



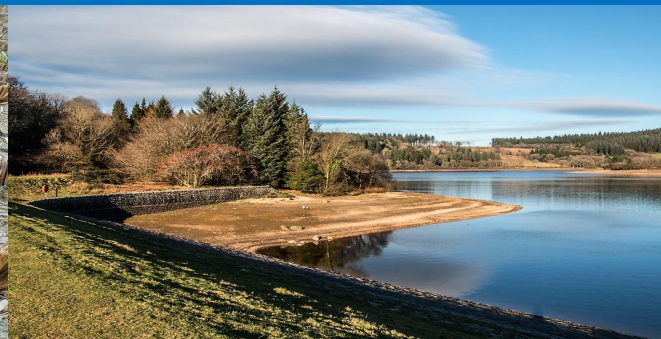
Drought Information Statement for Central, Southern Minnesota and Western Wisconsin

Valid March 15, 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

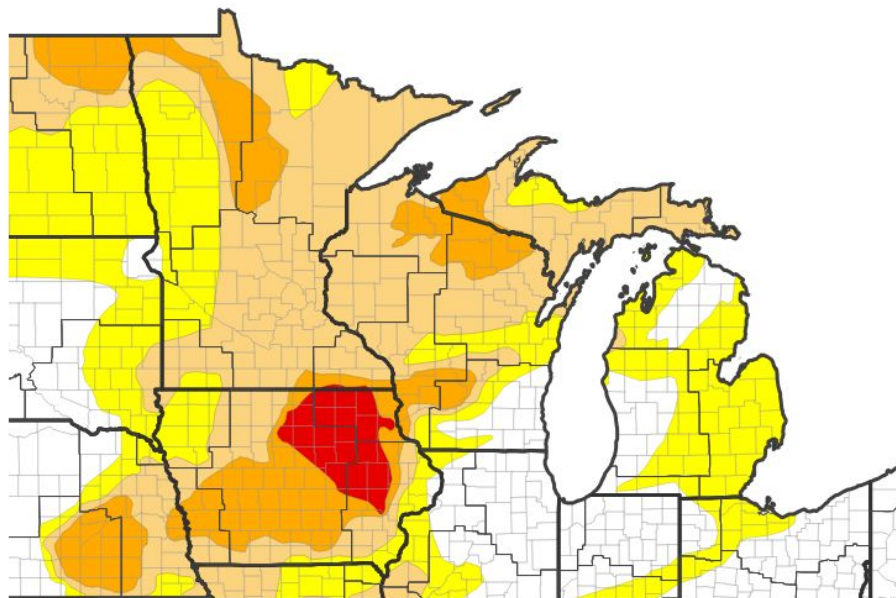
- Drought is once again expanding across the region

Drought intensity and extent

- D2 (Severe drought): The southeast half of Freeborn county remain in a D2 Drought.
- D1 (Moderate drought): Covers all but west central MN
- D0 (Abnormally dry): Covers west central MN

Next Scheduled Update

- Thursday, March 21st, 2024



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 03/12/24

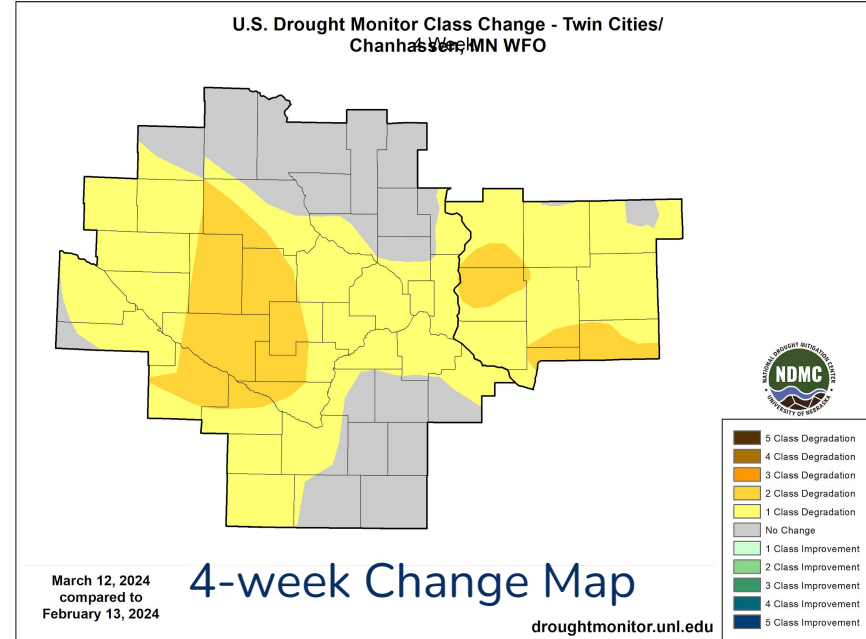
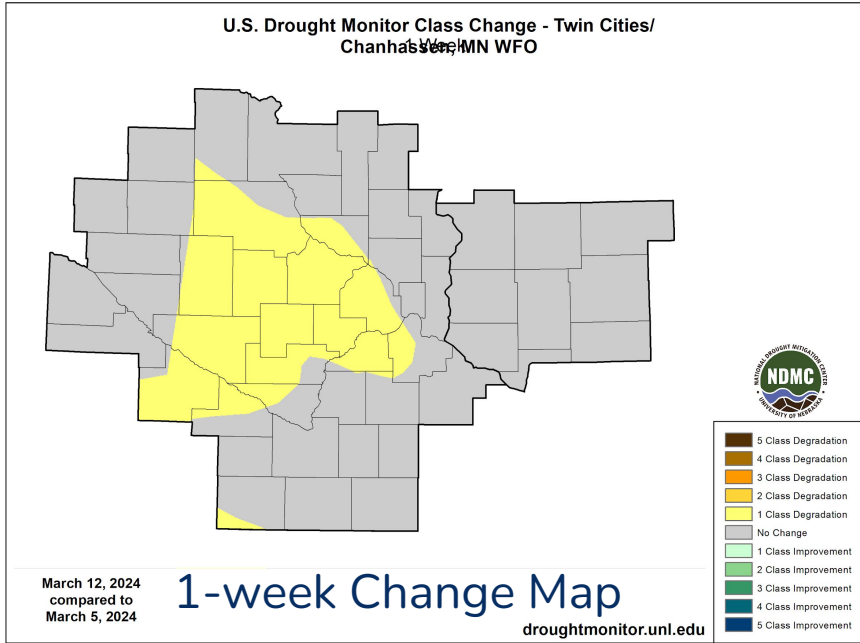




Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- The lack of snowmelt, precipitation, and decreasing soil moisture has resulted in the recent expansion of drought conditions



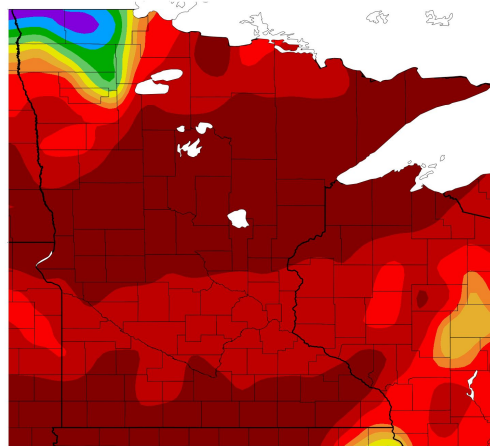


Precipitation Departures

1-month and 9-month percent of normal precipitation

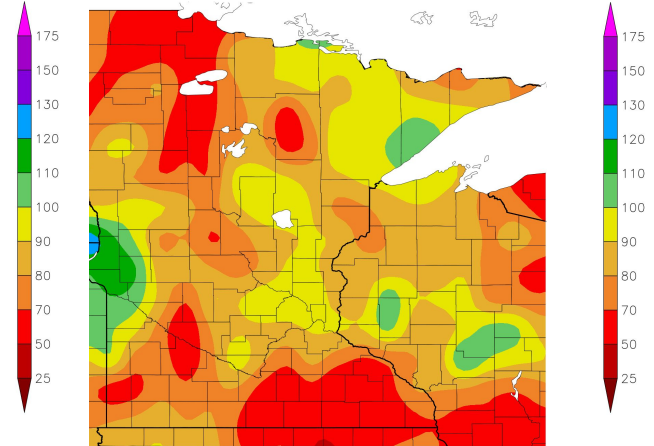
- Since heavy rains around Christmas, we have slipped back into a generally dry pattern.
- Long term deficits going back to the spring and summer of 2023 remain.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
2/13/2024 – 3/13/2024



Generated 3/14/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
6/11/2023 – 3/10/2024



NOAA Regional Climate Centers at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers



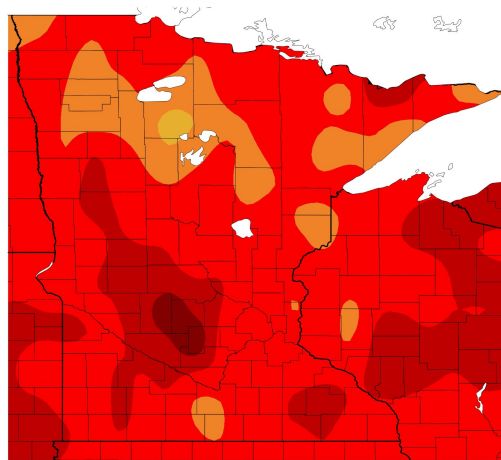


Temperature Departure

1-week and 1-month temperature departure

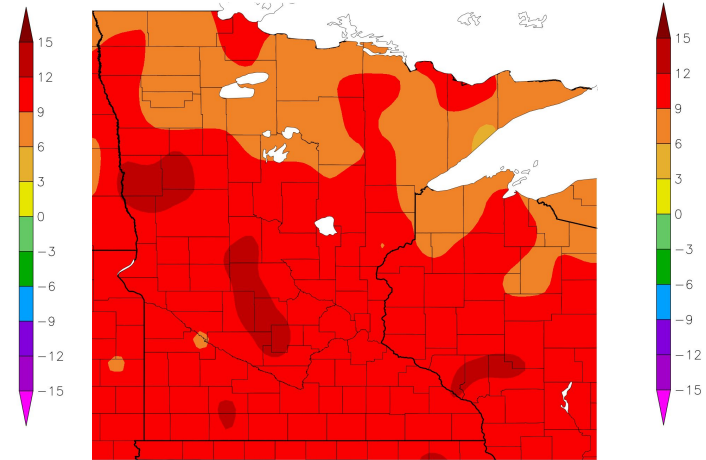
- Well above normal temperatures from our warmest February (and winter) on record have continued into the first 2 weeks of March

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
3/7/2024 – 3/13/2024



Generated 3/14/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
2/13/2024 – 3/13/2024



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. We are already beginning to see soils dry out.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Until significant precipitation occurs, we will continue to have an above normal wildfire risk.

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 the second half of March and April.

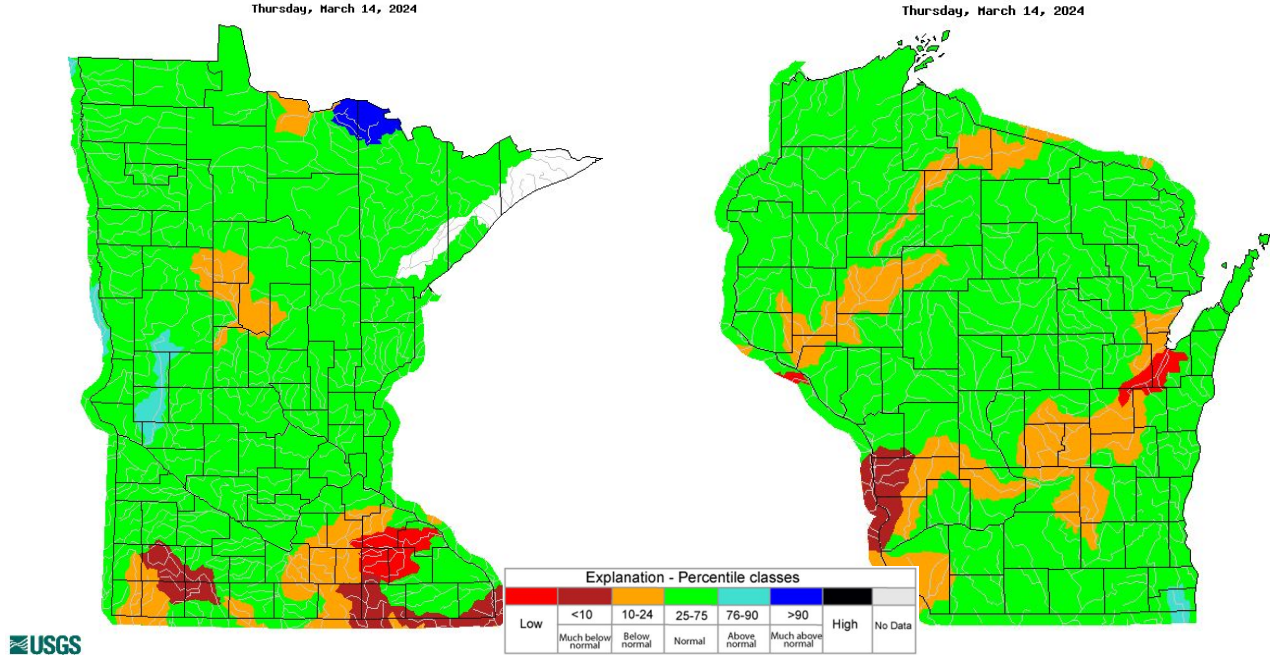


Image Caption: USGS 7-day Streamflow departure from normal for MN. Valid March 14, 2024

Image Caption: USGS 7-day Streamflow departure from normal for WI. Valid March 14, 2024

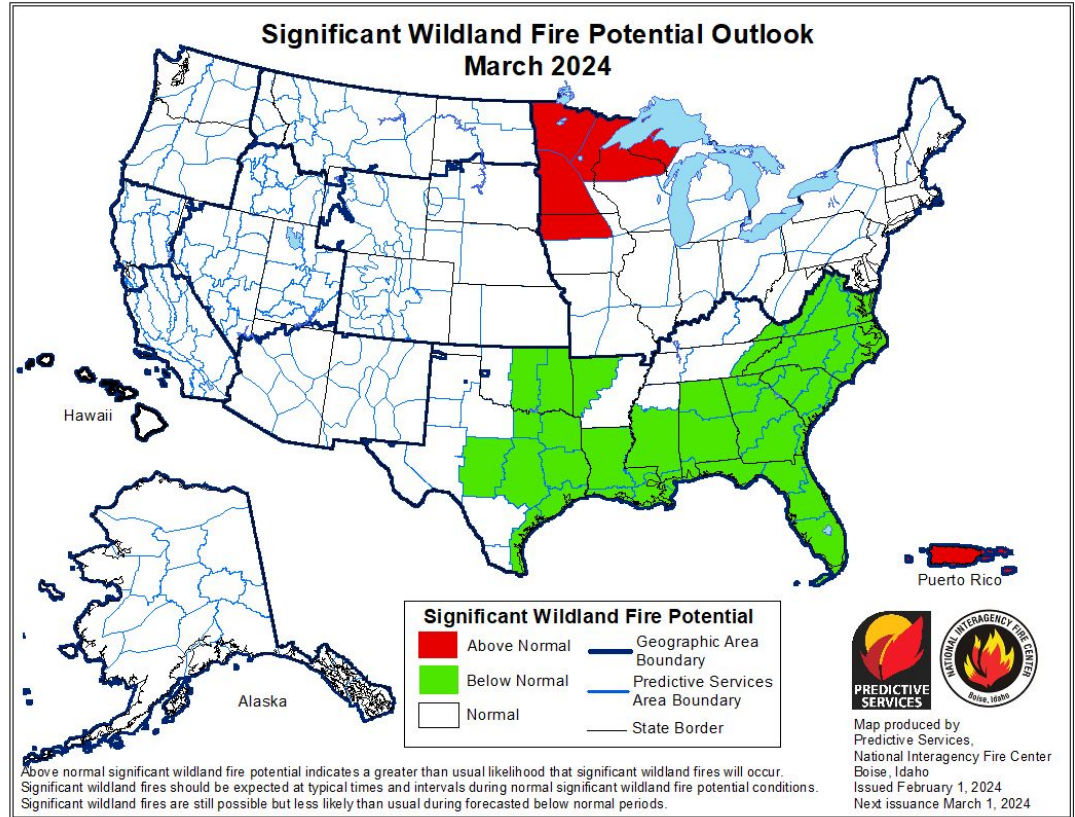




Fire Hazard Impacts

Wildland Fire Potential

- 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)



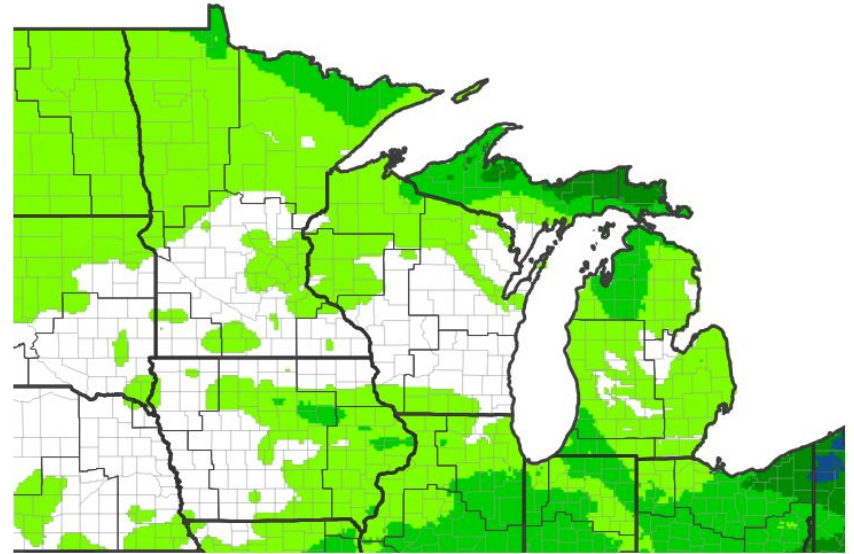


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

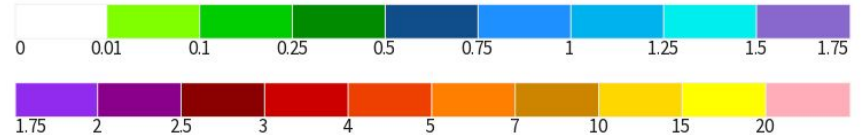
[WPC 7-day precipitation forecast](#)

- Mainly dry conditions are expected through March 22nd

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Data Valid: 03/15/24

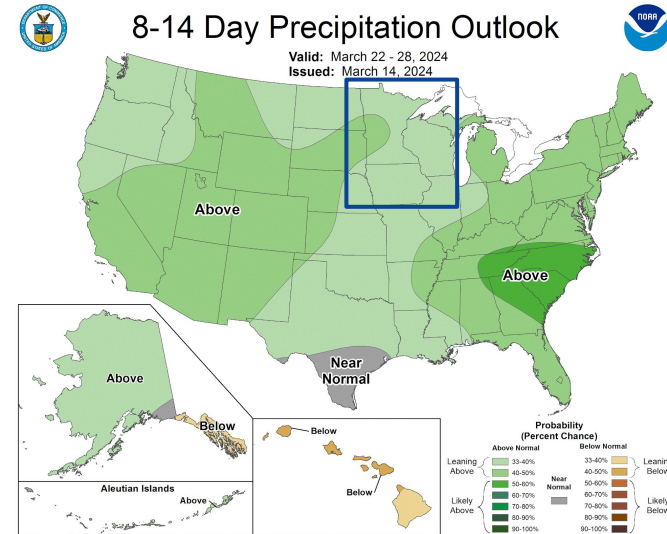
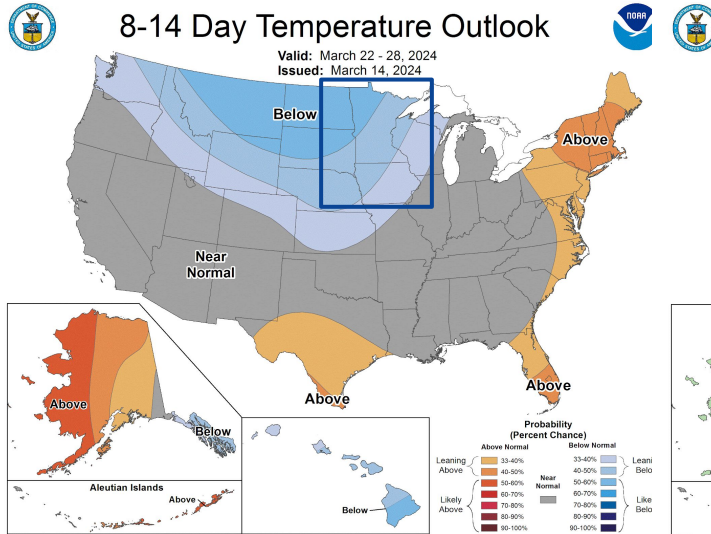




8-14 Day Outlooks

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

- A shift in the weather pattern is expected next week. This is resulting in higher chances for seeing below normal temperatures along with the potential for a more active weather pattern between March 22nd and 28th.

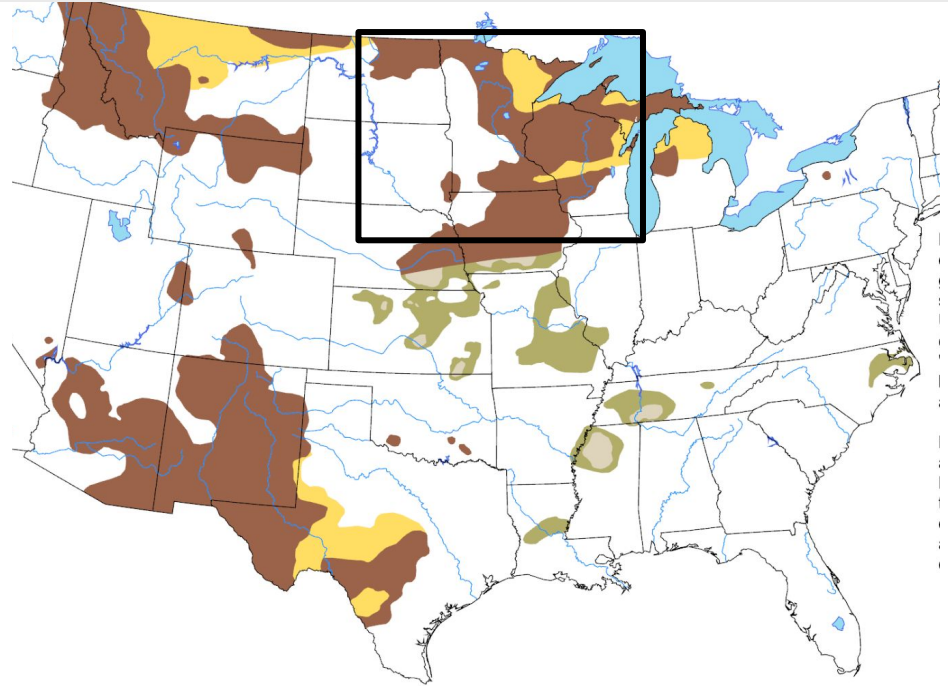




Drought Outlook

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 2/29/2024

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.

