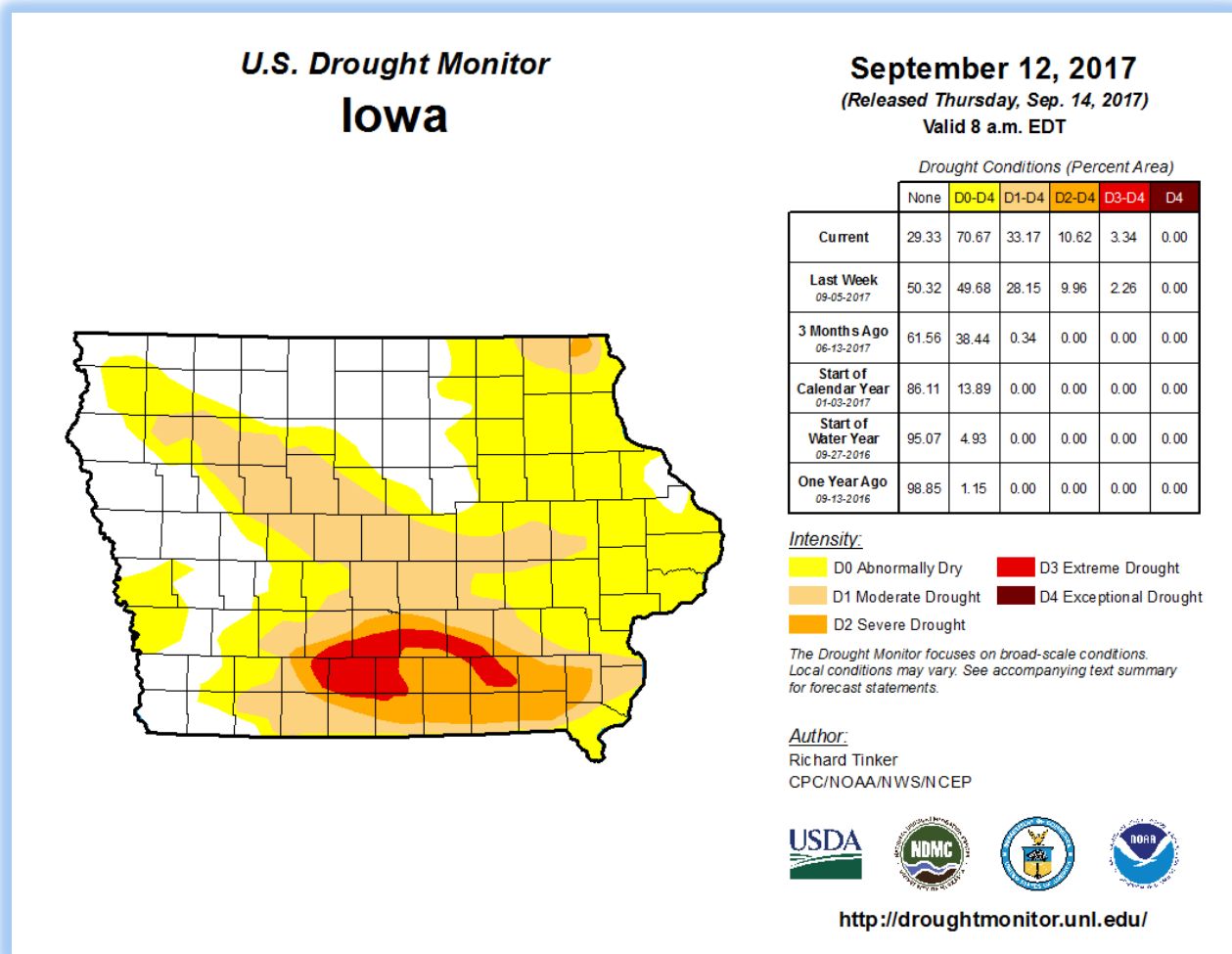


Extreme Drought Expands in Southern Iowa

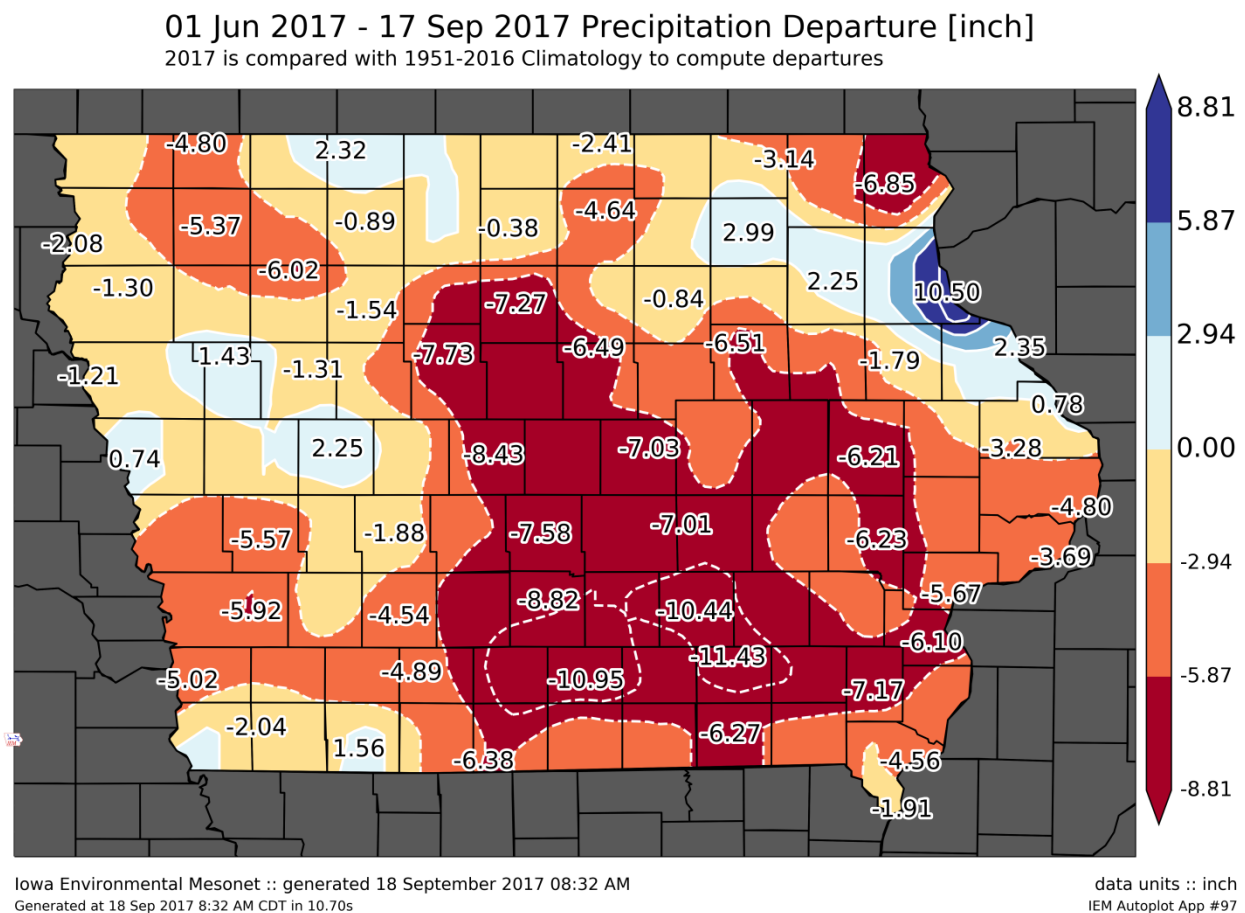
September 18th, 2017

Extreme drought conditions expanded in portions of southern Iowa where rainfall deficits have been impressive since the beginning of the growing season. The extreme area is encompassed by a larger severe drought area in southern Iowa. Moderate drought conditions extend north and northwest from the extreme conditions through portions of central into northwest Iowa. The image below is from the [U.S. Drought Monitor](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/) and indicates where the areas of the very dry conditions exist in southern Iowa.



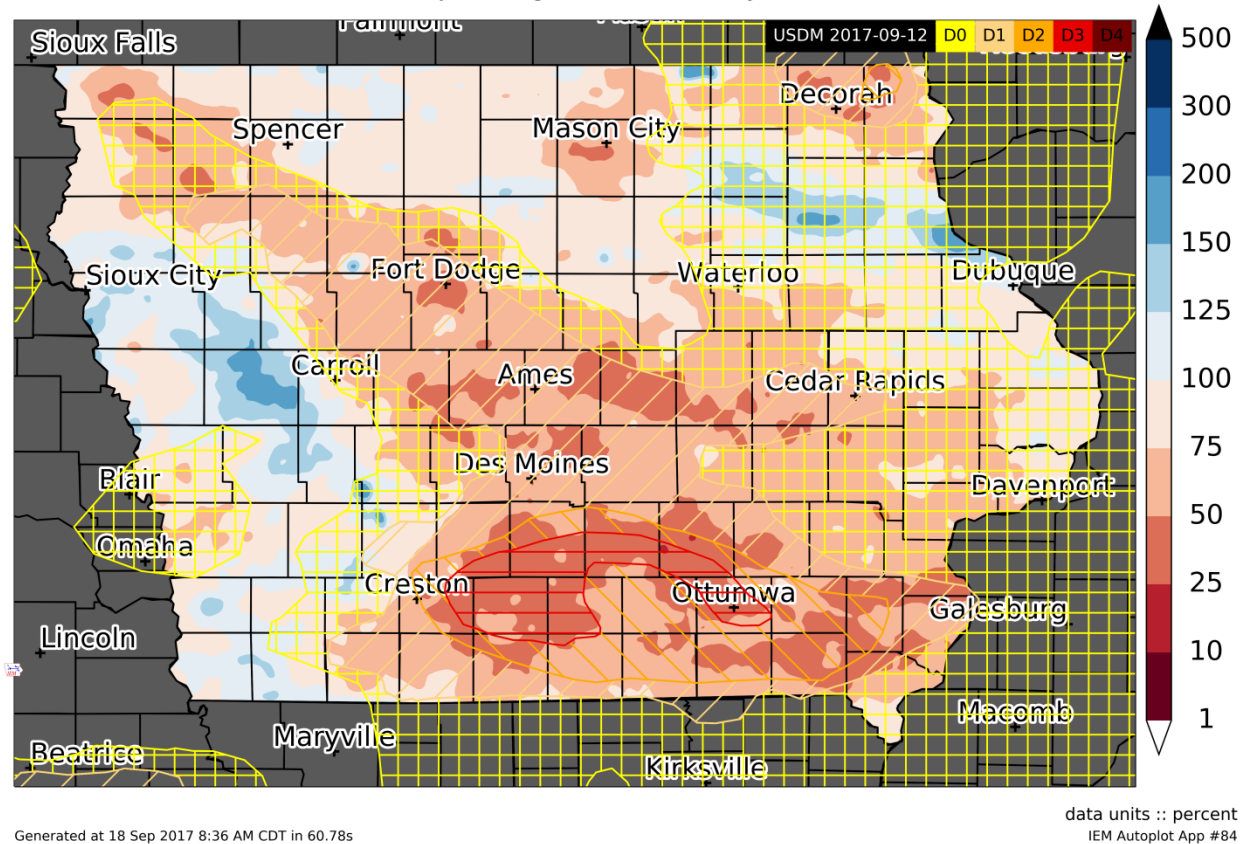
The severe to extreme drought areas are located mainly along the Highway 34 corridor in southern Iowa from near Creston to Mt. Pleasant and extends about 25 miles to the north and south of that corridor. There is still an expansive area of abnormally dry to moderate drought that encompasses the severe and extreme drought areas from northwest to southeast Iowa including much of central Iowa. While all these areas have been quite dry, the areas

highlighted by severe to extreme drought have seen impressive rainfall deficits since the beginning of summer. Many of these locations have rainfall deficits of 10 to 12 inches which is much less than 50 percent of normal precipitation for these areas. The first image below is the precipitation departure since June 1st, or essentially for most of the current growing season. The greatest deficits are located in the extreme drought areas from near Osceola, Chariton and Ottumwa with the Ottumwa Airport recording the largest departure of nearly 11.50" below normal which is only about 20 percent of normal for the growing season. This is on top of a longer term rainfall deficit that has been slowly building since early in 2016 across southeast Iowa.



The next image is the rainfall departure from average since June 1st with the drought categories overlaid. Departures from 25 to 50 percent of normal continue across the drought areas with a few locations seeing only 10 to 24 percent of normal since the beginning of summer.

MRMS Q3:: 1 Jun to 17 Sep 2017 (inclusive) Precip Percent of Average [%]
Data from NOAA MRMS Project, GaugeCorr and RadarOnly



Fortunately, temperatures have been at or below normal for July and especially August. This has slowed the evaporation rates. However, the ground and vegetation remains parched in the severe to extreme drought areas. This has led to burn bans in a few locations including Wapello County.

In the [outlook](#) over the next one to two weeks, temperatures are expected to be near to above normal in week one with near normal or slightly cooler than normal in week two. There are indications of a more active pattern into the next couple of weeks which should increase chances of precipitation in Iowa.

Contact:

Craig Cogil – craig.cogil@noaa.gov

The final two images were generated via the [Iowa Environmental Mesonet](#).