



Drought Information Statement for the Missouri Ozarks

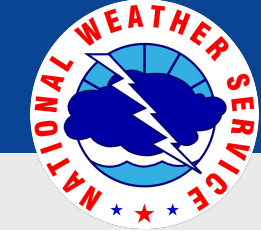
Valid May 7, 2026

Issued By: *WFO Springfield, MO*

Contact Information: *contact.sgf@noaa.gov*

- This product will be updated in early June if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/sgf/SGFDroughtMonitor> for additional information.





U.S. Drought Monitor

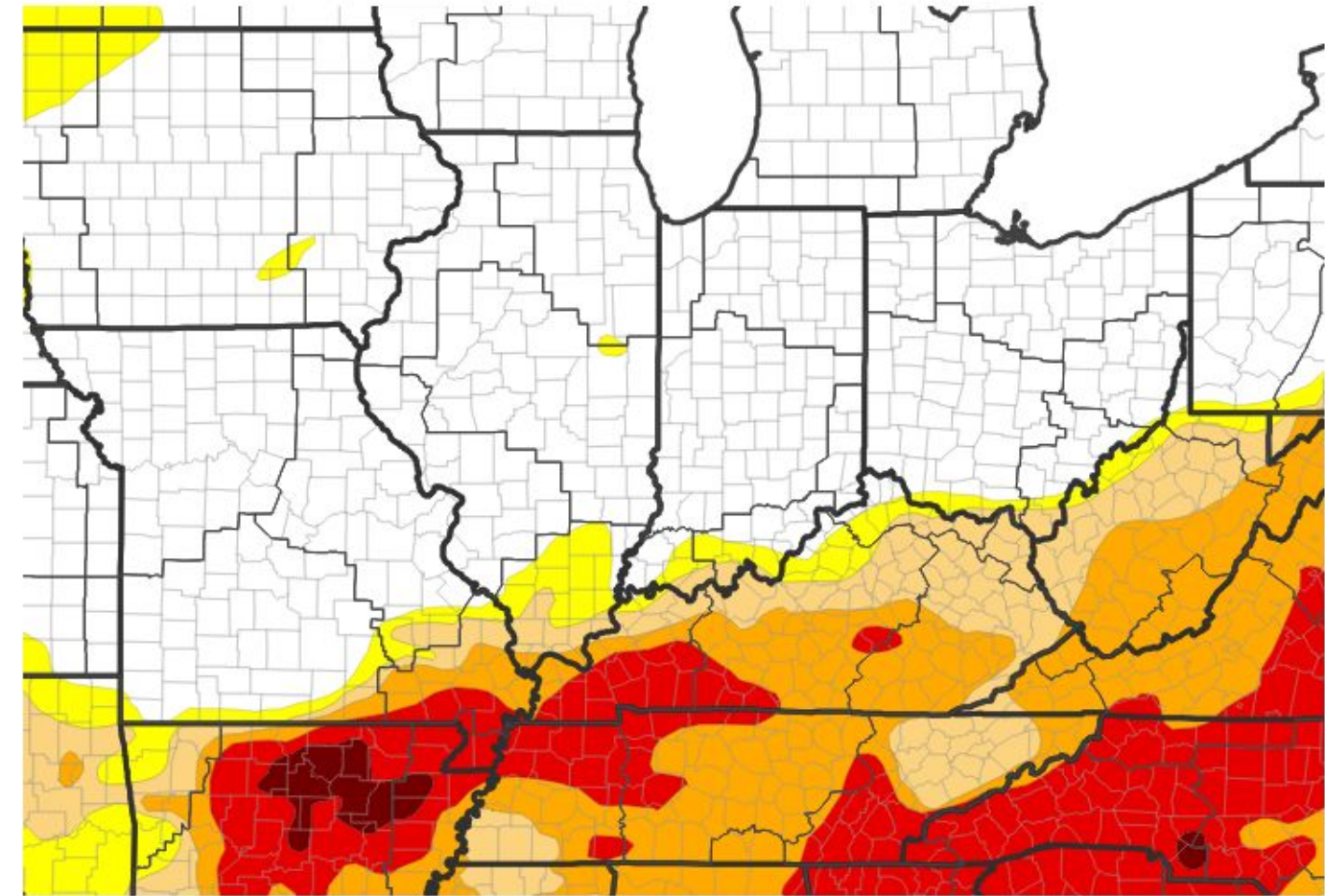
May 7, 2026

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Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Lower Midwest

- **Drought limited to far south central Missouri**
- **Drought Intensity and Extent**
 - D3 (Extreme Drought): Limited across extreme south-central and southeast Missouri. Includes southeastern Oregon county.
 - D2 (Severe Drought): Limited across extreme southeast Missouri. Includes far southeastern Howell and Oregon counties.
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): Across far south central Missouri including far southeastern Ozark, Howell, Oregon and Shannon counties.
 - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Across southern Missouri. Includes portions of Newton, McDonald, Barry, Stone, Taney, Ozark, Howell, Oregon, and Shannon counties in Missouri.

U.S. Drought Monitor



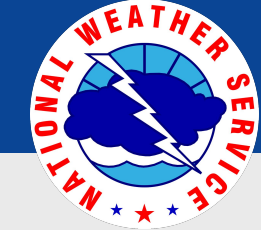
U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/05/26



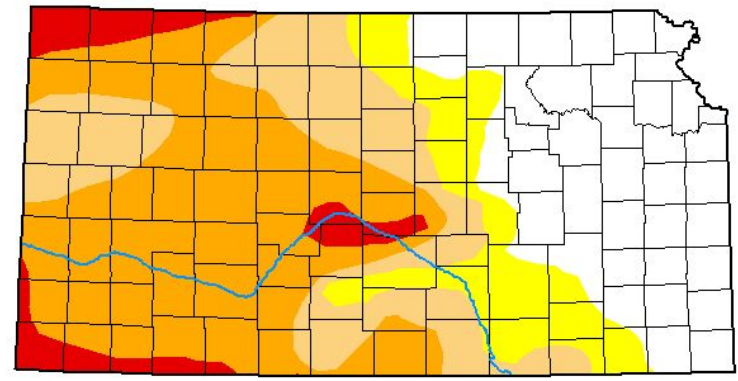


State Drought Monitor

May 7, 2026
1:00 PM

Link to [Recent Change Maps](#)

U.S. Drought Monitor Kansas



May 5, 2026
(Released Thursday, May 7, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	28.88	71.12	59.55	40.18	5.84	0.00
Last Week 04-28-2026	29.94	70.06	57.13	37.66	3.69	0.00
3 Months Ago 02-03-2026	75.07	24.93	4.86	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	68.26	31.74	13.65	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	81.75	18.25	5.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 05-06-2025	15.95	84.05	36.84	5.13	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

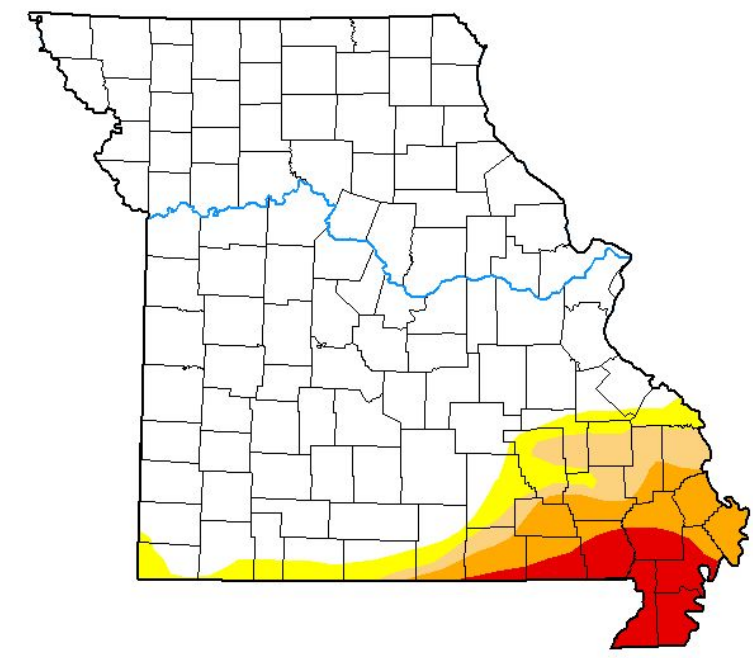
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
Adam Allgood
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor Missouri



May 5, 2026
(Released Thursday, May 7, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	81.84	18.16	13.35	9.49	4.32	0.00
Last Week 04-28-2026	82.94	17.06	11.29	9.49	4.32	0.00
3 Months Ago 02-03-2026	10.85	89.15	52.89	25.75	1.34	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	4.72	95.28	57.54	11.61	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	6.56	93.44	63.57	22.18	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 05-06-2025	81.37	18.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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>

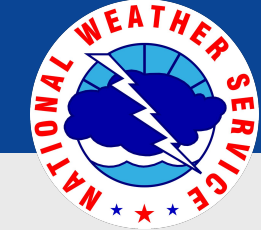
Author:
Adam Allgood
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Main Takeaways

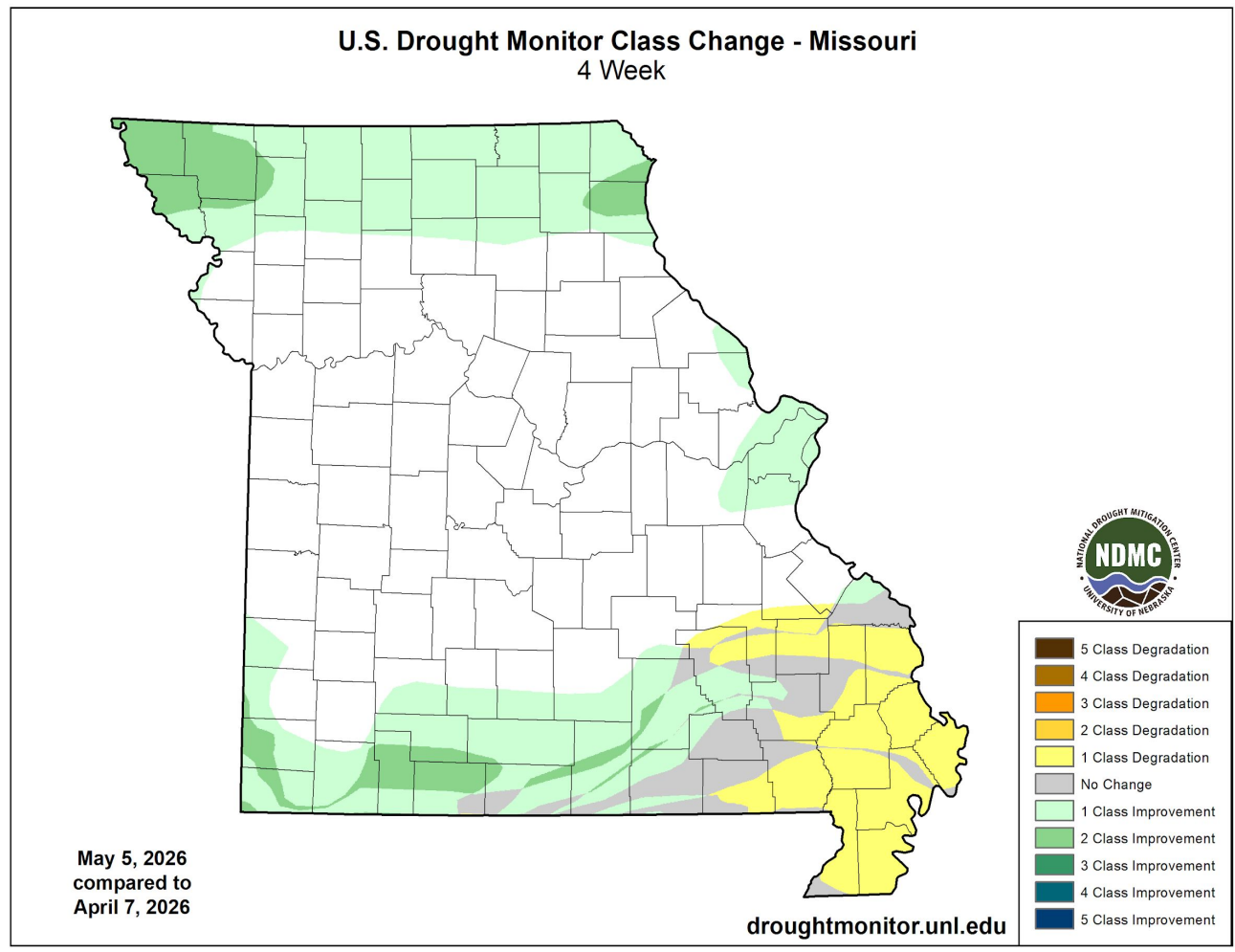
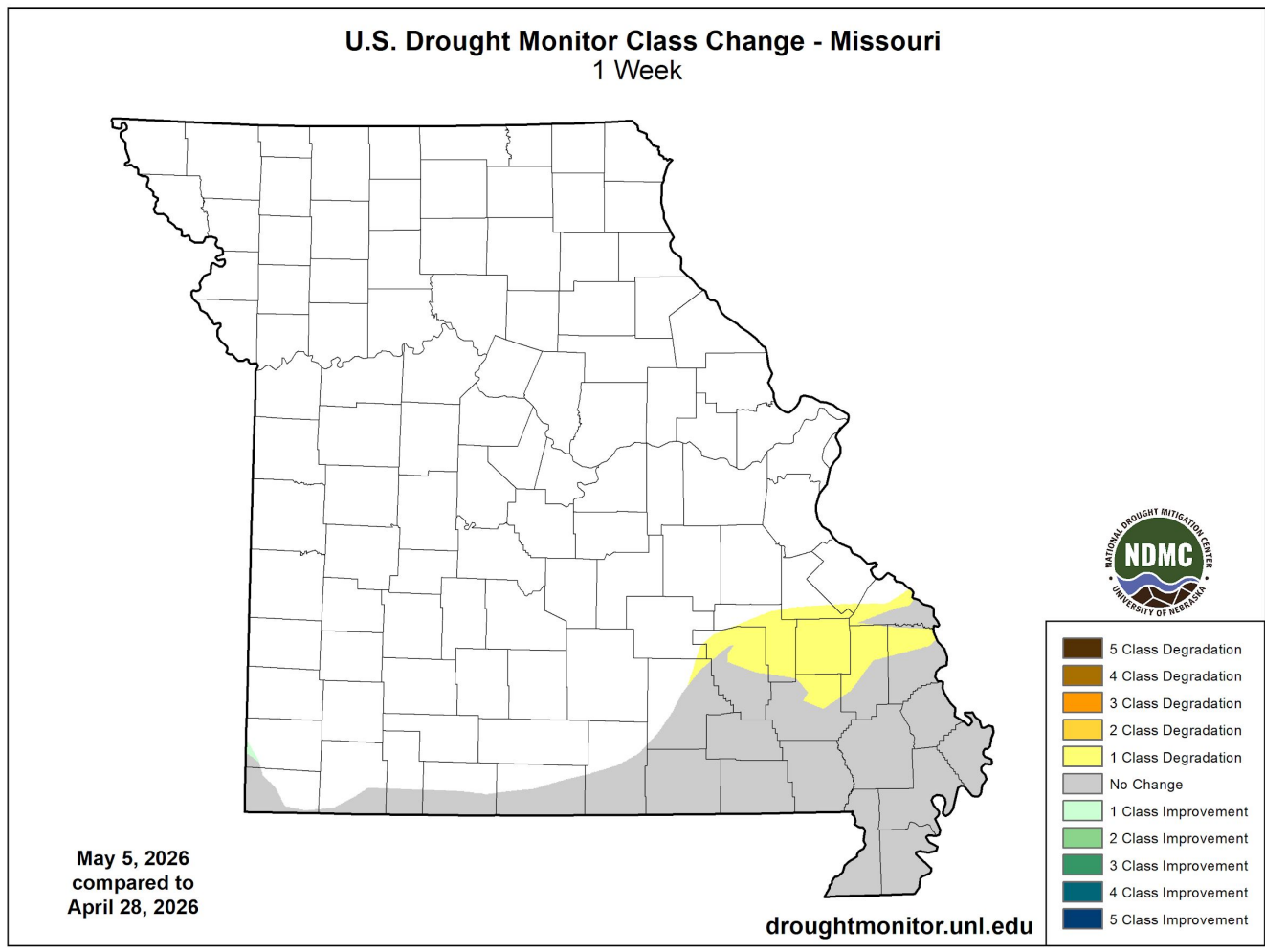
- Drought conditions have had no change or improved by at least one category across much of Missouri due to a few rounds of heavy rainfall over the last month.
- D3 drought persists only across extreme south-central Missouri where locations have received less rainfall.



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

May 7, 2026
1:00 PM

Link to [Recent Change Maps](#)



Main Takeaways

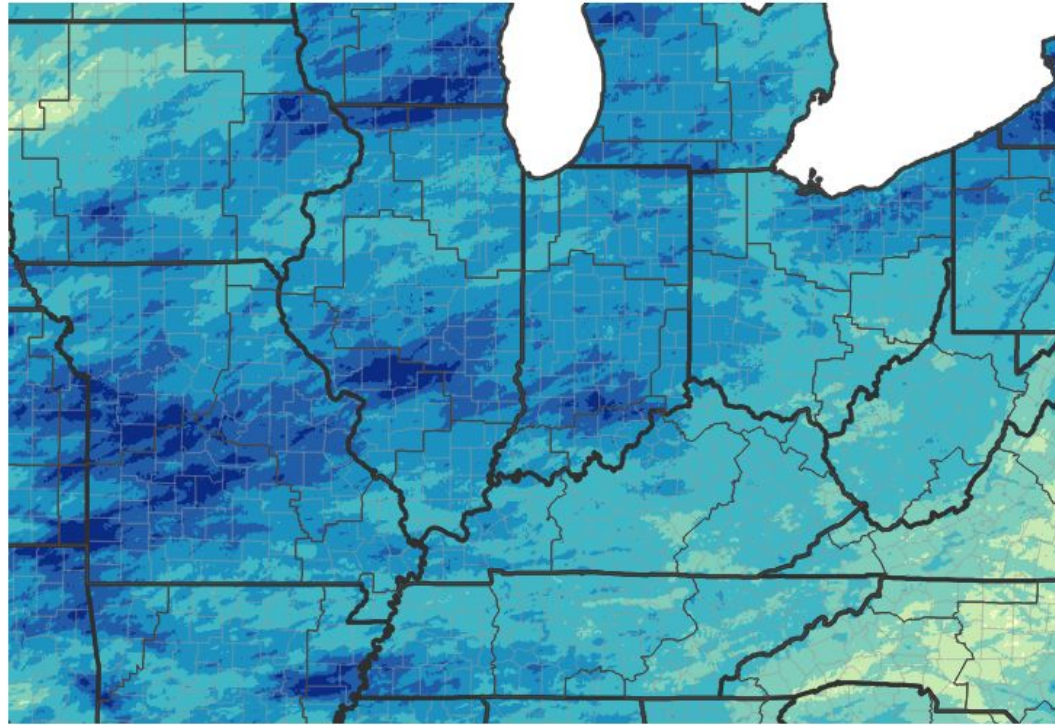
- Drought conditions have had no change over the last week with a class 1-3 improvement over southern Missouri over the last 4 weeks.



Precipitation

May 7, 2026
1:00 PM

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

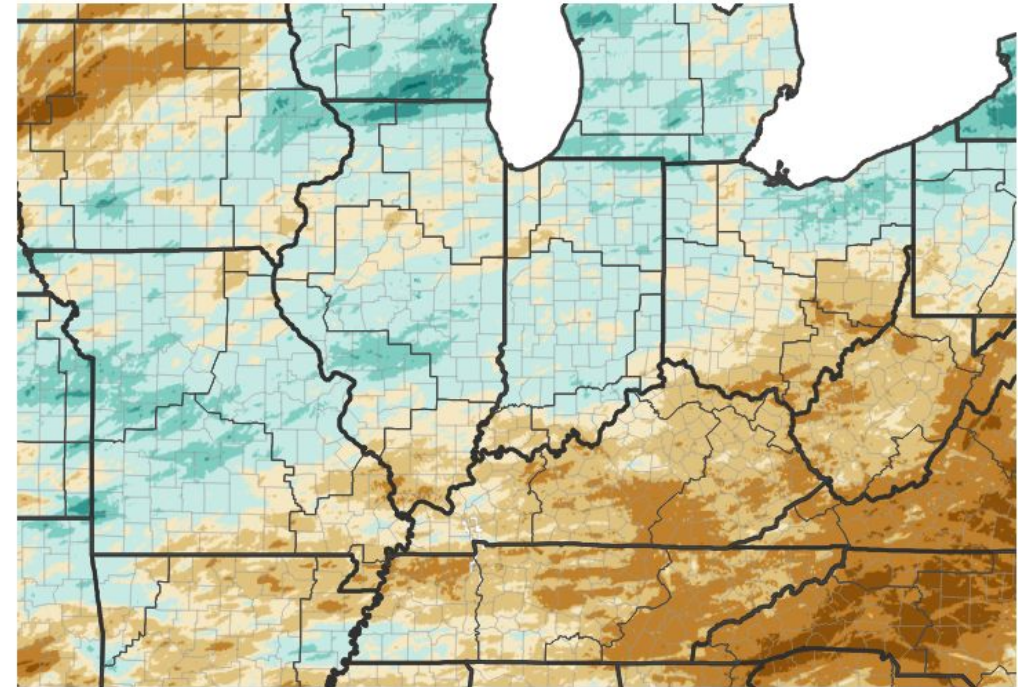


Inches of Precipitation

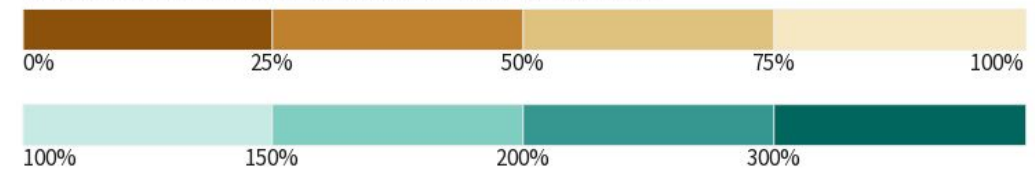


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 05/07/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 05/07/26

Main Takeaways

- South central Missouri has observed below-normal precipitation over the last 30 days. Meanwhile, portions of southeast Kansas into west central southwest Missouri have observed above-normal precipitation.
- The greatest precipitation amounts occurred across west central into central Missouri.





Summary of Impacts

May 7, 2026

1:00 PM

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows are near to above normal north of Highway 60, and below normal south of Highway 60.
- Public report of less fish in creeks in Oregon County, Missouri with very low water flow.

Agricultural Impacts

- In areas still experiencing dry to drought conditions.
- Pastures are providing marginal feed, and supplemental feeding is required.
- Dusty - cracked soil has been reported in several locations across south central Missouri.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Widespread rainfall and the ongoing green-up has limited the number of prescribed burns and wildfires since March 1st.

Other Impacts

- N/A

Mitigation actions

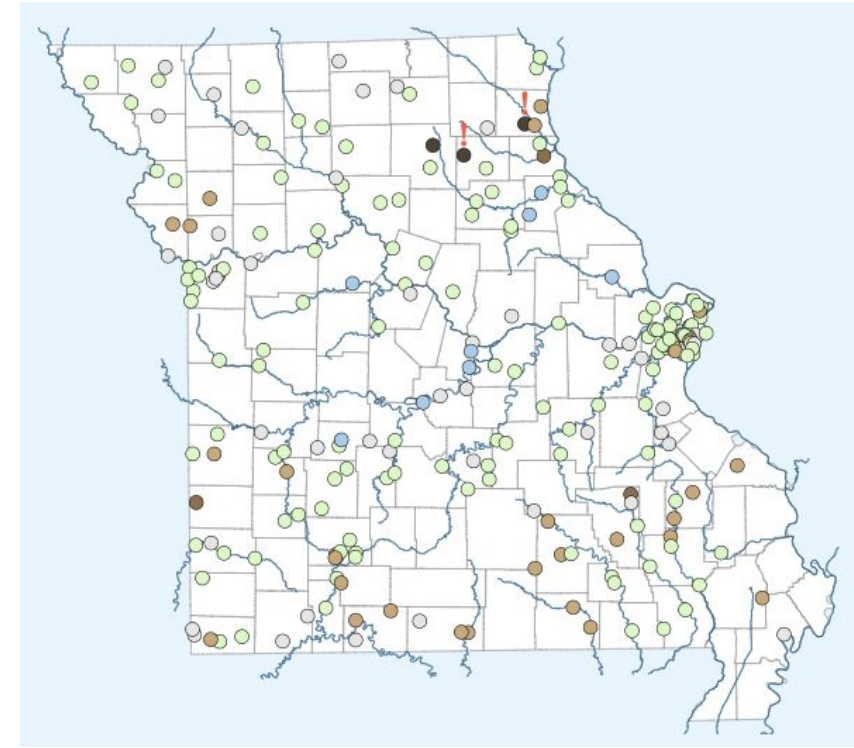
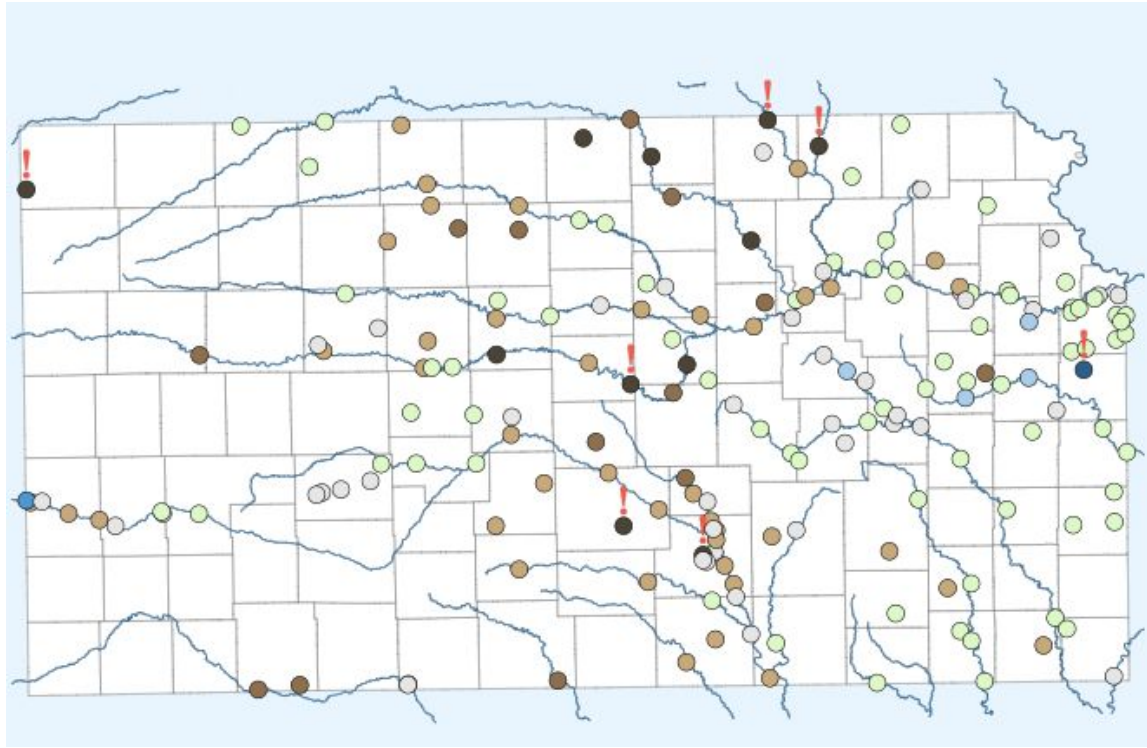
- The Missouri Drought Alert issued by the Governor has been extended through September 1, 2026.
- The Missouri Department of Agriculture has an AgriStress Helpline at 833-897-2474.
- More information is available at muext.us/PSCFarmRanch.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

May 7, 2026
1:00 PM



Legend

- Monitoring location with Discharge, cubic feet per second
- ! Extreme conditions

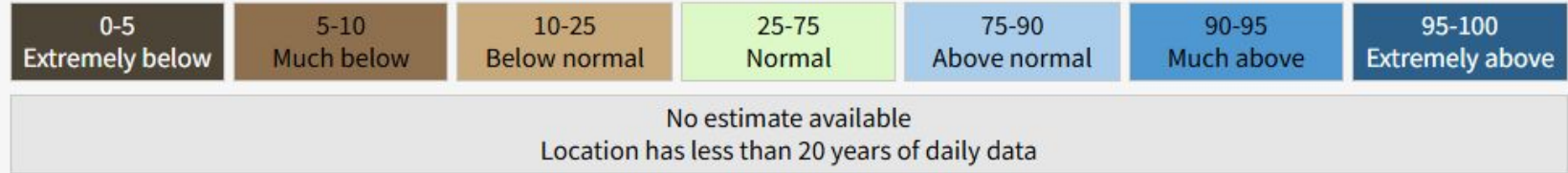
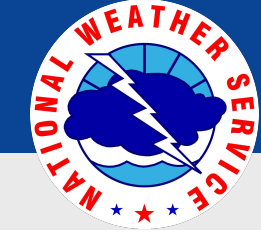


Image Caption: [USGS Water Conditions](#).

Main Takeaways

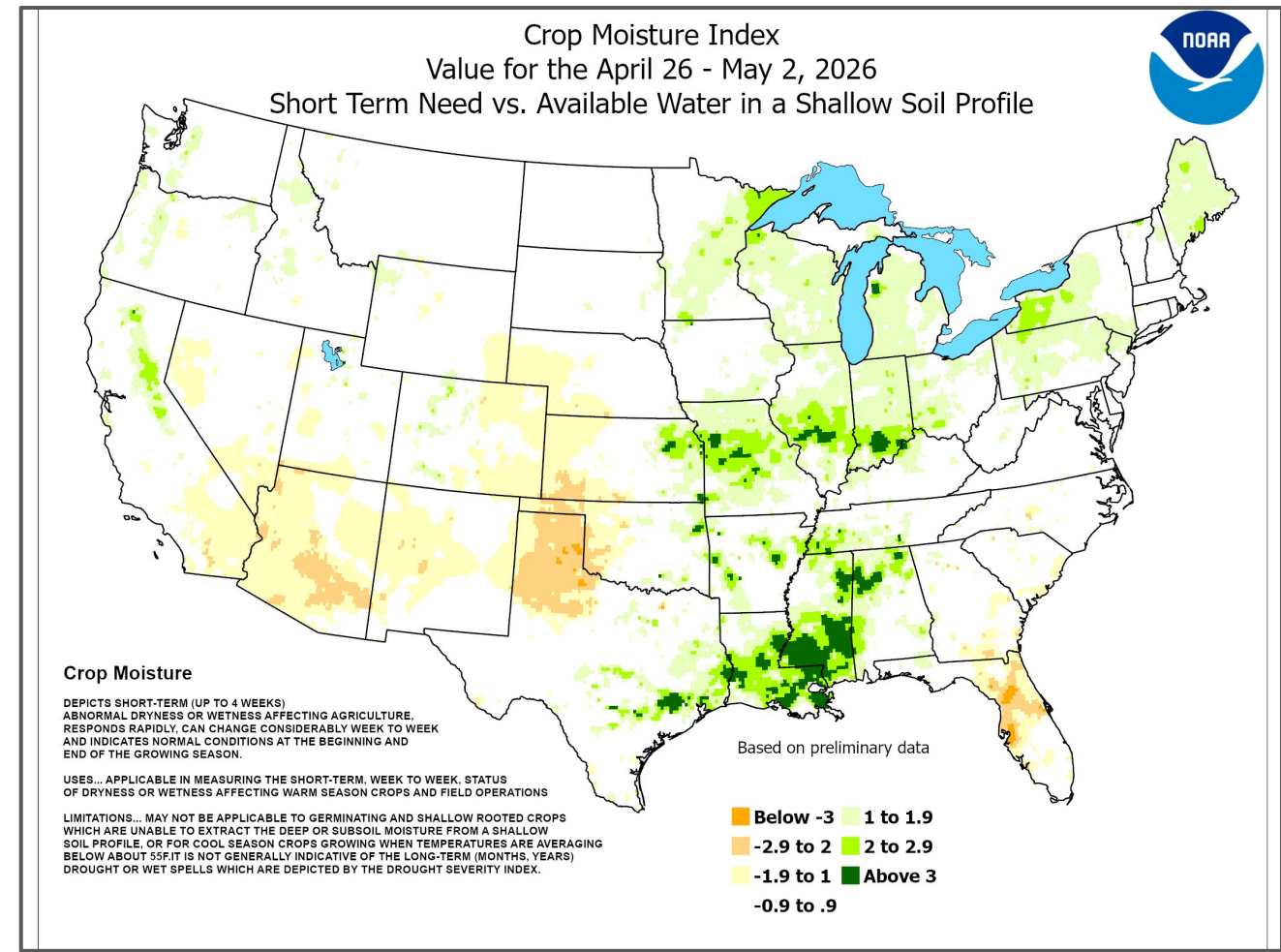
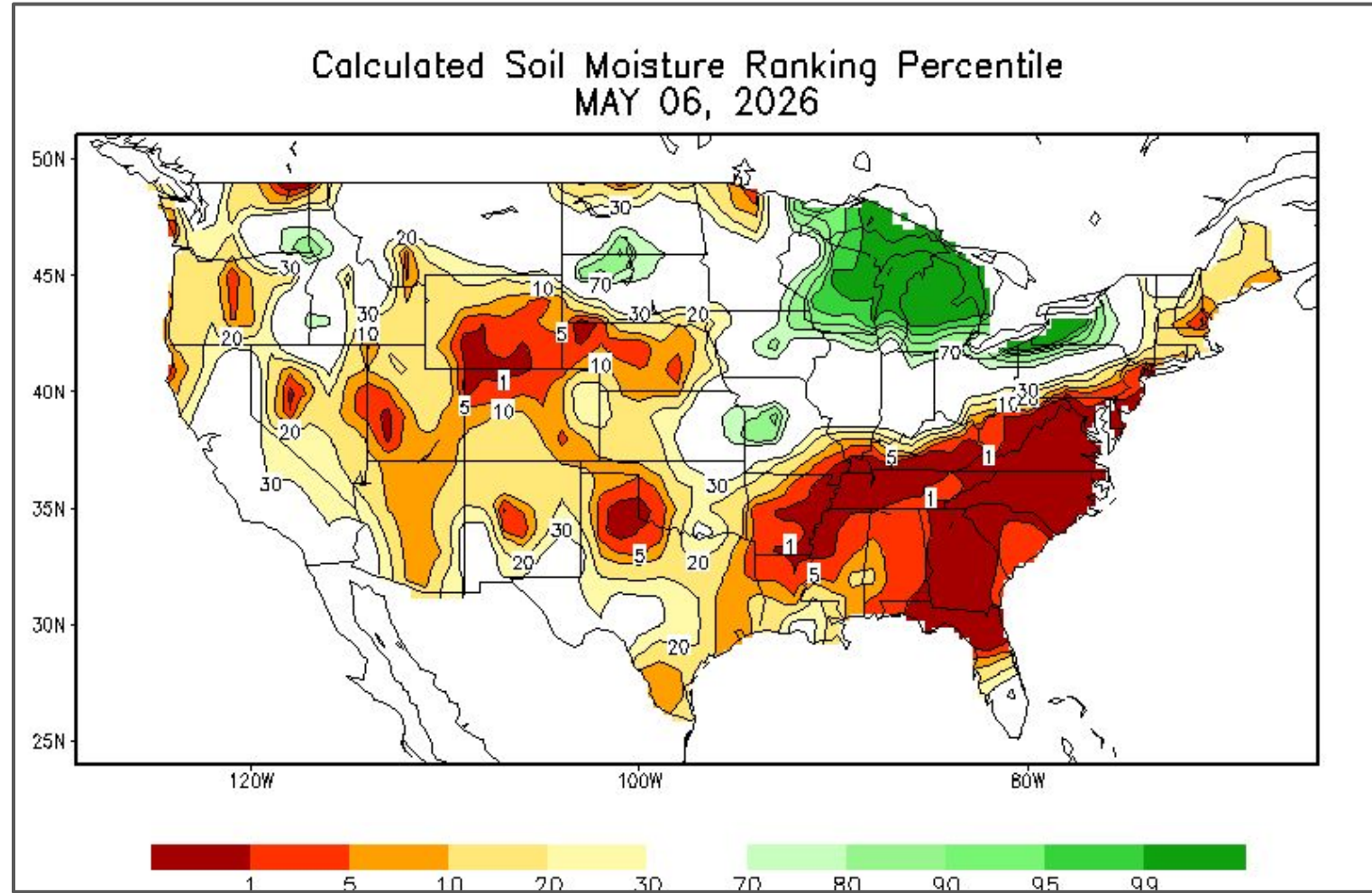
- Streamflow percentiles over the past 7 days were near to above normal north of Highway 60, and below normal south of Highway 60





Agricultural Impacts

May 7, 2026
1:00 PM



Main Takeaways

- Soil moisture conditions have improved over the last month but remain below normal across south central Missouri.
- Crop Moisture Index from April 26th - May 2nd was above normal.





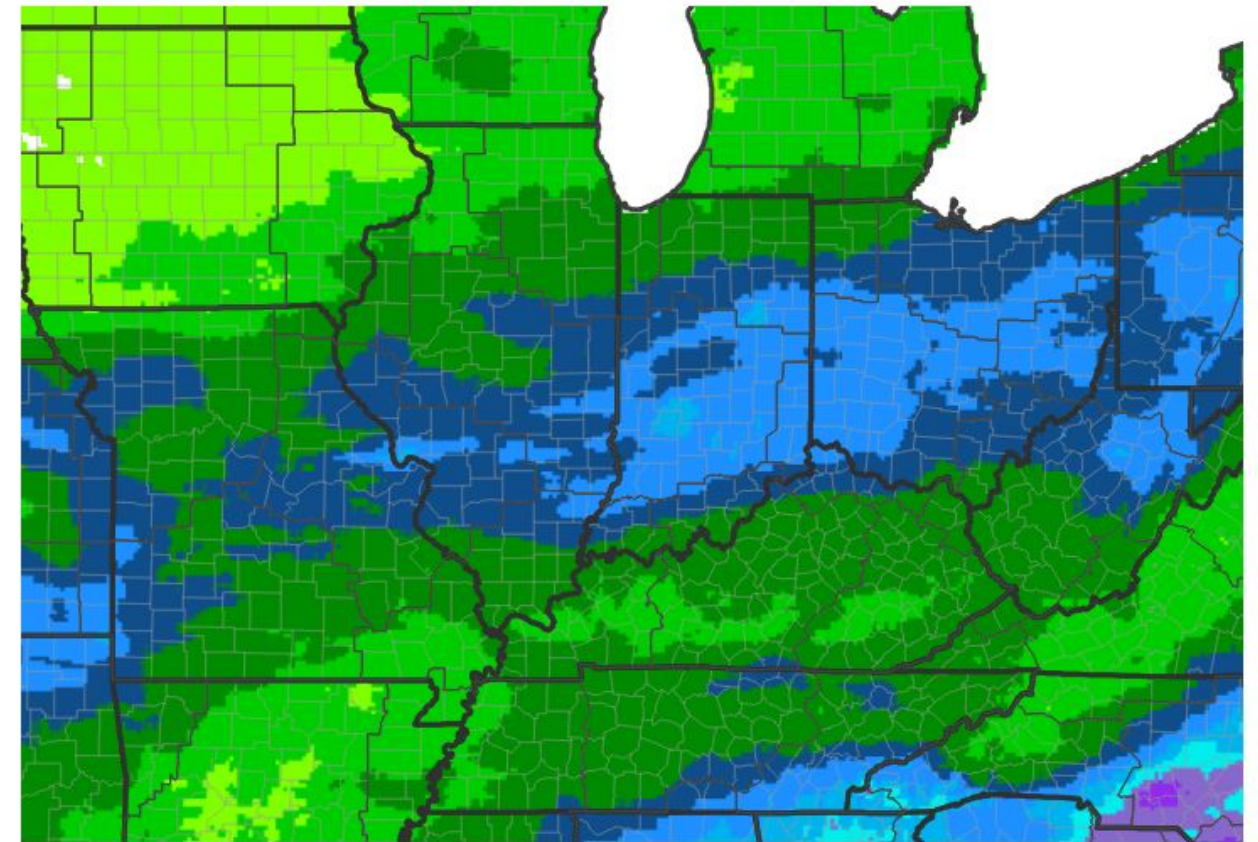
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

May 7, 2026
1:00 PM

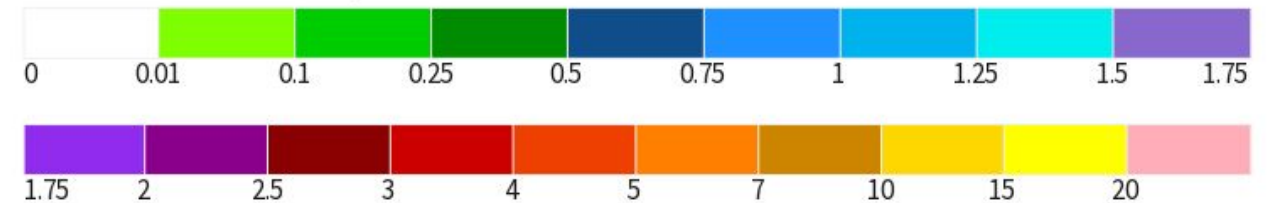
Main Takeaways

- Most locations are forecast to receive between 0.25in and 0.75inch rainfall over the next 7 days.
- Localized higher rainfall amounts can be expected where repeated thunderstorms track over the same locations.
- The heaviest rainfall is forecast across southeast Kansas and west central Missouri.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for May 7, 2026–May 14, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 05/07/26





8 to 14 Day Outlooks

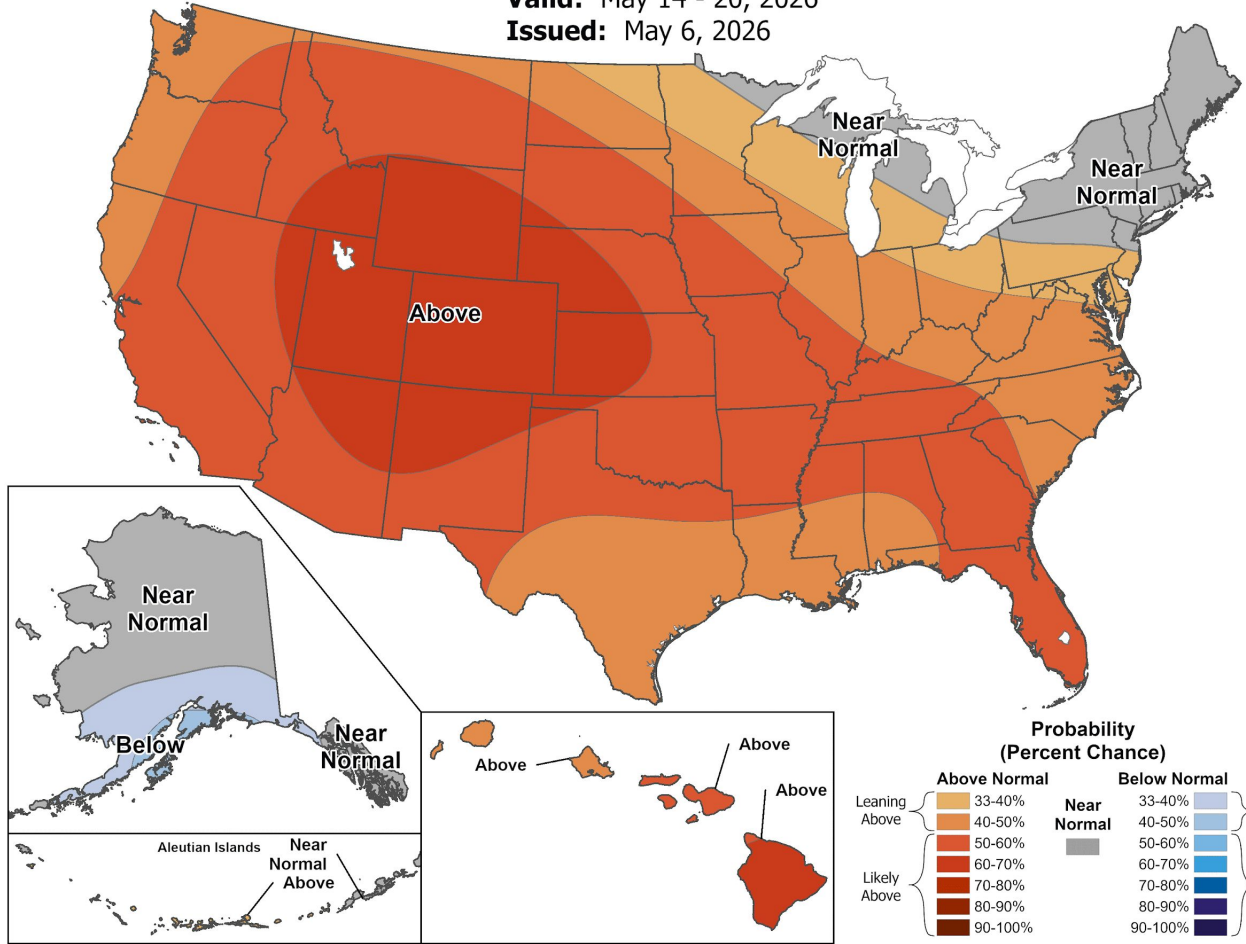
May 7, 2026
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The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)



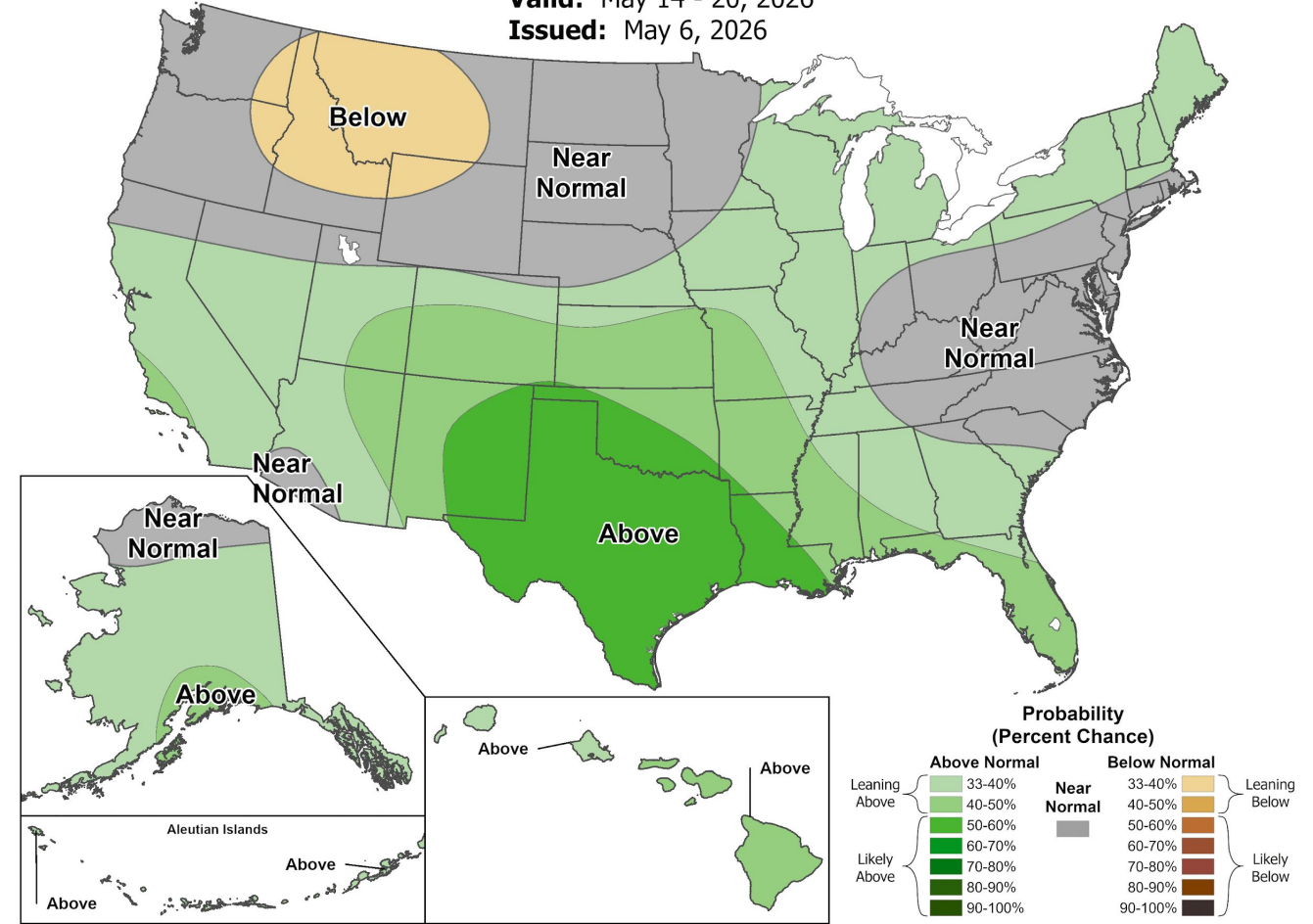
8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: May 14 - 20, 2026
Issued: May 6, 2026



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

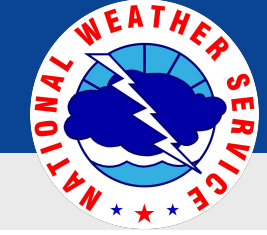
Valid: May 14 - 20, 2026
Issued: May 6, 2026



Main Takeaways

- The signal strongly favors above-normal temperatures and above-normal precipitation for the May 14 - May 20 period.





Monthly Outlooks

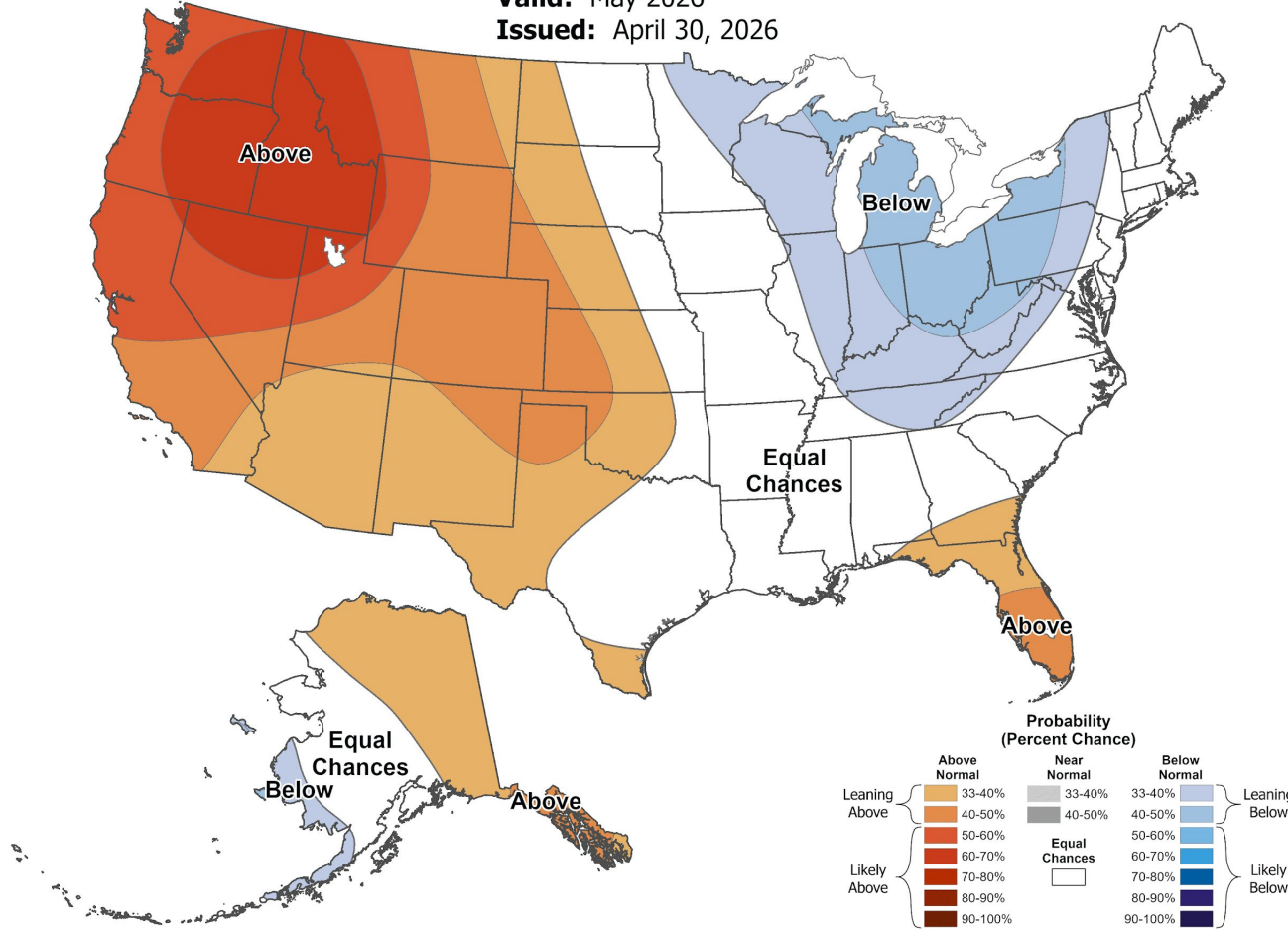
May 7, 2026
1:00 PM

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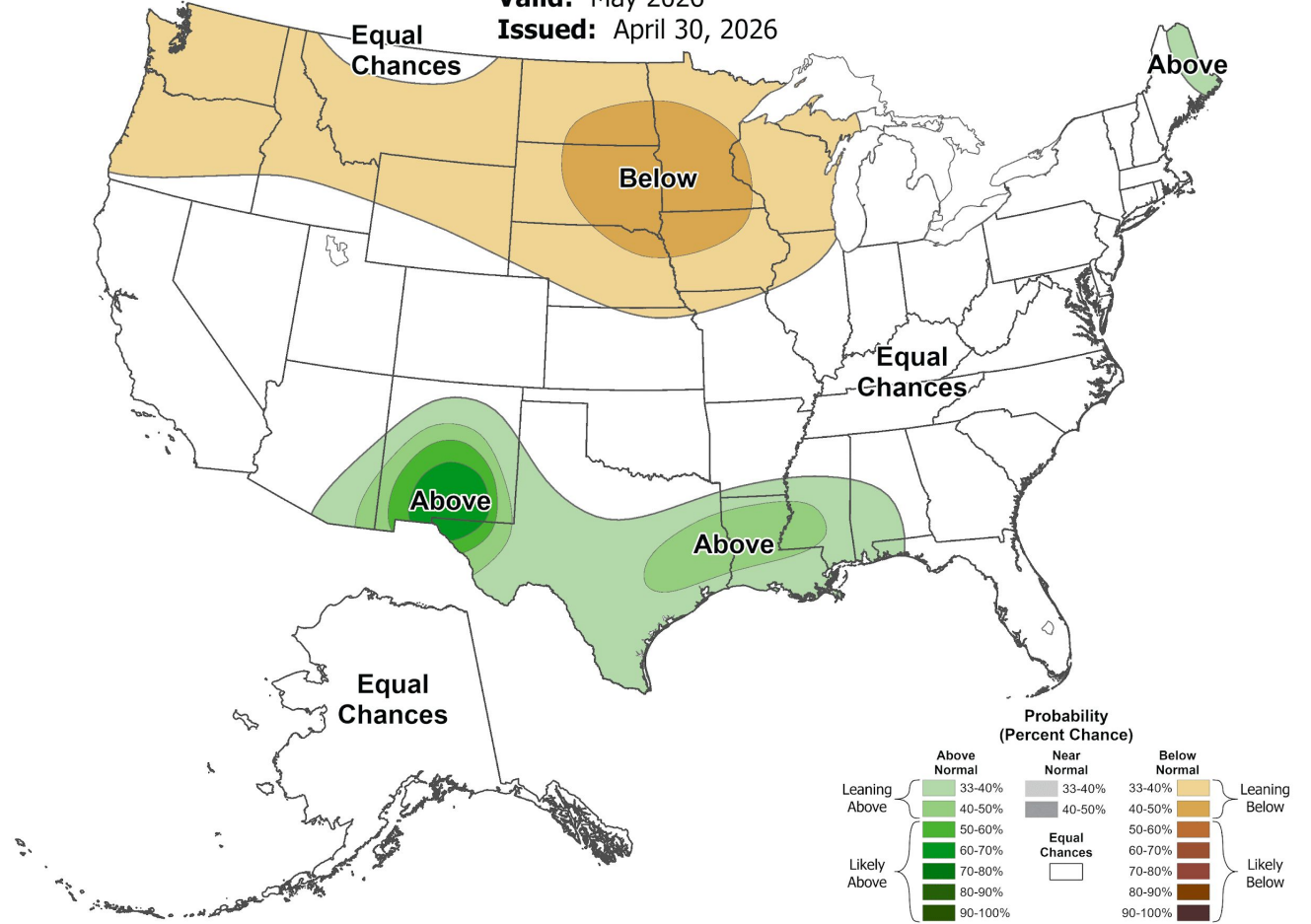
Monthly Temperature Outlook

Valid: May 2026
Issued: April 30, 2026



Monthly Precipitation Outlook

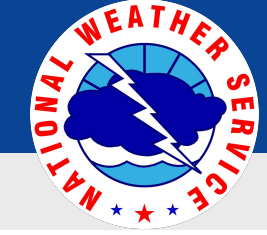
Valid: May 2026
Issued: April 30, 2026



Main Takeaways

- The signal favors near normal temperatures and near normal precipitation for May.





Seasonal Outlooks

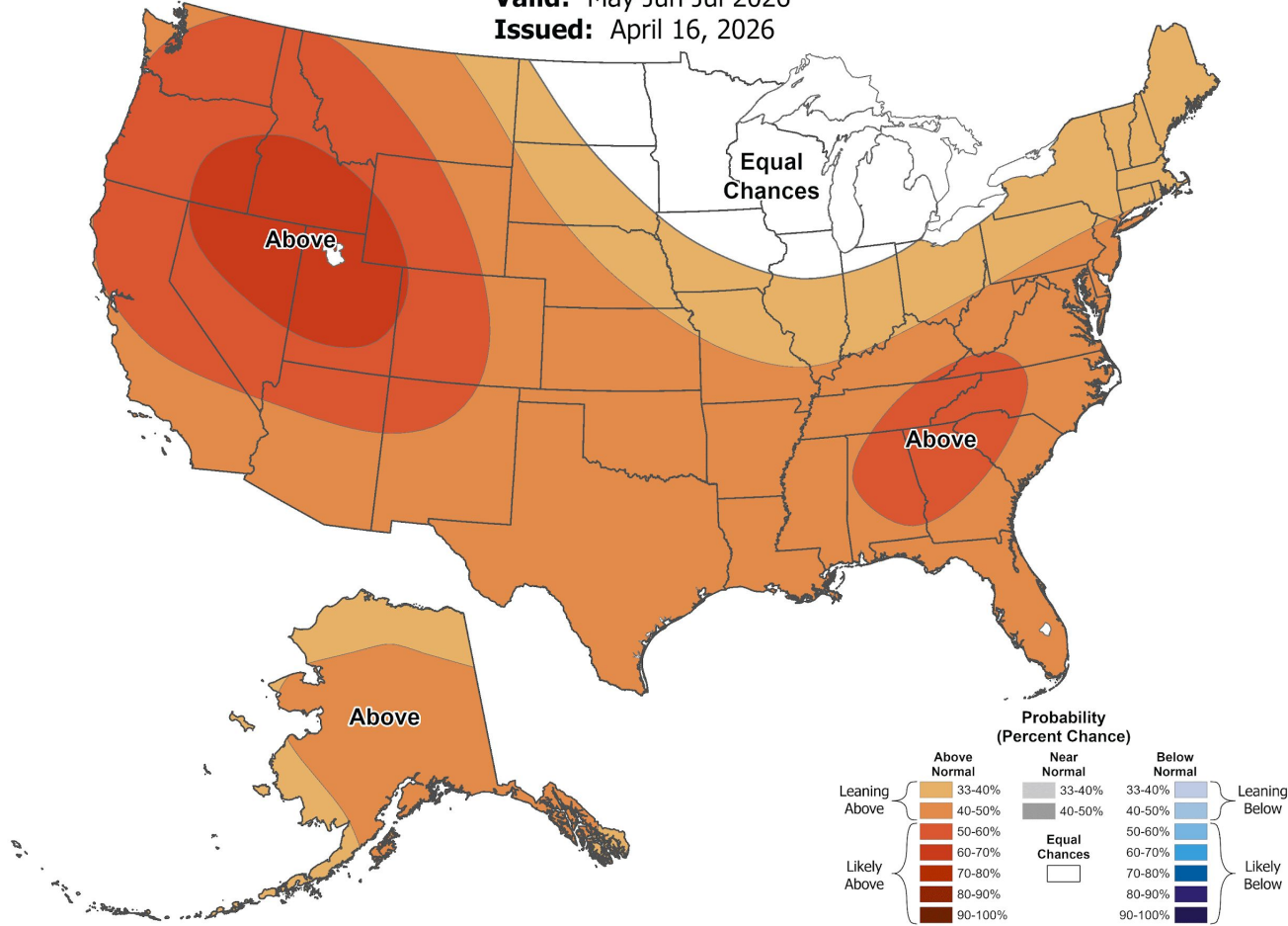
May 7, 2026
1:00 PM

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



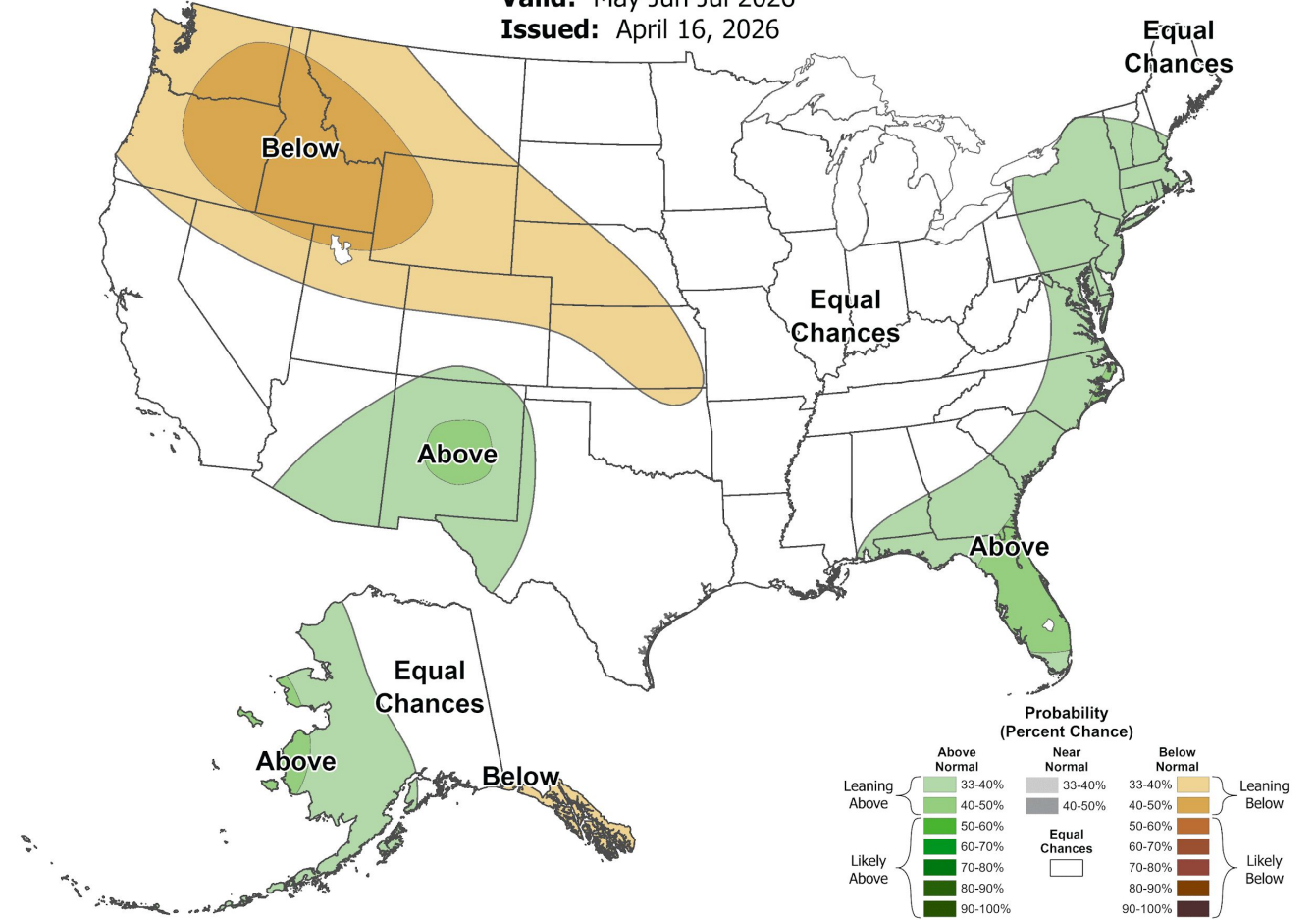
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: May-Jun-Jul 2026
Issued: April 16, 2026



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: May-Jun-Jul 2026
Issued: April 16, 2026



Main Takeaways

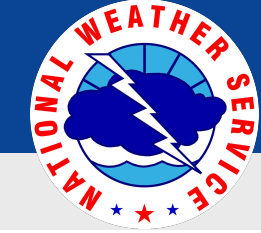
- The signal slightly favors chances of above-normal temperatures, but there are equal chances for precipitation for the period of May to July.



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Springfield, MO



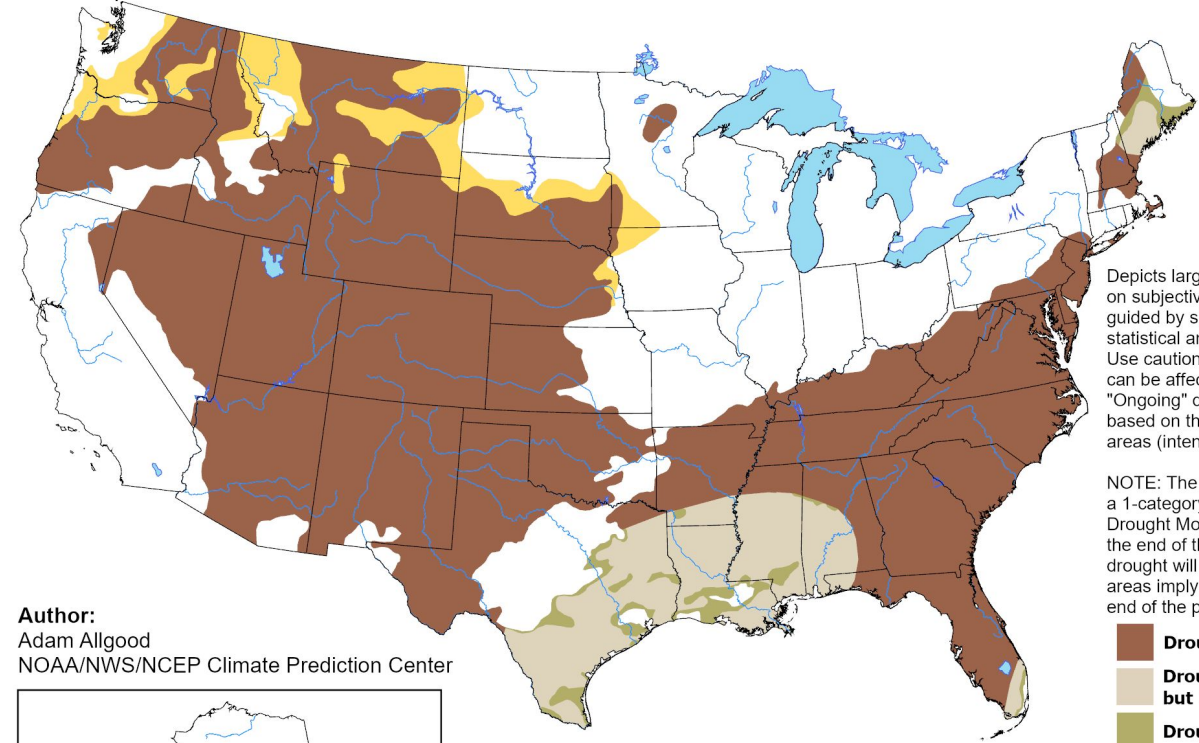
Drought Outlook

May 7, 2026
1:00 PM

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#) | [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

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

Valid for May 2026
Released April 30, 2026

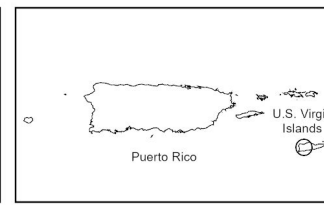
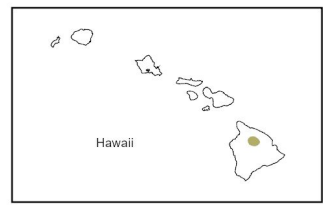
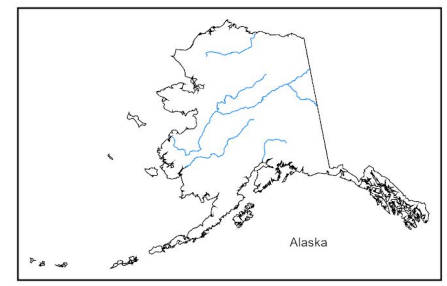


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to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

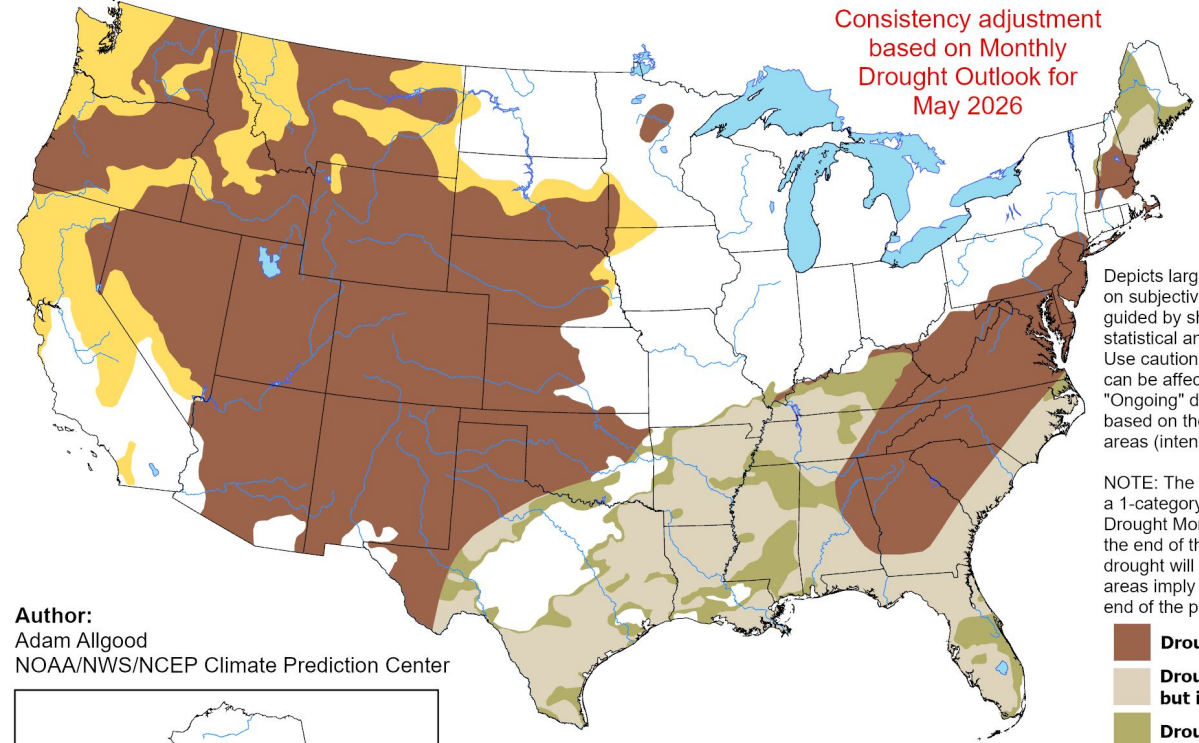
Author:
Adam Allgood
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



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

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

Valid for May 1 - July 31, 2026
Released April 30, 2026

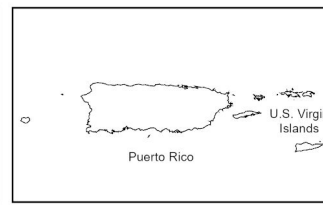
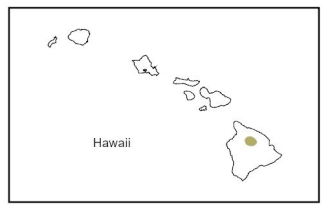
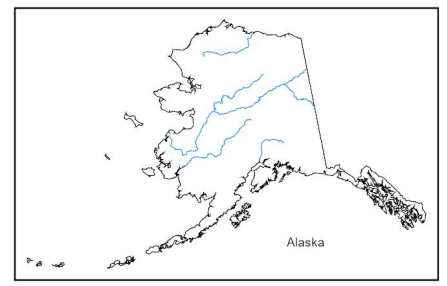


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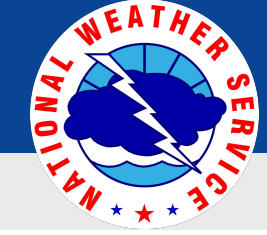
Author:
Adam Allgood
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



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

Main Takeaways

- Drought likely to persist through May but show some potential improvement in late Spring.



For Additional Information

- [NWS Springfield Webpage](#) | [IDSS Point Forecasts](#)
- [Graphical Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)
- [Missouri Drought Monitor](#) | [Kansas Drought Monitor](#)
- [Drought Monitor Archive](#)
- [CPC Drought Information](#)
- [National Integrated Drought Information System \(NIDIS\)](#)
- [National Drought Mitigation Center \(NDMC\)](#)
- [Missouri USGS Streamflows](#) | [Kansas USGS Streamflows](#)
- [Drought Safety](#)

Drought Impacts



Agriculture

Farms, ranches, and grazing lands suffer, and increases the cost of their products



Public Health

A decrease of water can lead to an increase of illness, disease, mortality rates, and adverse mental health



Ecosystems

Harms fish, wildlife, and plants, as well as the benefits these ecosystems provide



Wildfire Management

Dry, hot, and windy weather combined with dried out vegetation can lead to more large-scale wildfires



Manufacturing

Interruptions in the water supply can result in a reduction of productivity or closure of facilities



Energy

Production of all types of energy requires water, and drought can severely impact energy systems and prices



During a Drought be Vigilant

Conserve Water

Practice Fire Prevention

Follow Directions from Local Officials

Trinity Lake, CA, dry lakebed during California Drought, 2014. Photo: USGS

