Drought Information Statement

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

Valid August 15, 2024

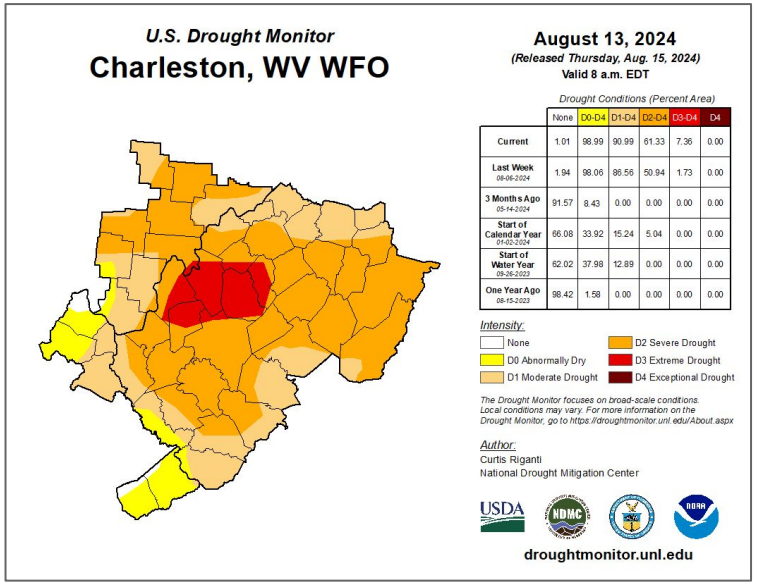
Issued By: NWS Charleston, WV
Contact Information: rlx.webmaster@noaa.gov

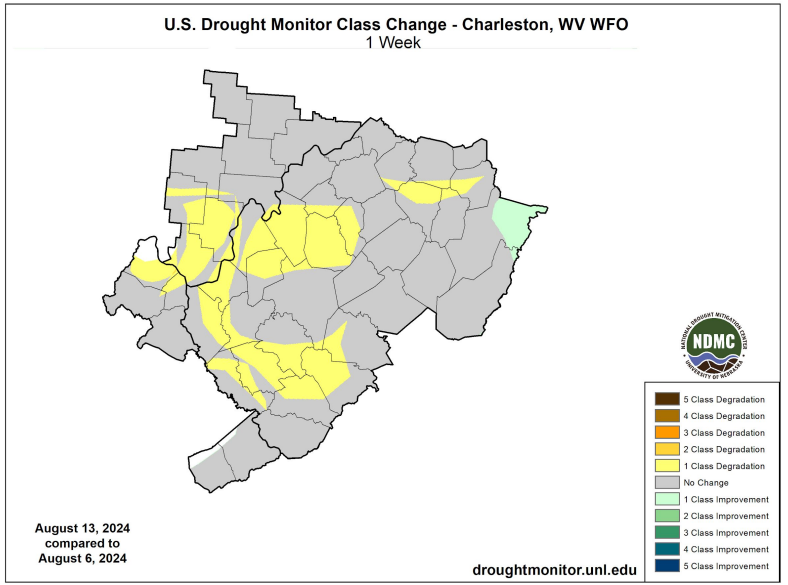
- This product will be updated August 22, 2024
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/RLX/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.

- Extreme Drought introduced across the lower Kanawha River basin.

Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor and One-Week Change





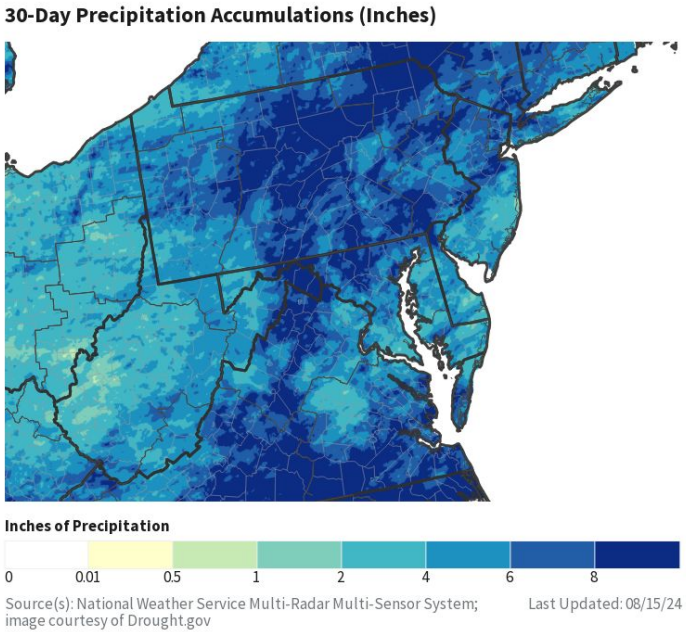
Main Takeaways

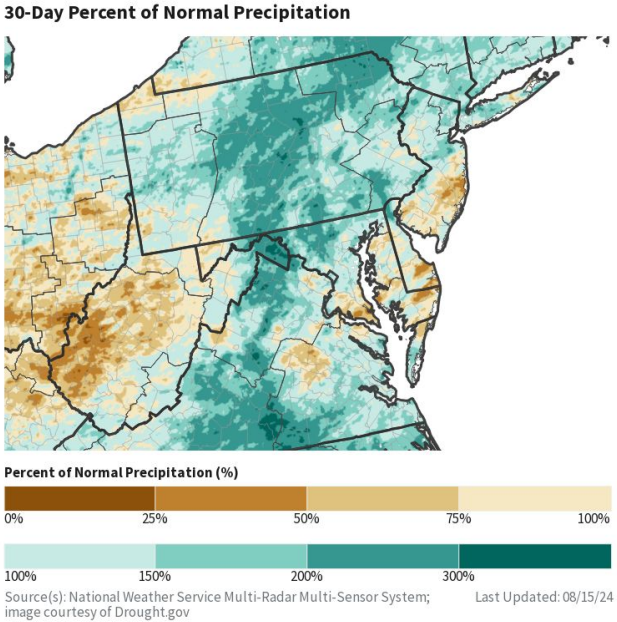
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Improvement across eastern Randolph County. Introduced across west-central WV
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Expanded more into the Coal Fields
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Expanded into Lawrence/Gallia counties
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: No change

Image Caption:
Left: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT August 15, 2024
Right: U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map valid 8am EDT August 15, 2024

Observed Precipitation

Latest 30-Day Rainfall and Percent of Normal Rainfall





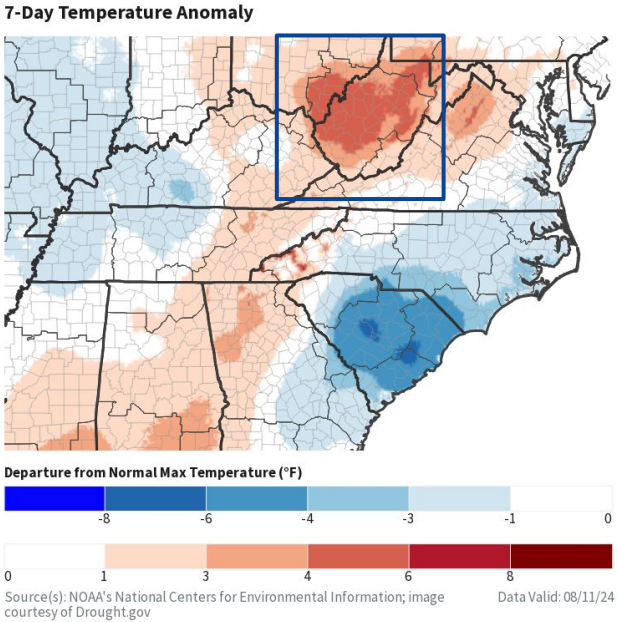
Main Takeaways

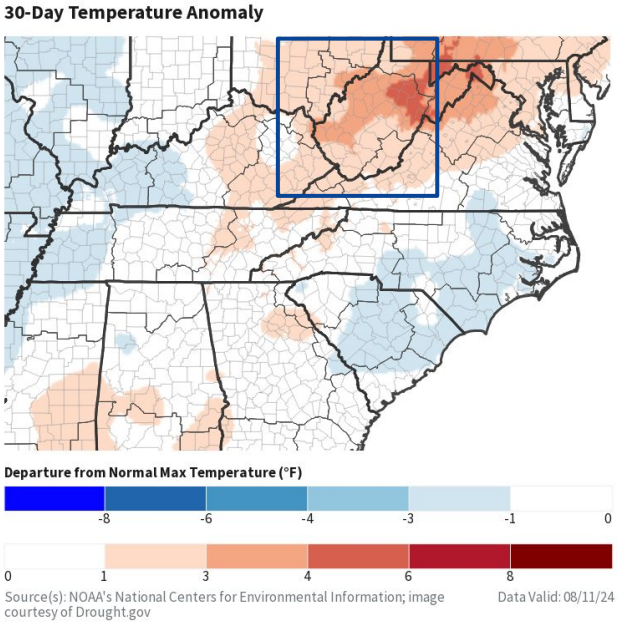
- Rainfall surplus across the mountains now
- Significant rainfall deficits continue in southeast OH, northeast KY, and WV lowlands

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 August 15, 2024

Observed Temperature

Latest 7 and 30-Day Temperature Anomaly





Main Takeaways

- Temperatures continue to run normal to above normal with the highest anomalies observed across the WV lowlands and southeast OH

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 August 11, 2024

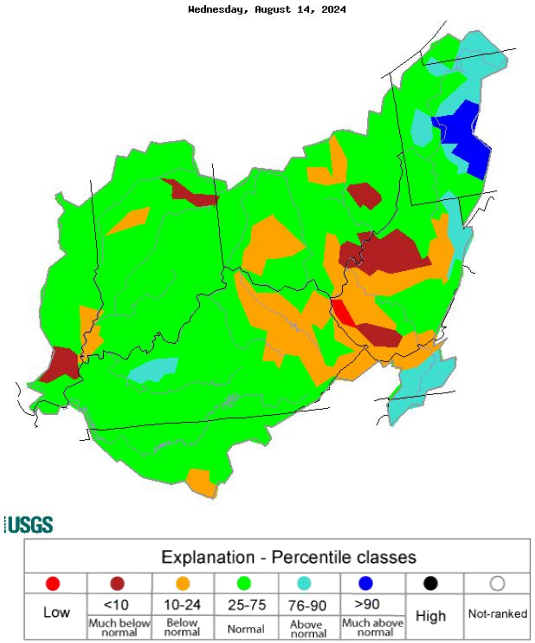
Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Main Takeaways

- Streamflow much below normal across the Ohio, Little Kanawha, Kanawha, and Guyandotte basins
  - Now above normal flows in the Cheat basin
- Groundwater wells remain low across much of the WV lowlands

Impacts

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



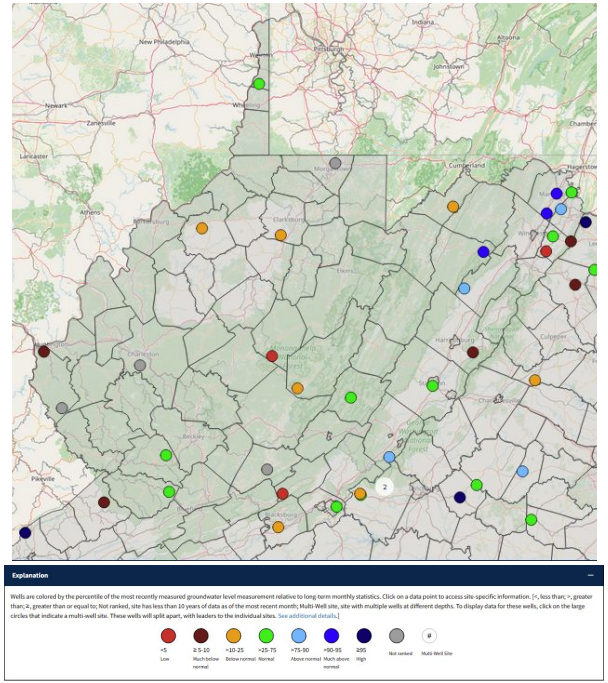
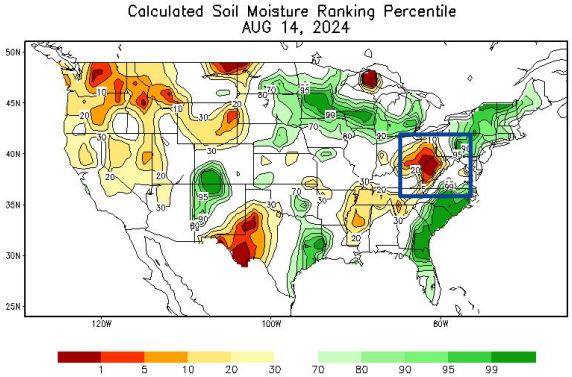
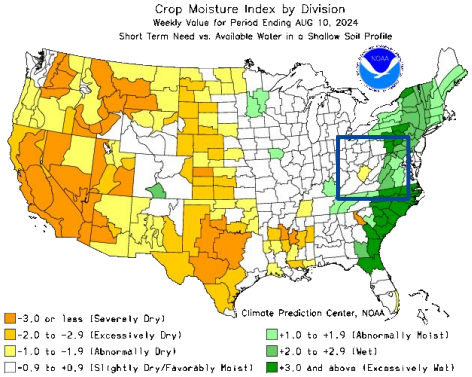


Image Caption:
Left - USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC maps valid August 14, 2024
Right - USGS groundwater wells valid August 15, 2024

Agricultural Impacts





Main Takeaways

- Soil moisture remains below normal across the much of the area

Impacts

- Declining levels in irritation wells/ponds have led to hauling of water for livestock across parts of southeast OH and the lowlands of WV
- Crop loss reports across much of the central and northern WV lowlands
- Hay shortage reported throughout the central 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 August 14, 2024
Right: USDA Crop Progress Report valid August 10, 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 central WV
- Crop yield losses reported in the southeast OH and central WV, particularly with hay
  - Lack of hay has resulted in supplemental feeding
- Hauling of water for livestock has been reported in southeast OH and central 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:

- Rounds of showers and thunderstorms Friday through the weekend

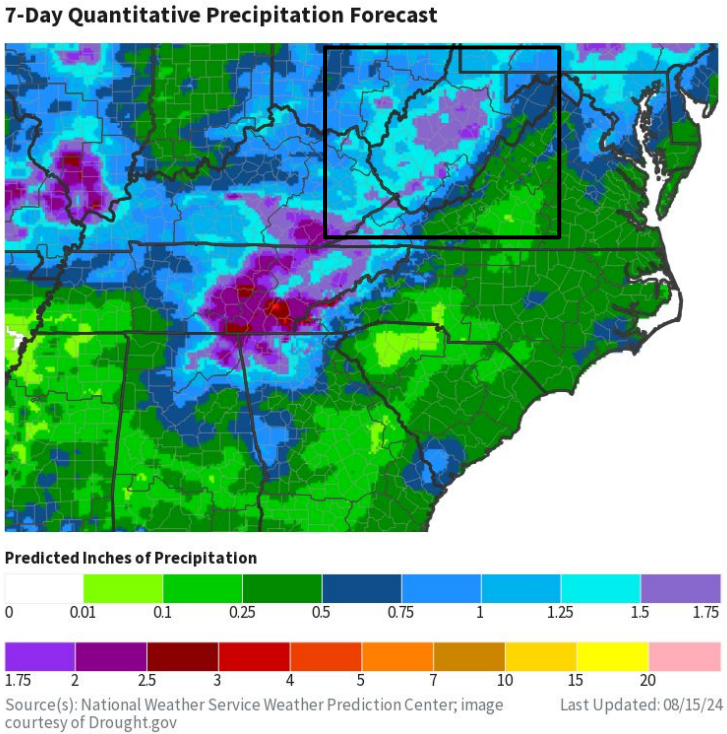


Image Caption:
Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid August 15, 2024

8-14 Day Outlook

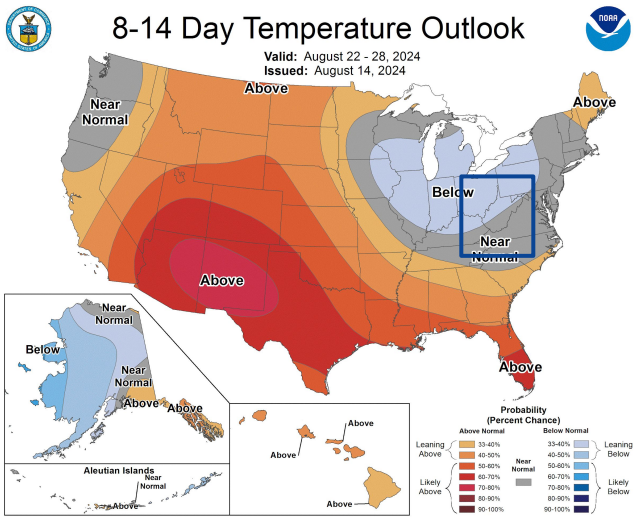
Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- Near normal temperature and precipitation

Impacts

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



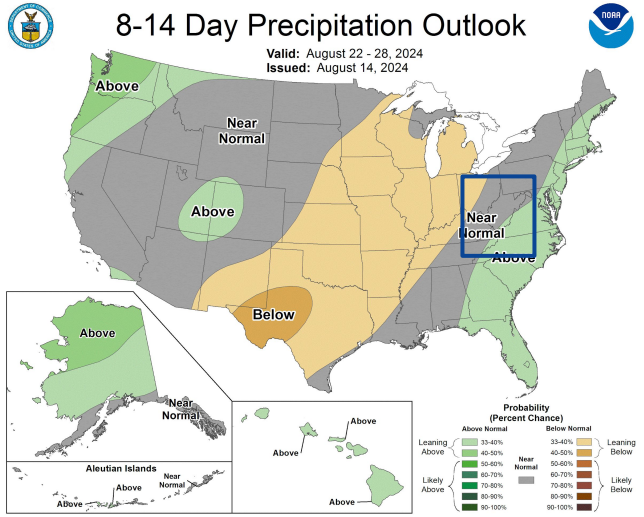


Image Captions:
Climate Prediction Center 8-14 day temperature and precipitation outlook valid August 14, 2024

Weeks 3-4 Outlook

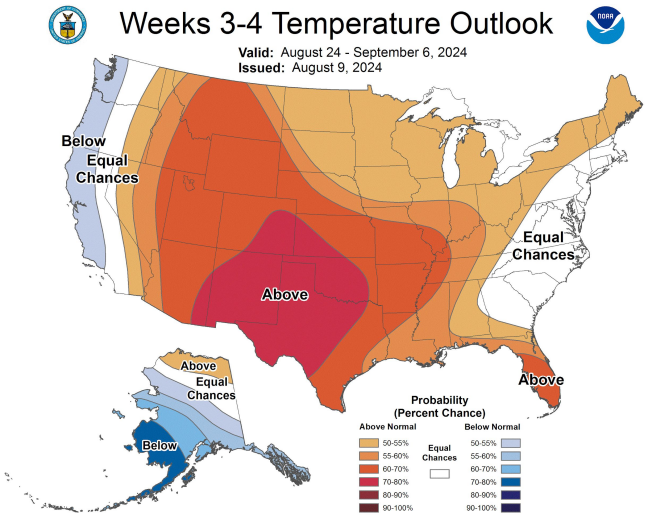
Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- Increased probability of above normal precipitation

Impacts

- Additional improvement in drought conditions is possible, though this will be highly dependent on spatial coverage of precipitation



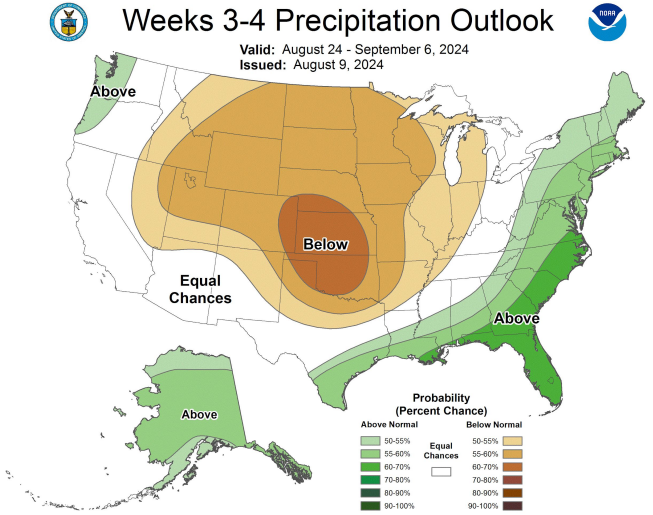


Image Captions:
Climate Prediction Center weeks 3-4 temperature and precipitation outlook valid August 9, 2024

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

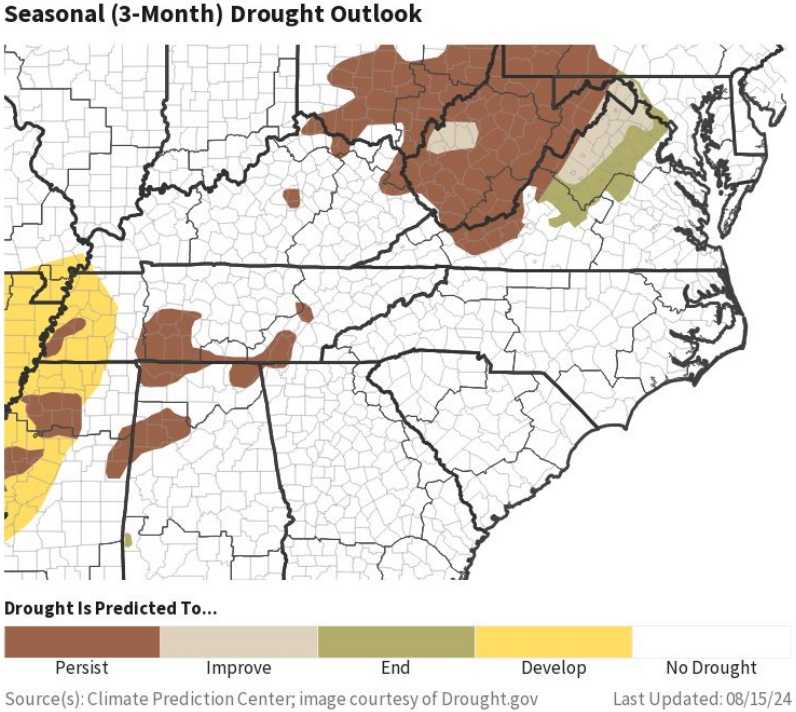


Image Caption:
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released August 18, 2024
Valid July 1, 2024 - September 30, 2024