Drought Information Statement for Western and Central North Dakota

Valid April 10, 2025

Issued By: WFO Bismarck, North Dakota

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

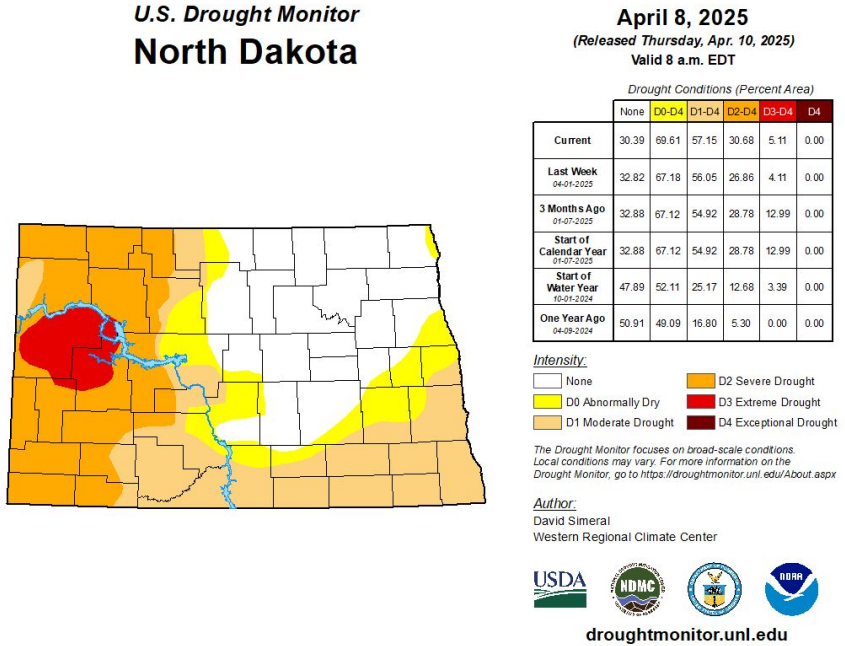
- This product will be updated in May 2025.
- See all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Visit: https://www.weather.gov/BIS/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Visit: https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/?dews_region=41 for regional drought status updates.

- Severe to Extreme Drought conditions are ongoing across western North Dakota.
- Abnormally Dry to Moderate Drought conditions extend across parts of central North Dakota.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for North Dakota

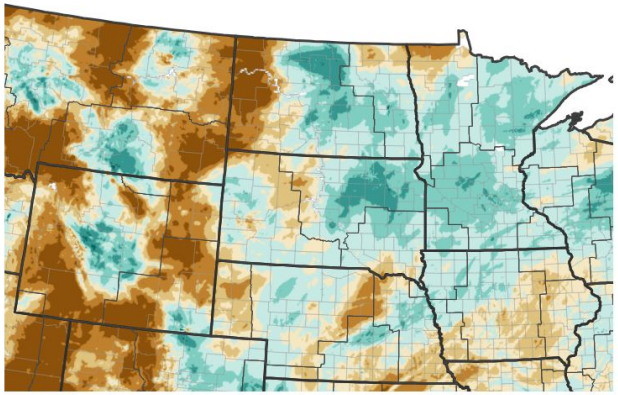
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Parts of western North Dakota, including McKenzie and Dunn Counties, extending into parts of Billings and Mountrail Counties
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Most of western and into parts of central North Dakota, from Divide to Renville Counties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



Precipitation

- Recent precipitation has favored central and eastern North Dakota, with western North Dakota receiving well below normal amounts of moisture.
- This lack of moisture has left water supply features lower than normal, delayed normal spring greening of the countryside, and produced an unusually active spring wildfire season.

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)

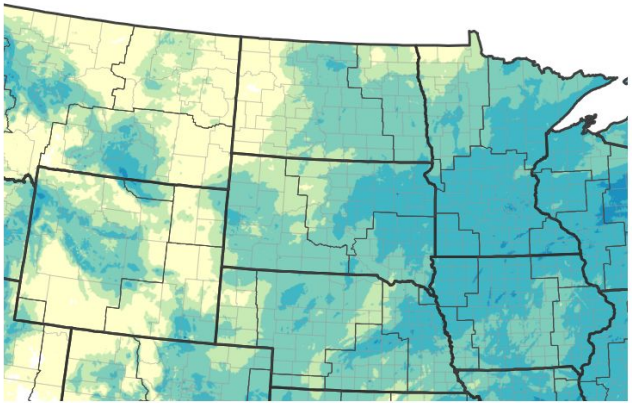
0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

100% 150% 200% 300%

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 04/10/25

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



Inches of Precipitation

0 0.01 0.5 1 2

2 4 6 8

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 04/10/25

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Dry soils will continue to minimize runoff from modest precipitation events. Nominal runoff will keep streams at lower than desired levels for the foreseeable future.

Agricultural Impacts

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

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Dry conditions have contributed to an unusually lengthy and active spring wildfire season.

Other Impacts

- Loss of hay reserves and forage due to wildfires continues to contribute to 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.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflow tends to be in the lower end of normal, to well below normal for this time of the year.
- Some water supply features are not expected to fill this year.
- Lower than normal water levels will likely impact ecological health of streams, including the critical spawning season for many native fish species.

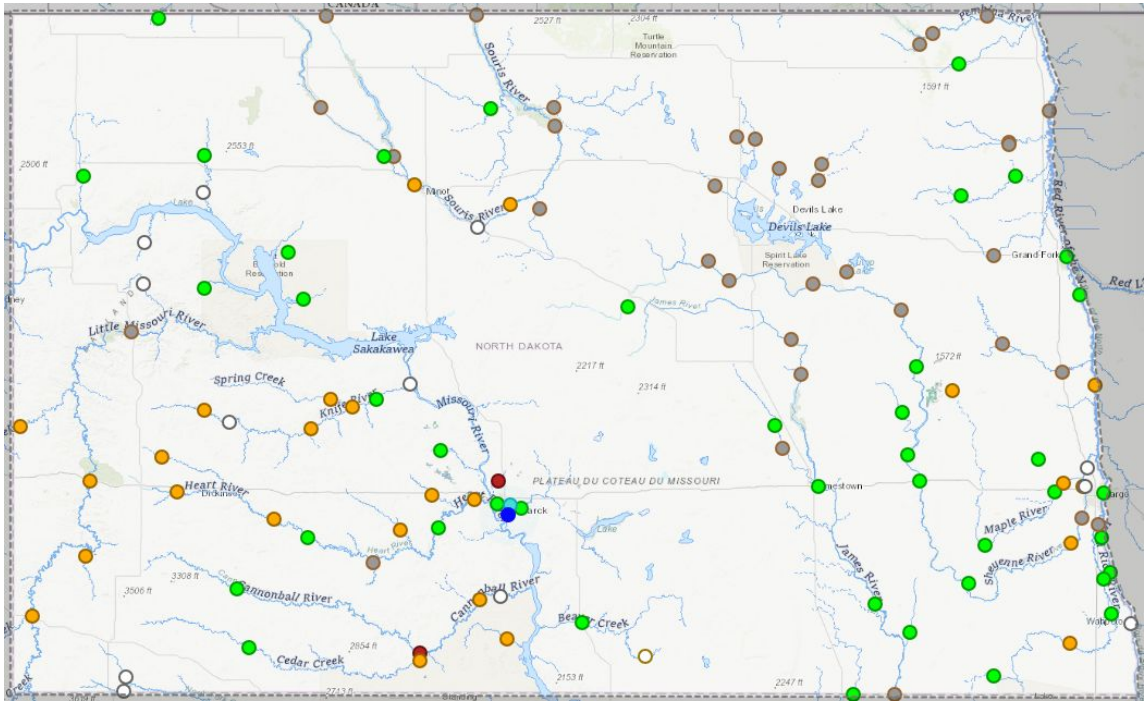
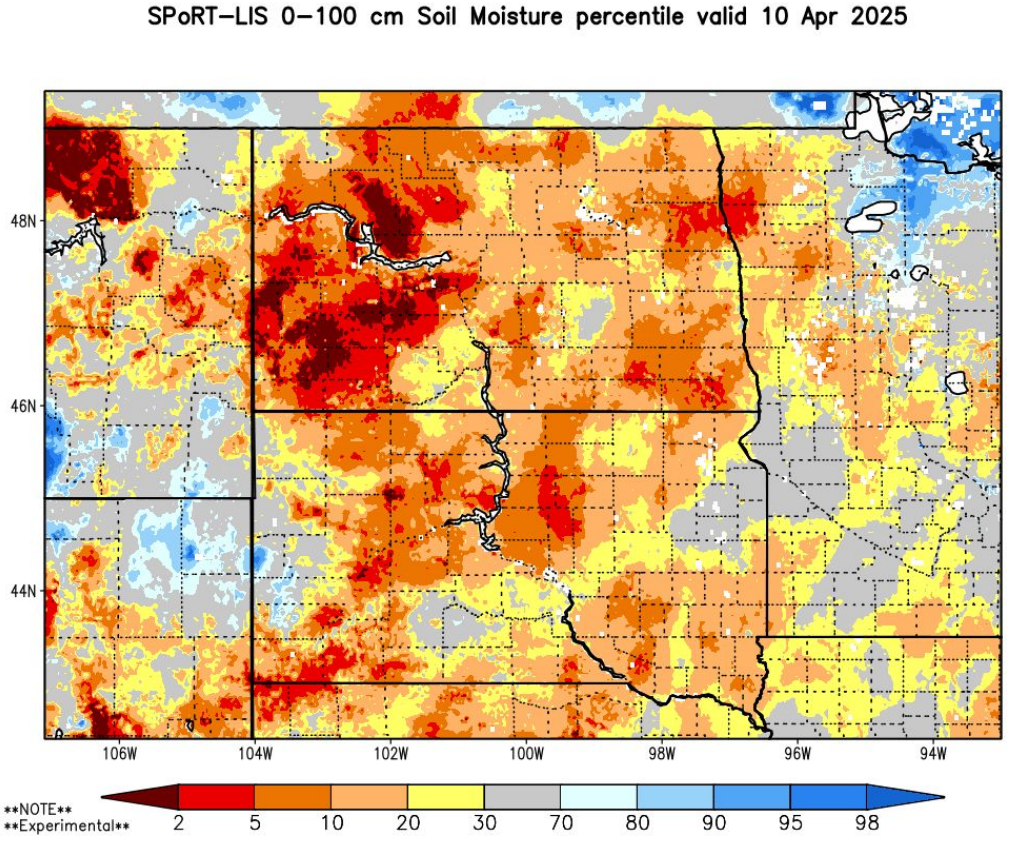


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid 10 April, 2025

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		

Agricultural Impacts

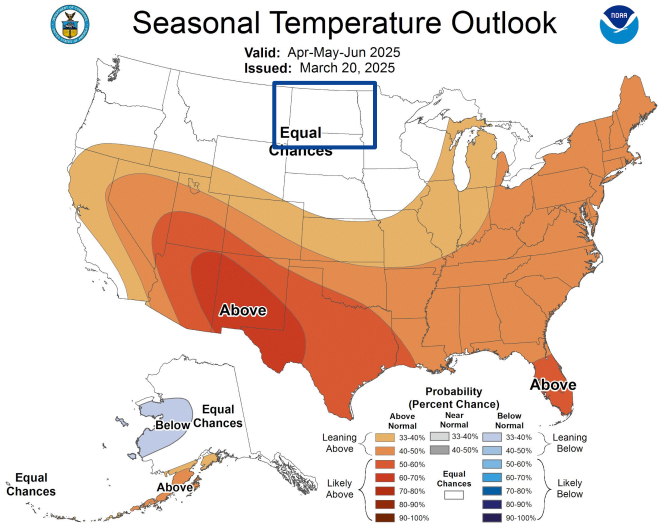
- Soil moisture deficiencies exist across most of North Dakota.
- A lack of soil moisture has delayed the normal spring green-up season in western North Dakota, even in areas where soil temperatures are conducive to plant growth.

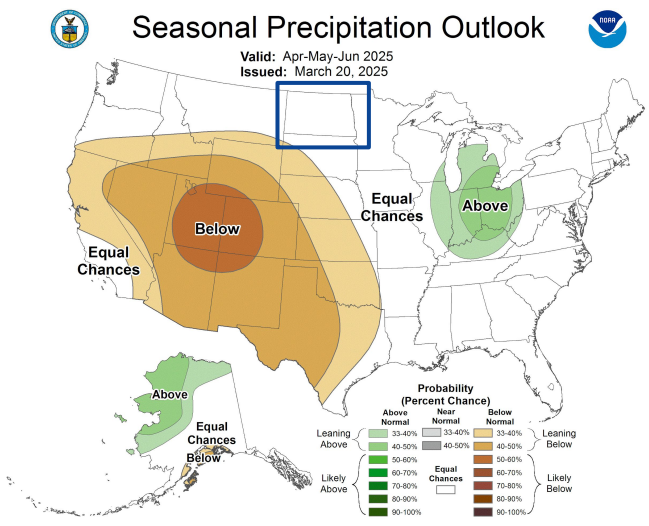


Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- The late spring outlooks for April, May, and June put the region in the Equal Chances category for Above Normal, Near Normal, or Below Normal temperatures and precipitation.



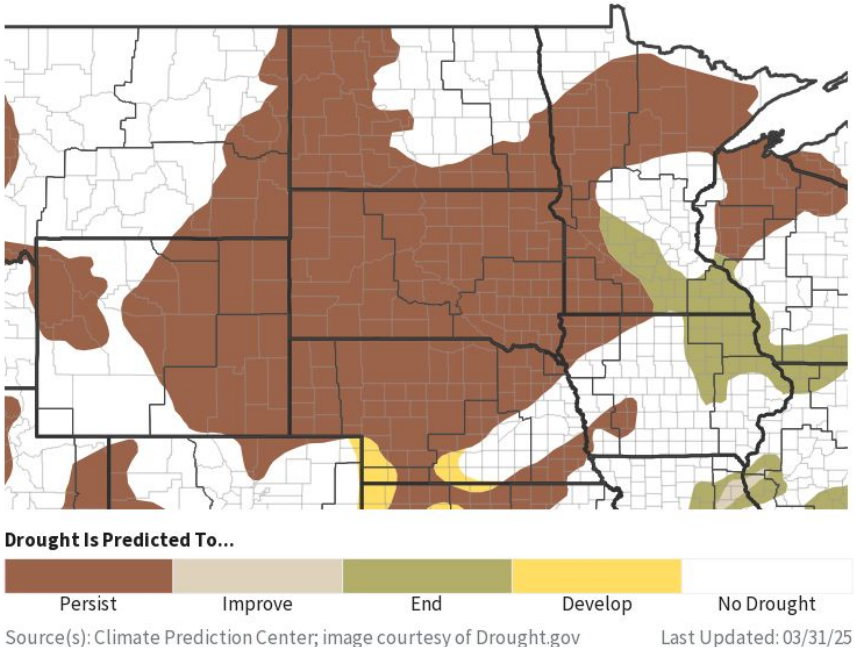


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- After remaining fairly constant through winter, the onset of warmer temperatures and lower than normal precipitation suggests drought designations are likely to persist, if not worsen and expand.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for March 31, 2025–June 30, 2025



Links to the latest:
CPC Monthly Drought Outlook
CPC Seasonal Drought Outlook