



Drought Information Statement

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

Valid September 19, 2024

Issued By: NWS Charleston, WV

Contact Information: rlx.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated September 26, 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 into more of the lowlands
- Extreme Drought expands elsewhere across the state
- Entire state now in at least Moderate Drought





Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor

Main Takeaways

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: Expansion into Cabell, Lincoln, Boone, Kanawha, Braxton, Webster Counties and Perry County in OH
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Expansion farther into southeast, Greenbrier Valley, northeast KY, and Cheat Basin
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Slight expansion to KY border
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Expansion into southwest VA
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: No change

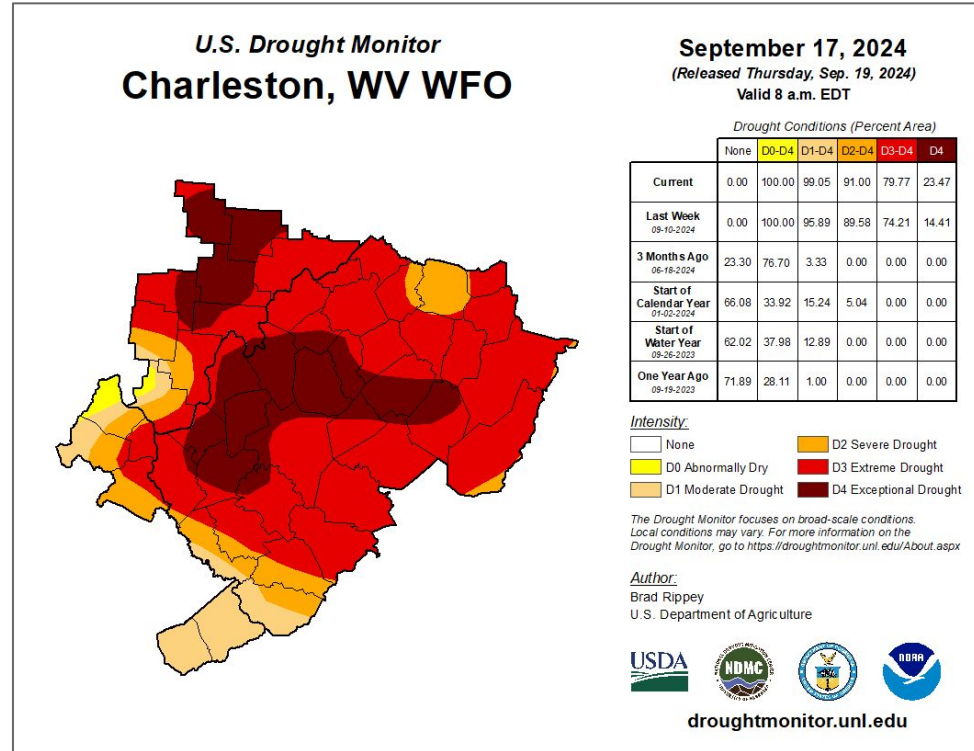


Image Caption: Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/) valid 8am EDT September 19, 2024





Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor Four-Week Change

- **Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change**
 - **Drought Worsened:** Much of the WV lowlands and southeast OH
 - **No Change:** Slivers of areas throughout the area
 - **Drought Improved:** None

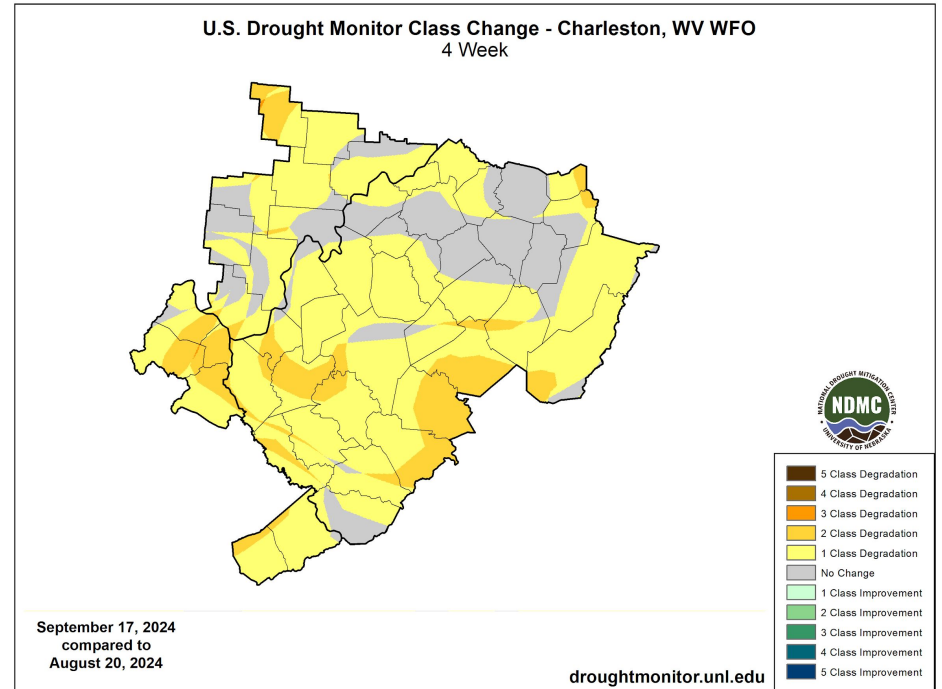


Image Caption:
Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor 4 week change valid 8am EDT September 19, 2024](#)





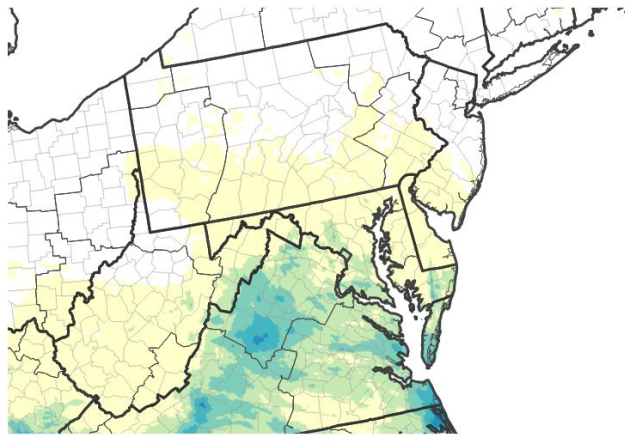
Observed Precipitation

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

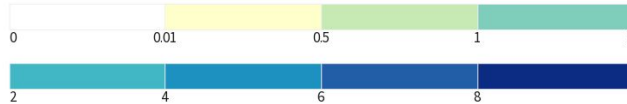
Main Takeaways

- Some rain noted in the mountains and Coal Fields with isolated amounts around 1 inch
- Barely a drop in the bucket elsewhere

7-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



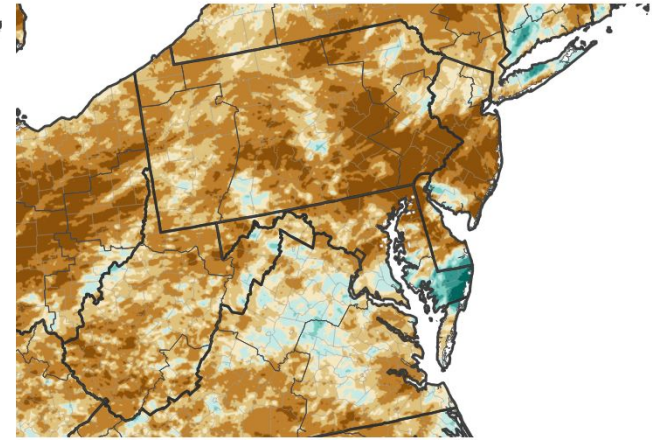
Inches of Precipitation



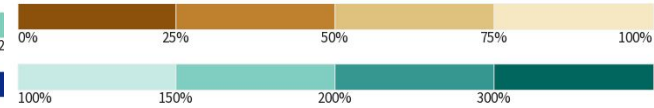
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 09/19/24

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: 09/19/24

Image Caption:

Left - Precipitation Amount for Mid Atlantic
Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Mid Atlantic
Data Courtesy NWS National Water Prediction Service
ending September 19, 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 WV lowlands
- Several reservoir lake levels are well below summer pools
- Water quality issues emerging in Lumberport (Harrison County)
- Some fish kills are now being reported

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
 - **Significant** 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 Richwood (Nicholas County)
- Water hauling for town of Calhoun County (waste water treatment purposes)





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

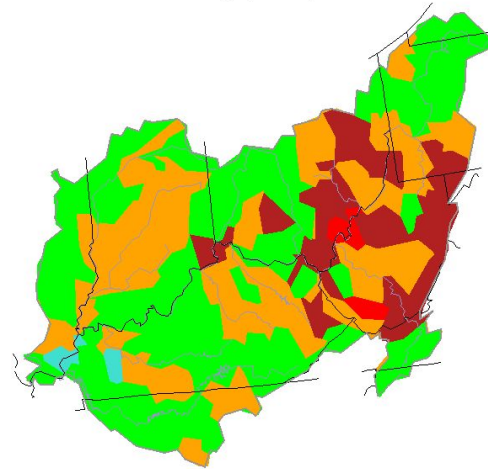
Main Takeaways

- Streamflow remains below to much below normal across much of southeast OH and WV
- Groundwater wells remain low across much of the WV lowlands

Impacts

- Reservoir lakes below summer pool:
 - Tygart Lake **43.7' below record**
 - Stonewall Jackson lake **9.6' below**
 - Burnsville Lake **3.7' below**
 - Sutton Lake **11' below**
 - Beech Fork Lake **3.1' below**
- Some residential and agricultural wells experiencing impacts
- Some fish kills are now being reported
- Water supply negatively affected for communities that depend on water from nearby creeks and rivers.
 - Emergency Water Conservation in Nicholas County
 - Water from Burnsville for waste water treatment in Calhoun County
 - Lumberport (Harrison County) water quality issues emerging

Wednesday, September 18, 2024



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		

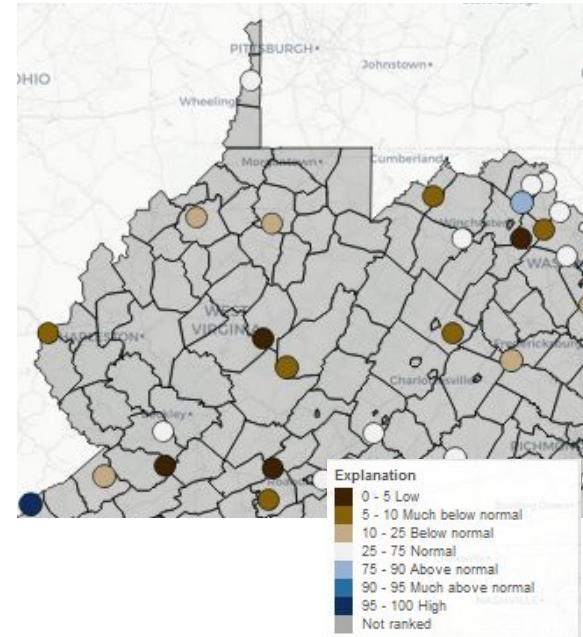


Image Caption:

Left - USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC maps valid September 18, 2024
 Right - USGS groundwater wells valid September 18, 2024





Agricultural Impacts

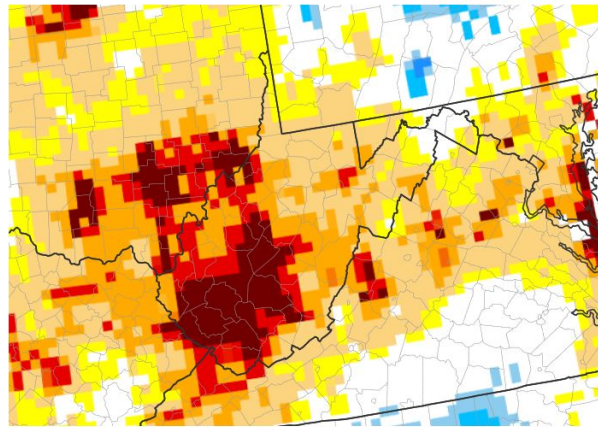
Main Takeaways

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

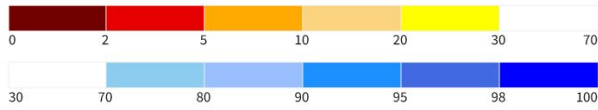
Impacts

- 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
 - Unprecedented reports of livestock being sold due to lack of feed/water in WV

GRACE Root Zone Soil Moisture Percentile



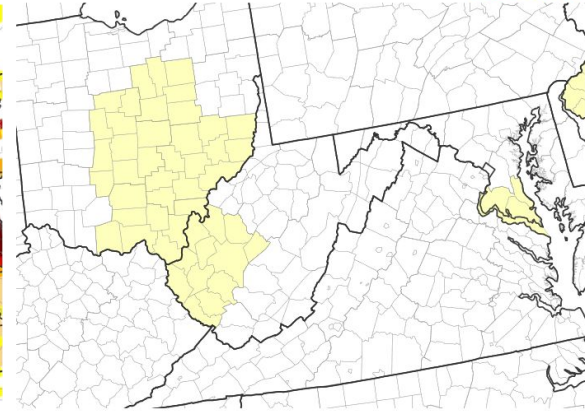
Root Zone Soil Moisture: Wetness Percentile



Source(s): NASA, National Drought Mitigation Center
Data Valid: 09/17/24

Drought.gov

Crop Moisture Index



Crop Moisture Index



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center
Data Valid: 09/14/24

Drought.gov

USDA Crop Progress and Condition Weekly Reports

[West Virginia](#)
[Virginia](#)

[Ohio](#)
[Kentucky](#)

Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile valid September 17, 2024
Right: USDA Crop Progress Report valid September 14, 2024





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

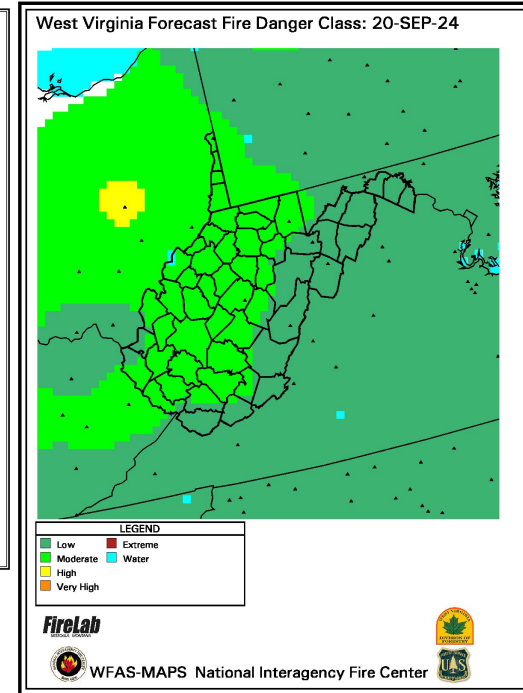
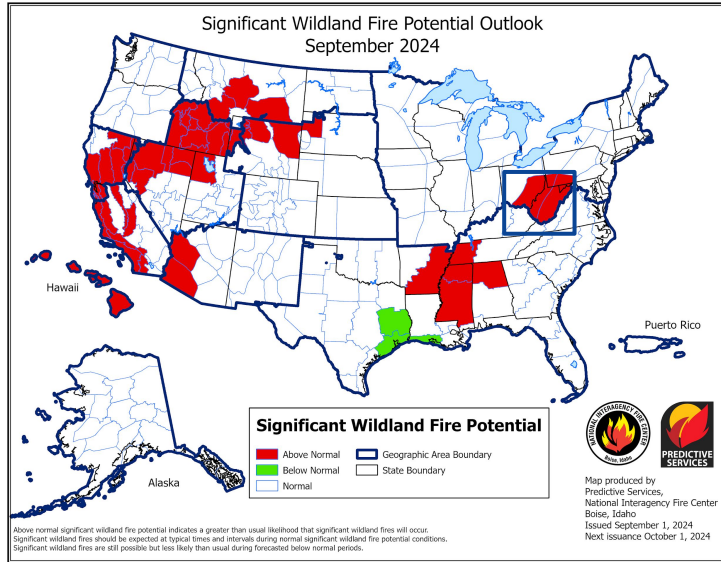


Image Captions:

Left: Significant Wildland Fire Potential monthly outlook valid September, 2024

Right: Area fire danger class, valid September 20, 2024



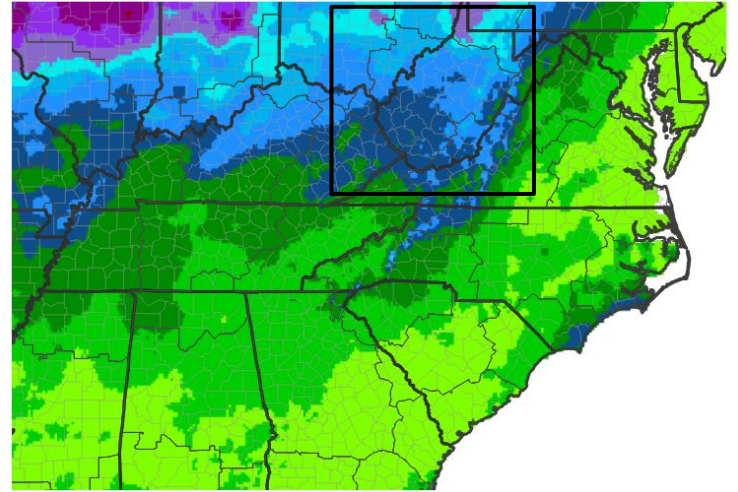


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

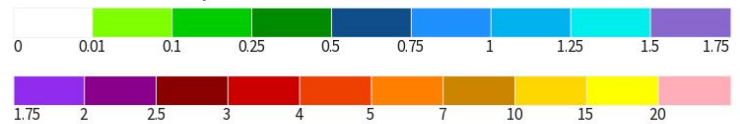
Next 7 days:

- Cold front approaches early next week with increased chances for showers/storms
 - May provide some meaningful rain especially for southeast OH and northern WV

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for September 19, 2024–September 26, 2024



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 09/19/24

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
- Above normal precipitation favored

Impacts

- Worsening drought conditions possible across the lowlands

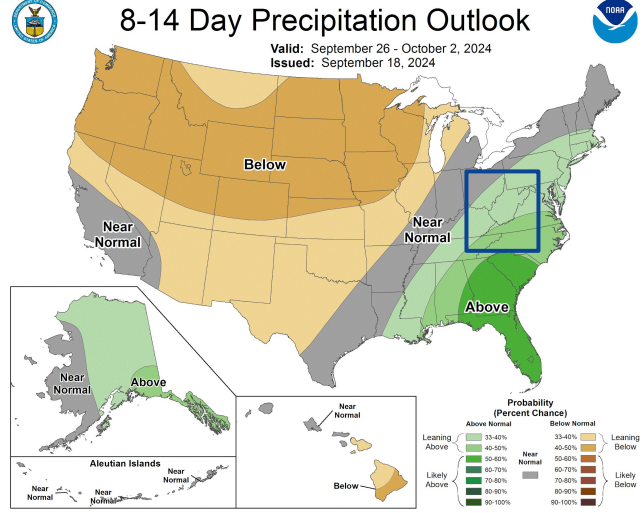
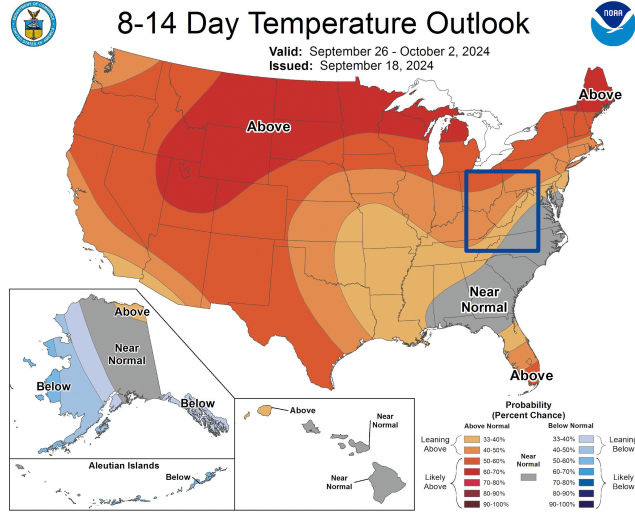


Image Captions: Climate Prediction Center 8-14 day temperature and precipitation outlook valid September 18, 2024



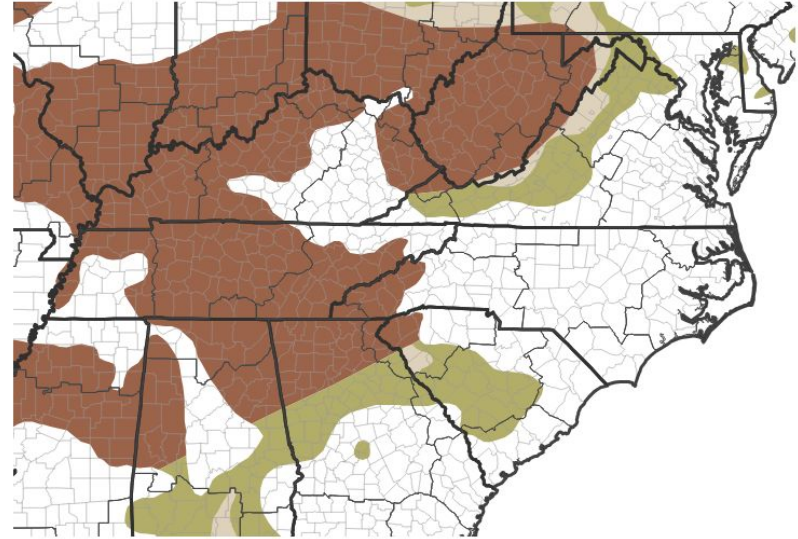
Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook

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

Main Takeaways

- Updated outlook now favors drought persisting through the fall for most.

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: 09/19/24

Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released September 19, 2024
Valid August 31, 2024 - November 30, 2024

