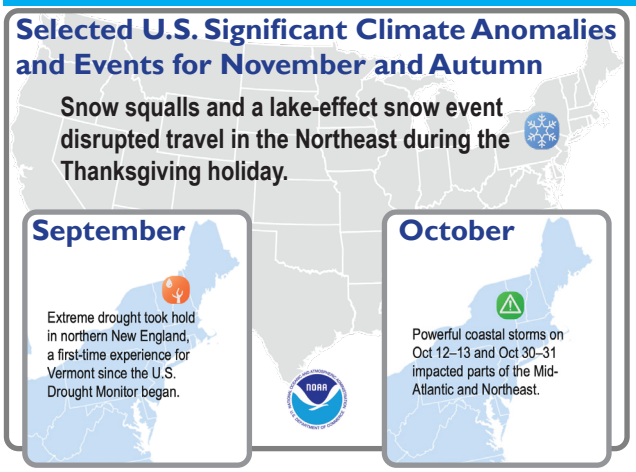
Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook

Northeast Region

December 2025

National Significant Events – *September–November 2025*

Selected U.S. Significant Climate Anomalies and Events for November and Autumn



The contiguous U.S. average temperature for autumn was 3.7°F above the 20th-century average (third warmest). Average temperatures for September, October, and November were 3.1°F above average (seventh warmest), 2.8°F above average (eighth warmest), and 5.1°F above average (fourth warmest), respectively. Globally, it was the third-warmest September, October, November, and autumn. The contiguous U.S. autumn precipitation was 0.91 inches below average. During September, October, and November, precipitation was 0.58 inches below average, 0.17 inches above average, and 0.53 inches below average, respectively.

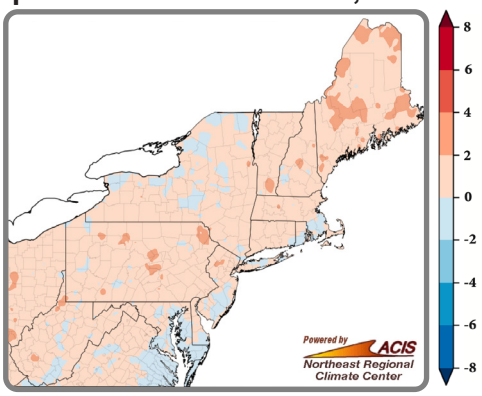
Highlights for the Northeast

- Drier-than-normal weather in September and the first half of October allowed **drought conditions to intensify** in multiple areas. For the **first time** in the U.S. Drought Monitor record, Vermont experienced extreme drought and the entire state was in drought.
- Wet weather in late October and November in some northern and interior locations helped **ease drought conditions**. Vermont's **record-long streak** of consecutive weeks with the entire state in drought ended at nine weeks. Precipitation for the autumn season was below- or near-normal for most of the Northeast.
- Temperatures were near or above normal for most areas in September and October. During a warm spell from October 4–7, Burlington, VT, and Caribou, ME, set/tied their records for **warmest October temperature** with highs of 86°F and 83°F, respectively. Highs at a few other sites including Islip and Syracuse, NY, and Portland, ME, ranked among the 10 warmest for October.
- November temperatures were generally below or near normal; however, the autumn season was warmer than normal for most areas.
- There were **two notable storms** during autumn, with impacts such as significant beach erosion, coastal flooding, and localized flash flooding. Several storm-related deaths were reported.
- It was the **first Atlantic hurricane season in a decade** that a hurricane did not strike the U.S. Three hurricanes—Gabrielle, Humberto, and Imelda—produced rough surf and rip currents along the East Coast as they travelled offshore in the Atlantic Ocean in September.

Regional Climate Overview – *September–November 2025*

Temperature

Departure from Normal (°F)
September 1–November 30, 2025

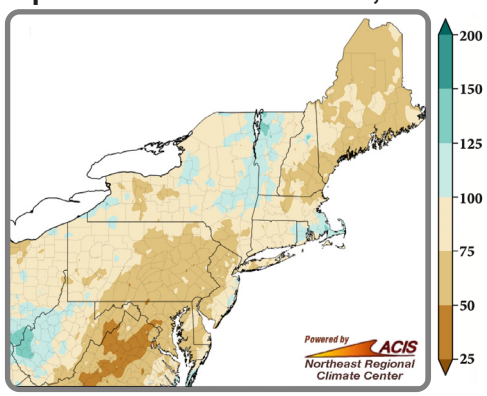


Climate normals based on 1991–2020 data; rankings based on 1895–2025.

Autumn was 0.5°F above normal in the Northeast, in the **warmest third** of all years. It was among the 20 warmest autumns for two of the 12 states. **September** was 1.1°F above normal, in the **warmest third** of all years. It was among the 20 warmest Septembers for three states. **October** was 1.2°F above normal, in the **warmest third** of all years. It was among the 20 warmest Octobers for three states. **November** was 0.7°F below normal, in the **middle third** of all years.

Precipitation

Percent of Normal (%)
September 1–November 30, 2025



Autumn precipitation was 77% of normal, in the **driest third** of all years. It was among the 20 driest autumns for two of the 12 states. **September** precipitation was 63% of normal, in the **driest third** of all years. It was New York's 18th-driest September. **October** precipitation was 91% of normal, in the **middle third** of all years. **November** precipitation was 77% of normal, in the **driest third** of all years. It was among the 20 driest Novembers for three states.

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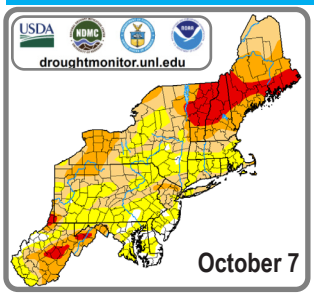
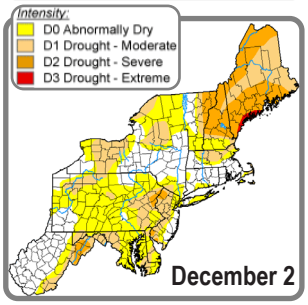
Regional Climate Overview – *September–November 2025*





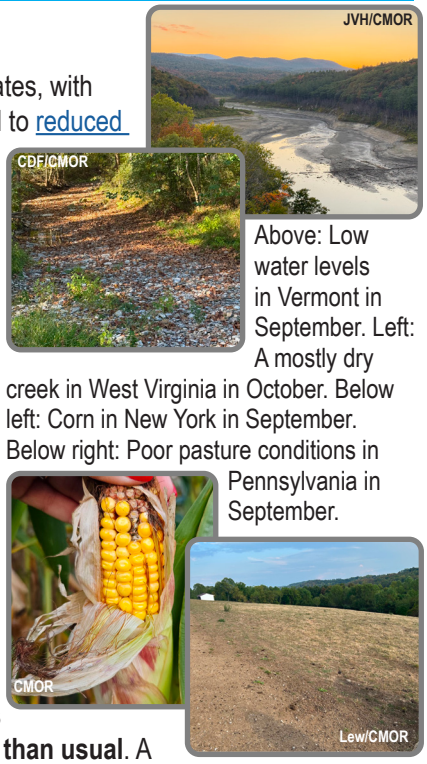
Drought in the Northeast

As of September 2, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed 30% of the Northeast in drought and 41% as abnormally dry, with all of Vermont in drought for the **first time** since the Drought Monitor began in 2000. **Conditions deteriorated in September**, with extreme drought introduced in northern New England, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. It was the **first time** in the Drought Monitor's history that Vermont experienced extreme drought. There was a mix of **deterioration and improvement** in conditions in **October**. Drought generally **peaked in intensity** in the region during the first half of October, with the October 7 U.S. Drought Monitor showing 64% of the Northeast in drought and 32% as abnormally dry. At mid-month, extreme drought covered 66.68% of Vermont and 53.50% of New Hampshire, a **Drought Monitor-era record** for each state. From **late October through November**, wet weather **chipped away at drought conditions** across much of the Northeast. For instance, extreme drought was erased from West Virginia, New Hampshire, and Vermont, while severe drought was removed from New York and moderate drought eased in Connecticut and Rhode Island. Vermont's **record-long streak** of consecutive weeks with the entire state in drought ended at nine weeks. The exception was the region's southeastern corner where **conditions deteriorated slightly** including severe drought being introduced in a section of southern New Jersey. The December 2 U.S. Drought Monitor showed 39% of the Northeast in drought and 33% as abnormally dry. For current conditions, see the Northeast DEWS Dashboard.

Regional Impacts – *September–November 2025*

Drought Impacts

There were numerous drought-related impacts during autumn.



Above: Low water levels in Vermont in September. Left: A mostly dry creek in West Virginia in October. Below left: Corn in New York in September. Below right: Poor pasture conditions in Pennsylvania in September.

- ***Water Resources***: Streamflow and groundwater levels were record low at times in multiple states, with some smaller waterways in northern New England and West Virginia **drying up**. Low flows led to reduced power generation at a few hydroelectric dams, affected recreation and related businesses, stressed fish populations, and contributed to harmful algal blooms. **Dry wells** were an issue in northern New England, with over 600 dry well reports in Vermont, over 500 in Maine, and over 200 in New Hampshire. Some residents were **without water** for weeks/months and had water hauled to their homes. Well drilling companies had a backlog of work. Reservoir and lake levels declined, causing impacts like water shortages in northern and western New York, ferry service to end a month early on Lake Champlain, and boats to become stuck in mud in central New York. Some water suppliers, including dozens in New Hampshire, instituted **mandatory water restrictions**. Water sources for irrigation and/or livestock were low or dried up, requiring farmers to haul water, taking time away from other tasks and increasing costs.
- ***Agriculture***: Stunted crops and **crop losses** were reported in multiple states. Maine officials estimated wild blueberry losses of $30 million and apple losses of $10 million. A survey of Vermont farmers indicated over 75,000 agriculture-related acreage was affected by drought with an estimated loss of over $17 million. Other reports noted that root crop yields were reduced by 67% **despite irrigation** at a Vermont farm, pumpkin crops failed in parts of Maine and Maryland, and the second cutting of hay was reduced by as much as 67% in parts of Vermont and West Virginia. With limited pasture growth and reduced hay yields, some farmers sold livestock early and many purchased supplemental feed/used their winter reserves **earlier than usual**. A Vermont farmer estimated a loss of around $800,000 due to crop failures and the need to buy supplemental feed.
- ***Wildfires***: There was an increased wildfire risk for several states, resulting in a U.S. Forest Service firefighting helicopter being temporarily stationed in Lebanon, NH. **Statewide burn bans** were in place for about a month in Vermont and New Hampshire and for two weeks in New York. A few counties in central Pennsylvania also enacted burn bans. Due to dried up water sources, Maine Forest Rangers sometimes had to search for water to fight fires, **slowing response times**. To conserve water, some Vermont firefighters adjusted how they used water during trainings.
- ***Nature***: The fall foliage season in many areas was **early, muted, and shorter than usual**, with drought-stressed trees dropping leaves prematurely. Dry conditions in Maine were tied to reduced moose hunting success rates and decreased nectar production in plants, with honeybees producing less honey. Drought conditions posed challenges for fixing and maintaining hiking trails in Vermont.
- ***Health***: In Vermont, dirt roads were **excessively dusty** due to drought conditions. Local officials asked drivers to slow down and noted that dust was being breathed in when people were outdoors.

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Regional Impacts and Updates – *September–November 2025*

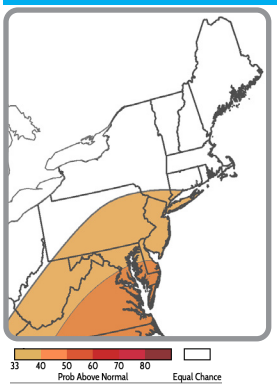
Autumn Storms

A few notable storms affected the Northeast during autumn.

- **September 6**: Severe storms produced damaging wind gusts that **injured at least five people**. In addition, five EF-1 tornadoes touched down in central Massachusetts, with damage primarily consisting of uprooted and snapped trees. Four of those were in Worcester County, likely its **first September tornadoes** since records began in 1950 and its greatest number of tornadoes in a single day in at least 35 years.
- **October 12–13**: A **nor'easter** brought strong winds, coastal flooding, and heavy rain to areas closer to the coast from Maryland to Massachusetts. Strong wind gusts, the highest of which were in the 40–60 mph range, caused rough seas that led to significant beach erosion and coastal flooding that inundated roads. Rainfall totals were up to 3 inches in most places, with locally higher amounts of up to 6 inches in southeastern Massachusetts. Other impacts included power outages and transit issues such as flight delays/cancellations and suspension of rail and bus service. There were **at least three storm-related deaths**.
- **October 30–31**: A storm brought widespread rainfall and gusty winds to much of the Northeast, resulting in **at least three deaths**. The greatest rainfall totals were in the 2–4-inch range, **helping alleviate drought conditions** in some locations. Islip, NY, picked up 2.60 inches of rain on the 30th, making it the site's **10th wettest October day**. There were multiple road closures due to flash flooding in the New York City area and coastal flooding on Long Island, NY, and in the Mid-Atlantic. The storm also caused some Halloween events to be rescheduled.

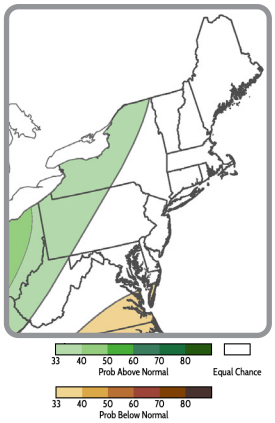
Above: Tornado damage in Massachusetts in early September. Credit: NWS BOX; Below: Coastal flooding in New Jersey during a mid-October storm. Credit: Stephen Jasiecki/MyCoast

Regional Outlook – *Winter 2025–26*



Temperature and Precipitation

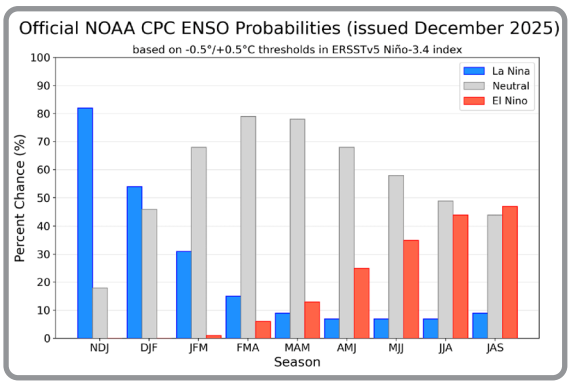
Normal January–March average temperatures range from the teens in northern New England and northern New York to the 40s in parts of the Mid-Atlantic. NOAA's Climate Prediction Center favors **above-normal temperatures** for **January–March** for parts of the Mid-Atlantic, southeastern New York, and southwestern Connecticut (map left), tied to long-term trends. **Equal chances** of below-, near-, or above-normal temperatures were predicted for the rest of the Northeast.



Normal January–March precipitation ranges from less than 6 inches in western/central New York to over 13 inches in several locations including Rhode Island, southeastern Massachusetts, and higher elevations of West Virginia. **Above-normal precipitation** was predicted for parts of West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York (map right). For the rest of the region, **equal chances** of below-, near-, or above-normal precipitation were predicted. The forecast for wetter weather for the Ohio Valley and drier conditions across the southern U.S. are **tied to persistent La Niña impacts**. For more information on ENSO and the Climate Prediction Center's winter outlooks, see the Northeast Regional Climate Center's webinar recording from November 2025.

ENSO

La Niña conditions continued to be present in the equatorial Pacific Ocean in November. According to NOAA's Climate Prediction Center, there's a 54% chance **weak La Niña conditions** will continue through winter 2025–26, with a 68% chance of **ENSO-neutral conditions** in January–March 2026.



Northeast Partners

- Northeast Regional Climate Center
- Northeast Region State Climatologists
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration offices including:
- NESDIS/National Centers for Environmental Information
- NWS, Eastern Region
- NWS, Climate Prediction Center
- NWS, Northeast River Forecast Center

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