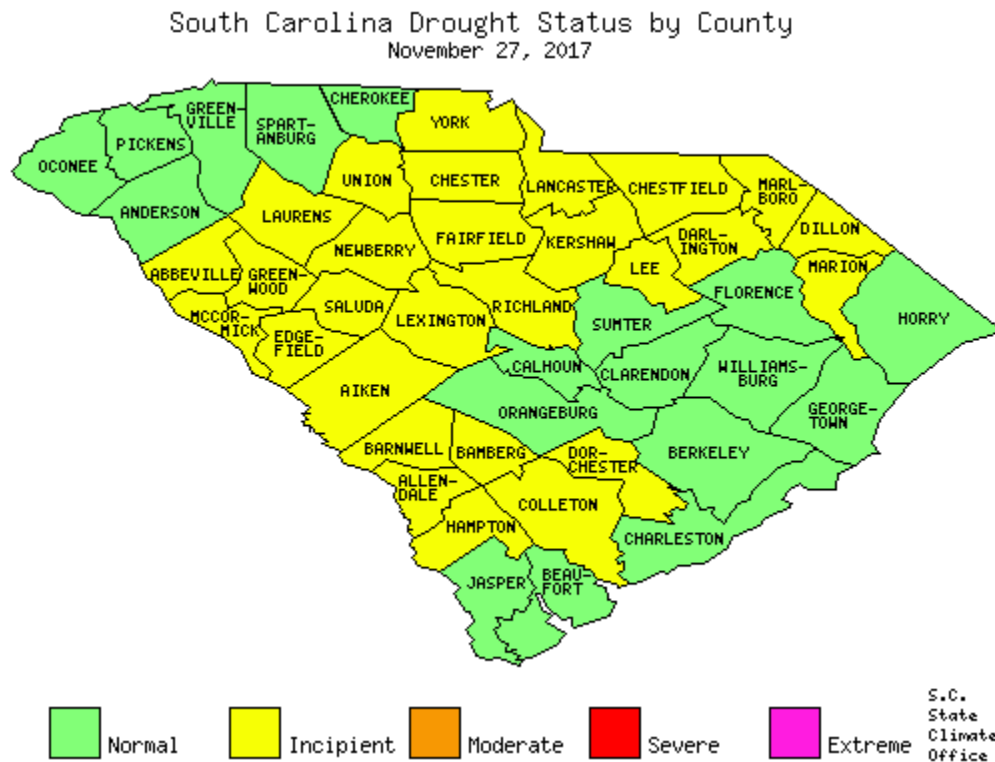


# South Carolina Current Drought Status

State Climate Office  
NEWS RELEASE  
November, 27 2017

## Drought Response Committee updates county statuses



The S.C. Drought Response Committee met Monday via conference call to update the drought statuses of all counties in South Carolina.

While no major drought impacts were reported, some members of the committee expressed concern about the potential for dry conditions due to La Nina. Winter rainfall is depended upon for groundwater and surface water recharging.

"The drought statuses for 15 counties were upgraded since rainfall in those areas has generally been less than four inches in the last 60 days," SCDNR State Climatologist Hope Mizzell said. "The counties upgraded to incipient include Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Chesterfield, Colleton, Dillon, Dorchester, Hampton, Kershaw, Lancaster, Lexington, Marion, Marlboro, Richland, and York. Incipient status is considered a 'drought watch' phase."

And while wildfire occurrence has been low so far this month, fuels that grew over the growing season are rapidly curing.

"If dry conditions continue, we expect to see a rise in the number of wildfires, especially on days when high winds coincide with low relative humidity," S.C. Forestry Commission Forest Protection Chief Darryl Jones added. "A developing drought could also result in poor seedling survival as we enter tree planting season."

Some parts of the state, however, have received above-normal rainfall and were downgraded to more positive drought statuses.

"Above-normal rainfalls in the upper Savannah Basin over the past several months have improved streamflow conditions in Oconee and Anderson counties," SCDNR Senior Hydrologist Scott Harder stated. "The improved streamflow conditions supported the removal of an incipient drought status for these two counties. In the Pee Dee Basin, below-normal streamflow levels supported the upgrade in drought status to incipient for the counties of Chesterfield, Darlington, Marlboro, Dillon and Marion."

The committee will continue to monitor the weather and will meet again as needed.

Contact Dr. Mizzell in Columbia at (803) 734-9568 or e-mail at [mizzellh@dnr.sc.gov](mailto: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: 11-27-2017**

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

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