

Drought Status Report

September 2012

Most of Arizona is in moderate drought, thanks to an average to wet monsoon, although monsoon precipitation was highly variable across the state. The northeast is now the only location with extreme drought(D3).

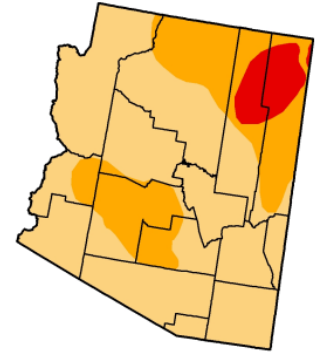
There were some heavy rain events in western and northwestern Arizona. High elevation rainfall brought slight relief to the Chuska Mountains on the Navajo Nation in northern Apache County, improving the mountains from extreme drought (D3) to severe drought(D2). Enough rainfall fell in the southern counties to provide short-term drought relief in Pima and Santa Cruz counties, moving them from severe drought (D2) to moderate drought (D1). The southern border also benefitted from an active season.

The monsoon made up some of the deficit from the dry winter of 2011-12, but has not been enough to recover from the dry winter of 2010—2011. We are looking ahead to a weak El Niño, so there is no clear indication of what to expect for winter precipitation. We hope to at least have a relatively normal winter.

U.S. Drought Monitor Arizona

October 2, 2012
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	31.42	5.67	0.00
Last Week (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	31.93	5.67	0.00
3 Months Ago (07/03/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	93.78	25.07	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	16.70	83.30	60.34	36.56	2.78	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	100.00	31.93	5.67	0.00
One Year Ago (09/27/2011 map)	0.02	99.98	69.76	42.81	15.34	1.67



Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

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

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, October 4, 2012
Anthony Artusa, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Summary produced by the State Drought Monitoring Technical Committee - October 5, 2012.