



Extension

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



Wisconsin State Climatology Office

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



AgWOW

Ag Weather Outlook for Wisconsin

Week of November 3, 2025

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AgWOW Update

Hello, everyone!

As we are heading into the home stretch of the harvest season in Wisconsin, this will be the last weekly AgWOW update of the 2025 growing season. During the winter months, we will be putting out updates **once per month**. Weekly updates will start up again as we get close to planting season/bloom in the spring of 2026.

Stay tuned for the next AgWOW update to be released in **early December**.

If you have any questions about the winter AgWOW updates, please email Josh Bendorf at jbendorf@wisc.edu.

Thank you and have a great Thanksgiving!
-The AgWOW Team

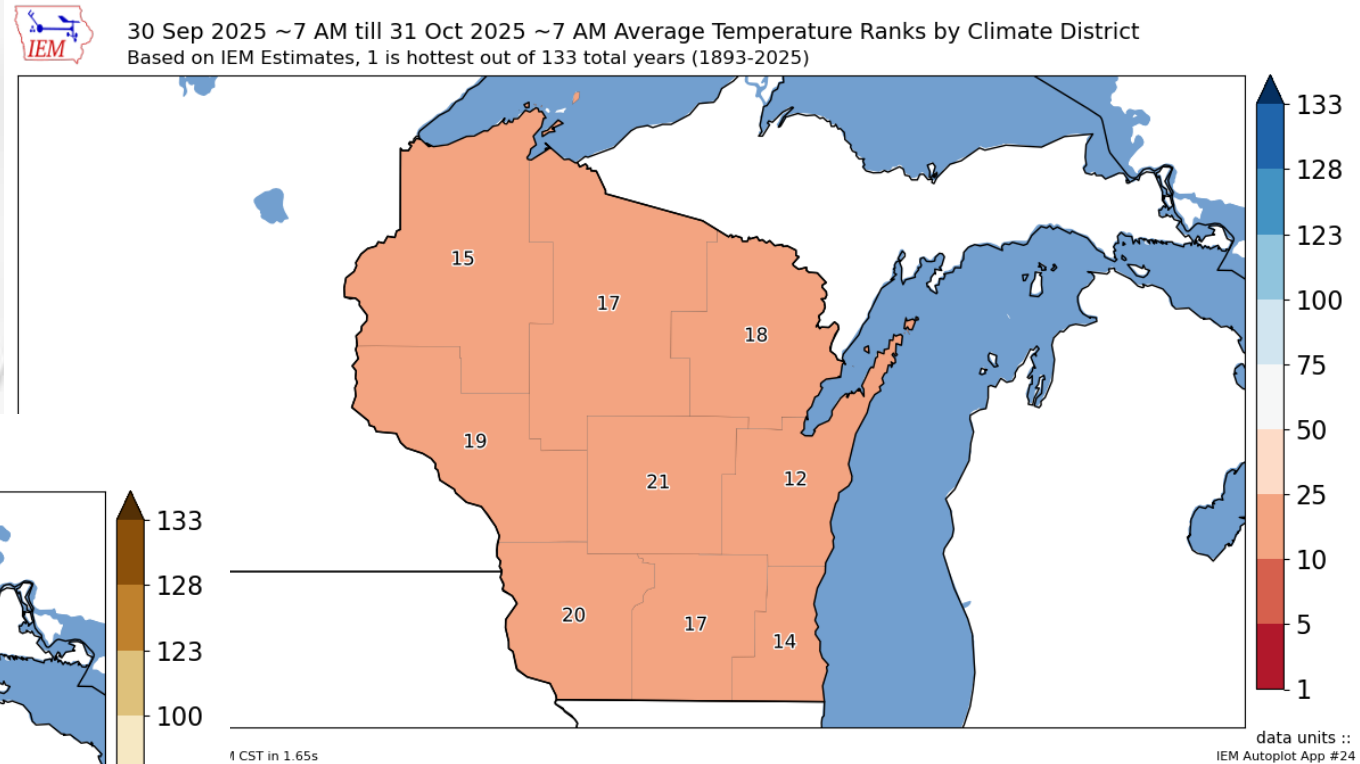
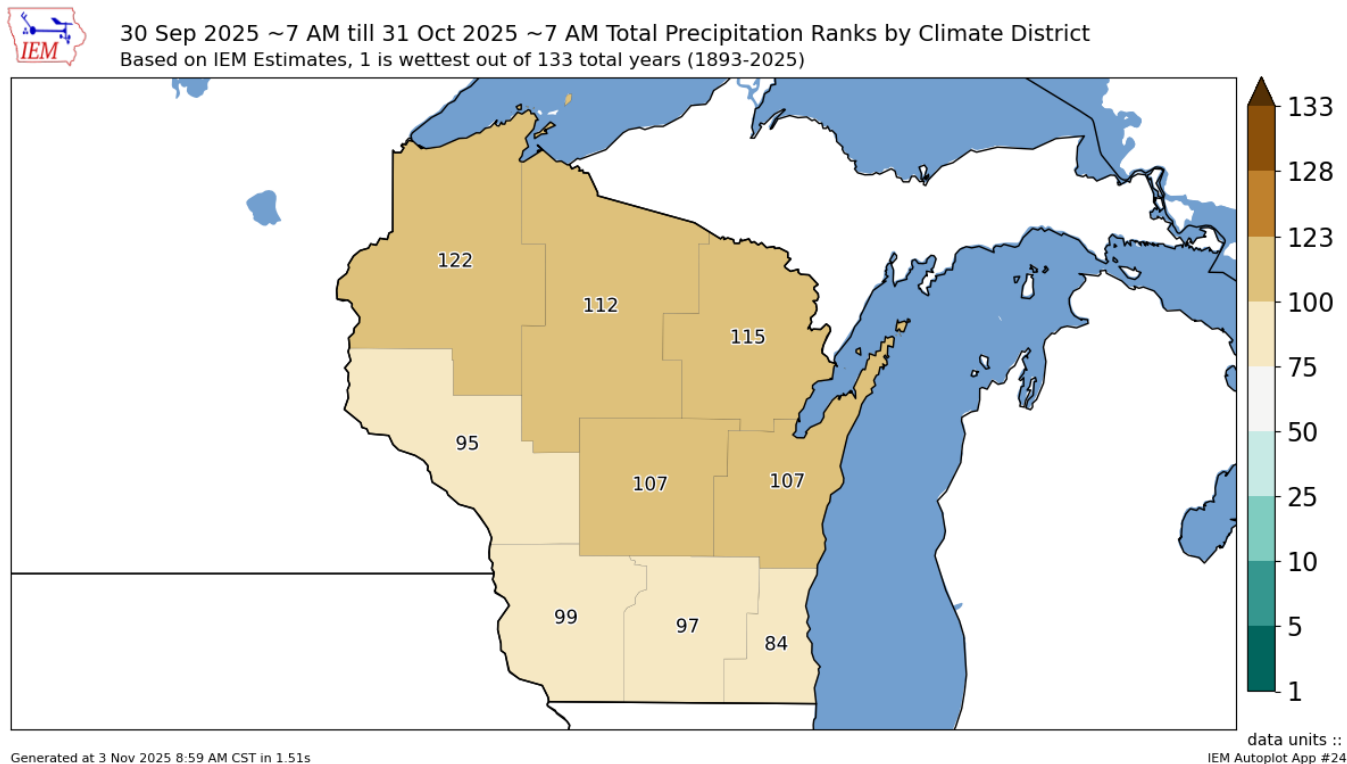
Key Points

Navigate to select slides by clicking on the [links](#) below.

- 1) A [dry](#) October-to-November transition wrapped up what had been a [very dry October](#) for many.
 - 2) Temperatures were [near to normal](#) last week, with [nights below freezing](#) becoming more frequent.
 - 3) Drought expanded across the north, with a >20% gain in [D1 coverage](#).
 - 4) Outlooks for [mid-November](#) indicate a strong lean towards above normal temperatures.
- *For this week's agronomic recommendations from UW Extension, click [here](#).*
 - ***[NOTE: There will be no USDA NASS update this week due to the federal government shutdown.](#)***

Wx Highlight → October Rankings

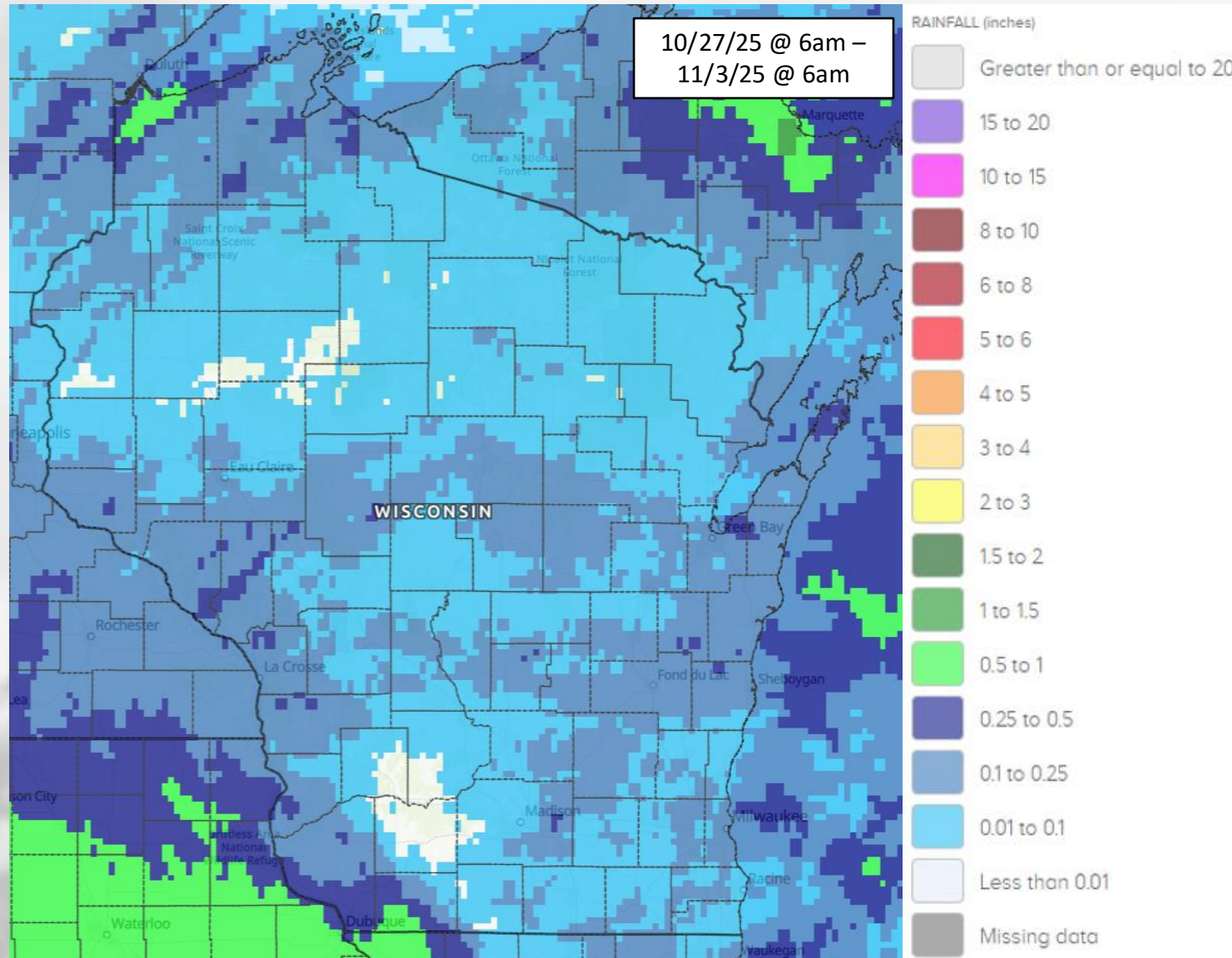
The month of October was **one of the driest Octobers** on record in WI. Across northern and central climate divisions, October 2025 ranked in the **top 20-30 driest**.



The month of October was also one of the warmest Octobers on record. Across all climate divisions, October 2025 ranked in the **top 20 warmest of all-time**.

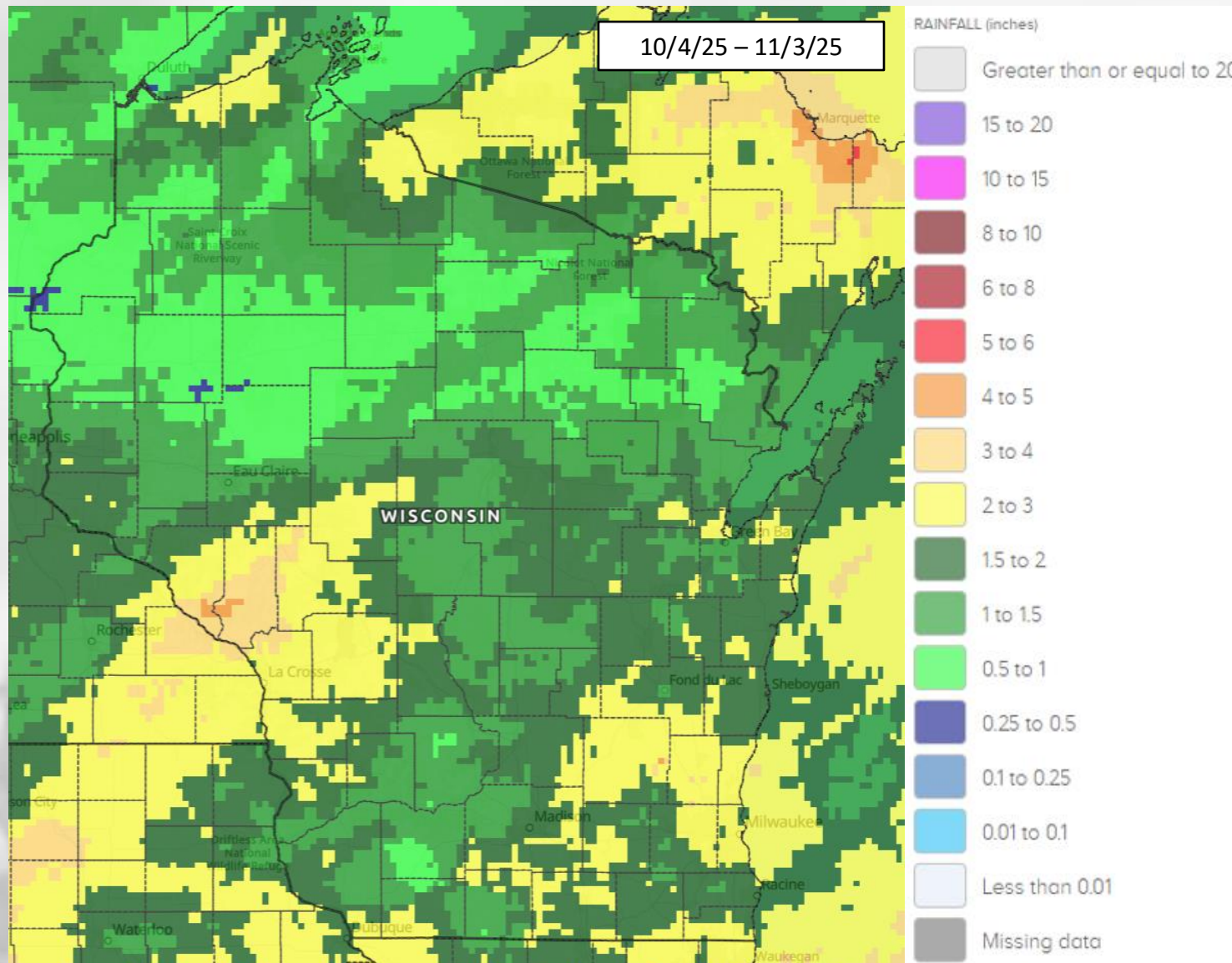
<https://mesonet.agron.iastate.edu/plotting/auto>

7 Day Precip (radar estimates)



- Totals of **less than 0.25"** were common across most of Wisconsin.
- Highest totals near to Superior and in the far SW → **0.5-1"**

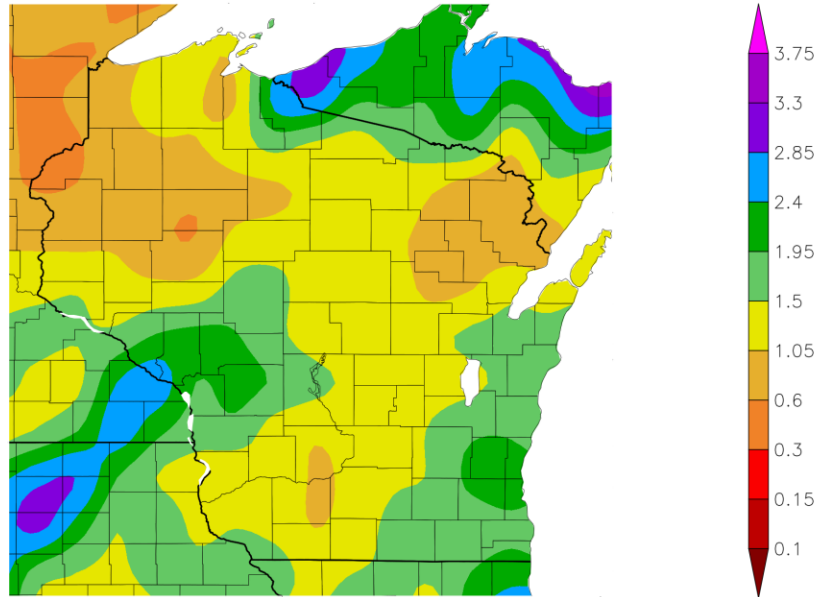
30 Day Precip (radar estimates)



- Large area of **2-5"** across the west-central region.
- **1.5"-3"** common in the southeast and east-central counties, as well as along Lake Superior.
- Driest across the northern region → **1" or less** common.

30 Day Precip Total/Percent Avg.

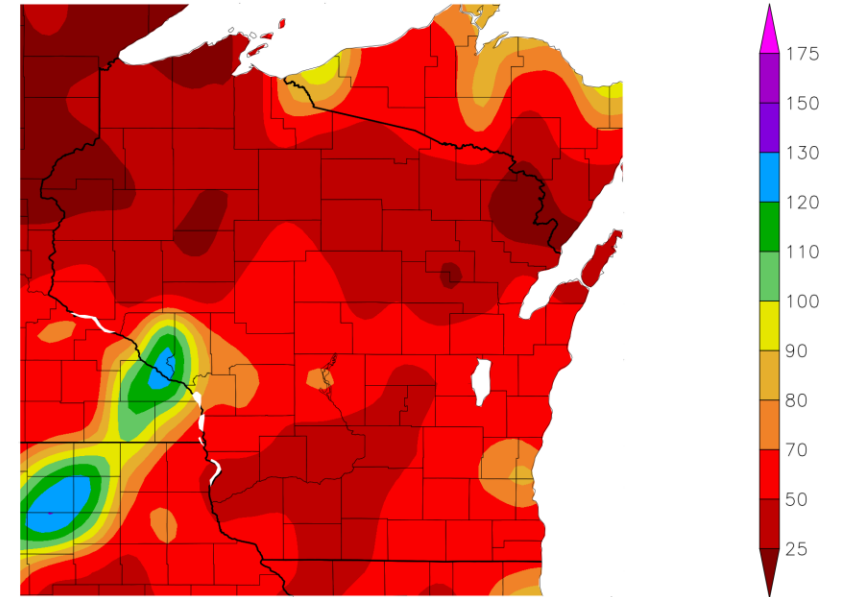
Precipitation (in)
10/4/2025 - 11/2/2025



Generated 11/3/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
10/4/2025 - 11/2/2025



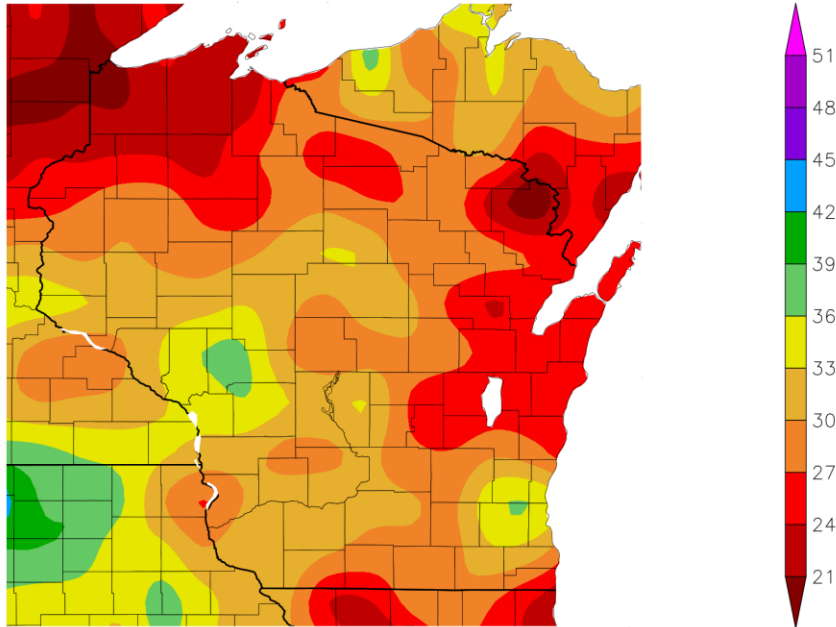
Generated 11/3/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

- **Below normal** for most of WI over the past 30 days → **25-70% common**, with isolated regions of **<25%** the N.
 - **1.5" or less** for many since Oct. 4.
- **Localized area** of near-to-above normal precipitation in the west-central, where totals were **2" or more**.

2025 Precipitation (so far)

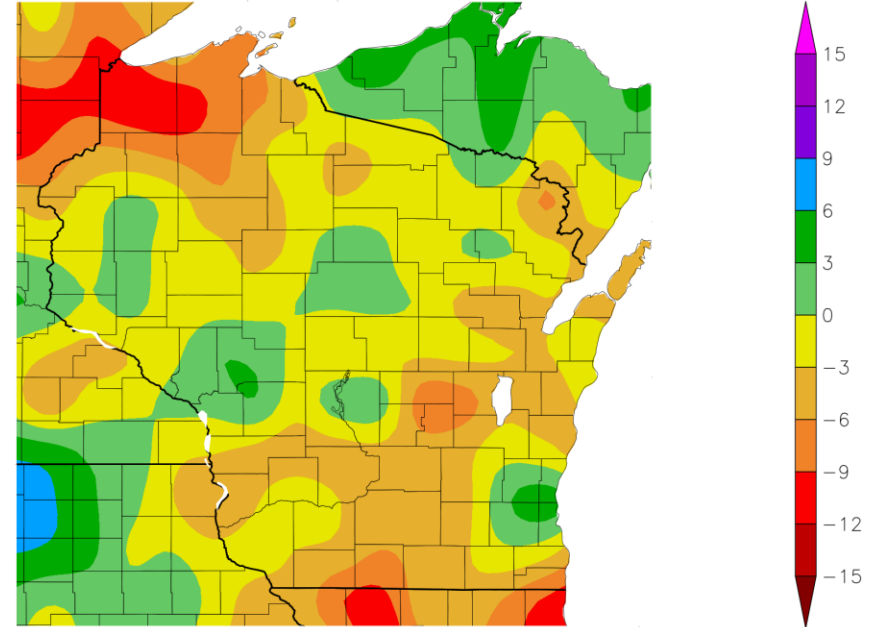
Precipitation (in)
1/1/2025 – 11/2/2025



Generated 11/3/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
1/1/2025 – 11/2/2025



Generated 11/3/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Soil Moisture Models

- **Increasing dryness** in the northeast compared to last week.
- The driest soil moisture conditions are in the **northwest and east**.
- **Nearest to normal** in the west-central region and parts of the NW.

Model Notes:

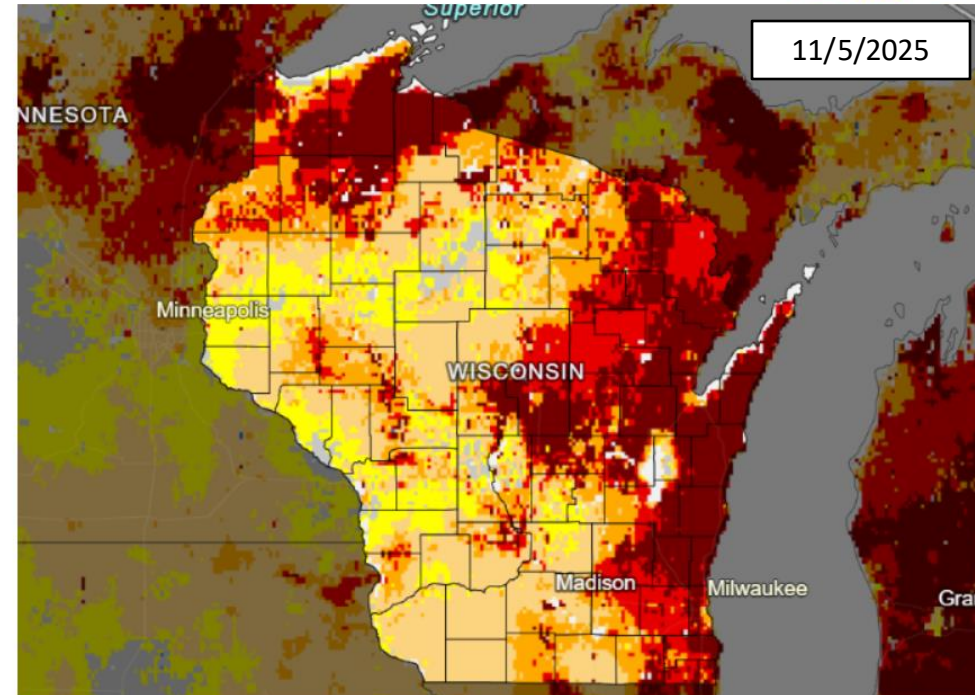
Red areas = top 5 driest in 100 years.

Dark red areas = top 2 driest in 100 years.

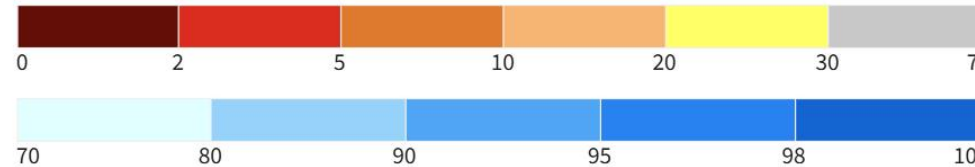
Blue areas = top 2 wettest in 100 years.

It's worth noting that each soil moisture model has their own characteristics and input variables, so there tends to be variation between models. Thus, it's worthwhile to look at multiple models opposed to just one.

NASA SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



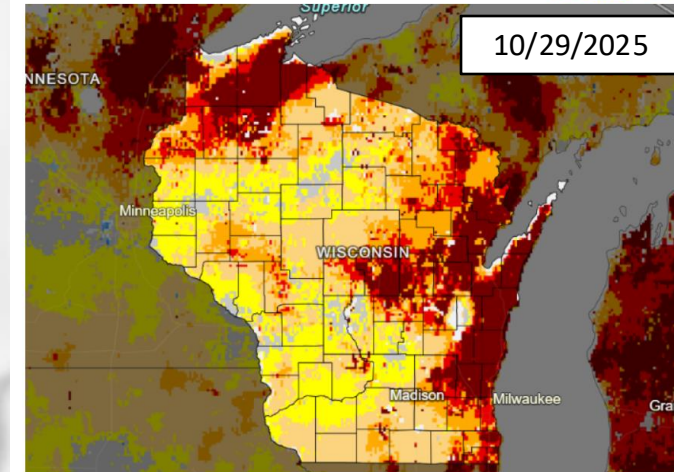
0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



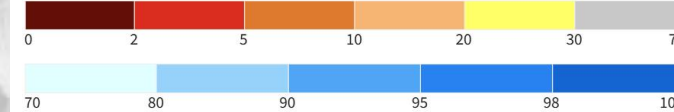
Source(s): NASA
Data Valid: 11/05/25

Drought.gov

NASA SPoRT-LIS 0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile



0-100 cm Soil Moisture Percentile

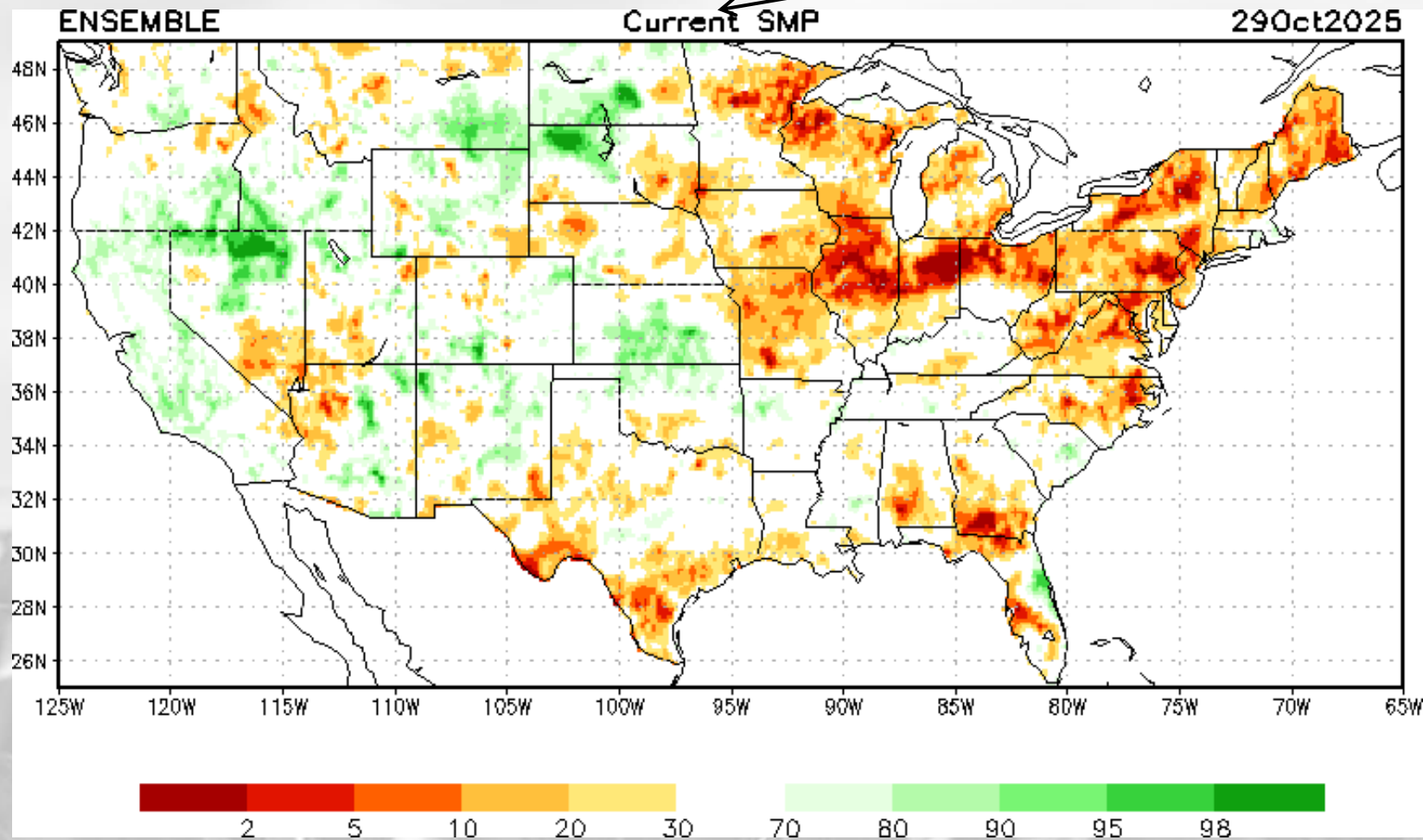


Source(s): NASA
Data Valid: 10/29/25

Drought.gov

Soil Moisture Models

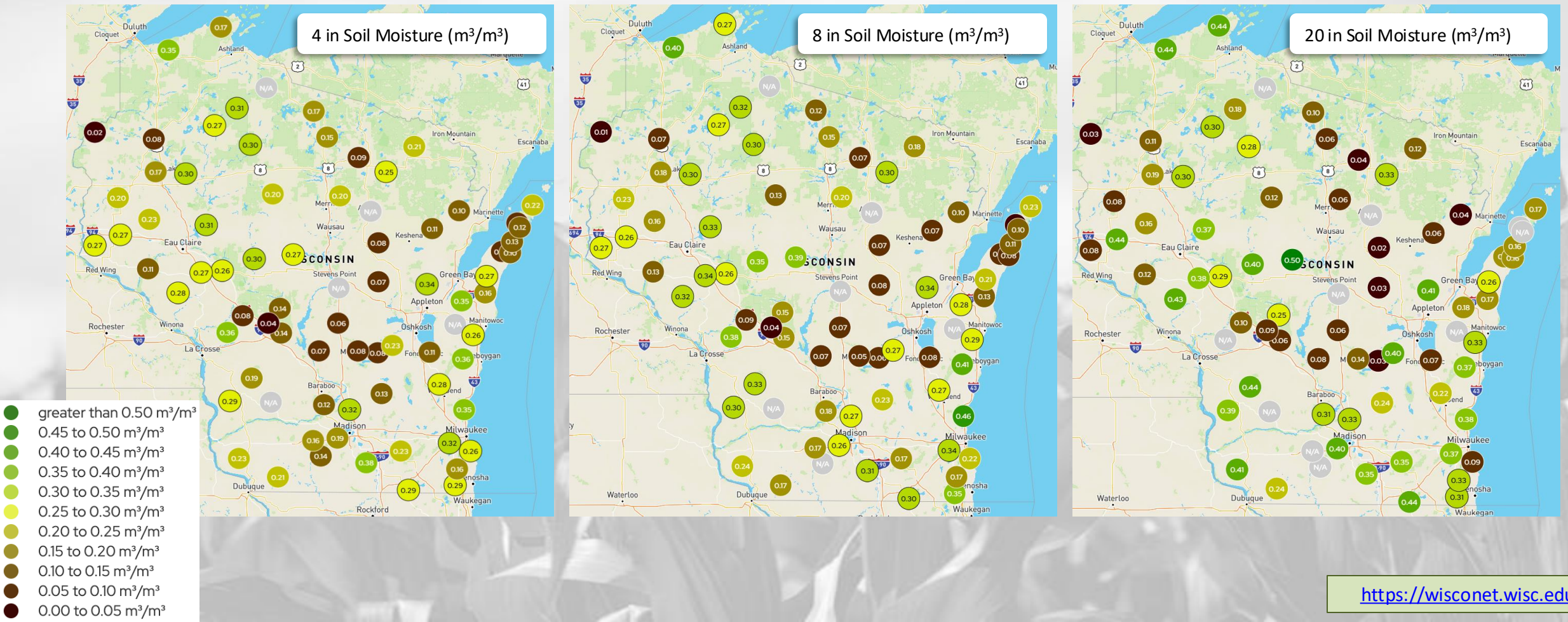
NOTE: this map displays the soil moisture percentile for Oct 29. It was the most recent update as of Nov 3.



https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/Drought/Monitoring/smp_new.shtml

Wisconet Soil Moisture

Maps showing soil temperature conditions on November 3rd @ 8:00 am.
Units of map values are {Volume of water}/{Volume of soil}.



Wisconet Soil Moisture

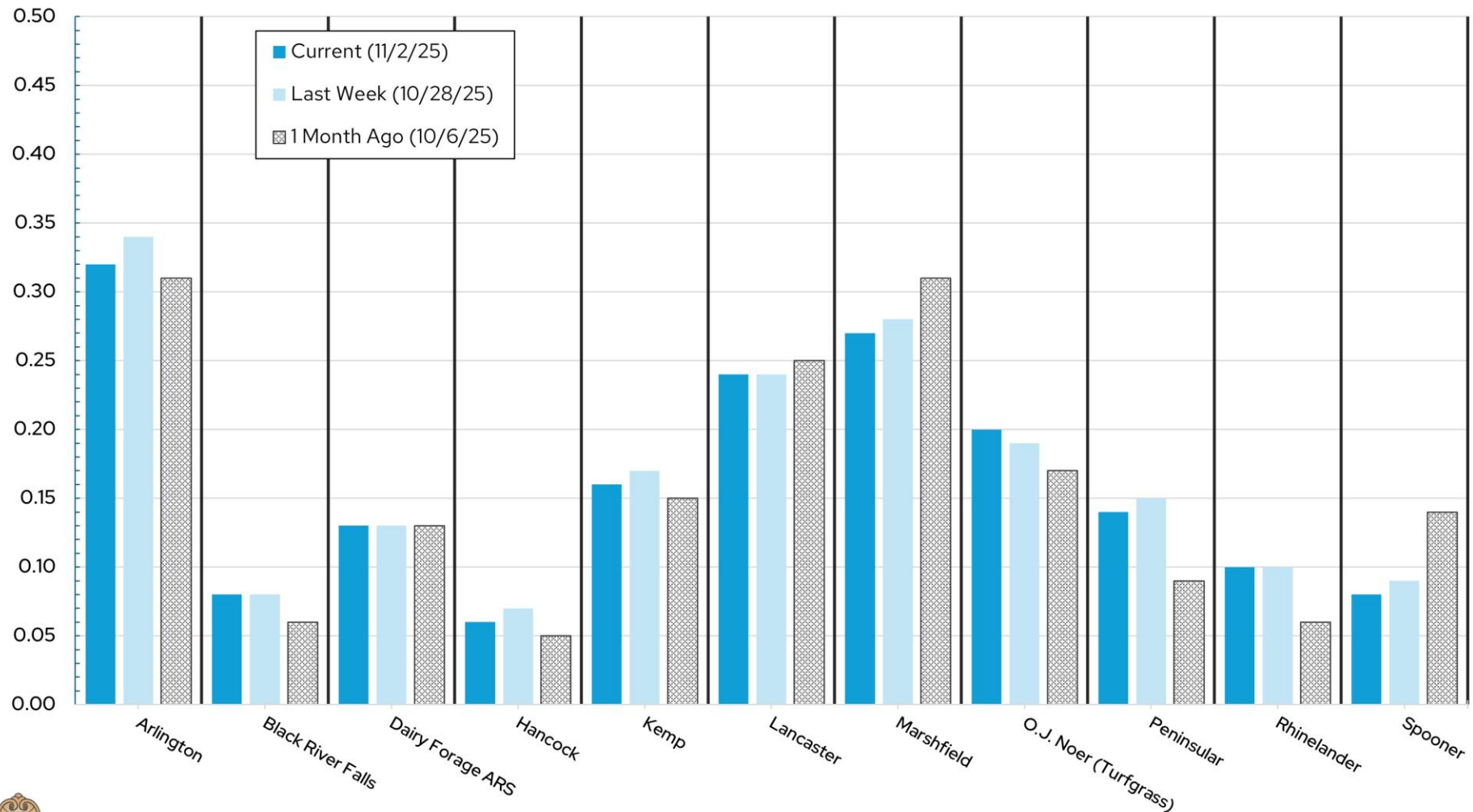
Change in soil moisture from October 28th (Start) to November 2nd (End).
Units of change values are {Volume of water}/{Volume of soil}.

Research Farm	County	Total Precip (in)	4" Change (Start) (End)		8" Change (Start) (End)		20" Change (Start) (End)	
Arlington	Columbia	0.03	0.34	0.32	0.27	0.27	0.33	0.33
Black River Falls	Jackson	0.05	0.08	0.08	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
Dairy Forage ARS	Sauk	0.04	0.13	0.13	0.18	0.18	0.31	0.31
Hancock	Waushara	0.00	0.07	0.06	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.06
Kemp	Oneida	0.02	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.15	0.06	0.06
Lancaster	Grant	0.18	0.24	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.41	0.41
Marshfield	Marathon	0.03	0.28	0.27	0.40	0.39	0.50	0.50
O.J. Noer (<i>Turfgrass</i>)	Dane	0.00	0.19	0.20	0.26	0.26	0.41	0.40
Peninsular	Door	0.01	0.15	0.14	0.11	0.11	0.16	0.16
Rhinelanders	Oneida	0.02	0.10	0.10	0.08	0.08	0.04	0.04
Spooner	Washburn	0.03	0.08	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.11	0.11

Wisconet Soil Moisture

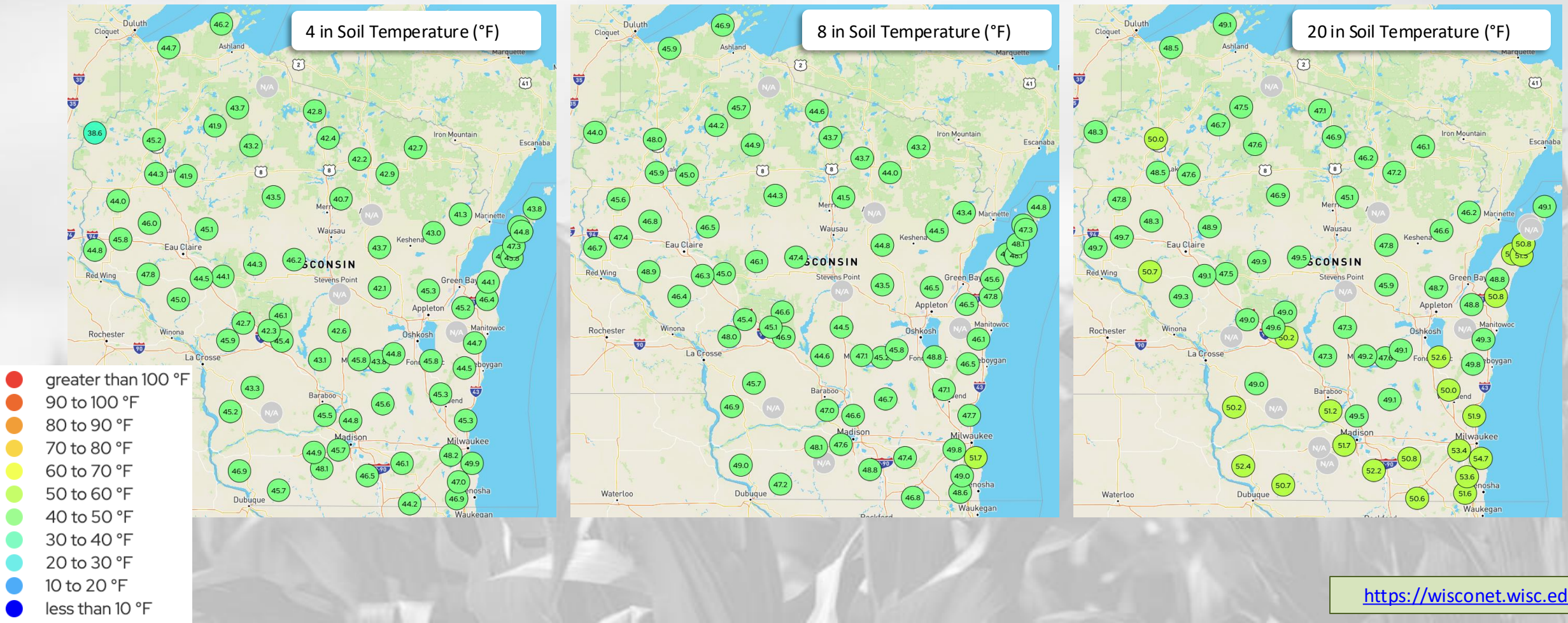
Wisconet 4" Soil Moisture Change

UW Research Farms



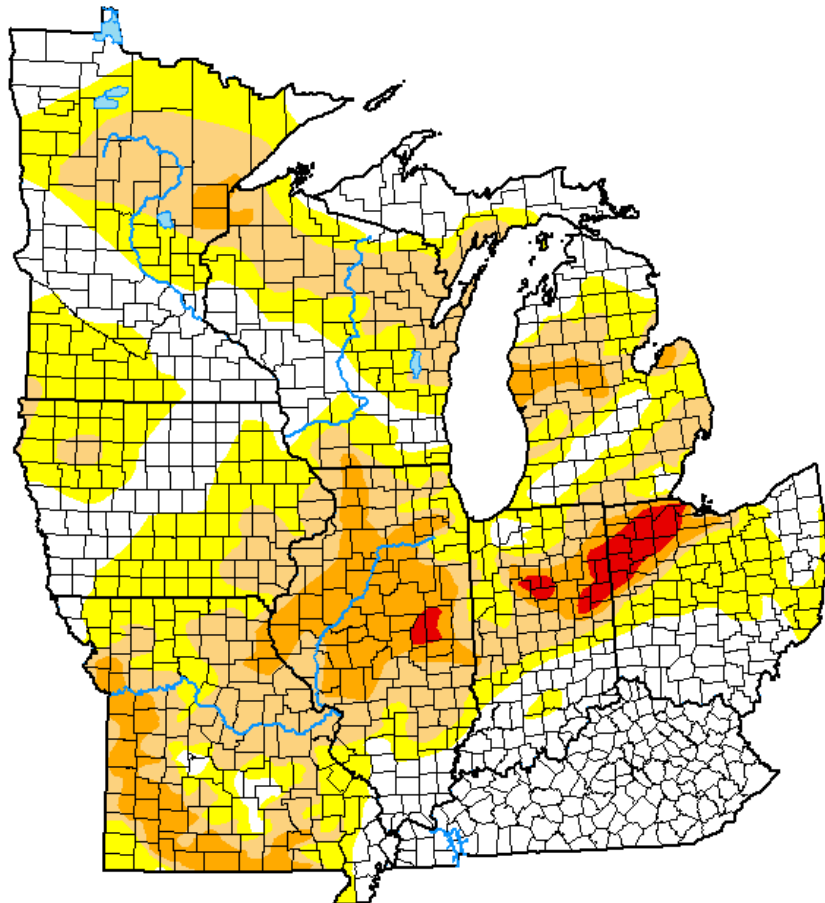
Wisconet Soil Temperature

Maps showing soil temperature conditions on
November 3rd @ 8:00 am.



US Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor Midwest



November 4, 2025

(Released Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	34.88	65.12	34.83	11.16	1.36	0.00
Last Week 10-28-2025	31.22	68.78	33.55	11.64	1.93	0.00
3 Months Ago 08-05-2025	90.30	9.70	1.83	0.16	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	44.12	55.88	29.47	3.56	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	34.12	65.88	34.69	10.17	0.37	0.00
One Year Ago 11-05-2024	6.27	93.73	59.45	25.49	1.69	0.66

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.
Local conditions may vary. For more information on the
Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

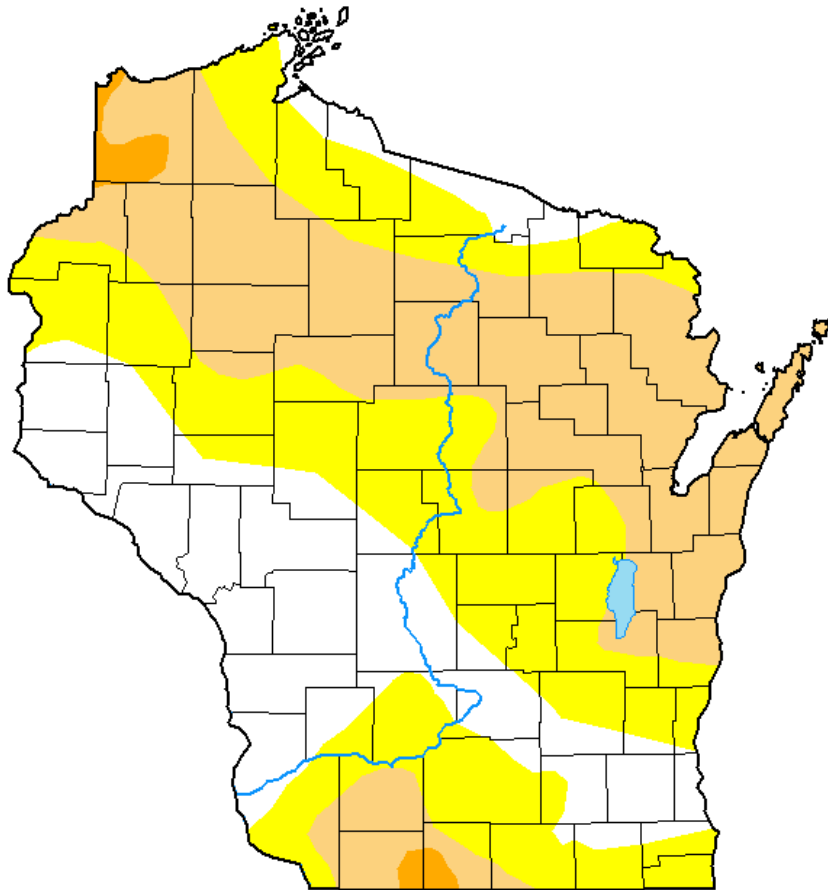
- Midwest: Compared to last week:
 - Small decrease in D0 coverage, with some increase in D1.
- Midwest: **1 class improvements** stretching from southern MO up into OH. **1 class degradation** across northern WI.
- Wisconsin: **D2 drought** near Monroe and in Douglas County. **D0-D1 expanding** across the north.
- **65.2%** of the Midwest is drought free (~34.8% in D1-D4).

Note: D0 is not considered drought.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

US Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor Wisconsin



November 4, 2025

(Released Thursday, Nov. 6, 2025)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	27.24	72.76	36.31	1.35	0.00	0.00
Last Week 10-28-2025	29.57	70.43	12.61	0.46	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 08-05-2025	98.22	1.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-07-2025	36.12	63.88	39.54	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-30-2025	64.44	35.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 11-05-2024	0.00	100.00	56.14	14.31	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

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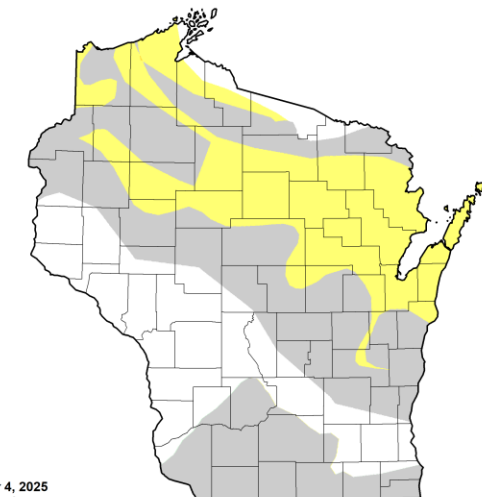
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Amount of state in:

- D1-D4 – 36.3% ↑
- D2-D4 – 1.4% ↑
- D3-D4 – 0.0% --
- D4 – 0.0% --

Note: ↑↓ indicate change from last week. Red up arrows indicate increase in drought area; vice-versa for green arrows. -- indicates no change from last week.

U.S. Drought Monitor Class Change - Wisconsin
1 Week



November 4, 2025
compared to
October 28, 2025

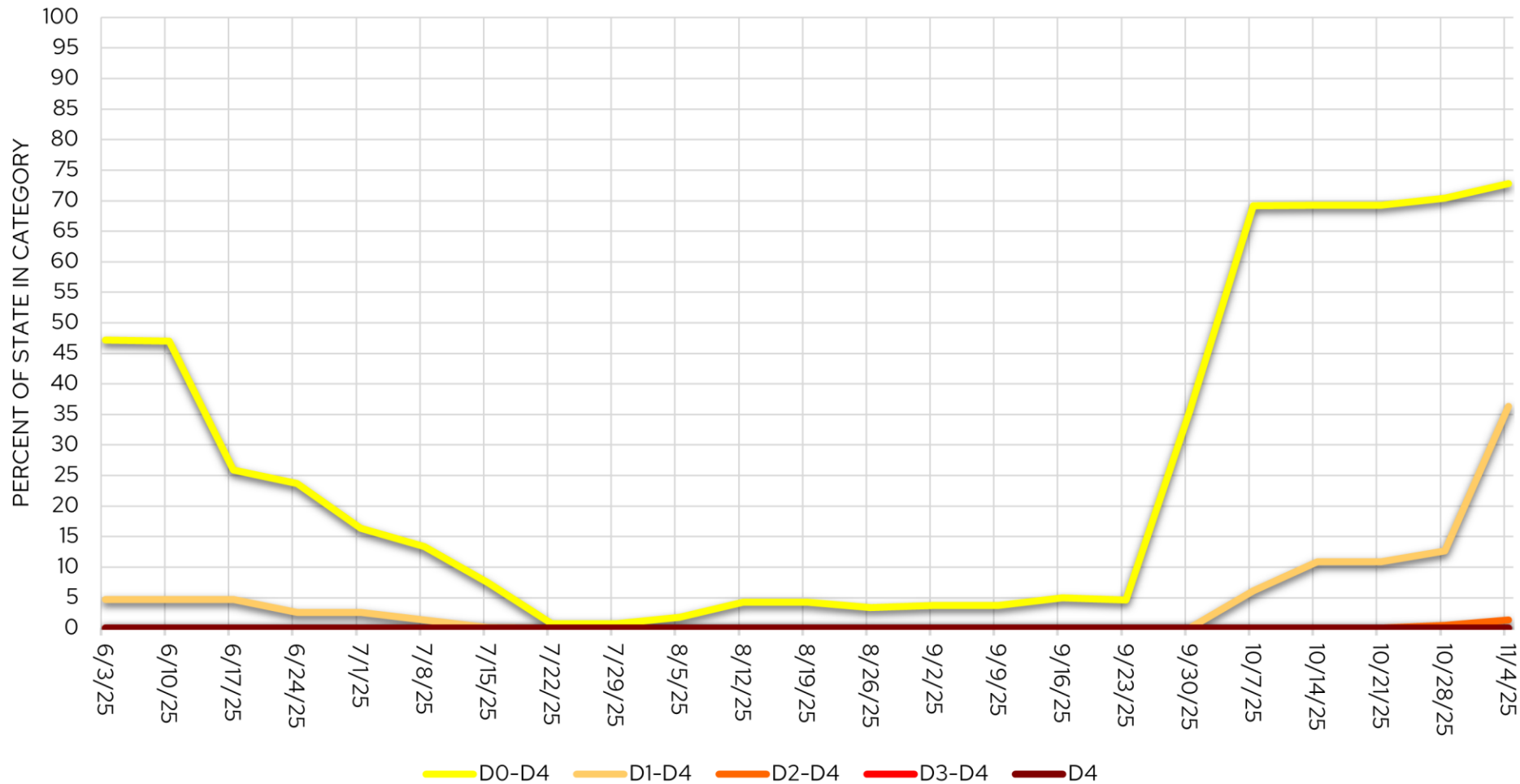
droughtmonitor.unl.edu



5 Class Degradation
4 Class Degradation
3 Class Degradation
2 Class Degradation
1 Class Degradation
No Change
1 Class Improvement
2 Class Improvement
3 Class Improvement
4 Class Improvement
5 Class Improvement

USDM Time Series

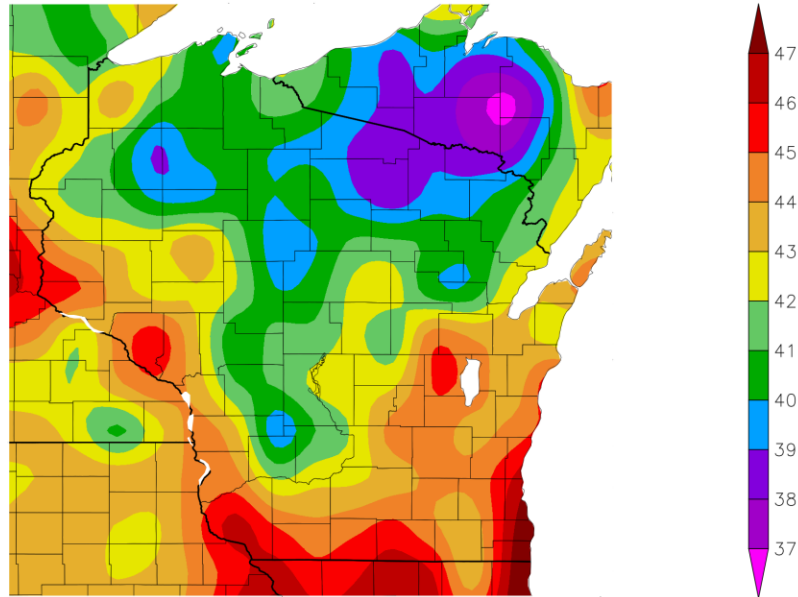
Wisconsin Drought Time Series (USDM)



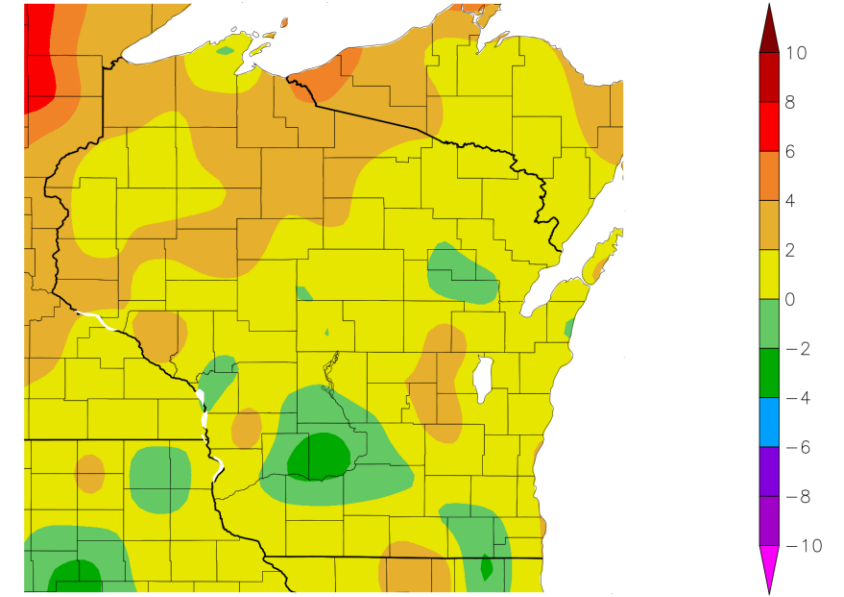
>20% increase in D1 coverage from last week, with the **addition of D2** in Douglas County.

7 Day Temperatures

Temperature (F)
10/27/2025 – 11/2/2025



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/27/2025 – 11/2/2025



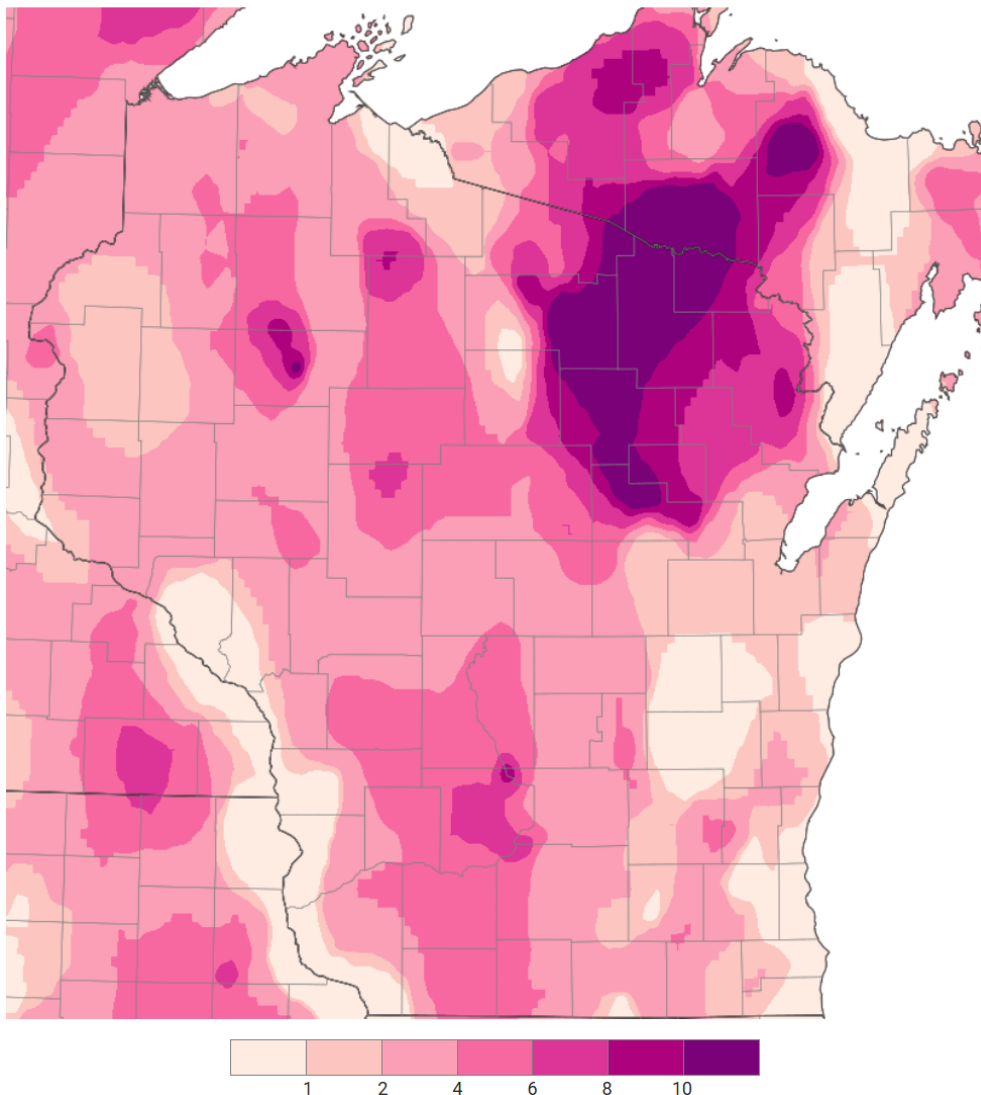
- Average temp. range of **44-47°F** in the south and west; to **38-41°F** in the north and parts of the west.
- **Within -/+2°F** for most of the state this week. **2-4°F above normal** in the northwest.

Freeze Update

Number of Days Minimum Temperature ≤ 28 degF

Date range: 2025-10-01 through 2025-11-05

Grid: NRCC station



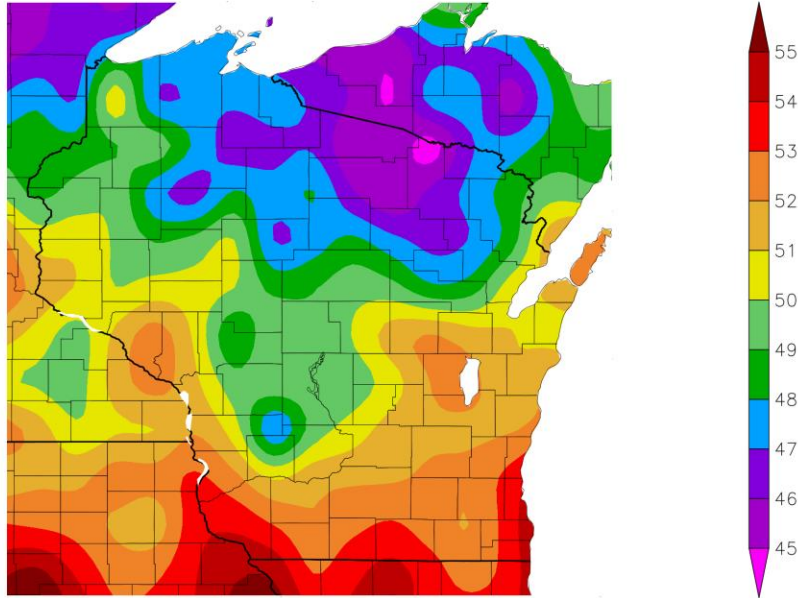
County	Latest recorded date for a hard freeze ($\leq 28^{\circ}\text{F}$)
Buffalo	November 23
Trempealeau	November 14
Vernon	November 14
Crawford	November 22
Winnebago	November 28
Fond du Lac	November 23
Manitowoc	November 28
Milwaukee	November 28
Racine	November 28
Kenosha	November 28

The map to the left shows the number of days that have had an **overnight low of 28°F or colder since October 1st**.

- To explore more freeze date climatology data for your county, please check out the [MRCC Freeze Date Tool](https://scacis.rcc-acis.org/).

30 Day Temperatures

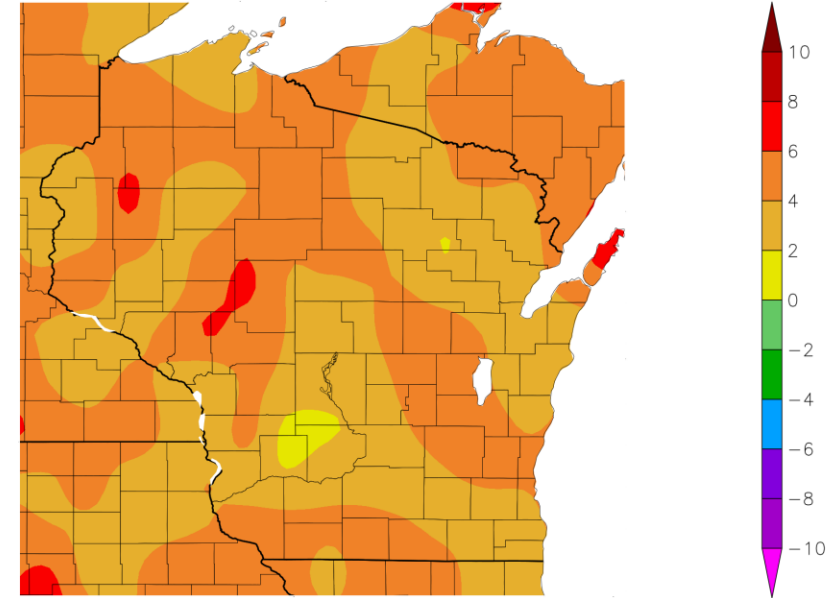
Temperature (F)
10/4/2025 – 11/2/2025



Generated 11/3/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/4/2025 – 11/2/2025



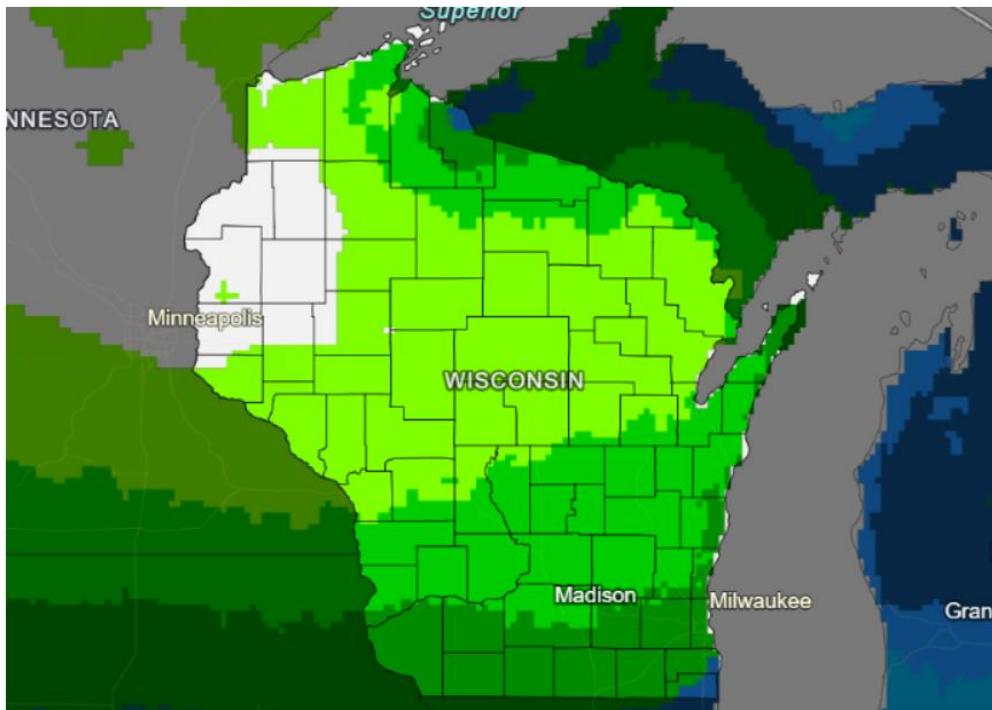
Generated 11/3/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

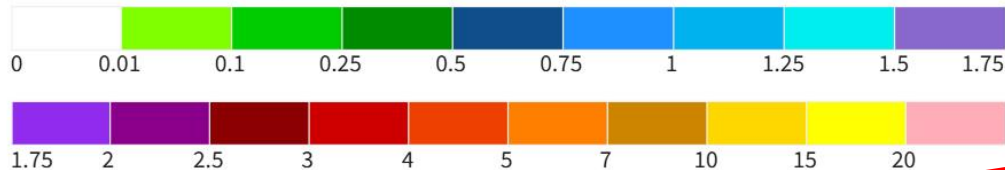
- Average temps. ranged from **52-55°F** in the south and west-central regions; to **45-48°F** for the north.
- **2-6°F above normal** across most of the state.

7 Day Precip Forecast

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for November 6–13, 2025



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center
Last Updated: 11/06/25

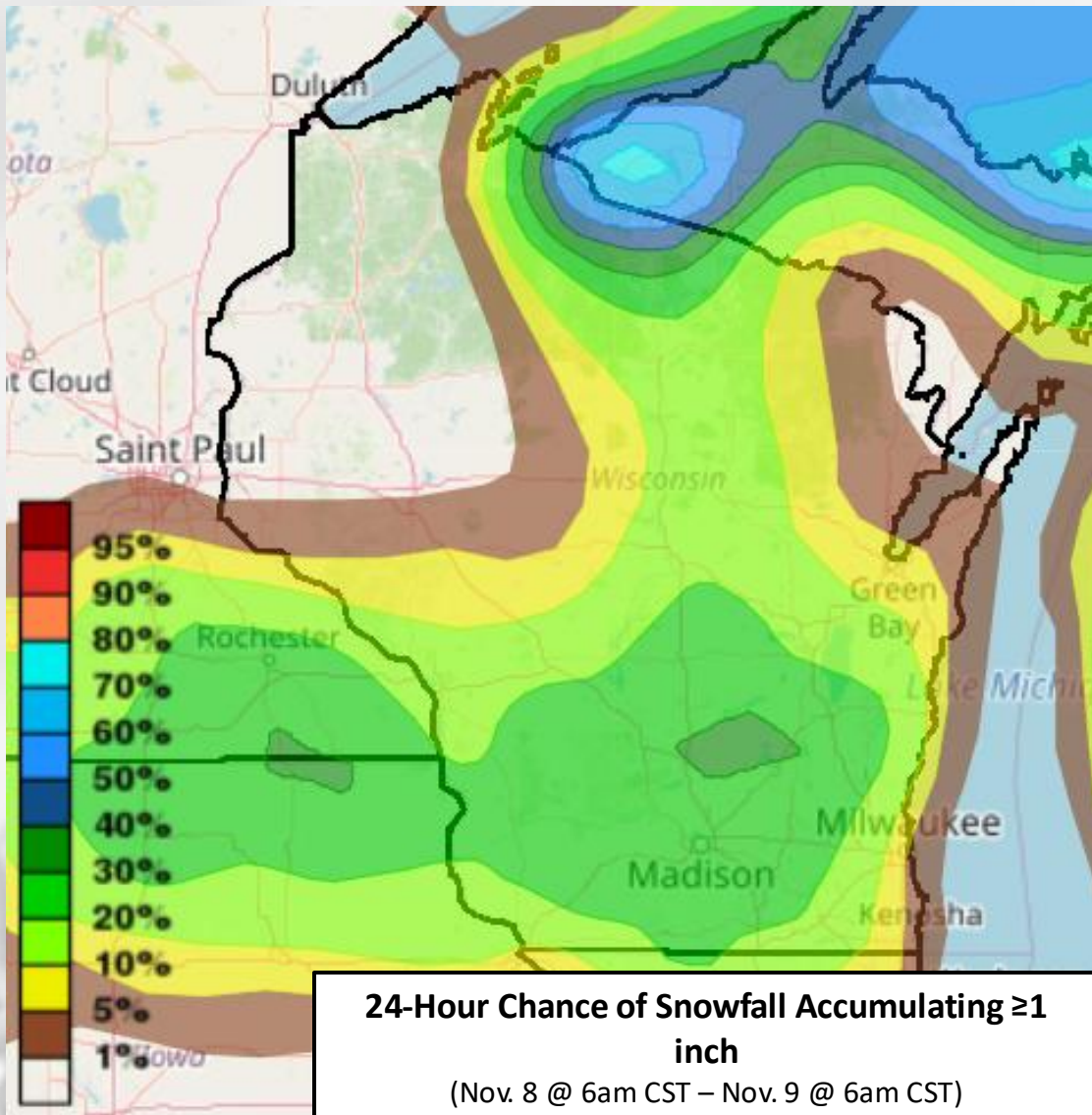
Drought.gov

- When? → multiple chances for rain and/or snow through Sunday (11/9).
- Where? → highest chances in the **south and far north**.
- Check your local forecast for details on totals and timing.
- Average precip (1991-2020) for this week: **0.48"**

Forecast for 11/6/25 thru 11/13/25
(Begins at 6am CST)

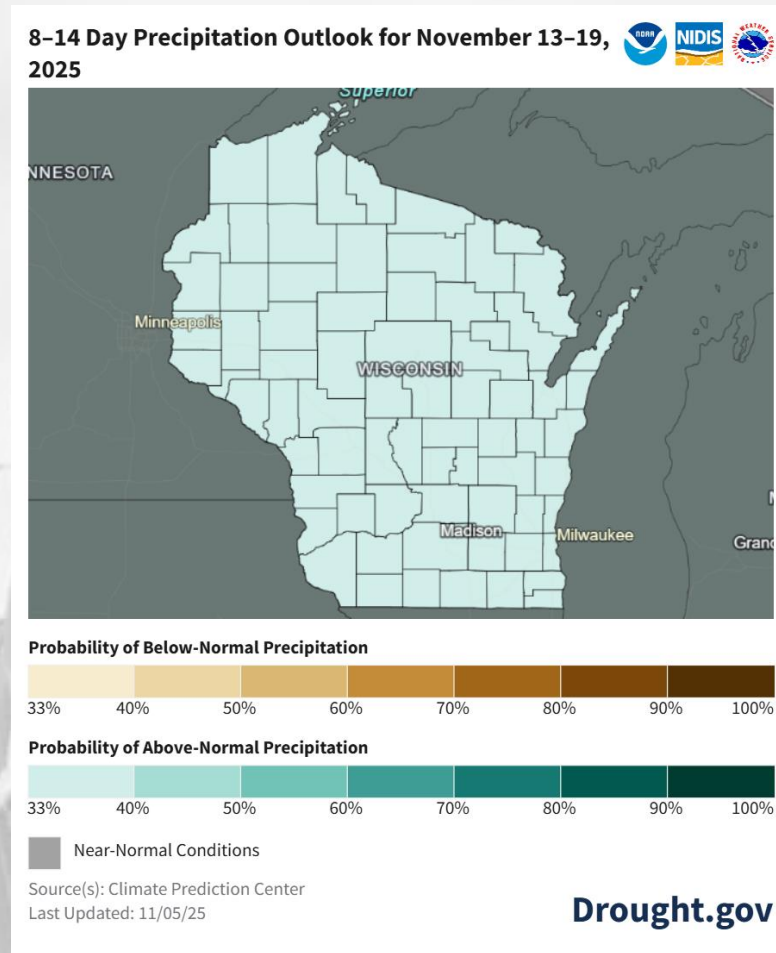
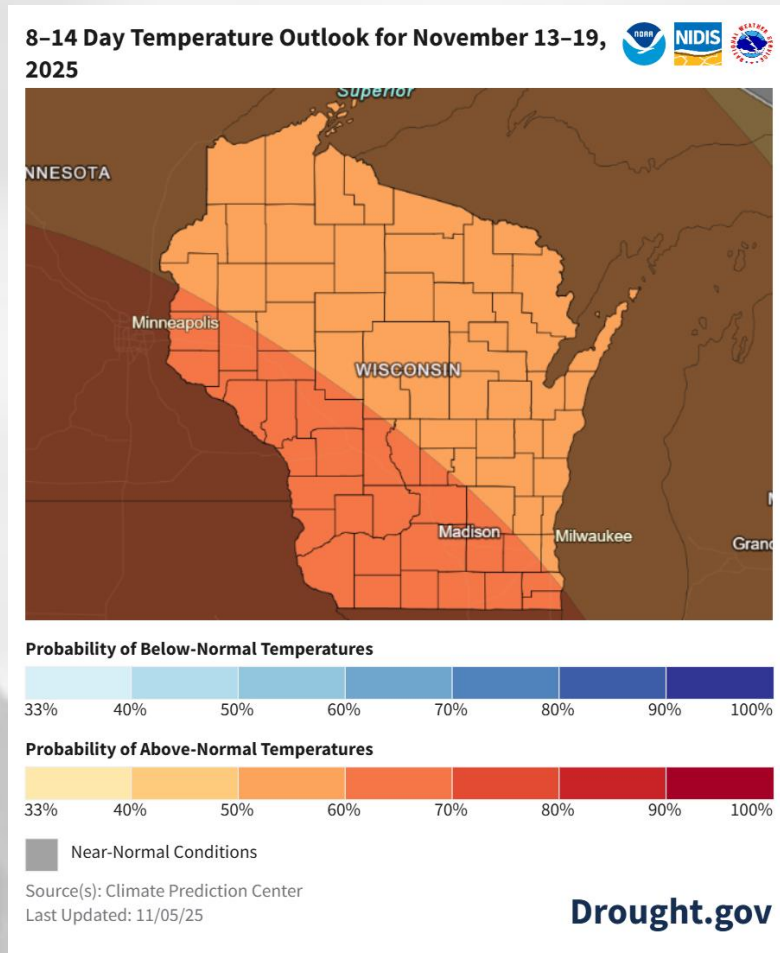
<https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/qpf/p168i.gif>
<https://www.drought.gov/states/wisconsin>

Snow Chances



- **20-40% chance** of accumulating snow (1" or more) across most of southern WI. **Higher likelihood** closer to the UP of Michigan.
- South → snow is most likely on **Saturday afternoon into the evening hours**.
- Check your local forecast for details on totals and timing.
- Average snowfall (1991-2020) for November:
 - Madison: **3.5"**
 - La Crosse: **4.1"**
 - Milwaukee: **3.0"**
 - Green Bay: **3.4"**

8-14 Day Temp & Precip Outlook

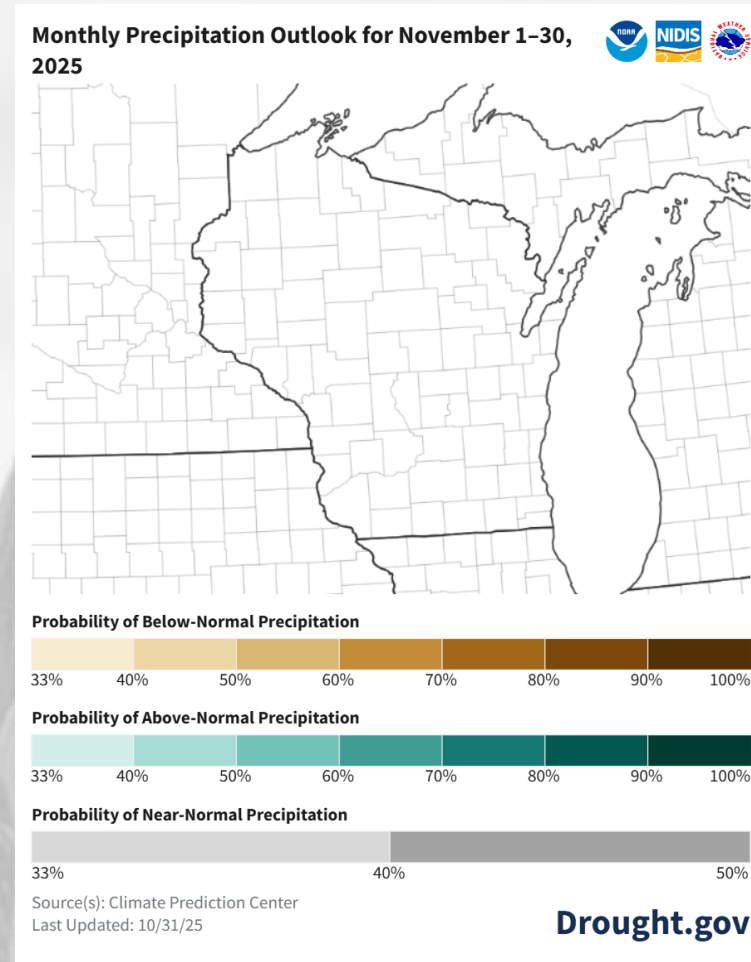
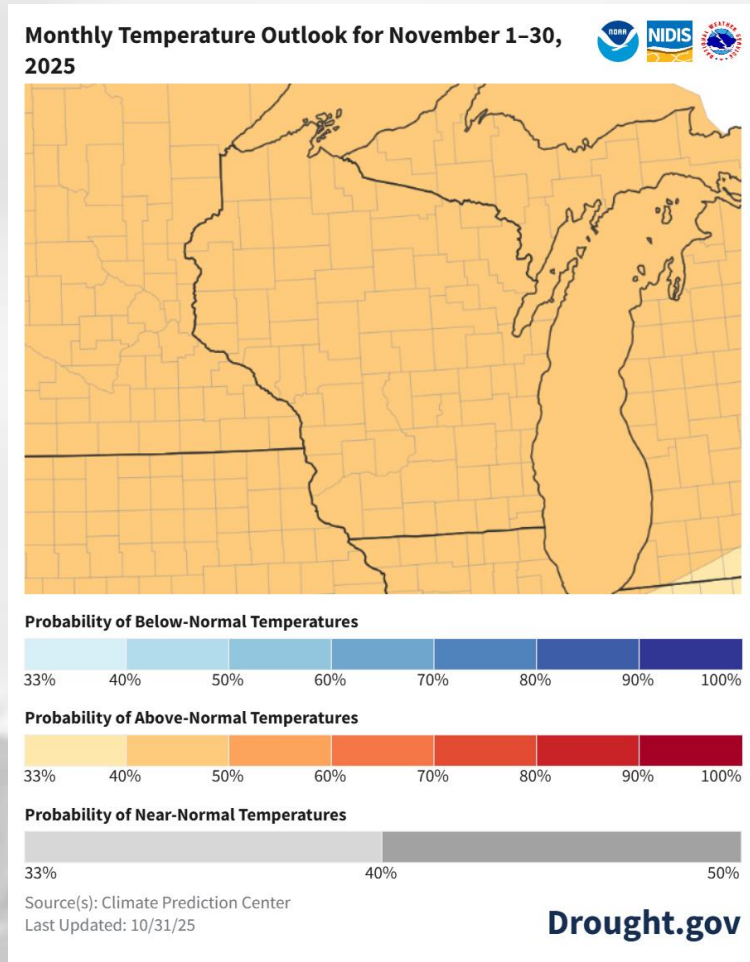


<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>
<https://www.drought.gov/states/wisconsin>

Mid-November: Strong lean towards warmer-than-normal temps (50-70% odds), more so in the S and W. Precipitation is showing a slight lean towards above normal.

➤ Statewide normals (1991-2020) for Nov 13-19 are **33.2°F** and **0.46"**.

30 Day Temp & Precip Outlook

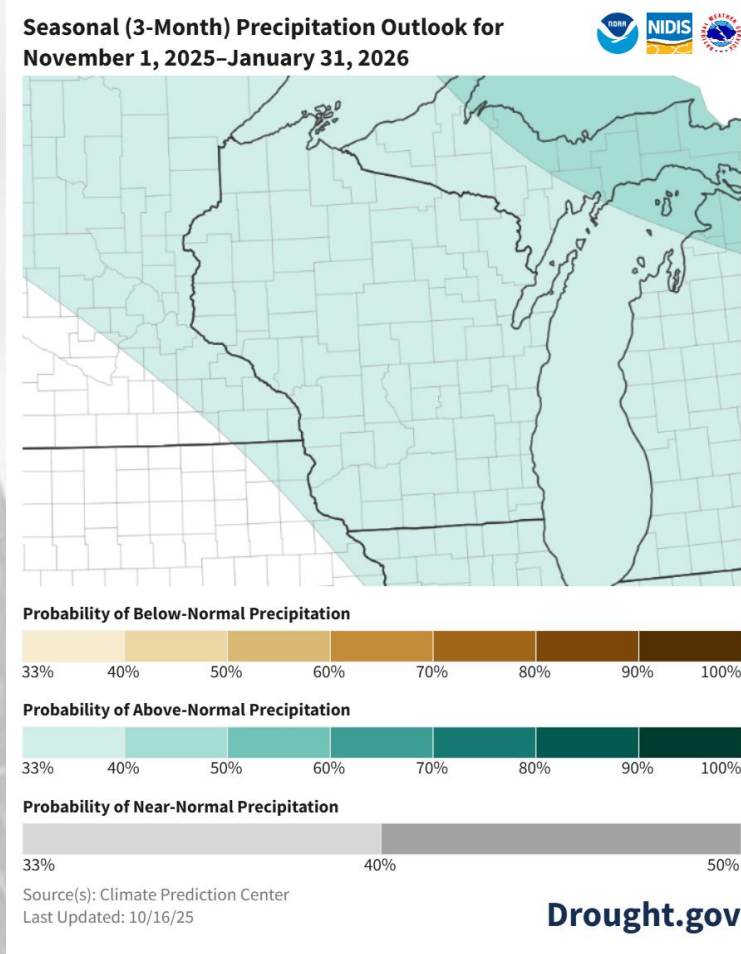
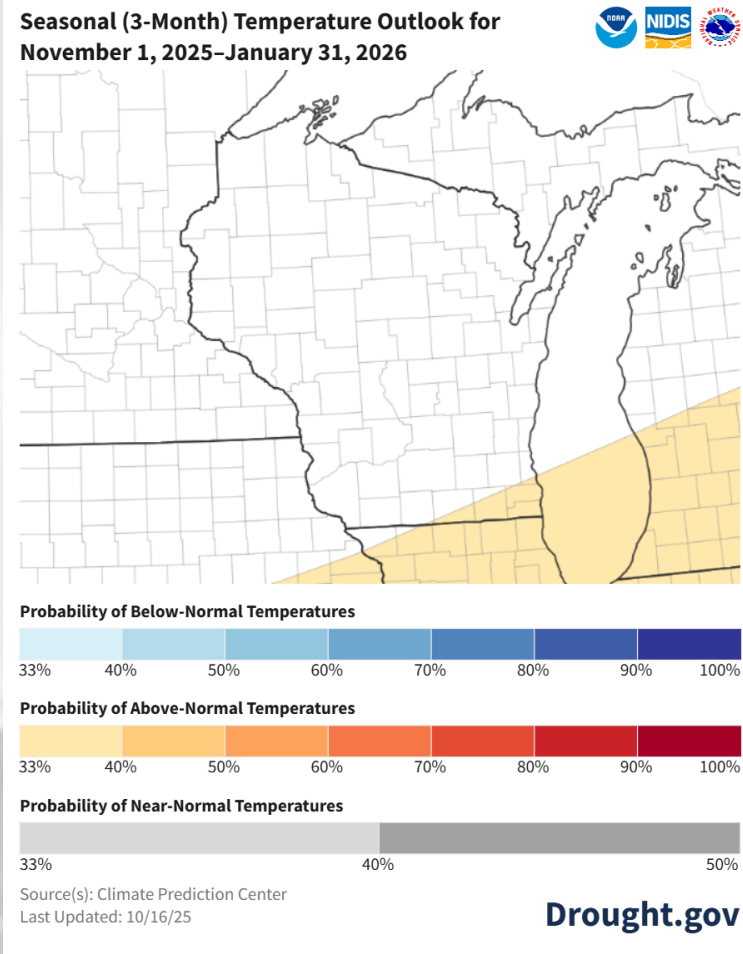


<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>
<https://www.drought.gov/states/wisc>
[onsin](#)

Month of November: A statewide lean towards above normal temperatures (40-50% odds). Statewide uncertainty for precipitation.

- Statewide normals (1991-2020) for November are **33.4°F** and **1.99"**.

90 Day Temp & Precip Outlook



<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/>
<https://www.drought.gov/states/wisc>
[onsin](#)

Late Fall into Winter '25/'26: Equal chances for temperatures statewide, with a slight lean towards above normal in the far SE. Slight lean towards above normal precip statewide.

- Statewide normals (1991-2020) for Nov-Jan are **23.2°F** and **4.72"**.

Take-Home Points

Current Conditions

- Temperatures were within 1-2°F of normal last week for most of WI. The southern region was **1-4°F below normal**, with conditions **closer to seasonal** in the north. This wrapped up an October that was one of the **top 20 warmest Octobers of all-time in WI**.
- Rainfall totals were **0.25” or less** across most of WI last week, which is low for this time of year. This wrapped up an October that was one of the drier Octobers on record (**25-70% of normal** for most).

Impact

- Soil moisture levels at 4” depth showed **little to no change** across UW research farm stations (Wisconet), with satellite-based products indicating that the **north and east remain the driest areas of the state** in the top 1 meter of soil.
- Drought expanded across the north last week, with a **>20% increase in D1 coverage** and the **addition of D2** in Douglas County.
- **NASS crop progress reports are unavailable this week due to the federal government shutdown.**

Outlook

- The best chances for precip over the next 7 days are in **the south and far north**, some of which could **fall as snow**.
- Climate probabilities for Mid-November indicate a **strong lean (50-70% odds) towards above normal temps**, with a slight lean towards above normal precip.
- The outlooks for the month of November (*updated on 10/31*) indicate a statewide lean towards **above normal** temperatures (**40-50% odds**) with **uncertainty for precip**. Early winter outlooks show a slight lean towards **above normal precipitation**.

Agronomic Considerations

Field Work and Conditions

- Check cover crop growth as rain has been variable.
- After crop harvest is an ideal time to take soil samples and plan ahead for next year's crop nutrient needs.
- Fall lime applications can be made to adjust pH if indicated values by a soil test are not favorable for a future crop.

Manure Applications

- Reminder of Wisconsin's NR 151 Runoff Rules with the timing of manure spreading and current runoff levels. Check DATCP Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast.
- Fall is a great time to have manure samples analyzed for nutrient content before spreading. Here is a list of Wisconsin certified labs.
- As you conduct fall spreading, keeping field records is important to estimate nutrient credits for next year's crop and avoid over-application. A2809 can provide guidance on these nutrient estimates.

Pest and Disease Management

- In order to prevent weed seed spread from field to field, combine cleaning is essential for reducing seed travel between fields. There have also been many combine fires this year. Keeping combines clean will help minimize risk.
- If you have ear rots present in your corn fields, prioritize harvesting diseased grain first and dry quickly. Read how to manage mycotoxins in storage.

Forage Management

- After corn is harvested, you may consider grazing corn stalks or harvesting corn stover, based on livestock needs.

Fruit and Vegetable Considerations

Fruit:

- **Fall Sanitation:** Clean up weeds around trees and vines, mow aisles to allow for better light penetration to aid in decomposition of leaf/plant material.
- **Fall Sanitation:** After leaf drop, chop, compost, remove or burn (where permitted) fallen leaf and plant material to limit potential for disease inoculum and any overwintering pests.
- Remember to note observable fruit damage at harvest to make adjustments in next year's pest management plan.
- Wisconsin fruit growers can reference the **Midwest Fruit Pest Management Guide** (MFPMG) for a list of registered products and recommended best practices. View the [MFPMG Online](#) or order a hard copy here: [MFPMG Hard Copy](#).
- **Reminder:** Always read and follow directions on the label and keep in mind pre-harvest intervals (PHI) as we move through harvest!

Vegetables:

- **Winterizing your irrigation system** can help save you from costly repairs next season. Whether you use drip irrigation or center pivot systems, [this resource](#) includes a great check list for shutting down your system for the year.
- [Fall is a great time to test your soil](#) as it gives you more time to make management decisions based on your results. Although remember to make accurate comparisons over time it is important to test at the same time of year each time. A list of certified labs can be found [here](#).
- There are still a few weeks left to **establish a [winter rye cover crop](#)** across the state. Rye has many potential benefits including prevention of erosion and holding nutrients in the soil, but keep in mind that [cover crop benefits are strongly related to biomass](#). Knowing the [planting window](#) for your county can help you predict the amount of biomass and thus the likely cover crop benefits. If you are planting towards the end of the window, it is recommended to increase seeding rate to achieve more biomass. More management suggestions can be found [here](#).
- Pest management for next year's crops starts this fall as many insects and diseases overwinter on crop residue. **Residue management** (either removing or tilling in residue) **can help reduce next year's pest and disease pressure**. Additional info can be found [here](#).
- **Aphids** are a common high tunnel pest on fall and winter greens. The common species in high tunnels- [green peach aphid](#), [potato aphid](#), and [fox glove aphid](#)- are able to [survive temperatures as low as 5°F](#). Population control will only become more difficult as temperatures drop so make sure to monitor and, when necessary, manage aphids this fall. Management options include the release of [lady beetles](#), [insecticides](#), and weed management to reduce alternative hosts.

User Survey

Are you a regular user of the Ag Weather Outlook for Wisconsin (AgWOW)? Or maybe you are viewing these slides for the first time this week? Either way, we want to hear **your** feedback on this resource! Please take a few minutes and fill out this survey:

[LINK TO SURVEY](#)

Your feedback will help us better serve your ag-weather data needs through AgWOW.

If you have any trouble accessing or filling out the survey, please email Josh Bendorf at jbendorf@wisc.edu.

Thank you!!

-The AgWOW Team

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