



Drought Information Statement for South Central Texas

Valid September 7, 2023

Issued By: NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX

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

- This product will be updated Oct. 05, 2023 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.



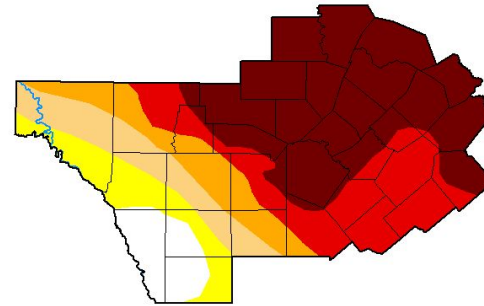


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Both short and long term drought impacts are firmly in place across most of south-central Texas outside the Rio Grande Plains. Although there are signs for increasing rain chances after the 11th, significant, widespread improvements to overall drought status are unlikely over the next month.
- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D4 Exceptional Drought: Now expanded across nearly all of the Hill Country and now covers most of the I-35 Corridor and Coastal Prairies
 - D3 Extreme Drought: Now expanded to cover the remainder of the Coastal Prairies (not already in D4) and shifted west to include much of Edwards and Atascosa counties.
 - D2 Severe Drought: Became reconfigured as a skinny stripe separating the continued drought and temporary rain relief areas to the west provided by the remnants of TS Harold.

U.S. Drought Monitor Austin/San Antonio, TX WFO



September 5, 2023

(Released Thursday, Sep. 7, 2023)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	7.26	9.04	10.32	10.11	20.09	43.19
Last Week 08-29-2023	3.21	20.60	3.87	9.12	28.10	35.11
3 Months Ago 06-06-2023	23.54	35.85	18.45	12.26	7.74	2.16
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2023	6.21	14.33	40.02	19.13	11.66	8.65
Start of Water Year 09-27-2022	1.55	13.06	33.69	29.92	16.79	4.98
One Year Ago 09-06-2022	0.02	12.35	31.80	36.94	17.13	1.77

Intensity

None	D0 Abnormally Dry	D1 Moderate Drought	D2 Severe Drought	D3 Extreme Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
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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>

Author

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CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EDT September 5, 2023.



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Austin/San Antonio, TX



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: Over much of the I-35 corridor, Coastal Plains, and portions of the southern Edwards Plateau and Hill Country. Significant worsening has occurred over the Coastal Plains.
 - No Change: Southern portions of the Edwards Plateau and Hill Country.
 - Drought Improved: Much of the Rio Grande Plains and portions of the Edwards Plateau.

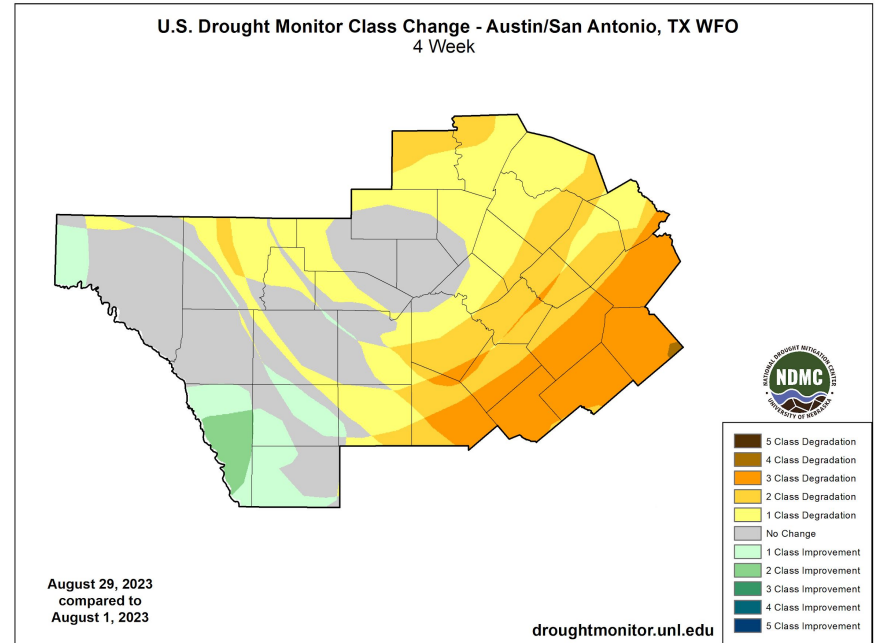


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 8am EDT September 5, 2023

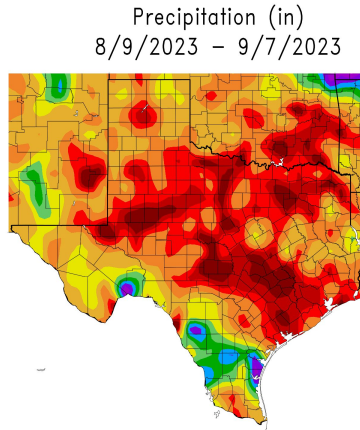




Precipitation

Last 30 days

- Widespread 2-4” rainfall amounts have fallen in far western/southwestern portions of the region, mainly from TS Harold on Aug 22.
- The east half of the region has seen less than a quarter of normal rains in the past 30 days. Williamson/Lee counties have seen little to no rain all summer.



erated 9/8/2023 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Cen

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/9/2023 - 9/7/2023

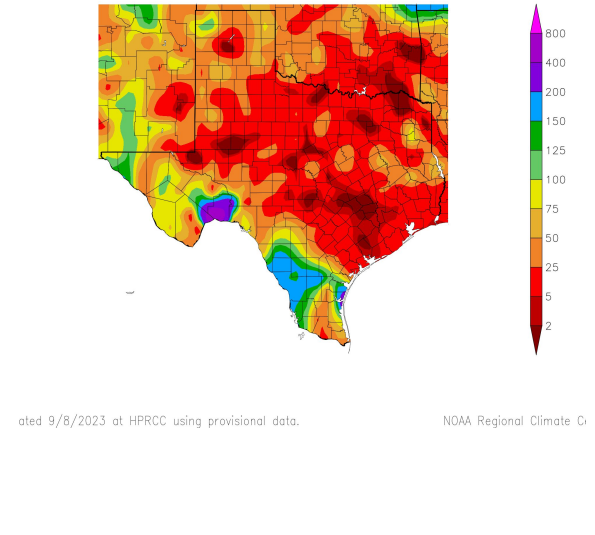


Image Captions:

Left - [Precipitation Amount Map for south-central Texas](#)

Right - [Percent of Normal Precipitation for south-central Texas](#)

Data Courtesy Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS)

Data over the past 30 days ending September 7, 2023





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows remain below to much below normal across most basins in the region. Inflows to the Highland Lakes have been essentially zero. See next page for more details.

Agricultural Impacts

- Please see the latest [Crop & Weather Report](#) from Texas A&M Agrilife.
- Soil moistures remain well below normal for most locations except along the Rio Grande. Crop moistures remain severely dry in most of the region.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Wildfire activity has continued in central and eastern portions of the region. Above normal wildland fire activity is expected to continue through September. More details below.

Other Impacts

- Water recreation is severely impacted on Lake Medina, Lakes Travis and Amistad as well as the Guadalupe, Frio, Pedernales, and Blanco rivers.

Drought Mitigation Actions

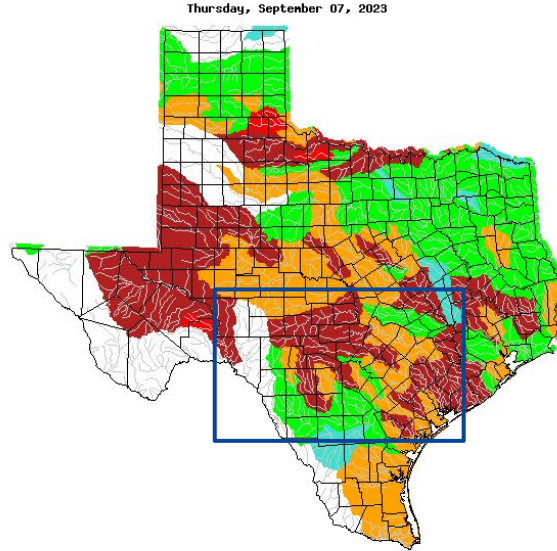
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.
- Select [Municipality Restrictions](#) (as of 9/6)
 - Fredericksburg: Stage 4
 - City of Llano: Stage 3
 - City of Georgetown: Stage 3 (west only)
 - San Antonio: Stage 2
 - Universal City: Stage 2
 - New Braunfels: Stage 2
 - Austin: Stage 2
 - Kerrville: Stage 4





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows remain well below normal in most areas, including at all-time lows in a few basins and sub-basins.
- Much of the streamflow across the area is in the less than 10th percentile for this time of year (maroon shading on the map).
- Canyon Lake is at its lowest level on record.



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Figure Caption: [USGS 7 day streamflows for Texas](#), valid September 5, 2023

Reservoir	Pool Elevation	Current Elevation	Percent Full
Amistad	1117.00 feet	1067.1 feet	35.3%
Medina Lake	1064.2 feet	978.3 feet	4.3%
Canyon Lake	909.00 feet	892.1 feet	67.6%
Granger Lake	504.00 feet	501.2 feet	79.1%
Georgetown Lake	791.00 feet	772.6 feet	48.3%
Lake Buchanan	1020.00 feet	993.9 feet	47.1%
Lake LBJ	825.00 feet	824.8 feet	98.6%
Lake Marble Falls	738.00 feet	736.4 feet	95.3%
Lake Travis	681.00 feet	631.4 feet	38%
Lake Austin	492.9 feet	492.1 feet	94.9%

Table caption: [TWDB Reservoir](#) conditions as of September 6, 2023

Additional data:

Edwards Aquifer, Bexar Index Well J-17 as of September 6, 2023:

10 day average: 629

Historical Sept Average: 660.3

Departure from Average: -31.3

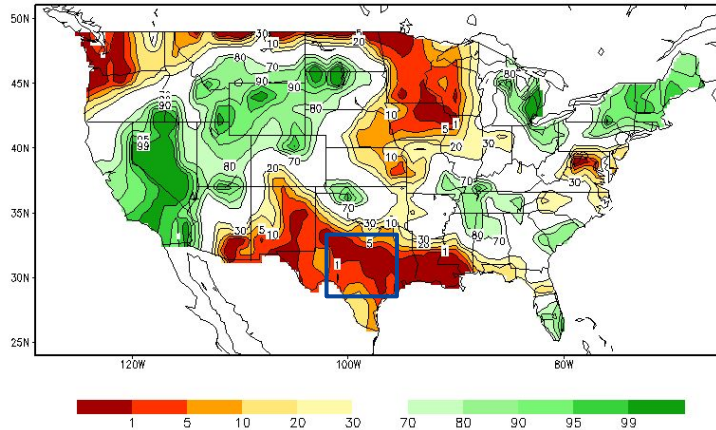




Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moistures have continued to decrease over the past 14 days with much of the area showing well below normal soil moisture.
- Crop moistures remain in the severely dry category across two of the three crop divisions that cover portions of our region. Crop moistures have improved in southwestern portions of our region.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
SEP 07, 2023



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending SEP 2, 2023
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

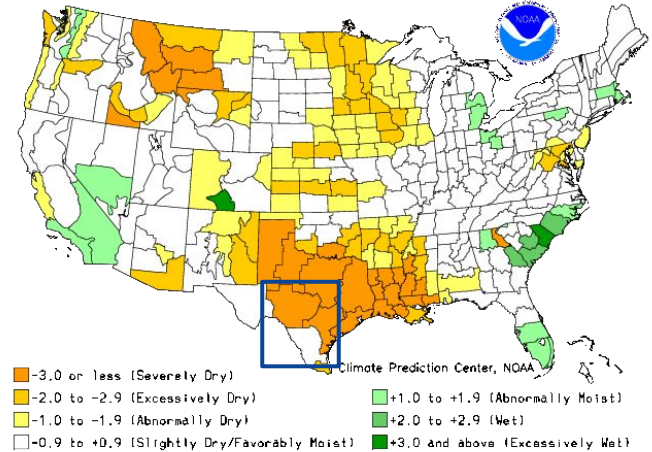


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid September 7, 2023

Above: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending September 2, 2023





Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Above normal temperatures are likely to continue on average through the month of September.
- Odds lean towards below normal precipitation in September across all areas.
- Although not shown, chances for above normal precipitation enter the forecast Sept 12-16.

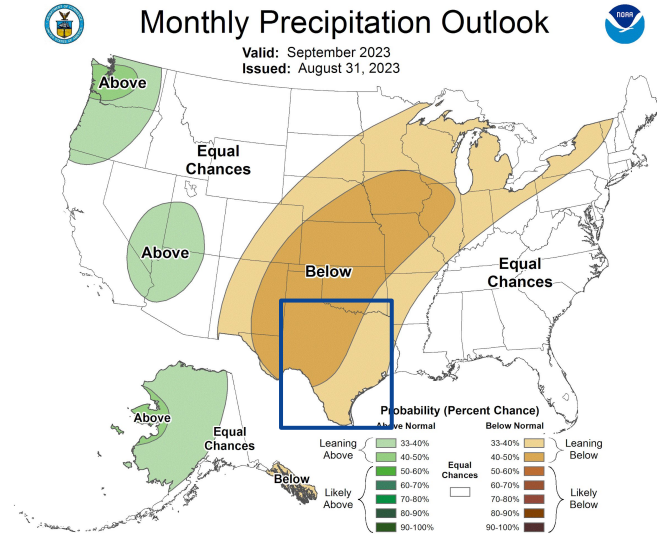
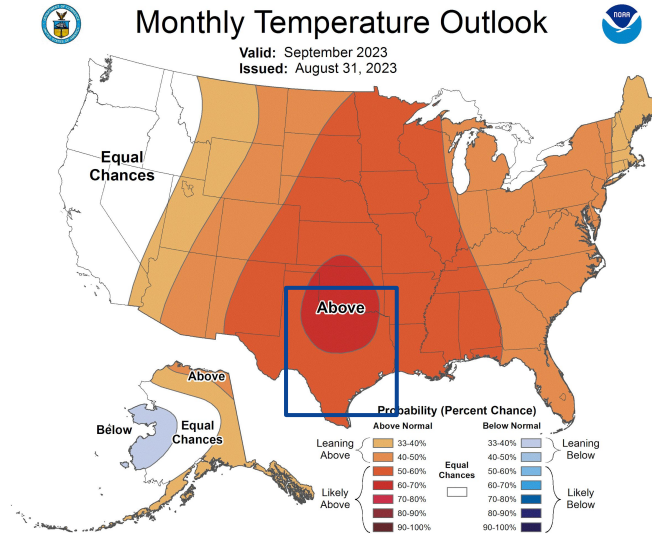


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook](#),

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook](#),

Valid September 2023





Drought Outlook

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

- Although rain chances next week may lead to some localized improvements, drought status is unlikely to change significantly or on a widespread basis over the next month.
- Although improvements to short-term drought impacts are possible this fall, long-term drought impacts are expected to continue through the next several months and into the Winter in many areas where long-term rainfall deficits are approaching 2 feet over the past 2 years.

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

Valid for September 2023
Released August 31, 2023

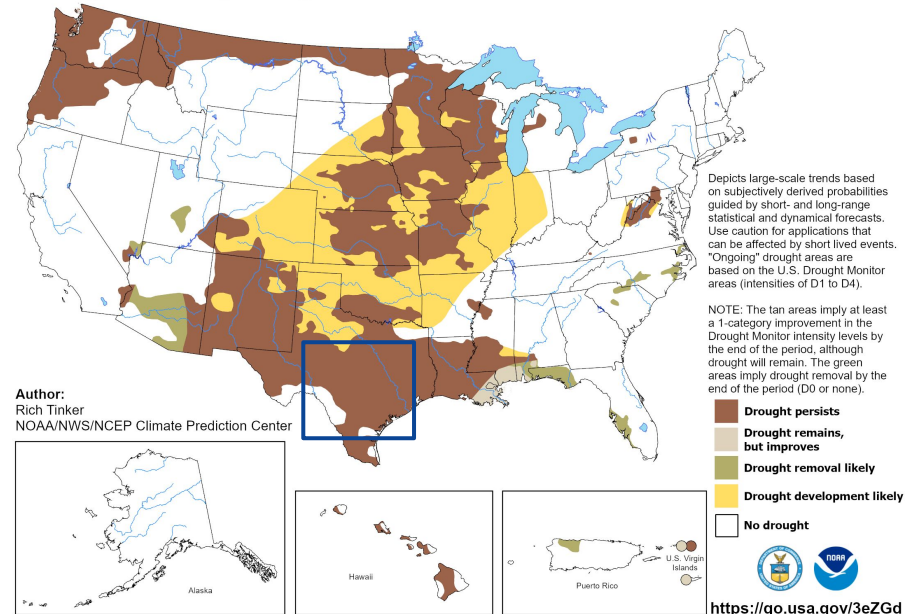


Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released August 31, 2023 valid for September 2023

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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