



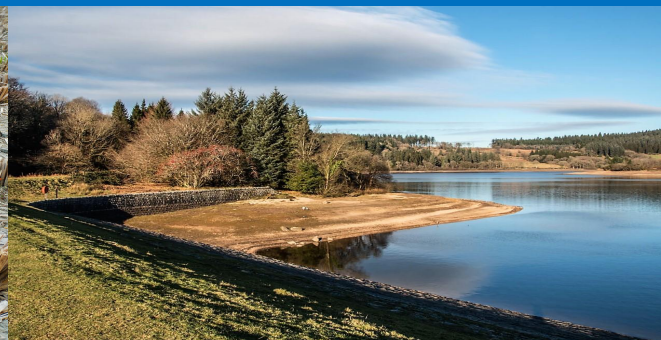
Drought Information Statement for Central, Southern Minnesota and Western Wisconsin

Valid February 29, 2024

Issued By: NWS Twin Cities / Chanhassen MN

Contact Information: nws.twincities@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated on the third Thursday of the month, 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.





U.S. Drought Monitor - NWS Twin Cities Region

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

Key Messages

- The winter snow drought is now beginning to be reflected in the drought Monitor

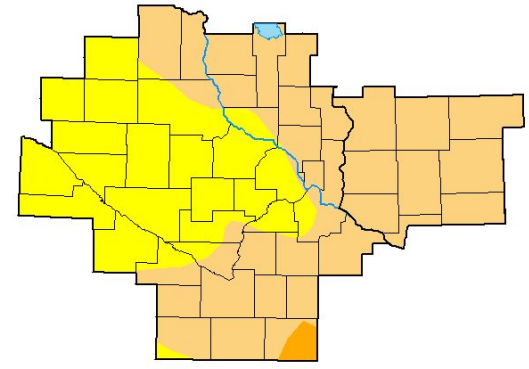
Drought intensity and extent

- D2 (Severe drought): The southeast half of Freeborn county remain in a D2 Drought.
- D1 (Moderate drought): Cover all of western Wisconsin, south-central Minnesota, the eastern and northern Twin Cities metro, and central Minnesota.
- D0 (Abnormally dry): Covers the rest of southern Minnesota

Next Scheduled Update

- Thursday, March 7th, 2024

U.S. Drought Monitor Twin Cities/ Chanhassen, MN WFO



February 27, 2024
(Released Thursday, Feb. 29, 2024)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	59.97	1.09	0.00	0.00
Last Week 02-20-2024	26.29	73.71	26.02	1.09	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-29-2023	9.31	90.69	28.19	7.94	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2024	30.64	69.36	25.91	1.09	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	0.00	100.00	90.60	40.96	8.44	0.00
One Year Ago 02-28-2023	47.92	52.08	21.84	0.00	0.00	0.00

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>

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NCEI/NOAA



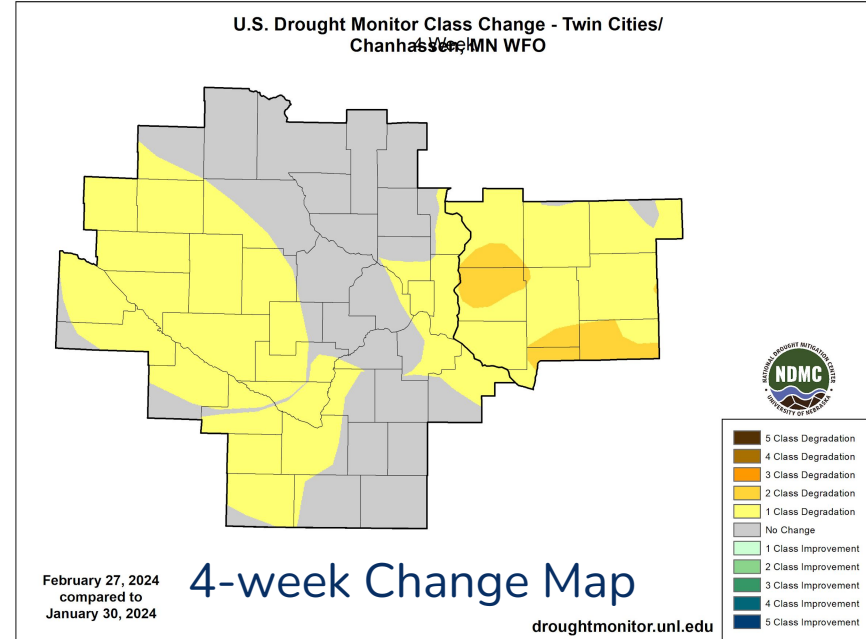
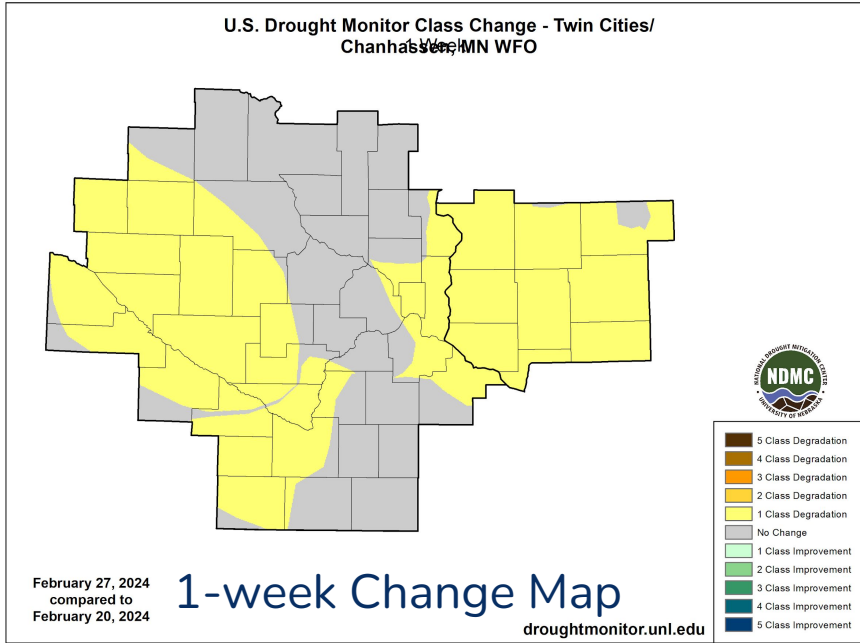
droughtmonitor.unl.edu



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 snow and well above normal temperatures in February have allowed the drought to start expanding once again.



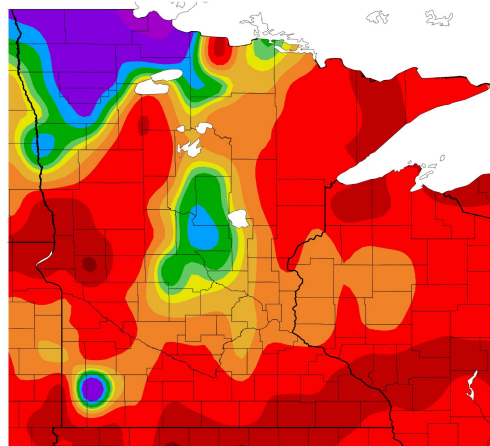


Precipitation Departures

1-month and 9-month percent of normal precipitation

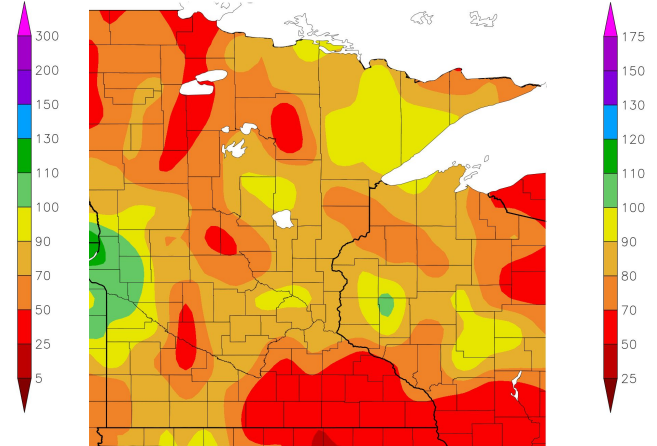
- Since heavy rains around Christmas, we have slipped back into a generally dry pattern.
- Long term deficits going back to the spring and summer of 2023 remain.
- Though we are in a pronounced snow drought this winter, heavy winter rains have led to near to above normal observed precipitation so far this winter outside of southeast Minnesota.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
1/30/2024 – 2/28/2024



Generated 2/29/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
5/27/2023 – 2/26/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers



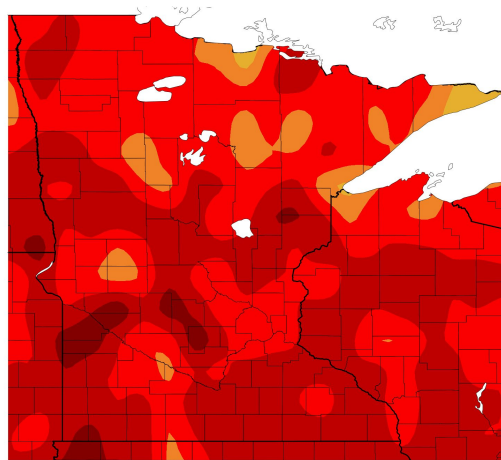


Temperature Departure

1-week and 1-month temperature departure

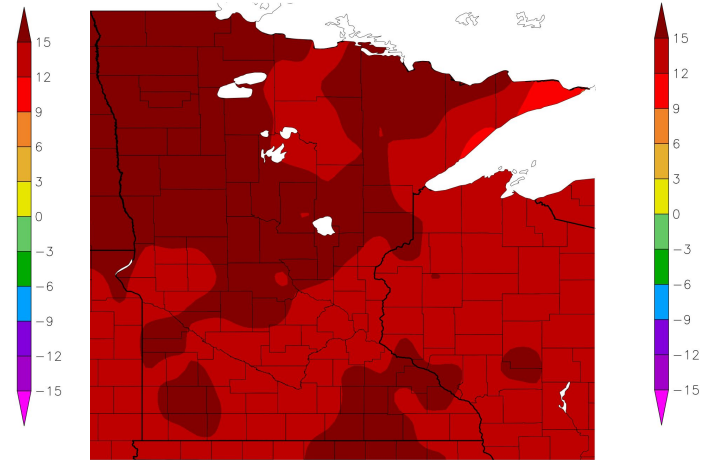
- Other than a week in mid-January, temperatures have continued to run well above normal this winter.
- The winter of 2023-2024 finished as the warmest on record Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
2/22/2024 – 2/28/2024



Generated 2/29/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/30/2024 – 2/28/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- The lack of snow cover this winter is helping lead to a low risk of flooding this spring at this time.

Agricultural Impacts

- Outside of the growing season. Winter rain events have helped replenish some of the soil moisture deficits going back to the summer of 2023, but the lack of snow cover will leave us susceptible to seeing increased soil moisture losses from exposure to the wind.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- The lack of snow across central and southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin has resulted in an increased risk of seeing above normal wildfire activity this Spring

Other Impacts

- No other remaining significant impacts

Mitigation activities

- None currently in place





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Average streamflow for the past 7 days

- Stream flows across MN and WI are near normal, though we are at the time of year where we typically see our lowest flows right before the spring snow melt.
- Given the lack of snow to melt, we will likely see stream flows deteriorate quickly with respect to normal during March and April.

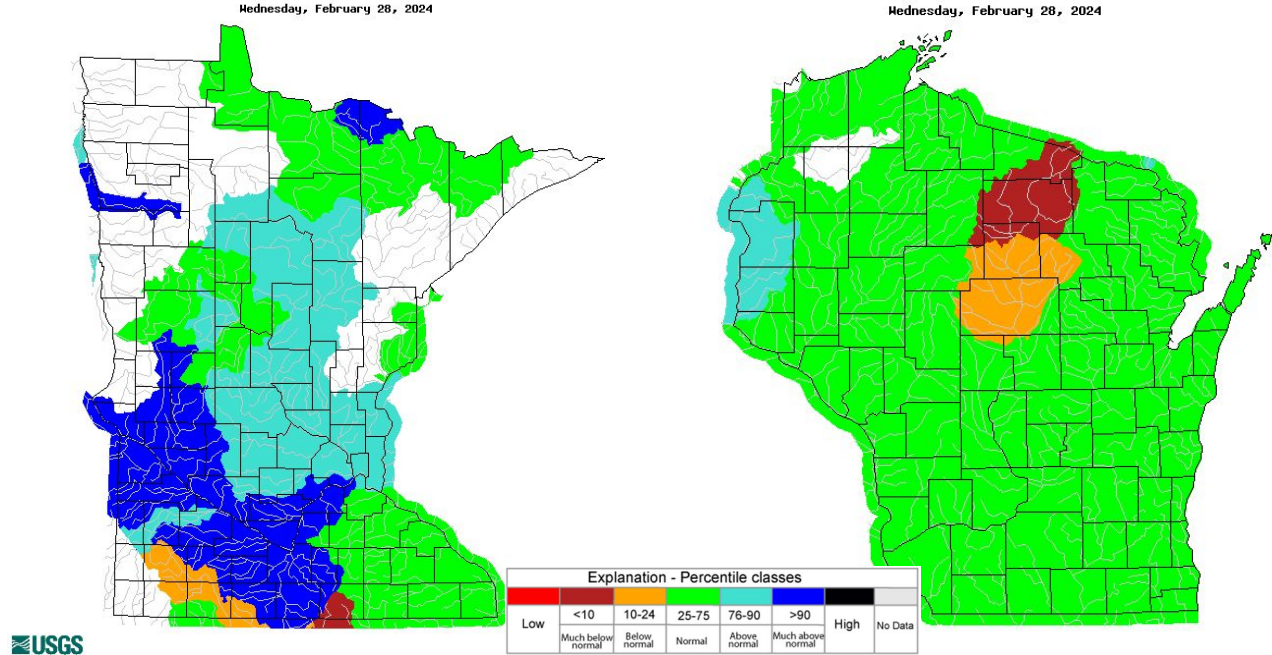


Image Caption: USGS 7-day Streamflow departure from normal for MN. Valid January 31, 2024

Image Caption: USGS 7-day Streamflow departure from normal for WI. Valid January 31, 2024

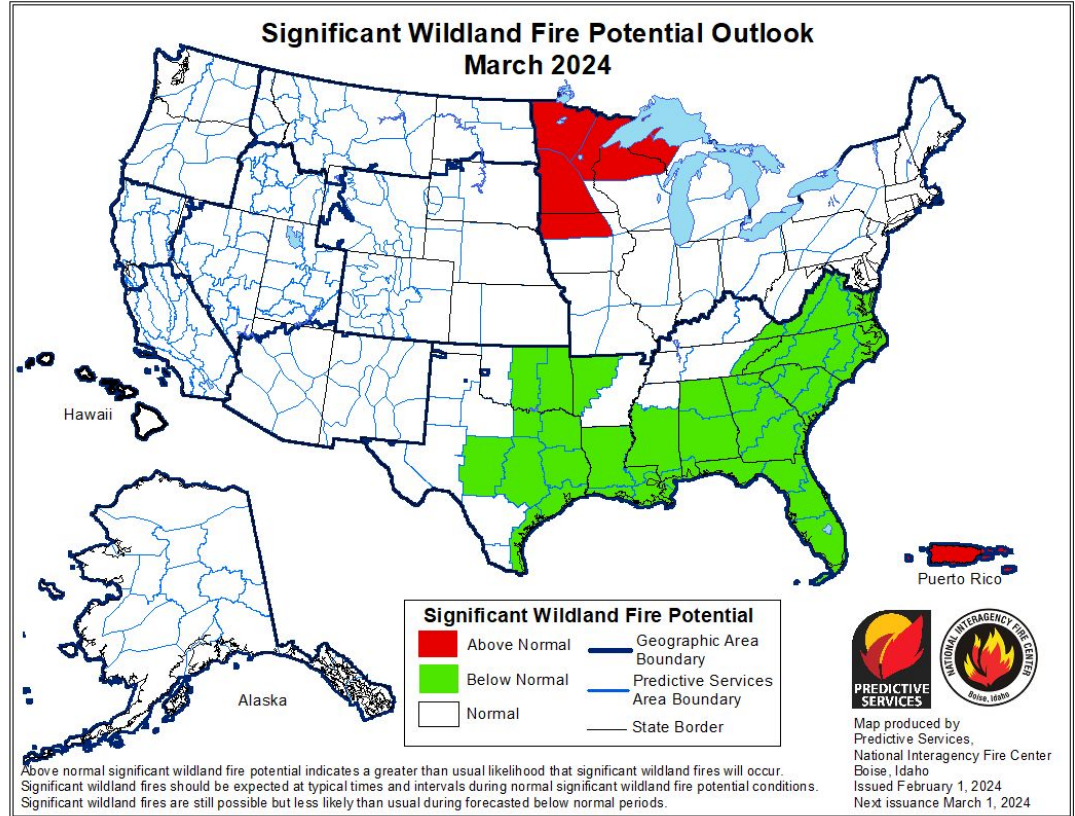




Fire Hazard Impacts

Wildland Fire Potential

- The lack of snow cover across the area means a wildfire threat already exists as we head into March
- The lack of snow in general this winter has resulted in Minnesota and Wisconsin being in line to see above normal wildfire activity this Spring fire season (March through May)





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

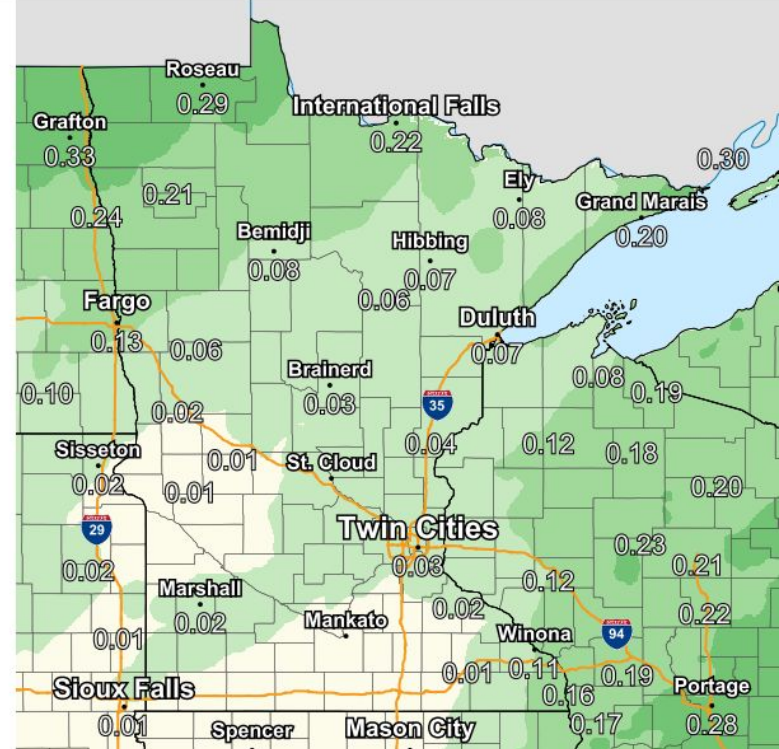
[WPC 7-day precipitation forecast](#)

- Mainly dry conditions are expected until the through the first week of March



Forecast Precipitation

Valid Ending Thursday March 7th, 2024 at 6 PM CST



Graphic Created
February 29th, 2024
5:56 PM CST

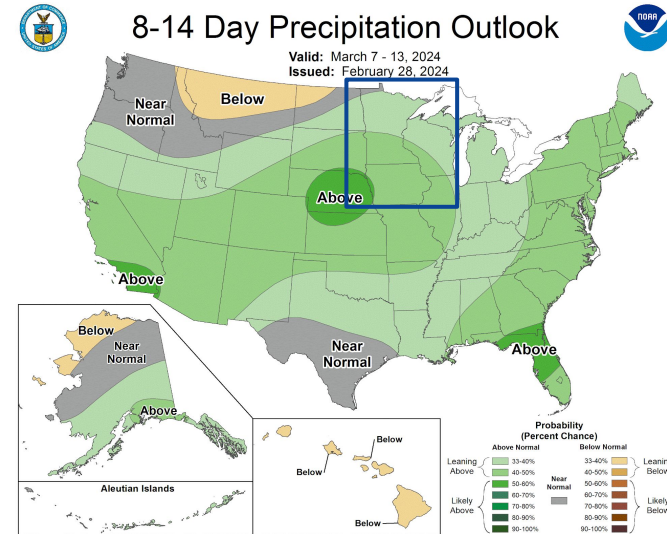
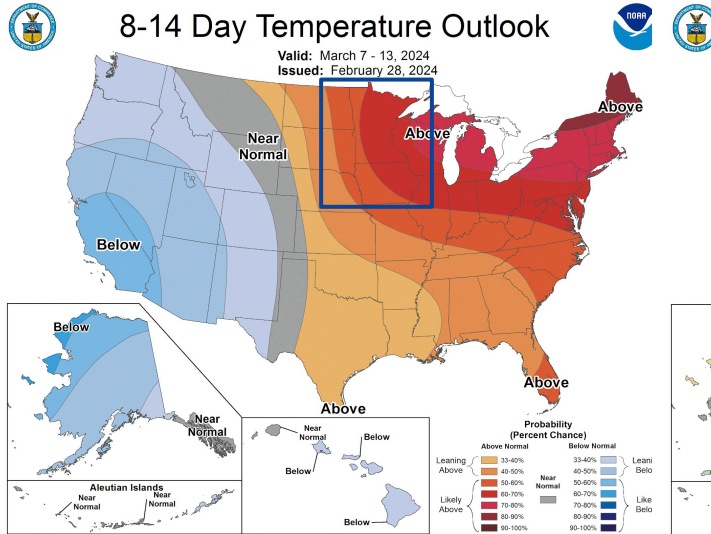




8-14 Day Outlooks

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

- Temperatures will likely continue to run above normal as we head into March
- There are some signs of a more active weather pattern for the second week of March

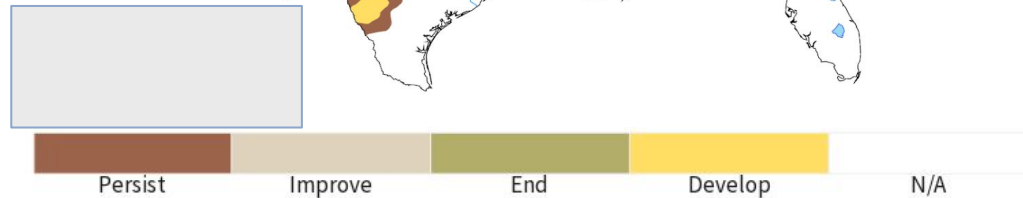
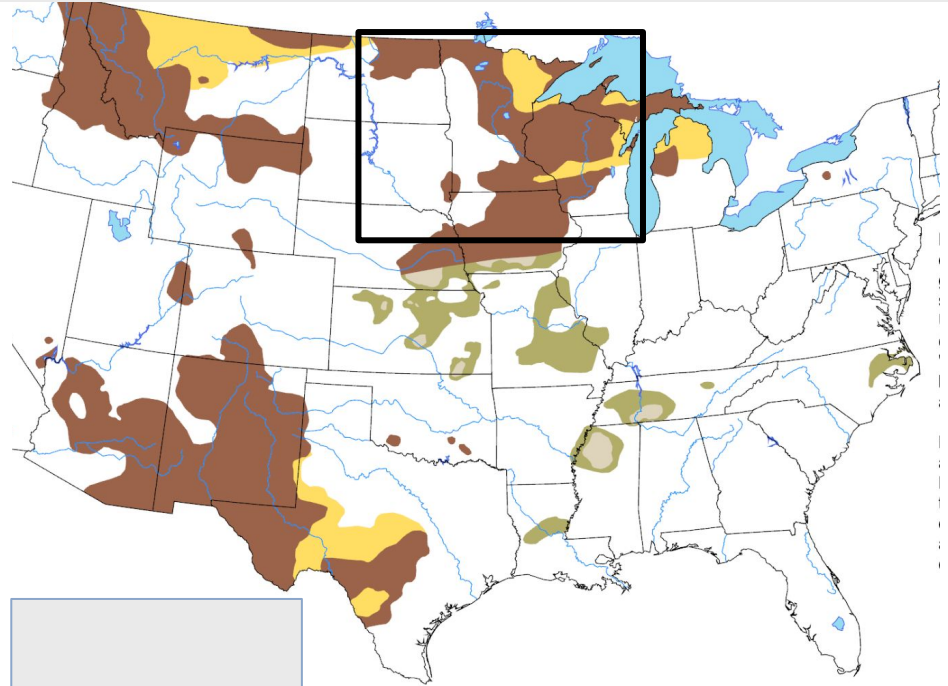




Drought Outlook

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

- The current drought is expected to persist through March, with minimal improvements expected
- There are indications that through the spring, drought conditions may expand across northern Minnesota and northern Wisconsin



Source: Drought.gov

Valid 2/23/2024

National Weather Service
Twin Cities/Chanhasen MN

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



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.

