

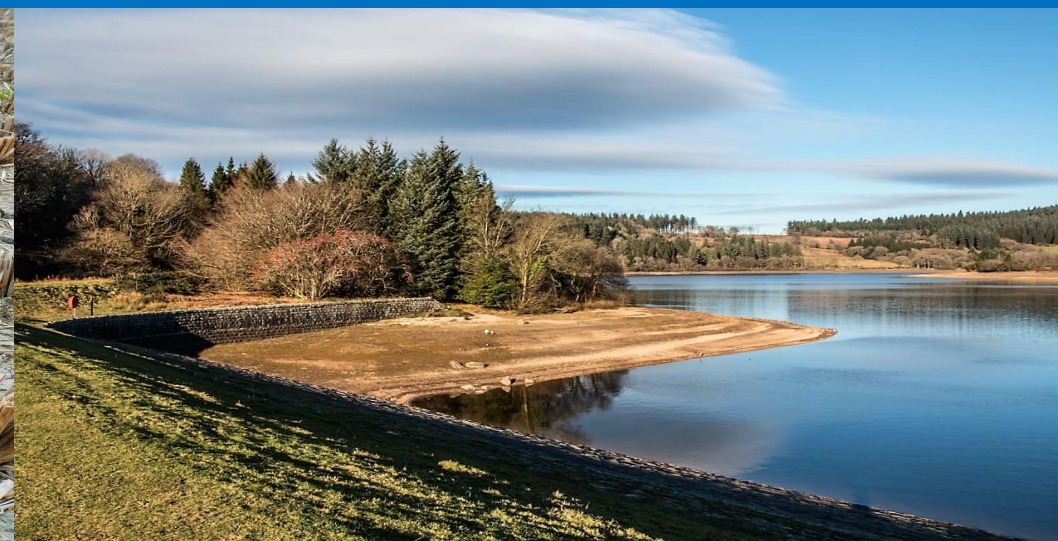
Drought Information Statement for the Missouri Ozarks

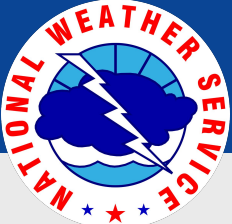
Valid October 8, 2026

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

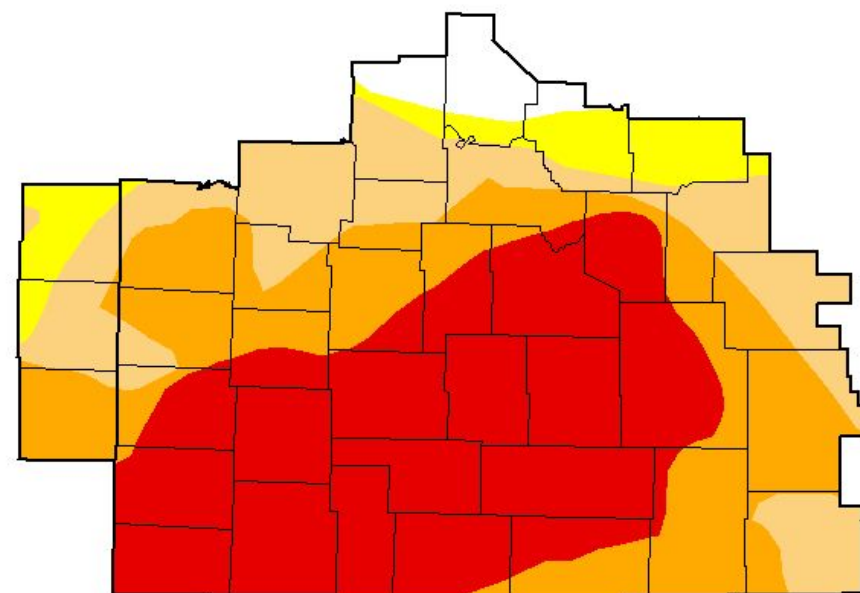
October 8, 2026
11:15 AM

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

Key Messages

- **D3 (Extreme Drought)** has expanded, now including Newton, McDonald, Barry, Lawrence, Greene, Christian, Stone, Taney, Douglas, Webster, Wright Counties, and portions of Jasper, Barton, Dade, Polk, Dallas, Laclede, Camden, Pulaski, Texas, Howell, and Ozark Counties in Missouri.
- **D2 (Severe Drought)** now includes areas mentioned above in addition to Cherokee County and portions of Crawford and Bourbon Counties in Kansas, and portions of Vernon, St. Clair, Cedar, Hickory, Phelps, Dent, Shannon, and Oregon Counties in Missouri.
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)** includes areas mentioned above in addition to portions of Benton, Morgan, Miller and Maries Counties in Missouri.
- **The D0 (Abnormally Dry)** area includes areas mentioned above.

U.S. Drought Monitor Springfield, MO WFO



October 6, 2026

(Released Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	3.35	96.65	89.95	70.33	42.77	0.00
Last Week 09-29-2026	3.35	96.65	91.23	65.20	36.45	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-07-2026	97.76	2.24	0.24	0.00	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 10-07-2025	0.42	99.58	84.89	41.25	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

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

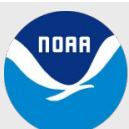
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/N CEP

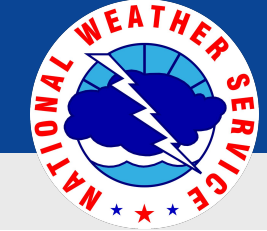


droughtmonitor.unl.edu



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Springfield, MO

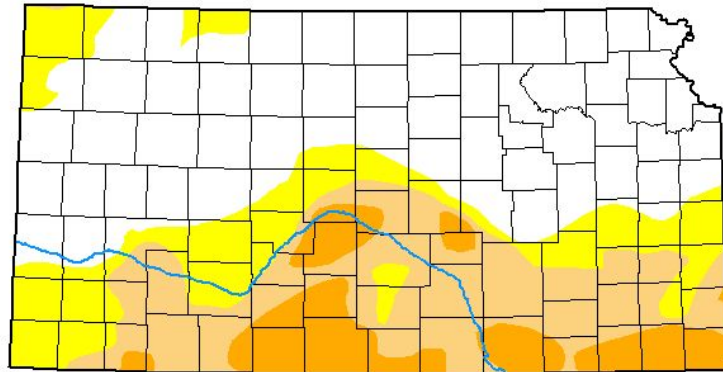


State Drought Monitor

October 8, 2026
11:15 AM

Link to [Recent Change Maps](#)

U.S. Drought Monitor Kansas



October 6, 2026
(Released Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	51.14	48.86	30.85	10.40	0.00	0.00
Last Week 09-29-2026	29.64	70.36	46.41	22.70	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-07-2026	59.49	40.51	26.76	7.04	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 10-07-2025	81.37	18.63	7.82	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate 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>

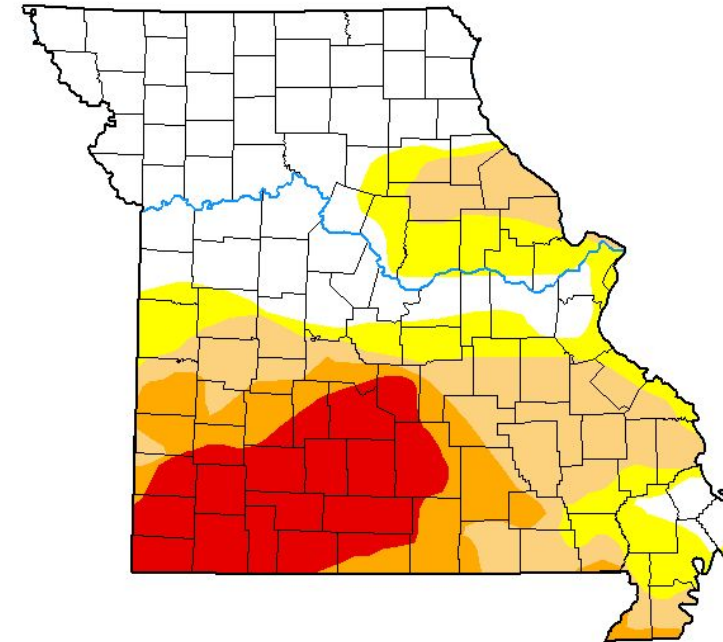
Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor Missouri



October 6, 2026
(Released Thursday, Oct. 8, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	39.27	60.73	44.78	25.10	15.27	0.00
Last Week 09-29-2026	37.80	62.20	45.35	23.52	13.01	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-07-2026	84.92	15.08	5.12	1.06	0.00	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 10-07-2025	2.50	97.50	70.93	26.76	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

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

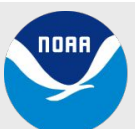
Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

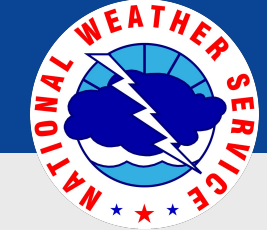
Key Messages

- Compared to the rest of the states, southern Kansas and southwest Missouri are experiencing the worst of drought conditions.
- This update includes rain that fell across Missouri October 1-2. Despite the rain, Drought has expanded.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

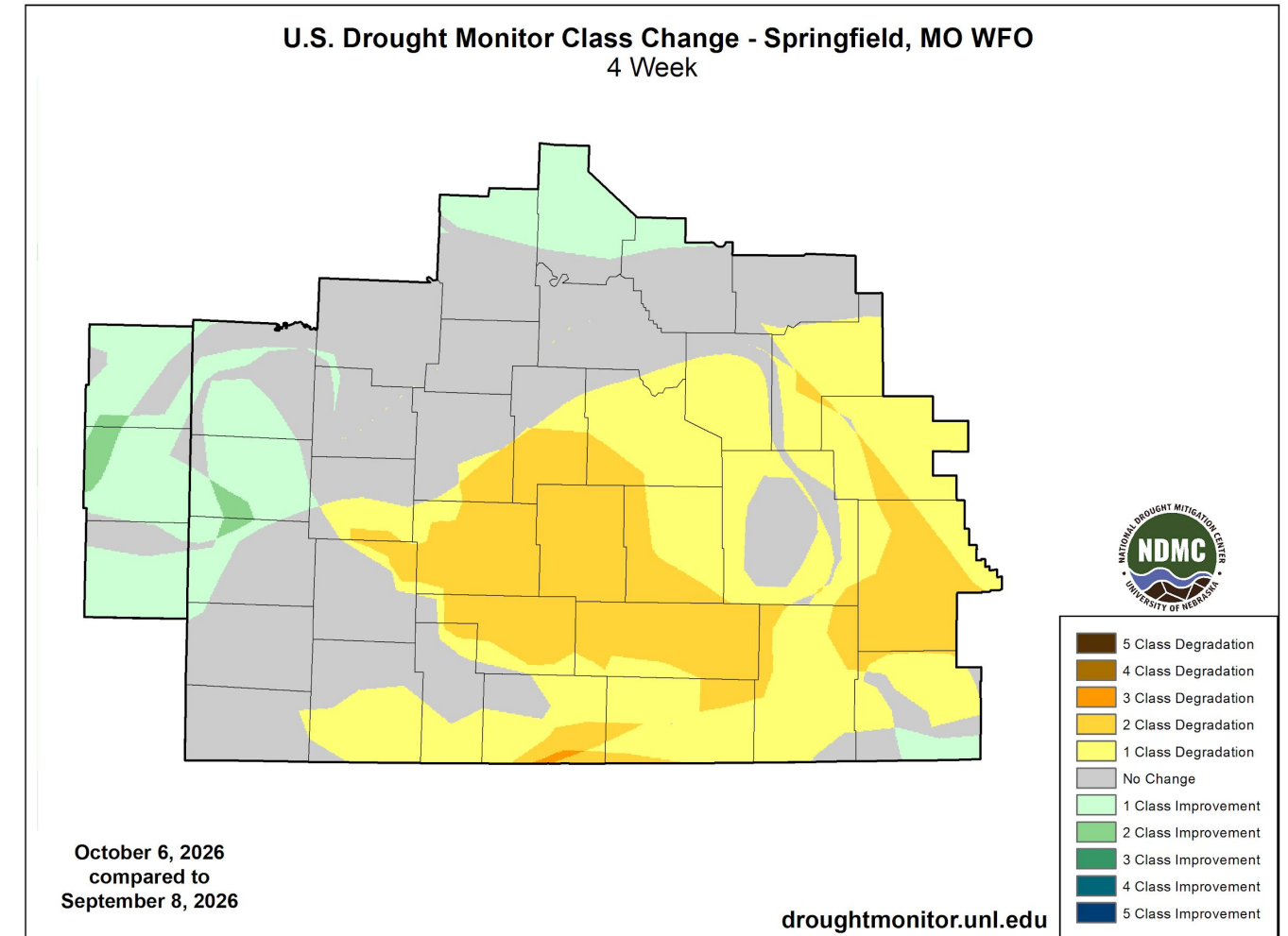
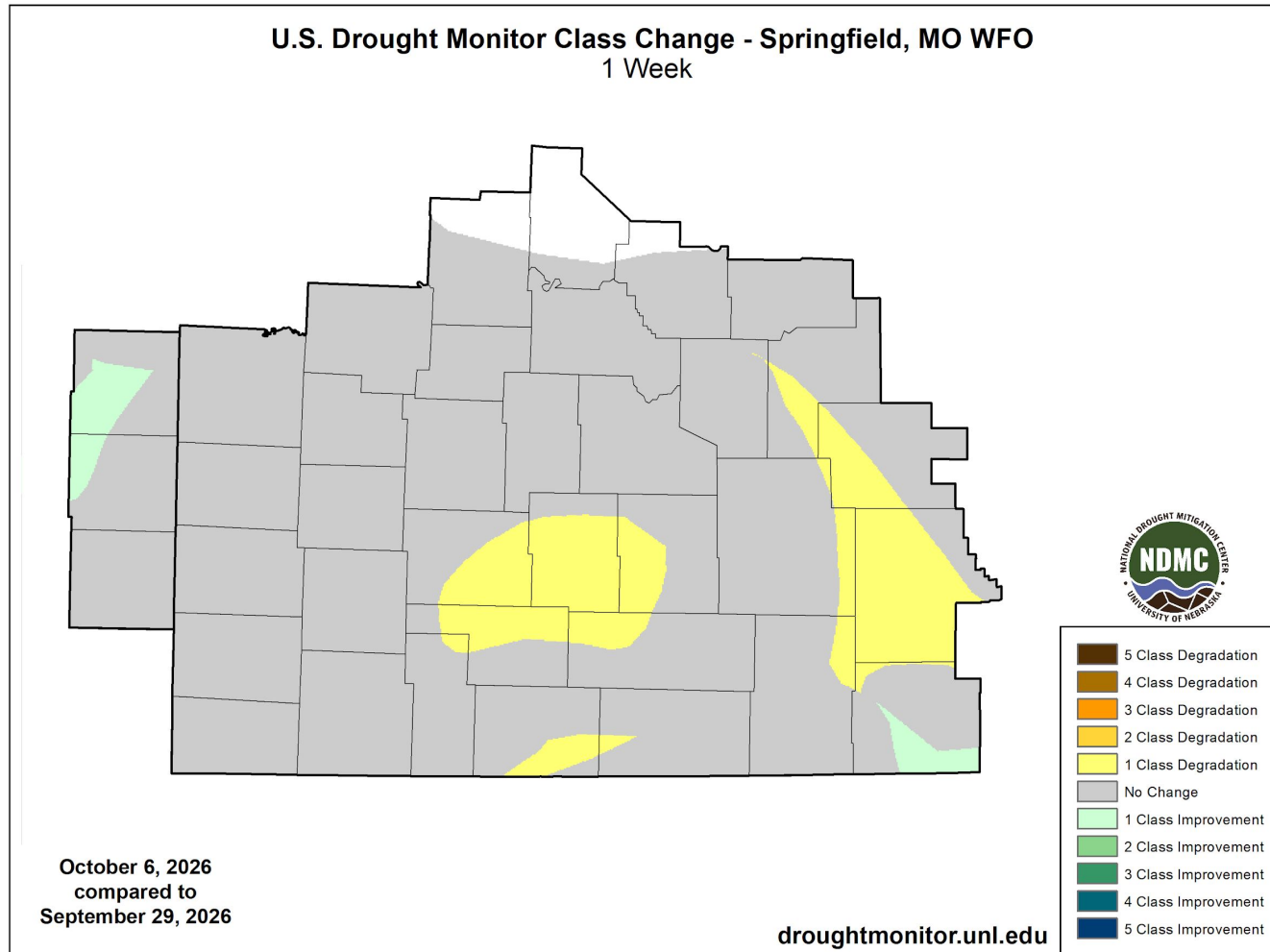
National Weather Service
Springfield, MO



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

October 8, 2026
11:15 AM

Link to [Recent Change Maps](#)



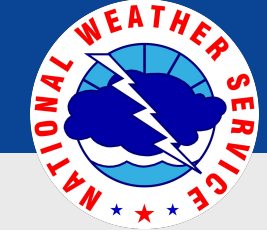
Key Messages

- Drought monitor category has mostly either degraded or remained the same over the last week; there was some improvement in areas across southeast Kansas, central Missouri, and extreme southern Missouri where greater rain amounts fell October 1-2.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

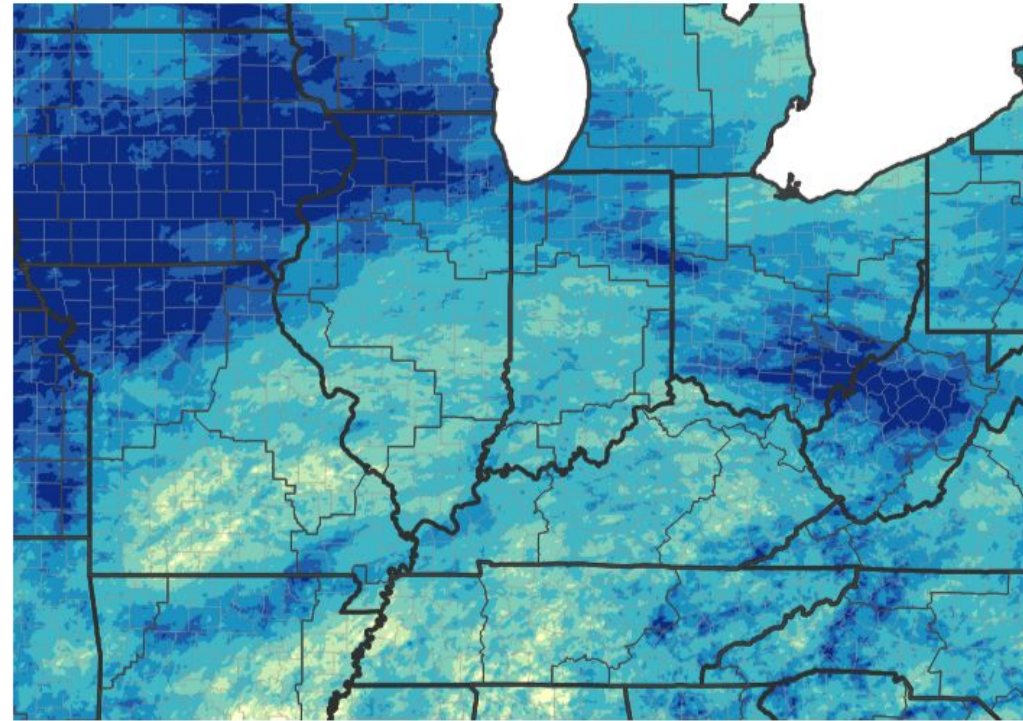
National Weather Service
Springfield, MO



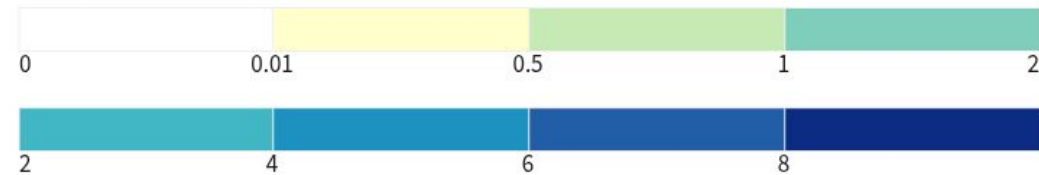
30-Day Precipitation

October 8, 2026
11:15 AM

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



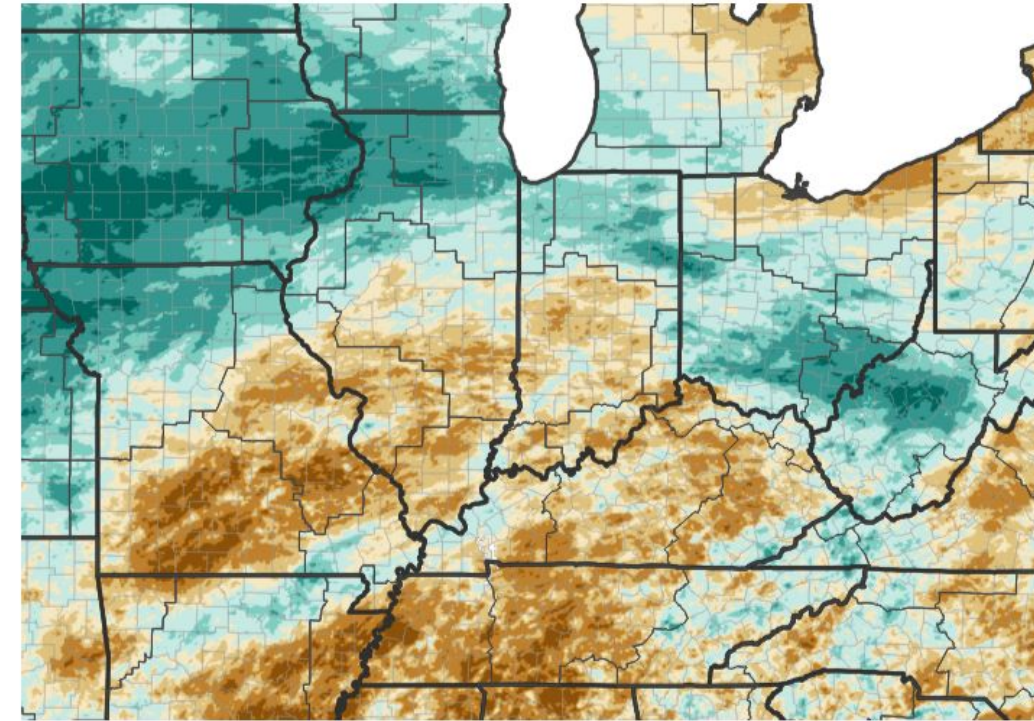
Inches of Precipitation



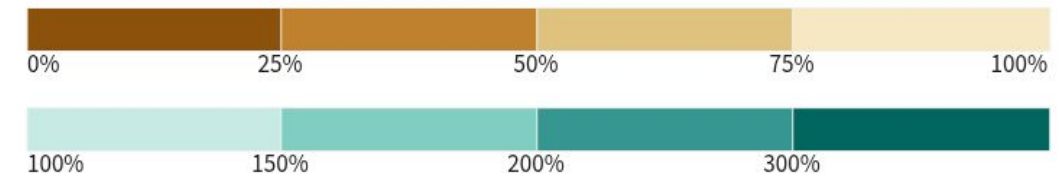
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/07/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

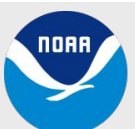


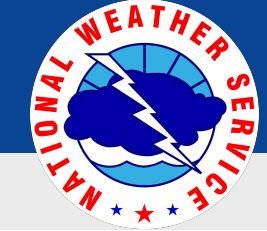
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System;
image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/07/26

Key Messages

- Precipitation has been well below normal for some areas—particularly within the Ozarks—the last 30 days.
- Isolated areas in southeast Kansas, northern Missouri and southeast Missouri did see some beneficial rain.





7-Day Precipitation

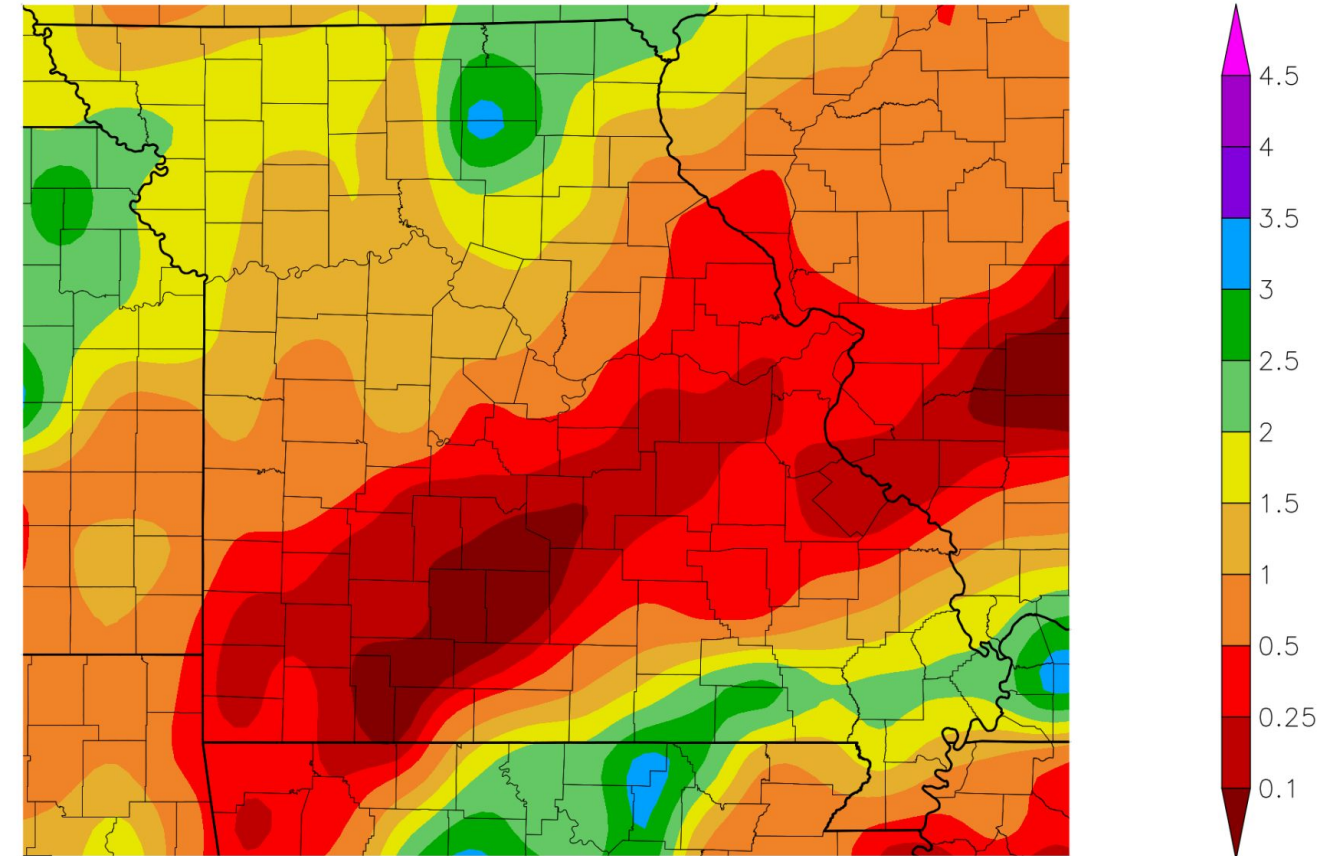
October 8, 2026
11:15 AM

Link to [HPRCC](#)

Key Messages

- A storm system produced a very narrow swath of rain through portions of southeast and central Missouri, and southeast Kansas on October 1st and 2nd, totaling generally between 0.50 and 2.00 inches.
- This rain provided only limited relief to drought-stricken areas.
- Areas already stricken with drought received very little rainfall from this system, persisting and expanding the Severe (D3) Drought.

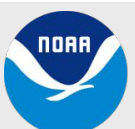
Precipitation (in)
10/1/2026 – 10/7/2026



For additional information, check out: [ACIS Climate Maps](#)

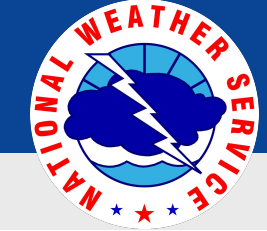
Generated 10/8/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Springfield, MO



Temperature

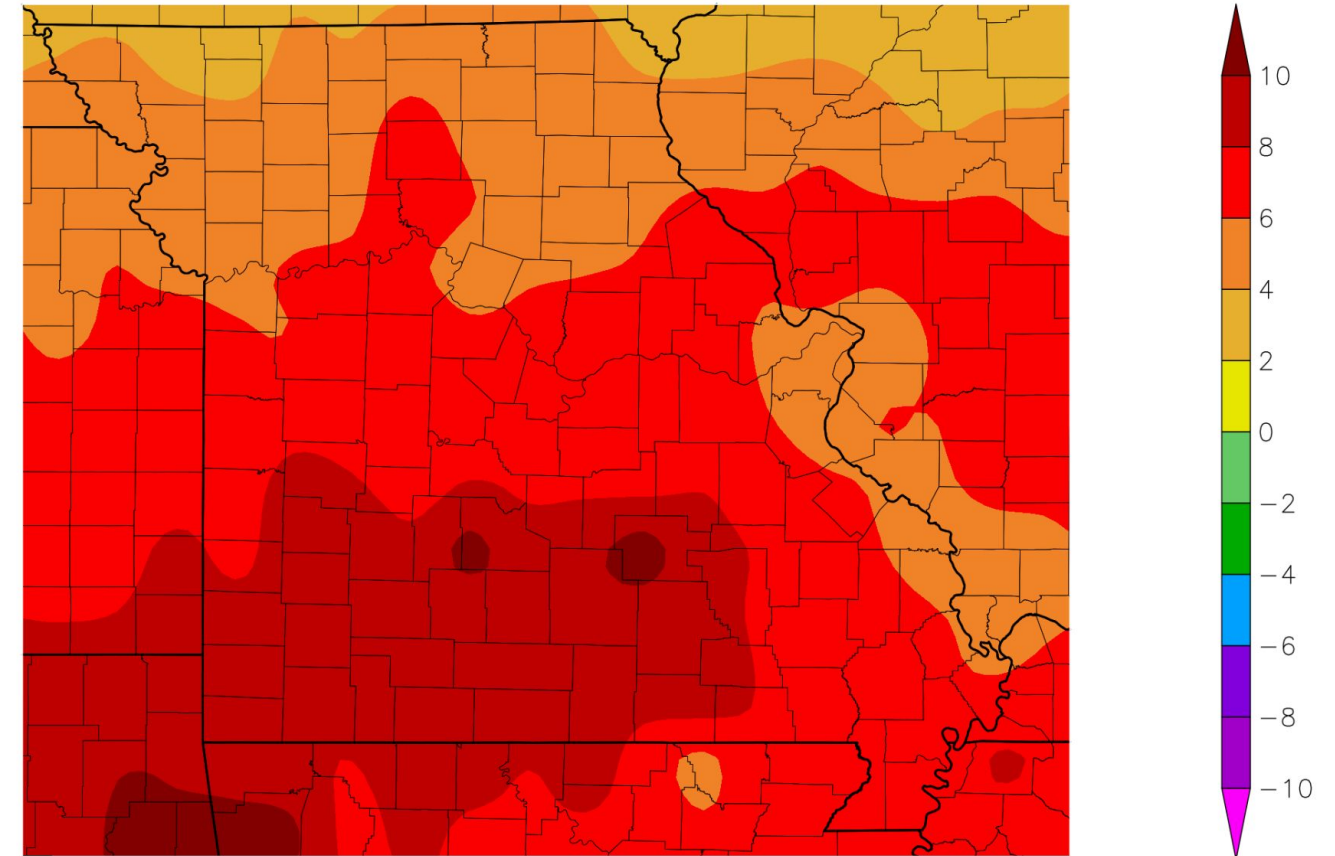
October 8, 2026
11:15 AM

Link to [HPRCC](#)

Key Messages

- The region has seen well above normal temperatures the past 30 days.
- In fact, September has been the warmest September on record for all four of the climate sites in our area (Springfield, Joplin, West Plains, and Rolla-Vichy).
- These conditions, along with little to no precipitation, have continued to present and expand drought severity.

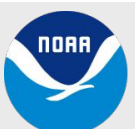
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/8/2026 – 10/7/2026



Generated 10/8/2026 using provisional data.

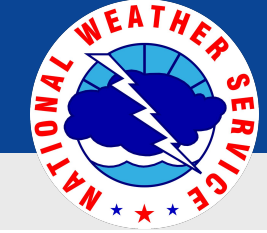
ACIS Web Services

For additional information, check out: [ACIS Climate Maps](#)



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Springfield, MO



Summary of Impacts

October 8, 2026

11:15 AM

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

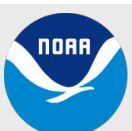
- Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMORs): Increasing number of severe drought reports, including outside of D2 drought areas. Severe agricultural impacts are becoming more widespread: loss to crop yield, supplemental pasture feeding required, reduced pasture/forage, increased invasive plants/weeds, browning of grass, no pasture regrowth, increasing dustiness/air quality reduction from dry soils, change in timing of plant growth, sparse canopies of trees, .
- Ponds are drying–or have dried–up, increased reliance on wells that are running low.
- Animal stress has been high with above normal temperatures persisting.

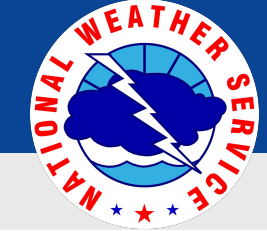
Fire Hazard Impacts

- 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

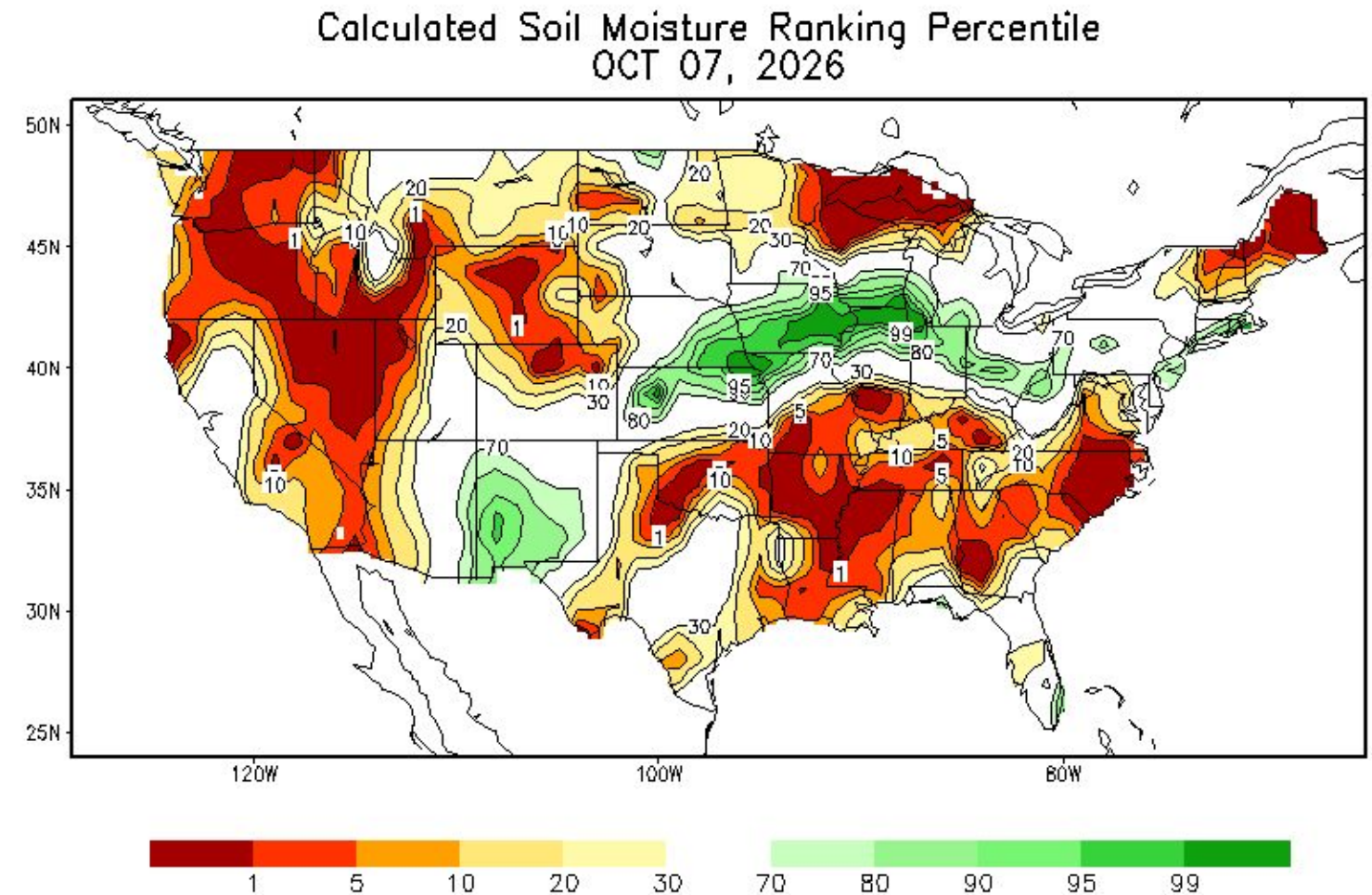
- There are no other known impacts at this time.



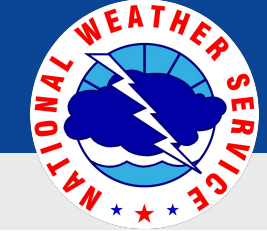


Key Messages

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



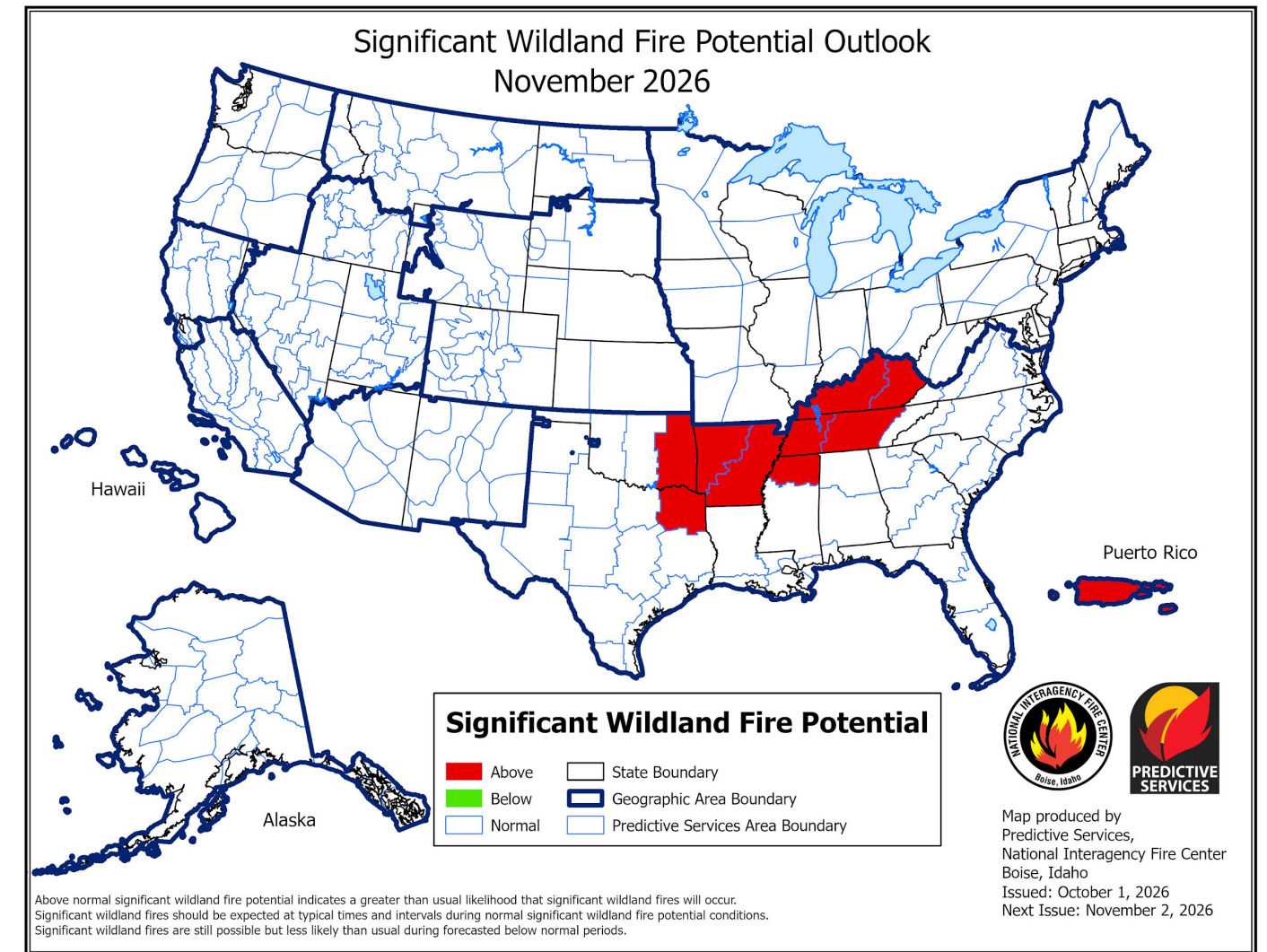
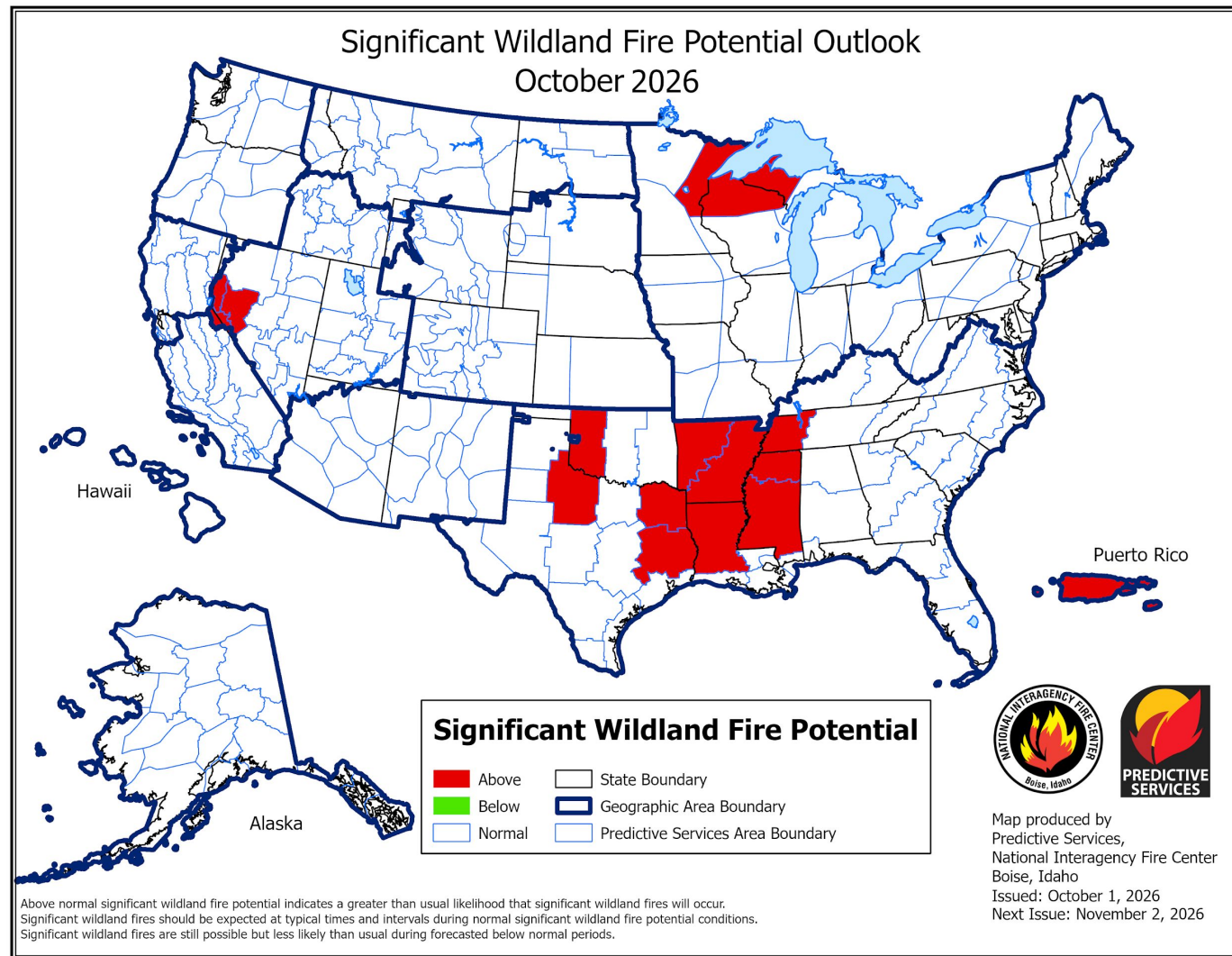
[For additional experimental drought indicators](#)



Fire Hazard Impacts

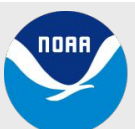
October 8, 2026
11:15 AM

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



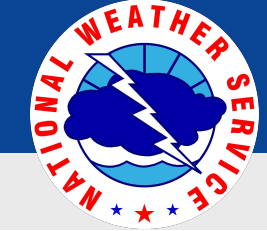
Key Messages

- 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.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Springfield, MO



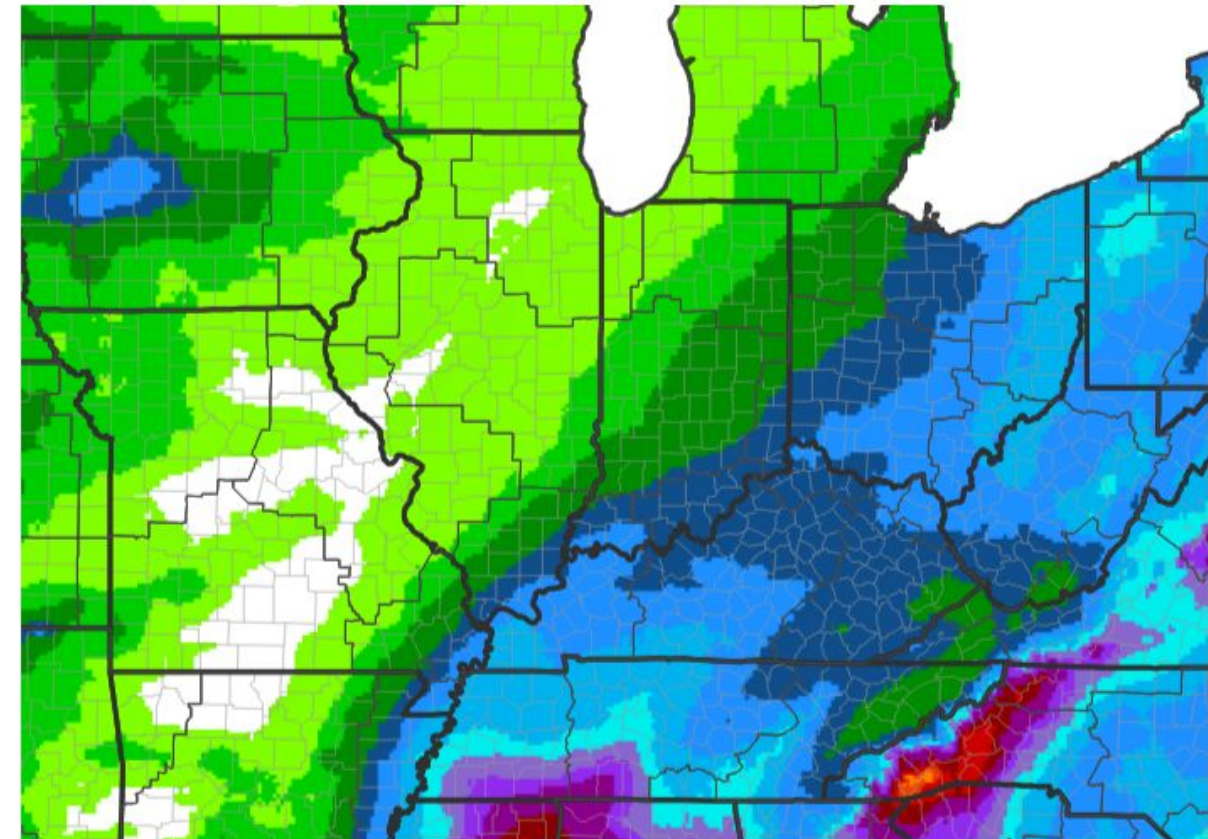
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

October 8, 2026
11:15 AM

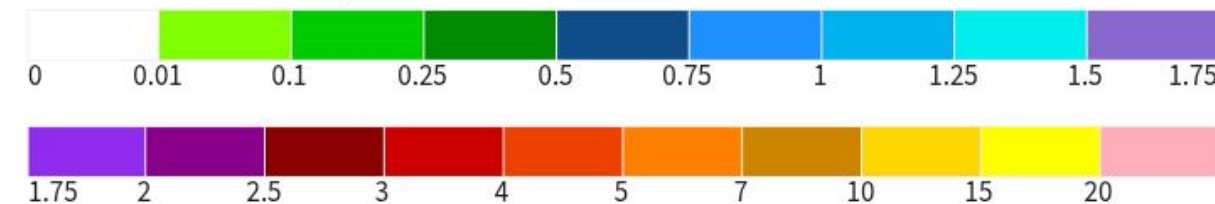
Key Messages

- Tropical System Isaias is forecast to just scrape by the Missouri Bootheel region, bringing only marginal rainfall amounts to south-central Missouri.
- Otherwise, temperatures are expected to remain well above normal, challenging records at times, with mostly dry weather. Another system may approach from the west toward the end of the period, but confidence in rain is low at this time.

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

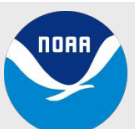


Predicted Inches of Precipitation



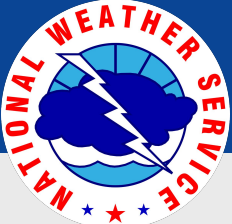
Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/07/26



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Springfield, MO



8 to 14 Day Outlooks

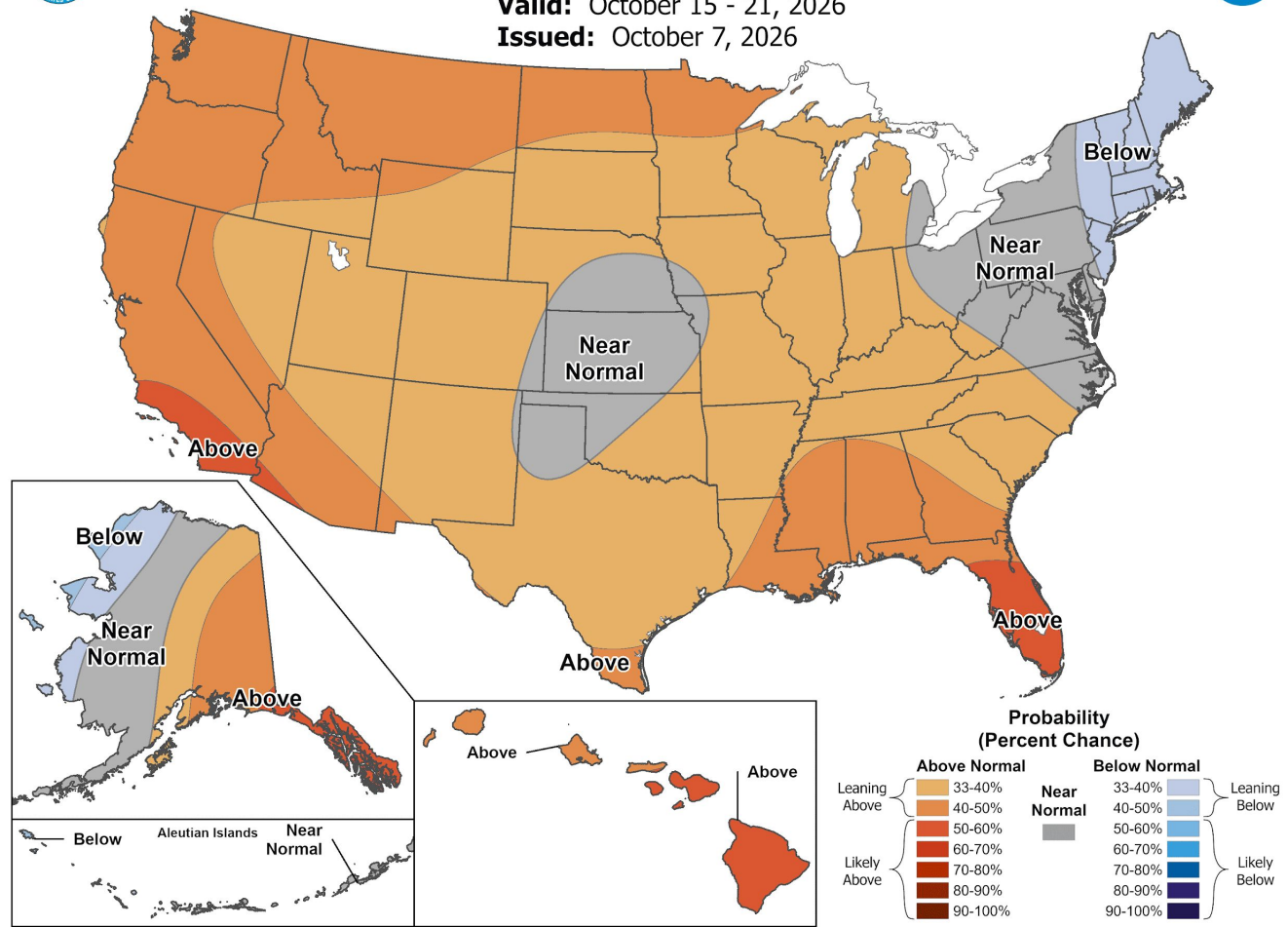
October 8, 2026
11:15 AM

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



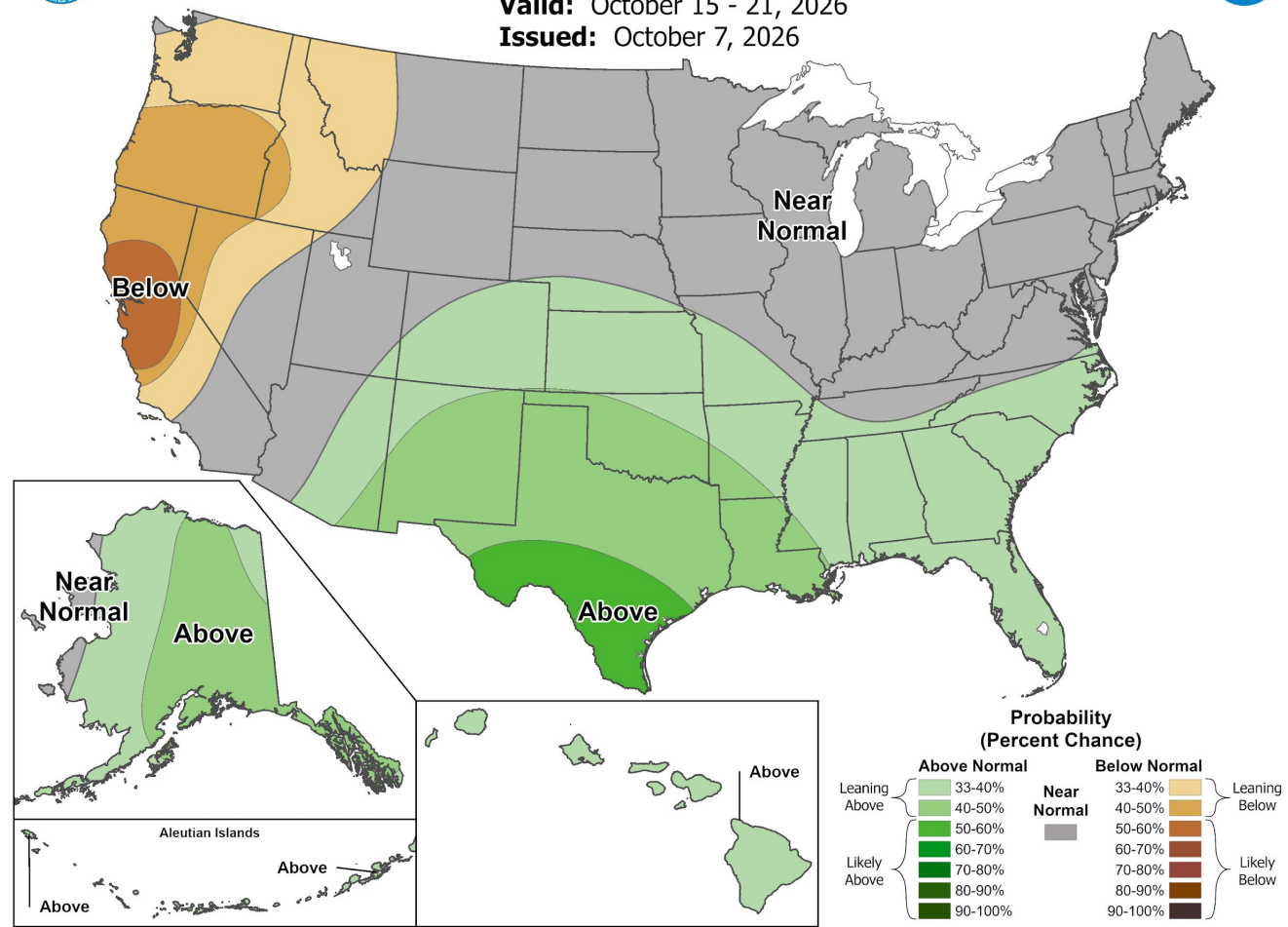
8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: October 15 - 21, 2026
Issued: October 7, 2026



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

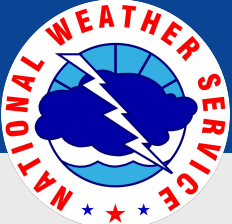
Valid: October 15 - 21, 2026
Issued: October 7, 2026



Key Messages

- Above-normal temperatures and above-normal precipitation are favored in the October 15-21 period. However, confidence in rain chances is still low.





Monthly Outlooks

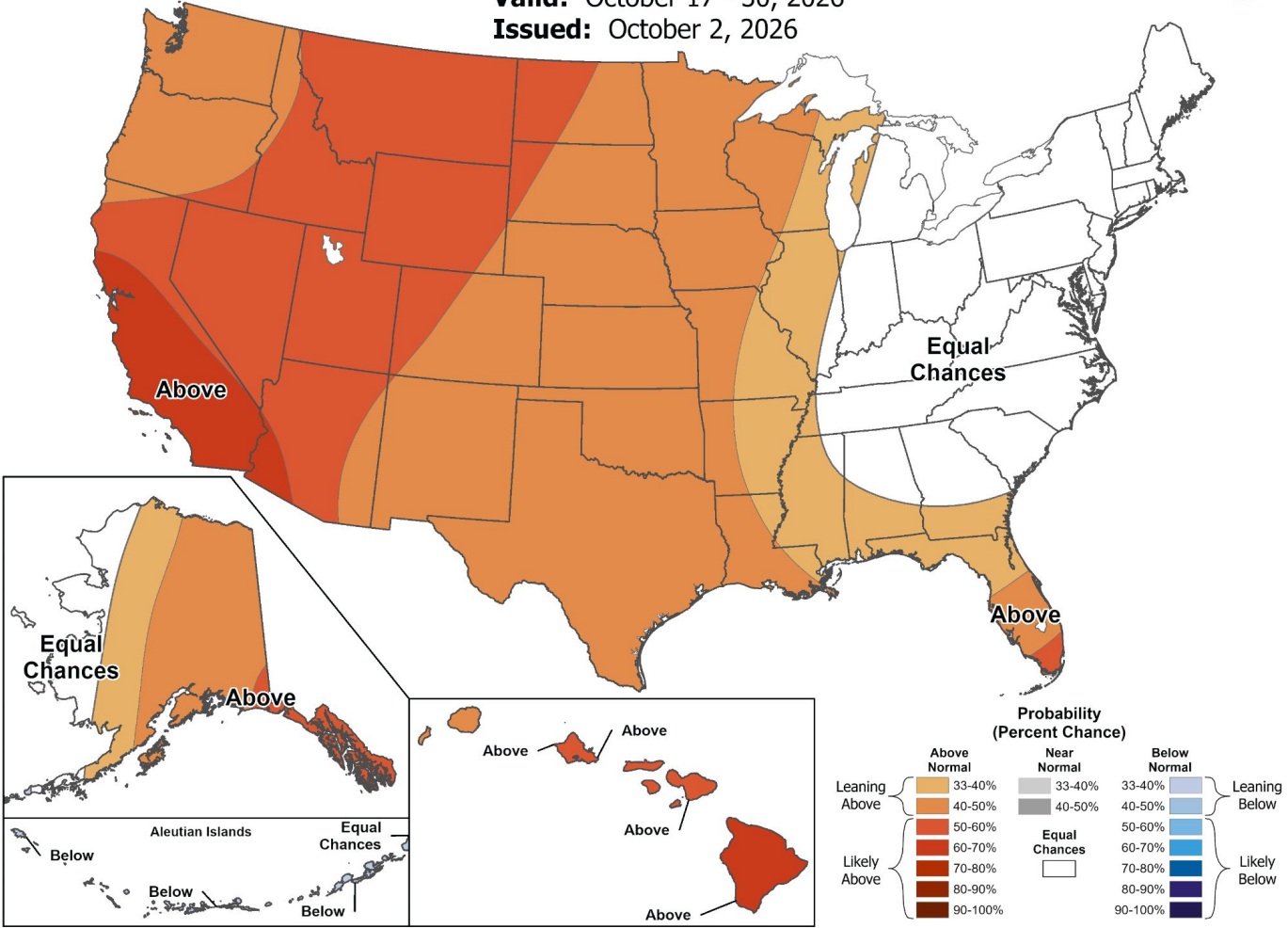
October 8, 2026
11:15 AM

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



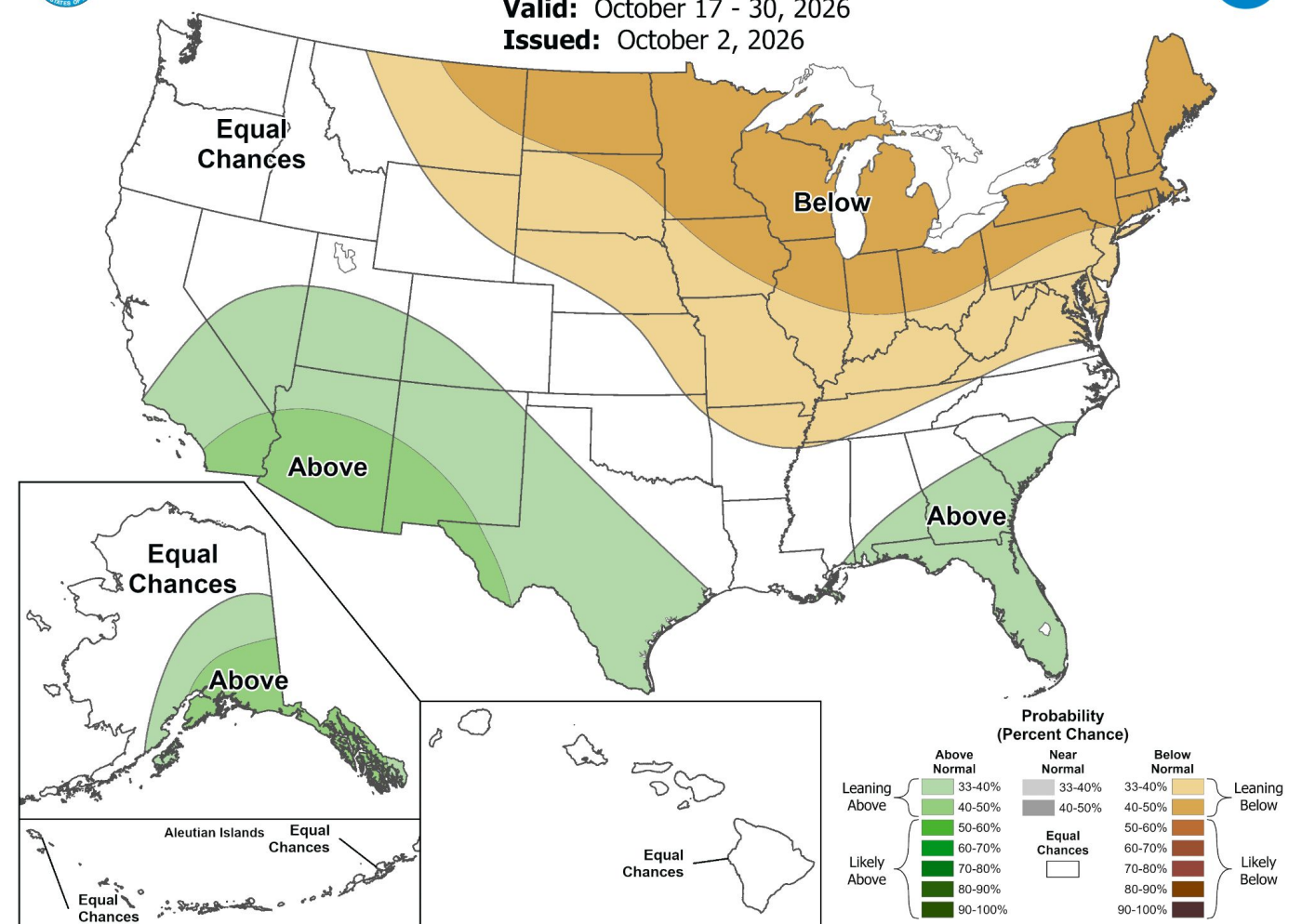
Week 3-4 Temperature Outlook

Valid: October 17 - 30, 2026
Issued: October 2, 2026



Week 3-4 Precipitation Outlook

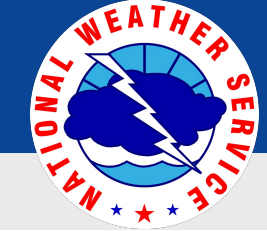
Valid: October 17 - 30, 2026
Issued: October 2, 2026



Key Messages

- Above normal temperatures expected to continue through the rest of October.
- While there are some marginal rain chances in the future, chances are for the rest of October to read in below normal.





Seasonal Outlooks

October 8, 2026

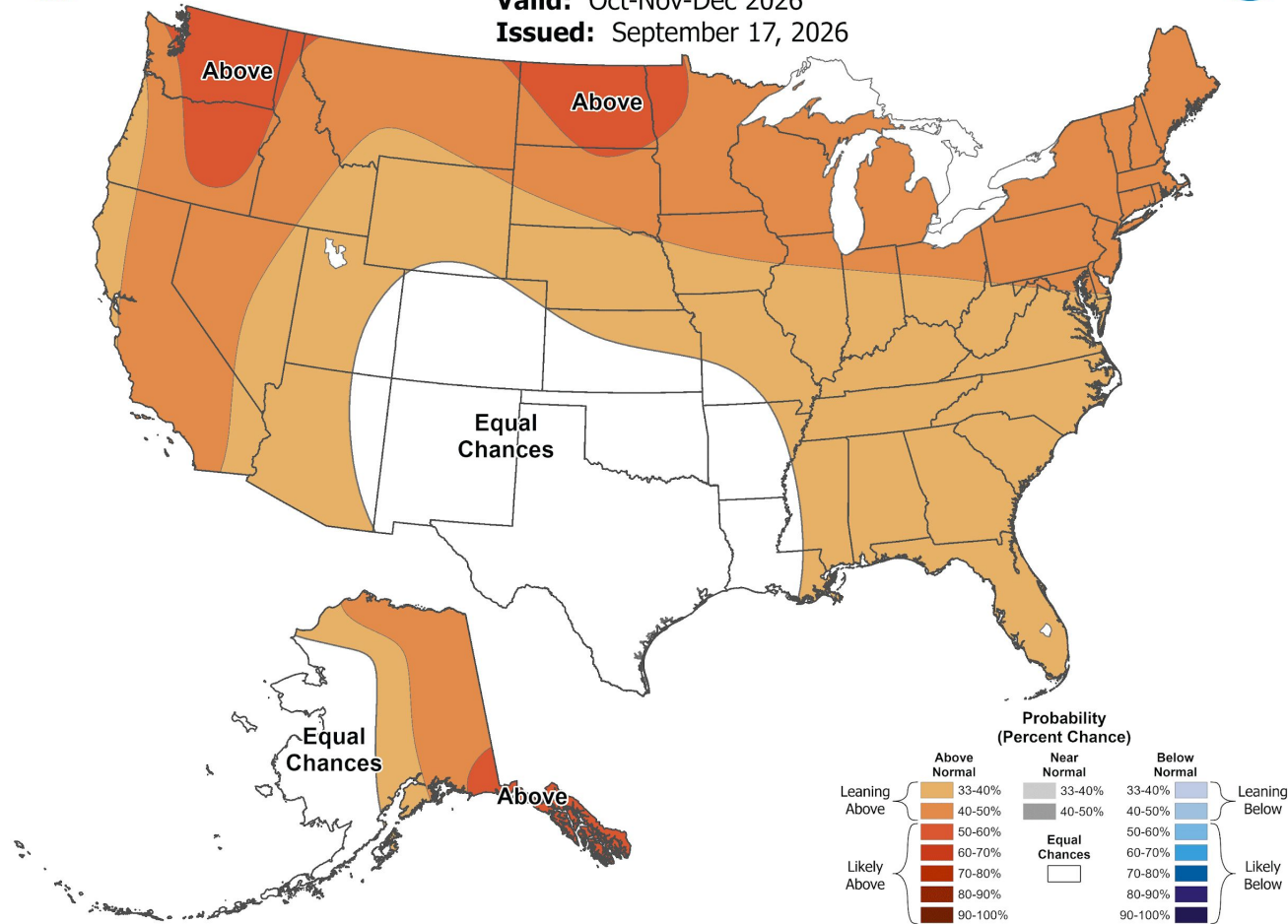
11:15 AM

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



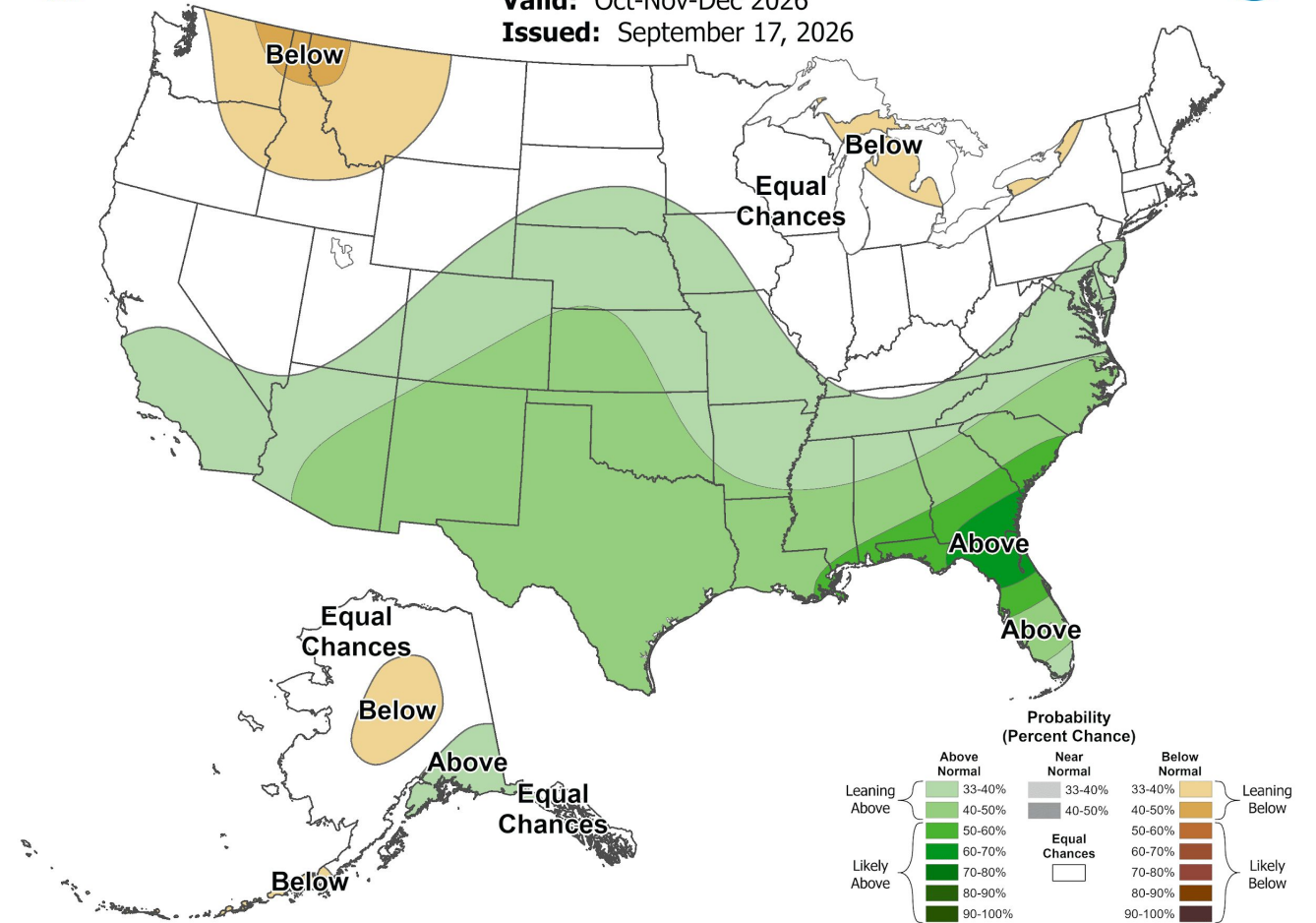
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Oct-Nov-Dec 2026
Issued: September 17, 2026



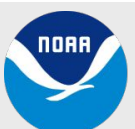
Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Oct-Nov-Dec 2026
Issued: September 17, 2026



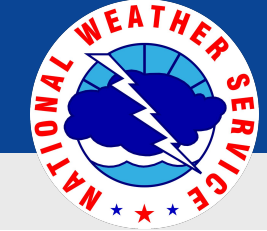
Key Messages

- The late fall to early winter pattern slightly favors above normal temperatures and precipitation as we head into a very strong El Nino.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Springfield, MO



Additional Drought Resources

October 8, 2026
11:15 AM

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](#)

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

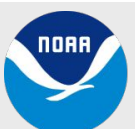
Practice Fire Prevention

Follow Directions from Local Officials

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



weather.gov/drought



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Springfield, MO