

# North Carolina Drought Update

For the assessment period ending March 21, 2023

## Statewide Condition Summary

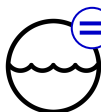
**What's Changed?** Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions spread across the northern Coastal Plain, and Moderate Drought (D1) emerged in two small pockets of far eastern NC.

**What's New?** Last Friday night's rainfall was limited to about a half-inch in most areas, with near-zero totals across most of the Coastal Plain. While recent cooler temperatures have slowed some plant growth, underlying dryness continues to build as we head into the spring.

**What's Next?** Another cold front will move through on Saturday, but it will dry out as it crosses the mountains. Rainfall totals over the next week will likely be limited to about half an inch, with lower totals to the north and east.

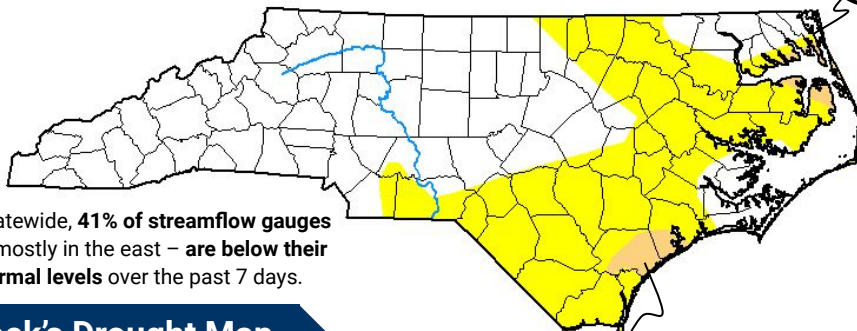
## This Week's Drought Monitor of North Carolina Map

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



Major reservoirs in the Piedmont are **holding near target levels**, but **inflows are declining** due to limited upstream rainfall.

A **marsh fire in Currituck County** burned 500 acres last Thursday and Friday.

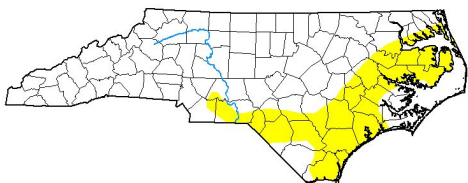


Statewide, **41% of streamflow gauges** – mostly in the east – are **below their normal levels** over the past 7 days.



Pender County Extension reports that cooler weather has delayed field operations, but **rain is needed soon when farmers begin planting**.

## Last Week's Drought Map



## Statewide Coverage By Category

Category	Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	37.57%	+11.90%
D1: Moderate Drought	2.40%	+2.40%
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



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CLIMATE OFFICE