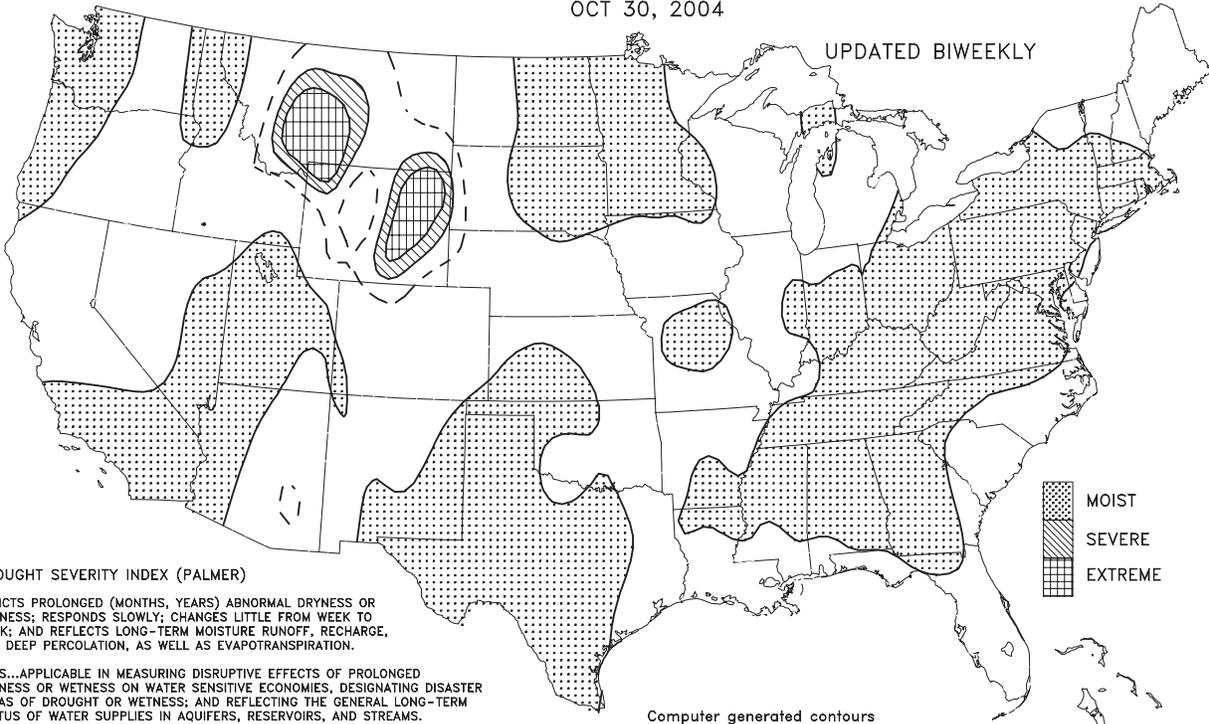


DROUGHT SEVERITY
LONG TERM PALMER
OCT 30, 2004

UPDATED BIWEEKLY



DROUGHT SEVERITY INDEX (PALMER)

DEPICTS PROLONGED (MONTHS, 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.

USES...APPLICABLE IN MEASURING DISRUPTIVE EFFECTS OF PROLONGED DRYNESS OR WETNESS ON WATER SENSITIVE ECONOMIES, DESIGNATING DISASTER AREAS OF DROUGHT OR WETNESS; AND REFLECTING THE GENERAL LONG-TERM STATUS OF WATER SUPPLIES IN AQUIFERS, RESERVOIRS, AND STREAMS.

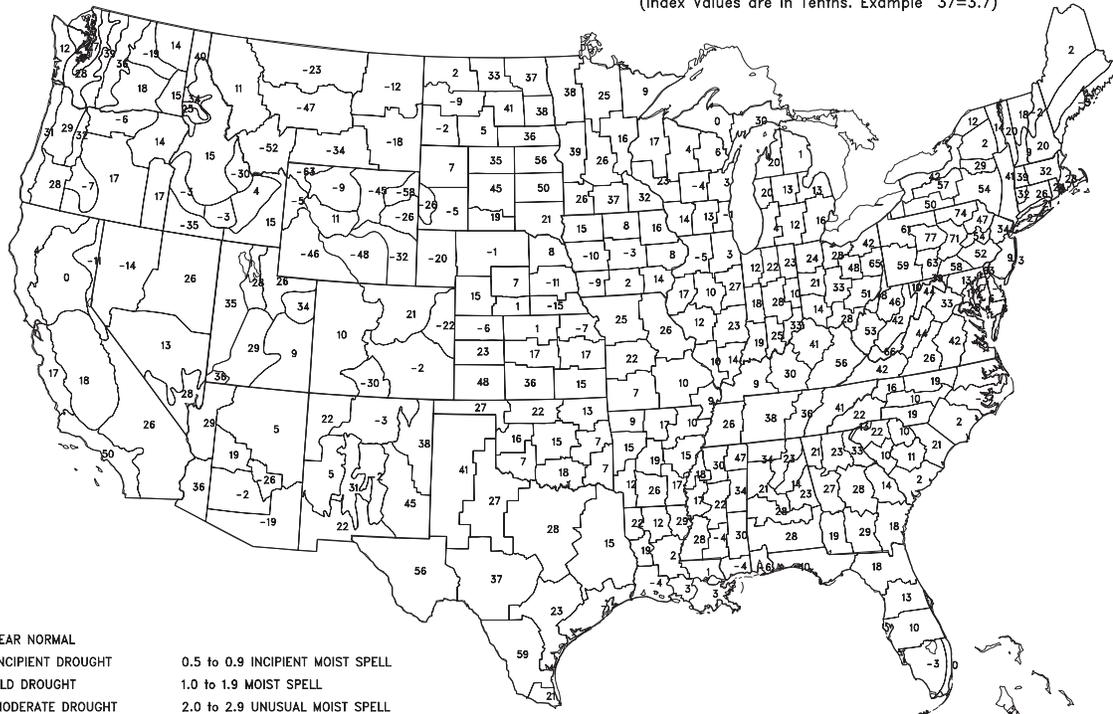
LIMITATIONS...IS NOT GENERALLY INDICATIVE OF SHORT-TERM (FEW WEEKS) STATUS OF DROUGHT OR WETNESS SUCH AS FREQUENTLY AFFECTS CROPS AND FIELD OPERATIONS (THIS IS INDICATED BY THE CROP MOISTURE INDEX).

Computer generated contours
Based on preliminary reports

NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY

Drought Severity Index by Division
OCT 30, 2004
(Long Term Palmer)

(Index Values are in Tenths. Example 37=3.7)



- 0.4 to -0.4 NEAR NORMAL
- 0.5 to -0.9 INCIPIENT DROUGHT
- 1.0 to -1.9 MILD DROUGHT
- 2.0 to -2.9 MODERATE DROUGHT
- 3.0 to -3.9 SEVERE DROUGHT
- BELOW -4.0 EXTREME DROUGHT

- 0.5 to 0.9 INCIPIENT MOIST SPELL
- 1.0 to 1.9 MOIST SPELL
- 2.0 to 2.9 UNUSUAL MOIST SPELL
- 3.0 to 3.9 VERY MOIST SPELL
- ABOVE 4.0 EXTREME MOIST SPELL

NOAA/USDA JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY
Based on preliminary data