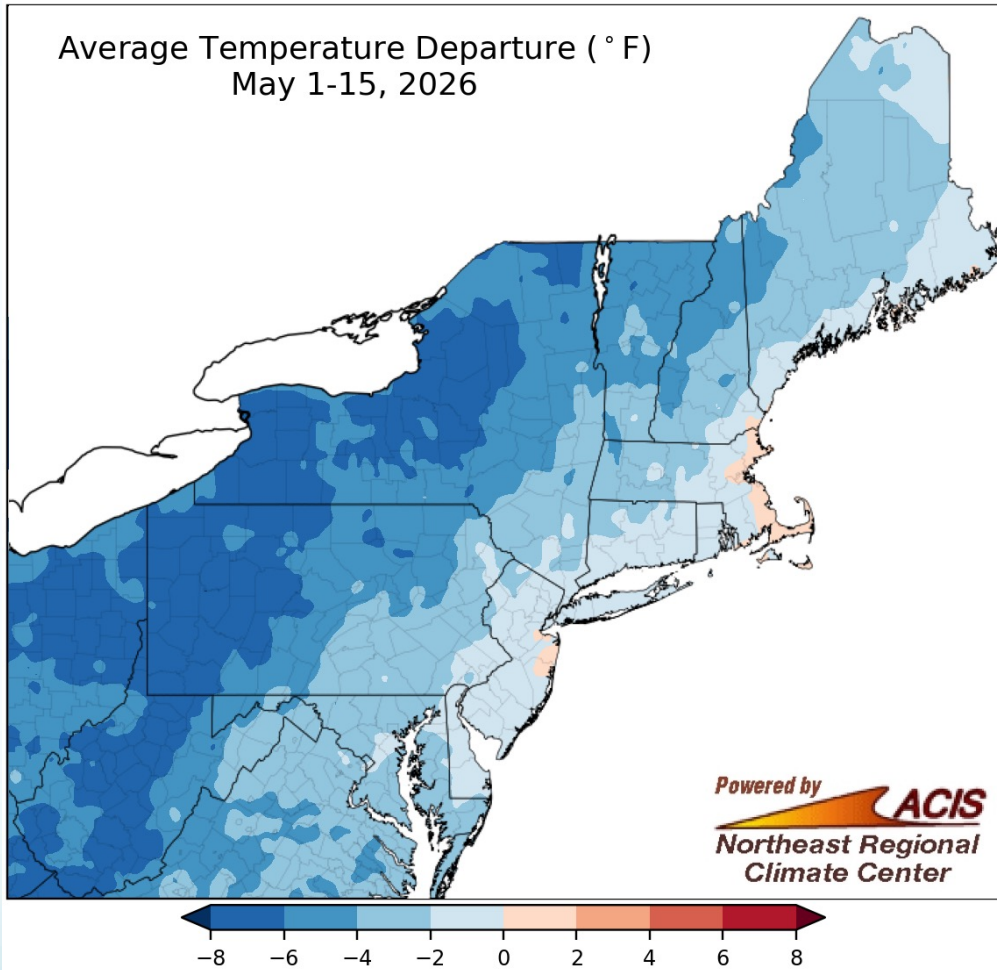


May Conditions & Northeast DEWS Discussion

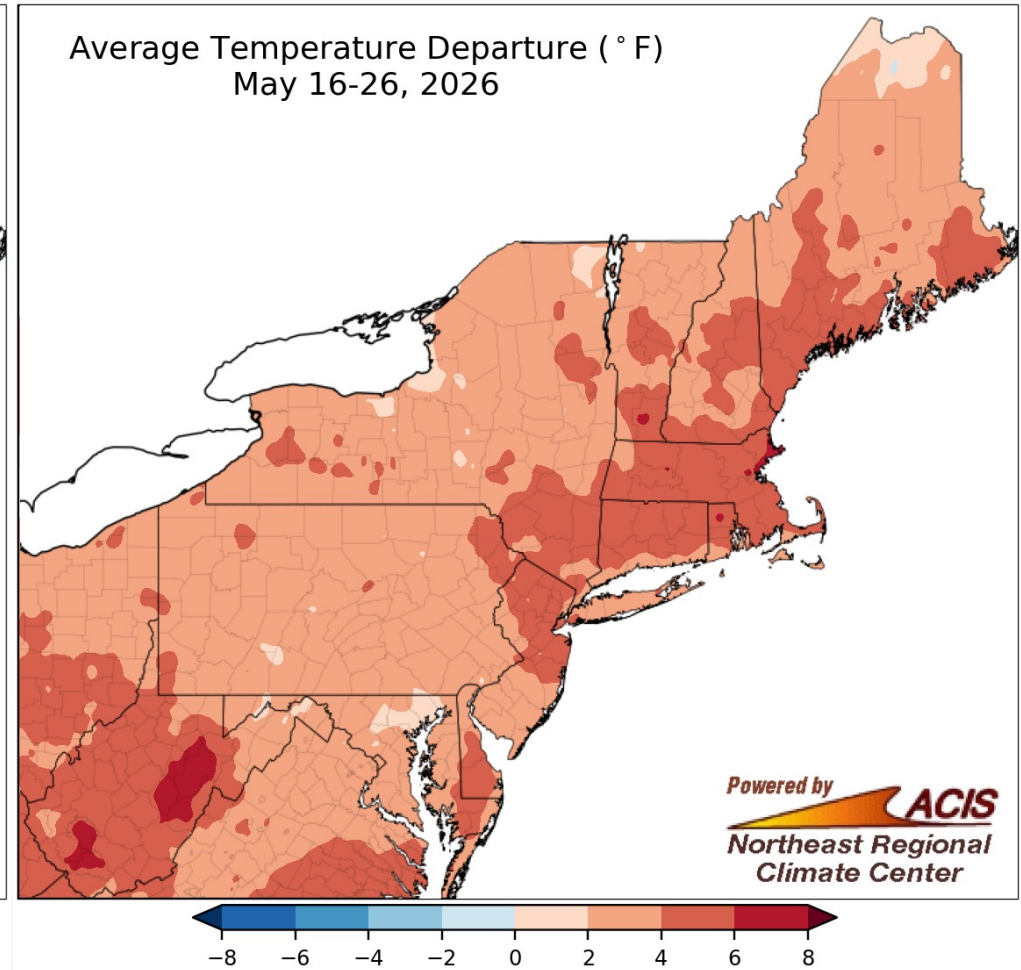
By: Samantha Borisoff, Climatologist
Northeast Regional Climate Center



May Temperatures



First half: as much as
8°F below normal



Second half: as much as
8°F above normal



May Temperatures

Station	May Date	Max Temp (°F)	Rank (hottest)
Allentown, PA	19	94	7
Allentown, PA	20	94	7
Atlantic City, NJ	19	94	9
Atlantic City, NJ	20	97	2
Baltimore, MD	19	97	6
Beckley, WV	18	88	8
Binghamton, NY	18	87	7
Boston, MA	19	96	2
Bridgeport, CT	20	93	3
Concord, NH	19	96	3
Dulles Airport, VA	18	95	3
Dulles Airport, VA	19	96	2
Dulles Airport, VA	20	95	3
Elkins, WV	18	90	4
Erie, PA	18	90	2
Hartford, CT	19	96	4
Islip, NY	20	93	4
Kennedy Airport, NY	20	93	7
LaGuardia Airport, NY	19	96	3
LaGuardia Airport, NY	20	96	3
Newark, NJ	19	99	1
Newark, NJ	20	96	10
Philadelphia, PA	18	96	4
Philadelphia, PA	19	98	1
Portland, ME	19	92	3
Providence, RI	20	93	10
Washington, D.C.	19	97	4
Washington, D.C.	20	96	10
Wilmington, DE	19	96	3
Wilmington, DE	20	95	8
Worcester, MA	19	90	8

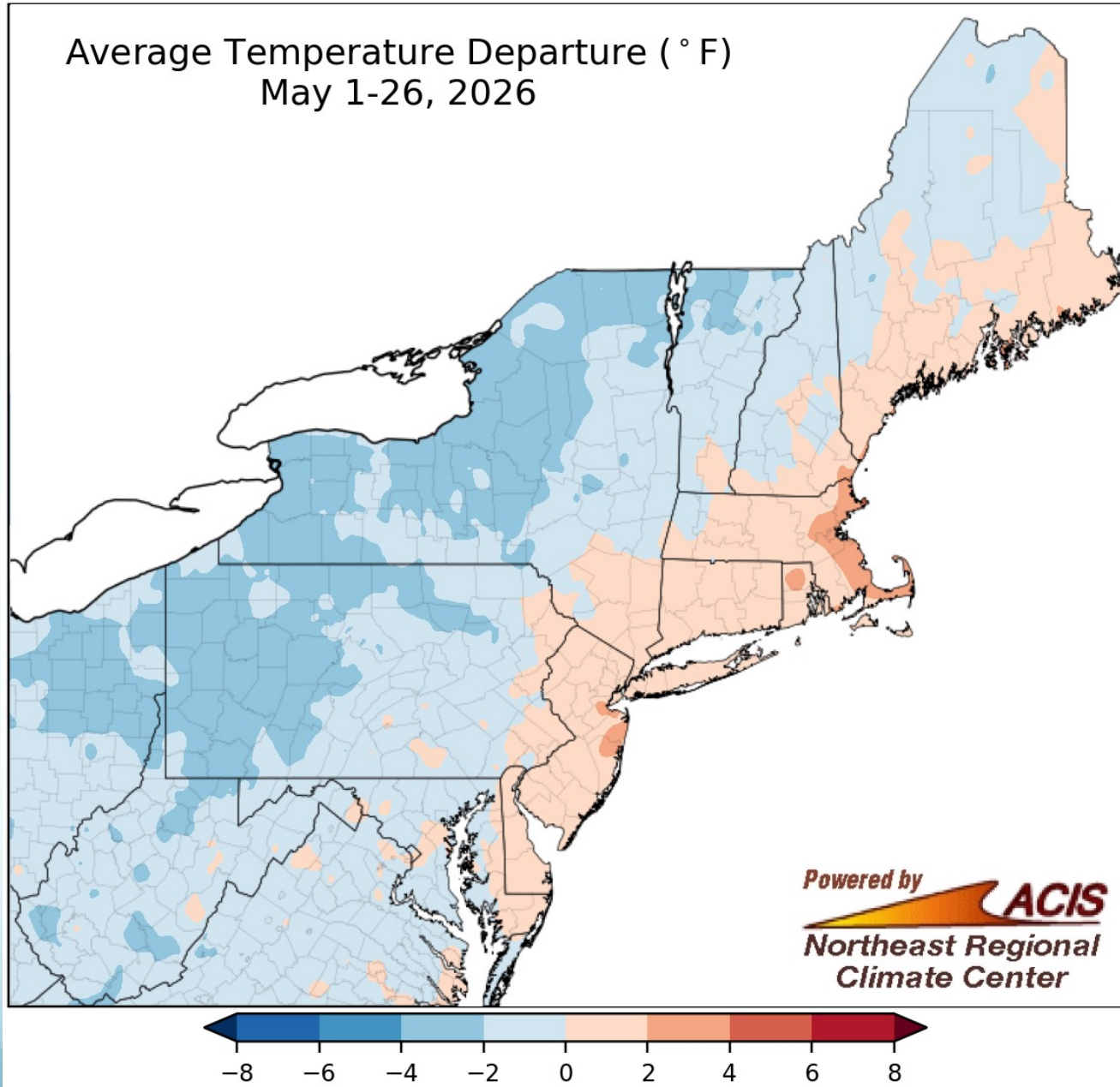
Station	May Date	Min Temp (°F)	Rank (hottest)
Albany, NY	19	71	3
Atlantic City, NY	20	69	10
Binghamton, NY	18	66	5
Binghamton, NY	19	70	1
Burlington, VT	19	71	3
Central Park, NY	19	73	10
Huntington, WV	19	71	3
Newark, NJ	19	73	3
Portland, ME	20	62	8
Syracuse, NY	19	70	6
Worcester, MA	19	69	3

Near record to record warmth
May 18-20



May Temperatures

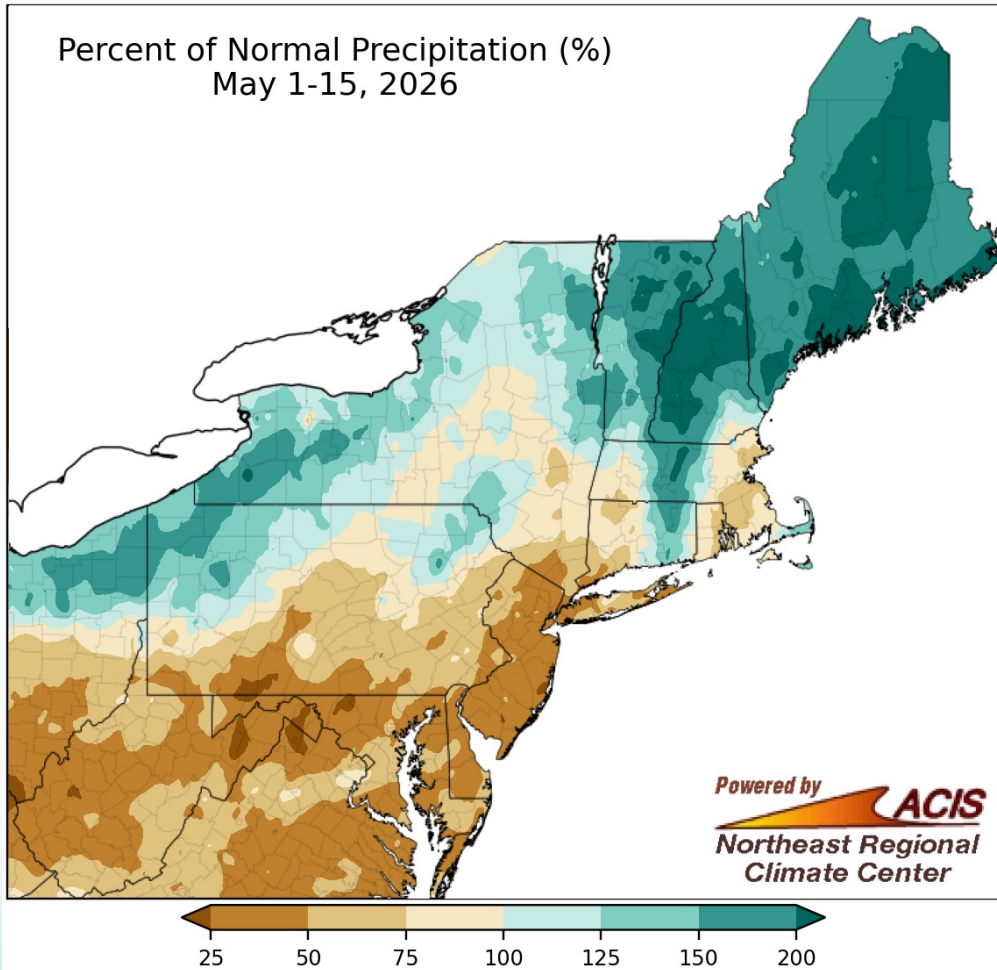
Average Temperature Departure (° F)
May 1-26, 2026



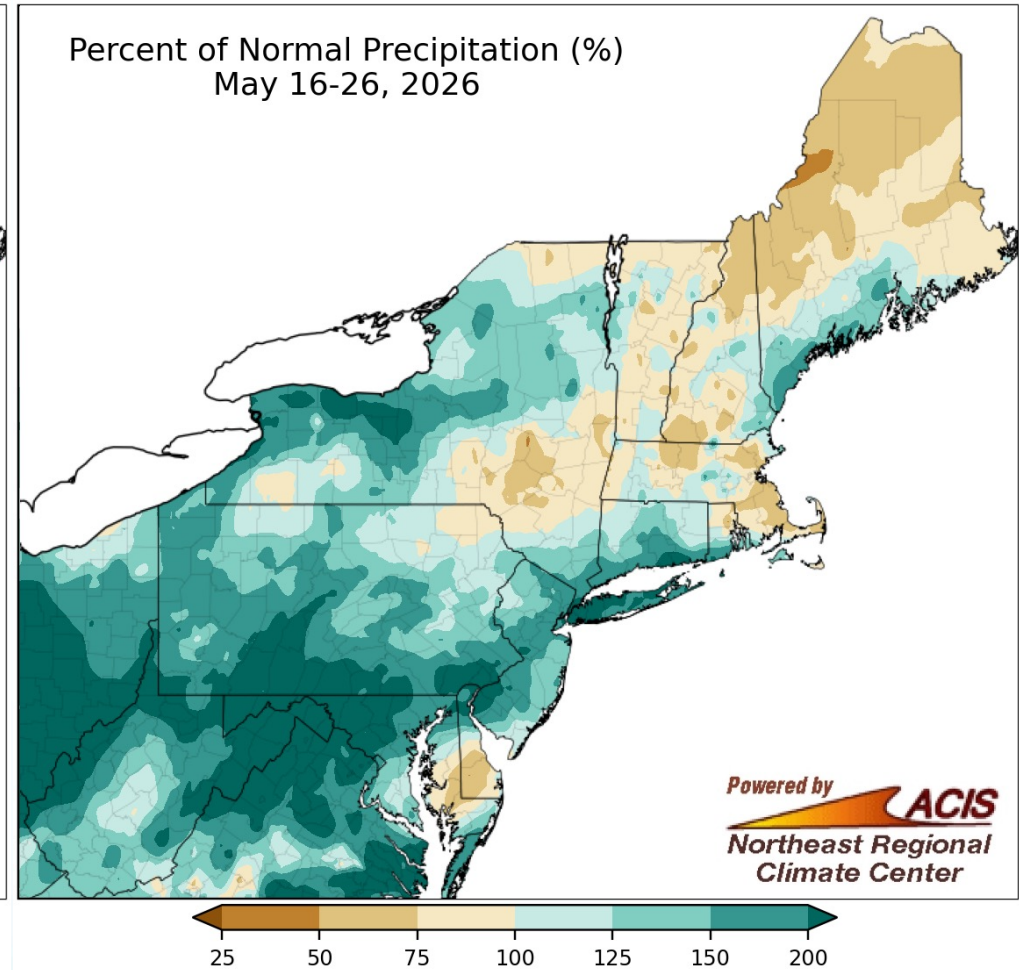
From 4°F below normal to 4°F above normal



May Precipitation

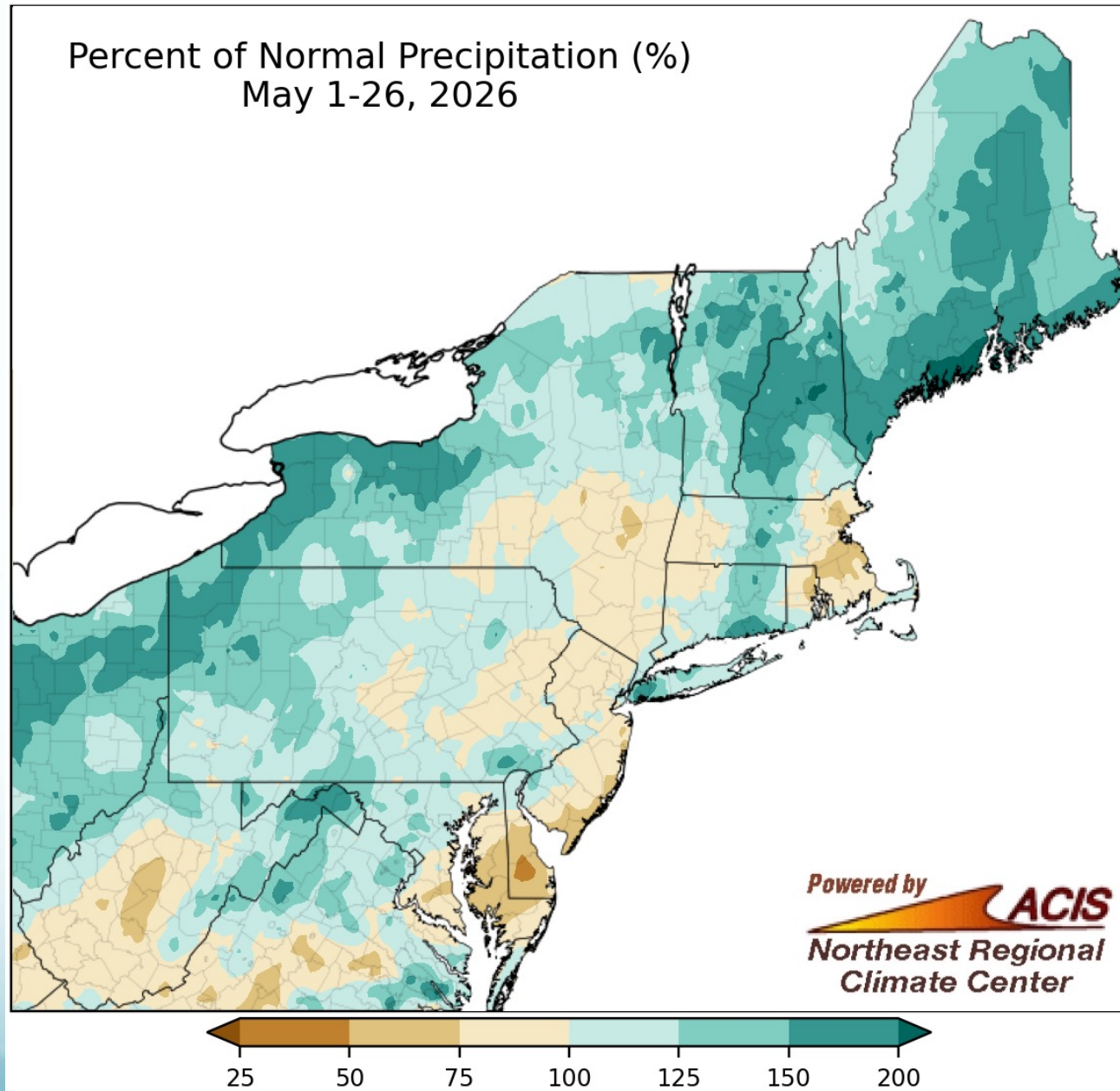


From less than 25% of normal in southern areas to over 200% of normal in northern areas



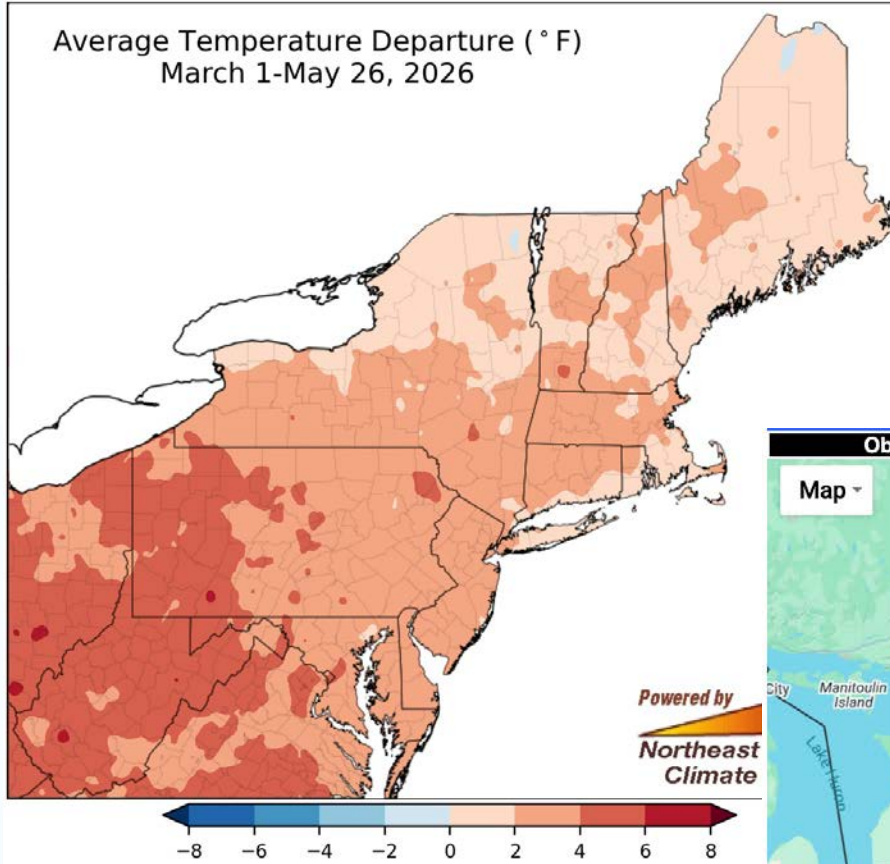
From 50% of normal in northern areas to over 200% of normal in southern and interior areas

May Precipitation



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

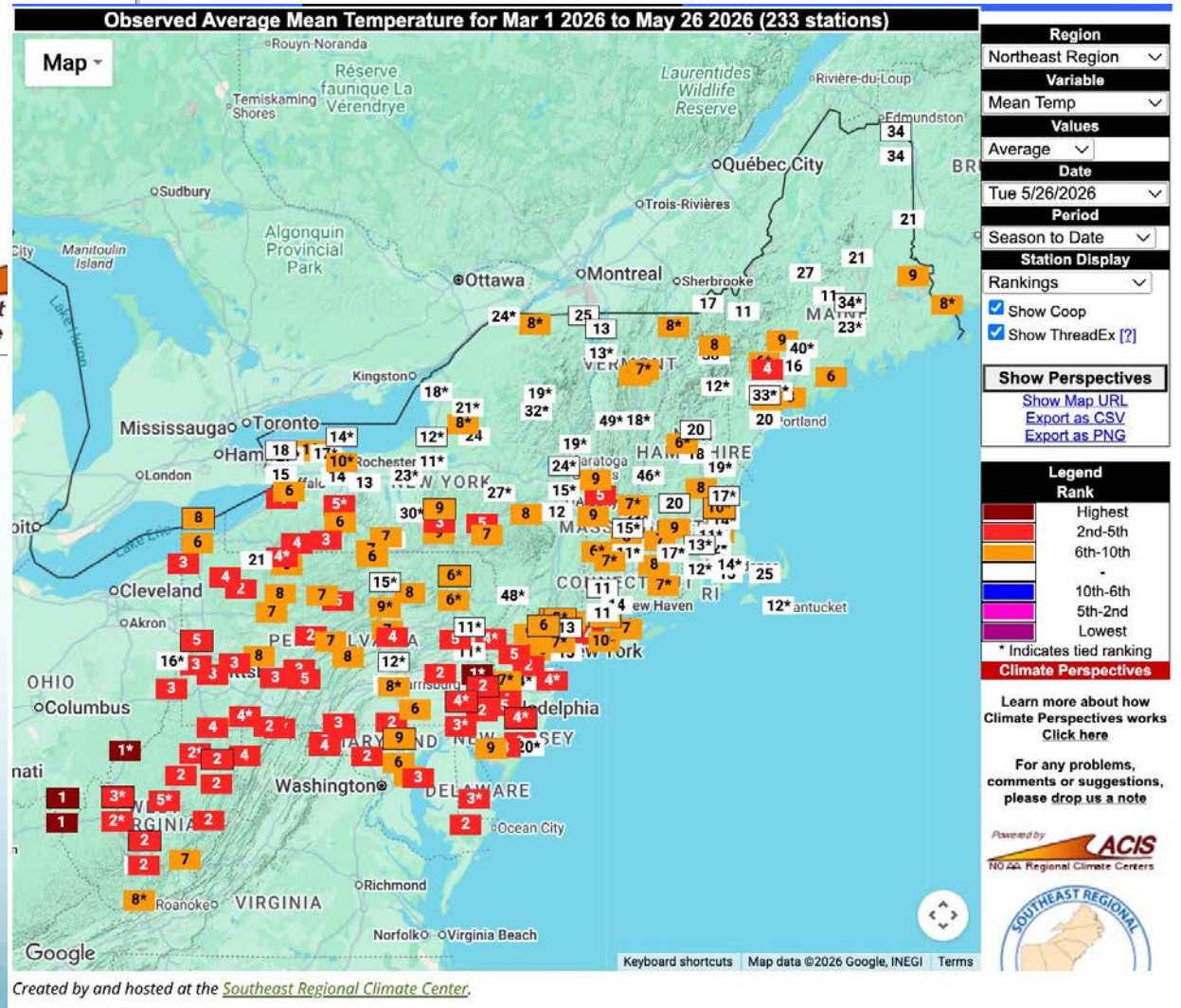
Average Temperature Departure (° F)
March 1-May 26, 2026



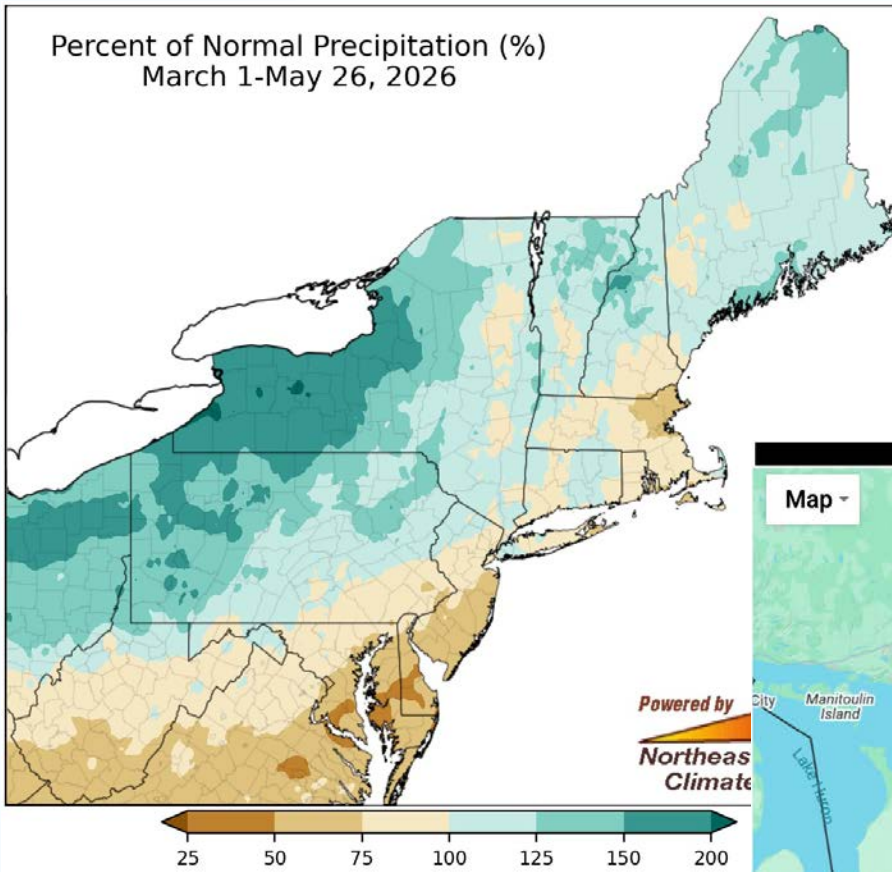
Spring Temperature

From near normal to 6°F above normal for most areas

Among the 10 warmest springs for some Mid-Atlantic sites

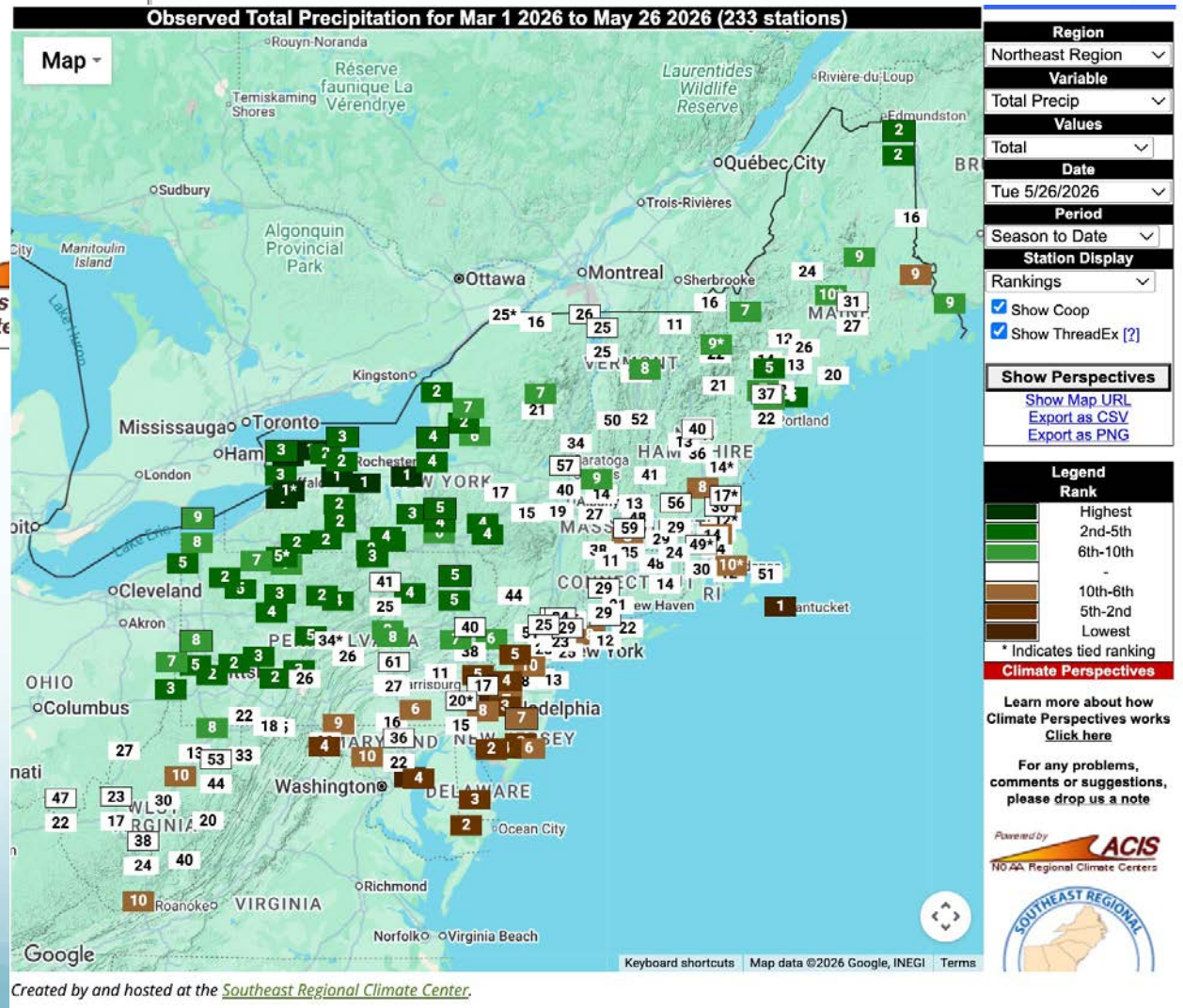


Spring Precipitation

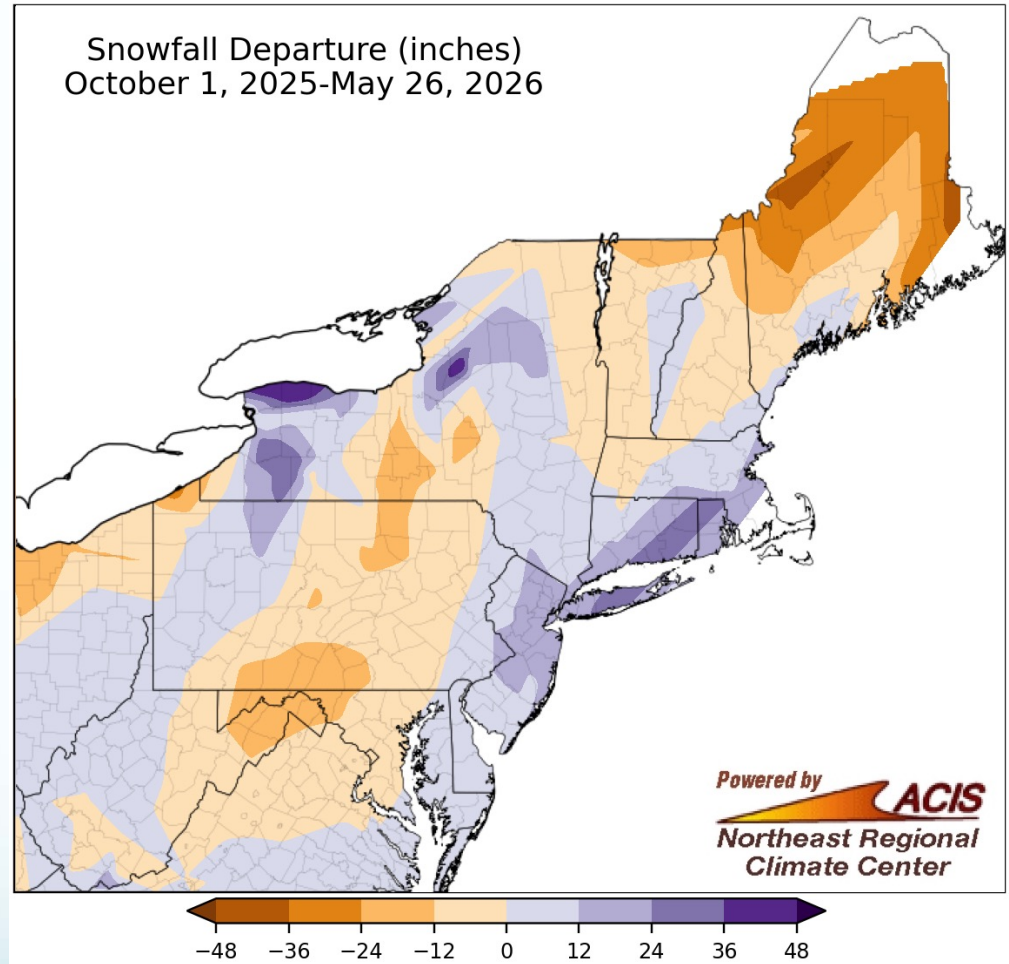
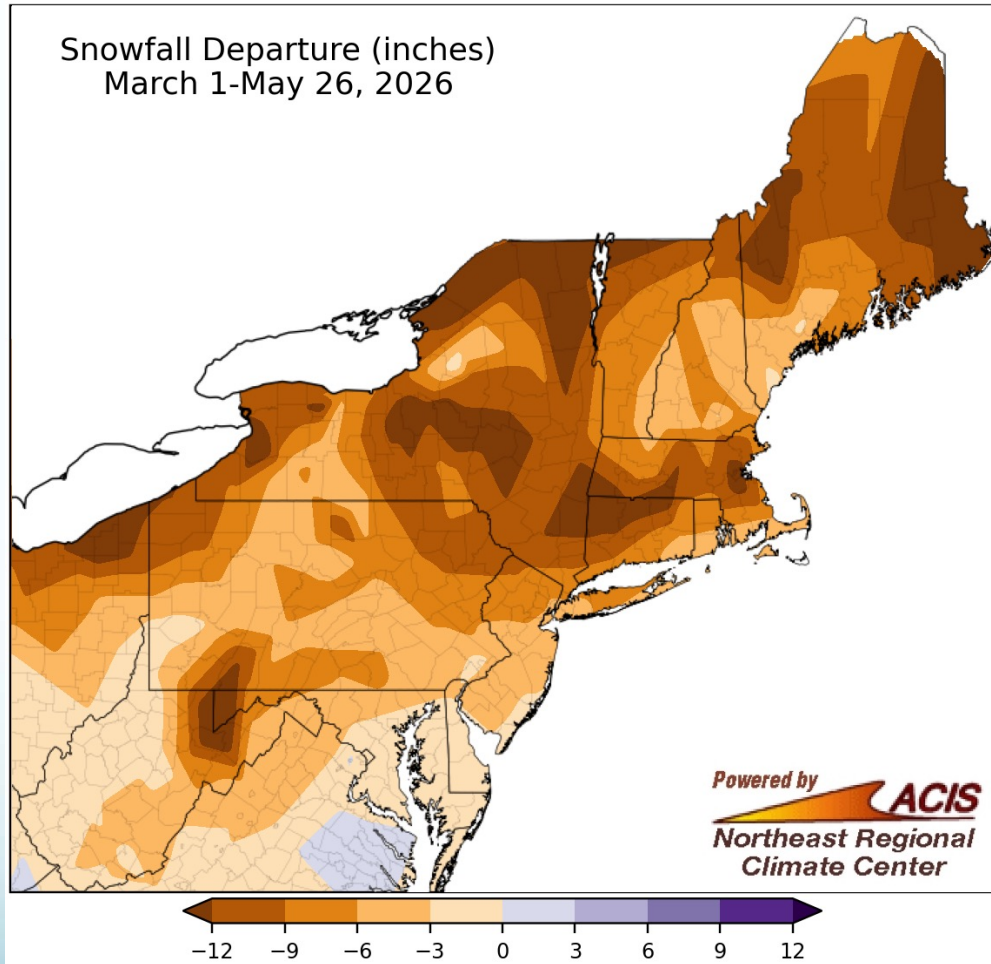


From 25% of normal to 200% of normal for most areas

Among the 10 wettest springs for a few interior sites; may be among 20 driest for few “coastal” sites



Spring and Snow Season Snowfall



Spring: from more than 12" below normal to near normal

Snow season (Oct-May): from 24" below normal to 48" above normal



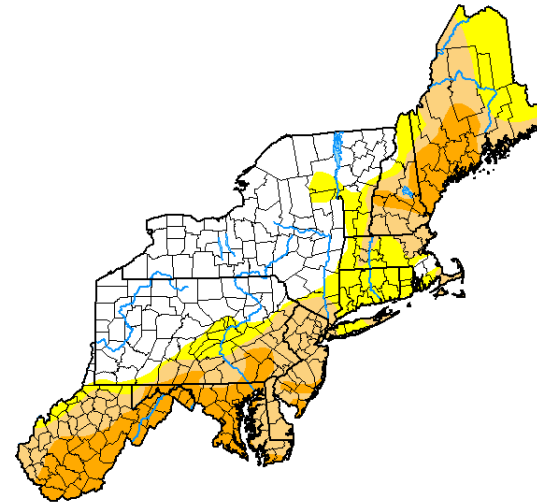
Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor Northeast

April 28, 2026
(Released Thursday, Apr. 30, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	39.28	60.72	42.16	17.57	0.00	0.00
Last Week 04-21-2026	41.62	58.38	42.41	13.20	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 01-27-2026	28.45	71.55	43.16	16.56	0.20	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	24.63	75.37	46.99	18.53	0.20	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	7.96	92.14	49.24	25.45	6.67	0.00
One Year Ago 04-29-2025	59.17	40.83	16.44	5.19	0.00	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:

Brad Rippey
U.S. Department of Agriculture



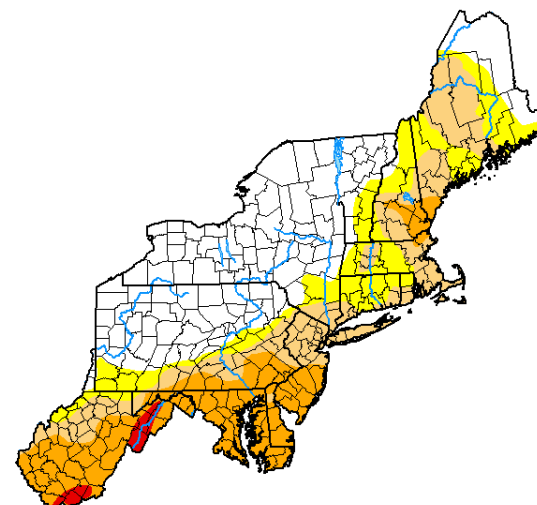
droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor Northeast

May 19, 2026
(Released Thursday, May 21, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	43.70	16.76	19.53	18.66	1.35	0.00
Last Week 05-12-2026	40.45	17.56	20.69	21.31	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 02-17-2026	27.00	23.63	31.52	17.42	0.42	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-06-2026	24.63	28.38	28.46	18.33	0.20	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	7.86	42.89	23.79	18.78	6.67	0.00
One Year Ago 05-20-2025	83.87	10.28	5.40	0.45	0.00	0.00



Intensity:

- None
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- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

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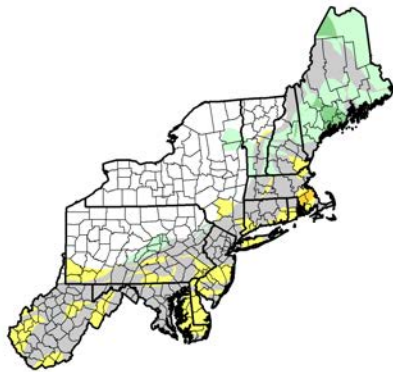
Author:

Rocky Bilotta
NCEI/NOAA



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Northeast Climate Region 3 Week



- 5 Class Degradation
- 4 Class Degradation
- 3 Class Degradation
- 2 Class Degradation
- 1 Class Degradation
- No Change
- 1 Class Improvement
- 2 Class Improvement
- 3 Class Improvement
- 4 Class Improvement
- 5 Class Improvement

May 19, 2026
compared to
April 28, 2026

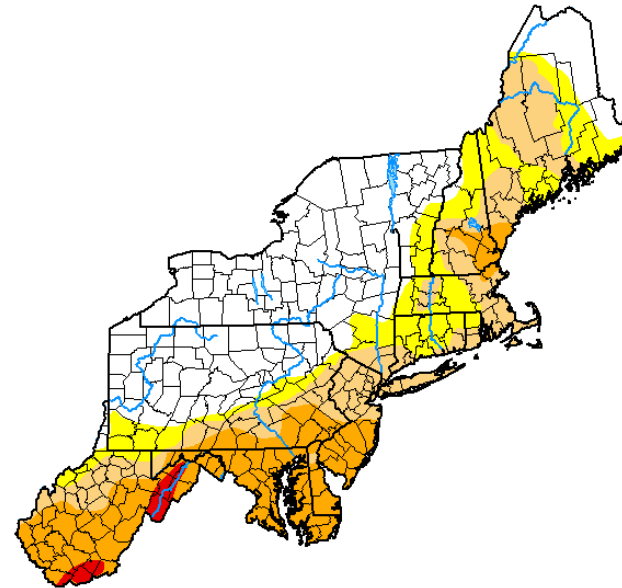
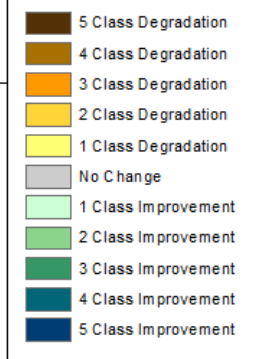
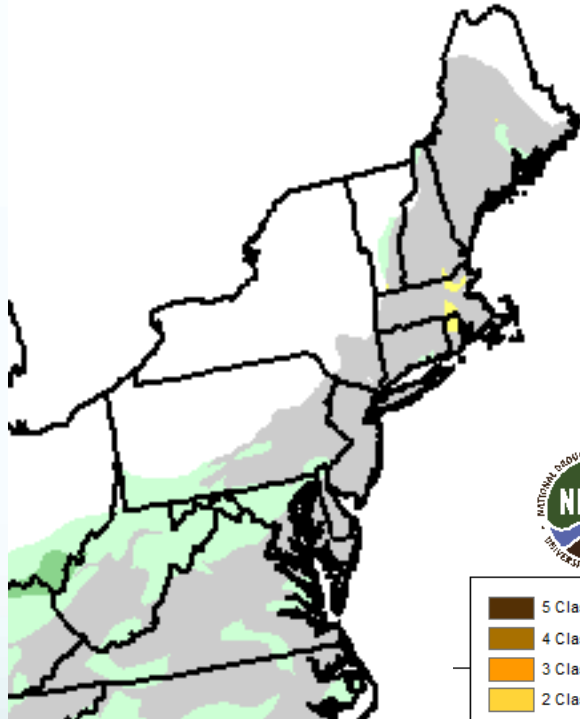
droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor Northeast

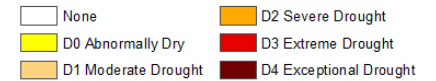
May 19, 2026
(Released Thursday, May 21, 2026)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



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	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
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Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	7.86	42.89	23.79	18.78	6.67	0.00
One Year Ago 05-20-2025	83.87	10.28	5.40	0.45	0.00	0.00

Intensity:



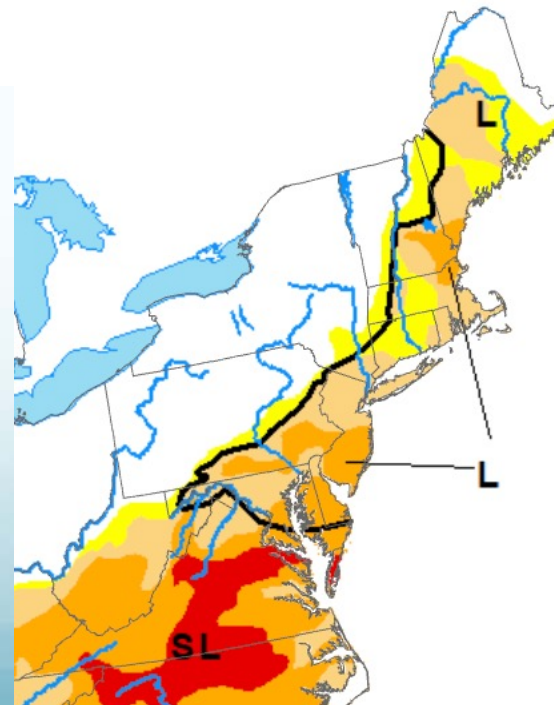
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

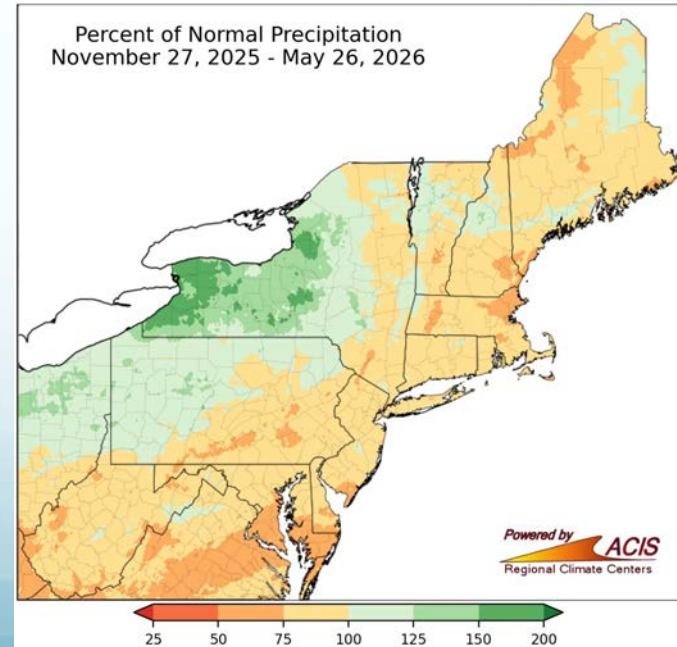
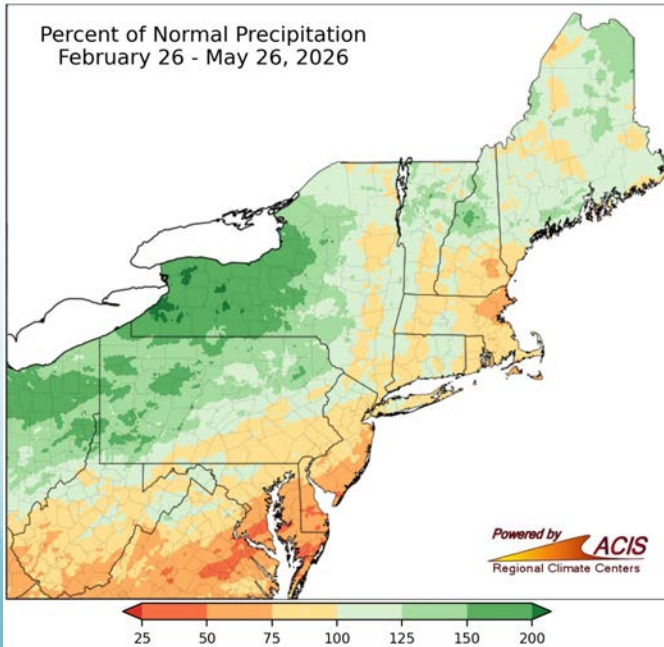
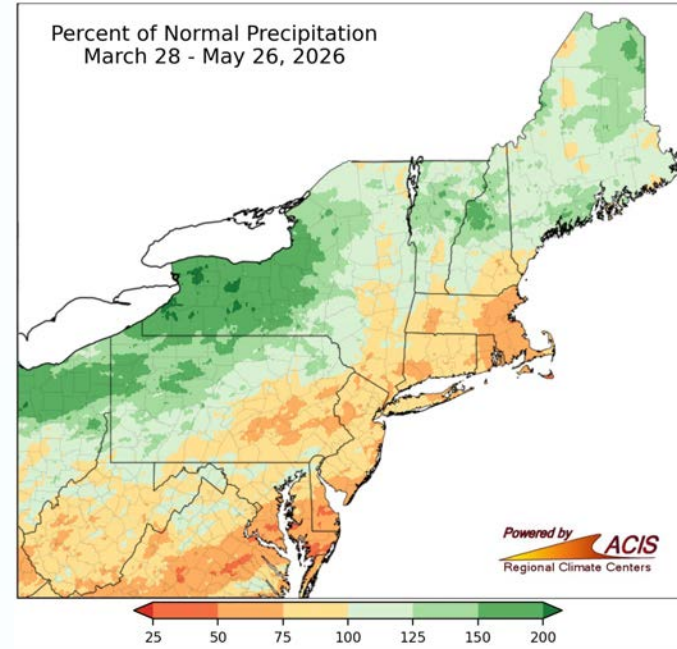
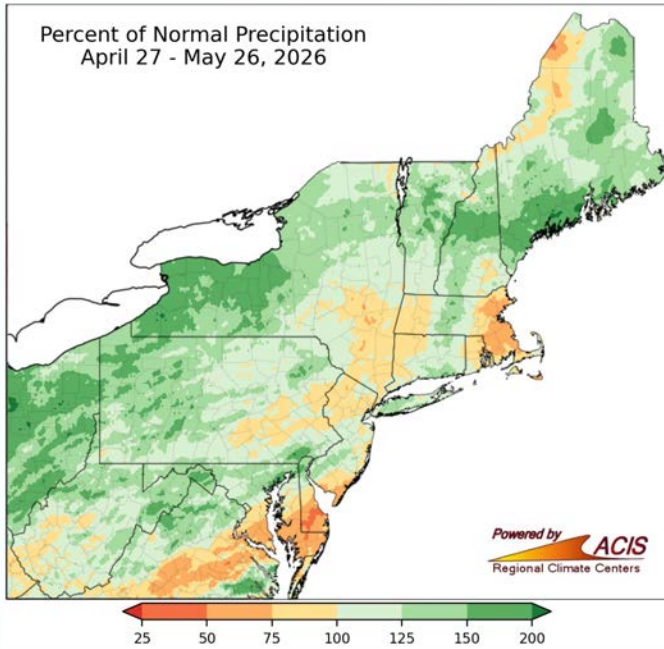
Rocky Bilotta
NCEI/NOAA



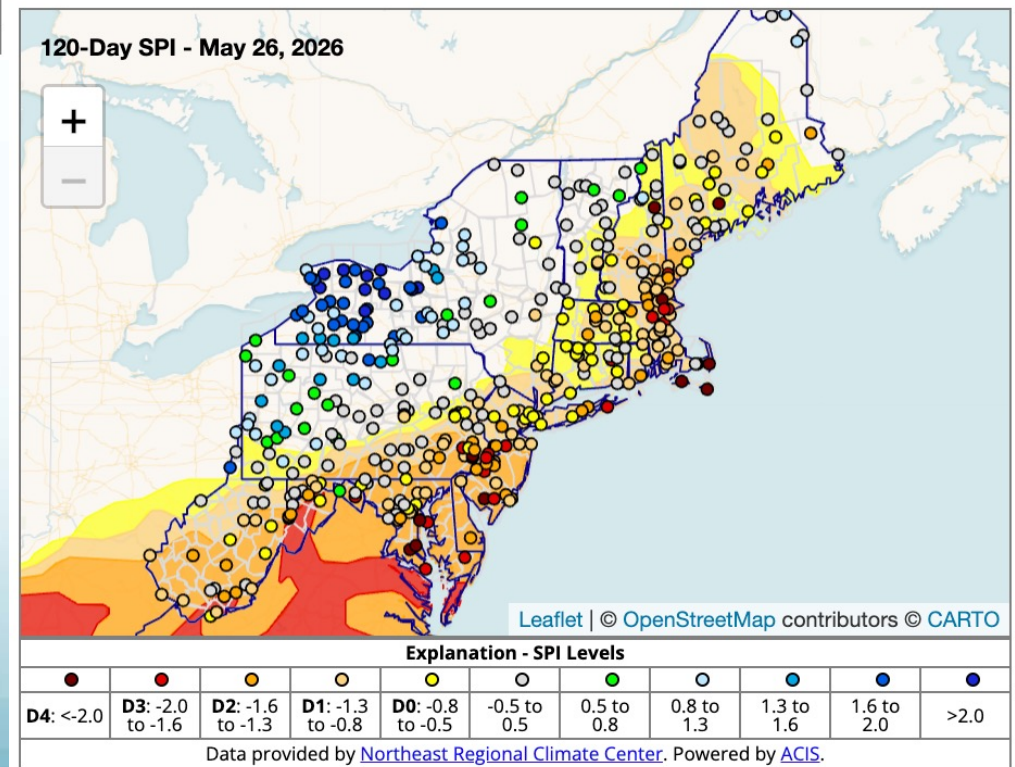
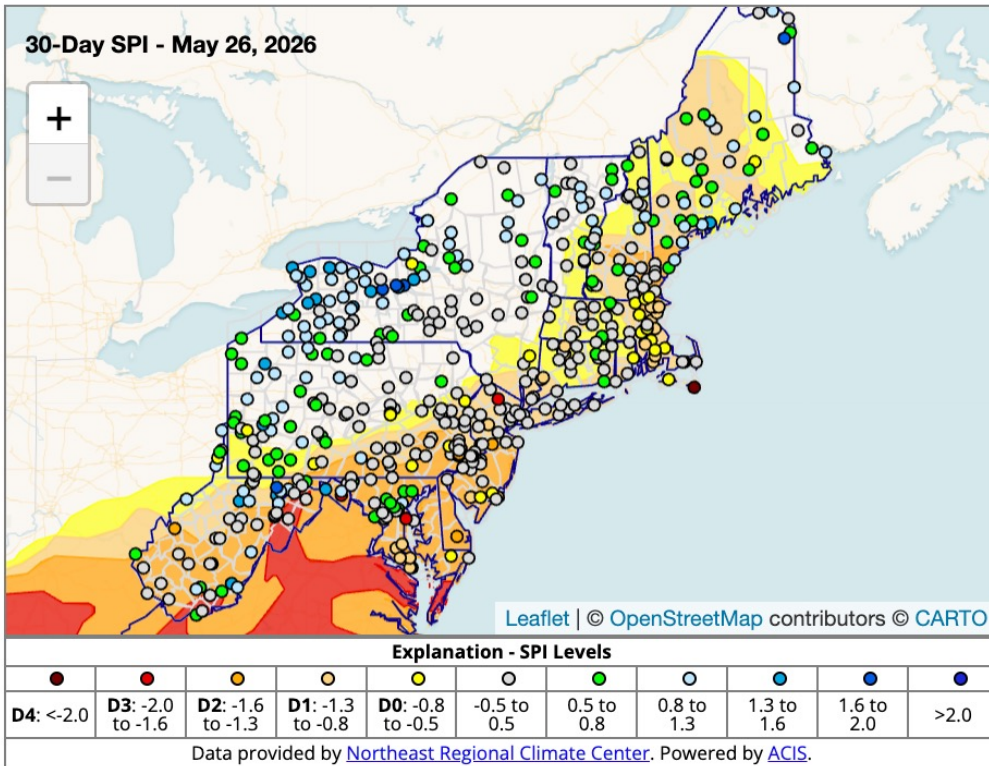
droughtmonitor.unl.edu



Precipitation



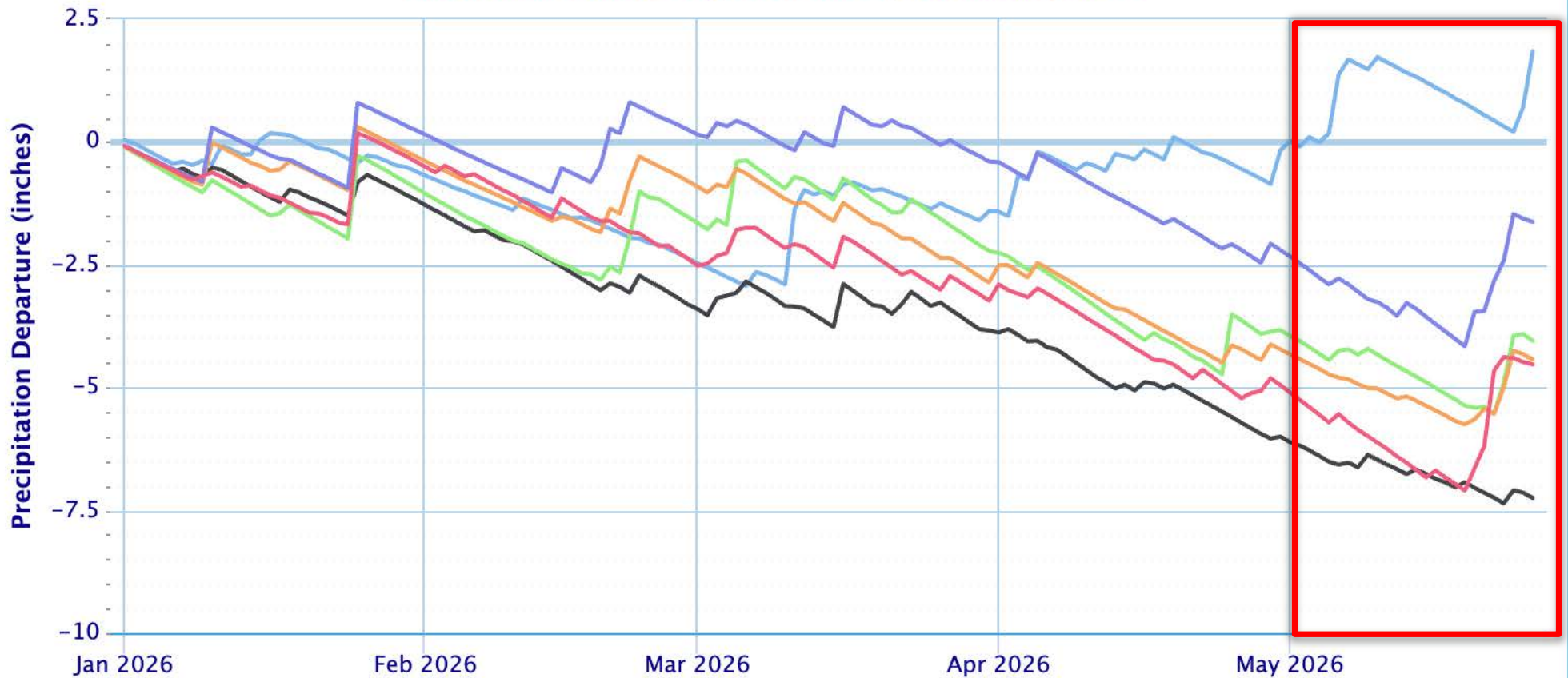
Standardized Precipitation Index



Precipitation

Accumulated Precipitation Departure from Normal

Green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



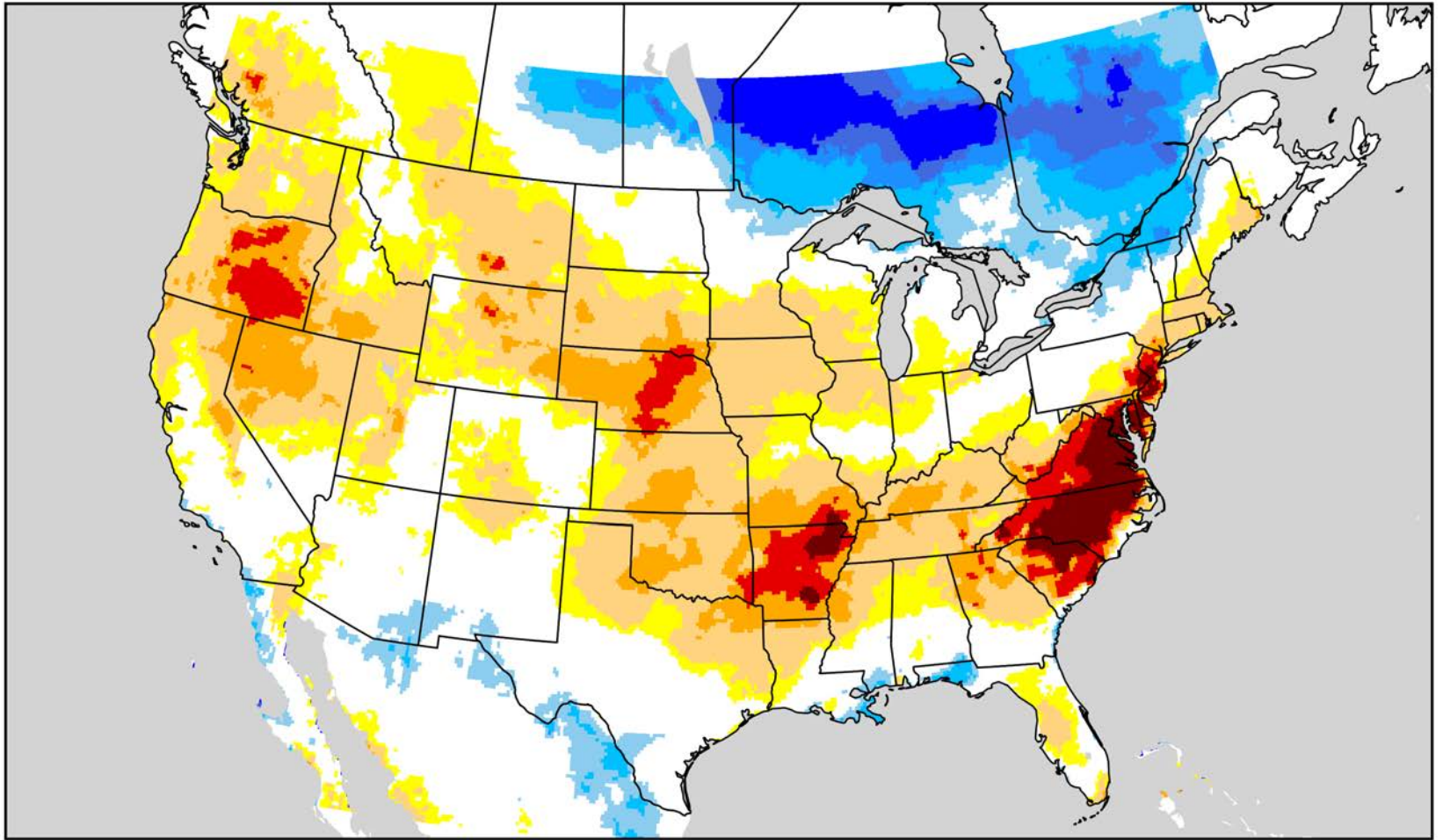
(Click to hide/show lines)

- Caribou Area, ME (ThreadEx):Precip Dprt
- New York-Central Park Area, NY (ThreadEx):Precip Dprt
- Sterling-Dulles Airport Area, VA (ThreadEx):Precip Dprt
- Boston Area, MA (ThreadEx):Precip Dprt
- Philadelphia Area, PA (ThreadEx):Precip Dprt
- Huntington Area, WV (ThreadEx):Precip Dprt



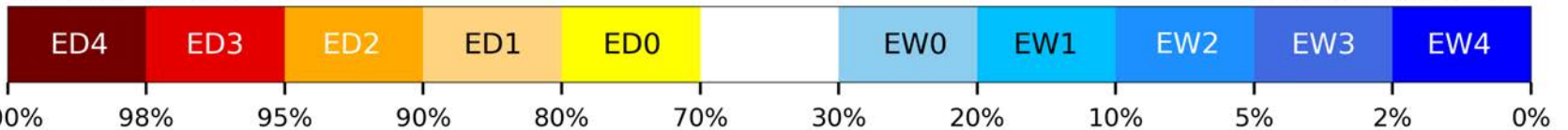
Evap. Demand Drought Index

3-week EDDI categories for May 22, 2026



Drought categories

Wetness categories



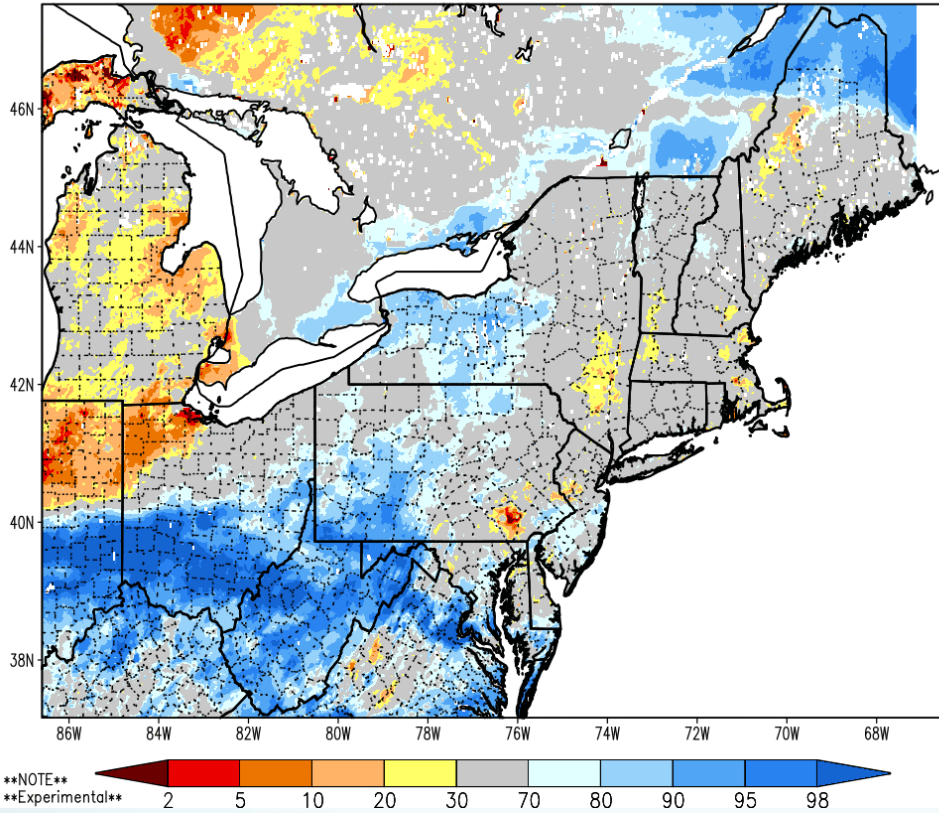
(EDDI-percentile category breaks: 100% = driest; 0% = wettest)

Generated at NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

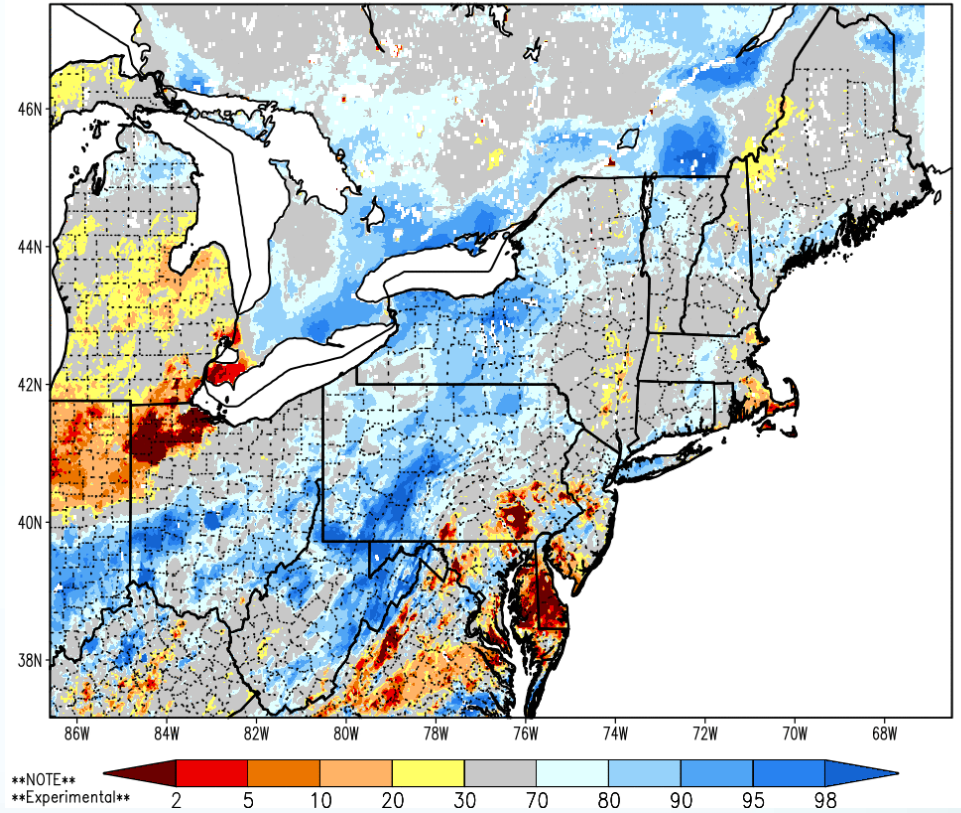


Soil Moisture

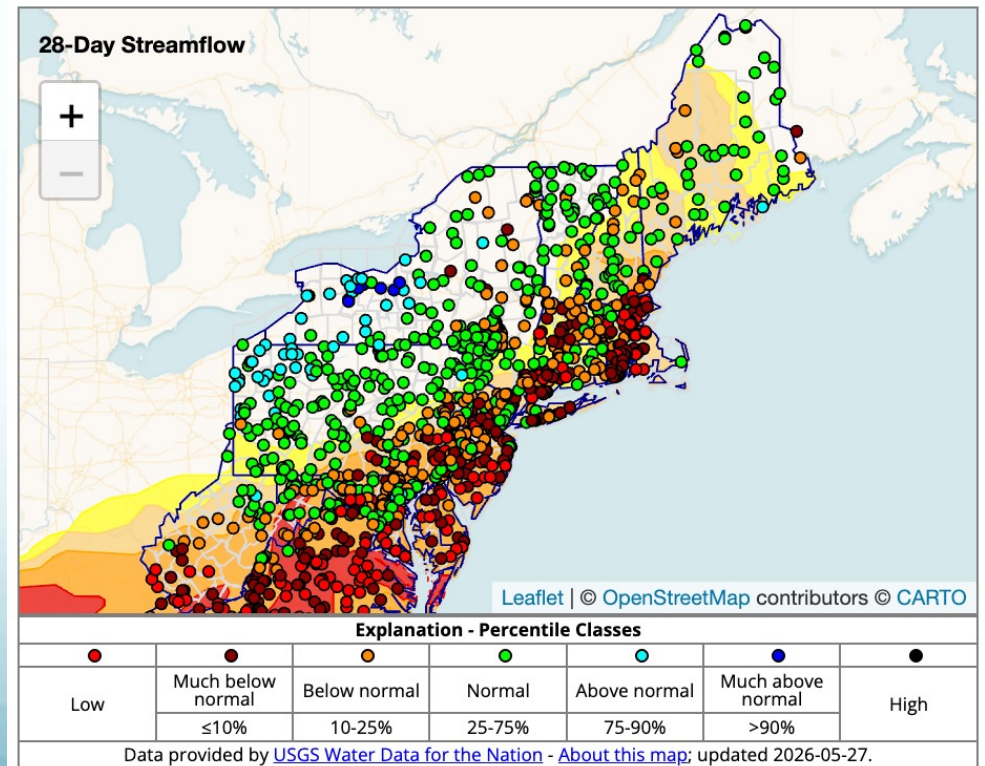
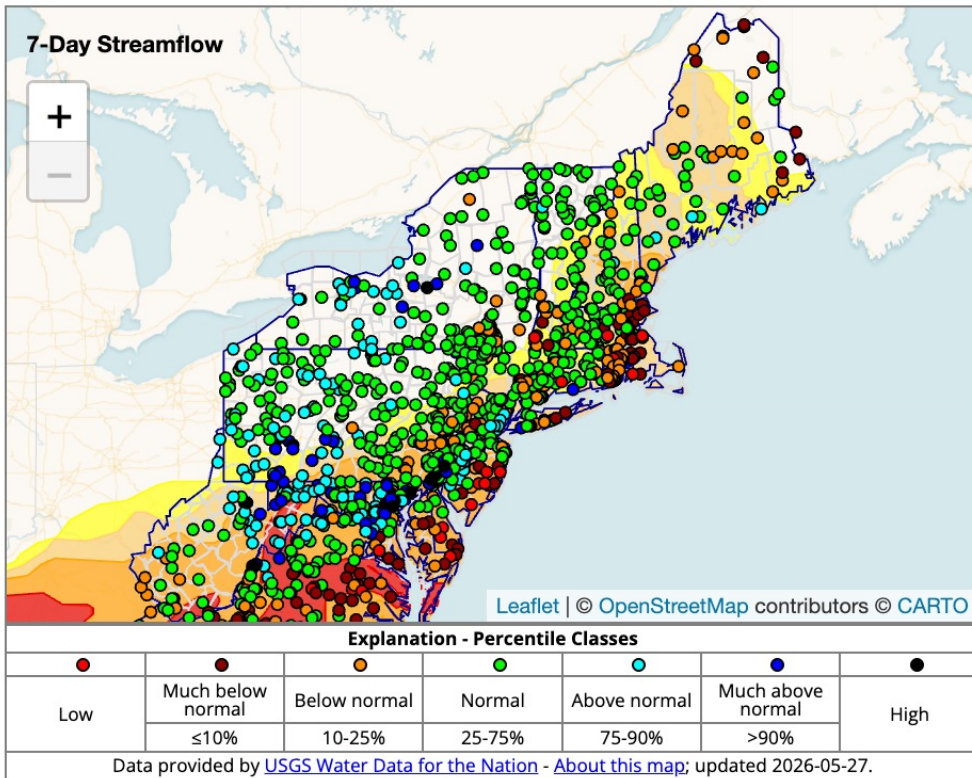
SPoRT-LIS 0-10 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 28 May 2026



SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture percentile valid 28 May 2026



Streamflow



Streamflow

Potomac River at Shepherdstown, WV - USGS-01618000

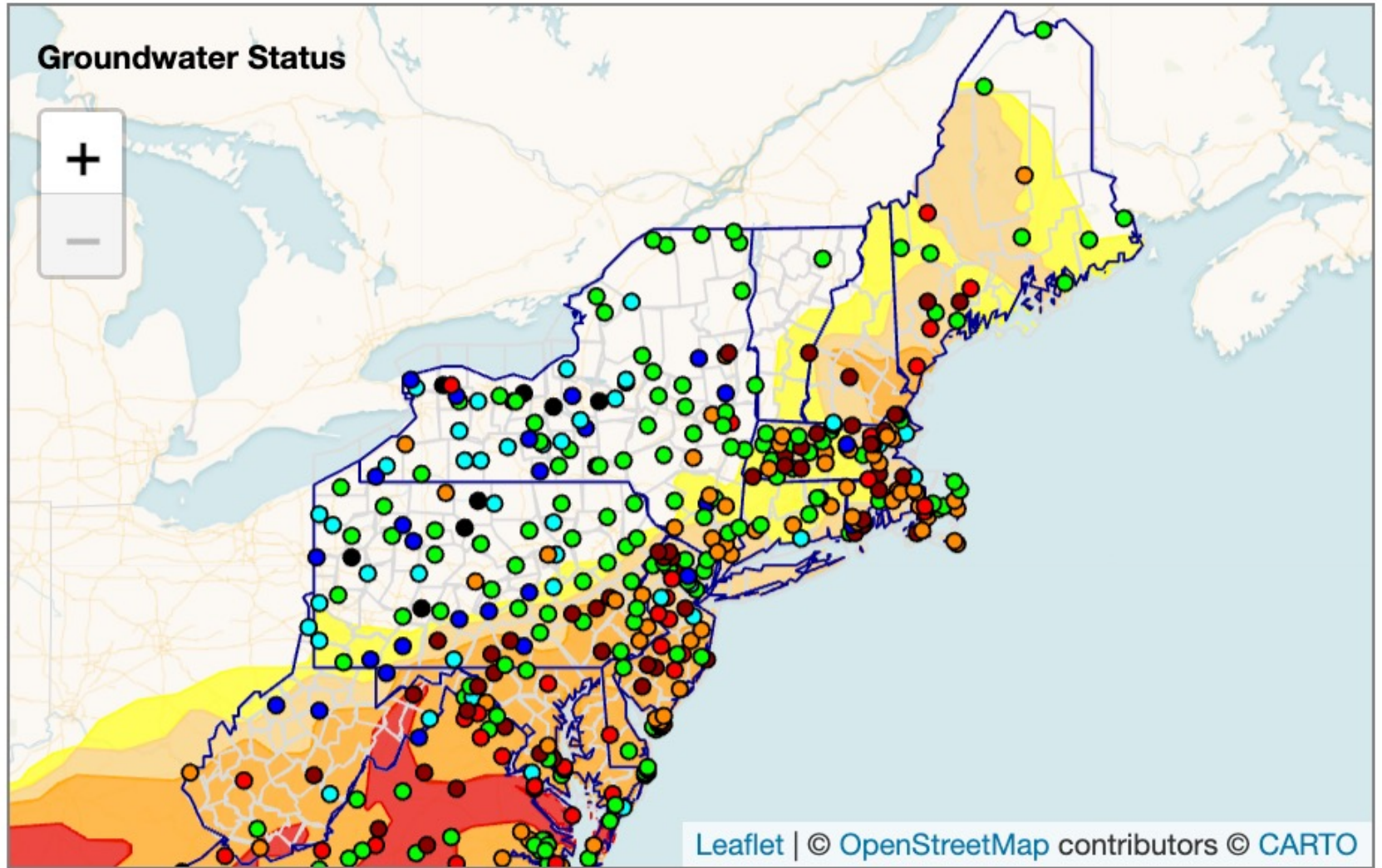
[Subscribe to WaterAlert](#)

April 27, 2026 - May 27, 2026
Discharge, cubic feet per second

17200 ft³/s - May 27, 2026 03:30:00 PM EDT



Groundwater



Explanation - Percentile Classes

Low	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal	High	
	≤10%	10-25%	25-75%	75-90%	>90%		

Data provided by [USGS Water Data for the Nation - About this map](#); updated 2026-05-27.



Groundwater

AD 146 Adams County Observation Well - USGS-395846077040601

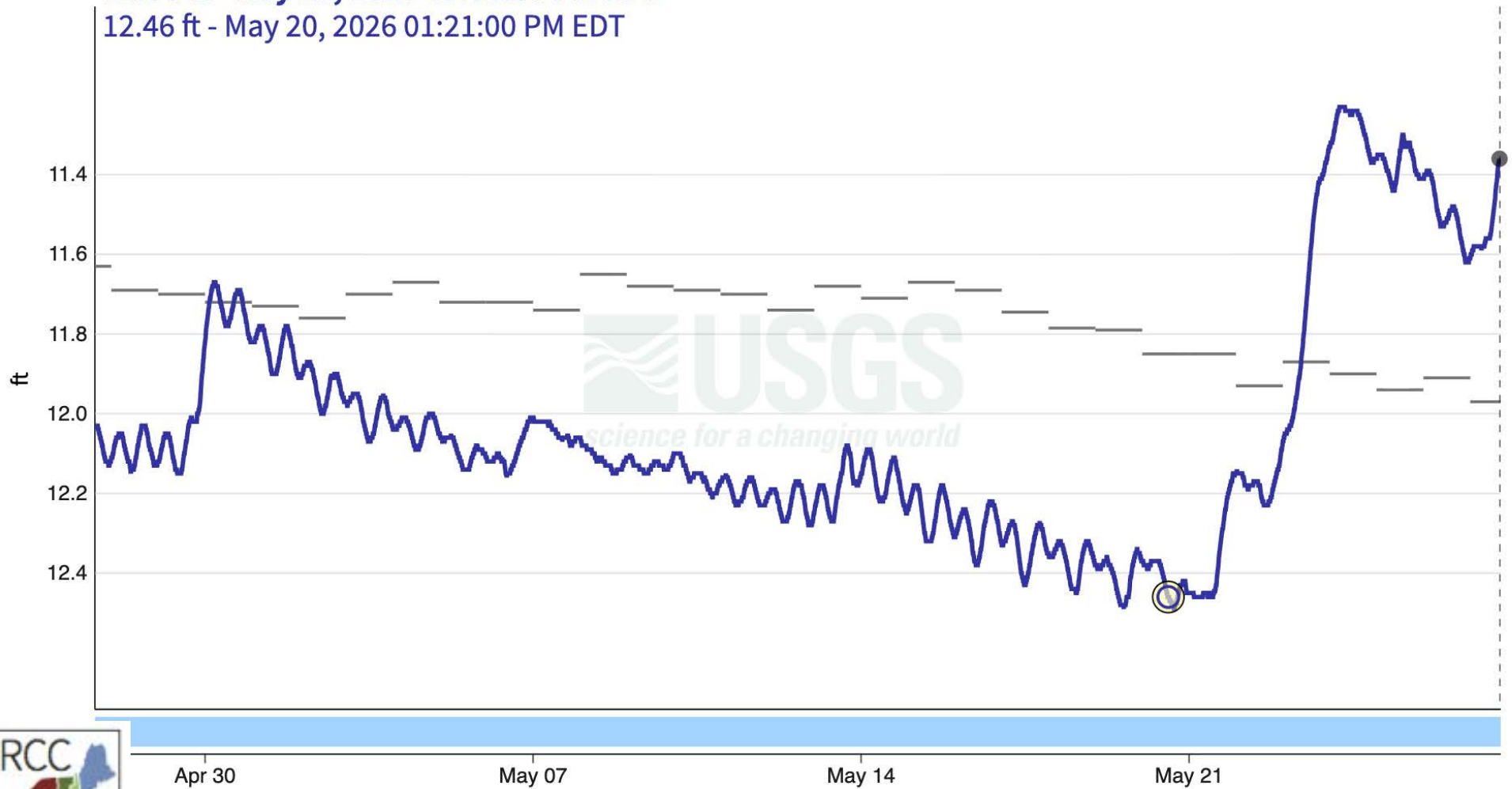
[Subscribe to WaterAlert](#)

April 27, 2026 - May 27, 2026

Depth to water level, feet below land surface

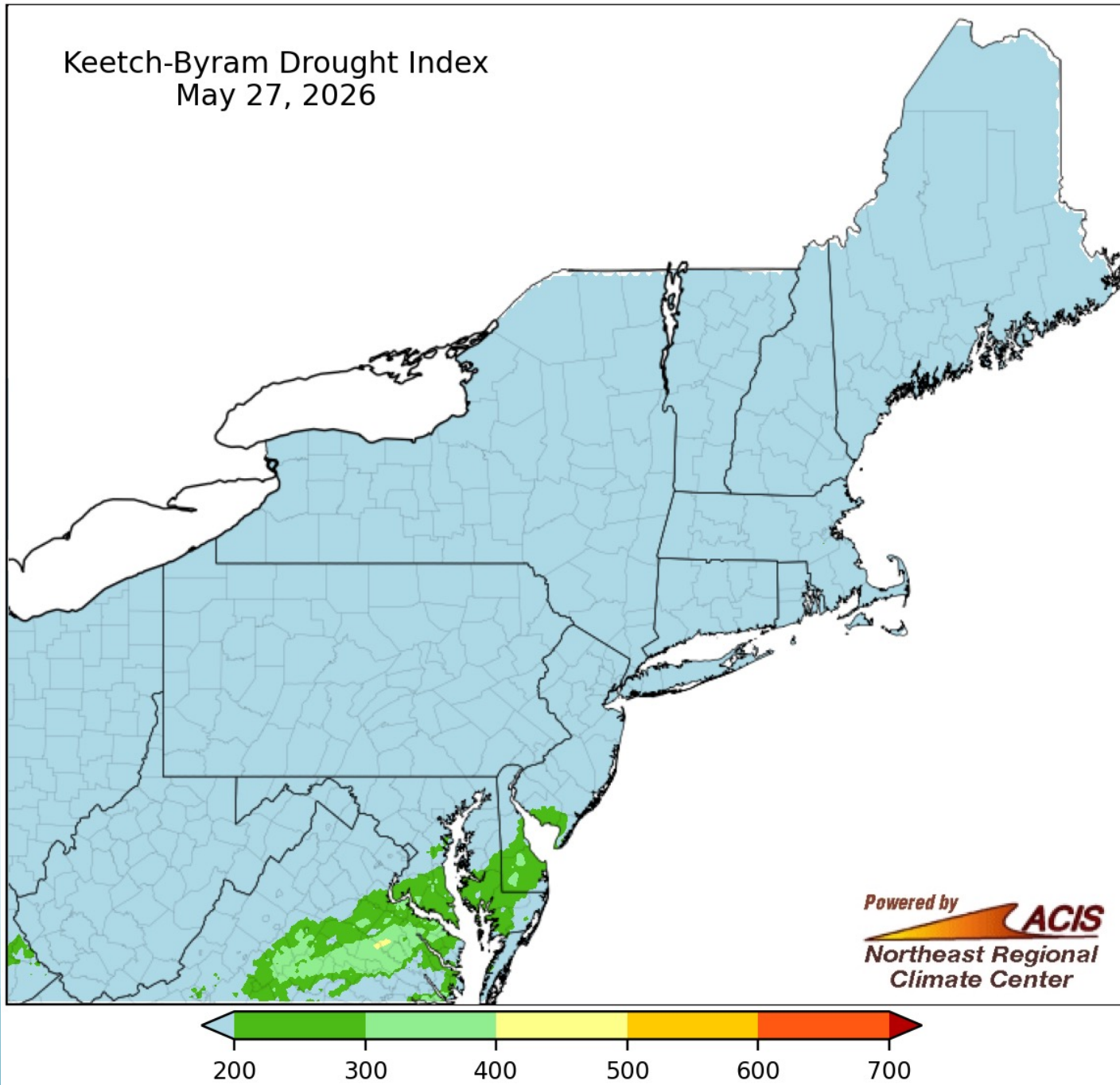
11.36 ft - May 27, 2026 03:00:00 PM EDT

12.46 ft - May 20, 2026 01:21:00 PM EDT

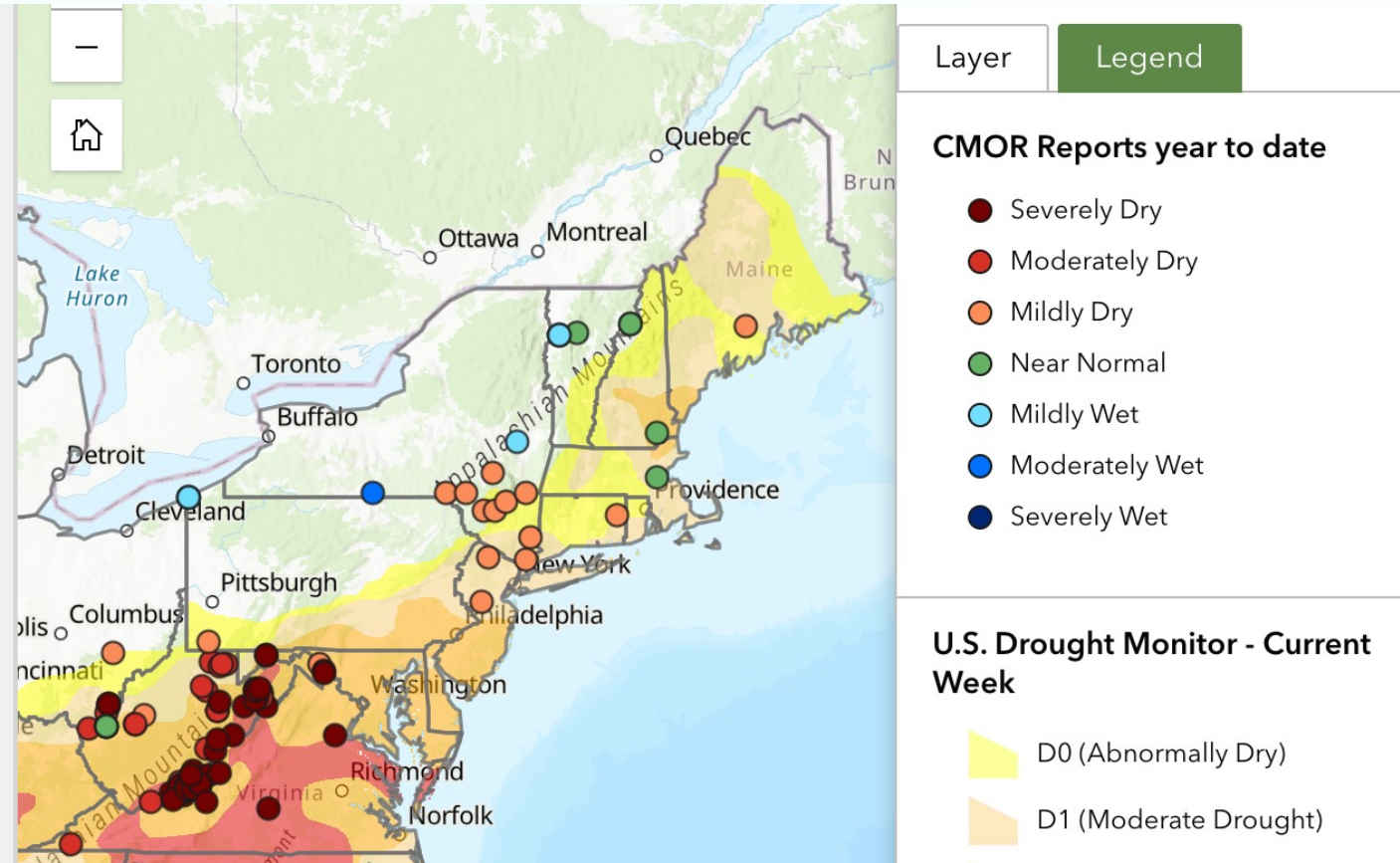


Wildfire Risk

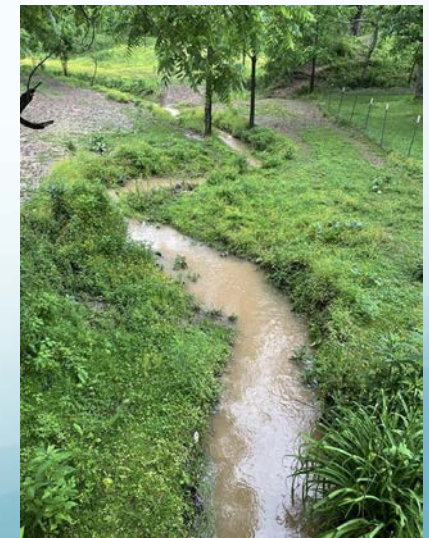
Keetch-Byram Drought Index
May 27, 2026



Drought Impacts



<https://droughtimpacts.unl.edu/Tools/ConditionMonitoringObservations.aspx>



Credit:CMOR

Drought Impacts

WAYNE COUNTY, WV

Beech Fork Lake postpones swimming beach opening due to low water levels

by: [Adam Stephens](#)

Posted: May 15, 2026 / 09:55 PM EDT

Updated: May 15, 2026 / 09:59 PM EDT

SHARE    

WAYNE COUNTY, W.Va. (WOWK) — The swimming beach at Stowers Branch Recreation Area at Beech Fork Lake will remain closed through Memorial Day Weekend.

According to the US Army Corps of Engineers Huntington District, the beach opening will be postponed due to low water elevations caused by drought conditions in the region.

https://www.coasttv.com/news/severe-drought-conditions-puts-more-stress-on-local-farms/article_774e50f0-7b18-4970-bf36-f19a59335528.html

Severe drought conditions puts more stress on local farms

Meteorologist Bob Trihy

May 13, 2026

Large areas of Maryland enter drought warning due to persistent lack of rainfall

WYPR - 88.1 FM Baltimore | By [Sarah Petrowich](#)

Published May 19, 2026 at 5:03 PM EDT



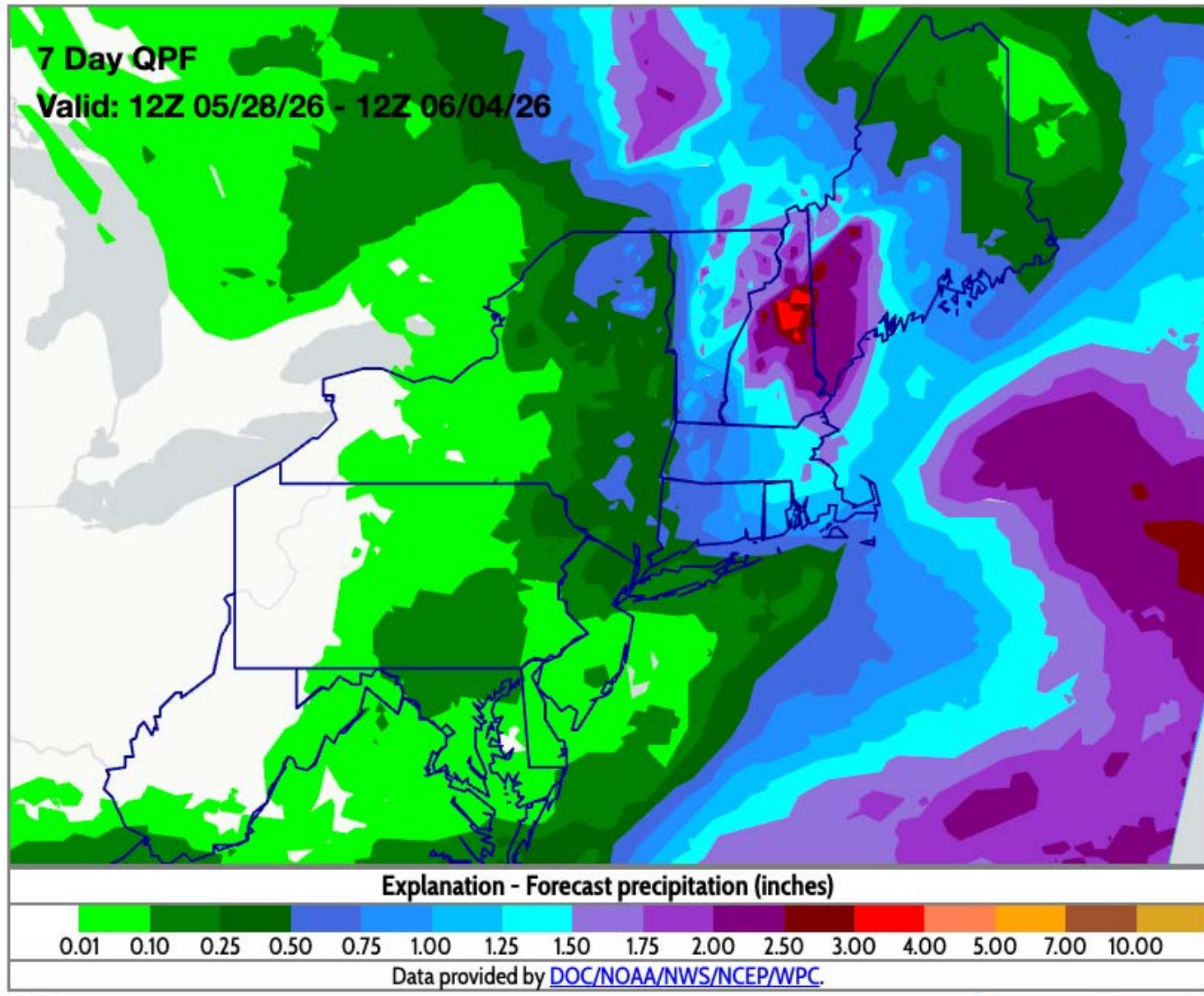
CITY WATER DIVISION ISSUES WATER USE ADVISORY

May 15, 2026

The Department of Public Works Water Division has issued a Water Use Advisory in response to ongoing drought conditions affecting the Seacoast region of New Hampshire.

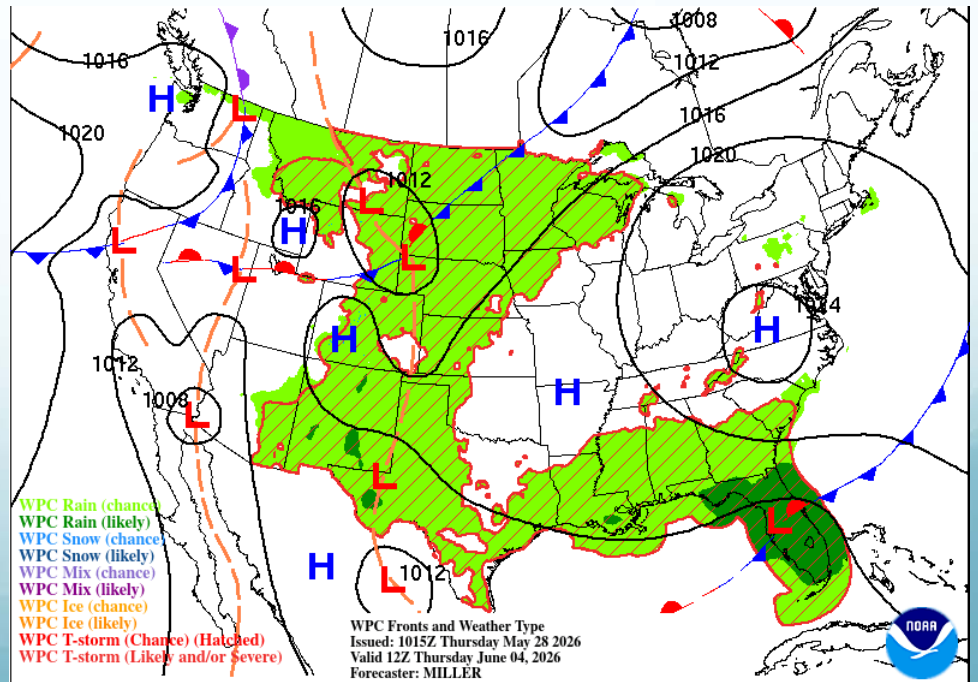
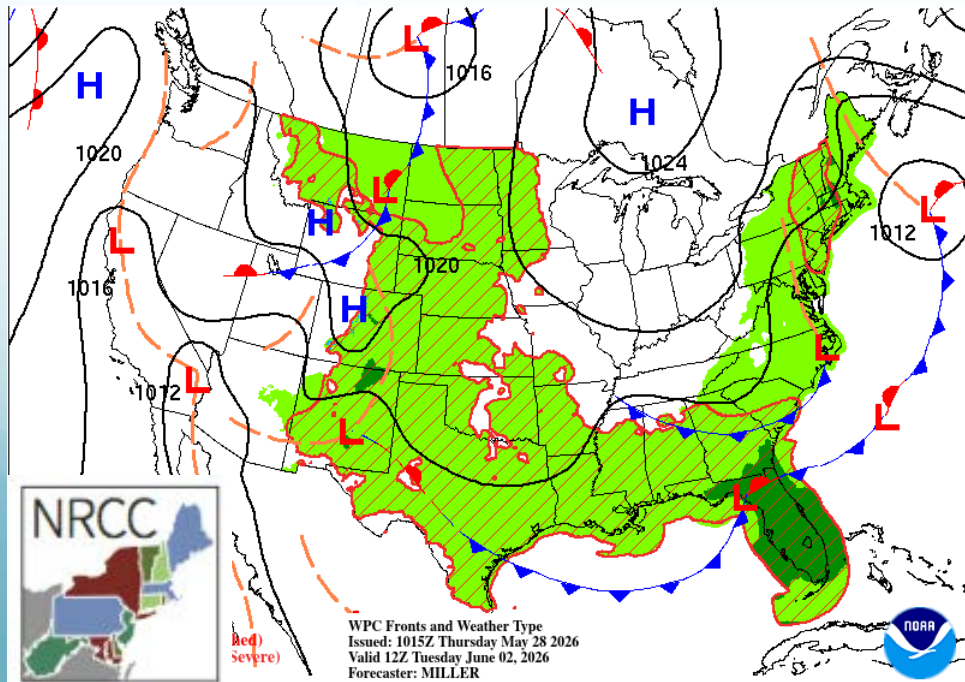
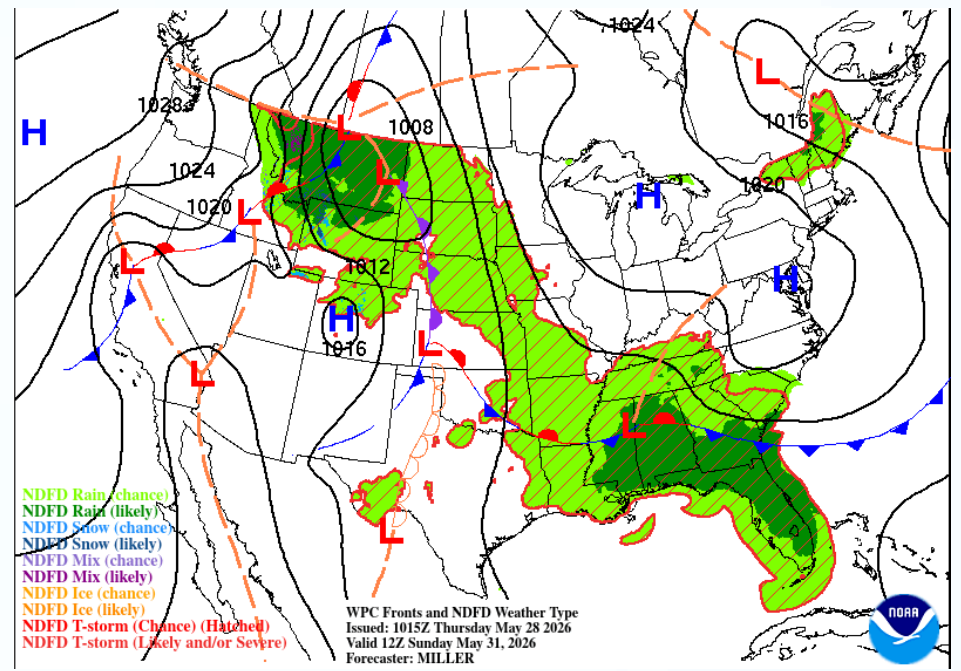
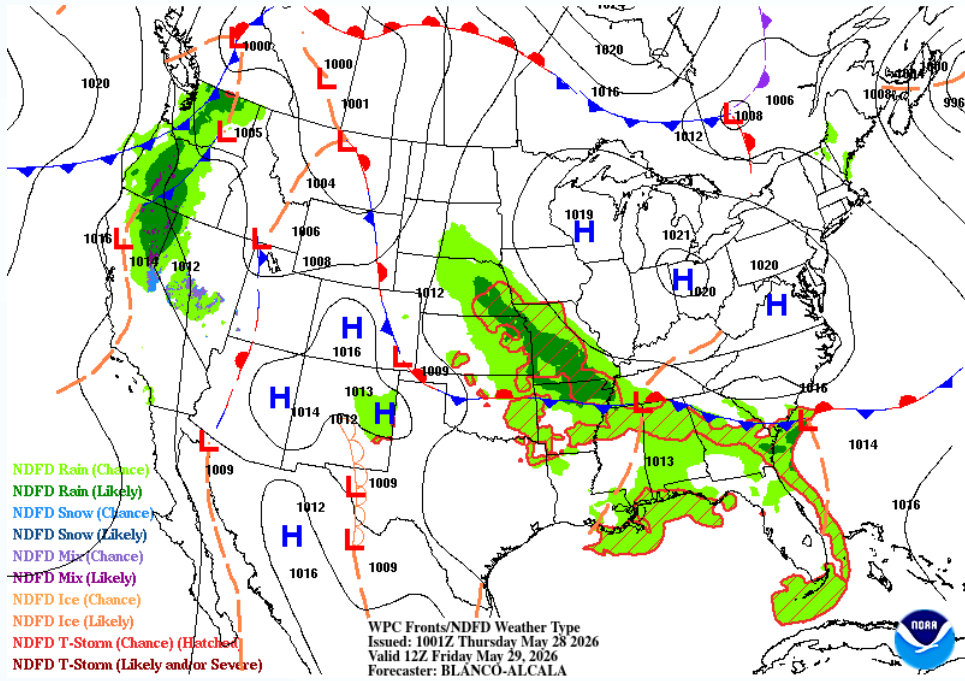


Precipitation Forecast

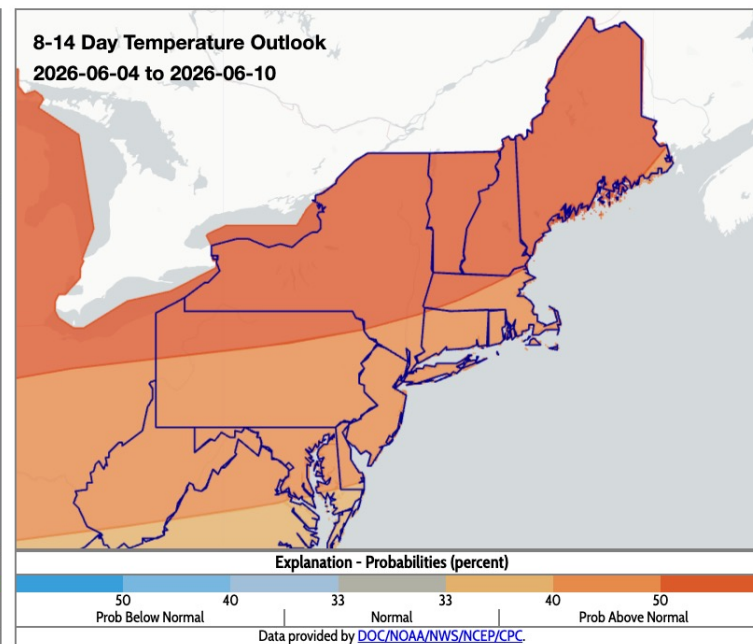
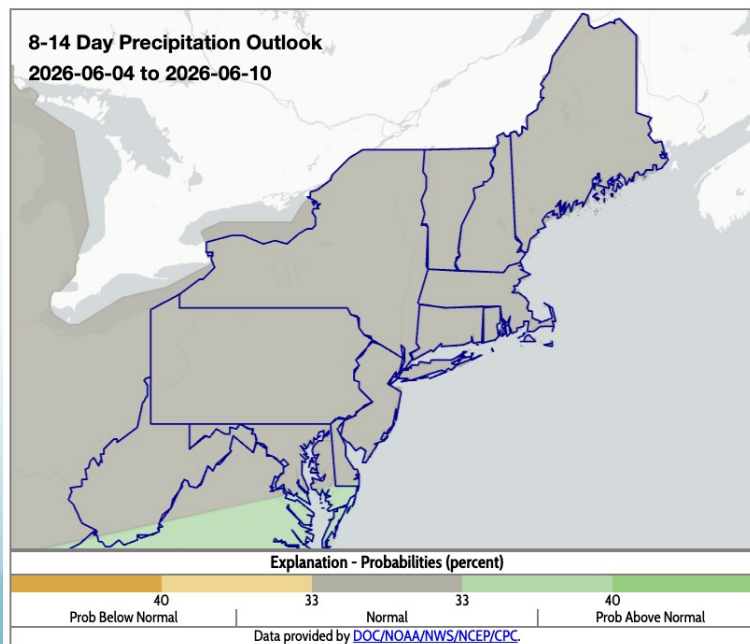
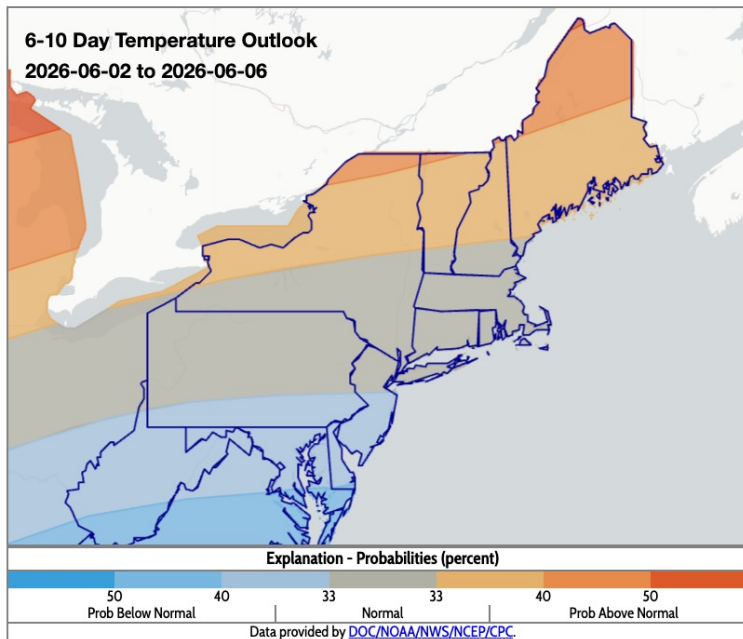
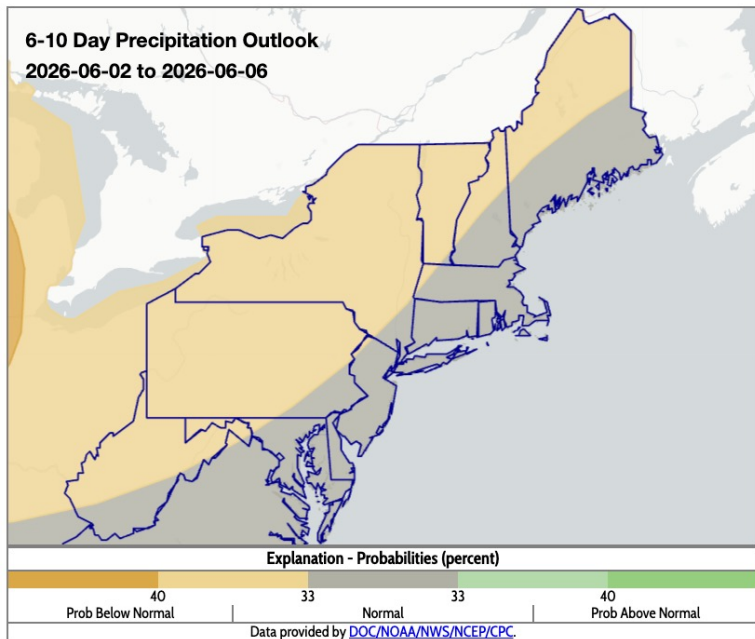


“Normal” precipitation for this period is about 0.80” to 1.15”

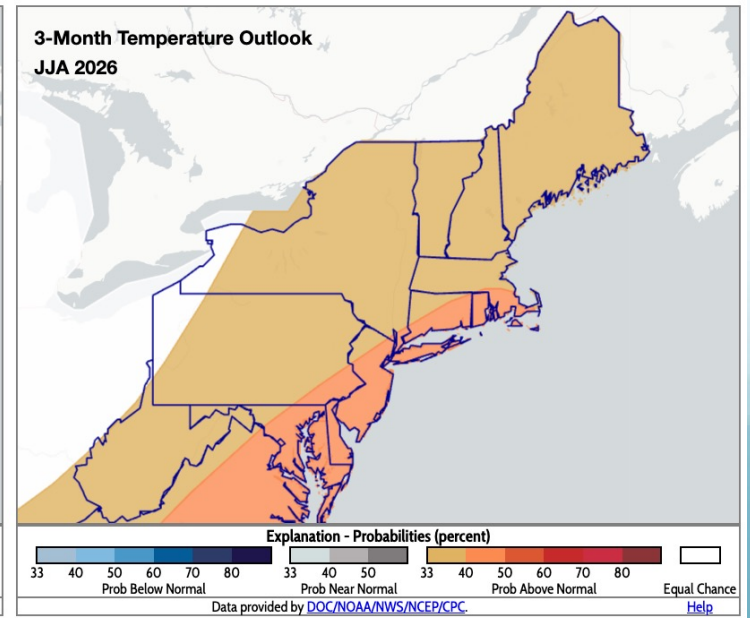
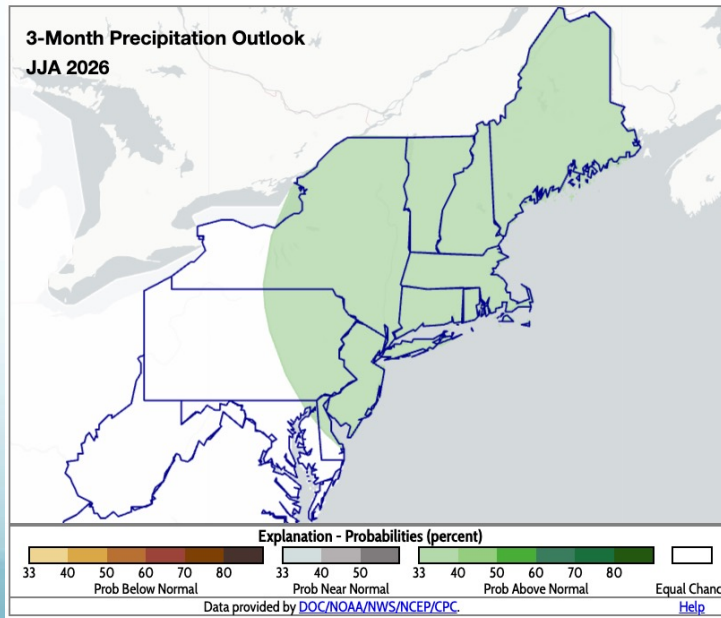
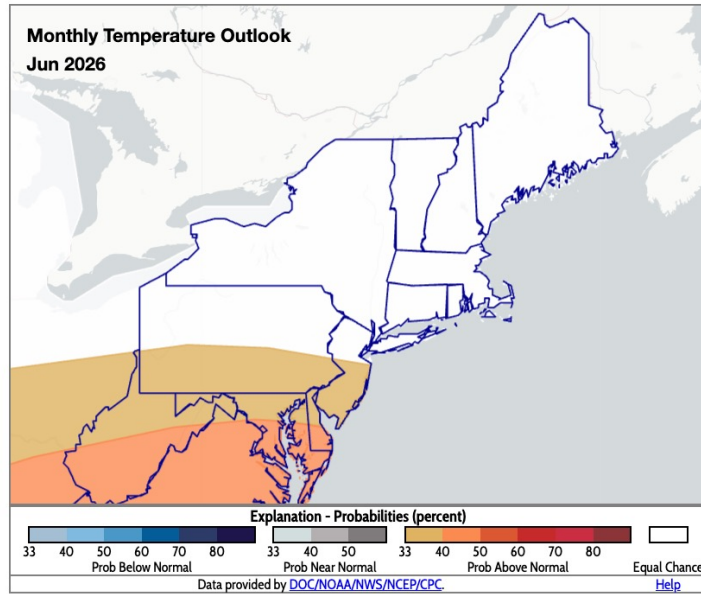
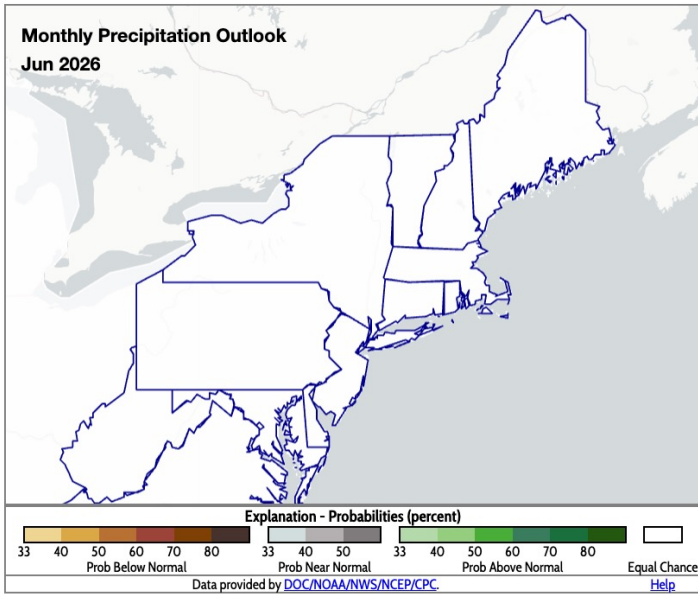
Forecast Maps



Short-term Outlooks



Monthly & 3-Month Outlooks

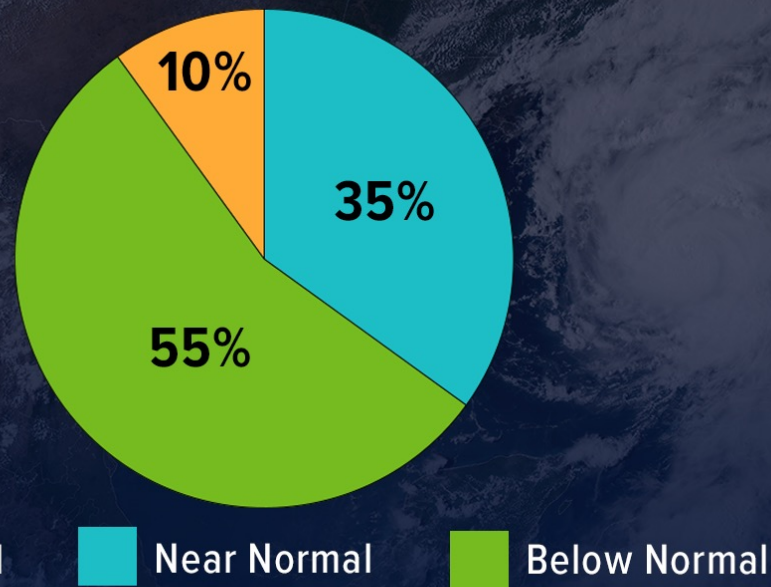


Hurricane Outlook



2026 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook

Season Probability



Named Storms

8 - 14

Hurricanes

3 - 6

Major Hurricanes

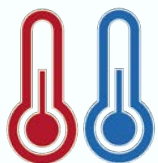
1 - 3

Be prepared: visit hurricanes.gov and follow NOAA's @NWS and @NHC_Atlantic on X.

May 2026



Key Points for May



Temperatures were **below normal** for most; **warmer** near the coast
Near record to record warmth from May 18-20



Varying amounts of precipitation – from **less than 50%** to
over 200%



Spring was **warm** and **lacking snowfall**, with a **range of precipitation amounts**



Drought intensified in the Mid-Atlantic through much of May -
impacts included record-low streamflow, reduced groundwater levels, and agricultural issues



Wet weather led to **drought improvement** in northern New England and, this week, the Mid-Atlantic



Summer could be **wet and warm** for some areas



Contact Information

- nrcc@cornell.edu

Upcoming Webinars

- Tuesday, June 30 at 9:30am EDT
 - TBD
- Thursday, July 30 at 9:30am EDT
 - TBD
- Thursday, August 27 at 9:30am EDT
 - Hurricane season to date and updated outlook



www.nrcc.cornell.edu