Oklahoma Water Resources Bulletin & Summary of Current Conditions



November 8, 2012

PRECIPITATION

Statewide Precipitation													
	Cool Growing Season September 1, 2012 – November 5, 2012					Last 365 Days November 7, 2011 – November 5, 2012							
CLIMATE DIVISION	Total Rainfall (inches)	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL (INCHES)	PERCENT OF NORMAL	Rank Since 1921	Total Rainfall (inches)	DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL (INCHES)	PERCENT OF NORMAL	Rank Since 1921					
Panhandle	2.57"	-1.00"	72%	26th driest	16.11"	-4.95"	77%	19th driest					
North Central	2.39"	-3.74"	39%	8th driest	26.45"	-5.13"	84%	32nd driest					
Northeast	5.04"	-3.97"	56%	17th driest	35.57"	-6.28"	85%	25th driest					
West Central	3.66"	-2.22"	62%	23rd driest	21.79"	-7.24"	75%	16th driest					
Central	4.49"	-3.75"	55%	19th driest	30.05"	-7.84"	79%	24th driest					
East Central	5.39"	-4.56"	54%	22nd driest	36.10"	-9.85"	79%	18th driest					
Southwest	3.42"	-3.24"	51%	20th driest	24.80"	-5.94"	81%	25th driest					
South Central	4.65"	-4.46"	51%	17th driest	33.06"	-7.80"	81%	21st driest					
Southeast	4.53"	-5.85"	44%	13th driest	46.95"	-3.82"	92%	36th driest					
Statewide	4.03"	-3.63"	53%	14th driest	30.00"	-6.59"	82%	21st driest					





SOIL MOISTURE

Fractional Water Index¹ November 5, 2012



¹ The Fractional Water Index ranges from very dry soil having a value of 0 to soil at field capacity illustrated by a value of 1. [1.0-0.8 = Enhanced Growth; 0.8-0.5 = Limited Growth; 0.5-0.3 = Plants Wilting; 0.3-0.1 = Plants Dying; <0.1 = Barren Soil.]

DROUGHT INDICES													
Palme	er Drought Sev	erity I	ndex		Standardized Precipitation Index ² Through September 2012								
CLIMATE DIVISION	Current Status 11/3/2012	VA 11/3	ALUE CHANGE 10/6 IN VALUE		3-Month	6-Month	9-Month	12-MONTH					
Northwest	SEVERE DROUGHT	-3.57	-3.60	0.03	ABNORMALLY DRY	SEVERELY DRY	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL					
North Central	SEVERE DROUGHT	-3.55	-3.40	-0.15	SEVERELY DRY	MODERATELY DRY	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL					
Northeast	SEVERE DROUGHT	-3.35	-3.52	0.17	MODERATELY DRY	EXTREMELY DRY	SEVERELY DRY	MODERATELY DRY					
West Central	SEVERE DROUGHT	-3.56	-2.91	-0.65	NEAR NORMAL	MODERATELY DRY	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL					
Central	SEVERE DROUGHT	-3.52	-3.12	-0.40	ABNORMALLY DRY	MODERATELY DRY	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL					
East Central	SEVERE DROUGHT	-3.42	-3.20	-0.22	NEAR NORMAL	MODERATELY DRY	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL					
Southwest	SEVERE DROUGHT	-3.45	-2.65	-0.80	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL					
South Central	SEVERE DROUGHT	-3.58	-3.25	-0.33	NEAR NORMAL	MODERATELY DRY	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL					
Southeast	SEVERE DROUGHT	-3.33	-3.32	-0.01	NEAR NORMAL	EXTREMELY DRY	NEAR NORMAL	NEAR NORMAL					

All nine climate divisions are experiencing severe drought conditions, according to the PDSI. Seven climate divisions have undergone a PDSI moisture decrease since October 6. Eight climate divisions (all but the Southwest) continue to experience near long-term dry conditions, according to the SPI.

Keetch-Byram Drought Fire Index³ **MESONET STATION** CLIMATE **CURRENT VALUE** 11/5/2012 DIVISION 476 576 655 689 385 Red Rock North Central 730 May Ranch 722 North Central 558 66166 352 Blackwell North Central 714 191231 350270 Stations currently at or above 600 (November 5) = 30 237 265 539 Stations above 600 on October 8 = 29 434 450 508 229 515⁴⁸⁹ 517 455

STREAMFLOW CONDITIONS

()) Mesonet

Keetch-Byram Drought Index

November 5, 2012



The Palmer Drought Severity Index is based upon precipitation, temperature, and soil moisture. Though widely used by government agencies and states to trigger drought relief programs, the PDSI may underestimate or overestimate the severity of ongoing dry periods.

429

491 472

7:00 AM November 5, 2012 CST

540 73365 443

² The Standardized Precipitation Index, more sensitive than the PDSI, provides a comparison of precipitation over a specified period with precipitation totals from that same period for all years included in the historical record. The 3-month SPI provides a seasonal estimation of precipitation while the 6-month SPI can be very effective in showing precipitation over distinct seasons.

³ The Keetch-Byram Drought Index measures the state of near-surface soil moisture (within the uppermost eight inches of soil) as well as the amount of fuel available for fires. KBDI values of 600 and above are often associated with more severe drought and increased wildfire occurrence.



Regional Drought Summary & Outlook



November 6—The latest U.S. Drought Monitor reports that much of Texas and Oklahoma recorded above normal temperatures and little or no rain. As a result, deteriorations were made to Oklahoma (D3 and D4) and most of Texas (D1-D4). With so much of Oklahoma already in D3 and D4, it is getting difficult to degrade the state further. An exception was in extreme southeastern Colorado (Baca County) and the immediate area where further assessment of indices and actual conditions warranted an improvement from D3 to D2. In contrast, the rains in southeast Texas were enough to remove D0 in Polk and San Jacinto counties; however, but drier conditions to the east expanded D0 into southwestern Louisiana while D1 was added in extreme southeastern Texas and southwestern Louisiana due to short-term (60day) shortages of 6 to 9 inches.

More than 75 percent of Oklahoma remains in Extreme Drought. About 32 percent of the state—including much of northern and southwest Oklahoma—is considered Exceptional, the most intense drought category.

According to the latest Drought Outlook (November 1), abnormal dryness prevailed across the central and southern Plains, promoting drought persistence and modest expansion outside of some spotty relief in central Texas. During the upcoming three months, enhanced chances of abnormal dryness across the West keep prospects of significant improvement low. Drought persistence is likely across the remainder of the Plains (including Oklahoma) and Southwest due to dry seasonal climatology and a dry November outlook.

CROP REPORT SUMMARY

November 5, 2012 – According to OCS Mesonet, it has been as many as 52 days since parts of the state have seen a quarter of an inch of rain in one day. The drought persisted across the entire state and resulted in the decline of small grain and canola conditions. Almost half of wheat was rated in fair condition, and another 30 percent was rated poor to very poor. Twenty-four percent of canola was rated poor to very poor, compared to only eight percent the previous week. After a freeze the week previous, this past week warmed up and new record highs were set in Oklahoma City and McAlester on November 2. The combination of warm and dry weather was taking a toll on grasses as well as the small grains planted early for winter pasture. Topsoil moisture conditions continued to decline from the week prior, with 88 percent rated short to very short. Subsoil moisture conditions rated short to very short also increased to represent 94 percent of the state. There were 6.8 days suitable for fieldwork.



Reservoir Storage

November 6, 2012

