



Drought Information Statement for Central, Southern Minnesota and Western Wisconsin

Valid February 2, 2024

Issued By: NWS Twin Cities / Chanhassen MN

Contact Information: nws.twincities@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated on the third Thursday of the month, 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/MPX/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





U.S. Drought Monitor - NWS Twin Cities Region

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

Key Messages

- Drought conditions continue to linger after this past summer's drought

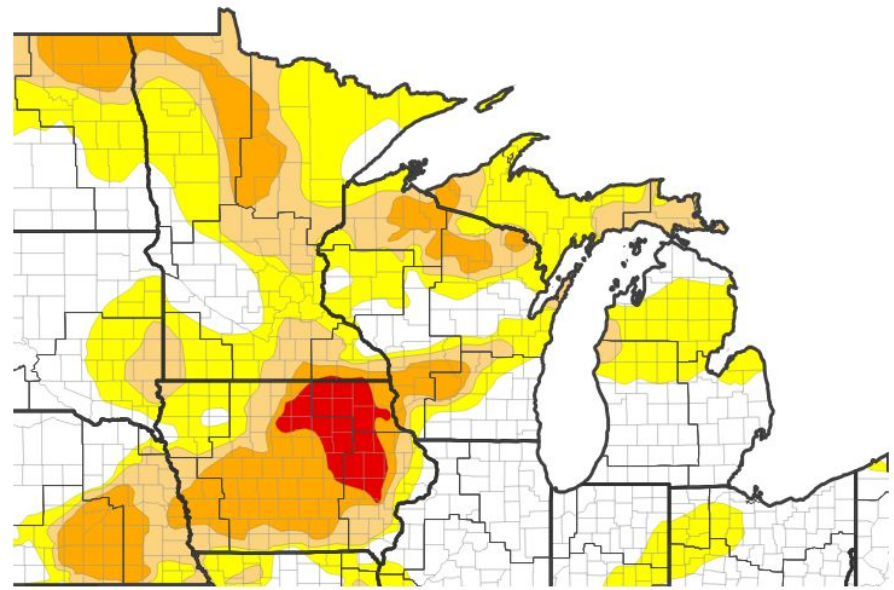
Drought intensity and extent

- D2 (Severe drought): The southeast half of Freeborn county remain in a D2 Drought.
- D1 (Moderate drought): Remains in much of central Minnesota from St. Cloud to the northern Twin Cities metro, across portions of south-central and southeast Minnesota, and a small portion of north-central Rusk county in Wisconsin
- D0 (Abnormally dry): Covers most of central, eastern, and southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin not in D1 or D2 drought

Next Scheduled Update

- Thursday, February 15th, 2024

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source: Drought.gov

Valid 1/23/2024

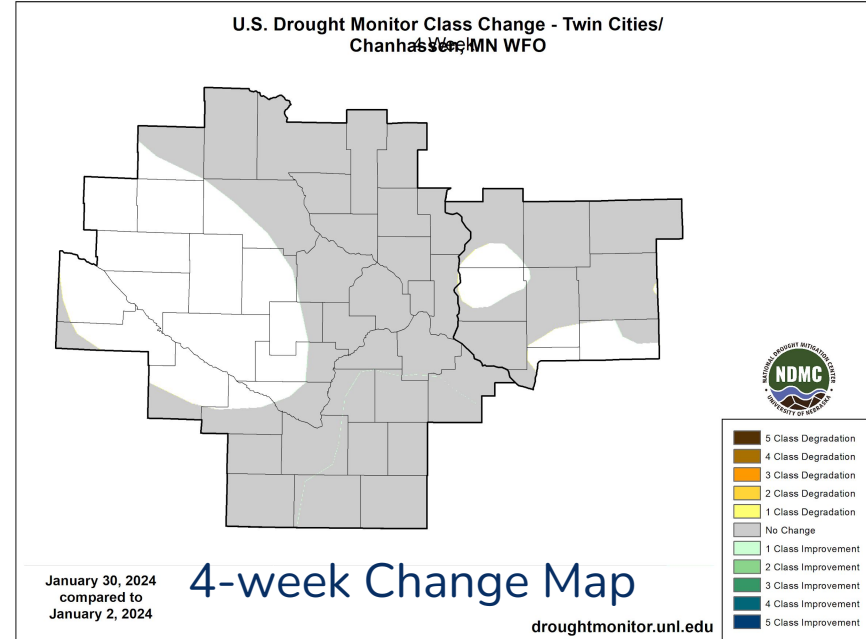
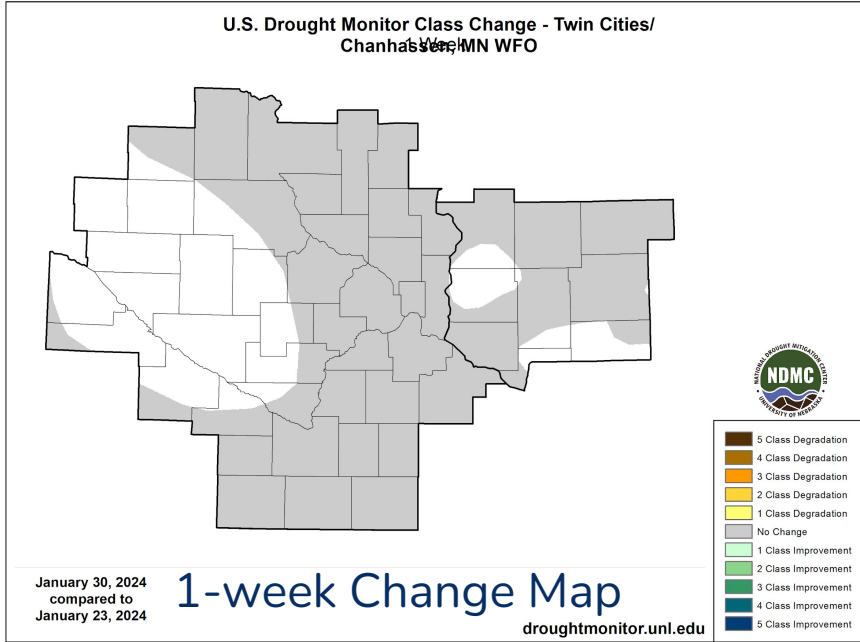




Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [1-week change map](#) and [4-week change map](#) for the NWS Twin Cities Region

- Since the heavy rains at the end of December, the drought across the region has remained unchanged.



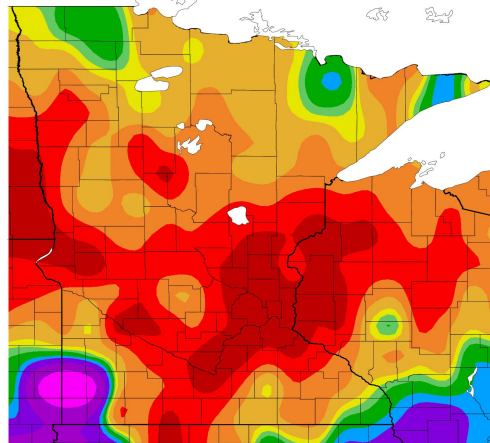


Precipitation Departures

1-month and 9-month percent of normal precipitation

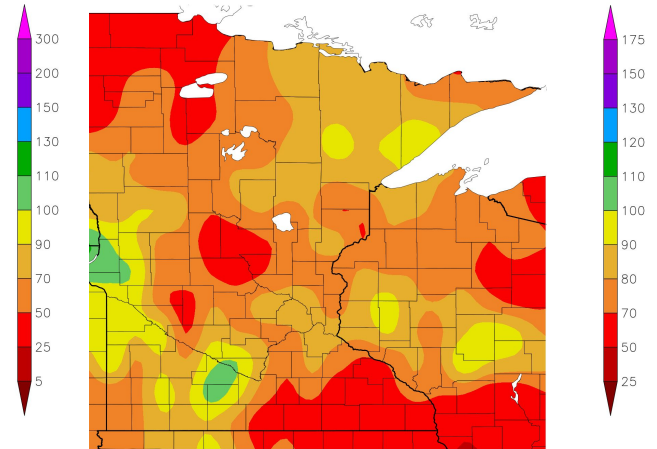
- Since heavy rains around Christmas, we have slipped back into a dry pattern.
- Long term deficits going back to the spring and summer of 2023 remain.
- Though we are in a pronounced snow drought this winter, heavy winter rains have led to near to above normal observed precipitation so far this winter.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
1/2/2024 – 1/31/2024



Generated 2/1/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
5/1/2023 – 1/31/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers - HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers



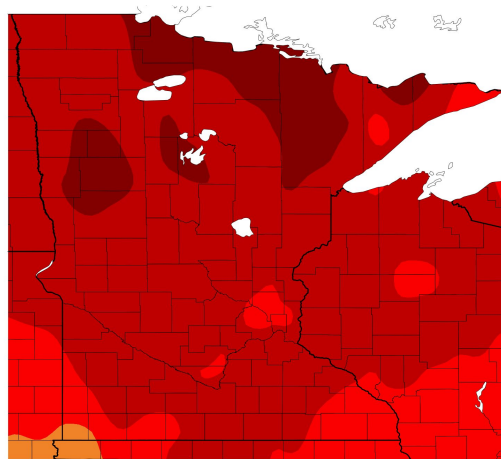


Temperature Departure

1-week and 1-month temperature departure

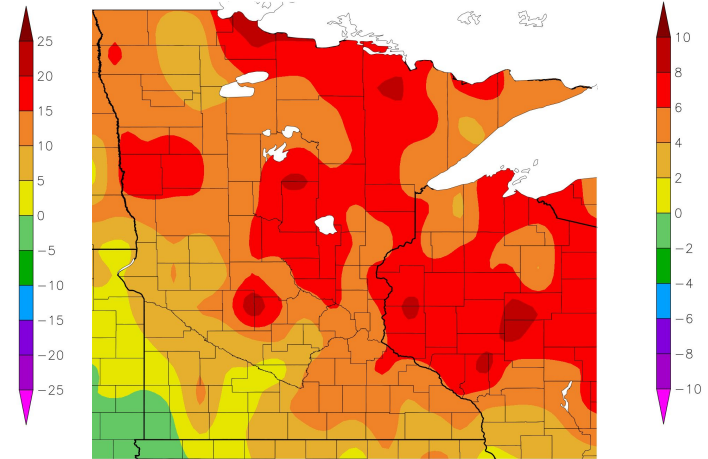
- Other than a week in mid-January, temperatures have continued to run well above normal this winter.
- Record highs were observed on January 31st, with more record highs possible from Tuesday the 6th through Thursday the 8th.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/26/2024 – 2/1/2024



Generated 2/2/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/2/2024 – 1/31/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 24 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Winter rains have continued to slowly help to improve hydrologic conditions. The lack of snow cover through January is helping lead to a low risk of flooding this spring at this time.

Agricultural Impacts

- Outside of the growing season. December rain events will help replenish some of the soil moisture lost in November, but if we remain snow free, we will be susceptible to seeing increased soil moisture losses from exposure to the wind.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- With the loss of snow cover across central and southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin, an at least small wildfire risk has returned. Though it does not sound like much, there is typically no wildfire risk this time of year due to the presence of snow cover.

Other Impacts

- No other remaining significant impacts

Mitigation activities

- None currently in place

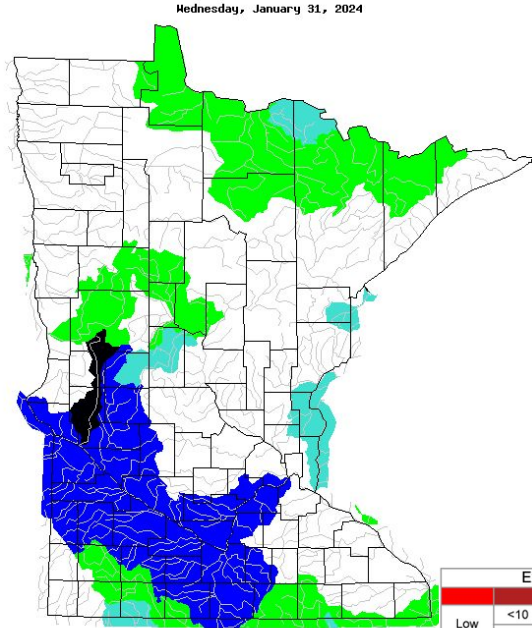




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Average streamflow for the past 7 days

- Stream flows across MN and WI are near normal, with some lingering ice impacts



USGS

Image Caption: USGS 7-day Streamflow departure from normal for MN. Valid January 31, 2024

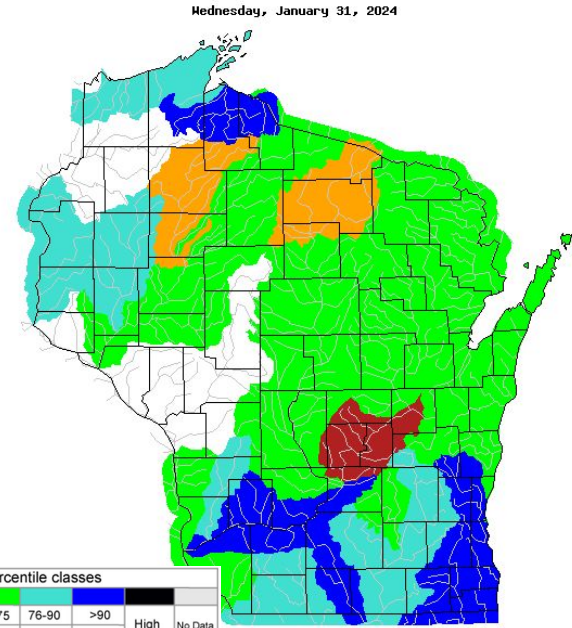


Image Caption: USGS 7-day Streamflow departure from normal for WI. Valid January 31, 2024



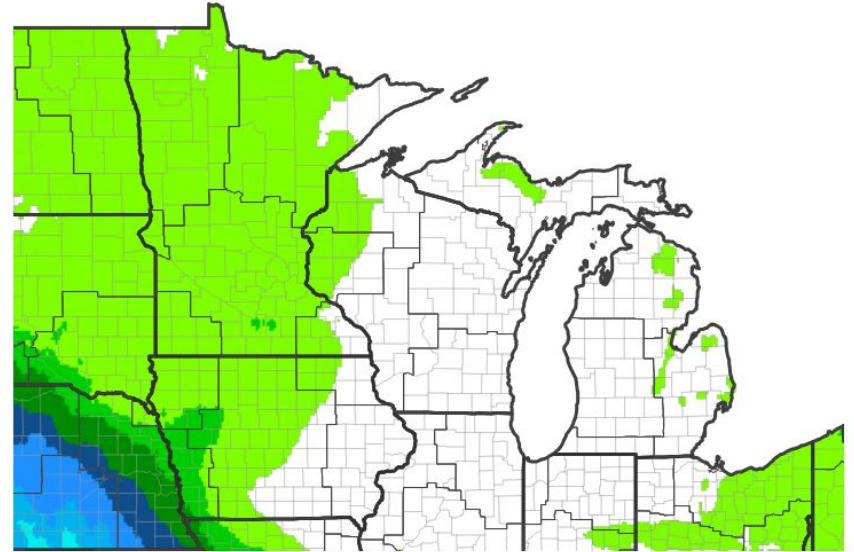


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

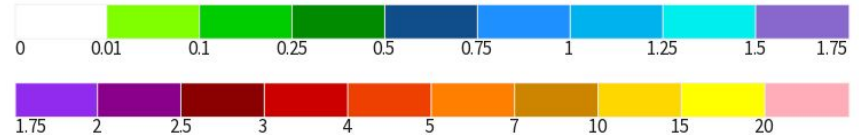
[WPC 7-day precipitation forecast](#)

- No precipitation is expected until the end of next week (Feb. 8-9)

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Data Valid: 02/01/24

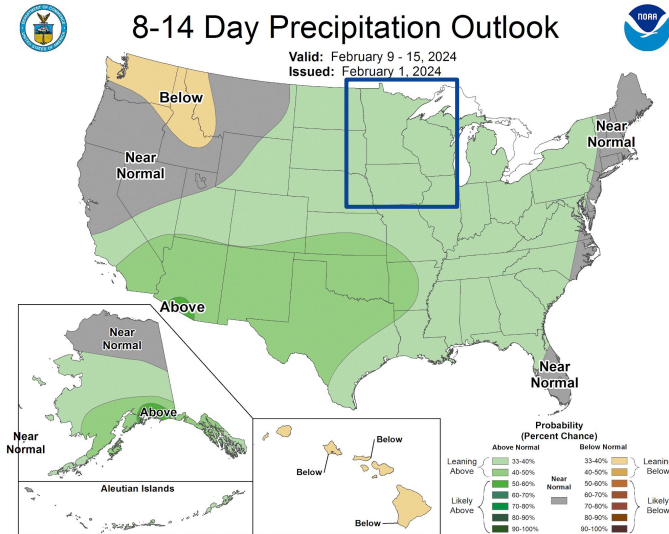
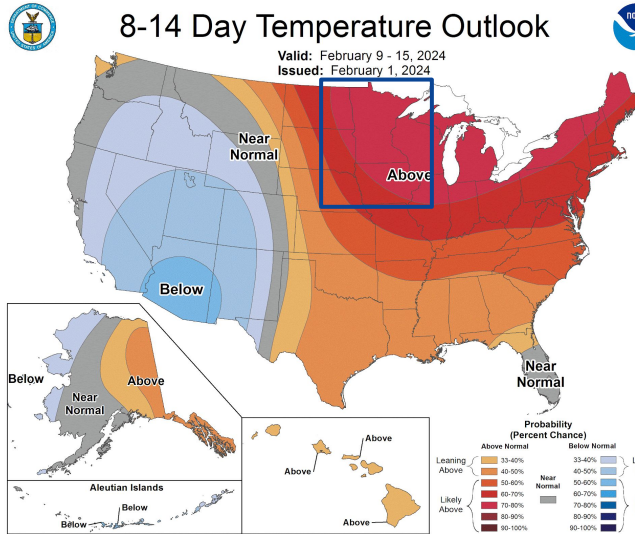




8-14 Day Outlooks

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

- Temperatures will run well above normal through the first half of February
- The slightly increased above normal precipitation chances for the 9th through the 15th are being driven by precipitation chances on the 9th.



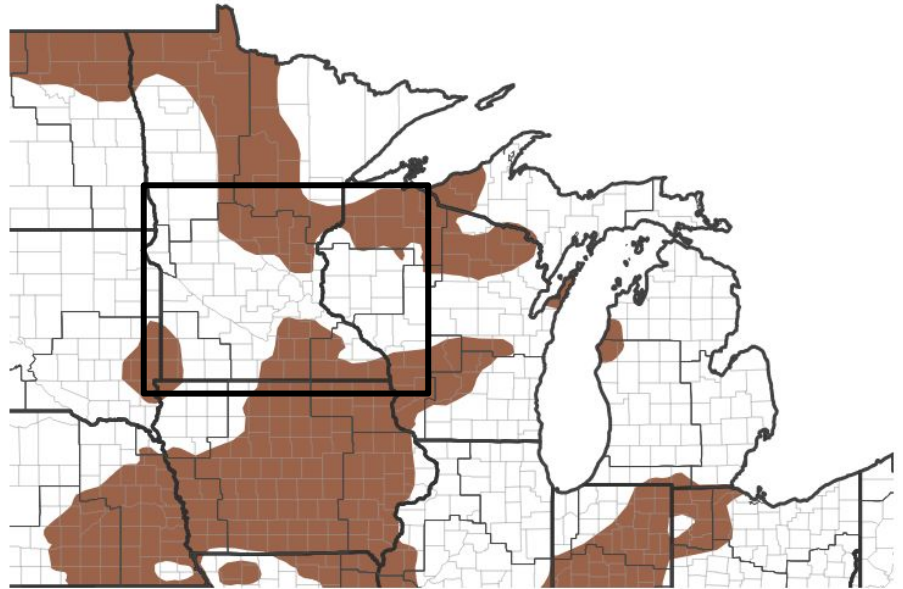


Drought Outlook

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

- What is left of the drought is expected to mostly persist through February
- It is normal for little change in drought conditions to occur in the winter months across the upper Mississippi River Valley due to the lack of precipitation we receive when compared to the warm season.
 - For example, we average about 3 inches of liquid equivalent precipitation for December through February combined, for June through August, this same number is about 13 inches.

1-Month Drought Outlook



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source: Drought.gov

Valid 12/21/2023

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)





Drought Definitions and State Resources

What do those categories mean?

Drought Category Definitions:

D0	Abnormally Dry	Going into drought: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-term dryness slowing planting, growth of crops or pastures 	Coming out of drought: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some lingering water deficits Pastures or crops not fully recovered
D1	Moderate Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some damage to crops, pastures Streams, reservoirs, or wells low, some water shortages developing or imminent Voluntary water-use restrictions requested 	
D2	Severe Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crop or pasture losses likely Water shortages common Water restrictions imposed 	
D3	Extreme Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major crop/pasture losses Widespread water shortages or restrictions 	
D4	Exceptional Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceptional and widespread crop/pasture losses Shortages of water in reservoirs, streams, and wells creating water emergencies 	

Comprehensive Drought Information for Minnesota: <http://www.drought.gov/state/minnesota>

Comprehensive Drought Information for Wisconsin: <http://www.drought.gov/state/wisconsin>

These sites contain links to resources from each state, to help you dive into drought information in more detail.

