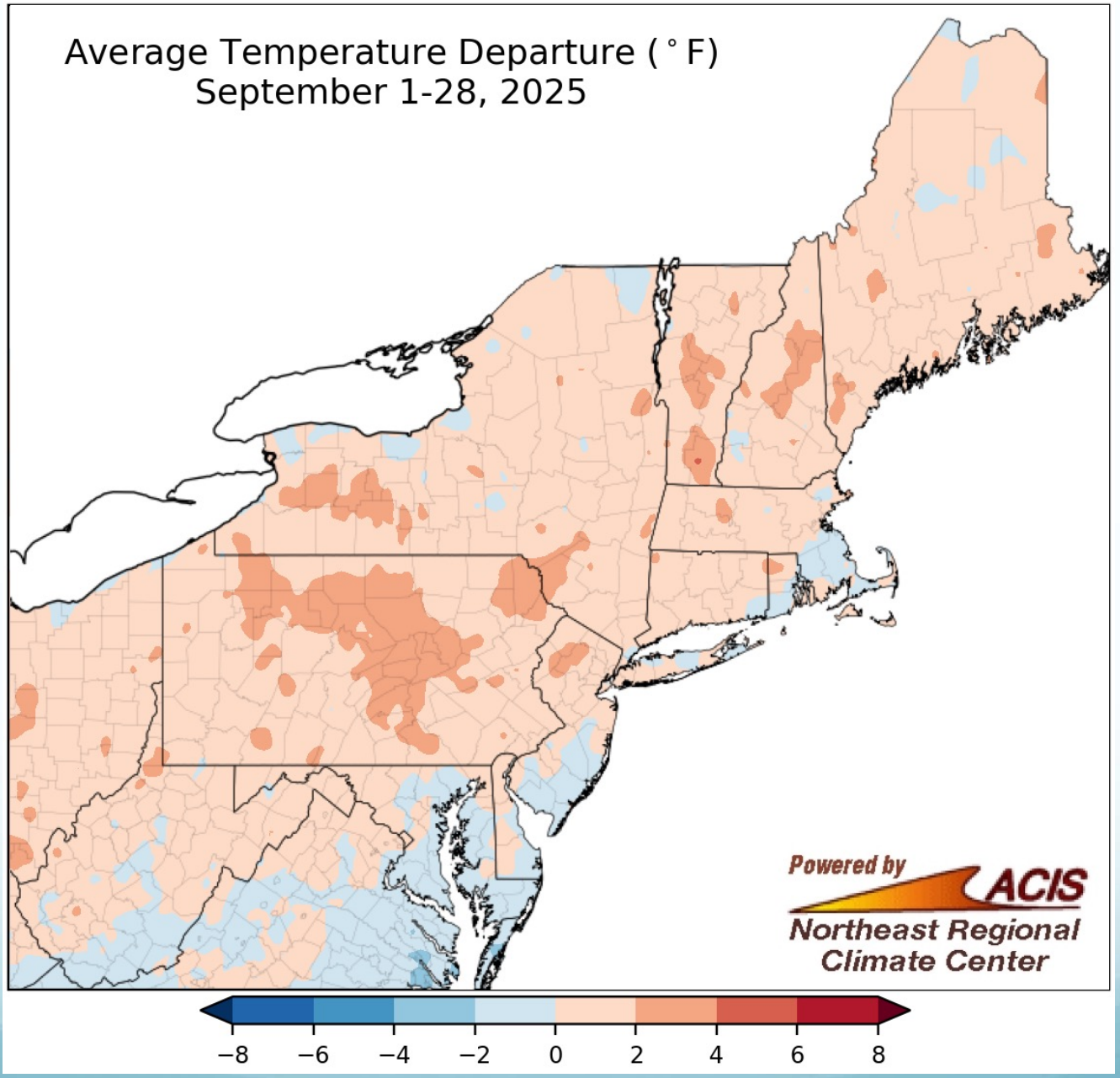
September Recap & Northeast DEWS Discussion

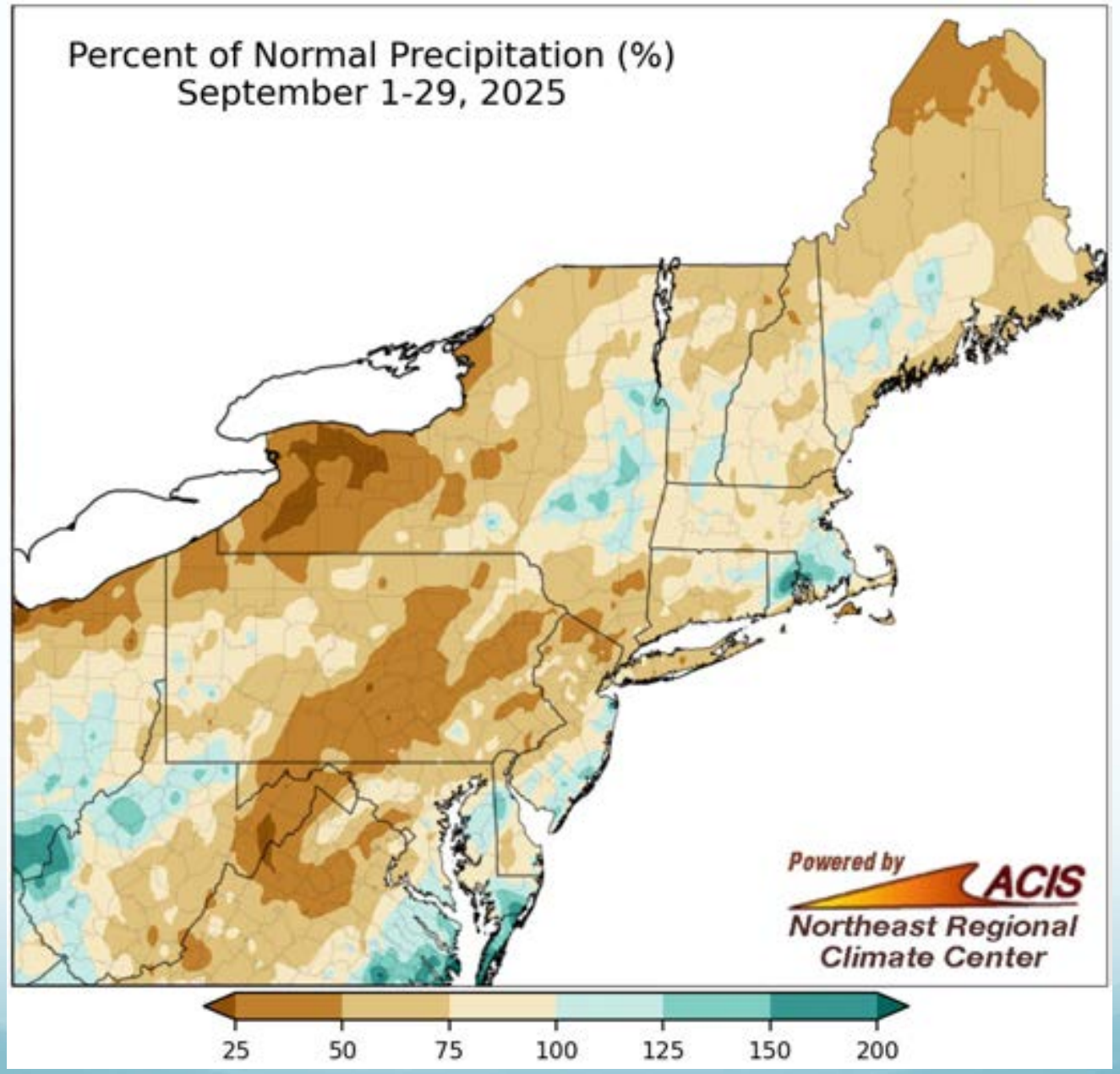
By: Samantha Borisoff, Climatologist
Northeast Regional Climate Center

September Temperatures



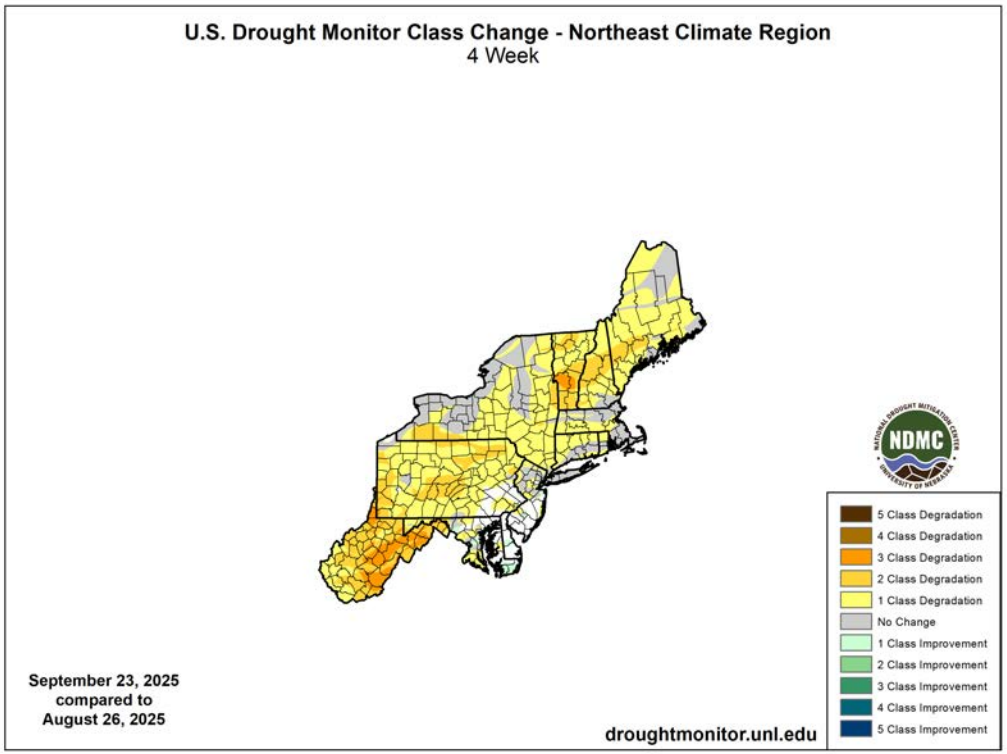
From 2°F below normal to 4°F above normal

September Precipitation



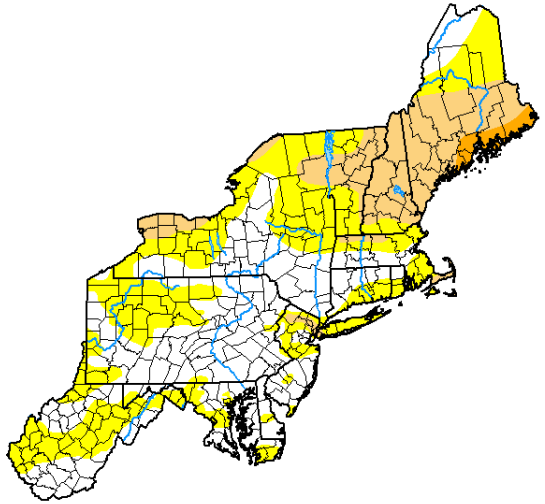
From less than 25% of normal to 200% of normal

Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor

Northeast



August 26, 2025

(Released Thursday, Aug. 28, 2025)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	41.77	38.23	18.25	1.75	0.00	0.00
Last Week 08-19-2025	46.18	39.88	12.82	1.13	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 05-27-2025	88.56	6.74	4.54	0.16	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	33.83	32.27	24.14	8.39	1.37	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	45.94	34.77	9.37	4.97	4.27	0.67
One Year Ago 08-27-2024	77.85	6.85	3.09	7.28	4.25	0.69

Intensity:

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

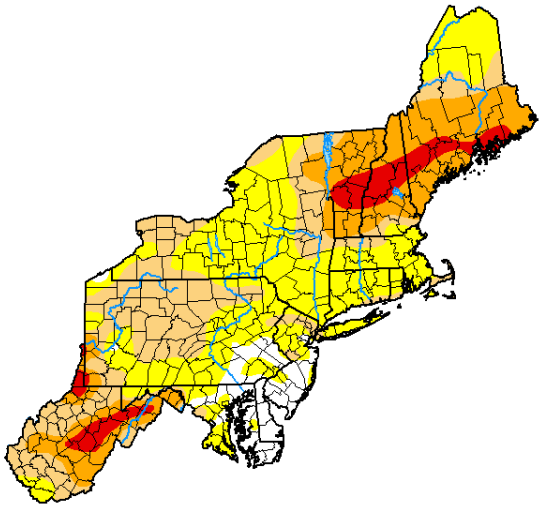
Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture

USDA NDMC NOAA

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor

Northeast



September 23, 2025

(Released Thursday, Sep. 25, 2025)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	7.19	39.42	27.37	19.42	6.60	0.00
Last Week 09-16-2025	18.89	36.78	21.81	19.66	2.87	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-24-2025	96.64	2.62	0.74	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	33.83	32.27	24.14	8.39	1.37	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	45.94	34.77	9.37	4.97	4.27	0.67
One Year Ago 09-24-2024	40.98	39.15	6.94	3.57	7.37	1.98

Intensity:

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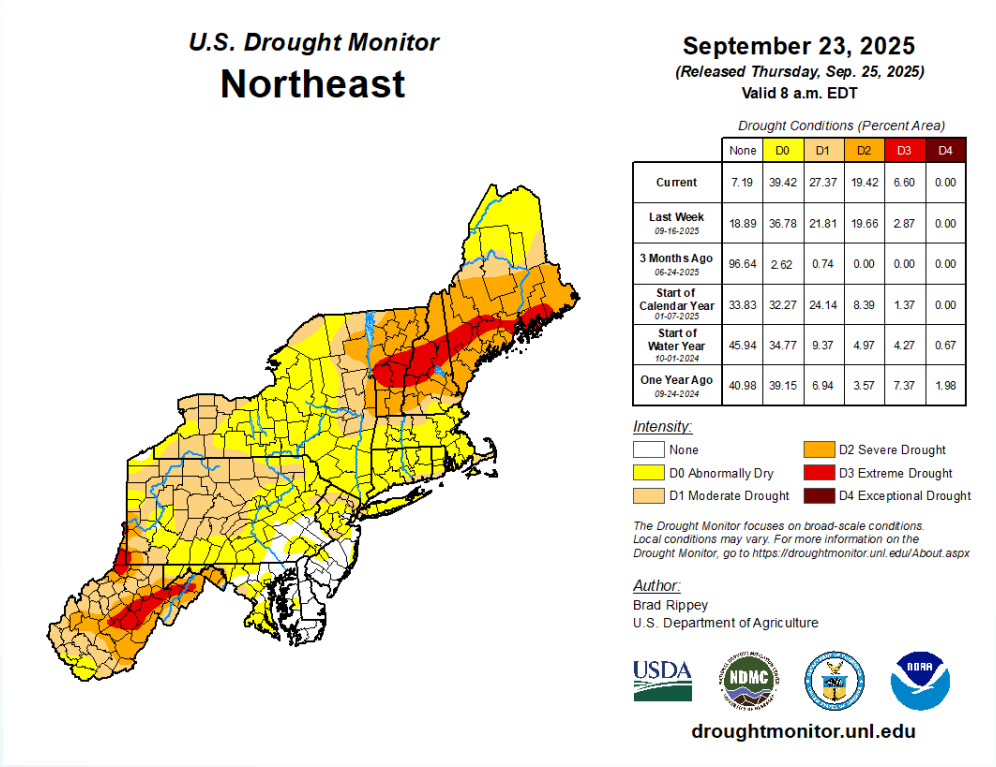
Drought Monitor



Since the U.S. Drought Monitor began in 2000:

- Vermont - first time for extreme drought and its highest coverage of severe drought
- New Hampshire – its highest coverage of extreme drought
- New York – third highest coverage of abnormally dry or worse conditions

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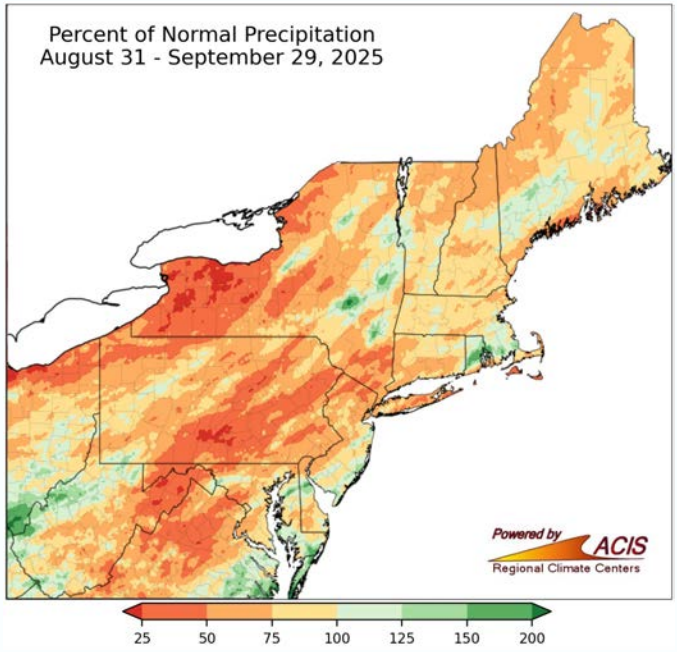
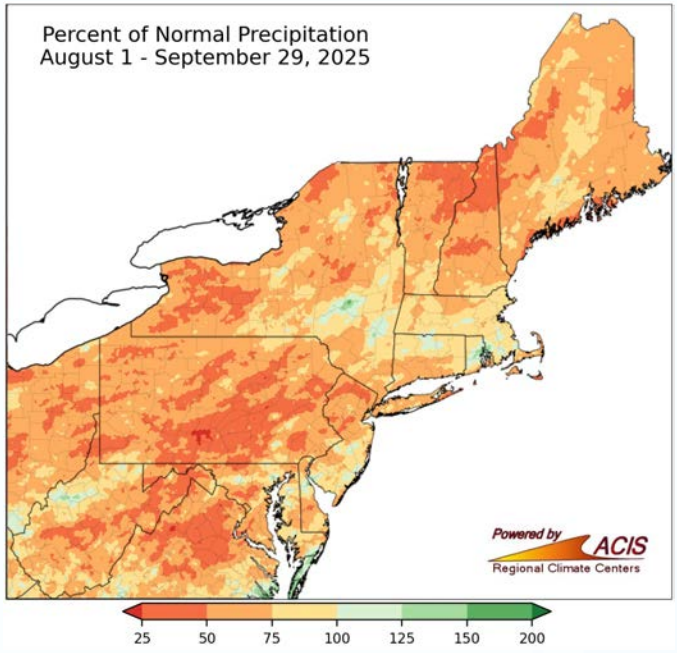
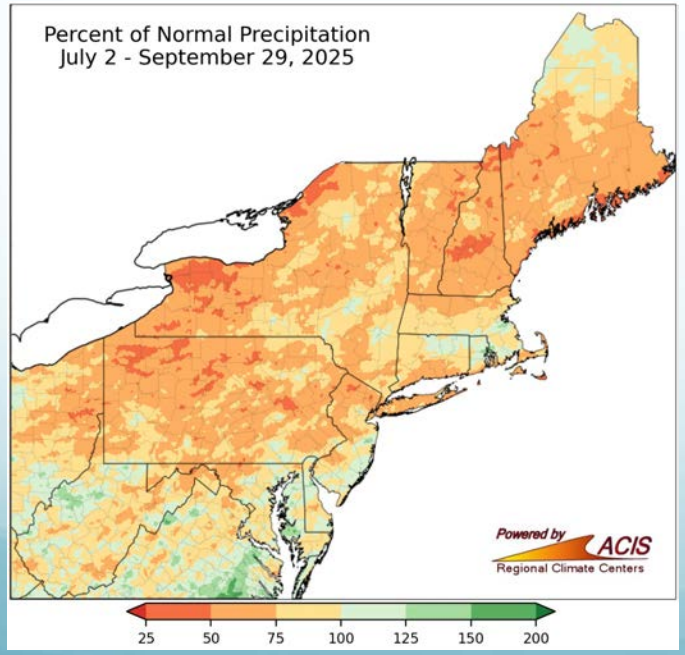
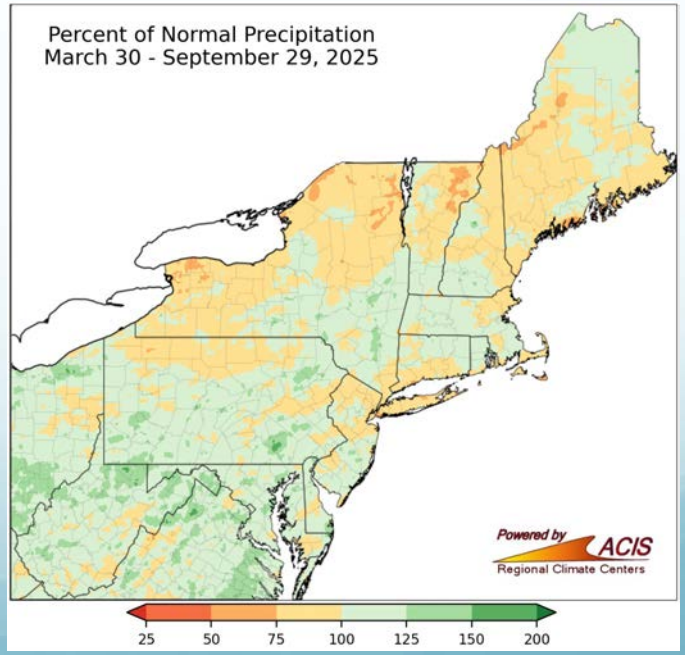
Precipitation

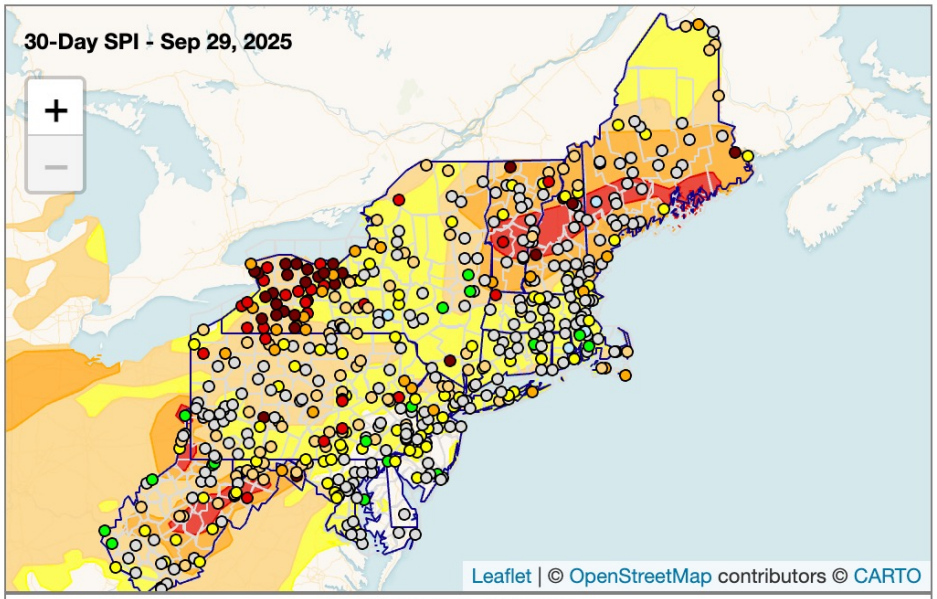






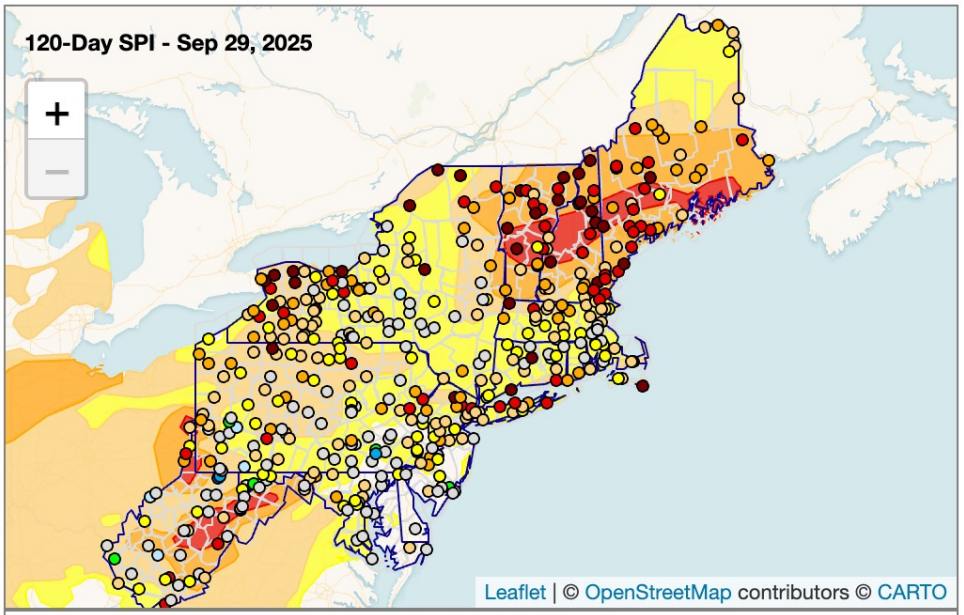


Standardized Precipitation Index



Explanation - SPI Levels										
D4: <-2.0	D3: -2.0 to -1.6	D2: -1.6 to -1.3	D1: -1.3 to -0.8	D0: -0.8 to -0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 0.8	0.8 to 1.3	1.3 to 1.6	1.6 to 2.0	>2.0

Data provided by Northeast Regional Climate Center. Powered by ACIS.



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D4: <-2.0	D3: -2.0 to -1.6	D2: -1.6 to -1.3	D1: -1.3 to -0.8	D0: -0.8 to -0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 0.8	0.8 to 1.3	1.3 to 1.6	1.6 to 2.0	>2.0

Data provided by Northeast Regional Climate Center. Powered by ACIS.

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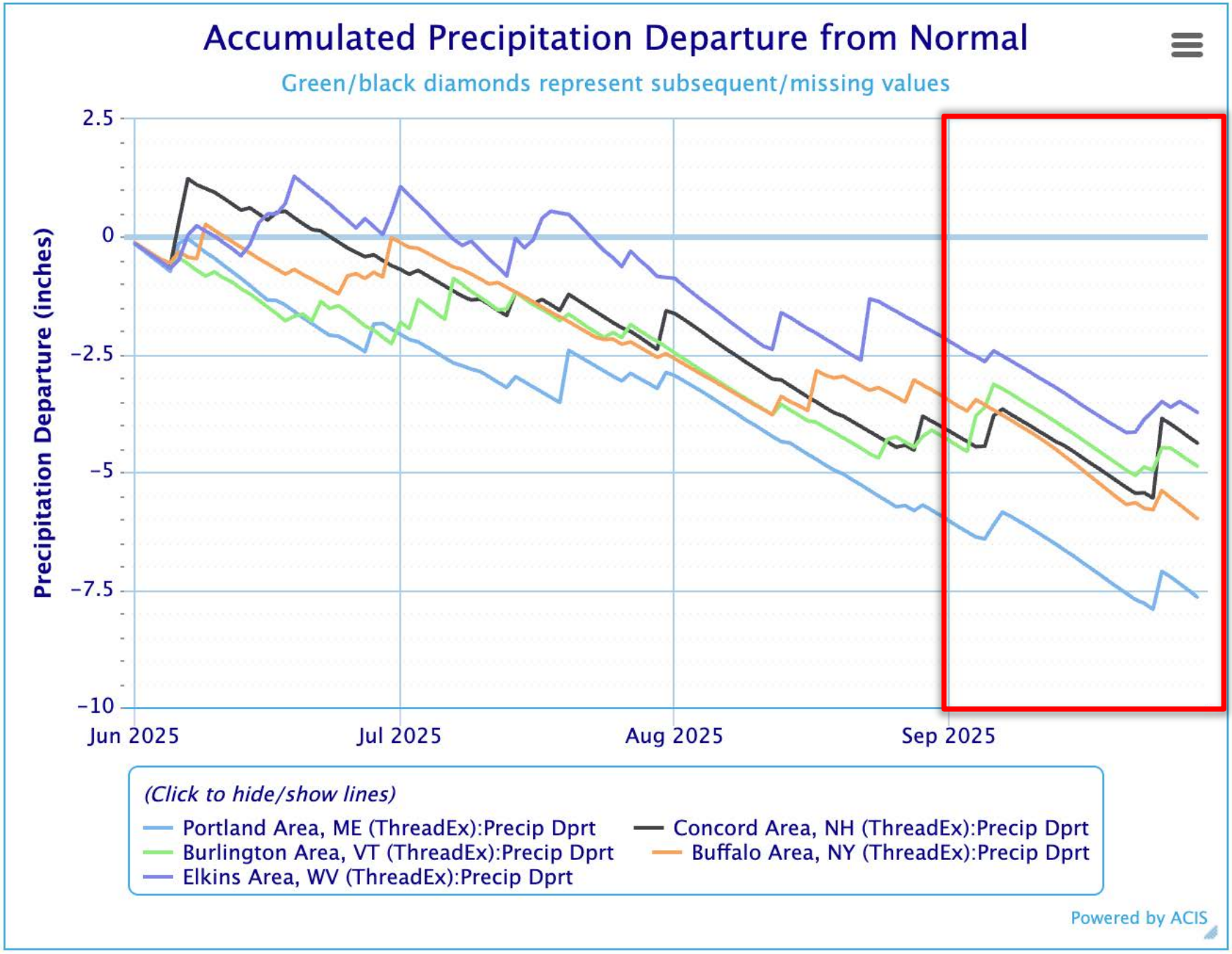
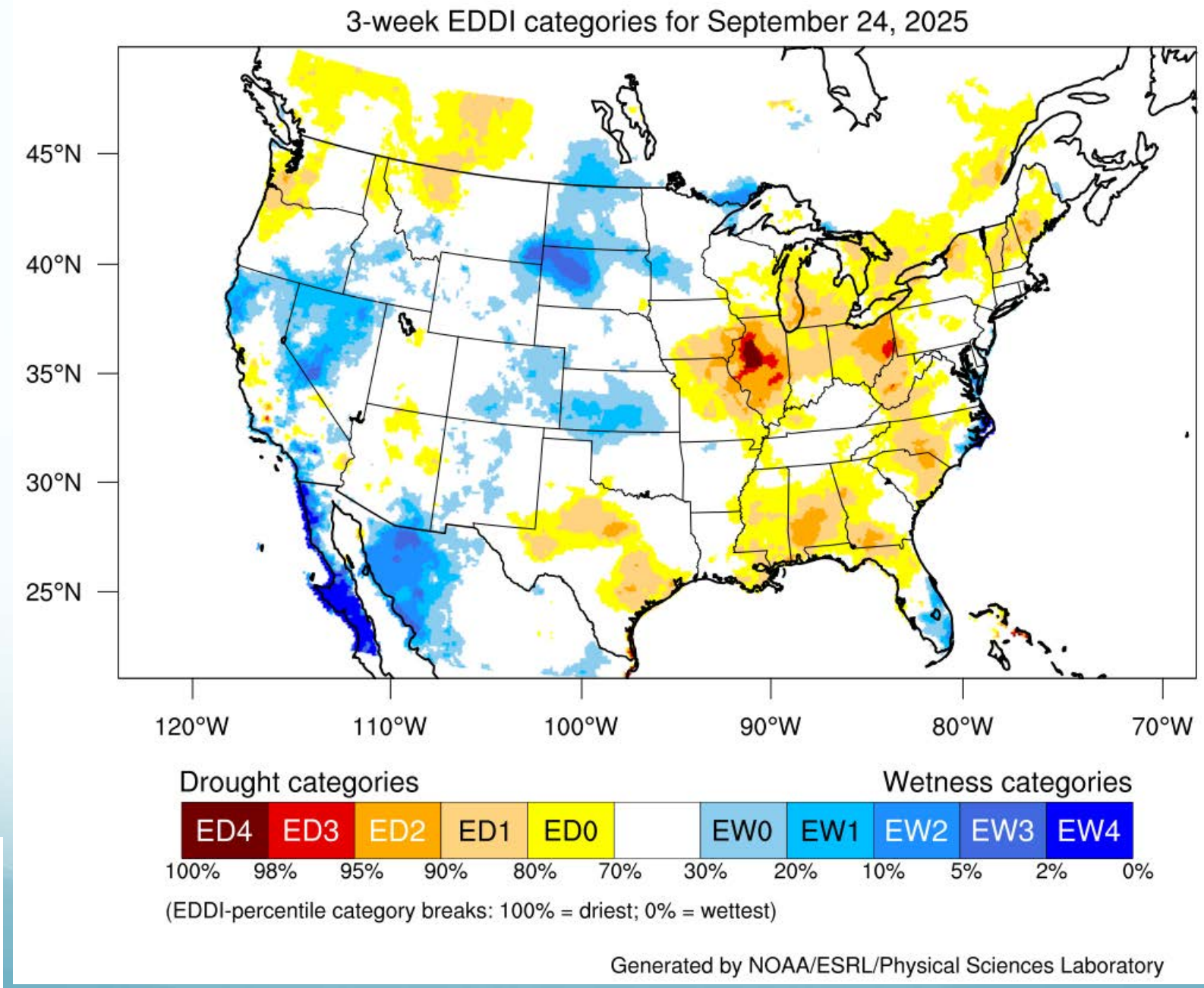
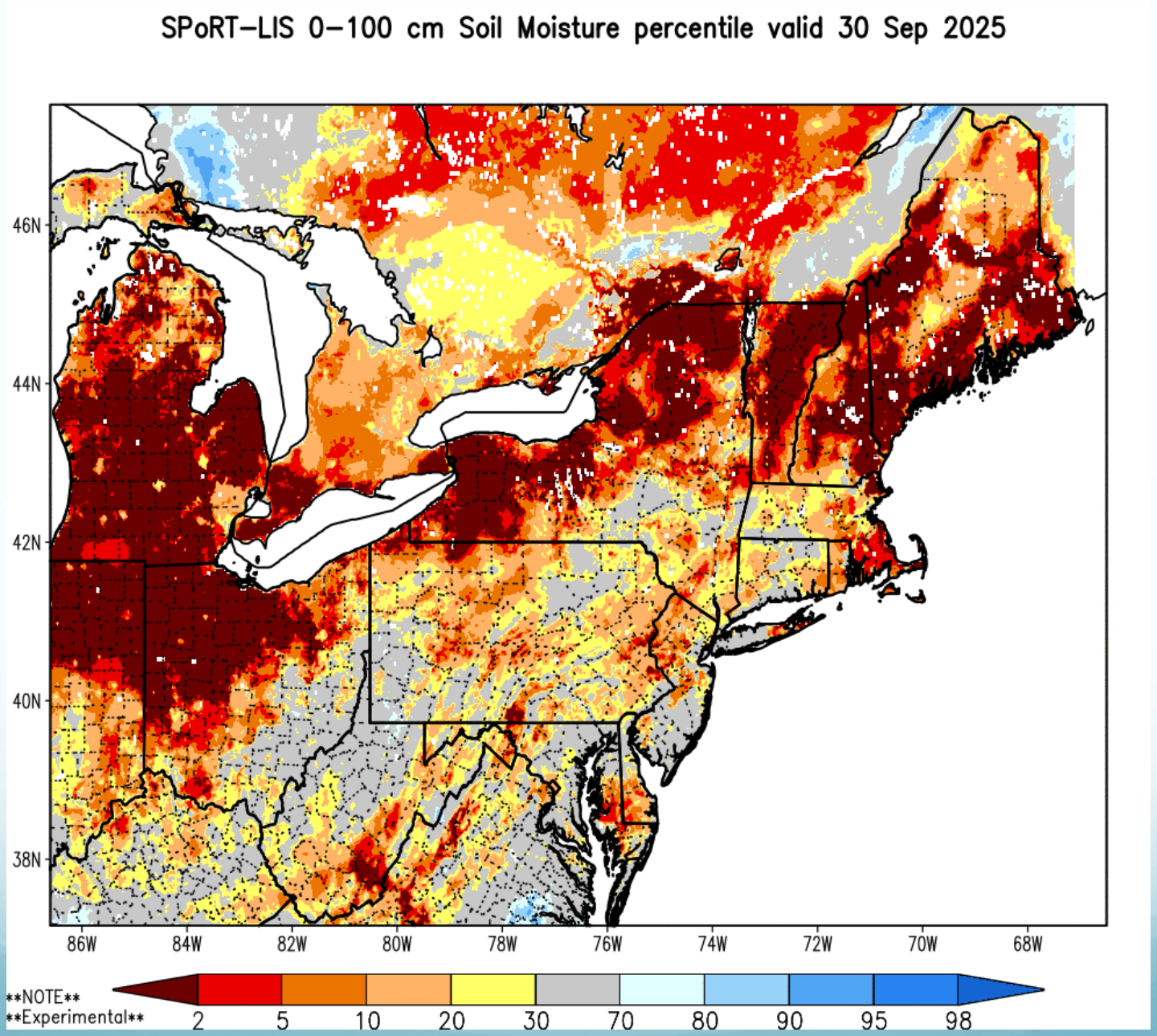
Precipitation



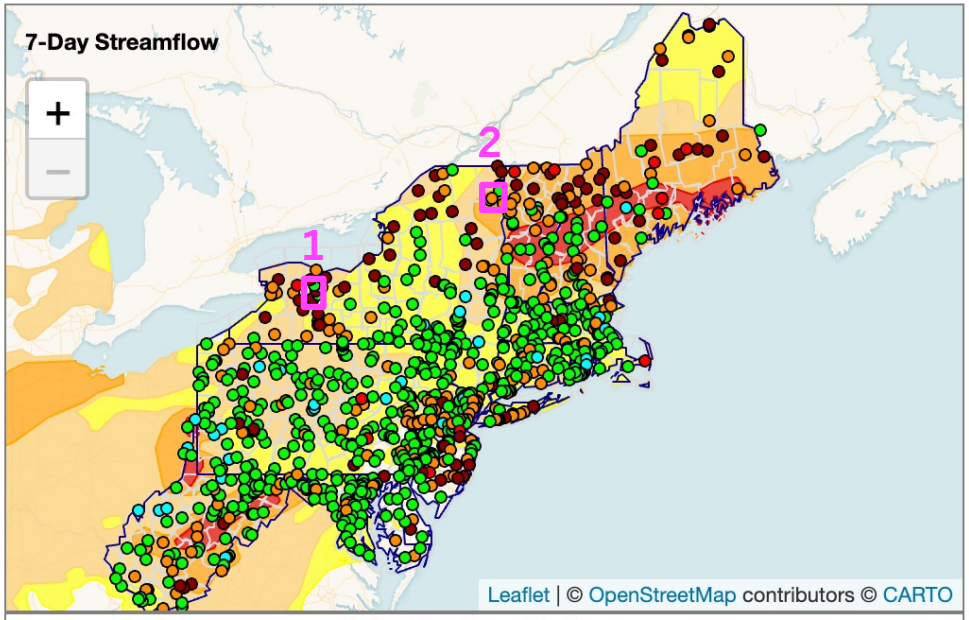
Evap. Demand Drought Index



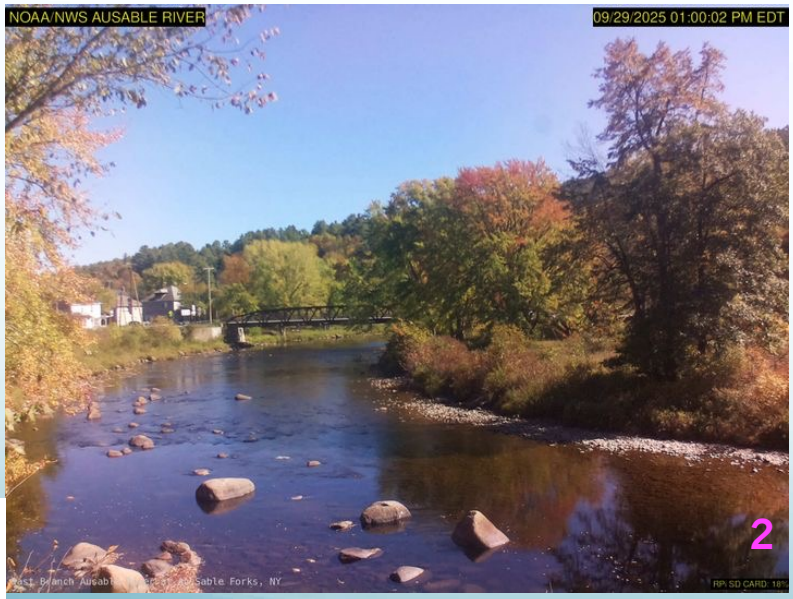
Soil Moisture

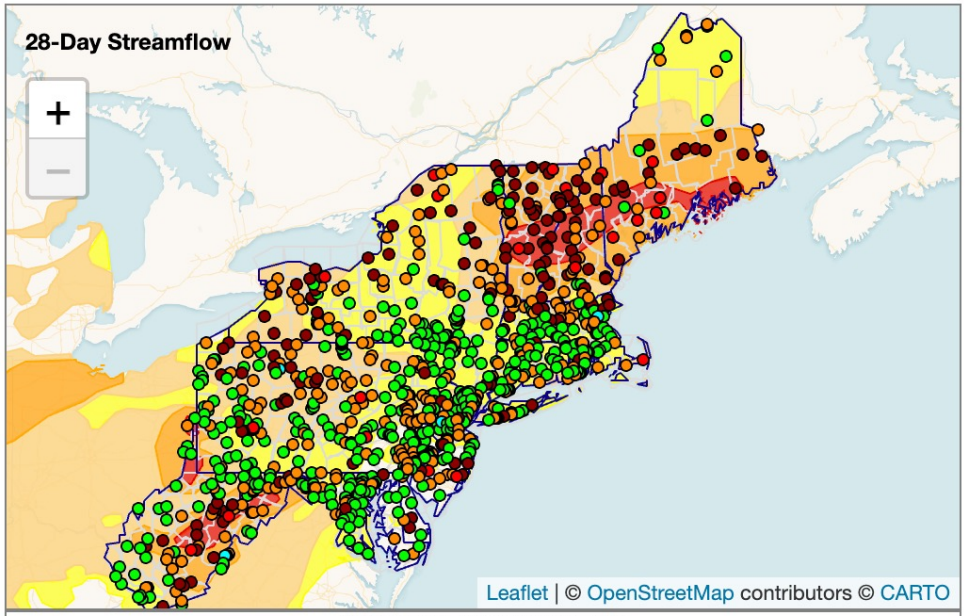


Streamflow



Explanation - Percentile Classes						
Low	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	High
	<10%	10-24%	25-75%	76-90%	>90%	
Data provided by USGS WaterWatch - Streamflow; updated 2025-09-29.						





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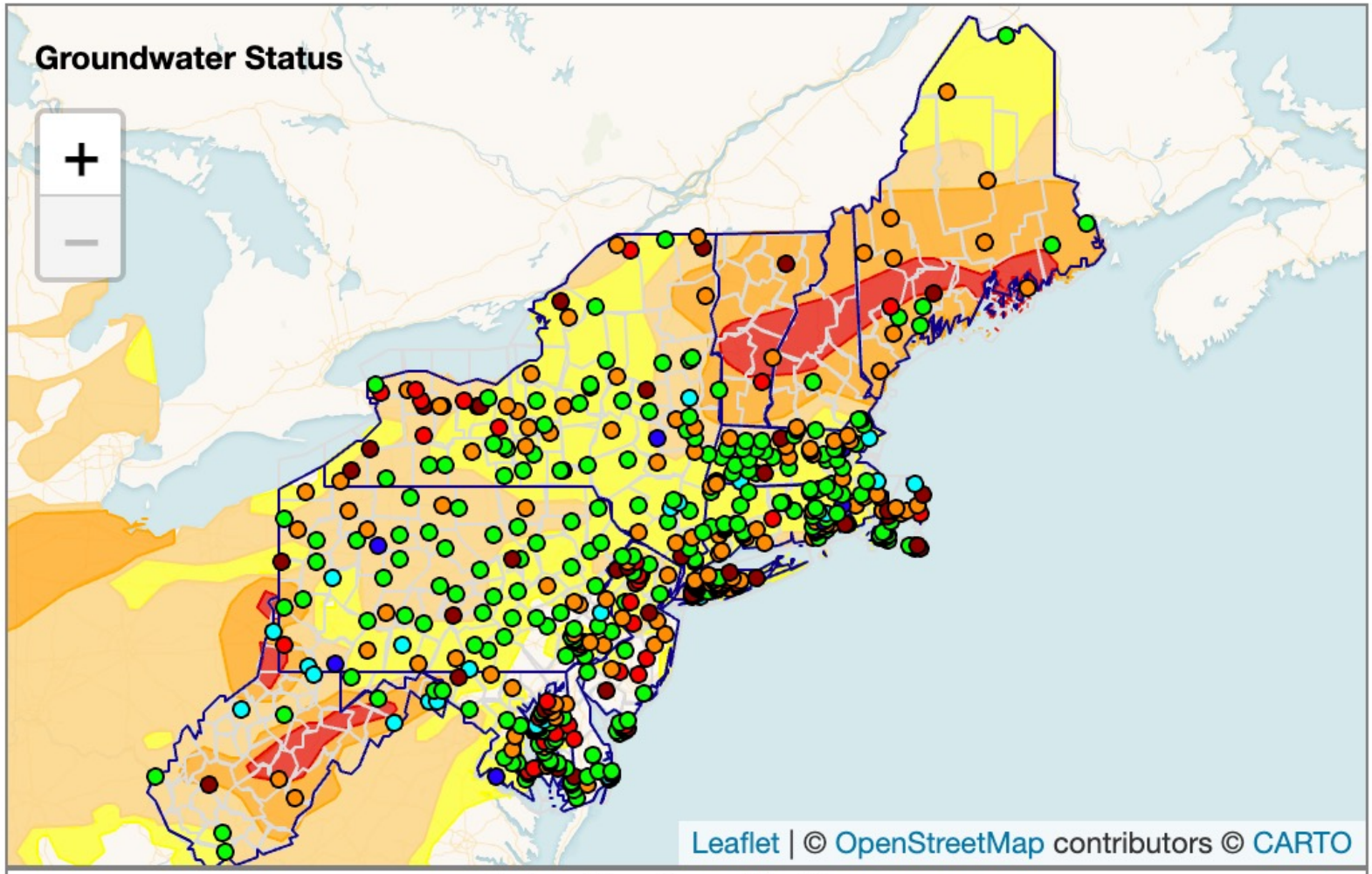
Groundwater



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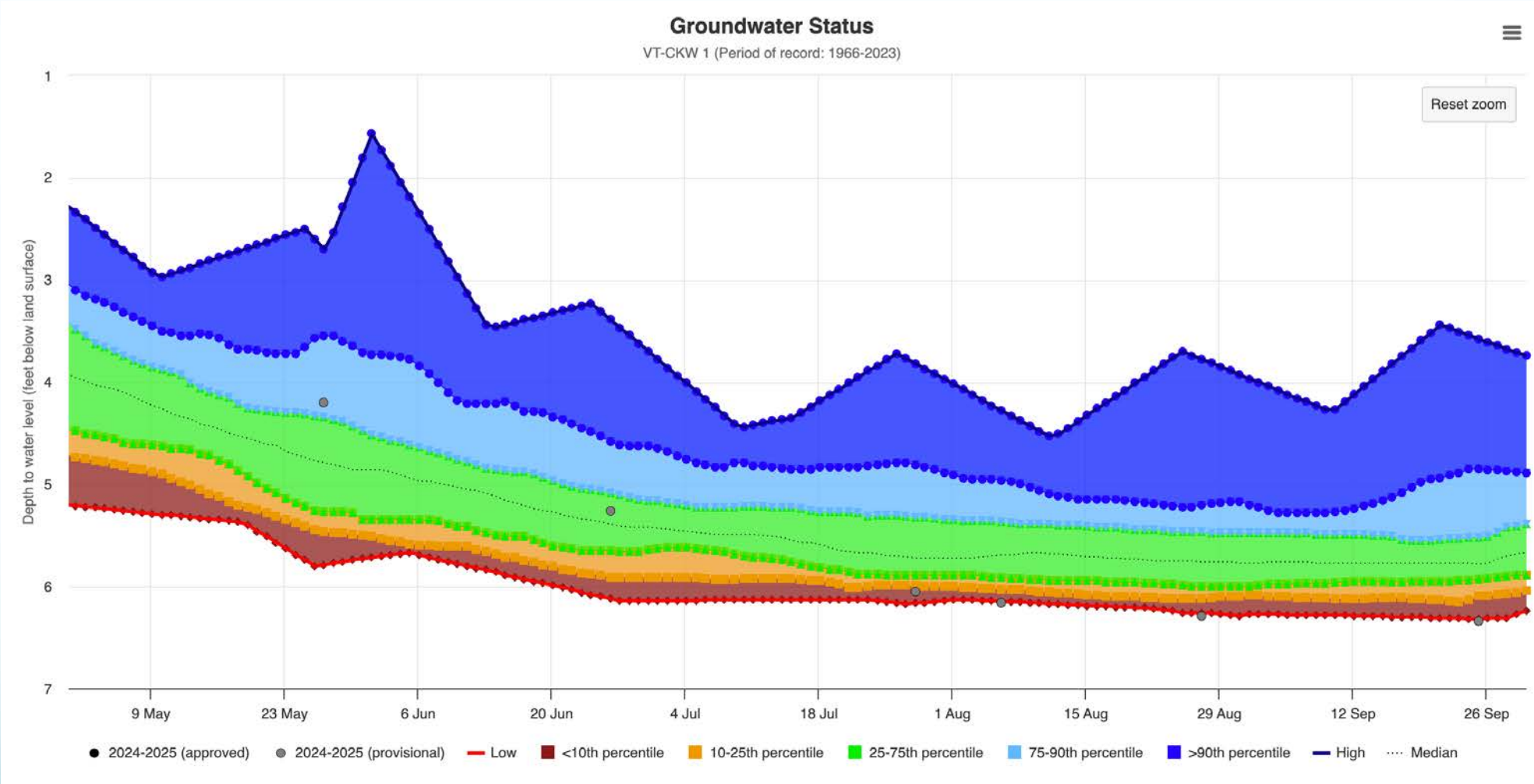
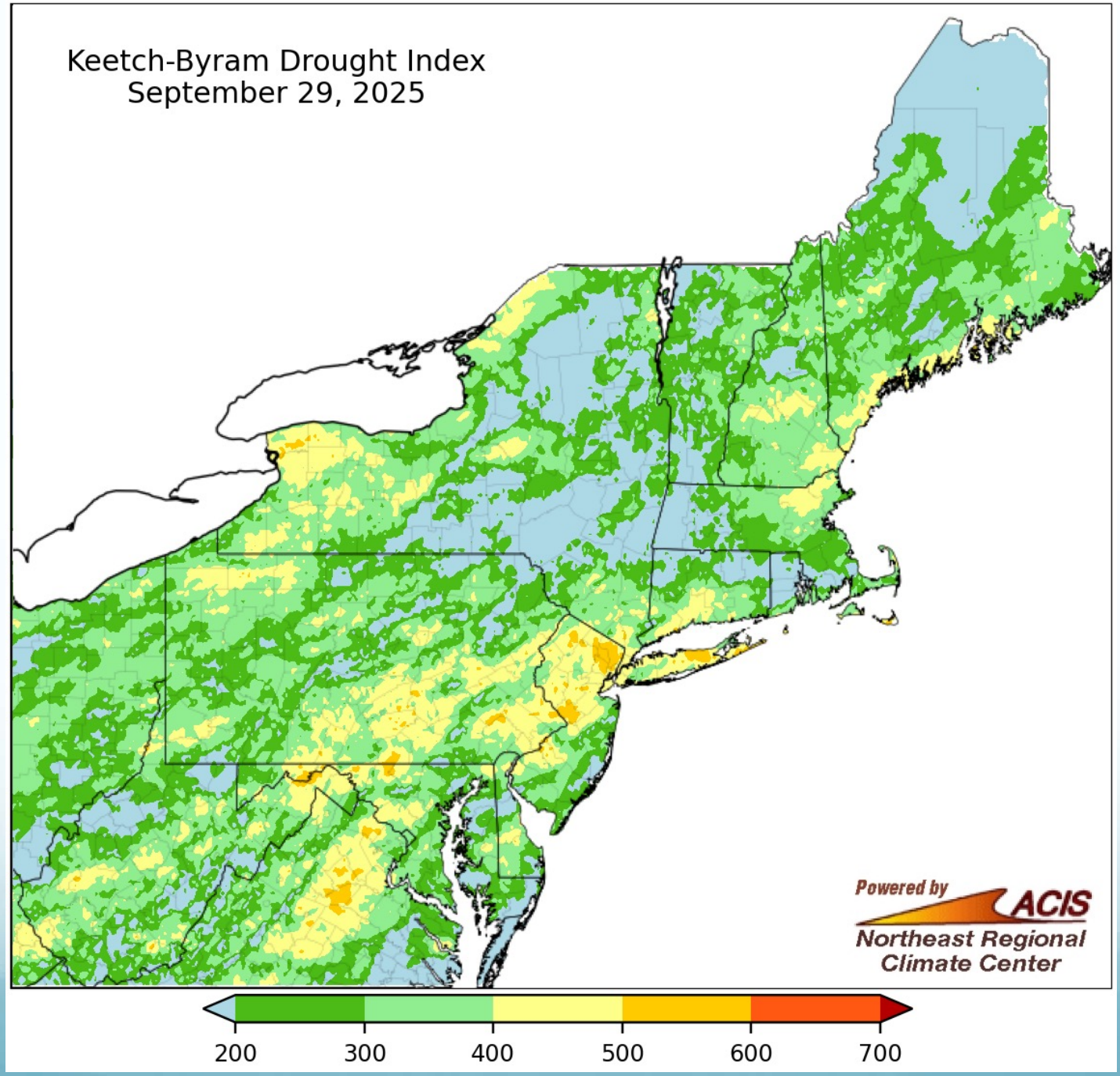
Data provided by USGS Groundwater - About this map; updated 2025-09-30.

Groundwater

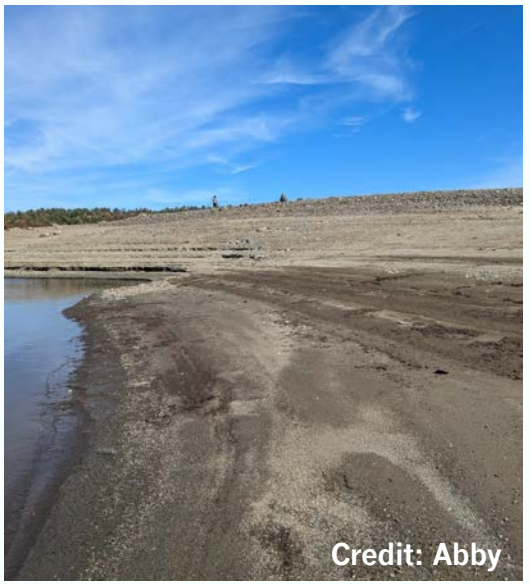


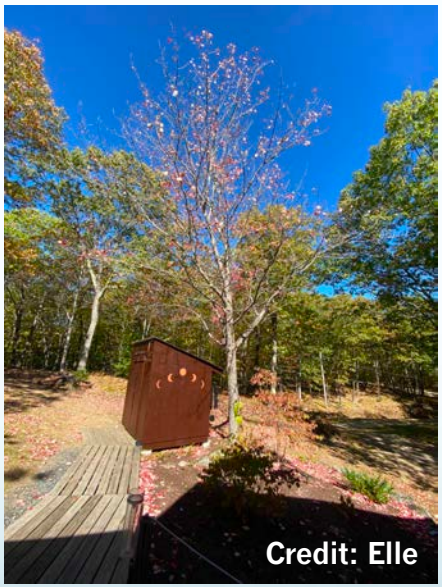
Wildfire Risk



Drought Impacts

Cracked ground and poor pasture conditions in northern Vermont.



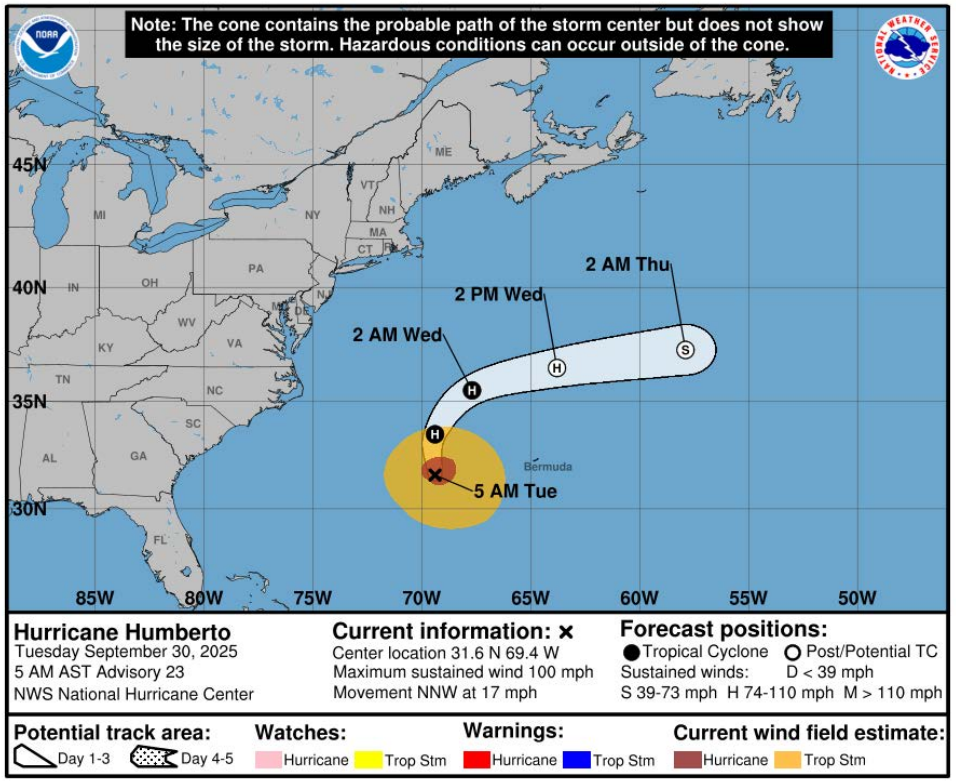


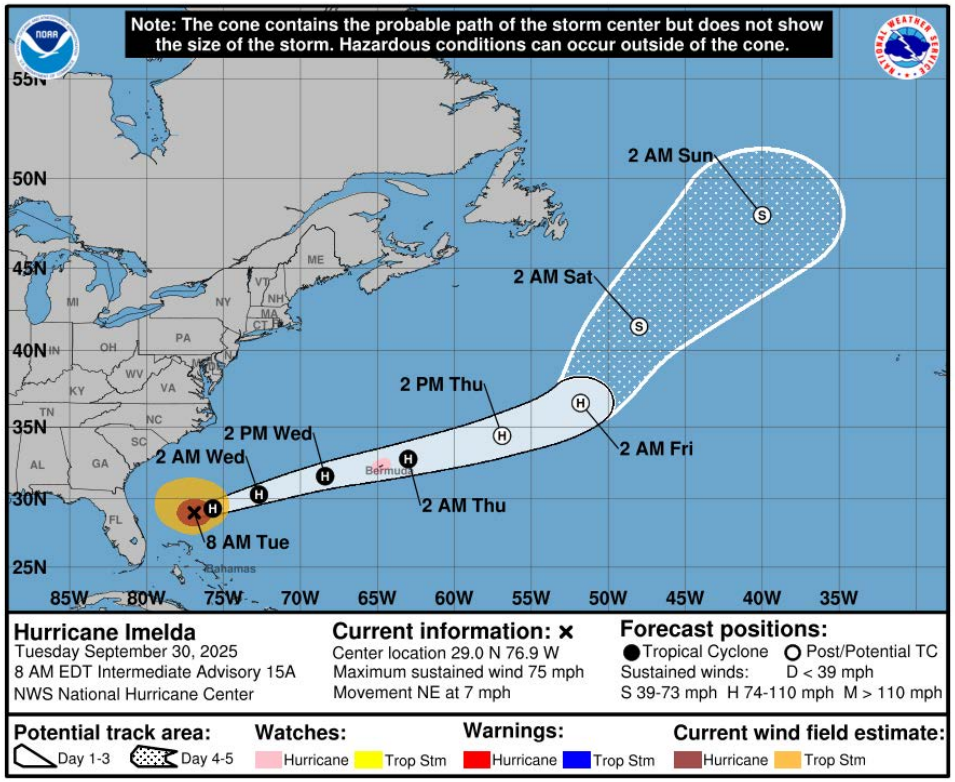
Pasture with limited growth in northern West Virginia (above) and early leaf drop in central New Hampshire (right).

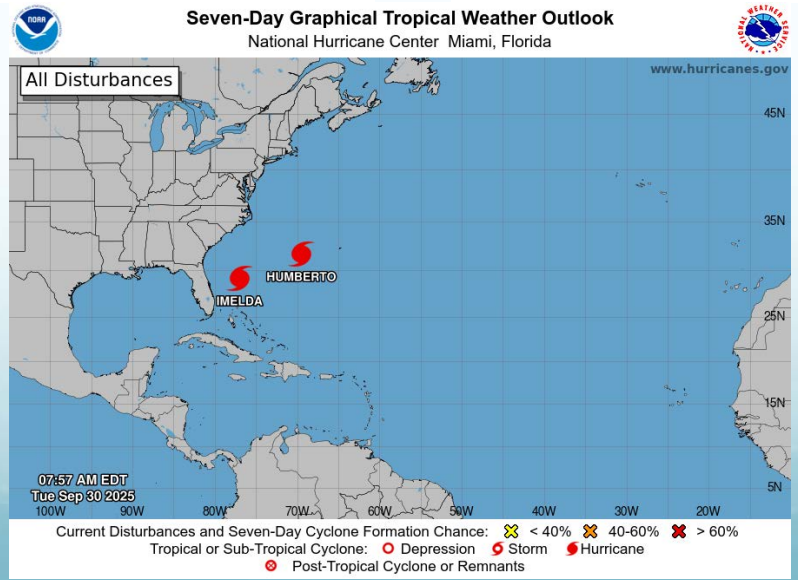
Low water levels at a northern New Hampshire reservoir (top left). A mostly dry creek in northern West Virginia (top right). Low water levels on Webb Lake in western Maine (bottom).

CMOR - https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/Tools/ConditionMonitoringObservations.aspx

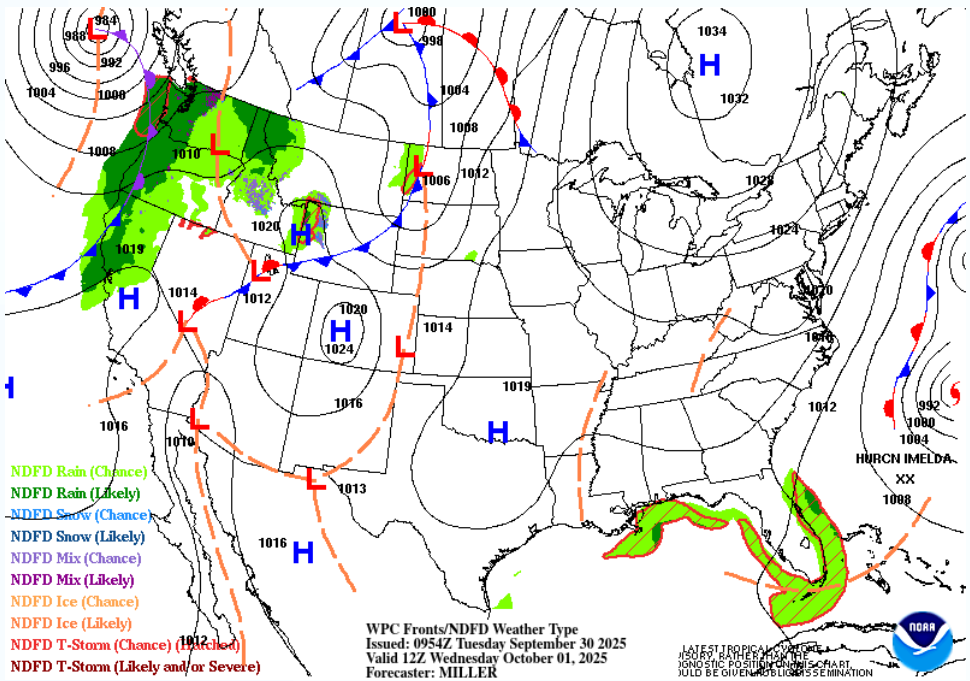
Tropical Outlook

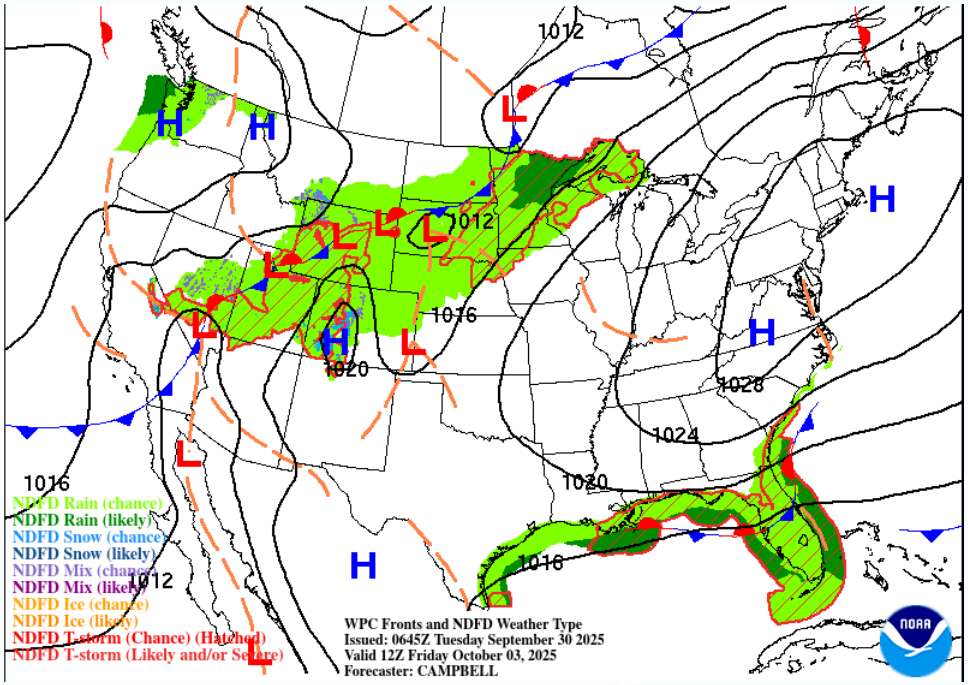


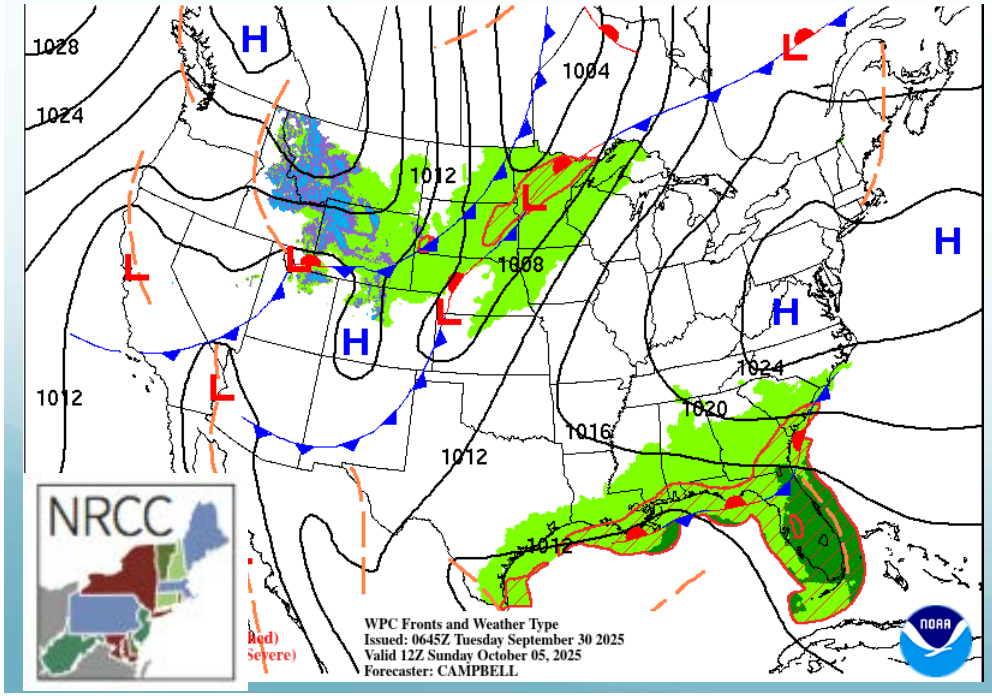


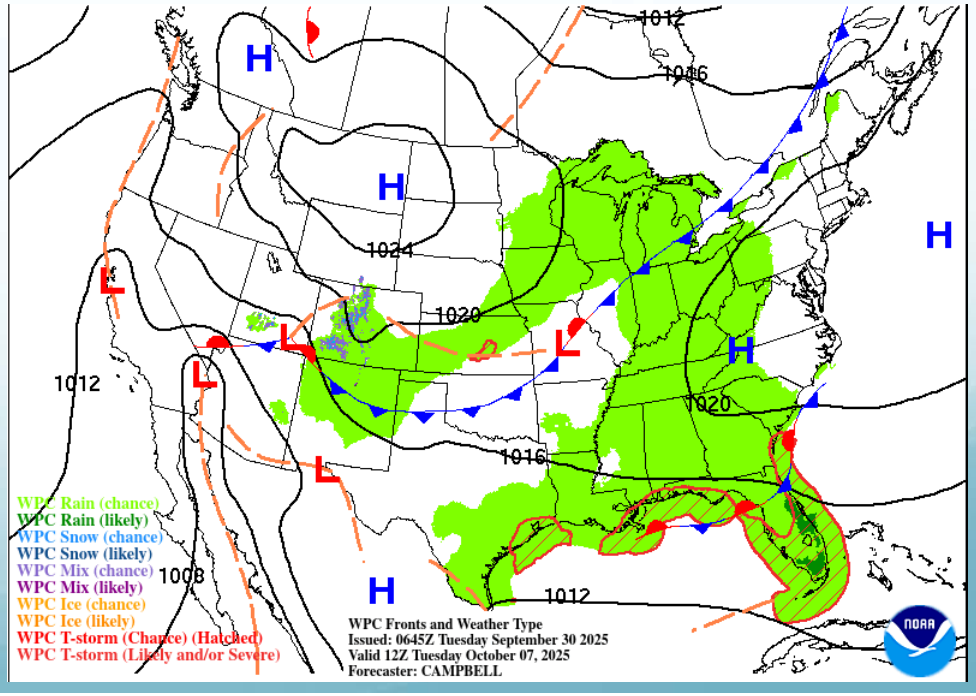


Forecast Maps

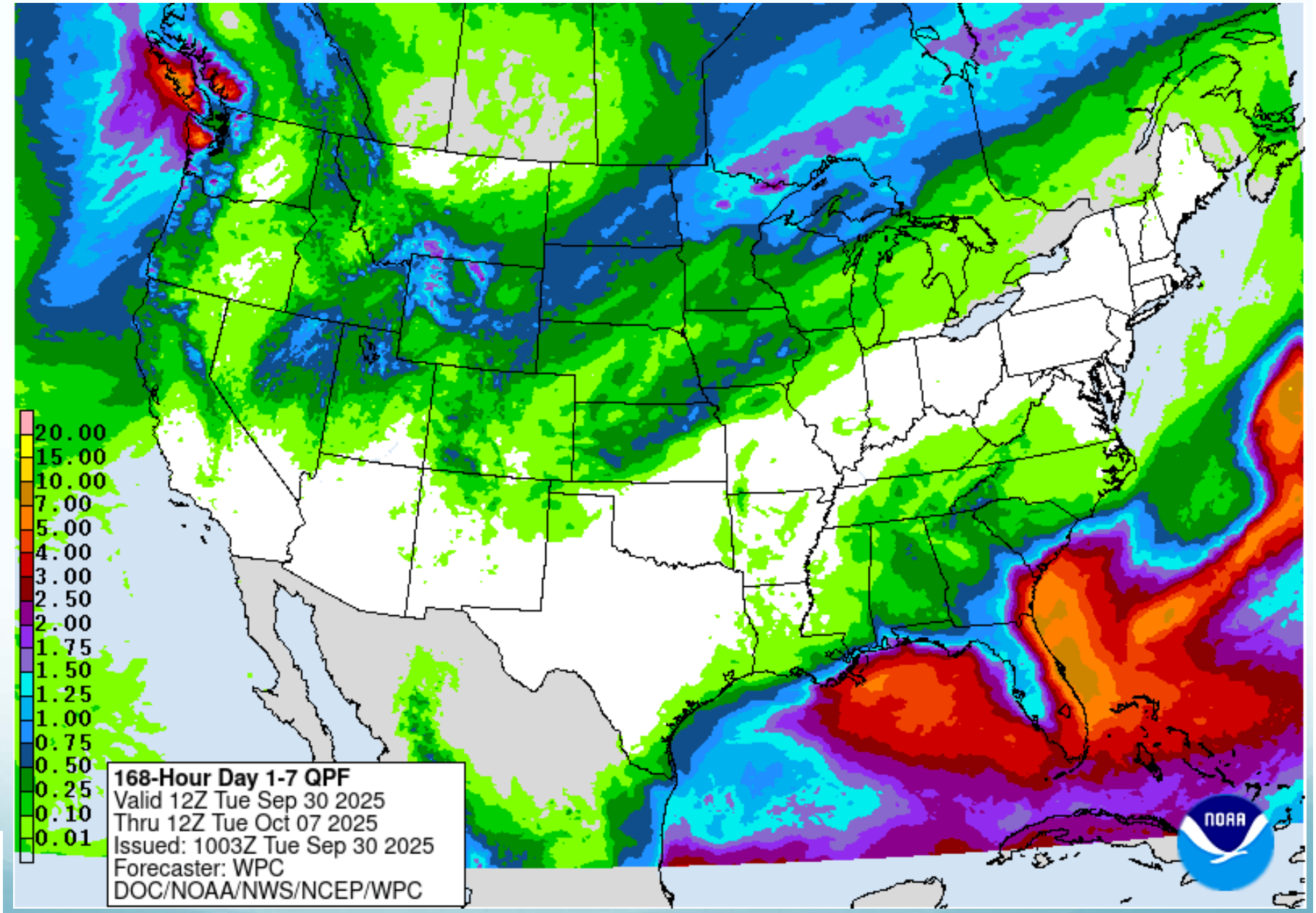








Precipitation Forecast



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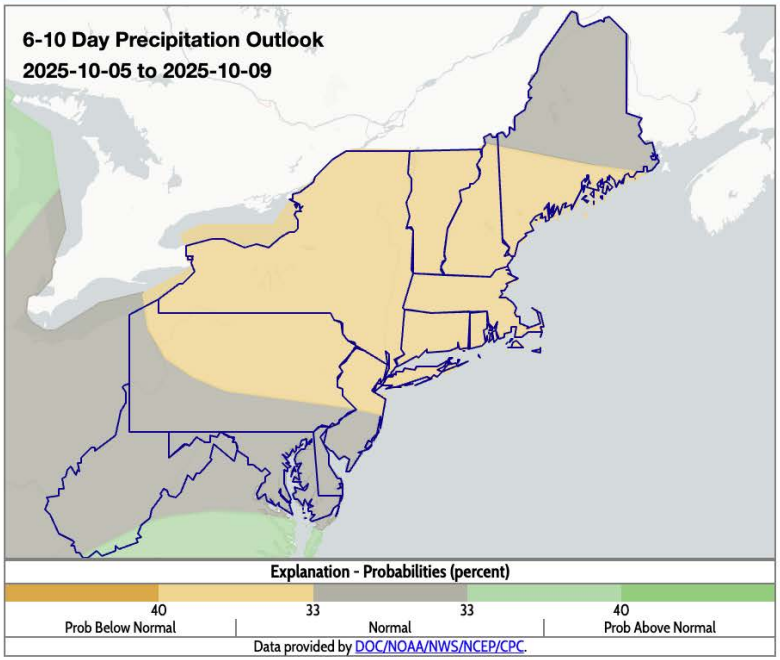
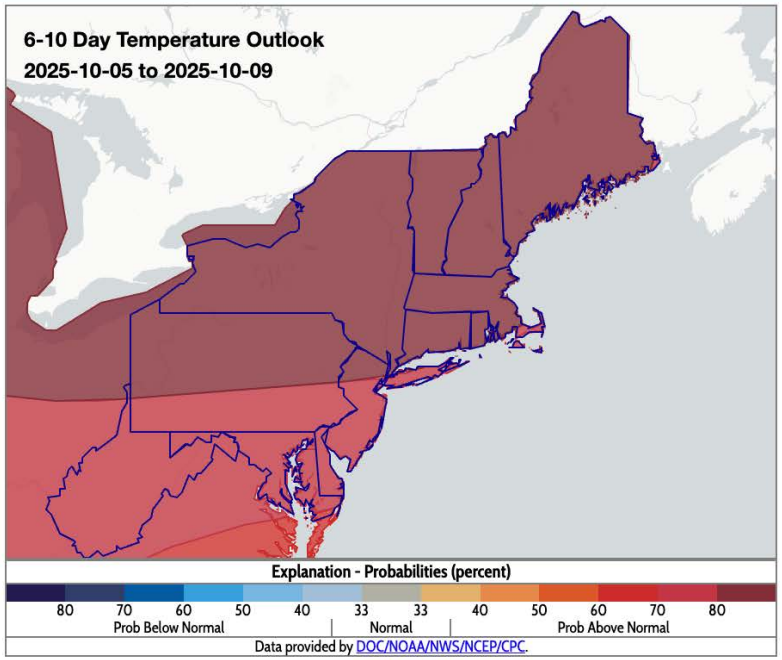
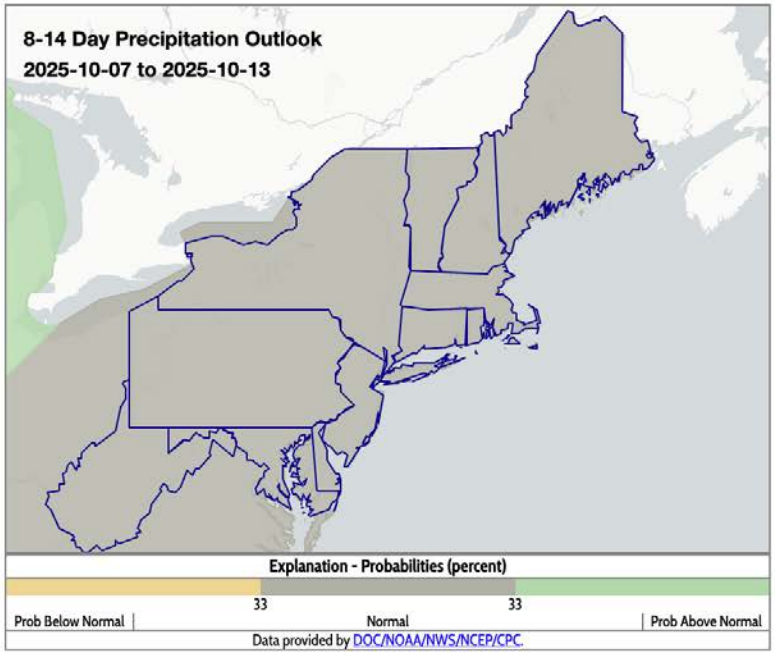
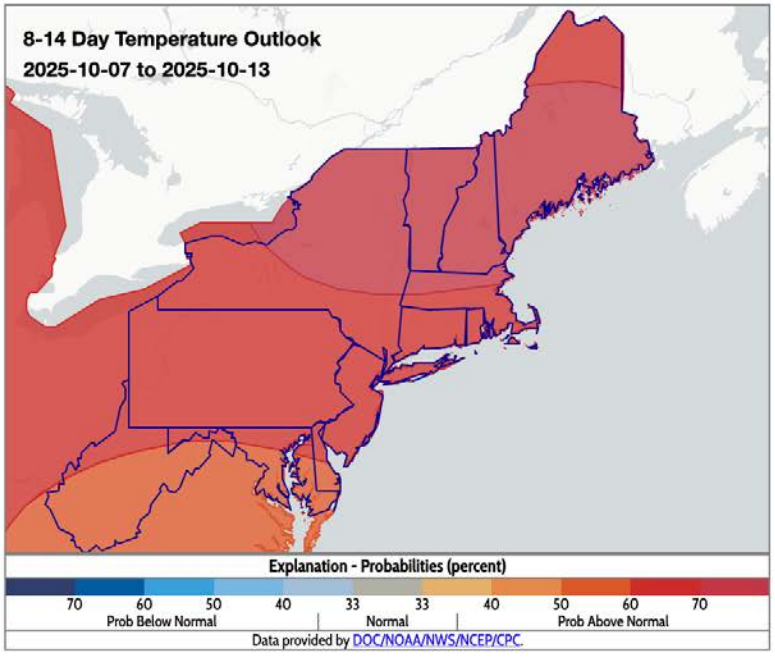
"Normal" precipitation for this period is about 0.60" to 1.05"

Short-term Outlooks

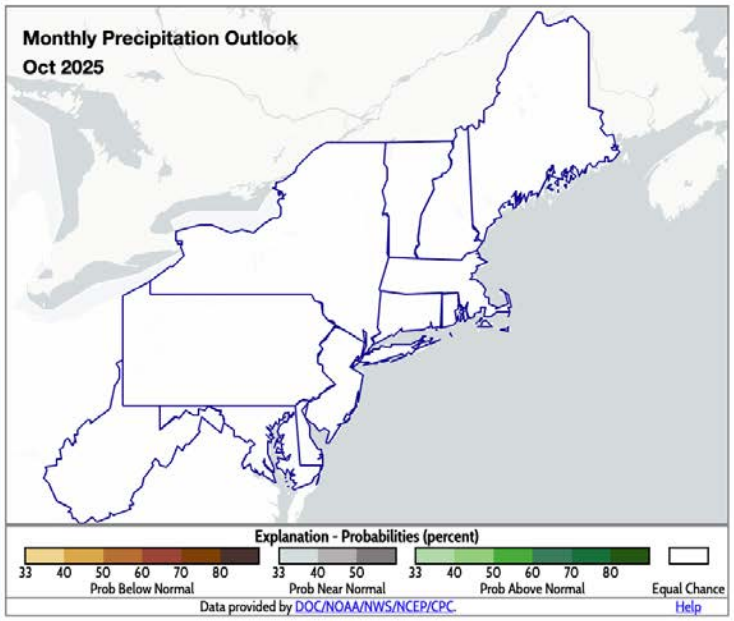


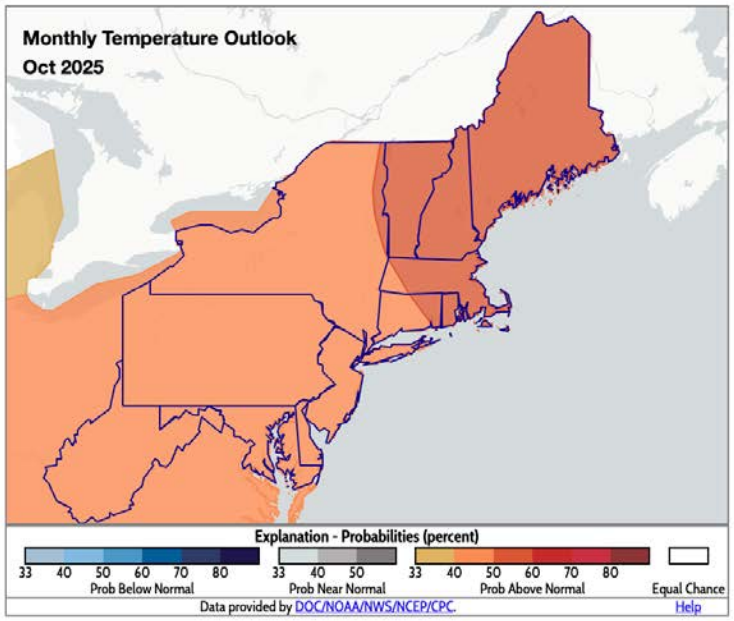


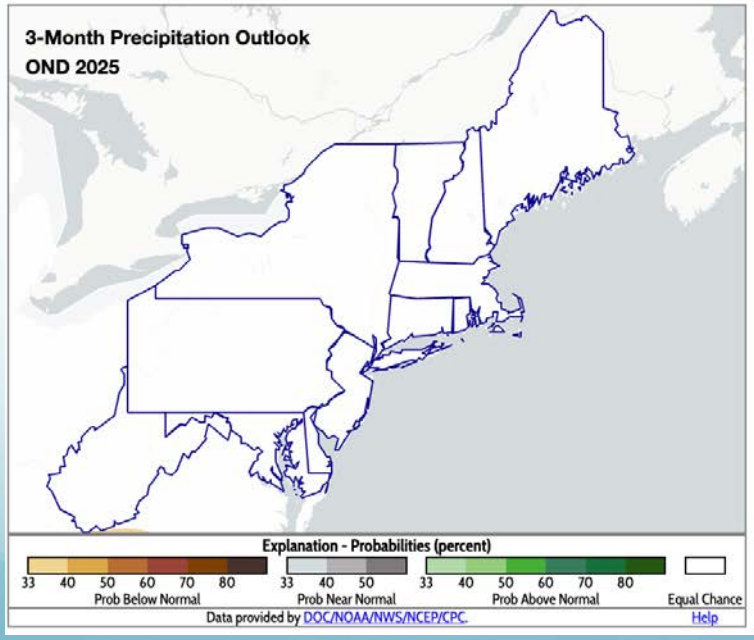


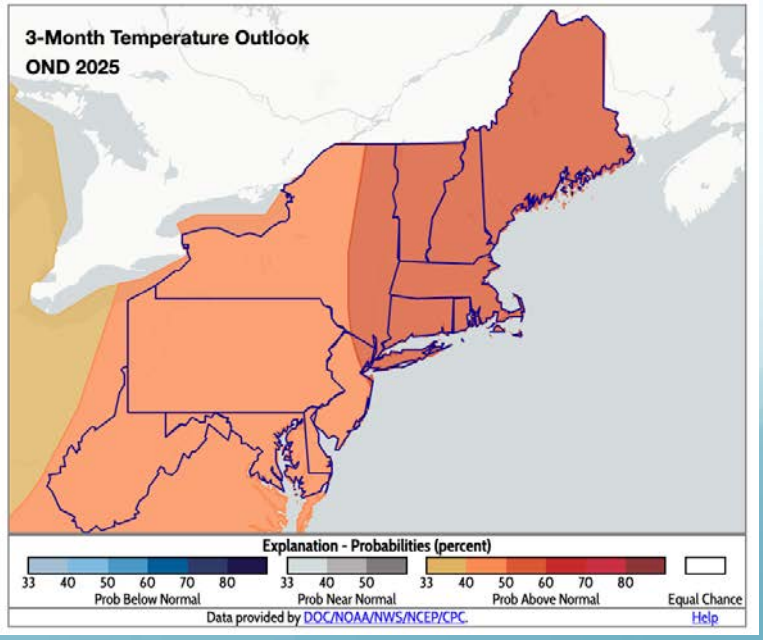


Monthly & 3-Month Outlooks





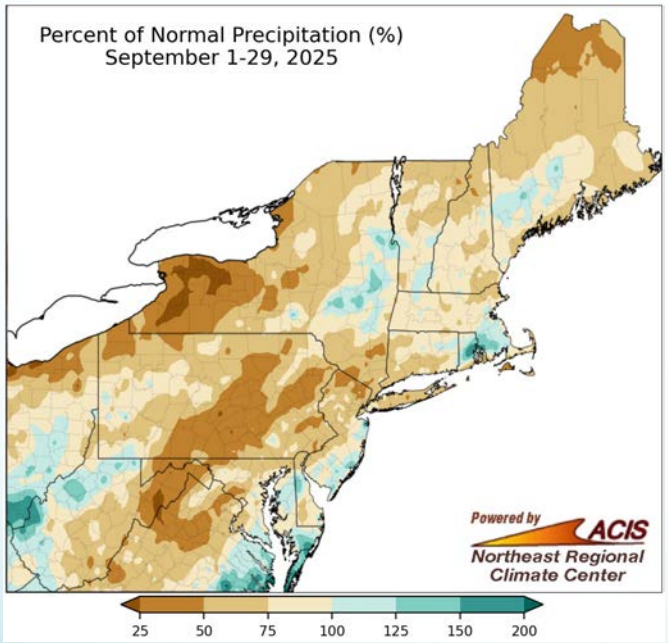




Summary

September-to-date conditions:

- Warmer-than-normal temperatures for most areas
- Drier-than-normal conditions for a large portion of the region



Drought:

- Drought rapidly intensified in multiple areas, especially northern New England and West Virginia
- Impacts to agriculture, water resources, and wildfire risk

Outlooks:

- Short term: Below- or near-normal precipitation and above-normal temperatures favored - conditions that would favor continuation of or deteriorating drought conditions
- October and October-December: equal chances precipitation; warmer than normal for all

Contact Information

- nrcc@cornell.edu

Upcoming Webinars

- Thursday, October 30 at 9:30am EDT
  - TBD
- Thursday, November 20 at 9:30am EST
  - ENSO & Winter Outlooks
- Thursday, December 18 at 9:30am EST
  - TBD

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