

North Carolina Drought Update

For the assessment period ending May 18, 2021

Statewide Condition Summary

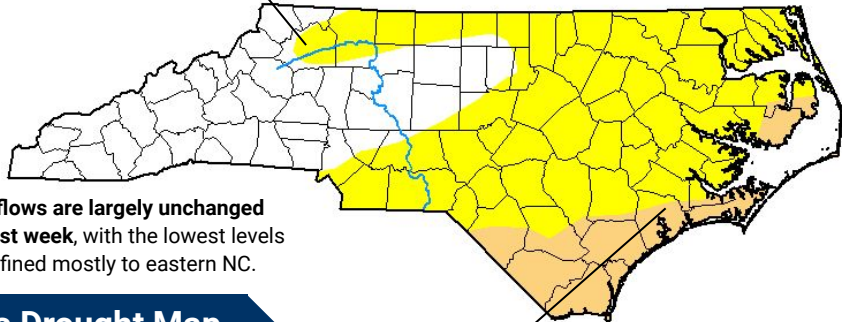
This Week's Drought Monitor of North Carolina Map

From the US Drought Monitor, authored by Adam Hartman (NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC) with input from the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council (ncdrought.org)

Field conditions have become dry as far west as Wilkes County, and **plant growth is slowing in some areas.**

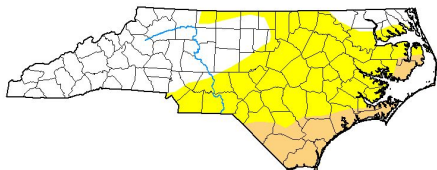


Less than a quarter-inch of rain fell across the northern Coastal Plain last week, including just 0.04" in Rocky Mount.



Streamflows are largely unchanged since last week, with the lowest levels still confined mostly to eastern NC.

Last Week's Drought Map



A wildfire in Hofmann Forest has burned about 50 acres, and is now burning into the organic soils – a common occurrence in spring and summer droughts.

What's Changed? Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions have expanded to the north and west, while Moderate Drought (D1) remains along the southern and central coast.

What's New? Last week's cooler weather slowed the emergence of drought impacts, but rainfall was limited statewide. Spotty showers in parts of the Coastal Plain allowed planting to resume, but soil moisture levels continue to decline across much of eastern NC.

What's Next? The 7-day forecast is bone-dry for North Carolina, and high temperatures should hit the 90s this weekend through the middle of the week. That could bring an expansion of drought on next week's map.

Statewide Coverage By Category

Category	Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	66.22%	+8.12%
D1: Moderate Drought	12.28%	0.00%
D2: Severe Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%

This infographic was created by



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