



Drought Information Statement for Western and Central North Dakota

Valid November 25, 2024

Issued By: WFO Bismarck, North Dakota

Contact Information: w-bis.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated in January 2025 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
 - See all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
 - Visit: <https://www.weather.gov/BIS/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Visit: https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/?dews_region=41 for regional drought status updates.
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- Abnormally Dry to Extreme Drought conditions are ongoing across western North Dakota.



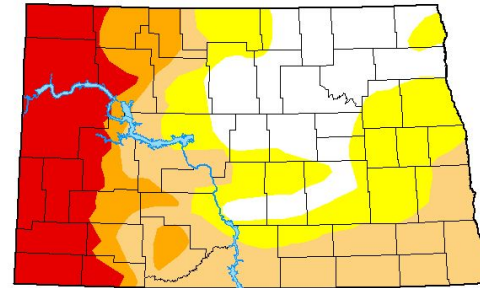


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for North Dakota

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Most of western North Dakota, from Divide County southward through western parts of Dunn, Stark, Hettinger and Adams Counties
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):** Parts of western into south central North Dakota
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Parts of western North Dakota through the far south central and southeast
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Parts of central and eastern North Dakota

U.S. Drought Monitor North Dakota



November 19, 2024
(Released Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	22.17	77.83	54.74	28.80	19.38	0.00
Last Week 11-12-2024	22.19	77.81	54.77	32.22	19.38	0.00
3 Months Ago 08-20-2024	72.78	27.22	10.13	0.04	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2024	70.11	29.89	15.72	6.78	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	47.89	52.11	25.17	12.68	3.39	0.00
One Year Ago 11-21-2023	65.42	34.58	15.75	6.78	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>

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CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



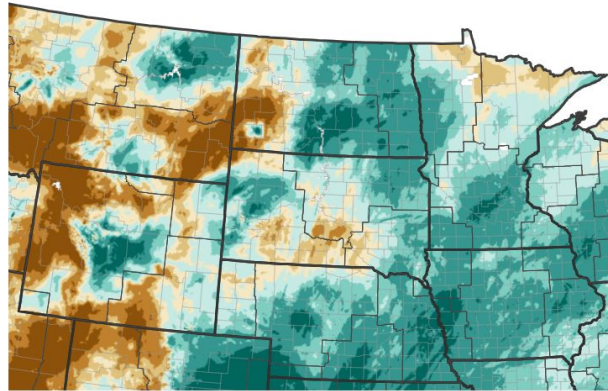
droughtmonitor.unl.edu



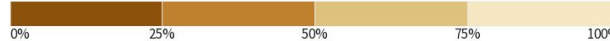
Precipitation

- Below normal precipitation continues to afflict western North Dakota.
- The good news is that the region is now entering the snow accumulation season, and a near normal snowpack come next spring will mitigate many of the impacts associated with the current drought.

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation

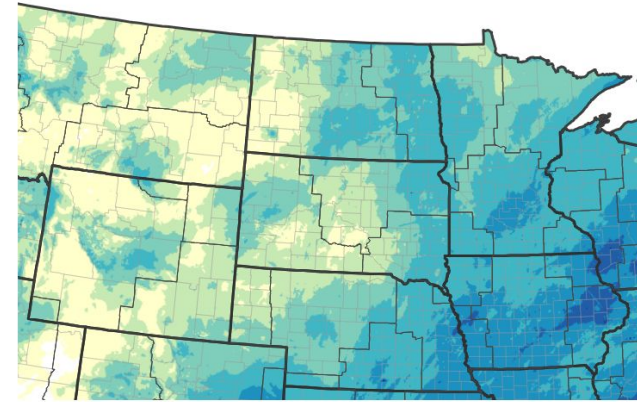


Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)

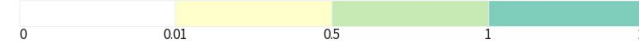


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 11/25/24

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: 11/25/24





Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- The USGS stream gages show numerous streams in western North Dakota have streamflow in the low single digits to 24th percentile. If the dry soils persist into spring, this will lower runoff expectations from a given snowpack during the spring snowmelt season.

Agricultural Impacts

- Very dry conditions contributed to the rapid spread of wildfires. Losses to crops, livestock, machinery, farmsteads and outbuildings were reported by local and state emergency management.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- After suffering a significant wildfire outbreak in October, conditions have slightly improved. The risk of wildfires will decrease as snow cover increases.

Other Impacts

- Loss of numerous hay reserves and forage due to wildfires has caused localized hay shortages.

Mitigation Actions

- Burn restrictions are in place for many counties. One should check with their local authorities for specifics in their area.

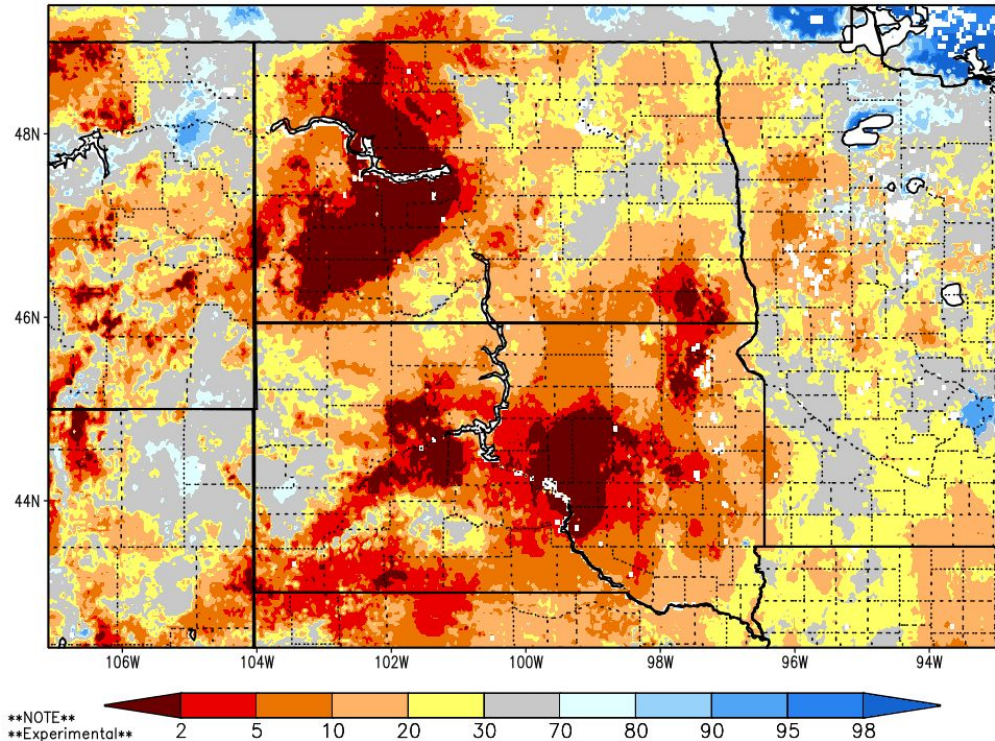




Agricultural Impacts

SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 24 Nov 2024

- Soil moisture deficiencies exist across most of North Dakota.
- Recent below normal temperatures in western North Dakota are sending soil temperatures below freezing.
- Cold soils inhibit infiltration of moisture. This suggests most of western North Dakota will preserve the below normal soil moisture until the spring snowmelt season.

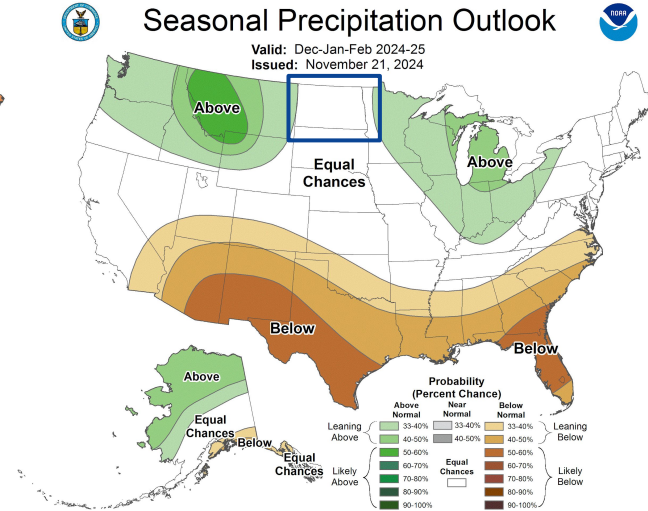
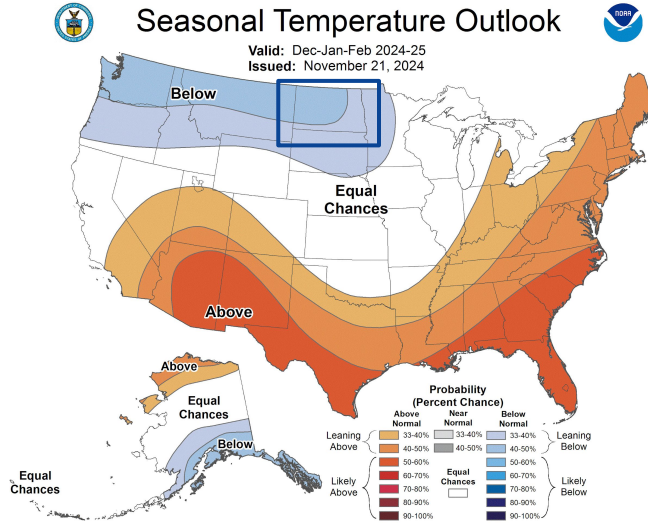




Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Colder than normal temperatures are favored across North Dakota during winter (Dec-Jan-Feb), with no strong signal in regards to precipitation.



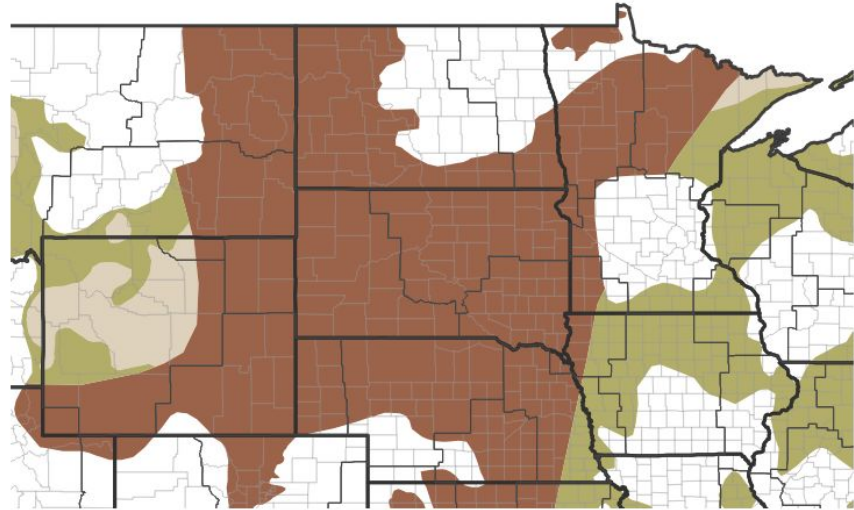


Drought Outlook

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

- The longer term trend of expanding drought conditions will most likely slow down even as drought persists going forward.
- The next milestone in the region's drought will be the onset of the snow accumulation season in late November to early December. At that point the impacts will remain largely in suspended animation until the spring thaw.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for November 21, 2024–February 28, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 11/21/24

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Bismarck, ND