

North Carolina Drought Update

For the assessment period ending November 29, 2022

Statewide Condition Summary

This Week's Drought Monitor of North Carolina Map

From the US Drought Monitor, authored by David Simeral (Western Regional Climate Center) with input from the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council (ncdrought.org)



Statewide, **winter wheat planting remains ahead of the 5-year average**, but farmers in eastern NC worry it **may not germinate due to dry soils**.



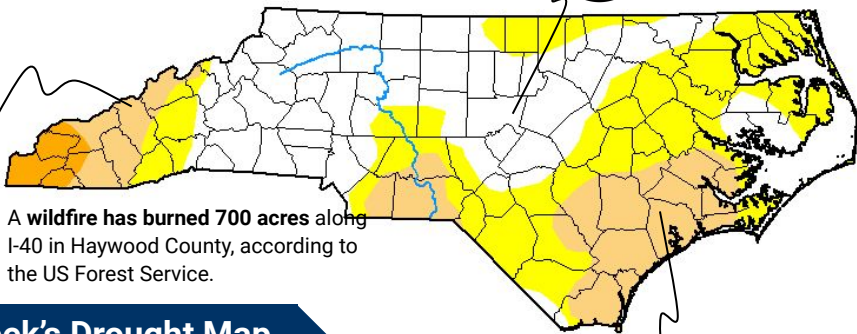
Nearly 3 inches of rain at Jordan Lake last week raised it **0.75 feet above its seasonal guide curve**.



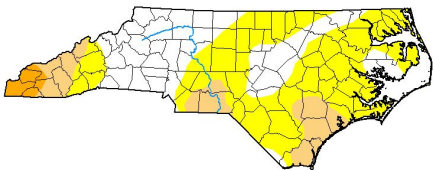
A **wildfire has burned 700 acres** along I-40 in Haywood County, according to the US Forest Service.



Streamflows along the New River have **fallen to the historical 4th percentile** over the past 7 days.



Last Week's Drought Map



What's Changed? Weekend rains lifted the central Piedmont out of Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions, while parts of the coast slipped into Moderate Drought (D1).

What's New? Our state rainfall map last week was like Thanksgiving stuffing: moist in the middle, and dry and crispy along the edges. Parts of the Piedmont picked up 2 to 3 inches total, which made soils feel like "soft butter" according to an Orange County CoCoRaHS observer.

How Was November? Rain from Nicole helped make it a slightly wetter-than-normal month in the Mountains and Piedmont, but it was dry at the coast with less than 2 inches of rain in Kinston, Lumberton, and Wilmington.

Statewide Coverage By Category

Category	Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	34.33%	-15.79%
D1: Moderate Drought	20.22%	+6.79%
D2: Severe Drought	2.50%	0.00%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%

This infographic was created by

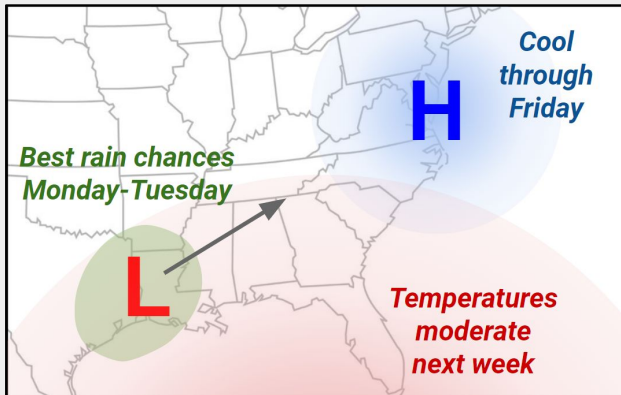


NORTH CAROLINA
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Short-Range Outlook for North Carolina

Week 1:

December 1 to 7, 2022

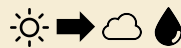


Cool Today, Warmer Next Week



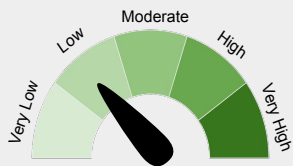
Today and Friday will be cool thanks to high pressure to the north, and a cold front on Saturday night will also knock our highs back into the 50s. Warmer air to the south will creep in by Tuesday, but a warming trend may be subdued by lingering cloud cover.

Rain Moves in Monday



A round of light rain is possible during Saturday's cold frontal passage. The better rain chance will come on Monday and Tuesday as low pressure moves in from the west. Expect half an inch or less in most areas, with higher totals in the Mountains.

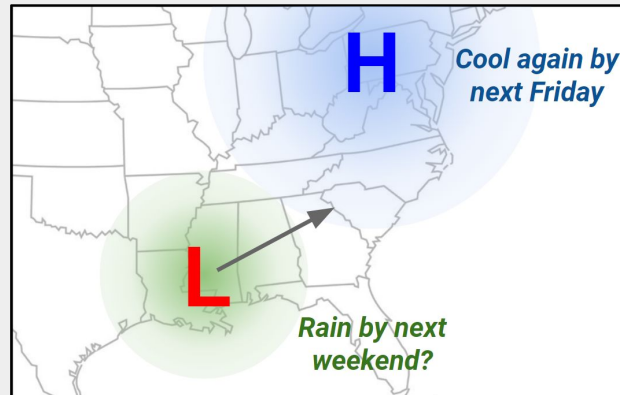
Forecast Confidence



Details about next week's rain event are uncertain, including the chance it could track farther north and bring less rain locally.

Week 2:

December 8 to 14, 2022



Cooler Air Returns



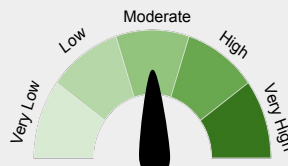
Another Canadian air mass should move to our north by next Friday, which would drop our temperatures back below normal. The rest of the week could see variable temperatures with a tug-of-war between cool air to the north and warmer air to the south.

Another Storm Arrives?



Models are beginning to hone in on next weekend as a window for another potential precipitation event. However, as with other systems moving in from the west, it could dry out as it crosses the Mountains, or take a more northerly track and mostly miss us.

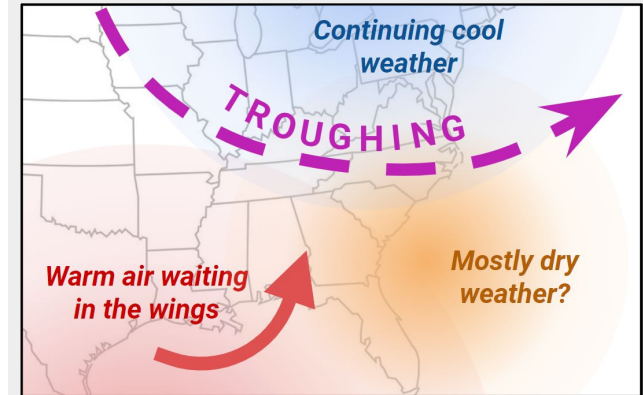
Forecast Confidence



A lot can change over the next 7 to 10 days, but there is decent agreement for now about precipitation potential during this week.

Weeks 3-4:

December 15 to 28, 2022



Warming Up... Eventually?



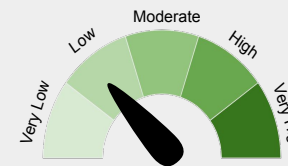
As we head deeper into the winter, we expect a more typical La Niña-like pattern to emerge, with warmer weather in NC. However, current forecasts generally show cooler air, associated with jet stream troughing to our north, continuing through at least Week 3.

Mostly Dry in Late December



La Niña winters also tend to be drier than normal locally, and that seems like the more reliable impact among current late-month forecasts. Dry doesn't mean rain-free, though, and we could still see light or localized precipitation events as we finish the year.

Forecast Confidence



Various models disagree about how long troughing will remain or whether a warmer pattern in NC could emerge sooner.