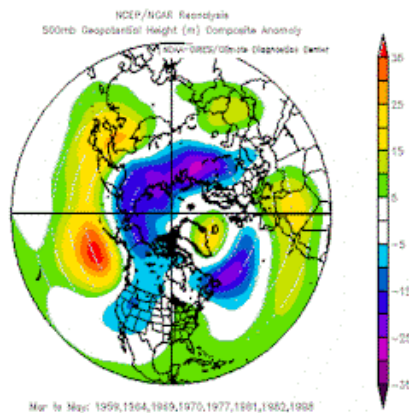


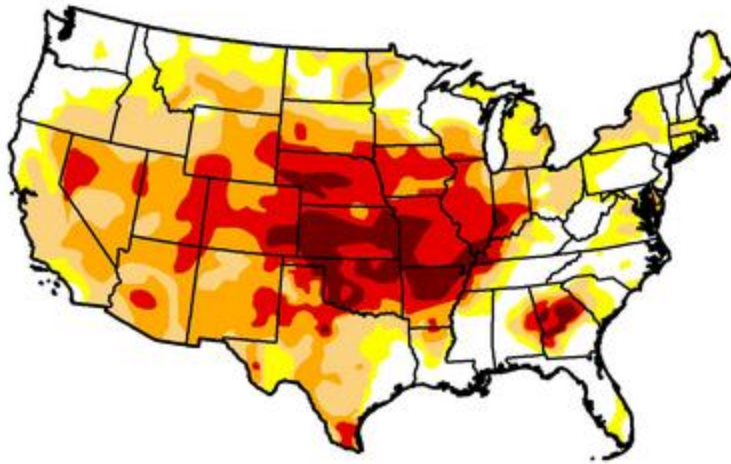
# *The Pennsylvania Observer*



## **FEATURED CLIMATE HIGHLIGHT**

*By: Adeline Chimel*

This past summer a terrible drought hit the Midwest affecting much of the Corn/Soybean Belt, but leaving Pennsylvania unscathed. Below is a map from the U.S. drought monitor at the end of August when the percentage of the country in an exceptional drought peaked.



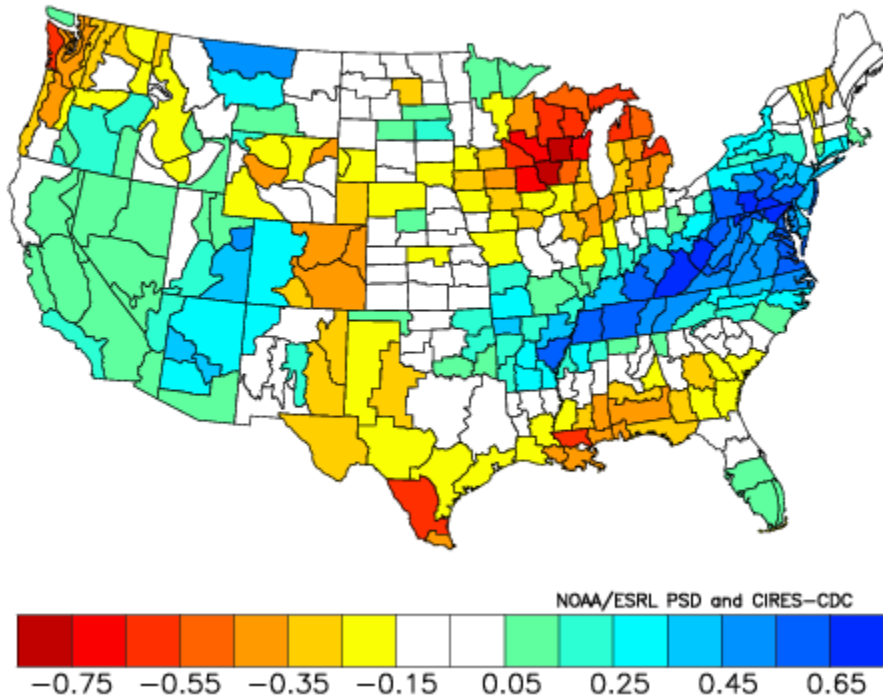
Week	Nothing	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
August 21, 2012	22.72	77.28	63.20	44.03	23.01	6.31

In contrast with the drought felt by the Corn Belt and the Midwest plains, Pennsylvania spent the growing season in midrange values of the Palmer Drought Index. Using the criteria of an average Pennsylvania summer and drought in the Midwest, eight similar years were identified and used to make a composite of the future winter precipitation (Dec-Mar). The data used in this analysis are the Palmer Drought Index data from the National Climatic Data Center

	Pennsylvania				Corn/Soybean Belt			
	May	June	July	August	May	June	July	August
1901	-0.99	-1.40	-1.79	-0.87	-1.76	-1.66	-2.30	-2.46
1914	-1.61	-1.82	-1.85	-2.02	-1.72	-1.60	-2.16	-1.71
1936	-0.75	-0.77	-1.39	-0.91	-2.04	-2.75	-3.71	-3.87
1954	-1.43	-1.74	-2.20	-1.18	-2.07	-2.01	-2.30	-1.72
1956	1.15	1.12	1.89	2.43	-2.01	-2.35	-1.99	-1.84
1964	-1.39	-1.60	-1.83	-2.05	-1.95	-2.01	-1.73	-1.44
1977	-1.26	-0.23	0.31	0.56	-2.67	-2.16	-1.51	0.68
1988	-0.71	-1.68	-1.26	-1.29	-2.09	-3.14	-3.21	-3.25
<b>2012</b>	<b>1.37</b>	<b>0.73</b>	<b>0.61</b>	<b>0.44</b>	<b>-1.41</b>	<b>-2.13</b>	<b>-2.92</b>	<b>-3.03</b>

-4 < Severe Drought < -3	-3 < Moderate Drought < -2	-2 < Mid-Range < 2	2 < Moderately Moist < 3
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**Composite Standardized Precipitation Anomalies**  
Dec to Mar 1901-02, 1914-15, 1936-37, 1954-55, 1956-57, 1964-65, 1977-78, 1988-89  
Versus 1895-2000 Longterm Average



This composite shows Pennsylvania will likely have a slightly above average precipitation winter.