

# North Carolina Drought Update

For the assessment period ending May 4, 2021

## Statewide Condition Summary

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

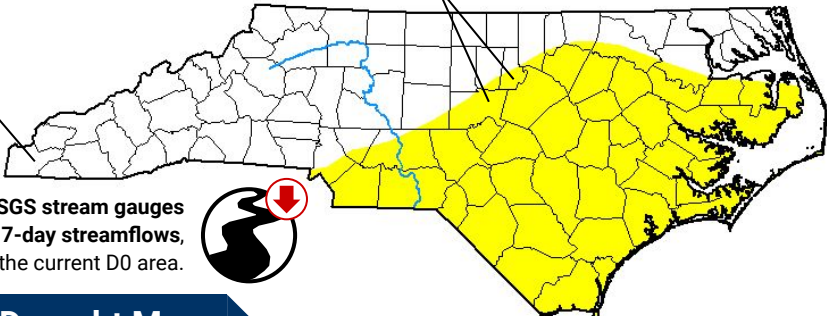
From the US Drought Monitor, authored by David Simeral (NOAA/WRCC/DRI) with input from the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council ([ncdrought.org](http://ncdrought.org))



Rain on Saturday and Monday totaled **up to 2" in the southern Mountains**, again the state's wet spot this week.



Most reservoirs in the state are holding close to their guide curve. Levels at Falls and Jordan Lake **continue to slowly fall as inflows decline**.



Nearly a quarter of USGS stream gauges have below-normal 7-day streamflows, mostly located within the current D0 area.



Eastern NC generally saw a half-inch of rain or less last week. Recent condition reports note **dusty ground, dry ditches, and an increased need for irrigation**.

Conditions continue to trend drier in NC, including in some parts of the state not currently classified as Abnormally Dry, but we're not in drought yet. So what might tell us when we cross that threshold?

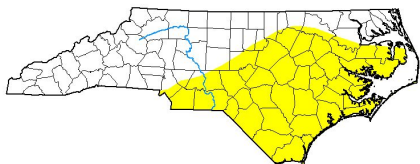
**Abnormally Dry (D0)** conditions often manifest as short-term dryness emerging over the course of a few weeks, with impacts like reduced soil moisture, slower growth of crops or pastures, and declining streamflow and surface water levels. **Currently, indicators across central and eastern NC are consistent with D0, and even parts of western NC now report mild dryness.**

**Moderate Drought (D1)** is the lowest drought severity in the US Drought Monitor classification scheme. Typical indicators include crop loss or damage and reduced reservoir levels and inflows that may warrant local water restrictions. **Spotty parts of the southern Coastal Plain are on the verge of D1, but we haven't seen widespread drought impacts emerge just yet.**

### Statewide Coverage By Category

Category	Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	50.78%	0.00%
D1: Moderate Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D2: Severe Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%

### Last Week's Drought Map



This infographic was created by

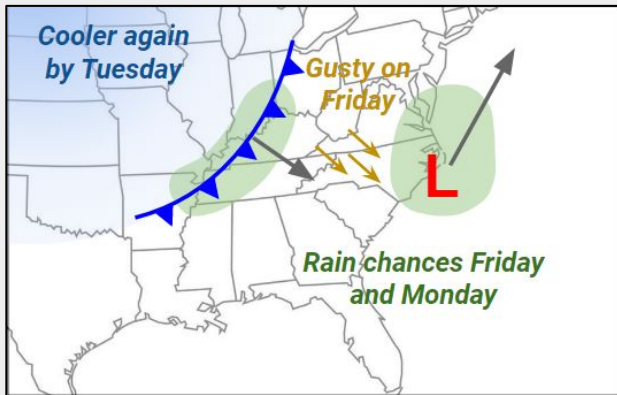


NORTH CAROLINA  
CLIMATE OFFICE

# Short-Range Outlook for North Carolina

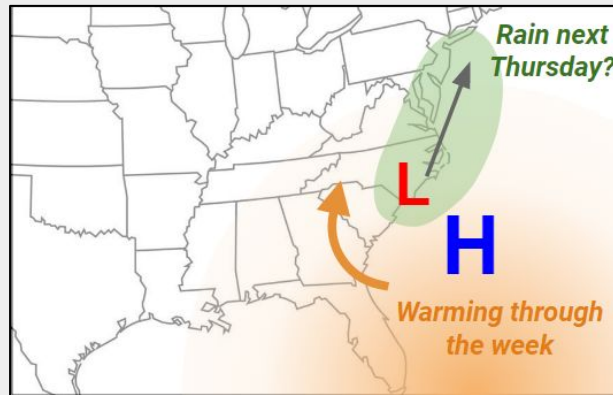
## Week 1:

May 6 to 12, 2021



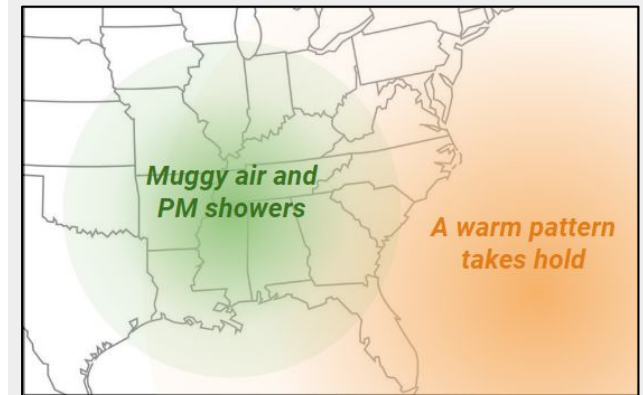
## Week 2:

May 13 to 19, 2021



## Weeks 3-4:

May 20 to June 2, 2021



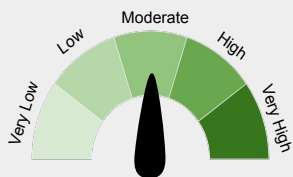
### A Mix of Warm and Cool

High temperatures will dip in the 70s today through Saturday. We'll warm up again into the 80s on Sunday and Monday before the next cold front pushes through on Monday night. Expect highs in the 70s and lows in the 50s by mid-week next week.

### Two Shots at Rain

A low pressure system moving through on Friday could bring up to an inch of rain in parts of eastern NC, along with gusty northwesterly winds statewide. Monday's front appears drier at the moment, with forecasted rainfall amounts of a quarter-inch or less.

### Forecast Confidence



Models vary slightly in the timing and rainfall coverage from Monday's system. Some show more rain across eastern NC.

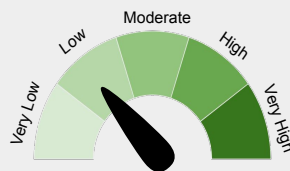
### Warmer Weather Arrives

Cloudy and rainy weather may keep temperatures cooler next Thursday, but high pressure setting up just off our southeast coast by the weekend should elevate our highs above normal once again, reaching well into the 80s through the following week.

### Rain Thursday, Then Drier

Several forecasts show another low pressure system moving up the coast next Thursday, which could bring additional rain especially in eastern NC. After that, high pressure building offshore should keep us generally drier through the rest of the week.

### Forecast Confidence



With low confidence about the large-scale pattern across the US, our warm-up could happen sooner or later than shown here.

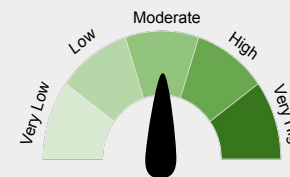
### Remaining Warm as May Ends

Large-scale high pressure is expected to dominate across the eastern US, putting us in a consistently warmer pattern through early June. Average high temperatures this time of year range from the upper 70s in the Mountains to the mid-80s in eastern NC.

### Generally Dry, But Showers Possible

While our muggy summer-like air may have enough moisture to support scattered afternoon showers and storms, the high-pressure pattern should keep any organized systems such as cold fronts away. Drought impacts could emerge in the driest spots.

### Forecast Confidence



The precip. forecast is typically uncertain for this time of year, but models are in agreement about the temperature pattern.