

North Carolina Drought Update

For the assessment period ending September 27, 2022

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)

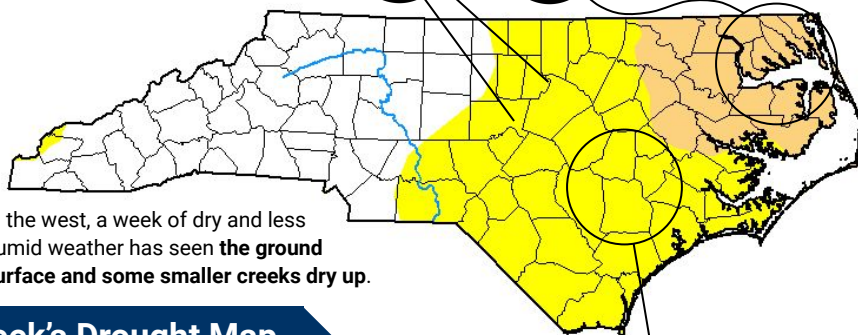
Falls Lake and Jordan Lake have fallen to nearly two feet below their targets, but that will also provide a buffer for storage after Ian.



Up to a half-inch of rain fell on Sunday in the northeast, but these areas are still more than 3 inches below normal for September so far.



In the west, a week of dry and less humid weather has seen the ground surface and some smaller creeks dry up.

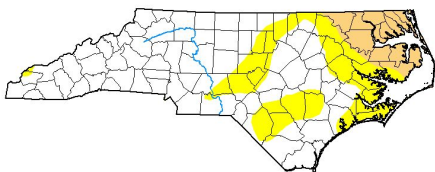


What's Changed? Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions now cover the Coastal Plain, although that region can expect heavy rain and even flooding from Ian this weekend.

What's New? Rainfall was light last week and limited to scattered showers mainly in our northern counties on Sunday. While these dry days have helped farmers get into the fields to begin harvesting, some crop progress has slowed due to our recent stretch of drier weather.

Ian's Impact? Forecasts show 2 to 6 inches of rain from the storm, but not all of that moisture will recharge deep soils and groundwater. Some will run off, which may limit its positive impacts and increase the flooding potential.

Last Week's Drought Map



Streamflows continued to decline along tributaries of the the Cape Fear and Neuse rivers after another dry week.

Statewide Coverage By Category

Category	Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	46.02%	+22.63%
D1: Moderate Drought	15.04%	+4.96%
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

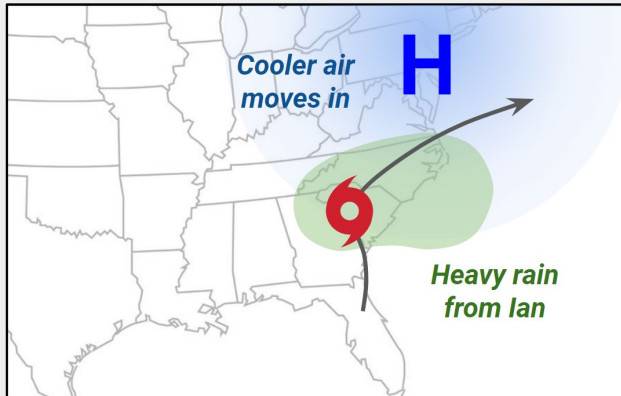


NORTH CAROLINA
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Short-Range Outlook for North Carolina

Week 1:

Sep. 29 to Oct. 5, 2022



Cool and Cloudy



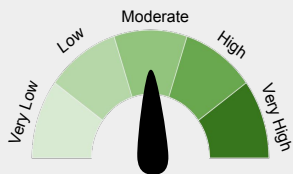
A pair of weather systems will hold our temperatures down this weekend. High pressure to the north will wedge cooler air east of the Appalachians while clouds and rain from the remnants of Ian should help keep our high temperatures mostly in the 60s.

Ian Arrives



As the remnants of Ian move inland, rain will begin in the east today before spreading west on Friday. Statewide totals of 2 to 6 inches are expected, with the highest amounts at the coast. Gusty winds, flash flooding, and isolated tornadoes are also possible.

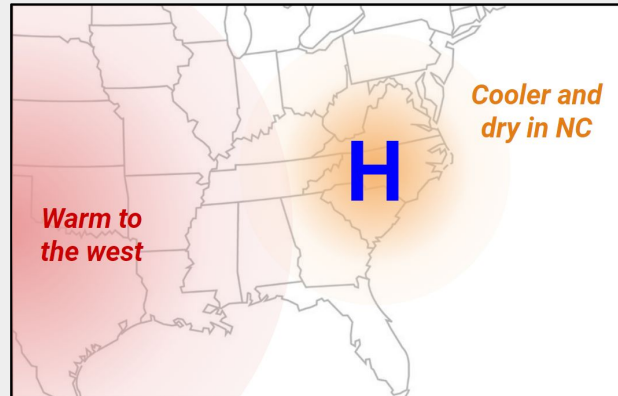
Forecast Confidence



Some areas, likely in the Piedmont, may see lower rainfall totals from Ian, but, it will still have widespread impacts this weekend.

Week 2:

October 6 to 12, 2022



Cooler Weather Continues



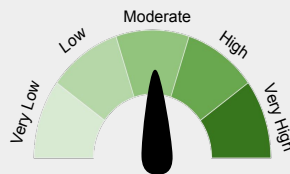
While the Midwest heats up again under a developing jet stream ridge, in North Carolina, we'll be under the influence of a surface high pressure system by next weekend. Expect temperatures to be near to slightly below normal for most of this week.

A Crisp Fall Week



In the wake of Ian, we'll have a chance to dry out, as the local high pressure system should limit our rain chances during the week. This air mass will also be less humid, with the potential for humidity less than 35% and elevated fire danger at times this week.

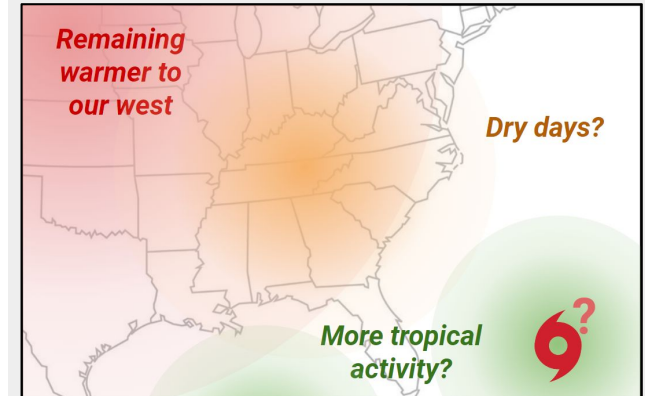
Forecast Confidence



The greatest uncertainty surrounds the weather pattern evolution later this week, including whether we stay dry or see any rain.

Weeks 3-4:

October 13 to 26, 2022

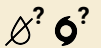


Warm Spells by Late October?



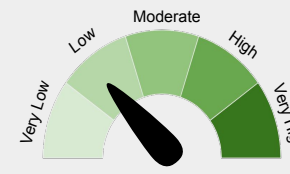
The jet stream ridge is expected to remain over the Midwest during this two-week period. North Carolina may tap into that warmer air, although a return of summer-like heat appears unlikely. Our normal high temperatures range from the upper 60s to low 70s.

Wet or Dry? Maybe Both



Late October could see a mix of warm, dry days and some wetter ones as well, especially if the tropics stay active. Current model guidance slightly favors dry weather toward the end of the month, but as with Ian, one tropical storm could bring significant rain.

Forecast Confidence



Some models have been inconsistent in their forecasts for the eastern US, so overall confidence is lower for this period.