



Drought Information Statement

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

Valid October 17, 2024

Issued By: NWS Charleston, WV

Contact Information: rlx.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated October 24, 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.
-
- No change this week



Current Drought Conditions

Latest Drought Monitor

Main Takeaways

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: No change
- **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: No change
- **D2 (Severe Drought)**: No change
- **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: No change
- **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: No change

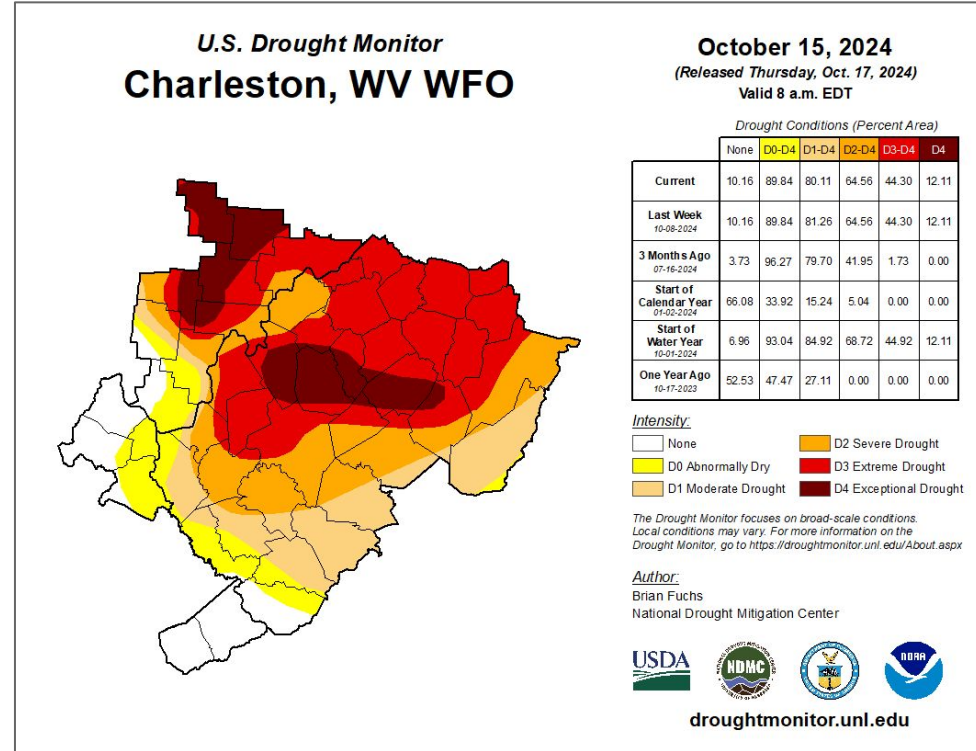


Image Caption: Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT October 17, 2024](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx)





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

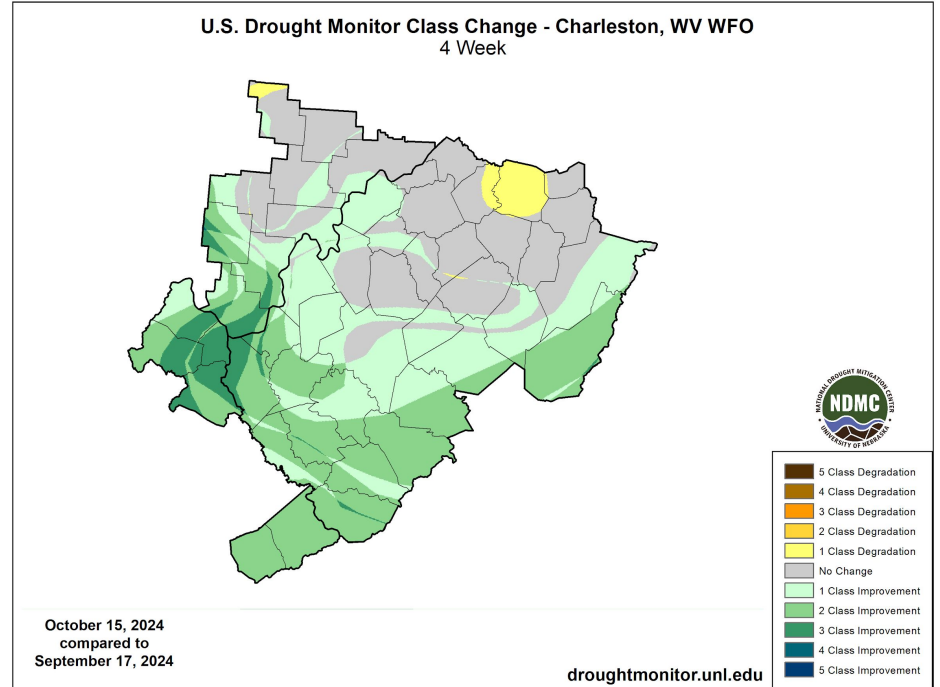


Image Caption:

Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor 4 week change valid 8am EDT October 17, 2024](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)





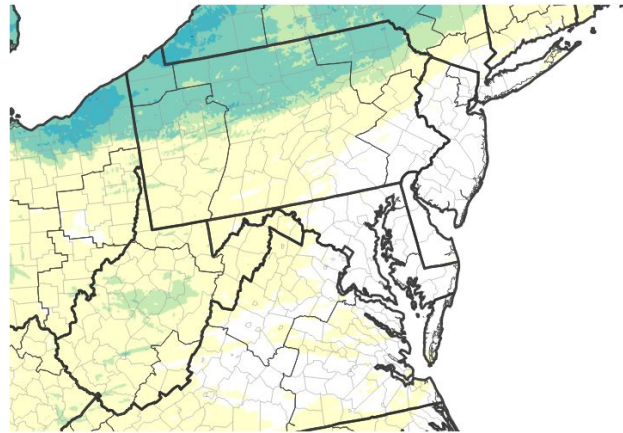
Observed Precipitation

Latest 7 Rainfall and 30-Day Percent of Normal Rainfall

Main Takeaways

- Some light rain amounts across the central lowlands and northeast mountains
- Rainfall surplus lingers in the long term across WV Coal Fields and mountains from remnants of Helene
- Significant long term rainfall deficits continue across northern WV lowlands and southeast OH

7-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

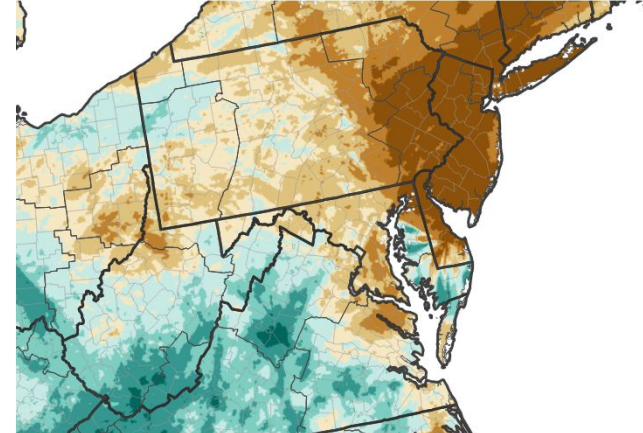


Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 10/17/24

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: 10/17/24

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 17, 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 and western WV
- Water levels in residential and agricultural wells may drop again absent precipitation over the next few weeks

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

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire danger increases into the weekend and early next week
 - Expected to 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

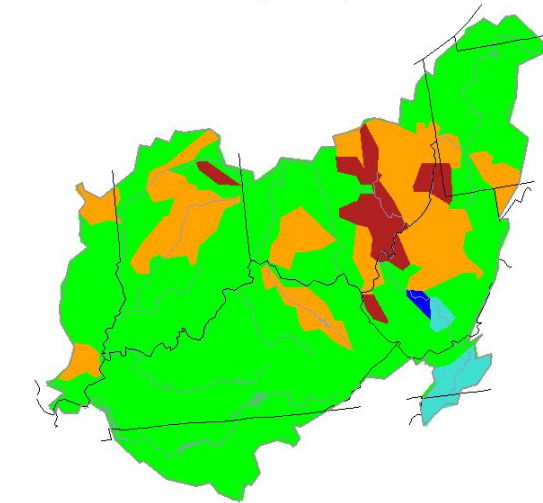
Main Takeaways

- Streamflows are beginning to drop once again outside of the mountains
- Streamflow is typically lowest this time of year
 - Remain above normal in the Upper New/Kanawha basins
 - Will be dropping as Helene's input has worked through basin/Bluestone Dam releases have returned to seasonal norms
 - Much below normal in the Hocking, Muskingum, lower Little Kanawha, and Twelvetpole basins
- Groundwater wells remain low many locales

Impacts

- Most reservoir lakes releases for winter drawdown will be delayed until mid December due to the extraordinary low summer pools

Wednesday, October 16, 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

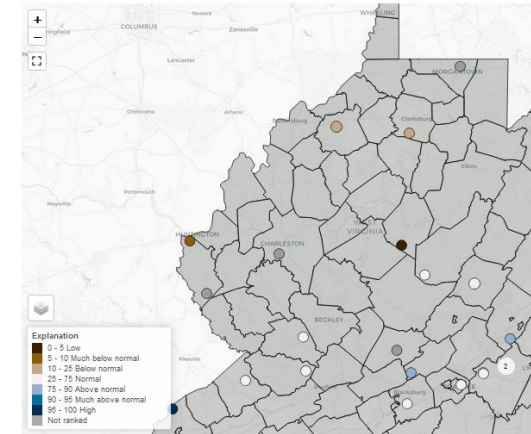


Image Caption:

Left - USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC maps valid October 16, 2024
Right - USGS groundwater wells valid October 17, 2024





Agricultural Impacts

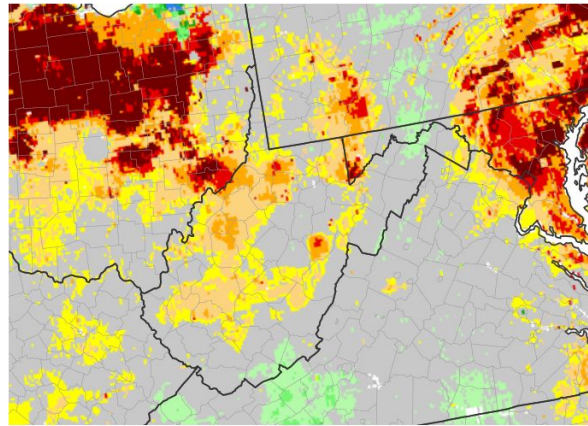
Main Takeaways

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

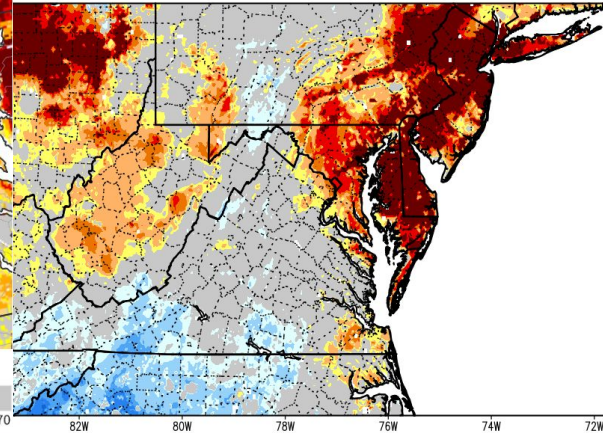
Impacts

- Hay shortage remains with supplemental feeding needed for winter

0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



SPoRT-LIS 0-200 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 17 Oct 2024



0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



Source(s): NASA
Data Valid: 10/17/24

Drought.gov

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USDA Crop Progress and Condition Weekly Reports

[West Virginia](#)

[Ohio](#)

[Virginia](#)

[Kentucky](#)

Image Captions:

Left: NASA 0-100cm soil moisture percentile valid October 17, 2024

Right: NASA 0-200cm soil moisture percentile valid October 17, 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 are drying out once again
 - Increasing brush fire threat into the weekend with warming afternoon temperatures and low relative humidity
 - Mitigated somewhat by lack of wind
- Significant wildfire outlook is normal for October

Impacts

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

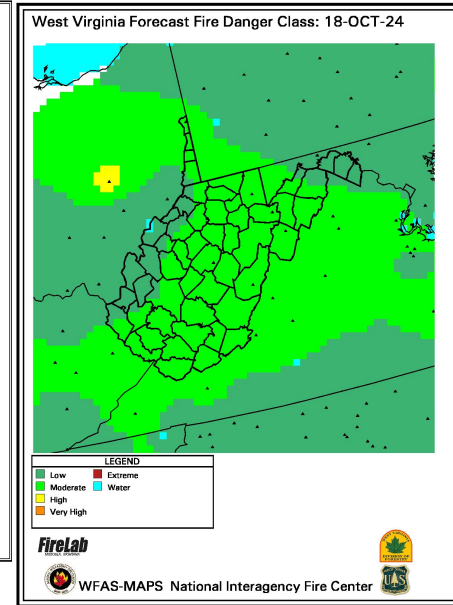
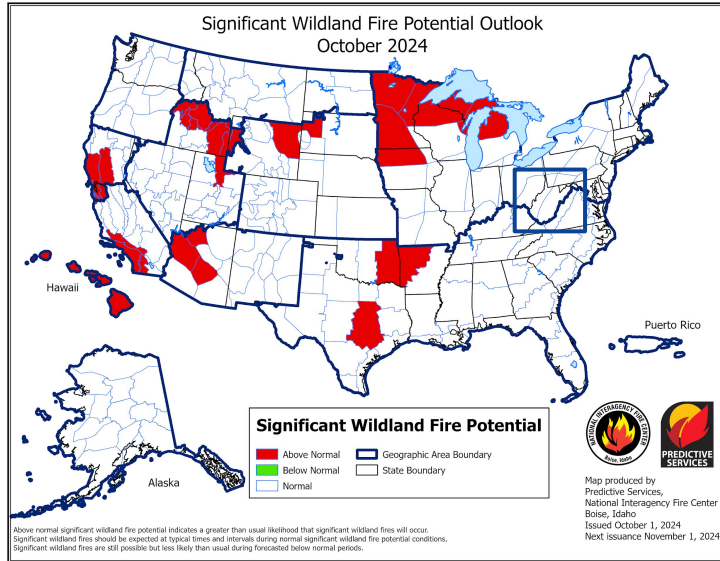


Image Captions:
 Left: Significant Wildland Fire Potential monthly outlook valid October, 2024
 Right: Area fire danger class, valid October 17, 2024



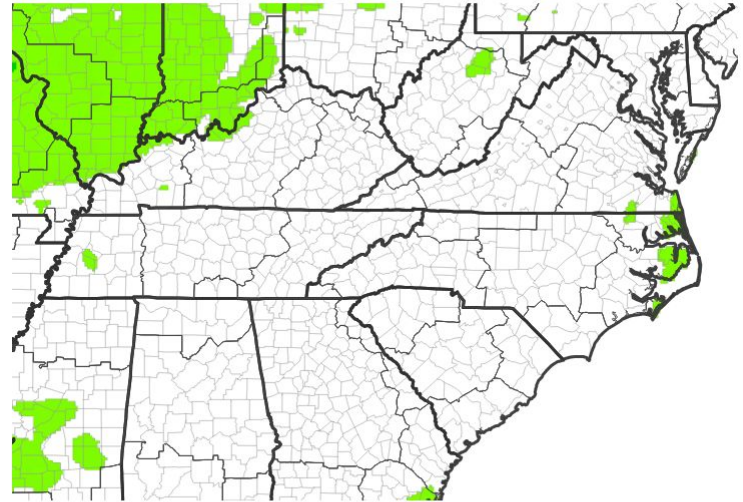


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

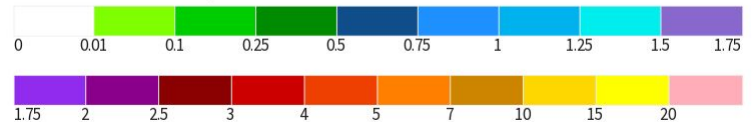
Next 7 days:

- High pressure and dry weather over the next week, interrupted briefly by a moisture starved cold front middle part of next week
- Temperatures will return to above normal over the weekend and into early next week, though mornings will remain a bit chilly initially.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October 17, 2024–October 24, 2024



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 10/17/24

Image Caption:

Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid October 17, 2024





8-14 Day Outlook

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- Above normal temperatures favored
- Near normal precipitation favored

Impacts

- Brush fire threat remains elevated

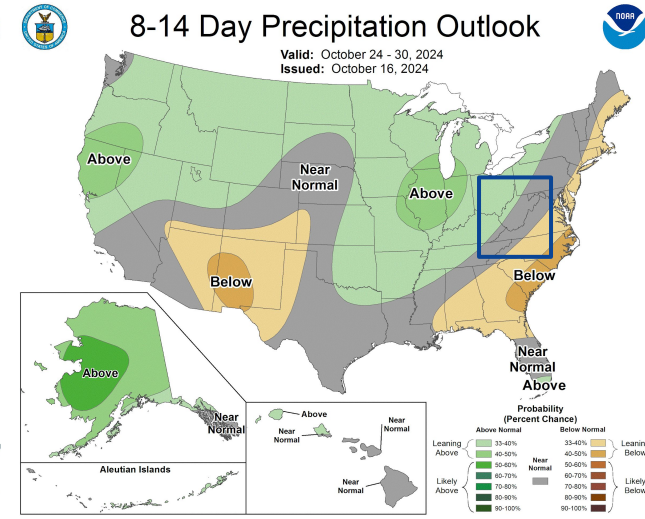
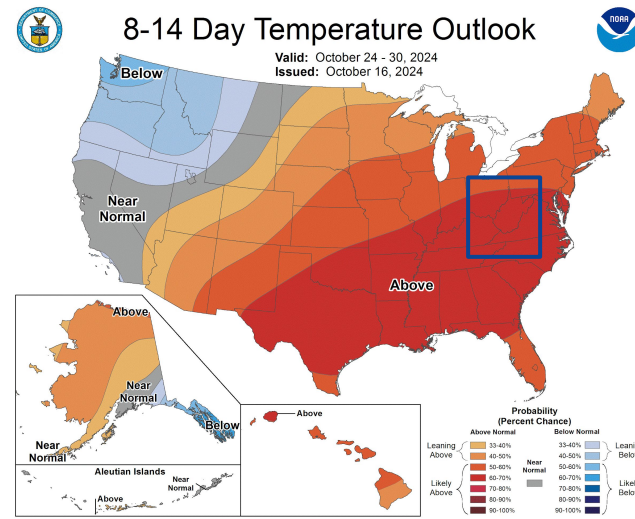


Image Captions:
Climate Prediction Center 8-14 day temperature and precipitation outlook valid October 9, 2024



Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook

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

Main Takeaways

- Updated outlook favors drought remaining but improving through January across WV lowlands and southeast OH but ends elsewhere



Drought Is Predicted To...



Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released October 17, 2024
Valid October 17, 2024 - January 31, 2024

