

South Carolina Current Drought Status

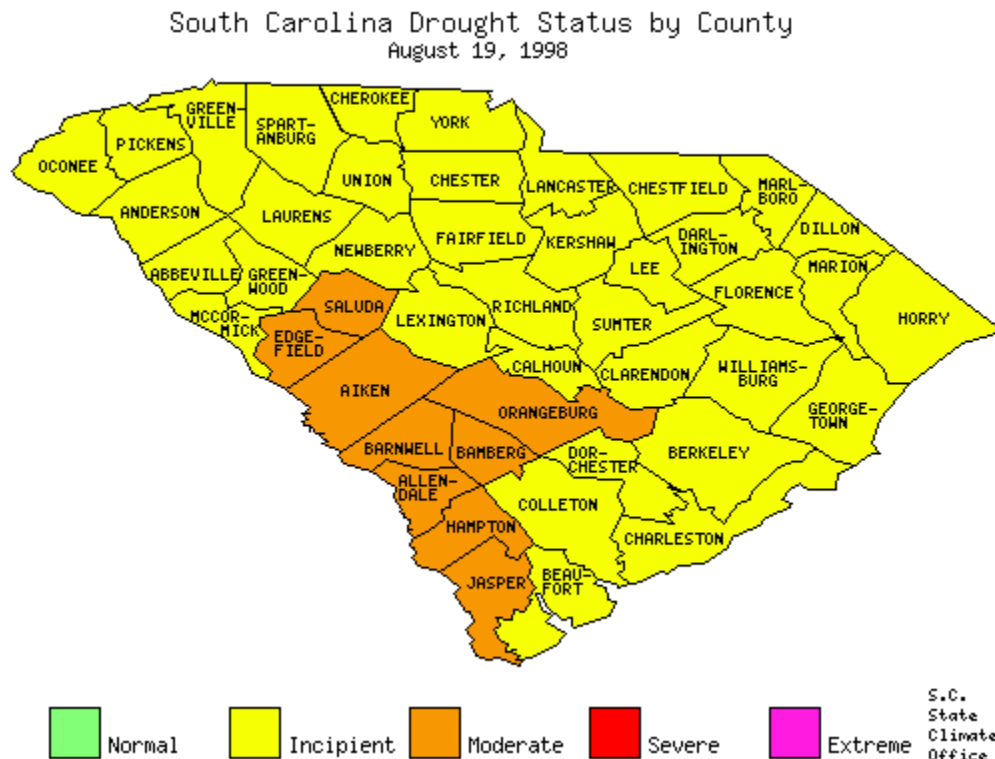
State Climate Office

NEWS RELEASE

DNR News 803-667-0696

August 19, 1998

MODERATE DROUGHT DECLARED FOR ALL COUNTIES IN SOUTH CAROLINA



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

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

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

Although widespread showers helped to relieve the dry conditions across most of the State this past week, some areas still need additional precipitation. Several locations received rainfall in excess of five inches this past weekend while others reported less than a quarter of an inch. Indices by which drought is measured show that 15% of South Carolina continues to experience moderate drought conditions with 40% of the state in the mild drought category as of August

15, 1998. The South Carolina Agricultural Statistics Service reported that soil moisture ended last week at 8% very short, 24% short, 65% adequate, and 3% surplus.

The widespread showers have alleviated the moderate drought conditions for most counties except those in the west central and parts of the southern region where rainfall has remained limited (see Rainfall Summary Table below). Therefore, the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) has downgraded the moderate declaration to an incipient drought for all counties except Aiken, Allendale, Bamberg, Barnwell, Edgefield, Hampton, Jasper, Orangeburg, and Saluda. The moderate drought declaration remains in effect for these counties. The four levels of drought severity and respective responses as defined by the South Carolina Drought Response Act of 1985 are:

Incipient - SCDNR increases monitoring activities.

Moderate - The drought is such that voluntary reductions in water use are normally encouraged. In addition to notification, the SCDNR activates the Drought Information Center and issues news releases concerning drought conditions.

Severe - The drought is such that the Drought Response Committee (DRC) may recommend that water suppliers implement voluntary or mandatory water use restrictions. SCDNR responses may also include non-binding mediation of water disputes.

Extreme - The drought is such the DRC may recommend that the Governor impose mandatory water use restrictions on all affected people. SCDNR responses continue in the same manner as above.

Despite the varying levels of drought severity, water supplies across the State are stable. Streamflows and lake elevations reflect the rainfall conditions with low streamflows in the west central and southern portions of the state. Streamflows in the drier areas are less than 25% of the average August historical flow. River flow will continue to decrease without precipitation. Low flows impact fish and wildlife, water withdrawals, and water quality.

The SCDNR's Land, Water & Conservation Division will continue to monitor and assess drought-related variables such as temperature, precipitation, streamflow, ground-water levels, reservoir levels, soil moisture, and public water supplies. The department will publish the appropriate notices in the affected areas. Mayors, county administrators, public service districts and local water suppliers are asked to keep their drought ordinances activated. Integrated drought information is available on the DNR's

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