

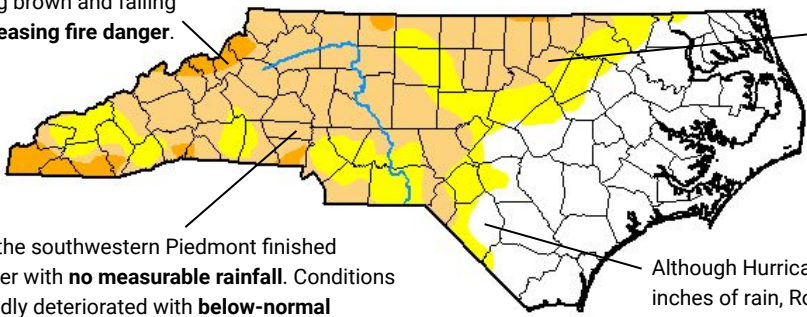
# North Carolina Drought Update

For the assessment period ending October 1, 2019

## This Week's US Drought Monitor of North Carolina Map

From the US Drought Monitor, authored by Brian Fuchs (Nat'l. Drought Mitigation Center) with input from the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council ([ncdrought.org](http://ncdrought.org))

Instead of changing color, leaves are turning brown and falling early, **increasing fire danger**.

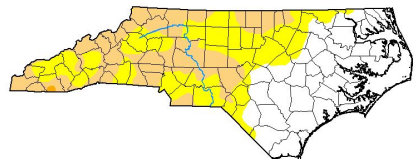


Soybeans and tobacco left in the fields are "wasting away quickly", according to extension agent Charles Mitchell.

Parts of the southwestern Piedmont finished September with **no measurable rainfall**. Conditions have rapidly deteriorated with **below-normal streamflows** and crops wilting or dying.

Although Hurricane Dorian brought nearly 4 inches of rain, Robeson County has dried out since then, including a **large wildfire** and **limited hay growth** reported last week.

## Last Week's Drought Map



**What is flash drought?**  
 Conditions in NC are connected to a wider regional drought, which is being called a "flash drought". This is not an official category, but a term for the **rapid development of drought conditions**, usually due to several weeks or months of hot, dry weather.

# Drought Category Descriptions

The US Drought Monitor process uses a **convergence of evidence** approach to set the drought status based on the consensus of a number of objective indicators, which are confirmed with on-the-ground impact reports.

	Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
<b>Abnormally Dry (D0)</b> While it's not quite drought, D0 often indicates <b>unseasonably dry conditions</b> . In the summer, these can include grass turning yellow or small creeks running low. In the fall, leaves may turn brown and drop early.	20.63%	-11.42%
<b>Moderate Drought (D1)</b> In D1 drought, <b>impacts begin to emerge</b> . Crops may wilt or stop growing. Animals, including livestock, may struggle to find food and water. Larger streams and rivers may begin to decline, affecting reservoir levels.	37.29%	+8.63%
<b>Severe Drought (D2)</b> In a drought reaching D2 levels, <b>impacts become more widespread</b> . Crop yield reductions are common and water conservation measures may be implemented. Wildfires are larger and harder to extinguish.	4.40%	+4.24%

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