Drought Information Statement for Central and Southern Minnesota and Western Wisconsin

Valid October, 24, 2024

Issued By: NWS Twin Cities / Chanhassen, MN

Contact Information:

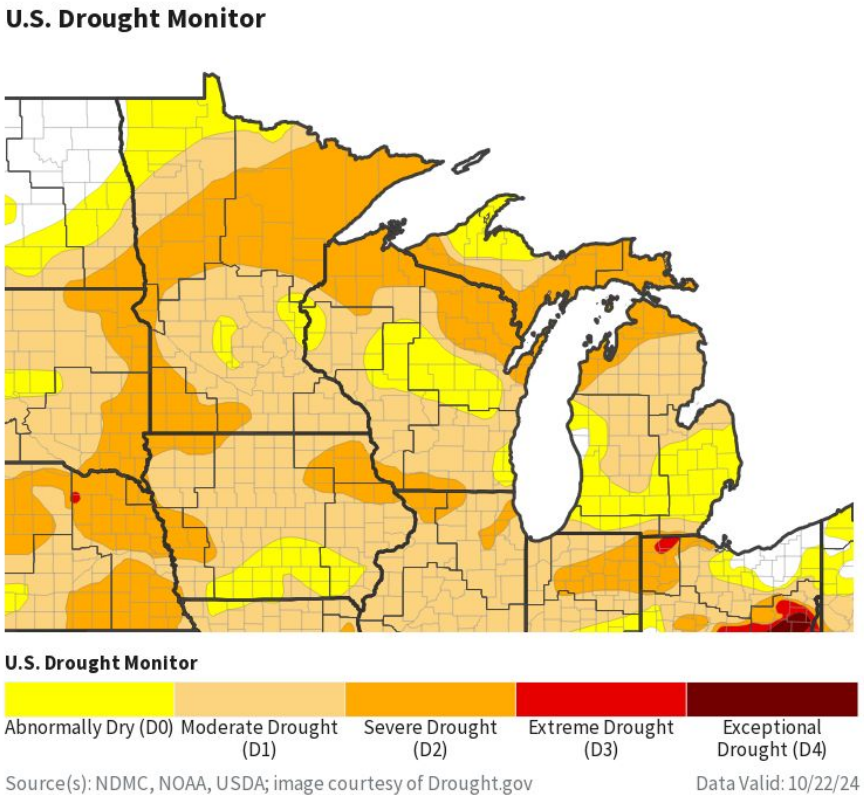
- This product will be updated November 7, 2024 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/MPX/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/ for regional drought status updates.

- Drought continues to deepen
- Some D2 (Severe Drought) now appearing in central and southwest MN

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor

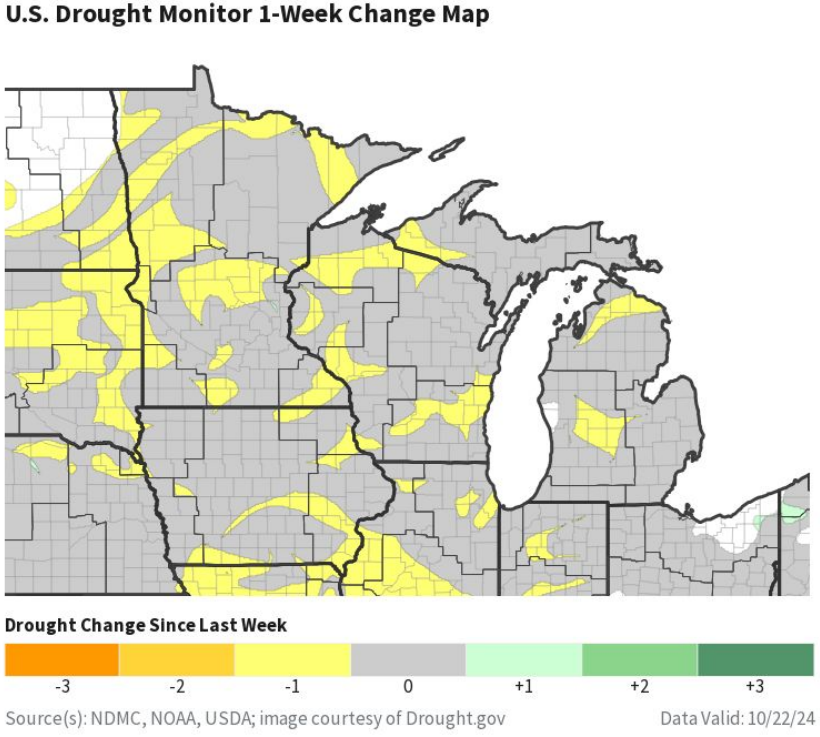
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: parts of central and southwest Minnesota
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Most of central and southern Minnesota and western Wisconsin not in D2 conditions
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: A couple of small islands in central Minnesota and along the Minnesota and Wisconsin border

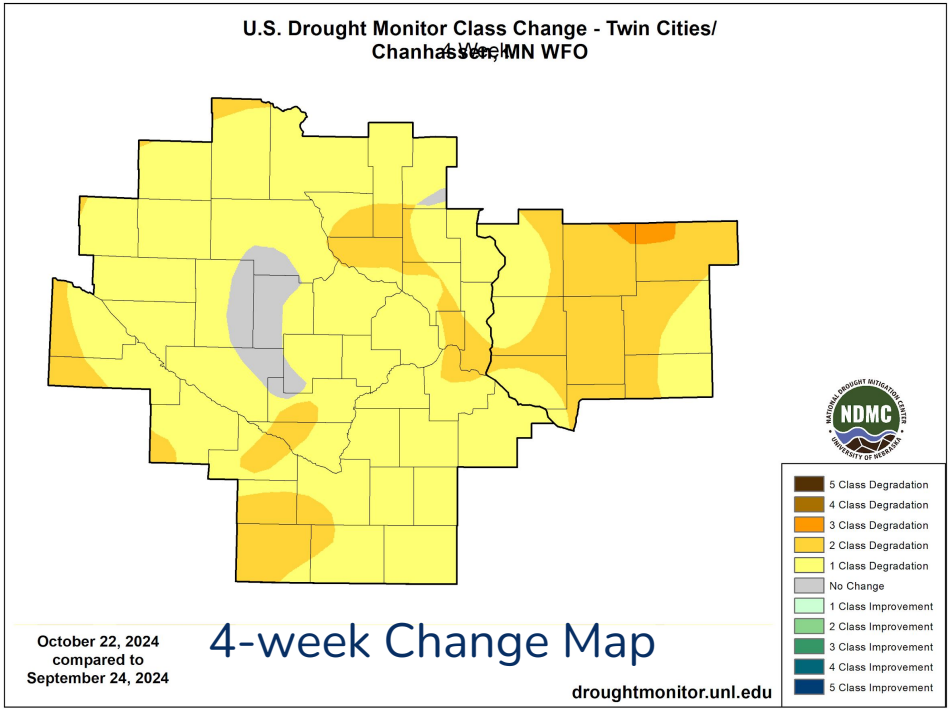


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 1-week change map and 4-week change map for the NWS Twin Cities Region

- Little rain since the end of August has allowed for the rapid expansion of drought conditions over the last month

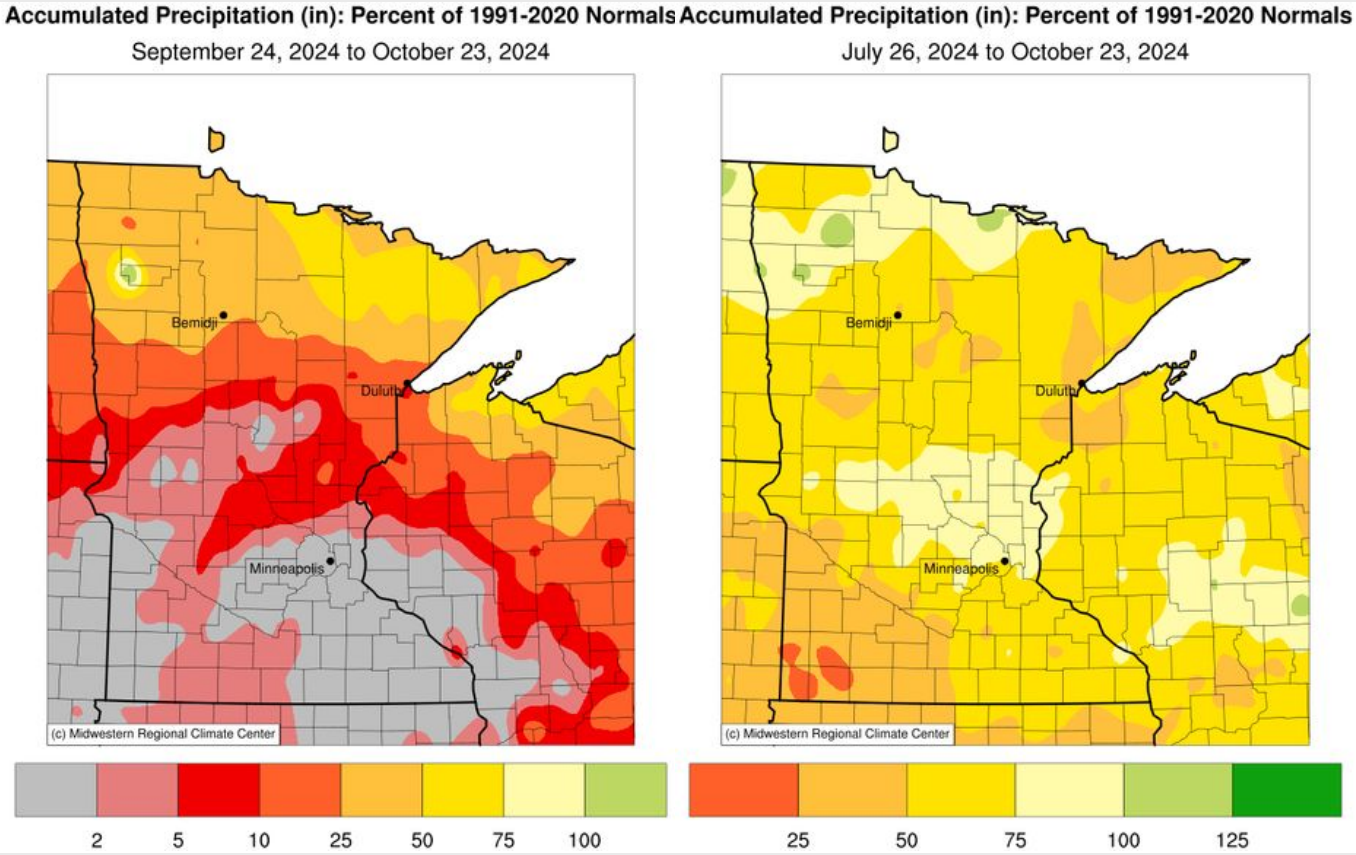




Precipitation Departures

1-month and 3-month percent of normal precipitation

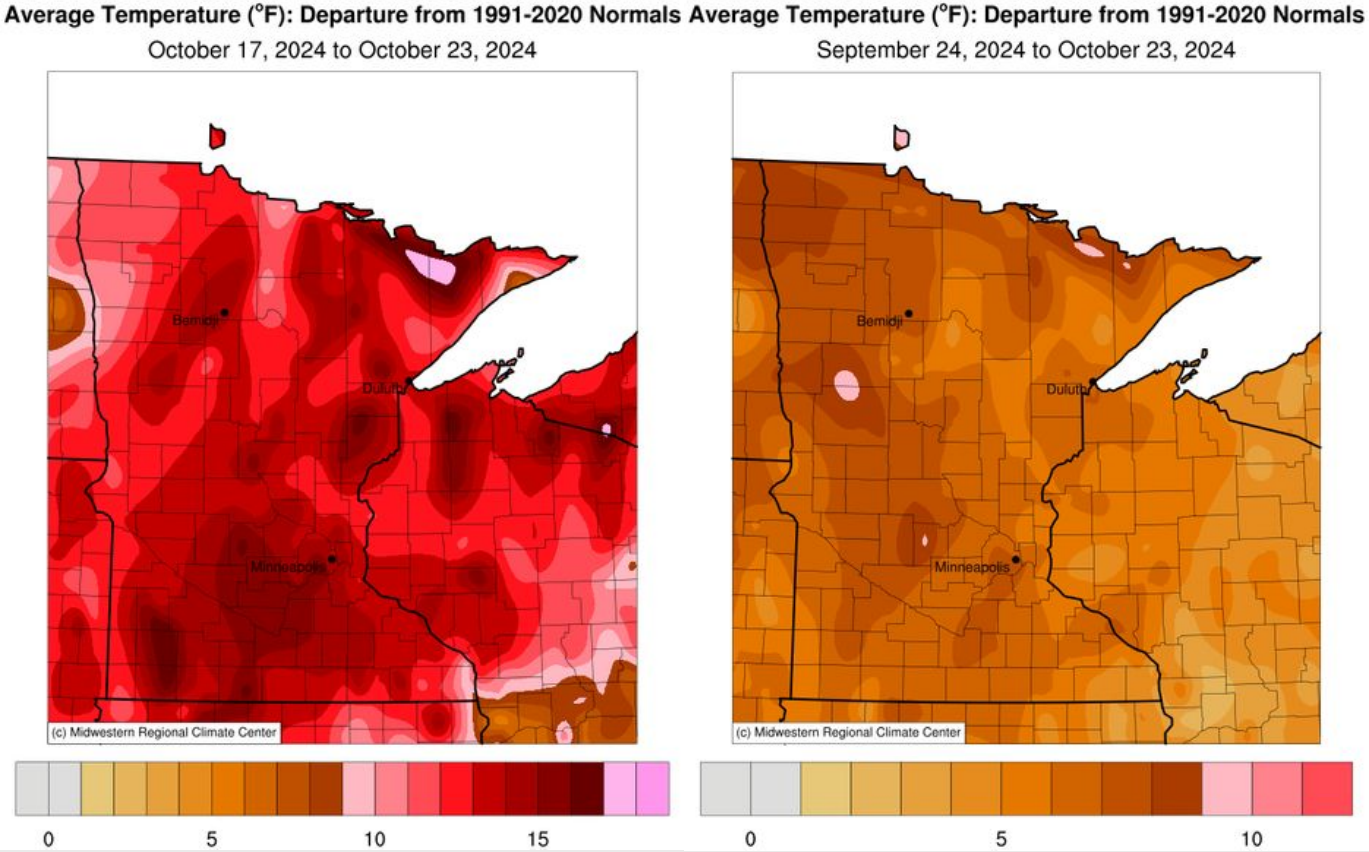
- Little rain has fallen across the area over the last 30 days.
- This current dry streak goes back about 6 weeks (early September), with most of the dry signal in the last 90 days coming in second half of the period



Temperature Departures

1-week and 1-month temperature departure

- Through October 23rd, the fall of 2024 has been the warmest on record.



Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- The lack of rain has led to falling river levels, with the Mississippi River in particular seeing the lowest flows with respect to normal (USGS Streamflow).

Agricultural Impacts

- This drought has actually be beneficial for non-grazing agricultural activities, as this has been ideal weather for harvesting field crops (State USDA Crop Reports).
- However, soils are becoming dry and some moisture is needed to begin apply fall fertilizers. (Current soil moisture observations).

Fire Hazard Impacts

- The lack of rain in September and so far in October has resulted in much higher fire danger than normal for the fall fire season (MN Fire Danger, WI Fire Danger).

Other Impacts

- No known additional impacts.

Mitigation Actions

- None Currently in place.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Average streamflow for the past 7 days

- The headwaters of the Mississippi basin in particular have significantly reduced flows

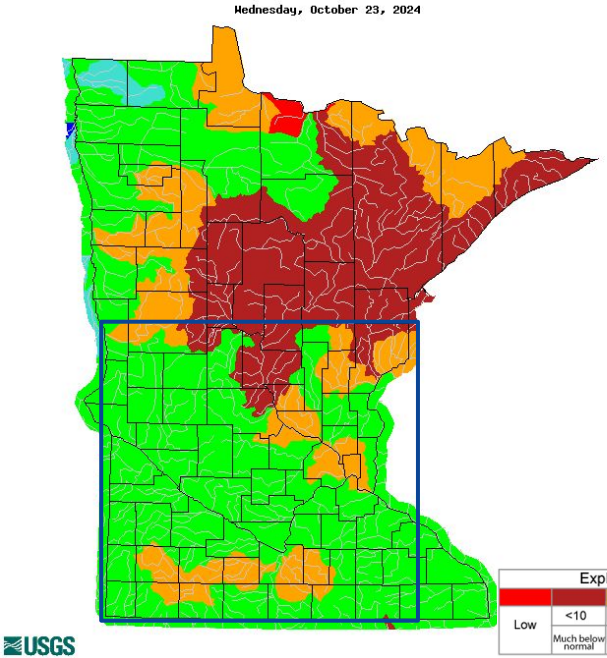


Image Caption: USGS 7-day Streamflow departure from normal for MN. Valid April 10, 2024

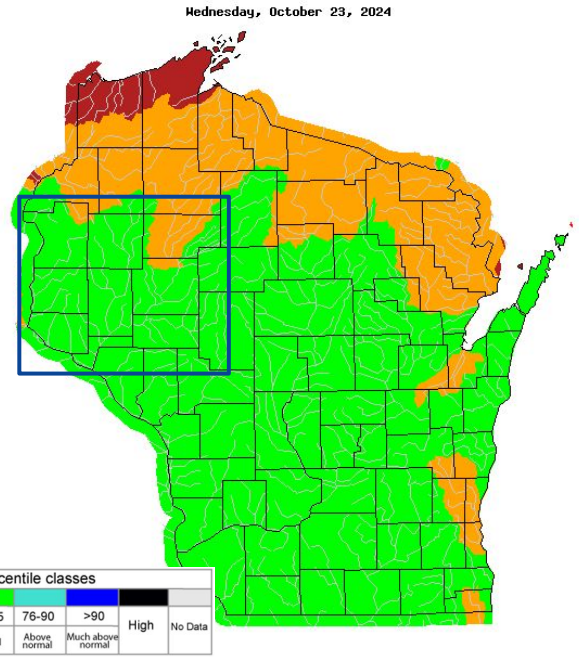


Image Caption: USGS 7-day Streamflow departure from normal for WI. Valid April 10, 2024

Fire Hazard Impacts

Fire Danger ratings valid for the date listed ONLY. Wildfire Danger for MN Wildfire Danger for WI

- The lack of rain in September and so far in October has resulted in much higher fire danger than normal for the fall fire season
- Mild air moving in ahead of a cold front, combined with dry fuels is resulting in the high fire danger today across the southern half of Minnesota and all of west central Wisconsin.

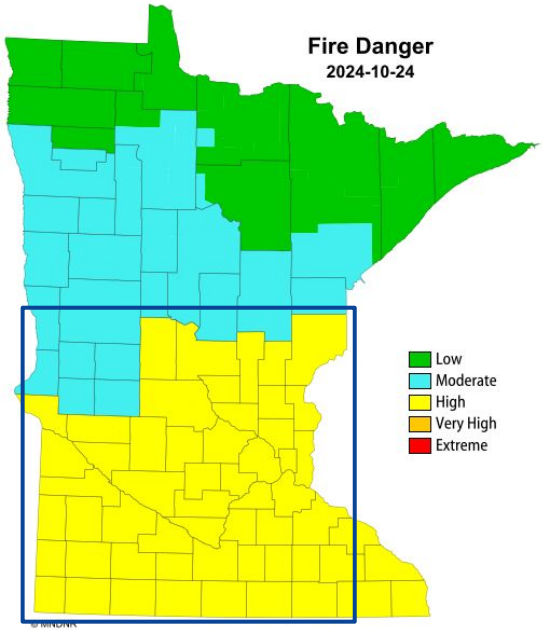


Image Caption: Wildfire Danger for MN. Valid October 24, 2024

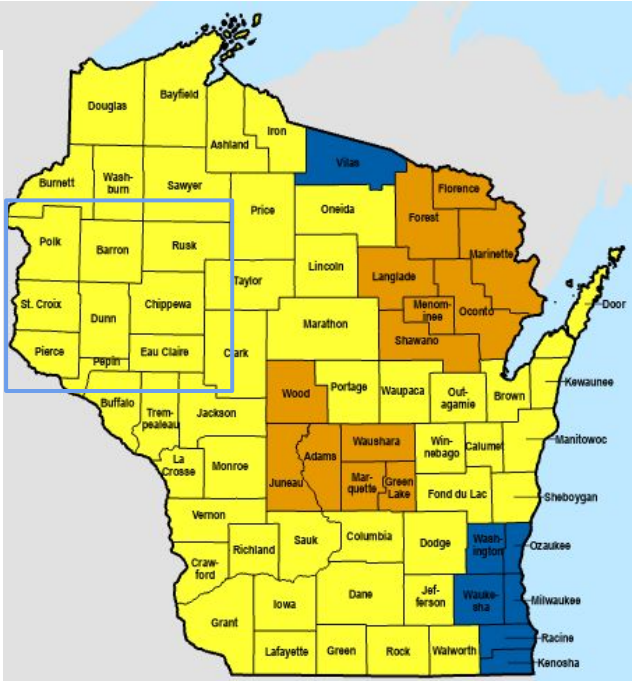
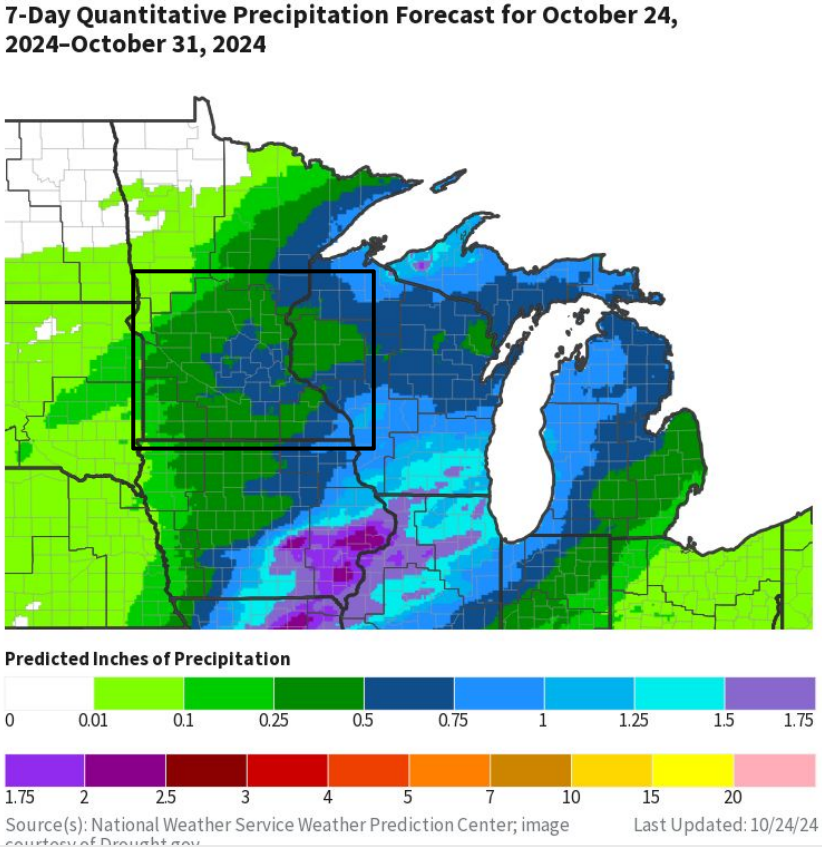


Image Caption: Wildfire Danger for WI. Valid October 24, 2024

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

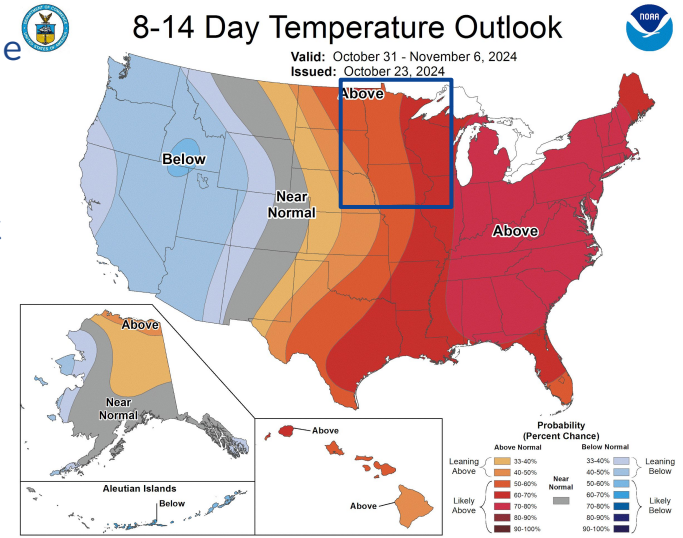
- After very little rain over the last several weeks, light rain on Thursday of this week and the potential for more active weather next week brings the possibility for some rain over the next 7 days across the upper MS valley

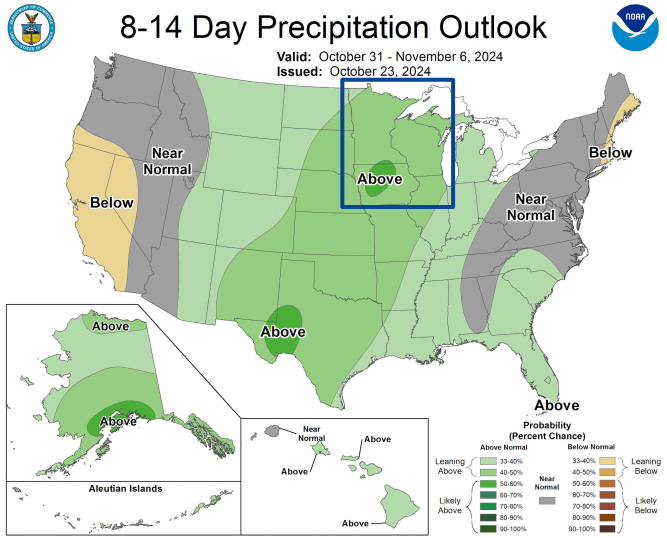


8-14 Day Outlooks

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

- One thing that is not expected to change over the next 2 weeks is our temperatures will continue to run above normal
- Signs continue to point that the turn to more active weather next week will continue into the following week

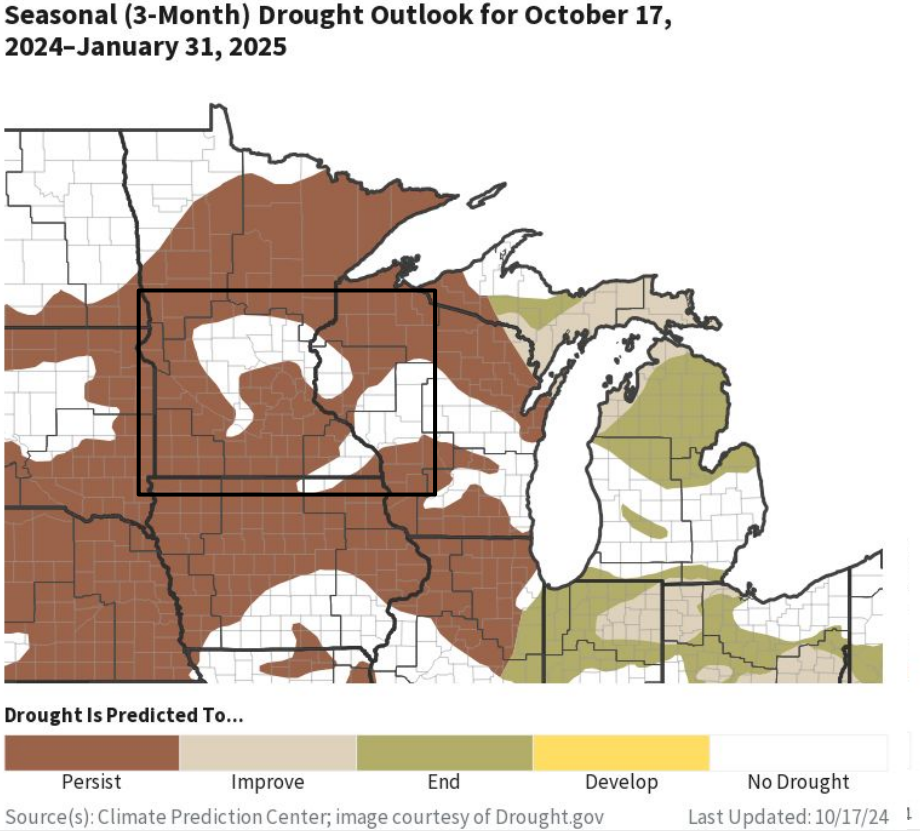




Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- As we approach the cool season, it becomes more difficult to move the drought needle as our normal precipitation values continue to decrease, with drought conditions expected to persist into the winter



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Definitions and State Resources

What do those categories mean?

Drought Category Definitions:

D0	**Abnormally Dry**	**Going into drought:** • Short-term dryness slowing planting, growth of crops or pastures	**Coming out of drought:** • Some lingering water deficits • Pastures or crops not fully recovered
D1	**Moderate Drought**	• Some damage to crops, pastures • Streams, reservoirs, or wells low, some water shortages developing or imminent • Voluntary water-use restrictions requested	
D2	**Severe Drought**	• Crop or pasture losses likely • Water shortages common • Water restrictions imposed	
D3	**Extreme Drought**	• Major crop/pasture losses • Widespread water shortages or restrictions	
D4	**Exceptional Drought**	• 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.