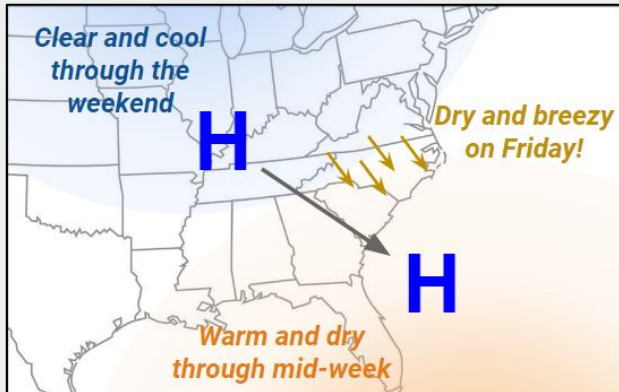


Short-Range Outlook for North Carolina

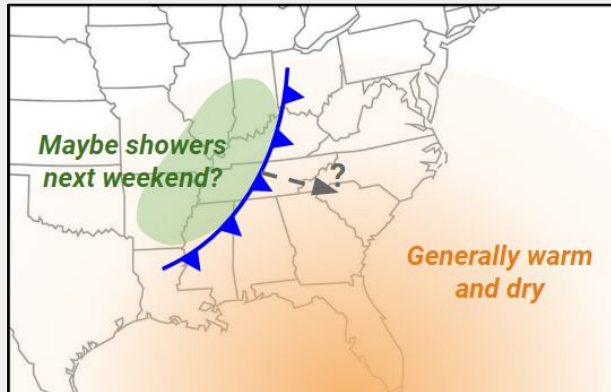
Week 1:

April 1 to 7, 2021



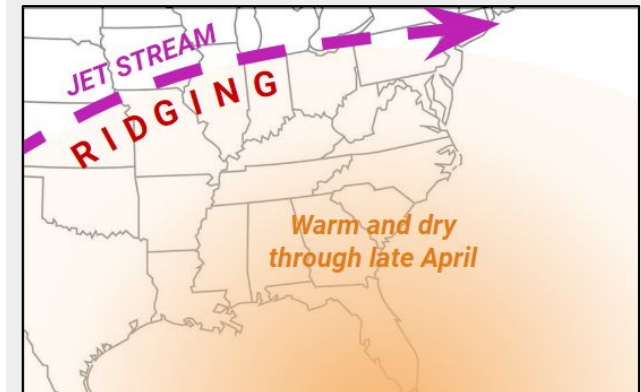
Week 2:

April 8 to 14, 2021



Weeks 3-4:

April 15 to 28, 2021

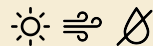


Cold Nights This Weekend



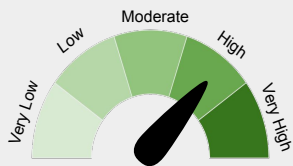
Temperatures today are dramatically colder as high pressure builds in from the northwest. That cooler weather will last through Saturday, and a hard freeze is expected Friday and Saturday mornings. Highs should rise back into the 70s early next week.

Dry With Increased Fire Danger



On Friday, minimum relative humidities below 25% and winds gusting to 25 mph or greater will elevate fire danger across the state. While winds will slacken this weekend, the dry pattern should persist, and warmer weather may lead to faster drying of fuels.

Forecast Confidence



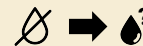
After this morning's cold frontal passage, high pressure in place will make rain extremely unlikely throughout the next week.

Starting Warm, Then...?



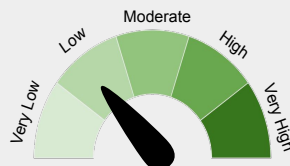
The warming trend should continue through Thurs., April 8, with highs in the upper 70s to near 80°F. Uncertainty increases beyond that. A possible weekend frontal passage could knock temperatures back into the 60s, or we could remain warmer.

Potential Precipitation?



Our rain chances are largely tied to how long the warm weather lasts. Expect dry conditions through next Thursday, but if the late-week front pans out, it could bring light rain (a half inch or less) statewide. The rest of the week is likely to remain mostly dry.

Forecast Confidence



More than seven days out, it's still too early to predict that potential pattern change and precipitation with much confidence.

A Warm End to April



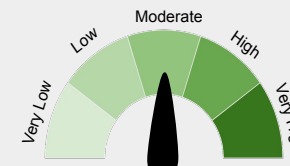
The return of jet stream ridging, or upper-level high pressure, across the Southeast US should favor a generally warmer pattern in the second half of April. The average last spring freeze typically occurs by early to mid-April, or slightly later in the Mountains.

Remaining Drier?



Ridging also favors drier conditions and should keep most rain-making weather systems well off to our north and west. However, with warmer weather, our precip. pattern may transition to a more summer-like one, driven mostly by pop-up showers and storms.

Forecast Confidence



While the current La Niña is fading fast, our weather may finally resemble its expected impacts for last winter: warm and dry.