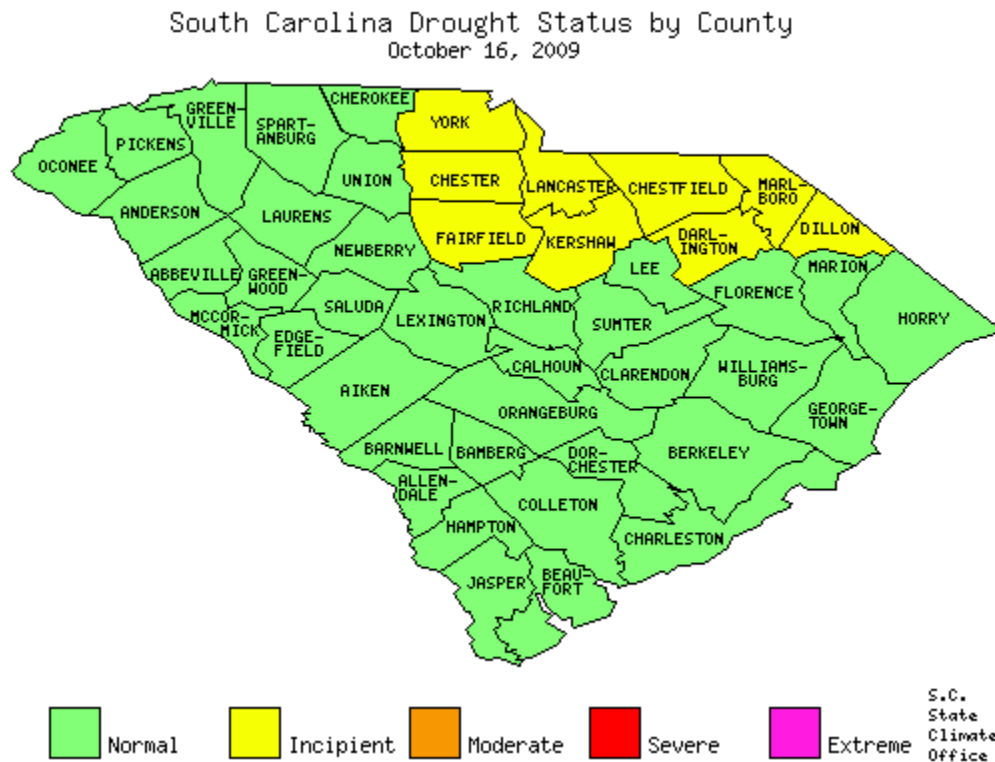


South Carolina Current Drought Status

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 Table

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