



Drought Information Statement for Southeast AL, Southwest GA, and the FL Panhandle & Big Bend

Valid September 29, 2023

Issued By: WFO Tallahassee, FL

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- This product will be updated October 13, 2023 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/tae/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





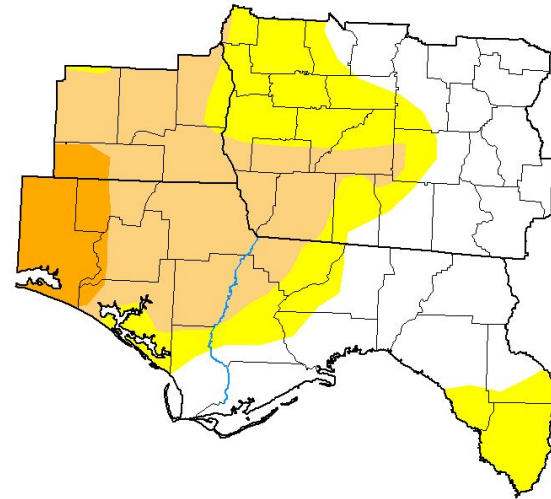
U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for southeast AL, southwest GA, and the FL Panhandle & Big Bend

- Severe drought has developed across the far western Florida Panhandle and parts of southeast Alabama
- Moderate drought continues to spread over more of southeast Alabama, southwest Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle and western Big Bend
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D2 (Severe Drought): generally along and west of the Choctawhatchee River in the Florida Panhandle and into Geneva County, AL
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): much of southeast Alabama, far southwest Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle and western Big Bend
 - D0: (Abnormally Dry): the rest of southwest Georgia, the western Florida Big Bend, and the southeast Florida Big Bend

U.S. Drought Monitor Tallahassee, FL WFO

September 26, 2023
(Released Thursday, Sep. 28, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme 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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NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT September 26.





Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [2-week change map](#) for southeast AL, southwest GA, and the FL Panhandle & Big Bend

- Two Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Much of the Florida Panhandle, southeast Alabama, southwest Georgia, and the southeast Florida Big Bend
 - No Change: parts of southwest Georgia and around the Tri-State area
 - Drought Improved: Lee County, GA

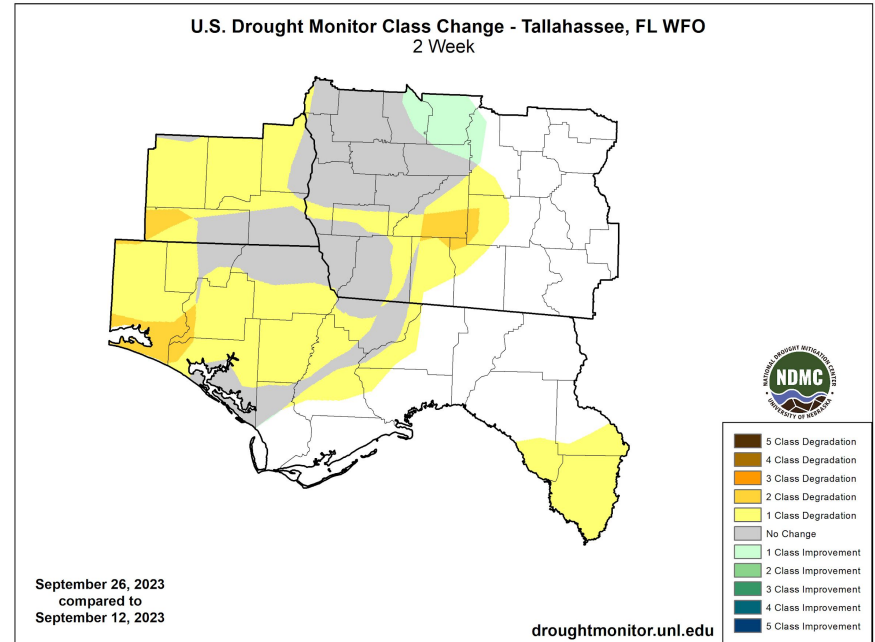


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 2-week change map valid 8am EDT September 26.



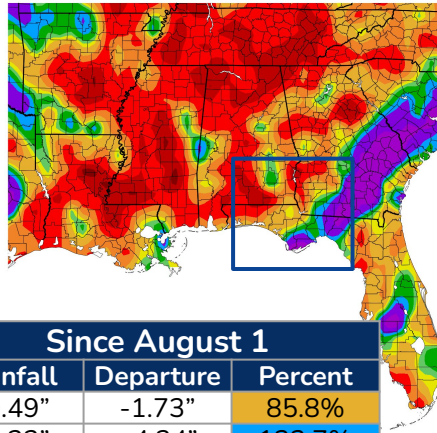


Precipitation

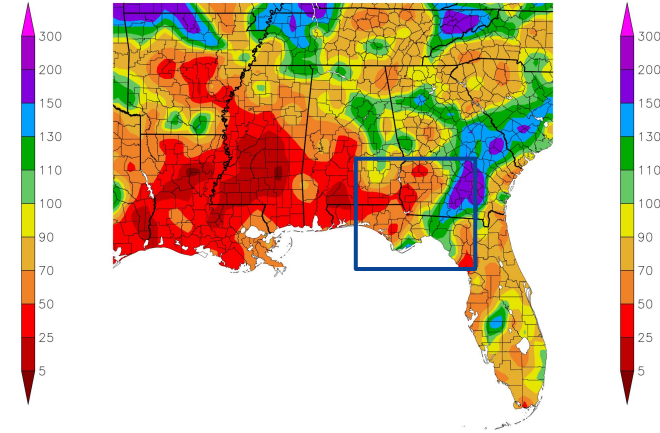
Note: Precipitation after 8 AM EDT/7 AM CDT Tuesday is incorporated in next week's Drought Monitor

- Hurricane Idalia's rainfall footprint remains evident across the eastern Big Bend into south central Georgia.
- However, farther west, rainfall has been lacking, and areas west of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint (ACF) Basin are at or below 50% of normal rainfall for the past 30 and 60 days.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/30/2023 – 9/28/2023



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
7/31/2023 – 9/28/2023



	Since September 1			Since August 1		
	Rainfall	Departure	Percent	Rainfall	Departure	Percent
Tallahassee	5.29"	+0.67"	114.5%	10.49"	-1.73"	85.8%
Apalachicola	10.93"	+5.84"	214.7%	17.22"	+4.34"	133.7%
Cross City	3.52"	-2.03"	63.4%	14.33"	+0.68"	105.0%
Albany	2.53"	-0.71"	78.1%	7.03"	-1.04"	87.1%
Valdosta	4.40"	+0.39"	109.7%	15.37"	+6.25"	168.5%
Panama City	4.43"	-0.42"	91.3%	7.18"	-4.80"	59.9%
Marianna	4.67"	+0.84"	121.9%	6.81"	-1.95"	77.7%
Dothan	2.61"	-0.47"	84.7%	5.11"	-4.14"	55.2%
DeFuniak Springs	0.73"	-4.91"	13.0%	4.25"	-8.34"	33.8%
Geneva	0.94"	-3.83"	19.7%	2.00"	-8.20"	19.6%
Quincy	2.71"	-2.97"	47.7%	7.33"	-4.40"	62.5%

NOAA Regional Climate Centers 23 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Center.

Image Captions:
Left - 30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation for the Southeast US
Right - 60-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation for the Southeast US
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center and Southeast Regional Climate Center.

Data over the past 30 and 60 days ending September 28, 2023



Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- The Shoal River at Mossy Head is much below normal. Below normal streamflows continue along several rivers from the ACF Basin westward.

Agricultural Impacts

- Alabama: none reported
- Florida: none reported
- Georgia: Difficulty digging peanuts in SW GA dryland fields. Report of wetlands drying up and water table lowering in Cook County.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index values over 600 for southeast AL, southwest GA, and far western FL Panhandle.
- 7-day Significant Fire Potential Outlook indicates moderate to high fire potential over the next week.

Other Impacts

- The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Office of Water Resources (ADECA OWR) has declared a Drought Watch for Drought Region 8, which includes Coffee, Dale, Geneva, Henry, and Houston Counties. ADECA's latest Drought Declaration can be found [here](#).

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow from the ACF Basin westward are generally running near or below normal.
- Much below normal streamflows:
 - Shoal River at Mossy Head
- Below normal streamflows: parts of the Choctawhatchee, Flint, Ichawaynochaway, Spring Creek, Ochlockonee, and Apalachicola

	14-Day Average Streamflow Percentile	28-Day Average Streamflow Percentile
Shoal River at Mossy Head	3.1%	2.0%
Choctawhatchee River at Caryville	21.9%	19.5%
Choctawhatchee River at Bruce	14.8%	17.1%
Flint River at Albany	13.3%	12.7%
Flint River at Bainbridge	19.8%	19.8%
Apalachicola River at Chipola Cutoff	23.2%	25.9%
Ichawaynochaway River at Milford	36.8%	18.7%
Spring Creek at Iron City	26.8%	22.3%

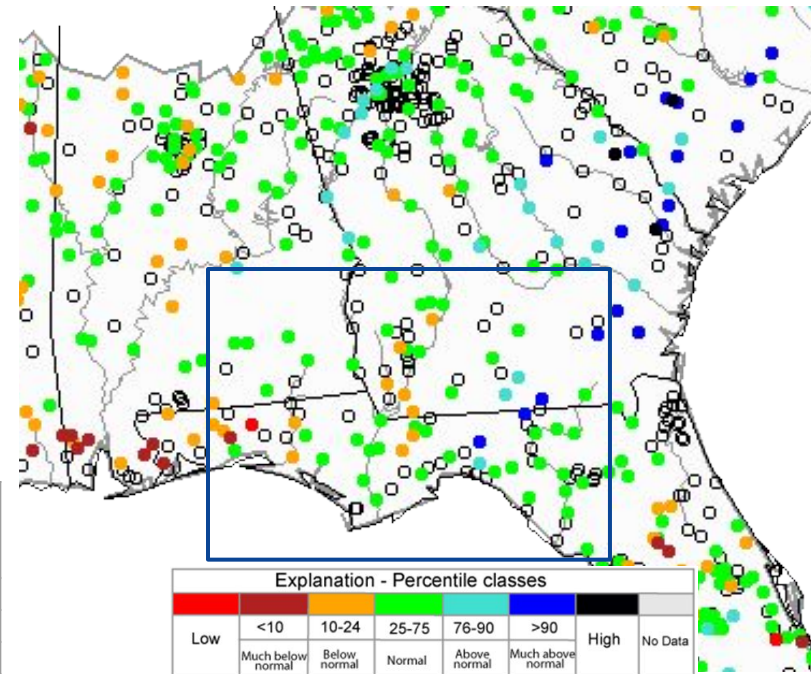


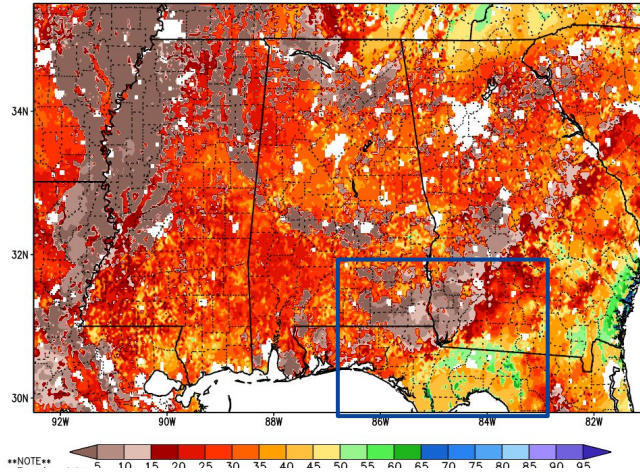
Image Caption: USGS 28 day average streamflow map valid September 29, 2023



Agricultural Impacts

- Soils remain very dry along and west of the Flint River
- Soils have been generally drying across southwest Georgia, southeast Alabama, the far western Florida Panhandle, and the southeast Big Bend over the last 2 weeks.
- Farmers in southwest GA have reported difficulty digging peanuts in dryland fields and declining water tables.

0–100 cm Relative Soil Moisture (available water; %) valid 12z 29 Sep 2023
Precipitation in previous hour (1,2,5,10,15,20,25 mm contours)



2–Week Difference in Column Relative Soil Moisture (%) valid 12z 29 Sep 2023

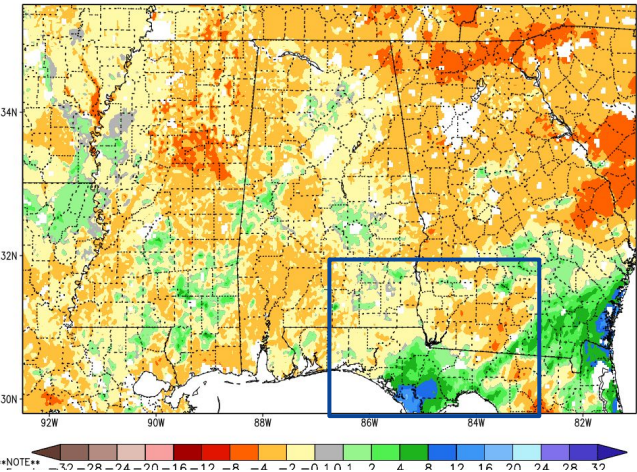


Image Captions:

Left: 0-100 cm Relative Soil Moisture valid September 29, 2023
Right: 0-100 cm Relative Soil Moisture 2-week Change valid through September 29, 2023

2023 Crop Reports
[Alabama](#) | [Florida](#) | [Georgia](#)





Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index values remain above 600 in the far western FL Panhandle, southeast AL, and parts of southwest GA.
- Significant fire potential remains moderate to high for the next week with the higher threat being for wind across south Alabama.
- The outlook for October calls for near normal wildfire potential across southeast Alabama, southwest Georgia, and north Florida.

7-Day Significant Fire Potential Outlook from the Southern Area Coordination Center

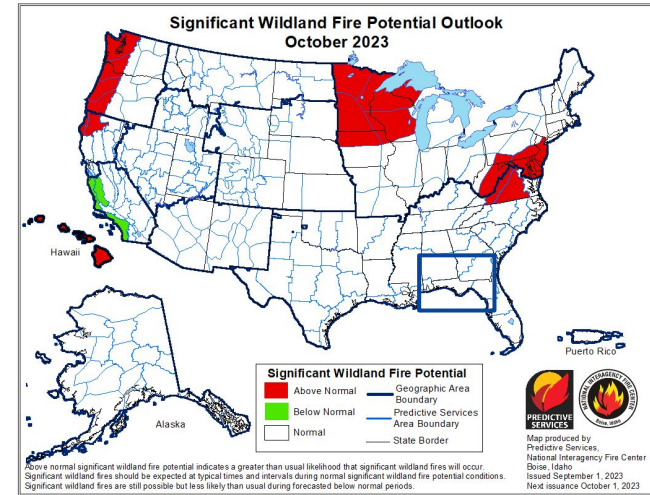
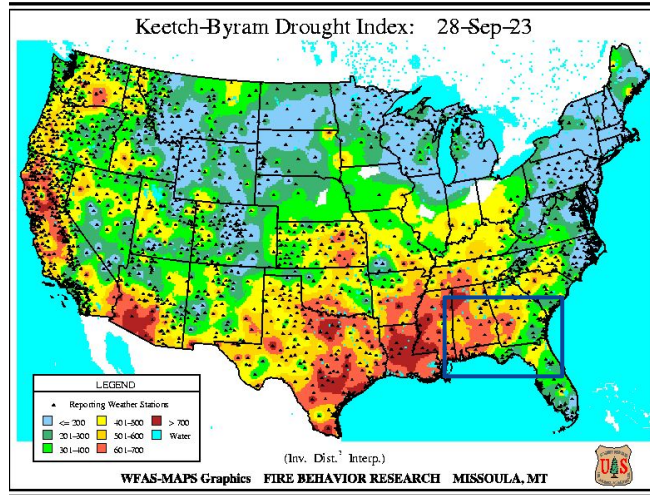


Image Captions:
 Left - Keetch-Byram Drought Index valid September 28, 2023 (Wildland Fire Assessment System)
 Right - Significant Wildland Fire Potential for October 2023 (National Interagency Coordination Center)





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Little to no rainfall is forecast during the next 7 days.

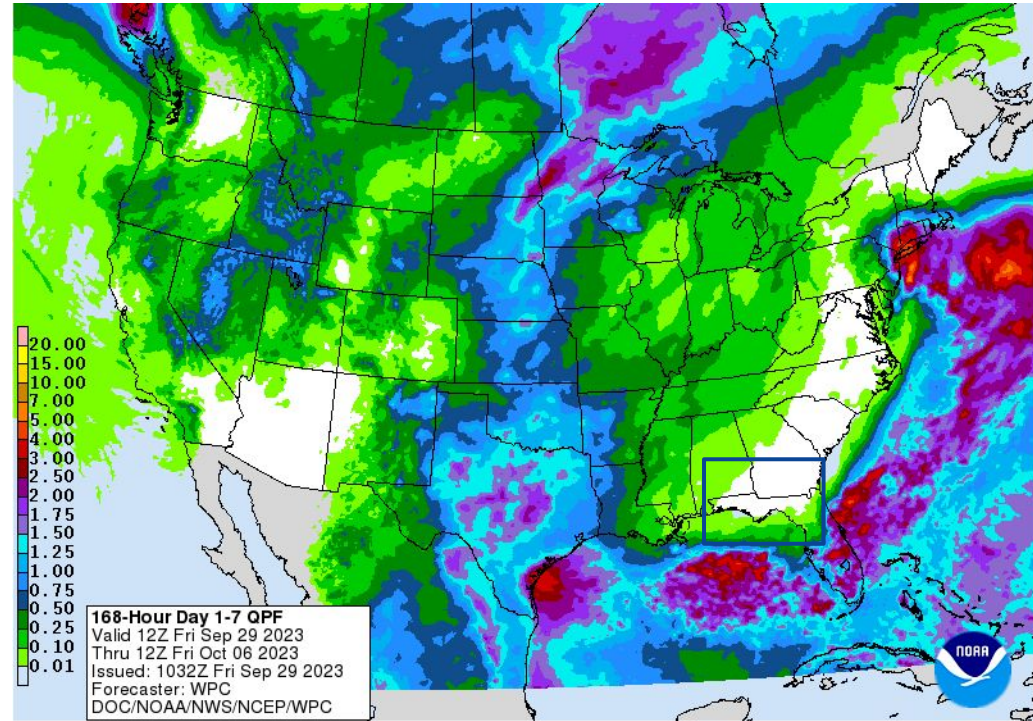


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Friday, September 29 through Friday, October 6

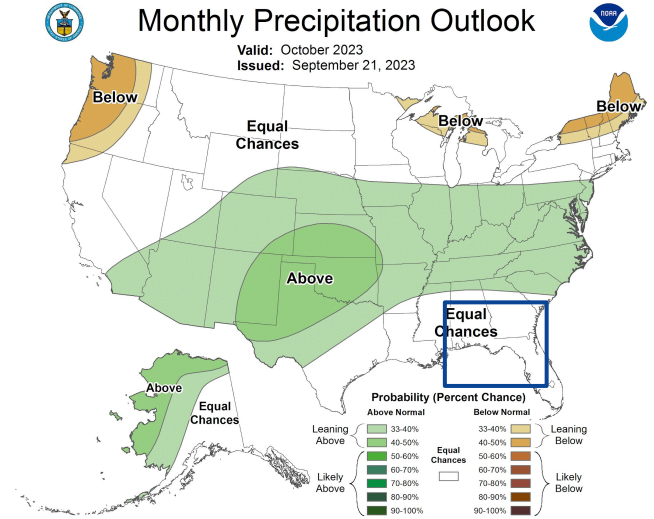
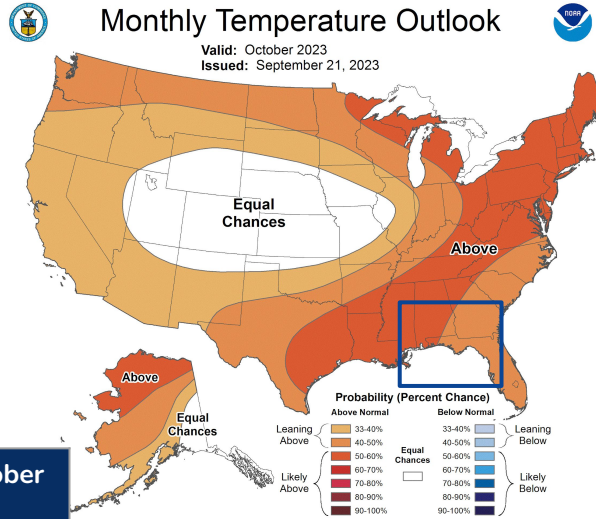




Long-Range Outlooks

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

- The October outlook favors above normal temperatures but equal chances for below, near, or above average rainfall.
- Climatologically, October and November are drier months across the forecast area.



	Average October Temperature	Average October Rainfall
Tallahassee	70.3°	3.24"
Apalachicola	71.5°	3.63"
Cross City	71.0°	2.23"
Albany	68.9°	2.30"
Valdosta	68.6°	3.71"
Marianna	69.5°	3.06"
Dothan	68.9°	2.70"

Image Captions:
 Left - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook](#),
 Right - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook](#),
 Valid October 2023



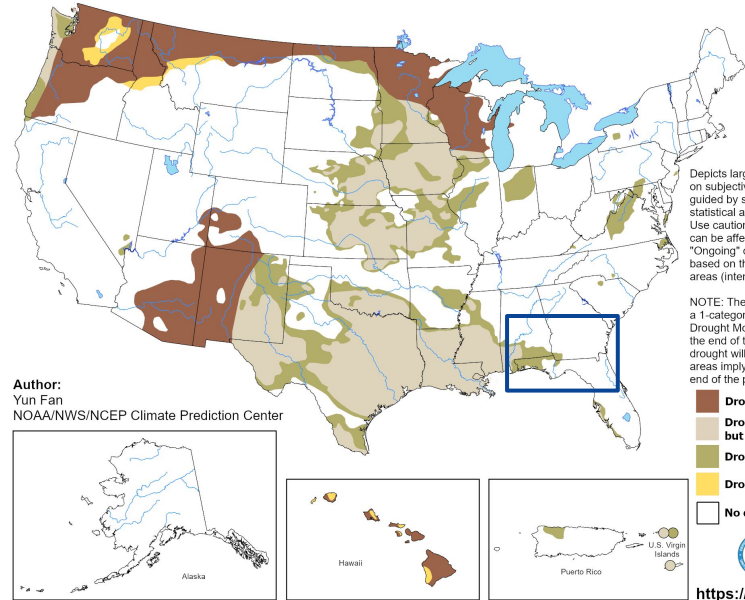
Drought Outlook

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

- The seasonal drought outlook shows that drought removal appears likely heading into the next few months.

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for September 21 - December 31, 2023
Released September 21, 2023



Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

Image Caption:
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released September 21, 2023 valid for September 21, 2023 through December 31, 2023



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Tallahassee, FL