

North Carolina Drought Update

Created By:

North Carolina
Drought Management Advisory Council
www.ncdrought.org

 NORTH CAROLINA
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For the assessment period ending **Oct. 21, 2025**
From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

The Main Takeaway

Conditions continue to degrade statewide, with the expansion of Moderate (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) in central and eastern North Carolina over the past week.

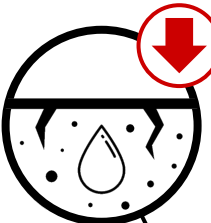
This Week's Summary

Moisture from our mid-month Nor'easter soaked in quickly with little replenishment last week, as we saw less than half an inch of rain statewide during Sunday's cold frontal passage. These fronts can also bring gusty winds and low-humidity air, which ramps up fire danger, as we've already seen this Wednesday and Thursday. Expect the fire season to ramp up as leaf fall continues.

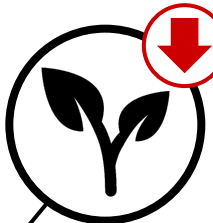
Next Week's Outlook

Our temperatures will tumble this weekend, with patchy frost possible on Saturday morning. By early next week, moisture may return with light rain across the state.

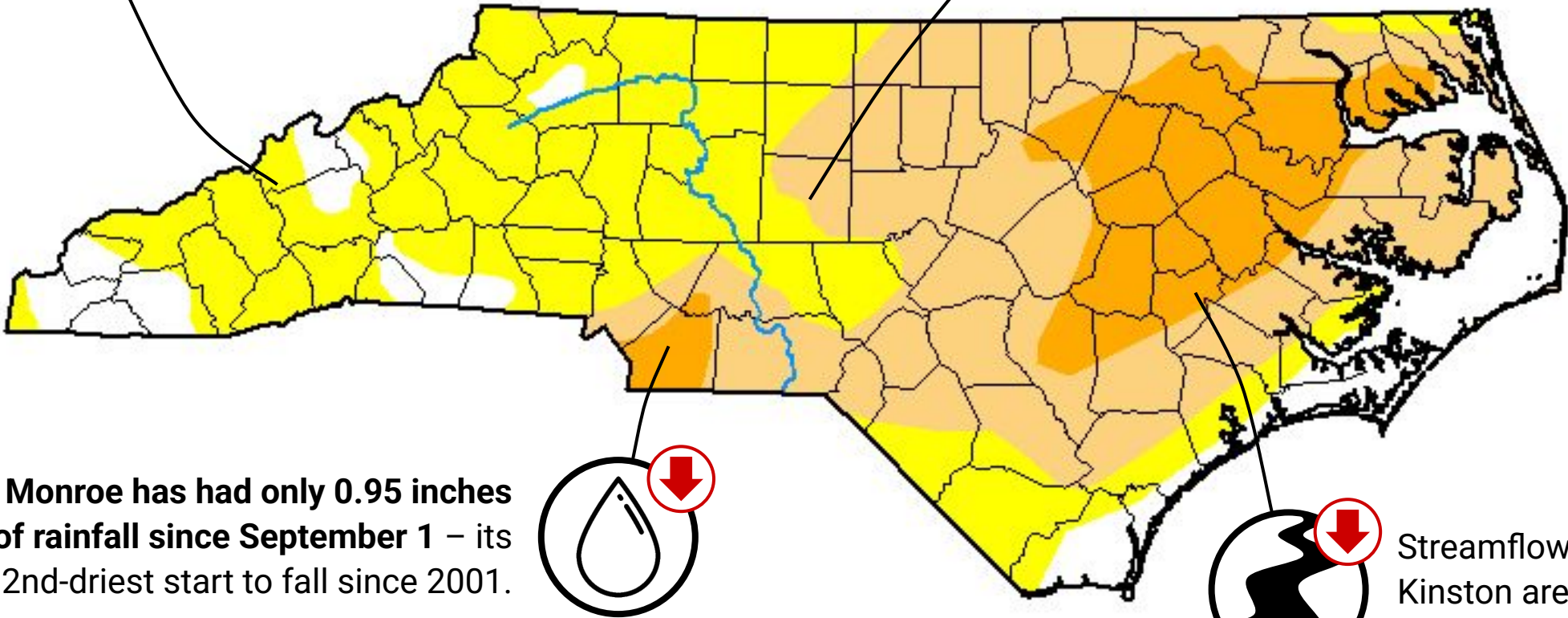
For your local drought status, visit www.ncdrought.org



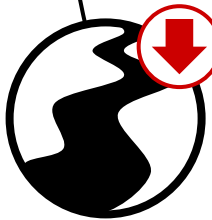
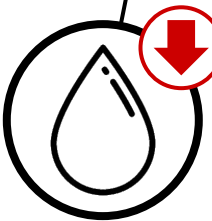
A Madison County CoCoRaHS observer reports **dry soil up to 6 inches deep** and little to no water flowing through creeks.



Randolph County Extension notes that **cool-season forage crops are struggling**, resulting in slow growth at the moment.

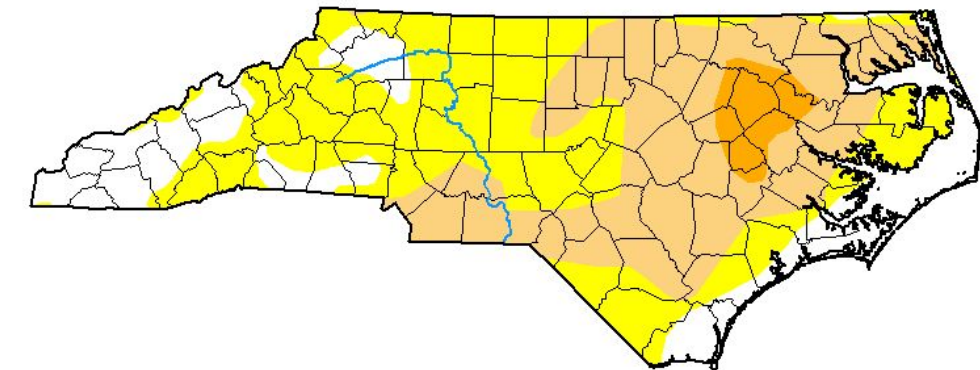


Monroe has had only 0.95 inches of rainfall since September 1 – its 2nd-driest start to fall since 2001.



Streamflows on the Neuse River at Kinston are **at preliminary record low levels over the past 28 days**.

Last Week's Drought Status



Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	38.45%	-3.99%
D1: Moderate Drought	37.90%	+0.83%
D2: Severe Drought	15.41%	+11.01%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%