

How It's Made: Short-Range Outlooks for North Carolina

Example Weekly Forecast

Week 1:

August 20 to 26, 2020



Warming Up Early Next Week



Lingering cloud cover will keep highs in the low 80s today and Friday. The Bermuda high pressure system will slide closer to the coast this weekend, and temperatures should again reach the 90s in eastern NC by Monday.

Wet Through Friday, Then Drier



A slow-moving front will support widespread shower and thunderstorm activity today and Friday, especially at the coast. Behind that front, expect mostly drier weather through next week as high pressure builds in.

Forecast Confidence



Some showers could linger into Saturday, but after that, most forecasts agree on a drier, hotter week ahead.

Main Elements

Each outlook covers 4 weeks across 3 separate panels: **Week 1**, **Week 2**, and **Weeks 3-4**.

Forecast maps show weather systems expected to affect North Carolina during this period, including high/low pressure systems, fronts, tropical storms, and potential sources of moisture or dry air.

Text summaries describe potential temperature and precipitation patterns in NC, including expected conditions (e.g., high temperatures and rainfall amounts/coverage) or areas of uncertainty in the forecast.

Forecast confidence is given on a scale from 1 (Very Low) to 5 (Very High), as assessed from NWS and CPC forecast discussions.

Data Sources Used

Week 1

- Forecasts from NWS offices covering NC, including their area forecast discussions (www.weather.gov)
- National forecast charts from the NWS Weather Prediction Center (www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov)
- National Hurricane Center's areas of interest and discussions (www.nhc.noaa.gov)
- Computer model forecasts including from the American/GFS, Canadian, and European models to help assess forecast confidence and areas of uncertainty (more about modeling at www.weather.gov/jetstream/models)

Week 2

- Climate Prediction Center's 8-14 day outlook and discussion (www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)
- Medium-range model forecasts and ensembles to assess model agreement and timing of potential weather systems (more about ensembles at www.metoffice.gov.uk/research/weather/ensemble-forecasting/what-is-an-ensemble-forecast)

Weeks 3-4

- Climate Prediction Center's week 3-4 outlook and discussion (www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov)
- Climate Forecast System's weekly forecasts for temperature, precipitation, and jet stream patterns (www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/people/mchen/CFSv2FCST/weekly/)

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