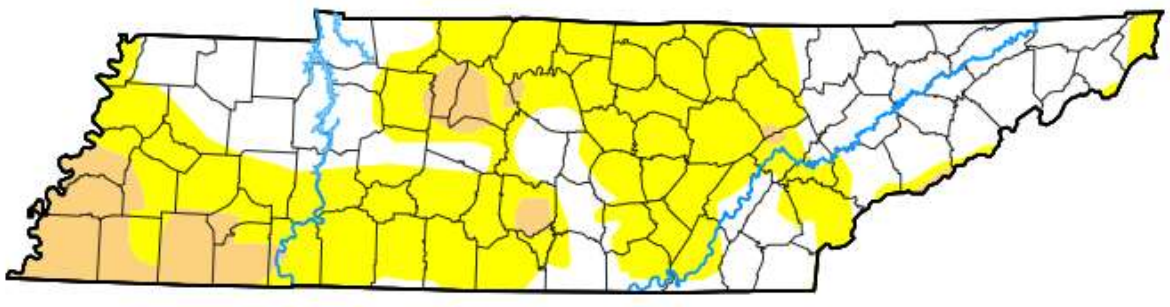
Tennessee Drought Update

For the assessment period ending September 8, 2026

This Week's Drought Monitor of Tennessee Map

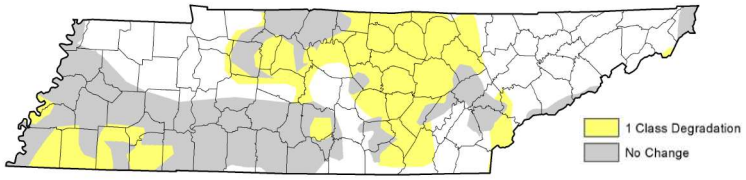
From the US Drought Monitor, authored by Curtis Riganti, National Drought Mitigation Center, with input from the Tennessee Climate Office



Another week of drier than normal conditions resulted in expansion of Moderate Drought conditions in southwest TN and parts of Middle TN.

Drier than normal conditions resulted in expansion of Abnormally Dry conditions in the eastern half of TN.

Change Since Last Week



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Statewide Condition Summary

What's Changed? Precipitation was below normal for most of the state except a few small scattered areas of Middle and East TN for the last drought monitoring period (09/01-09/08). High temperatures were 9-15°F above normal across the state, with almost all weather stations reporting record heat for the week (ranked 1st or 2nd hottest 7-day period Aug 31 – Sep 7).

What's New? Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions expanded across the eastern half of TN, resulting in a one class degradation. A new area of Moderate Drought (D1) was introduced in parts of southern Middle TN, primarily in Bedford County. And D1 conditions also expanded across Lauderdale County into portions of Shelby, Fayette, and Hardeman counties in southwest TN.

What's Next? Most areas across the state are forecast to receive below normal rainfall with less than 1.25" expect for a few areas long the Cumberland Plateau and less than 0.75" expected elsewhere during the next drought monitoring period (09/08-09/15). Well above normal high temperatures are also expected to continue across the state through the next drought monitoring period. This could lead to further expansion of abnormally dry and drought conditions in many locations.

Statewide Coverage By Category

Category	Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	50.05%	+12.52%
D1: Moderate Drought	10.76%	+7.15%
D2: Severe Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D3: Extreme Drought	**0.00%**	**0.00%**
D4: Exceptional Drought	**0.00%**	**0.00%**