



Drought Information Statement for For East Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, and Southwest North Carolina Valid April 16, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Morristown, TN

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

- This product will be updated April 14, 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/MRX/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
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- Drought conditions continue to worsen. All of the NWS Morristown area is now covered by some drought category.
 - Areas covered by D2-D3 drought categories up from 29% to 48% since last Drought Monitor issuance.



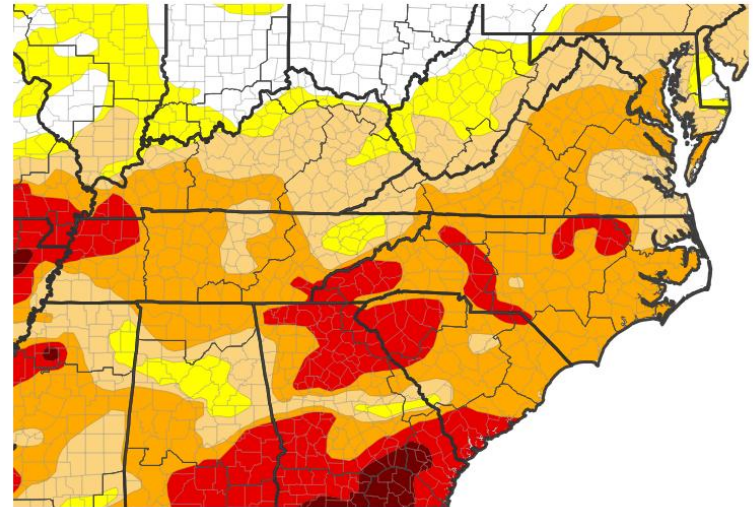


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for For E Tennessee, SW Virginia, and SW North Carolina

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: None.
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Cherokee and Clay counties in NC, and portions of McMinn, Monroe, Polk, Blount, and Sevier counties in TN
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: The Cumberland Plateau, the central and southern Tennessee Valley, the far east Tennessee mountains, and parts of Washington and Russell counties in VA
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Remaining areas of East Tennessee and southwest Virginia
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: A portion of the central and northern TN valley centered on Hamblen and Grainger counties

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 04/14/26



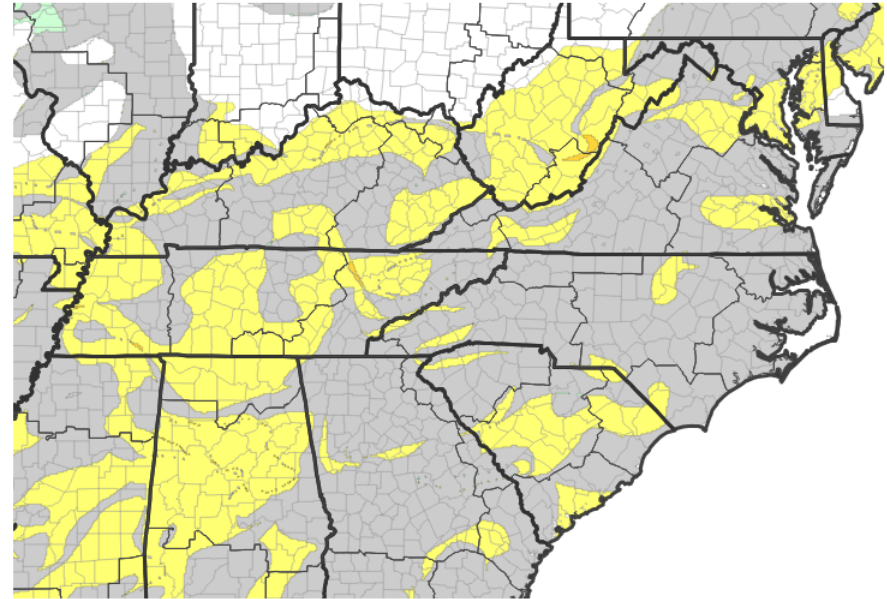


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

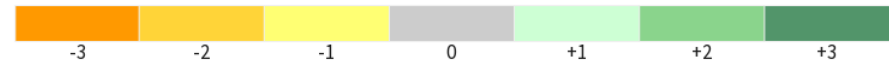
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for For E Tennessee, SW Virginia, and SW North Carolina

- One Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Southern Cumberland Plateau, portions of the central and northern Tennessee Valley, and also parts of Washington and Russell counties in VA
 - No Change: Most areas.
 - Drought Improved: None.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



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

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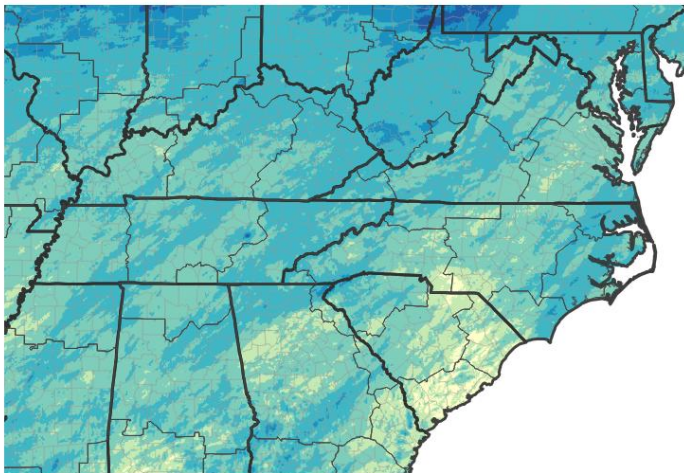




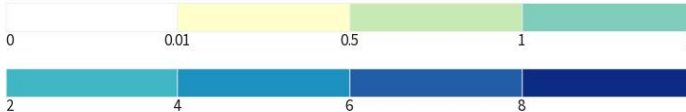
Precipitation

- Precipitation was 25-50% of normal for most areas.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



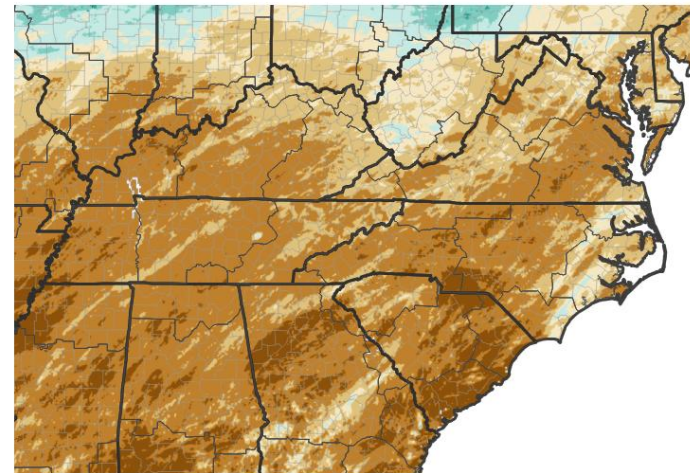
Inches of Precipitation



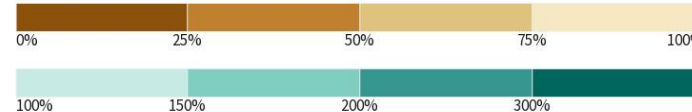
Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 04/16/26

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

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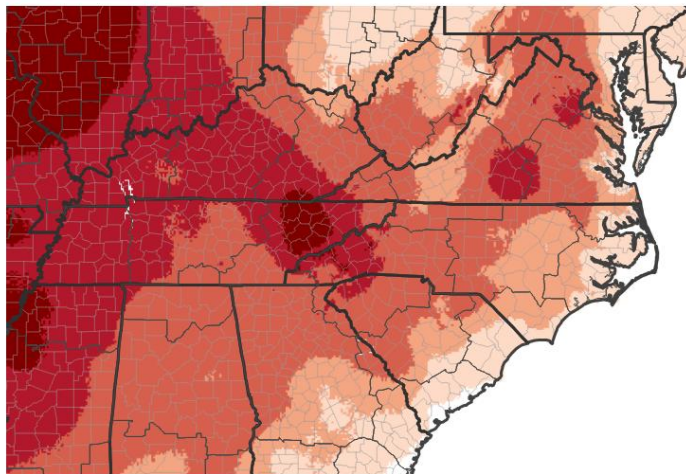




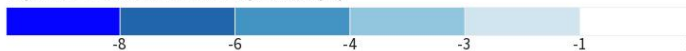
Temperature

- Temperatures have been well above normal the past 4 weeks, with most places +8°F above normal.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



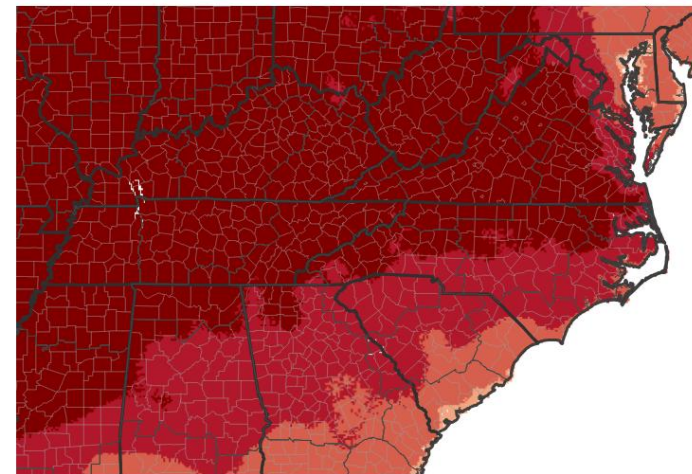
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



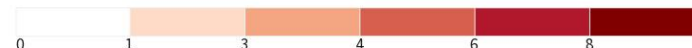
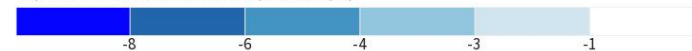
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 03/31/26

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: 03/31/26





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Stream flows are extremely below normal for the entire area.

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture is between 10-30% below normal across the area.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Tennessee Forestry has reported a notable uptick in fire activity over the last two weeks due to dry and warm conditions. Additionally the outlook for North Carolina is above normal for the rest of April.

Other Impacts

- Stay tuned for future updates.

Mitigation Actions

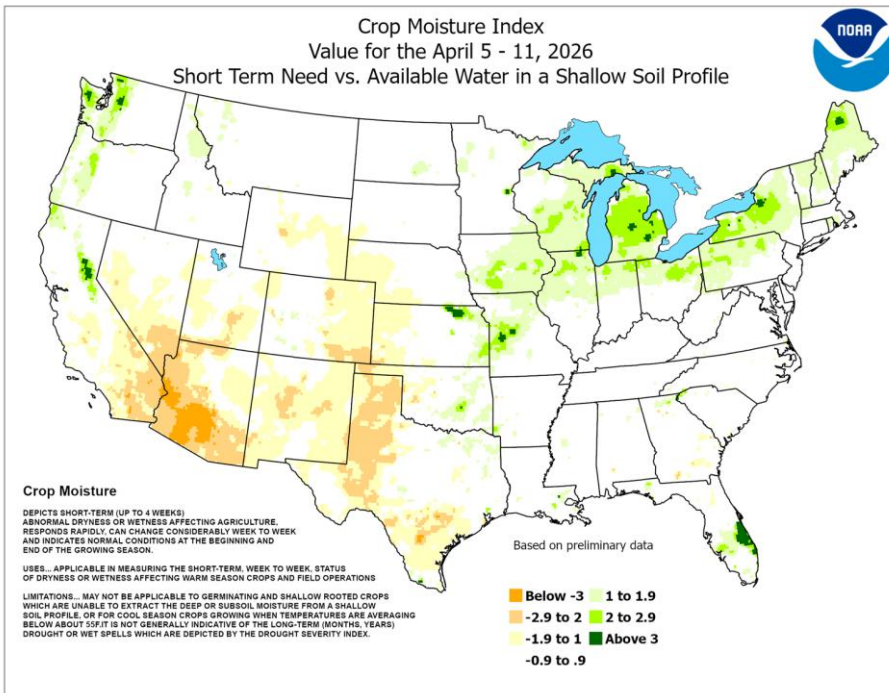
- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information. Continue to abide by any local burning bans and regulations.





Agricultural Impacts

- Very dry soil conditions continue across most of the region.

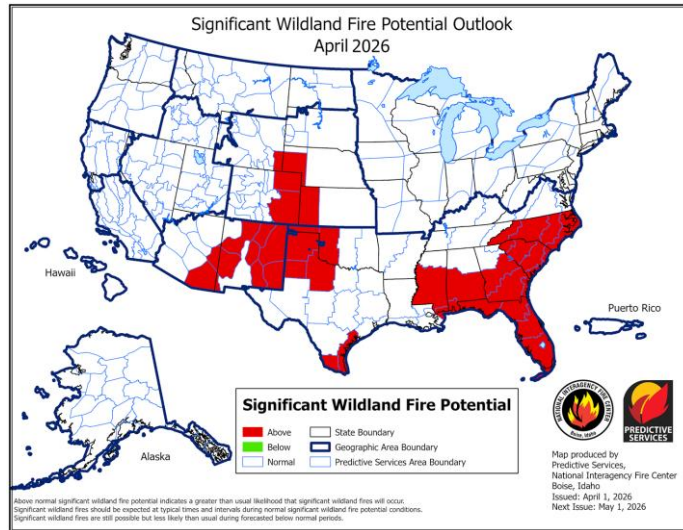




Fire Hazard Impacts

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](#).

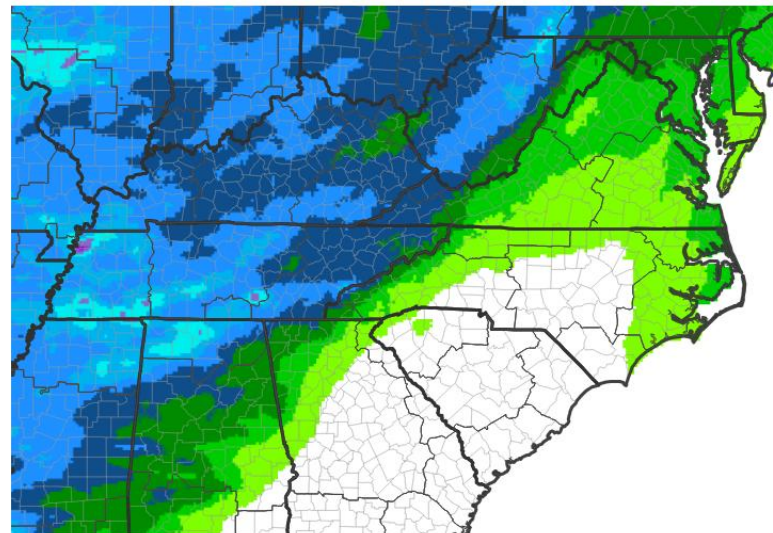




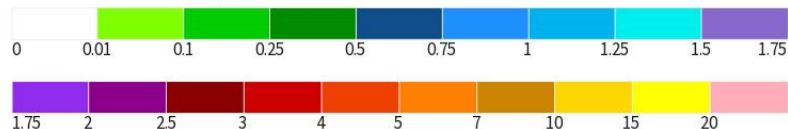
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Rainfall is expected tonight into Friday (4/17/26), and again Saturday night (4/18/26).
- However the total forecast rainfall is below normal amounts for that same timespan.
- As such, expect little change to drought conditions, if not a slight worsening.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for April 16, 2026–April 23, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 04/16/26





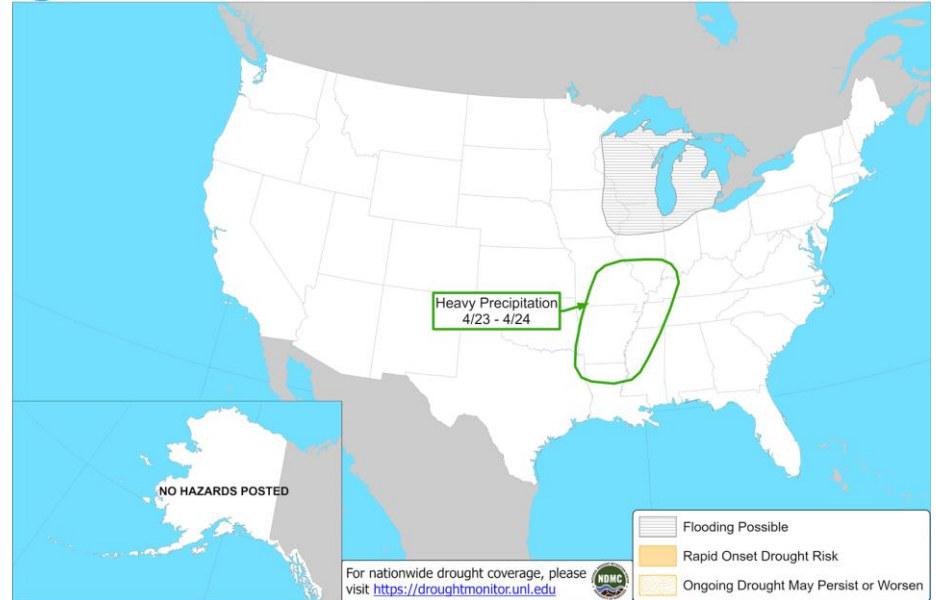
Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

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

- No hazards, including any chances for heavy precipitation, expected in the 8-14 day period.



Days 8-14 U.S. Hazards Outlook
Valid: April 23 - 29, 2026



Climate Prediction Center

Released: April 15, 2026 3:00 PM EDT

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National Weather Service
Morristown, TN

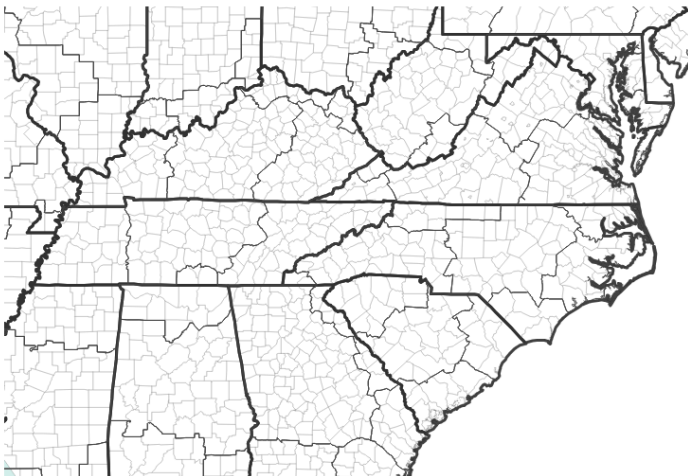


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Slight signal for above normal temperatures in the month of May.
- No notable signal with regard to precipitation chances for the month of May.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for May 1, 2026–May 31, 2026



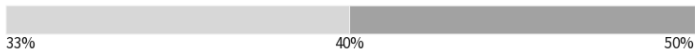
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



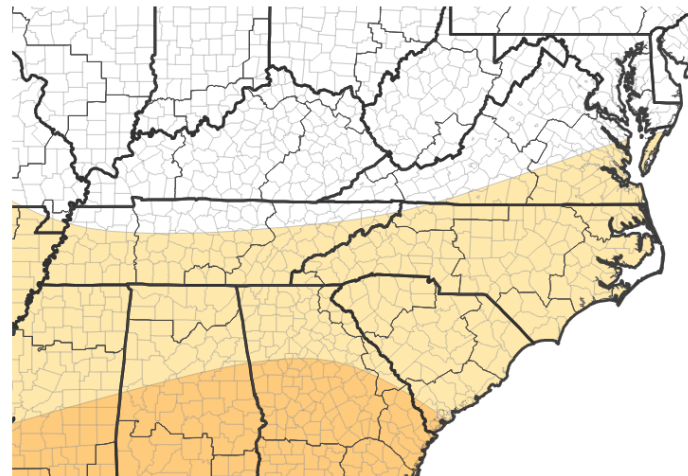
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

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Monthly Temperature Outlook for May 1, 2026–May 31, 2026



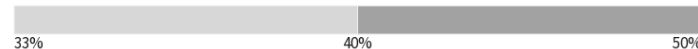
Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 04/16/26



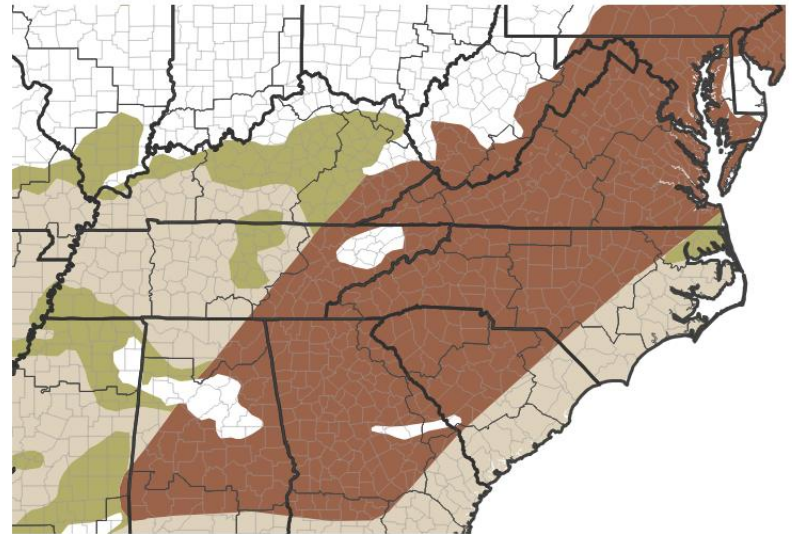


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought conditions are expected to persist across the southeast, including the NWS Morristown area.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for April 16, 2026–July 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

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Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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