



# Drought Information Statement for Vermont and northern New York

September 18, 2025

Issued By: NWS Burlington, VT

Contact Information: [nwsbtv.info@noaa.gov](mailto:nwsbtv.info@noaa.gov)

- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>. Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/> for regional drought status updates.
- Moderate to severe drought impacts worsen as drought categories have expanded across Vermont and northern New York over the past two weeks.

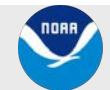
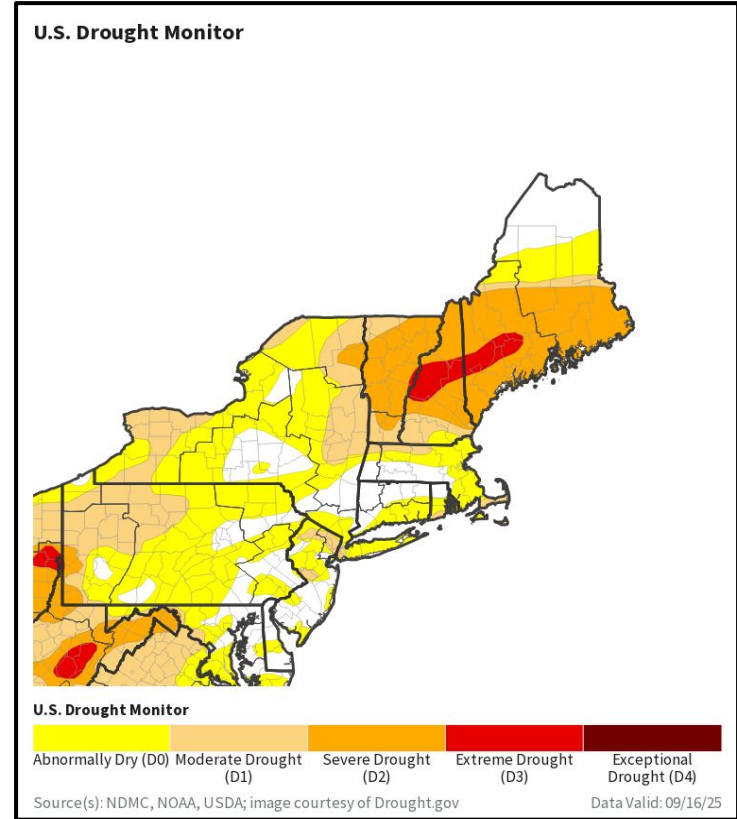




# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the Northeast

- Drought intensity and Extent:
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Portions of Essex County in New York, and Bennington and Windham Counties in Vermont; Most of Addison, Chittenden, Washington, Orange, Lamoille, Caledonia, Orleans and Essex Counties in Vermont.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Portions of St Lawrence, Franklin, Clinton and Essex Counties in New York; Most of Grand Isle and Franklin, Bennington and Windham Counties in Vermont.
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Portions of St Lawrence and Franklin Counties in New York.

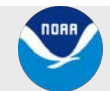




# USDM Drought Class Definitions

- USDM Drought class definitions

Category	Description	Possible Impacts
D0	Abnormally Dry	Going into drought: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>short-term dryness slowing planting, growth of crops or pastures</li></ul> Coming out of drought: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>some lingering water deficits</li><li>pastures or crops not fully recovered</li></ul>
D1	Moderate Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Some damage to crops, pastures</li><li>Streams, reservoirs, or wells low, some water shortages developing or imminent</li><li>Voluntary water-use restrictions requested</li></ul>
D2	Severe Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Crop or pasture losses likely</li><li>Water shortages common</li><li>Water restrictions imposed</li></ul>
D3	Extreme Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Major crop/pasture losses</li><li>Widespread water shortages or restrictions</li></ul>
D4	Exceptional Drought	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Exceptional and widespread crop/pasture losses</li><li>Shortages of water in reservoirs, streams, and wells creating water emergencies</li></ul>

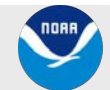
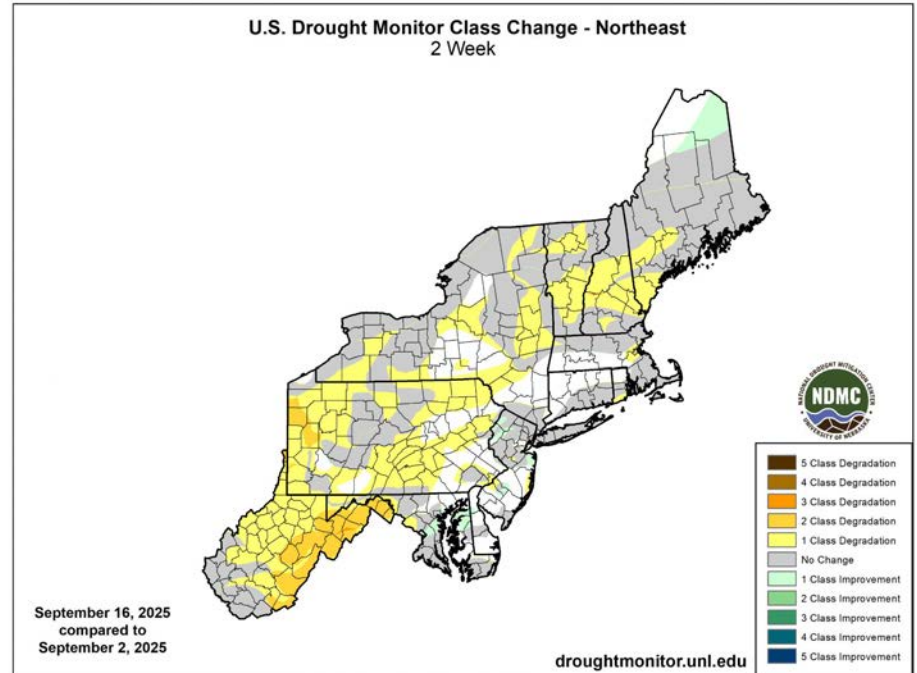




# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [2-week change map](#) for the Northeast

- Two-Week Drought Monitor Class Change:
  - Drought Worsened: Much of Vermont and parts of eastern northern New York
  - No Change: Portions of Vermont and the St. Lawrence Valley of New York
- Drought impacts can vary based on type of sector (fire, agriculture, water management, recreational, etc...) and on local infiltration rates based on your soil types. Drought severity levels define the general regional level of impact, but local impacts can be more or less severe than the categories here suggest.

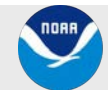
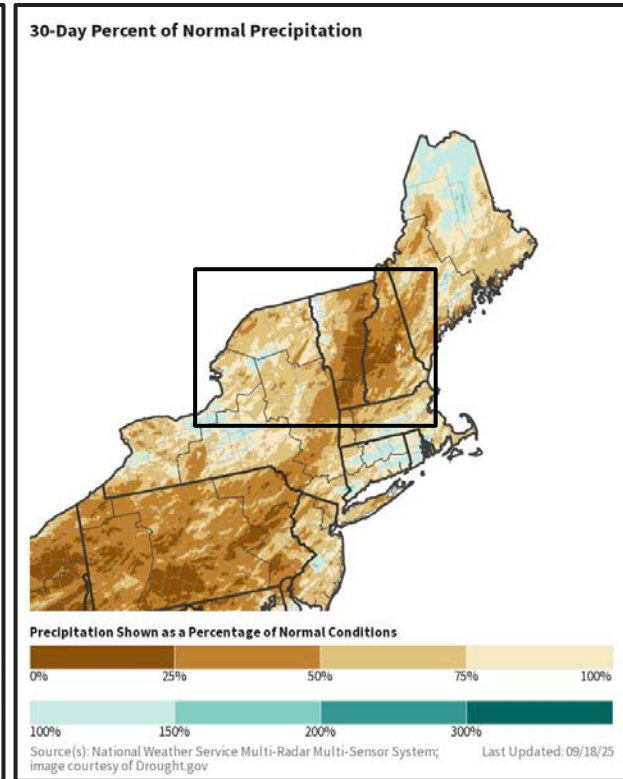
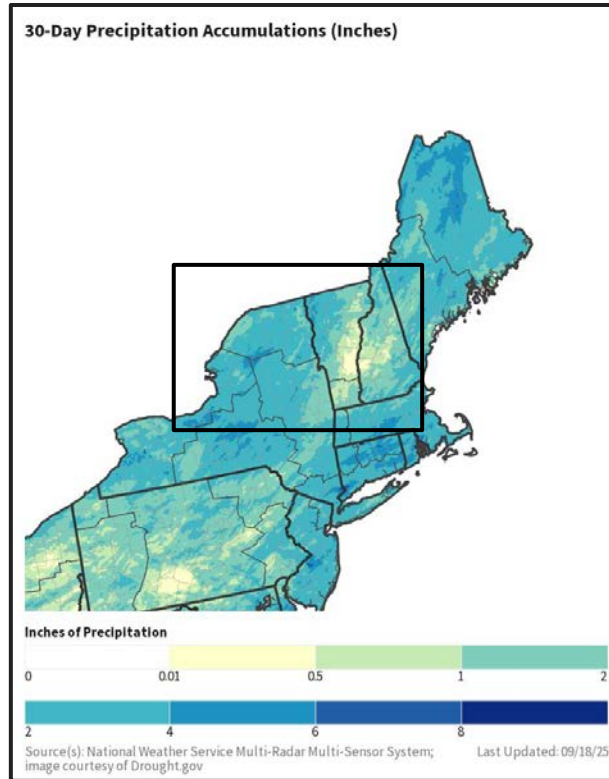




# 30-Day Precipitation

Ending September 18, 2025

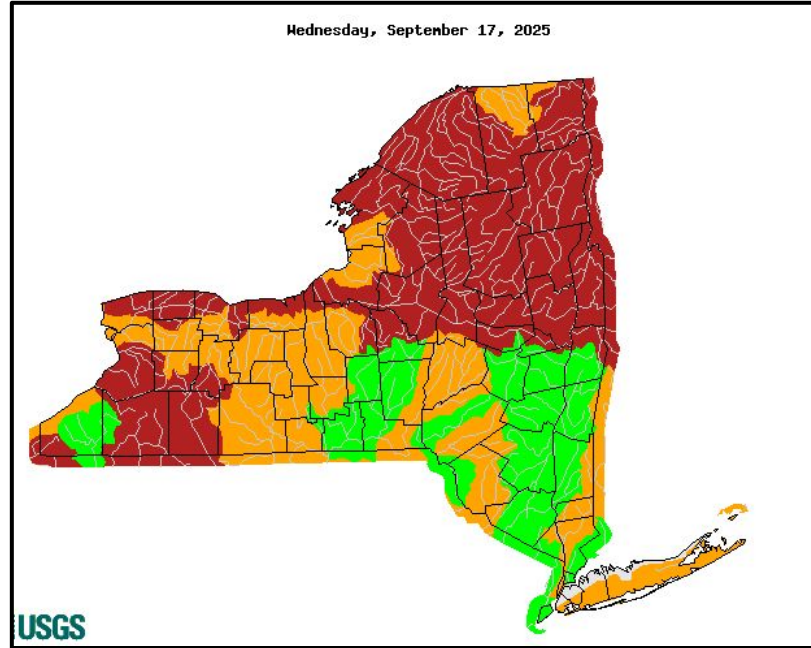
- The summer has been extremely dry and very warm. Since the beginning of Aug, drought developed and intensified in our area.
- Most of the area has had less than 2" of precipitation in the last month.
- These totals are on the order of 50% of normal or less.



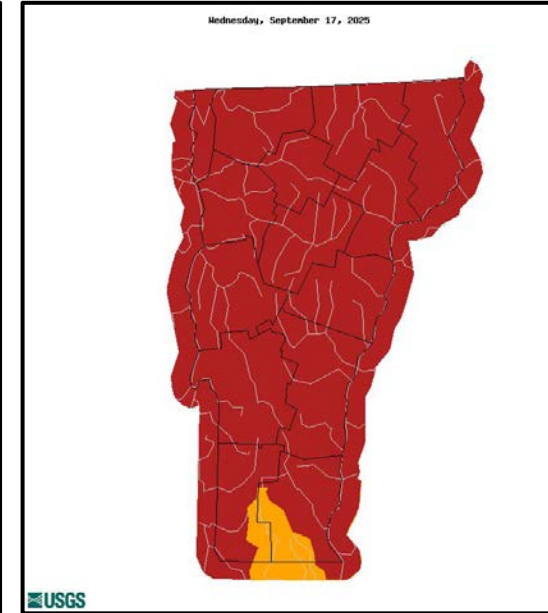


# Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows are running much below normal throughout the northeast.
- Drought impacts are occurring across the region, including crop and tree stress, dry wells, an increase in wildfire activity, and water restrictions.

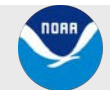


USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid 09/17/25



Explanation - Percentile classes

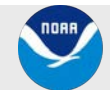
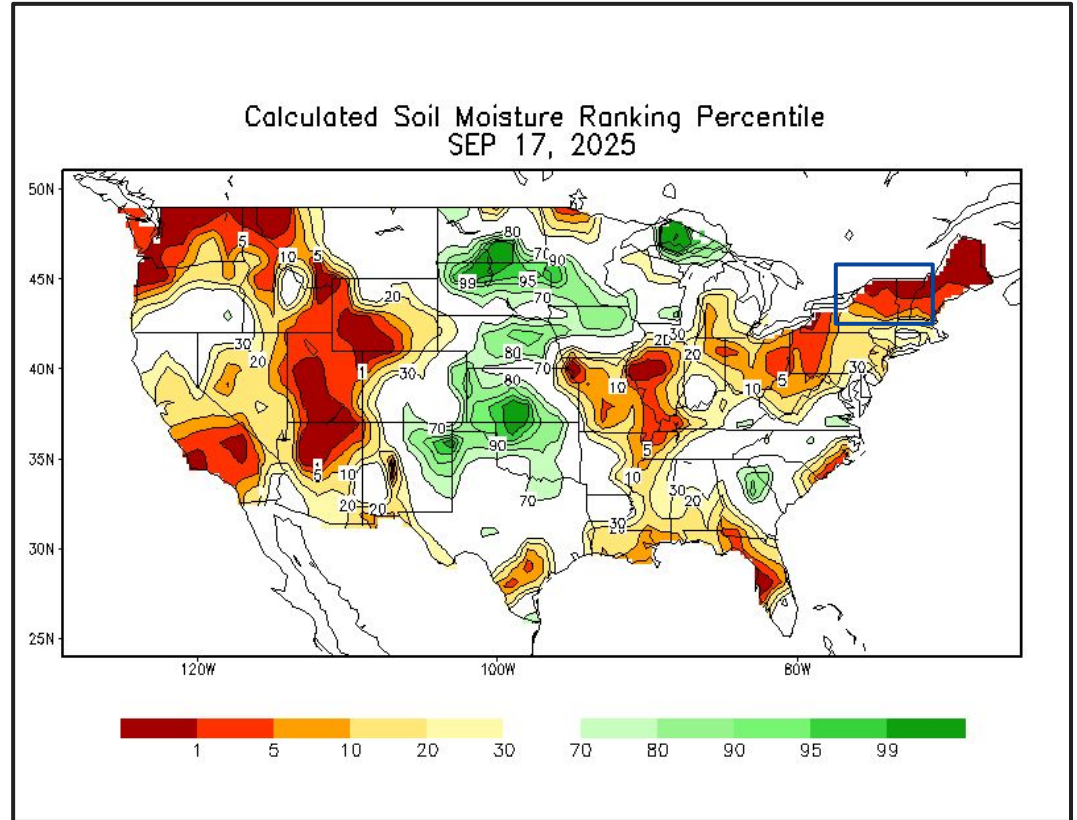
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		





# Soil Moisture and Agricultural Impacts

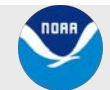
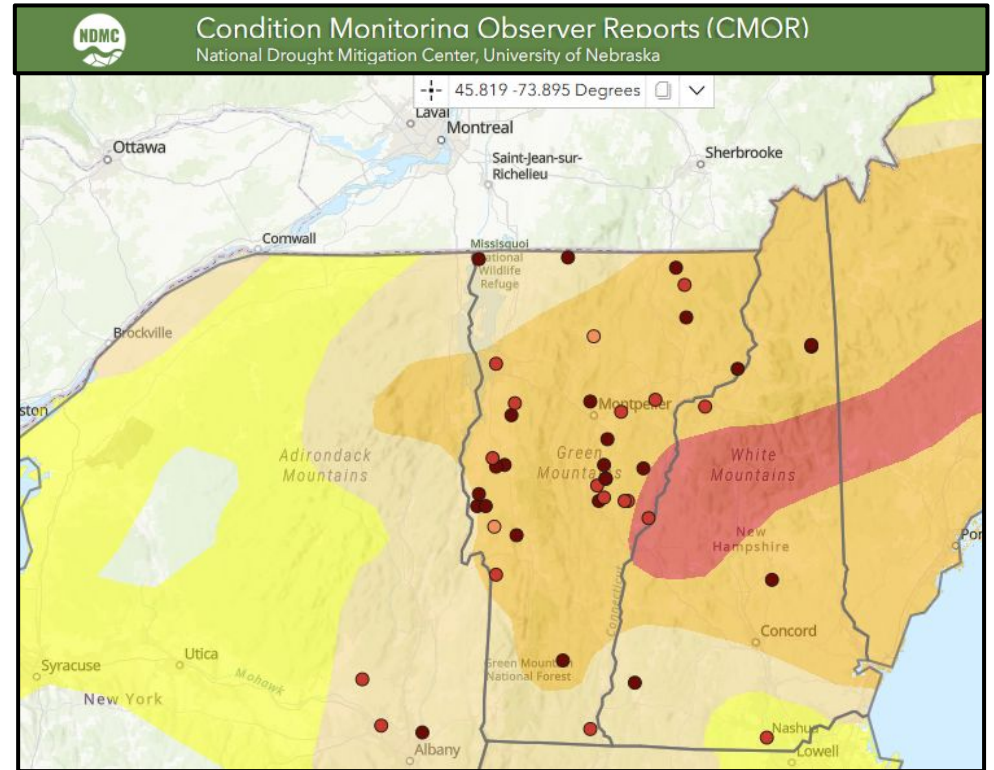
- Climate Prediction Center Soil Moisture products show rapidly drying topsoils resulting in deteriorating pasture conditions and increased watering needs for gardens and young trees.
- The drought has already produced negative consequences for crop yields. In some cases, estimated crop failures have been reported in portions of Addison and Orange Counties.





# CMOR Reports

- Numerous drought reports from the public in the past week via CMOR
- CMOR link at: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/016ac3b48c5049909106a23e6556311b>

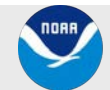
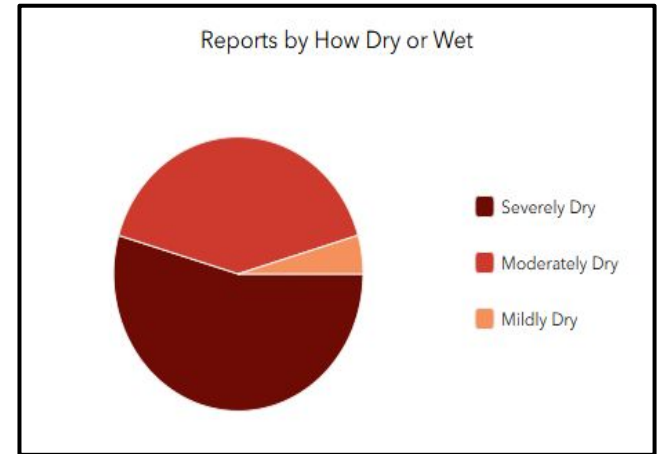
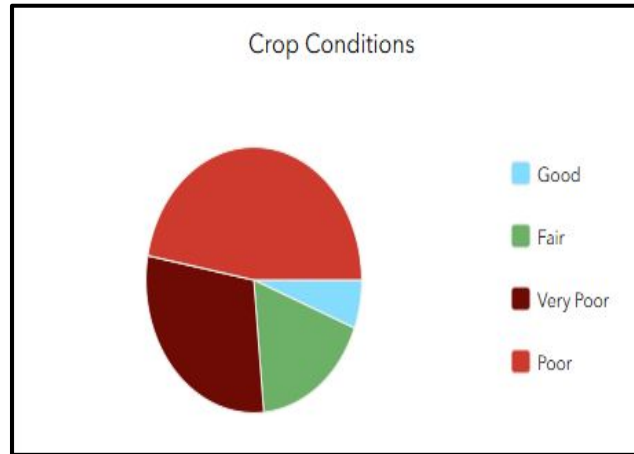






# CMOR and Other Data

- CMOR crop reports largely rank poor to very poor.
- Most reports show moderately to severely dry conditions.
- VT DEC Drought Reporter website has received numerous reports of well water shortages and other drinking water-related issues.

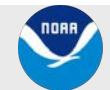
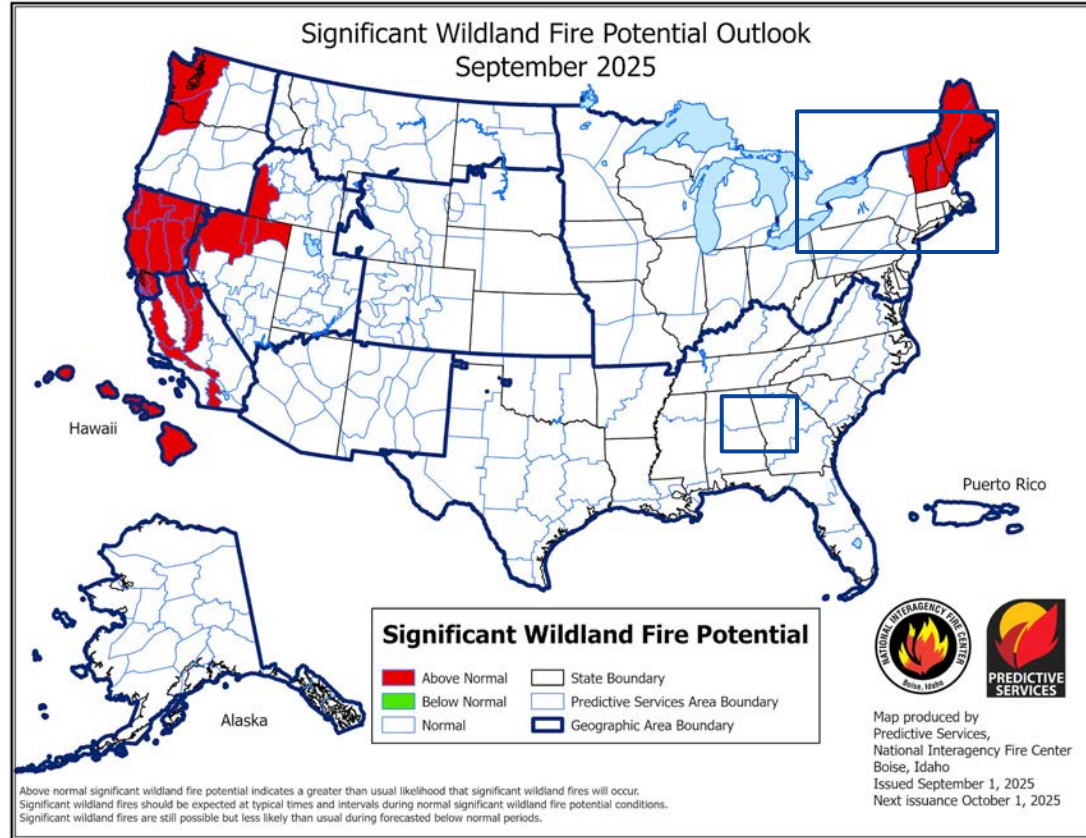




# Fire Hazard Impacts

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

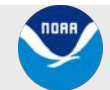
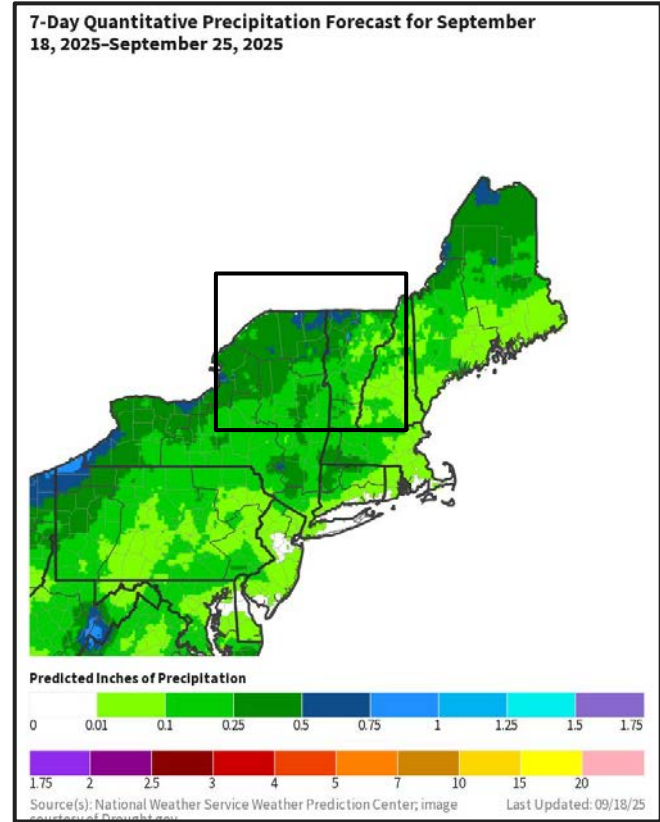
- Wildfire agencies in New York and Vermont have routinely issued high to very high fire danger ratings recently due to very dry fuels.





# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- 7-day rainfall through September 25 suggests little if any drought relief.
- Northern New York are predicted to see between 0.25 and 0.5" of rainfall over the next week.
- Forecast totals are much less for Vermont.

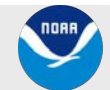
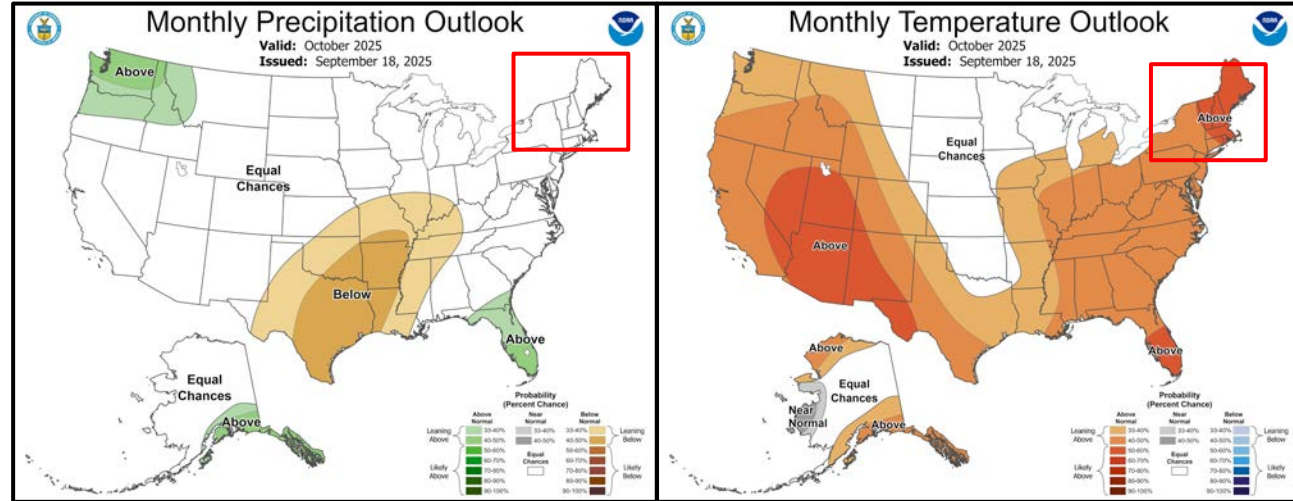




# Monthly Outlooks

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

- Near equal chances of above/below normal precipitation are expected for the month of October.
- A higher than normal chance of seeing warmer than normal temperatures is currently forecast for October.





# Summary of Impacts and Outlook

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows and groundwater levels are well below normal for this date in September based on most USGS gages.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Farmers are facing challenges with crops and livestock due to the lack of adequate rainfall, forcing them to implement water conservation measures and even truck in water. Some reports of yield loss or near total crop failure have been reported.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Prolonged dry periods weaken or kill off vegetation, creating dry fuel that can ignite easily with a source.
- Stress on trees leading to early shedding of leaves and shutting down of annual grasses.

## Other Impacts

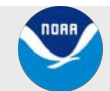
- Reports of dry wells and drinking water problems/restrictions have increased across both Vermont and northern New York over the past two weeks with more anticipated due to worsening conditions.

## Mitigation Actions

- Calls to Action: Conserve water, practice fire prevention, and follow directions from local officials.

## Outlook

- Likelihood for worsening conditions to possible D3 drought levels in portions of the area next week. Future precipitation and ground reports will drive decisions.





# Contact and Next Drought Briefing Information

For northern New York and all of Vermont



## Next Drought Briefing

- Thursday, October 2, 2025
- Method: Sent via email by 3 pm



## Disclaimer

- Information contained in this briefing is time-sensitive
- Do Not Use After: Thursday, October 2, 2025



## Contact Information

### Web

- [weather.gov/burlington](https://weather.gov/burlington)

### Phone

- (802) 862-2475

### Email

- [nwsbtv.info@noaa.gov](mailto:nwsbtv.info@noaa.gov)

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