

North Carolina Drought Update

For the assessment period ending July 28, 2020

Statewide Condition Summary

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)

Reports indicate **pastures, vegetables, and corn crops** in the northeastern Piedmont are dry and stressed, especially in non-irrigated fields.



Over the past 1 to 4 weeks, **streamflow levels have dropped below normal** in the upper Tar and Chowan river basins.



Last week's rainfall helped keep **reservoirs at or above target levels** in the Mountains and western Piedmont.



Sites near the VA border from Granville through Gates counties have received **less than half of their normal rainfall** over the past month, including a quarter-inch or less last week.

Last Week's Drought Map



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



What's Changed? Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions are back in NC for the first time since early February.

What's New? The recent hot, dry weather in the northern Piedmont and Coastal Plain has caused ongoing agricultural impacts and declining streamflow levels. Other parts of eastern NC continue to show some signs of dryness, but it's most widespread and pronounced across the counties now classified in D0.

What's Next? Forecasts show better rain chances from a cold front tonight and Friday before warmer weather returns this weekend. The track of Tropical Storm Isaias in the Caribbean remains uncertain. NC could see some rain from it (or none at all) early next week.

Statewide Coverage By Category

Category	Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	9.61%	+9.61%
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%