



# Midwest Ag-Focus Climate Outlook

July 24, 2025

## Main Points

- Recent rainfall improved drought conditions in north central Illinois.
- Excess rainfall and wet soils are starting to become a problem in some areas.
- Corn and soybean are in good to excellent condition.
- High temperatures and high humidity are widespread across the region.
- After some additional warm/humid conditions, cooler conditions are more likely to cover the Corn Belt into early August.

## Current Conditions

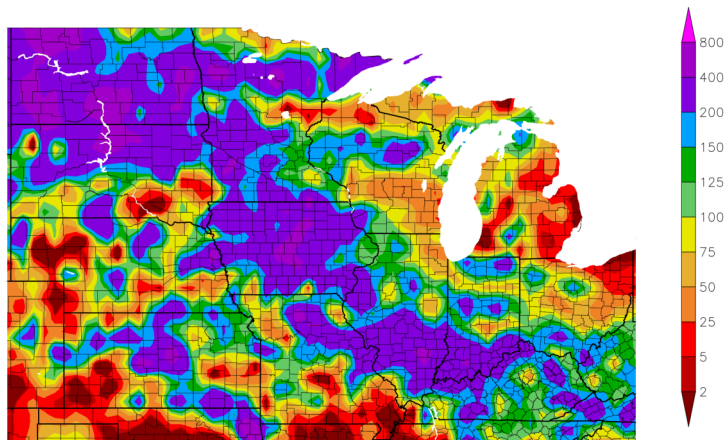
Generally, rainier than average conditions covered most of the Corn Belt over the last seven days. More than double average precipitation fell from the Dakotas to Indiana, with 2-4" amounts common. Outside these areas, in the central Plains and around the Great Lakes, more limited amounts fell with 0.5" or less and no precipitation in some spots. Very warm conditions were common regionally, with warmer than average conditions over the south half of the region. Around 2°F above average was common with +4-6°F in far southern areas. Cooler than average was most common from the Dakotas to Michigan and part of Ohio with 2-4°F below average common. These temperatures were accompanied by a very moist air mass creating high heat index conditions.

## Impacts

### Drought

As of July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 74% of the region is classified as no drought intensity, 15% as abnormally dry (D0), 10% as moderate drought (D1), and 1% as severe drought (D2).

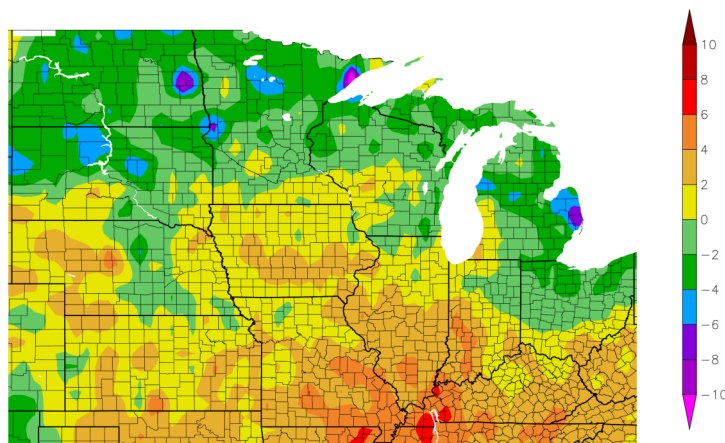
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
7/18/2025 – 7/24/2025



Generated 7/25/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
7/18/2025 – 7/24/2025



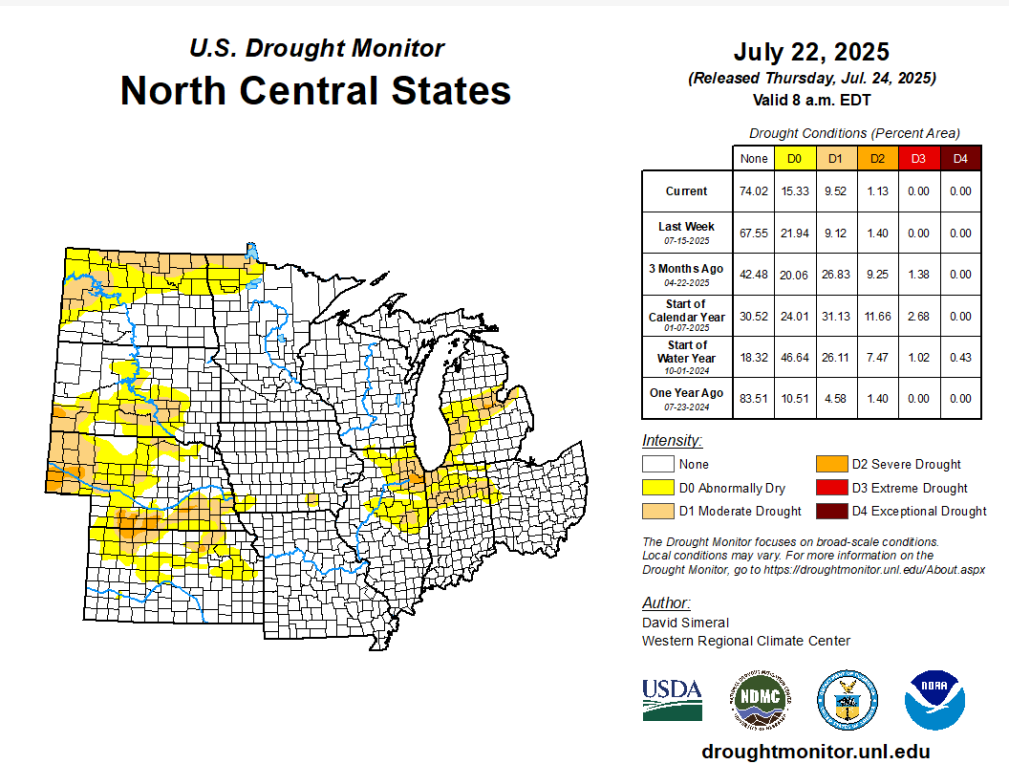
Generated 7/25/2025 using provisional data.

ACIS Web Services

Images from High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC), Online Data Services: [ACIS Climate Maps](https://climatehubs.usda.gov/hubs/midwest). Generated: 07/25/2025.

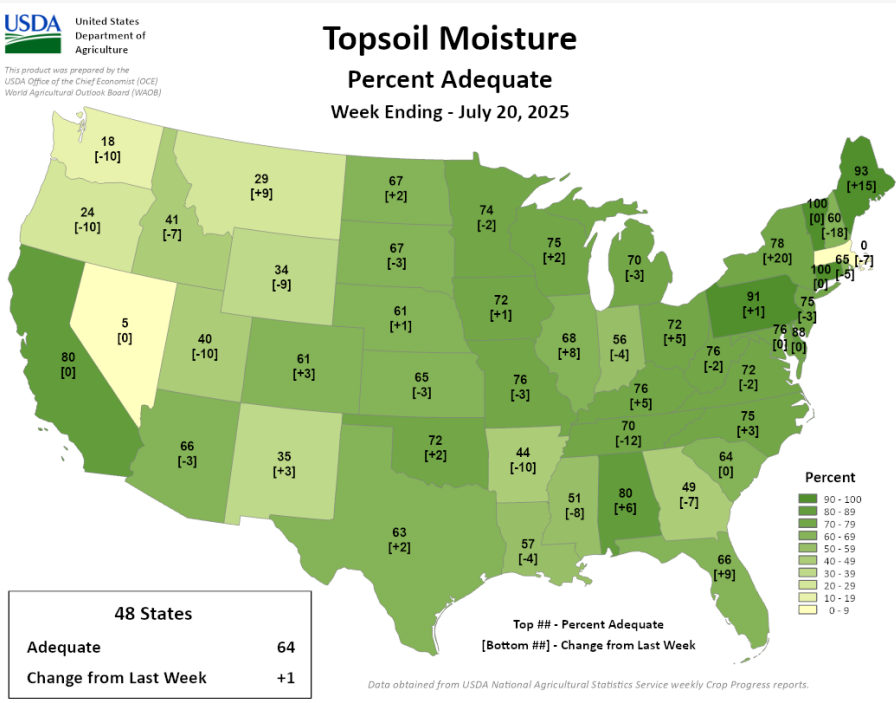
Recent rains have helped alleviate some drought conditions according to the U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM). In comparison to last week, drought conditions improved by 1-class in northern Minnesota, north central Illinois, and portions of the Northern Plains. In contrast, drought conditions degraded by 1-class in parts of the Dakotas and Indiana.

Topsoil moisture conditions are generally looking good across the region. As of the week ending July 20<sup>th</sup>, 56 to 76% of topsoil moisture is adequate. In comparison to last week, rainfall improved conditions in Illinois by 8%, while neighboring Indiana declined by 4%. In sharp contrast to last week, 20% of Illinois now sits with surplus moisture. Iowa remains wet, with 21% of topsoil moisture in surplus. The Northern Plains remain dry, and 26 to 31% of topsoil moisture is short to very short, with the eastern portion of the region following suit. Currently, 22 and 29% of topsoil is short to very short in Michigan and Indiana, respectively. Across the North Central region, 54 to 81% of subsoil moisture is adequate.



## Soils, Crops and Livestock

Across the Corn Belt, 30 to 86% of corn is silking. Much of the region is currently lagging slightly behind the 5-year average, with Minnesota roughly 10% behind. As of July 20<sup>th</sup>, zero to 35% of corn is in the dough growth stage,



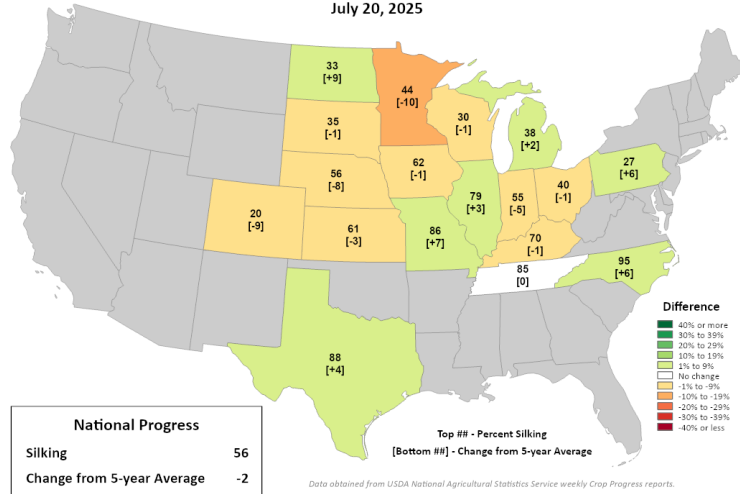
tracking above the 5-year average across most states in the region. For soybeans, 51 to 74% are blooming across states in the region. While much of the region tracks below the 5-year average, soybean blooming is 20% ahead of normal across North Dakota. Roughly 5 to 33% of soybeans are setting pods, and South Dakota and Nebraska are 10 and 15% behind the 5-year average, respectively, likely driven by reduced soil moisture earlier in the season. Winter wheat is 30 to 99% harvested across the region. Oat harvest is continuing to ramp up, and 35 and 49% of oats are harvested across Iowa and Nebraska, respectively.

Over the past week there has been minimal change in corn and soybean condition. According to USDA-NASS, 50 to 86% of corn and 48 to 80% of soybeans are in good to

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

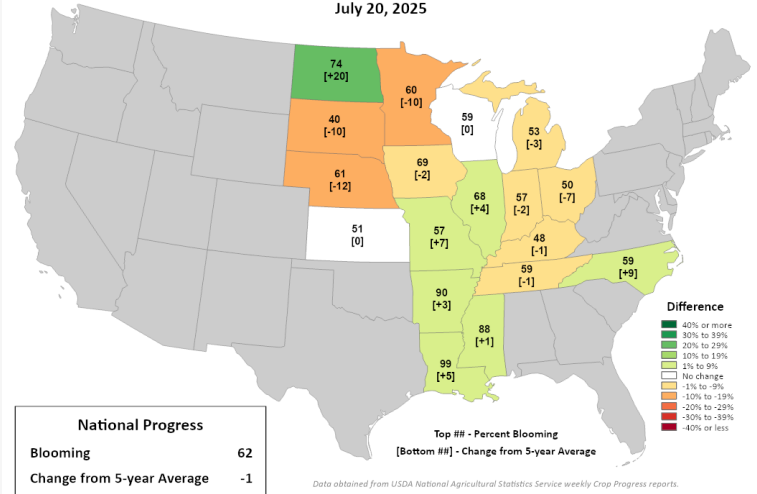
## Corn Progress

Percent Silking  
July 20, 2025



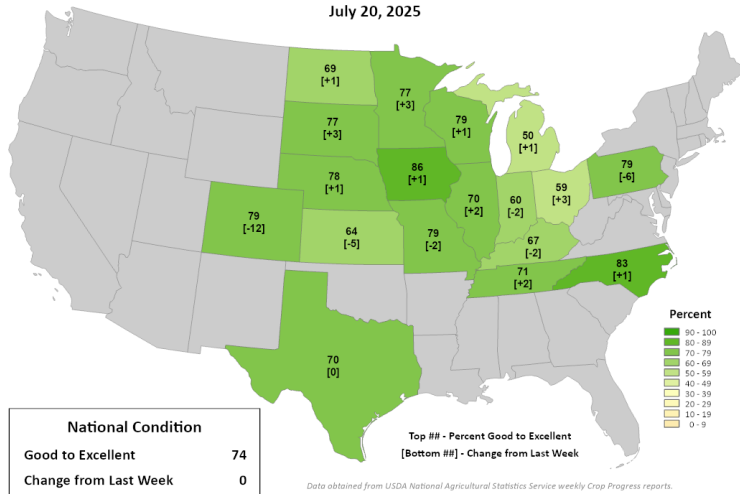
## Soybeans Progress

Percent Blooming  
July 20, 2025



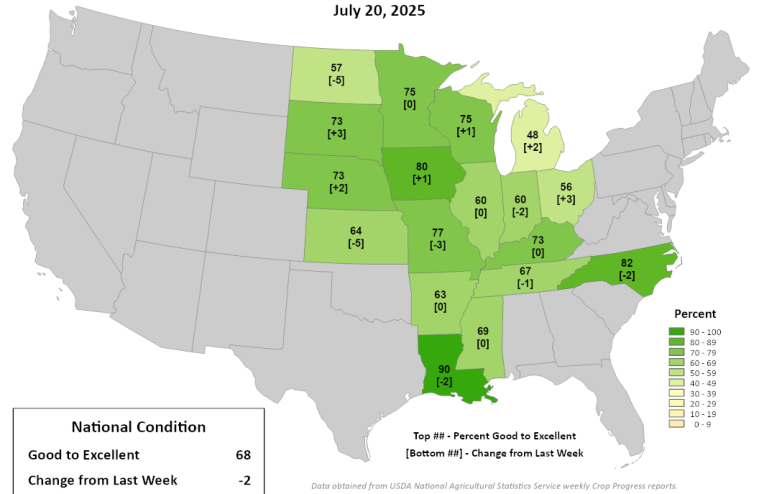
## Corn Conditions

Percent Good to Excellent  
July 20, 2025



## Soybean Conditions

Percent Good to Excellent  
July 20, 2025



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

excellent condition across states in the region. Across the North Central region, 33 to 90% of pasture and range-land are in good to excellent condition, and rainfall improved conditions in Nebraska and Illinois.

## Severe Weather

A heat dome continues to impact the Corn Belt, bringing dangerous temperatures and high humidity. As of Thursday (7/24) afternoon, many states across the Midwest were under a heat advisory, with southern Missouri and Illinois also under an extreme heat warning. With corn and soybean progress in full swing across fields in the Corn Belt, and in good condition with ample soil moisture, high rates of evapotranspiration (ET) have contributed to high humidity across the region. But this only added to an already moist airmass mainly from Gulf moisture. Looking forward, there's a marginal to slight risk for severe thunderstorms over the next days for the Great Lakes region.

## Fire

According to the National Interagency Fire Council, this is currently little to no risk for significant fire potential across the region. As we enter the weekend and early next week, portions of the Plains are at low risk. However,

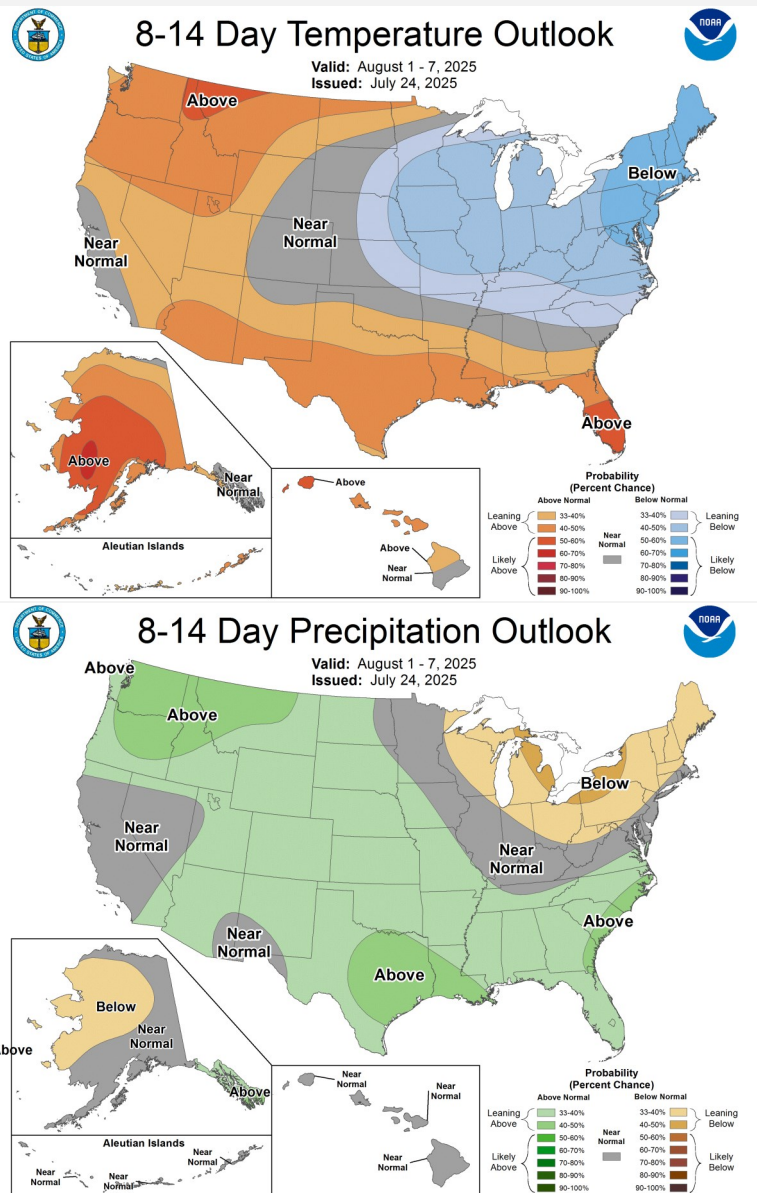
Canadian wildfires continue to impact air quality in the region. Over the past weekend (7/20), air quality in parts of the Upper Midwest ranged from moderate to unhealthy.

## Outlook

Warm and humid conditions will persist into the early part of the last week of July. After that time, generally cooler than average conditions will be more likely, with only small parts of the northern Plains having better chances for warmer conditions. The wetter than average conditions may persist into early August with hints toward wetter conditions still possible, except for areas around the Great Lakes.

Wet soils and some flooding are becoming a problem, which could persist pending additional precipitation amounts. Higher ET at this time of year will help use some soil moisture. But cooler than average conditions will slow the ET use a little. The cooler conditions will help with crop stress in the ongoing drought areas in Michigan and Northern Illinois and Indiana.

With more Canadian air over the region dew points will likely be somewhat reduced, but with more Canadian wildfire smoke likely reaching the region.



## 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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