

# 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 **Apr. 29, 2025**

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

## The Main Takeaway

After a week of hit-or-miss rain showers, we saw some local improvements along with expanding Moderate Drought (D1) in parts of the Piedmont and eastern NC.

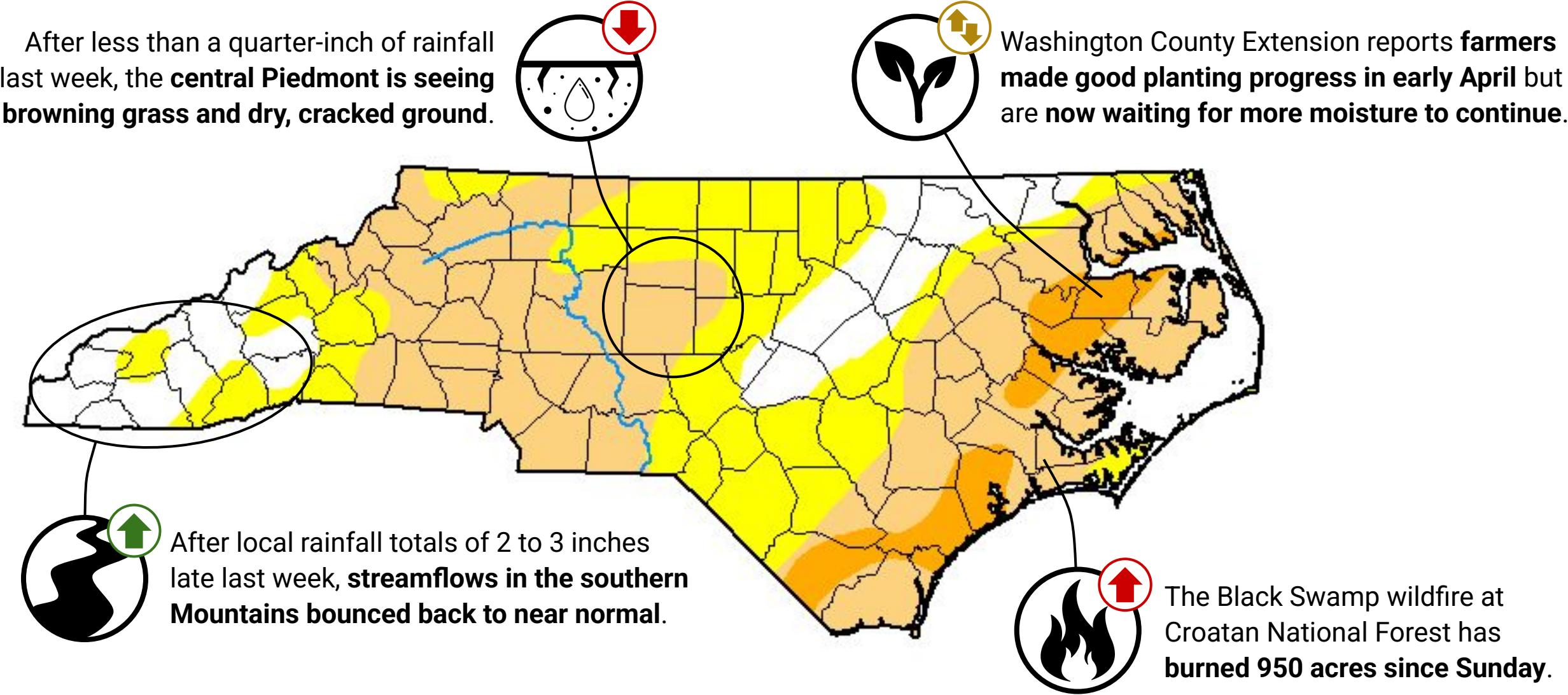
## This Week's Summary

Parts of the southern Mountains and central Coastal Plain saw more than two inches of rain last week, while less than half an inch fell in much of the Piedmont and other coastal areas. Although local totals were highly varied, broader trends this week included a progressing green-up along with declining topsoil moisture content – both of which were due in part to the recent warmth.

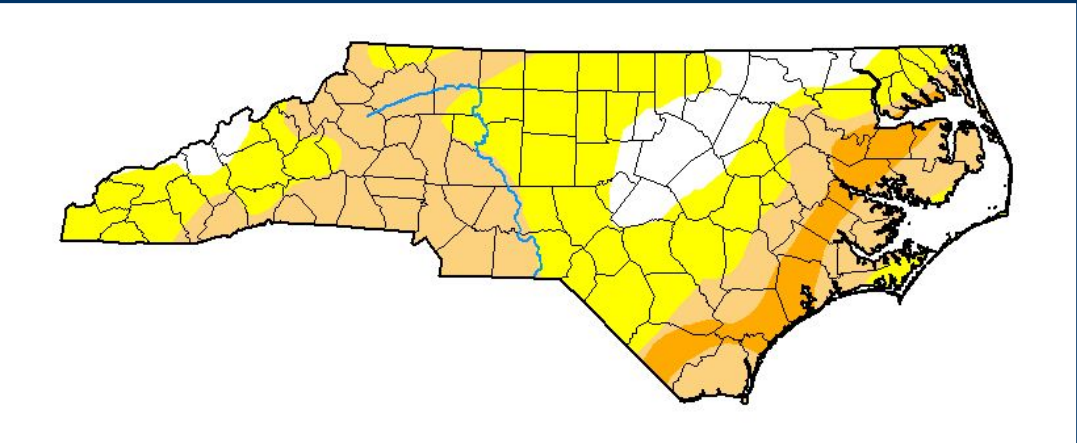
## Last Month's Precipitation

It was a wet month in the southern Mountains, with **Asheville** seeing its 28th-wettest April on record, but dry elsewhere, including the 15th-driest in **Fayetteville**.

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



## Last Week's Drought Status



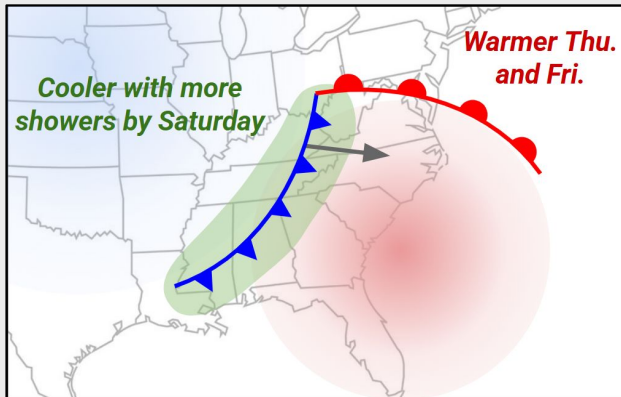
## Statewide Coverage by Category

| Category                | Current Coverage | Change Since Last Week |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| D0: Abnormally Dry      | 31.32%           | -11.15%                |
| D1: Moderate Drought    | 45.35%           | +8.24%                 |
| D2: Severe Drought      | 7.37%            | -0.68%                 |
| D3: Extreme Drought     | 0.00%            | 0.00%                  |
| D4: Exceptional Drought | 0.00%            | 0.00%                  |

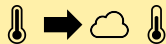
# Short-Range Outlook for North Carolina

## Week 1:

May 1 to 7, 2025



### A Weekend Cooldown



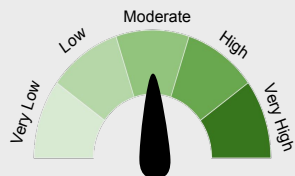
Behind a warm front to our north, our temperatures will soar into the 80s on Thursday and Friday. On Saturday, an approaching cold front will bring more cloud cover, and after it moves by, temperatures will top out in the 70s through at least next Wednesday.

### Stormy by Saturday



Shower and thunderstorm activity will ramp up on Saturday as the cold front moves in, with unsettled weather potentially lasting into early next week if a low pressure system stalls over us. Weekly rainfall should range from half an inch to just over an inch.

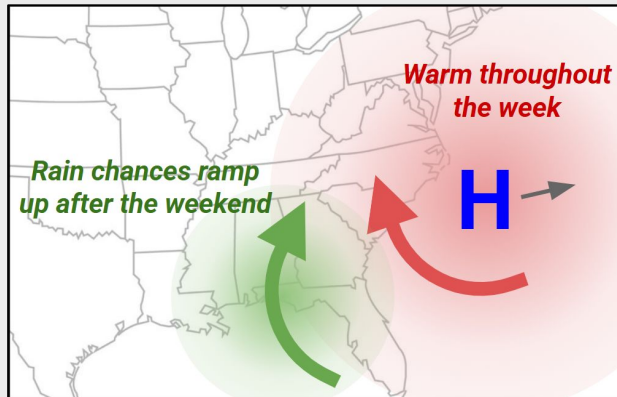
### Forecast Confidence



Models have been split on the potential stormy pattern for early next week, which will depend on the position of the approaching low.

## Week 2:

May 8 to 14, 2025

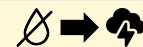


### Warm and Muggy



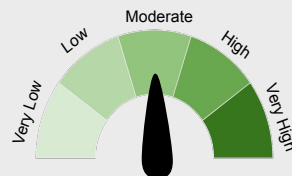
An offshore high pressure system should help keep our temperatures above normal through most of the week. As is common during these "Bermuda high" setups, winds from the south should also elevate humidity levels, which could temper the fire danger.

### Showers Spring Back



Current forecasts are dry heading into next weekend, but as that high pressure system takes shape off our coastline by the start of the work week, it should pull in Gulf moisture from the south to fuel daily showers and thunderstorms in a typical summer-like pattern.

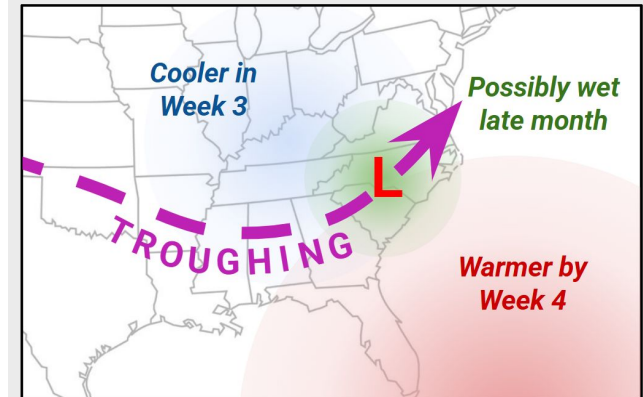
### Forecast Confidence



Current guidance is in good agreement, but predicting exact rain amounts is always tough with this sort of convective pattern.

## Weeks 3-4:

May 15 to 28, 2025



### Late-Month Variability



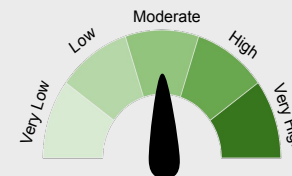
Week 3 could see a slight cooldown, with near- or below-normal temperatures possible under weak jet stream troughing over the Southeast US. We should be back on the warm side of the jet stream by Week 4, with high temperatures rising back into the 80s.

### Rain Chances Remain



No matter which side of the jet stream we're on, we should be in the storm track bringing systems out of the Gulf or across the Southeast. That favors wetter weather for late May and possibly more widespread rainfall from those organized weather systems.

### Forecast Confidence



Model agreement is decent, but the exact evolution of the troughing pattern and its rain chances are tough to predict this far out.