

Palmer Drought Severity Index.

Part 1 - Mission Connection

a. Product/Service Description. The Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) and U.S. Department of Agriculture's Joint Agricultural Weather Facility (JAWF) produces the Palmer Drought Severity Index chart. The index indicates long term conditions.

b. Purpose/Intended Use. The index is intended for long-term planning.

c. Audience. The audience is primarily agricultural and water supply managers.

d. Presentation Format. Graphics also posted in HTML on the CPC web site.

e. Feedback. Go to <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/comment-form.html>

Part 2 - Technical

a. Format and Science Basis. The index depicts prolonged (in months or years) abnormal dryness or wetness; responds slowly; changes little from week to week; and reflects long-term moisture runoff, recharge, and deep percolation, as well as evapotranspiration. JAWF assigns numerical index values for each National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) climate division.

JAWF uses 7 categories:

Index range Condition for NCDC climate divisional area

-4.0 or below extreme drought

-3.0 to -3.9 severe drought

-2.0 to -2.9 moderate drought

-1.9 to +1.9 near normal

+2.0 to +2.9 unusually moist

+3.0 to +3.9 very moist

+4.0 or above extremely moist

The latest Palmer Drought Severity Index is at

http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/regional_monitoring/palmer.gif

b. Availability. JAWF issues this product each Monday at around 12:00 noon Eastern local time. JAWF does not issue updates. They will issue corrections as needed. They are issued on the CPC web site at the URL listed in section a.

c. Other information

Valid Time. This product is valid for one week after issuance.

Product Expiration Time. This product expires with the next issuance

Creation Software. JAWF uses in-house National Center of Atmospheric Research (NCAR) graphics.