



# Drought Information Statement

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

Valid October 31, 2024

Issued By: NWS Charleston, WV

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

- This product will be updated November 6, 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 degradation in northeast KY



# 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)**: Slight expansion in northeast KY

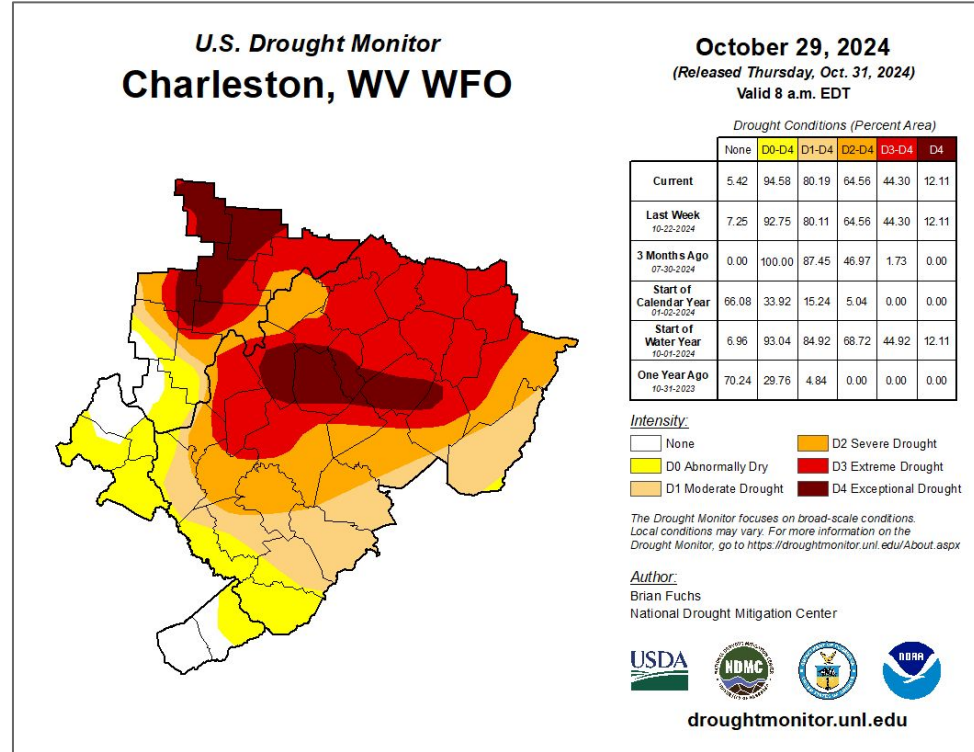


Image Caption: [U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT October 31, 2024](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)





# Current Drought Conditions

## Latest Drought Monitor Four-Week Change

- **Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change**
  - **Drought Worsened:** Parts of Wyoming County WV and Buchanan County VA
  - **No Change:** Areas of southeast OH and WV
  - **Drought Improved:** Slivers of southeast Ohio, northeast KY and WV mountains

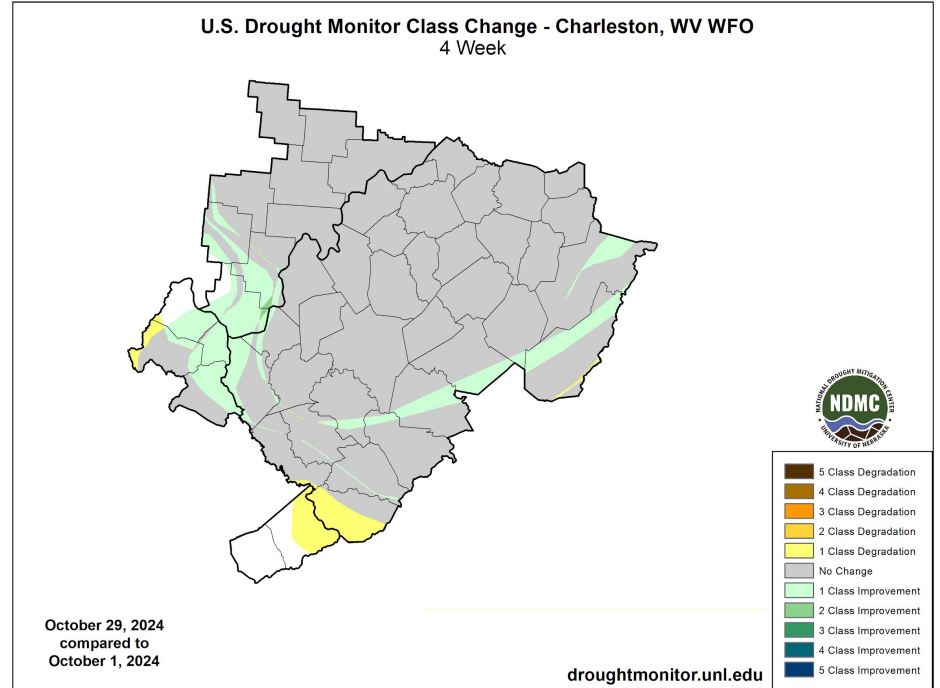


Image Caption:

Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor 4 week change valid 8am EDT October 31, 2024](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)





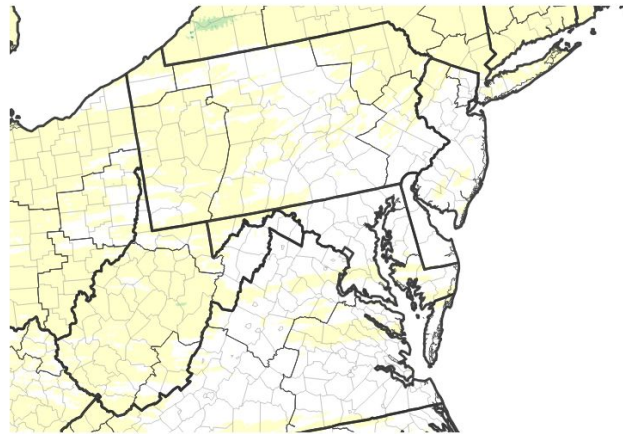
# Observed Precipitation

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

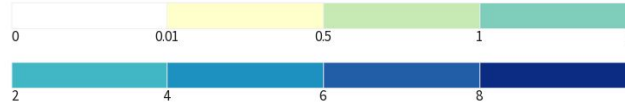
### Main Takeaways

- Dry over the past week
- 30 day rain surplus across southern areas has been replaced by considerably drying as Helene's rainfall has dropped out of the 30 day time range
- Significant long term rainfall deficits continue across northern WV lowlands and southeast OH

7-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

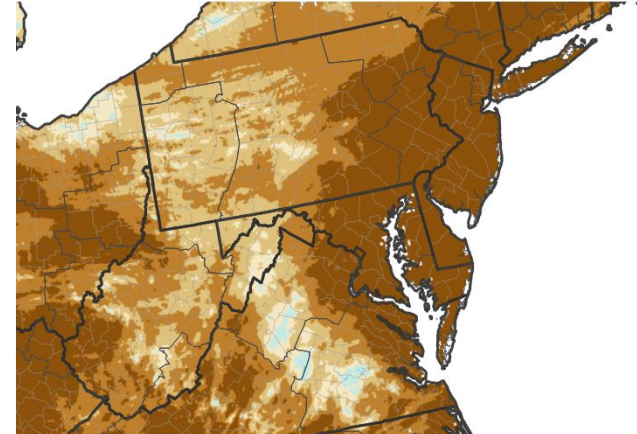


Inches of Precipitation

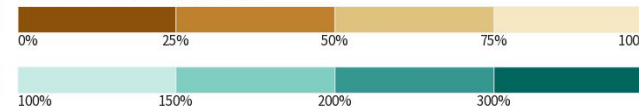


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 10/31/24

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: 10/31/24

### 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 31, 2024





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- 7-day average streamflows well below normal in southeast OH and northern/western WV
- Water levels in residential and agricultural wells are low once again again

## Agricultural Impacts

- Near surface soil moisture is once again below normal across most areas
  - Dry signal persists in deeper soil profiles
- Hay shortage remains with supplemental feeding needed for winter

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Fire danger again early next week
  - Expected to remain elevated with overall dry pattern and leaf drop over the next two weeks.

## Mitigation Actions

- Putnam PSD is reporting abnormally low reservoir levels





# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

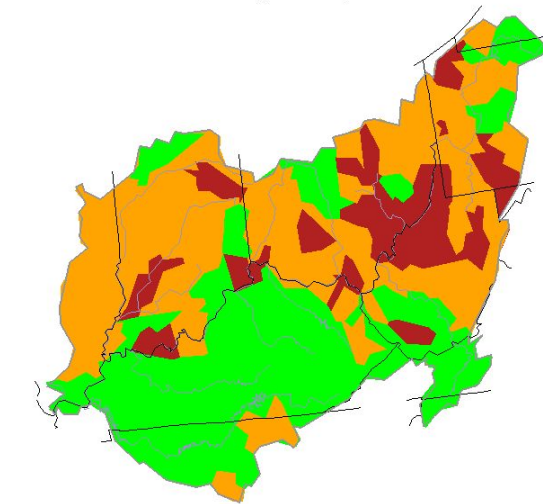
## Main Takeaways

- Much below normal Muskingum, Hocking, Upper Ohio, Tygart, Little Kanawha, and upper Guyandotte basins
  - Streamflow is typically lowest this time of year for perspective
- Groundwater wells remain low across central/northern locations

## Impacts

- Most reservoir lakes releases for winter drawdown delayed until mid December due to the extraordinary low summer pools
- Putnam PSD is reporting abnormally low reservoir levels
  - Not low enough for any kind of restrictions at this time

Wednesday, October 30, 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

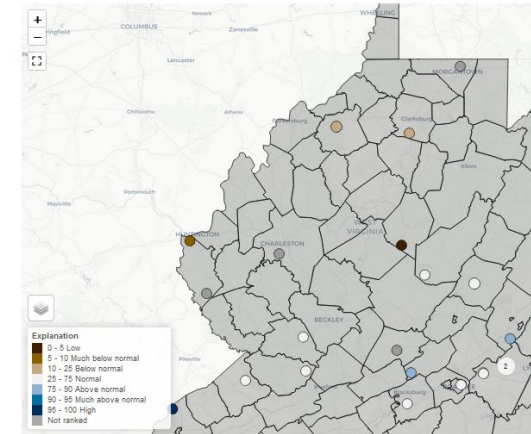


Image Caption:

Left - USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC maps valid October 27, 2024  
Right - USGS groundwater wells valid October 30, 2024





# Agricultural Impacts

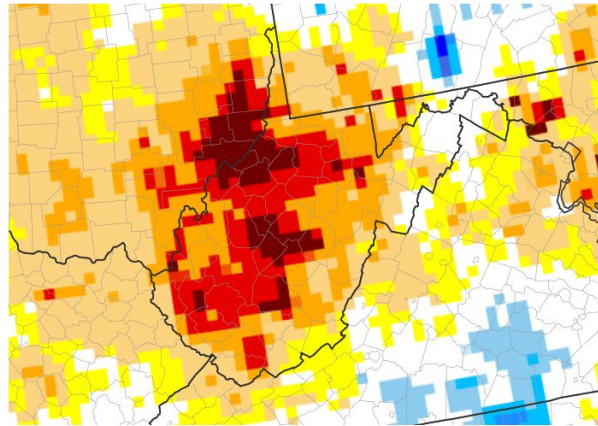
## Main Takeaways

- Much of the area is dry in the topsoil and subsoil

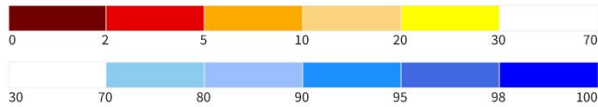
## Impacts

- Hay shortage remains with supplemental feeding needed for winter

GRACE Root Zone Soil Moisture Percentile

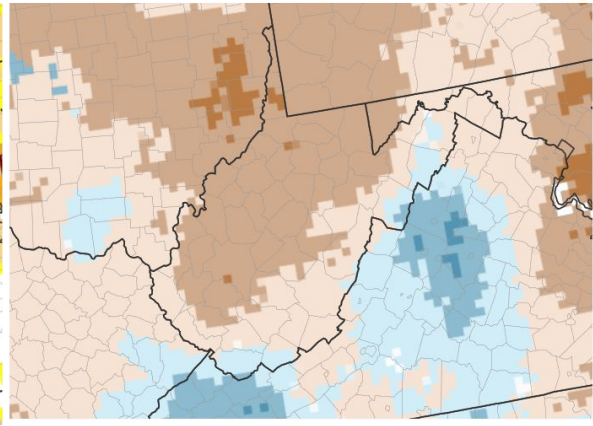


Root Zone Soil Moisture: Wetness Percentile

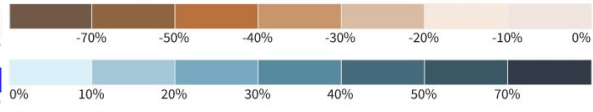


Source(s): NASA, National Drought Mitigation Center  
Data Valid: 10/26/24

Crop-CASMA Subsoil (3 Feet) Soil Moisture Anomaly



Soil Moisture Anomaly



Source(s): NASA  
Data Valid: 10/26/24

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 October 26, 2024

Right: CASMA subsoil moisture percentile valid October 26, 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 early next week with warming afternoon temperatures, gusty winds, and low relative humidity
- Significant wildfire outlook is normal for November

## 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

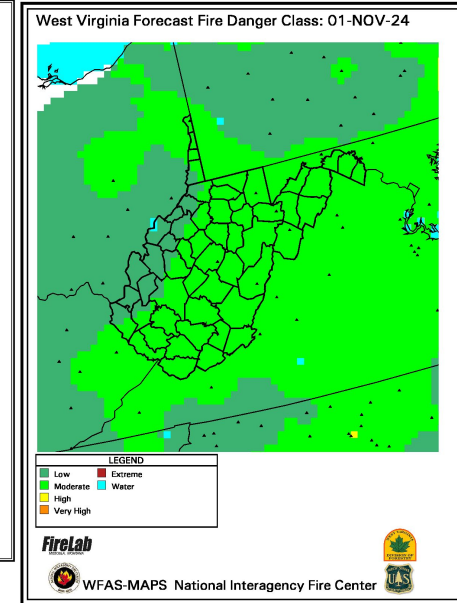
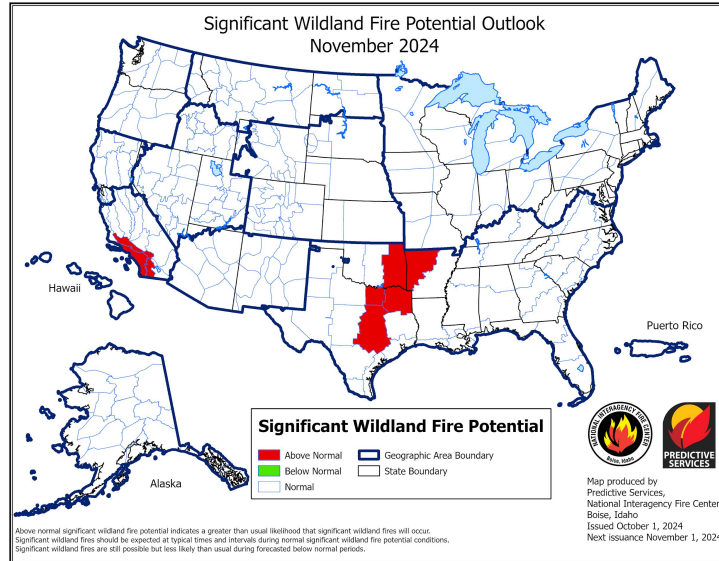


Image Captions:  
Left: Significant Wildland Fire Potential monthly outlook valid November, 2024  
Right: Area fire danger class, valid November 1, 2024





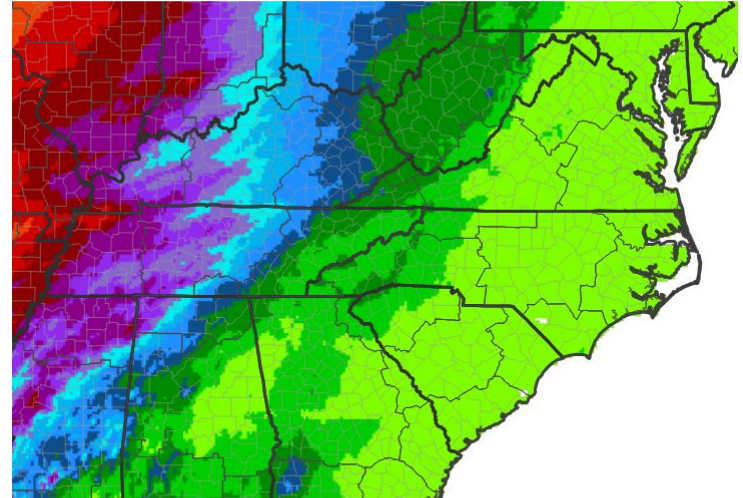


# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

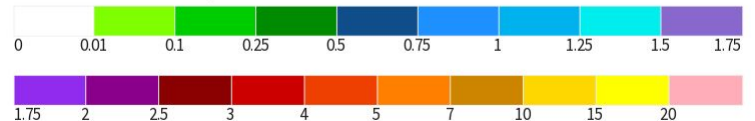
## Next 7 days:

- Warm front crosses Sunday with maybe a shower in southeast OH
- Next frontal passage slated for next Wednesday with another round of mainly light showers
- No sign of rainfall that would be enough to dent the drought

## 7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October 31, 2024–November 7, 2024



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 10/31/24

### Image Caption:

Weather Prediction Center 7-day precipitation forecast valid November 1, 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

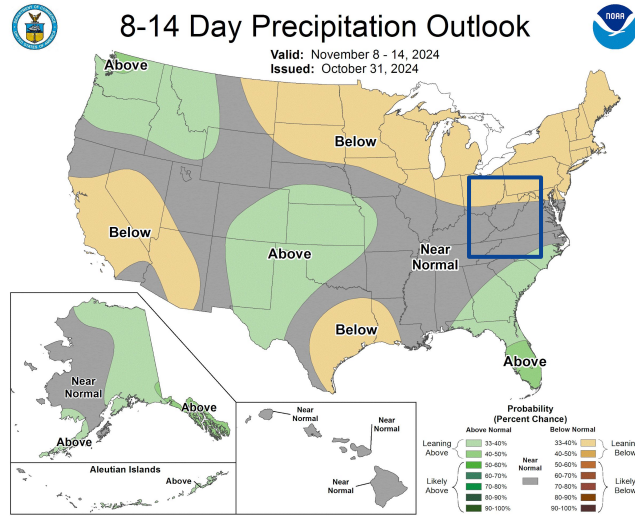
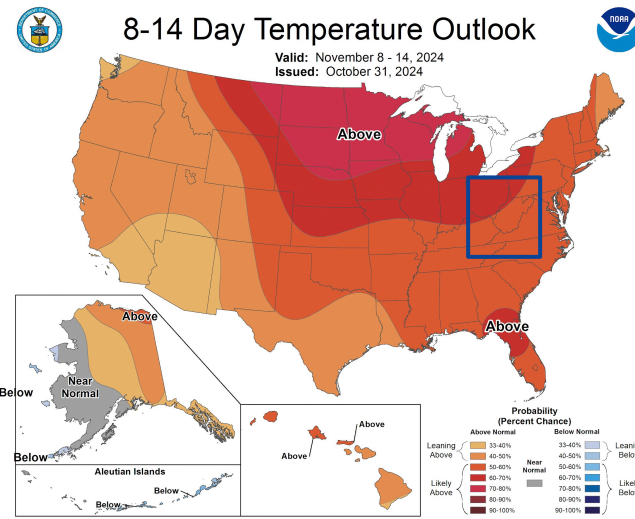


Image Captions:  
Climate Prediction Center 8-14 day temperature and precipitation outlook valid October 31, 2024



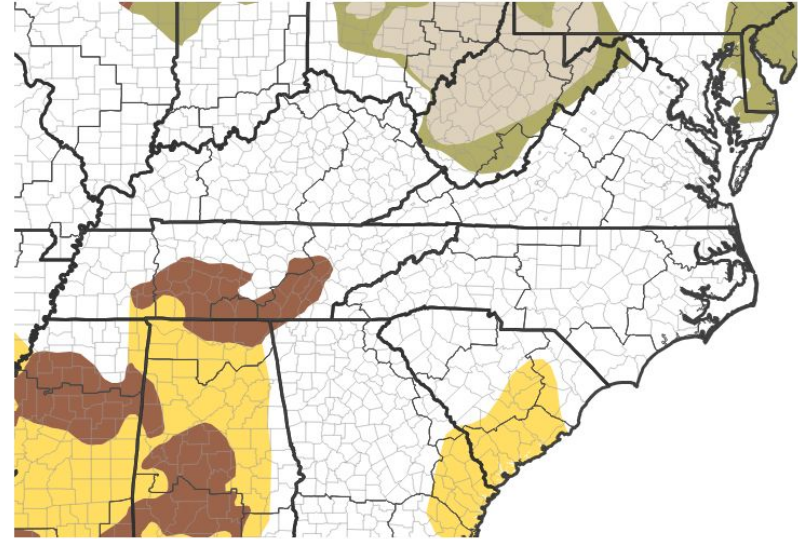
# Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook

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

## Main Takeaways

- Favors drought remaining but improving through January across WV lowlands and southeast OH but ends elsewhere

## Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for October 17, 2024–January 31, 2025



### Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/17/24

**Image Caption:**  
 Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook Released October 17, 2024  
 Valid October 17, 2024 - January 31, 2024

