

Climate Review for the month of December 2010

Presented by:
BelMel Publishing

Summary

December was a very cold and busy month. For most of Eastern NC, this was the coldest December on record, if not it was the second. Hatteras tied its previous record of 26 degrees F back in 1968 while other sites have reached near record lows.

During this month there have been three significant weather events. One, being isolated thunderstorms associated with a cold front at the beginning of the month. With rainfall amounts reaching to 1 inch in some locations.

The other two were on December 16 and December 25/26 which were winter-related storms. The December 16 storm produced a light wintry mix of snow, sleet and freezing rain with snowfall totals up to 1.5" in Martin County. The December 25/26 storm produced 7 to 10 inches over the northern Coastal Plain to less than 1 inch over the southern Outer Banks.

DISCLAIMER from Bel: The climate data provided are preliminary and have not undergone final quality control by NCDC. Therefore...this data is subject to revision.

Average Temperatures within our CWA

	Avg_ Max	Avg_ Max Normal	Avg_ Min	Avg_ Min Normal
Beaufort	46.3	na	29.4	na
Cape Hatteras	46.5	57.3	34.5	42.6
New Bern	45.6	57.7	26.3	36.3
Greenville	44.4	55.4	25.8	33.8
Kinston AG	45.6	59.3	28.1	36.1
Williamston	43.0	55.5	25.6	34.4
Plymouth	42.8	57.5	26.4	36.0
Bayboro	48.7	58.9	31.7	36.1

Avg. Max temperatures were about -10 to -15 degrees BELOW NORMAL,

In regards to Avg. Min temperatures, we were ranging from -8 to -10 degrees BELOW NORMAL.

Max and Min Temperature within our CWA

	MAX	MIN	# of Days below 32 F
Beaufort	69	22	20
Cape Hatteras	70	26	10
New Bern	68	18	27
Greenville	67	15	28
Kinston AG	71	15	24
Williamston	70	17	28
Plymouth	68	16	25
Bayboro	73	24	18

For the month of December, a grand portion of our CWA had more than 20 days with min temps below 32 F, expect for HSE. Greatest # was Williamston with 28 days and the least was Cape Hatteras with 10 days.

December's Avg. Cold Temperature Rankings

	Starting Year of Data Collection	December 2010 Ranking	# 1 December Ranking
Beaufort (ASOS)	2000	1 st 37.9 F	Previous was 2000 w/ 40.1 F
Cape Hatteras	1957	1 st 40.5 F	Previous was 1989 w/ 36.9 F
New Bern	1948	1 st 36 F	Previous was 1963 w/ 41.1 F
Greenville	1875	2 nd 35.1 F	1 st 1917 w/ 34.6F
Kinston AG	1966	2 nd 36.9 F	1 st 1989 w/ 36.5
Williamston	1930	2 nd 34.3 F	1 st 1989 w/ 33.6F
Plymouth	1945	1 st 34.6 F	Previous was 1989 w/ 37.0
Bayboro	1968	2 nd 40.2 F	1 st 1989 w/ 37.1 F

NOTE: Information is based on xmACIS

December's Rain versus Normal

	Precipitation (inches)	Normal	Differences
Beaufort	3.62	na	na
Cape Hatteras	3.47	4.56	-1.09
New Bern	3.02	3.84	-0.82
Greenville	1.89	3.23	-1.34
Kinston AG	2.62	3.3	-0.68
Williamston	2.73	3.16	-0.43
Plymouth	1.42	3.2	-1.78
Bayboro	3.92	3.68	0.24

Total Snowfall Amounts at COOP/ASOS Sites

	December 2010 Snowfall (inches)	Jan.-Dec. 2010 Snowfall Totals (inches)
Cape Hatteras	T	0.7
New Bern	3.1	6.2
Greenville	5.9	13.8
Kinston AG 1	M	M
Williamston	9.2	9.7
Plymouth	9.5	9.5
Bayboro	M	M

December 16, 2010 Wintry Mix Event

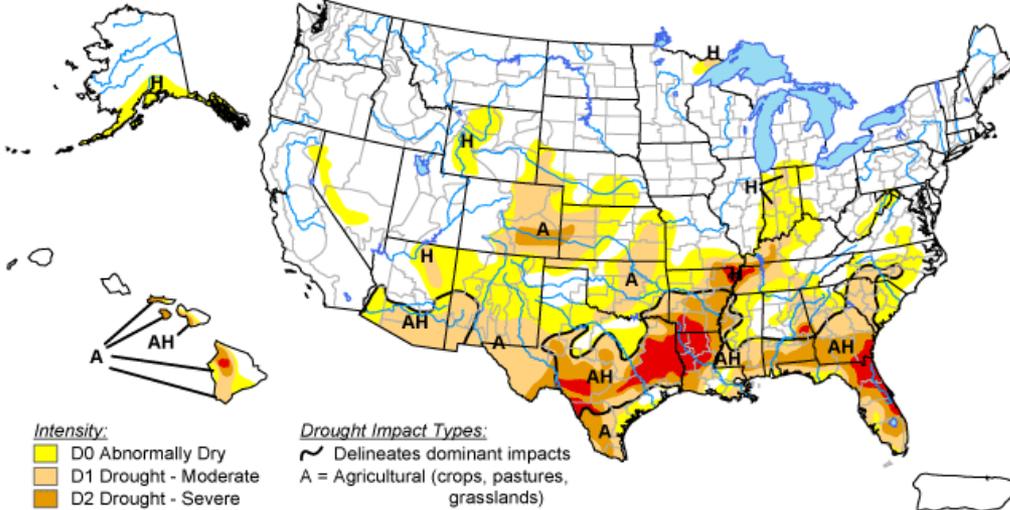
...BEAUFORT COUNTY...	
OLD FORD	0.5"
...HYDE COUNTY...	
SWANQUARTER	0.3"
...LENOIR COUNTY...	
DEEP RUN	0.3"
LA GRANGE	0.3"
...MARTIN COUNTY...	
ROBERSONVILLE	1.5"
BEARGRASS	0.3"
...PITT COUNTY...	
GREENVILLE	1"
FARMVILLE	0.5"
...TYRRELL COUNTY...	
COLUMBIA	0.3"
...WASHINGTON COUNTY...	
PLYMOUTH	0.5"

12-Month Precip. Review

	Jan-Dec. Precip. Total (inches)	Jan-Dec. Precip. Normal (inches)	Difference (inches)
Beaufort	55.42	na	na
Cape Hatteras	61.39	57.55	3.84
New Bern	53.51	54.68	-1.17
Greenville	50.32	49.34	0.98
Kinston AG	53.61	49.58	4.03
Williamston	56.94	49.30	7.64
Plymouth	55.54	52.01	3.53
Bayboro	53.55	54.74	-1.19

U.S. Drought Monitor

January 4, 2011
Valid 7 a.m. EST



- 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)

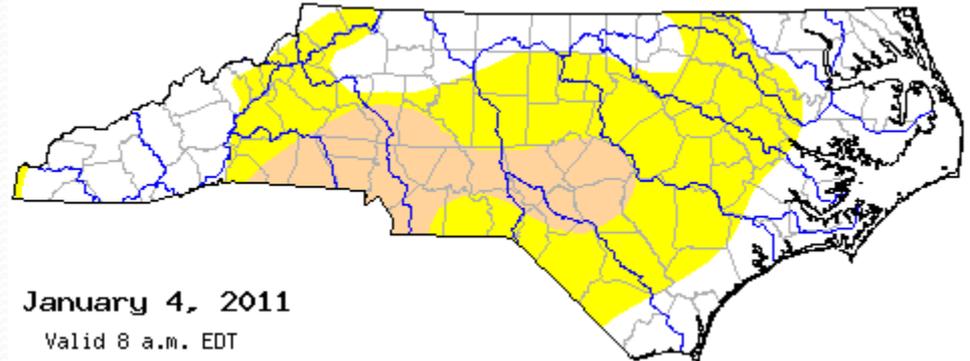
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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



Released Thursday, January 6, 2011
Author: Anthony Artusa, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Close Up:





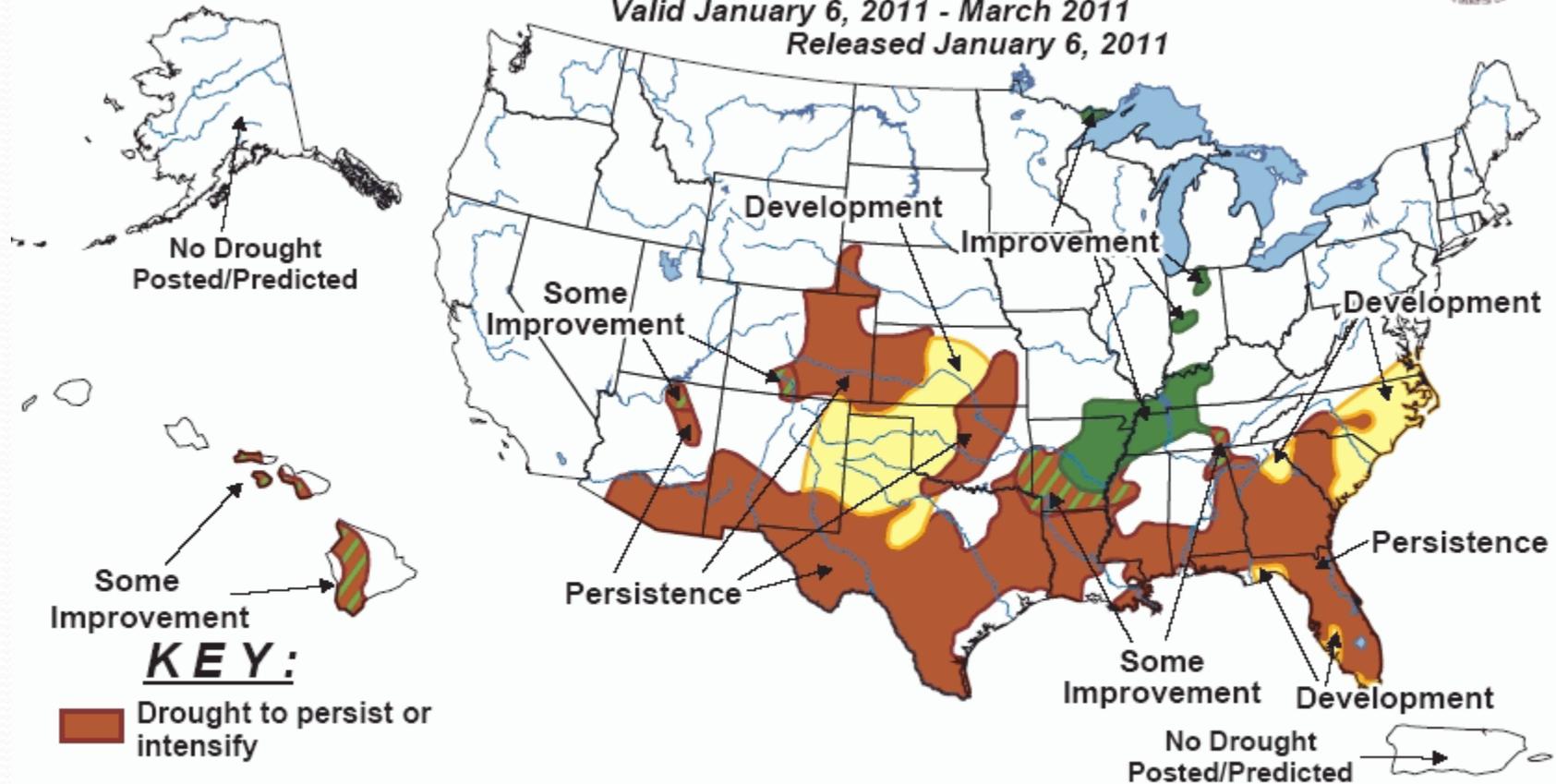
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period



Valid January 6, 2011 - March 2011

Released January 6, 2011



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.