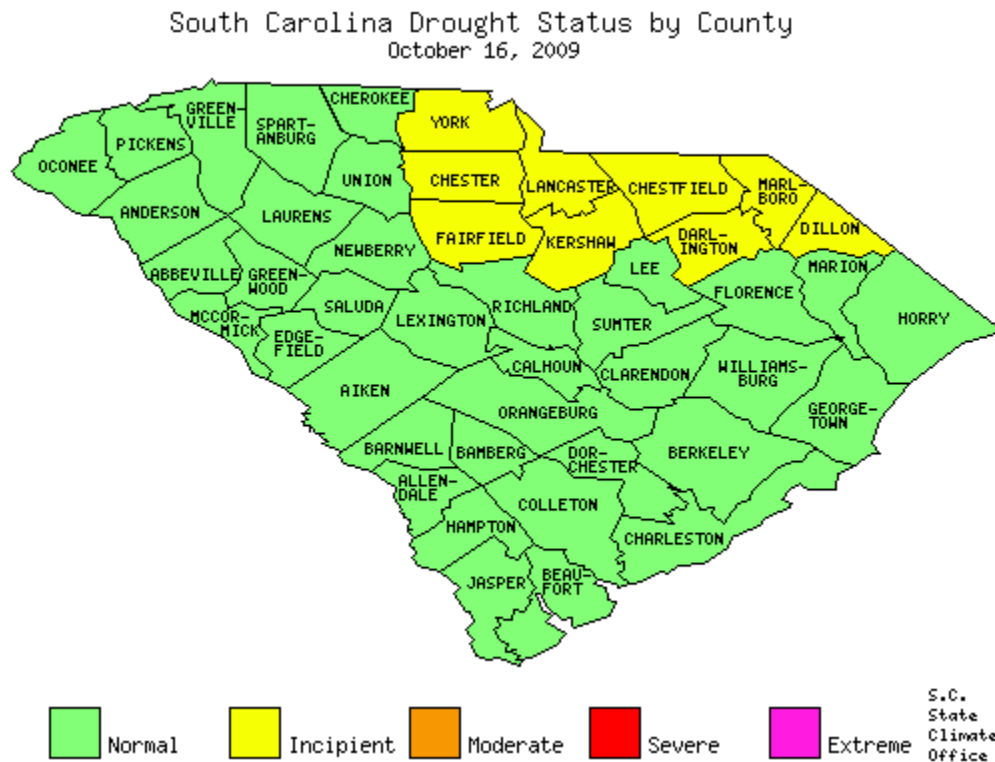


South Carolina Current Drought Status

State Climate Office 803-734-9100
NEWS RELEASE DNR News 803-734-3815
October 16, 2009

DROUGHT DECLARATION REMOVED FOR 12 S.C. COUNTIES



Discussion:

Another round of soaking rain this week (Oct. 12-Oct. 16) led the S. C. Department of Natural Resources to downgrade the incipient declaration to no drought status for 12 Piedmont and Central Savannah counties. The state agency members of the Drought Response Committee voted on Oct. 16 to remove Greenville, Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union, Laurens, Newberry, Anderson, Abbeville, Greenwood, McCormick, Edgefield and Saluda counties from any drought status.

The committee also decided the rainfall was not sufficient to remove the declaration for the Catawba Wateree Basin (York, Chester, Fairfield, Lancaster, and Kershaw) and several counties in the upper part of the Pee Dee (Chesterfield, Marlboro, and Dillon).

Darlington County was added to the list of counties in incipient drought.

According to Hope Mizzell, S.C. State Climatologist, the counties maintained at incipient received beneficial rain this week, but not enough to shift several key drought indices out of drought.

30-Day (Sept. 16 to Oct. 15) rainfall totals for counties removed from drought by monitoring station:

AIKEN - 8.41
ANDERSON - 10.26
CALHOUN FALLS - 11.50
CLINTON - 6.54
COLUMBIA METRO - 9.27
GREENVILLE/SPARTANBURG - 7.54
JOHNSTON - 6.33
LAURENS - 5.53
MCCORMICK - 8.52
NEWBERRY - 11.08
SALUDA - 6.07
SANTUCK (Union County) - 5.28

30-Day (Sept. 16 to Oct. 15) rainfall totals for counties maintained in incipient by monitoring station:(Including Darlington County which was upgraded to incipient)

CHESTER - 3.82
CHESTERFIELD - 4.03
DARLINGTON - 3.51
DILLON - 2.83
PAGELAND - 3.65
WINNSBORO - 3.88
YORK - 4.46

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" at: www.dnr.sc.gov/economic/index.html.

Drought Status: 10-16-2009

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

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