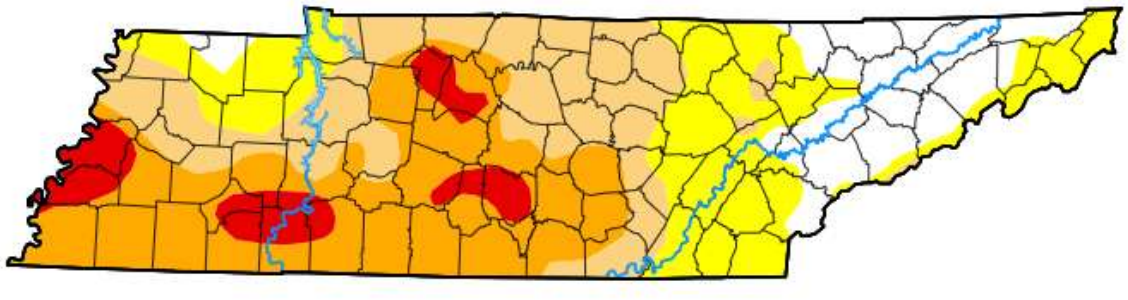
Tennessee Drought Update

For the assessment period ending October 13, 2026

This Week's Drought Monitor of Tennessee Map

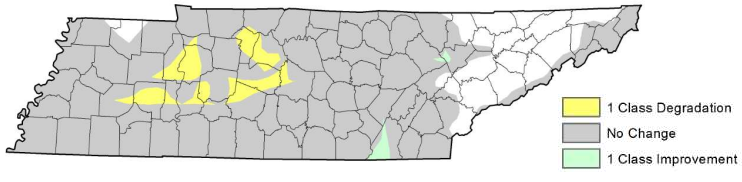
From the US Drought Monitor, authored by Lindsay Johnson, National Drought Mitigation Center, with input from the Tennessee Climate Office



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 parts of Middle TN, particularly Nashville metropolitan area.

Most of East TN received above average 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 of the western half of the state, while remnants from Isaias produced some areas of average or above average rainfall for the eastern half (rainfall only exceeded 2" in a few very small areas) for the last drought monitoring period (10/06-10/13). High temperatures remained above normal statewide (~1-9°F above normal for most areas) with West TN seeing the most above average temps (and least rainfall).**

What's New? **Moderate Drought (D1) conditions expanded west of Nashville, while Severe Drought (D2) conditions expanded across northern Middle TN. Extreme Drought (D3) conditions were introduced in portions of the Nashville metropolitan area. Meanwhile parts of southeast TN and a small area northwest of Knoxville experienced one-category improvements including areas improving from Moderate Drought (D1) to Abnormally Dry conditions.**

What's Next? **Most of the state is forecast to receive below normal rainfall of around 0.01-0.25", except for a few areas along the East TN and NC border, where 0.5-0.75" of rainfall are expected during the next drought monitoring period (10/13-10/20). The next drought monitoring period will start with well above normal temperatures, but cooler conditions are expected by the weekend.**

Statewide Coverage By Category

Category	Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	24.06%	-0.78%
D1: Moderate Drought	24.45%	-2.03%
D2: Severe Drought	29.47%	+1.54%
D3: Extreme Drought	**7.46%**	**+1.27%**
D4: Exceptional Drought	**0.00%**	**0.00%**