

South Carolina Current Drought Status

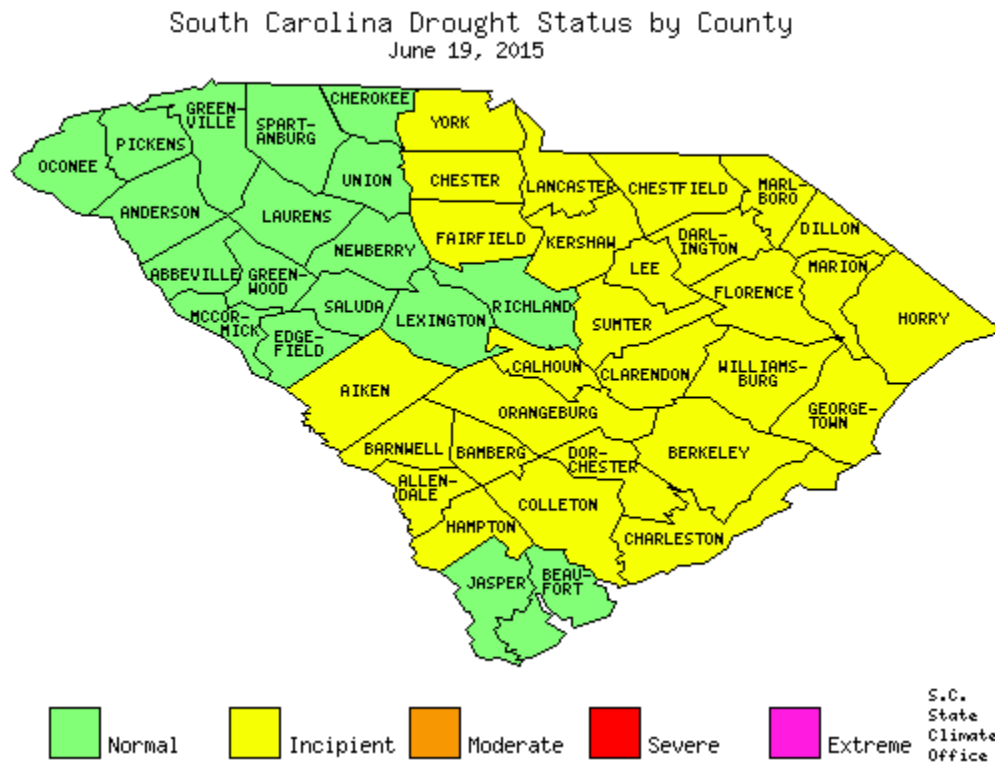
State Climate Office

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June 19, 2015

SC Drought Committee upgrades drought status for 28 counties



The S.C. Drought Response Committee, meeting via conference call on June 19, upgraded the drought status to the first level of drought, incipient, for 28 counties: Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell, Bamberg, Berkeley, Calhoun, Charleston, Chester, Chesterfield, Clarendon, Colleton, Darlington, Dillon, Dorchester, Fairfield, Florence, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lee, Marion, Marlboro, Orangeburg, Sumter, Williamsburg and York.

There was support from multiple indicators such as the 30 Day Percent of Normal Rainfall, 60 Day Percent of Normal Rainfall, the US Drought Monitor and the Crop Moisture Index to upgrade the 28 counties to the first level of drought. The table below provides selected rainfall totals from across the state for the past 30 days. The locations with rainfall above 4" are generally in the areas with no drought.

STATION NAME	RAINFALL (Inches)	STATION NAME	RAINFALL (Inches)
Florence 5.1W	1.46	Aiken 1.6 NNW	3.29
Manning 1.9 SSE	1.47	Chesnee 3.9 SSW	4.51

Hartsville 5.4 WSW	1.74	Greenwood 7.8 NE	4.27
Walterboro 3.0 NNW	2.13	Daufuskie Island 1.7 SW	6.15
Orangeburg 3.2 NW	2.52	Silverstreet 5.7 WNW	6.46
Reevesville 1.0 SSE	2.63	Trenton 6.5 SSW	7.11
Pawleys Island 5.6 NNE	3.03	Salem 5.8 SSE	7.85
Lake Wylie 2.3 SW	3.21	West Columbia 5.9 WSW	12.45

According to reports from the Pee Dee, there are some areas that haven't received any rain in three to four weeks. Corn in those areas has been continuously stressed under the recent scorching heat. Even though a few areas are receiving scattered storms, the coverage is limited. Very few pockets have received any significant rainfall.

Brad Boozer, from the SC Department of Agriculture, stated, "Several areas across the state are very dry at the present time and most farmers are waiting on some moisture to start planting soybeans. The dry weather has taken a toll on dryland corn and some beef cattle farmers have started to feed hay throughout several areas. Extreme temperatures this past week have not helped the crop outlook."

According to Dr. Hope Mizzell, SC State Climatologist, "The temperature at many locations climbed above 100 degrees for several consecutive days which significantly increased evaporation rates and escalated the drying conditions. Four locations, Cades, Bishopville, Hartsville, and Bamberg reached 104 degrees. Not much relief from the heat is expected with above normal temperatures forecasted through the end of June."

As for the Upstate, "We seem to be on the storm track here in the upper Savannah basin. We are getting rain about every other day, enough to keep us from showing any signs of drought at this point," said committee member and Pickens County resident Dennis Chastain. "We'll have to monitor the situation closely though, because this time of year things can turn around on a dime."

The Committee will continue to monitor the situation since some counties only need a few rainfall events to move out of drought, while without rain, some counties can quickly slip into drought. The incipient drought declaration is followed by increasing levels of severity to moderate, severe and extreme.

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: 06-19-2015

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

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