

# North Carolina Drought Update

For the assessment period ending October 26, 2021

## Statewide Condition Summary

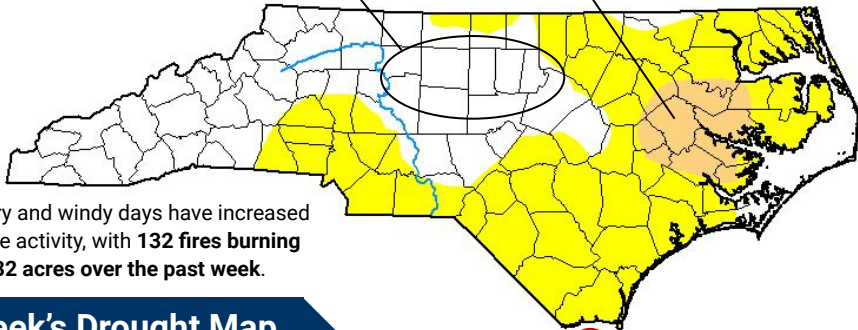
### This Week's Drought Monitor of North Carolina Map

From the US Drought Monitor, authored by Richard Heim (NOAA/NESDIS/NCEI) with input from the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council ([ncdrought.org](http://ncdrought.org))

About an inch of rain on Monday night helped **moisten soils and quench wilting plants** from the Triad through the Triangle.



**Greenville is on pace for its 5th-driest fall on record**, with just 2.43 inches since September 1 – or 8 inches below normal.



Dry and windy days have increased fire activity, with **132 fires burning 432 acres over the past week.**



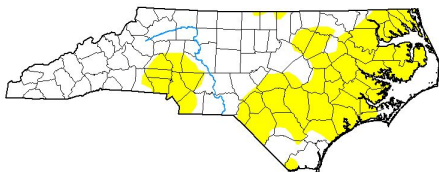
Statewide, **22% of stream gauges are reporting below-normal 7-day average flows**: the most since our last drought faded in early June.

**What's Changed:** Drought is back in North Carolina for the first time since early July. This week, Moderate Drought (D1) emerged across parts of the central Coastal Plain that have had a particularly dry fall so far.

**What's New?** A wet start to summer across the Coastal Plain has been effectively forgotten, hydrologically speaking. Surpluses in streamflows and groundwater levels have devolved into deficits since mid-August.

**Who's Next?** Without significant rainfall soon, more of the northern coast is at risk of drought development, along with the Sandhills in Hoke, Robeson, and Scotland counties, which have been drying out since late summer.

### Last Week's Drought Map



### Statewide Coverage By Category

Category	Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	50.35%	+6.75%
D1: Moderate Drought	6.39%	+6.39%
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

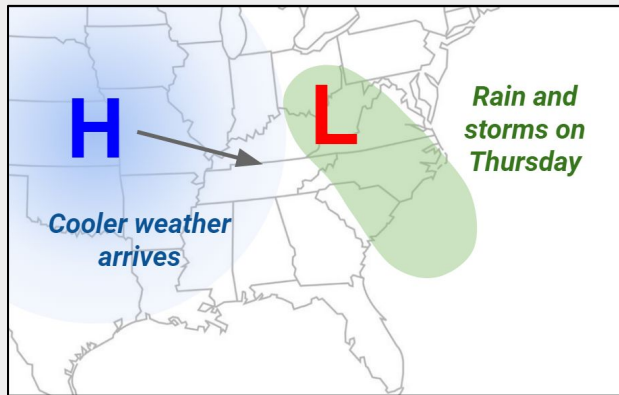


NORTH CAROLINA  
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# Short-Range Outlook for North Carolina

## Week 1:

Oct. 28 to Nov. 3, 2021



### Rain and Storms Today



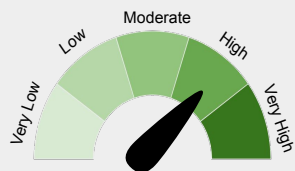
A strong low pressure system moving through today will produce a half-inch or more of rain statewide and the threat of high winds and isolated tornadoes primarily east of Interstate 95. Scattered showers will linger on Friday before clearing out on Saturday.

### A Cooler Week Ahead



High pressure building to the west will usher in fall-like temperatures across North Carolina. Expect daytime highs in the 60s and nighttime lows in the 40s. Cloud cover should decrease by Saturday with sunny skies through the middle of next week.

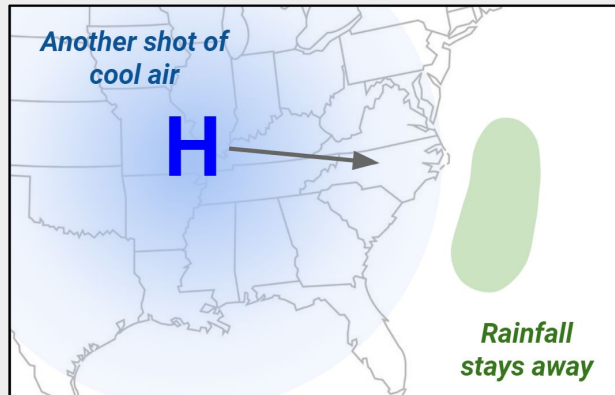
### Forecast Confidence



The main uncertainty is whether any severe storms will pop up in the Piedmont tonight. Beyond that, a quiet week is in store.

## Week 2:

November 4 to 10, 2021



### Cooler Weather Continues



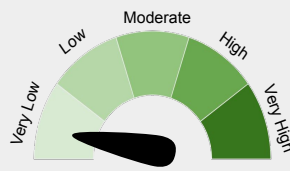
Another Canadian high pressure system will build in from the northwest by next weekend, prolonging our cooler pattern with high temperatures potentially only in the 50s. The first frost or freeze of the season is possible, mainly in the western half of the state.

### Limited Rain Chances



With high pressure in place, precipitation will be confined to the fringes, reducing our chances for widespread rain. Low-humidity days and ongoing leaf fall could dry out surface fuels and increase fire danger, especially where drought is already present.

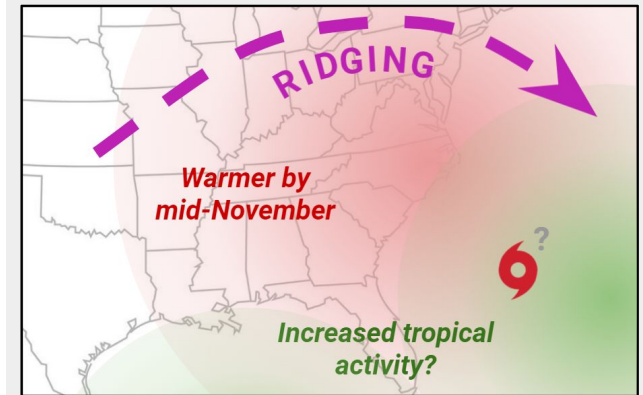
### Forecast Confidence



Model forecasts have been very volatile for this week and still disagree about the temperature and precip. patterns in the eastern US.

## Weeks 3-4:

November 11 to 24, 2021

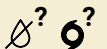


### Warmer Weather Emerges



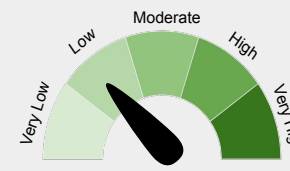
Forecasts favor a mid-month pattern change with the development of jet stream ridging over the eastern US, which would mean a warmer end to the month. Our normal high temperatures in late November range from the upper 50s to low 60s.

### More Tropical Threats?



Ridging this time of year usually means dry and quiet weather, but this forecast includes a wildcard. The tropical environment is becoming more favorable for late-season activity, and some forecasts show these systems threatening the Southeast US next month.

### Forecast Confidence



Some model differences remain about the overall pattern, although warmer weather is more likely for the last two weeks of Nov.