



Drought Information Statement

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

Valid October 10, 2024

Issued By: NWS Charleston, WV

Contact Information: rlx.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated October 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.
-
- Slight improvement across the WV mountains and degradation in Perry County OH, otherwise no change this week





Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor

Main Takeaways

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** Expansion into Perry County OH
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** No change
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Slight improvement across the WV mountains
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** No change
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** No change

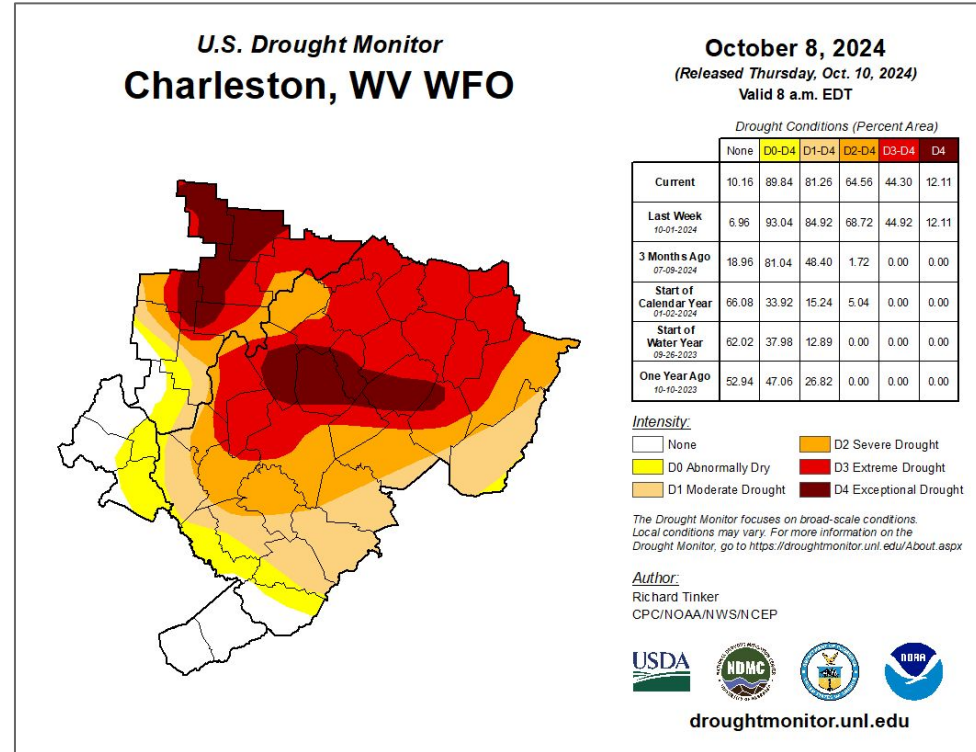


Image Caption: Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT October 10, 2024](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx)





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:** Areas of southeast OH and northern WV
 - **Drought Improved:** Significant improvement across southwest VA, the Ohio River vicinity, mountains of WV, northeast KY, southern half of WV

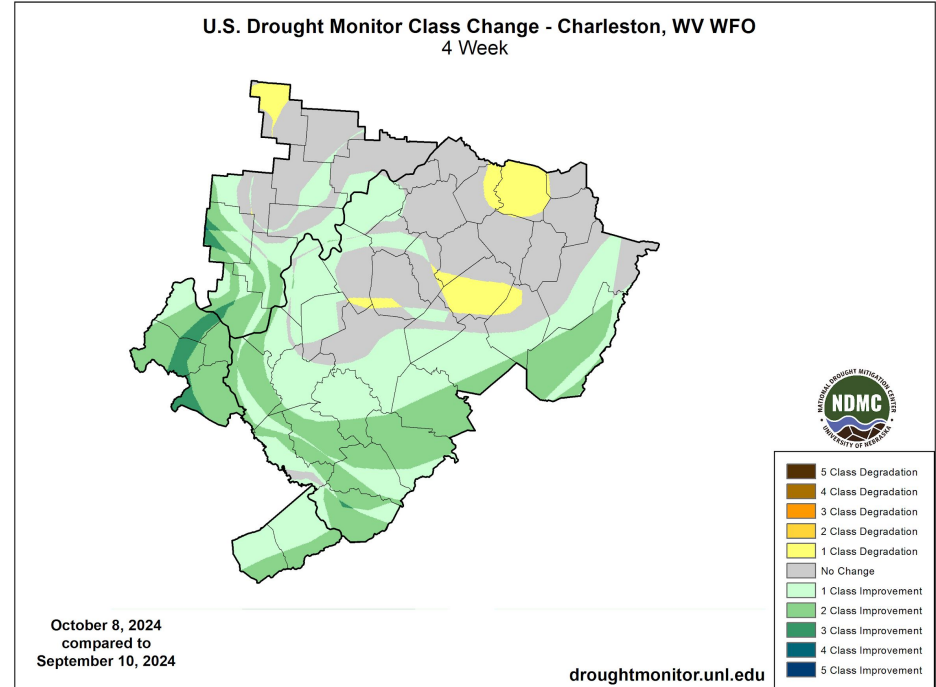


Image Caption:
Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor 4 week change valid 8am EDT October 8, 2024](#)





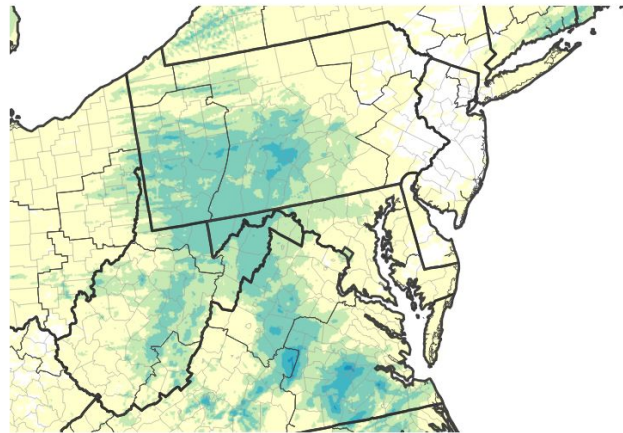
Observed Precipitation

Latest 7 Rainfall and 30-Day Percent of Normal Rainfall

Main Takeaways

- Some rain across the WV mountains over the past week
 - Dry across southeast OH, northeast KY, and western WV
- Rainfall surplus lingers in the long term across WV Coal Fields and mountains from remnants of Helene
- Significant long term rainfall deficits continue across central/northern WV lowlands and southeast OH

7-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

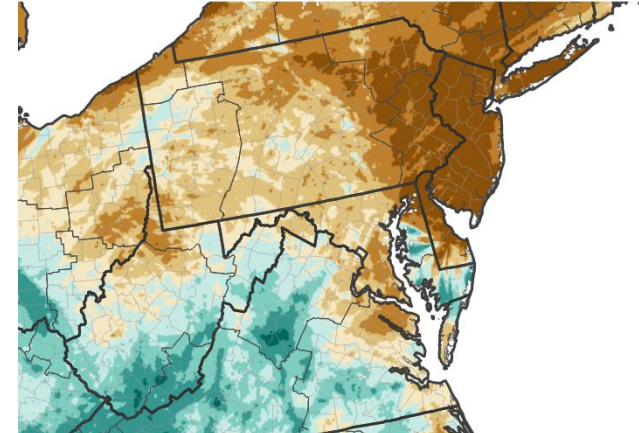


Inches of Precipitation

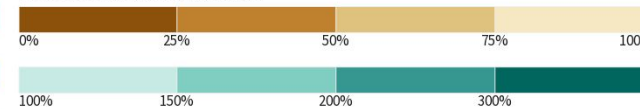


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 10/09/24

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: 10/09/24

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 9, 2024





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- 7-day average streamflows remain above normal in southern/eastern WV and below normal in southeast OH
- Improvement in some residential and agricultural wells in southern WV and northeast KY

Agricultural Impacts

- Near surface soil moisture normal southwest VA, northeast KY, southern and eastern WV, below normal elsewhere
 - Dry signal persists in deeper soil profiles
- Hay shortage remains with supplemental feeding needed for winter
- Improved levels in irrigation wells/ponds except across northern WV and southeast OH

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire danger increases into the weekend, particularly Sunday ahead of a strong cold front
 - Expected remain elevated with overall dry pattern and leaf drop over the next two weeks.

Mitigation Actions

- Improved impacts overall including water supply and water quality across northeast KY and southern/eastern WV





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

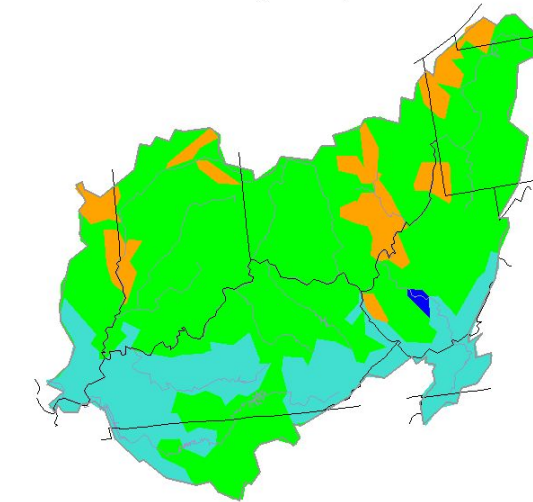
Main Takeaways

- Streamflows are beginning to drop once again outside of the mountains, two weeks removed from Helene.
 - Streamflow is typically lowest this time of year
 - Remain above normal in the Upper Tug and New/Kanawha basins
 - Below normal in the Hocking and Muskingum basins
- Groundwater wells remain low many locales

Impacts

- Reservoir lakes will be entering their seasonal draw down to winter pool over the next several weeks.
 - Releases may be impacted based on the extraordinary low summer pools

Wednesday, October 09, 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



VA and WV Groundwater Levels and Trends

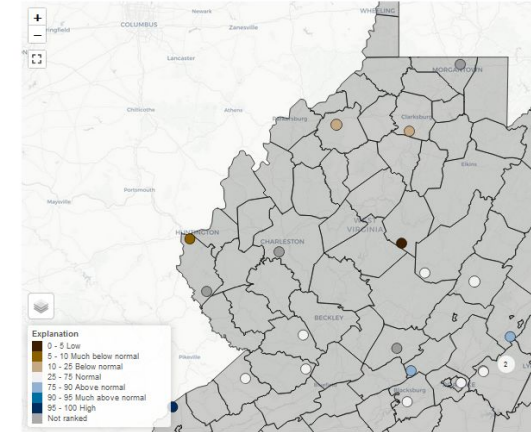


Image Caption:

Left - USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC maps valid October 9, 2024
Right - USGS groundwater wells valid October 10, 2024





Agricultural Impacts

Main Takeaways

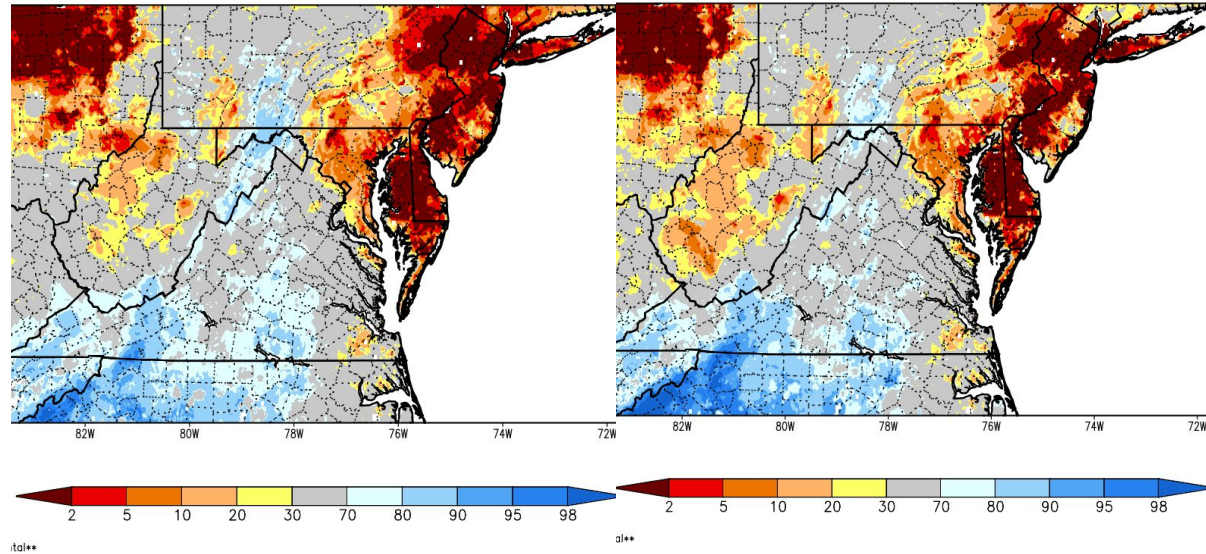
- Soil moisture near normal outside of southeast OH and northwest WV, though deeper profiles exhibit a lingering dry signal across most areas outside of the mountains

Impacts

- Improving levels in irrigation wells/ponds except across southeast OH and northern WV
- Hay shortage remains with supplemental feeding needed for winter

SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 10 Oct 2024

SPoRT-LIS 0-200 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 10 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 10, 2024

Right: NASA 0-200cm soil moisture percentile valid October 10, 2024





Fire Hazard Impacts

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

Main Takeaways

- Fuels are drying out once again
 - Increasing brush fire threat into the weekend
 - Gusty winds ahead of strong cold front Sunday may increase this danger in WV
- Significant wildfire outlook is normal for October

Impacts

- Expect fire danger to remain elevated through over the next two weeks due to leaf drop and overall dry weather pattern
 - Amplified during days with wind and low relative humidity

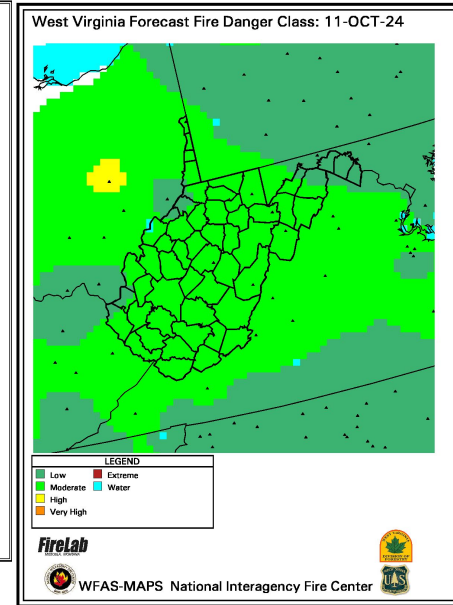
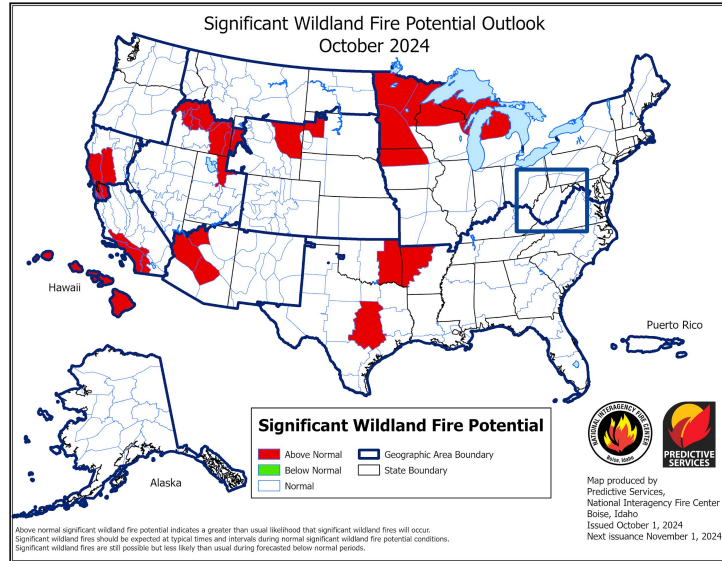


Image Captions:

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

Right: Area fire danger class, valid October 10, 2024



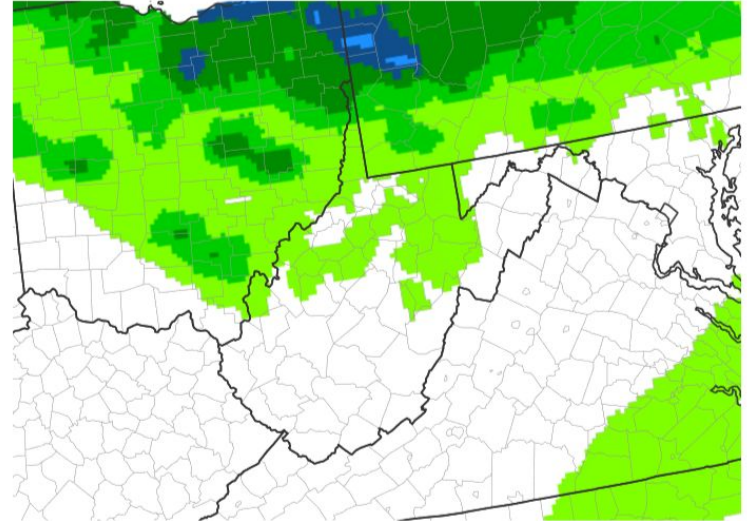


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

Next 7 days:

- A strong cold front crosses Sunday but with limited moisture
 - A few showers, mainly southeast OH and northern WV, with frontal passage
- Some showers may linger Monday behind the front, especially across the northern WV and in the WV mountains.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October 9-16, 2024



Predicted Inches of Precipitation

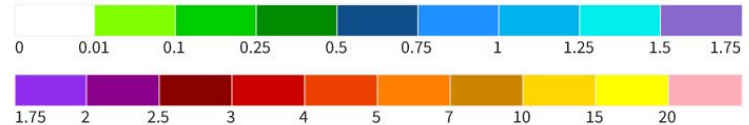


Image Caption:

Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid October 9, 2024





8-14 Day Outlook

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- Above normal temperatures favored
- Below normal precipitation favored

Impacts

- Brush fire threat remains elevated

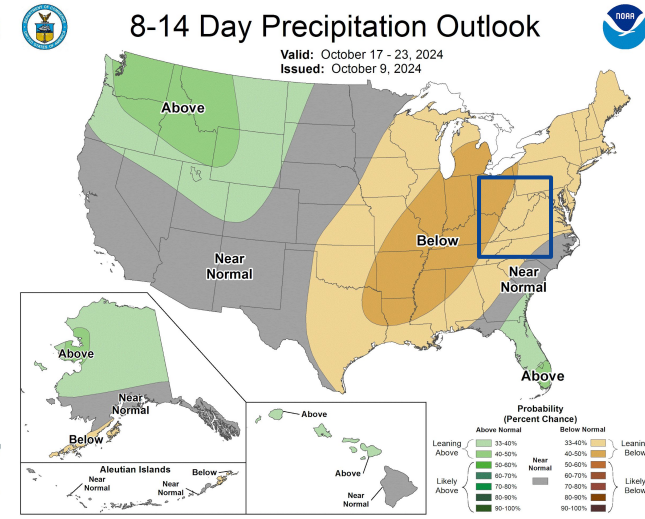
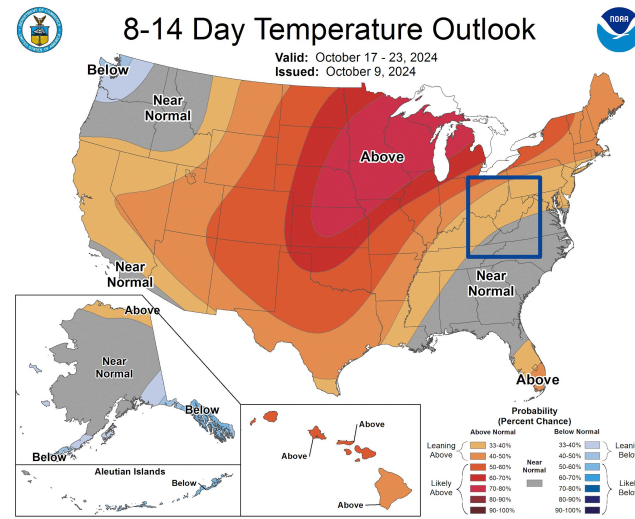


Image Captions:
Climate Prediction Center 8-14 day temperature and precipitation outlook valid October 9, 2024

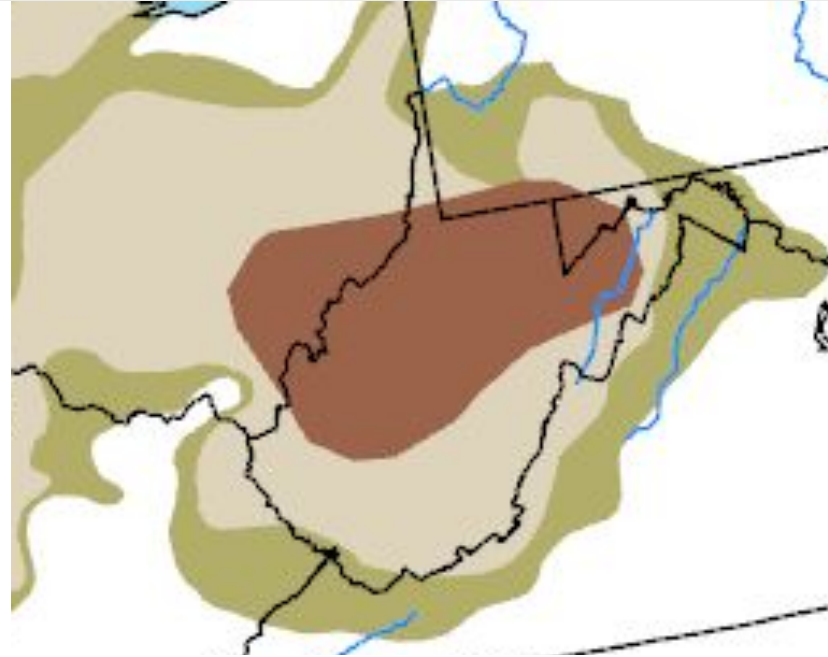


Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook

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

Main Takeaways

- Updated outlook favors drought persisting through December across northern WV and southeast OH but improves elsewhere



Drought Is Predicted To...



Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released October , 2024
Valid October 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024

