

Connecticut Drought Conditions Report

Monthly Update for September 2024



Interagency Drought Workgroup
October 3, 2024
Regular Meeting

U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM): The maps included in this report are from the weeks of September 12th and 24th. The entire state of Connecticut had no drought classification via the USDM between July 23rd and September 24th. Given drier conditions experienced this month, eastern Connecticut and the northwest corner – about 63% of the state – moved into the D0 category.

Connecticut

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Map released: Thurs. September 12, 2024

Data valid: September 10, 2024 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

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

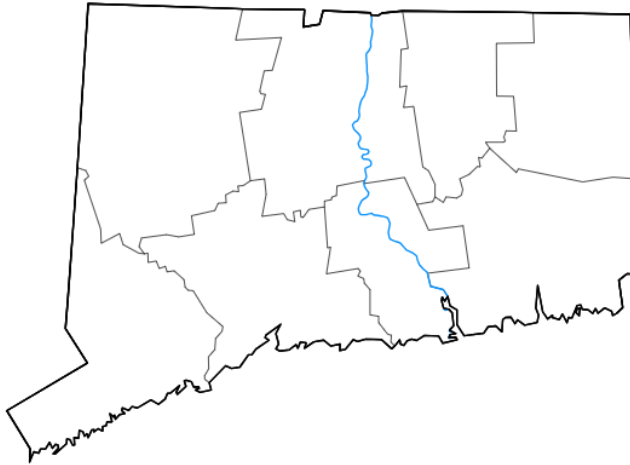
Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

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Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

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Connecticut

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Map released: Thurs. September 26, 2024

Data valid: September 24, 2024 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity

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

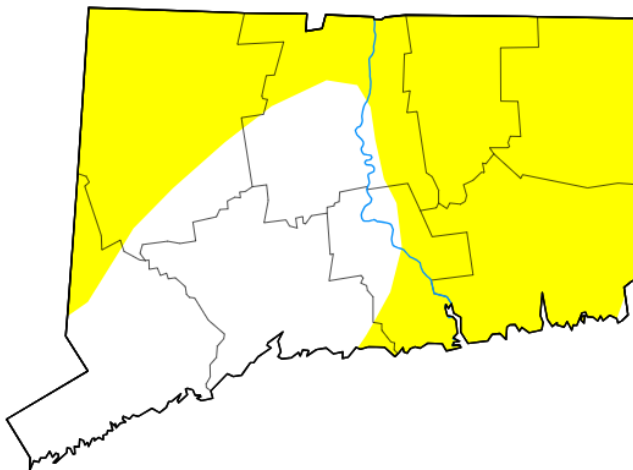
Authors

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[Rocky Bilotta](#), NOAA/NCEI

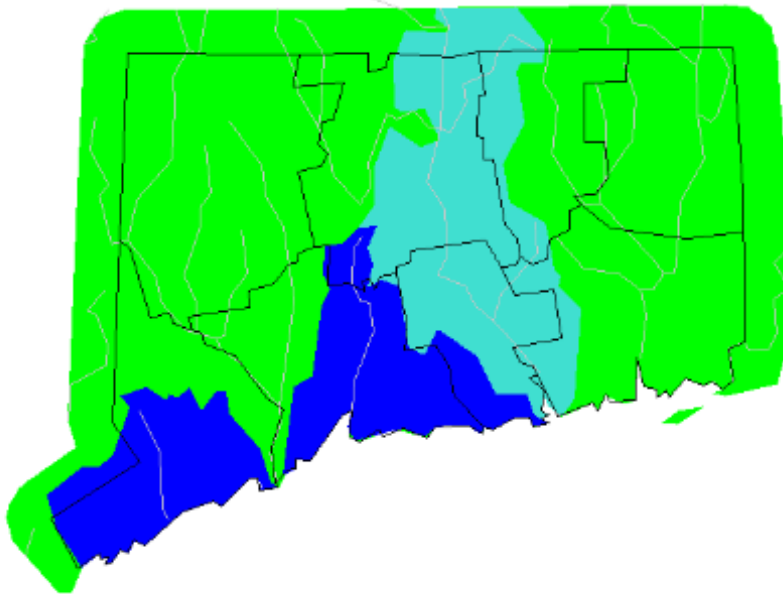


Streamflow Levels (via USGS): The maps shown below convey the 28-day average streamflow as of September 15th and September 29th. Within the two-week period, streamflows decreased over most of the state, shifting from normal/above normal/much above normal values to normal/below normal values.

Map of 28-day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the day of the year (Connecticut)

Connecticut or Water-Resources Regions

Sunday, September 15, 2024

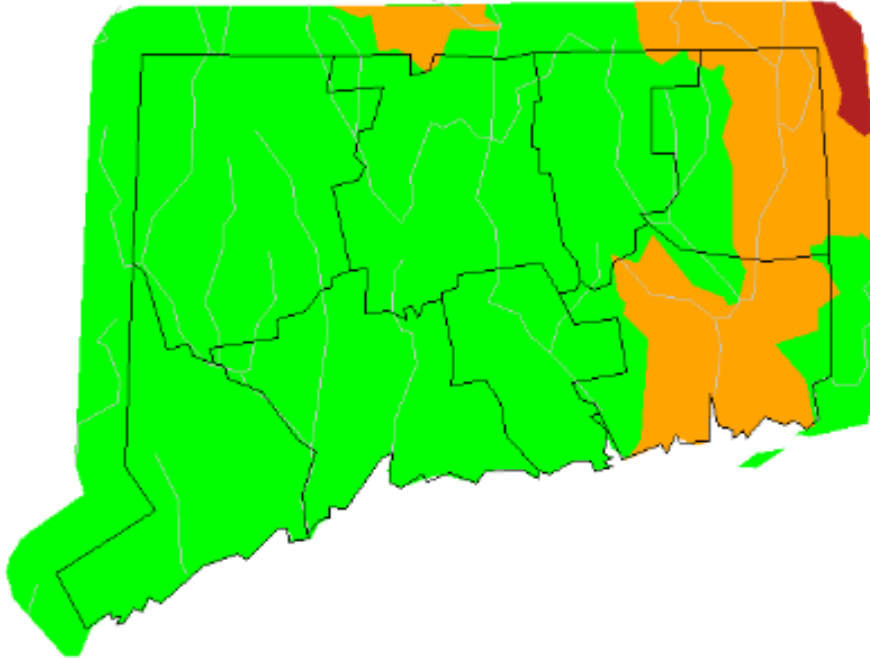


Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Map of 28-day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the day of the year (Connecticut)

Connecticut ▼ or Water-Resources Regions ▼

Sunday, September 29, 2024

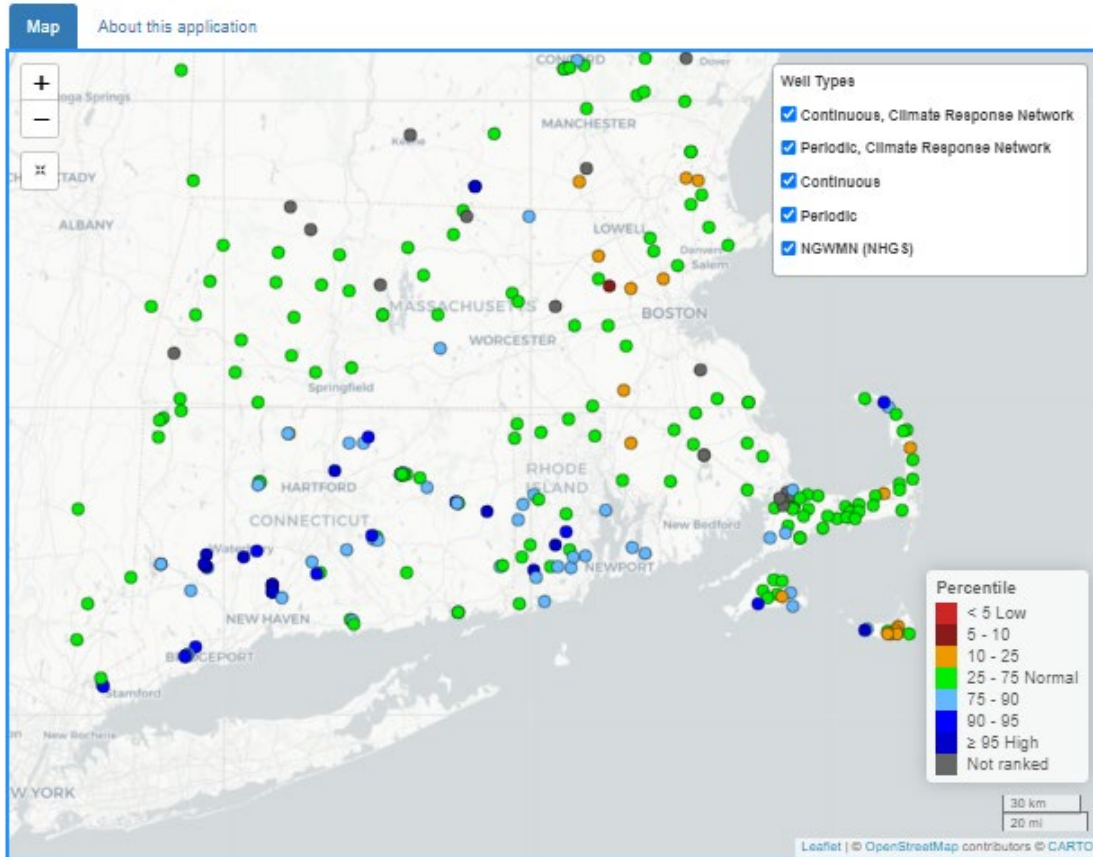


Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

Groundwater Levels (via USGS): The first map is from September 16th, while groundwater wells were experiencing mostly above normal and high groundwater levels, as a remnant of the wet August the state experienced. The second map is from September 30th and shows groundwater levels mostly at normal and above normal levels.

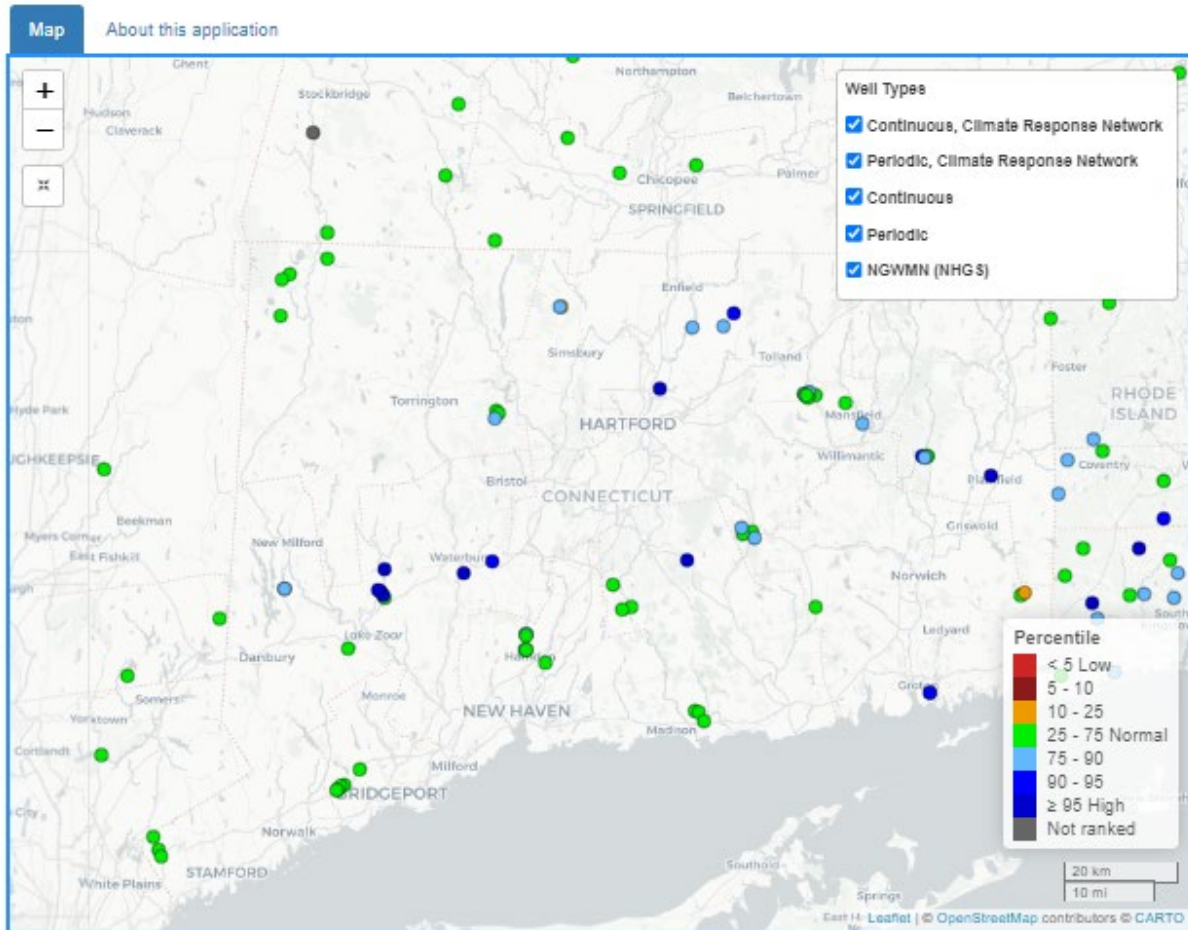
Groundwater Levels in New England

Recent conditions relative to historical monthly statistics



Groundwater Levels in New England

Recent conditions relative to historical monthly statistics



September Precipitation and Fire Danger: The slide below is from the Northeast Regional Climate Center’s monthly webinar series and shows a map of precipitation across the Northeast for the month of September. Connecticut experienced less than 25% of normal precipitation this month, which led to higher wildfire risks and drier conditions.

September Precipitation

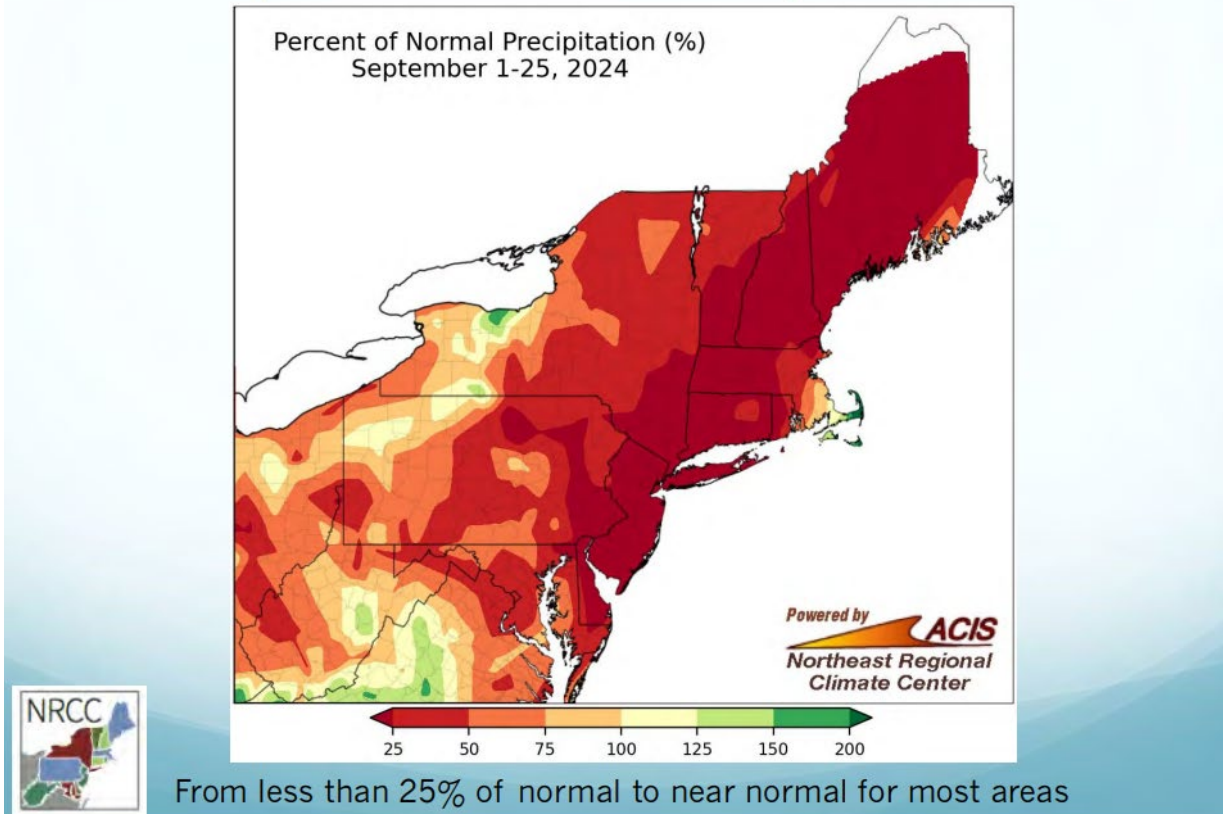


Figure courtesy of the Northeast Regional Climate Center, September 2024

For additional information on weather impacts from [September 2024 see the Northeast Regional Climate Center’s recap slides.](#)

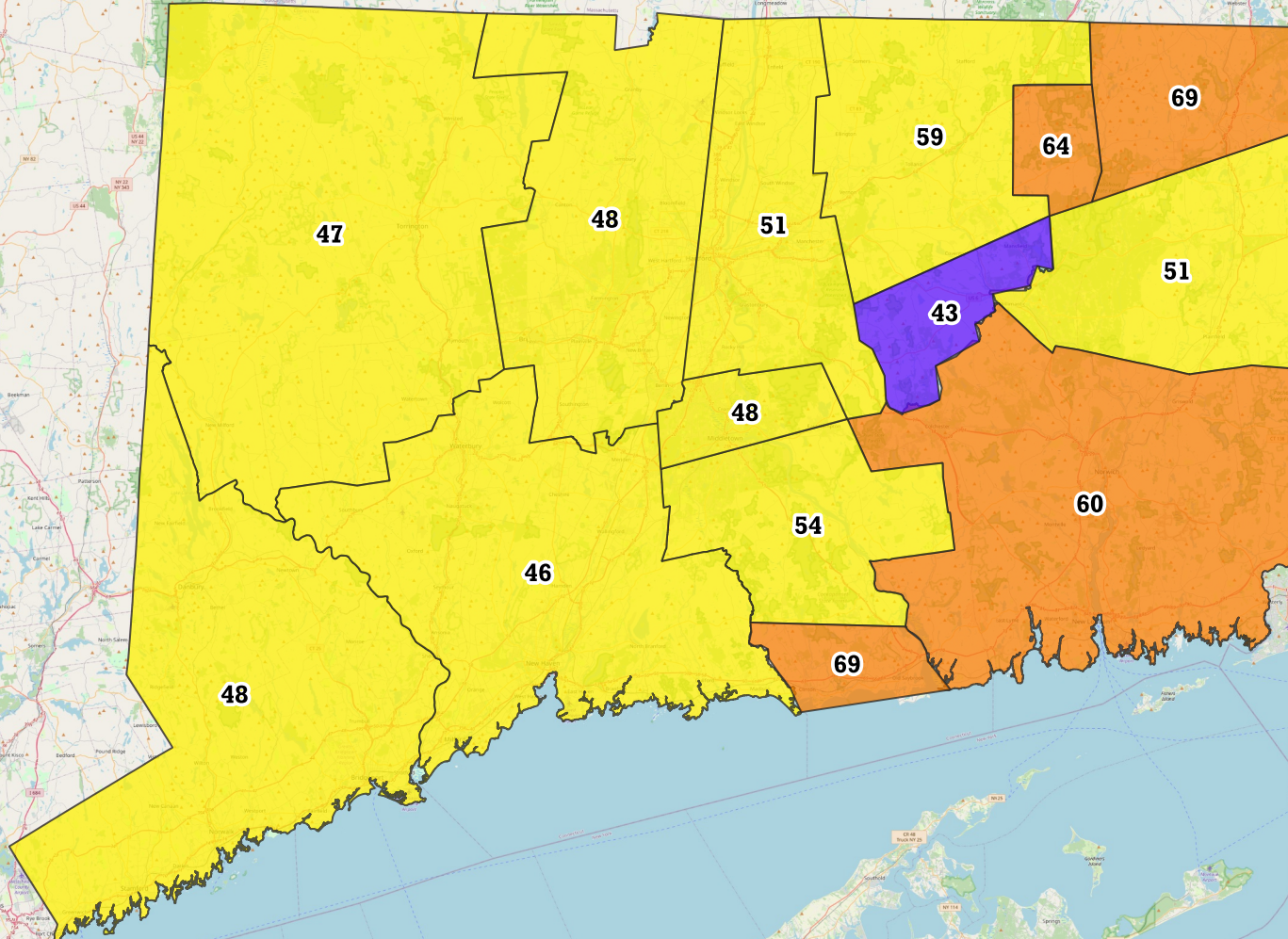
Fire Danger Levels and Buildup Maps from CT DEEP:

CT DEEP Forestry monitors wildfire conditions regularly, and moves to a daily measurement when conditions are drier and the risk of wildfires is greater. In order, their fire danger ranking scheme is: **LOW, MODERATE, HIGH, VERY HIGH, AND EXTREME**. According to CT DEEP Forestry, wildfire danger levels were as follows for the month of September:

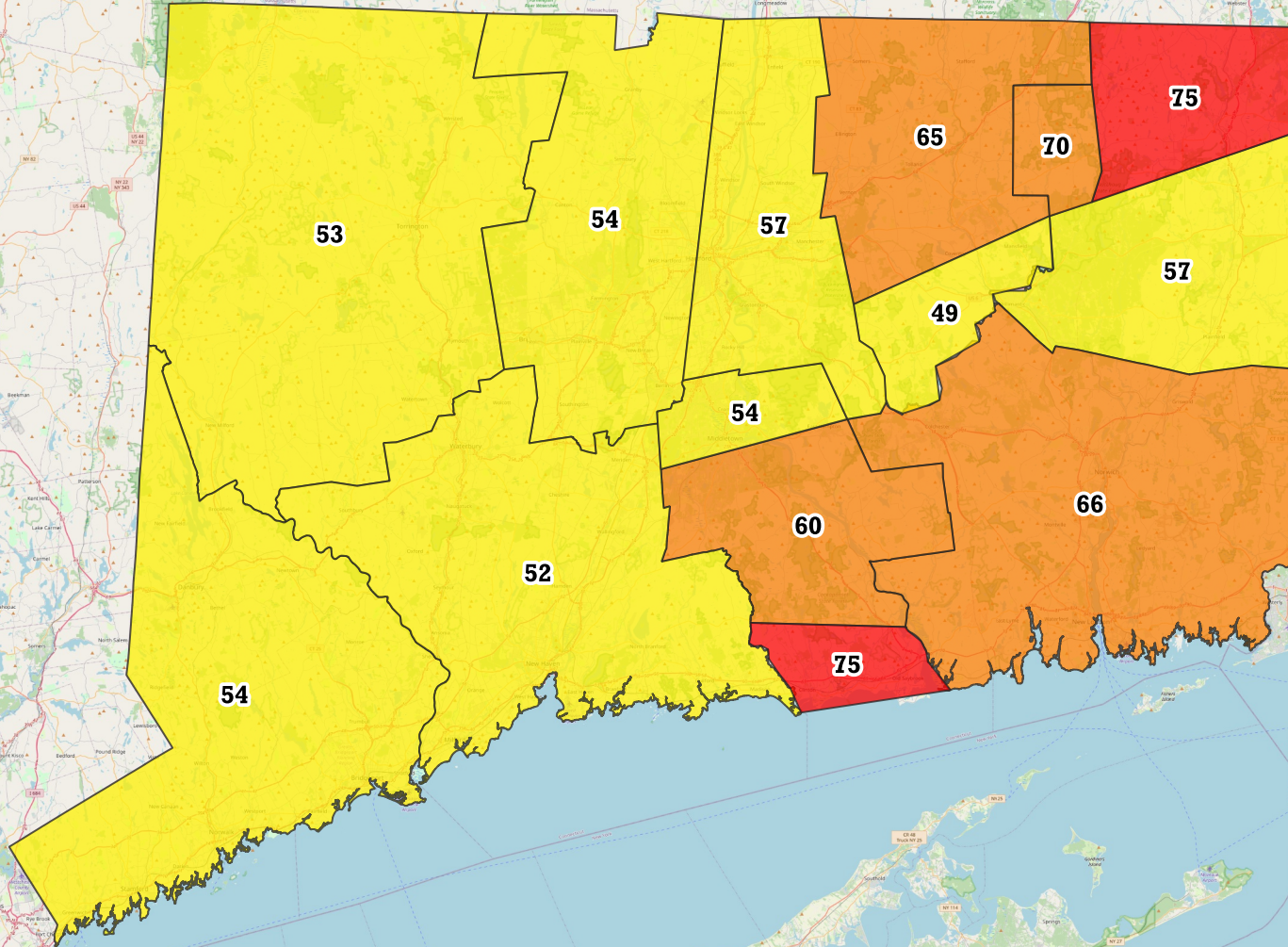
- 9/1/24 – 9/13/24: **MODERATE throughout the state, HIGH in some areas**
- 9/14/24 – 9/22/24: **HIGH throughout the state, VERY HIGH in some areas**
- 9/23/24 - 9/26/24: **VERY HIGH throughout the state**
- 9/27/24 – 9/30/24: **MODERATE throughout the state**

The following buildup maps are from September 16th, 19th, 27th and 30th and correspond to the fire danger ranking scheme described above.

2024-09-16
06:07:34

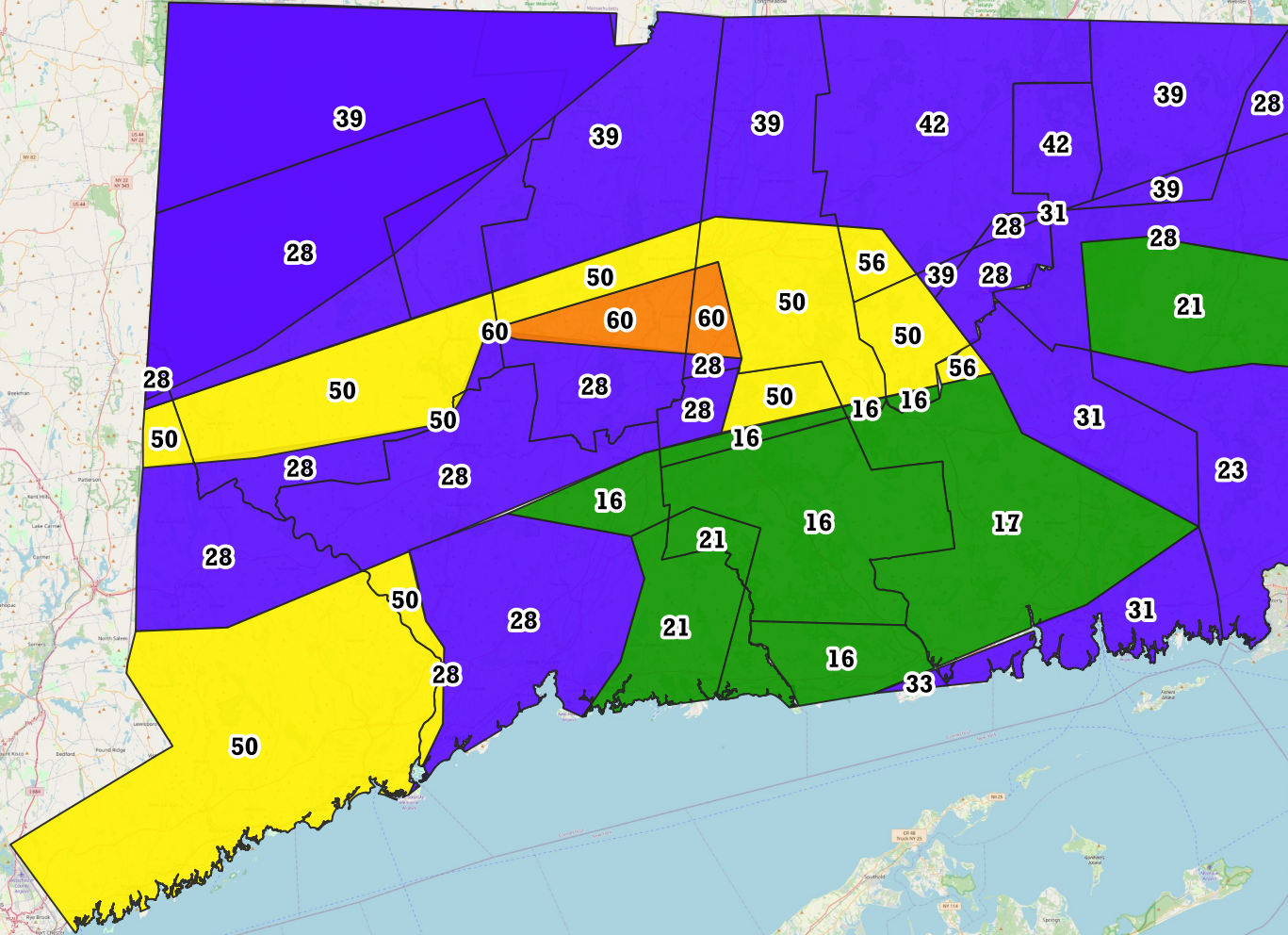


2024-09-19
06:27:10



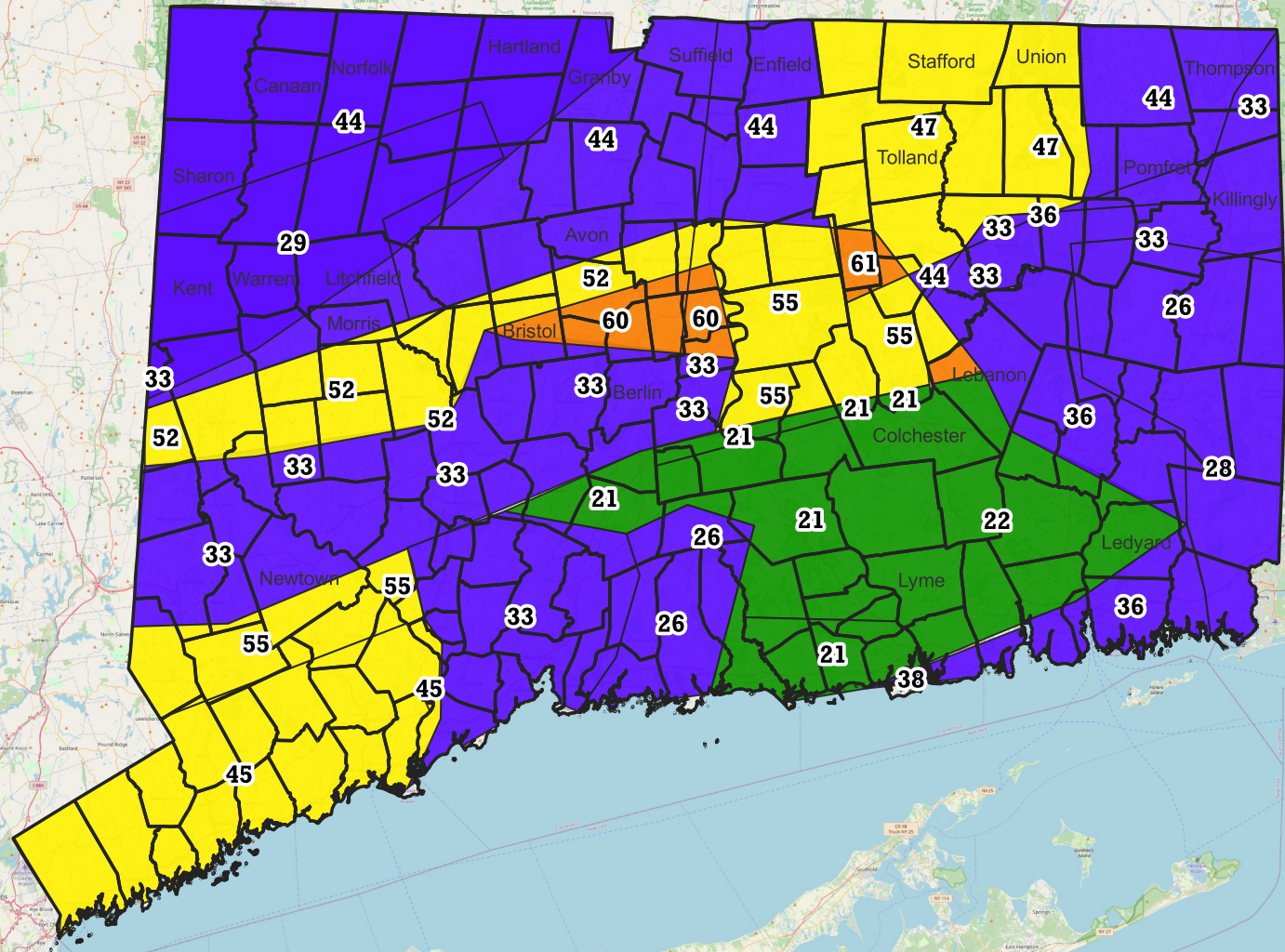
Build Up Index- NFDRS '67

2024-09-27 08:11:59



Build Up Index- NFDRS '67

2024-09-30 06:47:17



Fire Danger

- LOW
- MODERATE
- HGH
- VERY HIGH
- EXTREME



National Weather Service

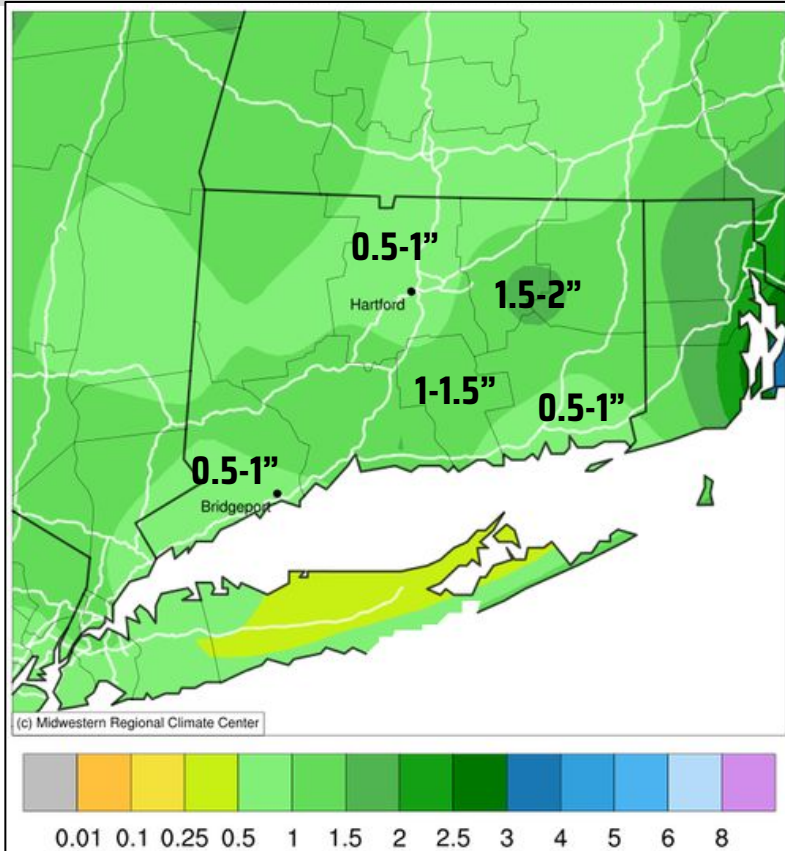
Connecticut Interagency Drought Working Group Meeting

October 3, 2024





September Observed Precipitation

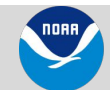


- Most of the state received 1.00 - 1.50" of rain in September
- Much of Hartford County and parts of Fairfield, Litchfield, and New London Counties received 0.50-1.00"

September Rainfall Totals:

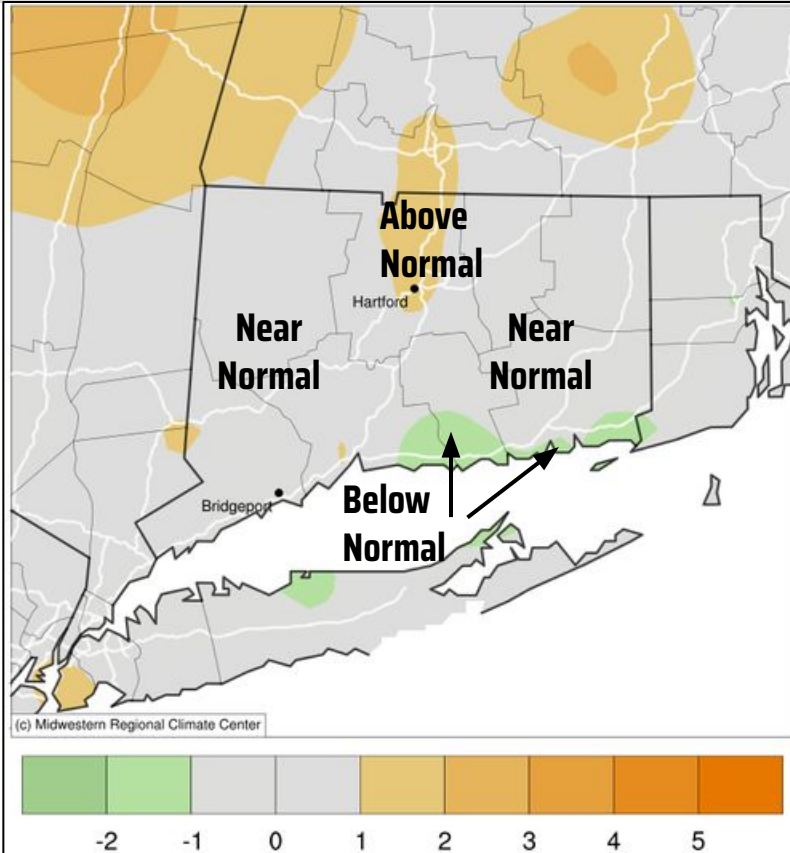
Driest: 0.47" in Hartford (Brainard)

Wettest: 2.16" in Mansfield

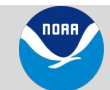


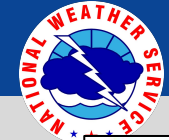


September Observed Temperature

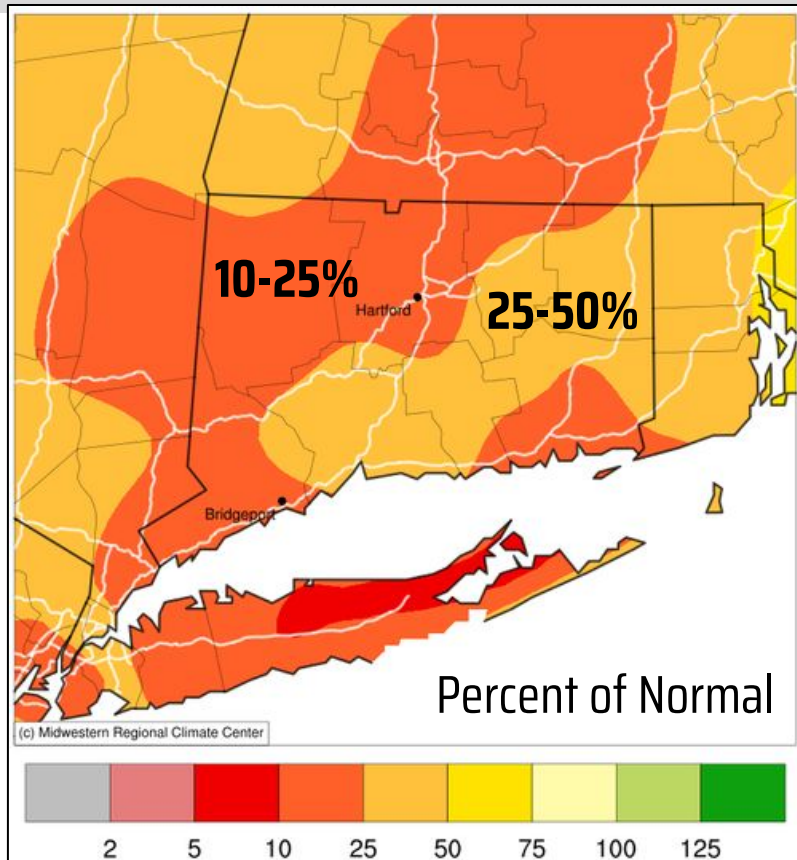
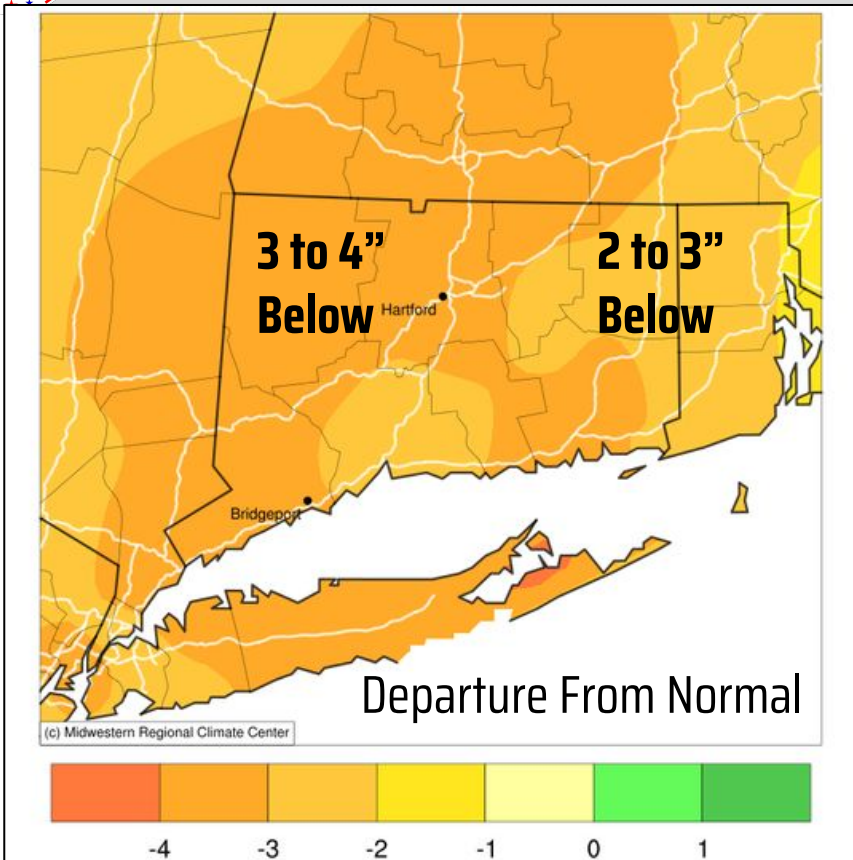


- Near normal temperatures in September across the state
- Pockets of above normal temperatures (+1-2 degrees F) in north central CT and below normal temperatures (-1-2 degrees F) along parts of the shoreline



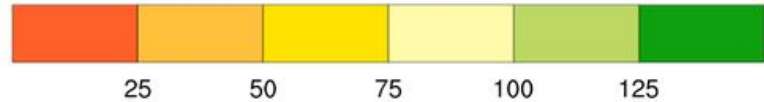
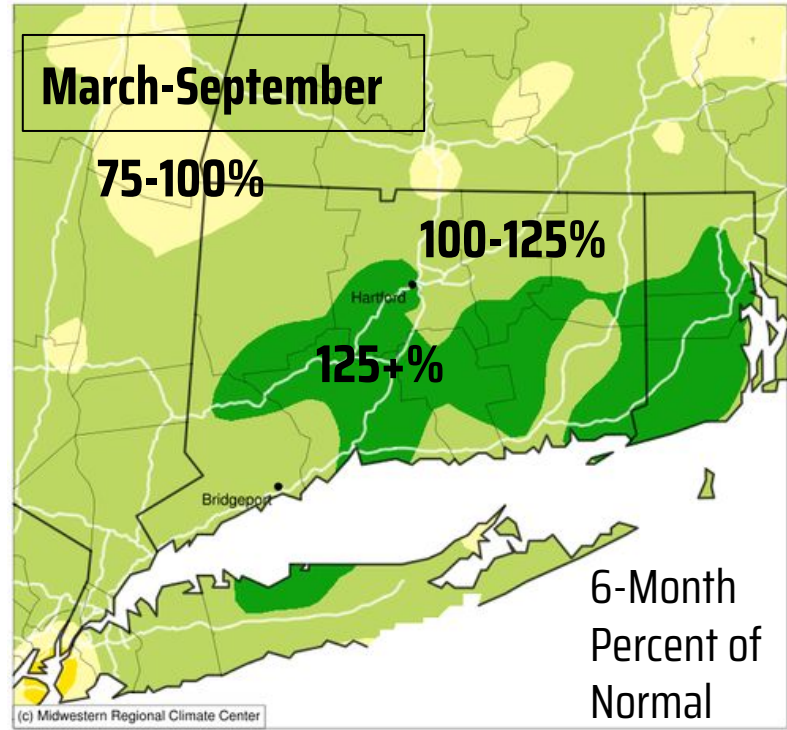
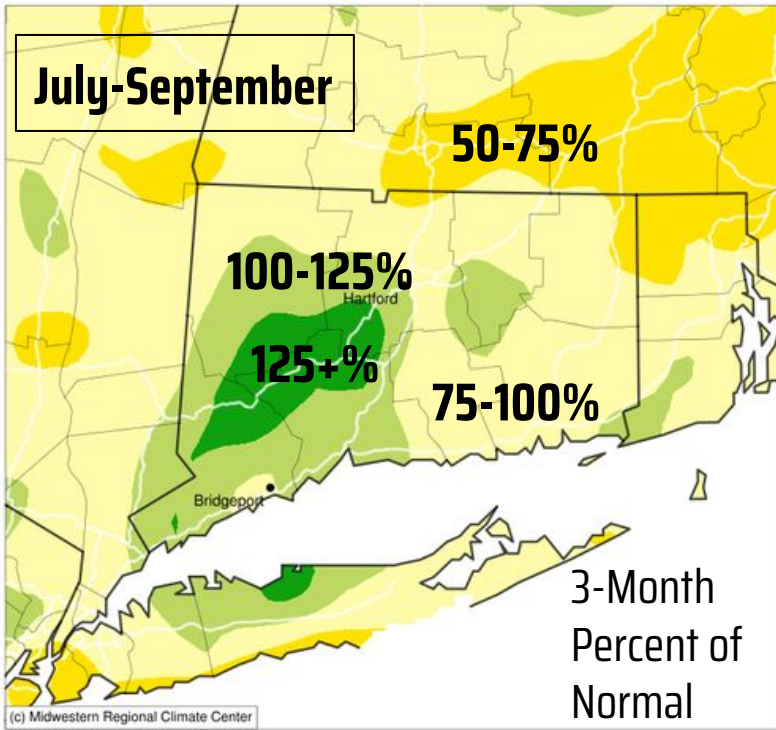


September Precipitation: Departure from Normal and Percent of Normal



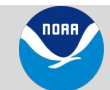
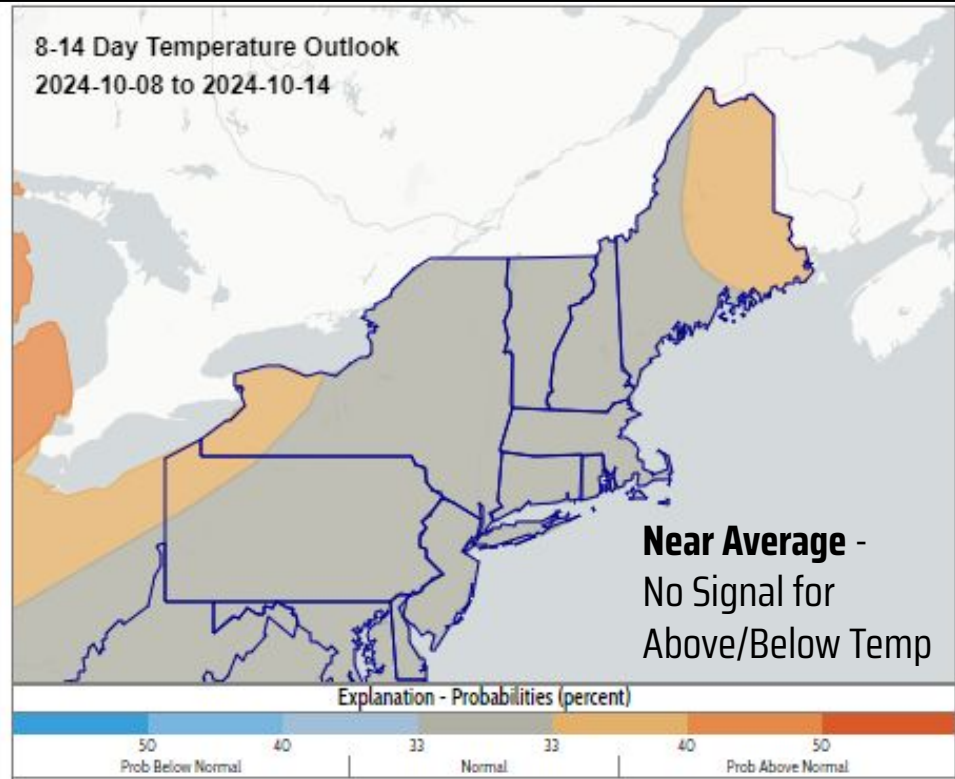
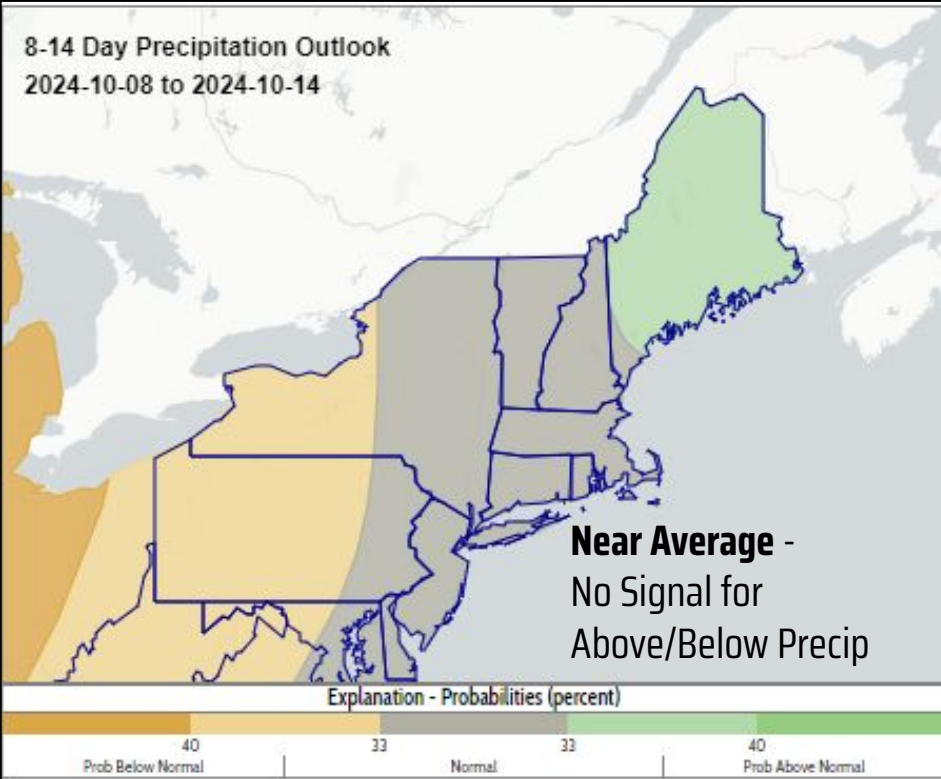


Precipitation Percent of Normal: 3 and 6 Month



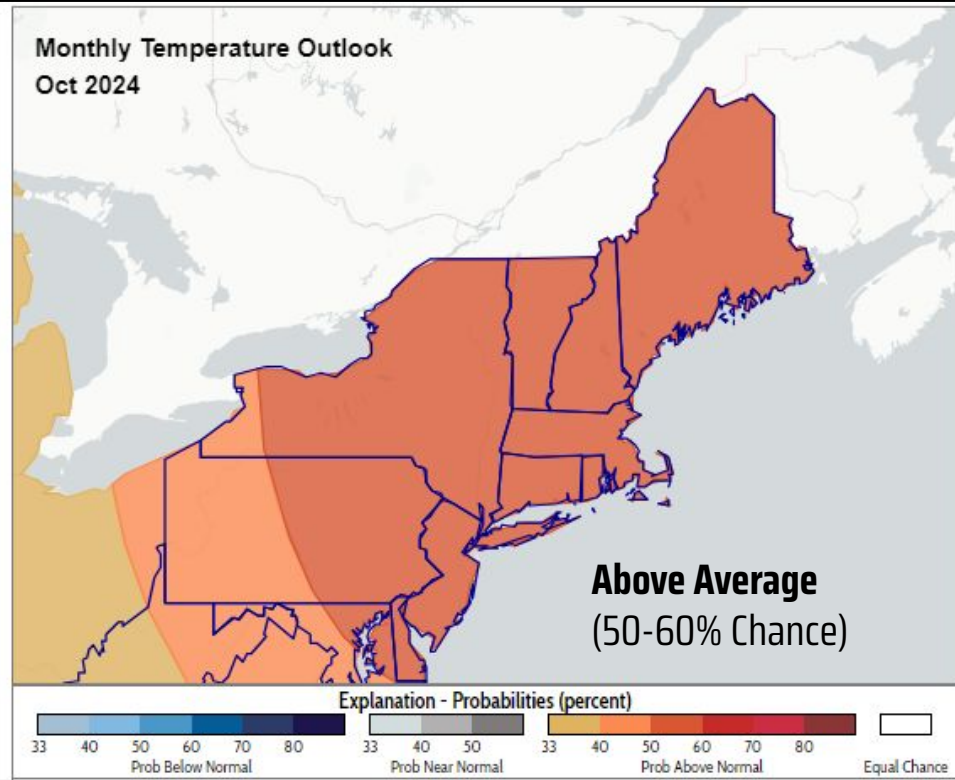
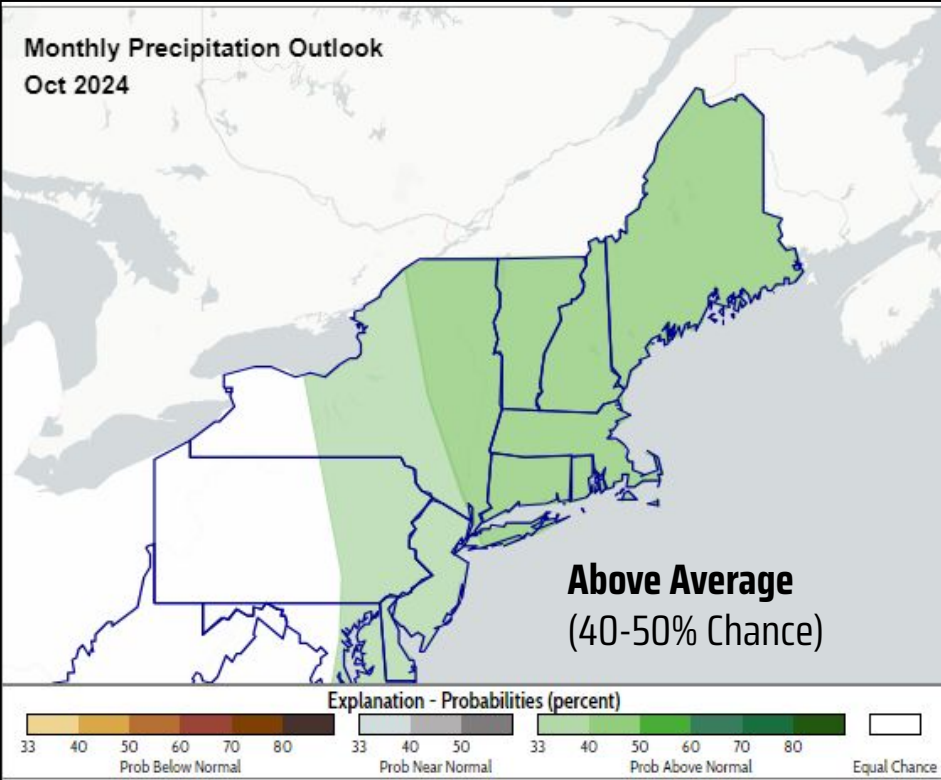


Outlook: Tue Oct 8 - Mon Oct 14



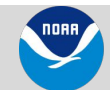
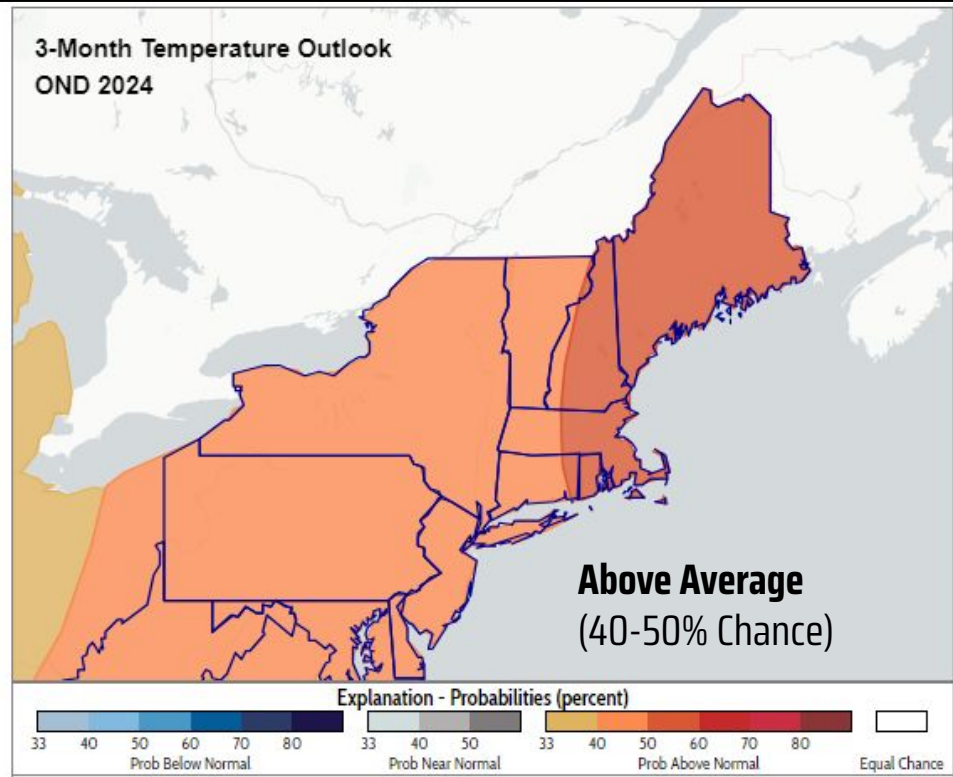
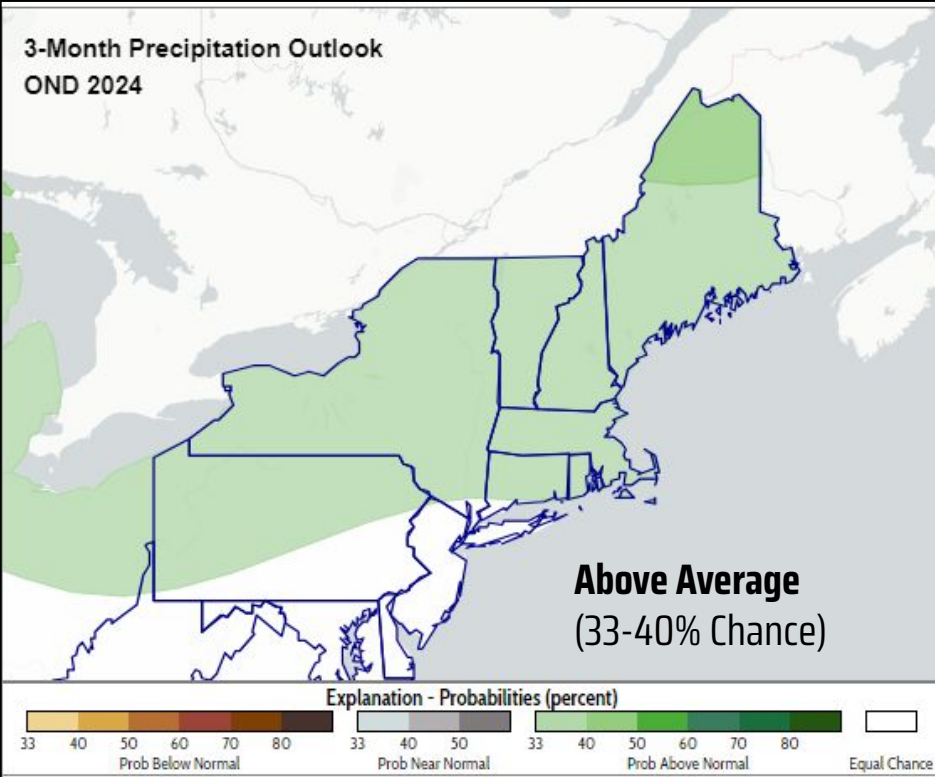


Outlook: October





Outlook: October, November, and December





Summary

September featured below average precipitation and near normal temperatures in Connecticut

- Rainfall departures were 2 to 4 inches below normal

Longer term precipitation departures were near or even above normal

- 3-month departures (Jul-Sep): 75-100% of normal and 125% or higher in west central CT
- 6-month departures (Mar-Sep): 100-125% of normal and 125% or higher in the southern two-thirds of the state

Temperatures and precipitation are expected to average near normal over the next 2 weeks

- Trend toward above normal temperatures and precipitation this fall

