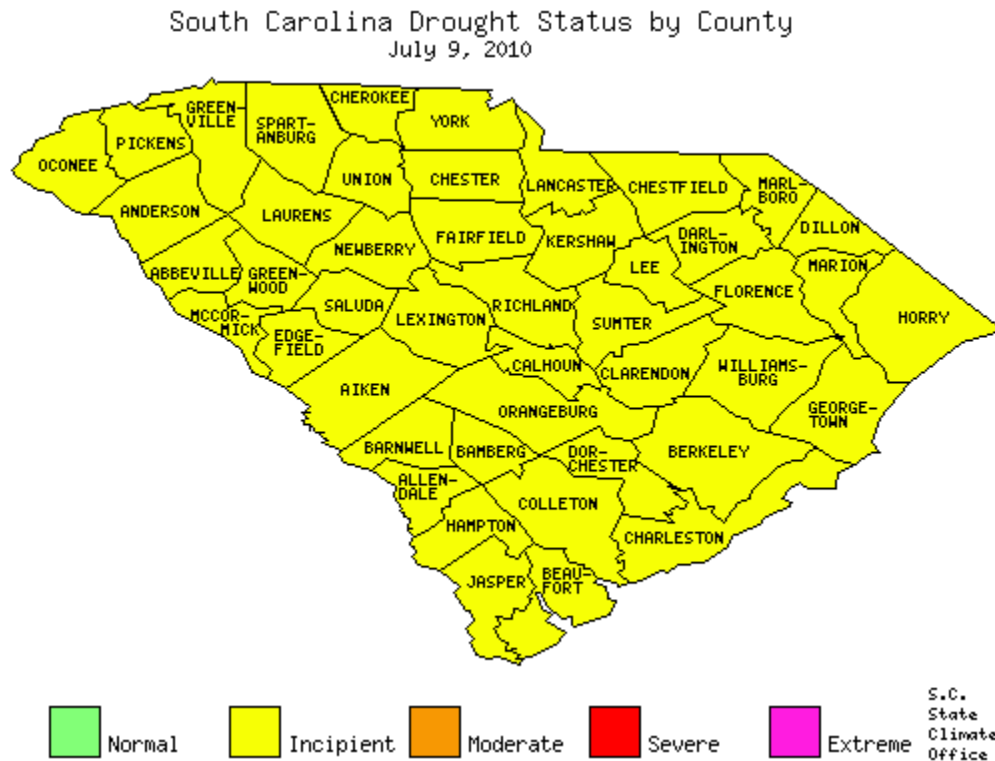


South Carolina Current Drought Status

State Climate Office 803-734-9100
SPECIAL NEWS RELEASE #10-08 DNR News 803-667-0696
July 9, 2010

STATE AGENCY MEMBERS OF DROUGHT RESPONSE COMMITTEE UPGRADE ALL STATE COUNTIES TO "INCIPIENT" DROUGHT STATUS



Discussion:

A pattern of below normal rainfall and above normal temperatures over the past few months led the S.C. Department of Natural Resources to issue an incipient drought declaration statewide. The state agency members of the Drought Response Committee voted electronically on July 9, 2010 to upgrade to the first level of drought. The incipient drought declaration is followed by increasing levels of severity to moderate, severe and extreme status.

During incipient drought, the S.C. Department of Natural Resources (DNR) activates the Drought Information Center and increases monitoring and notification of the drought status.

According to S.C. State Climatologist Hope Mizzell, the decision to upgrade was driven by the dry weather's impact on agriculture and increased wildfire activity, "After many sites

experienced the wettest winter since 1998, we were optimistic that maybe finally we would get an extended break from the drought, but beginning in April the rainfall pattern changed."

Rainfall amounts and coverage have been especially insufficient since June 1 for many areas combined with above normal temperature (see table below). There are a few locations that have received much above normal rainfall since June 1, but they are isolated (such as Florence at 9.29" or 167% of normal and Chester at 6.72" or 120% of normal).

June 1 to July 8, 2010 Rainfall Summary:

Station	Rainfall Total	Percent of Normal
Greenville/Spartanburg	1.60"	31%
Santuck (Union County)	0.99"	20%
Winnsboro	2.74"	52%
Greenwood	1.35"	29%
Loris	4.30"	64%
Johnston	4.40"	78%

David Tompkins, S.C. Department of Agriculture, emphasized the dry weather coupled with the high heat is a concern to the farm community. He noted that many of South Carolina's fruits and vegetables are grown under irrigation so consumers should continue to look for locally grown produce in stores. Please contact David Tompkins for questions about the drought impact on agriculture at (803) 734-2506.

Darryl Jones, S.C. Forestry Commission, reported that dry conditions and intense heat have resulted in an increase in wildfire activity across the state, "Since July 1, the Forestry Commission has responded to more than 30 wildfires and we have experienced some control problems because the fuels are getting very dry. If we don't get significant rain, fire behavior will become more extreme throughout the summer." Please contact Darryl Jones for questions about wildfire activity at (803) 896-8800.

According to Mark Malsick, DNR Severe Weather Liaison, the computer models are showing the possibility of limited relief with scattered afternoon and evening rain showers this weekend and again in the middle of next week. Rainfall amounts and coverage are expected to be limited, but a few cells could drop over an inch of rain over a very short period. The rainfall lottery is typical for South Carolina in July.

Find out more about the [State Climatology Office](#).

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.

South Carolina's natural resources are essential for economic development and contribute nearly \$30 billion and 230,000 jobs to the state's economy overall. Find out why ["Life's Better Outdoors"](#).

Drought Status: 07-09-2010

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
Lexington	Incipient
Marion	Incipient

County	Status
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