



Drought Information Statement for Much of Arkansas

Valid October 19, 2024

Issued By: NWS Little Rock, AR

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

- This product will be updated November 15, 2024 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/LZK/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.

- DROUGHT CONDITIONS ARE WIDESPREAD ACROSS THE WESTERN HALF OF ARKANSAS.
- DROUGHT IS EXPECTED TO BECOME MORE WIDESPREAD AND WORSEN IN THE WEEKS AHEAD.



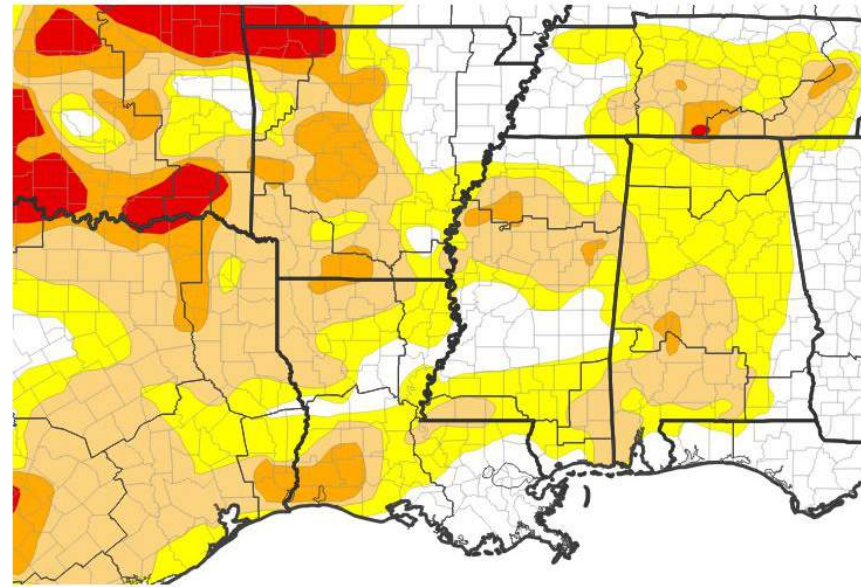


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: None.
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Extreme northwest Arkansas.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Multiple counties in the western half of the state.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Much of southern, central, and western Arkansas.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: All but northeast Arkansas.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 10/17/24

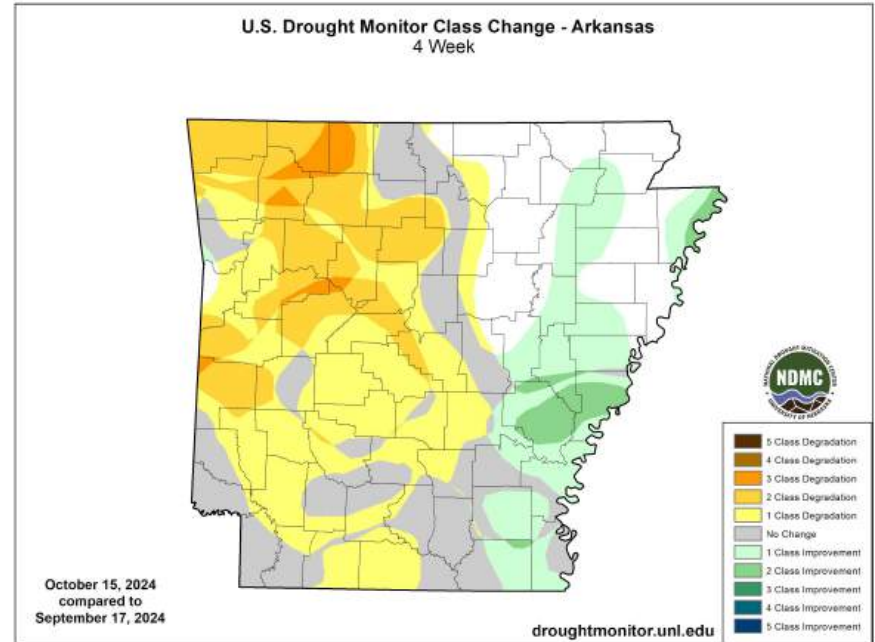




Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - In general, drought has been worsening in the western half of Arkansas, most notably in the west central and northwest counties.
 - Any drought improvement has been confined to the eastern counties due mainly to rain from the remnants of Hurricanes Francine and Helene in September.

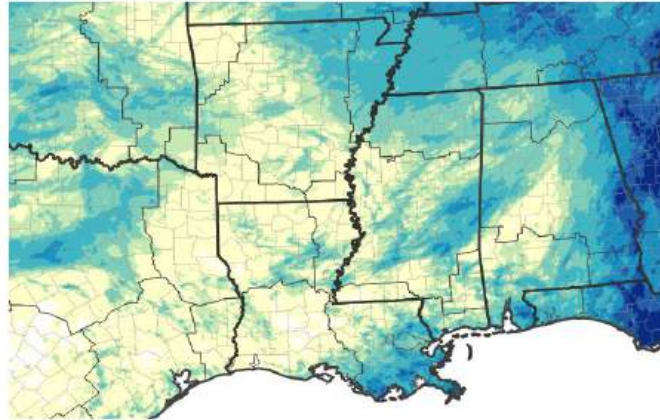




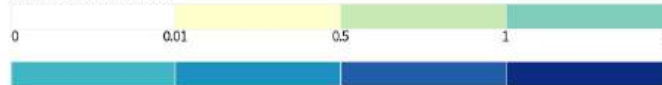
Precipitation

- Any significant rain in the last month is tied to the remnants of Hurricanes Francine and Helene in September. These systems affected mainly northeast Arkansas. Otherwise, precipitation has been below to well below average. There has been little to no precipitation in October.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

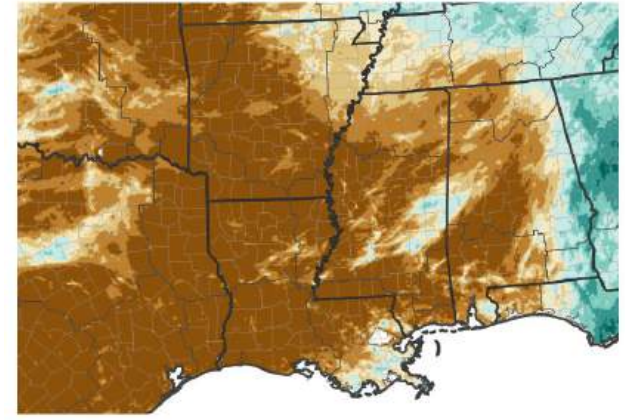


Inches of Precipitation

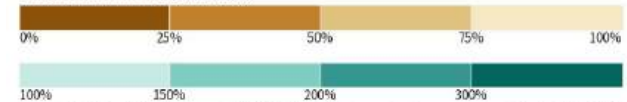


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 10/18/24

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 10/18/24



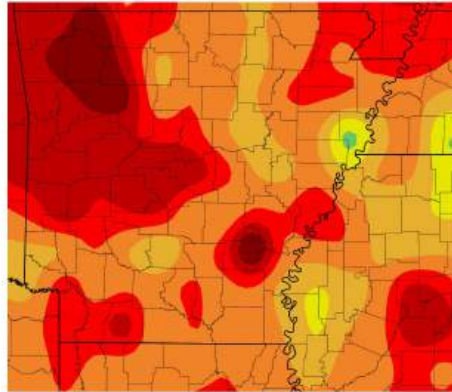


Temperature

[Link to HPRCC](#)

- In general, temperatures have been above average, especially from west central into northwest Arkansas where the worst drought conditions exist. In these areas, readings were four or more degrees warmer than usual in the last month.

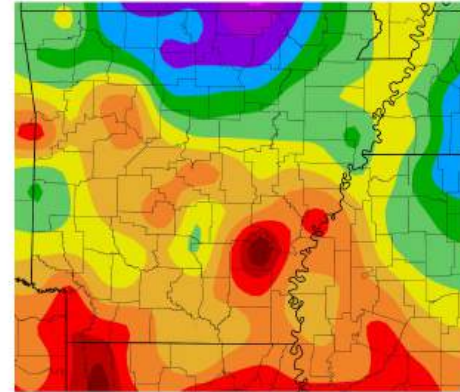
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/18/2024 - 10/17/2024



Generated 10/18/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Temperature (F)
9/18/2024 - 10/17/2024



Generated 10/18/2024 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflow is well below average in the western half of Arkansas.

Agricultural Impacts

- Vegetation is stressed across the west, with an agricultural disaster in several counties including Nevada, Perry, and Yell Counties.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- There is a moderate to high wildfire danger statewide according to the Arkansas Agricultural Department Division of Forestry.

Other Impacts

- As of October 18th, burn bans were posted in 55 of 75 counties in Arkansas.

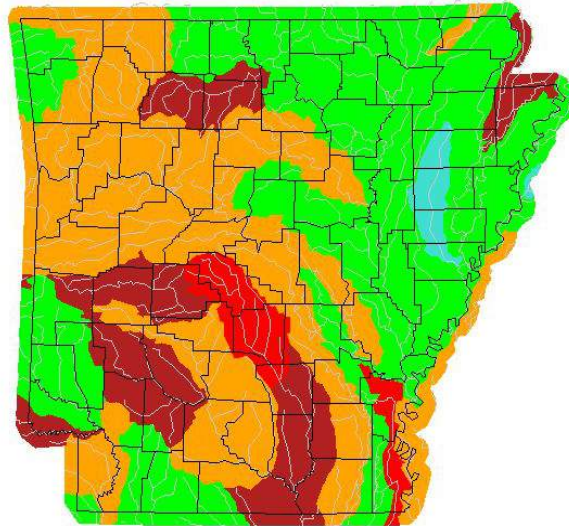




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Many tributaries had streamflow in the 10th to 24th percentile or lower, especially in southern, central, and western Arkansas. The 25th to 75th percentile is considered normal.

Thursday, October 17, 2024



USGS

Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid 10/17/2024.

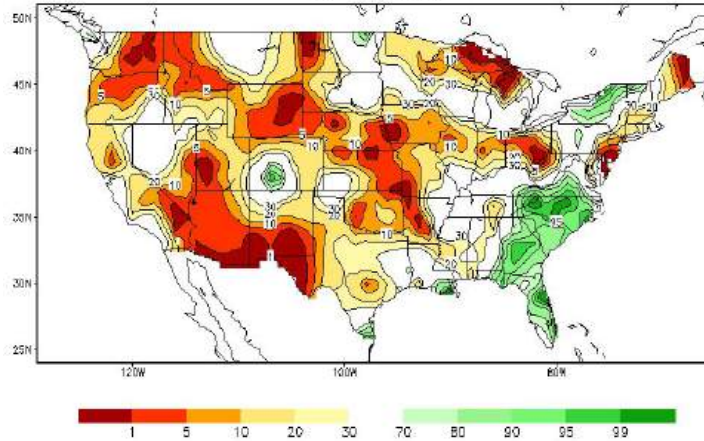




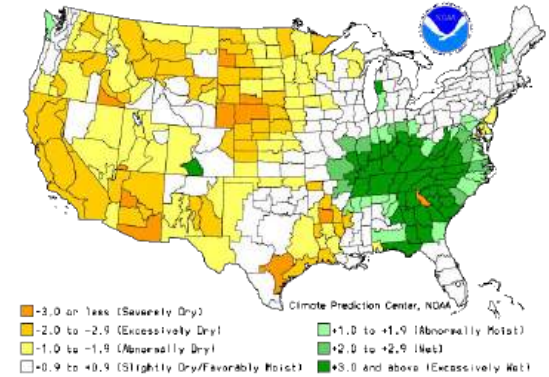
Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is quickly declining across southern and western Arkansas. In this part of the state, moisture values are in the 10th percentile or less, which is far below normal values in the 30th to 70th percentile.
- In addition to subpar soil moisture, the crop moisture index indicates excessively to severely dry conditions in places.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
OCT 17, 2024



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending OCT 12, 2024
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile





Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Counties in northeast Arkansas have a moderate wildfire danger, with a high wildfire danger across the remainder of the state.
- Where a high wildfire danger exists, burn bans are widespread (55 of 75 counties).

Latest AR Consolidated Burn Ban and Wildfire Danger map available [here](#).





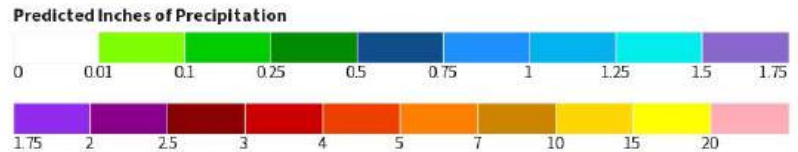
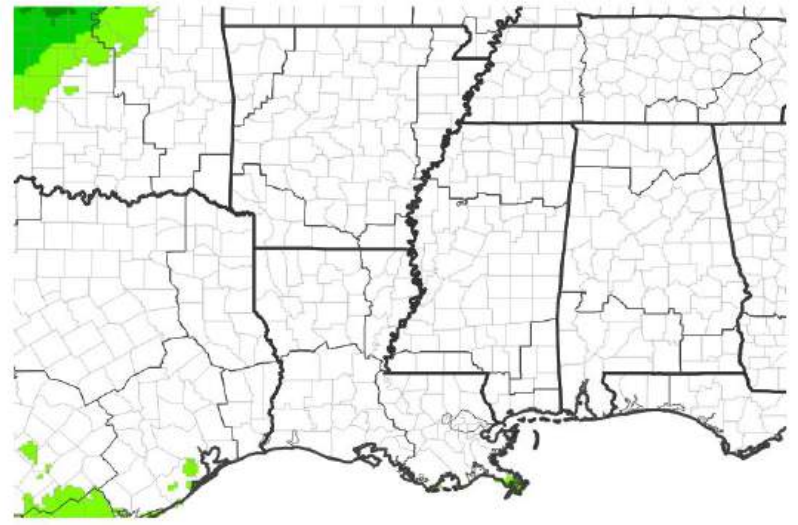
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Little to no rain has occurred in October, and the forecast calls for more dryness in the next week.

Precipitation in October, 2024 (Through the 14th)

Site	Amount	Normal	+/-	% of Normal
Fayetteville (NW AR)	0.00	1.92	-1.92	0%
Harrison (NC AR)	TRACE	1.57	-1.57	0%
Jonesboro (NE AR)	TRACE	1.60	-1.60	0%
Fort Smith (WC AR)	0.00	1.81	-1.81	0%
Little Rock (C AR)	0.00	1.75	-1.75	0%
West Memphis (EC AR)	TRACE	1.67	-1.67	0%
Texarkana (SW AR)	0.00	1.91	-1.91	0%
El Dorado (SC AR)	TRACE	1.95	-1.95	0%
Pine Bluff (SE AR)	0.00	1.93	-1.93	0%

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October 18, 2024–October 25, 2024



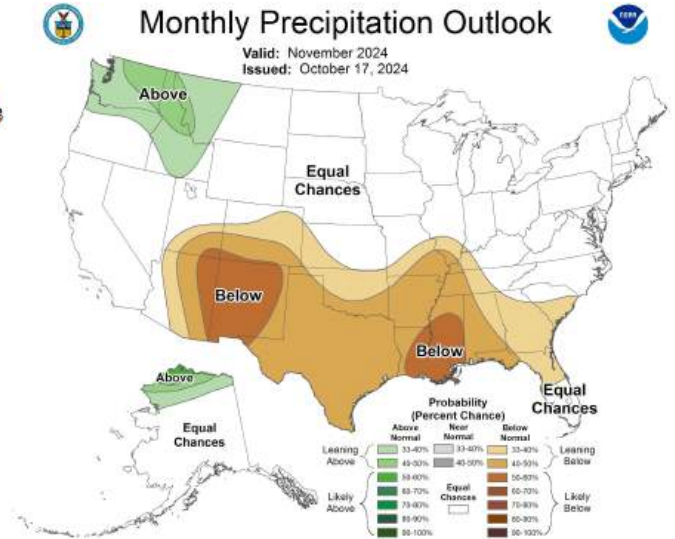
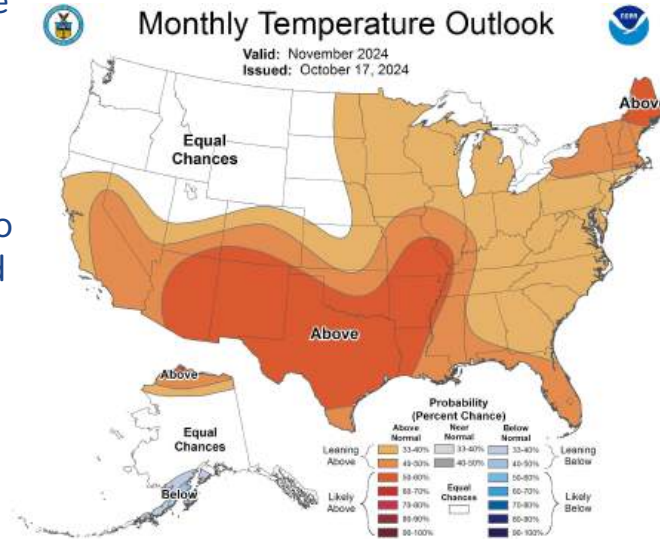
Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov
 Last Updated: 10/18/24



Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Looking ahead to November, above average temperatures and below average precipitation are in the forecast. Given the outlook, drought conditions are expected to become more widespread and worsen across Arkansas.



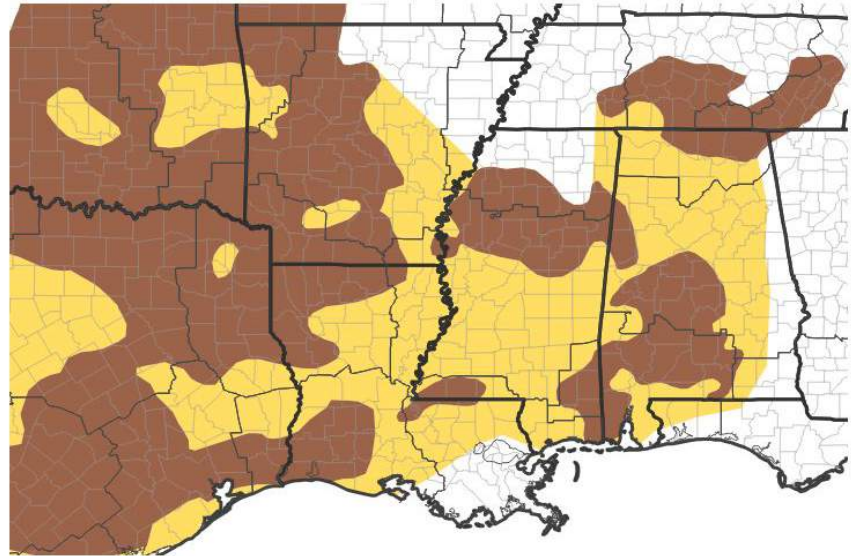


Drought Outlook

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

- Through the remainder of fall and into the beginning of winter, drought conditions will likely persist and may develop in other parts of Arkansas not currently affected by drought.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for October 17, 2024–January 31, 2025



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 10/17/24

Links to the latest:

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

