

North Carolina Drought Update

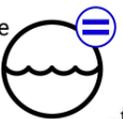
For the assessment period ending March 17, 2020

Note: updates will be issued monthly when the state is **not** experiencing dry or drought conditions.

This Week's Drought Monitor of North Carolina Map

From the US Drought Monitor, authored by Deborah Bathke (National Drought Mitigation Center) with input from the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council (ncdrought.org)

Many reservoirs continue to be at or above target levels, though **releases have been lowered to account for decreasing inflows.**



Reports from CoCoRaHS Condition Monitoring observers suggest that while rain would be welcomed, **no on-the-ground dry weather impacts are occurring at this time.**



In parts of the Piedmont and Coastal Plain, 7- and 28-day average streamflows have declined over a very short time. **Nearly 40% of 7-day average flows are below normal, compared to 0% at the beginning of March.**



A well located in Grantham (Wayne County) is below normal for this time of year. All other wells in the state indicate **groundwater conditions are near or above normal, although levels are declining.**

Last Week's Drought Map



A PRODUCT OF **PROJECT NIGHTHAWK**
<https://climate.ncsu.edu/nighthawk>



Statewide Condition Summary

What's Changed? The state continues to be free of drought or Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions, according to the US Drought Monitor.

What's New? As spring has started to emerge across the state, so too has a shift in our weather pattern. Precipitation amounts have lagged for the past few weeks, and temperatures are warming. Though conditions are holding steady for now, there is the potential for things to dry out quickly in the coming weeks.

What's Next? Little precipitation (<0.5") is expected across the state over the next week, combined with a forecast for above-normal temperatures.

Statewide Coverage By Category

Category	Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	0.00%	0.00%
D1: Moderate Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D2: Severe Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%