

South Carolina Current Drought Status

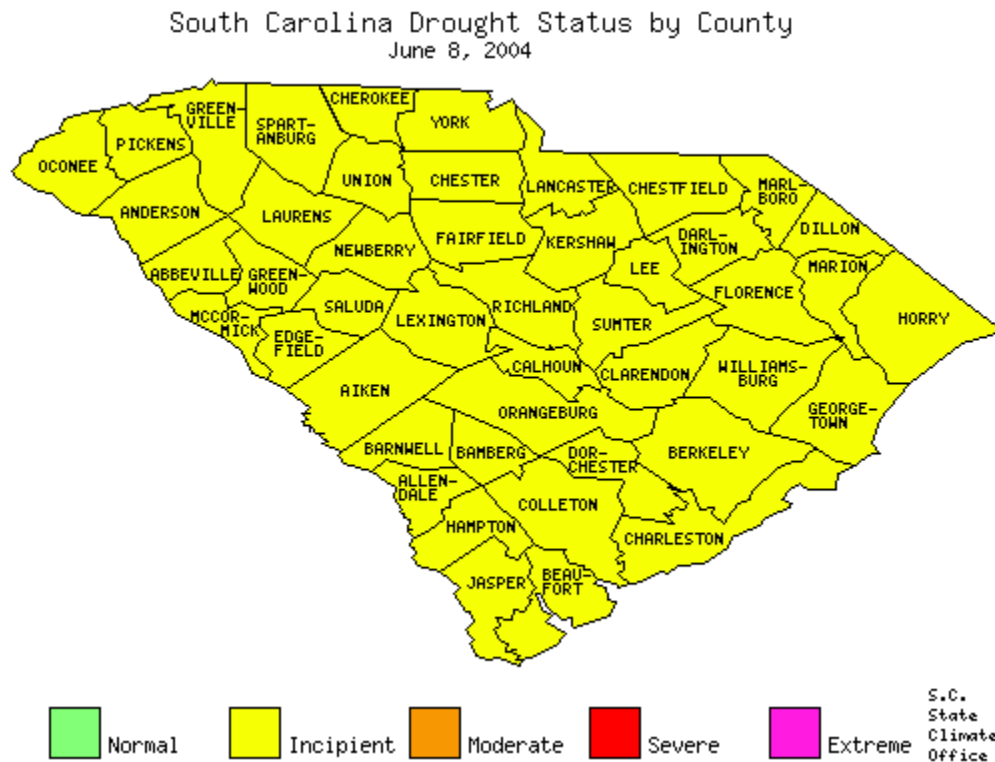
State Climate Office

NEWS RELEASE

DNR News 803-667-0696

June 8, 2004

A return to a pattern of below normal rainfall over the past eight months



A return to a pattern of below normal rainfall over the past eight months led the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) to issue an incipient drought declaration statewide. SCDNR convened the state agency members of the drought response committee today, June 8, in Columbia to evaluate the overall statewide conditions.

The state is once again facing drought conditions with most locations reporting a 5 to 10 inch rainfall deficit since January. The below normal rainfall is threatening agriculture, reducing streamflow, and beginning to make forest fires harder to control.

We are certainly not yet experiencing the dire conditions experienced during the record drought of 1998-2002, but everyone needs to be aware of the situation and industries and water systems should implement their drought plans as needed.

According to David Tompkins, the SC Department of Agriculture reports adverse impacts to crop quantity and quality. Bud Badr with SC DNR reported that streamflows are the lowest 10 percentile of flow for this time of year. Fortunately, according to David Baize with the SC

Department of Health and Environmental Control, no water systems are reporting any supply problems at this time.

Larry Barr with the SC Forestry Commission also reported that wildfire losses over the past seven months have been slightly lower than average despite the rainfall deficit, but firefighters fear that the trend may be changing because fires are becoming harder to control.

The incipient drought declaration is the first level of drought followed by moderate, severe, and extreme. During incipient drought, the SCDNR activates the Drought Information Center, increases monitoring and notification of the drought status. Water systems and industries are encouraged to closely monitor conditions and implement their drought plans as needed.

If conditions continue to deteriorate the SCDNR will convene the full drought response committee in the next two weeks.

Contact Dr. Mizzell in Columbia at (803) 734-9568 or e-mail at 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: 06-08-2004

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

County	Status
Lexington	Incipient
Marion	Incipient
Marlboro	Incipient
McCormick	Incipient
Newberry	Incipient
Oconee	Incipient
Orangeburg	Incipient
Pickens	Incipient
Richland	Incipient
Saluda	Incipient
Spartanburg	Incipient
Sumter	Incipient
Union	Incipient
Williamsburg	Incipient
York	Incipient