

DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

September 2020 Short-Term Drought Status

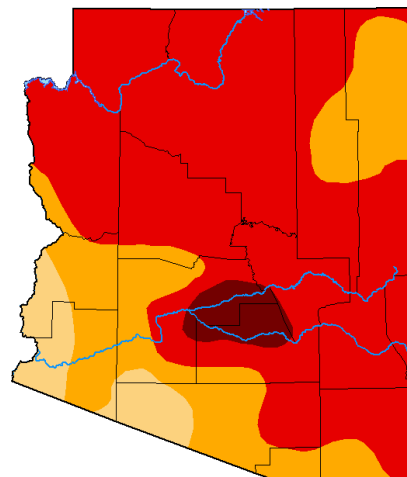
A combination of less than 50% of average precipitation and record setting high temperatures across Arizona resulted in a significant expansion of short-term drought conditions.

Some rainfall was received along the southern border, particularly in Cochise and Santa Cruz counties. However, total rainfall was generally less than an inch across the state with Phoenix, Flagstaff, and Tucson all reported zero inches.

The entire state is in Moderate (D1) or worse drought. Currently, 67% of the state is in Extreme Drought (D3), compared to 42% at the beginning of September, and 3% is in Exceptional Drought (D4) compared to 0% last month.

The monsoon season ended with the hottest and driest summer on record for the state since 1896. After starting off with a relatively wet winter, Water Year 2020 ended with unfavorable conditions.

U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona



September 29, 2020
(Released Thursday, Oct. 1, 2020)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.97	69.95	3.37
Last Week 09-22-2020	0.00	100.00	100.00	90.67	57.34	0.00
3 Months Ago 06-30-2020	67.45	32.55	13.56	6.76	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 12-31-2019	70.37	29.63	23.00	16.73	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 10-01-2019	5.00	95.00	80.99	25.66	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 10-01-2019	5.00	95.00	80.99	25.66	0.00	0.00

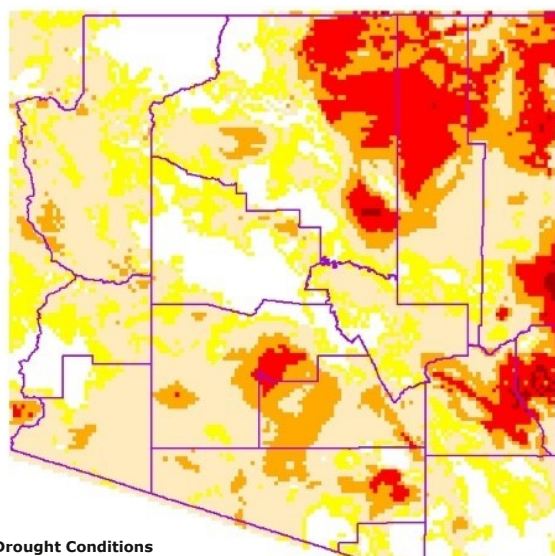
Intensity:
 None (White) D0 Abnormally Dry (Yellow)
 D1 Moderate Drought (Orange) D2 Severe Drought (Red-Orange)
 D3 Extreme Drought (Red) D4 Exceptional Drought (Dark Red)

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.asp>.

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July-September 2020 Long-Term Drought



Drought Conditions
 Exceptional Drought (D4)
 Extreme Drought (D3)
 Severe Drought (D2)
 Moderate Drought (D1)
 Abnormally Dry (D0)
 No Drought

(C)2020 Arizona State Climate Office
 0 20 40 80 120 160 Miles
 N

July-September 2020 Long-Term Drought Status

The driest and hottest summer on record has resulted in degradation of long-term drought conditions across the state and the introduction of Exceptional Drought (D4) to Coconino, Apache, and Greenlee counties.

The summer is not typically a major contributor to statewide water resources, however, the extreme heat and dry conditions this season led to increased evaporation from water bodies and the soil. This led to a reduction in water supply and significant increase in the need for irrigation within the agricultural community.

The water year started quite wet but ended with less than 70% of average precipitation across northern and eastern Arizona.

As La Niña continues to develop over the central and eastern Pacific Ocean, climate model trends point towards a drier than average fall and winter.