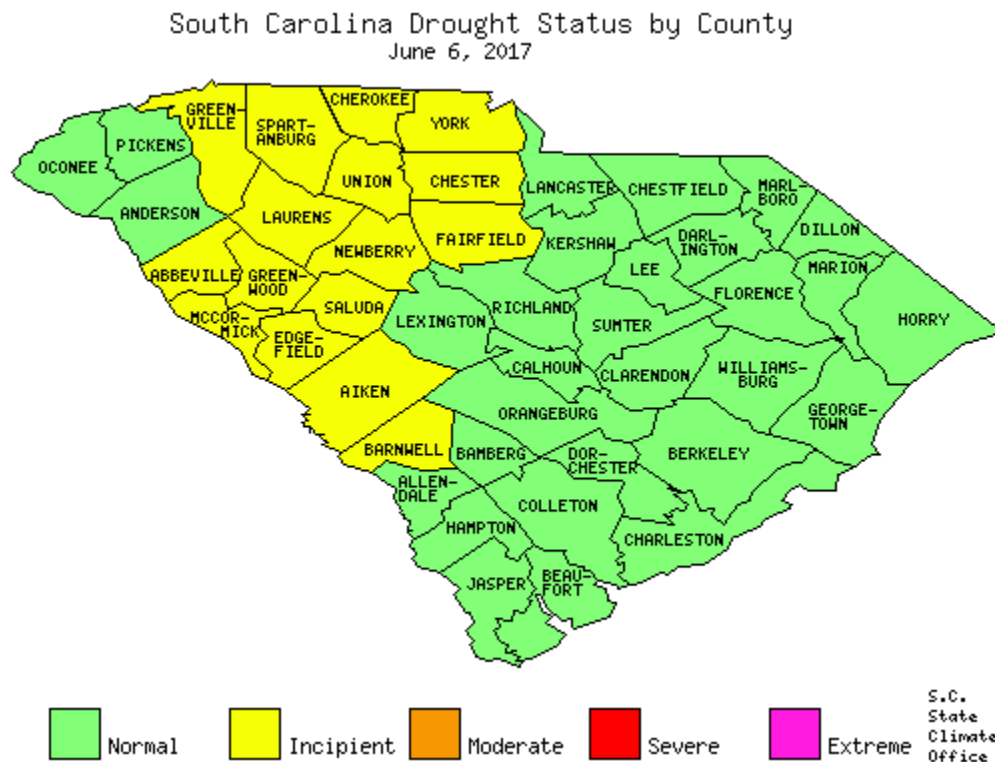


South Carolina Current Drought Status

State Climate Office
NEWS RELEASE
June 6, 2017

State sees positive changes in county drought statuses



The S.C. Drought Response Committee has downgraded the statuses of multiple counties around the state due to recent increased precipitation. South Carolina has seen a good amount of rain since the committee met in April, and members discussed Tuesday the state's overall improved drought conditions

All counties in the state are now at either normal drought status or incipient. The Northeast region was downgraded from incipient to normal and all counties in the South region remained at normal status. Georgetown County in the Central region was downgraded from incipient to normal, counties in the Midlands remain at normal status, and Upstate counties were downgraded to incipient. In the West region, Abbeville and McCormick counties were downgraded from moderate to incipient. Aiken, Edgefield, and Barnwell counties remain in incipient status. The Southern Savannah counties remained normal while the upper Savannah Basin counties of Oconee, Pickens, and Anderson, which were previously in severe drought status, have also been downgraded to normal. This dramatic change in drought status brought about a lengthy discussion amongst committee members.

"We've experienced a drastic turnaround in just two months' time," Naturalist and West Region Drought Committee Member Dennis Chastain stated. "Groundwater has significantly improved. Streams are flowing well. There are no water supply problems. And agriculture at all levels seems to be in great shape. These changes justified the downgrading of Oconee, Pickens, and Anderson counties."

Improved conditions in other parts of the state also served as evidence that downgraded drought statuses were warranted.

"Streamflow conditions and groundwater conditions have greatly improved throughout the state over the past two months," SCDNR Hydrologist Scott Harder added. "In addition, reservoirs across much of the state are near or above their target levels for this time of year, and though lakes in the Savannah Basin are still approximately five to six feet below their targets, water levels have risen substantially in these reservoirs over the past several months."

Regarding the Upstate counties in the Central drought management area, a number of indicators do lend support to a designation of no drought (normal status) at this time. But others indicate the region may not have fully crossed over into that status

"Periodic rains boost stream flows, and then they fall back to the low end of normal range or below," Spartanburg Water Compliance Manager John Westcott pointed out. "April was a great rainfall month, May was a good one, and the jury is still out for June. For these reasons, we decided to make the more conservative call of incipient drought, the lowest level of drought status for certain counties."

The committee will continue to monitor conditions and will meet during the summer as needed.

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: 06-06-2017

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

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