



# Drought Information Statement for southeast MS, southwest AL, and the western FL Panhandle

Valid 09/05/2024

Issued By: WFO Mobile/Pensacola

Contact Information: [sr-mob.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:sr-mob.webmaster@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated September 12, 2024 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit [weather.gov/mob/DroughtInformationStatement](https://weather.gov/mob/DroughtInformationStatement) for previous statements.
- Please visit [Drought Status Updates](#) for regional drought status updates.

- **SEVERE DROUGHT RETURNS TO PORTIONS OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST**

- *Drought becomes severe for interior of southwest AL, along and east of I-65 including much of the western Florida Panhandle.*
- *Moderate drought is in place for much of the remainder of the local area.*



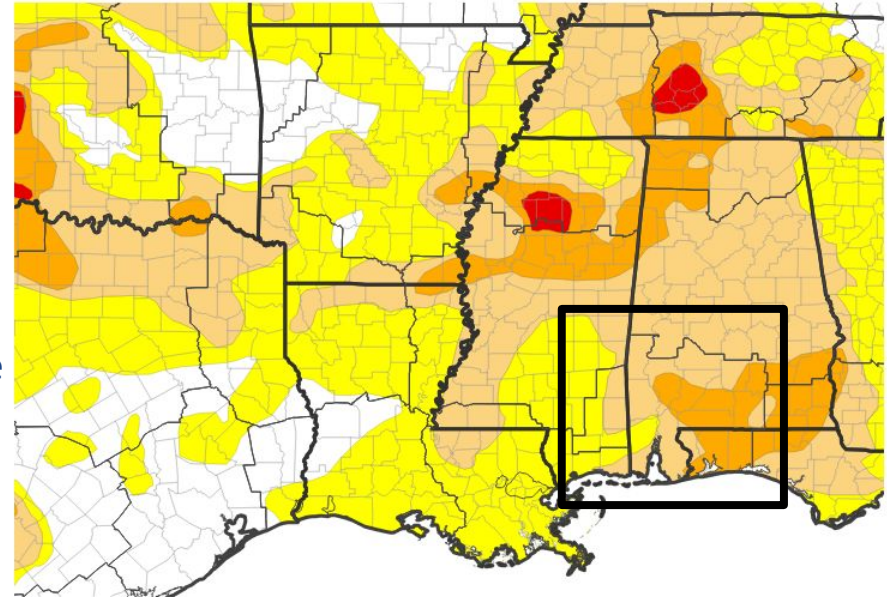


# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the SE US and central Gulf Coast

- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Lower Alabama River valley, eastward across the I-65 corridor. Much of the western Florida Panhandle.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Much of the remainder of southwest AL, westward into Greene and Wayne Counties MS.
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Remainder of interior southeast MS, into central and northern Mobile county AL.

## U.S. Drought Monitor



## U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/03/24



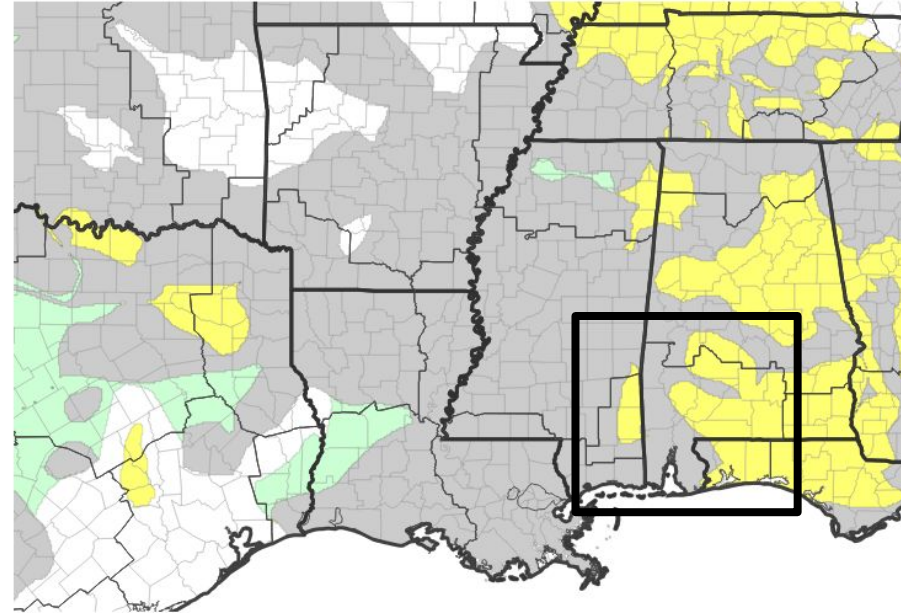


# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

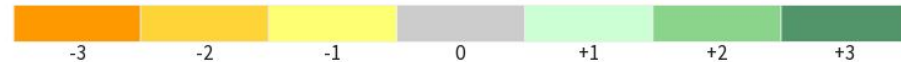
Link to the latest [1-week change map](#) for the SE US and central Gulf Coast

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
  - **Drought Worsened:** Eastern half of the local area and into portions of interior southeast MS.
  - **No Change:** For the remainder of the local area.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 09/03/24





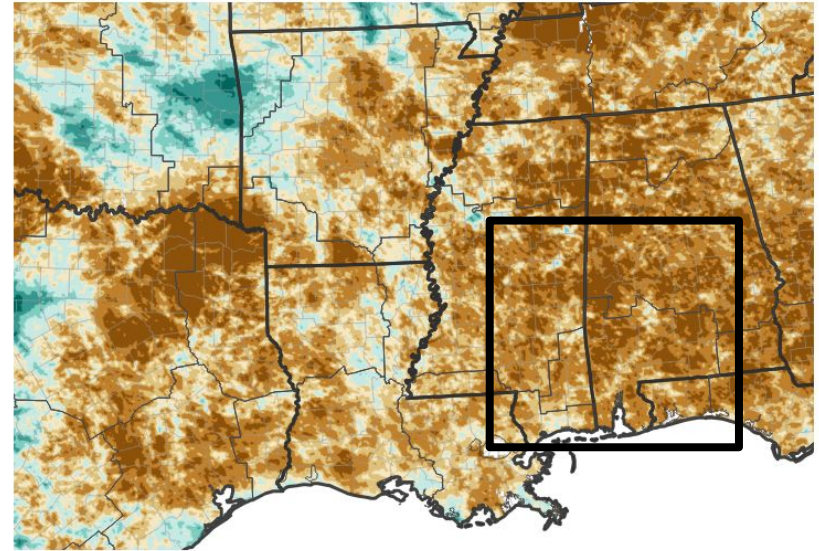
# Precipitation

Table Below Shows Rainfall Totals for Select Sites 8/1/24 to 9/4/24. Includes NWS ASOS and COOP Sites.

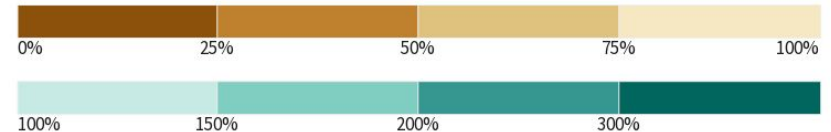
Station	Rainfall	Normal	% of Normal
Downtown Mobile AL	1.55	7.79	19.9%
Destin FL	1.50	6.71	22.4%
Waynesboro MS 2W	1.29	5.06	25.5%
Pensacola FL	1.28	8.39	15.3%
Mobile AL	2.29	7.61	30.1%
Pensacola FL 7NNE	1.72	7.55	22.8%
Crestview FL	2.22	7.14	31.1%
Niceville FL	1.44	10.12	14.2%
Bay Minette AL *	0.84	8.11	10.4%
Middleton Field Evergreen AL *	0.42	5.89	7.1%
Brewton AL 3NNE *	0.40	7.82	5.1%
Wiggins MS	2.30	6.96	33.0%

\* Indicates Record Lowest for Period

## 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: 09/05/24





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Data from the US Geological Survey (USGS) indicates many area rivers and streams at below to much below normal stage and flow. Low stages bring a multitude of hazards. Typically, deeply submerged objects will likely be closer to the water's surface or in some cases exposed, presenting a waterway hazard for safe recreational boating and commercial navigation.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Data from US Department of Agriculture (USDA) indicates that topsoil moisture in both MS and AL is short to very short by 62% or very dry while the state of FL, as a whole is 14% dry. All three states are much drier than the 5 and 10 year means for this time of year. Drought conditions have contributed to Alabama's worst pine beetle outbreak since 2001, leading to widespread damage (Source: AL Political Reporter, Montgomery AL). Supplemental feeding initiatives are required to maintain livestock condition.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Data from the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) Predictive Services Unit indicates the most significant wildland fire potential will be focused over the MidSouth in September. For the remainder of the local area, decayed timber and very dry underbrush in area forests along with dry grasslands will promote favorable conditions for fire growth and spread. It's also important to note that in the event of strong cold frontal passages, periods of critically low daytime humidity in combination with gusty northerly winds will bring periods of increased wildfire potential.

## Mitigation Actions

- Water conservation techniques are strongly encouraged in drought areas. Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information. Local water restriction ordinances may be in place.





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Select River/Creek Data from 9/5/24

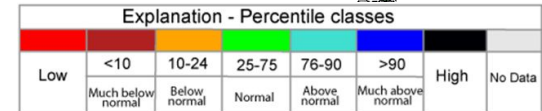
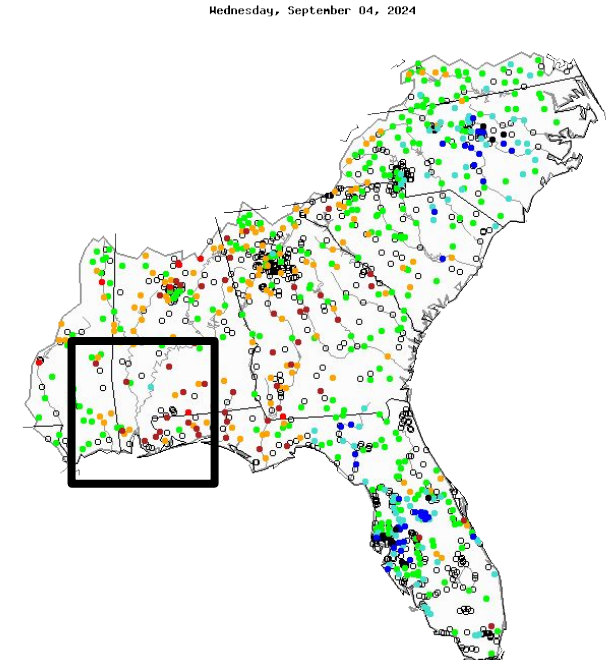
River/Stream Point	Discharge(cfs)	Stage(ft)	%Classes	Rating
Blackwater River near Bradley AL	16	0.64	1	Low
Sepulga River near McKenzie AL	19	2.65	5	MBN
Escambia River near Century FL	874	2.85	5	MBN
Styx River near Elsanor AL	112	1.55	6	MBN
Conecuh River at Brantley AL	34	0.81	6	MBN
Shoal River near Crestview FL	360	2.85	6	MBN
Juniper Creek near Niceville FL	64	6.44	9	MBN
Chickasawhay River at Leakesville MS	377	7.83	11	BN
Pascagoula River at Merrill MS	1340	2.76	12	BN
Hamilton Creek near Semmes AL	11	3.19	18	BN

- To view the most current stages and flow for each state's, stream and river points, please visit:

MS: <https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?r=ms&m=real>

AL: <https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?r=al&m=real>

FL: <https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?r=fl&m=real>





# Agricultural Impacts

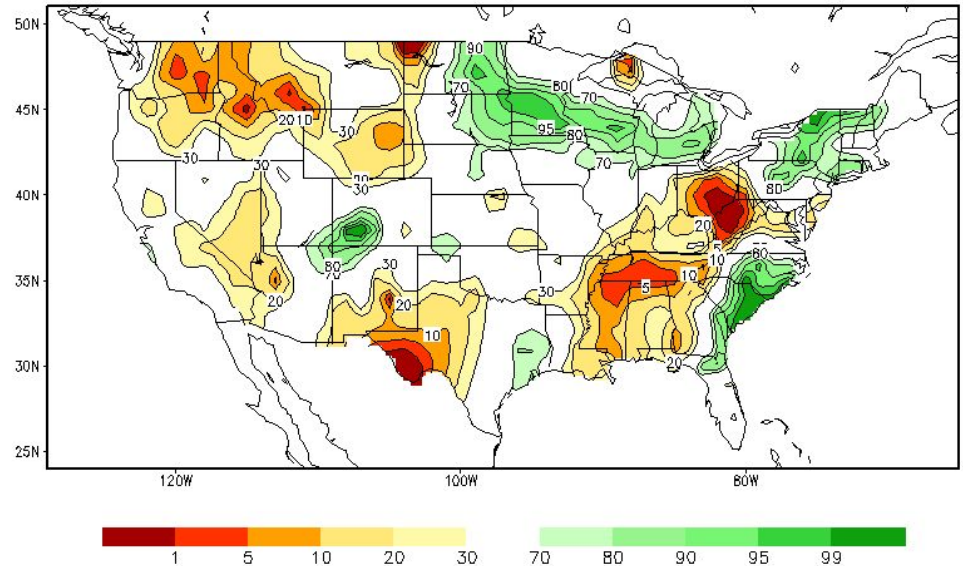
- Crop condition in the driest of areas is very poor. Crop disease and insect damage elevated. Pasture lands provide little to no livestock feed. Supplemental feeding is required to maintain livestock condition.
- Leading to very poor crop condition is the short to very short subsoil moisture makeup being well above normal. The latest state-wide top soil moisture metrics vs 5 year means.

(Depth upper 6", courtesy of USDA 09/01/24).

- MS: 62% Very Dry (Avg: 33.8%).
- AL: 62% Very Dry (Avg: 20.6%).
- FL: 14% Dry (Avg: 9.4%).

- **It is recommended that farmers reach out to local USDA office for details on available funding assistance.**

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
SEP 04, 2024



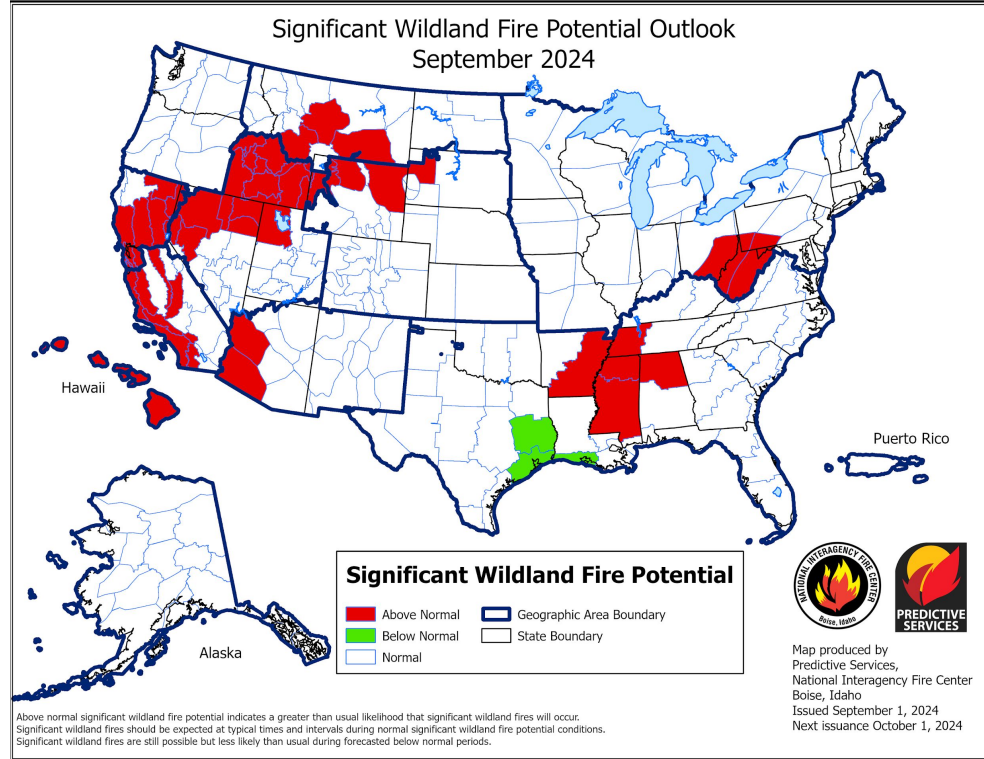


# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Decayed timber and very dry underbrush in area forests along with dry grasslands pose an above normal risk for development and spread of fire.
- It's also important to note that in the event of strong cold frontal passages, periods of critically low daytime humidity in combination with gusty northerly winds will bring periods of increased wildfire potential.
- To view the seven day significant fire potential maps, please refer to the link above.

**Latest Burn Bans and/or Advisories By State:**  
[Mississippi](#) and [Alabama](#) and [Florida](#)



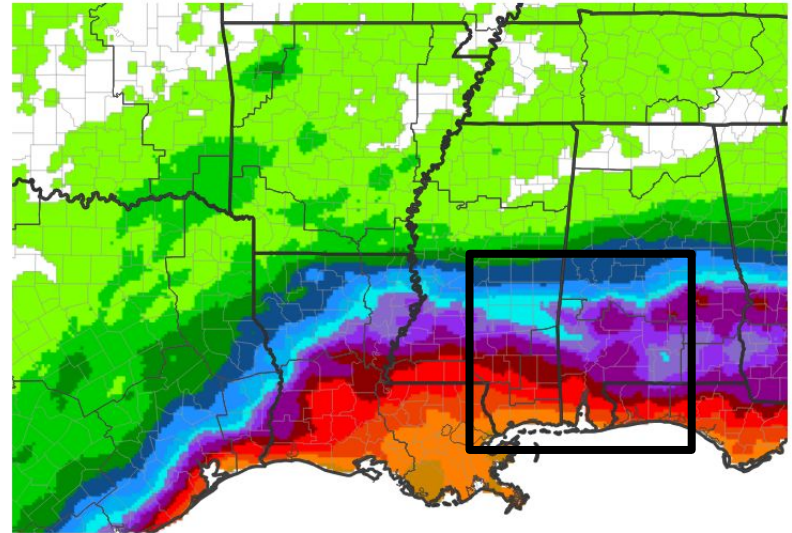




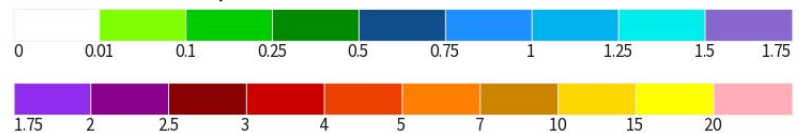
# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A wave of surface frontal low pressure passes eastward late in the week, along a stalled front draped across the northern Gulf.
- This feature is anticipated to bring much needed rainfall to the central Gulf coast with the higher amounts more focused along the immediate coast with potential of 2 to 6”.
- A general 1 to 2” is forecast over the interior.

**7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for September 5, 2024-September 12, 2024**



**Predicted Inches of Precipitation**



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 09/05/24



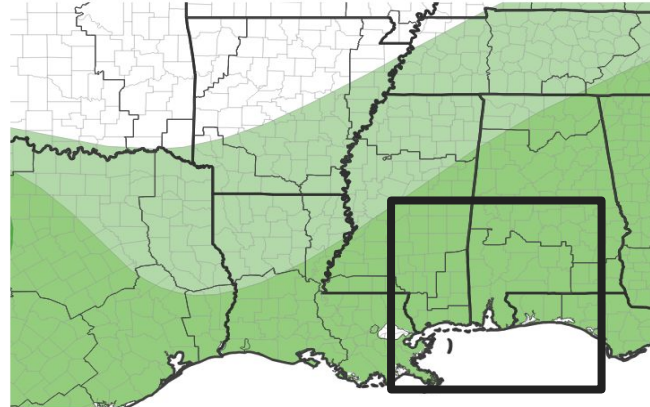


# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- September's outlook for temperature and precipitation is leaning above normal for the central Gulf coast.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for September 1, 2024-September 30, 2024



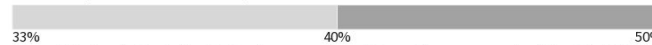
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



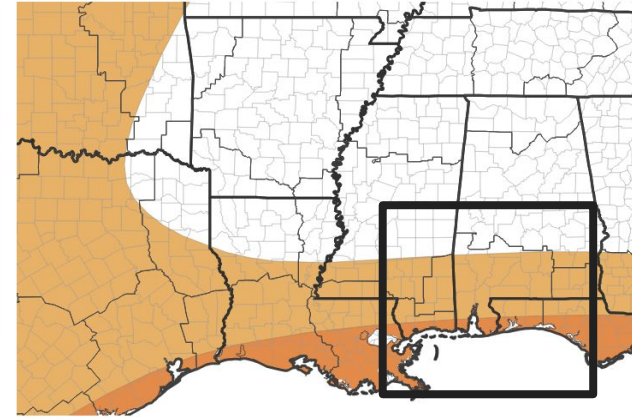
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 08/31/24

Monthly Temperature Outlook for September 1, 2024-September 30, 2024



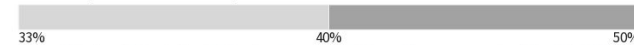
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 08/31/24



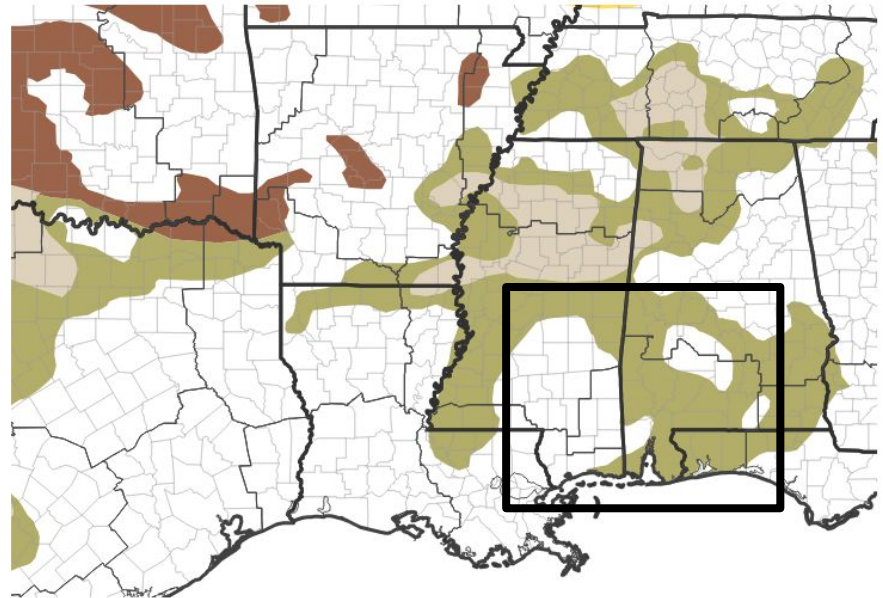


# Drought Outlook

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

- The expectation of above normal September rainfall suggests that this occurrence of drought will be of short duration.

## 1-Month Drought Outlook for September 1, 2024–September 30, 2024



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 08/31/24

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  
Mobile/Pensacola