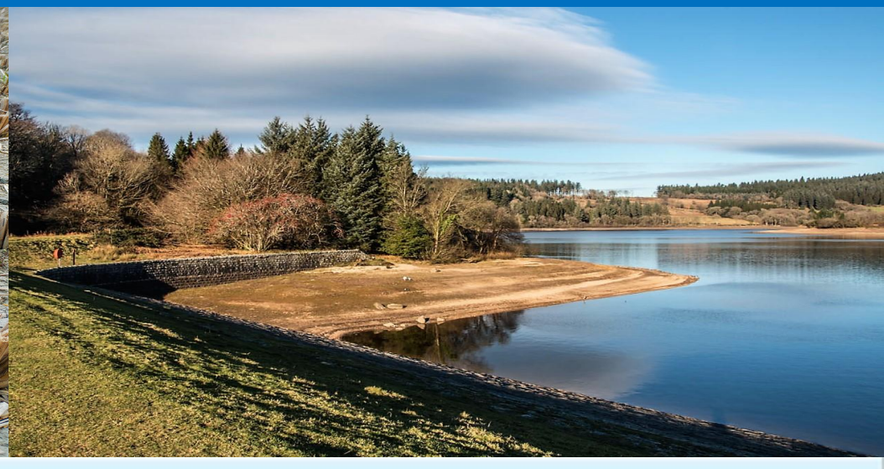
Drought Information Statement for the Missouri Ozarks

Valid September 10, 2026

Issued By: *WFO Springfield, MO*
Contact Information: *contact.sgf@noaa.gov*

- This product will be updated October 2026 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/sgf/SGFDroughtMonitor for additional information.





U.S. Drought Monitor

September 10, 2026
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Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for Lower Midwest

Key Messages

- **D3 (Extreme Drought)** has expanded to include Newton, and McDonald Counties in Missouri, portions of Vernon, Barton, Jasper, Barry, Lawrence, Dade, Christian, Stone, Taney, and Texas Counties in Missouri, and portions of Cherokee County in Kansas

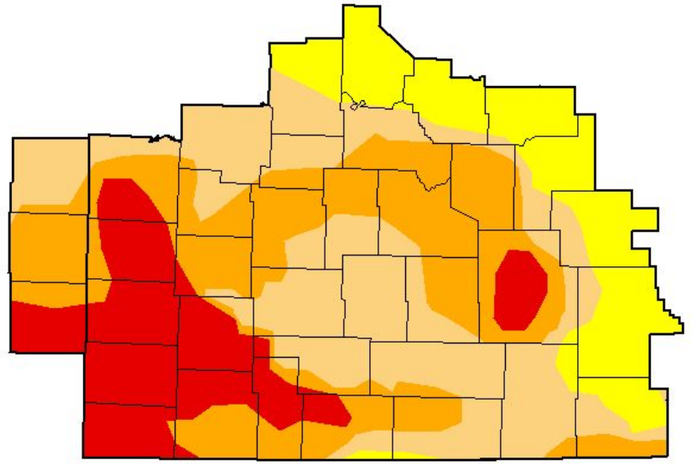
- **D2 (Severe Drought)** has expanded to include areas mentioned above in addition to Crawford County and portions of Bourbon County in Kansas, and portions of St. Clair, Cedar, Polk, Cedar, Dallas, Camden, Laclede, Pulaski, Wright, Douglas, Ozark, Howell, Phelps, and Oregon Counties in Missouri.

- **D1 (Moderate Drought)** has expanded to include areas mentioned above in addition to portions of Benton, Miller, Maries, Dent, and Shannon Counties.

- **The D0 (Abnormally Dry)** area includes all areas mentioned and not mentioned above.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Springfield, MO WFO



September 8, 2026

(Released Thursday, Sep. 10, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	82.35	48.91	18.52	0.00
Last Week 09-01-2026	13.44	86.56	70.77	25.05	0.44	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-09-2026	82.51	17.49	7.18	0.55	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	0.00	100.00	84.13	18.69	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	0.42	99.58	80.07	31.76	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 09-09-2025	13.46	86.54	69.88	25.26	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:

Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

State Drought Monitor

September 10, 2026
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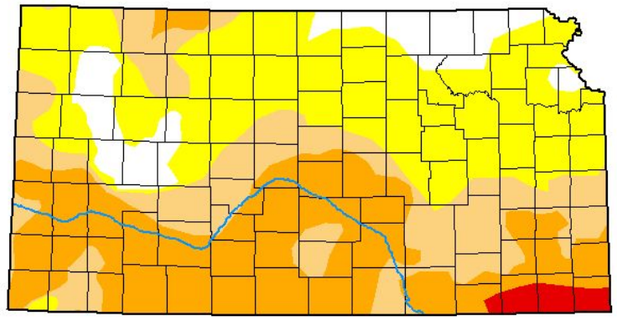
Link to Recent Change Maps

U.S. Drought Monitor
Kansas



September 8, 2026
(Released Thursday, Sep. 10, 2026)
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Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	9.00	91.00	55.05	32.70	1.76	0.00
Last Week 09-01-2026	27.76	72.24	52.39	29.06	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-09-2026	37.77	62.23	46.49	22.21	0.46	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 09-09-2025	79.79	20.21	1.94	0.00	0.00	0.00

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

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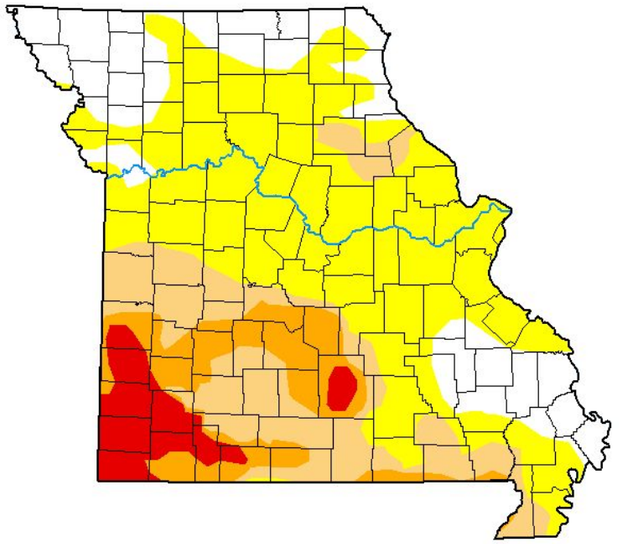
U.S. Drought Monitor
Missouri



September 8, 2026
(Released Thursday, Sep. 10, 2026)
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Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	19.26	80.74	33.75	15.92	6.03	0.00
Last Week 09-01-2026	54.19	45.81	26.77	8.08	0.16	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-09-2026	73.32	26.68	14.19	4.67	1.31	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 09-09-2025	5.87	94.13	45.62	17.04	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:
Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Key Messages

- Compared to the rest of the state, southeast Kansas and southwest Missouri are experiencing the worst of drought conditions.
- **This update does not include rain that fell on September 9th and 10th.**

Recent Change in Drought Intensity

September 10, 2026
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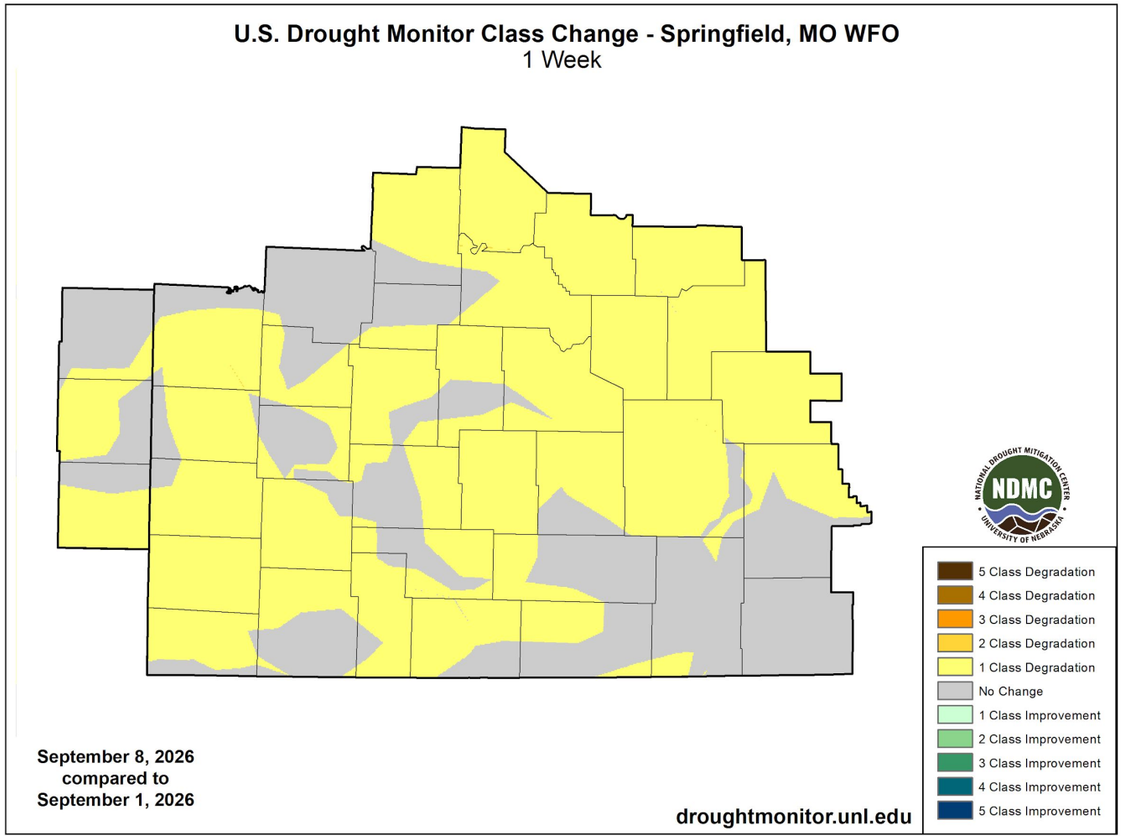
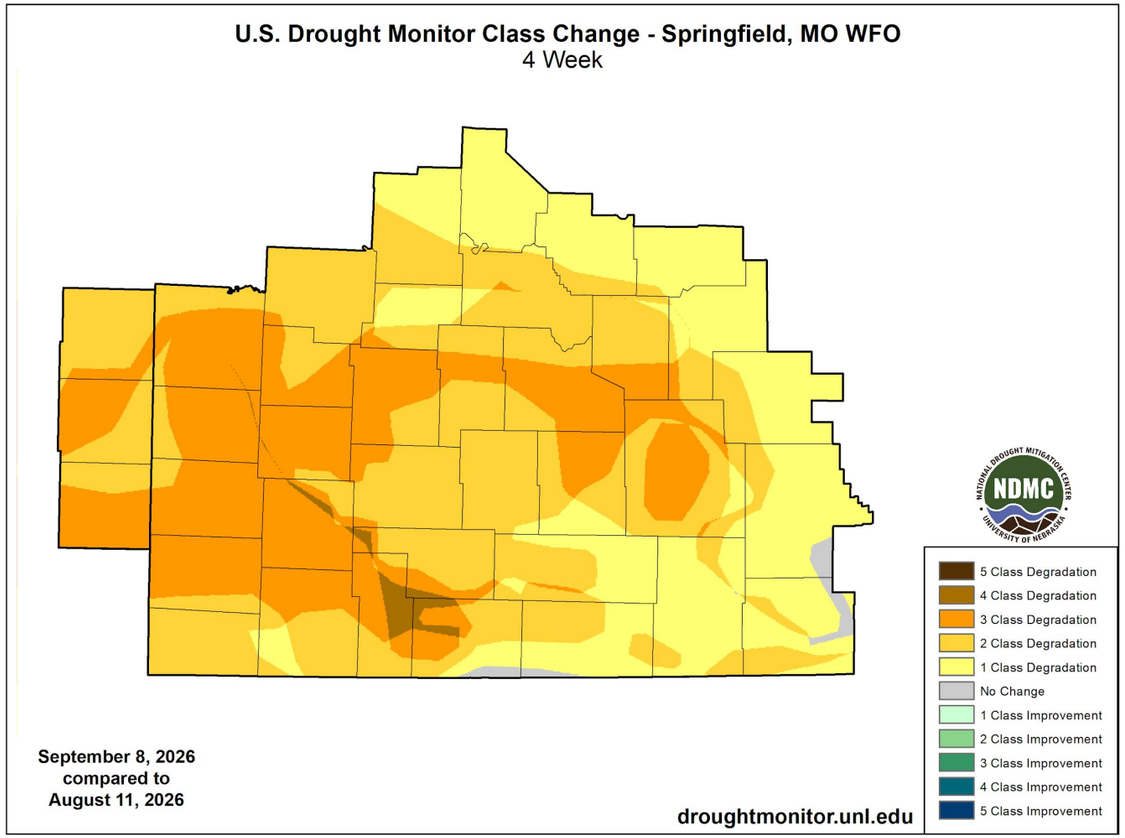
Link to Recent Change Maps





Key Messages

- Drought monitor category has either degraded or remained the same over the last week; no improvement has been noted, **though this update does not include the rain that fell on September 9th and 10th.**

Precipitation

September 10, 2026
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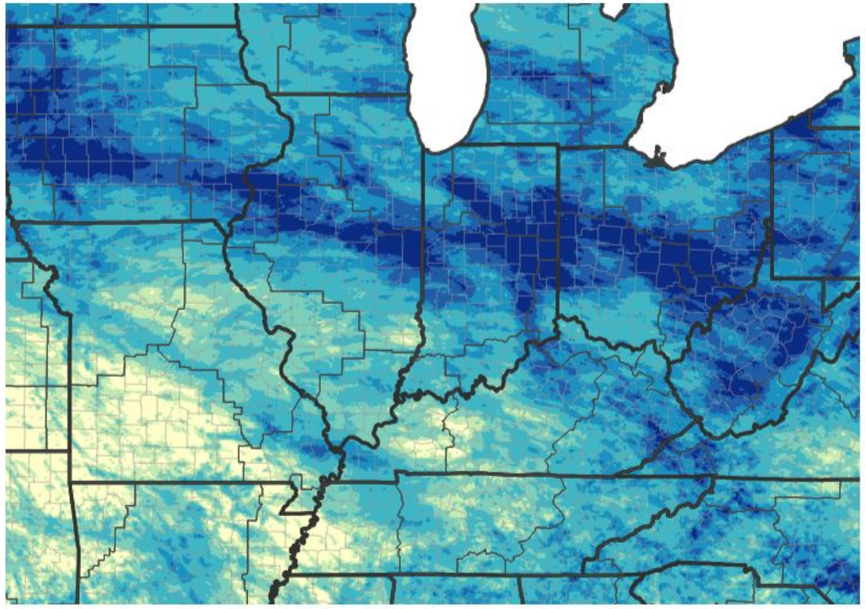
30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



Inches of Precipitation

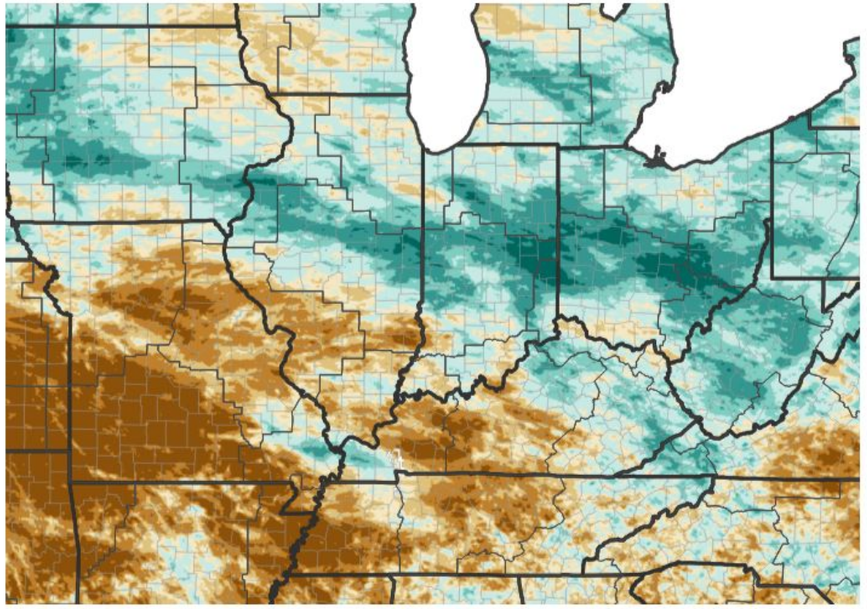
0 | 0.01 | 0.5 | 1 | 2

2 | 4 | 6 | 8

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 09/10/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

0% | 25% | 50% | 75% | 100%

100% | 150% | 200% | 300%

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 09/10/26

Key Messages

- Precipitation has been well below normal to nonexistent for some areas the past 30 days.
- **<u>Note:</u> This update does not include rain that fell on September 9th and 10th.**

Temperature

September 10, 2026
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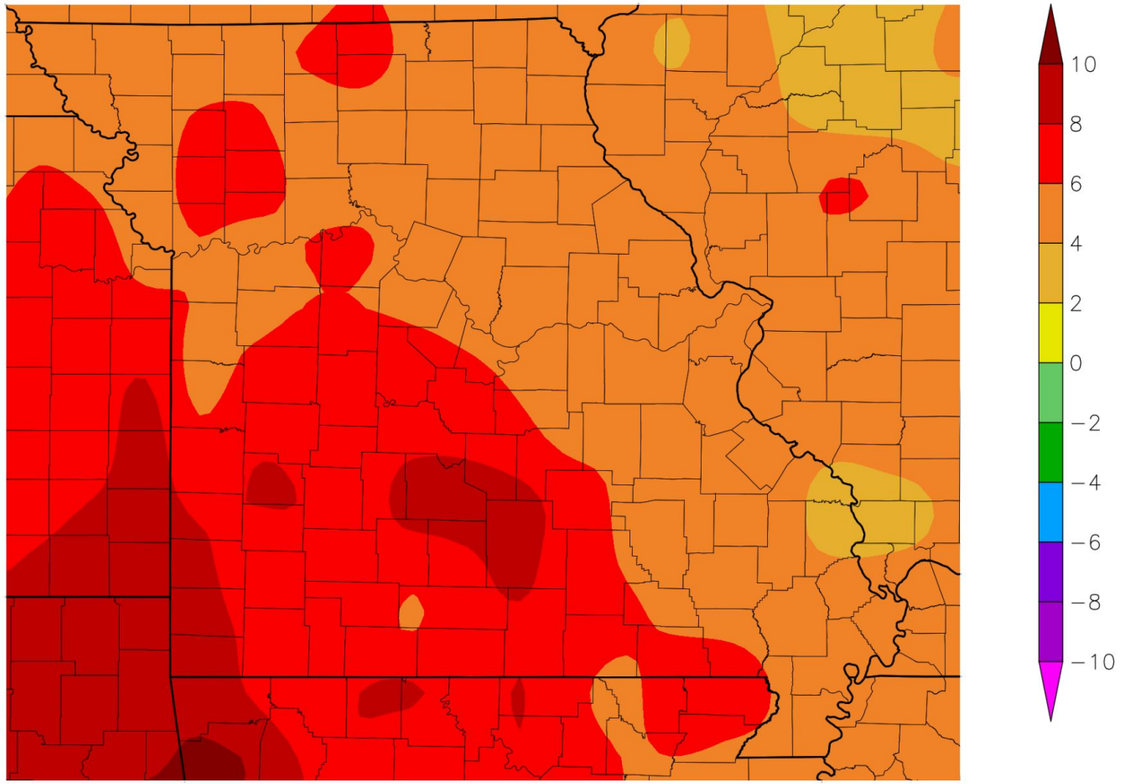
Link to HPRCC

Key Messages

- The region has seen well above normal temperatures the past 30 days.
- In fact, the first 7 days of September has been the warmest start of September on record from the Springfield Climate Site.
- These conditions, along with little to no precipitation, have led to rapid-onset of dry soil and vegetation conditions.



For additional information, check out: ACIS Climate Maps

Summary of Impacts

September 10, 2026
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Links: See/submit Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR)

Hydrologic Impacts

- The USGS National Water Dashboard depicts most streamflows are normal (25th-75th percentile) to below normal (10th-24th percentile) across most of the area, with a few isolated streamgages reading much below normal (<10th percentile).

Agricultural Impacts

- Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMORs): Increasing number of severe drought reports, including outside of D2 drought areas. Severe agricultural impacts are becoming more widespread: loss to crop yield, supplemental pasture feeding required, reduced pasture/forage, increased invasive plants/weeds, browning of grass, no pasture regrowth, increasing dustiness/air quality reduction from dry soils.
- Ponds are drying up, increased reliance on wells that are running low.
- Heat is taking a toll on cattle and causing cattle death, in some instances.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- A modest increase in fire activity–largely in the D1 through D3 areas–suggesting an early start to the fire season.
- Isolated cases of extreme fire behavior may be observed where fuels have been sufficiently preheated.

Other Impacts

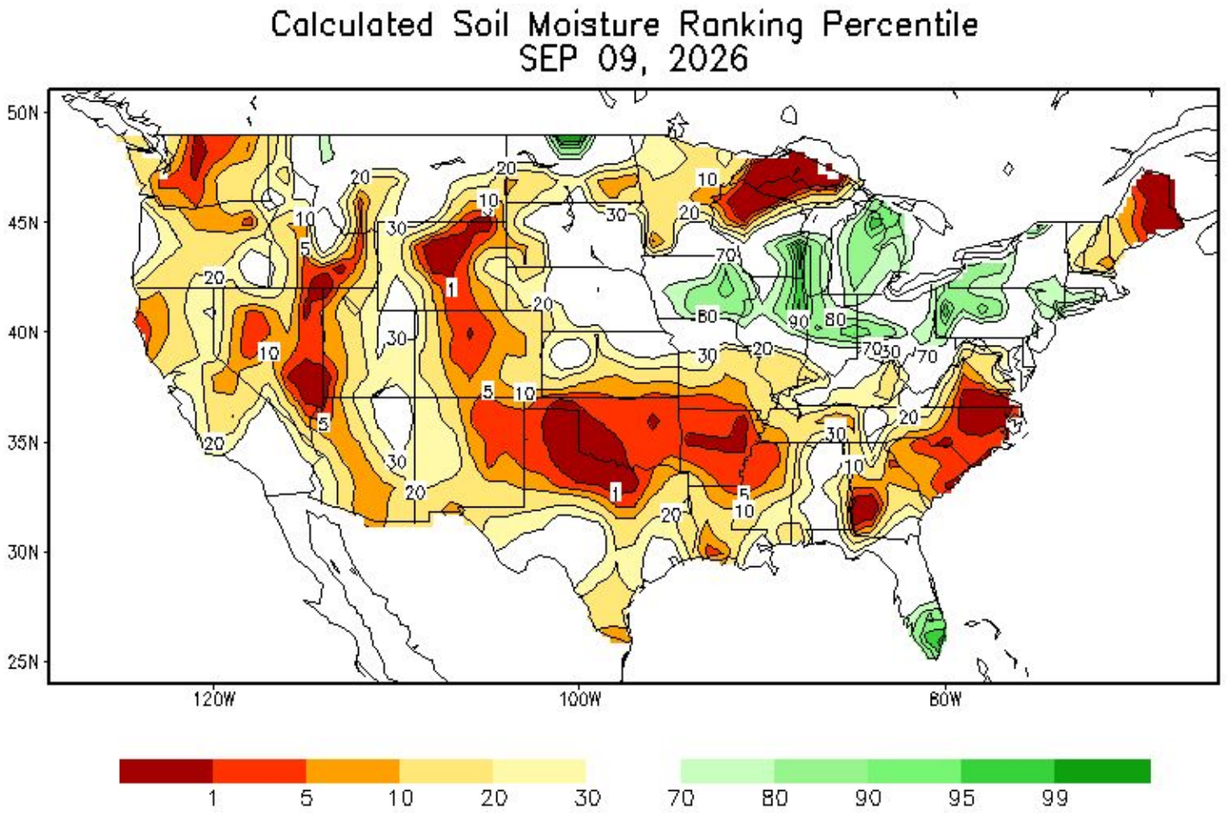
- There are no known impacts at this time.

Agricultural Impacts

September 10, 2026
12:09 PM

Key Messages

- Soil Moisture conditions are well below normal, between the 1-10th percentile in many locations across southern Missouri.

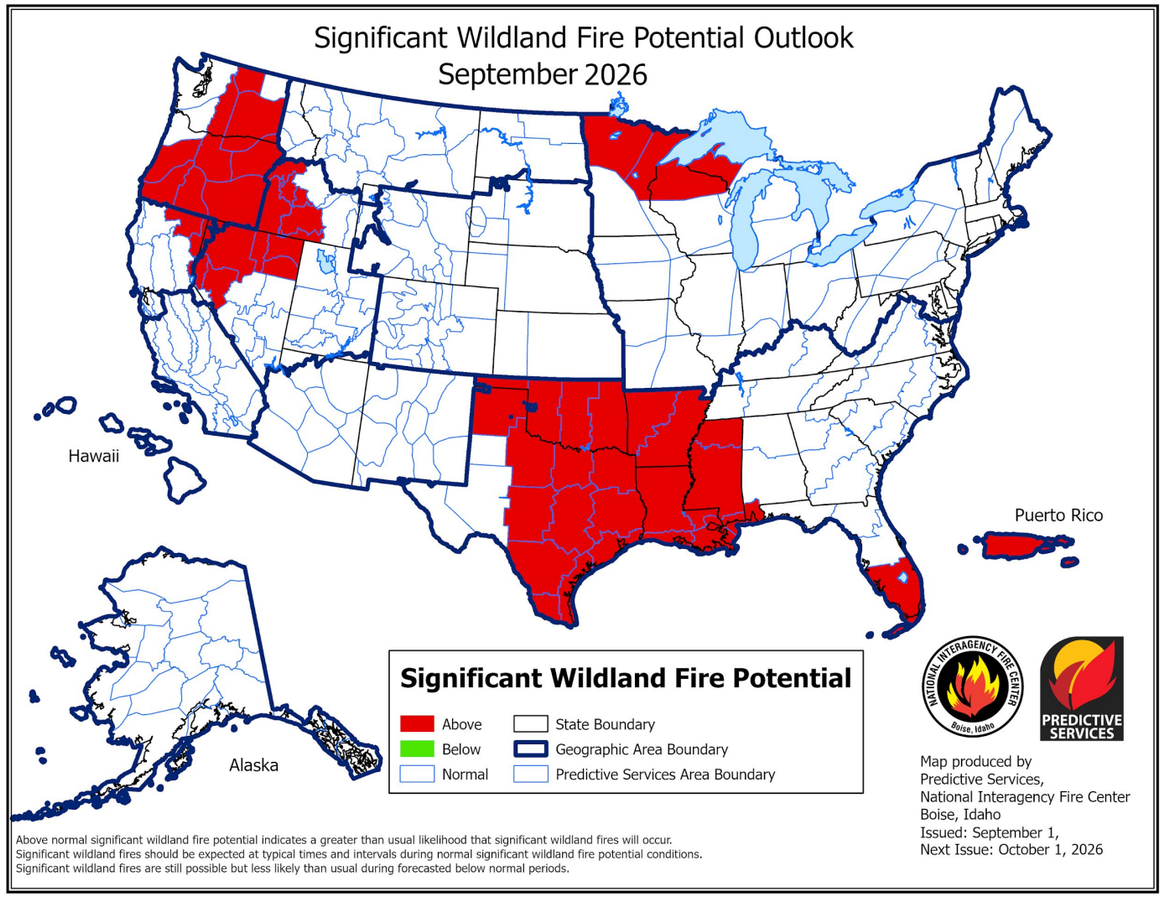


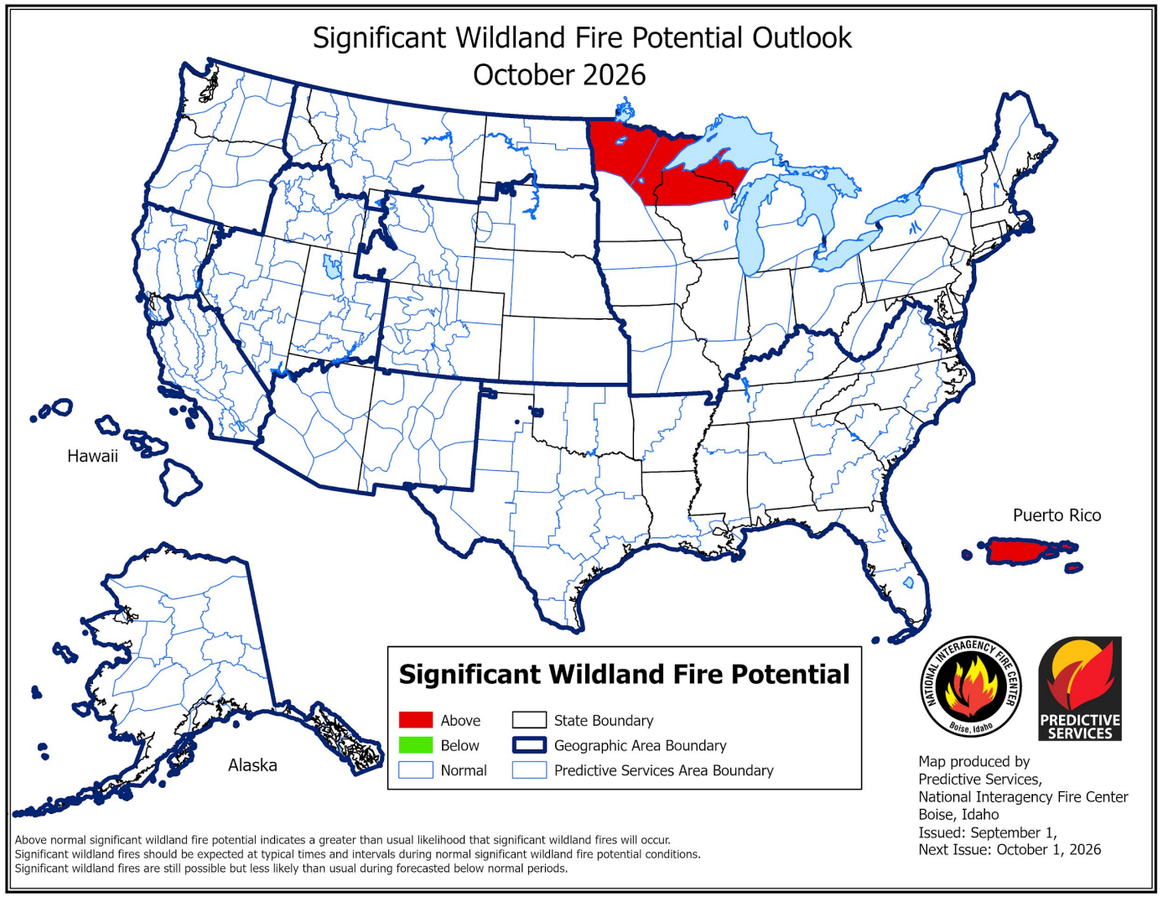
[For additional experimental drought indicators]

Fire Hazard Impacts

September 10, 2026
12:09 PM

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center]





Key Messages

- Missouri and Kansas have near-normal probabilities for significant wildfire potential for September and October.
- Neighboring areas to the south have above-normal probability of significant wildfires for September.

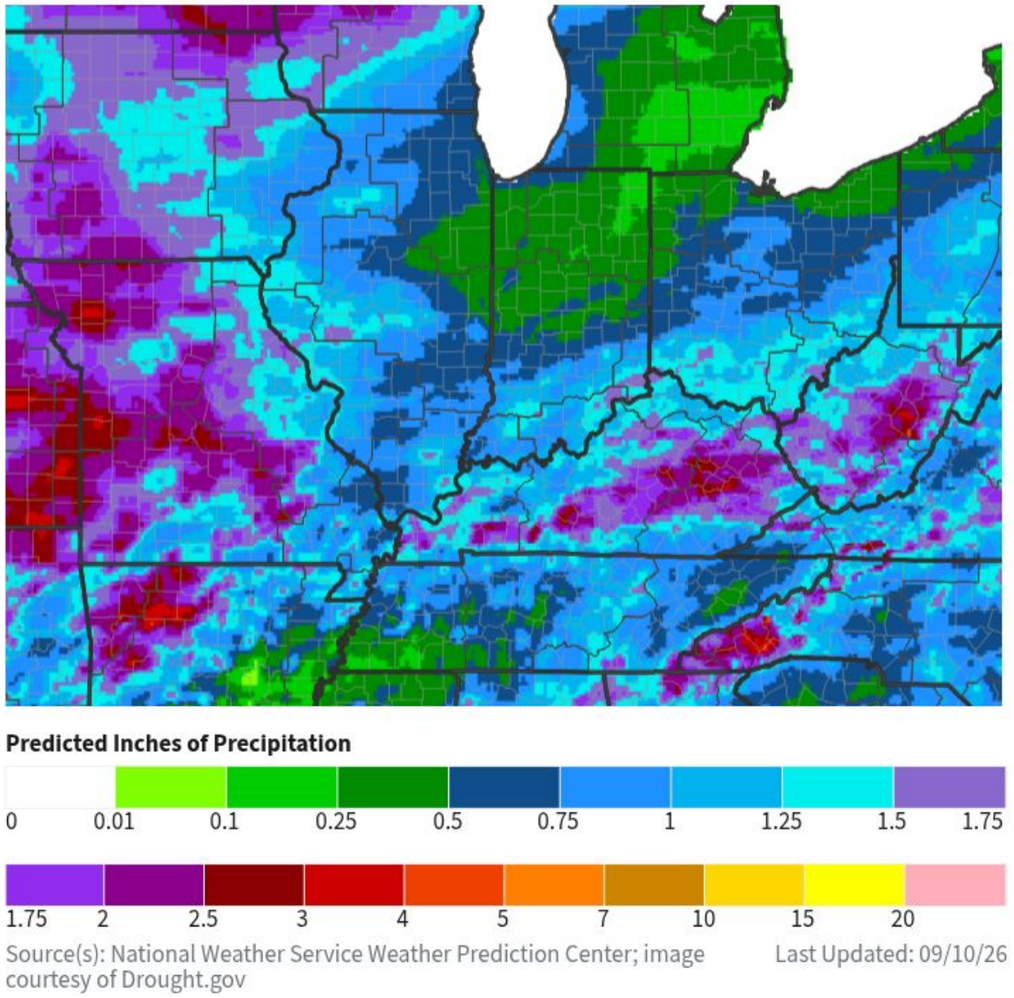
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

September 10, 2026
12:09 PM

Key Messages

- After isolated to scattered rain chances this weekend, a front will slowly make its way south over the course of next week, bringing several chances for rain.

- While not all areas will see extensive rainfall, on average, most locations should see between half an inch to 2.5 inches. Any locations that see multiple rounds of thunderstorms could see locally higher values.



Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

September 10, 2026
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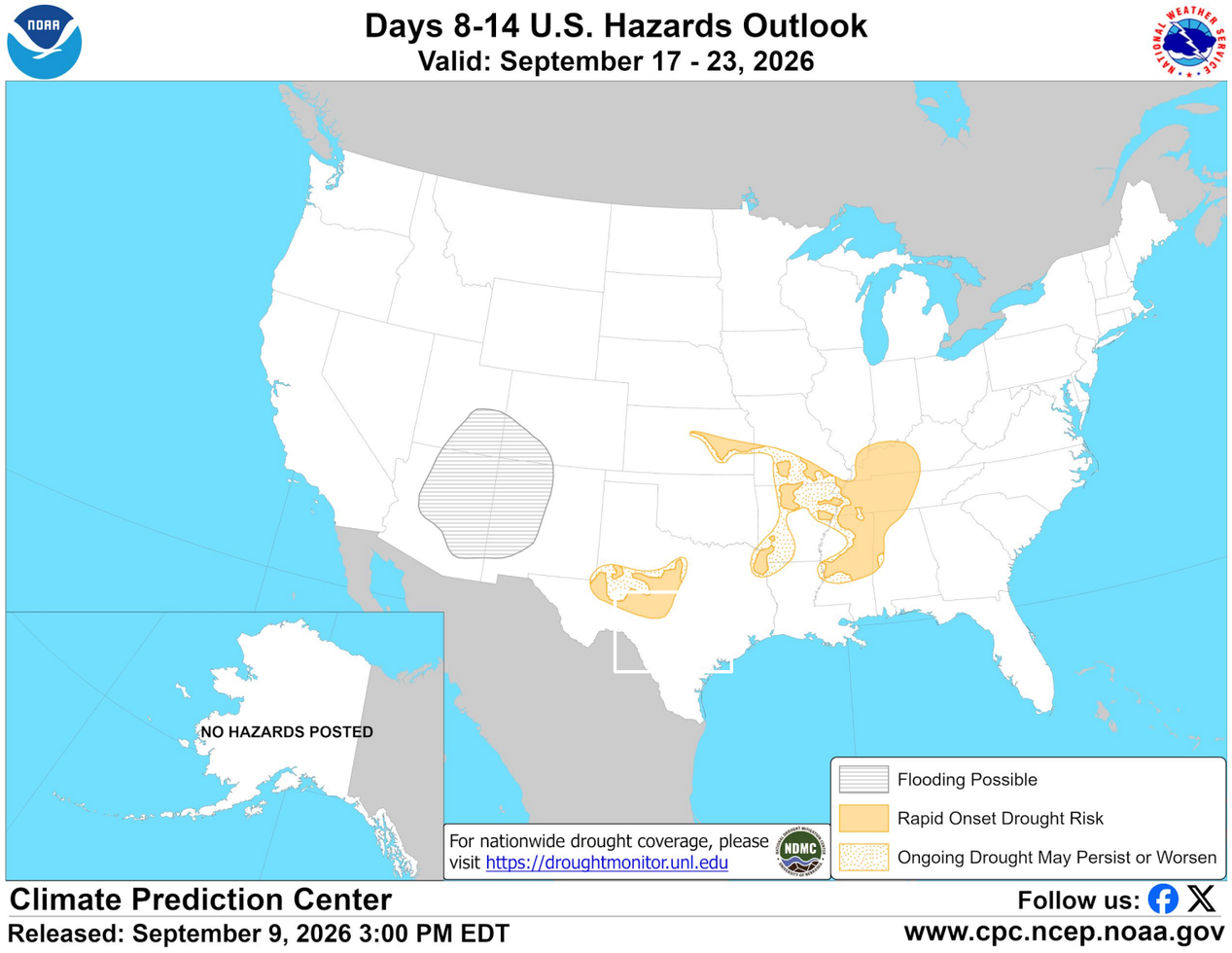
Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day Temperature Outlook and Precipitation Outlook

Key Messages

- The Climate Prediction Center continues to highlight much of southwest Missouri and southeast Kansas in a risk for rapid onset drought and extreme heat in the September 17-23 period.

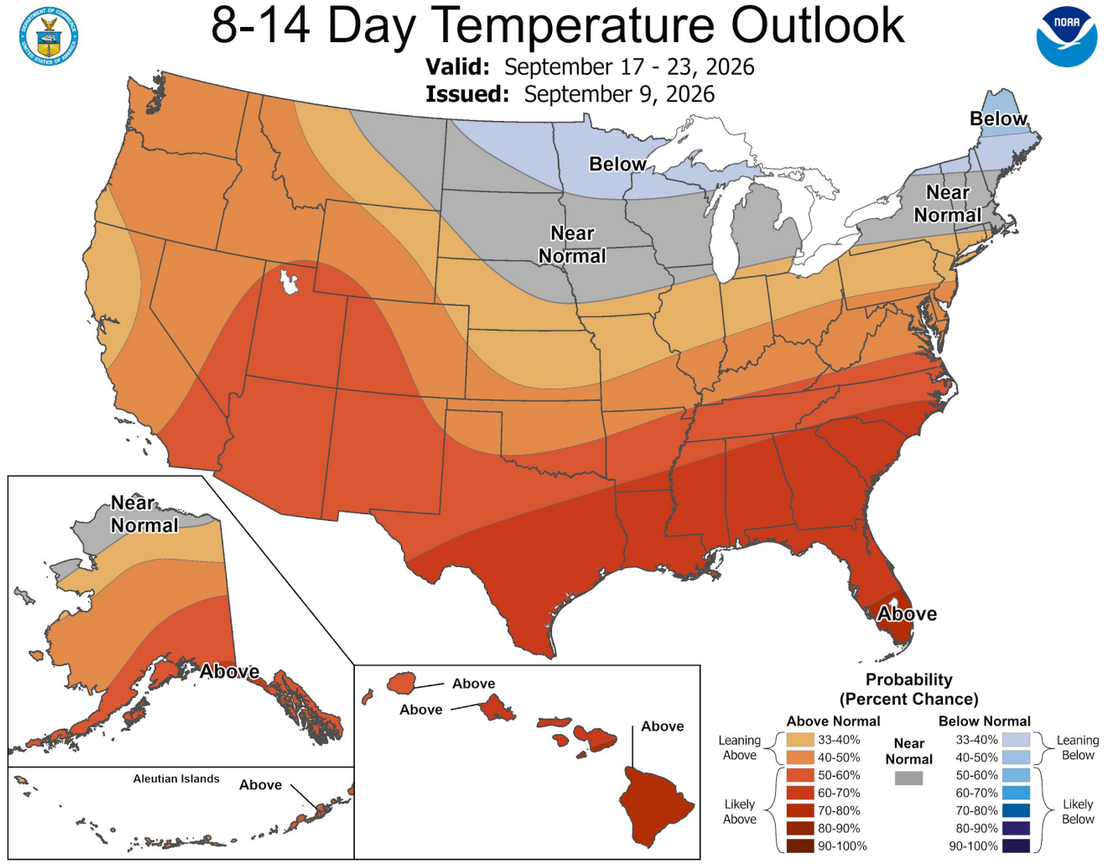
- Portions of far southwest Missouri and southeast Kansas that have already experienced rapid onset drought in recent weeks are predicted to have the ongoing drought persist or worsen for the same period.

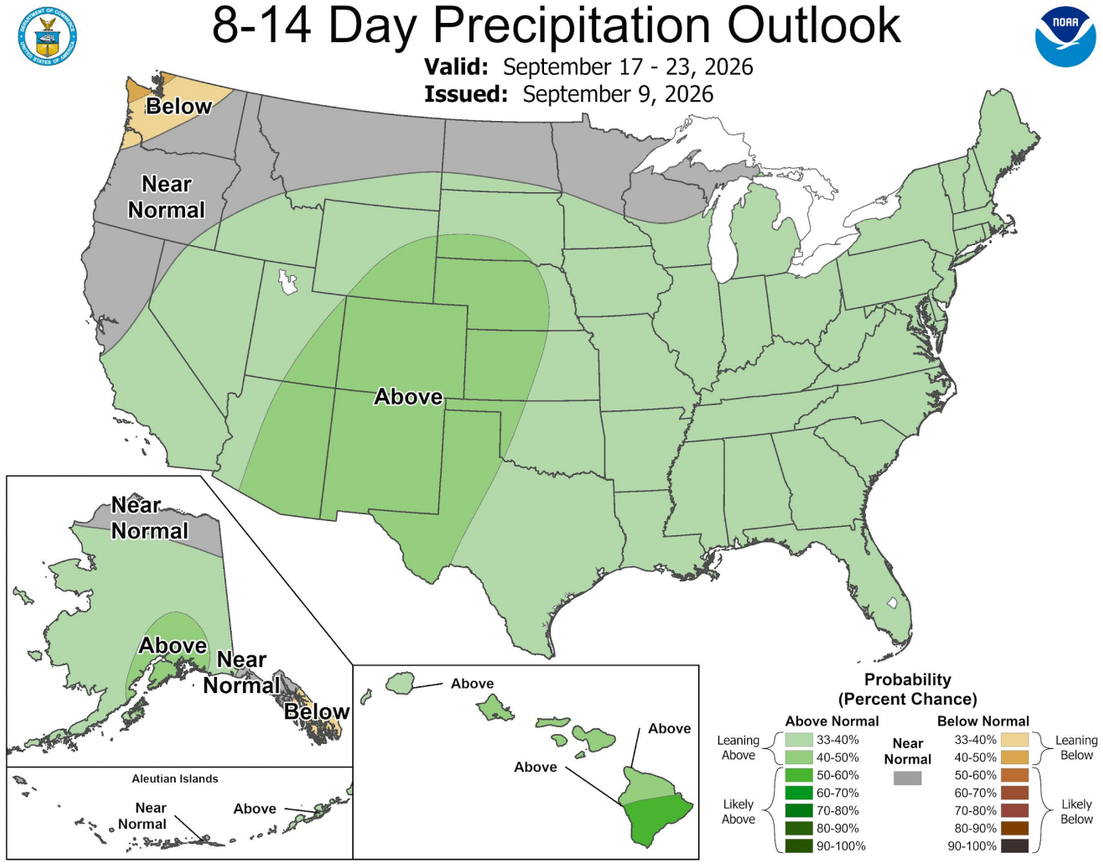


8 to 14 Day Outlooks

September 10, 2026
12:09 PM

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage





Key Messages

- Above-normal temperatures and above-normal precipitation are favored in the Sep 17-23 period.

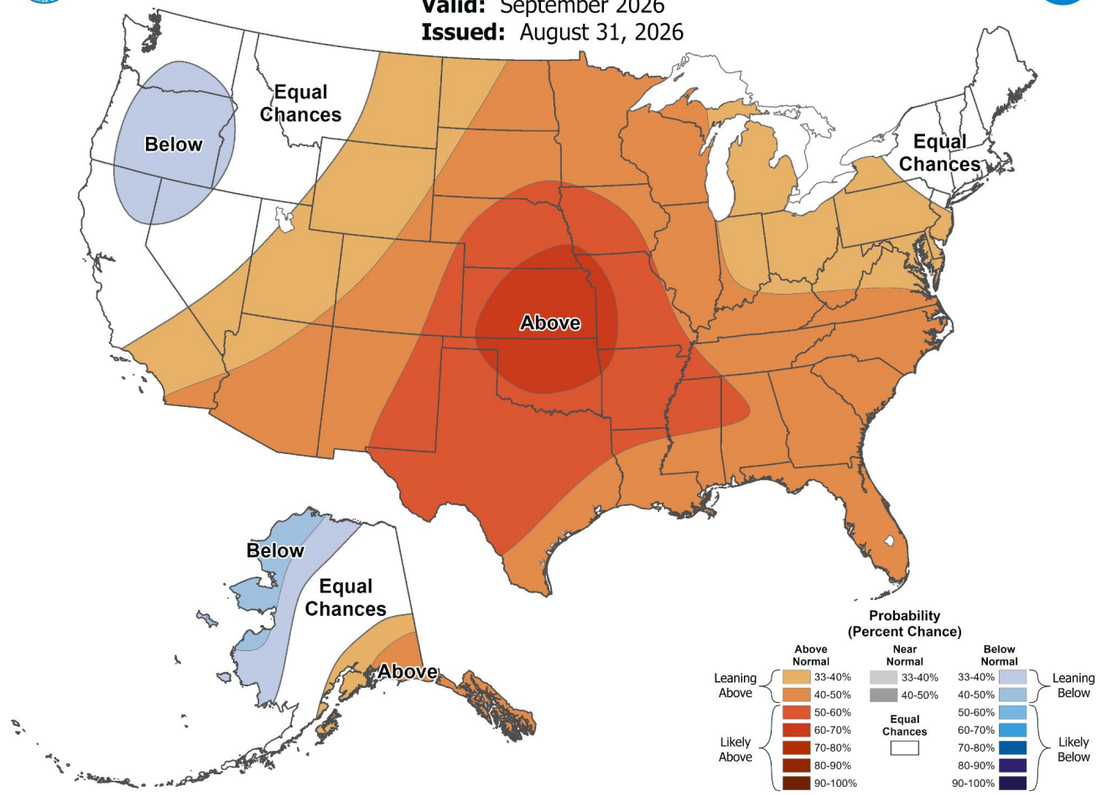
Monthly Outlooks

September 10, 2026
12:09 PM

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

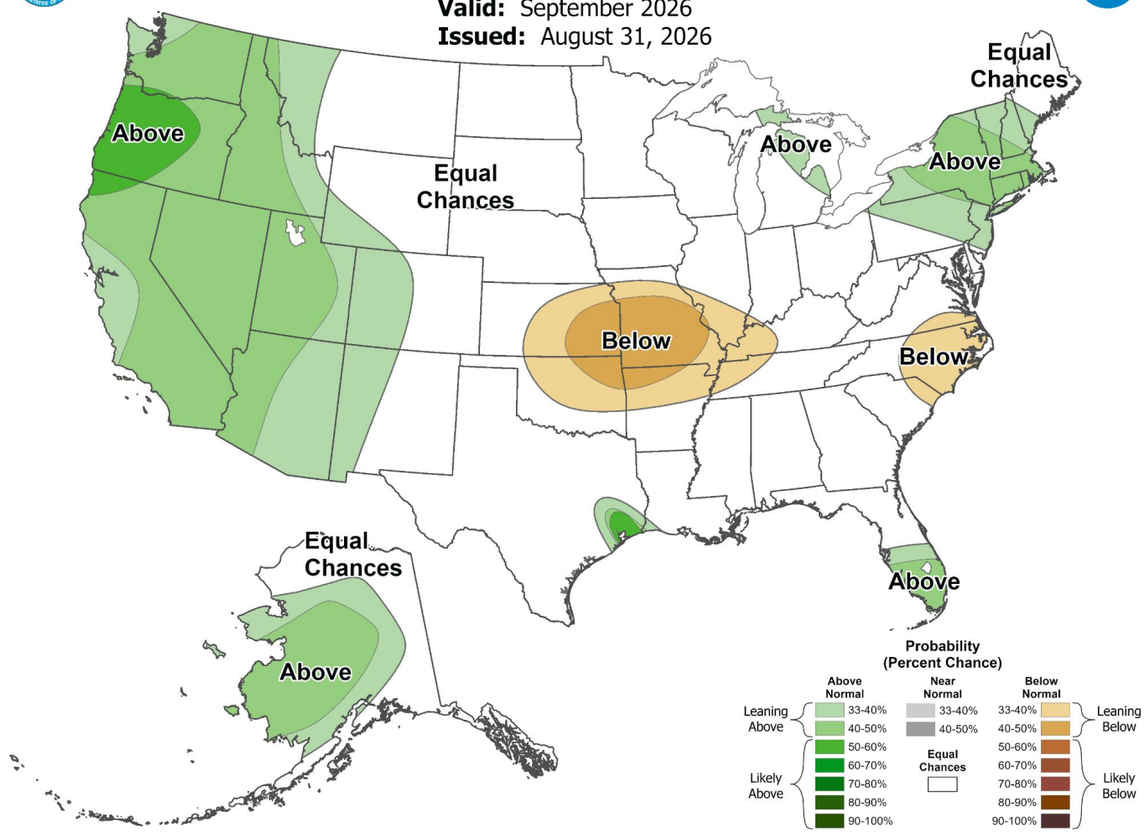
Monthly Temperature Outlook

Valid: September 2026
Issued: August 31, 2026



Monthly Precipitation Outlook

Valid: September 2026
Issued: August 31, 2026



Key Messages

- Above normal temperatures expected to continue through September.
- Despite the forecast of rain the next few days, chances are that, on average, precipitation for the month will end below normal

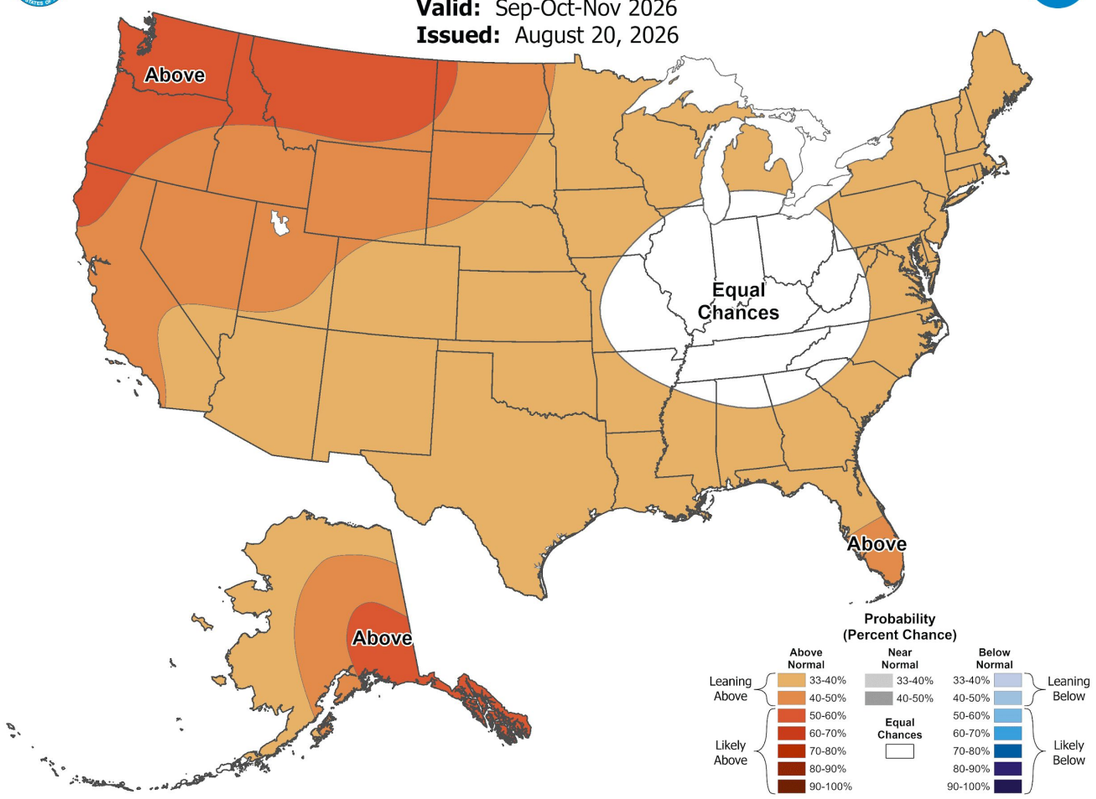
Seasonal Outlooks

September 10, 2026
12:09 PM

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

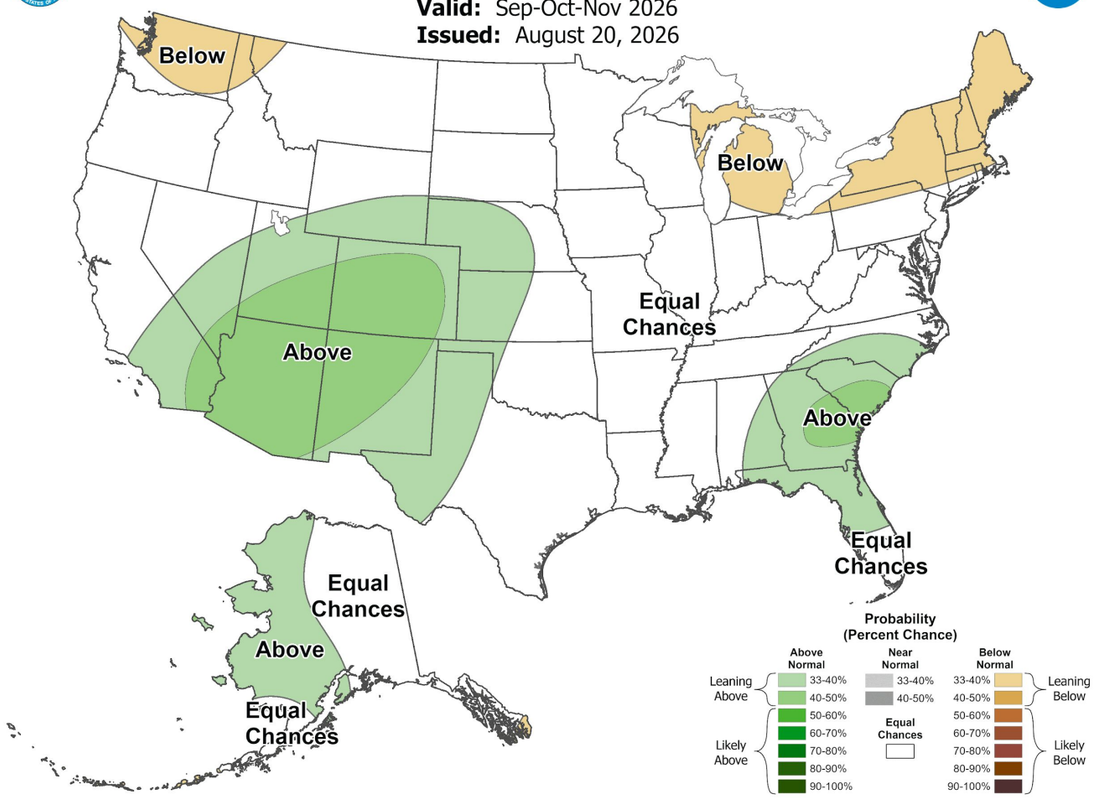
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Sep-Oct-Nov 2026
Issued: August 20, 2026



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Sep-Oct-Nov 2026
Issued: August 20, 2026



Key Messages

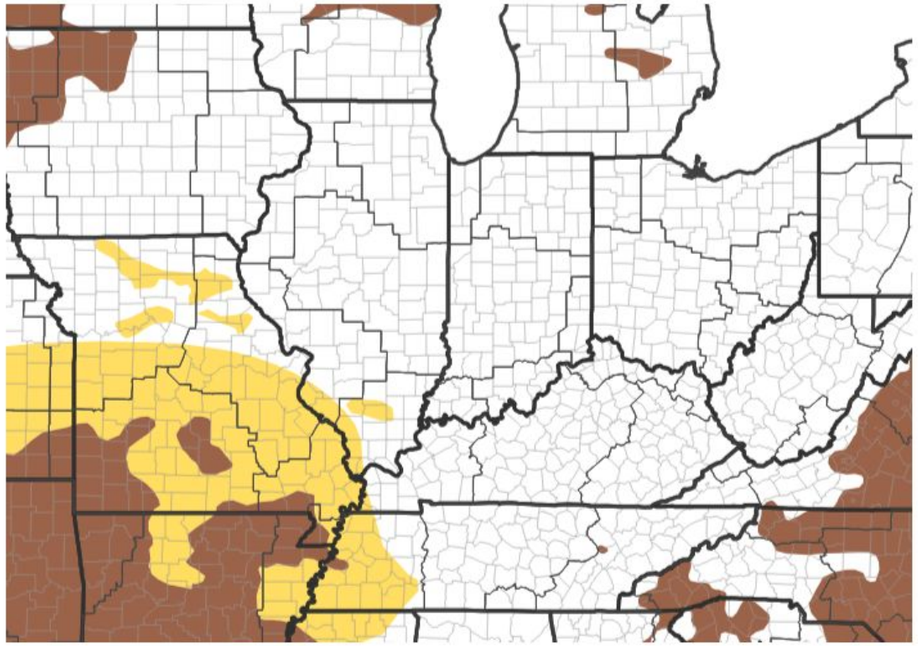
- Nearly equal chances for below, near, and above normal temperatures and precipitation.

Drought Outlook

September 10, 2026
12:09 PM

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

1-Month Drought Outlook for September 1, 2026–September 30, 2026



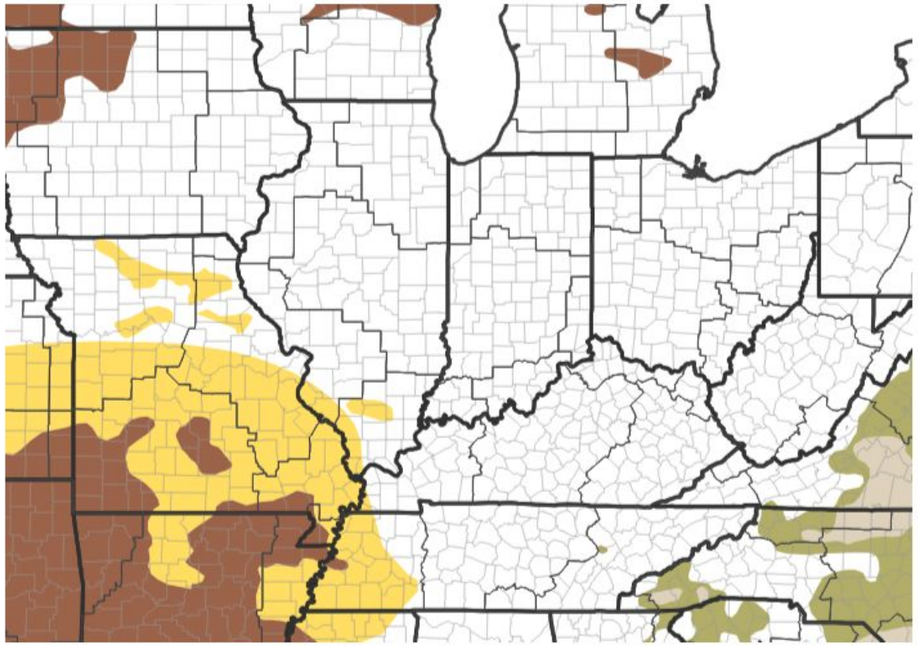
Drought Is Predicted To...

Persist | Improve | End | Develop | No Drought

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 08/31/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for August 31, 2026–November 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...

Persist | Improve | End | Develop | No Drought

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 08/31/26

Key Messages

- Drought is forecast to develop or persist over the next 1 to 3 months.

Additional Drought Resources

September 10, 2026
12:09 PM

For Additional Information

- NWS Springfield Webpage | IDSS Point Forecasts
- NWS Springfield Drought Monitor Resources
- 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