

South Carolina Current Drought Status

State Climate Office

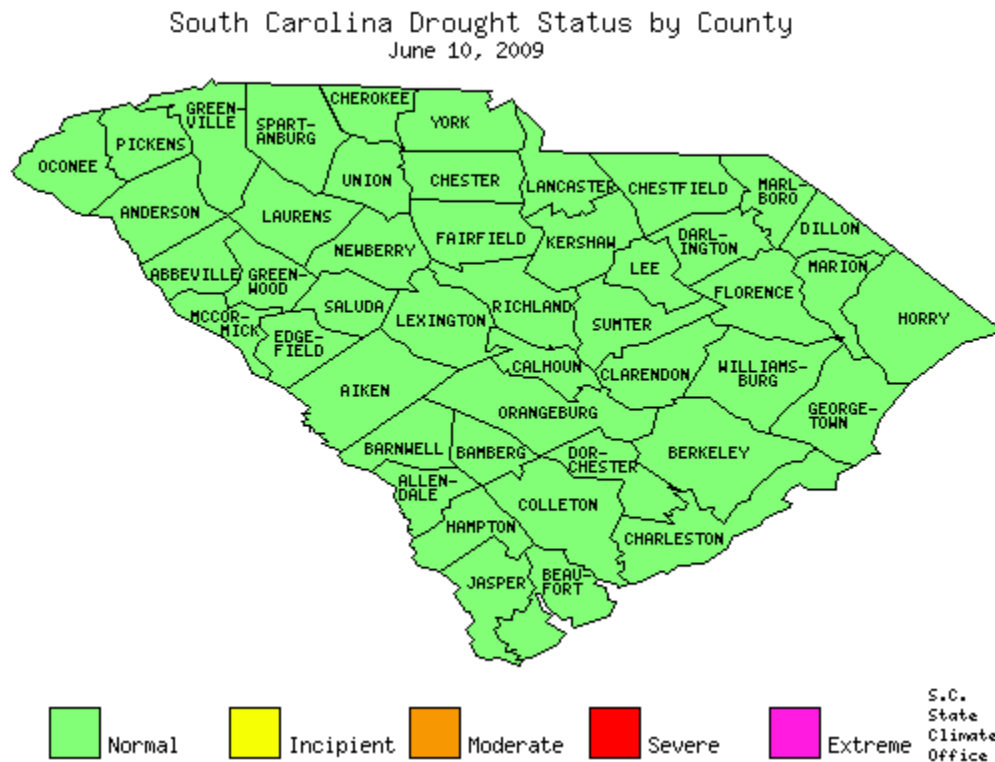
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SPECIAL NEWS RELEASE

DNR News 803-734-3815

June 10, 2009

DROUGHT OFFICIALLY OVER IN STATE



Discussion:

The S.C. Drought Response Committee removes drought declaration for all South Carolina counties.

For the first time since August 2006 no area of the State is under a drought declaration. Increased rainfall frequency and coverage over the last six months have alleviated the drought conditions statewide. Today all 19 Upstate counties were removed from drought by the South Carolina Drought Response Committee. On April 15 the Committee lifted the drought declaration for the remaining 27 counties.

According to Hope Mizzell, SC State Climatologist, "The timing, amount and duration of the rainfall have brought all drought indicators back to normal levels. Many stations report above normal rainfall since January (see table below)."

According to DNR hydrologist Masaaki Kiuchi all regularly monitored streams show no drought and lake levels around South Carolina are normal except in the Savannah River Basin which is slightly below normal. Upstate wells show improvement and water levels are rising in most monitoring wells. However, groundwater levels in some areas of the Upstate may not be sufficient to adequately support streamflows if rainfall declines.

"Every region of the State has been impacted by this drought," says Ken Rentiers, Chairman of the SC Drought Response Committee. "The return to a normal rainfall pattern brings welcome relief."

The Committee recommends that the public continue to use water wisely.

"Even though we have overcome the rainfall deficit associated with the drought, we are still dealing with some of the long-term drought effects. Several of the upper Savannah reservoirs remain below full pool. We encourage residents of the northwestern areas of the Upstate to continue to voluntarily conserve our water resources. If we have learned anything over the past several years of dealing with drought, it is that no one should waste water," urged Dennis Chastain, a member of the West Drought Committee.

Station	Year to Date Rainfall Total	Percent of Normal
Gaffney	27.09"	119%
Long Creek	34.07"	115
Anderson	25.28"	115%
Greenville-Spartanburg	23.09"	99%
Chester	22.4"	105%
Saluda	23.46"	107%
Sumter	20.61"	100%
Orangeburg	22.17"	109%
Charleston	19.29"	100%

Contact South Carolina State Climatologist Dr.Hope 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: 06-10-2009

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

County	Status
Marlboro	Normal
McCormick	Normal
Newberry	Normal
Oconee	Normal
Orangeburg	Normal
Pickens	Normal
Richland	Normal
Saluda	Normal
Spartanburg	Normal
Sumter	Normal
Union	Normal
Williamsburg	Normal
York	Normal