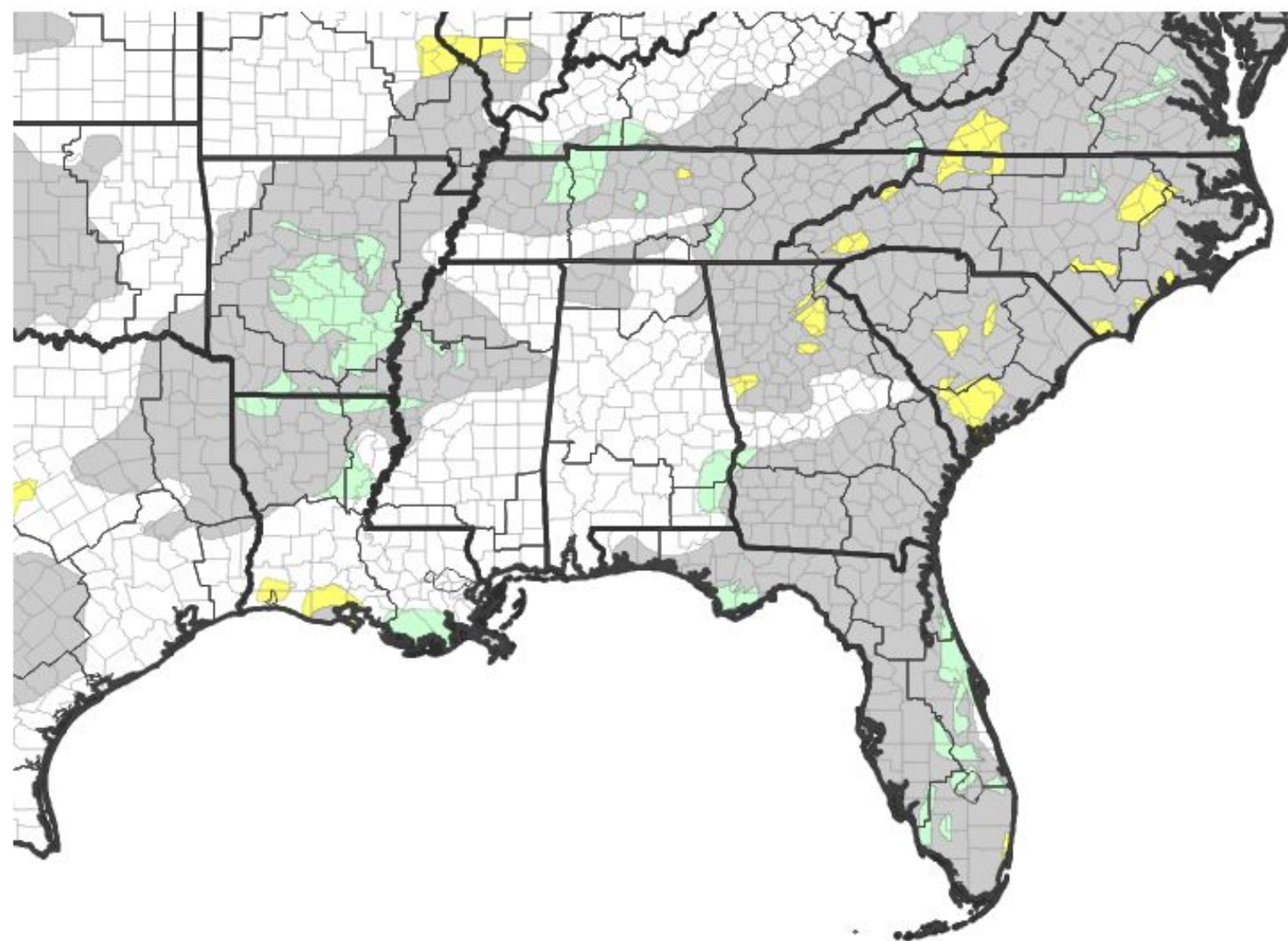


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

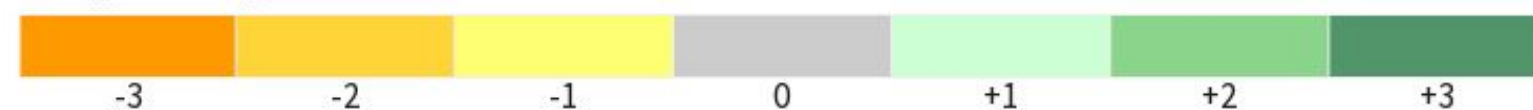
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Southeast Alabama, Southwest Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle & Big Bend

- Localized improvement due to an increase in thunderstorm coverage in a few areas occurred over the last week. However, with the absence of widespread rainfall, no additional changes in drought intensity occurred over the last week.
- One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
 - **1 Category Improvement**
 - Coastal areas Gulf and Western Franklin Counties in Florida.
 - Portions of Dale County, Alabama.
 - **No change**
 - Remainder of the region.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map

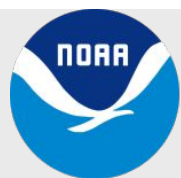


Drought Change Since Last Week



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

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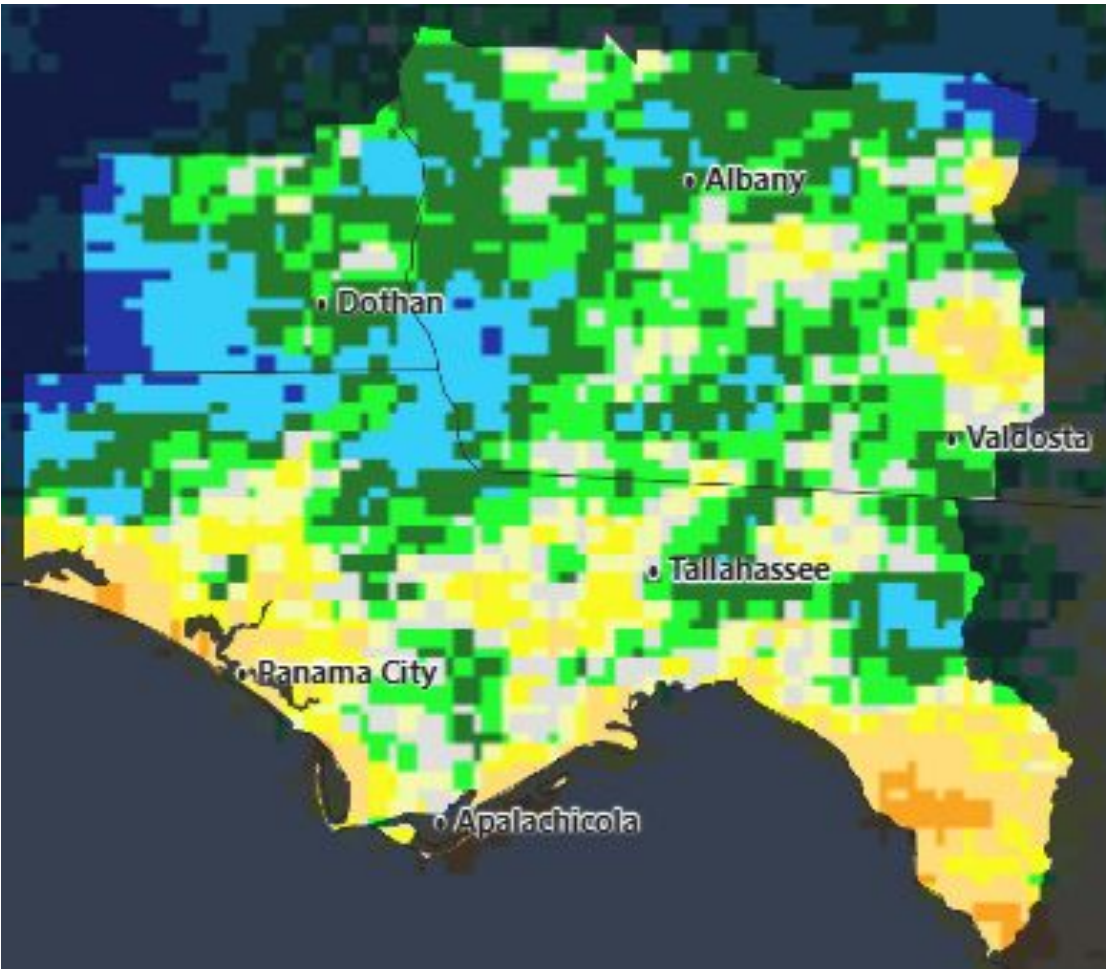
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Tallahassee, FL



Precipitation

Note: Precipitation after 8 AM EDT/7 AM CDT Tuesday is incorporated in next week's Drought Monitor

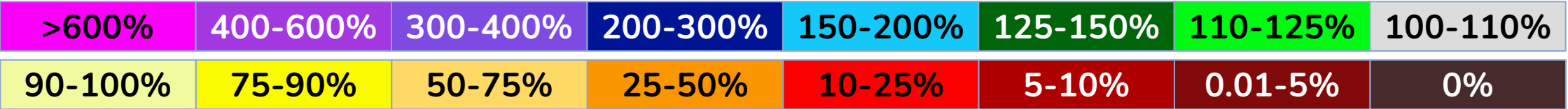
	Last 30 Days		Last 120 Days	
	Rainfall	Percent	Rainfall	Percent
DeFuniak Springs*	11.85"	184.2%	33.21"	159.6%
Panama City ECP	2.25"	37.7%	11.75"	61.8%
Dothan	5.21"	98.8%	15.11"	86.1%
Georgetown**	4.82"	96.0%	16.60"	96.5%
Dawson**	5.14"	101.5%	16.89"	99.6%
Arlington**	6.06"	116.6%	22.19"	129.6%
Albany	5.00"	99.3%	21.45"	138.8%
Cairo**	8.64"	144.7%	22.15"	126.2%
Tallahassee	7.24"	96.4%	14.66"	72.9%
St. Marks****	3.60"	55.3%	9.29"	51.9%
Moultrie**	5.23"	94.5%	19.38"	115.0%
Monticello*	6.84"	100.6%	18.45"	97.0%
Ty Ty**	7.80"	153.1%	19.52"	120.9%
Alapaha**	5.68"	108.9%	17.52"	110.9%
Madison Blue Spring***	7.33"	109.7%	15.74"	86.5%
Perry***	5.53"	89.1%	11.39"	64.0%



30 day Percent of Normal Precipitation



120 day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Over the last couple of weeks, rainfall has been limited, but sufficient rainfall to alleviate drought outside of the Southeast Florida Big Bend has occurred. Should drier conditions continue, particularly along the Florida Panhandle Coast, then drought expansion may be needed soon.

Rainfall totals through July 8, 2026. Non-NWS Data Courtesy:

*University of Florida - Florida Automated Weather Network

**University of Georgia Weather Network

***Suwannee River Water Management District

****Northwest Florida Water Management District

Climatology for non-NWS stations is estimated using PRISM data.



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Tallahassee, FL



Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows outside of the Extreme Drought area have started to decline given the lack of widespread rainfall over the region in the last couple of weeks. However, streamflows remain above the critical levels seen during the Spring.
- Streamflows and surface water levels remain well below normal near the Suwannee River and into the Southeast Florida Big Bend within the Extreme Drought area.

Agricultural Impacts

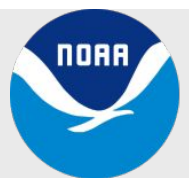
- Rainfall in May and June greatly alleviated impacts for the agricultural community. However, recent dryness is leading to increased irrigation needs as crops continue to mature.
- Irrigation needs remain in the Southeast Florida Big Bend.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) values are 250-400 away from the immediate coast. Values of 400-550 are present along the coastal areas of the Florida Panhandle and 500-650 throughout the Southeast Florida Big Bend.

Mitigation Actions

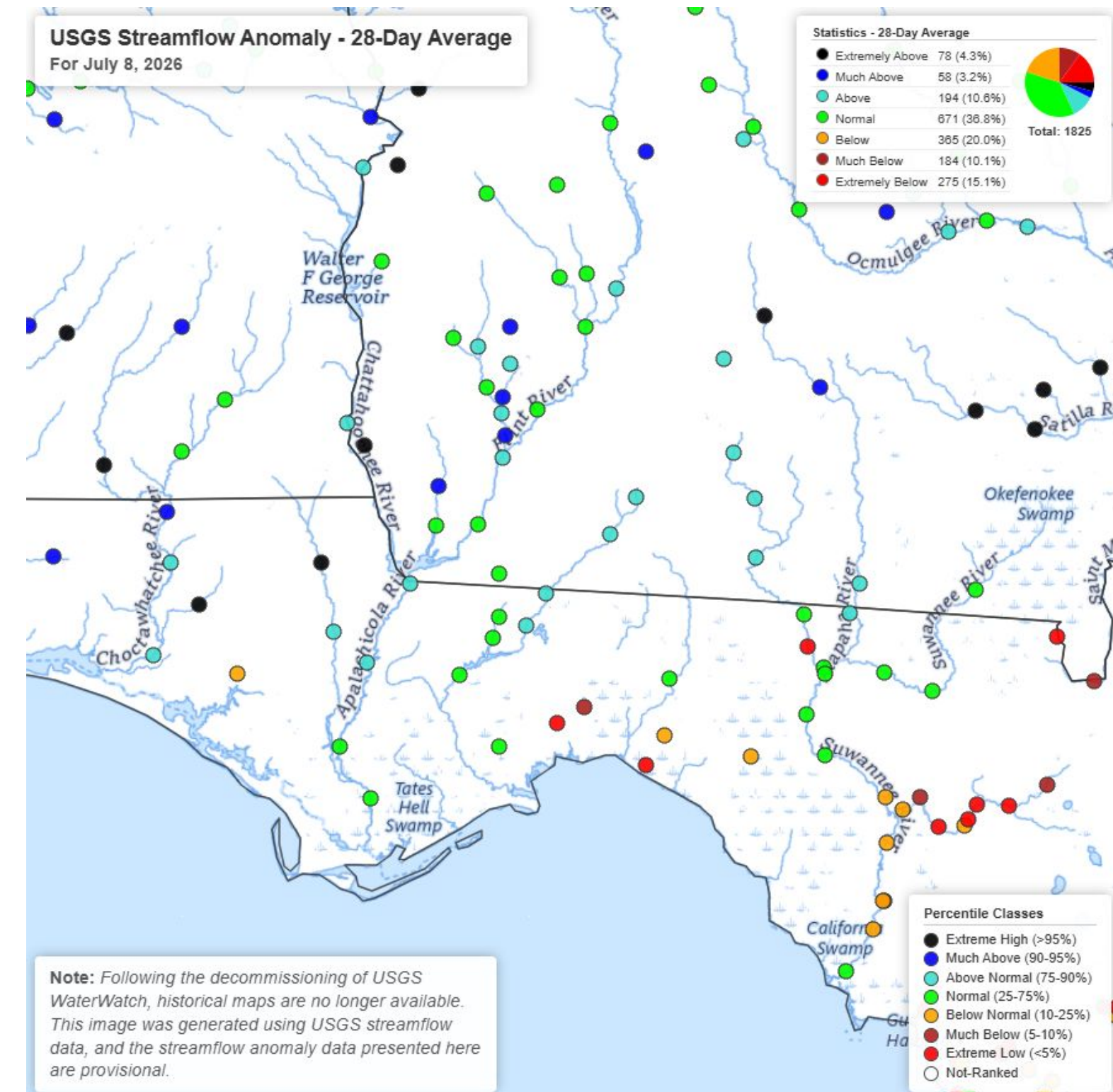
- Northwest Florida Water Management District has issued a [water shortage warning](#) for their watershed.
- Suwannee River Water Management District has issued a [water shortage advisory](#) for their watershed.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow conditions over the last month are normal to above normal, but in the last 7-14 days have trended lower across all basins.
- In the Southeast Big Bend, streamflows remain quite low, especially in the lower Suwannee River.
- In response to streamflows and groundwater conditions, Northwest Florida Water Management District has issued a [Water Shortage Warning](#), and Suwannee River Water Management District has issued a [Water Shortage Advisory](#).

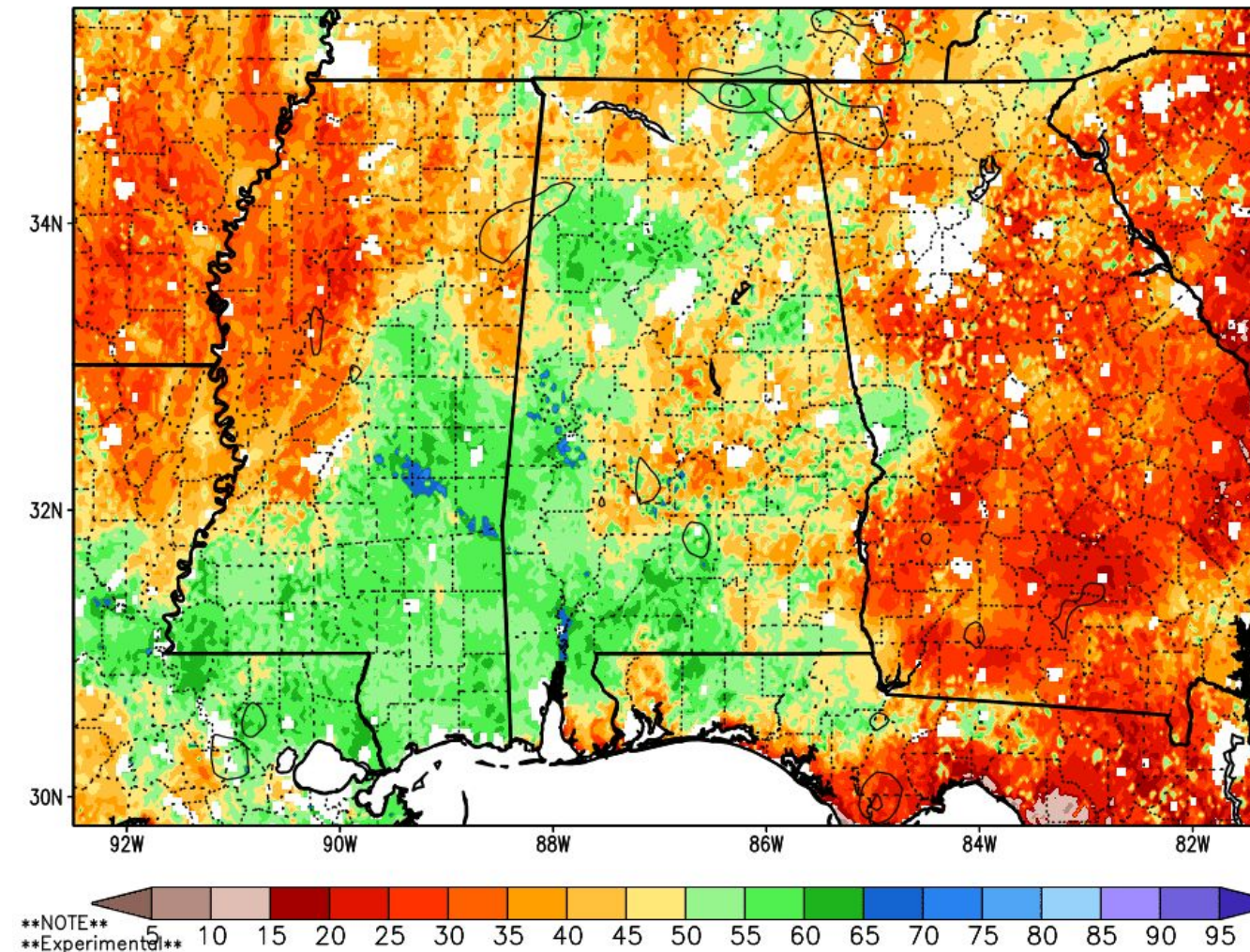




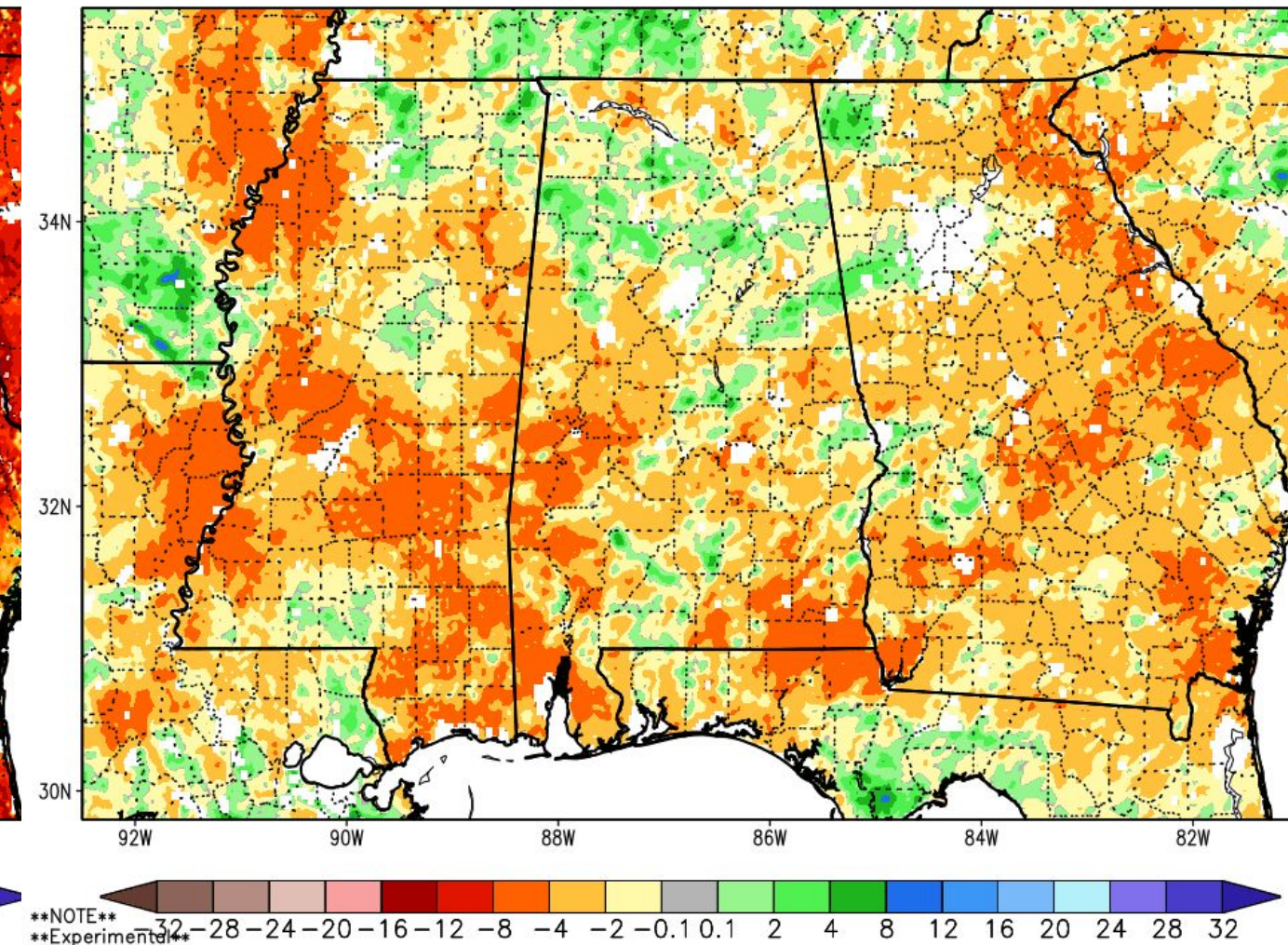
Agricultural Impacts

- Deep layer soil moisture is beginning to dry out since rainfall has been more sporadic.
- Outside of Southeast Alabama and the inland Florida Panhandle, soil moisture is much below normal.

Column—Integrated Relative Soil Moisture (available water; %) valid 12z 09 Jul 2026
Precipitation in previous hour (1,2,5,10,15,20,25 mm contours)

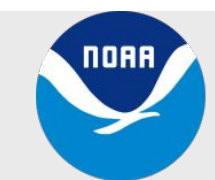


1-Week Difference in Column Relative Soil Moisture (%) valid 12z 09 Jul 2026



0-200 cm Relative Soil Moisture & 1-week Change in 0-200 cm Relative Soil Moisture
Data courtesy of NASA SPoRT

2026 Crop Reports
[Alabama](#) | [Florida](#) | [Georgia](#)



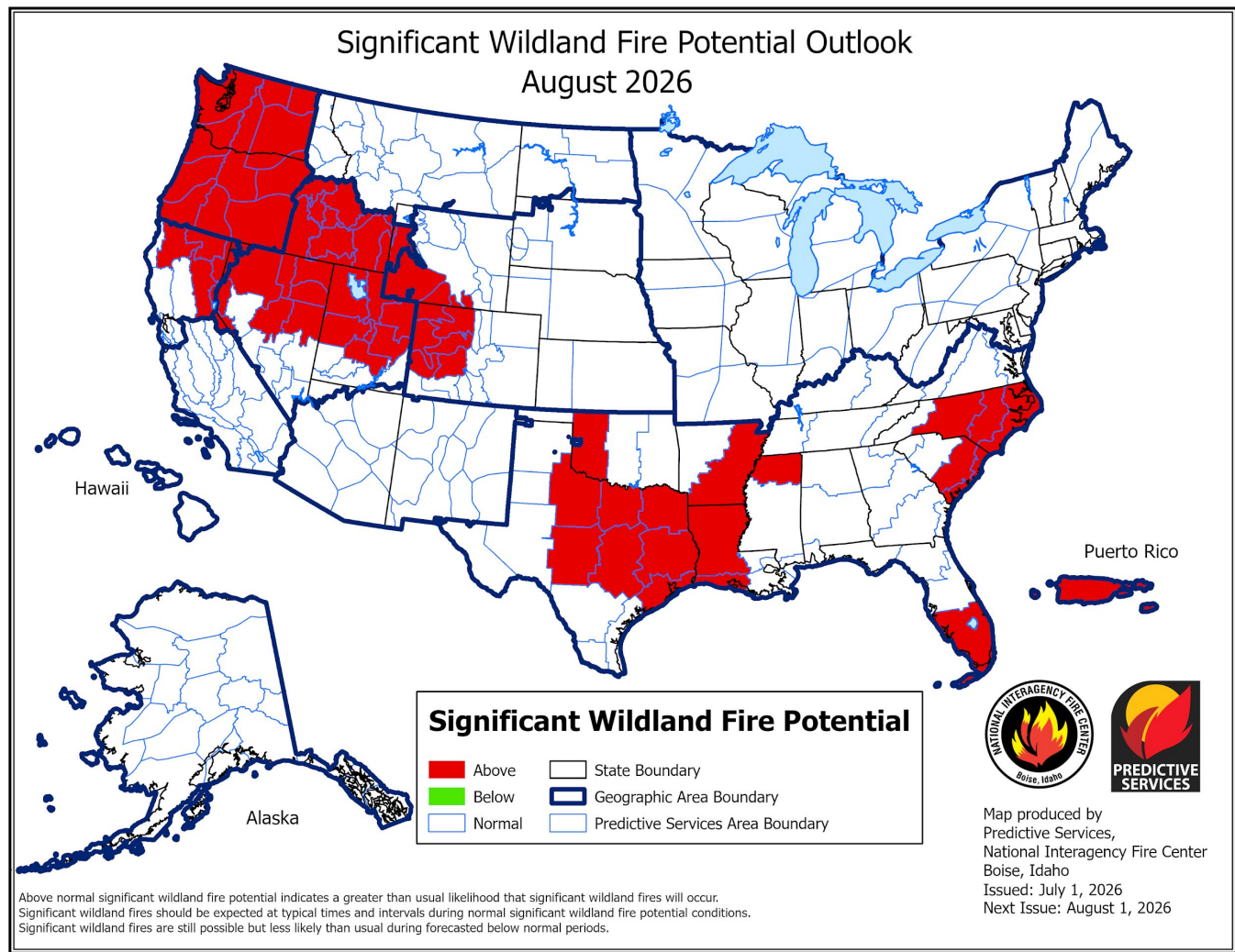
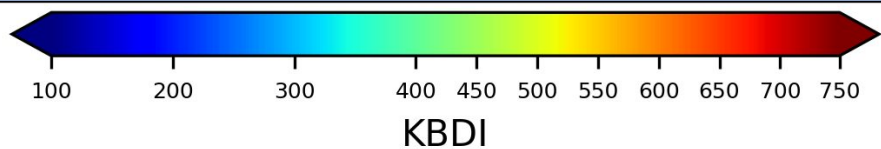
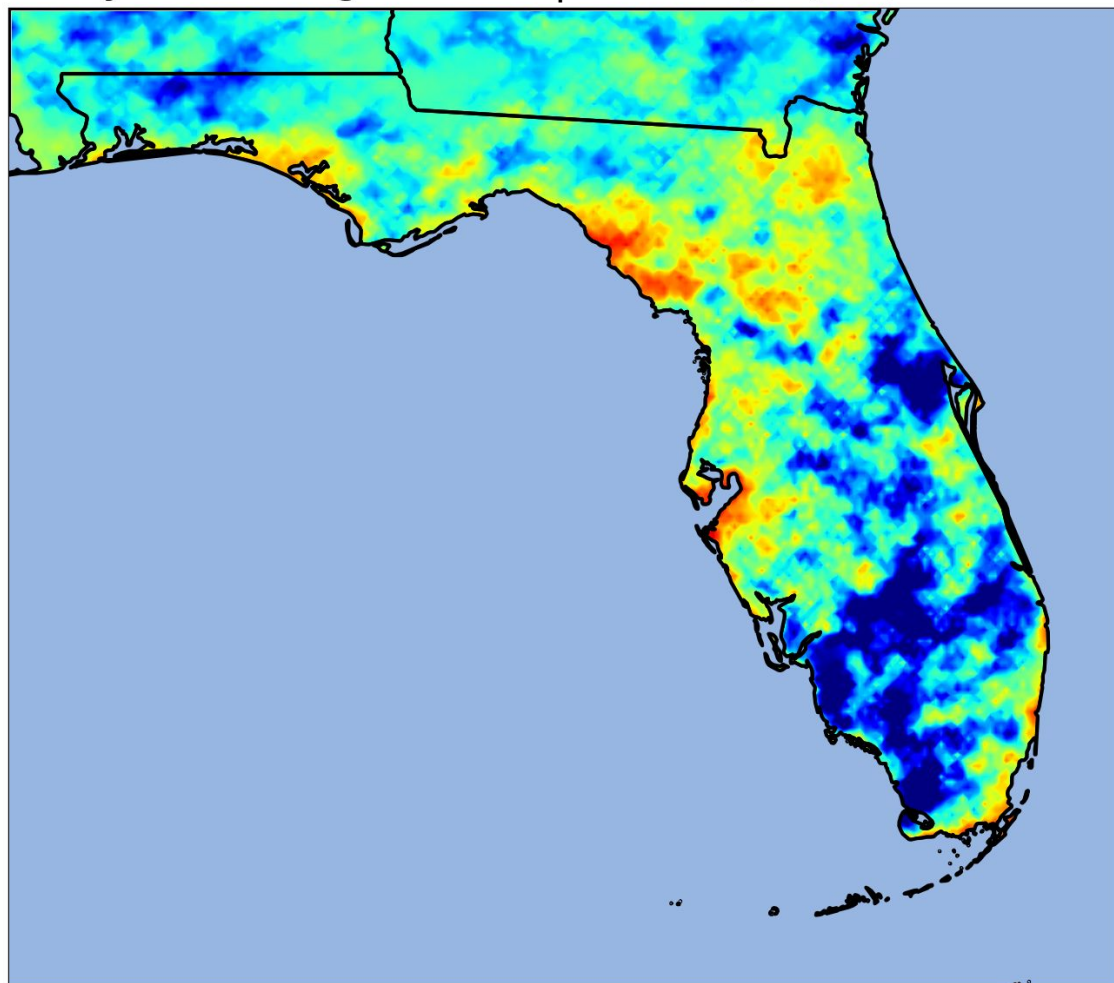


Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Keetch-Byram Drought Indices have steadily risen in the last two weeks and remain especially high across the Southeast Florida Big Bend.
- There are currently no burn bans in effect.
- The Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for August is for near normal wildfire activity in most of the region.

Keetch-Byram Drought Index | Wed 07/08/26, 02:00 PM EDT

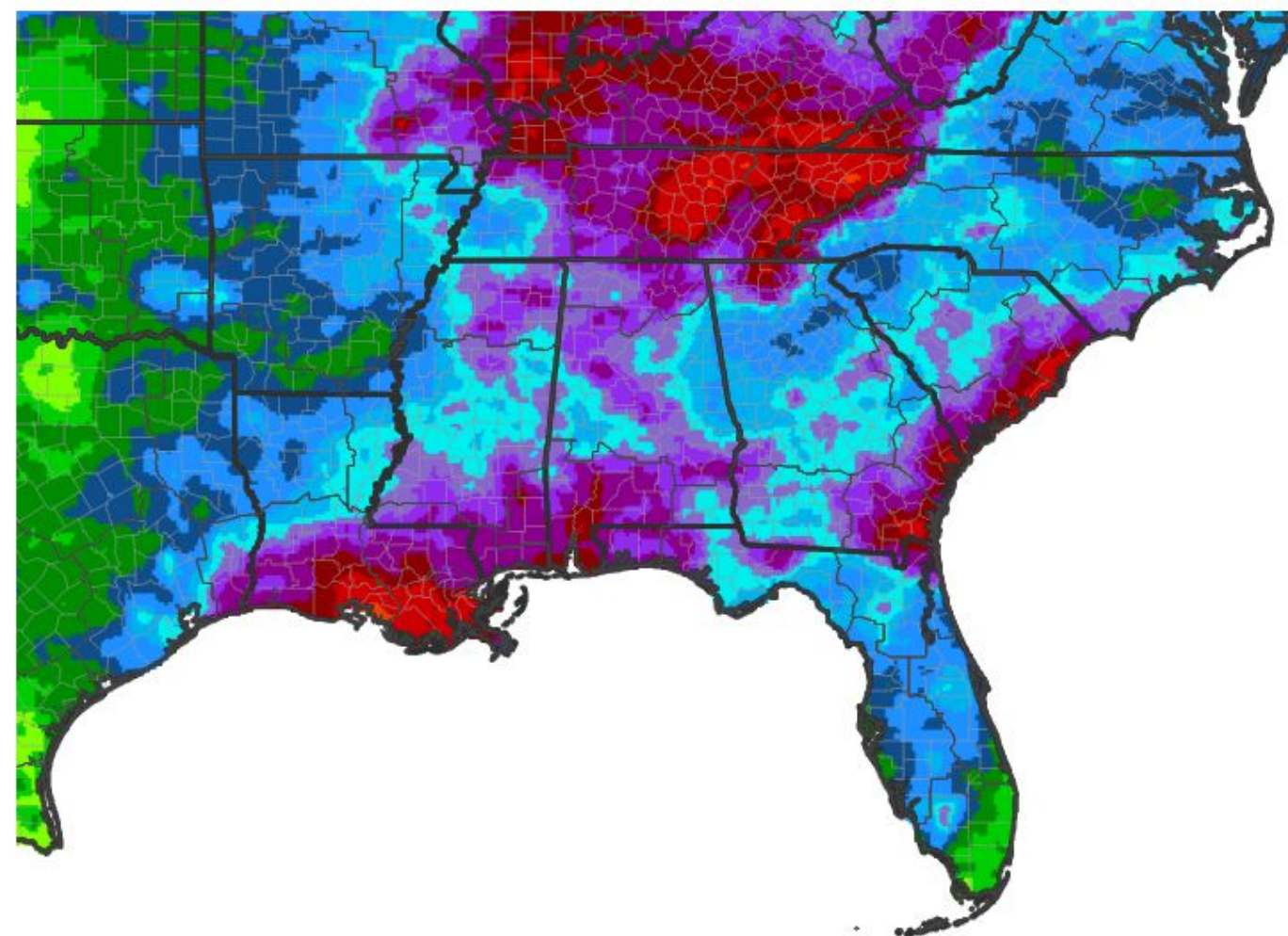




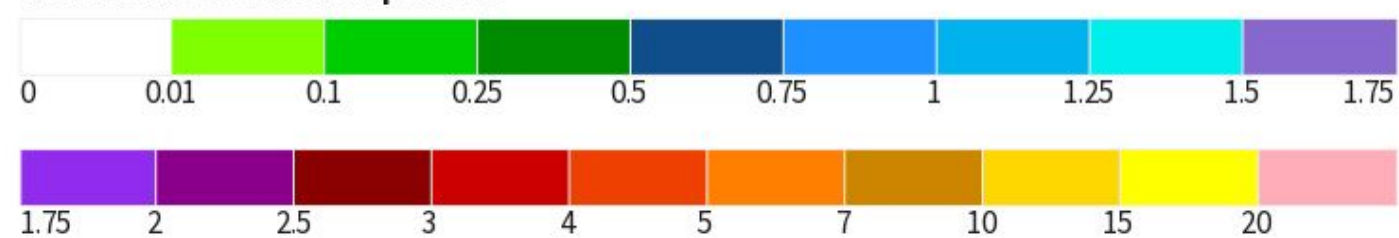
Precipitation Outlook

- Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected into the weekend. A frontal boundary is expected to stall over or just south of the region early next week, bringing rainy conditions.
- The longer range pattern is for above normal rainfall in the [8-14 day outlook](#) (7/16 - 7/22).

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for July 9, 2026–July 16, 2026



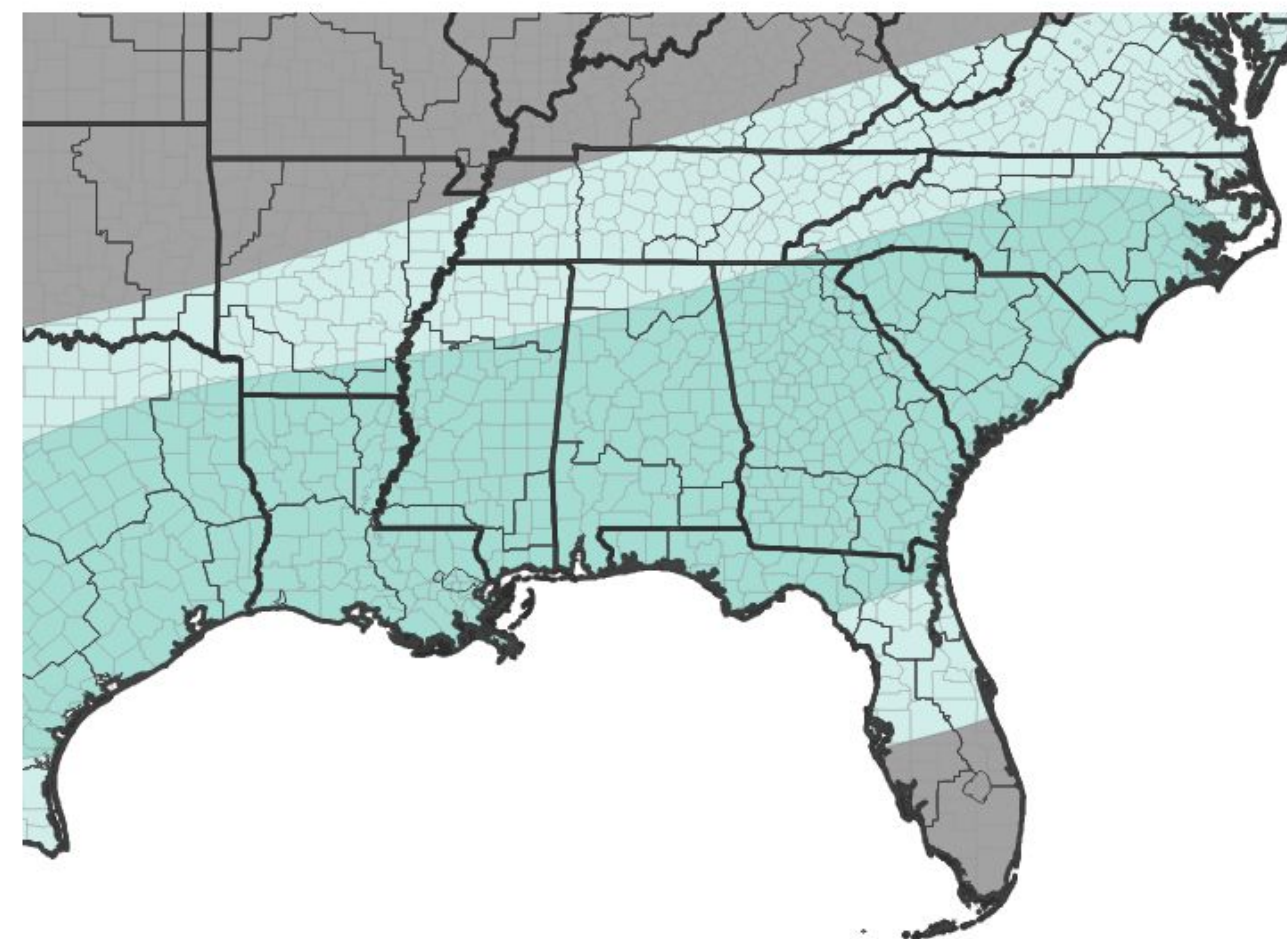
Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 07/09/26

8–14 Day Precipitation Outlook for July 16, 2026–July 22, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



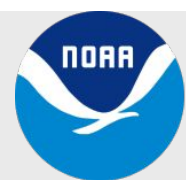
Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



■ Near-Normal Conditions

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

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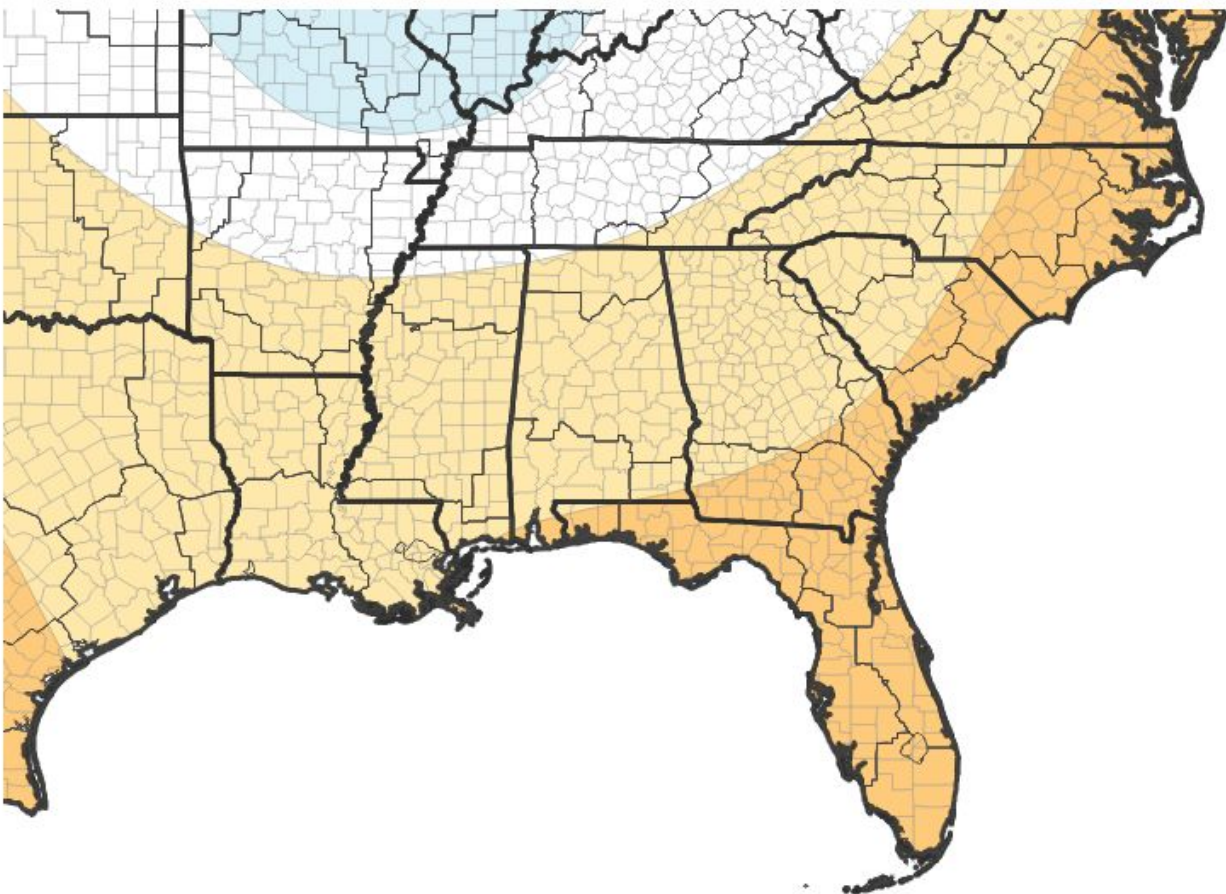


Long-Range Outlooks

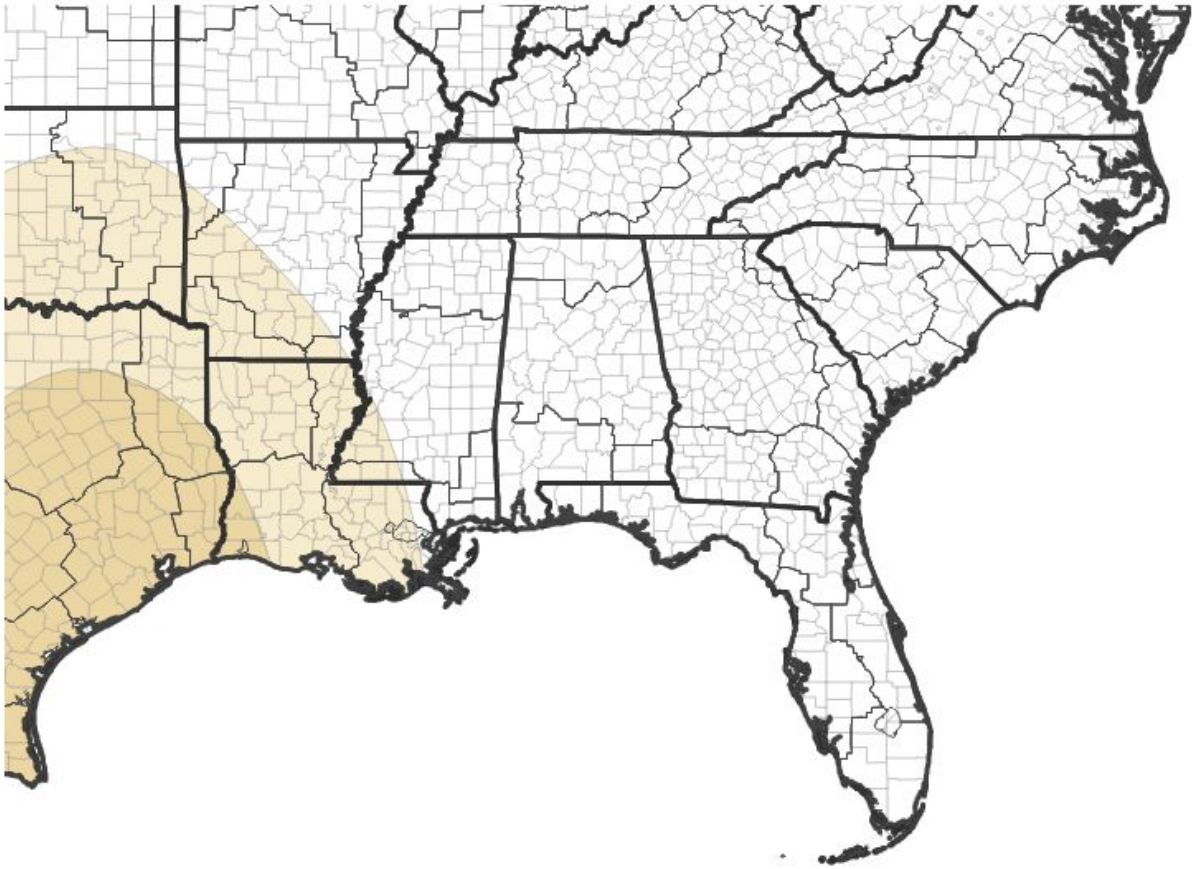
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#).

- The next 3 months favor above normal temperatures and near normal precipitation.
- With sea breeze season underway drought improvement could continue.

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for July 1, 2026–September 30, 2026



Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for July 1, 2026–September 30, 2026



Average	July		August		September	
	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain
Tallahassee	82.5°	7.14"	82.4°	7.60"	79.1°	4.91"
Apalachicola	82.2°	5.74"	82.2°	7.79"	79.2°	5.38"
Albany	83.1°	5.12"	82.7°	4.83"	78.1°	3.37"
Valdosta	81.1°	5.33"	81.2°	5.11"	77.2°	4.22"
Marianna	82.7°	5.10"	82.1°	4.93"	78.7°	4.06"
Dothan	83.0°	5.95"	82.0°	6.17"	77.9°	3.27"

Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 06/18/26

Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 06/18/26



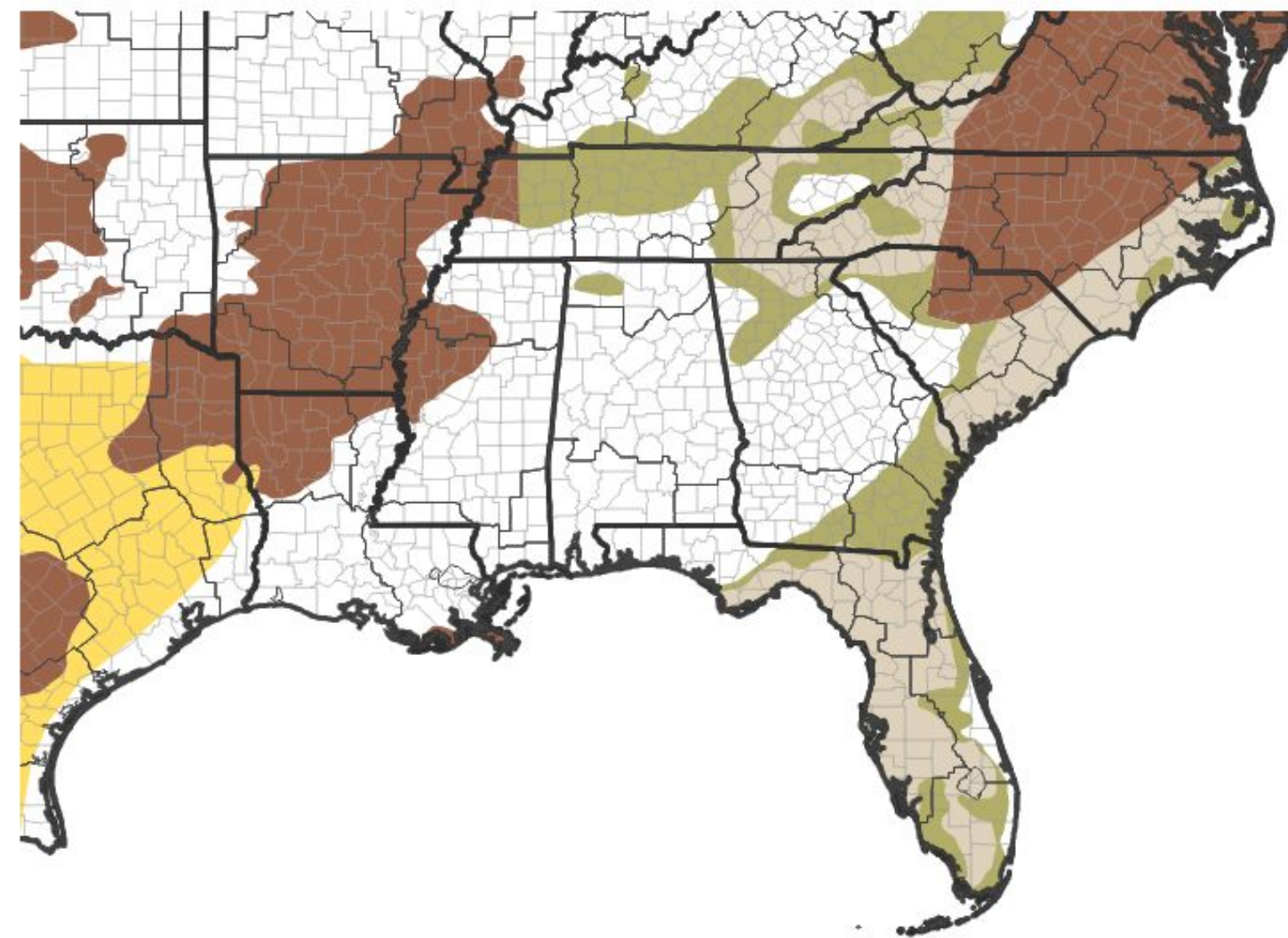


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought has ended for some areas in the region over the last 2 to 4 weeks. Additional improvement is expected long term.
- Tropical activity and sea breeze storms will help lead to drought improvement, if the rainfall is sufficiently widespread. Whether the drought completely ends across the region is dependent on sufficient rainfall through the summer months.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for June 30, 2026–September 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



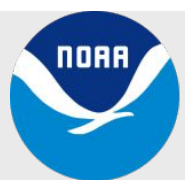
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 06/30/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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