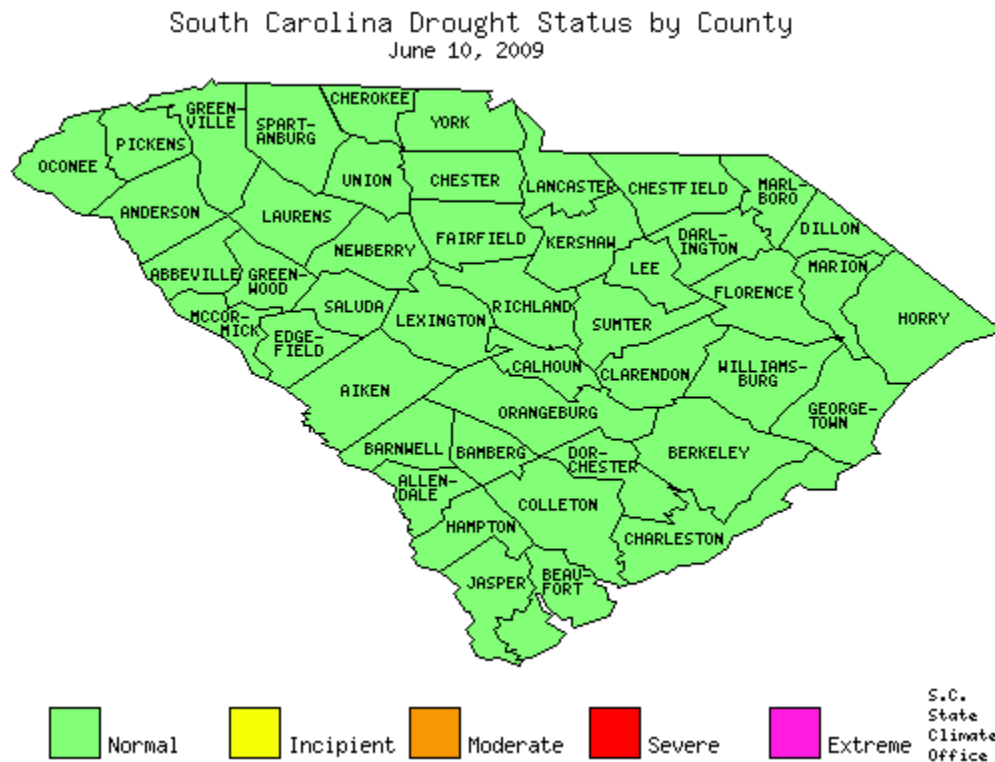


South Carolina Current Drought Status

State Climate Office 803-734-9100
SPECIAL NEWS RELEASE DNR News 803-734-3815
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DROUGHT OFFICIALLY OVER IN STATE



Discussion:

The S.C. Drought Response Committee removes drought declaration for all South Carolina counties.

For the first time since August 2006 no area of the State is under a drought declaration. Increased rainfall frequency and coverage over the last six months have alleviated the drought conditions statewide. Today all 19 Upstate counties were removed from drought by the South Carolina Drought Response Committee. On April 15 the Committee lifted the drought declaration for the remaining 27 counties.

According to Hope Mizzell, SC State Climatologist, "The timing, amount and duration of the rainfall have brought all drought indicators back to normal levels. Many stations report above normal rainfall since January (see table below)."

According to DNR hydrologist Masaaki Kiuchi all regularly monitored streams show no drought and lake levels around South Carolina are normal except in the Savannah River Basin which is slightly below normal. Upstate wells show improvement and water levels are rising in most monitoring wells. However, groundwater levels in some areas of the Upstate may not be sufficient to adequately support streamflows if rainfall declines.

"Every region of the State has been impacted by this drought," says Ken Rentiers, Chairman of the SC Drought Response Committee. "The return to a normal rainfall pattern brings welcome relief."

The Committee recommends that the public continue to use water wisely.

"Even though we have overcome the rainfall deficit associated with the drought, we are still dealing with some of the long-term drought effects. Several of the upper Savannah reservoirs remain below full pool. We encourage residents of the northwestern areas of the Upstate to continue to voluntarily conserve our water resources. If we have learned anything over the past several years of dealing with drought, it is that no one should waste water," urged Dennis Chastain, a member of the West Drought Committee.

Station	Year to Date Rainfall Total	Percent of Normal
Gaffney	27.09"	119%
Long Creek	34.07"	115
Anderson	25.28"	115%
Greenville-Spartanburg	23.09"	99%
Chester	22.4"	105%
Saluda	23.46"	107%
Sumter	20.61"	100%
Orangeburg	22.17"	109%
Charleston	19.29"	100%

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.

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