



United States Department of Agriculture

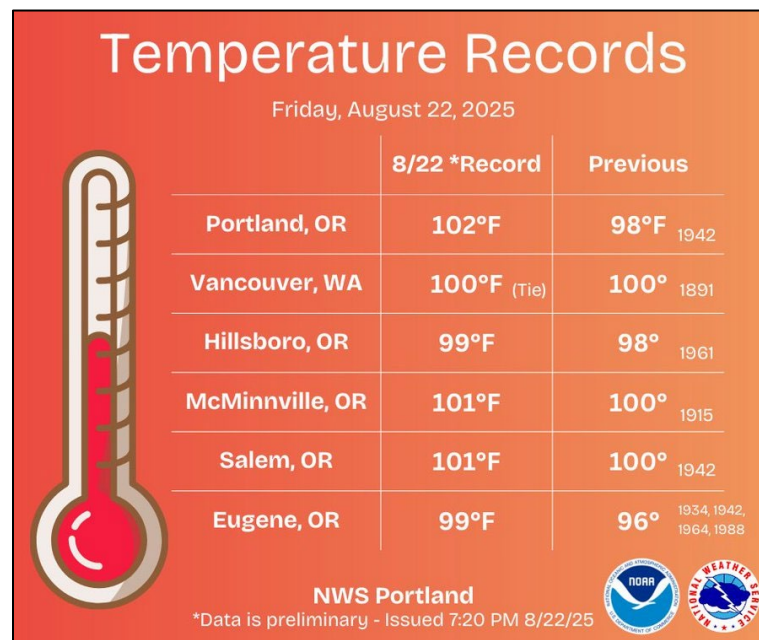
Water and Climate Update

August 28, 2025

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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Temperature.....	6	More Information	17
Drought	8		

Heatwave breaks records and swelters millions in the West



A heatwave descended on the western U.S. this week, prompting numerous heat watches and warnings and bringing excessive temperatures to the region between August 22-24. According to preliminary data from the National Weather Service, the event broke daily temperature records for several cities in the Pacific Northwest on August 22, and the heat impacted several participants in the Hood to Coast relay race in Oregon. Sweltering conditions were also experienced in California and the Desert Southwest, elevating the risk of wildfire as responders contend with multiple large blazes in the region.

Related:

[Millions in West facing dangerous heat wave amid multiple wildfires](#) – NPR

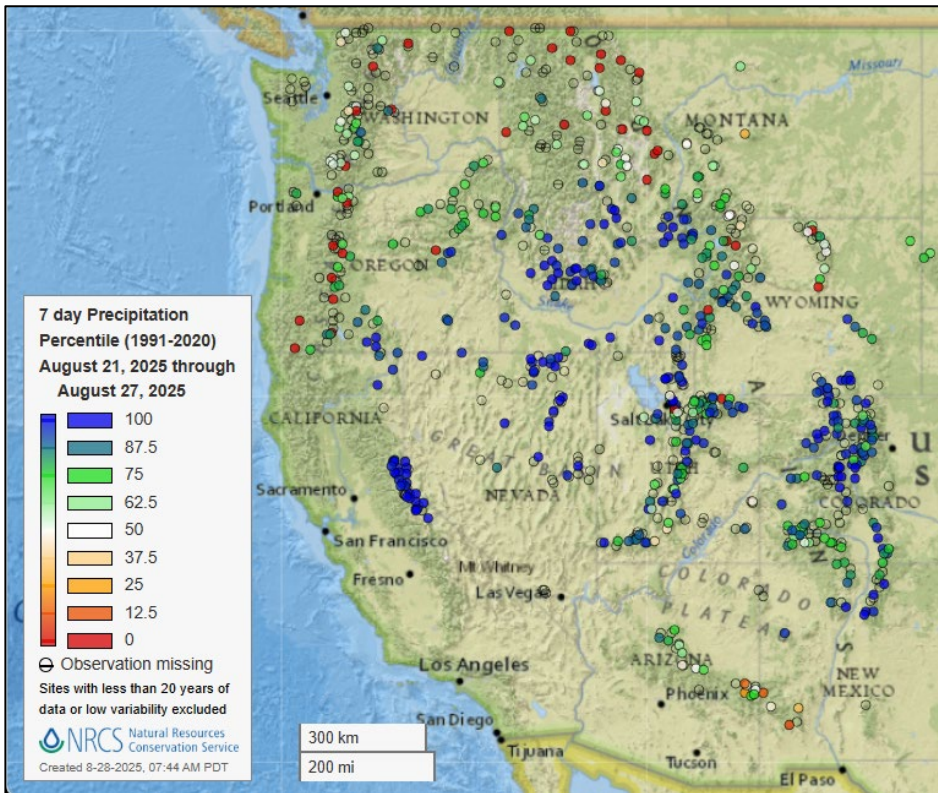
[Sweltering heat wave brings record-high temperatures, wildfire risks to states across the West](#) – CBS News

[US heat wave smothers Pacific Northwest, poses extreme risk in California and Arizona](#) – AP

[Millions Along U.S. West Coast Under Heat Wave Alerts. Here's What to Know](#) – Time

Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

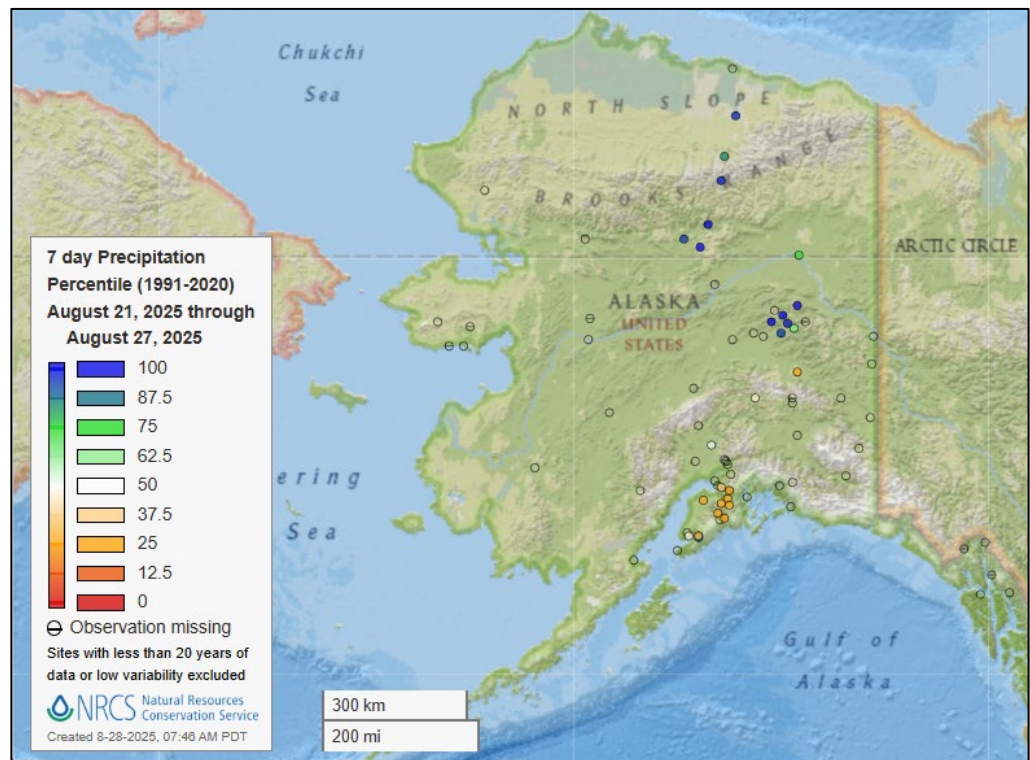


[7-day precipitation
percentile map](#)

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](#)



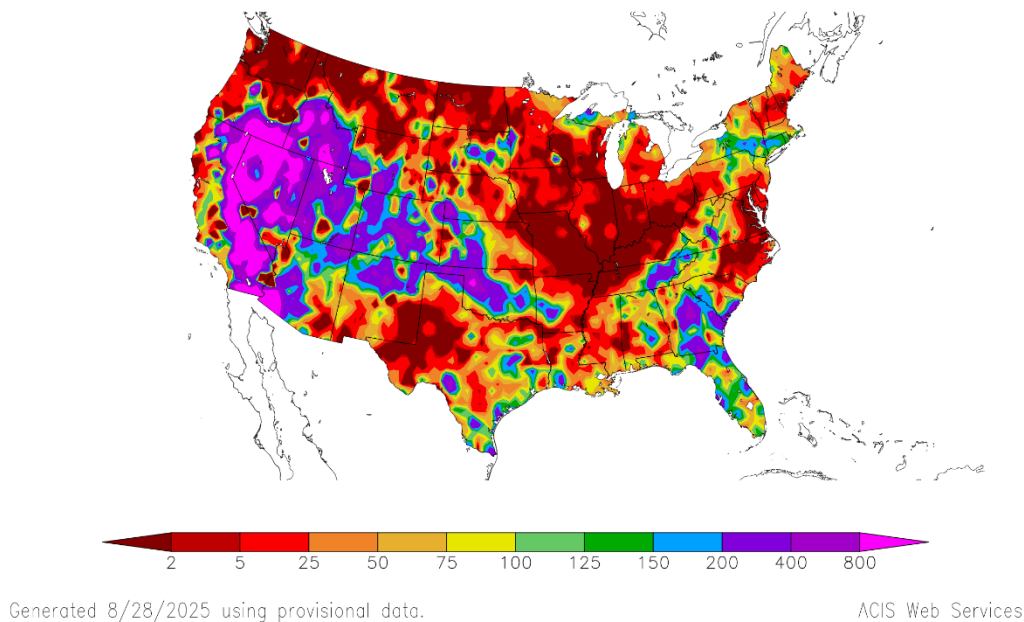
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%)
8/21/2025 – 8/27/2025



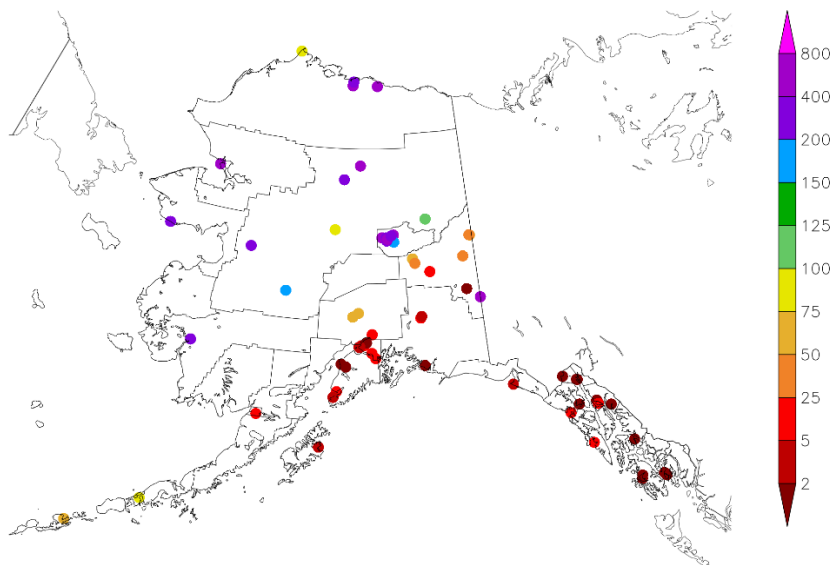
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%)
8/21/2025 – 8/27/2025



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

Source: PRISM

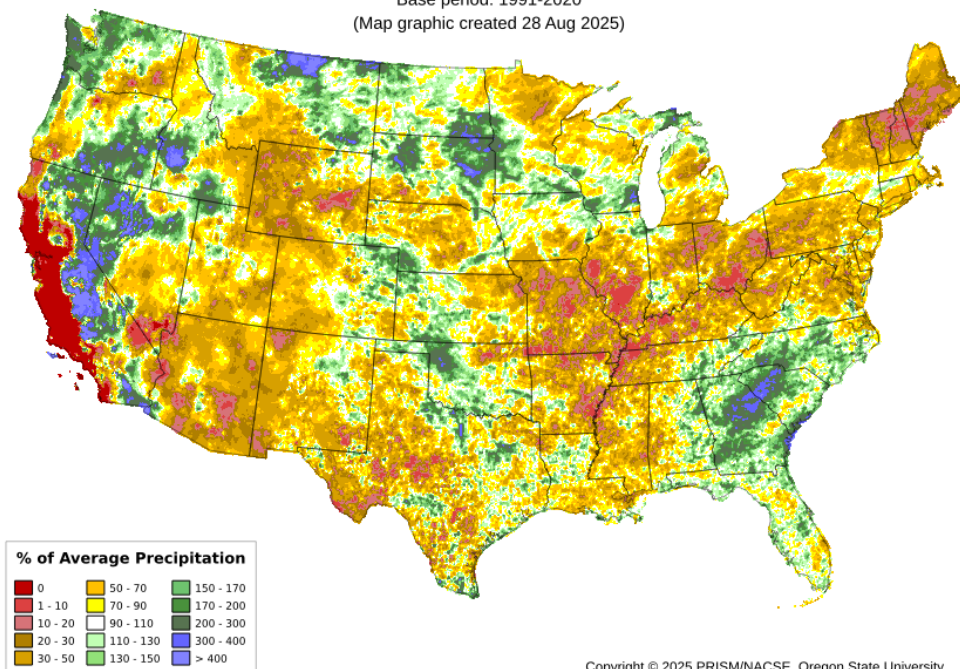
Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 Aug 2025 - 27 Aug 2025

Period ending 7 AM EST 27 Aug 2025

Base period: 1991-2020

(Map graphic created 28 Aug 2025)

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



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

Source: PRISM

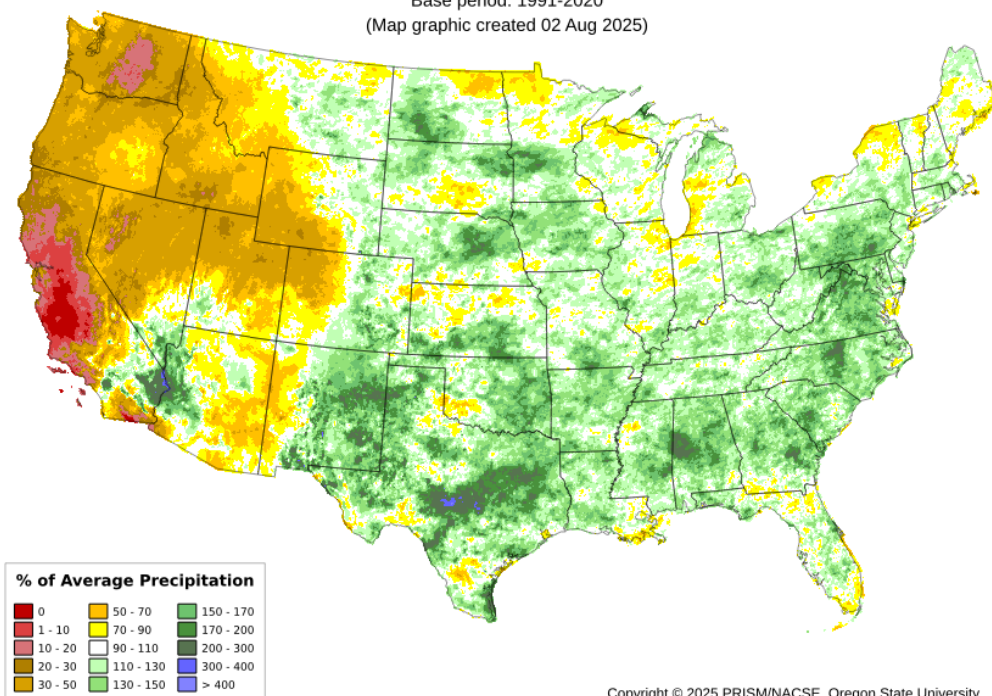
[May through
July 2025
precipitation
anomaly map](#)

Total Precipitation Anomaly: May 2025 - Jul 2025

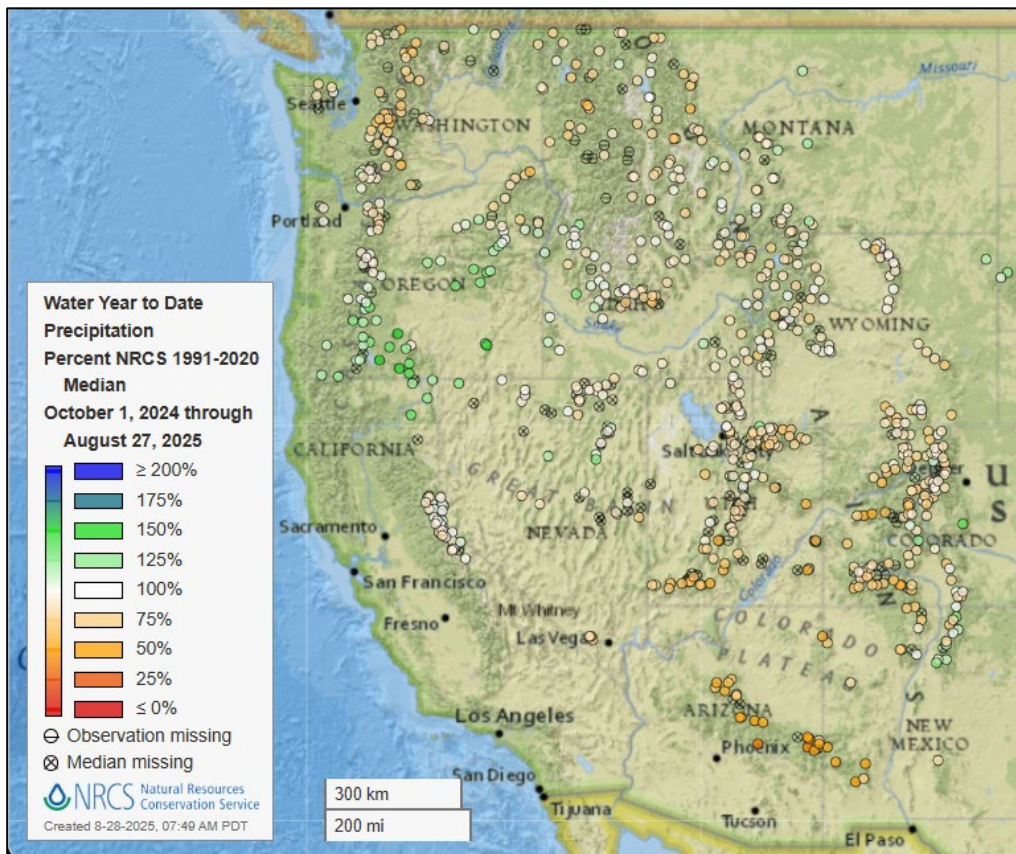
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Jul 2025

Base period: 1991-2020

(Map graphic created 02 Aug 2025)



Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network

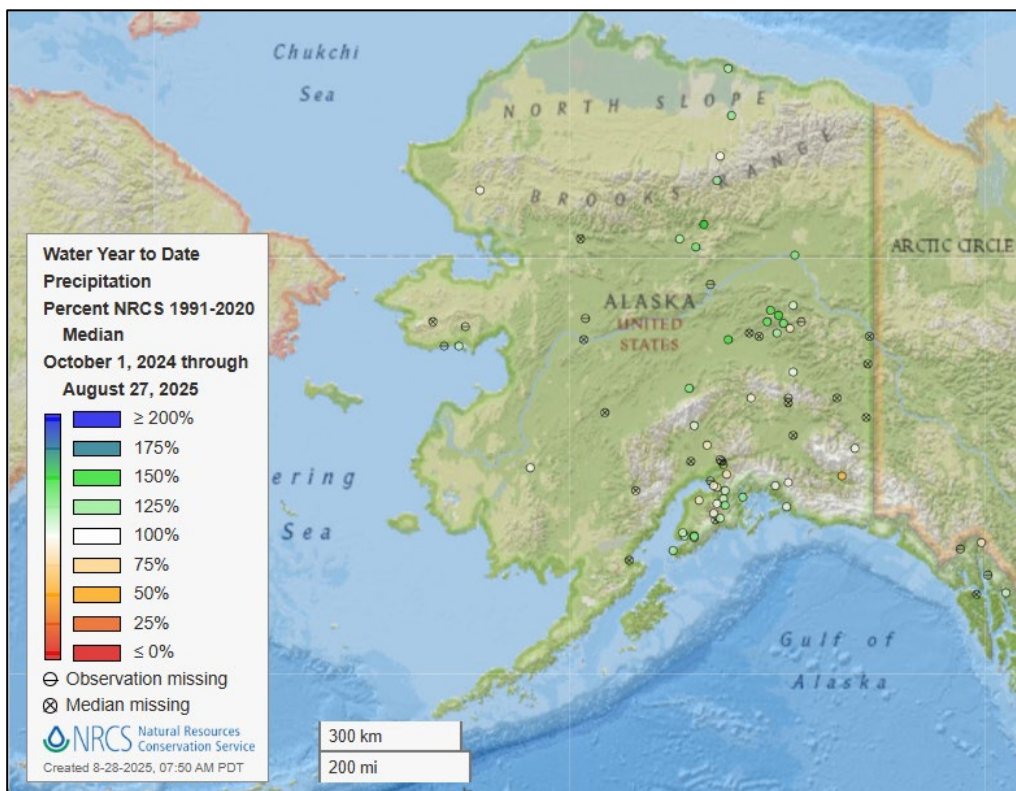


[2025 water year-to-date precipitation percent of median map](#)

See also:

[2025 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

[2025 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)



[Alaska 2025 water year-to-date precipitation percent of median map](#)

See also:

[Alaska 2025 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

[Alaska 2025 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Temperature

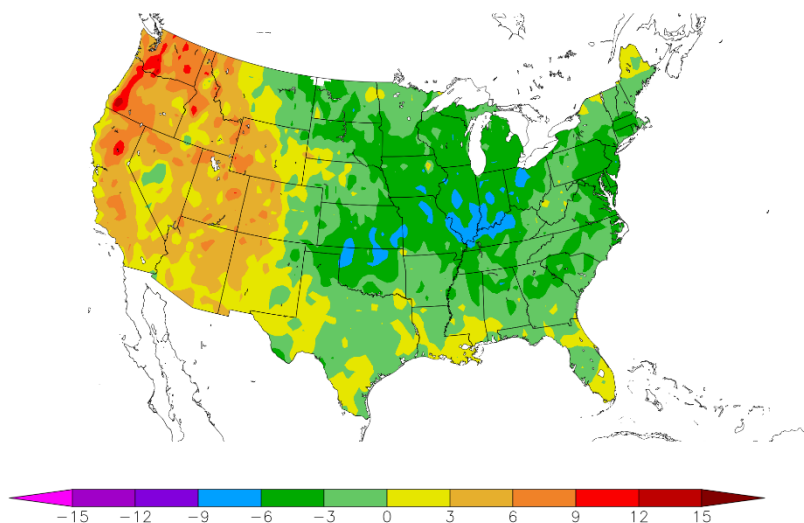
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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)
8/21/2025 – 8/27/2025



Generated 8/28/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

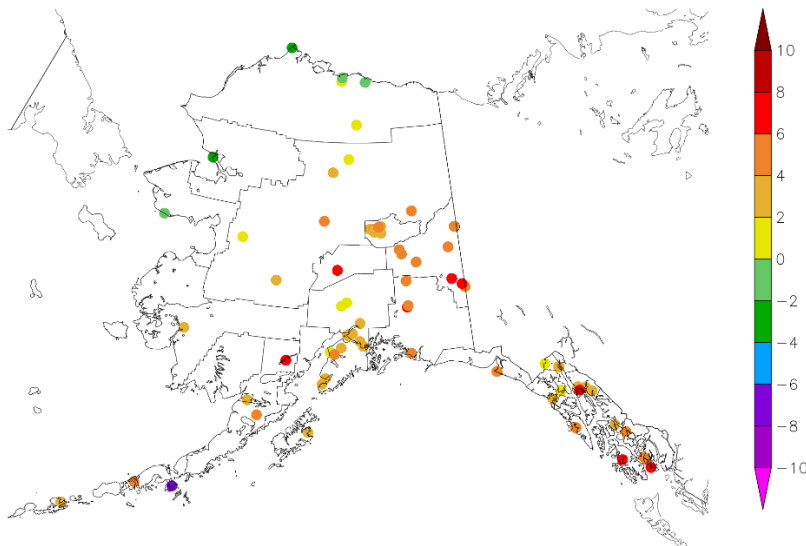
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/21/2025 – 8/27/2025



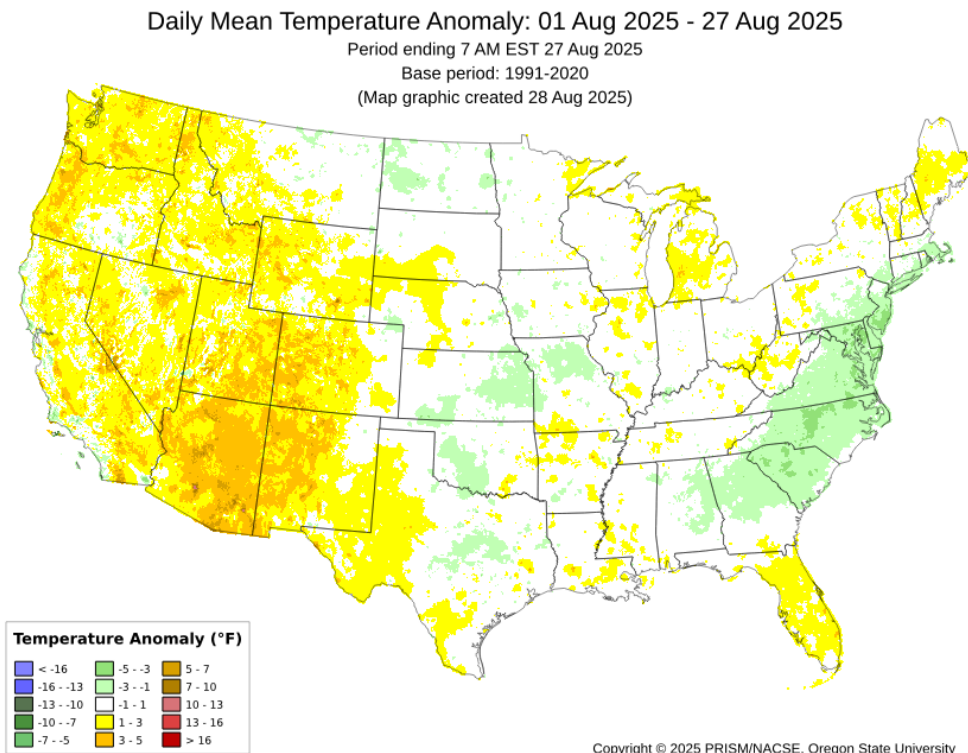
Generated 8/28/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

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

Source: PRISM

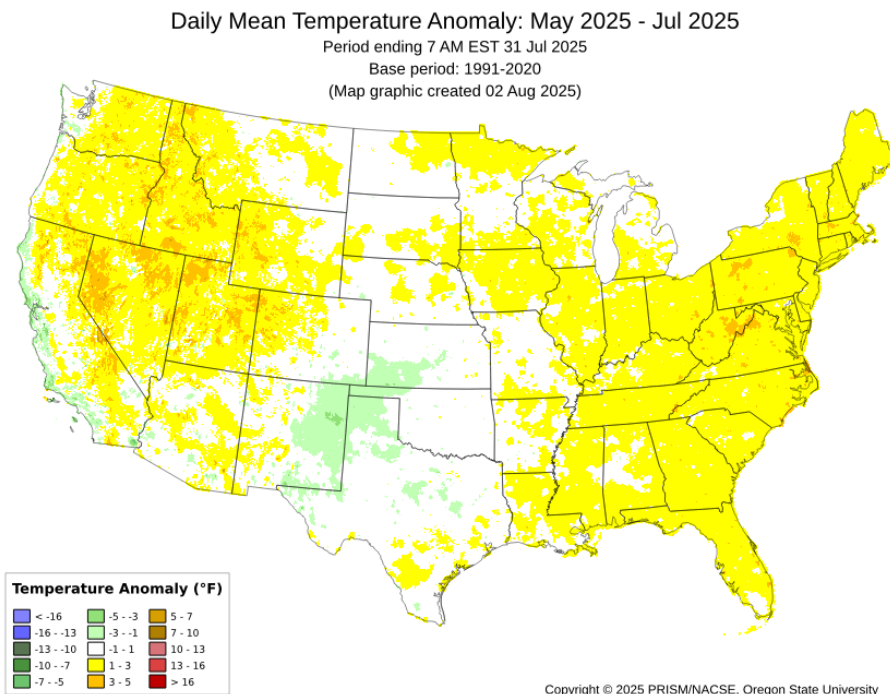
[Month-to-date
national daily
mean
temperature
anomaly map](#)



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

Source: PRISM

[May through July 2025
daily mean
temperature anomaly
map](#)



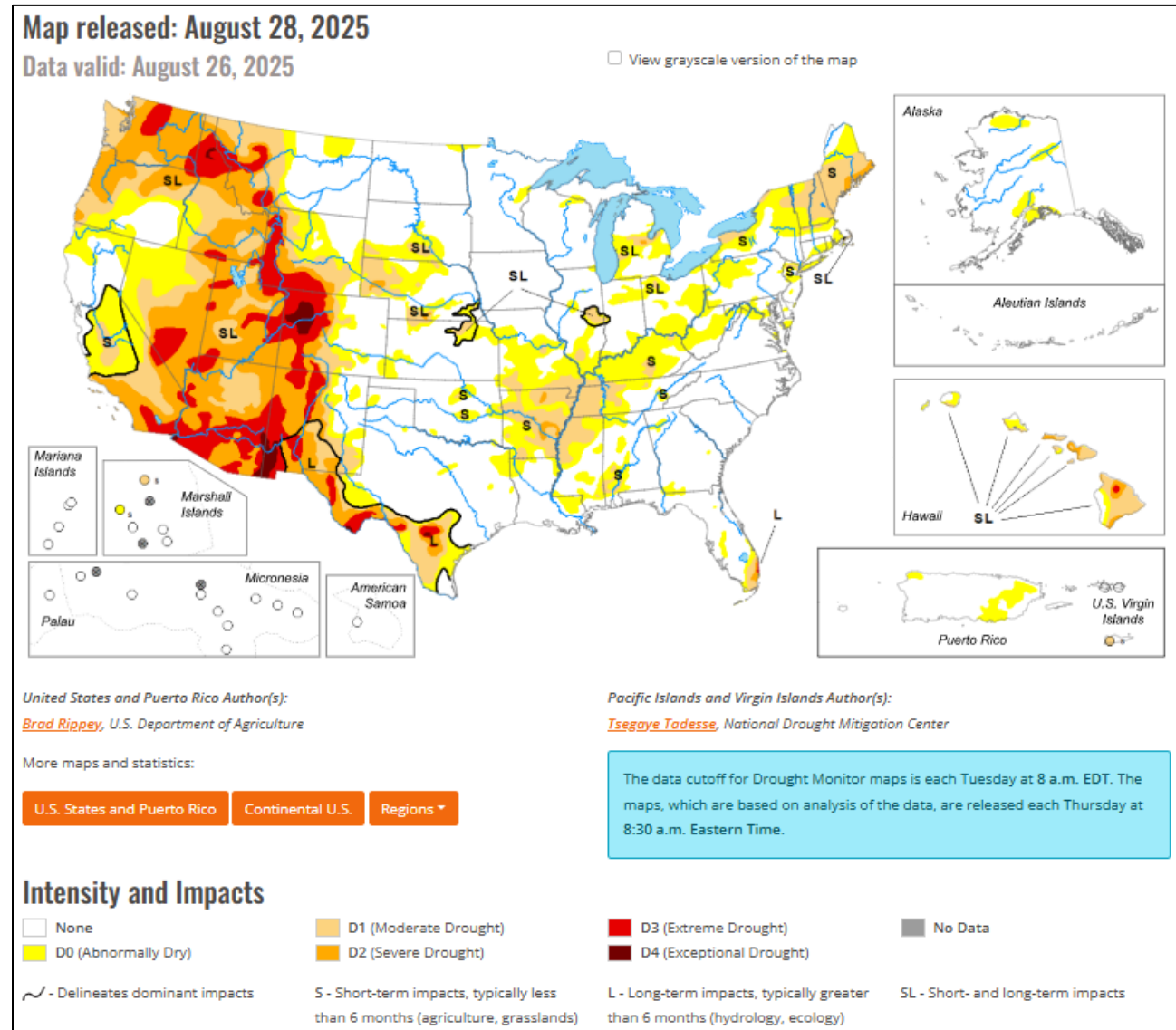
Drought

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

[U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA



[Current National Drought Summary](#), August 26, 2025

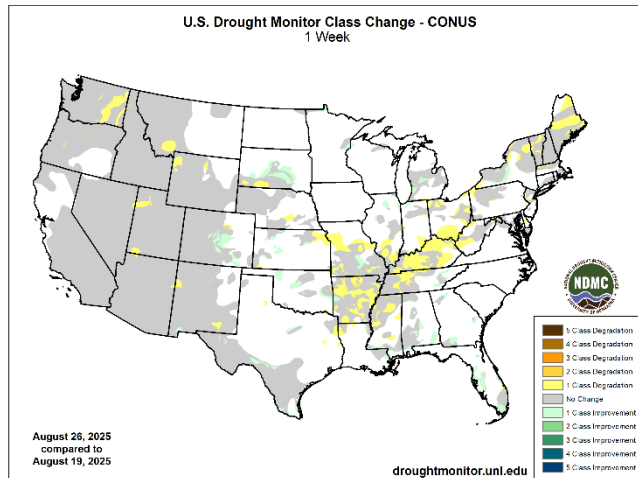
Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

"On August 21, Hurricane Erin passed about 200 miles east of North Carolina's Outer Banks, with minimal weather impacts aside from gusty winds along portions of the Atlantic Seaboard. A peak northerly wind gust to 43 mph was clocked on Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. More broadly, Erin resulted in an extended period of Atlantic coastal impacts, such as life-threatening surf and higher-than-normal tides. Meanwhile, patchy downpours maintained adequate to locally excessive soil moisture in much of the upper Midwest, while locally heavy showers dotted the central and southern Plains and the lower Southeast. However, mostly dry weather in many other areas across the central and eastern U.S. led to declining topsoil moisture reserves, especially where combined with late-summer heat. Cooler air arrived, however, late in the drought-monitoring period, starting in the North and soon reaching all areas east of the Rockies but the northern High Plains and the Deep South. Meanwhile in the West, hot, mostly dry weather prevailed until late in the period, when shower activity increased and began to spread northward."

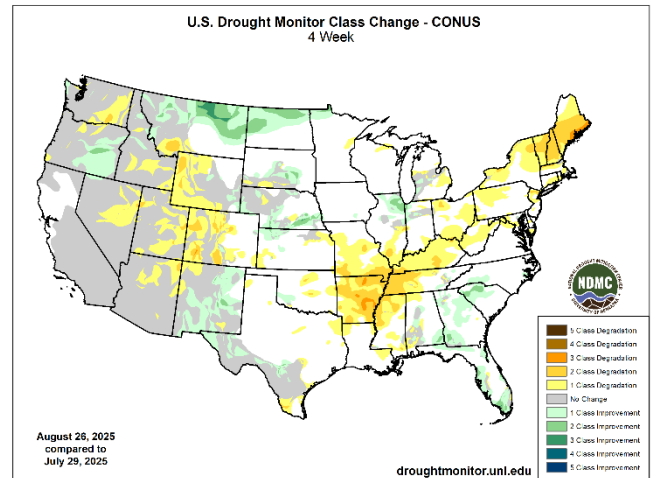
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

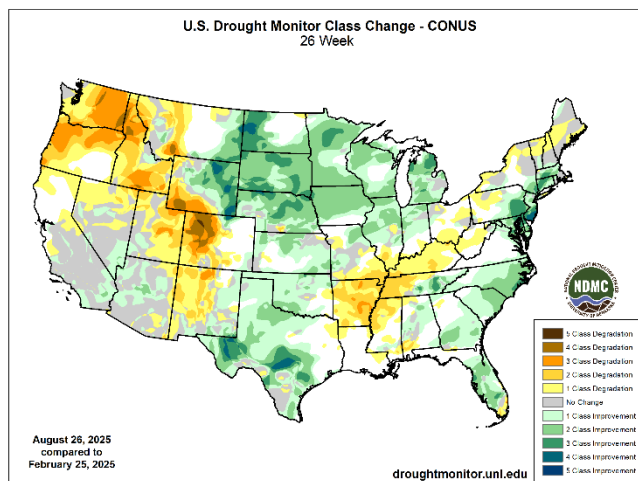
1 Week



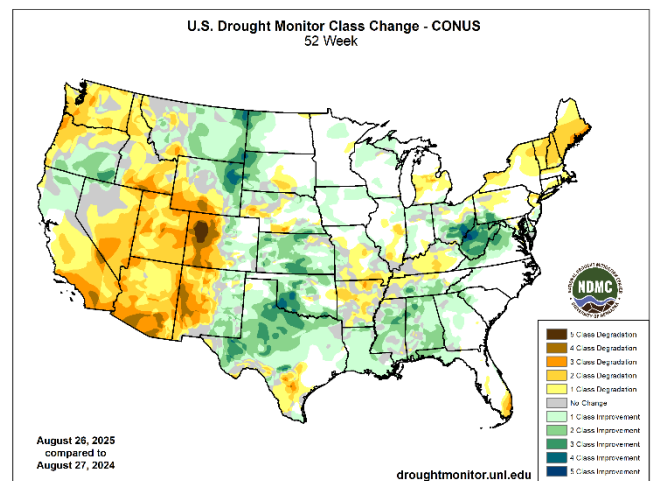
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



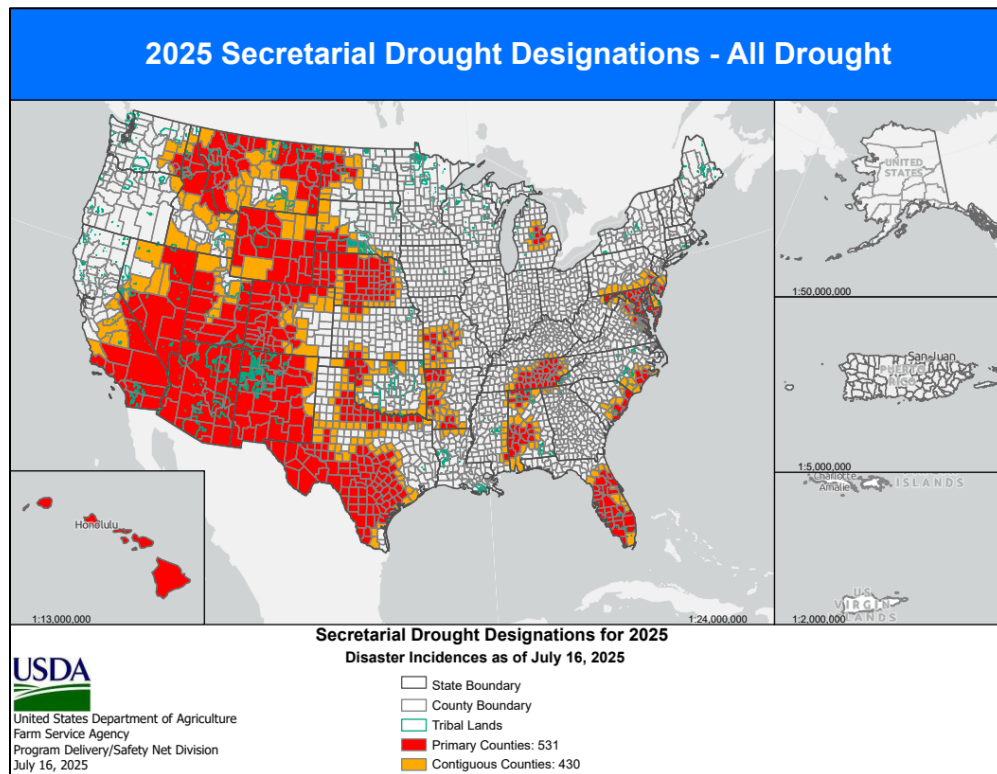
[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.](#)

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



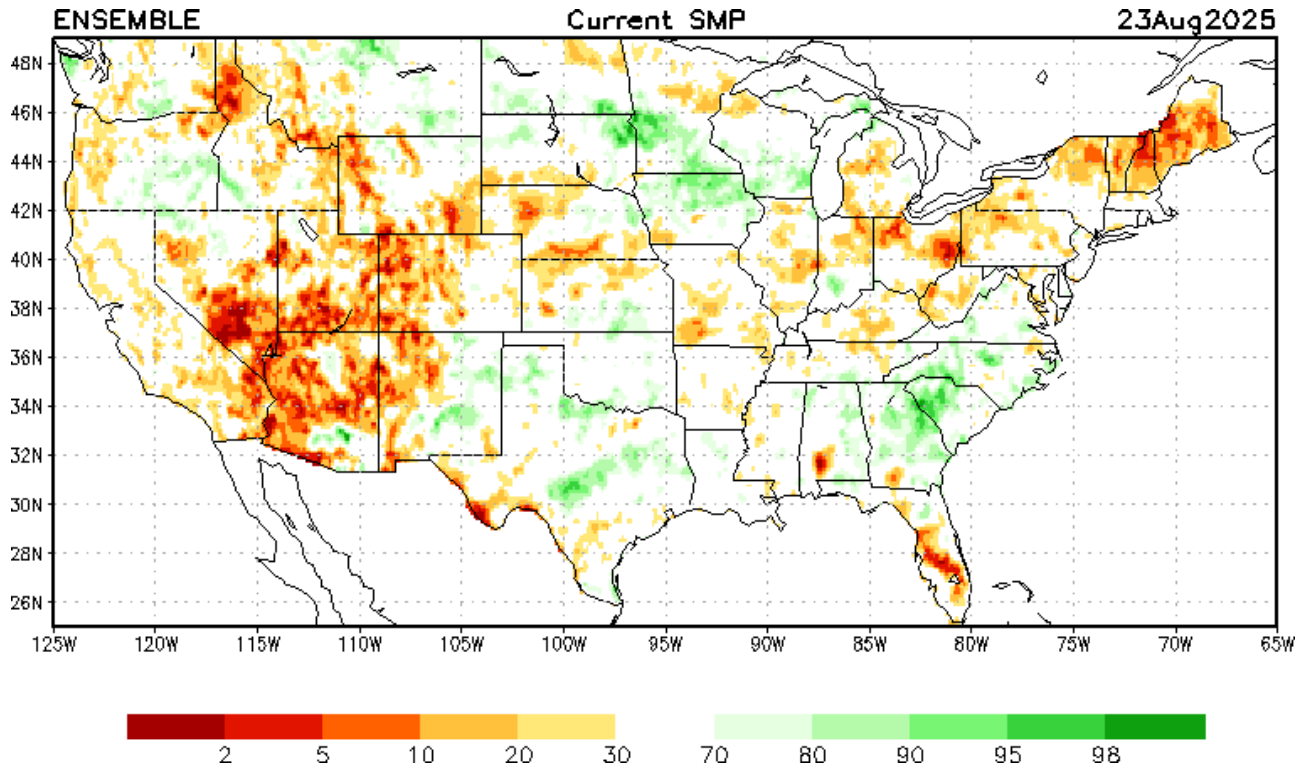
Highlighted Wildfire Resources

- [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

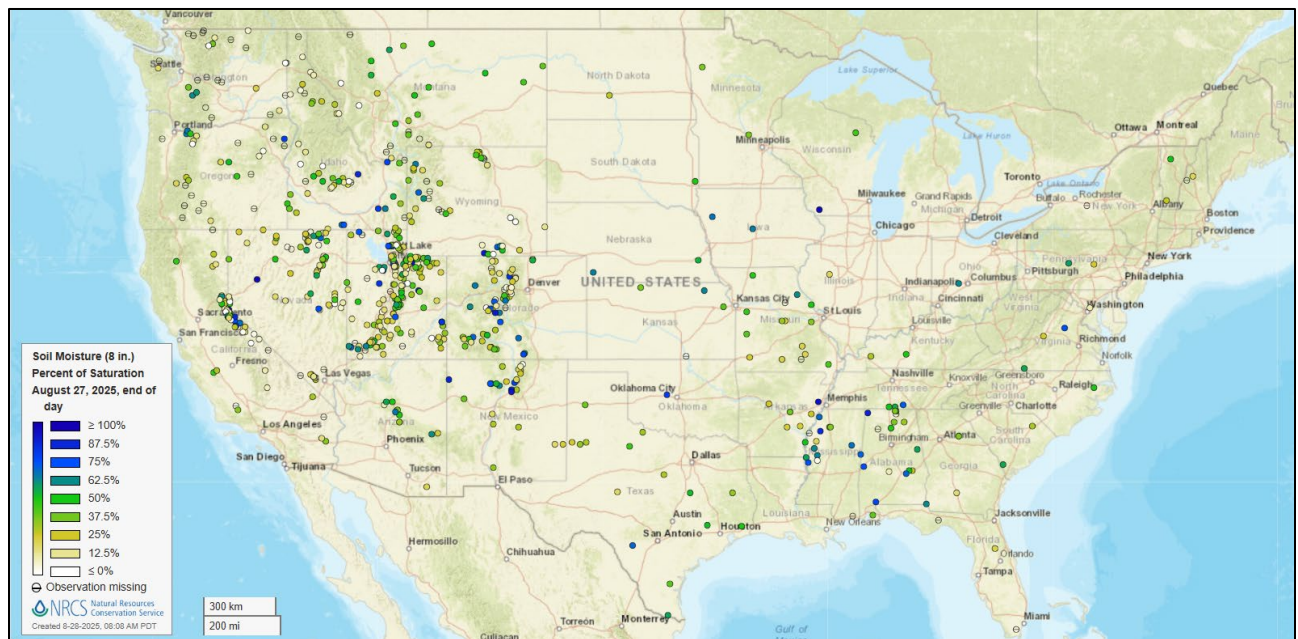


[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of August 23, 2025

Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

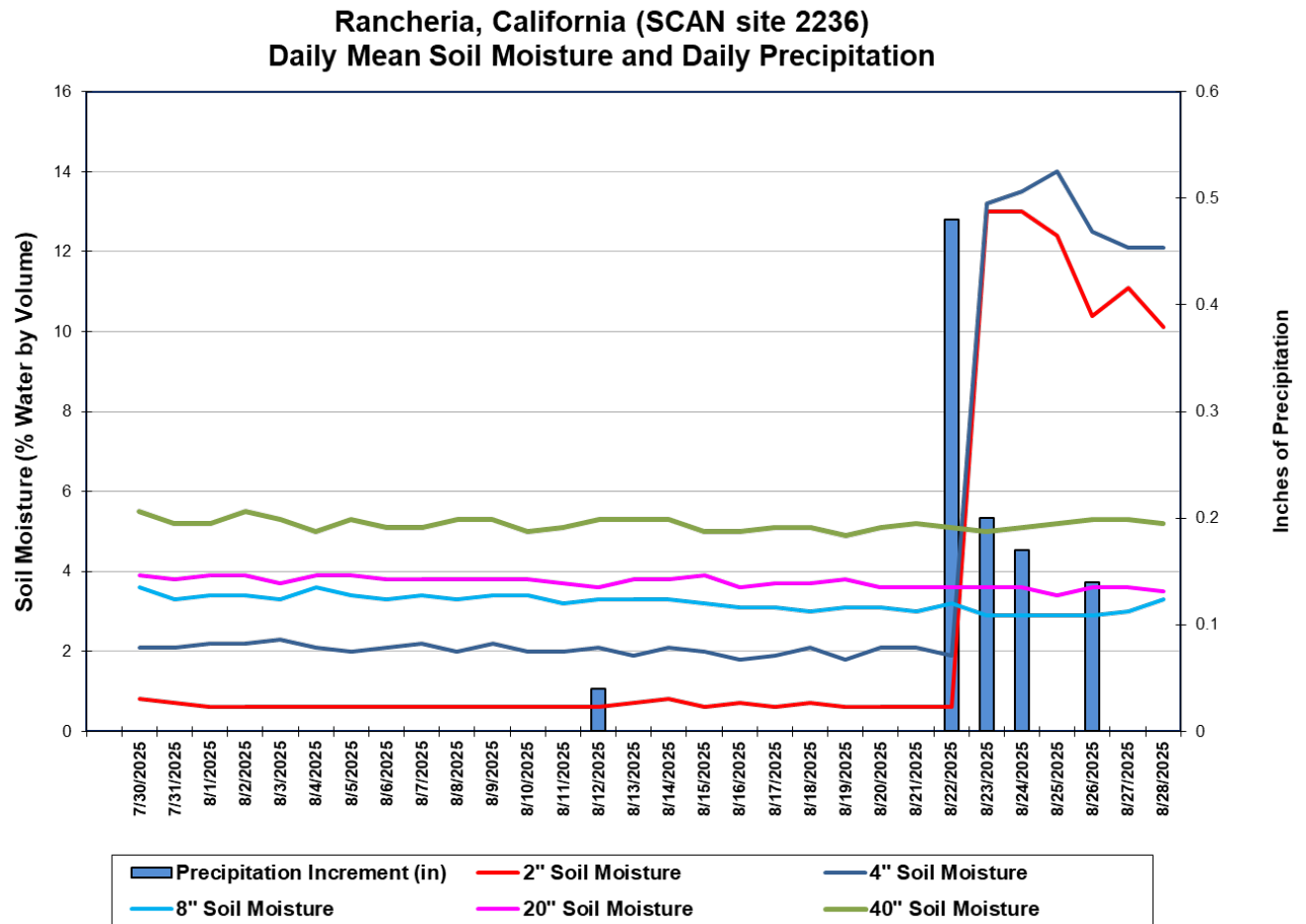
Source: NRCS SNOTEL and [Soil Climate Analysis Network](#) (SCAN)

[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 [Rancheria](#) SCAN site in California. Soil sensors two and four inches beneath land surface recorded sharp increases in soil moisture after the site received 0.48 inches of precipitation on August 22. Total precipitation for the 30-day period was 1.03 inches.

Soil Moisture Data Portals

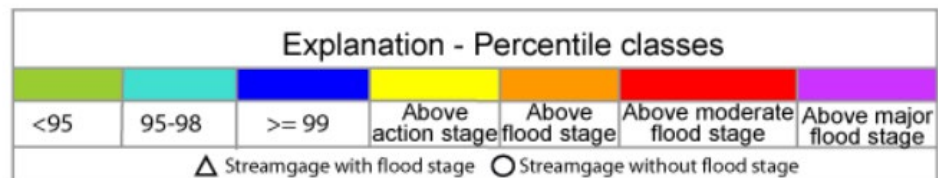
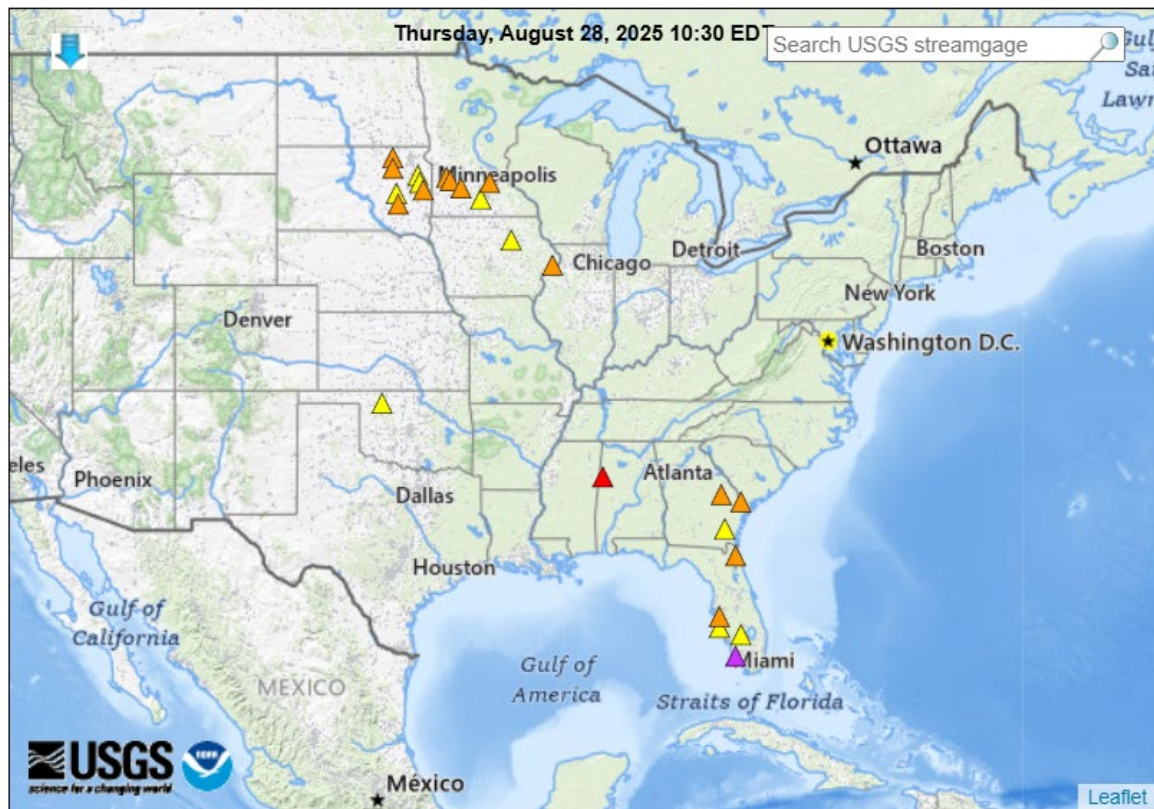
- [USCRN Soil Moisture](#)
- [National Soil Moisture Network](#)
- [NOAA Climate Prediction Center Soil Moisture](#)
- [NASA Grace](#)

Streamflow, Drought, Flood, and Runoff

Source: U.S. Geological Survey [WaterWatch Streamflow Map](#)

Map of flood and high flow conditions

(15 in floods [major: 1, moderate: 1, minor: 13], 9 in near-flood)



[WaterWatch: Streamflow, drought, flood, and runoff conditions](#)

Reservoir Storage

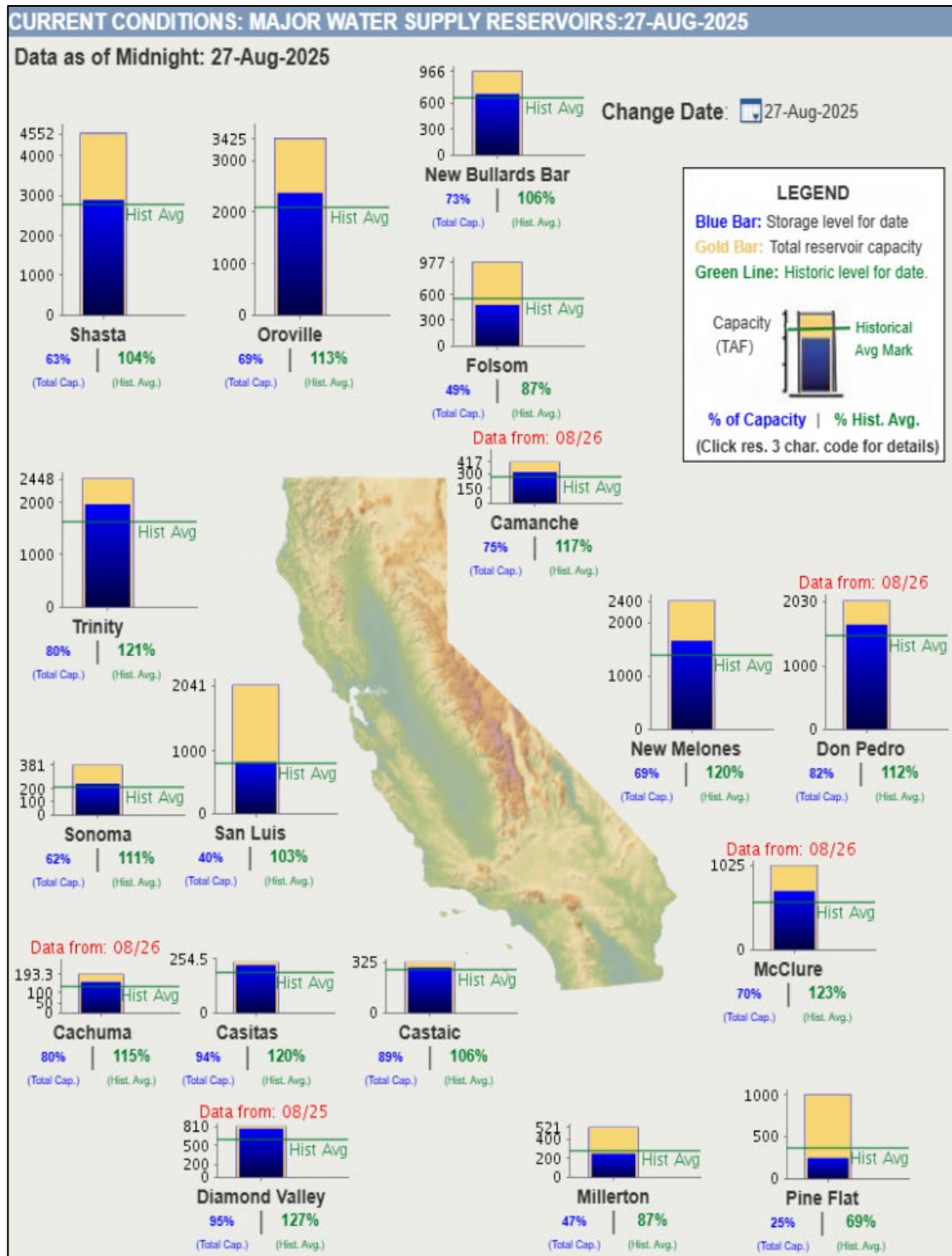
Hydromet Teacup Reservoir Depictions

Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

- [Upper Colorado](#)
- [Pacific Northwest/Snake/Columbia](#)
- [Sevier River Water, Utah](#)
- [Upper Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas](#)

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 28, 2025: “Cooler-than-normal conditions will continue through Labor Day weekend in much of the central and eastern U.S., while building heat will accompany the return of mostly dry weather in the West. An exception to the Western dryness will be the possibility of heavy showers in the central and southern Rockies, starting Friday afternoon. Farther east, rain will continue to fall, heavily at times, near the boundary between cool air to the north and lingering heat in the Deep South. Five-day rainfall totals could reach 2 to 4 inches or more from the southern half of the Plains to Florida. Farther north, however, little or no rain will fall in the upper Great Lakes region and from the Ohio Valley into the middle Atlantic States. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for September 2 – 6 calls for the likelihood of below-normal temperatures in the central and eastern U.S., aside from warmer-than-normal weather in northern Maine, peninsular Florida, and the western Gulf Coast region. Conversely, late-summer warmth will dominate the West, except in the central and southern Rockies. Meanwhile, near- or above-normal precipitation across most of the country should contrast with drier-than-normal conditions in parts of the Pacific Northwest.”

Weather Hazards Outlook: [August 30 – September 03, 2025](#)

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center

U.S. Day 3-7 Hazards Outlook

[About the Hazards Outlook](#)

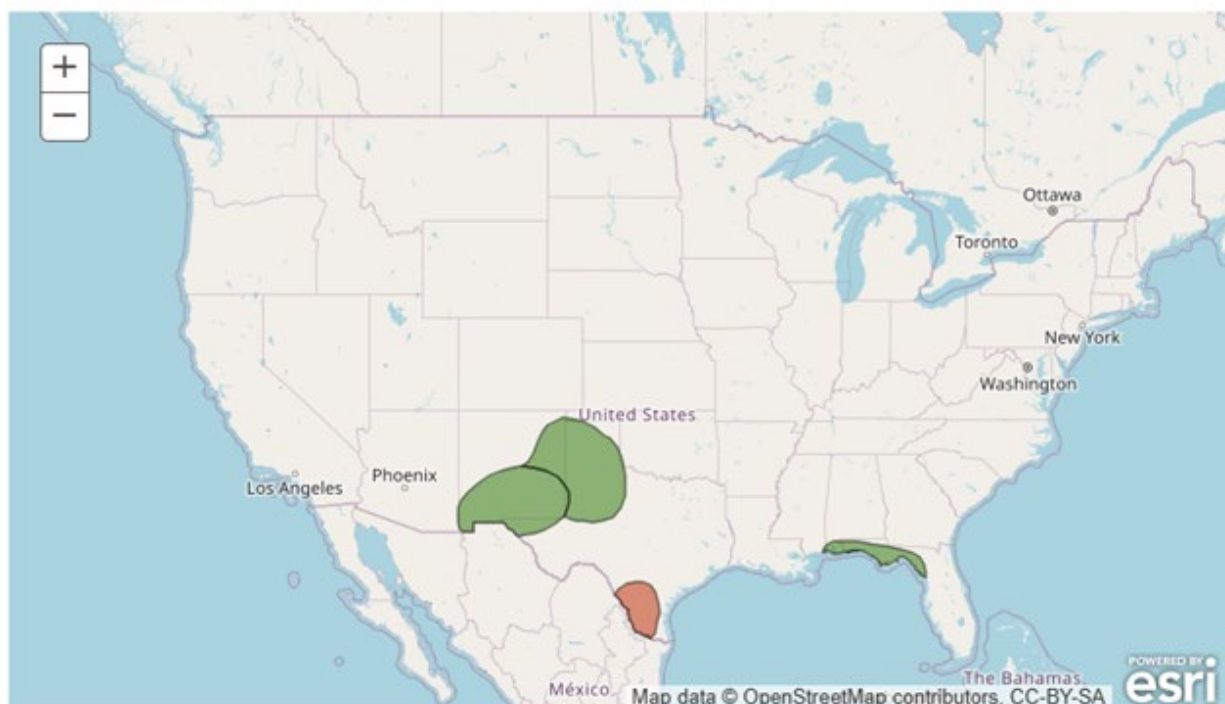
Created August 27, 2025

NOTE: These products are only created Monday through Friday.
Please exercise caution using this outlook during the weekend.

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 30, 2025 - September 03, 2025

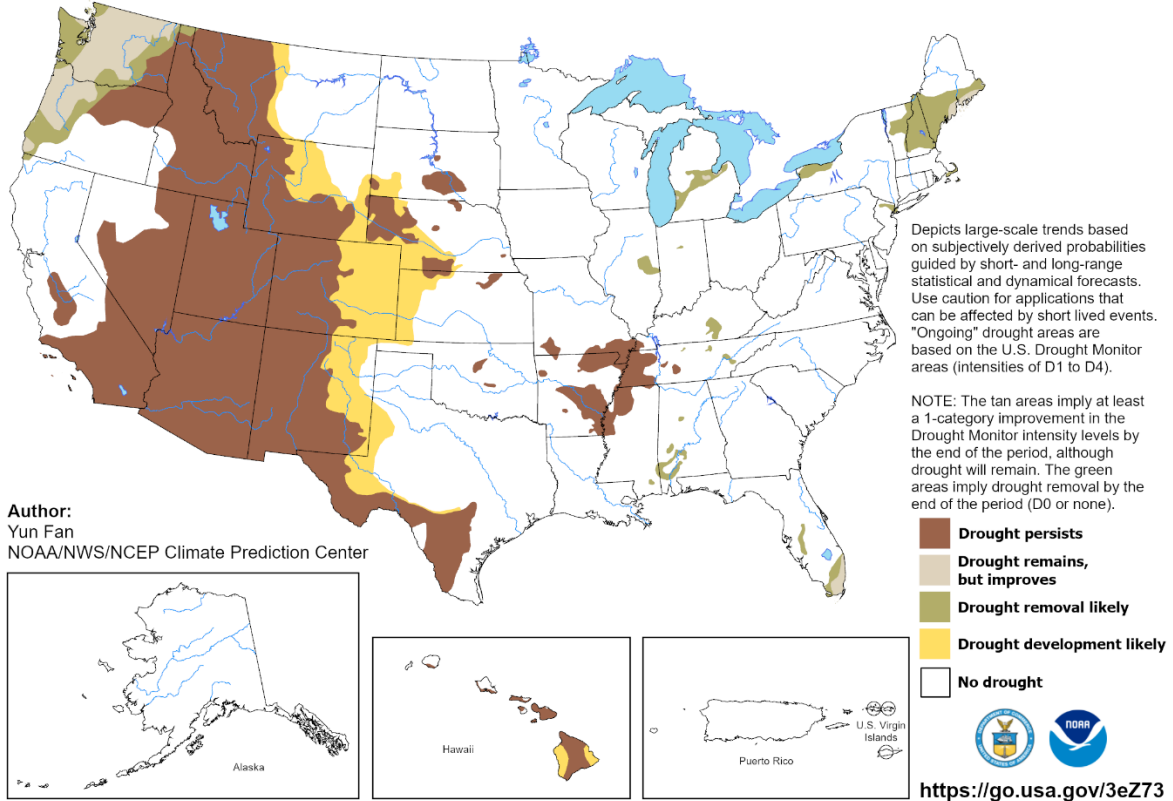


Seasonal Drought Outlook: [August 21 – November 30, 2025](#)

Source: National Weather Service

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

Valid for August 21 - November 30, 2025
Released August 21, 2025

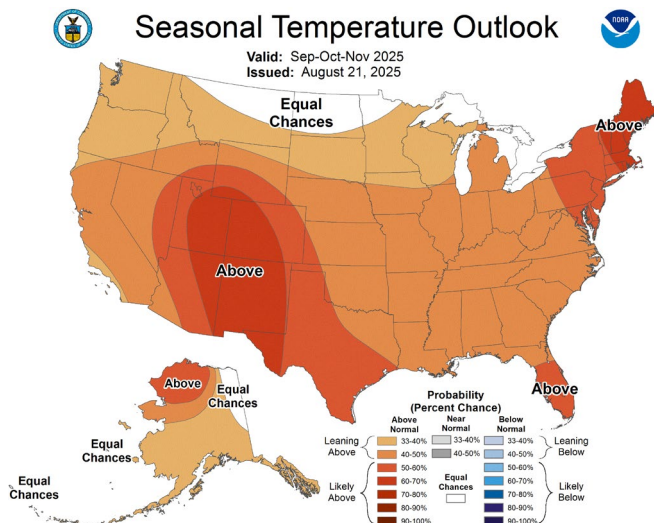
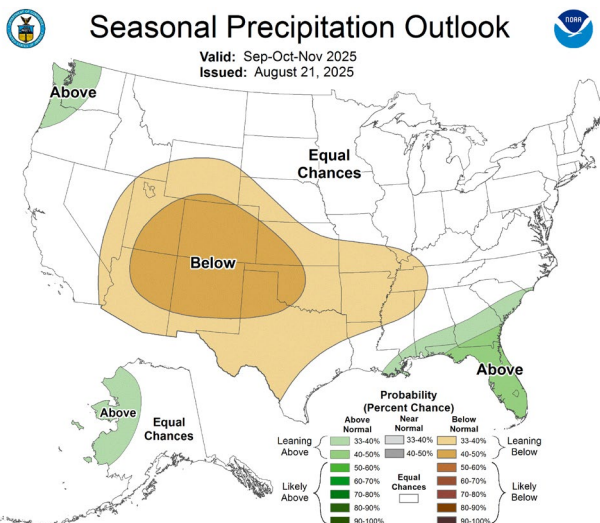


Climate Prediction Center Three-month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service

[Precipitation](#)

[Temperature](#)



[September-October-November 2025 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](#).