



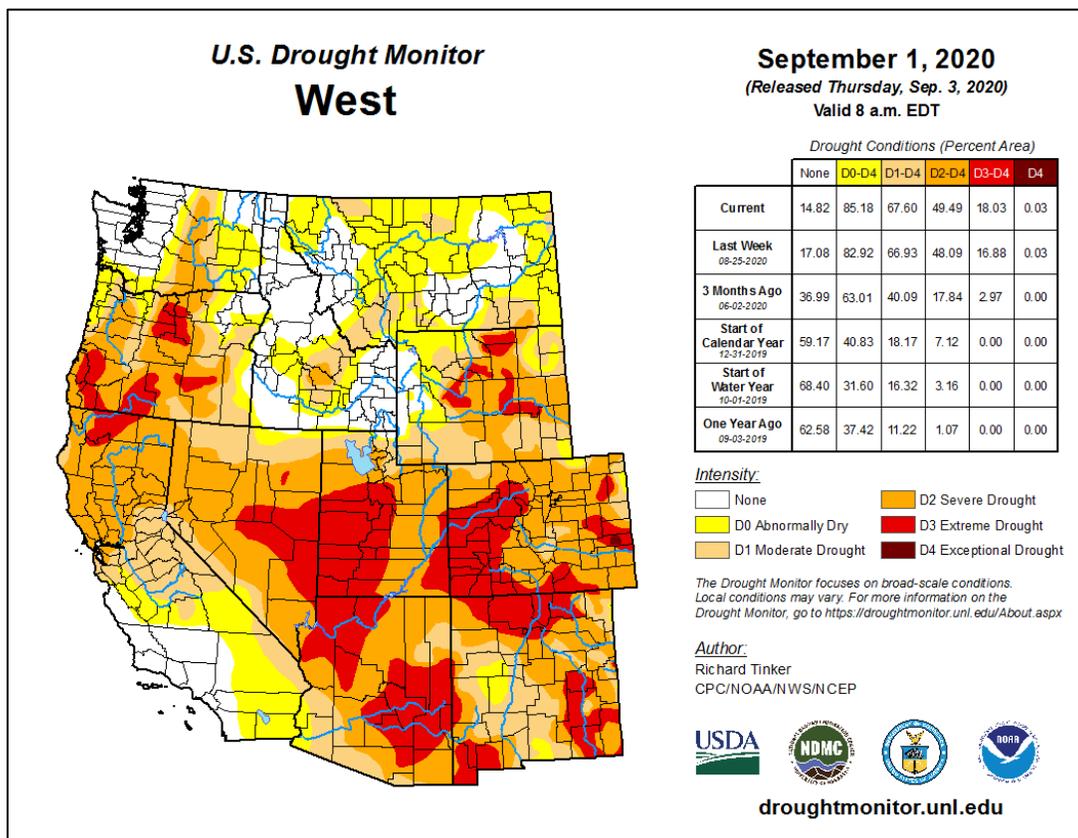
Water and Climate Update

September 3, 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	1	Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators	11
Temperature.....	6	More Information	17
Drought	8		

Drought conditions worsen in the western U.S.



Extreme and severe drought conditions continue to impact much of the West as of September 3. As this map from the U.S. Drought Monitor illustrates, over 67% of the region is experiencing moderate to extreme drought. One year ago, only 11% of the same area was in drought. Intense heat in California and the Southwest is forecast to continue this week.

Related:

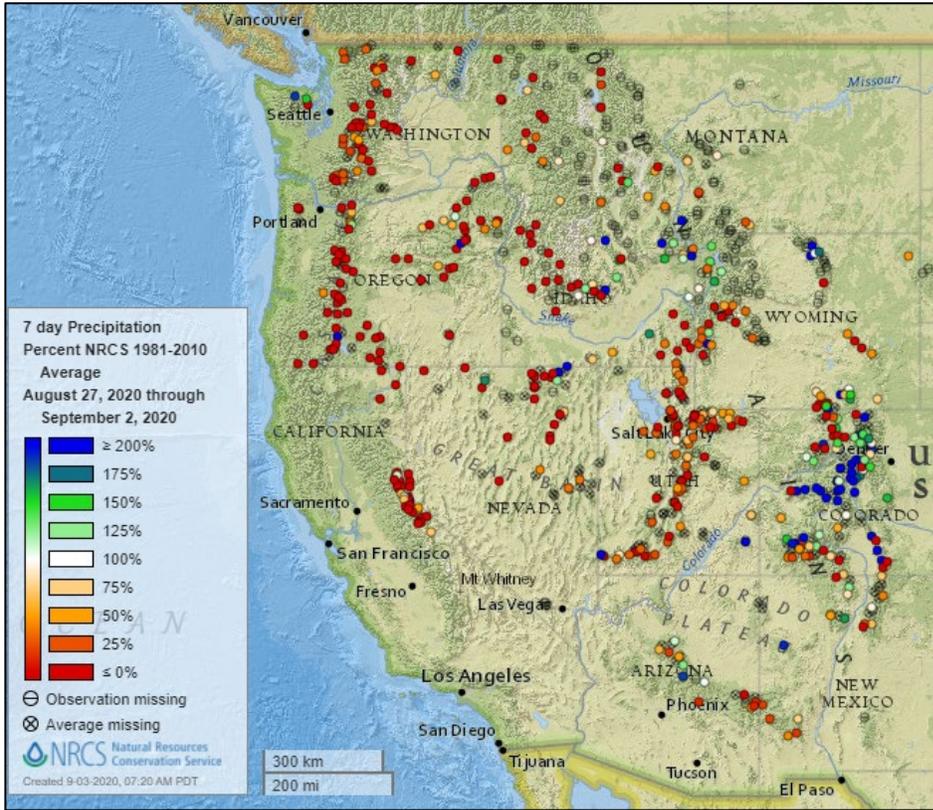
[How coronavirus and drought have combined to affect Colorado's limited water supply](#) The Colorado Sun

[A Long, Hot Summer Worsens Drought Conditions Across the U.S.](#) Forbes

[Heat, drought make for miserable combo for southwest US](#) St George News

Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

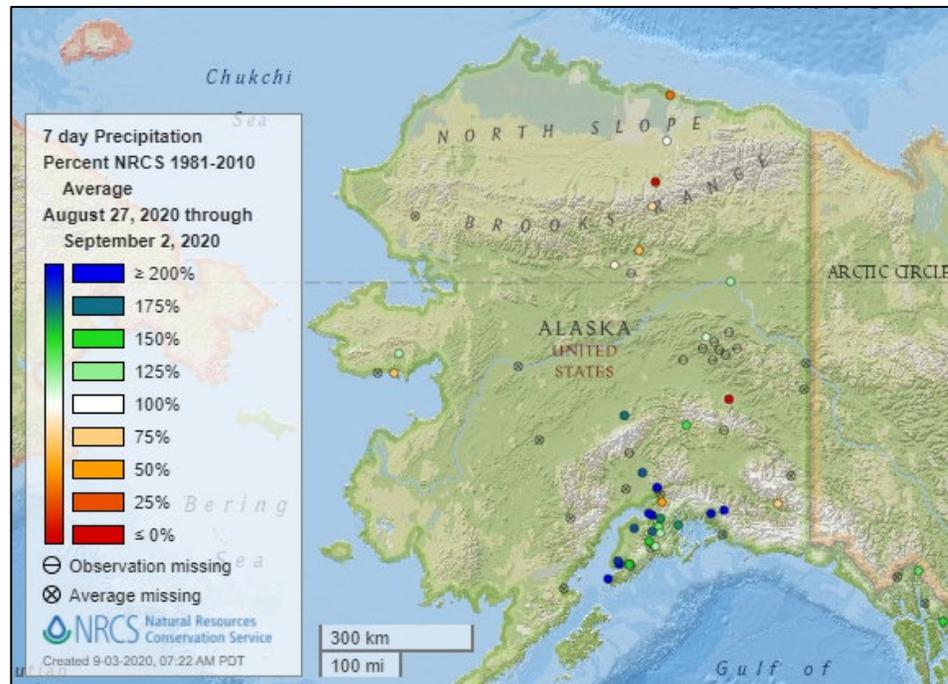


[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

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](#)



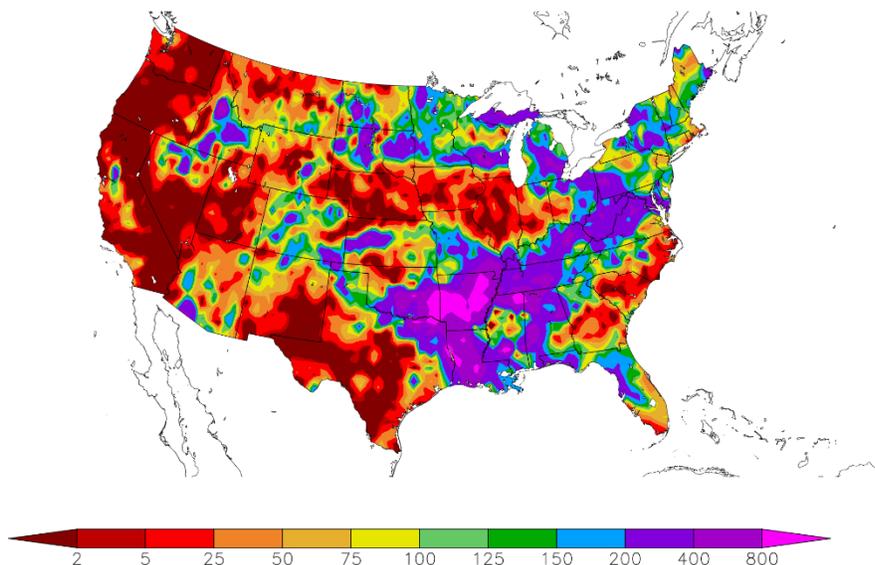
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%)
8/26/2020 – 9/1/2020



Generated 9/2/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

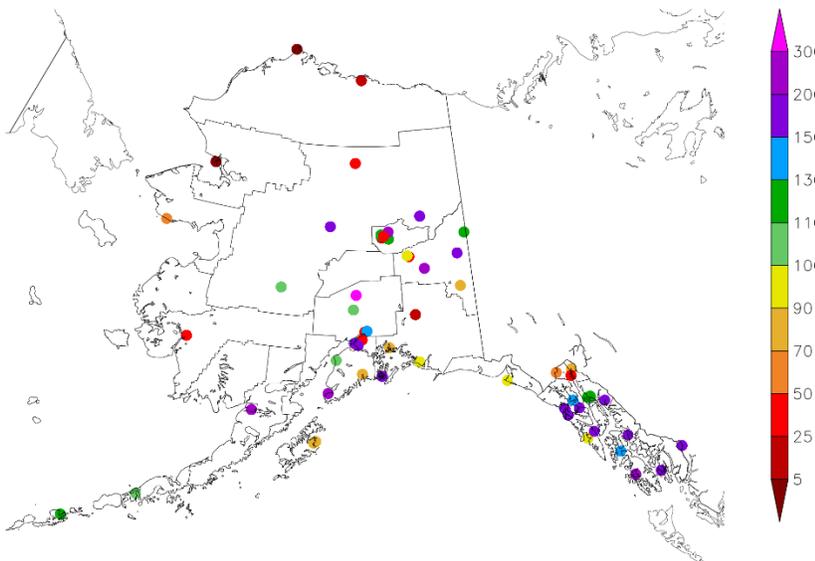
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/26/2020 – 9/1/2020



Generated 9/2/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

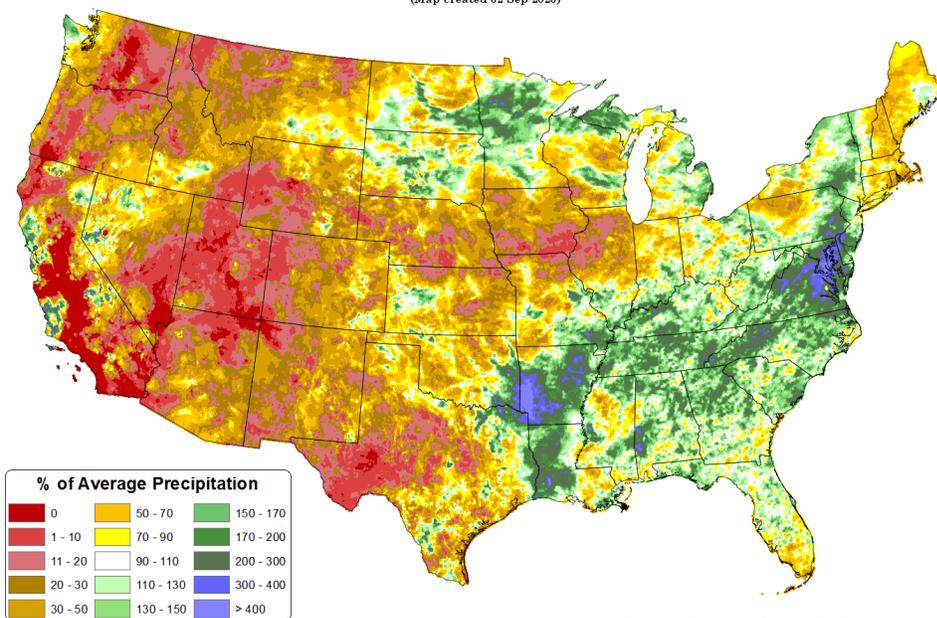
Previous Month, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

Total Precipitation Anomaly: Aug 2020

Period ending 31 Aug 2020
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 02 Sep 2020)

[Previous month national total precipitation percent of average map](#)



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

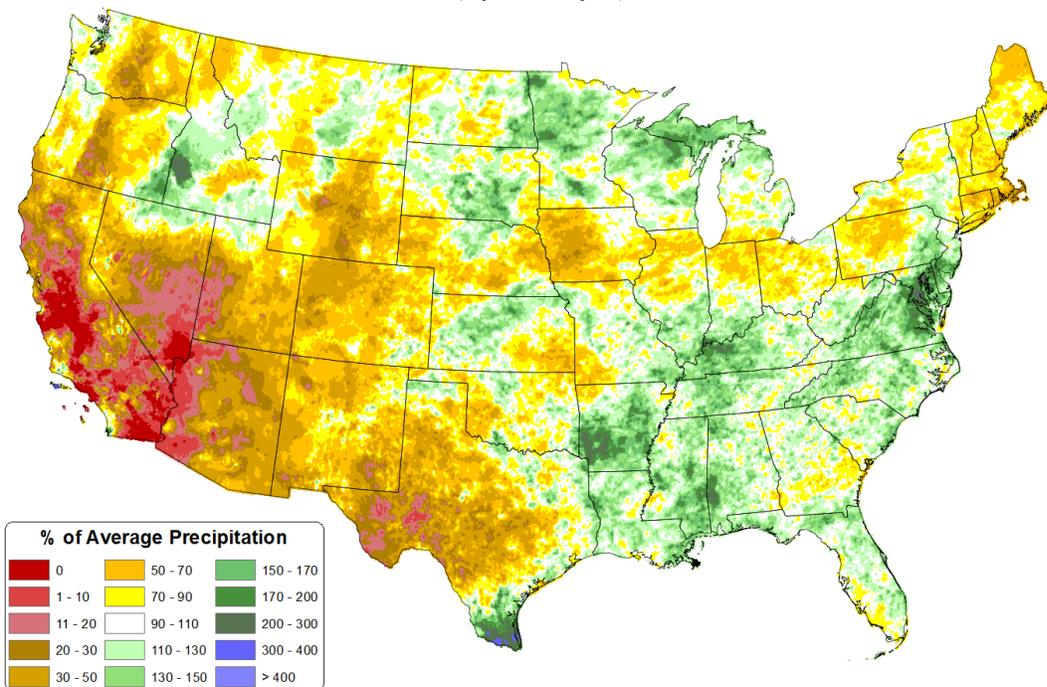
Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

[June through August precipitation percent of average map](#)

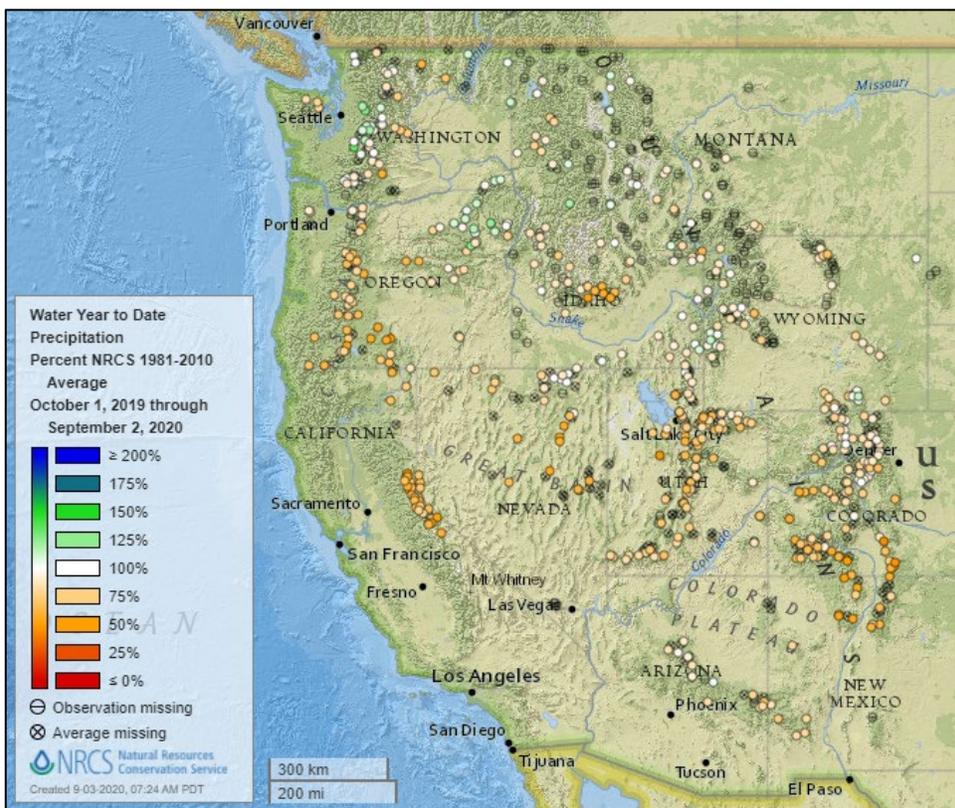
Total Precipitation Anomaly: Jun 2020 - Aug 2020

Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Aug 2020
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 02 Sep 2020)



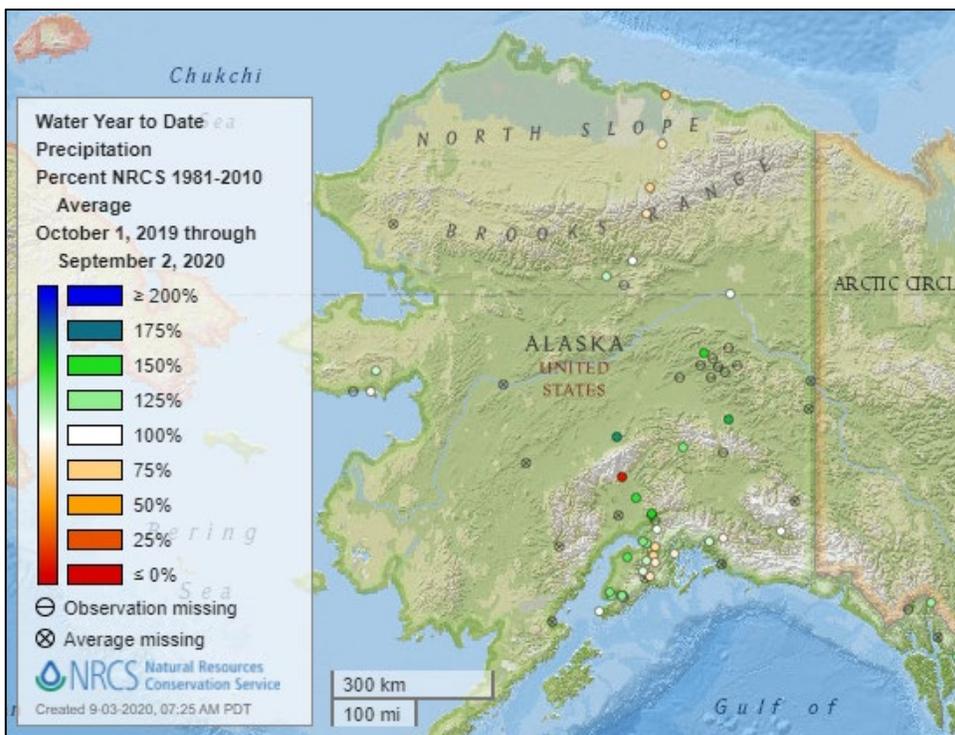
Copyright (c) 2020 PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

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

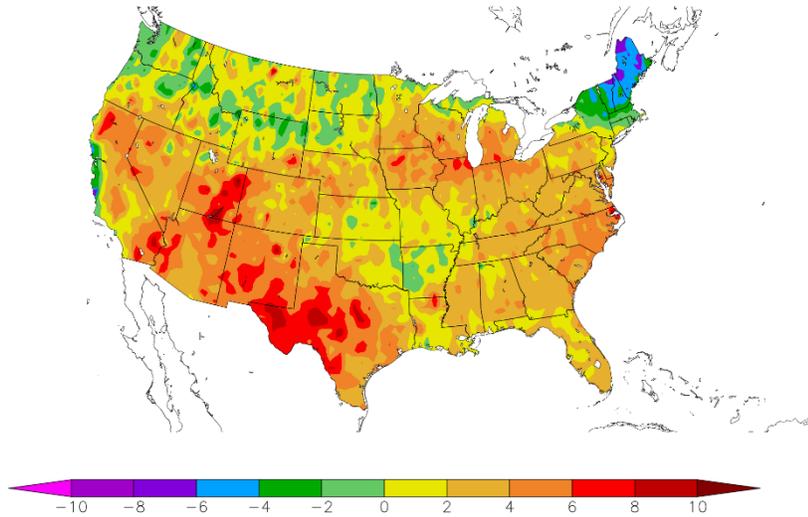
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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)
8/26/2020 – 9/1/2020



Generated 9/2/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

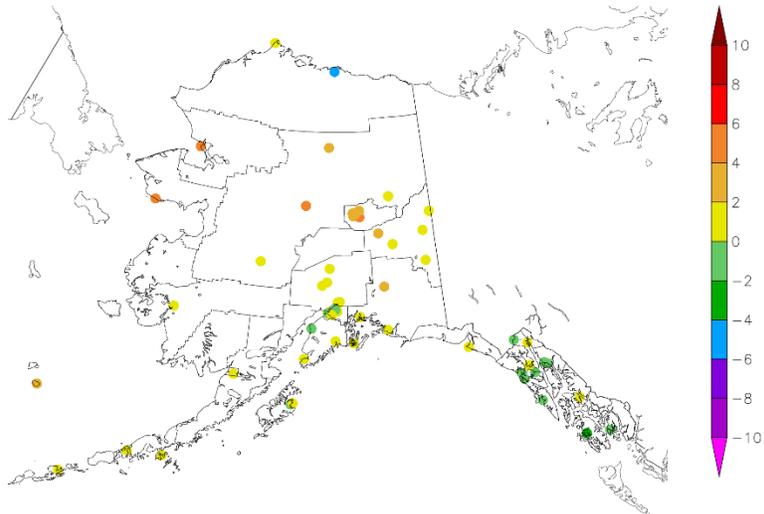
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/26/2020 – 9/1/2020



Generated 9/2/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

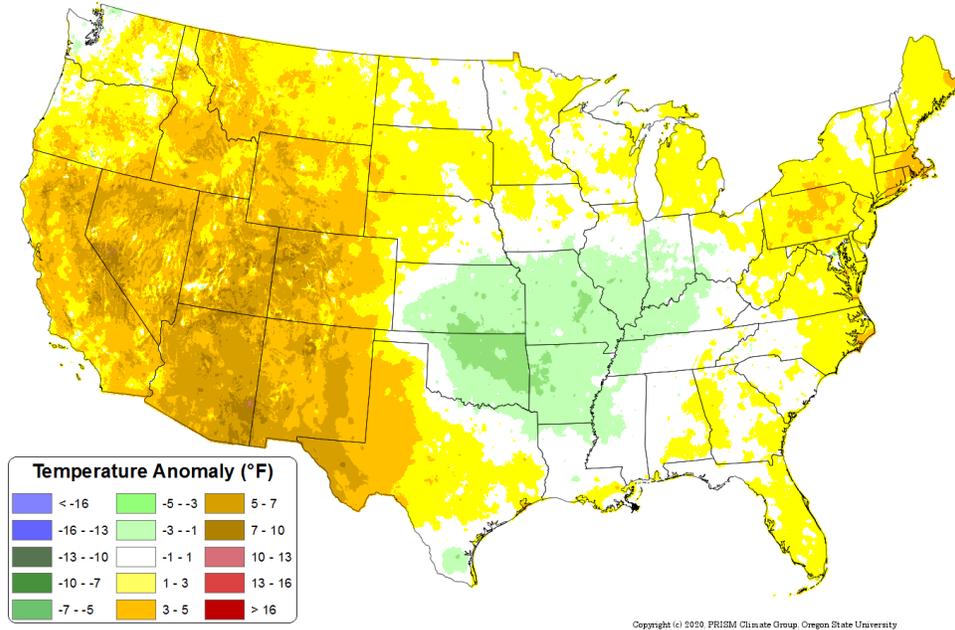
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Previous Month, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

[Previous month national daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: Aug 2020
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Aug 2020
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 02 Sep 2020)

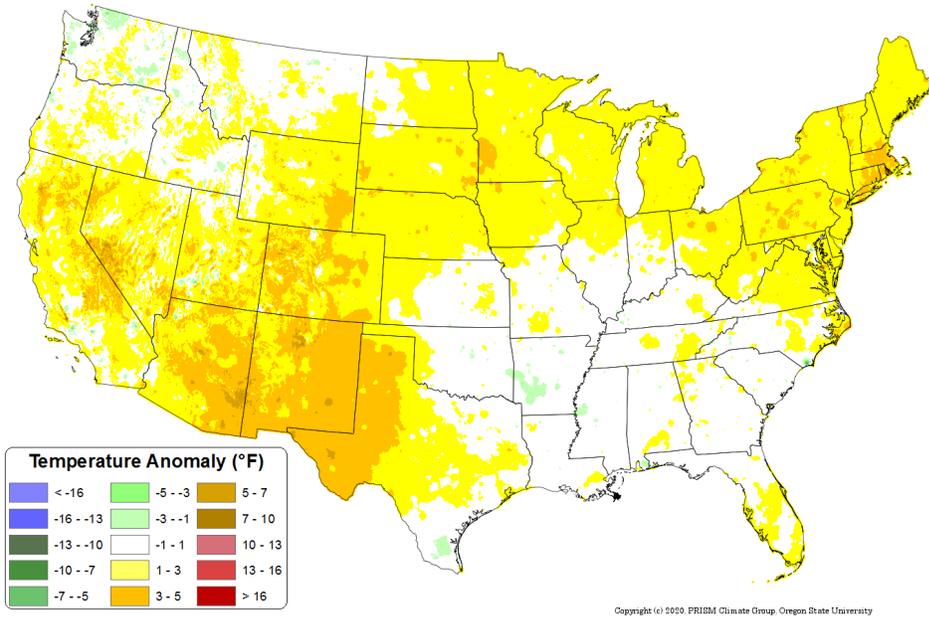


Last 3 Months, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

[June through August 2020 daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)

Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: Jun 2020 - Aug 2020
Period ending 7 AM EST 31 Aug 2020
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 02 Sep 2020)



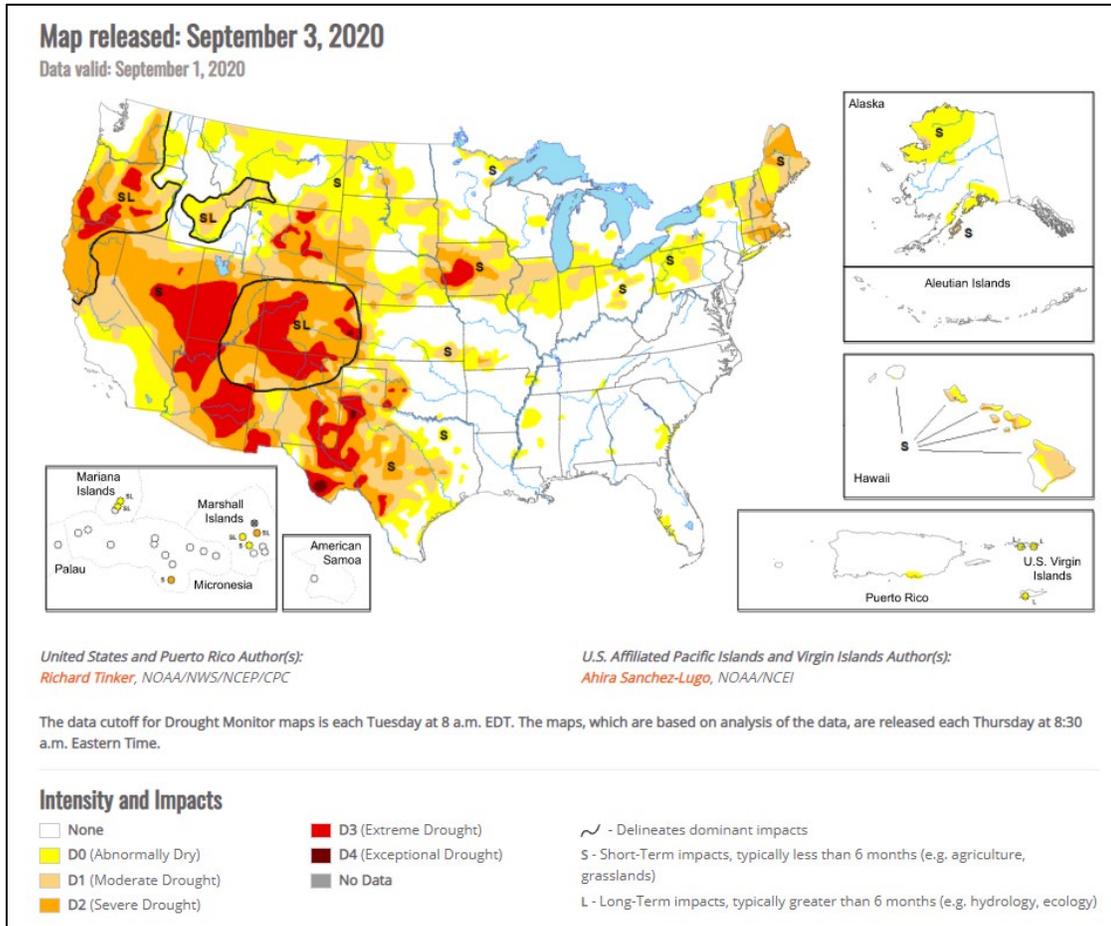
Drought

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

[U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA



Current [National Drought Summary](#), September 3, 2020

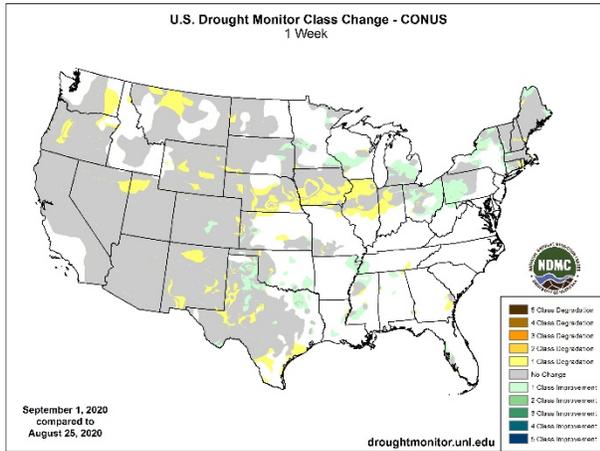
Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“The big weather news this past week surrounded the rain and wind from Hurricane Laura as it pushed through the lower Mississippi Valley, then northeastward south of the Ohio River to the central Appalachians. Southwestern Louisiana was most severely impacted. Winds gusted to 135 mph in Lake Charles, LA before the anemometer failed. Rains totaled 5 inches to locally over a foot along central and western Louisiana, adjacent Texas, much of Arkansas, and southeastern Oklahoma for the 7-days ending Tuesday morning. Other areas accumulating more than 4 inches included parts of Alabama and Mississippi (especially in the northern reaches) and scattered sections of the central Appalachians and eastern Ohio Valley, central Wisconsin, the western Florida Peninsula, and part of interior North Carolina. In contrast, little or no precipitation fell on most of the Carolinas and eastern Georgia, the upper Midwest, most of the central and southern Plains, and from the central Rockies to the Pacific Coast.”

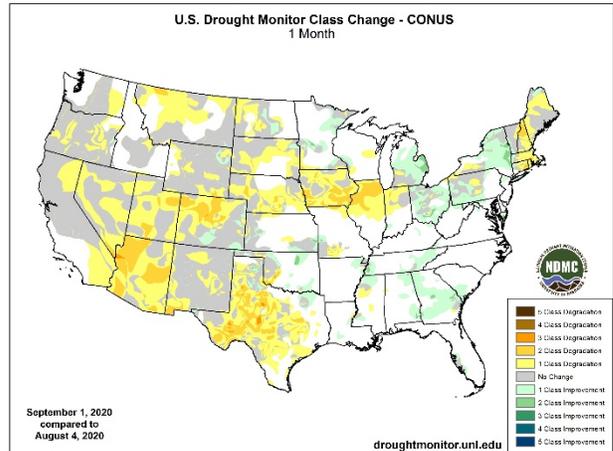
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

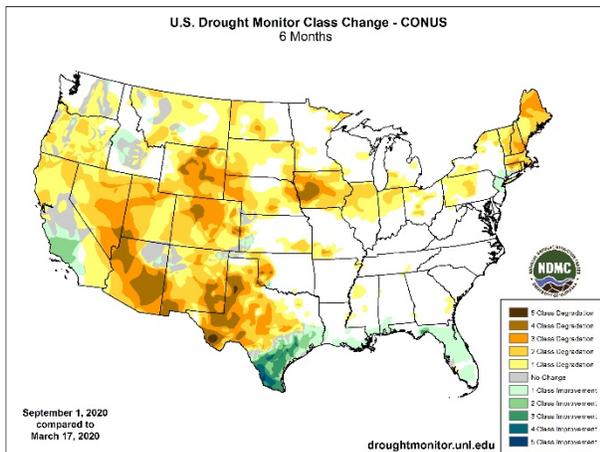
1 Week



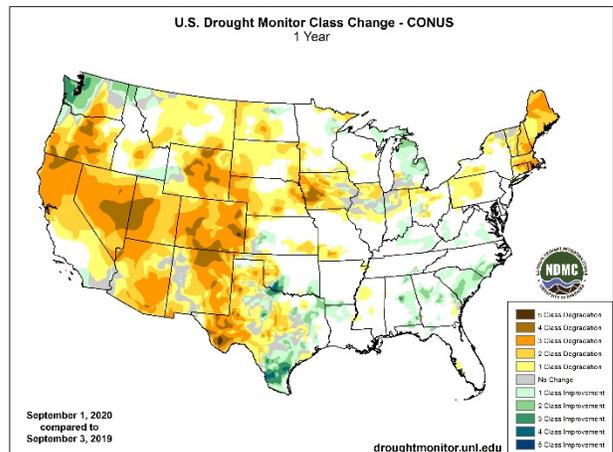
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



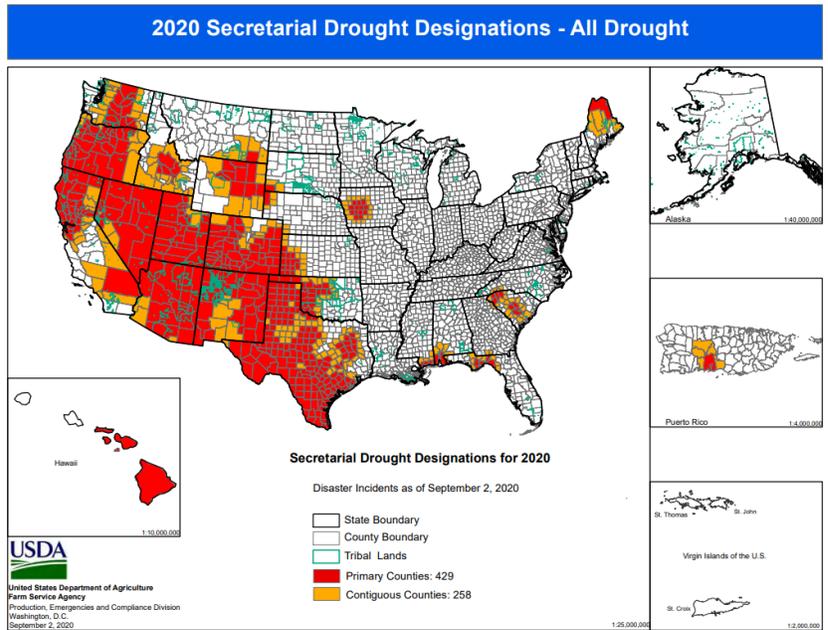
[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.](#)

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



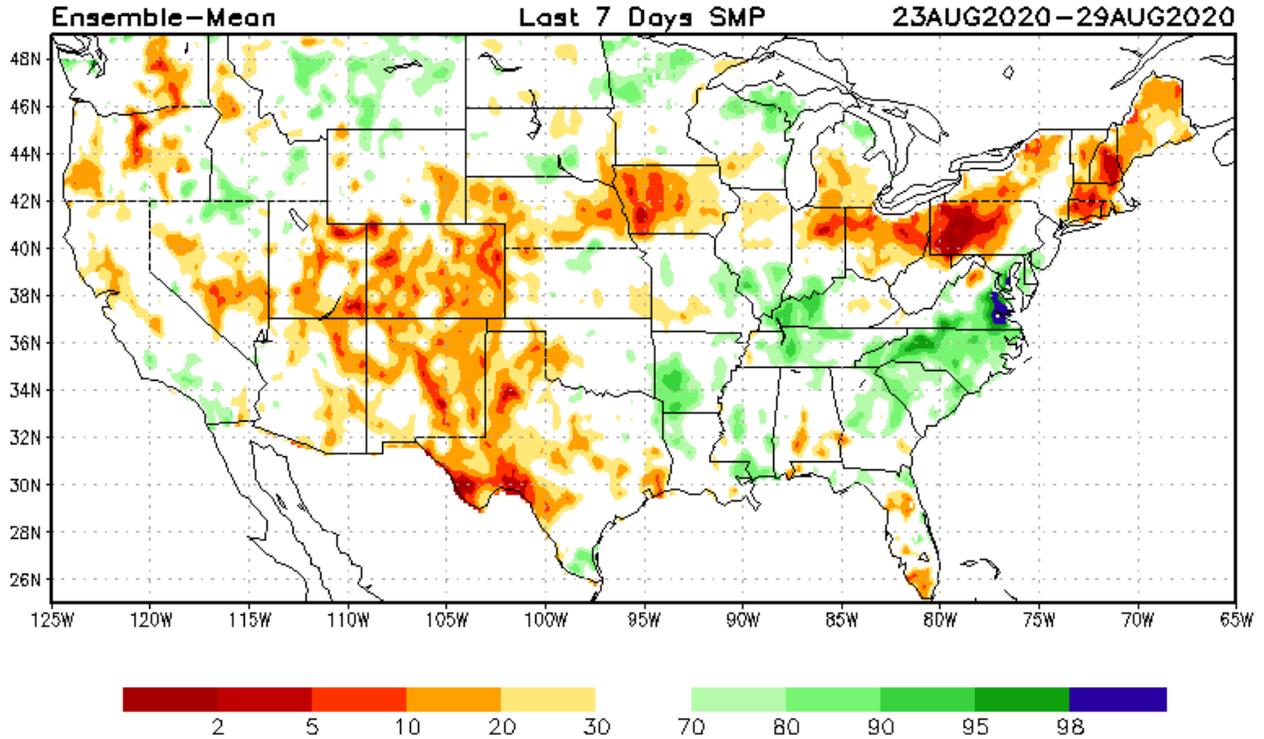
Highlighted Wildfire Resources

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

Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture

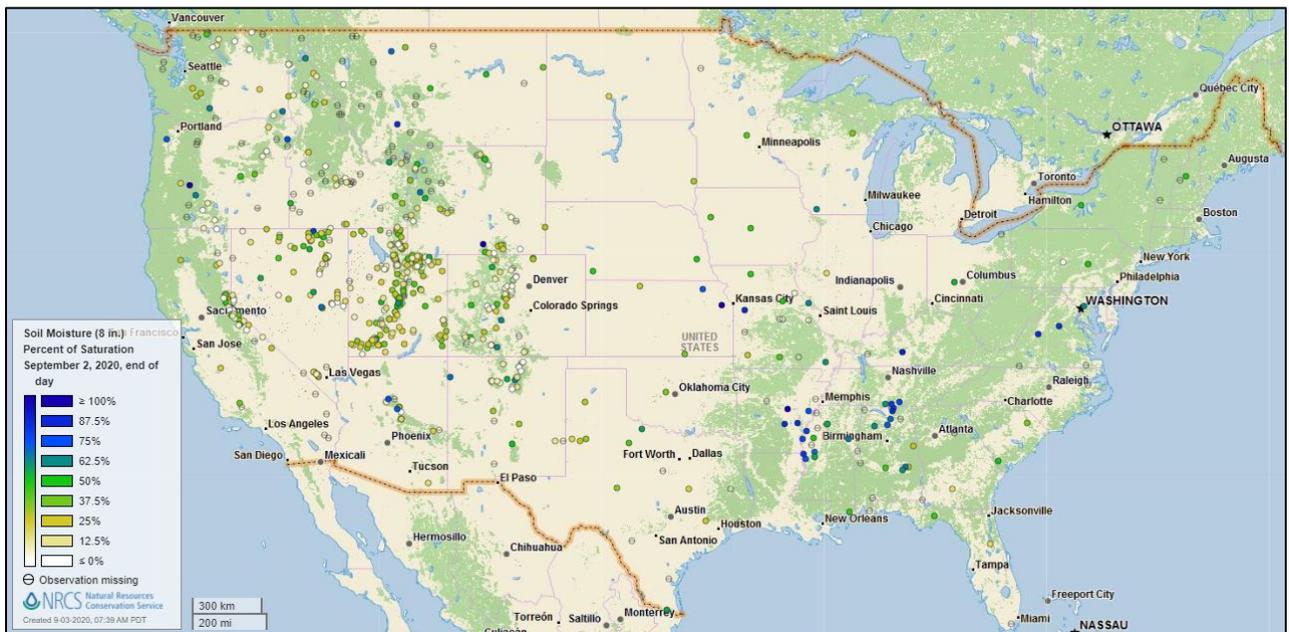
Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of August 29, 2020

Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

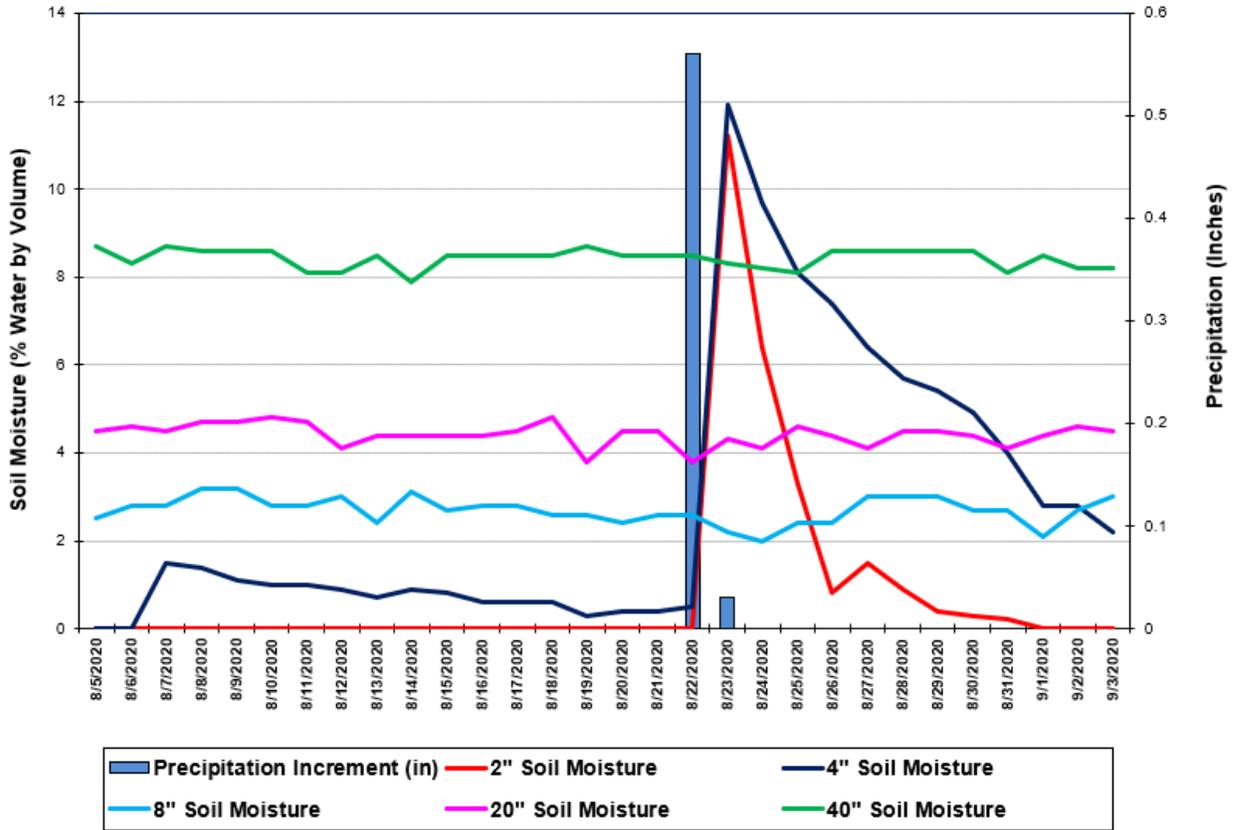
Source: NRCS SNOTEL and [Soil Climate Analysis Network](#) (SCAN)



Soil Moisture

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

**Vermillion, Utah (SCAN site 2162)
Daily Mean Soil Moisture vs. Daily Precipitation**



This chart shows the precipitation and soil moisture for the last 30 days at the [Vermillion](#) SCAN site in southern Utah. This site is in a region currently experiencing drought conditions. Precipitation on August 22-23 was 0.59" and resulted in a dramatic increase in soil moisture at the -2" and -4" sensor levels.

Soil Moisture Data Portals

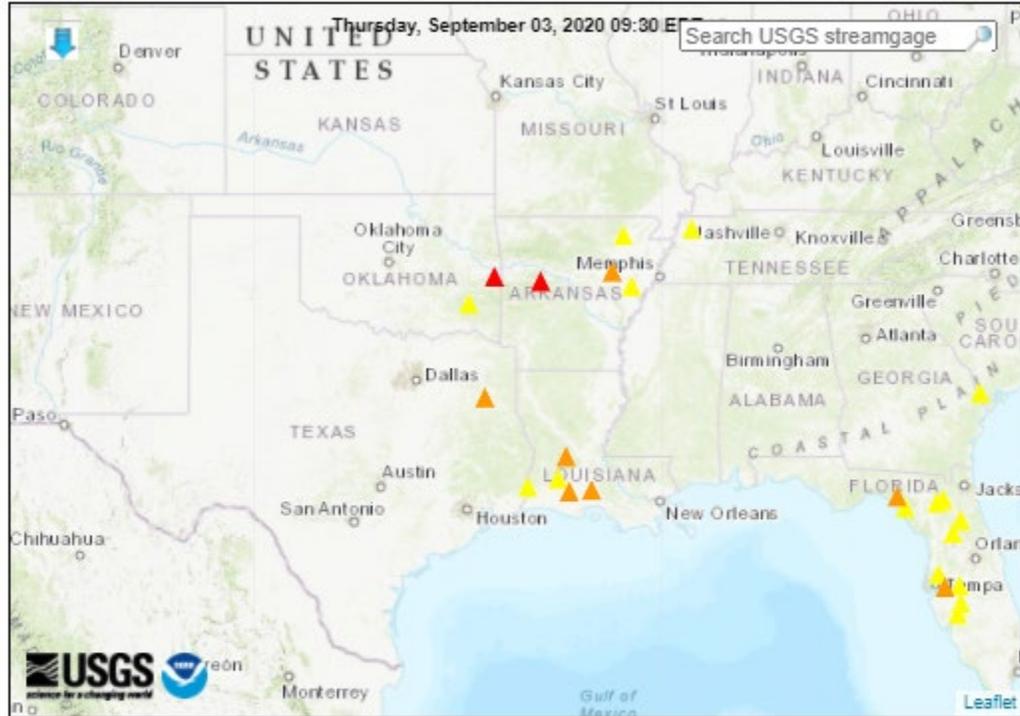
- [CRN Soil Moisture](#)
- [Texas A&M University North American Soil Moisture Database](#)
- [University of Washington Experimental Modeled Soil Moisture](#)

Streamflow, Drought, Flood, and Runoff

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

Map of flood and high flow conditions

(11 in floods [moderate: 2, minor: 9], 20 in near-flood)



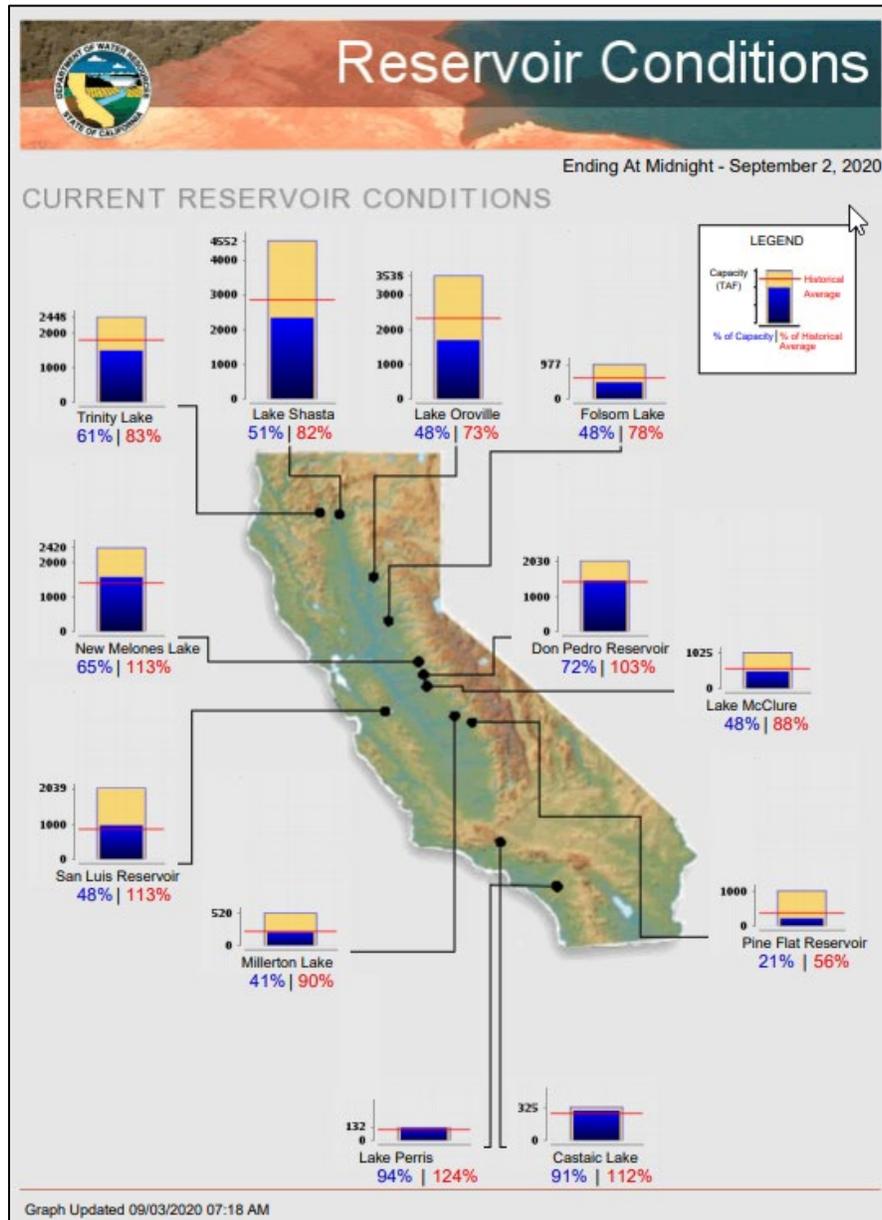
Explanation - Percentile classes						
<95	95-98	>= 99	Above action stage	Above flood stage	Above moderate flood stage	Above major flood stage
▲ Streamgage with flood stage ○ Streamgage without flood stage						

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

Reservoir Storage

Current California Reservoir Conditions

Source: California Department of Water Resources



[Current California Reservoir Conditions](#)

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](#)

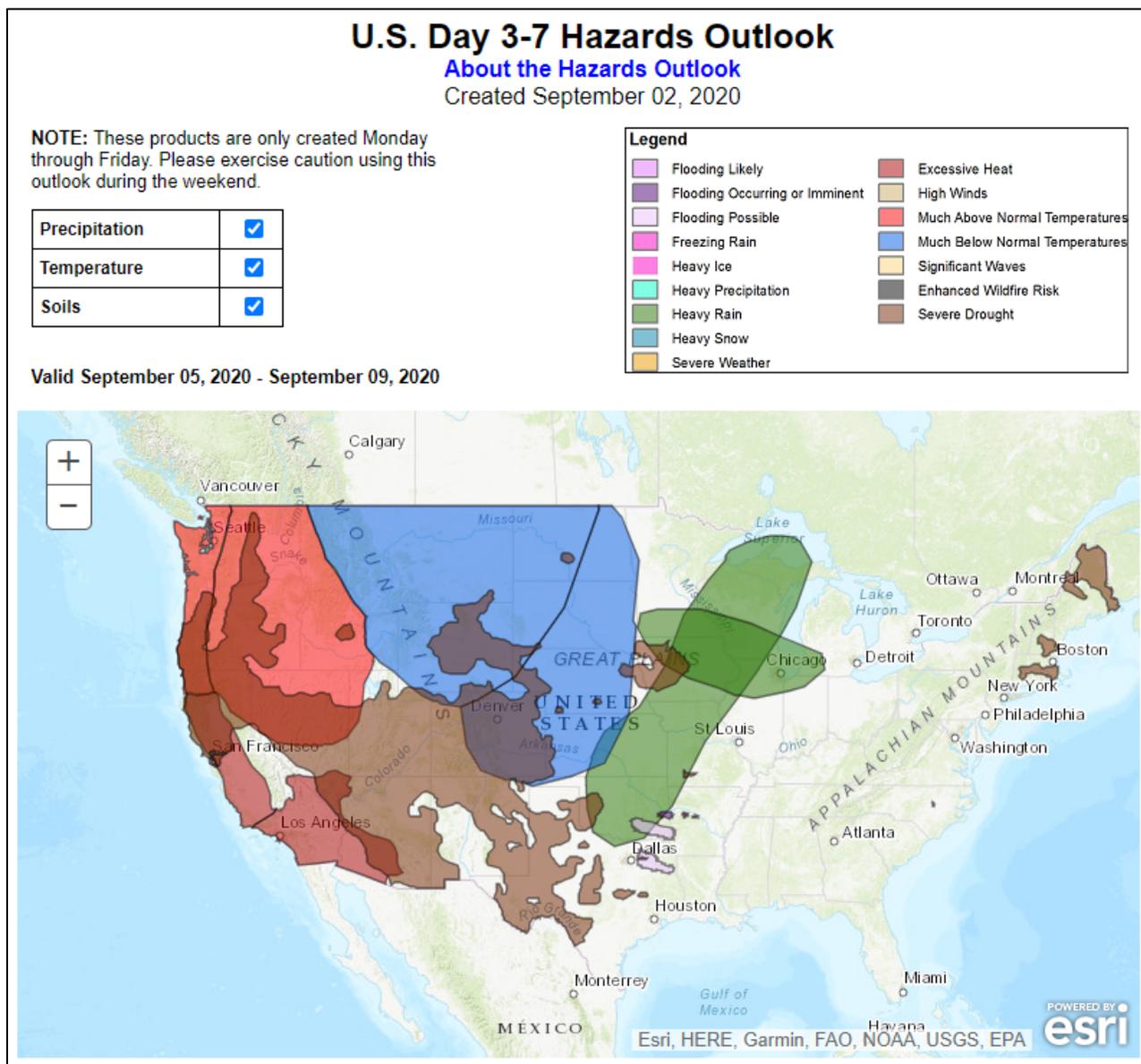
Agricultural Weather Highlights

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

National Outlook, Thursday, September 3, 2020: “Aside from lingering showers across the South and East, dry weather will prevail nearly nationwide during the next few days. However, late in the weekend and early next week, scattered to widespread showers will develop across the northern Plains and the Midwest, in advance of an unusually strong cold front. During the first half of next week, freezes will end the growing season across the northern High Plains. Freezes will also affect the northern and central Rockies, while scattered frost and light freeze may occur as far south as the central High Plains and as far east as the far upper Midwest (e.g. eastern Dakotas). In stark contrast, a late-season heat wave will grip the Far West, including the Pacific Coast States. During the weekend and early next week, temperatures could peak near 110°F as far north as California’s Sacramento Valley. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for September 8 – 12 calls for the likelihood of below-normal temperatures from the Rockies into the Mississippi Valley, while warmer-than-normal weather will prevail in the Atlantic Coast States and the Far West. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal precipitation across the northern Plains and much of the West should contrast with wetter-than-normal conditions on the southern Plains and from the Mississippi Valley to the East Coast.”

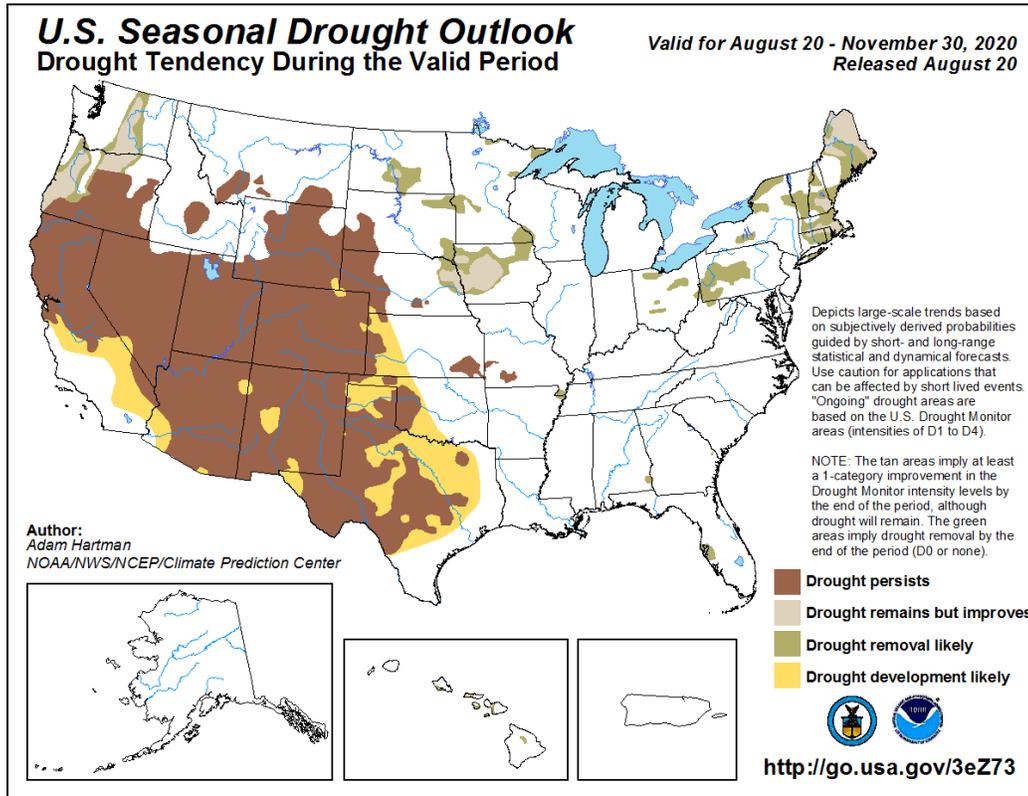
Weather Hazards Outlook: [September 5 – 9, 2020](#)

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center



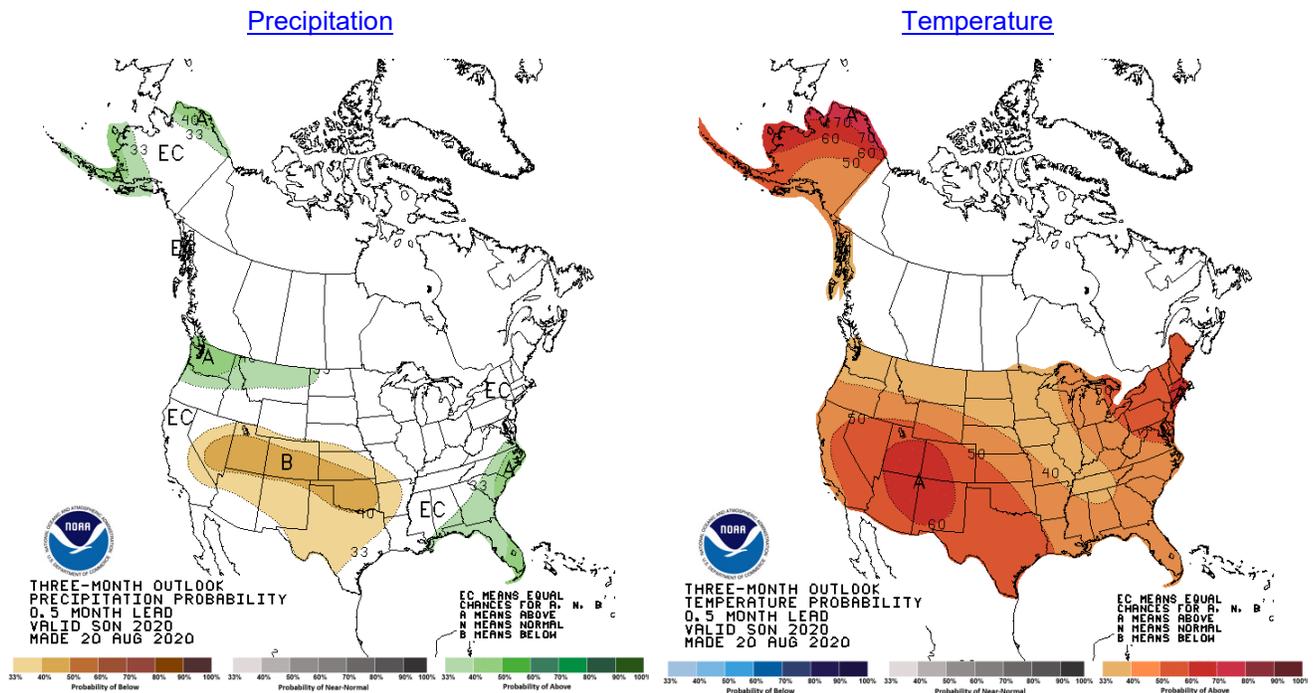
Seasonal Drought Outlook: [August 20 – November 30, 2020](#)

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](#).