



United States Department of Agriculture

Water and Climate Update

September 25, 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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Tornadoes touch down in the Great Lakes region



September 22, 2025 Tornadoes

EF-U Grand Traverse County Brief Tornado

Rating: EF-U (Unknown)
Maximum Winds: Unknown
Maximum Width: < 10 yards
Path Length: < 0.1 miles
Time on Ground: 1 minute
Details: Video from media of a brief tornado touch down. No damage occurred – as a result, this tornado has been classified as an EF - U (EF - U means unknown minimum wind speed).



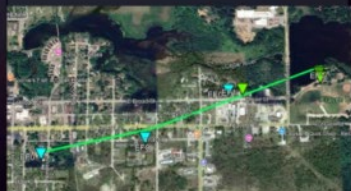
EF-0 Torch Lake Waterspout/Tornado

Rating: EF-0
Maximum Winds: 75 mph
Maximum Width: 10 yards
Path Length: 0.14 miles
Time on Ground: 1 minute
Details: A tornadic waterspout developed over central Torch Lake and dissipated shortly after making landfall on the eastern shore of Torch Lake. Only minor tree damage was observed.



EF-1 Antrim County Tornado

Rating: EF-1
Maximum Winds: 90 mph
Maximum Width: 30 yards
Path Length: 0.85 miles
Time on Ground: 2 minutes
Details: An EF-1 tornado touched down on the southwest side of Bellaire at 6:02 PM EDT and tracked northeast for 0.85 miles. It dissipated on the north side of Craven Park at 6:04 PM EDT. Spotty tree damage occurred along the path.



The National Weather Service (NWS) confirmed three tornadoes touched down in Michigan on September 22. One tornado was a tornadic waterspout, defined as a tornado that travels over water, and was formed over Torch Lake. All three tornadoes were considered weak, with the strongest recorded as an EF-1 that touched down in Bellaire, MI. The only impacts recorded from the event included fallen trees or broken limbs. In addition to the tornadoes, the Storm Prediction Center reported several instances of high winds greater than 70 mph and hail larger than two inches in diameter in parts of the Midwest, Plains, and as far south as Texas and New Mexico.

Related:

[Storm Reports Map 9/22/25](#) – NWS Storm Prediction Center

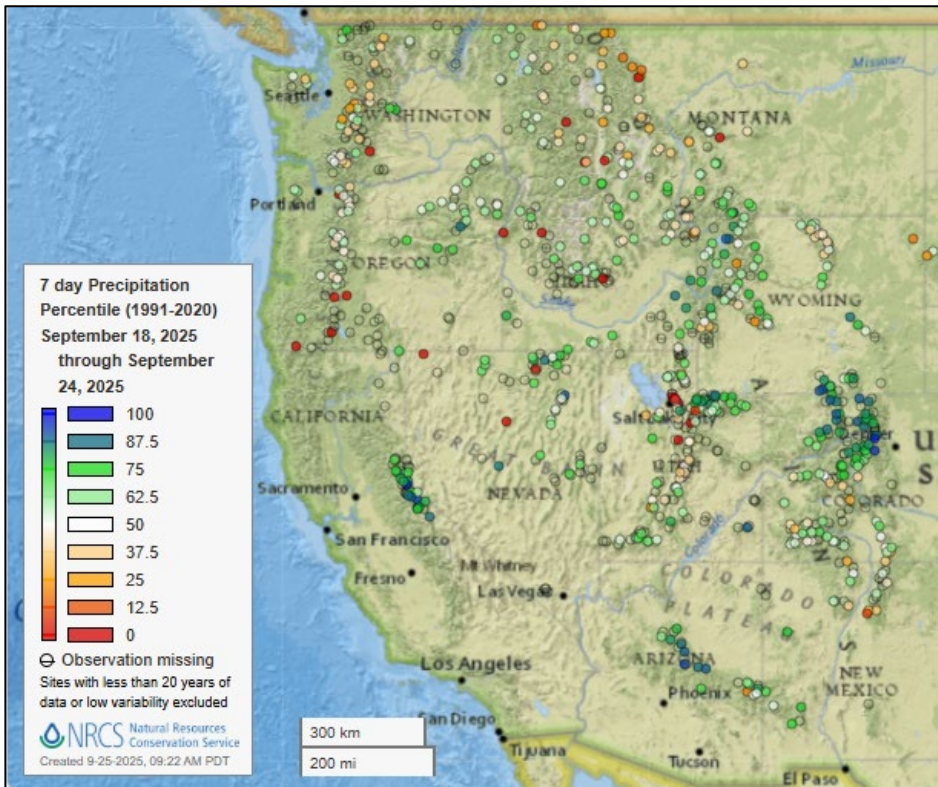
[NWS confirms 3 tornadoes Sept. 22. How strong were they?](#) – Detroit Free Press (Detroit, MI)

[Tornadic waterspout spins over Torch Lake](#) – WOOD TV8 (Grand Rapids, MI)

[September 22, 2025 Tornadoes](#) – NWS (Gaylord, MI)

Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

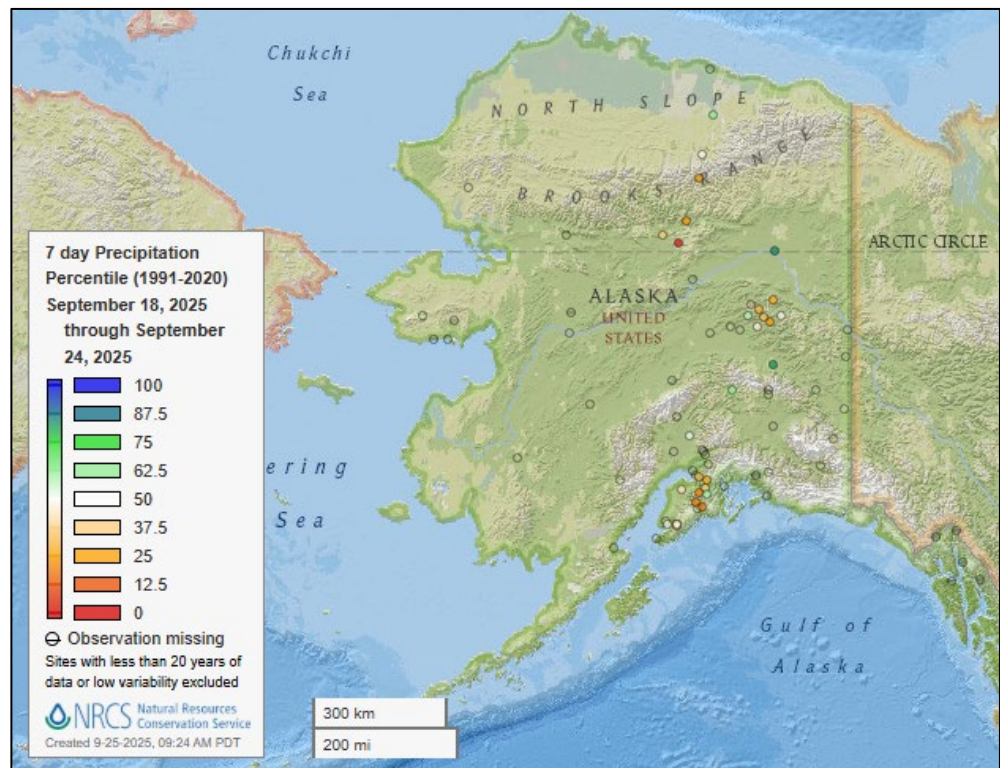


[7-day precipitation percentile map](#)

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](#)



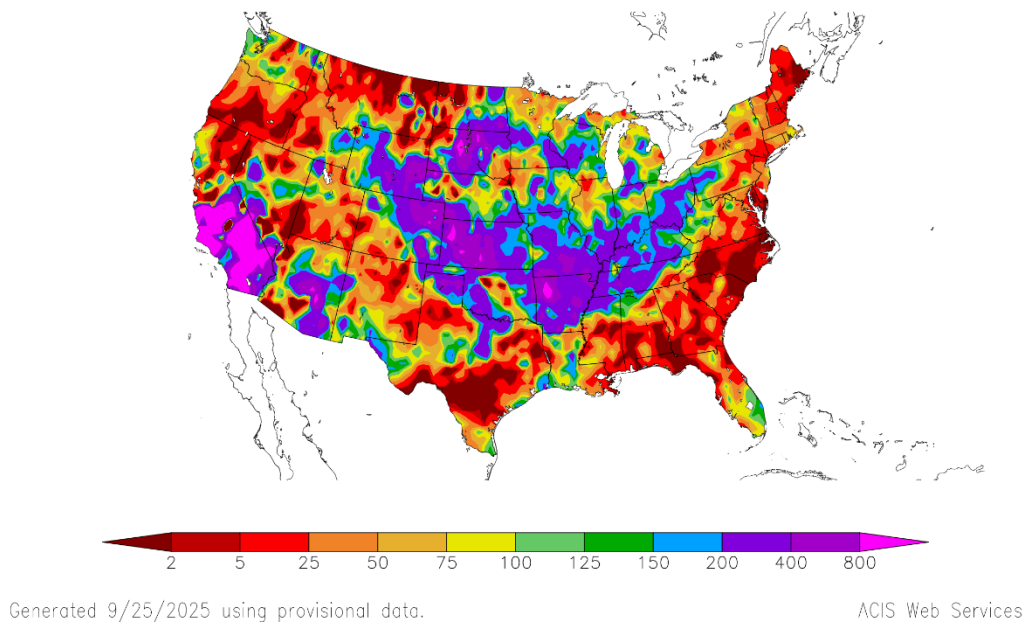
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%)
9/18/2025 – 9/24/2025



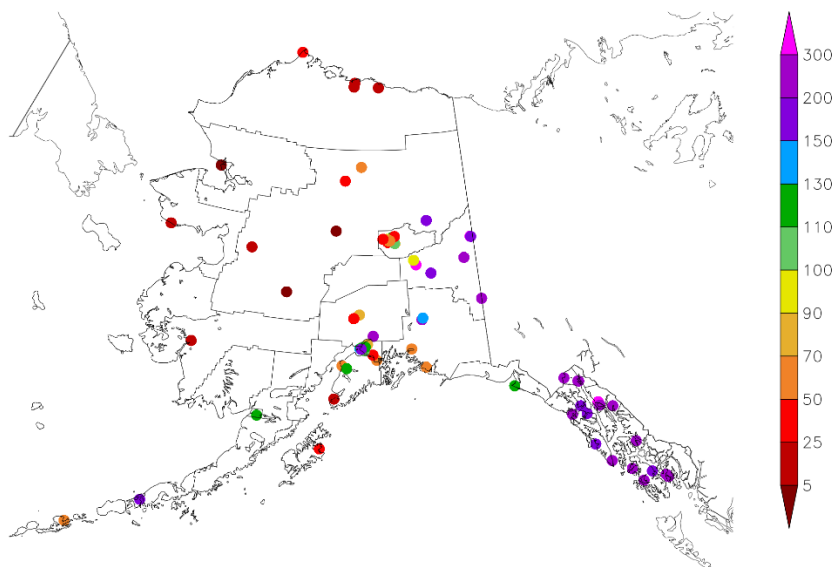
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%)
9/18/2025 – 9/24/2025



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

Source: PRISM

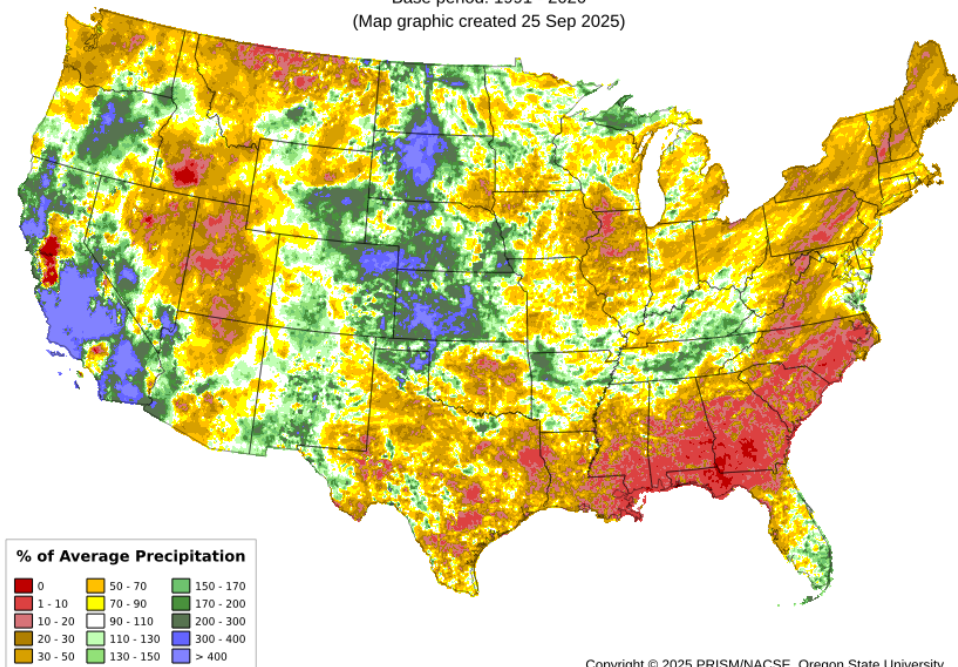
Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 Sep 2025 - 24 Sep 2025

Period ending 7 AM EST 24 Sep 2025

Base period: 1991 - 2020

(Map graphic created 25 Sep 2025)

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



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

Source: PRISM

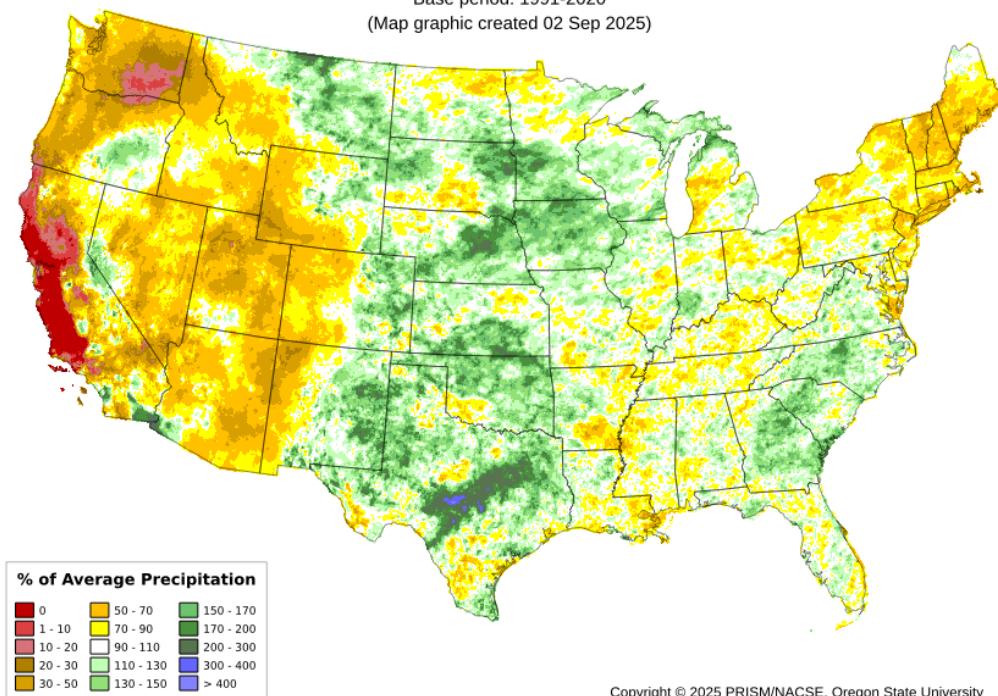
[June through
August 2025
precipitation
anomaly map](#)

Total Precipitation Anomaly: Jun 2025 - Aug 2025

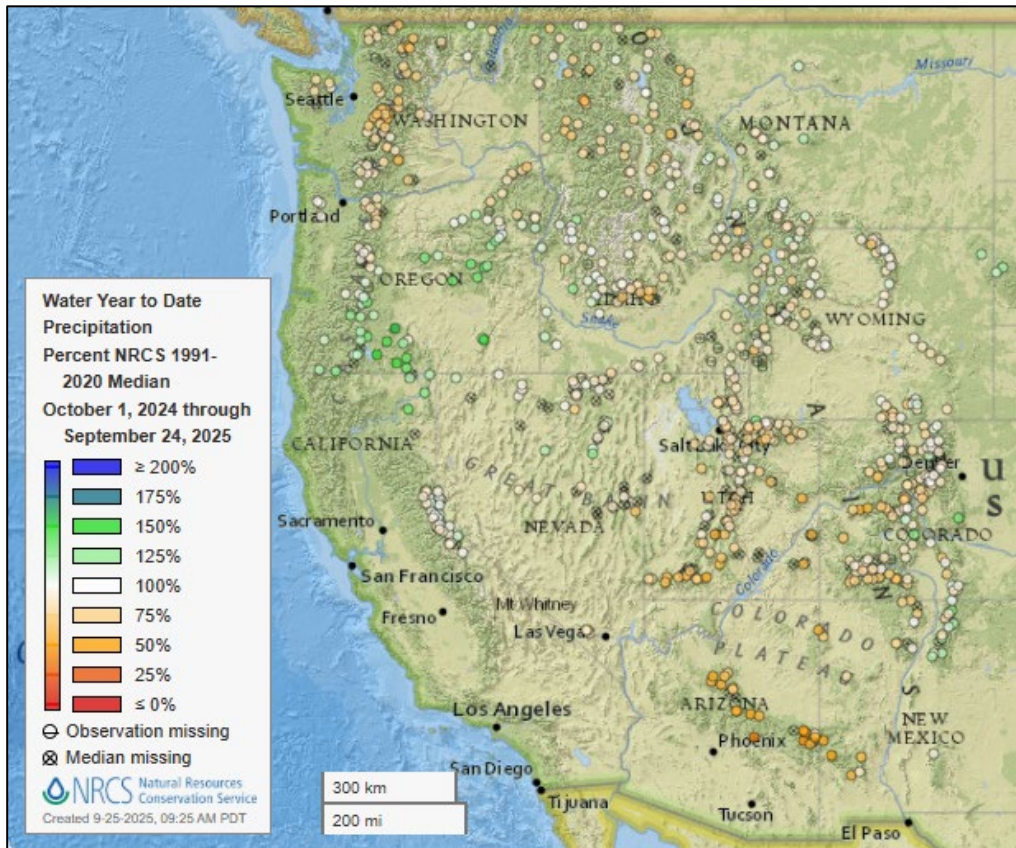
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Aug 2025

Base period: 1991-2020

(Map graphic created 02 Sep 2025)



Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network

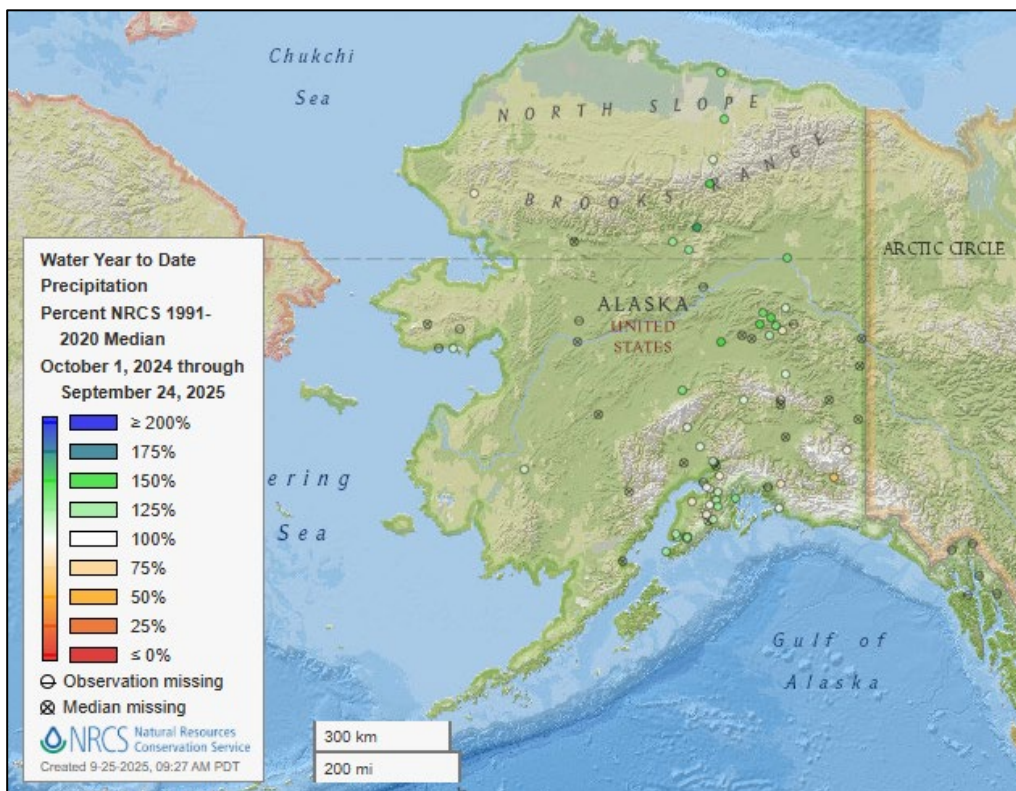


[2025 water year-to-date precipitation percent of median map](#)

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

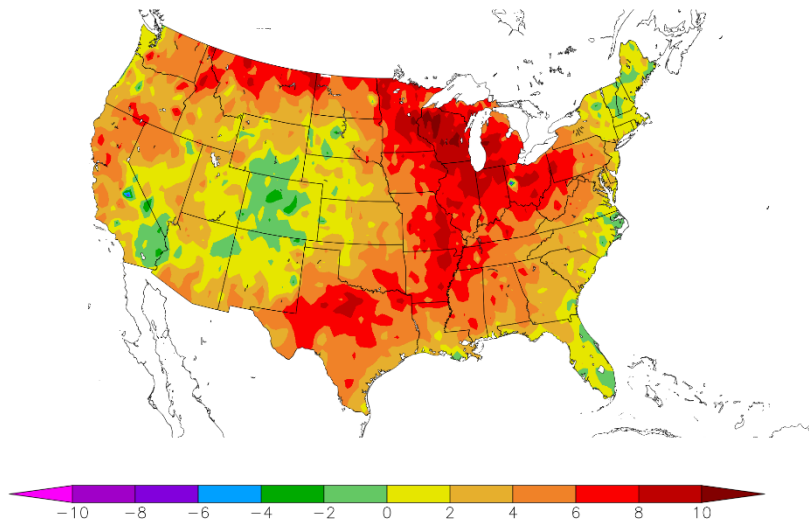
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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)
9/18/2025 – 9/24/2025



Generated 9/25/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

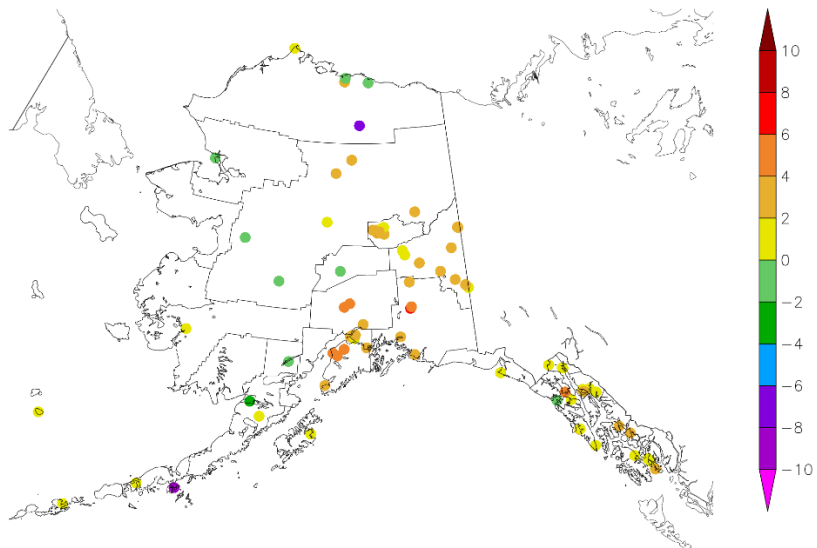
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/18/2025 – 9/24/2025



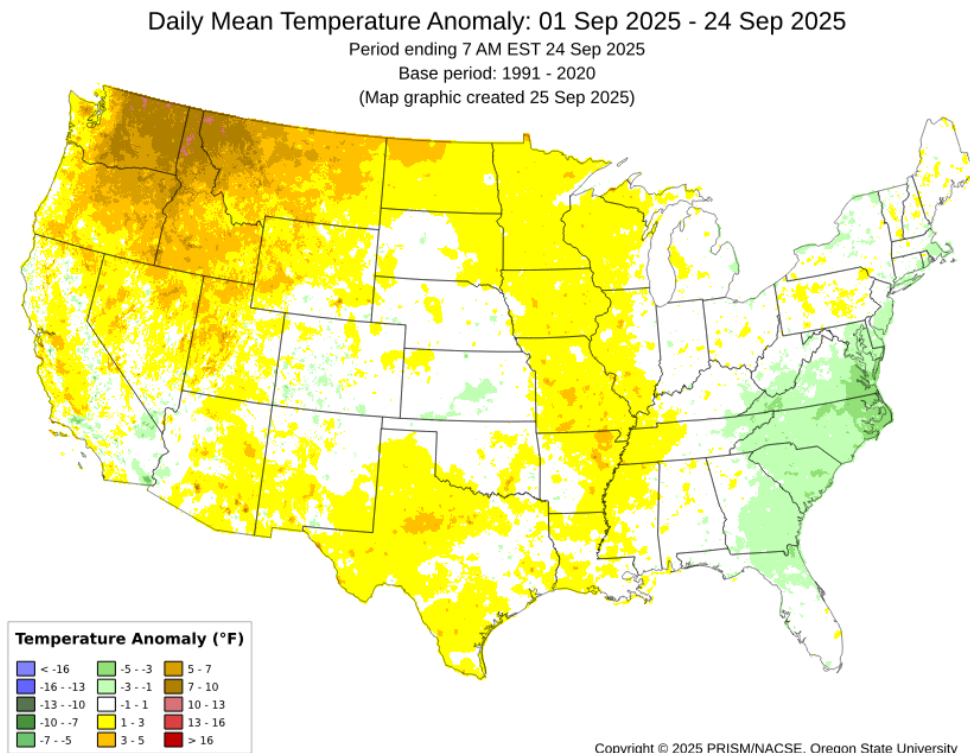
Generated 9/25/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

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

Source: PRISM

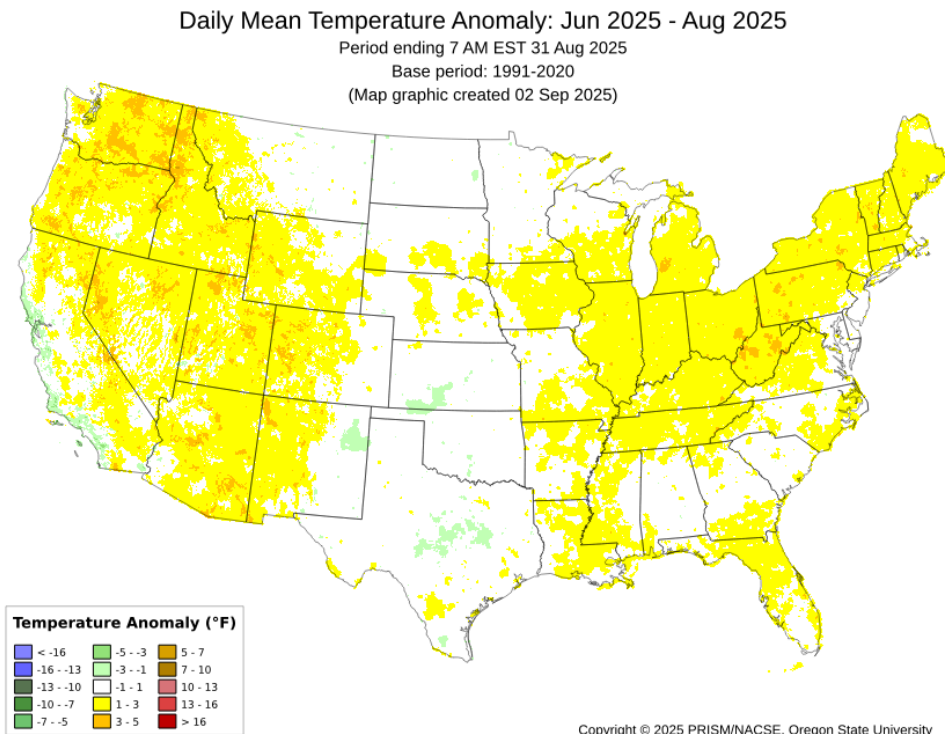
[Month-to-date
national daily
mean
temperature
anomaly map](#)



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

Source: PRISM

[June through August
2025 daily mean
temperature anomaly
map](#)



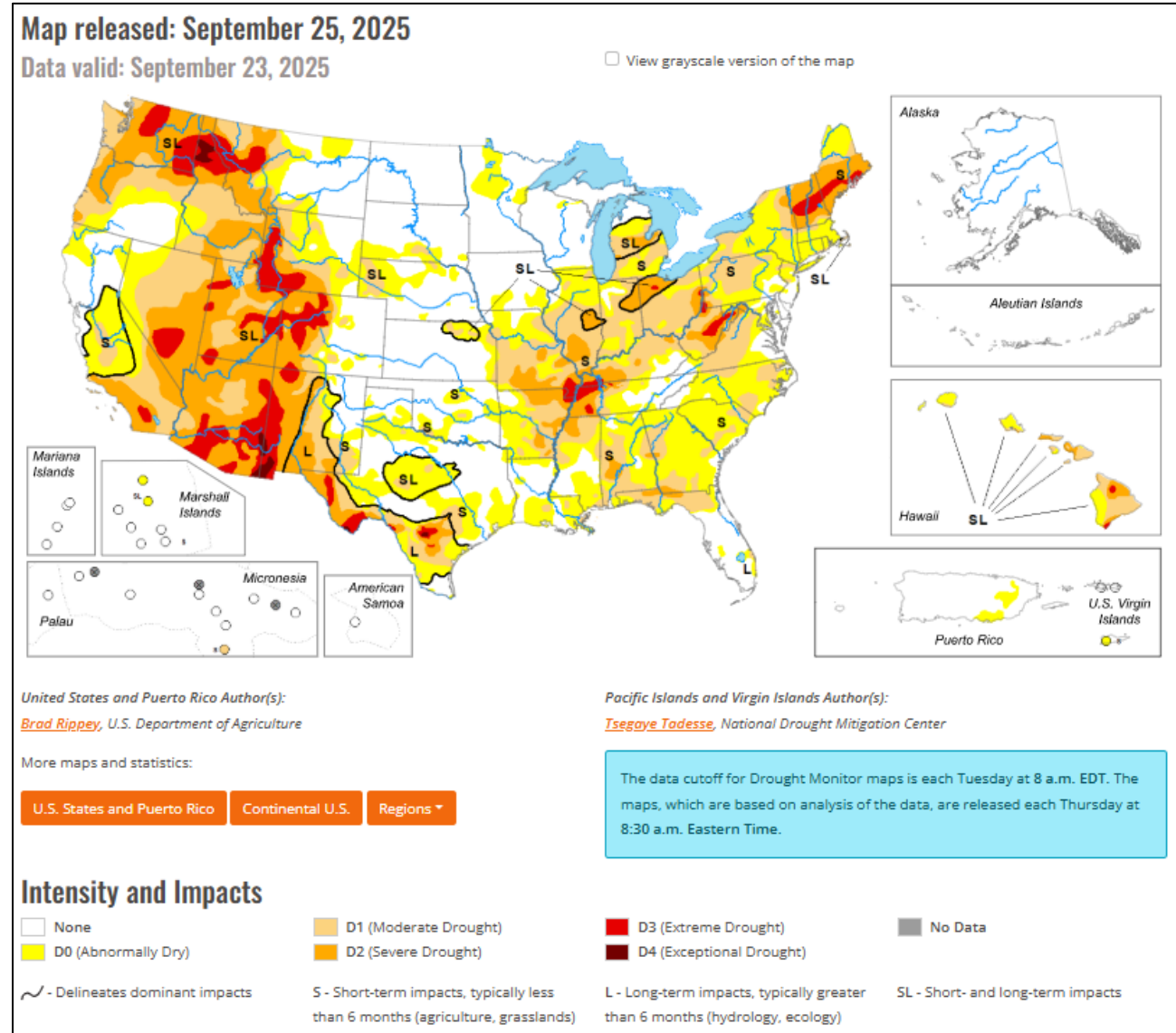
Drought

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

[U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA



Current [National Drought Summary](#), September 23, 2025

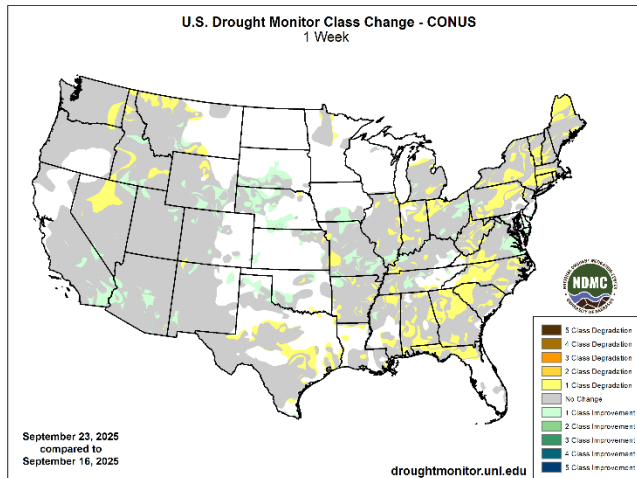
Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“It was a challenging period for drought monitoring, with a broad mix of improvement and deterioration. Additionally, a significant rainfall event was underway in parts of the central, eastern, and southern U.S. when the drought-monitoring period ended early Tuesday. Any precipitation that fell after the Tuesday cutoff will be considered for next week’s map. Broadly, precipitation fell across the Plains, Midwest, and mid-South, mostly from the central Rockies to the western slopes of the Appalachians. Locally significant showers also dotted the Southwest, providing limited drought relief but triggering flash flooding. In contrast, mostly dry weather prevailed in the Northwest, Intermountain West, Deep South, and along much of the Atlantic Coast.”

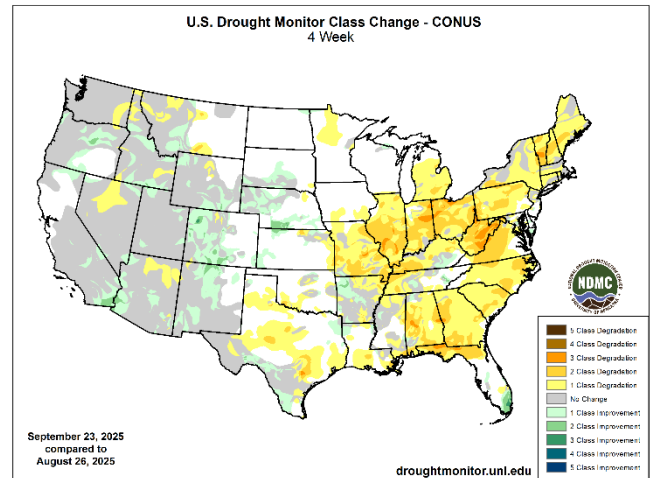
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

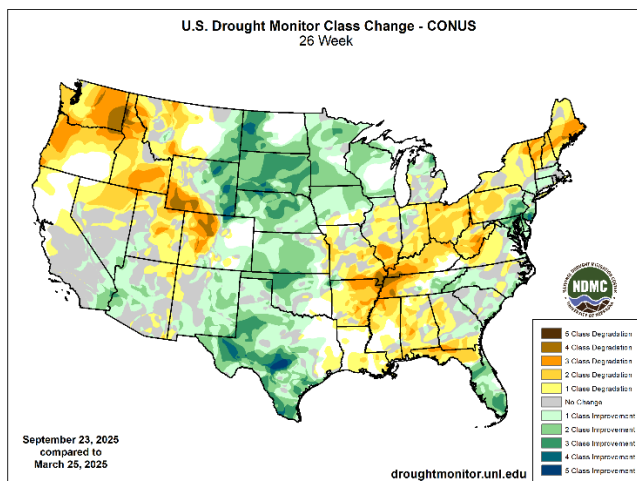
1 Week



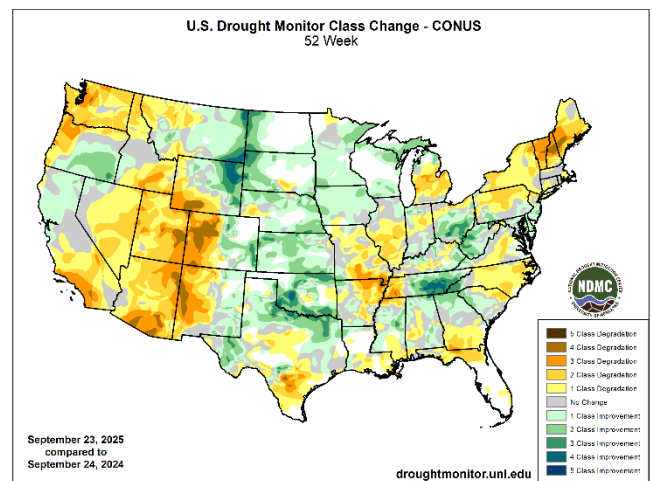
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



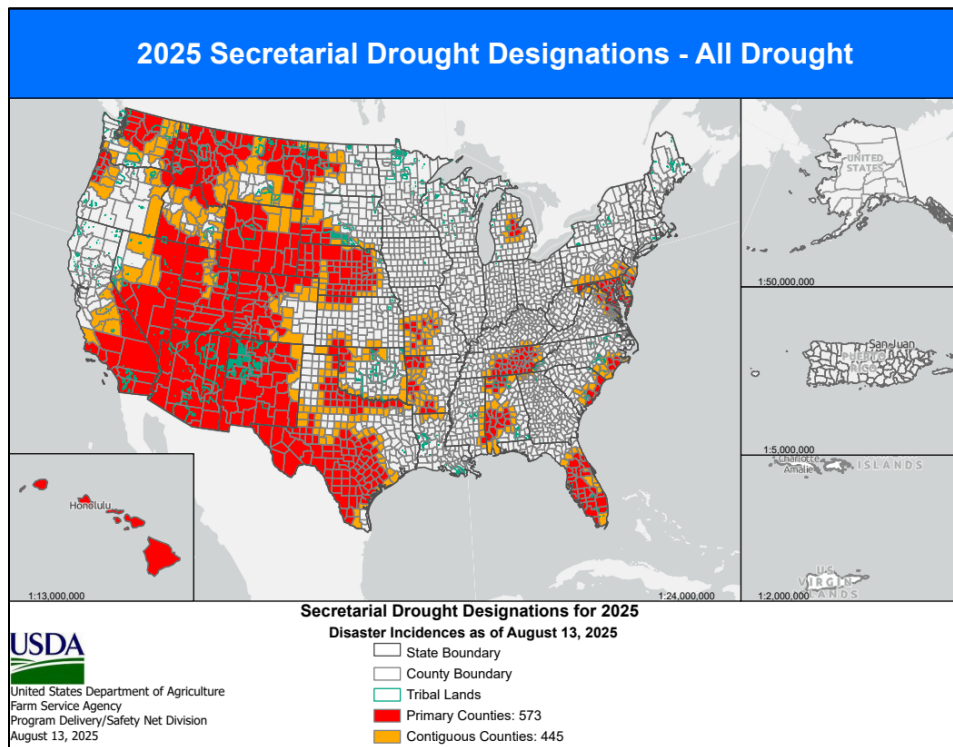
[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.](#)

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

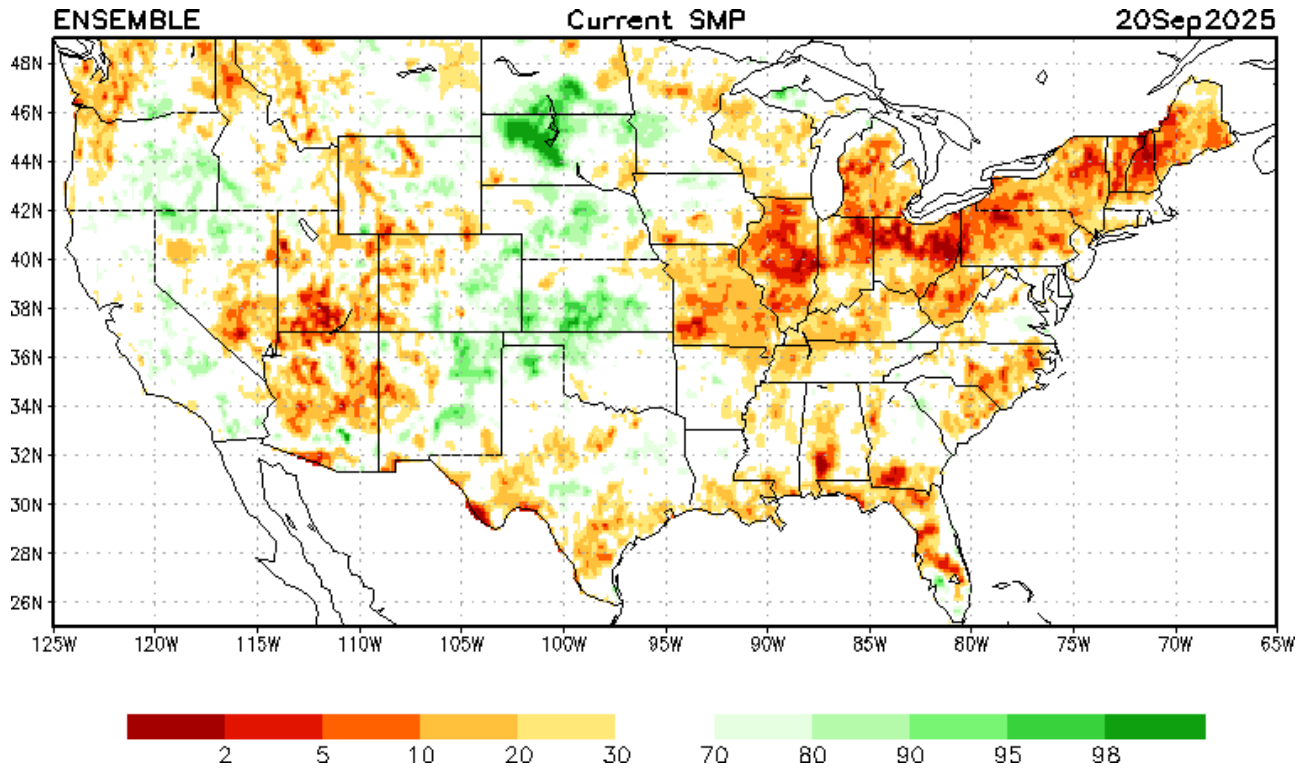
Highlighted Wildfire Resources

- [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

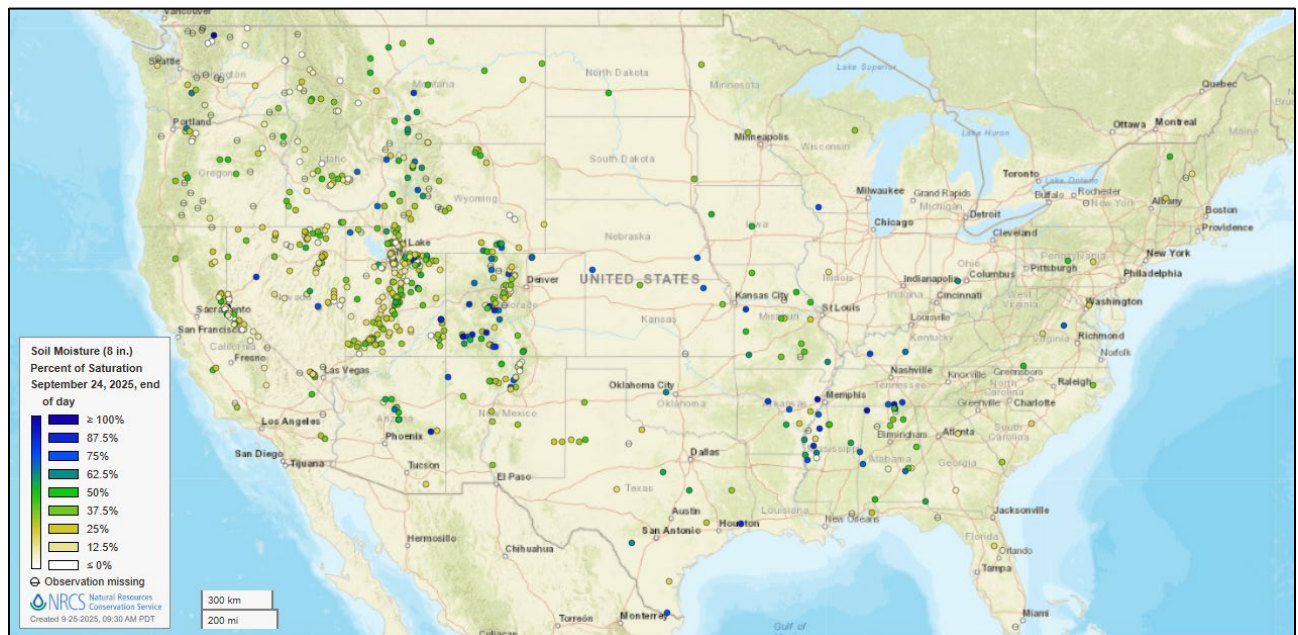


[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of September 20, 2025

Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

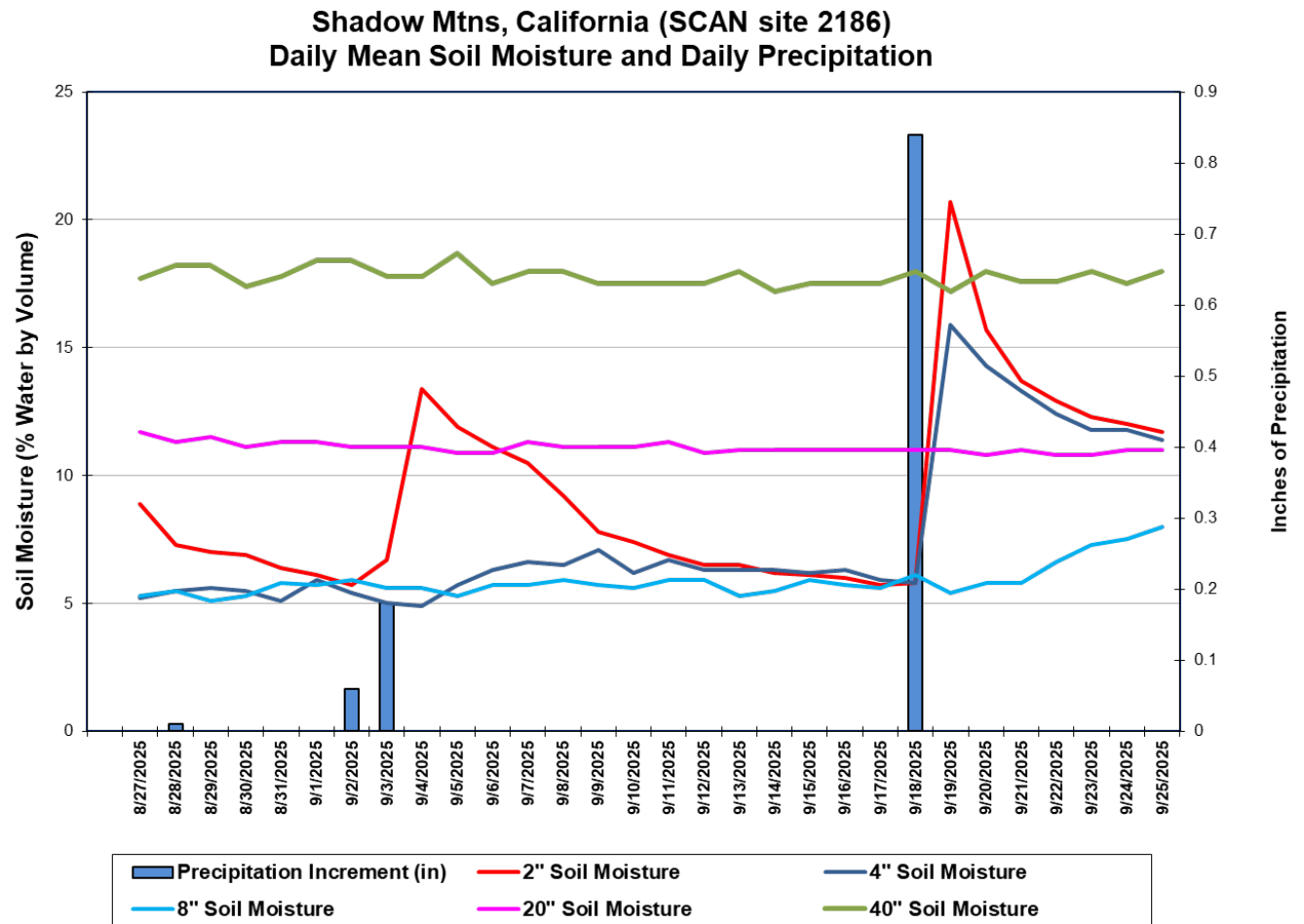
Source: NRCS SNOTEL and [Soil Climate Analysis Network](#) (SCAN)

[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 [Shadow Mtns](#) SCAN site in California. A pronounced increase in soil moisture was recorded at the -2 and -4-inch soil sensor depths after the site received 0.84 inches of precipitation on September 18. Total precipitation for the 30-day period was 1.09 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

(4 in floods [major: 1, moderate: 1, minor: 2], 10 in near-flood)



Explanation - Percentile classes						
<95	95-98	>= 99	Above action stage	Above flood stage	Above moderate flood stage	Above major flood stage
△ Streamgage with flood stage			○ Streamgage without flood stage			

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

Reservoir Storage

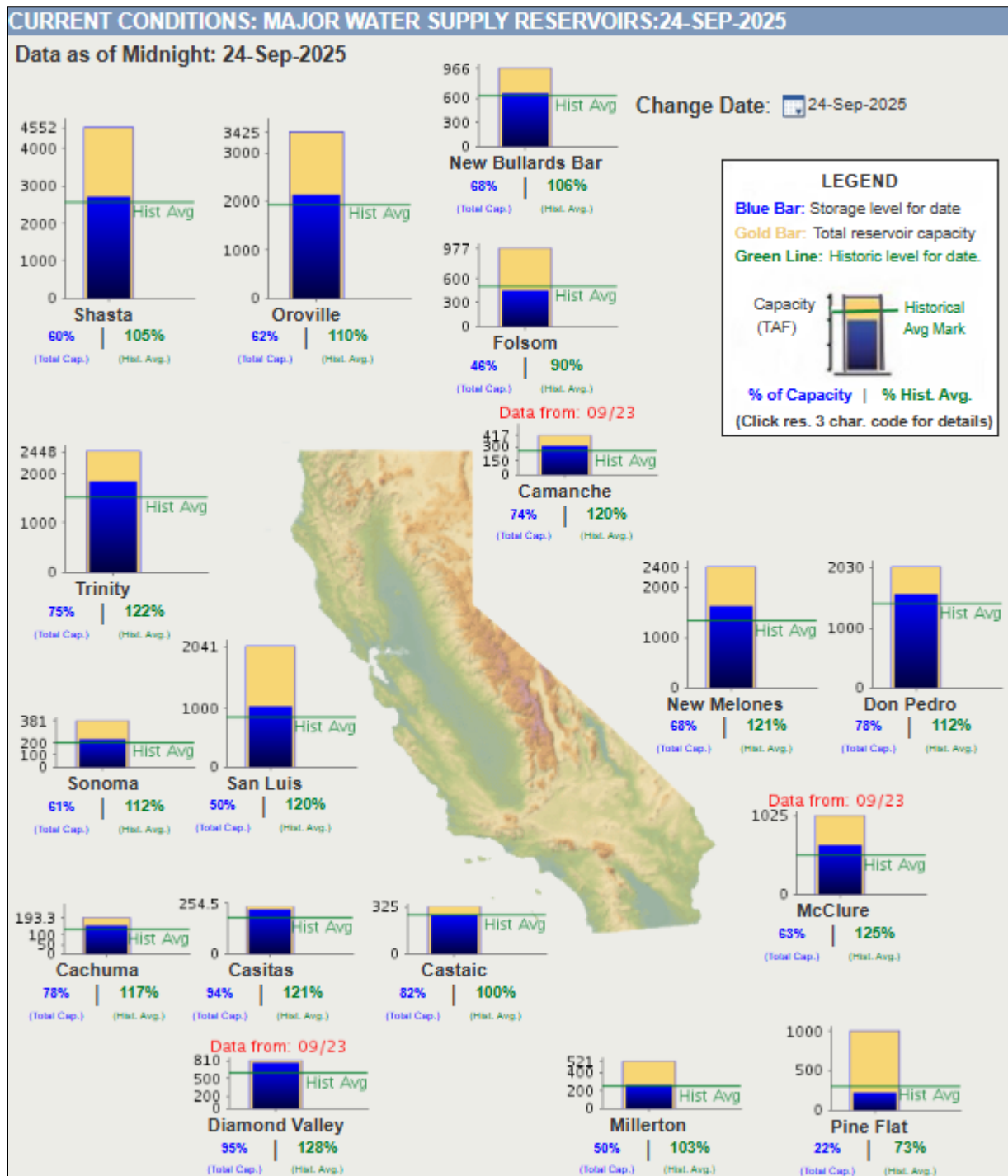
Hydromet Teacup Reservoir Depictions

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 25, 2025: "Rainfall in the vicinity of a slow-moving cold front will continue for the next several days in the eastern U.S., with 5-day totals reaching 1 to 3 inches in many areas east of the Appalachians. Higher totals (2 to 4 inches or more) may occur in the middle Atlantic States, due to interaction between the cold front and an approaching tropical wave. There is a high likelihood that the wave, currently near Hispaniola, will achieve enough organization to become a tropical depression or tropical storm in the next couple of days while traversing the Bahamas. Meanwhile, thunderstorms in the western and central Gulf Coast regions should end by Friday, followed by several days of dry weather. Dry conditions will also dominate the Plains, Midwest, and mid-South during the next 5 days. In the Northwest, dry conditions will continue through Sunday, when showers will arrive along the northern Pacific Coast. In the Southwest, a late-season monsoon surge will result in scattered showers, some of which may produce heavy rain and result in flash flooding. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for September 30 – October 4 calls for near- or above-normal temperatures nationwide, with the north-central U.S. having the greatest likelihood of experiencing warmer-than-normal weather. Meanwhile, near- or above-normal precipitation across most of the country should contrast with drier-than-normal weather in a band stretching from the southern Plains into the Great Lakes region and the Northeast."

Weather Hazards Outlook: [September 28 – October 2, 2025](#)

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center

U.S. Day 3-7 Hazards Outlook

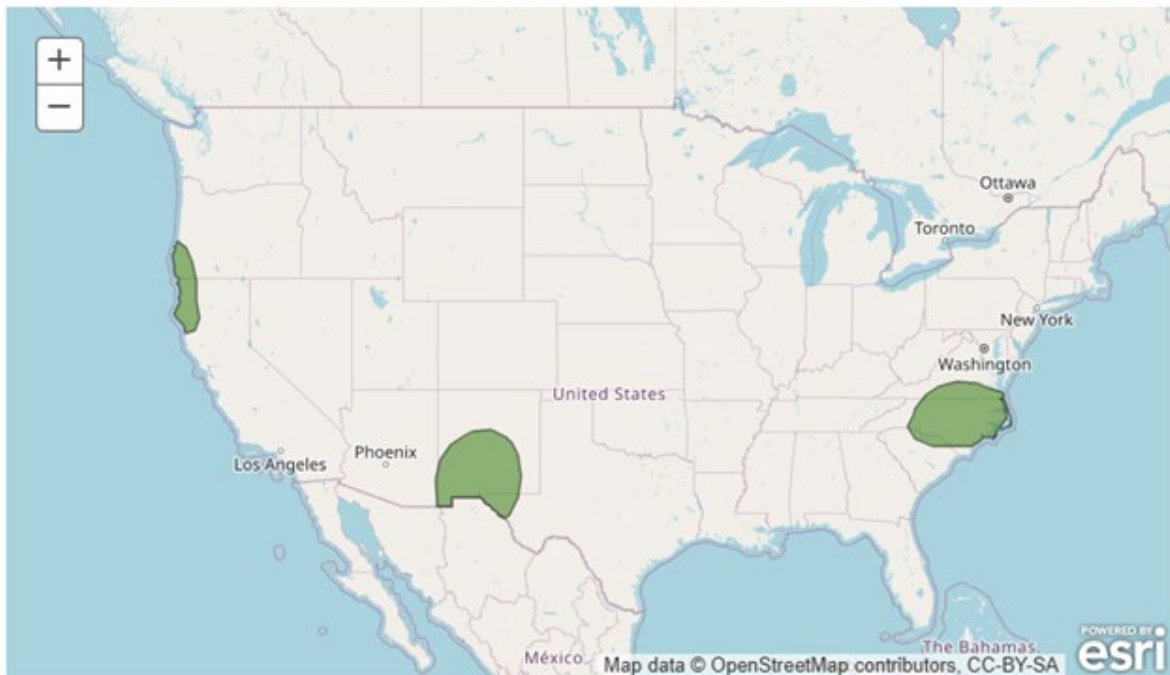
[About the Hazards Outlook](#)

Created September 25, 2025

Precipitation	☒
Temperature	☒
Wildfires	☒
Soils	☐
Flooding	☐

Valid September 28, 2025 - October 02, 2025

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

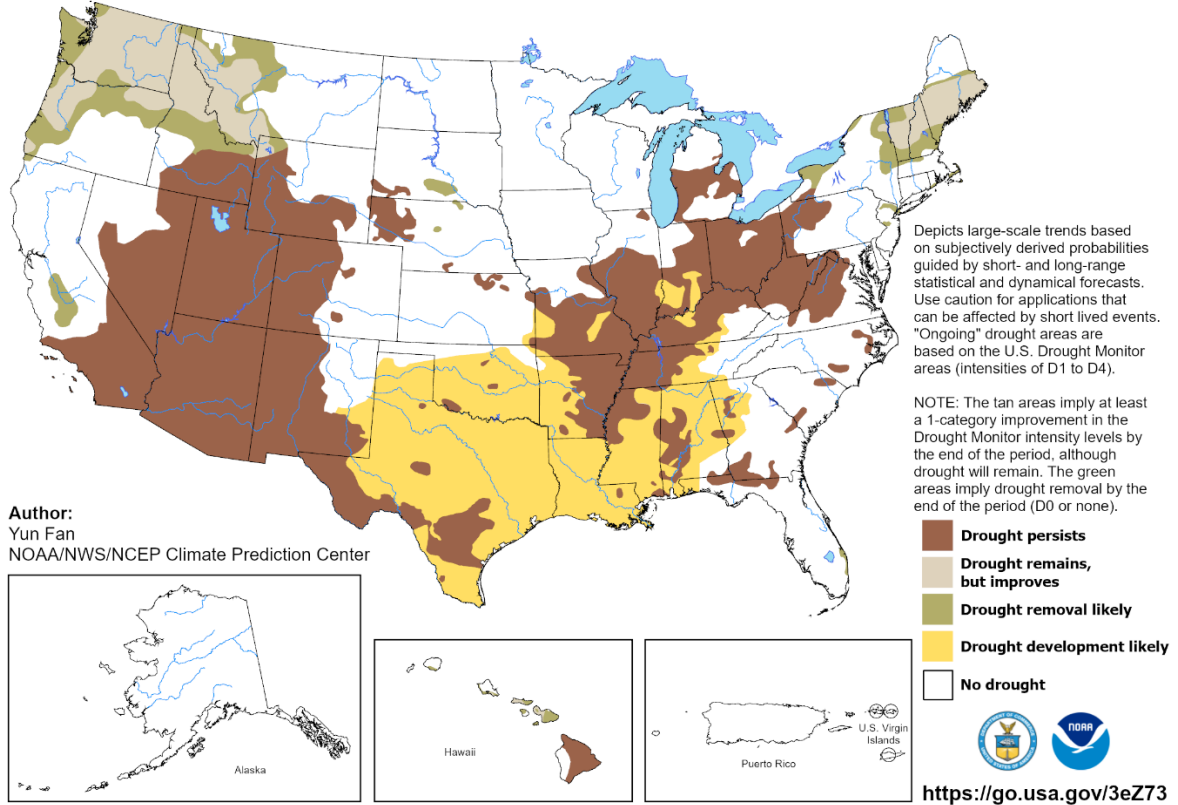


Seasonal Drought Outlook: [September 18 – December 31, 2025](#)

Source: National Weather Service

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

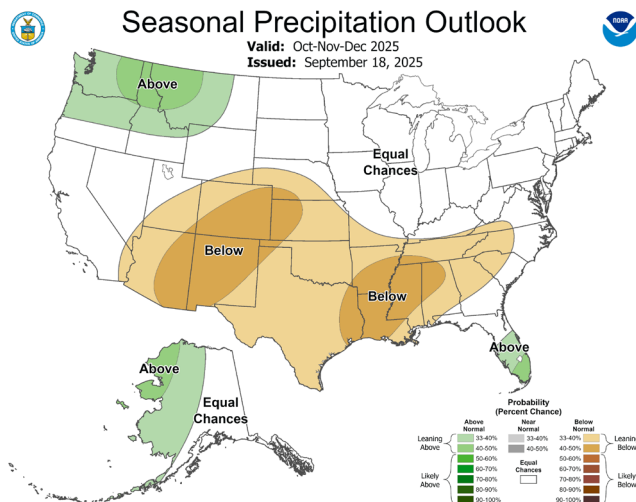
Valid for September 18 - December 31, 2025
Released September 18, 2025



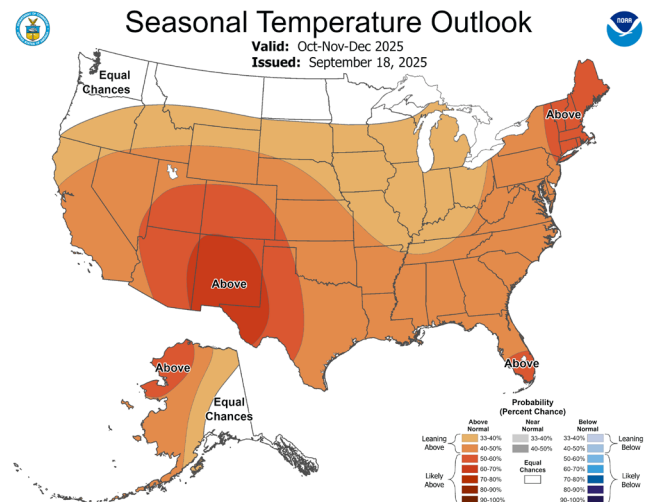
Climate Prediction Center Three-month Outlook

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](#).