

North Carolina Drought Update

Created By:

North Carolina
Drought Management Advisory Council
www.ncdrought.org

NORTH CAROLINA
CLIMATE OFFICE
climate.ncsu.edu @NCSCO

NC STATE

For the assessment period ending **Feb. 24, 2026**
From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

The Main Takeaway

A dry week at the coastline has led to an expansion of Moderate (D1) and Severe (D2) Drought, putting 100% of NC in drought for the first time since February 2008.

This Week's Summary

Continuing the trend so far in February, most of the state saw a half-inch to an inch of rain last week, which is near-normal but not much more than that. Although we've started to see small improvements in lake and streamflow levels, we need more regular rain events to fully recharge our soils and groundwater, and top off reservoirs to help them hit their summer target levels.

Next Week's Outlook

Two rounds of precipitation are possible this week, on Thursday and Tuesday, with likely totals of a half inch in the south up to an inch or more in the north and west.

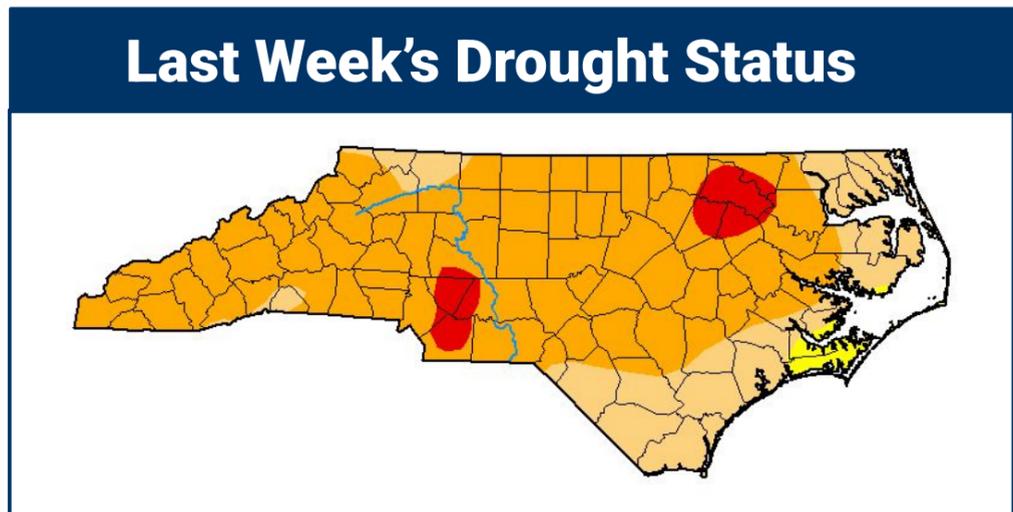
For your local drought status, visit www.ncdrought.org

Over the past 7 days, **streamflows in the upper Yadkin River basin have bounced back** to near normal levels.

After recent rainfall, **Jordan Lake is nearly back to its target level**, while Falls Lake has been slower to recover and **remains 2.75 feet below its target**.

Burke County Extension reports **pastures are showing signs of stress** and local ponds and streams are low.

New Bern has had **only 1.11 inches of precipitation this month**, on pace for its 7th-driest February on record.



Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	0.00%	-1.88%
D1: Moderate Drought	13.29%	-9.04%
D2: Severe Drought	81.50%	+10.92%
D3: Extreme Drought	5.21%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%