



North Carolina Drought Monitor Agriculture Report 2020-2021

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Diversity of Agriculture





Agent Survey - Key Question

- Which of the following options best describes the current drought classification in your county? (check one).
This is your windshield impression of topsoil moisture levels, crop and pasture conditions, and stream flows, pond levels, etc. Emphasis is placed on agricultural impacts.



Dry Conditions

- Extremely dry: Top soil moisture is absent, crop and pasture plants are brown, stunted, and production is severely compromised; pond, lake, and/or stream levels, are minimized.
- Very dry: Plants may be brown, leaves curled or “reaching”, topsoil moisture is minimal, production may be compromised, Streams, ponds, lakes may be low.
- Moderately dry: Topsoil moisture is moderate; plant growth may be modestly compromised; crops or pastures may not have fully recovered if changing from drought to wetter conditions.



Near Normal

- What you are seeing, is what you expect to see this time of year. Plants are growing and producing seed as appropriate, soil moisture is adequately sustaining this growth, and ponds, lakes, and streams are at normal levels.

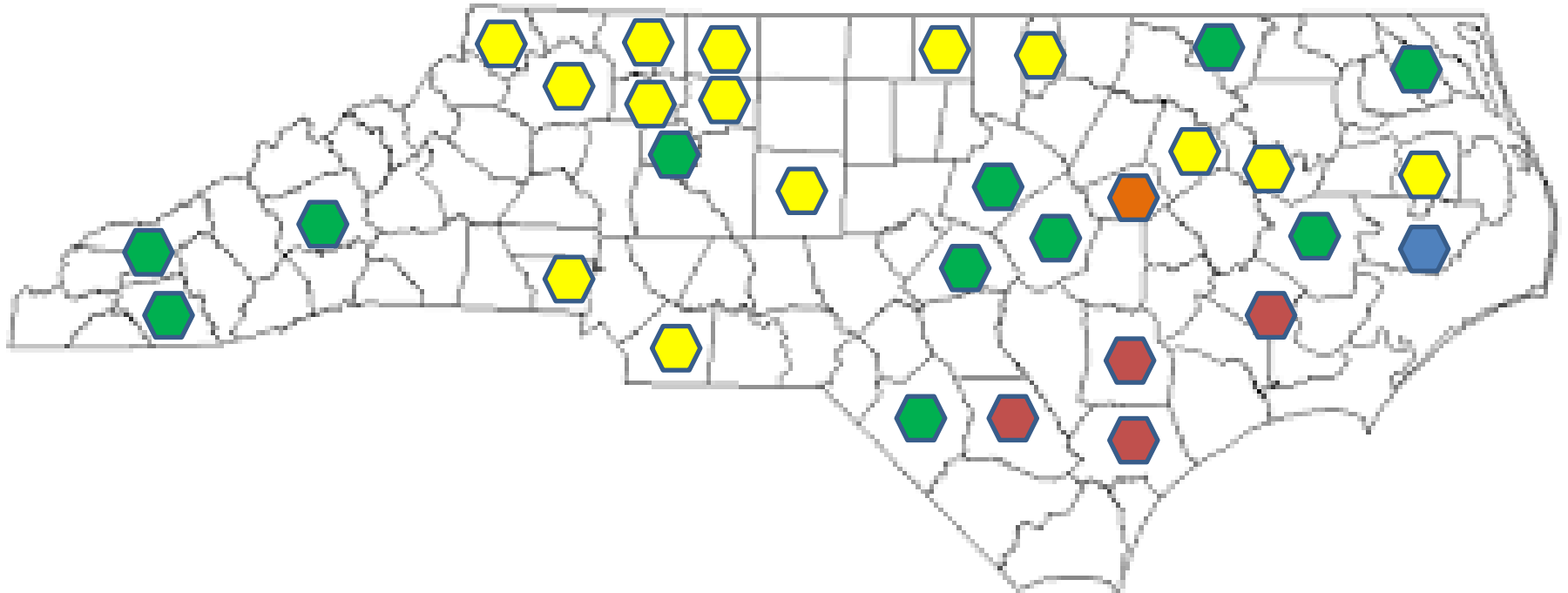


Wet Conditions

- Moderately wet: Crops and pastures are healthy, water may be in-consistently standing in the fields, production status is normal but field work may be limited.
- Very wet: Crops and pastures are healthy unless this condition has persisted for some time, when plants may be showing some stress from the existing moisture. Field work is limited. Water standing in the field. Pond, stream, and
- Extremely wet: Plants demonstrate stress to the point of compromised production, field work is stopped, and ponds, lakes and streams are at or above capacity.



Weekly DMAC Reports From County Agents





Agriculture and the DMAC

2020 - 2021

- July - Heavy rains in June resulted in wet conditions across most of the state, with field work stopped or slowed in the mountains and along the coast. By the middle of July much of those wet areas were dry and looking for rain. Months end: dry in the northern piedmont and spotty dryness along the coast.
- August - Hurricane Isaias!
 - Tobacco most impacted.
- September - rainfall slowed harvest and cereal crop planting.



Agriculture and the DMAC

2020 - 2021

- Winter
 - October through December: harvest was pretty normal, with rain slowing harvest in some fo the eastern counties while others saw drier conditions.

Commodity harvest was normal for 2020.



Agriculture and the DMAC 2020 - 2021

- Winter/Spring 2021
 - Rain, mud, slow planting, wheat hit hard.
- April – June 2021
 - Frost and small grains
- May - Dryness through parts of the piedmont and SE
 - Tobacco re-transplanted
- June - D0 => D1 scattered across piedmont and SE.
- *So far, another normal year...*