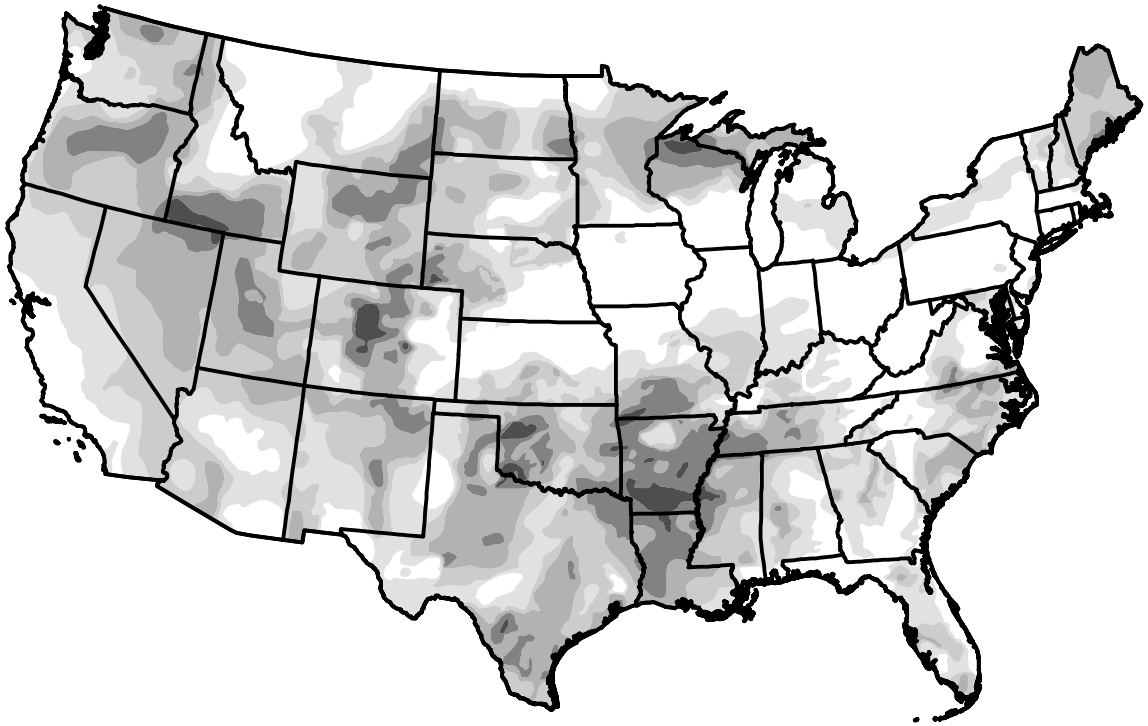
U.S. Drought Monitor

Contiguous U.S. (CONUS)



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	26.82	73.18	50.67	28.68	9.37	1.19
Last Week *10-13-2026*	25.46	74.54	53.73	30.33	9.79	1.30
3 Months Ago *07-21-2026*	34.76	65.24	45.77	29.14	10.71	0.93
Start of Calendar Year *01-06-2026*	29.74	70.26	44.82	15.70	1.91	0.05
Start of Water Year *09-29-2026*	21.64	78.36	59.38	33.78	11.53	1.59
One Year Ago *10-21-2025*	27.88	72.12	46.08	21.10	4.65	0.14

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