



RI Drought Steering Committee NWS Update

Wednesday June 19th, 2025

*Prepared by: National Weather Service Boston/Norton,
MA*

Drought Indices from RI Water 2030



Boston/Norton MA
WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE

Rhode Island Water 2030
Part 3

State Guide Plan 721

Table 2, Rhode Island Drought Indices and Phases

Drought Phase	Palmer Drought Index +	Crop Moisture Index	Precipitation +	Ground Water** +	Stream flow +	Reservoirs**
Normal	-1.0 to -1.99	0.0 to -1.0	Slightly Dry	1 month below normal 1 month below normal	2 consecutive months below normal	Reservoir levels at or near normal for the time of year
Advisory	-2.0 to -2.99	-1.0 to -1.9 Abnormally Dry	2 month cumulative below 65% of normal	At least 2 out of 3 months below normal	3 consecutive months below normal	Small index Reservoirs below normal
Watch	-3.0 to -3.99	-2.0 to -2.9 Excessively Dry	1 of the following criteria met: 3 month cum. <65% or 6 month cum. <70% or 12 month cum. <70%	4-5 consecutive months below normal	At least 4 out of 5 consecutive months below normal	Medium index Reservoirs below normal
Warning	-4.0 and below	> -2.9 Severely Dry	2 out of 3 of the above criteria met: 3 month cum. <65% and 6 month cum. <65% or 6 month cum. <65% and 12 month cum. <65% or 3 month cum. <65% and 12 month cum. <65%	6-7 consecutive months below normal observation wells recording monthly record lows	At least 6 out of 7 consecutive months below normal	Large index reservoirs below normal
Emergency	-4.0 and below	> -2.9 Severely dry	Same criteria as Warning and Previous month was Warning or Emergency	>7 months below normal Observation wells recording monthly record lows	>7 months below normal	Continuation of previous month's conditions



Returning to Normal

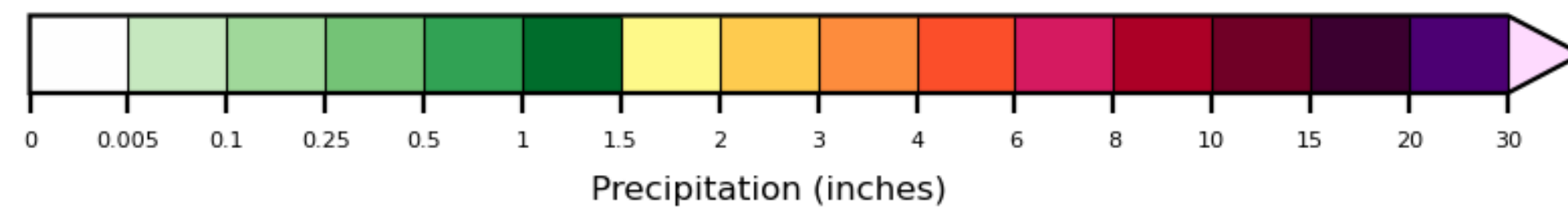
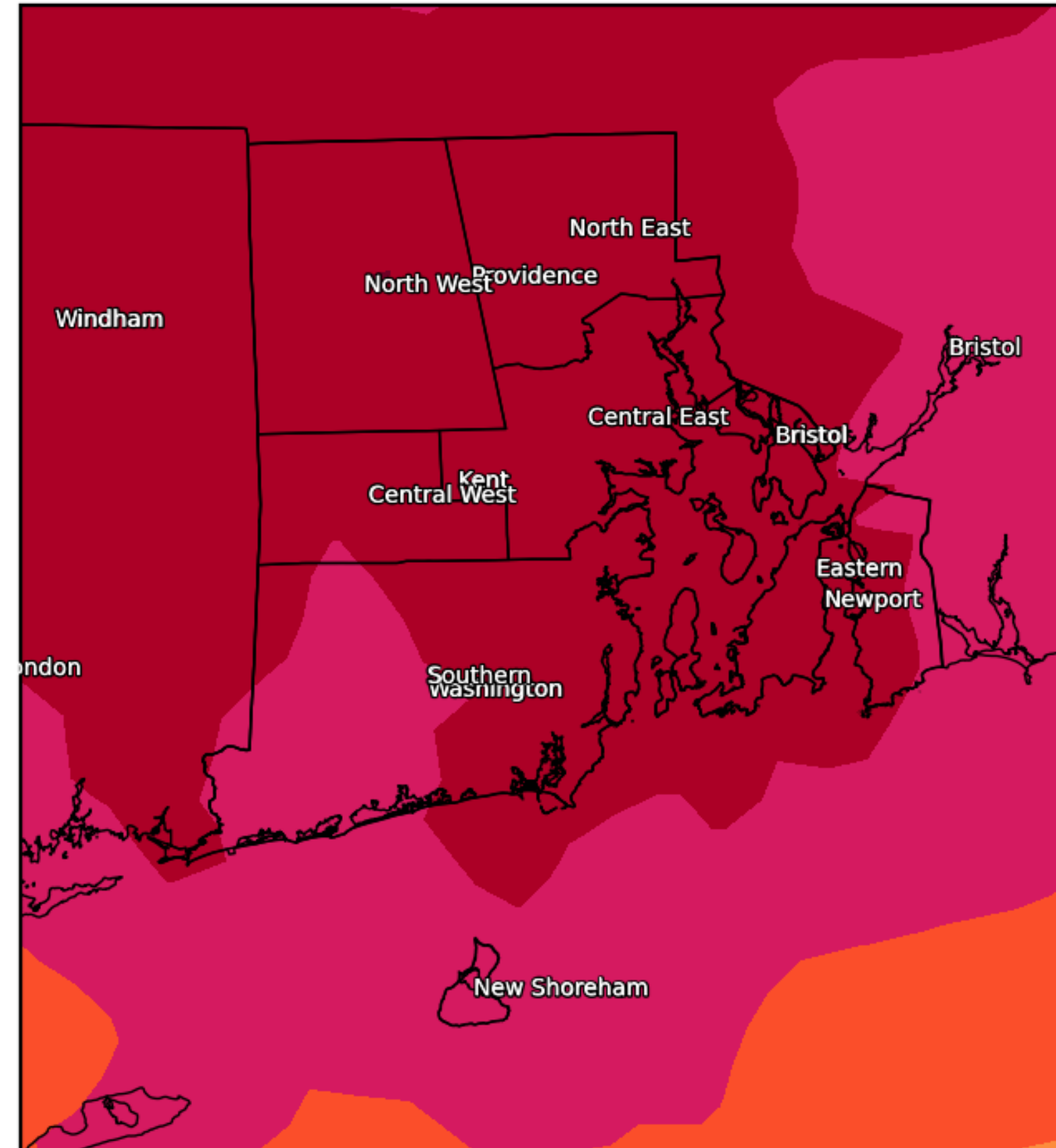
Current Drought Phase	Next Drought Phase	Reduce Drought Phase by one category
Emergency	Emergency-continued below normal conditions	Groundwater levels at or above normal and no precipitation deficit for past 3 months; and/or water resource problems which prompted the emergency have abated
Warning	Emergency-worsening conditions or continued below normal conditions	2 consecutive months of groundwater levels at or above normal and near normal precipitation for past 6 months
Watch	Warning-worsening conditions Watch continued below normal	2 consecutive months of groundwater levels at or above normal and near normal precipitation for past 6 months
Advisory	Watch-worsening conditions	2 consecutive months of groundwater levels at or above normal and near normal precipitation for past 3 months

May 2025 Rainfall and Departure

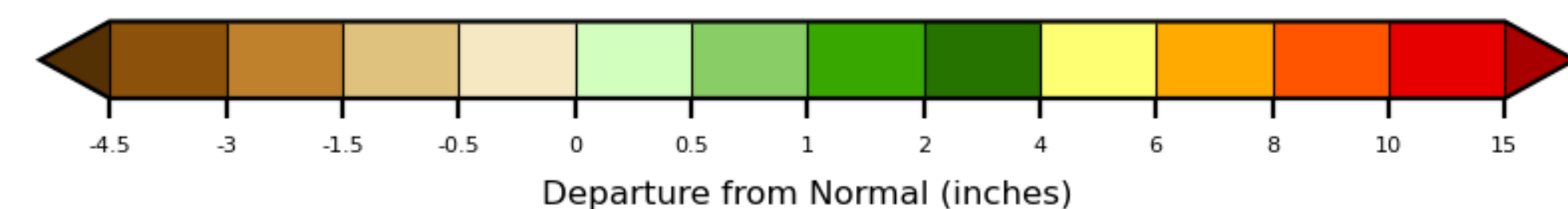
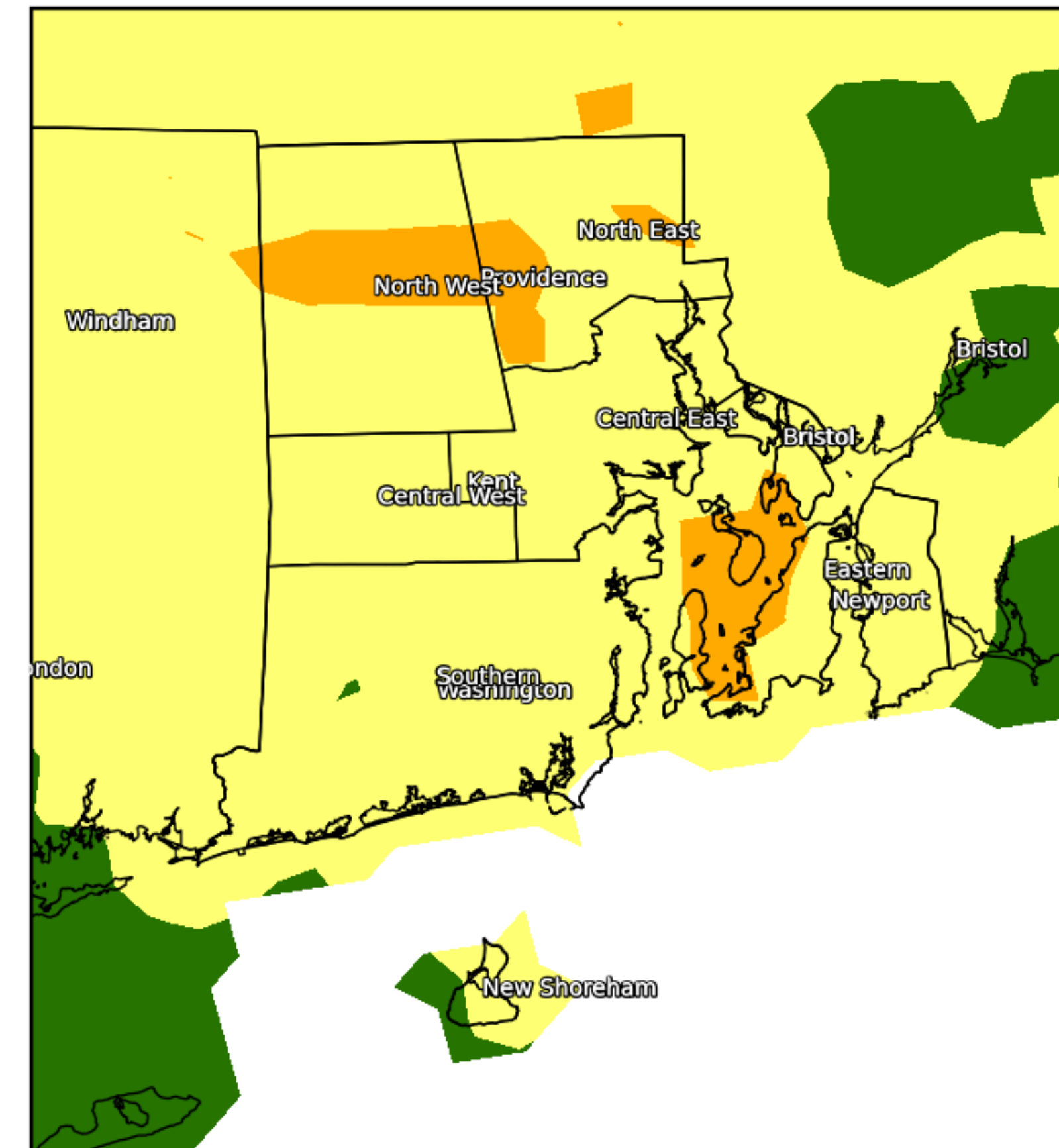


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Accumulated Precipitation (inches)
May 01, 2025 to May 31, 2025



Precipitation Departure from Normal (inches)
May 01, 2025 to May 31, 2025

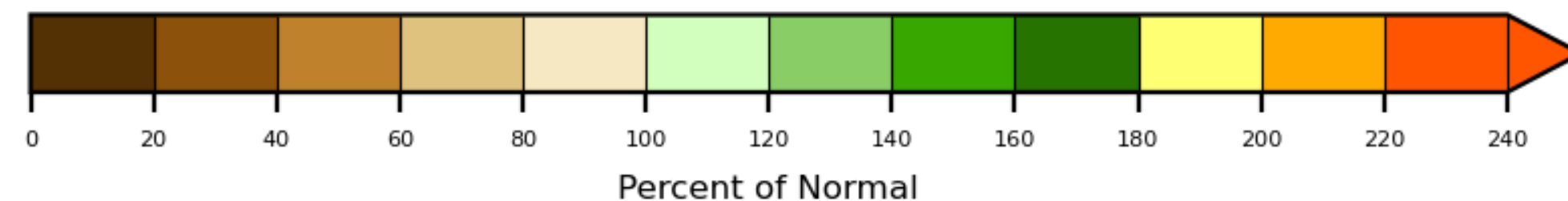
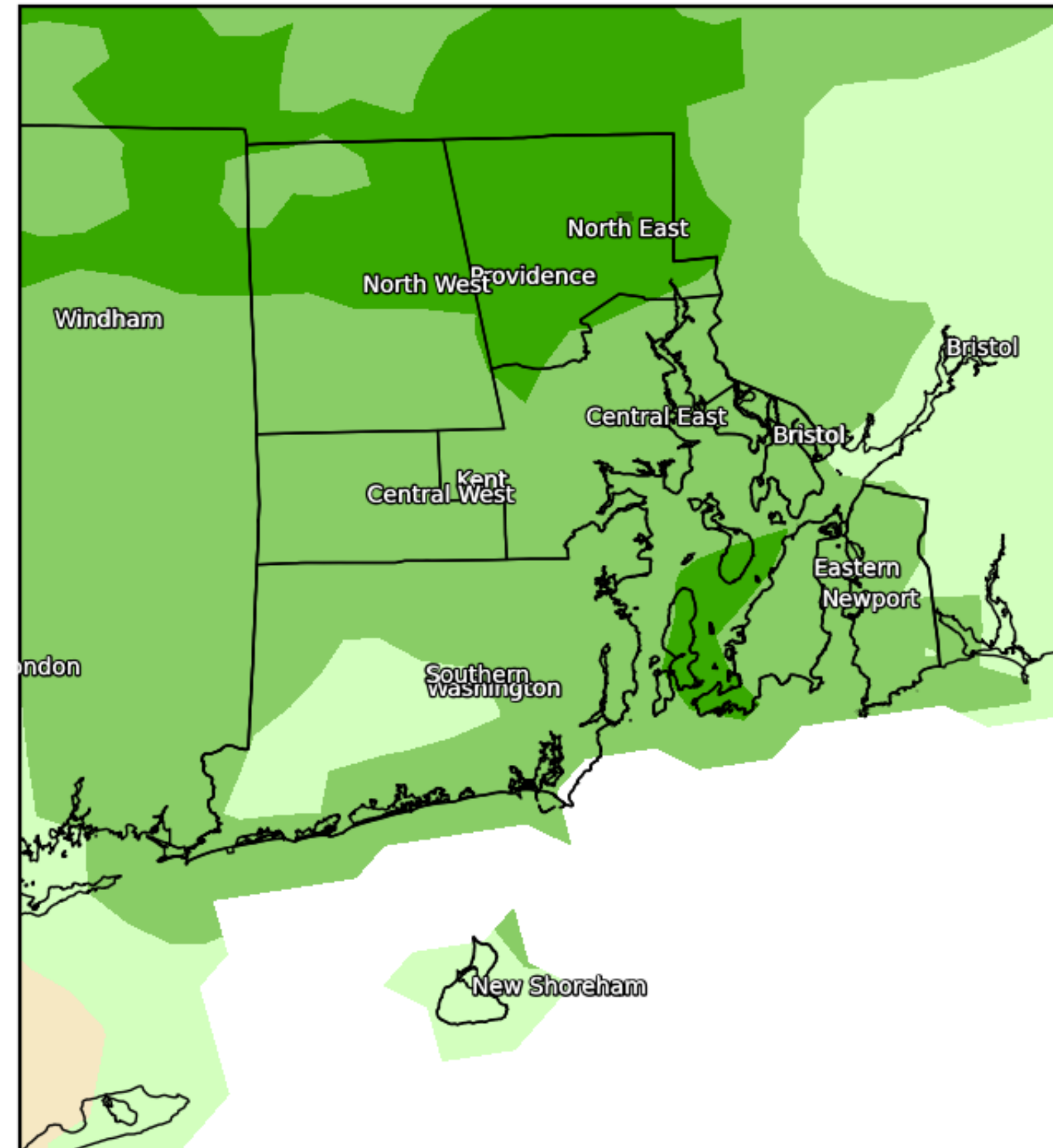


Mar-May and Dec-May Percent of Normal

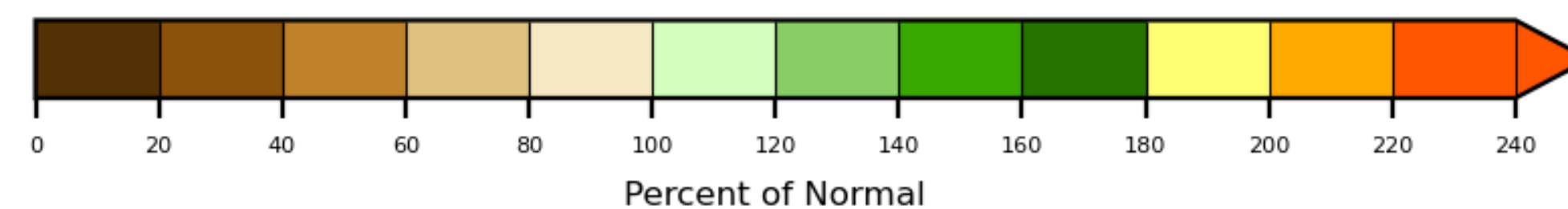
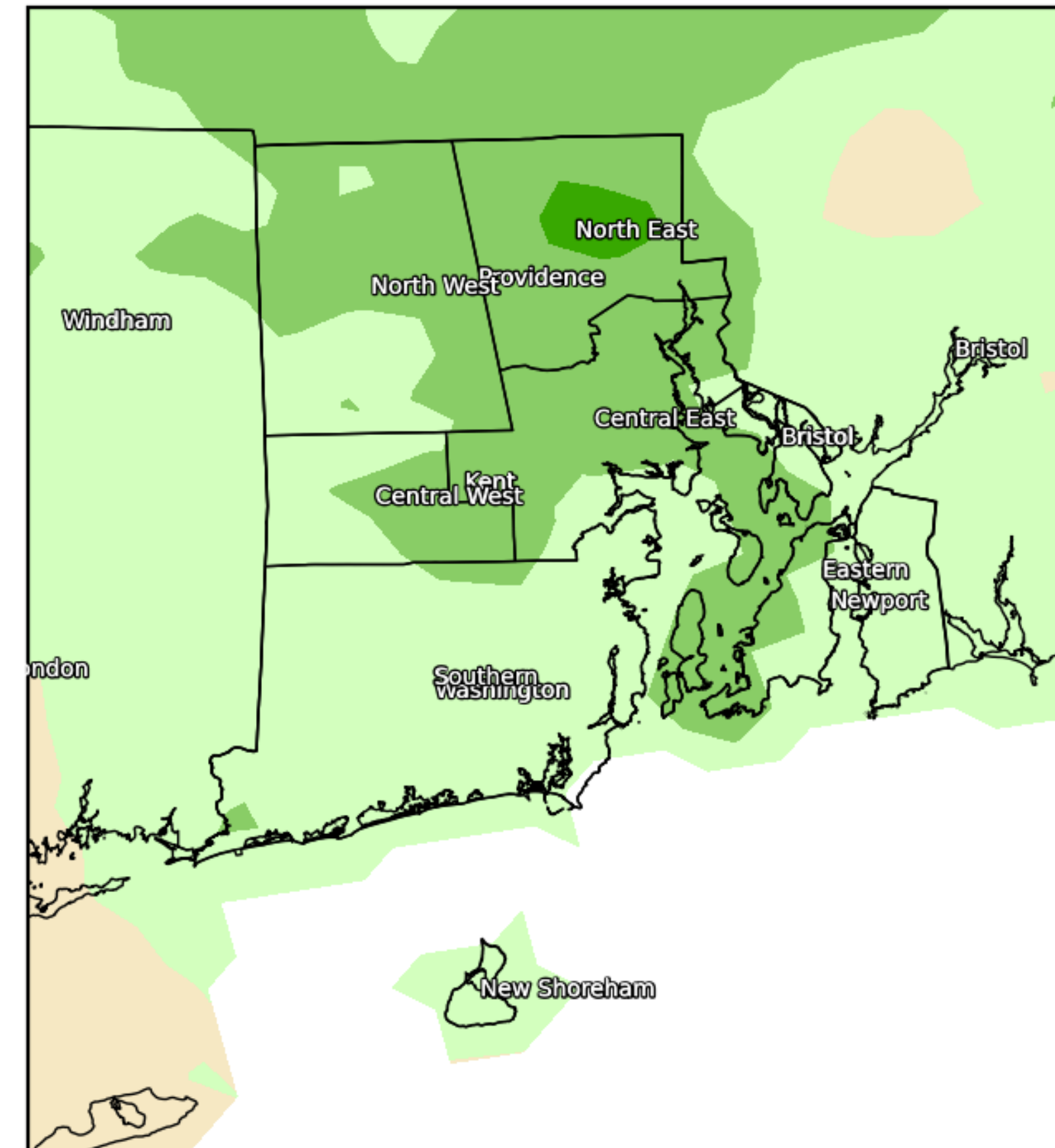


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Precipitation Percent of Normal
March 01, 2025 to May 31, 2025



Precipitation Percent of Normal
December 01, 2024 to May 31, 2025



Providence and Kingston Rainfall Profiles

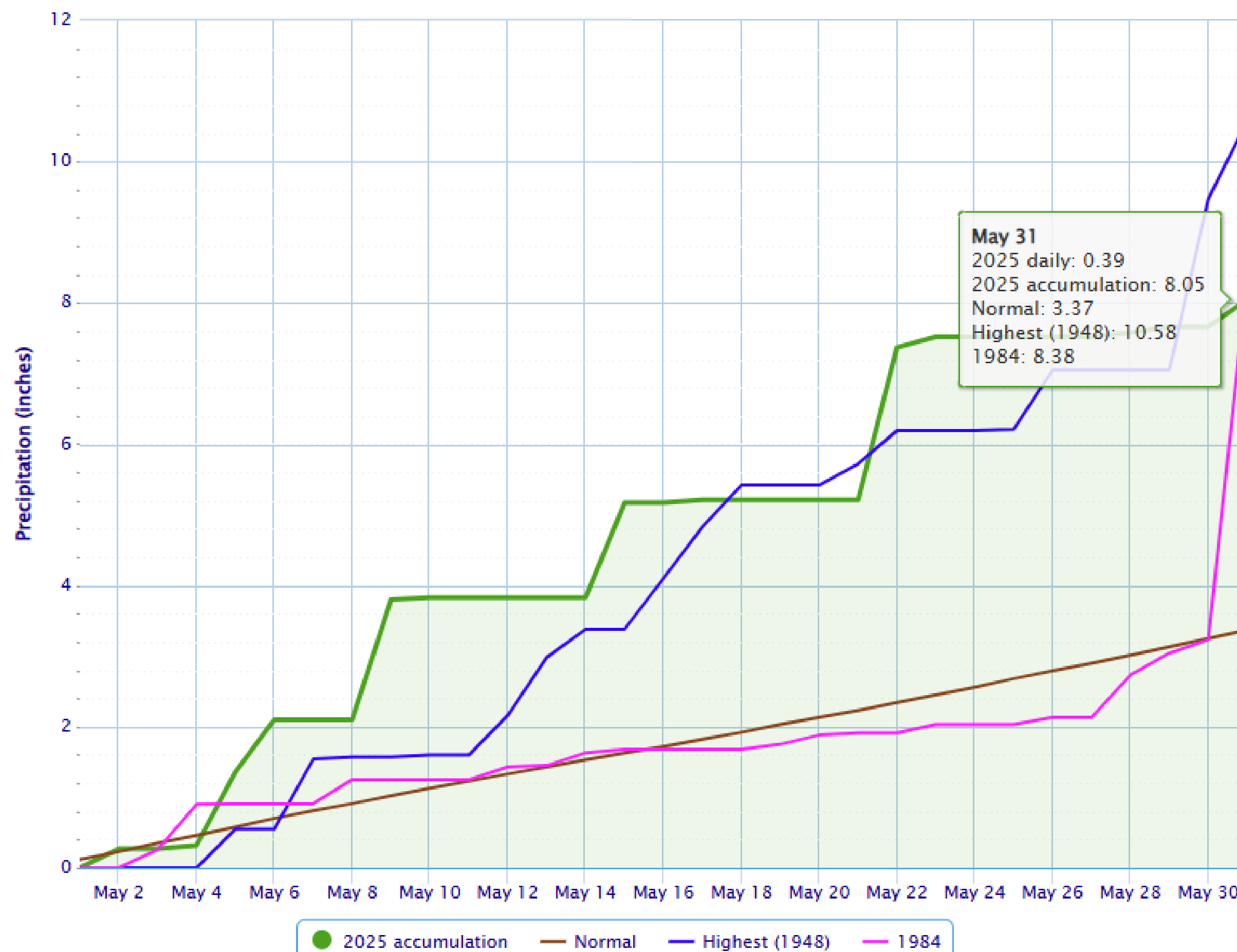


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3rd Wettest May on Record for Providence

Accumulated Precipitation – Providence Area, RI (ThreadEx)

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values

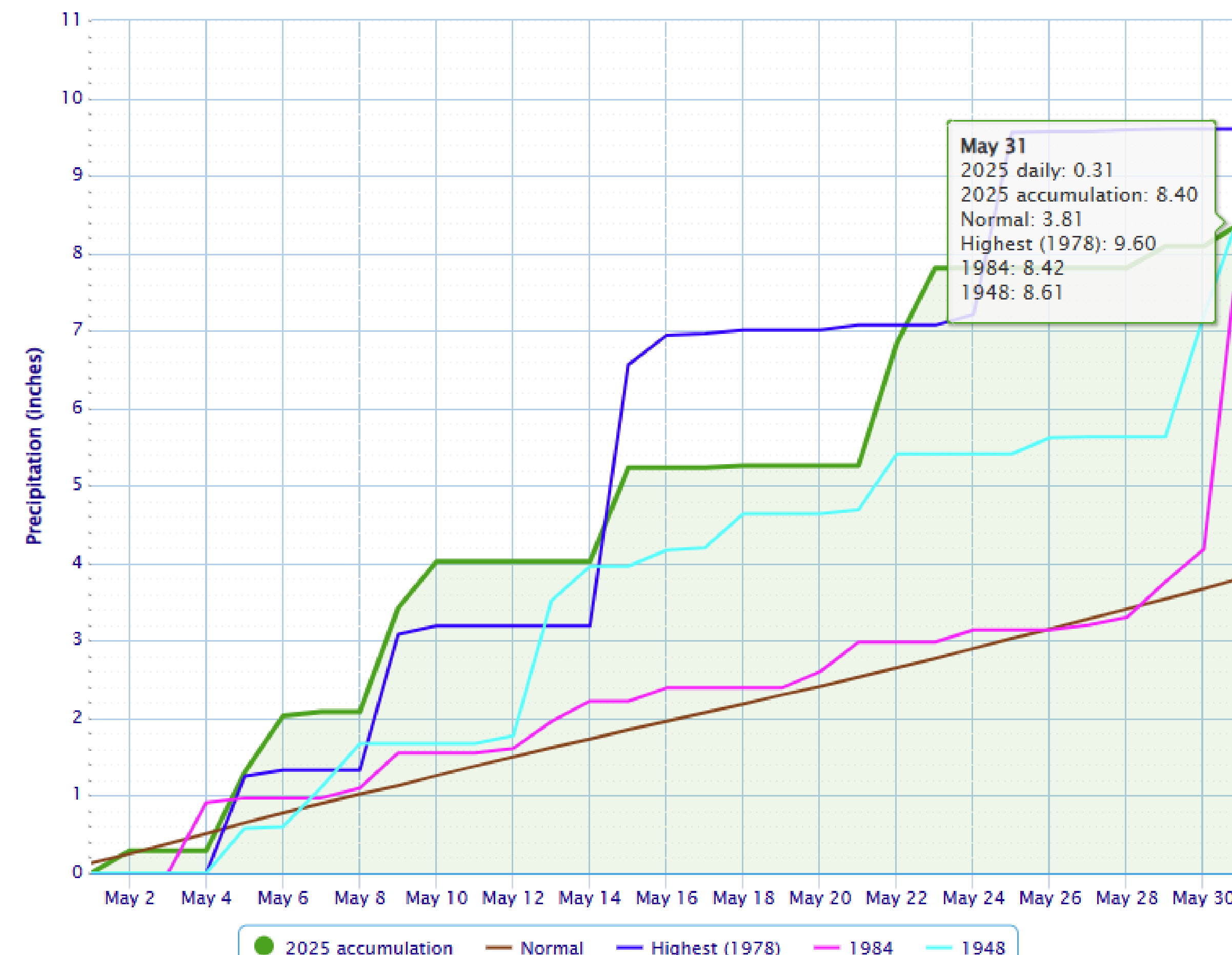


Powered by ACIS

4th Wettest May on Record for Kingston

Accumulated Precipitation – KINGSTON, RI

Click and drag to zoom to a shorter time interval; green/black diamonds represent subsequent/missing values



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Rainfall Percent by Region Last 6 Months



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	DEC Percent	JAN Percent	FEB Percent	MAR Percent	APR Percent	MAY Percent	6 Month Percent DEC-MAY
Northwest	114	35	72	87	88	207	98
Northeast	127	41	105	93	82	216	107
Central West	181	32	63	81	77	225	109
Central East	138	38	101	88	75	221	107
Eastern	128	39	103	77	86	248	109
Southern	143	38	103	88	84	213	110
New Shoreham	93	24	72	58	65	172	78
RI Average	132	35	88	82	80	215	103

- **Need 3 consecutive months of near normal (65%+) precipitation to come out of drought**
- **6/7 regions now have three consecutive months above normal (65%+)**
- **New Shoreham missed the mark by only having 58% of normal in Mar**

Rainfall Percent: Last 2,3, 6,12 Months

CUMULATIVE AVERAGES



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Drought Phase
Normal
Advisory
Watch
Warning
Emergency

	2 Months Apr-May	3 Months Mar-May	6 Months Dec – May	12 Months Jun-May
Northwest	141	120	98	80
Northeast	140	123	107	84
Central West	142	119	109	100
Central East	139	119	107	90
Eastern	158	125	109	92
Southern	142	121	110	97
New Shoreham	115	92	78	65
RI Average	140	117	103	87

- No regions meeting drought criteria

Rainfall Departure: Last 2,3, 6,12 Months

CUMULATIVE AVERAGES



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Drought Phase
Normal
Advisory
Watch
Warning
Emergency

	2 Months Apr-May	3 Months Mar-May	6 Months Dec-May	12 Months Jun-May
Northwest	3.45	2.75	-0.54	-10.68
Northeast	3.32	2.99	1.93	-8.52
Central West	3.55	2.59	2.46	0.16
Central East	3.12	2.50	1.84	-5.09
Eastern	4.35	3.17	2.16	-3.61
Southern	3.36	2.76	2.46	-1.43
New Shoreham	1.15	-0.99	-5.44	-16.83
RI Average	3.19	2.25	0.70	-6.5

- Average departures are above normal for last 2, 3, and 6 months

7 Day Rain Forecast

Valid 7PM Tue 06/17 – 7AM Tue 06/24



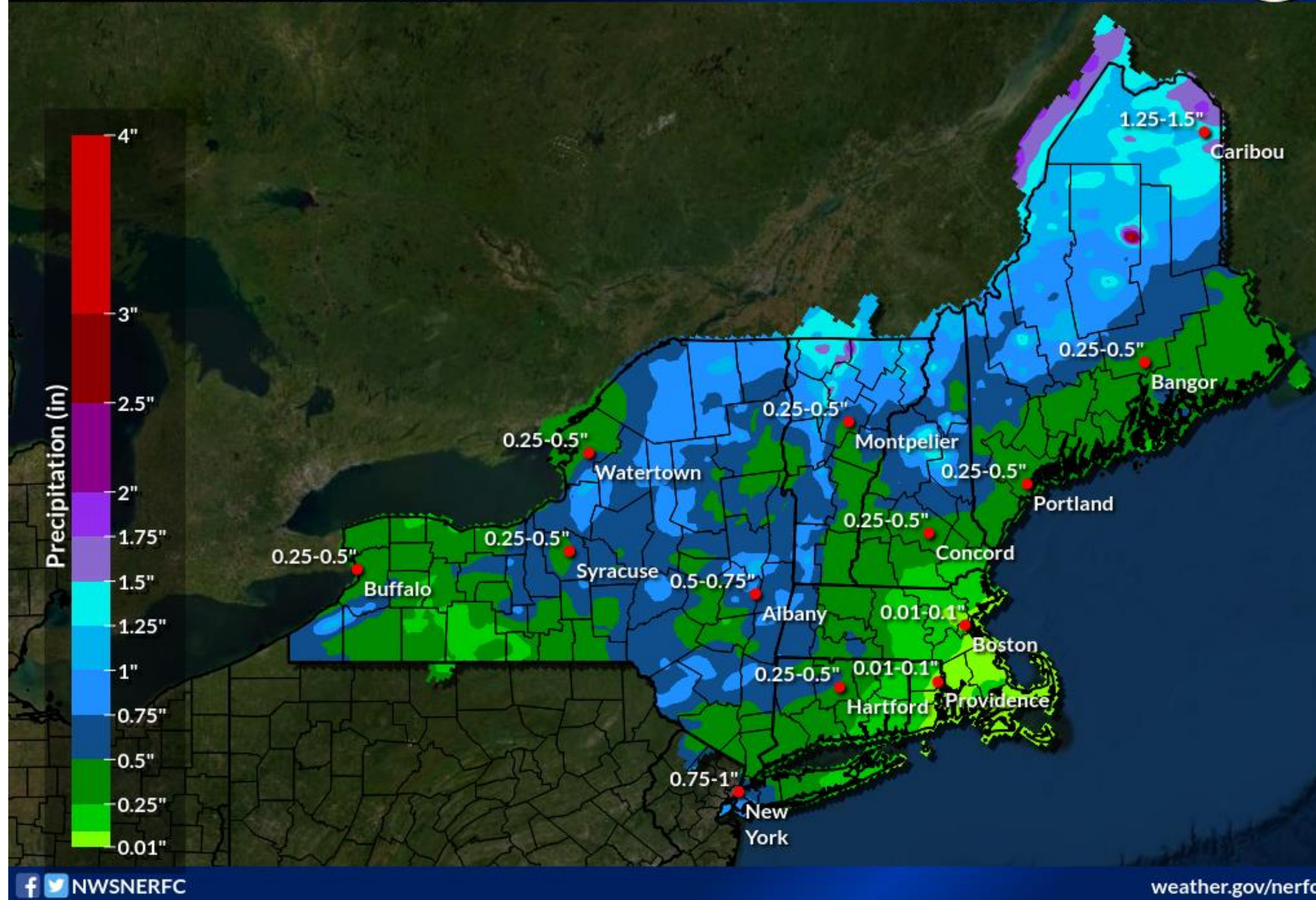
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7 Day WPC Precipitation Forecast

Valid Tue 8:00PM through Tue 8:00PM EDT

River Forecast Center
Northeast RFC

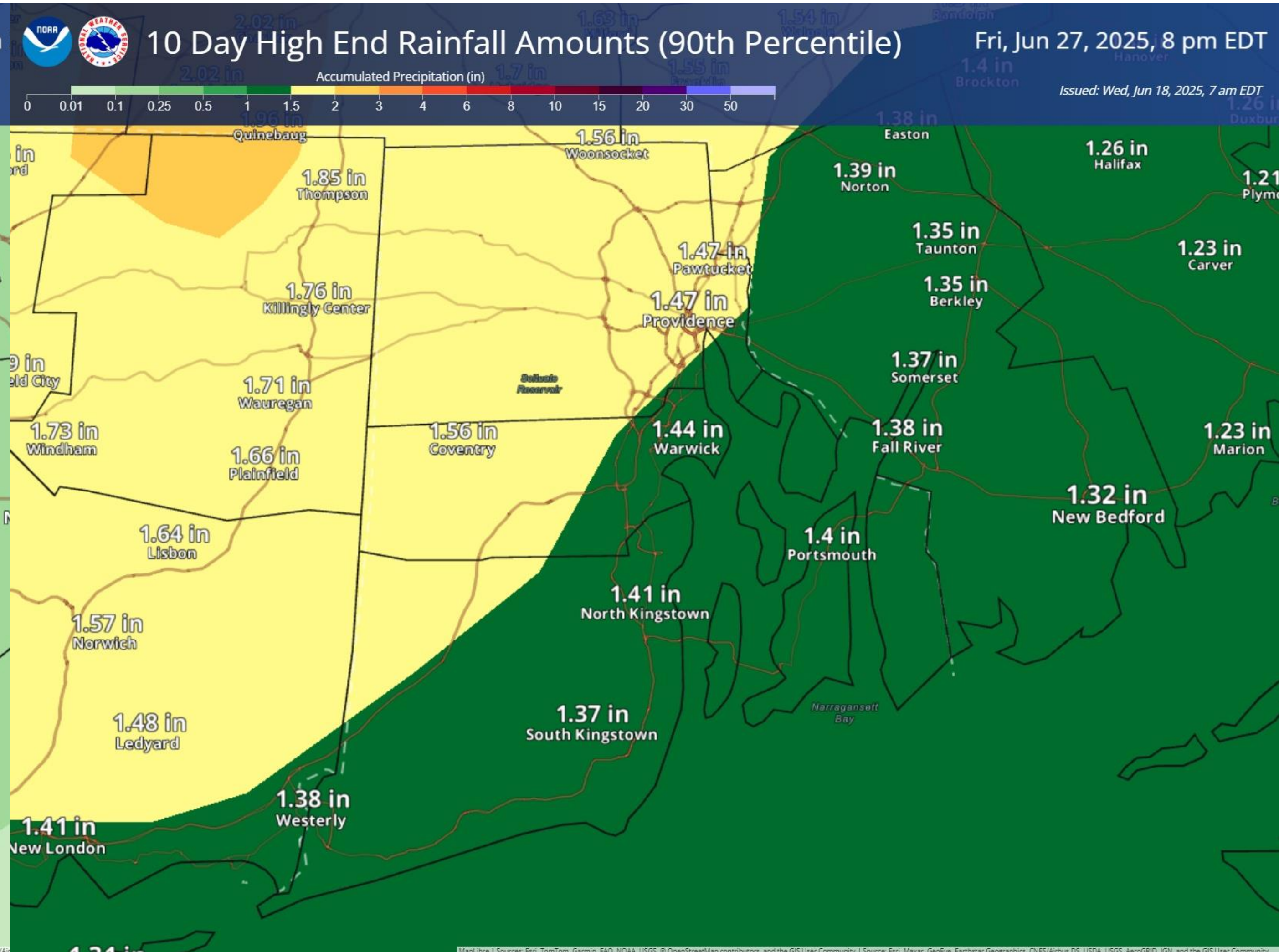
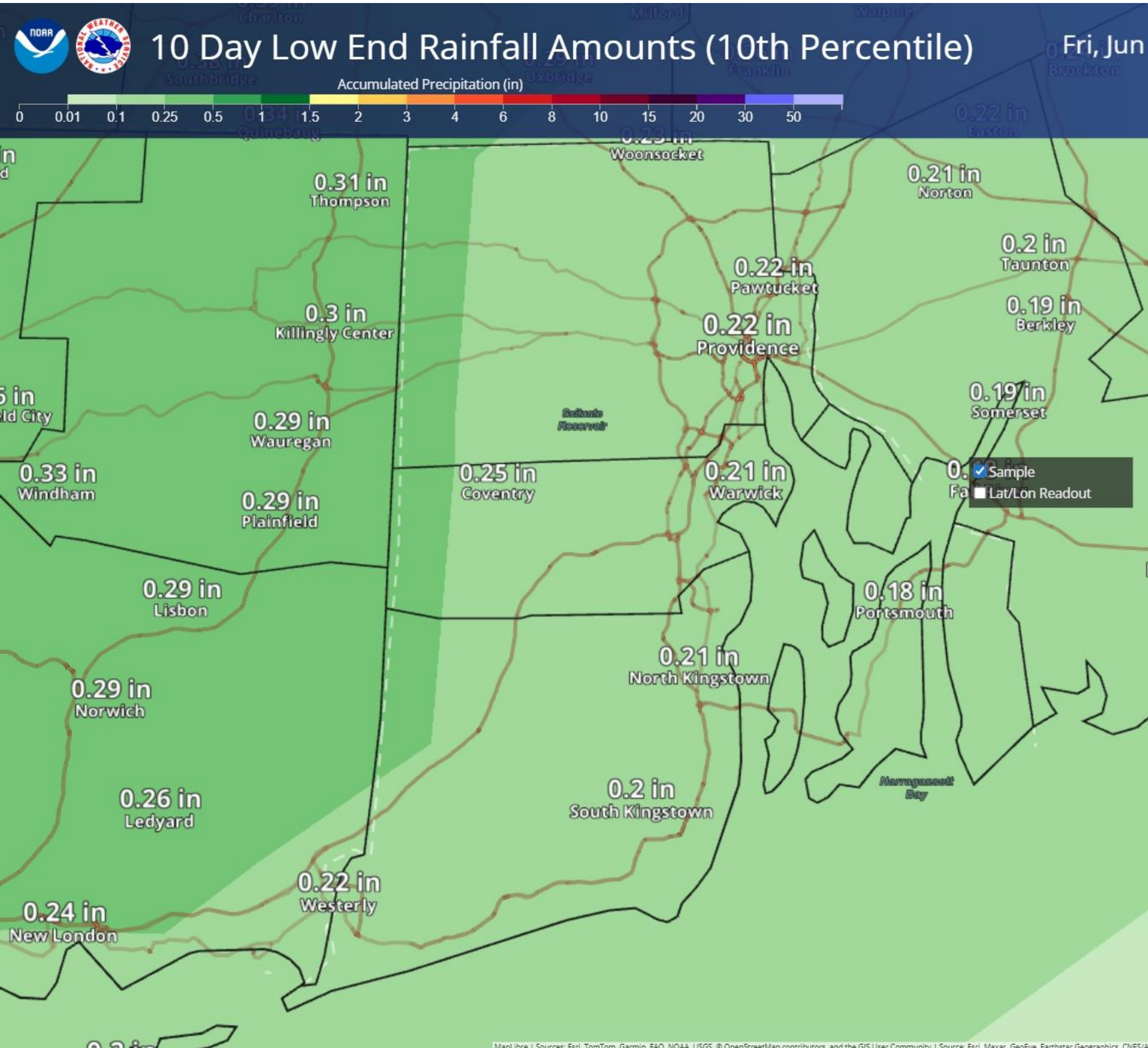
Issued Jun 17, 2025 8:05 PM EDT



Details

- *Up to 0.25" of rainfall possible through next Tuesday*
- *Locally higher amounts possible with any thunderstorm activity*
- *Saturday night/Sunday offers best opportunity for precipitation*

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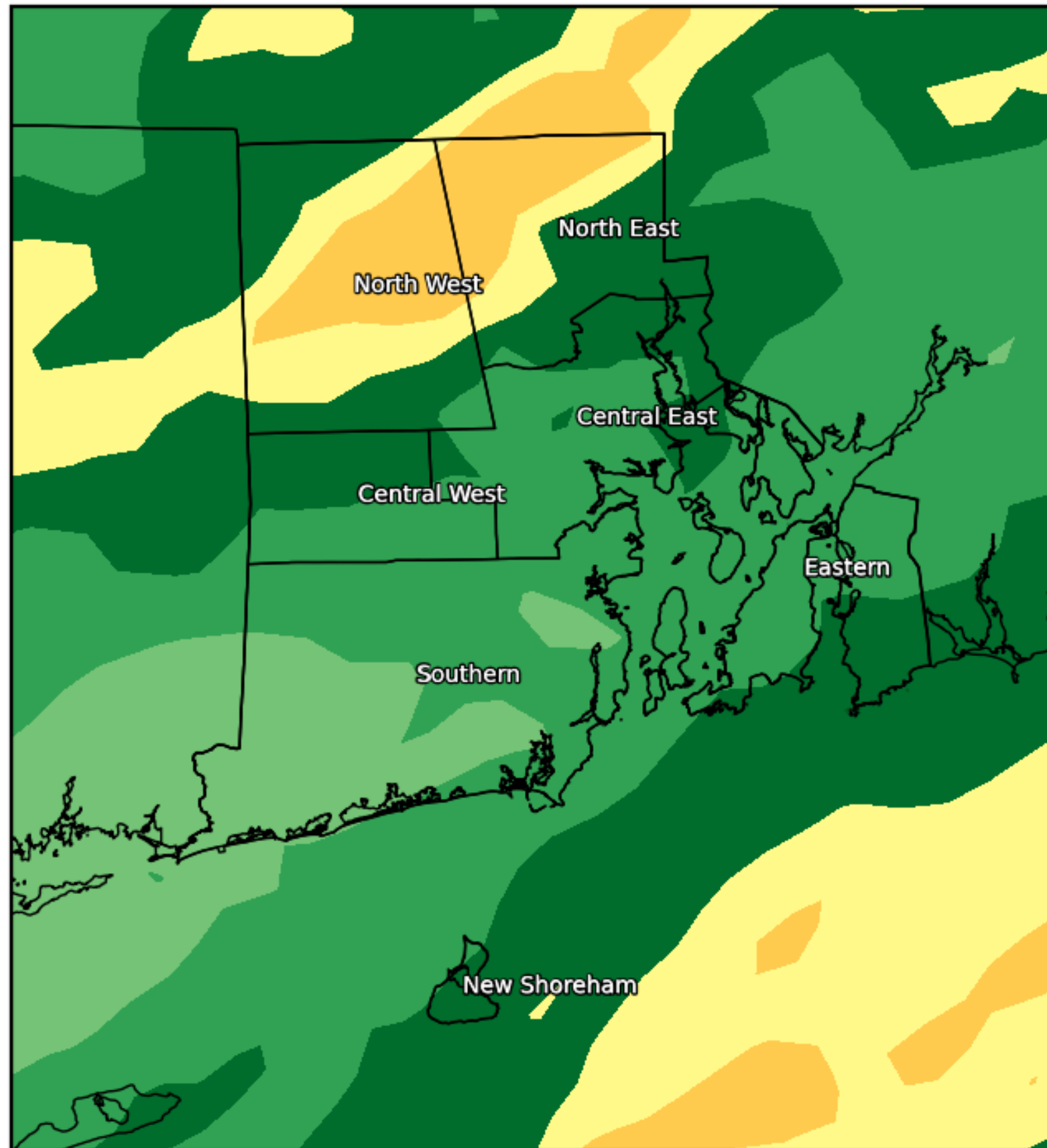
Jun Precipitation To Date

06/01-06/17

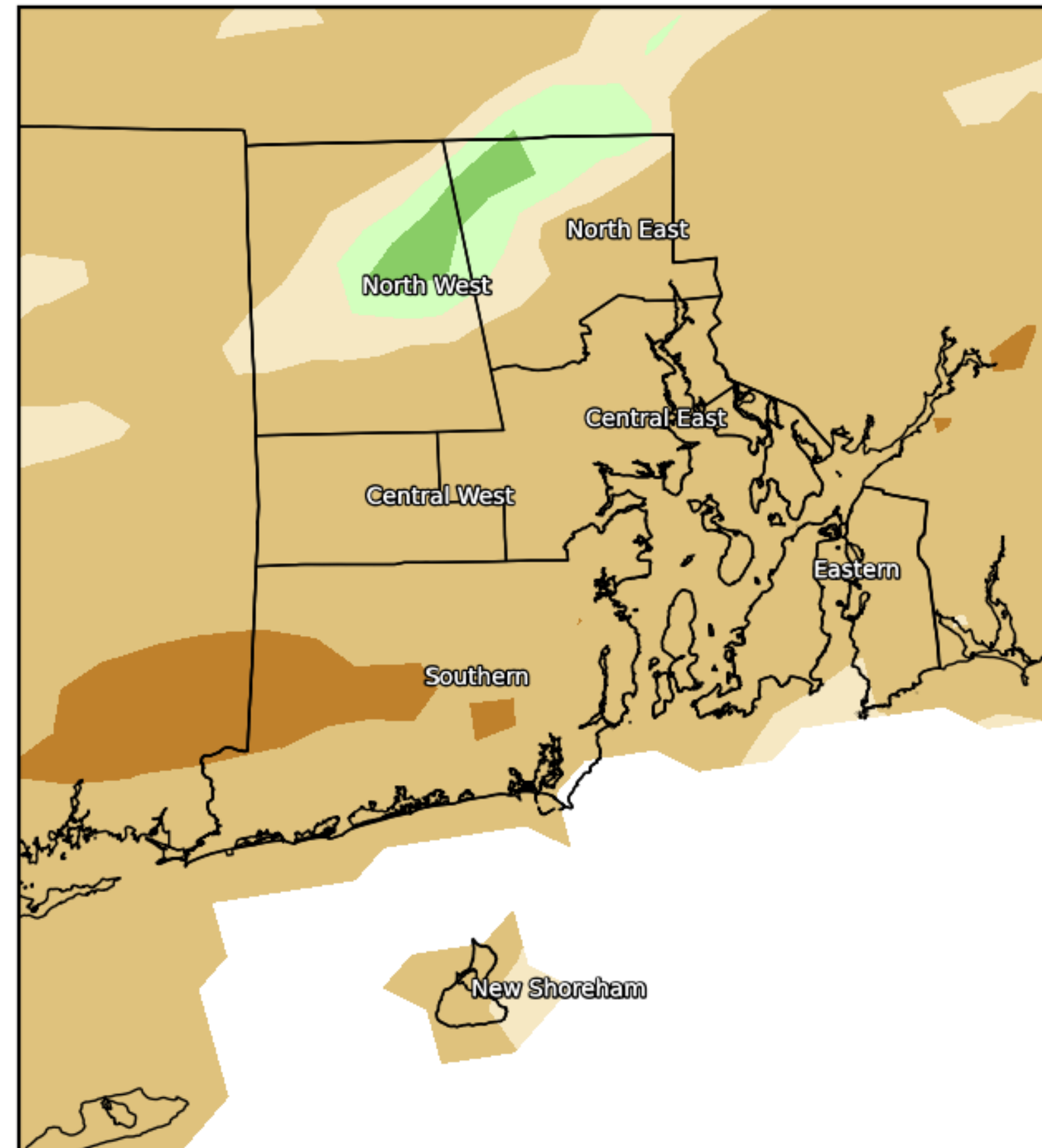


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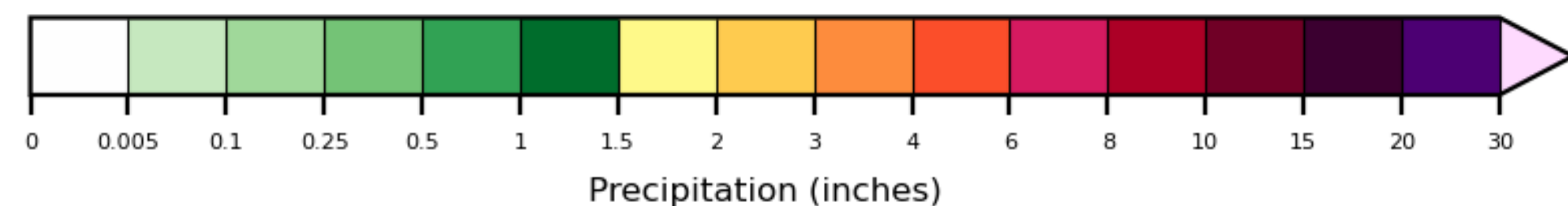
Accumulated Precipitation (inches)
June 01, 2025 to June 17, 2025



Precipitation Departure from Normal (inches)
June 01, 2025 to June 17, 2025



- ***0.5-3'' of Rain in June So Far***
- ***0.5-1.5'' below normal for most of the state***



CPC 8-14 Day Outlook

June 25 – July 1 2025



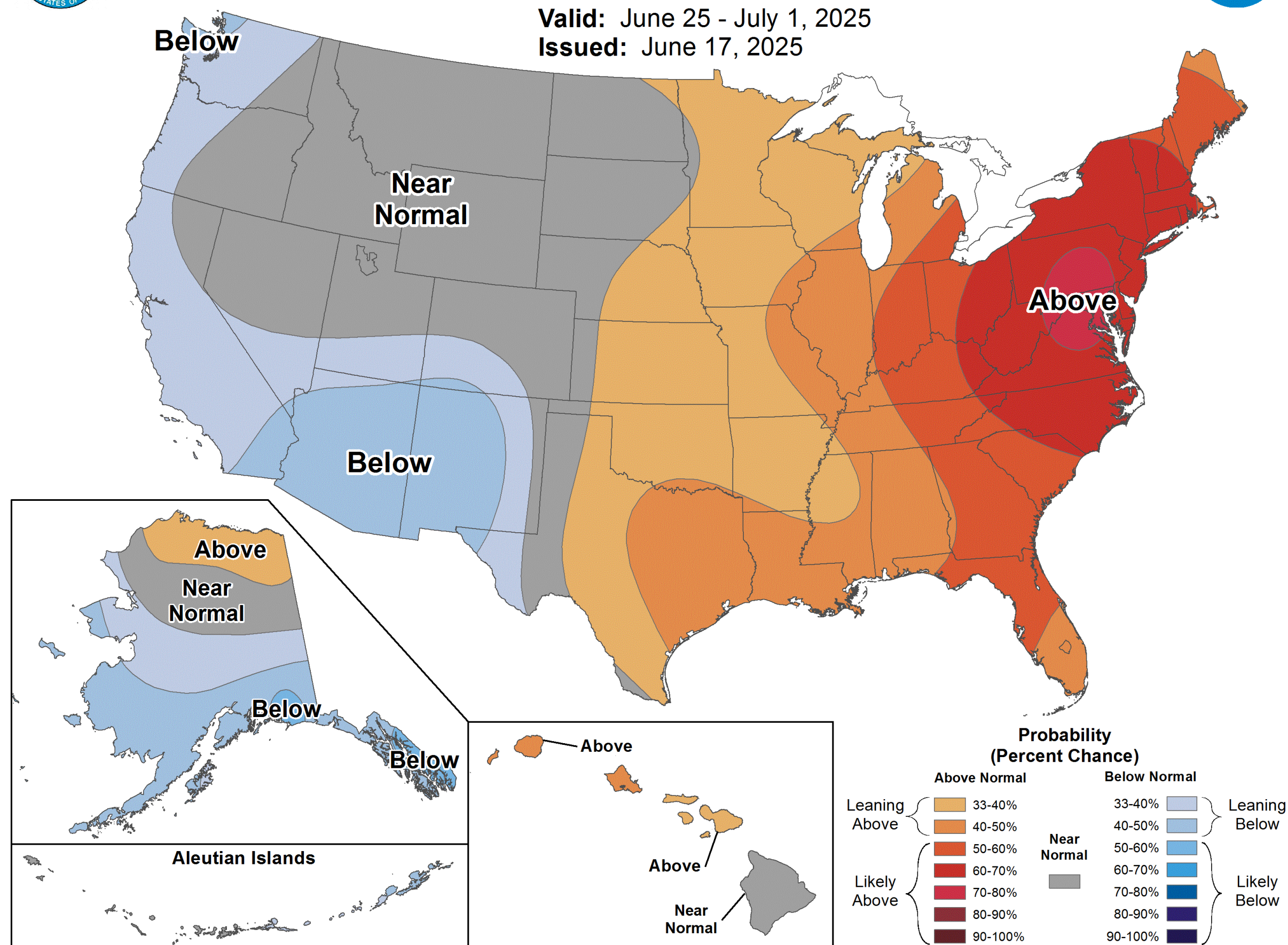
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8-14 Day Temperature Outlook



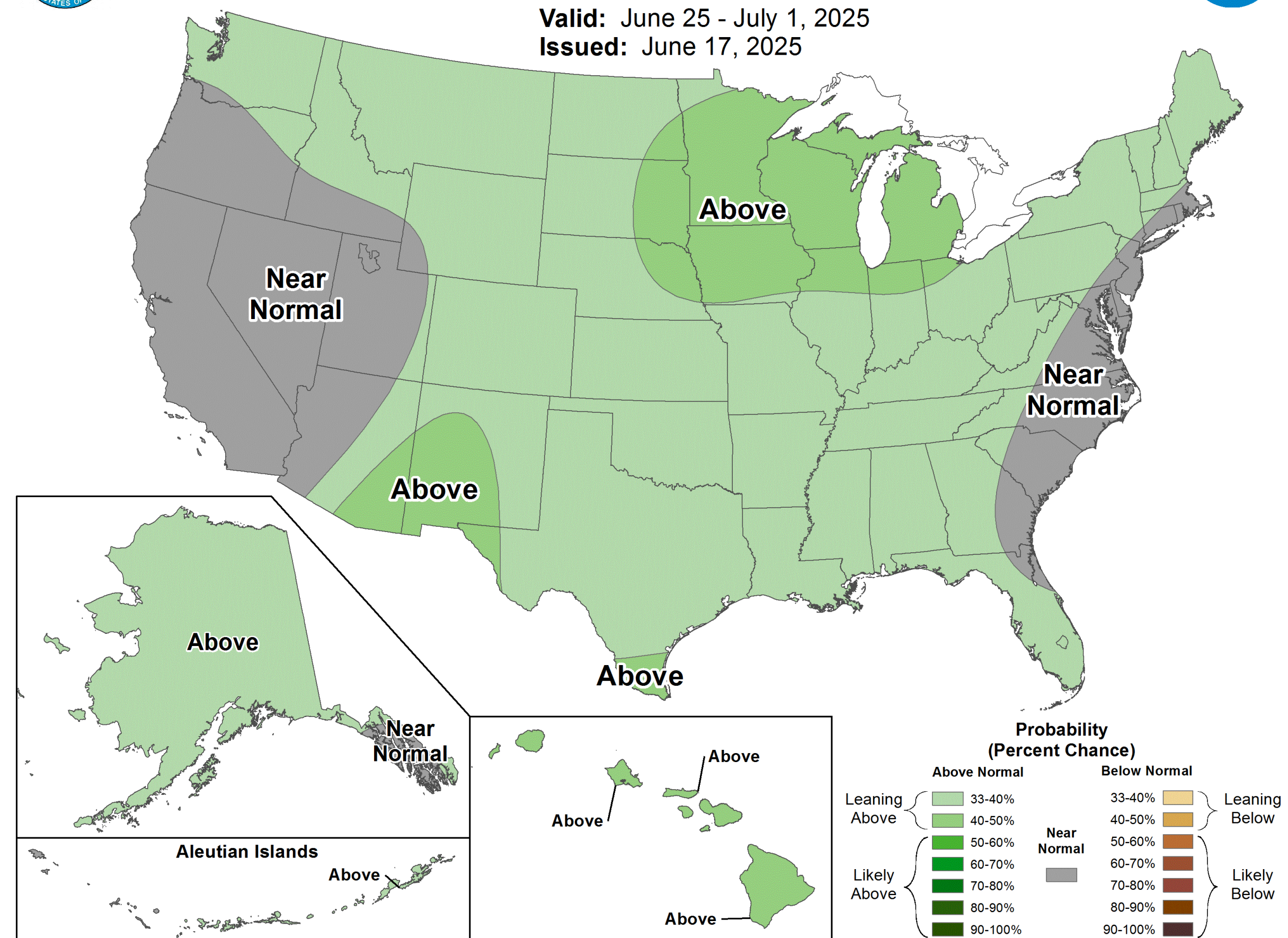
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Issued: June 17, 2025



8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook



Valid: June 25 - July 1, 2025
Issued: June 17, 2025



CPC 3-4 Week Outlook

June 28 - July 11, 2025



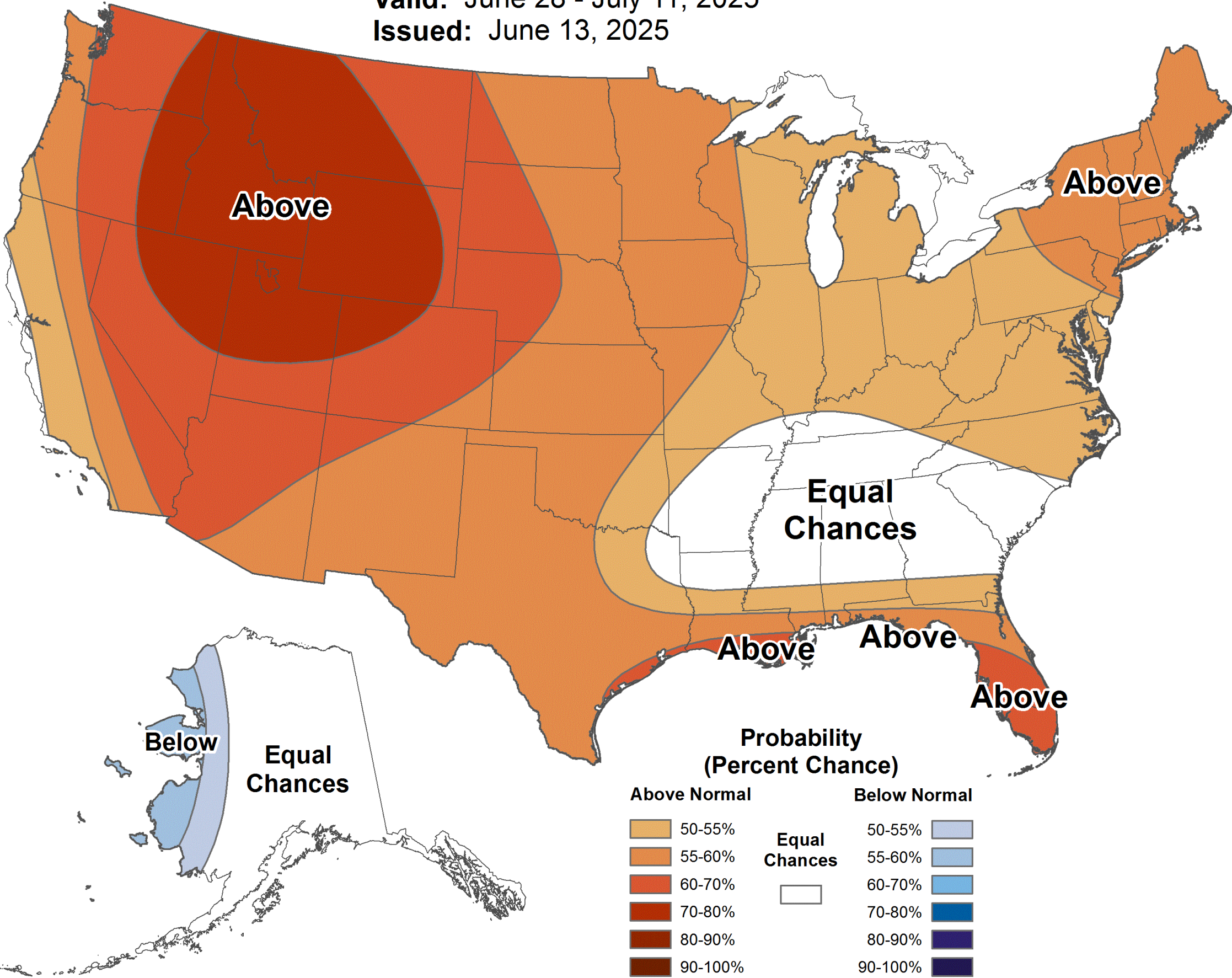
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Weeks 3-4 Temperature Outlook



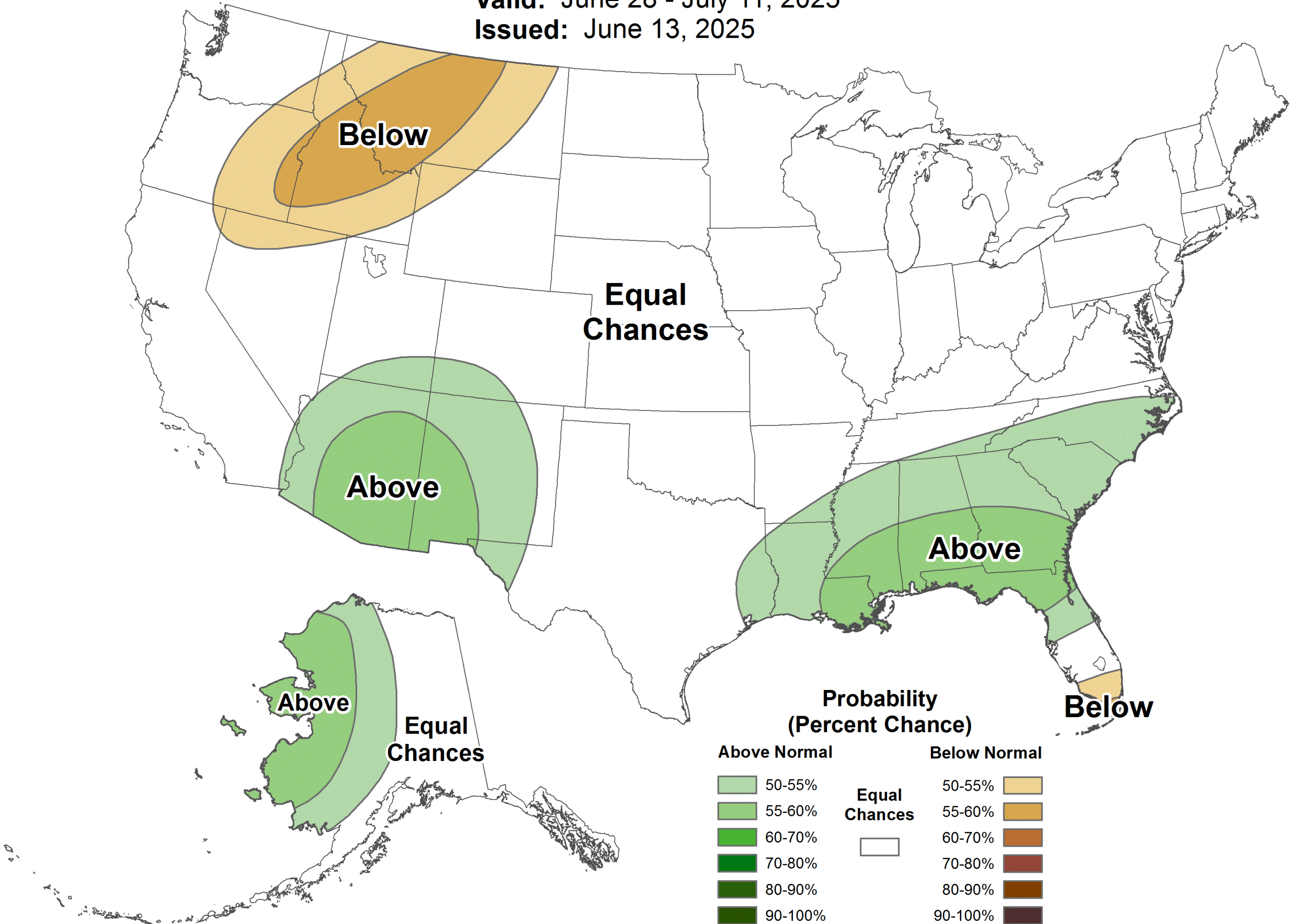
Valid: June 28 - July 11, 2025
Issued: June 13, 2025



Weeks 3-4 Precipitation Outlook



Valid: June 28 - July 11, 2025
Issued: June 13, 2025



CPC Outlook for July/August/September



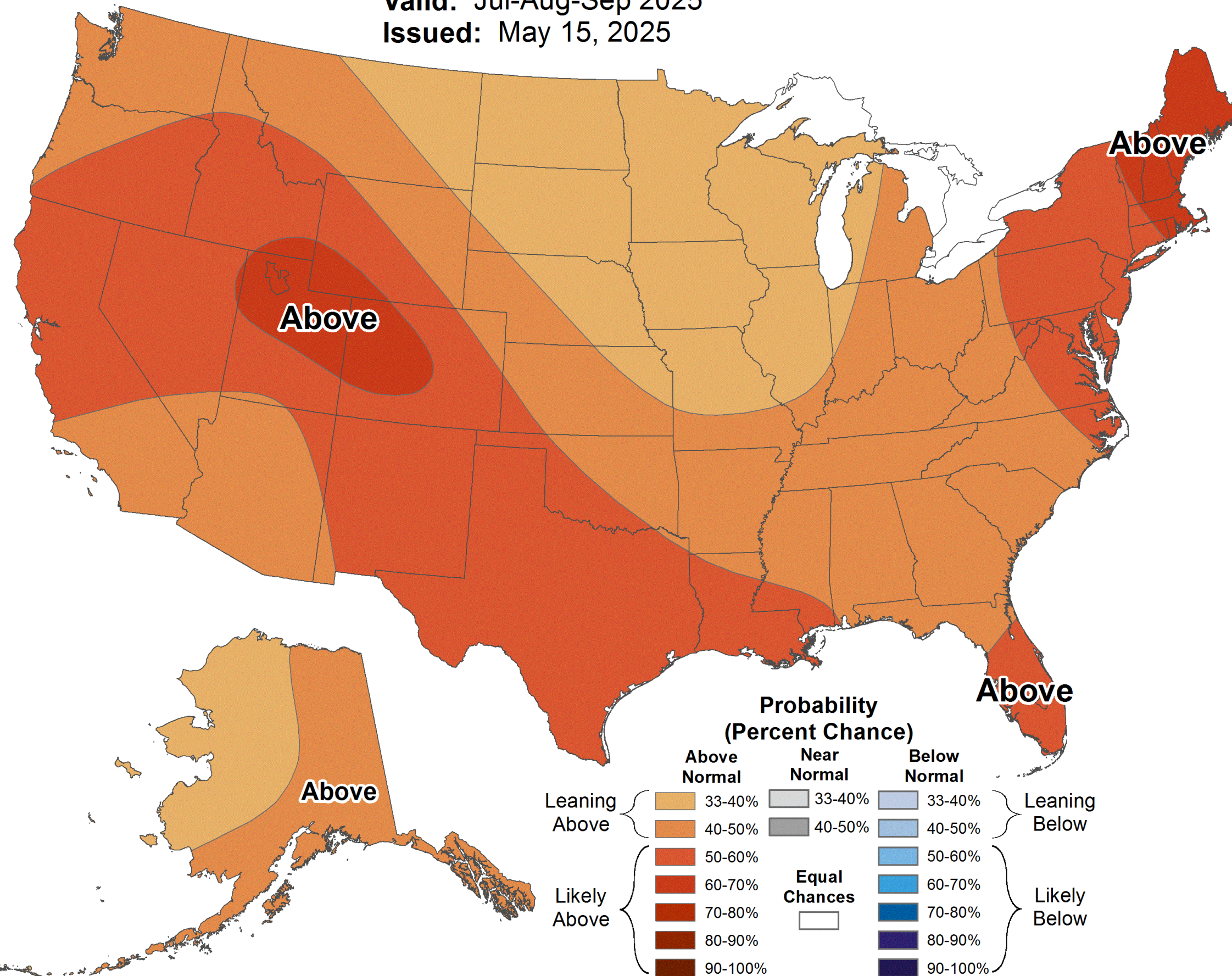
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Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Jul-Aug-Sep 2025
Issued: May 15, 2025



Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Jul-Aug-Sep 2025
Issued: May 15, 2025

