



Drought Information Statement for Southeast Texas

Valid September 15, 2023

Issued By: NWS Houston/Galveston

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated September 22, 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/hgx/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



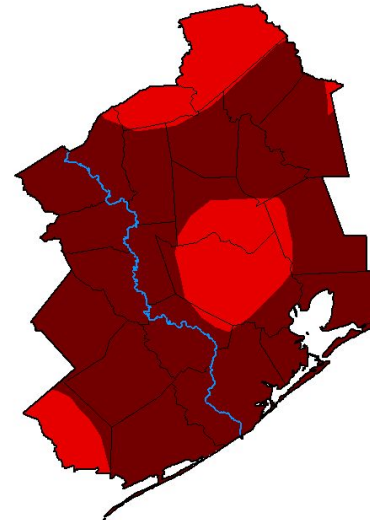


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Southeast Texas

- Extreme and Exceptional Drought Conditions Persist
- Drought Intensity and Extent
 - D4 (Exceptional Drought): Portions of Polk, San Jacinto, Liberty, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Matagorda, Jackson, Austin, Waller, Washington, Grimes, Brazos, Burleson, Wharton, Trinity, Madison, Walker, Montgomery and Colorado counties continue.
 - D3 (Extreme Drought): The remaining portions of southeast Texas including Houston County.

U.S. Drought Monitor Houston/Galveston, TX WFO



September 12, 2023

(Released Thursday, Sep. 14, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	76.33
Last Week 09-05-2023	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	45.68
3 Months Ago 06-13-2023	99.97	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2023	84.11	15.89	6.96	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	32.19	67.81	21.97	4.76	0.83	0.00
One Year Ago 09-13-2022	37.42	62.58	21.97	4.76	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:

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CPC/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT September 14, 2023.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Houston/Galveston



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [1-week change map](#) for Southeast Texas

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Across portions of Colorado, Wharton, Fort Bend, Harris, Waller, Montgomery, Grimes, Burleson, Brazos, Liberty, Polk, Trinity, Houston, Madison, and Walker counties.
 - No Change: Rest of the region.
 - Drought Improved: None.

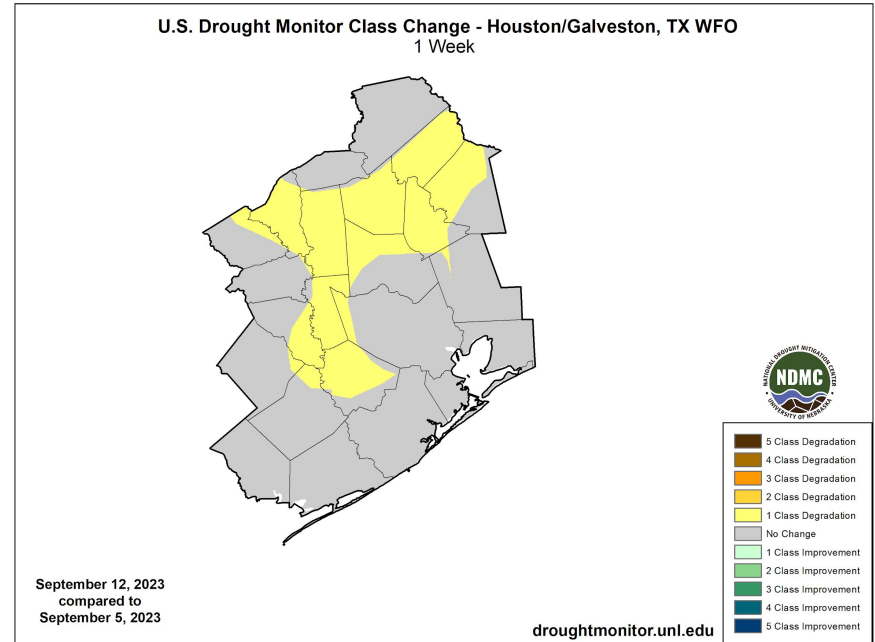


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map valid 8am EDT September 12, 2023.



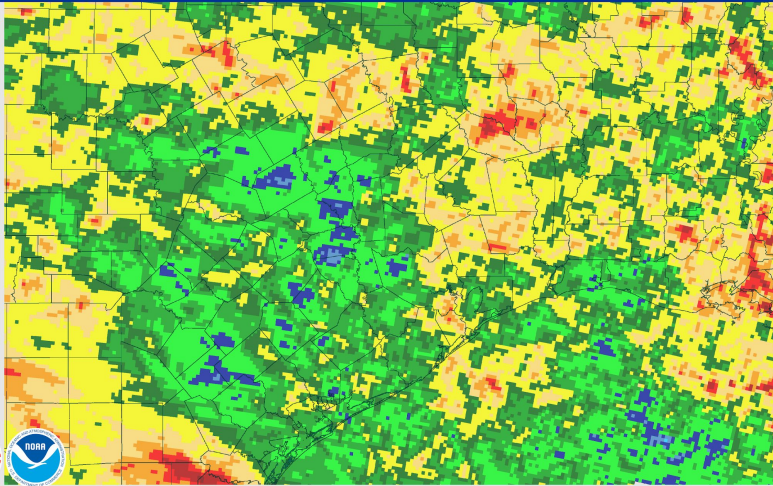


Precipitation

- We have received rainfall Thursday and Friday of this past week, but this was not included on the drought monitor update that is calculated on Tuesday. And even with the rainfall, much of SE Texas remains 2 to 4 inches below average rainfall over the past 30 days.

September 15, 2023 30-Day Observed Precipitation

Created on: September 16, 2023 - 02:41 UTC
Valid on: September 15, 2023 12:00 UTC



September 15, 2023 30-Day Departure Precipitation

Created on: September 16, 2023 - 02:41 UTC
Valid on: September 15, 2023 12:00 UTC

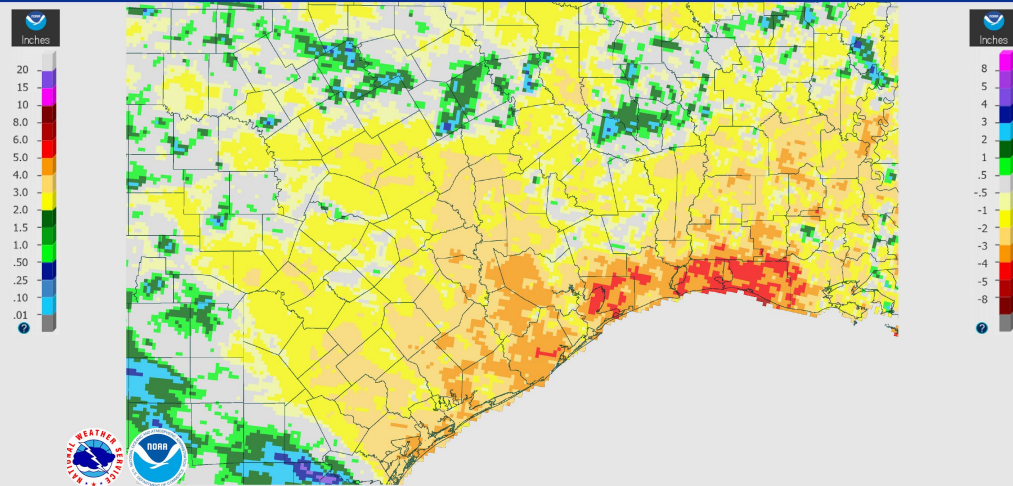


Image Captions:

Left - Precipitation Amount for Southeast Texas
 Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Southeast Texas
 Data over the past 30 days ending September 15, 2023

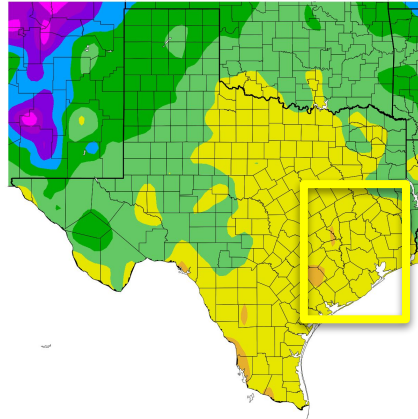




Temperature

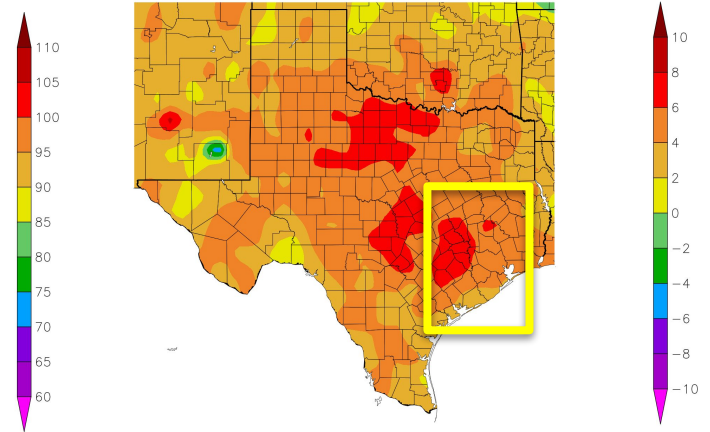
- The extreme heat over the last month averaged around two to five degrees above normal.
- This summer has been the hottest on record for Southeast Texas.

Temperature (F)
8/16/2023 - 9/14/2023



Generated 9/15/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/16/2023 - 9/14/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers ⁰²³ at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Image Captions:
Left - Average Temperature
Right - Departure from Normal Temperature
Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
Data over the past 30 days ending September 14, 2023





Summary of Impacts

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

Agricultural Impacts

- In Jackson County, it has been reported that there is grass and forage loss through the county. Ranchers have begun feeding cattle due to dry pastures. Producers are also reporting disaster loss level cotton yields due to the lack of precipitation and high temperatures in during the growing season.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- A burn ban is in effect for all counties in Southeast Texas.

Mitigation Impacts

- Various communities across Southeast Texas have imposed Stage 1 to 3 water restrictions. These restrictions have been reported for communities in Waller, Brazos, Harris, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Grimes, Liberty, Montgomery, and Walker counties.

Other Impacts

- None reported.

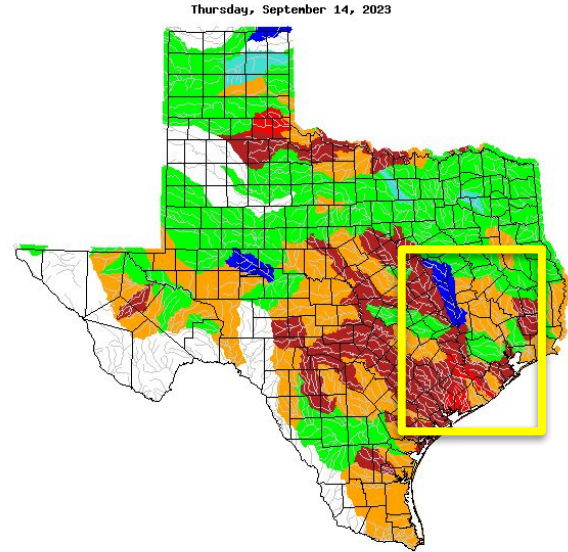




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Many river gauge locations across the area are running below normal to much below normal. The only exceptions are gauge locations within the Harris County Bayou network which are showing near normal conditions.
- Reservoir Status as of 9/15...

Lake Name	Level Percent Full (%)
○ Houston County Lake	84.6
○ Lake Livingston	83.6
○ Lake Conroe	90.2
○ Lake Houston	99.9
○ Lake Somerville	66.3
○ Gibbons Ck Res.	74.3
○ Lake Texana	71.6



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 Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid September 14, 2023

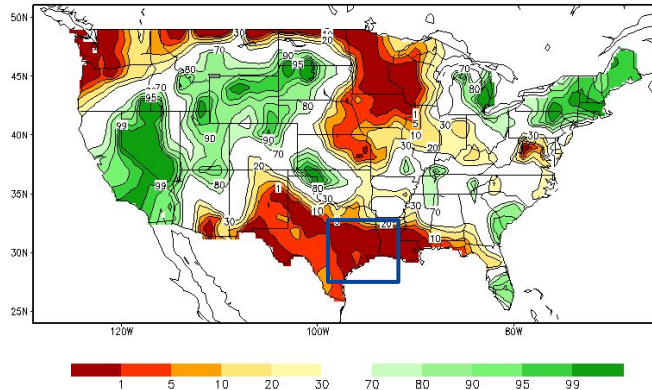




Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture remains in the lowest percentile across most of Southeast Texas.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
SEP 14, 2023



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending SEP 9, 2023
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

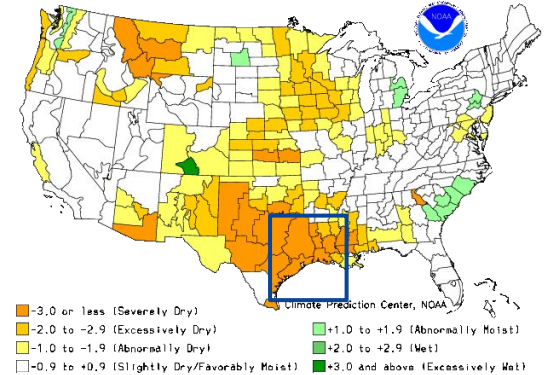


Image Captions:

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

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending September 14, 2023





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

Link to the latest [7-day rainfall forecast](#) from the Weather Prediction Center

- Some scattered showers and thunderstorms are possible across the next week generally producing less than half an inch of precipitation.

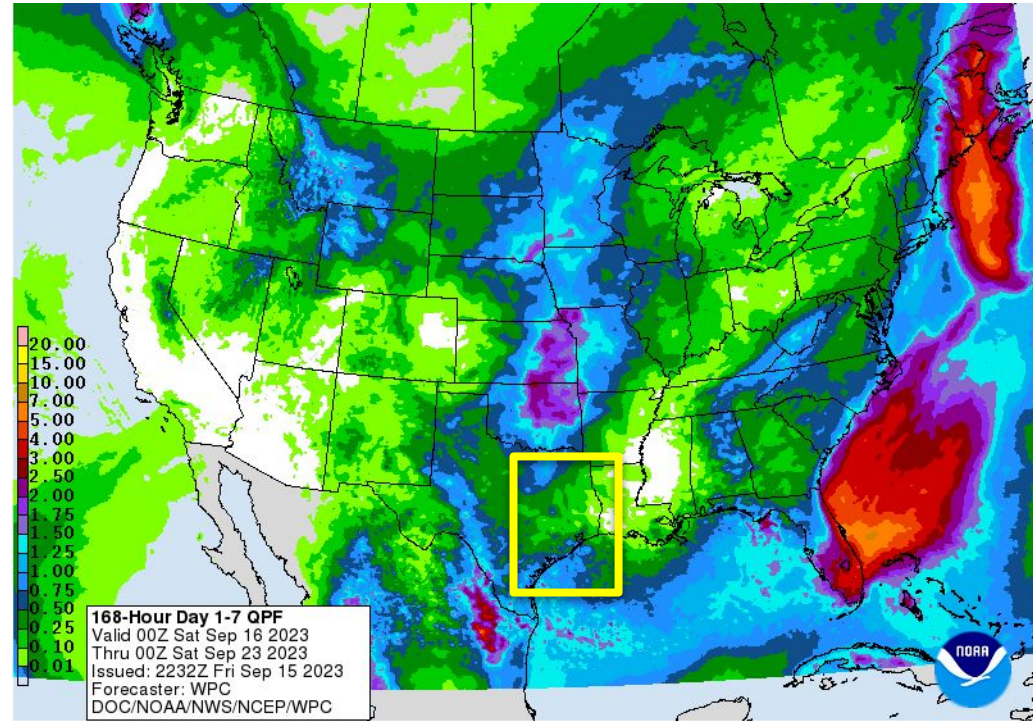


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid September 16, 2023 to September 23, 2023





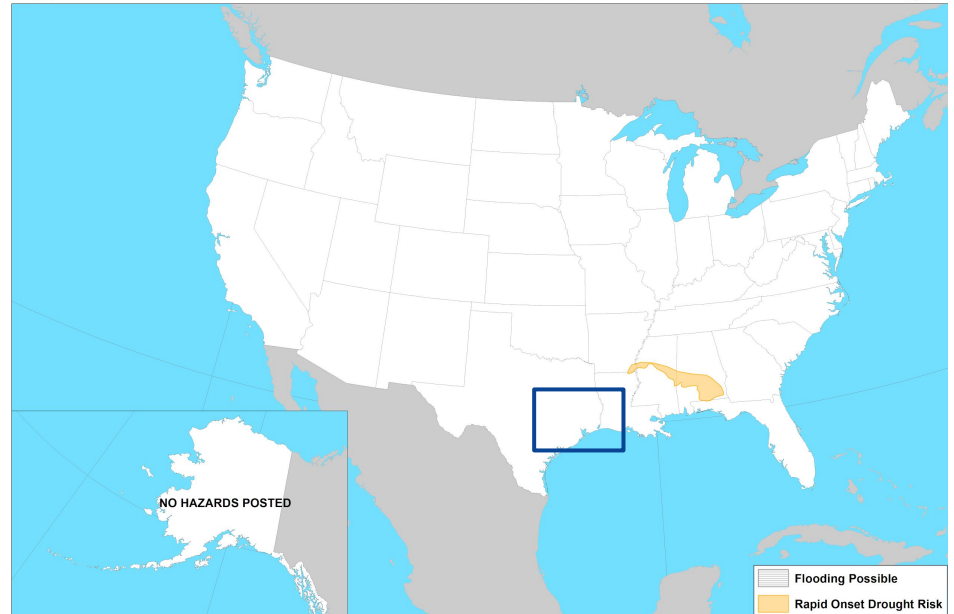
Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- Since the area is already in drought, the risk of rapid onset drought is low.



Day 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook
Valid: 09/23/2023-09/29/2023



Climate Prediction Center
Made: 09/15/2023 3PM EDT

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Image Caption:
[Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook](#) Valid September 23 to 29.





Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- For the rest of September, above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation is favored.

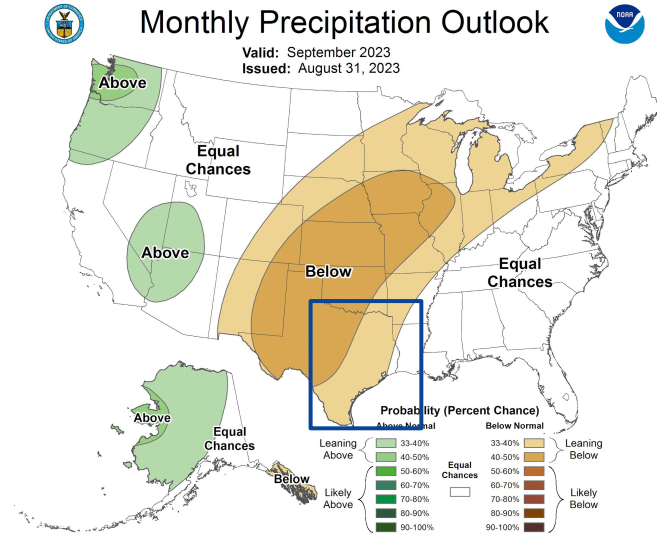
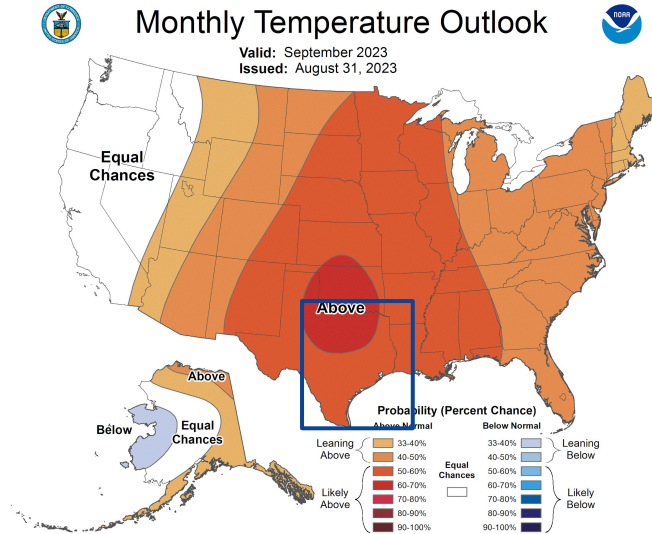


Image Captions:

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

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

Valid September 2023





Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- With the hot and generally dry weather continuing, drought will persist through September.
- Minor improvements may be made next week where the heaviest of rainfall fell this week.

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

Valid for September 2023
Released August 31, 2023

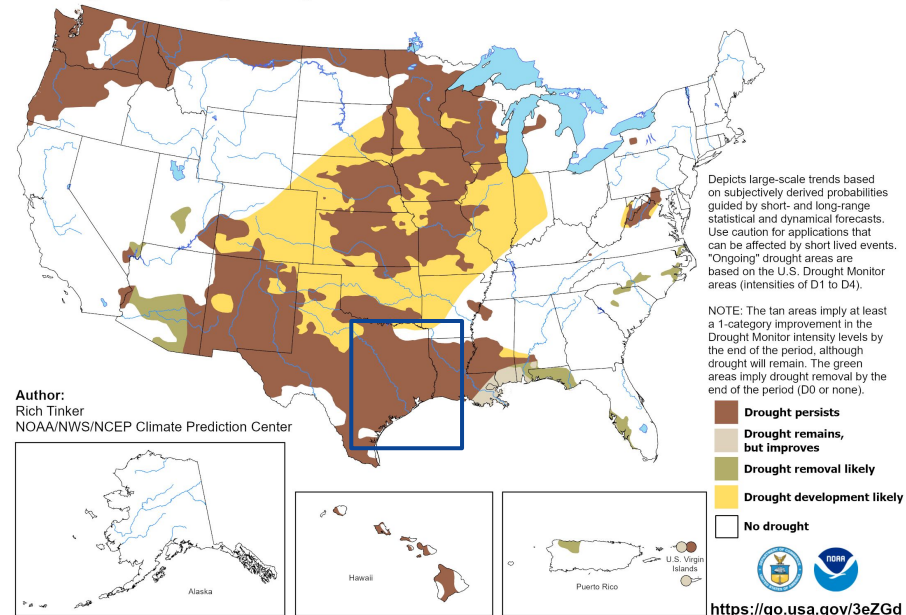


Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released August 31, 2023 valid for September 2023

Links to the latest:

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

