



Drought Information Statement for Central North Carolina

Valid June 9, 2026

Issued By: NWS Raleigh

Contact Information:

- This Drought Information Statement will be updated by July 7, 2026.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/RAH/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Questions or comments can be sent to barrett.smith@noaa.gov
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- Exceptional Drought (D4) across much of the Triangle area.
- Extreme Drought (D3) continues across the Northern Piedmont and Northern Coastal Plain.
- The Southern Piedmont and Southern Coastal Plain are in Severe Drought (D2)



Key Points

- This is a long-term drought, which dates back to August of 2025 for many areas.
 - Raleigh has experienced its driest Spring on record (through May 31) and is currently experiencing a precipitation deficit of near 20 inches since August.
 - Greensboro has experienced its third driest Spring on record (through May 31).
 - The Chapel Hill Cooperative Observer Site has recorded just 10.10 inches of precipitation since January 1, 2026, over 10 inches below-normal.
- Impacts:
 - Numerous municipalities have moved to voluntary and/or mandatory water conservation.
 - Groundwater levels in the Piedmont are at or near record lows
 - There are many reports of poor hay condition and stress on crops such as corn and soybeans.
 - Many streams and rivers across central NC are at all-time record lows for this time of year, with some sites reaching no-flow levels.
 - Falls Lake water supply is down to 69%.
- While the current forecast calls for near-normal precipitation in the next 7-10 days and some hint of above-normal precipitation possible through late June, there is no clear signal for significant drought improvement.



Current Drought Conditions

Graphic Courtesy of the North Carolina State Climate Office

North Carolina Drought Update

Created By:

North Carolina
Drought Management Advisory Council
www.ncdrought.org

NORTH CAROLINA
CLIMATE OFFICE
climate.ncsu.edu

NC STATE
@NCSCO

For the assessment period ending **June 9, 2026**

From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

The Main Takeaway

Exceptional Drought (D4) has re-emerged, this time in the northern Piedmont, while Severe (D2) and Extreme Drought (D3) incrementally expanded in eastern NC.

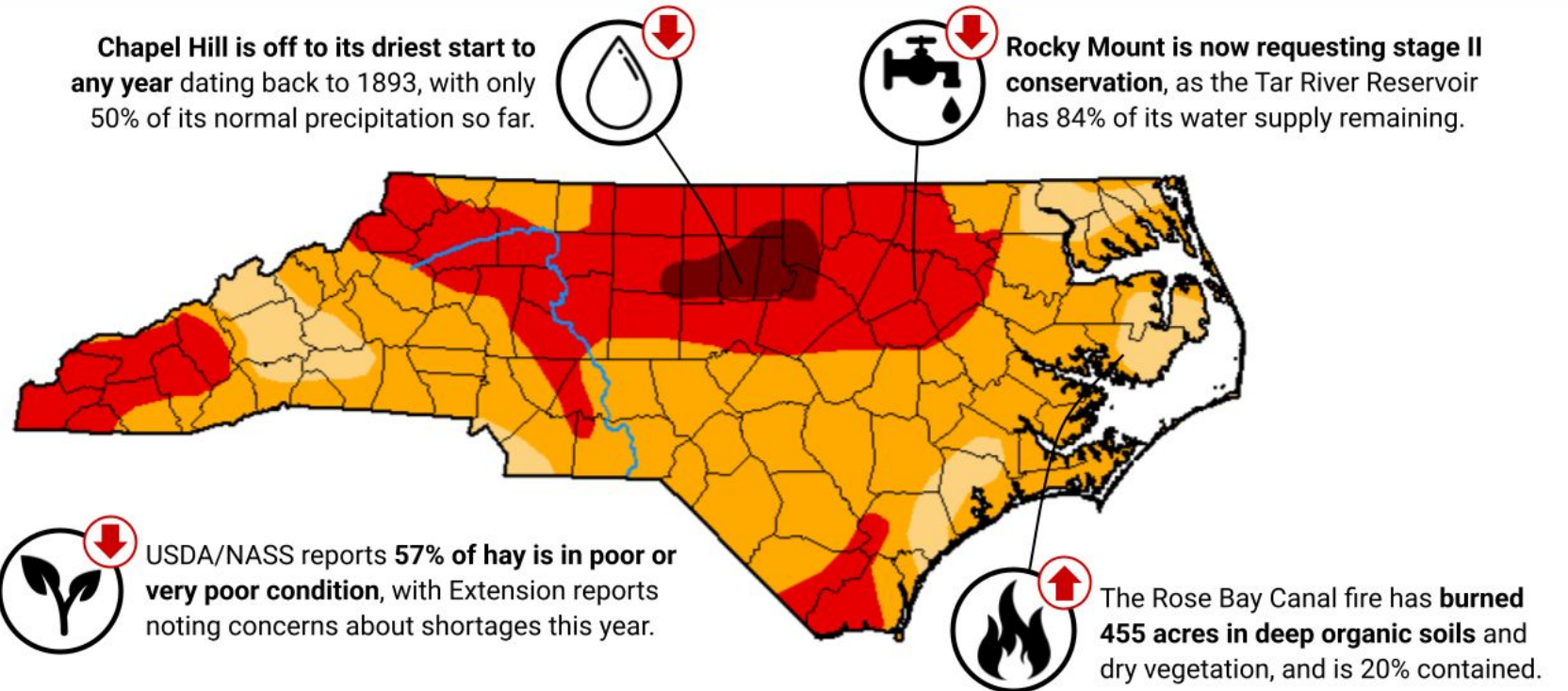
This Week's Summary

Aside from a few showers farther west, this was a dry week with plenty of summer sun that sapped lingering moisture from our late May rainfall. For areas such as the Triangle that missed out on most of that rain to begin with, drought has hit exceptional levels with lake levels continuing to decline, vegetation turning brown or wilting, and a record dry start to the year continuing.

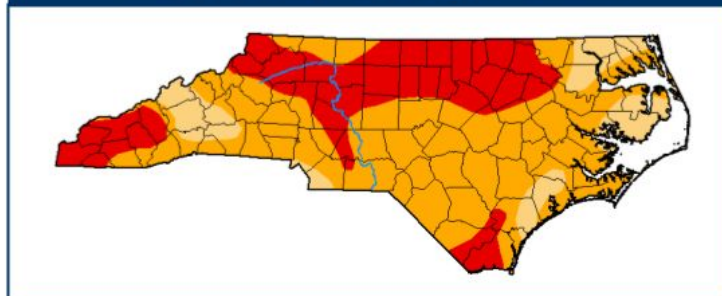
Next Week's Outlook

Temperatures will soar into the upper 90s through the weekend, likely reaching 100°F on Friday, with chances for scattered showers and thunderstorms every day.

For your local drought status, visit www.ncdrought.org



Last Week's Drought Status



Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	0.00%	0.00%
D1: Moderate Drought	10.21%	-2.31%
D2: Severe Drought	52.98%	+3.10%
D3: Extreme Drought	33.81%	+2.41%
D4: Exceptional Drought	3.01%	+3.01%

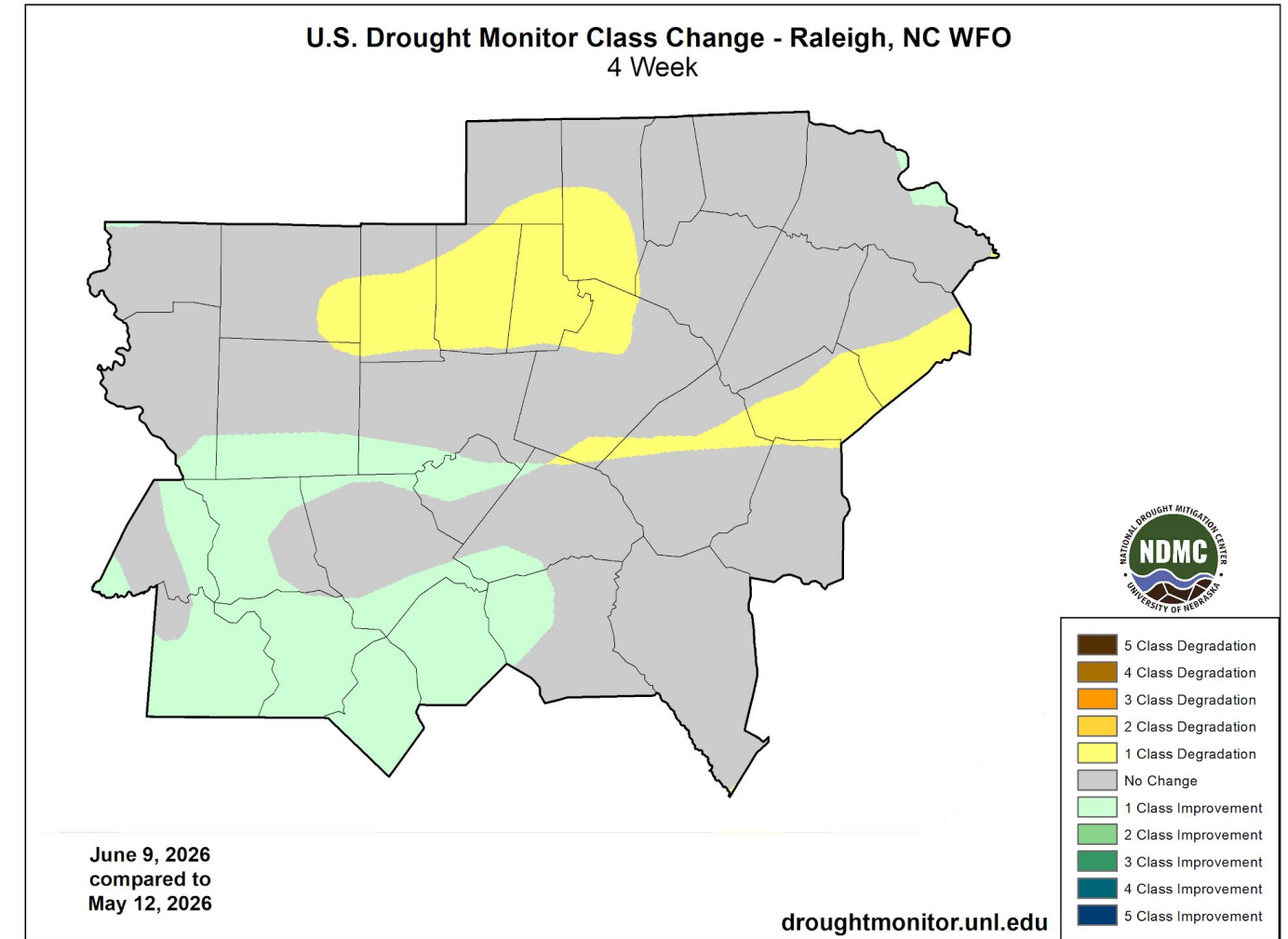
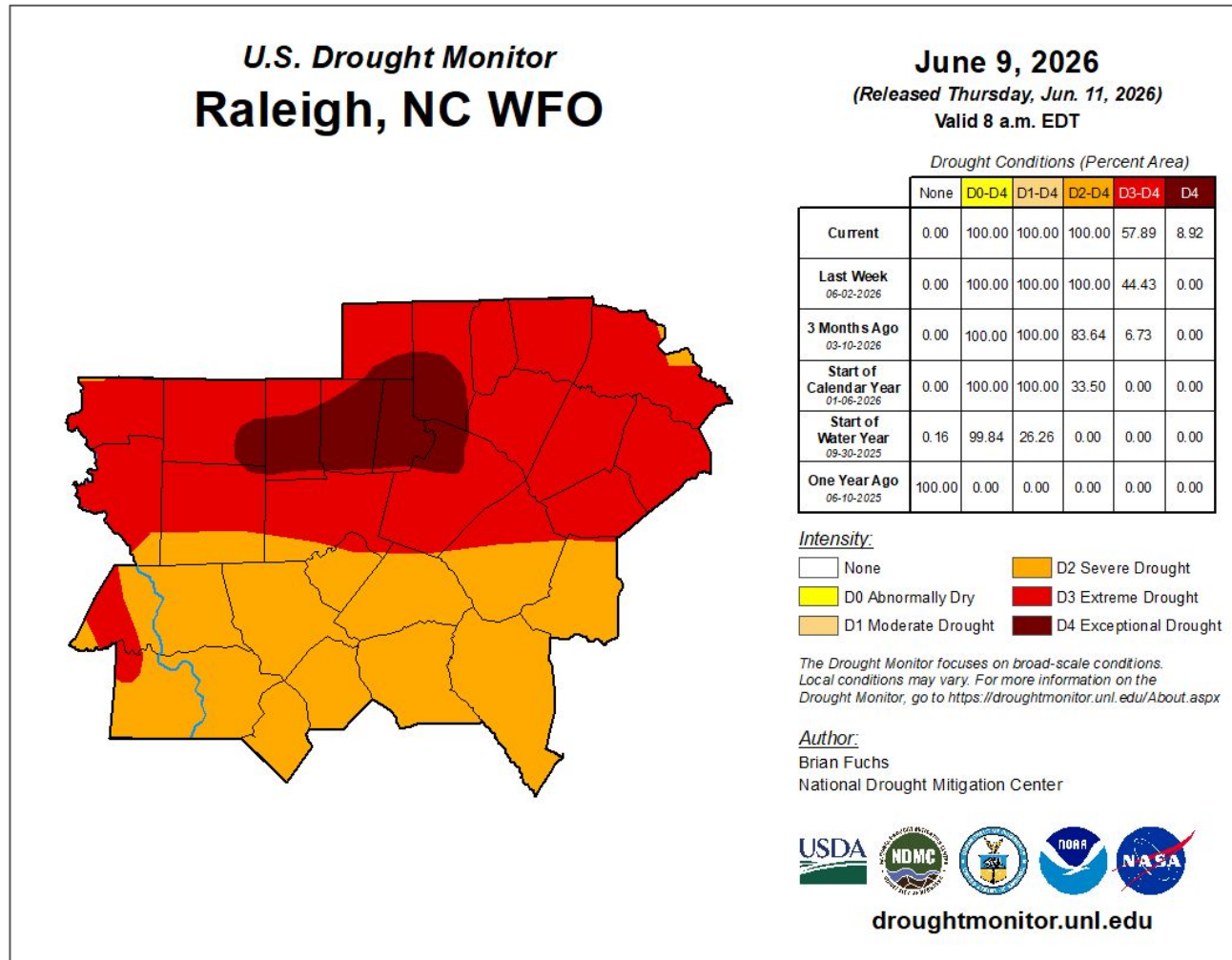


National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

Current Drought Conditions

Latest U.S. Drought Monitor Map and One-Week Change



Main Takeaways

- Exceptional Drought (D4) has developed across portions of the Triangle area. Extreme (D3) and Severe (D2) Drought continues across the rest of Central North Carolina.

Image Caption:

Left: [U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EST June 9, 2026.](#)

Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 8am EST June 9, 2026.](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

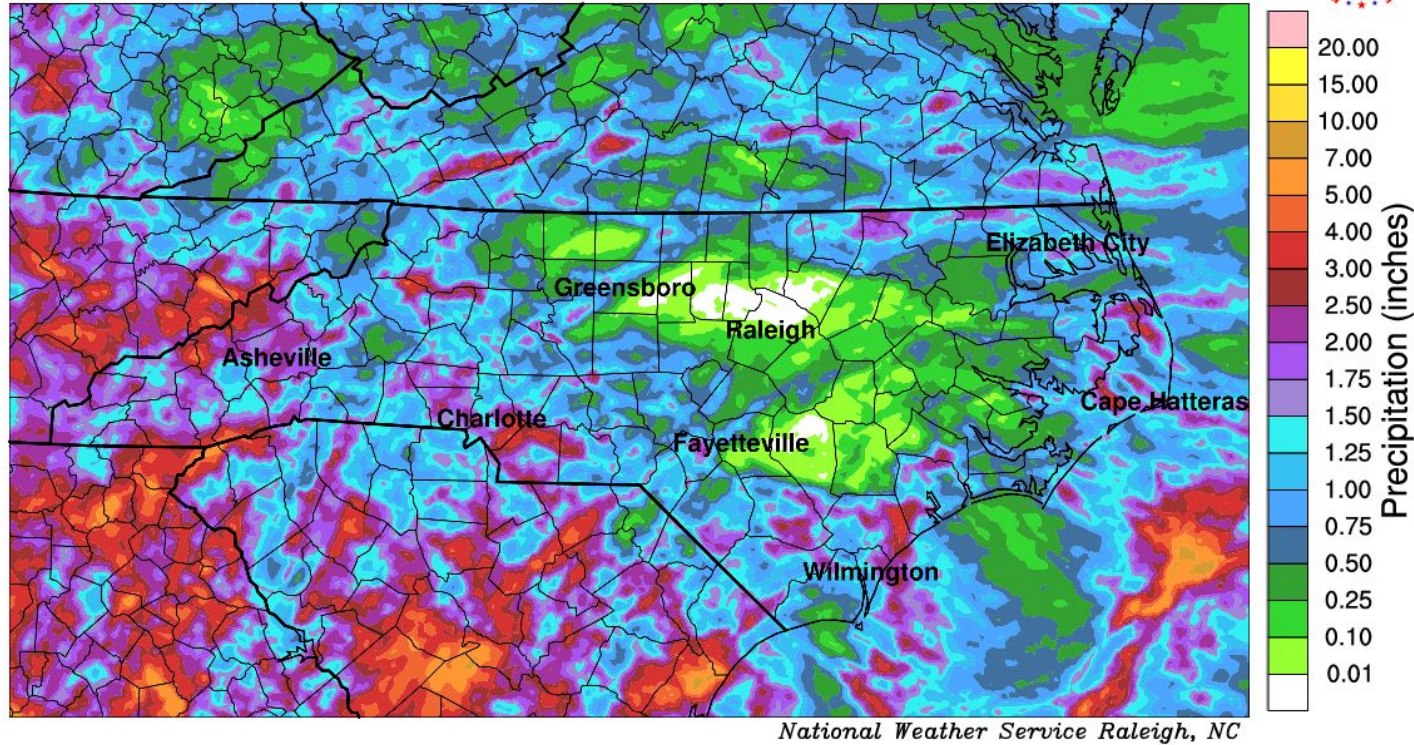
U.S. Department of Commerce

Observed Precipitation

Latest 14-Day Rainfall and Percent of Normal Rainfall

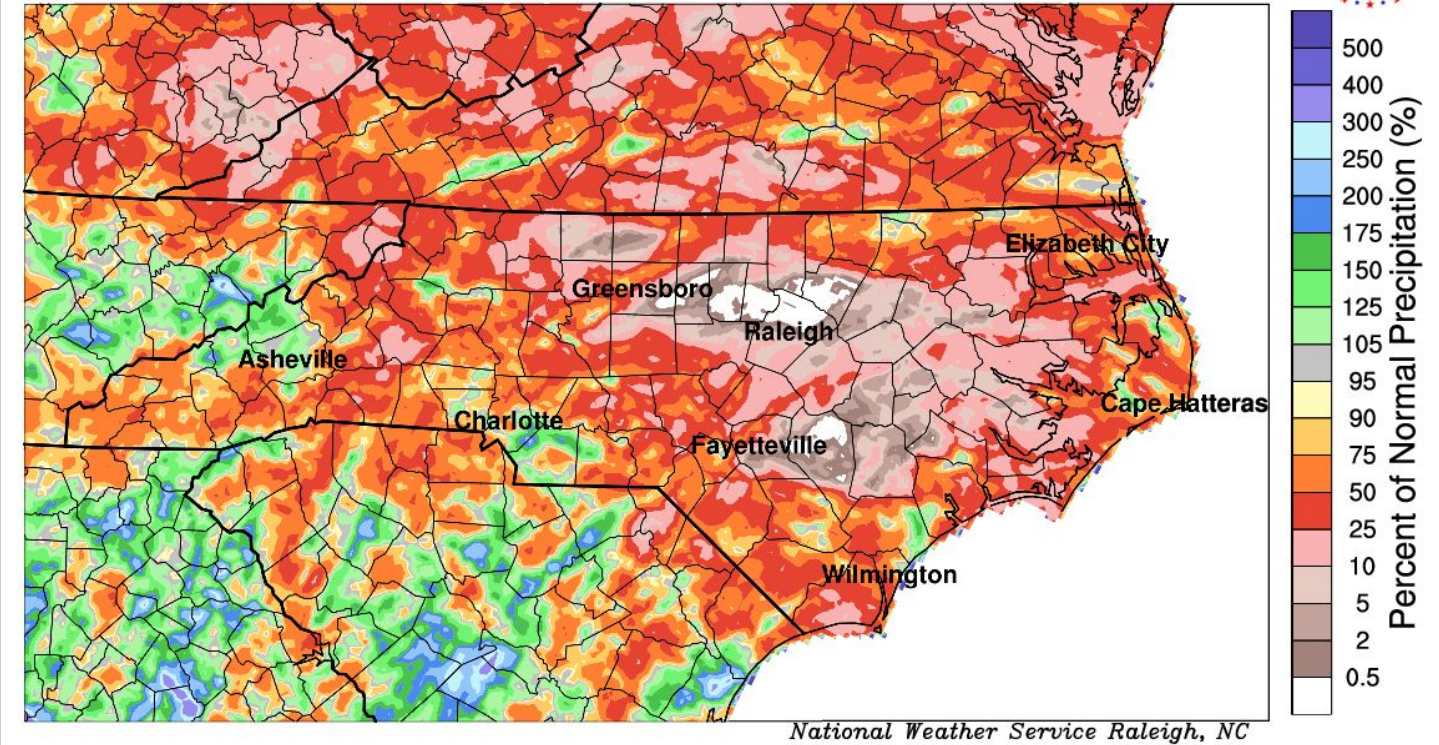
NWPS 14-Day Observed Precipitation

Valid: 8 AM EDT Tuesday June 09, 2026



NWPS 14-Day Observed Percent of Normal Precipitation

Valid: 8 AM EDT Tuesday June 09, 2026



Main Takeaways

- A few areas in the Southern Piedmont received near normal rainfall in the past 14 days, but overall it has been extremely dry and much of the Triangle area has received little to no rainfall.

Image Captions:

Left - Precipitation Amount for NC

Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for NC

Data Courtesy NWS National Water Prediction Service

Data over the past 14 days ending June 9, 2026

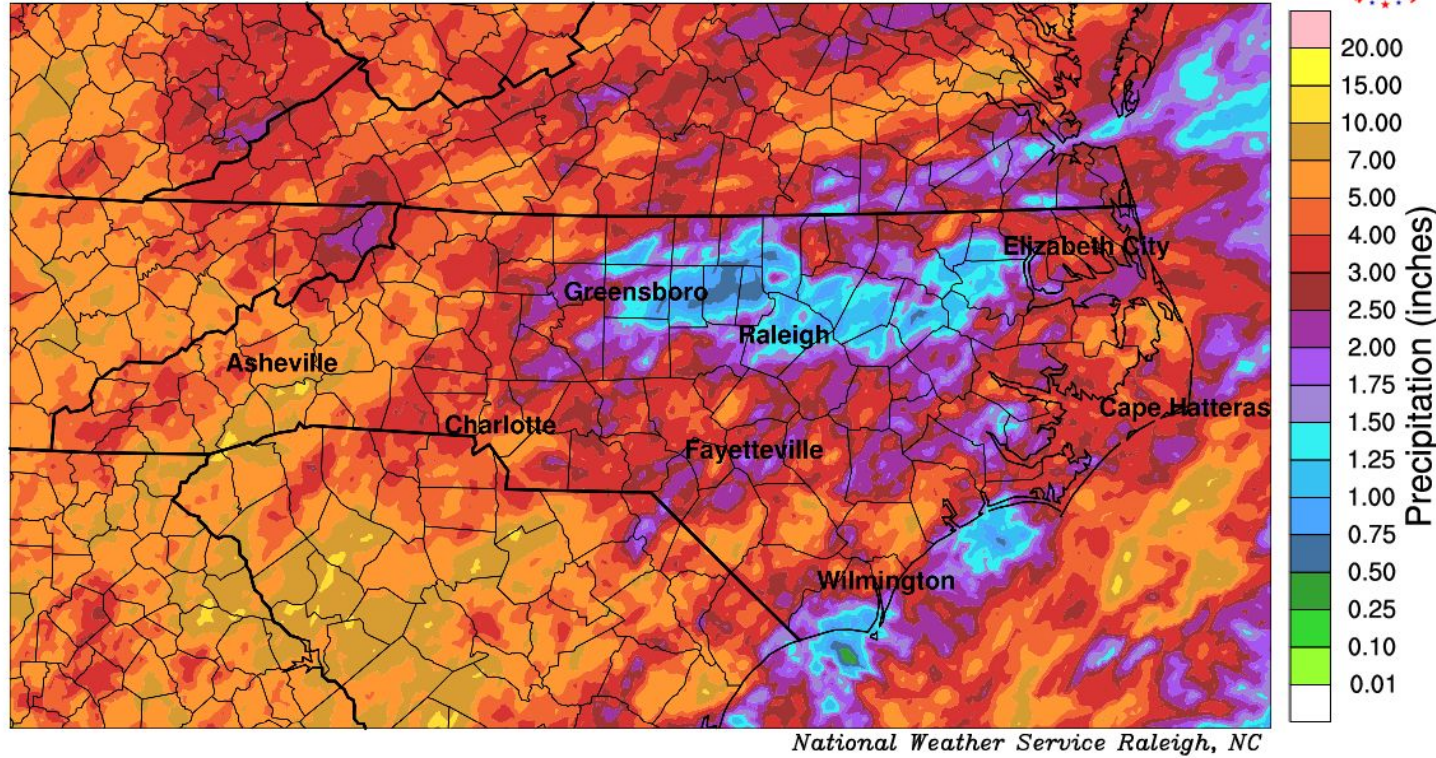


Observed Precipitation

Latest 30-Day Precipitation and Percent of Normal Precipitation

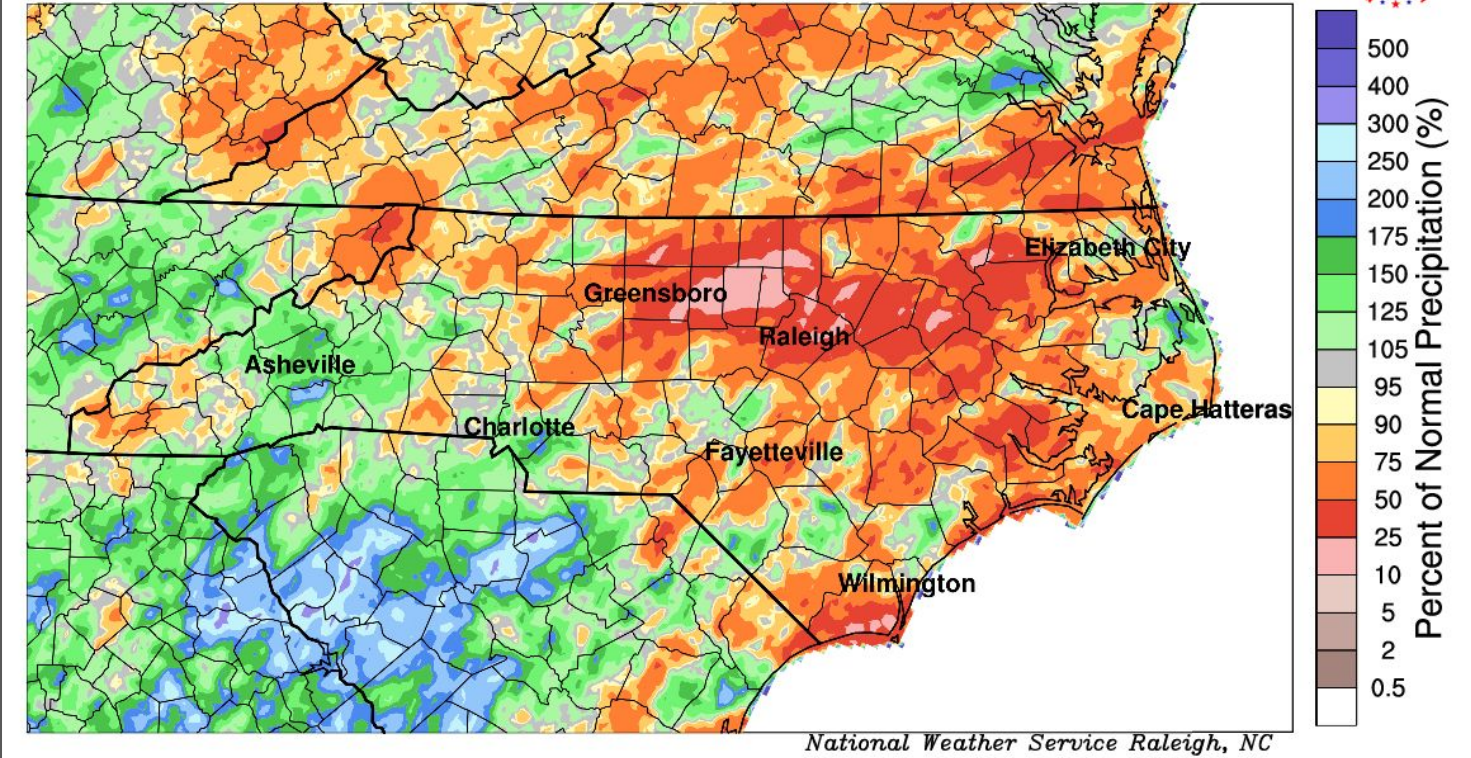
NWPS 30-Day Observed Precipitation

Valid: 8 AM EDT Tuesday June 09, 2026



NWPS 30-Day Observed Percent of Normal Precipitation

Valid: 8 AM EDT Tuesday June 09, 2026



Main Takeaways

- Over the past 30 days rainfall has been significantly below normal, especially between Greensboro and Raleigh.
- For additional statistics, refer to the [Local Rainfall Summary](#)

Past 90 Days Stats	Observed Precipitation	Departure From Normal	Percent of Normal
Raleigh-Durham	3.93	-6.80	37%
Greensboro	5.18	-5.73	47%
Fayetteville	5.82	-3.62	61%

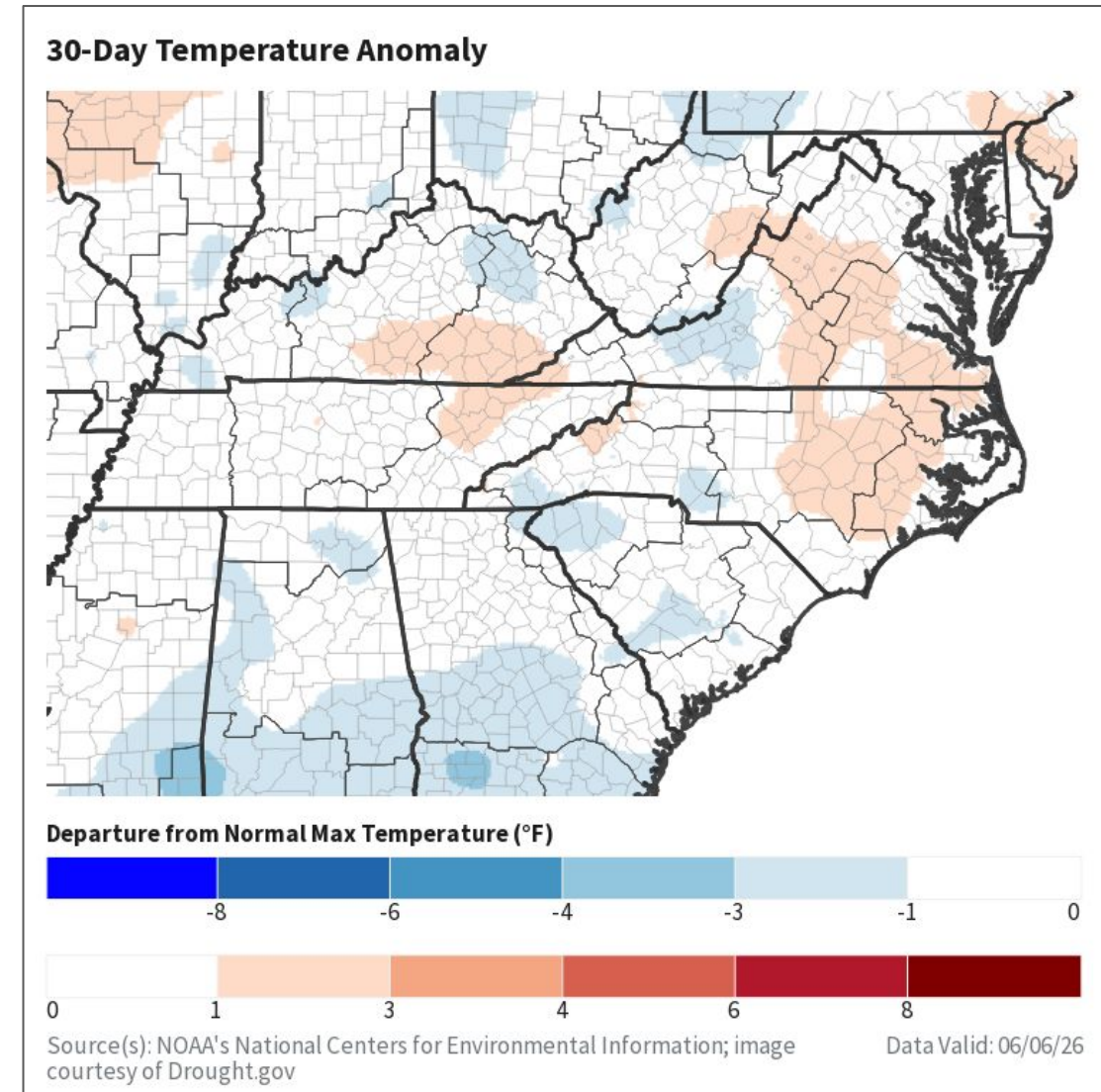
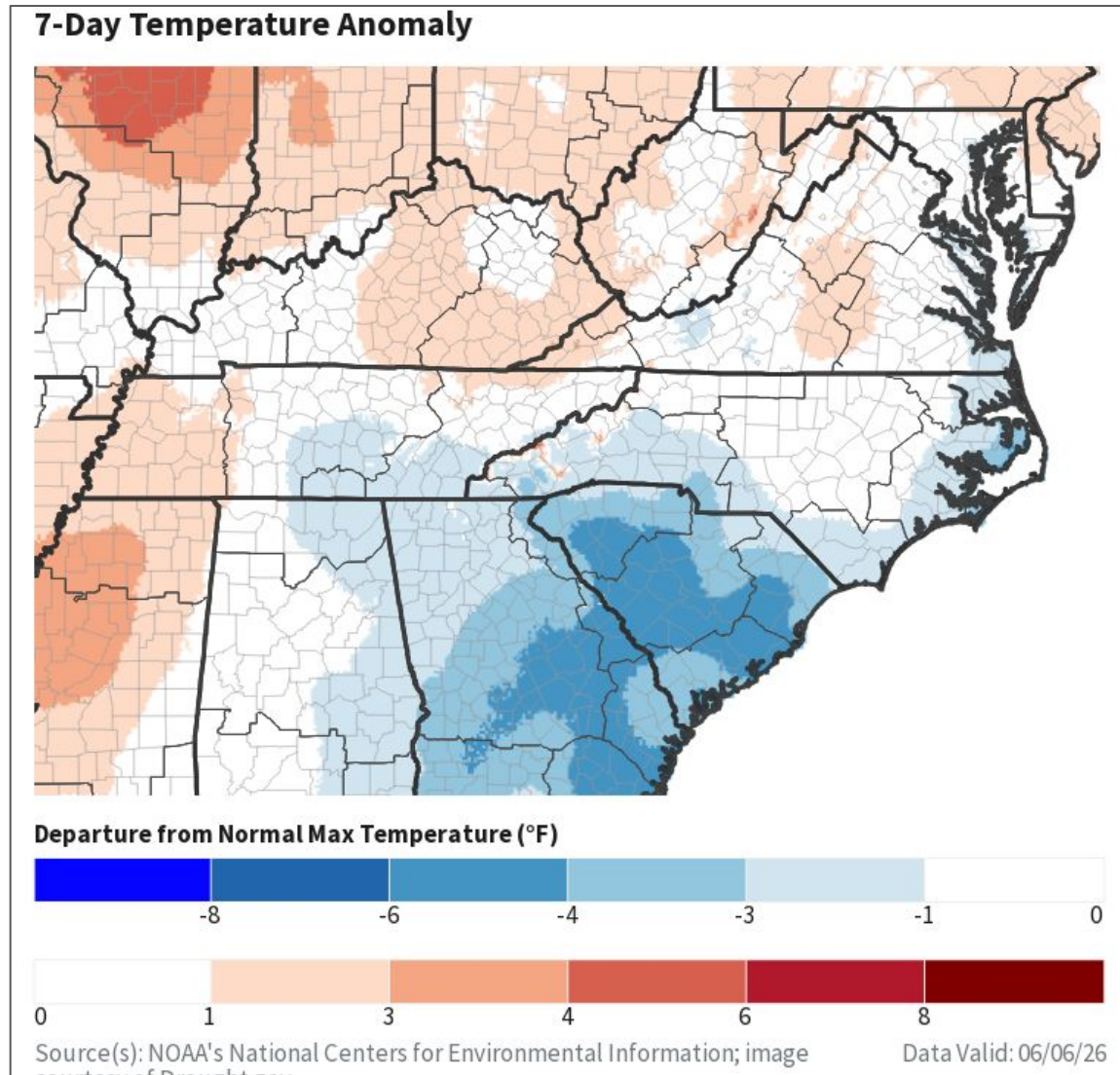
Image Captions:

Left: 30 Day Observed Precipitation for NC; Right: Percent of Normal Precipitation for NC
Data Courtesy NWS National Water Prediction Service. Data over the past 30 days ending June 9, 2026



Observed Temperature

Latest 30-Day Average Max Temperature and Departure from Normal



Main Takeaways

- Temperatures have been near to above normal over the past 30 days, with particularly hot conditions in the past week.

Image Captions:

Left: 7-Day Departure from Normal Temperature for NC
Right: 30-Day Departure from Normal Temperature for NC
Data Courtesy NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information
Data over the past 30 days ending June 6, 2026

Precipitation Forecast

Latest 7-Day Precipitation Forecast

Next 7 days

- A hot and humid summer-like pattern will develop through the middle of next week.
- Some afternoon showers and storms are possible, potentially more focused across the Coastal Plain overall.
- However, rainfall is expected to be near-normal at best for most areas.

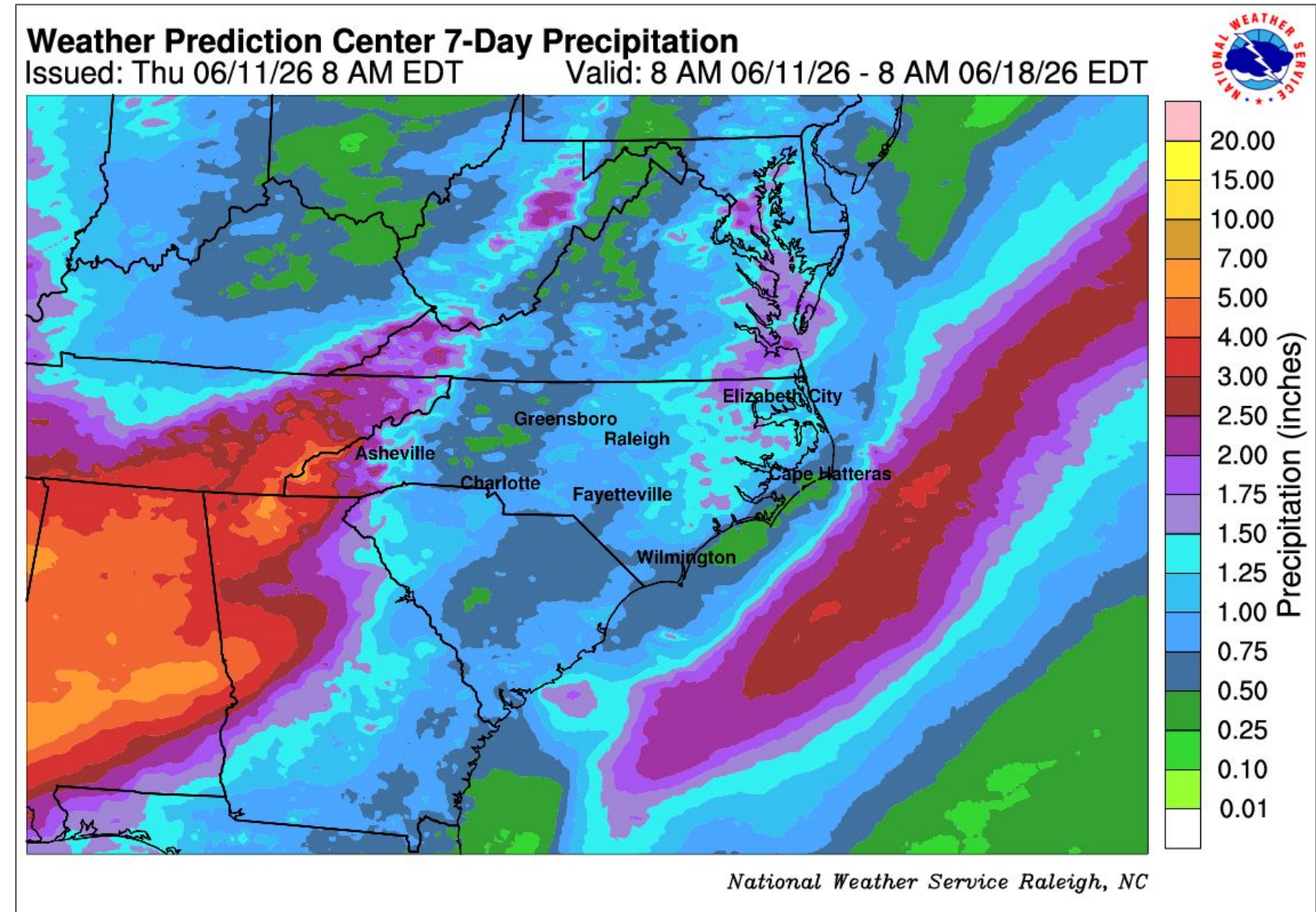


Image Caption:

Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid June 11 - 18, 2026



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8-14 Day Outlook

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- Above-normal temperatures are slightly favored (40-50% chance) in Days 8-14 across central North Carolina.
- Near-normal precipitation is favored.

Possible Impact

- Near-normal precipitation would be beneficial in the current drought but is not likely to cause significant improvement.

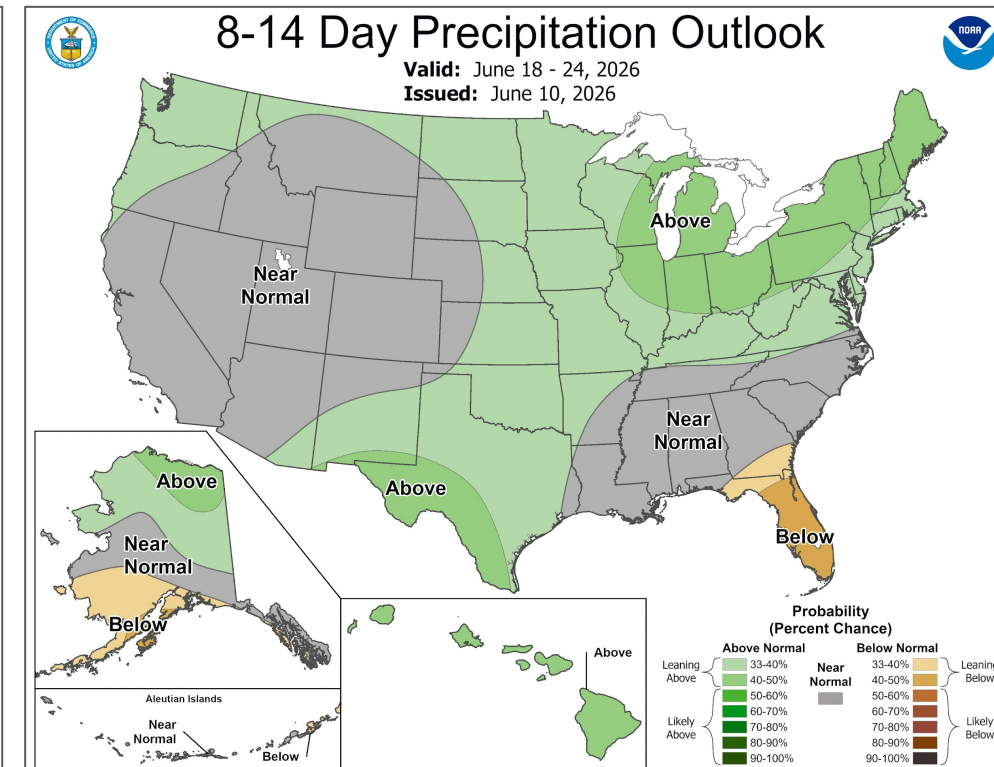
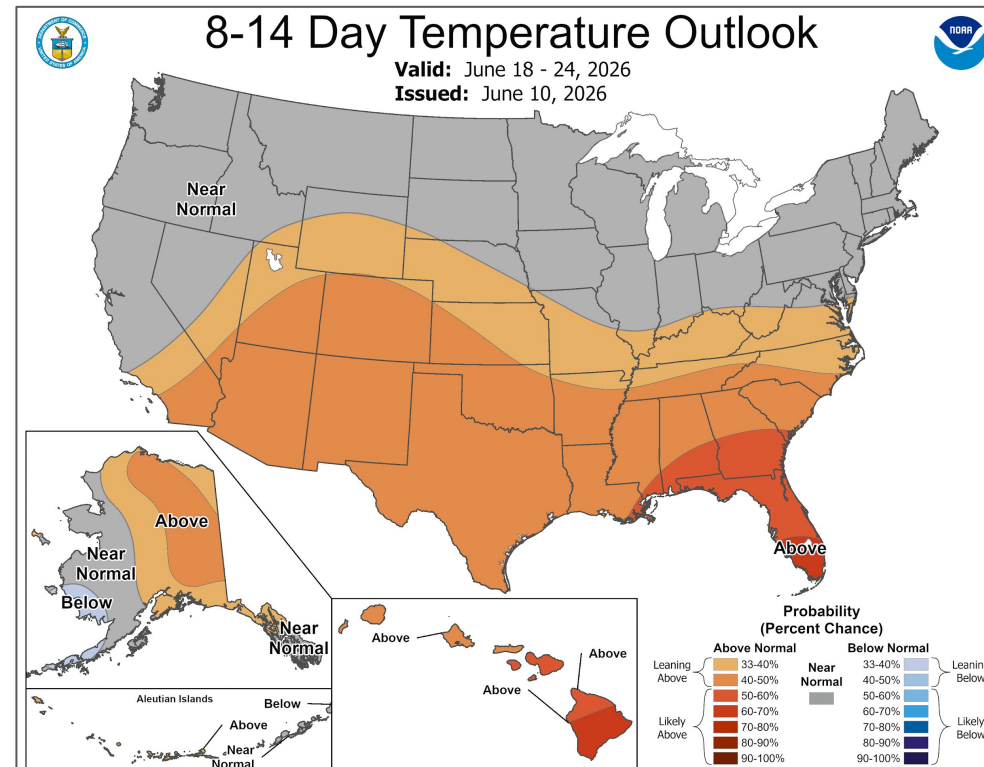


Image Captions:
Left: [Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook.](#)
Right: [Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook.](#)
Valid June 18- 24, 2026



Weeks 3-4 Outlook

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- There are increased chances (40-50%) of above-normal temperatures in Weeks 3-4 across central North Carolina.
- There is a slight lean (30-40%) to above-normal precipitation in Weeks 3-4; however, these probabilities still suggest 60-70% chances of near or below-normal precipitation.

Possible Impact

- The potential for above-normal temperatures and only slightly increased probability of above-normal precipitation does not favor significant drought improvement.

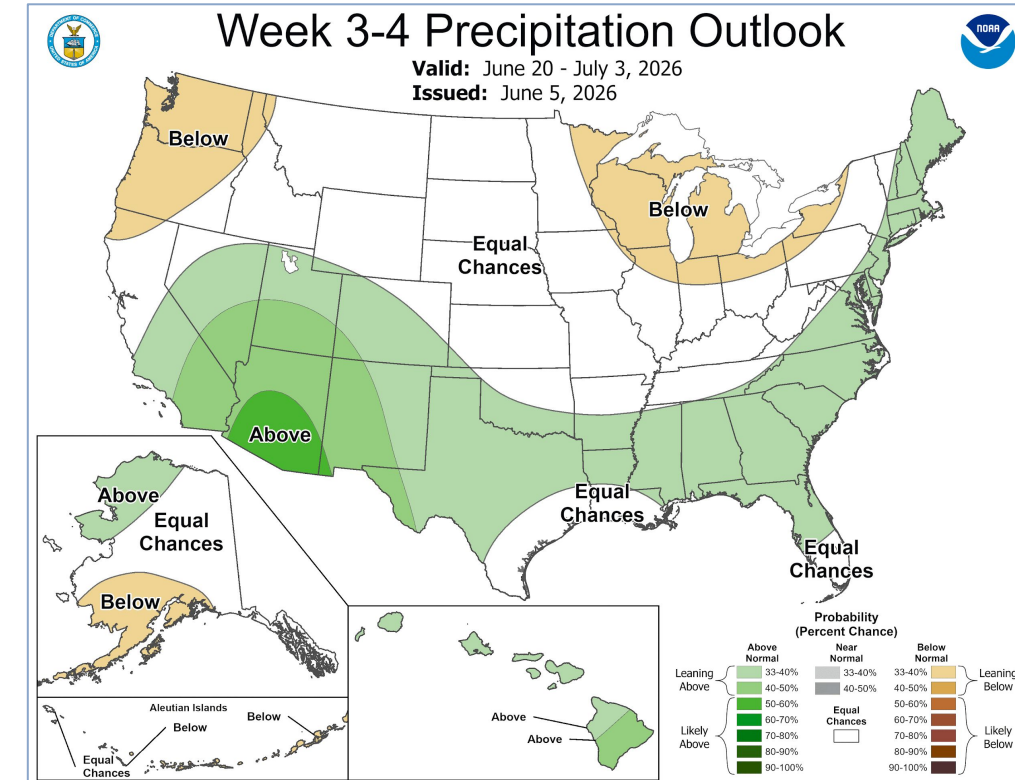
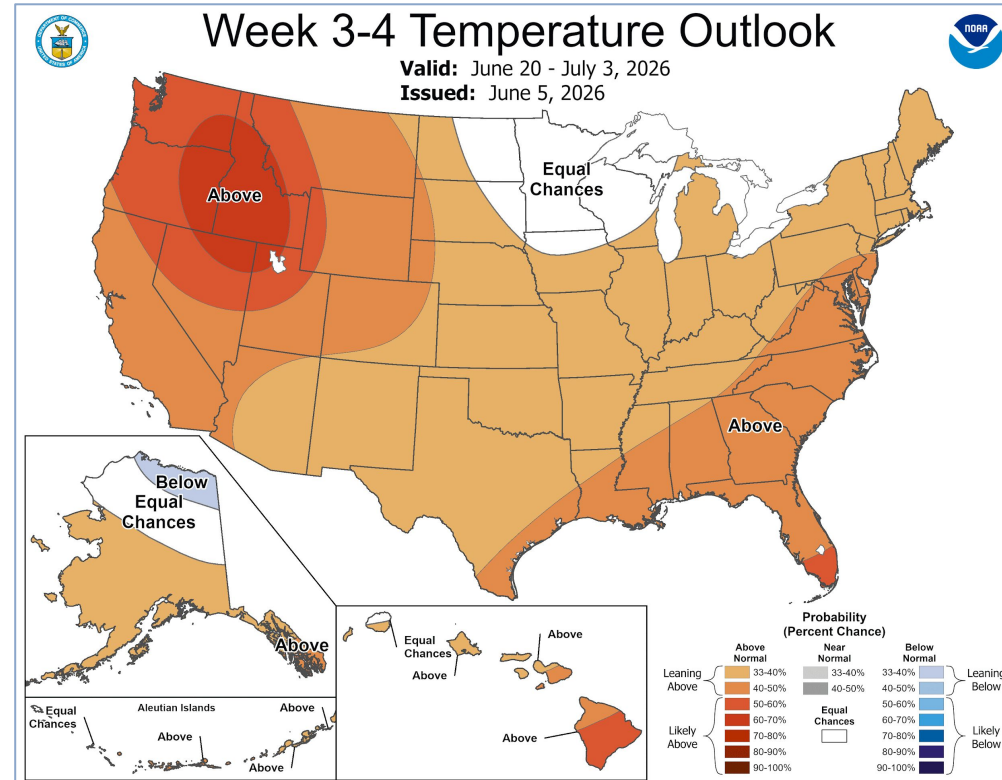


Image Captions:
Left: [Climate Prediction Center Weeks 3-4 Temperature Outlook.](#)
Right: [Climate Prediction Center Weeks 3-4 Precipitation Outlook.](#)
Valid June 20 - July 3, 2026



Seasonal Outlooks

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- There is a 40-50% chance of above-normal temperatures in June-July-August across central North Carolina.
- There are equal chances of above or below-normal precipitation in June-July-August.

Possible Impact

- There is no clear signal for drought improvement through the summer months.

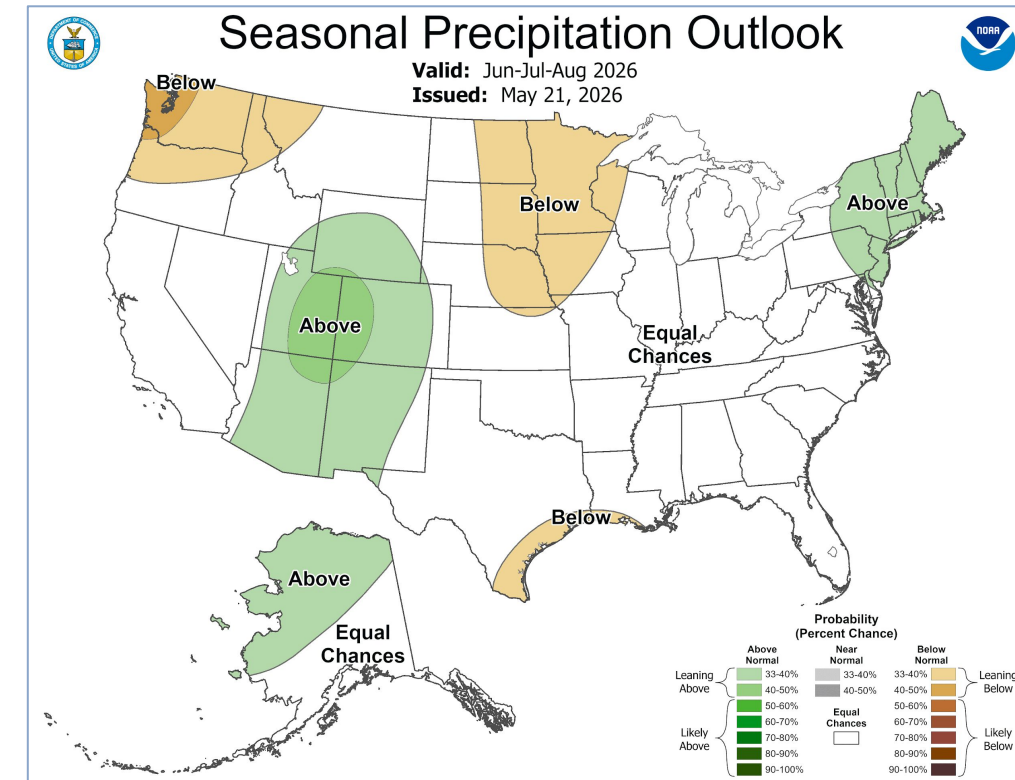
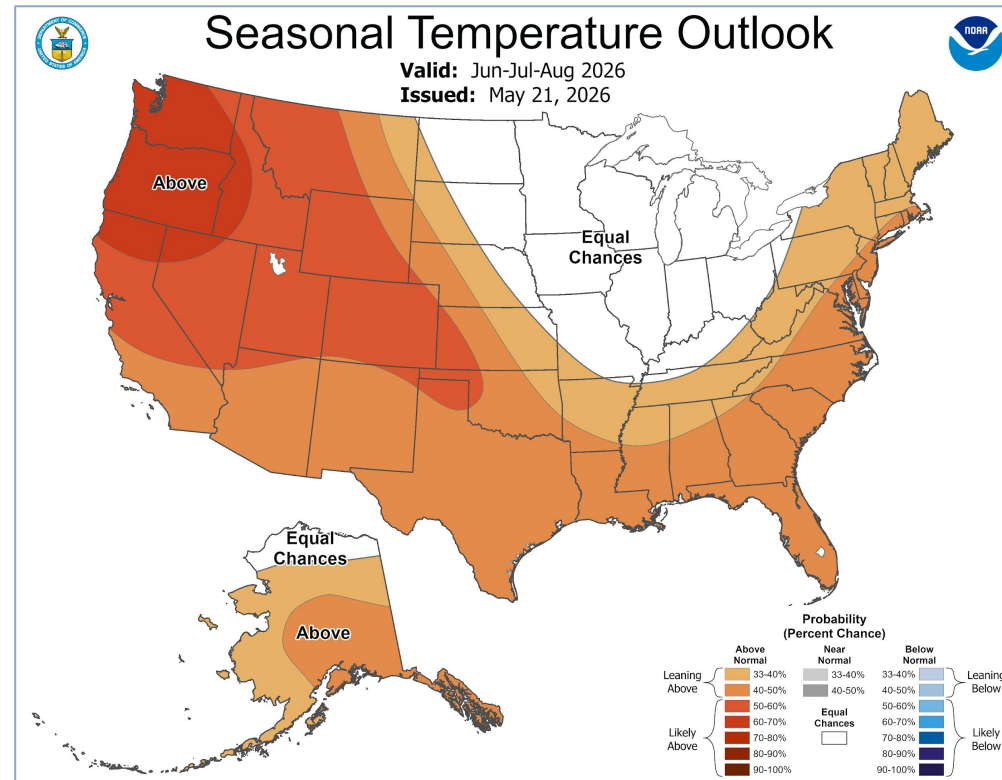


Image Captions:

Left: [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Temperature Outlook.](#)

Right: [Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Precipitation Outlook.](#)

Valid June - August, 2026



ENSO Forecast

Courtesy of the Climate Prediction Center (www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)

ENSO Alert System Status: **El Niño Watch**

Main Takeaway: An El Niño, and a potentially very strong one, is likely to develop soon and continue through the upcoming winter. El Niño winters typically favor wetter conditions across the southern U.S.

