



Drought Information Statement for Southeast Texas

Valid October 19, 2023

Issued By: NWS Houston/Galveston

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated November 2, 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.





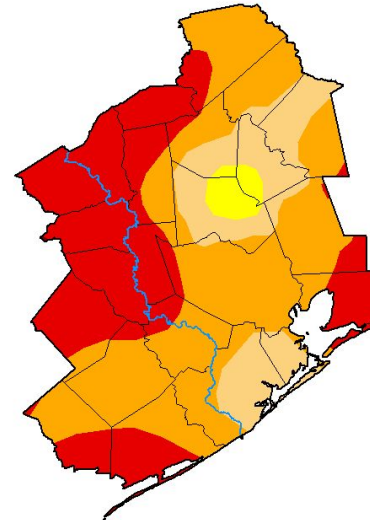
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought improvement across the area
- Drought Intensity and Extent
 - D4 (Exceptional Drought): None
 - D3 (Extreme Drought): Parts of Houston, Madison, Walker, Grimes, Brazos, Burleson, Washington, Austin, Colorado, Waller, Jackson, Wharton, Harris, Matagorda, Chambers, Fort Bend, Liberty, and Polk counties.
 - D2 (Severe Drought): Parts of Trinity, Montgomery, Galveston, and Brazos counties
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): Parts of San Jacinto County

Only worst category of drought in the county listed above

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



October 17, 2023
(Released Thursday, Oct. 19, 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	97.55	81.38	35.44	0.02
Last Week 10-10-2023	0.00	100.00	100.00	96.82	55.59	0.02
3 Months Ago 07-18-2023	8.54	91.46	31.12	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 09-26-2022	0.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	99.98	55.82
One Year Ago 10-18-2022	0.00	100.00	67.80	22.20	3.79	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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NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT October 19, 2023.





Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Southeast Texas

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: None.
 - No Change: Parts of Jackson, Brazos, Madison and Houston counties.
 - Drought Improved: Across most of SE Texas with the greatest improvements in Brazos and Galveston counties (up to a 3 class improvement) and in parts of Montgomery, Walker, San Jacinto, and Polk counties (up to a 3 to 4 class improvement).

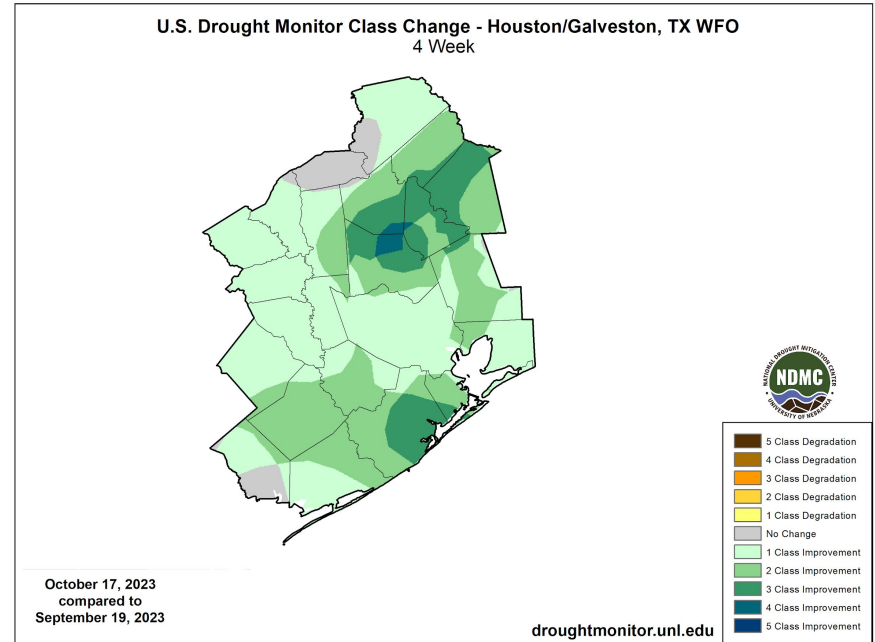


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 8am EDT October 19, 2023.





Precipitation

- SE Texas has generally received between 2 and 4 inches of rainfall over the last 30 days, but some isolated amounts of 5 to 9 inches has led to rapid drought improvement in those spots.

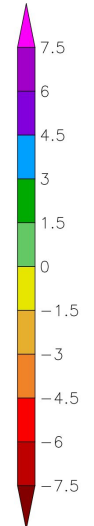
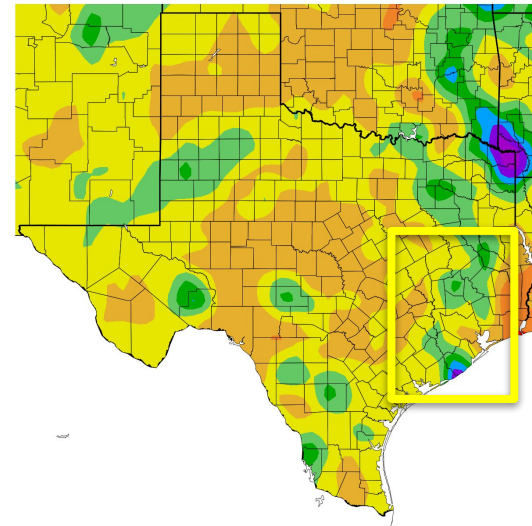
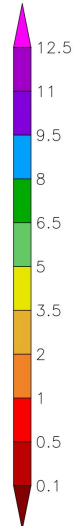
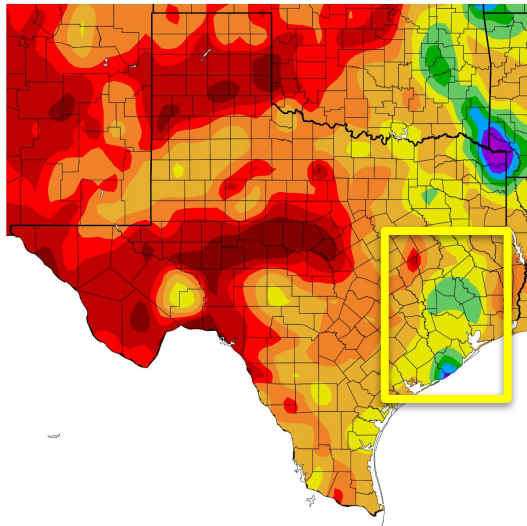


Image Captions:
Left - Precipitation Amount for Texas
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Texas
Data over the past 30 days ending October 18, 2023

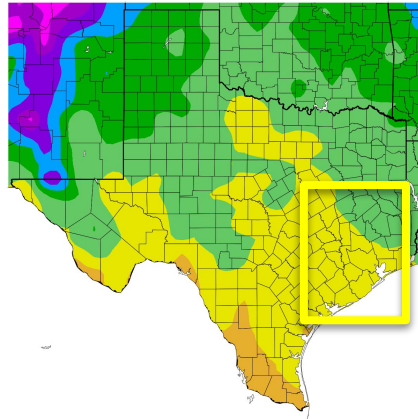




Temperature

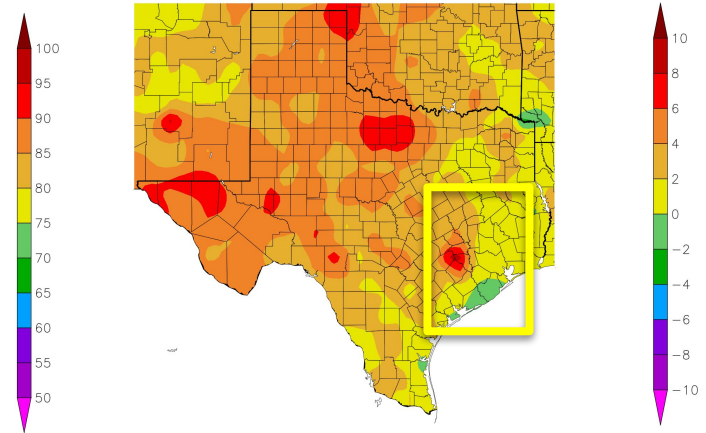
- Near to above normal temperatures have been reported in SE Texas over the 30 Days.

Temperature (F)
9/19/2023 – 10/18/2023



Generated 10/19/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/19/2023 – 10/18/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 2023 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 October 18, 2023





Summary of Impacts

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

Agricultural Impacts

- None reported.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- A burn ban is in effect for Brazos County.

Mitigation Impacts

- Some communities continue Stage 1 to 3 water restrictions.

Other Impacts

- None reported.

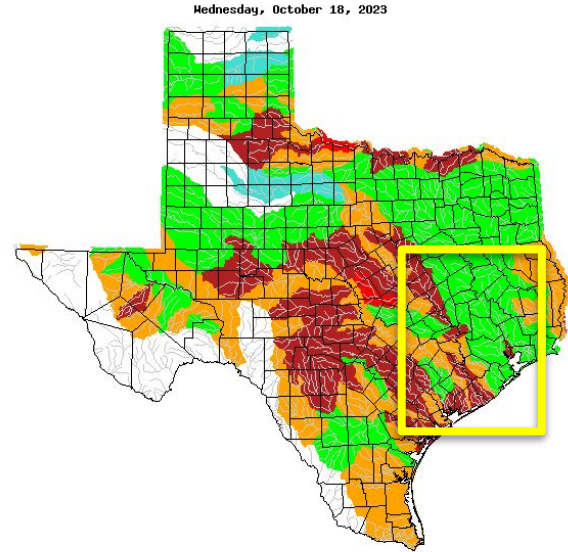




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Harris County Bayou network and the Trinity Basin are showing near normal conditions while the Brazos and San Bernard Basin continue to report below to much below streamflows.
- Reservoir Status as of 10/18...

Lake Name	Level Percent Full (%)
○ Houston County Lake	83.5
○ Lake Livingston	82.2
○ Lake Conroe	92.7
○ Lake Houston	91.6
○ Lake Somerville	64.4
○ Gibbons Ck Res.	71.6
○ Lake Texana	74.8



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 October 19, 2023

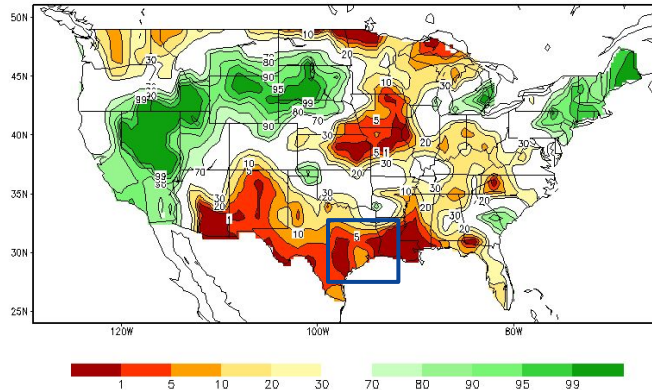




Agricultural Impacts

- Crop Moisture Index across SE Texas is either Slightly Dry or Favorably Moist.
- Soil Moisture across SE Texas is in the 5 to 10 percentile ranking.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
OCT 18, 2023



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending OCT 14, 2023
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

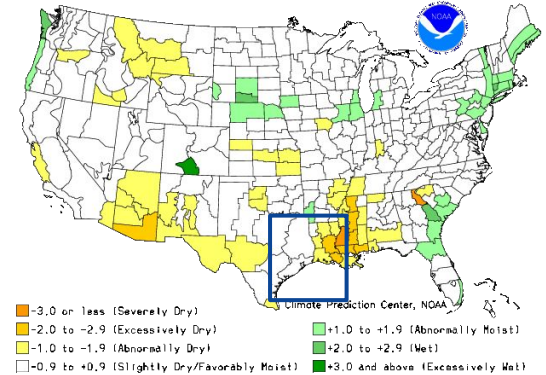


Image Captions:

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

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending October 18, 2023





Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

- Only Brazos County remains in a Burn Ban.
- Wildland Fire Potential is much above normal for October.

Latest TX Burn Ban map available [here](#).

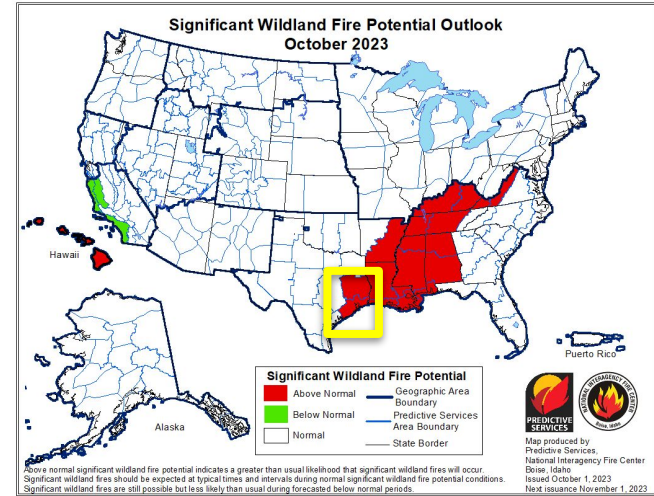
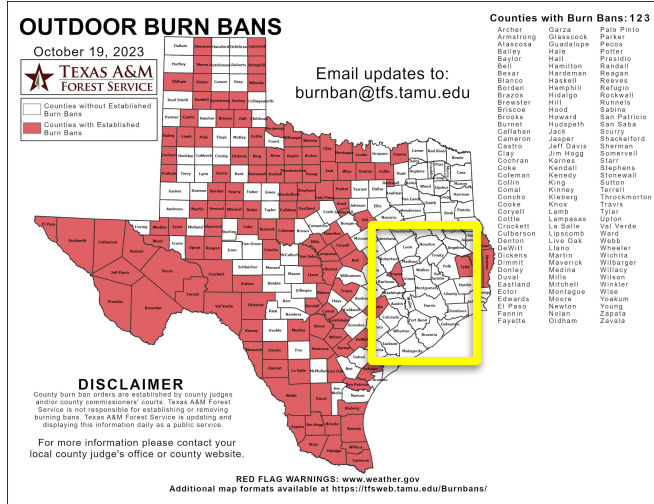


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for October 2023



Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

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

- Scattered showers and thunderstorms to start next week followed by an expected cold front during the late week timeframe will bring precipitation totals to up to one to two inches of rain for SE Texas.

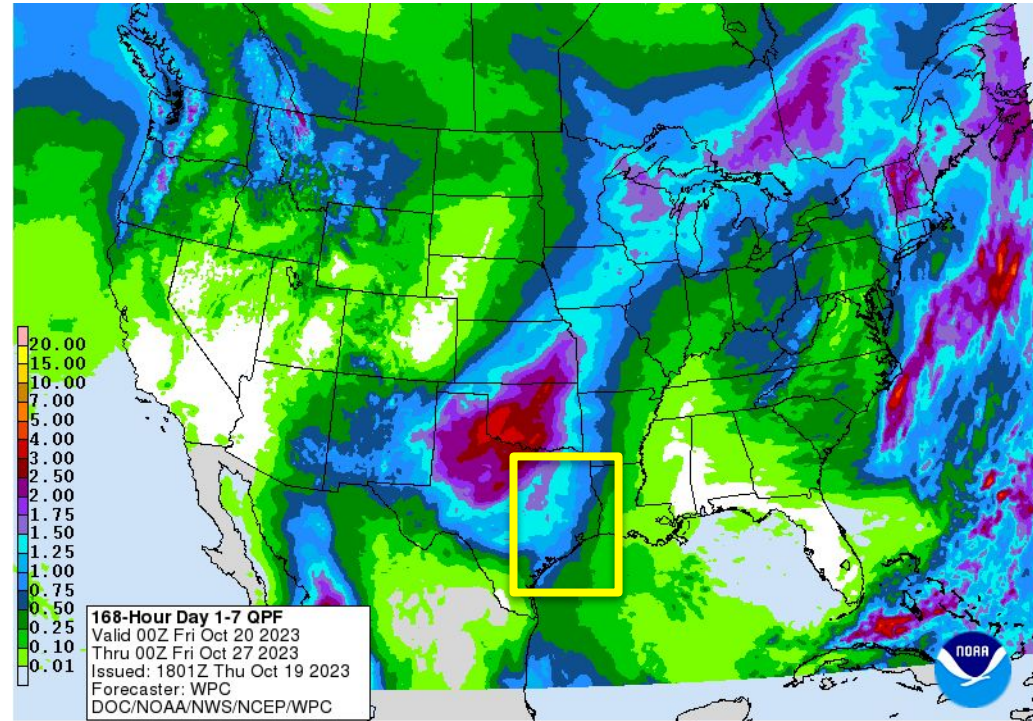


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid September 16, 2023 to September 23, 2023





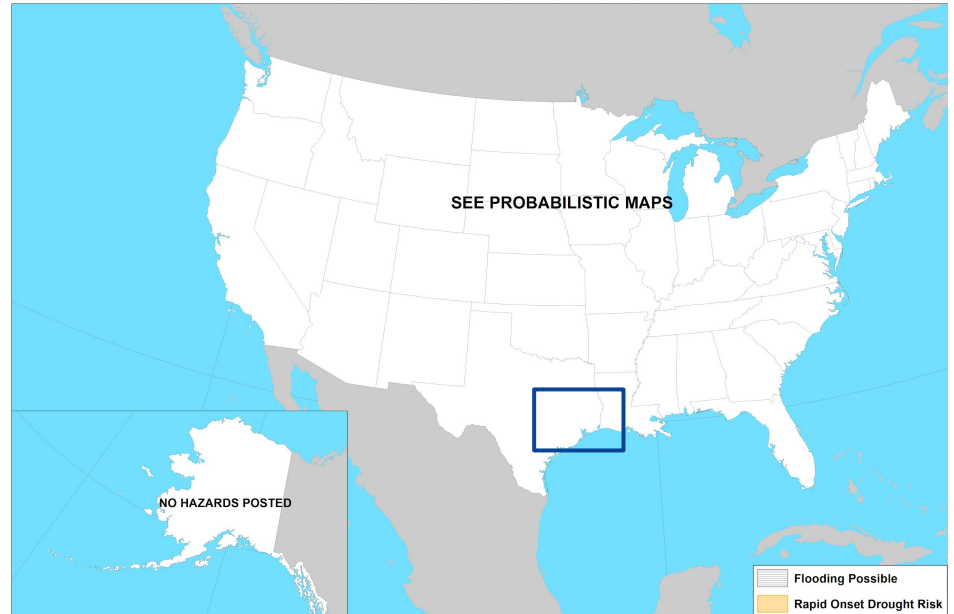
Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

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: 10/26/2023-11/01/2023



Climate Prediction Center
Made: 10/18/2023 3PM EDT

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Image Caption: [Days 8 to 14 U.S. Hazards Outlook](#) Valid October 26 to November 1.





Long-Range Outlooks

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

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

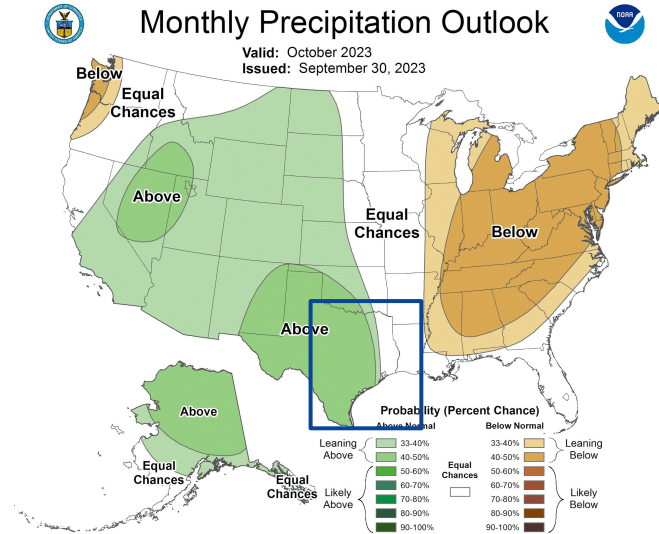
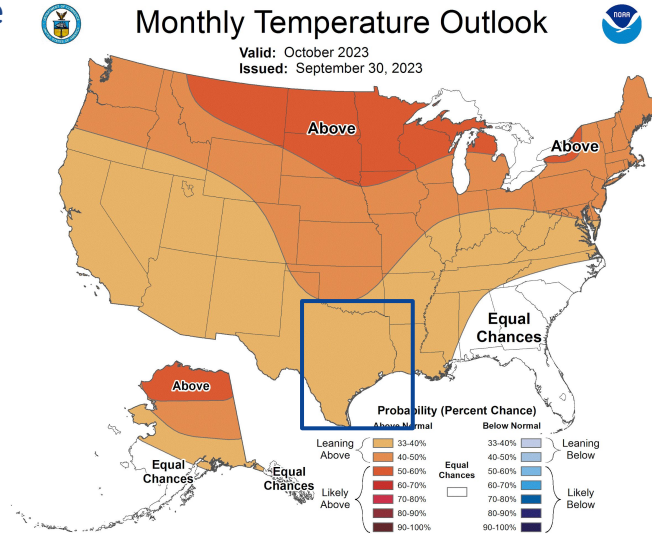


Image Captions:

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

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

Valid October 2023





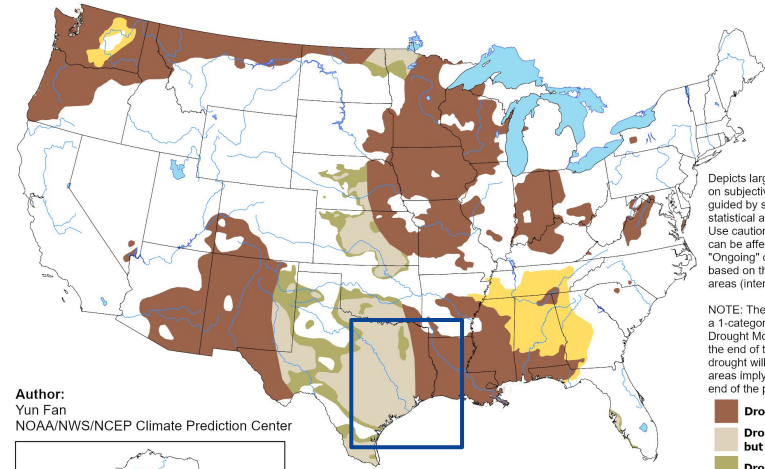
Drought Outlook

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

- While drought is expected to remain in SE Texas for the remainder of October, it will improve.

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

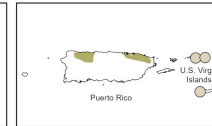
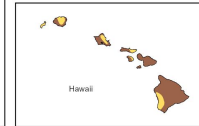
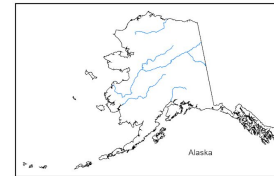
Valid for October 2023
Released September 30, 2023



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).

Author:
Yun Fan
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



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



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

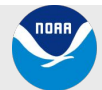
Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released September 30, 2023 valid for October 2023

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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

National Weather Service
Houston/Galveston