



Drought Information Statement for West Texas & Southeast New Mexico

Valid 05/10/2024

Issued By: WFO Midland/Odessa

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

- This product will be updated June 11, 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/maf/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



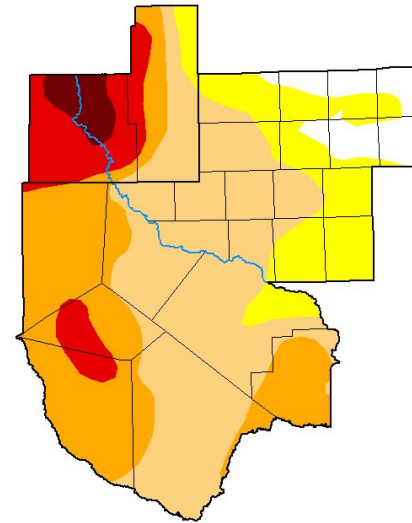


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- DROUGHT CONDITIONS UNCHANGED FOR WEST TEXAS AND SE NM.
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D4 (Exceptional Drought): North central Eddy County, NM.
 - D3 (Extreme Drought): Portions of the Davis Mountains as well as Eddy and Lea counties in NM.
 - D2 (Severe Drought): Marfa Plateau, Culberson County and portions of Eddy and Lea counties as well as much of Terrell County.
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): Davis Mountain Foothills, western portions of the Permian Basin and much of Brewster County.
 - D0: (Abnormally Dry): Eastern portions of the Permian Basin and Lower Trans Pecos

U.S. Drought Monitor Midland/Odessa, TX WFO



May 7, 2024
(Released Thursday, May 9, 2024)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	6.54	15.70	40.08	26.13	9.08	2.48
Last Week 04-30-2024	6.54	15.70	40.08	26.13	9.08	2.48
3 Months Ago 02-06-2024	13.63	26.01	26.93	21.72	5.48	6.24
Start of Calendar Year 01-02-2024	13.72	25.95	26.91	21.74	5.45	6.24
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	0.00	5.05	30.07	32.49	23.81	8.58
One Year Ago 05-09-2023	0.00	29.28	33.72	17.20	18.05	1.75

Intensity

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme 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

Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EST May 9th.





Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - No changes in the last week.

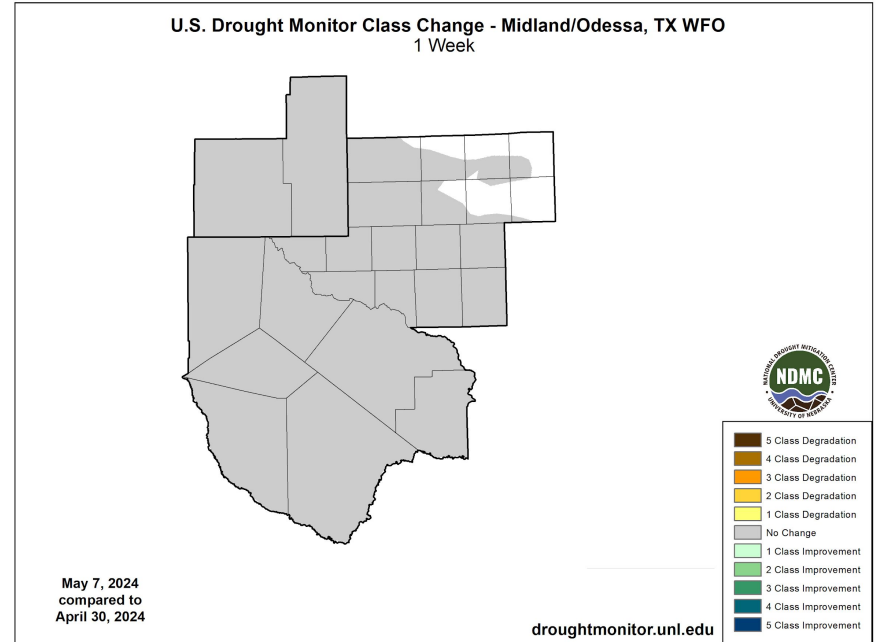


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map valid 8am EST May 7th.

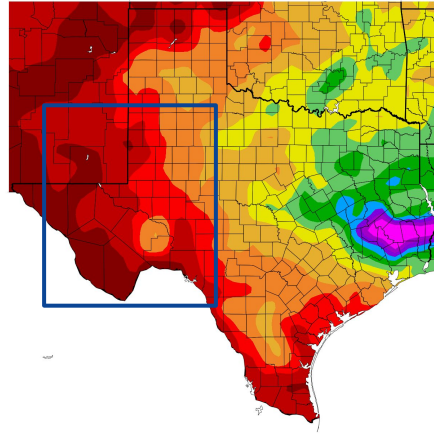




Precipitation

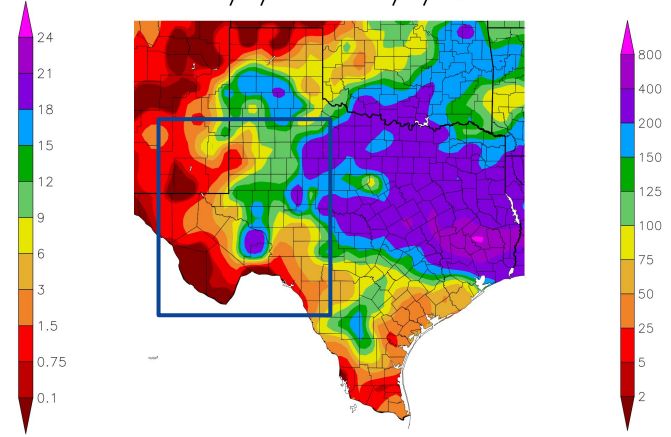
- Little precipitation fell over areas west of the Pecos River for much of April and into early May. Across the Lower Trans Pecos and up across much of the Permian Basin saw well above normal precipitation for the month of April. However, more precipitation will be needed to greatly improve drought conditions.

Precipitation (in)
4/9/2024 - 5/8/2024



Generated 5/9/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
4/9/2024 - 5/8/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Image Captions:
 Left - Precipitation Amount for West Texas and SE NM
 Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for West Texas and SE NM
 Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.
 Data over the past 30 days ending May 8, 2024

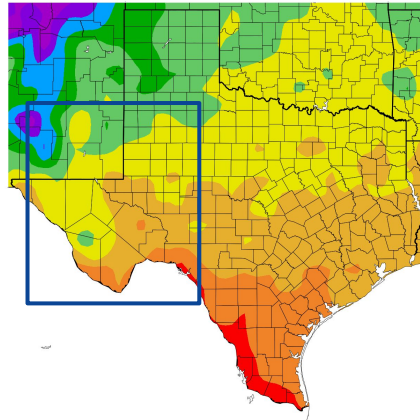




Temperature

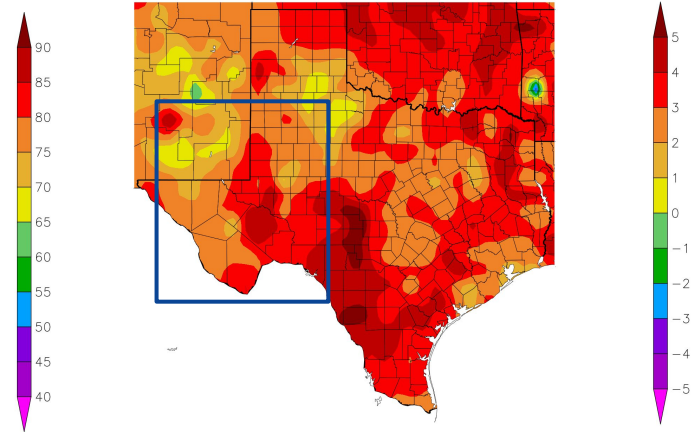
- Temperatures heading into the middle of spring are naturally on the rise as it gets closer to summer. For West Texas and southeast New Mexico, much of the region was between 2-4 degrees above normal for the last month.

Temperature (F)
4/9/2024 - 5/8/2024



Generated 5/9/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
4/9/2024 - 5/8/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers ²⁴ 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 May 8, 2024





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Most area rivers and tributaries remain near baseflow. Area reservoirs are at 45.5% conservation capacity. See next page for more details.

Agricultural Impacts

- Per Agrilife Texas A&M [Crop and Weather Report](#), some flood damage has been reported. Pecan orchards were very good. Alfalfa production was higher than usual. Range conditions saw grass returning to normal health with pastures beginning to green up more.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Late May and into June will continue to see times where critical fire weather conditions develop. Fuel load remains low over SE NM and parts of West Texas.

Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Mitigation Actions

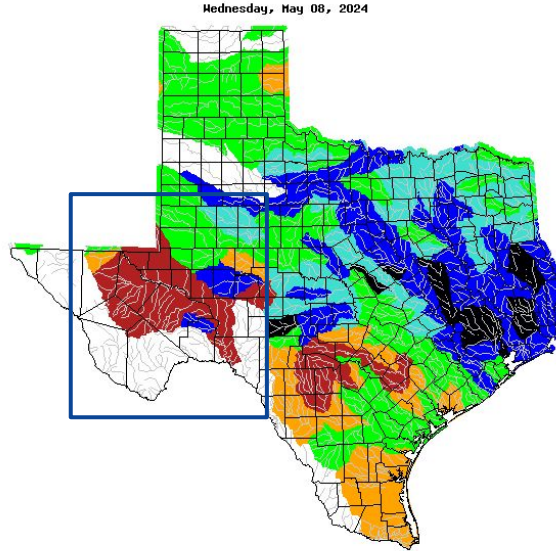
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- The Pecos and Rio Grande Basins are much below normal
- The Delaware, and North Conchos basins are below normal
- All other basins are normal to much above normal
- [Midland Monthly Hydrology Report for March](#)
- [April Rainfall](#)



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 streamflows for Texas](#), valid 8 May 2024

Reservoir	Pool Elevation	Current Elevation	% Full
JB Thomas	2258.00	2226.63	20.9
Colorado City	2070.20	2057.19	47.7
Champion Creek	2083.00	2068.89	57.2
Natural Dam Salt Lake	2457.00	2447.29	48.4
Moss Creek	2337.00	2332.22	77.0
Brantley	3256.70	3243.07	31.0
Avalon	3177.40	3172.93	41.0
Red Bluff	2827.40	2812.22	40.9

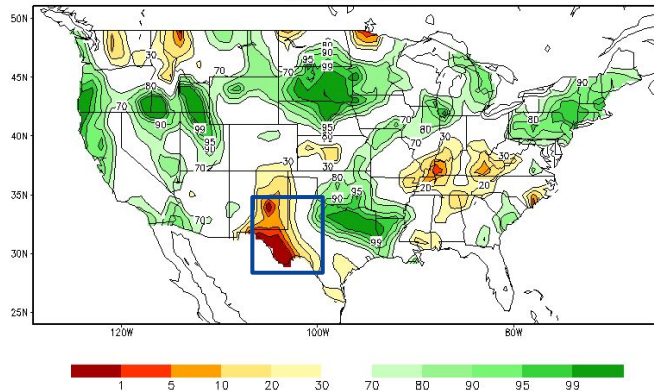




Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture continues to rank below the 10-20th percentiles across much of West Texas and SE NM with the worst conditions over the Marfa Plateau and along the Rio Grande.
- During the past month, crop moisture has become noted as being abnormally dry as below normal precipitation has occurred.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
MAY 07, 2024



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending MAY 4, 2024
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

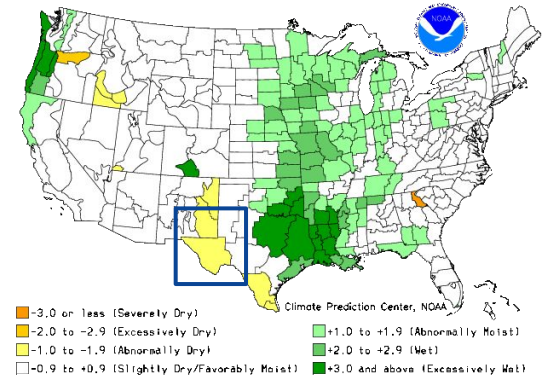


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid May 07, 2024

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending May 04, 2024

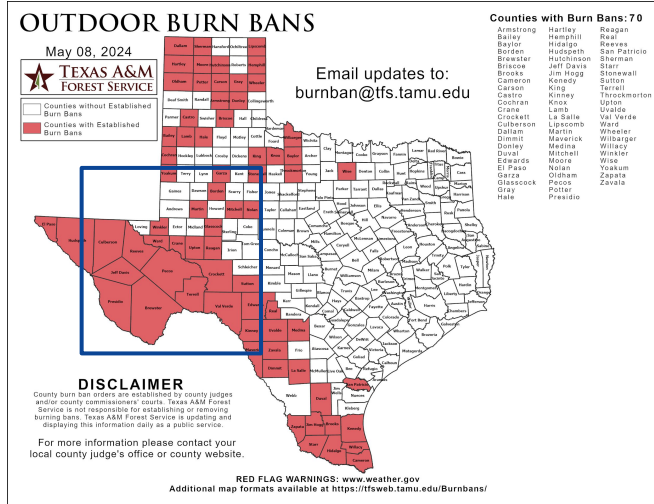




Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Significant fire potential outlook is above normal for June across West Texas and SE NM as dry and warm conditions look to persist.
- As mentioned before, fuels are not plentiful across much of SE NM and West Texas and will lessen fire hazard impacts even on days with more favorable fire weather conditions.



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

Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for June 2024





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Some measurable precipitation is likely over the coming week with lower amounts expected west of the Pecos River and higher amounts expected across the Permian Basin. Areas further to the east will see much more rain.
- Amounts will range from measurable (just over 0.01") to over an inch and a half over the Low Rolling Plains.

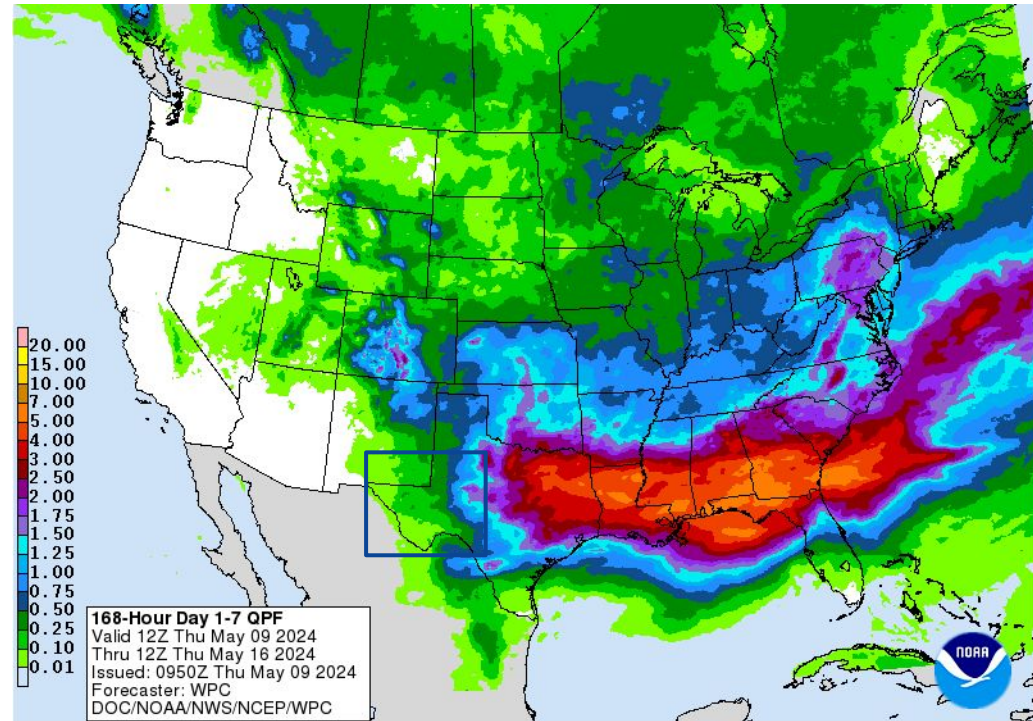


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Thursday May 09 to Thursday May 16





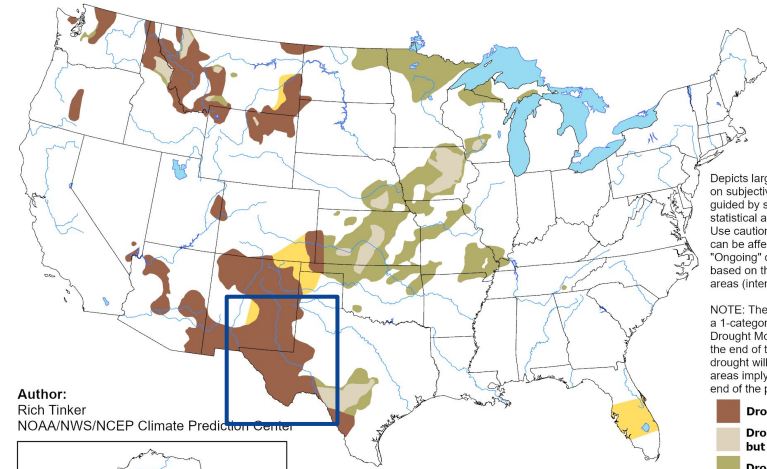
Drought Outlook

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

- May sees average precipitation jump up for the region due to the onset of spring storms. However, more consistent precipitation will need to be recorded to alleviate drought conditions. With these conditions not currently expected, drought will continue to persist.

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

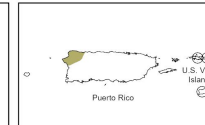
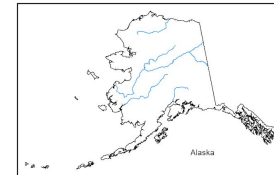
Valid for May 2024
Released April 30, 2024



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).

Author:
Rich Tinker
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 04 30, 2024 valid for 05 2024

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
Midland/Odessa