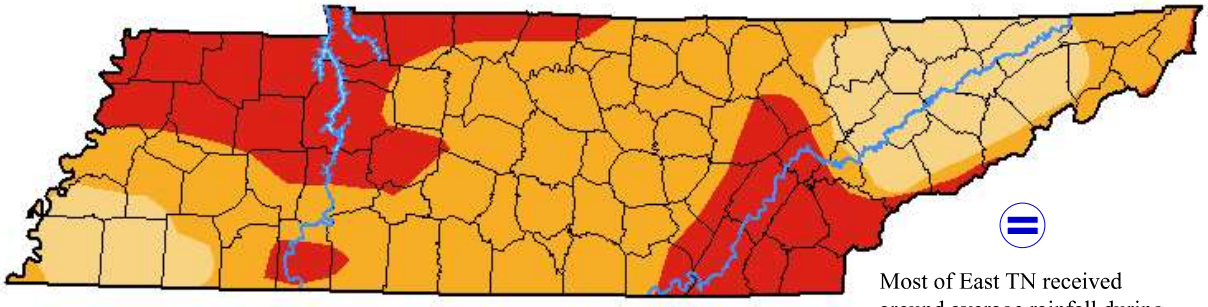
Tennessee Drought Update

For the assessment period ending May 5, 2026

This Week's Drought Monitor of Tennessee Map

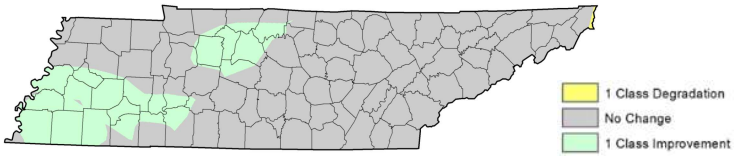
From the US Drought Monitor, authored by Adam Allgood, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC, with input from the Tennessee Climate Office



Most of East TN received around average rainfall during this drought monitor period, resulting in no change.

Portions of West and Middle TN received above average rainfall during this drought monitor period, resulting in some improved streamflow.

Change Since Last Week



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Statewide Condition Summary

What's Changed? All of TN received measurable rainfall over the past week ranging from 0.25" to 4", with some small areas receiving ~4-6". Most of West and Middle TN received above normal rainfall, while East TN was mostly in the normal range. High temperatures were at or 1-3°F below average across the entire state during the last drought monitoring period (04/28–05/05).

What's New? Areas of Extreme Drought (D3) in northern Middle TN improved to Severe Drought (D2). In West TN and southwestern portions of Middle TN drought conditions also improved with D3 improving to D2 and some areas of D2 improving to Moderate Drought (D1) in the southwestern corner of the state. A small area of D3 was added in extreme eastern portions of Johnson County in the northeast corner of the state.

What's Next? Heavy rains were observed in southern portions of the state (generally along and south of I-40) in the first days of the next drought monitoring period (05/05 – 05/12) with areas already reporting 2-4 inches of rainfall Tuesday into Wednesday. Some additional light rainfall is expected during the remainder of the week, so further drought improvement is likely in these areas.

Statewide Coverage By Category

Category	Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	0.00%	0.00%
D1: Moderate Drought	18.55%	+5.49%
D2: Severe Drought	51.43%	+8.85%
D3: Extreme Drought	**30.03%**	**-14.33%**
D4: Exceptional Drought	**0.00%**	**0.00%**