



# Drought Information Statement for North Louisiana, East Texas, Southwest Arkansas, and Extreme Southeast Oklahoma

Valid December 14, 2023

Issued By: NWS Shreveport

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- This product will be updated by mid January 2024 unless drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/shv/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.

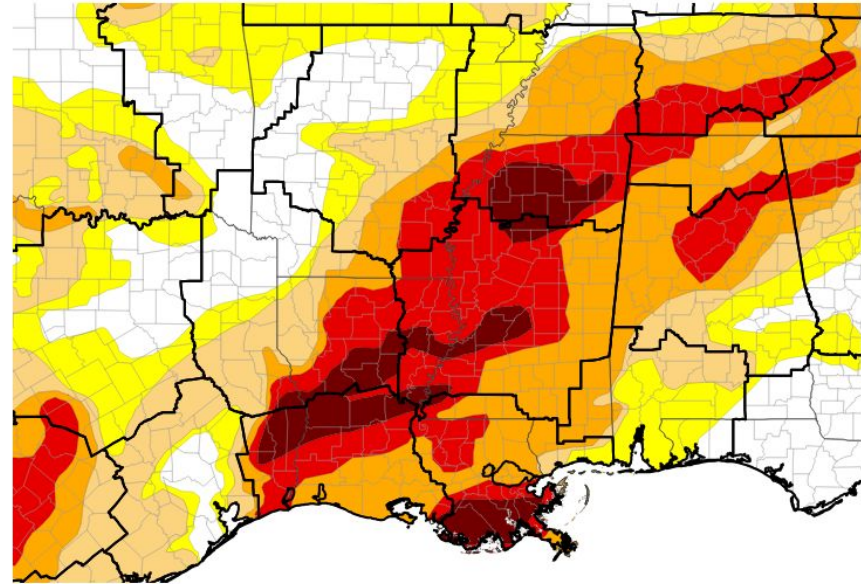




# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Southeast OK, Southwest AR, East TX, and North LA

- Drought Conditions Have Again Deteriorated in the Last Month Across Deep East Texas, Northwest Louisiana, and Southcentral Arkansas.
- Severe to Exceptional Drought Continues From the Lower Toledo Bend Country across Northcentral and Northeast Louisiana.
- Drought Intensity and Extent
  - D4 (Exceptional Drought): Southern Sabine County TX into Central LA
  - D3 (Extreme Drought): Northern Sabine County TX and Northcentral/Northeast LA
  - D2 (Severe Drought): San Augustine and Shelby County TX and portions of North LA and Union County AR
  - D1 (Moderate Drought): Lower East TX, extreme Northwest LA, and Southcentral AR
  - D0: (Abnormally Dry): East TX (along the I-20 corridor), extreme Northwest LA/Southwest AR



U.S. Drought Monitor

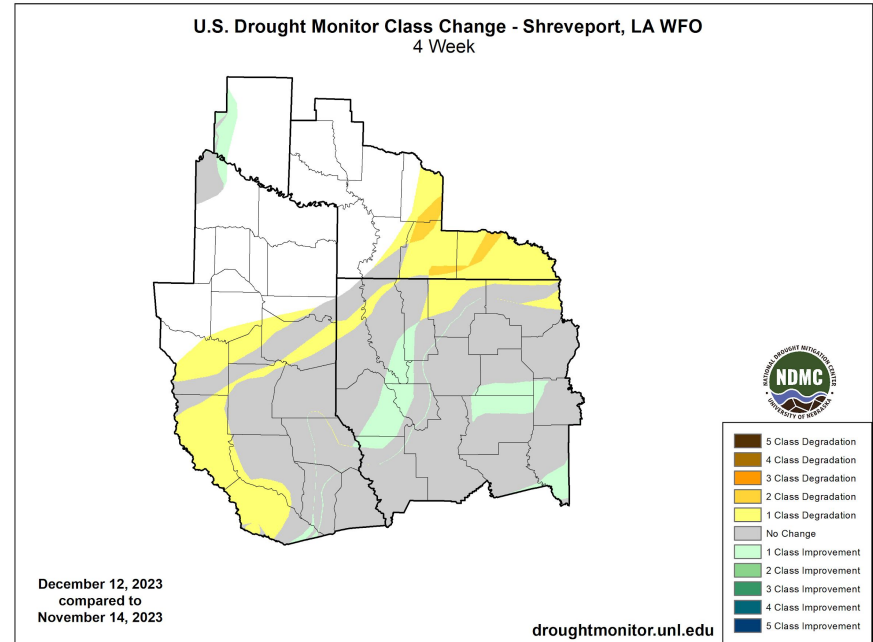




# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for Southeast OK, East TX, Southwest AR, and North LA

- 4 Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drier than normal conditions in November through the first half of December has resulted in a one category degradation in drought across portions of Lower East Texas, extreme Northern Louisiana, and Southcentral Arkansas.
  - Little change in drought has been noted over Lower East Texas and much of North Louisiana since mid-November.



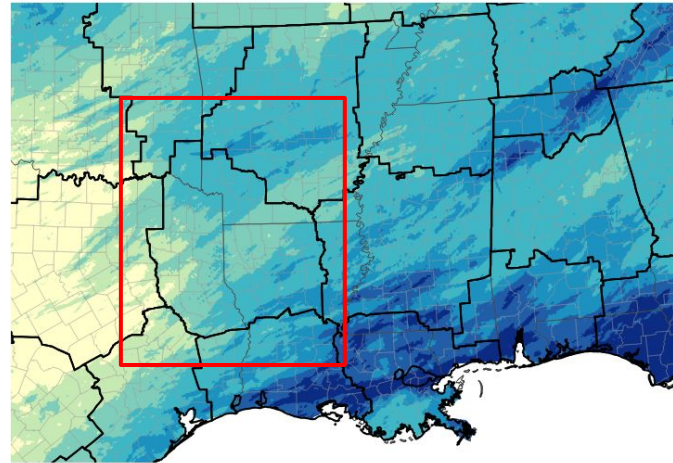


# Precipitation

- In the last 30 days (since mid-November), rainfall amounts of 0.50–3.00 inches have fallen across the region, with isolated higher amounts in excess of 4 inches observed across the Northern sections of Southwest AR and Central LA.
- Below to much below normal rainfall (less than half of the monthly average) fell across East TX, Northwest and extreme Northern LA, Southcentral AR, and portions of extreme Southeast OK.

## 30 Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



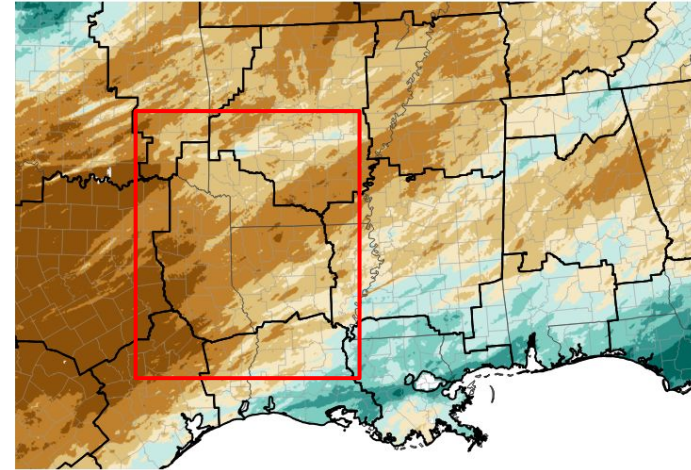
Inches of Precipitation



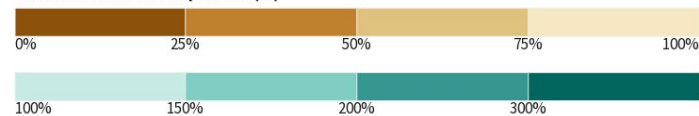
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 12/14/23

## 30 Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



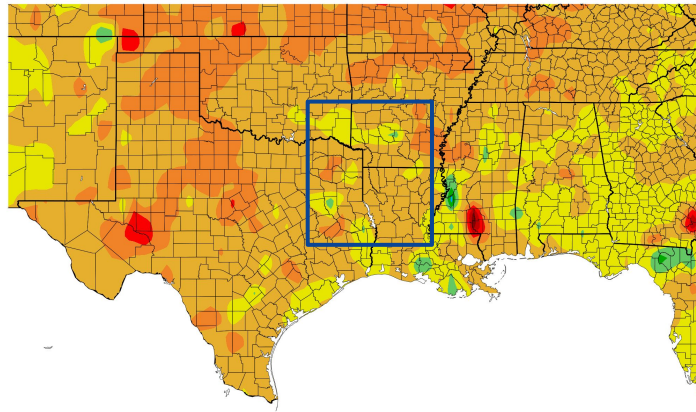


# Temperature

Imagery from the High Plains Regional Climate Center

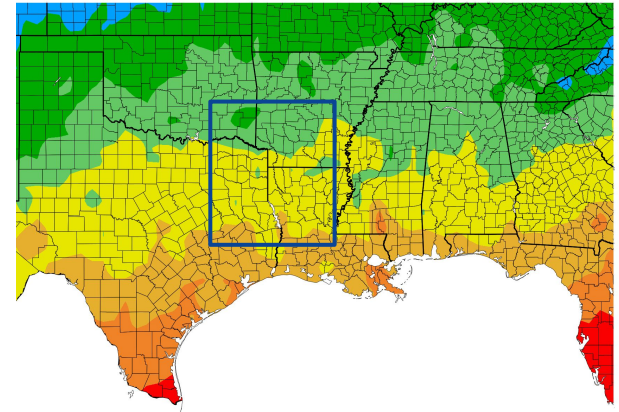
- December thus far has followed suit with November, October, and September with above normal temperatures observed across the region.
- December average temperatures (through the 14th) have ranged 2-4 degrees above normal areawide.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
12/1/2023 – 12/13/2023



Generated 12/14/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Temperature (F)  
12/1/2023 – 12/13/2023



NOAA Regional Climate Centers 023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Additional deterioration of creeks, streams, and bayous have been observed across much of Lower East Texas, North Louisiana, and Southcentral Arkansas, which did see some improvement during the early to mid Fall Months. Many others across WestCentral and Northcentral Louisiana remain very low or completely dry. However, area lakes and reservoirs remain near or slightly below normal pool stage, with the exception of Deep East Texas and North Louisiana, which remain some 3-7 feet below normal pool stage. These include Martin Lake, Sam Rayburn Lake, and Toledo Bend Reservoir.

## Agricultural Impacts

- A widespread freeze in early November and the 2nd week of December has resulted in area pastures going dormant. With producers getting one or NO cutting of hay this summer, supplemental feeding of cattle continues across North LA and East TX. Stock ponds remain very low or completely dry across much of North LA. Many producers have been unable to prep for fall planting.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- A low to moderate fire danger remains across much of the Four State Region, with the greatest potential impacts over Lower East TX south of I-20, North LA, and Southcentral AR given the dry fuels in place. These drought stressed fuels remain conducive for fire initiation and spread.

## Other Impacts

- In addition to vegetation, numerous trees have died or lost significant foliage due to inadequate deep soil moisture.

## Mitigation Actions

- Smaller communities have enacted water restrictions due to excessive use or lower than normal well/aquifer levels. Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

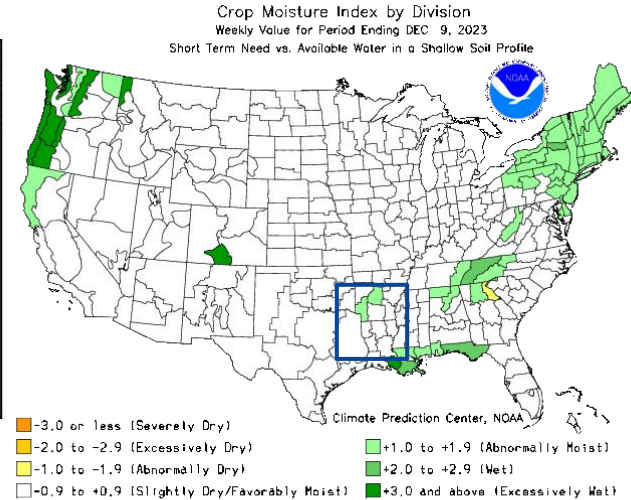
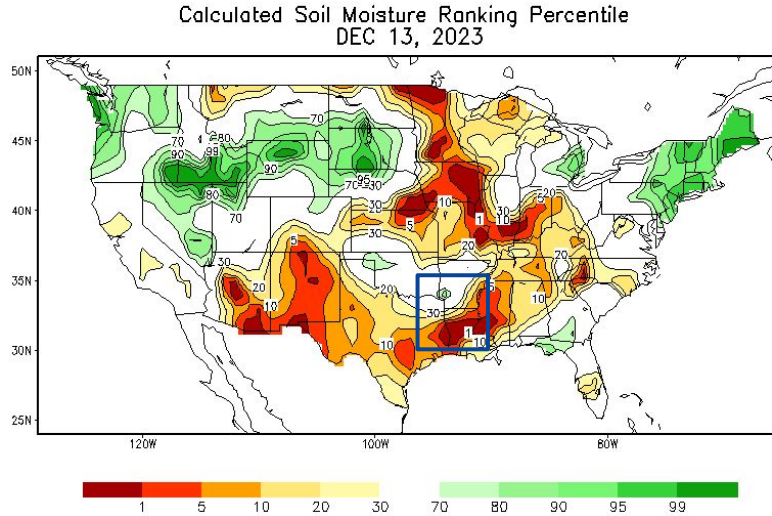




# Agricultural Impacts

Left Image: Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile for Dec. 13th from CPC; Right Image: Crop Moisture Index for Dec. 9th from CPC.

- Soil moisture remains much below normal across the Lower Toledo Bend Country into much of North LA.
- Near normal soil moisture exists elsewhere across Northeast TX, Southeast OK, and much of Southwest AR.

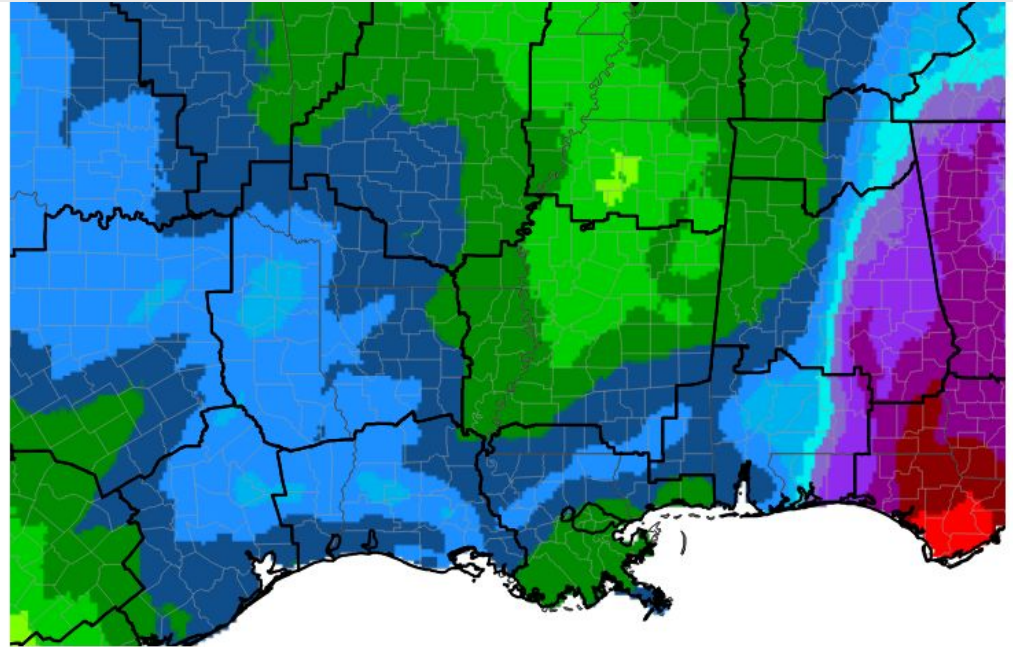




# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

Imagery Below: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) Valid Thursday, December 14 to Thursday, December 21

- Near normal temperatures are expected this weekend through at least midweek next week, although widespread wetting rains will occur Friday evening through Saturday morning with the passage of a strong upper level disturbance.
- Widespread rainfall amounts of 0.50-1.00+ inches are possible Friday evening through Saturday morning. Dry conditions are expected for the remainder of the weekend into much of next week.
- Little change to minor improvement to drought conditions are possible by early next week.



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



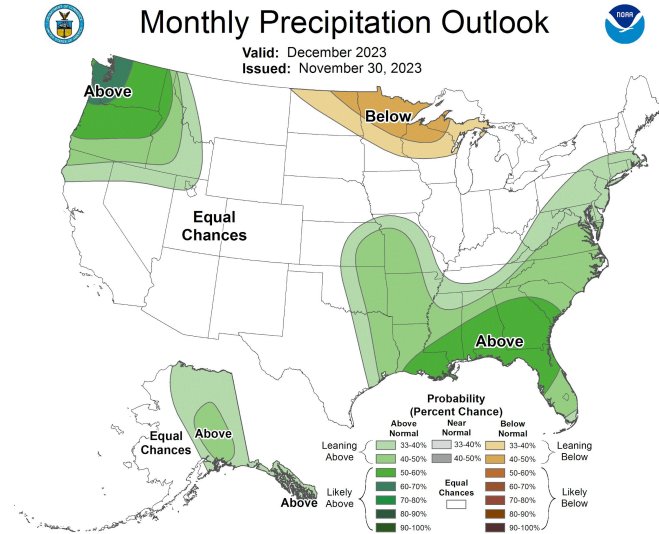
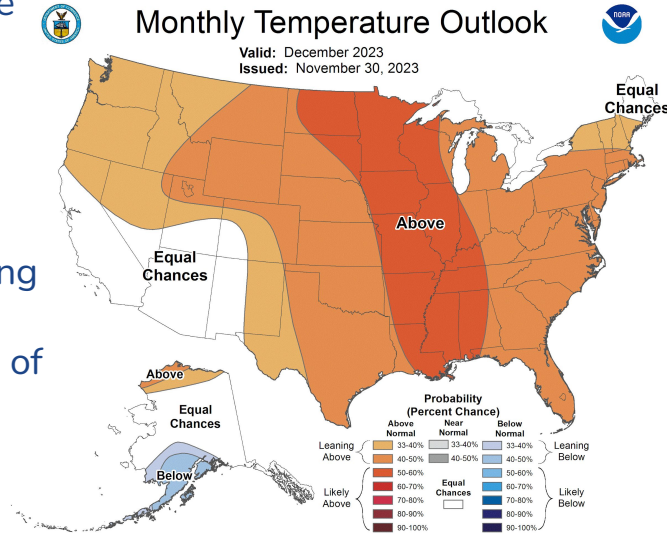




# Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Unfortunately, above normal probabilities exist for our region to see above normal temperatures (on average) throughout December.
- Slightly above normal probabilities exist for seeing above normal rainfall areawide through the end of December.

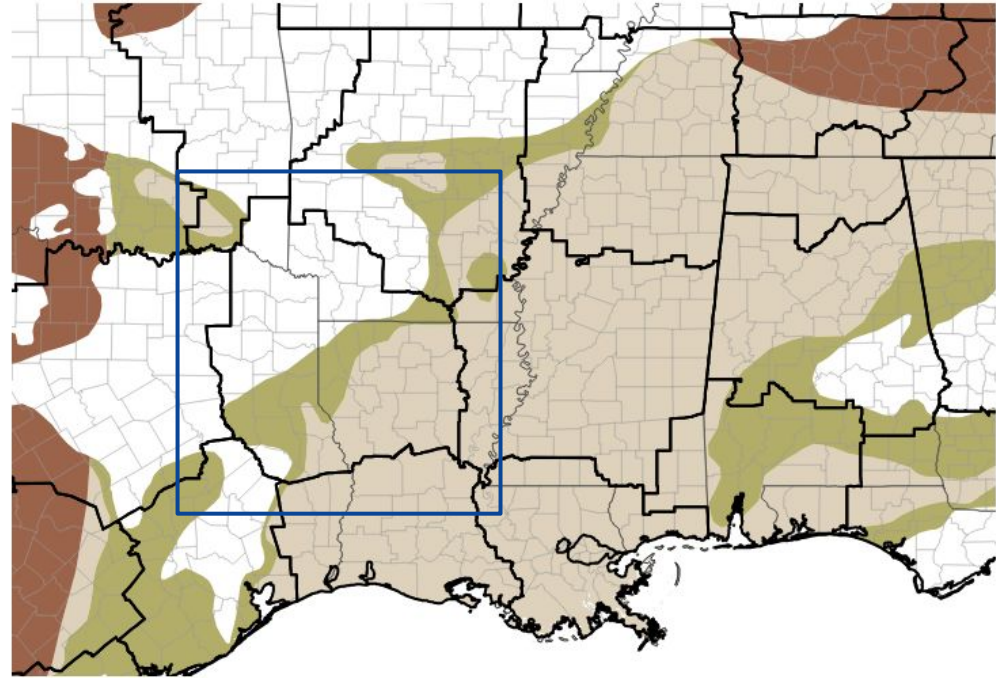




# Drought Outlook

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released November 30, 2023 - Valid through December 2023

- Drought conditions are expected to persist throughout December across portions of Deep East TX, much of North LA, and Southcentral AR.
- However, some slight improvement to drought may occur through the end of the month across Lower East TX and extreme Northwest LA.



Drought Is Predicted To...



Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

