

# DROUGHT STATUS REPORT

**December 2020**

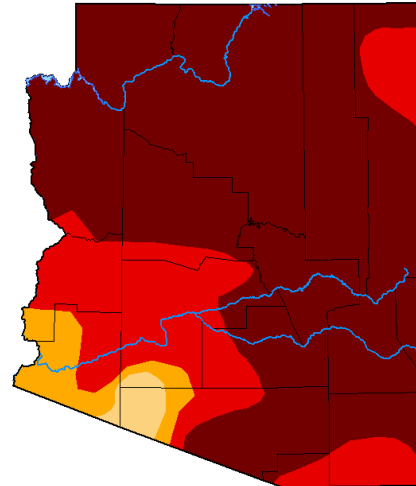
## Short-Term Drought Status

While December precipitation was minimal, drought conditions in the northeast corner of the state, primarily around the Chuska Mountains in northern Apache County, were improved by the few storms that passed through Arizona.

This led to a slight reduction in the extent of Exceptional Drought (D4), from 77% of the state at the beginning of December to 73% at the end, with a corresponding increase in Extreme Drought (D3) from 16% of the state to 21%.

Persistent dry conditions this winter have led to a lack of substantial forage and low stock ponds and water catchments, potentially impacting livestock and wildlife.

U.S. Drought Monitor  
Arizona



January 5, 2021  
(Released Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	100.00	98.34	93.86	72.69
Last Week 12-28-2020	0.00	100.00	100.00	98.34	93.86	72.69
3 Months Ago 10-06-2020	0.00	100.00	100.00	95.01	77.73	6.86
Start of Calendar Year 12-29-2020	0.00	100.00	100.00	98.34	93.86	72.69
Start of Water Year 09-28-2020	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.97	69.95	3.37
One Year Ago 01-07-2020	70.37	29.63	23.00	14.65	0.00	0.00

**Intensity**  
 None D2 Severe Drought  
 D0 Abnormally Dry D3 Extreme Drought  
 D1 Moderate Drought D4 Exceptional Drought

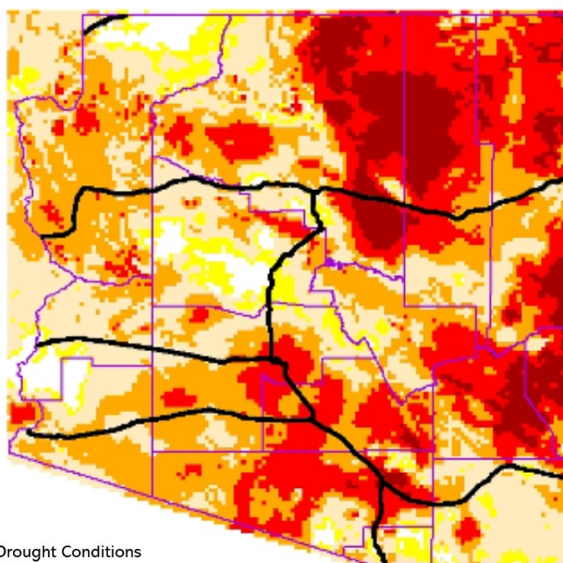
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about.asp>.

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[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

## October-December 2020 Long-Term Drought



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

(c)2021 Arizona State Climate Office  
 0 20 40 80 120 160 Miles

## October-December 2020 Long-Term Drought Status

The minimal summer monsoon and persisting dry conditions throughout the fall and early winter have led to a significant increase in long-term drought conditions.

Severe (D2), Extreme (D3) and Exceptional Drought (D4) have expanded across the state impacting streamflow and recharge. The resulting dry soils will reduce future recharge by absorbing potential run-off in the spring.

Dry weather will likely continue through the remainder of the winter and spring given a mature La Niña in the tropical Pacific Ocean.