

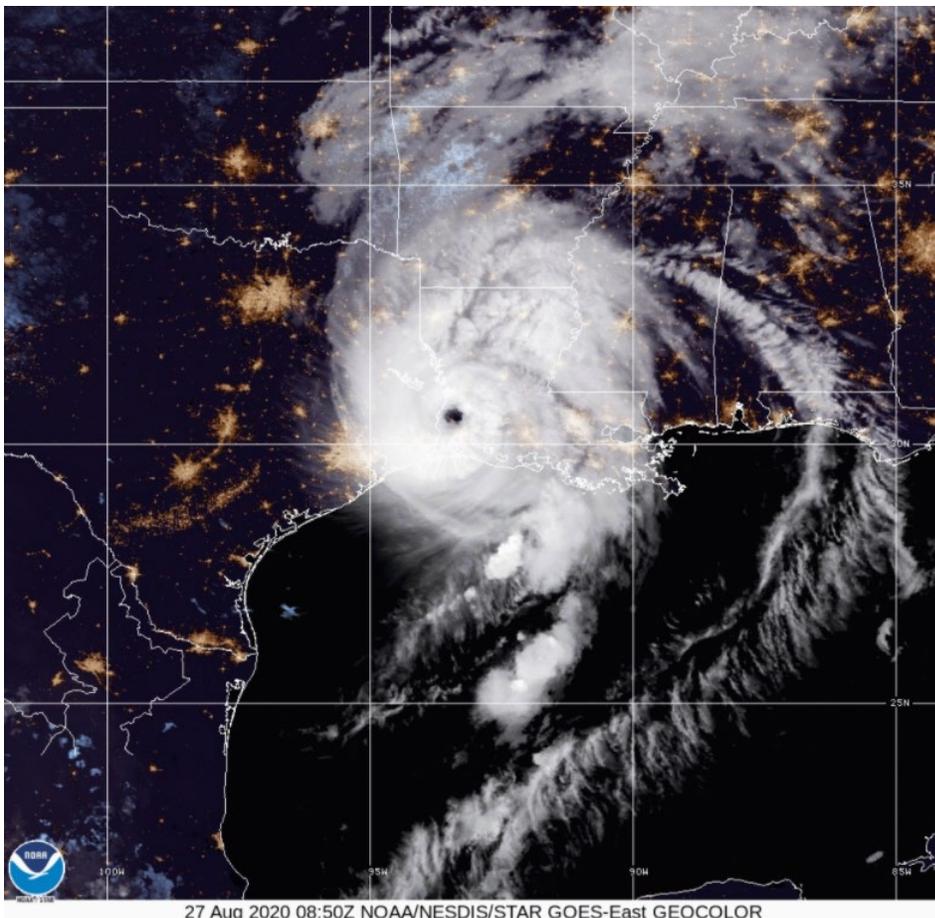
# Water and Climate Update

## August 27, 2020

The Natural Resources Conservation Service produces this weekly report using data and products from the [National Water and Climate Center](#) and other agencies. The report focuses on seasonal snowpack, precipitation, temperature, and drought conditions in the U.S.

Precipitation .....	2	Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators .....	11
Temperature.....	6	More Information .....	18
Drought .....	8		

### Hurricane Laura reaches landfall at Category 4



Hurricane Laura battered the Louisiana/Texas coastline Thursday morning after sweeping ashore as the region's strongest storm in over a century.

According to the National Weather Service, "Hurricane conditions from Laura are spreading farther inland across Louisiana this morning. Catastrophic storm surge, hurricane force winds, and flash flooding will continue."

Since making landfall as a Category 4 storm, Laura has since weakened to a Category 2 with winds of 110 mph.

**Related:**

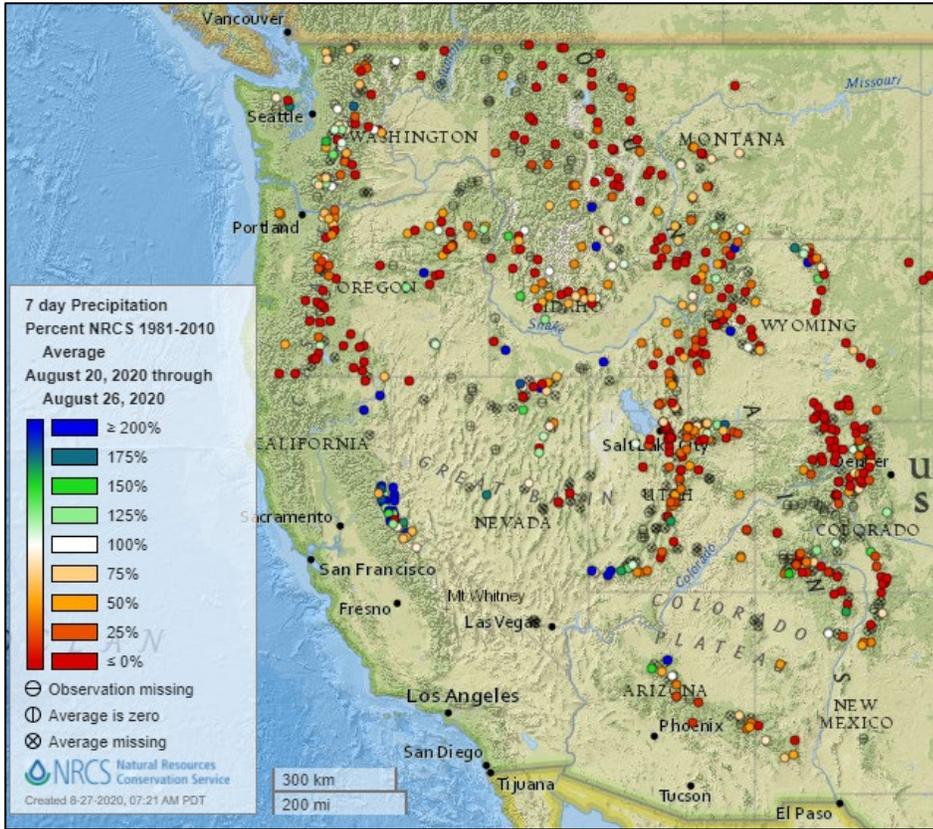
[Hurricane Laura packs the strongest winds the region has ever seen — but that's not the biggest threat](#)  
CBSNews

[Hurricane Laura Comes Ashore Threatening 'Unsurvivable' Storm Surge](#) NPR.org

[Hurricane Laura strikes Louisiana as Category 4 storm, battering Lake Charles area and bringing flood threat](#)  
Washington Post

# Precipitation

## Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

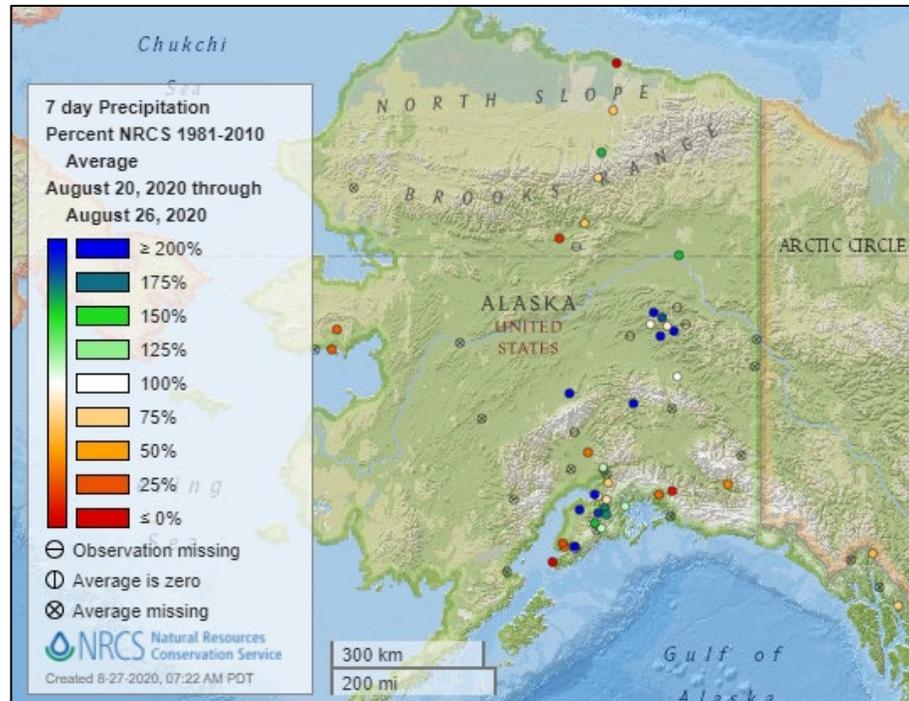


[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

**See also:**  
[7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

[Alaska 7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

**See also:**  
[Alaska 7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)



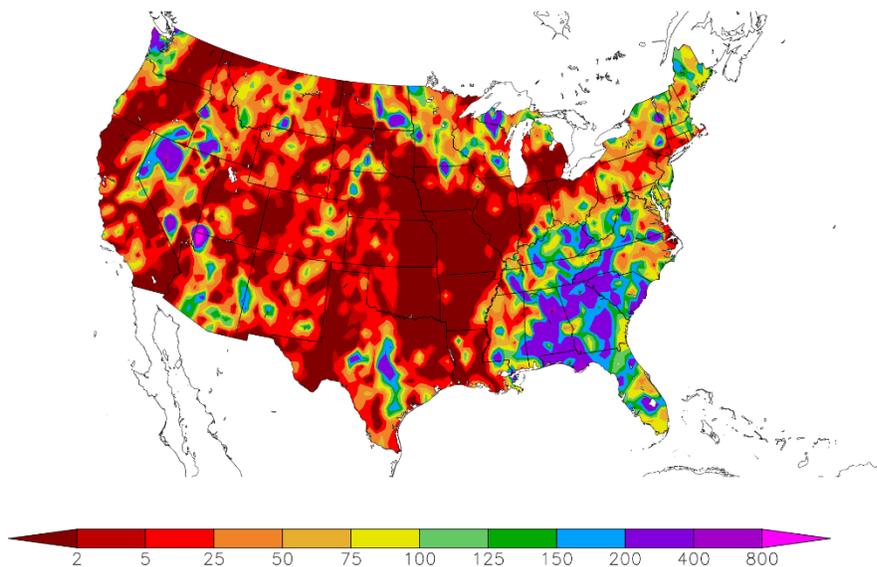
### Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day precipitation percent of normal map](#) for the continental U.S.

**See also:** [7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
8/19/2020 – 8/25/2020



Generated 8/26/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

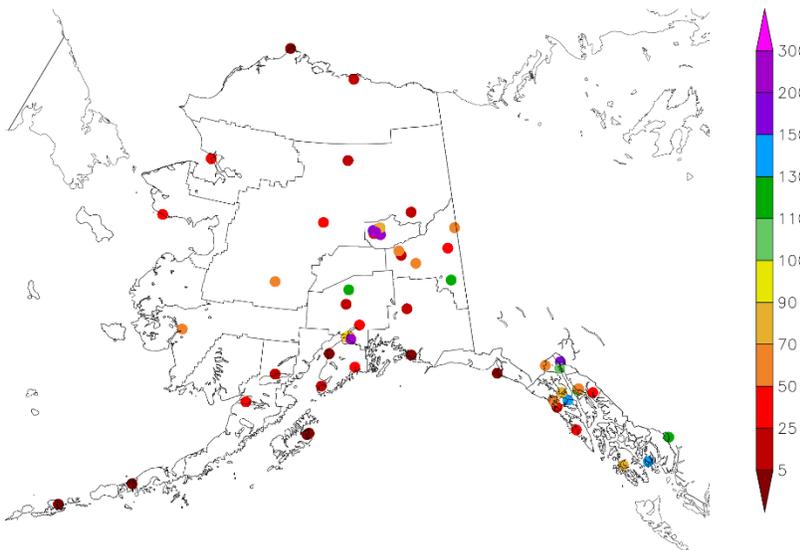
### Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day precipitation anomaly map](#) for Alaska.

**See also:** [7-day total precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
8/19/2020 – 8/25/2020



Generated 8/26/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

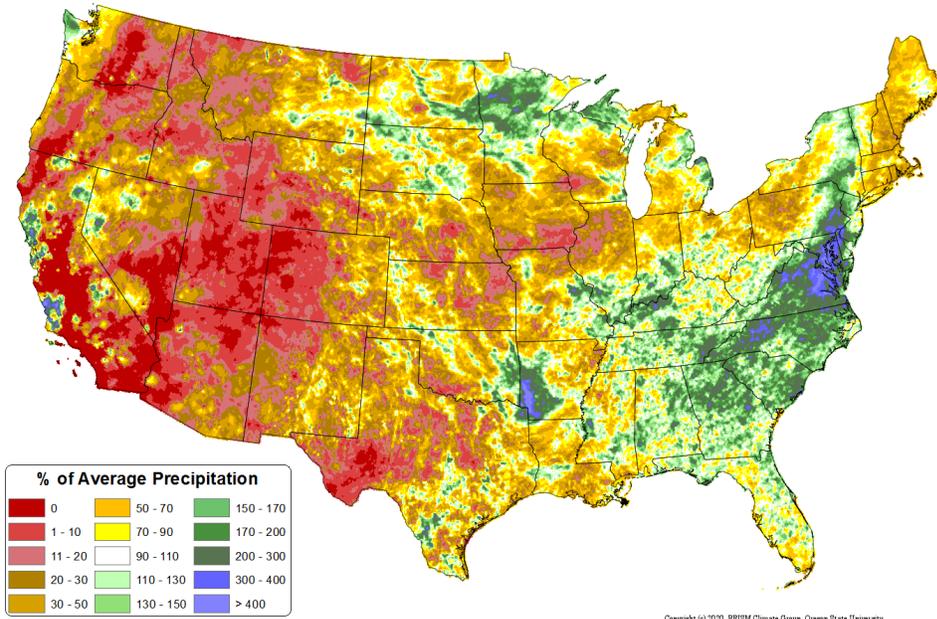
# Water and Climate Update

## Month to Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 Aug 2020 - 26 Aug 2020  
Period ending 7 AM EST 26 Aug 2020  
Base period: 1981-2010  
(Map created 27 Aug 2020)

[Month to date national total precipitation percent of average map](#)



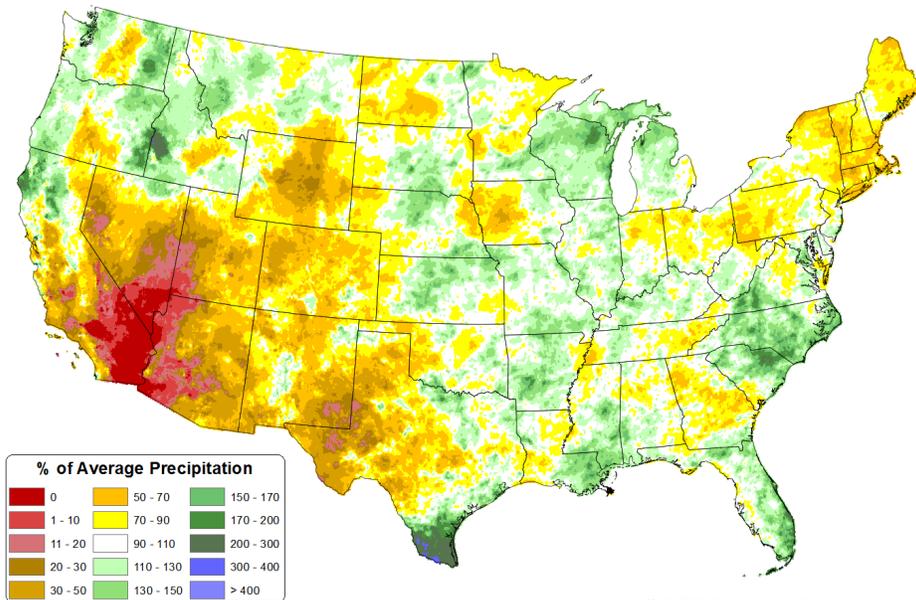
Copyright (c) 2020, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

## Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

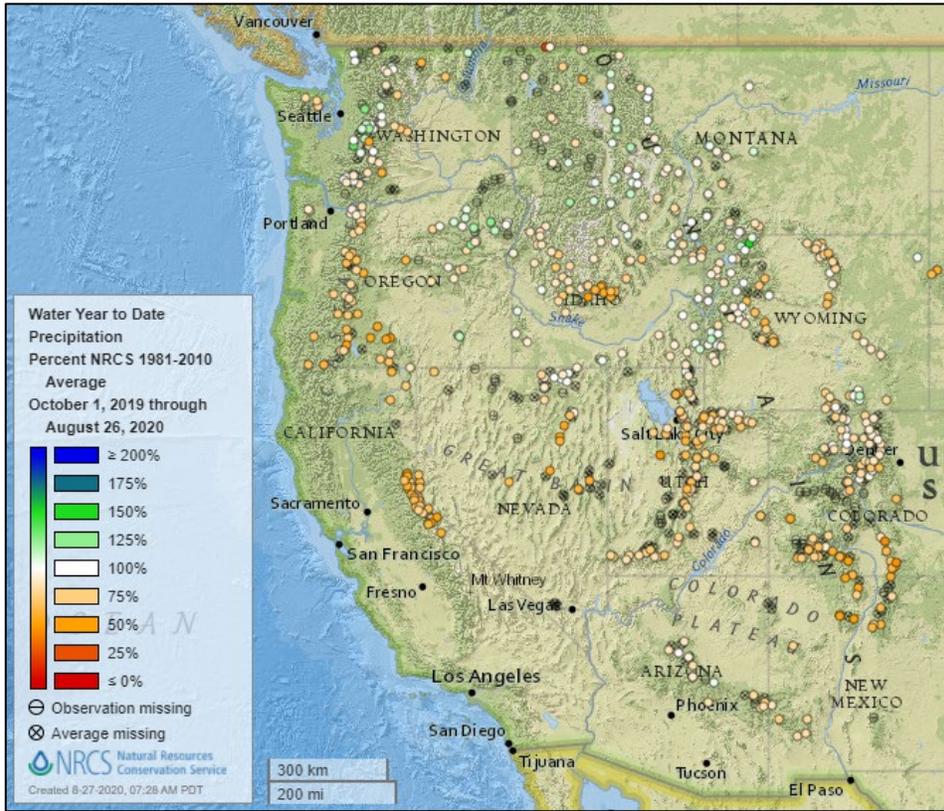
[May through July precipitation percent of average map](#)

Total Precipitation Anomaly: May 2020 - Jul 2020  
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Jul 2020  
Base period: 1981-2010  
(Map created 02 Aug 2020)



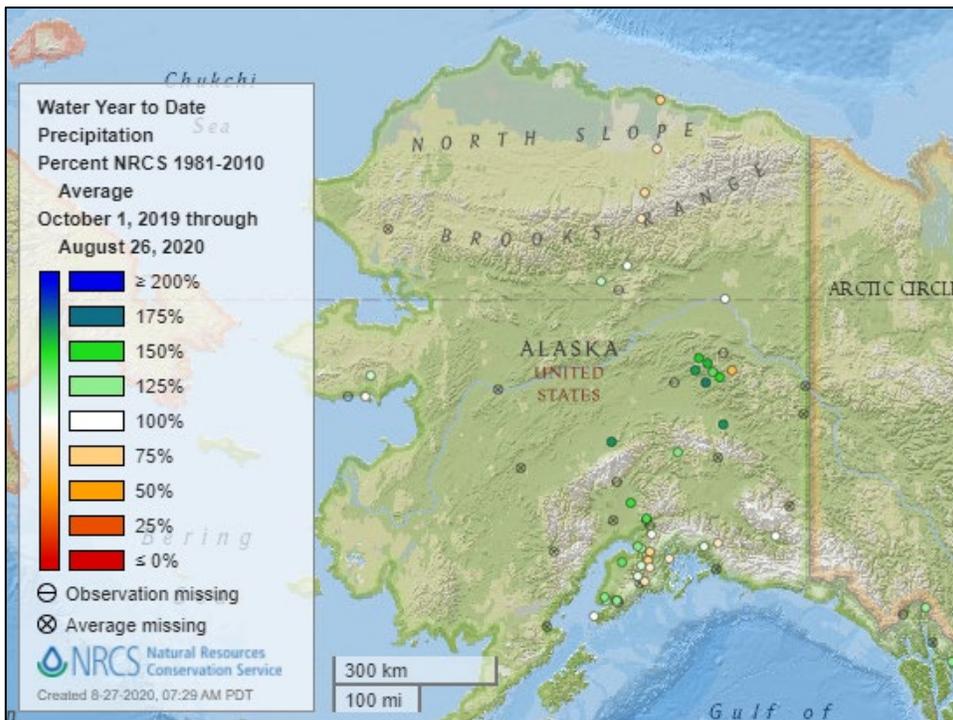
Copyright (c) 2020, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

Water Year-to-Date, NRCS SNOTEL Network



[2020 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

**See also:**  
[2020 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)



[Alaska 2020 water year-to-date precipitation percent of average map](#)

**See also:** [Alaska 2020 water year-to-date precipitation values \(inches\) map](#)

## Temperature

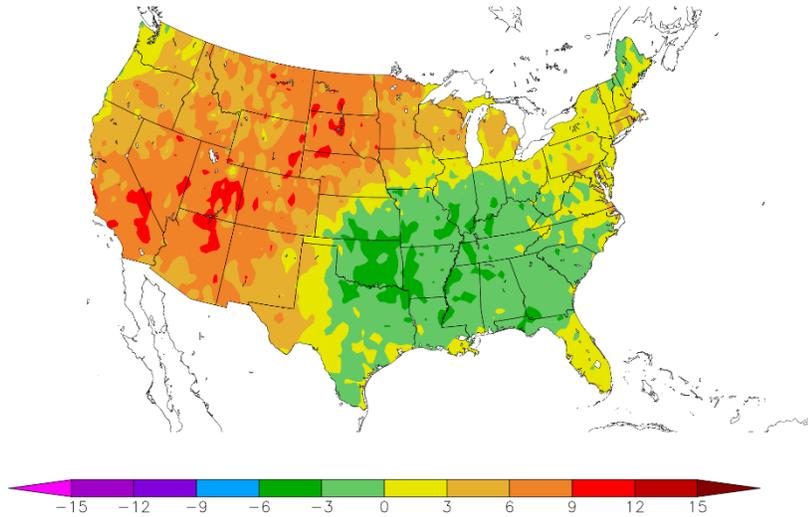
### Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day temperature anomaly map](#) for the contiguous U.S.

**See also:** [7-day temperature \(° F\) map](#)

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
8/19/2020 – 8/25/2020



Generated 8/26/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

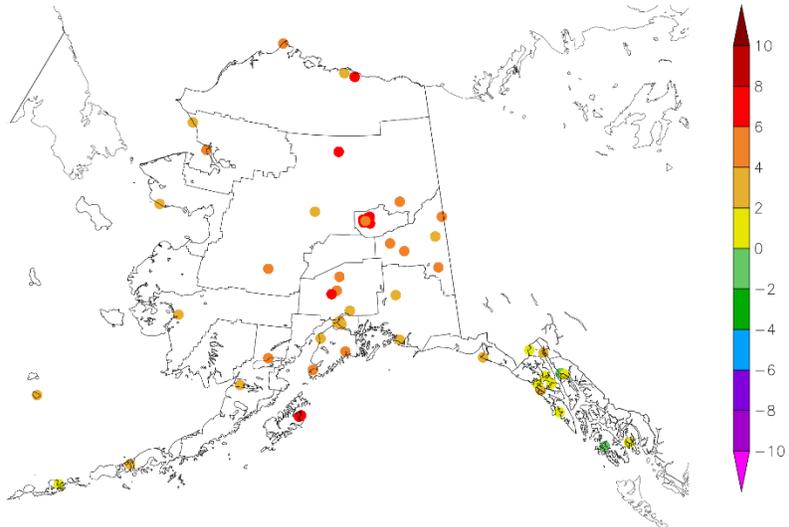
### Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

[7-day temperature anomaly map](#) for Alaska.

**See also:** [7-day temperature \(° F\) map](#)

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
8/19/2020 – 8/25/2020



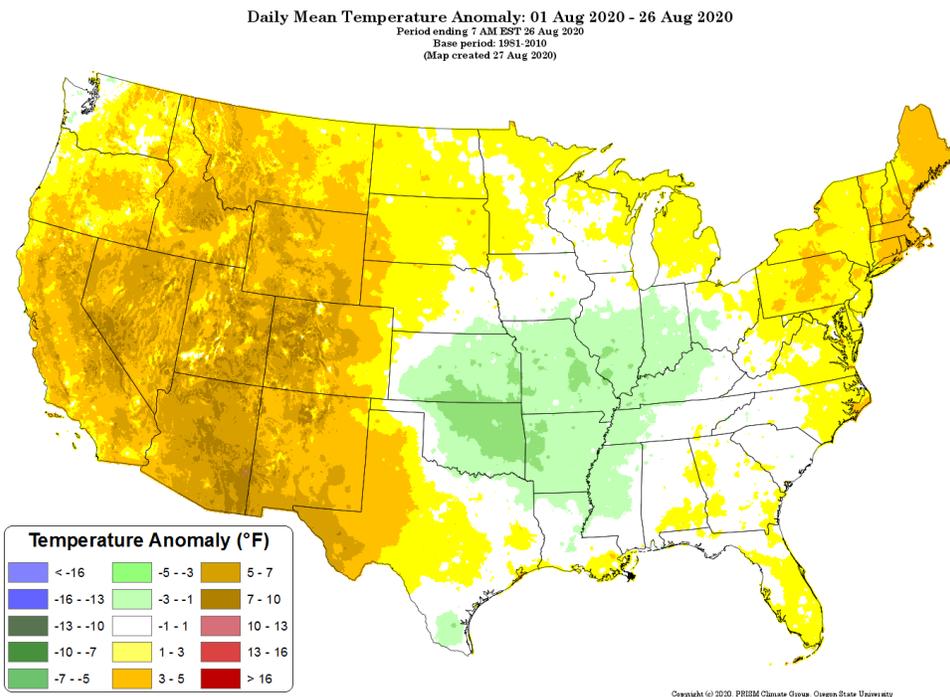
Generated 8/26/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

### Month to Date, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

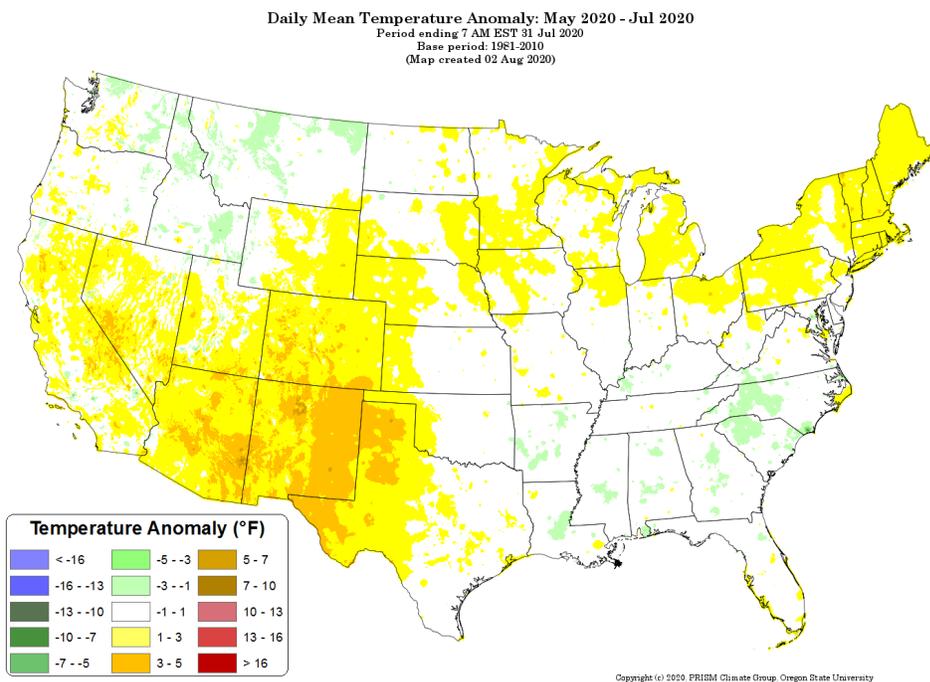
[Month to date national daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



### Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

[May through July 2020 daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



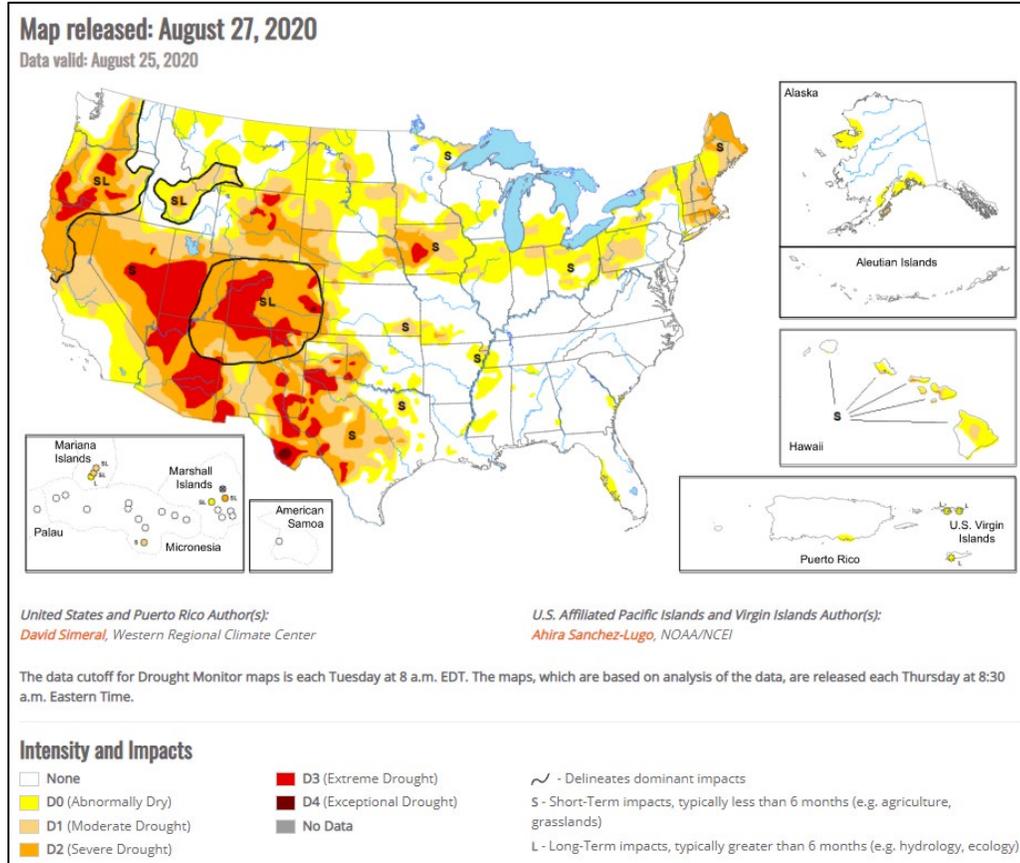
**Drought**

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

[U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA



**Current [National Drought Summary](#), August 27, 2020**

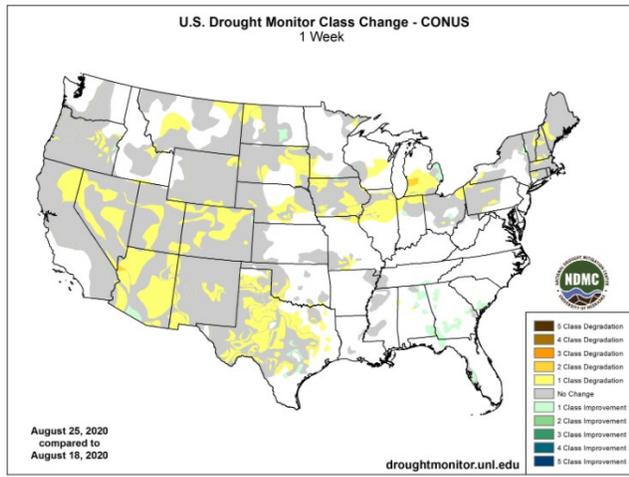
Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“This U.S. Drought Monitor week saw continued intensification of drought across parts of the western U.S. including Northern California, the Great Basin, Southwest, and parts of the Intermountain West where hot and dry conditions continued and large wildfires burned in California and Colorado. In Northern California, the National Interagency Coordinator Center is reporting 34 uncontained large fires with approximately 1,276,751 cumulative acres burned (all active fires) and more than 11,000 personnel deployed to the region. Further east, drought-related conditions continued to deteriorate in areas of West Texas where significant rainfall deficits (4 to 8 inches) have been mounting during the past 90 days as well as extreme heat and drying winds that have stressed crops and degraded rangeland conditions. In the Trans Pecos region of western Texas, the August 2019 to July 2020 period was the warmest on record—according to the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI). Along the Gulf Coast of Louisiana, Tropical Storm Marco made landfall this week, but fortunately weakened before making landfall causing no significant damage. A much more powerful storm, Hurricane Laura (Category 4), is expected, however, to make a Gulf Coast landfall along the border of Louisiana and Texas on Thursday (August 27)—where a life-threatening storm surge, hurricane-force winds, and widespread flash flooding are expected. In the Midwest, above-normal temperatures and dryness in Iowa during the past 90-day period (3-to-7 inch rainfall deficits) led to expansion of areas of drought statewide. In the Northeast, areas of drought intensified in portions of the region including New Hampshire where streamflow levels were well-below-normal level (<10th percentile) and reports of some agricultural impacts emerged.”

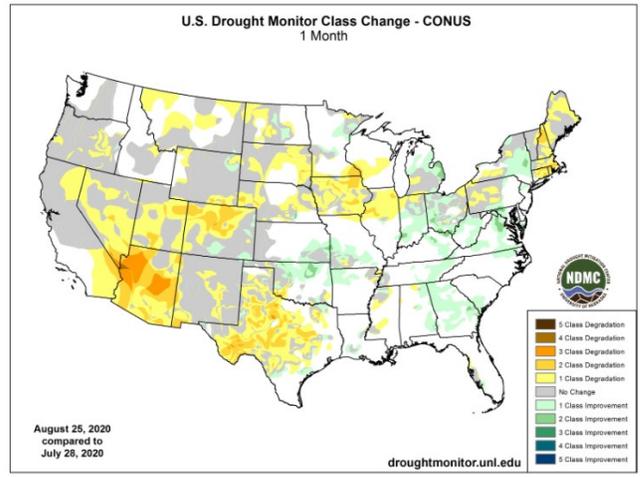
## Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

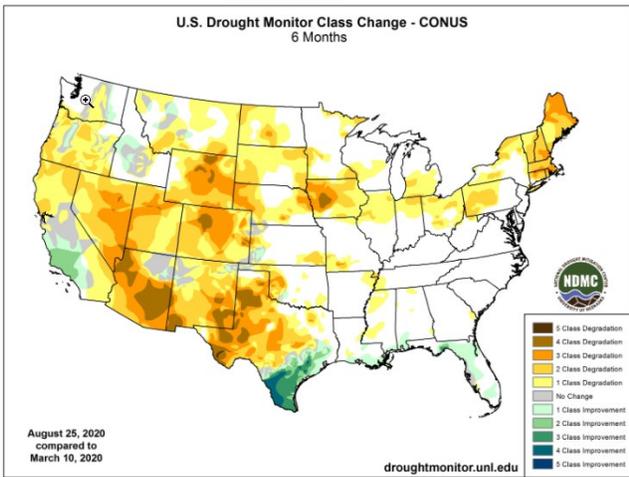
### 1 Week



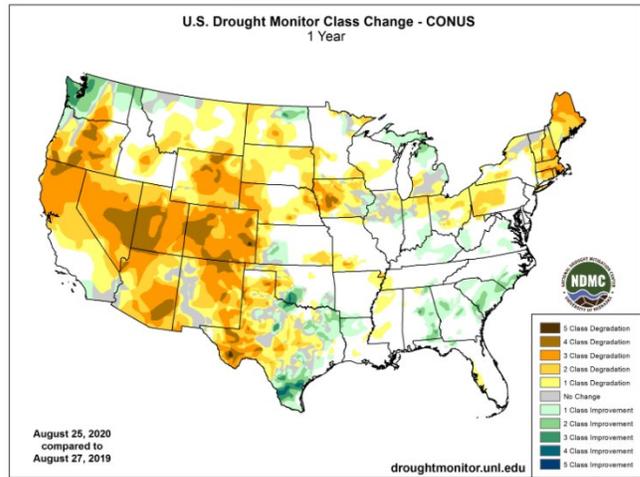
### 1 Month



### 6 Months



### 1 Year



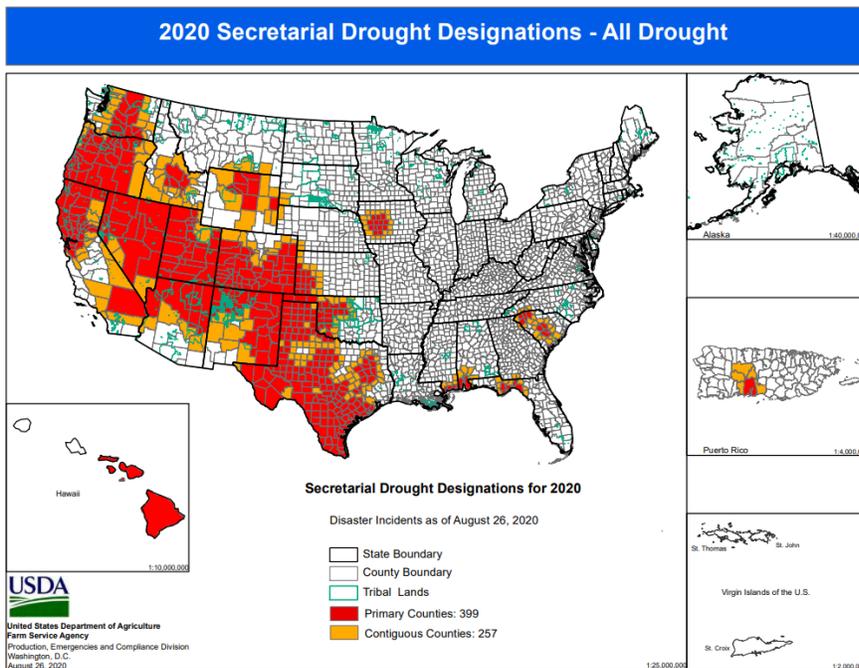
[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.](#)

## Highlighted Drought Resources

- [Drought Impact Reporter](#)
- [Quarterly Regional Climate Impacts and Outlook](#)
- [U.S. Drought Portal Indicators and Monitoring](#)
- [U.S. Population in Drought, Weekly Comparison](#)
- [USDA Disaster and Drought Information](#)

## Secretarial Drought Designations

Source: USDA Farm Service Agency



## Wildfires: USDA Forest Service Active Fire Mapping



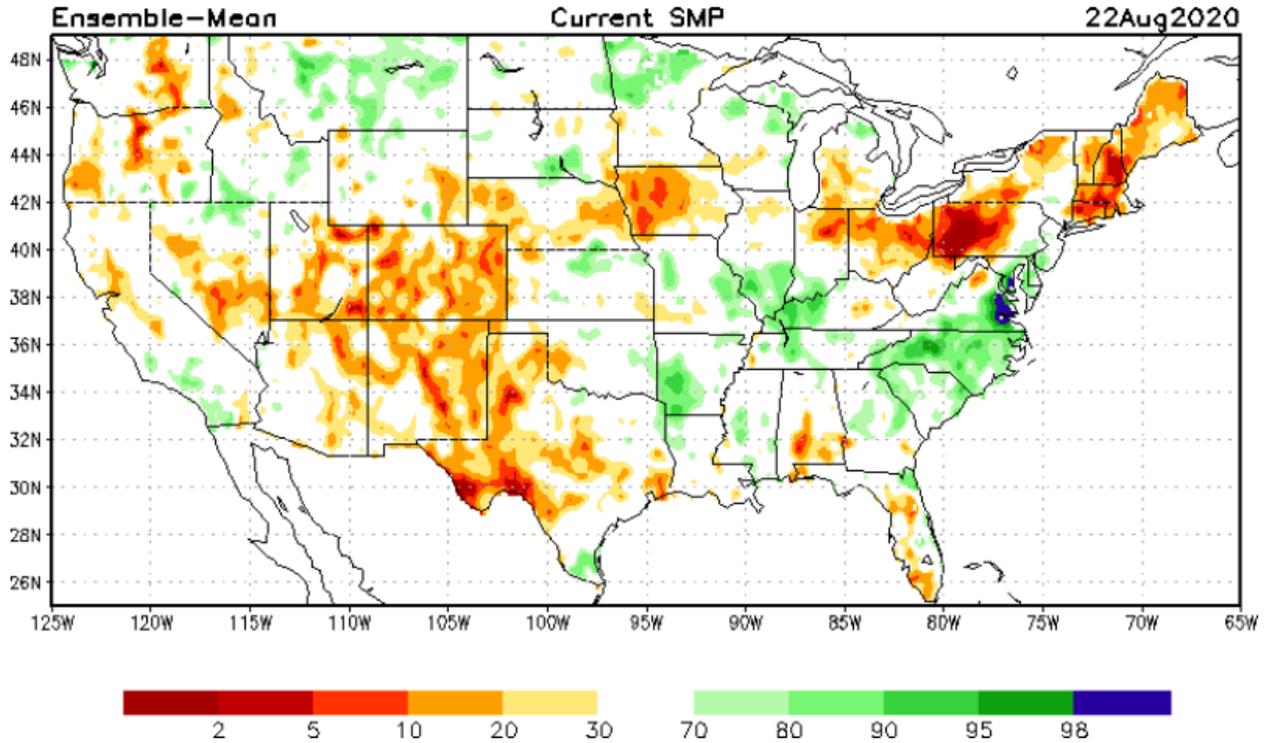
### Highlighted Wildfire Resources

- [National Interagency Fire Center](#)
- [InciWeb Incident Information System](#)
- [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook](#)

## Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

### Soil Moisture

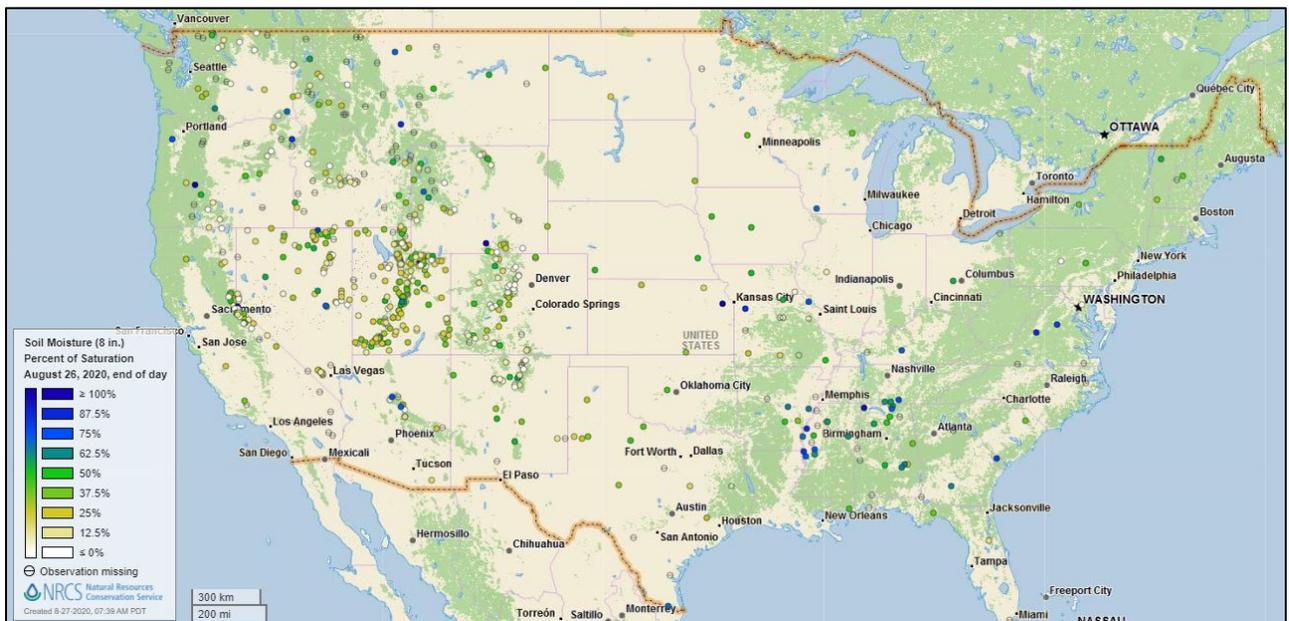
Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of August 22, 2020

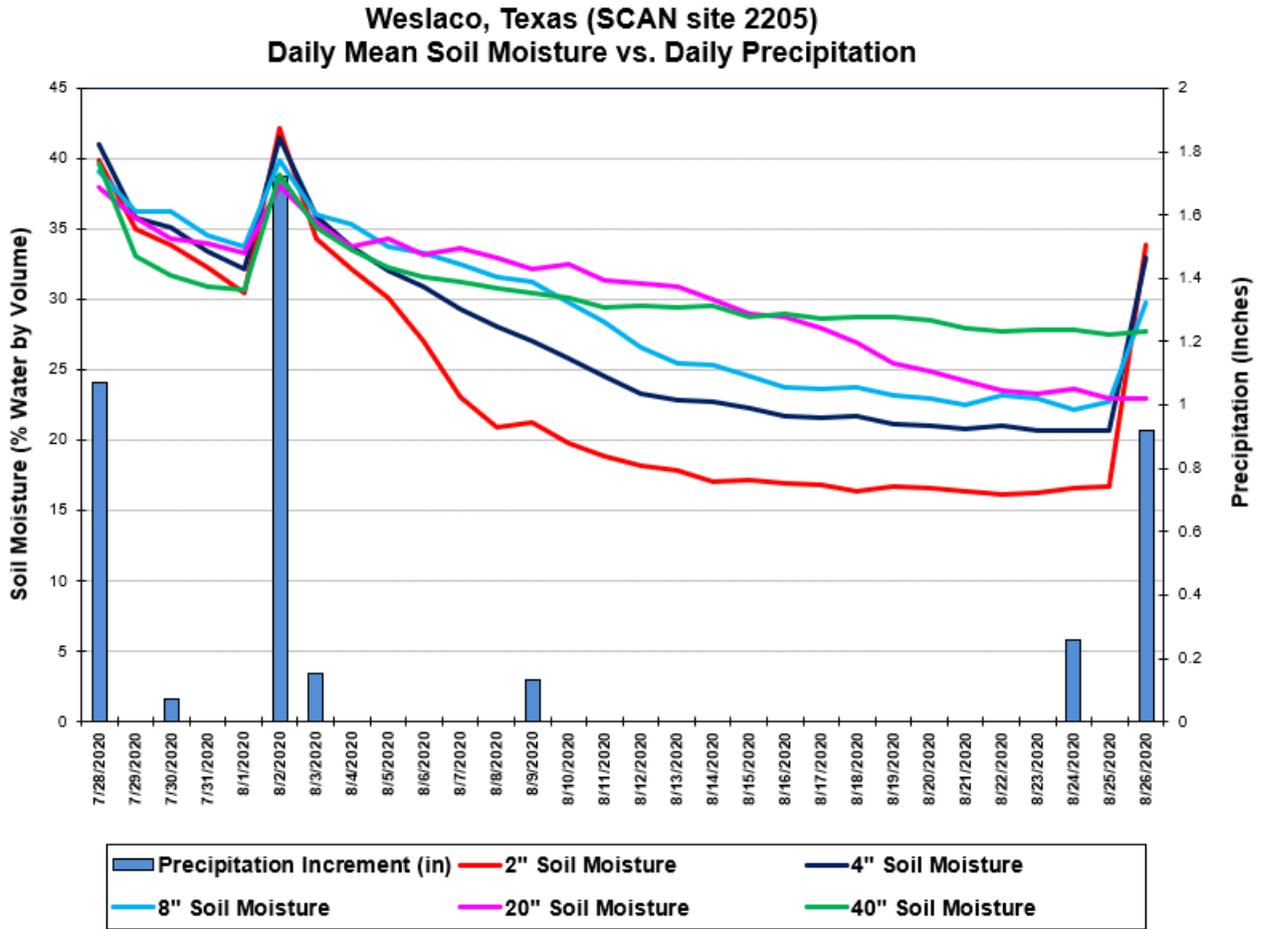
### Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

Source: NRCS SNOTEL and [Soil Climate Analysis Network](#) (SCAN)



**Soil Moisture**

Source: NRCS [Soil Climate Analysis Network](#) (SCAN)



This chart shows the precipitation and soil moisture for the last 30 days at the [Weslaco](#) SCAN site in Texas. Several precipitation events throughout the month impacted soil moisture at the site, with the most recent event increasing soil moisture at the -2", -4", and -8" sensors.

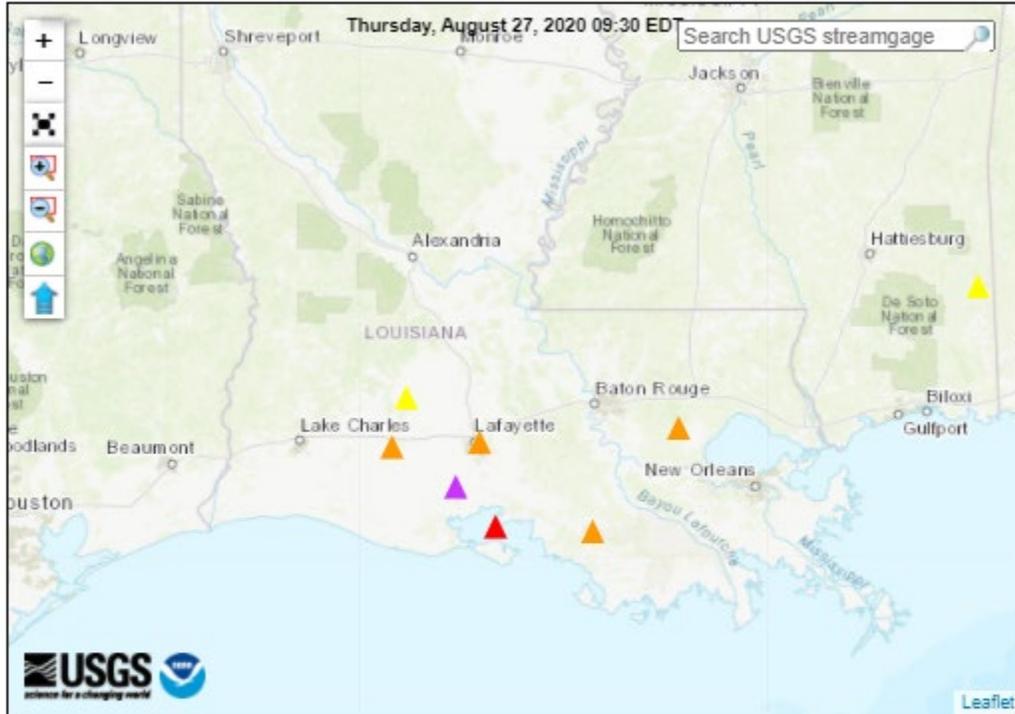
**Soil Moisture Data Portals**

- [CRN Soil Moisture](#)
- [Texas A&M University North American Soil Moisture Database](#)
- [University of Washington Experimental Modeled Soil Moisture](#)

**Streamflow, Drought, Flood, and Runoff**

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

**Map of flood and high flow conditions**  
 (11 in floods [major: 2, moderate: 1, minor: 8], 10 in near-flood)



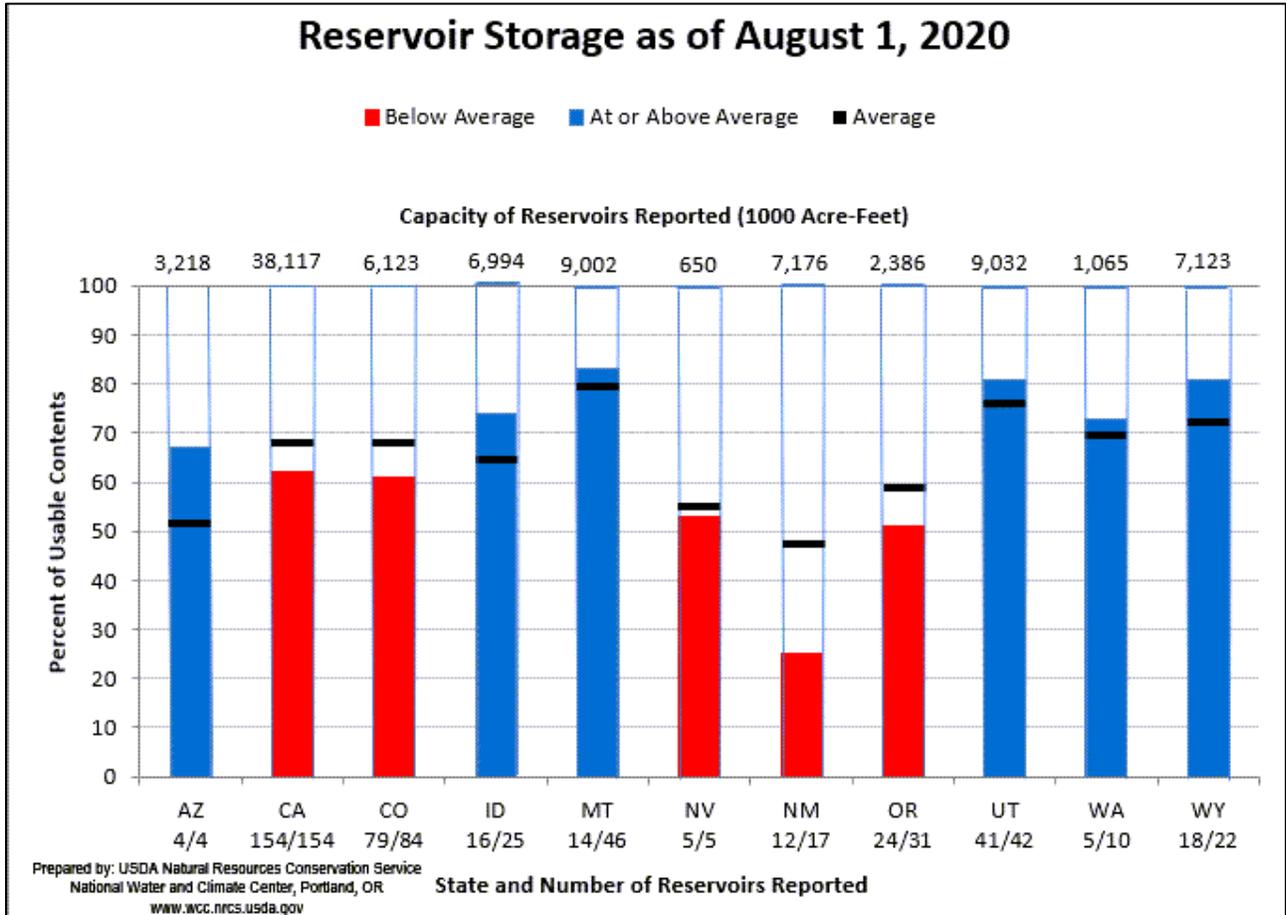
Explanation - Percentile classes						
<95	95-98	>= 99	Above action stage	Above flood stage	Above moderate flood stage	Above major flood stage
			△ Streamgage with flood stage	○ Streamgage without flood stage		

[WaterWatch: Streamflow, drought, flood, and runoff conditions](#)

## Reservoir Storage

### Western States Reservoir Storage

Source: NRCS National Water and Climate Center



August 1, 2020 Reservoir Storage: [Chart](#) | [Dataset](#)

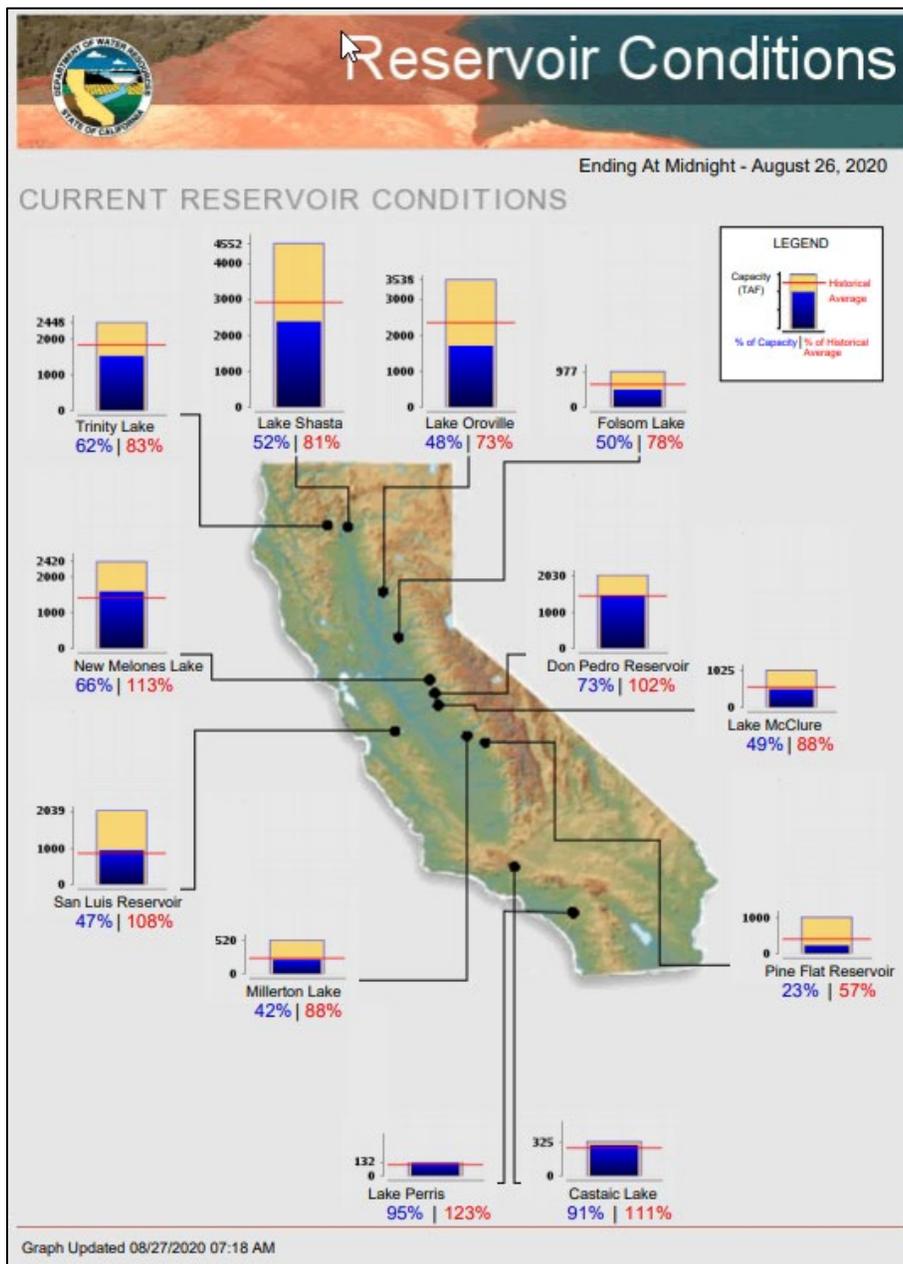
### Hydromet Teacup Reservoir Depictions

Source: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

- [Upper Colorado](#)
- [Pacific Northwest/Snake/Columbia](#)
- [Sevier River Water, Utah](#)
- [Upper Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas](#)

**Current California Reservoir Conditions**

Source: California Department of Water Resources



[Current California Reservoir Conditions](#)

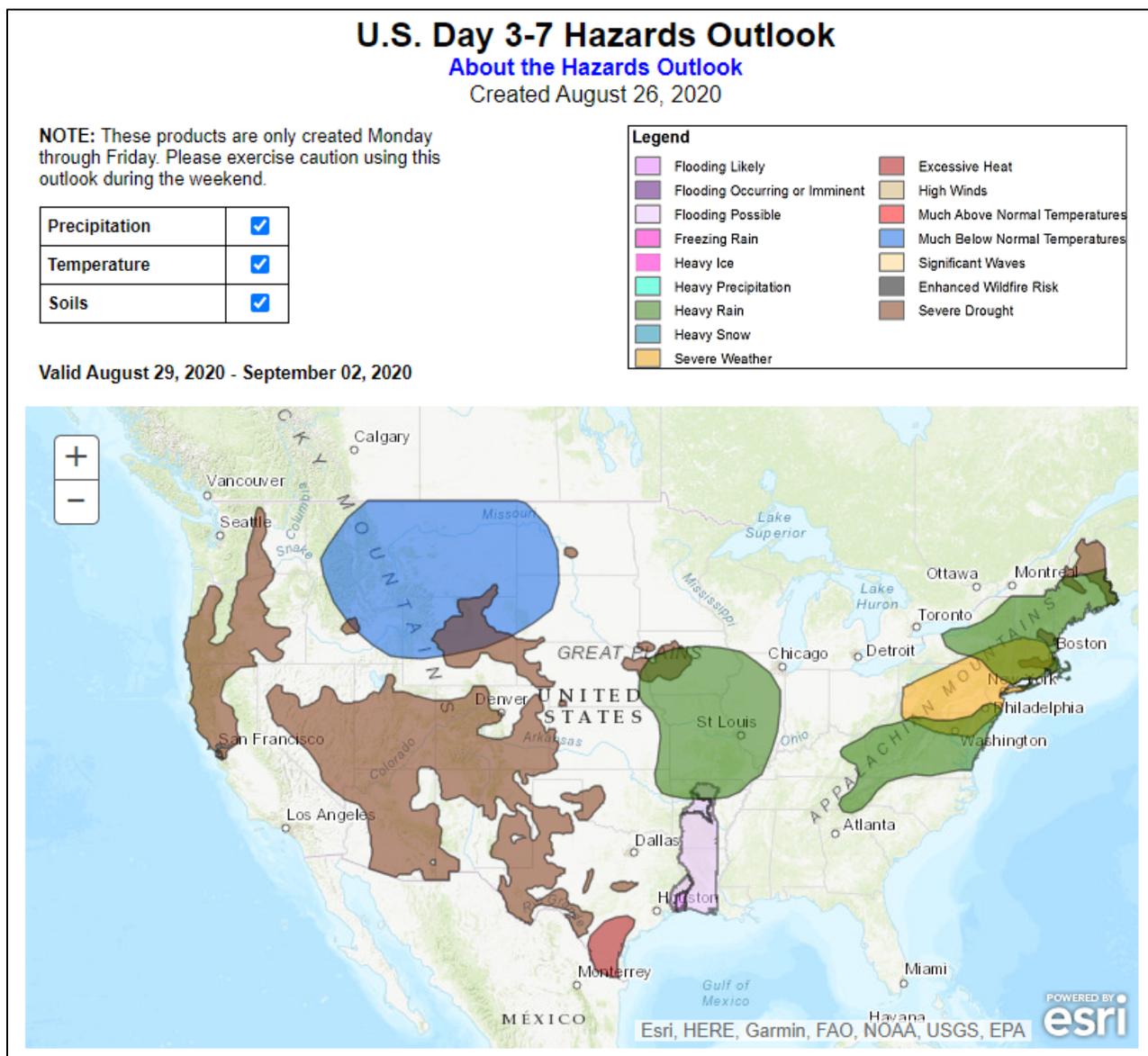
### Agricultural Weather Highlights

Author: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB

**National Outlook, Thursday, August 27, 2020:** “Later today, Laura will weaken to tropical-storm intensity while moving into Arkansas. Nevertheless, flash flooding will remain a concern as the storm crosses the mid-South and the Tennessee Valley. The storm’s remnant circulation will turn eastward during the weekend, reaching the mid-Atlantic Coast late Saturday. Meanwhile, showers associated with a cold front will sweep across the Midwest and Northeast. Farther west, another cold front will sweep across the Plains and Midwest, trailed by sharply cooler air. By early next week, temperatures should fall below 40°F across the northern High Plains. Hot weather will prevail, however, in most areas from the Pacific Coast to the Rio Grande Valley. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for September 1 – 5 calls for the likelihood of above-normal temperatures in the Pacific Coast States, as well as the southern and eastern U.S., while cooler-than-normal conditions will cover much of the Rockies, Plains, and upper Midwest. Meanwhile, below-normal rainfall in the Dakotas, Pacific Northwest, Four Corners States, and the western Gulf Coast region should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather across most of the eastern half of the U.S.”

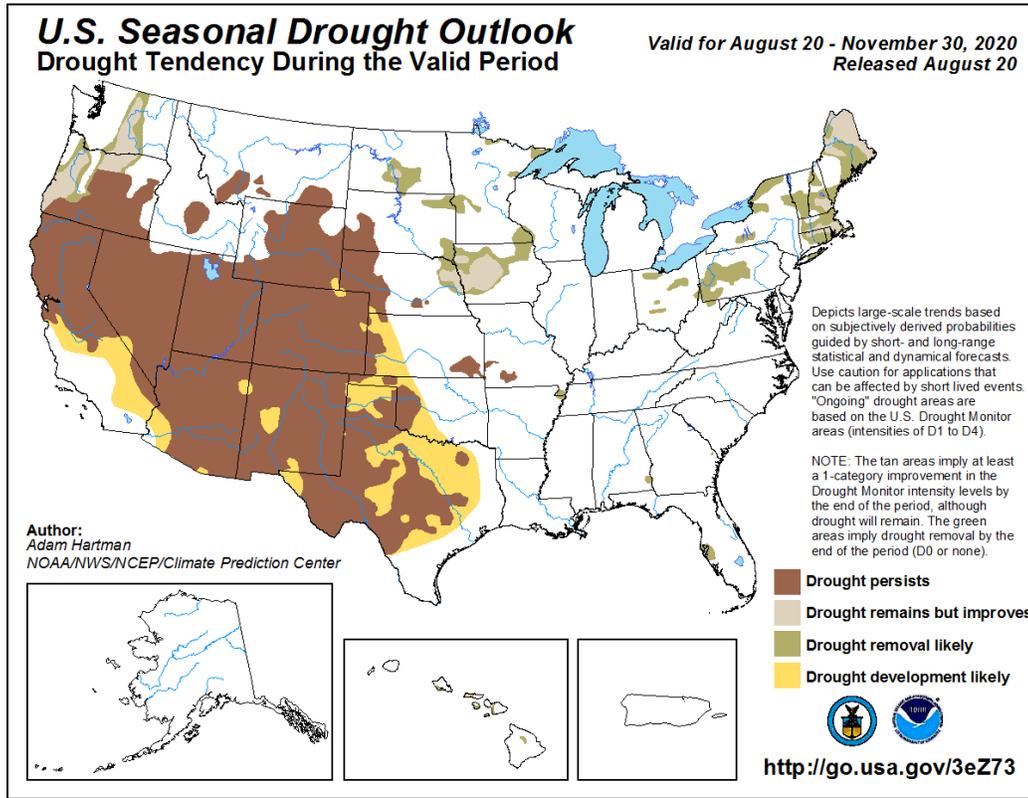
### Weather Hazards Outlook: [August 29 – September 2, 2020](#)

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center



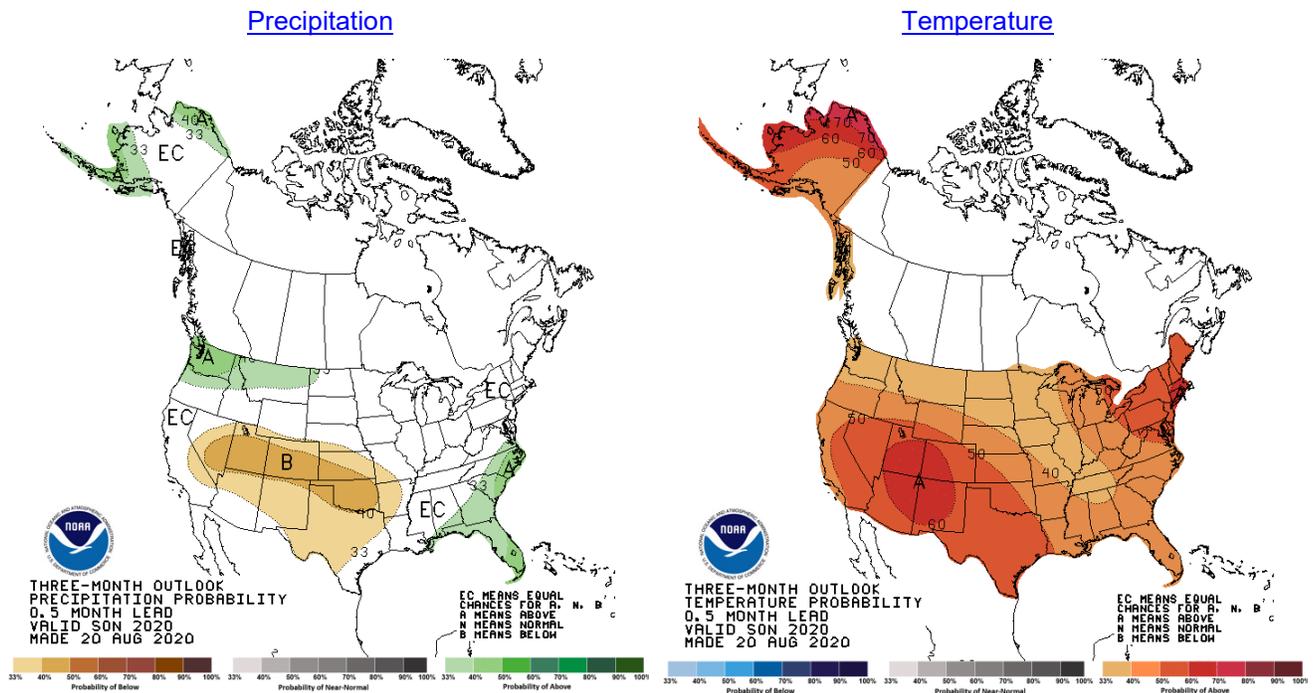
**Seasonal Drought Outlook: [August 20 – November 30, 2020](#)**

Source: National Weather Service



**Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook**

Source: National Weather Service



[September-October-November \(SON\) 2020 precipitation and temperature outlook summaries](#)

## More Information

The NRCS [National Water and Climate Center](#) publishes this weekly report. We welcome your feedback. If you have questions or comments, please [contact us](#).