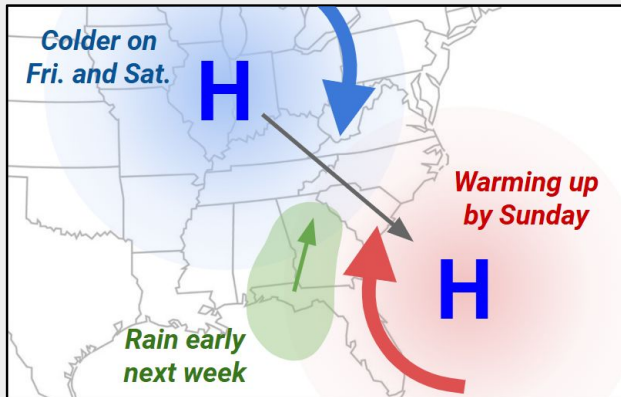


Short-Range Outlook for North Carolina

Week 1:

December 5 to 11, 2024

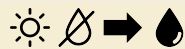


Chilly, Then Warmer



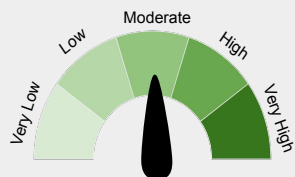
A reinforcing shot of cold air will arrive behind a cold front on Thursday night, dropping low temperatures into the 20s and highs into the 40s on Friday and Saturday. As winds shift out of the south by Sunday, we'll warm up into the 60s again early next week.

Rain Returns on Monday



After a sunny and dry weekend, Gulf moisture will move in on Monday, with light rain showers expected across the state. A more significant system may follow it on Tuesday and Wednesday, with weekly totals of a half-inch to 2 inches expected statewide.

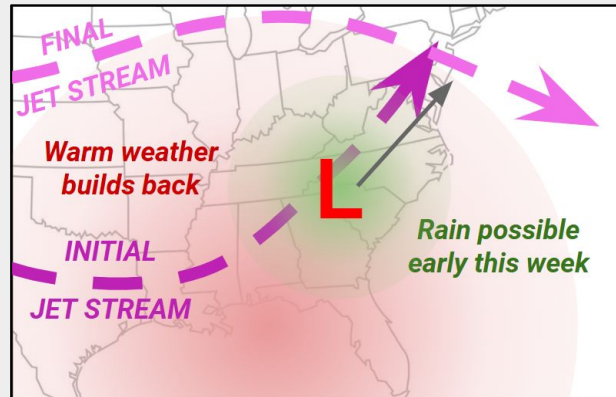
Forecast Confidence



The exact timing and rain amounts from the two systems next week is still coming into focus, but a widespread rain is likely.

Week 2:

December 12 to 18, 2024

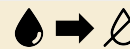


Mostly Warm This Week



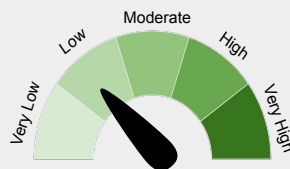
To start the week, jet stream ridging along the east coast should put our temperatures slightly above normal. Later, a broader ridge should build in from the west, pushing us even warmer, maybe with highs in the 60s as we cross the midpoint of December.

An Early Rain Event



Under the initial ridging pattern, the storm track will be close by, and recent model runs have shown at least one rain-making system moving through early this week. After that, expect a transition to drier weather as the more expansive ridge moves over us.

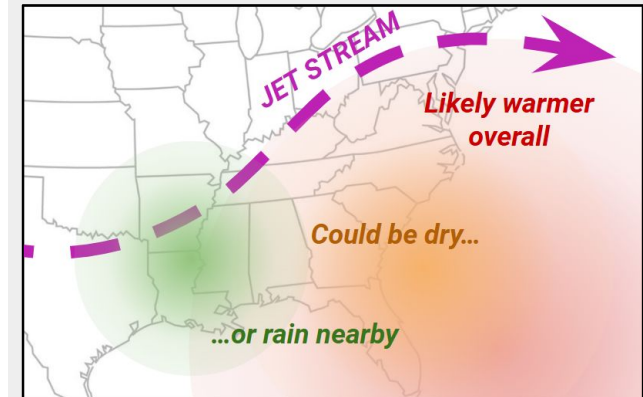
Forecast Confidence



Recent guidance has been in better agreement about the overall pattern, but with lots of uncertainty about the details for this week.

Weeks 3-4:

Dec. 19, 2024 to Jan. 1, 2025

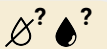


Probably Warm in Our Region



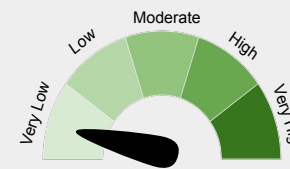
The exact evolution of our patterns is tough to predict after an uncertain Week 2, but longer-term forecasts show overall warmer-than-normal temperatures across the Southeast, consistent with global patterns such as the developing La Niña.

A Cloudy Precipitation Outlook



A warmer La Niña-like pattern would generally be drier in our region as well, but given the variability early in the month, we can't rule out more systems infused with Gulf moisture continuing to reach us later as well, which could bring semi-regular rainfall.

Forecast Confidence



The volatility of recent model runs makes this late-month outlook tough to pin down, aside from a tilt toward warm weather.