

Factsheet produced by:



Falls Lake in October 2007, from the Associated Press

Summary

A multi-year, multi-state drought enveloped the Triangle of North Carolina in mid-summer 2007. It reached peak severity the following fall and winter as water supplies ran alarmingly low, and it did not fully fade away from the region until September 2008.

Statistics

For the Raleigh-Durham Airport



DM

2007 Winter	+2.2°	-1.9"	none
Spring	+1.7°	-1.5"	D0
Summer	+1.8°	-2.2"	D1
Fall	+3.0°	-3.4"	D3
2008 Winter	+3.2°	-0.9"	D4
Spring	+0.4°	+2.3"	D0
Summer	+1.5°	+3.5"	D1
Fall	-0.9°	+3.7"	none
2009 Winter	+1.8°	-2.5"	none
Spring	+2.3°	+2.4"	none

Narrative

After a warm, dry winter and spring, Moderate Drought (D1) first emerged in the Triangle in late May 2007. Initial impacts were mainly to agriculture, but **streamflows in the Haw River basin were below the 10th percentile** for the month of May.



Falls Lake in fall 2007, from the USDM

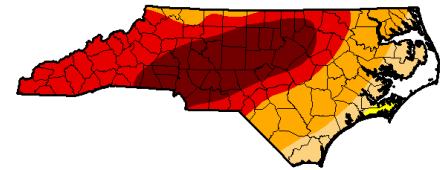
Amid Severe Drought (D2) and the 5th-warmest summer on record, Raleigh added **Stage 1 water restrictions** on August 28, and Durham implemented **Moderate Mandatory Water Conservation measures** on September 21.

From July through December 2007, Raleigh had just **39 days with measureable rainfall** — the 3rd-fewest on record during that six-month period.

At one point entering the winter, **Durham had just 38 days worth of water** left in its primary reservoir, while Falls Lake reached a record low level of 10 feet below full pond.

Exceptional Drought (D4) remained in the central Piedmont from mid-November through early March during a **dry La Niña winter**.

Drought ebbed and flowed in 2008, abating by late May before returning in another hot summer. Rain in late August, including from the remnants of Hurricane Fay, finally lifted the Triangle out of drought, although it remained in western NC through spring 2009.



US Drought Monitor, Feb. 26, 2008

Timeline Legend



Temp. and precip. departures from 1901-2000 normal for the Raleigh-Durham Airport, from the National Centers for Environmental Information.

DM

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

Monthly Temperature Rankings:



Monthly Precipitation Rankings:



US Drought Monitor Categories:

