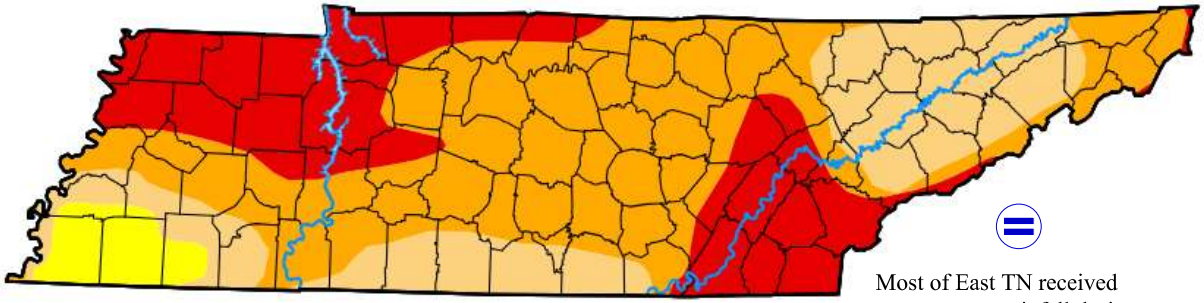
Tennessee Drought Update

For the assessment period ending May 12, 2026

This Week's Drought Monitor of Tennessee Map

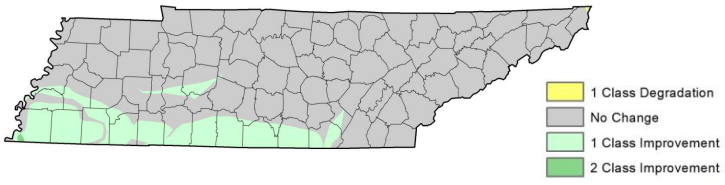
From the US Drought Monitor, authored by Rocky Bilotta, NOAA/NCEI, with input from the Tennessee Climate Office



Southwest and southern Middle TN received above-average rainfall during this drought-monitoring period, resulting in some improvement in streamflow.

Most of East TN received near-average rainfall during this drought monitor period, resulting in no change, with a small portion of degradation in far Northeast TN.

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 areas receiving over 4". The southern half of the state saw above-normal precipitation for the week, but the northern parts of the state remained drier than normal. High temperatures were at or a bit below average across the entire state (2-6°F cooler than normal) during the last drought monitoring period (05/05–05/12).**

What's New? **Areas of Extreme Drought (D3) in southern Middle TN improved to Severe Drought (D2). The southern part of TN experienced 1-category improvements, with the heaviest rainfall occurring there.**

What's Next? **Some areas of northern TN and southeast TN may experience light rainfall in the next drought monitoring period (05/12 – 05/19), though totals will likely be below average. With warmer temperatures expected over the latter half of the next drought monitoring period, combined with low rainfall, degradation may be possible in some areas.**

Statewide Coverage By Category

Category	Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	4.22%	+4.22%
D1: Moderate Drought	23.45%	+4.90%
D2: Severe Drought	44.79%	-6.64%
D3: Extreme Drought	**27.53%**	**-2.50%**
D4: Exceptional Drought	**0.00%**	**0.00%**