



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

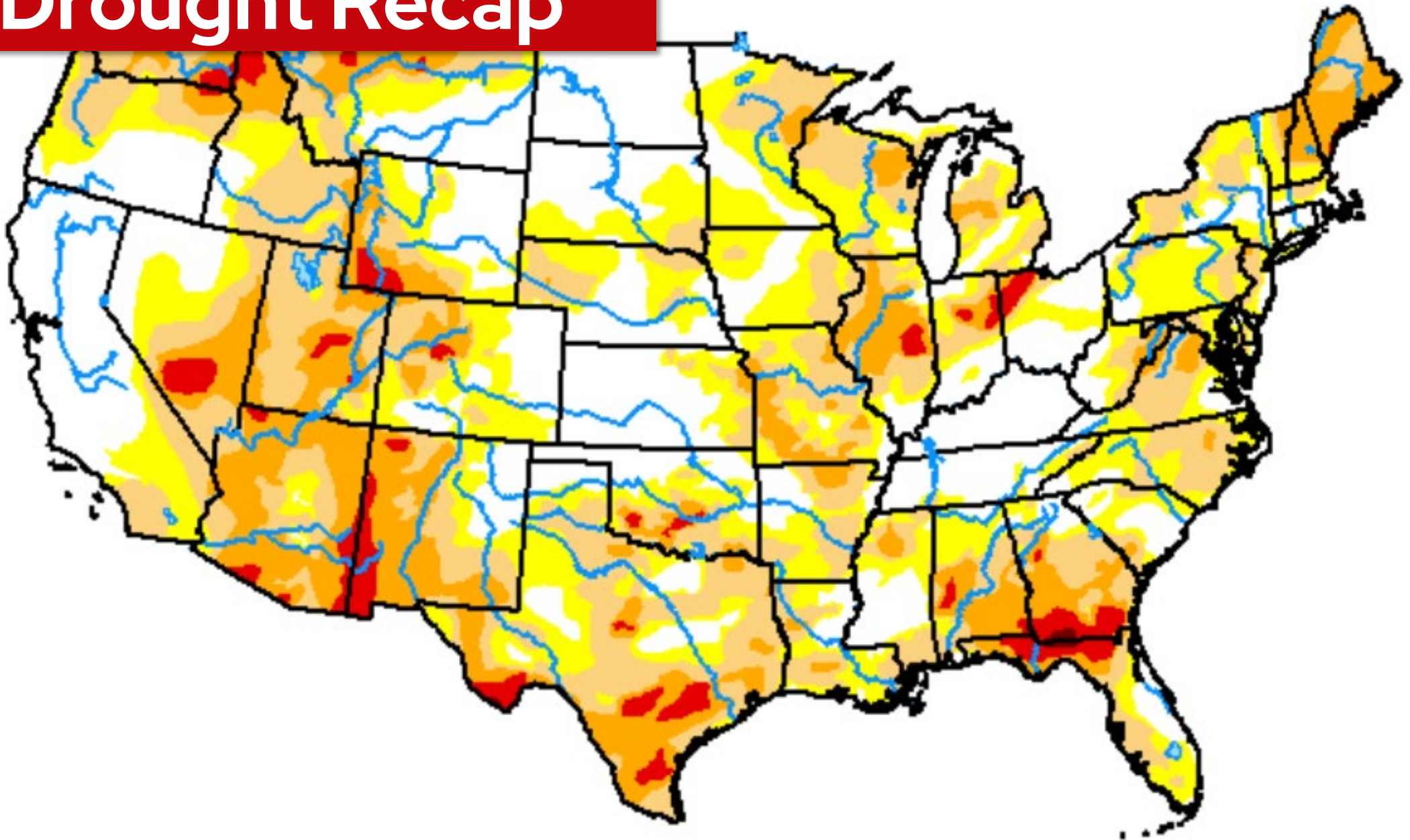
# Ag Climate Recap & Outlook

**Josh Bendorf**

Wisconsin State Climatology Office

December 4, 2025

# Drought Recap

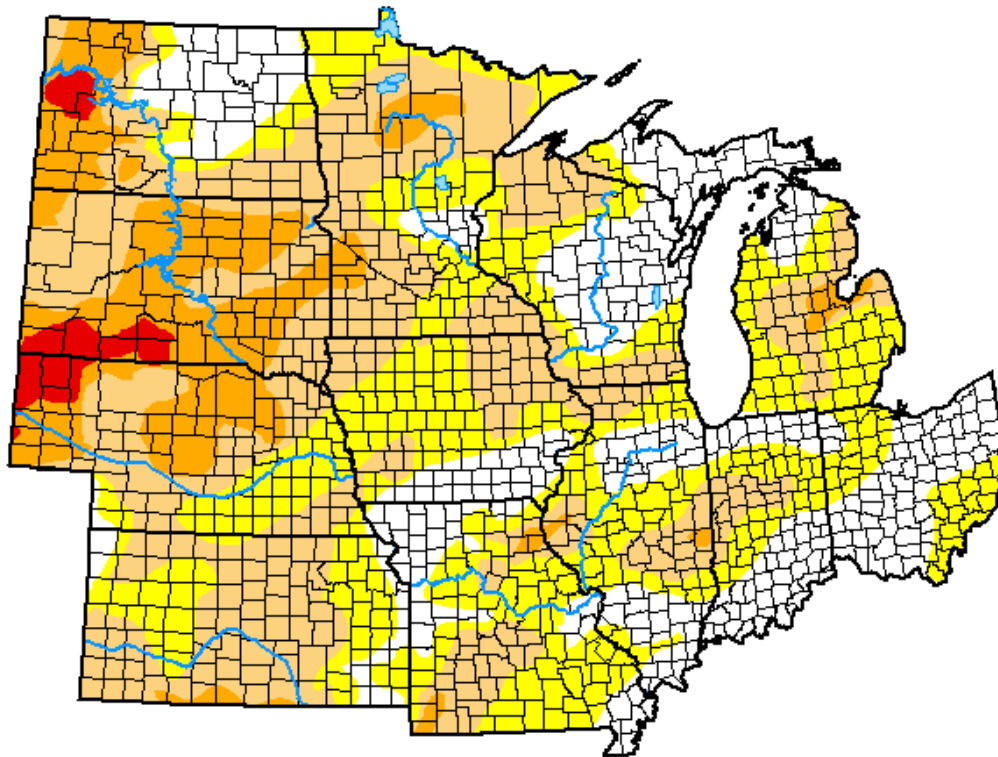


# Drought

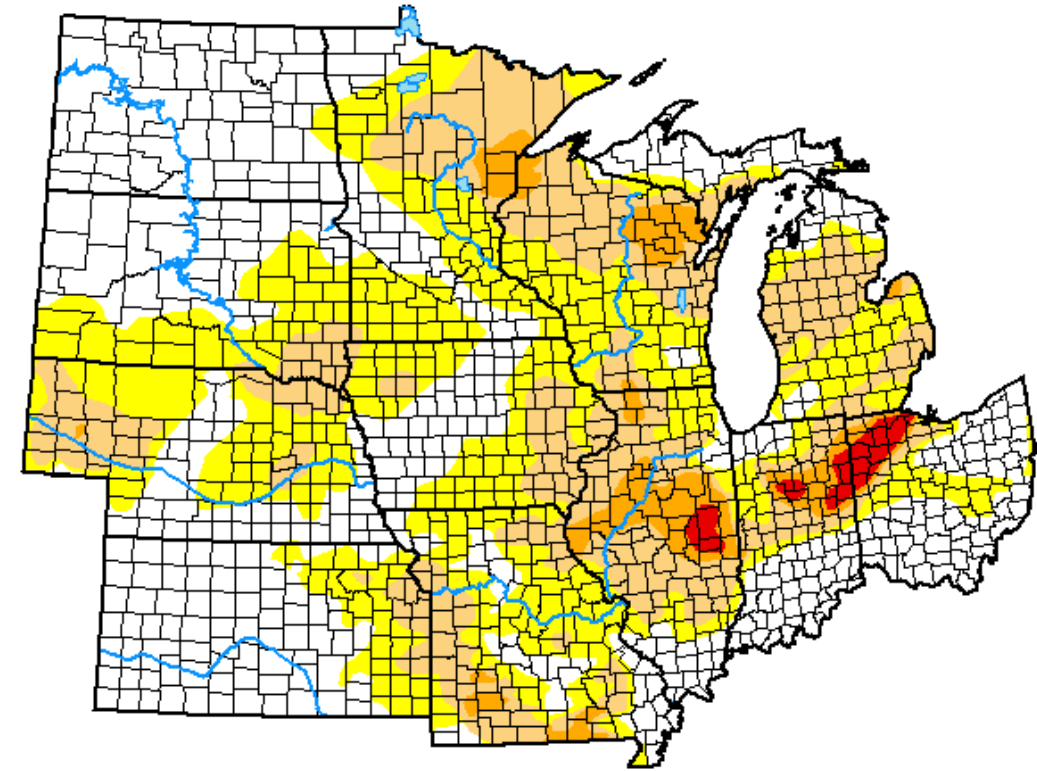
Intensity:

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**

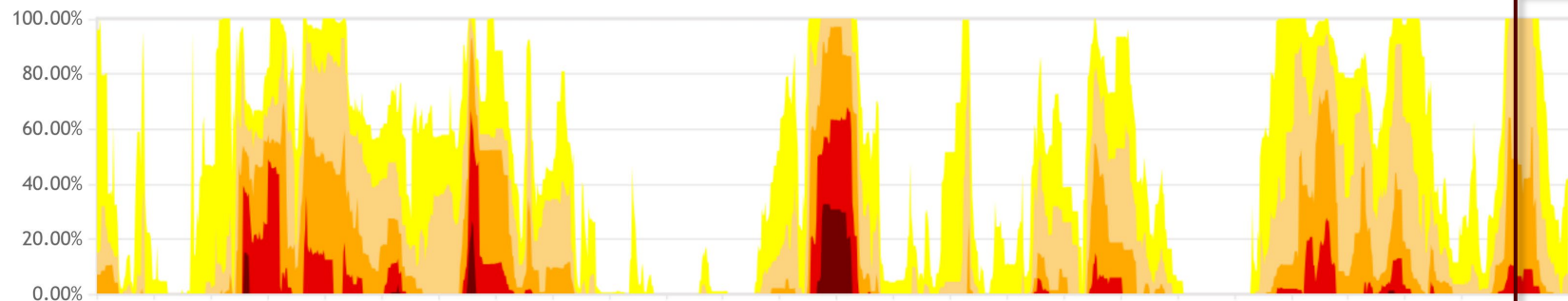


**December 2, 2025**

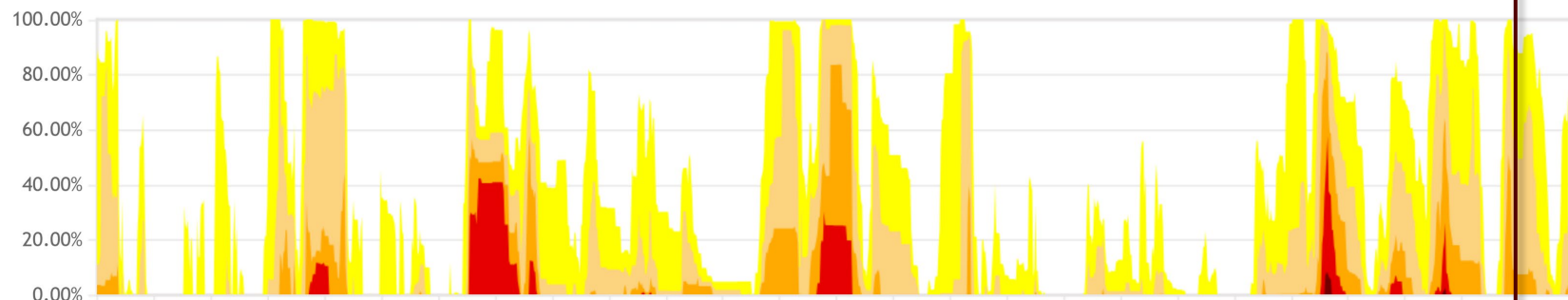
# Drought

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

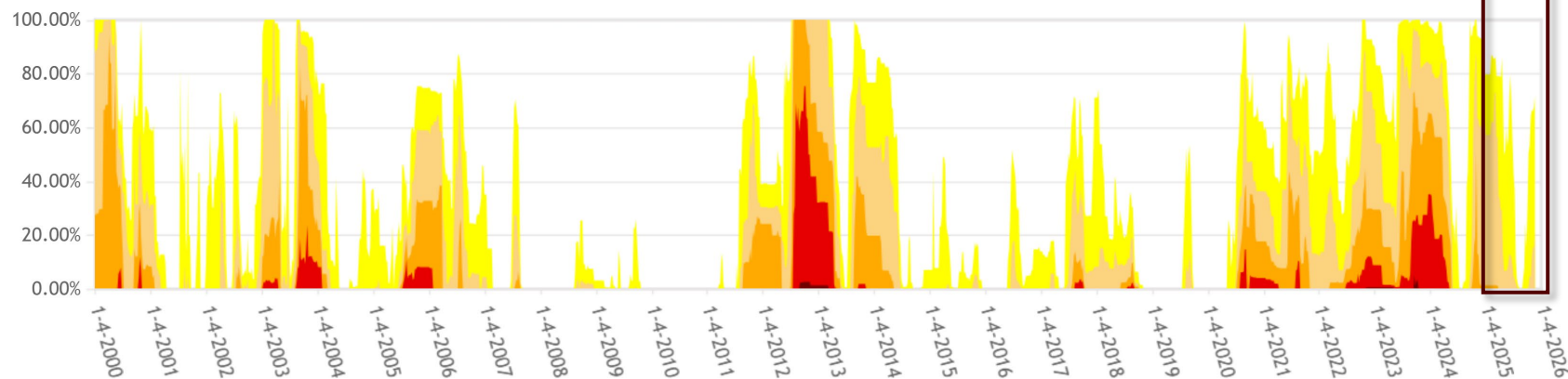
South Dakota Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



Minnesota Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



Iowa Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



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

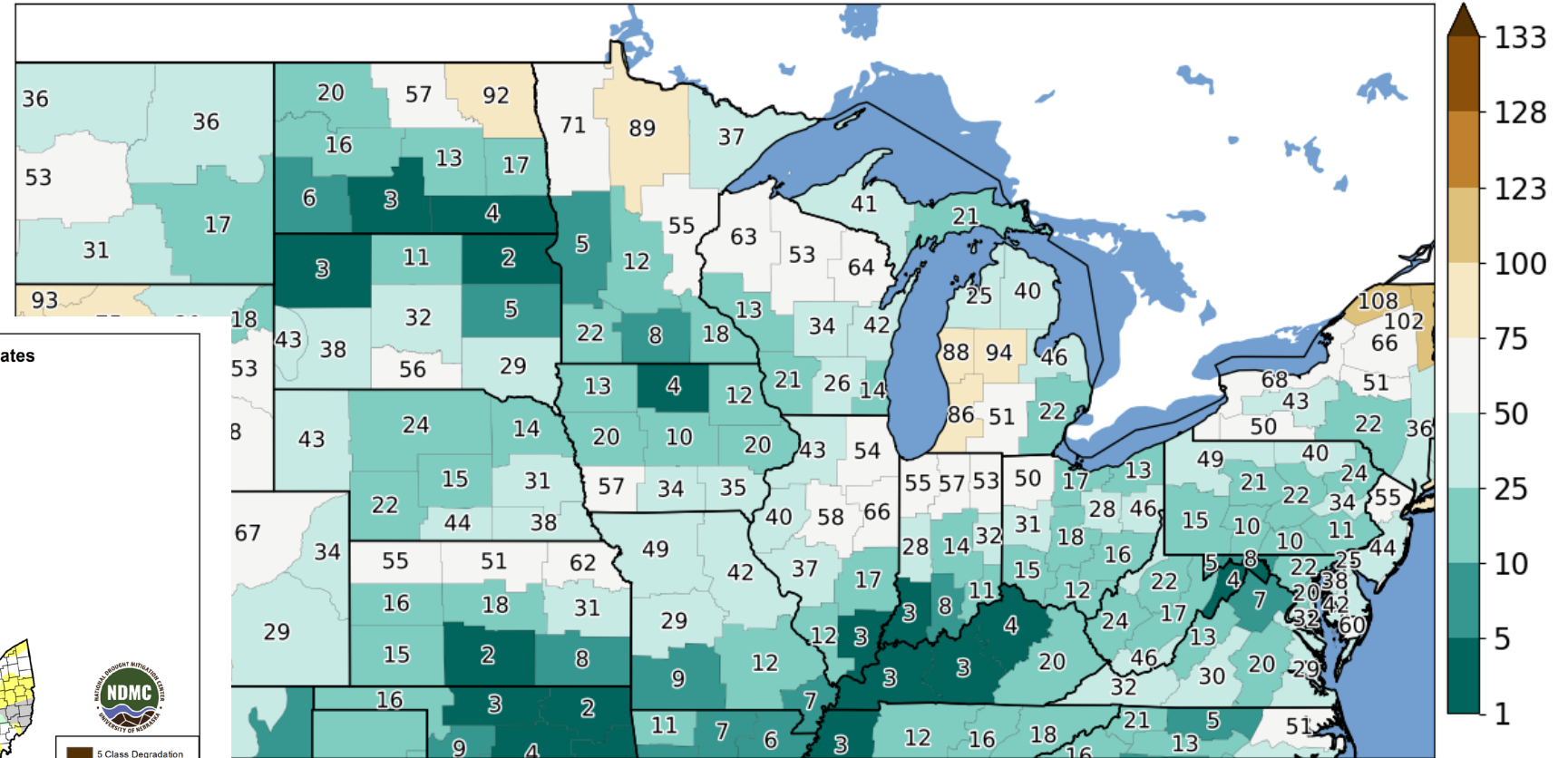




# Precip - Spring & Summer

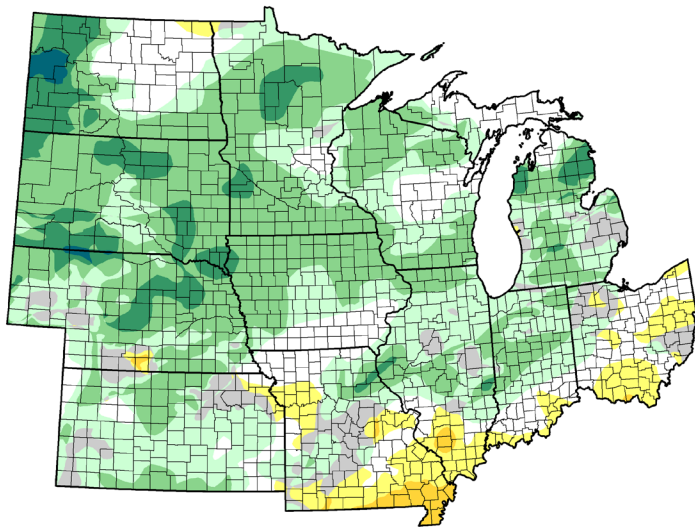


31 Mar 2025 ~7 AM till 31 Aug 2025 ~7 AM Total Precipitation Ranks by Climate District  
Based on IEM Estimates, 1 is wettest out of 133 total years (1893-2025)



data units ::  
IEM Autoplot App #24

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - North Central States  
24 Week



5 Class Degradation  
4 Class Degradation  
3 Class Degradation  
2 Class Degradation  
1 Class Degradation  
No Change  
1 Class Improvement  
2 Class Improvement  
3 Class Improvement  
4 Class Improvement  
5 Class Improvement

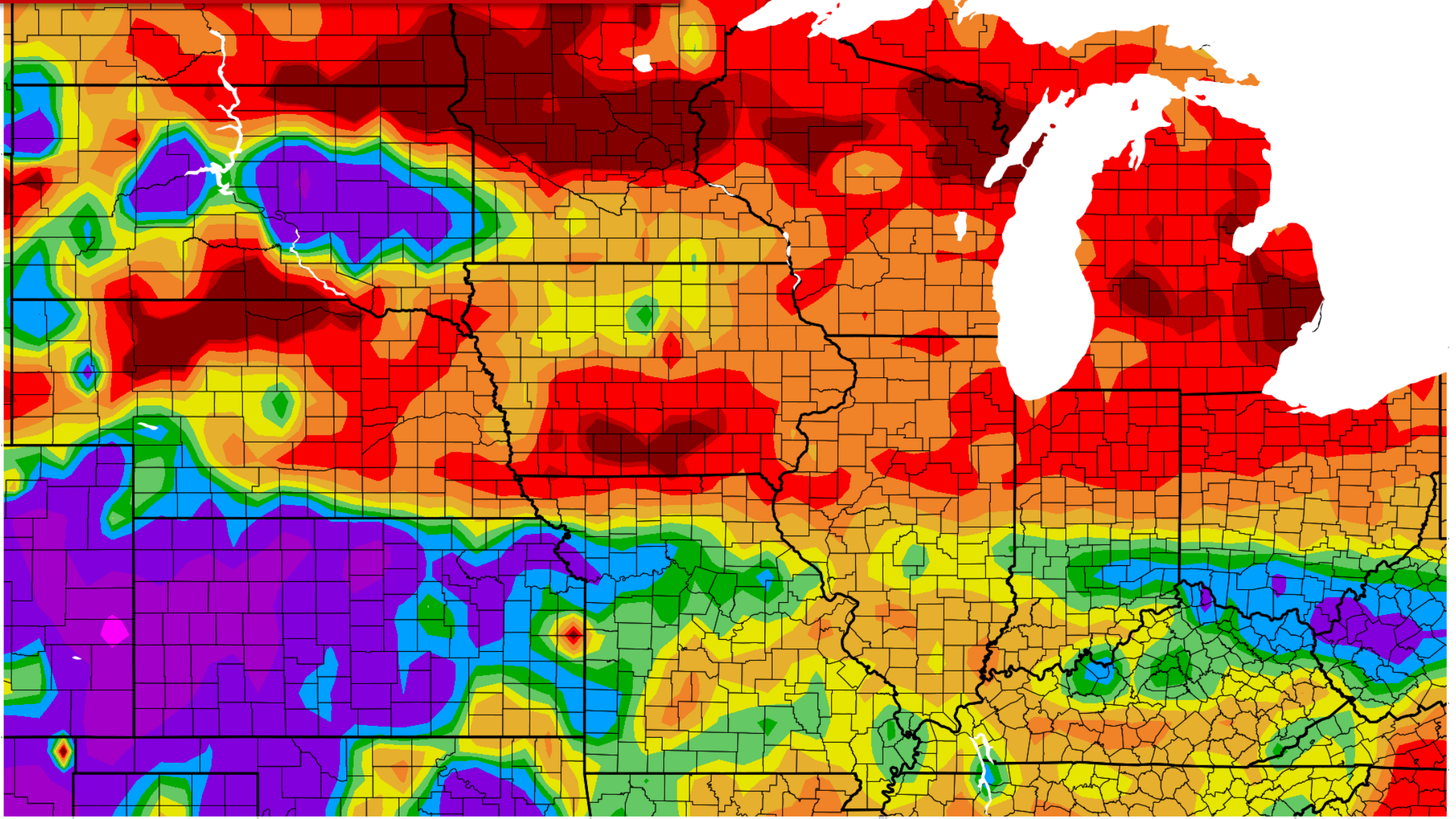
August 26, 2025  
compared to  
March 11, 2025

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

1:38 AM CST in 53.27s

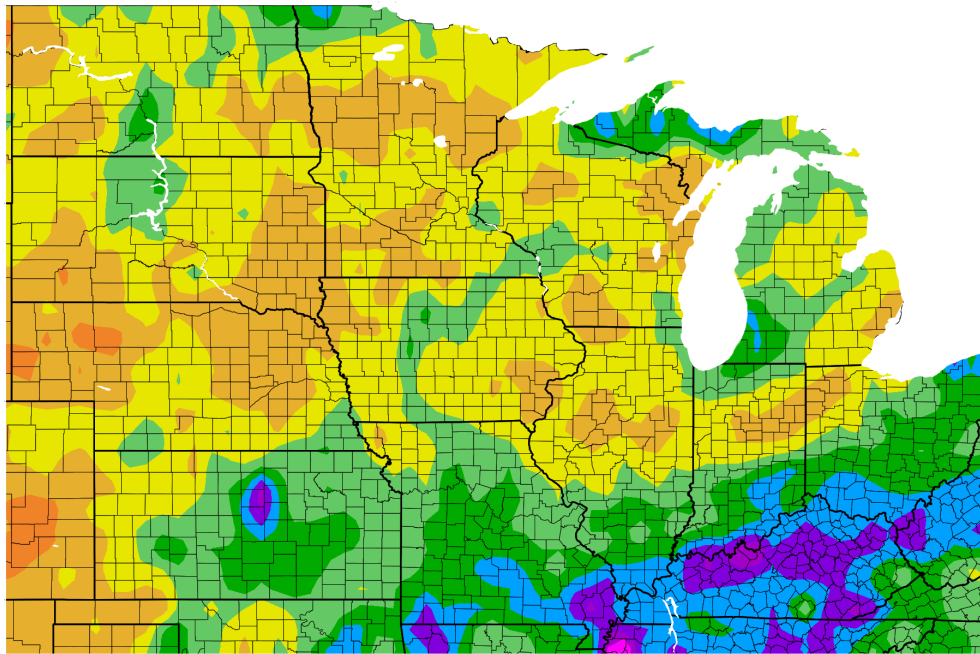
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Maps/ChangeMaps.aspx>  
<https://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/plotting/auto>

# Recent Conditions



# Precipitation – Last 90 Days

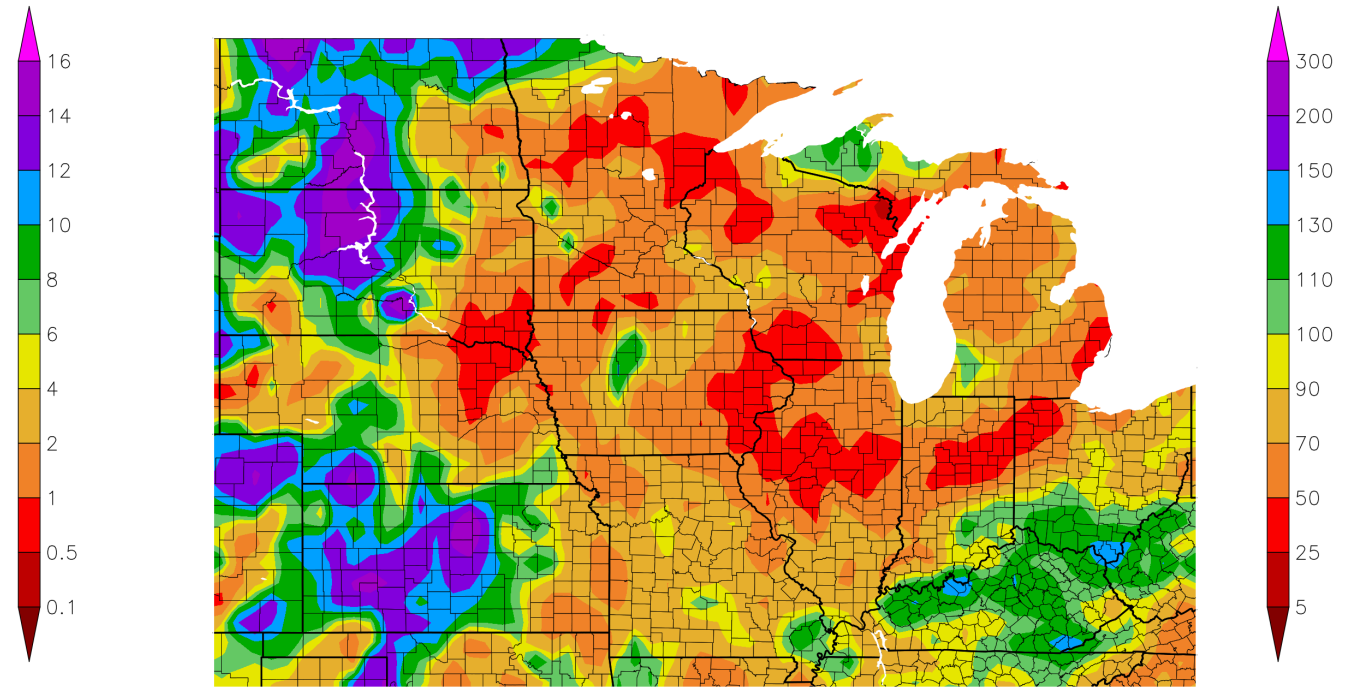
Precipitation (in)  
9/5/2025 – 12/3/2025



Generated 12/4/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

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



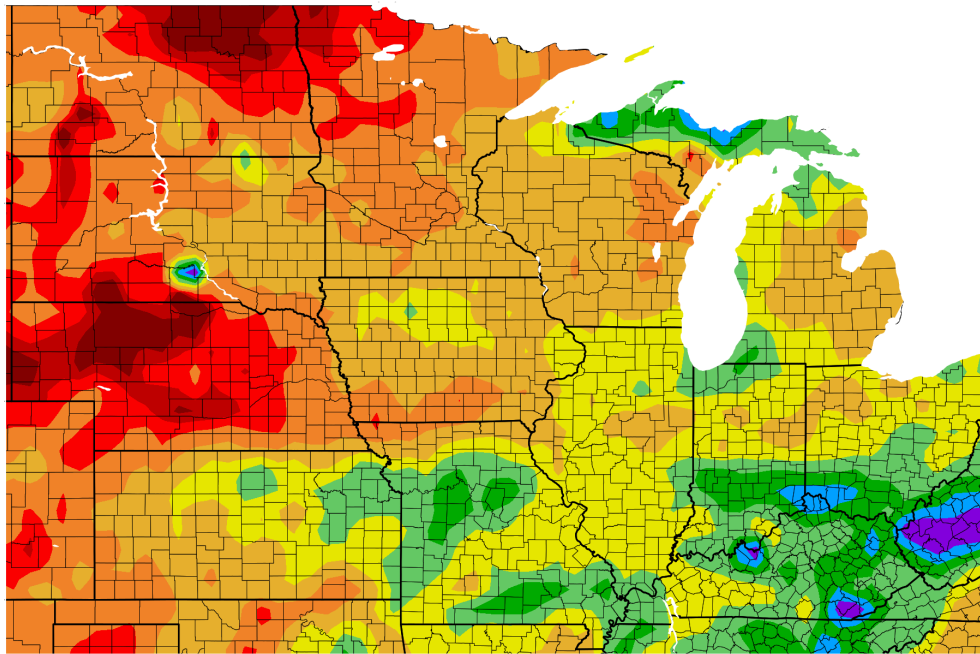
Generated 12/4/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

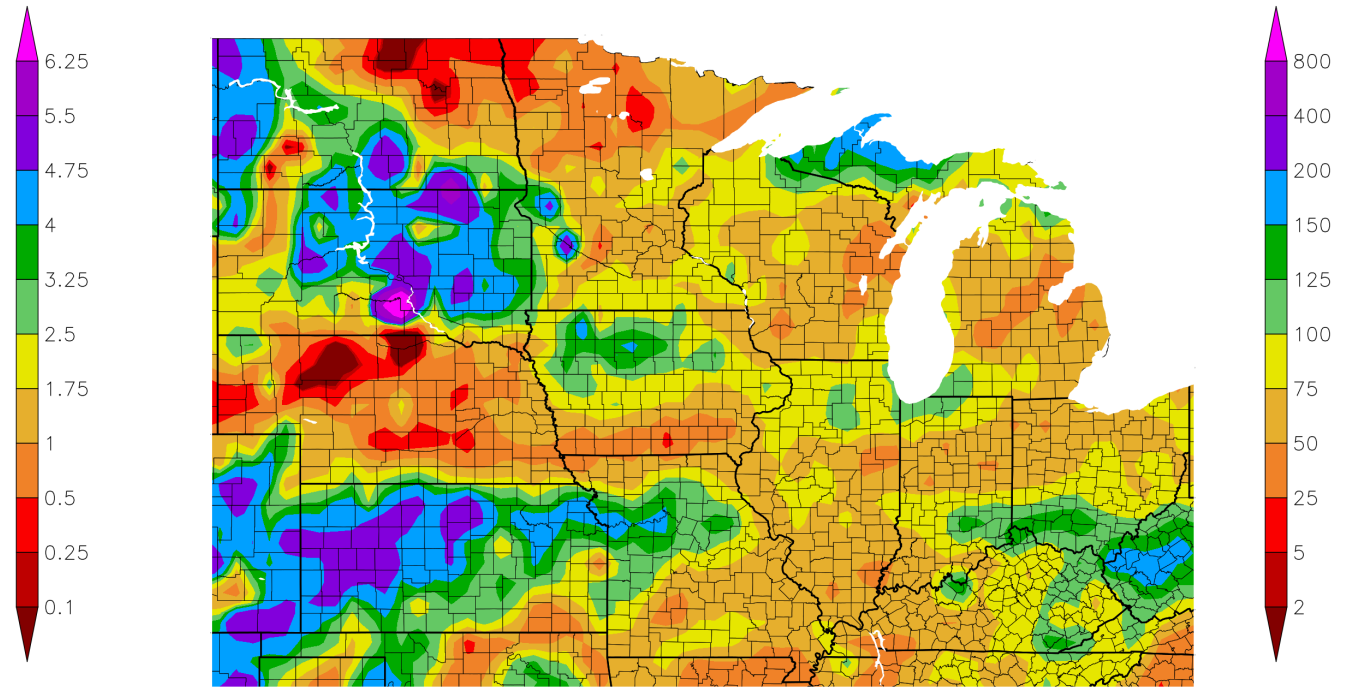
<https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

# 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.

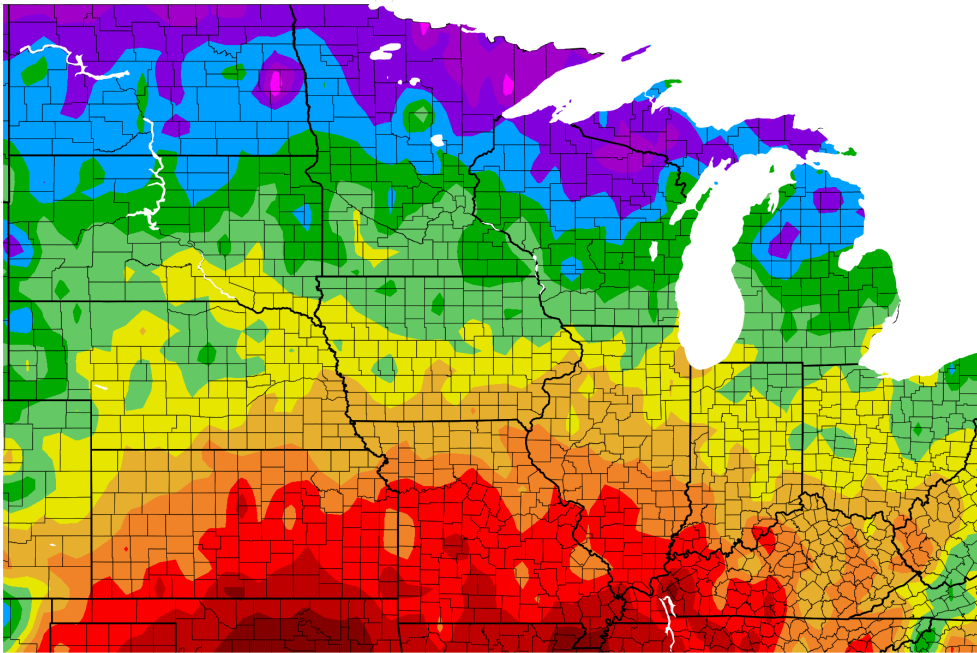
ACIS Web Services

<https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

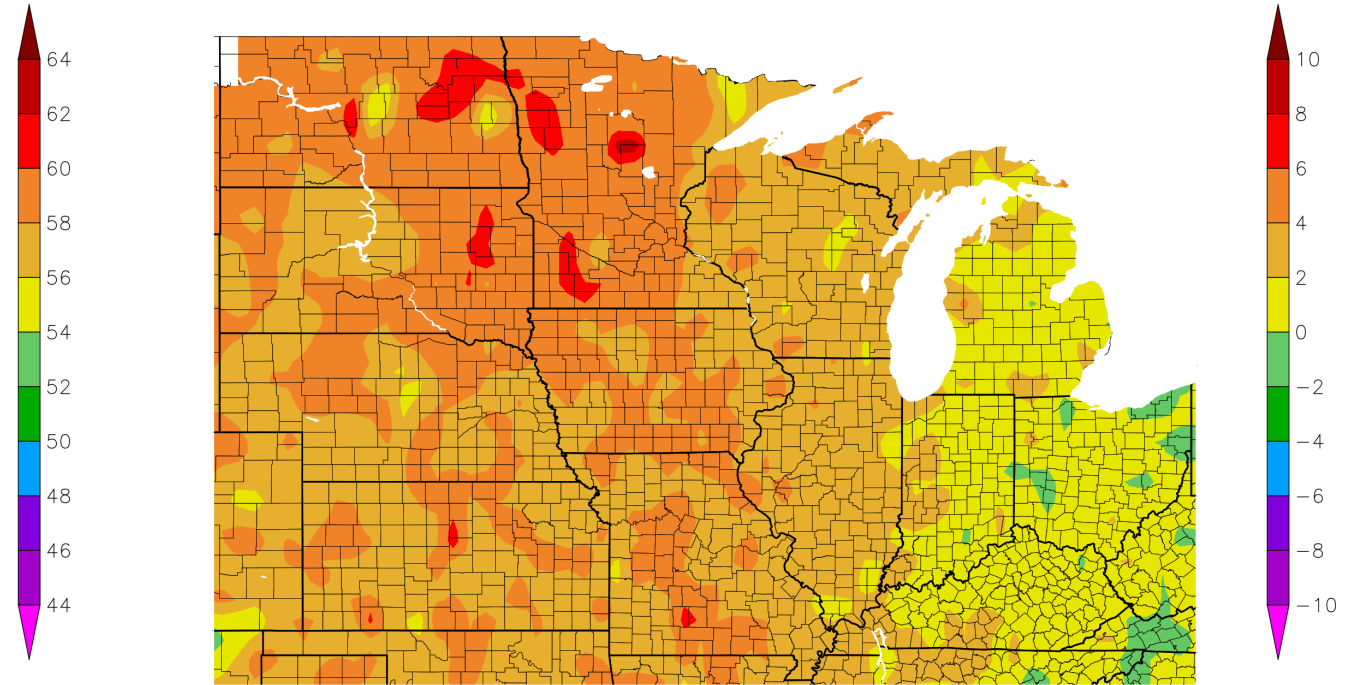


# Temperatures – Sep-Nov

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

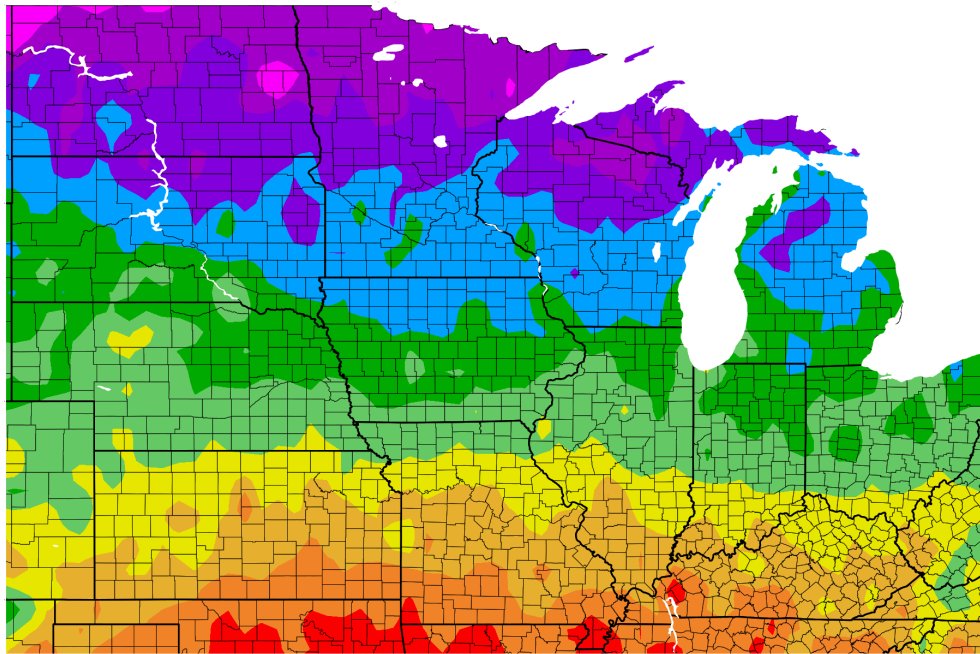
Generated 12/4/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

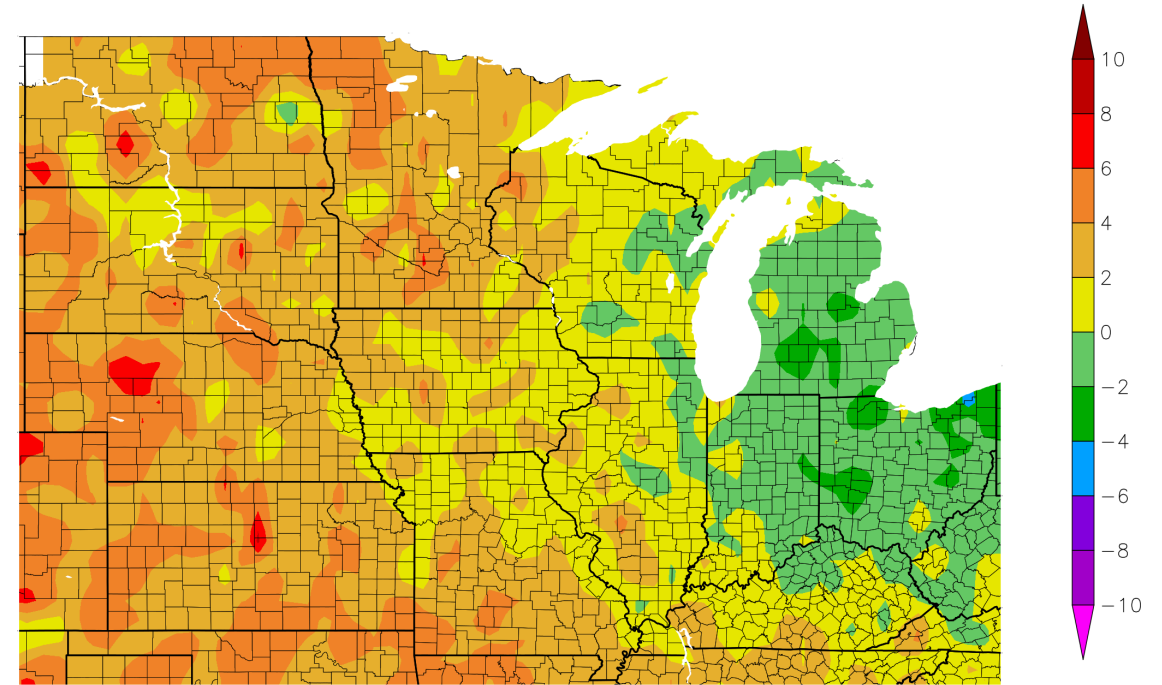
<https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

# 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

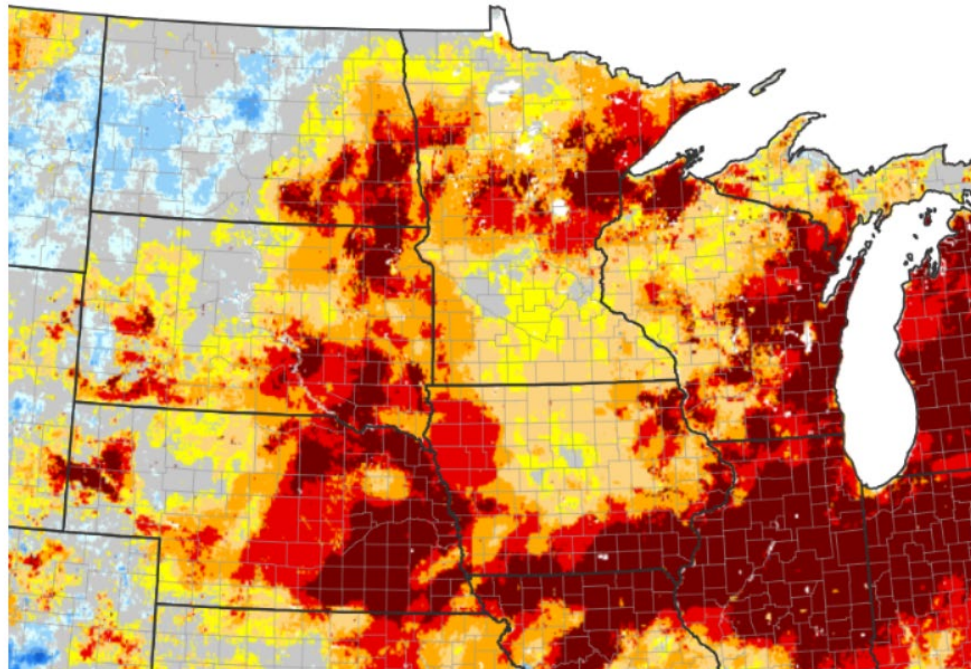
Generated 12/4/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

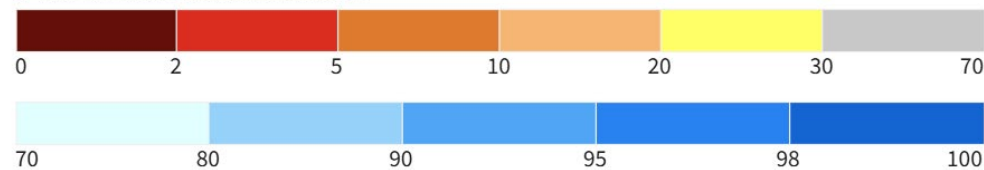
<https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

# Modeled Soil Moisture

0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



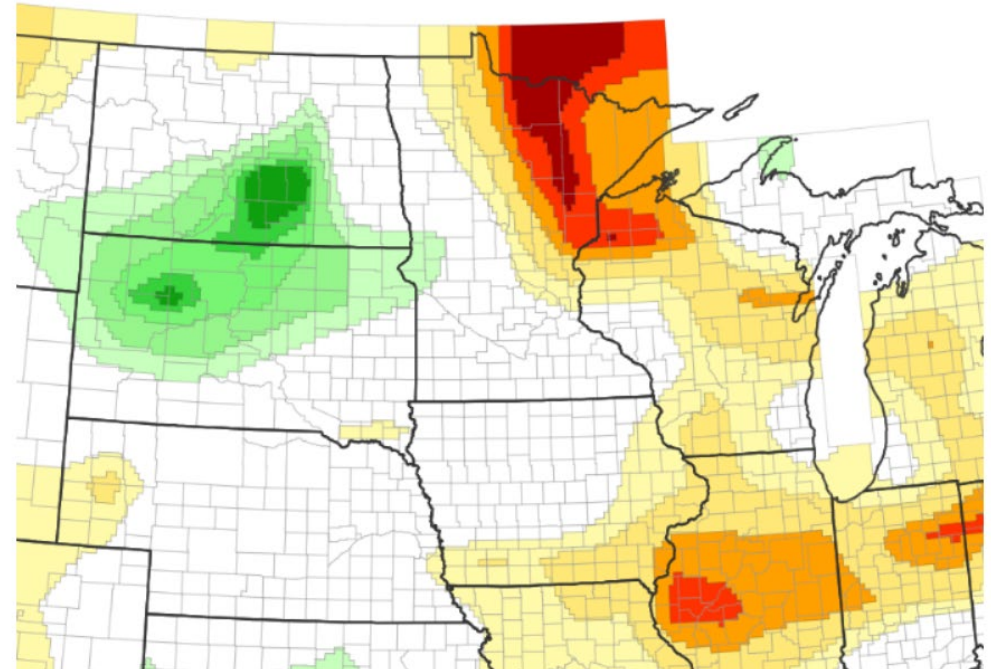
0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



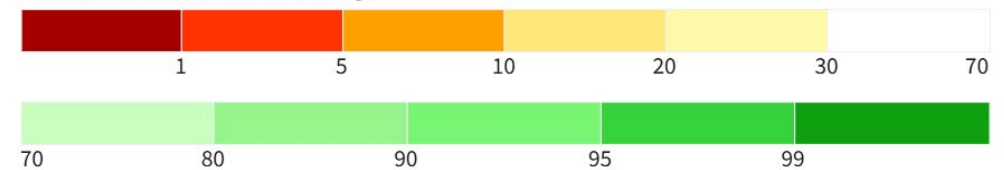
Source(s): NASA  
Data Valid: 12/03/25

**Drought.gov**

CPC Leaky Bucket Daily Soil Moisture Percentiles (1.6m)



Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile



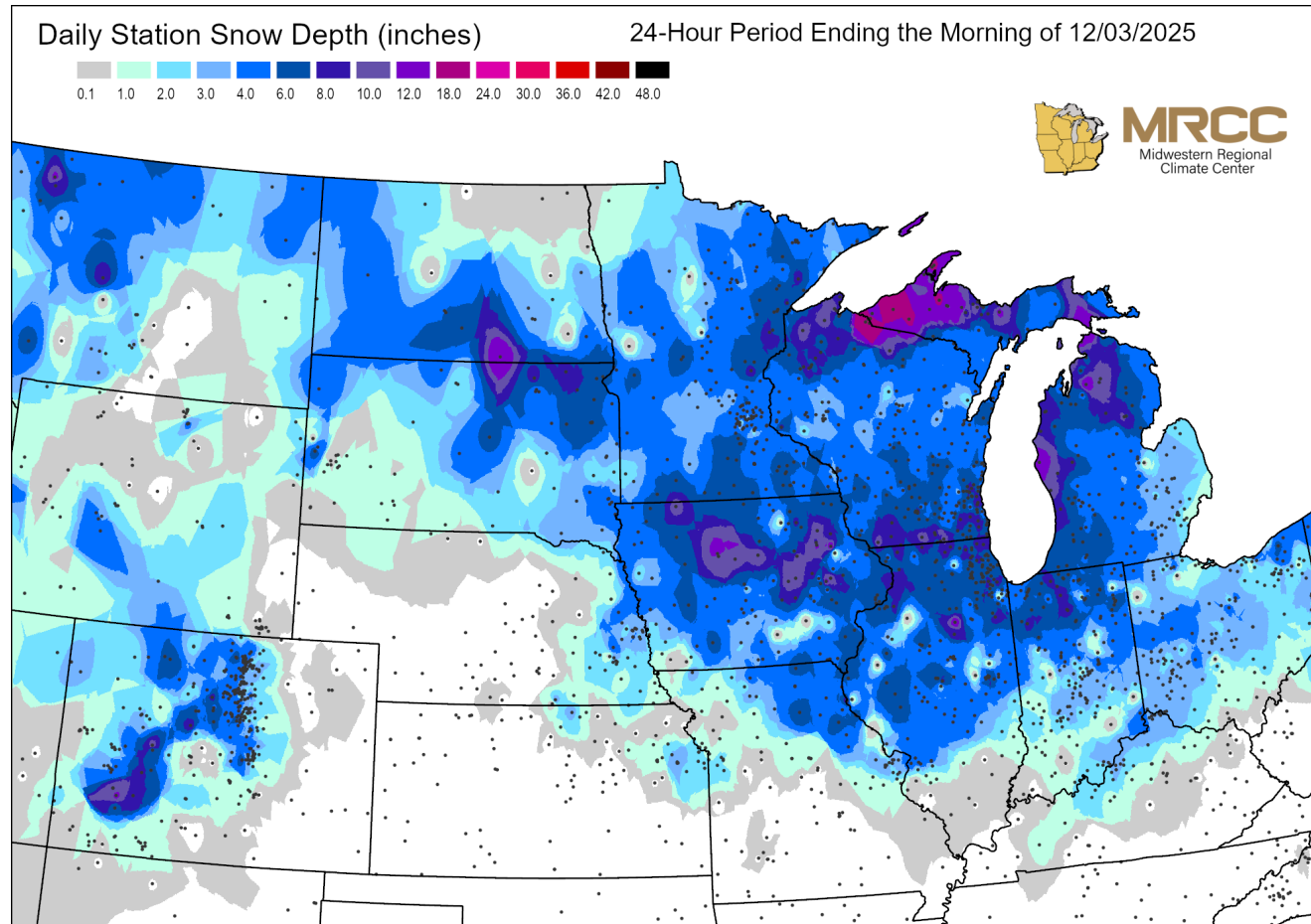
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center  
Valid on: 12/02/25

**Drought.gov**

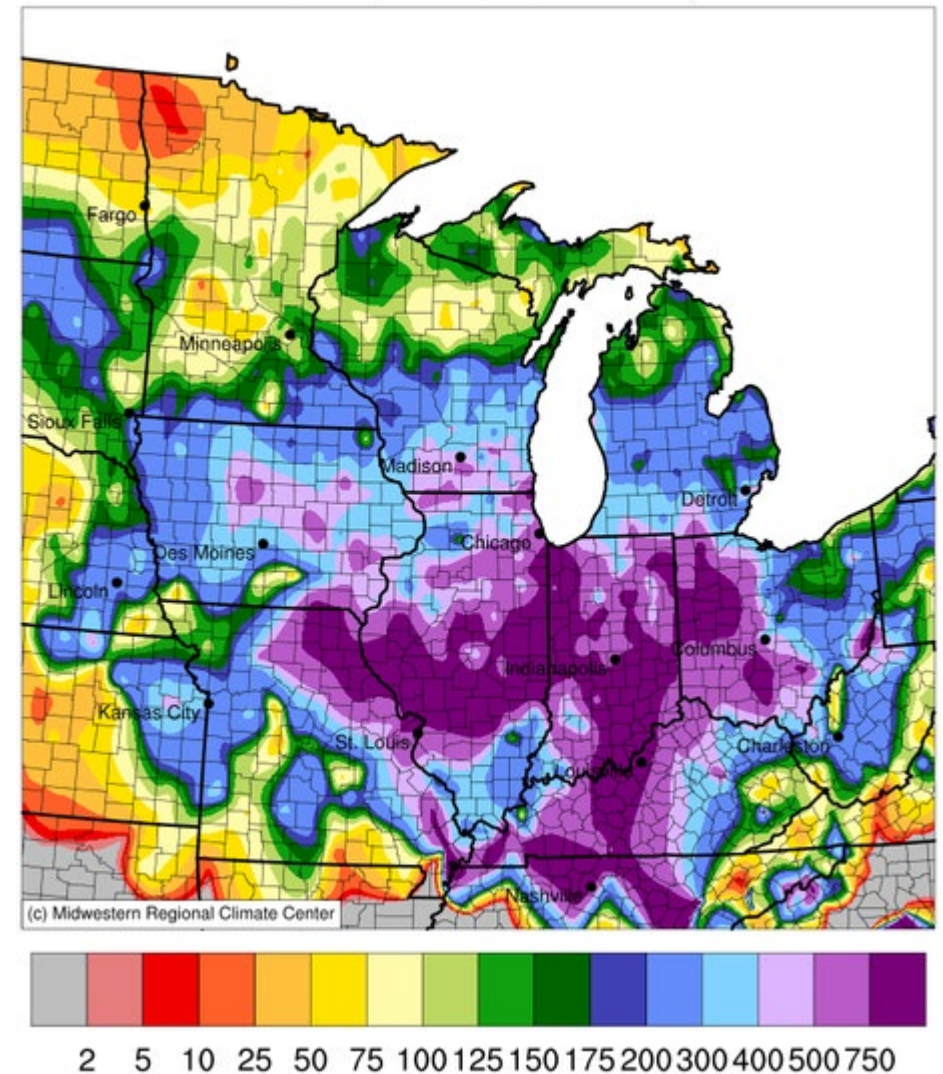
<https://www.drought.gov/>



# Snow (so far)

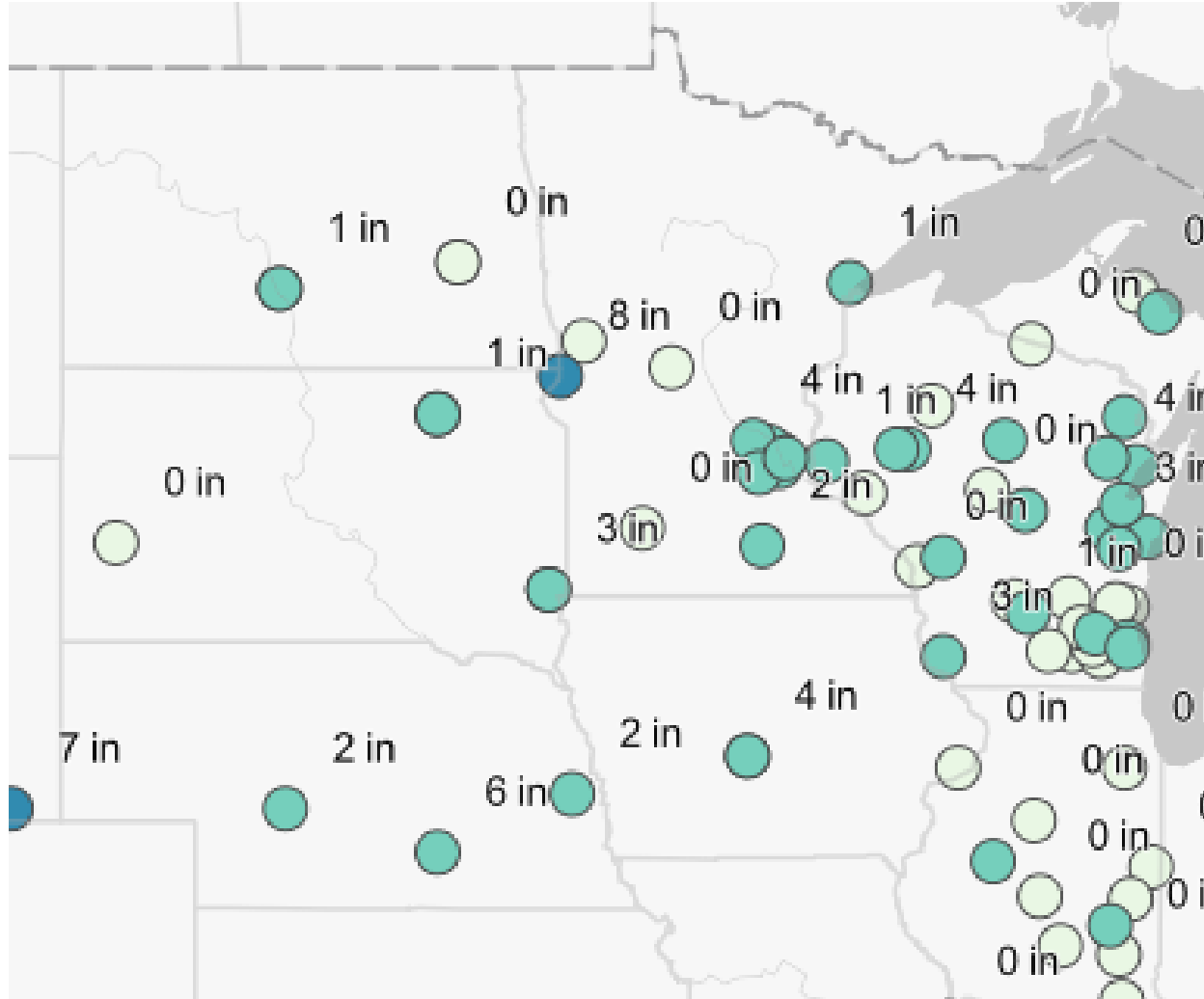


Accumulated Snowfall (in): Percent of 1991-2020 Normals  
November 01, 2025 to December 03, 2025





# Soil Frost Depth

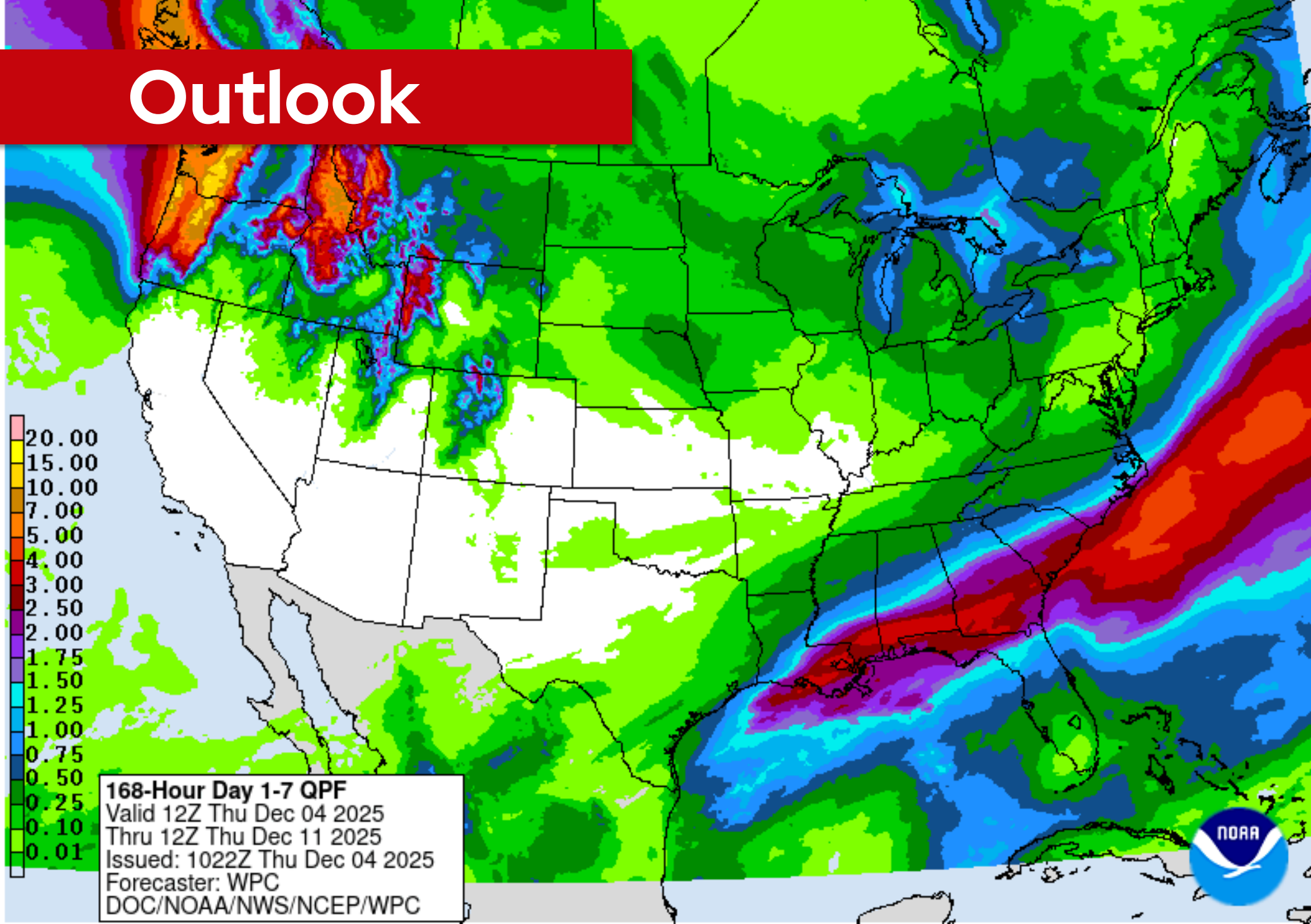


**Measurements on this map are  
from December 1-4**

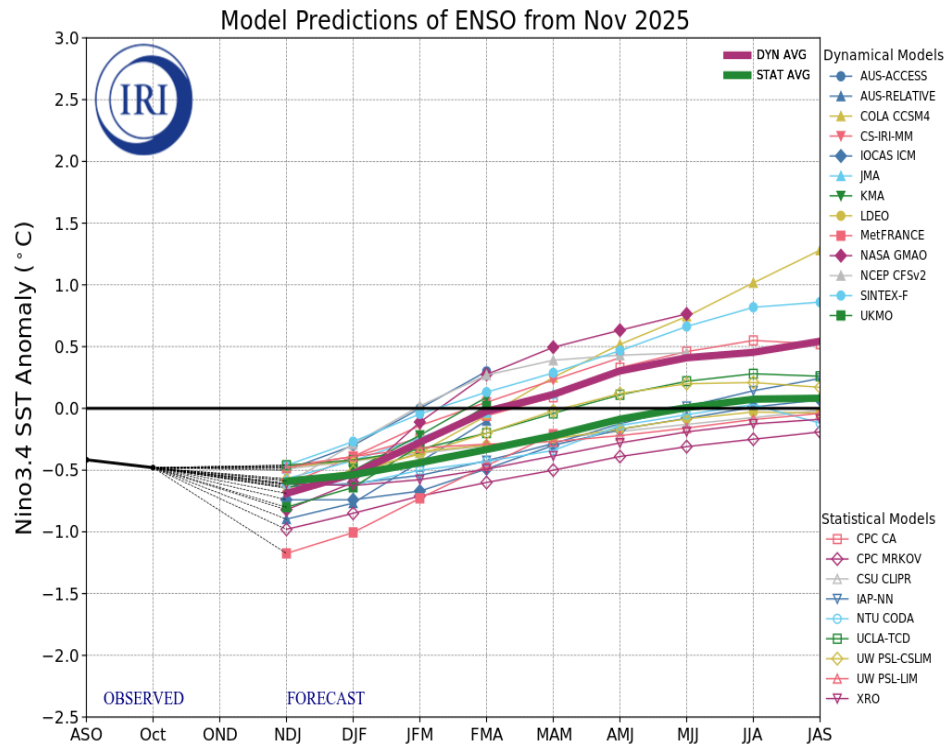
Frost depth reports are commonly from frost tube instruments, visual reports from construction or cemetery sites, or other types of electronic probes.

[https://www.weather.gov/ncrfc/lmi\\_frostdepthmap](https://www.weather.gov/ncrfc/lmi_frostdepthmap)

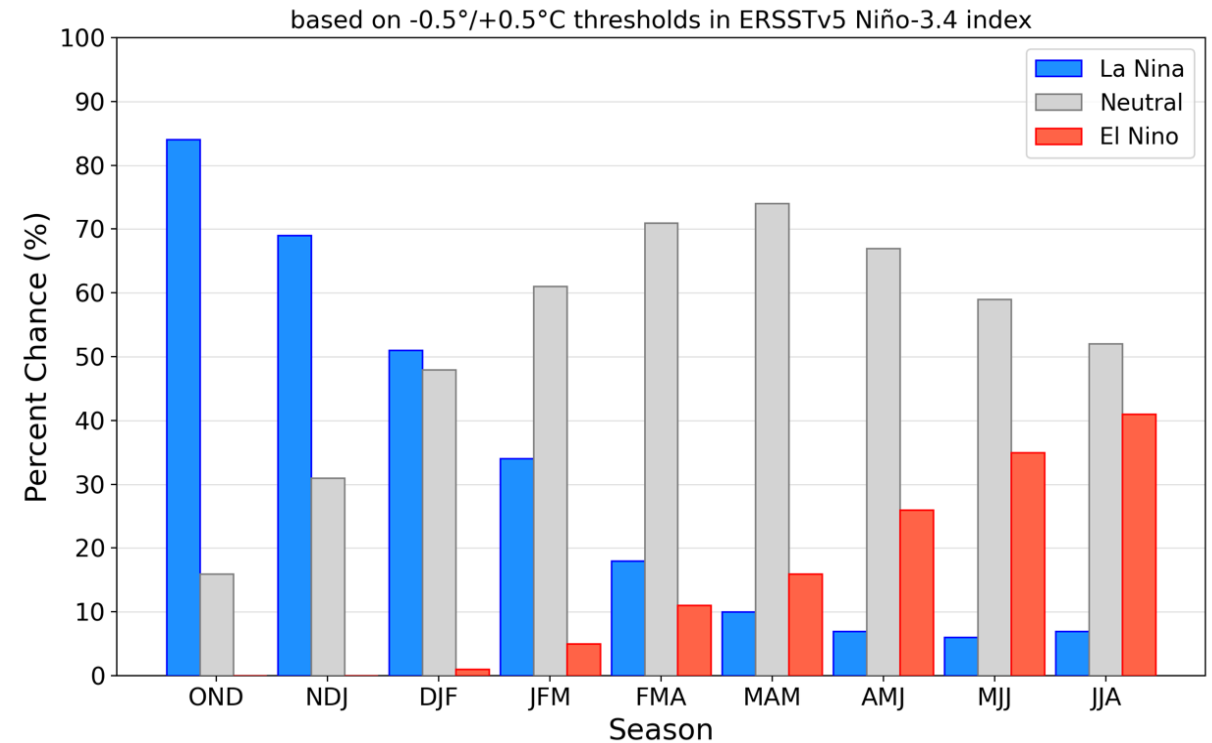
# Outlook



# ENSO Outlook



## Official NOAA CPC ENSO Probabilities (issued November 2025)

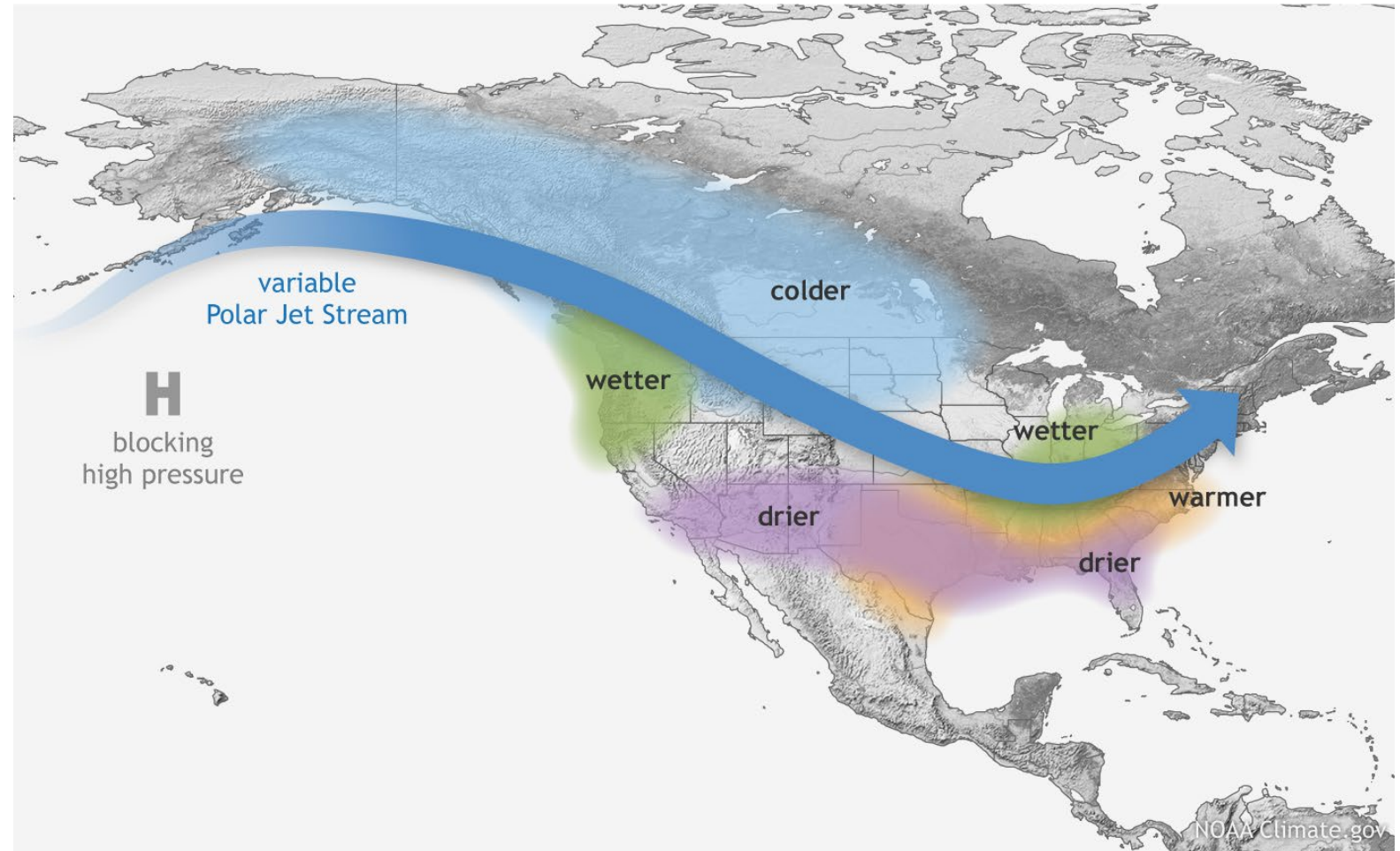


**La Niña** is favored to continue into the Northern Hemisphere winter, with a transition to **ENSO-neutral** most likely in January-March 2026 (61% chance; Source: NOAA CPC).

# La Nina in Winter

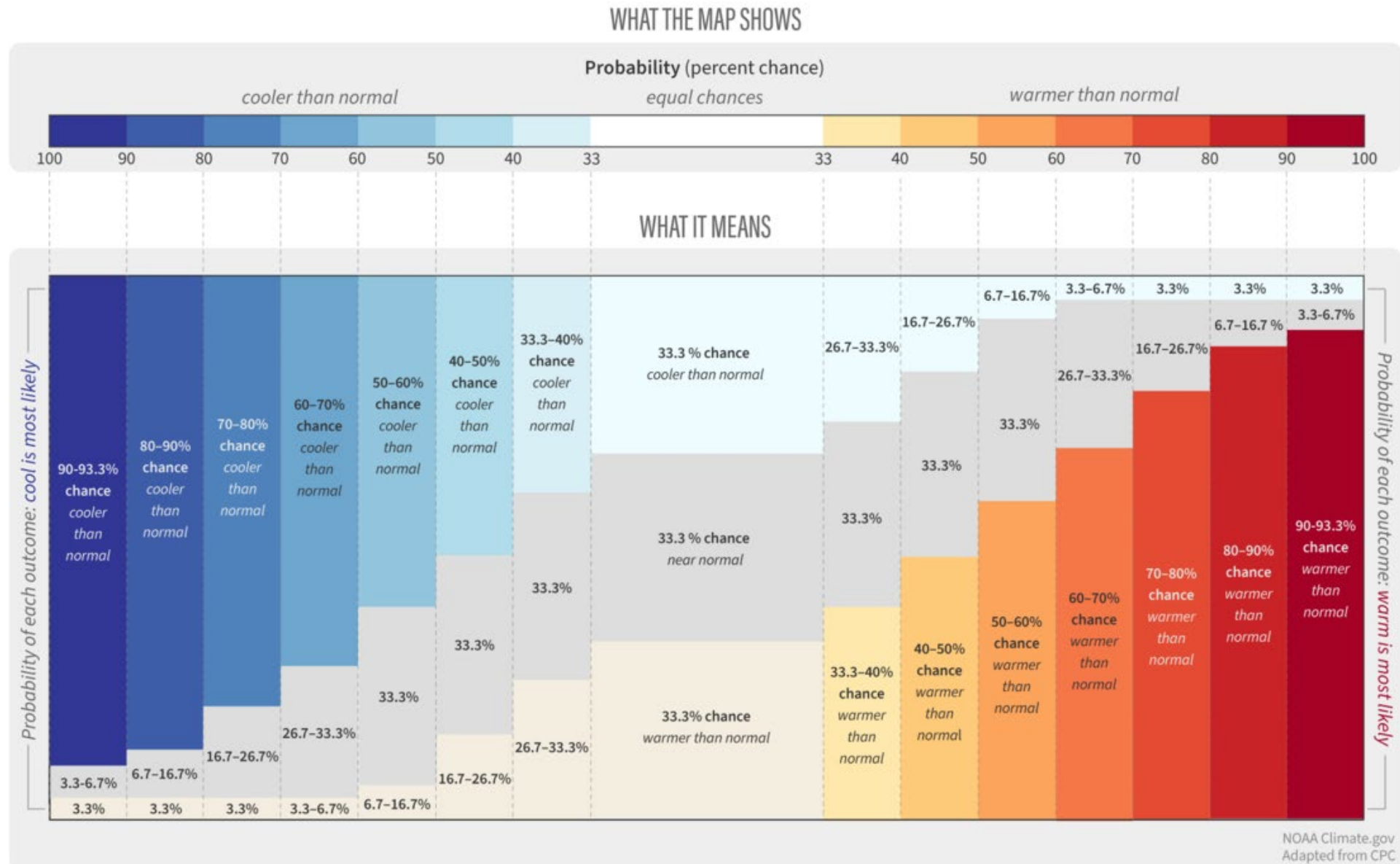
- Typically, colder and wetter in Iowa & points north/west
- More variable Polar Jet Stream

Typical winter La Niña pattern





# CPC Outlooks



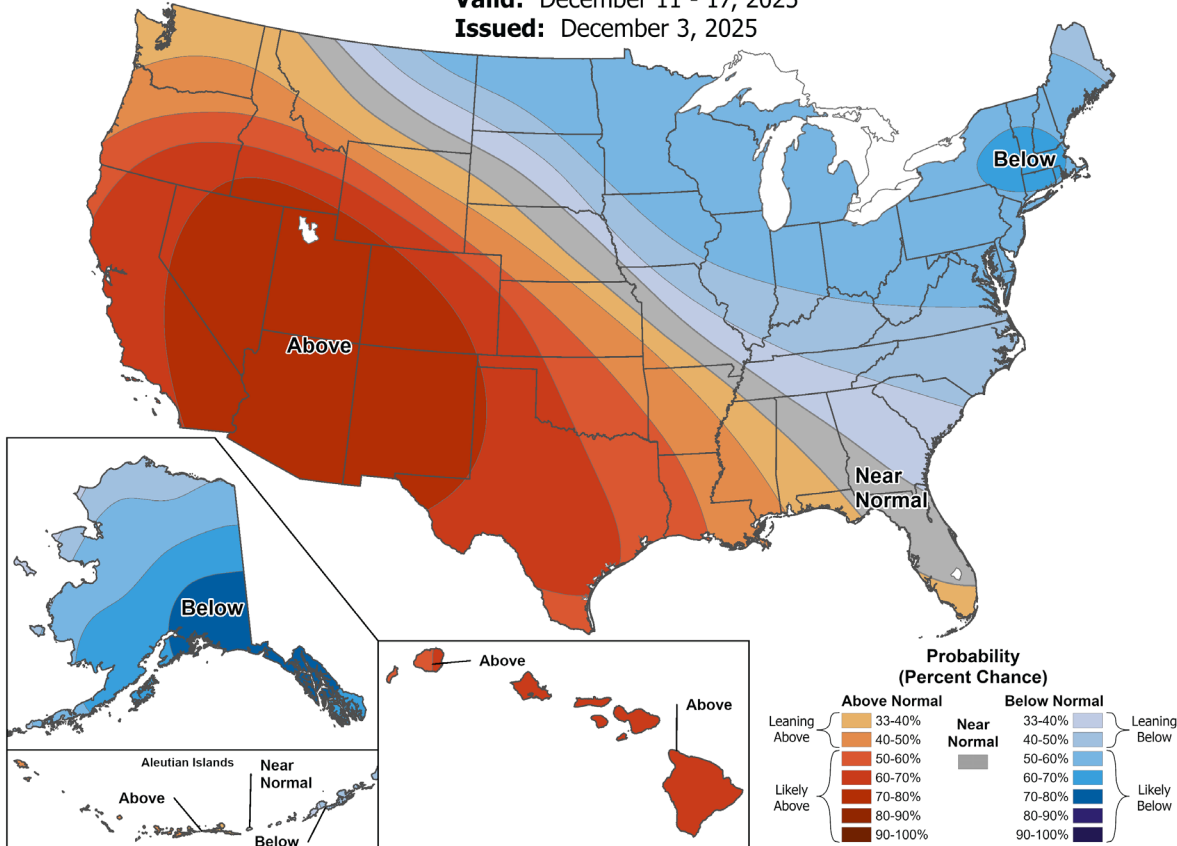
# 8-14 Day Outlook



## 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook

Valid: December 11 - 17, 2025

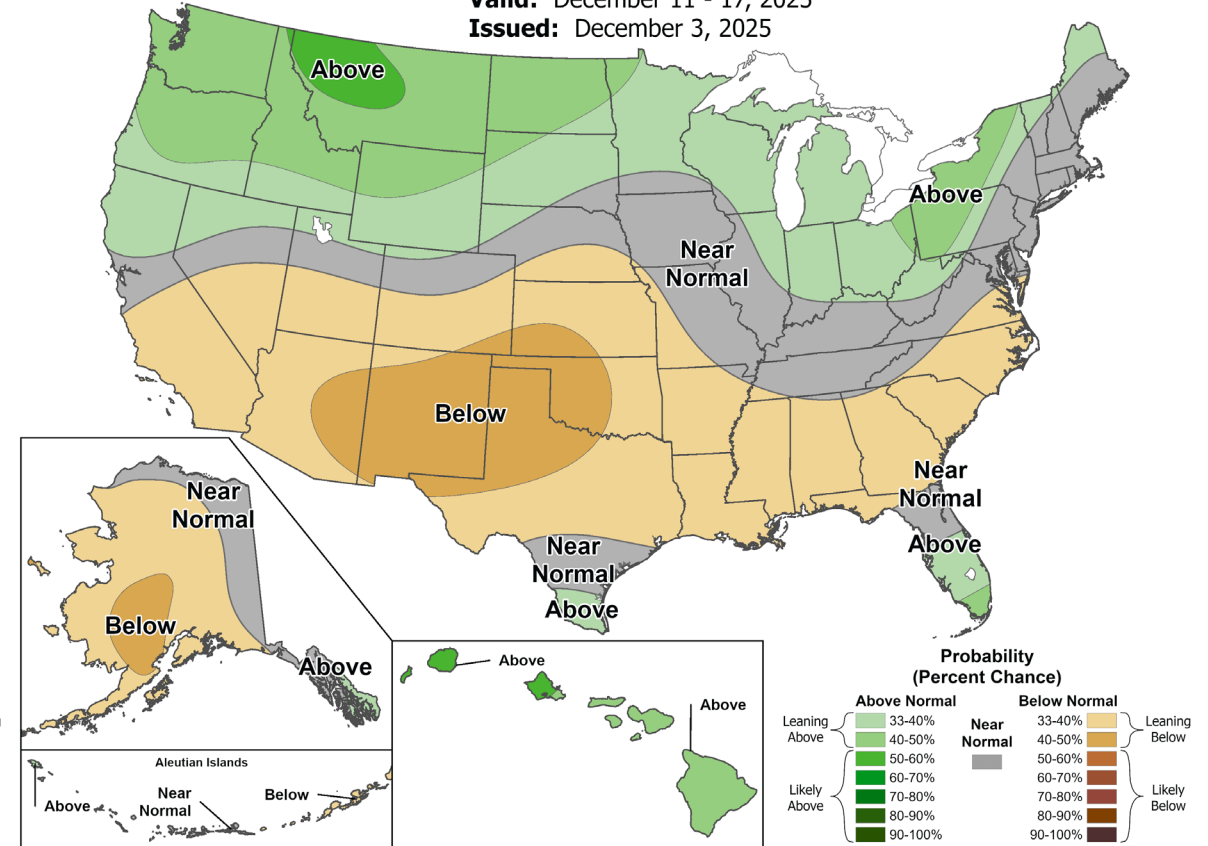
Issued: December 3, 2025



## 8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook

Valid: December 11 - 17, 2025

Issued: December 3, 2025



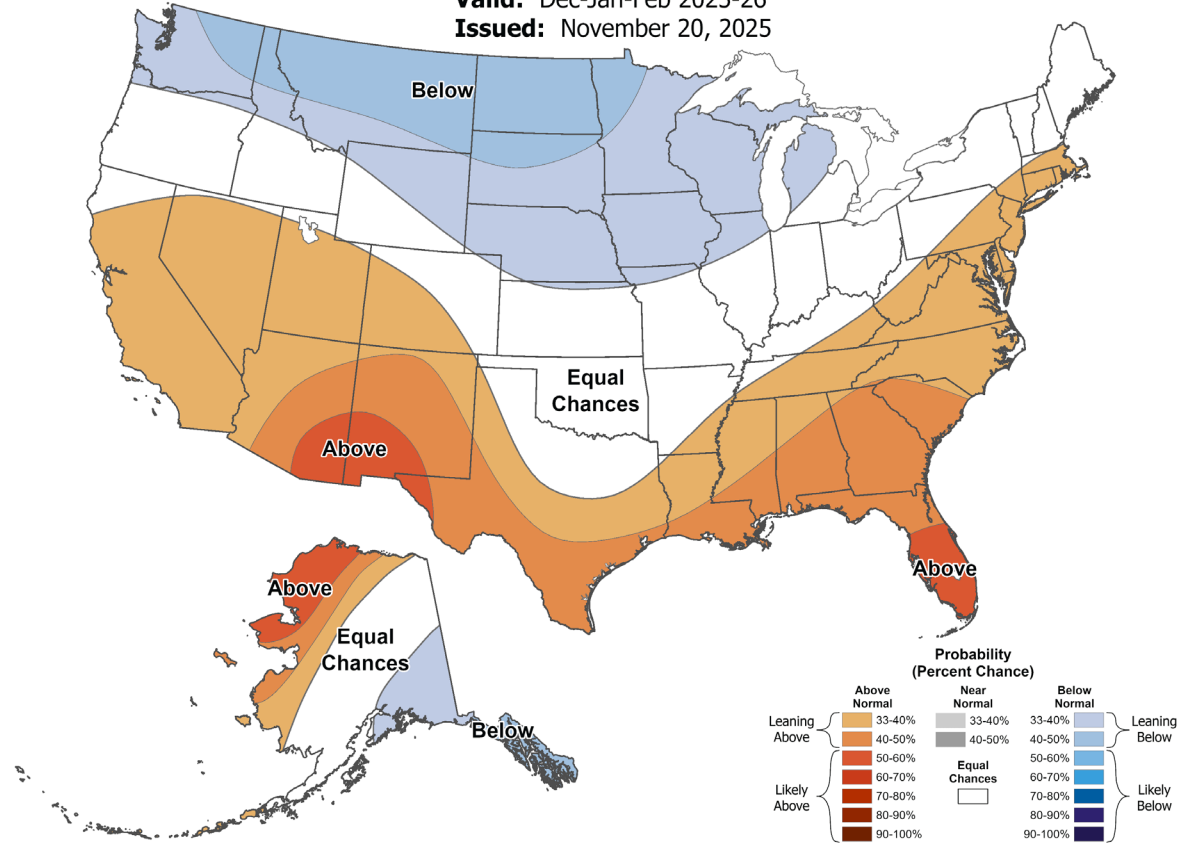
# Seasonal Outlook



## Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2025-26

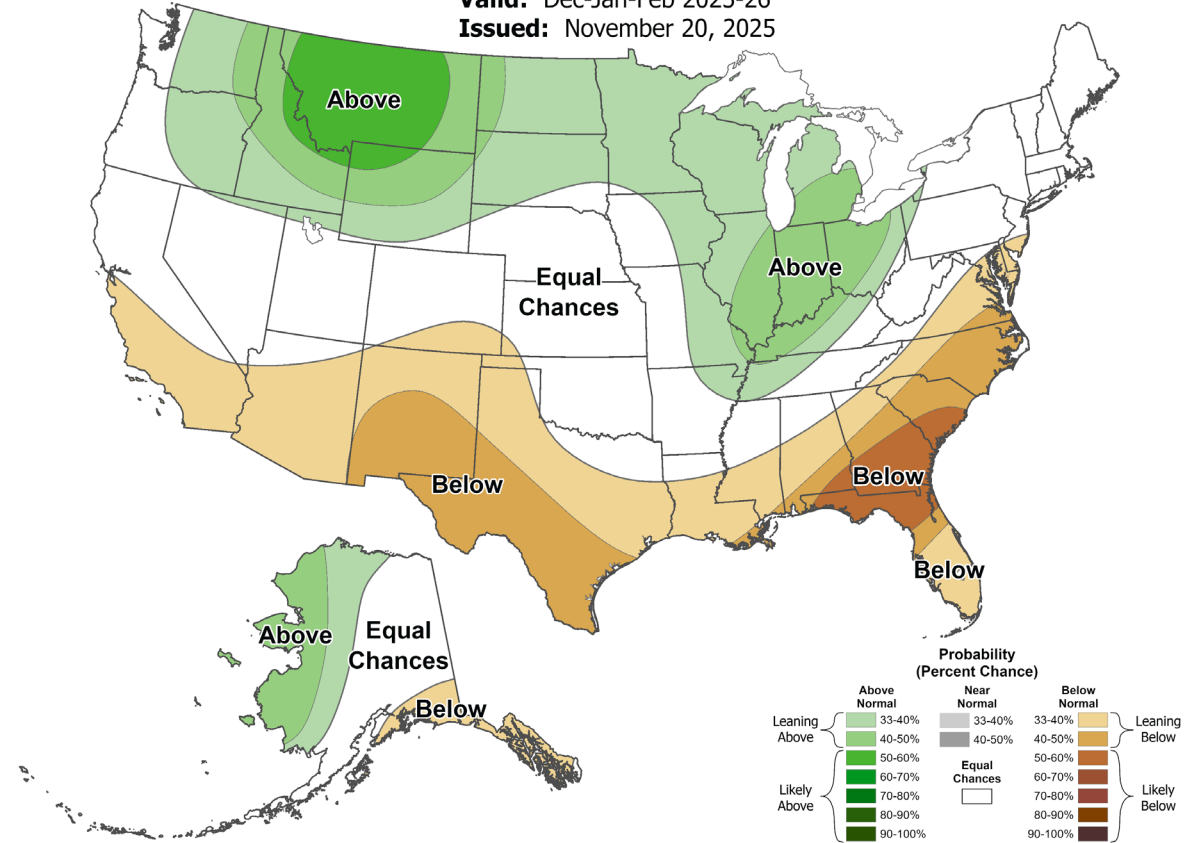
Issued: November 20, 2025



## Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2025-26

Issued: November 20, 2025



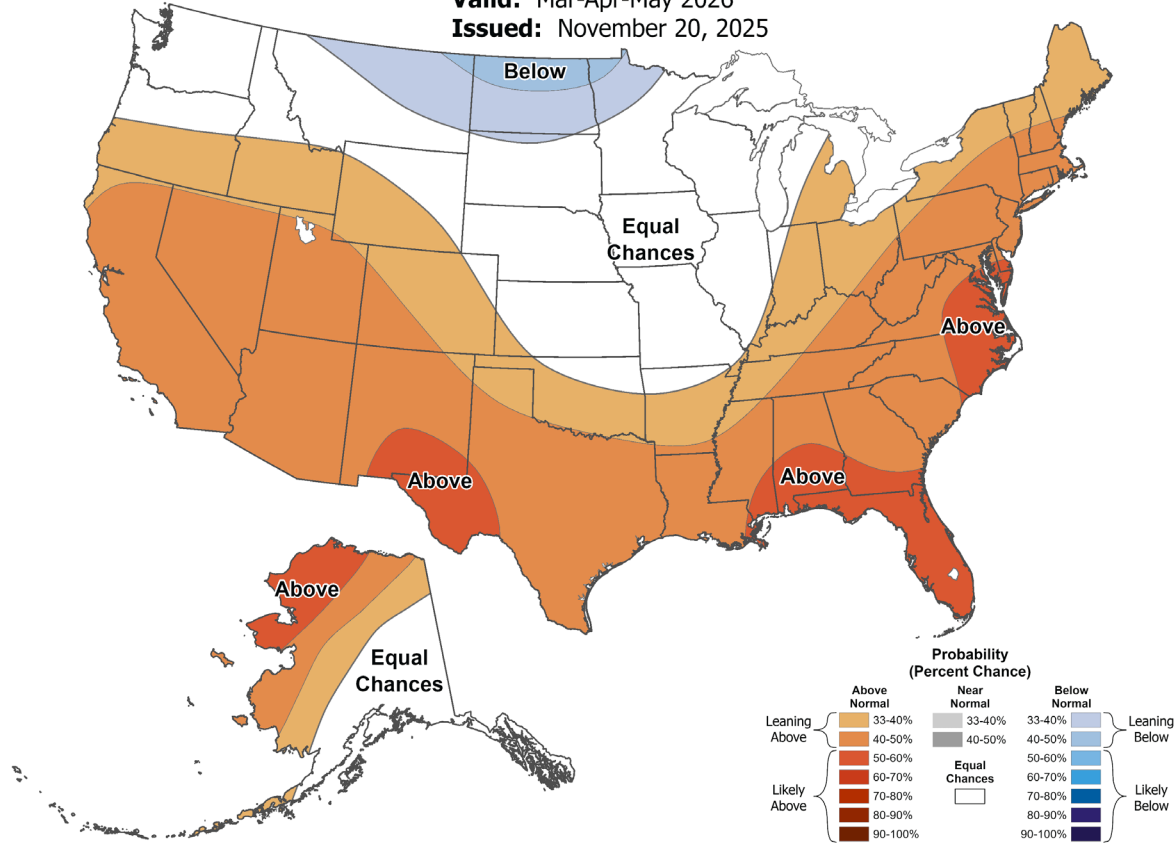
# Spring Outlook



## Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2026

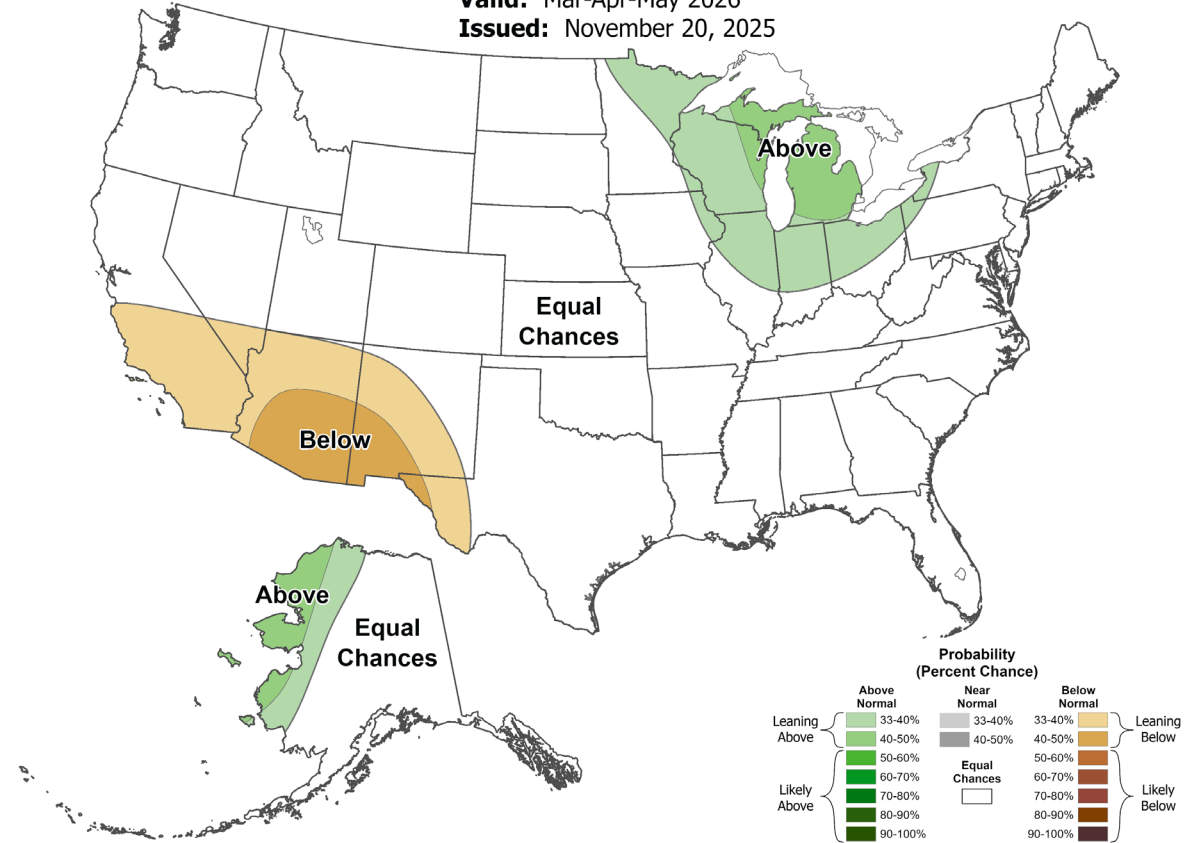
Issued: November 20, 2025



## Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2026

Issued: November 20, 2025





# Drought Outlook

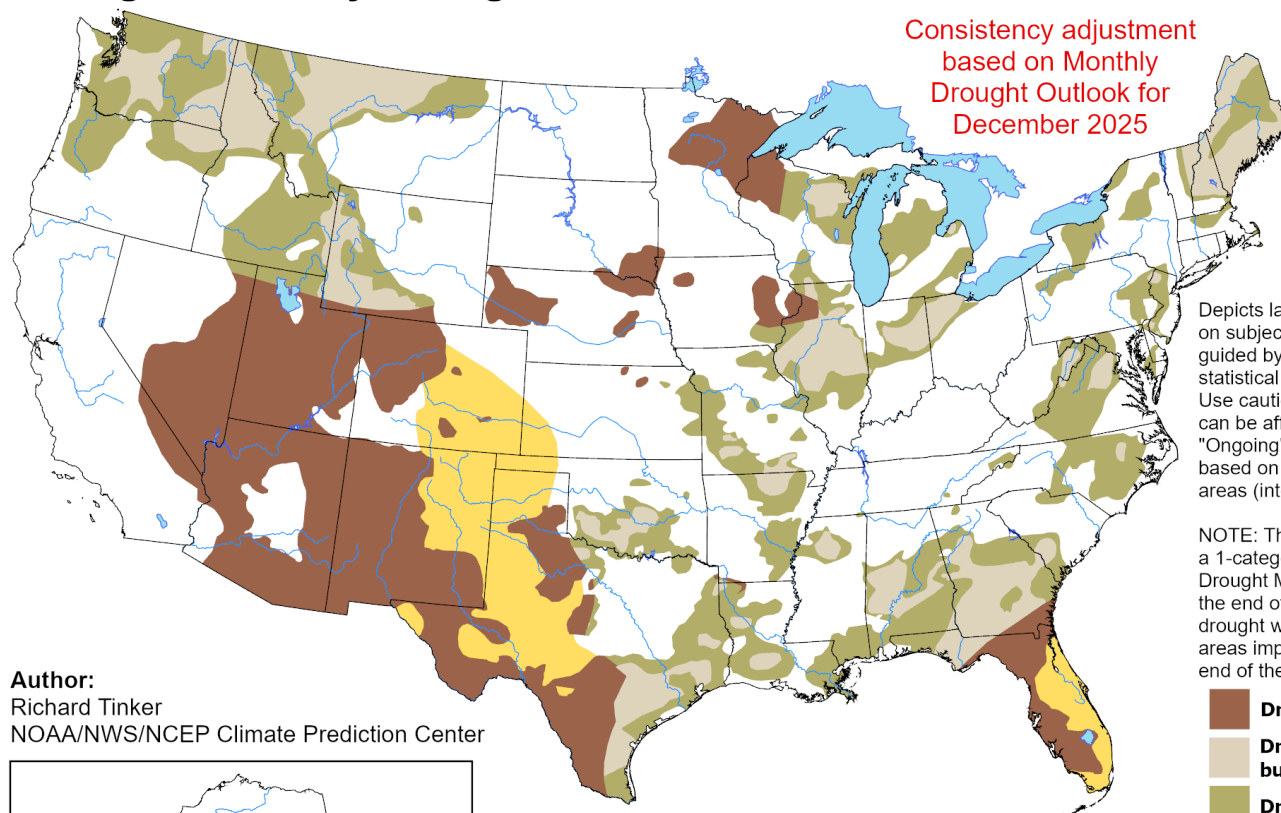
## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for December 1, 2025 - February 28, 2026

Released November 30, 2025

Consistency adjustment  
based on Monthly  
Drought Outlook for  
December 2025

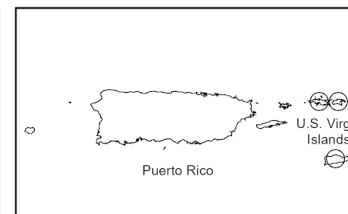
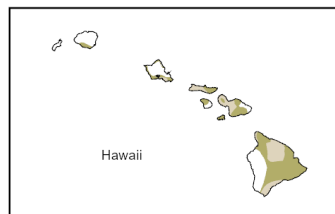


Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists**
- Drought remains, but improves**
- Drought removal likely**
- Drought development likely**
- No drought**

**Author:**  
Richard Tinker  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP Climate Prediction Center



<https://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

<https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>

# Thank you!

*Any questions?*



**Josh Bendorf**

Climate Outreach Specialist  
Wisconsin State Climatology Office

e: [jbendorf@wisc.edu](mailto:jbendorf@wisc.edu)