

# North Carolina Drought Update

For the assessment period ending July 21, 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

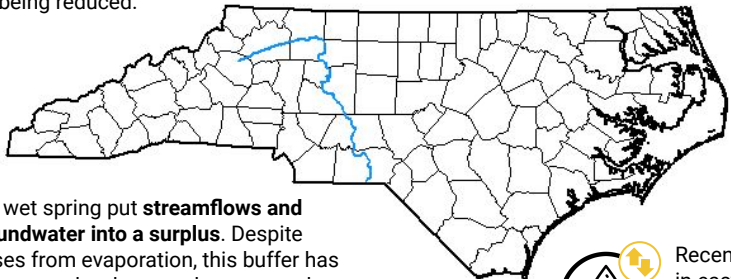
From the US Drought Monitor, authored by Richard Heim (NOAA/NESDIS/NCEI) with input from the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council ([ncdrought.org](http://ncdrought.org))



Reservoirs in the Piedmont are **maintaining target levels**, although inflows have declined and some downstream releases are being reduced.



Topsoil moisture remains mostly adequate, but in parts of the northern and central Coastal Plain, **soybean planting is delayed** while **corn and tobacco crops are wilting or fringing**.



Our wet spring put **streamflows and groundwater into a surplus**. Despite losses from evaporation, this buffer has kept recent levels at or above normal.



Recent rains have been spotty, especially in eastern NC. **Roanoke Rapids** is having its driest July on record, while **New Bern** is on pace for its 18th-wettest.

## Last Week's Drought Map



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



# Statewide Condition Summary

After another hot week with only scattered precipitation, conditions are drying out, but the state drought map remains blank. **So when does a summer weather pattern become abnormal dryness, or even drought?** Here are some signs:

### Summer Weather

### Abnormal Dryness

- Warrants routine irrigation of crops, lawns, and gardens → Needing to irrigate more often, or plants showing extra stress
- Brown grass and low creek levels after a few hot, dry days → Impacts lasting for a week or more, even after receiving rain
- A mix of wet and dry conditions from ag, fire, & hydro indicators → Multiple indicators converging on similar levels of dryness

Want to share impact reports to help monitor emerging dryness? Consider contributing them to the **CoCoRaHS Condition Monitoring** program at [www.cocorahs.org](http://www.cocorahs.org).



## January through June Statistics

Location	Precip. Departure from Normal	Mean Temp. Dep. from Normal
All of NC	+7.99 inches	+2.4°F
Mountains	+11.68 inches	+1.9°F
Piedmont	+8.06 inches	+2.3°F
Coastal Plain	+6.10 inches	+2.8°F