

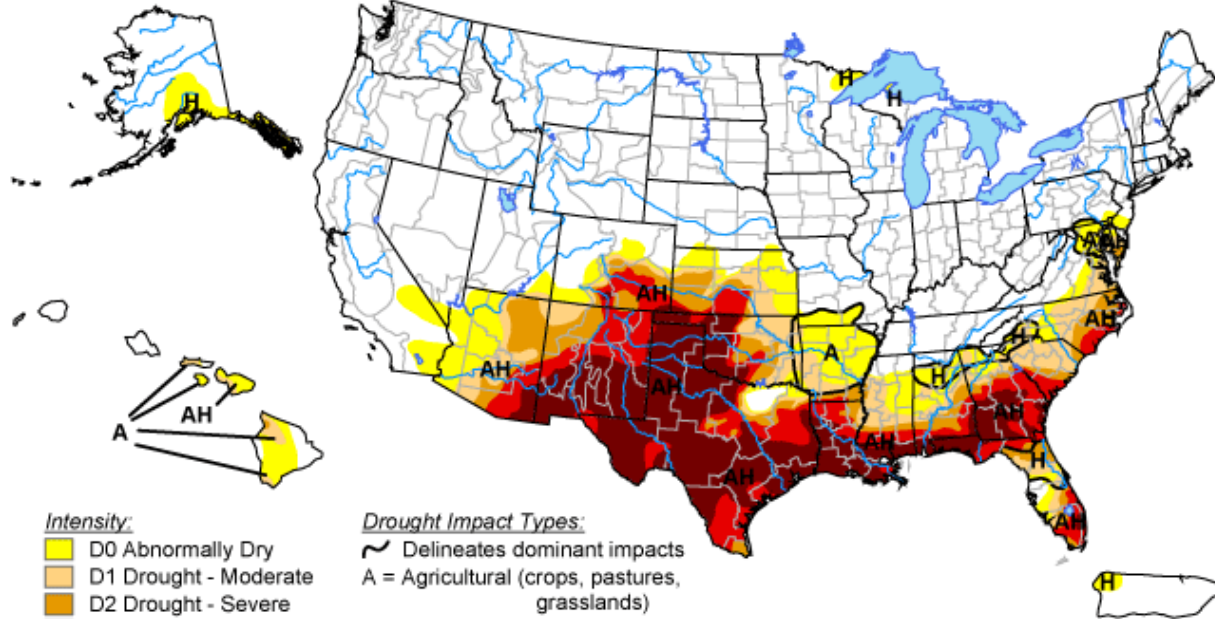
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The data cutoff for Drought Monitor maps is Tuesday at 7 a.m. Eastern Standard Time. The maps, which are based on analysis of the data, are released each Thursday at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

NOTE: To view regional drought conditions, click on map below. State maps can be accessed from regional maps.

U.S. Drought Monitor

July 5, 2011
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



- Intensity:**
- D0 Abnormally Dry
 - D1 Drought - Moderate
 - D2 Drought - Severe
 - D3 Drought - Extreme
 - D4 Drought - Exceptional

- Drought Impact Types:**
- Delineates dominant impacts
 - A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
 - H = Hydrological (water)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.



Released Thursday, July 7, 2011

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<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

To compare current drought conditions with last week's map, click [here](#).

To view tabular statistics of this week's Drought Monitor, click [here](#).

To view tabular statistics for the Drought Monitor archive, click [here](#).

To view Drought Monitor Change Maps, click [here](#).

NDMC's Drought Impact Reporter	6-week animation	12-week animation	Custom DM animation	short-term drought indicator blends	long-term drought indicator blends

For a .pdf version of the Drought Monitor, click [here](#).

For more information on the Drought Impact Reporter click [here](#).

For annual animations of the Drought Monitor click [here](#).

For more information on the above experimental drought blends, click [here](#).

The drought indicators that are synthesized into the Drought Monitor map are on this website, under [Forecasts](#) and [Current Conditions](#).

This summary map is based on a multi-index [drought classification scheme](#).

For local details and impacts, please contact your [State Climatologist](#) or [Regional Climate Center](#).

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National Drought Summary -- July 5, 2011

The discussion in the Looking Ahead section is simply a description of what the official national guidance from the National Weather Service (NWS) National Centers for Environmental Prediction is depicting for current areas of dryness and drought. The NWS forecast products utilized include the HPC 5-day QPF and 5-day Mean Temperature progs, the 6-10 Day Outlooks of Temperature and Precipitation Probability, and the 8-14 Day Outlooks of Temperature and Precipitation Probability, valid as of late Wednesday afternoon of the USDM release week. The NWS forecast web page used for this section is: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/forecasts/>.

With the main storm track over the northern states, strong high pressure in the upper levels of the atmosphere dominated the southern U.S. during this U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) week. Weak fronts that penetrated into the Southeast stalled out and provided an instability zone for scattered showers and thunderstorms. Convective showers benefited Florida while Tropical Storm Arlene rain brushed Deep South Texas and monsoon showers picked up over parts of the Southwest. Most of the southern Plains continued hot and dry, with much above-normal temperatures spreading across the central half of the country.

The Upper Midwest, Northeast, and Mid-Atlantic: The last 30 days have been drier than normal for much of western New York, western Pennsylvania, and central Maryland to Delaware and southern New Jersey. But the dryness over the Maryland-Delaware area extended further back in time, so D0 expanded in central Maryland, northern Virginia, and adjoining south central Pennsylvania, and a spot of D2 was added to Maryland's southeastern shore to reflect the greatest precipitation deficits and low groundwater. An A impacts designation was placed over the Maryland D0 with AH impacts over the DelMarVa D1-D2 and the rest of Virginia, leaving the southern New Jersey D0 area free of an impacts designator.

Southeast: Beneficial (1 to 4+ inch) rains prompted the contraction of D0 in northwest Alabama, the pullback of D3 over southeast Alabama and D4 over southeast Georgia, and improvement of D3 in northern Florida and D1-D2-D3-D4 in coastal central to southern Florida. But conditions deteriorated over the Carolinas, where D3 was added along the North Carolina coastal plain and D2-D3 expanded from southern coastal North Carolina and parts of coastal South Carolina. D1 expanded across most of South Carolina and into the Catawba Basin of western North Carolina, with minor expansion of D0 in western North Carolina. The H impacts area from northern Alabama to North Carolina was reconfigured to accommodate expanded AH impacts in North Carolina.

The Plains: Improvement of the D3 and D4 areas occurred over southern Texas where a month's worth of rain fell this week, especially in the Brownsville area. D0 and D2 were pulled back in the Wise and Upshur county areas, respectively, where locally beneficial rains fell. But conditions deteriorated elsewhere in Texas with D4 expanding to cover all of the panhandle as well as expanding in Harrison and Bosque counties, and D3 expanding in central Texas. In Oklahoma, the D0 hole was filled in over Garfield County, D1 expanded across eastern Oklahoma and adjoining southwest Arkansas, and D2-D3 expanded in south central to Southeast Oklahoma. D0 expanded in southeast Kansas where rainfall has been below normal and temperatures above normal for the last 1 to 4 weeks.

The West: Although streamflows were fine, D0 expanded in southeast Utah to reflect precipitation deficits and satellite-observed impacts on vegetation. In Colorado, a spot of D4 was added to Alamosa County where precipitation deficits were most severe, and D0-D1-D2 in Cheyenne County expanded to reflect worsening local impacts.

Hawaii, Alaska and Puerto Rico: Above-normal precipitation at many time scales and above-normal streamflow prompted the pullback of D0 in central Alaska. Northwest Puerto Rico has been dry for the last 7 to 30 days, but wet at longer periods. However, low streamflows coupled with the below-normal precipitation prompted the addition of D0H to that area. No changes were made to the Hawaiian depiction this week.

Looking Ahead: The weather pattern of the last few weeks will continue for the next two weeks, with an upper-level ridge over the south and the storm track keeping to the northern states. Cool fronts will weaken as they try to penetrate the southern high pressure, providing instability zones for showers. Monsoon rain is expected for the Southwest and summertime convection should bring rain to Florida. For the next 5 days (July 6-11), an inch or more of rain is expected in a band from the central Rockies to central Plains, across parts of the Southeast to Mid-Atlantic coast, and over much of the Florida peninsula. Monsoon showers may drop up to half an inch of rain in parts of the Southwest, with other parts of the Southeast drought areas possibly receiving a quarter inch to an inch of rain. The northern Plains to western Great Lakes could see half an inch of rain, while the southern Plains should remain mostly rain-free. Temperatures are expected to be above normal for much of the country.

The CPC 6-10 day outlook and 8-14 day outlook indicate above-normal precipitation will fall over the Rockies, central and northern Great Plains, southern Great Lakes, and Florida peninsula into the Southeast, while dry weather should dominate across parts of the Southwest, Mid-Atlantic, and much of the southern Plains. Below-normal temperatures are expected along the west coast while warmer-than-normal temperatures should dominate across most of the country east of the Rockies. Northern Alaska is expected to be dry and southern Alaska cool and wet.

Author: [Richard Heim, NOAA/NESDIS/National Climatic Data Center](#)

Dryness Categories

D0 ... Abnormally Dry ... used for areas showing dryness but not yet in drought, or for areas recovering from drought.

Drought Intensity Categories

D1 ... Moderate Drought

D2 ... Severe Drought

D3 ... Extreme Drought

D4 ... Exceptional Drought

Drought or Dryness Types

A ... Agricultural

H ... Hydrological

Updated July 6, 2011

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