# Drought Information Statement for Southeastern NC and Northeastern SC
# Valid October 9, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Wilmington, NC

Contact Information: ilm.webmaster@noaa.gov

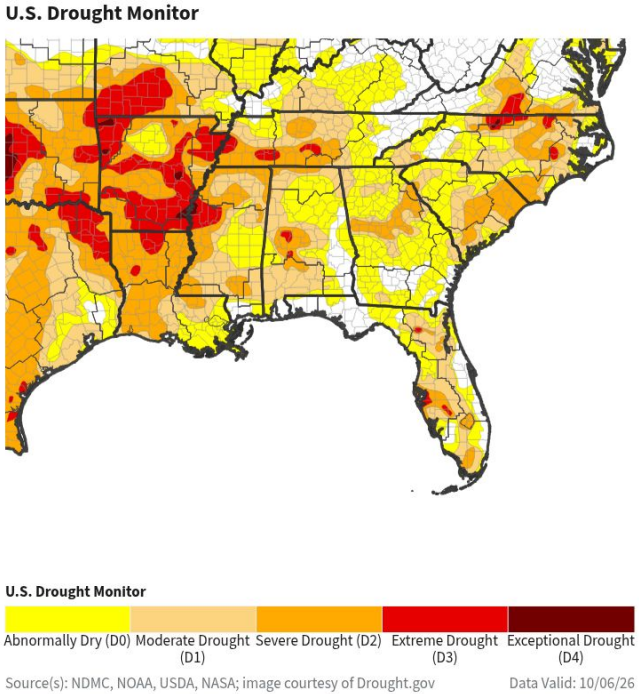
- This product will be updated October 16, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/ilm/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates for regional drought status updates.

- EXTREME DROUGHT COMES TO AN END ACROSS THIS PORTION OF NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA.
- MODERATE TO SEVERE DROUGHT PERSISTS OVER MOST OF THE AREA.

# U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for Southeastern NC and Northeastern SC

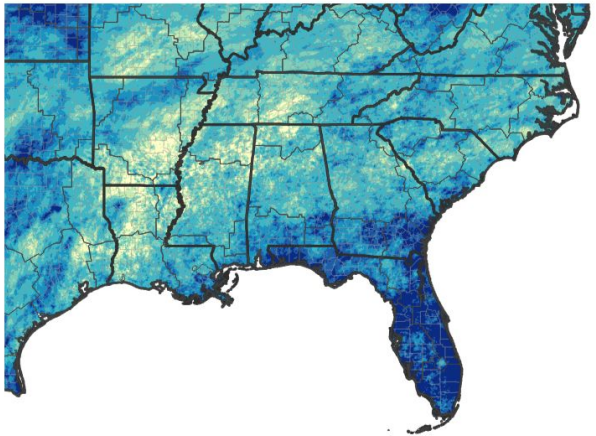
- Drought Intensity and Extent
  - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: None
  - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: None
  - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Columbus, Dillon, Horry, Marion, Florence, Georgetown, northern Williamsburg, southern Bladen, western Brunswick, southern Robeson, southern Marlboro, and southern Darlington counties
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: southern Williamsburg, eastern Brunswick, and western Pender counties.
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: New Hanover, eastern Pender, northern Robeson, northern Marlboro, and northern Darlington counties



# Precipitation

- Moderate to locally heavy rain fell on September 24 and October 3, and along the immediate coast on October 4. Light rain fell on October 5.
- Two-week rainfall totals averaged 30-40 percent of normal, except 75 percent of normal in Myrtle Beach.

**30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)**



**Inches of Precipitation**

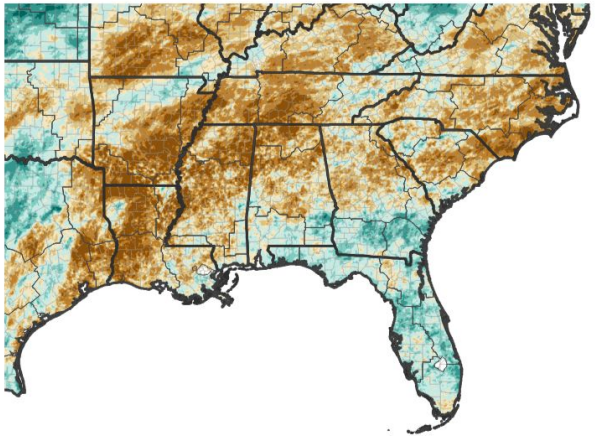
0 0.01 0.5 1 2

2 4 6 8

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/09/26

**30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation**



**Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions**

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

100% 150% 200% 300%

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 10/09/26

# Summary of Impacts

**Links: See/submit Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR) and view the Drought Impacts Reporter**

## Hydrologic Impacts

- Low flow on the Waccamaw River on September 28 allowed salt water to infiltrate unusually far upstream, temporarily shutting down water intake for the Georgetown County Water & Sewer District system. Local officials stated salinity was the highest observed in the past 20 years.
- Flow on the Waccamaw River at Freeland, the Black River at Kingstree, and the Little Pee Dee River at Galivants Ferry was near the climatological 5th percentile. Flow on the Waccamaw River at Longs, SC was near the climatological 25th percentile. All other USGS gauges had flow and stage near normal for early October.

## Agricultural Impacts

- Brunswick County, NC Agricultural Extension officials report “Low yields are being observed, especially in dry-land crops.”

## Fire Hazard Impacts

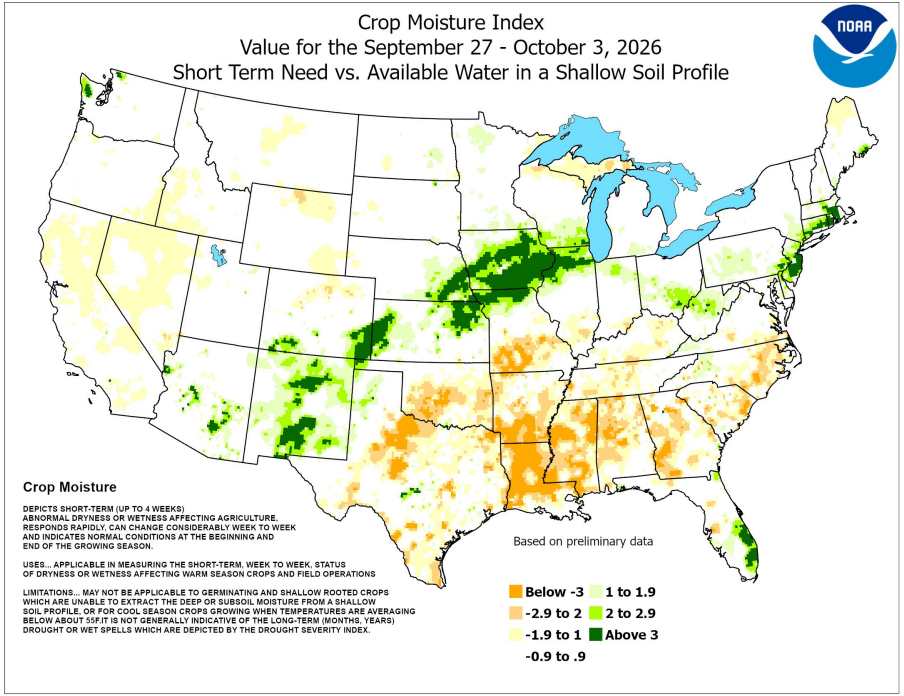
- The Quarry Road wildfire that started in July reignited on October 1 near Shallotte in Brunswick County, NC. Evacuations were briefly ordered for the Lakewood Estates neighborhood. The fire burned 26 new acres.

## Other Impacts

- Loris, SC city officials confirmed mandatory water conservation measures remain in effect for the municipal water system. Voluntary water conservation measures continue across Brunswick County, NC; Whiteville, NC; and Georgetown, Florence, and Darlington, SC.

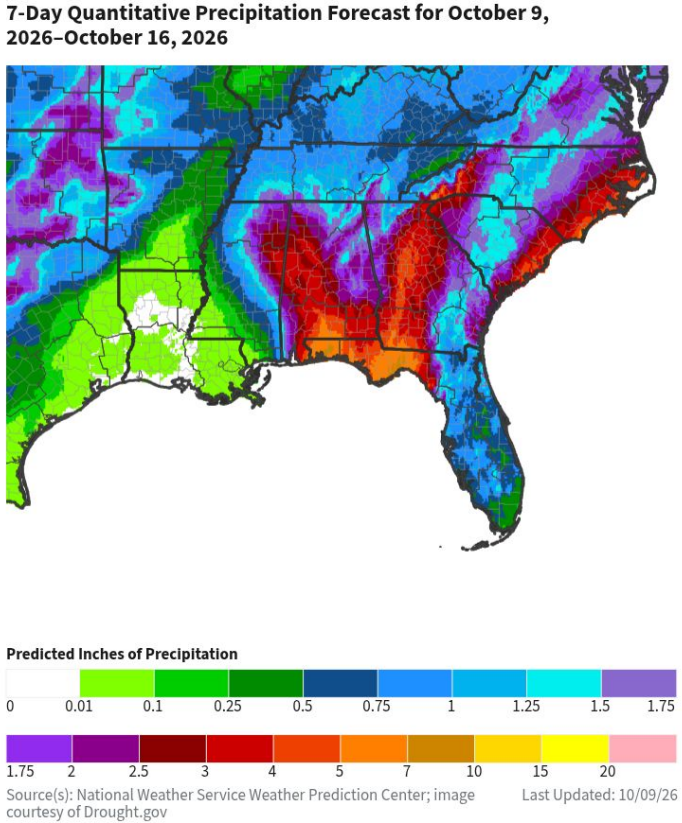
# Agricultural Impacts

- The Crop Moisture Index shows soil moisture remains below normal across most of eastern North and South Carolina.



# Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- Forecasts show large and impactful rainfall amounts are expected to fall across coastal South and North Carolina. This rain should help improve the ongoing drought.
- Inland rainfall of 2 to 4 inches is expected. Along the coast 3 to 5 inches are expected with local amounts of 6 to 8 inches possible.
- Most of this rain should fall Saturday October 10 through Sunday October 11.

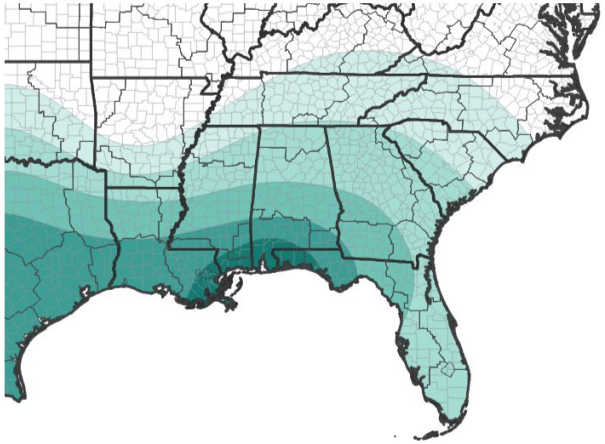


# Long-Range Outlooks

**The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage**

- Monthly Outlooks for October indicate a slightly increased potential for above normal rainfall totals.
- Temperature outlooks show “equal chances” of above, near, or below normal temperatures through the end of October.

**Monthly Precipitation Outlook for October 1, 2026–October 31, 2026**



**Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation**

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

**Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation**

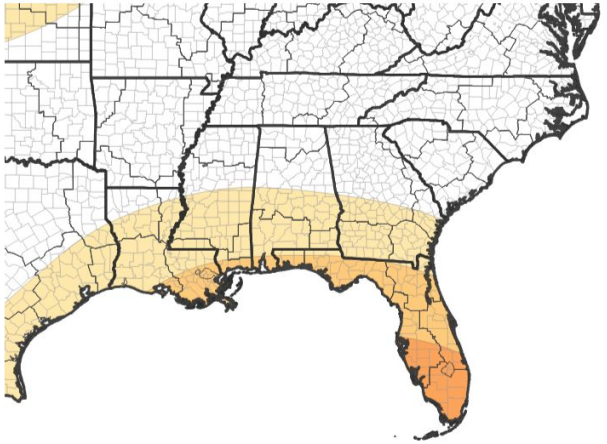
33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

**Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation**

33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 09/30/26

**Monthly Temperature Outlook for October 1, 2026–October 31, 2026**



**Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures**

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

**Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures**

33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

**Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures**

33% 40% 50%

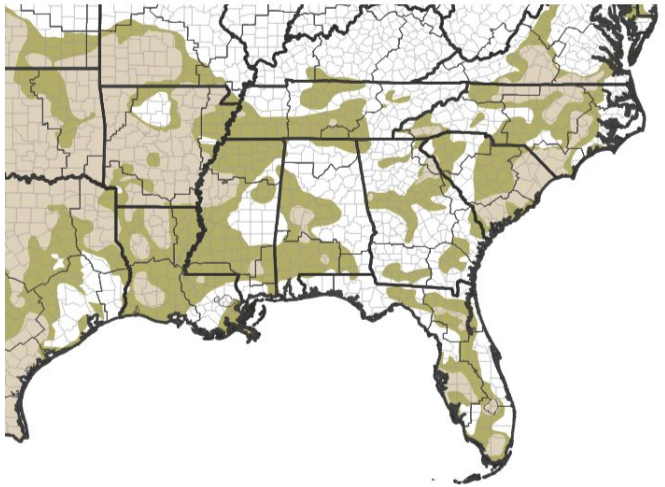
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 09/30/26

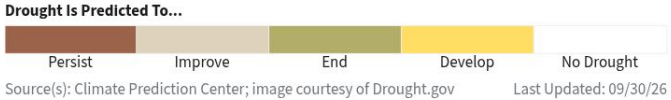
# Drought Outlook

**The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage**

- The latest seasonal outlook through December shows improving drought conditions are expected across much of eastern North and South Carolina.

**Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for September 30, 2026–December 31, 2026**






Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook