



# Drought Information Statement

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

Valid October 4, 2024

Issued By: NWS Charleston, WV

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

- This product will be updated October 10, 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.
- 
- Considerable improvement in drought across northeast KY and southern/southeastern WV



# Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor

## Main Takeaways

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: Improvement across the Coal Fields
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Improvement across southeast OH, southeast WV, and northeast KY
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Improvement across southern WV
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Improvement across southwest VA
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: No change

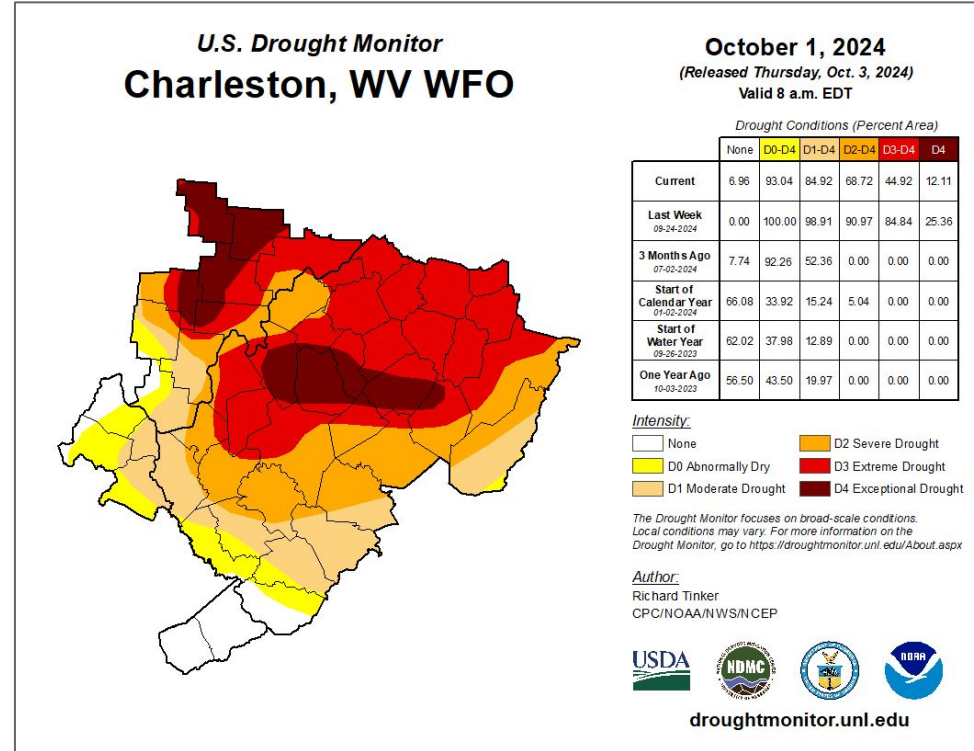


Image Caption: Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT September 19, 2024](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx)





# Current Drought Conditions

## Latest Drought Monitor Four-Week Change

- **Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change**
  - **Drought Worsened:** Perry County OH, Harrison County OH, and the upper Little Kanawha River basin
  - **No Change:** Slivers of areas throughout
  - **Drought Improved:** Significant improvement across southwest VA, the Ohio River vicinity, mountains of WV, northeast KY, southern half of WV

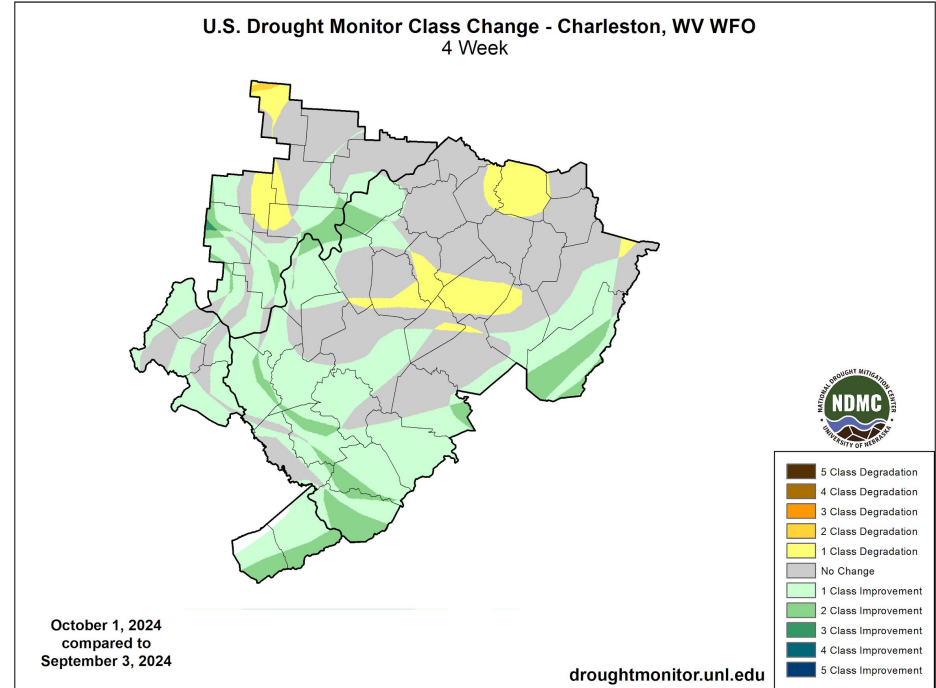


Image Caption:  
Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor 4 week change valid 8am EDT September 24, 2024](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)





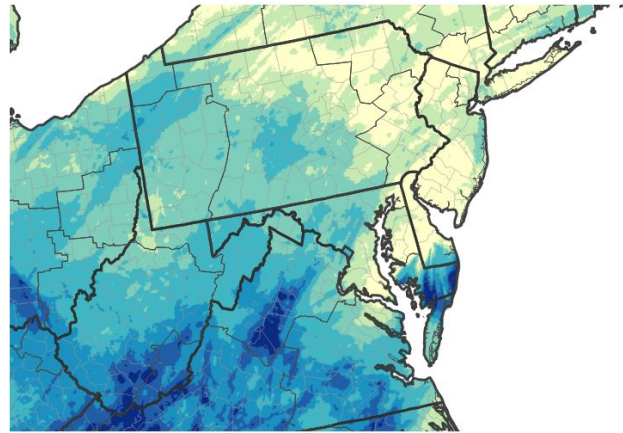
# Observed Precipitation

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

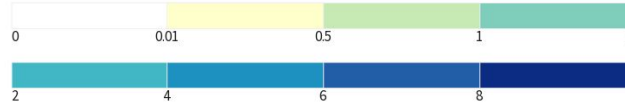
### Main Takeaways

- 4 to 6 inches of rain in the mountains and southern part of the state (localized amounts to 8 inches in the New River basin)
- Amounts decreased with gain of latitude with generally an inch or less for the northern panhandle

### 7-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

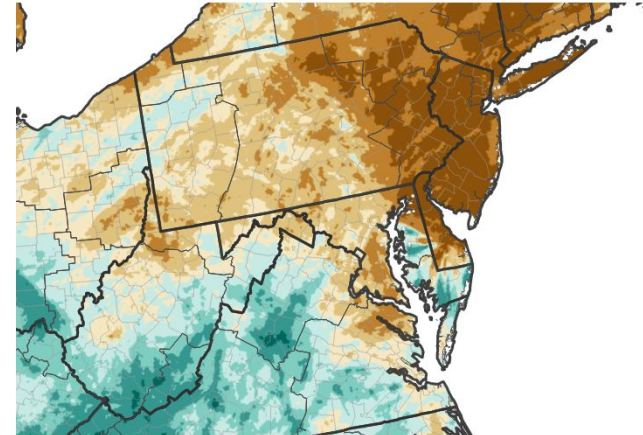


Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 10/03/24

### 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: 10/03/24

### 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 October 3, 2024





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- 7-day average streamflows improved significantly across the area, especially southern locations
- Several reservoir lake levels remain well below summer pools but some minor improvements over the past week
- Improvement in some residential and agricultural wells in southern WV and northeast KY

## Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture has recovered across southwest VA, northeast KY, southern and eastern WV
- Hay shortage remains with supplemental feeding needed
  - Unprecedented livestock being sold due to lack of feed/water
- Improving levels in irrigation wells/ponds except across northern WV and southeast OH

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Temporary marked reduction in fire danger due to recent rains
  - Expected to increase once again mid month with drier pattern and leaf drop.

## Mitigation Actions

- Improving impacts overall including water supply and water quality





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

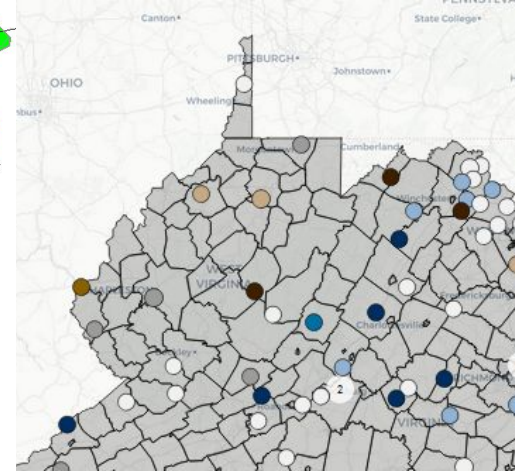
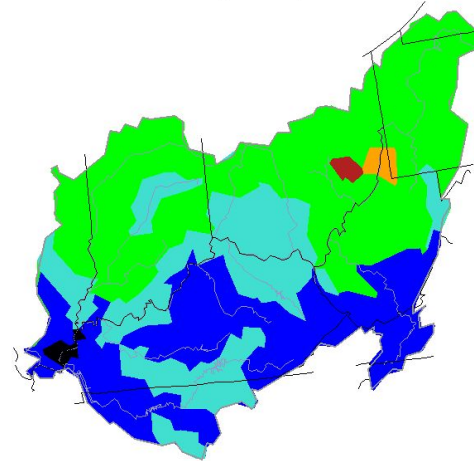
## Main Takeaways

- Streamflows have improved significantly across many parts of the state
- Groundwater wells remain low many locales

## Impacts

- Reservoir lakes below summer pool (some improvements over past week):
  - Tygart Lake **44.3' below**
  - Stonewall Jackson lake **10.2' below**
  - Burnsville Lake **3.7' below**
  - Beech Fork Lake **3.2' below**
- Improving impacts overall including water supply and water quality

Hednesday, October 02, 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 October 2, 2024

Right - USGS groundwater wells valid October 4, 2024





# Agricultural Impacts

## Main Takeaways

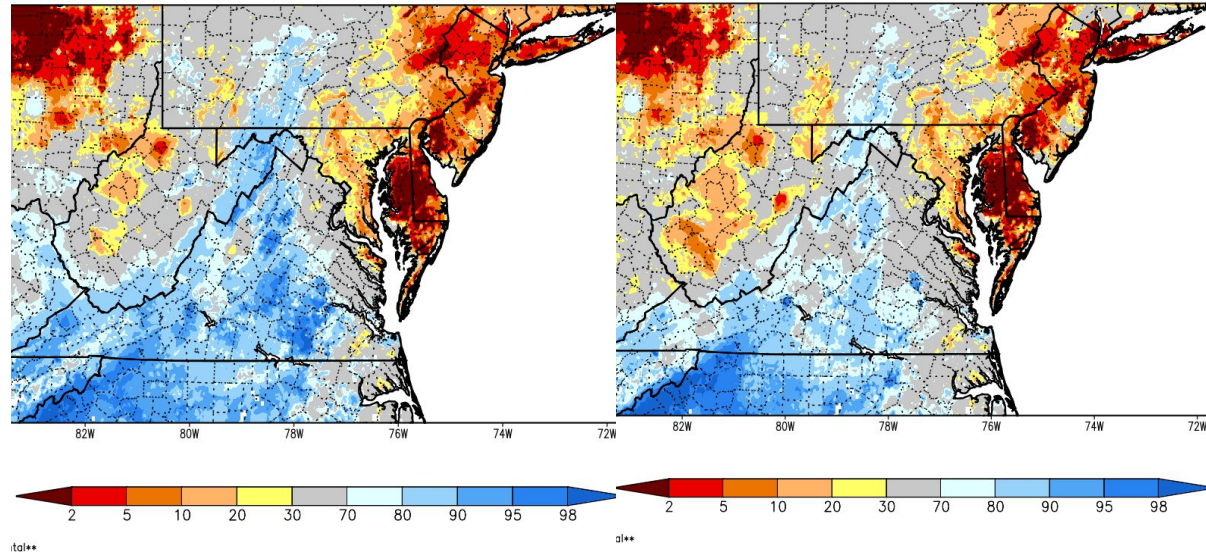
- Soil moisture recharge across many areas, though deeper profiles exhibit a lingering dry signal

## Impacts

- Improving levels in irrigation wells/ponds except across northern areas
- Hay shortage remains with supplemental feeding needed
  - Unprecedented livestock being sold due to lack of feed/water

SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 04 Oct 2024

SPoRT-LIS 0-200 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 04 Oct 2024



## USDA Crop Progress and Condition Weekly Reports

[West Virginia](#)

[Ohio](#)

[Virginia](#)

[Kentucky](#)

## Image Captions:

Left: NASA 0-100cm soil moisture percentile valid October 4, 2024

Right: NASA 0-200cm soil moisture percentile valid October 4, 2024



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

National Weather Service  
Charleston, WV



# Fire Hazard Impacts

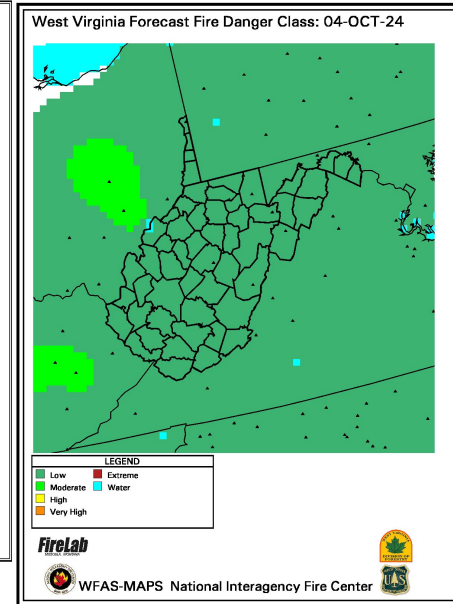
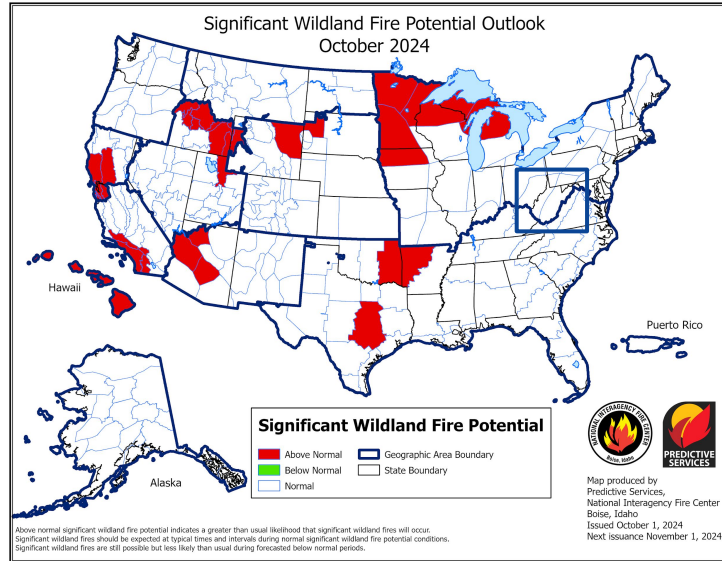
Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

## Main Takeaways

- Fuels have recovered considerably across the state over the past week due to beneficial rains
- Significant wildfire outlook is now normal for October

## Impacts

- Expect fire danger to increase once again beginning next week due to leaf drop and overall drier pattern
  - Amplified during days with wind and low relative humidity



### Image Captions:

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

Right: Area fire danger class, valid October 4, 2024



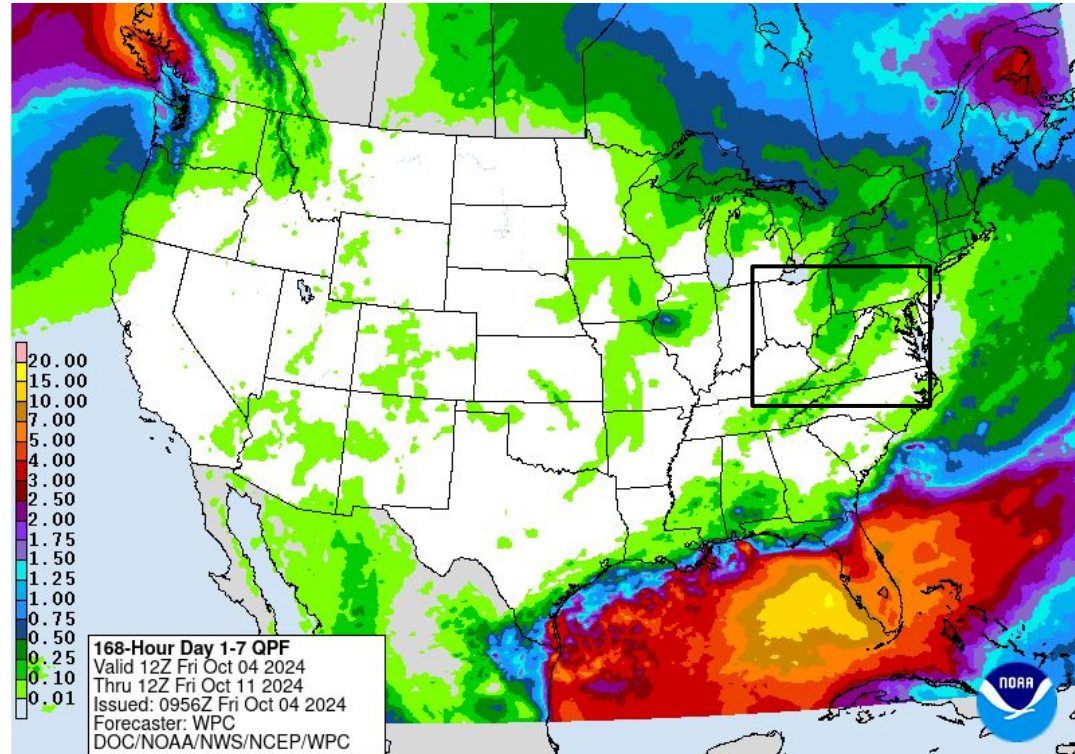




# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

## Next 7 days:

- No significant rainfall forecast
- Strong cold front crosses Sunday with a round of showers and thunderstorms
- Cool dry air mass for much of next week



**Image Caption:**  
Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid October 4, 2024





# 8-14 Day Outlook

## Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

### Main Takeaways

- Near normal temperatures favored
- Below normal precipitation favored

### Impacts

- Brush fire threat to increase once again

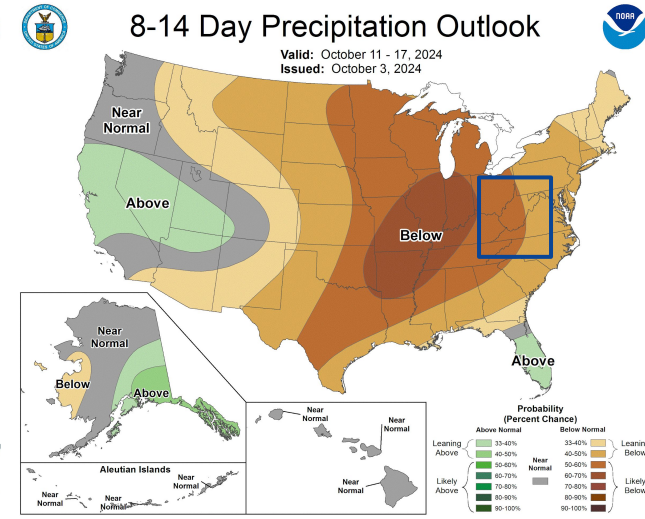
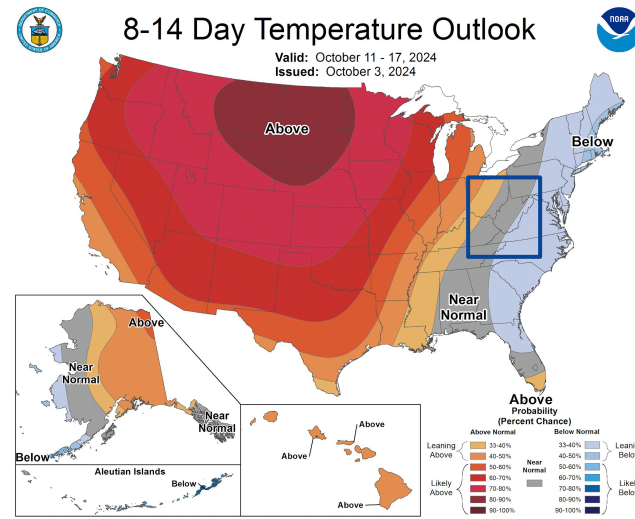


Image Captions:  
Climate Prediction Center 8-14 day temperature and precipitation outlook valid October 3, 2024



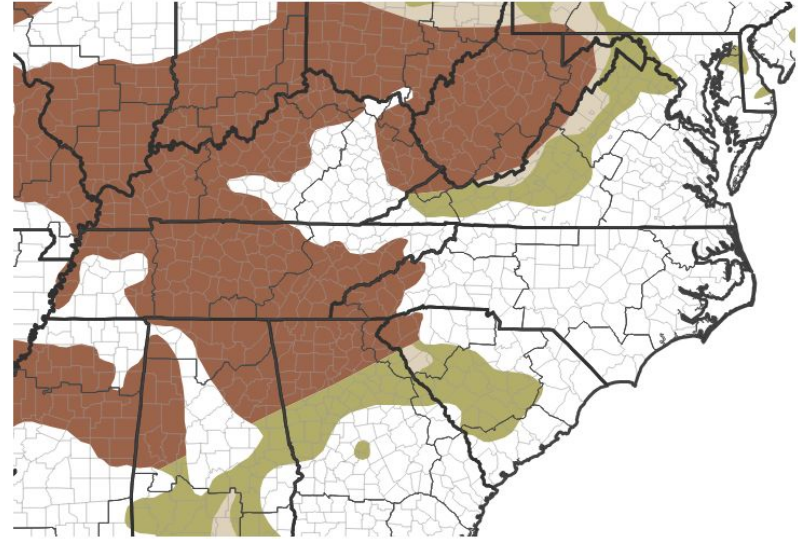
# Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook

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

## Main Takeaways

- Updated outlook favors drought persisting through December across northern half of state but improves elsewhere

## 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

