Drought Information Statement

for southeast Ohio, northeast Kentucky, southwest Virginia, and much of West Virginia

Valid July, 25, 2024

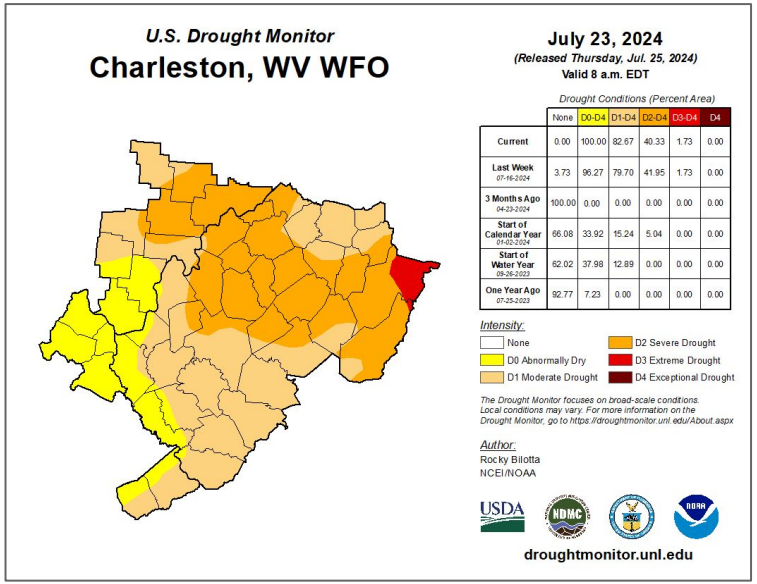
Issued By: NWS Charleston, WV
Contact Information: rlx.webmaster@noaa.gov

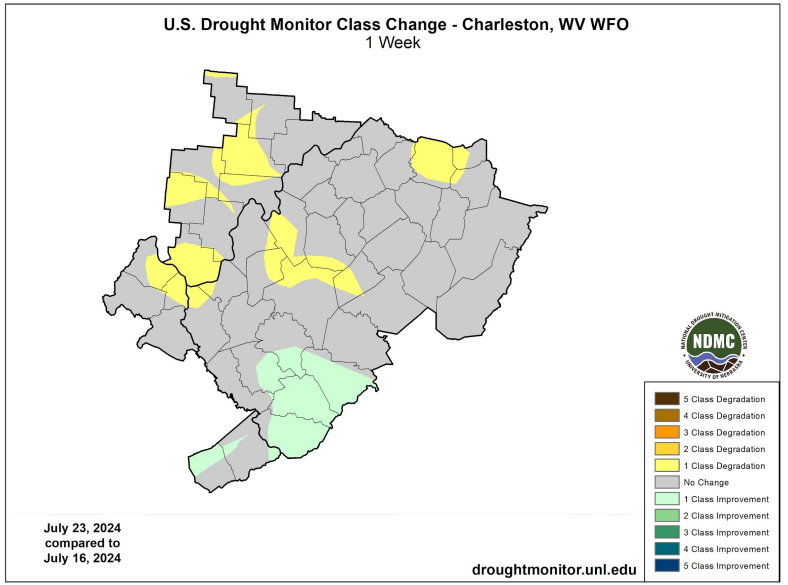
- This product will be updated July 31, 2024
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/RLX/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.

- Extreme Drought continues across eastern Randolph County with some expansion of Severe Drought into the Muskingum, Hocking, and Kanawha river valleys

Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor and One-Week Change





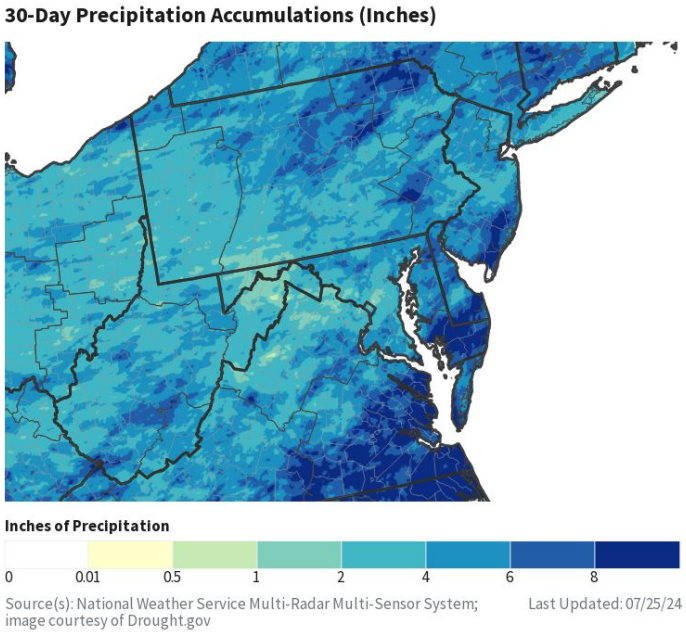
Main Takeaways

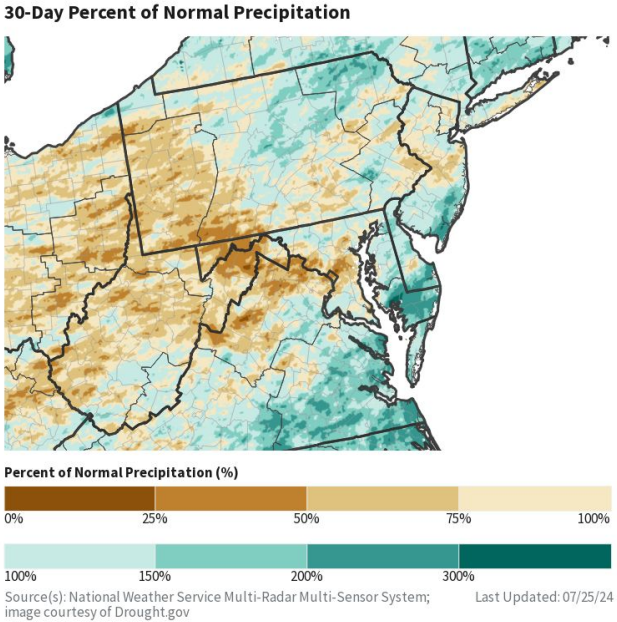
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: No change
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Expanded into Muskingum, Hocking, and Kanawha river valleys but improved across southeast WV
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Expanded into Clarksburg vicinity
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Expanded into the Huntington vicinity

Image Caption:
Left: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT July 25, 2024
Right: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map valid 8am EDT July 25, 2024

Observed Precipitation

Latest 30-Day Rainfall and Percent of Normal Rainfall





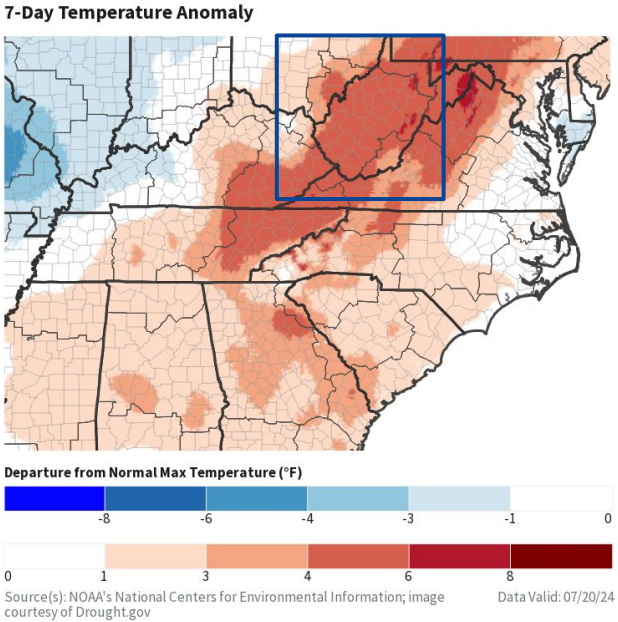
Main Takeaways

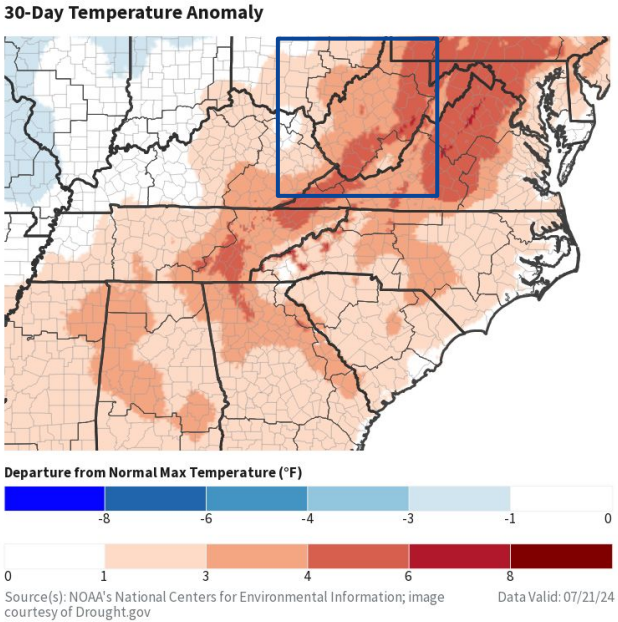
- Overall, conditions continue to be dry with many areas only receiving 25 to 50 percent of normal rainfall

Image Caption:
Left - Precipitation Amount for Mid Atlantic
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Mid Atlantic
Data Courtesy NWS National Water Prediction Service
Data over the past 30 days ending July 25, 2024

Observed Temperature

Latest 7 and 30-Day Temperature Anomaly





Main Takeaways

- Temperatures continue to run above normal with the highest anomalies observed across the mountains

Image Captions:
Left - 7-Day Departure from Normal Temperature for Appalachia
Right - 30-Day Departure from Normal Temperature for Appalachia
Data Courtesy NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information
Data over the past 30 days ending July 20, 2024

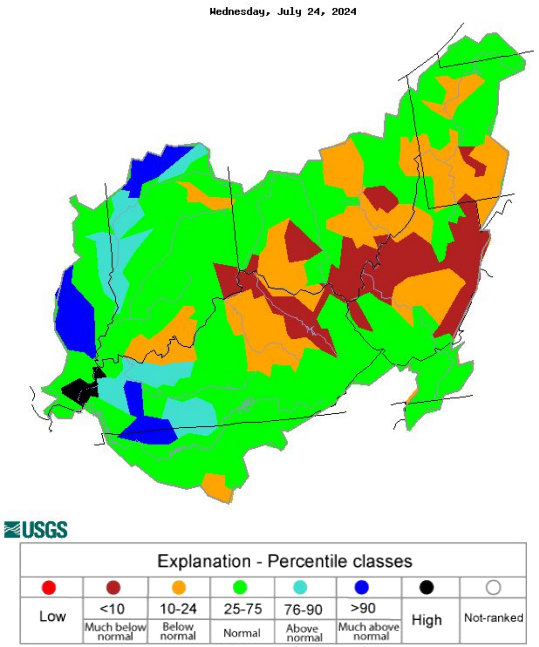
Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Main Takeaways

- Streamflow remains much below normal across the Ohio, Little Kanawha, and Tygart River basins
- Groundwater wells continue to drop across the mountains

Impacts

- Reductions of inflow into area reservoirs with Tygart Lake and Stonewall Jackson lake below summer pool
- Recreational impacts reported at Tygart Lake
- Some residential and agricultural wells may be experiencing impacts
- Water supply may be negatively affected for communities that depend on water from nearby creeks and rivers.
- Water quality may become adversely impacted as well



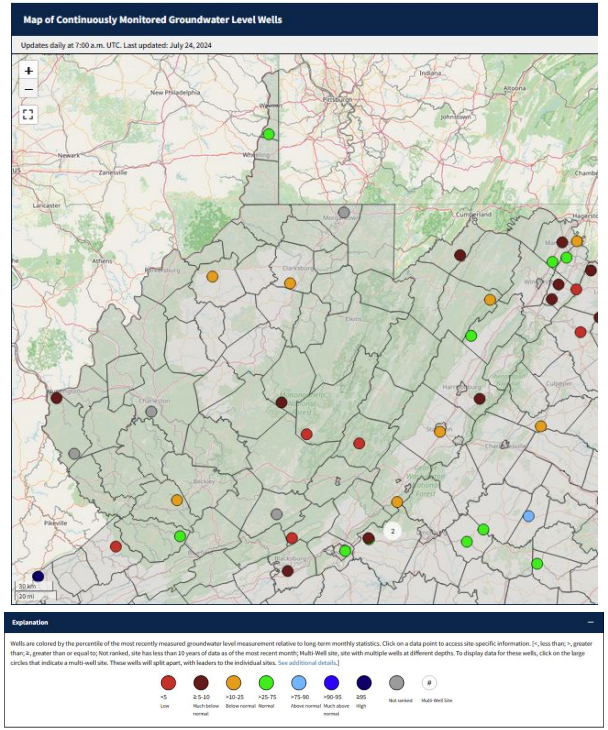
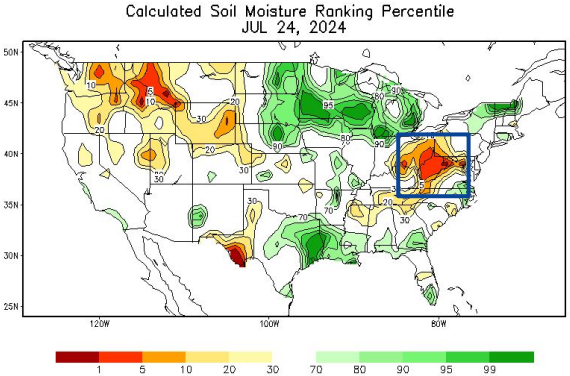
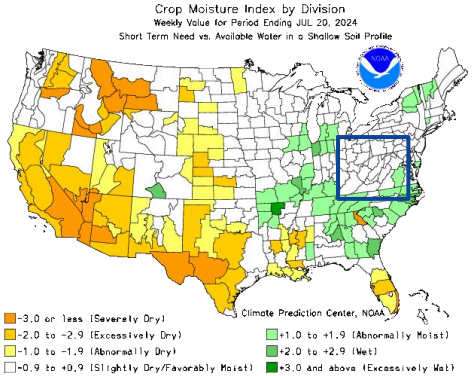


Image Caption:
Left - USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC maps valid July 25, 2024
Right - USGS groundwater wells valid July 25, 2024

Agricultural Impacts





Main Takeaways

- Soil moisture remains below normal across the northern half of the area

Impacts

- Declining levels in irritation wells/ponds have led to hauling of water for livestock across parts of the northern lowlands
- Loss of half of blueberry crop has been reported in Mason County
- Hay shortage reported throughout the northern lowlands/mountains with supplemental feeding needed

USDA Crop Progress and Condition Weekly Reports

West Virginia
Ohio
Virginia
Kentucky

Image Captions:
Left: CPC Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile valid July 24, 2024
Right: USDA Crop Progress Report, valid July, 2024

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- 7-day average streamflows continue well below much of southeast OH and central/northern WV
- Inflow reduction resulting in below normal lake levels at Stonewall Jackson Lake and Tygart Lake

Agricultural Impacts

- Low soil moisture has stunted crop growth in parts of southeast OH and northern WV
- Some crop yield losses reported in the northern WV, particularly with hay
  - Lack of hay has resulted in supplemental feeding
- Hauling of water for livestock has been reported in southeast OH and northern WV

Fire Hazard Impacts

- If dryness persists, above normal brush fire activity is possible during the second half of summer given drying vegetation and the continued potential for above normal temperatures.

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

Next 7 days:

- Cold front sags south by Friday with scattered showers and thunderstorms shifting south as well for the weekend
- Shower and thunderstorm activity will increase early to middle part of next week
- Rainfall from thunderstorm activity may result in localized and temporary improvement of drought conditions, though it is hard to predict where this will occur.

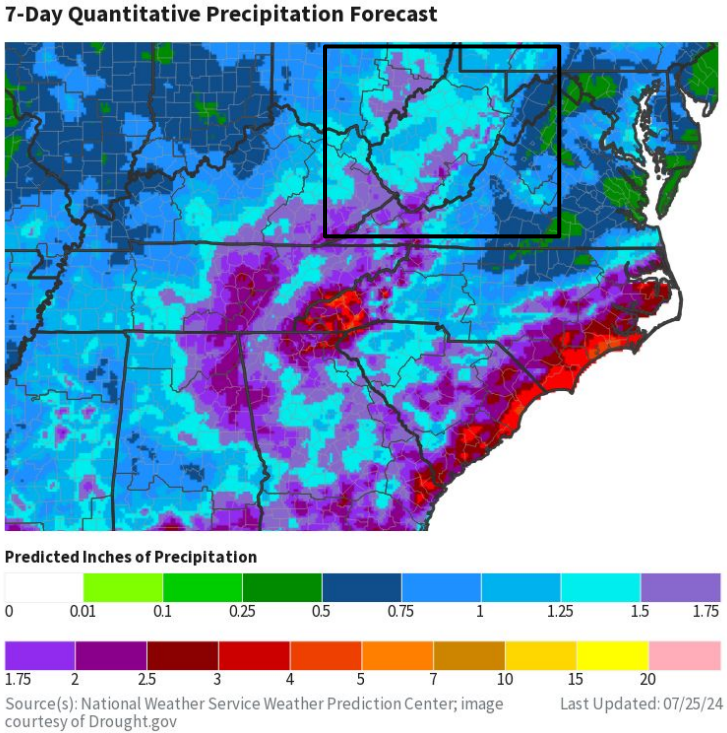


Image Caption:
Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid July 25, 2024

8-14 Day Outlook

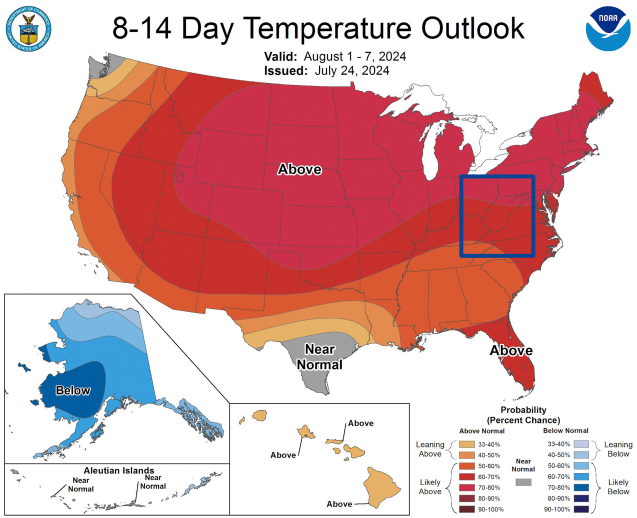
Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- Increased probability of above normal temperatures and precipitation

Impacts

- Some minor improvement in drought conditions is possible, though this will be highly dependent on spatial coverage and intensity of precipitation



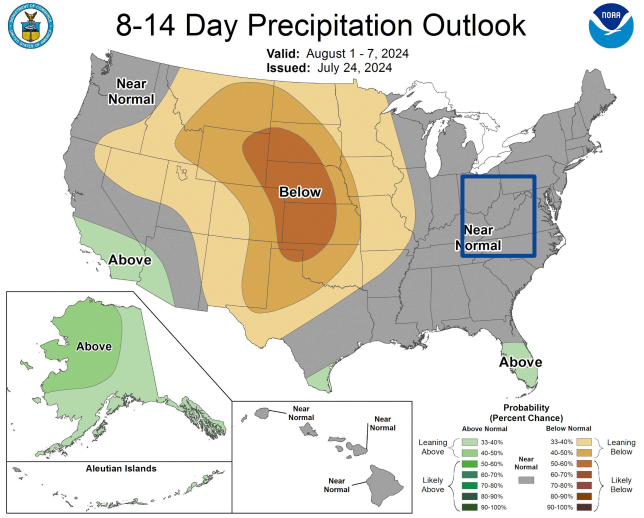


Image Captions:
Climate Prediction Center 8-14 day temperature and precipitation outlook valid July 24, 2024

Weeks 3-4 Outlook

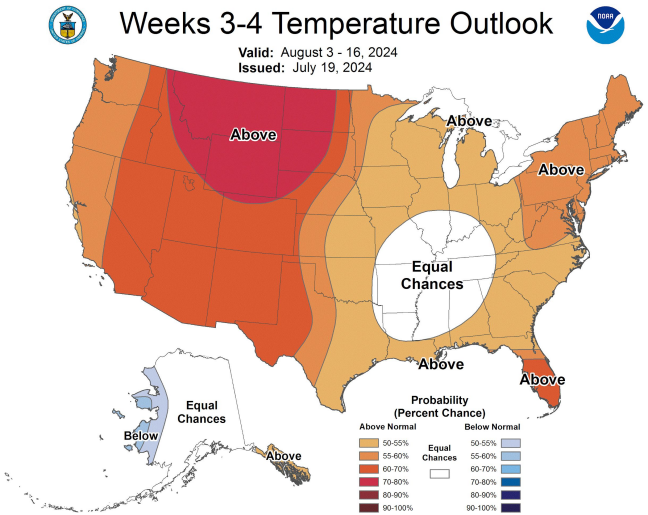
Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- Increased probability of above normal temperatures and precipitation

Impacts

- Additional improvement in drought conditions is possible, though this will be highly dependent on spatial coverage of precipitation
- Continued above normal temperatures for several more weeks will cause drought to persist if rainfall only remains near normal



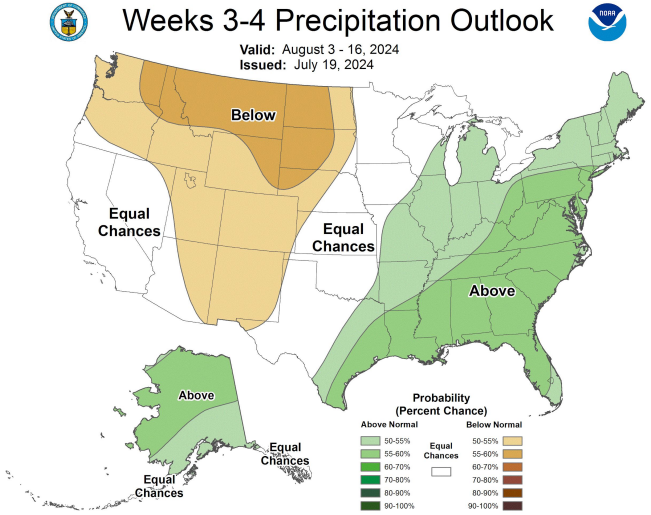


Image Captions:
Climate Prediction Center weeks 3-4 temperature and precipitation outlook valid July 19, 2024

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook

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

Main Takeaways

- Overall improvement in drought conditions is possible through the remainder of the summer months with chances for above normal precipitation in the short and long range outlooks

- However, even near normal rainfall combined with above normal temperatures would result in drought persistence

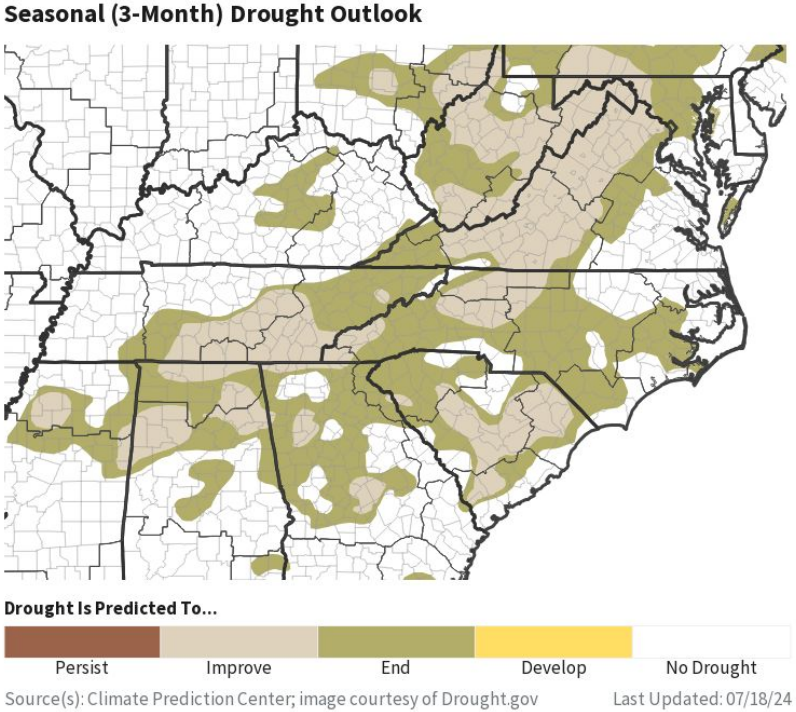


Image Caption:
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released July 01, 2024
Valid July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024