North Carolina Drought Update

Created By: North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council
www.ncdrought.org
NORTH CAROLINA CLIMATEOFFICE
climate.ncsu.edu @NCSCO
NC STATE

For the assessment period ending **Apr. 1, 2025**

*From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the **NC DMAC***

The Main Takeaway

Moderate Drought (D1) expanded in parts of northern and central North Carolina, including the Triad, where less than two inches of rain fell in the month of March.

This Week's Summary

As we wait for the first round of April showers later this weekend, it's clear to see the toll that a warm and dry March took on us. Streamflow levels have fallen below normal in most areas, large wildfires have been burning on either end of the state, and with the growing season upon us, farmers continue to see winter crops such as small grains lagging behind their normal growth rates.

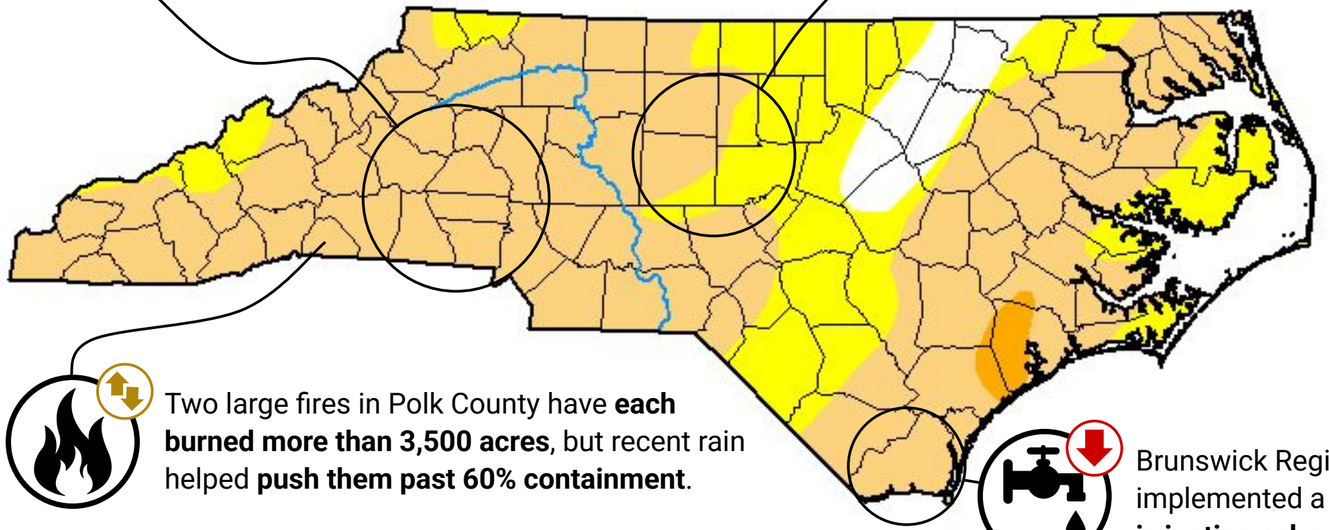
March's Driest Areas

Danbury had only 0.67 inches all month in its driest March on record. **Lenoir** (0.74"), **Yadkinville** (0.79"), and **King** (0.85") also had less than an inch for the month.

For your local drought status, visit **www.ncdrought.org**

The Catawba-Wateree basin has entered Stage 0 of its Low Inflow Protocol, which requires **more conservative operations for reservoirs**.

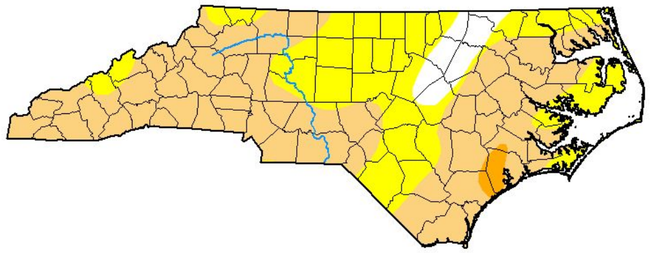
Streamflows along the Deep River in Guilford, Randolph, and Chatham counties have **fallen below the historical 10th percentile** over the past 7 days.



Two large fires in Polk County have **each burned more than 3,500 acres**, but recent rain helped **push them past 60% containment**.

Brunswick Regional Water & Sewer has implemented a **mandatory outdoor irrigation schedule** to conserve water.

Last Week's Drought Status

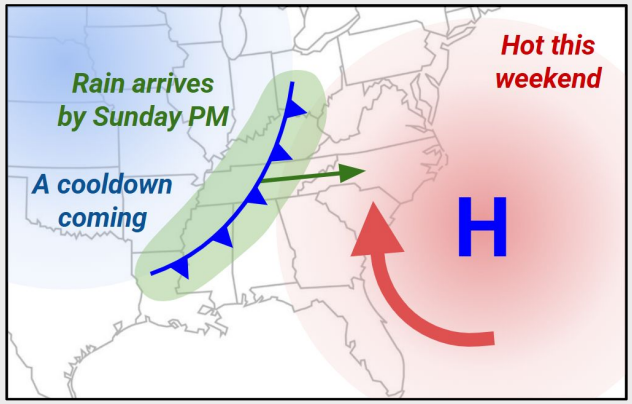


Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	25.65%	-8.17%
D1: Moderate Drought	67.87%	+8.17%
D2: Severe Drought	1.34%	0.00%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%

Short-Range Outlook for North Carolina

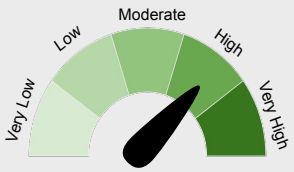
Week 1:
April 3 to 9, 2025



Hot, then Cold
Warm air surging northward across our state will see high temperatures approach 90 degrees from Friday through the weekend. However, a cold front moving in on Sunday night will bring a big cooldown, with temperatures near freezing on Wednesday morning.

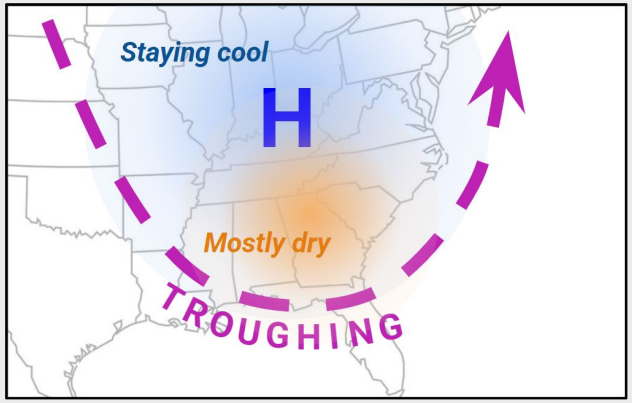
Statewide Rain on Monday
Aside from scattered showers on Thursday, it will be a dry start to the week. Our best rain chances will come with the cold frontal passage Sunday night into Monday. Totals should range from a half inch to 2 inches, with gusty winds possible on Sunday too.

Forecast Confidence



Major models are in good agreement about the timing of the cold frontal passage early Monday and average rain amounts near an inch.

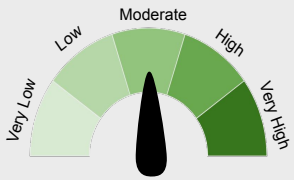
Week 2:
April 10 to 16, 2025



A Cooler Week
With jet stream troughing over the eastern half of the country and Canadian high pressure diving south, we'll remain in a cool pattern through the middle of the month, with temperatures possibly moderating back to near-normal levels by the end of this week.

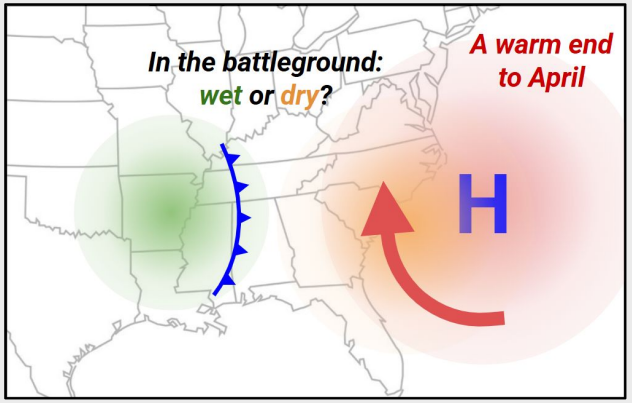
Likely Dry This Week
The week may begin with some rain next Thursday as a low pressure system passes through, but as high pressure builds in, we'll see a drier pattern in place for much of the week. Some models hint at a possible offshore low developing later in the week.

Forecast Confidence



Support is strong for overall cooler weather this week, but less clear about how long it will last and how the pattern will then evolve.

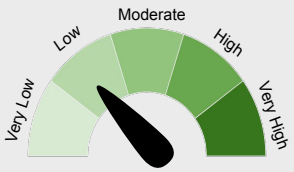
Weeks 3-4:
April 17 to 30, 2025



Warmth Settles In
The return of offshore high-pressure – a late spring and summer staple – should spell warm and humid weather for most of late April. Our normal highs at this time of year are in the mid-70s with lows in the 50s, well past our average last spring freeze date.

An Uncertain Outlook
Offshore high pressure should usher in moisture to fuel pop-up showers, but it could act as a roadblock to frontal systems that might bring more widespread rain. That makes our late-month precip. outlook a toss-up between being wet, dry, or near normal.

Forecast Confidence



There's better confidence in warmer temperatures, but limited useful guidance on how frequent April showers will be later this month.

This infographic is based on forecast and outlook guidance from the National Weather Service.
For more information, visit **www.weather.gov**.

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