



Drought Information Statement for Central Alabama

Valid February 26, 2026

Issued By: NWS Birmingham, AL

Contact Information: sr-bmx.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated only if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/bmx/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



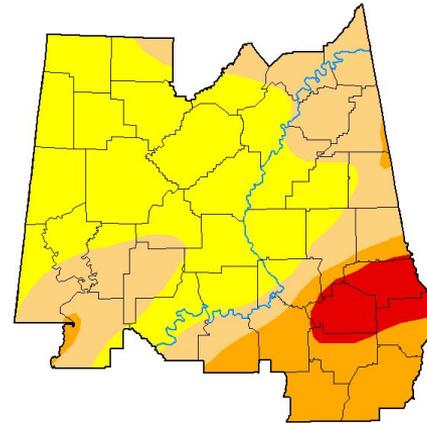


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for central Alabama

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D4 Exceptional Drought: None.
 - D3 Extreme Drought: A small area in the southeast part of the state.
 - D2 and D1 Severe/Moderate Drought: Mainly in the southeast corner and eastern portions of the area but also includes locations around Demopolis.
 - D0 Abnormally Dry: Most of central Alabama is considered abnormally dry with a slight expansion of dry conditions since the previous update.

U.S. Drought Monitor Birmingham, AL WFO



February 24, 2026
(Released Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	0.00	50.97	28.68	14.41	5.94	0.00
Last Week 02-17-2026	23.92	40.58	15.15	14.41	5.94	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-25-2025	1.82	23.38	32.59	37.64	4.56	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2026	0.00	2.87	61.33	31.85	3.95	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	0.24	48.37	31.68	17.41	2.30	0.00
One Year Ago 02-25-2025	39.85	53.86	6.29	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity

None	D0 Abnormally Dry	D1 Moderate Drought	D2 Severe Drought	D3 Extreme Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
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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:
Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/W/S/N/CEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid February 24, 2026



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for central Alabama

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Northern and Central portions of the area with pockets of degradation in the south.
 - No Change and Drought Improvement: About half of the area experienced no change with a small area of one category improvement in the southwest.

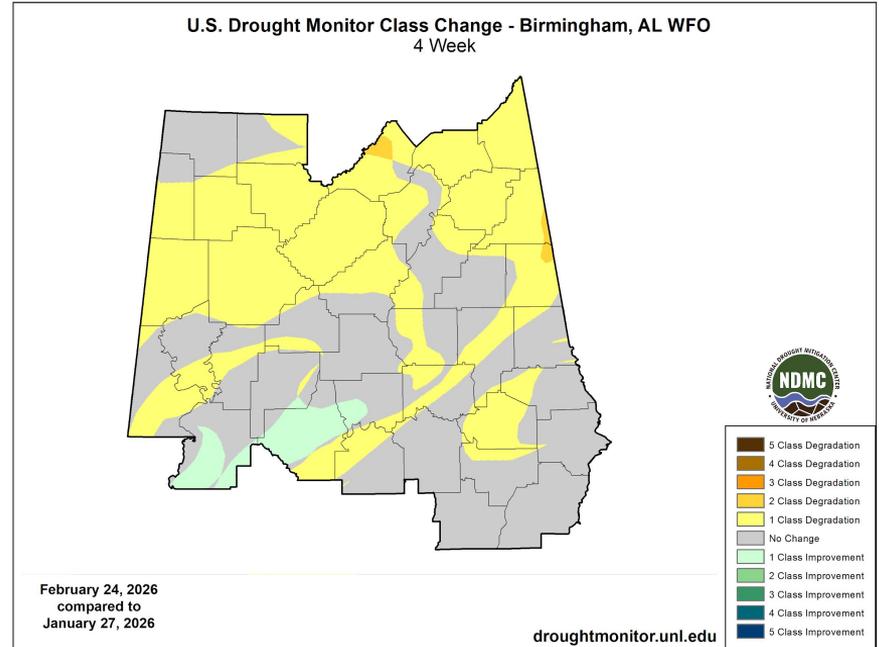


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid February 24, 2026



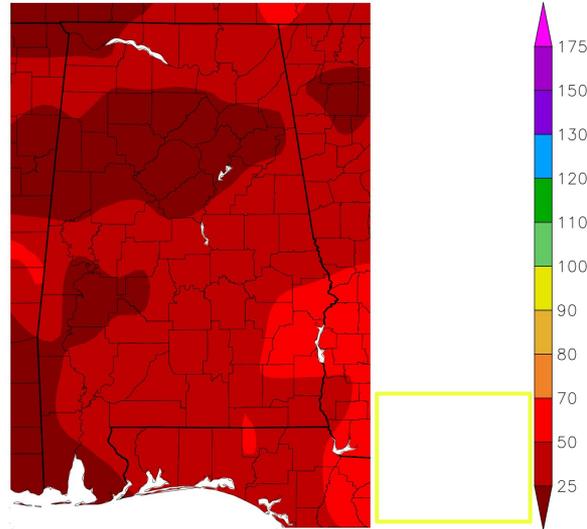


Precipitation

Last 30 days

- Dry conditions persist across much of the deep south over the past 30 days.
- Rainfall estimates are running at about half the normal amount for the month.
- February's average weekly rainfall should be around 1.25 inches with monthly totals averaging around 5 inches.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
1/27/2026 – 2/25/2026



/26/2026 using provisional data.

ACIS V

Image Captions:

Map - [Departure from normal map for Alabama](#)
Data over the past 30 days ending Feb 25, 2026





Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows are generally running well below normal with some at all time lows for the day.

Agricultural Impacts

- In January, the USDA designated 19 Alabama counties as primary natural disaster areas due to the drought conditions impacting row-crop yields and forage availability. Several of these primary counties are in central and southeastern portions of Central Alabama with contiguous counties including most of Central Alabama.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- There has been an increased amount of wildfire activity across Central Alabama, all contained as of this issuance.

Other Impacts

- None

Drought Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

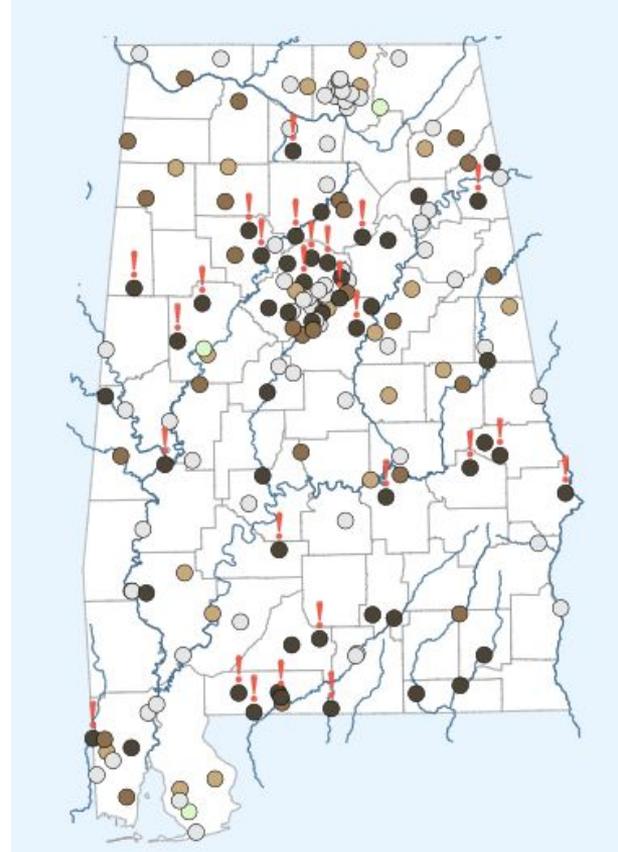




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows are running much to extremely below normal.
- Click the link to the right for a full map and legend to the image provided.

Figure Caption: [Alabama Water Conditions - Discharge](#), valid Feb 26, 2026



Current condition estimate

The condition estimate is based on the latest continuous data value recorded in relation to historic daily averages expressed as percentiles. The percentiles show how a value relates to all the other values for a given day of the year and indicate what percentage of days have an average (mean) value less than the latest recorded value. Extreme conditions are indicated when the latest continuous data value is outside the percentile range of historic daily averages, meaning current conditions are above the highest or below the lowest daily average ever recorded for this day of the year.

0-5 Extremely below	5-10 Much below	10-25 Below normal	25-75 Normal	75-90 Above normal	90-95 Much above	95-100 Extremely above
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Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Widespread showers and scattered thunderstorms are expected across the area today, February 26th, with highest rainfall amounts forecast across our most drought-stricken, southeastern portions of the area. This could result in minor drought improvement across portions of the area.

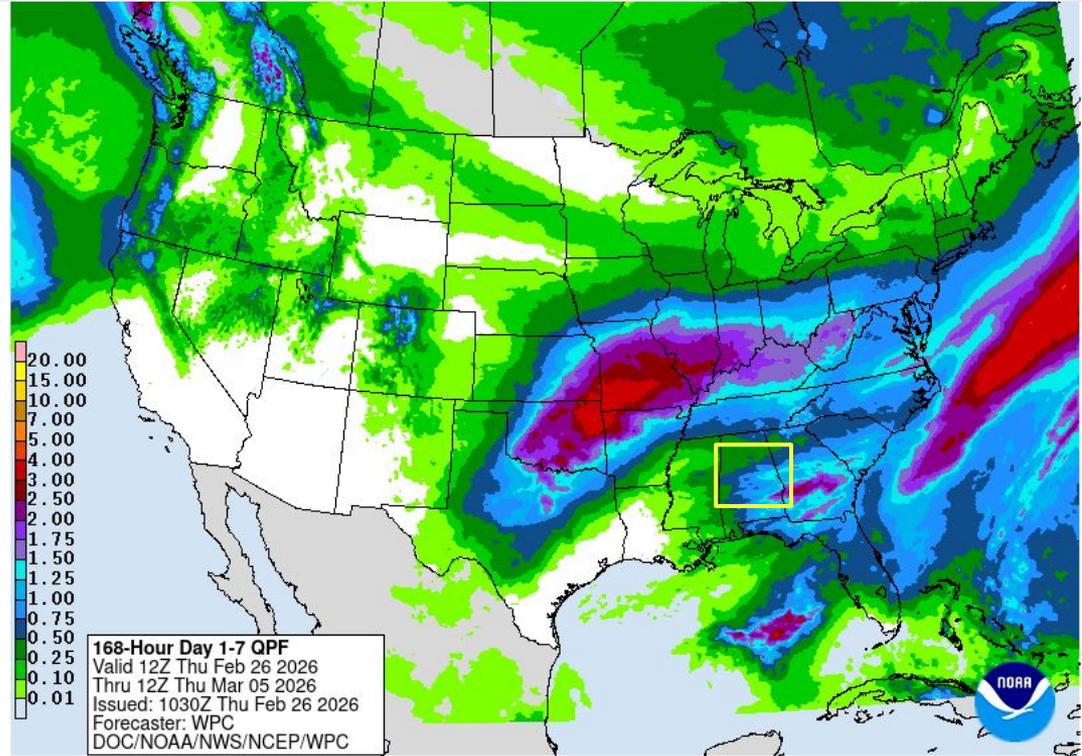


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid through February 26th.



Medium-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- The seasonal outlook for the next 3 month period is calling for medium chances of above average temperatures.
- Rainfall probabilities during this same time-frame are calling for equal chances of above or below normal rainfall.
- If this pattern verifies, it would lend towards persisting drought conditions.

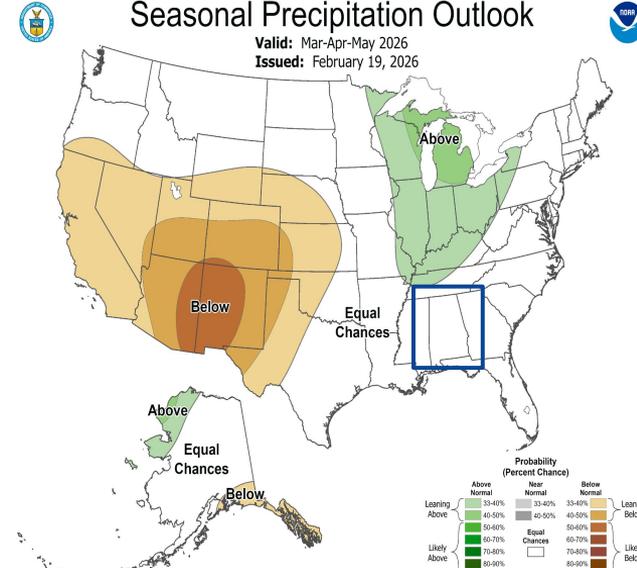
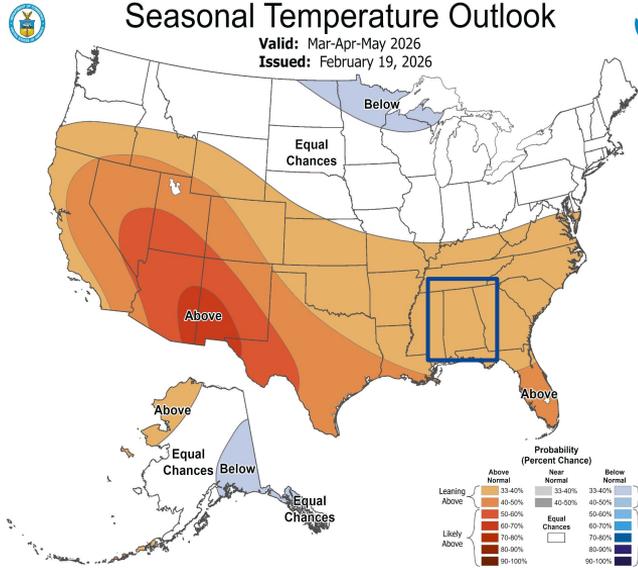


Image Captions:

Left - Seasonal temperature outlook ending June 1

Right - Seasonal precipitation outlook ending June 1



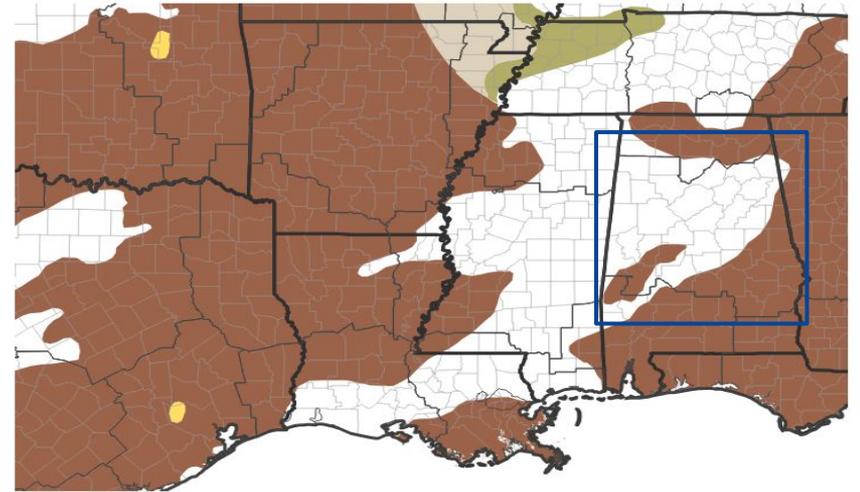


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- The latest seasonal outlook released by the CPC on February 19th shows no areas of improvement across the area with drought expected to persist in the southwest.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for February 19, 2026–May 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...

Persist	Improve	End	Develop	No Drought

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 02/19/26

Links to the latest:

- [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)
- [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

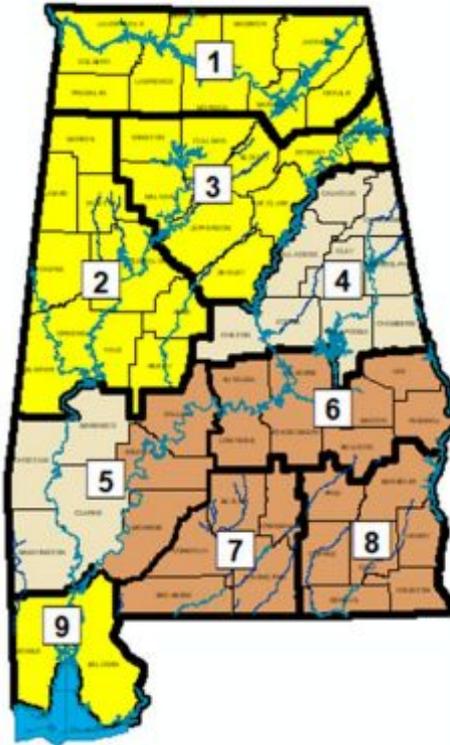
Image Caption:
CPC Seasonal Drought Outlook Released February, 2026 and valid now through May 2026.



State Drought Declaration

The latest information on the state declaration can be found [HERE](#)

- The latest Alabama Drought declaration released on February 9th has placed much of the southern counties in a warning with advisories and watches throughout the rest of the state.



Legend
No Drought Declaration
Advisory
Watch
Warning
Emergency

Recent precipitation has improved drought conditions across west and north Alabama. South and southeast Alabama continue to be in a Drought Warning. OWR will continue monitoring our water resources and update this Declaration as needed.

Water managers and public water system customers are encouraged to follow their local water system's recommendations regarding water use. All water users should make prudent decisions on their water use to protect available resources.

