



United States Department of Agriculture

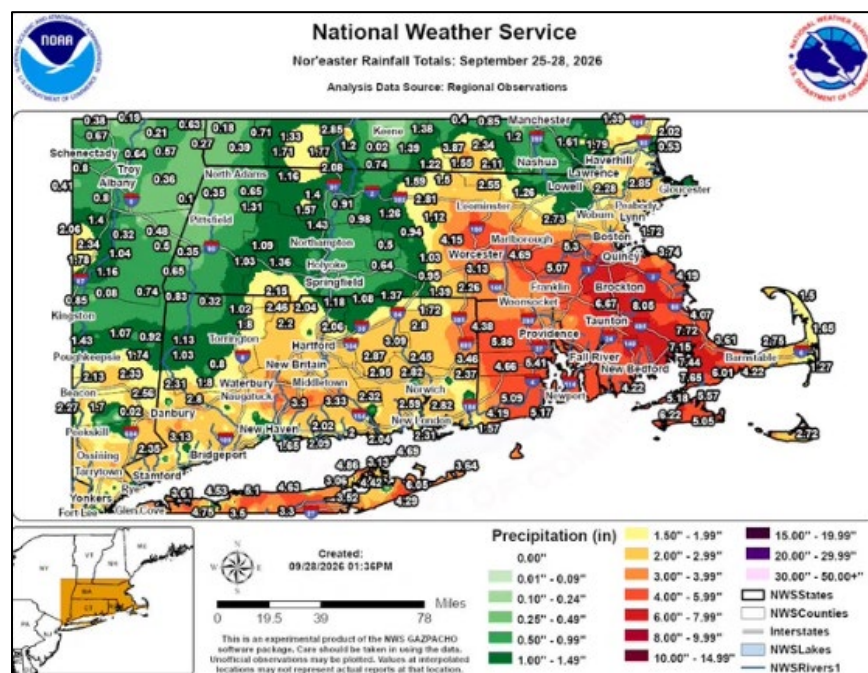
# Water and Climate Update

October 1, 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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## Powerful Nor'easter impacts the East Coast



Between September 25-28, a strong storm system known as a Nor'easter brought torrential rainfall and strong winds to many parts of the Northeast and areas along the east coast as far south as the Carolinas. Some locations experienced river and coastal flooding after receiving over six inches of rain. High tide and high storm surge combined during the storm event, leading to major coastal erosion and flooded streets, houses, and businesses. A confirmed dogfish shark was even spotted briefly swimming down a street in New Jersey during the event. Residents and officials compared the storm intensity and damage done to past hurricanes such as Hurricane Sandy.

### Related:

['Is that a shark?' Shark spotted swimming through nor'easter-flooded street](#) – USA Today

[Nor'easter lashes coastal communities with soaking rain, wind and massive waves](#) – CNN

[Powerful nor'easter floods Northeast again, causing problems from New Jersey to New England](#) – AP News

[Nor'easter rocked Jersey Shore, leaving portions of beaches damaged: "We need help"](#) – CBS News

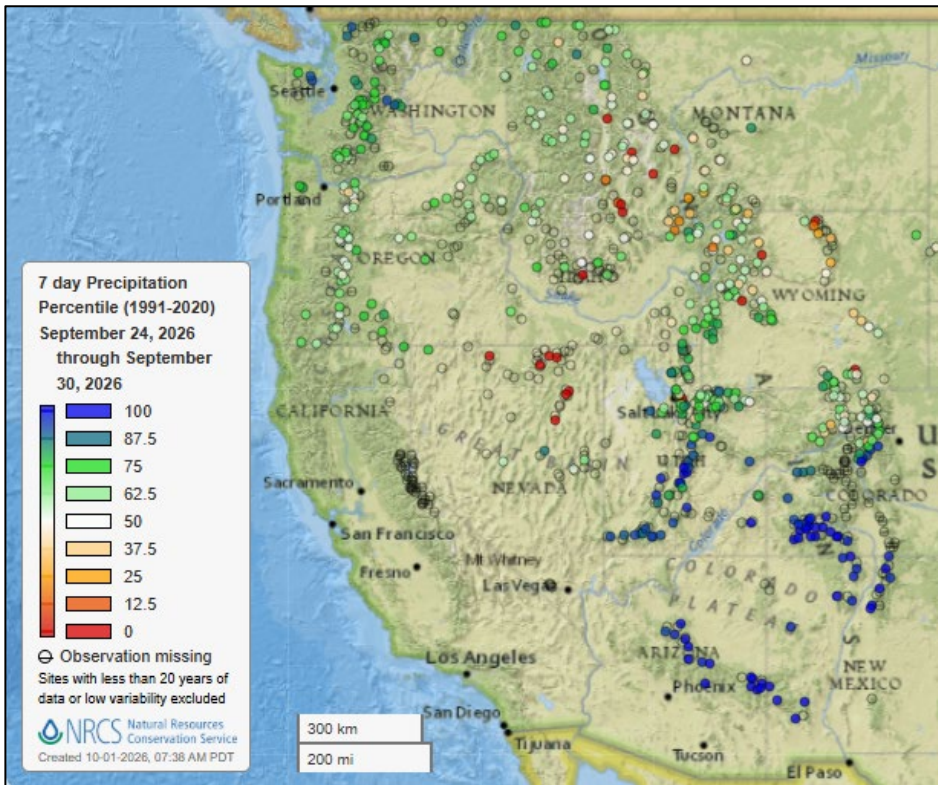
[Shipwreck remains exposed by recent Northeast storms](#) – Los Angeles Times

[Nor'easter Storm Summary Message](#) – NOAA

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](#)



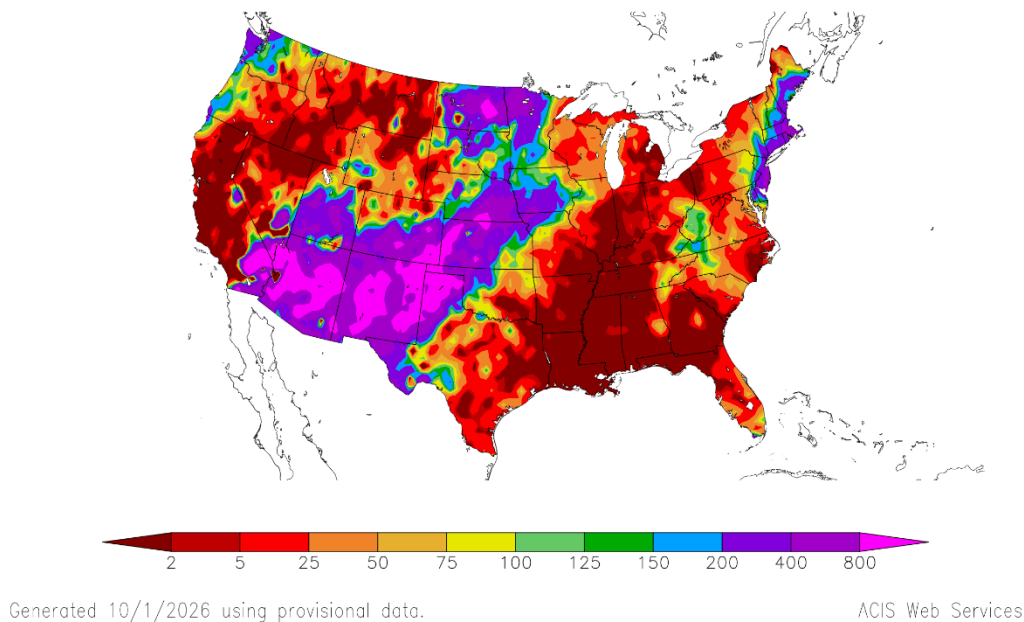
## Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%)  
9/24/2026 – 9/30/2026



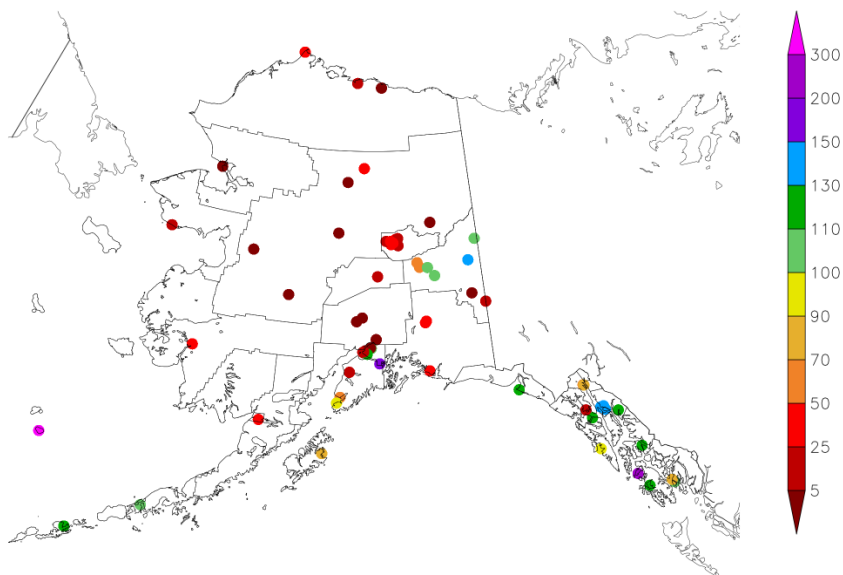
## Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%)  
9/24/2026 – 9/30/2026



## Monthly, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

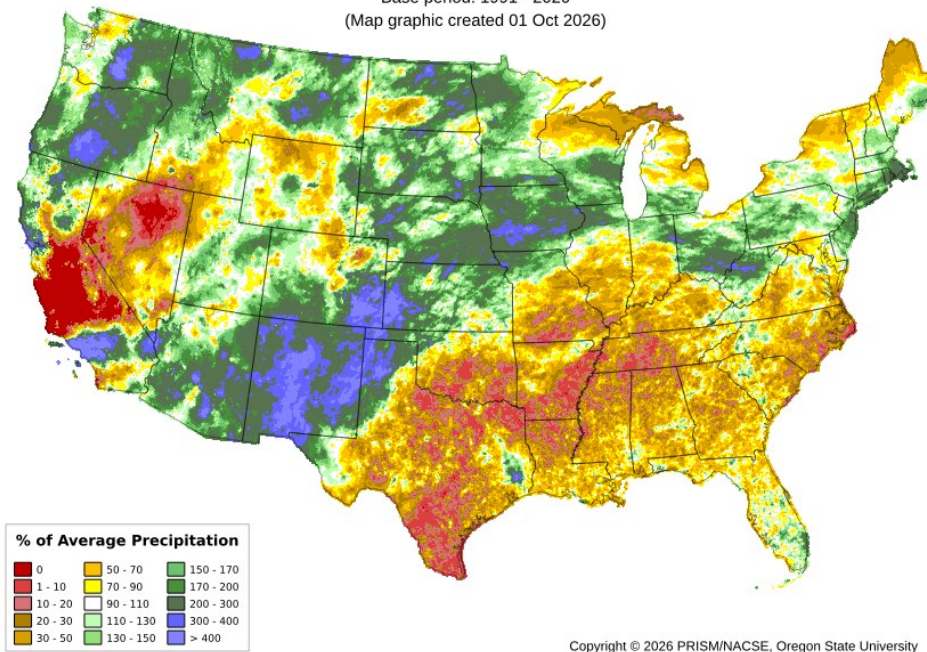
Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 Sep 2026 - 30 Sep 2026

Period ending 7 AM EST 30 Sep 2026

Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 01 Oct 2026)

[Monthly national total precipitation anomaly map](#)



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

Source: PRISM

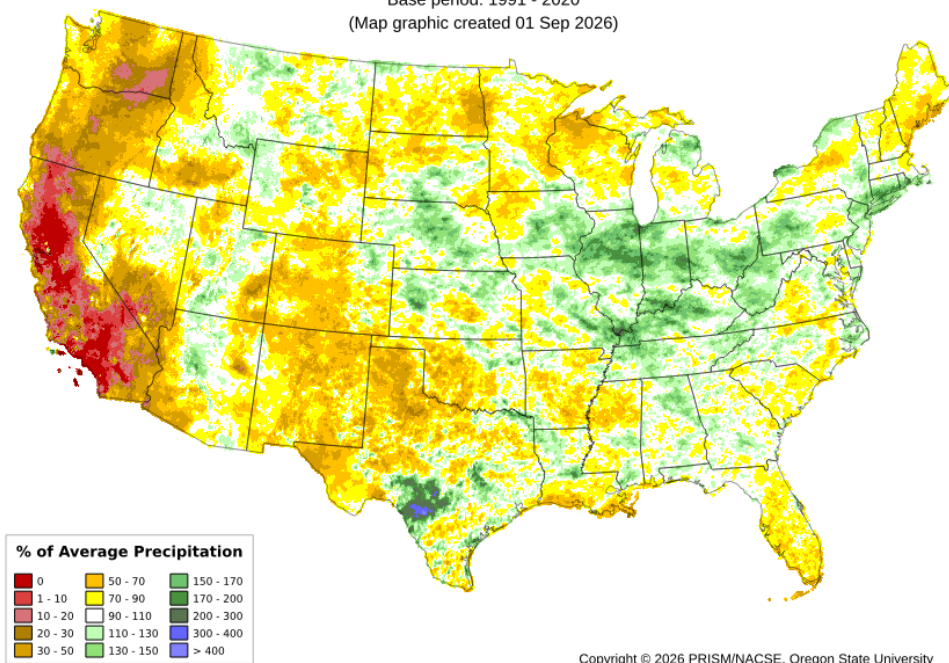
[June through August 2026 precipitation anomaly map](#)

Total Precipitation Anomaly: Jun 2026 - Aug 2026

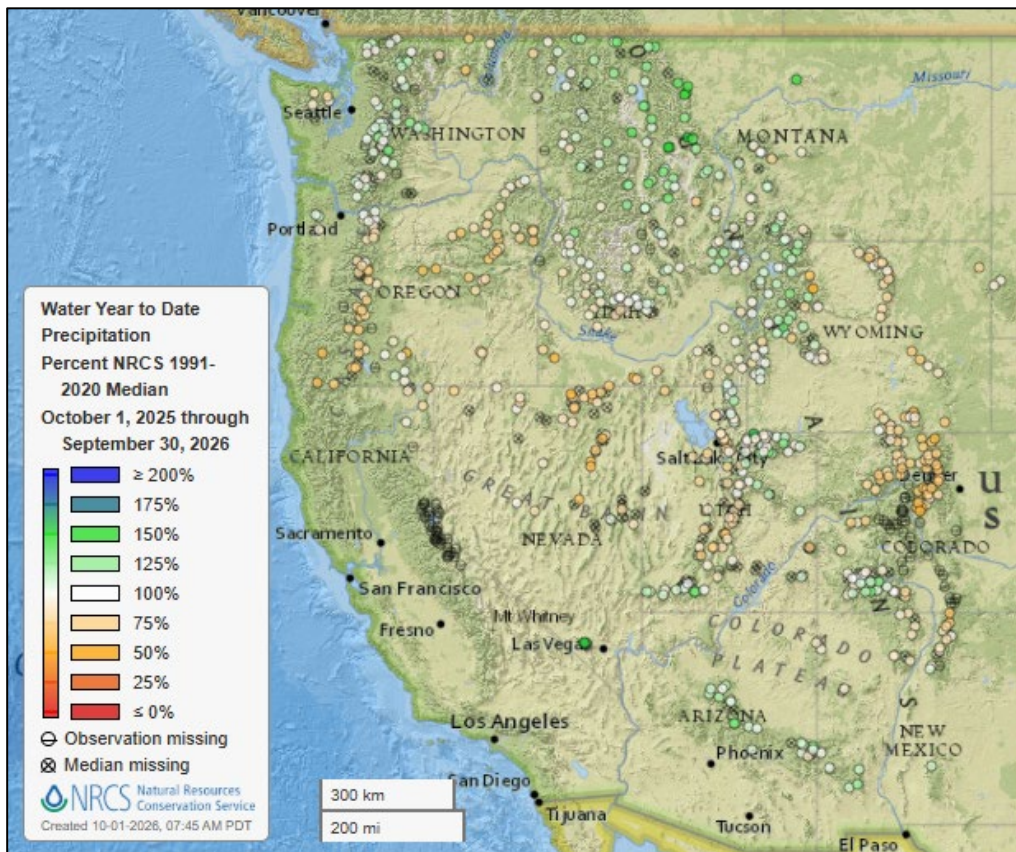
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Aug 2026

Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 01 Sep 2026)



## 2026 Water Year Total, NRCS SNOTEL Network

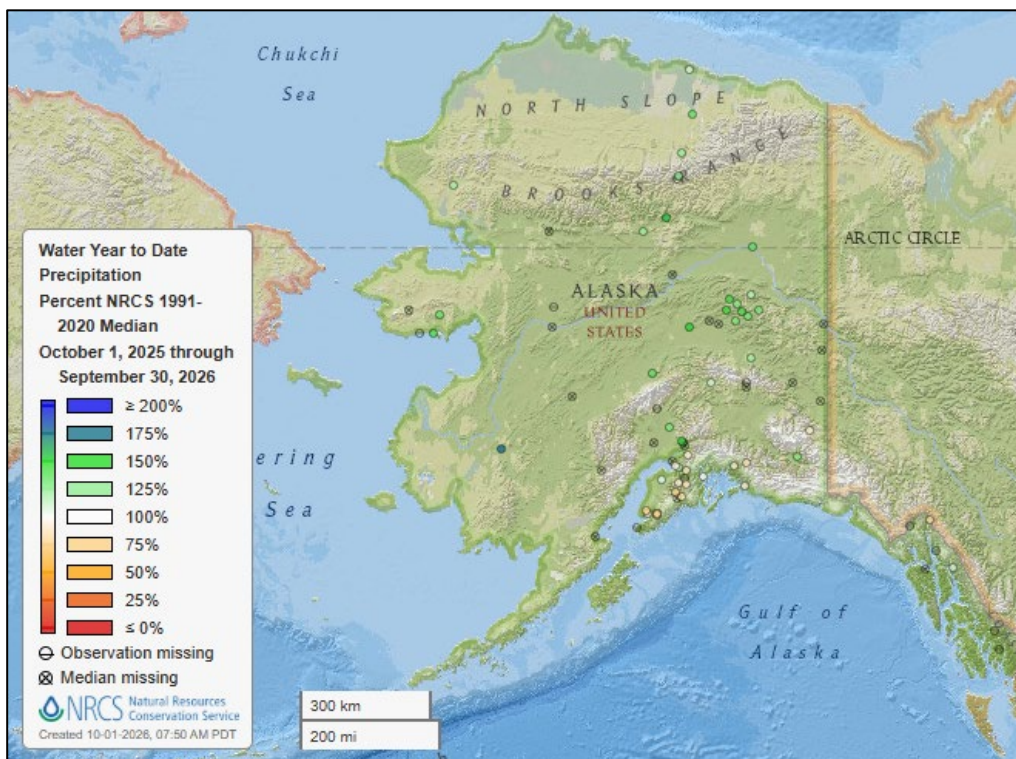


[2026 water year total precipitation percent of median map](#)

**See also:**

[2026 water year total precipitation percent of average map](#)

[2026 water year total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)



[Alaska 2026 water year total precipitation percent of median map](#)

**See also:**

[Alaska 2026 water year total precipitation percent of average map](#)

[Alaska 2026 water year total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

## Temperature

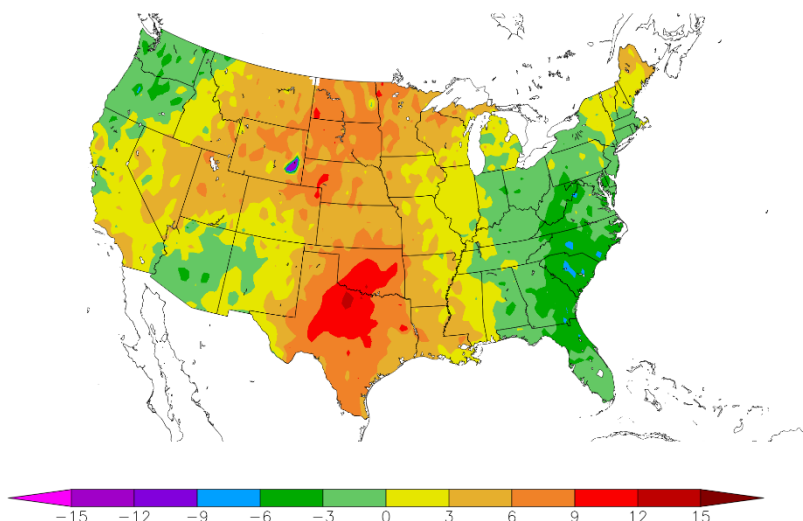
### Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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)  
9/24/2026 – 9/30/2026



Generated 10/1/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

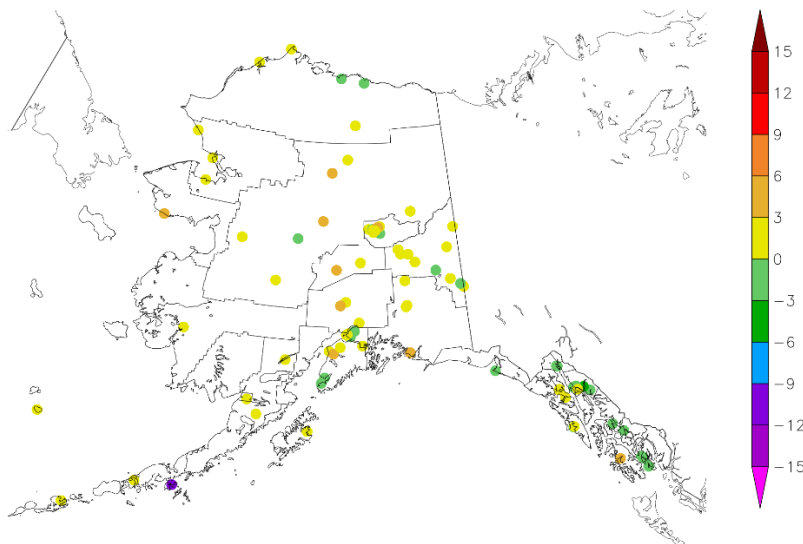
### Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
9/24/2026 – 9/30/2026



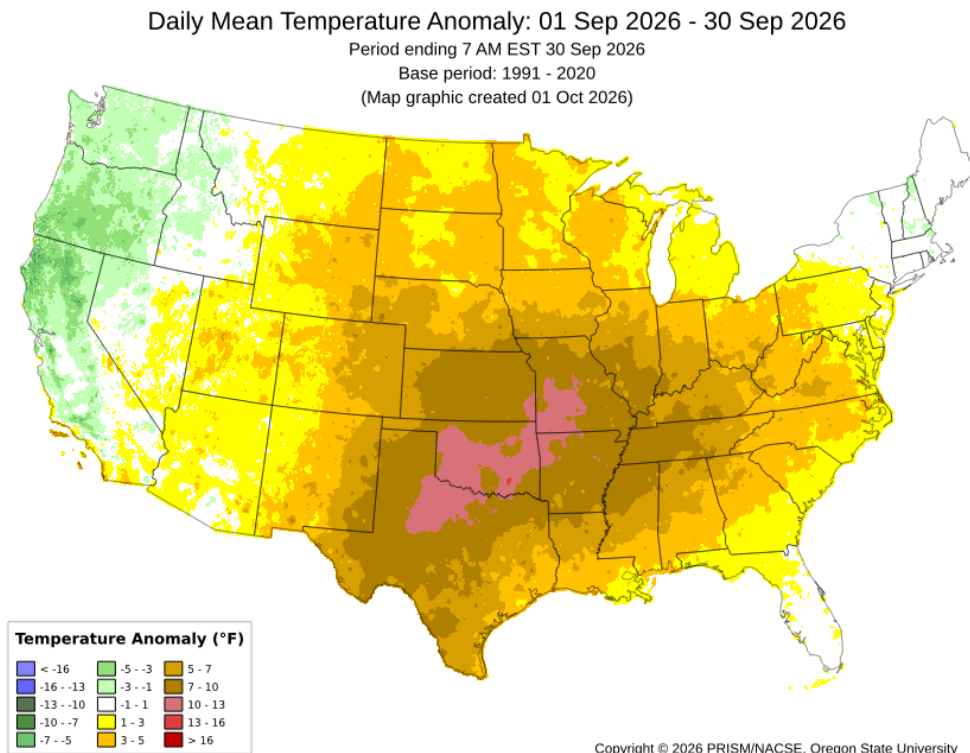
Generated 10/1/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

## Monthly, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

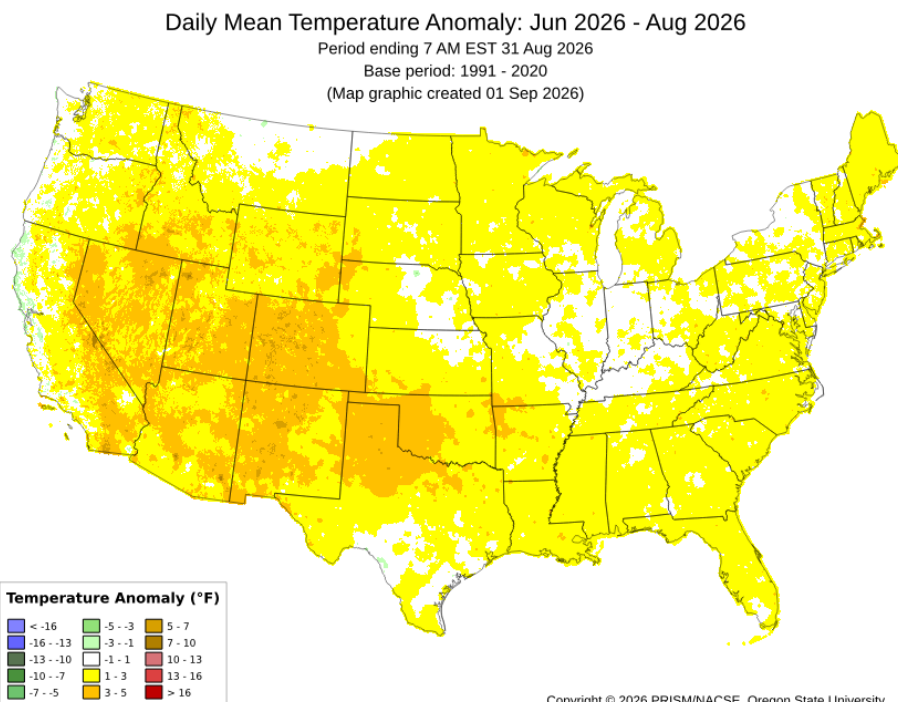
Source: PRISM

[Monthly national  
daily mean  
temperature  
anomaly map](#)



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

Source: PRISM



[June through August  
2026 daily mean  
temperature anomaly  
map](#)

## Drought

### [U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

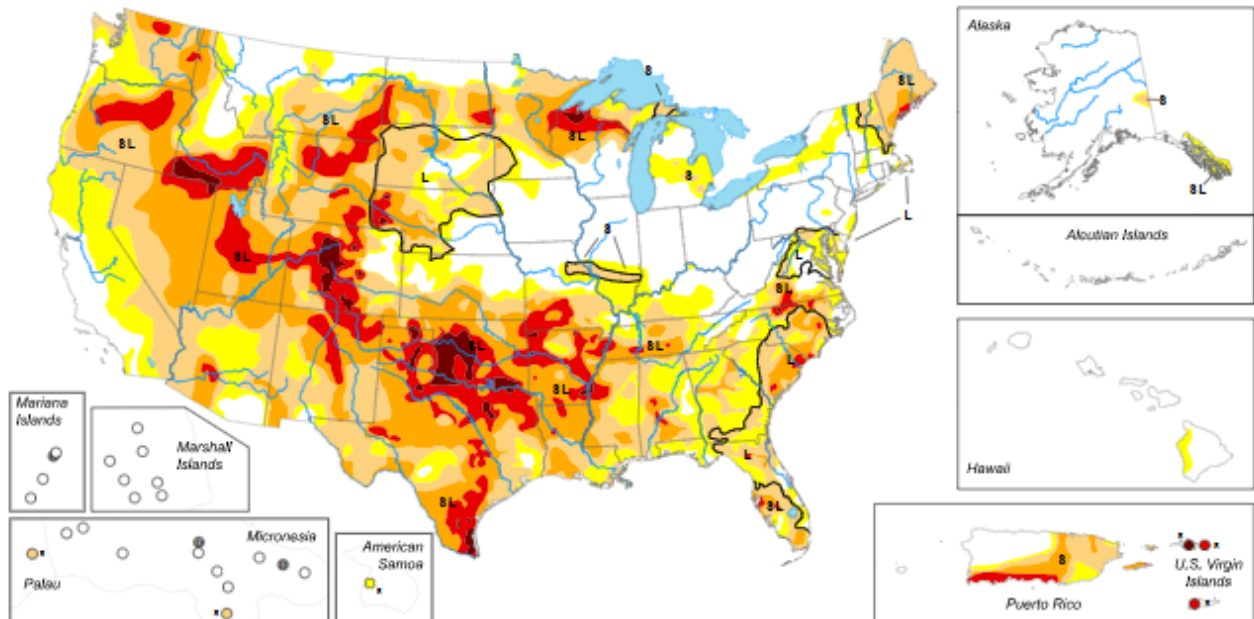
### [U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA

Map released: October 1, 2026

Data valid: September 29, 2026

☐ View grayscale version of the map



United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[Jonathan Case](#), NASA/MSFC/UAH

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Denise Gutzmer](#), 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                          | D1 (Moderate Drought)                                                        | D3 (Extreme Drought)                                                      | No Data                        |
| D0 (Abnormally Dry)           | D2 (Severe Drought)                                                          | D4 (Exceptional Drought)                                                  |                                |
| - Delineates dominant impacts | - Short-term impacts, typically less than 6 months (agriculture, grasslands) | - Long-term impacts, typically greater than 6 months (hydrology, ecology) | - Short- and long-term impacts |

### **Current [National Drought Summary](#), September 29, 2026**

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“This week featured a dynamic and changeable drought environment across the country, partially thanks to the rapidly intensifying El Niño resulting in much above-average temperatures in the eastern Pacific waters. These warm ocean temperatures have been fueling numerous hurricanes in the East Pacific; three of which indirectly impacted the United States. Hurricane Nolo affected parts of the Hawaiian Islands with heavy rains, although mainly impinged on the east-facing slopes that are not in any drought or unusually dry conditions. Meanwhile, moisture from Hurricanes Odalys and Polo both contributed to a near-record moist environment over the normally dry Desert Southwest. Very heavy rains fell on much of New Mexico, and parts of Arizona, Utah, and Colorado both early in the period and again on Monday and Tuesday when Hurricane Polo curved northeast into the Baja of California and tracked into southern New Mexico. Weekly rainfall totals were very impressive across the Southwest, with totals reaching 5-10 inches, accounting for a large portion of the annual rainfall in some places. The heaviest rains fell across eastern New Mexico into northwestern Texas, helping to alleviate drought conditions. Beneficial rains also extended into southern and eastern Colorado into western Kansas and Nebraska, leading to drought relaxation. Coastal New England and the Mid-Atlantic states experienced a substantial Nor’easter that produced heavy rain, gusty winds, and storm-surge flooding from Delaware and New Jersey up to New York’s Long Island and southeastern Massachusetts.

The south-central and southeast states were not so fortunate this past week, however. Continued unseasonably hot dry conditions prevailed across the rest of Texas and Oklahoma eastward into the Tennessee River Valley, leading to worsening drought conditions in many states. The combination of persistently hot weather with virtually no rainfall during much of August and September has led to rapid onset drought in much of Texas and Oklahoma, resulting in widespread severe, extreme, and exceptional drought coverage, which again intensified this past week. Intensifying dryness and drought also prevailed across Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia. And for those residing up north, the upper peninsula of Michigan and northern Wisconsin continues to suffer with worsening drought as precipitation was again meager there this past week. Outside of the Southwestern states, the remainder of the western U.S. had fairly steady-state drought conditions this past week, with only a few improvements occurring in the northern Rockies and in Oregon.”

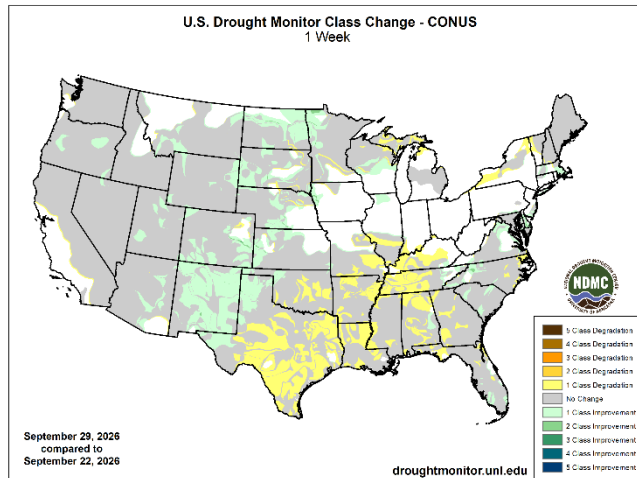
### **National Drought Summary – Looking Ahead**

“Ongoing substantial rain was falling Tuesday morning at the onset of the new U.S. Drought Monitor week, from Arizona and New Mexico into the Central and High Plains. This excessive rainy system connected to Hurricane Polo is projected to continue eastward this week into the High Plains, Midwest, and South regions. The Weather Prediction Center has moderate threats for excessive rainfall from the Southwest into Texas, Oklahoma, northward into Nebraska and Iowa. Drought-busting rains may be possible across the South as this weather system evolves this week. Looking into the next week, the Climate Prediction Center’s 6–10-day outlook indicates that well-above average temperatures will shift into the western states, along with below normal precipitation chances. Meanwhile, above average precipitation chances are projected from southern Texas into the southeastern states, including Florida. Above average precipitation chances are also projected for southeastern Alaska, with near neutral rainfall forecasts for Hawaii.”

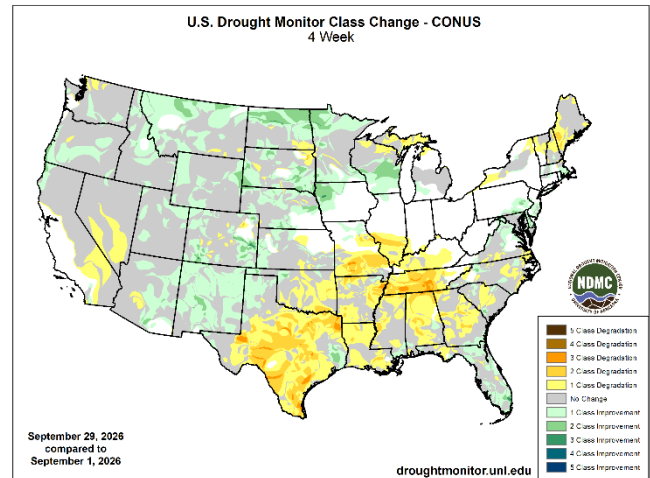
## Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

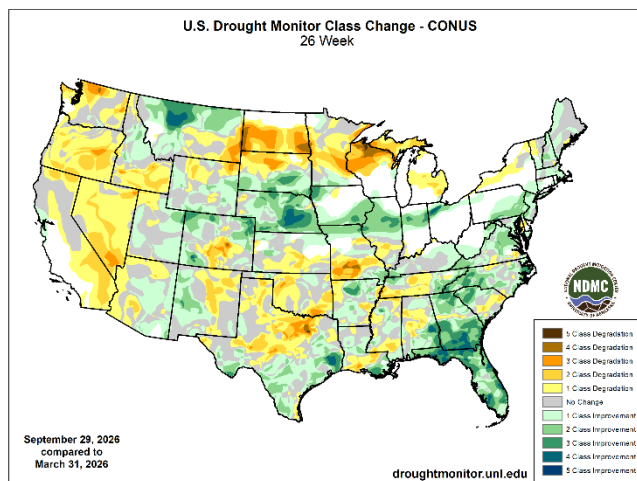
### 1 Week



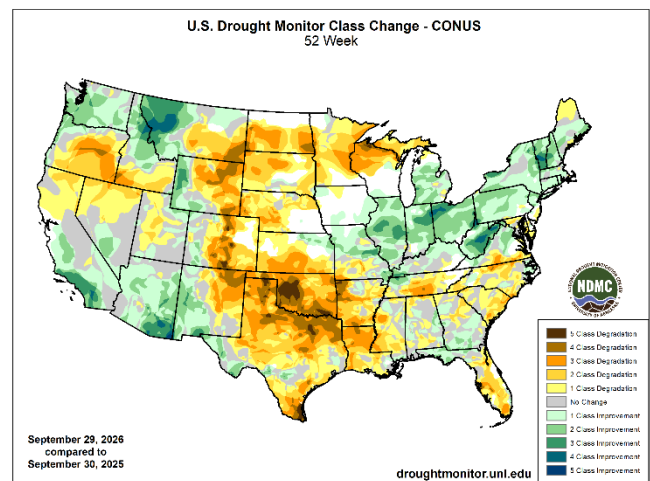
### 1 Month



### 6 Months



### 1 Year



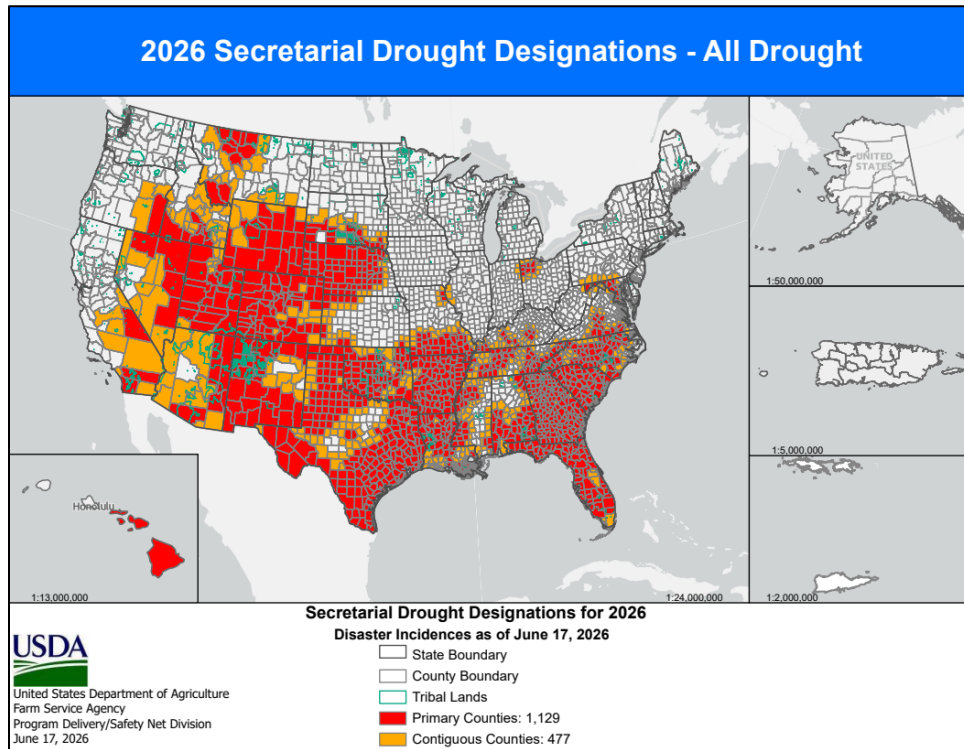
[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.](#)

## 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](#)

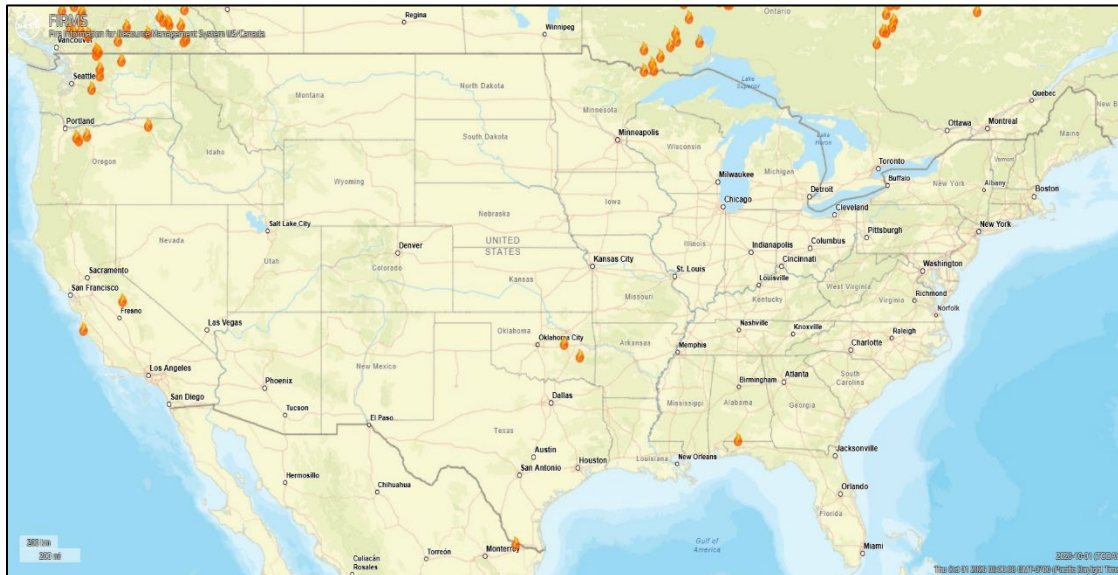
## USDA Secretarial [Drought Designations](#)

Source: USDA Farm Service Agency



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

Source: NASA/USDA Forest Service



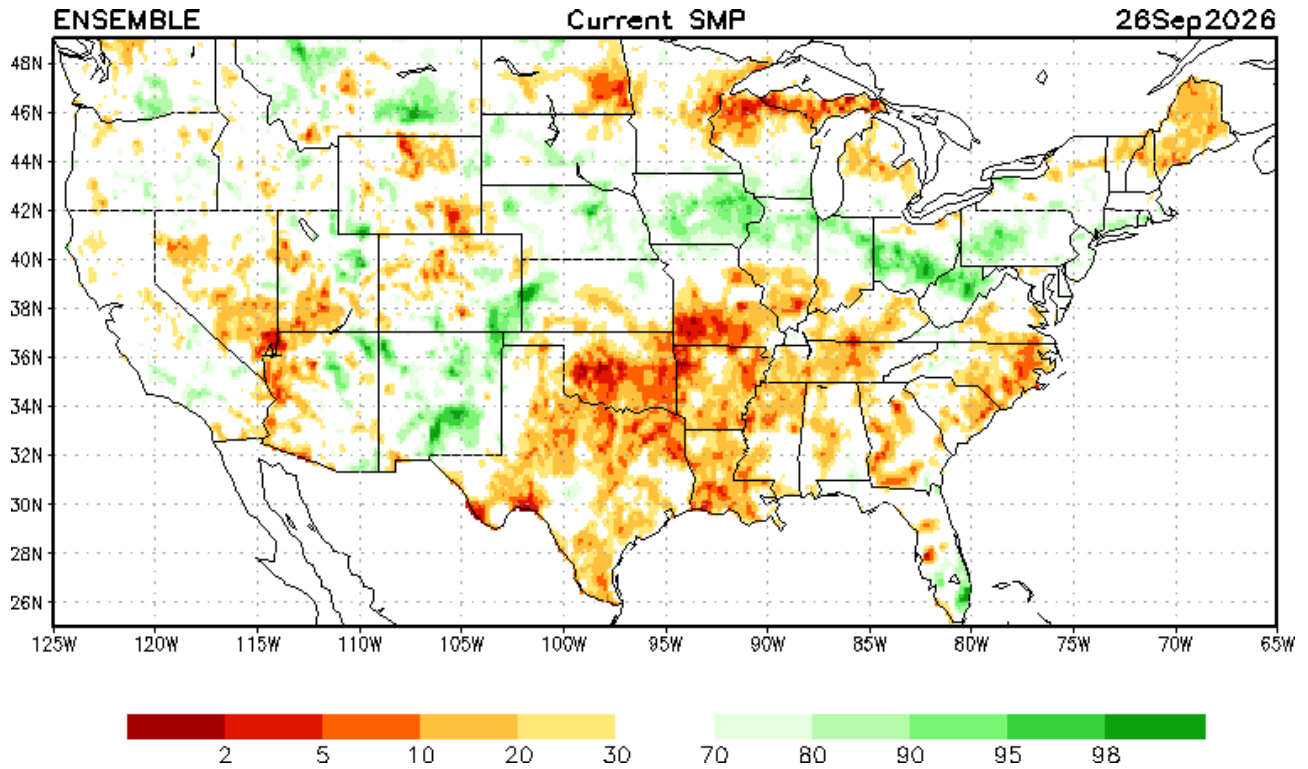
### Highlighted Wildfire Resources

- [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

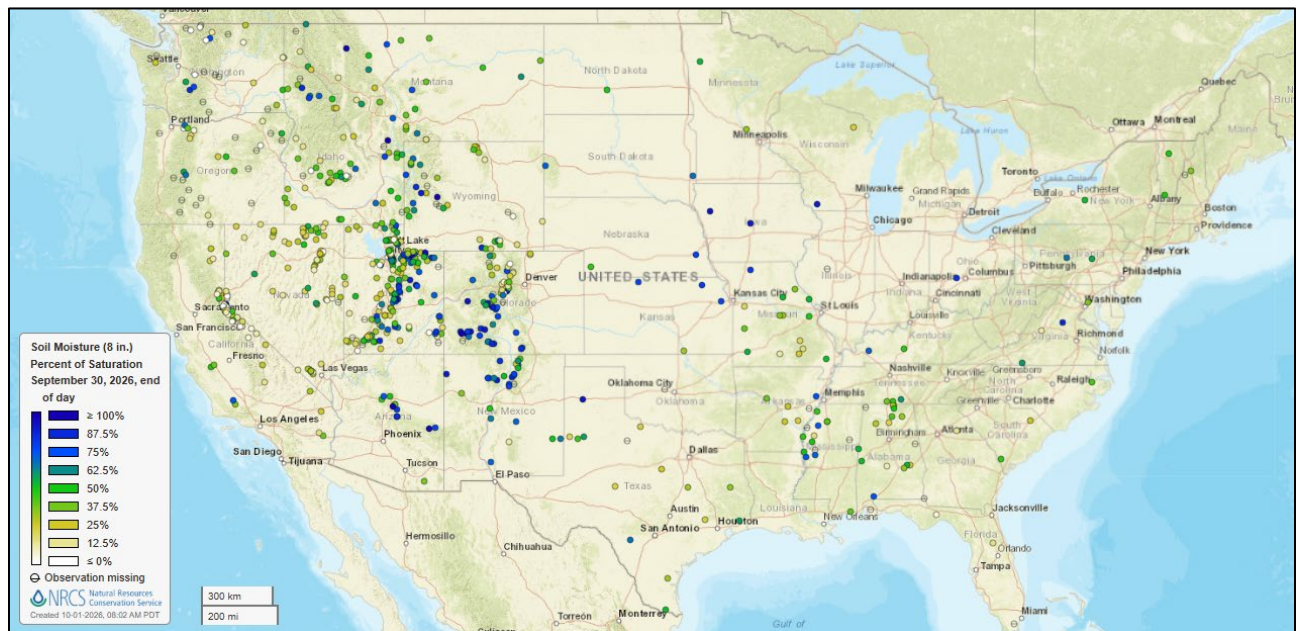


[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of September 26, 2026

### Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

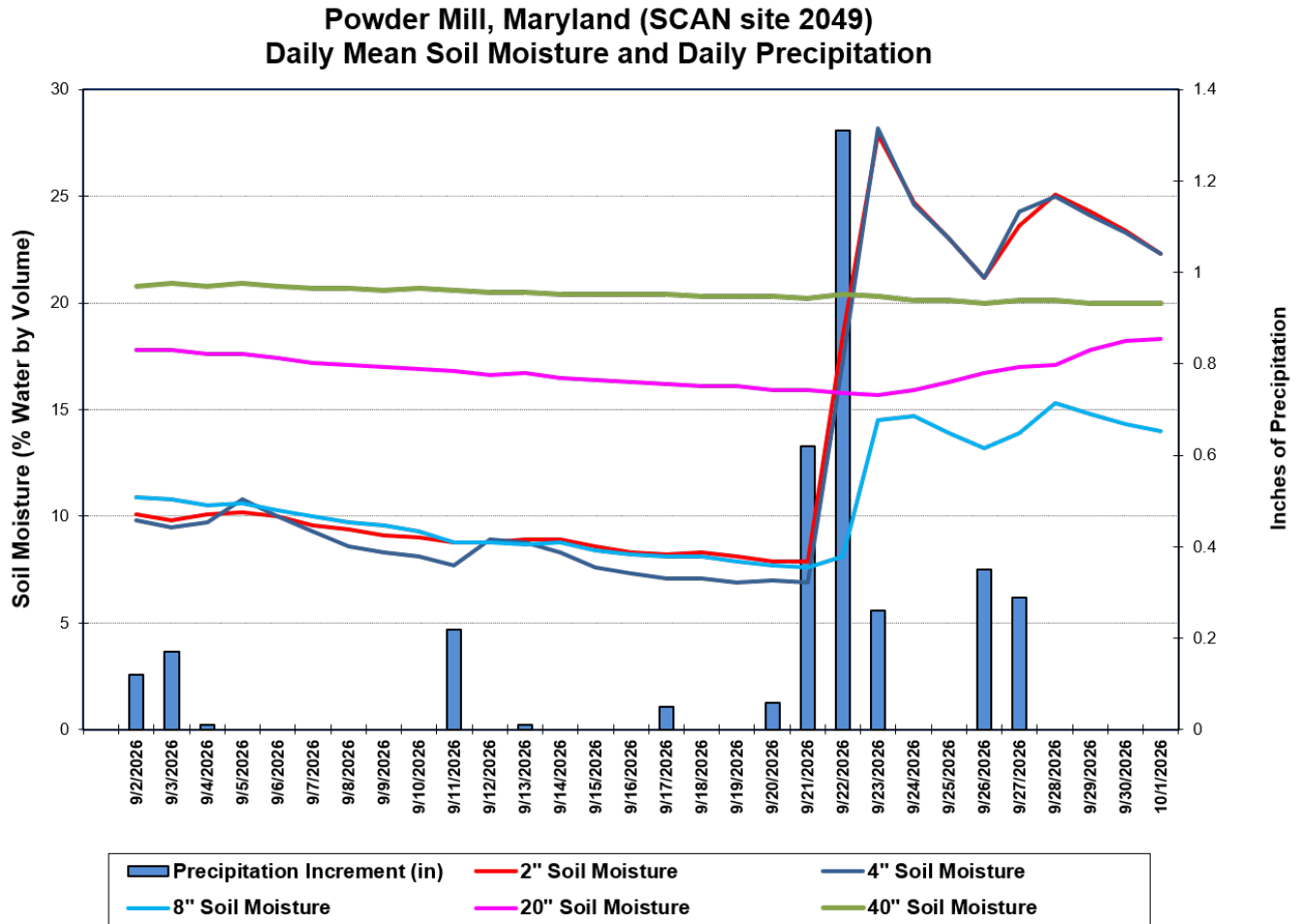
Source: NRCS SNOTEL and [Soil Climate Analysis Network](#) (SCAN)

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



## Soil Moisture

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



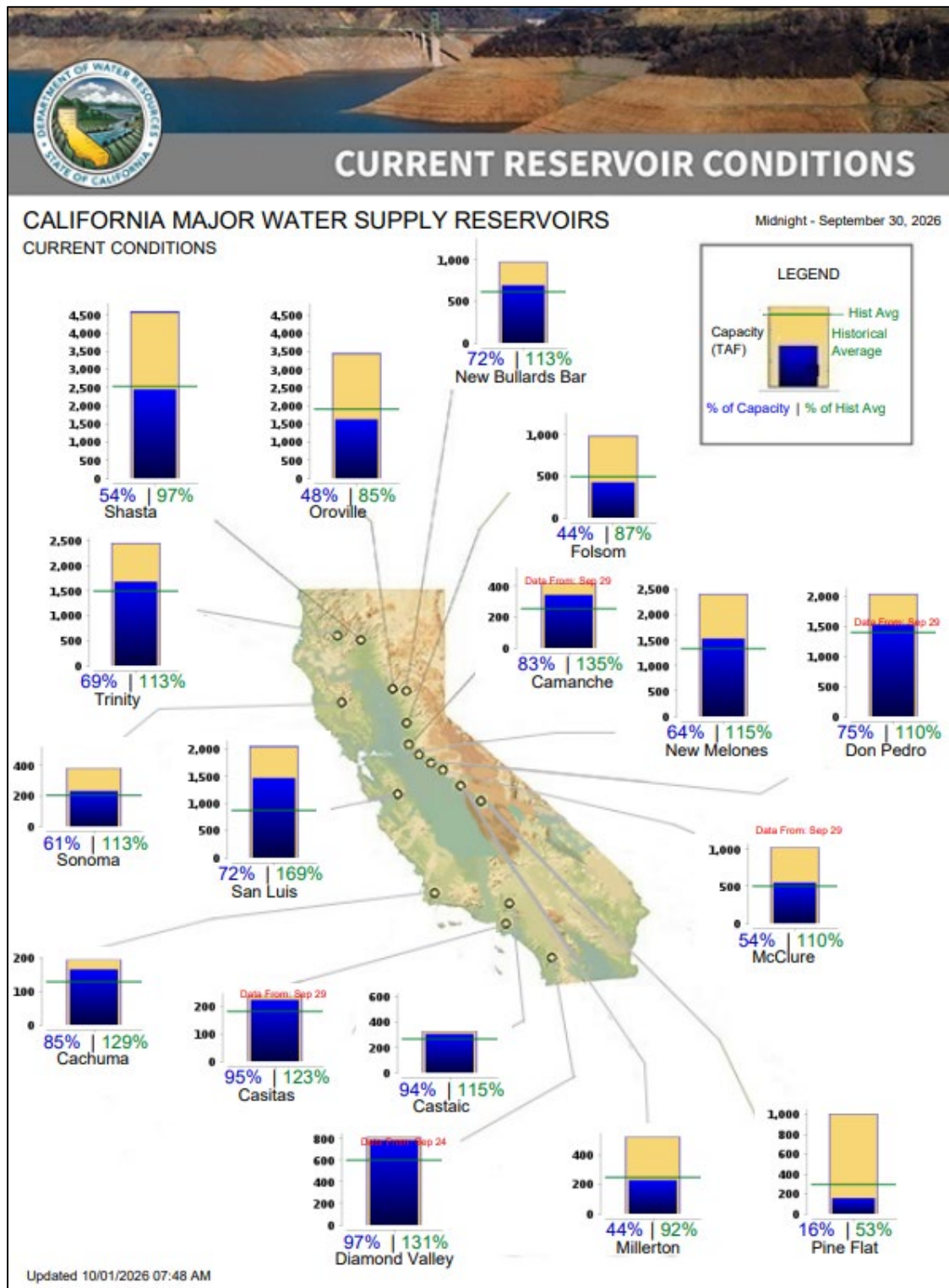
This chart shows the precipitation and soil moisture for the last 30 days at the [Powder Mill](#) SCAN site in Maryland. Soil sensors at all depths except the -40-inch sensor recorded increases in soil moisture after the site received 2.83 inches of precipitation between September 21-27. Total precipitation for the 30-day period was 3.47 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 October 1, 2026:** “A moisture-laden storm system crossing the nation’s mid-section will continue to produce heavy rain while moving eastward. However, the progressive nature of the system will limit additional flooding, following the recent deluge across portions of the central and southern Plains and western Corn Belt. Still, additional rainfall could total 1 to 3 inches from the central Plains into the Midwest. Heavier rain, locally 2 to 6 inches, can be expected from eastern Texas and southeastern Oklahoma to the southern Atlantic Coast, with higher amounts possible along and near the Gulf Coast. In contrast, mostly dry weather will prevail during the next 5 days across the West and the northern Plains, with dry air encompassing much of the country—excluding the Deep South—by early next week. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for October 6 – 10 calls for near- or above-normal temperatures nationwide, except for cooler-than-normal conditions in the Northeast. The western U.S. and the northern High Plains will have the greatest likelihood of experiencing unusual warmth. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal precipitation across most of the country, including the Midwest, should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather from the southern half of Texas to the southern Atlantic Coast.”

## Weather Hazards Outlook: October 3 – 7, 2026

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center

### U.S. Day 3-7 Hazards Outlook

[About the Hazards Outlook](#)

Created September 30, 2026

|               |                                     |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Precipitation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Temperature   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Wildfires     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Soils         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Flooding      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

| 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         |

Valid October 03, 2026 - October 07, 2026



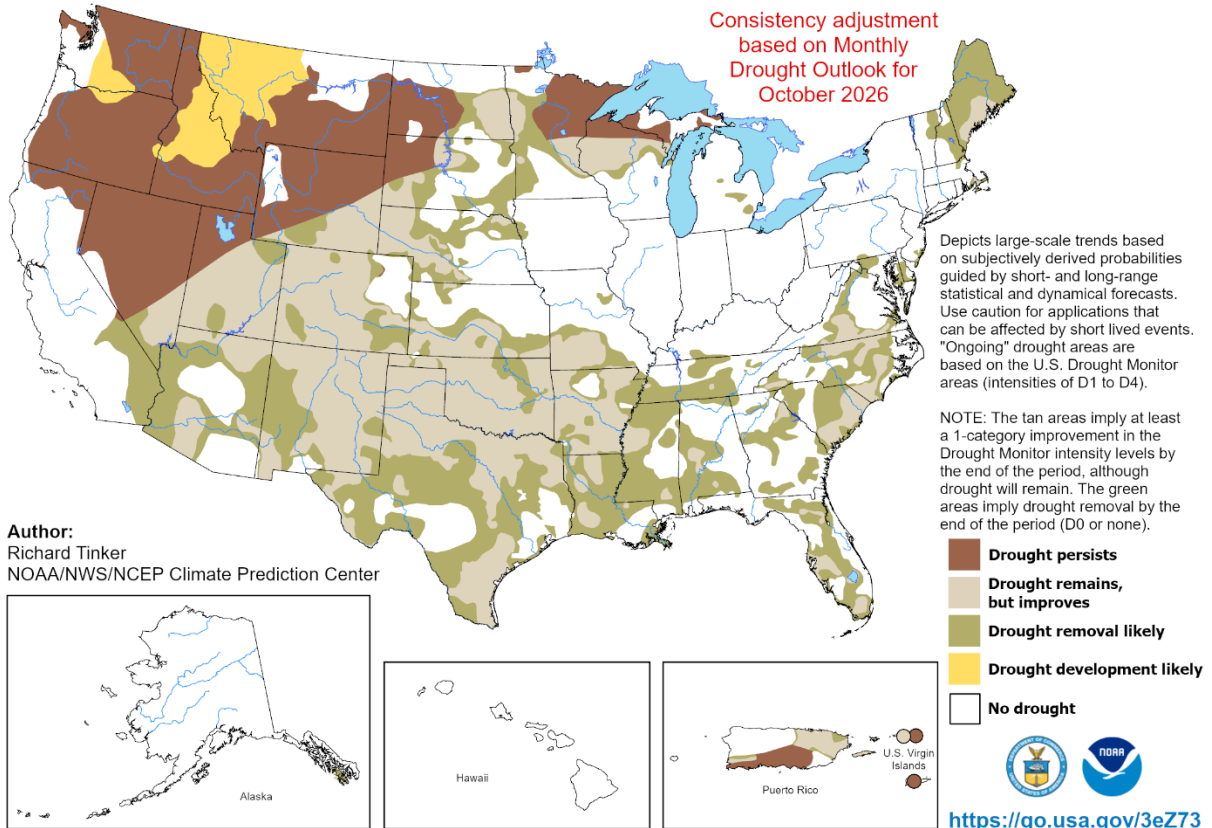
Seasonal Drought Outlook: [October 1 – December 31, 2026](#)

Source: National Weather Service

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

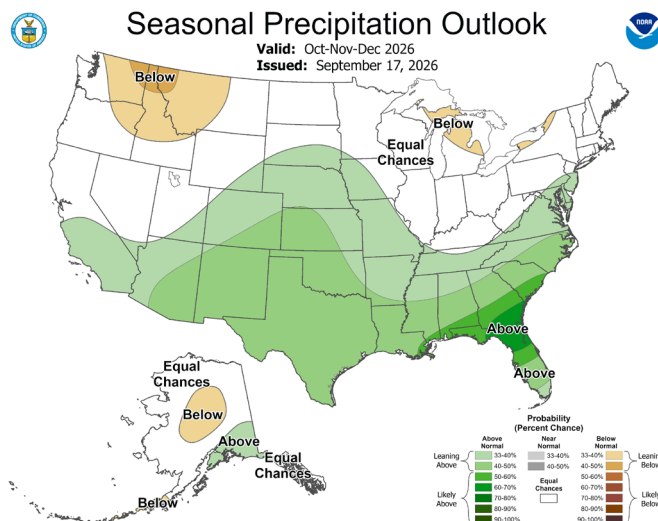
Valid for October 1 - December 31, 2026  
Released September 30, 2026

Consistency adjustment  
based on Monthly  
Drought Outlook for  
October 2026

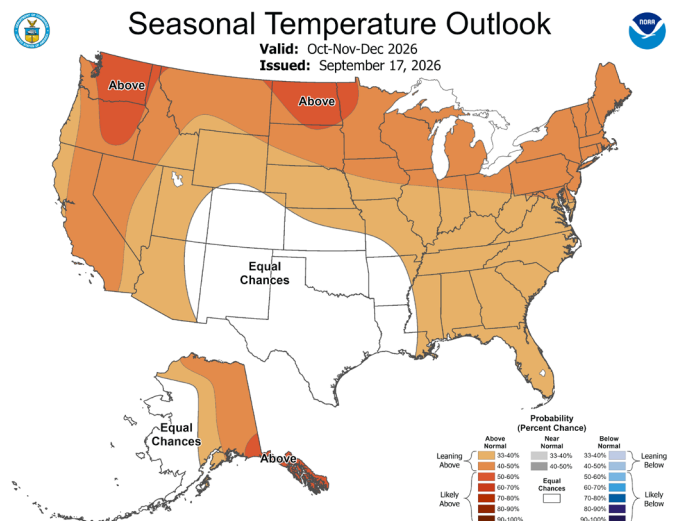


Climate Prediction Center Three-month Outlook

[Precipitation](#)



[Temperature](#)



[October-November-December 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](#).