

Last year, there was flooding. This year it was a drought. Throw in some locusts and plague in there and you'd have some real problems. The shipping season on the Mississippi wasn't anything to write home about, says Ken Pehler, vice president of Brennan Marine in La Crosse. In fact, says Pehler, one might call it anything but good

[\(Click for Audio\)](#)

Just a few more tows to come through the port of La Crosse before the shipping season shuts down on the upper Mississippi. Farther south, a lack of water from this year's drought could slow shipping to a crawl, says Pehler, possible leading to billions of dollars in losses to the US economy.