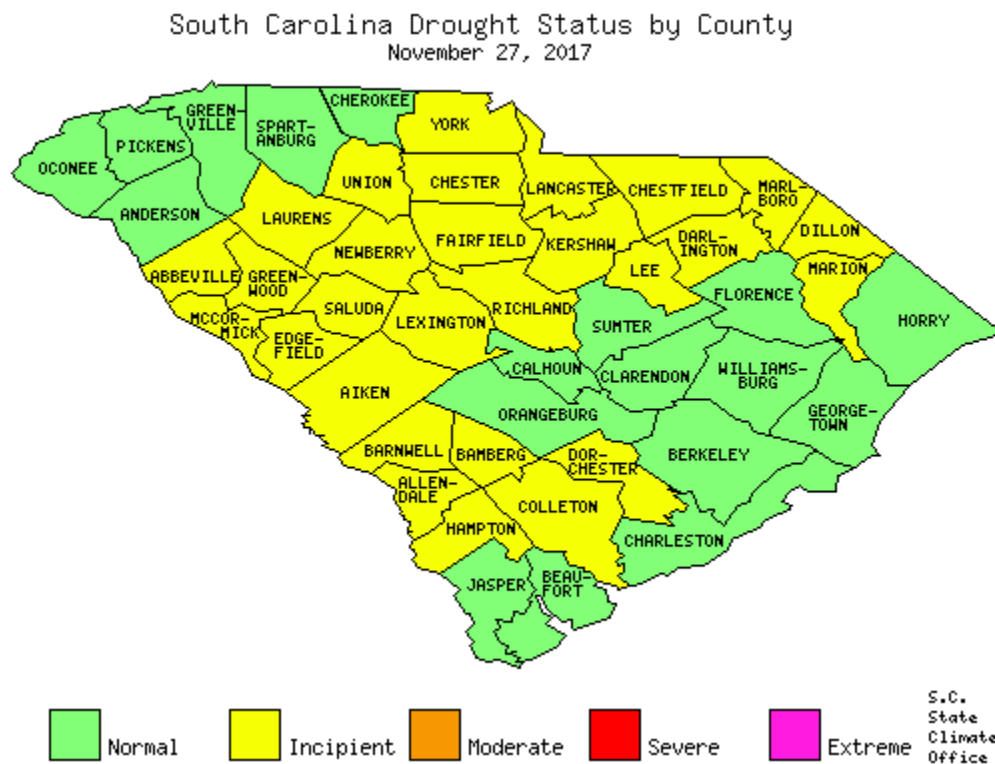


South Carolina Current Drought Status

State Climate Office
NEWS RELEASE
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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 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 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	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				