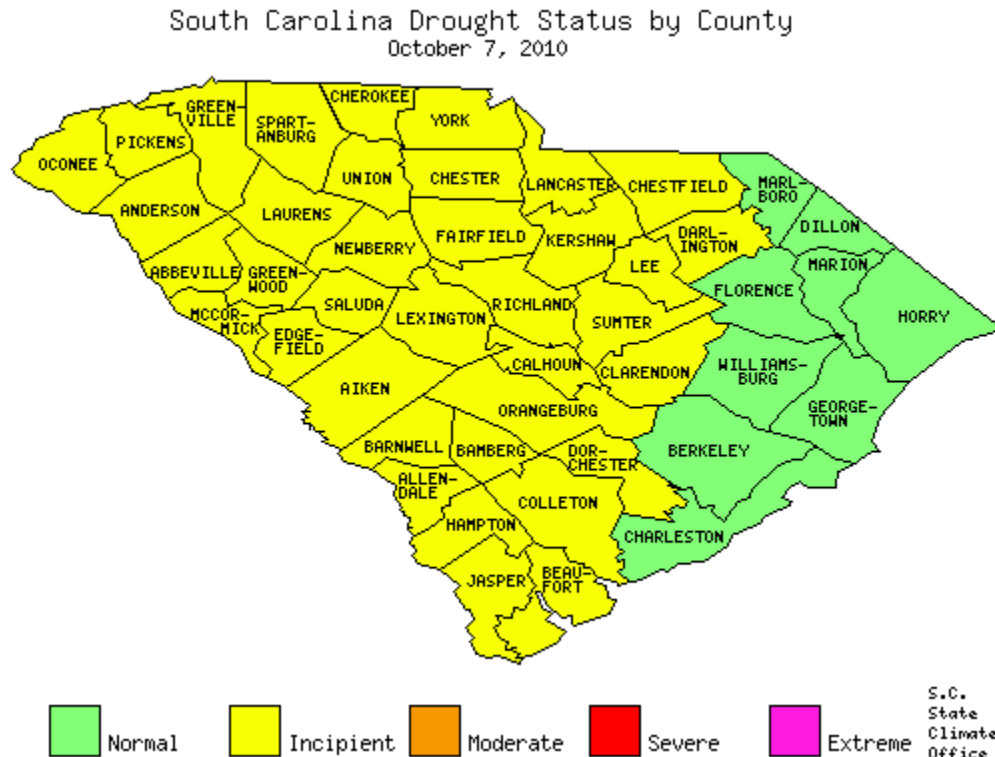


South Carolina Current Drought Status

State Climate Office 803-734-9100
SPECIAL NEWS RELEASE #10-226 DNR News 803-667-0696
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HEAVY RAINFALL LAST WEEK RELIEVES DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN NINE COUNTIES



Discussion:

Heavy rainfall last week has alleviated drought conditions in nine counties; Charleston, Berkeley, Georgetown, Williamsburg, Horry Marlboro, Dillon, Marion, and Florence (see table below). According to Mark Malsick, South Carolina State Climatology Office Severe Weather Liaison, "Last week's heavy rain was due to several distinct, inter-related weather features. A passing cold front brought the first rain across the state on Sunday and Monday. This front stalled offshore and became a conduit that tapped into tropical Gulf of Mexico moist air. Midweek, as the remnants of Tropical Storm Nicole streamed north, a compact low pressure center formed on the stalled front triggering more thunderstorms and heavy rain for the coast and Pee Dee region."

Hope Mizzell, S.C. State Climatologist, "September was on tap to be one of the driest on record until last week's rain. For some locations, like Andrews, it went from being the second driest September (0.38") to the fifth wettest (10.18") in 50 years. The very dry conditions preceding

the rain helped minimize the flooding impacts. All locations received welcome rain last week, but 37 counties will remain in drought because the rainfall amounts were not sufficient to improve all drought indicators."

25-30 September, 2010 Rainfall Summary: (*Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (COCORAHS) Stations)

Station	Rainfall Totals
Myrtle Beach 5.3 W*	14.15"
Murrells Inlet 0.3 SSW*	12.28"
Hemingway 11.6 SE*	11.54"
Bennettsville 1.2 SE*	10.34"
North Inlet	10.43"
Conway	10.20"
McClellanville	9.96"
Andrews	9.80"
Georgetown	9.44"
Quinby	8.85"
Mullins	8.81"
Loris	8.75"
Kingstree	8.73"
Gallivants Ferry	8.60"
Bennettsville	8.49"
Cades	8.38"
North Myrtle Beach	8.27"
Florence	8.13"
Mount Pleasant 7.9 NNE*	4.40"
Jamestown	8.04"
Charleston Air Force Base	6.74"

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 Normal	CALHOUN Incipient	CHARLESTON Normal
CHEROKEE Incipient	CHESTER Incipient	CHESTERFIELD Incipient	CLARENDON Incipient	COLLETON Incipient
DARLINGTON Incipient	DILLON Normal	DORCHESTER Incipient	EDGEFIELD Incipient	FAIRFIELD Incipient
FLORENCE Normal	GEORGETOWN Normal	GREENVILLE Incipient	GREENWOOD Incipient	HAMPTON Incipient
HORRY Normal	JASPER Incipient	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				