

South Carolina Current Drought Status

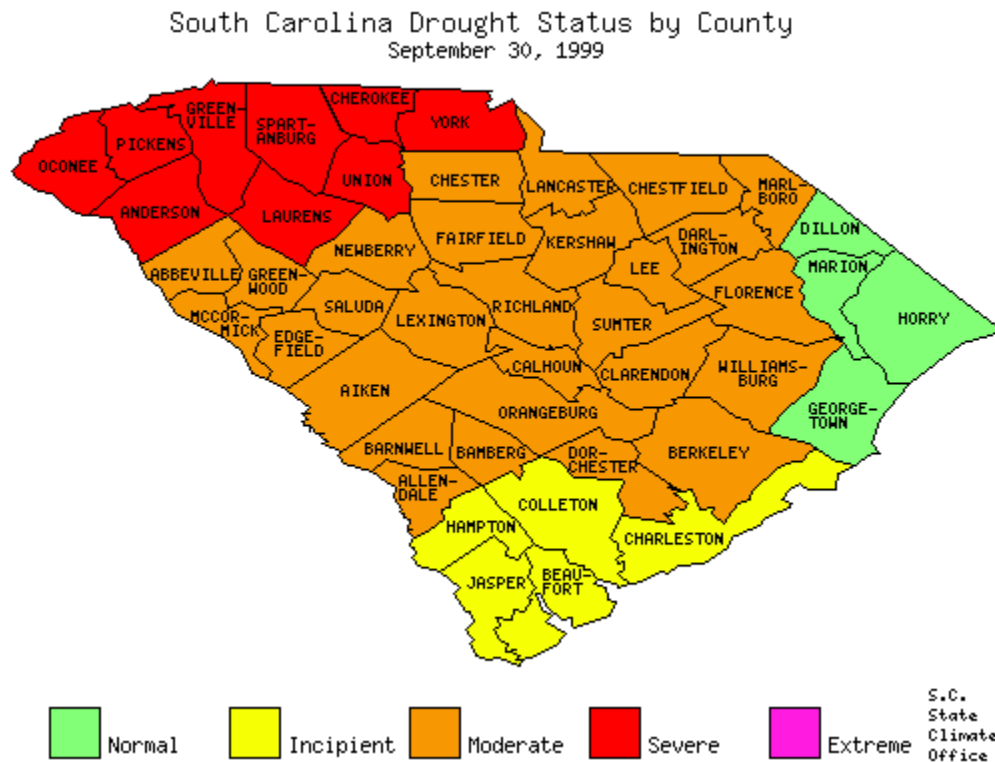
State Climate Office

NEWS RELEASE

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September 30, 1999

SEVERE DROUGHT REMAINS IN NINE UPSTATE COUNTIES



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 except 9 upstate counties - Oconee, Pickens, Anderson, Greenville, Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union, Laurens and York - which remain at severe status.

The State and Northwest Drought Response Committees met Thursday morning, Sept. 30 in Greenville to discuss drought conditions across South Carolina and in the upstate.

Recent rains have not been sufficient to ameliorate drought conditions in the upstate where the rainfall deficit since Jan. 1 is still 15 to 20 inches, according to Hope Mizzell, drought coordinator with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources. "There is also great concern in the upstate about forest fires, many of which over the past month have been attributed to negligent burning. This is one time that citizens can make a difference. Some smaller water suppliers in the upstate have gone to mandatory water use restrictions."

The drought was downgraded to incipient, initial level, for five counties including Jasper, Hampton, Beaufort, Colleton and Charleston. There is still a 2-inch rainfall deficit for the year in Charleston.

The drought advisory was completely removed from four counties - Horry, Georgetown, Marion and Dillon where rains have been sufficient to make up the rainfall deficit.

A moderate level drought declaration remains in effect for the rest of South Carolina. Just in the midlands there is a 7 to 9 inch rainfall deficit since the first of the year.

The long-range NOAA outlook predicts that drought conditions for South Carolina will continue through May of 2000 statewide and that the recent rains are only a temporary relief, according to Mizzell "If not for Hurricane Floyd and moisture from tropical storm Harvey the entire state would be in the same condition as the nine counties in the upstate."

The state and upstate drought committees meeting in Greenville Thursday evaluated drought conditions within the Northwest Drought Management Area (DMA) to determine if a need exists for action beyond the scope of local government. The continued severity of drought conditions in the northwestern region of the state has generated major concerns regarding water supply problems and potential forest fires.

For more information regarding the state and Northwest Drought Response Committee meeting contact to Hope Mizzell, drought coordinator with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, at (803) 737-0800 in Columbia.

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: 09-30-1999

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

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