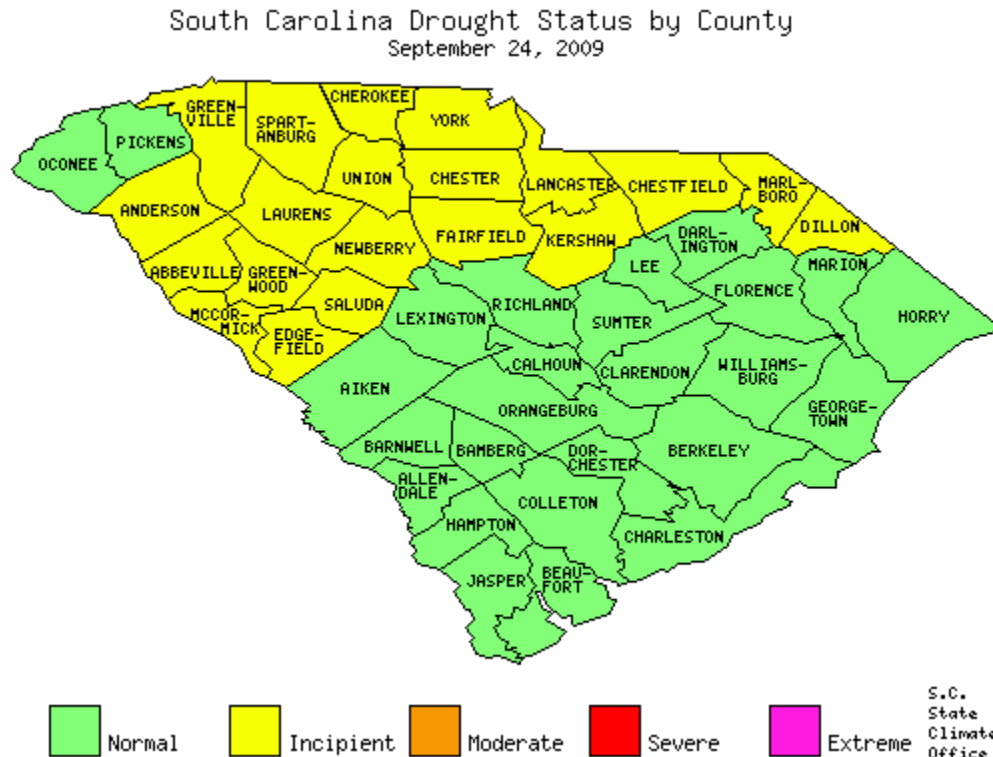


# South Carolina Current Drought Status

State Climate Office 803-734-9100  
SPECIAL NEWS RELEASE #09-13 DNR News 803-734-3815  
September 24, 2009

## INCIPIENT DROUGHT STATUS DOWNGRADED FOR OCONEE, PICKENS COUNTIES



### Discussion:

Heavy rain over the last 8 days (Sept. 15-Sept. 22) led the S. C. Department of Natural Resources to downgrade the incipient drought declaration for Oconee and Pickens counties. The state agency members of the Drought Response Committee voted on Wednesday Sept. 23, 2009, to remove these counties from drought. An incipient drought was declared for 22 counties earlier this month.

Some of the excessive rainfall totals (Sept. 15-Sept. 22) that prompted the decision include:

Long Creek - 11.75"  
Table Rock - 7.98"  
Walhalla Hatchery (Jocassee) - 17.50"  
Walhalla - 11.02"

Supplemental observations from the Community Rain Network include:

Cleveland - 8.56"

Pickens - 7.57"

Salem - 12.12"

West Union - 9.95"

According to South Carolina State Climatologist Hope Mizzell, "All the drought indices responded to the rain event. In the past week Lake Jocassee rose 9 feet, Lake Hartwell rose 3 feet, and groundwater levels returned to normal." Darryl Jones with the S.C. Forestry Commission reported that since the recent rains fire occurrence has been low in these areas and fuel moisture has recovered significantly.

Other counties such as Greenville, Anderson, and Abbeville also received significant rainfall that improved conditions, but not enough to remove the drought declaration. The S.C. Department of Natural Resources will continue to monitor conditions across the state.

South Carolina's natural resources are essential for economic development and contribute nearly \$30 billion and 230,000 jobs to the state's economy overall. Find out why "Life's Better Outdoors" at: [www.dnr.sc.gov/economic/index.html](http://www.dnr.sc.gov/economic/index.html).

Contact South Carolina State Climatologist Dr. Hope Mizzell in Columbia at (803) 734-9568 or e-mail at [mizzellh@dnr.sc.gov](mailto:mizzellh@dnr.sc.gov) for more information.

DNR protects and manages South Carolina's natural resources by making wise and balanced decisions for the benefit of the state's natural resources and its people. Find out more about DNR at [the DNR Web site](#).

**Drought Status: 09-24-2009**

<b>County</b>	<b>Status</b>
Abbeville	Incipient
Aiken	Normal
Allendale	Normal
Anderson	Incipient
Bamberg	Normal
Barnwell	Normal
Beaufort	Normal
Berkeley	Normal
Calhoun	Normal
Charleston	Normal
Cherokee	Incipient
Chester	Incipient
Chesterfield	Incipient
Clarendon	Normal
Colleton	Normal
Darlington	Normal
Dillon	Incipient
Dorchester	Normal
Edgefield	Incipient
Fairfield	Incipient
Florence	Normal
Georgetown	Normal
Greenville	Incipient
Greenwood	Incipient
Hampton	Normal
Horry	Normal
Jasper	Normal
Kershaw	Incipient
Lancaster	Incipient
Laurens	Incipient
Lee	Normal
Lexington	Normal
Marion	Normal

<b>County</b>	<b>Status</b>
Marlboro	Incipient
McCormick	Incipient
Newberry	Incipient
Oconee	Normal
Orangeburg	Normal
Pickens	Normal
Richland	Normal
Saluda	Incipient
Spartanburg	Incipient
Sumter	Normal
Union	Incipient
Williamsburg	Normal
York	Incipient