



Drought Information Statement for Central SC and Central Savannah River Area of GA

Valid April 09, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Columbia, SC

Contact Information: nws.columbia@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated May 07, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/cae/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
- Rainfall continues to be below normal for the water year (began Oct. 1st) for the entire area.
- Drought conditions have worsened over the past couple of months, with some areas of Extreme Drought (D3) moving into the forecast area.
- No rainfall is forecast for the next 7 days and there's increased chances for precipitation to be below normal for the month of April.



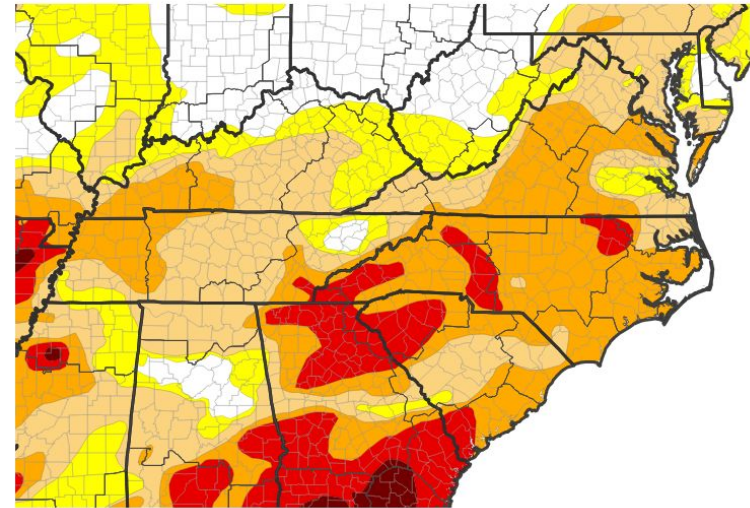


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Central SC and Central Savannah River Area of GA

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):**
 - None
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):**
 - GA: Lincoln
 - SC: McCormick, Newberry
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):**
 - GA: Lincoln, McDuffie, Columbia, Burke
 - SC: McCormick, Edgefield, Saluda, Newberry, Fairfield, Lancaster, Kershaw, Chesterfield, Bamberg, Orangeburg, Clarendon
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought):**
 - GA: McDuffie, Columbia, Richmond, Burke
 - SC: McCormick, Aiken, Edgefield, Saluda, Newberry, Fairfield, Kershaw, Richland, Lexington, Barnwell, Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg, Sumter, Lee, Clarendon
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry):**
 - GA: Burke
 - SC: Aiken, Barnwell

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 04/07/26

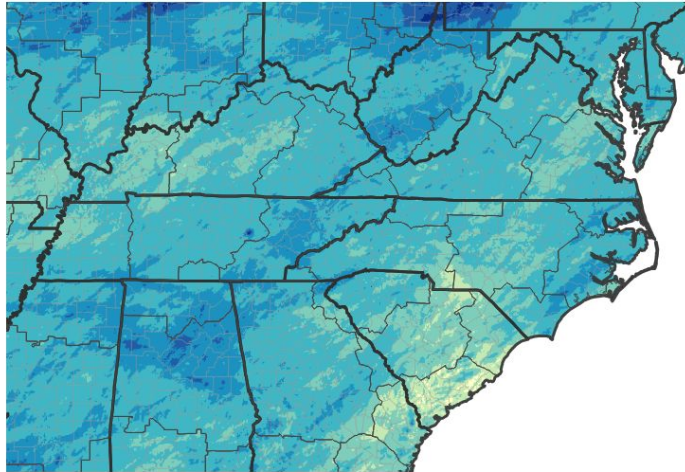




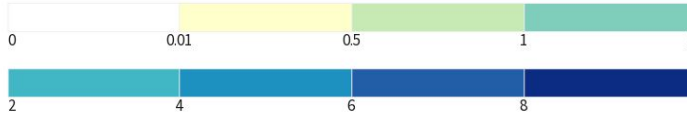
Precipitation

Over the last 30 days, the area has generally received between 0.5” and 2” of rainfall, which is well below average (25%-75% of normal).

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

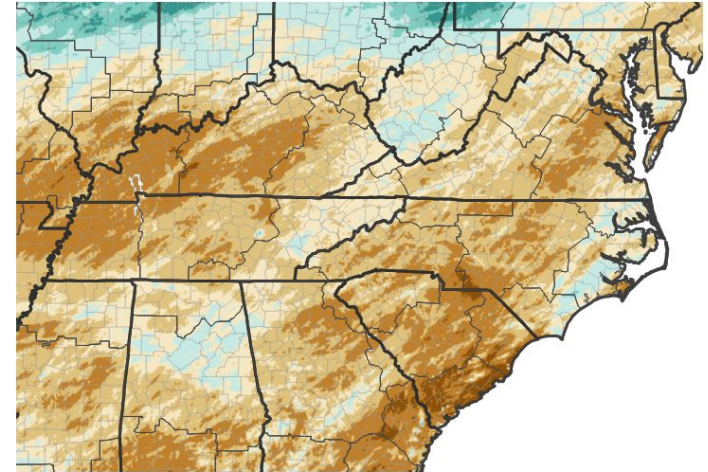


Inches of Precipitation

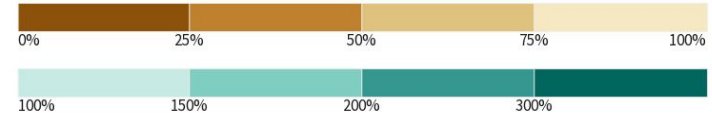


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/09/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/09/26





Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- Many of the rivers in the area are running much below to all-time low for this time of year. (Source: USGS National Water Dashboard)

Agricultural Impacts

- GA Counties: 3/13/26 - Drought conditions has significantly reduced forage availability for livestock, farmers were short on harvests and have a quarter to a third less hay, and farmers have not been able to plant forage crops. (Source: Drought Impact Reporter)

Fire Hazard Impacts

- 4/7/26 - South Carolina Forestry Commission (SCFC) urged caution when conducting outdoor burns due to high fire danger, prompting a Red Flag Fire Alert to be issued.
- 4/9/26 - SCFC lifted the above alert for 20 counties on 4/9 and the rest scheduled to be lifted 4/10.
- 4/9/26 - A brushfire closed a road near Trenton, SC - reported by multiple news outlets. Smoke plume could be seen on satellite imagery.

Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time.

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

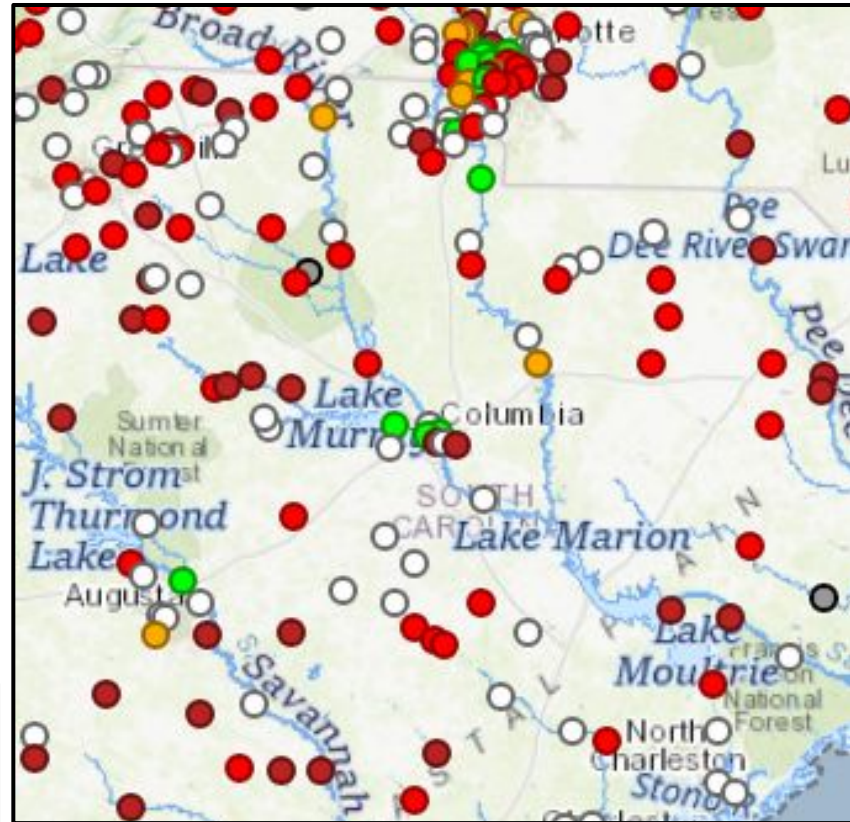




Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- With the lack of rainfall across the forecast area, most rivers are running much below normal for this time of year.
- Several locations are at an all time low for this date (4/9).

Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	Not-ranked
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		



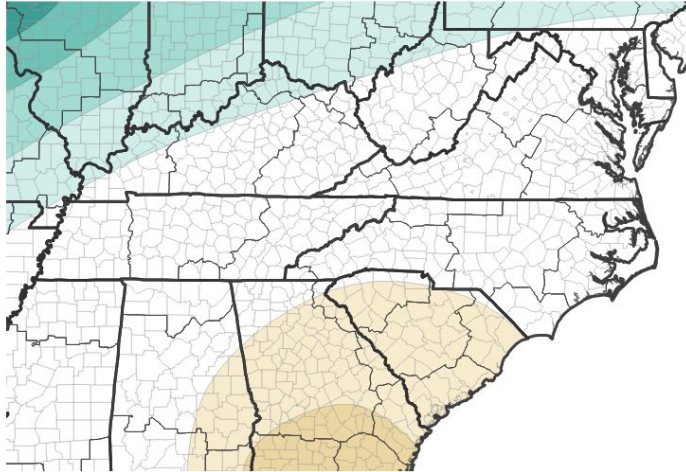


Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

For the month of April, there is an increased chance of below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures.

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for April 1, 2026–April 30, 2026



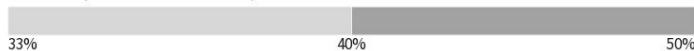
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



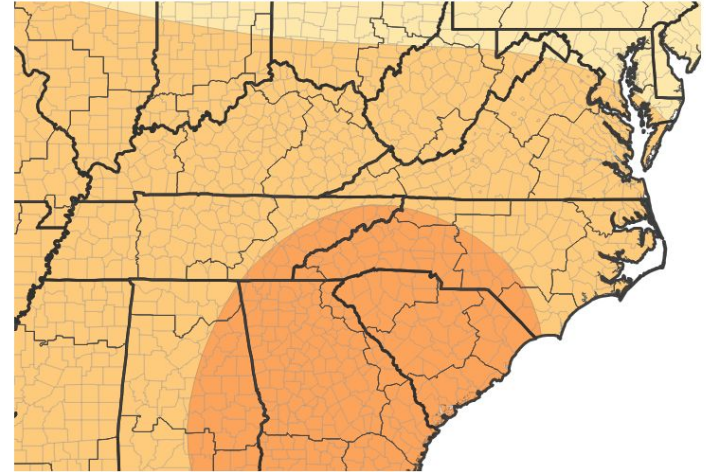
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 03/31/26

Monthly Temperature Outlook for April 1, 2026–April 30, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 03/31/26



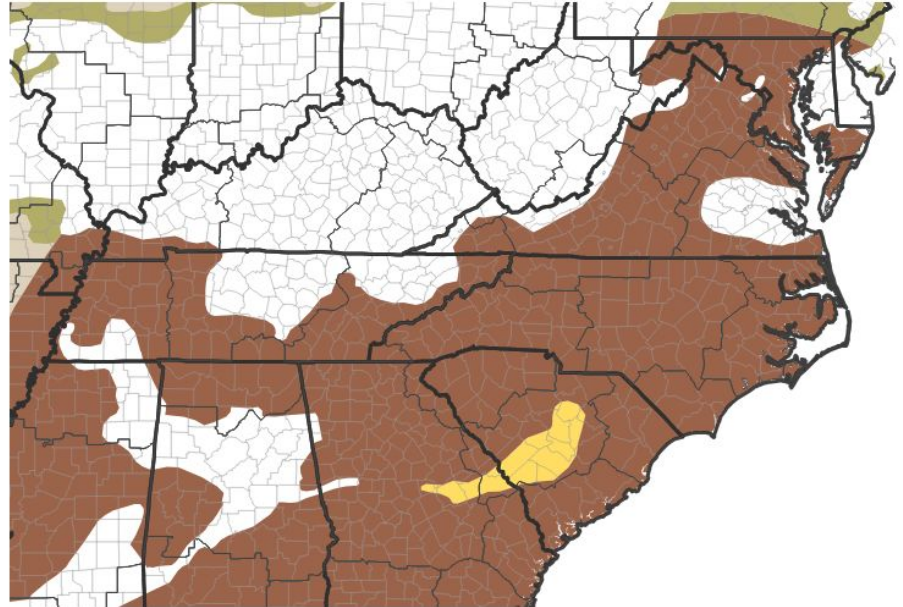


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Drought conditions are expected to persist for the month of April for much of the region.
- Drought conditions are forecast to develop from central GA into central SC through the month as well.

1-Month Drought Outlook for April 1, 2026–April 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 03/31/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Columbia, SC