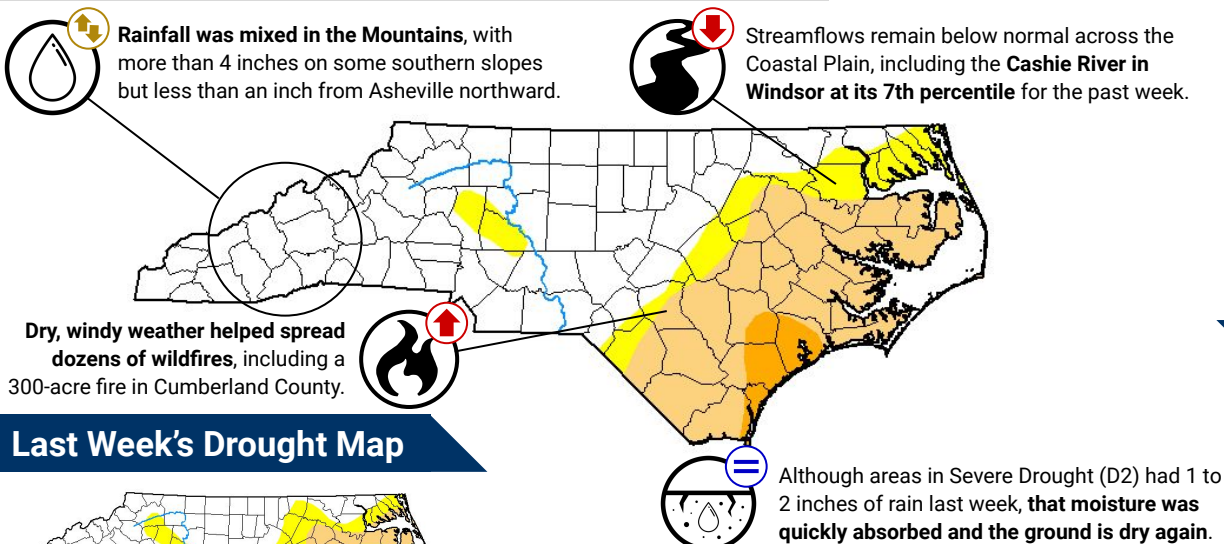


# North Carolina Drought Update

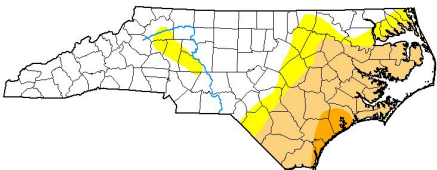
For the assessment period ending March 29, 2022

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

From the US Drought Monitor, authored by Deborah Bathke (National Drought Mitigation Center) with input from the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council ([ncdrought.org](https://ncdrought.org))



## Last Week's Drought Map



## Statewide Condition Summary

**What's Changed?** Rain last week was heavy in areas but spotty overall, which brought some local improvements but also drought degradations on this week's map.

**What's New?** The sharp divide between wet and dry has continued, delineated by Interstate 95. Over the past two weeks, just 20 miles have separated areas to the west with 2"+ from those with almost no rain in the east.

**How Long Have We Been Dry?** In many areas, our current dry spell began emerging about six months ago in late September. Drought first appeared at the central coast in late October, and after a mid-winter recovery, eastern North Carolina has slipped back into drought this spring.

## Statewide Coverage By Category

Category	Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
<b>D0: Abnormally Dry</b>	10.34%	-3.05%
<b>D1: Moderate Drought</b>	27.12%	-0.38%
<b>D2: Severe Drought</b>	3.54%	+0.69%
<b>D3: Extreme Drought</b>	0.00%	0.00%
<b>D4: Exceptional Drought</b>	0.00%	0.00%

This infographic was created by

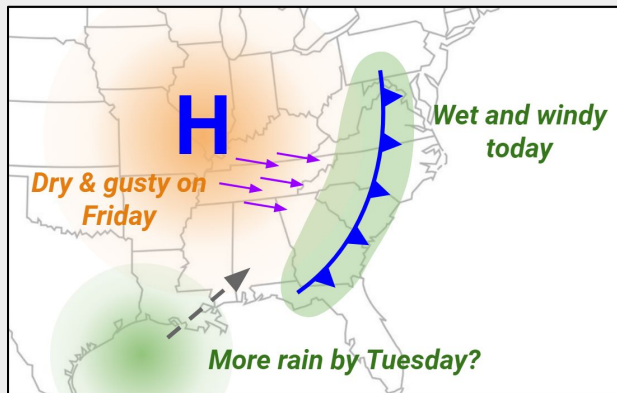


NORTH CAROLINA  
CLIMATE OFFICE

# Short-Range Outlook for North Carolina

## Week 1:

March 31 to April 6, 2022



### Increased Fire Danger



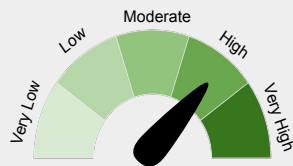
A cold frontal passage today will bring wind gusts of 40+ mph, along with showers and storms totaling 0.5 to 0.75 inches in many areas. A drier air mass will build from the west on Friday, with relative humidities less than 35% and gusts up to 30 mph.

### Cooler and Dry This Weekend



High pressure moving over our region will drop temperatures on Saturday morning into the upper 30s. While winds will slacken, conditions will remain dry through at least next Tuesday, when another potential rain system may arrive from the southwest.

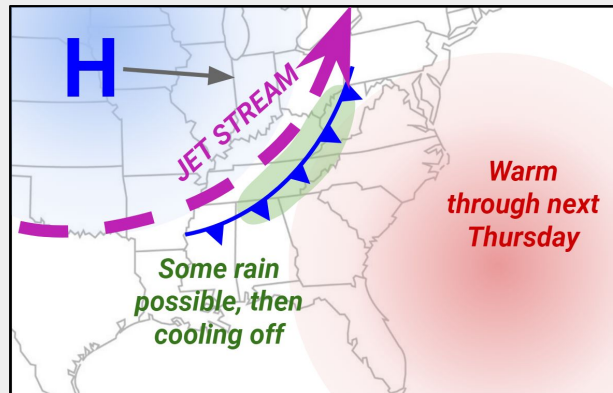
### Forecast Confidence



The potential for severe storms today has slightly decreased, but the threat of gusty winds remains high through Friday night.

## Week 2:

April 7 to 13, 2022

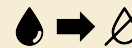


### A Big Temperature Swing



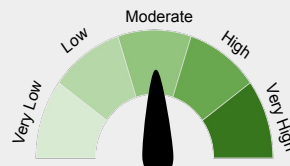
This week will begin warm, with high temperatures reaching into the 70s or low 80s on Thursday, before cooling off into the 50s or 60s as a jet stream trough shifts over the eastern US by the weekend. Warmer air may return by the middle of the following week.

### Limited Rain Chances



A cold front on the leading edge of the cooler air mass could bring some rain next Thursday or Friday, but current forecasts show this system as moisture-limited, so rain amounts would likely be low. The rest of the week looks dry with high pressure overhead.

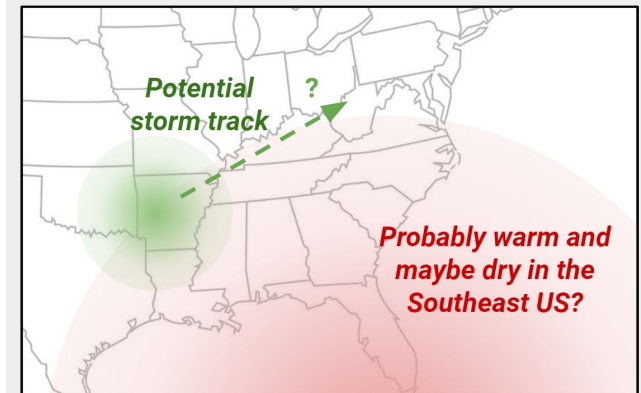
### Forecast Confidence



Models agree about the initial pattern change, but confidence is lower later in the week, which could stay cooler or turn warm again.

## Weeks 3-4:

April 14 to 27, 2022



### Likely Warmer in Late April



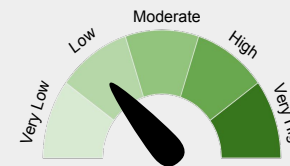
Longer-term model forecasts show little agreement about our weather later in the month, but they do agree on one thing: our temperatures should be above normal overall. Our average highs in late April are in the mid-70s, with average lows in the 50s.

### Maybe Dry, and Drought Lingers



A warm pattern would likely be a dry one as well, but current models show different solutions for our late-April precipitation pattern. However, without multiple soaking rain events to eliminate seasonal rainfall deficits, drought is likely to remain in parts of NC.

### Forecast Confidence



Recent model runs offer limited useful guidance for this period. Stay tuned as forecasts come into focus over the next few weeks.