

North Carolina Drought Update

For the assessment period ending November 30, 2021

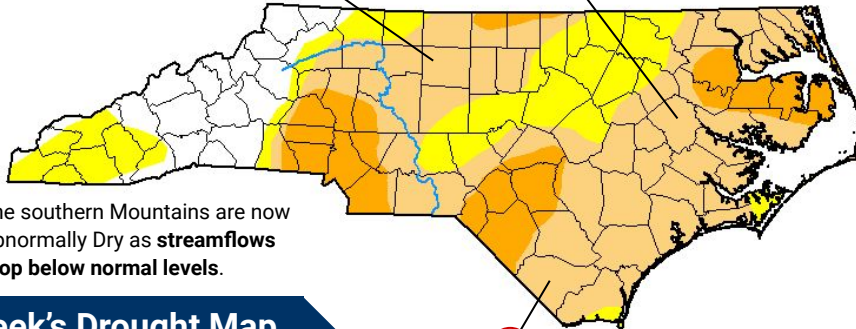
This Week's Drought Monitor of North Carolina Map

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

Greensboro had only 0.30 inches of rain last month and its 3rd-driest November on record.

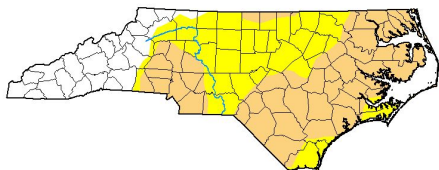


Following its wettest summer on record, **Greenville is wrapping up its 5th-driest fall** with only 3.82 inches of rain since Sep. 1.



The southern Mountains are now **Abnormally Dry** as **streamflows drop below normal levels**.

Last Week's Drought Map



A statewide open burning ban is now in effect, and Columbus County has further banned all burning within 100 feet of occupied dwellings.

This infographic was created by



NORTH CAROLINA
CLIMATE OFFICE

Statewide Condition Summary

What's Changed? Severe Drought (D2), the second level of four drought stages on the US Drought Monitor, has emerged in parts of the Piedmont and Coastal Plain.

What's New? November ended without any widespread soaking rain events, so the entire state is feeling various levels of impacts: from low creek flows in the Mountains to increased fire activity in the Piedmont to very low groundwater levels across the central Coastal Plain.

What's Next? D2 often sees the implementation of local water use restrictions. Since demand is lower in the winter, those may be slower to show up, but some water systems could encourage voluntary conservation soon.

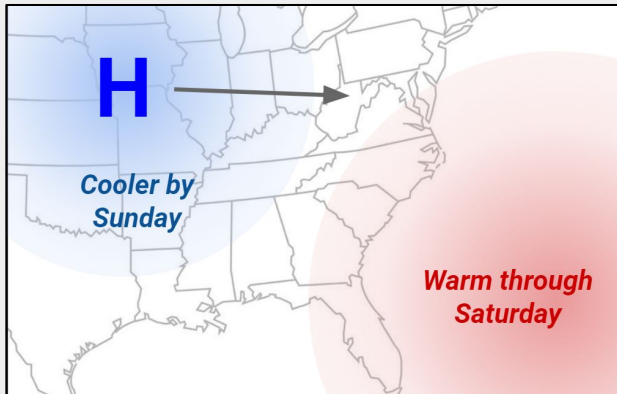
Statewide Coverage By Category

Category	Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	21.77%	-12.07%
D1: Moderate Drought	47.86%	+0.60%
D2: Severe Drought	16.93%	+16.93%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%

Short-Range Outlook for North Carolina

Week 1:

December 2 to 8, 2021



A Weekend Temperature Drop



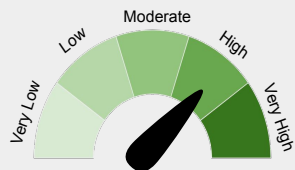
High temperatures will approach the 70s today through Saturday before a cold frontal passage on Sunday drops us back into the 50s, or more typical temperatures for this time of year. Another front on Monday night should reinforce this cooler pattern.

Few Signs of Rainfall



The approaching cold fronts will have little to no moisture, so rain chances will be a sprinkle at best on Sunday and Monday. Along with the ongoing dry weather, today will be breezy, with wind gusts of 20+ mph during the day, especially in the north and west.

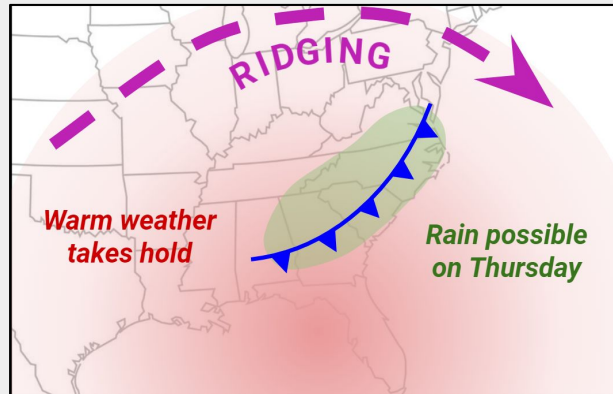
Forecast Confidence



Models have come into better agreement about an unfortunately drier forecast through the middle of next week.

Week 2:

December 9 to 15, 2021



Warmer Again by Mid-Month



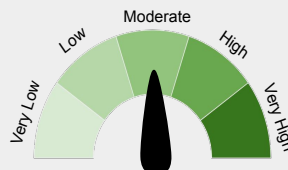
Jet stream ridging across the eastern US should put us back into an unseasonably warm pattern, with high temperatures well into the 60s and low 70s, or more than 10 degrees above normal. Expect mostly sunny weather except on a cloudy, rainy Thursday.

Starting With a Shot of Rain



Rain is finally in the forecast this week. Another cold front will move in by next Thursday morning, with totals of a half-inch or more across the state, and local amounts of more than an inch possible. After that, expect dry weather for the rest of the week.

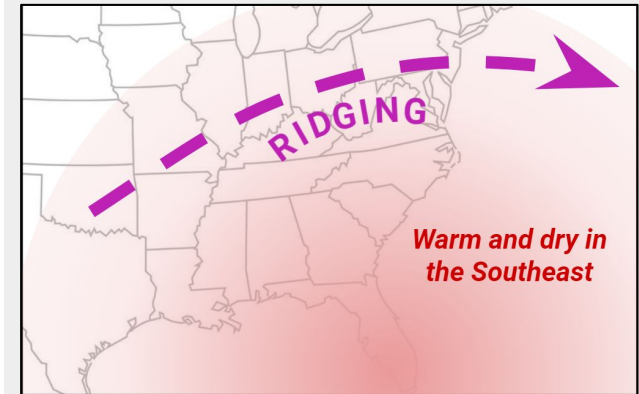
Forecast Confidence



Thursday's front should bring more moisture than others recently, so rain chances and amounts should be higher then.

Weeks 3-4:

December 16 to 29, 2021



A Warm End to the Year



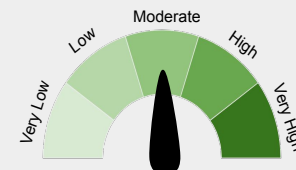
Persistent ridging over the Southeast US should keep our temperatures above normal through the end of the month. With a strong polar vortex in place, Arctic air will remain well to our north, so any hopes for a holiday cool-down probably won't pan out.

Dry Through Late December



The ridging pattern also favors reduced precipitation chances across the Southeast. After seeing few La Niña impacts last winter, this one is starting with its classic warm and dry weather in North Carolina, and few signs that pattern may break in the next month.

Forecast Confidence



Ridging could weaken slightly by the final week of the month, but we're still likely to remain warm and dry as we close out 2021.