

# Climate Tools for Water Managers

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## Tracking the Monsoon

Source: National Weather Service, Tucson, AZ

Access: [www.wrh.noaa.gov/twc/monsoon/monsoon.php](http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/twc/monsoon/monsoon.php)

The National Weather Service's (NWS) new monsoon tracker website contains myriad maps, charts, and statistics, in addition to detailed explanations of the mechanics and impacts of the North American monsoon. The monsoon statistics, dewpoint data, and monsoon rainfall tabs provide detailed information for southern Arizona.

"What is the Monsoon?" steps the user through an illustrated definition of the monsoon, explanations of surges from the Gulf of California, interannual variability, upper-level lows, atmospheric circulation patterns that produce flash flooding, and monsoon safety advice.

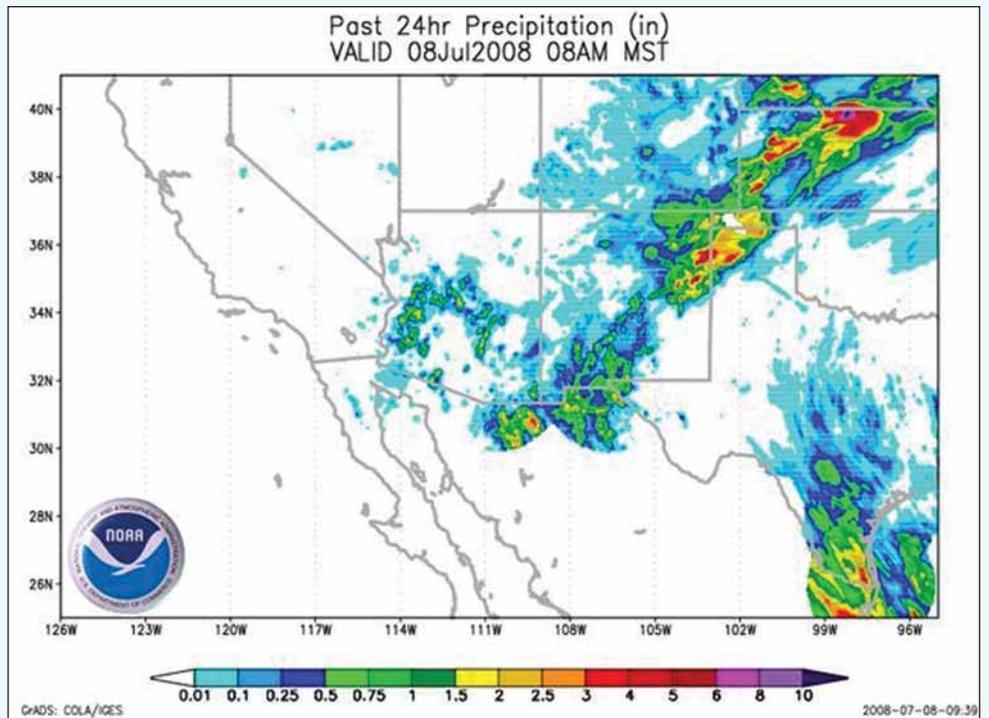
The "Tracking the Monsoon" tabs will appeal to monsoon information hounds across the entire Southwest. This section features animated maps of winds, precipitable water, and mid-troposphere circulation. The site also tracks estimated rainfall for the most recent 1 to 24 hours (see map, upper right), and provides upper air plots that highlight potential atmospheric instability for locations in three southwestern states. The NWS seeks your feedback and recommendations of additional features to enhance the usefulness of this new resource.

## U.S. Rain Days and Dry Days

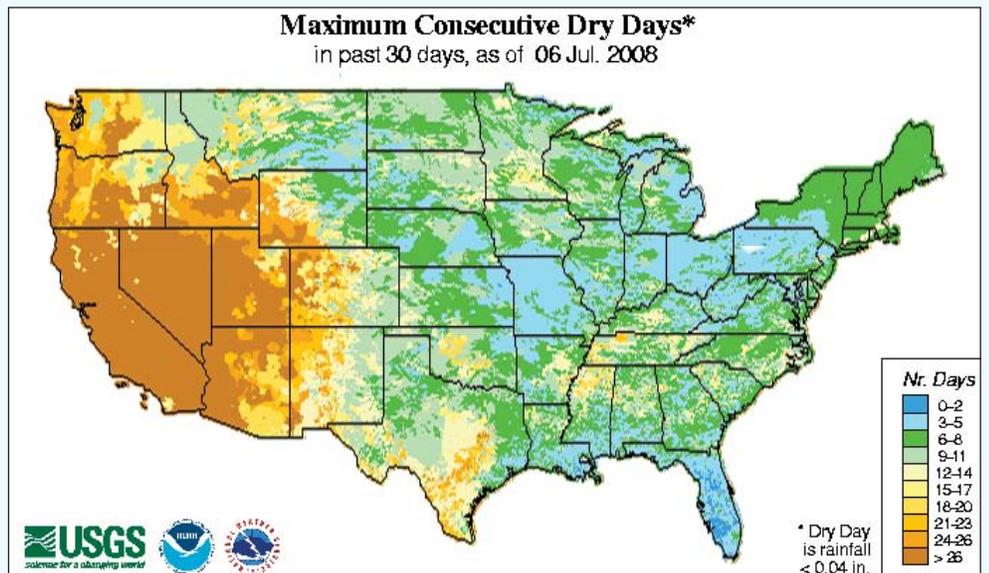
Source: National Drought Mitigation Center.

Access: [drought.unl.edu/monitor/raindry/precipitationdays.html](http://drought.unl.edu/monitor/raindry/precipitationdays.html)

Information products produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) analyze drought from many sources and perspectives, ranging



The past 24-hour rainfall map from the National Weather Service shows monsoon moisture moving north from Mexico into the Southwest on July 8, 2008.



The National Drought Mitigation Center's map of consecutive dry days in the past 30 days shows considerable dryness in the West as of early July.

from numerous drought indices to a national-scale website for reporting and tracking impacts of drought.

The rain and dry days page shows five maps, each depicting a different number of wet or dry days, using a threshold of less than 0.04 inches for a dry day and more than 0.04 inches for a rain day. Users may find maps of maximum consecutive dry days

(see map above) and number of days since last rain particularly useful as indices of growing demand for water.

Data are updated weekly from the National Weather Service's experimental precipitation analysis web pages ([www.srh.noaa.gov/rfashare/precip\\_analysis\\_new.php](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/rfashare/precip_analysis_new.php)). The USGS Eros Data Center computes the variables displayed on this website.