

# North Carolina Drought Update

Created By:

North Carolina  
Drought Management Advisory Council

[www.ncdrought.org](http://www.ncdrought.org)

NORTH CAROLINA  
CLIMATE OFFICE

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NC STATE

For the assessment period ending **Oct. 1, 2024**

From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

## The Main Takeaway

Any concerns about drought were quickly replaced by ones of flooding after last week's record-setting rainfall from Hurricane Helene across western North Carolina.

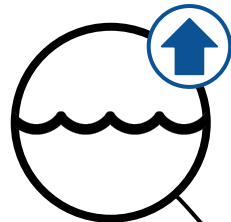
## This Week's Summary

Areas that were classified in Moderate (D1) or Severe (D2) Drought just a week ago have since seen more than 7 inches – and as much as two feet – of rainfall and devastating flooding from Helene. Added to the rain in eastern NC from PTC8 and other recent events, September was much wetter than normal for most of NC, so the state drought map is clear entering October.

## This Month's Rankings

This was the wettest September on record for western sites including Sparta, Asheville and Lincolnton, plus one of the top-five wettest in Charlotte and Raleigh.

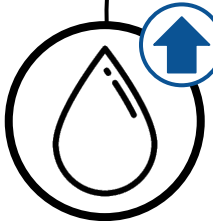
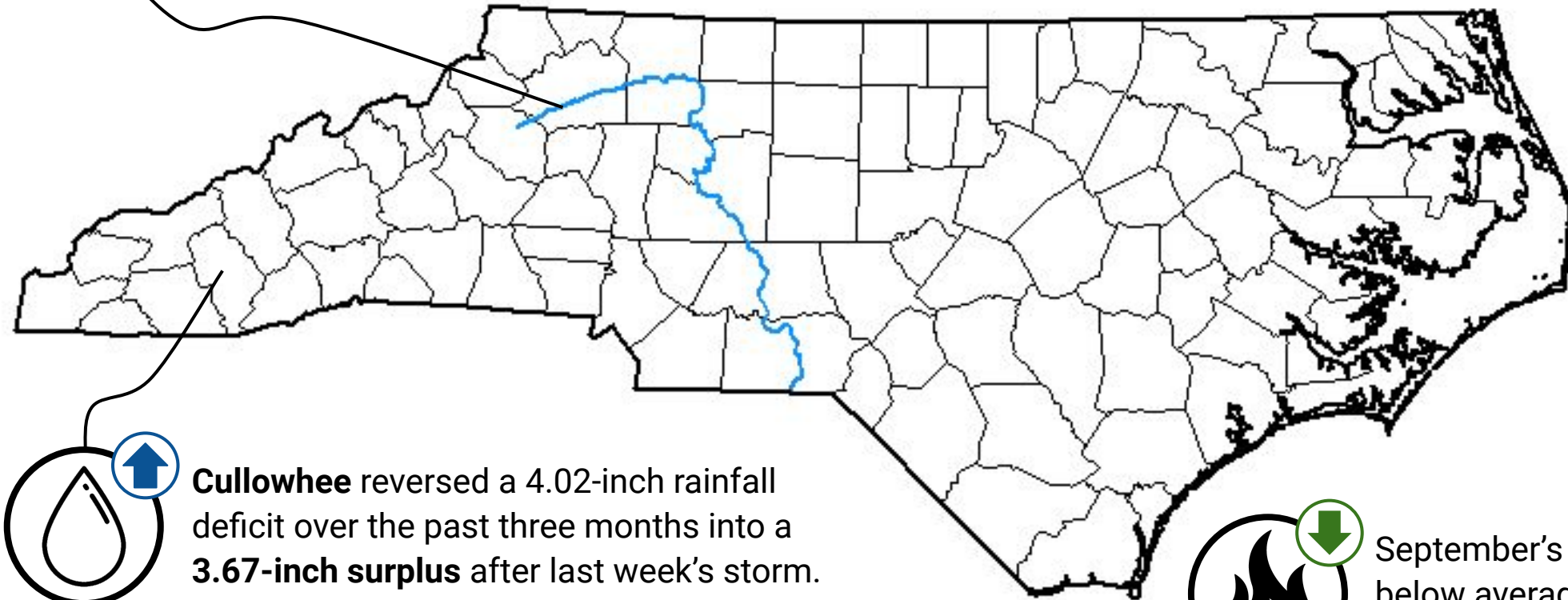
For your local drought status, visit [www.ncdrought.org](http://www.ncdrought.org)



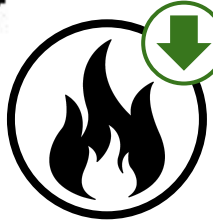
W. Kerr Scott Reservoir saw a **31-foot rise over three days**, reaching less than a foot from its record high elevation in June 2019.



Moisture conditions are adequate for crops as the growing season wraps up and small grain planting begins.

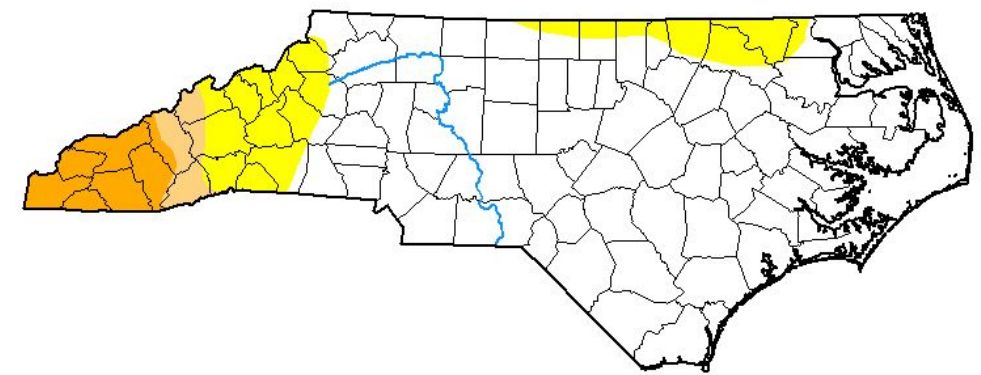


Cullowhee reversed a 4.02-inch rainfall deficit over the past three months into a **3.67-inch surplus** after last week's storm.



September's wildfire activity was well below average, with NC Forest Service reporting 90 fires burning 45 acres.

## Last Week's Drought Status



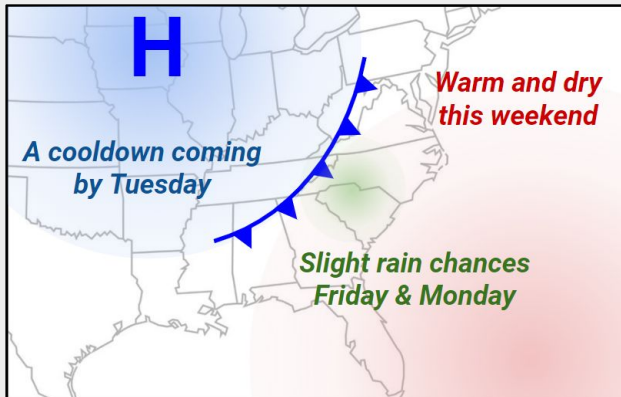
## Statewide Coverage by Category

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

# Short-Range Outlook for North Carolina

## Week 1:

October 3 to 9, 2024



### Fall-Like Weather on the Way



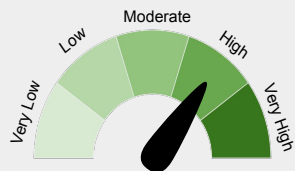
Our high temperatures will run a few degrees above normal through the weekend, in the upper 70s to low 80s. A strong cold front moving through on Monday will usher in cooler air, with nighttime lows possibly dipping into the 40s in some areas by Tuesday night.

### A Dry Week in Store



A few showers are possible on Friday afternoon or Monday along the cold frontal passage, but most areas can expect little to no accumulating rainfall over the next 7 days, particularly once the much drier air mass builds in from the northwest by Tuesday.

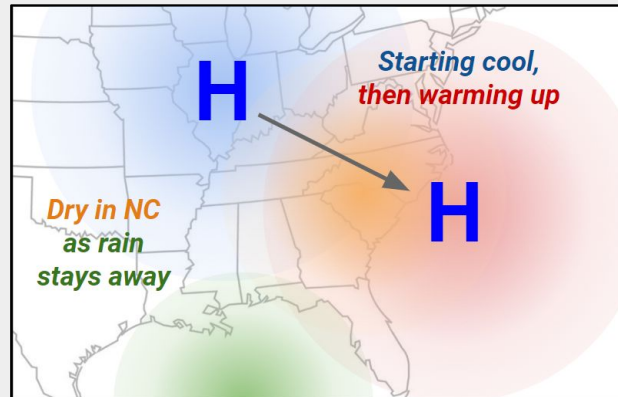
### Forecast Confidence



Confidence is quite high about this week's weather patterns, with only small rain chances favored for both Friday and Monday.

## Week 2:

October 10 to 16, 2024



### Warming Up This Week



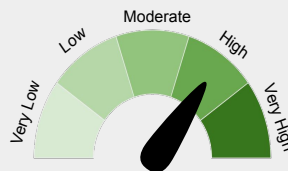
Our cooler weather pattern should be short-lived to start this week. By next Friday or Saturday, expect a return to near-normal or slightly above-normal temperatures as the dominant high pressure system shifts southward and moderates over our region.

### Dry Weather Continues



Rain chances should remain low as long as the broad high pressure system is dictating our weather. That includes blocking any potential tropical storms in the Gulf from moving over us. Current forecasts show little to no rainfall in NC over this 7-day period.

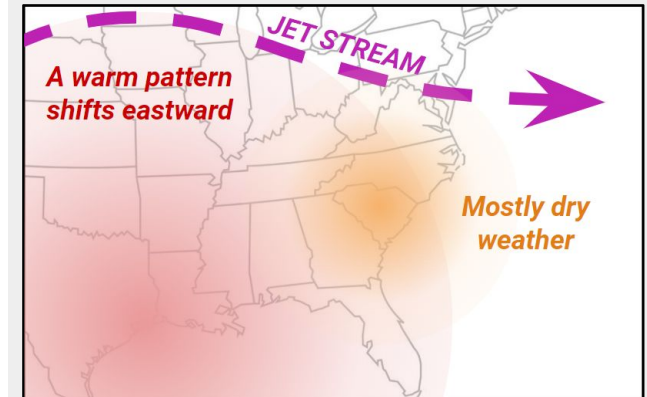
### Forecast Confidence



The large-scale pattern should be stable through mid-month, adding support for fairly quiet and dry weather in North Carolina.

## Weeks 3-4:

October 17 to 30, 2024



### A Warm End to October



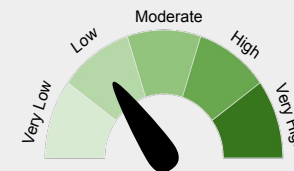
A broad jet stream ridging pattern is set to take shape across the central US by the middle of October. While we may be on its fringes in Week 3 with temperatures closer to normal, it's expected to shift eastward and bring warmer weather by Week 4.

### Likely Drier Overall



Our likely position just under or downstream of the jet stream ridge should favor drier weather through late October. Some rain is still possible from frontal passages or offshore storm systems, including any lingering tropical activity as the season winds down.

### Forecast Confidence



Long-range temperature forecasts for our region have been evolving in recent days, increasing uncertainty this far out.