



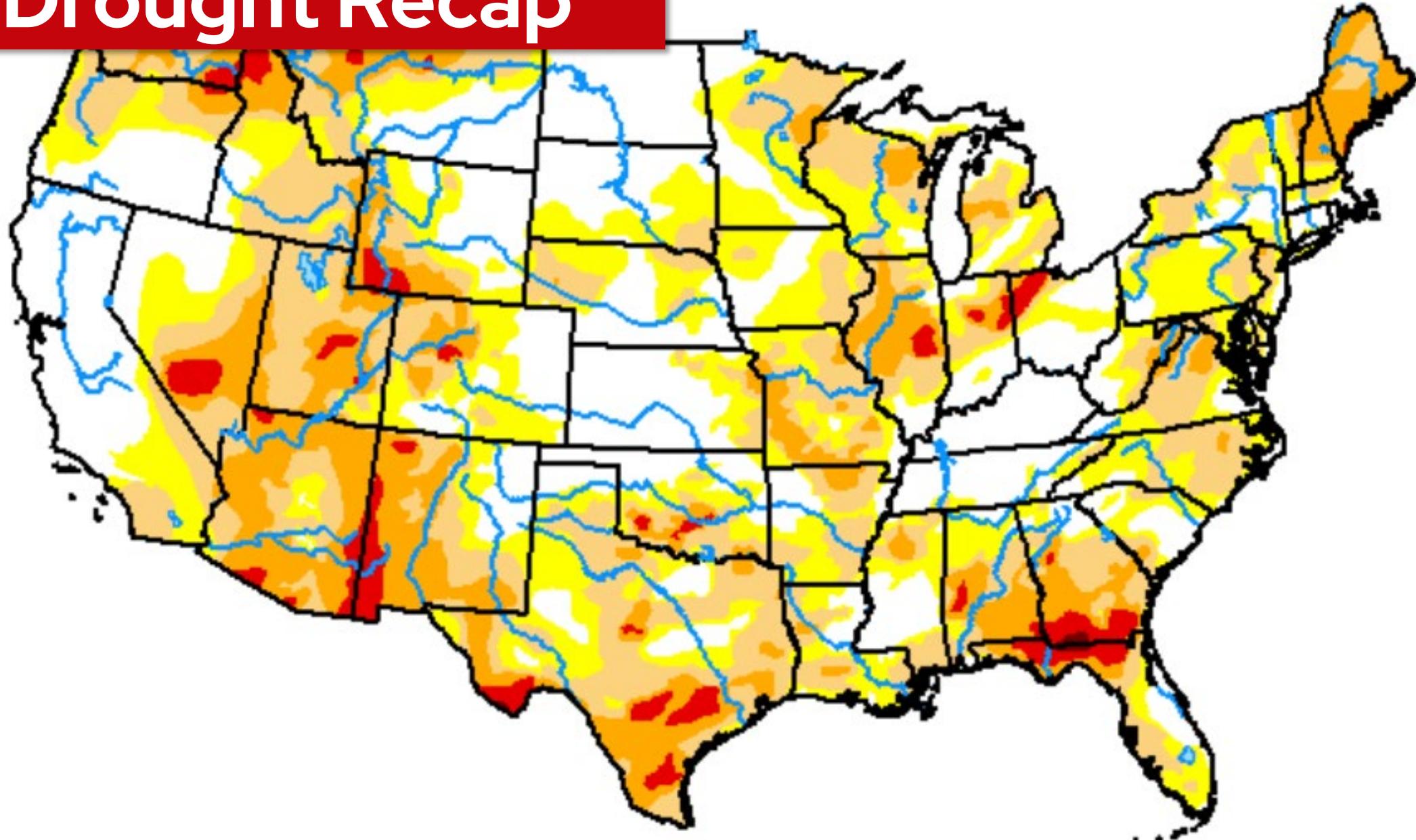
Ag Climate Recap & Outlook

Josh Bendorf

Wisconsin State Climatology Office

December 4, 2025

Drought Recap



Drought

Intensity:

None

D2 Severe Drought

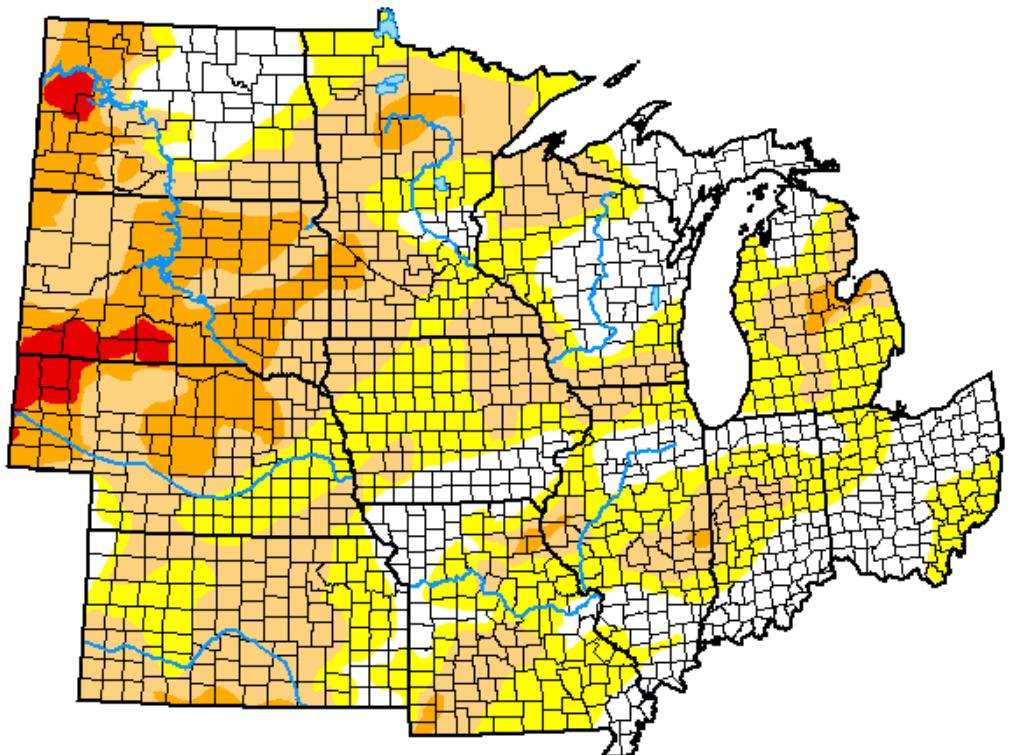
D0 Abnormally Dry

D3 Extreme Drought

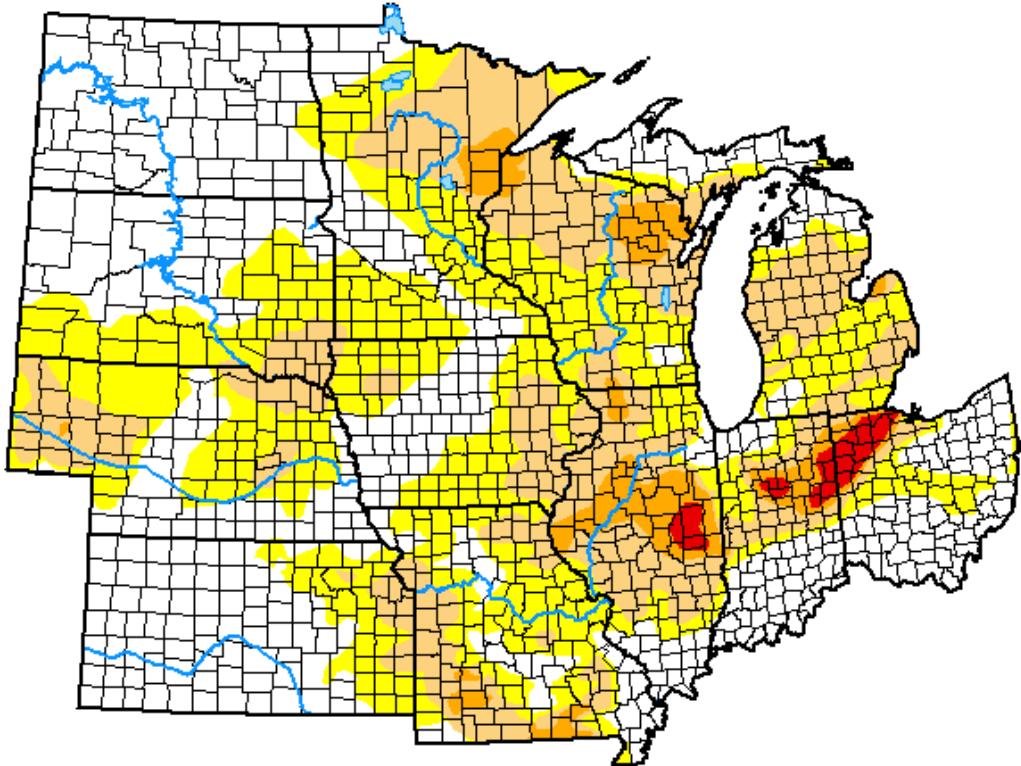
D1 Moderate Drought

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>



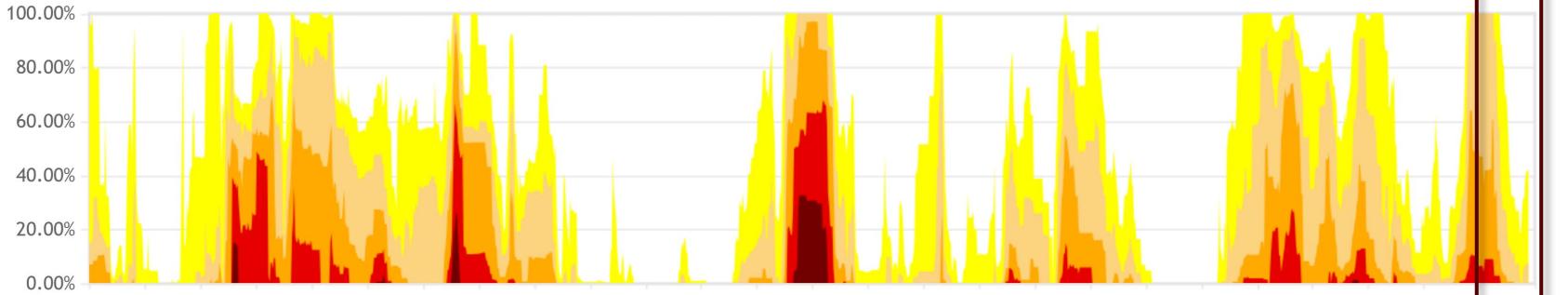
April 1, 2025



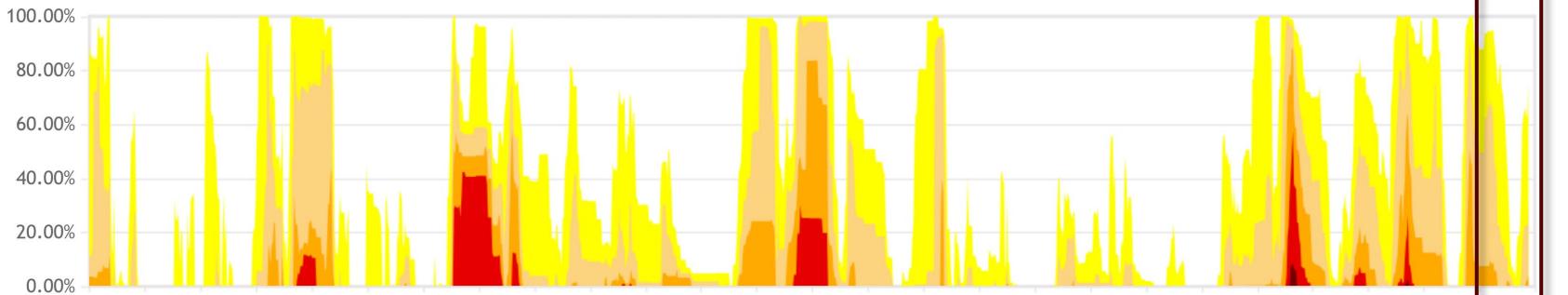
December 2, 2025

Drought

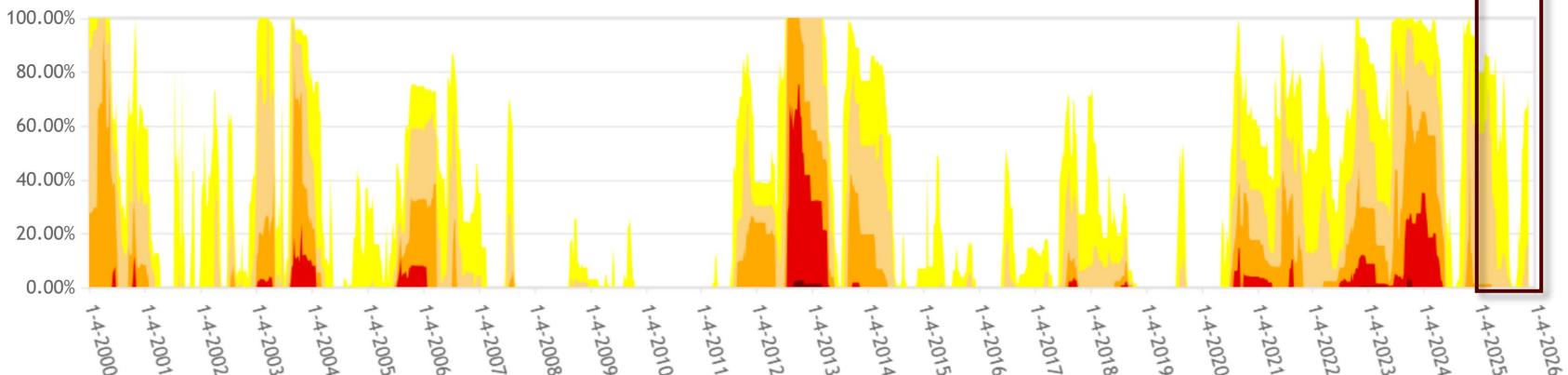
South Dakota Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



Minnesota Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



Iowa Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap.aspx>

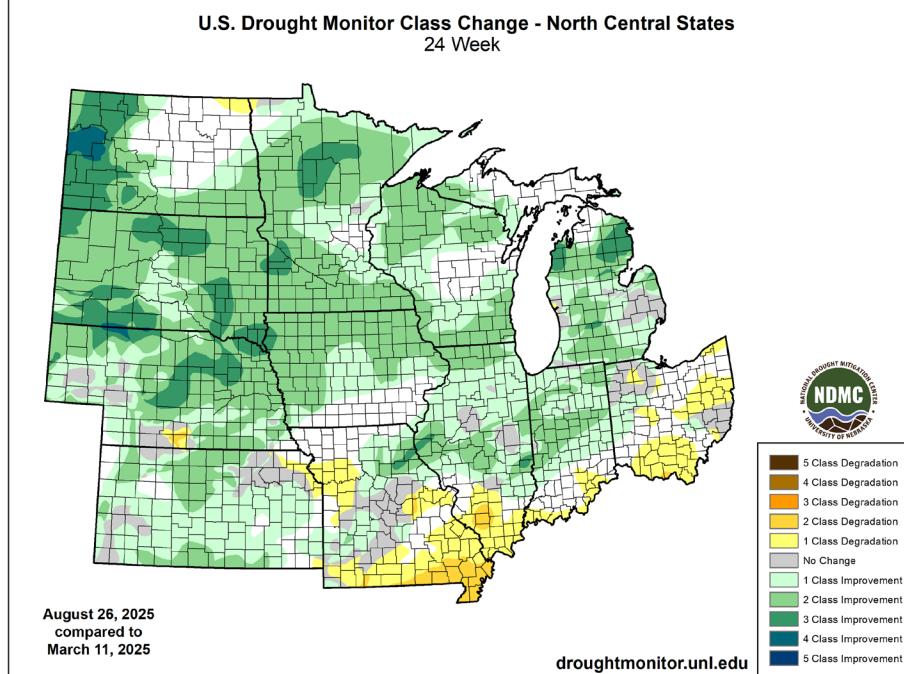
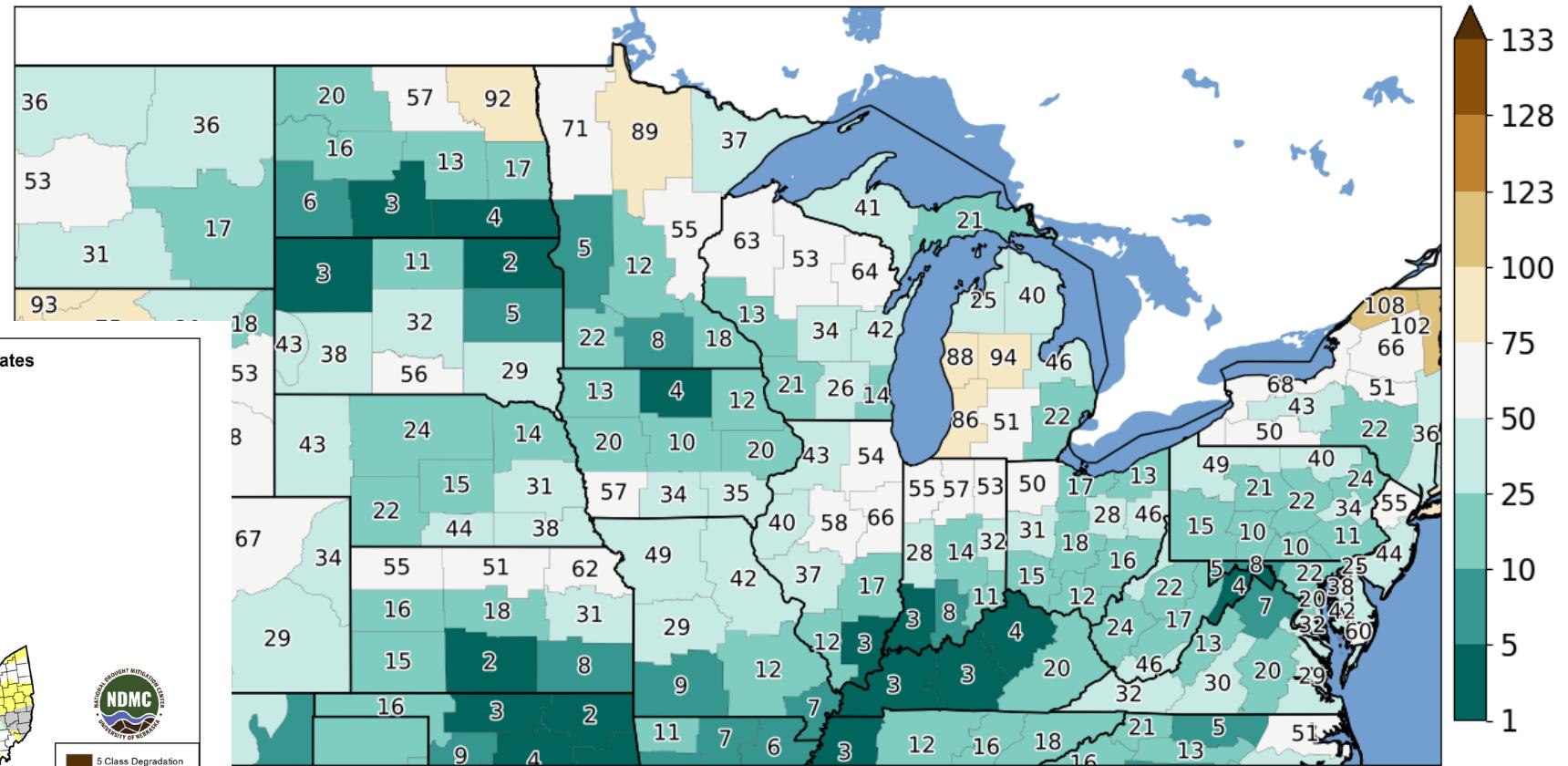
From the U.S. Drought Monitor website, <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/DmData/TimeSeries.aspx>, 11-25-2025



Precip – Spring & Summer

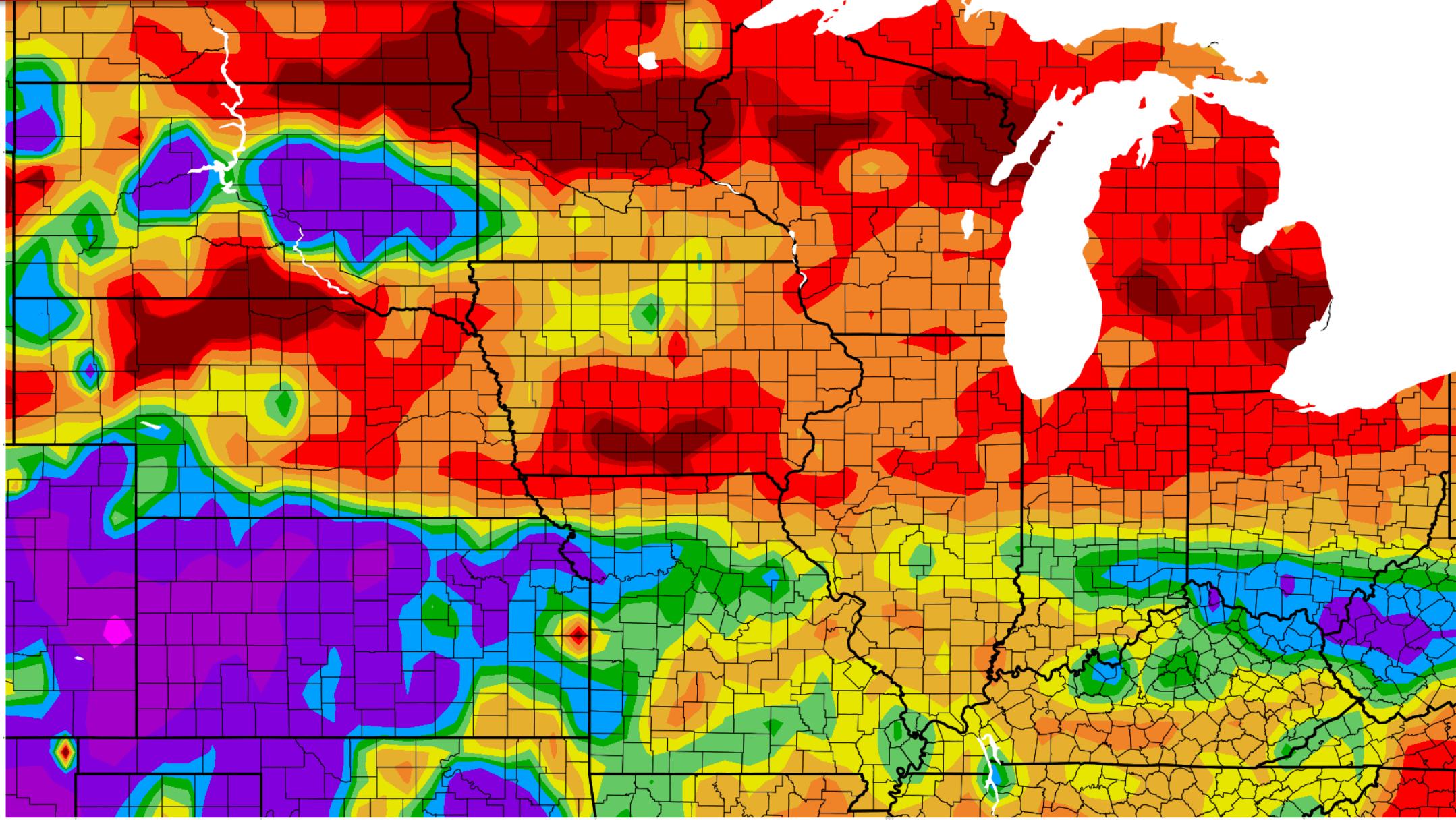


31 Mar 2025 ~7 AM till 31 Aug 2025 ~7 AM Total Precipitation Ranks by Climate District
Based on IEM Estimates, 1 is wettest out of 133 total years (1893-2025)



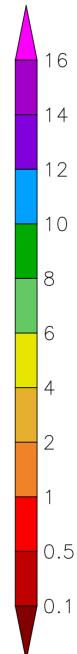
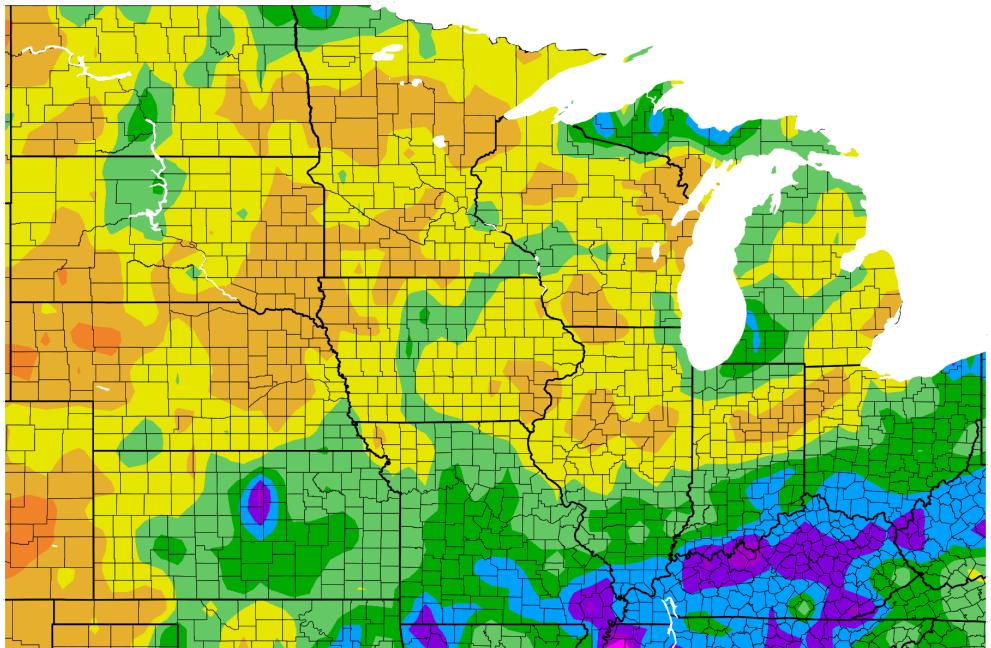
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/ChangeMaps.aspx>
<https://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/plotting/auto>

Recent Conditions

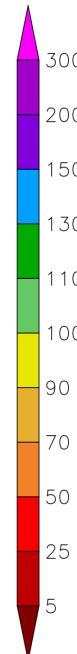
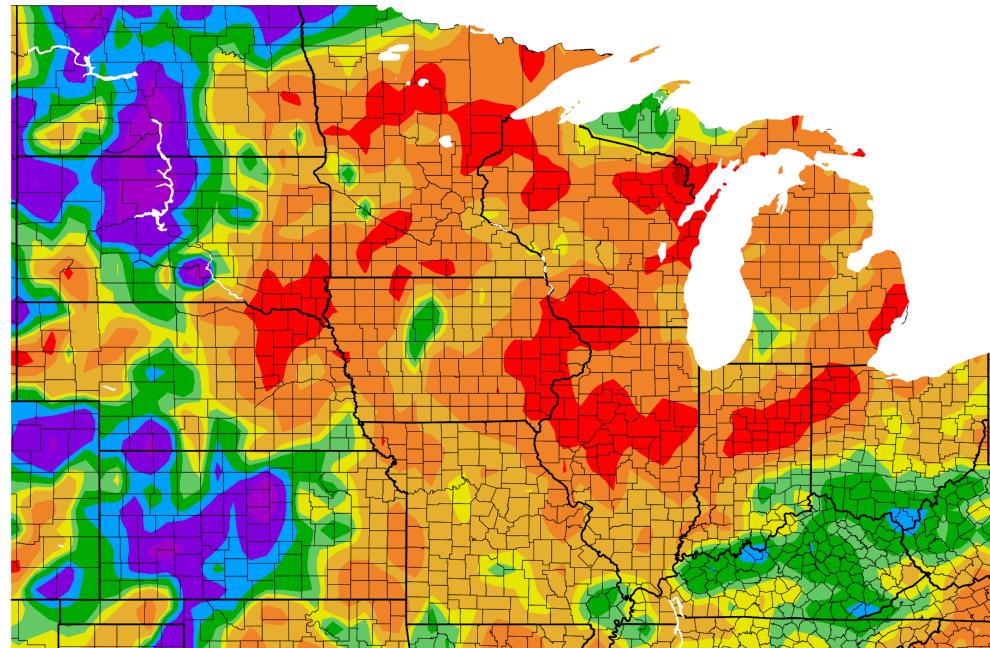


Precipitation – Last 90 Days

Precipitation (in)
9/5/2025 – 12/3/2025



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/5/2025 – 12/3/2025



Generated 12/4/2025 using provisional data.

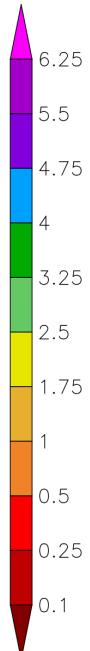
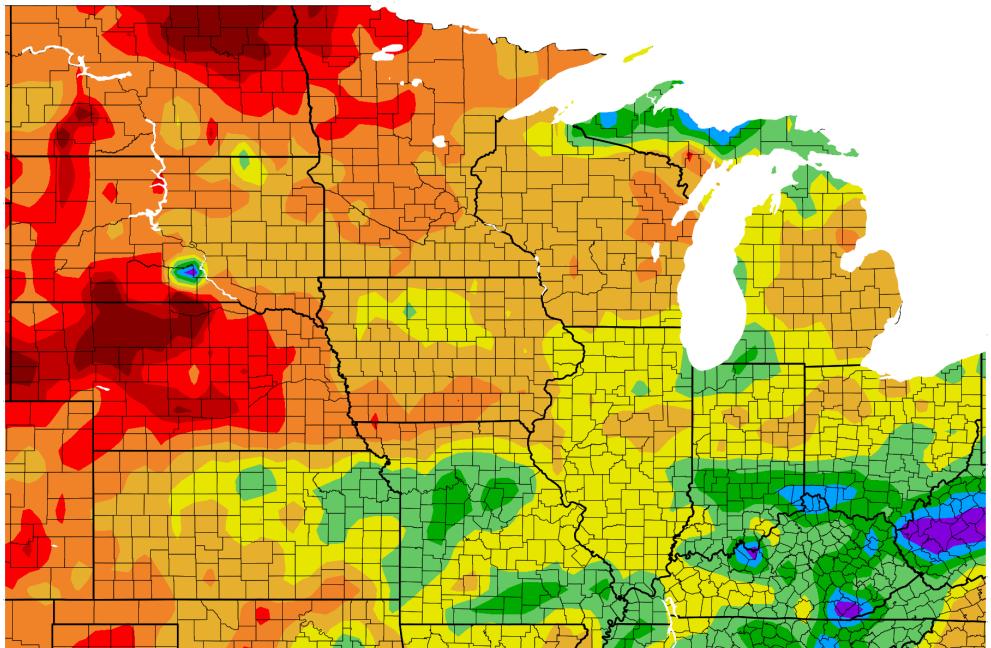
ACIS Web Services

Generated 12/4/2025 using provisional data.

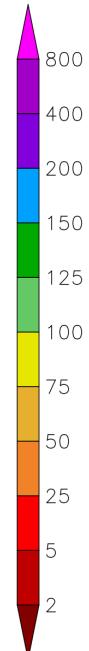
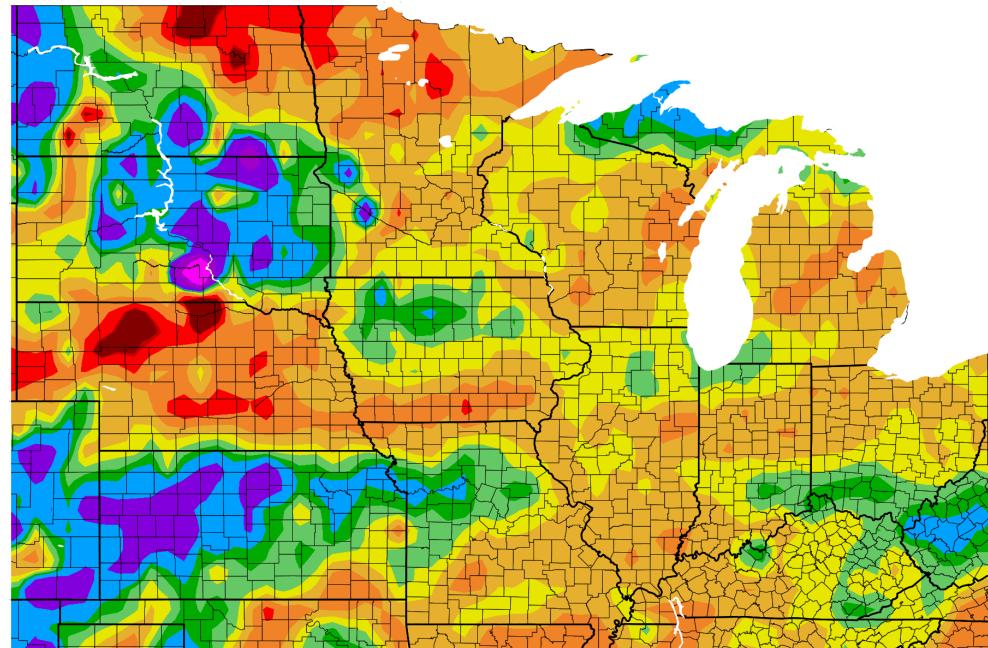
ACIS Web Services

Precipitation – Last 30 Days

Precipitation (in)
11/4/2025 – 12/3/2025



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
11/4/2025 – 12/3/2025



Generated 12/4/2025 using provisional data.

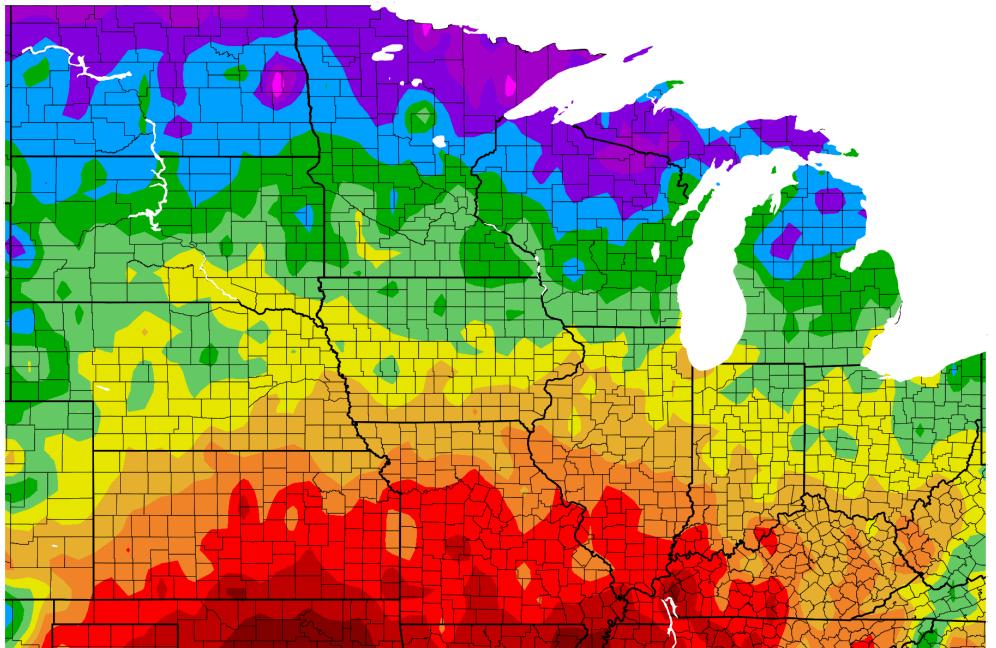
ACIS Web Services

Generated 12/4/2025 using provisional data.

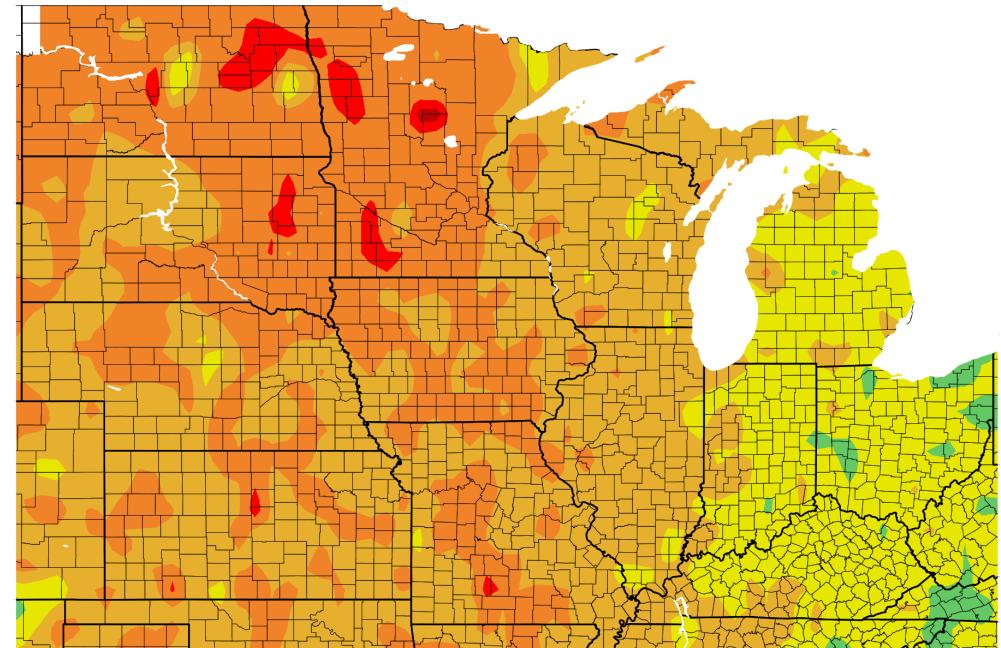
ACIS Web Services

Temperatures – Sep-Nov

Temperature (F)
9/1/2025 – 11/30/2025



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/1/2025 – 11/30/2025



Generated 12/4/2025 using provisional data.

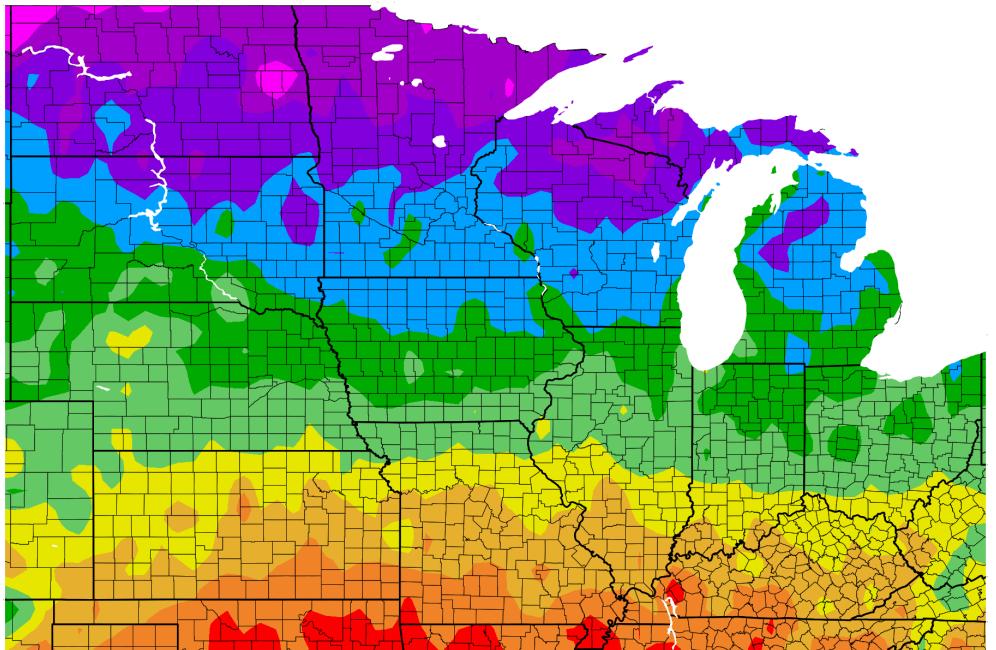
ACIS Web Services

Generated 12/4/2025 using provisional data.

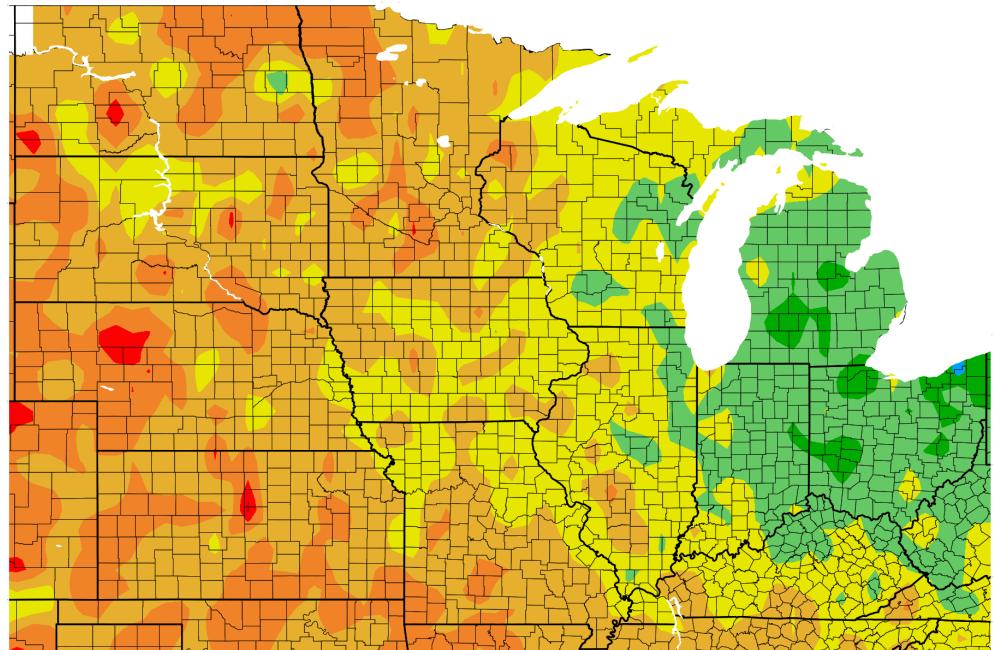
ACIS Web Services

Temperatures – Last 30 Days

Temperature (F)
11/4/2025 – 12/3/2025



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
11/4/2025 – 12/3/2025



Generated 12/4/2025 using provisional data.

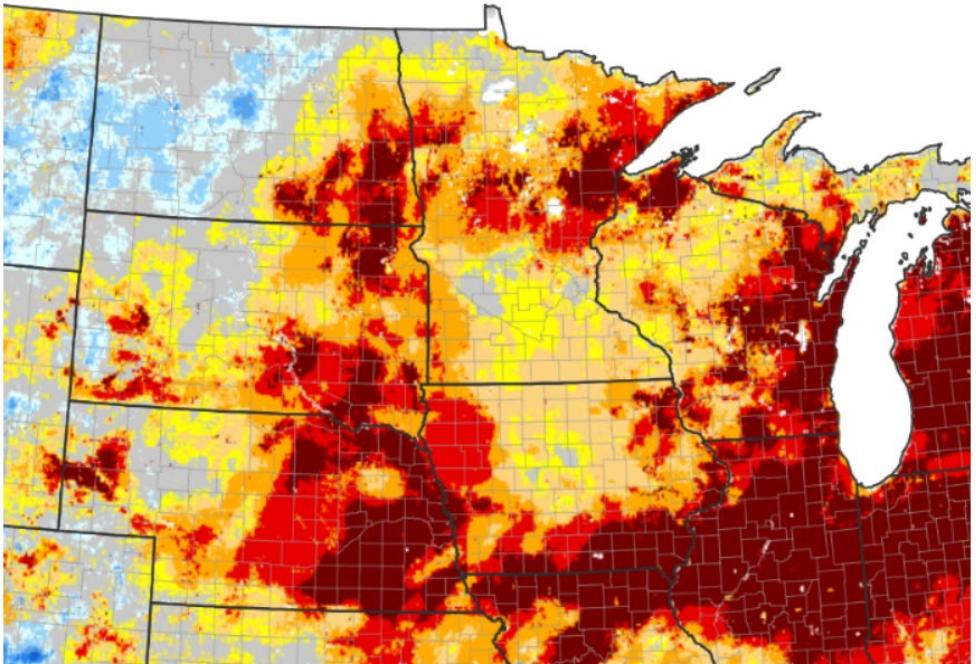
ACIS Web Services

Generated 12/4/2025 using provisional data.

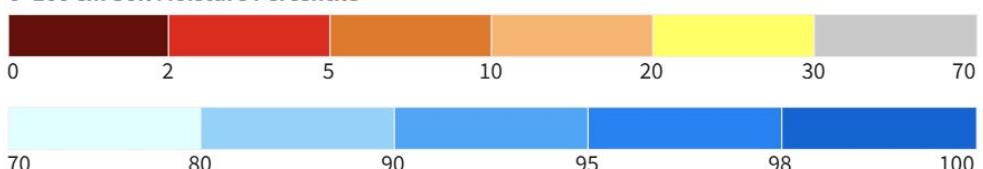
ACIS Web Services

Modeled Soil Moisture

0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



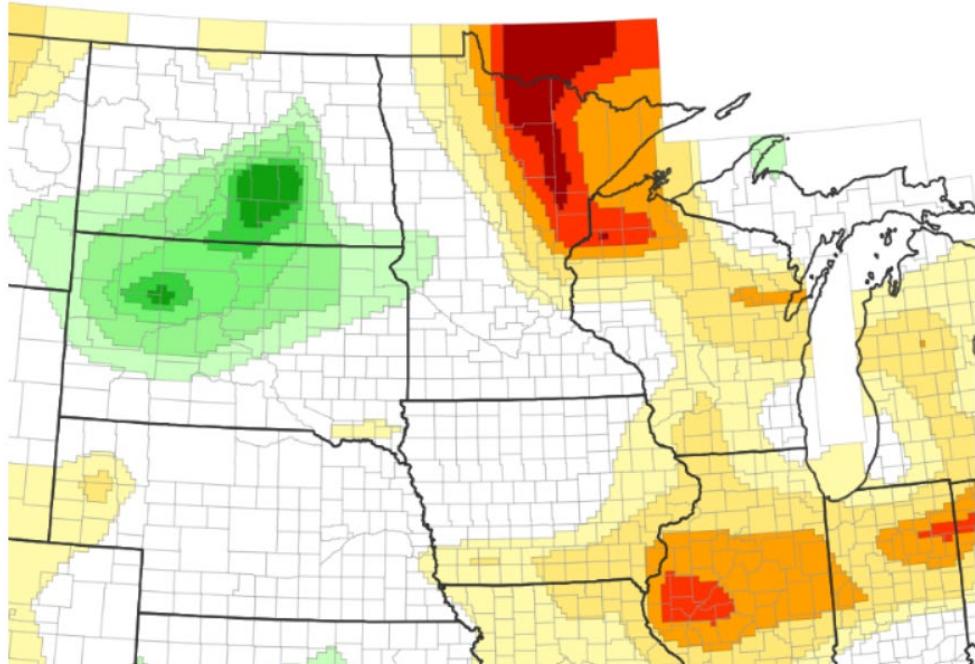
0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



Source(s): NASA
Data Valid: 12/03/25

Drought.gov

CPC Leaky Bucket Daily Soil Moisture Percentiles (1.6m)



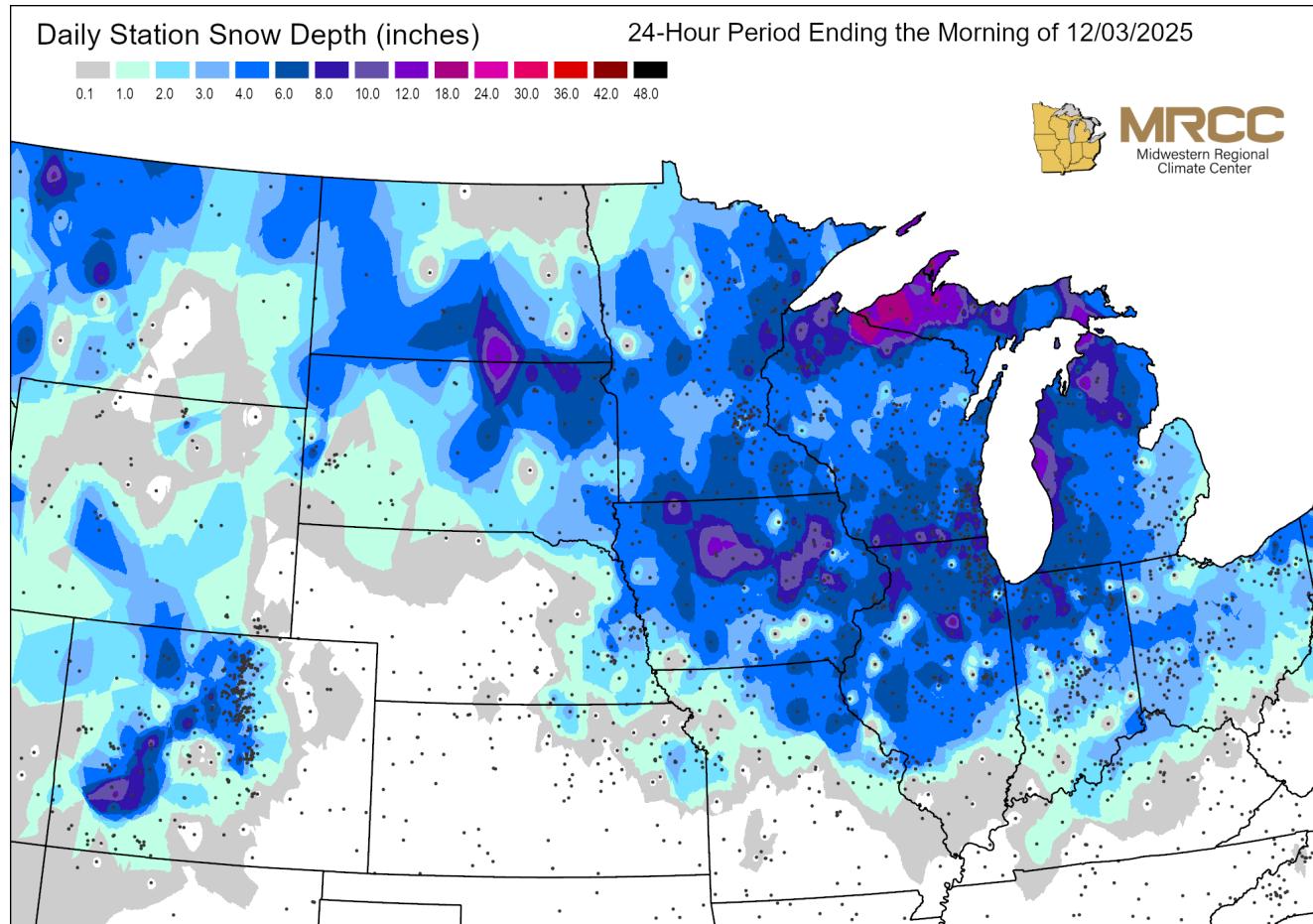
Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center
Valid on: 12/02/25

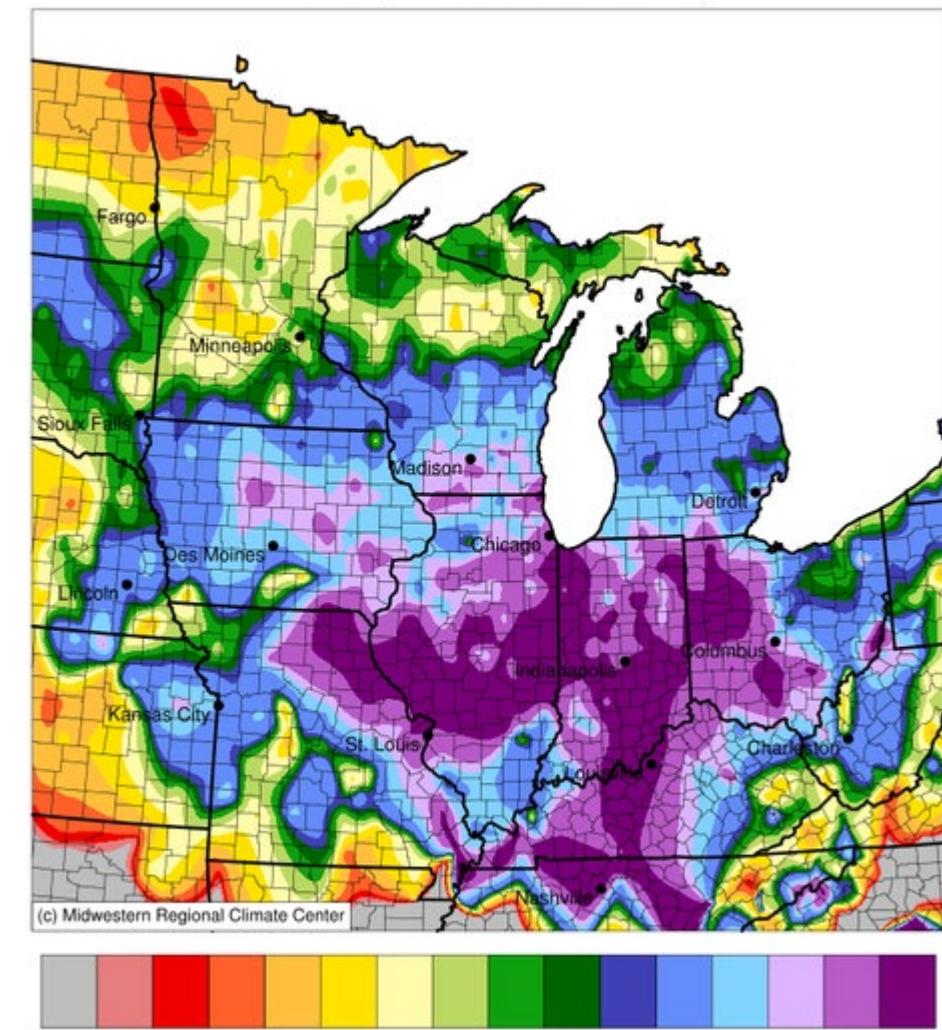
Drought.gov

Snow (so far)

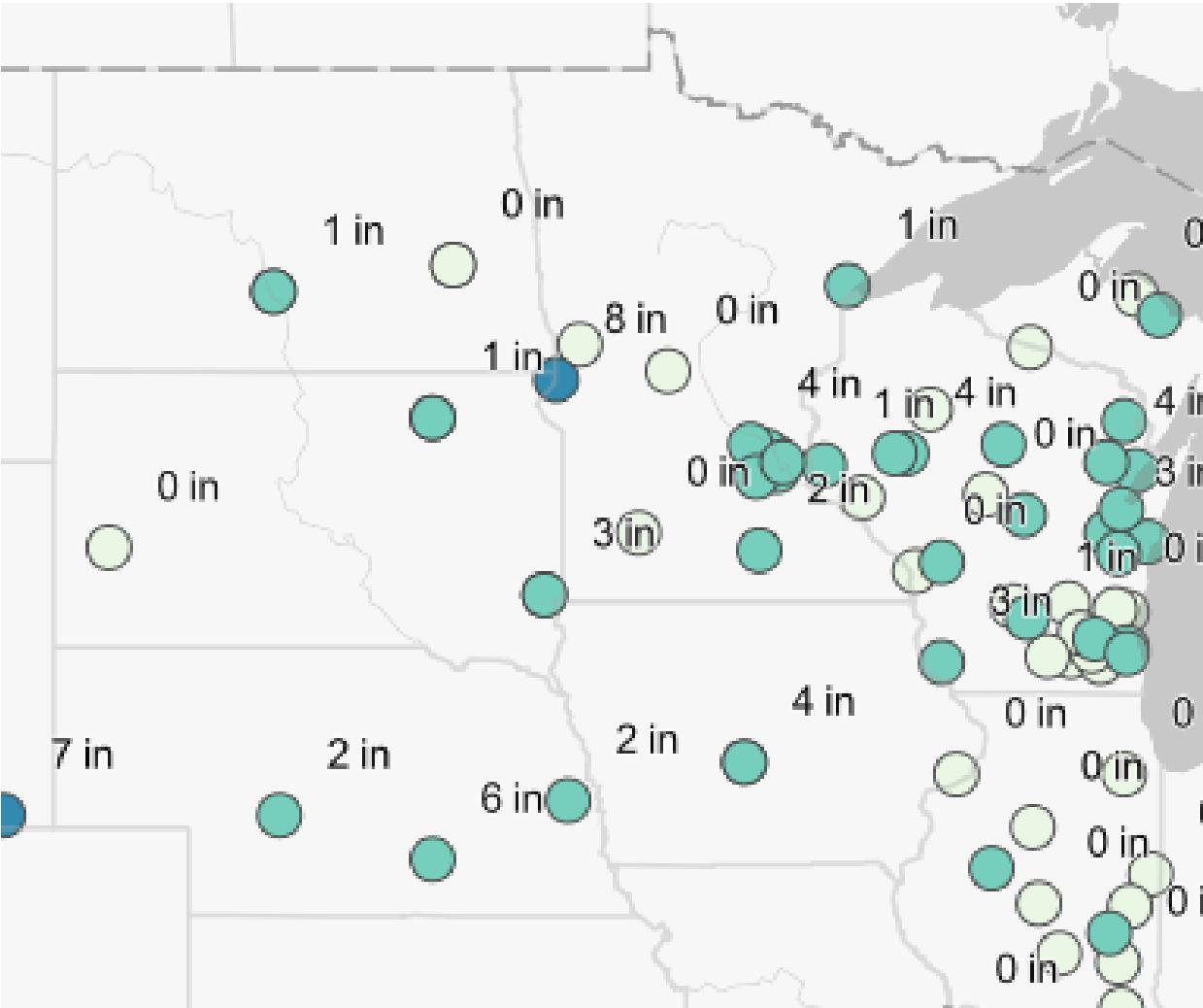


Accumulated Snowfall (in): Percent of 1991-2020 Normals

November 01, 2025 to December 03, 2025



Soil Frost Depth

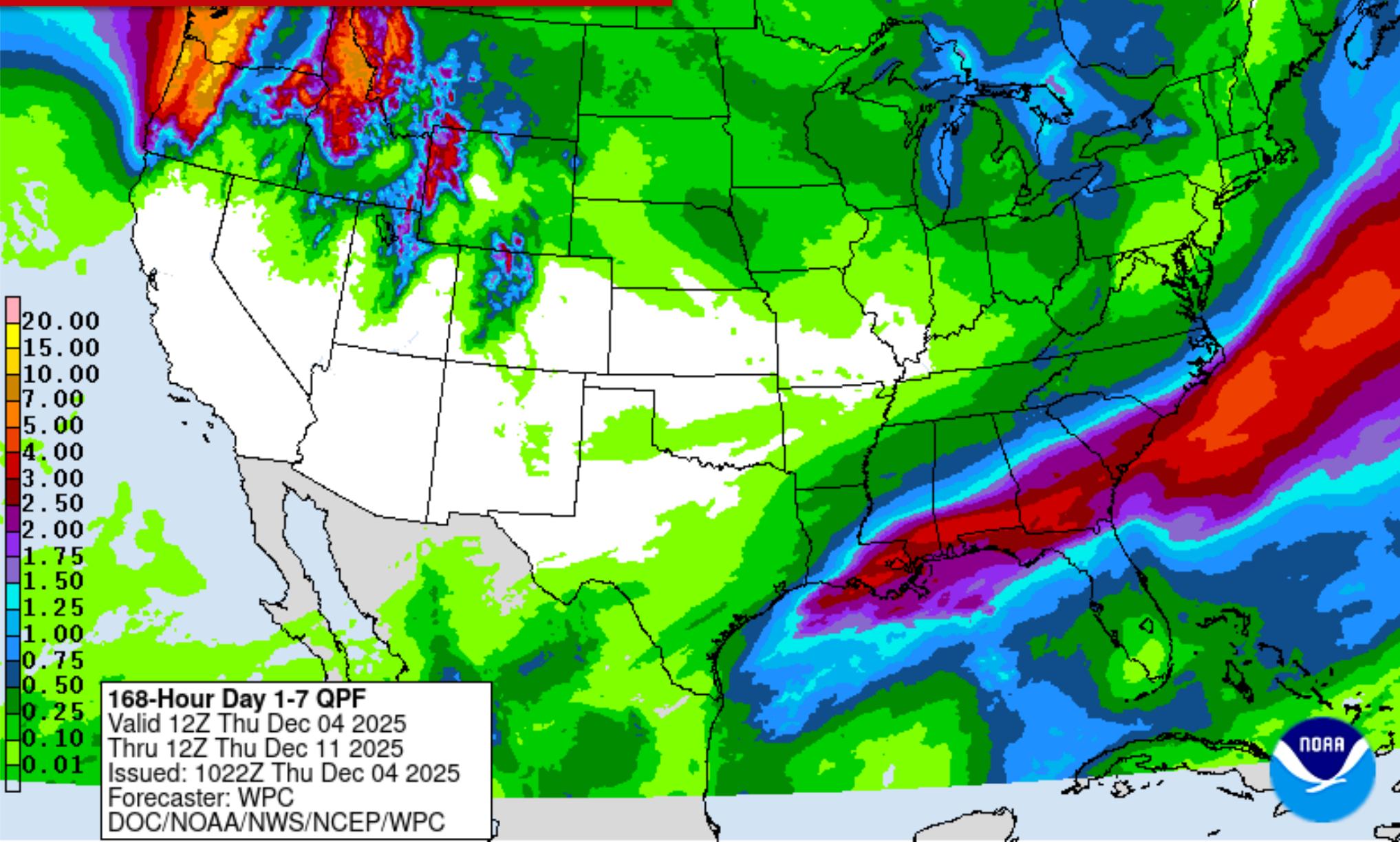


Measurements on this map are from December 1-4

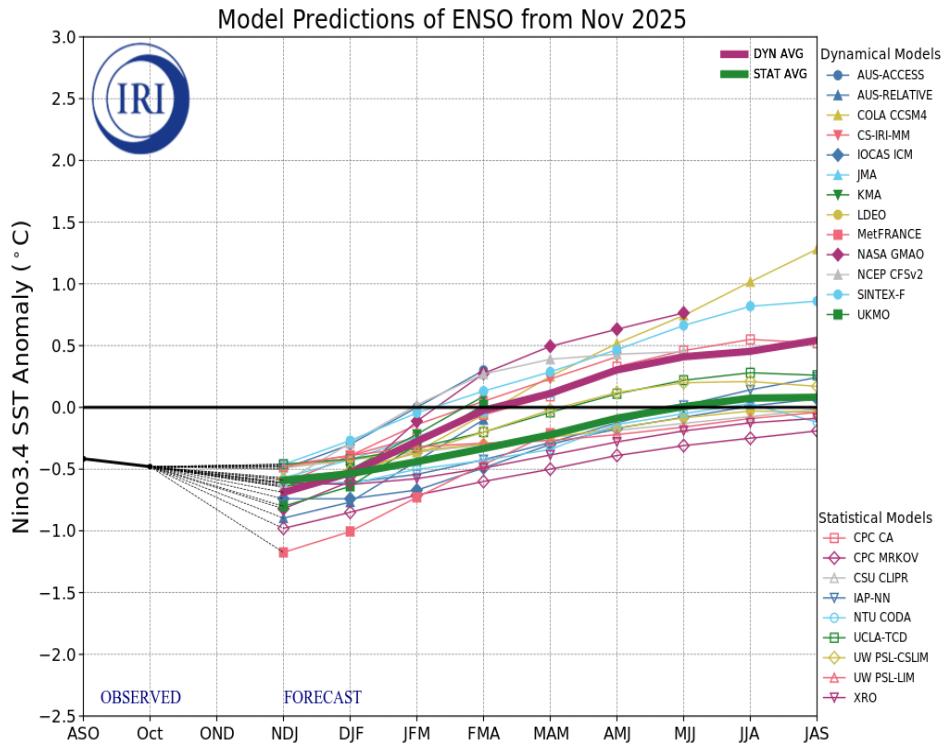
Frost depth reports are commonly from frost tube instruments, visual reports from construction or cemetery sites, or other types of electronic probes.

https://www.weather.gov/ncrfc/lmi_frostdepthmap

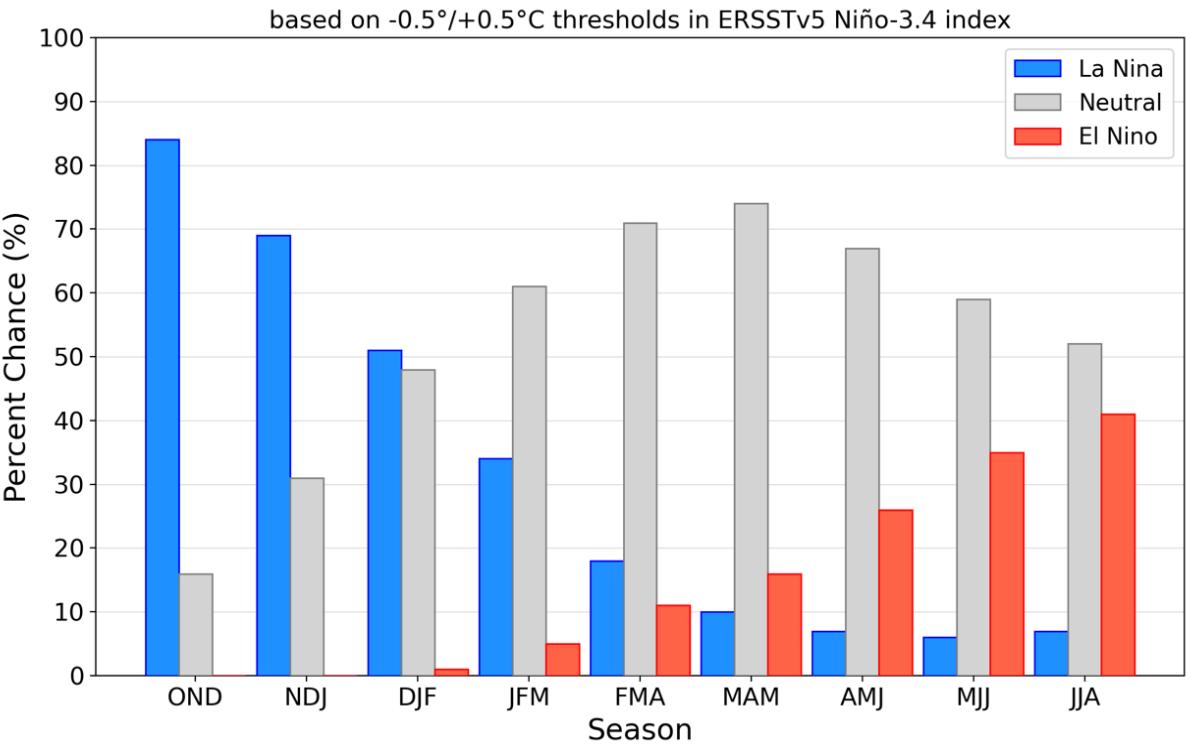
Outlook



ENSO Outlook



Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities (issued November 2025)

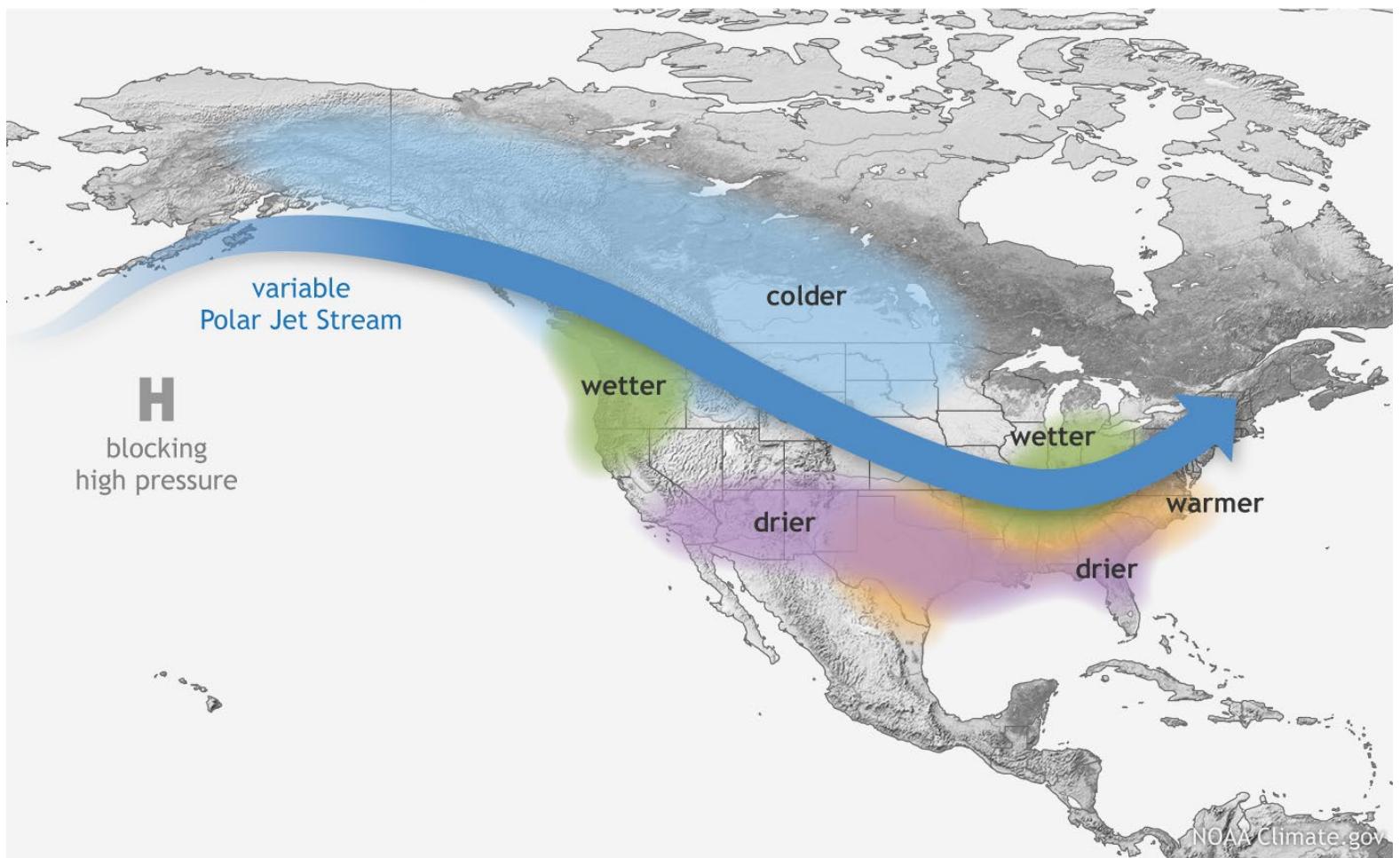


La Niña is favored to continue into the Northern Hemisphere winter, with a transition to **ENSO-neutral** most likely in January-March 2026 (61% chance; Source: NOAA CPC).

La Niña in Winter

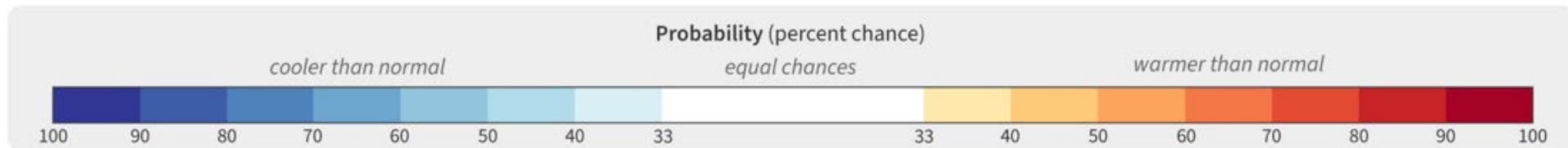
- Typically, colder and wetter in Iowa & points north/west
- More variable Polar Jet Stream

Typical winter La Niña pattern

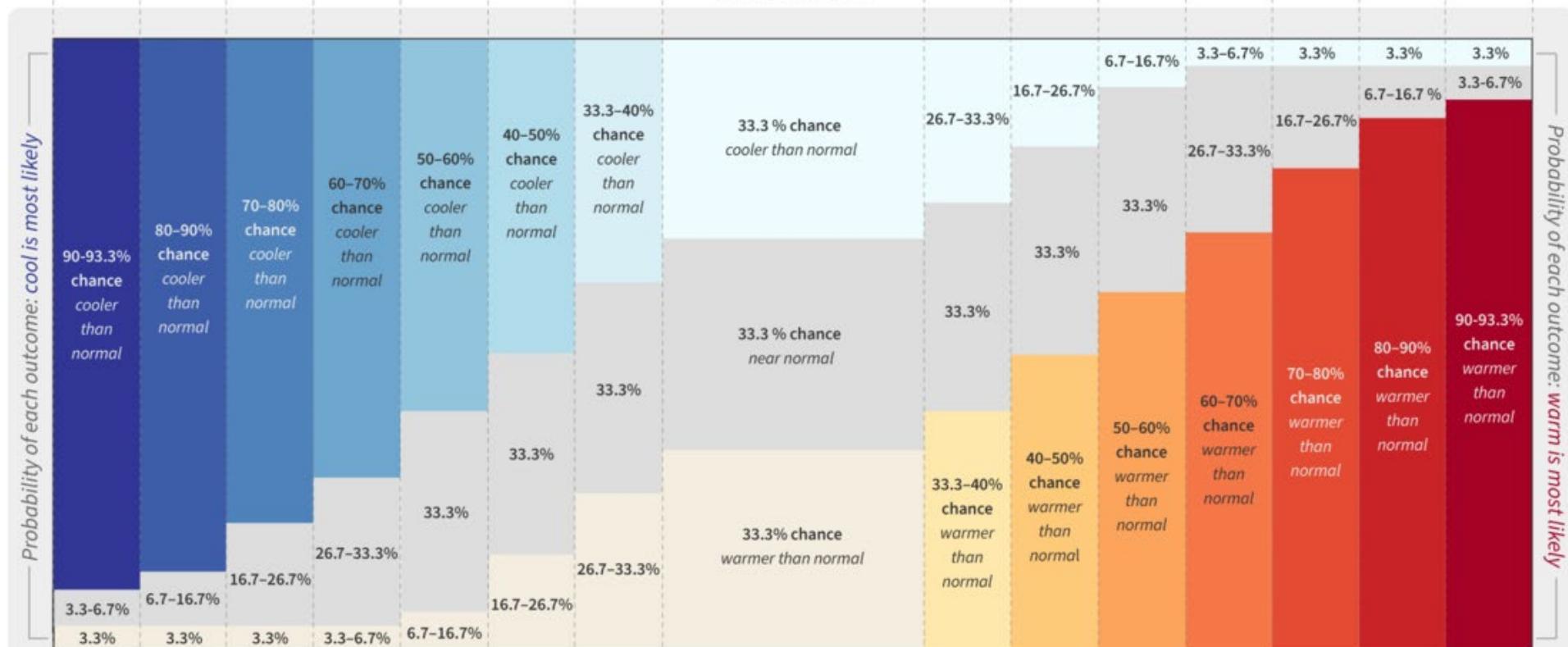


CPC Outlooks

WHAT THE MAP SHOWS



WHAT IT MEANS



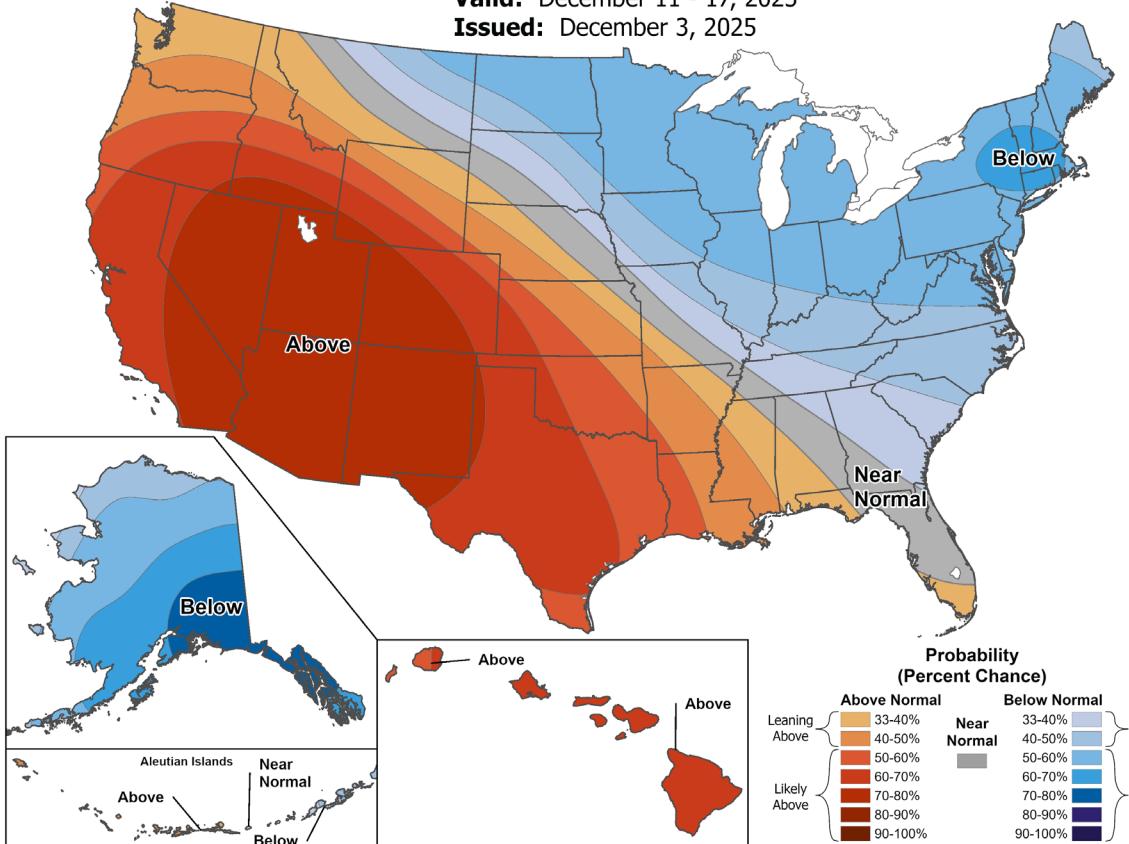
8-14 Day Outlook



8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: December 11 - 17, 2025

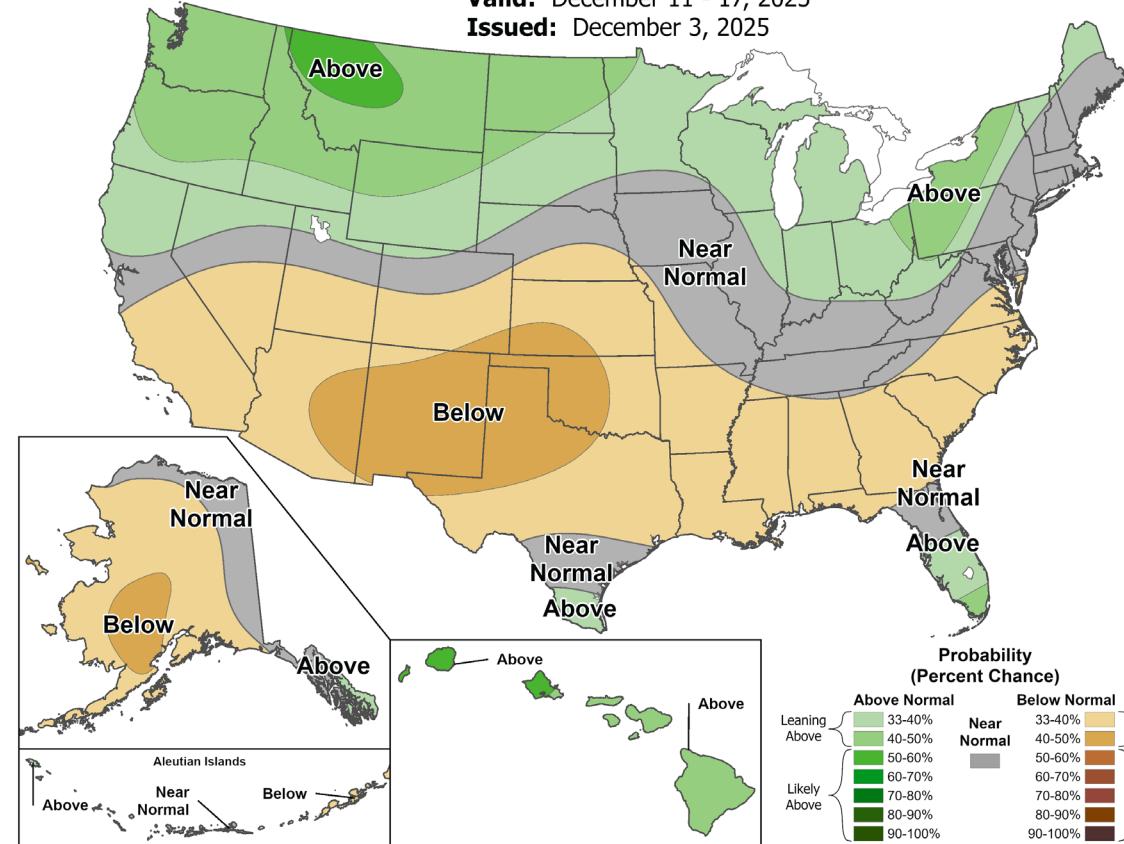
Issued: December 3, 2025



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: December 11 - 17, 2025

Issued: December 3, 2025



Seasonal Outlook



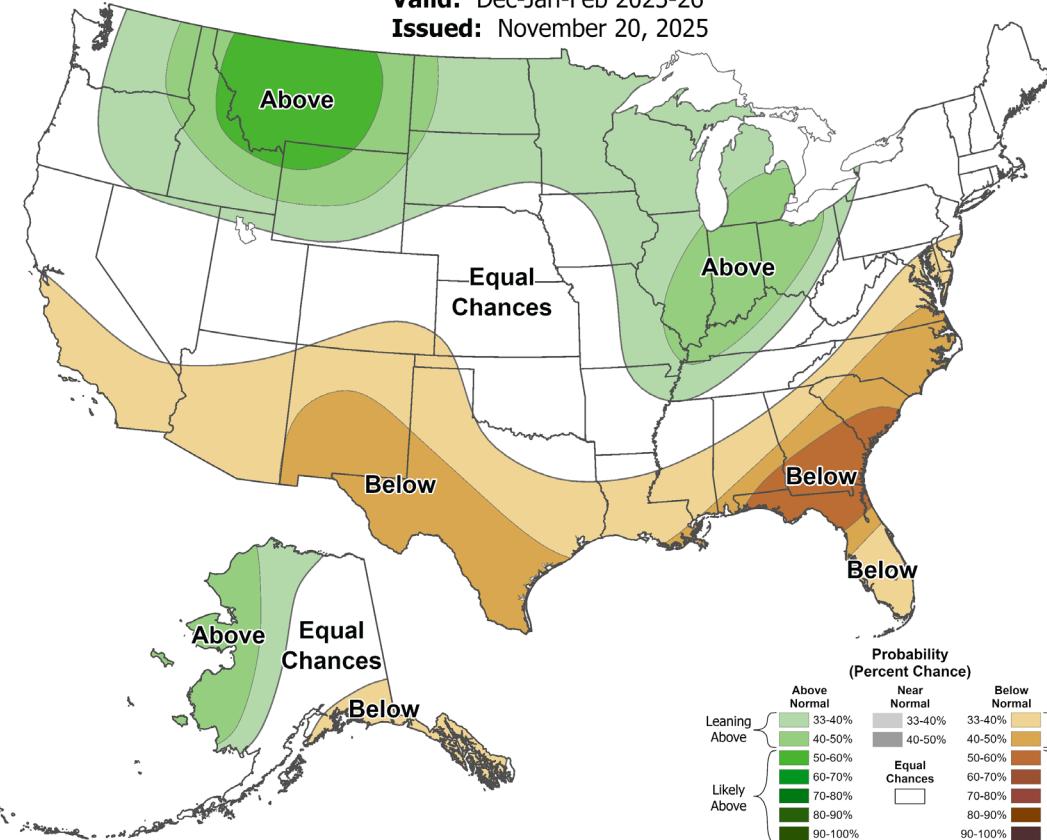
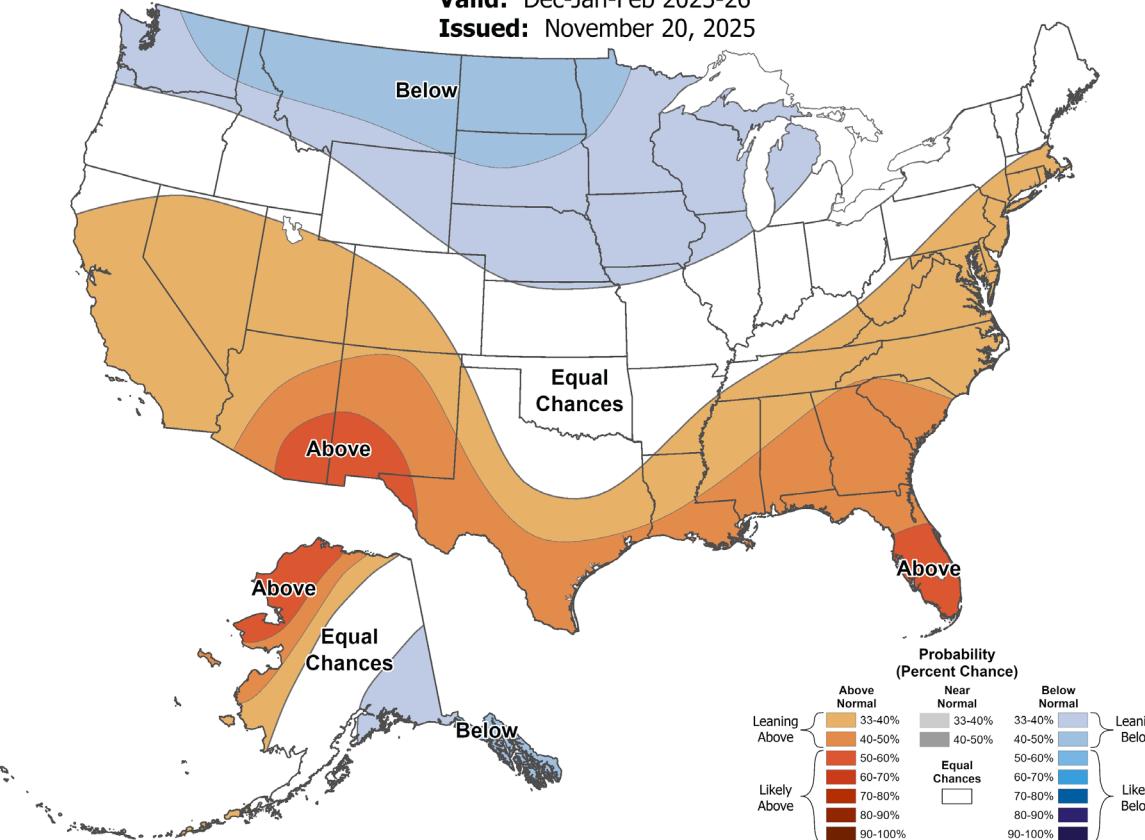
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2025-26
Issued: November 20, 2025



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2025-26
Issued: November 20, 2025

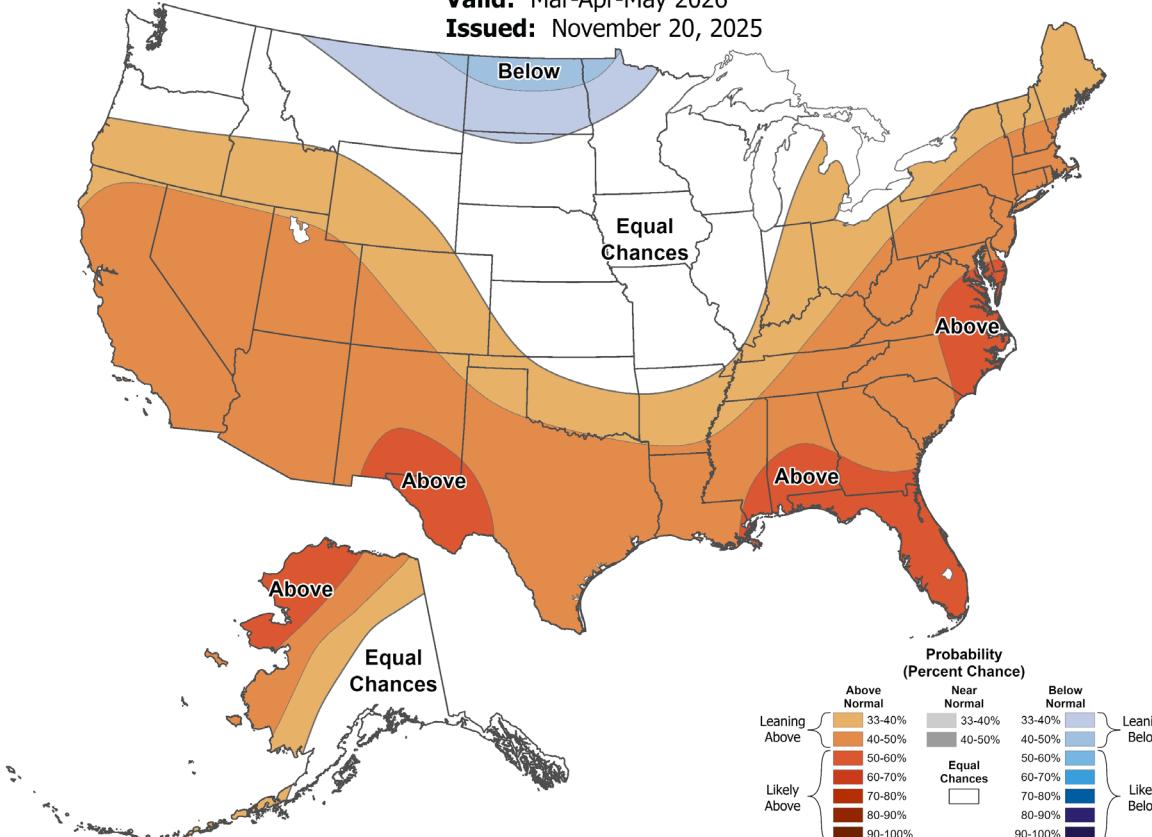


Spring Outlook



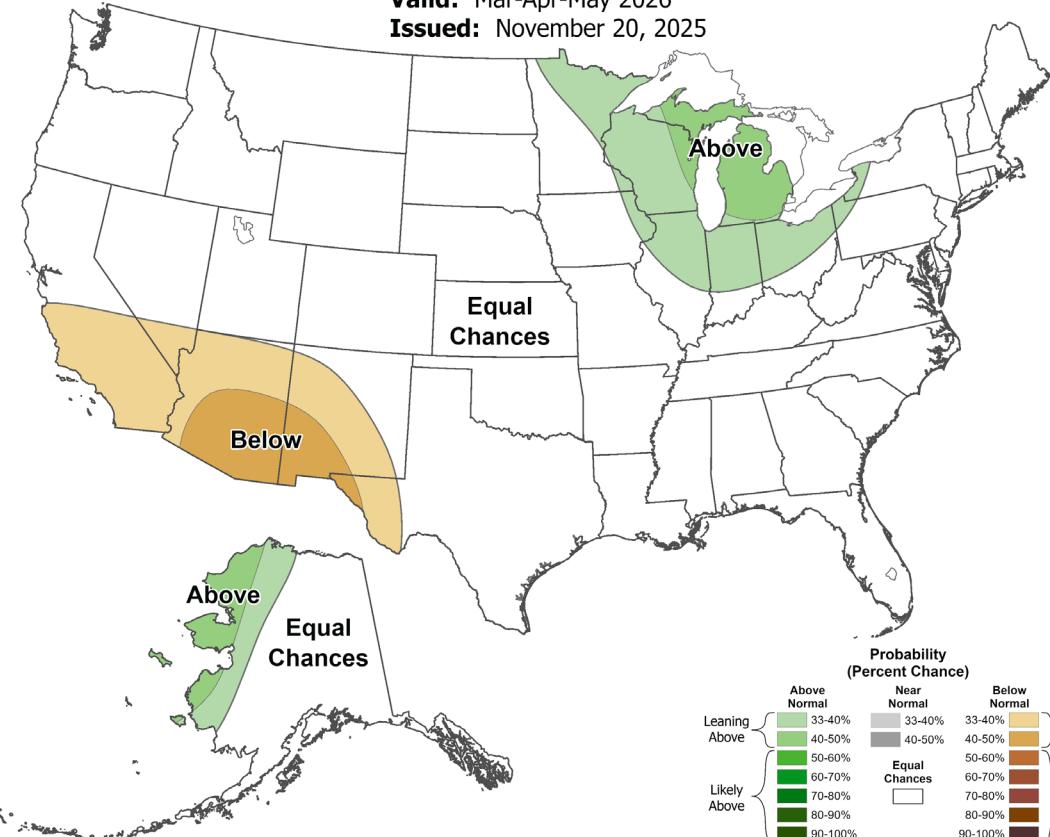
Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2026
Issued: November 20, 2025



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2026
Issued: November 20, 2025

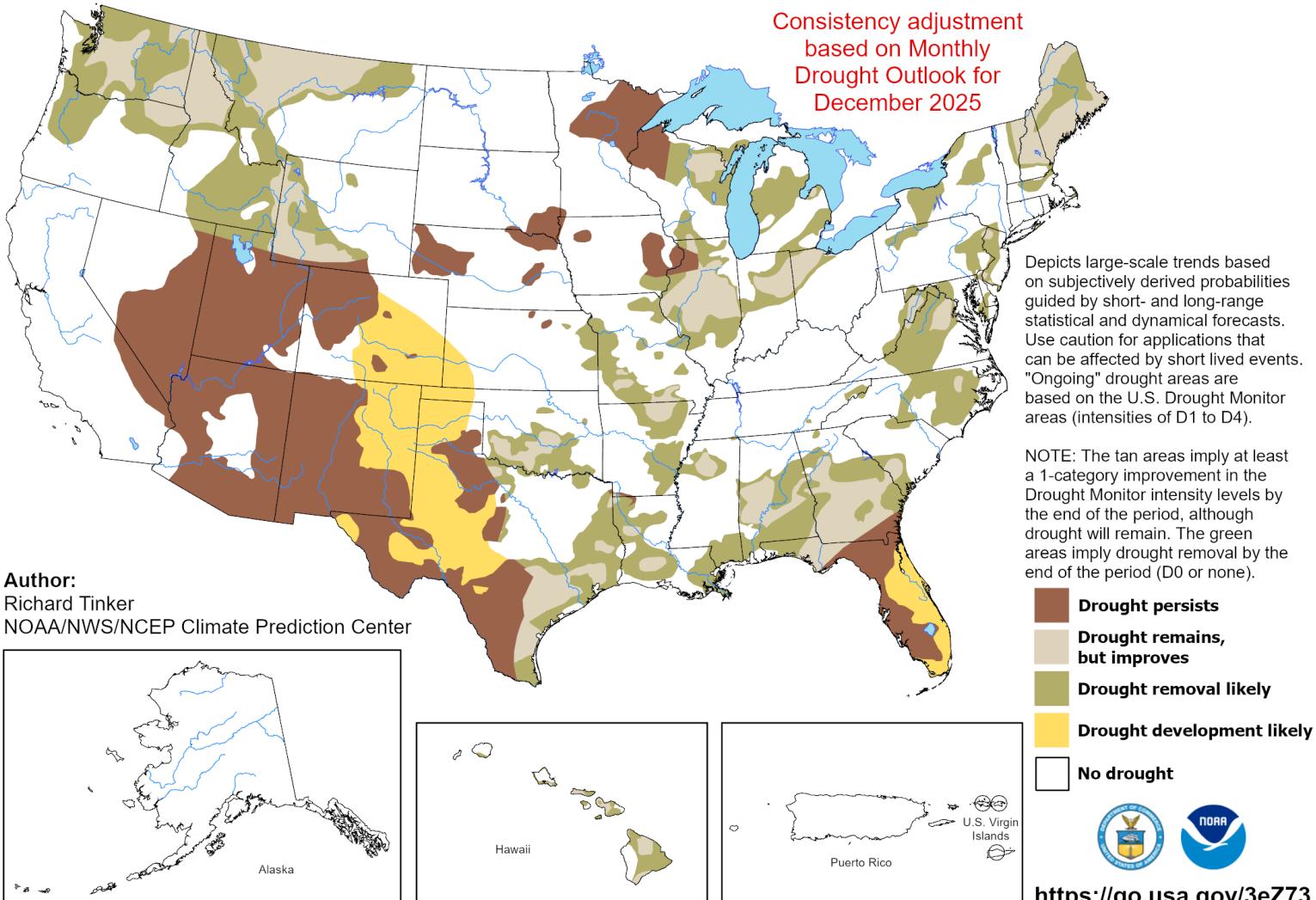


Drought Outlook

U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for December 1, 2025 - February 28, 2026
Released November 30, 2025



Thank you!

Any questions?



Josh Bendorf

Climate Outreach Specialist
Wisconsin State Climatology Office
e: jbendorf@wisc.edu