

North Carolina Drought Update

Created By:

North Carolina
Drought Management Advisory Council
www.ncdrought.org

NORTH CAROLINA
CLIMATE OFFICE
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For the assessment period ending **May 28, 2024**
From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

Note: Due to the holiday on Monday, limited reports were available for this week's assessment. Weekly rainfall totals did warrant improvements in northeastern NC.

The Main Takeaway

Wrapping up a wet May across the state, locally heavy rain over Memorial Day weekend continued to chip away at the dry conditions that developed in April.

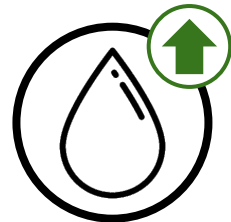
This Week's Summary

Another week with widespread rainfall saw totals of 2 to 4 inches across the southern and central Mountains, and similar locally heavy amounts in the recently dry northeastern corner of the state. Overall, we've seen steady improvements over the past month. At the end of April, soils were dry, streams were declining, and planting progress had stopped in some areas. After our May rain, we're now in much better shape heading into the summer, with an almost-clear state drought map.

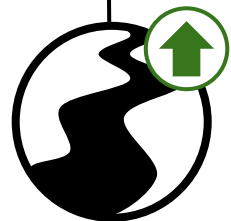
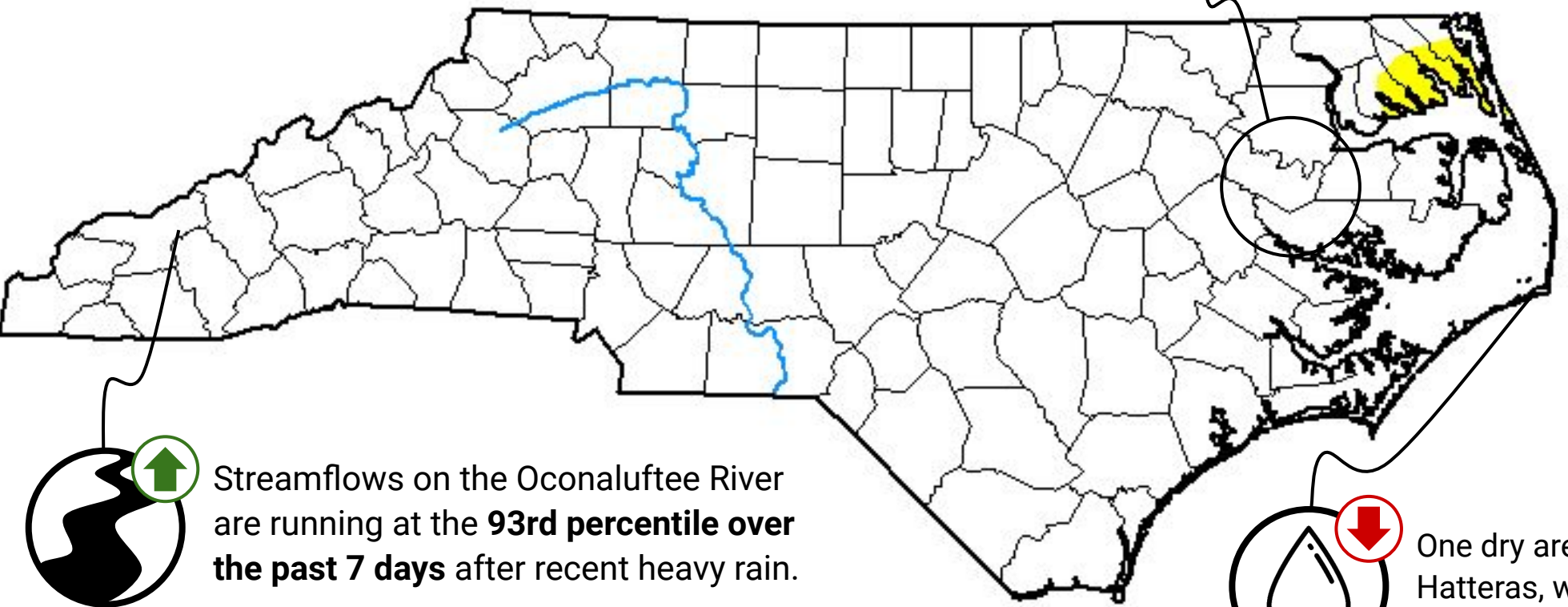
For your local drought status, visit www.ncdrought.org



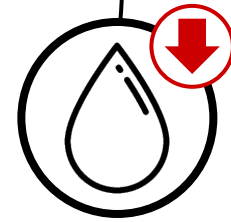
Soybean planting continues ahead of the average pace, with 76% of soybeans statewide in good to excellent condition.



Weekly rainfall totals of up to 3 inches in the Williamston area helped improve local Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions.

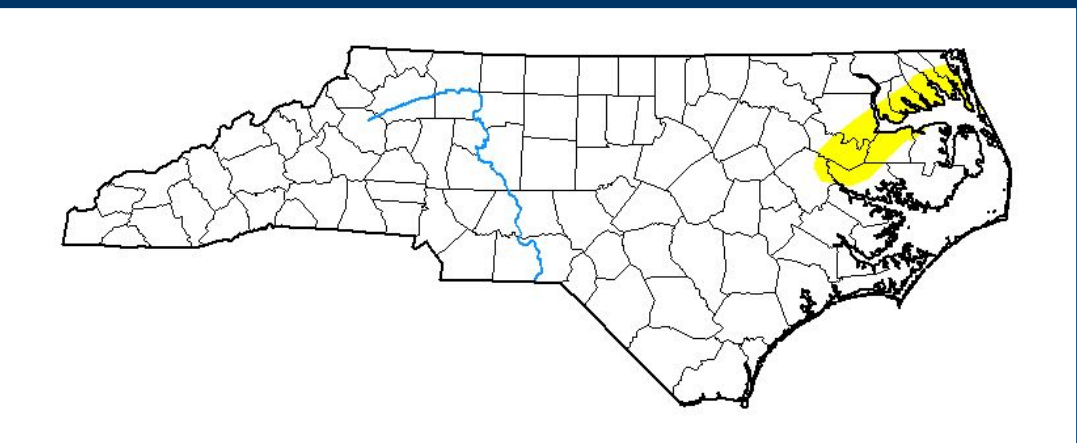


Streamflows on the Oconaluftee River are running at the **93rd percentile over the past 7 days** after recent heavy rain.



One dry area in May has been Cape Hatteras, which has had **less than half its normal rain** so far this month.

Last Week's Drought Status



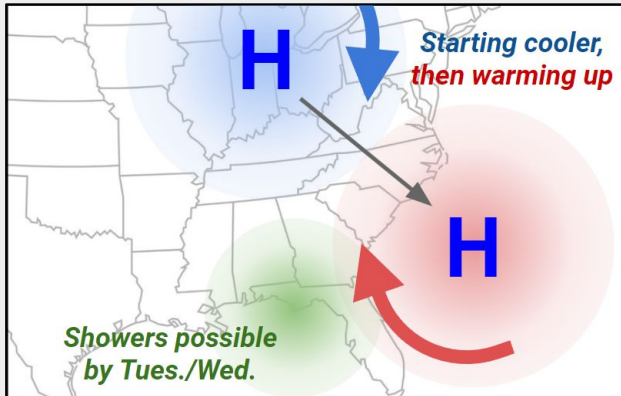
Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	1.11%	-2.77%
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%

Short-Range Outlook for North Carolina

Week 1:

May 30 to June 5, 2024

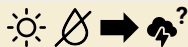


Warming Up All Week



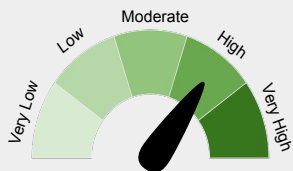
High pressure moving to the north will keep our high temperatures in the upper 70s on Friday, with lower humidity levels on Friday and Saturday afternoons. As the high pressure shifts offshore early next week, our highs will rebound into the upper 80s or low 90s.

Dry Weather This Week



With high pressure in place, expect sunny and dry conditions for most of the week. Rain chances may slightly increase by next Tuesday or Wednesday as southwesterly flow brings in more moisture, which could fuel spotty showers especially in western NC.

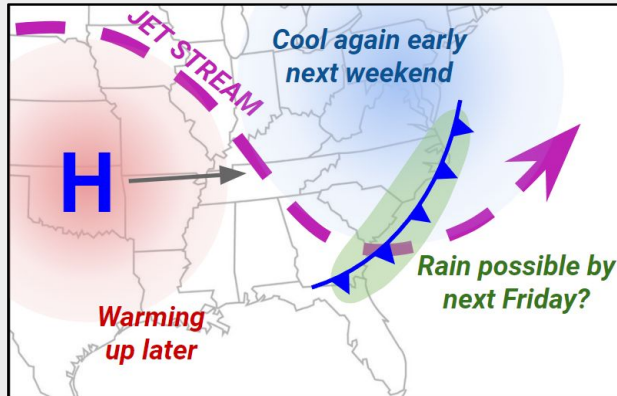
Forecast Confidence



There's little to quibble with amid a quiet pattern, aside from how high (or low) our rain chances will get early next week.

Week 2:

June 6 to 12, 2024

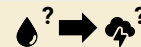


Turbulent Temperatures



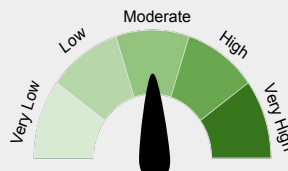
Trouging in the jet stream over the eastern US, together with a surface cold front moving in, are set to bring another cooldown by next weekend. After that, our temperatures should again bounce back, with upper 80s or low 90s returning later in the week.

Rain Up Front?



The cold frontal passage next Thursday night or Friday should offer our best chances for widespread rainfall, although it could be moisture-starved after it crosses the mountains. Beyond that, showers and thunderstorms should be possible most afternoons.

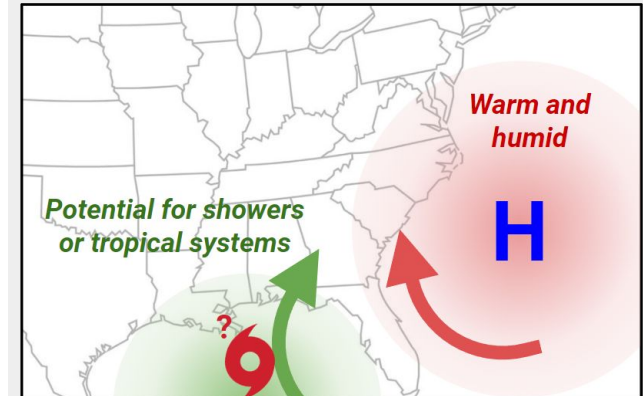
Forecast Confidence



Models are in good agreement about the early cooldown, with some uncertainty about how soon we'll warm back up.

Weeks 3-4:

June 13 to 26, 2024

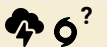


Likely Warm Later



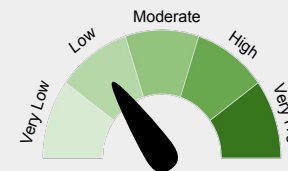
Current forecasts show a summertime staple, the Bermuda high pressure system, setting up off our coast in mid to late June. That's likely to bring warm and muggy weather, with afternoon highs reaching near or above their normal levels in the upper 80s.

Probable Precipitation



Guidance hints at decent rain chances to end the month, with two potential sources. Southwesterly circulation around the Bermuda high should bring in moisture and fuel scattered showers, while tropical activity could pick up in the Gulf or off our coastline.

Forecast Confidence



The potential for tropical systems will be a major wildcard all summer and fall, and it adds a bit of uncertainty this far out.