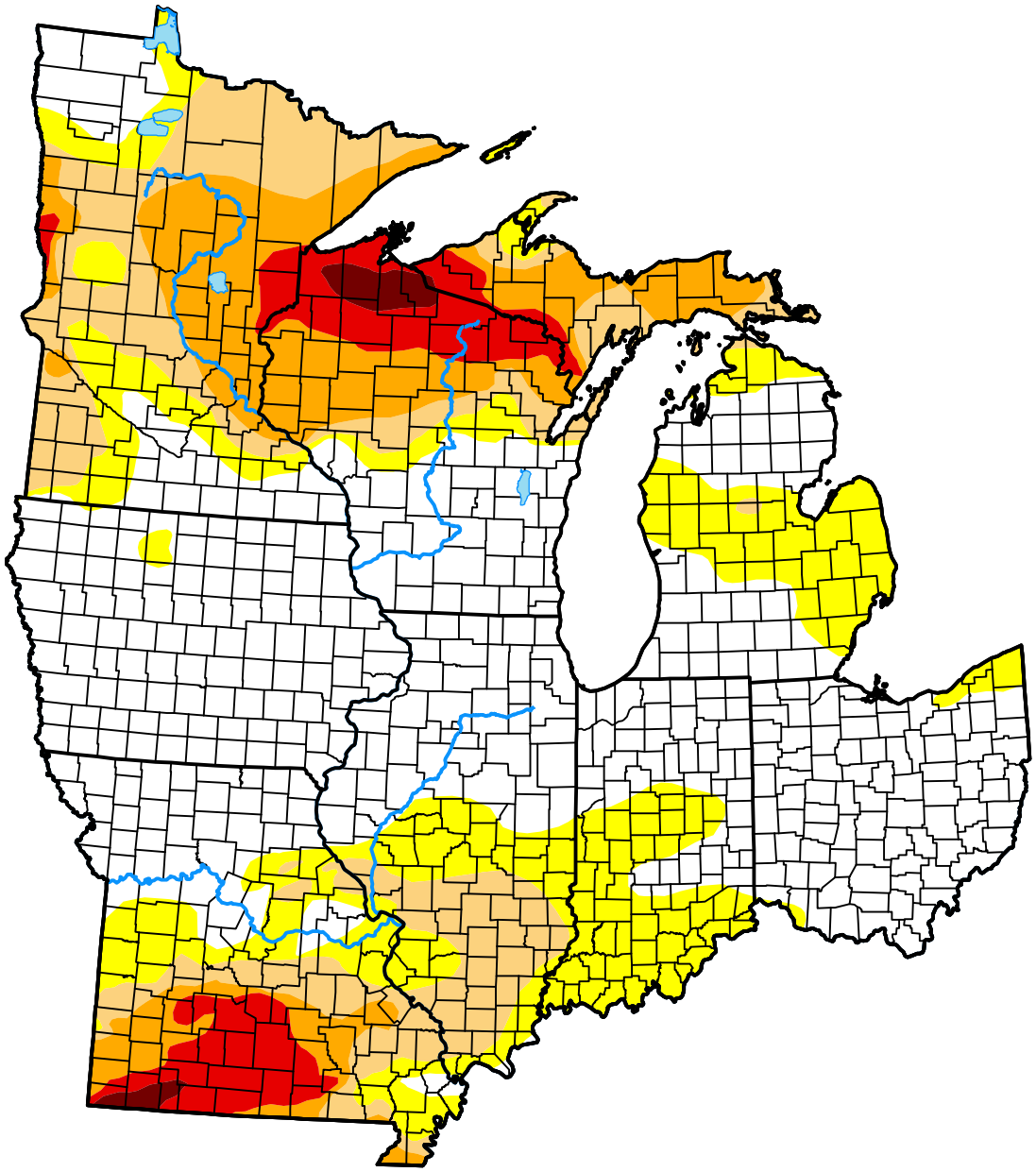
U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Midwest Climate Hub



October 20, 2026

(Released Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	49.61	50.39	31.12	17.07	6.14	0.78
Last Week *10-13-2026*	53.16	46.84	31.33	17.28	6.12	0.73
3 Months Ago *07-21-2026*	65.15	34.85	13.53	3.40	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year *01-06-2026*	26.30	73.70	39.56	9.73	2.11	0.00
Start of Water Year *09-29-2026*	54.99	45.01	28.90	14.02	5.07	0.37
One Year Ago *10-21-2025*	23.71	76.29	39.30	10.60	1.86	0.00

Intensity:

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

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:

Lindsay Johnson

High Plains Regional Climate Center

droughtmonitor.unl.edu