



Drought Information Statement

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

Valid September 27, 2024

Issued By: NWS Charleston, WV

Contact Information: rlx.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated October 3, 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 southeast OH and central WV
 - Extreme Drought expands across southeast WV
 - Entire state of WV in at least Moderate Drought





Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor

Main Takeaways

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: Further expansion across southeast OH and south central WV
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Expansion farther into southeast WV and northeast KY
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Slight expansion to KY border
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Expansion into southwest VA
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: No change

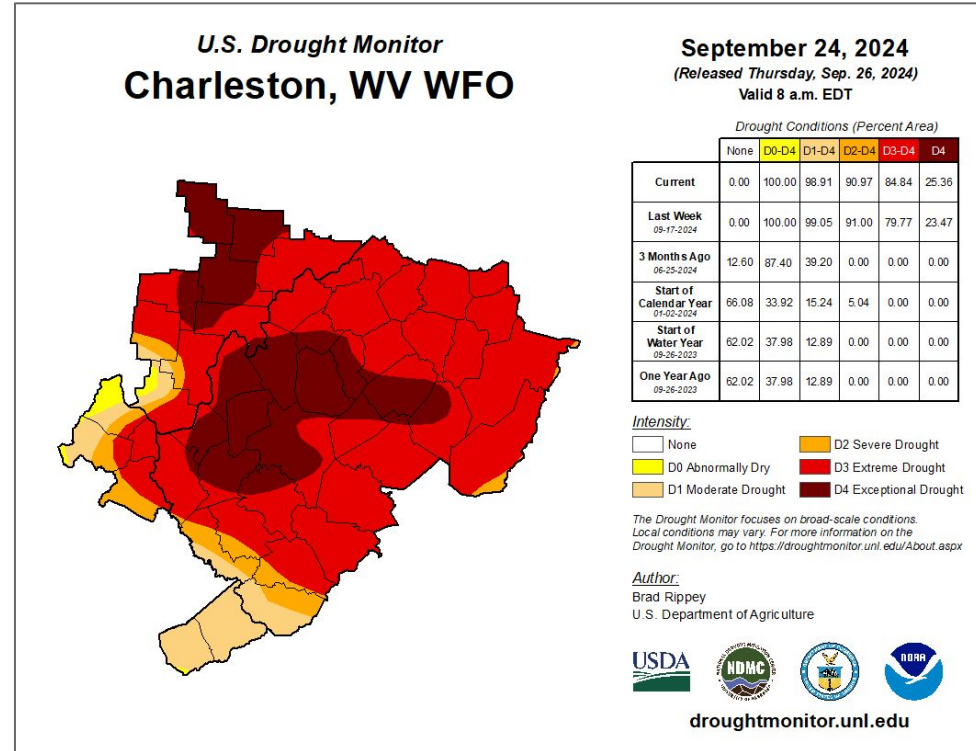


Image Caption: Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT September 19, 2024](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx)





Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor Four-Week Change

- **Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change**
 - **Drought Worsened:** Much of southern WV, southwest VA, and portions of southeast OH
 - **No Change:** Slivers of areas throughout
 - **Drought Improved:** Slight improvement in the vicinity of Parkersburg

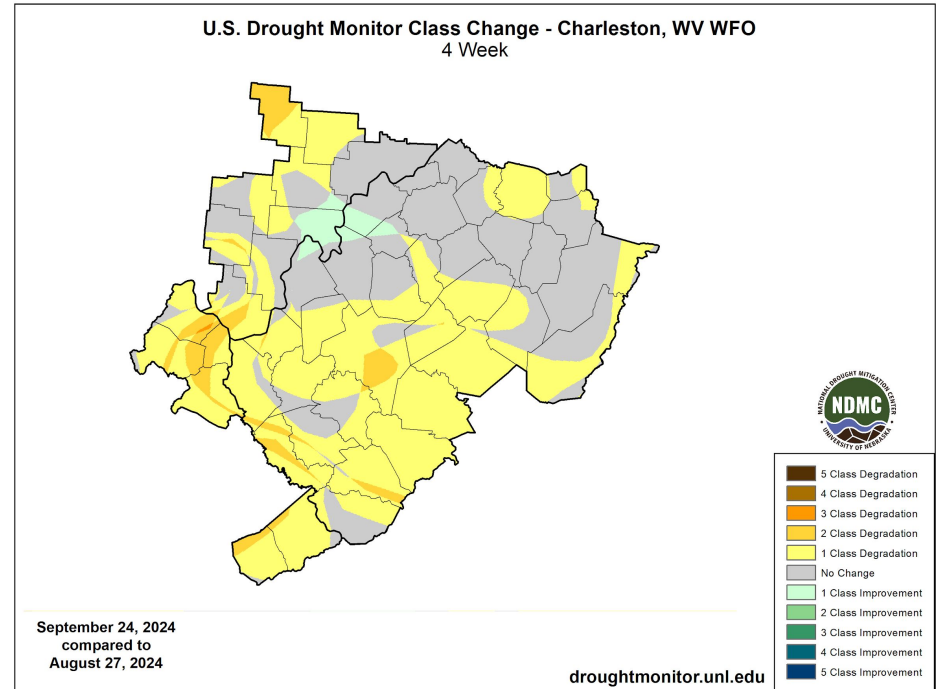


Image Caption:

Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor 4 week change valid 8am EDT September 24, 2024](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Charleston, WV



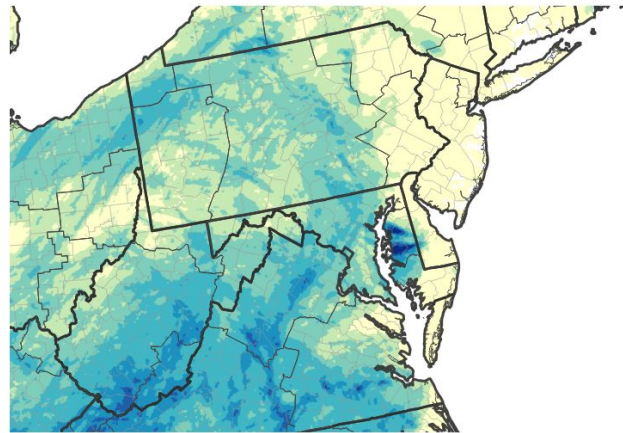
Observed Precipitation

Latest 7 Rainfall and 30-Day Percent of Normal Rainfall

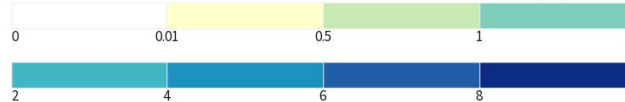
Main Takeaways

- Widespread 3-5 inches of rain across southeast WV and southwest VA over the past 72 hours due, in part, to remnants of Helene
- Much less noted in southeast OH and northern WV

7-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

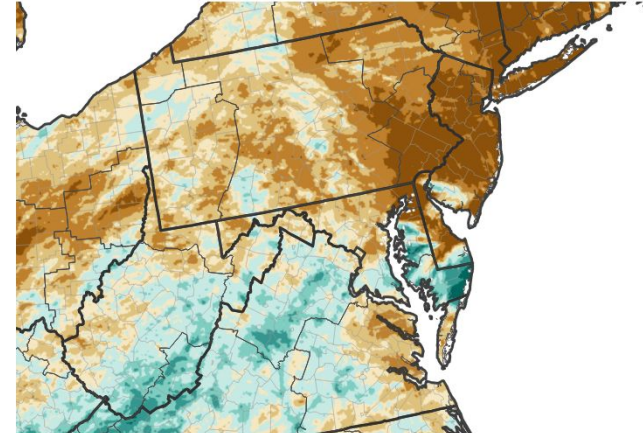


Inches of Precipitation

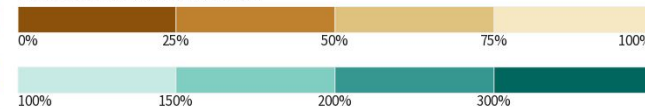


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 09/27/24

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: 09/27/24

Image Caption:

Left - 7 Day Precipitation Amount for Mid Atlantic
Right - 30 Day Percent of Normal Precipitation for Mid Atlantic
Data Courtesy NWS National Water Prediction Service
ending September 27, 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 prior to Helene
- Several reservoir lake levels are well below summer pools
- Some residential and agricultural wells dry
- Some fish kills 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 southeast OH and central WV
 - Lack of hay has resulted in supplemental feeding
 - **Significant** early sales of livestock
- Hauling of water for livestock continues across many parts of southeast OH and western/central WV

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Temporary marked reduction in fire danger due to recent rains
 - Expected to increase once again in October with drier pattern resuming after next week

Mitigation Actions

- Emergency Water Conservation for Nicholas County but Richwood's water supply has returned to normal
- Water hauling for town of Calhoun County (waste water treatment purposes)





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

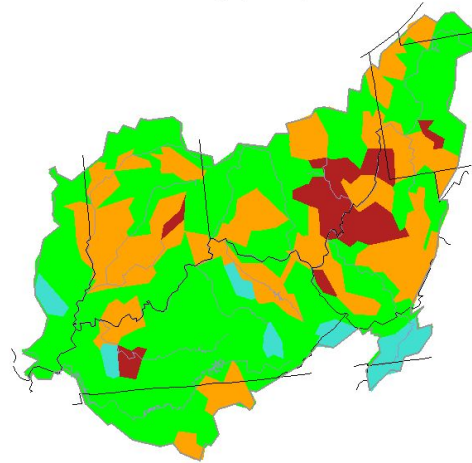
Main Takeaways

- Streamflow remains below to much below normal across much of southeast OH and WV
 - Next update will show significant improvement in streamflow across southern WV
- Groundwater wells remain low across much of the WV lowlands

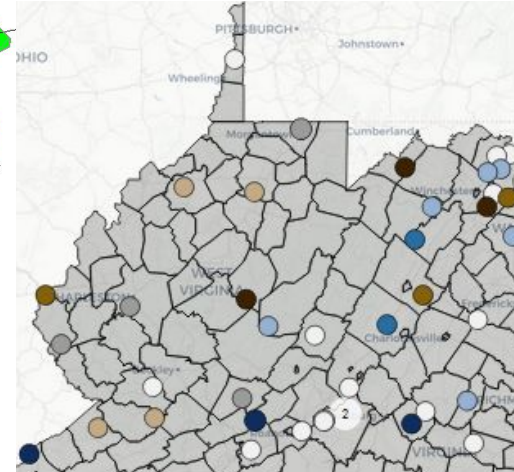
Impacts

- Reservoir lakes below summer pool:
 - Tygart Lake **47.3' below record**
 - Stonewall Jackson lake **10' below**
 - Burnsville Lake **4' below**
 - Sutton Lake **11' below**
 - Beech Fork Lake **3.1' below**
- 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 though Richwood's water issues are improving
 - Lumberport (Harrison County) water quality issues emerging

Hednesday, September 25, 2024



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



Explanation	
	0 - 5 Low
	5 - 10 Much below normal
	10 - 25 Below normal
	25 - 75 Normal
	75 - 90 Above normal
	90 - 95 Much above normal
	95 - 100 High
	Not ranked

Image Caption:

Left - USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC maps valid September 25, 2024
Right - USGS groundwater wells valid September 27, 2024





Agricultural Impacts

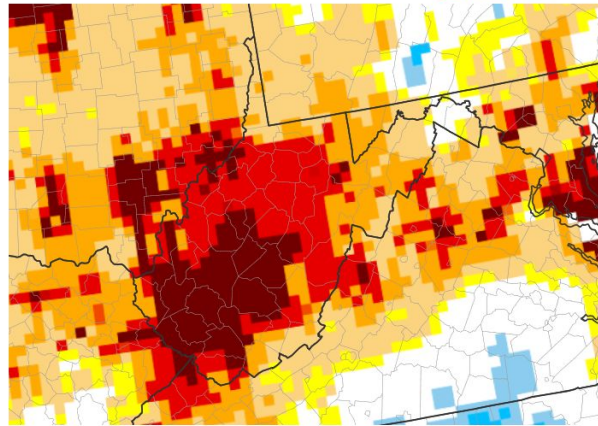
Main Takeaways

- Soil moisture remains well below normal across the much of the WV southeast OH
 - Next update will show significant improvement to soil moisture thanks to remnants of Helene

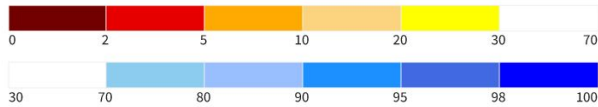
Impacts

- Declining levels in irrigation wells/ponds have led to hauling of water for livestock
- 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

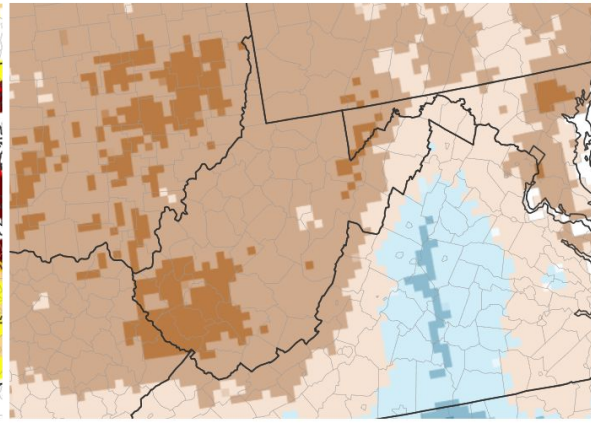


Root Zone Soil Moisture: Wetness Percentile

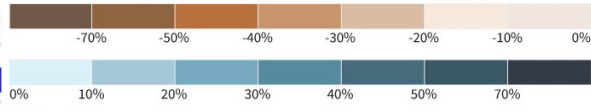


Source(s): NASA, National Drought Mitigation Center
Data Valid: 09/24/24

Crop-CASMA Subsoil (3 Feet) Soil Moisture Anomaly



Soil Moisture Anomaly



Source(s): NASA
Data Valid: 09/24/24

Drought.gov

Drought.gov

USDA Crop Progress and Condition Weekly Reports

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

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

Image Captions:

Left: GRACE Root Zone Soil Moisture Percentile valid September 24, 2024
Right: Crop-CASMA Subsoil Soil Moisture Anomaly valid September 24, 2024





Fire Hazard Impacts

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

Main Takeaways

- Fuels have recovered considerably across the state over the past 72 hours due to beneficial rains
 - Marked decrease in Fire Danger through next week
- Significant wildfire outlook is above normal for October
 - May change to normal with updated release Oct 1

Impacts

- Expect fire danger to increase once again in October without a meaningful rainfall
 - Amplified during days with wind

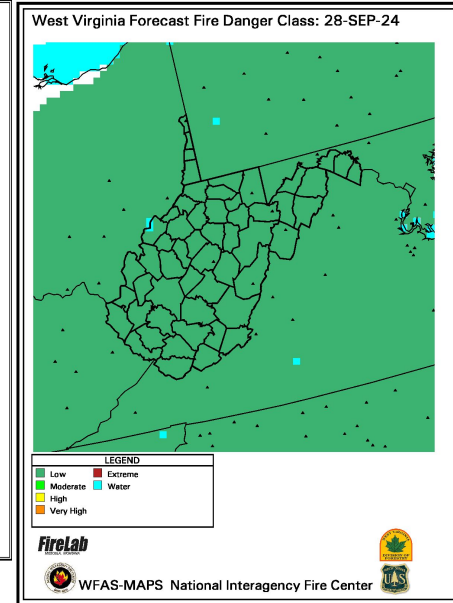
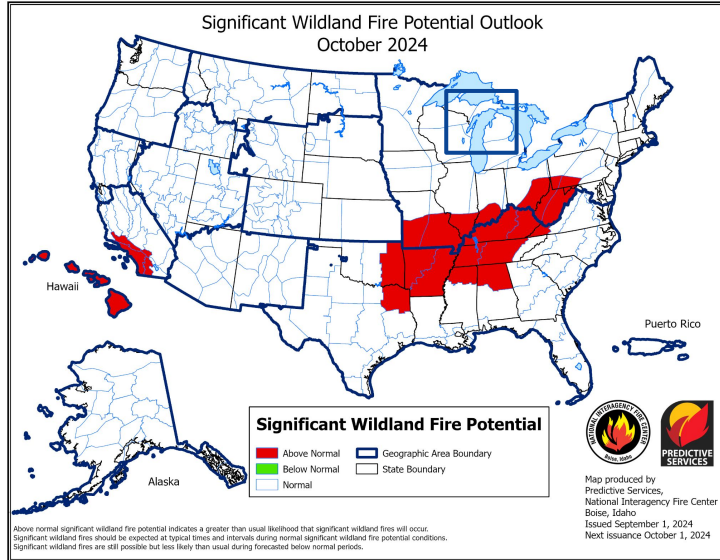


Image Captions:
 Left: Significant Wildland Fire Potential monthly outlook valid September, 2024
 Right: Area fire danger class, valid September 28, 2024



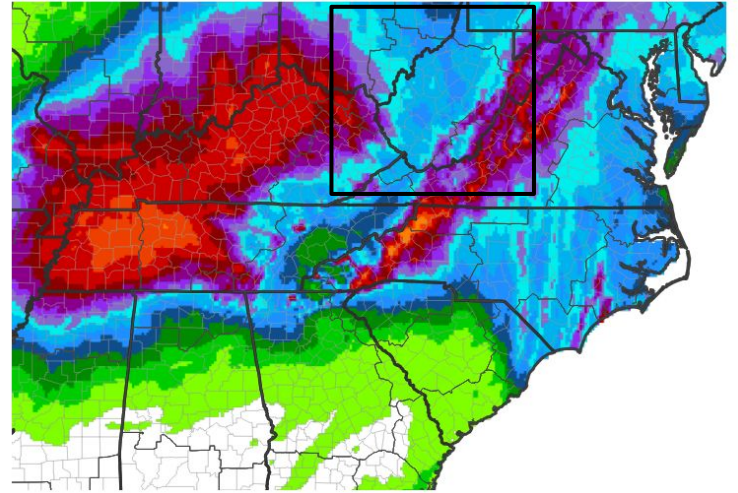


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

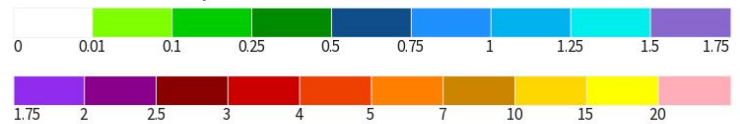
Next 7 days:

- Remnants of Helene to bring more beneficial rains to the state today.
- Remnants linger into Monday with scattered showers
- Strong cold front crosses Tuesday with a round of showers

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for September 27, 2024–October 4, 2024



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 09/27/24

Image Caption:

Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid September 27, 2024





8-14 Day Outlook

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- Above normal temperatures favored
- Below normal precipitation favored

Impacts

- Brush fire threat may increase once again

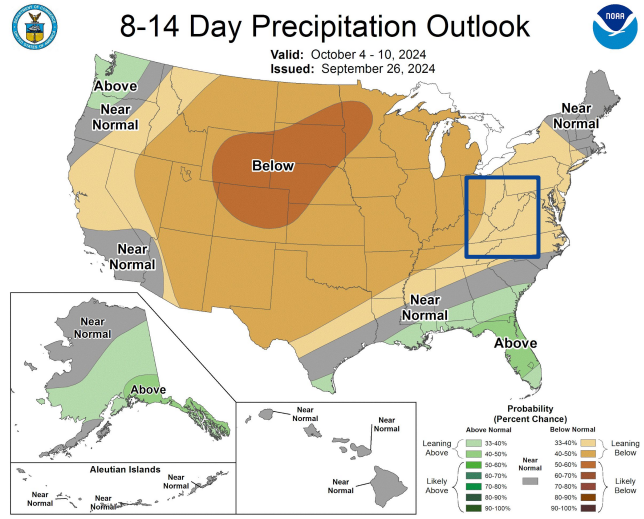
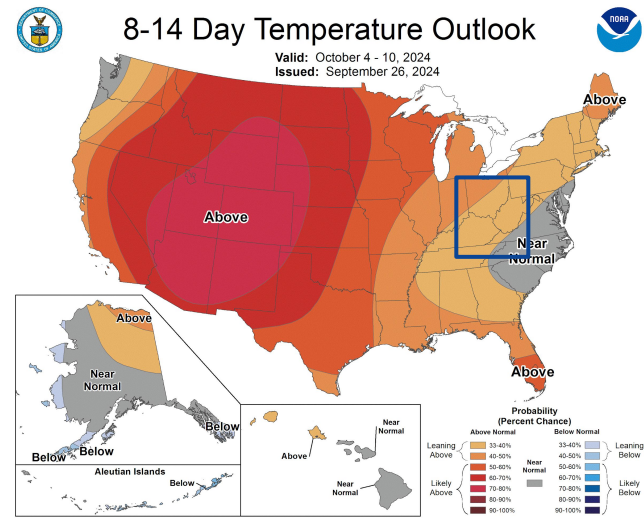


Image Captions:
Climate Prediction Center 8-14 day temperature and precipitation outlook valid September 26, 2024



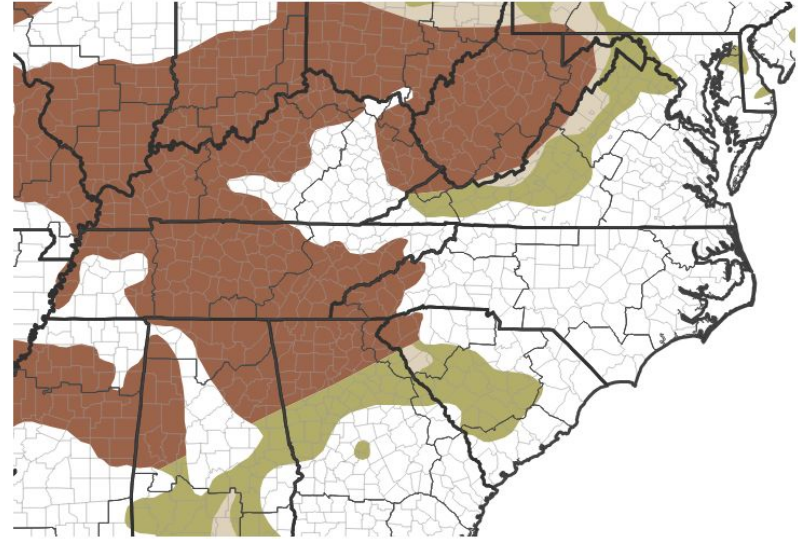
Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook

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

Main Takeaways

- Favors drought persisting through the fall for most
 - Updated outlook will be released Oct 1

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for September 19, 2024–December 31, 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 September 19, 2024 - November 30, 2024

