



Drought Information Statement for Central Alabama

Valid November 2, 2023

Issued By: NWS Birmingham, AL

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

- This product will be updated Nov 9th, 2023 or as drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/bmx/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



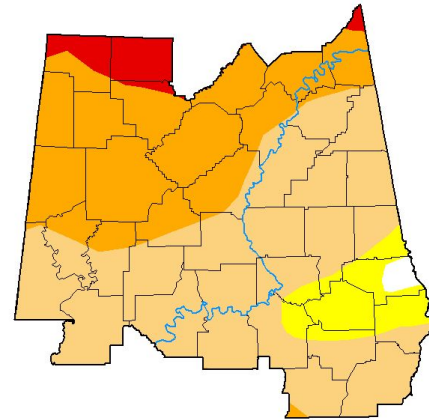


U.S. Drought Monitor

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

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - D4 Exceptional Drought: None currently.
 - D3 Extreme Drought: Now covers the extreme northwestern counties and the northern tip of Cherokee County.
 - D2 Severe Drought: Extends across much of the I-59 corridor and points northward. This includes Tuscaloosa, Birmingham and Gadsden.
 - D1 covers most points south of I-59.
 - D0 is now only limited to areas near and along I-85 with a very small area of no drought in eastern Lee county.
- More dry weather is forecast this month
 - The next chance of any heavier rainfall will be possible around the end of the second week of November.

U.S. Drought Monitor Birmingham, AL WFO



October 31, 2023
(Released Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	0.79	7.62	53.01	34.32	4.26	0.00
Last Week 10-24-2023	0.81	18.70	46.87	33.44	0.18	0.00
3 Months Ago 08-01-2023	87.55	12.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2023	54.09	31.80	14.10	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-26-2023	38.73	58.48	2.79	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 10-01-2022	35.10	47.69	17.20	0.00	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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National Drought Mitigation Center



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor valid 9 am CDT Nov 2, 2023.





Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Worsened: Over much of central Alabama and especially over the northern half.
 - No Change: Persistent drought has been more common in the southern locations.
 - Drought Improved: A slight area of improvement was noted in parts of Lee and Russell counties due to a heavy rain event in middle October.

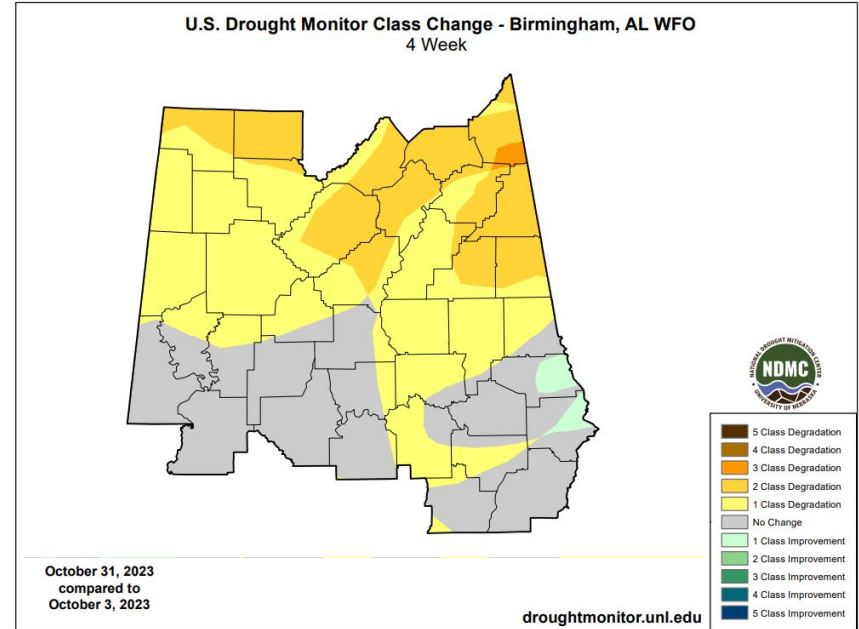


Image Caption: U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 9 am CDT Nov 2, 2023





Precipitation

Last 30 days

- Isolated to scattered rains of generally less than 1" have fallen in the last 30 days.
- Much of the area is from 1 to 3 inches below normal over this period. The exception being near the I-85 locations where a heavy rainfall event occurred earlier in October.

November 02, 2023 30-Day Departure Precipitation

Created on: November 02, 2023 - 14:46 UTC

Valid on: November 02, 2023 12:00 UTC

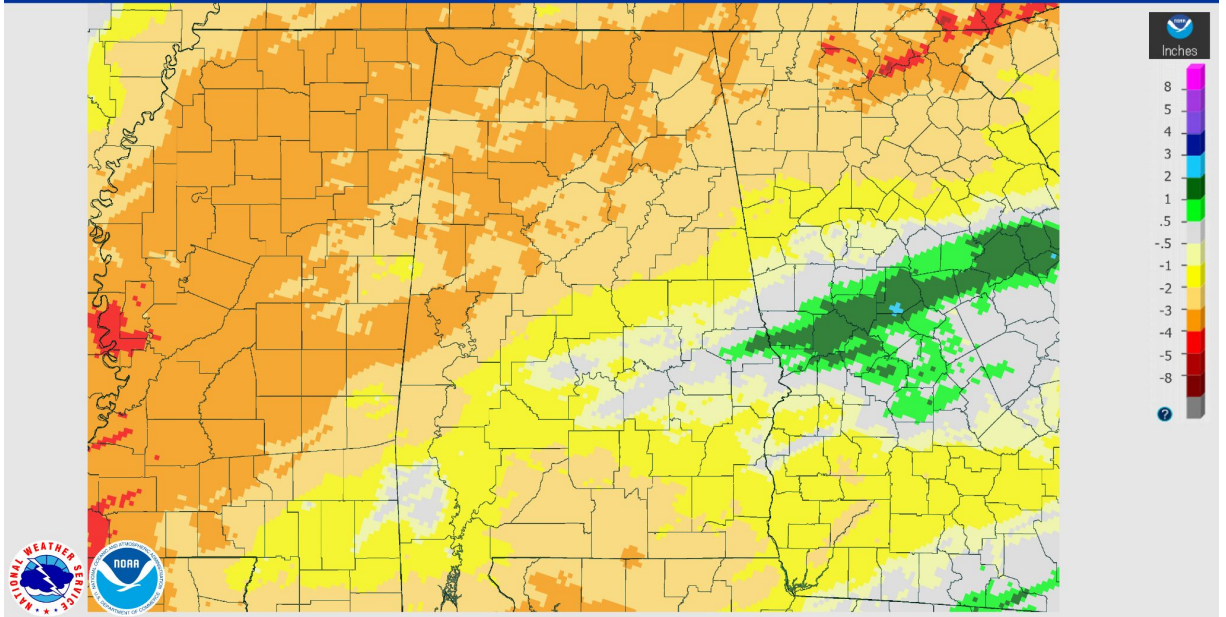


Image Captions:

Map - [Departure from normal map for Alabama](#)

Data Courtesy Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS)

Data over the past 30 days ending November 2, 2023



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Birmingham, AL



Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows remain below to much below normal across most basins in the region, and have worsened over the past two weeks. See next slide for more details

Agricultural Impacts

- Please see the latest [Crop Report](#) from the USDA.
- Soil Moistures have continued to decrease over the past 14 days with much of the area showing below normal soil moisture. Crop moistures remain significantly dry.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Wildfire activity has continued to increase and above normal wildfire activity is expected to continue through the first half of November.
- See slides 8 and 9 for more details

Other Impacts

- None

Drought Mitigation Actions

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





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows over the past 7 days show a mix of near normal to below normal streamflows as waterways have not been replenished from rainfall over the past week.
- Click the link the right for a full map and legend to the image provided.

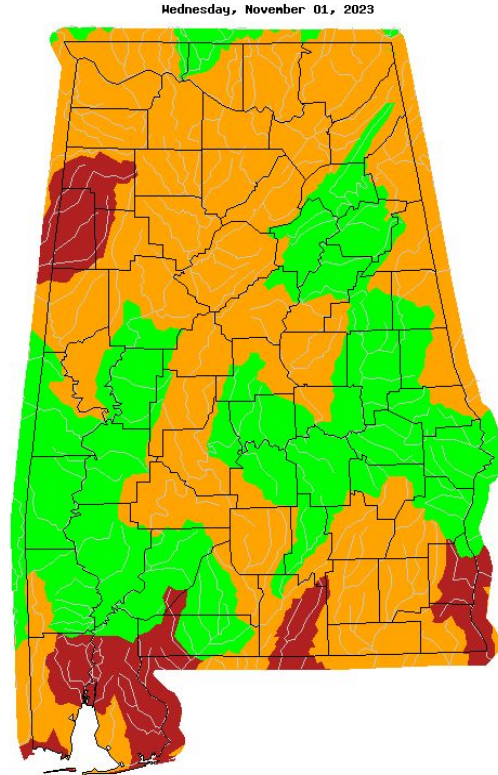


Figure Caption: [USGS 7 day streamflows for Alabama](#), valid Nov 2, 2023

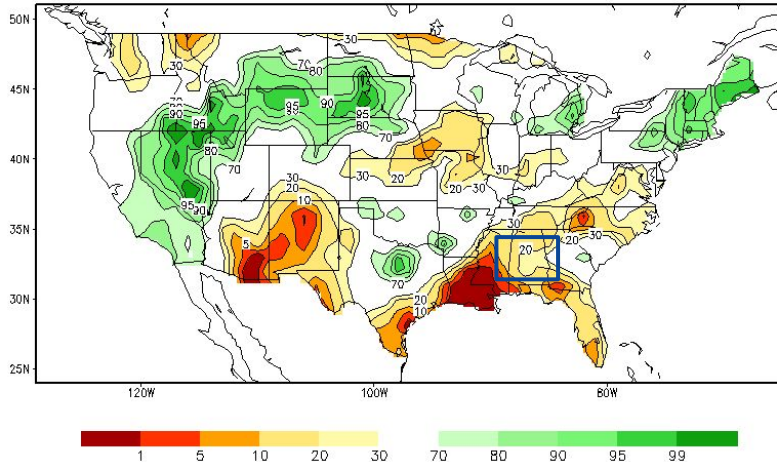




Agricultural Impacts

- Soil Moistures have continued to decrease over the past 14 days with much of the area showing below normal soil moisture. Thus far, the dry weather has prevented planting of winter crops. However, cotton, peanut and soybean harvest are ahead of averages.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
NOV 01, 2023



Crop Progress for Week Ending 10/29/23

Crop stage	Prev year (percent)	Prev week (percent)	This week (percent)	5 Year avg (percent)
Cotton - Bolls Opening.....	99	94	97	96
Cotton - Harvested.....	57	41	53	48
Peanuts - Dug.....	89	82	88	87
Peanuts - Harvested.....	79	72	79	74
Soybeans - Harvested.....	74	56	69	61
Winter Wheat - Planted.....	30	20	34	22
Winter Wheat - Emerged....	1	NA	1	2

(NA) Not Available

Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) valid November 1, 2023

Above: [Crop Progress Report](#). Weekly value for period ending October 29, 2023





Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- [Keetch Byram Drought Index values](#) have increased above 400 across the entire area, and are as high as 600+ across over much of the area.
- Above normal wildland fire activity has been observed over the past several weeks, and outlooks suggest this will continue into December.

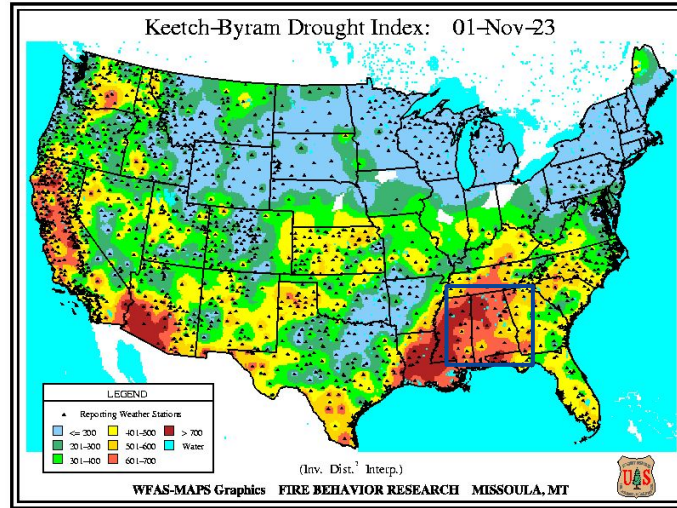


Image caption: National KBDI image

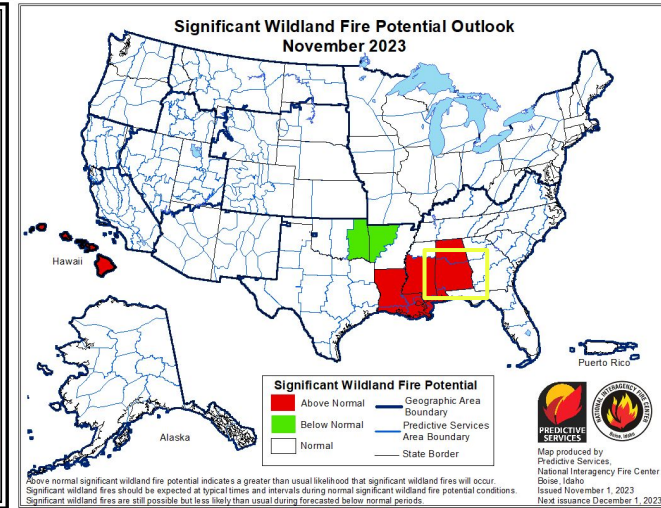


Image Caption: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for October 2023





Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Alabama Forestry Commission](#)

- In response to the current drought conditions, the Alabama Forestry Commission has issued a Fire Alert for all 67 counties in the state.
- In the 32 northern counties, no burn permits will be issued.
- In the remainder counties, one day permits are available to certified prescribed burn managers.
- Click the link above for more information.



Image caption: Alabama Fire Alert burn restriction image





Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Little to no rainfall is forecast in central Alabama over the coming week.
- The next potential rainfall will be possible the second week of November

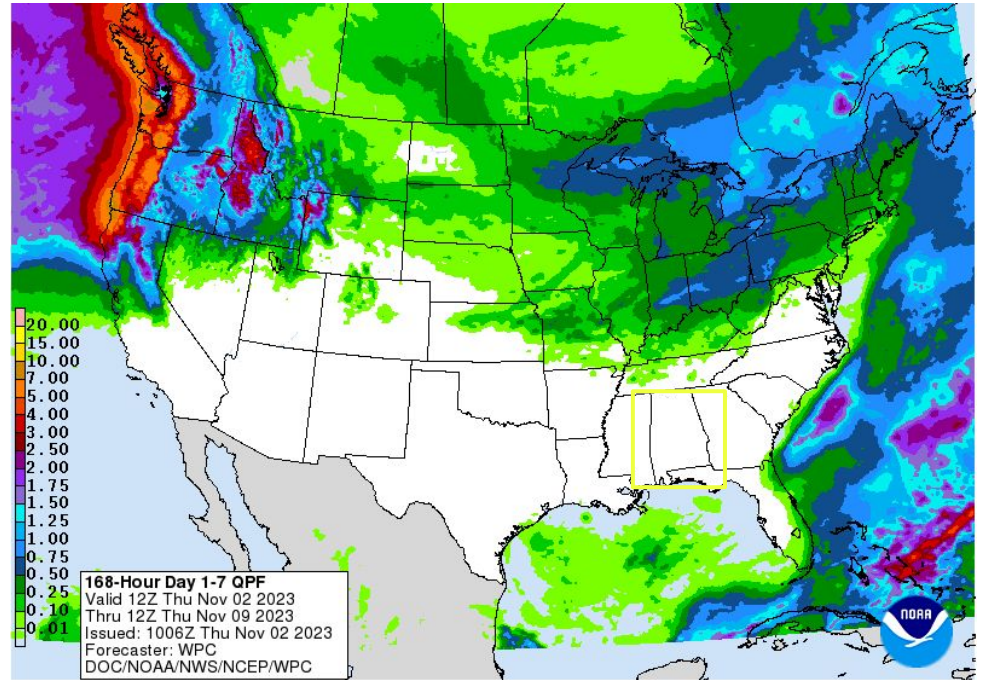


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Friday April 21 to Friday April 28





Long-Range Outlooks

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

- Above normal temperatures are likely to continue on average through the month of November.
- A change in the overall weather pattern is expected later this fall. However, the timing of this change is still uncertain. When this happens, it should bring an increased chance of precipitation to the area.

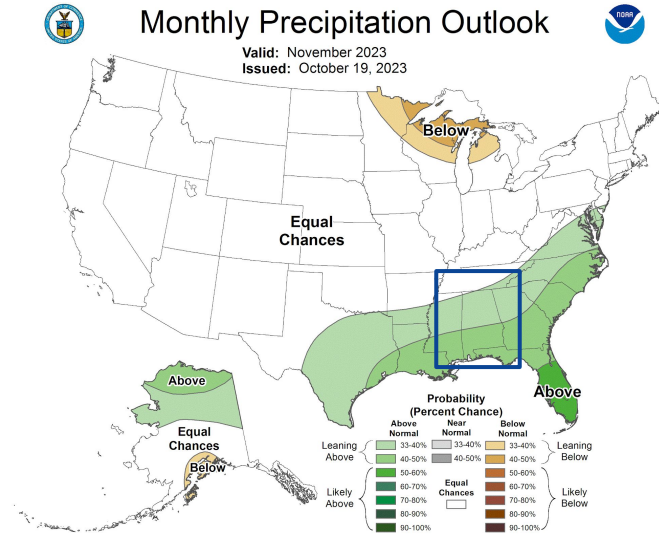
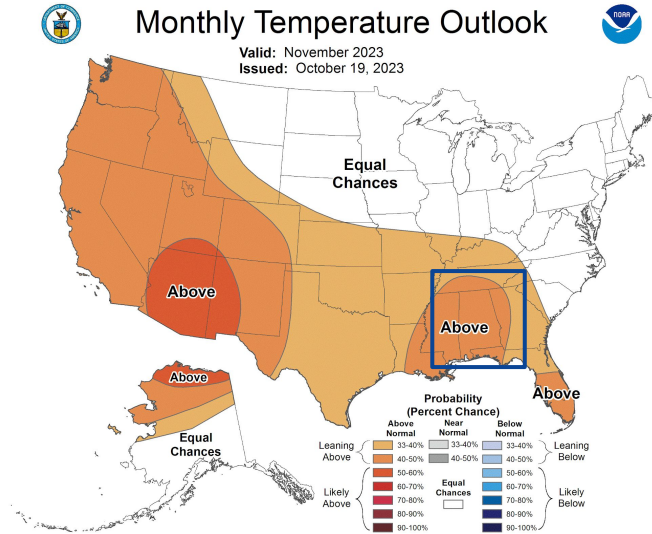


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook](#),

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook](#),

Valid November 2023





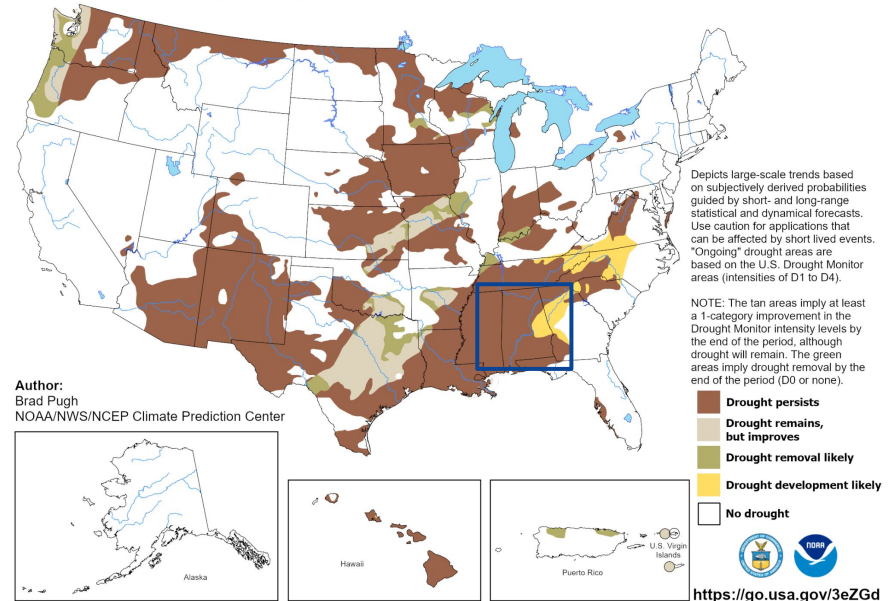
Drought Outlook

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

- Drought will persist throughout all of Alabama for the next several weeks.
- Drought impacts are expected to worsen as long as the current weather pattern holds.

U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for November 2023
Released October 31, 2023



Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

Image Caption:

Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook Released October 30, 2023 valid for November 2023



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

National Weather Service
Birmingham, AL