



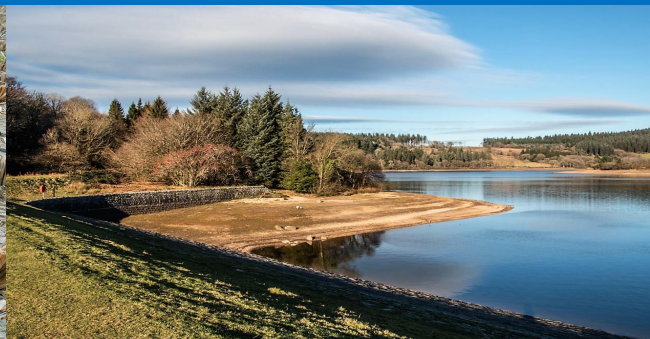
Drought Information Statement for Deep South Texas

Valid September 30, 2023

Issued By: NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX

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

- This product will be updated October 13, 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.





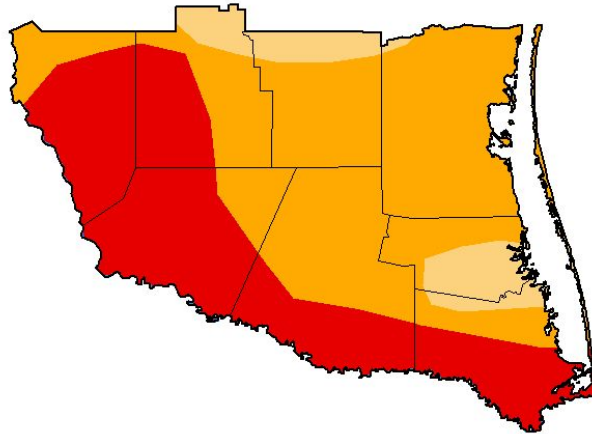
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

Drought Intensity and Extent

- Extreme Drought (D3) conditions now cover over 38% of Deep South Texas, including most of the southern border through the Rio Grande Valley.
- Severe Drought (D2) conditions now cover over 52% of Deep South Texas, including most of the ranchlands and remainder of the RGV.
- Moderate Drought (D1) conditions continue to cover the remainder of Deep South Texas in the northern ranchlands, southern Willacy, and northern Cameron counties.

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



September 26, 2023

(Released Thursday, Sep. 28, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	0.00	0.00	8.96	52.33	38.70	0.00
Last Week 09-19-2023	0.00	0.00	40.46	26.09	33.45	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-27-2023	80.89	19.11	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 09-27-2022	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	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>

Author:

Richard Heim
NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption:

[U.S. Drought Monitor for Deep South Texas](#) valid on September 26, 2023



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

National Weather Service
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Latest U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change

Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change

- Drought worsened across most of Deep South Texas, including a 2 class degradation across southern Kenedy and northern Willacy counties.
- There has been no change in drought condition across portions of the ranchlands.
- Drought improved by 1 class across northern portions of Zapata and Jim Hogg counties.

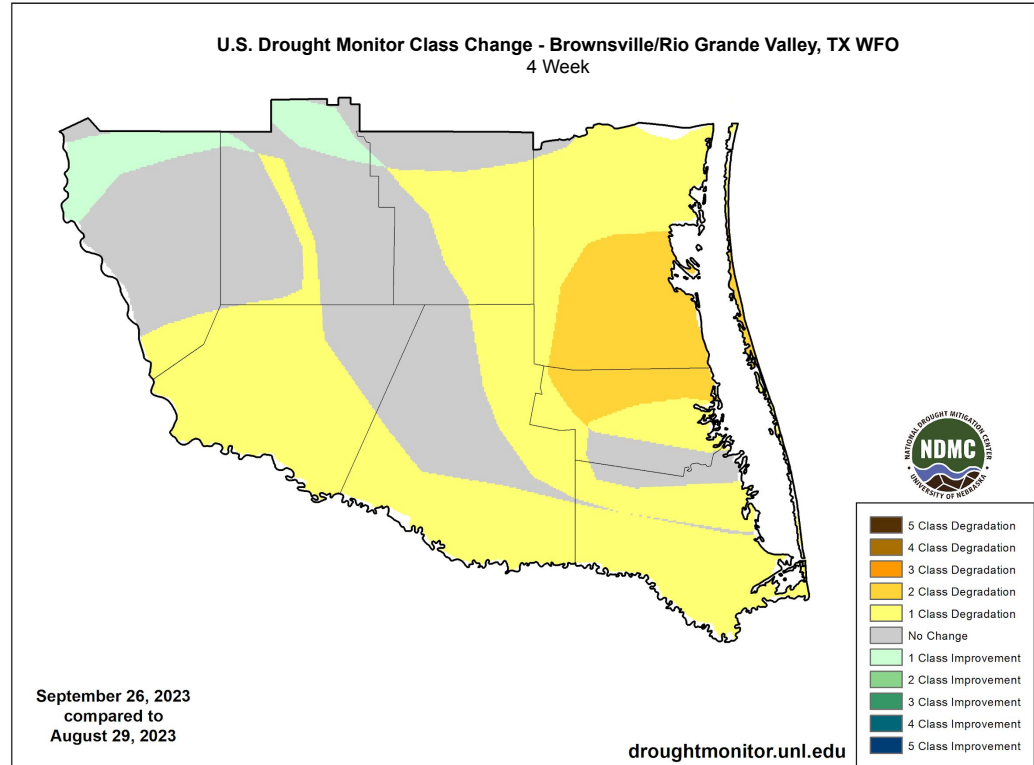


Image Caption:

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

Valid on September 26, 2023





Precipitation

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

- Thunderstorms across the brush country have brought the bulk of the rainfall over the past 30 days to mainly northern portions of Zapata and Jim Hogg counties.
- Most of the Rio Grande Valley has received less than 25% 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 50% of normal rainfall or less.

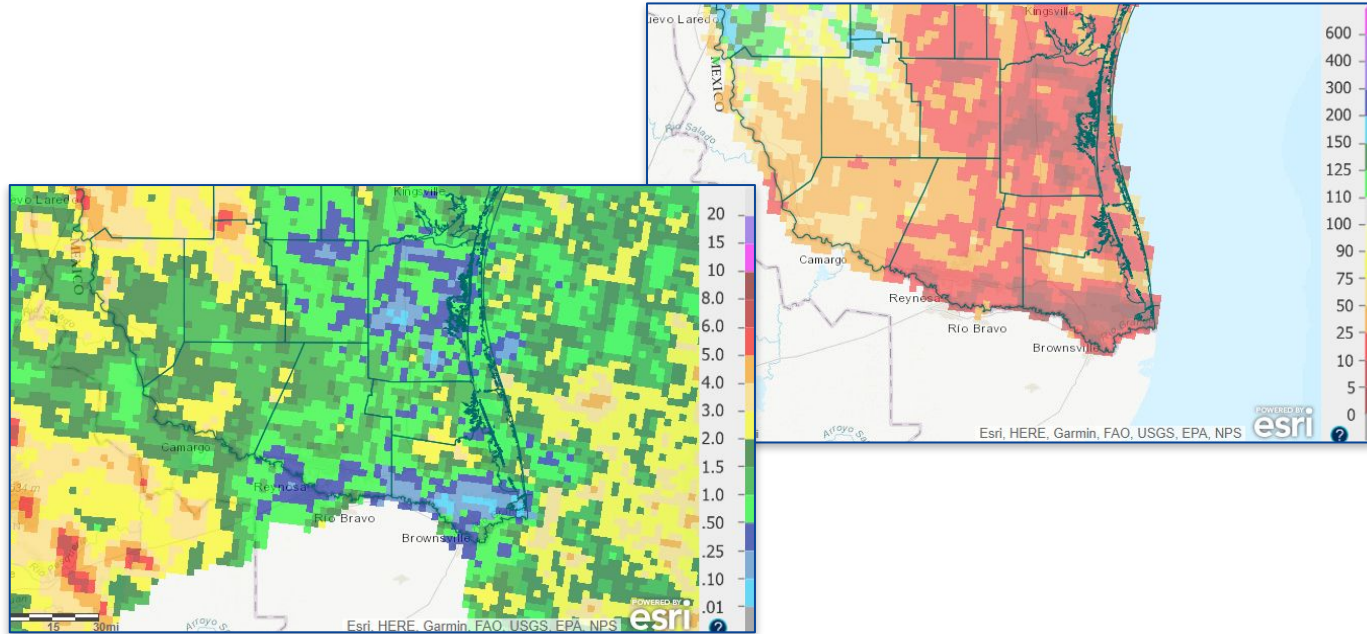


Image Captions:
 Left: [Deep South Texas Precipitation \(Last 30 Days\)](#)
 Right: [Deep South Texas Percent of Normal Precipitation \(Last 30 Days\)](#)
 Data Courtesy [Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service \(AHPS\)](#)

Valid on September 30, 2023

National Weather Service
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX



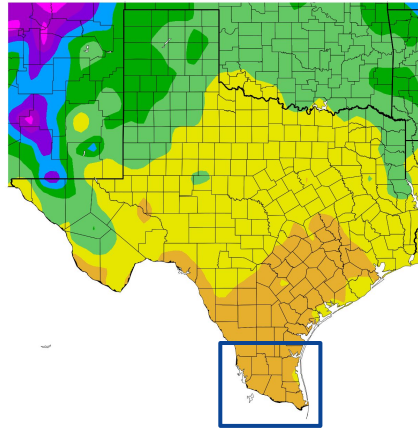


Temperature

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

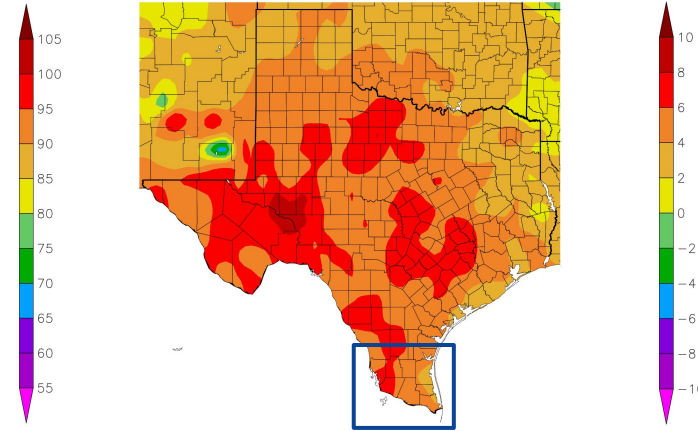
- [Average Maximum Temperatures](#) over the past 30 days across Deep South Texas have remained above normal, ranging between 95-105 degrees.
- [Average Minimum Temperatures](#) over the past 30 days across Deep South Texas have remained generally above normal, ranging between 70-80 degrees.
- Through next Thursday, October 6th, highs and lows will remain above normal, with a cold front potentially bringing near to slightly below normal highs and lows on Friday, October 7th.

Temperature (F)
8/31/2023 - 9/29/2023



9/30/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/31/2023 - 9/29/2023



NOAA Regional Climat 9/30/2023 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 29, 2023





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows have dropped to much 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 slightly improved, but remain below normal, generally between the 5th and 20th percentile, while crop moistures have also improved, but remain abnormally dry across most of the Rio Grande Valley.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Wildfire activity has diminished over the past couple of weeks and near normal wildland fire activity is expected through the month of October.
- 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 30, 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

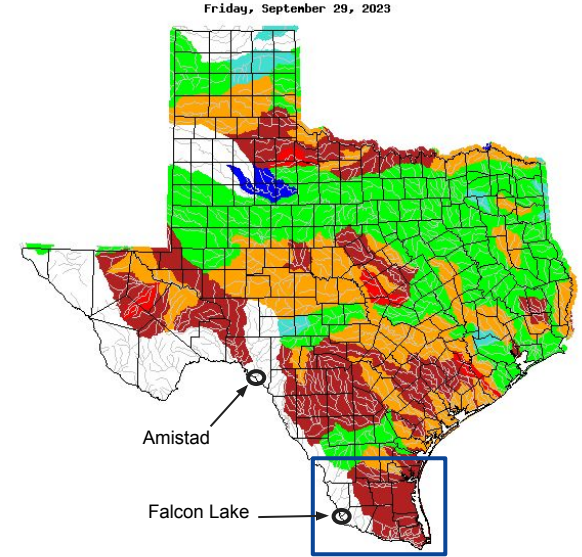
[Current Amistad Reservoir Data](#) | [Current Falcon Lake Reservoir Data](#)

- Streamflows over the past 7 days have diminished to much below normal as waterways have not been replenished from rainfall.
- Much of the streamflow across Deep South Texas is in the less than 10th percentile for this time of year (maroon 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	1066.04	33.6%
Falcon Lake	301.10	256.91	9.1%

Percent Full*	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Amistad	36.2%	38.8%	43.8%
Falcon Lake	10.4%	16.9%	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 30, 2023
 Right: [USGS 7 Day Streamflows for Texas](#) valid September 29, 2023

National Weather Service
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX



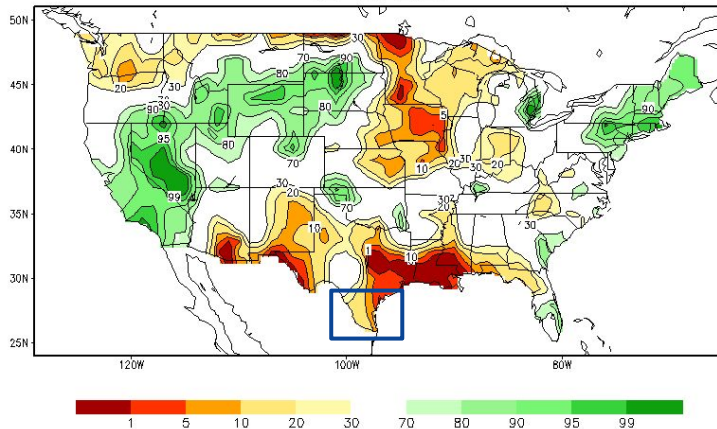


Agricultural Impacts

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

- Soil moistures have improved slightly from west to east, with much of the area still showing below normal soil moisture.
- Crop moisture indices have improved but remain abnormally dry across the Rio Grande Valley.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
SEP 29, 2023



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending SEP 23, 2023
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

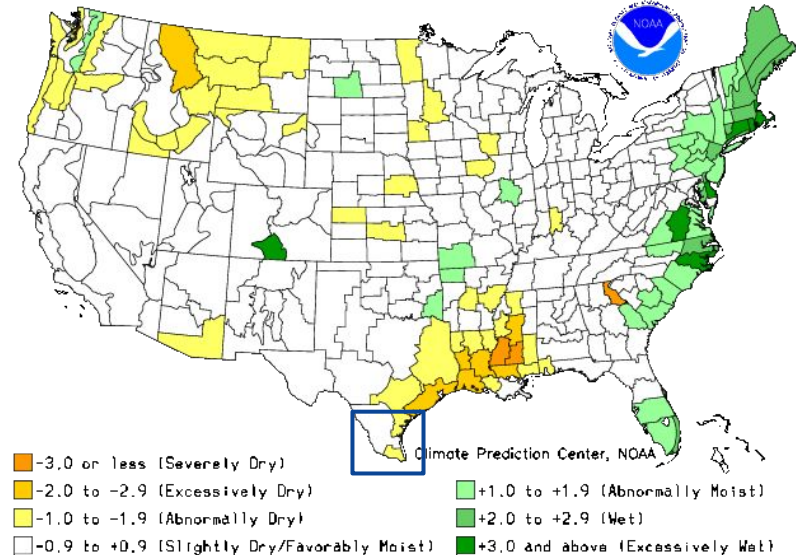


Image Captions:
Left: [CPC Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid September 29, 2023
Right: [CPC Weekly Crop Moisture Index by Division](#) valid September 23, 2023





Fire Hazard Impacts

National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) Wildfire Potential Outlooks

- Keetch-Byram Drought Index values remain above 400 across most of Deep South Texas, with values of 700+ across portions of the brush country and most of the Rio Grande Valley.
- Above normal wildland fire activity has been observed over the month of September, and outlooks suggest normal wildland fire potential is expected from October through December, 2023.
- Burn bans are in effect for all of Deep South Texas.

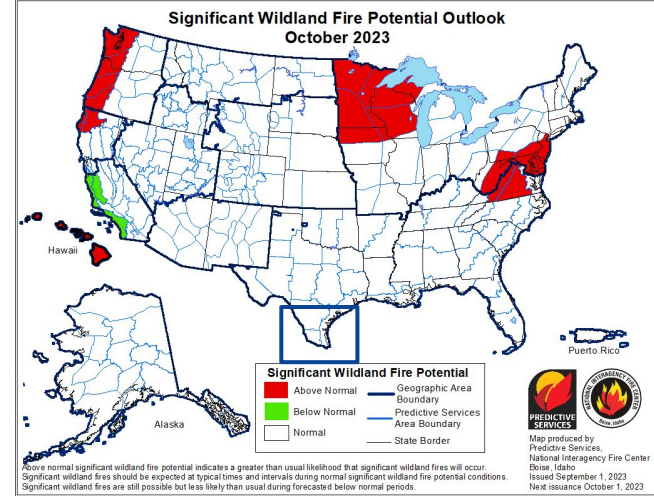
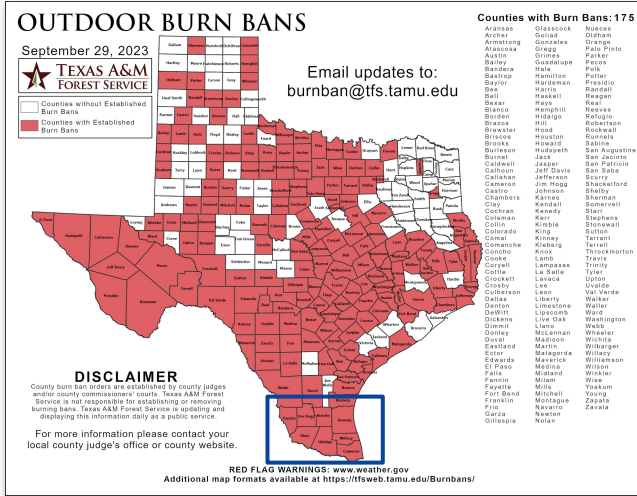


Image Captions:
 Left: TAMFS Texas Counties Burn Ban Map for September 29, 2023
 Right: Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for October, 2023





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

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

- Rainfall of between 1.75 and 4 inches is generally expected across Deep South Texas into next Saturday evening, October 7th, with the best rainfall expected across the northern ranchlands and lower Texas coast.
- Overall, rain chances through Tuesday, October 10, are **leaning above normal** across Deep South Texas.

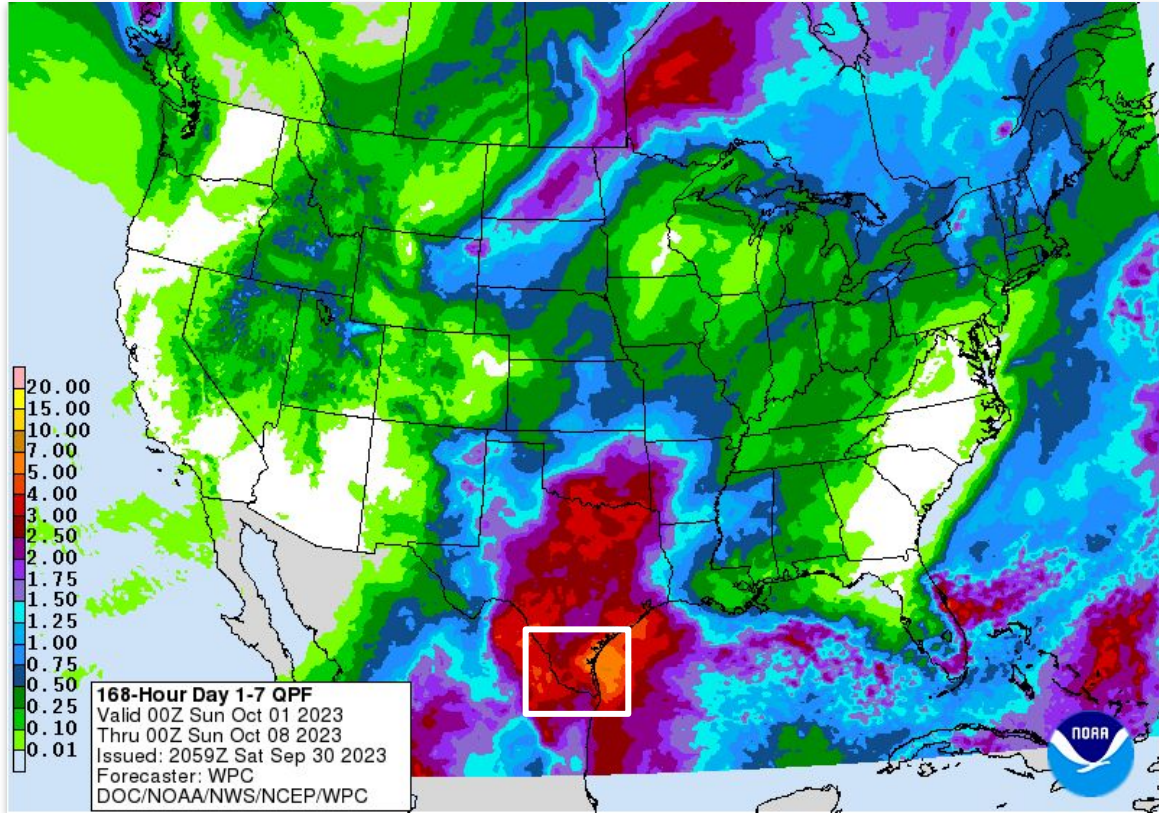


Image Caption:

[Weather Prediction Center 7-Day Precipitation Forecast](#)
 Saturday Eve, September 30 to Saturday Eve, October 7





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, both temperatures and precipitation chances are **leaning above normal** across Deep South Texas.

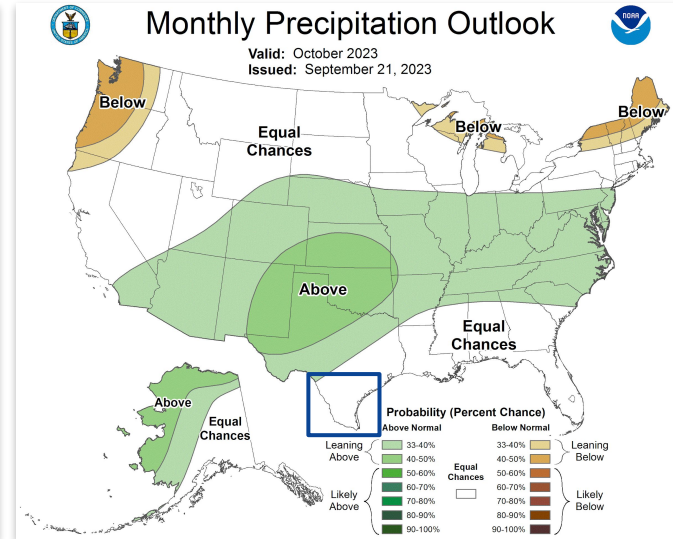
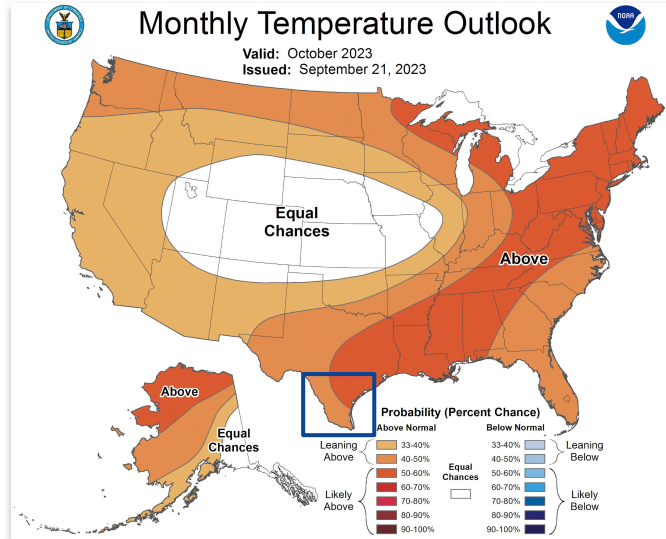


Image Captions:
 Left - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook](#)
 Right - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook](#)
 Valid October 2023





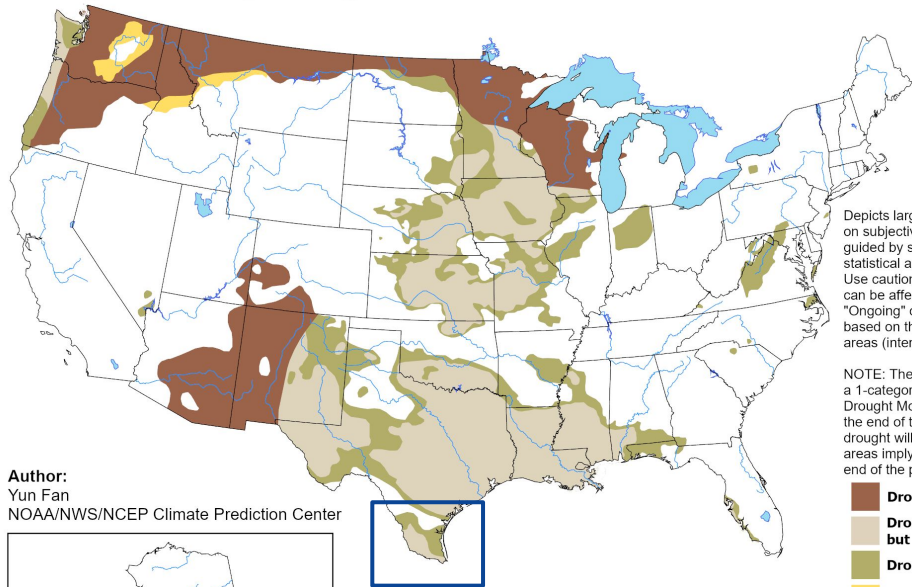
Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is expected to remain but improve across most of Deep South Texas through the month of October.
- 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

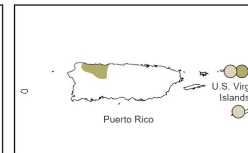
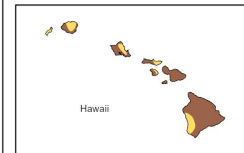
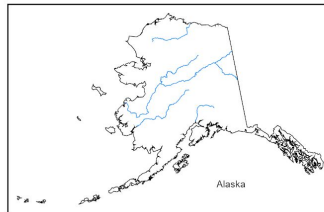
Valid for September 21 - December 31, 2023
Released September 21, 2023



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



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

National Weather Service
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX