

North Carolina Drought Update

Created By:

North Carolina
Drought Management Advisory Council
www.ncdrought.org

 NORTH CAROLINA
CLIMATE OFFICE
climate.ncsu.edu

 NC STATE
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For the assessment period ending **Sep. 30, 2025**
From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

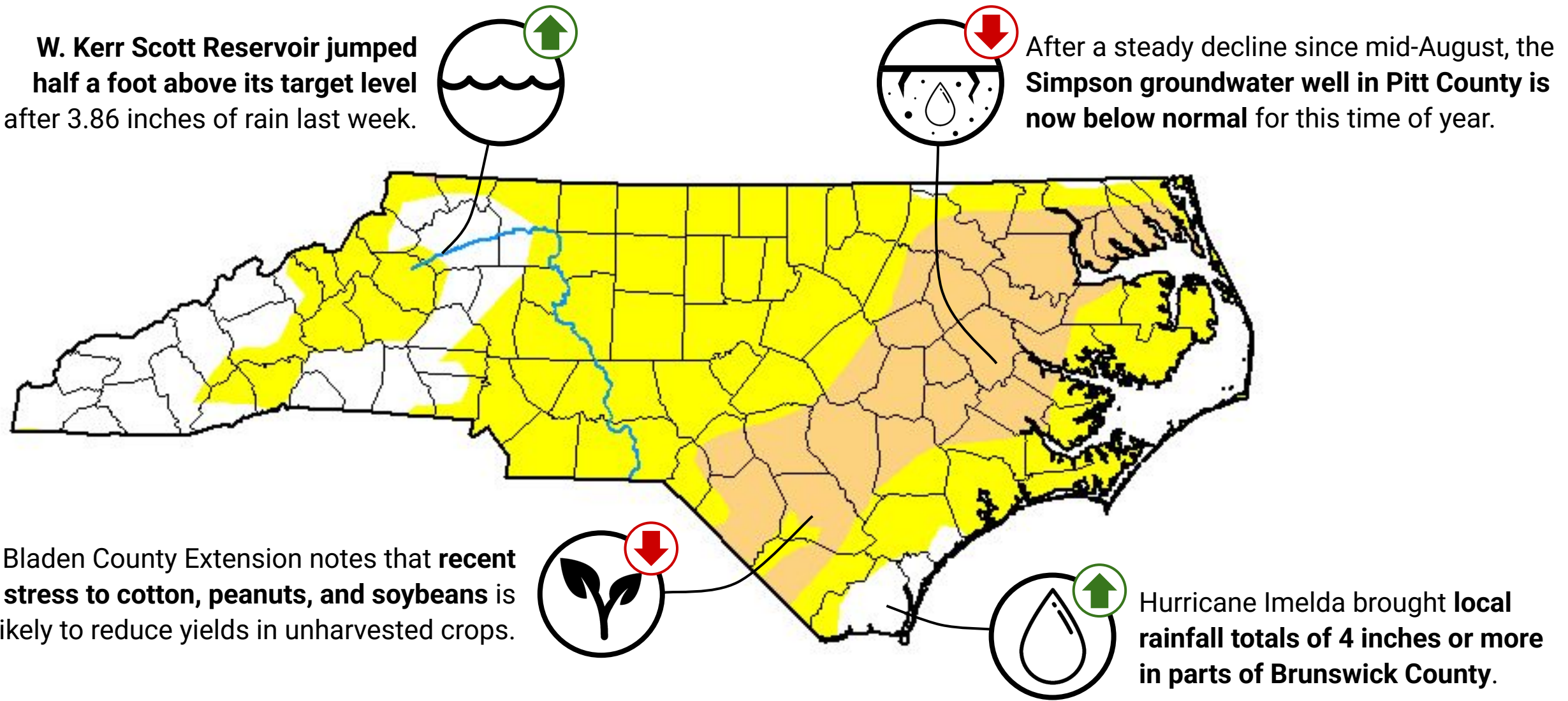
The Main Takeaway

Several rounds of locally heavy rainfall brought some improvements to recently dry areas in the Foothills, while many eastern sites missed out on the rain again this week and saw Moderate Drought (D1) expand.

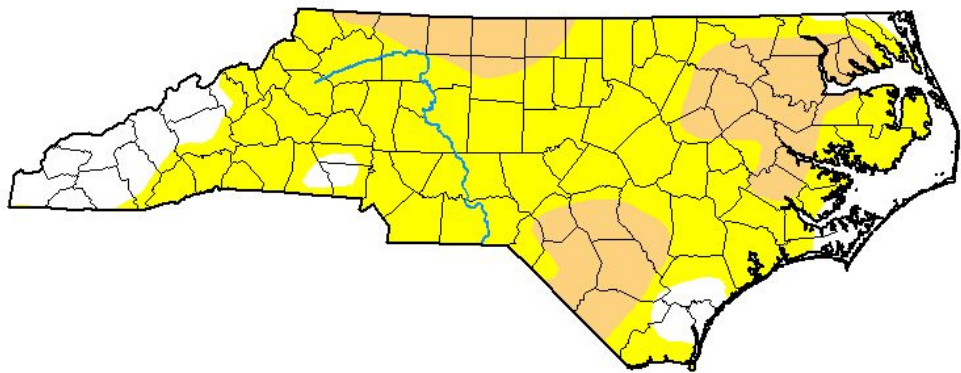
This Week's Summary

A key point on this week's NC DMAC call was that while it was a relief to see Hurricane Idalia turn away before making landfall, we also missed out on a decent dose of rain that's badly needed in much of eastern North Carolina. Many northern and central coastal areas have now gone more than a month and a half without significant rain, and that has caused streamflow and soil moisture levels to decline, fire danger to increase, and added more stress for late-season crops. In a time of year that's often feast or famine in terms of rainfall, a tropical near-miss this week led to worsening drought.

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



Last Week's Drought Status



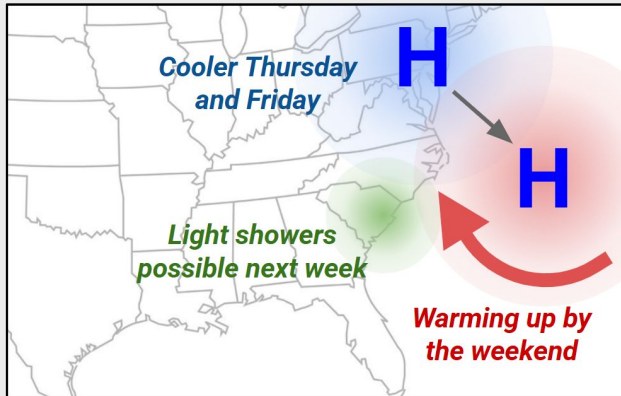
Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	57.71%	-7.56%
D1: Moderate Drought	23.92%	+1.52%
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:

October 2 to 8, 2025



Warming Up All Week



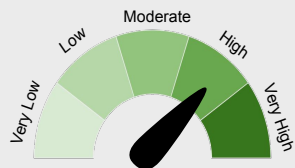
With high pressure to our north, we'll see cool, crisp weather on Thursday and Friday, including morning lows in the upper 40s in some spots. As that high pressure shifts southward, we'll warm up through early next week, with highs topping out near 80°F.

A Mostly Dry Week



We'll begin the week with a dry and less humid air mass in place, which should keep rain chances low through the weekend. The return of moisture from the south by Monday could fuel isolated showers, especially across our southern and eastern counties.

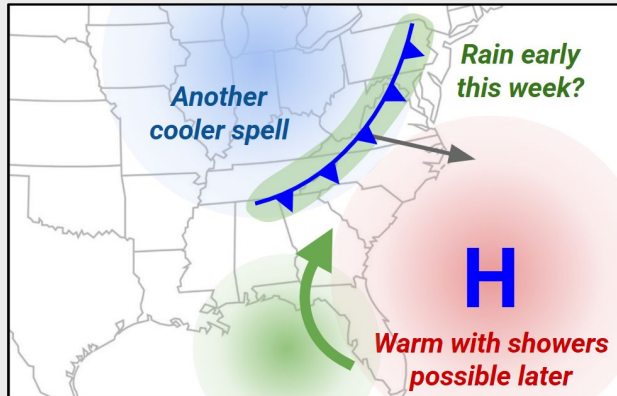
Forecast Confidence



A well-defined pattern gives confidence overall, with slight uncertainty about when any clouds and rain may return early next week.

Week 2:

October 9 to 15, 2025



Temperature Tug-of-War



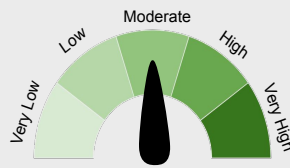
A strong cold frontal passage early in the week could be the catalyst for a cooldown headed into next weekend, but recent forecasts also show a more tropical air mass building offshore, which could end the week with warmer-than-normal temperatures.

Dry, Wet, or Maybe Both



The early-week front could bring some rain showers if enough moisture remains intact after crossing the Mountains. After that, we're likely to see a drier stretch through next weekend before rain chances creep up with the return of a moist southerly flow.

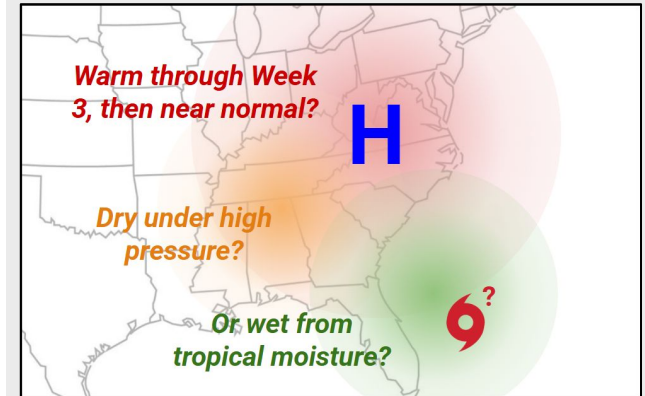
Forecast Confidence



Current models generally agree on the overall pattern but differ in the details, like how wet the front might be and how long it stays cool.

Weeks 3-4:

October 16 to 29, 2025

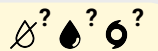


Staying Warm, then Cooling Off?



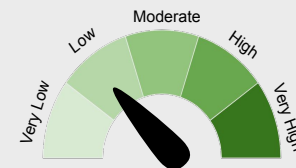
Warmer temperatures are favored through the third week of October with large-scale high pressure over the eastern US. Recent model runs have favored a cooler and cloudier end to October in our region, with near-normal highs in the upper 60s by late month.

A Rainfall Toss-Up



Current guidance is mixed; some forecasts show persistent dry weather due to high pressure over our region, while others show elevated rain chances, including the potential for late-season tropical activity along the eastern Gulf or Atlantic coasts.

Forecast Confidence



A long lead time plus precipitation outlooks at odds with each other makes for lower confidence in the final two weeks of October.