



Drought Information Statement for Central North Carolina

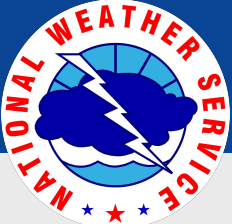
Valid October 10, 2025

Issued By: NWS Raleigh

Contact Information:

- This Drought Information Statement will be updated by October 24, 2025.
- 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
- Severe Drought (D2) in the north-central Coastal Plain. Moderate Drought (D1) in the eastern and southern Piedmont, as well as the remainder of the Coastal Plain.
- While some rain is forecast over eastern NC this weekend, amounts may not be significant enough over the drought stricken areas to improve conditions substantially.





Current Drought Conditions

October 10, 2025
7:22 AM EDT

Graphic Courtesy of the North Carolina State Climate Office

North Carolina Drought Update

For the assessment period ending **Oct. 7, 2025**
From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

Created By: North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council
www.ncdrought.org
NORTH CAROLINA CLIMATE OFFICE
climate.ncsu.edu @NCSCO

The Main Takeaway

Moderate Drought (D1) has expanded while Severe Drought (D2) emerged across eastern North Carolina after another bone-dry week in many of those areas.

This Week's Summary

This marks the fifth fall in a row in which we've seen Severe Drought in parts of North Carolina, and as in those other recent years, the drought development has coincided with a lack of tropical storms during this key part of the season. Last week saw no meaningful rain outside of the Mountains, which resulted in a further decline of many streamflow and soil moisture levels.

Next Week's Outlook

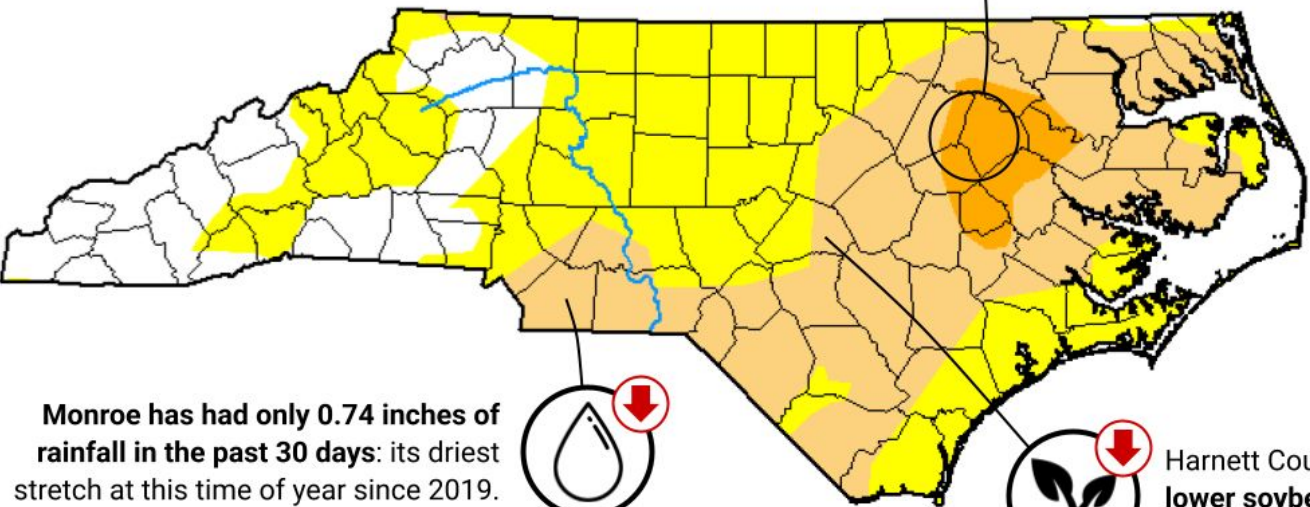
A low pressure system developing offshore could bring up to 4 inches of rain to the immediate coastline this weekend, but totals will sharply decrease farther inland.

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

NC Forest Service reports moisture-sensitive tree species such as **yellow poplar, sweetgum, and red maple** are all seeing an early leaf drop.



Average streamflows on the Tar River at Rocky Mount and Tarboro are **below the 10th percentile** over the past 7 and 28 days.



Monroe has had only **0.74 inches of rainfall in the past 30 days**; its driest stretch at this time of year since 2019.



Harnett County Extension expects **lower soybean production** due to damage from the recent dryness.



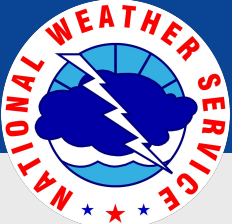
Last Week's Drought Status



Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	43.03%	-14.68%
D1: Moderate Drought	36.37%	+12.45%
D2: Severe Drought	4.40%	+4.40%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%

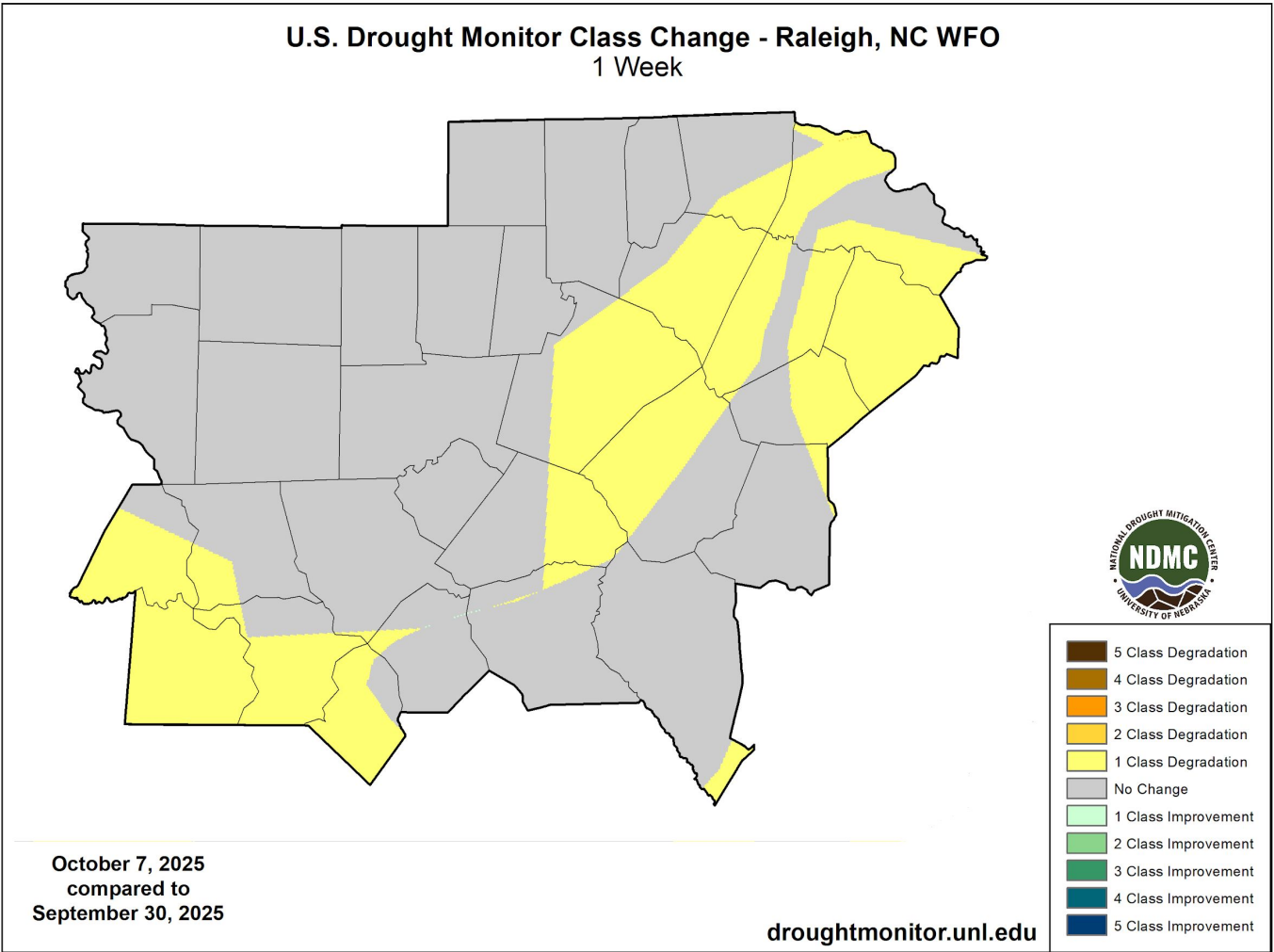
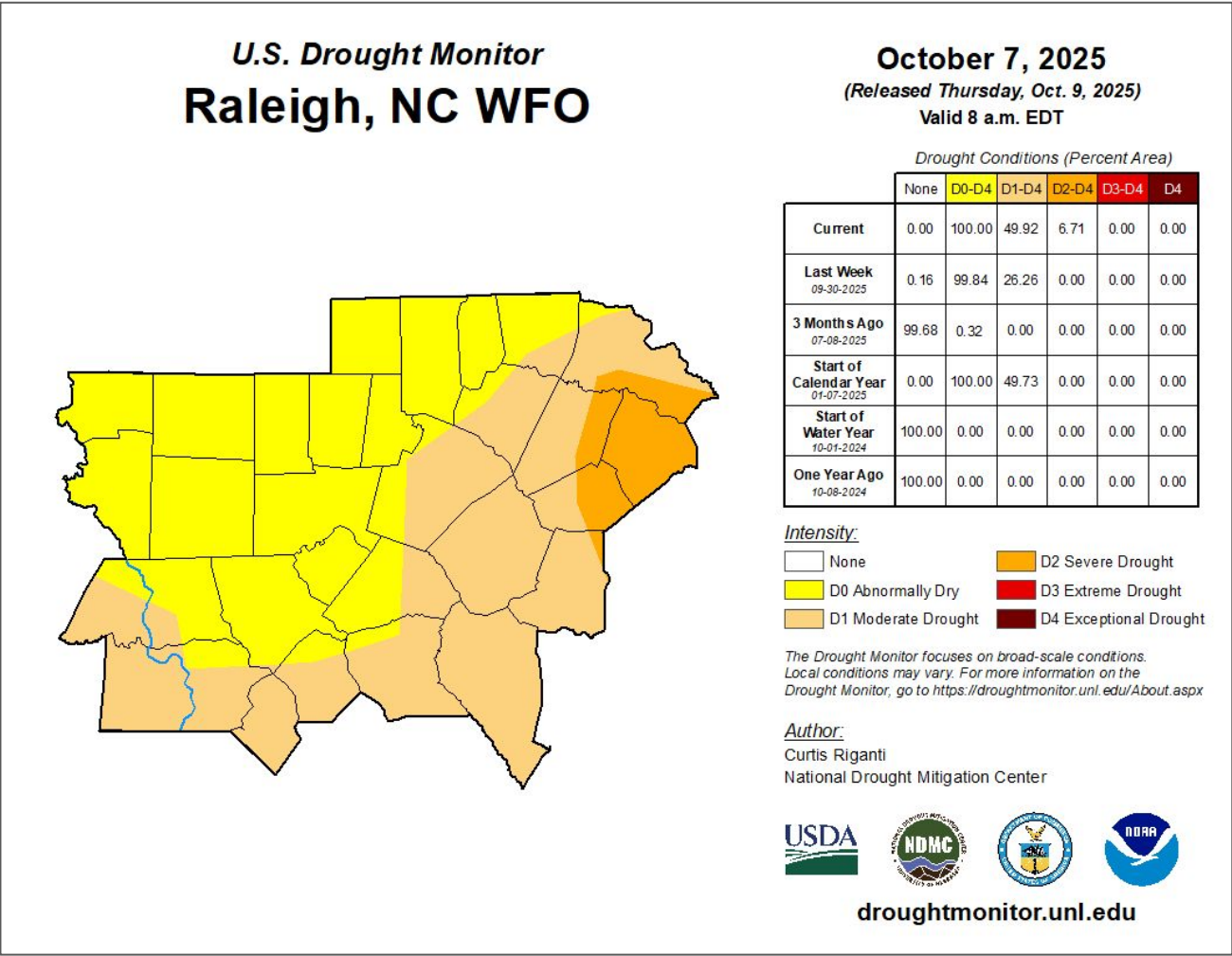




Current Drought Conditions

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



Main Takeaways

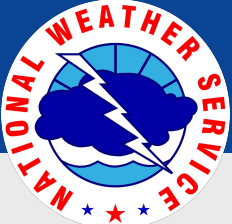
- Severe Drought (D2) conditions are observed across all of Edgecombe County and parts of Nash, Halifax, and Wilson Counties.
- Moderate Drought (D1) conditions are observed across the eastern and southern Piedmont, as well as the entire Coastal Plain.

Image Caption:

Left: [U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am October 7th.](#)

Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map valid 8am October 7th.](#)

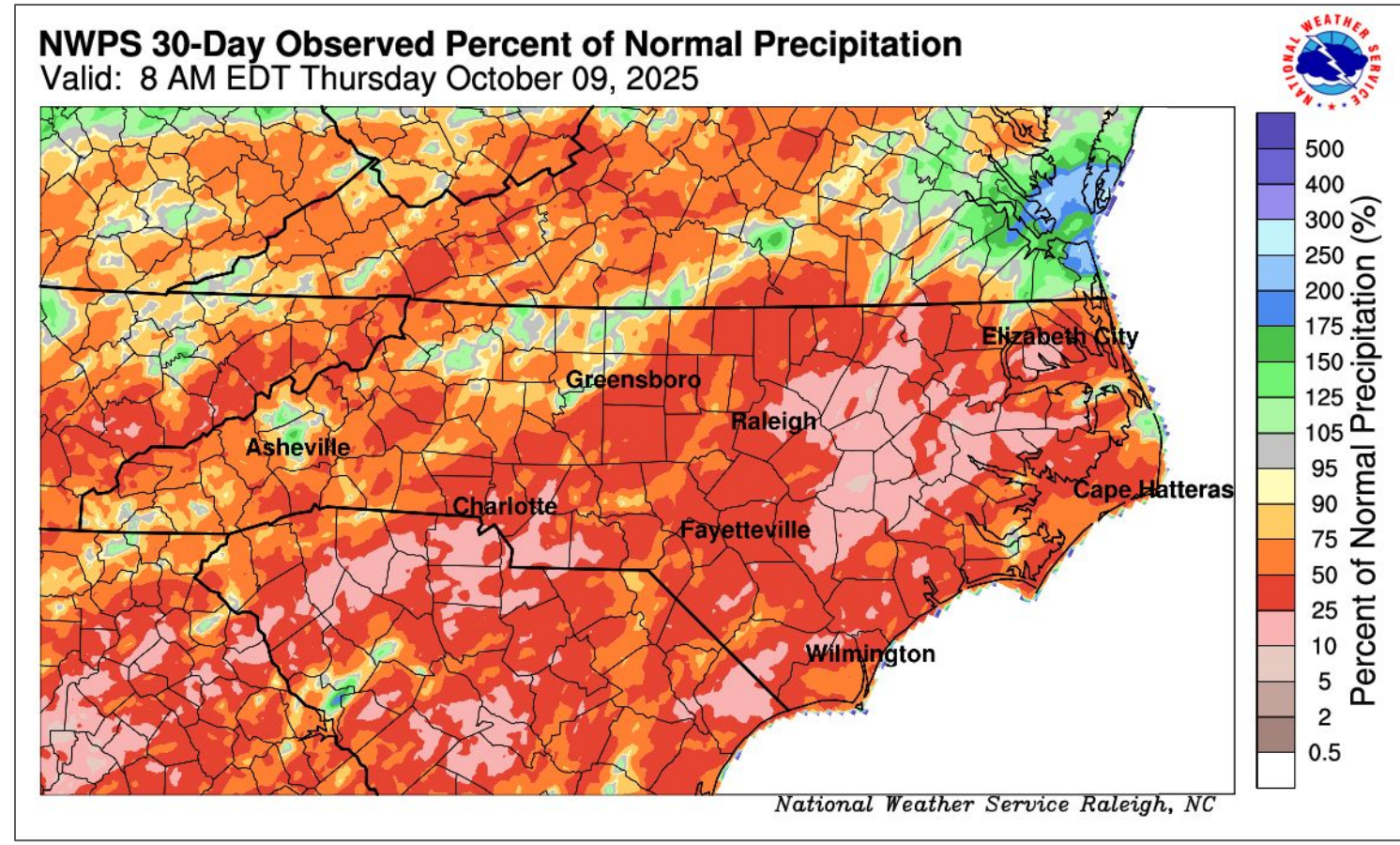
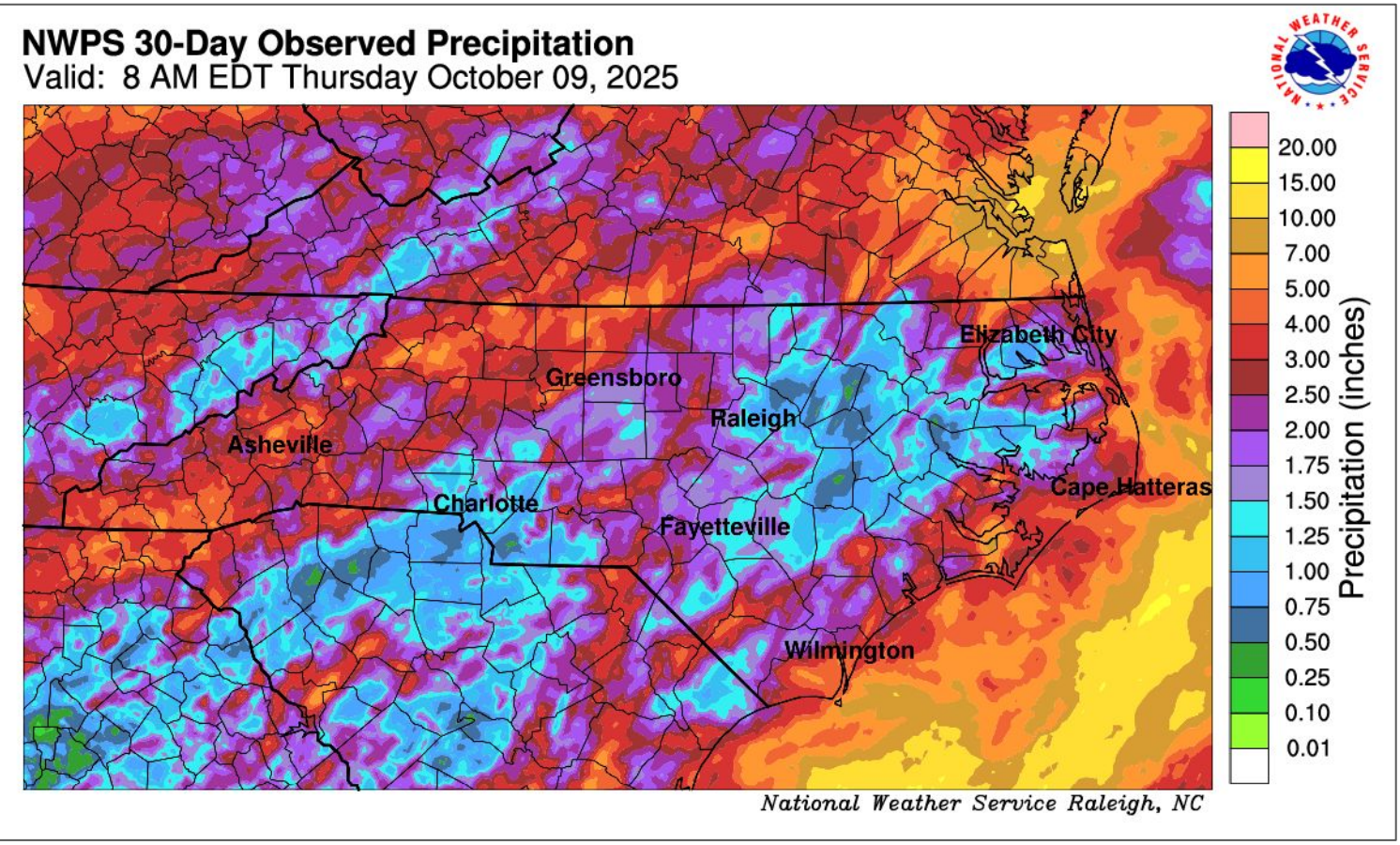




Observed Precipitation

October 10, 2025
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Latest 30-Day Rainfall and Percent of Normal Rainfall

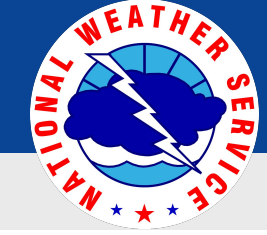


Main Takeaways

- While most of western and portions of central NC received some rain in late September, areas between Raleigh and Greenville, NC continued to see rainfall deficits grow since late summer.

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 30 days ending October 9, 2025





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

October 10, 2025
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- Streamflow is below normal across much of the Coastal Plain, and particularly low in the Tar River Basin.

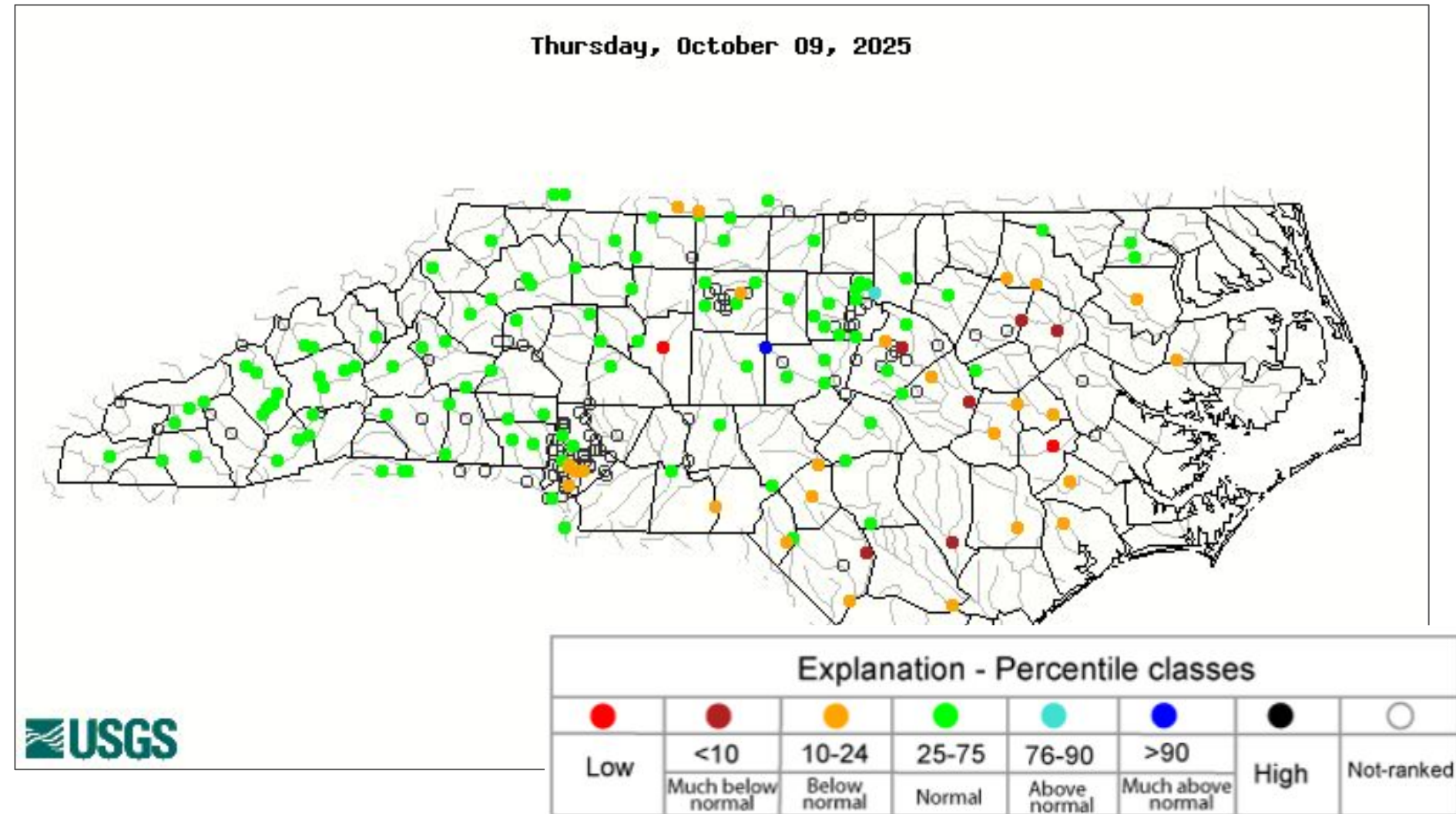
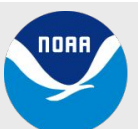
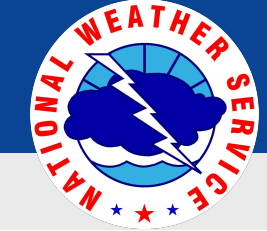


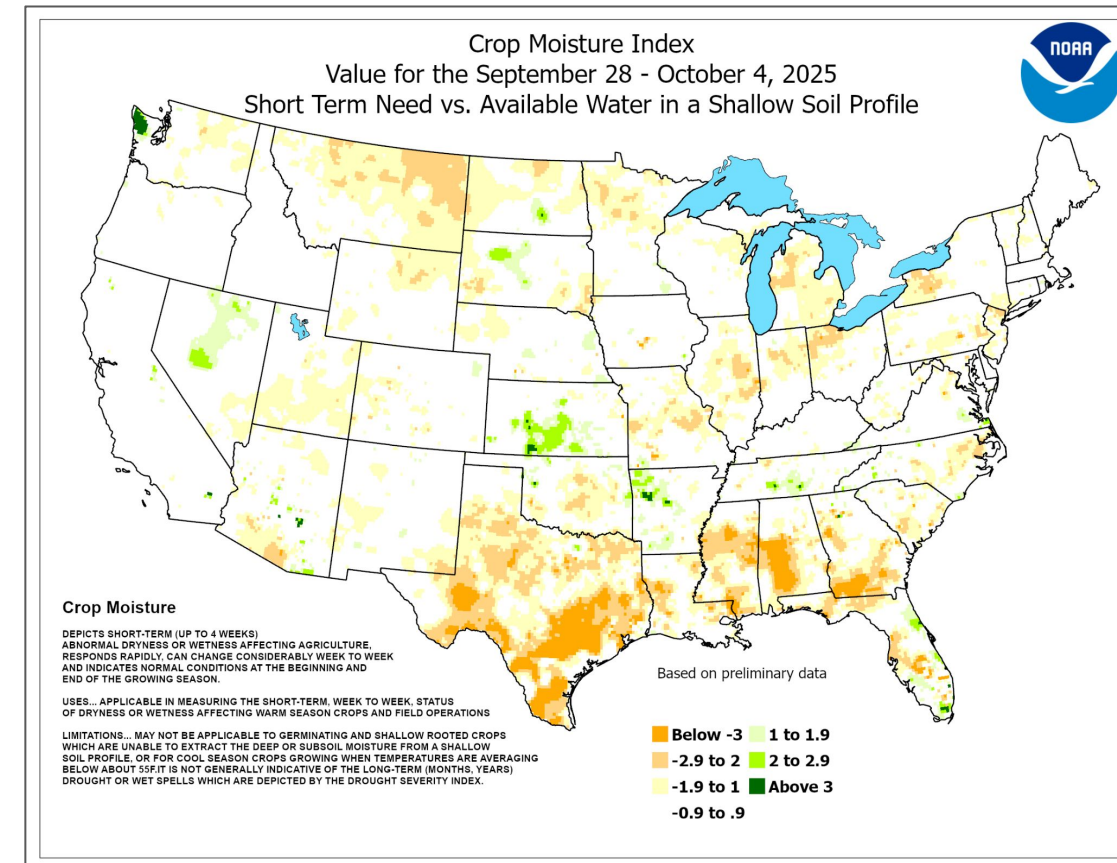
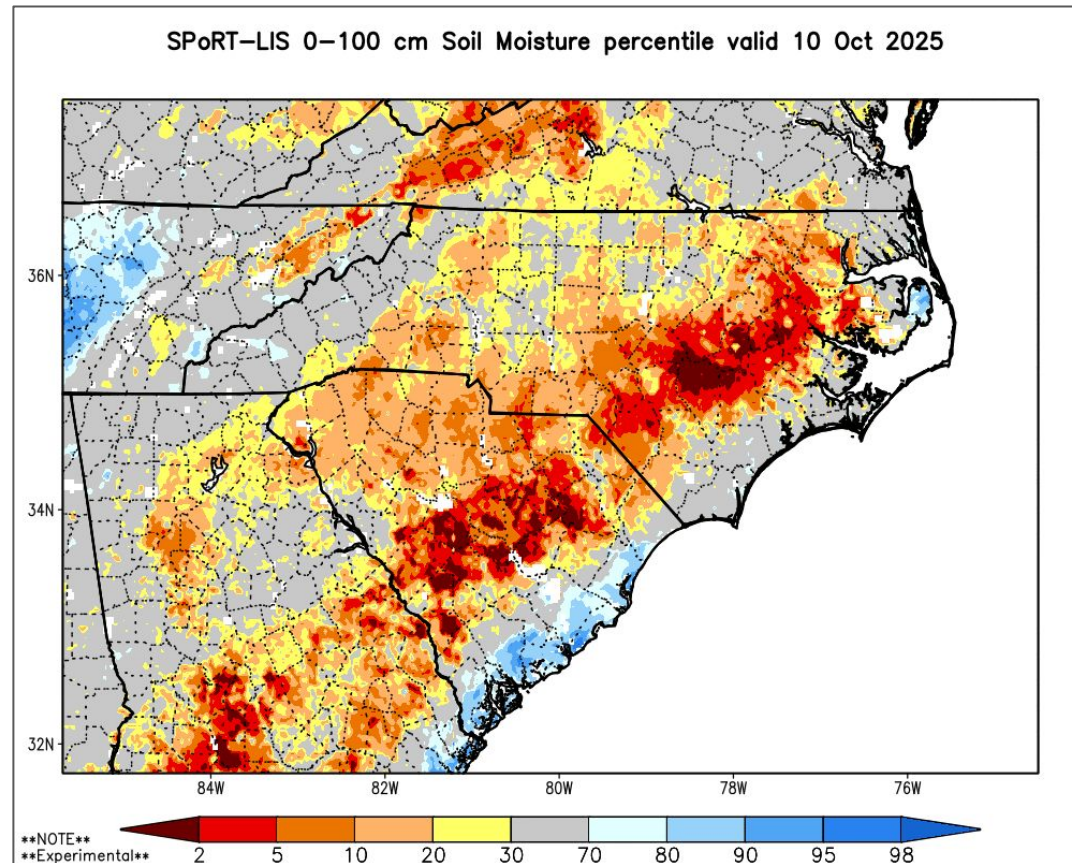
Image Caption: USGS 28 day average streamflow valid 10/08/2025





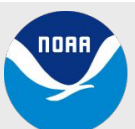
Agricultural Impacts

October 10, 2025
7:22 AM EDT



- Across much of the Coastal Plain, soil moisture is less than 20% of normal and the Crop Moisture Index is between -1 and -3.
- There have been some reported agricultural impacts, including lower soybean production.

Left: NASA SPoRT LIS [Soil Moisture 100cm Soil Moisture Percentile](#) valid October 10, 2025
Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending October 4, 2025





Precipitation Forecast

October 10, 2025
7:22 AM EDT

Latest 7-Day Precipitation Forecast

- Next 7 days:
 - A coastal low will track along the NC coast this weekend and bring some locally moderate to heavy rain to coastal NC.
 - However, there will be a sharp decrease in rainfall amounts across interior NC. It is possible that some areas currently in drought will receive less than 0.25".
 - Dry weather will return next week.

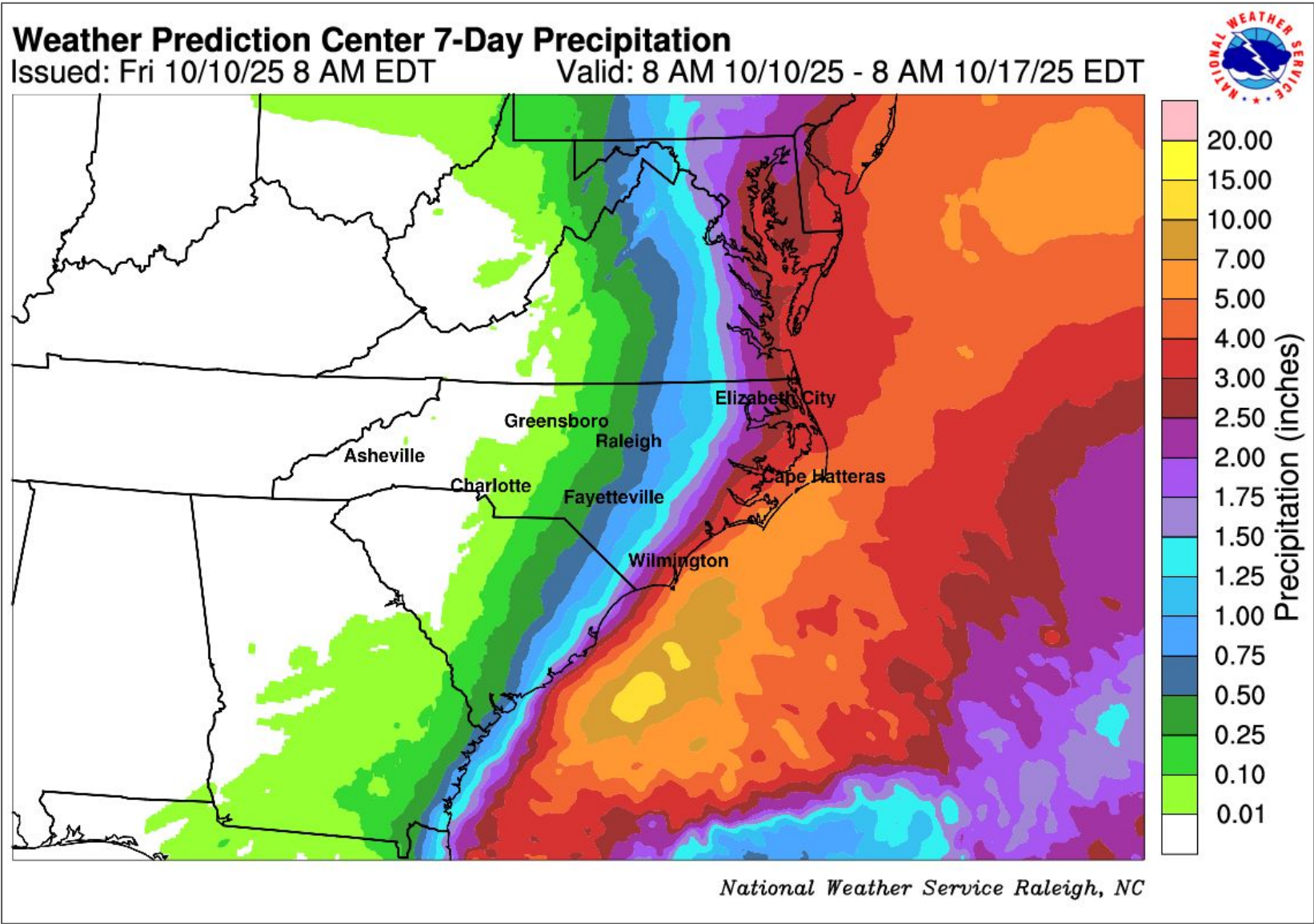


Image Caption:

Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Friday October 10 to Friday October 17, 2025





8-14 Day Outlook

October 10, 2025
7:22 AM EDT

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- The Days 8-14 Outlooks favors near normal temperatures.
- There are slightly increased chances (33-50%) of below normal precipitation in Days 8-14.

Possible Impact

- Without more significant rainfall in the next 7 days, drought conditions are likely persist or worsen.

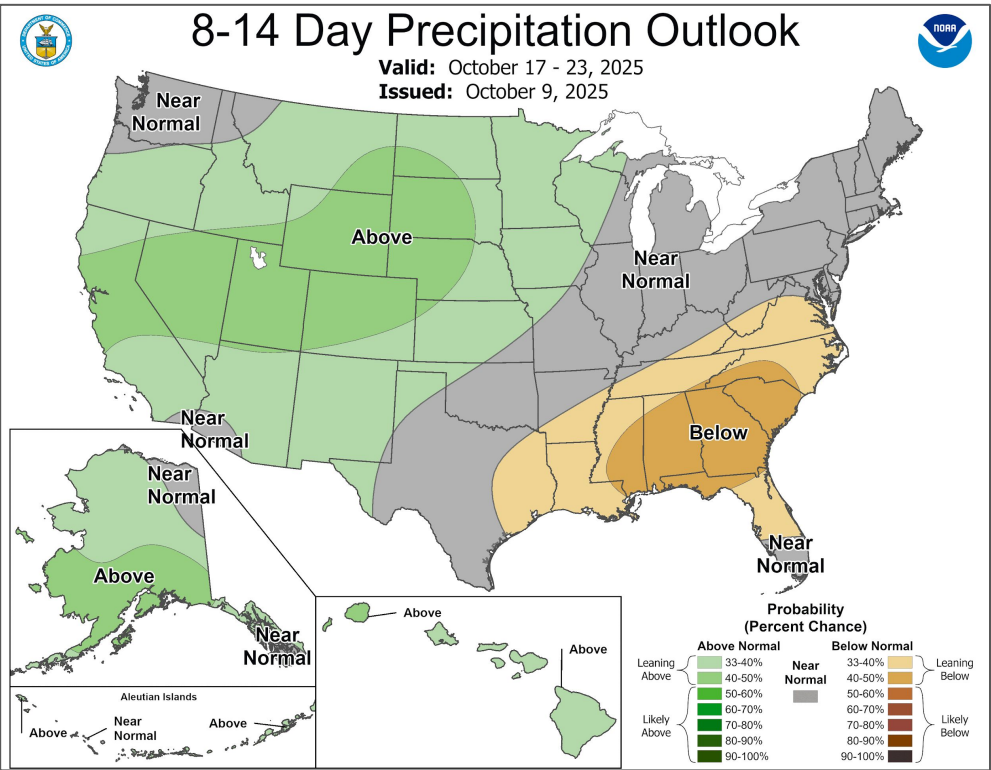
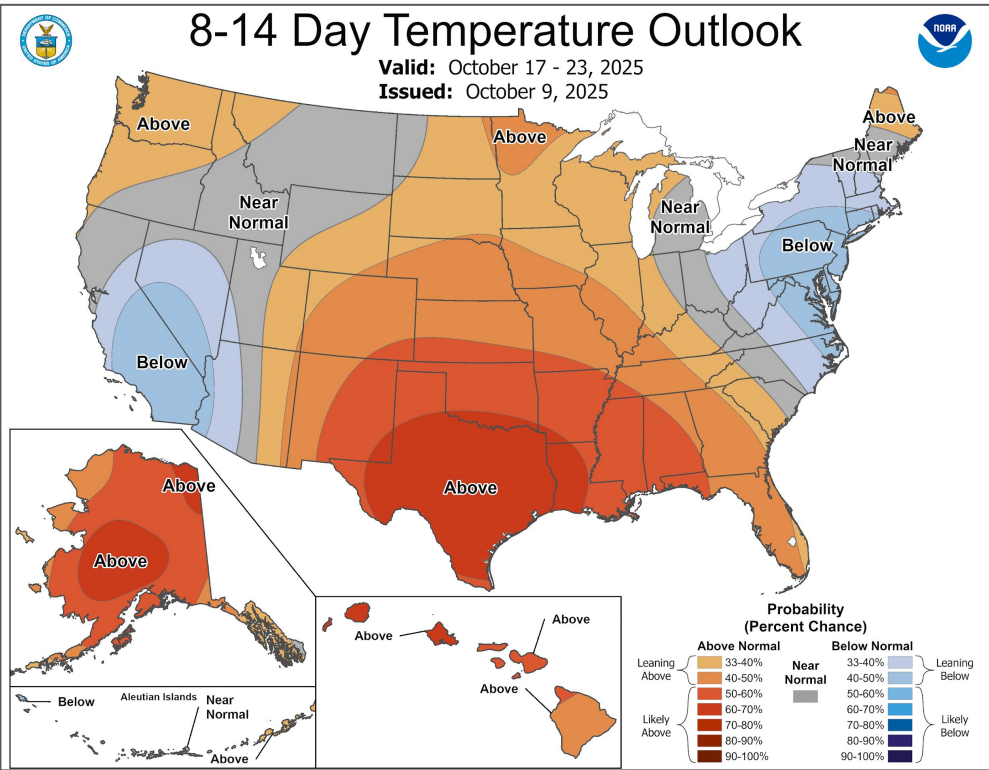


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook.](#)
Right - [Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook.](#)

Valid October 17-23,, 2025





Weeks 3-4 Outlook

October 10, 2025
7:22 AM EDT

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- There is a slight lean (40-50%) to above normal temperatures across NC.
- The 3-4 Week Outlook favors equal chances of above or below normal precipitation across the south for late October.

Possible Impact

If near to above normal rainfall does not occur in the next 2 weeks, the uncertainty in rainfall combined with a higher probability of above normal temperatures could worsen drought conditions.

Demands for water are decreasing heading into late Fall and Winter, which may help slow the expansion of drought.

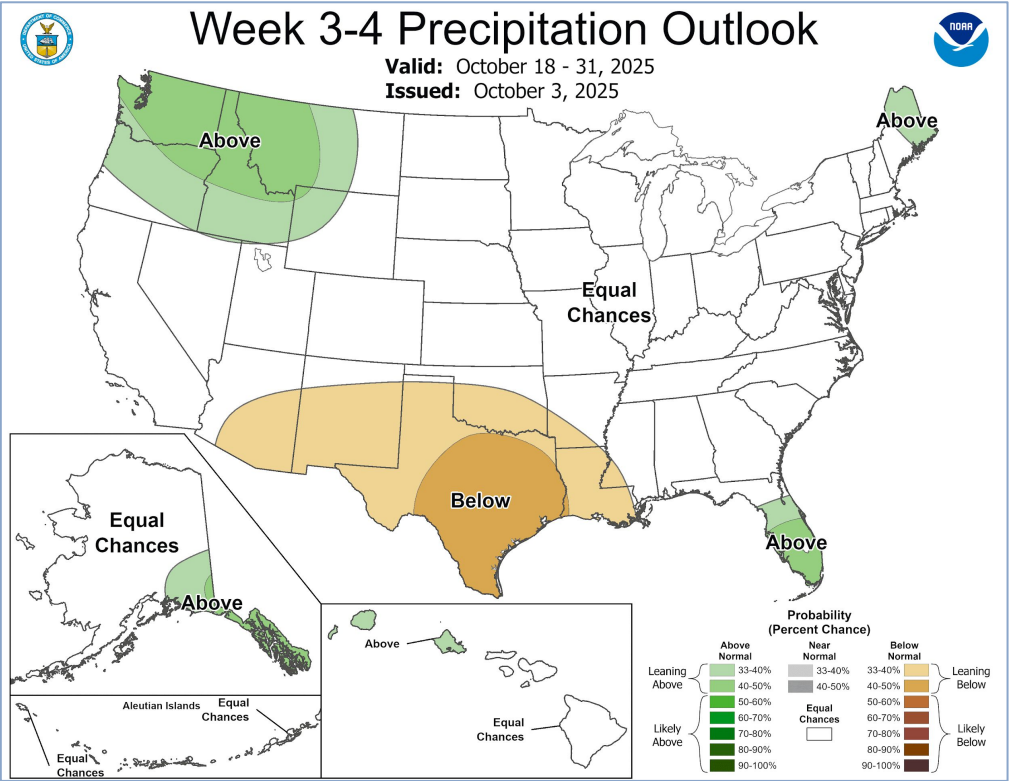
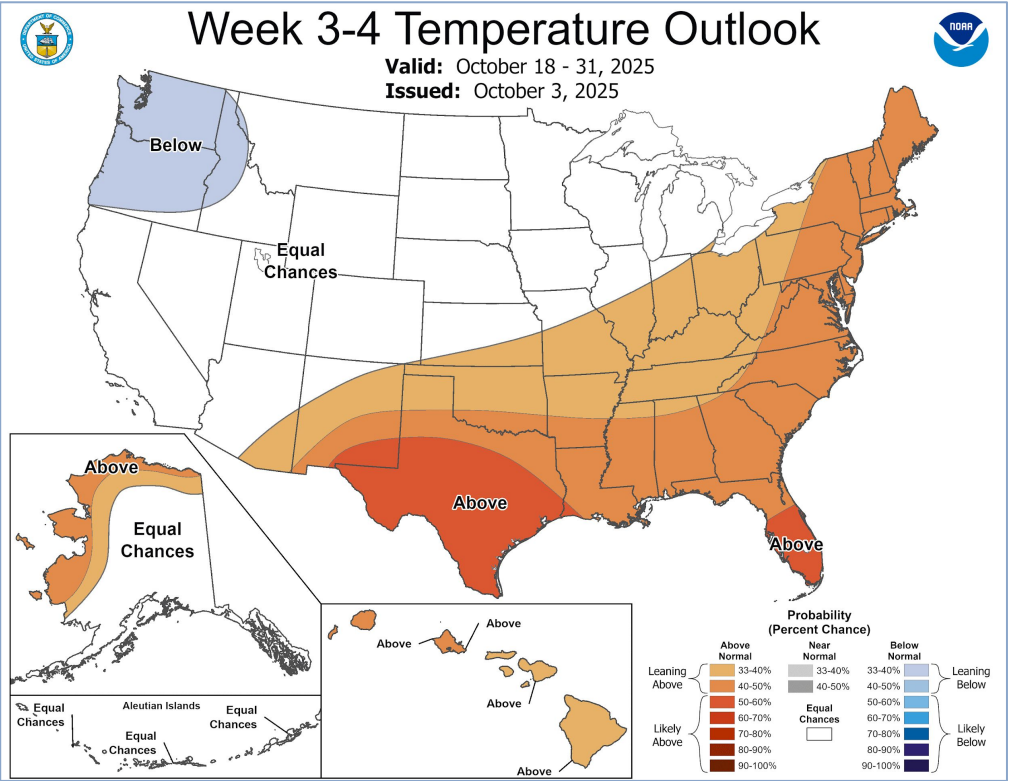


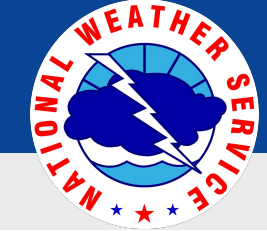
Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Weeks 3-4 Temperature Outlook.](#)

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Weeks 3-4 Precipitation Outlook.](#)

Valid October 18- October 31, 2025



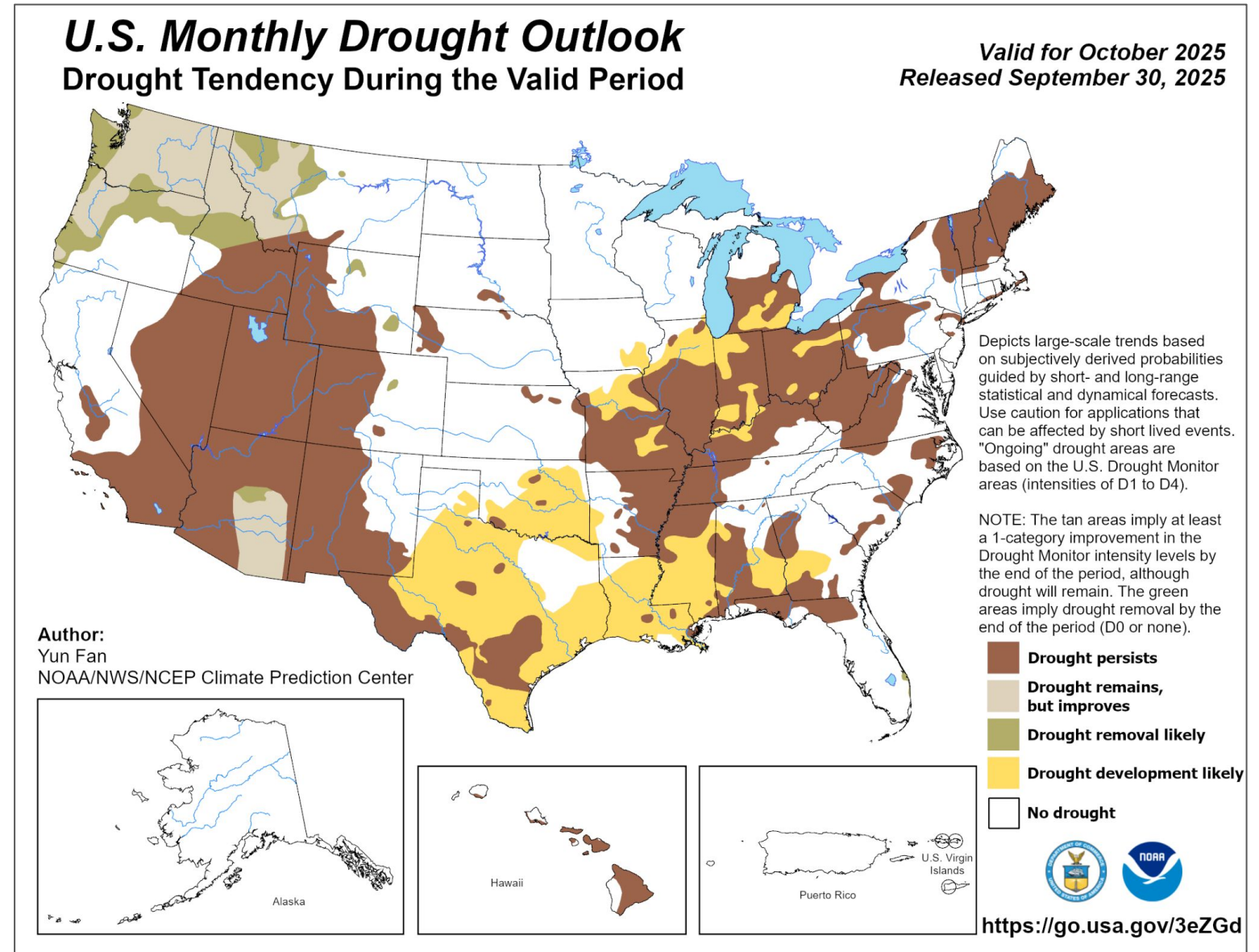


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is expected to persist across portions of eastern NC through the month of October.



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
Raleigh, NC