

# Weekly State of Ohio Drought Report – Week Ending August 21, 2020

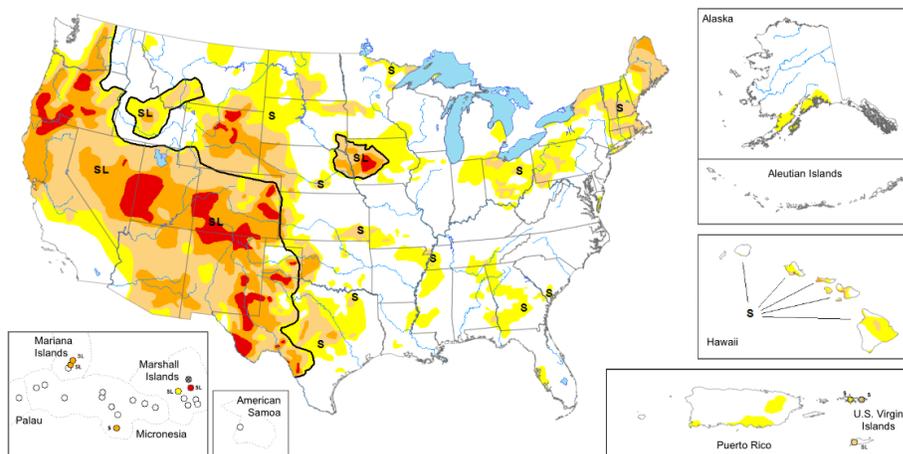
## Current Drought Conditions

This is the seventh Weekly State of Ohio Drought Report for the 2020 Growing Season. Precipitation and cooler temperatures reduced drought in Ohio. The portion of the state that is experiencing at least Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions decreased slightly, to just over two-thirds; and the area of the state experiencing Moderate Drought (D1) conditions decreased significantly, to just over 11%. The U.S. Drought Monitor can be accessed at: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

## The National Perspective – the U.S. Drought Monitor

Map released: August 13, 2020

Data valid: August 11, 2020

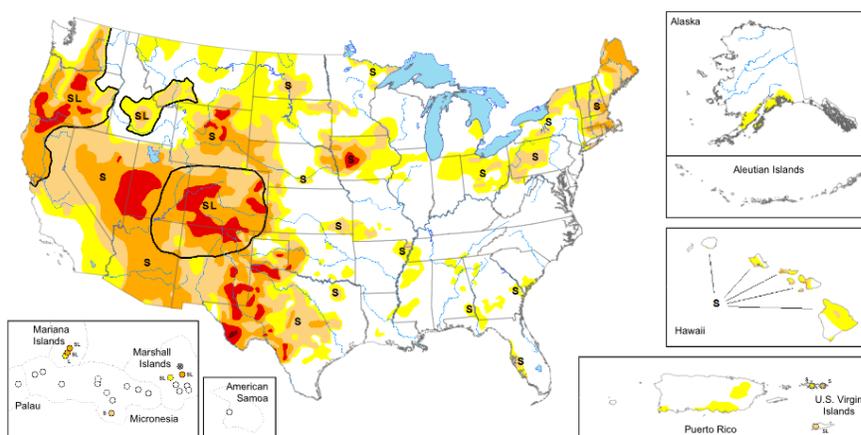


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Map released: August 20, 2020

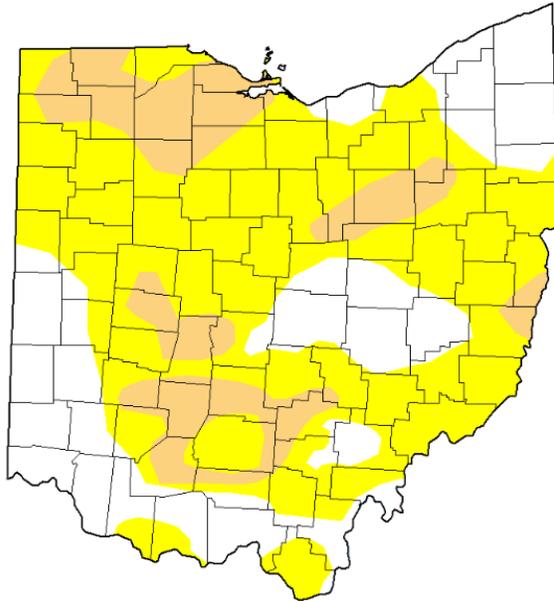
Data valid: August 18, 2020



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# The Ohio Perspective – U.S. Drought Monitor



Map released: Thurs. August 13, 2020

Data valid: August 11, 2020 at 8 a.m. EDT

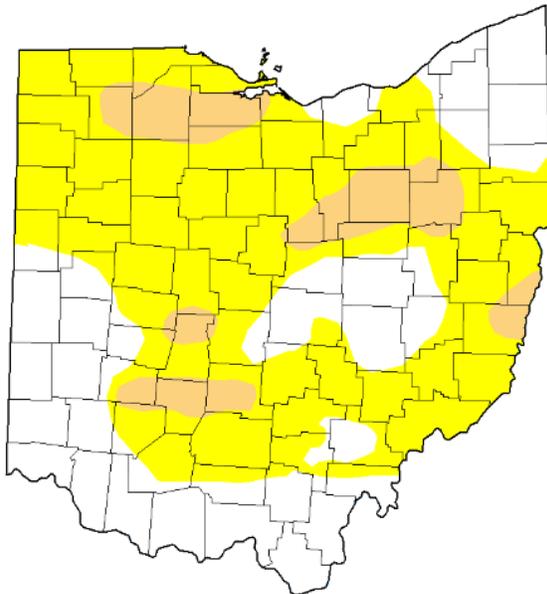
**Intensity:**

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

**Author(s):**

Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying [text summary](#) for forecast statements.*



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**Author(s):**

David Simeral, Western Regional Climate Center

## Ohio Drought Statistics from the U.S. Drought Monitor

Week	Date	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4	DSCI
Current	2020-08-18	35.33	64.67	11.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	76
Last Week	2020-08-11	29.12	70.88	17.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	88
3 Months Ago	2020-05-19	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Start of Calendar Year	2019-12-31	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0
Start of Water Year	2019-10-01	19.41	80.59	12.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	93
One Year Ago	2019-08-20	86.81	13.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	13

### Analysis

Last week, the area of the state that was experiencing at least Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions had decreased significantly, from nearly 80% to just over 70%. This week, that portion has decreased again, to just below 65%. The portion of the state that was experiencing Moderate Drought conditions last week was at just over 17%. This week, that portion has decreased significantly, to just over 11%.

Except for a band of area that borders the Ohio River in southwestern and southern Ohio, a portion of east-central Ohio, and far-northeast Ohio, two-thirds of the state is being impacted by at least Abnormally Dry conditions.

# Information from the State Climate Office of Ohio

## Weekly Summary

Daily average temperatures for the week ranged from close to average in southwest Ohio, up to 4°F above average in parts of northwest and northeast Ohio. Like much of the summer, this past week featured many areas of “haves” and “have nots” when it comes to precipitation. There were isolated pockets of heavier rainfall, while some areas missed out (Figure 1).

A low pressure system developed along a stationary boundary in Kentucky on

Friday, which provided the lift needed for slow-moving thunderstorms across the Buckeye State. Some notable 24-hour [CoCoRaHS](#) totals included 3.75” near Archbold, and 3.30” in Fayette, both locations in Fulton County. A cold front moving through the region on Sunday and Monday, as well as a small cluster of storms moving across western and southern counties on Tuesday, brought additional rounds of showers and storms.

Fortunately, rain fell across areas that needed it, helping to alleviate some of the associated stress. Temperatures this week behind the cold front have been cooler than average for August standards as well, with several consecutive nights in the 50s. Overall, this week’s release of the [U.S. Drought Monitor](#) includes continued improvements in western and southern counties, and a small expansion of *DI-moderate drought* across Belmont, Stark, Wayne, Ashland, Richland, and Knox Counties. Overall, Ohio is down slightly, from ~71% to ~65% of the state currently in D0-D1 conditions.

## Forecast

Pleasant conditions at the end of this week will slowly transition to more summer-like conditions this weekend as high pressure slides off to the east. An upper low in far southern Ohio, and a southerly flow over the weekend will slowly increase humidity across the region. Isolated showers and storms are possible across Ohio’s southern counties on Friday, then statewide on Saturday. With weak steering currents, some of these slow-moving storms may produce locally-heavy rain. This typical late-summer pattern will likely continue through next week. Highs in the upper-70s to low-80s on Thursday will warm into the low-to-mid-80s on Friday, then in the mid-to-upper-80s as we progress into the weekend. The [Weather Prediction Center](#) is currently forecasting a range of precipitation for the week ending Thursday August 27, 2020, from less than 0.10” in northwest Ohio up to 0.75” in the south. Again, there will be pockets of much heavier rain associated with isolated storms.

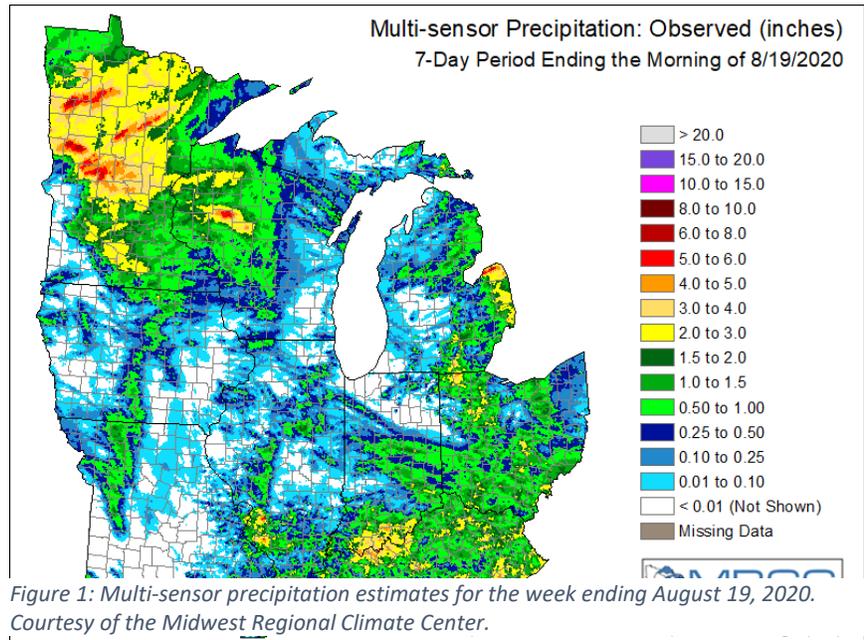


Figure 1: Multi-sensor precipitation estimates for the week ending August 19, 2020. Courtesy of the Midwest Regional Climate Center.

The latest [Climate Prediction Center](#) 6-10 Day Outlook for the period of August 25 – 29 (Fig. 2) shows an elevated probability of *above-average temperatures* statewide and *above-average precipitation*, especially across northern Ohio. Climate averages (1981-2010) for this period include high temperatures in the low-to-mid-80s, low temperatures in the mid-to-upper-60s, with 0.75-0.90” of rainfall per week. These conditions will likely lead to a continued ebb and flow nature of drought conditions during this period, with some minor improvements/degradation scattered across Ohio.

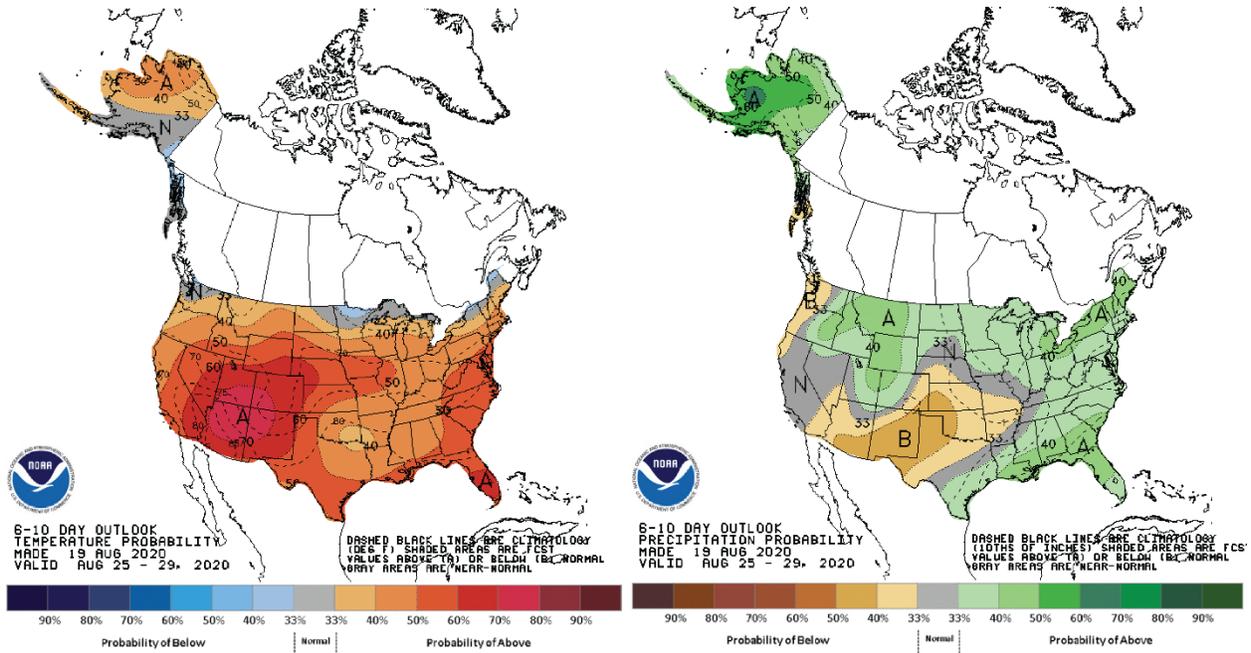


Figure 2: 6-10-day probabilistic outlooks from the NOAA Climate Prediction Center. Colors represent the probability of above, below, and near normal temperatures and precipitation for the period of August 25 – 29, 2020.

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