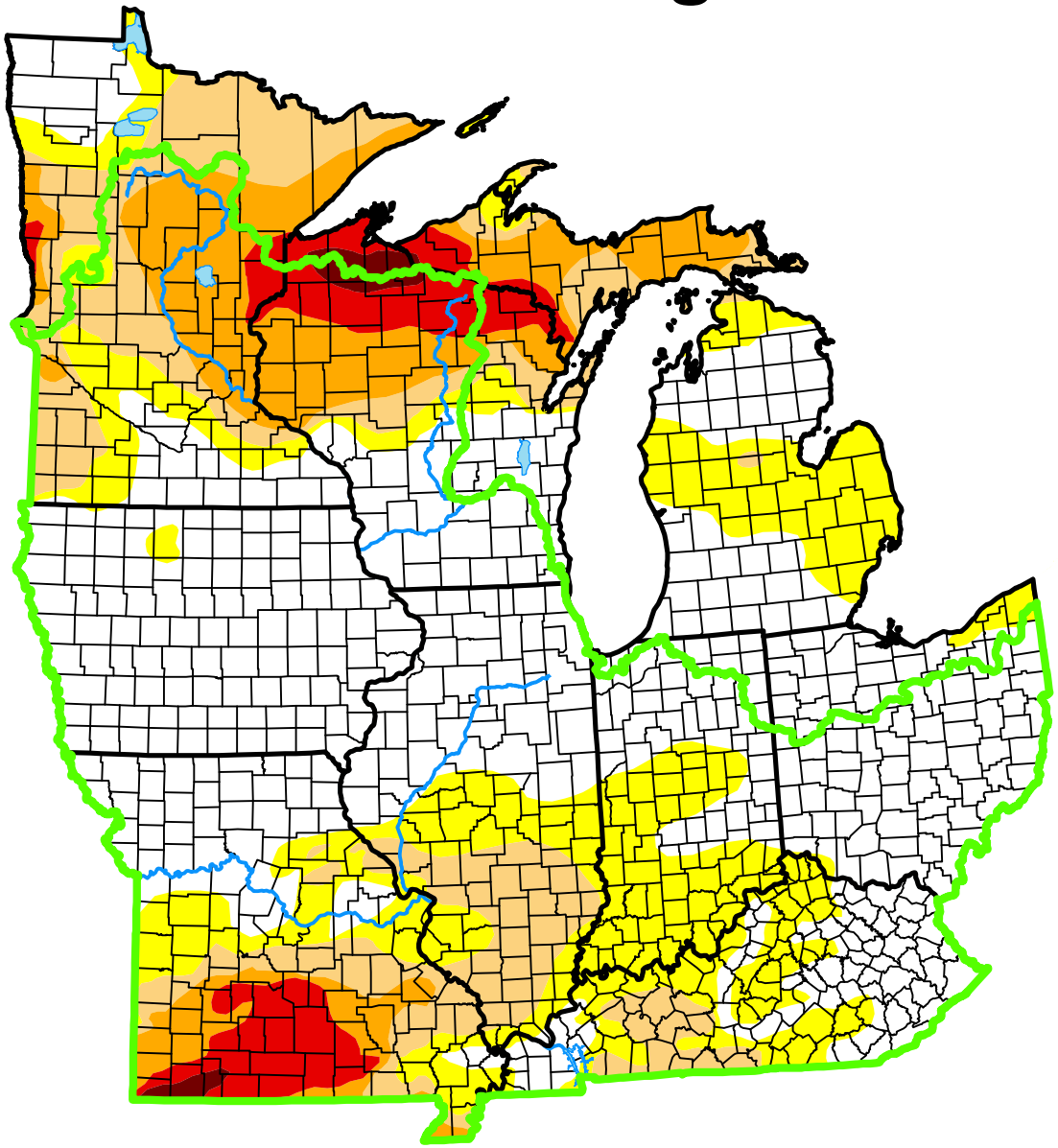
U.S. Drought Monitor

Midwest DEWS and Surrounding Areas



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	49.46	50.54	29.71	15.69	5.65	0.71
Last Week *10-13-2026*	51.76	48.24	29.93	15.88	5.62	0.67
3 Months Ago *07-21-2026*	66.36	33.64	12.90	3.35	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year *01-06-2026*	28.39	71.61	36.73	8.95	1.94	0.00
Start of Water Year *09-29-2026*	54.21	45.79	27.34	12.89	4.66	0.34
One Year Ago *10-21-2025*	28.80	71.20	36.35	9.74	1.71	0.00

(Statistics for area highlighted in green)

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