



Drought Information Statement for Deep South Texas

Valid October 15, 2023

Issued By: NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX

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

- This product will be updated October 27, 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.





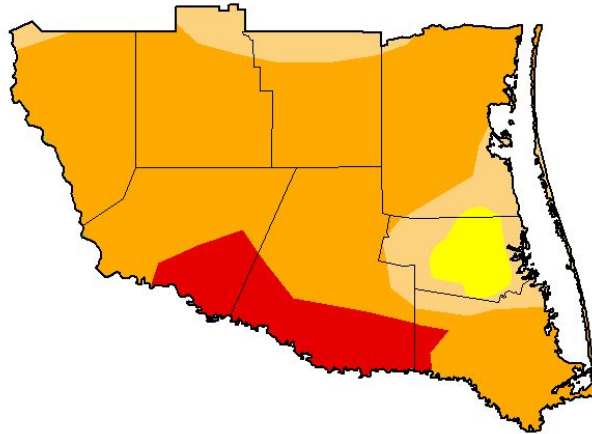
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

Drought Intensity and Extent

- Extreme Drought (D3) conditions now only cover 11% of Deep South Texas, generally across the upper to mid Rio Grande Valley.
- Severe Drought (D2) conditions now cover over 72% of Deep South Texas, including most of the ranchlands and most of the remainder of the RGV.
- Moderate Drought (D1) conditions continue across portions of the northern ranchlands, Willacy, southern Kenedy, and northern Cameron counties.

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



October 10, 2023

(Released Thursday, Oct. 12, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	0.00	3.48	13.25	72.05	11.22	0.00
Last Week 10-03-2023	0.00	0.00	8.96	52.33	38.70	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-11-2023	44.39	31.50	24.11	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 09-26-2022	0.00	0.00	8.96	52.33	38.70	0.00
One Year Ago 10-11-2022	47.72	52.28	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>

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CPC/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption:

[U.S. Drought Monitor for Deep South Texas](#) valid on October 10, 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

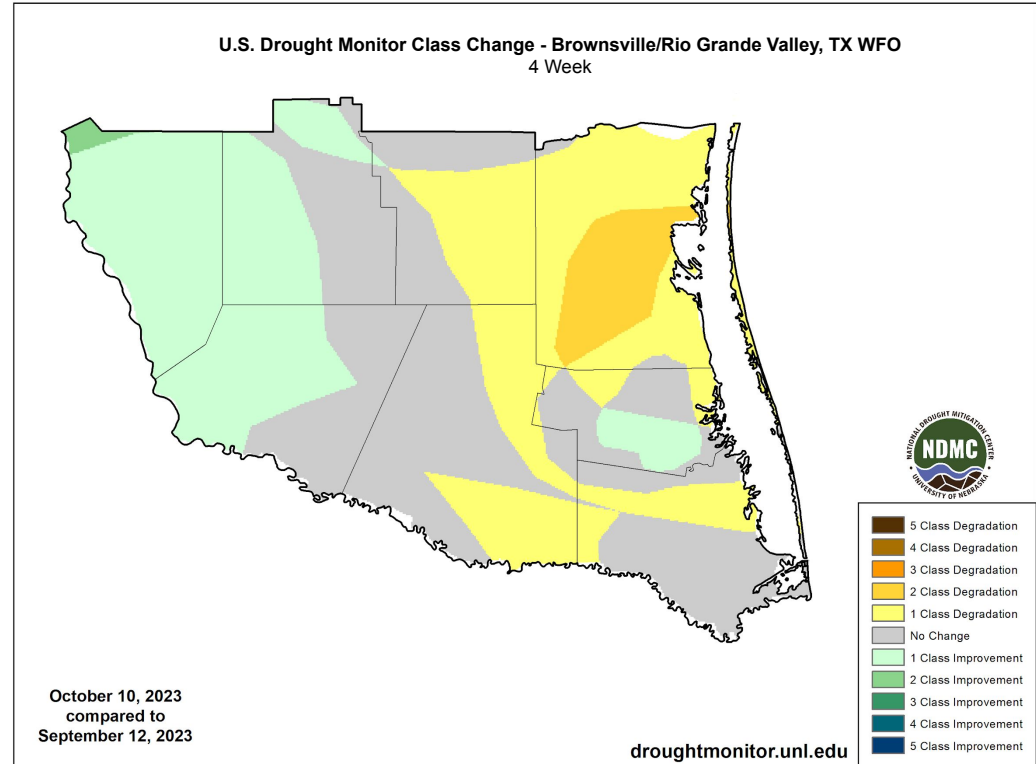
Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change

- Drought worsened across eastern portions of Deep South Texas, including a 2 class degradation across central Kenedy County and 1 class degradation across the mid Rio Grande Valley.
- There has been no change in drought condition across portions of the ranchlands and both the upper and lower Rio Grande Valley.
- Drought improved by 2 classes across northern Zapata, and by 1 class above the remainder of the brush country and portions of Willacy County.

Image Caption:

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

Valid on October 10, 2023





Precipitation

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

- The first frontal boundaries of the year aided by robust tropical moisture have brought beneficial rainfall to most of Deep South Texas.
- Most of the Rio Grande Valley has received less than 75% 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.

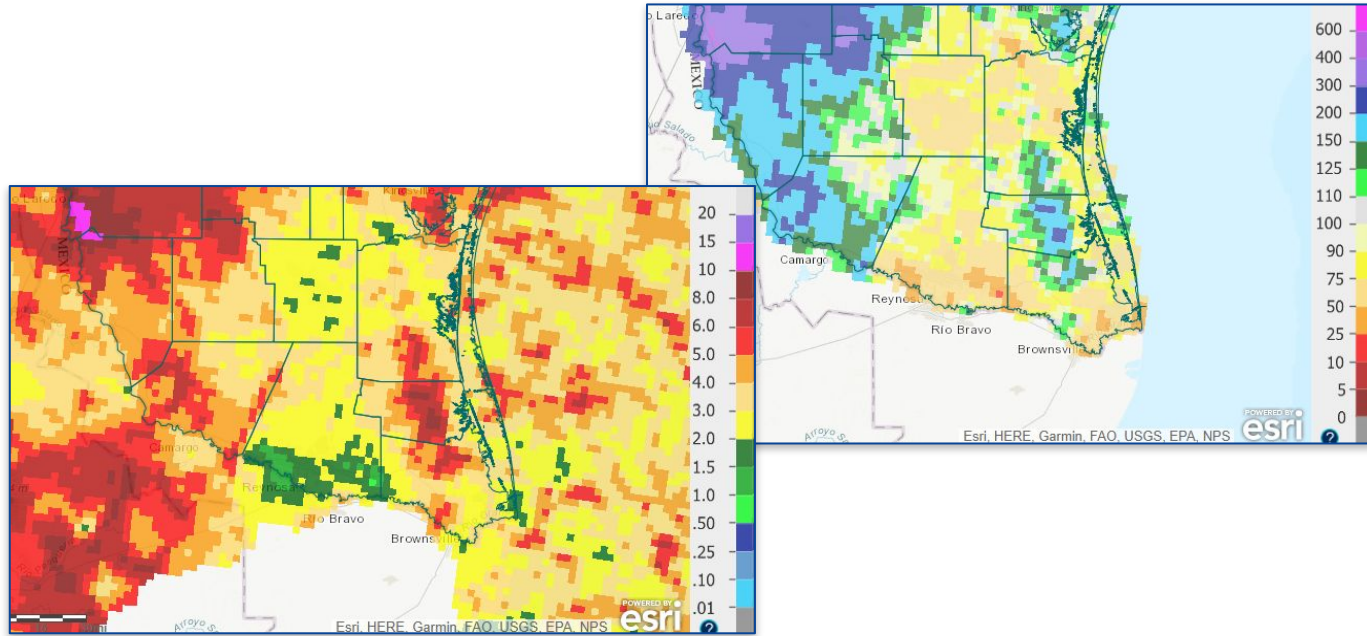


Image Captions:

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 October 15, 2023



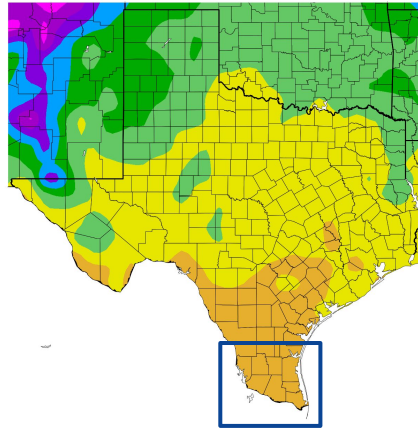


Temperature

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

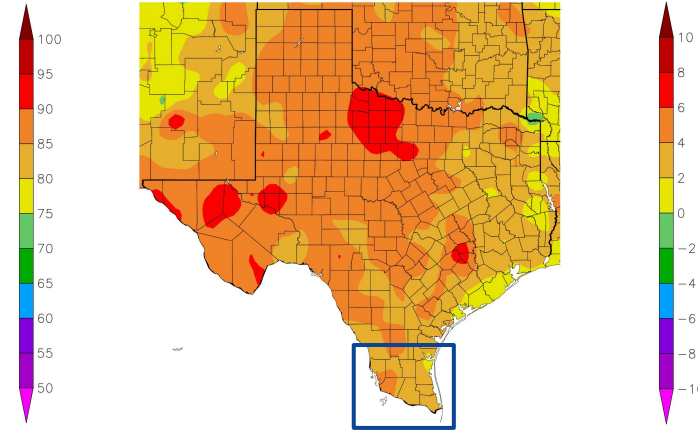
- [Average Maximum Temperatures](#) over the past 30 days across Deep South Texas have remained above normal, ranging between 90-100 degrees.
- [Average Minimum Temperatures](#) over the past 30 days across Deep South Texas have remained slightly above normal, ranging between 70-75 degrees.
- Slightly below normal highs and lows early this week warm toward normal by mid-week, with near normal lows into next weekend and above normal highs in the low 90s from Thursday through Sunday, October 22nd.

Temperature (F)
9/15/2023 – 10/14/2023



10/15/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/15/2023 – 10/14/2023



NOAA Regional Climate 10/15/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate

Image Captions:

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

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

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

Valid on October 14, 2023





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows remain much below normal across most basins in Deep South Texas, and water levels at Falcon Lake Reservoir are still near 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 diminished to well below normal, generally less than the 10th percentile. Crop moistures into early October have also diminished, now severely dry across the Rio Grande Valley.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Wildfire activity has continued to diminish into October and near normal wildland fire activity is expected through the month of November.
- Burn bans remain 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 October 15, 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

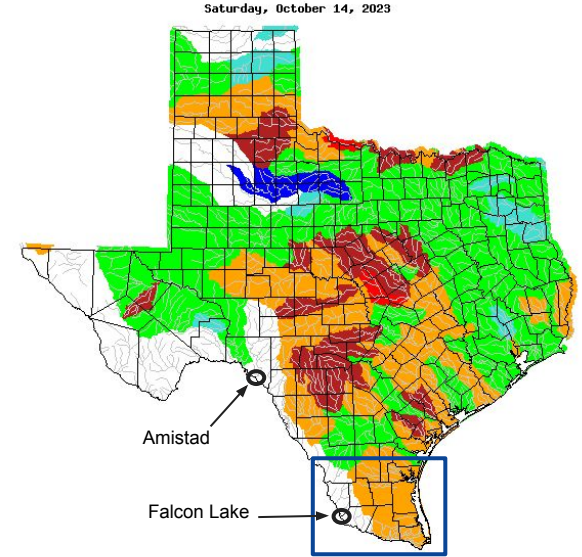
[Current Amistad Reservoir Data](#) | [Current Falcon Lake Reservoir Data](#)

- 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 between the 10th and 24th percentile for this time of year (orange shading on the map).
- Texas water share values at Falcon Lake have remained near historical lows for the second year in a row.

Reservoir	Pool Elevation* (ft)	Current Elevation* (ft)	Percent Full*
Amistad	1117.00	1065.11	31.5%
Falcon Lake	301.10	257.71	8.8%

Percent Full*	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Amistad	34.5%	37.7%	44.9%
Falcon Lake	9.5%	14.9%	15.3%

* = 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 October 15, 2023
 Right: [USGS 7 Day Streamflows for Texas](#) valid October 14, 2023





Agricultural Impacts

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

- Soil moistures have diminished across all of Deep South Texas, with much of the area showing well below normal soil moisture.
- Crop moisture indices diminished over the first week of October, returning to severely dry values across the Rio Grande Valley.

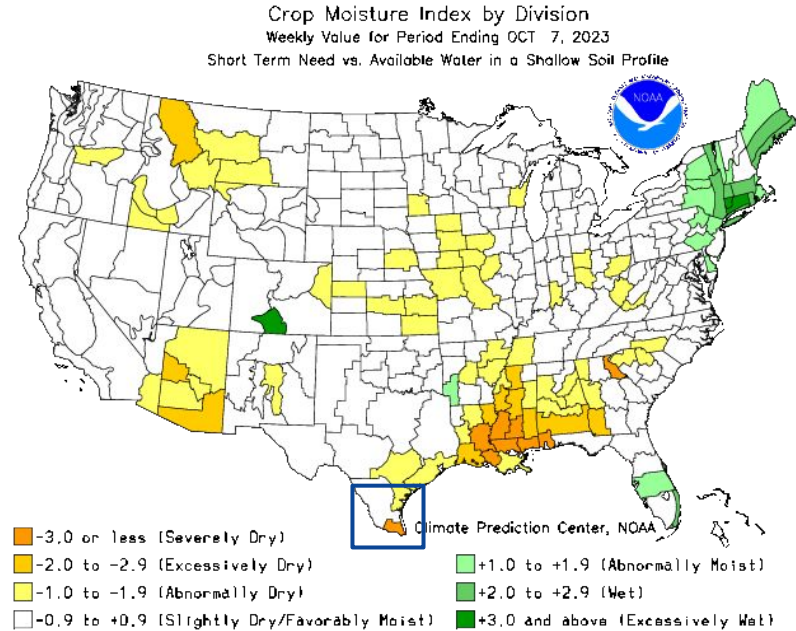
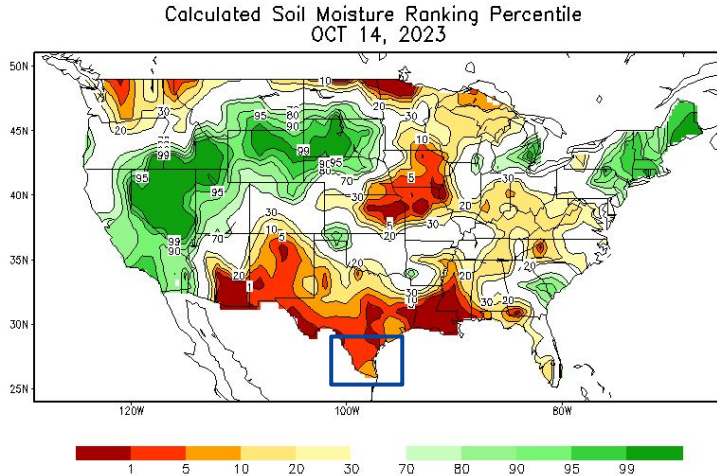


Image Captions:
 Left: [CPC Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid October 14, 2023
 Right: [CPC Weekly Crop Moisture Index by Division](#) valid October 7, 2023





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

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

- Generally no rainfall is expected through the next 7 days, ending next Sunday, October 22nd.
- Overall, rain chances through Wednesday, October 25, are **near normal** across Deep South Texas.

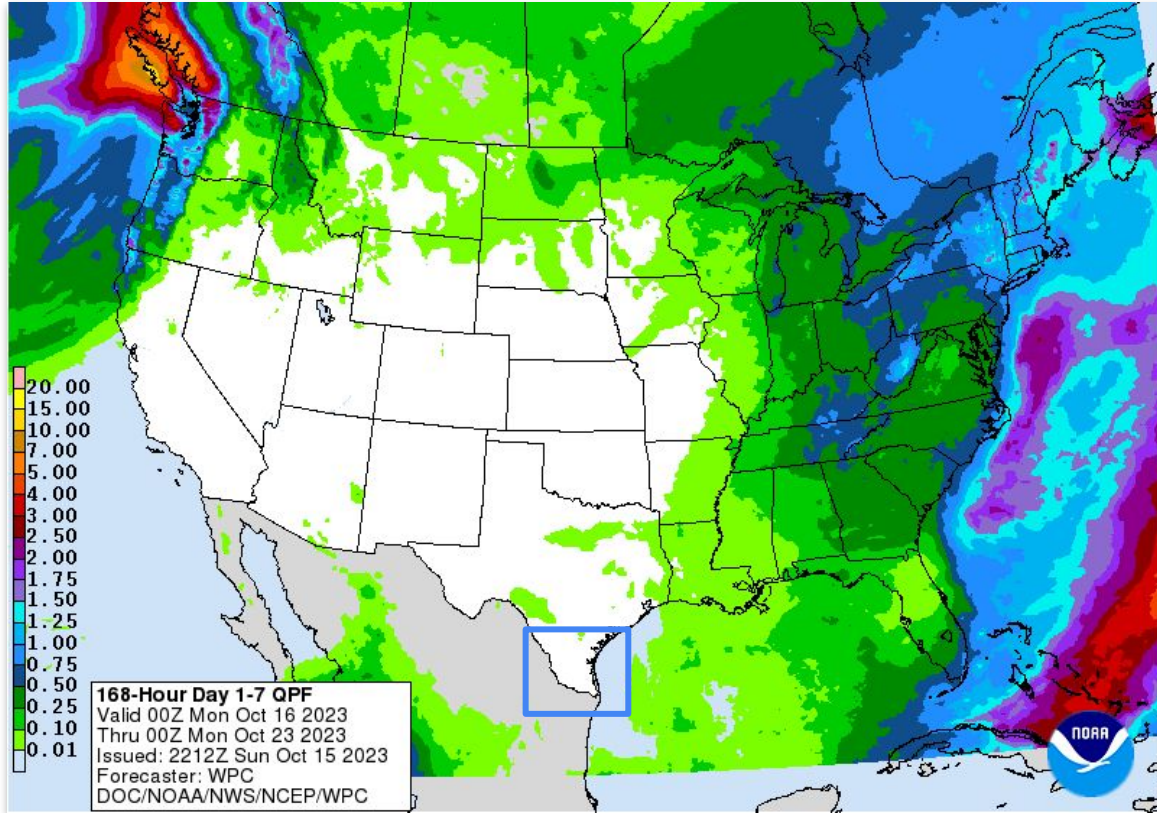


Image Caption:

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

Sunday Eve, October 15 to Sunday Eve, October 22



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National Weather Service
Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX



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.

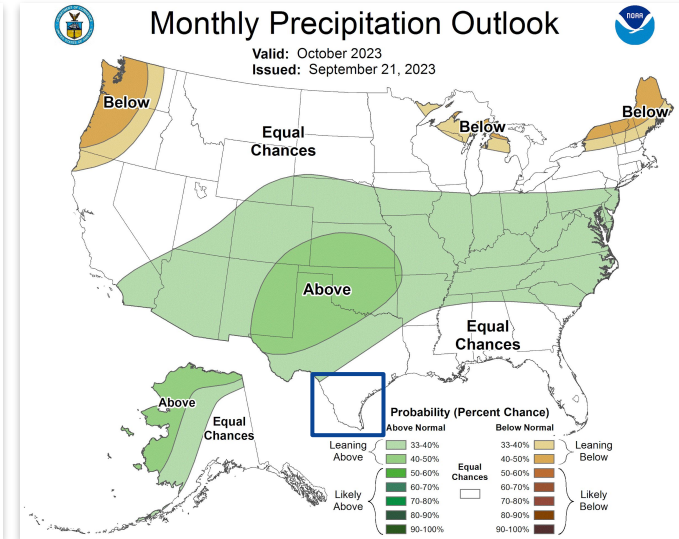
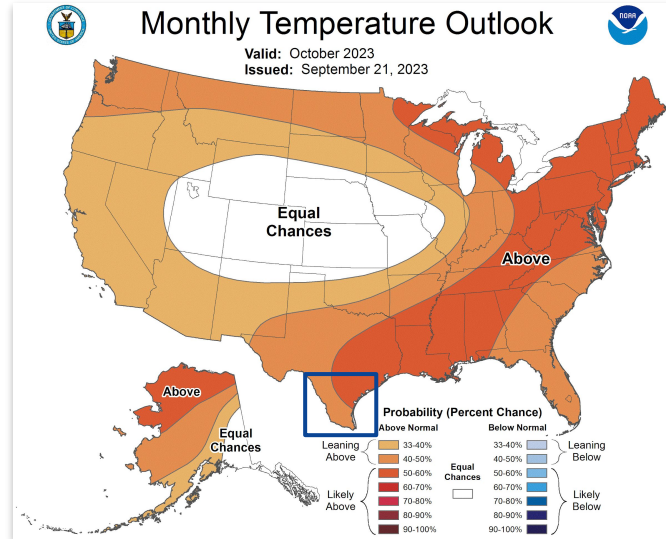


Image Captions:
 Left - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook](#)
 Right - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook](#)

Valid October 2023





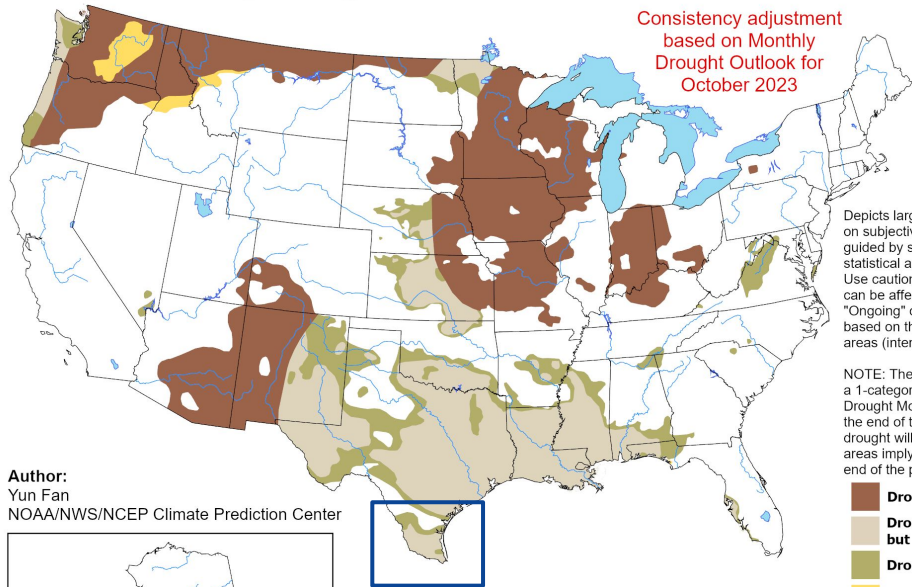
Drought Outlook

[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 through December.
- Drought removal is likely across the portions of the northern ranchlands and inland Willacy County October through December.

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

Valid for October 1 - December 31, 2023
Released September 30, 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).

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

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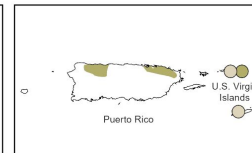
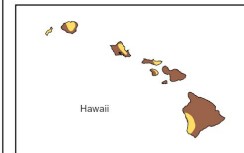
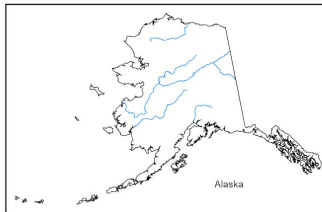


Image Caption:
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook
Released September 30, 2023
Valid September 30 through December, 2023

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



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