



United States Department of Agriculture

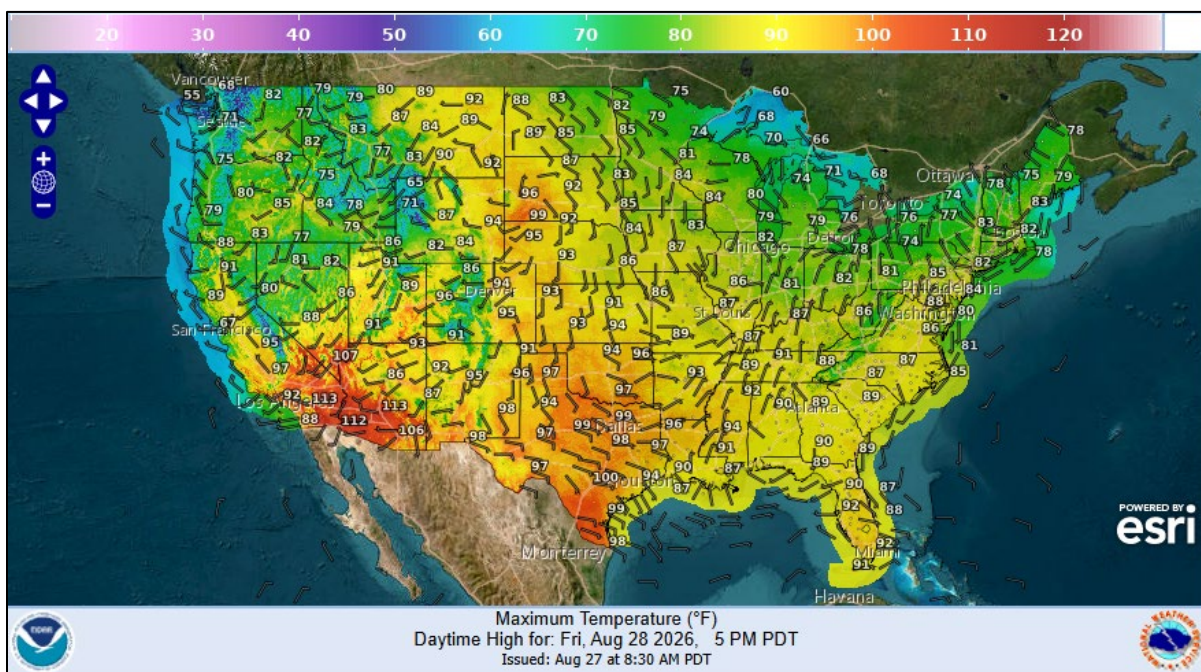
Water and Climate Update

August 27, 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.

Precipitation	2	Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators	12
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Drought	8		

Dangerous heat wave persists in the Southwest



On August 25, Phoenix, AZ set a new maximum temperature record for the date of 115°F, replacing the previous record high of 113°F, with National Weather Service (NWS) records for the city stretching back to 1895. The high temperature peaked at 117°F the following day, tying the previous record for the date set in 2011. An extreme heat warning has been placed by the NWS for parts of the Southwest through August 29, and not much relief is expected overnight as the low temperatures are forecasted to be near 90°F in some locations. By August 30, a pattern shift is anticipated to bring temperatures closer to normal along with potential showers and thunderstorms.

Related:

[NWS Phoenix Heat Page](#) – NWS, Phoenix, AZ

[Observed weather and climate records](#) – NWS, Phoenix, AZ

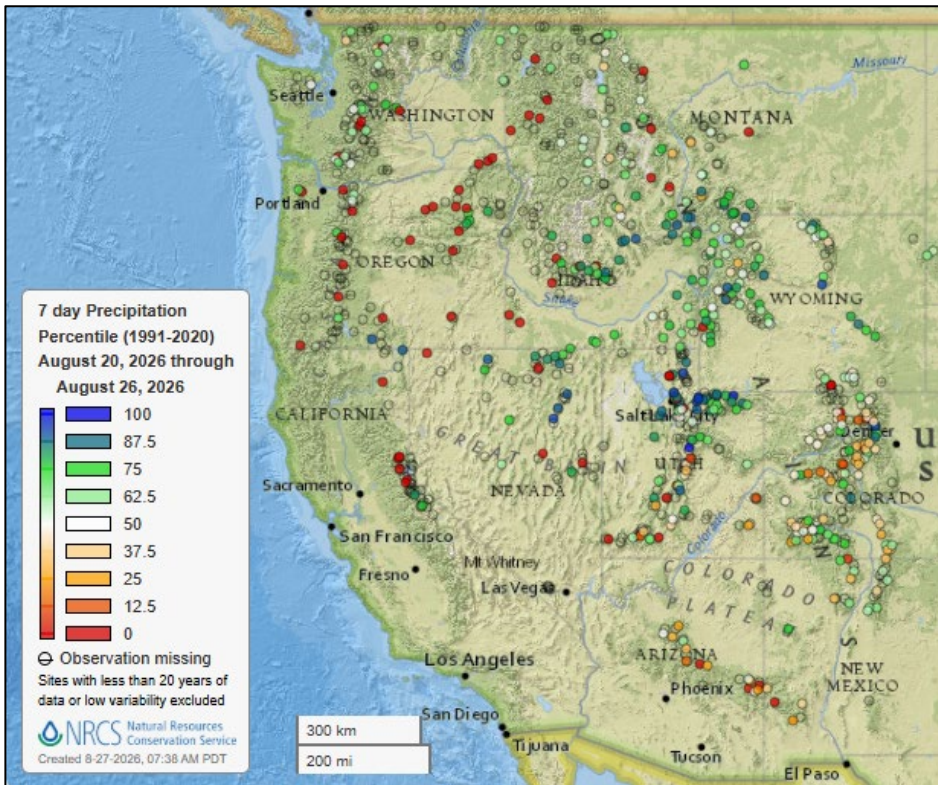
[Phoenix breaks 15-year-old heat record as extreme heat warning extends through Saturday](#) – KTAR News (Phoenix, AZ)

[This week's heat wave brought record-setting temperatures to SoCal. What comes next?](#) – Los Angeles Times (Los Angeles, CA)

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

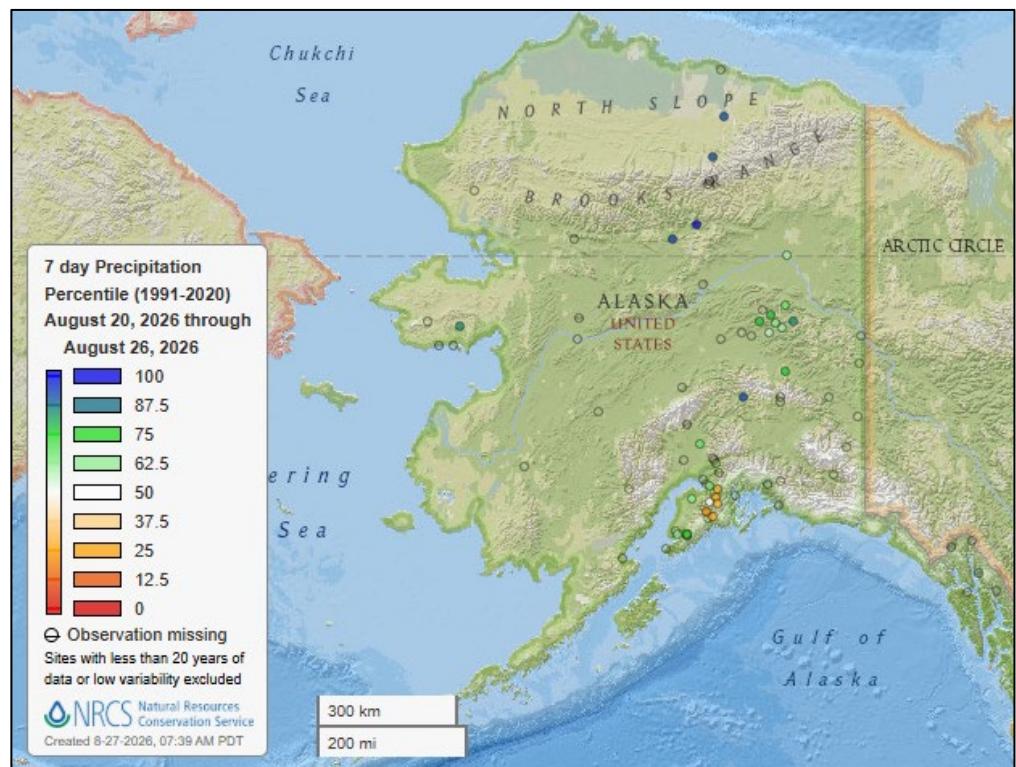


[7-day precipitation
percentile map](#)

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](#)



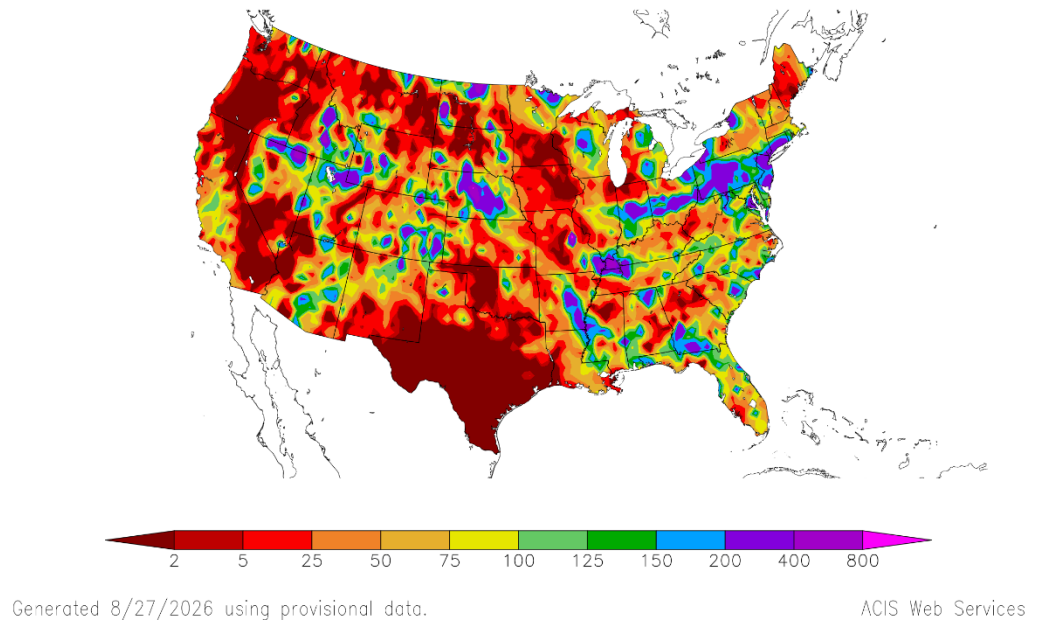
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%)
8/20/2026 – 8/26/2026



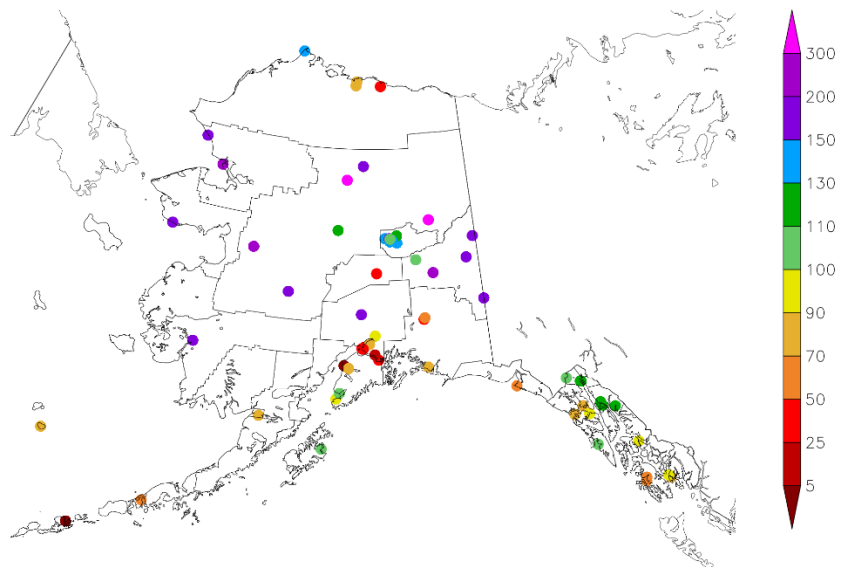
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%)
8/20/2026 – 8/26/2026



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

Source: PRISM

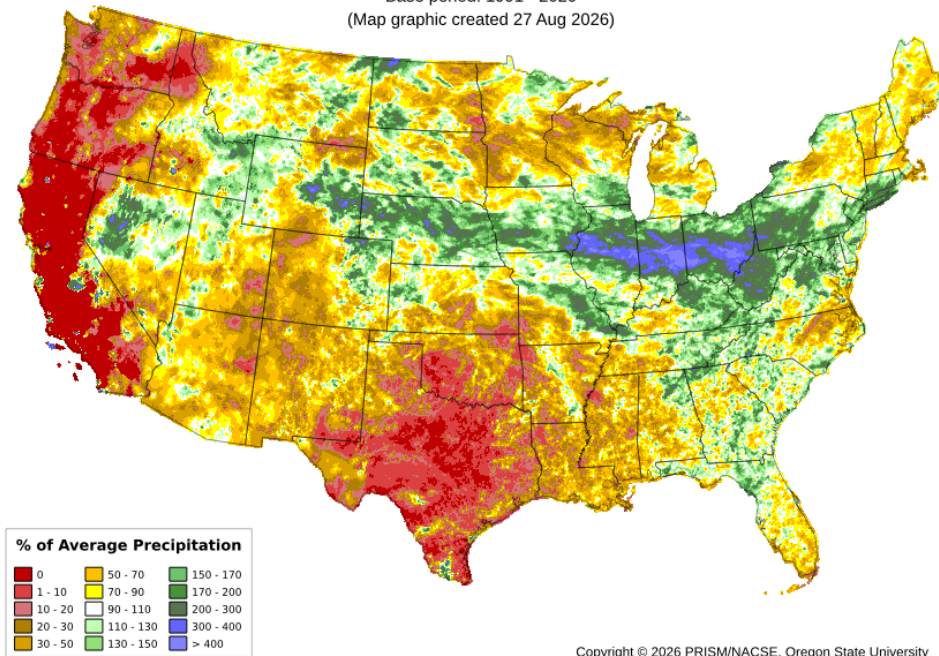
Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 Aug 2026 - 26 Aug 2026

Period ending 7 AM EST 26 Aug 2026

Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 27 Aug 2026)

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



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

Source: PRISM

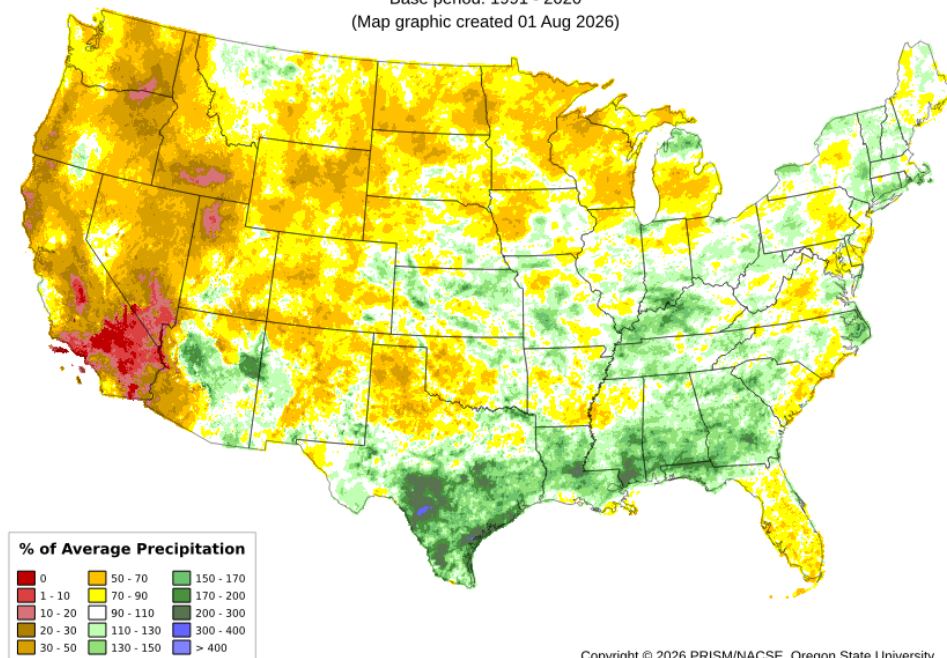
[May through July 2026 precipitation anomaly map](#)

Total Precipitation Anomaly: May 2026 - Jul 2026

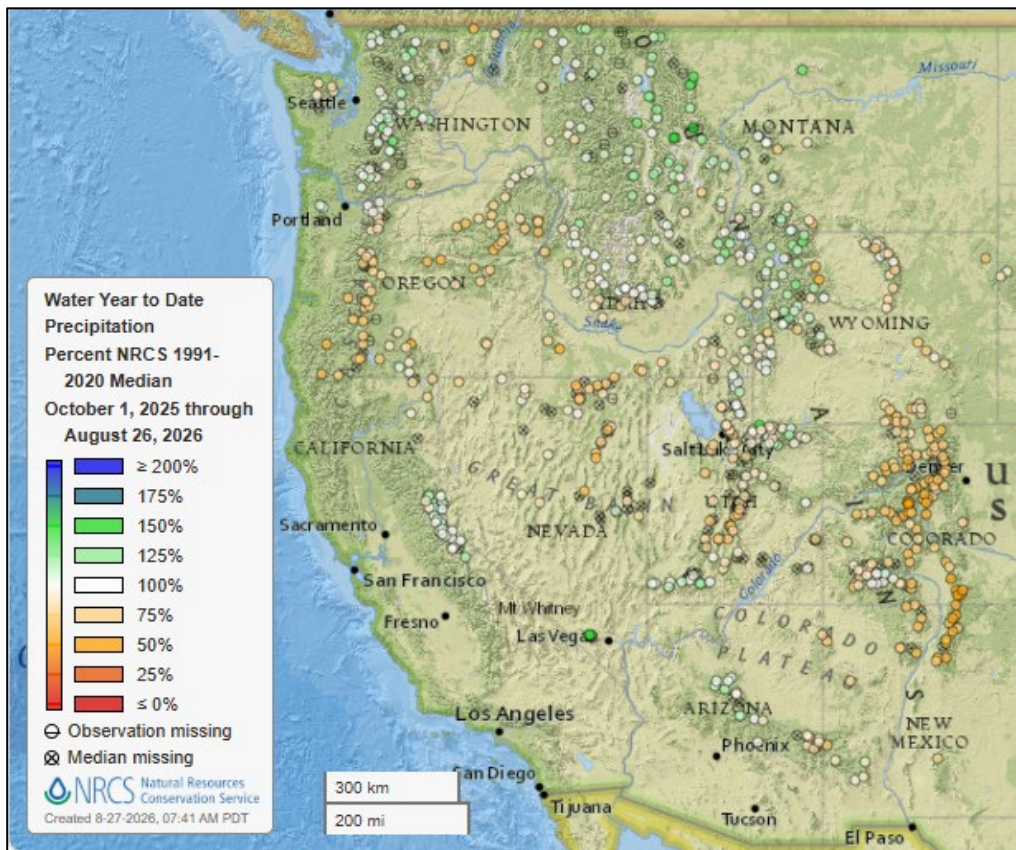
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Jul 2026

Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 01 Aug 2026)



Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network

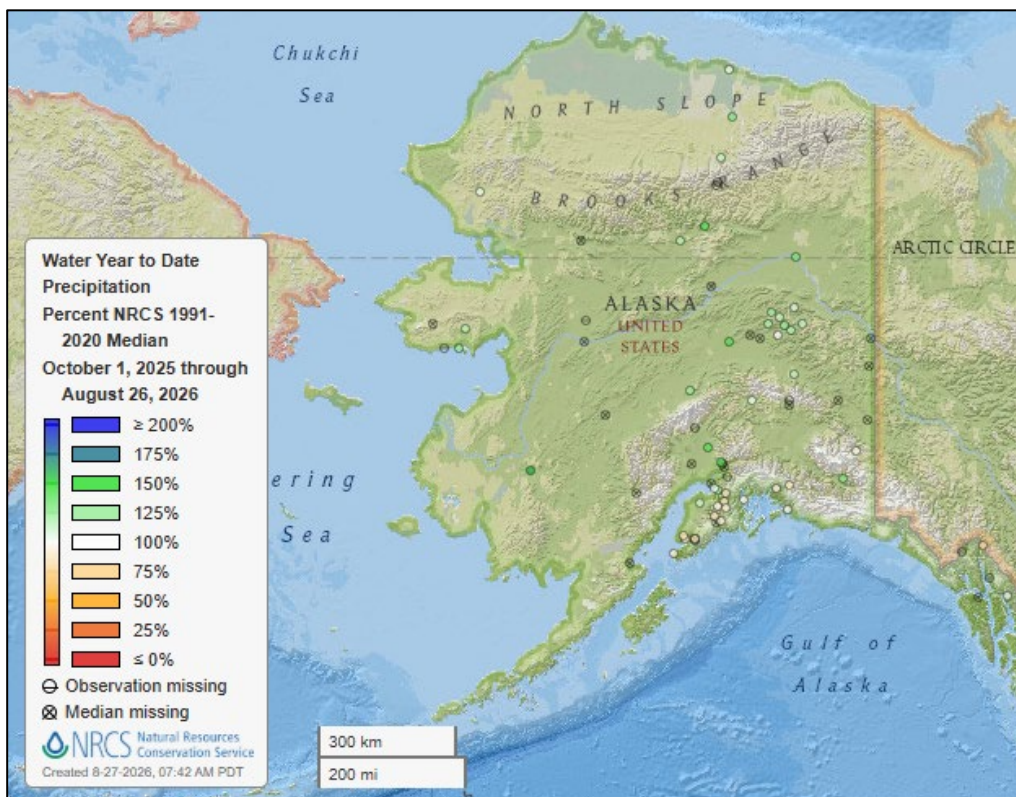


[2026 water year-to-date precipitation percent of median map](#)

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

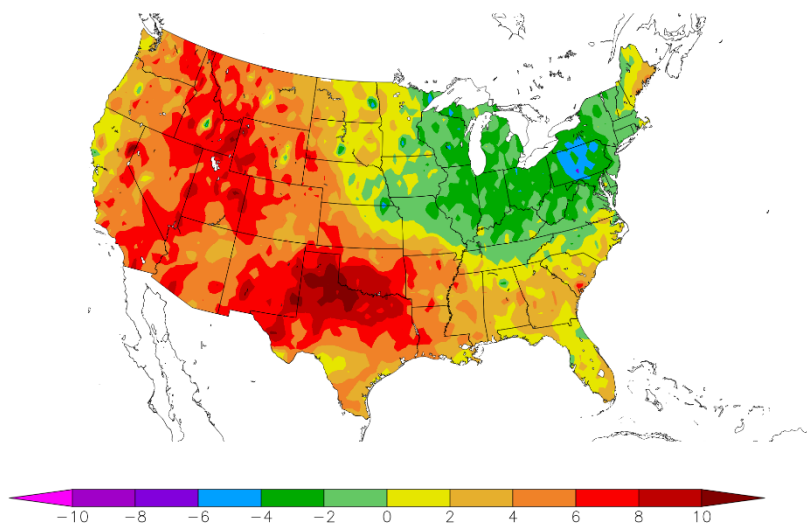
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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)
8/20/2026 – 8/26/2026



Generated 8/27/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

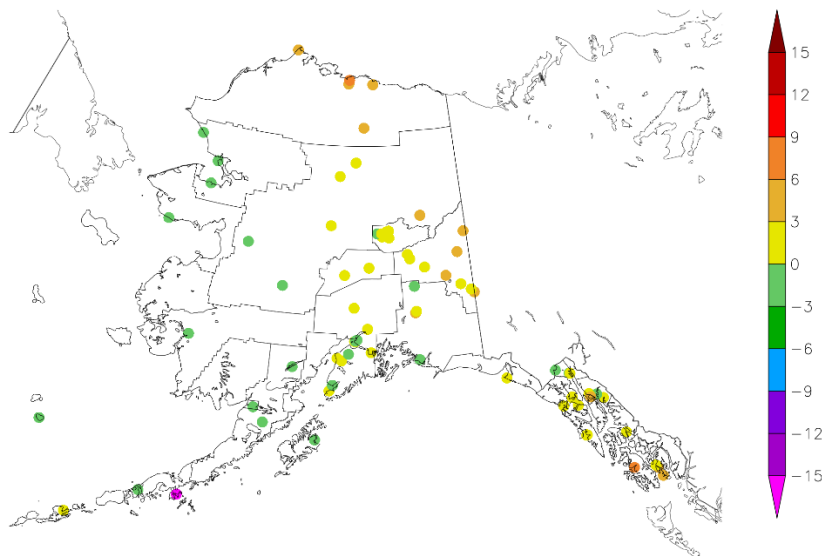
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/20/2026 – 8/26/2026



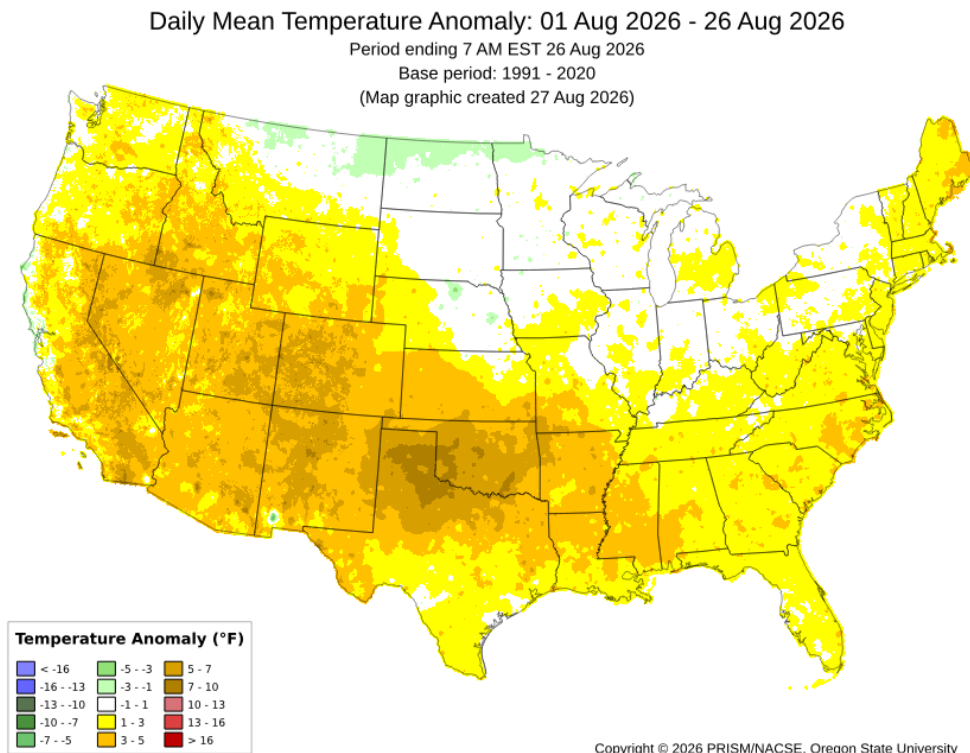
Generated 8/27/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

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

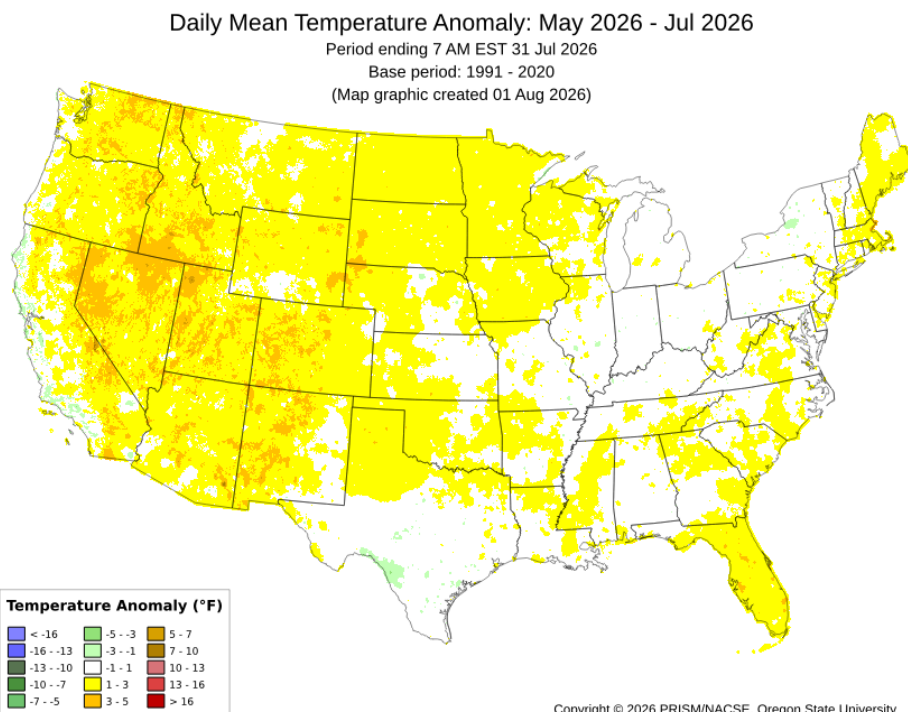
Source: PRISM

[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

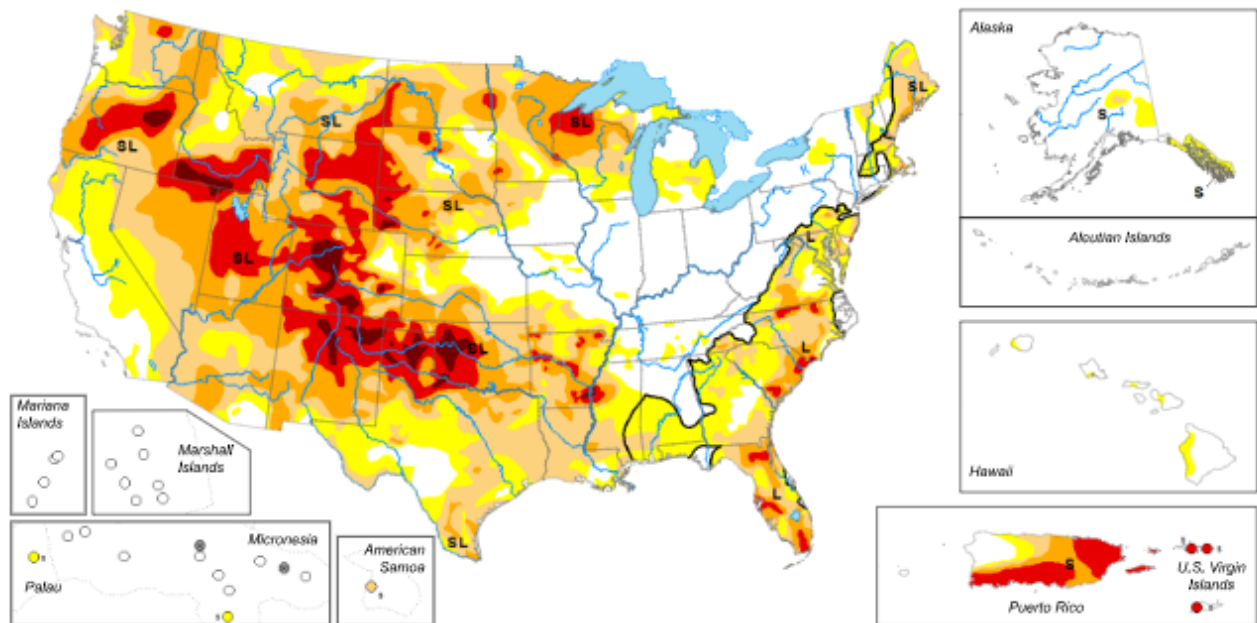
[U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA

Map released: August 27, 2026

Data valid: August 25, 2026

☐ View grayscale version of the map



United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[Adam Allgood](#), NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

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 25, 2026

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“During the early part of last week, an amplified ridge-trough pattern over North America brought widespread late summer heat to the West and south-central US, with milder temperatures overspreading the Corn Belt and gradually shifting to the Northeast and mid-Atlantic states. The north side of the mean ridge provided a focus for convective activity, with narrow swaths of locally heavy rainfall extending across Nebraska and Missouri, while shortwave troughs brought several rounds of storms to the eastern Corn Belt and parts of the mid-Atlantic and southern New England. Underneath the ridge, dry weather combined with excessive heat continued to promote rapid onset drought across much of the South region. Across the Southeast, summer convection competed with enhanced evapotranspirative demand due to hot temperatures, causing some degradation in areas that missed out on thunderstorm activity. Across the West, an active monsoon pattern continued to bring localized relief to parts of Arizona and New Mexico, while excessive heat and drier conditions promoted drought expansion across eastern New Mexico and portions of the Intermountain West, Great Basin, and the Northwest.

Across Alaska, improved rainfall eased drought conditions over the central interior, while drier weather sparked some degradation over the southeast. Across Hawaii, following widespread heavy rainfall from Hurricane Lala in the previous week, Tropical Storm Moke passed well south of the state, bringing enhanced flow and precipitation to the windward sides of the islands. Across the Caribbean, a suppressed convective regime continued to promote gradual drought expansion across Puerto Rico.”

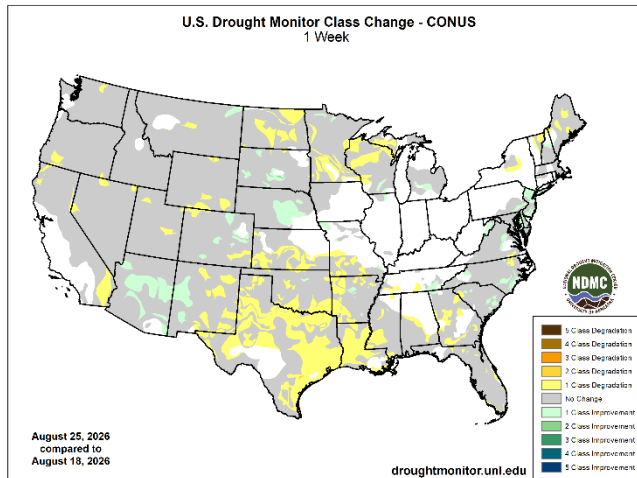
National Drought Summary – West

“Seasonal dryness continued across the Pacific Coast states and much of the Great Basin, where persistent above-normal temperatures drove high demand on water resources and led to localized degradation. Extreme Drought (D3) expanded slightly across southern Oregon and northern Washington, where soil moisture and groundwater levels remained critically poor. Extreme to Exceptional (D4) drought also expanded into northeastern Idaho, with degradation noted in small portions of Utah and the southern California deserts. Elsewhere, ongoing monsoonal convection promoted drought relief across much of Arizona and western New Mexico, though persistent heat and dry conditions drove drought expansion across eastern New Mexico.”

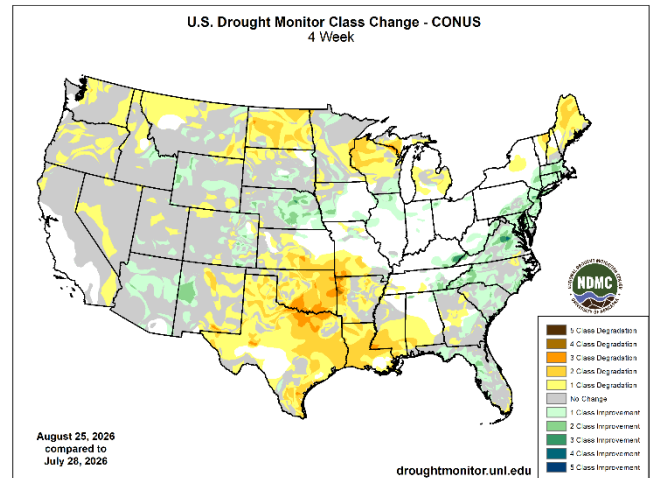
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

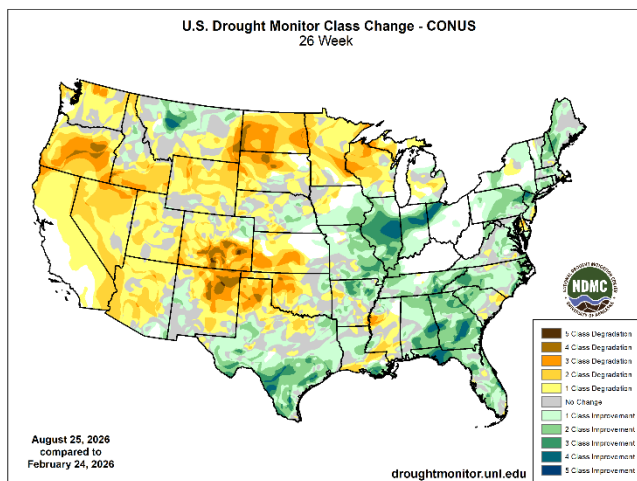
1 Week



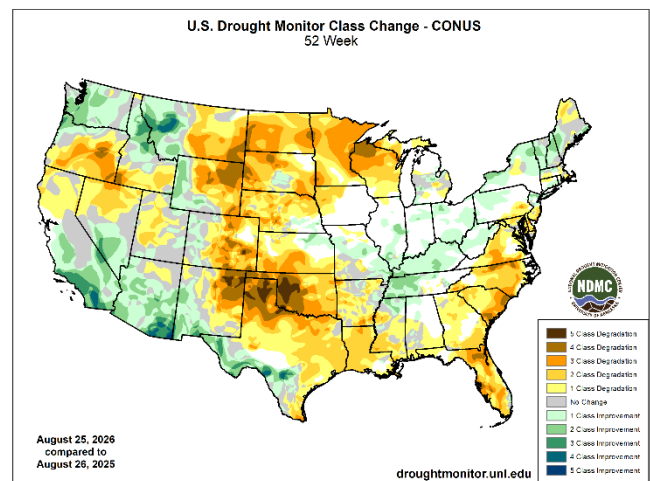
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



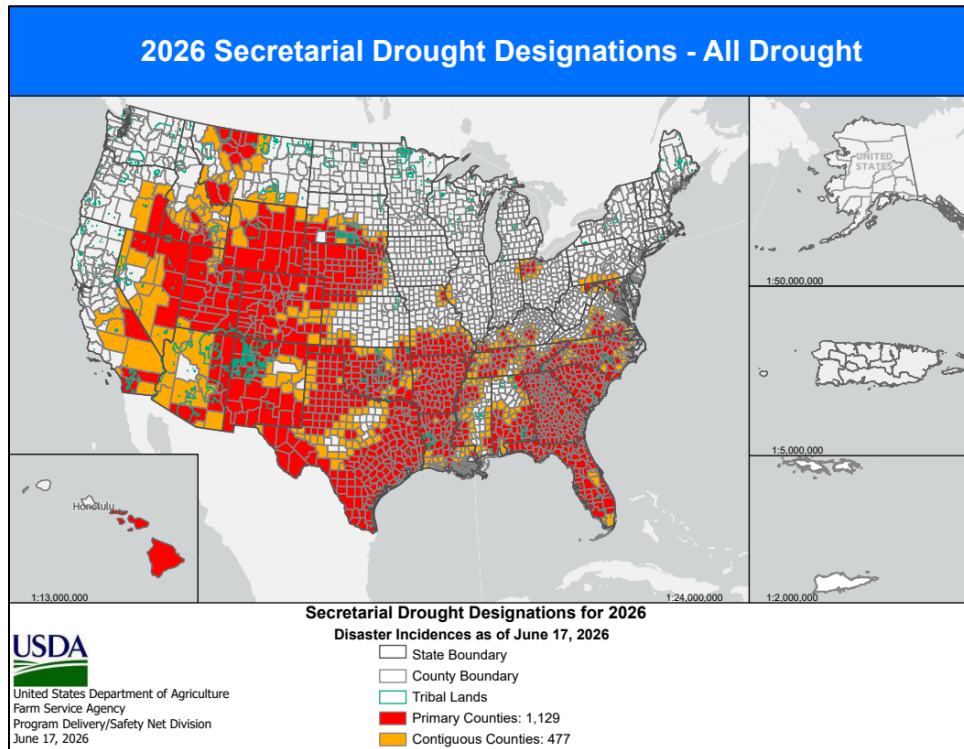
[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.](#)

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](#)

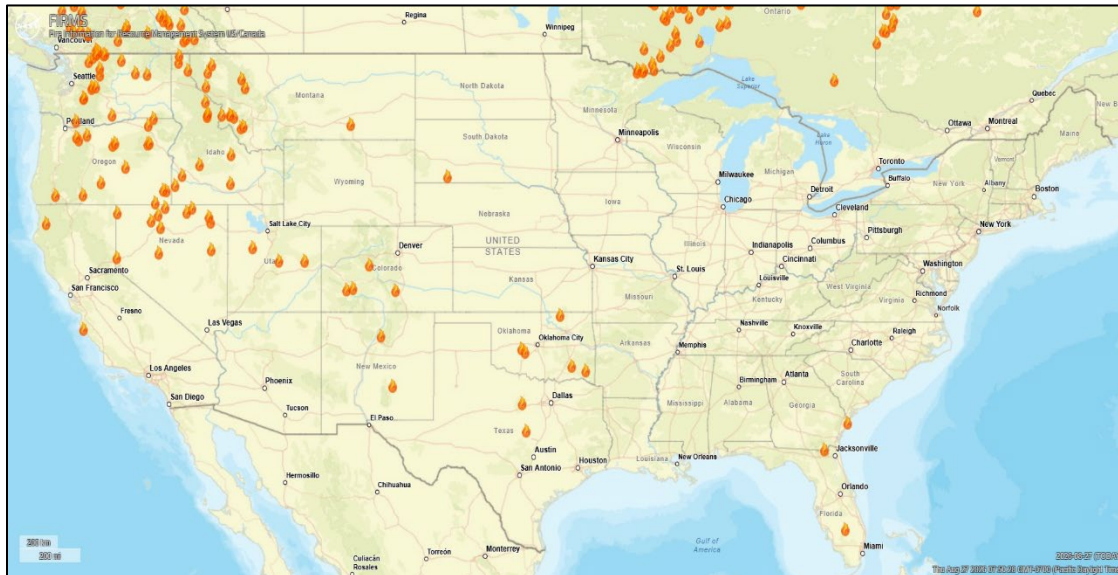
USDA Secretarial [Drought Designations](#)

Source: USDA Farm Service Agency



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

Source: NASA/USDA Forest Service



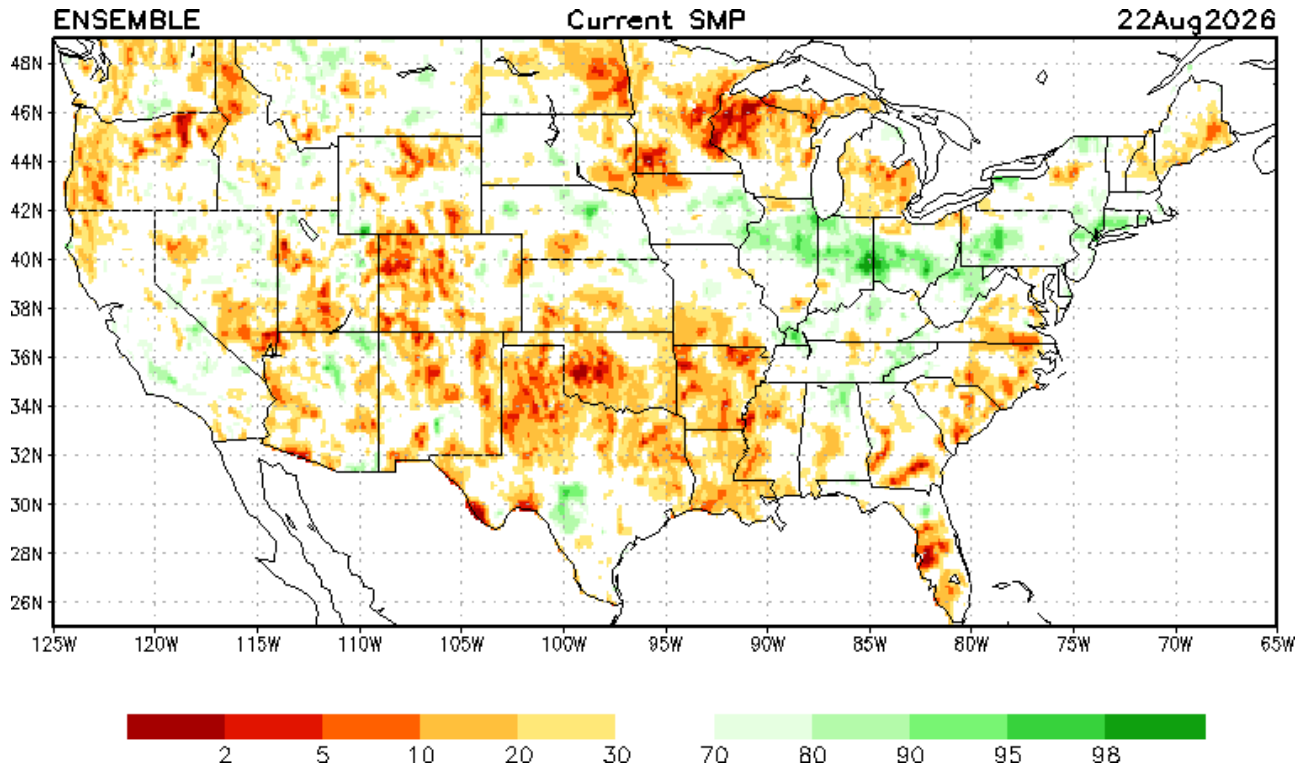
Highlighted Wildfire Resources

- [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

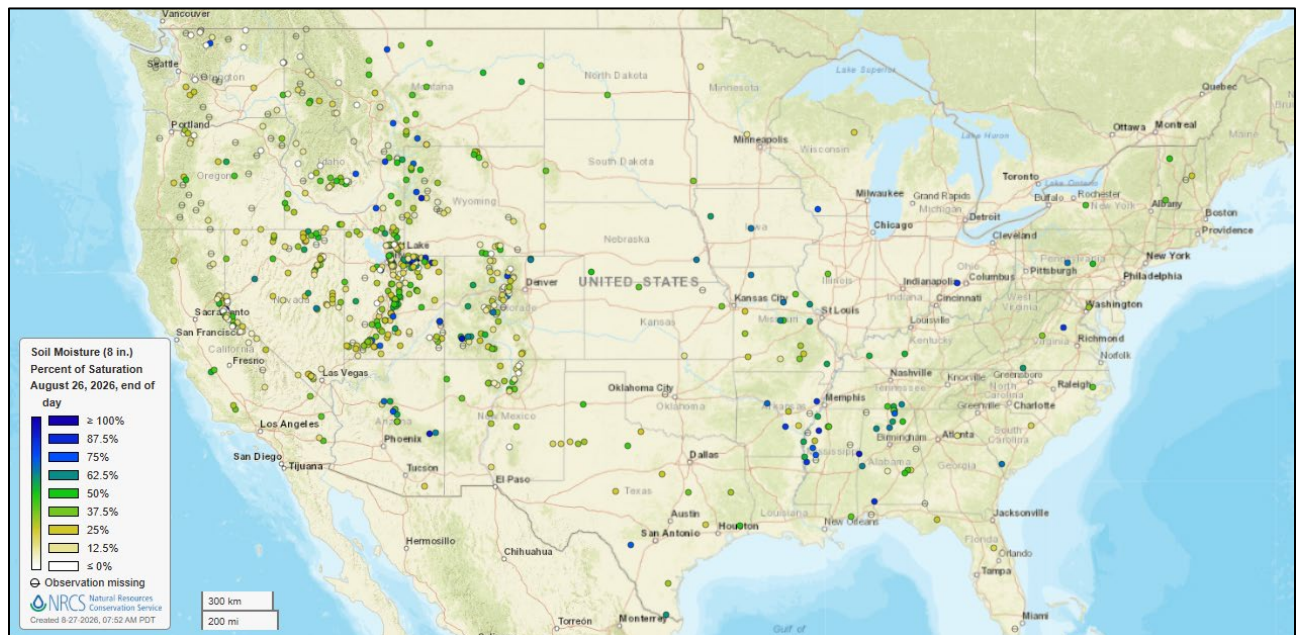


[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of August 22, 2026

Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

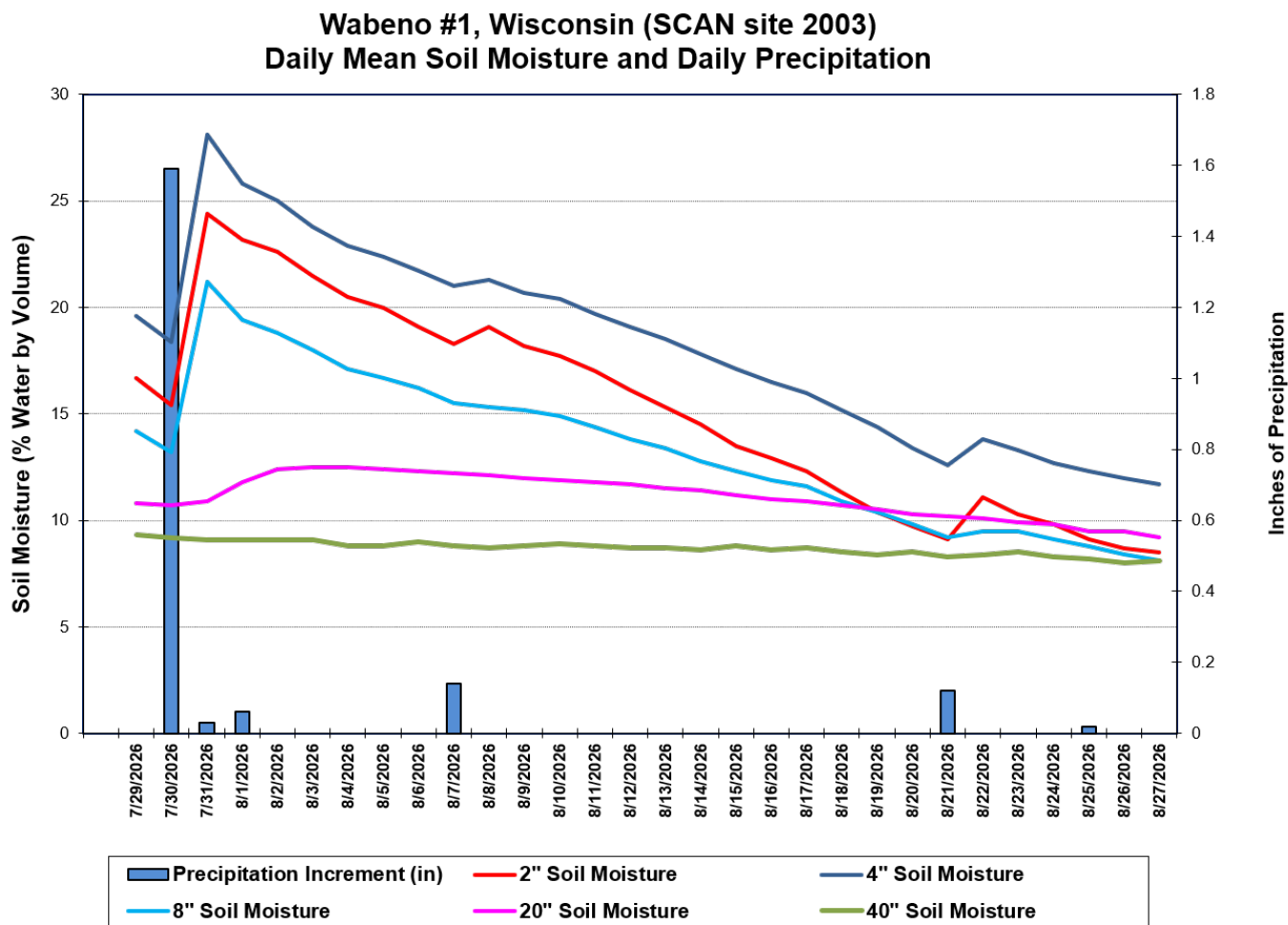
Source: NRCS SNOTEL and [Soil Climate Analysis Network](#) (SCAN)

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



Soil Moisture

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



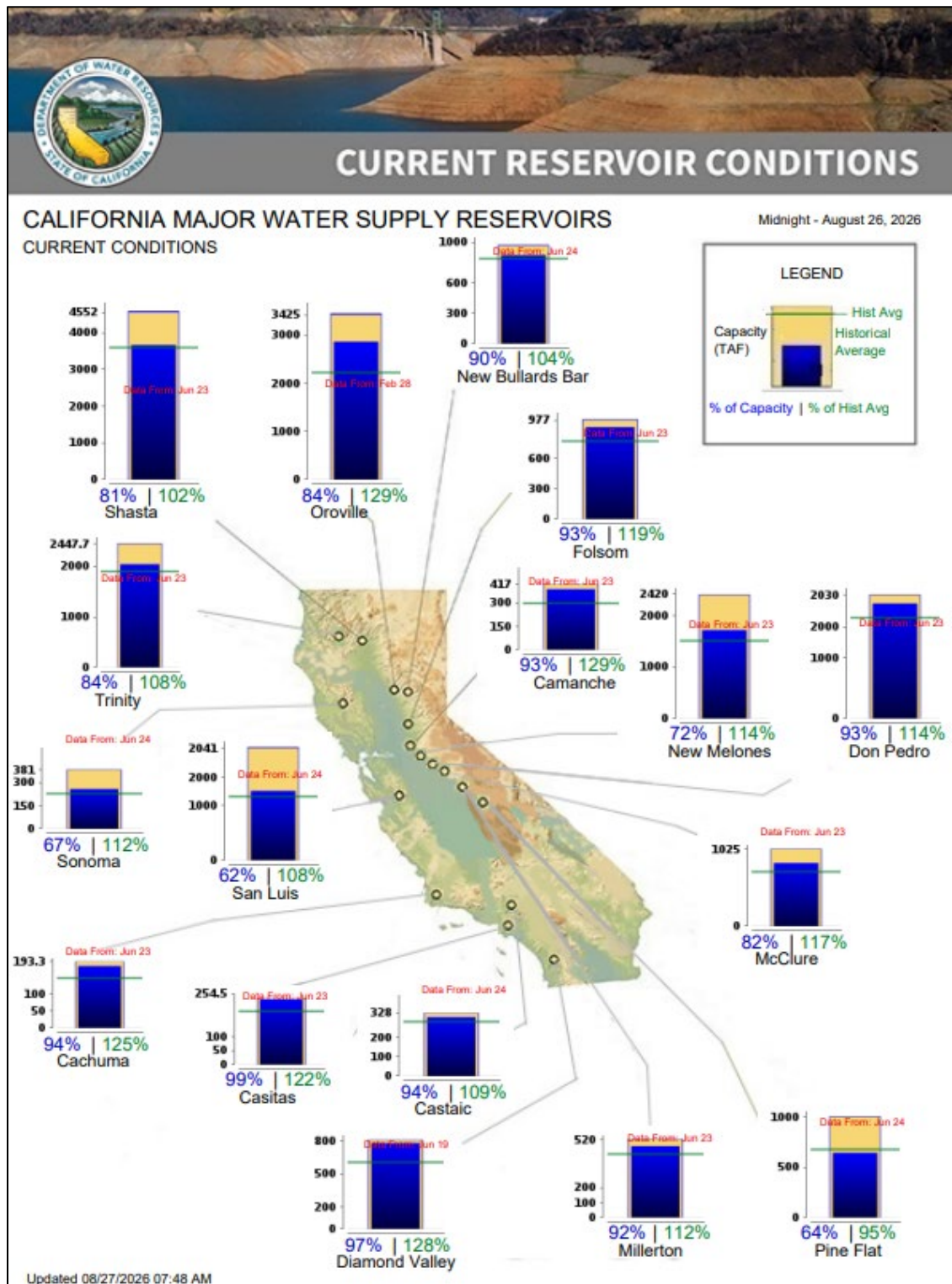
This chart shows the precipitation and soil moisture for the last 30 days at the [Wabeno #1](#) SCAN site in Wisconsin. Soil sensors at all depths except the -40-inch sensor recorded increases in soil moisture after the site received 1.68 inches of precipitation between July 30 through August 1. Total precipitation for the 30-day period was 1.96 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 27, 2026: “Southeastern thunderstorms will continue for the next few days, with activity gradually diminishing during the weekend and early next week. Additional rainfall could reach 1 to 3 inches from the central Gulf Coast region to the southern half of the Atlantic Coast. Meanwhile, the North American monsoon circulation will become more active, with scattered showers arcing from the Four Corners States across the northern Plains and upper Midwest. In contrast, mostly dry weather will prevail during the next 5 days in the mid-South and lower Midwest, with hot, dry weather returning across the southern Plains during the weekend. Elsewhere, cooler air will begin to overspread the West, although rain showers will be slow to develop in the Pacific Coast States. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for September 1 – 5 calls for the likelihood of below-normal temperatures in the Far West, while hotter-than-normal conditions should prevail along and east of a line from southwestern Arizona to eastern Montana. Meanwhile, near- or above-normal rainfall should occur nationwide, with the Pacific Northwest having the greatest likelihood of experiencing unusually wet weather.”

Weather Hazards Outlook: [August 29 – September 2, 2026](#)

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center

U.S. Day 3-7 Hazards Outlook

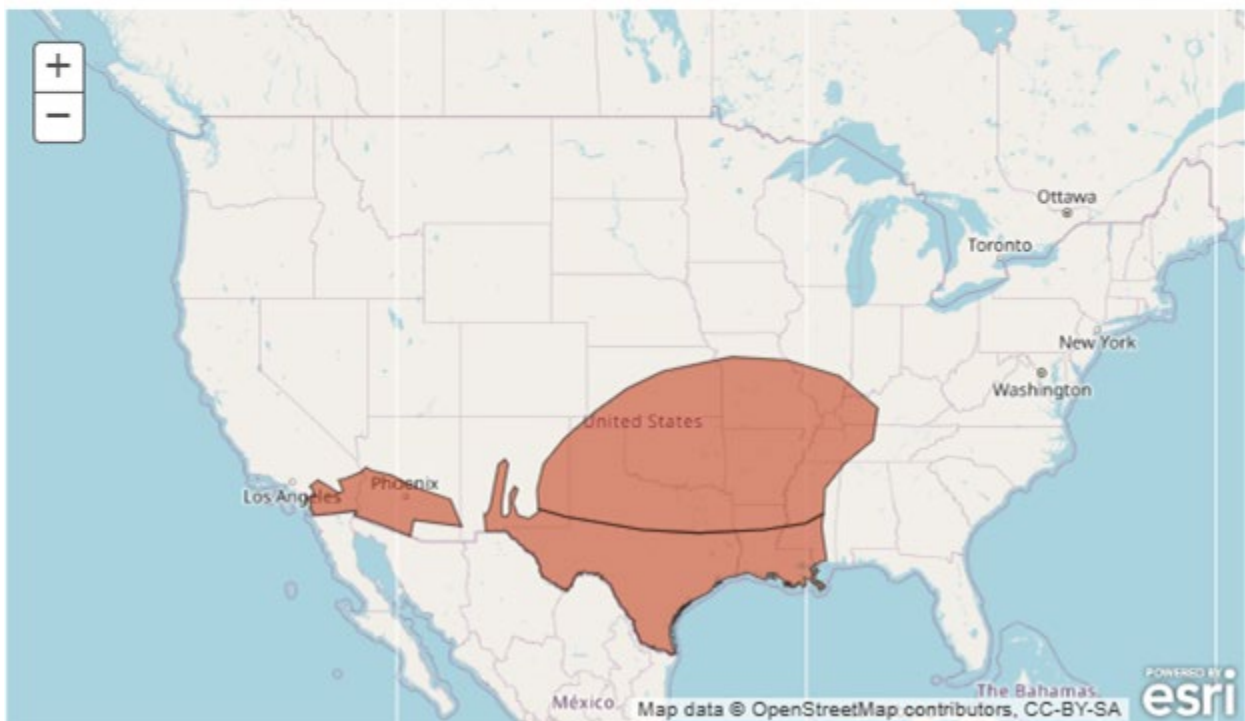
About the Hazards Outlook

Created August 26, 2026

Precipitation	☒
Temperature	☒
Wildfires	☒
Soils	☐
Flooding	☐

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

Valid August 29, 2026 - September 02, 2026

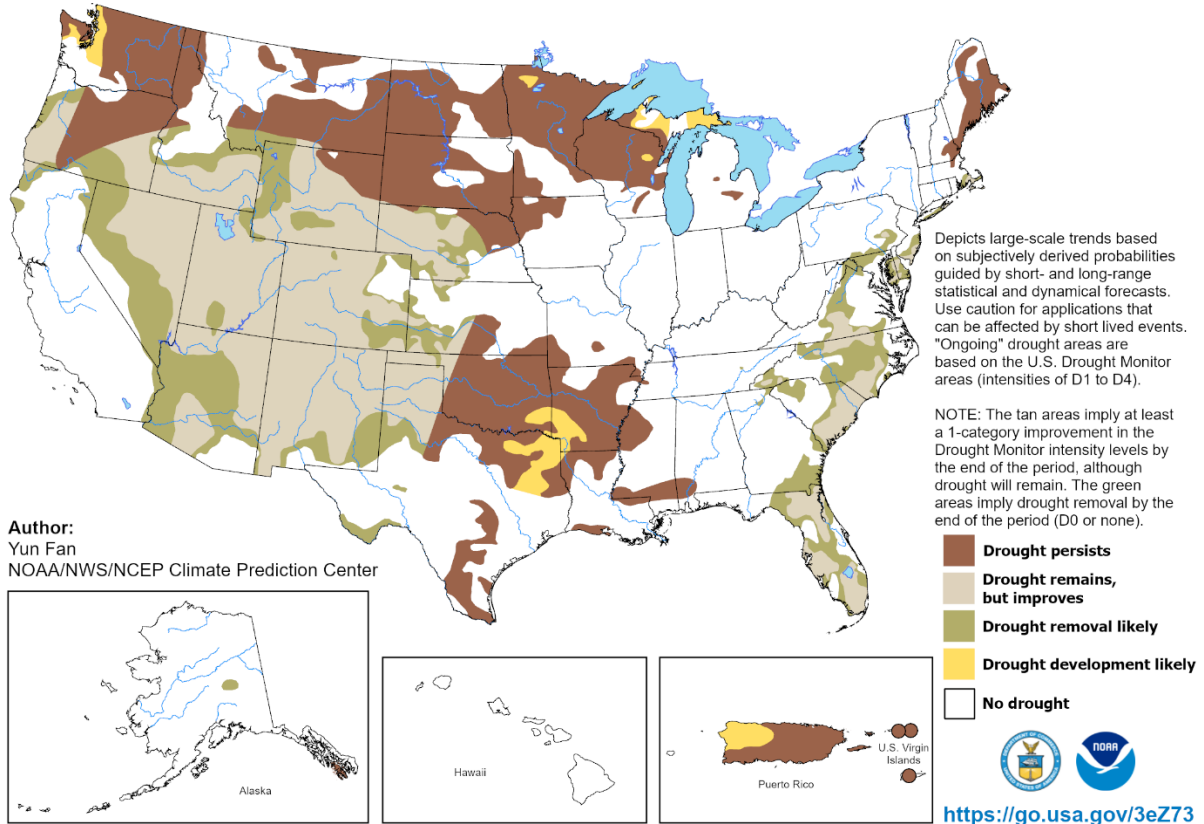


Seasonal Drought Outlook: [August 20 – November 30, 2026](#)

Source: National Weather Service

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

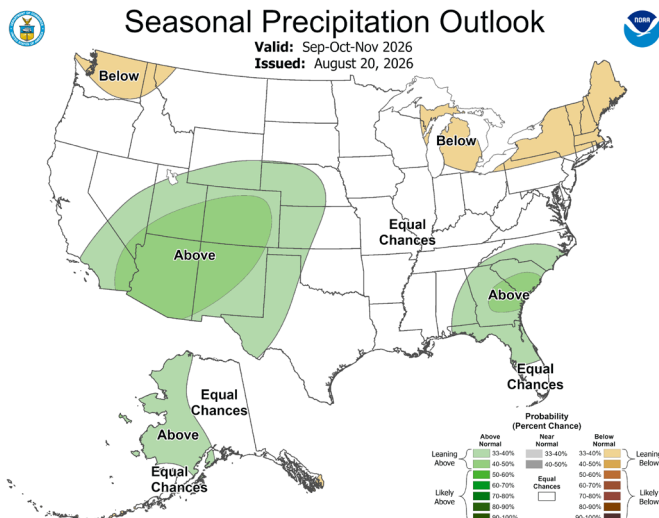
Valid for August 20 - November 30, 2026
Released August 20, 2026



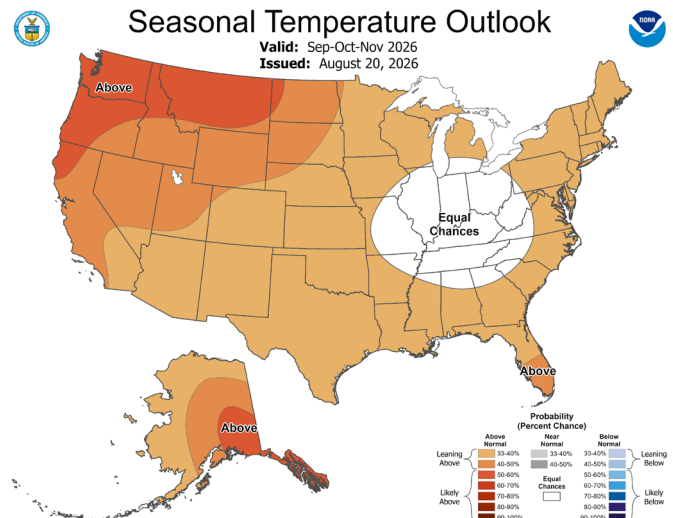
Author:
Yun Fan
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center

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](#).