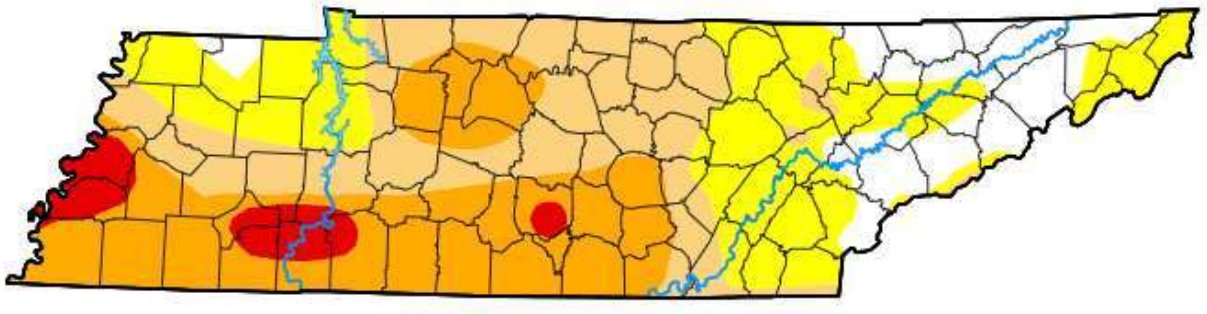
Tennessee Drought Update

For the assessment period ending September 29, 2026

This Week's Drought Monitor of Tennessee Map

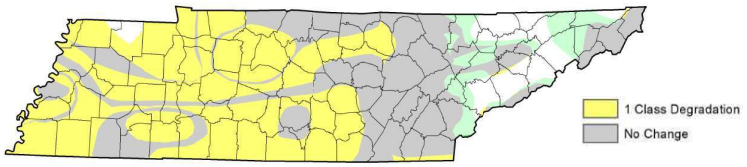
From the US Drought Monitor, authored by Jonathan Case, NASA/MSFC/UAH, with input from the Tennessee Climate Office



Another week of drier than normal conditions resulted in expansion of Moderate and Severe Drought as well as the introduction of Extreme Drought conditions in southwest TN and parts of Middle TN.

Most of East TN received above normal precipitation resulting in a few areas of 1-class improvements, while other areas remained unchanged.

Change Since Last Week



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Statewide Condition Summary

What's Changed? Precipitation was below normal for most areas except in parts of East TN for the last drought monitoring period (09/22-09/29). High temperatures were closer to normal than they have been for the previous weeks (~1-6°F above normal across the state) with the passage of a cool front last week.

What's New? Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions expanded in northwest TN, while Moderate Drought (D1) conditions expanded across parts of Middle and West TN. Severe Drought (D2) conditions expanded across much of southern Middle and parts of southwest TN, with new D2 conditions introduced around Nashville. Extreme Drought (D3) conditions were introduced in southwest TN, while portions of East Tennessee saw one-category improvements.

What's Next? Parts of West and Middle TN are forecast to receive below normal rainfall of around 0.5-0.75" during the next drought monitoring period (09/29-10/06). Going eastward rainfall totals are expected to increase with much of East TN expecting 1.5-2.5" of rainfall. High temperatures are starting the next drought monitoring period well above normal, but cooler conditions are expected to arrive by the weekend. Areas that do not get much rainfall could have further drought expansion, while more improvement is likely in East TN.

Statewide Coverage By Category

Category	Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	27.11%	-9.89%
D1: Moderate Drought	25.91%	-12.33%
D2: Severe Drought	28.79%	+19.98%
D3: Extreme Drought	**4.95%**	**+3.94%**
D4: Exceptional Drought	**0.00%**	**0.00%**