

South Carolina Current Drought Status

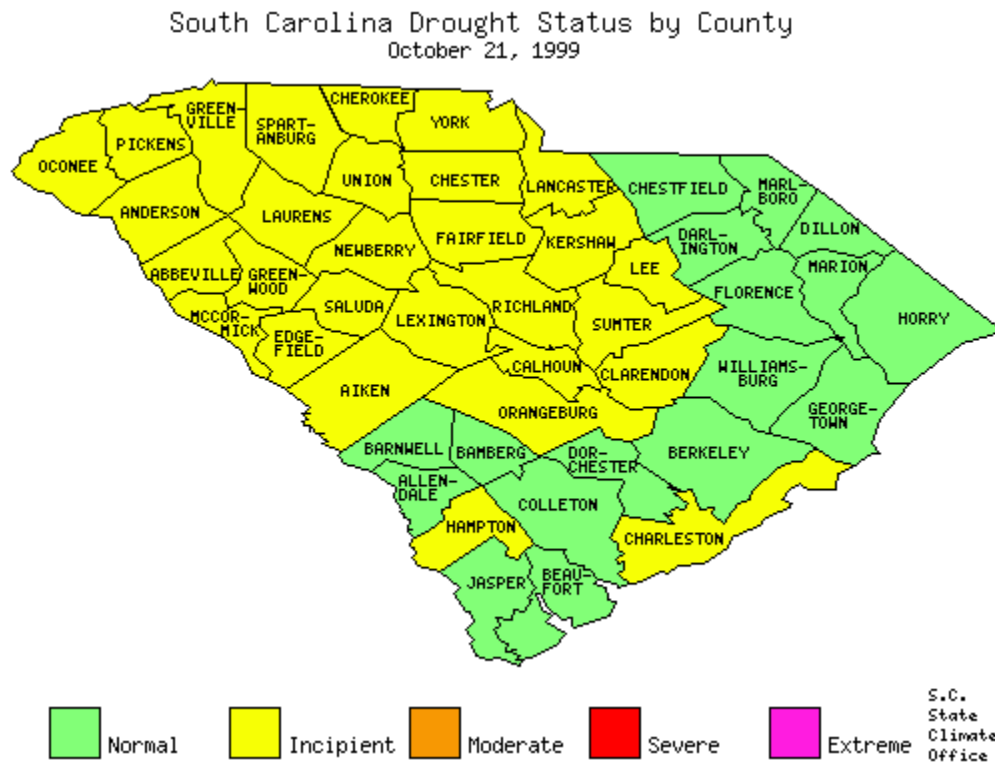
State Climate Office

NEWS RELEASE

DNR News 803-667-0696

October 21, 1999

DROUGHT DOWNGRADED FOR ALL COUNTIES IN S.C.



For previously issued drought statements [see the archived status reports.](#)

[Table of all counties and drought status.](#)

[Drought Response Committee Meeting Sign-In sheet.](#)

South Carolina's drought has been downgraded for all counties. The State and Local Drought Response committees met Thursday, Oct. 21 in Columbia to discuss drought conditions across the state. The consensus of the group was that recent rains have been sufficient to relieve drought conditions statewide.

Hope Mizzell, state drought program coordinator, says only a few isolated locations are still experiencing a 12-14 inch rainfall deficit for the year. However, numerous locations are more

than 9 inches below normal for the year despite the recent rains. Annual rainfall deficits include: Greenville/Spartanburg -11.6; Walhalla -12.8; Columbia -14.6; Johnston -11.4; Blackville -5.3; Allendale -7.1; Beaufort -2.6; Charleston -4.1; Myrtle Beach +11.9.

South Carolina Forestry Commission spokesman Ken Cabe says, "Recent rainfall has dampened surface fuels enough to reduce immediate wildfire danger. Frequent rain will be needed throughout the fall and winter months to keep fire occurrence at manageable levels."

Based on these considerations the committees unanimously voted to remove the drought declaration from Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Beaufort, Berkeley, Chesterfield, Colleton, Darlington, Dorchester, Florence, Jasper, Marlboro and Williamsburg counties. Drought declarations for Dillon, Georgetown, Horry and Marion counties were lifted in September. The remaining counties in the Midlands and the Upstate were downgraded to incipient.

However, Dr. Michael Helfert, state climatologist says, "Recent rains may only provide temporary relief since all National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration long-range climate models indicate drought conditions will return by November/December 1999 and possibly persist through March 2000. Decision-makers must consider the impacts of only receiving 60 percent to 80 percent of normal winter/spring rainfall through March 2000."

The DNR will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as needed. Integrated drought information is available on the DNR's State Climatology Office Internet Web Site.

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 Normal	ANDERSON Incipient	BAMBERG Normal
BARNWELL Normal	BEAUFORT Normal	BERKELEY Normal	CALHOUN Incipient	CHARLESTON Incipient
CHEROKEE Incipient	CHESTER Incipient	CHESTERFIELD Normal	CLARENDON Incipient	COLLETON Normal
DARLINGTON Normal	DILLON Normal	DORCHESTER Normal	EDGEFIELD Incipient	FAIRFIELD Incipient
FLORENCE Normal	GEORGETOWN Normal	GREENVILLE Incipient	GREENWOOD Incipient	HAMPTON Incipient
HORRY Normal	JASPER Normal	KERSHAW Incipient	LANCASTER Incipient	LAURENS Incipient
LEE Incipient	LEXINGTON Incipient	MARION Normal	MARLBORO Normal	MCCORMICK Incipient
NEWBERRY Incipient	OCONEE Incipient	ORANGEBURG Incipient	PICKENS Incipient	RICHLAND Incipient
SALUDA Incipient	SPARTANBURG Incipient	SUMTER Incipient	UNION Incipient	WILLIAMSBURG Normal
YORK Incipient				