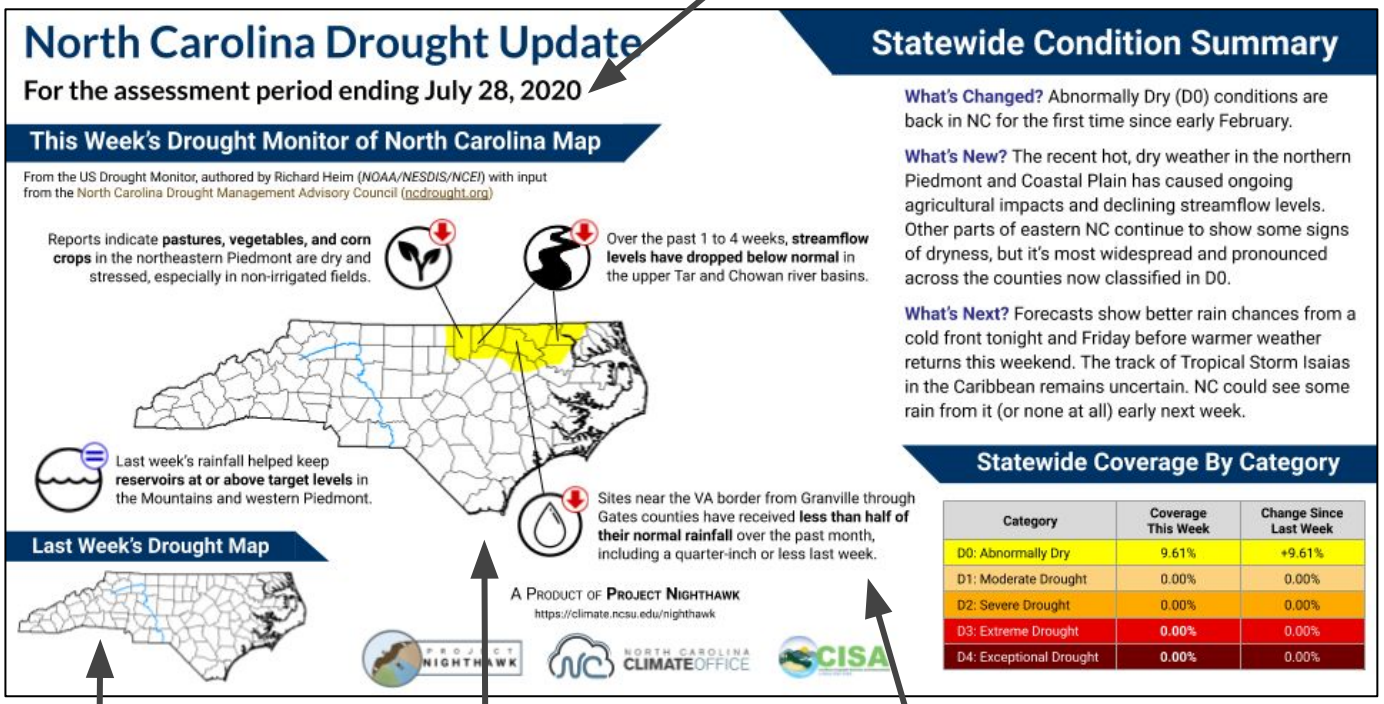
How It's Made: Drought Update Infographics

Example Infographic

The US Drought Monitor's weekly assessment period includes data through Tuesday morning.



Last week's US Drought Monitor map for North Carolina.

This week's US Drought Monitor map for North Carolina.

Indicators and impacts that explain the current drought status.

Key Elements

A summary of changes to the drought map over the past week and the current status across the state.

*Forecasts are **not** factored into the weekly drought status, but are included as a reference on these graphics based on user requests.*

The coverage of each US Drought Monitor classification, and percent changes from the previous week's map.

For more about our drought communication efforts including these infographics, visit: **https://climate.ncsu.edu/drought_comm**

The Drought Map Explained

North Carolina's drought monitoring process considers conditions across multiple sectors and timescales, from short-term (over the past week) to long-term (over the past 6 to 12 months). Key impacts are highlighted on each infographic with descriptions, icons, and tendency indicators.

Precipitation, including recent amounts and departures from normal

Reservoir levels and inflows compared to seasonal targets

River and streamflow levels, real-time and over the past 7 to 28 days

Soil moisture and groundwater conditions

Crop & vegetation reports from sources such as ag extension agents

Forest conditions such as seasonal green-up and leaf drop

Observed fire activity and estimated fire danger

Tendency Indicators

Improving dryness

Worsening dryness

Conditions holding steady

Mixed wet and dry conditions