

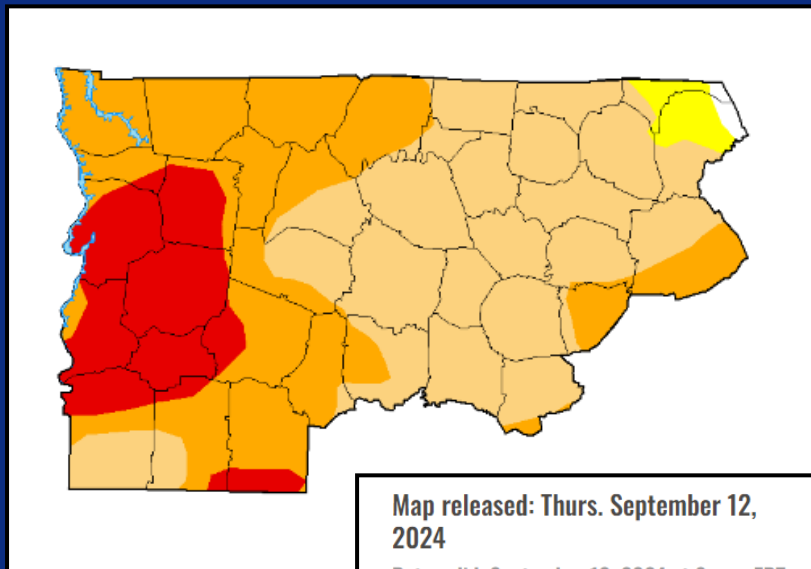


BECAUSE EVERY DROP COUNTS!

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2024 - ISSUE 17



Drought Status



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

Well, last month’s newsletter talked about the recent improvement in our drought...but with the caveat that conditions would likely worsen due to dry conditions. And unfortunately, that’s exactly what has happened. The latest drought monitor released this week shows almost all of Middle TN is some category of drought. The worst drought conditions of severe to extreme exist across roughly the western half of the area.

The good news? Rain from tropical system Francine should make a noticeable difference in drought conditions.

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Top 10 CoCoRaHS Stations for Least Precipitation

Recently, we highlighted the top 10 CoCoRaHS stations that had received the most precipitation so far this year. So now let's take a look at the top 10 stations that have received the *least* amount of precipitation this year.

A note: Because CoCoRaHS is a volunteer network where you are free to report as often or as little as you would like, finding the stations that have the least amount of rain isn't as straightforward. For the sake of this list, I only looked at stations that have reported at least 200 days this year, and thus had a more complete record.

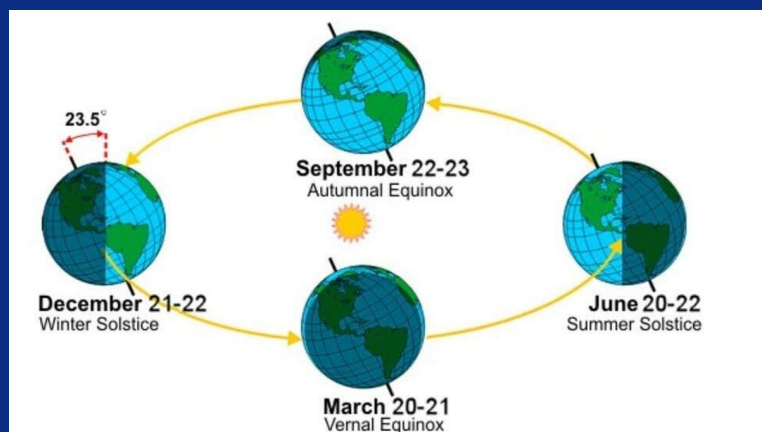
Station Name (Station Number)	Precipitation
Forest Hills 6.7 WSW (TN-WL-12)	24.68"
Waynesboro 7.3 N (TN-WY-19)	24.88"
Dickson 9.1 WSW (TN-DC-36)	24.99"
Murfreesboro 7.9 NNW (TN-RD-100)	27.40"
Smyrna 1.8 S (TN-RD-135)	27.77"
Nashville 4.7 SW (TN-DV-172)	28.12"
Shelbyville 7.5 NW (TN-BF-3)	28.15"
Mount Juliet 3.0 NE (TN-WN-120)	28.62"
College Grove 6.0 SW (TN-WL-103)	29.26"
Fairfield Glade 0.1 NNW (TN-CM-4)	30.02"

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Countdown to Fall!

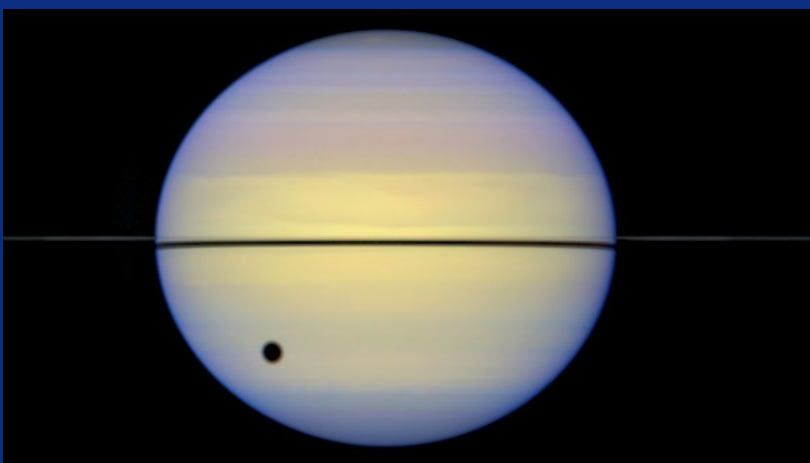


The Fall Equinox is almost here! The official start of autumn is September 22nd at 7:44 AM. Why the specific time?

There are two moments in the year where the sun is directly above the equator, and when this happens, we call it an equinox.

This year, the fall equinox is at 7:44 AM so this is the exact moment when our sun is directly over the equator as its crossing this boundary to move over the southern hemisphere. Because the Earth is tilted neither toward nor away from the sun on an equinox, this also marks the time when we will receive nearly equal amounts of daylight and darkness.

Fun Fact! Other planets in our solar system also experience an equinox. Saturn, the planet most famous for its rings, takes 30 Earth years to complete one orbit around the sun. This means that an equinox on Saturn happens every 15 years. When an equinox on Saturn is viewed from Earth, its rings are seen edge-on. This gives the rings an appearance of just a thin line or sometimes the illusion they've disappeared altogether! Saturn's next equinox is May 6, 2025!



View of Saturn during its 1995 equinox. The dark spot is the shadow of its moon Titan.

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Meet Margaret!

Margaret is a relatively new CoCoRaHS observer, reporting near Gallatin since April of 2023. But she's been keeping track of rain for a lot longer than that. There's been a rain gauge at Margaret's parents' house for as long as she can remember. When she moved into a new house a couple years ago, she was curious how much rain she was getting, but would just ask her dad who lived across town. Margaret finally got her own gauge last year and says it's been interesting to compare notes with her dad regarding rain amounts at their different locations. And that's her favorite part about participating in CoCoRaHS. Her most memorable event as a CoCoRaHS observer was this past May when they received 7.3 inches of rain from 6 AM on May 8th to 6 AM on the 9th. Margaret says that this much rain turned her neighborhood into an island with entrances becoming inaccessible. Margaret describes herself as a weather fanatic—having seen *Twister* more times than she can count, keeping weather radios in the house, and attending NWS Nashville training classes and becoming certified weather spotters.

I would love to recognize and highlight YOU in these newsletters! If you're interested, tell me about yourself via [this form](#).

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