

National Drought Summary for October 7, 2025

Summary

The recent pattern of numerous changes in the USDM continued with this weeks map release. Continued dry weather in the Northeast led to widespread worsening of drought and abnormal dryness there. From Missouri northward to the Great Lakes states, many locations saw drought or abnormal dryness worsen. In particular, intense short-term drought continued to worsen in parts of Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio. However, in southeast Missouri and in the Ohio River Valley and some parts of the Mississippi River Valley, welcome rains fell, locally over 3 inches, leading to widespread improvements in ongoing drought and abnormal dryness in these areas. Much of Alabama, the Carolinas and Georgia saw drier weather, with local exceptions. As such, drought and abnormal dryness also expanded across portions of these states and a few spots in nearby Florida. Very heavy rain fell in southeast Louisiana; one area received over 5 inches of rain, leading to a 2-category improvement in the USDM, surrounded by nearby 1-category improvements after the heavy rain. In west Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas, dry weather this week led to many degradations as primarily short-term dryness intensified. A few areas of central and southwest Texas are also seeing long-term dryness and drought and saw some intensification this week. Drier weather this week in northeast Montana led to the development of moderate drought there. Recent heavy precipitation and reassessment of recent conditions led to widespread improvements in parts of the western United States, especially the Las Vegas area, northern areas of Nevada and Utah, Oregon and southwest Idaho, southeast Wyoming and a few spots in the Colorado Rocky Mountains. A wetter month of September also led to localized improvement away from abnormal dryness on the northeast coast of Kauai, though ongoing drought conditions remained unchanged elsewhere in Hawaii after a mainly drier week.

Northeast

Drought conditions continued to worsen this week across much of the Northeast after a mostly dry week. Temperatures this week were mainly above normal, with most locations 3-9 degrees warmer than normal. Extreme drought expanded in portions of northern New England and far eastern New York, where short-term precipitation deficits continued to deepen, causing further losses in soil moisture and streamflow levels. The drinking water supply for Moriah, New York, has been threatened by low water levels in Barlett Pond. Moderate and severe drought also worsened across western and northern New York and northwest Pennsylvania amid similar conditions there. Areas of moderate and severe drought also expanded in northeast Pennsylvania, northern New Jersey, southern New York and Cape Cod. Agricultural drought impacts worsened in southeast West Virginia this week, where severe drought developed.

Southeast

Mostly dry weather struck the Southeast this week, leading to many areas that had drought or abnormal dryness intensify. Temperatures this week across the Southeast were generally within 5 degrees of normal. Agricultural drought impacts continued to become more intense this

week in southern Georgia, where the peanut crop was suffering, and in west-central Alabama. Both areas saw extreme drought develop or worsen. Short-term precipitation shortfalls continued to worsen in the central and eastern portions of the Carolinas, and abnormal dryness and moderate drought expanded and severe drought developed in a couple areas. Short-term precipitation deficits and localized lack of streamflow caused a few local degradations in northern and southern Virginia. A recent wetter pattern improved conditions enough in southeast Florida for long-term moderate drought to cease. The northeast Florida Panhandle continued to dry out, and severe drought expanded there and across the state line in Georgia as soil moisture and precipitation deficits worsened.

South

Pockets of heavy rain, locally 3 inches or more, fell in western Tennessee and adjacent northwest Mississippi and northeast Arkansas, in southwest Mississippi and in southeast Louisiana this week. The heavy rain was enough to improve overall conditions in much of western Tennessee, northeast Arkansas and in southeast Louisiana, where a localized 2-category improvement occurred. Parts of east-central and northeast Mississippi were much drier this week, leading to an expansion of moderate, severe and extreme drought. In these areas, precipitation deficits grew and soil moisture and streamflow continued to drop. Short-term dryness continued to intensify in south-central and west-central Louisiana and across much of Texas and parts of Oklahoma, all of which largely saw a mostly dry and warmer-than-normal week. Very dry weather over the last month continued in parts of Oklahoma, especially from the Oklahoma City area north and in southwest Oklahoma, where adverse impacts to agriculture were reported. In central and southwest Texas, recent dry weather compounded impacts from long-term dryness and drought.

Midwest

A few swaths of significant rain fell from southwest to central Iowa, across central Lower Michigan, and in the Ohio River Valley and Missouri Bootheel. In far southern parts of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, western Kentucky and the Missouri Bootheel, this week's rainfall improved conditions, as soil moisture and streamflow continued to recover and precipitation deficits lessened. As more data regarding the impact of recent rain filters in, more changes to the map may occur in this region in future weeks. Short-term drought, with localized longer-term impacts, continued to intensify this week from southwest Missouri northeast into central and northern Illinois, northern Indiana and northwest Ohio after another mainly dry week. In these areas, precipitation deficits grew while soil moisture and streamflow remained very low. As the intense dryness is occurring during the harvest, visibility restrictions from blowing dust were reported in parts of central Illinois, causing dangerous driving conditions. Enough rain fell across most of the central Lower Peninsula of Michigan to prevent further degradation of ongoing moderate and severe drought there. Short-term moderate drought expanded in coverage southeast from northern Minnesota into northwest Wisconsin, where recent deficits in rainfall and streamflow worsened. Widespread temperatures from 10-20 degrees above normal occurred across the region, adding extra stress to areas experiencing drought or abnormal

dryness.

High Plains

Temperatures this week across the High Plains region were mostly 5-15 degrees above normal, with parts of central Colorado and southern and western Wyoming seeing closer to normal temperatures. Moderate to locally heavy precipitation fell in parts of the San Juan Mountains in southwest Colorado, the Rocky Mountains of northern Colorado and across much of Wyoming, northwest South Dakota and central to north-central North Dakota. Precipitation this week added to a generally wetter recent pattern in the San Juans, north-central Colorado and southeast Wyoming. In these areas, short- and medium-term precipitation deficits lessened and soil moisture conditions improved, allowing for some improvements to ongoing drought and abnormal dryness. In north-central Kansas, moderate drought improved in some areas where locally over 2 inches of rain fell. In eastern Kansas, short-term abnormal dryness and moderate drought worsened in spots where streamflow and soil moisture levels dropped along with growing precipitation shortages. In northeast Nebraska and southeast South Dakota, dry weather over the past couple of months continued this week, leading to a large expansion in abnormal dryness that also extended further into northwest Iowa and southwest Minnesota.

West

Cooler-than-normal temperatures prevailed in much of Oregon, California and Nevada, while the rest of the region was mostly 1-5 degrees above normal. Scattered heavy precipitation fell this week across much of the central and northern half of the region, with notable exceptions in central and eastern Washington and Oregon, southwest Wyoming, and north-central and northeast Montana. In northeast Montana, drier weather this week and temperatures that were 5-15 degrees above normal led to the development of moderate drought where short-term precipitation and soil moisture deficits grew. Recent precipitation, either from this week or the weeks preceding, led to improvements in streamflow and soil moisture and lessening precipitation deficits across much of northern and southern Nevada (and immediately adjacent parts of California and Arizona). Similarly improving conditions also occurred in northern Utah, south-central and southwest Idaho, Oregon and the Olympic Peninsula of Washington, leading to improvements in the USDM depiction in parts of these areas.

Caribbean

Mostly drier-than-normal weather occurred in the western half of Puerto Rico this week. With a couple exceptions on the cool side, most sites recorded temperatures 1-4 degrees warmer than normal. A small area of abnormal dryness continued in an eastern section of Puerto Rico's south coast, while the rest of the island remained free of abnormal dryness or drought.

This week, the National Weather Service in San Juan, PR, reported that a high-pressure system initially created stable weather conditions on October 1st. However, this system was quickly replaced by the development of tropical disturbances. A tropical wave moved into the

region, increasing the occurrence of showers and thunderstorms, especially during the afternoons.

On St. Croix, CoCoRaHS stations reported rainfall amounts as follows: VI-SC-23 (Christiansted, 6.5 W) received 1.59 inches of rain this week. VI-SC-35 (Frederiksted, 1.3 ENE) recorded 1.10 inches. Additionally, VI-SC-20 (Frederiksted 1.7 ESE) and VI-SC-34 (Frederiksted 1.9 NE) each reported 0.94 inches of rain, while VI-SC-30 (1.7 SW) received 0.50 inches. Lastly, VI-SC-10 in Christiansted (1.6 E) recorded 0.08 inches of rainfall. This week, the 1-month Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) value for East Hill is 1.31. Additionally, the SPI values for the past 3, 6, 9, and 12 months are 0.35, 0.42, 0.39, and 0.86, respectively. These figures indicate an overall improvement in conditions across the island due to recent rainfall. According to the USGS, the groundwater level at Adventure 28 Well in St. Croix, USVI, has slightly decreased from the previous month. On September 7, the depth was measured at 18.52 feet, which has since been reduced to 18.22 feet as of October 7. As a result, St. Croix has improved from being classified as abnormally dry to drought-free.

St. John experienced rainfall across the island this week. Windswept Beach (VI-SJ-3) recorded 0.88 inches of rain. VI-SJ-5 (Cruz Bay 1.6 E) received 0.99 inches of rain, while VI-SJ-9 (Myall Point 0.1 S) recorded 0.47 inches, although data for two days is missing. All Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) values at the East End (672551) St. Johns station indicate that the island is currently experiencing normal conditions. The 1-, 3-, 6-, 9-, and 12-month SPIs are 0.41, 0.92, 0.57, 0.61, and 1.33, respectively. As of October 7, 2025, the depth of water level at Susannaberg DPW 3 well (St. John, USVI) has decreased from 12.72 ft on September 7 to 8.81 ft on October 7, allowing St. John to remain drought-free.

St. Thomas also experienced some rainfall across the island. The rain gauge at VI-ST-5 (Charlotte Amalie West, 4.2 WNW) recorded 2.28 inches of rainfall, although data was missing for four days. Meanwhile, VI-ST-13 (Charlotte Amalie, 1.2 NNW) recorded 0.37 inches of rain, with data missing for two days. VI-ST-15 (Charlotte Amalie West, 1.3 N) observed 0.77 inches of rainfall. At Cyril E. King Airport, the Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI) values for periods ranging from 1 to 12 months indicate near-normal conditions, confirming that St. Thomas remains drought-free. Additionally, the water level at the Grade School 3 well in St. Thomas, USVI, has decreased from 8.17 feet on September 7 to 4.05 feet as of October 7, further supporting the fact that St. Thomas is not experiencing drought conditions.

Pacific

Precipitation anomalies for this week varied widely, though precipitation was generally below normal in southeast Alaska. Parts of southwest Alaska saw temperatures mostly in the 3-9 degree above normal range, while elsewhere across the state, most measuring sites finished the week near or within 3 degrees of normal, with some local variation. Alaska remained free of drought or abnormal dryness this week.

Drier-than-normal weather occurred across most of Hawaii this week. Temperatures across the state were mostly within a couple degrees of normal. A wetter-than-normal September led to a localized improvement from abnormal dryness to near-normal conditions on the northeast coast of Kauai. Other parts of the island remained in abnormal dryness or moderate drought due to

continued concerns about low streamflow and signs of poor vegetation health. Conditions remained unchanged on the other islands, and moderate and severe drought continued on parts of Oahu, Molokai, Maui and the Big Island, where a few areas of extreme drought also continued this week.

Most of the Marshall Islands were drought-free this week, with some islands experiencing significant rainfall. Ailinglapalap and Kwajalein recorded 4.71 and 3.32 inches of rain, respectively. Jaluit and Majuro reported 3.07 and 2.92 inches of rain, with 1 day missing, respectively. Additionally, Mili received 0.52 inches of rainfall this week, but the total rainfall on Mili in September was 11.84 inches, nearly equal to the average of 11.59 inches, indicating normal conditions. In September, Wotje experienced wet conditions, receiving a total of 9.32 inches of rain, which is above the normal monthly amount of 8.36 inches. This week, Wotje recorded 1.95 inches of rain (note that data for two days is missing), resulting in an improvement from abnormally dry conditions to drought-free status. In contrast, Utirik received only 9.25 inches of rain in September, which is below the average of 10.26 inches. This week, Utirik reported a total of 1.28 inches of rain, indicating abnormally dry conditions.

This week, heavy rainfall was reported across several islands in the Federated States of Micronesia due to wet weather conditions. Chuuk Lagoon received 6.17 inches of rain, Pohnpei experienced 4.34 inches, and Kosrae recorded 3.59 inches. Additionally, Pingelap received 2.51 inches of rain (with data missing for 4 days), Lukunor had 2.41 inches (with data missing for 1 day), and Nukuoro recorded 1.27 inches. Woleai and Yap observed 0.44 inches and 0.51 inches, respectively. All these islands are currently drought-free. In contrast, Kapingamarangi only received 1.04 inches of rain this week and has remained dry for several weeks since mid-August. In September, Kapingamarangi received a total of 2 inches of rainfall, while the normal amount is 8.82 inches, worsening the conditions from moderate to severe drought. Data for Fananu and Ulithi were unavailable, preventing any assessment of those locations.

American Samoa has recently experienced wet weather, with several areas on the island reporting heavy rainfall. Pago Pago recorded 3.52 inches of rain, while Siufaga Ridge received 3.32 inches, and Toa Ridge reported 2.41 inches this week. Consequently, American Samoa remains free from drought conditions.

Palau experienced wet weather this week, with the Weather Service Office in Airai recording 2.66 inches of rainfall, while Koror reported 3.16 inches, although data for one day was missing. As a result, the island remained drought-free.

This week, wet weather conditions dominated the Mariana Islands, with some areas experiencing heavy rainfall. According to the weekly rainfall report, Guam received 2.49 inches of rain, Rota reported 1.9 inches, Tinian measured 0.4 inches, and Saipan recorded 0.86 inches. As a result, the Mariana Islands are currently experiencing drought-free conditions.

Looking Ahead

The National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center (WPC) forecast covering the period from the evening of October 8 to the evening of October 13 calls for an inch or more of precipitation from northwest California northward through northwest Washington. The WPC is

also forecasting areas west of the Continental Divide in New Mexico and Colorado, as well as much of Arizona and Utah, to receive over 1 inch of precipitation, with some areas in Arizona and southwest Colorado forecast to receive over 3 inches. Forecast precipitation amounts dwindle north of Utah, though portions of Idaho and Montana may receive a half inch or more during this period. Heavy rain amounts are possible from the east coast of Florida northwards through the Atlantic Coast to southern New England. As of the afternoon of Wednesday, October 8, the east coast of Florida and the coasts of North Carolina and Virginia, as well as the Delmarva Peninsula, New Jersey appear most in line to receive at least 1.5 inches of rain, with higher amounts possible. However, given the forecasted tight gradient in rainfall amounts, small shifts in the track of the storm system may significantly impact how much rain falls in any particular location along or near the East Coast. Meanwhile, across most of the Great Plains, Midwest and South, mostly dry weather is forecast.

Looking ahead to October 14-18, the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center forecast favors warmer-than-normal weather across most of the central and eastern Contiguous U.S., especially in the southern Great Plains and Lower Mississippi River Valley. Colder-than-normal weather is favored across much of California, Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, Washington and western Montana. Above-normal precipitation is favored across most of the West (except for northwest Oregon and most of Washington) and into the northern half of the Great Plains and western Great Lakes states. Above-normal precipitation is slightly favored in most of New England, while below-normal precipitation is slightly favored in northwest Washington. Below-normal precipitation is favored in the south-central and southeast U.S., with a slight lean toward below-normal precipitation extending northward to Lake Erie. Above-normal temperatures are strongly favored in most of Alaska, with above-normal precipitation also favored across most of the state. In far southeast Alaska, near- or below-normal precipitation is more likely. Above-normal precipitation and warmer-than-normal temperatures are favored across Hawaii.

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