



Fontana Lake, from CNY Hiking

Factsheet produced by:



Summary

A warm, dry start to 2007 continued through an even drier summer, and North Carolina entered one of its most severe droughts on record. Prolonged by high pressure overhead and a lack of tropical storms, drought persisted through spring 2009 in the Mountains.

Statistics

For North Carolina

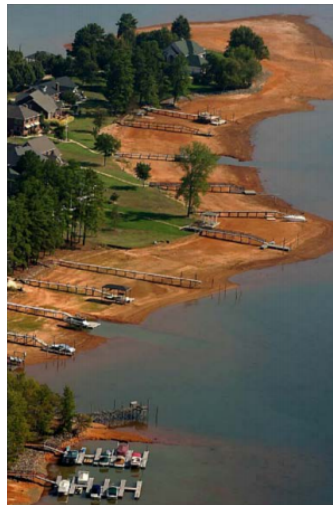


DM

2007 Winter	+2.3°	-2.2"	none
Spring	+1.2°	-3.9"	D0
Summer	+1.5°	-6.1"	D1
Fall	+2.7°	-3.3"	D3
2008 Winter	+3.4°	-1.4"	D4
Spring	+0.3°	-0.0"	D2
Summer	+1.0°	-2.2"	D1
Fall	-1.1°	+0.3"	none
2009 Winter	+1.4°	-3.0"	none
Spring	+0.6°	+2.0"	none

Narrative

Despite the weak El Niño pattern in place, the **2006-07 winter was unexpectedly dry**, and streamflows fell below normal in the Mountains by late February.



Lake Norman in Sep. 2007, from the Charlotte Observer

In May 2007, **Moderate Drought (D1) expanded eastward**, and several municipalities in the southern Piedmont introduced water conservation measures.

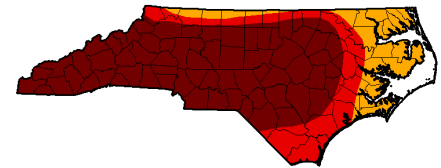
River levels in western NC reached record lows in August 2007 — the state's warmest August on record. With Severe Drought (D2) in place, 39 public water systems imposed water use restrictions.

Exceptional Drought (D4) was widespread by the fall as reservoirs in the Piedmont were up to 10 feet below normal pool levels. **By December 2007, 14 water systems in NC had supplies of less than 100 days remaining.**

A La Niña event in the 2007-08 winter **continued the warm, dry pattern** with high pressure over the Southeast US.

Spring rains alleviated drought in eastern NC, while the Mountains remained in Extreme or Exceptional Drought through summer 2008.

The first part of the state to enter the drought, **the Mountains were also the last to leave it** after a wet spring in 2009.



US Drought Monitor, Dec. 11, 2007

Timeline Legend



Statewide temperature and precipitation departures from 1901-2000 normal, from the National Centers for Environmental Information.

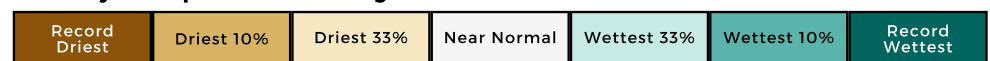
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Most common US Drought Monitor category in North Carolina, by area covered.

Monthly Temperature Rankings:



Monthly Precipitation Rankings:



US Drought Monitor Categories:

