

South Carolina Current Drought Status

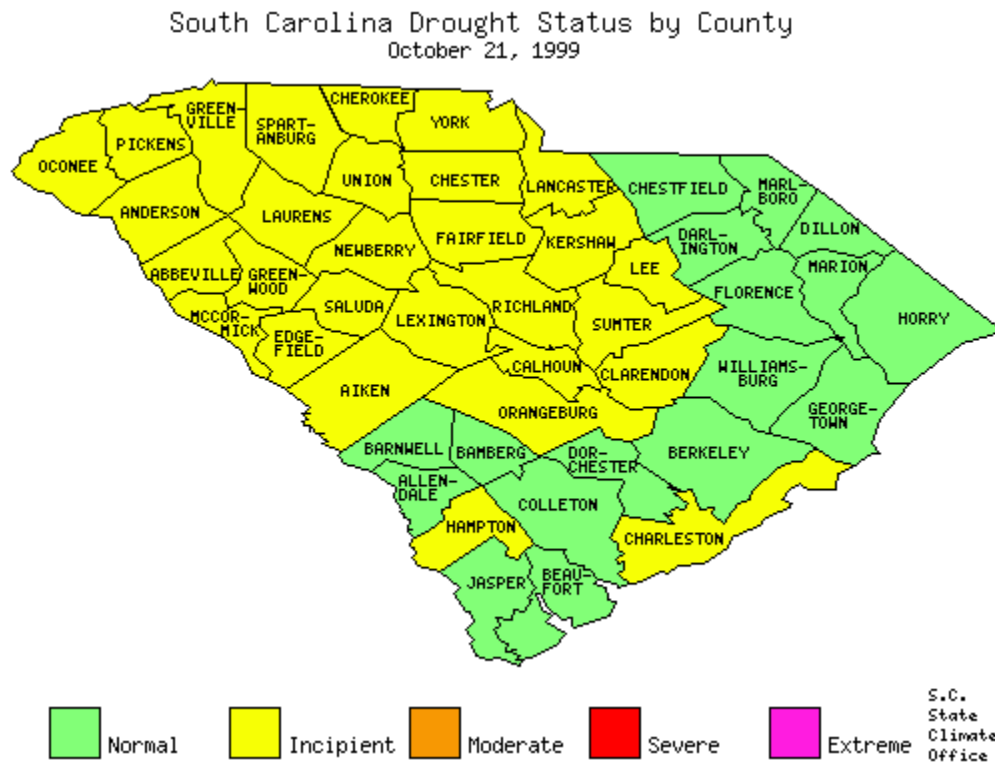
State Climate Office

NEWS RELEASE

DNR News 803-667-0696

October 21, 1999

DROUGHT DOWNGRADED FOR ALL COUNTIES IN S.C.



For previously issued drought statements [see the archived status reports](#).

[Table of all counties and drought status.](#)

[Drought Response Committee Meeting Sign-In sheet.](#)

South Carolina's drought has been downgraded for all counties. The State and Local Drought Response committees met Thursday, Oct. 21 in Columbia to discuss drought conditions across the state. The consensus of the group was that recent rains have been sufficient to relieve drought conditions statewide.

Hope Mizzell, state drought program coordinator, says only a few isolated locations are still experiencing a 12-14 inch rainfall deficit for the year. However, numerous locations are more

than 9 inches below normal for the year despite the recent rains. Annual rainfall deficits include: Greenville/Spartanburg -11.6; Walhalla -12.8; Columbia -14.6; Johnston -11.4; Blackville -5.3; Allendale -7.1; Beaufort -2.6; Charleston -4.1; Myrtle Beach +11.9.

South Carolina Forestry Commission spokesman Ken Cabe says, "Recent rainfall has dampened surface fuels enough to reduce immediate wildfire danger. Frequent rain will be needed throughout the fall and winter months to keep fire occurrence at manageable levels."

Based on these considerations the committees unanimously voted to remove the drought declaration from Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Chesterfield, Colleton, Darlington, Dorchester, Florence, Jasper, Marlboro and Williamsburg counties. Drought declarations for Dillon, Georgetown, Horry and Marion counties were lifted in September. The remaining counties in the Midlands and the Upstate were downgraded to incipient.

However, Dr. Michael Helfert, state climatologist says, "Recent rains may only provide temporary relief since all National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration long-range climate models indicate drought conditions will return by November/December 1999 and possibly persist through March 2000. Decision-makers must consider the impacts of only receiving 60 percent to 80 percent of normal winter/spring rainfall through March 2000."

The DNR will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as needed. Integrated drought information is available on the DNR's State Climatology Office Internet Web Site.

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: 10-21-1999

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

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