



Drought Information Statement

For East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, and Southwest North Carolina

Valid February 26, 2026

Issued By: WFO Morristown, TN

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

- This product will be updated in the next week 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/mrx/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



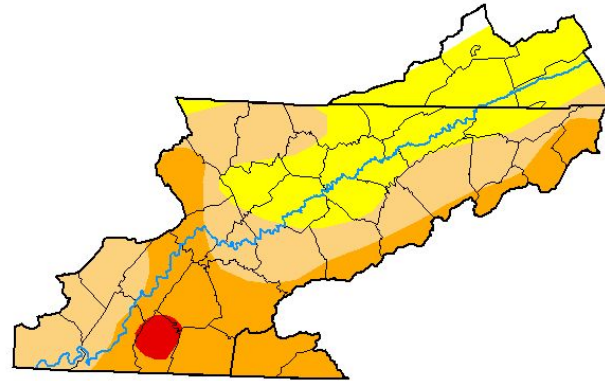


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the NWS Morristown CWA

- **Drought intensity and Extent**
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None.
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Area in and around Bradley County
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):** Rest of southern Valley, far east Tennessee mountains, part of the Plateau, and southwest North Carolina
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought):** Most remaining areas of East Tennessee
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Most of southwest Virginia

U.S. Drought Monitor Morristown, TN WFO



February 24, 2026

(Released Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.91	99.09	66.22	29.96	1.57	0.00
Last Week 02-17-2026	0.95	99.05	74.04	29.96	1.57	0.00
3 Months Ago 11-25-2025	66.50	33.50	7.23	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	0.15	99.85	85.19	33.14	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	86.93	13.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 02-25-2025	37.13	62.87	31.13	12.81	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate 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:

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CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Morristown, TN

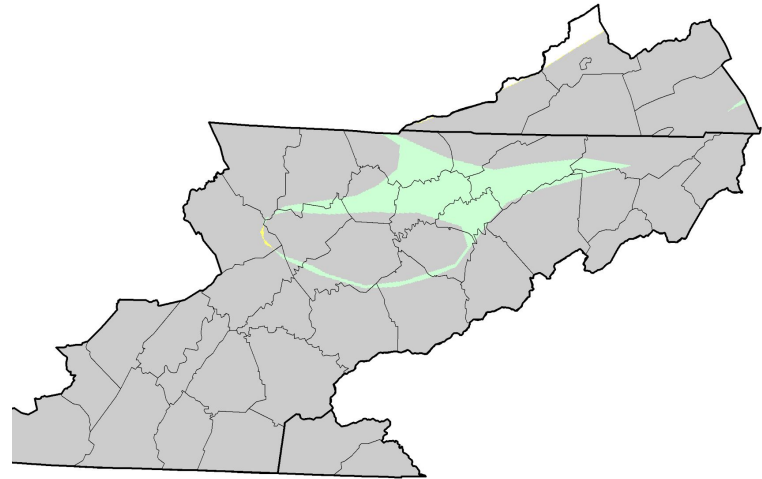


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 1-week change map for the Southern Appalachians

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - **Drought Worsened:** None.
 - **No Change:** Most areas
 - **Drought Improved:** Parts of northeast Tennessee and central Tennessee valley.

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Morristown, TN WFO
1 Week



February 24, 2026
compared to
February 17, 2026



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

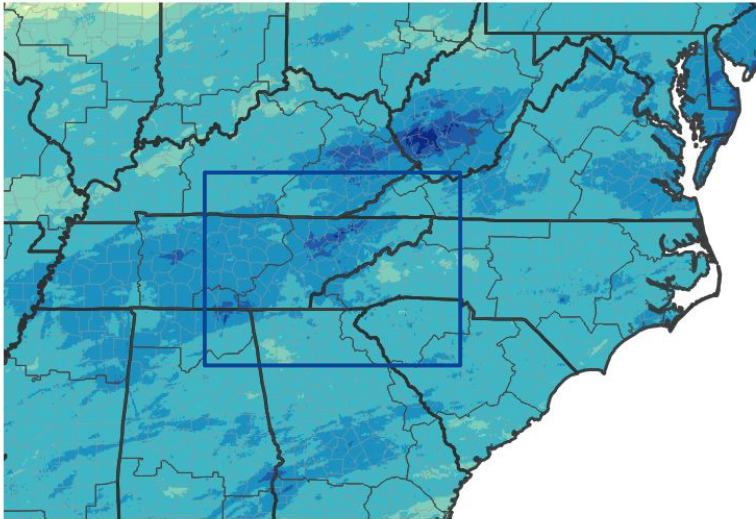




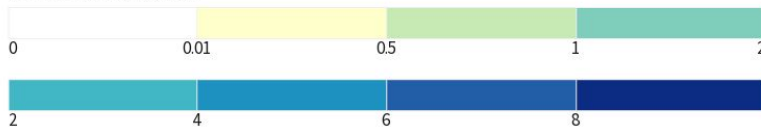
Precipitation

- Precipitation has been below normal

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

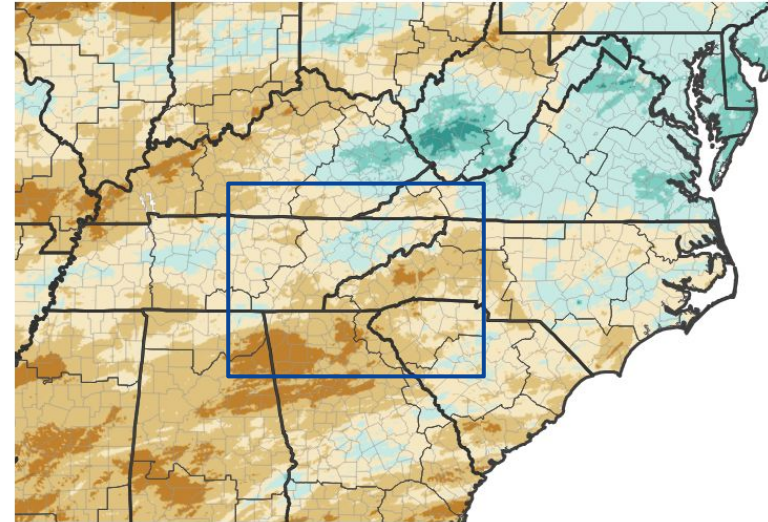


Inches of Precipitation

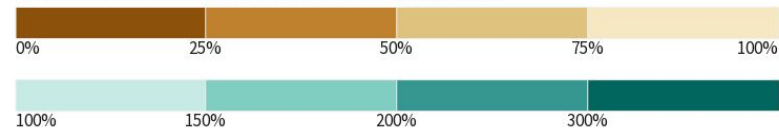


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 02/25/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 02/25/26

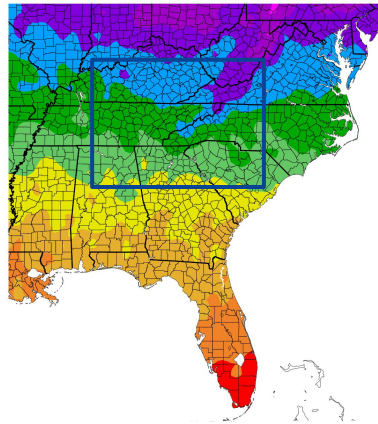




Temperature

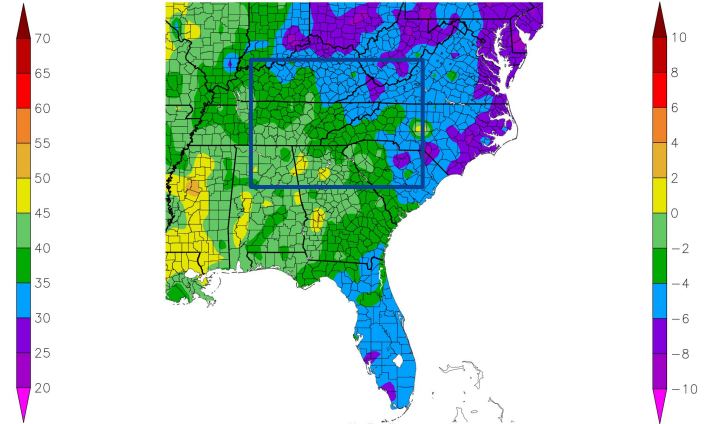
- Temperatures have been below normal the past 4 weeks.

Temperature (F)
1/27/2026 - 2/25/2026



Generated 2/26/2026 using provisional data.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
1/27/2026 - 2/25/2026



ACIS Web Services 026 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Stream flows are generally below normal for most places

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is below normal for agriculture.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Tennessee Forestry has reported little to no fire activity, but the fire outlook for North Carolina is above normal

Other Impacts

- Stay tuned for future updates.

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information. Continue to abide by any local burning bans and regulations.

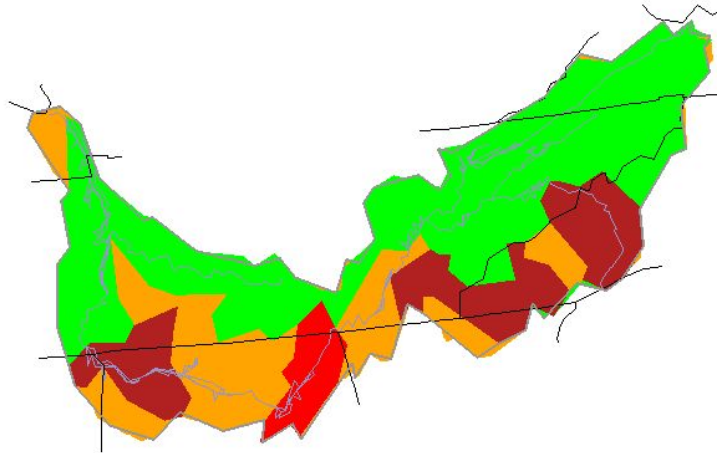




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Hednesday, February 18, 2026

- Streamflows are below to well below normal across most of the area



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.

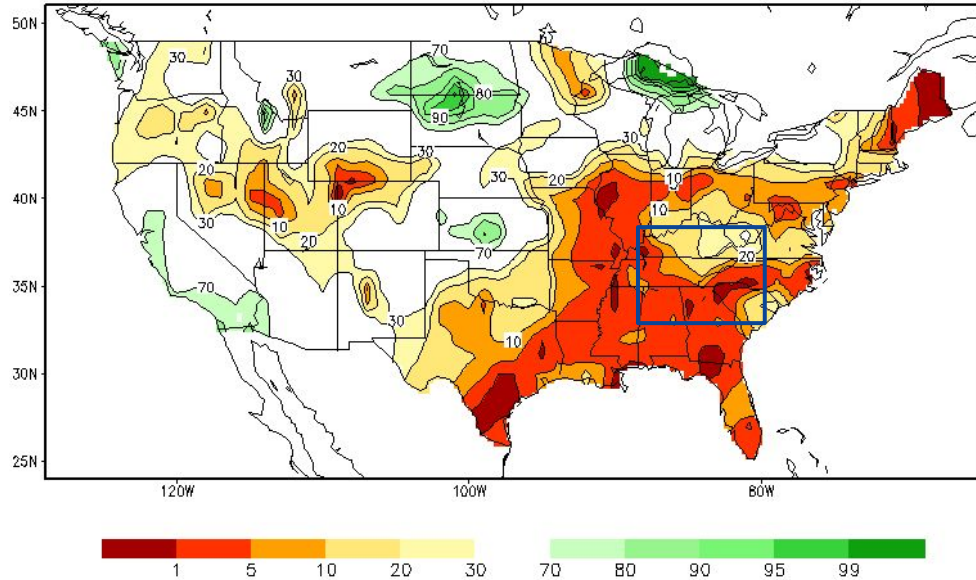




Agricultural Impacts

- Dry soil conditions across most of the region

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
FEB 24, 2026





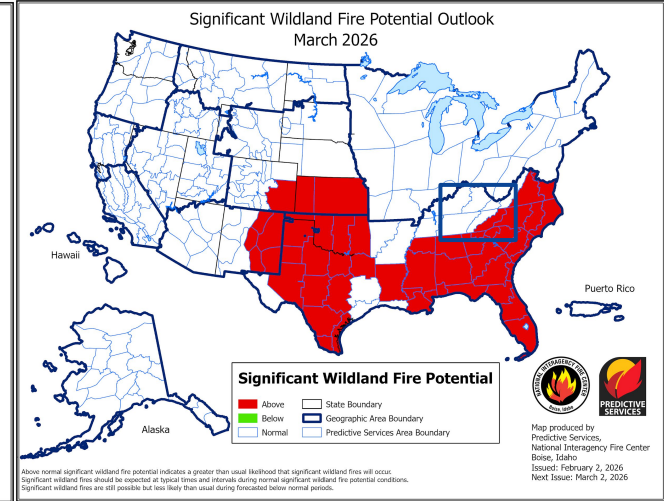
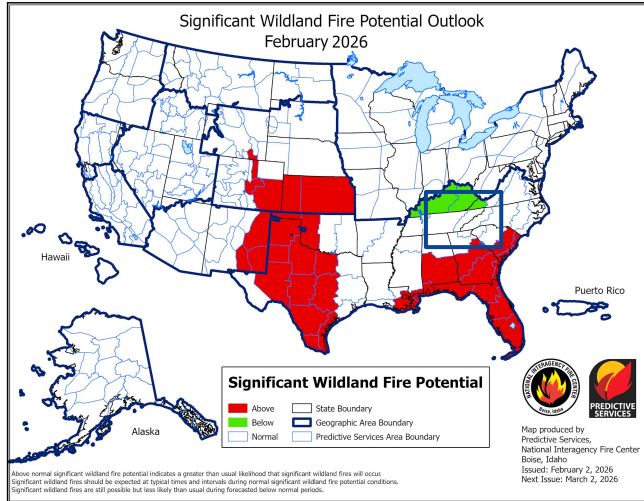
Fire Hazard Impacts

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

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

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

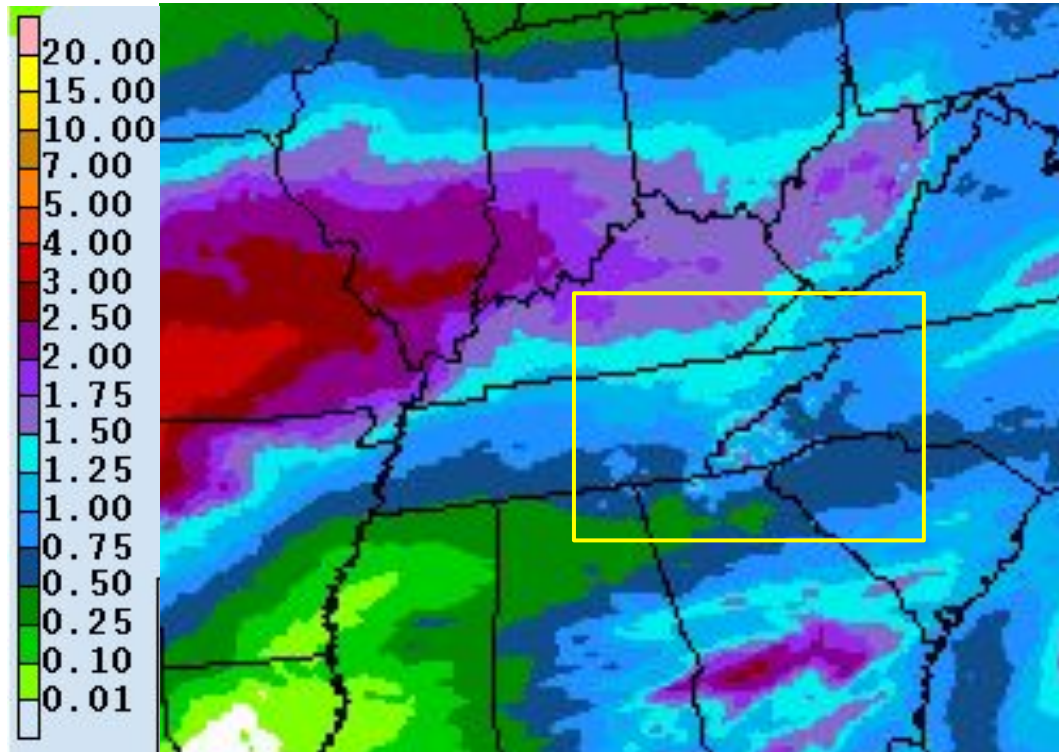
Latest NC Burn Ban information available [here.](#)





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Periods of showers returns early next week.
 - Most places will see from $\frac{1}{2}$ around 1".





Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

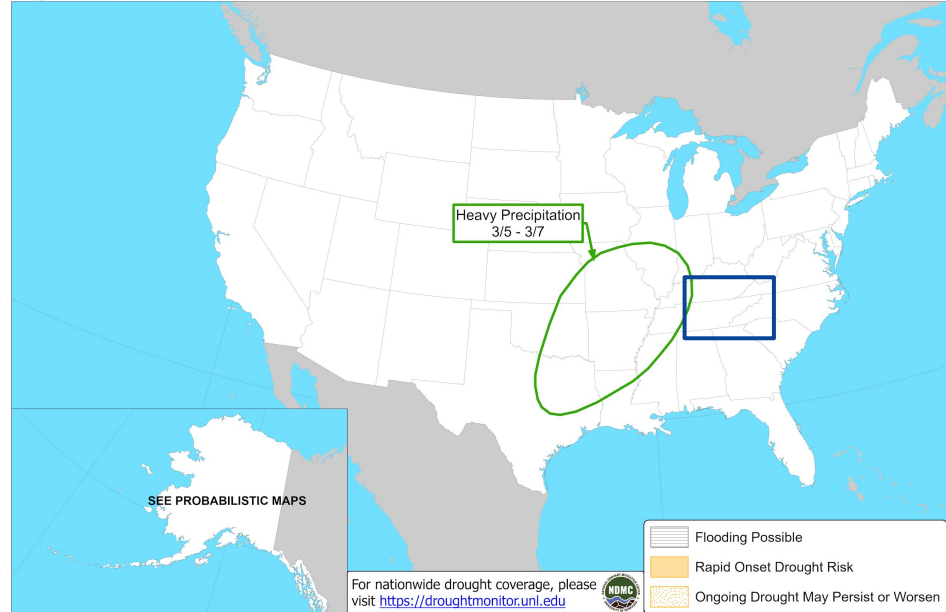
Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- No hazards in our area during Week 2



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook

Valid: March 5 - 11, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: February 25, 2026 3:00 PM EST

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www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
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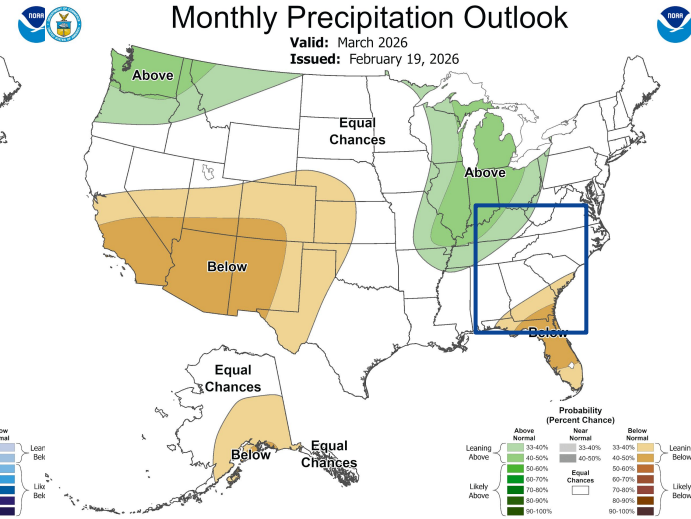
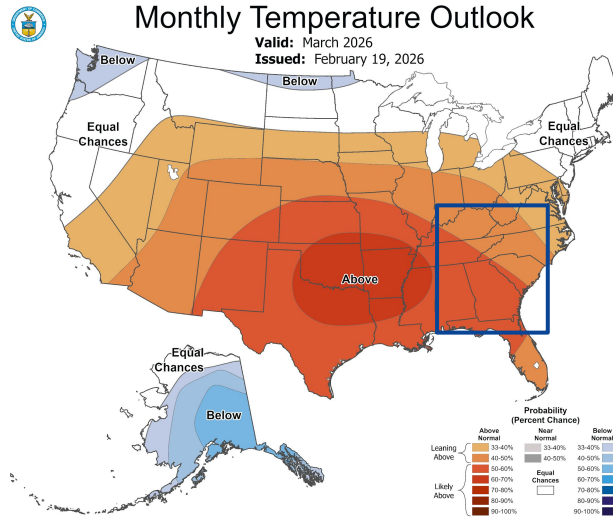
National Weather Service
Morristown, TN



Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Above normal temperatures and above normal rainfall are slightly favored for the month of February.



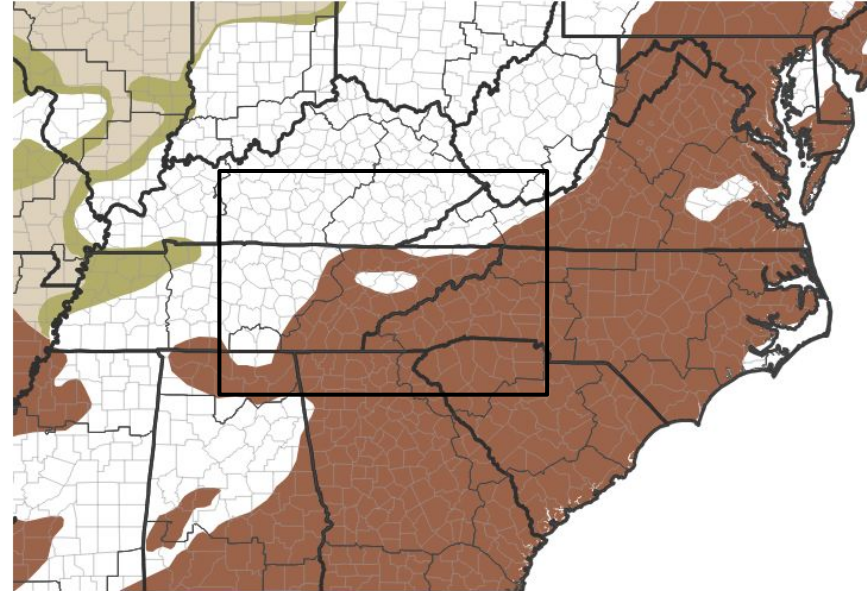


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are forecast to persist across much of the area during the next 3 months.

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



Drought Is Predicted To...



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](#)

