

Drought Information Statement for Eastern/Central VA, NE NC and Lower MD Eastern Shore

Valid December 20, 2024

Issued By: NWS Wakefield, VA

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated January 10, 2025 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/AKQ/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Questions or comments can be sent to jonathan.mcgee@noaa.gov

- SEVERE DROUGHT (D2) CONTINUES FOR PORTIONS OF THE LOWER MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE AND THE NORTHERN NECK OF VIRGINIA
- MODERATE DROUGHT (D1) CONTINUES FOR FAR EASTERN VIRGINIA AND PORTIONS OF SOUTH-CENTRAL VIRGINIA AND NORTHEAST NORTH CAROLINA



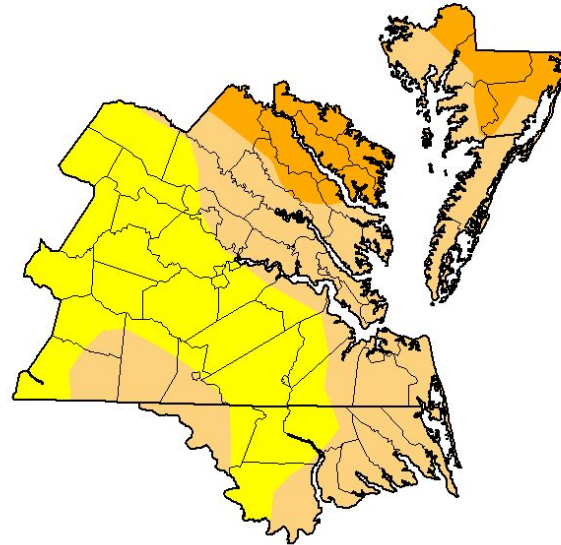


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Portions of Lower MD Eastern Shore and the Northern Neck of Virginia.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Far eastern Virginia and portions of south-central Virginia and northeast North Carolina.

U.S. Drought Monitor Wakefield, VA WFO



December 17, 2024
(Released Thursday, Dec. 19, 2024)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	57.56	13.41	0.00	0.00
Last Week 12-10-2024	0.00	100.00	100.00	20.00	2.81	0.00
3 Months Ago 09-17-2024	35.04	64.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	82.11	17.89	2.47	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	83.76	16.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 12-19-2023	66.30	33.70	7.46	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:



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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National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

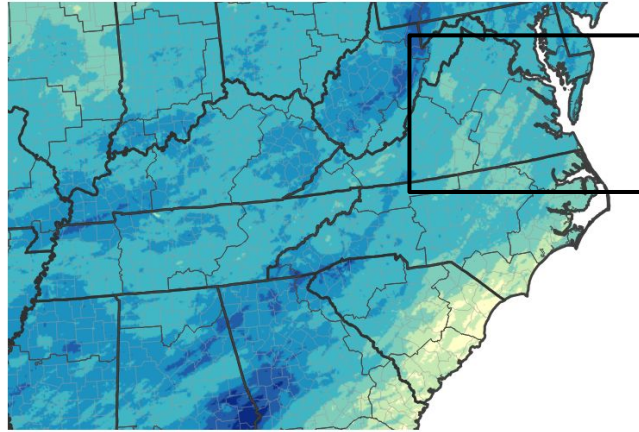
National Weather Service
Wakefield, VA



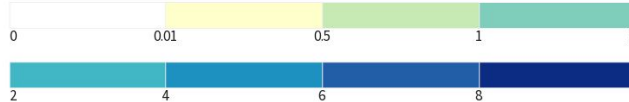
Precipitation

- Below normal precipitation has been observed during the past 30 days over the majority of the region.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

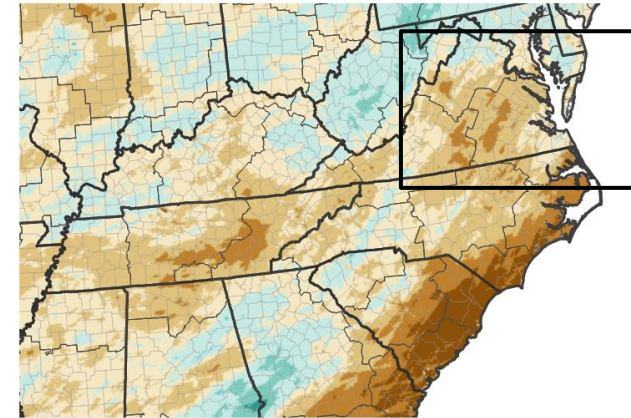


Inches of Precipitation

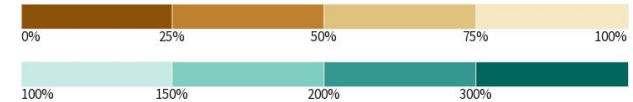


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 12/19/24

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: 12/19/24





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Below normal to much-below-normal streamflow levels are found across the York, Rappahannock and lower Potomac River basins in eastern Virginia and also across the lower Maryland Eastern Shore.

Mitigation Actions

- State of Virginia continues the drought watch for much of eastern Virginia and also portions of northern Virginia, including the Shenandoah Valley.
- State of Maryland continues the drought warning for the Eastern Shore.
- A drought advisory is in effect for all of northeast North Carolina.

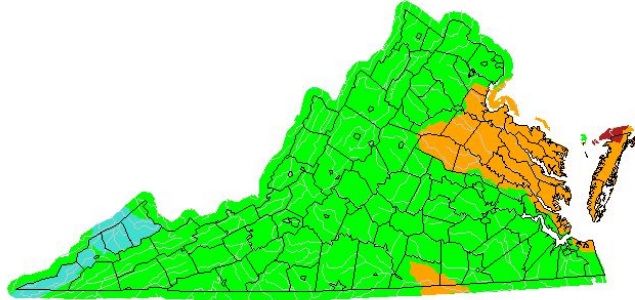




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Below to much-below-normal streamflows are currently observed across the VA/MD Eastern Shore and the lower Potomac, Rappahannock and York River basins.
- Near-normal streamflows are found across the James River Basin and much of the Chowan River basin.

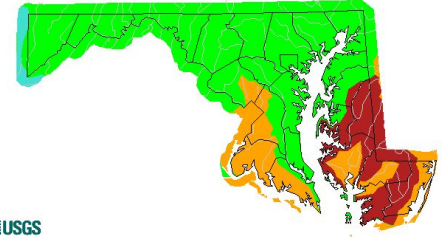
Hednesday, December 18, 2024



USGS

Virginia

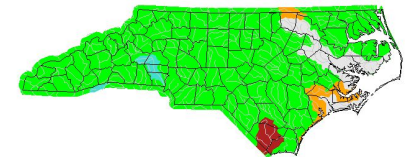
Hednesday, December 18, 2024



USGS

MD

Hednesday, December 18, 2024



USGS

NC

Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid 12/04/2024

Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

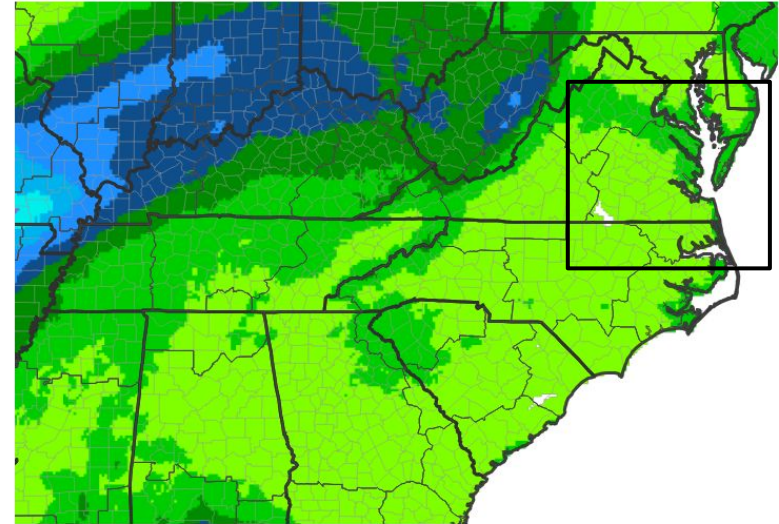




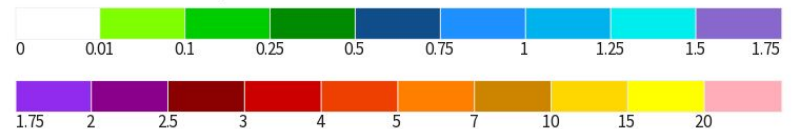
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Although most places will see light precipitation over the next week, significant precipitation causing improvement to the drought conditions is unlikely. Most places will see less than 0.25" of rain for the next 7 days.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for December 19, 2024–December 26, 2024



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 12/19/24



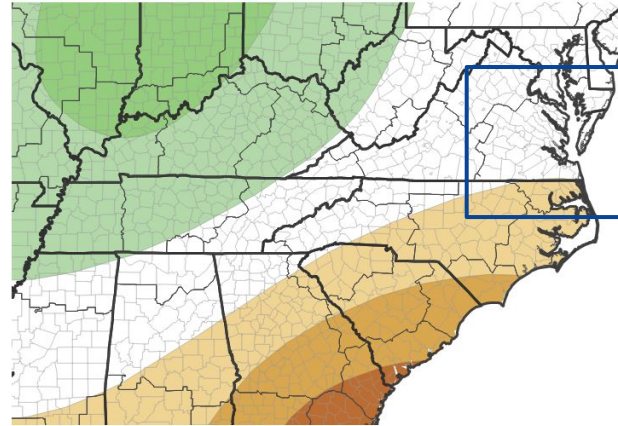


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Near- to below normal precipitation is favored during January 2025.
- Above normal temperatures are favored during January 2025.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for January 1, 2025–January 31, 2025



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

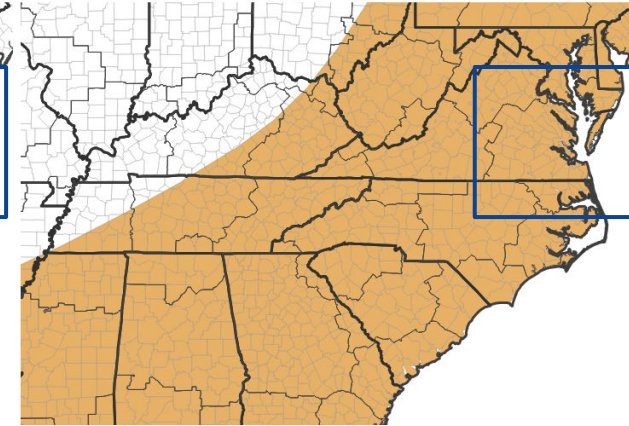


Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Monthly Temperature Outlook for January 1, 2025–January 31, 2025



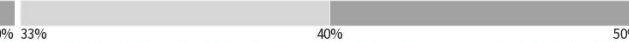
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Last Updated: 12/19/24 Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 12/19/24



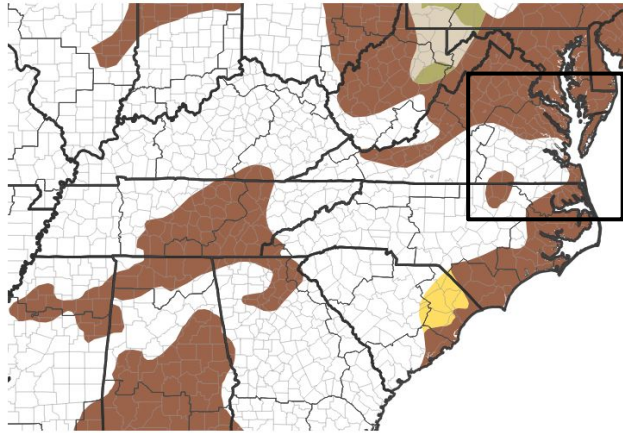


Drought Outlook

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

- During December, drought conditions are expected to persist over much of the region.
- Throughout the winter, drought conditions are generally expected to persist across the region.

1-Month Drought Outlook for December 1, 2024–December 31, 2024



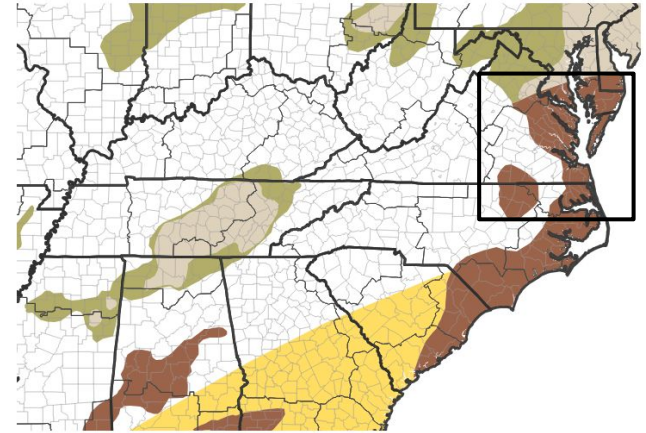
Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 11/30/24

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for December 19, 2024–March 31, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 12/19/24

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
Wakefield, VA