



Drought Information Statement for the Middle Ohio River Valley

Valid October 4, 2024

Issued By: NWS Wilmington Ohio

Contact Information: spotreport.iln@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated November 1, 2024 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/ILN/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.

- Drought conditions have improved significantly across many locations due to rainfall from Helene, though some areas received little/no relief.





U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Lower Midwest

U.S. Drought Monitor Wilmington, OH WFO

October 1, 2024
(Released Thursday, Oct. 3, 2024)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	15.14	84.86	49.90	16.55	7.47	0.49
Last Week 09-24-2024	0.00	100.00	95.72	67.28	38.56	8.24
3 Months Ago 07-02-2024	18.51	81.49	31.43	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	29.04	70.96	41.87	0.17	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	0.00	100.00	46.71	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 10-03-2023	3.37	96.63	49.05	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D0 Abnormally Dry	D2 Severe Drought	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought		

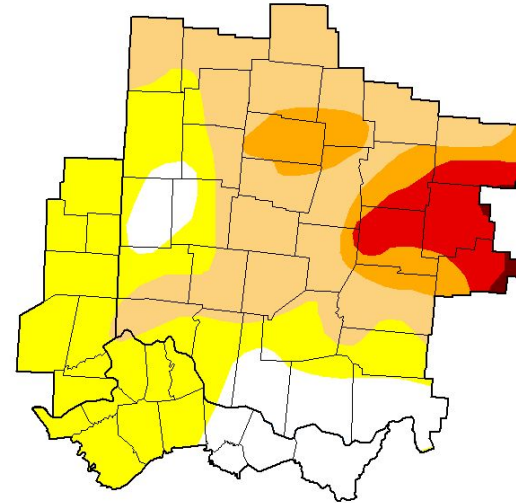
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Drought intensity and Extent

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** Now only in small areas of the Hocking River basin.
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Also now more limited, covering portions of central Ohio.
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Lingering in portions of central Ohio
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Central/portions of Southwest Ohio, as well as portions of the Miami/St. Mary's drainage areas.
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Limited to northern Kentucky, Southeast Indiana, far southern Ohio and some Miami Valley areas.



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

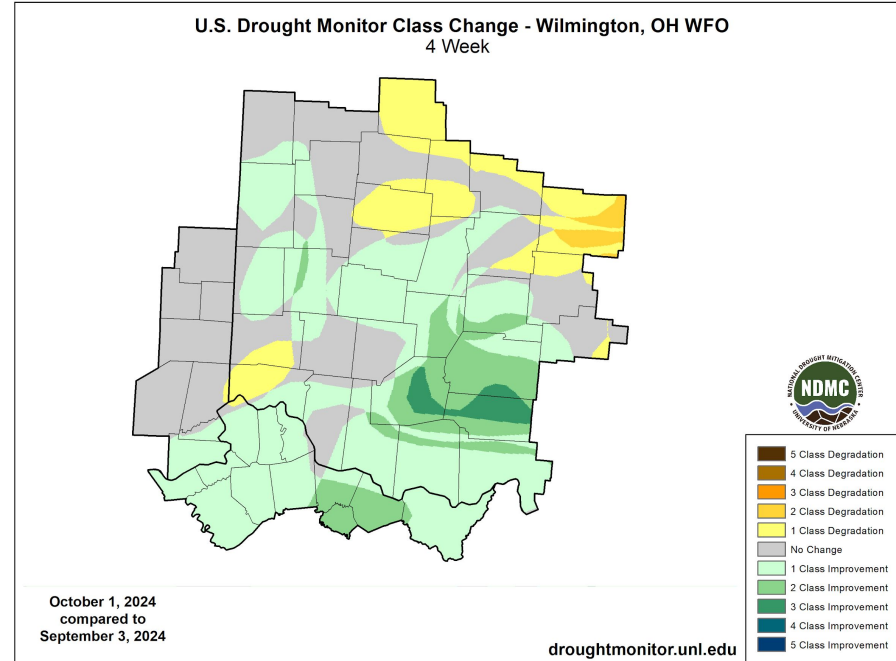
National Weather Service
Wilmington, OH



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Ohio River Valley

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - **Drought Worsened:** Areas of far southwest Ohio, portions of central Ohio.
 - **No Change:** Scattered areas covering SE Indiana and portions of western Ohio.
 - **Drought Improved:** Remnants of Hurricane Helene improved drought conditions across northern Kentucky, much of southern and central Ohio, and portions of western Ohio.

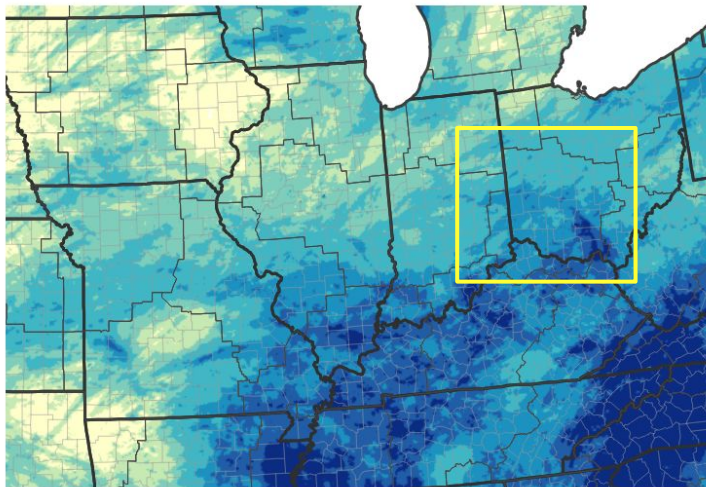




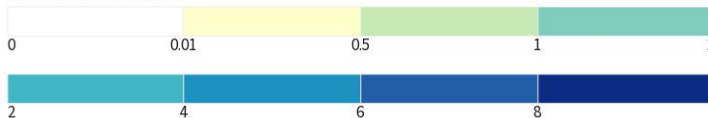
Precipitation Accumulations and Percent of Normal

Precipitation over the past 30 days has shown near to above normal rainfall has occurred in all but some areas of central Ohio and the St. Mary's river basin region, where below normal precipitation persists

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

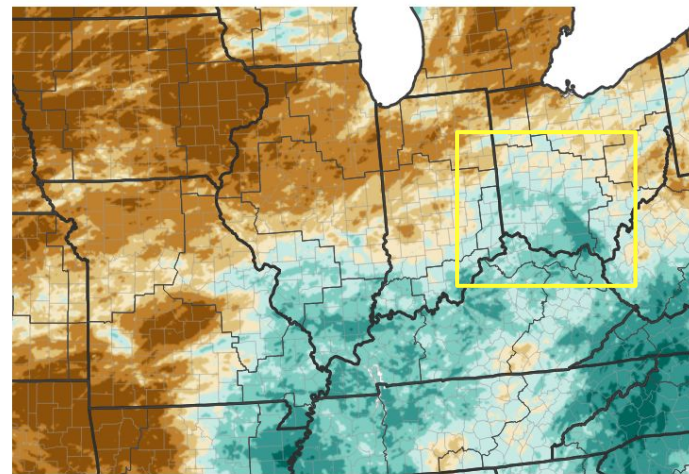


Inches of Precipitation

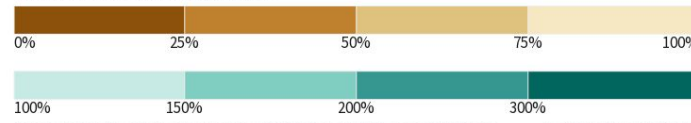


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 10/04/24

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 10/04/24





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- 7-day average streamflows have improved significantly over the region
- Several reservoir levels remain below normal summer pool levels, but are much closer to normal now.
- Improvement in some residential and agricultural wells in southern and southeast Ohio

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture had recovered significantly across some regions, but remains low in some of the Hocking Valley and portions of central Ohio
- Hay shortages do remain for many farmers, with still some cases of water hauling and selloff of livestock
- [Ohio Crop Weather Report](#), [Indiana Crop Weather Report](#), [Kentucky Crop Weather Report](#)
- [Ohio Country Journal](#) [State Climate Office of Ohio](#) [Kentucky Division of Water Drought Page](#)

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Temporary reduction in fire danger, though a dry October may result in fire danger ramping up toward mid/end of the month

Mitigation Actions

- Improving conditions in the most drought-stricken areas in both water supply and water quality





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- USGS 7-day streamflow is now in the near normal to slightly above normal range for early October.
- While some U.S. Army Corps lakes are 1 to 3 feet below pool levels, many have returned close to normal levels for early October.

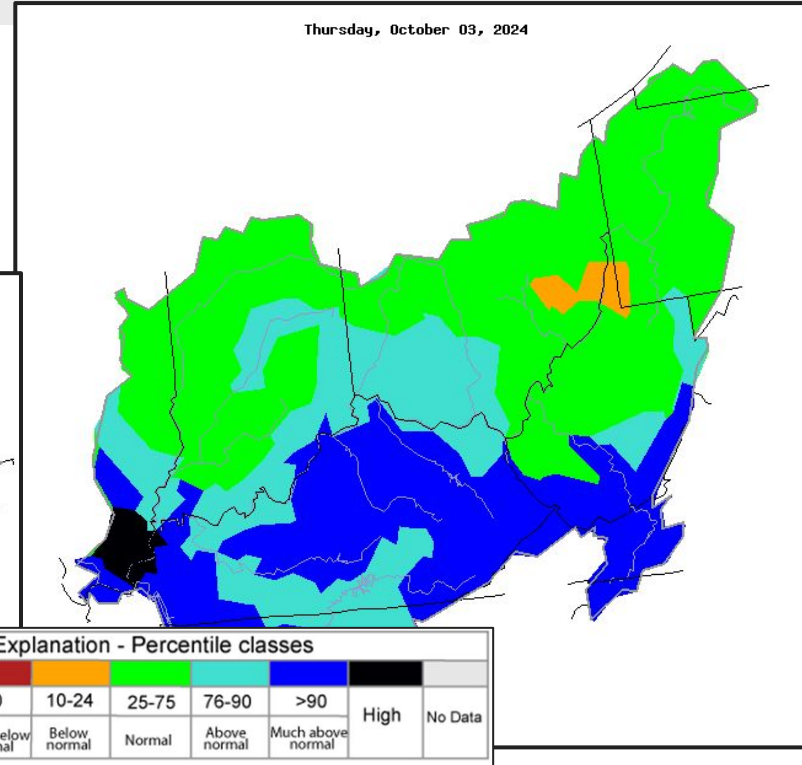
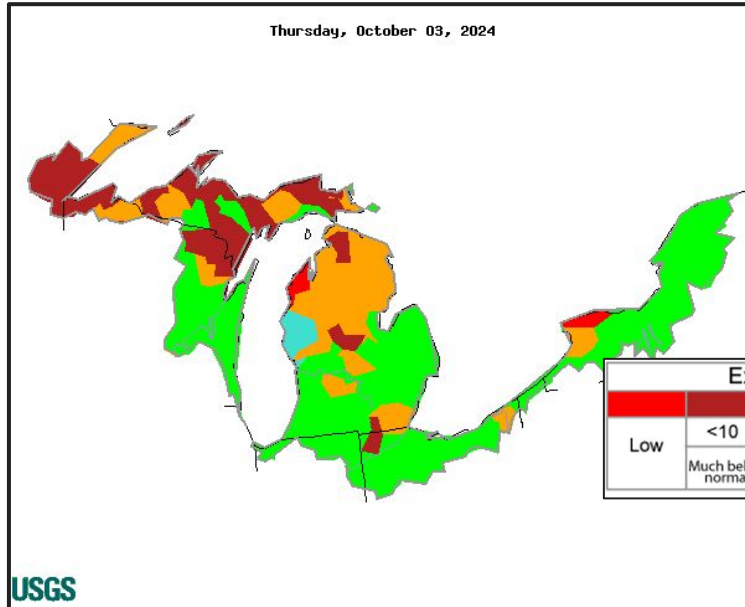


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow basin map valid October 3,, 2024

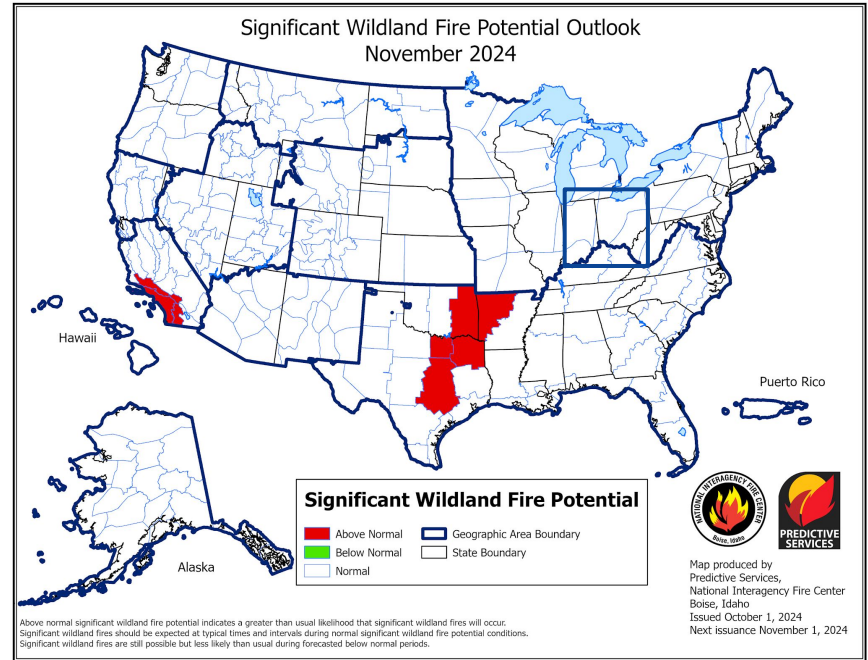
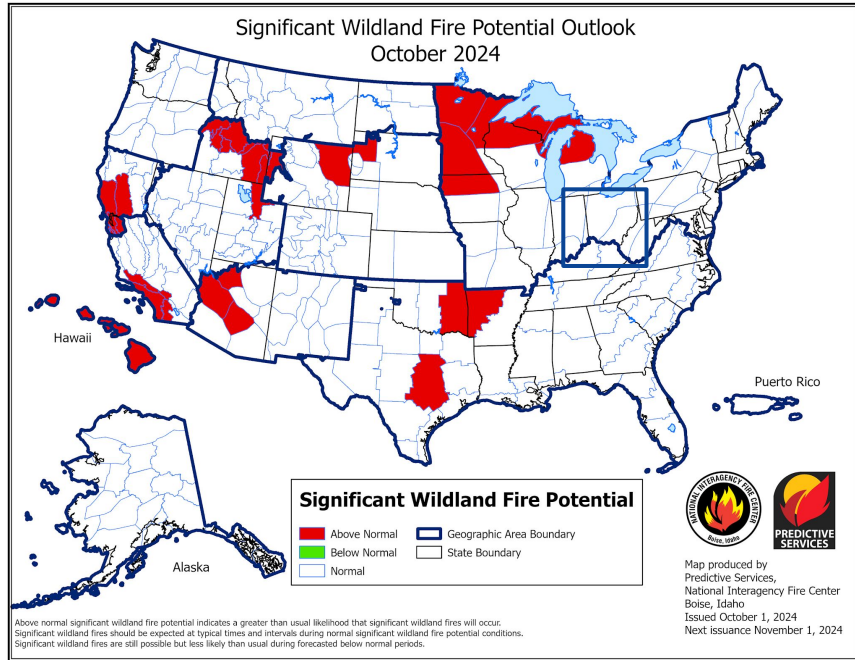




Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Current Fire Conditions from Drought.gov](#)

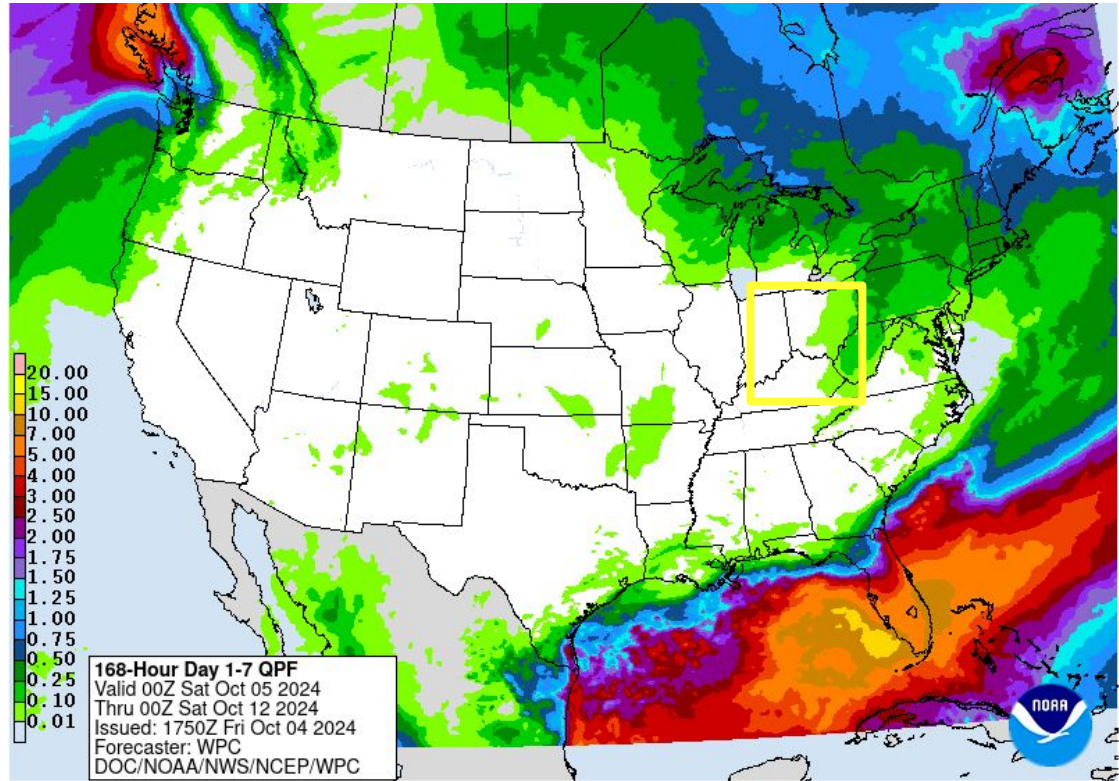
- Wildland Fire Potential is now near normal for October and November - conditions may change for November, however, as dry conditions are expected through October.





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A return to dry conditions is expected across the mid Ohio Valley over the next 7 days and beyond



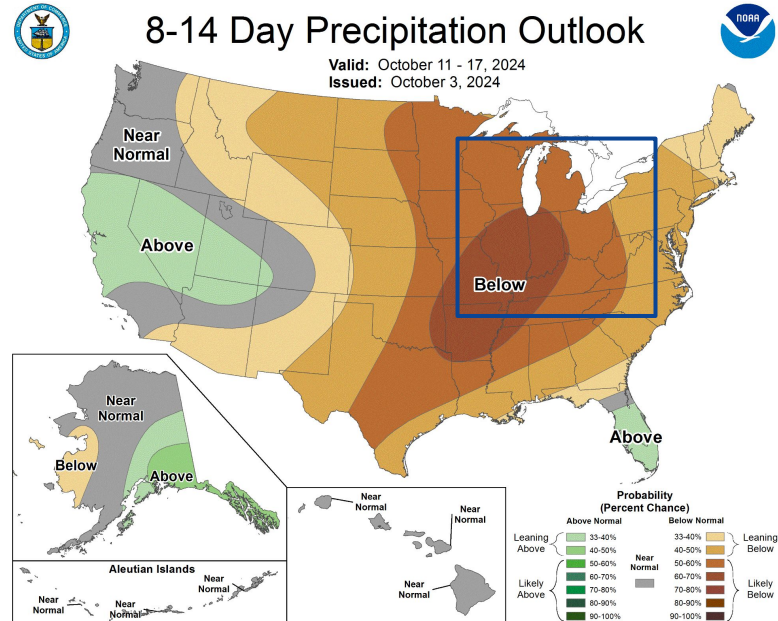
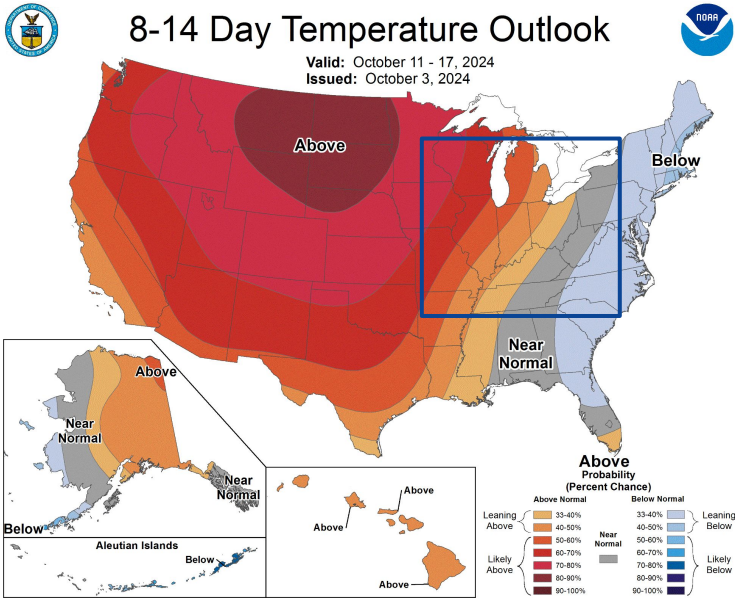


8 to 14 Day Outlooks

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

The Climate Prediction Center outlook calls for:

- Near to above normal temperatures for mid October
- Fairly high confidence in below normal precipitation





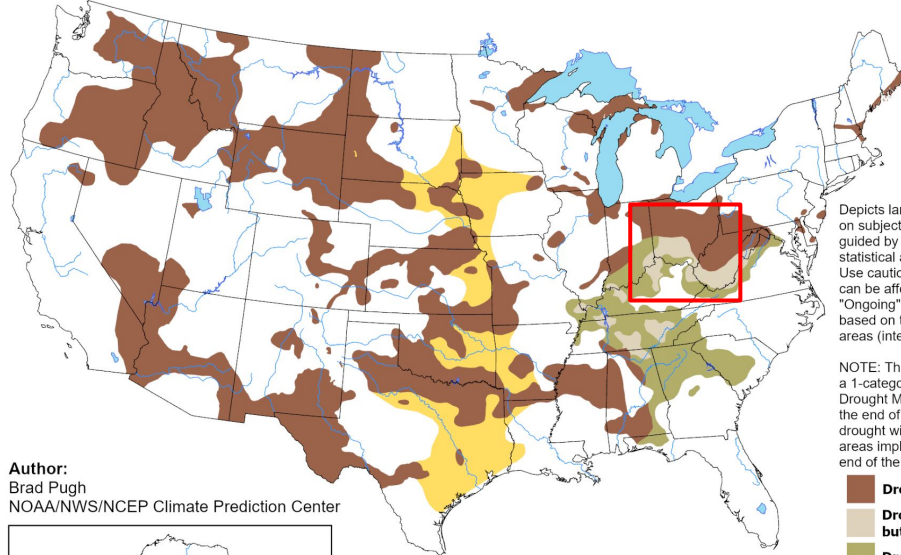
Drought Outlook

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

- Current drought conditions are expected to persist, with only some areas expected to receive slight improvement.
- With cooler autumn temperatures, evapotranspiration rates will be lower, resulting in a less dramatic increase of drought in areas which may remain dry over the coming month.

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

Valid for October 2024
Released September 30, 2024

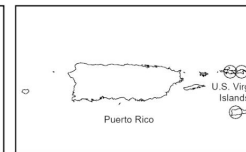
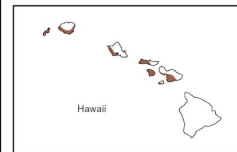
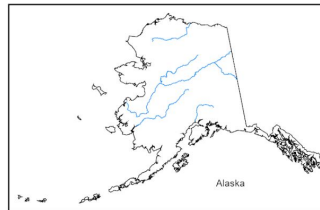


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to 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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<https://go.usa.gov/3eZGd>

Links to the latest:

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



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National Weather Service
Wilmington, OH