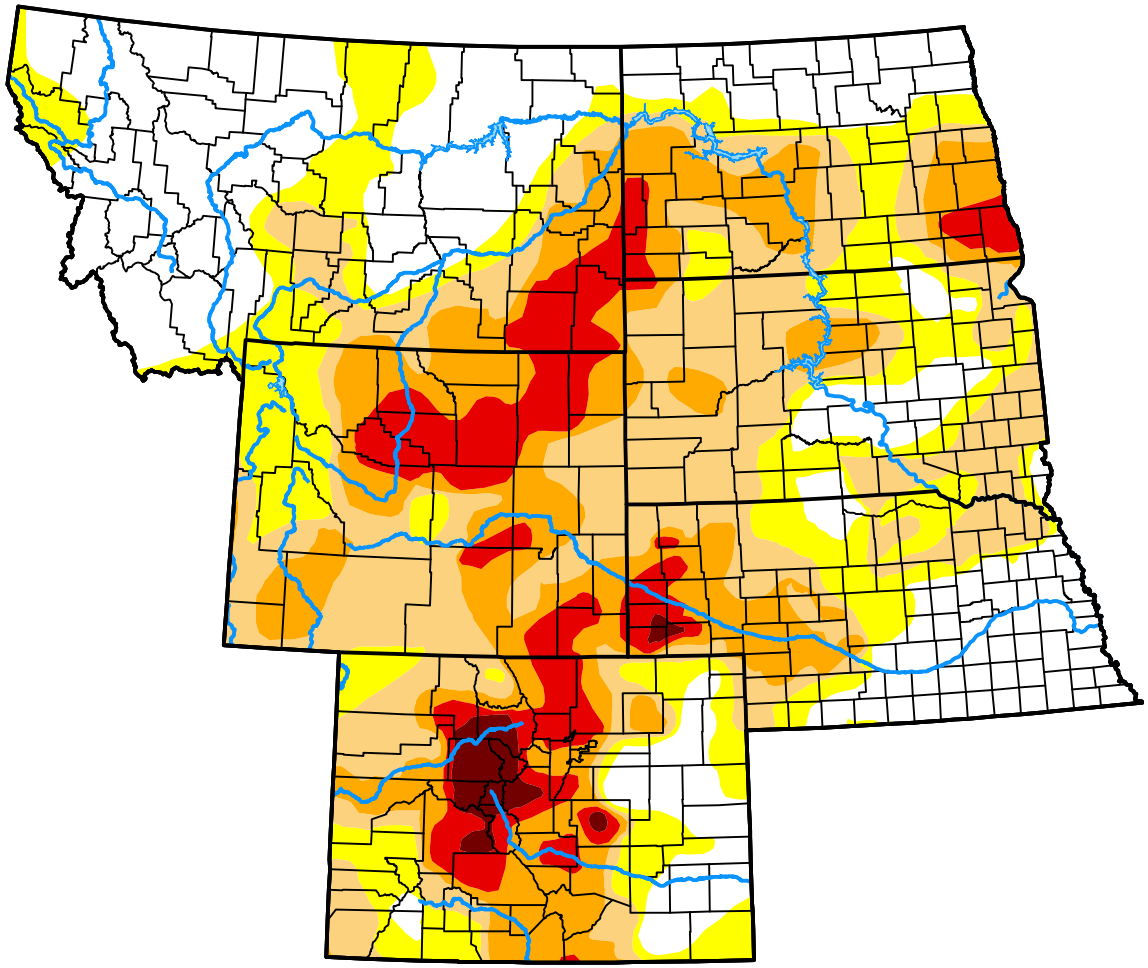
U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Northern Plains Climate Hub



October 20, 2026

(Released Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	29.23	19.33	24.41	17.74	8.12	1.17
Last Week *10-13-2026*	28.30	18.04	22.54	19.89	9.56	1.66
3 Months Ago *07-21-2026*	15.13	20.41	18.88	24.65	18.33	2.60
Start of Calendar Year *01-06-2026*	43.84	30.75	16.15	8.10	1.04	0.12
Start of Water Year *09-29-2026*	21.06	16.85	29.40	19.60	11.16	1.94
One Year Ago *10-21-2025*	54.12	19.11	13.49	10.84	2.44	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

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu