

Drought Information Statement for Central and Southern Minnesota and Western Wisconsin

Valid February 20, 2025

Issued By: NWS Twin Cities / Chanhassen, MN

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated March 20, 2025 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/MPX/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/> for regional drought status updates.
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- Drought conditions have started to expand again in the last month



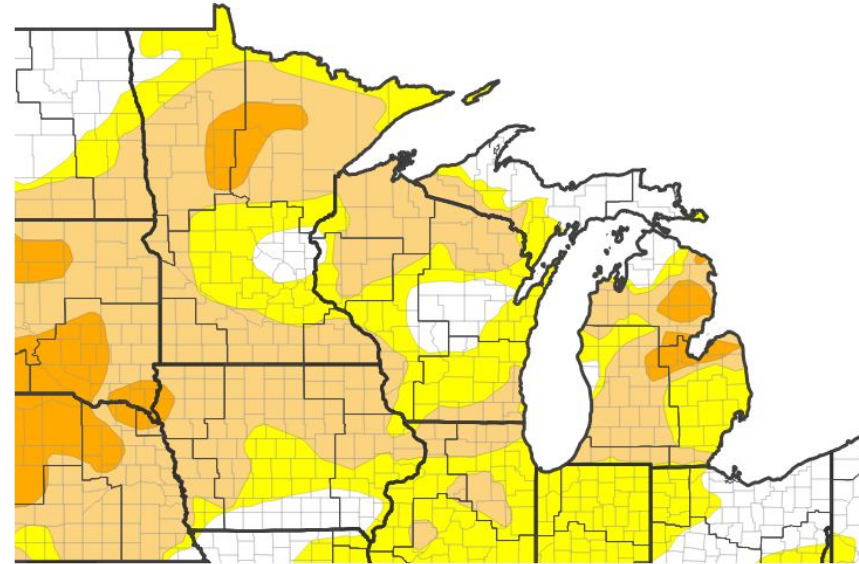


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Most of western Wisconsin, along the I-90 corridor in southern Minnesota, along the South Dakota border in western Minnesota, and portions of central Minnesota
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: Most of central and southern Minnesota outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 02/18/25



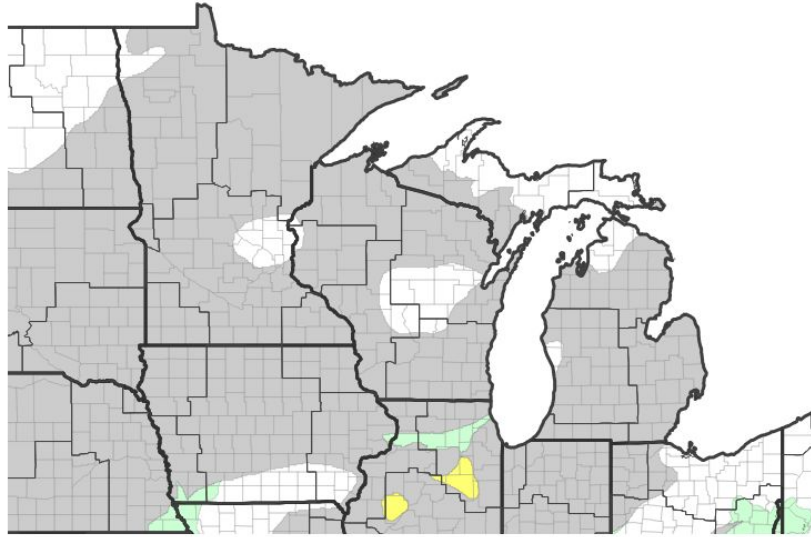


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

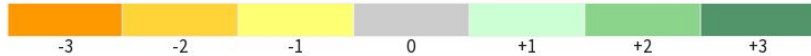
Link to the latest [1-week change map](#) and [4-week change map](#) for the NWS Twin Cities Region

- The lack of precipitation in general since the end of December has resulted in a 1 category degradation in drought conditions across much of southern Minnesota.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



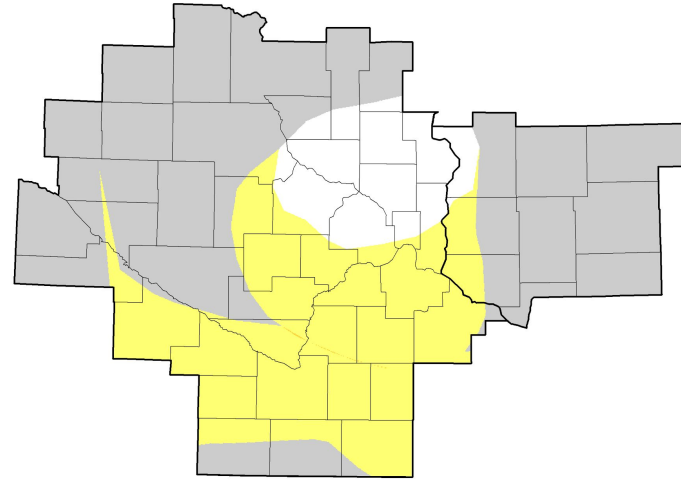
Drought Change Since Last Week



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

Data Valid: 02/18/25

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Twin Cities/ Chanhasen WFO



February 18, 2025
compared to
January 21, 2025

4-week Change Map

droughtmonitor.unl.edu



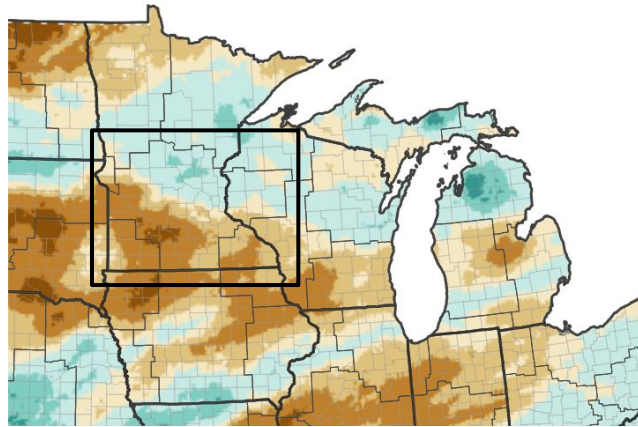


Precipitation Departures

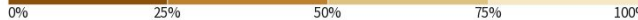
1-month and 3-month percent of normal precipitation

- Over the last 30 days, dry conditions have been most pronounced across west central and southwest over to southeast MN
- For the last 90 days, precipitation deficits exist for all of central and southern MN and western WI
- The driest conditions in the last 90 days have been over southwest MN, where only between 25% and 50% of normal precipitation has been observed

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



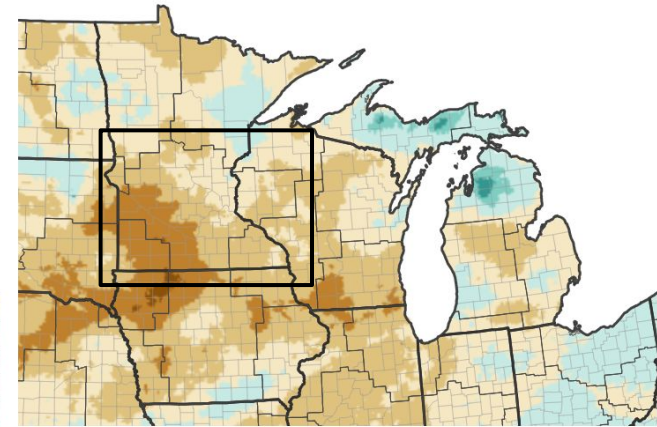
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



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

Data Valid: 02/19/25

90-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



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

Data Valid: 02/19/25



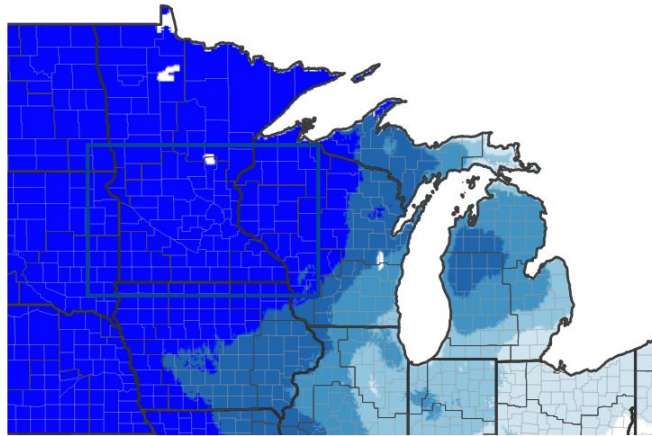


Temperature Departures

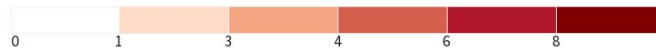
1-week and 1-month temperature departure

- Although the last week was significantly below normal with an arctic high dominating the region
- A warm end to January has meant temperatures over the last 30 have been running near normal

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



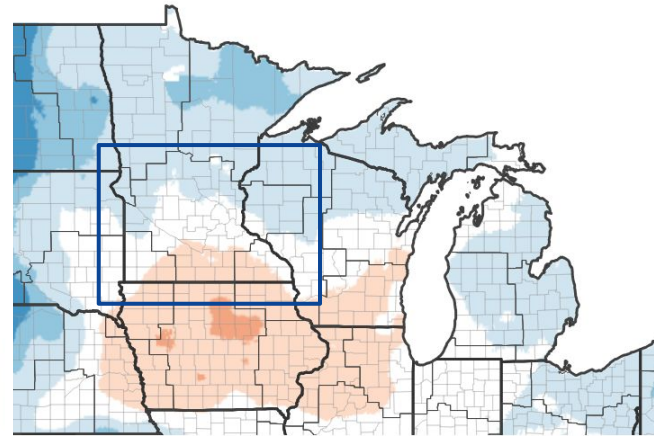
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



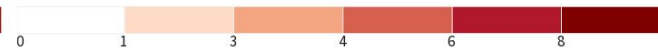
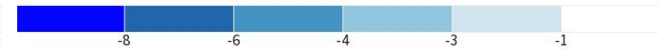
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 02/16/25

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 02/16/25





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Significant amounts of ice continue to be seen on streams and rivers across Minnesota and Wisconsin, which is impacting streamflows ([USGS Streamflow](#)).

Agricultural Impacts

- We are out of the growing season. ([State USDA Crop Reports](#)).

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Cold temperatures and snow cover are keeping the fire danger low in Minnesota and Wisconsin.
- However, for much of the area, the snowpack is thin and will be lost quickly, which could result in a quick commencement to the Spring fire season in March. ([MN Fire Danger](#), [WI Fire Danger](#)).

Other Impacts

- No known additional impacts.

Mitigation Actions

- None Currently in place.

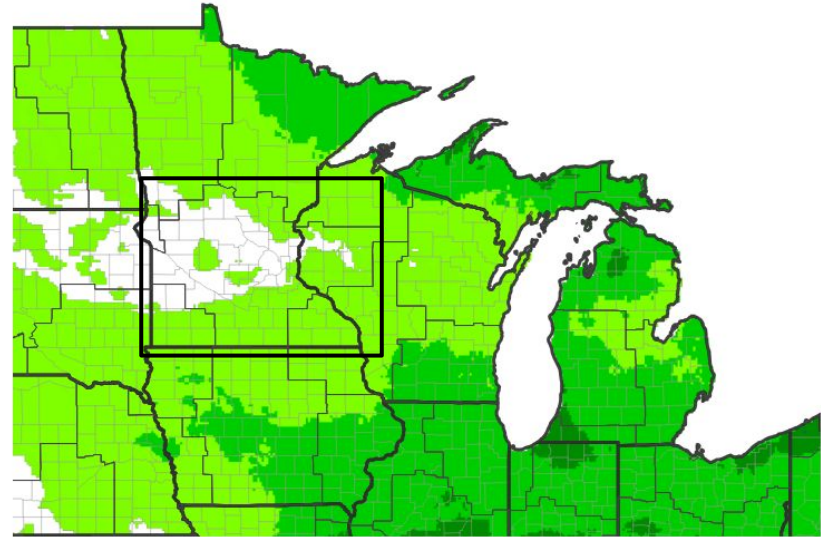




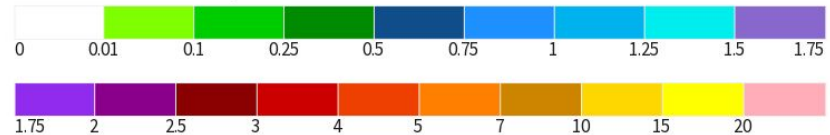
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Little in the way of precipitation is expected for the next 7 days

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for February 20, 2025–February 27, 2025



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 02/20/25

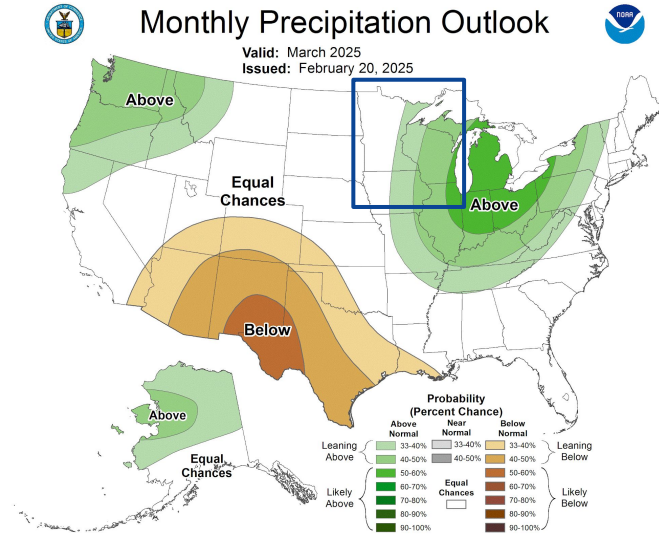
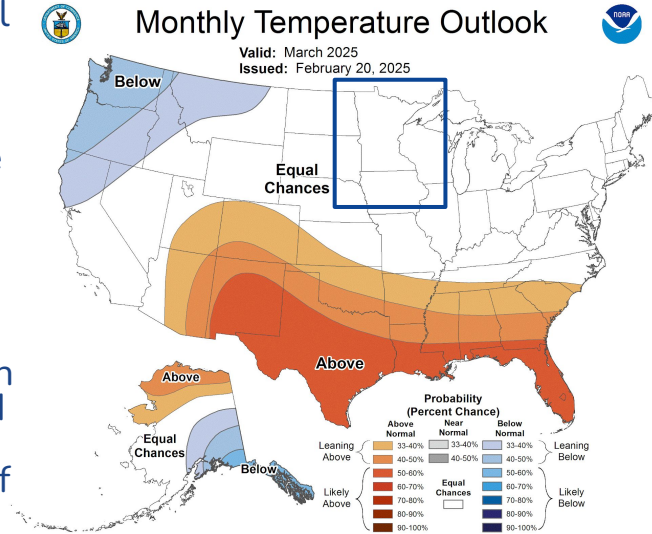




March Outlooks

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

- The March outlook is a low confidence one.
- There is no strong signal for above or below normal temperatures for the entire month of March, with all of MN and WI with Equal Chances in the temperature outlook.
- An active storm track is expected into the Great Lakes in March, with a slight favoring toward above normal precipitation across far eastern MN and across WI.
- There is Equal Chances of above or below normal precipitation across most of MN in March.



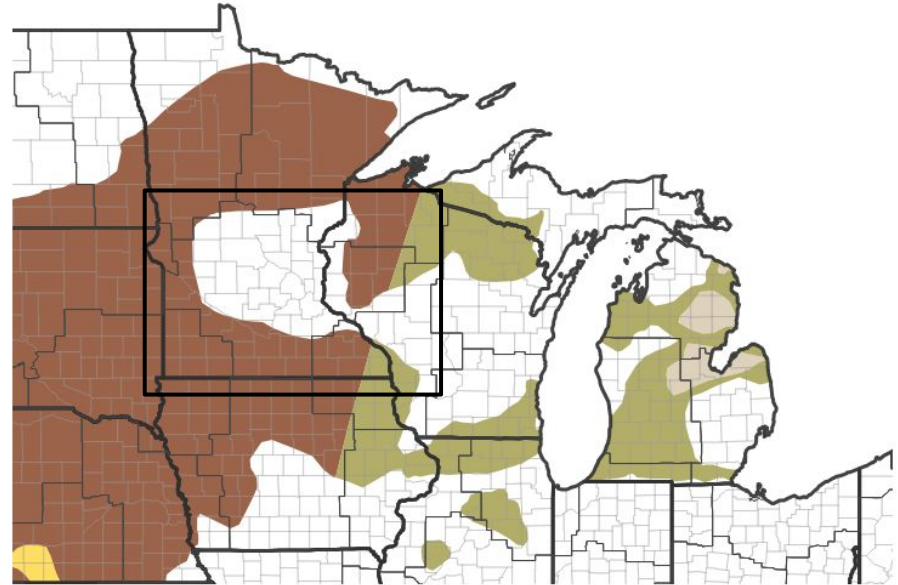


Drought Outlook

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

- Given the active storm track predicted to be to our east into the Great Lakes, drought conditions are largely expected to persist across MN and western WI going into the Spring

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for February 20, 2025–May 31, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 02/20/25

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
Twin Cities / Chanhasseen



Drought Definitions and State Resources

What do those categories mean?

Drought Category Definitions:

D0	Abnormally Dry	Going into drought: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short-term dryness slowing planting, growth of crops or pastures 	Coming out of drought: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some lingering water deficits Pastures or crops not fully recovered
D1	Moderate Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some damage to crops, pastures Streams, reservoirs, or wells low, some water shortages developing or imminent Voluntary water-use restrictions requested 	
D2	Severe Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Crop or pasture losses likely Water shortages common Water restrictions imposed 	
D3	Extreme Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major crop/pasture losses Widespread water shortages or restrictions 	
D4	Exceptional Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceptional and widespread crop/pasture losses Shortages of water in reservoirs, streams, and wells creating water emergencies 	

Comprehensive Drought Information for Minnesota: <http://www.drought.gov/state/minnesota>

Comprehensive Drought Information for Wisconsin: <http://www.drought.gov/state/wisconsin>

These sites contain links to resources from each state, to help you dive into drought information in more detail.

