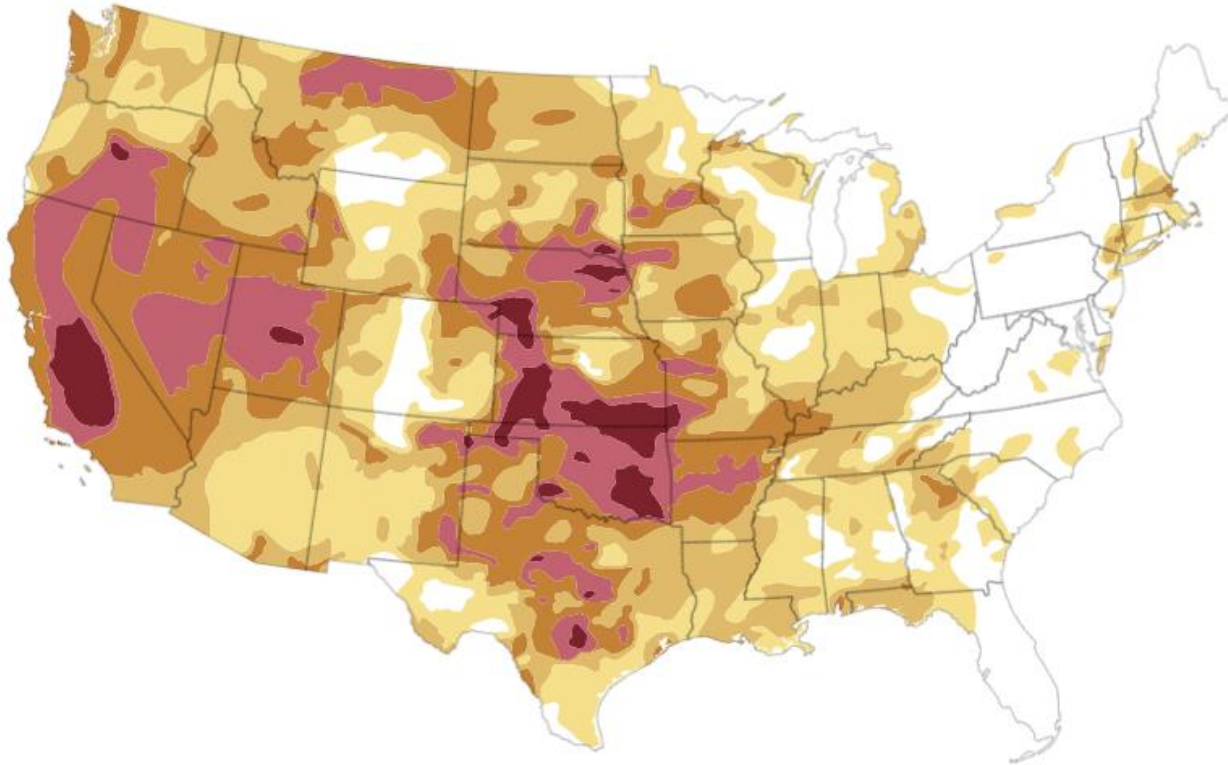


U.S. drought conditions

Abnormally dry Moderate drought Severe drought Extreme drought
Exceptional drought

Oct. 18, 2022



The U.S. Drought Monitor recently published this graphic showing the drought conditions in the United States. Because of California's wildfire season and large cities, these drought conditions are alarming.

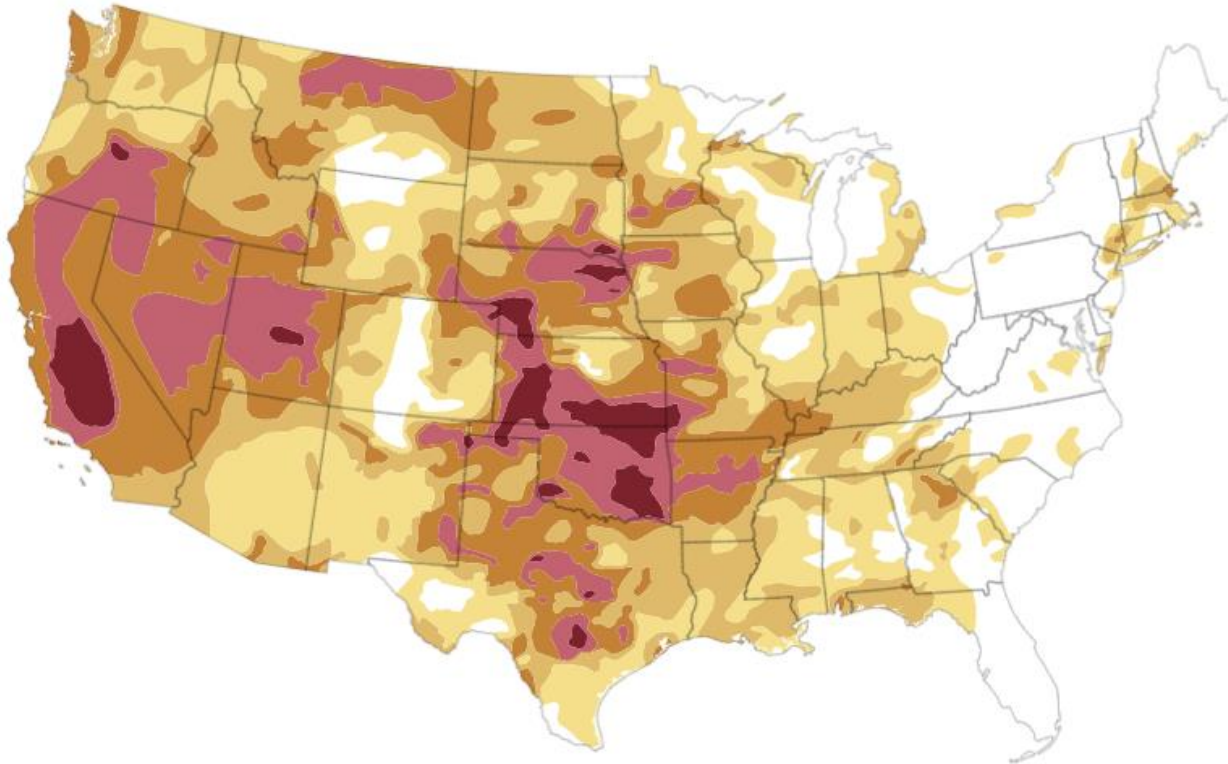
Chicago is fortunate to have access to Lake Michigan: one of the 5 Great Lakes that make up one of the largest freshwater systems on the planet! Lake Michigan and its four sister lakes contain nearly 5,500 cubic miles of water. Wow!

Let's say the Midwest U.S. and Canada are feeling extra generous and decide to share that water with the rest of the lower 48 states. If we were able to spread it out evenly would there be enough water to cover the lower 48 states? (3,119,884.69 mi²)

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Volume/area = height.

$$\frac{5,500 \text{ mi}^3}{3,119,884.69 \text{ mi}^2} = .00176289 \text{ mi}$$

$$.00176289 \text{ mi} \cdot 5280 \frac{\text{ft}}{\text{mi}} = 9.3 \text{ feet deep!}$$

For more information:

<https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.chicagowilderness.org/resource/collection/0625B160-07C5-482A-8BDF-D86381B9FC77/2007-Winter.pdf>

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