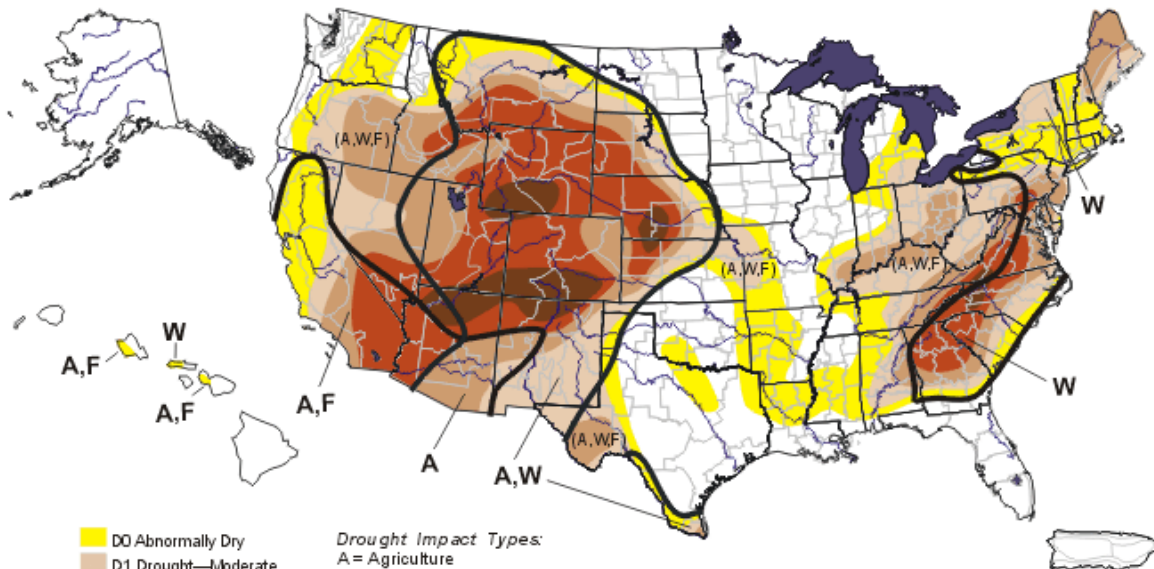


Severe Summer Drought

Farmers planted their crops late due to excessively wet fields in the spring, only to find their crops wilting in intense heat and dry soil during the summer. Crop loss estimates exceeded those of the 1999 drought, which was more severe but much more limited in areal extent. The widespread nature of this drought and its timing were the main factors in the high crop damage figures.

U.S. Drought Monitor September 17, 2002 Valid 8 a.m. EDT



- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> D0 Abnormally Dry D1 Drought—Moderate D2 Drought—Severe D3 Drought—Extreme D4 Drought—Exceptional | <p><i>Drought Impact Types:</i> A = Agriculture W = Water (Hydrological) F = Fire danger (Wildfires) — Delineates dominant impacts (No type = All 3 impacts)</p> |
|---|---|

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, September 19, 2002

Author: Brad Rippey, USDA

August Storm Data:

ILLINOIS, South

ILZ075>078-080>094

Jefferson - Wayne - Edwards - Wabash - Perry - Franklin - Hamilton - White - Jackson - Williamson - Saline - Gallatin - Union - Johnson - Pope - Hardin - Alexander - Pulaski - Massac

| | | | | |
|----|---------|---|---|---------|
| 01 | 0001CST | 0 | 0 | Drought |
| 31 | 2359CST | | | |

Moderate drought conditions developed over southern Illinois during August as a result of persistent dryness that began in June. At Carbondale, no measurable rainfall was reported during the entire month of July, and August rainfall was just over half an inch. This dry period came on the heels of a very wet first half of the year, when 24 to 30 inches fell from January through May. The main effect of the drought was on agriculture. Farmers anticipated substantial crop losses at harvest time. Heavy spring rains delayed planting of many crops until late May, which made them especially susceptible to the summer heat and drought.

INDIANA, Southwest

INZ081>082-085>088

Gibson - Pike - Posey - Vanderburgh - Warrick - Spencer

| | | | | |
|----|---------|---|---|---------|
| 01 | 0001CST | 0 | 0 | Drought |
| 31 | 2359CST | | | |

Moderate drought conditions developed over southwest Indiana during August as a result of persistent dryness that began in June. At Boonville, which is about 15 miles east of Evansville, total rainfall during the month of August was 0.08 inches. Evansville reported 0.63 inches during the month, compared to a normal of 3.14 inches. This dry period came on the heels of a very wet first half of the year, when 24.90 inches fell from January through May. The main effect of the drought was on agriculture. Farmers anticipated substantial crop losses at harvest time. Heavy spring rains delayed planting of many crops until late May, which made them especially susceptible to the summer drought.

KENTUCKY, Southwest

KYZ001>022

Fulton - Hickman - Carlisle - Ballard - Mcracken - Graves - Livingston - Marshall - Calloway - Crittenden - Lyon - Trigg - Caldwell - Union - Webster - Hopkins - Christian - Henderson - Daviess - Mclean - Muhlenberg - Todd

| | | | | |
|----|---------|---|---|---------|
| 01 | 0001CST | 0 | 0 | Drought |
| 31 | 2359CST | | | |

Moderate drought conditions developed over western Kentucky during August as a result of persistent dryness that began in June. At Paducah, total rainfall during the period from June 1 to August 31 was only 4.71 inches, well below the normal of 11.95 inches. This was the second driest June through August (meteorological summer) on record at Paducah. This dry period came on the heels of a very wet first half of the year, when 30.20 inches fell from January through May. The main effect of the drought was on agriculture. Farmers anticipated substantial crop losses at harvest time. Heavy spring rains delayed planting of many crops until late May, which

MISSOURI, Southeast

MOZ076-086>087-100-107>112-114

Perry - Bollinger - Cape Girardeau - Wayne - Carter - Ripley - Butler - Stoddard - Scott - Mississippi - New Madrid

| | | | | |
|----|---------|---|---|---------|
| 01 | 0001CST | 0 | 0 | Drought |
| 31 | 2359CST | | | |

Moderate drought conditions developed over southeast Missouri during early August as a result of persistent dryness that began in June. At Cape Girardeau, total rainfall from July 1 until August 13 was just over three-quarters of an inch. This dry period came on the heels of a very wet first half of the year, when 24 to 30 inches fell from January through May. The main effect of the drought was on agriculture. Farmers anticipated substantial crop losses at harvest time. Heavy spring rains delayed planting of many crops until late May, which made them especially susceptible to the summer drought.

September Storm Data:

ILLINOIS, South

ILZ075>078-080>094 Jefferson - Wayne - Edwards - Wabash - Perry - Franklin - Hamilton - White - Jackson - Williamson - Saline - Gallatin - Union - Johnson - Pope - Hardin - Alexander - Pulaski - Massac

| | | | | | |
|----|---------|---|---|-----|---------|
| 01 | 0001CST | 0 | 0 | 53M | Drought |
| 30 | 1800CST | | | | |

A prolonged summer drought gradually worsened, becoming severe by early September. Many parts of southern Illinois received little or no measurable rainfall in July. At Paducah, Kentucky, the three-month period from June through August of 2002 was the second driest such period on record. The main effect of the drought was on agriculture. Crop loss estimates totalled around 53 million dollars in southern Illinois. The corn crop, which was especially susceptible to the combined effects of heat and drought, took the biggest hit. About 33 million dollars in corn was lost in southern Illinois. Another 20 million dollars was lost in soybean production. Some trees and shrubs died in the drought, especially newly planted ones with shallow root systems. A few outdoor fires broke out, including a 20-acre blaze in Saline County, several miles west of Eldorado. The remnants of Tropical Storm Isidore provided much-needed heavy rainfall late in September. One to three inches of rain fell over most of southern Illinois, which greatly eased the drought.

INDIANA, Southwest

INZ081>082-085>088 Gibson - Pike - Posey - Vanderburgh - Warrick - Spencer

| | | | | | |
|----|---------|---|---|-----|---------|
| 01 | 0000CST | 0 | 0 | 70M | Drought |
| 30 | 1800CST | | | | |

A prolonged summer drought gradually worsened, becoming severe by early September. Many parts of southwest Indiana received little or no measurable rainfall during August. At Boonville, only 0.08 inch was measured in August. Evansville reported an August total of 0.63 inch. Rainfall was highly variable during the summer, and Evansville reported more rain than many other sites. The main effect of the drought was on agriculture. Crop loss estimates totalled around 70 million dollars. The corn crop, which was especially susceptible to the combined effects of heat and drought, took the biggest hit. About 50 million dollars in corn was lost in southwest Indiana. Another 20 million dollars was lost in soybean production. Some trees and shrubs died in the drought, especially newly planted ones with shallow root systems. However, the effects of this drought on trees, shrubs, and wildfire danger was considerably less than the drought of 1999. The remnants of Tropical Storm Isidore provided very heavy rainfall late in September. One to three inches of rain fell over most of southwest Indiana, which greatly eased the drought.

KENTUCKY, Southwest

KYZ001>022 Fulton - Hickman - Carlisle - Ballard - Mcracken - Graves - Livingston - Marshall - Calloway - Crittenden - Lyon - Trigg - Caldwell - Union - Webster - Hopkins - Christian - Henderson - Daviess - Mclean - Muhlenberg - Todd

| | | | | | |
|----|---------|---|---|-----|---------|
| 01 | 0000CST | 0 | 0 | 70M | Drought |
| 30 | 1800CST | | | | |

A prolonged summer drought gradually worsened, becoming severe in early September. Many parts of western Kentucky received no measurable rainfall through the first two weeks of September. At Paducah, the three-month period from June through August of 2002 was the second driest such period on record. Total rainfall during the period from June 1 to September 15 was only 5 inches, well below the normal of about 13 inches. The main effect of the drought was on agriculture. Crop loss estimates totalled around 70 million dollars. The corn crop, which was especially susceptible to the combined effects of heat and drought, took the biggest hit. About 35 million dollars in corn was lost in western Kentucky. About 20 million dollars in tobacco was lost, and another 15 million dollars was lost in soybean production. Some trees and shrubs died in the drought, especially newly planted ones with shallow root systems. A few counties declared bans on outdoor burning due to the high fire danger. A fire burned 50 acres of pasture along Interstate 24 near the Grand Rivers exit. However, the effects of this drought on trees, shrubs, and the soybean crop were considerably less than the drought of 1999. The remnants of Tropical Storm Isidore provided very heavy rainfall late in September. Four to eight inches of rain fell over most of western Kentucky, which greatly eased the drought.

MISSOURI, Southeast

MOZ076-086>087-100-107>112-114 Perry - Bollinger - Cape Girardeau - Wayne - Carter - Ripley - Butler - Stoddard - Scott - Mississippi - New Madrid

| | | | | | |
|----|---------|---|---|--|---------|
| 01 | 0000CST | 0 | 0 | | Drought |
| 19 | 1000CST | | | | |

Moderate drought conditions persisted over southeast Missouri through mid September. A very heavy rainfall event in mid August was the exception to persistent dryness that began in June. Crop losses were mitigated by the August rainfall.