

North Carolina Drought Update

Created By:

North Carolina
Drought Management Advisory Council
www.ncdrought.org

NORTH CAROLINA
CLIMATE OFFICE
climate.ncsu.edu

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For the assessment period ending **Dec. 2, 2025**
From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

The Main Takeaway

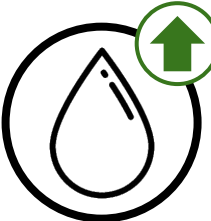
While the start of the cool season has seen the end of Severe Drought (D2) impacts in eastern North Carolina, Moderate Drought (D1) has expanded in the southern and western Piedmont due to ongoing dryness there.

Note: This assessment is based on data as of Tuesday morning, when rain was beginning statewide. The full impacts of that event will show up on next week's map.

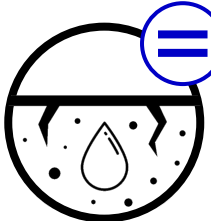
This Week's Summary

As we entered the climatological winter season, the impacts of our dry fall remained apparent, including widespread dry topsoils and low streamflow levels, along with seasonal rainfall deficits of 4 to 8 inches. The best news was how December started: with rain overspreading the state on Tuesday, and more in the forecast on Friday. That moisture infusion could lead to some improvements next week, especially in the east.

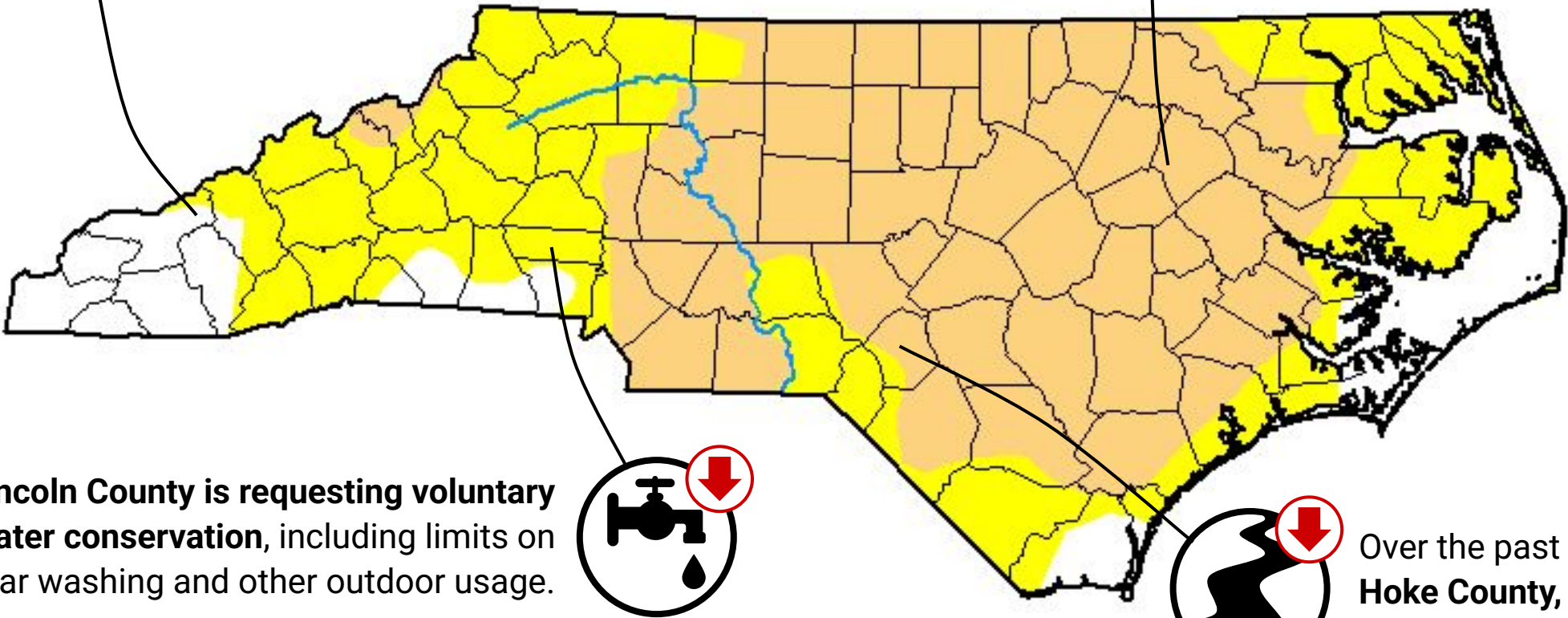
For your local drought status, visit www.ncdrought.org



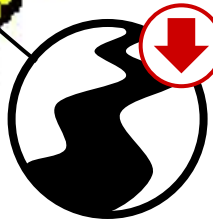
As of Tuesday morning, **Cherokee** had a **weekly rainfall total of 2.95 inches**, which left local stream and river levels rising.



Soil moisture levels in the **Rocky Mount** area have **stabilized** since our late October rain event, supporting the removal of D2.

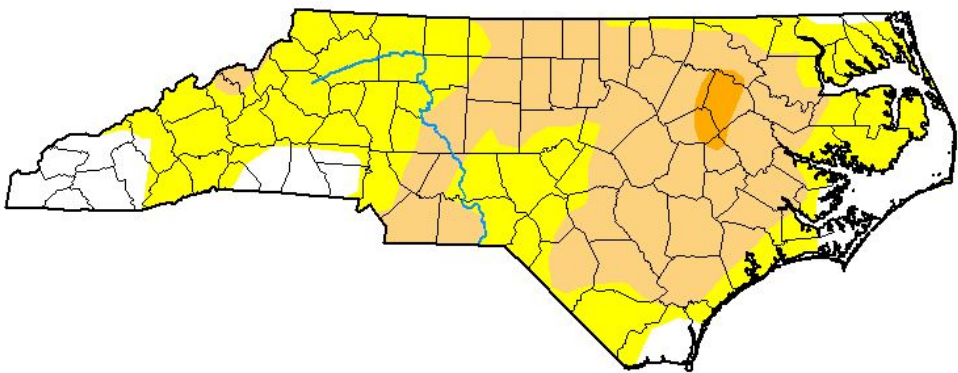


Lincoln County is requesting **voluntary water conservation**, including limits on car washing and other outdoor usage.



Over the past 14 days, **streamflows in Hoke County**, including on Flat Creek, are below the historical 10th percentile.

Last Week's Drought Status



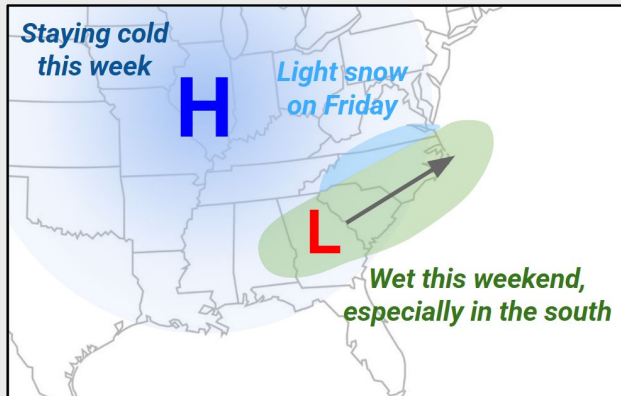
Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	37.06%	-8.27%
D1: Moderate Drought	54.03%	+11.64%
D2: Severe Drought	0.00%	-1.59%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%

Short-Range Outlook for North Carolina

Week 1:

December 4 to 10, 2025



A Chilly Week Ahead



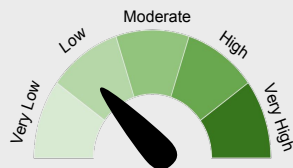
As a series of Canadian high pressure systems nose southward, cooler temperatures will be locked in this week, with highs mostly in the 40s. Friday will be the coldest with temperatures stuck in the 30s thanks to a chilly air mass plus cloud cover and precipitation.

Wet Friday and Saturday



Low pressure to our south will pump in moisture to support precipitation on Friday and Saturday. Areas in the north and west could see light snow to start but lower liquid totals of a half-inch or less, while the south and east will see upwards of 2 inches of rain.

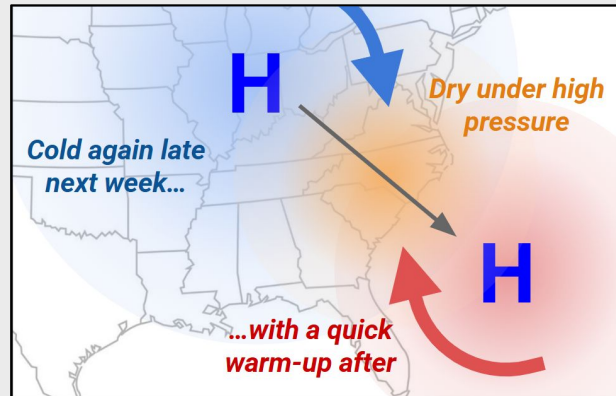
Forecast Confidence



This forecast has multiple uncertainties, from how widespread snow and ice will be on Friday to lingering rain chances until Monday.

Week 2:

December 11 to 17, 2025

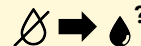


From Cold to Warm



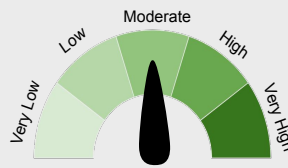
Early this week, we're in for another quick cooldown as the next Arctic air mass funnels in across our region. As that high pressure system shifts to just off our coastline, the southerly circulation behind it will bring in much warmer air to start the work week.

Mostly Dry This Week



With dome-like high pressure overhead for so much of the week, any precipitation chances will be very limited. Expect a stretch of drier days, potentially ending late in the week once high pressure pushes off the coast and any Gulf moisture moves back in.

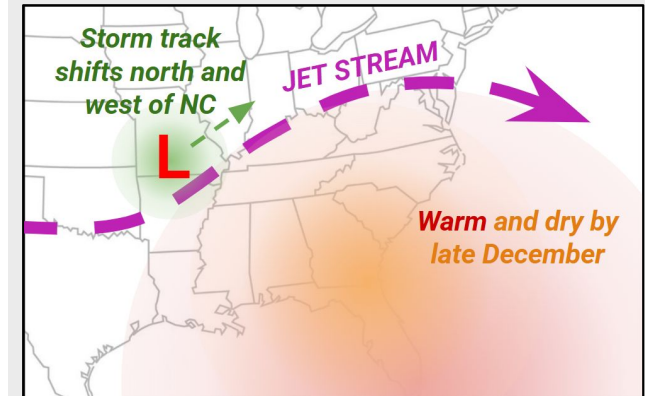
Forecast Confidence



High confidence in dry weather is offset by the usual questions about the timing and intensity of a big temperature swing like this.

Weeks 3-4:

December 18 to 31, 2025



Warmer to End 2025



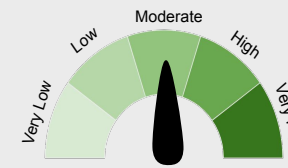
By later this month, the jet stream should shift to our north in a classic La Niña-like setup, which would put us in a warmer weather pattern through the end of the year. Our normal high temperatures in late December range from the upper 40s to lower 50s.

Likely Staying Dry



A northward shift in the storm track should keep us mostly dry through the final two weeks of the month. One wildcard is the Madden-Julian Oscillation, which could favor more moisture availability across our region through at least the beginning of Week 3.

Forecast Confidence



Recent models have come into better agreement about our late-month pattern featuring warmer and drier weather typical of La Niña.