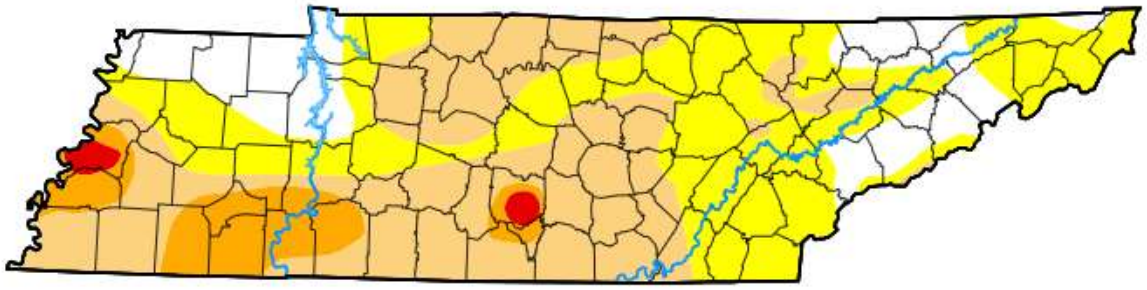
Tennessee Drought Update

For the assessment period ending September 22, 2026

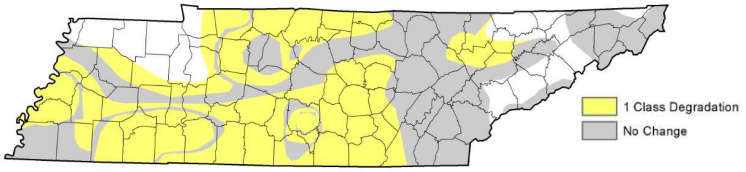
This Week's Drought Monitor of Tennessee Map

From the US Drought Monitor, authored by David Mocko, NASA/GSFC/SSAI, with input from the Tennessee Climate Office



Another week of drier than normal conditions resulted in expansion of Moderate Drought and Severe Drought as well as the introduction of Extreme Drought conditions in southwest TN and parts of Middle 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 for a few areas of East TN that received rain from scattered storms over the final two days (Sunday/Monday) for the last drought monitoring period (09/15-09/22). High temperatures were 12-18°F above normal across Middle and West TN, and 6-12°F above normal across the Cumberland Plateau and East TN.**

What's New? **Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions expanded north of Knoxville, while Moderate Drought (D1) conditions expanded in southern TN and much of northern Middle TN. Severe Drought (D2) conditions expanded across much of southwest TN and parts of southern Middle TN. New areas of Extreme Drought (D3) conditions were introduced in Bedford County and Lauderdale/Tipton counties along the Mississippi River.**

What's Next? **West and Middle TN are forecast to receive below normal rainfall with less than 0.10" during the next drought monitoring period (09/22-09/29), while parts of East TN have already received 0.5-2+" over the past two days. Cooler temperatures are expected across the state, though a few areas in West TN are expected to remain above average 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	37.00%	-24.97%
D1: Moderate Drought	38.24%	+21.96%
D2: Severe Drought	8.81%	+7.71%
D3: Extreme Drought	**1.01%**	**1.01%**
D4: Exceptional Drought	**0.00%**	**0.00%**