



Drought Information Statement for the South Plains, Rolling Plains, and far Southern Texas Panhandle

Valid November 2nd, 2023

Issued By: WFO Lubbock, TX

Contact Information: lub.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated when drought conditions redevelop.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/lub/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.





U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the South Plains, Rolling Plains, and southern Texas Panhandle

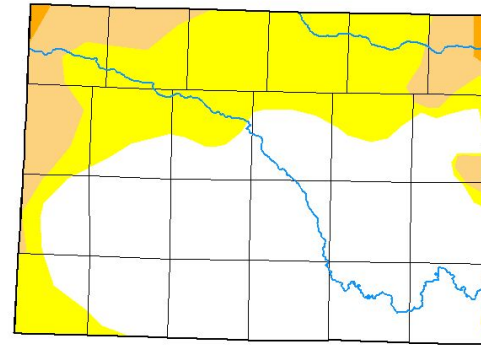
- DROUGHT CONDITIONS CONTINUED TO IMPROVE THROUGH OCTOBER
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D2 (Severe Drought): Covers a small portion of the extreme southwestern Texas Panhandle and southeastern Texas Panhandle
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): Covers a greater portion of the extreme southwestern Texas Panhandle and southeastern Texas Panhandle
 - D0 (Abnormally Dry): Covers the remainder of the extreme southern Texas Panhandle and portions of the South Plains and Rolling Plains

U.S. Drought Monitor Lubbock, TX WFO

October 31, 2023
(Released Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	56.74	43.26	12.06	0.84	0.01	0.00
Last Week 10-24-2023	43.03	56.97	12.96	1.36	0.01	0.00
3 Months Ago 08-01-2023	73.69	26.31	6.67	0.08	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2023	0.00	100.00	100.00	70.47	18.26	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	0.00	100.00	20.11	1.20	0.01	0.00
One Year Ago 11-01-2022	0.00	100.00	100.00	70.43	21.46	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:
Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



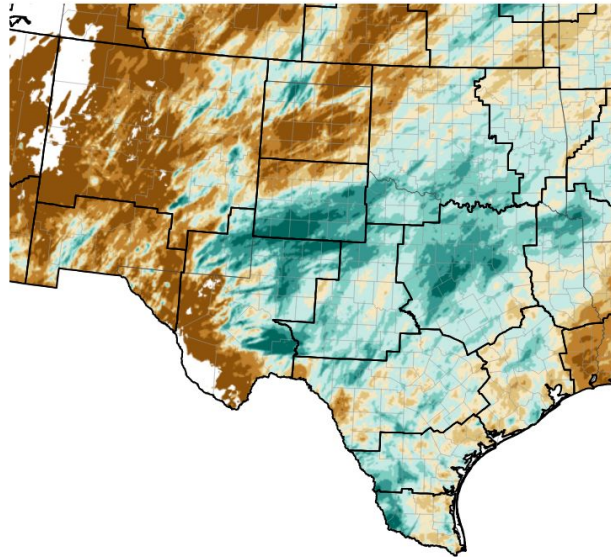


Precipitation

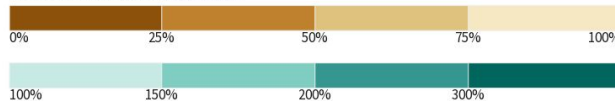
Last 30 days

- October brought several heavy rain events which led to a large swath of the South Plains and Rolling Plains over 200 percent of normal rainfall
- The extreme southern Texas Panhandle missed much of this beneficial rainfall leading to below average precipitation

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



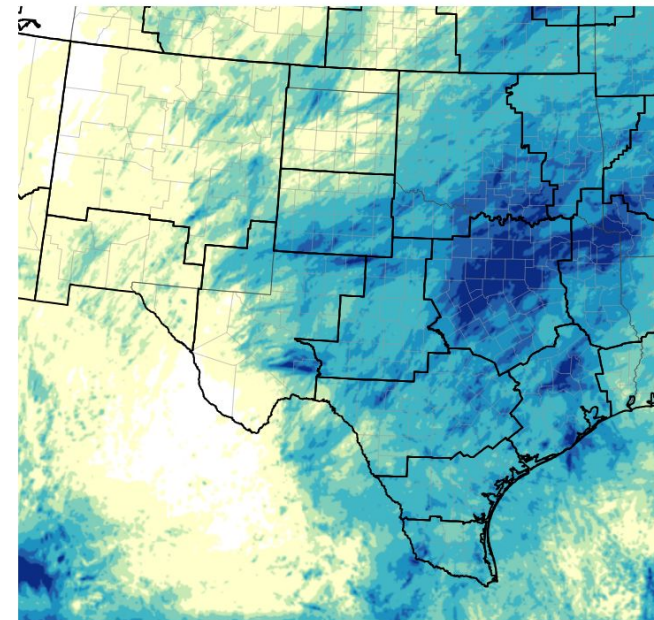
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 11/01/23

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: 11/01/23





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Area reservoir levels across the South Plains and Rolling Plains saw increases in levels due to well above average rainfall in upstream basins. Flooding was reported in Lubbock County near playa lakes, Buffalo Springs Lake and Ransom Canyon Lake.

Agricultural Impacts

- Please see the latest [Crop and Weather Report](#) from Texas A&M Agrilife

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire weather hazards were greatly reduced during October due to the above average rainfall

Mitigation Actions

- Some area cities reported continued watering restrictions. Please refer to your city or municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- October rains increased area reservoir levels at White River Lake and Lake Alan Henry where much of the rain fell in upstream basins
- Other area reservoirs saw a decrease due to a lack of rainfall

Reservoir	Conservation Pool (ft)	Current Elevation (ft)	Percent Full
Mackenzie Lake	3100	3015.6	10%
White River Lake	2370	2353.4	27%
Lake Alan Henry	2220	2217.2	92%
Lake Meredith	2936	2891.3	45%

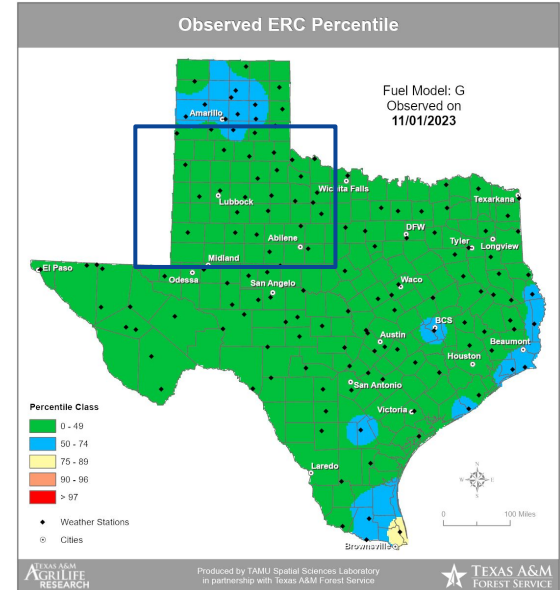
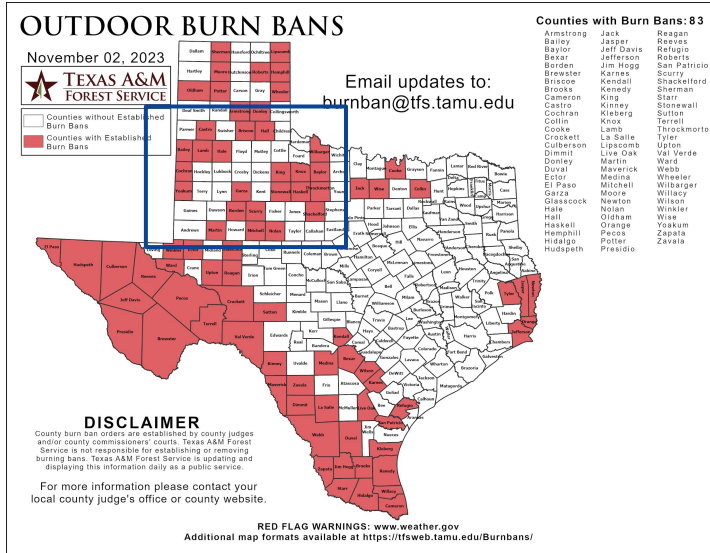




Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#) and latest TX burn ban [map](#).

- Fire weather impacts have been low over the past month due to the above average rainfall
- ERC values have dropped well below average with the rainfall and a brief cold period at the end of October
- County burn bans have been reduced over the Rolling Plains but expanded over the extreme southern Texas Panhandle



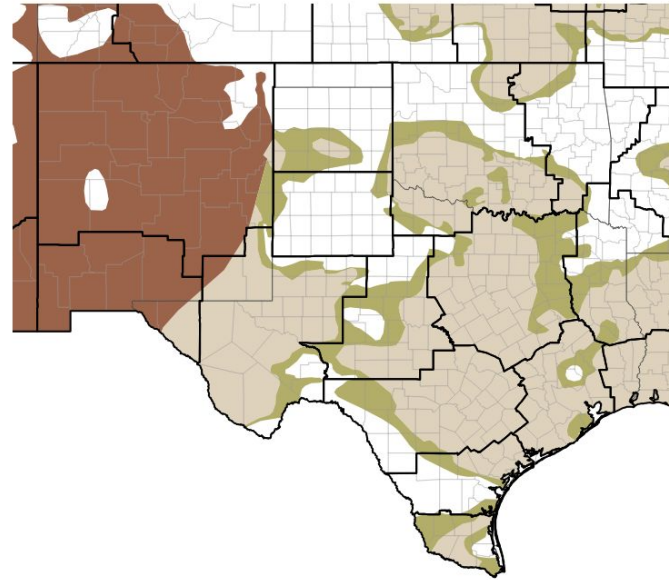


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought category improvements are expected for the extreme southwestern and southeastern Texas Panhandle
- Some areas of drought removal are possible surrounding the extreme southwestern and southeastern Texas Panhandle
- This is due to the expect impact of positive ENSO conditions through the month of November where there are greater than normal chances of above average precipitation

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 10/19/23

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
Lubbock, TX