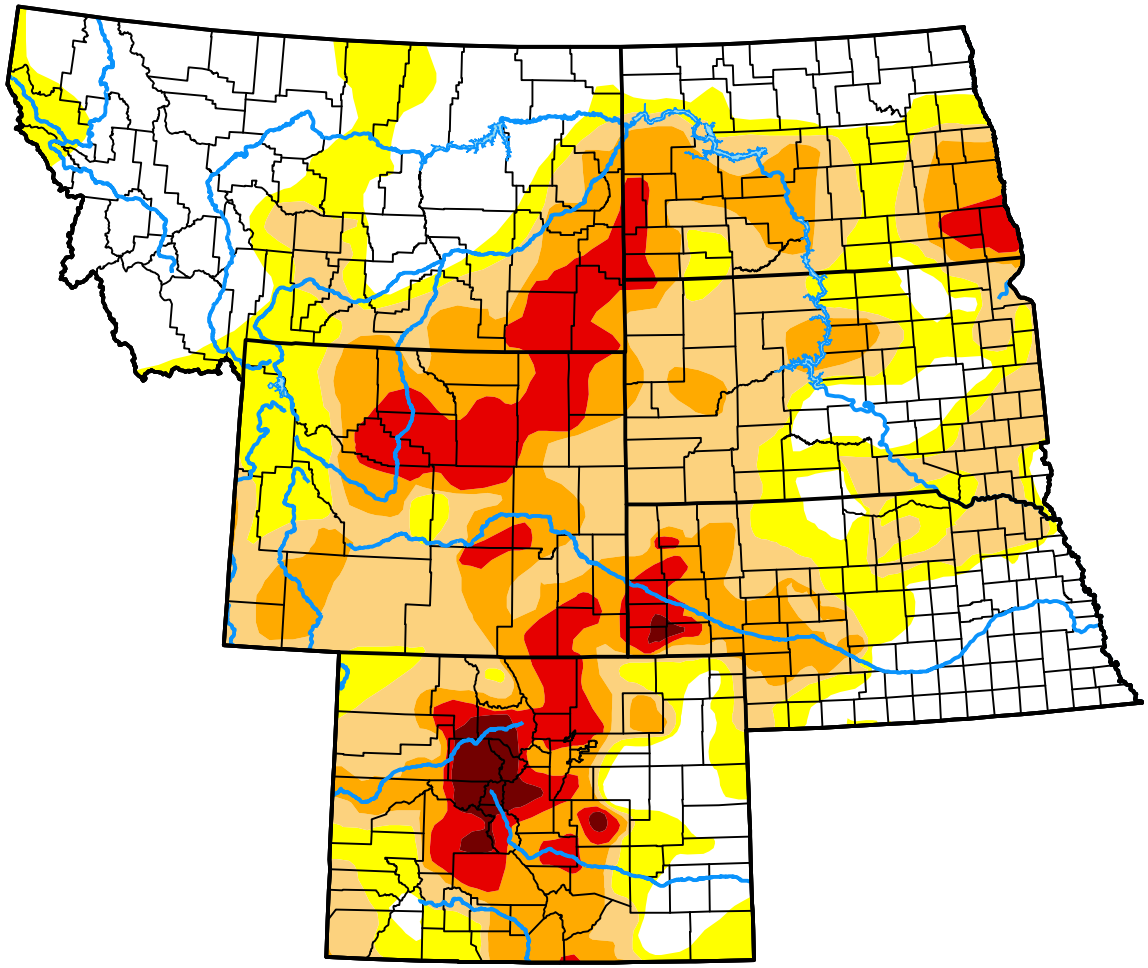
U.S. Drought Monitor

USDA Northern Plains Climate Hub



October 20, 2026

(Released Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	29.23	70.77	51.45	27.03	9.29	1.17
Last Week *10-13-2026*	28.30	71.70	53.65	31.11	11.22	1.66
3 Months Ago *07-21-2026*	15.13	84.87	64.46	45.58	20.93	2.60
Start of Calendar Year *01-06-2026*	43.84	56.16	25.41	9.26	1.16	0.12
Start of Water Year *09-29-2026*	21.06	78.94	62.09	32.69	13.10	1.94
One Year Ago *10-21-2025*	54.12	45.88	26.77	13.28	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