

Drought Information Statement for Central and Southern Minnesota and Western Wisconsin

Valid March 20, 2025

Issued By: NWS Twin Cities / Chanhassen, MN

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated April 17, 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.
-
- Mixed signal of wet and dry over the last month
 - Drought areas remain relatively unchanged



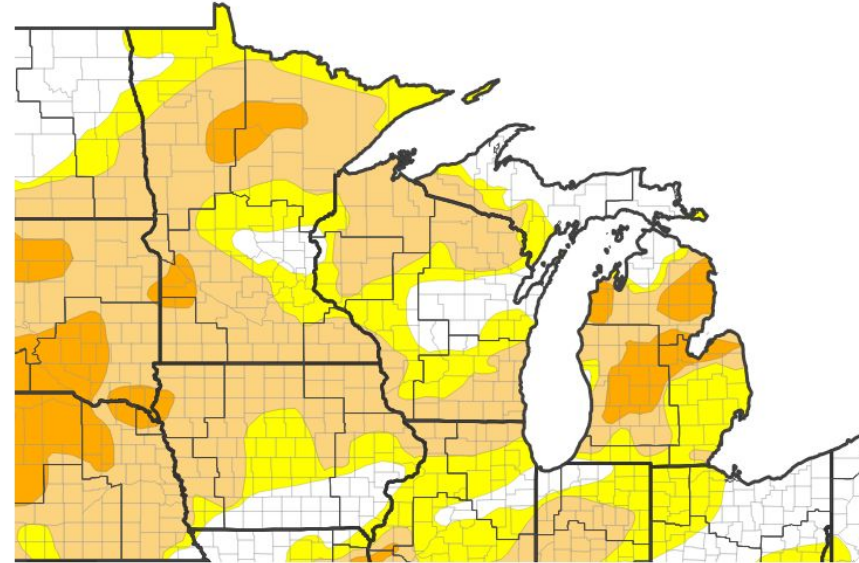


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: A small portion of west central Minnesota near the South Dakota border
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Most of western Wisconsin, along the I-90 corridor in southern Minnesota and across western Minnesota
 - **D0 (Abnormally Dry)**: Most of central and southern Minnesota outside of northern portions 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: 03/18/25



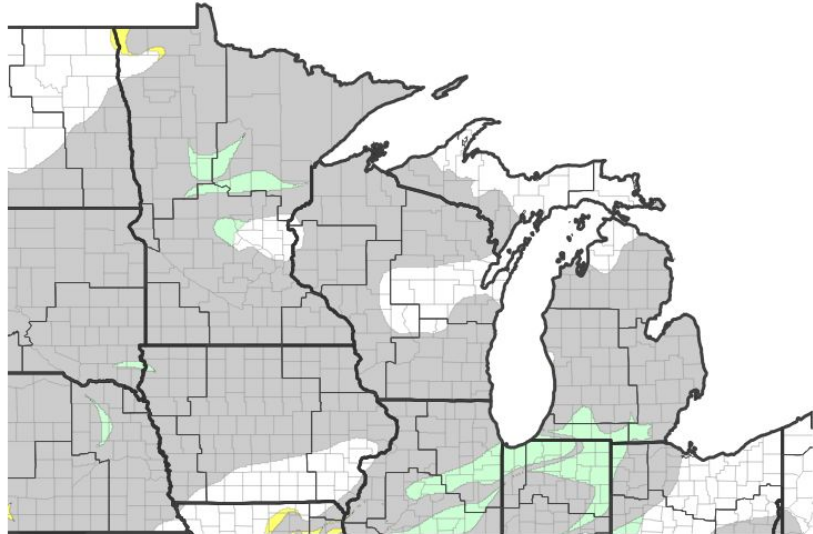


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

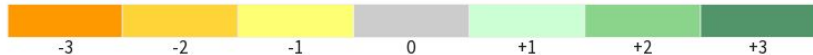
Link to the latest [1-week change map](#) and [4-week change map](#) for the NWS Twin Cities Region

- A mix of wet and continued dry conditions over the last month has a resulted in a mix of degradation and improvement across central and southern Minnesota

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



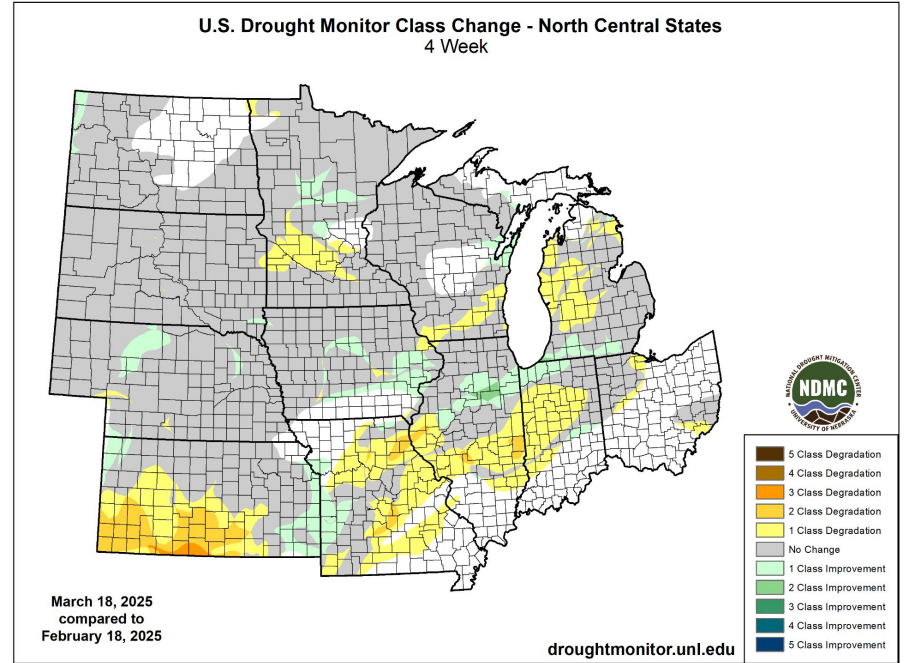
Drought Change Since Last Week



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

Data Valid: 03/18/25

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - North Central States 4 Week



March 18, 2025
compared to
February 18, 2025

droughtmonitor.unl.edu



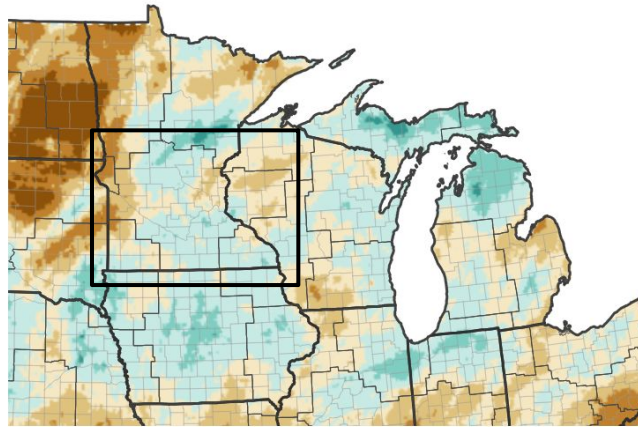


Precipitation Departures

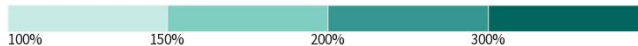
1-month and 3-month percent of normal precipitation

- Over the last 30 days, there has been a mix of wet and dry areas across the region
- For the last 90 days, the most persistently dry area in the region has been along the South Dakota border, where some areas have received less than 50% of normal precipitation

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



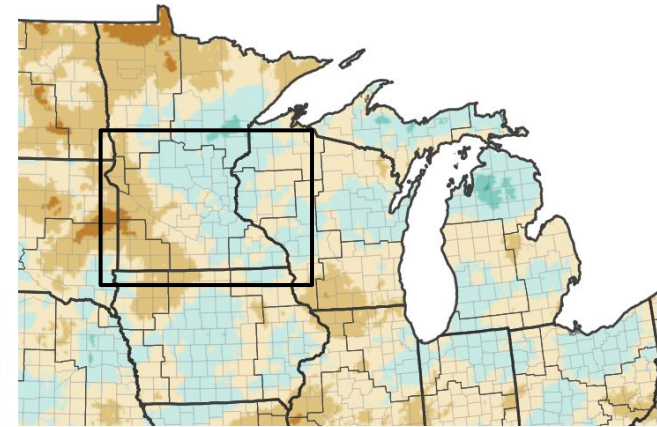
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



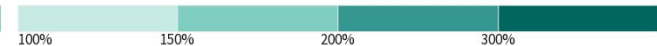
Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 03/19/25

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: 03/19/25



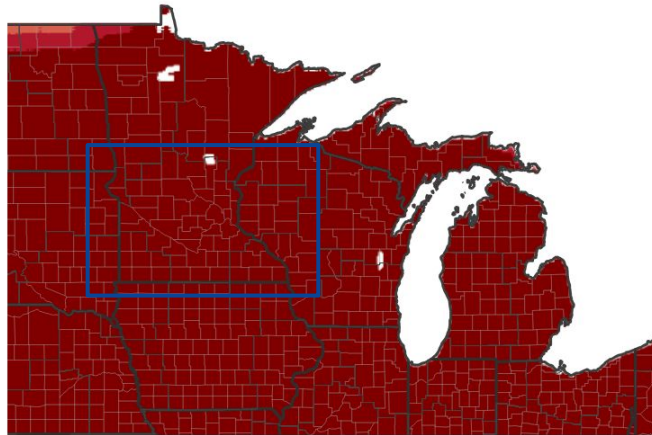


Temperature Departures

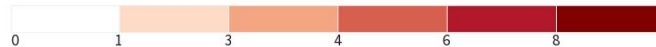
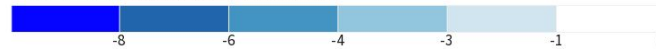
1-week and 1-month temperature departure

- Both the last week and 30 days have seen well-above normal temperatures with an early start to Spring-like temperatures

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



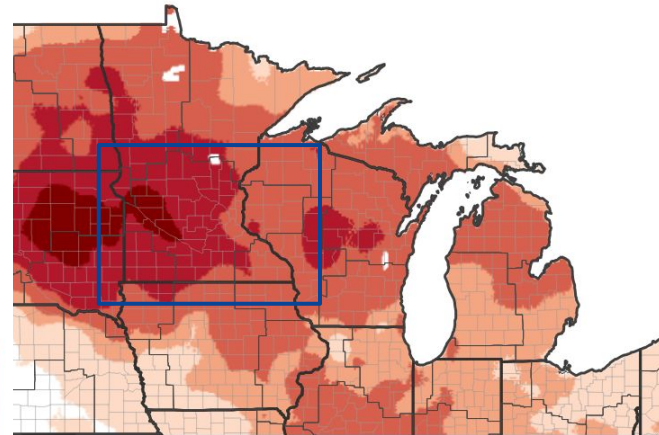
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



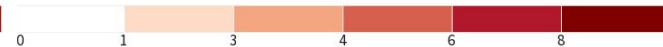
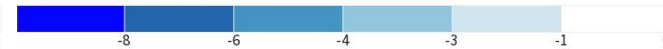
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 03/16/25

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: 03/16/25





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- A lack of snow to melt this Spring has resulted in rivers generally running near normal for the time of year, with no snow melt flooding currently occurring ([USGS Streamflow](#)).

Agricultural Impacts

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

Fire Hazard Impacts

- The warm temperatures since the end of February has resulted in an early start to the Spring fire season in Minnesota and Wisconsin ([MN Fire Danger](#), [WI Fire Danger](#)).
- There has already been one Red Flag Warning day across western Minnesota on March 10th

Other Impacts

- No known additional impacts.

Mitigation Actions

- None Currently in place.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Average streamflow for the past 7 days

- A lack of a deep snowpack to melt has resulted in no snow melt flooding this Spring
- Rivers across southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin are generally running near normal

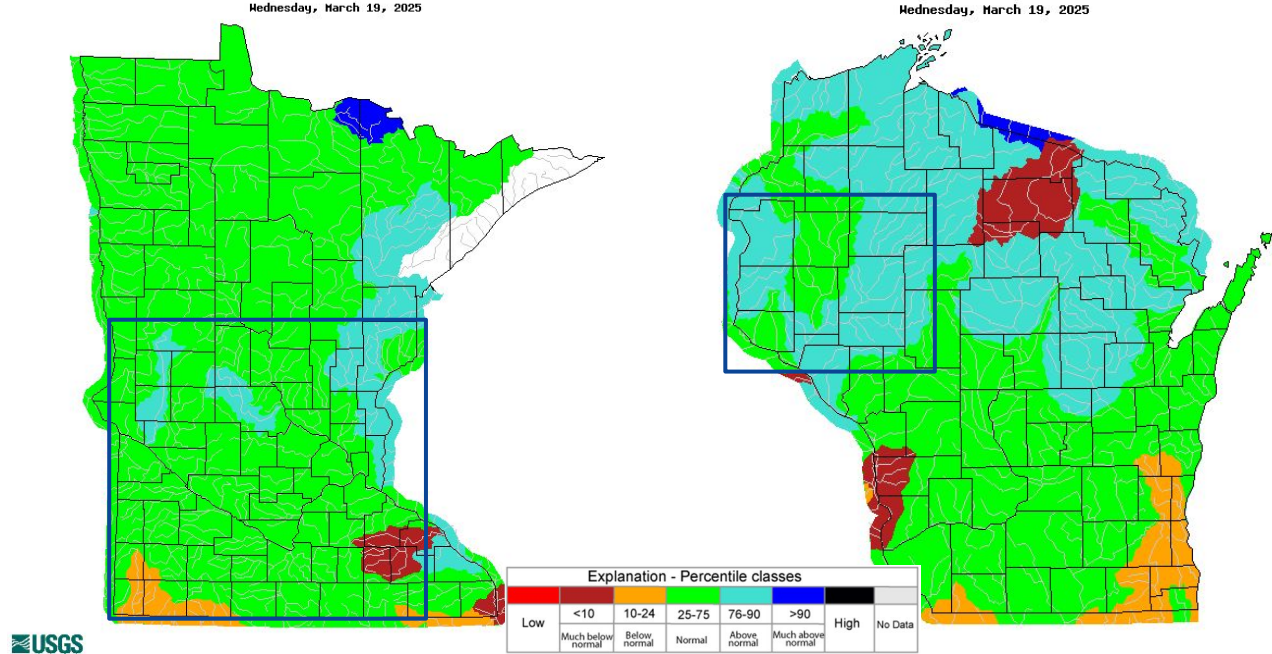


Image Caption: USGS 7-day Streamflow departure from normal for MN. Valid December March 19, 2025

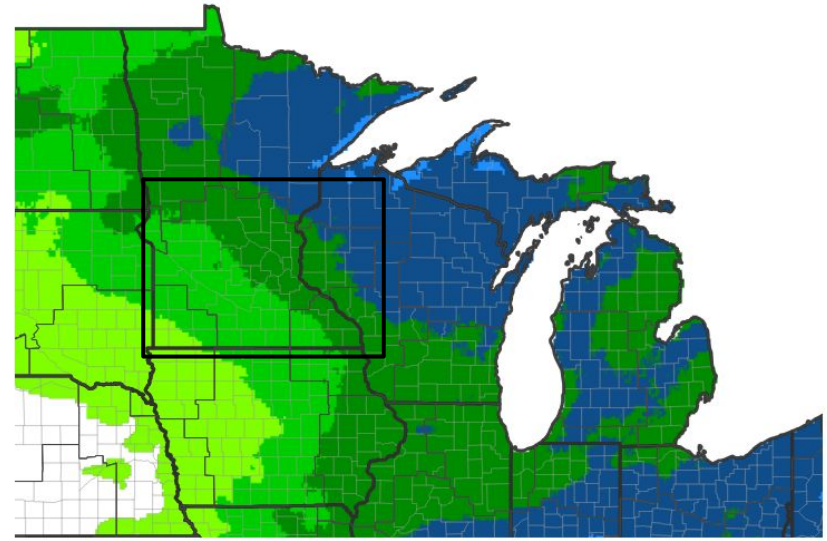
Image Caption: USGS 7-day Streamflow departure from normal for WI. Valid March 19, 2025



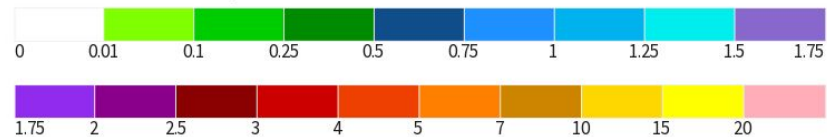
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- The heaviest precipitation over the next 7 days is expected across northern and eastern Minnesota into Wisconsin
- The driest conditions are expected to occur where conditions have been driest over the last 90 days in western Minnesota

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



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



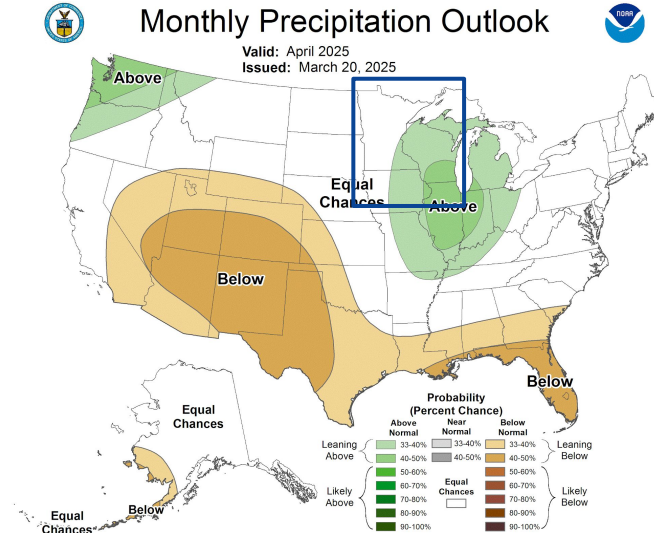
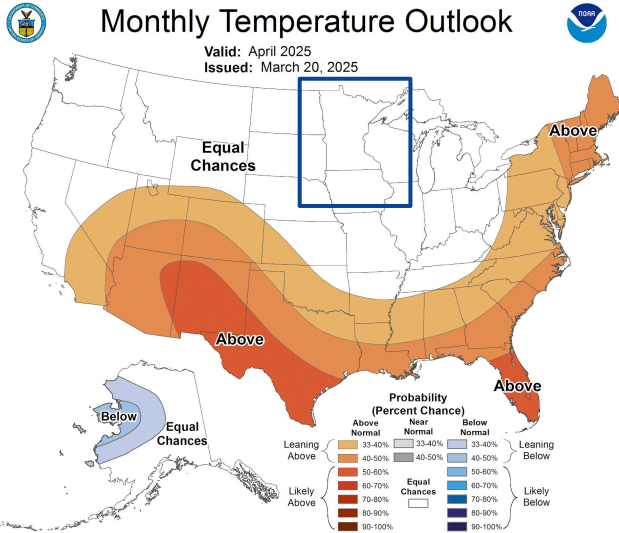
Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 03/20/25



April Outlooks

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

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



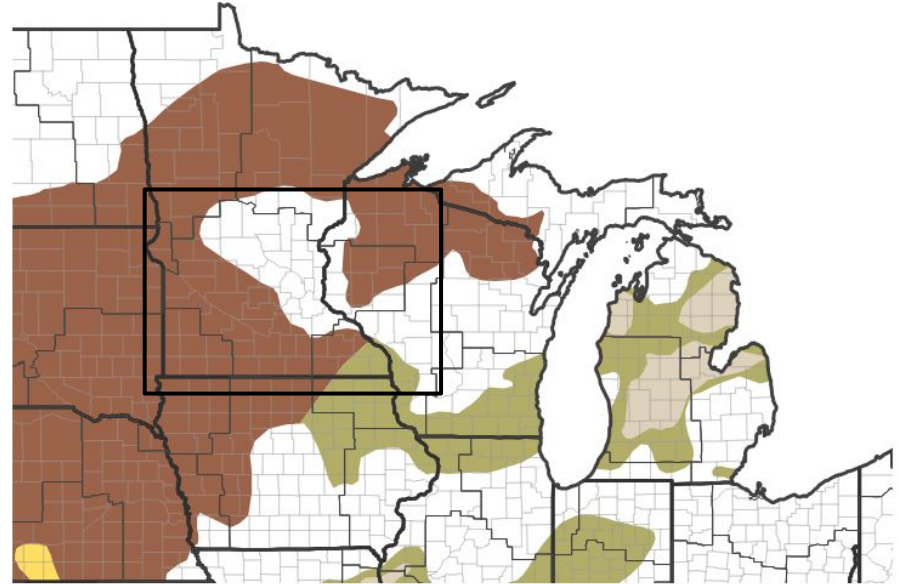


Drought Outlook

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 through the Spring

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for March 20, 2025–June 30, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 03/20/25

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 / Chanhassen



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.

