

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 **Sep. 24, 2024**
From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

The Main Takeaway

Drought persists in the southern Mountains, including an expanded area of Severe Drought (D2), but expected heavy rain from Helene could bring a quick turnaround.

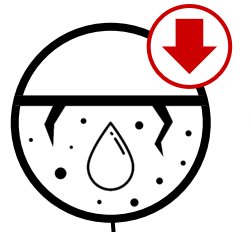
This Week's Summary

Much of the state remains wet in the wake of last week's PTC8, but our southwestern counties are still waiting for a drought-busting rain event after a dry summer and start to fall. For the lakes and streams that have seen their water levels steadily drop over the past season, Helene could be a big difference-maker.

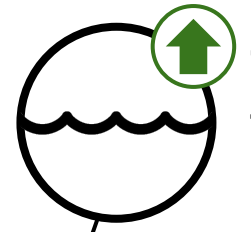
Next Week's Outlook

The remnants of Hurricane Helene will impact North Carolina on Thursday and Friday. Widespread rainfall totals of at least 4 inches are likely in the Mountains, with 10 inches or more possible along the Blue Ridge.

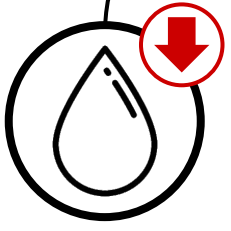
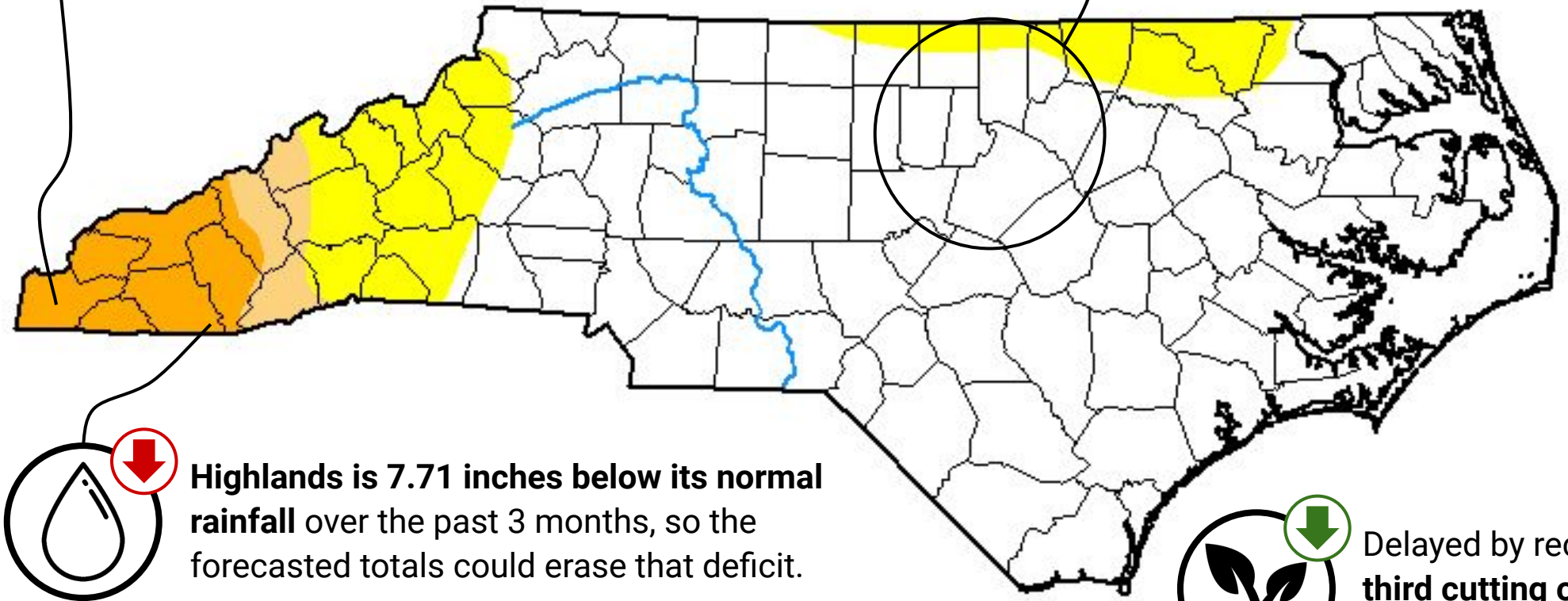
For your local drought status, visit www.ncdrought.org



Groundwater levels at the Marble well in Cherokee County have fallen below normal, continuing a decline that began in late July.



Triangle-area reservoirs remain above their targets and are preparing for more rises when upstream moisture levels surge after Helene.

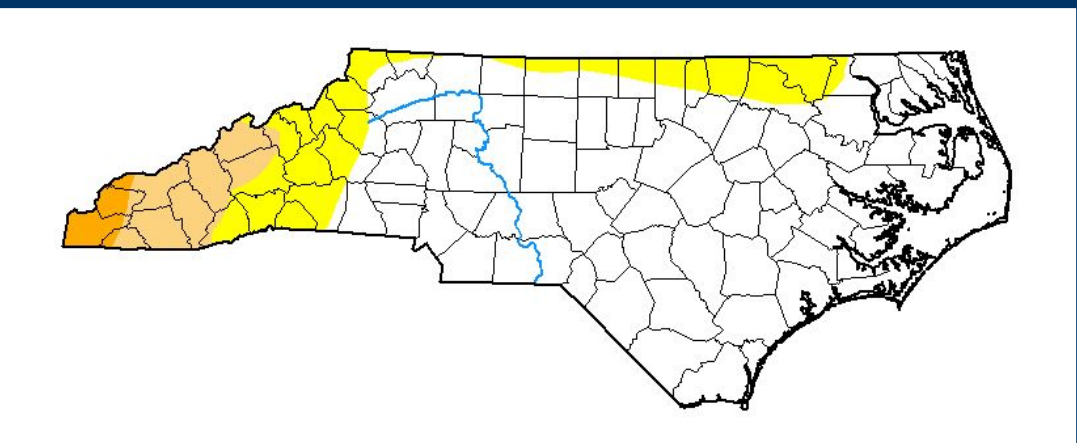


Highlands is 7.71 inches below its normal rainfall over the past 3 months, so the forecasted totals could erase that deficit.



Delayed by recent wet weather, the third cutting of hay is behind the five-year average pace, per USDA/NASS.

Last Week's Drought Status



Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	12.53%	-1.44%
D1: Moderate Drought	2.42%	-4.04%
D2: Severe Drought	5.47%	+3.81%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%