

North Carolina Drought Update

Created By:

North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council

NORTH CAROLINA CLIMATE OFFICE

NC STATE

www.ncdrought.org

climate.ncsu.edu @NCSCO

For the assessment period ending **July 30, 2024**
 From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

The Main Takeaway

Another week with widespread heavy rainfall has led to more improvements on this week's map, including a reduction in Moderate (D1) and Severe (D2) Drought.

This Week's Summary

While June's drought had a lasting impact on the corn crop, there are few other traces of drought after our wet July. Much of eastern NC is 2 to 4 inches above its normal precipitation since the start of summer, while surface water and groundwater conditions have bounced back, rejuvenated by our recent rainfall.

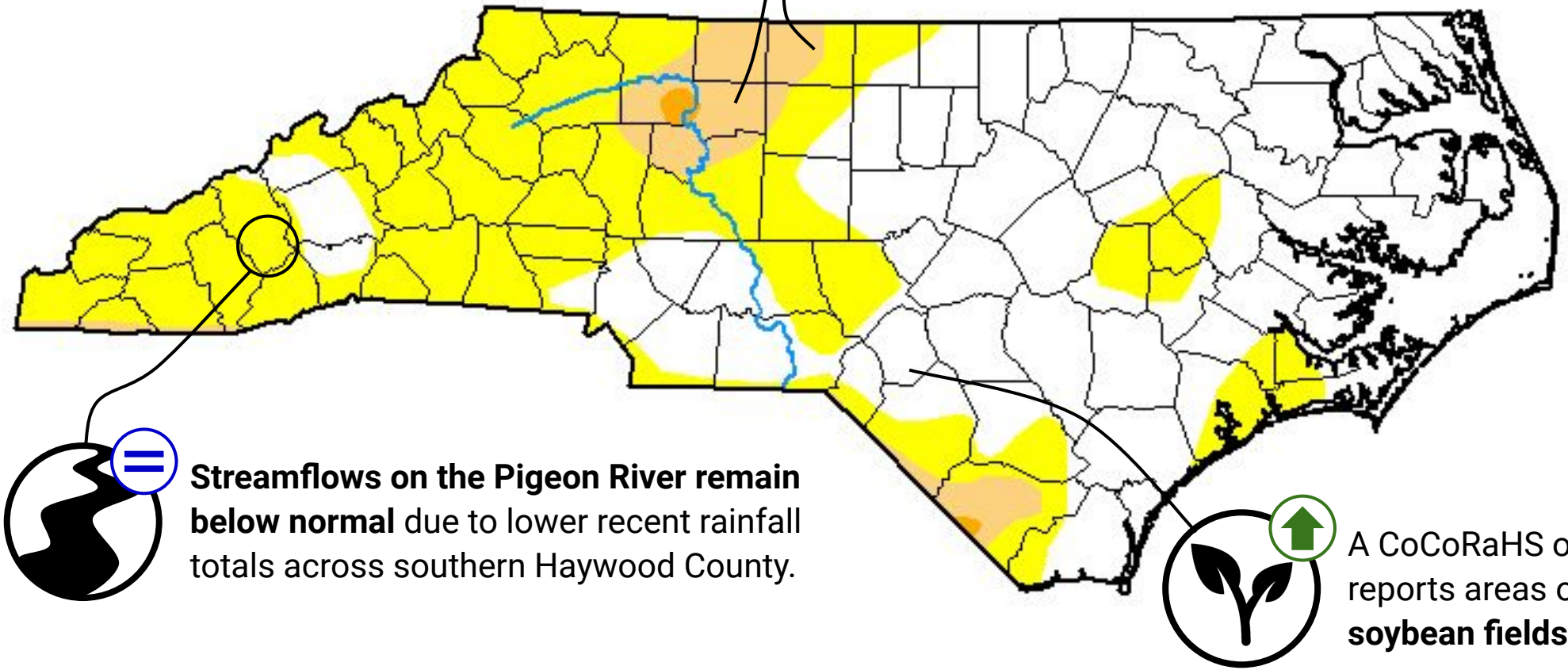
Lingering Dry Spots

With lower totals in recent weeks, some areas farther west remain a bit drier than normal so far this summer. Deficits since June 1 are 1.98 inches in Cullowhee, 2.49 inches in Morganton, and 3.09 inches in Yadkinville.

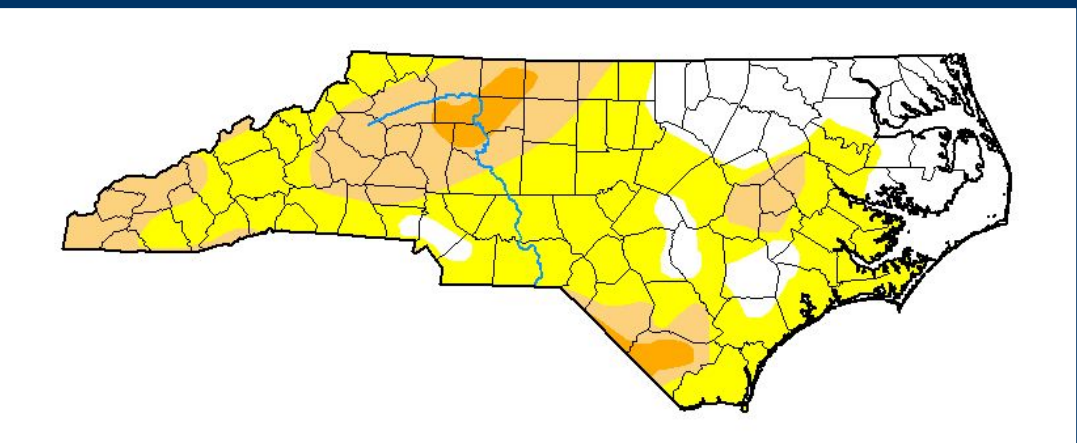
For your local drought status, visit www.ncdrought.org

Last week again saw **lower rainfall totals in the northwest Piedmont**, including 0.38 inches in Winston-Salem and 0.48 inches in Reidsville.

Per USDA/NASS, **topsoil moisture conditions have vastly improved**: just 12% short or very short now, compared to 74% at the end of June.



Last Week's Drought Status



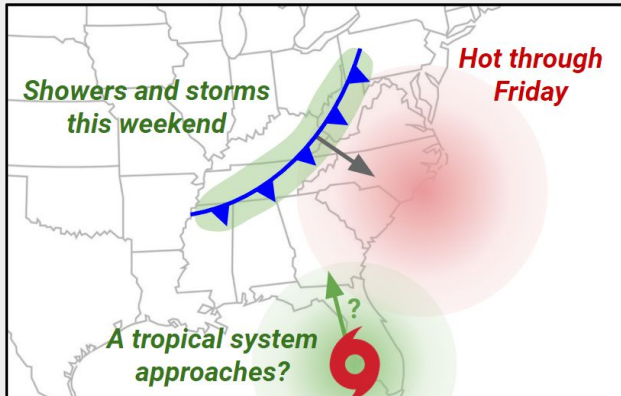
Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	38.34%	-13.22%
D1: Moderate Drought	5.79%	-16.88%
D2: Severe Drought	0.32%	-3.26%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%

Short-Range Outlook for North Carolina

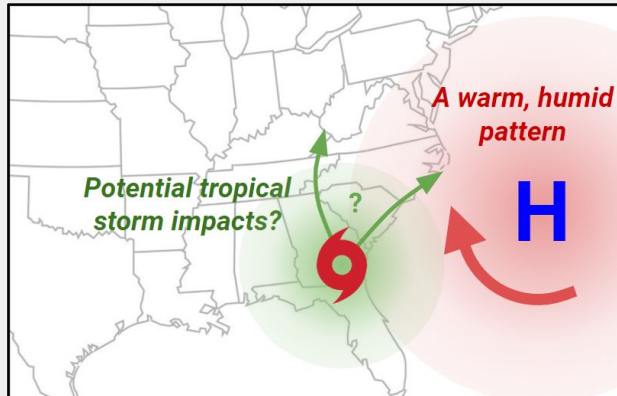
Week 1:

August 1 to 7, 2024



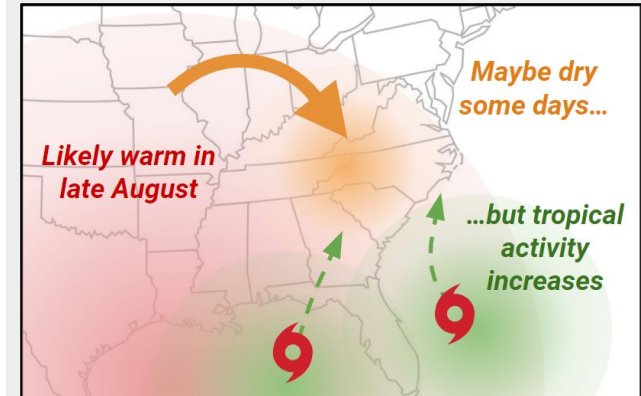
Week 2:

August 8 to 14, 2024



Weeks 3-4:

August 15 to 28, 2024



Heat Builds Early



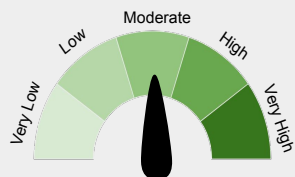
We're in for a short-lived round of intense heat on Thursday and Friday, with high temperatures hitting the mid to upper 90s. A cold front moving in over the weekend should see the return of cloud cover and more seasonable temperatures in the upper 80s.

Rainy This Weekend



The arriving cold front should be a focus for showers and thunderstorms on Saturday and Sunday. Some could bring heavy rain, flooding, or severe weather. Expect lower rain chances early next week, although a potential tropical system could approach by then.

Forecast Confidence



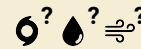
Confidence is high for rain chances on Saturday, but lower for early next week depending on where the possible tropical storm is.

A Warm Pattern in Place



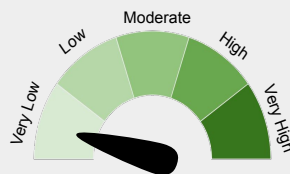
Offshore high pressure should support an overall warm and humid weather pattern during this week. However, the potential for a tropical system or its remnants, steered around the periphery of the high pressure, could make for several cool, cloudy days.

Watching the Tropics



The potential tropical system could bring significant rain either late in Week 1 or during Week 2. Details are unclear now, as some models show it moving up the coast while others bring it up from Gulf. In either case, it could be a slow-moving and very wet storm.

Forecast Confidence



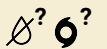
The potential tropical storm clouds every aspect of this forecast. Without it, we'd be set for a fairly typical summer week.

Warm Weather Continues



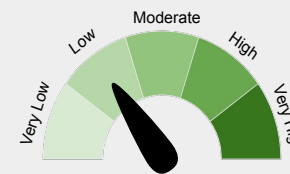
Current forecasts favor a broad upper-level high pressure system over the southern tier of the US through late August, which should generally keep our temperatures above normal. At this time of year, our average highs range from the mid to upper 80s.

The Tropical Threat Grows



While high pressure to our southwest sometimes sees less rainfall across NC due to dry westerly winds, current forecasts show wetter-than-normal conditions through the end of August, closely tied to the potential for tropical activity in the Atlantic.

Forecast Confidence



As we approach the peak of hurricane season, the chances of one or more storms affecting us should continue to increase.