



United States Department of Agriculture

Water and Climate Update

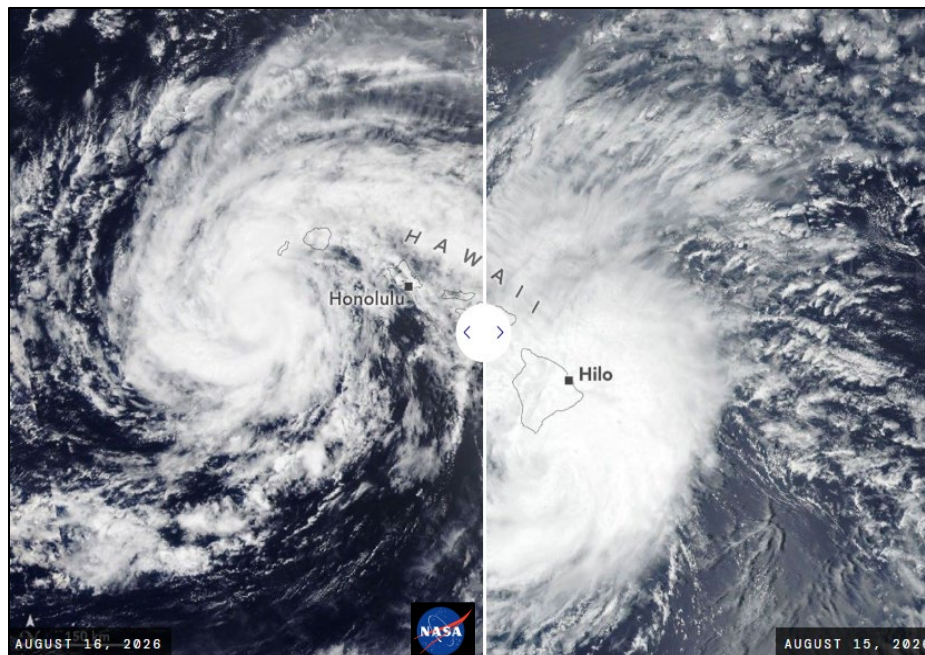
August 20, 2026

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) produces this weekly report using data and products from the [National Water and Climate Center](#) and other agencies. The report focuses on seasonal snowpack, precipitation, temperature, and drought conditions in the U.S.

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Hurricane Lala brushes by Hawaii but causes major damage



Between August 15-16, Hurricane Lala passed to the south of the Hawaiian Islands as a Category 1 hurricane without making landfall before being downgraded to a tropical storm. The associated high winds, heavy rainfall, and flooding were devastating as over 100 homes were destroyed, and several roads were washed away or blocked by landslides, flood waters, fallen trees, and downed power lines. The Big Island endured the heaviest rainfall and highest winds, with Laupāhoehoe in North Hilo receiving just over 43 inches of rain and Mauna Kea's summit measuring wind gusts up to 140 mph. The National Hurricane Center is currently monitoring a Tropical depression developing southeast of the islands, which may bring additional rainfall and strong winds to the islands later this week.

Related:

[Lala Batters Hawaii](#) – NASA Earth Observatory

[Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook](#) – NOAA National Hurricane Center

[Hurricane Lala Dumped Over 3 Feet Of Rain In Parts Of Hawaii](#) – Forbes Magazine

[Lala's Wrath: Homes Swept Away, Some Power Outages May Last Months](#) – Hawaii Civil Beat

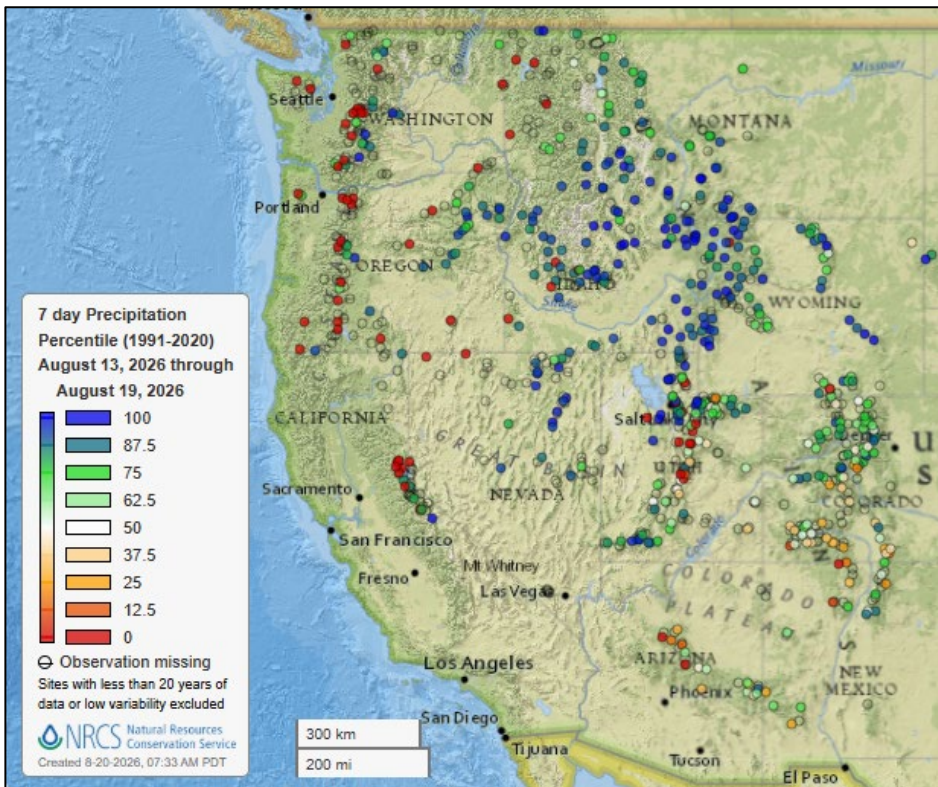
[Hawaii faces another flood threat from future Tropical Storm Moke one week after Hurricane Lala](#) –

The Weather Channel

The NRCS delivers practical, voluntary, and locally led conservation solutions that help producers conserve natural resources, strengthen agricultural production, and keep working lands productive for generations to come.

Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

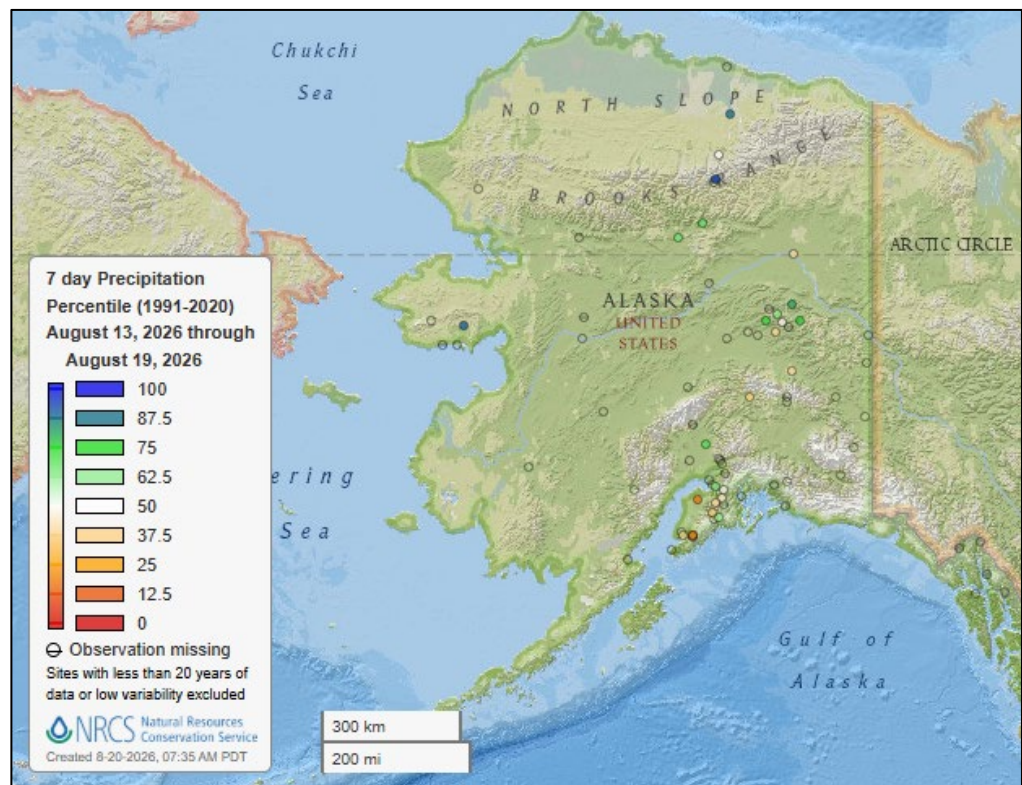


[7-day precipitation
percentile map](#)

See also:
[7-day total precipitation
values \(inches\) map](#)

[Alaska 7-day
precipitation
percentile map](#)

See also:
[Alaska 7-day
total
precipitation
values \(inches\)
map](#)



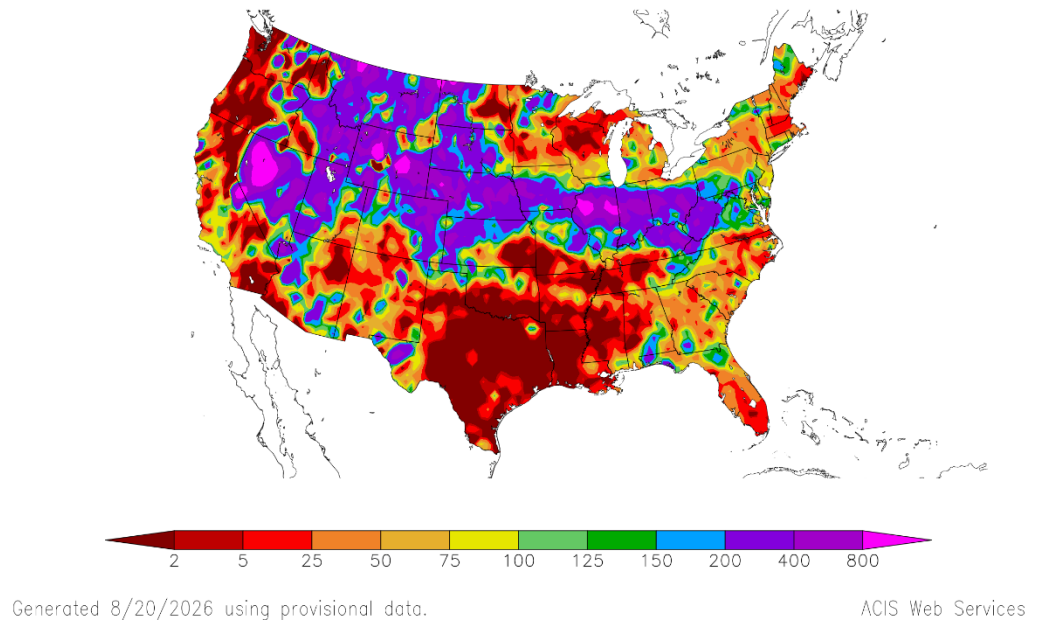
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day precipitation percent of normal map](#) for the continental U.S.

See also: [7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/13/2026 – 8/19/2026



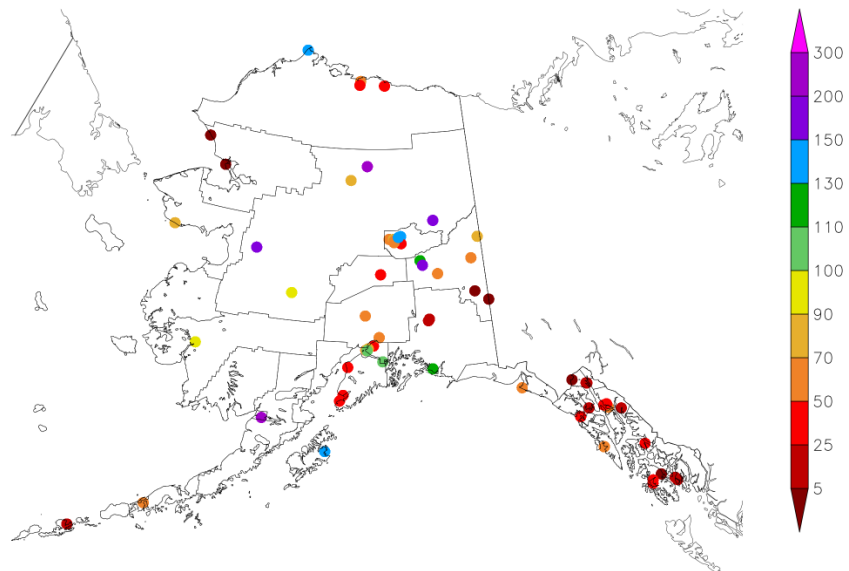
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day precipitation percent of normal map](#) for Alaska.

See also: [7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/13/2026 – 8/19/2026



Month-to-Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

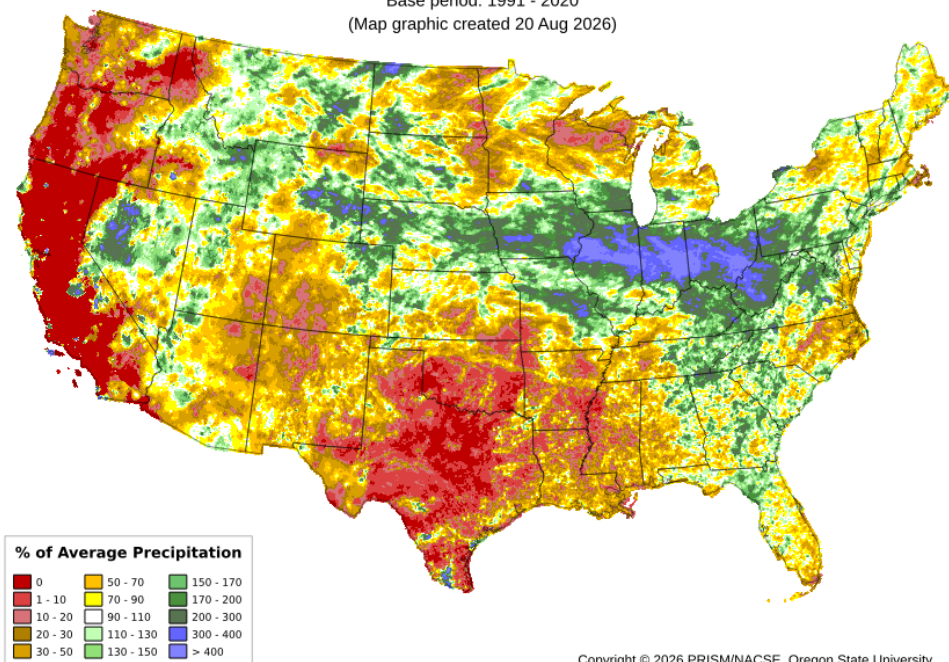
Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 Aug 2026 - 19 Aug 2026

Period ending 7 AM EST 19 Aug 2026

Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 20 Aug 2026)

[Month-to-date national total precipitation anomaly map](#)



Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

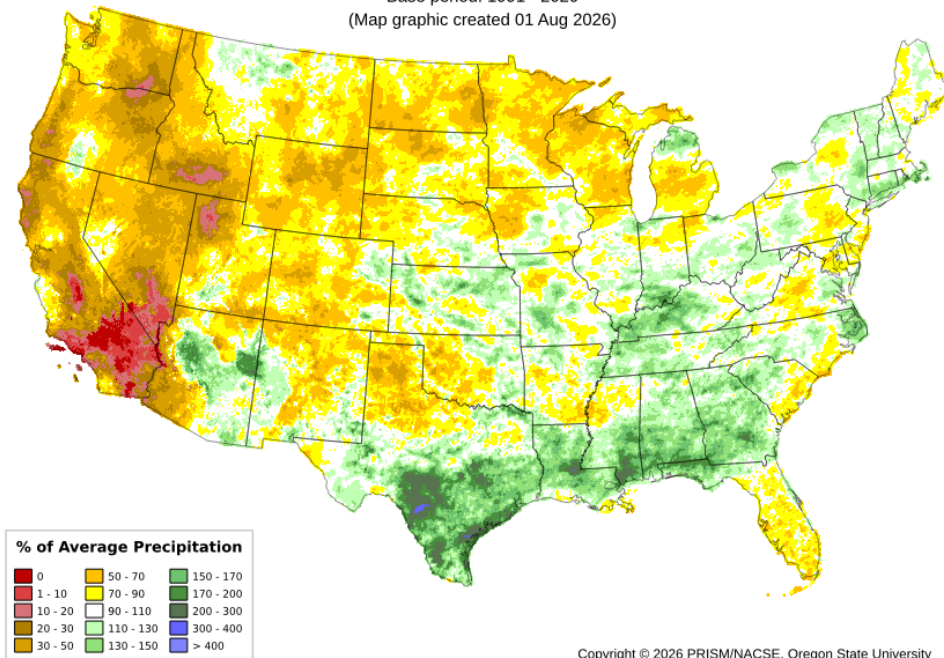
[May through July 2026 precipitation anomaly map](#)

Total Precipitation Anomaly: May 2026 - Jul 2026

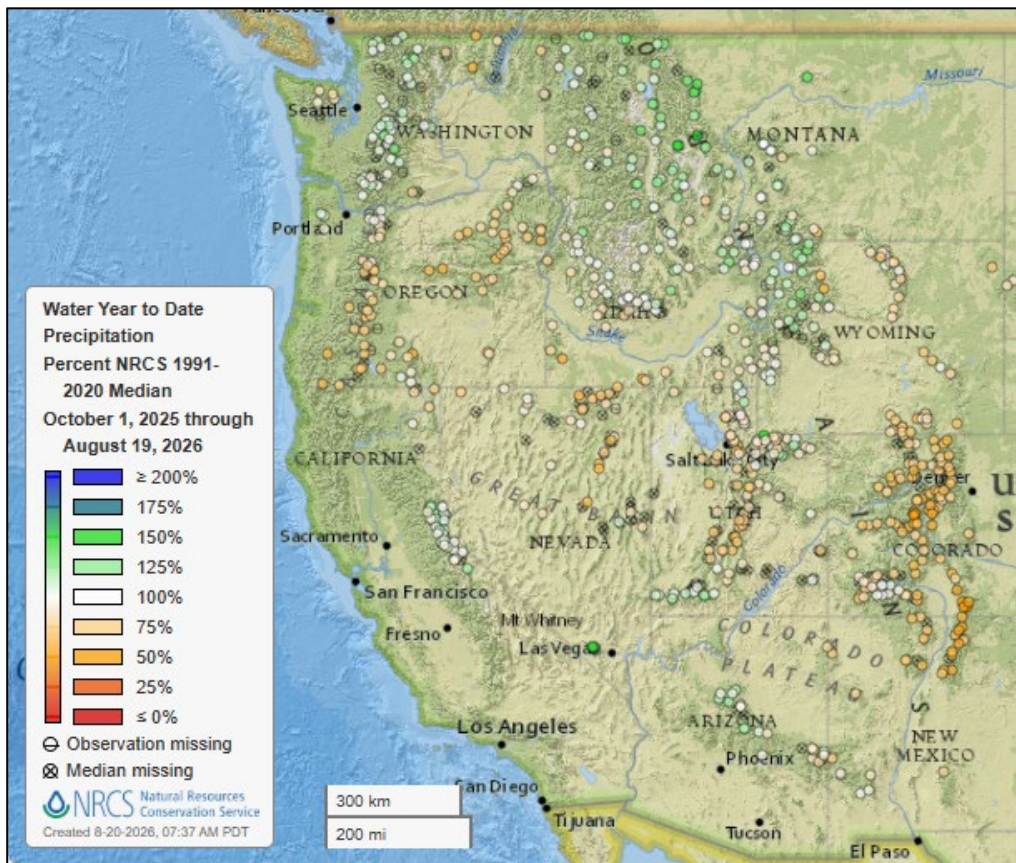
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Jul 2026

Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 01 Aug 2026)



Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network

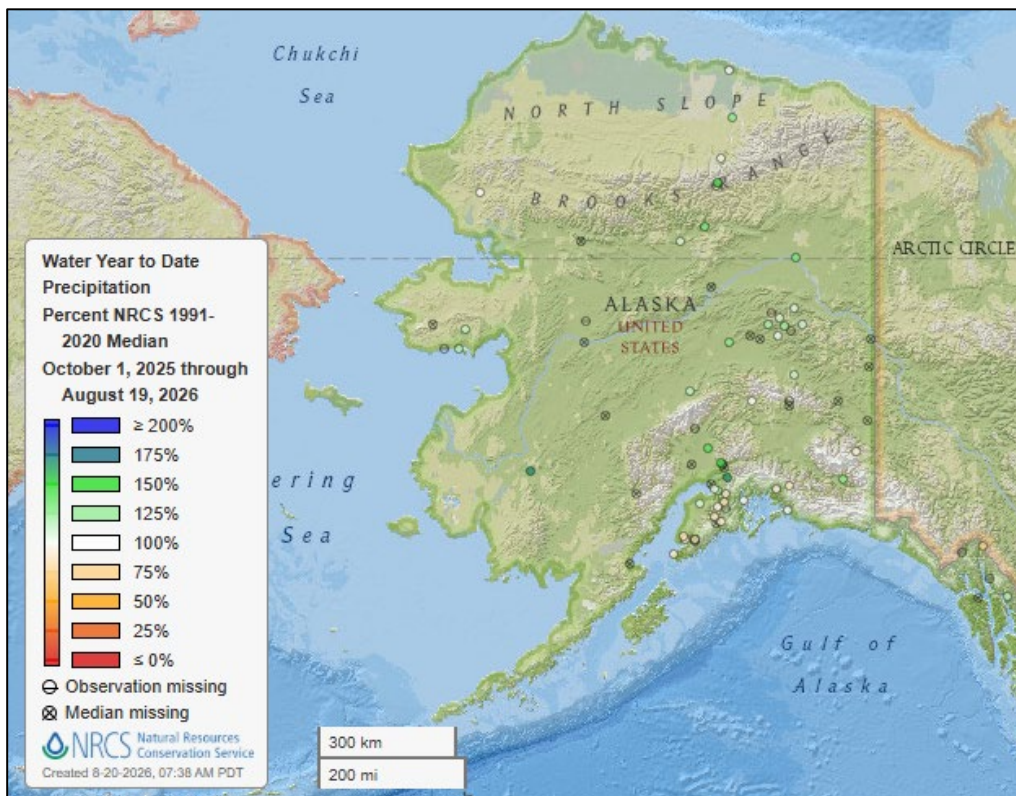


[2026 water year-to-date precipitation percent of median map](#)

See also:

[2026 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

[2026 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)



[Alaska 2026 water year-to-date precipitation percent of median map](#)

See also:

[Alaska 2026 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

[Alaska 2026 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Temperature

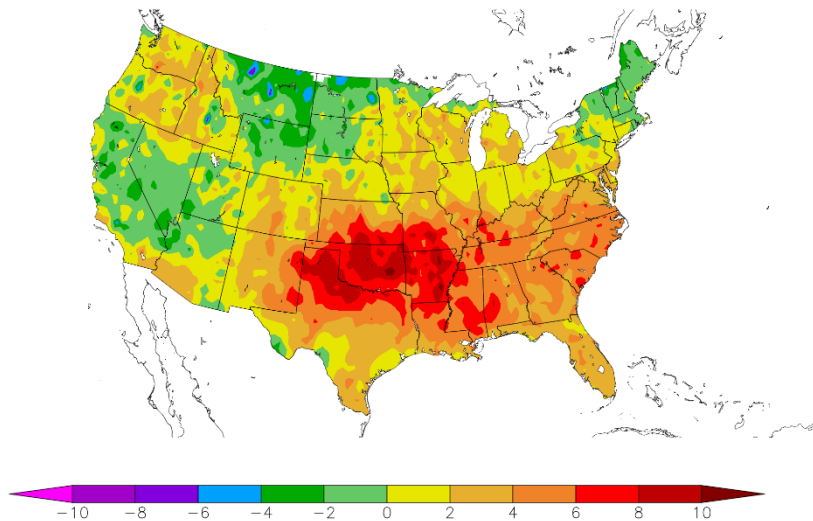
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day temperature anomaly map](#) for the contiguous U.S.

See also: [7-day temperature \(° F\) map](#)

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/13/2026 – 8/19/2026



Generated 8/20/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

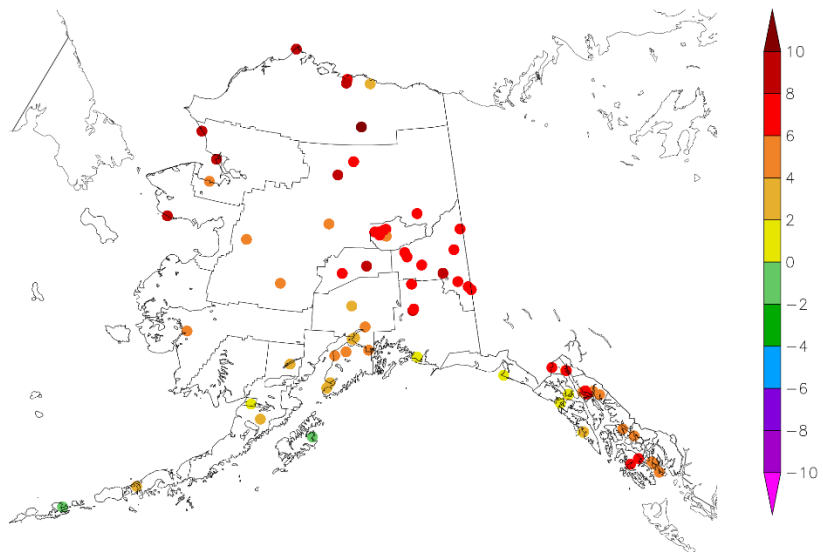
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day temperature anomaly map](#) for Alaska.

See also: [7-day temperature \(° F\) map](#)

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/13/2026 – 8/19/2026



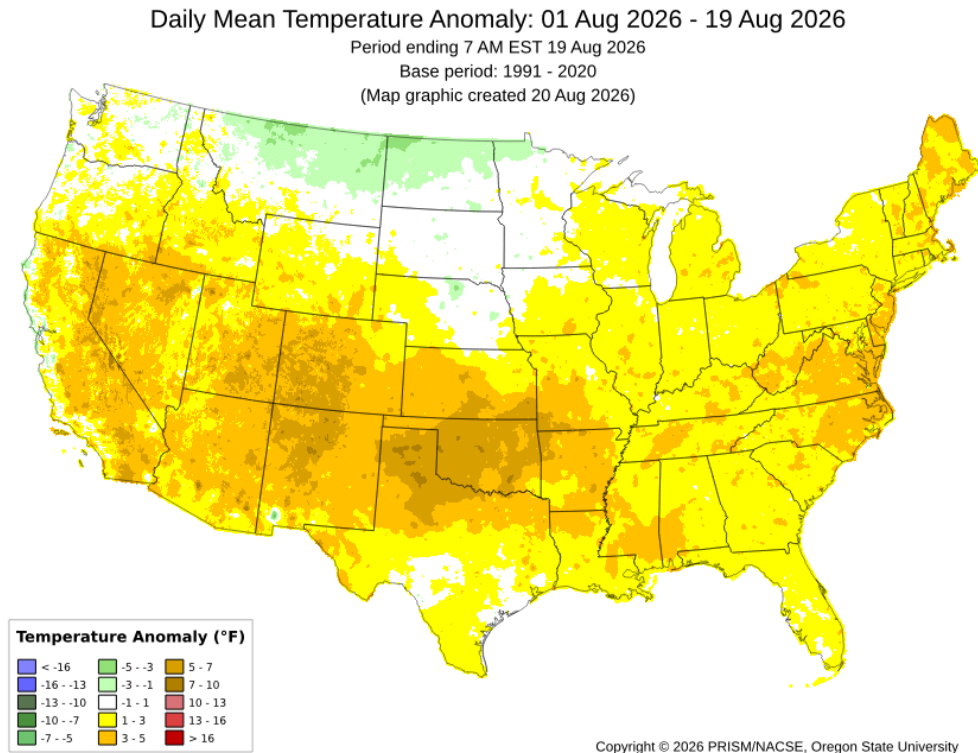
Generated 8/20/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Month-to-Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

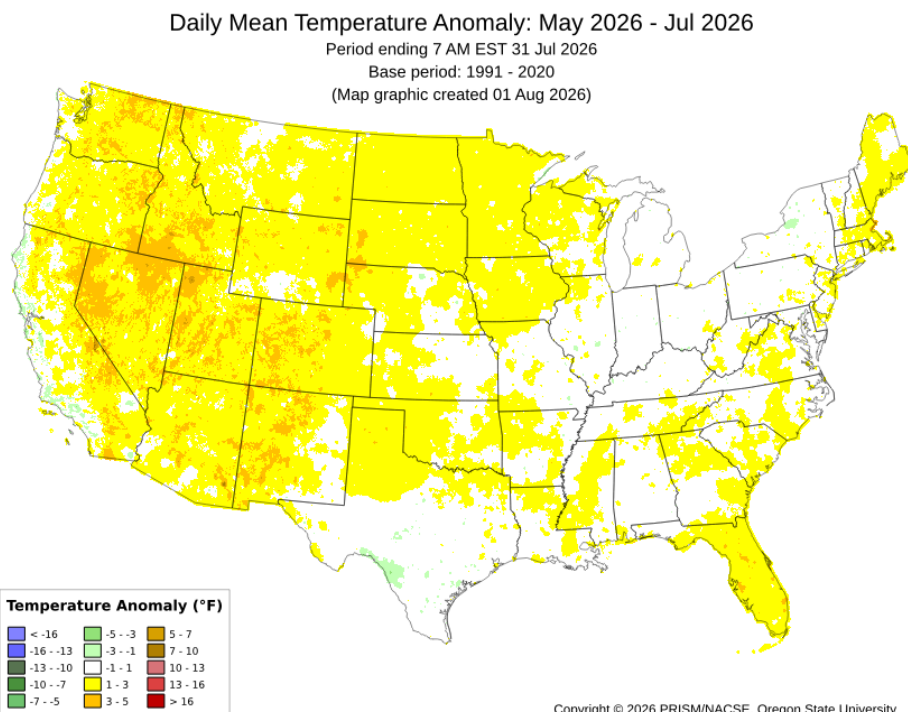
Source: PRISM

[Month-to-date
national daily
mean
temperature
anomaly map](#)



Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM



[May through July 2026
daily mean
temperature anomaly
map](#)

Drought

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

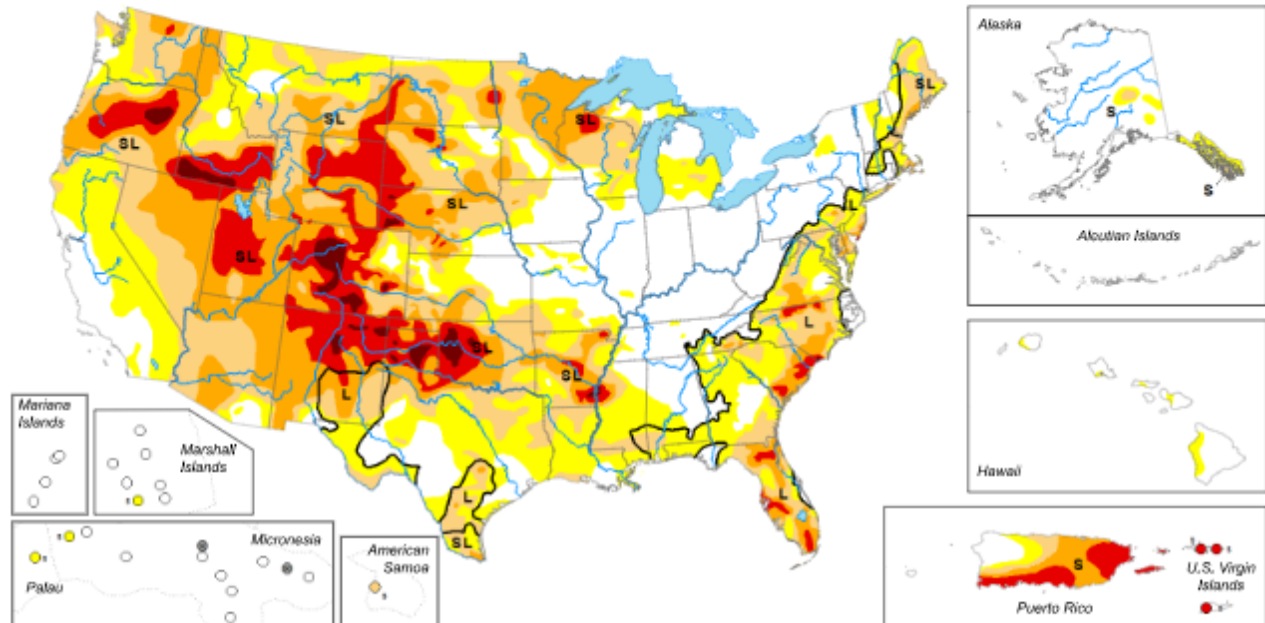
[U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA

Map released: August 20, 2026

Data valid: August 18, 2026

☐ View grayscale version of the map



United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[David Mocko](#), SSAI/NASA/GSFC

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Curtis Riganti](#), National Drought Mitigation Center

More maps and statistics:

[U.S. States and Puerto Rico](#)

[Continental U.S.](#)

[Regions -](#)

The data cutoff for Drought Monitor maps is each Tuesday at 8 a.m. EDT. The maps, which are based on analysis of the data, are released each Thursday at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

Intensity and Impacts

☐ None

☐ D0 (Abnormally Dry)

☐ D1 (Moderate Drought)

☐ D2 (Severe Drought)

☐ D3 (Extreme Drought)

☐ D4 (Exceptional Drought)

☐ No Data

- Delineates dominant impacts

S - Short-term impacts, typically less than 6 months (agriculture, grasslands)

L - Long-term impacts, typically greater than 6 months (hydrology, ecology)

SL - Short- and long-term impacts

Current [National Drought Summary](#), August 18, 2026

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“The area with the highest rainfall amounts this past week was primarily a wide band from Nebraska east to Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia. Totals over 5 inches were observed in central Illinois and Indiana, with some areas of east Indiana receiving over a foot of rain in the past week. These storms were tracking to the east on the north-side of a high pressure over the southern U.S. The northern Great Plains states also received 1 to 3 inches over wide areas, as did southeast Wyoming, eastern Colorado, and northwest Kansas. In the Southwest, monsoonal flow continued with scattered storms, providing rainfall amounts generally between 0.5 and 1.5 inches. The eastern seaboard from Maine to Florida received scattered but moderate rainfall. The high pressure over the southern U.S. suppressed precipitation over the southern Great Plains and lower Mississippi valley. There was also very limited precipitation in the west coastal states as well as in Michigan and most of Wisconsin.

Temperatures were particularly above normal in the southern Great Plains and lower Mississippi valley, with the warmest above normal area over Oklahoma. The west as well as the southeast were also a few degrees above normal. Rain and storms in the central states from Wyoming to Ohio kept temperatures in this region slightly below average. The northern Great Plains had the coldest below normal temperatures.”

National Drought Summary – Looking Ahead

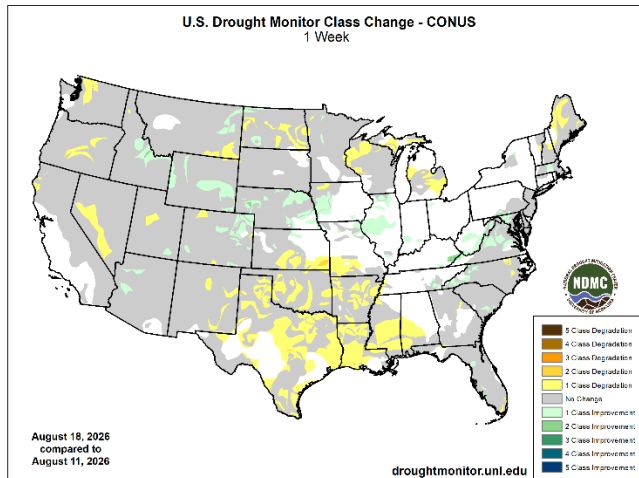
“Over the next five days leading up to next Tuesday, above-normal rainfall is possible east of the I-95 corridor along the Atlantic coast. Eastern Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania could also be wet, as well as northern Minnesota and Wisconsin. The area where the Ohio River and Mississippi River meet is also forecast to receive above-normal rainfall. The Southeast should have above-normal rainfall in many locations. The South should continue to have below-normal rainfall, with the Southwestern states having moderate monsoonal rains. The West Coast states are forecast to have little rainfall in the next five days.

The 6- to 10-day outlook (August 25-29, 2026) favors above-normal precipitation across the northern half of the Eastern Seaboard from South Carolina to the eastern Great Lakes region and into New England. Surplus precipitation is also favored throughout Hawaii and over most of mainland Alaska, except for the southern coast, southeast peninsula, and the Aleutian Islands. Below-normal rainfall is favored over much of Texas. Temperatures are likely to be well above-normal over much of the continental U.S. other than the far west coast and the eastern Great Lake to Mid-Atlantic. Hawaii is also favored to have above-normal warmth. Alaska is likely to be below-normal in the northwest part of the state and above-normal in the southeast part.”

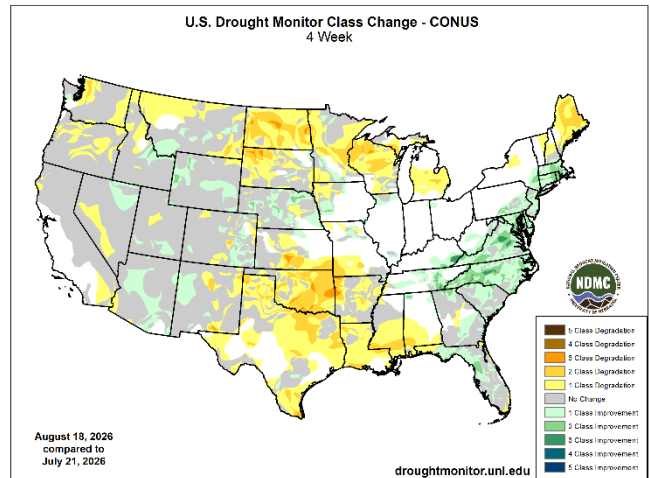
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

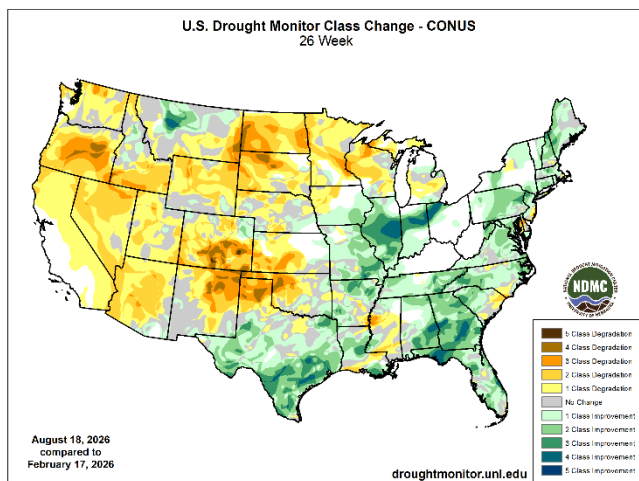
1 Week



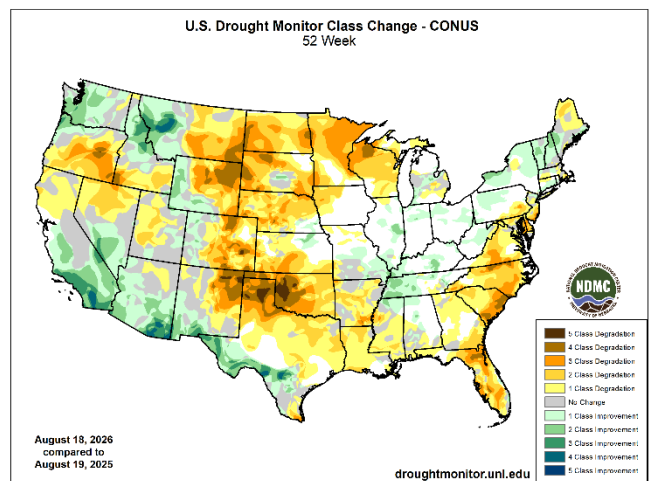
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



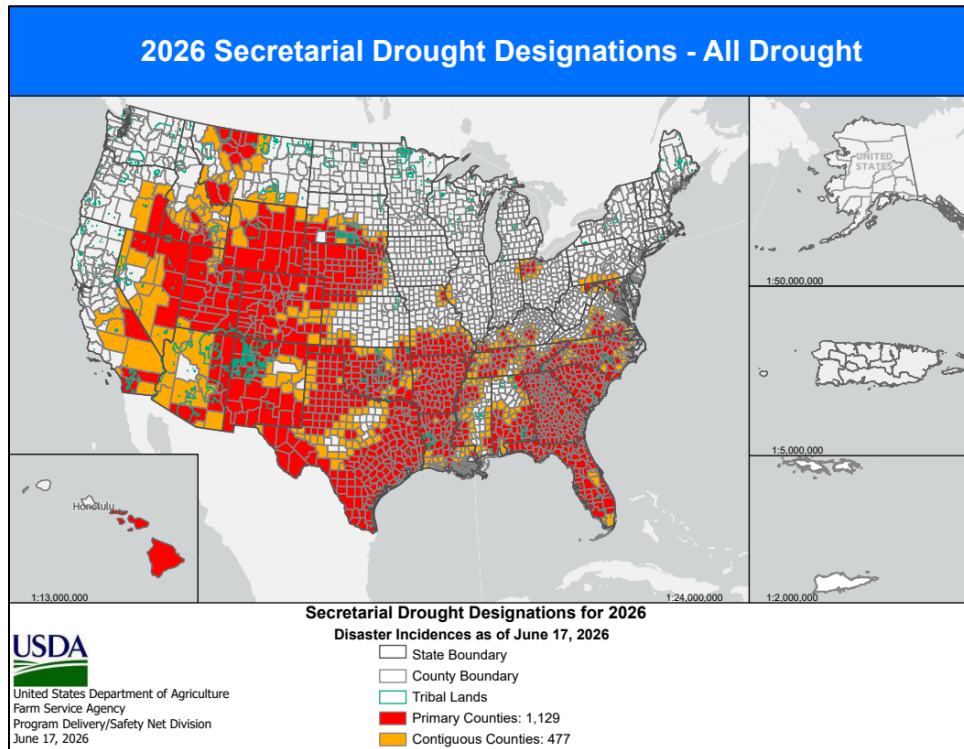
[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.](#)

Highlighted Drought Resources

- [Drought Impact Reporter](#)
- [Quarterly Regional Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)
- [U.S. Drought Portal Indicators and Monitoring](#)
- [U.S. Population in Drought, Weekly Comparison](#)
- [USDA Disaster and Drought Information](#)

USDA Secretarial [Drought Designations](#)

Source: USDA Farm Service Agency



Wildfires: [Fire Information for Resource Management System US/Canada](#)

Source: NASA/USDA Forest Service



Current large wildland fires, as classified by the National Interagency Coordination Center

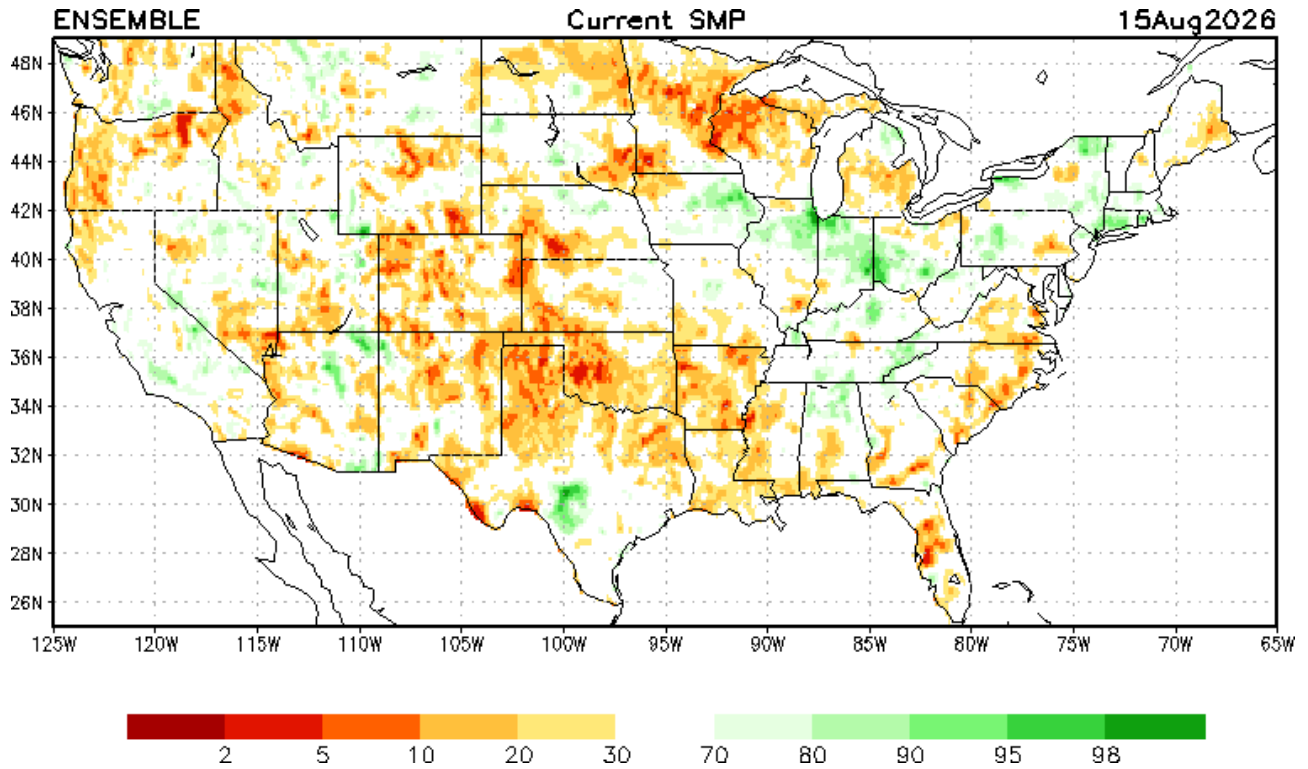
Highlighted Wildfire Resources

- [National Interagency Fire Center](#)
- [InciWeb Incident Information System](#)
- [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#)

Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture

Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction

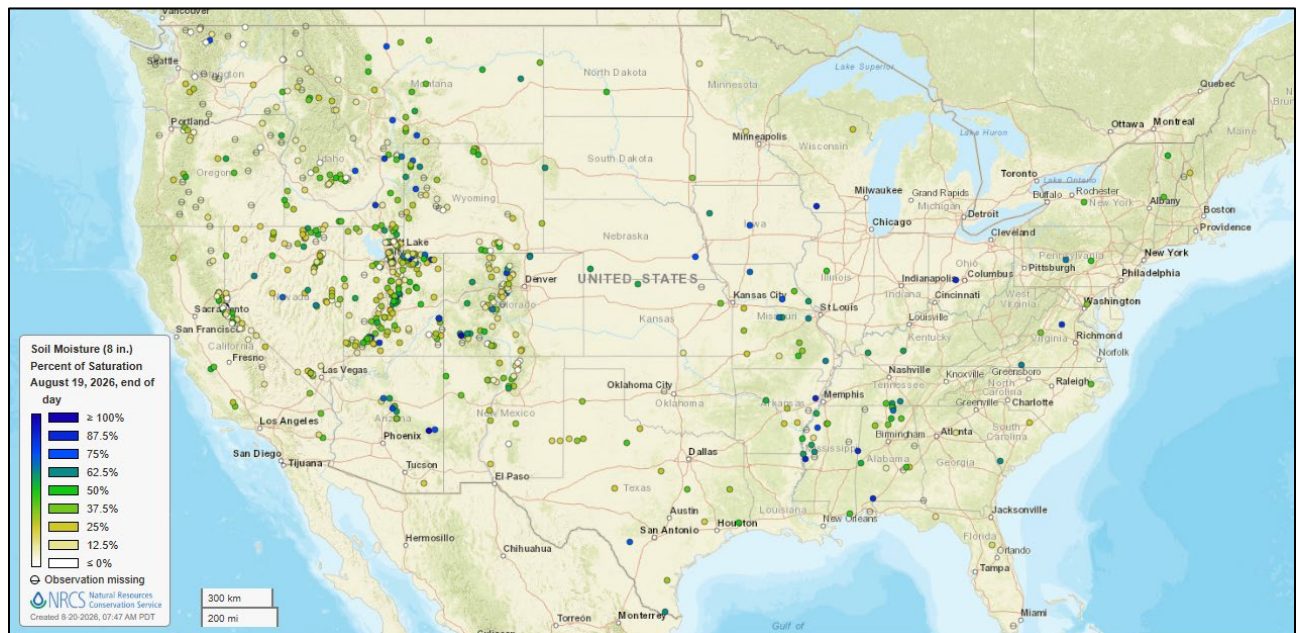


[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of August 15, 2026

Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

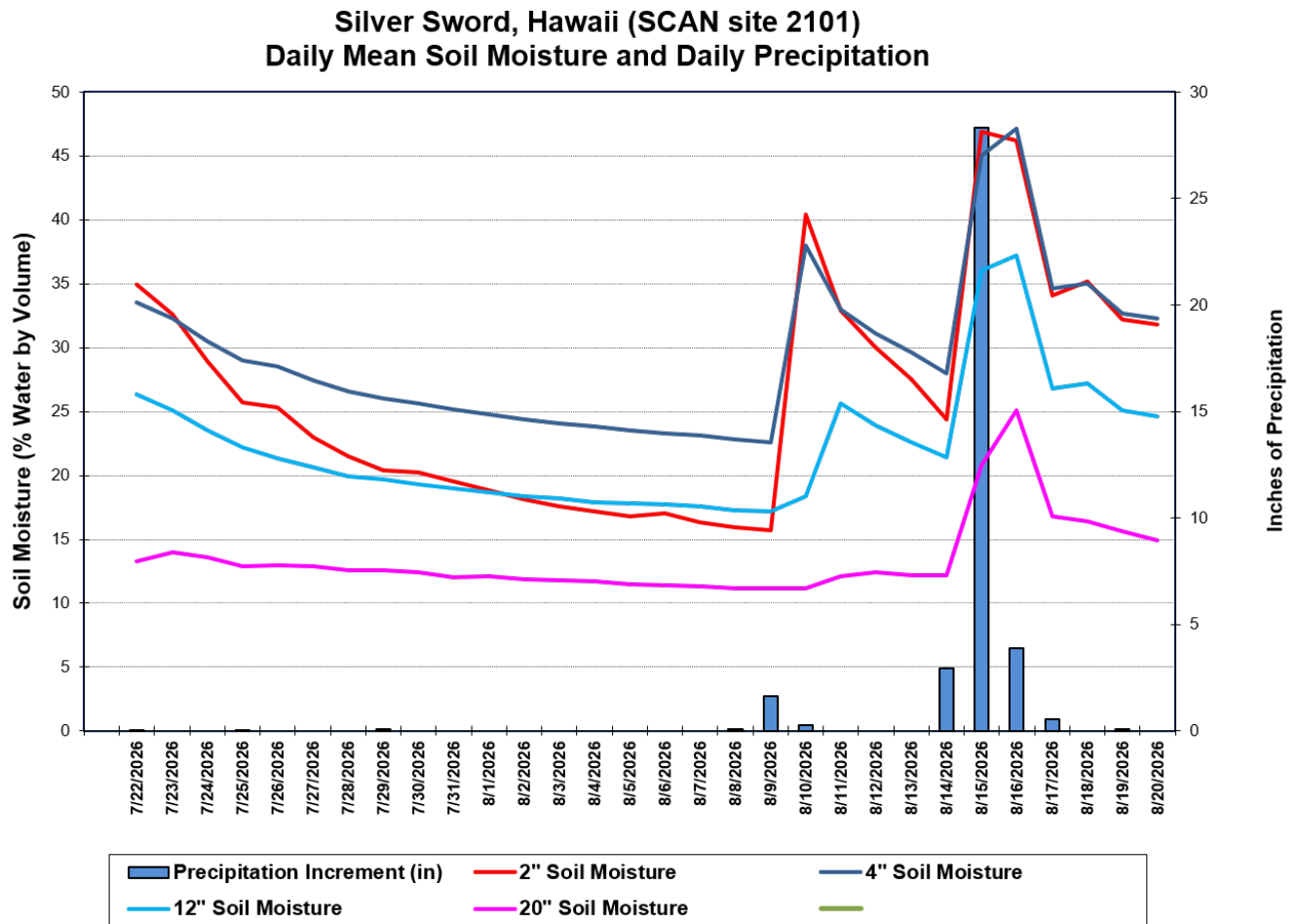
Source: NRCS SNOTEL and [Soil Climate Analysis Network](#) (SCAN)

[U.S. soil moisture map at 8-inch depth:](#)



Soil Moisture

Source: NRCS [Soil Climate Analysis Network](#) (SCAN)



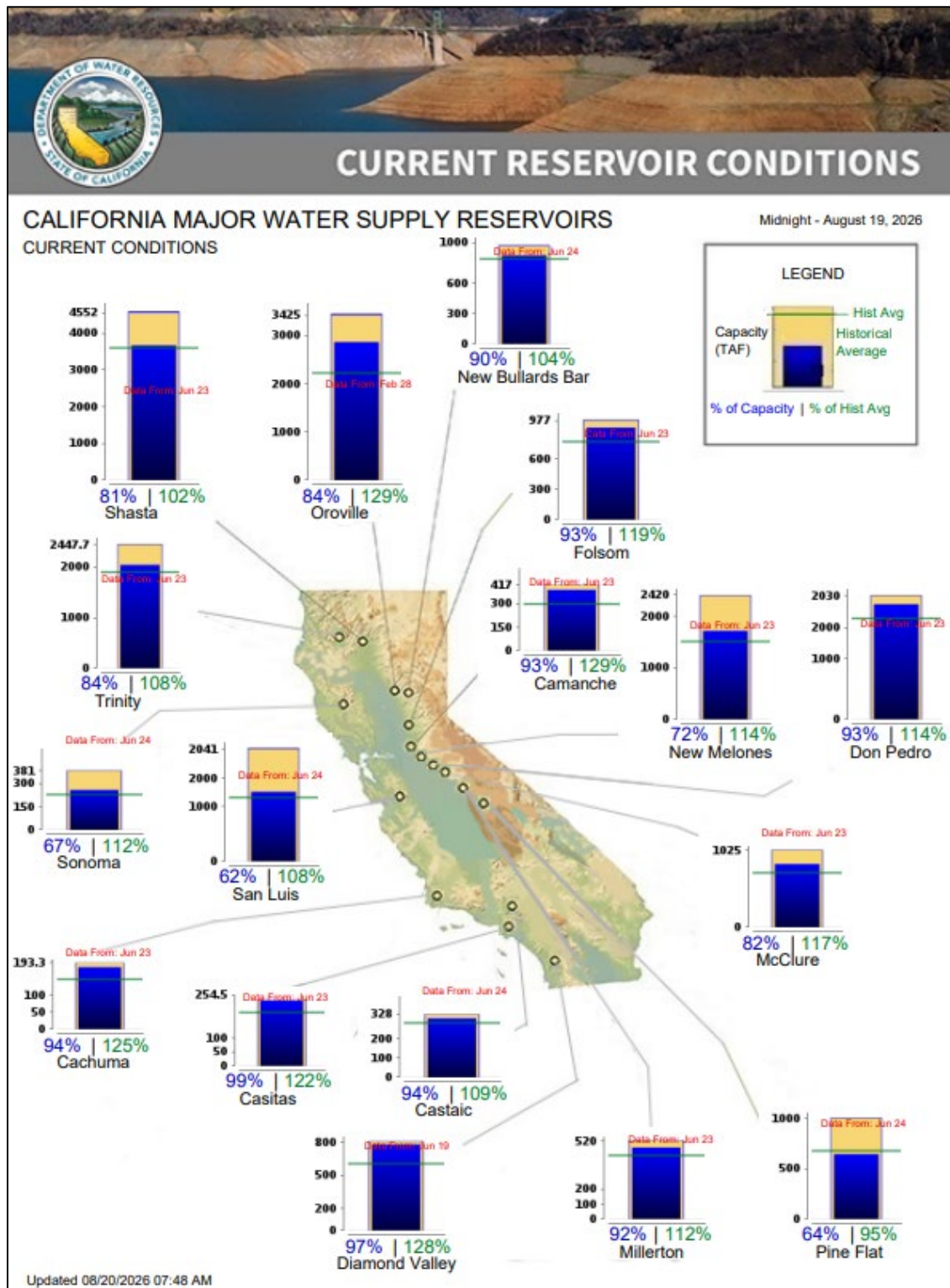
This chart shows the precipitation and soil moisture for the last 30 days at the [Silver Sword](#) SCAN site in Hawaii. Soil sensors at all depths recorded pronounced increases in soil moisture after the site received 35.73 inches of precipitation between August 14-17. Total precipitation for the 30-day period was 37.95 inches.

Soil Moisture Data Portals

- [USCRN Soil Moisture](#)
- [National Soil Moisture Network](#)
- [NOAA Climate Prediction Center Soil Moisture](#)
- [NASA Grace](#)

Current California Reservoir Conditions

Source: California Department of Water Resources



[Current California Reservoir Conditions](#)

Agricultural Weather Highlights

Author: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB

National Outlook, Thursday August 20, 2026: “Showers will gradually become less organized in the Midwest, though temperatures will remain mostly favorable for filling to maturing summer crops. Meanwhile, the focus for heavy rain will shift into the eastern U.S., with 5-day totals reaching 2 to 4 inches or more in portions of the Atlantic Coast States. Farther west, however, scorching heat and mostly dry conditions will persist into next week in the south-central U.S. Much of the West will experience above-normal temperatures, with showers associated with the North American monsoon focused across the Four Corners States. Elsewhere, agricultural interests in Hawaii should monitor the progress of a new tropical cyclone developing southeast of the island chain. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for August 25 – 29 calls for the likelihood of hotter-than-normal weather nationwide, except for near-normal temperatures along the northern Pacific Coast and from the lower Great Lakes region into portions of the Northeast. Meanwhile, drier-than-normal weather in the south-central U.S., including much of Texas, should contrast with near- or above-normal rainfall across the remainder of the country. The middle and northern Atlantic Coast will have the greatest likelihood of experiencing unusually wet weather.”

Weather Hazards Outlook: [August 22 – 26, 2026](#)

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center

U.S. Day 3-7 Hazards Outlook

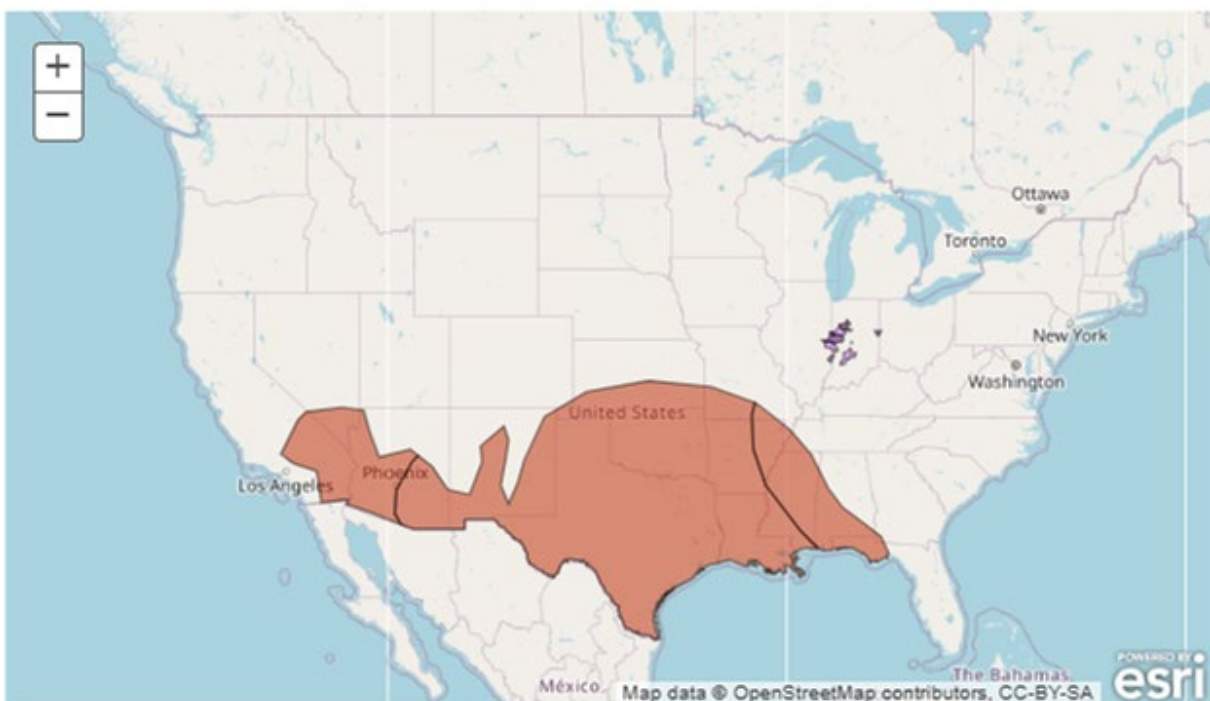
[About the Hazards Outlook](#)

Created August 19, 2026

Precipitation	☒
Temperature	☒
Wildfires	☒
Soils	☐
Flooding	☒

Valid August 22, 2026 - August 26, 2026

Legend	
 Flooding Likely	 Hazardous Heat
 Flooding Occurring or Imminent	 Hazardous Cold
 Flooding Possible	 Frost/Freeze
 Freezing Rain	 High Winds
 Heavy Precipitation	 Significant Waves
 Heavy Rain	 Critical Wildfire Risk
 Heavy Snow	 Severe Weather

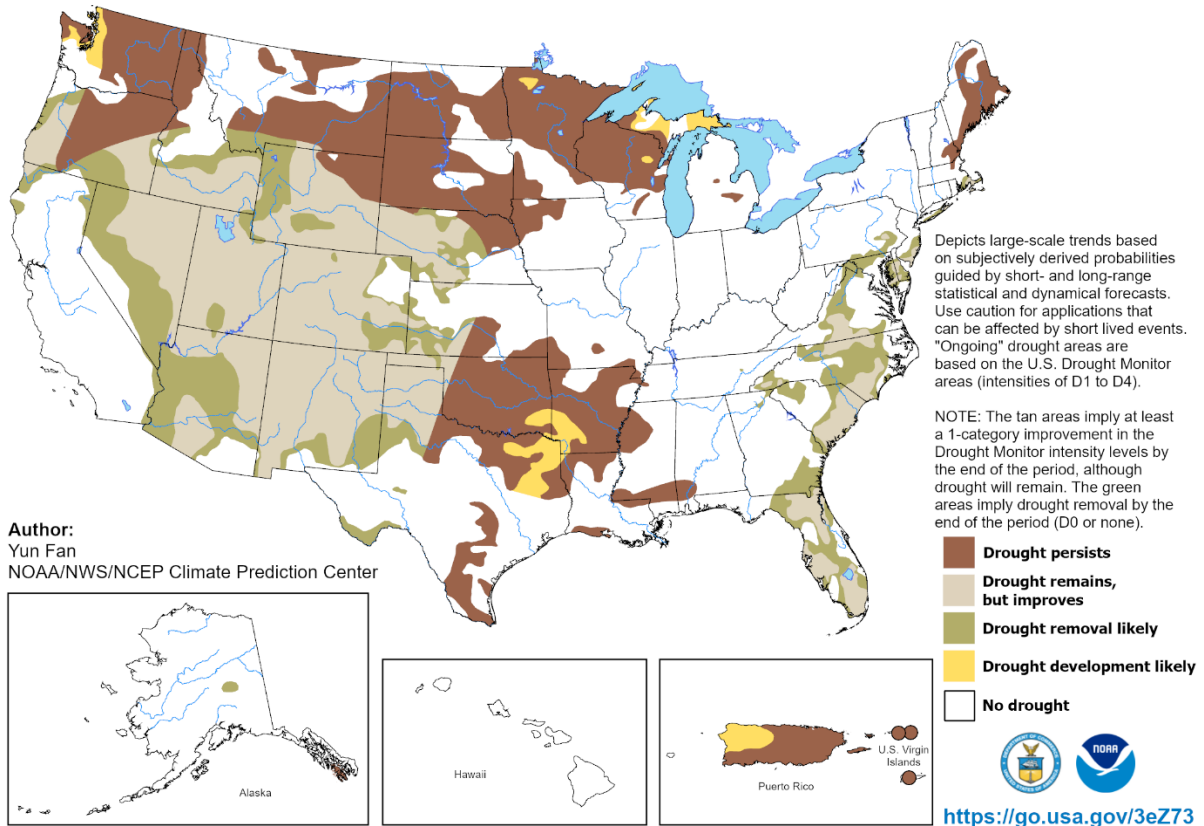


Seasonal Drought Outlook: [August 20 – November 30, 2026](#)

Source: National Weather Service

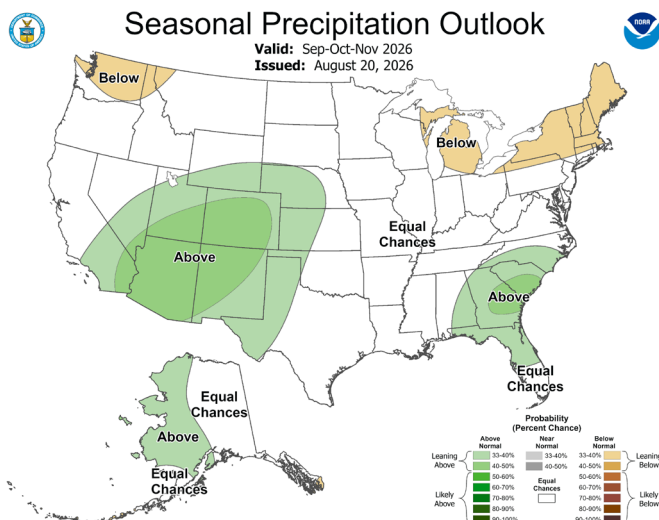
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for August 20 - November 30, 2026
Released August 20, 2026

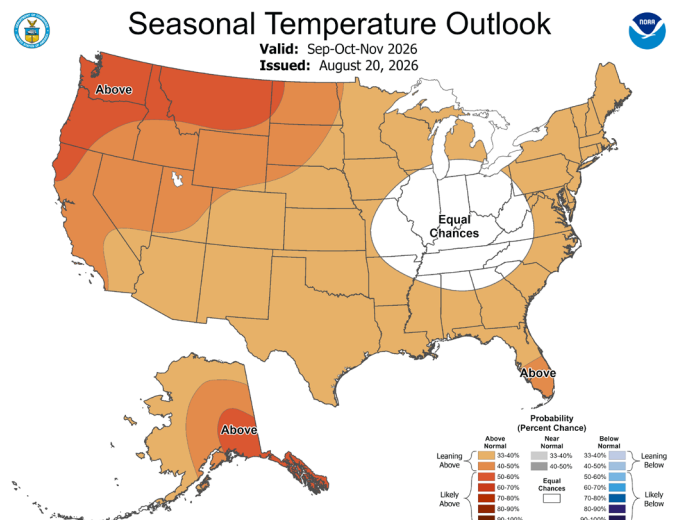


Climate Prediction Center Three-month Outlook

[Precipitation](#)



[Temperature](#)



[September-October-November 2026 precipitation and temperature outlook summaries](#)

More Information

The NRCS [National Water and Climate Center](#) publishes this weekly report. We welcome your feedback. If you have questions or comments, please [contact us](#).