

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 **Aug. 27, 2024**
From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

The Main Takeaway

A dry week helped eastern rivers continue to recover after Debby, but some southwestern areas entered Moderate Drought (D1) as a dry August stretched on.

This Week's Summary

We made it only two weeks with no drought present in North Carolina before it flared up again across parts of the southern Mountains. While reservoir levels and inflows are getting low there – Fontana Lake is 7 feet below its target – that's less alarming since the targets will begin declining toward winter levels next week.

Summer in Summary

After a dry June, most of central and eastern NC will finish summer more than 4 inches above their normal rainfall. However, parts of the southern Mountains are more than 7 inches below normal for the season.

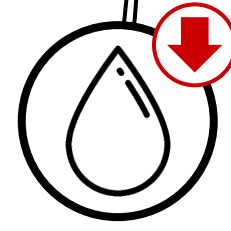
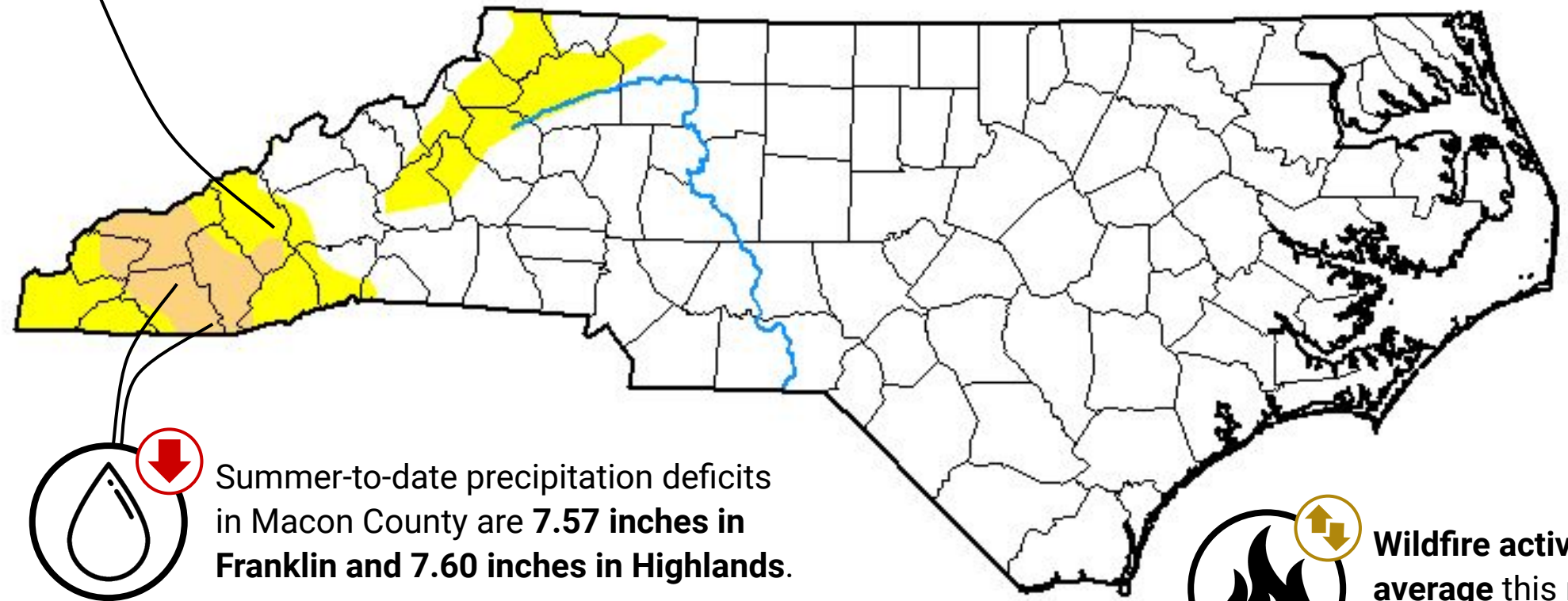
For your local drought status, visit www.ncdrought.org



The Haywood County towns of **Canton and Clyde** are recommending water conservation as levels along the Pigeon River continue to drop.



Farmers are making hay while the sun shines, as the **third cutting of hay is on pace with the five-year average**, per data from USDA/NASS.

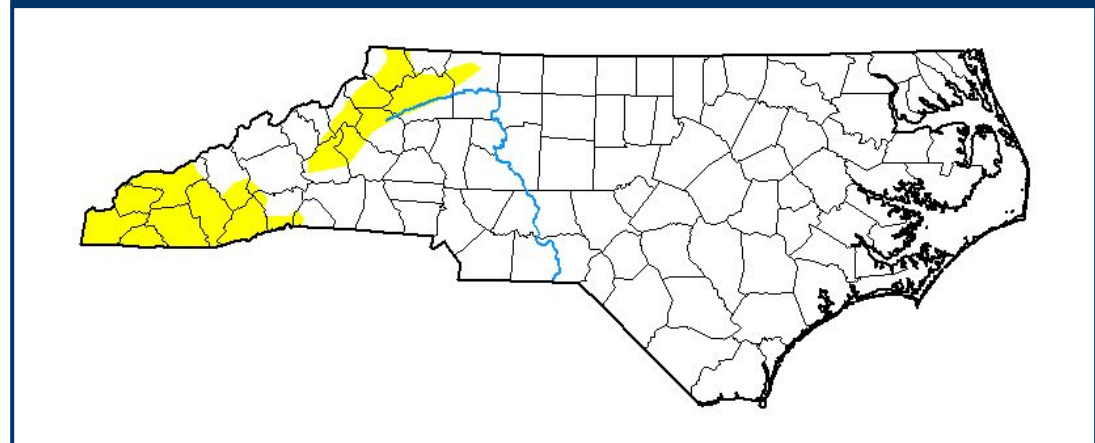


Summer-to-date precipitation deficits in Macon County are **7.57 inches in Franklin** and **7.60 inches in Highlands**.



Wildfire activity has been well below average this month, but **recent hot weather will dry out fuels quickly**.

Last Week's Drought Status



Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	8.53%	-2.09%
D1: Moderate Drought	3.26%	+3.26%
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:

Aug. 29 to Sep. 4, 2024



Cooling Off This Week



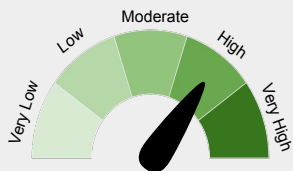
After another extreme hot day on Thursday, the heat will back off as a backdoor cold front moves in from the northeast on Friday. Another front arriving from the west early next week will bring a more significant cooldown, with highs of around 80°F by Tuesday.

Rain Returns This Weekend



As moist air from the south meets the cold fronts to the north, showers and thunderstorms will become common across the state through the Labor Day weekend. Most areas can expect at least half an inch of rain, with local totals of 1 to 2 inches possible.

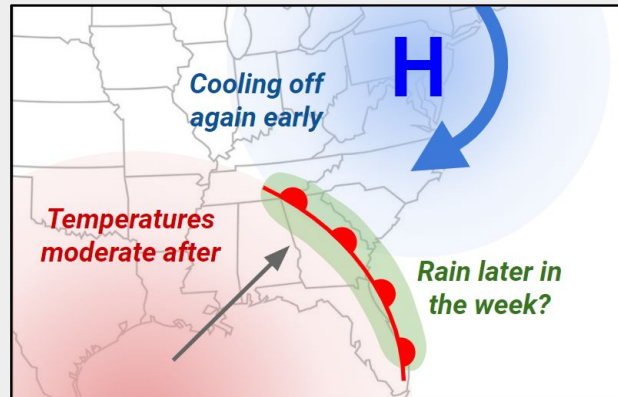
Forecast Confidence



There is some uncertainty about how quickly cool, dry air will move in Tuesday, which could limit rainfall with that frontal passage.

Week 2:

September 5 to 11, 2024

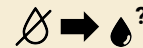


Another Cool Weekend



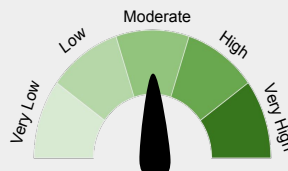
As an upper-level high pressure system parks over the US east coast, we'll remain in a cooler pattern through next weekend. Once that high pressure shifts offshore, our temperatures may moderate to near or above-normal levels by the end of the week.

Frontal Rainfall Possible



Rain will be limited under the high pressure pattern, giving a dry start to the week. Better rain chances could return as a stalled front to our south lifts northward or a cold front moves in from the west, although there is still uncertainty about both events.

Forecast Confidence



Models are in agreement on the large-scale pattern, but the timing of weather systems and rain chances is still coming into focus.

Weeks 3-4:

September 12 to 25, 2024



An Uncertain Outlook



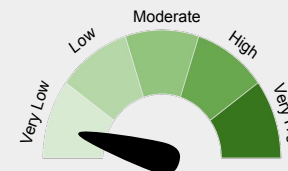
Recent model forecasts have disagreed about the late-month pattern in the eastern US, with some showing jet stream ridging and warm weather while others show troughing and cool weather. Note that normal highs by late September are in the upper 70s.

Potentially Wetter



Current forecasts show a slight tilt toward above-normal rainfall at the end of the month associated with potential frontal passages and tropical systems moving through. At this point, forecasts do not show a drier La Niña-like pattern setting up in September.

Forecast Confidence



With many variables in play, from the jet stream to the tropics, confidence is quite low for this early glimpse into the fall.