



Drought Information Statement for Deep South Texas

Valid September 21, 2023

Issued By: NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX

Contact Information: sr-bro.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated October 6, 2023 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/bro/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





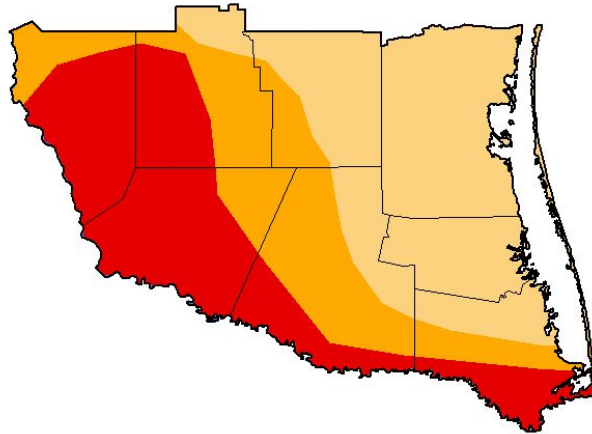
U.S. Drought Monitor

[Latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Drought Intensity and Extent

- Extreme Drought (D3) conditions now cover over 33% of Deep South Texas, including most of the southern border through the Rio Grande Valley.
- Severe Drought (D2) conditions now cover 26% of Deep South Texas, including portions of the brush country and Rio Grande Valley.
- Moderate Drought (D1) conditions have expanded to cover the remaining 40% of Deep South Texas.

U.S. Drought Monitor Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX WFO



September 19, 2023

(Released Thursday, Sep. 21, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	0.00	0.00	40.46	26.09	33.45	0.00
Last Week 09-12-2023	0.00	10.95	27.94	29.11	32.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-20-2023	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2023	42.76	14.71	42.53	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 09-20-2022	95.16	4.84	0.00	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>

Author:

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NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption:

[U.S. Drought Monitor for Deep South Texas](#) valid on September 21, 2023



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Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Latest U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change

Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change

- Drought worsened by 1 class across most of Starr County and along the southern border through the Rio Grande Valley.
- There has been no change in drought condition across most of Deep South Texas, including the remainder of the Rio Grande Valley and southern portions of the brush country.
- Drought improved by 1 class across portions of the northern ranchlands and northern Hidalgo County.

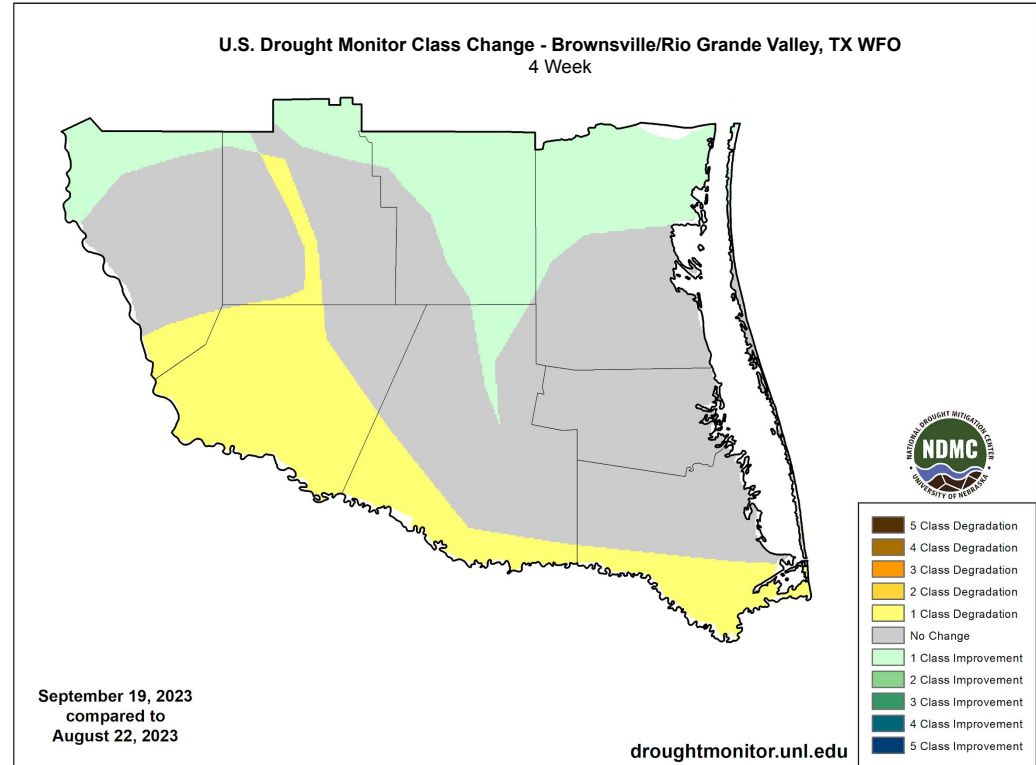


Image Caption:

[U.S. Drought Monitor 4 Week Change Map for Deep South Texas](#)

Valid on September 19, 2023



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Precipitation

Daily Climate Summary: [BRO](#) | [HRL](#) | [MFE](#)

- Tropical Storm Harold and recent thunderstorms across the brush country have brought the bulk of the rainfall over the past 30 days to mainly the northern ranchlands.
- Most of the Rio Grande Valley has received less than 50% of normal rainfall over the past 30 days.
- Over the [past 90 days](#), most of Deep South Texas has received less than 75% of normal rainfall, while most of the RGV has received 25% of normal rainfall or less.

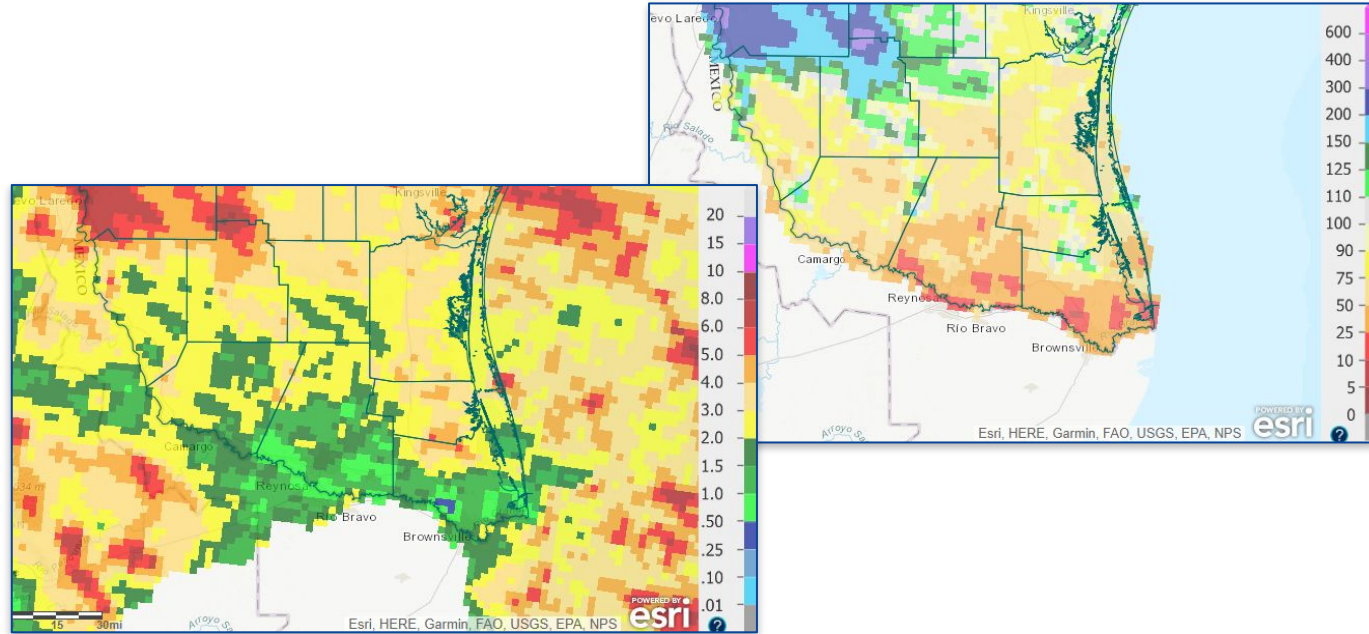


Image Captions:

Left: [Deep South Texas Precipitation \(Last 30 Days\)](#)

Right: [Deep South Texas Percent of Normal Precipitation \(Last 30 Days\)](#)

Data Courtesy [Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service \(AHPS\)](#)

Valid on September 20, 2023



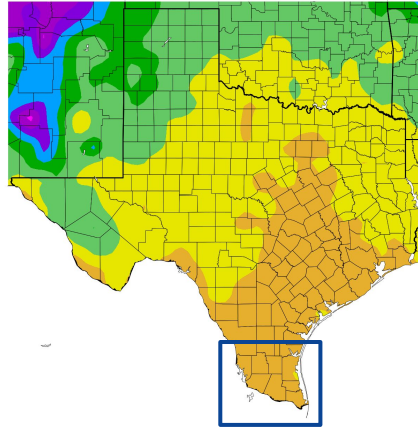


Temperature

Daily Climate Summary: [BRO](#) | [HRL](#) | [MFE](#)

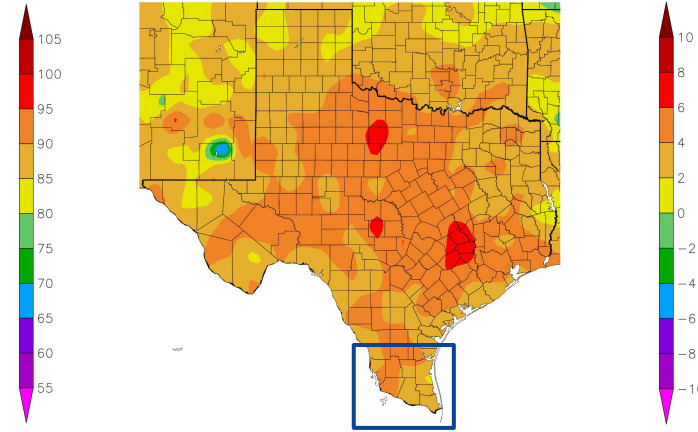
- [Average Maximum Temperatures](#) over the past 30 days across Deep South Texas have remained above normal, ranging between 95-105 degrees.
- [Average Minimum Temperatures](#) over the past 30 days across Deep South Texas have remained above normal, ranging between 70-80 degrees.
- Through next Thursday, September 28th, highs will remain above normal, with lows near to slightly above normal.

Temperature (F)
8/22/2023 - 9/20/2023



! 9/21/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/22/2023 - 9/20/2023



NOAA Regional Climat 9/21/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climat

Image Captions:

Left: [Average Temperatures \(Last 30 Days\)](#)

Right: [Departure from Normal \(Last 30 Days\)](#)

Data Courtesy [High Plains Regional Climate Center](#)

Valid on September 20, 2023



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Summary of Impacts

[View or Submit: Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) | [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows remain below normal across most basins in Deep South Texas, and water levels at Falcon Lake Reservoir are nearing historical lows for the second year in a row.

Agricultural Impacts

- Please see the latest [Crop and Weather Report](#) from Texas A&M AgriLife.
- Soil moistures have remained well below normal, generally less than the 10th percentile, while crop moistures remain severely dry across most of the Rio Grande Valley.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Wildfire activity has continued to increase and above normal wildland fire activity is expected to continue through the month of September.
- Burn bans are in effect for all of Deep South Texas.

Drought Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.
- [TCEQ Known Municipality Restrictions](#)
- Selected Municipality Restrictions: as of September 20, 2023

Hidalgo County

Agua Sud:	Stage 2
McAllen Public Utility:	Stage 2
Sharyland WSC:	Stage 1
City of Hidalgo:	Stage 2
City of Pharr:	Stage 2
City of Weslaco:	Stage 2

Cameron County

Laguna Madre:	Stage 3
Brownsville PUB:	Stage 2





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

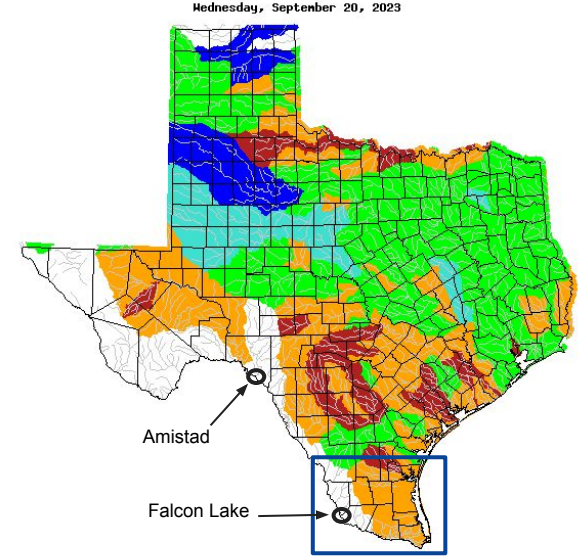
[Current Amistad Reservoir Data](#) | [Current Falcon Lake Reservoir Data](#)

- Streamflows over the past 7 days remain below normal as waterways have not been replenished from rainfall.
- Much of the streamflow across Deep South Texas is in the 10th to 24th percentile for this time of year (orange shading on the map).
- Texas water share values at Falcon Lake have dipped to near historical lows for the second year in a row.

Reservoir	Pool Elevation* (ft)	Current Elevation* (ft)	Percent Full*
Amistad	1117.00	1066.50	34.4%
Falcon Lake	301.10	257.45	9.6%

Percent Full*	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Amistad	34.7%	39.3%	42.3%
Falcon Lake	10.3%	20.3%	16.1%

* = Current Texas Water Share



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		

Image Captions:
 Left: [TWDB Reservoir](#) conditions as of September 21, 2023
 Right: [USGS 7 Day Streamflows for Texas](#) valid September 20, 2023

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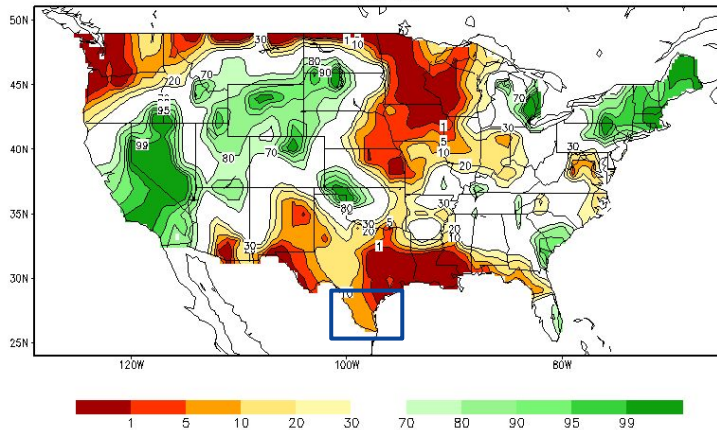


Agricultural Impacts

[Latest Crop and Weather Report from Texas A&M AgriLife](#) | [Climate Prediction Center \(CPC\) Drought Page](#)

- Soil moistures have continued to decrease, with much of the area showing well-below normal soil moisture.
- Crop moisture indices remain in the severely dry category across the Rio Grande Valley.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
SEP 20, 2023



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending SEP 16, 2023
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

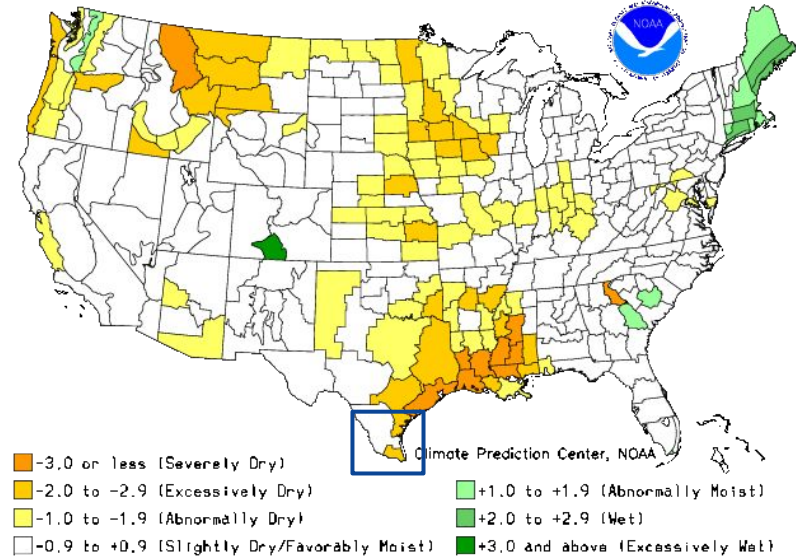


Image Captions:

Left: [CPC Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid September 20, 2023

Right: [CPC Weekly Crop Moisture Index by Division](#) valid September 16, 2023





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

[Climate Prediction Center 6-10 Day Precipitation Outlook](#) | [WPC Precipitation Forecasts](#)

- Rainfall of up to 0.01 of an inch is expected across Deep South Texas into next Thursday, September 28th, generally across the lower Texas coast, with little to no rainfall expected across the Rio Grande Valley.
- Overall, through Saturday, September 30, **near normal rainfall** is expected across Deep South Texas.

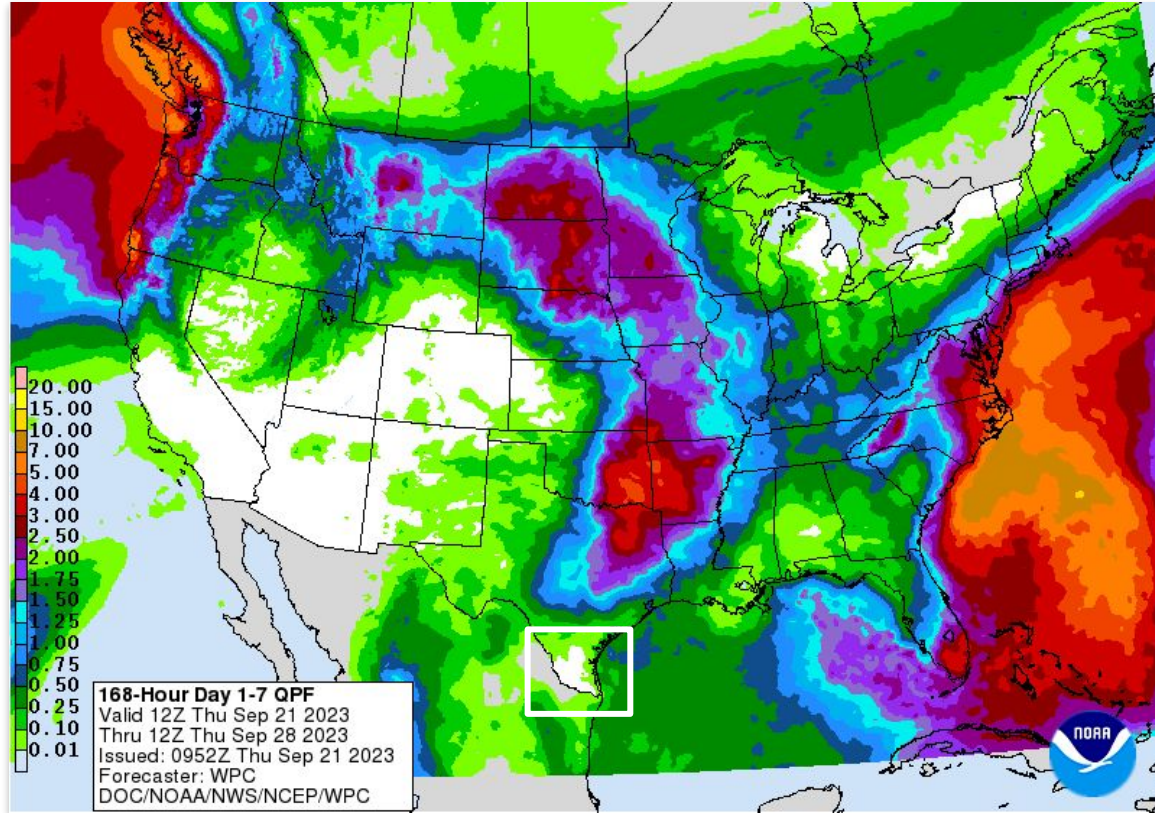


Image Caption:

[Weather Prediction Center 7-Day Precipitation Forecast](#)

Thursday, September 21 to Thursday, September 28



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Long-Range Outlooks

[CPC Seasonal Temperature Outlook](#) | [CPC Seasonal Precipitation Outlook](#)

- On average, temperatures are leaning above normal across Deep South Texas through the month of October.
- On average, an equal chance of above or below rainfall is possible across Deep South Texas through the month of October.
- Through December, temperatures are leaning above normal and chances are leaning to above normal precipitation across Deep South Texas.

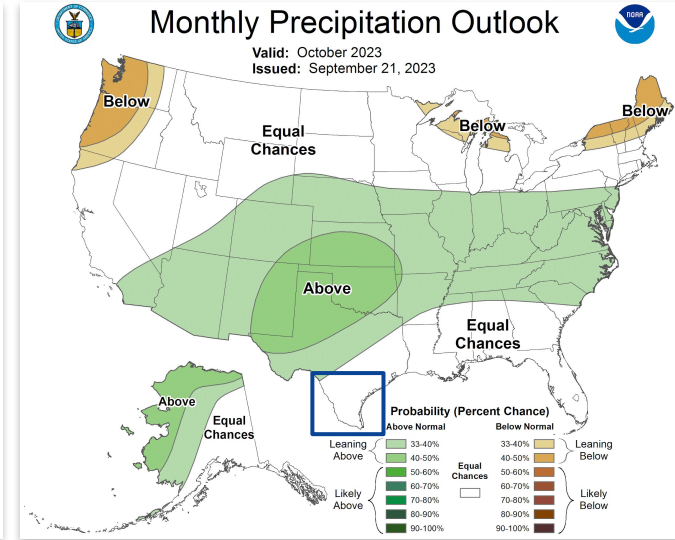
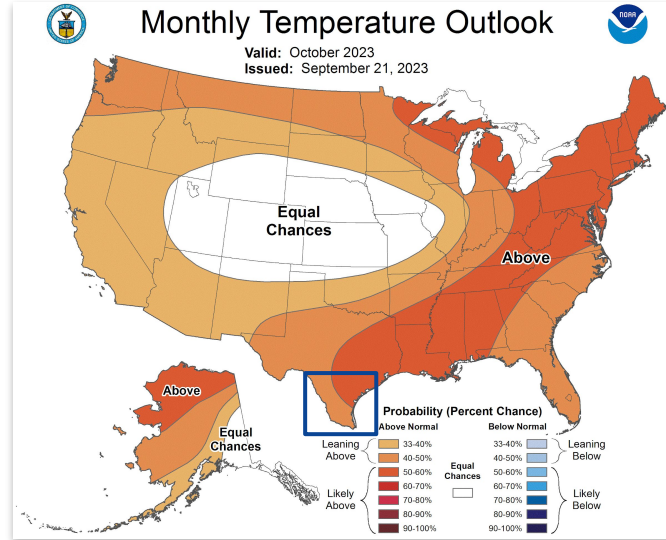


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook](#)

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook](#)

Valid October 2023



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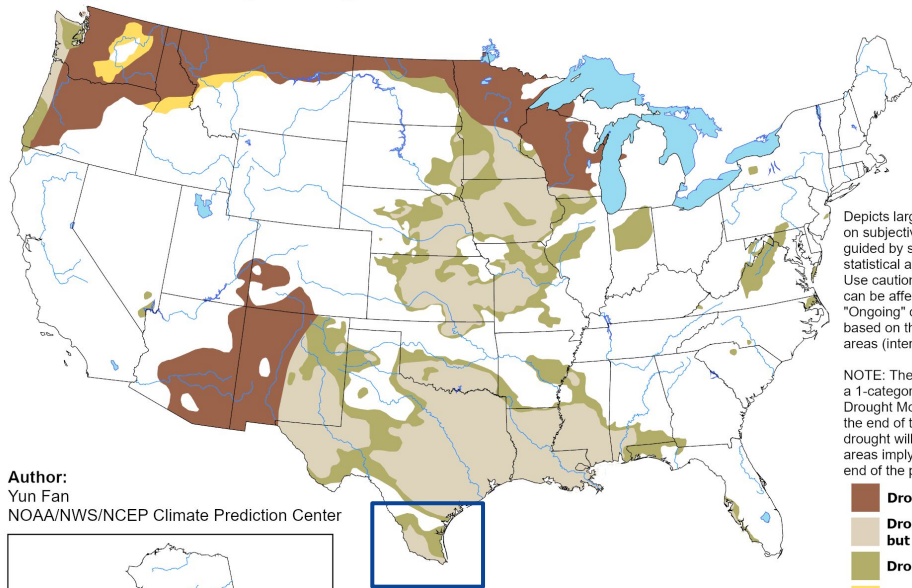
Drought Outlook

[Climate Prediction Center](#) | [Monthly Drought Outlook](#) | [Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

- Drought is expected to persist across most of Deep South Texas through the month of September.
- Drought is expected to remain, but improve across most of Deep South Texas, including the brush country and southern Rio Grande Valley through December.
- Drought removal is likely across the remainder of the northern ranchlands and northern to coastal portions of the Rio Grande Valley through December.

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

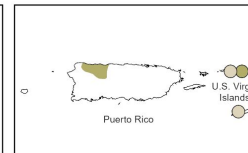
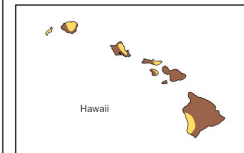
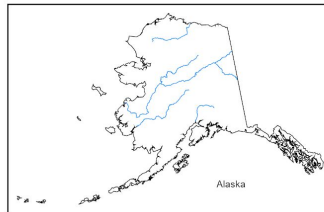
Valid for September 21 - December 31, 2023
Released September 21, 2023



Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

Author:
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NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



- Drought persists
- Drought remains, but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely
- No drought



<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook

Released September 21, 2023

Valid September 21 through December, 2023



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