

# Climate Review for the month of April 2011

Presented by:  
BelMel Publishing

# Summary

Overall, April was a warm month with the worst tornado outbreak since 1984.

Temperatures reached the 80s across the area with New Bern reaching 90 degrees. According to the state climatologist, April 2011 was ranked the 11th warmest April on record, with Cape Hatteras and Beaufort being the warmest on record.

Rainfall amounts across our area were variable, with a wide range of precipitation (~1.5-5 inches) this month. The NW inner section of our CWA had the highest amount while the New Bern area was the lowest. Half of the CWA is under a D1 (Drought-Moderate) and the other half is under D0 (Abnormally Dry).

On April 16, a strong cold front associated with a negative tilted upper level trough produced 12 tornados and one-inch hail across our CWA. Then on April 28 another strong cold front produced 2 tornados (Duplin & Craven) with baseball-size hail in Craven county.

# Average Temperatures within our CWA

	Avg_Max	Avg_Max Normal	Avg_Min	Avg_Min Normal
Beaufort	72.7	na	58.5	na
Cape Hatteras	72.9	67.7	60.3	51.8
New Bern	76.6	72.4	52.7	49.7
Greenville	75.8	72.4	52.5	48.3
Kinston AG	76.9	76.2	54.6	47.6
Williamston	73.9	71.2	51.5	47.6
Plymouth	76.0	74.2	52.6	47.6
Aurora	74.6	71.6	56.2	48.8
Bayboro	74.1	74.2	51.2	48.4

Overall, average Max & Min temperature were near to above normal this month.  
 Average temperatures were 1 to 7 degrees above normal.  
 HSE (1893) and MRH (2000) were the warmest on record.

# Max and Min Temperature within our CWA

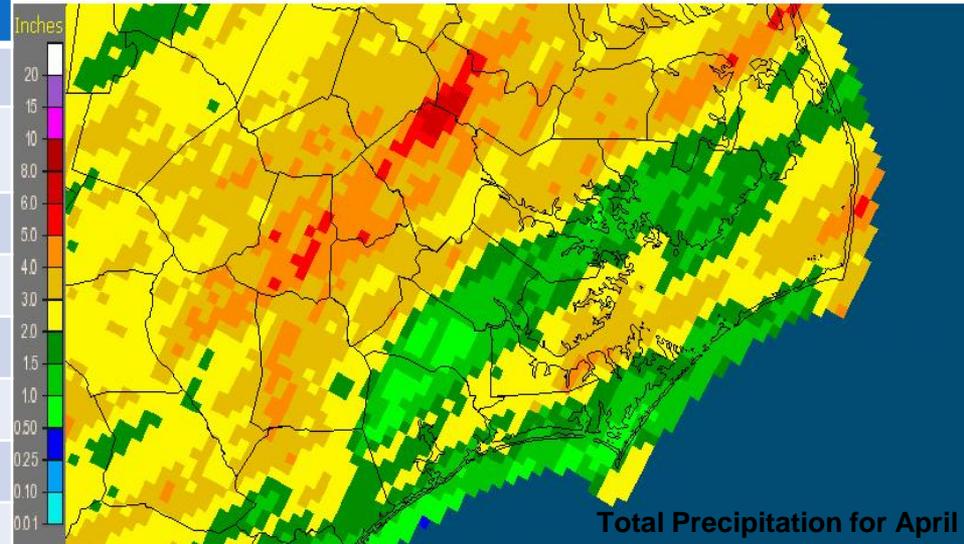
	MAX	MIN
Beaufort	81	42
Cape Hatteras	81	48
New Bern	90	34
Greenville	87	35
Kinston AG	86	36
Williamston	86	36
Plymouth	88	34
Aurora	88	42
Bayboro	87	37

All the counties within our CWA have reached to the 80s, with EWN reaching to 90 degrees. Some of the cool nights were in the beginning of the month.

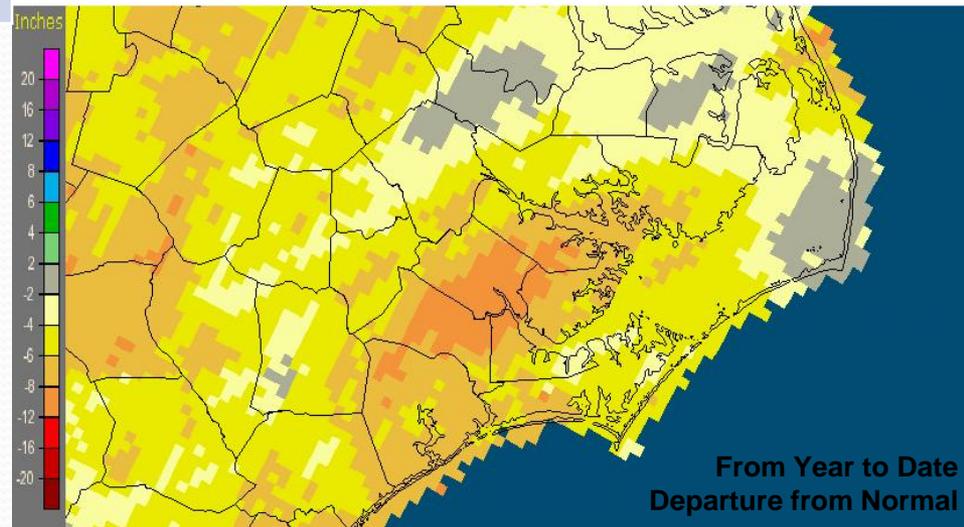
# April's Rain versus Normal

	Precipitation (inches)	Normal	Differences
Beaufort	1.83	na	na
Cape Hatteras	1.85	3.29	-1.4
New Bern	1.56	3.4	-1.8
Greenville	4.68	3.19	1.5
Kinston AG	3.92	3.19	0.7
Williamston	3.33	3.16	0.2
Plymouth	3.79	3.49	0.3
Aurora	1.96	3.32	-1.4
Bayboro	3.02	3.34	-0.3

Newport/Morehead City, NC (MHX): April, 2011 Monthly Observed Precipitation  
Valid at 5/1/2011 1200 UTC- Created 5/3/11 21:47 UTC



Newport/Morehead City, NC (MHX): Current Year to Date Departure from Normal Precipitation  
Valid at 5/16/2011 1200 UTC- Created 5/16/11 22:01 UTC

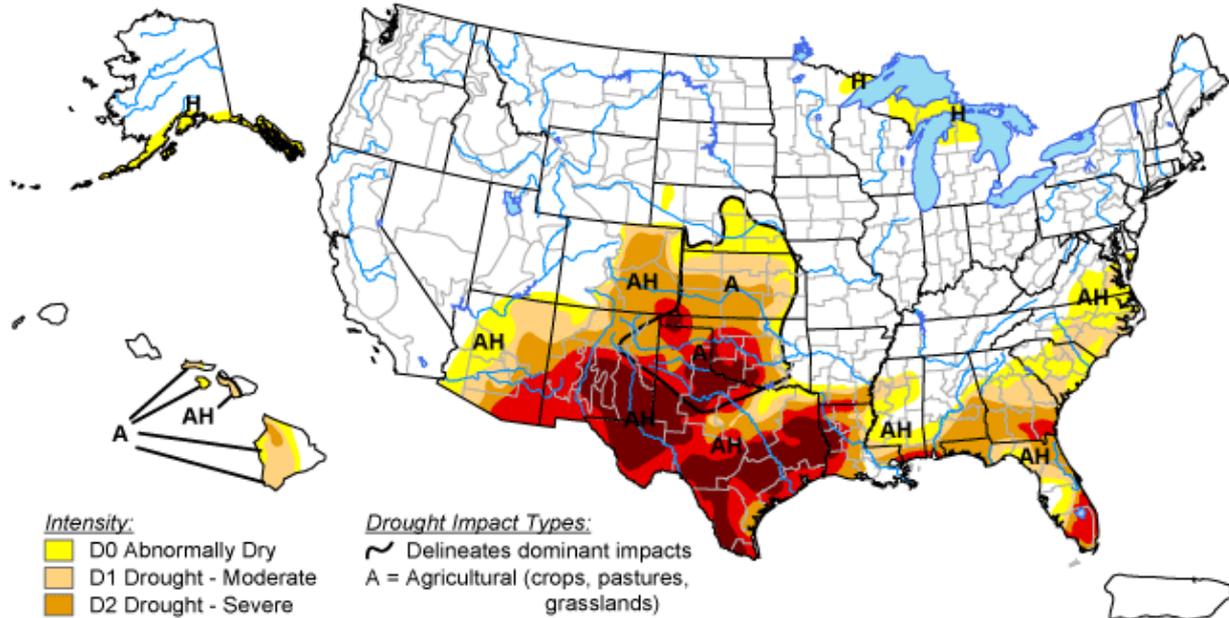


Variable amount of rainfall across our CWA. Precipitation totals generally ranged from ~1.5 to 5 inches over the area with the higher precipitation totals were to the NW section of our CWA.

Since January, our CWA is below normal on precipitation amounts. (look @ bottom graphic)

# U.S. Drought Monitor

May 10, 2011  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



- Intensity:
- D0 Abnormally Dry
  - D1 Drought - Moderate
  - D2 Drought - Severe
  - D3 Drought - Extreme
  - D4 Drought - Exceptional

- Drought Impact Types:
- Delineates dominant impacts
  - A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
  - H = Hydrological (water)

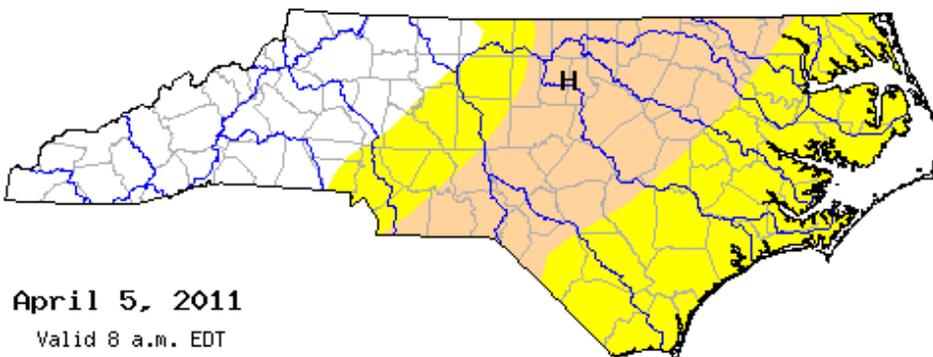
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

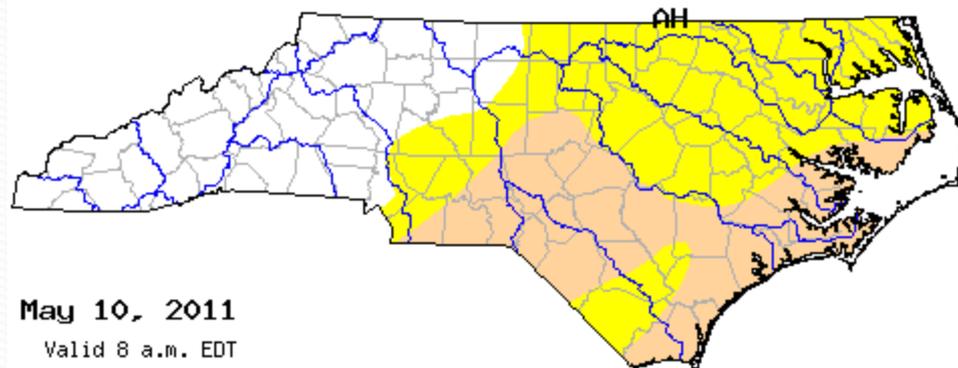


Released Thursday, May 12, 2011  
Author: Rich Tinker, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Before



Now





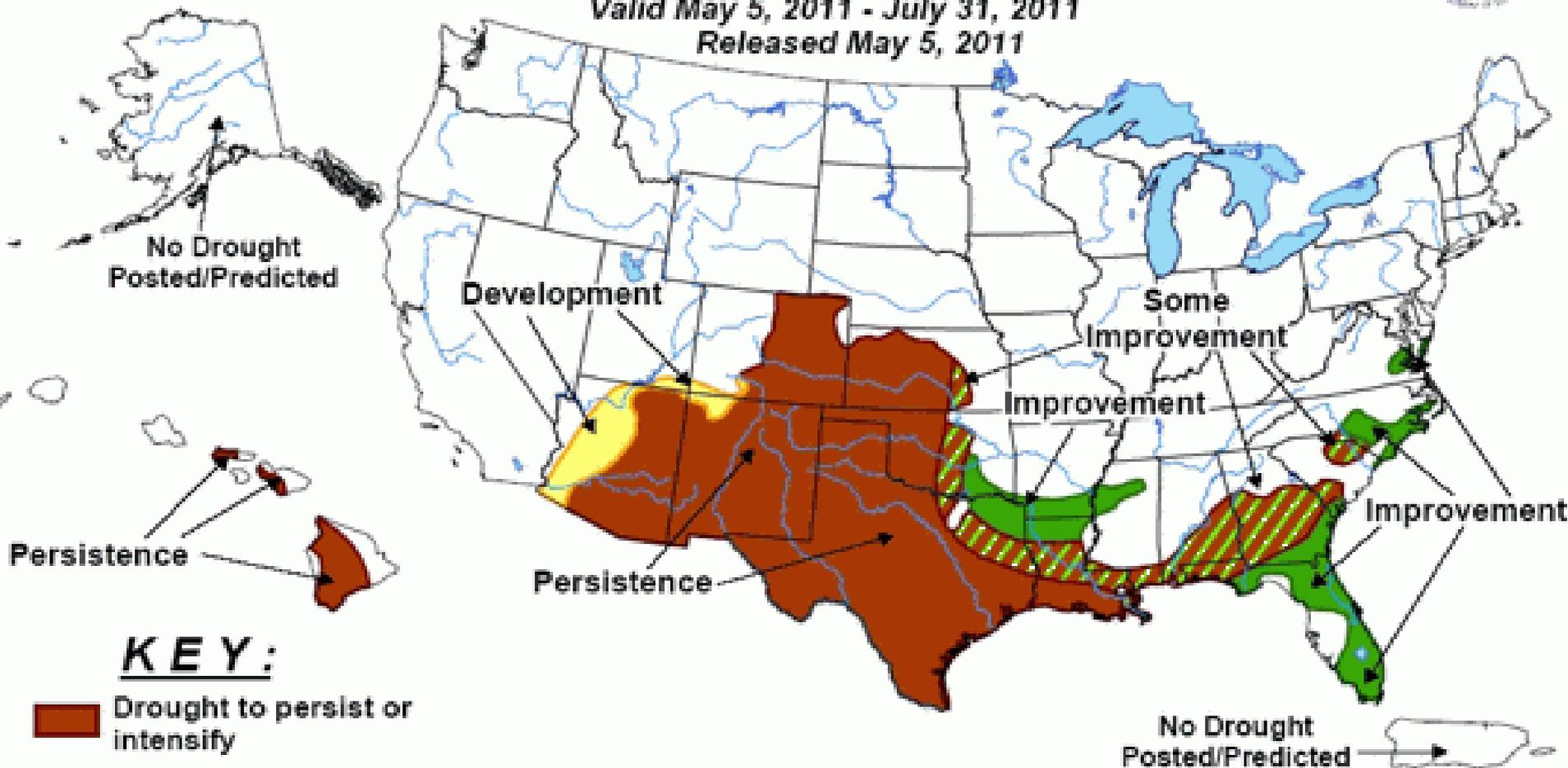
# U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

## Drought Tendency During the Valid Period



Valid May 5, 2011 - July 31, 2011

Released May 5, 2011



### KEY:

-  Drought to persist or intensify
-  Drought ongoing, some improvement
-  Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
-  Drought development likely

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events -- such as individual storms -- cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications -- such as crops -- that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green improvement areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.