



Drought Information Statement for Deep South Texas

Valid October 28, 2023

Issued By: NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX

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

- This will be updated around Nov. 10, 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.





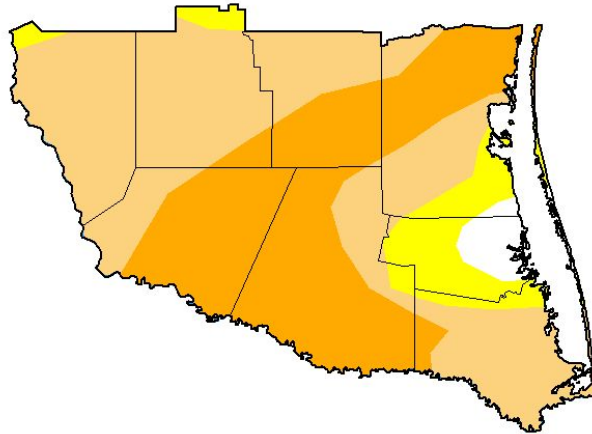
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

Drought Intensity and Extent

- Extreme Drought (D3) conditions are no longer being observed across Deep South Texas.
- Severe Drought (D2) conditions now cover nearly 38% of Deep South Texas, including portions of Kenedy and Brooks counties, and most of the mid to upper Rio Grande Valley.
- Moderate Drought (D1) conditions continue across most of the remainder of Deep South Texas, including the lower RGV.

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



October 24, 2023

(Released Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	2.83	9.88	49.43	37.86	0.00	0.00
Last Week <small>10-17-2023</small>	2.83	9.88	49.43	37.86	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <small>07-25-2023</small>	0.00	65.46	10.50	24.04	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <small>01-03-2023</small>	42.76	14.71	42.53	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <small>09-26-2022</small>	0.00	0.00	8.96	52.33	38.70	0.00
One Year Ago <small>10-25-2022</small>	34.72	65.28	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:

Rocky Bilotta
NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption:

[U.S. Drought Monitor for Deep South Texas](#) valid on October 24, 2023



National Oceanic and
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Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Latest U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change

Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change

- Drought conditions have improved across most of Deep South Texas, including a 3 class improvement across northeastern Willacy and southeastern Kenedy counties.
- There has been a 2 class improvement across most of the brush country and lower Rio Grande Valley.
- There has been no change in drought condition across portions of the northern ranchlands in Brooks and Kenedy counties, as well as northeastern Starr and northern Hidalgo counties.

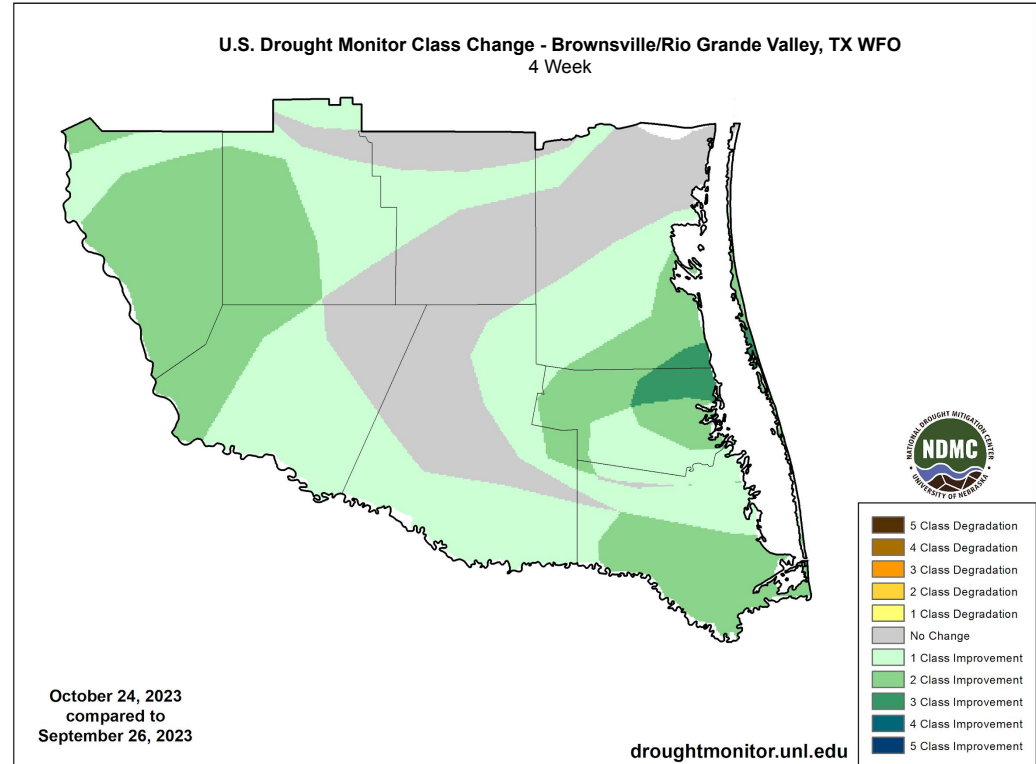


Image Caption:

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

Valid on October 24, 2023



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Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX



Precipitation

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

- The first frontal boundaries of the year aided by robust tropical moisture brought beneficial rainfall to most of Deep South Texas with little rainfall following over the past two weeks.
- 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.

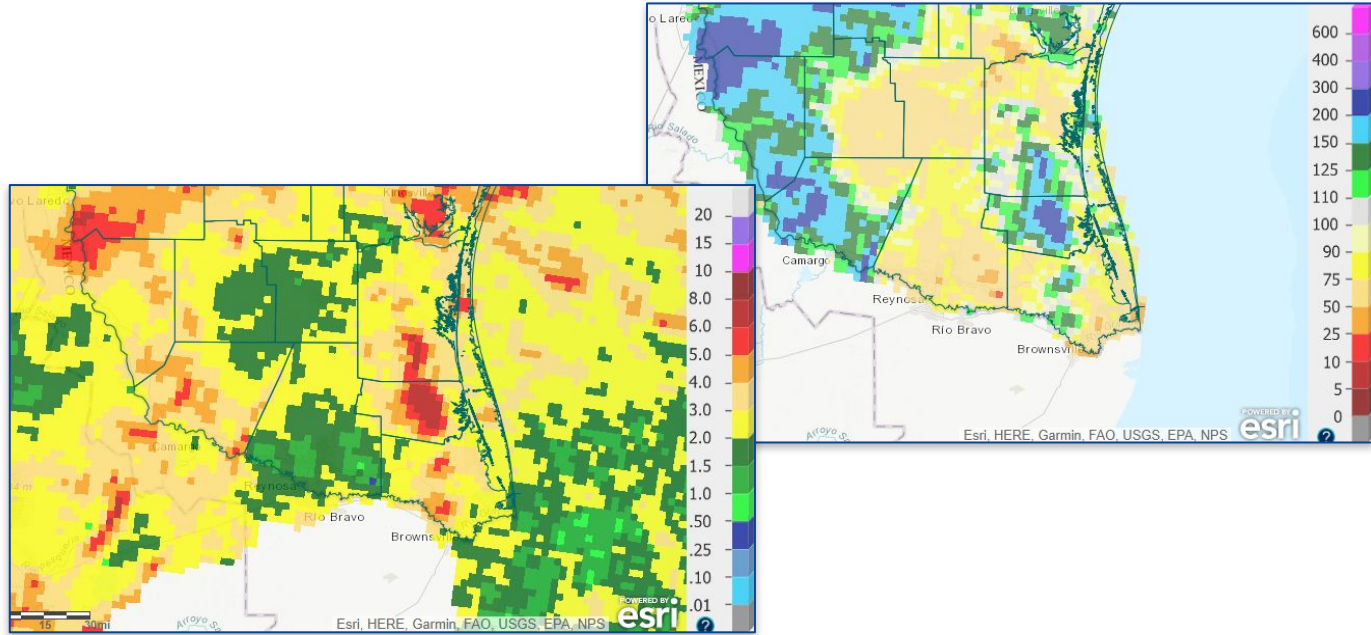


Image Captions:

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 27, 2023



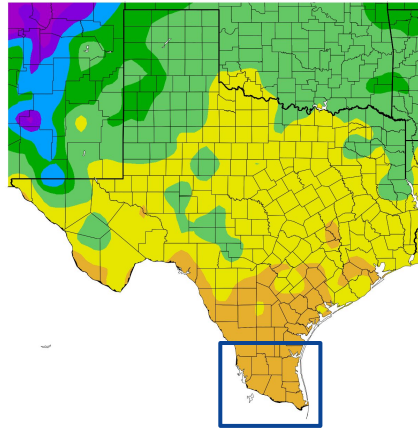


Temperature

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

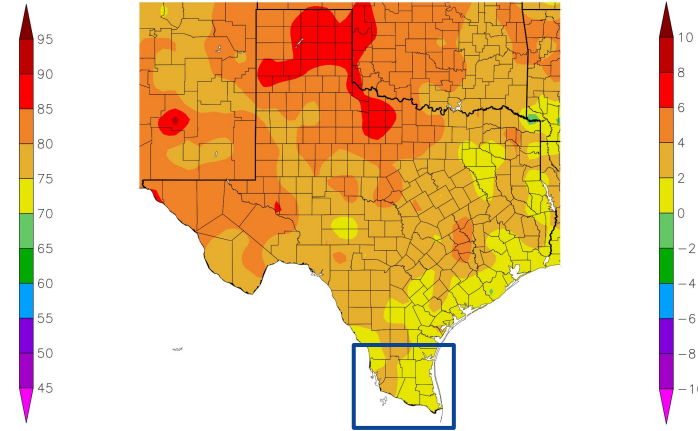
- [Average Maximum Temperatures](#) over the past 30 days across Deep South Texas have ranged from normal to above normal between 85-95 degrees.
- [Average Minimum Temperatures](#) over the past 30 days across Deep South Texas have ranged from normal to above normal between 65-75 degrees.
- Above normal highs and lows this weekend drop well below normal to start next week, with lows into the 40s and highs into the 50s, before rebounding toward normal into Sunday, November 5, 2023.

Temperature (F)
9/28/2023 – 10/27/2023



10/28/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/28/2023 – 10/27/2023



NOAA Regional Climat 10/28/2023 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 October 27, 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, while improved over the past two weeks, 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 remained well below normal, generally less than the 10th percentile. Crop moistures into late October have improved slightly, now excessively dry across the Rio Grande Valley.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- 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 24, 2023

Hidalgo County

Agua Sud:	Stage 2
McAllen Public Utility:	Stage 2
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

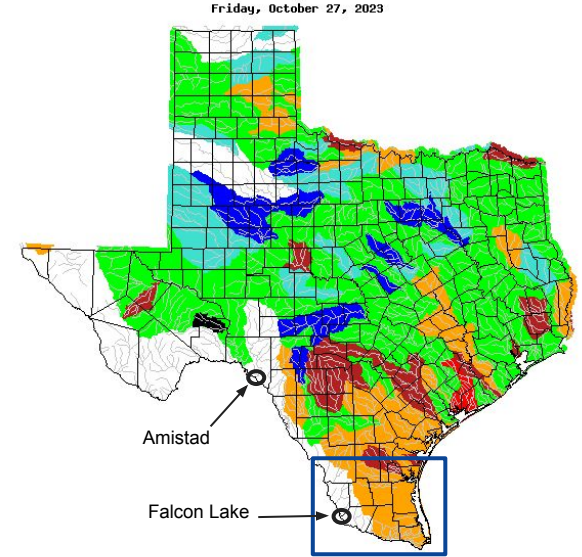
[Current Amistad Reservoir Data](#) | [Current Falcon Lake Reservoir Data](#)

- Streamflows over the past 7 days have remained much below normal as waterways have not been replenished from rainfall.
- Most 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 improved slightly, but remain near historical lows for the second year in a row.

Reservoir	Pool Elevation* (ft)	Current Elevation* (ft)	Percent Full*
Amistad	1117.00	1064.09	29.9%
Falcon Lake	301.10	258.27	10.2%

Percent Full*	1 Month Ago	3 Months Ago	1 Year Ago
Amistad	33.7%	36.6%	46.1%
Falcon Lake	9.1%	13.1%	15.0%

* = 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 28, 2023
 Right: [USGS 7 Day Streamflows for Texas](#) valid October 27, 2023



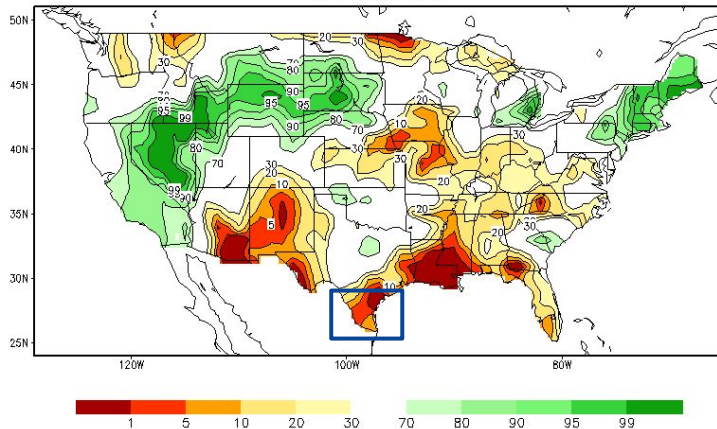


Agricultural Impacts

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

- Soil moistures remain low across all of Deep South Texas, with much of the area showing well below normal soil moisture.
- Crop moisture indices have improved slightly into late October, with excessively dry values across the Rio Grande Valley.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
OCT 26, 2023



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending OCT 21, 2023
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

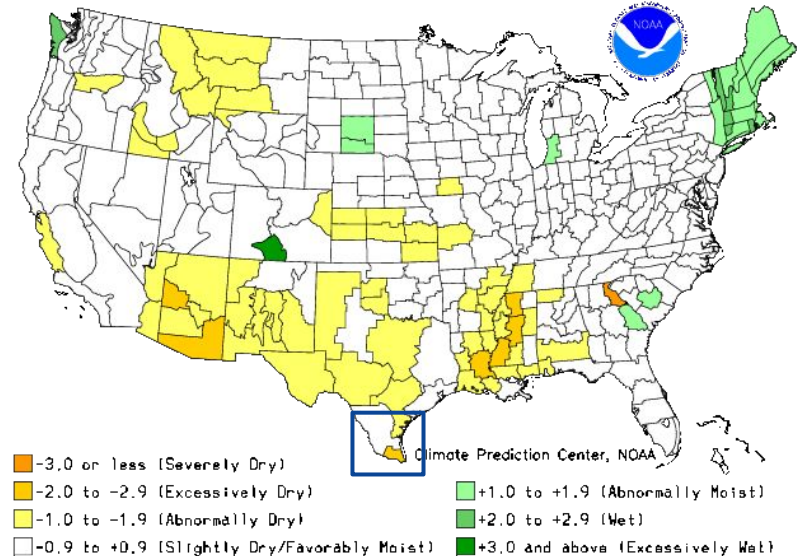


Image Captions:

Left: [CPC Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid October 26, 2023

Right: [CPC Weekly Crop Moisture Index by Division](#) valid October 21, 2023





Fire Hazard Impacts

National Interagency Coordination Center (NICC) Wildfire Potential Outlooks

- [Keetch-Byram Drought Index](#) values have improved across most of Deep South Texas, with values above 600 remaining across the mid to upper Rio Grande Valley.
- Near normal wildland fire potential is expected through November, and outlooks suggest normal wildland fire potential is expected through January 2024.
- Burn bans are in effect for all of Deep South Texas.

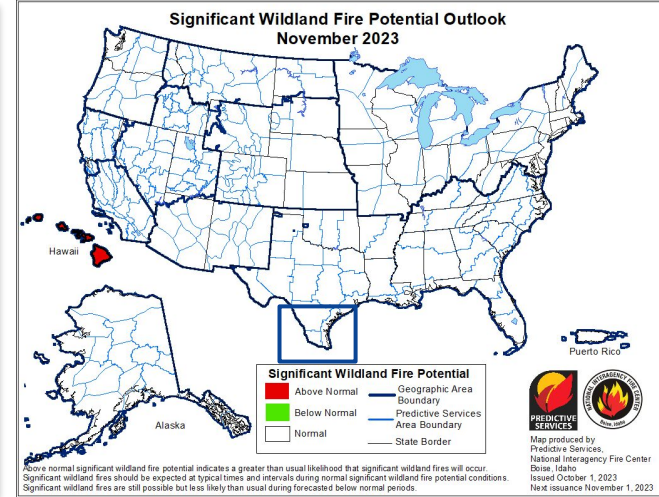
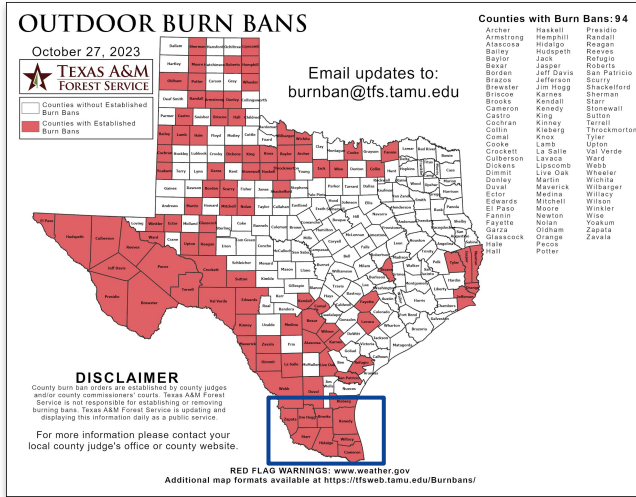


Image Captions:
Left: [TAMFS Texas Counties Burn Ban Map](#) for October 27, 2023
Right: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#) for November, 2023





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

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

- Rainfall of generally 0.10 to 0.25 of an inch is expected across Deep South Texas into Saturday, November 4th.
- Most rainfall is expected between Sunday night and Tuesday night with the approach and passage of a cold front.
- Overall, chances through Monday, November 6th, are leaning toward **below normal rainfall** across Deep South Texas.

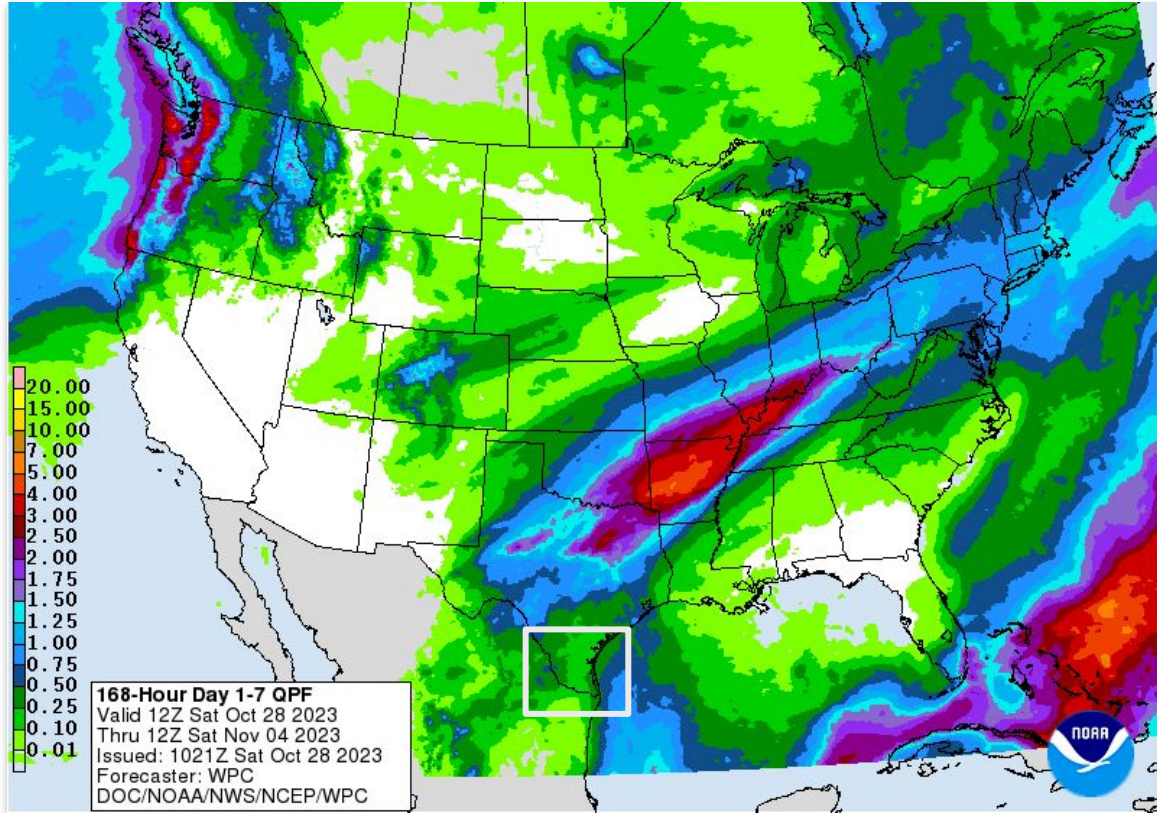


Image Caption:

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

Saturday AM, October 28 to Saturday AM, November 4



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Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley, TX



Long-Range Outlooks

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

- On average, chances are leaning toward **above normal temperatures** across Deep South Texas through the month of November.
- On average, chances are leaning toward **above normal rainfall** across Deep South Texas through the month of November.
- Through January 2024, there is an **equal chance of above or below normal temperatures** and chances are leaning toward **above normal rainfall** across Deep South Texas.

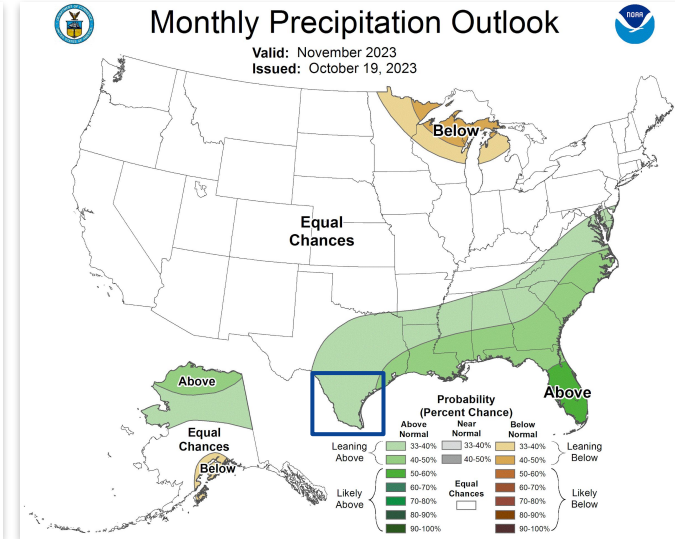
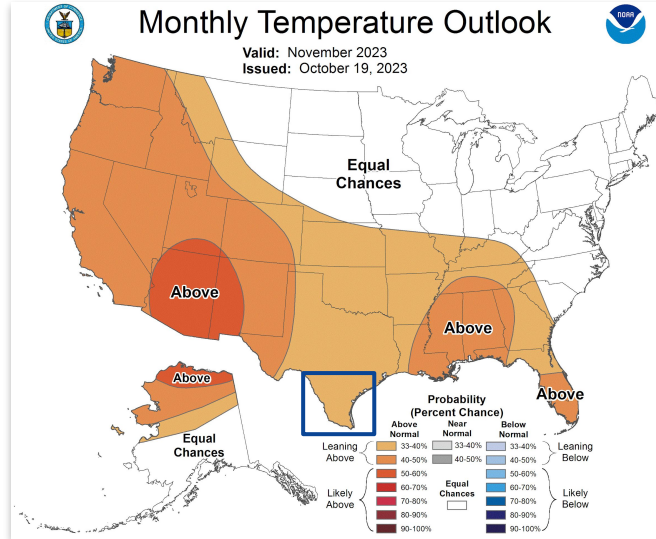


Image Captions:
 Left - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook](#)
 Right - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook](#)

Valid November 2023





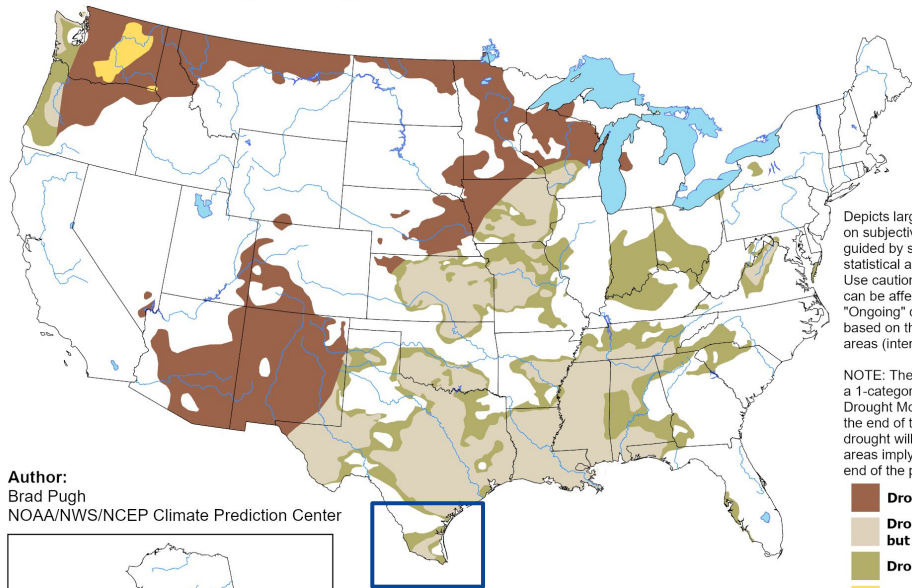
Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is expected to remain but improve across most of Deep South Texas, including the mid to upper Rio Grande Valley through the month of October.
- Drought is expected to remain, but improve across most of Deep South Texas, including the mid to upper RGV through January 2024.
- Drought removal is likely across the portions of the northern ranchlands and the lower RGV October 2023 through January 2024.

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

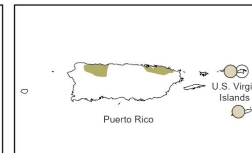
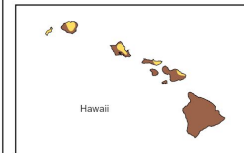
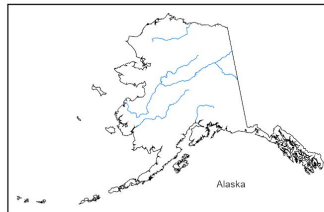
Valid for October 19, 2023 - January 31, 2024
Released October 19, 2023



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 October 19, 2023

Valid October 19, 2023 through January, 2024



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