



Drought Information Statement for Southeast Georgia and Southeast South Carolina

Valid May 1, 2026

Issued By: NWS Charleston, SC

Contact Information: nws.charlestonsc@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated May 15, 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/chs/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
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- Record lack of rainfall for the March-April time period
 - Greatest coverage of Exceptional Drought (D4) across the area since 2/28/2012
 - An upcoming widespread significant rainfall event will bring much needed rain to the region
 - There is an increased probability of above normal rainfall for May-July



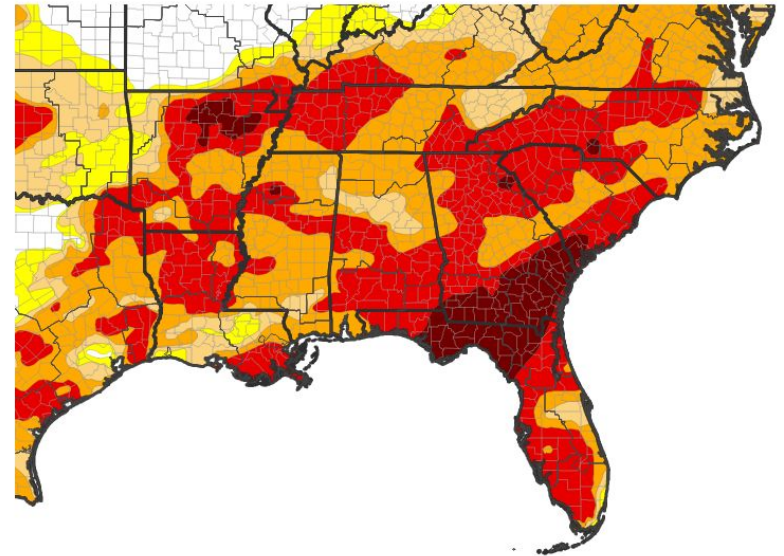


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Southeast

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):**
 - GA: Bryan, Bulloch, Candler, Chatham, Effingham, Evans, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Screven, Tattnall
 - SC: Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):**
 - GA: Bryan, Chatham, Jenkins, Liberty, McIntosh, Screven
 - SC: Allendale, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):**
 - GA: Jenkins
 - SC: Allendale
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought):**
 - GA: None
 - SC: None
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry):**
 - GA: None
 - SC: None

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 04/28/26

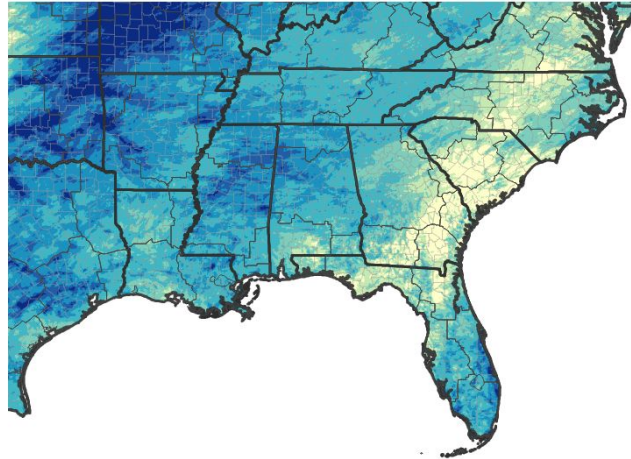




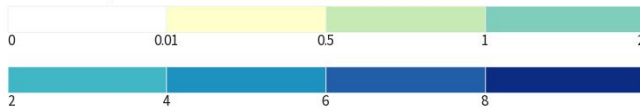
Precipitation

- Very dry conditions over the last 30 days
- Well below normal rainfall extends back to September
- Charleston International Airport (CHS)
 - 3rd driest April on record
 - Driest March-April on record
- Savannah International Airport (SAV)
 - 7th driest April on record
 - Driest March-April on record

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

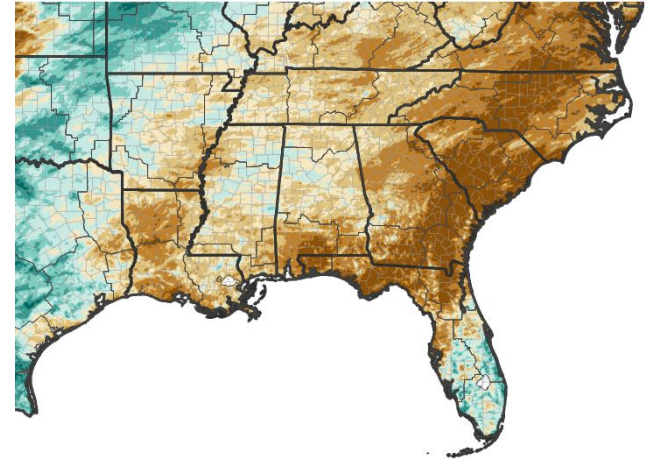


Inches of Precipitation

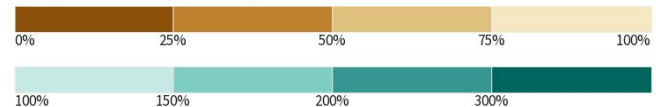


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/30/26

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: 04/30/26





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- No impacts recently reported

Agricultural Impacts

- On 4/17, a farmer in Allendale County reported they can't plant corn in fields that aren't irrigated because of inadequate soil moisture. Even in fields with irrigation, they only irrigate just enough to plant. They also reported irrigation ponds were extremely low.
- On 4/26, a farmer in Allendale County reported that if substantial rain does not occur by summer their irrigation pond will run dry and they won't be able to irrigate soybeans and peanuts.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- South Carolina Forestry Commission issued a State Forester's Burning Ban on 4/17 for all counties which is in effect until further notice.
- Georgia Forestry Commission instituted a burn ban for 91 counties (including all of southeast GA) on 4/22 which is in effect through at least 5/22. This is the first time in the agency's history that a mandatory ban on outdoor burning has been issued.
- On 4/21, Effingham County Emergency Management Agency reported a wildfire in the Egypt community that burned 149 acres. The fire destroyed a barn at a horse farm, resulted in the complete loss of a pine tree farm, and also produced minor damage to one home in the area.

Other Impacts

- On 4/22, the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services issued an Air Quality Alert for fine particulates for numerous counties including all of southeast SC. The Air Quality Alert was in effect for 4/22 and 4/23 due to smoke transported into the region from the Highway 82 Fire in Brantley County, GA.
- On 4/24, a public report in Berkeley County was received detailing local streams exhibiting extremely low water levels.
- On 4/27, a public report in Berkeley County was received detailing shrubs and trees exhibiting widespread leaf droppage as well as most lawns showing a brown, crusty appearance.

Mitigation Actions

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

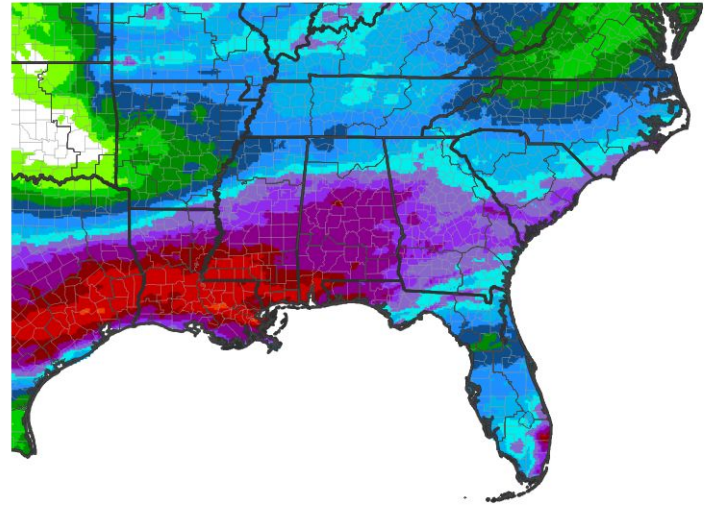




Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- A widespread significant rainfall is expected to impact all of southeast GA and southeast SC 5/1-5/2
- Rainfall amounts up to 2 inches will be possible

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for April 30, 2026–May 7, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/30/26



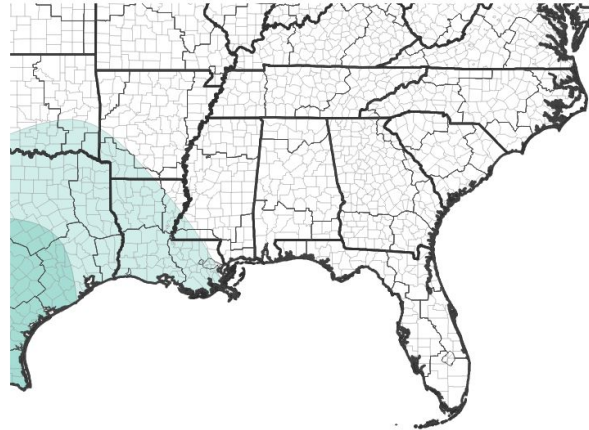


Long-Range Outlooks

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

- For the month of May, equal chances of above normal, near normal, or below normal rainfall
- For the May-July time period, an increased probability of above normal rainfall across southeast GA/SC

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for May 1, 2026–May 31, 2026



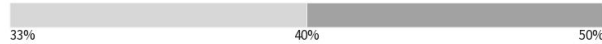
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



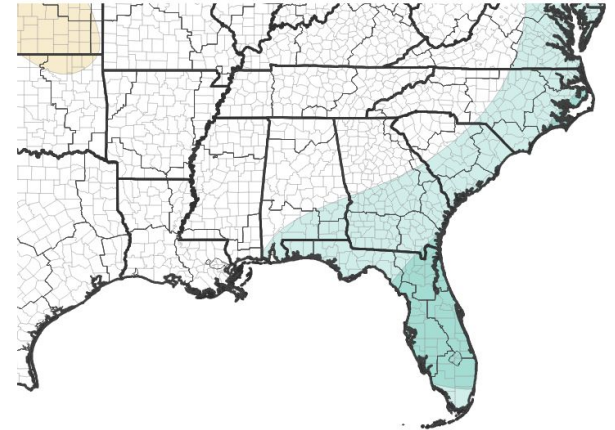
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 04/16/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for May 1, 2026–July 31, 2026



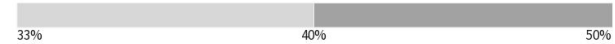
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 04/16/26



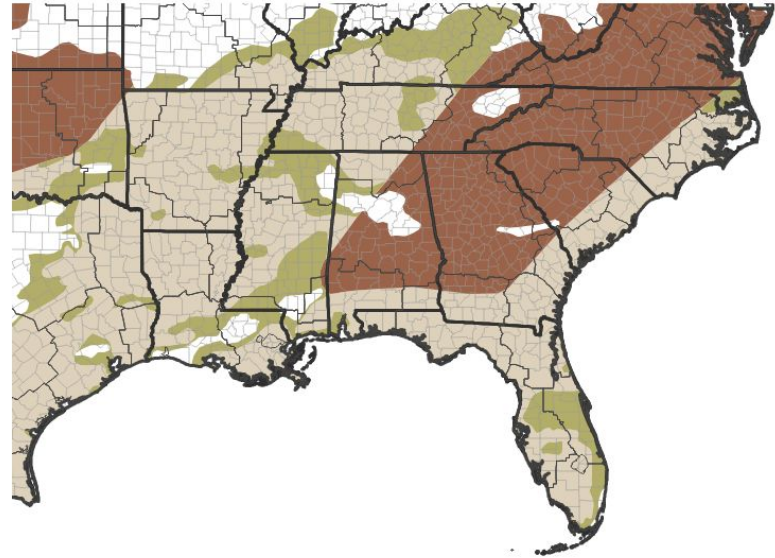


Drought Outlook

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

- There is potential for drought conditions to improve along the coast over the next 3 months
- This is primarily due to an increased probability of above normal rainfall across the May-July time period

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for April 16, 2026–July 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



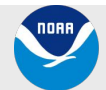
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 04/16/26

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
Charleston, SC