



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

Valid October 12, 2023

Issued By: WFO Tallahassee, FL

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

- This product will be updated October 27, 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.





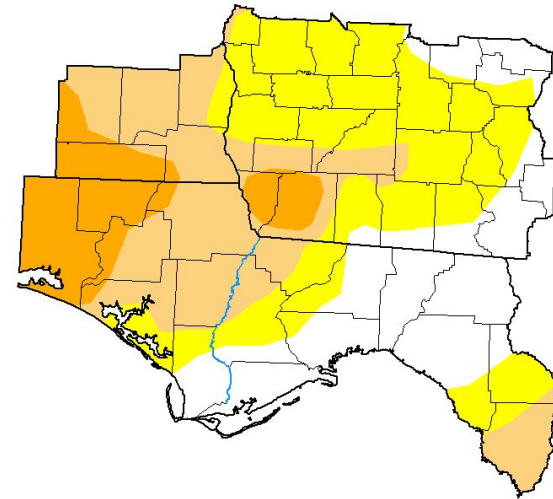
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Severe drought has spread farther east into southeast Alabama and the Florida Panhandle and has developed in southwest Georgia.
- Moderate drought has developed in the southeast FL Big Bend.
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D2 (Severe Drought): From Geneva/Houston County line westward in Southeast AL and the FL Panhandle and in far southwest GA
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): much of southeast Alabama, far southwest Georgia, and the Florida Panhandle and western Big Bend, and southeast FL 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

October 10, 2023
(Released Thursday, Oct. 12, 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>.

Author:

Brad Pugh
CPC/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT October 10.





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: Coffee and Geneva Counties in AL, Holmes County in FL, much southwest GA, and the southeast FL Big Bend.
 - No Change: rest of the area
 - Drought Improved: none

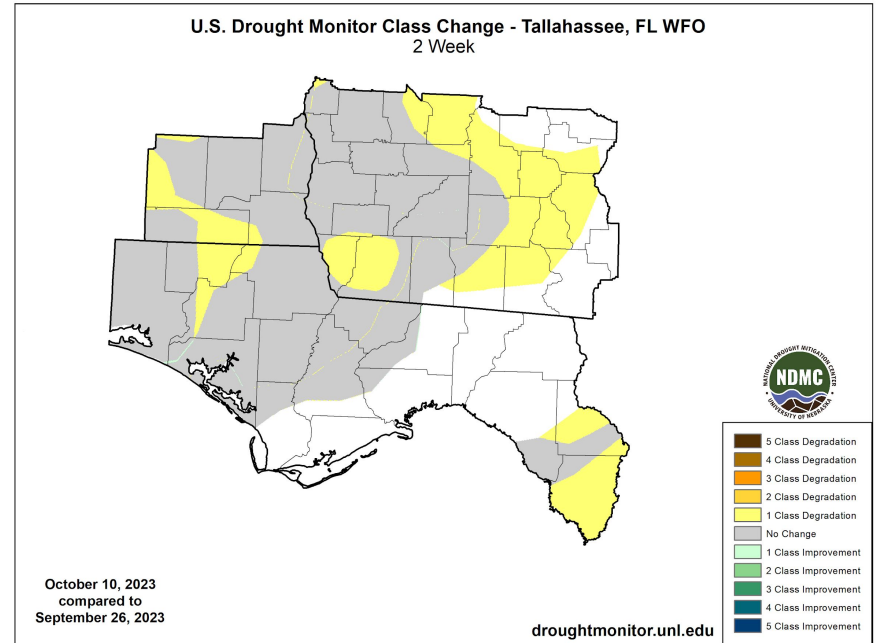


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 2-week change map valid 8am EDT October 10.



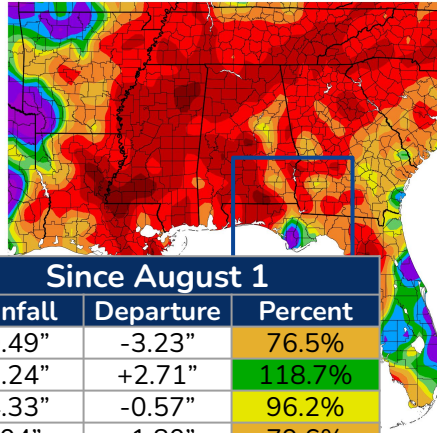


Precipitation

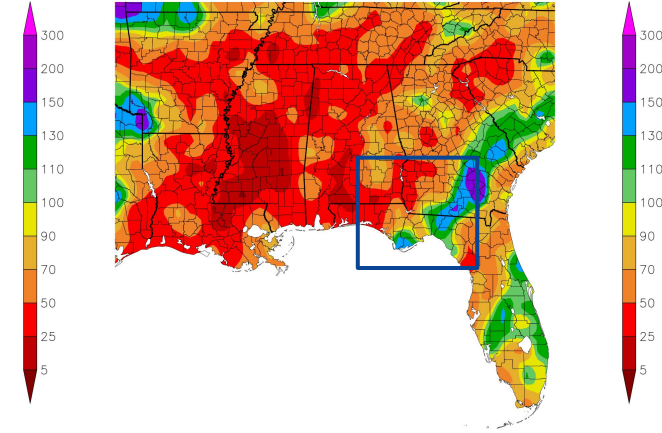
Note: Precipitation after 8 AM EDT/7 AM CDT Tuesday is incorporated in next week's Drought Monitor

- Most areas have remained dry since Hurricane Idalia at the end of August.
- Most areas west of the ACF Basin are running less than 50% of normal for the last 30 and 60 days.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/11/2023 – 10/10/2023



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/12/2023 – 10/10/2023



	Since September 1			Since August 1		
	Rainfall	Departure	Percent	Rainfall	Departure	Percent
Tallahassee	5.29"	-0.83"	86.4%	10.49"	-3.23"	76.5%
Apalachicola	10.95"	+4.21"	162.5%	17.24"	+2.71"	118.7%
Cross City	3.52"	-3.28"	51.8%	14.33"	-0.57"	96.2%
Albany	2.54"	-1.47"	63.3%	7.04"	-1.80"	79.6%
Valdosta	4.40"	-1.09"	80.2%	15.37"	+4.77"	145.0%
Panama City	4.43"	-1.86"	70.4%	7.18"	-6.24"	53.5%
Marianna	4.67"	+0.43"	91.6%	6.81"	-3.22"	67.9%
Dothan	2.72"	-1.41"	84.7%	5.22"	-5.08"	50.7%
DeFuniak Springs	0.73"	-5.18"	12.4%	4.25"	-7.84"	35.2%
Geneva	1.01"	-5.43"	15.7%	2.00"	-9.80"	17.4%
Quincy	2.71"	-4.77"	36.2%	7.33"	-6.20"	54.2%

Rainfall data as of 10/10/2023

NOAA Regional Climate Centers J23 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 October 10, 2023



Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Many rivers along and west of the ACF basin are running below to well-below normal streamflows.
- Record low 7- and 14-day streamflows along the Shoal River at Mossy Head.

Agricultural Impacts

- Alabama: Rain needed to help finish peanut harvest, but losses possible for late-planted soybeans
- Florida: none reported
- Georgia: Dry soils continue to make peanut harvest difficult. Supplemental feeding and early hay feeding occurring due to poor pasture conditions.

Fire Hazard Impacts

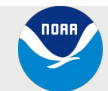
- Keetch-Byram Drought Index values over 600 for southeast AL, southwest GA, and far western FL Panhandle, some spots at or above 700.
- The Alabama Forestry Commission has issued a [Fire Alert](#) for the entire state of Alabama.

Other Impacts

- The Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs Office of Water Resources (ADECA OWR) has declared a Drought Warning for Geneva County and a Drought Watch for Coffee, Dale, Henry, and Houston Counties. The declaration can be found [here](#).

Mitigation Actions

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





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Most rivers along and west of the ACF basin are below to well-below average streamflows.
- The 7- and 14-day average streamflows for the Shoal River at Mossy Head are the lowest on record for this time of year.

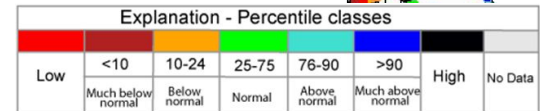
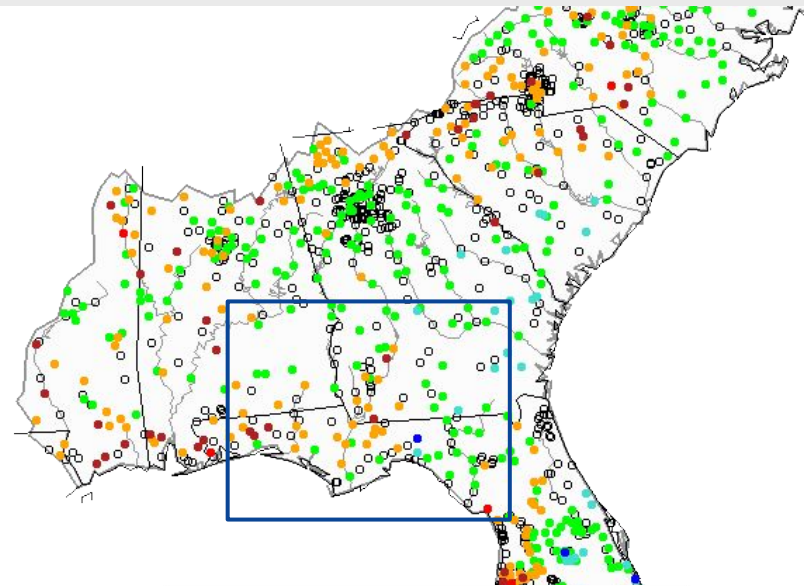


Image Caption: USGS 28 day average streamflow map valid October 12, 2023

	7-Day Average Streamflow Percentile	14-Day Average Streamflow Percentile	28-Day Average Streamflow Percentile
Shoal River at Mossy Head	2.0%	2.0%	2.8%
Choctawhatchee River at Newton	9.7%	12.5%	15.3%
Choctawhatchee River at Caryville	11.5%	9.5%	14.8%
Flint River at Albany	3.3%	3.7%	7.6%
Flint River at Bainbridge	8.2%	11.1%	13.0%
Little Attapulgus Creek at Attapulgus	8.2%	14.5%	12.3%
St. Marks River at Newport	6.0%	9.6%	12.4%

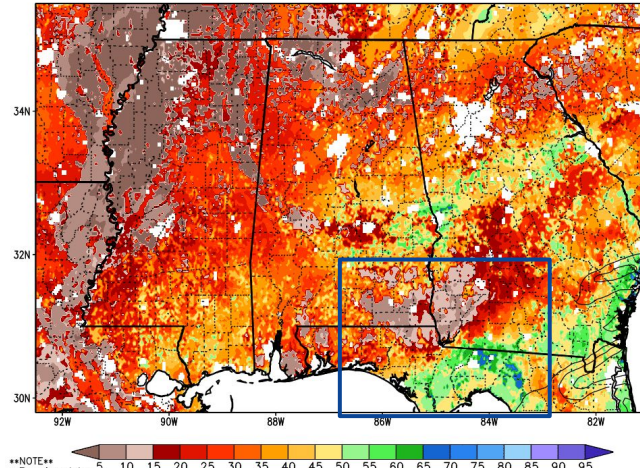




Agricultural Impacts

- Soils remain very dry along and west of the Flint River
- Soils have been generally drying area-wide, with a greater rate of drying in the last couple weeks in south Georgia and the Florida Big Bend. However, yesterday's and today's rain has wet the soils more, but this is not incorporated this week.
- Farmers in southeast AL & southwest GA have reported difficulty digging peanuts in dryland fields and declining water tables.

0-100 cm Relative Soil Moisture (available water; %) valid 18z 12 Oct 2023
Precipitation in previous hour (1,2,5,10,15,20,25 mm contours)



2-Week Difference in Column Relative Soil Moisture (%) valid 18z 12 Oct 2023

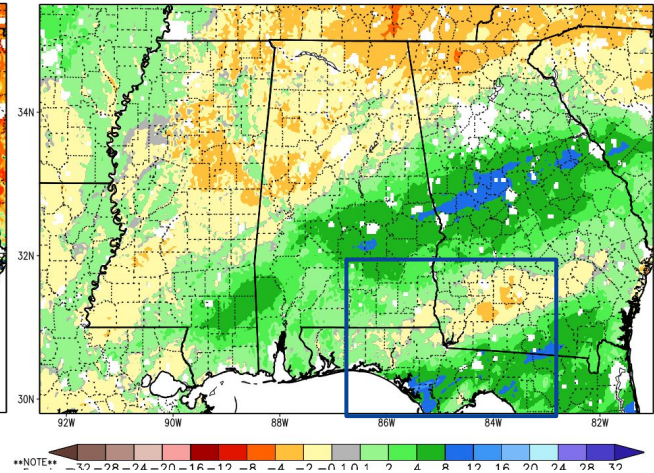


Image Captions:
Left: 0-100 cm Relative Soil Moisture from NASA SPoRT valid October 12, 2023
Right: 0-100 cm Relative Soil Moisture 2-week Change from NASA SPoRT valid through October 12, 2023

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 with some pockets above 700.
- There's been a recent uptick in the number of wildfires due to drought conditions combined with low humidity and gusty winds.
- The outlook for October calls for above normal wildfire potential in southeast Alabama and near normal elsewhere.

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

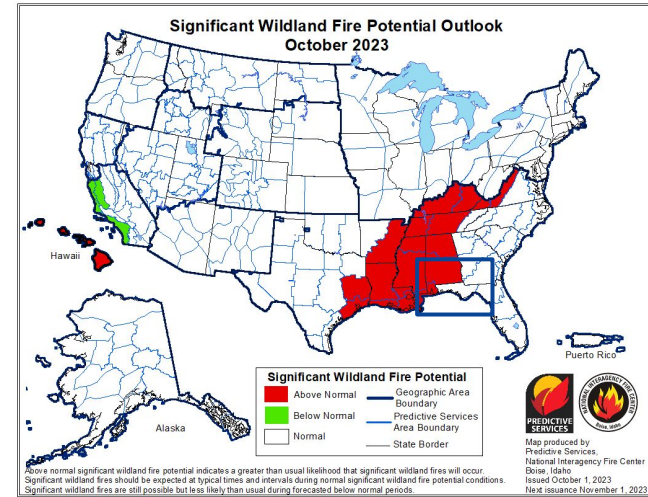
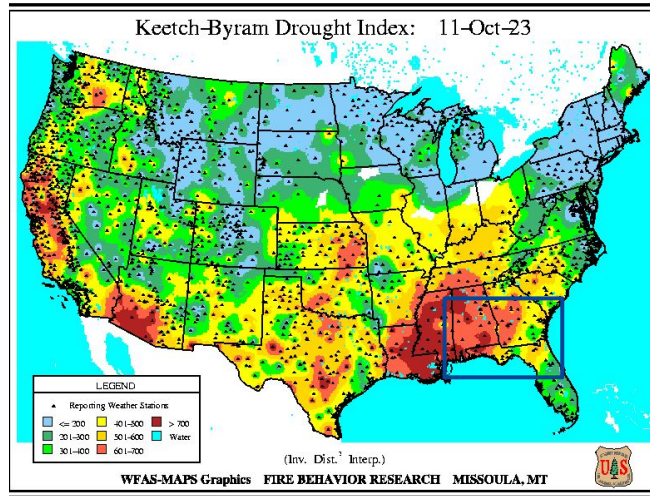


Image Captions:
 Left - Keetch-Byram Drought Index valid October 11, 2023 (Wildland Fire Assessment System)
 Right - Significant Wildland Fire Potential for October 2023 (National Interagency Coordination Center)





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

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

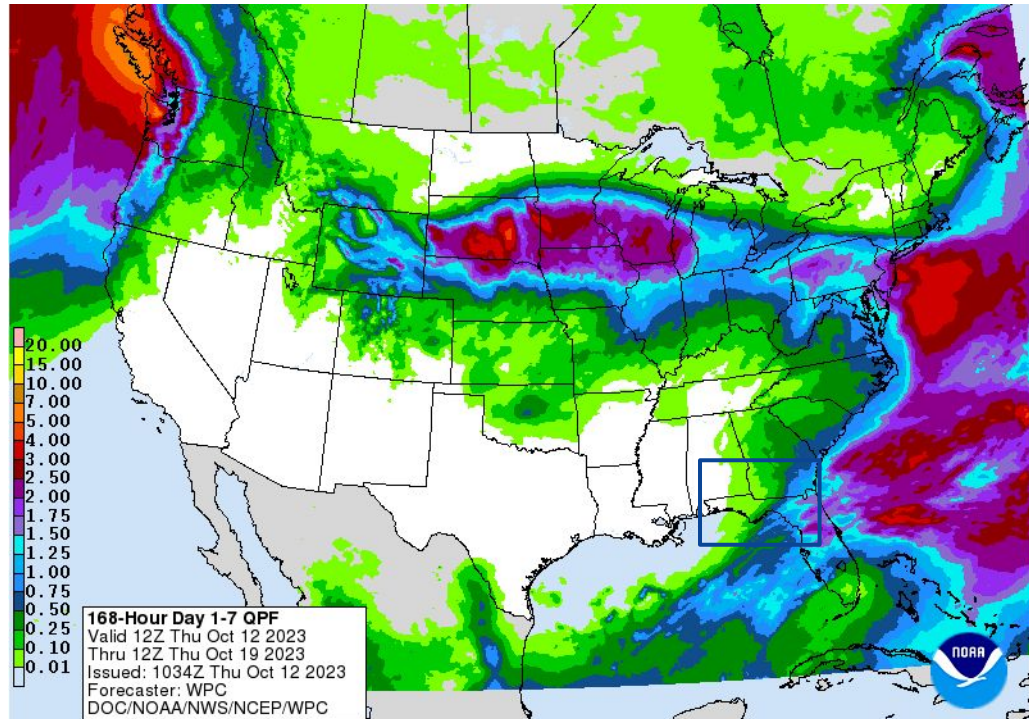


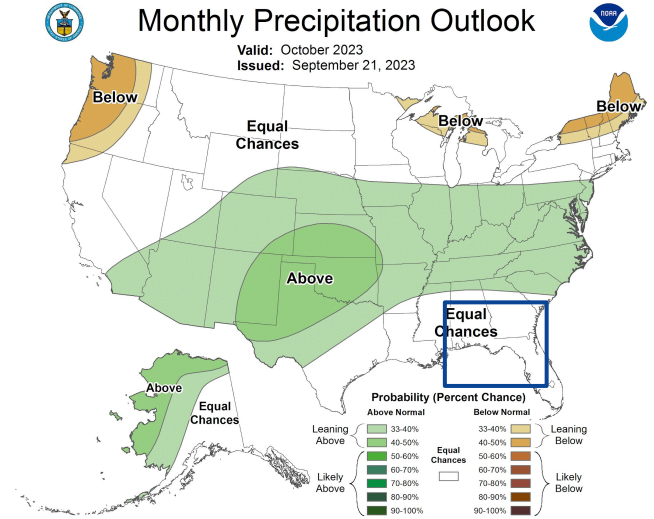
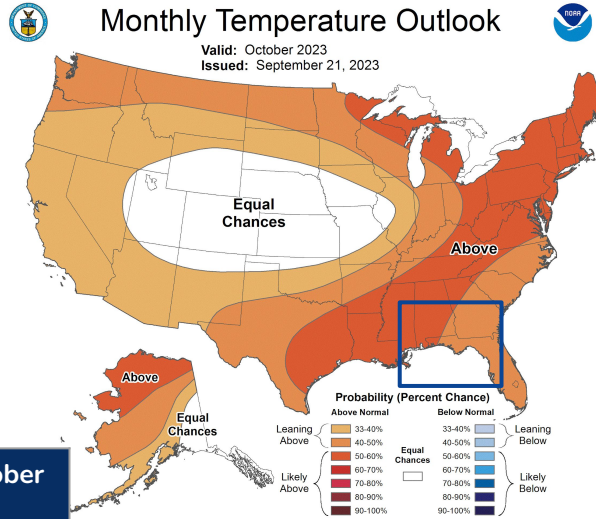
Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Thursday, October 12 through Thursday, October 19



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

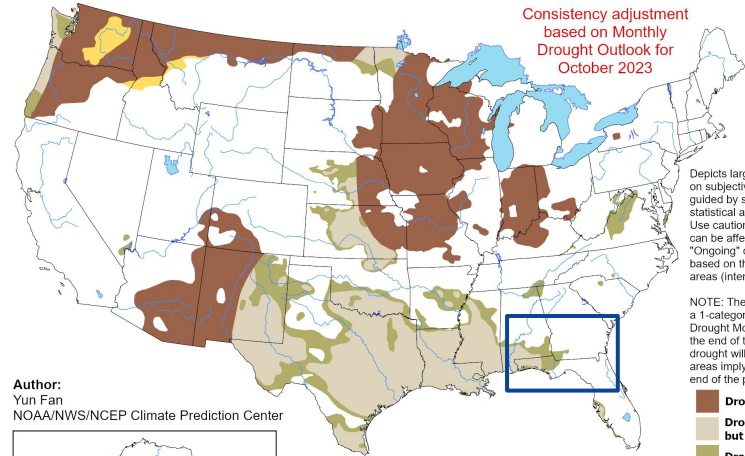
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- 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 October 1 - December 31, 2023
Released September 30, 2023

Consistency adjustment
based on Monthly
Drought Outlook for
October 2023

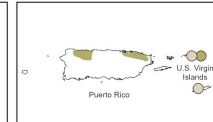
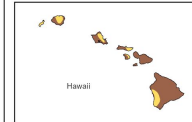


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. *Ongoing* drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists**
- Drought remains, but improves**
- Drought removal likely**
- Drought development likely**
- No drought**

Author:
Yun Fan
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Tallahassee, FL

Image Caption:
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released September 30, 2023 valid for September 21, 2023 through December 31, 2023