

Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

Main Points

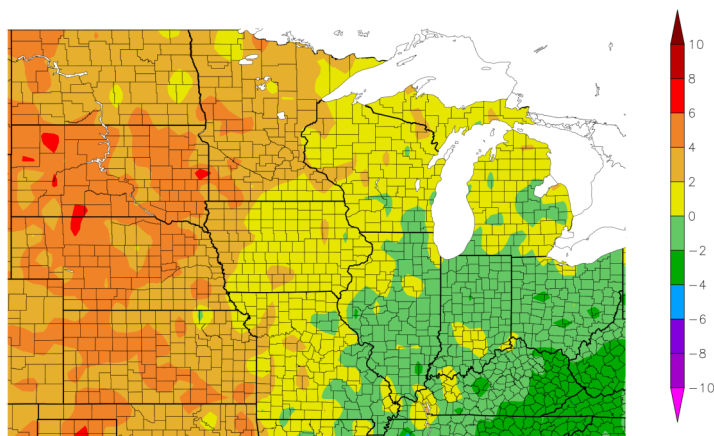


- ◆ Overall warmth and dryness is increasing the severity of drought and coverage across most of the central and western Corn Belt. Winter wheat and cover crop establishment could be affected. Overall dryness is also causing shipping problems on the Mississippi River because of low flows. Fire potential is also an issue.
- ◆ The overall pattern doesn't look to change much during at least October. Dry soils could be a problem entering winter and carrying over into spring in places.
- ◆ Crop progress continues with some delays in areas. Overall dry conditions will help crop dry-down and harvest activities. (The most recent crop maps were not available this week.)



Current Conditions

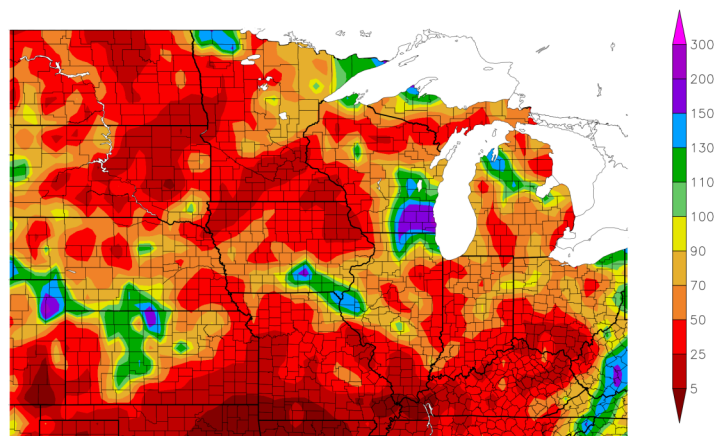
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/6/2022 – 10/5/2022



Generated 10/6/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/6/2022 – 10/5/2022



Generated 10/6/2022 at HPRCC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

A very strong temperature pattern has influenced the region over the last 30 days. Much warmer than average temperatures have dominated the west at 3-5 F above average. The pattern transitioned to the eastern Corn Belt where close to or slightly below average dominated from Illinois to Ohio. The precipitation pattern was more dominated by dry conditions with 70% of average and much worse common across the region. There were only a few isolated areas of wetter than average with nearly all below 130% of average. The additional heat would add to the evaporative demand from the atmosphere helping dry surface conditions more.

Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: [ACIS Climate Maps](https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/midwest). Generated: 10/6/2022.



Impacts

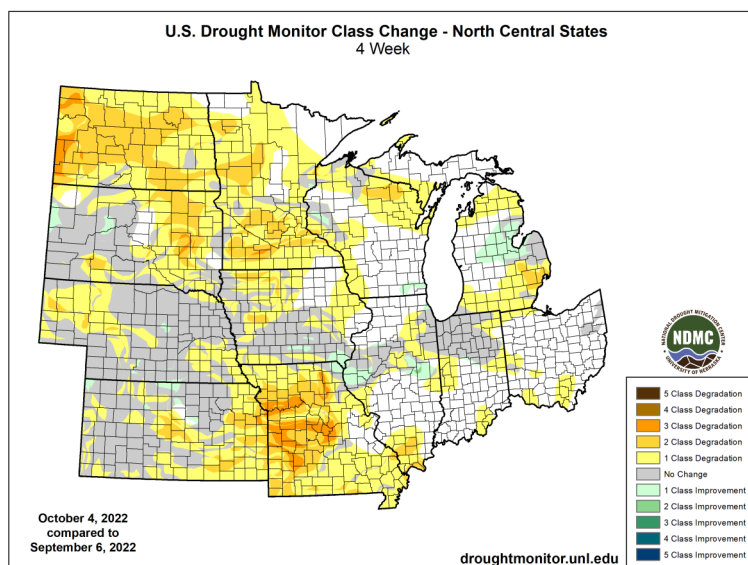
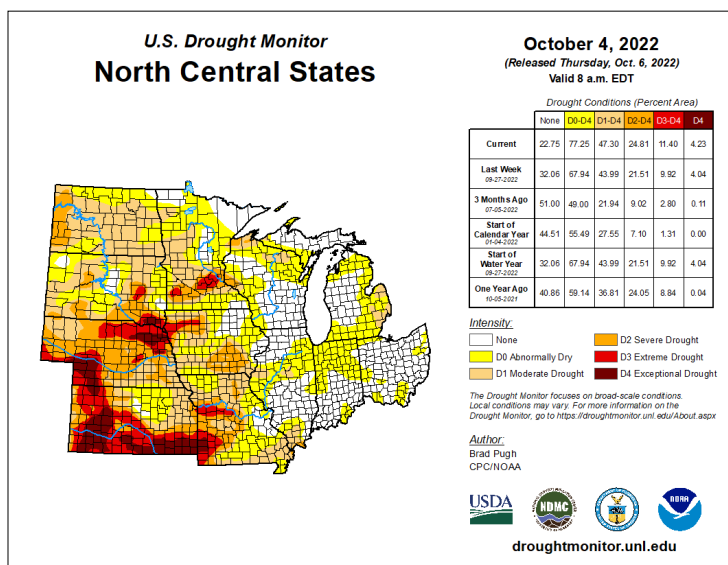
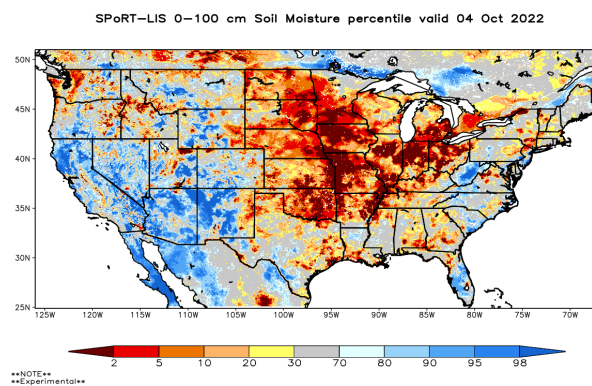
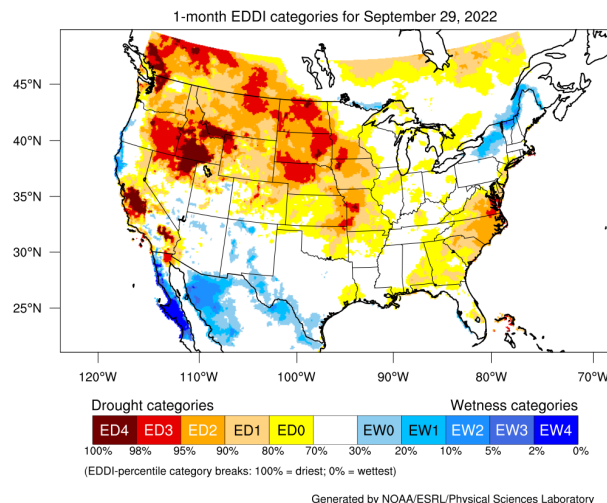
The overall warmth pushed crops toward maturity and helped with initial dry-down of early maturity crops. Freezing temperatures have reached some northern parts of the region ending the growing season in isolated spots. Sub-freezing temperatures in late September did likely damage some immature crops based on social media comments. Most crops are close to maturity.

The lack of precipitation and warmth did increase drought severity and coverage over much of the western part of the Corn Belt. Issues in the eastern Corn Belt are still relatively minor. Crops (corn, soybean and even sorghum) across the west (particularly in the Plains) did lose yield due to ongoing drought issues through the season. Widespread D2 (Severe Drought) and large chunks of D3 (Extreme) and D4 (Exceptional) Drought cover chunks of Nebraska and Kansas.

The drought conditions are reflected in soil moisture conditions also. The dryness will be mostly advantageous for harvest as crops will mature and dry more quickly. Excess dryness may be a problem with fires and crops drying too quickly in places. Dry soils could also be a problem for cover crop and winter wheat establishment. Winter wheat planting is continuing on pace.

Check out how your area is changing here:

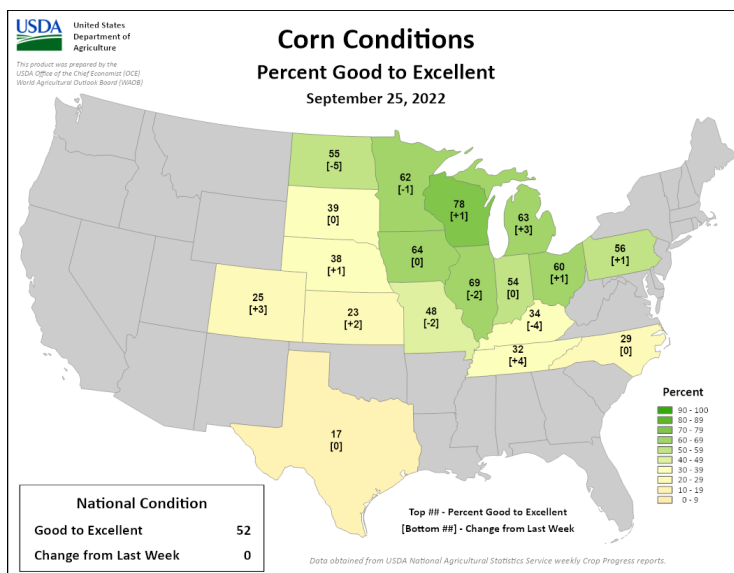
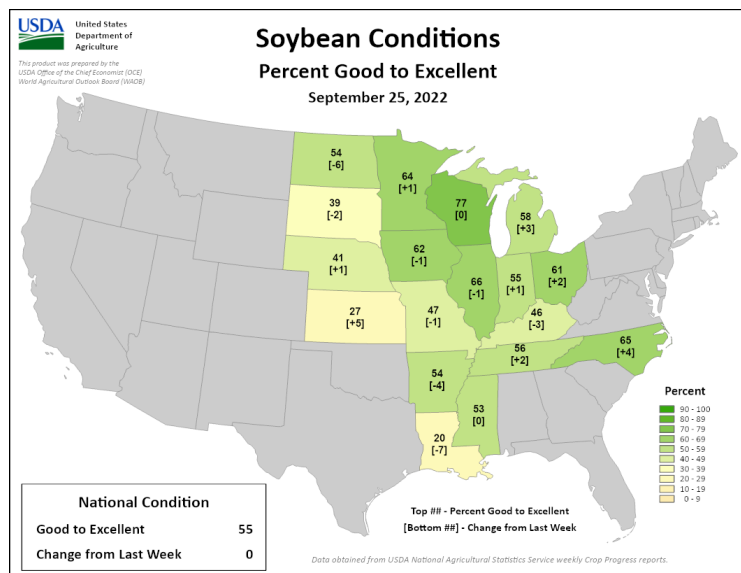
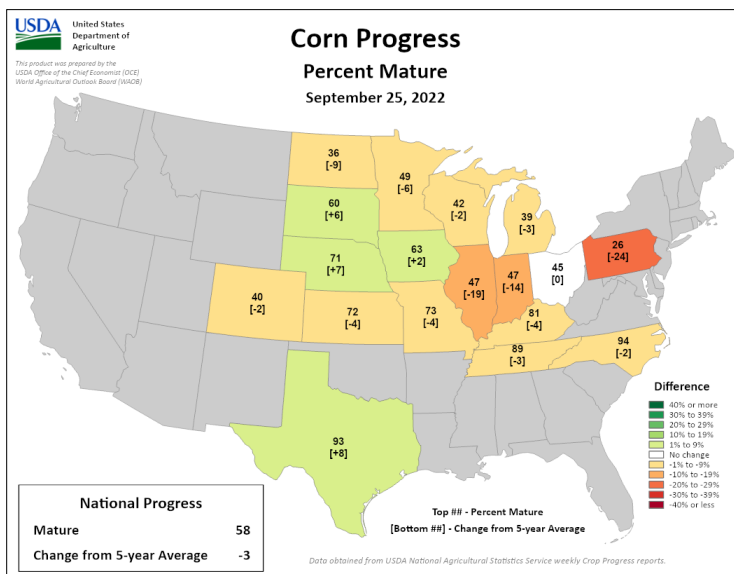
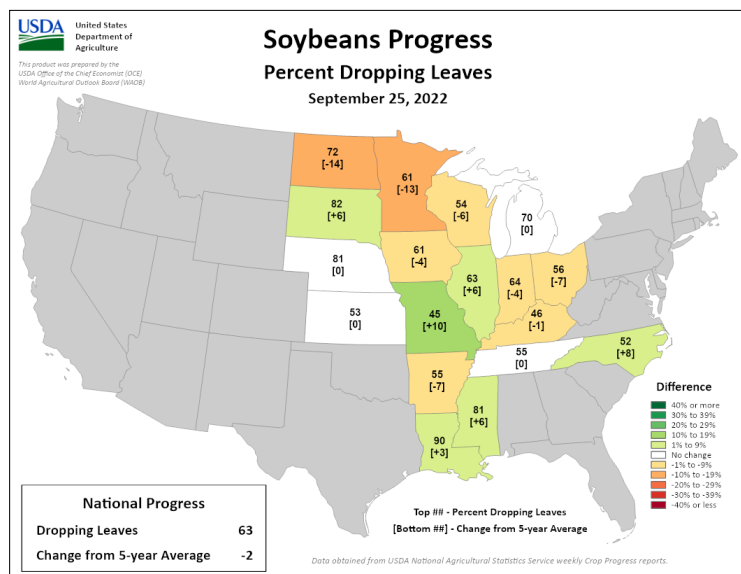
<https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/midwest/tools/exploring-historical-freeze-dates-midwest-and-northeast-regions>



Maps Generated by the [National Drought Mitigation Center](#), the [Short-term Prediction Research and Transition Center](#), and the [NOAA Physical Sciences Laboratory](#).



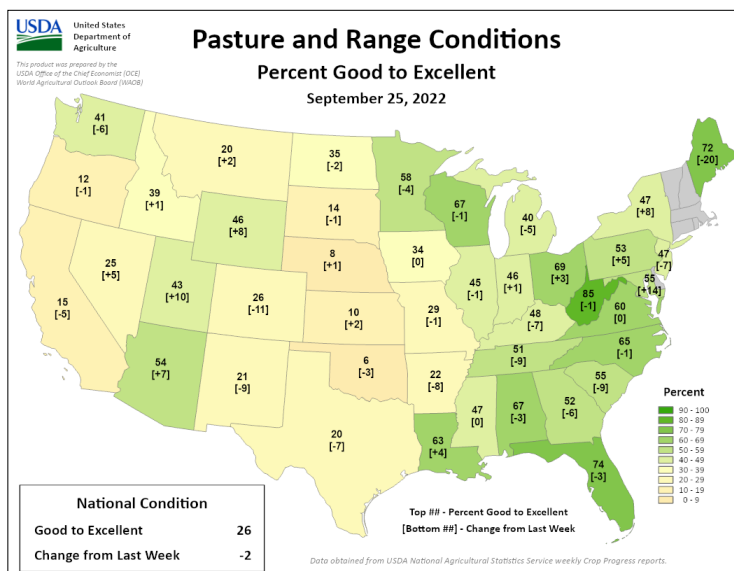
For more information, please visit:
<https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/midwest>



Outlook



The new 30 day outlooks from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center don't show much expected deviation from the current situation. Warmer than average is more likely over most of the region (except far east) during October. Somewhat more likely drier than average conditions are also more likely except for maybe near the Rockies. Some cold and addition freezing is possible over the eastern Corn Belt in the latter part of the first week of October. The La Niña influence continues in the longer range outlooks with warmer and drier more likely to the south of Iowa.



Maps Generated by the [National Agricultural Statistics Service](https://www.nationalagriculturalstatisticservice.gov/).

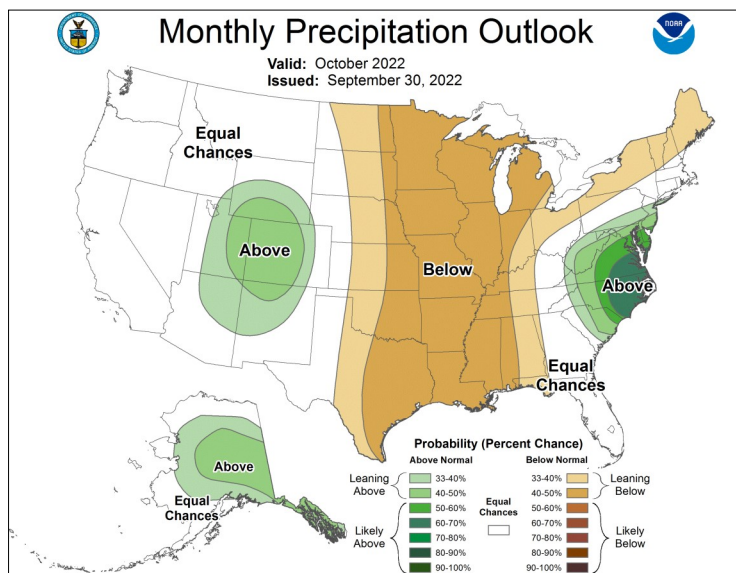
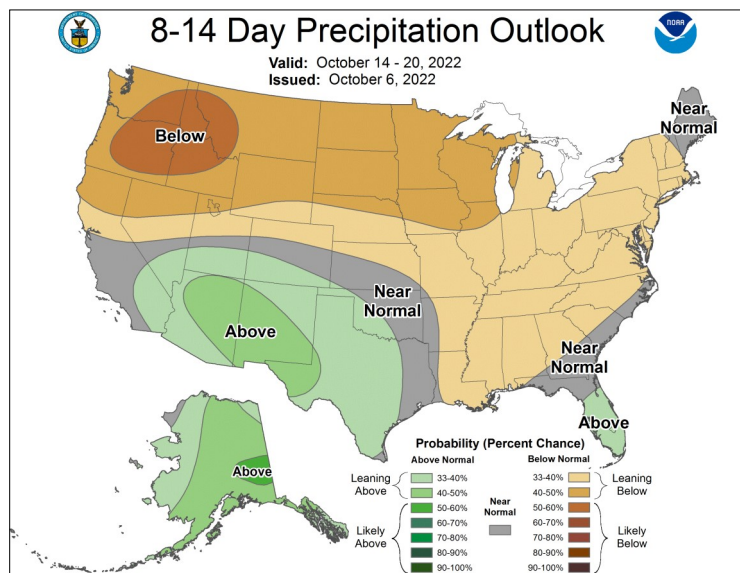
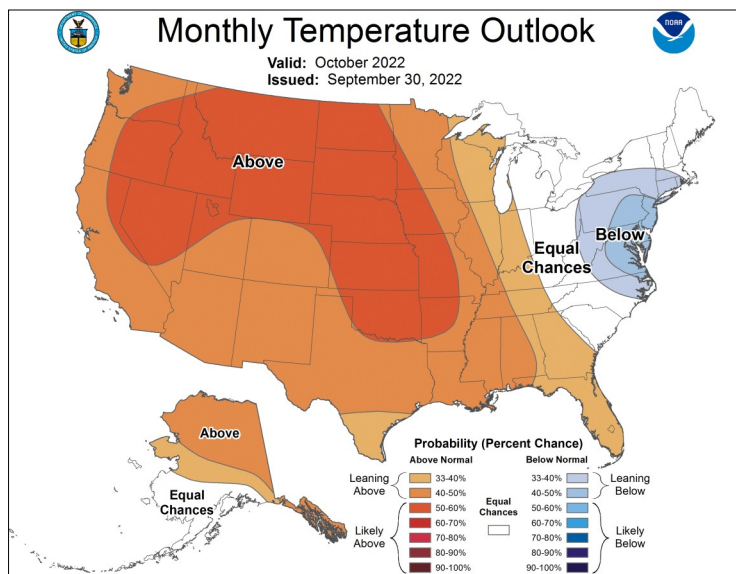
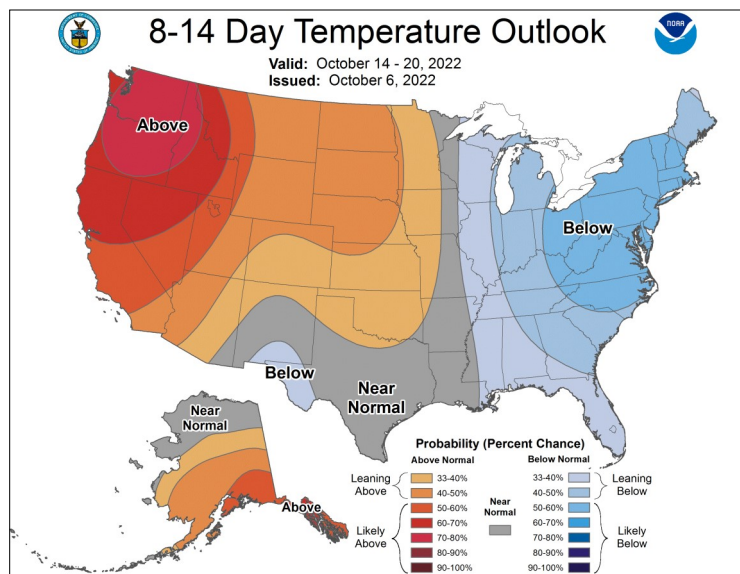


For more information, please visit:
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The impacts mentioned in the Impact section are likely to continue. Harvest should move along without much issue when crops are ready. Soils are dry enough that even some moderate precipitation would not slow harvest extensively. Dry soils and possible fire conditions (more west) are the big issue currently. Soil moisture recharge may be limited over much of the region.

Check the most recent outlooks here: <https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>



Outlooks provided by the [Climate Prediction Center](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/).

Partners and Contributors



[United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](https://www.usda.gov/)

[National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](https://www.noaa.gov/)

[Climate Prediction Center \(CPC\)](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/)

[National Weather Service \(NWS\)](https://www.weather.gov/)

[National Center for Environmental Information \(NCEI\)](https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/)

[National Drought Mitigation Center \(NDMC\)](https://www.ndmc.gov/)

[National Integrated Drought Information System \(NIDIS\)](https://www.nidis.gov/)

[Midwestern Regional Climate Center \(MRCC\)](https://www.mrcc.gov/)

[Midwest State Climatologists](https://www.msclimatology.org/)

[High Plains Regional Climate Center \(HPRCC\)](https://www.hprcc.gov/)



For More Information

Laurie Nowatzke, Coordinator
USDA Midwest Climate Hub
1015 N University Blvd., Ames, IA 50011
515-294-0213
laurie.nowatzke@usda.gov



For more information, please visit:
<https://www.climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/midwest>