

North Carolina Drought Update

For the assessment period ending May 23, 2023

Statewide Condition Summary

This Week's Drought Monitor of North Carolina Map

From the US Drought Monitor, authored by Brad Rippey (US Department of Agriculture) with input from the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council (ncdrought.org)

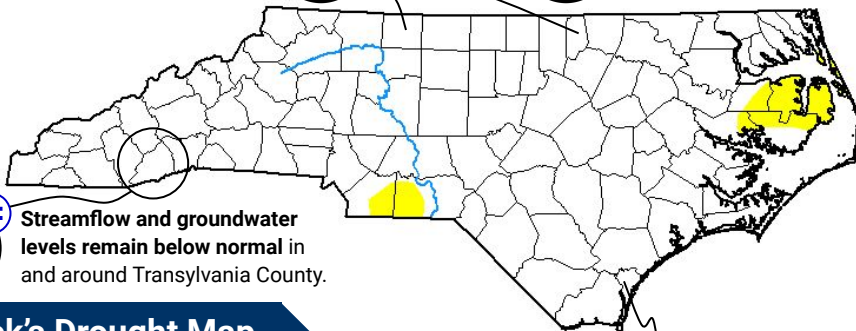
Ag extension reports from Stokes and Vance counties note that **crops need rain soon** to overcome a dry start to May.



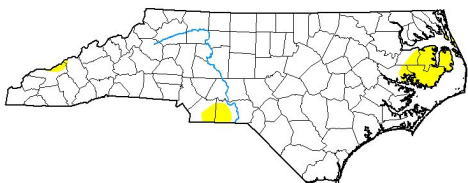
Most reservoirs remain near their seasonal targets, although **inflows have been declining** in some areas.



Streamflow and groundwater levels remain below normal in and around Transylvania County.



Last Week's Drought Map



Wilmington had **4.15 inches of rain last Friday**, which caused flooded roads across the southern coast.

What's Changed? Locally heavy rain showers last week improved Abnormally Dry (D0) areas in Swain County and Hyde County, although a few pockets of D0 still remain.

What's New? Rainfall totals last week ranged from near zero in the western Piedmont to more than 4 inches in the Wilmington area. Most spots saw between a half inch and an inch of rain, which largely kept any dryness at bay.

What's Next? A low pressure system moving up the coast this weekend should bring widespread rainfall. Current forecasts show totals increasing from west to east, with less than half an inch in the far western Mountains and more than an inch of rain likely across the Coastal Plain.

Statewide Coverage By Category

Category	Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	3.96%	-1.10%
D1: Moderate Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D2: Severe Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%

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