



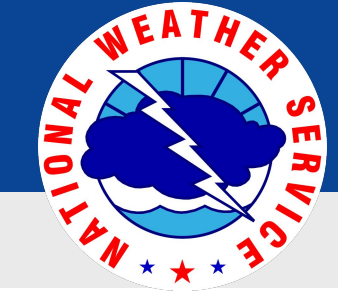
Drought Information Statement for Southeast Alabama, Southwest Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle & Big Bend

Valid July 23, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Tallahassee, FL

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

- This product will be updated by August 6, 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.
- **Drought Improvement Continues Across the Region. Extreme Drought Remains in the Lower Suwannee River Basin.**
- 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.
- Recent rains from Tropical Storm Bertha provided localized relief, but rainfall over the last couple of weeks has been below normal, limiting overall drought improvement.



U.S. Drought Monitor

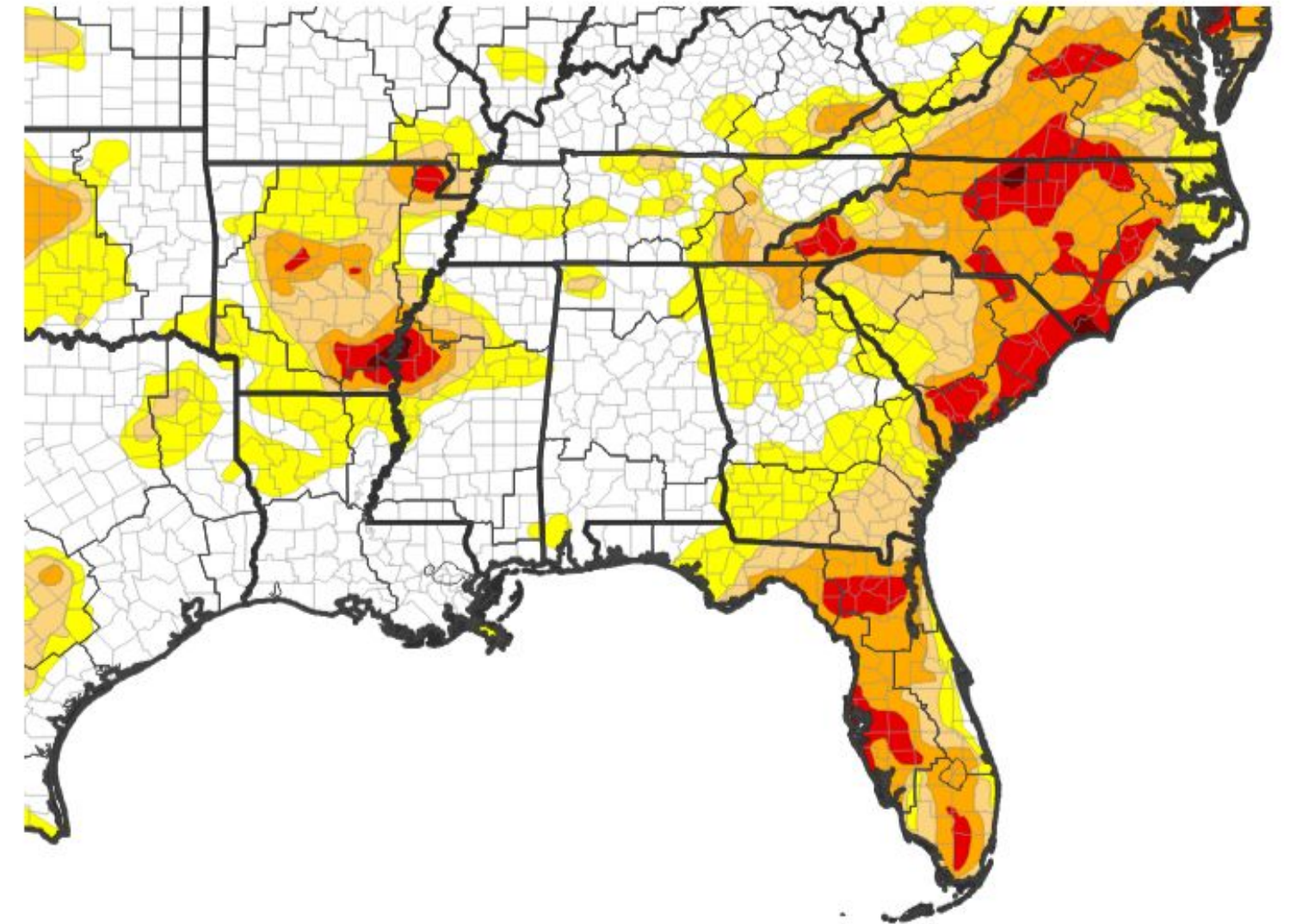
Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Southeast Alabama, Southwest Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle & Big Bend

- Recent summer rains and some locally heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Bertha led to reduction of the extreme drought area across the region and further improvement along the Florida Big Bend Coast.

Drought intensity and Extent:

- D3 (Extreme Drought):**
 - In Florida: Inland Lafayette and Dixie Counties.
- D2 (Severe Drought):**
 - In Florida: from Coastal Wakulla County eastward to Southern Madison County and through the FL Big Bend.
- D1 (Moderate Drought):**
 - In Florida: From Franklin County northeast to Leon County and eastward to the Aucilla River.
 - In Georgia: Thomas County northeast to Berrien County and south to the GA/FL Border.
- D0 (Abnormally Dry):**
 - From Bay County, Florida northeast to into Southwest Georgia.

U.S. Drought Monitor

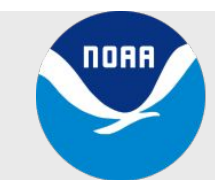


U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 07/21/26



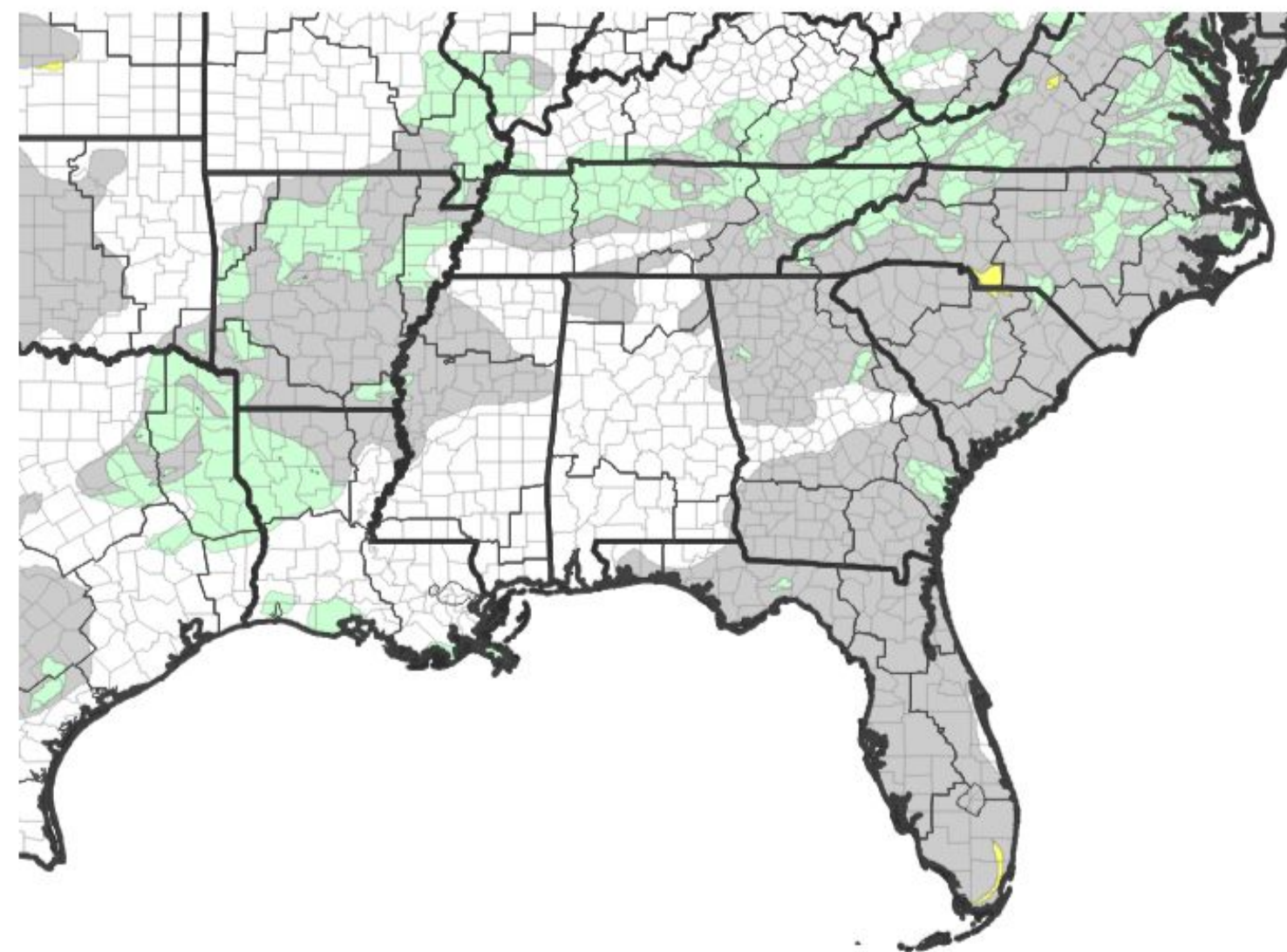


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

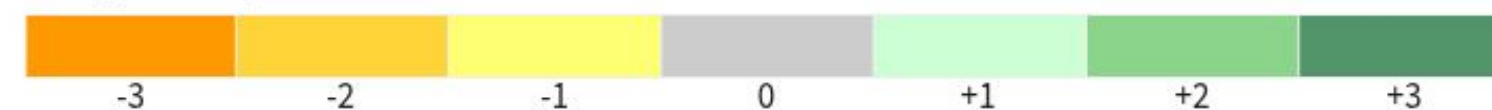
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Southeast Alabama, Southwest Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle & Big Bend

- Localized improvement with recent rains from both summertime showers and Tropical Storm Bertha was helpful to improve drought intensity.
- One-Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
 - **1 Category Improvement**
 - Coastal areas around the Florida Big Bend.
 - **No change**
 - Remainder of the region.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map

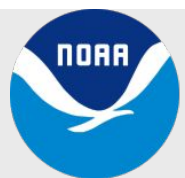


Drought Change Since Last Week



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

Data Valid: 07/14/26



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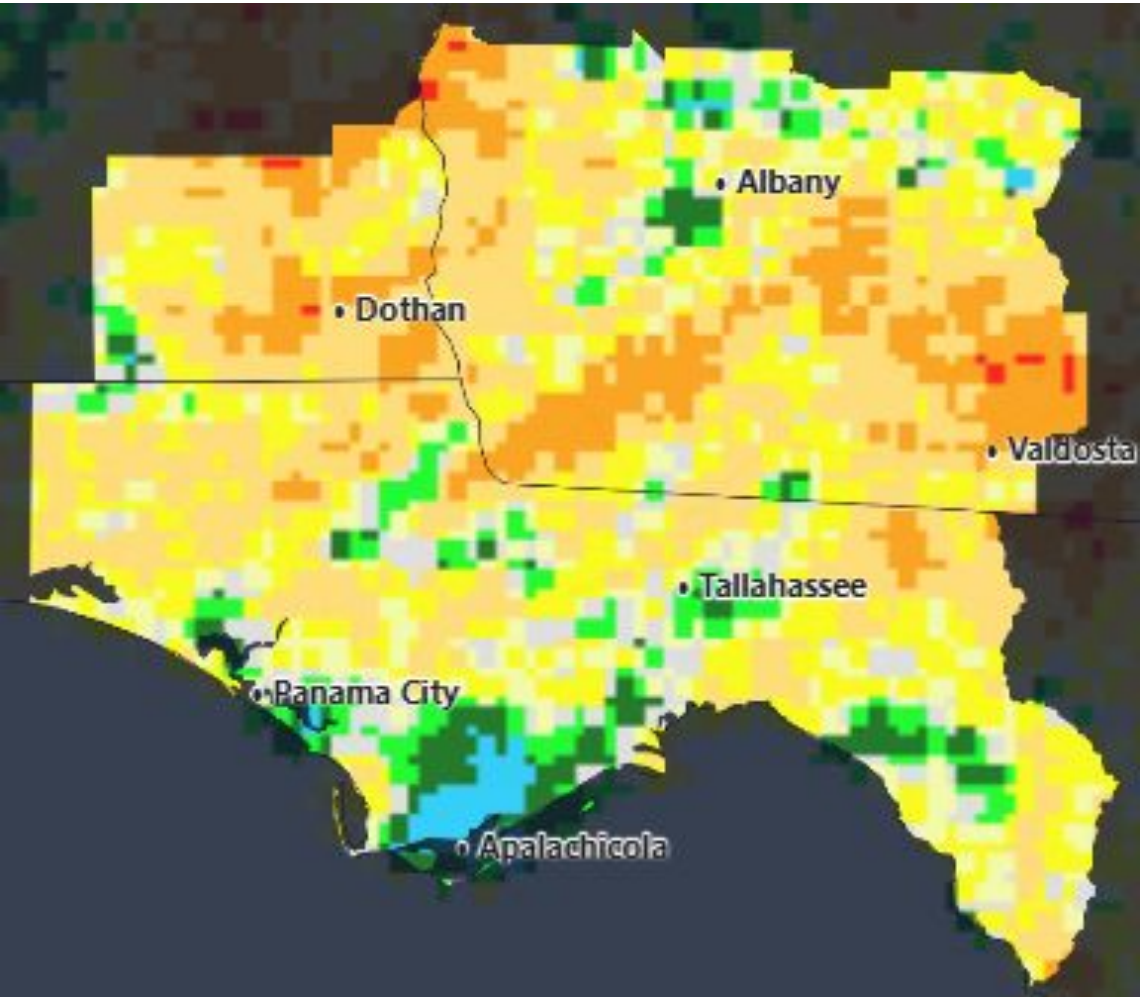
National Weather Service
Tallahassee, FL



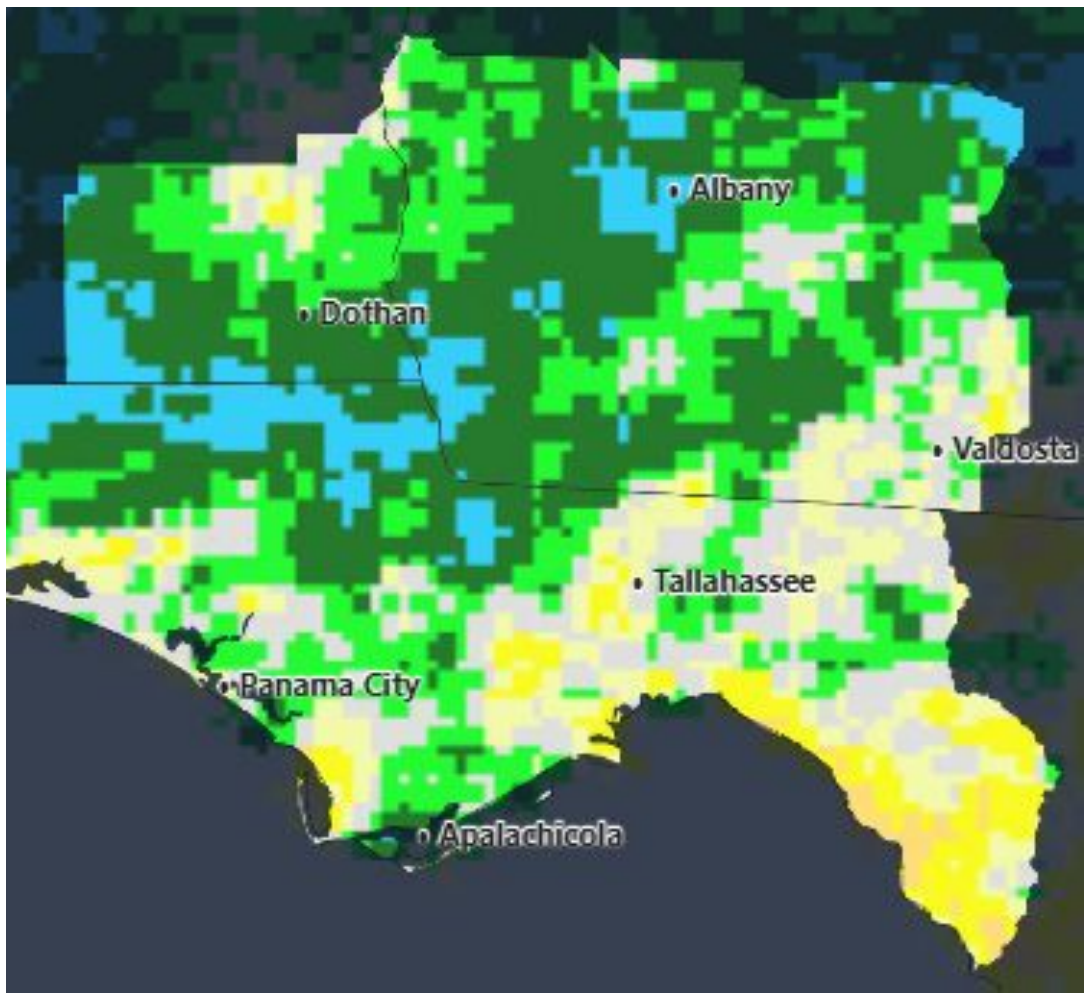
Precipitation

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

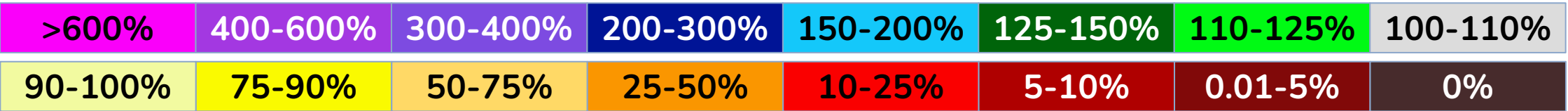
	Last 30 Days		Last 120 Days	
	Rainfall	Percent	Rainfall	Percent
DeFuniak Springs*	7.13"	106.7%	35.53"	164.6%
Panama City ECP	3.75"	59.0%	14.85"	75.3%
Dothan	3.34"	59.6%	17.71"	97.8%
Georgetown**	1.91"	36.0%	17.22"	98.1%
Dawson**	3.14"	59.4%	18.41"	106.5%
Arlington**	3.27"	59.1%	23.49"	134.1%
Albany	2.97"	59.7%	21.33"	135.1%
Cairo**	2.81"	47.1%	22.33"	123.6%
Tallahassee	6.15"	86.6%	17.21"	82.1%
Moultrie**	1.94"	35.5%	19.15"	112.5%
Monticello*	5.28"	77.8%	19.54"	97.8%
Ty Ty**	2.66"	52.8%	18.72"	114.9%
Alapaha**	4.33"	84.6%	19.45"	121.4%
Madison Blue Spring***	3.70"	59.6%	17.13"	90.8%
Perry***	5.50"	86.1%	13.97"	74.8%



30 day Percent of Normal Precipitation



120 day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Rainfall has been more plentiful in the near term along the coast, but over the long term, rainfall has been sufficient to alleviate drought conditions for most areas.

Rainfall totals through July 22, 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 remain below normal to much below normal across eastern portions of Apalachee Bay. Below normal streamflows are beginning to return to headwater streams in South Georgia and Southeast Alabama where rain has not been plentiful over the last month.

Agricultural Impacts

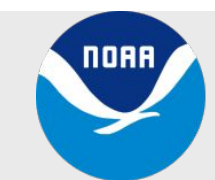
- Rainfall continues to slowly improve drought conditions and this has helped the agricultural community now well into growing season. Where rain has not fallen in multiple days, increased irrigation needs continue as crops mature.
- Irrigation needs remain in the Southeast Florida Big Bend.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) values are 200-400 across much of the region, but is 400-600 in the Suwannee Basin from near Valdosta southward to Cross City.

Mitigation Actions

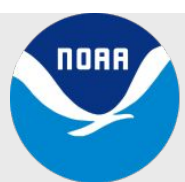
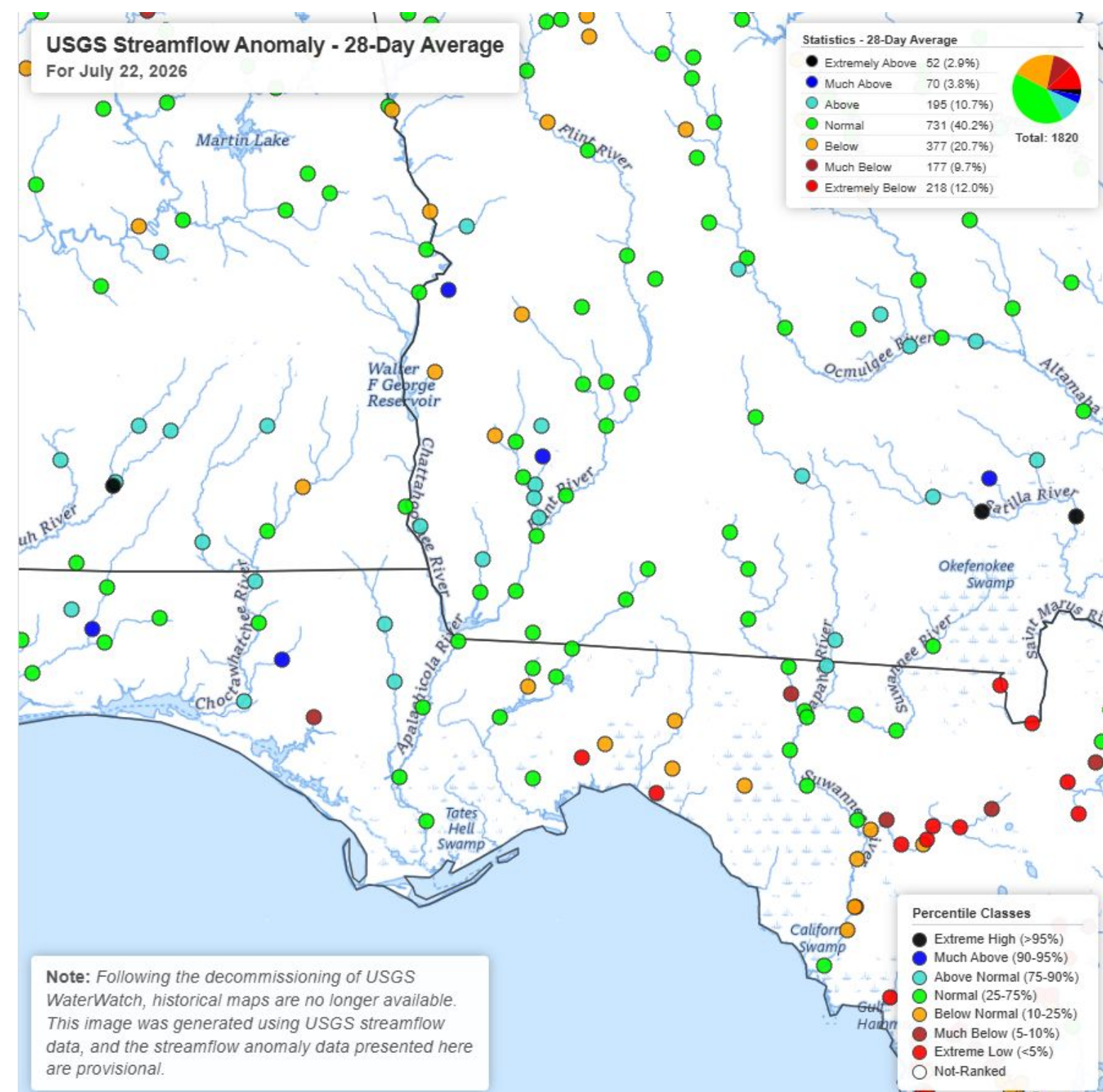
- Northwest Florida Water Management District has issued a [water shortage warning](#) for their watershed.
- Suwannee River Water Management District has issued a [water shortage advisory](#) for their watershed.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow conditions over the last month are normal to above normal, but in the last 7-14 days headwater basins in Southeast Alabama and Southwest Georgia have trended lower.
- 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](#).

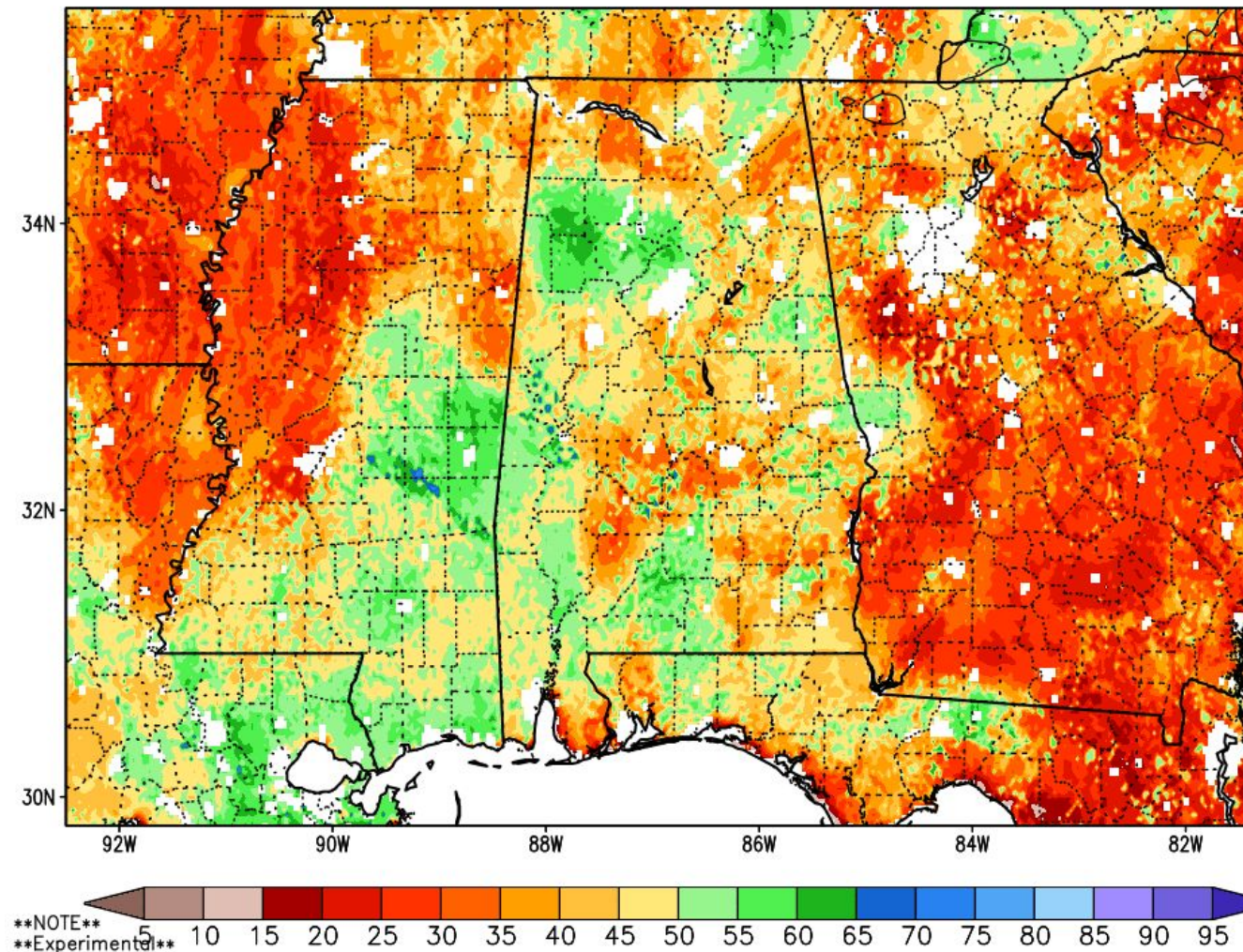




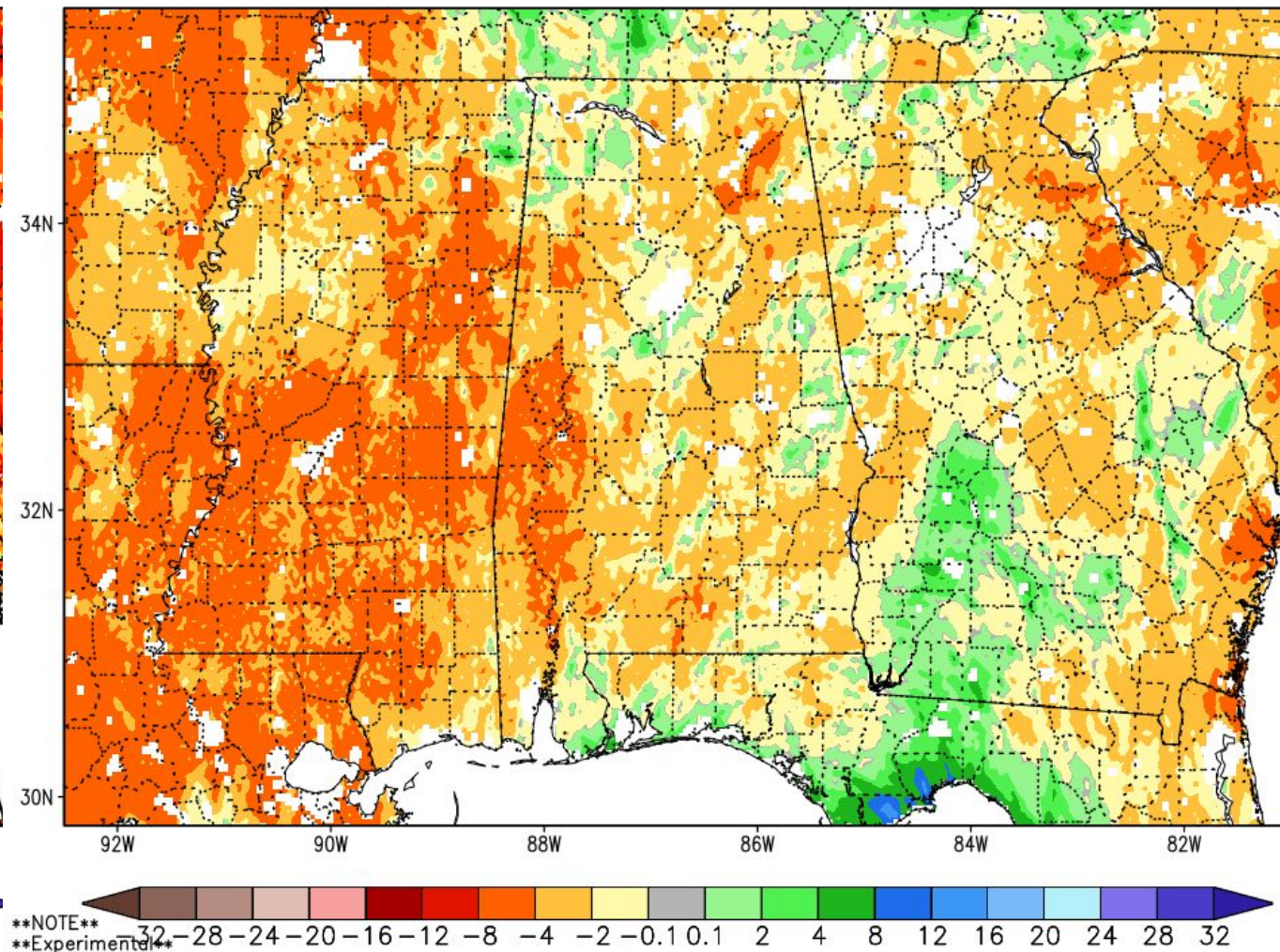
Agricultural Impacts

- Deep layer soil moisture remains dry across South Georgia, but recent rains did bring some relief.
- The heaviest rains were along the Florida Big Bend Coast where significant relief was noted in Leon County.

Column—Integrated Relative Soil Moisture (available water; %) valid 09z 23 Jul 2026
Precipitation in previous hour (1,2,5,10,15,20,25 mm contours)

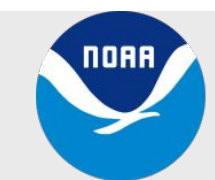


1-Week Difference in Column Relative Soil Moisture (%) valid 09z 23 Jul 2026



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](#)



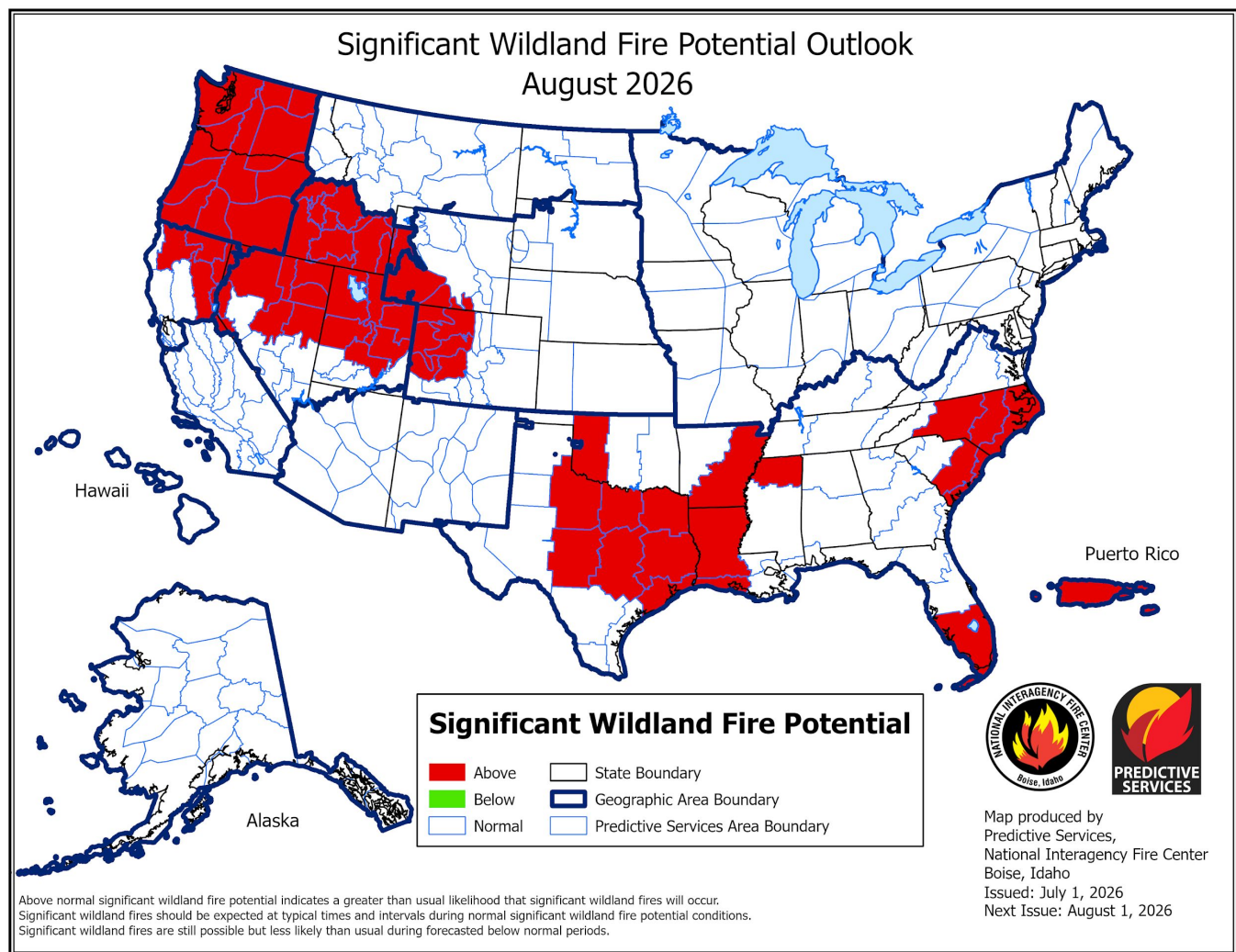
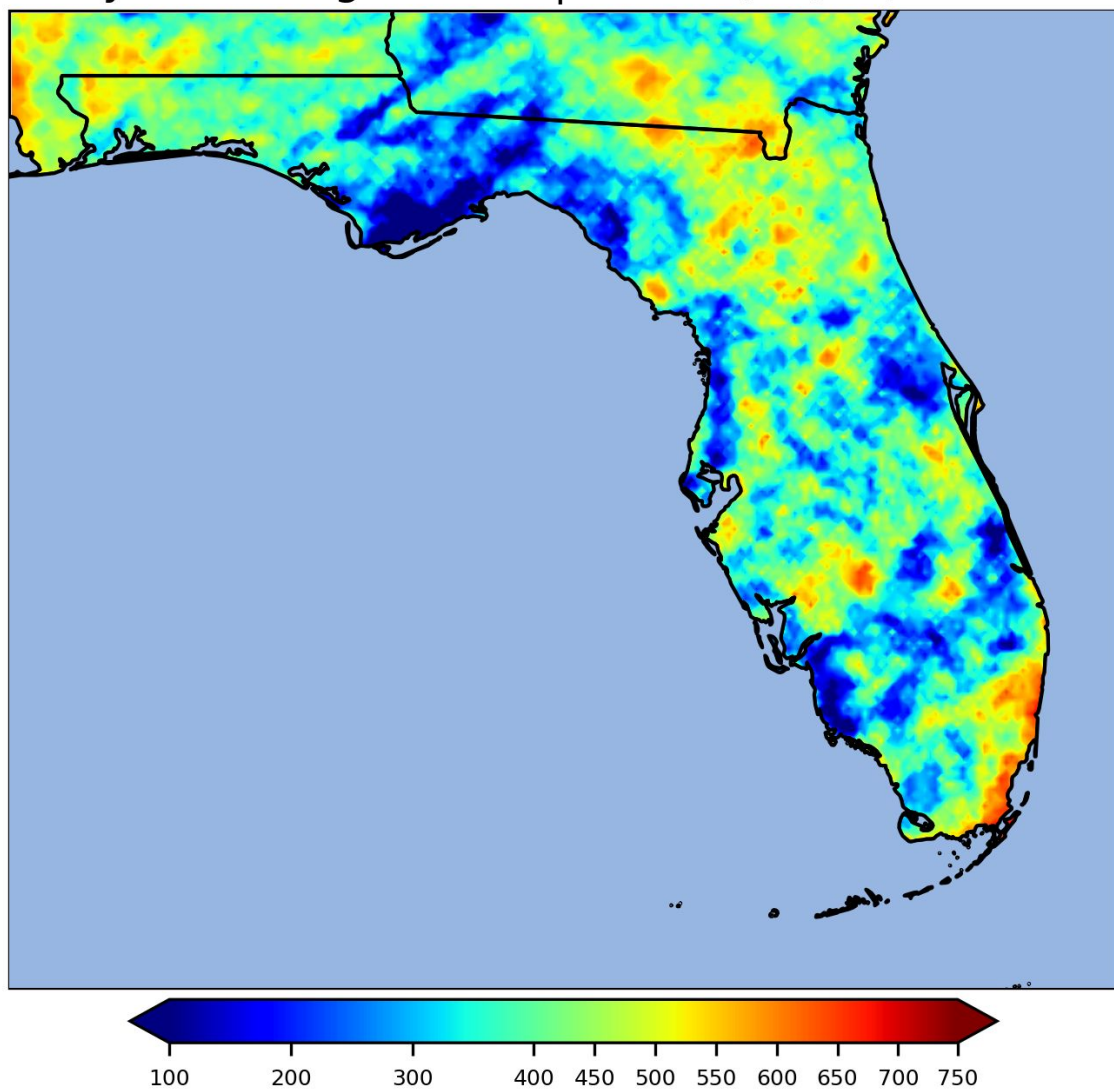


Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Keetch-Byram Drought Indices have largely stayed below 500, with the exception of the I-75 corridor near Valdosta and southward to Cross City.
- 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 07/22/26, 02:00 PM EDT



Above normal significant wildland fire potential indicates a greater than usual likelihood that significant wildland fires will occur.
Significant wildland fires should be expected at typical times and intervals during normal significant wildland fire potential conditions.
Significant wildland fires are still possible but less likely than usual during forecasted below normal periods.



Map produced by
Predictive Services,
National Interagency Fire Center
Boise, Idaho
Issued: July 1, 2026
Next Issue: August 1, 2026

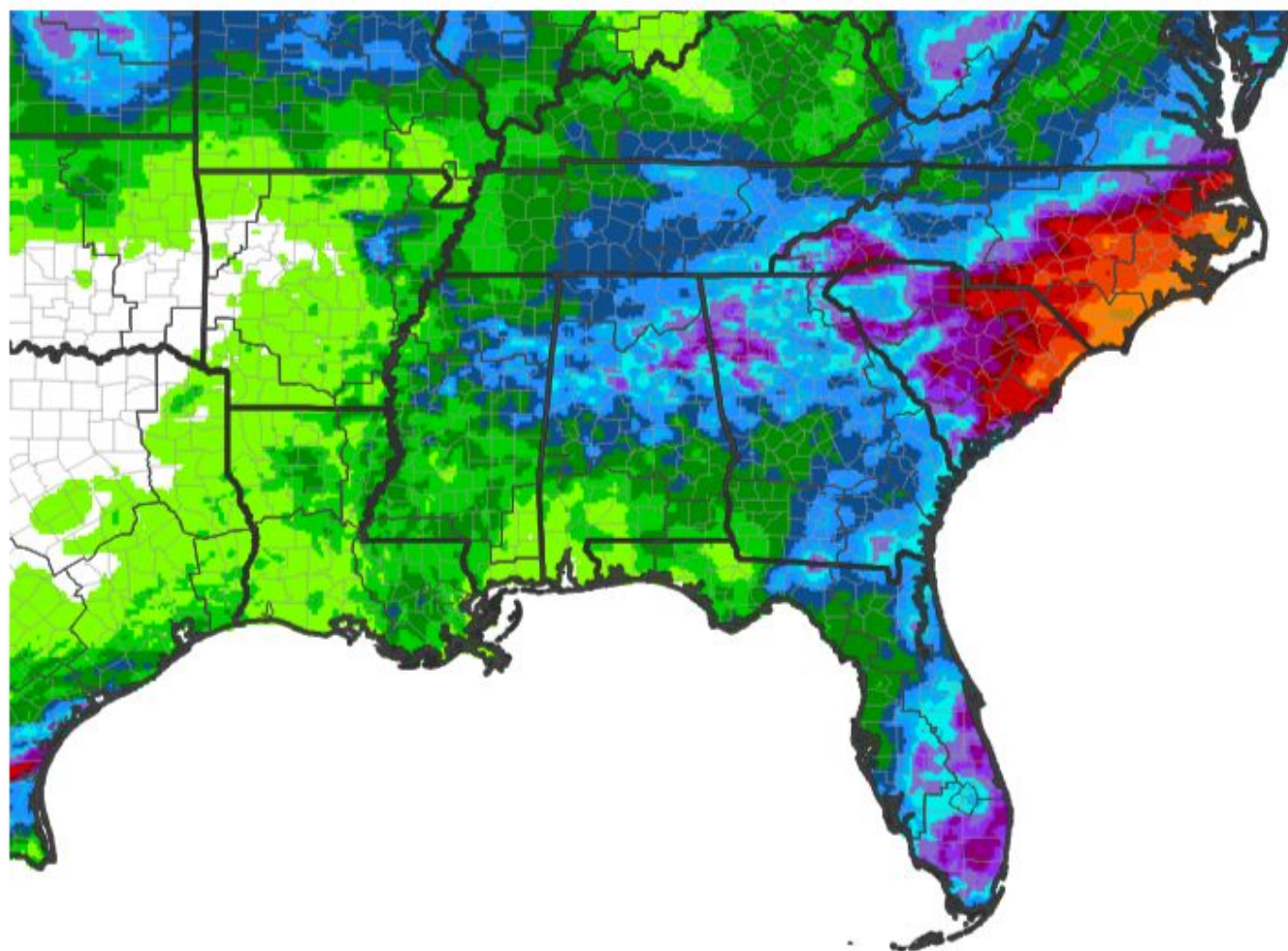




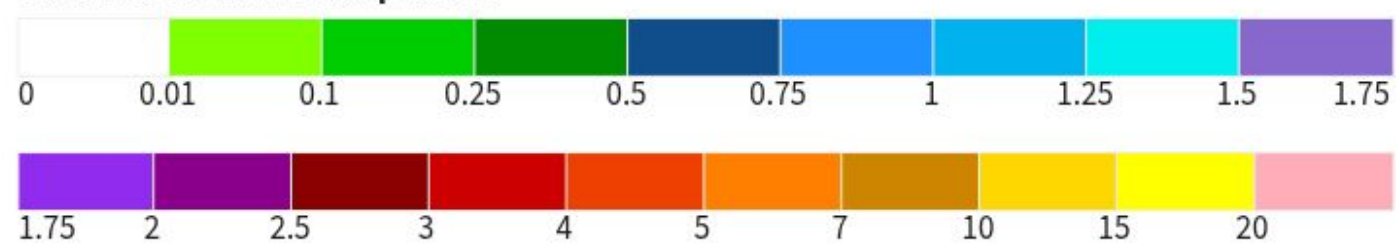
Precipitation Outlook

- Scattered showers and thunderstorms are expected, mainly late in the weekend as a frontal boundary approaches South Central Georgia.
- The longer range pattern is for near to slightly above normal rainfall in the [8-14 day outlook](#) (7/30 - 8/5).

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for July 23, 2026–July 30, 2026



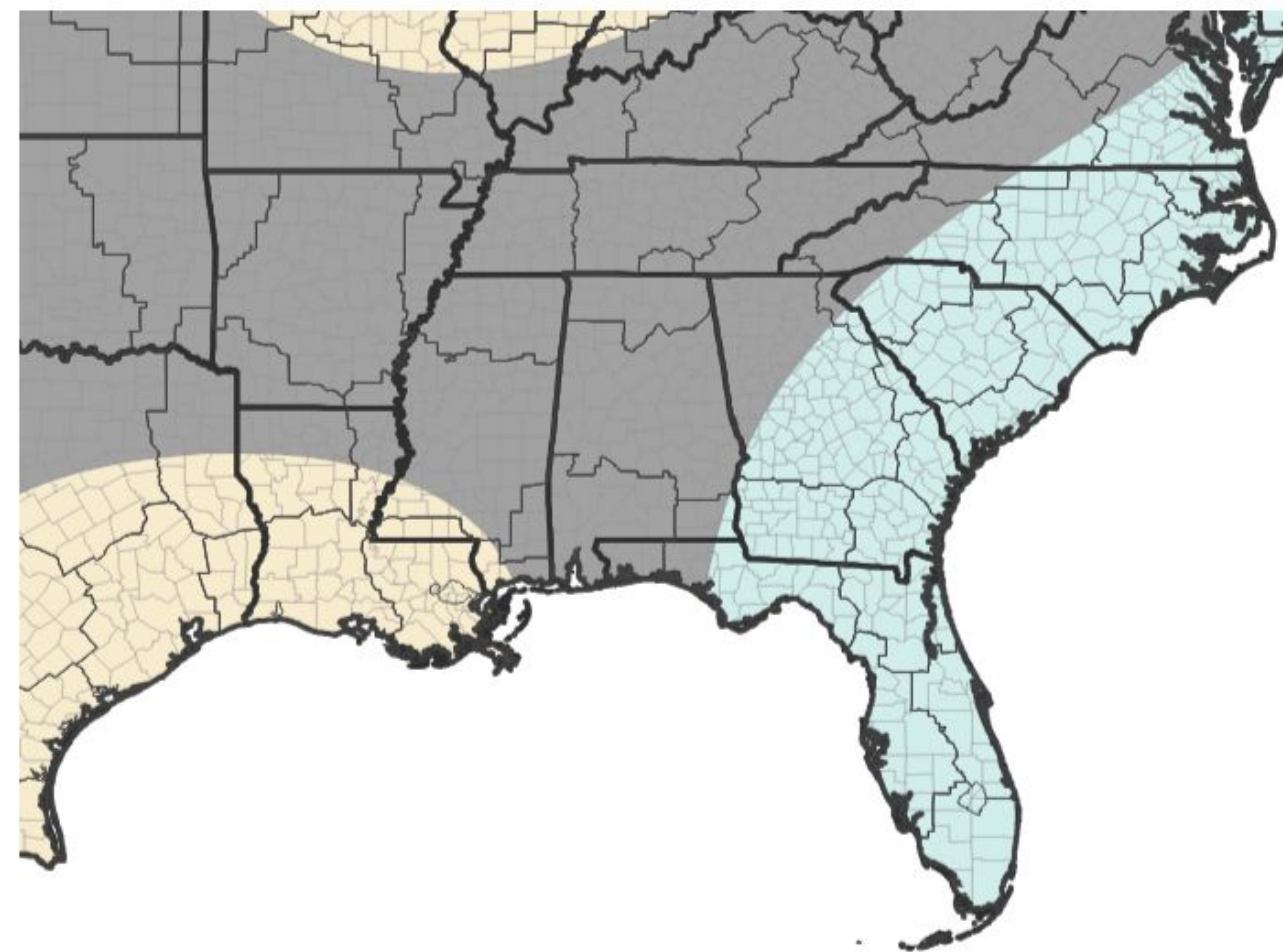
Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 07/23/26

8–14 Day Precipitation Outlook for July 30, 2026–August 5, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



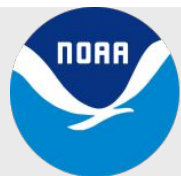
Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



■ Near-Normal Conditions

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

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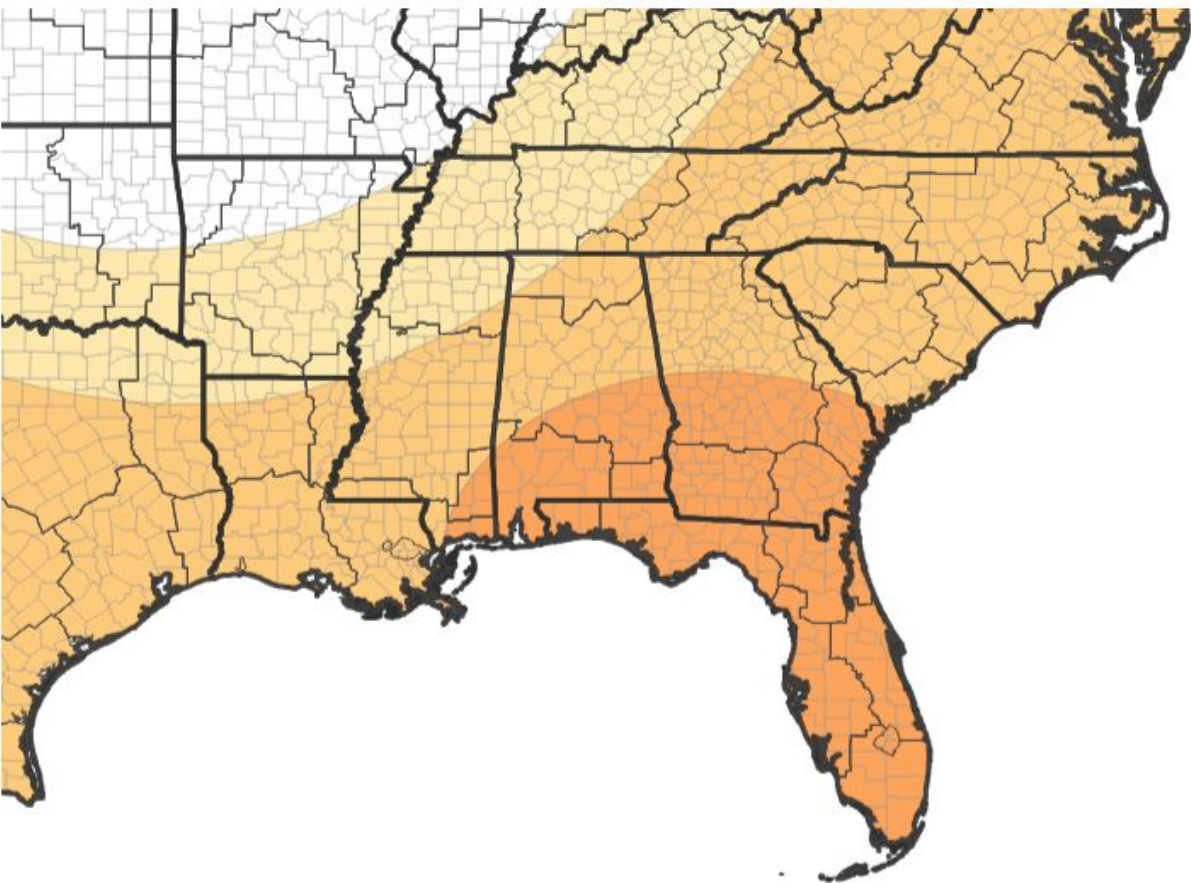


Long-Range Outlooks

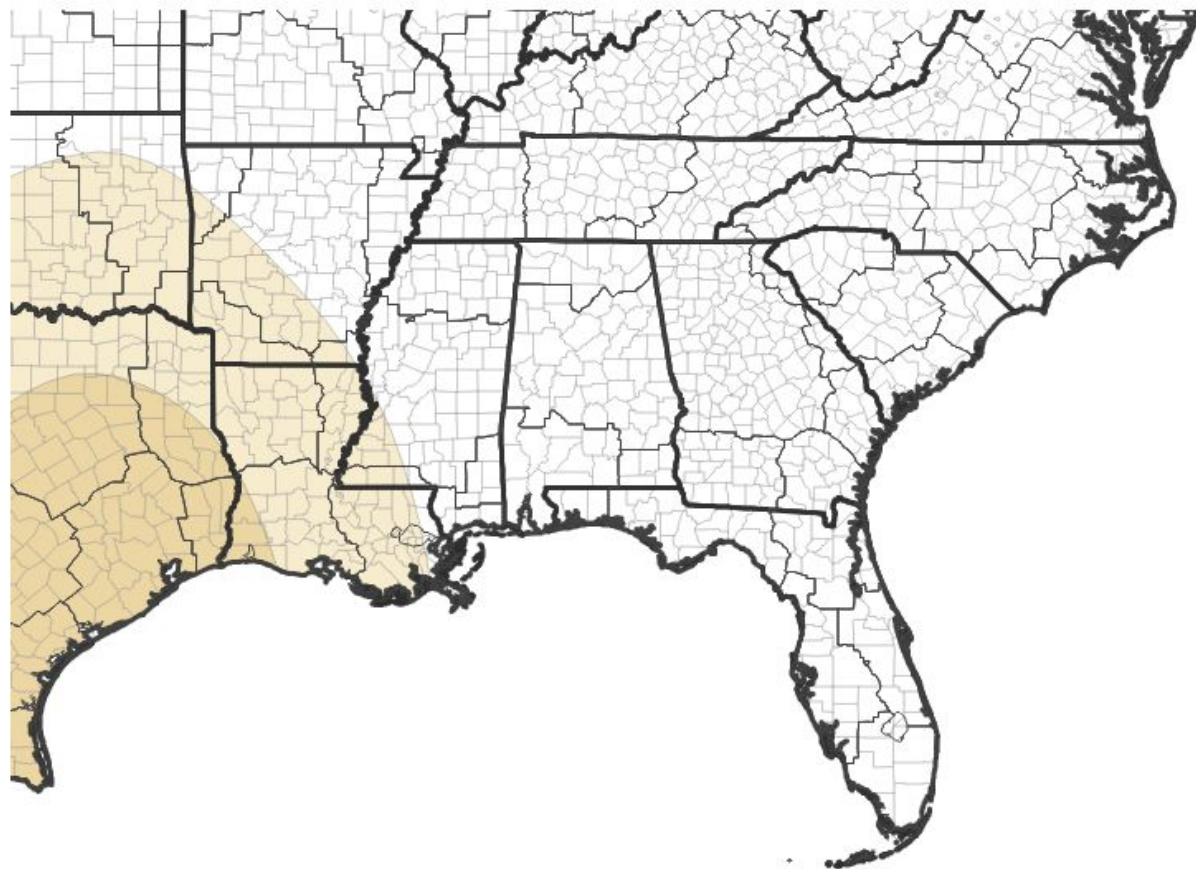
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#).

- The next 3 months favors temperatures much above normal and near normal precipitation.
- With sea breeze season underway drought improvement could continue before reaching September, when drier conditions tend to return.

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for August 1, 2026–October 31, 2026



Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for August 1, 2026–October 31, 2026



Average	August		September		October	
	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain
Tallahassee	82.4°	7.60"	79.1°	4.91"	70.3°	3.24"
Apalachicola	82.2°	7.79"	79.2°	5.38"	71.5°	3.63"
Albany	82.7°	4.83"	78.1°	3.37"	68.9°	2.30"
Valdosta	81.2°	5.11"	77.2°	4.22"	68.6°	3.71"
Marianna	82.1°	4.93"	78.7°	4.06"	69.5°	3.06"
Dothan	82.0°	6.17"	77.9°	3.27"	68.9°	2.70"

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: 07/16/26

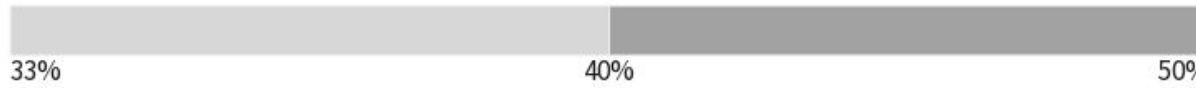
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



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



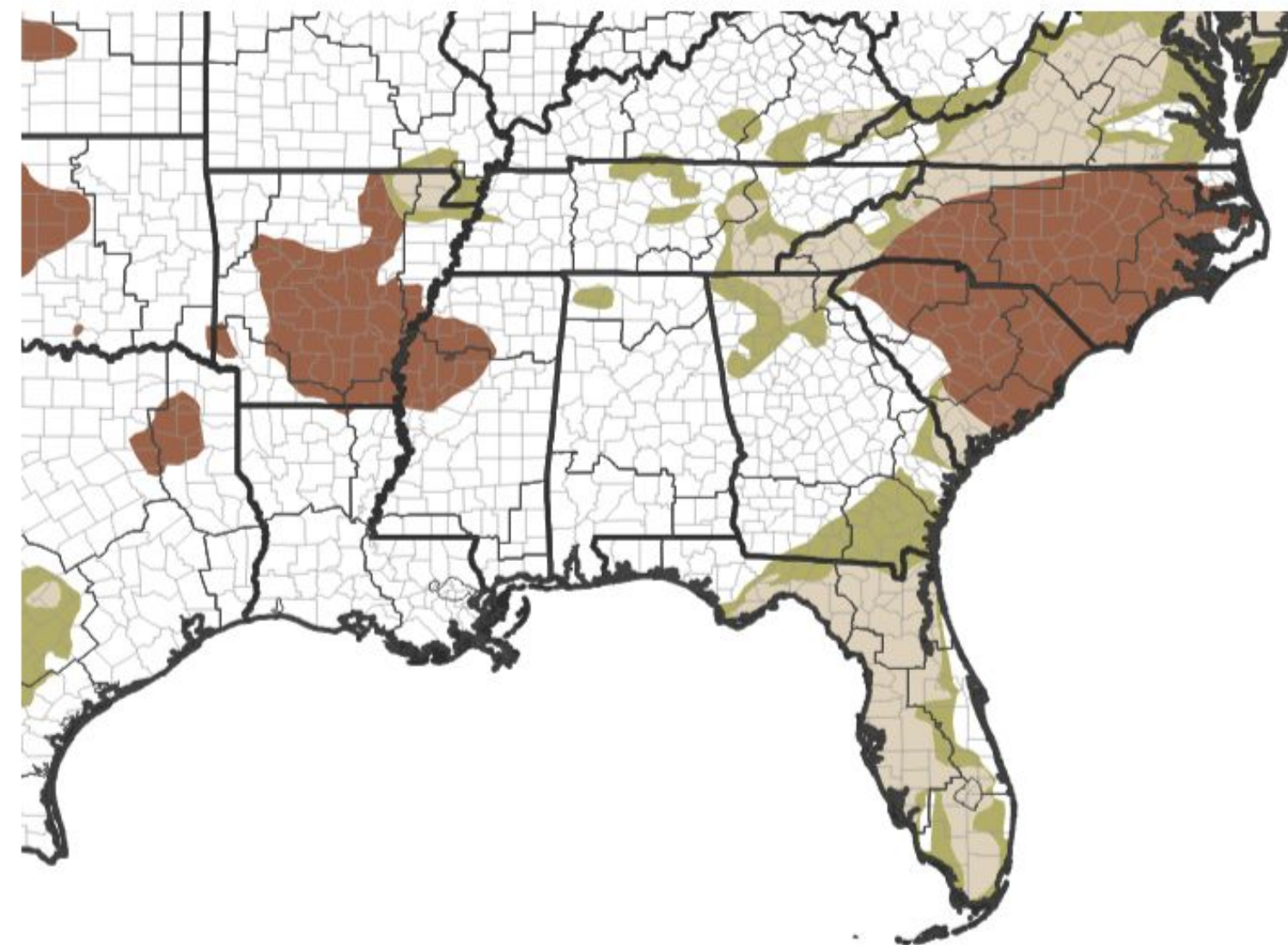


Drought Outlook

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 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 July 16,
2026–October 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



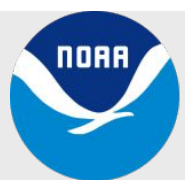
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 07/16/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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