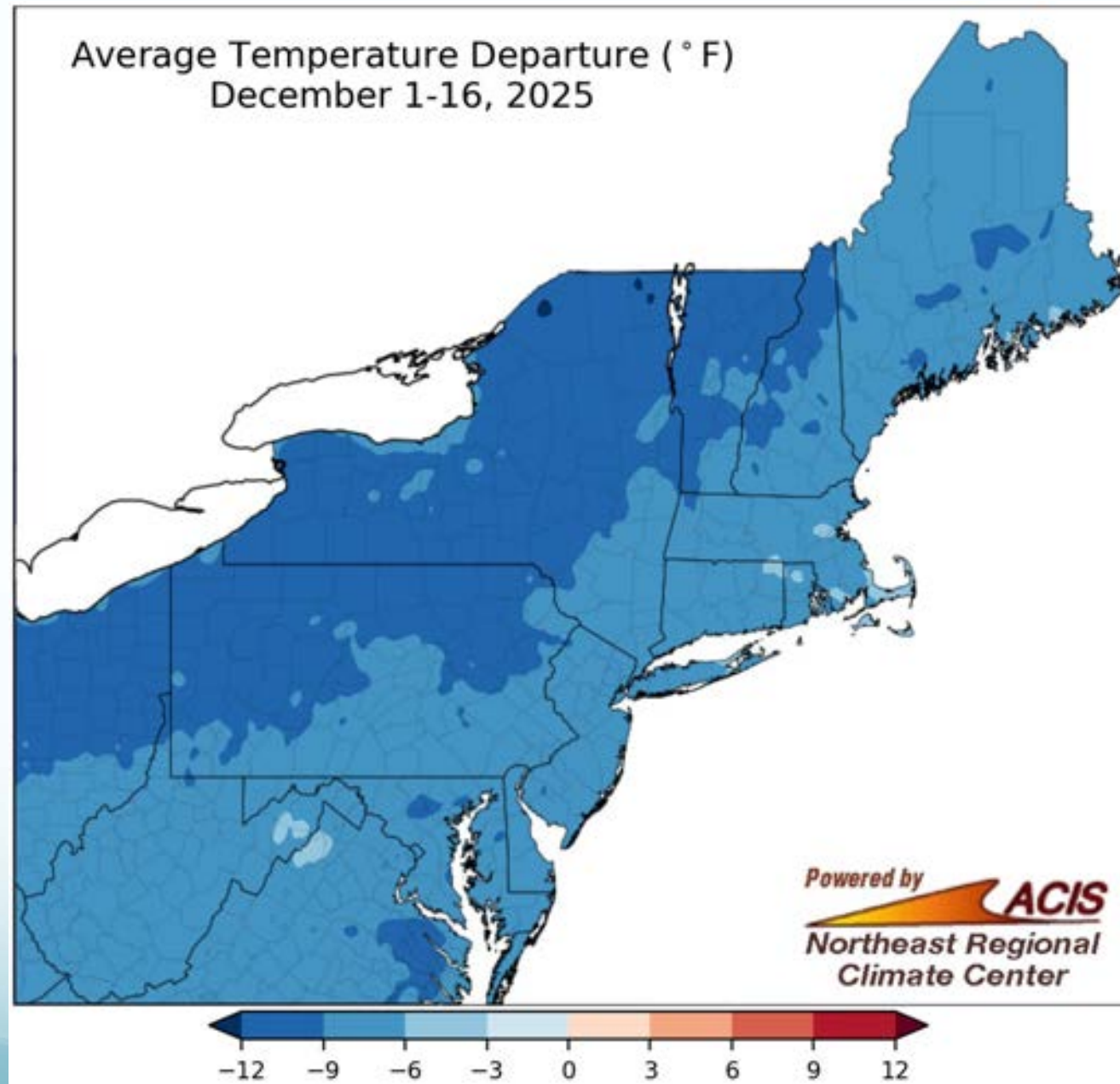


December Conditions & Northeast DEWS Discussion

By: Samantha Borisoff, Climatologist
Northeast Regional Climate Center



December Temperatures



As much as 12°F below normal

December Temperatures

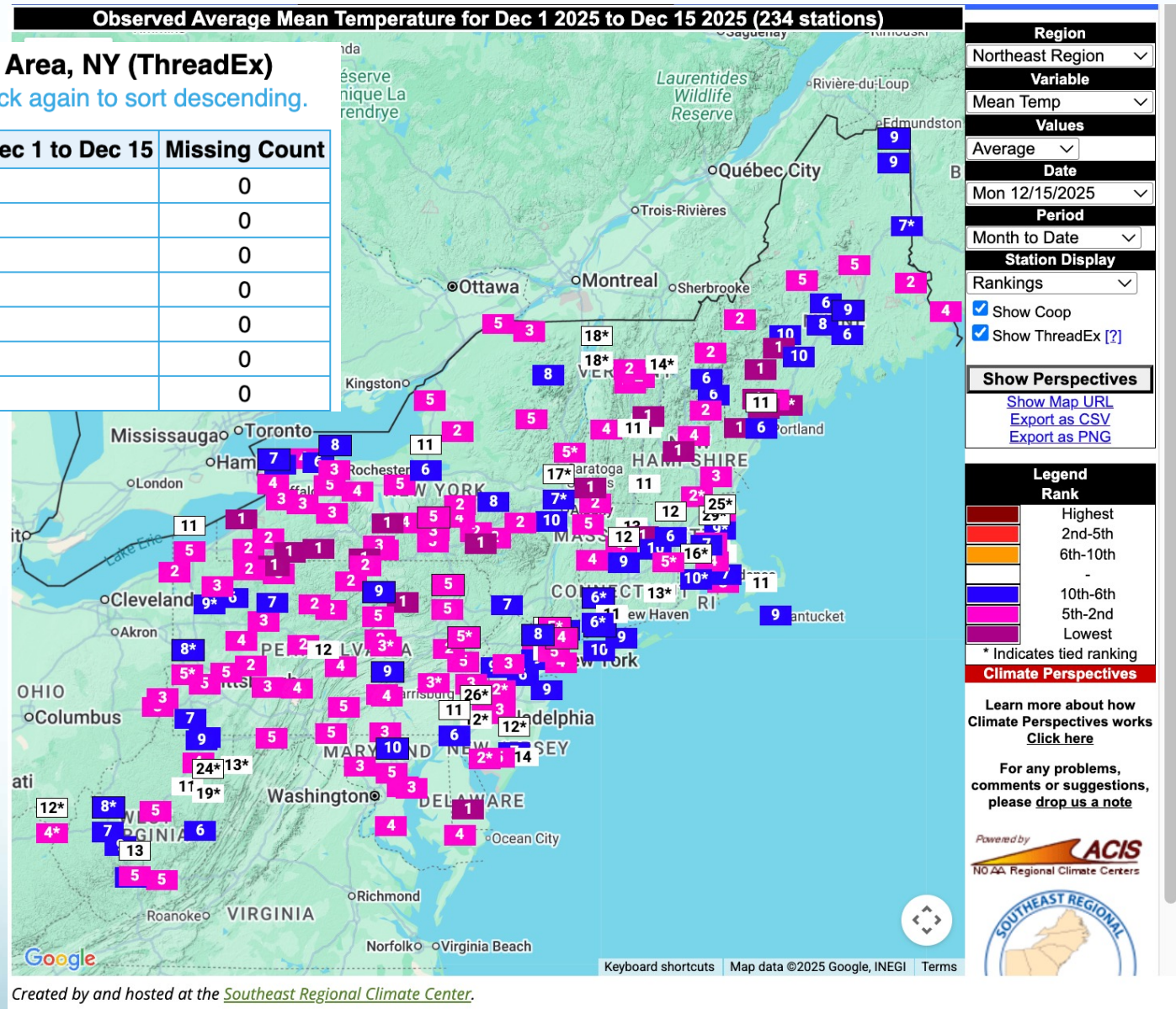
Time Series Summary for Buffalo Area, NY (ThreadEx)

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

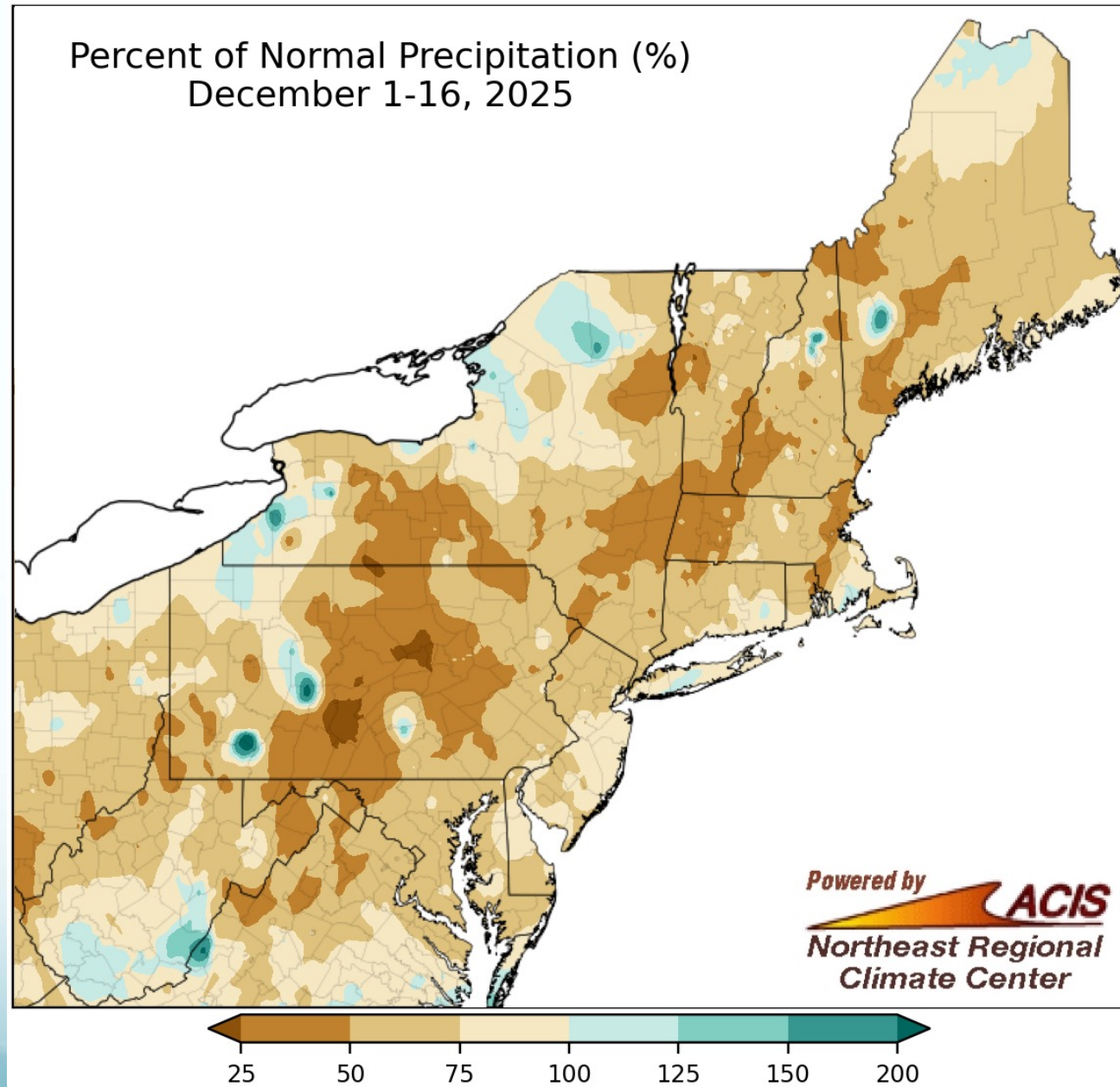
Rank	Ending Date	Mean Avg Temperature Dec 1 to Dec 15	Missing Count
1	1989-12-15	20.1	0
2	1917-12-15	20.7	0
-	1904-12-15	20.7	0
4	1958-12-15	21.3	0
5	1976-12-15	21.9	0
6	1910-12-15	22.2	0
7	2025-12-15	22.8	0

This Dec 1-15 period:

- Is the coldest such period in past 15-20 years for most sites
- ranks among the 20 coldest such periods for many sites



December Precipitation



From less than 25% of normal to 150% of normal



Snowfall Reports from the Last 48 Hours

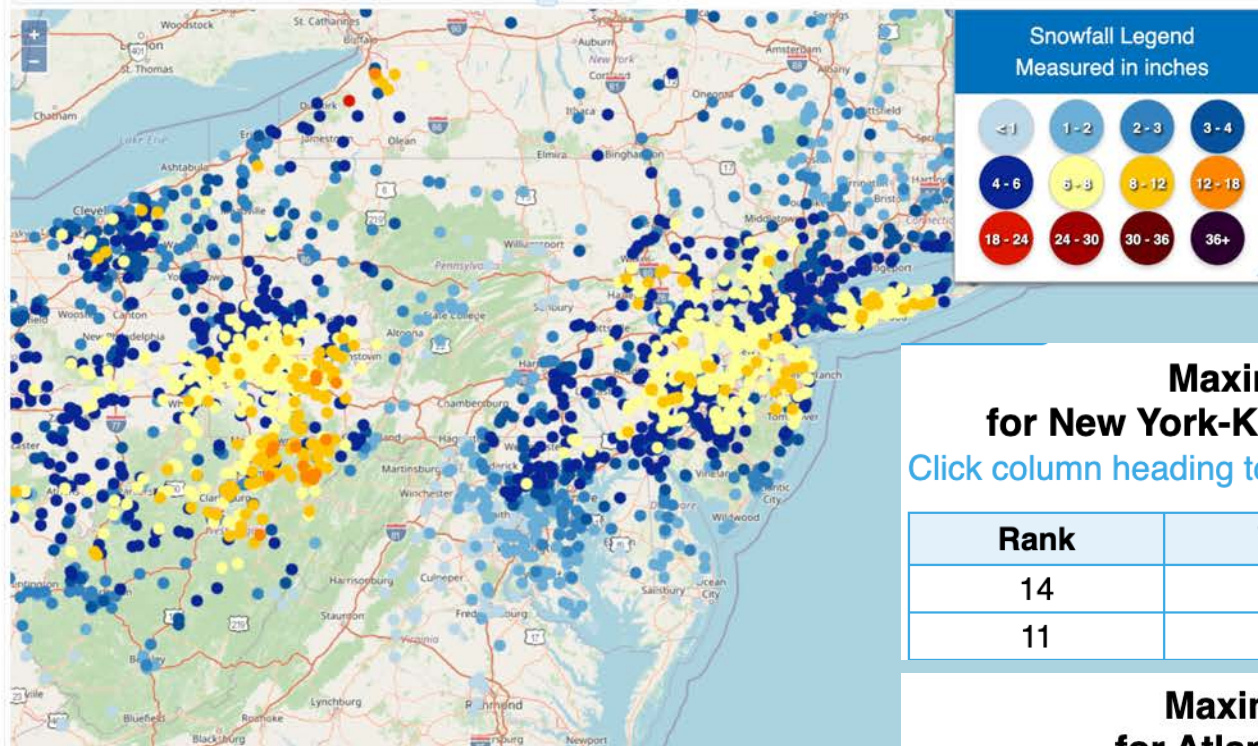
Select the time range for the snowfall reports:

48 Hours

Search for a location on map:

Hide Legend

Create a permalink



December Storms

Maximum 1-Day Total Snowfall for New York-Kennedy Airport Area, NY (ThreadEx)

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date
14	4.6	2025-12-14
11	5.1	2010-12-27

Maximum 1-Day Total Snowfall for Atlantic City Area, NJ (ThreadEx)

Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date
30	2.2	2025-12-14
11	4.8	2018-12-05

Maximum 1-Day Total Snowfall for Philadelphia Area, PA (ThreadEx)

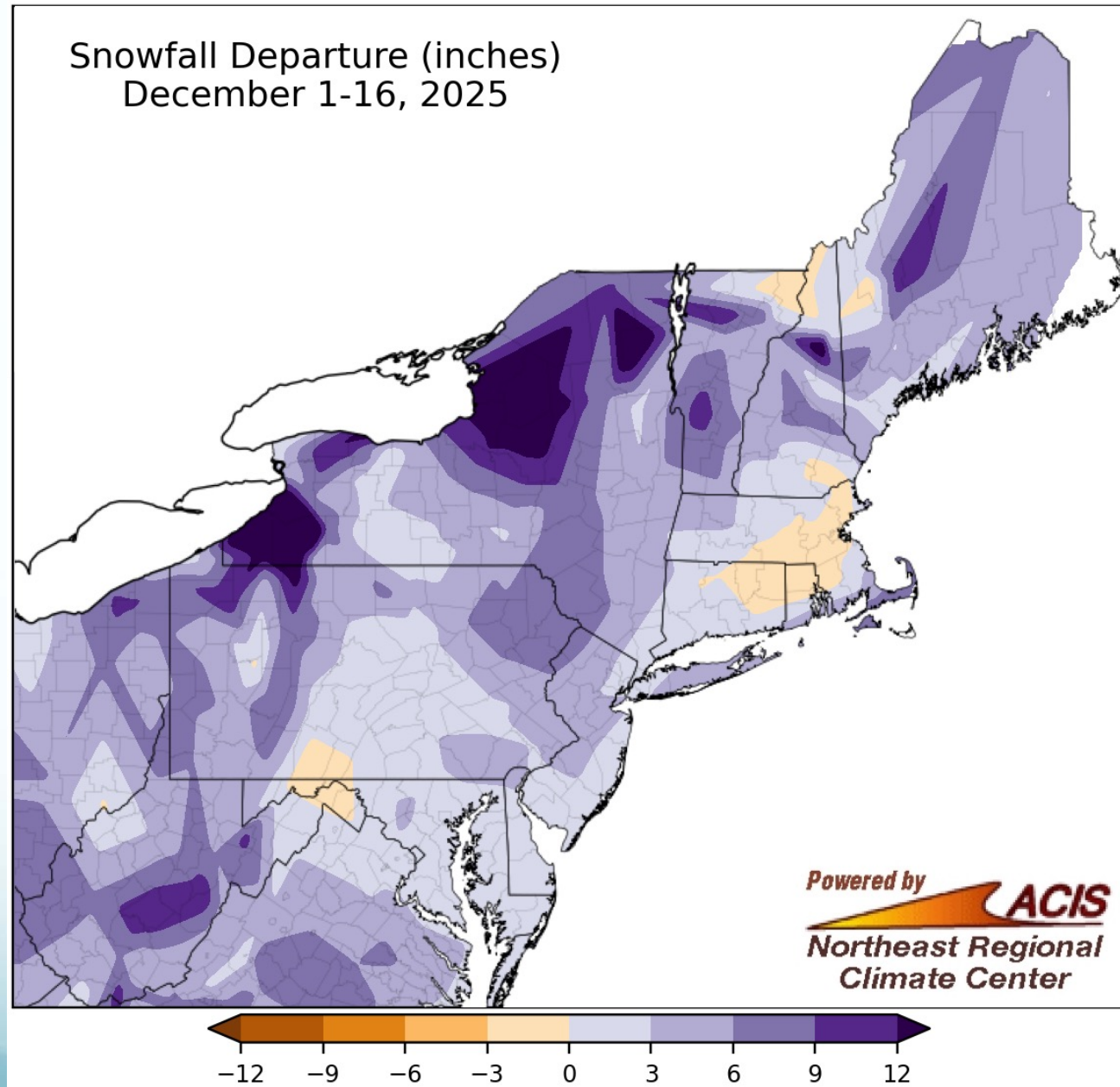
Click column heading to sort ascending, click again to sort descending.

Rank	Value	Ending Date
31	4.2	2025-12-14
16	6.3	2020-12-16

Snowiest December day
in 5 to 15 years for
several sites along the
Interstate 95 corridor



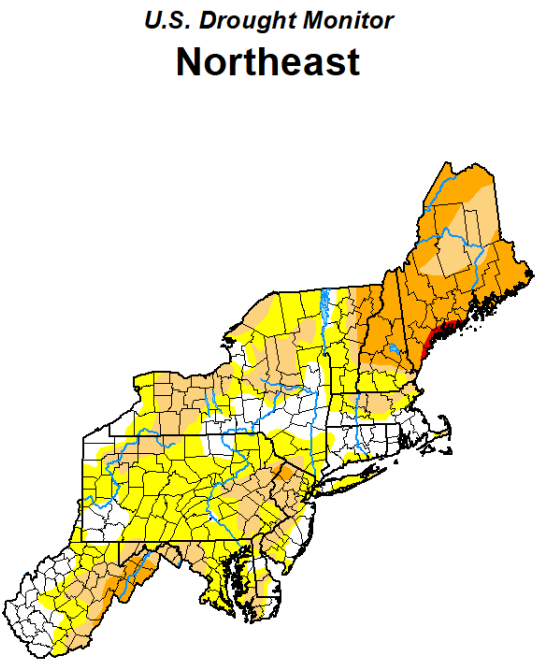
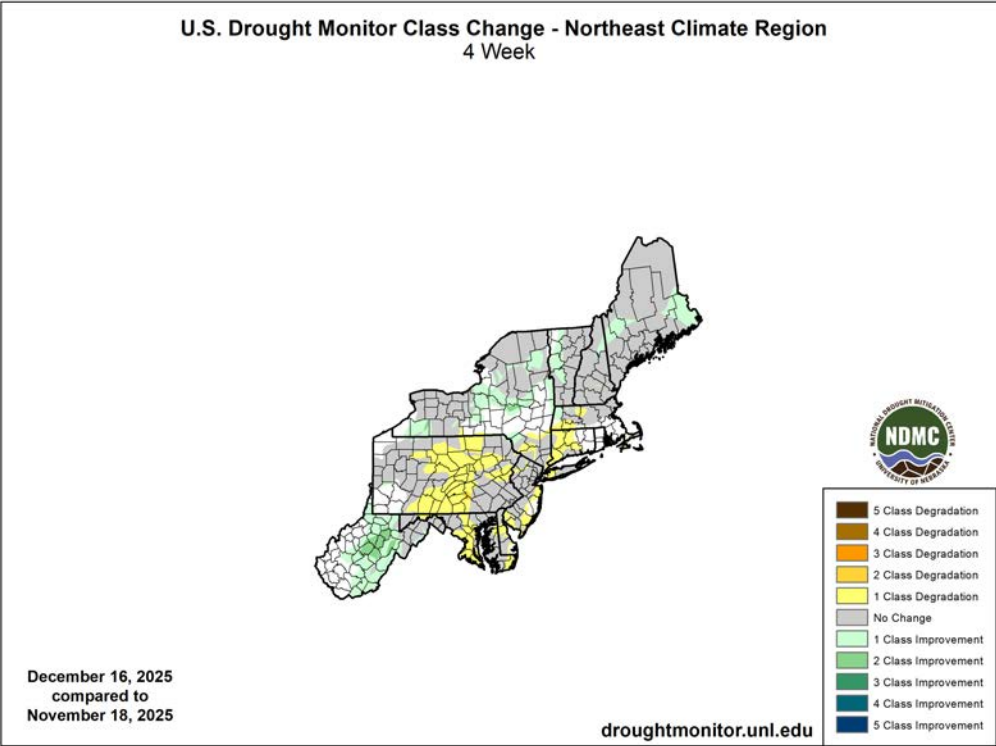
December Snowfall



From near normal to over 12 inches above normal



Drought Monitor



November 18, 2025
(Released Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	20.18	36.66	25.08	17.59	0.49	0.00
Last Week 11-11-2025	17.42	31.77	31.39	11.84	7.58	0.00
3 Months Ago 08-19-2025	46.18	39.88	12.82	1.13	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 09-30-2025	7.86	42.89	23.79	18.78	6.67	0.00
One Year Ago 11-19-2024	3.15	35.46	31.00	24.54	5.86	0.00

Intensity:

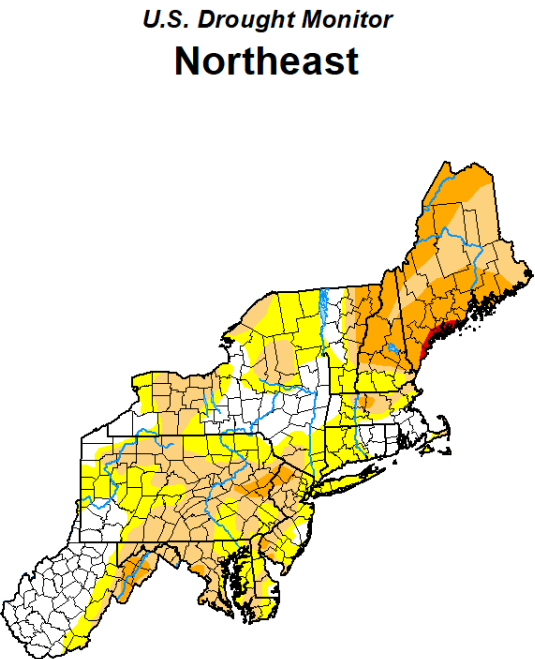
- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

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:
Curtis Riganti
National Drought Mitigation Center

Logos: USDA, NDMC, NOAA, NRCC

droughtmonitor.unl.edu



December 16, 2025
(Released Thursday, Dec. 18, 2025)
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	24.14	28.56	31.34	15.47	0.49	0.00
Last Week 12-09-2025	26.82	31.02	26.89	14.78	0.49	0.00
3 Months Ago 09-16-2025	18.89	36.78	21.81	19.66	2.87	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 09-30-2025	7.86	42.89	23.79	18.78	6.67	0.00
One Year Ago 12-17-2024	11.34	42.63	29.02	14.63	2.37	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

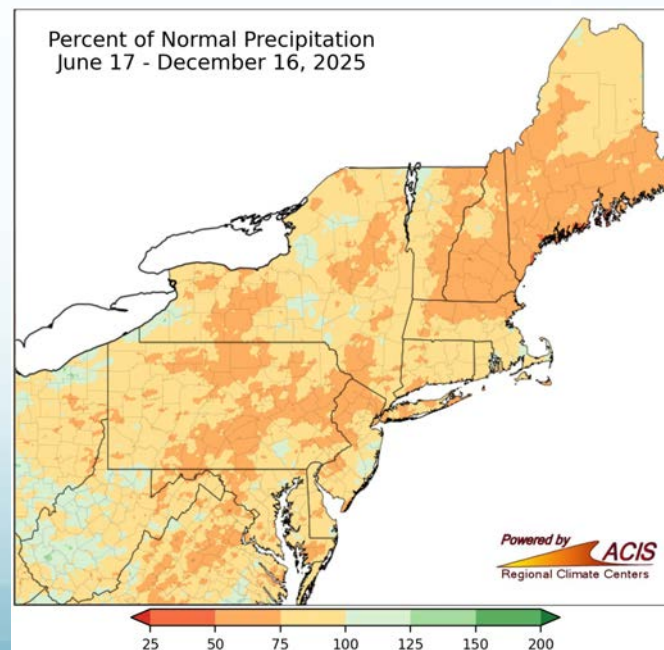
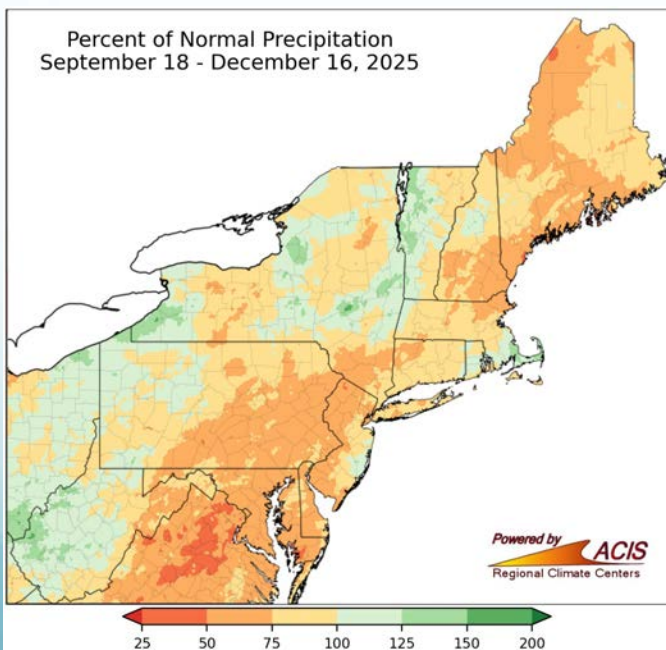
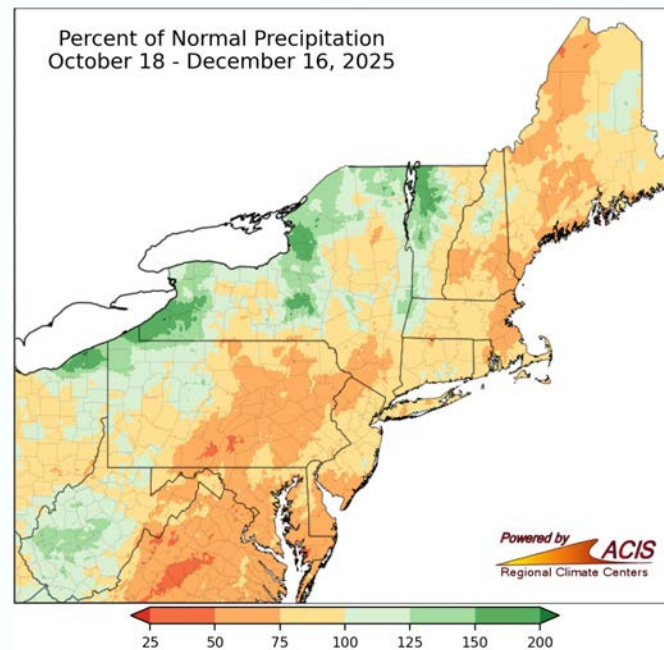
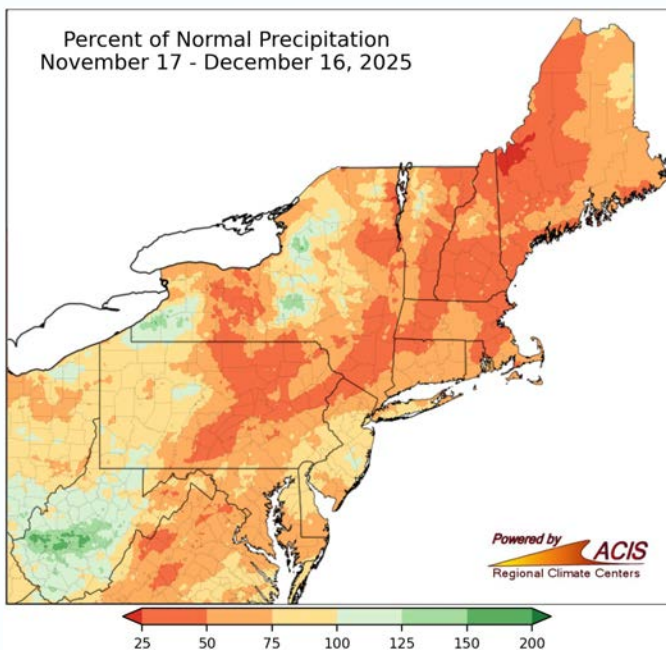
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:
Lindsay Johnson
National Drought Mitigation Center

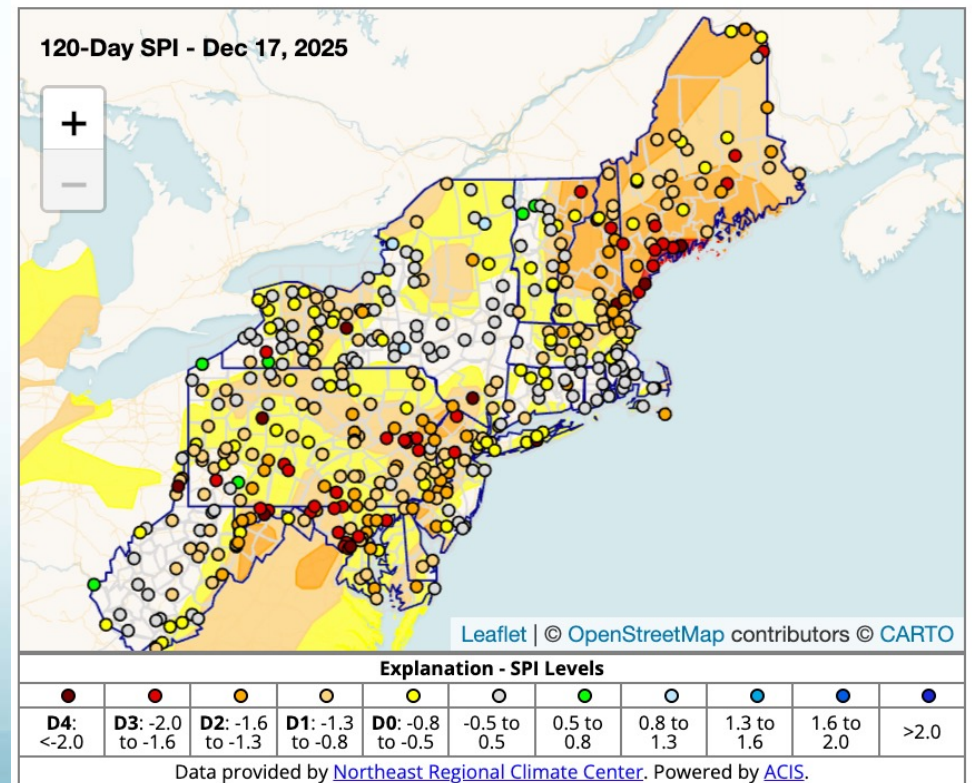
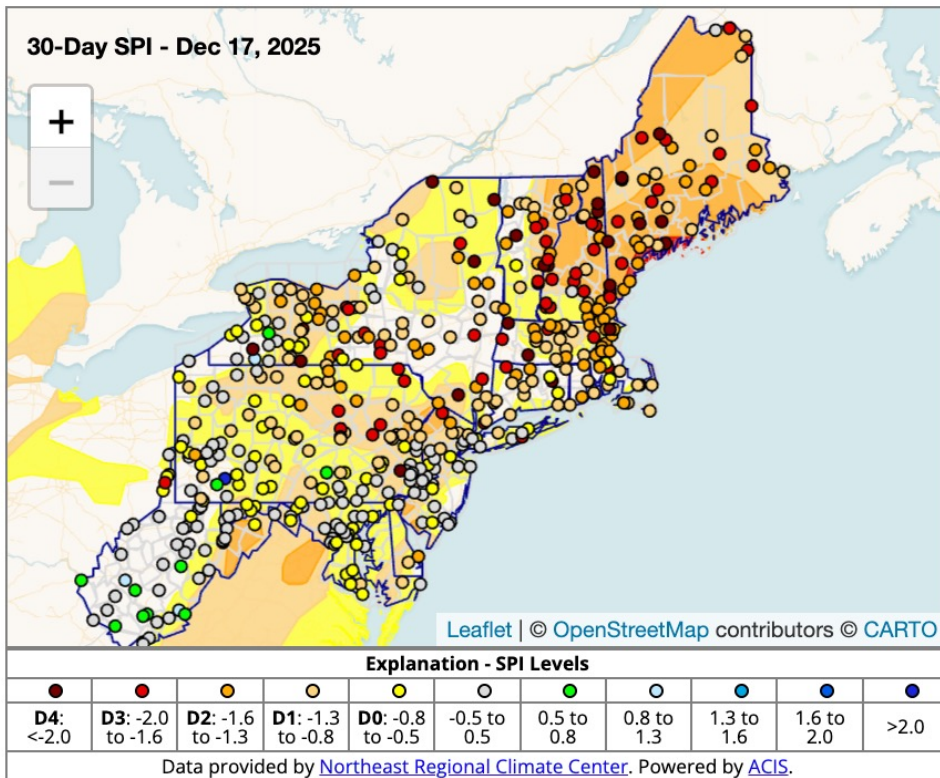
Logos: USDA, NDMC, NOAA, NRCC

droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Precipitation



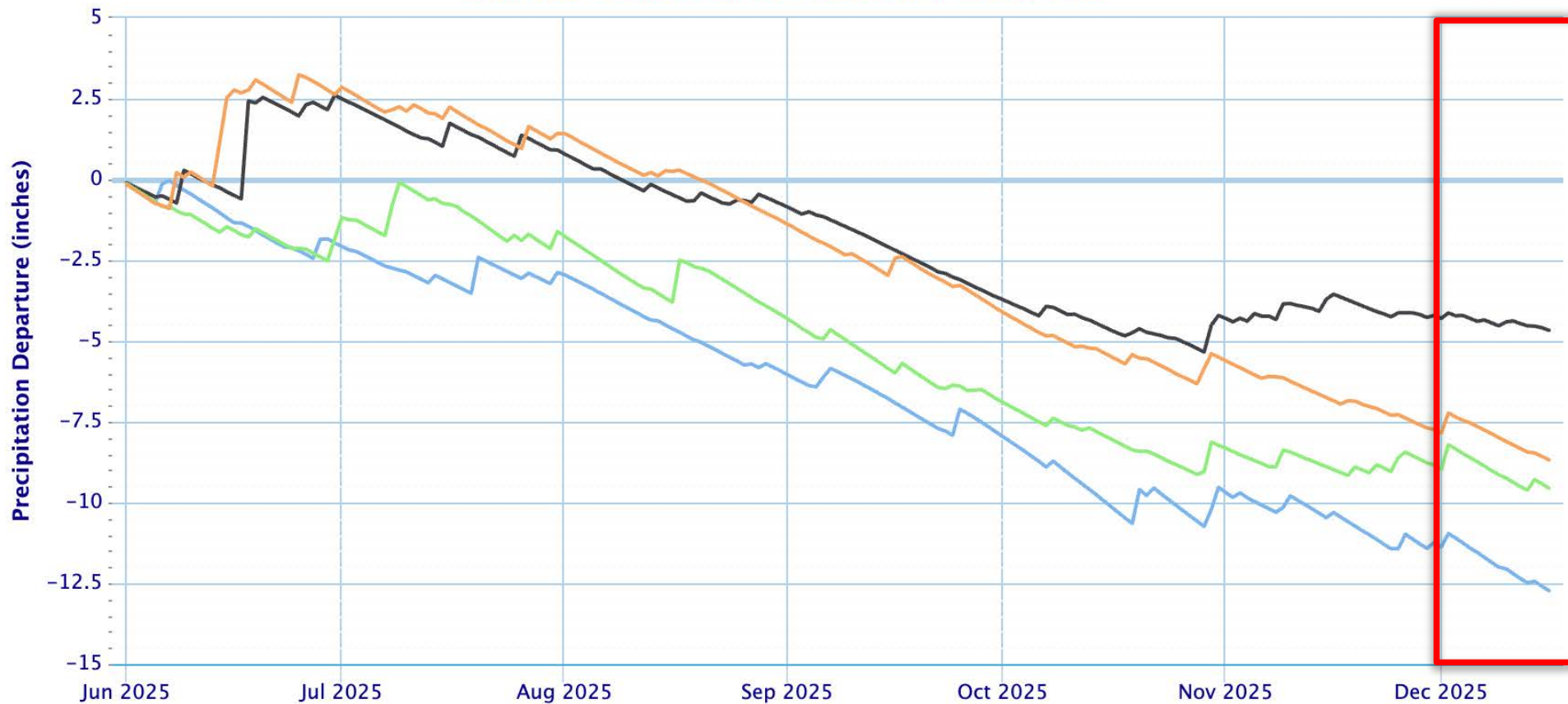
Standardized Precipitation Index



Precipitation

Accumulated Precipitation Departure from Normal

Green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



(Click to hide/show lines)

Portland Area, ME (ThreadEx):Precip Dprt Rochester Area, NY (ThreadEx):Precip Dprt Philadelphia Area, PA (ThreadEx):Precip Dprt
Sterling-Dulles Airport Area, VA (ThreadEx):Precip Dprt

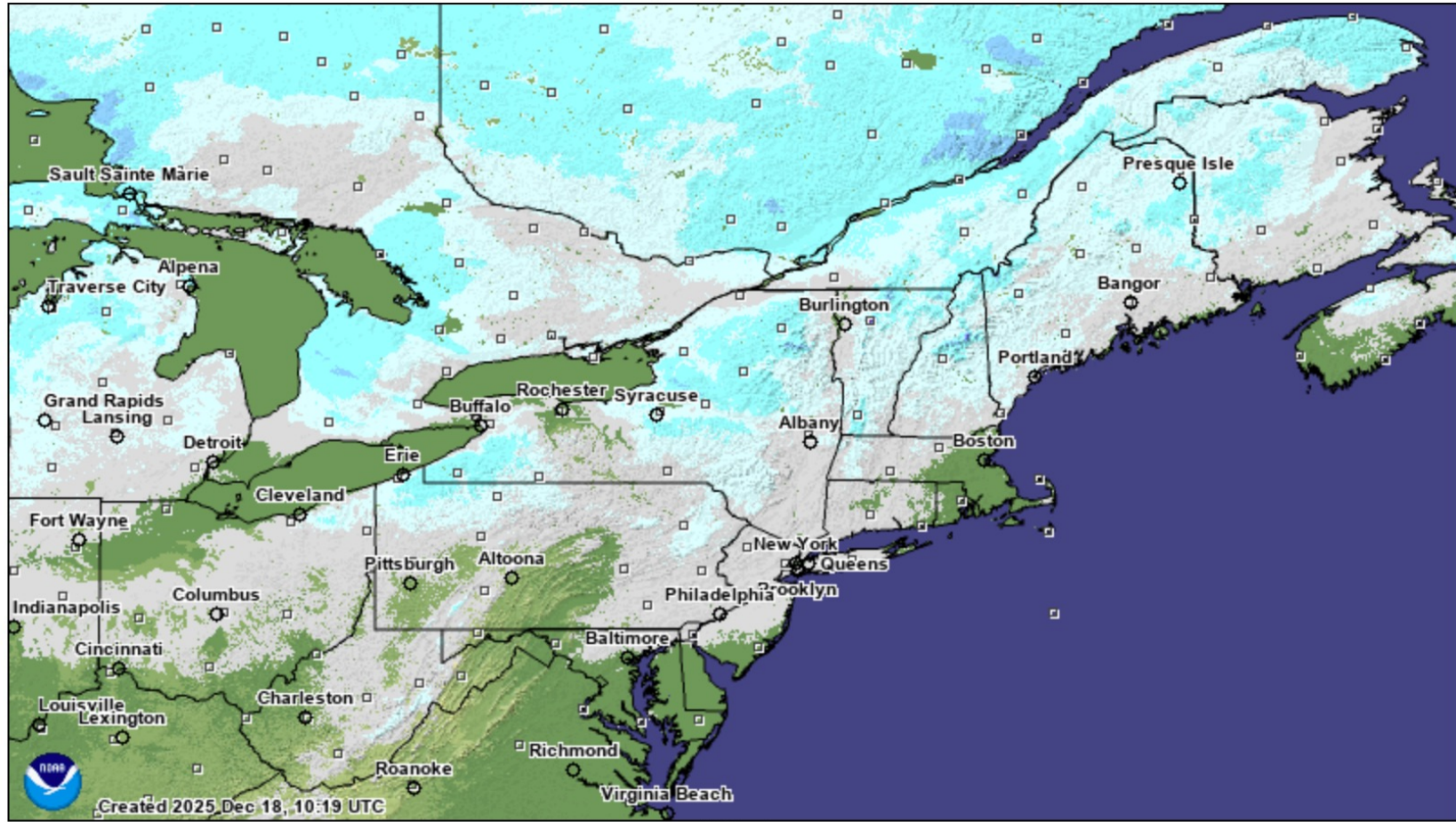
Powered by ACIS



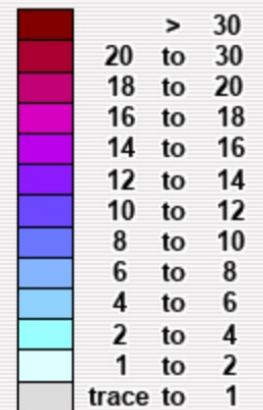
Snow Water Equivalent

Modeled Snow Water Equivalent for 2025 December 18, 6:00 UTC

1011 mi

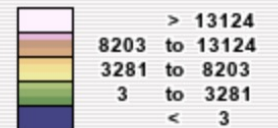


Inches of water equivalent



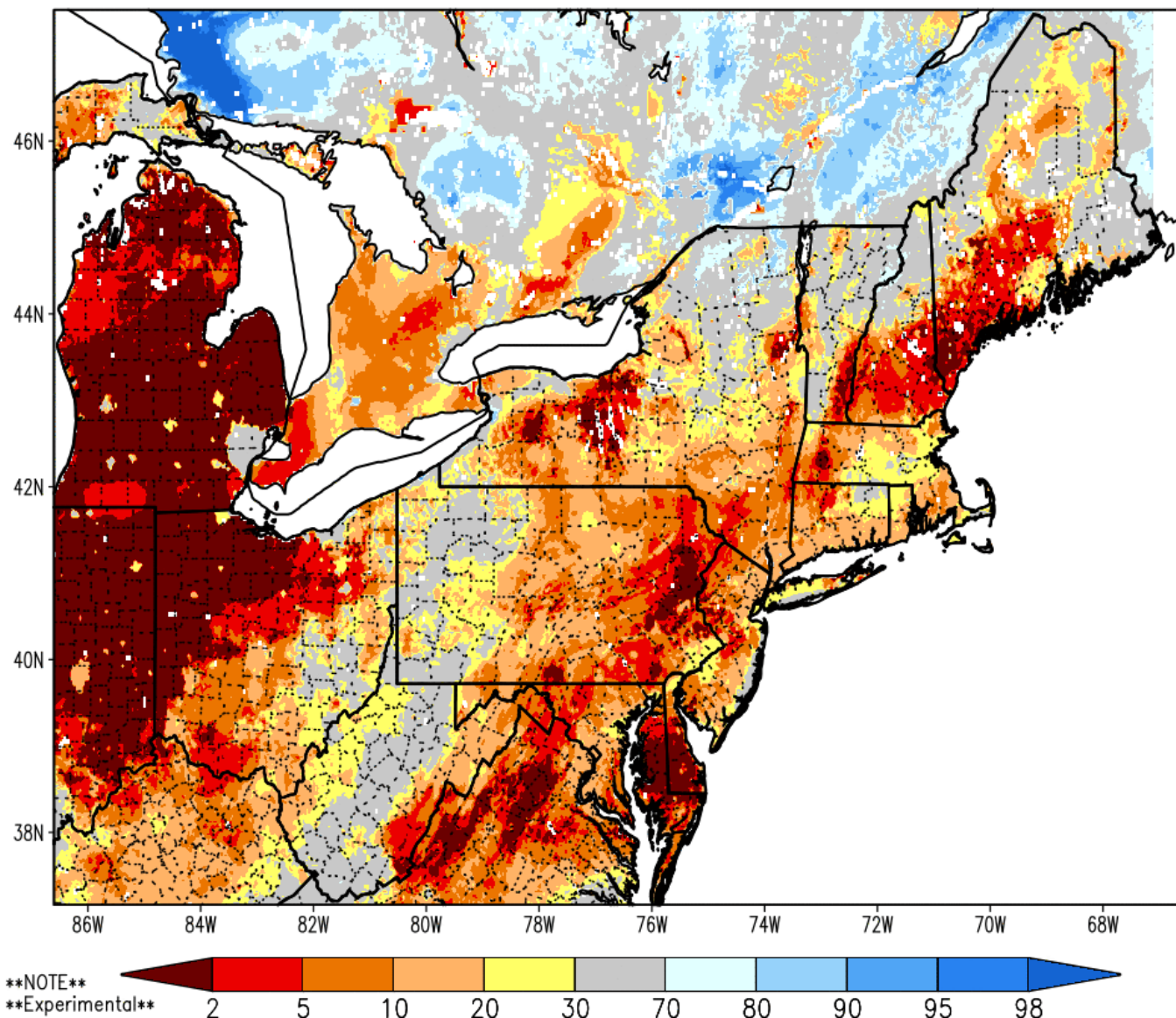
Not Estimated

Elevation in feet

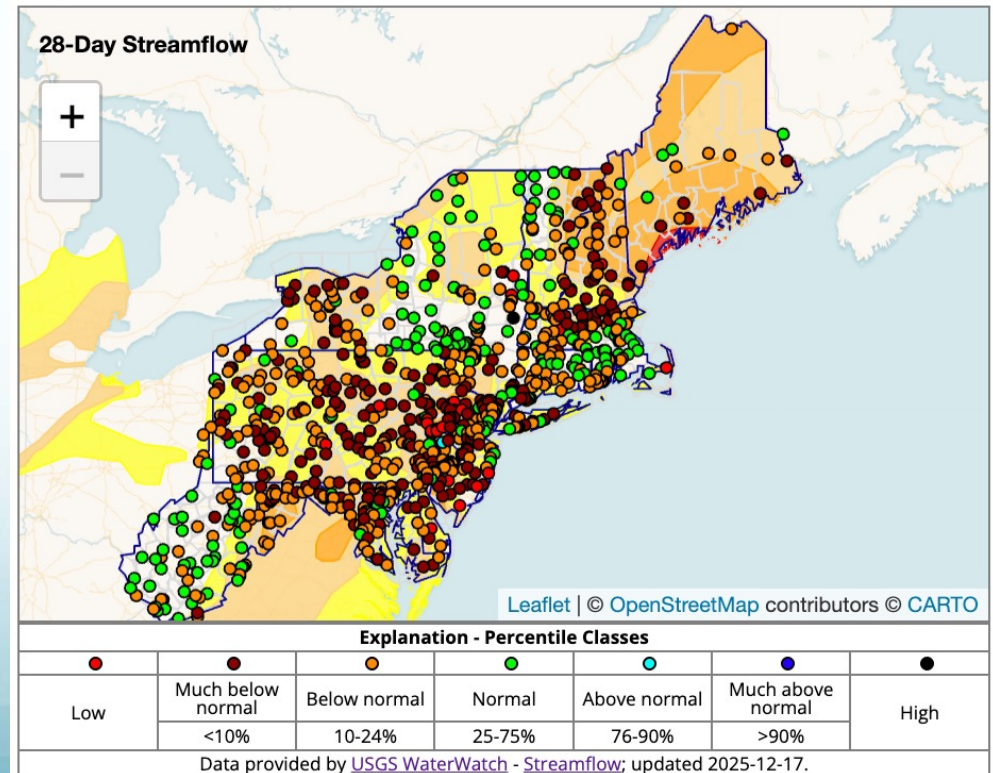
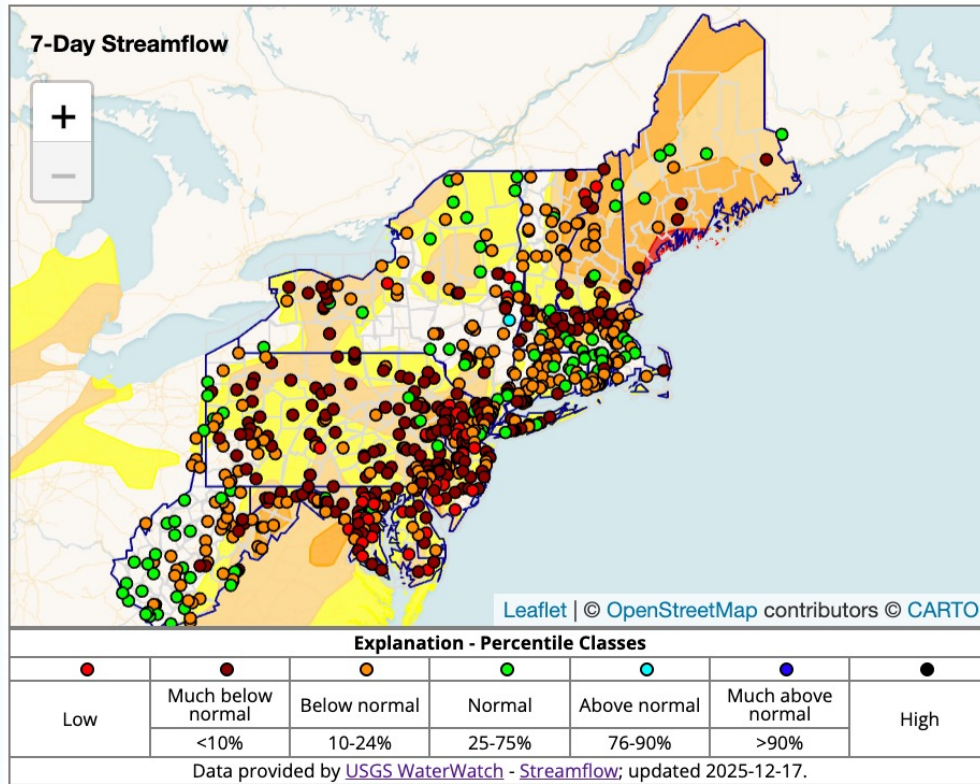


Soil Moisture

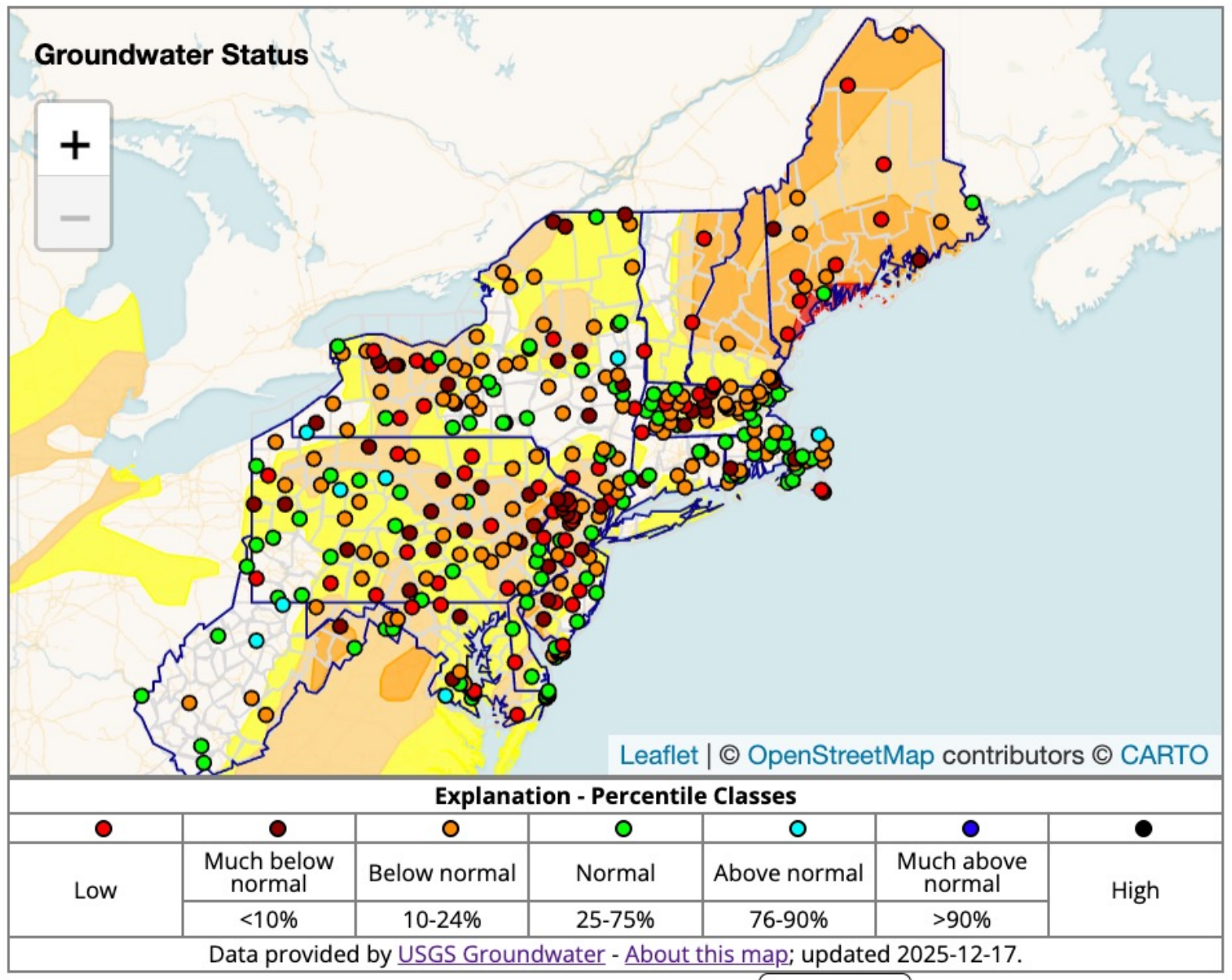
SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 18 Dec 2025



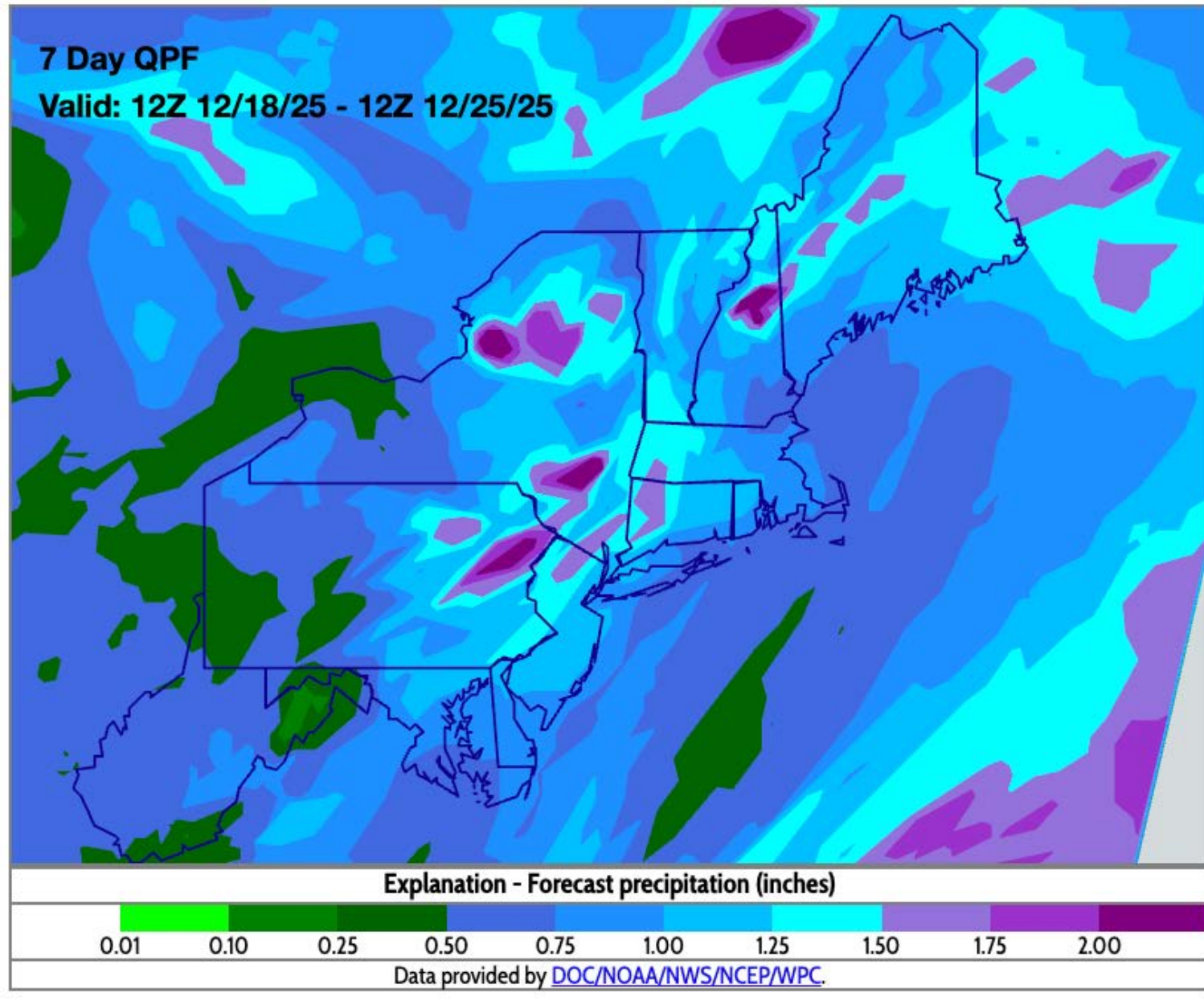
Streamflow



Groundwater

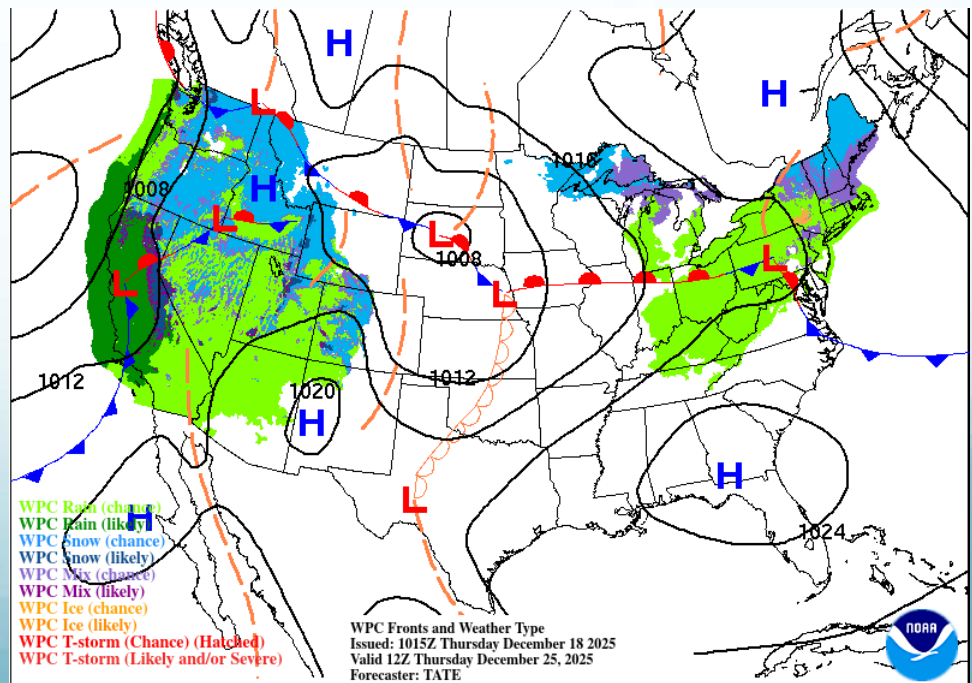
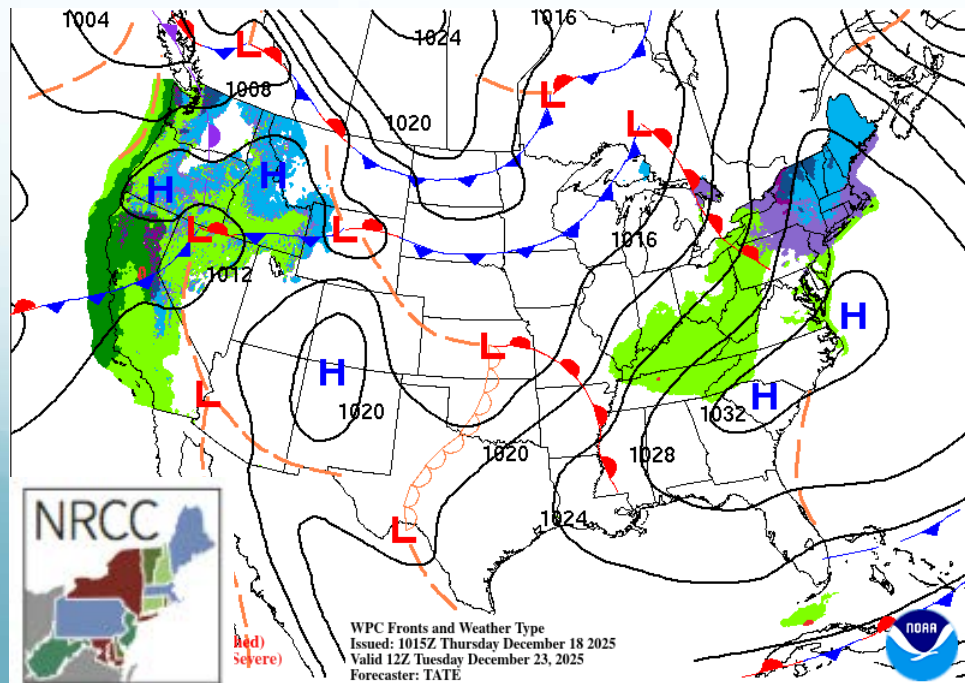
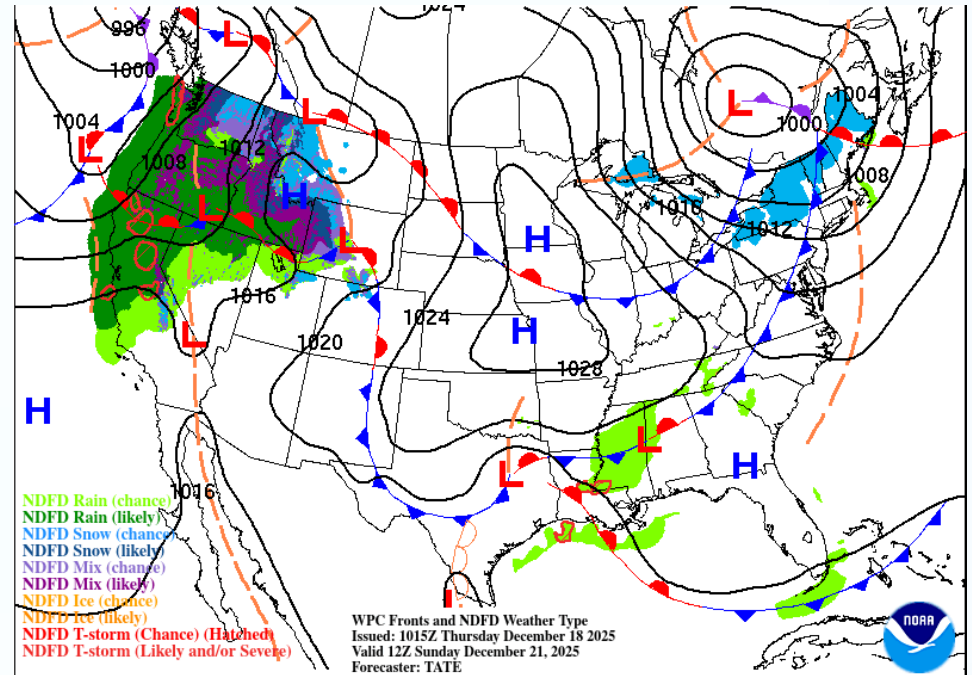
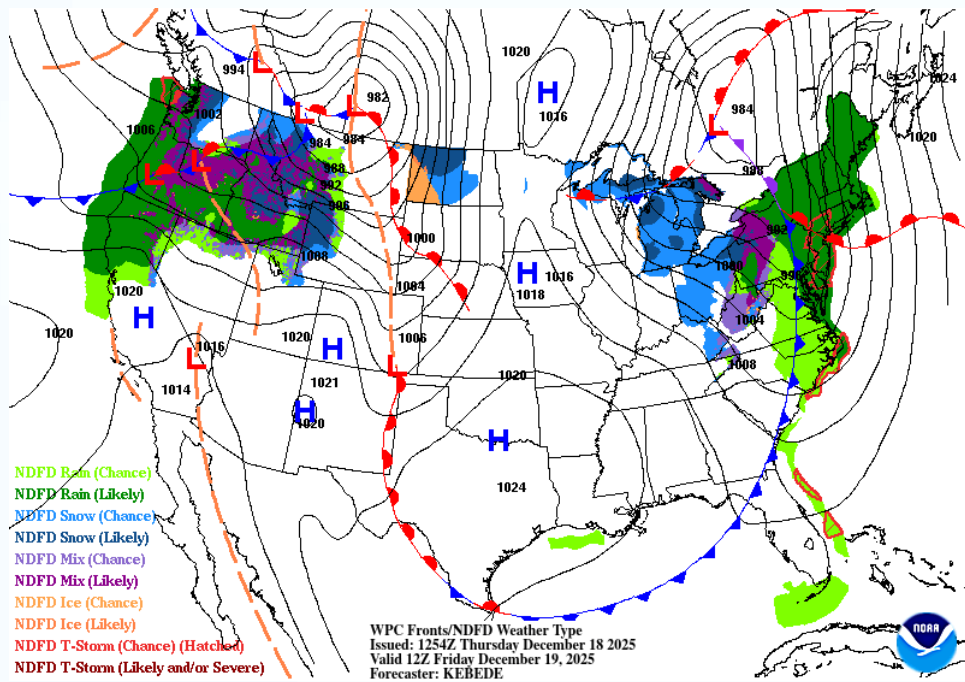


Precipitation Forecast

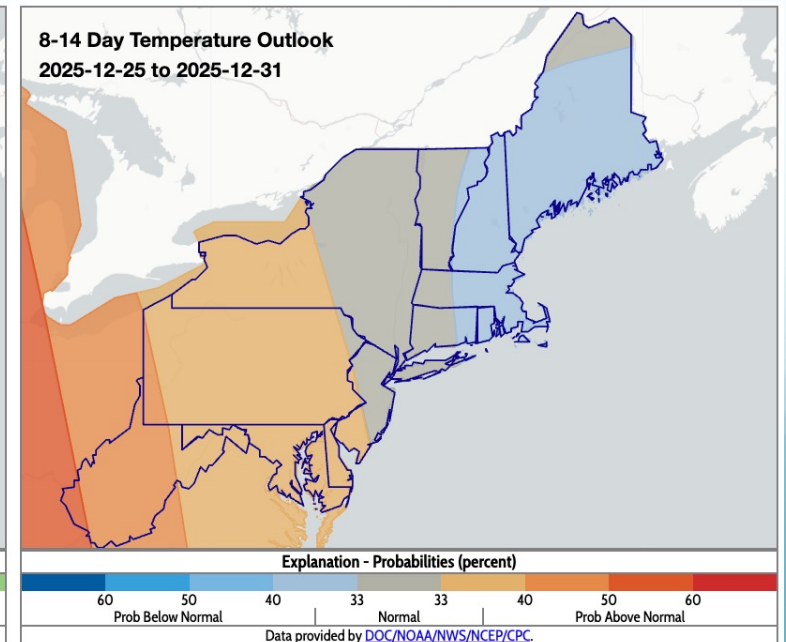
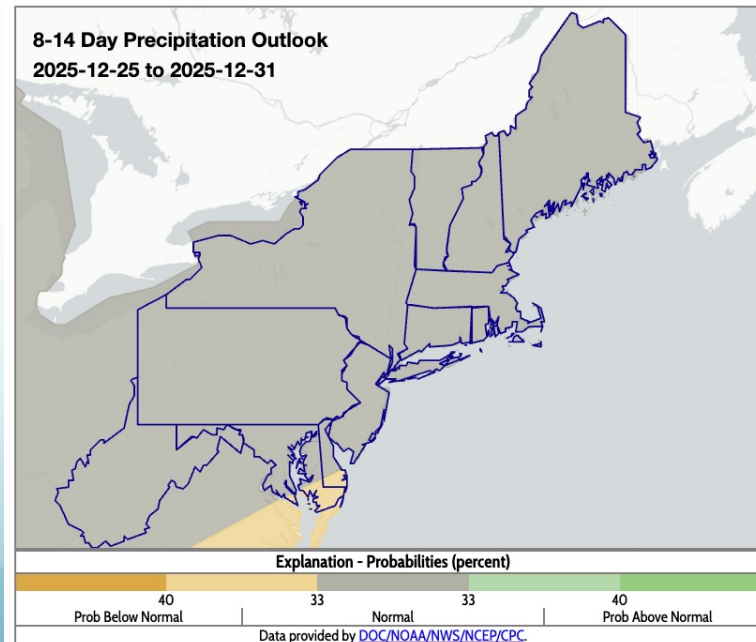
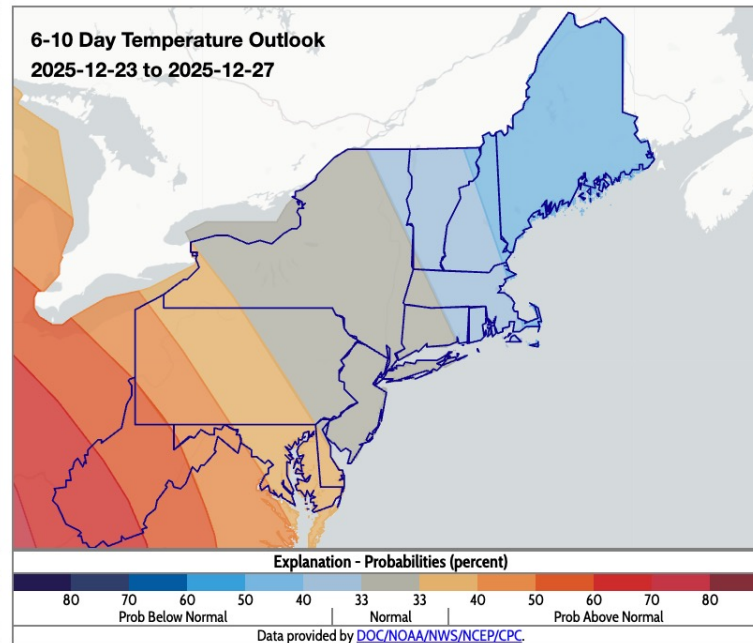
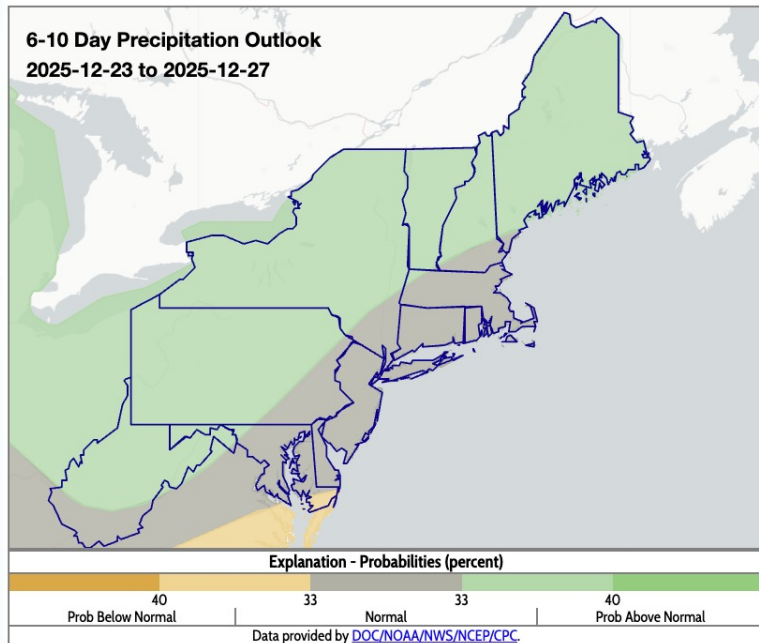


“Normal” precipitation for this period is about 0.50” to 1.00”

Forecast Maps



Short-term Outlooks

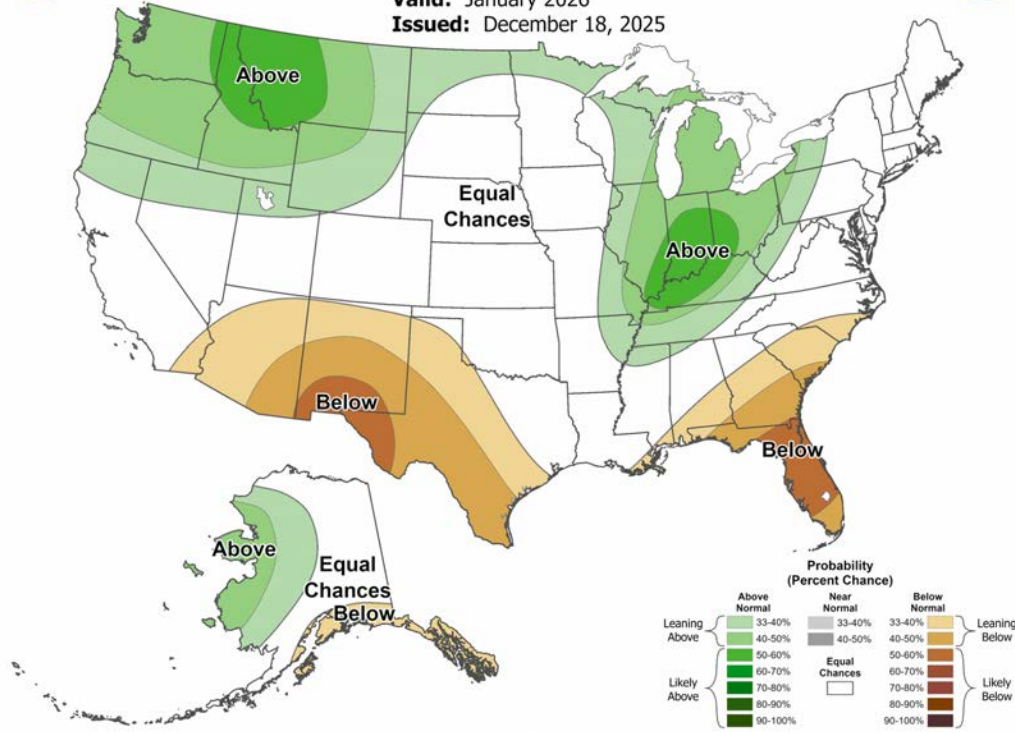


Monthly Outlooks



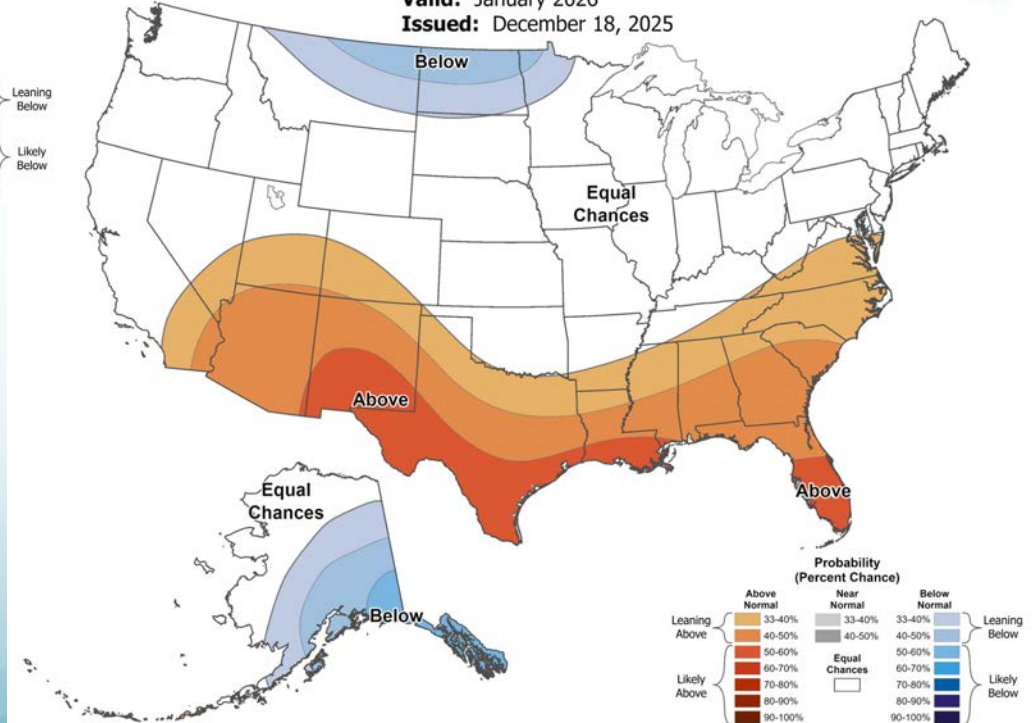
Monthly Precipitation Outlook

Valid: January 2026
Issued: December 18, 2025



Monthly Temperature Outlook

Valid: January 2026
Issued: December 18, 2025

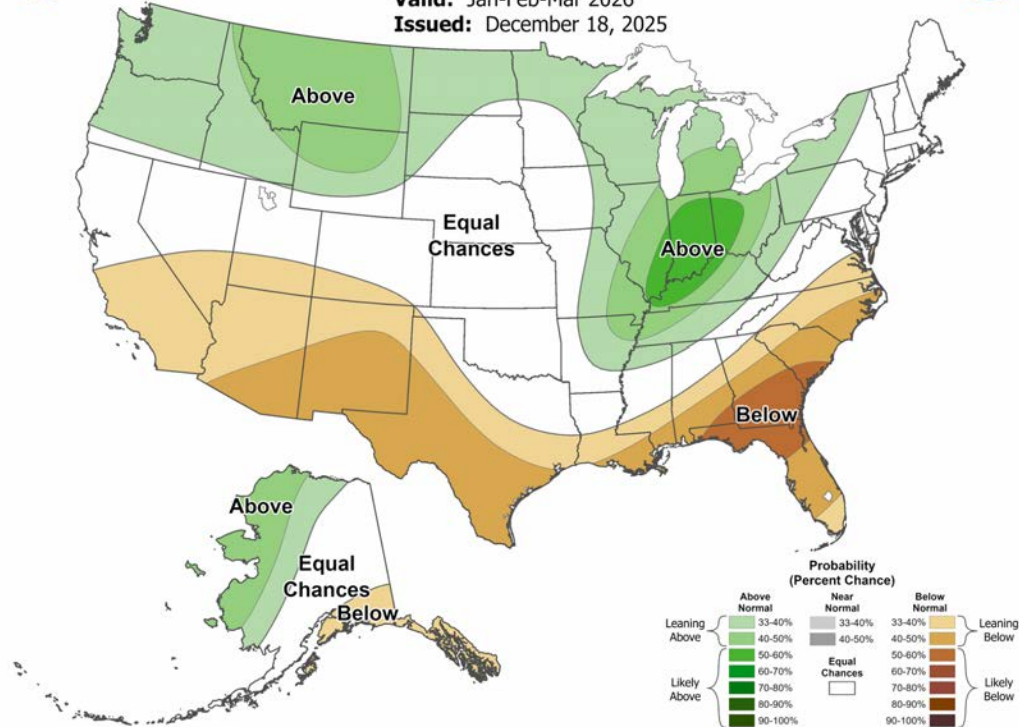


Seasonal Outlooks



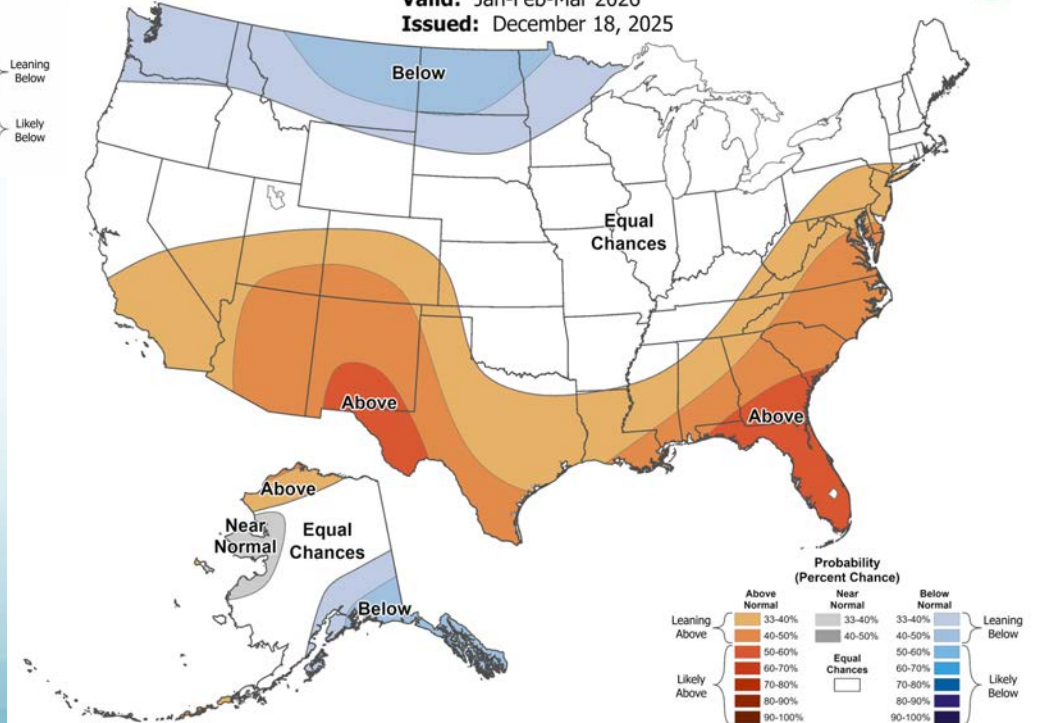
Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Jan-Feb-Mar 2026
Issued: December 18, 2025



Seasonal Temperature Outlook

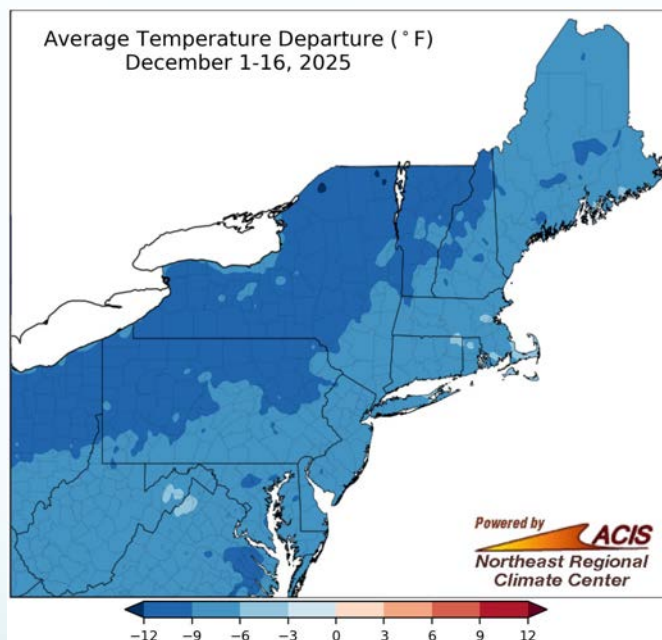
Valid: Jan-Feb-Mar 2026
Issued: December 18, 2025



Summary

December-to-date conditions:

- Colder, drier, and snowier than normal for most areas



Drought:

- Some northern and interior areas saw improvement
- Some Mid-Atlantic areas saw deterioration

Outlooks:

- Short-term – Near- to above-normal precipitation; below-normal temperatures for northeast areas but warmer for southwestern areas – near normal in between
- Jan: wet weather favored for Ohio Valley but equal chances elsewhere; no clear signals for temperatures for most areas
- Jan-Mar: above-normal precipitation favored for interior areas with equal chances elsewhere; above-normal temperatures expected for much of the Mid-Atlantic



Contact Information

- nrcc@cornell.edu

Upcoming Webinars

- Thursday, January 29 at 9:30am EST
- Thursday, February 26 at 9:30am EST
- Thursday, March 26 at 9:30am EDT
 - Spring Flooding - Tentative
- Thursday, April 30 at 9:30am EDT
 - Forest Climate Indicators



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