



Drought Information Statement for South Central Texas

Valid March 7, 2024

Issued By: NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX

Contact Information: sr-ewx.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated April 4, 2024 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/ewx/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.

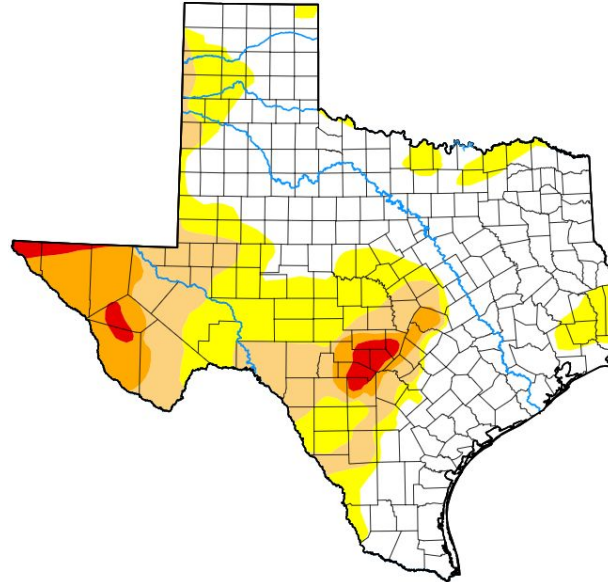




U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for south central Texas

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D3 Extreme Drought: Covers portions of the Hill Country and I-35 corridor
 - Percent of Area: 7.18%
 - D2 Severe Drought: Extends across the portions of the Hill Country and I-35 corridor
 - Percent of Area: 12.62%
 - No Drought or D0 Abnormally Dry Conditions: Extends across the portions of Rio Grande Plains, and Coastal Plains
 - Percent of Area: 40.18%



Map released: Thurs. March 7, 2024

Data valid: March 5, 2024 at 7 a.m. EST

Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

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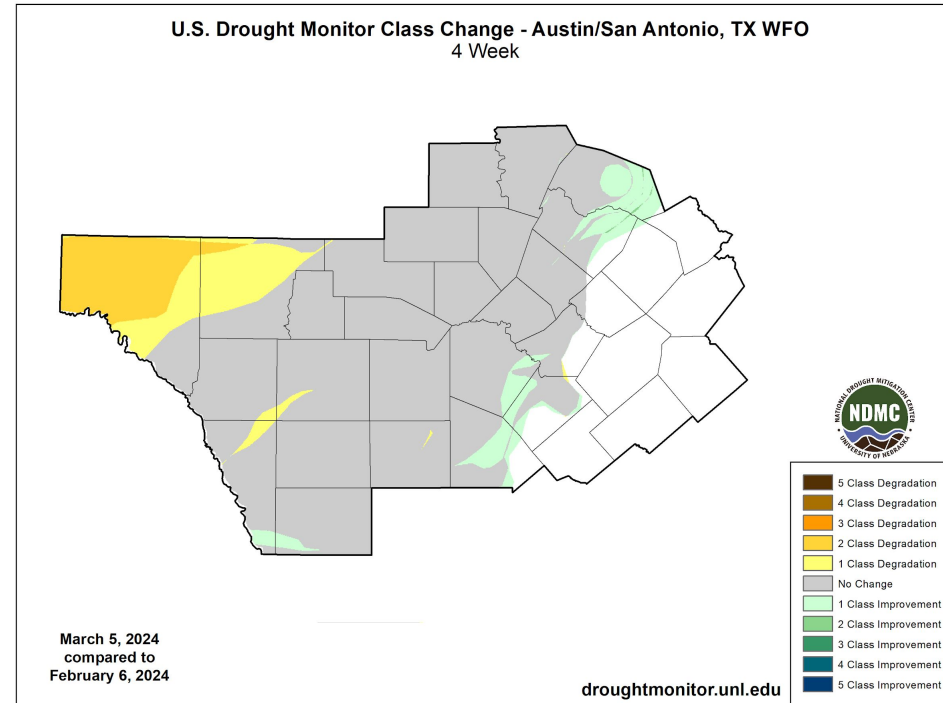




Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for south central Texas

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Portions of the southern Edwards Plateau
 - No Change: Portions of the southern Edwards Plateau, I-35 Corridor, and Hill Country
 - Drought Improved: Small portions of the I-35 corridor and Coastal Plains



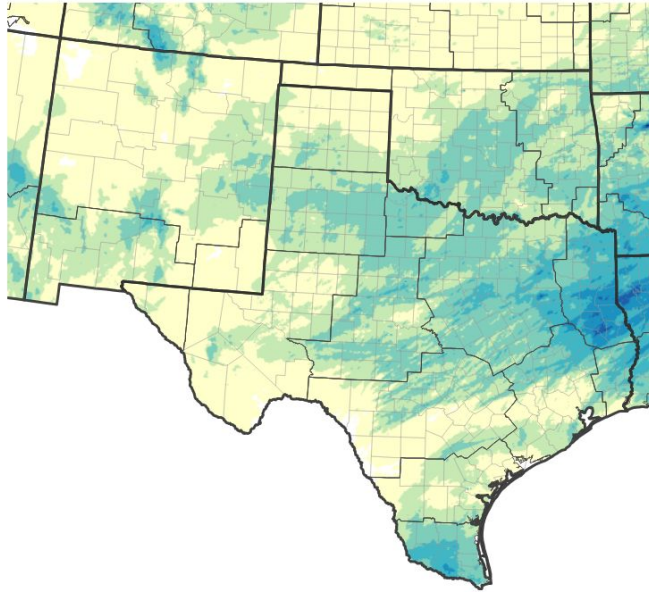


Precipitation

Links to the latest [Precipitation Accumulation](#) and [Percent of Normal](#) over the past 30 days

- Over the past 30 days much of the area saw below normal rainfall.
- The area which saw near normal to slightly below normal rainfall was portions of the Hill Country, I-35 Corridor, and Coastal Plains.
- A swath of 25 percent or less normal rainfall extended eastwards from the Rio Grande Plains into the Coastal Plains generally along I-10.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



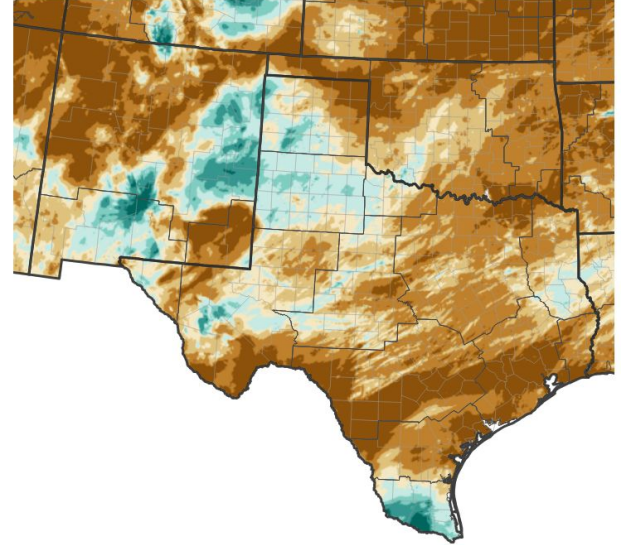
Inches of Precipitation



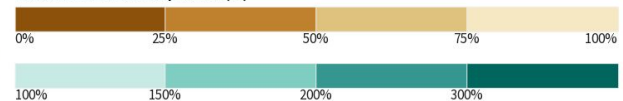
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 03/07/24

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 03/07/24





Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows across the service area saw decreased flows over the past 30 days.
- Portions of the lower Colorado, Cibolo, Blanco, and lower Guadalupe River basins have normal flows
- The remainder of river basins across the service area fall either below or much below normal
- See next page for more details.

Agricultural Impacts

- Please see the latest [Crop & Weather Report](#) from Texas A&M Agrilife.
- Near normal crop moisture values are shown across the three crop divisions within the service area.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Normal wildland fire activity is forecast through the month of March.
- See Fire Hazard page for more details.

Drought Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.
- Select [Municipality Restrictions](#) (as of 3/6/2024)
 - City of Fredericksburg: Stage 4
 - City of Kerrville: Stage 2
 - City of Georgetown: Stage 2
 - City of Uvalde: Stage 3
 - City of San Antonio: Stage 2
 - City of Universal City: Stage 2
 - City of New Braunfels: Stage 2
 - City of Austin: Stage 2
 - City of Del Rio: Stage 2





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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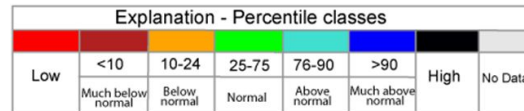
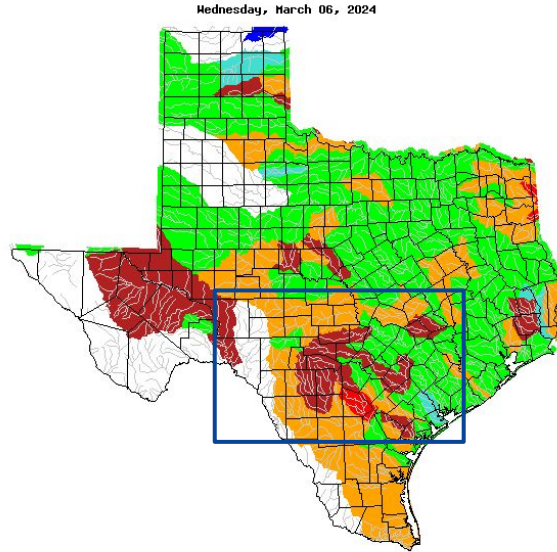


Figure Caption: [USGS 7 day streamflows for Texas](#), valid March 6, 2024

Reservoir	Pool Elevation	Current Elevation	Percent Full
Amistad	1117.00 feet	1050.72 feet	26.2%
Medina Lake	1064.2 feet	973.84 feet	3.1%
Canyon Lake	909.00 feet	887.53 feet	60.2%
Granger Lake	504.00 feet	504.65 feet	100%
Georgetown Lake	791.00 feet	782.10 feet	72.2%
Lake Buchanan	1020.00 feet	994.80 feet	46.0%
Lake LBJ	825.00 feet	824.70 feet	98.3%
Lake Marble Falls	738.00 feet	736.37 feet	95.0%
Lake Travis	681.00 feet	631.61 feet	38.2%
Lake Austin	492.9 feet	492.10 feet	95.4%

Table caption: [TWDB Reservoir](#) conditions as of February 1, 2024

Additional data:

[Edwards Aquifer, Bexar Index Well J-17](#) as of 

March 7, 2024:

10 day average: 641.6

Historical Monthly Average: 668.1

Departure from Average: -27.1



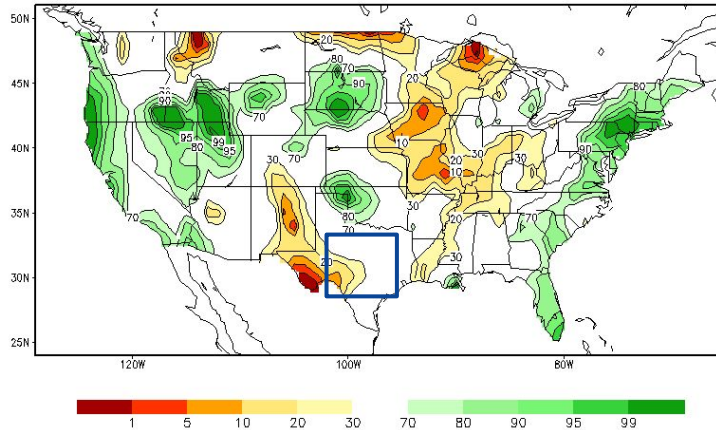


Agricultural Impacts

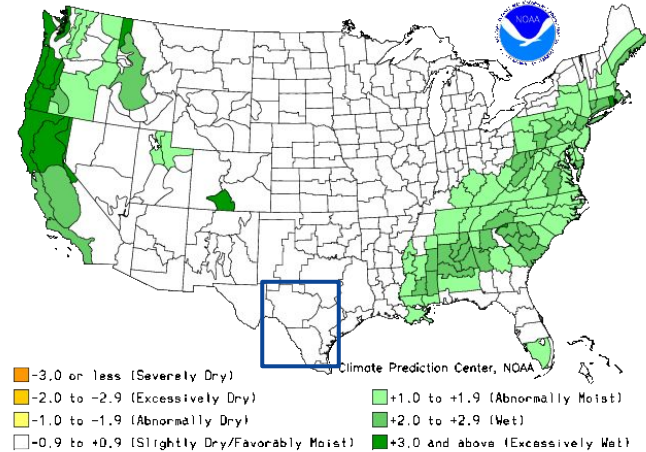
Links to the latest [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) and [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#).

- Soil moistures are near normal across much of the area.
- Below normal soil moistures remain across portions of the southern Edwards Plateau and Rio Grande Plains.
- Near normal crop moisture values are shown across the three crop divisions within the service area.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
MAR 06, 2024



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending MAR 2, 2024
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

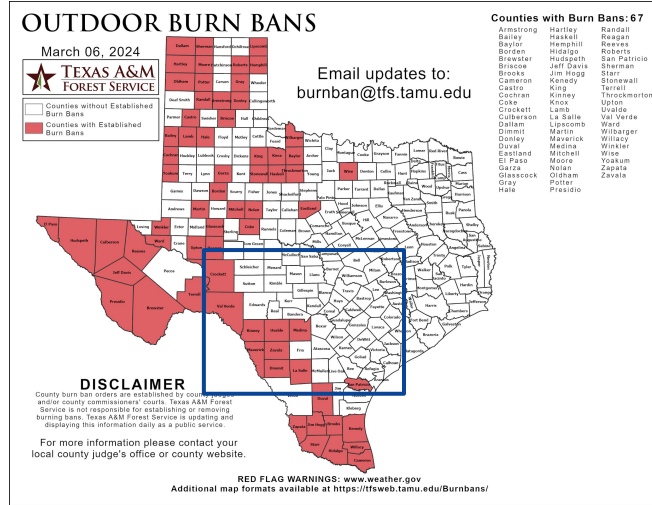




Fire Hazard Impacts

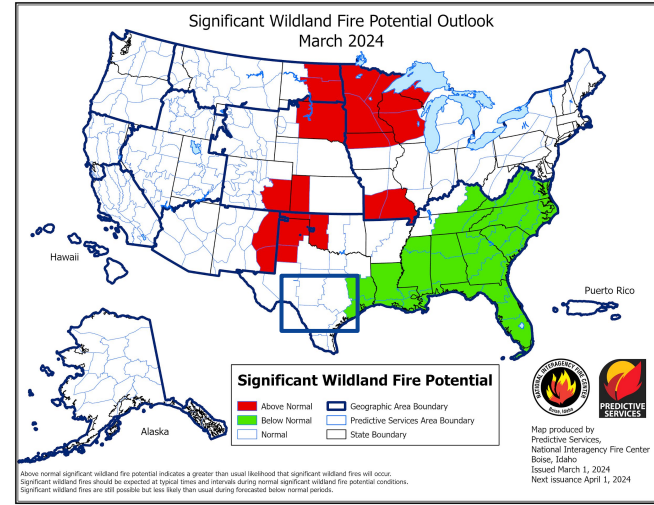
Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.](#)

- [Keetch Byram Drought Index values](#) have dropped below 200 across much of the Hill Country, I-35 corridor, Coastal Plains, and southern Edwards Plateau. Between 300 and 600 primarily remain across the Rio Grande Plains.



- Normal wildland fire activity is forecast through the month of March.

Burn bans remain for 7 of our 33 counties as of March 6, 2024. Latest County Burn Ban map available [here](#).

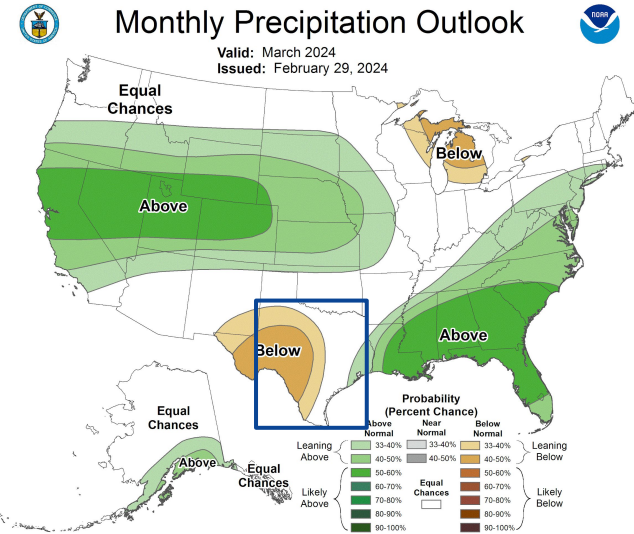
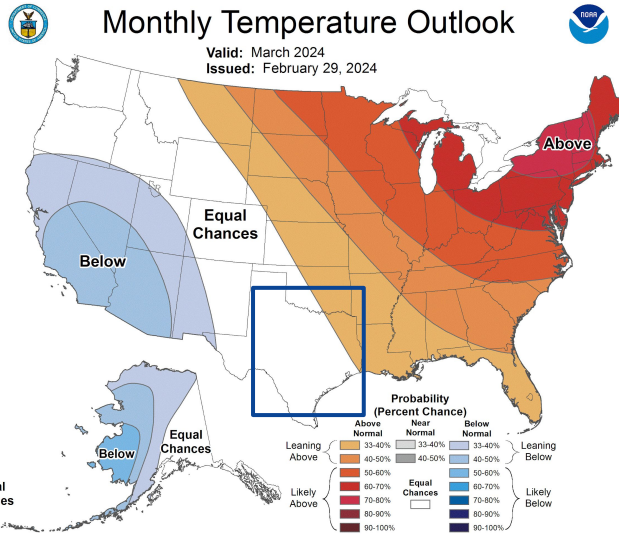




Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Chances are equal for above, below, or near normal temperatures for the month of March.
- Chances lean towards below normal rainfall for the Rio Grande Plains, southern Edwards Plateau, and portions of the Hill Country and I-35 corridor.
- Chances are equal for at, below, or near normal rainfall for portions of the Coastal Plains, Hill Country, and I-35 corridor.



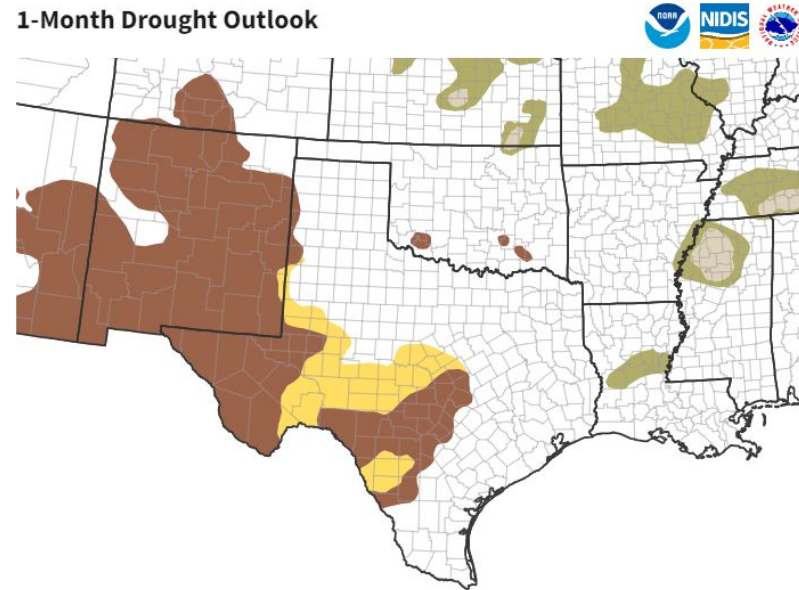


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- The Drought Outlook shows potential for drought conditions to persist across much of the Hill Country, I-35 Corridor, southern Edwards Plateau, and Rio Grande Plains.
- Drought development is forecast to develop across the Rio Grande Plains through March

1-Month Drought Outlook



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center
Data Valid: 03/07/24

[Drought.gov](#)

Links to the latest:

- [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Austin/San Antonio, TX