

South Carolina Current Drought Status

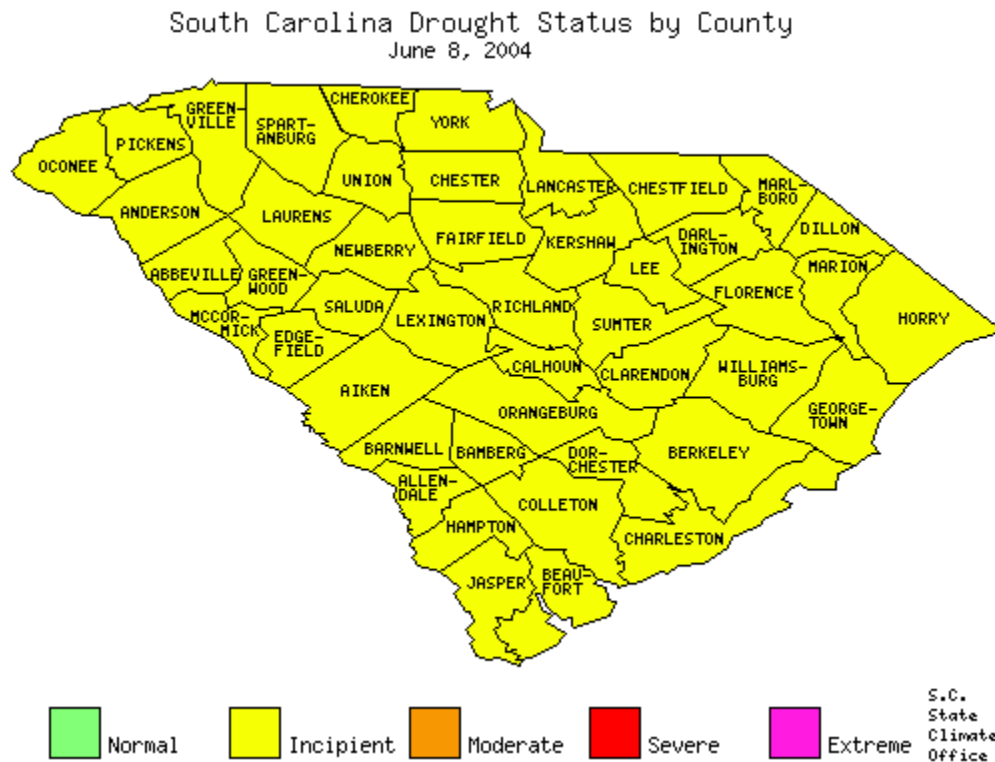
State Climate Office

NEWS RELEASE

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June 8, 2004

A return to a pattern of below normal rainfall over the past eight months



A return to a pattern of below normal rainfall over the past eight months led the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) to issue an incipient drought declaration statewide. SCDNR convened the state agency members of the drought response committee today, June 8, in Columbia to evaluate the overall statewide conditions.

The state is once again facing drought conditions with most locations reporting a 5 to 10 inch rainfall deficit since January. The below normal rainfall is threatening agriculture, reducing streamflow, and beginning to make forest fires harder to control.

We are certainly not yet experiencing the dire conditions experienced during the record drought of 1998-2002, but everyone needs to be aware of the situation and industries and water systems should implement their drought plans as needed.

According to David Tompkins, the SC Department of Agriculture reports adverse impacts to crop quantity and quality. Bud Badr with SC DNR reported that streamflows are the lowest 10 percentile of flow for this time of year. Fortunately, according to David Baize with the SC

Department of Health and Environmental Control, no water systems are reporting any supply problems at this time.

Larry Barr with the SC Forestry Commission also reported that wildfire losses over the past seven months have been slightly lower than average despite the rainfall deficit, but firefighters fear that the trend may be changing because fires are becoming harder to control.

The incipient drought declaration is the first level of drought followed by moderate, severe, and extreme. During incipient drought, the SCDNR activates the Drought Information Center, increases monitoring and notification of the drought status. Water systems and industries are encouraged to closely monitor conditions and implement their drought plans as needed.

If conditions continue to deteriorate the SCDNR will convene the full drought response committee in the next two weeks.

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 Table

Current Drought Status by County				
Normal	Incipient	Moderate	Severe	Extreme
County Status	County Status	County Status	County Status	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	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				