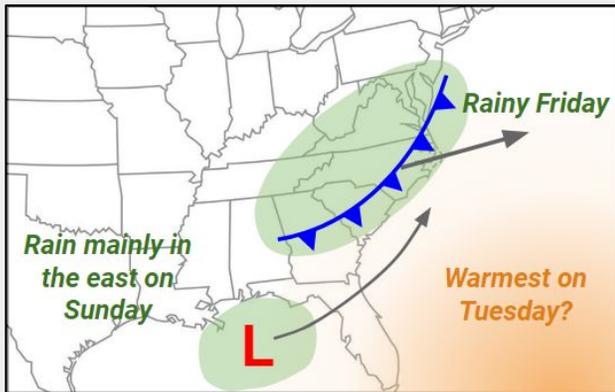


Short-Range Outlook for North Carolina

Week 1:

February 4 to 10, 2021



Statewide Rain on Friday



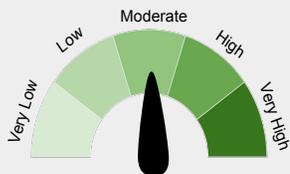
An approaching cold front will bring rain from west to east on Friday, with totals of up to half an inch. On Sunday, low pressure off the coast could bring additional rain, mainly to eastern NC. The Mountains could see snow if moisture makes it that far inland.

Seasonable Temperatures



Behind Friday's cold front, near-normal temperatures will be in place through the weekend, with highs in the upper 40s to low 50s. Areas south and east could hit the 60s on Tuesday afternoon before another cold front arrives on Wednesday.

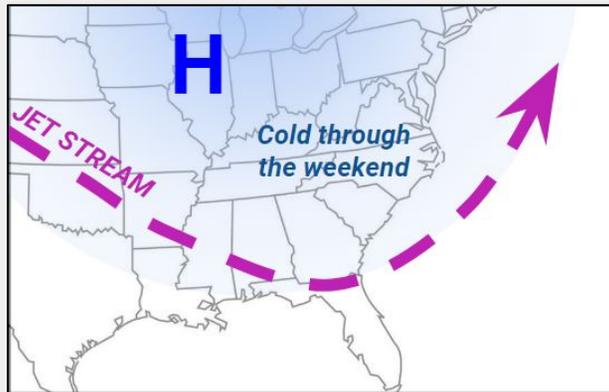
Forecast Confidence



Models disagree about how widespread precip. will be on Sunday and how high our precip. chances will be early next week.

Week 2:

February 11 to 17, 2021



Frigid Air Arrives by the Weekend



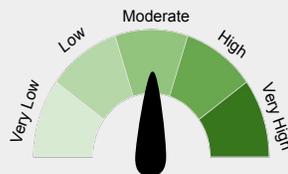
Jet stream troughing will open the door for Canadian high pressure and the coldest air of the season next weekend. Some forecasts show highs below freezing on Sunday, Feb. 14. Temperatures should moderate into the 40s by early in the following week.

Cool and Dry Weather



Any moisture along the front next Friday or Saturday could fall as snow, given how cold the air behind it will be. Once the deep troughing builds over the eastern US, the storm track should remain to our south or offshore, so expect a mostly dry week.

Forecast Confidence



The main questions this week are (a) how cold will it get, and (b) how quickly will temperatures rebound after our chilly weekend?

Weeks 3-4:

Feb. 18 to Mar. 3, 2021

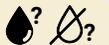


Steadily Warming into March



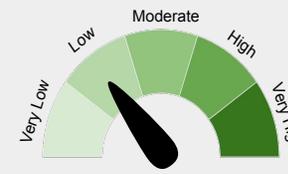
After our cooler spell in mid-February, expect that cold air to retreat back to the north and west with gradual warming across the Southeast US by the end of the month. Occasional cool days are still possible if high pressure systems pass by to our north.

Maybe Wet? Maybe Dry?



Depending on the exact storm track, North Carolina could balance on the knife edge between wetter weather to our west, fueled by Gulf moisture over the Mississippi Valley, and drier air associated with weak jet stream ridging to our south and east.

Forecast Confidence



Small shifts in the large-scale pattern could make much of NC either much wetter or much drier entering March.