



Drought Information Statement for Central North Carolina

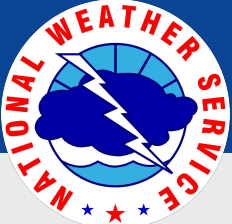
Valid November 21, 2025

Issued By: NWS Raleigh

Contact Information:

- This Drought Information Statement will be updated by December 5, 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) continues in the north-central Coastal Plain.
 - Conditions have improved in the the southern Coastal Plain and eastern Piedmont, where the extent of Severe Drought (D2) and Moderate Drought (D1) has been reduced.





Current Drought Conditions

November 20, 2025
8:09 AM EST

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 @NCSCO

For the assessment period ending **Nov. 11, 2025**
From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

The Main Takeaway

Light rain and cooler temperatures helped us avoid any degradation but weren't enough for any improvements either, leaving about 29% of North Carolina in drought.

This Week's Summary

Scattered rain – and even snow – showers earlier this week totaled about half an inch of liquid precipitation in most areas, with higher amounts in the southwest and northeast. While that didn't make much of a dent in our long-term rainfall deficits, it did help level off topsoil moisture content and streamflows, which have mostly been in the normal range after recent weeks' rainfall.

Next Week's Outlook

Our temperatures will warm into the 70s this weekend before a cold front moves in on Sunday. Rain showers are possible on Tuesday, but totals should be very light.

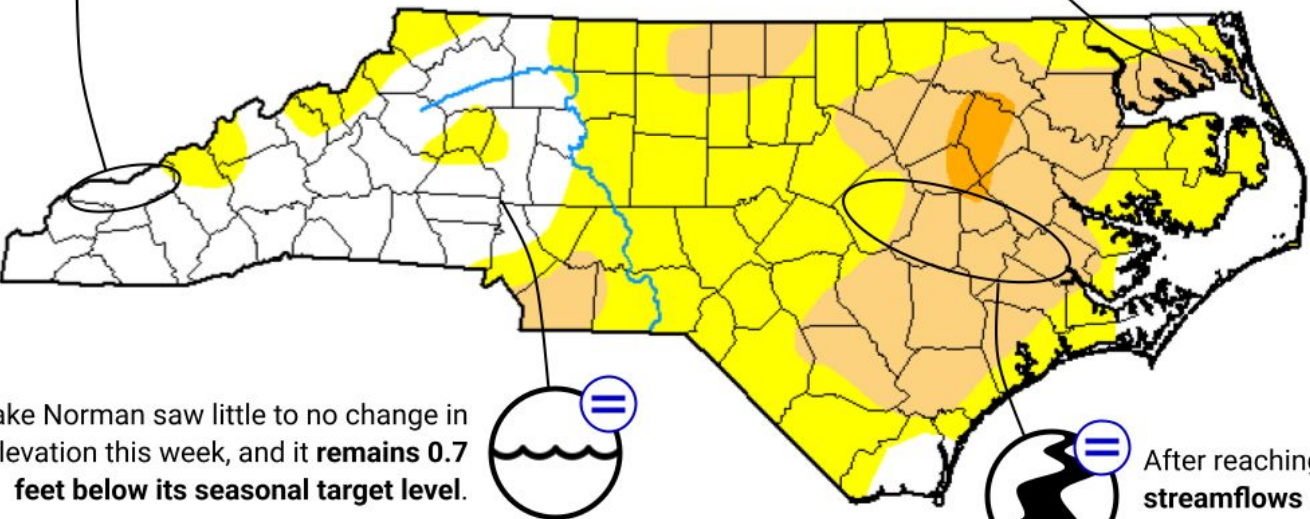
For your local drought status, visit www.ncdrought.org



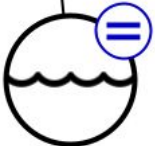
While it was a **drier-than-normal week** in terms of liquid totals, the **Great Smokies** saw **more than 4 inches of snow** on Monday night.



Elizabeth City had **1.32 inches of rainfall** earlier this week, but it remains **2.7 inches below normal** over the past three months.

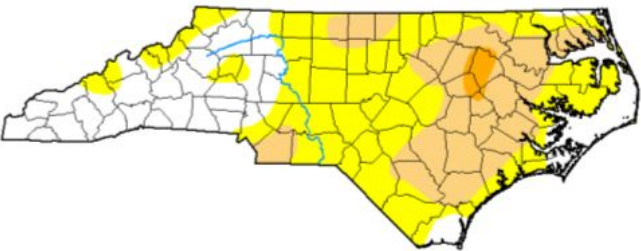


Lake Norman saw little to no change in elevation this week, and it **remains 0.7 feet below its seasonal target level**.



After reaching low levels in October, **streamflows on the Neuse River** are still holding in the normal range now.

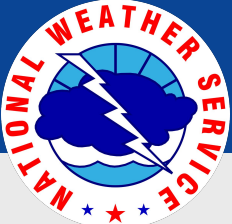
Last Week's Drought Status



Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	45.30%	-0.01%
D1: Moderate Drought	26.93%	0.00%
D2: Severe Drought	1.59%	0.00%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%

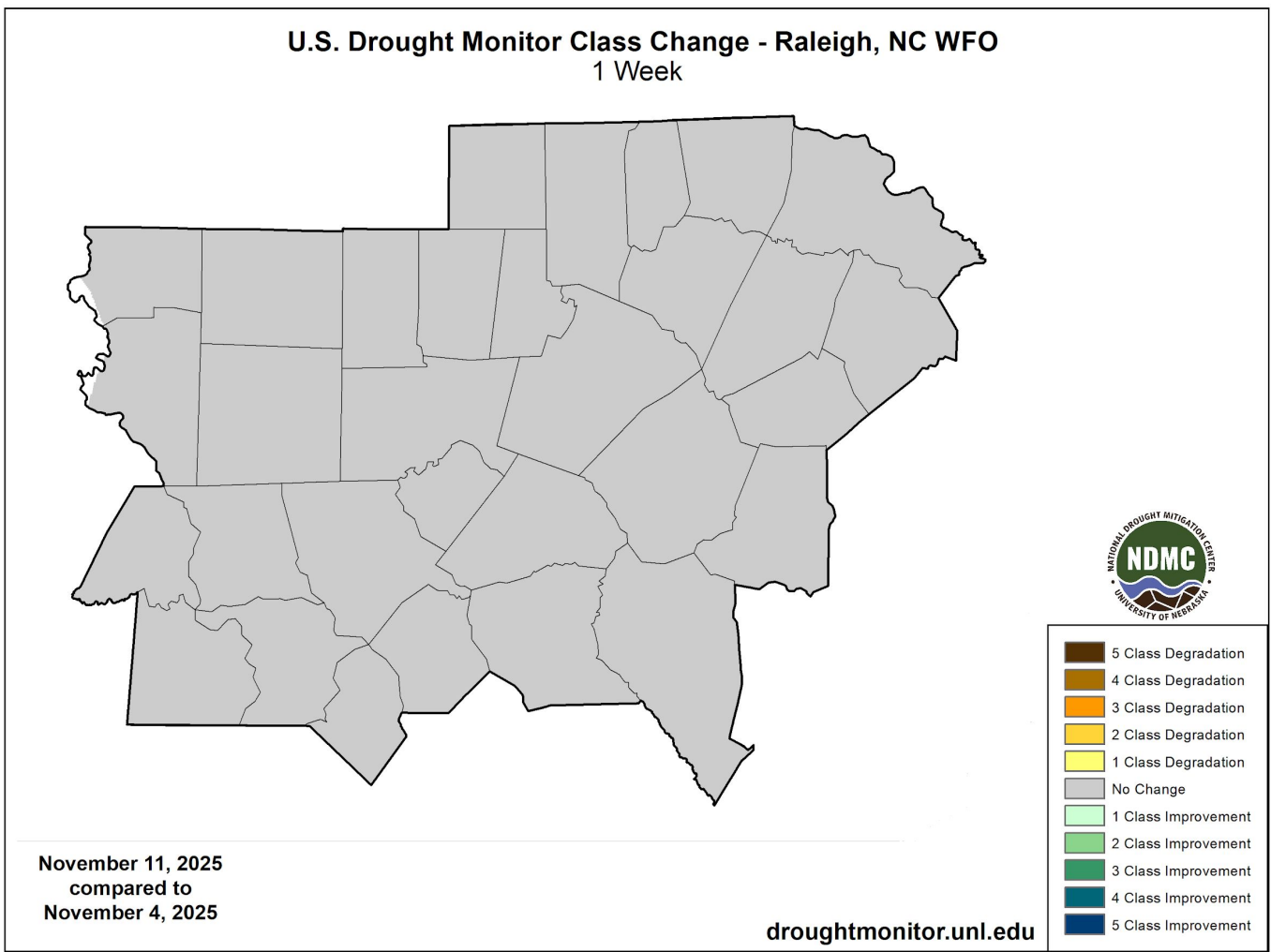
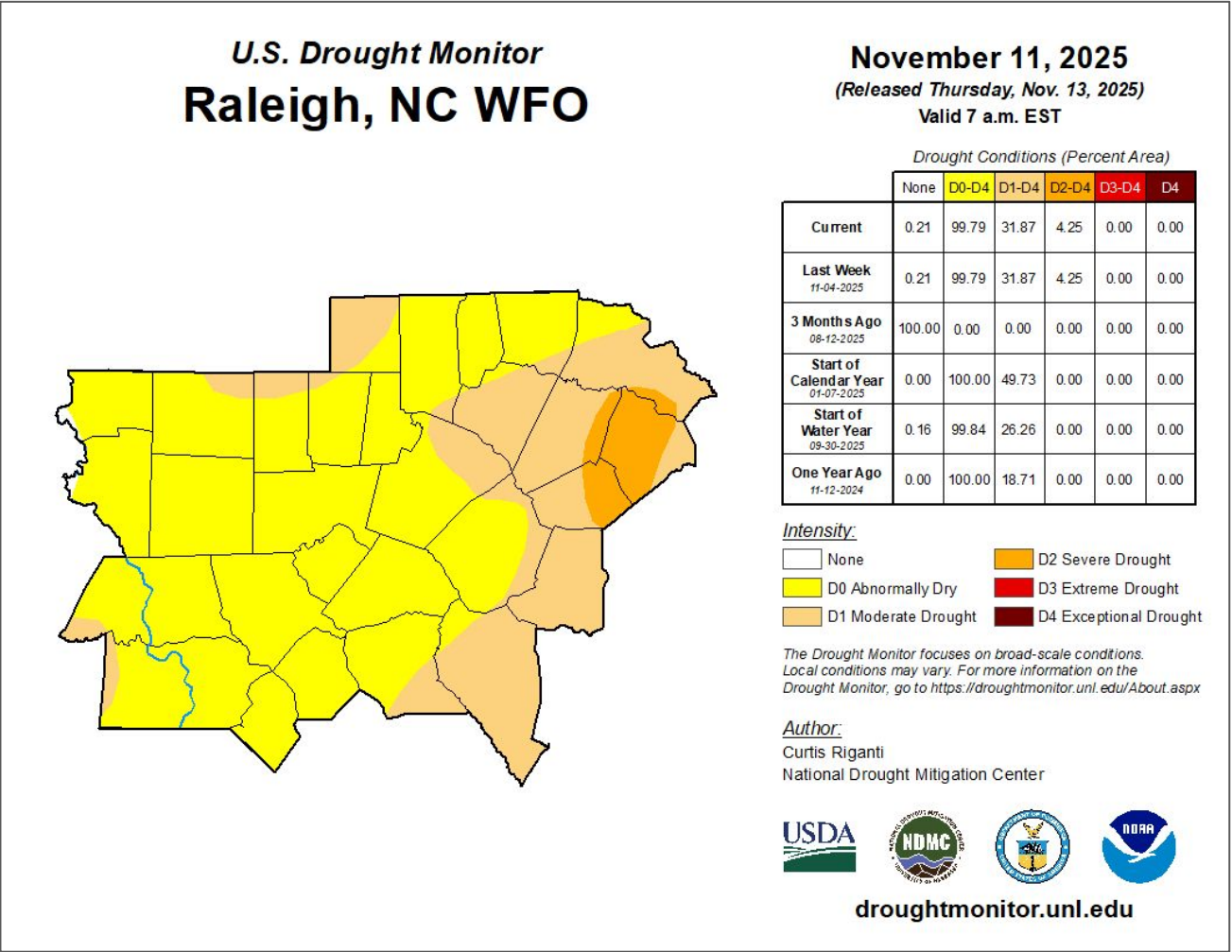




Current Drought Conditions

November 20, 2025
8:09 AM EST

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



Main Takeaways

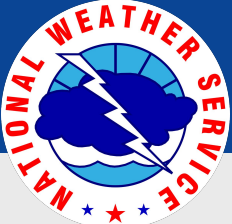
- There were general improvements in drought conditions over the last week.
- Both areas of Severe Drought (D2) and Moderate Drought (D1) were reduced across the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

Image Caption:

Left: [U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am November 18th.](#)

Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor 1-week change map valid 8am November 18th.](#)

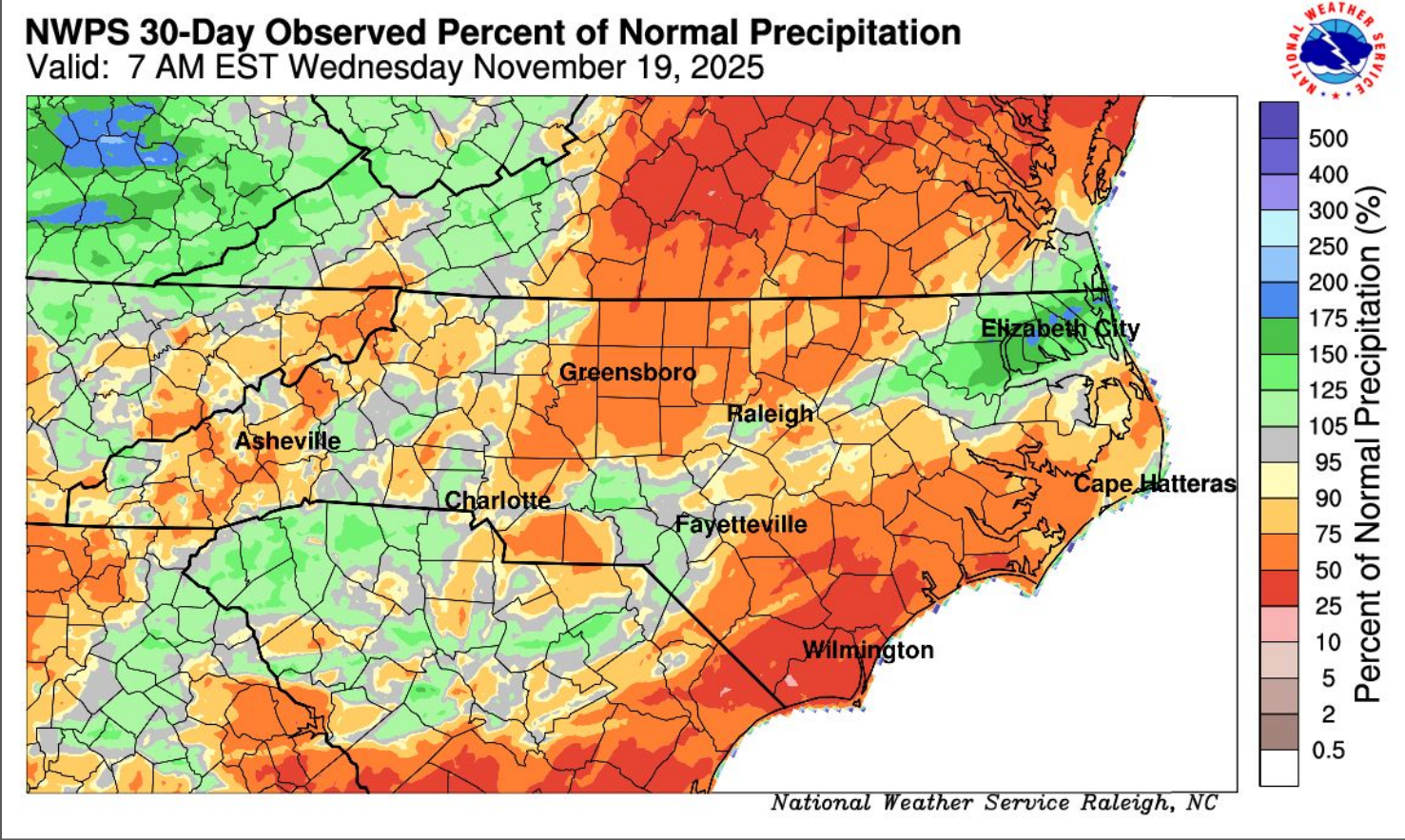
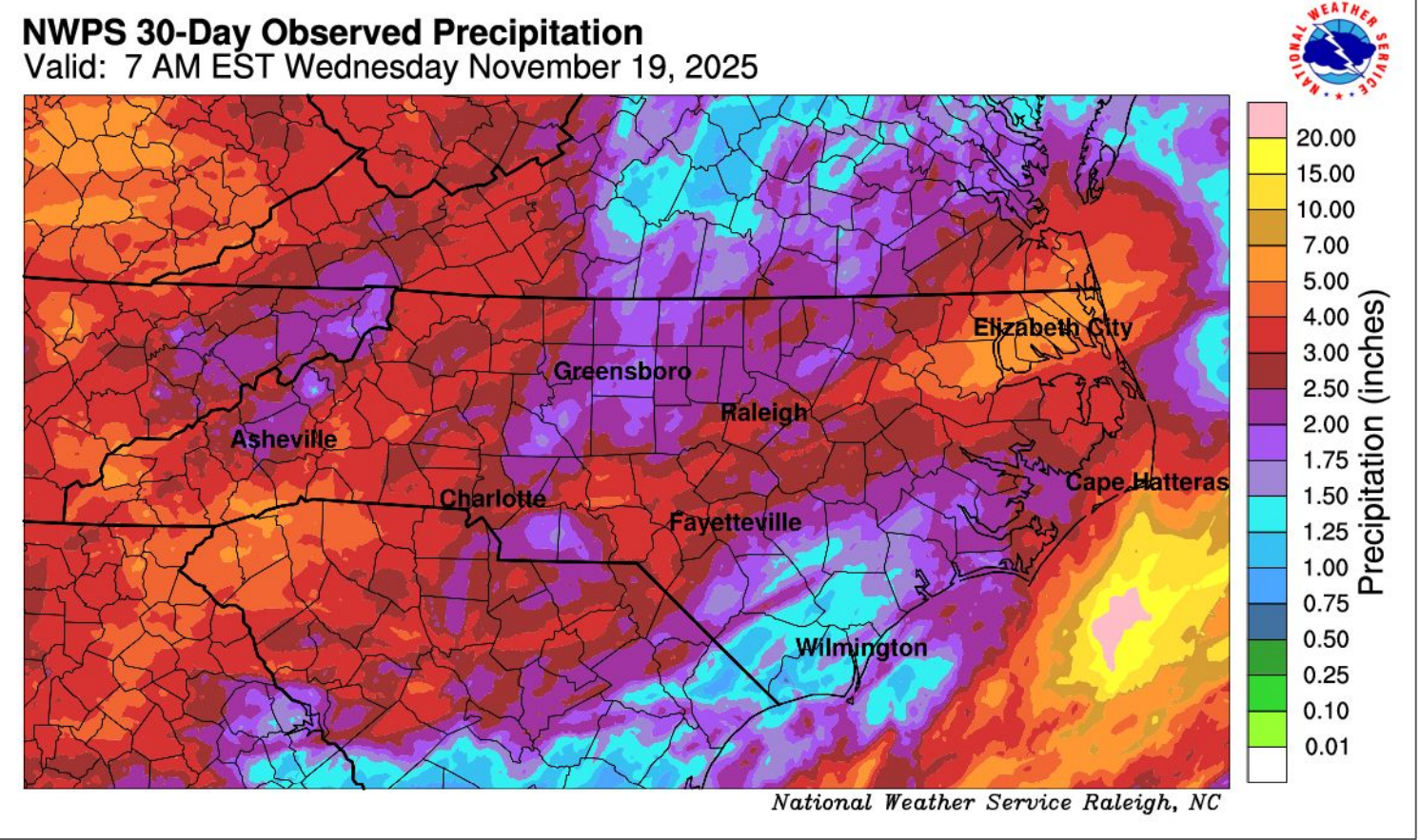




Observed Precipitation

November 20, 2025
8:09 AM EST

Latest 30-Day Rainfall and Percent of Normal Rainfall



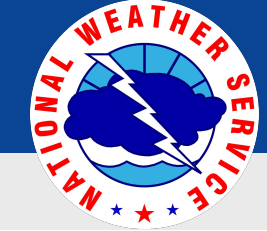
Main Takeaways

- Some portions of the Coastal Plain received 1-3 inches of rain in the past two weeks.
- However, longer term rainfall deficits of 1-3 inches over the past 30-60 days continue across most of central NC.
- Additional statistics can be found at <https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/data/raw/sx/sxus52.krah.lco.rah.txt>

Past 90 Days Stats	Observed Precipitation	Departure From Normal	Percent of Normal
Raleigh-Durham	7.53	-5.07	60%
Piedmont Triad	6.05	-5.48	52%
Fayetteville	8.36	-4.39	66%

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 November 20, 2025





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

November 20, 2025
8:09 AM EST

- There were some general improvements in streamflow in the Piedmont.
- Streamflow remains well below normal in the Tar River Basin.
- Streamflows have improved in the Neuse River Basin.

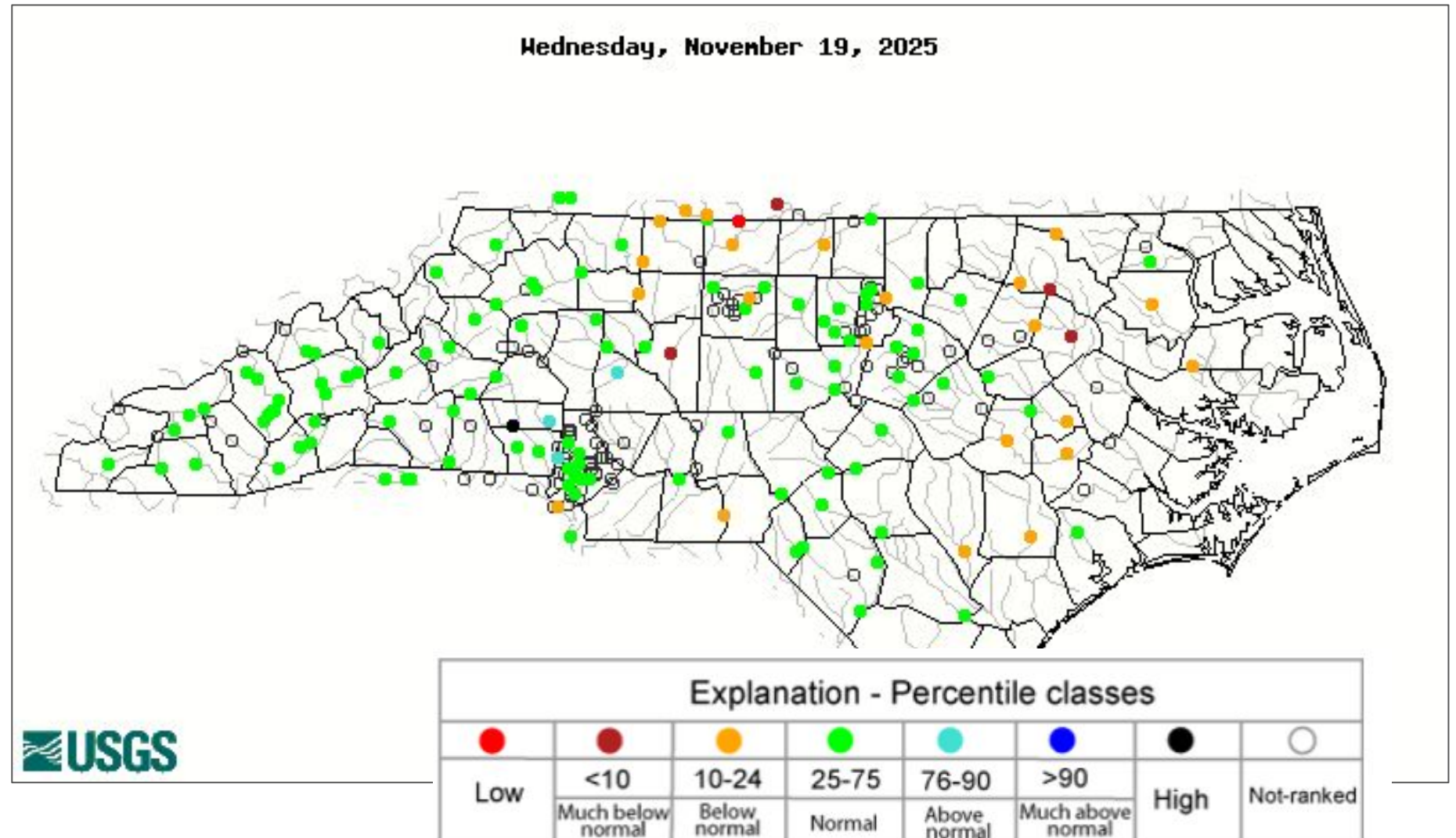
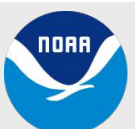
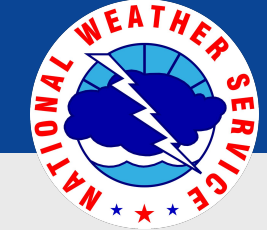


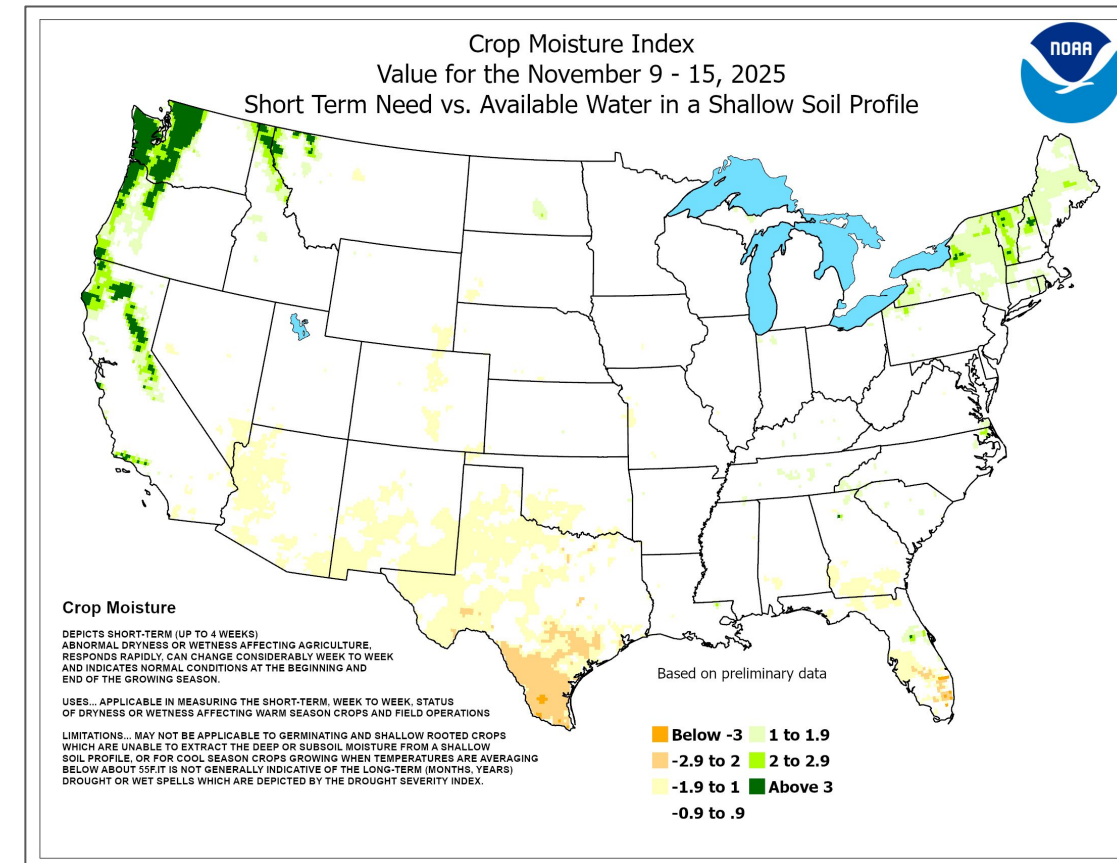
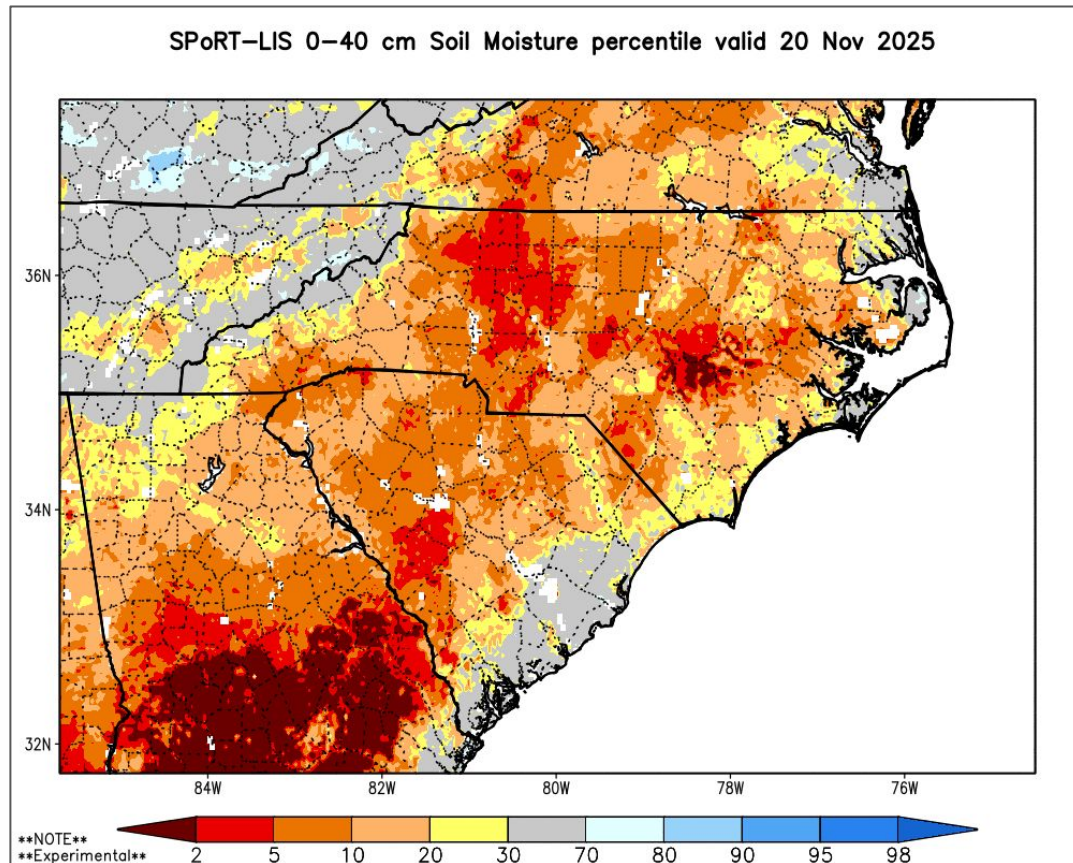
Image Caption: USGS 28 day average streamflow valid 11/20/2025





Agricultural Impacts

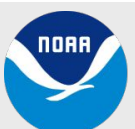
November 20, 2025
8:09 AM EST



- Soil moisture remains in the 5-10th percentile for the time of year in the central Coastal Plain, but in other areas conditions have improved. The short term Crop Moisture Index has improved to the near normal range.
- Recent rainfall has provided some assistance in Fall season planting.

Left: NASA SPoRT LIS [Soil Moisture 100cm Soil Moisture Percentile](#) valid November 20, 2025

Right: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending November 1, 2025



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Raleigh, NC



Precipitation Forecast

November 20, 2025
8:09 AM EST

Latest 7-Day Precipitation Forecast

- **Next 7 days:**

- A couple of cold fronts will cross the area this weekend, one early Saturday and another on Sunday/Sunday night, but rainfall with each will be relatively light.
- Rainfall totals will greatest in the northern Coastal Plain but generally less than 0.50", and some areas may see less than 0.25".
- These rainfall amounts are well below normal for the 7-day period.

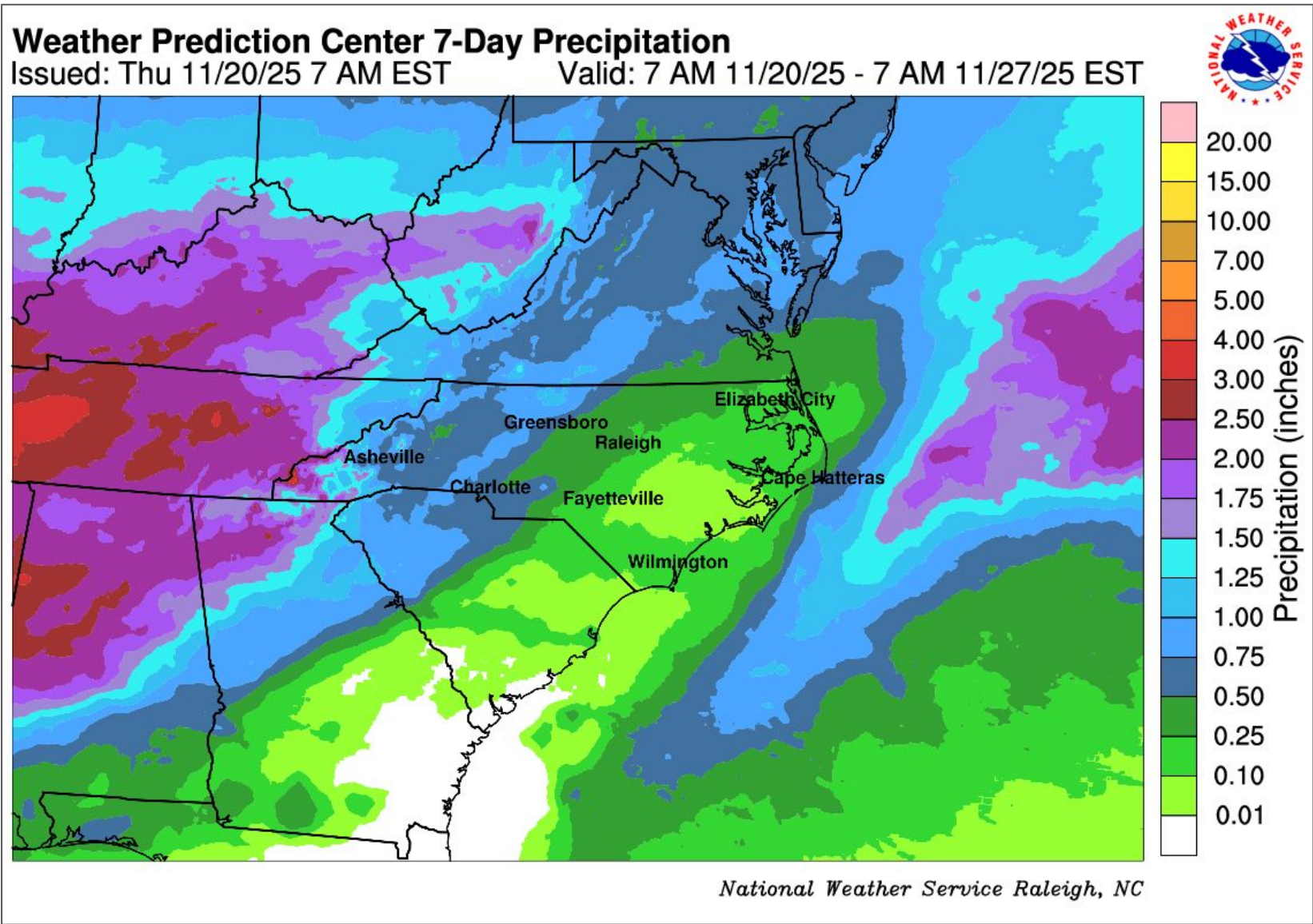


Image Caption:

Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Friday November 21 to Friday November 28, 2025





8-14 Day Outlook

November 20, 2025
8:09 AM EST

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- The Days 8-14 Outlook favors above normal temperatures, with very high probabilities across the southern U.S.
- Below normal precipitation is favored along the Southeast US coast, including eastern NC, while western NC is expected to be near normal.

Possible Impact

- Warm and dry conditions favor persistence of worsening of the drought conditions.

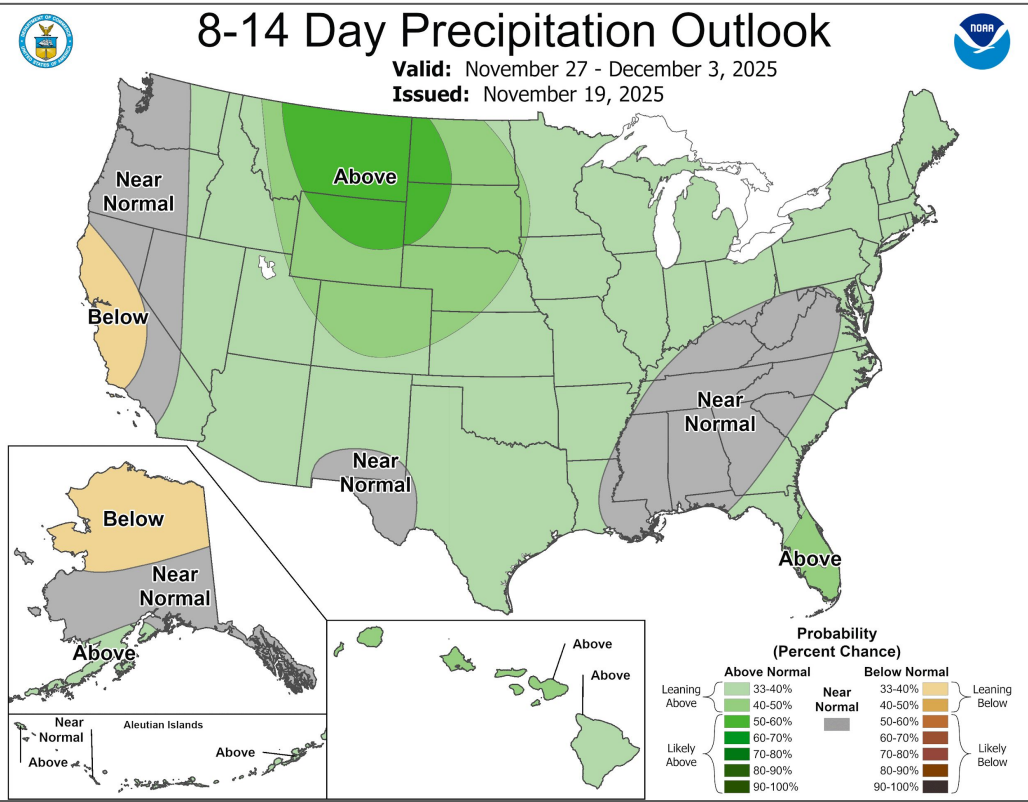
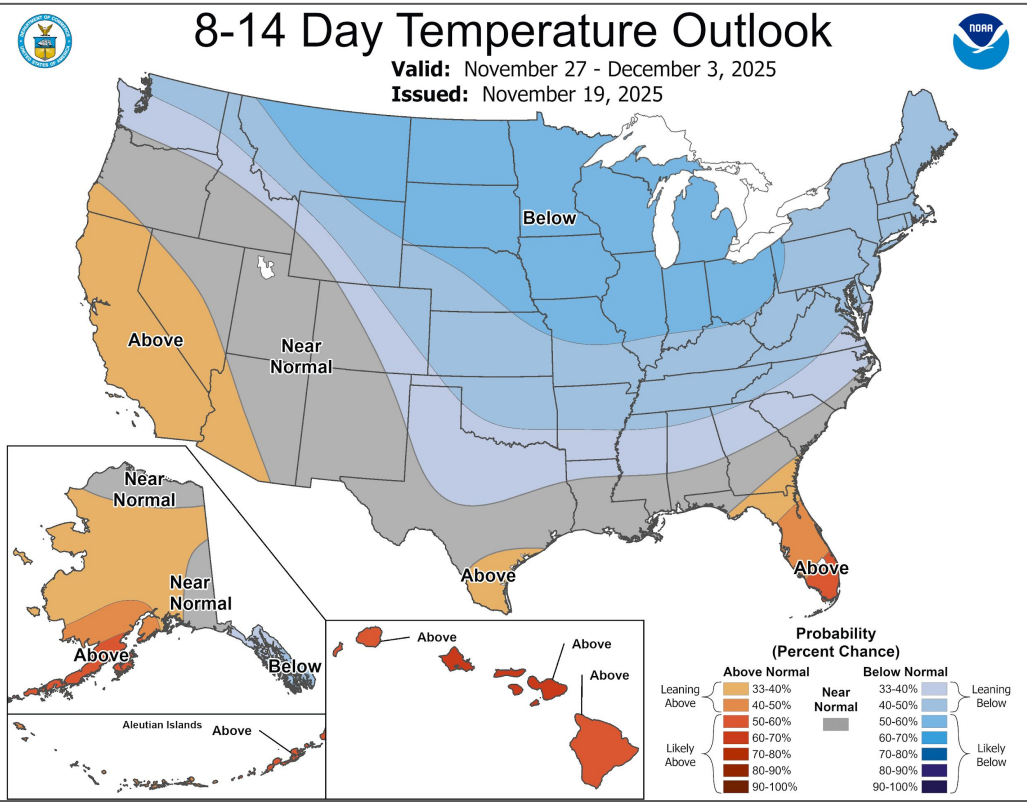


Image Captions:

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

Valid November 14 -20,, 2025





Weeks 3-4 Outlook

November 20, 2025
8:09 AM EST

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- There is a slight lean (33-40%) to above normal temperatures across NC.
- The 3-4 Week Outlook favors below normal precipitation across central NC for late November.

Possible Impact

This pattern also suggests drought conditions may continue to even worsen in some areas with above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation possible.

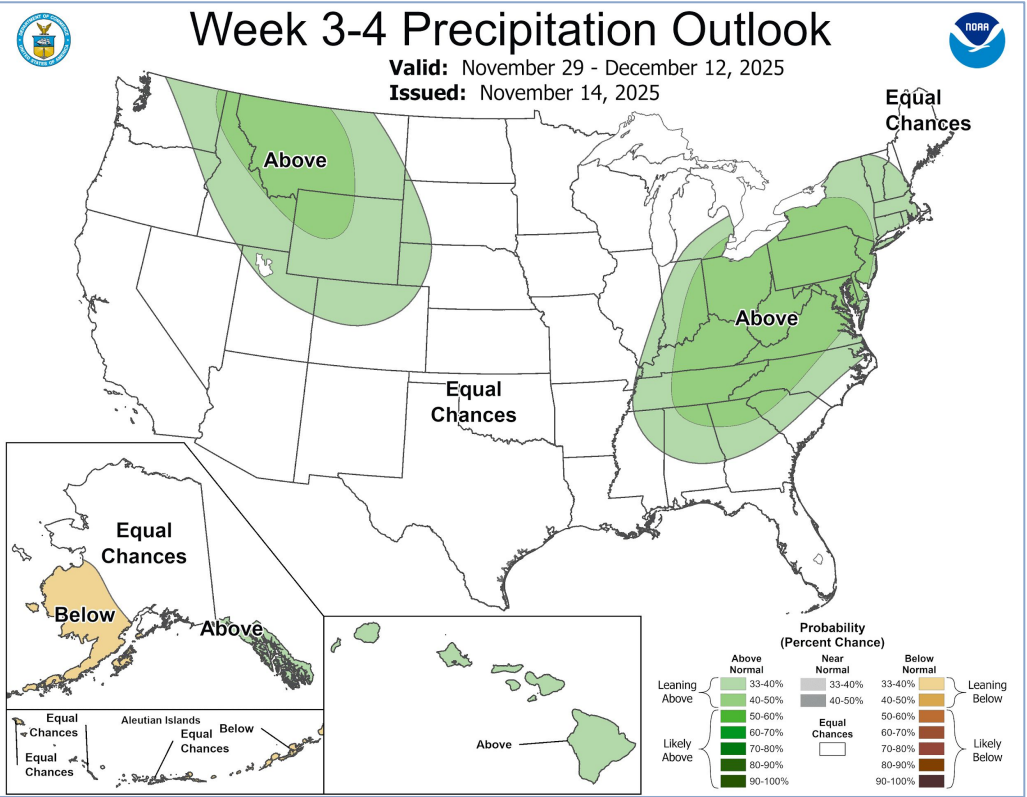
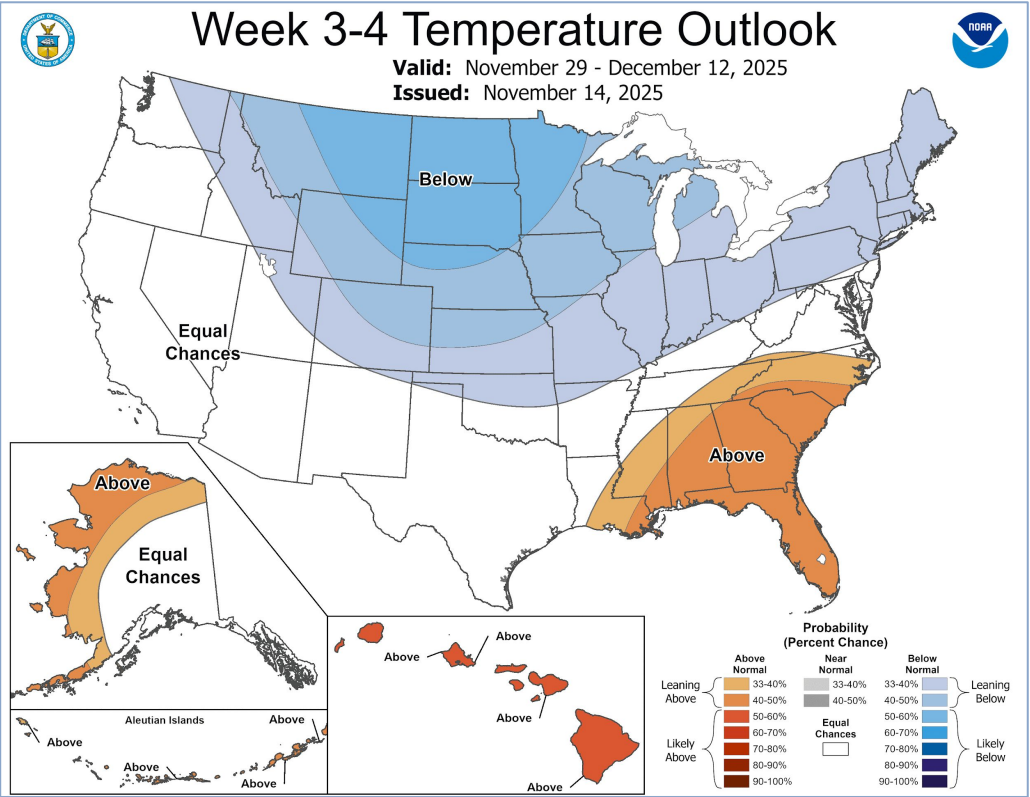
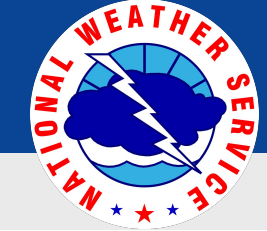


Image Captions:

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

Valid November 15 - 28, 2025

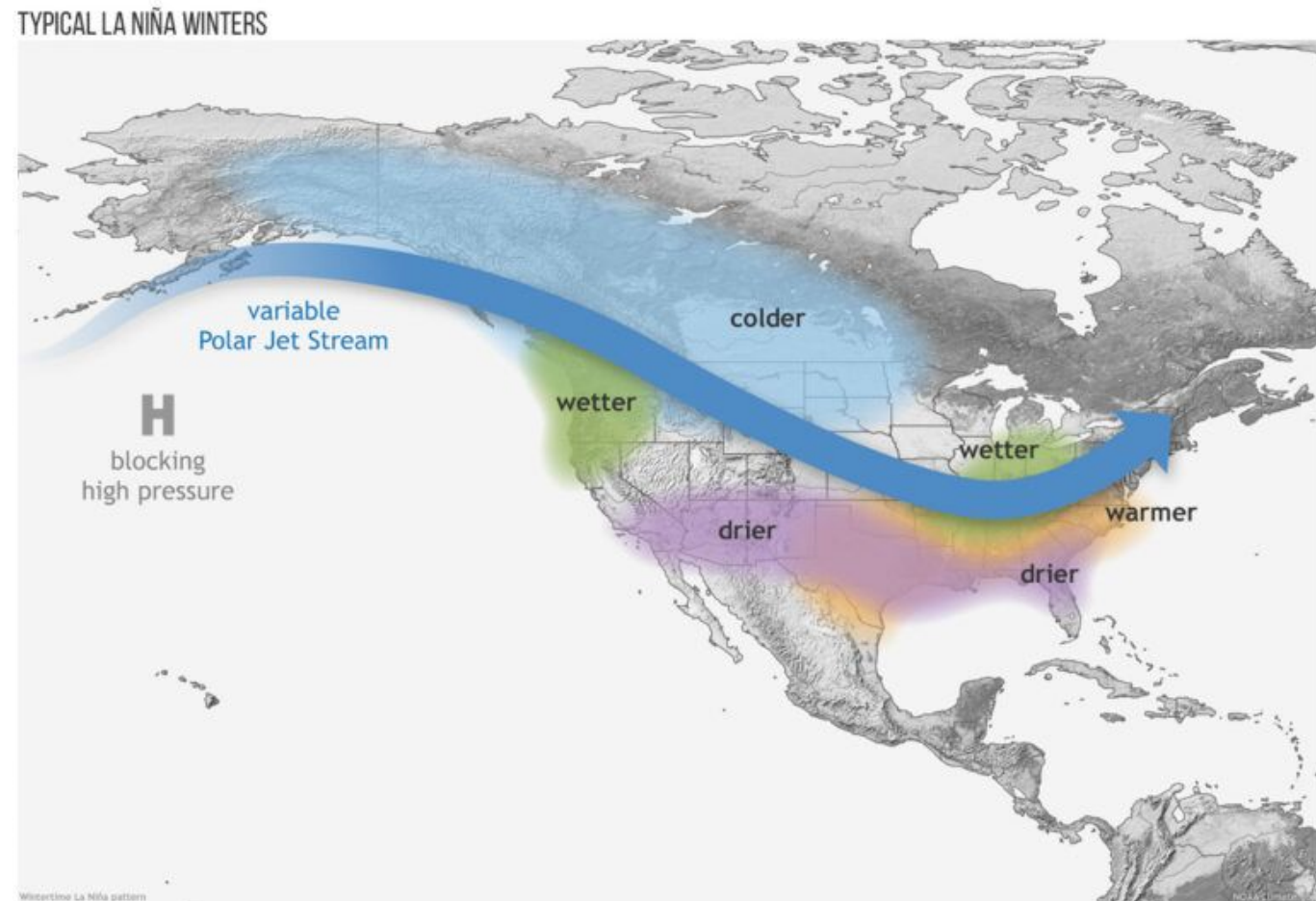


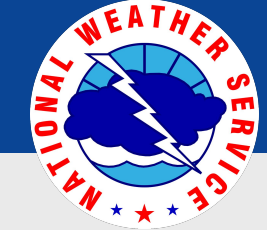


We are currently in a La Niña phase and La Niña is forecast to continue through February 2026, with a transition to ENSO-neutral likely by March 2026 (55% chance).

La Niña Winters Favor drier conditions along the southern tier of the CONUS with warmer conditions favored across the southeast.

Keep in mind these conditions are an average over the seasonal time period, so variations between warm/cold and wet/dry will still occur.





Seasonal (3-Month) Climate Outlook

November 20, 2025
8:09 AM EST

Seasonal Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- There are increased probabilities of above normal temperatures across the southern and eastern U.S.
- Below normal rainfall is favored for November through January.

Possible Impact

- While week to week variations in weather will occur, a La Niña winter could favor the persistence or worsening of drought if rainfall is below normal across NC.

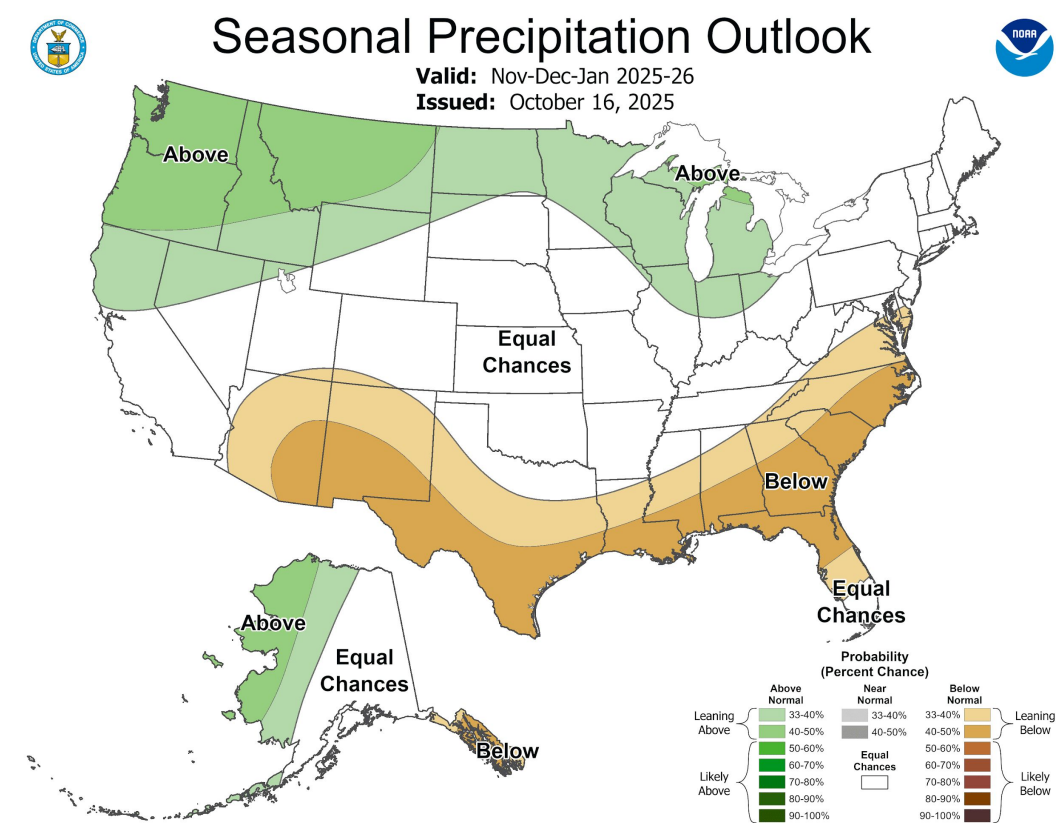
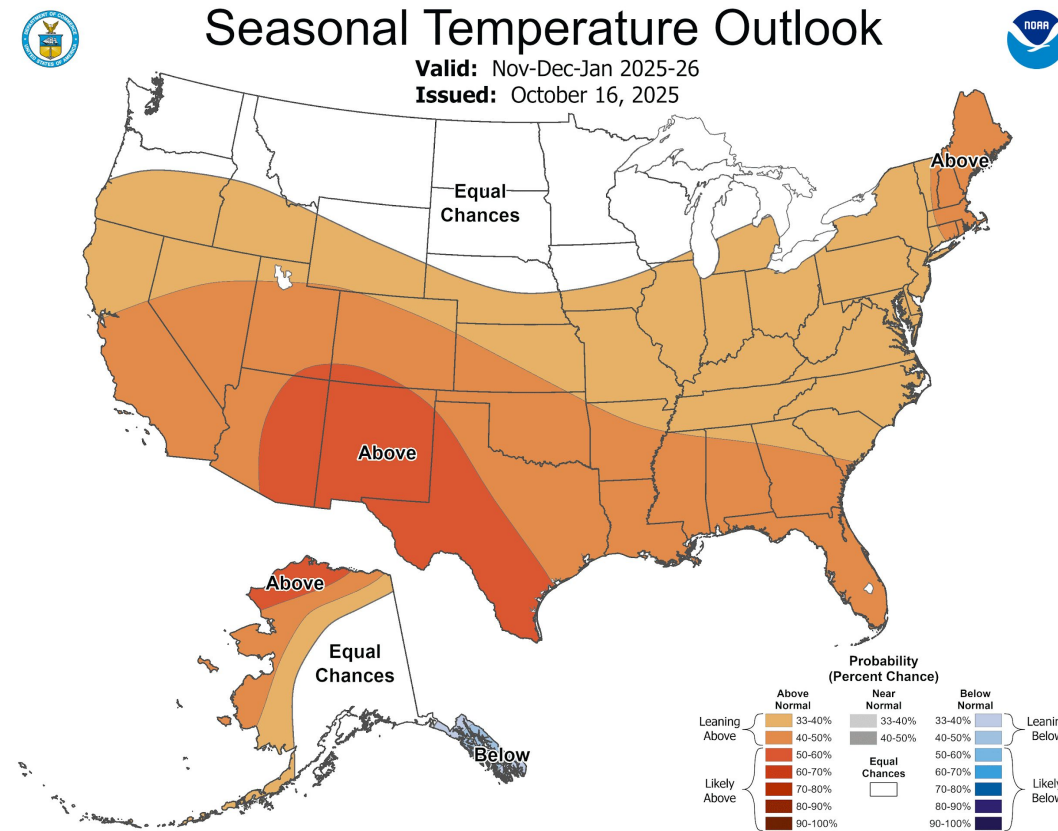
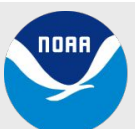


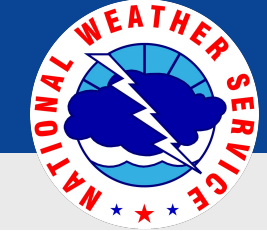
Image Captions:

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

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

Valid November, 2025 to January, 2026.



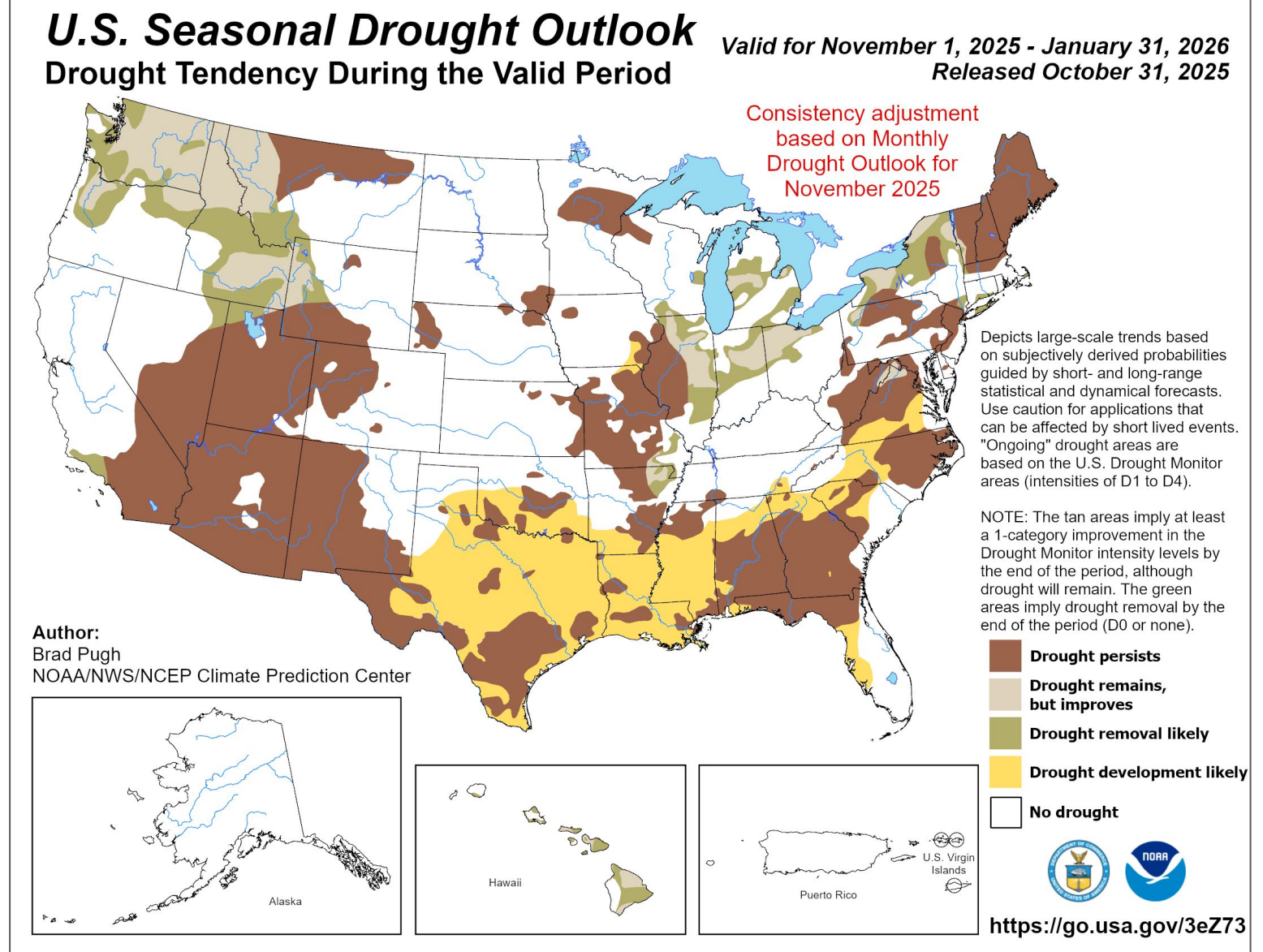


Drought Outlook

November 20, 2025
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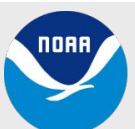
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Drought is expected to persist across portions of eastern NC through the winter and possibly continue to expand across the western Piedmont.



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