

Drought Information Statement for the Missouri Ozarks

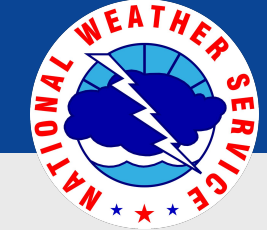
Valid October 16, 2025

Issued By: *WFO Springfield, MO*

Contact Information: *contact.sgf@noaa.gov*

- This product will be updated November 6, 2025 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/sgf/SGFDroughtMonitor> for additional information.





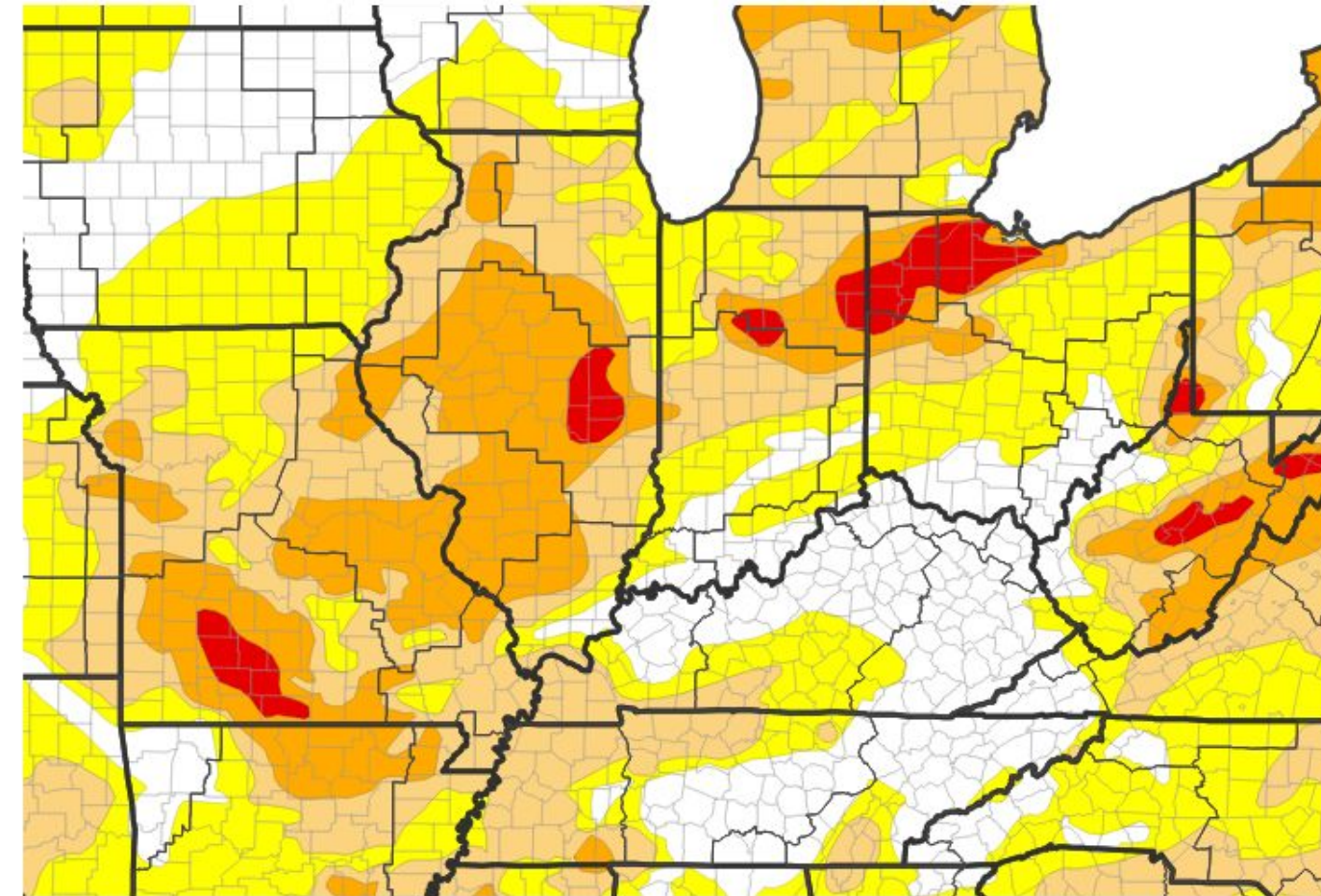
U.S. Drought Monitor

October 16, 2025
10:35 AM

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Lower Midwest

- **Drought Deepens and Expands Across the Ozarks Region**
- **Drought Intensity and Extent**
 - D3 (Extreme Drought): Most of Polk, Greene, Webster, Christian, Ozark, Douglas and far NE Taney and far southern Dallas Counties in Missouri
 - D2 (Severe Drought): St. Clair, southern Benton, Cedar, eastern Vernon, eastern Barton, far northeastern Jasper, Hickory, Dallas, Dade, eastern Lawrence, northeast Barry, northern Stone, Taney, Wright, southeast Laclede, western Texas, southern Howell, Oregon, southeast Shannon, Maries, Miller, northern Phelps Counties in Missouri and areas surrounding D3 (Extreme Drought) impacted counties.
 - D1 (Moderate Drought): eastern Bourbon, eastern Crawford, and Cherokee Counties in Kansas. Vernon, Barton, Jasper, Newton, Morgan, Cedar, Dade, Lawrence, northern Barry, Dallas, portions of Benton, Camden, Laclede, northern Howell, Shannon, eastern Dent, Pulaski, and portions of Texas and Phelps Counties in Missouri.
 - D0: (Abnormally Dry): western Bourbon and western Crawford Counties in Kansas. All remaining portions of southern and central Missouri.

U.S. Drought Monitor

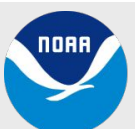


U.S. Drought Monitor



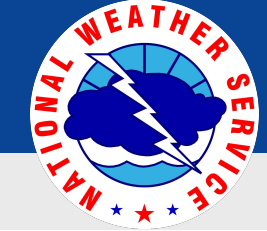
Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 10/14/25



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Springfield, MO

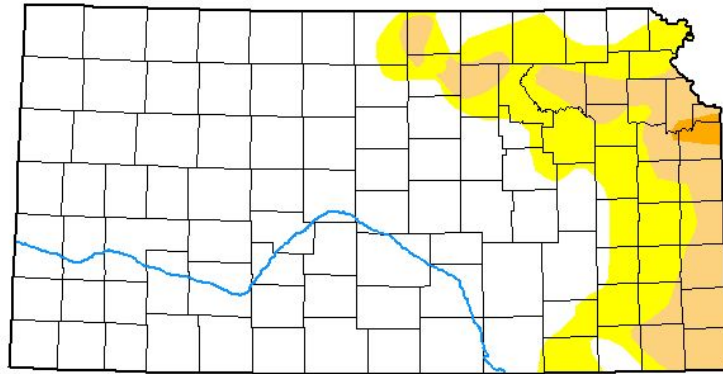


State Drought Monitor

October 16, 2025
10:35 AM

Link to [Recent Change Maps](#)

U.S. Drought Monitor Kansas



October 14, 2025
(Released Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	75.41	24.59	9.58	0.49	0.00	0.00
Last Week 10-07-2025	81.37	18.63	7.82	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-15-2025	63.55	36.45	8.04	2.01	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025	35.20	64.80	24.63	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	7.48	92.52	50.40	8.34	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 10-15-2024	3.30	96.70	64.38	16.33	1.16	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

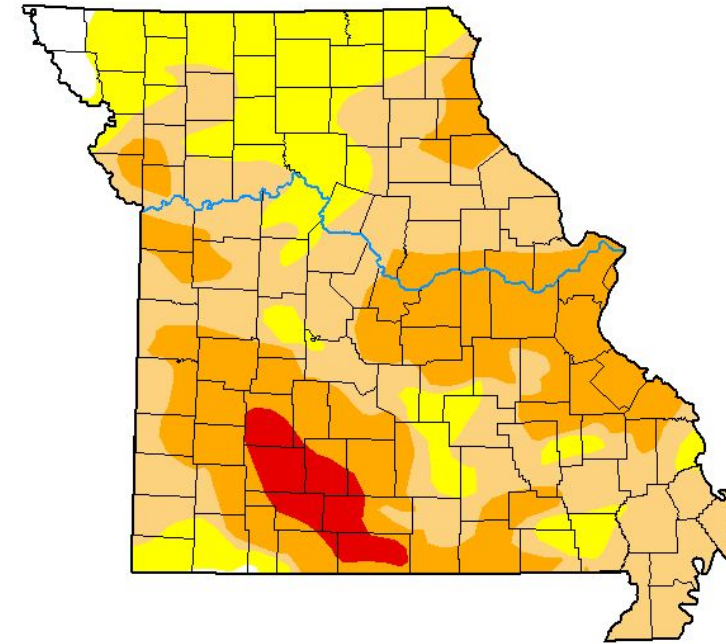
Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor Missouri



October 14, 2025
(Released Thursday, Oct. 16, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	1.52	98.48	76.94	35.85	3.94	0.00
Last Week 10-07-2025	2.50	97.50	70.93	26.76	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 07-15-2025	90.65	9.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025	69.71	30.29	11.75	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	39.30	60.70	23.73	7.95	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 10-15-2024	22.95	77.05	39.37	18.07	4.50	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

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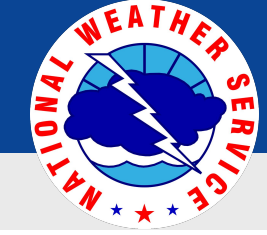
Main Takeaways

- Drought has further expanded and worsened in southern and central Missouri.
- Drought conditions continue expanding westward into far eastern Kansas.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

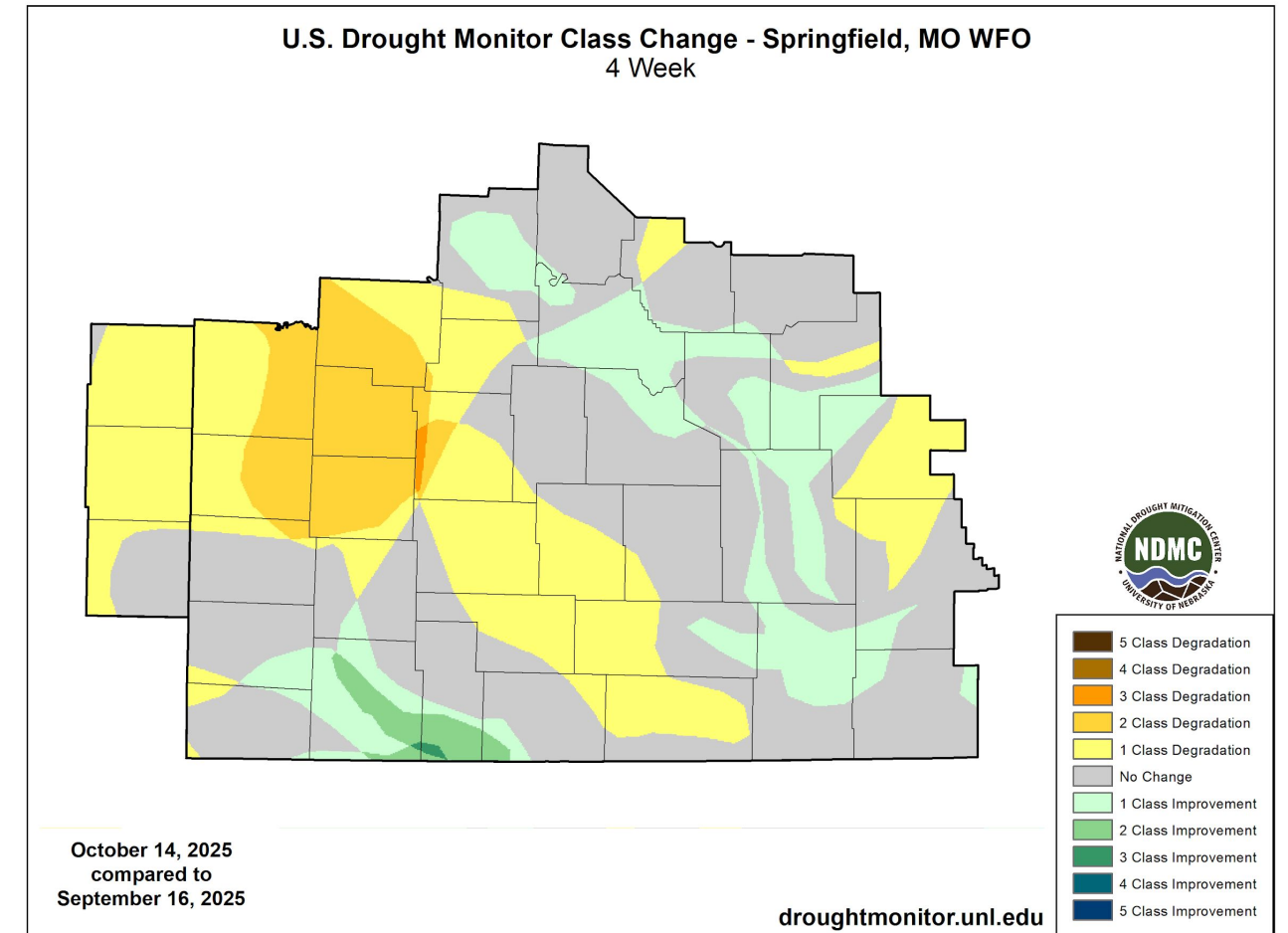
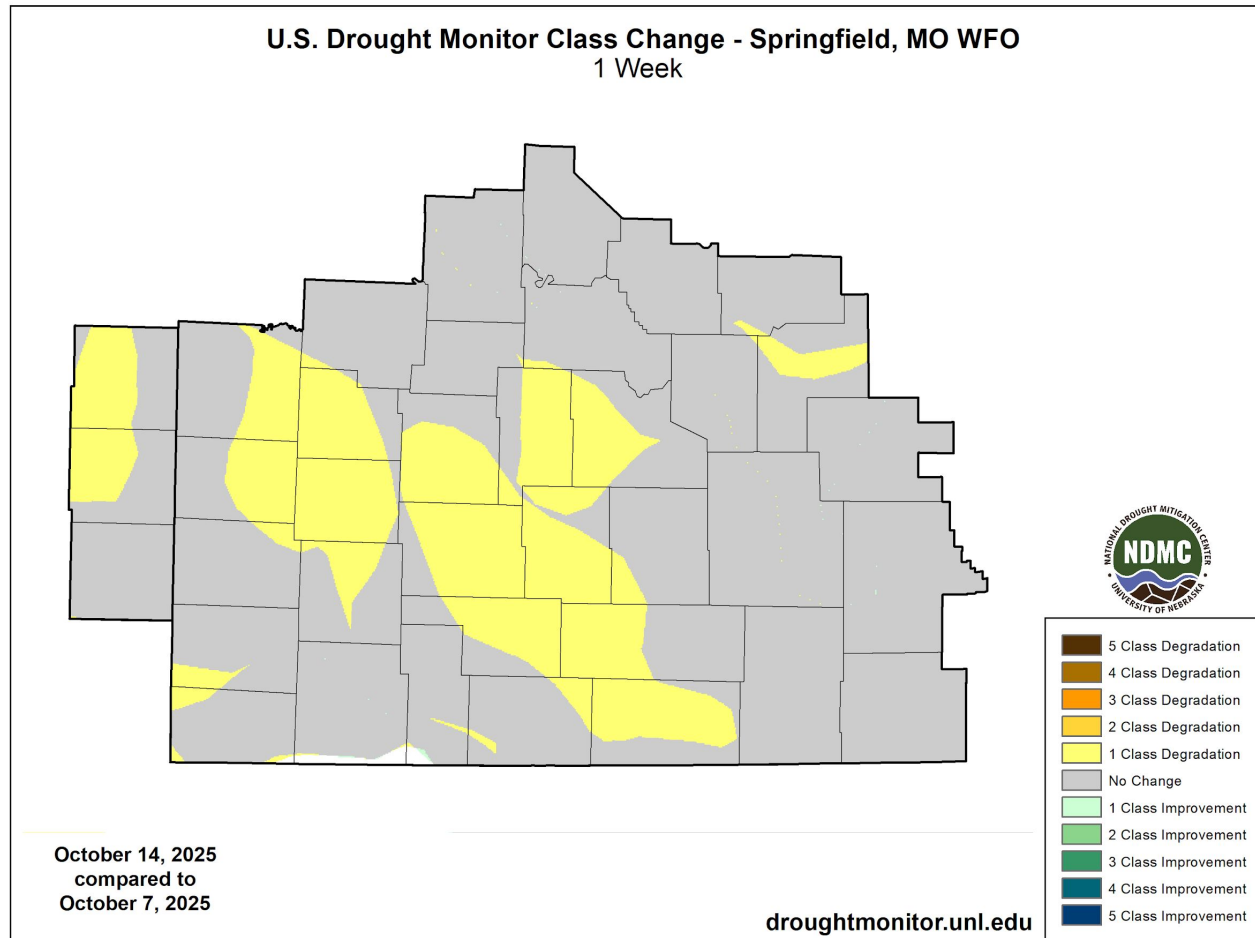
National Weather Service
Springfield, MO



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

October 16, 2025
10:35 AM

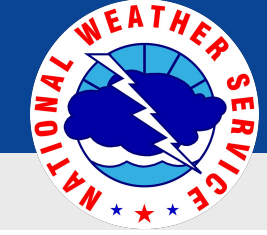
Link to [Recent Change Maps](#)



Main Takeaways

- We have progressed past flash drought and are now entering long-term drought conditions.
- West-central Missouri has seen the biggest increase in drought severity over the last 4 weeks.

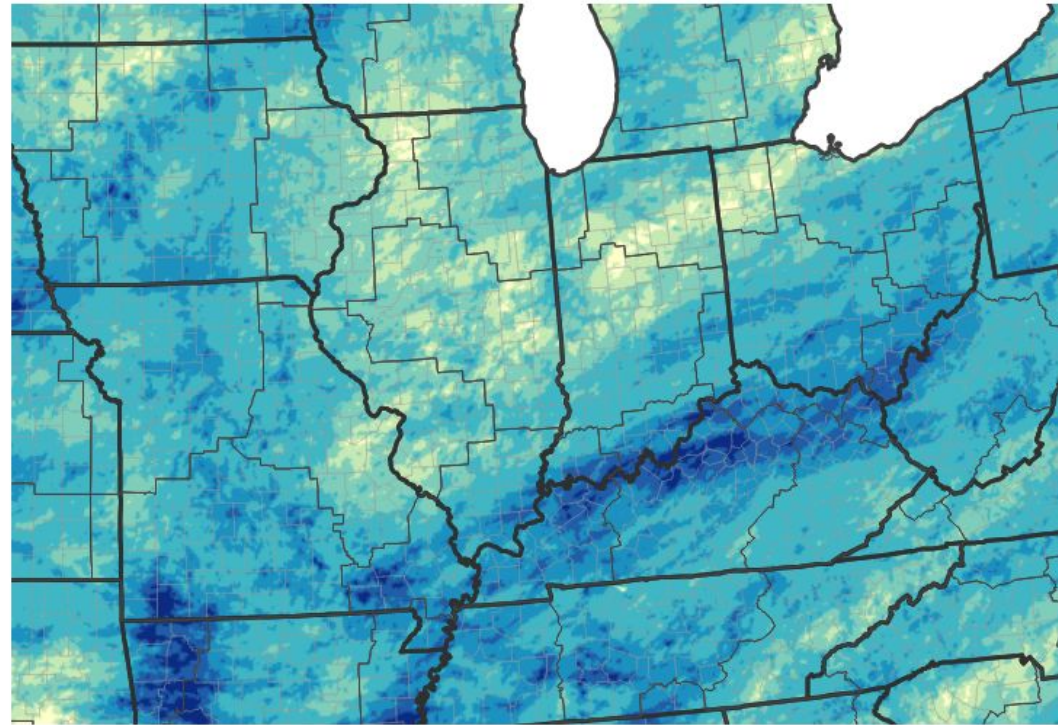




Precipitation

October 16, 2025
10:35 AM

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

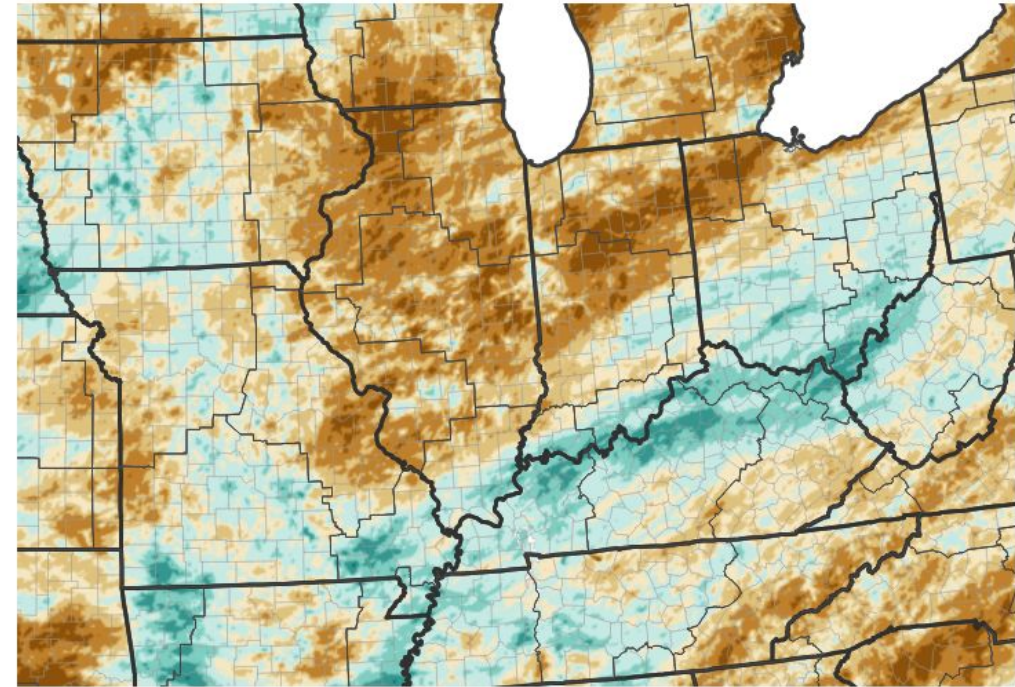


Inches of Precipitation

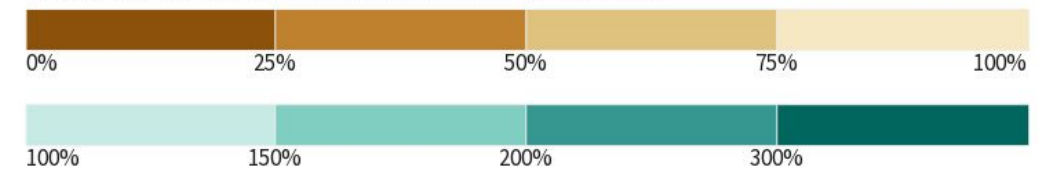


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 10/16/25

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



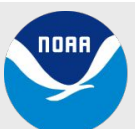
Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

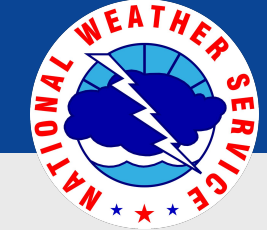


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 10/16/25

Main Takeaways

- Precipitation has been generally below normal across southern Missouri and southeast Kansas over the last 30 days.
- A portion of far southwest Missouri saw above-normal precipitation within the last 30 days.





Summary of Impacts

October 16, 2025

10:35 AM

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- A number of locations are seeing below normal streamflows, with reports of small creeks, streams, and ponds nearly dried up.

Agricultural Impacts

- 20 Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMORs) from the last 7 days indicate severely dry conditions.
 - Supplementing feed and feeding hay early (some for 60+ days already) with dead grass and little to no regrowth
 - Lack of water for livestock requiring water hauling, reduced water quality where water remains
 - Decreased stock weights, animal stress and livestock mortality, and farmers selling livestock to reduce hay and water consumption
 - Early crop harvests, crop stress and failures, reduced crop yields, increases in invasive insects, erosion (no-till practices not helping), inability to plant fall forage for lack of moisture
 - Farmers report “going into winter this low [on water and feed] is going to be a major issue”

Fire Hazard Impacts

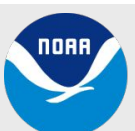
- Increased risk of fires and potential early onset of fall fire season due to below normal precipitation, above normal temperatures, and dry soils.

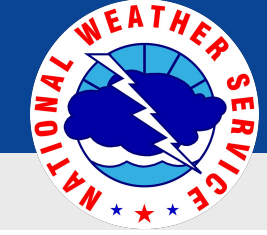
Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Mitigation actions

- Many farmers and ranchers continued to haul water for livestock, supplement feed and herd culling is occurring.
- The Missouri Department of Agriculture has an AgriStress Helpline at 833-897-2474.
- More information is available at muext.us/PSCFarmRanch.

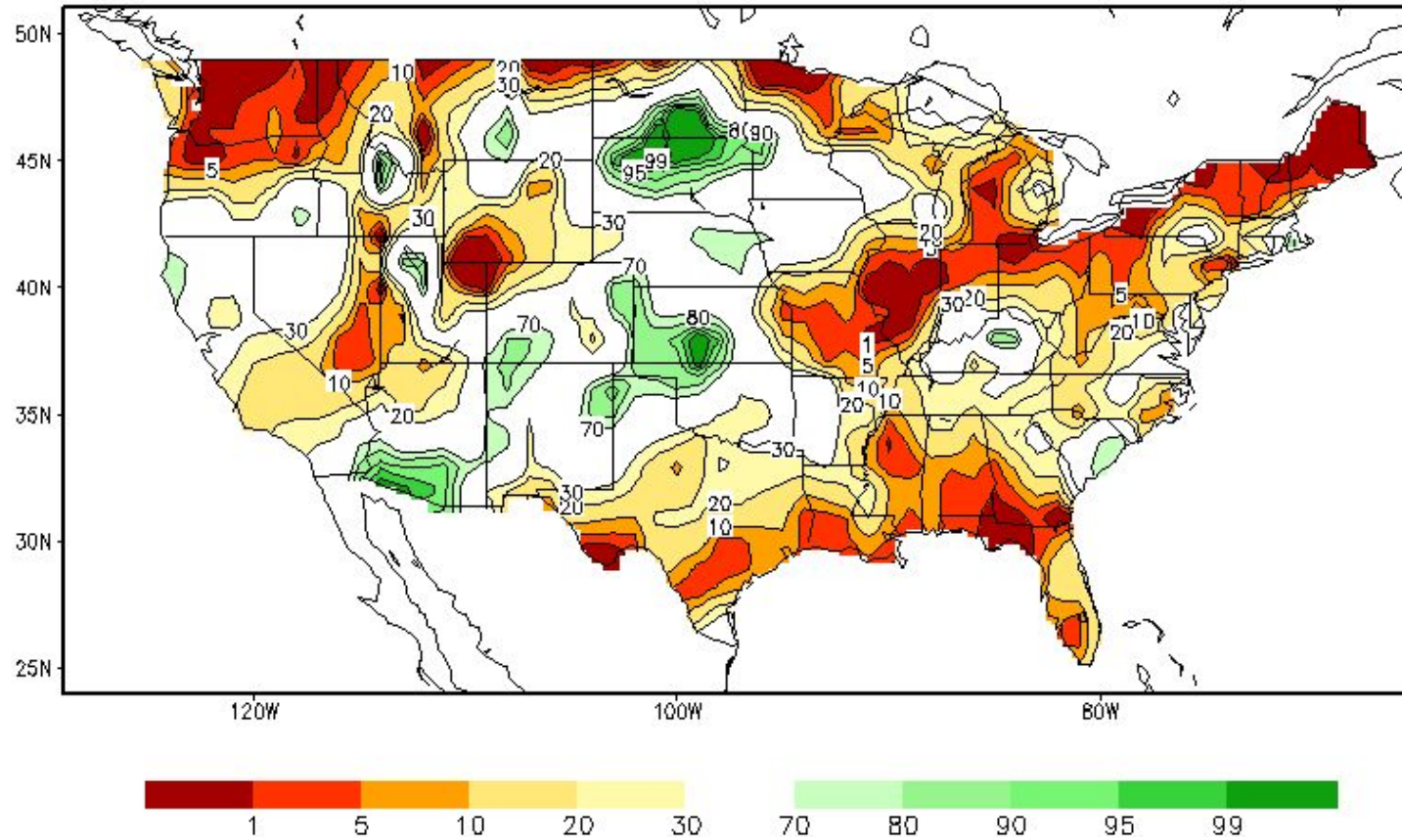




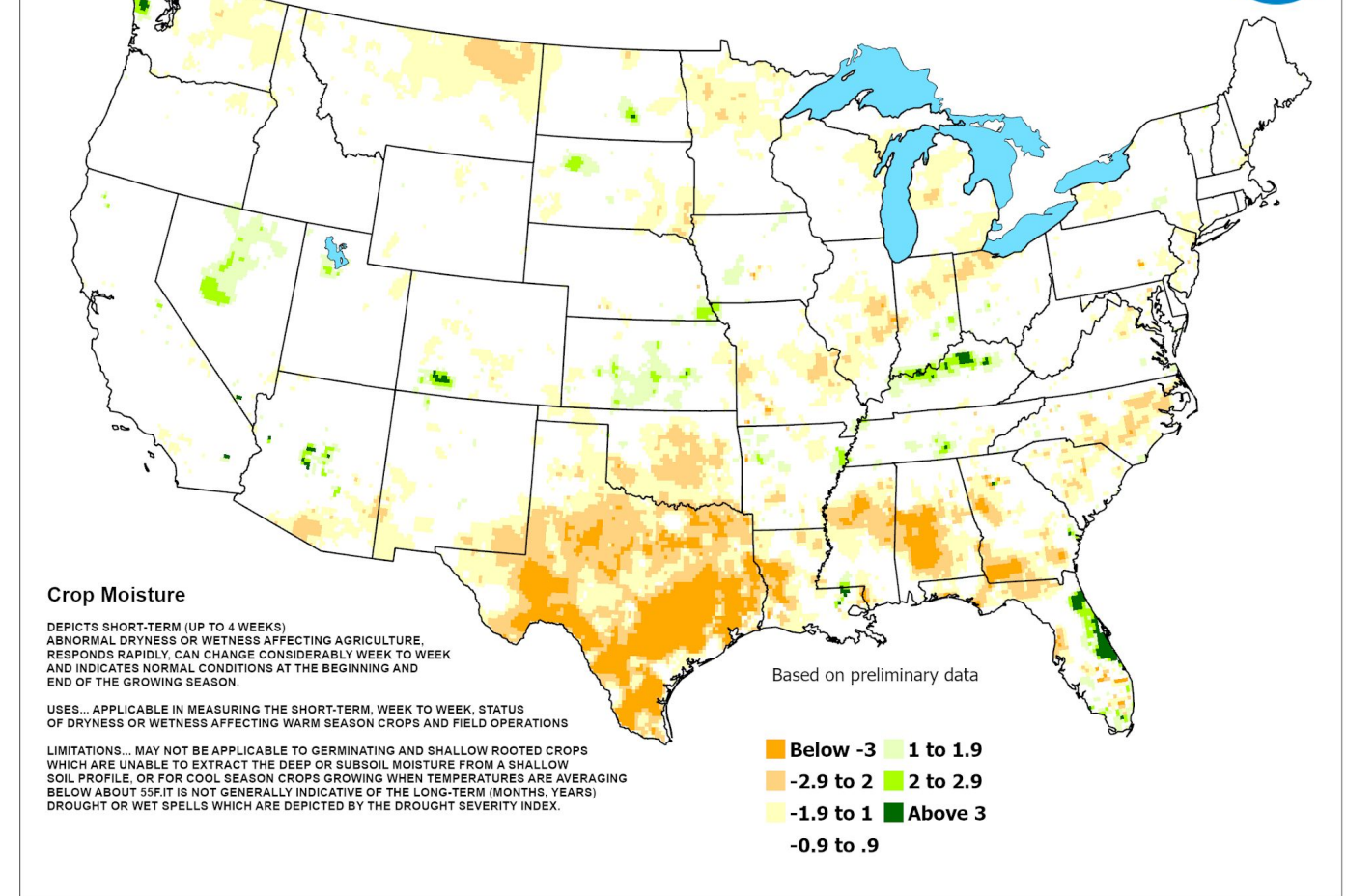
Agricultural Impacts

October 16, 2025
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Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
OCT 15, 2025

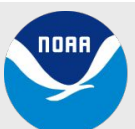


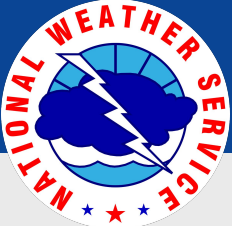
Crop Moisture Index
Value for the October 5 - 11, 2025
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile



Main Takeaways

- October 15th soil moisture was below to well below average across much of the area, with portions of central Missouri seeing well below average soil moisture.
- October 5-11th Crop Moisture Index was near to slightly below normal for portions of the Ozarks.





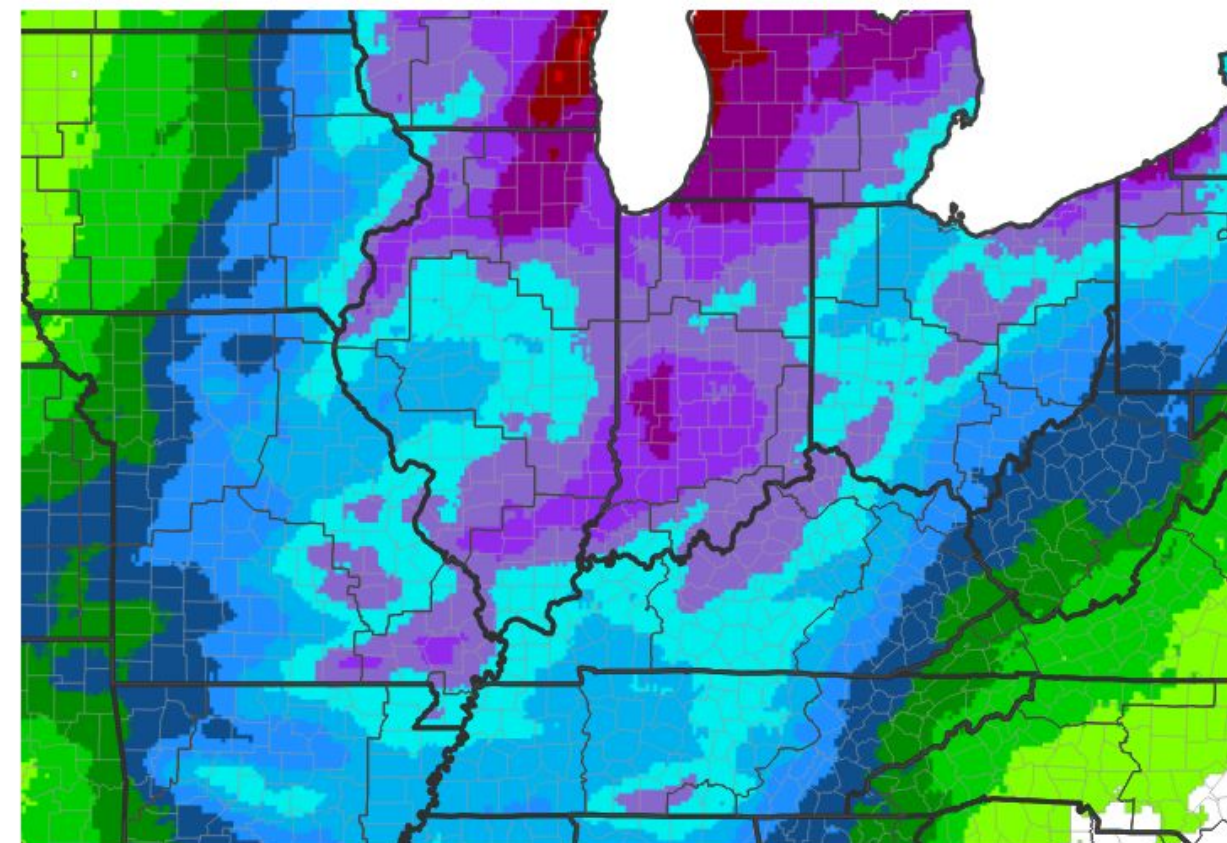
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

October 16, 2025
10:35 AM

Main Takeaway

- Best chances for measurable rainfall through Thursday, October 22 will be on Saturday, October 18th.
- Rain chances (30-80%) will be associated with a cold front that is expected to move through the region quickly. Depending on the speed of the system, rainfall amounts between 0.5" and 1.00" are forecast. It is possible that some locations see less than a 0.10".
- Rain will be hard to come by after this weekends system.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October 16, 2025–October 23, 2025



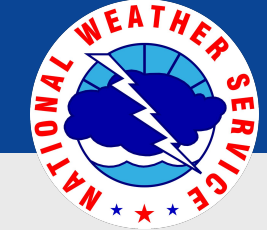
Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 10/16/25





8 to 14 Day Outlooks

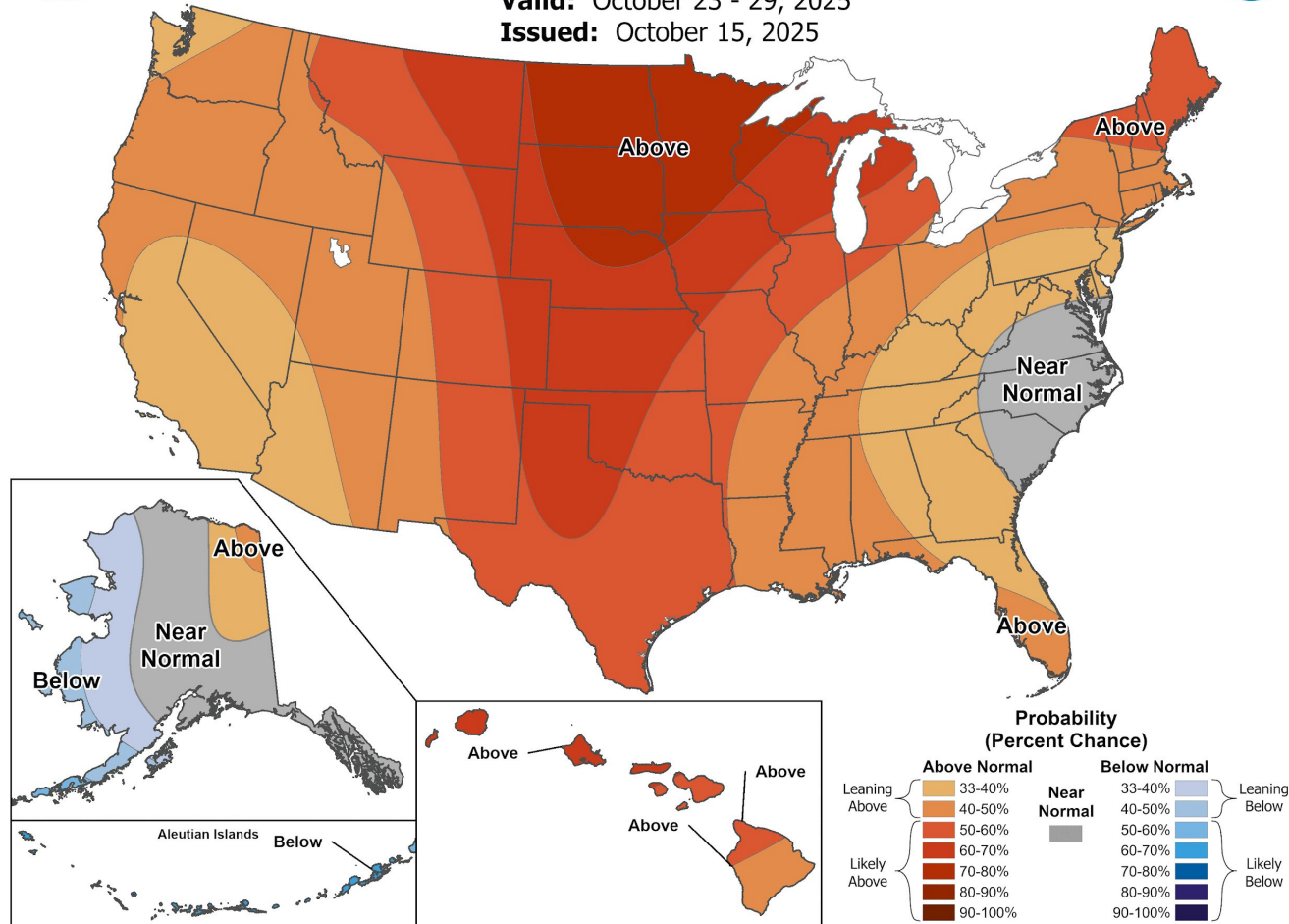
October 16, 2025
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The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)



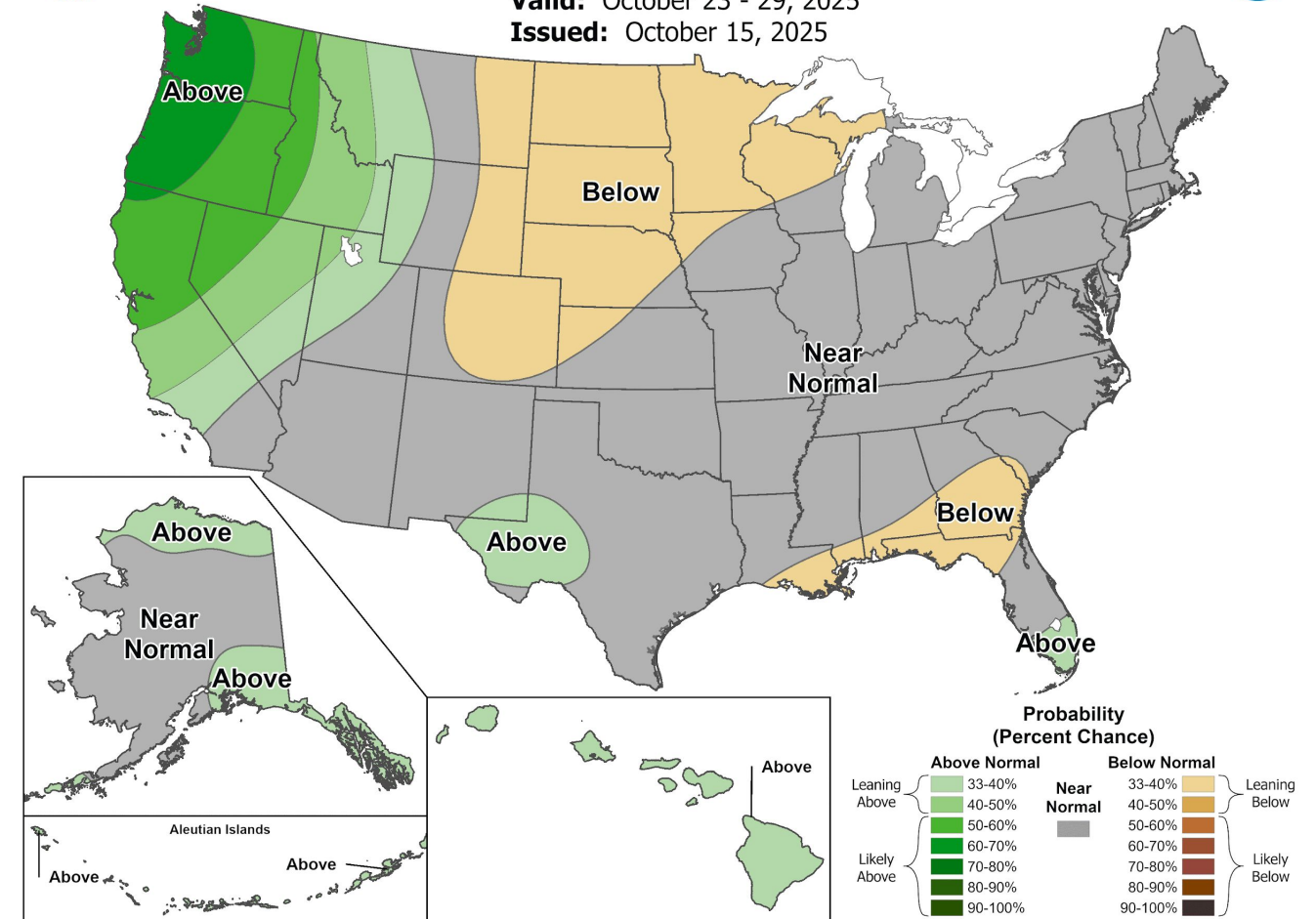
8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: October 23 - 29, 2025
Issued: October 15, 2025



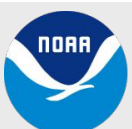
8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

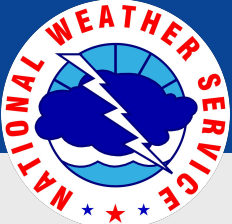
Valid: October 23 - 29, 2025
Issued: October 15, 2025



Main Takeaways

- Above normal temperatures and equal chances for below/above normal precipitation.





Monthly Outlooks

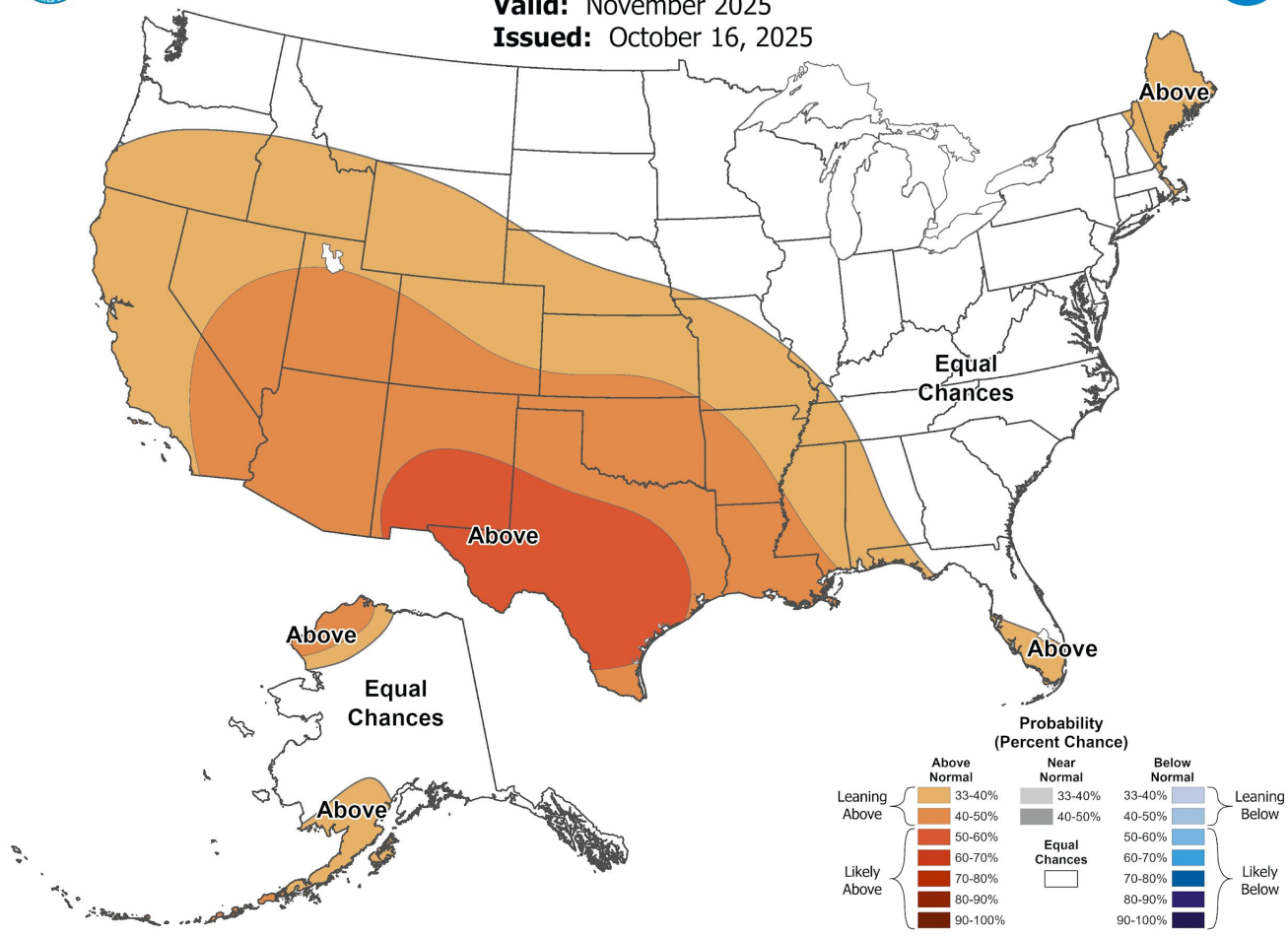
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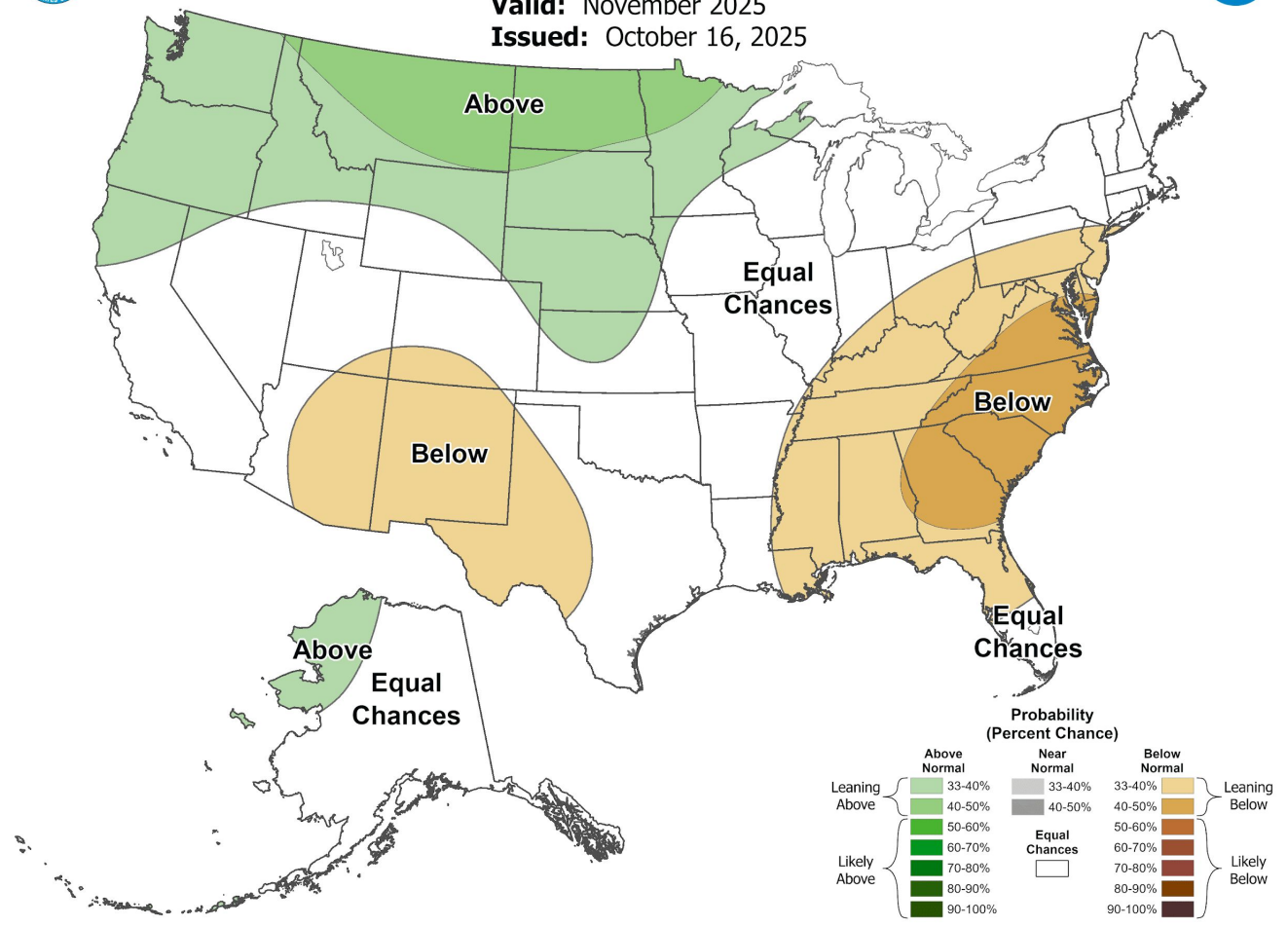
Monthly Temperature Outlook

Valid: November 2025
Issued: October 16, 2025



Monthly Precipitation Outlook

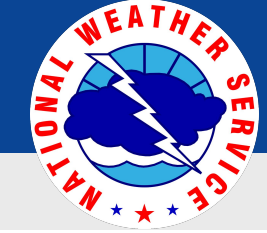
Valid: November 2025
Issued: October 16, 2025



Main Takeaways

- Leaning above normal temperatures and equal chances for below/above normal precipitation.





Seasonal Outlooks

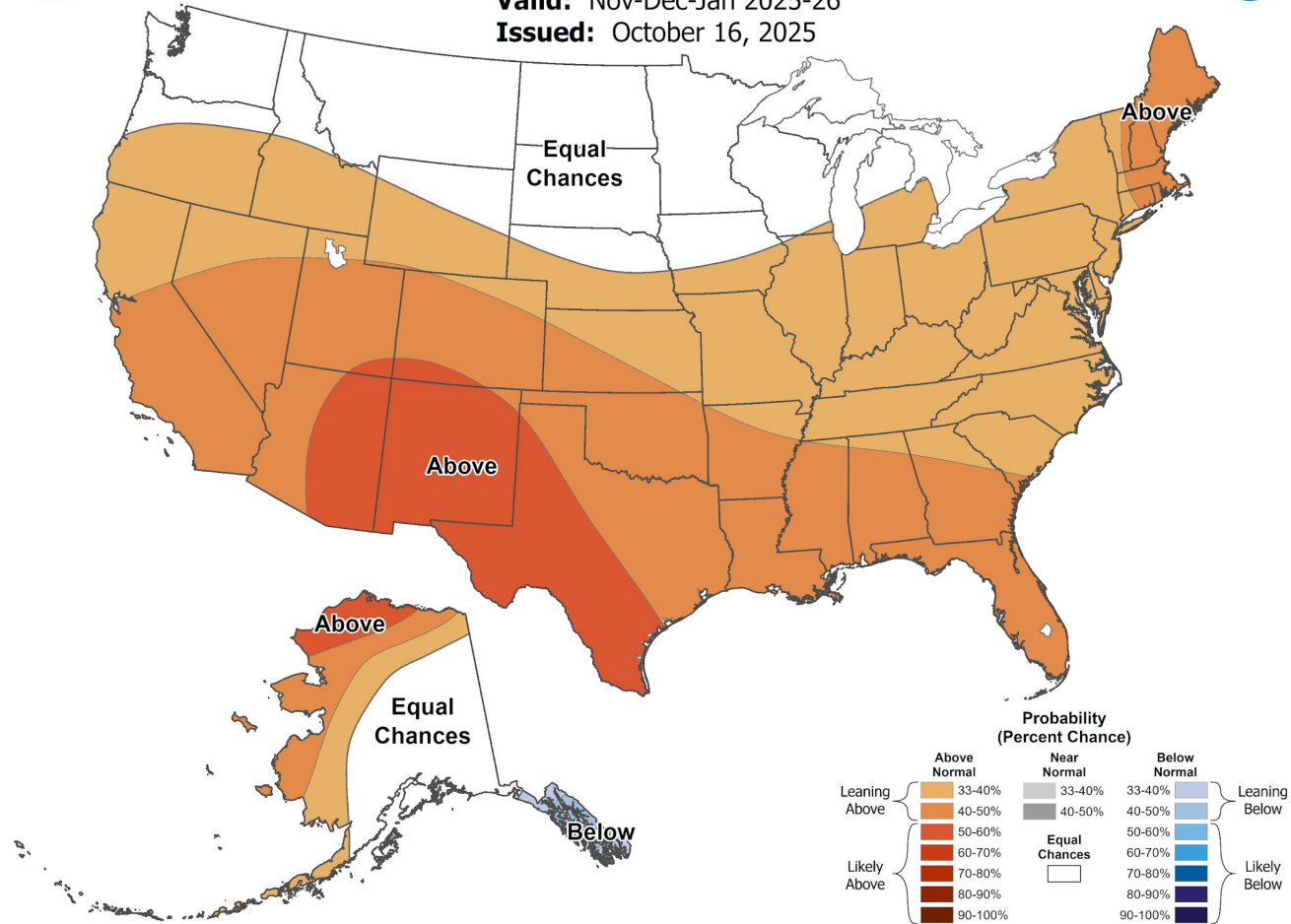
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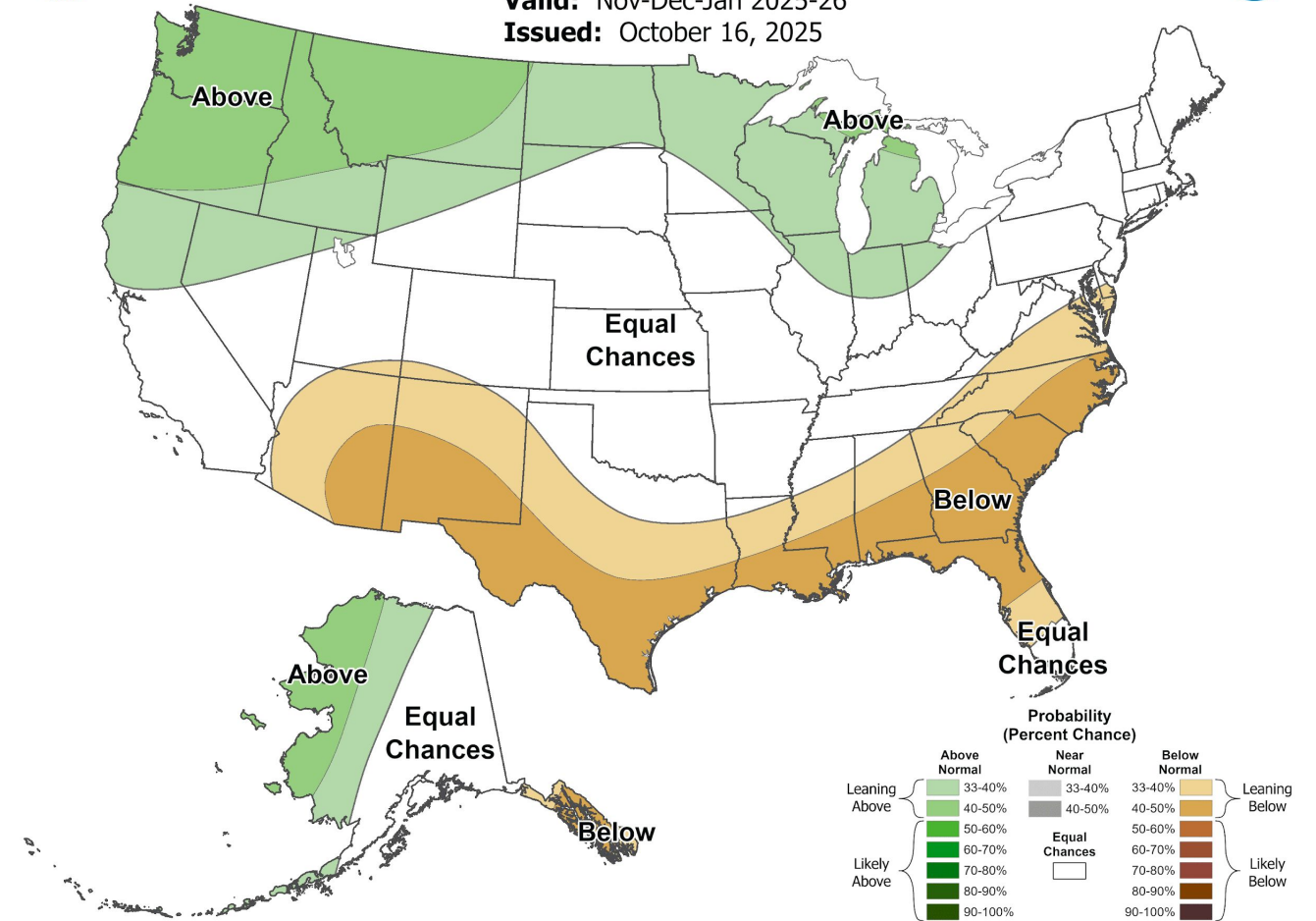
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Nov-Dec-Jan 2025-26
Issued: October 16, 2025



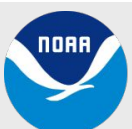
Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

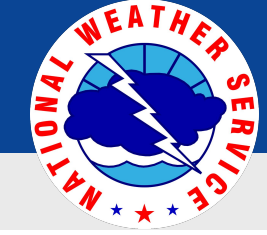
Valid: Nov-Dec-Jan 2025-26
Issued: October 16, 2025



Main Takeaways

- Leaning above normal temperatures and equal chances for below/above normal precipitation.



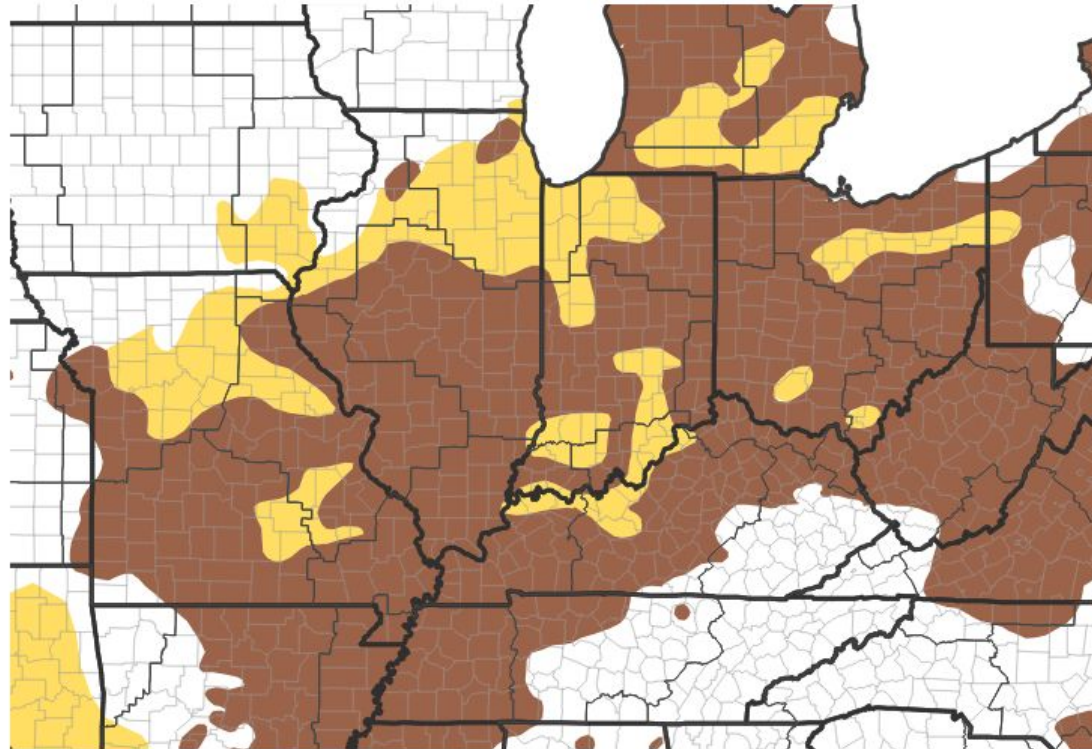


Drought Outlook

October 16, 2025
10:35 AM

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#) | [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

1-Month Drought Outlook for October 1, 2025–October 31, 2025



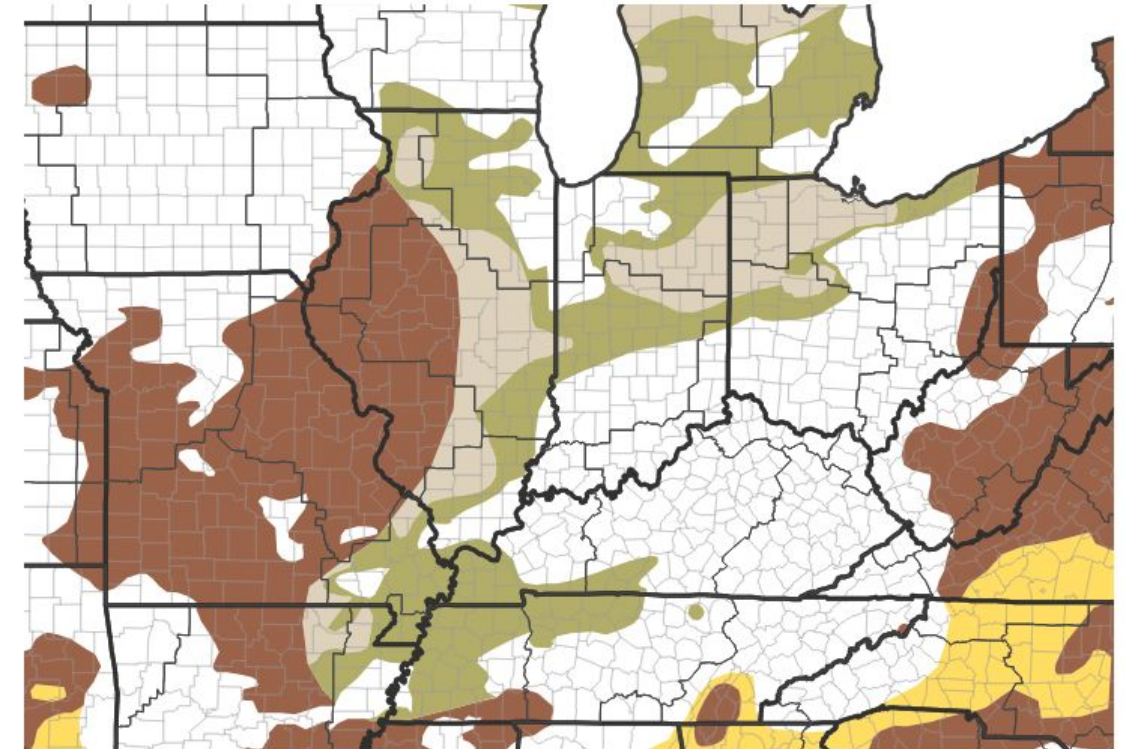
Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 09/30/25

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for October 16, 2025–January 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 10/16/25

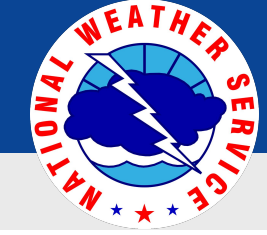
Main Takeaways

- Drought persists with further development from November through January.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Springfield, MO



For Additional Information

- [NWS Springfield Webpage](#) | [IDSS Point Forecasts](#)
- [NWS Springfield Drought Monitor Resources](#)
- [Graphical Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)
- [Missouri Drought Monitor](#) | [Kansas Drought Monitor](#)
- [Drought Monitor Archive](#)
- [CPC Drought Information](#)
- [National Integrated Drought Information System \(NIDIS\)](#)
- [National Drought Mitigation Center \(NDMC\)](#)
- [Missouri USGS Streamflows](#) | [Kansas USGS Streamflows](#)
- [Drought Safety](#)

Drought Impacts



Agriculture

Farms, ranches, and grazing lands suffer, and increases the cost of their products



Public Health

A decrease of water can lead to an increase of illness, disease, mortality rates, and adverse mental health



Ecosystems

Harms fish, wildlife, and plants, as well as the benefits these ecosystems provide



Wildfire Management

Dry, hot, and windy weather combined with dried out vegetation can lead to more large-scale wildfires



Manufacturing

Interruptions in the water supply can result in a reduction of productivity or closure of facilities



Energy

Production of all types of energy requires water, and drought can severely impact energy systems and prices



During a Drought be Vigilant

Conserve Water

Practice Fire Prevention

Follow Directions from Local Officials

Trinity Lake, CA, dry lakebed during California Drought, 2014. Photo: USGS

