Drought Information Statement for

Eastern Ohio, Northern West Virginia and Western Pennsylvania

Valid September 19, 2024

Issued By: NWS Pittsburgh, PA

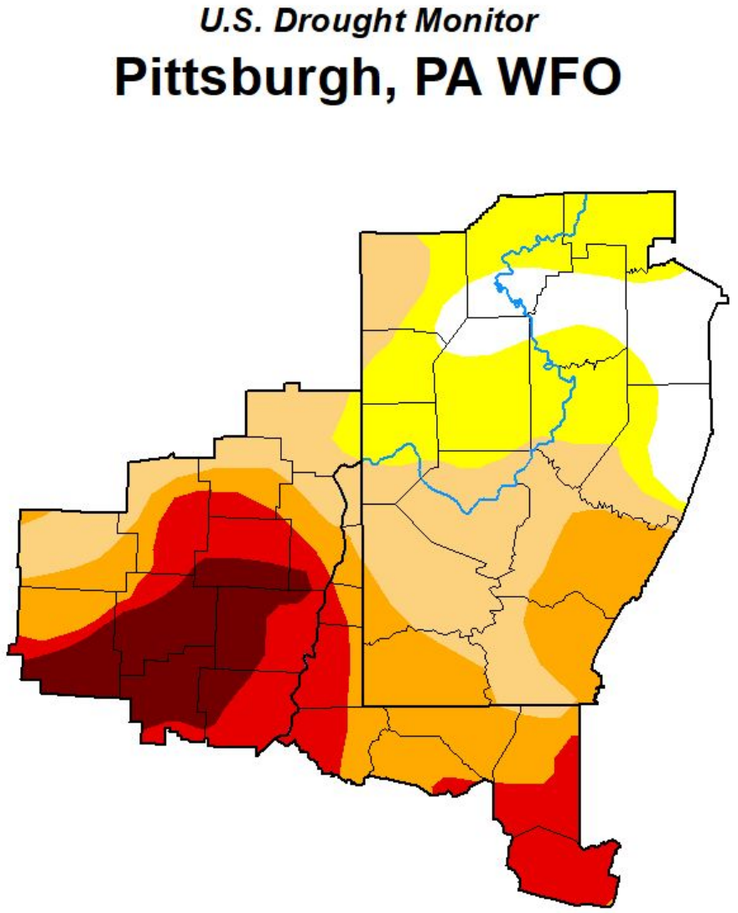
- This product will be updated October 3, 2024 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/pbz/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.

- Exceptional drought has been expanded to add more of Guernsey county in eastern Ohio.
- Extreme drought has been added to Tucker county, WV.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for eastern Ohio, northern West Virginia, and western Pennsylvania

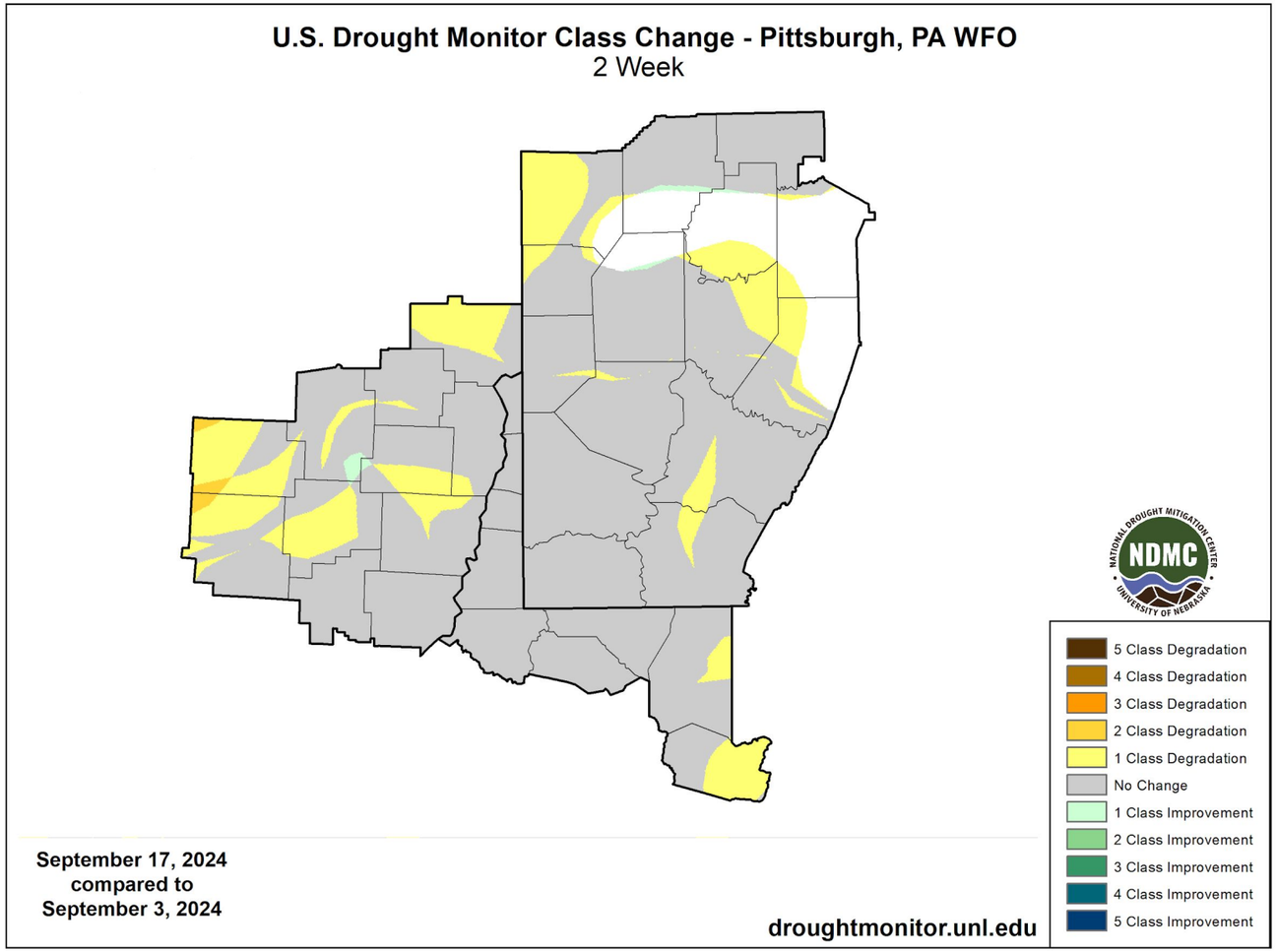
- Drought intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: Portions of Muskingum, Noble, Guernsey, Harrison, Belmont, and Monroe counties in OH.
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Much of the rest of the aforementioned counties (above), Tuscarawas, Carroll, and Jefferson OH, the northern WV panhandle, Marion, Preston, and Tucker counties in WV.
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: eastern OH, northern WV, and portions of Washington, Greene, Fayette and Westmoreland in PA
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: eastern Ohio and western PA from I-76 southward plus portions of Lawrence and Mercer counties in PA.
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Much of the rest of the region except for portions of the counties along the I-80.



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 2-week change map for eastern Ohio, northern West Virginia, and western Pennsylvania

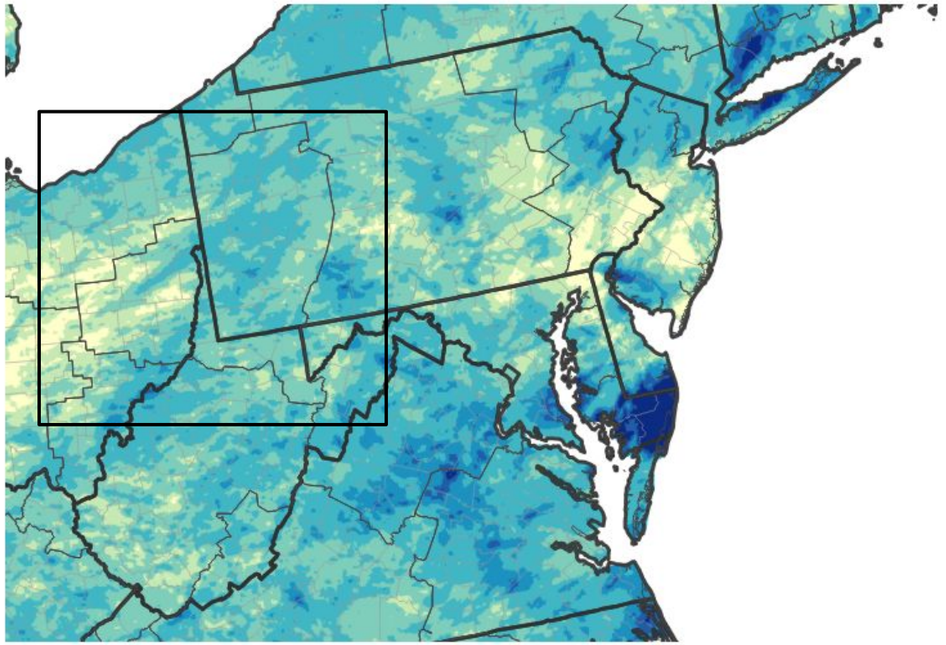
- Two Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened:
    - across Coshocton, Muskingum, Guernsey, Harrison, and Belmont counties in OH.
    - Portions of Preston and Tucker counties in WV.
    - Small sections of Lawrence, Mercer, Armstrong, and Clarion counties in PA.
  - No Change: much if southwestern PA, Venango and Forest PA, and the northern panhandle of WV.
  - Drought Improved: None.



Precipitation

- There has been very little precipitation over the last 7 days, with only pockets of precipitation under 0.25 inch in the last 24 hours
- In the past 30 days, some areas in east central Ohio received less than 0.10 inch.
- For much of the region, precipitation is between 25%-50% of normal, while eastern Ohio is less than 25% of normal.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



Inches of Precipitation

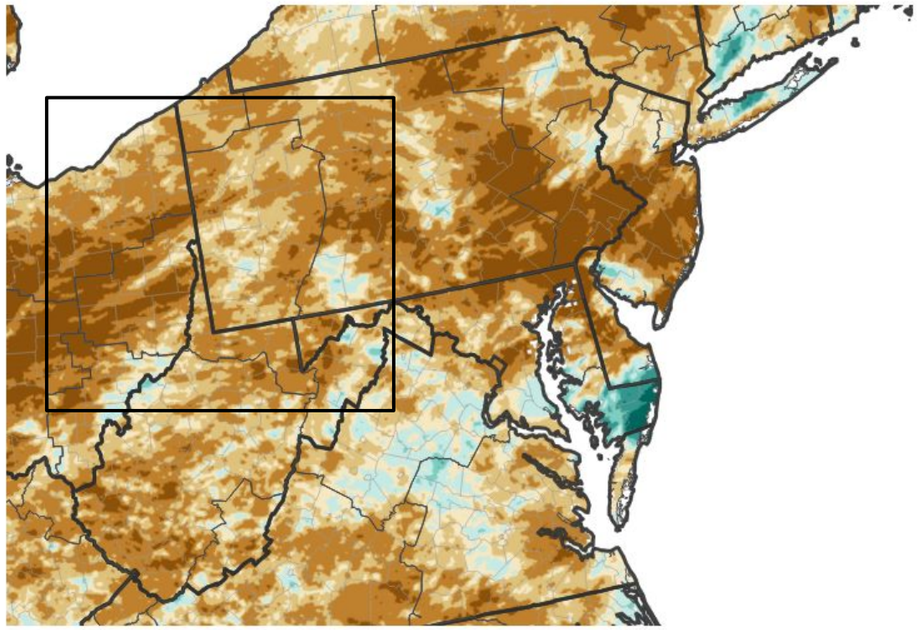
0 | 0.01 | 0.5 | 1 | 2

2 | 4 | 6 | 8

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

Last Updated: 09/19/24

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)

0% | 25% | 50% | 75% | 100%

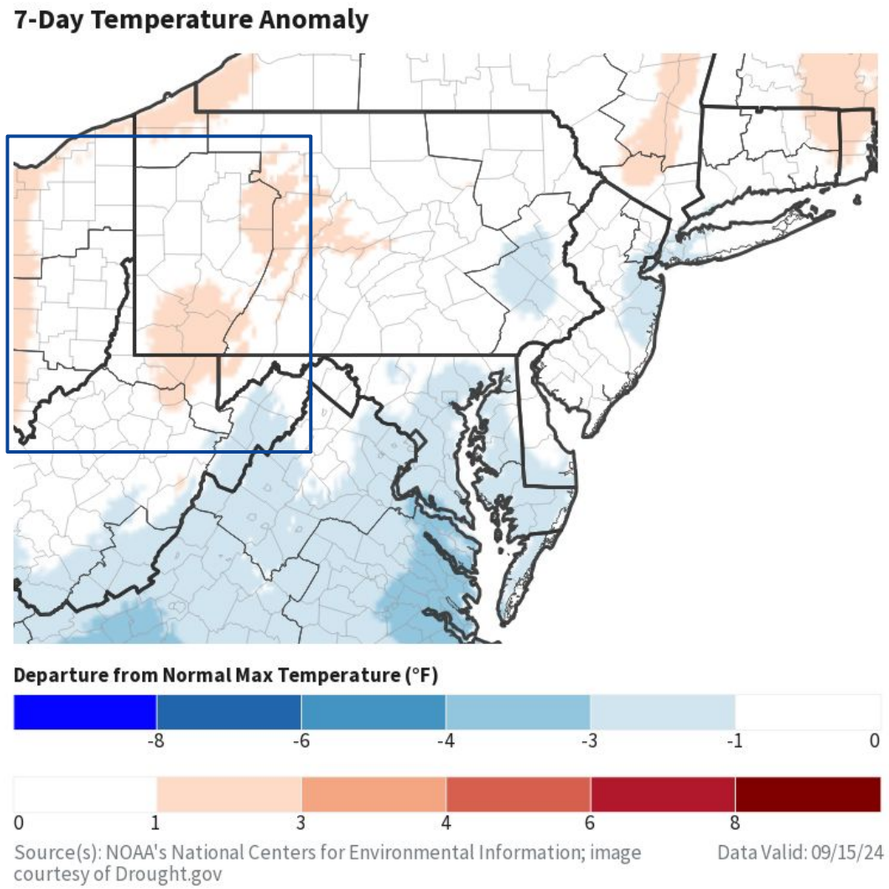
100% | 150% | 200% | 300%

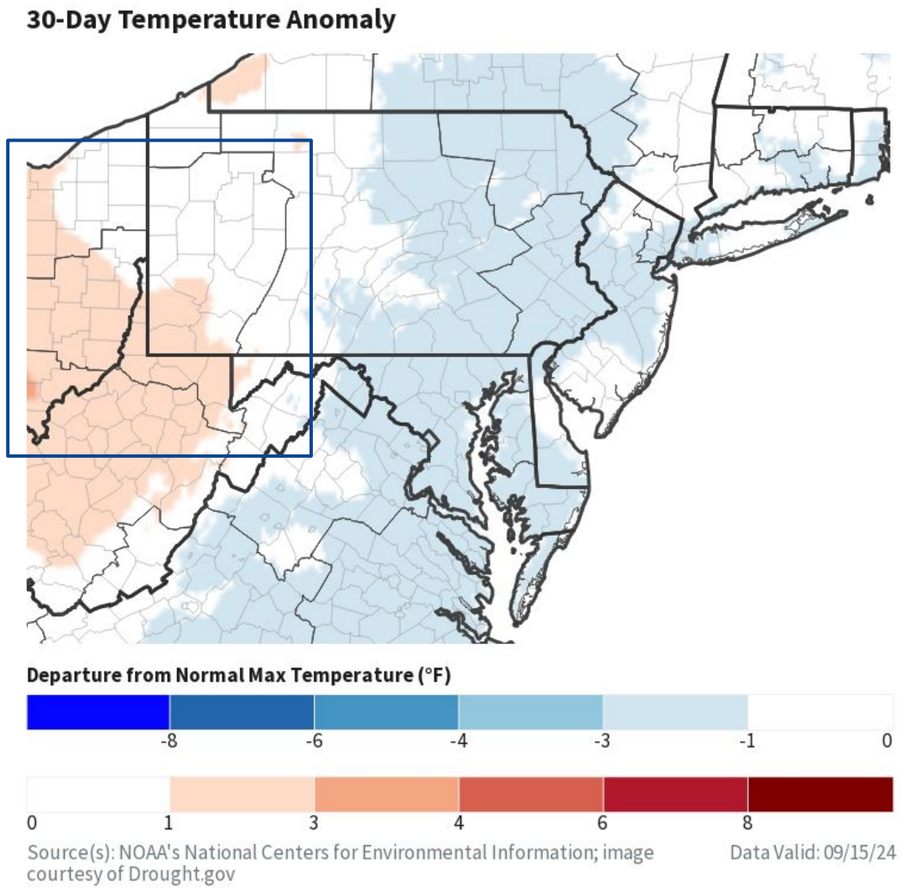
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 09/19/24

Temperature

- Temperatures were closer to normal over the last week.
- However, the average temperature over the last 30 days remains slightly warmer than average in the areas hit hardest by drought.





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows remain well below normal in both the last 14 and 30 day timeframes, especially in the Cheat, Monongahela, Ohio and Muskingum River basins and sub-basins.
- Private wells are low or completely dry in OH and WV.

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture remains in the 1-5% over much of eastern Ohio and northern West Virginia.
- Hay and pasture are poor or very poor across OH and WV. USDA
- Farmers are hauling water for livestock and supplemental feeding.

Fire Hazard Impacts

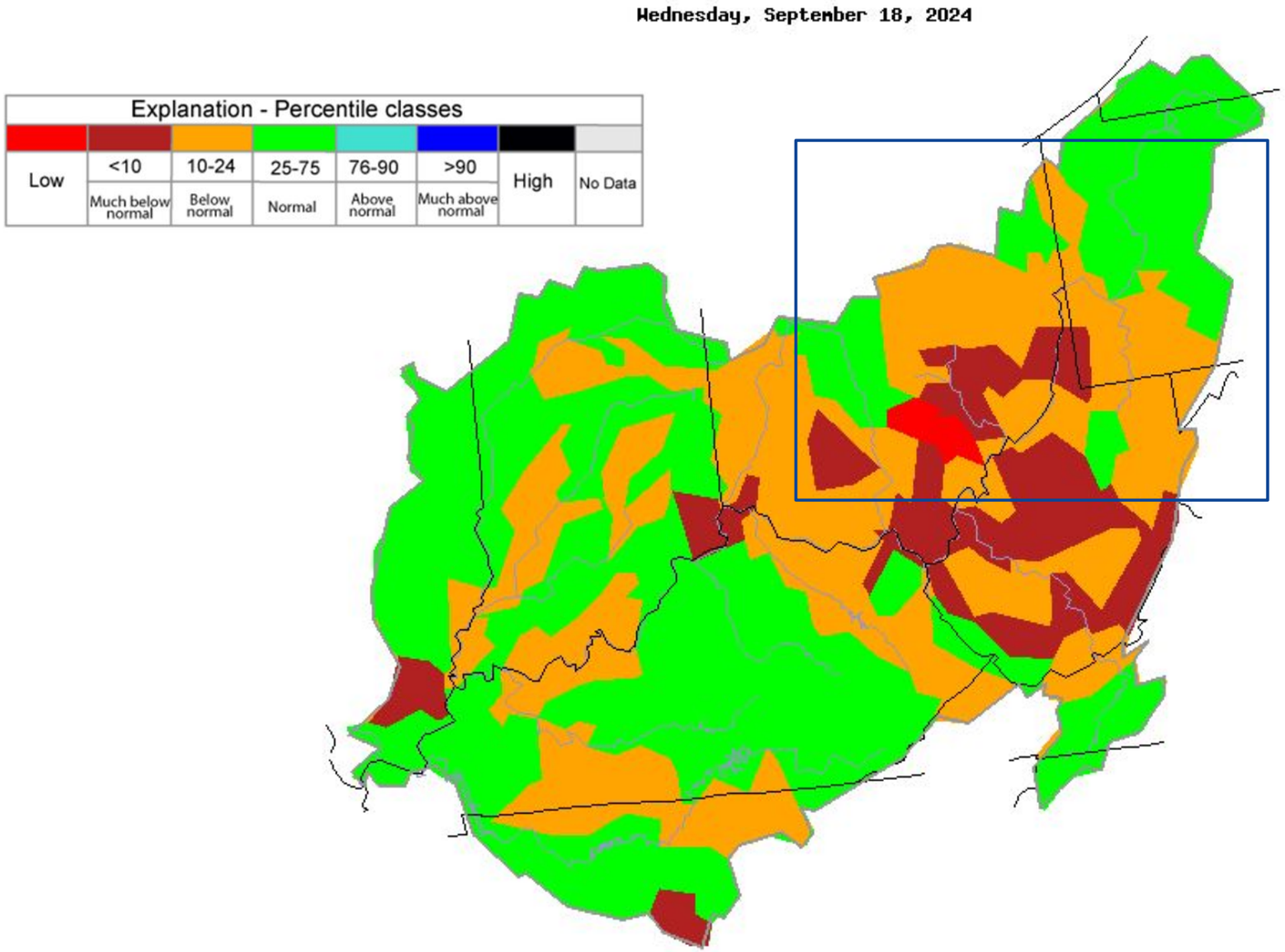
- Significant Wildfire Potential Outlook is above normal for portions of eastern Ohio, northern West Virginia, and southwestern Pennsylvania. NIFC
- Burn Ban in effect in Extreme and Exceptional drought areas in OH.

Mitigation Actions

- Some voluntary water restrictions have been put in place.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows are running well below normal across the Cheat, Youghiogheny, Monongahela, Ohio and Muskingum basins.
- Groundwater well are below normal in portions of WV and PA.
- There have been several pictures of completely dry creeks across all three states (OH, WV, PA)
- Several reservoirs are below summer pool levels and at levels more appropriate of November/December.

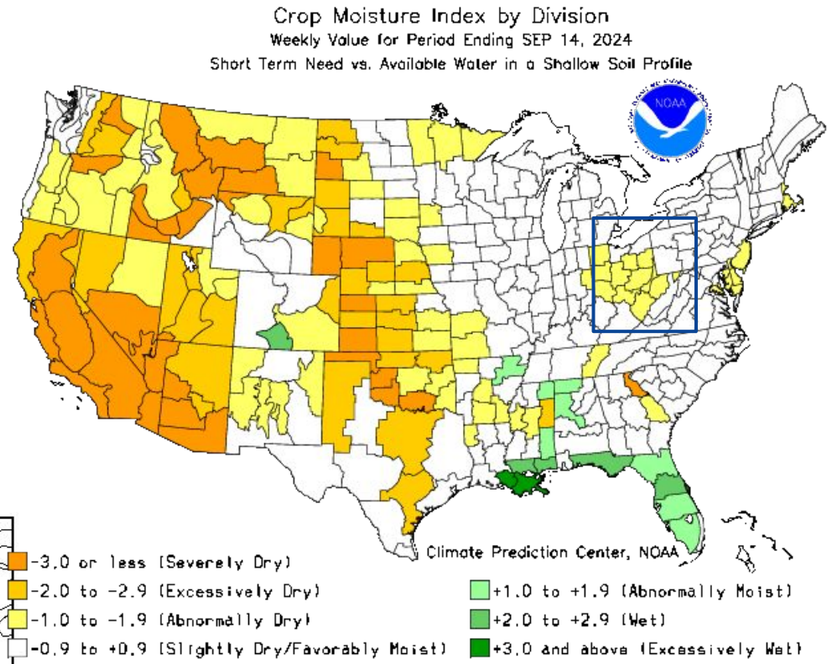


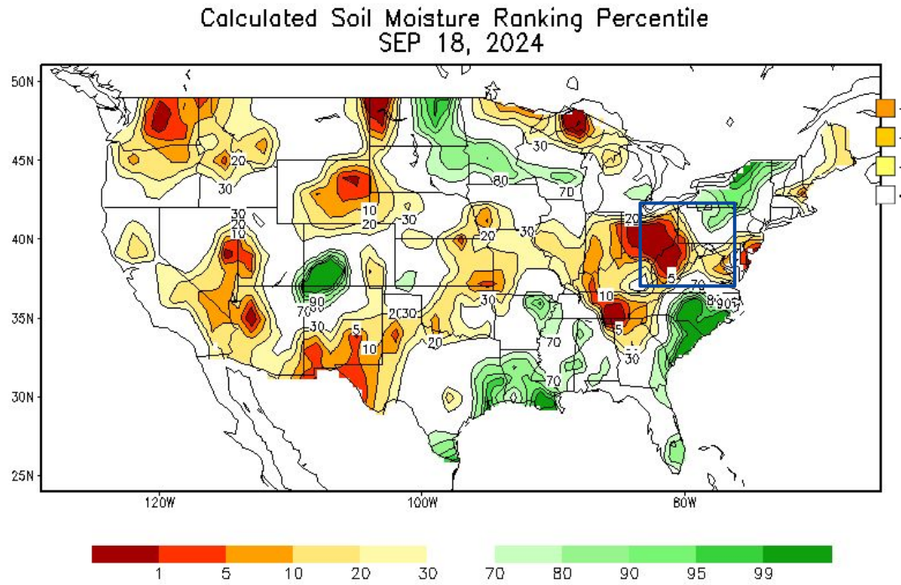
USGS

Image Caption: USGS 28 day average streamflow HUC map valid 09/18/2024

Agricultural Impacts

- Pasture and crop conditions are poor or very poor across portions of OH and WV.
  - 98% of WV pastures are rated very poor to poor.
  - There are reports of crop yield loss in WV, OH, and PA
- Supplemental feeding of bees and pollinators.
- Supplemental feeding of livestock
  - Reports of livestock being sold due to lack of feed/water

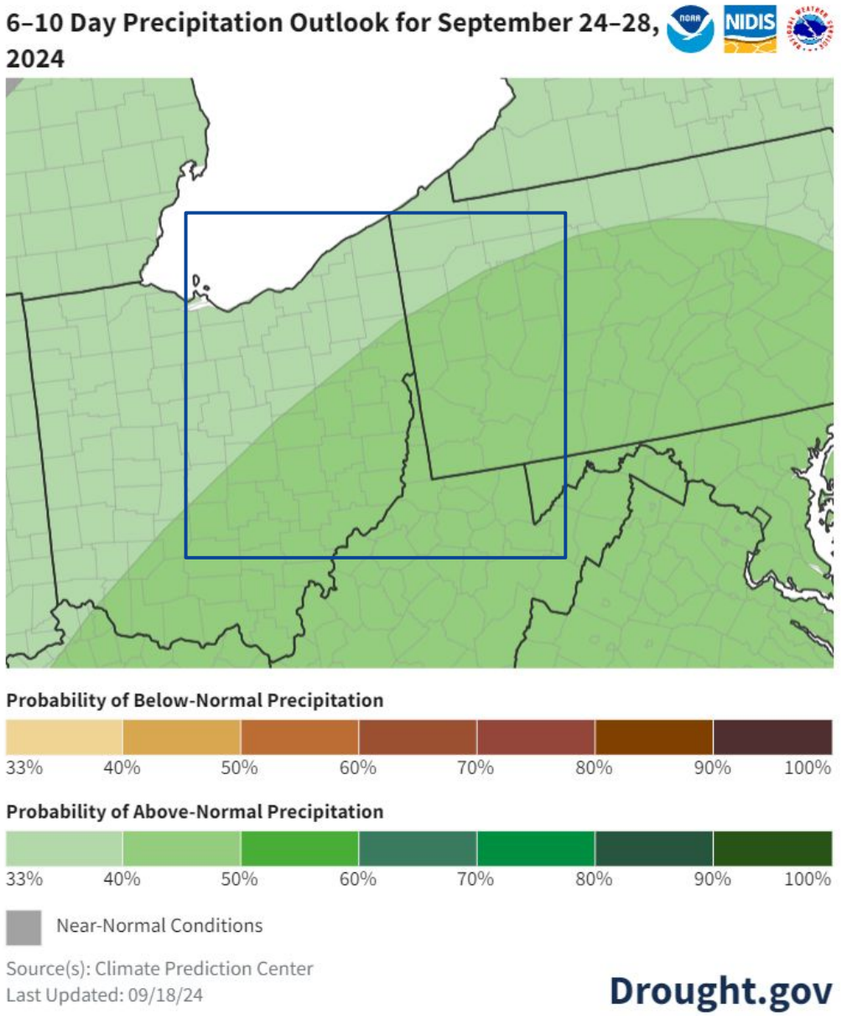


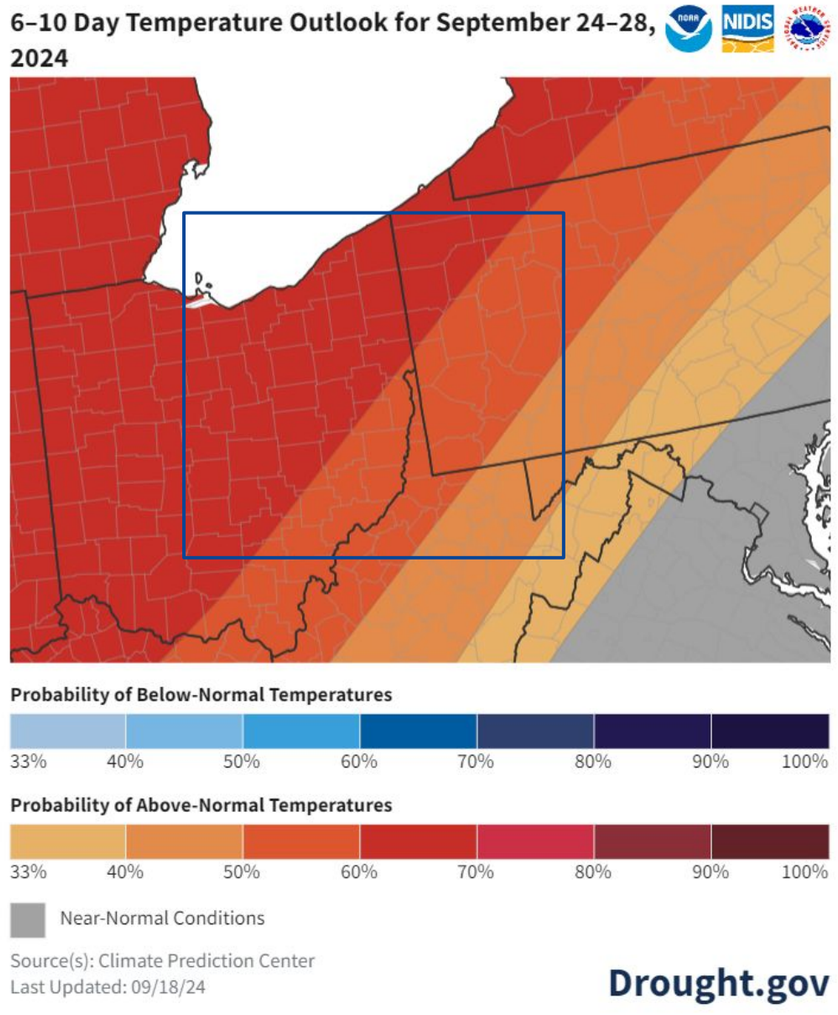


Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- Increasing southwesterly flow will return moisture to the region. At this time, the 6-10 day outlook is projecting warmer than average temperatures and precipitation slightly above normal (33-50%).





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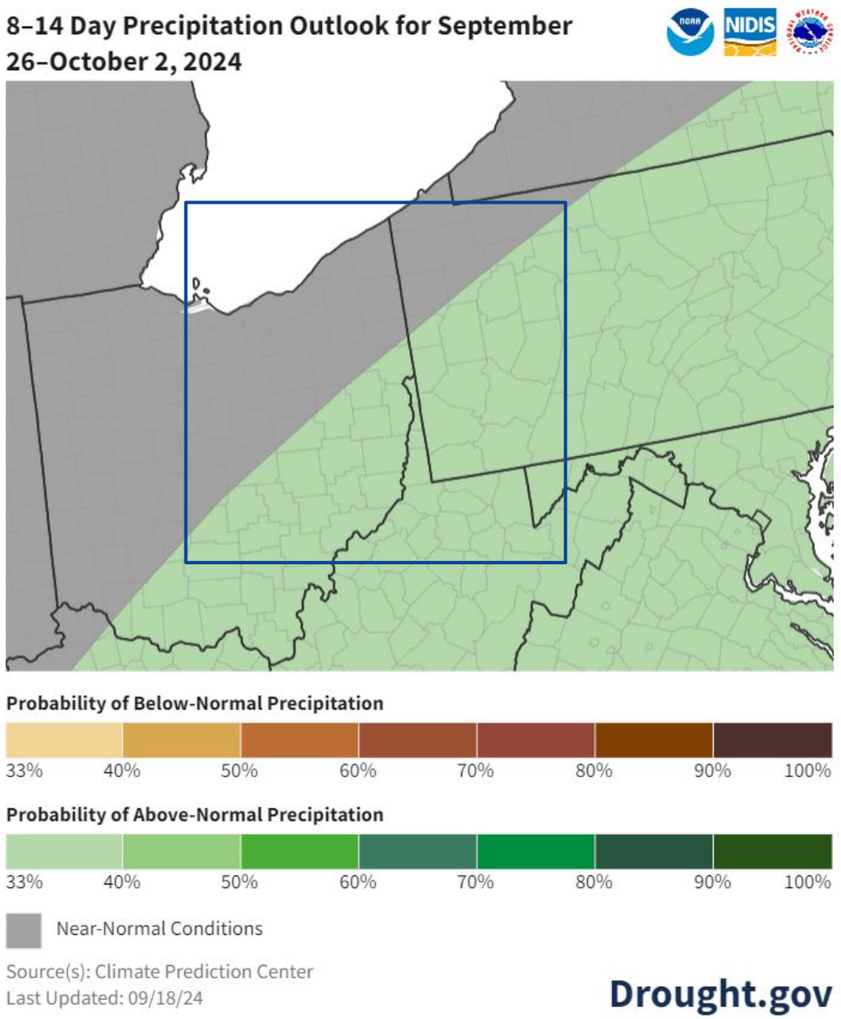
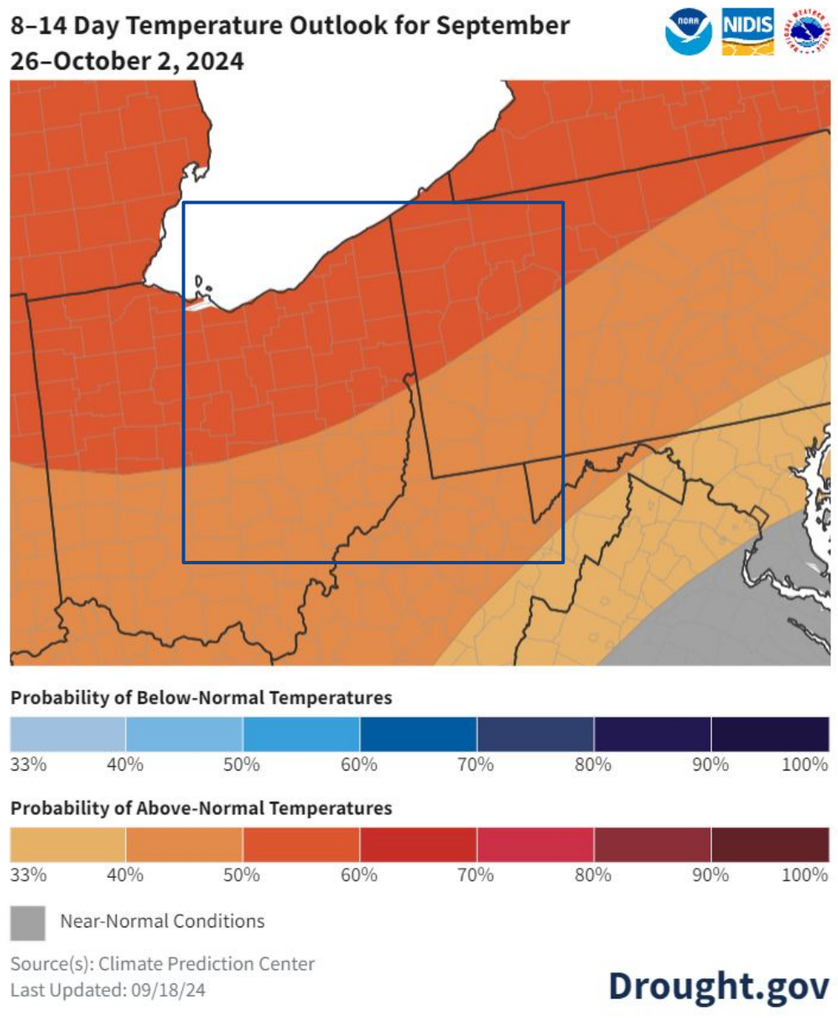
- 8-14 is projecting near or slightly above average precipitation and above normal temperatures.





Long-Range Outlooks

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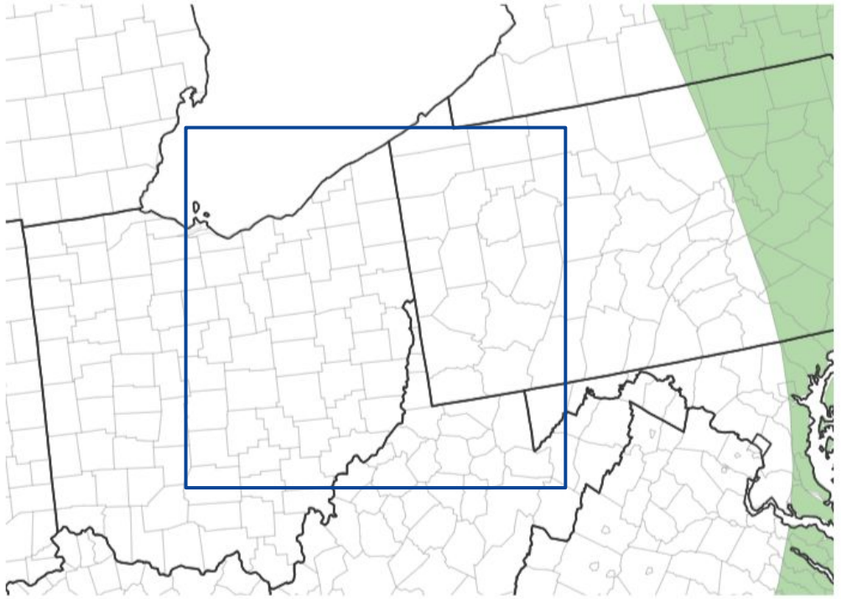
- The October monthly outlook highlights equal chances of wet/dry and warm conditions continuing across much of the upper Ohio valley.
- This will continue to support deteriorating drought conditions.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for October 1–31, 2024



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

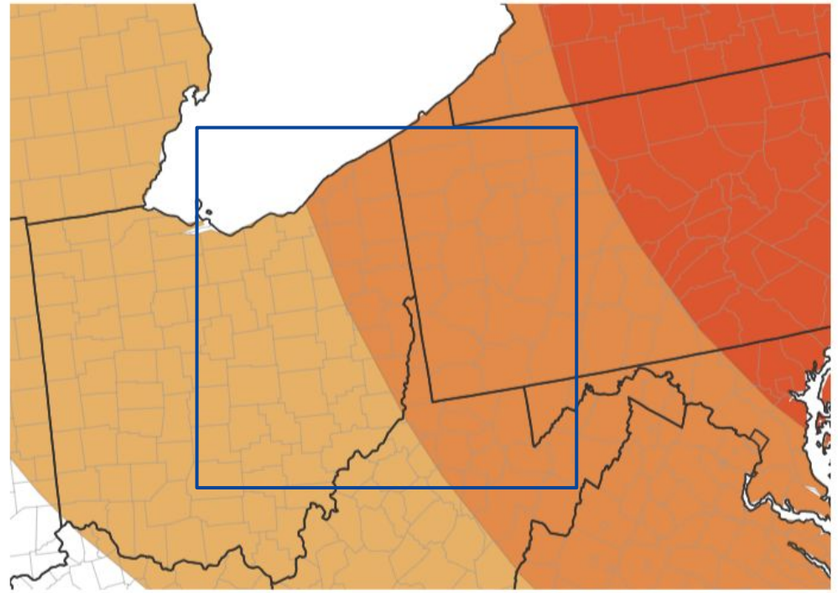
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center
Last Updated: 09/19/24

Drought.gov

Monthly Temperature Outlook for October 1–31, 2024



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures

33% 40% 50%

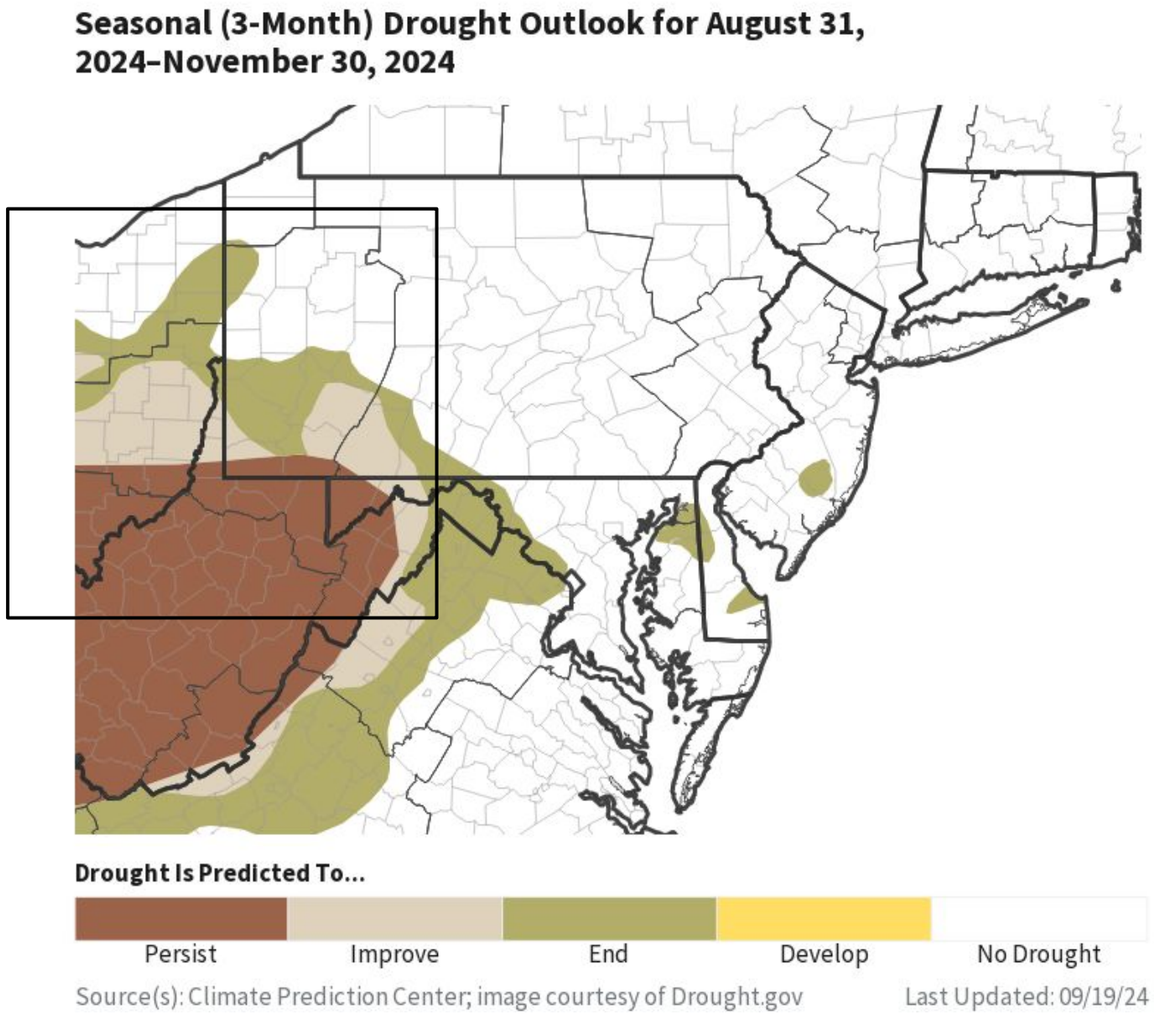
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center
Last Updated: 09/19/24

Drought.gov

Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- The newest seasonal drought outlook suggests that there could be some slight improvement to drought conditions in the next three months.
- However, it will take more than normal rainfall for much of Ohio and West Virginia to recover if temperatures remain above average.



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook