

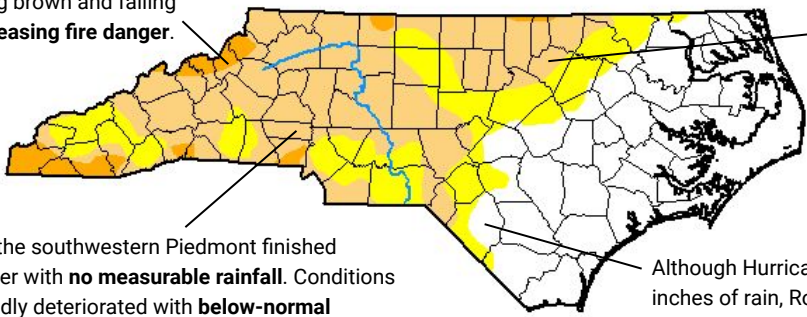
# North Carolina Drought Update

For the week ending October 1, 2019

## This Week's US Drought Monitor of North Carolina Map

From the US Drought Monitor, authored by Brian Fuchs (Nat'l. Drought Mitigation Center) with input from the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council ([ncdrought.org](http://ncdrought.org))

Instead of changing color, leaves are turning brown and falling early, **increasing fire danger**.

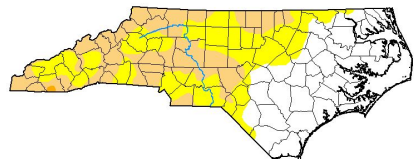


Soybeans and tobacco left in the fields are "wasting away quickly", according to extension agent Charles Mitchell.

Parts of the southwestern Piedmont finished September with **no measurable rainfall**. Conditions have rapidly deteriorated with **below-normal streamflows** and crops wilting or dying.

Although Hurricane Dorian brought nearly 4 inches of rain, Robeson County has dried out since then, including a **large wildfire** and **limited hay growth** reported last week.

## Last Week's Drought Map



**What is flash drought?**  
 Conditions in NC are connected to a wider regional drought, which is being called a "flash drought". This is not an official category, but a term for the **rapid development of drought conditions**, usually due to several weeks or months of hot, dry weather.

## Drought Category Descriptions

The US Drought Monitor process uses a **convergence of evidence** approach to set the drought status based on the consensus of a number of objective indicators, which are confirmed with on-the-ground impact reports.

	Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
<b>Abnormally Dry (D0)</b> While it's not quite drought, D0 often indicates <b>unseasonably dry conditions</b> . In the summer, these can include grass turning yellow or small creeks running low. In the fall, leaves may turn brown and drop early.	20.63%	-11.42%
<b>Moderate Drought (D1)</b> In D1 drought, <b>impacts begin to emerge</b> . Crops may wilt or stop growing. Animals, including livestock, may struggle to find food and water. Larger streams and rivers may begin to decline, affecting reservoir levels.	37.29%	+8.63%
<b>Severe Drought (D2)</b> In a drought reaching D2 levels, <b>impacts become more widespread</b> . Crop yield reductions are common and water conservation measures may be implemented. Wildfires are larger and harder to extinguish.	4.40%	+4.24%

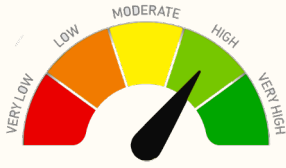
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# Short-Range Outlooks for North Carolina

## Week 1: October 3 to 9

### Forecast Confidence



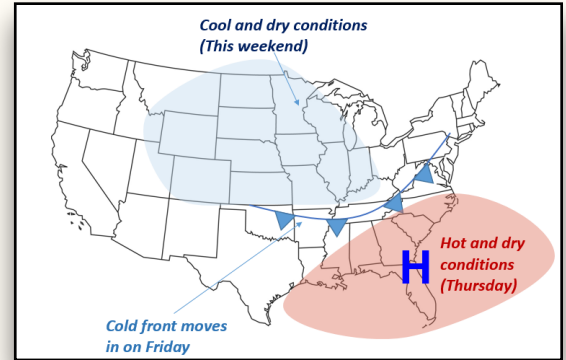
Confidence is high in Thursday's heat and the weekend cooldown. Depending on moisture availability, localized rainfall totals could be higher on Monday.



**A Hot Start, a Cool Finish:** Under a lingering high pressure system, high temperatures could reach **the upper 90s on Thursday**. On Friday, a cold front will move through and usher in fall-like weather for the weekend.

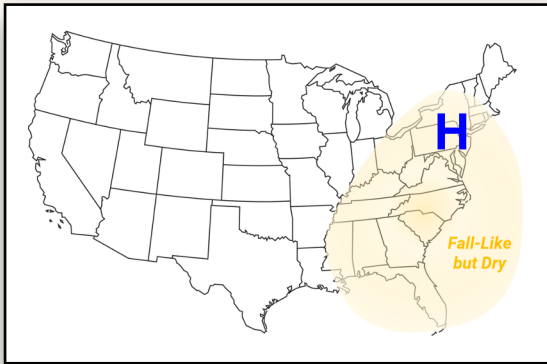


**Rain Possible on Monday:** Friday's cold front isn't likely to bring much rain. Another front moving through on Monday evening should have higher rain chances, but **amounts should be light** -- likely less than half an inch.



Forecast guidance from the National Weather Service

## Week 2: October 10 to 16



Forecast guidance from the NWS Climate Prediction Center

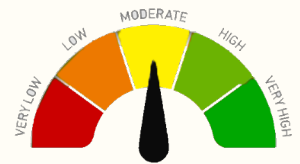


**Seasonable Temperatures:** High pressure is set to return across the eastern US, but located farther to our north this week, meaning near-normal temperatures with highs in the 70s and lows in the 50s.



**Rain Stays Away:** Another week of high pressure means we'll struggle to see much of any precipitation. By this point, it's likely that **drought conditions will spread** across most of the state as streamflows and soil moisture levels continue to decline.

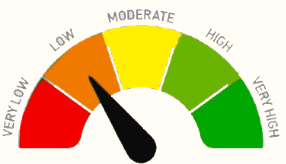
### Forecast Confidence



Exactly where that high pressure sets up and how long it lingers will determine how cool our temperatures stay, or whether we warm up again by the middle of the month.

## Weeks 3-4: October 17 to 30

### Forecast Confidence



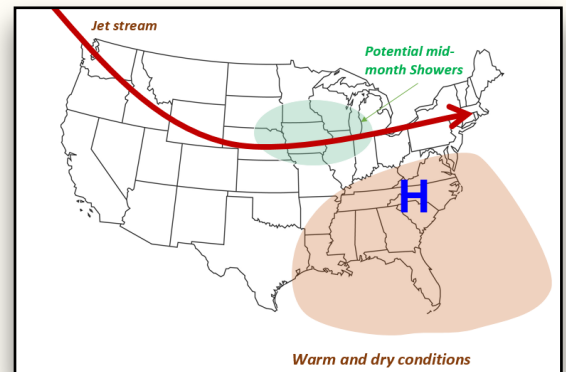
Will high pressure finally shift westward later this month? Some models show that happening, which could cool us down and increase rain chances along the east coast.



**Warmer Weather Returns:** It probably won't be 90-degree heat, but high pressure again building over the Carolinas will likely push our temperatures back above normal later this month.



**Drying Out Again:** High pressure in place and the jet stream well to our north should **limit any major rain chances**. This means much of western NC could be approaching two months without significant rainfall.



Forecast guidance from the NWS Climate Prediction Center



<http://climate.ncsu.edu/nighthawk>

