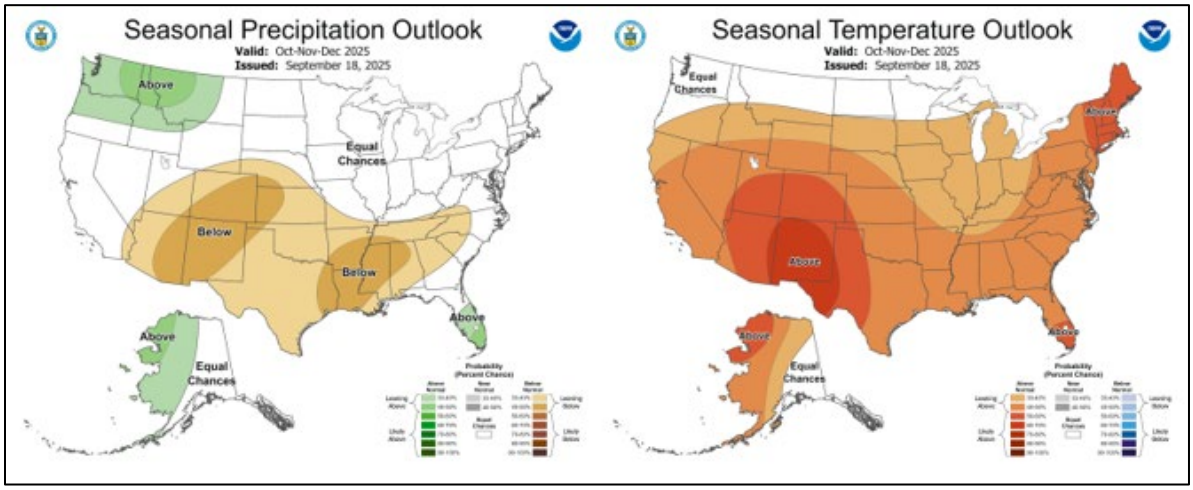
United States Department of Agriculture

Water and Climate Update

September 18, 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.

Outlooks published for U.S. precipitation and temperature



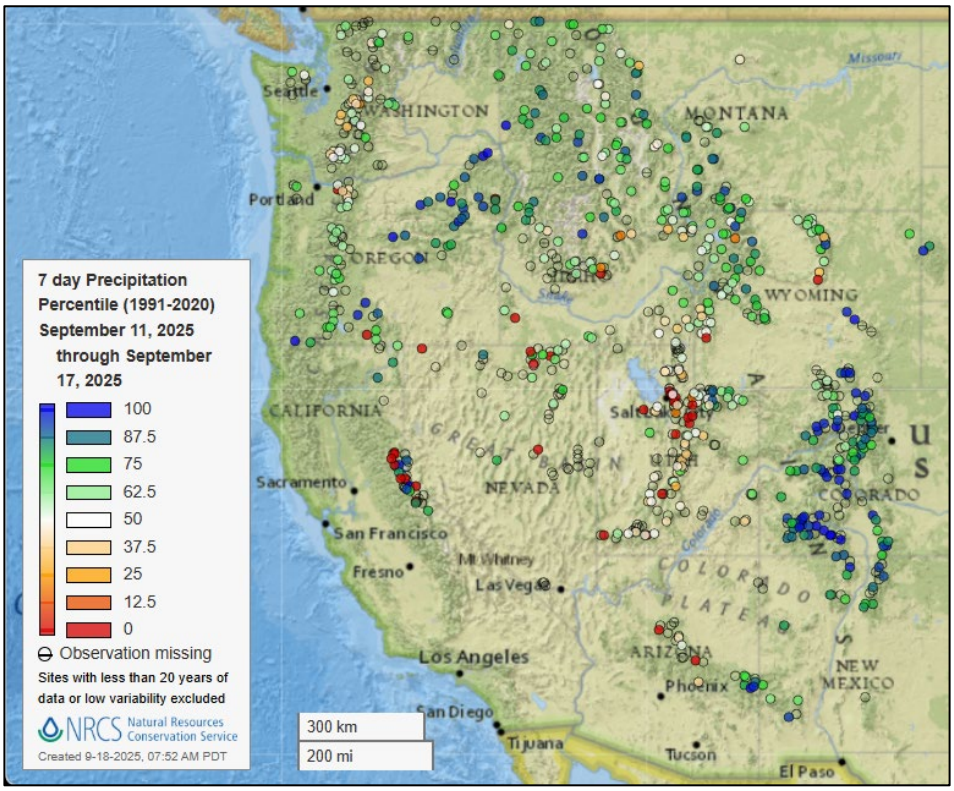
The National Weather Service (NWS) Climate Prediction Center (CPC) released the October through December precipitation and temperature outlooks for the U.S. on September 18. In general, the outlooks call for warmer and drier conditions for most of the southern tier of the country and wetter conditions in the Northwest, portions of Alaska, and the southern tip of Florida for the fall and early winter period. The darker shading indicates greater probability of occurrence. The outlook is particularly concerning with regard to water supply for the Southwest, as the region continues to contend with long term drought after recording extremely low snowpack and low streamflow during water year 2025. It is important to note that these seasonal outlooks are based on probability of occurrence, and individual storm systems or short-term conditions may vary from the overall seasonal trend.

Related:

October-November-December 2025 precipitation and temperature outlook summaries – CPC
El Niño/La Niña Information – NWS
A Closer Look: Temperature and Drought in the Southwest – Environmental Protection Agency
2025 Peak Snowpack Percentiles – Interactive Map, NRCS Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program (SSWSFP)
2025 April - July streamflow percentiles – Interactive Map, NRCS SSWSFP

Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

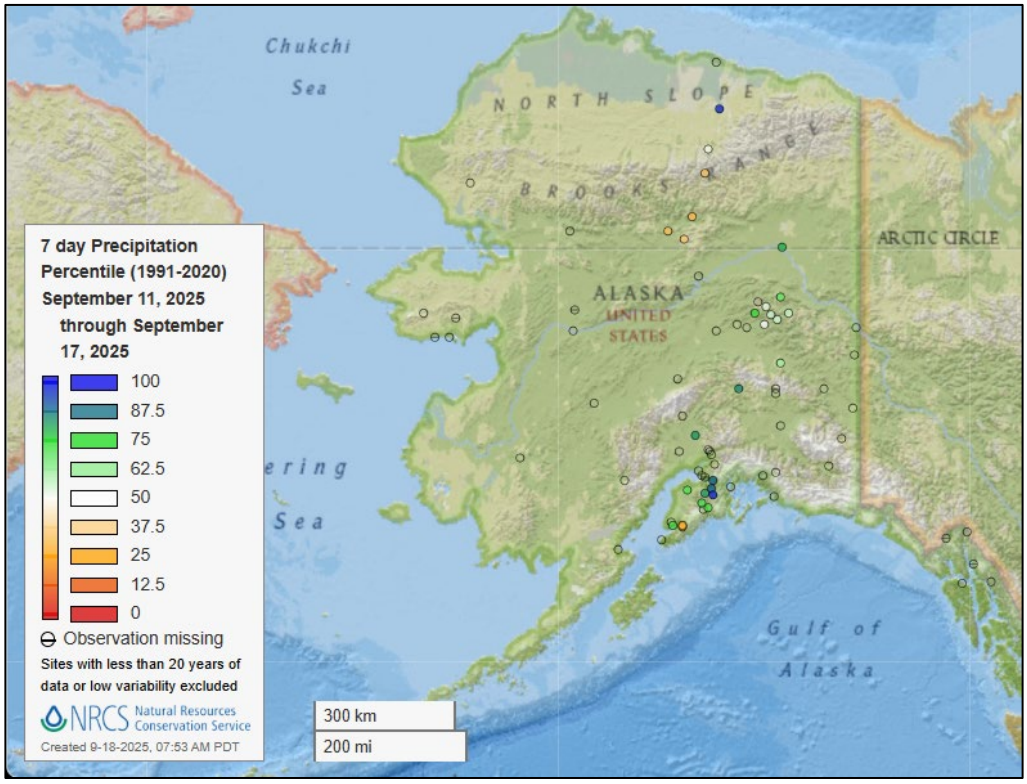


[7-day precipitation percentile map]

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]

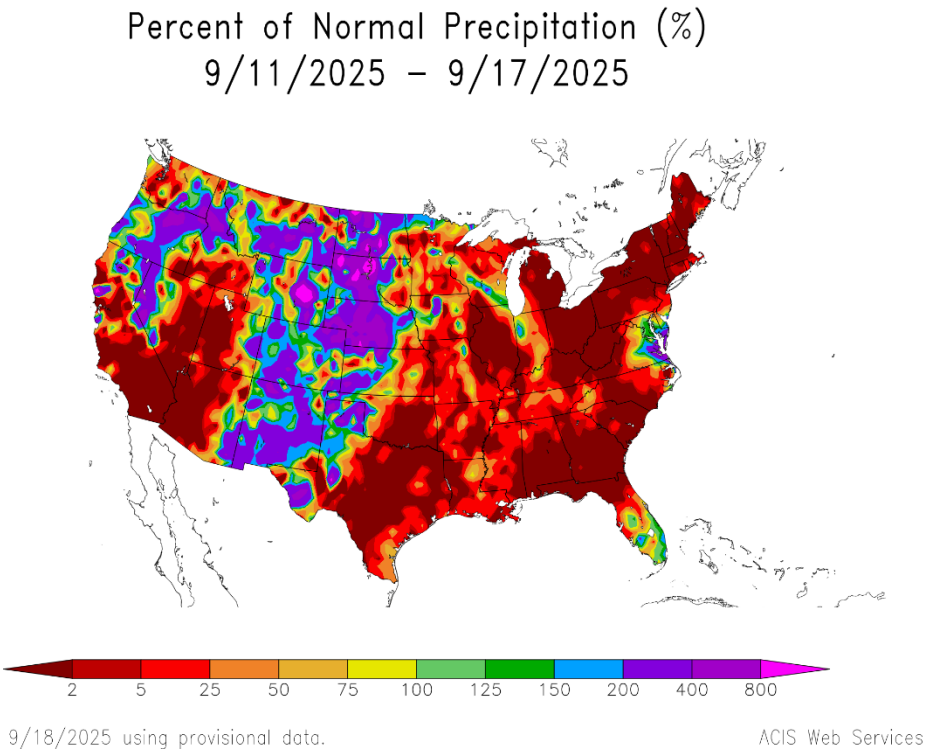


Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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

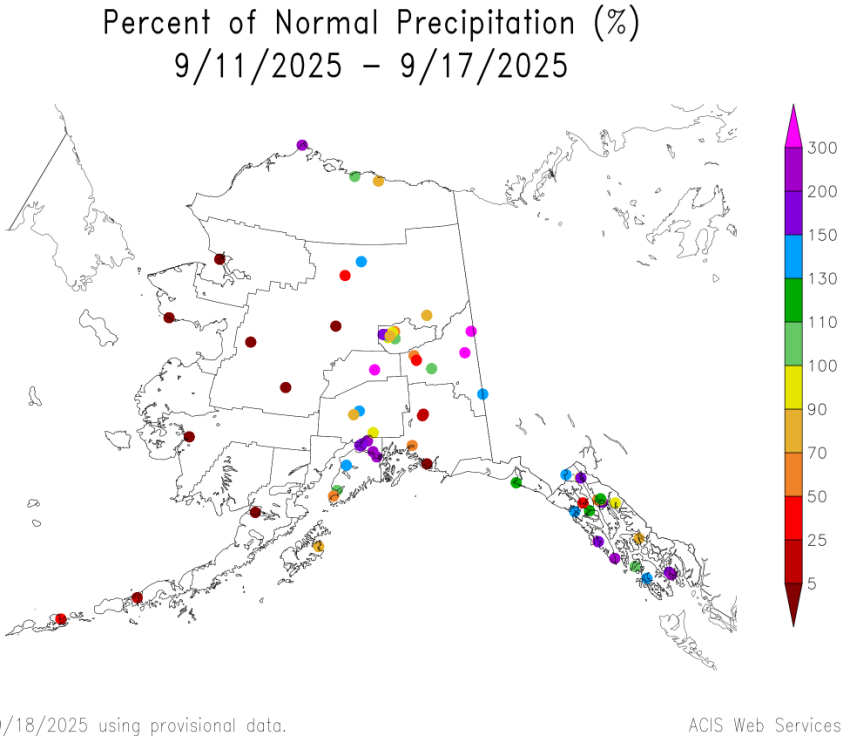


Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

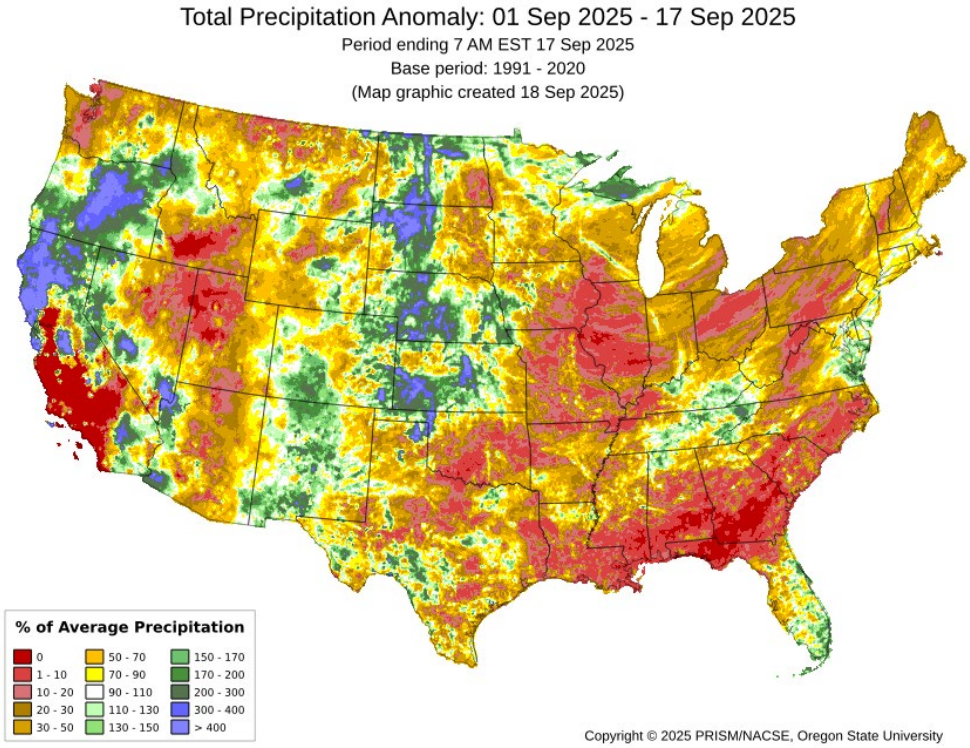
7-day precipitation percent of normal map for Alaska.

See also:
7-day total precipitation values (inches) map



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

Source: PRISM

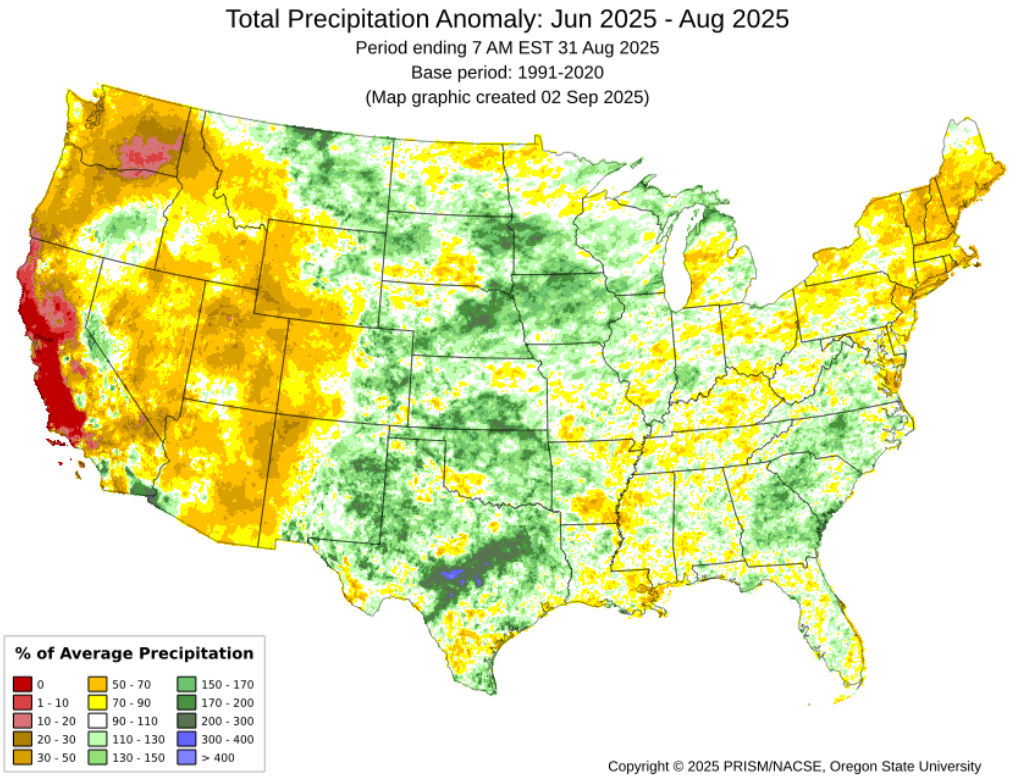


Month-to-date national total precipitation anomaly map

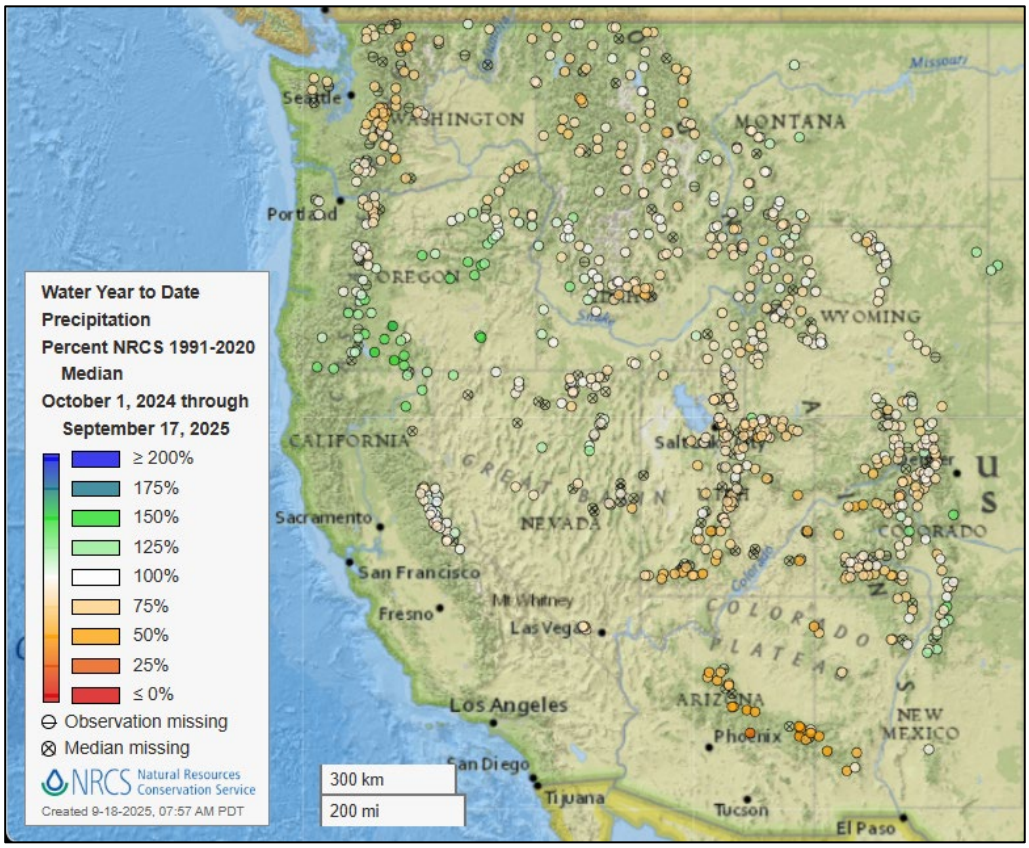
Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

June through August 2025 precipitation anomaly map



Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network

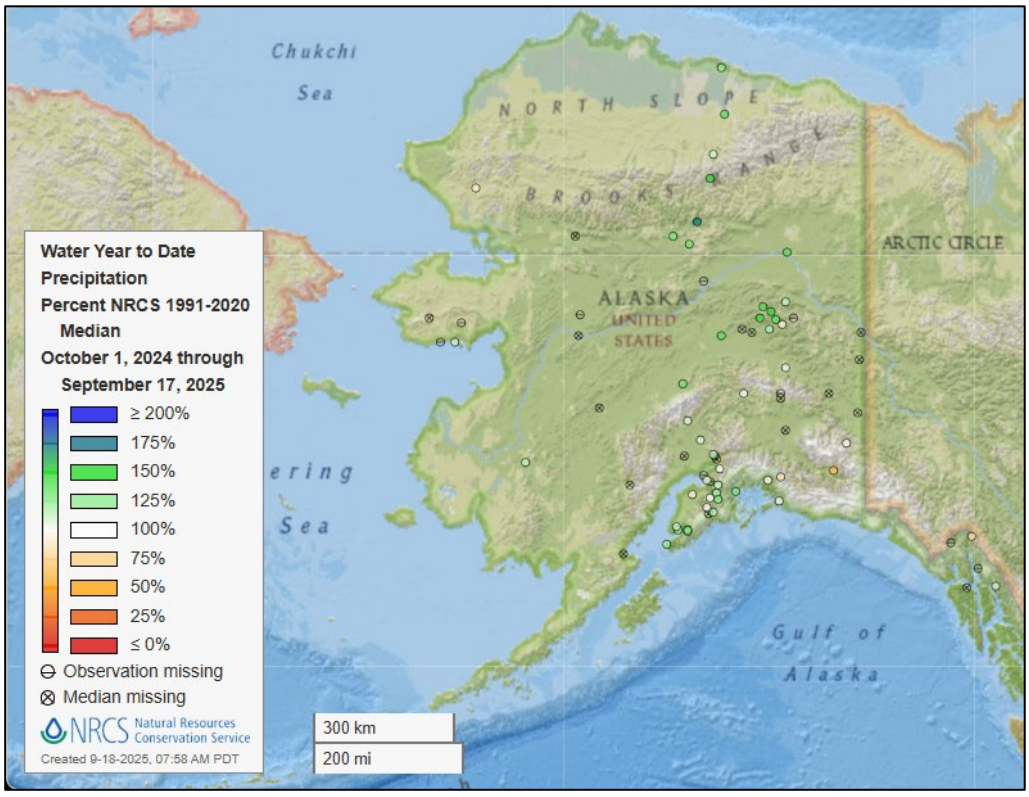


[2025 water year-to-date precipitation percent of median map]

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]

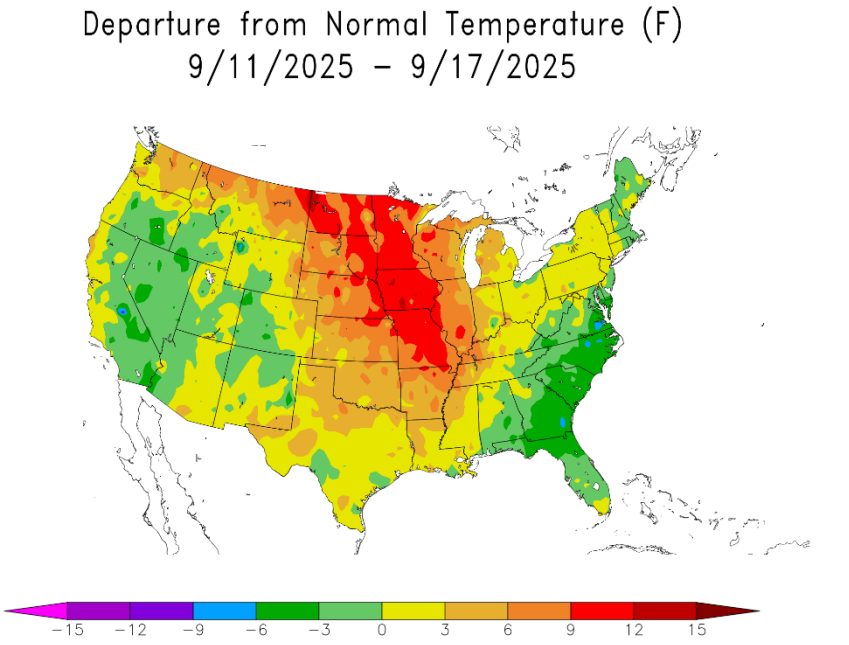
Temperature

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

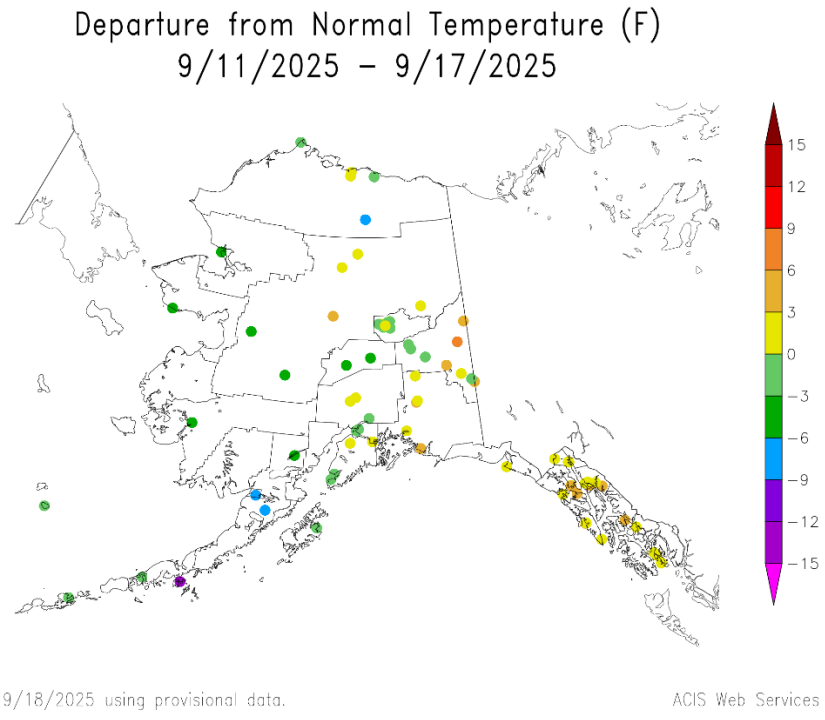


Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

7-day temperature anomaly map for Alaska.

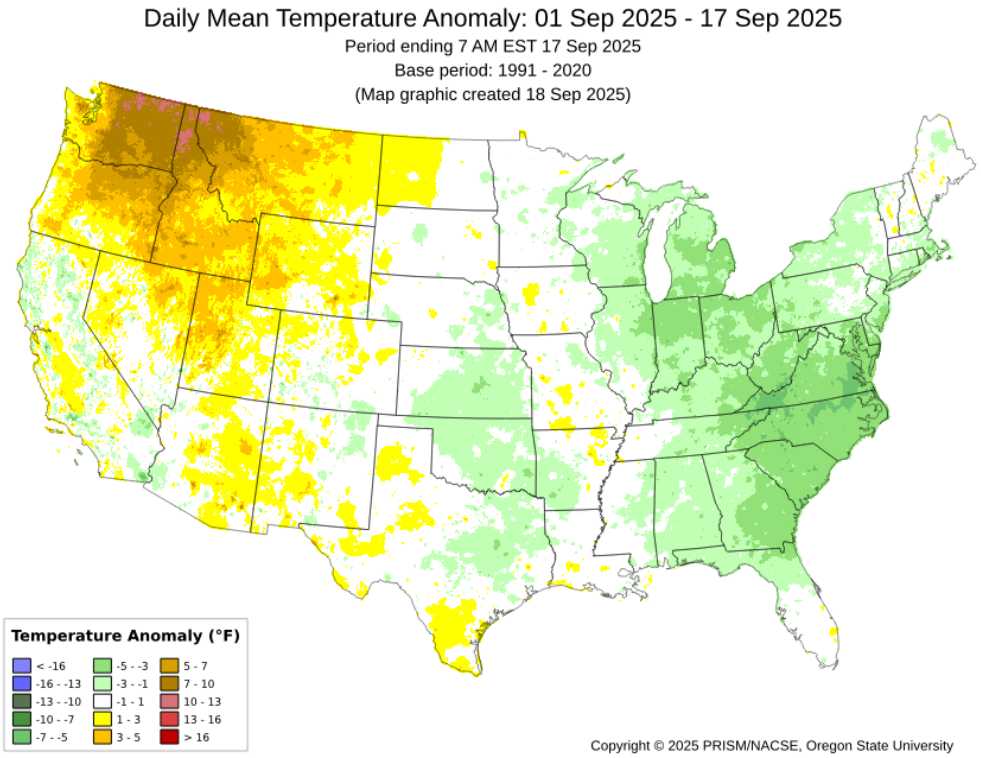
See also: 7-day temperature (° F) map



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

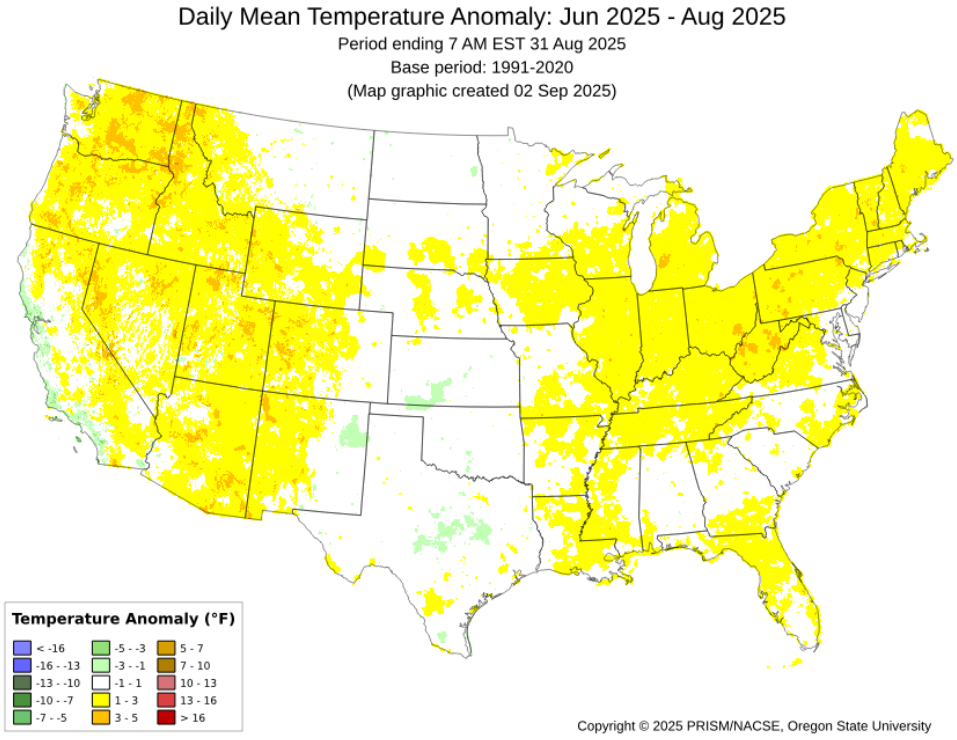
Source: PRISM

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



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

Source: PRISM



[June through August 2025 daily mean temperature anomaly map]

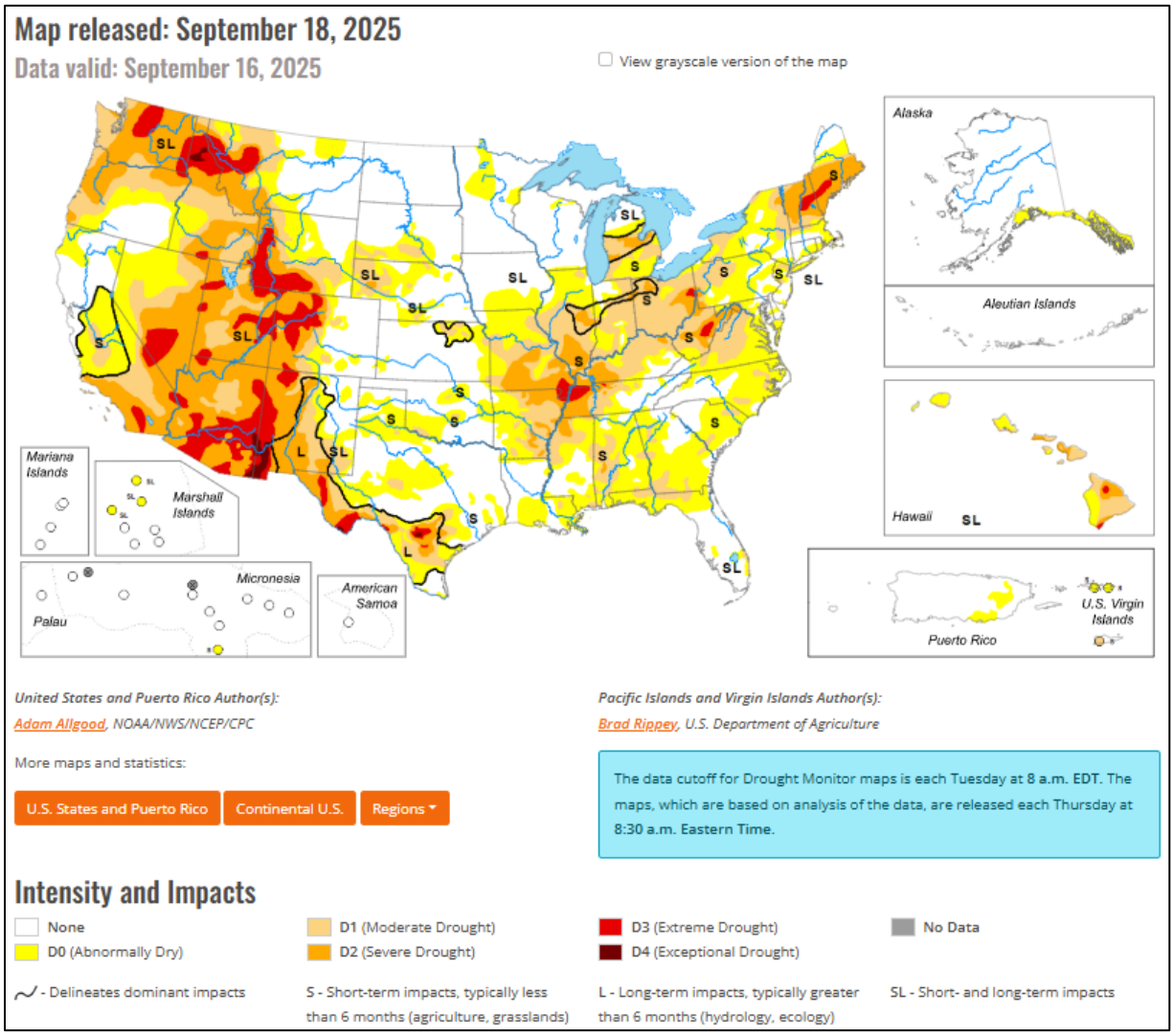
Drought

U.S. Drought Monitor

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

U.S. Drought Portal

Source: NOAA



Current National Drought Summary, September 16, 2025

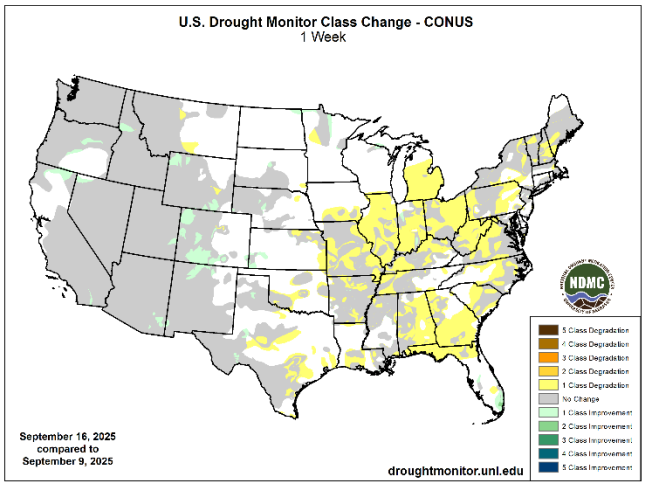
Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“Another week of scant rainfall led to widespread expansion of abnormal dryness (D0) and moderate (D1) to severe (D2) drought across the Midwest, Southeast, and Northeast regions. Extreme (D3) drought was introduced near the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, as well as eastern Ohio and portions of West Virginia. Some expansion of drought and abnormal dryness also occurred across portions of Texas, Oklahoma, and the eastern Plains, while moderate to heavy precipitation brought 1-category improvements to localized areas in western Texas, northward through western Nebraska. Along the Rockies, above-average precipitation yielded fairly widespread 1-category improvements. Above-normal rainfall for the time of year fell across northern California and the Intermountain West, resulting in modest 1-category improvements ahead of the new water year. Enhanced monsoonal moisture was focused across New Mexico and southeastern Arizona, sparking a 1-category reduction from exceptional (D4) drought conditions in the area. 7-day temperature anomalies were above-normal across the Northern Tier and Midwest, exacerbating the rapid onset of impacts, while below-normal temperatures across the east helped to slow the deterioration somewhat. Widespread drought conditions continued for Hawaii, with a 1-category deterioration to extreme (D3) drought on the southern Big Island. Alaska and Puerto Rico remain drought free.”

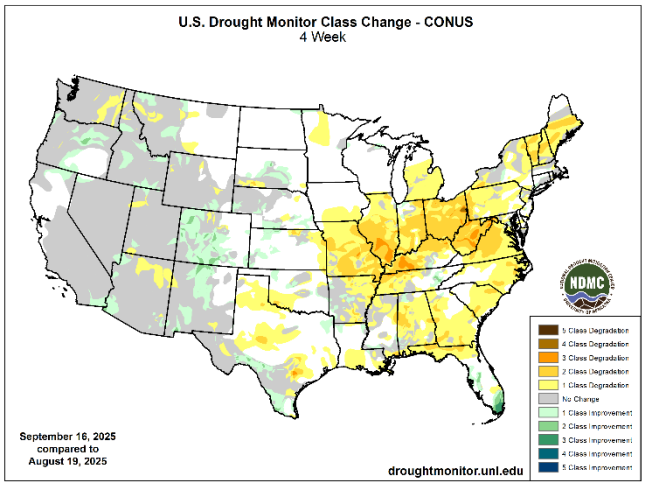
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

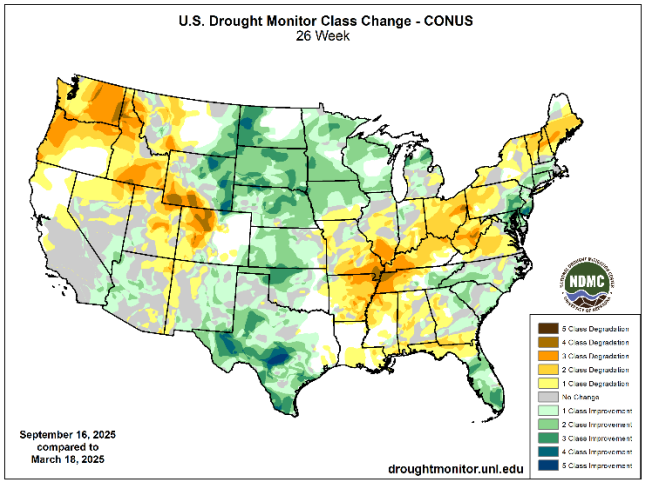
1 Week



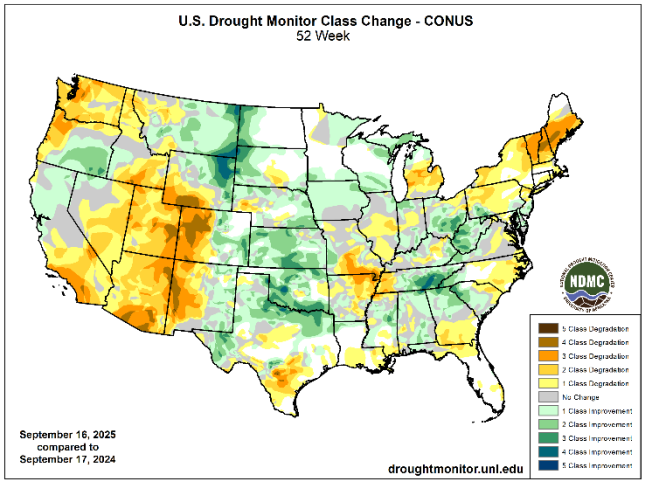
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



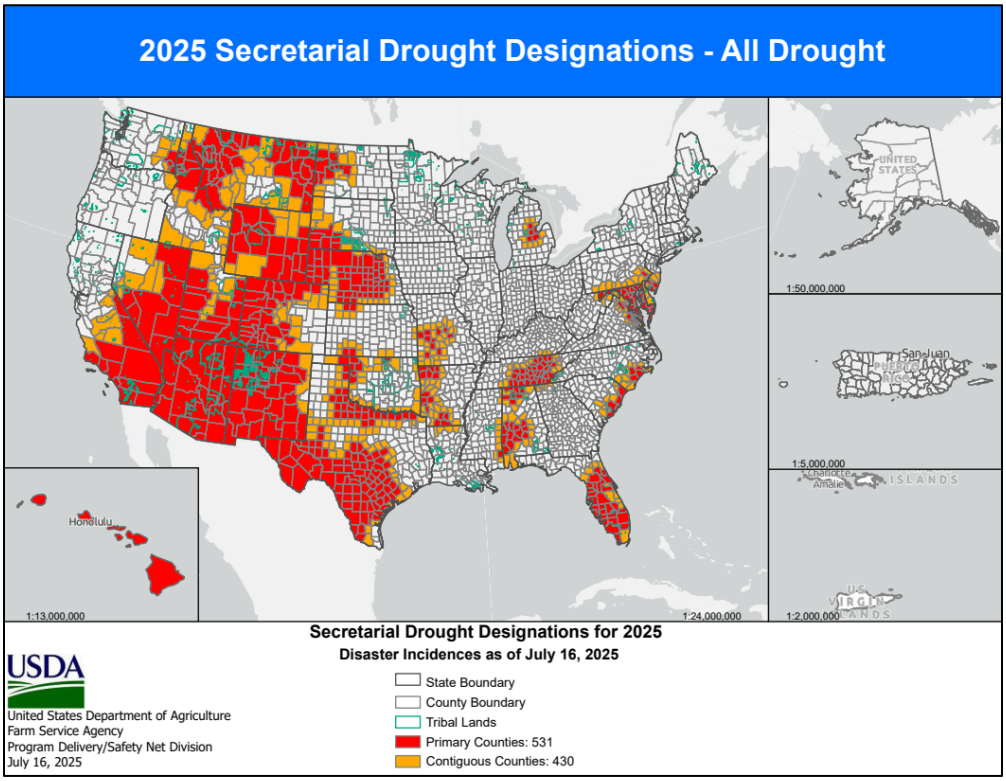
Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.

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

Current large wildland fires, as classified by the National Interagency Coordination Center

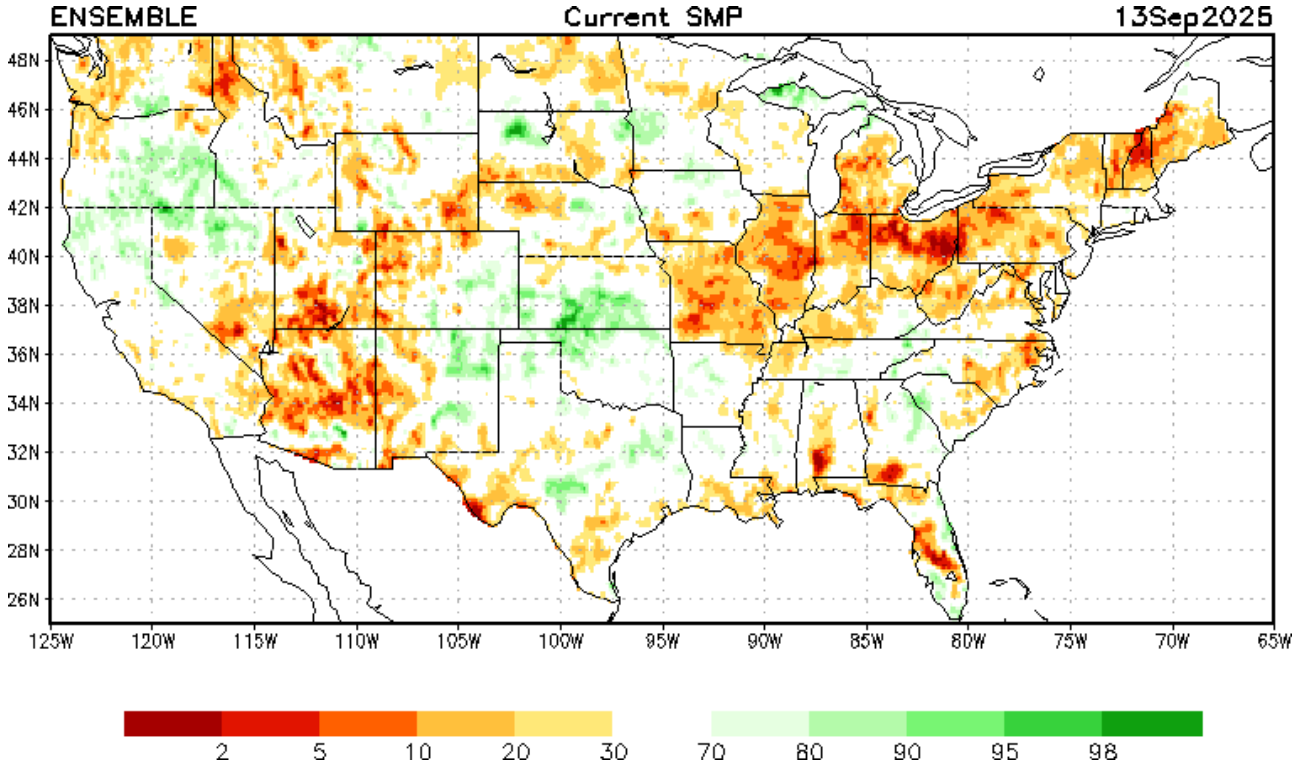
Highlighted Wildfire Resources

- 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

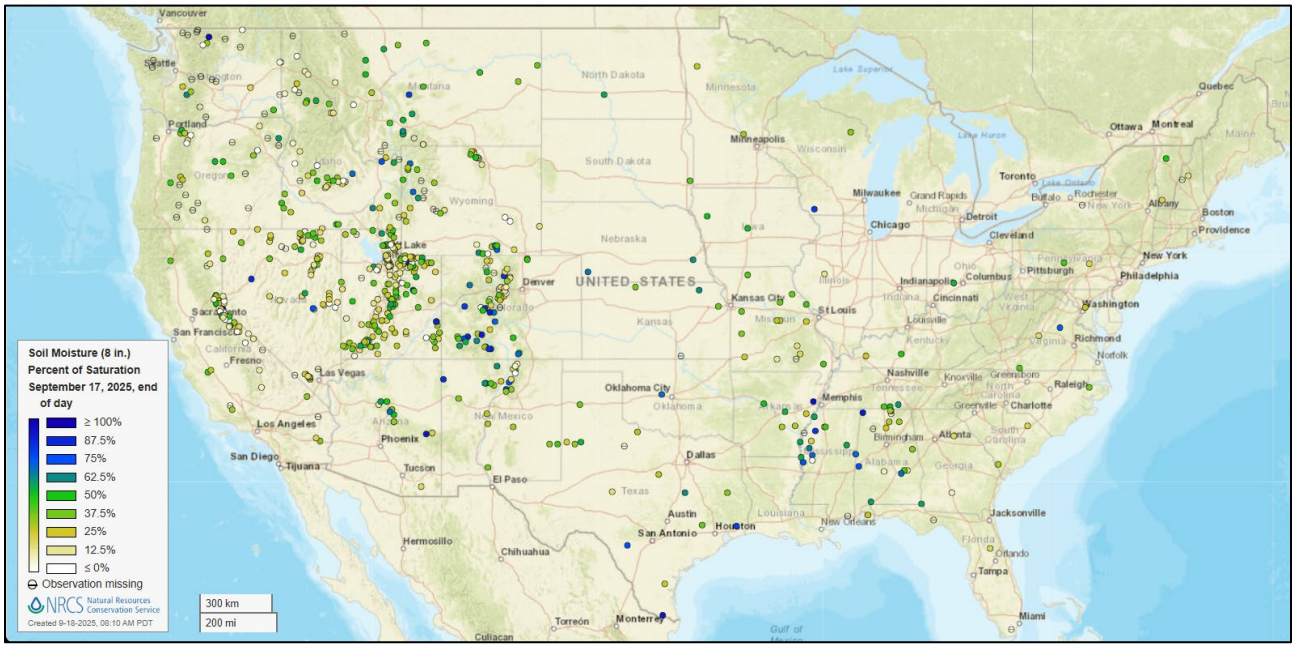


Modeled soil moisture percentiles as of September 13, 2025

Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

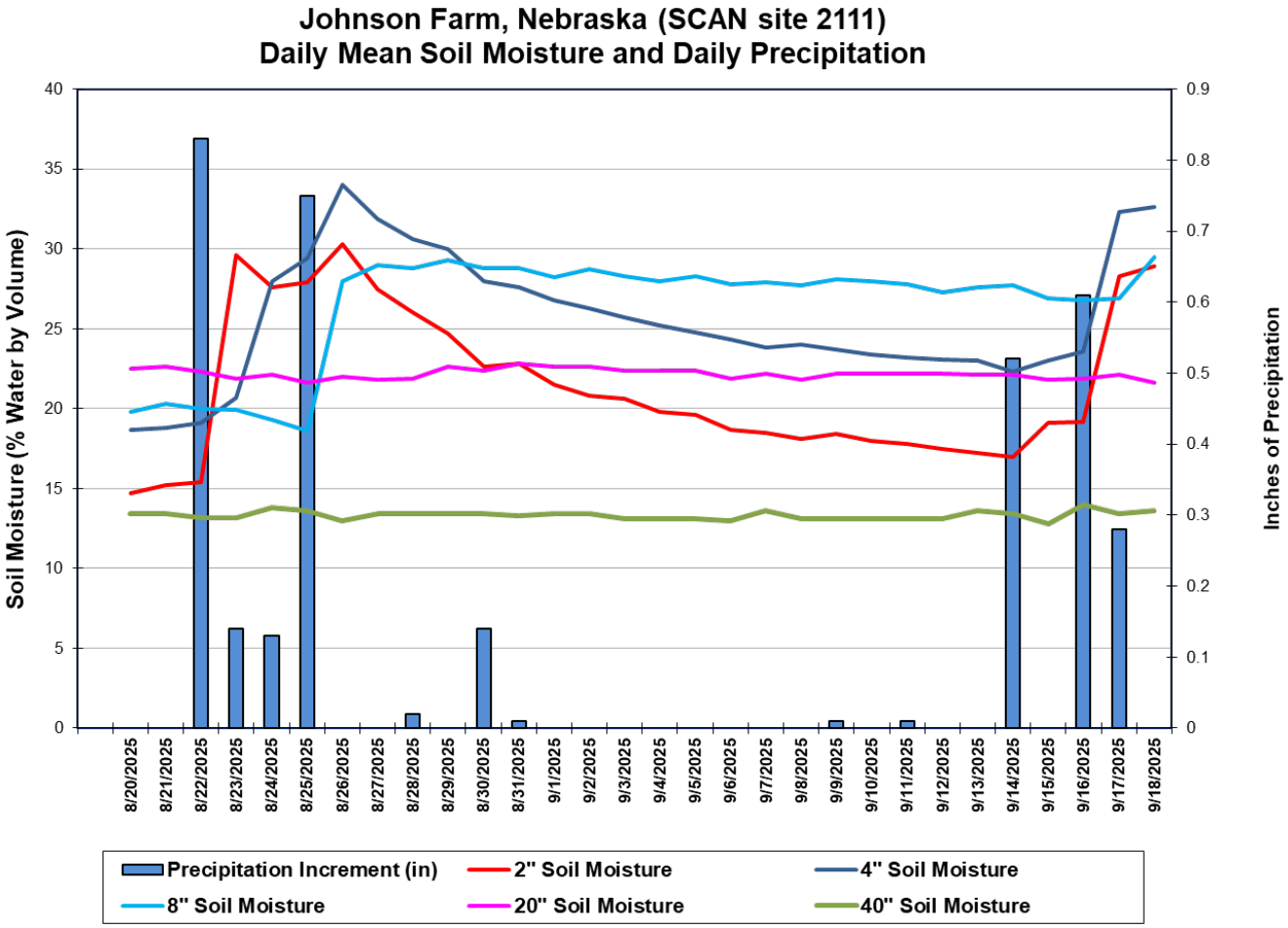
Source: NRCS SNOTEL and Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)

U.S. soil moisture map at 8-inch depth:



Soil Moisture

Source: NRCS Soil Climate Analysis Network (SCAN)



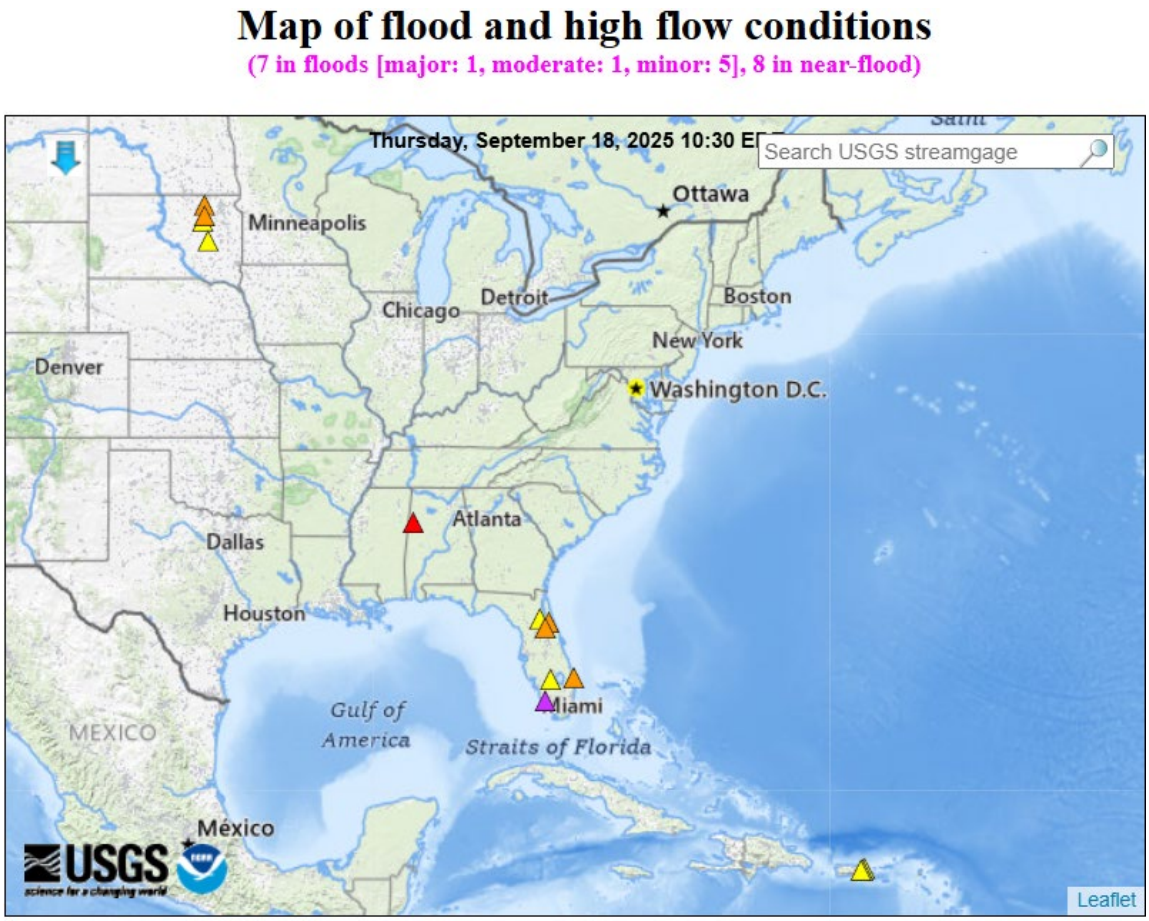
This chart shows the precipitation and soil moisture for the last 30 days at the Johnson Farm SCAN site in Nebraska. Soil sensors two, four, and eight inches beneath land surface recorded pronounced increases in soil moisture immediately following storm activity that deposited 1.85 inches of precipitation at the site between August 22-25. A steady decline in soil moisture levels at the -2 and -4-inch sensor depths occurred between August 27 and September 13, before sharply increasing again after the site received 1.41 inches of precipitation between September 14-17. Total precipitation for the 30-day period was 3.45 inches.

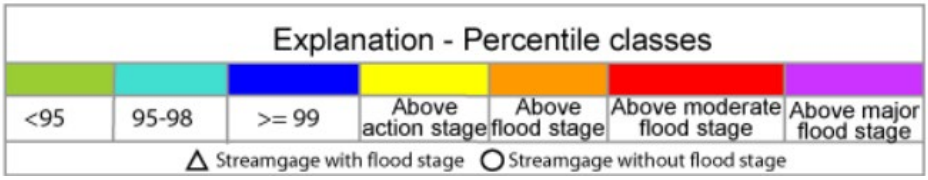
Soil Moisture Data Portals

- 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]





[WaterWatch: Streamflow, drought, flood, and runoff conditions]

Reservoir Storage

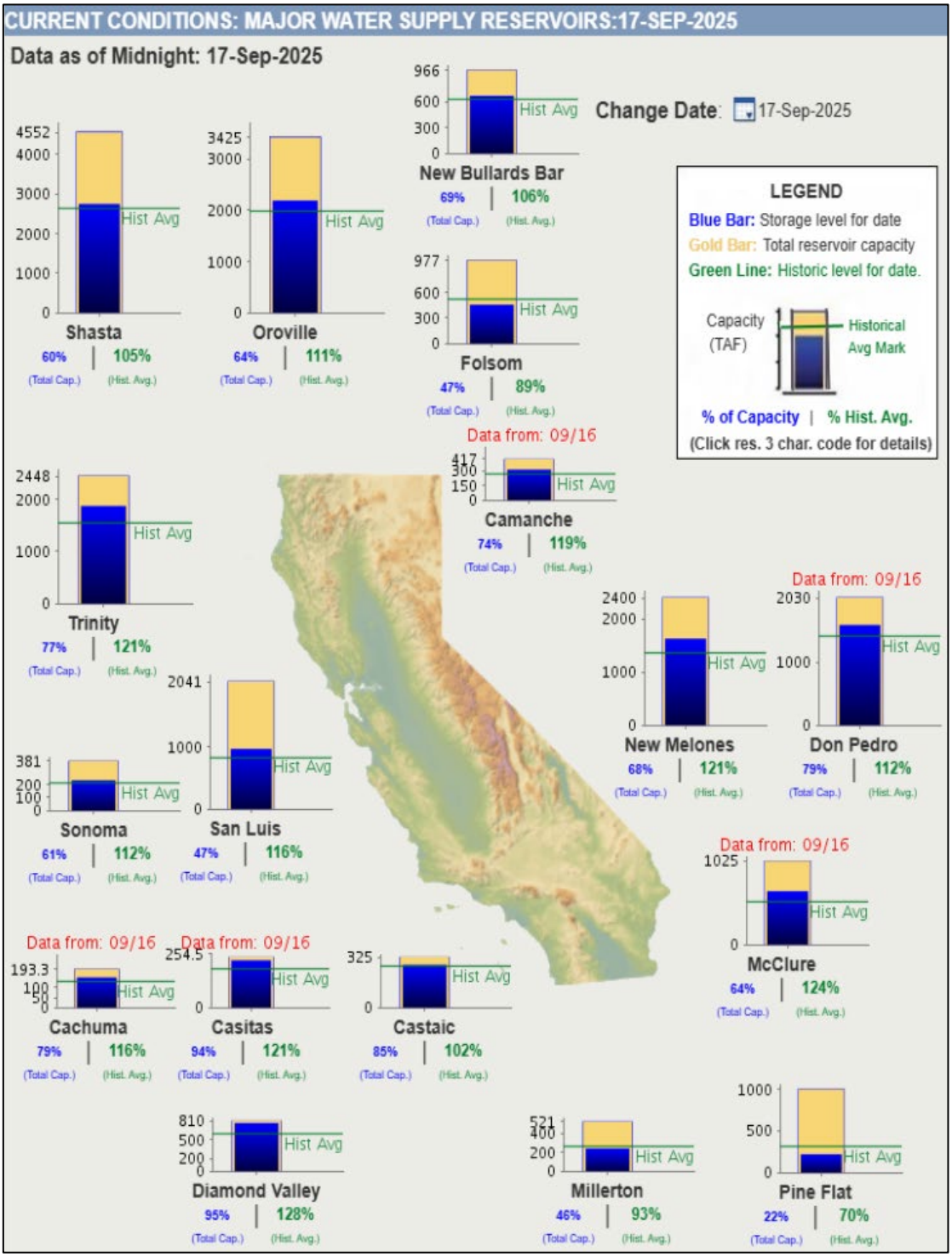
Hydromet Teacup Reservoir Depictions

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

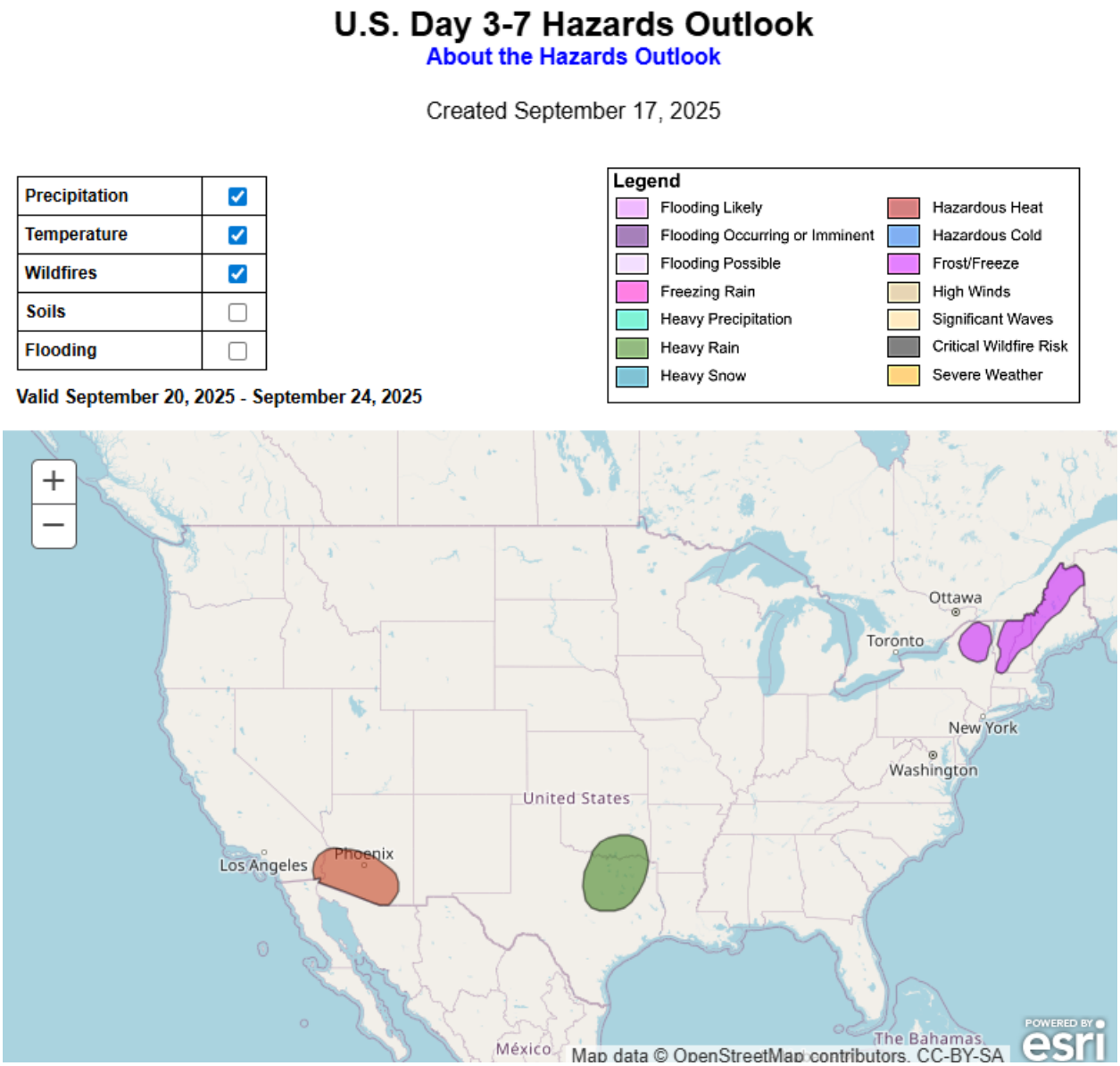
Agricultural Weather Highlights

Author: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB

National Outlook, Thursday September 18, 2025: "A slow-moving storm system over the nation's mid-section will drift eastward, helping to produce at least 1 to 3 inches of additional rainfall from the eastern Plains into the upper Midwest. Late in the weekend and early next week, light rain should spread as far east as the Ohio Valley and lower Great Lakes region. Meanwhile, mostly dry weather will prevail during the next 5 days in the middle Atlantic and Southeastern States, aside from Florida's peninsula. The Northwest will also remain mostly dry. However, parts of California and the Southwest will experience unusually heavy rain for this time of year through Friday. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for September 23 – 27 calls for warmer-than-normal weather nationwide, with the Rockies and much of the northern U.S. having the greatest likelihood of experiencing above-normal temperatures. Meanwhile, near- or above-normal precipitation across the West, South, East, and lower Midwest should contrast with drier-than-normal conditions from the central and southern Rockies into the upper Midwest, including large sections of the Plains."

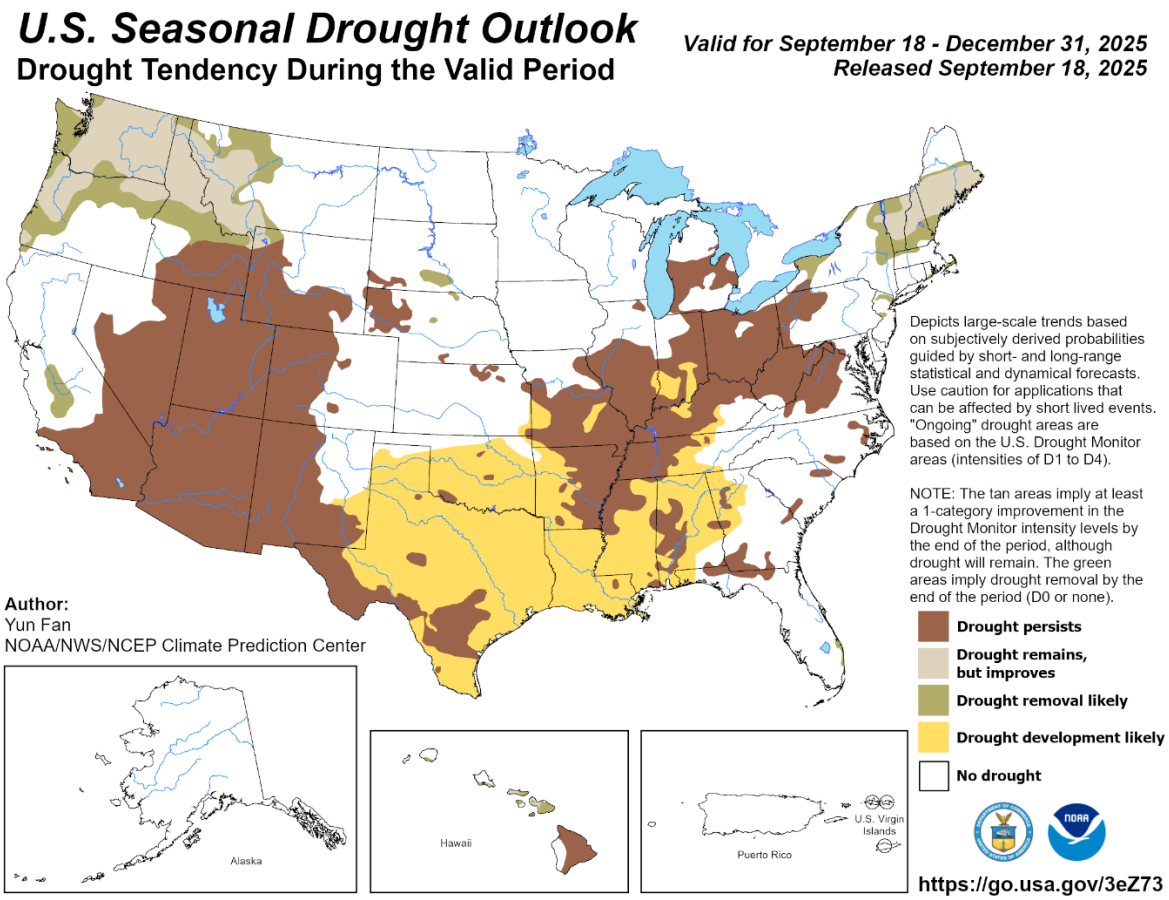
Weather Hazards Outlook: September 20 – 24, 2025

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center



Seasonal Drought Outlook: [September 18 – December 31, 2025]

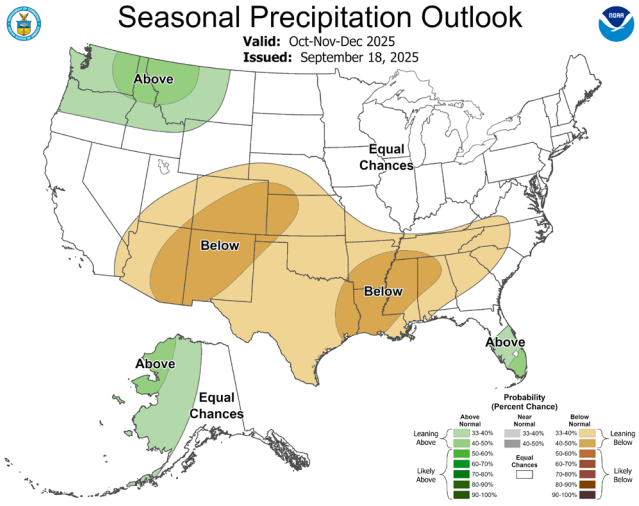
Source: National Weather Service



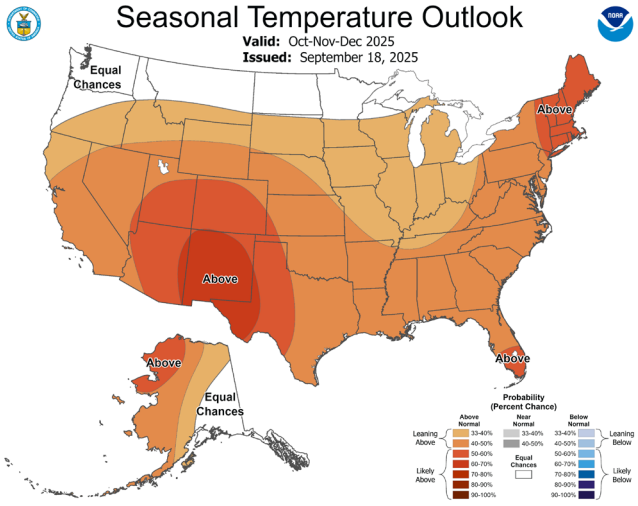
Climate Prediction Center Three-month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service

[Precipitation]



[Temperature]



[October-November-December 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.