



# Drought Information Statement for Southeast TX and Southwest LA

Valid March, 20, 2026

Issued By: WFO Lake Charles, LA

## Contact Information:

- This product will be updated April, 3rd, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
  - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
  - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/LCH/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
  - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/> for regional drought status updates.
- 
- **DROUGHT CONDITIONS IMPROVE FOR SOME AND REMAIN STEADY FOR OTHERS. NO RAINFALL IS EXPECTED NEXT WEEK.**

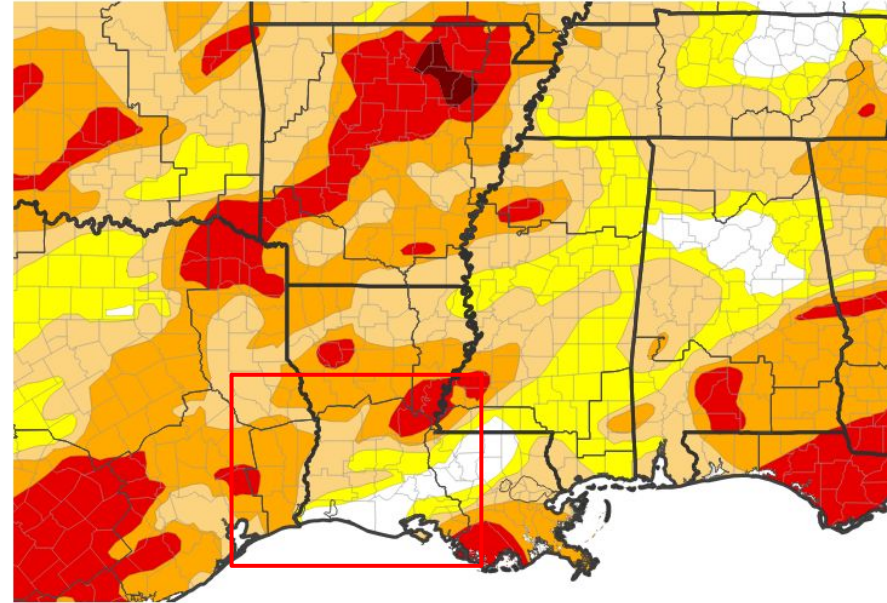


# U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought Intensity and Extent
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Rapides and Avoyelles Parishes in Louisiana. Extreme western Hardin County in Texas
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Remainder of Southeast Texas and Portions of Central Louisiana along with St. Mary Parish.
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Beauregard, Allen, Evangeline St. Landry, Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis and Small portions of Acadia.
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Iberia and most of St. Landry Parish.

## U.S. Drought Monitor



## U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 03/17/26

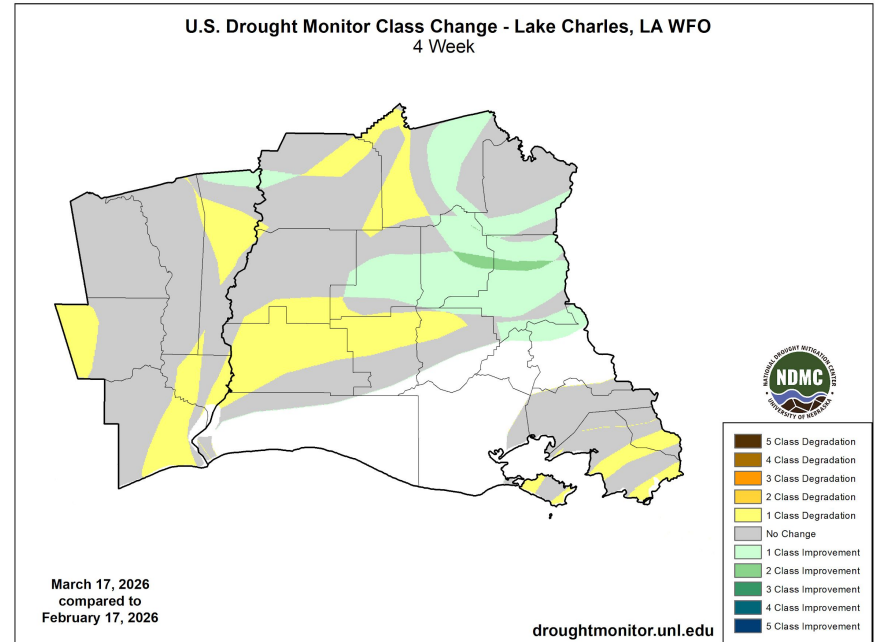




# Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
  - Drought Worsened: 1 category class changes have been noted across much of portions of Central and Southwest Louisiana north of Interstate 10. Also across St. Mary Parish
  - Drought Weakened: 1 to 2 categories across Allen, Evangeline, St. Landry and Eastern Rapides Parishes.



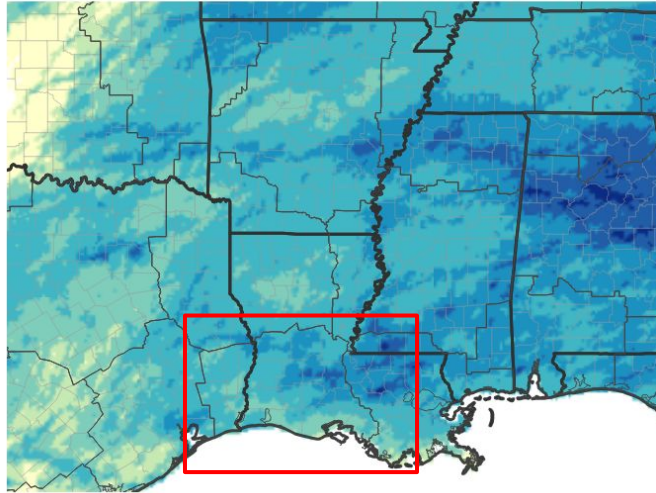


# Precipitation

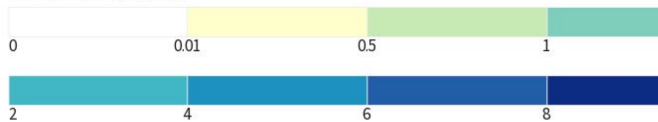
For the past 30 days

- Rainfall over the past 30 days is running 25 to around 75 percent of normal across the entire area with the exception of portions of Allen, Evangeline and St. Landry where amounts indicate slightly above normal precipitation over the past 30 days.

NWPS 30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (inches)

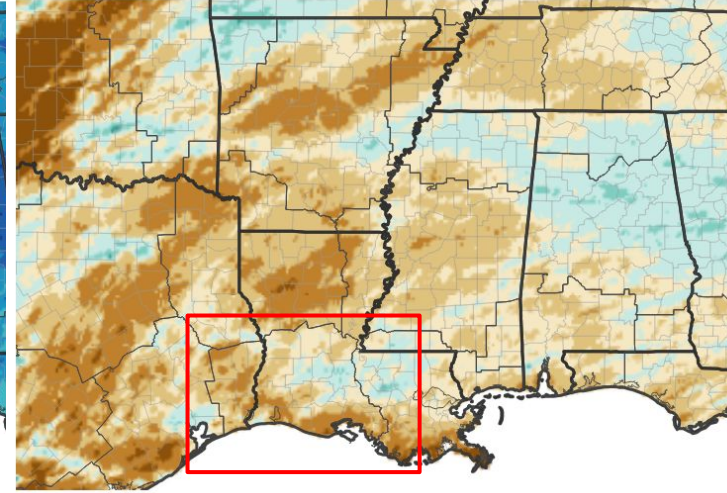


Inches of Precipitation

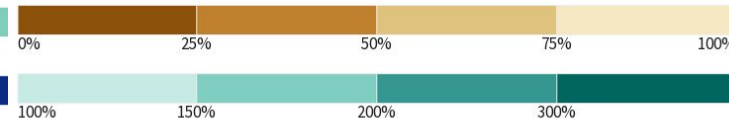


Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov

30-Day Precipitation: Percent of PRISM Normal



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Data Valid: Source(s): National Weather Service National Water Prediction Service; image courtesy of Drought.gov Data Valid: 03/18/26



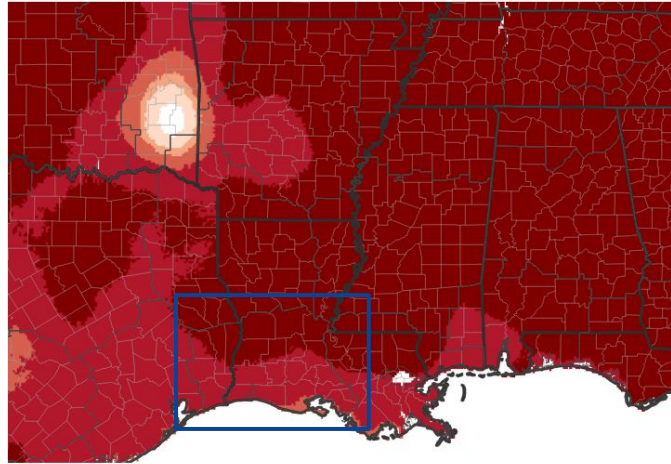


# Temperature

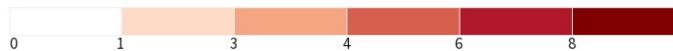
Link to [Southern Regional Climate Center](#)

- Temperatures have been above normal area wide across the region the past week.
- Above normal temperatures have been noted the previous 30 days.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



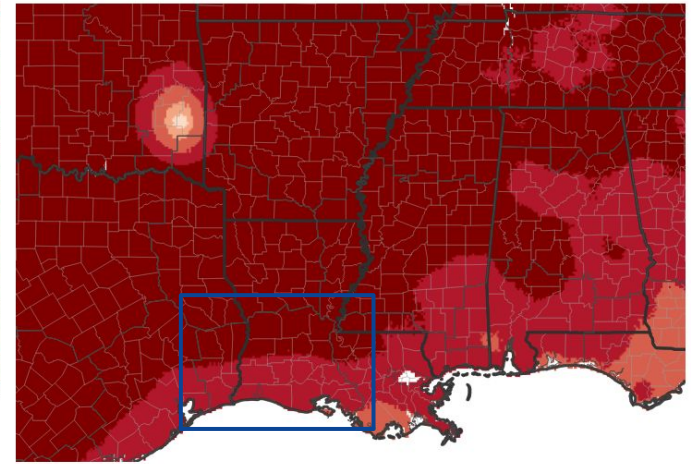
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



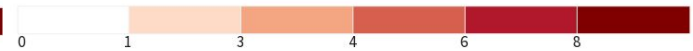
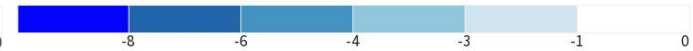
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 03/14/26

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 03/14/26





# Summary of Impacts

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

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Observed river flows are now near normal normal in Louisiana area river basins with recent rainfalls. For the Sabine and Neches river basins flows continue to be below normal to much below normal.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Field conditions as reported by the LSU Ag Centers are running slightly dry across Rapides Parish, otherwise conditions are normal to wet.

## Fire Hazard Impacts

- Recent fire activity has lessened with the onset of green up and increased humidity.
- Burn bans are currently in place for Jasper Counties in Texas and St. Martin Parish in Louisiana.

## Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

## Mitigation Actions

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

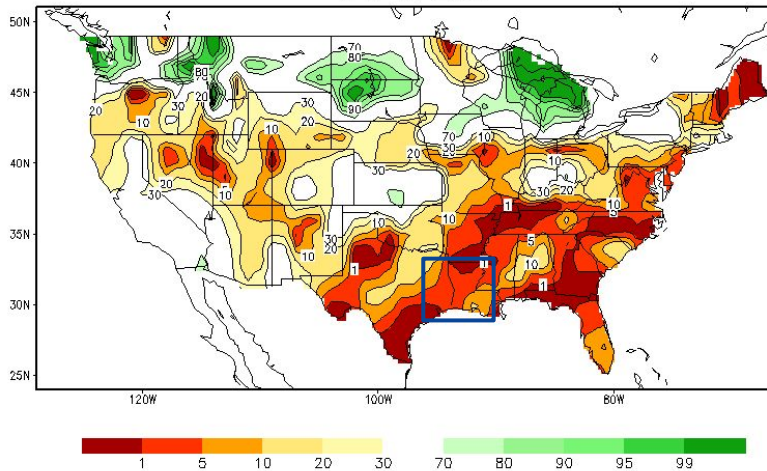




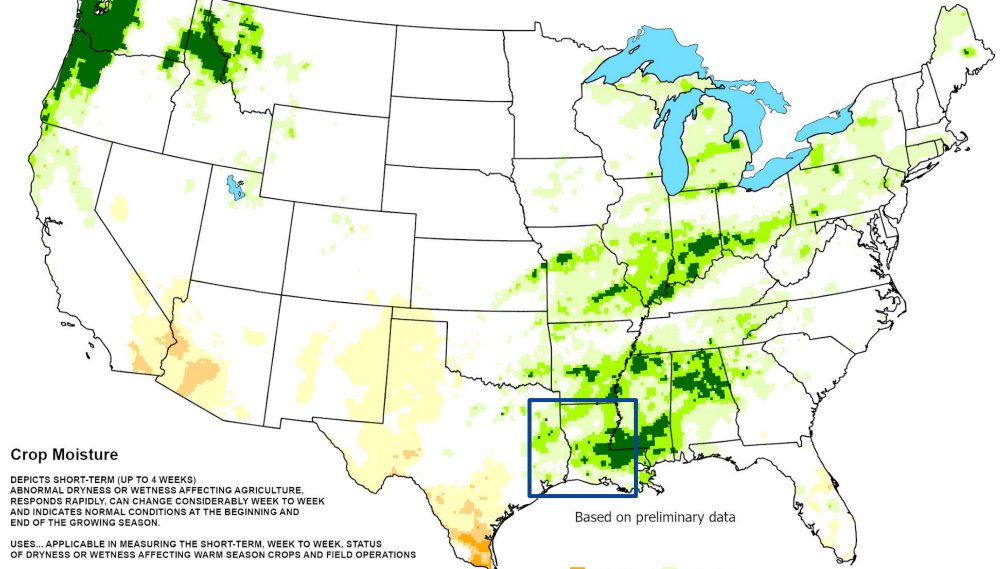
# Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is below normal across the area with shallow soil moisture near normal to above normal.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile  
MAR 19, 2026



Crop Moisture Index  
Value for the March 8 - 14, 2026  
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile



### Crop Moisture

DEPICTS SHORT-TERM (UP TO 4 WEEKS) ABNORMAL DRYNESS OR WETNESS AFFECTING AGRICULTURE. RESPONDS RAPIDLY CAN CHANGE CONSIDERABLY WEEK TO WEEK AND INDICATES NORMAL CONDITIONS AT THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE GROWING SEASON.

USES... APPLICABLE IN MEASURING THE SHORT-TERM, WEEK TO WEEK, STATUS OF DRYNESS OR WETNESS AFFECTING WARM SEASON CROPS AND FIELD OPERATIONS

LIMITATIONS... MAY NOT BE APPLICABLE TO GERMINATING AND SHALLOW ROOTED CROPS WHICH ARE UNABLE TO EXTRACT THE DEEP OR SUBSOIL MOISTURE FROM A SHALLOW SOIL PROFILE OR FOR COOL SEASON CROPS GROWING WHEN TEMPERATURES ARE AVERAGING BELOW ABOUT 50°F IT IS NOT GENERALLY INDICATIVE OF THE LONG-TERM (MONTHS, YEARS) DROUGHT OR WET SPELLS WHICH ARE DEPICTED BY THE DROUGHT SEVERITY INDEX.

Based on preliminary data

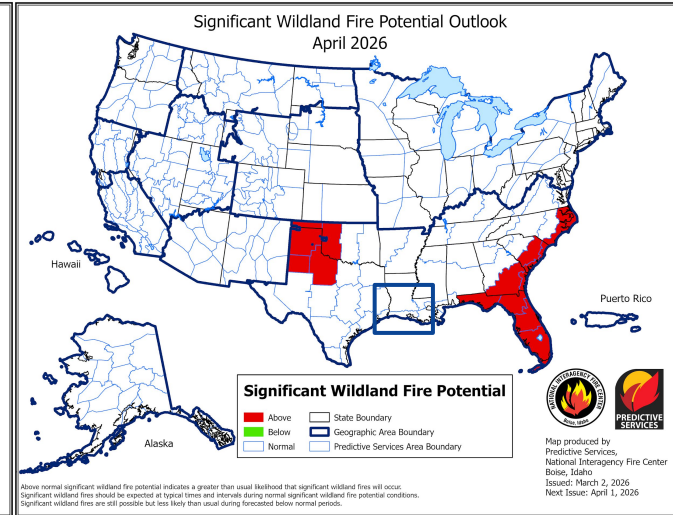
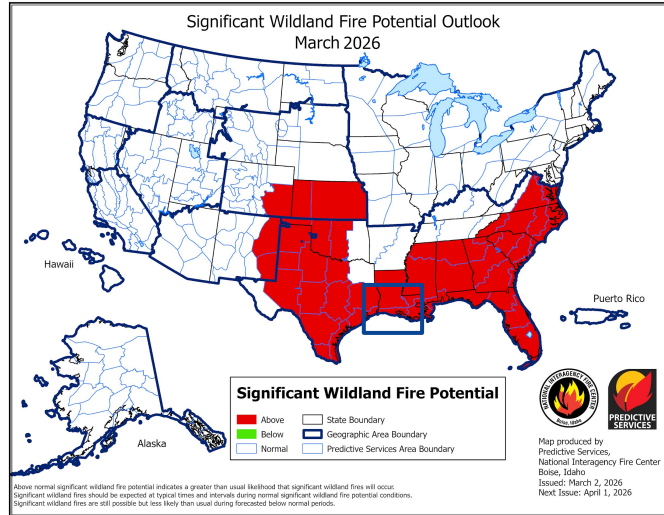




# Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.](#)

- Burn Bans remain in place for Jasper counties and St. Martin Parish in Louisiana.
- Wildfire conditions are expected to remain above normal in March for Louisiana.



Latest TX Burn Ban map available [here.](#)

Latest LA Burn Ban map available [here.](#)

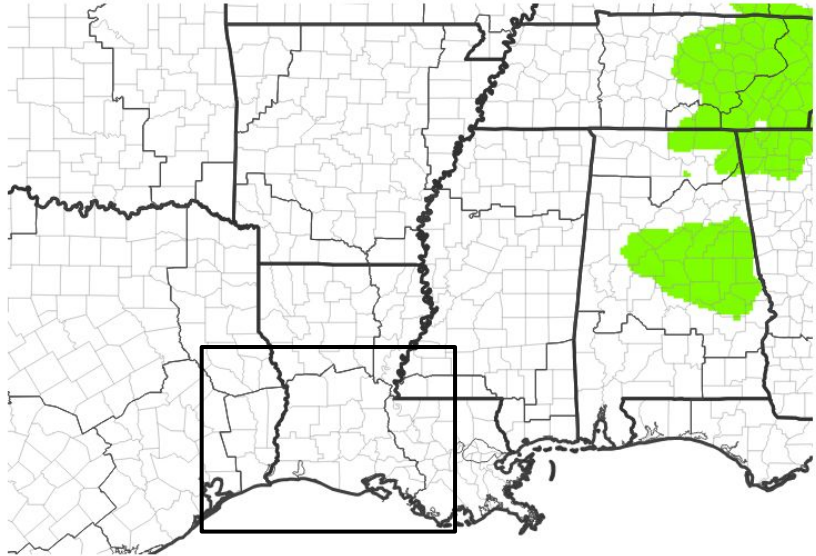




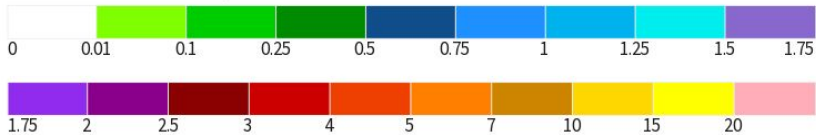
# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- No rainfall is expected over the next 7 days.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for March 19, 2026–March 26, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 03/19/26



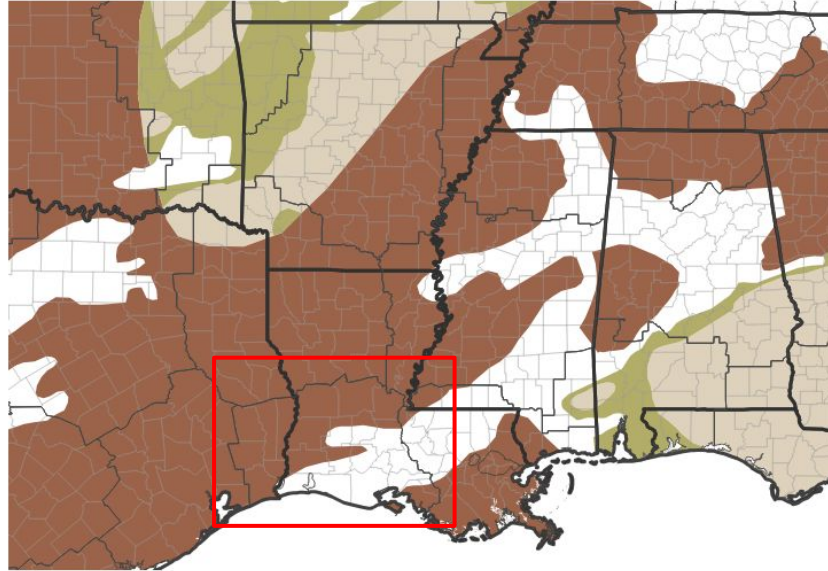


# Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are expected to persist over the remainder of the spring.

## Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for March 19, 2026–June 30, 2026



### Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center: image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 03/19/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service  
WFO Lake Charles, LA