



Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

July 10, 2025

Main Points

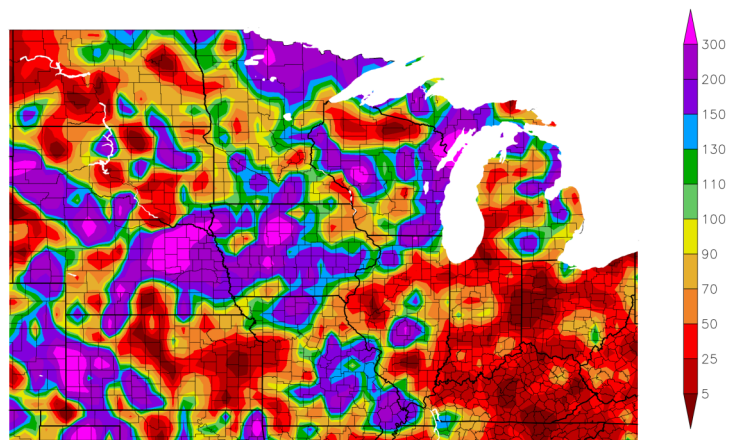
- Warmer and wetter than average conditions in the Central Plains and upper Midwest this past week.
- Warmer and drier conditions across portions of the Dakotas and eastern Corn Belt this past week.
- Dry conditions across north central Illinois have reduced soil moisture and led to increased USDM coverage.
- Crops are generally in good to excellent condition.
- Cooler temperatures are possible in the coming weeks – reducing stress chances on most crops.

Current Conditions

Over the past week (July 3rd-9th), precipitation continues to run above average from the Central Plains to the northern Great Lakes area with spotty drier areas. In contrast, the eastern Corn Belt is below average. The wet areas are 150 to 200% of average or more. Drier areas are 50% of average with several areas below 25% of average. Nearly the whole region experienced above average temperatures, with most areas 2 to 6°F above normal from west to east. Areas of the south central Plains were closer to average.

The additional heat helped with degree day accumulation and enhanced crop progress. Recent rainfalls were large enough to cause some minor flooding and some wet fields, leading to delays on field work, weed control, etc. and has led to some nitrogen concerns with the heavier rains.

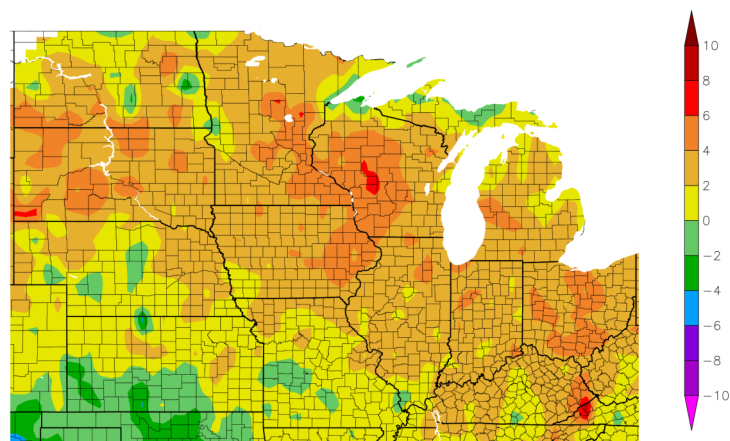
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
7/3/2025 – 7/9/2025



Generated 7/10/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
7/3/2025 – 7/9/2025



Generated 7/10/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: [ACIS Climate Maps](#). Generated: 07/10/2025.

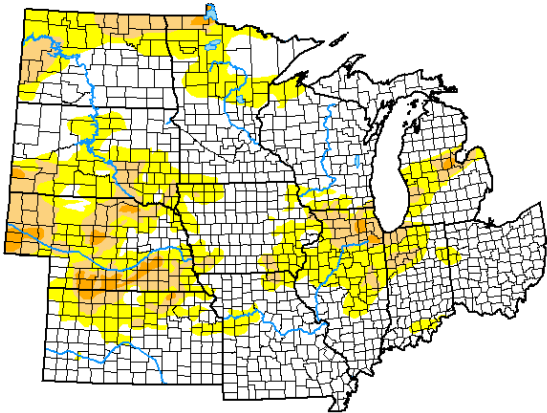
Impacts

Drought

As of July 8th, 61% of the region is classified as no drought intensity, 26% as abnormally dry (D0), 11% as moderate drought (D1), and 2% as severe drought (D2). In comparison to last week, drought conditions have improved by 1-class across portions of the Plains and northern Minnesota. Drought conditions have degraded by 1-class across north central Illinois, as rainfall continues to evade the area.

As of the week ending July 6th, topsoil moisture ranges from 52 to 75% adequate across the North Central region. Breaking with previous weeks, the Northern Plains are no longer the driest states in the region, as hot and dry conditions have impacted soil moisture levels across Illinois. Compared to last week, adequate topsoil moisture content decreased by 16% in Illinois, with 43% of soil moisture currently short to very short across the state. Subsoil moisture ranges from 54 to 78% adequate across the region. While recent rain has improved soil moisture conditions in Nebraska, 43% of subsoil moisture remains short to very short.

U.S. Drought Monitor
North Central States



July 8, 2025
(Released Thursday, Jul. 10, 2025)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	61.38	38.62	12.75	1.88	0.00	0.00
Last Week 07-01-2025	59.65	40.35	14.17	2.04	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 04-08-2025	36.79	63.21	37.51	10.33	1.38	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 01-01-2025	30.52	69.48	45.47	14.34	2.68	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2024	18.32	81.68	35.03	8.92	1.45	0.43
One Year Ago 07-09-2024	78.90	21.10	6.49	0.47	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme 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>

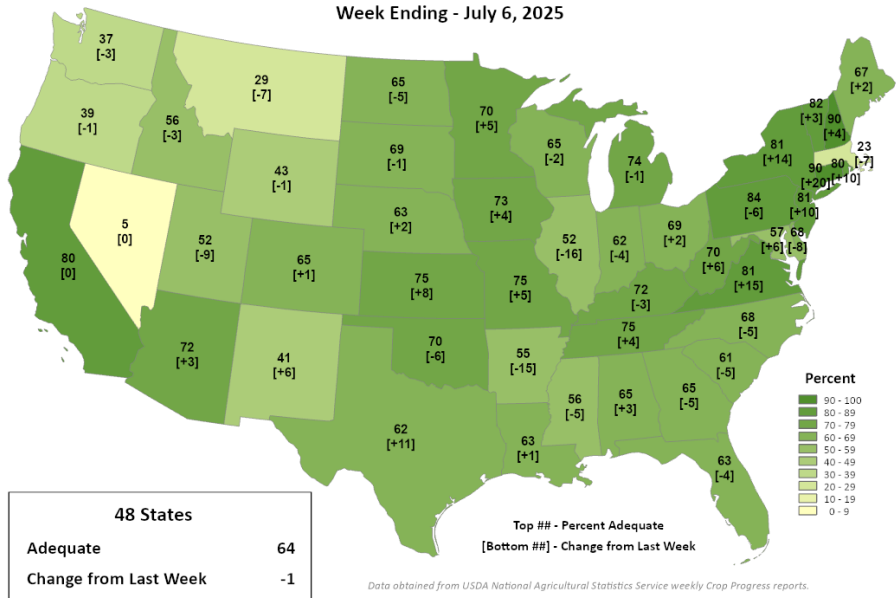
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USDA
United States
Department of
Agriculture

This product was prepared by the
USDA Office of the Chief Economist (OCE)
World Agricultural Outlook Board (WAOB)

Topsoil Moisture
Percent Adequate
Week Ending - July 6, 2025



Maps generated by the [National Drought Mitigation Center](#) and the [United States Department of Agriculture](#).

Soils, Crops and Livestock

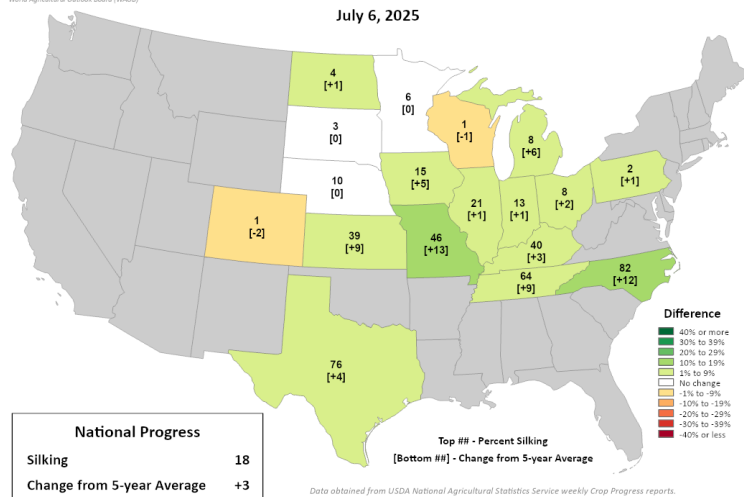
Warm temperatures over the July 4th week-end have continued to promote crop progress. Corn silking progress ranges from 1 to 46% across the region, and southern states in the region experienced a double digit increase in progress over the last week. As of July 6th, 15 to 38% of soybeans are blooming and up to 9% are setting pods across the region. In Nebraska, soybean blooming is 26% behind the 5-year average. In terms of Spring Wheat, 59, 60, and 96% have headed across Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, respectively. Winter wheat harvest varies considerably across the region, ranging from 1 to 90% harvested.

According to USDA-NASS, 56 to 86% of corn and 48 to 79% of soybeans are in good to excellent condition across the region.

Corn Progress

Percent Silking

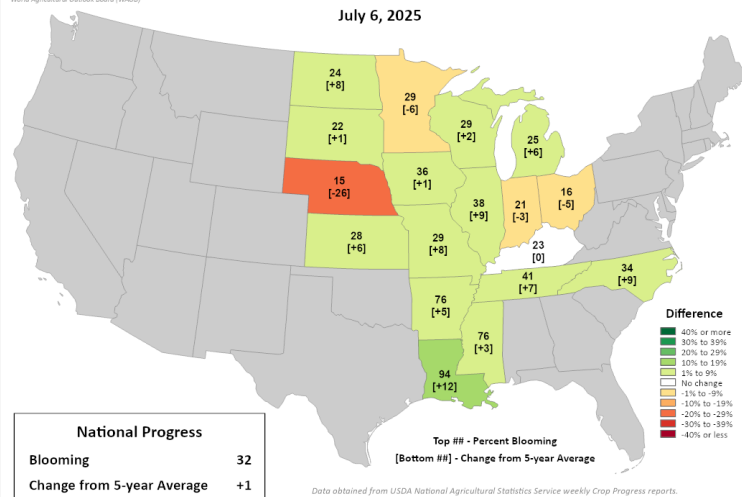
July 6, 2025



Soybeans Progress

Percent Blooming

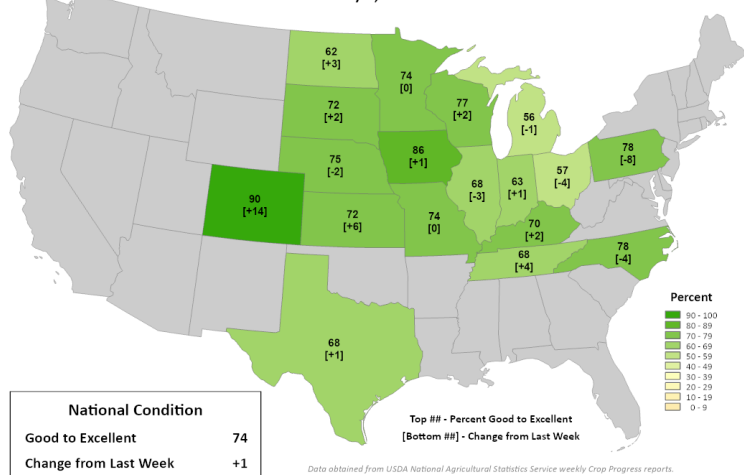
July 6, 2025



Corn Conditions

Percent Good to Excellent

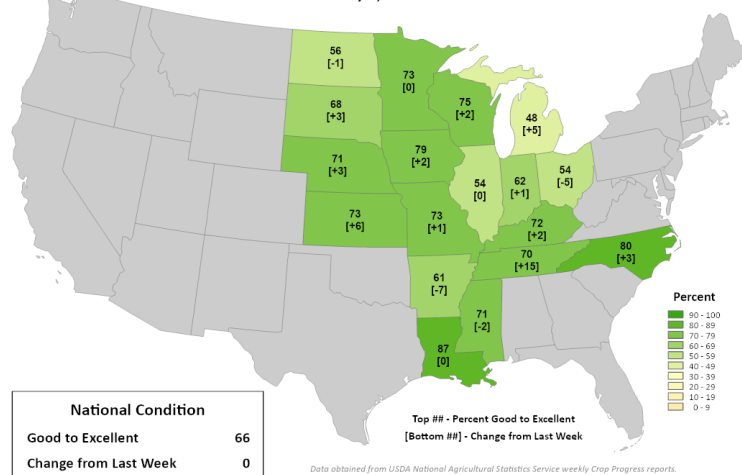
July 6, 2025



Soybean Conditions

Percent Good to Excellent

July 6, 2025



Maps generated by the [United States Department of Agriculture](https://www.usda.gov/).

As of July 6th, approximately 41 to 69% of winter wheat and 55 to 80% of spring wheat is in good to excellent condition across the region. Recent rainfall has brought welcome improvements to winter wheat conditions in Nebraska. Currently, 60% of winter wheat is in good to excellent condition across Nebraska, a 29% increase from last week. However, pasture and rangeland conditions have been slower to improve and only 30 and 44% are in good to excellent condition in Nebraska and South Dakota, respectively.

Severe Weather

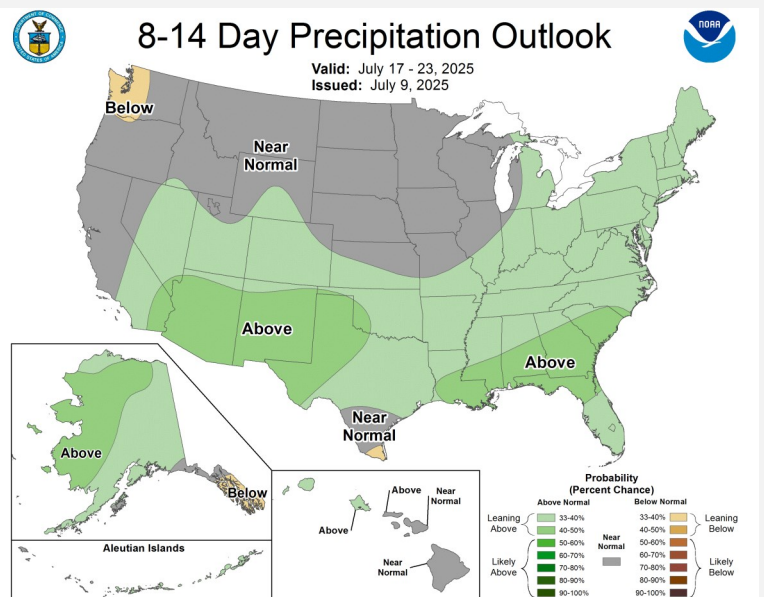
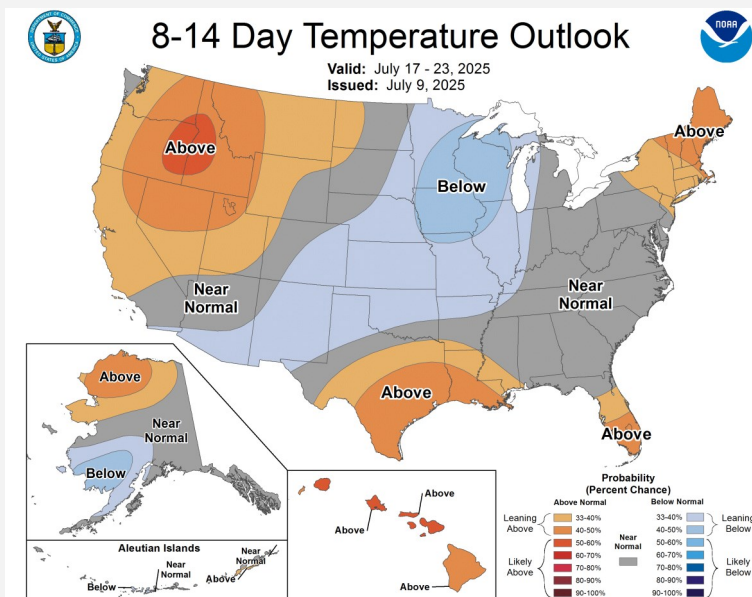
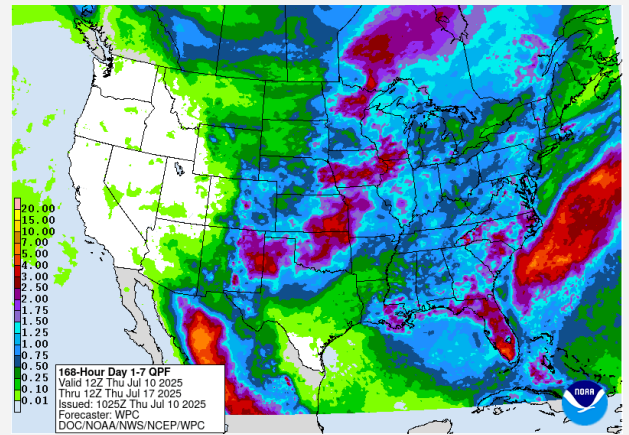
There is a marginal to slight risk for severe thunderstorms across portions of the region through Saturday.

Fire

According to the National Interagency Fire Center, currently most of the North Central region has little to no risk for significant fire potential. The Plains are currently at low risk for fire potential, though as we enter the weekend, the Dakotas face moderate risk.

Outlook

The 8-14 day outlooks continue to hold off on warmer than average temperatures and even have a swath leaning toward below average temperatures as more likely through the central part of the region. Precipitation indications are fairly weak leading to near normal across much of the region with slightly better chances for wetter conditions along the Ohio Valley. This situation is generally beneficial to crop development because average high temperatures are reaching their peak during 2-3rd week of July. And corn is tasseling. The situation for corn shows limited chances for stress around the Corn Belt with generally decent soil moisture and moderate temperatures expected. Soybean conditions are not quite as good overall and have slightly increased risk for yield loss. But there is much still to happen. Hints toward hotter and drier conditions in the Northern Plains in late July to August still exist.



Outlooks provided by the [Weather Prediction Center](#) and [Climate Prediction Center](#).

Partners and Contributors

[United States Department of Agriculture \(USDA\)](#)
[National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration \(NOAA\)](#)
[Climate Prediction Center \(CPC\)](#)
[National Weather Service \(NWS\)](#)
[National Center for Environmental Information \(NCEI\)](#)
[National Drought Mitigation Center \(NDMC\)](#)
[National Integrated Drought Information System \(NIDIS\)](#)
[Midwestern Regional Climate Center \(MRCC\)](#)
[Midwest State Climatologists](#)
[High Plains Regional Climate Center \(HPRCC\)](#)

For More Information

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