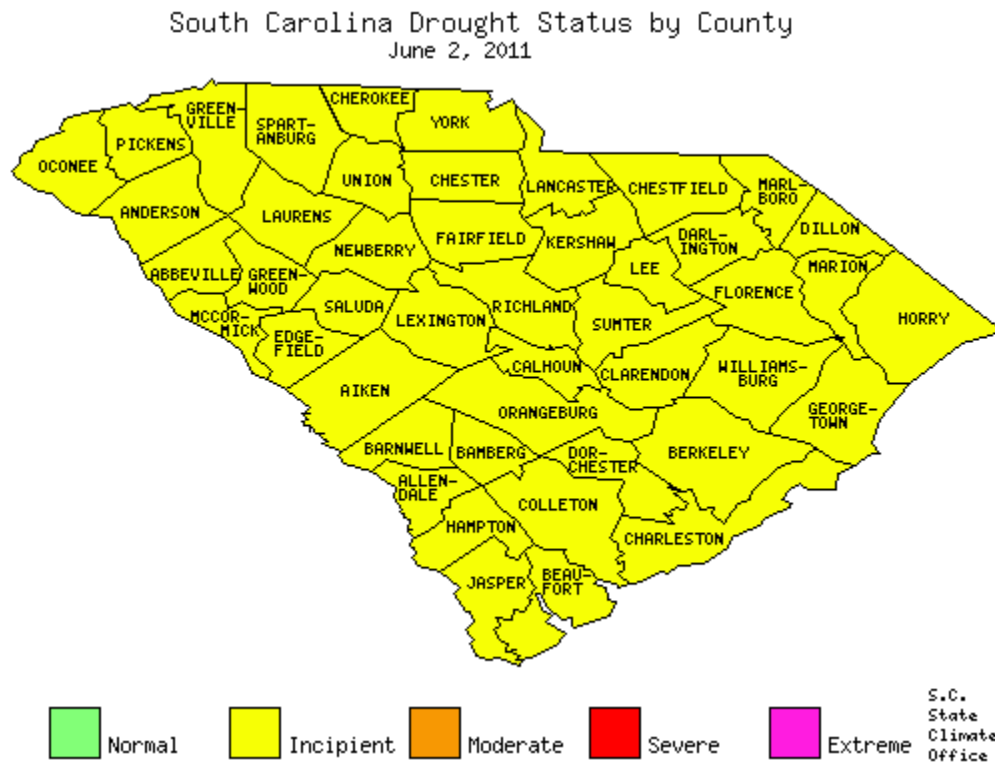


South Carolina Current Drought Status

State Climate Office 803-734-9100
SPECIAL NEWS RELEASE 11-07 DNR News 803-667-0696
June 2, 2011

Drought Response Committee places entire State in incipient drought status



Discussion:

The State Agency Members of the S.C. Drought Response Committee, meeting electronically on June 2, have declared Marlboro, Dillon, Marion, Florence, Horry, Williamsburg, Georgetown, Berkeley, and Charleston counties under incipient drought status. These nine counties now join the rest of the state with incipient status. The incipient drought declaration is followed by increasing levels of severity to moderate, severe and extreme status.

Hope Mizzell, S.C. State Climatologist stated, "The lack of rainfall coverage combined with the unseasonable hot weather has brought all counties into the first stage of drought. Over the last week daily evaporation rates have reached as high as 0.40". Charleston reported the second driest May on record receiving only 0.41" for the entire month."

Darryl Jones, S.C. Forestry Commission, reported the Keetch Byram Drought Index has reached drought criteria for all counties. Wildfire activity has picked up in the last couple of

weeks. The high heat has already impacted the relative greenness of fine fuels in most of the State.

According to U.S. Department of Agriculture, as of May 29 statewide soil moisture levels were reported as 14 percent or very short, 42 percent or short, 43 percent or adequate, and 1 percent or surplus.

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

Contact South Carolina State Climatologist Dr. Hope Mizzell in Columbia at (803) 734-9568, or (803) 530-5793, 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				