

# South Carolina Current Drought Status

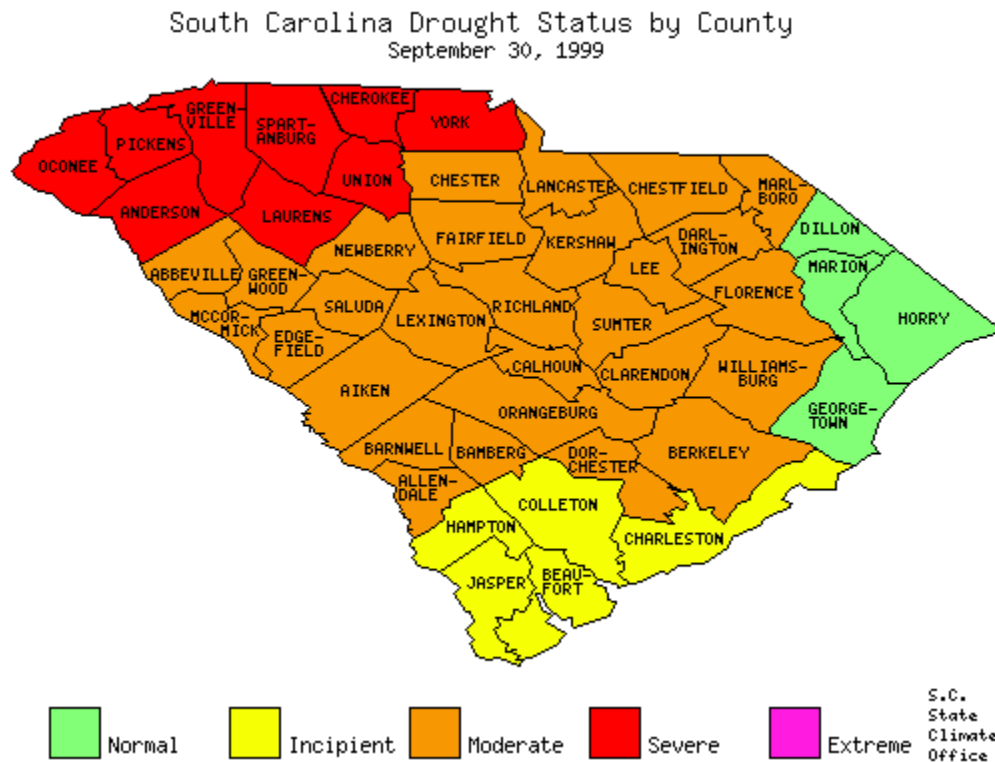
State Climate Office

NEWS RELEASE

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## SEVERE DROUGHT REMAINS IN NINE UPSTATE COUNTIES



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 except 9 upstate counties - Oconee, Pickens, Anderson, Greenville, Spartanburg, Cherokee, Union, Laurens and York - which remain at severe status.

The State and Northwest Drought Response Committees met Thursday morning, Sept. 30 in Greenville to discuss drought conditions across South Carolina and in the upstate.

Recent rains have not been sufficient to ameliorate drought conditions in the upstate where the rainfall deficit since Jan. 1 is still 15 to 20 inches, according to Hope Mizzell, drought coordinator with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources. "There is also great concern in the upstate about forest fires, many of which over the past month have been attributed to negligent burning. This is one time that citizens can make a difference. Some smaller water suppliers in the upstate have gone to mandatory water use restrictions."

The drought was downgraded to incipient, initial level, for five counties including Jasper, Hampton, Beaufort, Colleton and Charleston. There is still a 2-inch rainfall deficit for the year in Charleston.

The drought advisory was completely removed from four counties - Horry, Georgetown, Marion and Dillon where rains have been sufficient to make up the rainfall deficit.

A moderate level drought declaration remains in effect for the rest of South Carolina. Just in the midlands there is a 7 to 9 inch rainfall deficit since the first of the year.

The long-range NOAA outlook predicts that drought conditions for South Carolina will continue through May of 2000 statewide and that the recent rains are only a temporary relief, according to Mizzell "If not for Hurricane Floyd and moisture from tropical storm Harvey the entire state would be in the same condition as the nine counties in the upstate."

The state and upstate drought committees meeting in Greenville Thursday evaluated drought conditions within the Northwest Drought Management Area (DMA) to determine if a need exists for action beyond the scope of local government. The continued severity of drought conditions in the northwestern region of the state has generated major concerns regarding water supply problems and potential forest fires.

For more information regarding the state and Northwest Drought Response Committee meeting contact to Hope Mizzell, drought coordinator with the S.C. Department of Natural Resources, at (803) 737-0800 in Columbia.

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