



The MWN Newsletter

*All the Weather You Need for
Memphis and the Mid-South*

AUTUMN !!

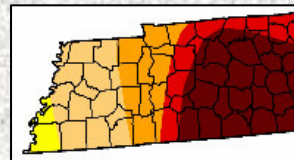
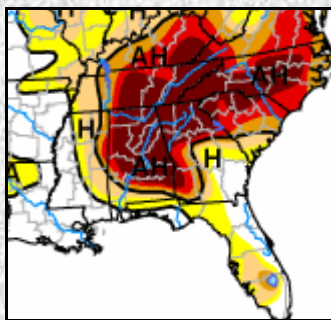
Welcome to the second edition of **The MWN Newsletter!** This week in Memphis has been a transition week as we head full force into autumn – perhaps my favorite season. Gone are the hot humid days of summer, replaced by cool crisp mornings and pleasant afternoons. Of course, you have to get from one to the other, and this week served as that transition, dominated by an upper level low pressure system that brought low clouds, rain, intermittent breezes, and very cool temperatures. Just in time, however, we have a beautiful fall weekend on tap leading into what looks to be a very pleasant week ahead.

DEFINITION: UPPER-LEVEL LOW

The past week was dominated by an upper-level low pressure system, a term frequently shortened to “upper level low,” that is used often by those in the weather business, but rarely described. An upper level low is simply a low pressure system that takes up residence well into the atmosphere, usually at around 15-25,000 feet. These lows can be very difficult to forecast as their track tends to be random. They are best detected and tracked by satellite.

Usually upper-level systems are moved along by the jet stream and only affect an area for a day or so. In these cases, their presence often serves to enhance the weather patterns at the surface, such as making a strong thunderstorm complex into a severe one. In some cases, however, an upper-level low can get *cut-off* from the predominant pattern aloft and just meander around an area. This is exactly what happened this week over the Mid-South – an upper-level low was cut-off from the main west to east flow as the jet stream shifted north of the area. The result was a low that affected our region for 4-5 days. There was no severe weather caused by this low, but it did keep clouds, light to moderate rain, and cool temps over the Mid-South all week. Now that it has been picked back up by the jet stream, the area is back under the control of high pressure aloft.

DROUGHT ABATES SLIGHTLY



Recent rains have helped the drought situation across the Mid-South a little, but as of today, Memphis still has a rain deficit of almost 16” year-to-date. As you can see from the drought maps above, the most severe drought conditions exist over the interior southeastern U.S., while extreme southwest Tennessee is now in the “abnormally dry” range, as opposed to “severe drought” that we were under just a few weeks ago. While the dry fall weather expected in the upcoming week is nice for most of us, it won’t help pull the Mid-South out of the drought conditions we have experienced the past several months.

THANK YOU!

I hope you have enjoyed reading this edition of **The MWN Newsletter!** While there is no official release schedule, I hope to be able to bring you a new edition every month or so. Of course, if there is something noteworthy weather-wise, I’ll be sure to keep you posted. **The MWN Newsletter** is sent via e-mail to subscribers, as well as posted on the web at www.MemphisWeather.Net. Feel free to pass **The MWN Newsletter** on to your friends, family, and colleagues, giving them an opportunity to receive this great information too!

Don’t forget to visit <http://www.MemphisWeather.Net> soon and often! You are the reason that the site exists and I appreciate *each and every* visit.

Blue skies,
Erik Proseus

MWN Webmaster and Forecaster