

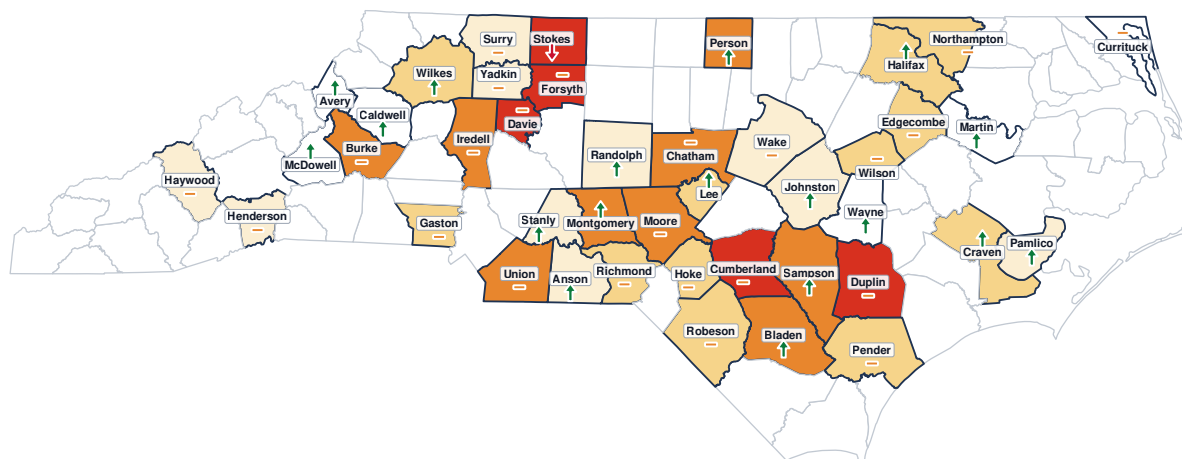
DROUGHT IMPACT (COUNTY REPORTED)

- Exceptional Drought
- Extreme Drought
- Severe Drought
- Moderate Drought
- Abnormally Dry
- No mapped response

COMMENT SIGNAL

- Worsening / crop stress intensifying
- Some relief / conditions improving
- Uneven rainfall / mixed conditions
- Persistent drought / little change

COUNTY-REPORTED DROUGHT IMPACT



STATEWIDE TRENDS

- Recent heavy, localized rainfall across many counties has provided short-term relief and improved soil moisture and pastures.
- Drought-stressed corn—particularly early-planted fields—may not recover in some counties despite recent rains.
- Forage and pasture growth have improved where rain fell, but deficits persist in many areas and regrowth is uneven.
- Pond and stream levels remain low in several counties and at least one county is discussing possible water restrictions.
- Tobacco growers report mixed effects from recent weather, with some fields improving and others harmed by too much or poorly timed rain.

TOP STATEWIDE CONCERNS

- Uneven rainfall distribution
- Persistent extreme/severe drought pockets
- Low pond and stream levels
- Irrecoverable early-planted corn
- Blueberry and specialty crop losses
- Potential water restrictions

REGIONAL SUMMARIES

WEST / MOUNTAINS & FOOTHILLS

Avery, Burke, Caldwell, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Iredell, McDowell, Wilkes

- Conditions range from abnormally dry to severe drought, with counties such as Burke and Iredell reporting severe drought.
- Recent rounds of rain have greened up crops and relieved immediate drought stress in many areas.
- Surface water and pond levels remain below normal and some early-planted corn is unlikely to recover.

PIEDMONT / SANDHILLS

Anson, Chatham, Cumberland, Davie, Forsyth, Hoke, Lee, Montgomery, Moore, Person, Randolph, Richmond, Stanly, Stokes, Surry, Union, Wake, Yadkin

- A large portion of the region remains in extreme or severe drought (examples include Cumberland, Davie, Forsyth, Stokes, Chatham, Montgomery, Moore, Person, Union).
- Localized heavy rainfall (Chatham 3.53–4.35 in; Davie near 6 in; Montgomery 2–5+ in) improved soil moisture and pastures in many places.
- Despite recent rains, drought-stressed corn and soybeans and delayed forage recovery remain concerns for many producers.

NORTH & CENTRAL COASTAL PLAIN

Craven, Currituck, Edgecombe, Halifax, Johnston, Martin, Northampton, Pamlico, Wayne, Wilson

- Most reports are Moderate Drought or Abnormally Dry, with some counties reporting no mapped response.
- Recent 2–5 inch rainfall events improved topsoil moisture across parts of the region, though some crops (e.g., corn in Craven) saw limited benefit.
- Some counties (for example Johnston) report being largely out of drought declaration but still below normal for the year.

SOUTHEAST COASTAL PLAIN

Bladen, Duplin, Pender, Robeson, Sampson

- The region shows a mix of severe and extreme drought conditions (Bladen, Duplin, Sampson) with uneven impacts across the area.
- Recent rains eased drought for some producers but totals were highly variable within counties (Robeson reports 0.2 to over 5 inches).
- Bladen reports blueberry field losses and ongoing plant health/yield concerns; pond and irrigation levels remain low in parts of the region.

COUNTY COMMENT HIGHLIGHTS (selected notes from impact and additional comments)

Bladen

Showers last week improved plant progress, with a couple inches of rain in some areas, but overall negative; cotton and soybean crops helped, while blueberry fields show significant plant losses with season over and implications for next year.

Davie

We received much needed rain last week, with some places near 6 inches, which should help crops and pastures.

Forsyth

Crops are behind where they should be at this time.

Henderson

Recent rains helped relieve immediate drought concerns, though water levels have not returned to normal.

Iredell

Recent rains have helped many crops including soybeans and late planted corn; early corn is too late in the season to recover.

Martin

We had good rainfall last Thursday through Saturday, with 3 to 5 inches in places; timely rains are needed to continue.

McDowell

Recent rounds of rain have helped green things up.

Sampson

Recent rains have eased the drought with some excess rain for tobacco, leaving growers needing less water and boosting moisture to grow and fill irrigation ponds.

Stokes

Crops are behind where they should be at this time.

Surry

Drought conditions improved with rain, though middle and southern Yadkin counties still show worse crop conditions; Surry and northern Yadkin look good.

Wake

Significant rainfall occurred countywide last week, with most producers receiving at least 1"; I-40 corridor areas saw the most rain, outskirts less, and growers with higher rainfall want it to dry out to prevent flooding.