Drought Information Statement

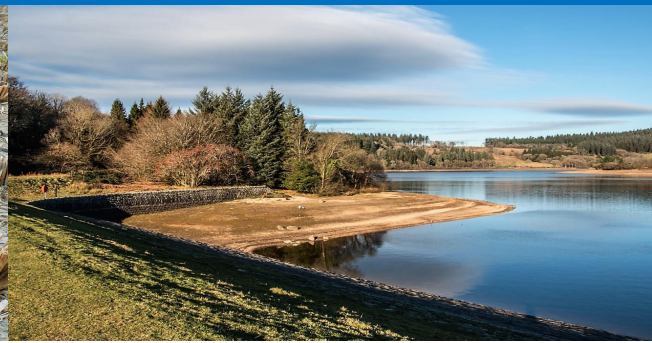
for the NWS Blacksburg Service Area of western Virginia, southeast West Virginia, and northwest North Carolina

Valid September 12, 2024

Issued By: NWS Blacksburg, VA
Contact Information: rnk.skywarn@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated Sep. 19, 2024 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/rnk/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.





U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for the NWS Blacksburg Service Area

- Drought Intensity and Extent
  - **D3 Extreme Drought**: Covers western Greenbrier County and northern Summers County.
  - **D2 Severe Drought**: Covers the remainder of southeast West Virginia into portions of Giles, Craig and Bath Counties in Virginia
  - **D1 Moderate Drought**: Covers much of western Virginia.
  - **D0 Abnormal Dryness**: Covers much of central Virginia into northwest North Carolina.
- Improvement in drought conditions is possible during the period September 15th-19th as a low pressure system brings rainfall to the Mid-Atlantic region and the Carolinas.

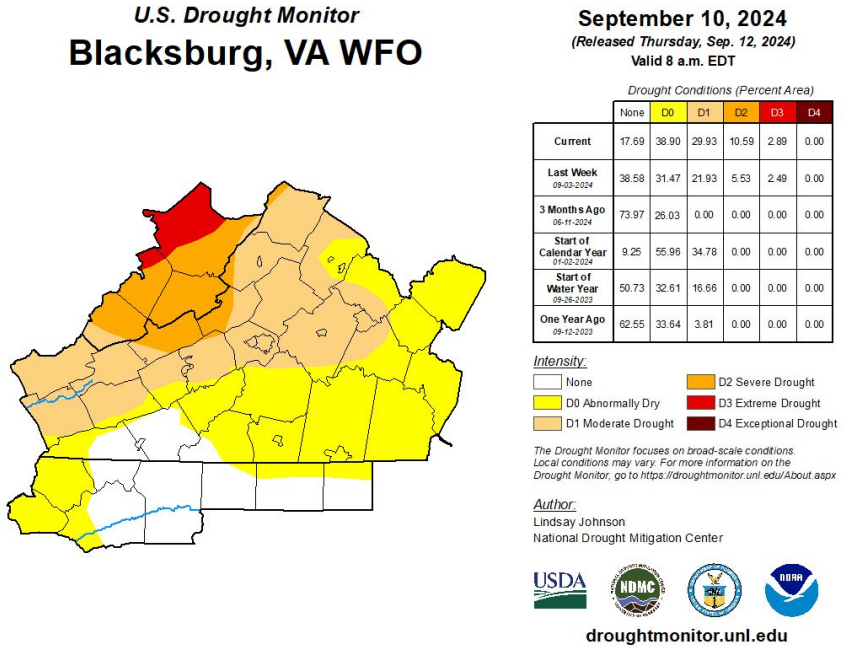
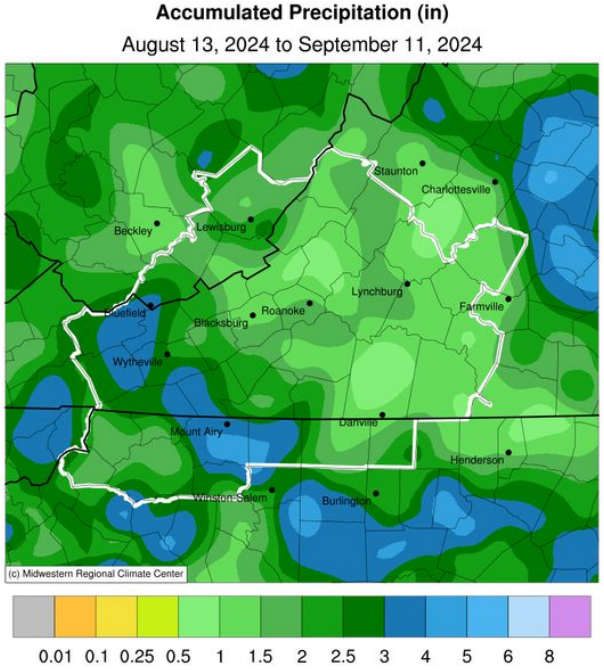


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8 AM EDT September 10, 2024

Precipitation Accumulations & Percent-of-Normals

Observed over the past 30 days

- Over the past 30 days, rainfall has been the result of widely scattered showers & T-storms occurring several days apart from each other.
- Rainfall totals ranged from 0.75” to nearly 2.25” across southeast West Virginia into central Virginia, which is 50% or less of the normal 30-day precipitation totals.
- Similar rainfall totals and deficits were observed across the High Country of North Carolina.



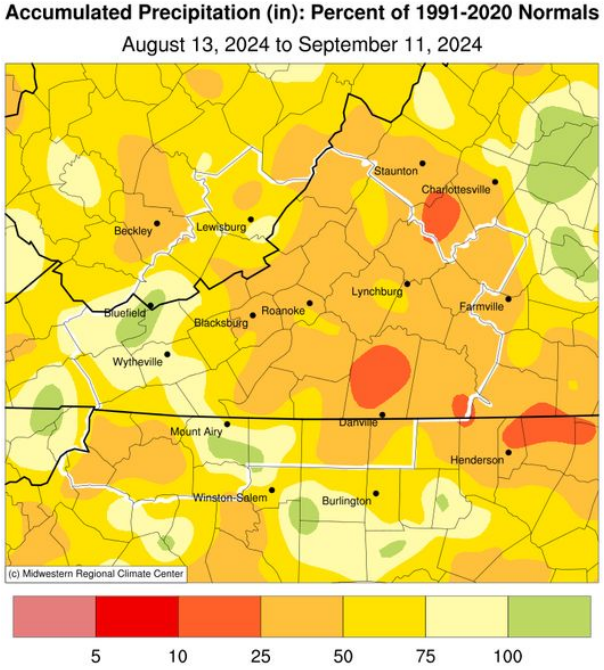


Image Captions:
Left - 60-Day Accumulated Precipitation Map for the NWS Blacksburg Service Area
Right - 60-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation for the NWS Blacksburg Service Area
Data is Courtesy of the Midwest Regional Climate Center
Data over the past 60 days ending September 11, 2024

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Several stream gages and wells are reporting water levels that are below normal to much below normal compared to seasonal normals across southeast West Virginia and central Virginia.
- Water quality may become adversely impacted by decreased flows. Lowering flows may also affect water supply for communities that their water from nearby creeks and rivers.

Soil Moisture

- Lowest soil moisture is found across southeast West Virginia, where deficits of between 2” and 3” are observed. Moisture levels here are below the 5th percentile.
- Soil moisture deficits across central Virginia range around 2” to near normal, with moisture levels ranging from the 30th to the 10th percentile.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- If dryness persists, above normal wildland fire activity is increasingly possible given drying of fallen leaves and the seasonal die-off of fine vegetation, in addition to the continued potential for above normal warmth.

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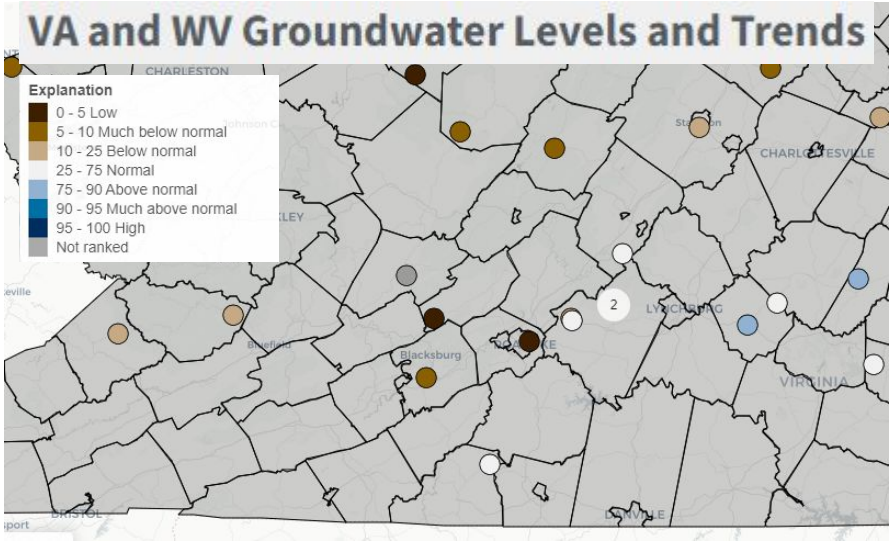

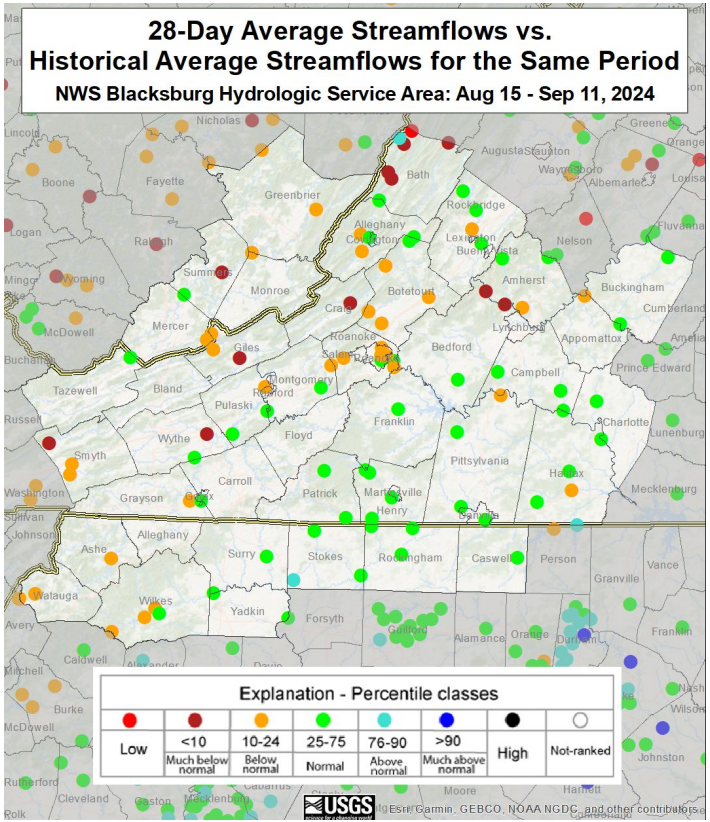

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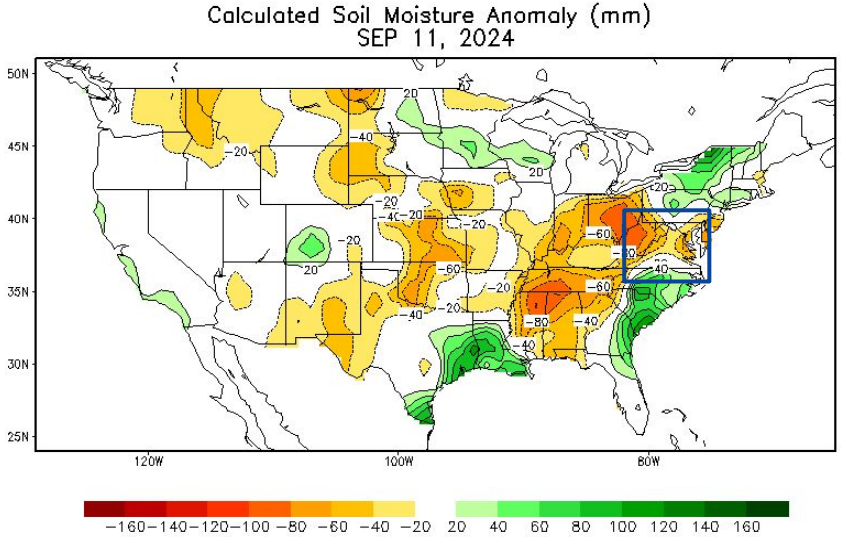


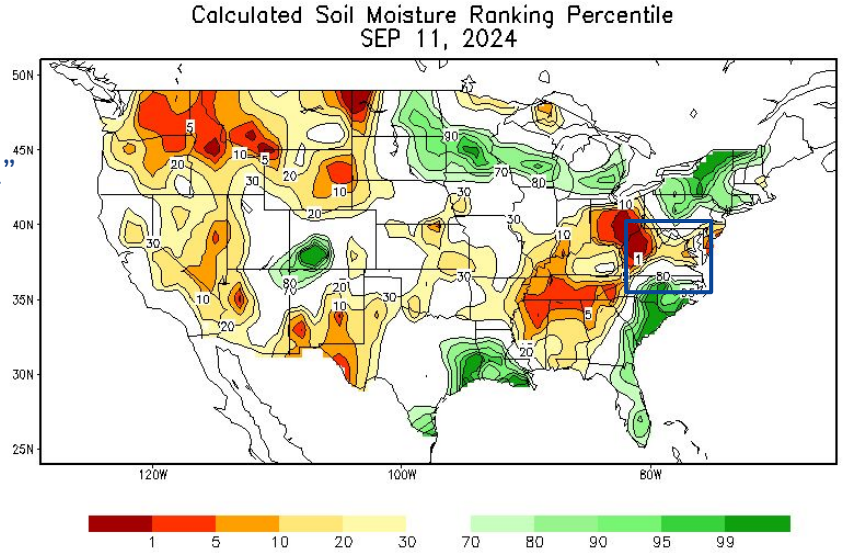


Image Captions:
Above: CPC Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
Left: CPC Calculated Soil Moisture Anomaly
valid September 11, 2024

Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.

- Keetch Byram Drought Index values have increased into the 400 to locally 550 range across portions of southeast West Virginia, as well as pocket of southwest Virginia.
- If dryness persists, above normal wildland fire activity is possible later this month given drying of fallen leaves and the seasonal die-off of fine vegetation, in addition to the continued potential for above normal warmth.

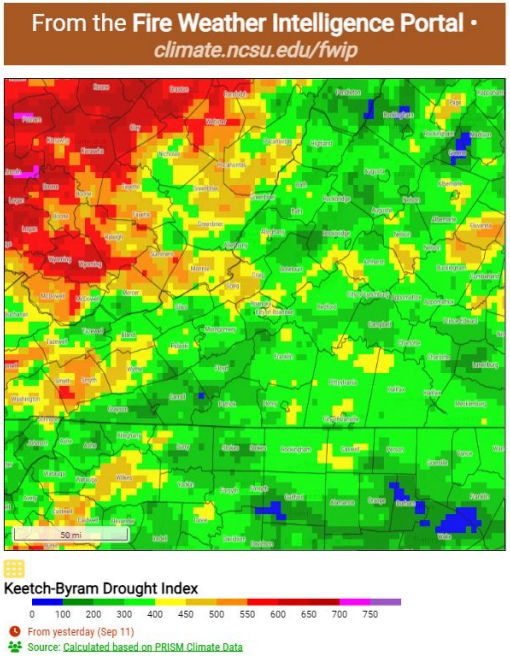


Image caption: Keetch Byram Values are increasing across the Piedmont. Additional information is available at the Fire Weather Intelligence Portal.

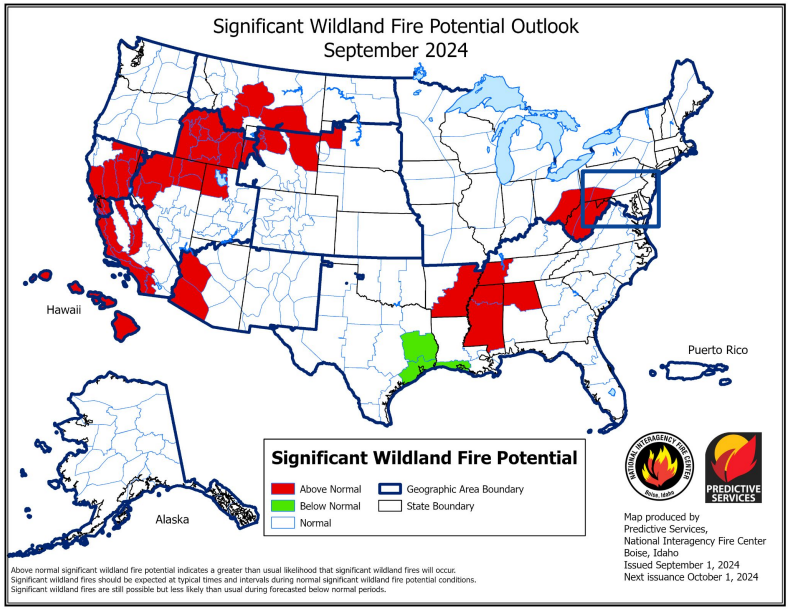


Image Caption: Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook for September 2024

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Only isolated rainfall is expected during the period September 12-15, with rainfall totals less than 0.25” where rain does occur.
- A low pressure system approaching from coastal North Carolina is expected to bring scattered showers and thunderstorms beginning as early as September 16, persisting daily through around the 20th, though coverage of rainfall will vary each day.
- Rainfall will be most abundant across the Piedmont of Virginia and North Carolina, where totals of 1” to 2” are possible, with locally higher amounts.
- Coverage of rainfall will be lower to the west of the Blue Ridge, with totals expected to be generally 1” or less.

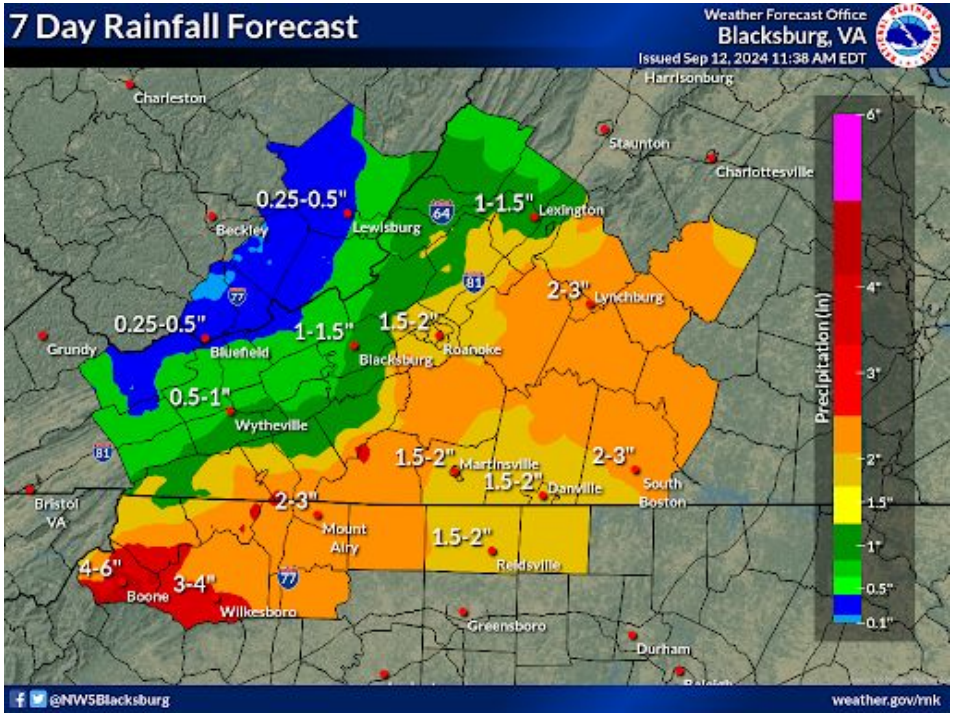
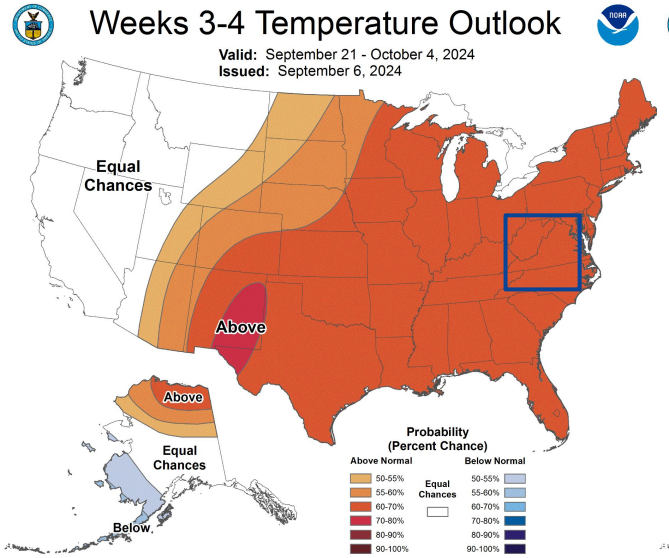


Image Caption:
Weather Prediction Center 7-day Precipitation Forecast
valid September 12-18, 2024

Weeks 3-4 Temperature & Precipitation Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- The weather pattern during the end of September into early October favors above normal temperatures through the period.
- There are no signals during this period that favor either above or below normal rainfall.
- Any widespread significant rainfall during this period will most likely be associated with tropical cyclone activity, which is difficult to predict weeks in advance.



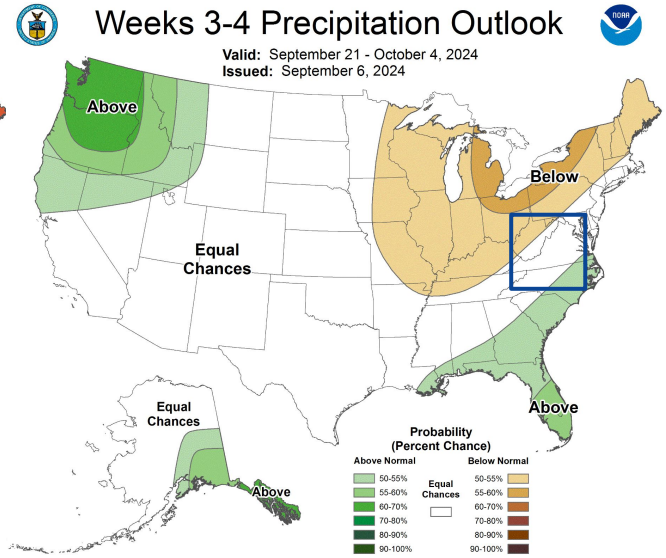


Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center Weeks 3-4 Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center Weeks 3-4 Precipitation Outlook
Released September 6, 2024
Valid September 21 - October 6, 2024

Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- Drought conditions across most of the service area are expected to improve through the end of November 2024. However, drought will likely still remain across the region to some extent, with higher chances that southeast West Virginia will remain affected.
- Widespread rainfall from any tropical cyclones may affect portions of the Mid-Atlantic region into the Carolinas, bringing relief from the drought conditions.
- As mid-autumn approaches, organized large-scale weather systems may also bring more-widespread rainfall.

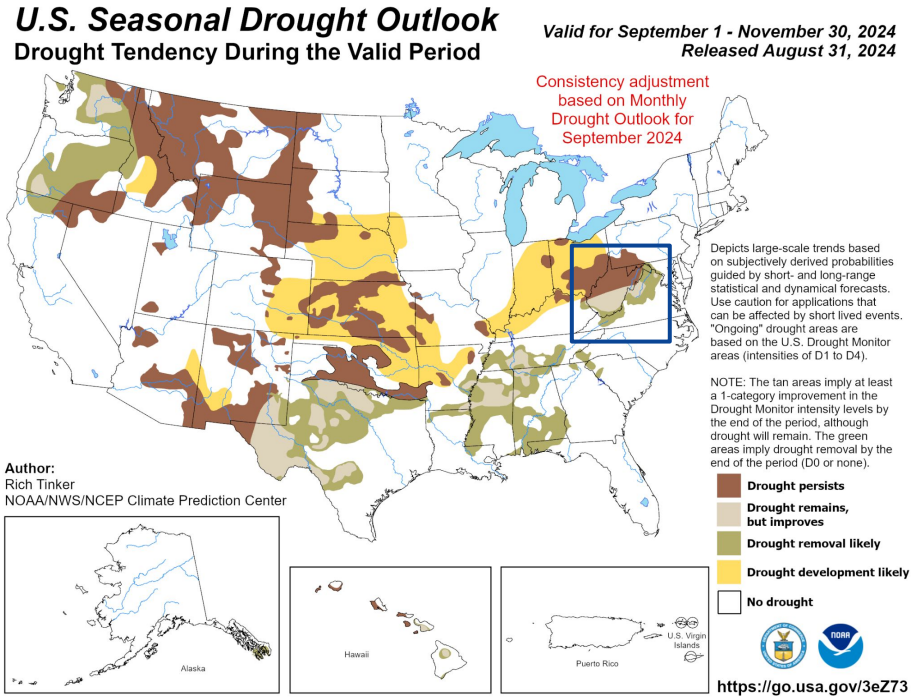


Image Caption:
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook
Released August 31, 2024
Valid September 1, 2024 - November 30, 2024

Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook