



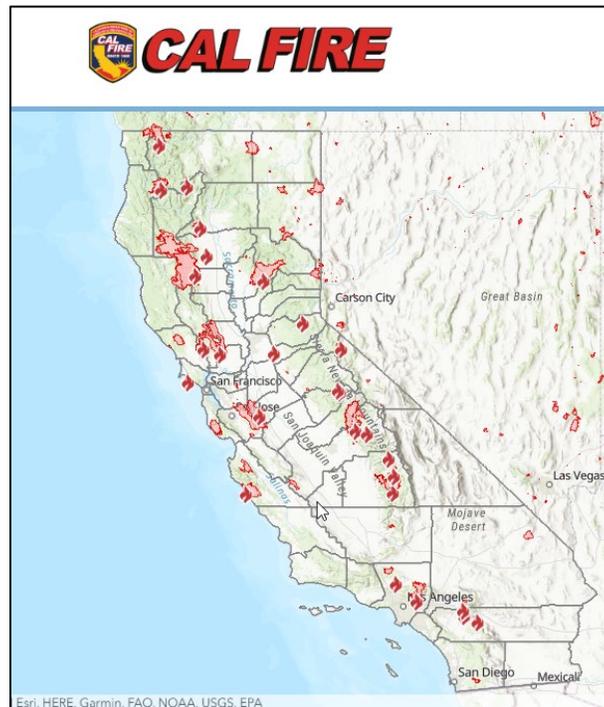
Water and Climate Update

October 1, 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.

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Windy, hot weather continues to increase western wildfires



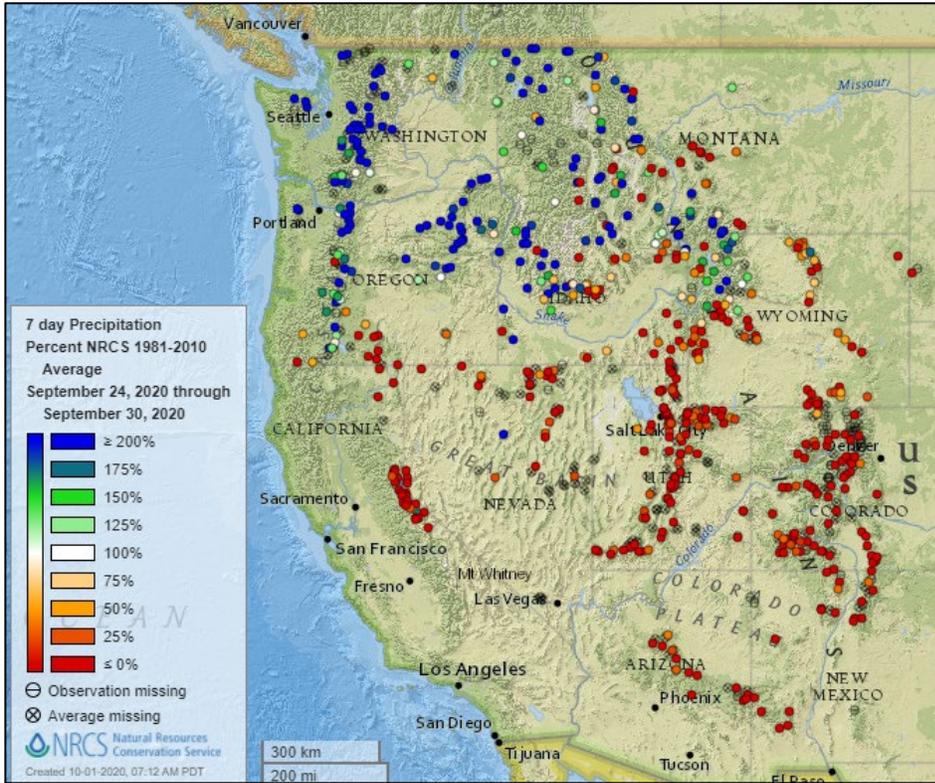
Current active wildfires are burning 4 million acres across the West, and total acres burned in 2020 is over 7.5 million acres. The largest fires are in California, where thousands have evacuated, and many homes and businesses have been lost or remain at risk. Extreme heat and strong winds have returned to the region, increasing wildfire growth. Air National Guard and Marines are assisting with the wildfires as well as firefighters from Canada and Mexico. State, local, tribal, and federal resources assigned to California fires include 17,000 firefighters and 118 aircraft.

Related:

- [More fires in California destroy homes, prompt evacuations](#) - AP
- [California wildfire scorches wine country as death toll rises to 4](#) – CBS News
- [Windy, dry, hot weather to continue in California as dozens of fires rage](#) - ABC
- [Take a look at California wildfire intensity from high above earth](#) – Sacramento Bee (CA)
- [Gusty winds and record heat forecast for Northern and Southern California](#) ABC on MSN.com
- [Mullen fire in Wyoming heading south forces evacuations in Colorado](#) The Denver Post
- [Fire Near Fort Collins Is 3rd Biggest in Colorado History](#) – U.S. News & World Report
- [National Interagency Fire Center](#)

Precipitation

Last 7 Days, NRCS SNOTEL Network

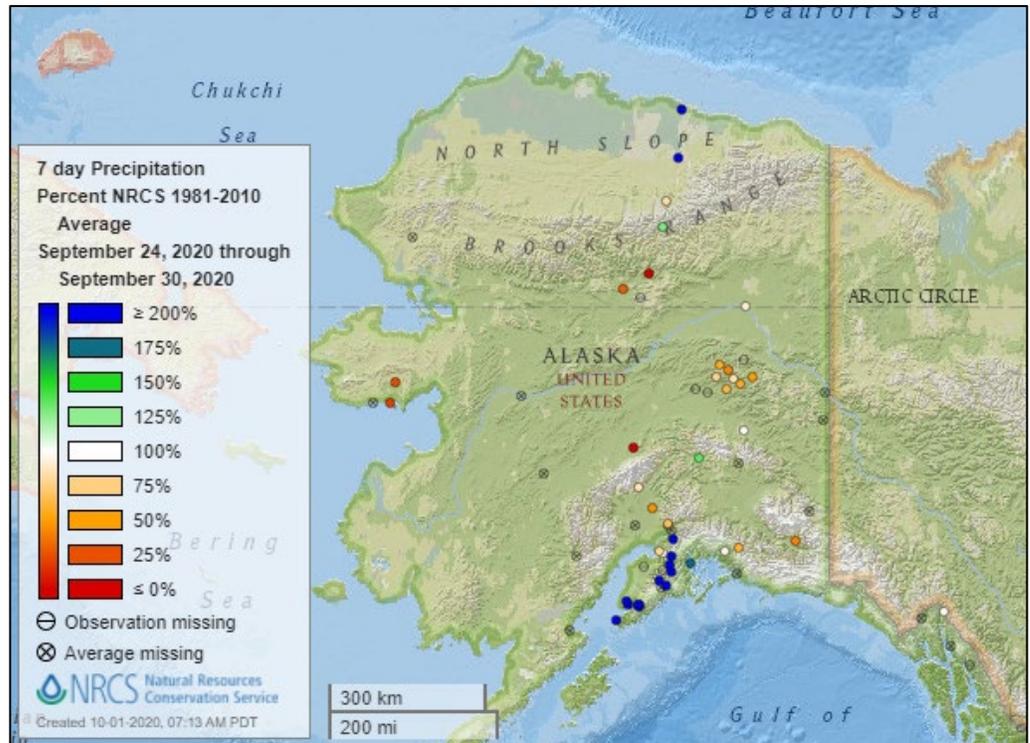


[7-day precipitation percent of average map](#)

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](#)



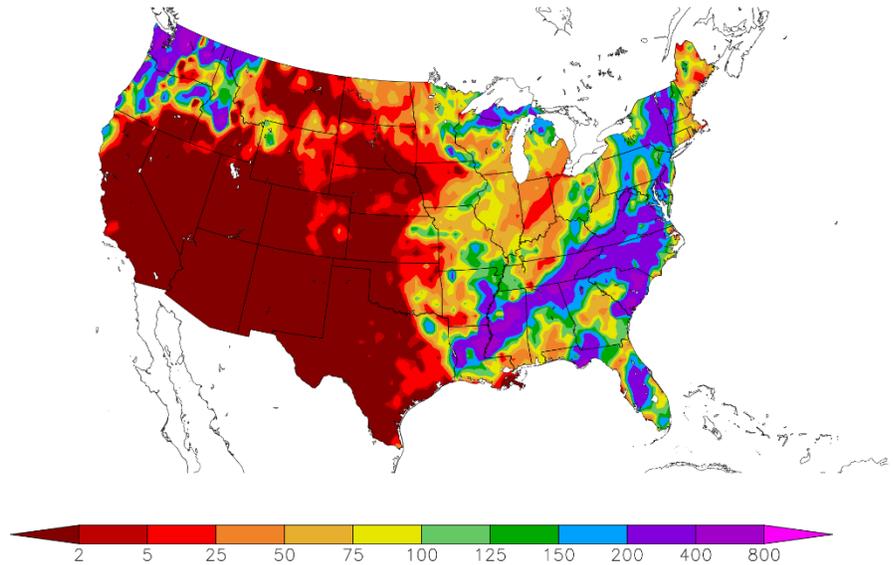
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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 (%)
9/24/2020 – 9/30/2020



Generated 10/1/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

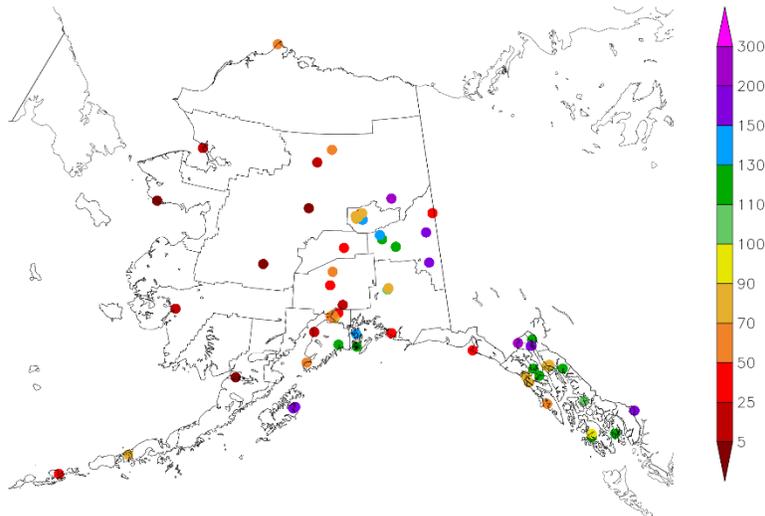
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/24/2020 – 9/30/2020



Generated 10/1/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

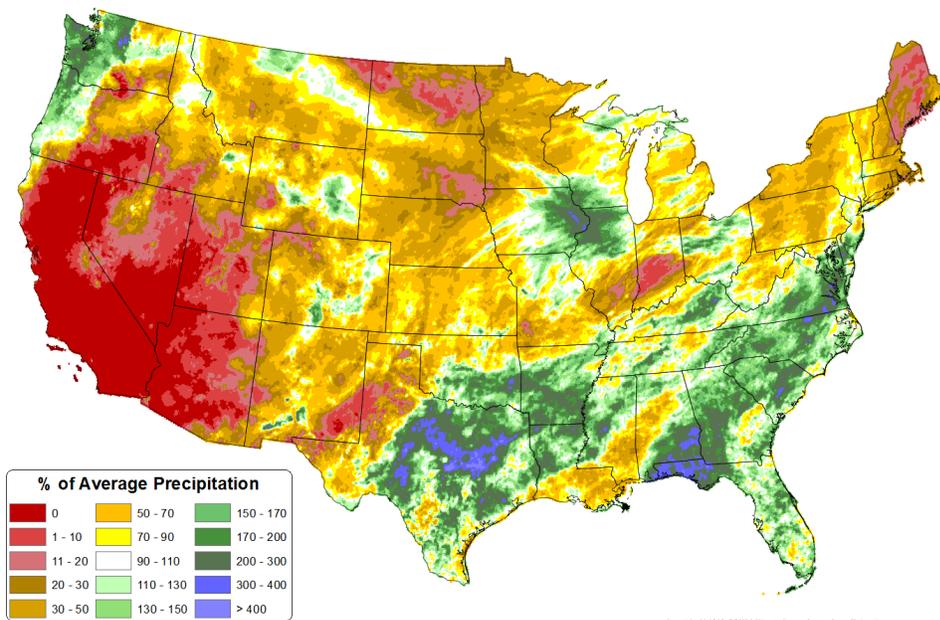
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Previous Month, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

Total Precipitation Anomaly: 01 Sep 2020 - 30 Sep 2020
Period ending 7 AM EST 30 Sep 2020
Base period: 1981-2010
(Map created 01 Oct 2020)

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



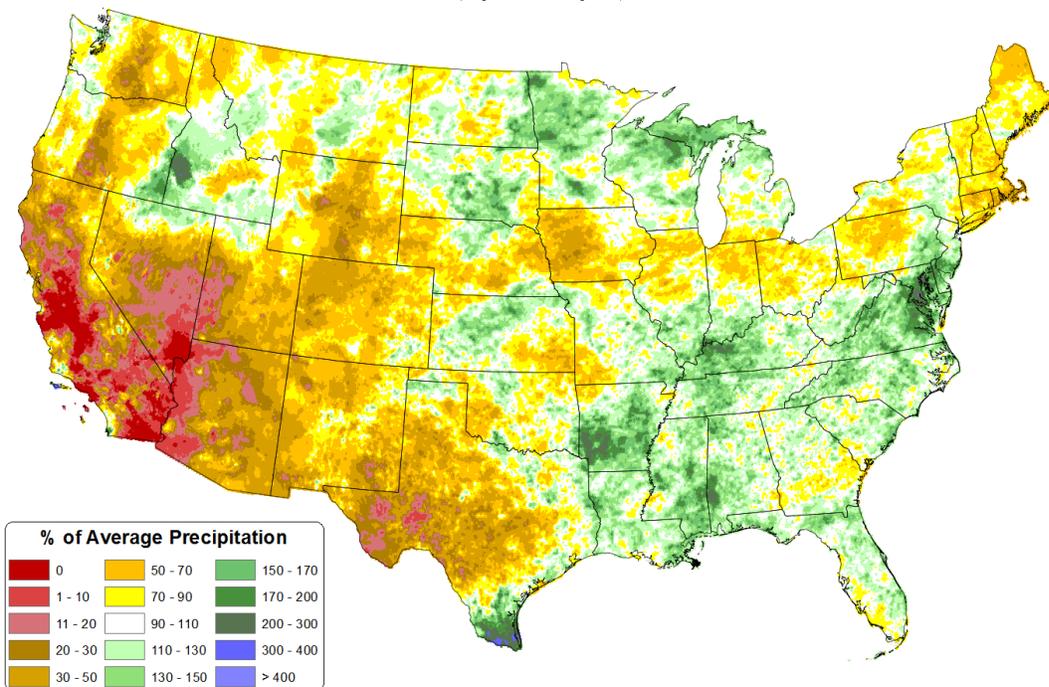
Copyright (c) 2020, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

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

Source: PRISM

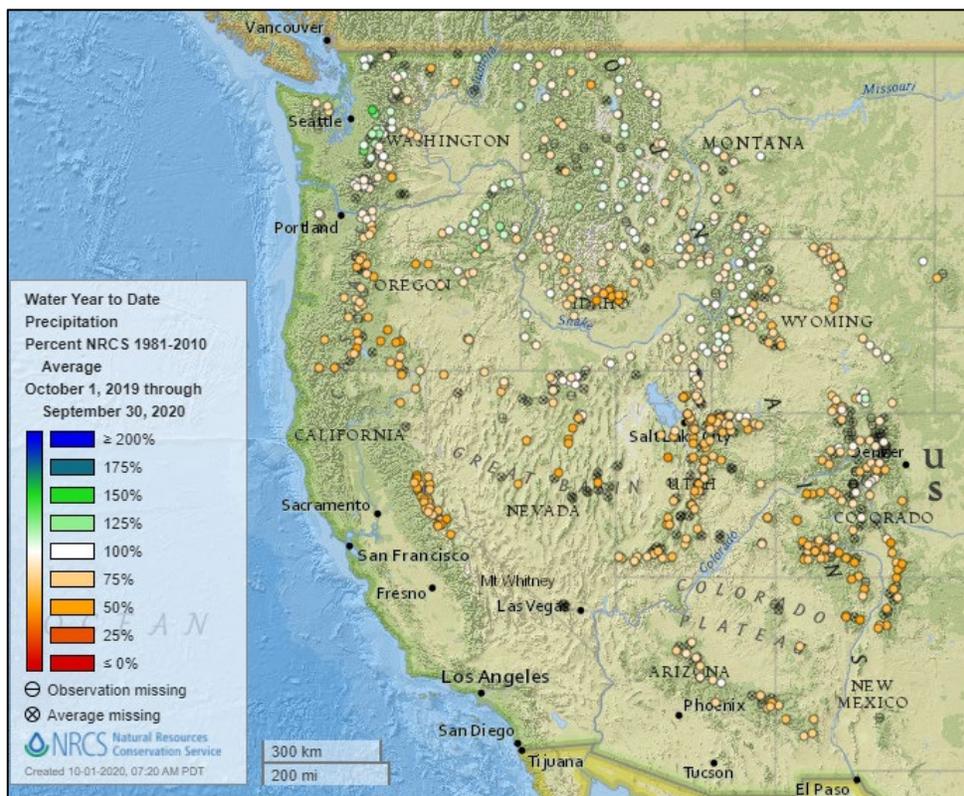
[June through August precipitation percent of average map](#)

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



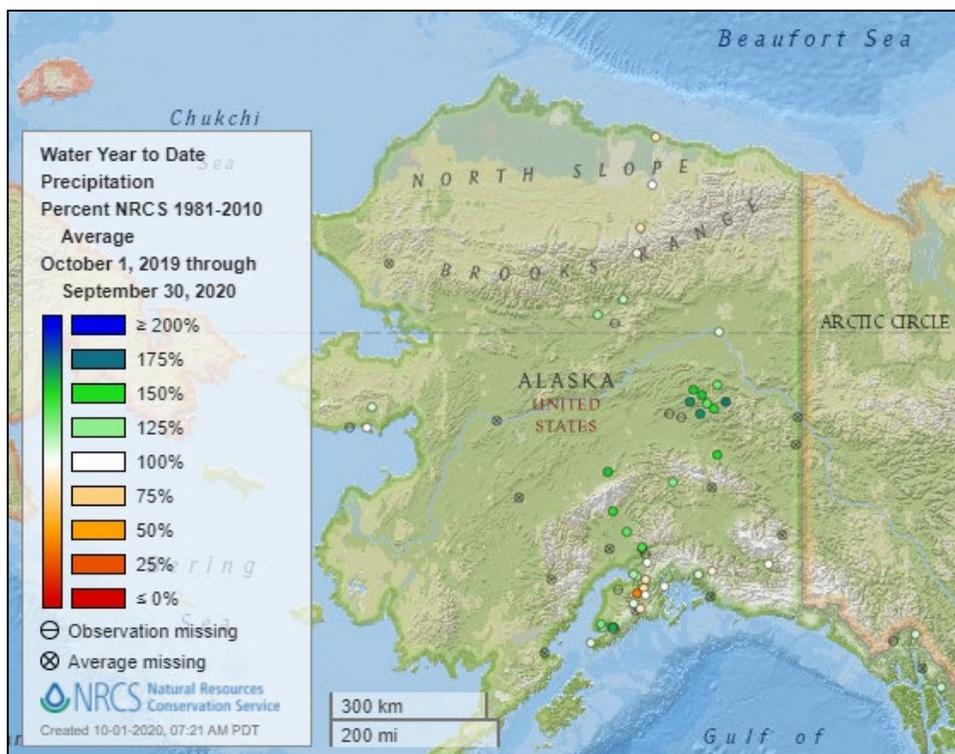
Copyright (c) 2020, PRISM Climate Group, Oregon State University

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

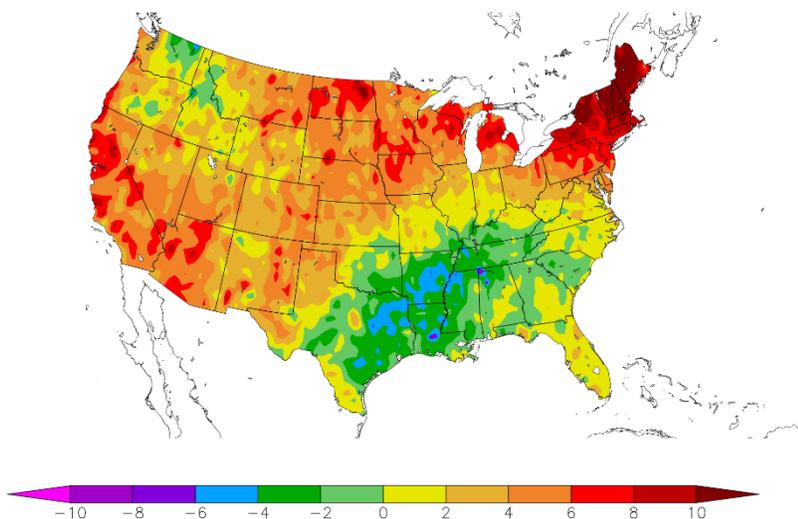
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

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)
9/24/2020 – 9/30/2020



Generated 10/1/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

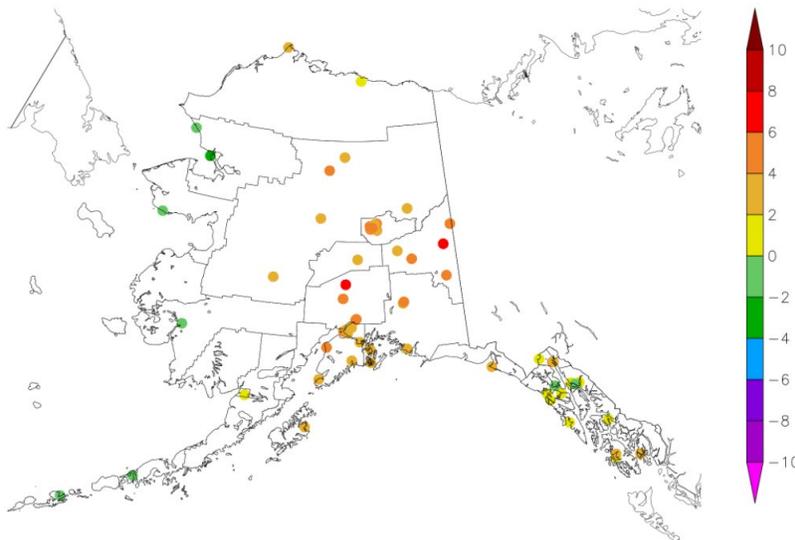
Last 7 Days, National Weather Service (NWS) Networks

Source: Regional Climate Centers

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

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

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/24/2020 – 9/30/2020



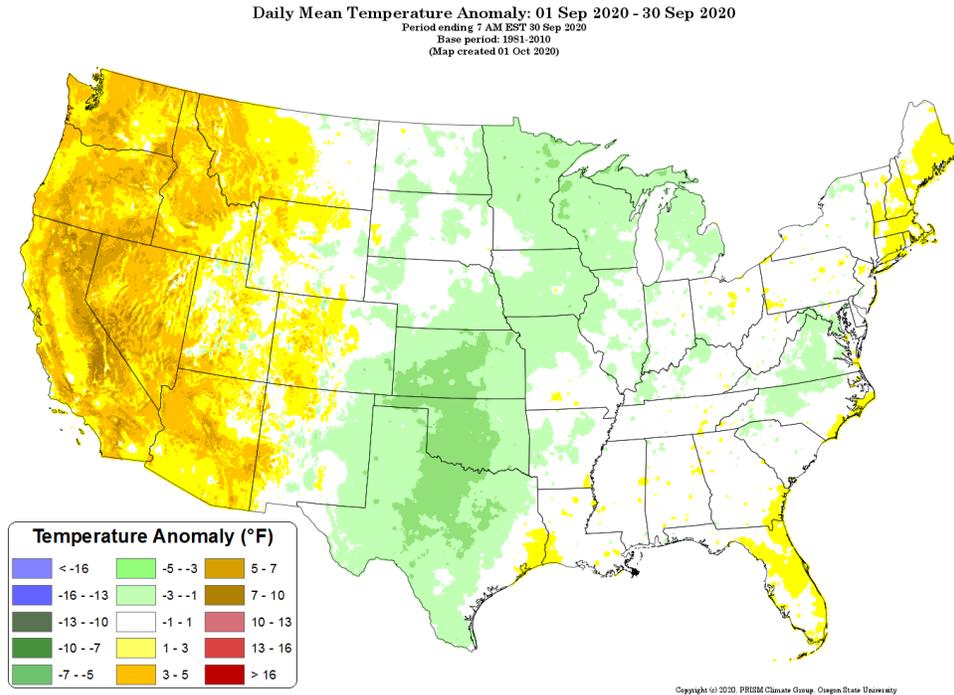
Generated 10/1/2020 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Previous Month, All Available Data Including SNOTEL and NWS Networks

Source: PRISM

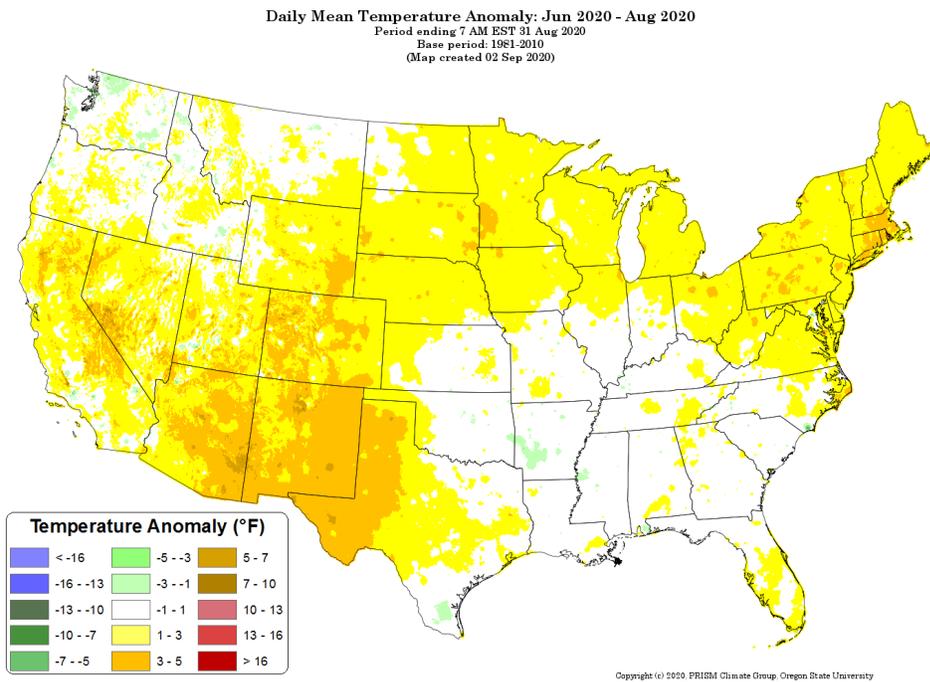
[Previous month national daily mean temperature anomaly map](#)



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

Source: PRISM

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



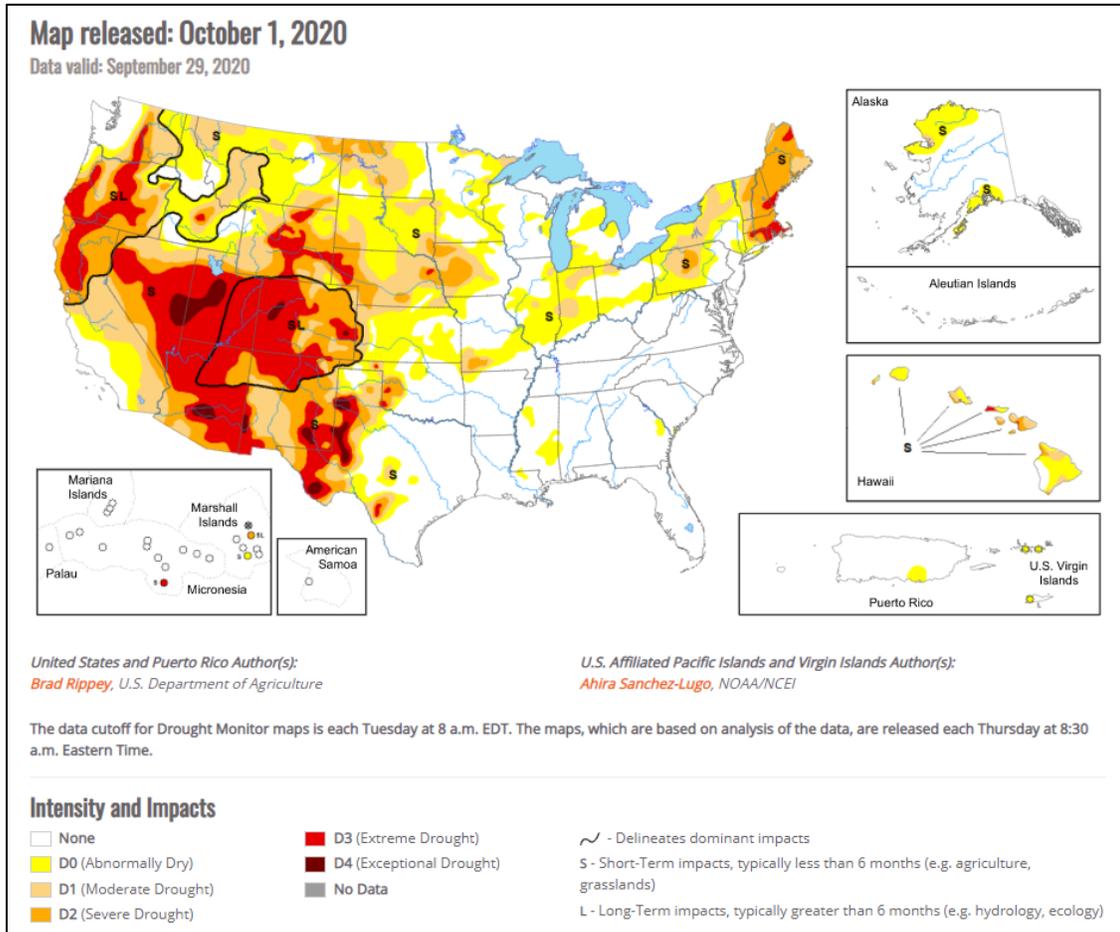
Drought

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

[U.S. Drought Portal](#)

Source: NOAA



Current [National Drought Summary](#), October 1, 2020

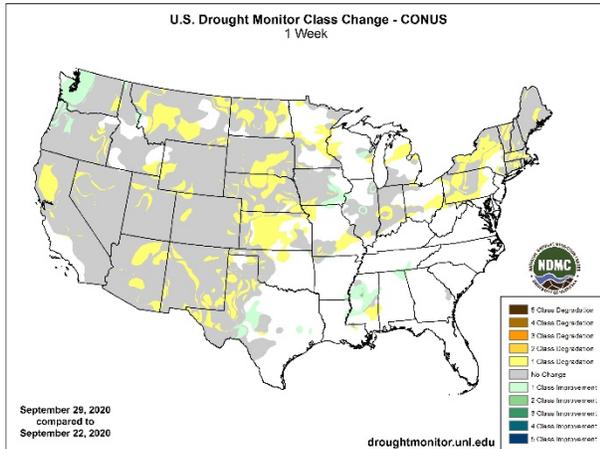
Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

“Tropical Storm Beta made landfall on September 21 about 10 pm CDT near Port O’Connor, TX, with sustained winds near 45 mph. Once inland, slow-moving Beta weakened and turned northeastward, crossing the Mississippi Delta before dissipating on September 25 over the Southeast. Nevertheless, heavy rainfall associated with Beta caused local flooding, especially along and near the middle and upper Texas coast. Beta’s heavy rain tracked across an area (centered on Mississippi) experiencing abnormal dryness (D0) and moderate drought (D1), leading to a significant boost in soil moisture. Mostly dry weather covered the remainder of the country, aside from a few showers in the upper Great Lakes region and some beneficial precipitation in the Northwest. Across much of the Plains and Midwest, open weather favored agricultural fieldwork but further reduced topsoil moisture in drought-affected areas. In fact, worsening drought remained a major concern across much of the western half of the country, with adverse impacts on rangeland and pastures. In addition, the return of hot, windy weather fanned several new Western wildfires. Near- or above-normal temperatures prevailed in the West, with the hottest weather occurring in the Four Corners States. As the drought-monitoring period ended on September 29, approaching heavy rain brought the promise of relief to the Northeast, enduring its second major drought in 5 years.”

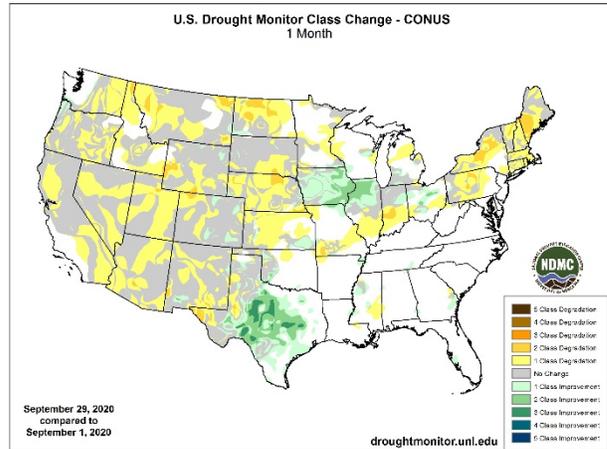
Changes in Drought Monitor Categories over Time

Source: National Drought Mitigation Center

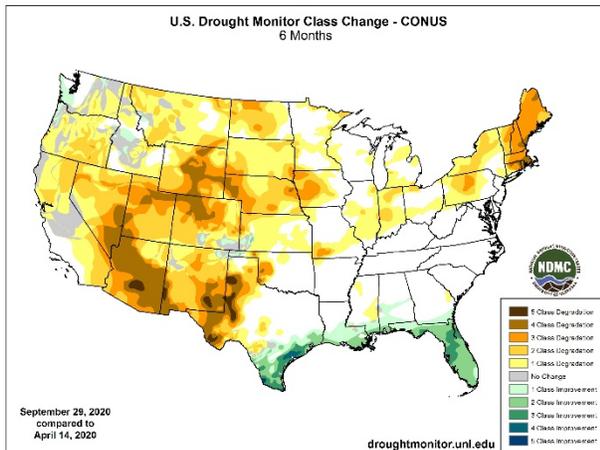
1 Week



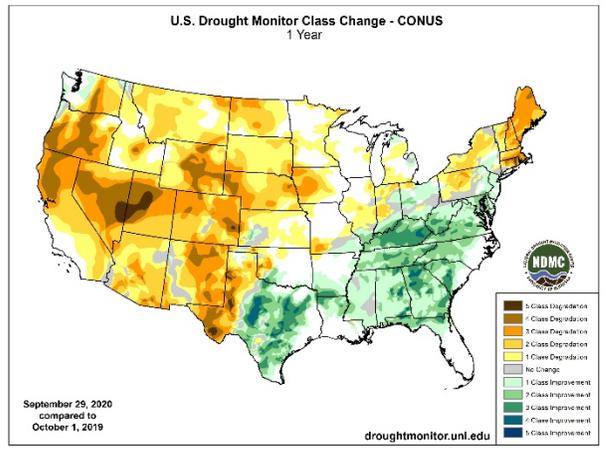
1 Month



6 Months



1 Year



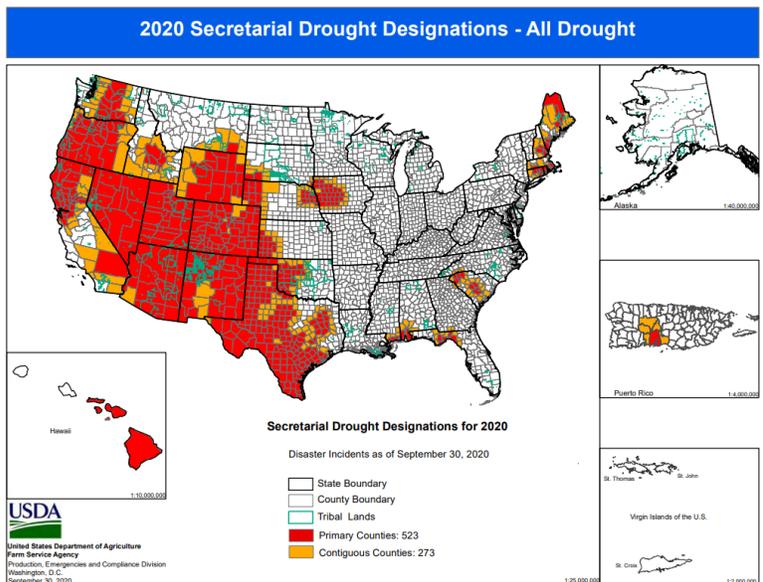
[Changes in drought conditions over the last 12 months for the contiguous U.S.](#)

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



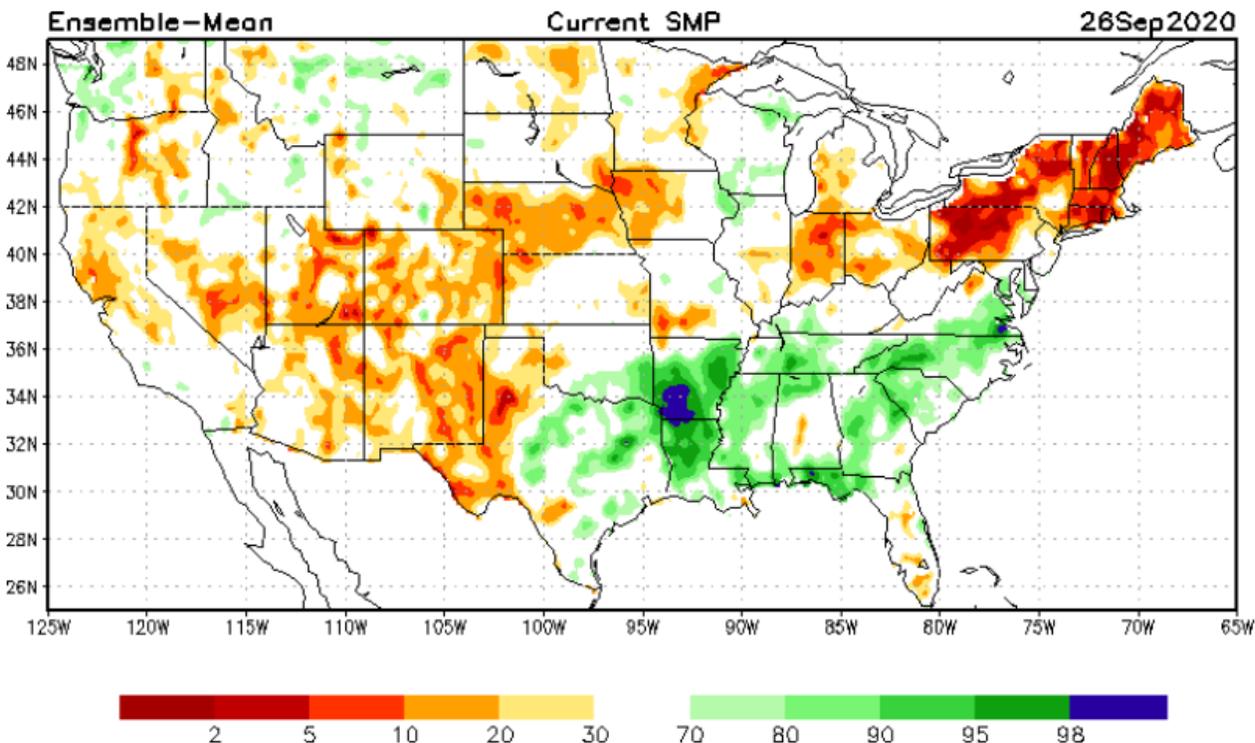
**Highlighted
Wildfire
Resources**

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

Other Climatic and Water Supply Indicators

Soil Moisture

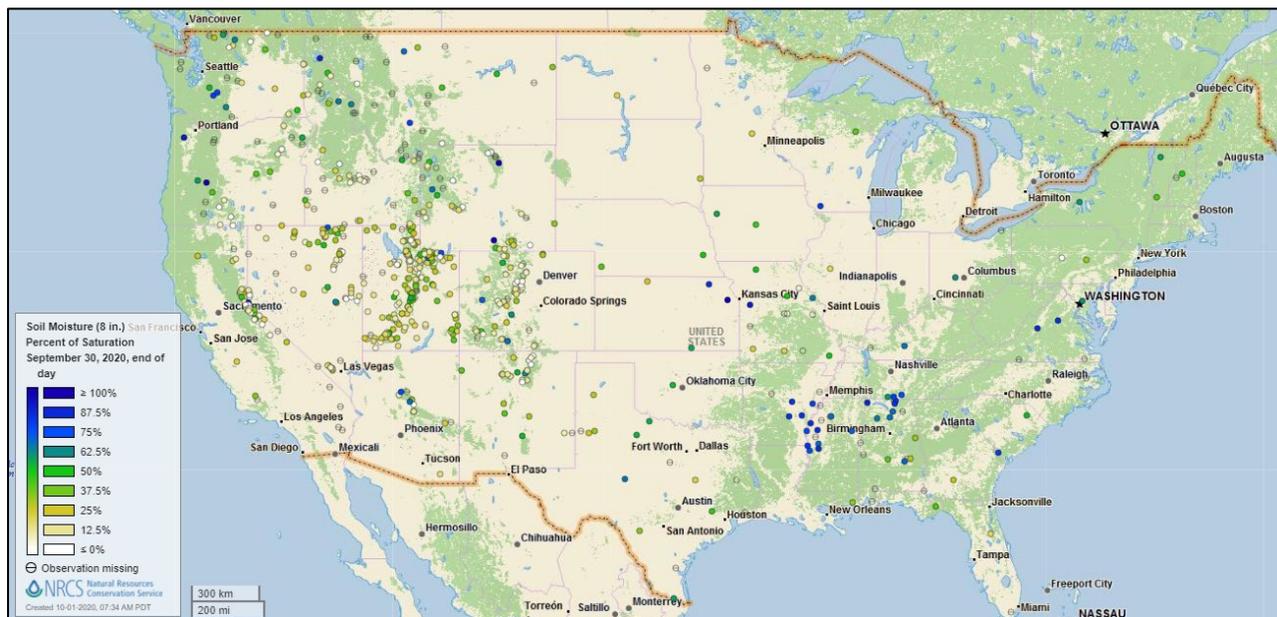
Source: NOAA National Centers for Environmental Prediction



[Modeled soil moisture percentiles](#) as of September 26, 2020

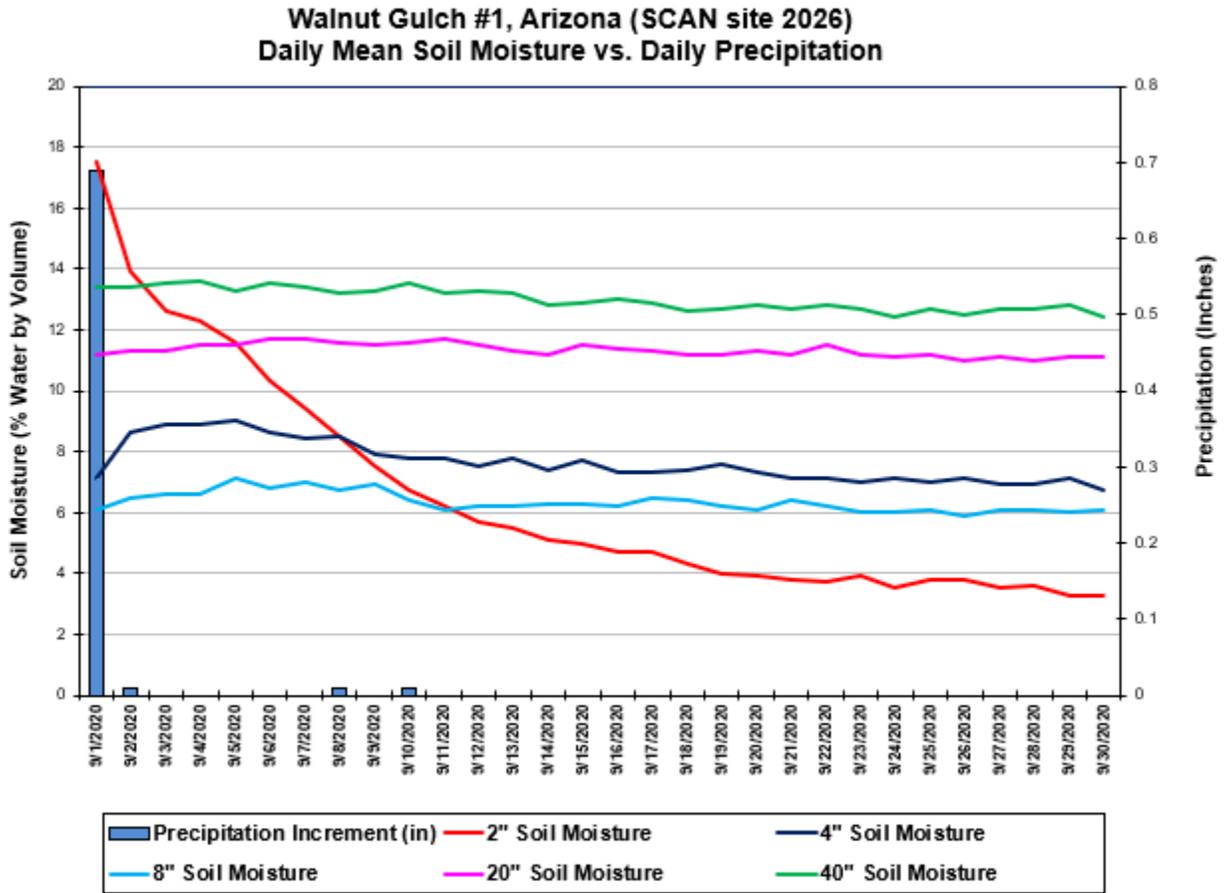
Soil Moisture Percent of Saturation

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 [Walnut Gulch #1](#) SCAN site in Arizona. The precipitation on September 1 impacted soil moisture at the -2” sensor. The -4” and -8” sensors showed slight increases in soil moisture as well.

Soil Moisture Data Portals

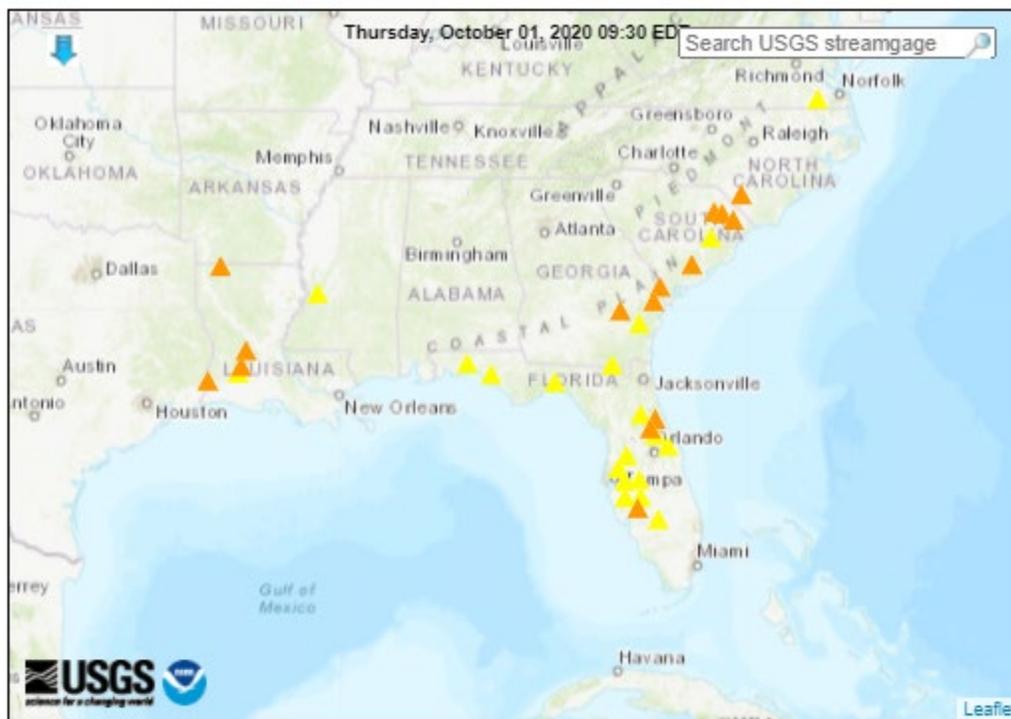
- [CRN Soil Moisture](#)
- [Texas A&M University North American Soil Moisture Database](#)
- [University of Washington Experimental Modeled Soil Moisture](#)

Streamflow, Drought, Flood, and Runoff

Source: U.S. Geological Survey

Map of flood and high flow conditions

(15 in floods [minor: 15], 24 in near-flood)



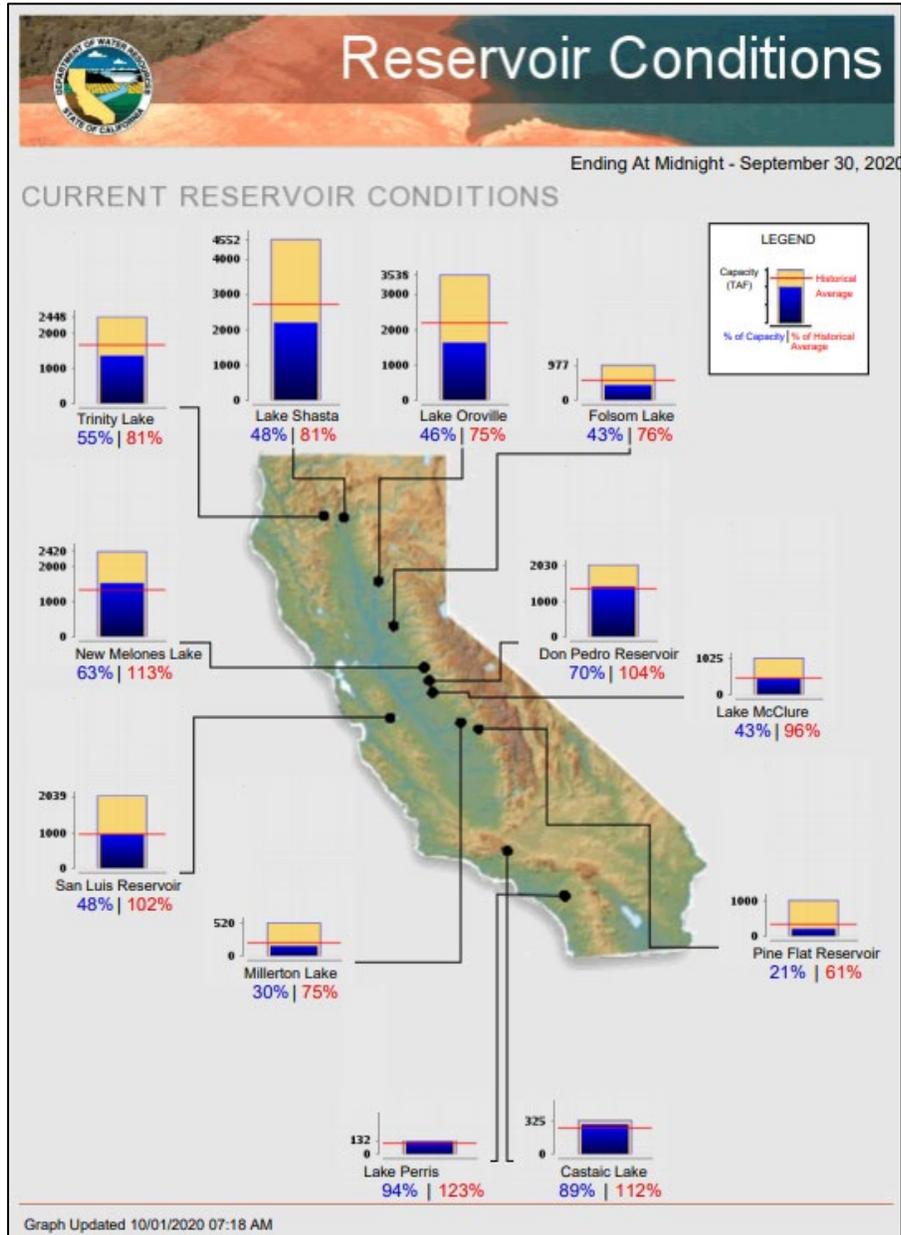
Explanation - Percentile classes						
<95	95-98	>= 99	Above action stage	Above flood stage	Above moderate flood stage	Above major flood stage
			▲ Streamgage with flood stage ○ Streamgage without flood stage			

[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](#)

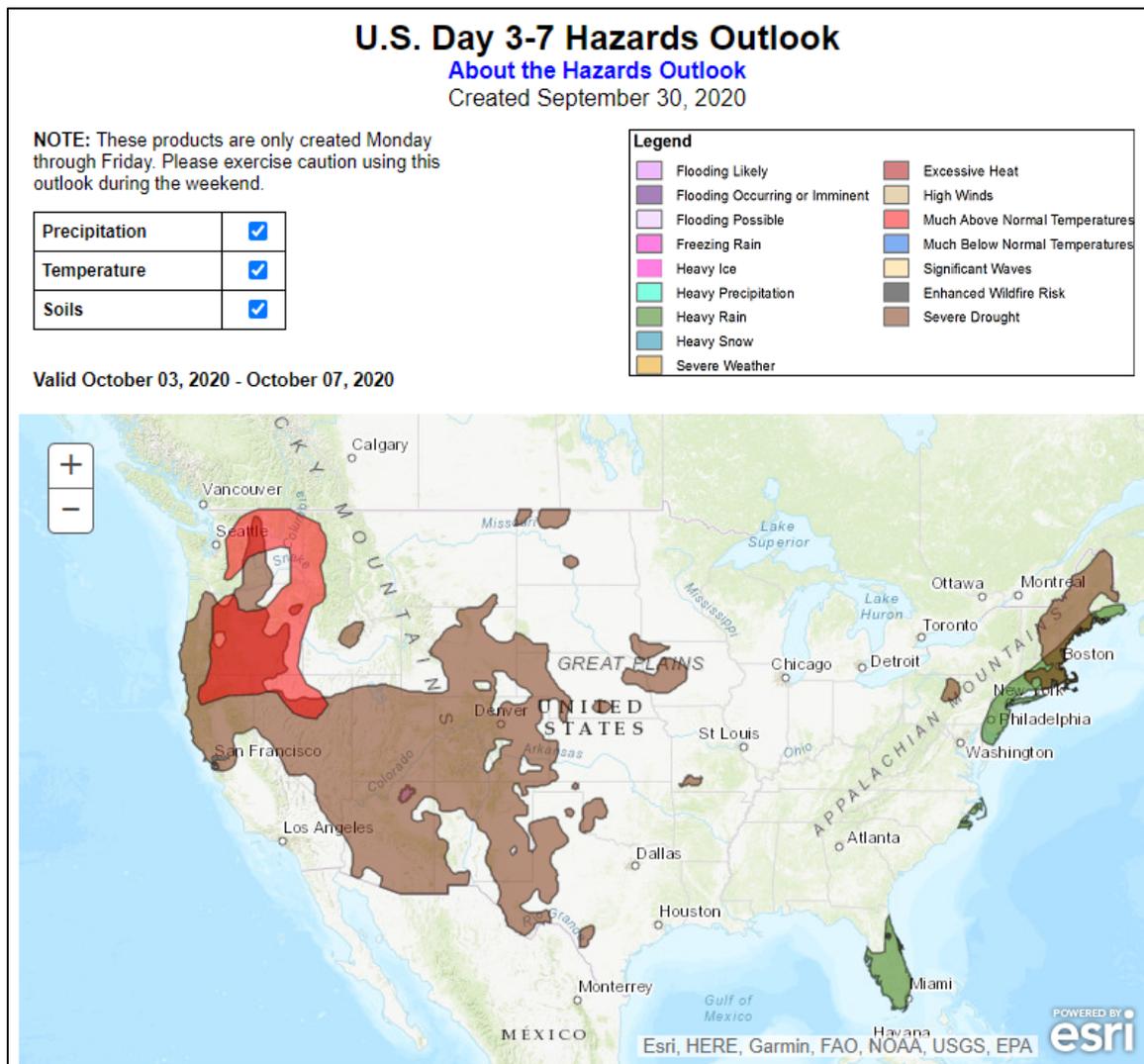
Agricultural Weather Highlights

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

National Outlook, Thursday, September 30, 2020: “The National Weather Service has issued freeze warnings for Friday across much of the northern and western Corn Belt, extending as far south as Nebraska. Additional freezes will likely occur during the weekend and early next week across the northern Plains and upper Midwest. Although many Midwestern summer crops are mature enough to withstand a freeze, late-planted corn and soybeans may need to be monitored. Meanwhile, a dry weather pattern will continue across most of the country, with significant rain limited to Florida’s peninsula. During the weekend and early next week, some light precipitation will spread from the middle and upper Mississippi Valley into the Northeast, but the western half of the U.S. will remain dry. Significantly above-normal temperatures will accompany the Western dryness, while cool conditions will prevail across much of the eastern half of the country. The NWS 6- to 10-day outlook for October 6 – 10 calls for the likelihood of near- or below-normal temperatures in the eastern U.S., except across Florida’s peninsula, while warmer-than-normal weather will prevail from the Pacific Coast to the Plains and upper Midwest. Meanwhile, near- or below-normal precipitation across most of the country should contrast with wetter-than-normal weather in northern Maine, much of Florida, and the Pacific Northwest.”

Weather Hazards Outlook: [October 3 - 7, 2020](#)

Source: NOAA Weather Prediction Center

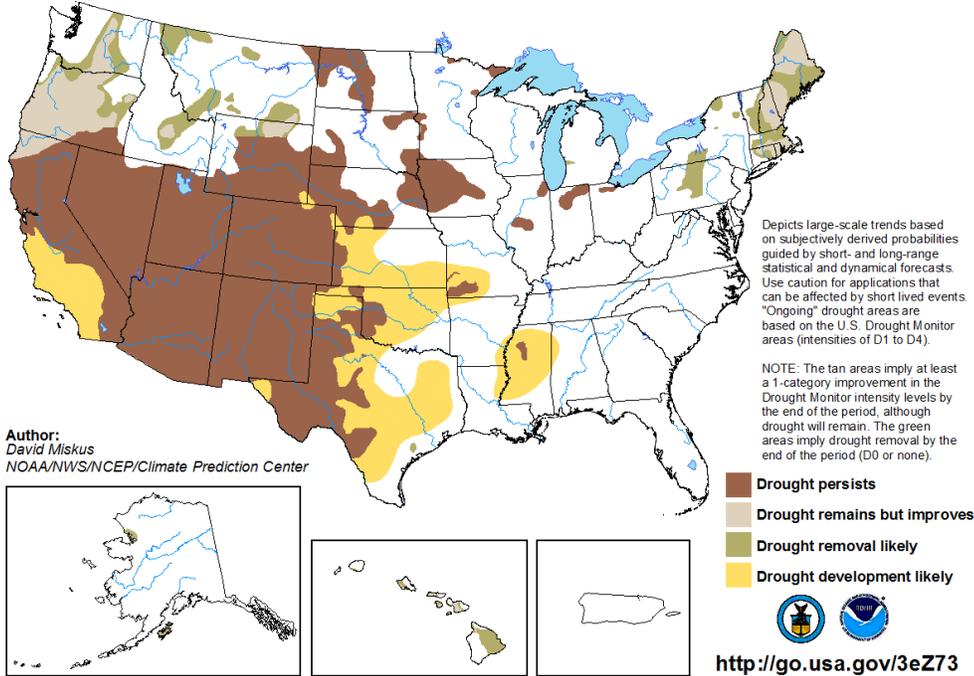


Seasonal Drought Outlook: [September 17 – December 31, 2020](#)

Source: National Weather Service

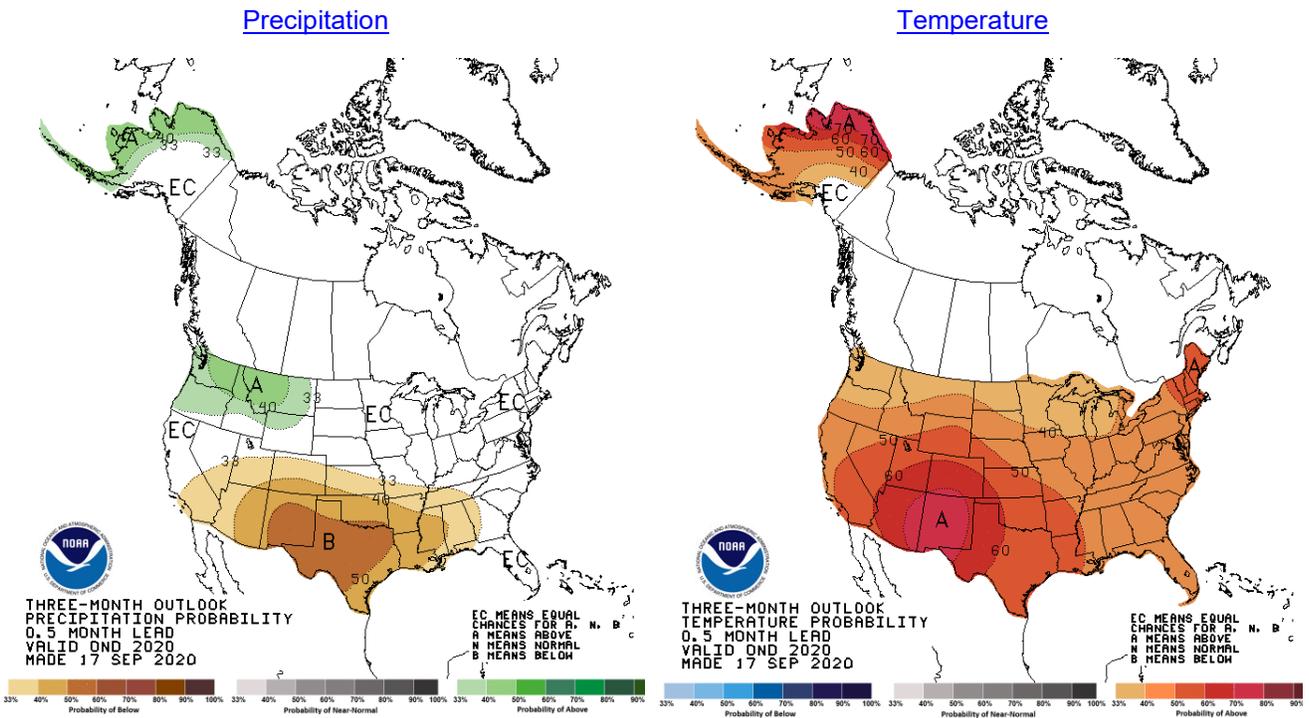
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for September 17 - December 31, 2020
Released September 17



Climate Prediction Center 3-Month Outlook

Source: National Weather Service



[October-November-December \(OND\) 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](#).