



# Drought Information Statement

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

Valid September 12, 2024

Issued By: NWS Charleston, WV

Contact Information: [rlx.webmaster@noaa.gov](mailto:rlx.webmaster@noaa.gov)

- This product will be updated September 17, 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.
- 
- Exceptional Drought expands slightly but improves slightly in some areas
  - Extreme Drought expands across WV



# Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor

## Main Takeaways

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: Expansion into Putnam, Calhoun, Clay Counties with small area of improvement along Ohio River
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Expansion farther into southeast and Greenbrier Valley
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Slight expansion toward the Tug Fork River
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: No change
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: No change

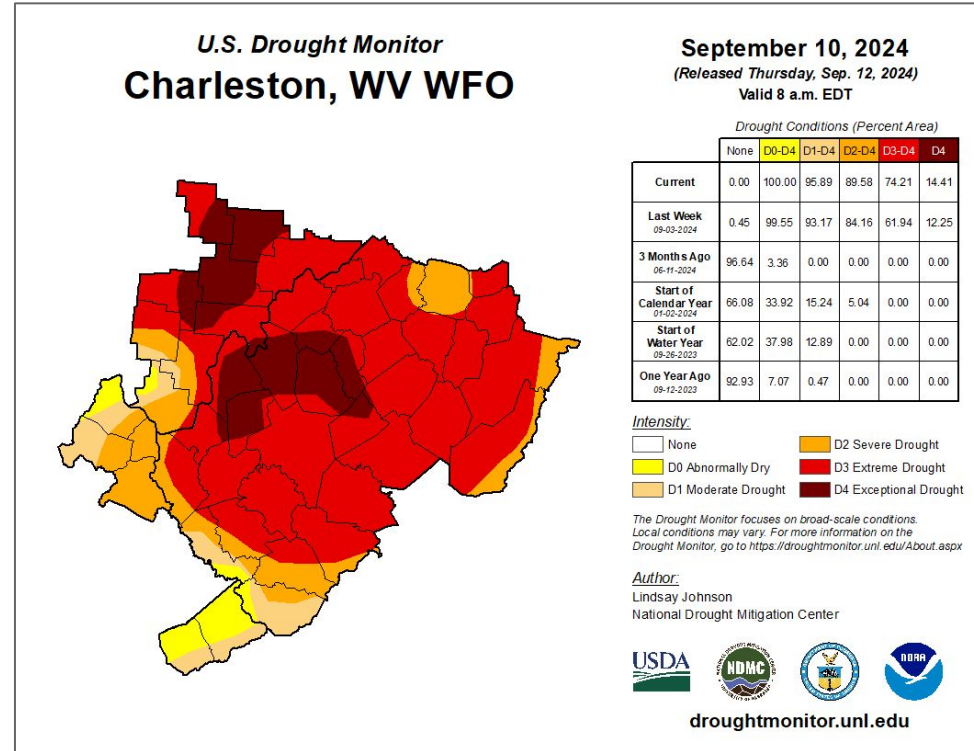


Image Caption: Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT September 12, 2024](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/)





# Current Drought Conditions

## Latest Drought Monitor Four-Week Change

- **Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change**
  - **Drought Worsened:** Much of the lowlands
  - **No Change:** Parts of the Potomac Highlands
  - **Drought Improved:** Far eastern panhandle
    - Remnants of Debby

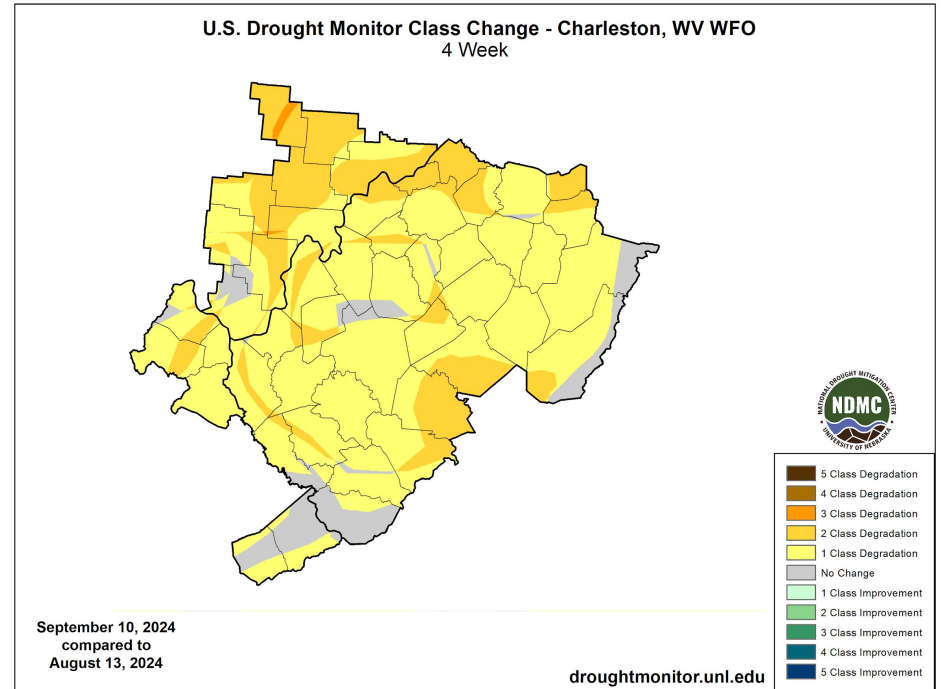


Image Caption:  
Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor 4 week change valid 8am EDT September 12, 2024](#)





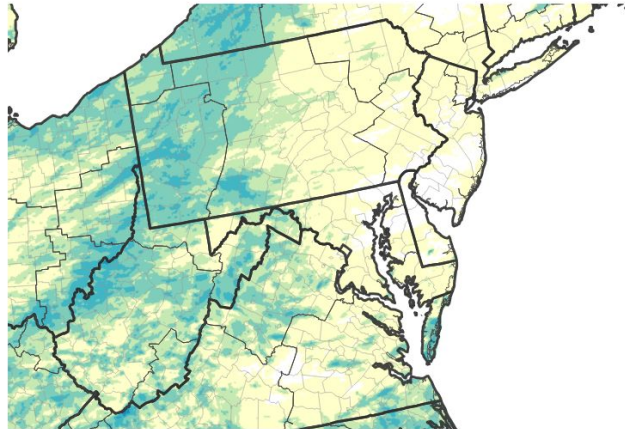
# Observed Precipitation

## Latest 7 and 30-Day Rainfall and Percent of Normal Rainfall

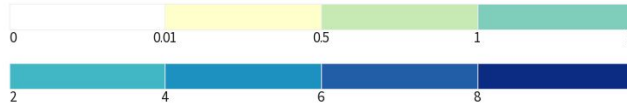
### Main Takeaways

- Some beneficial rains along the Ohio River
- Barely a drop in the bucket elsewhere

### 7-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



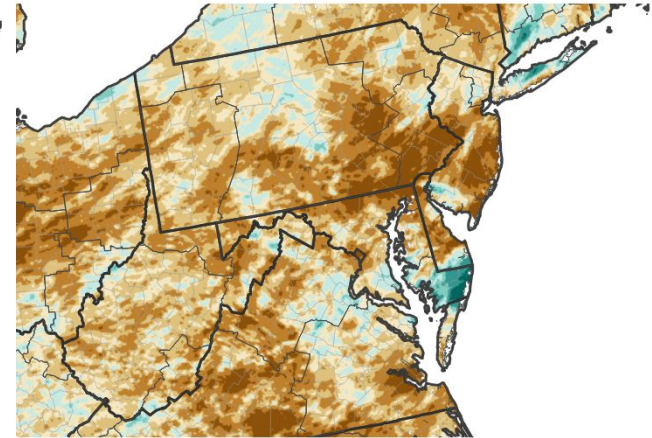
#### Inches of Precipitation



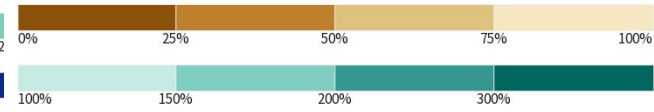
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 09/08/24

### 30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



#### Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 09/12/24

### 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 September 5, 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 WV lowlands
- Several reservoir lake levels are well below summer pools

## Agricultural Impacts

- Low soil moisture has stunted crop growth in many parts of the state
- Crop yield losses continue to be reported in the state particularly in the western, central, and eastern panhandle of the state
  - Lack of hay has resulted in supplemental feeding
  - Early sales of livestock
- Hauling of water for livestock continues across many parts of the state, particularly across western and central WV

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Increased brush fire activity with increased fire danger going forward without any rainfall
- Amplified on days with wind

## Mitigation Actions

- Emergency Water Conservation for Nicholas County
- Water hauling for town of Kermit and Calhoun County (waste water treatment purposes)
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

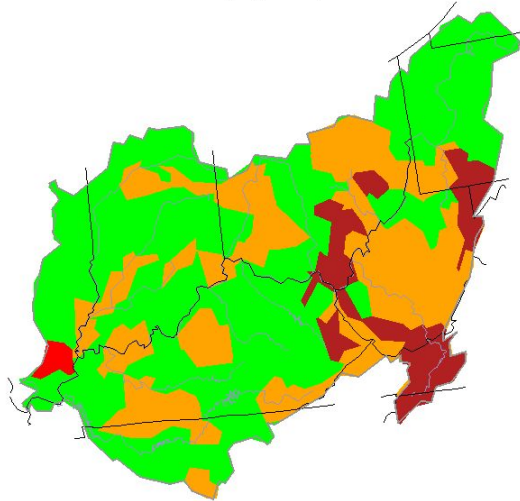
## Main Takeaways

- Streamflow remains below to much below normal across much of southeast OH and southern W, especially the Guyandotte Basin
- Groundwater wells remain low across much of the WV lowlands

## Impacts

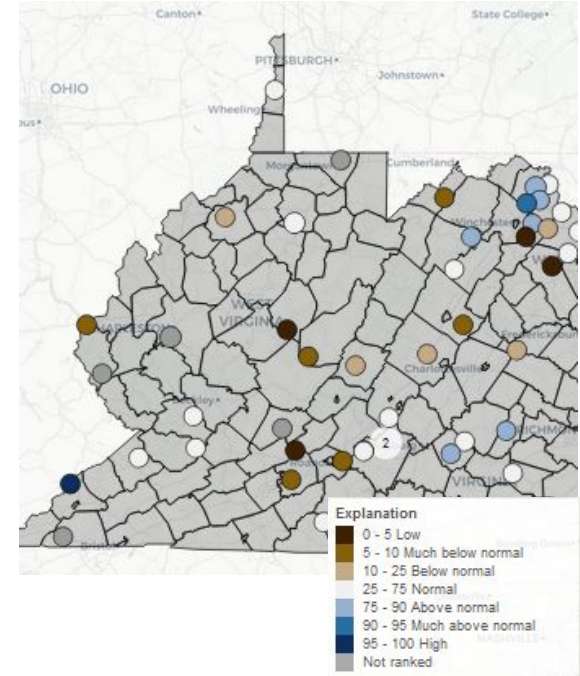
- Reservoir lakes below summer pool:
  - Tygart Lake **40' below**
  - Stonewall Jackson lake **9' below**
  - Burnsville Lake **3.2' below**
  - Sutton Lake **8.35' below**
  - Beech Fork Lake **2.8' below**
- Some residential and agricultural wells experiencing impacts
- Water supply negatively affected for communities that depend on water from nearby creeks and rivers.
  - Emergency Water Conservation in Nicholas County
  - Kermit (Mingo County) water shortage
  - Water from Burnsville for waste water treatment in Calhoun County

Thursday, September 12, 2024



USGS

Explanation - Percentile classes							
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	Not-ranked
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		



**Image Caption:**  
 Left - USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC maps valid September 12, 2024  
 Right - USGS groundwater wells valid September 12, 2024





# Agricultural Impacts

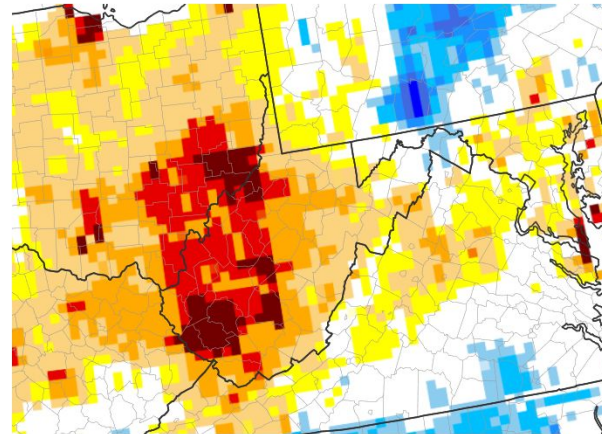
## Main Takeaways

- Soil moisture remains well below normal across the much of the WV southeast OH

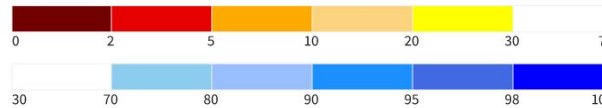
## Impacts

- Declining levels in irrigation wells/ponds have led to hauling of water for livestock across parts of southeast OH and the lowlands of WV
- Crop yield loss reports across much of WV and southeast OH
- Hay shortage reported throughout WV and southeast OH
  - supplemental feeding needed
  - Reports of livestock being sold due to lack of feed/water

GRACE Root Zone Soil Moisture Percentile

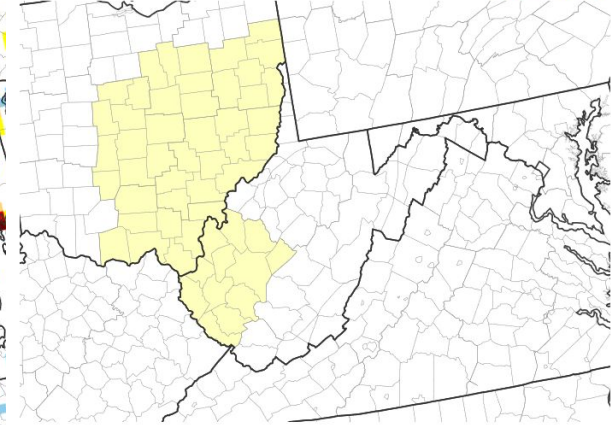


Root Zone Soil Moisture: Wetness Percentile



Source(s): NASA, National Drought Mitigation Center  
Data Valid: 09/10/24

Crop Moisture Index



Crop Moisture Index



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center  
Data Valid: 09/07/24

Drought.gov

Drought.gov

## USDA Crop Progress and Condition Weekly Reports

- [West Virginia](#)
- [Ohio](#)
- [Virginia](#)
- [Kentucky](#)

## Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile valid September 10, 2024

Right: USDA Crop Progress Report valid September 7, 2024



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
Charleston, WV



# Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

## Main Takeaways

- Significant wildfire outlook is above normal for September

## Impacts

- Brush fire activity has been increasing over the past couple of weeks
- 10 hour afternoon fuels (leaf litter) have been in critically low levels over the past 1 to 2 weeks.
- Expect fire danger to increase with each passing week without a meaningful rainfall
  - Amplified during days with wind

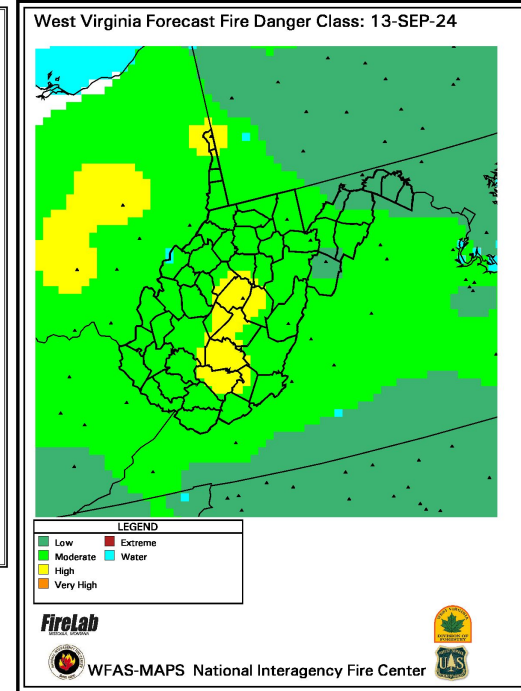
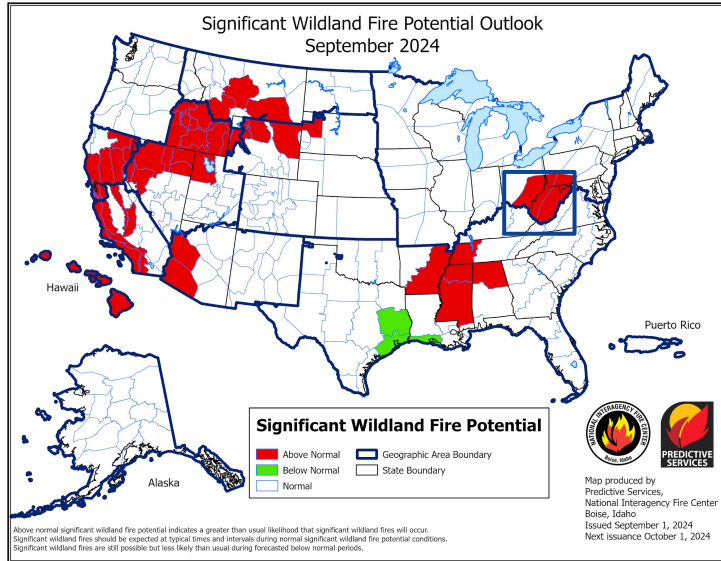


Image Captions:  
Left: Significant Wildland Fire Potential monthly outlook valid September, 2024  
Right: Area fire danger class, valid September 13, 2024





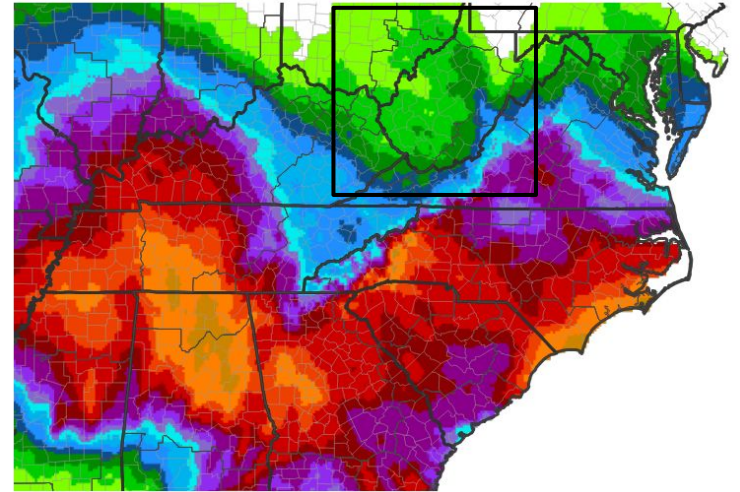


# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

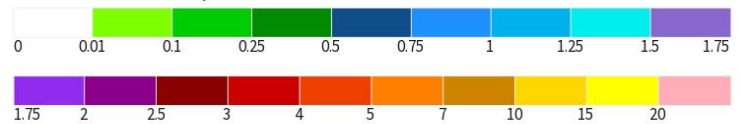
## Next 7 days:

- Remnants of Francine stay well west into the lower Ohio Valley into the weekend
- Watching another tropical low forecast to develop along the Carolina coast and make inroads toward the area mid week next week.
  - May provide some meaningful rain across the mountains and eastern panhandle????

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for September 12, 2024–September 19, 2024



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 09/12/24

**Image Caption:**

Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid September 19, 2024





# 8-14 Day Outlook

## Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

### Main Takeaways

- Above normal temperatures favored
- Normal precipitation favored across the east

### Impacts

- Worsening drought conditions possible across the lowlands

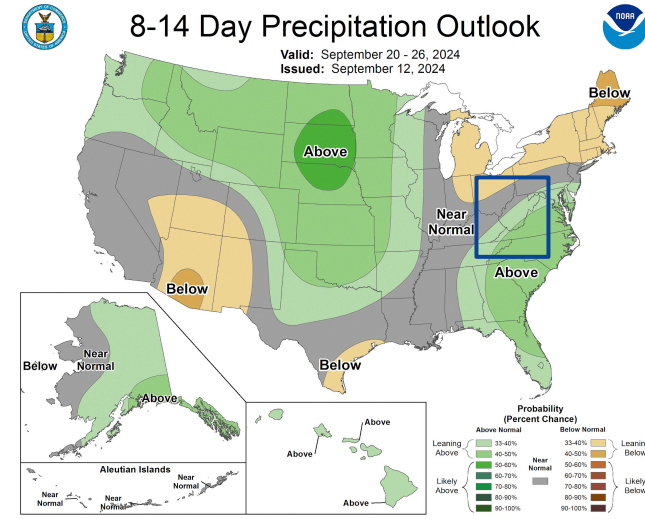
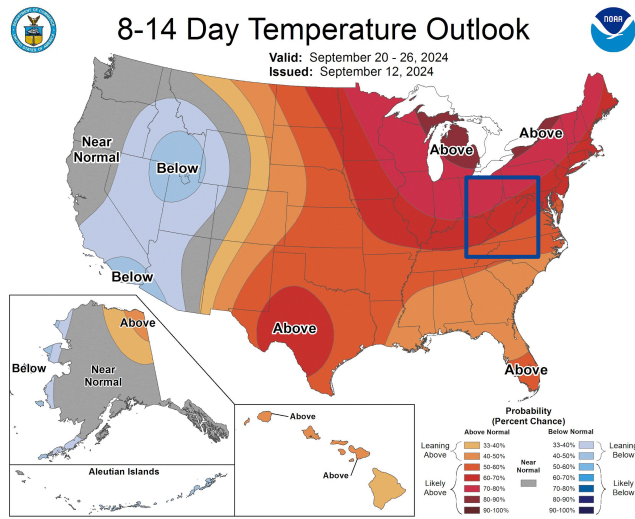


Image Captions:  
Climate Prediction Center 8-14 day temperature and precipitation outlook valid September 12, 2024





# Weeks 3-4 Outlook

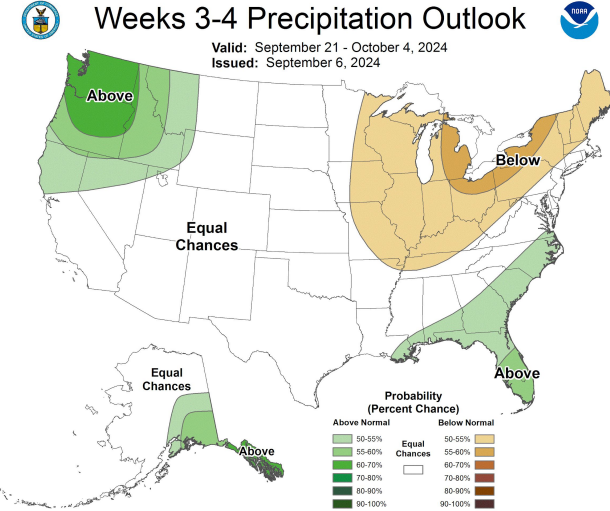
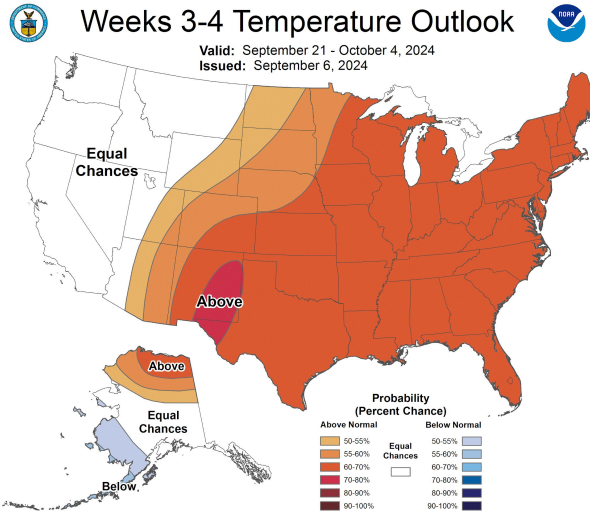
## Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

### Main Takeaways

- Increased probability of above normal temperatures
- Increased probability of below normal precipitation

### Impacts

- Worsening drought conditions possible across many locations



**Image Captions:**  
 Climate Prediction Center weeks 3-4 temperature and precipitation outlook valid September 6, 2024





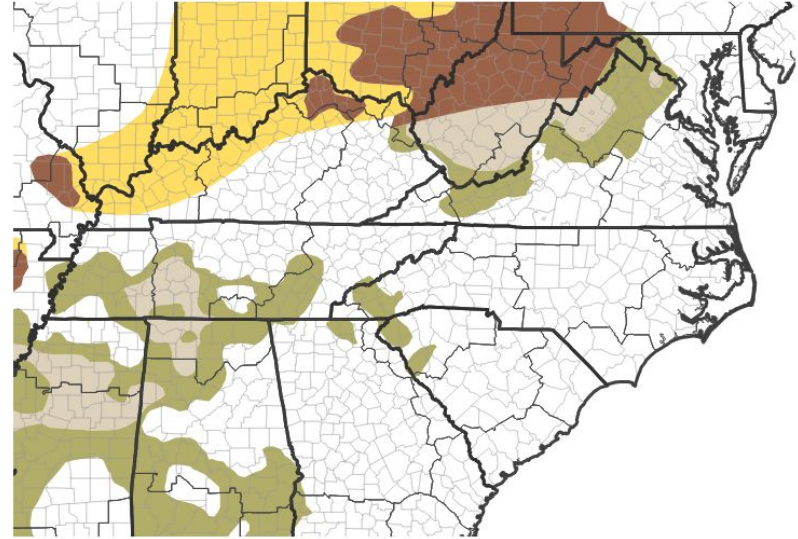
# Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook

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

## Main Takeaways

- Overall improvement in drought conditions is possible across the south
- However, even near normal rainfall combined with above normal temperatures would result in drought persistence

## Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for August 31, 2024–November 30, 2024



### Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 08/31/24

### Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released August 31, 2024  
Valid August 31, 2024 - November 30, 2024

