NC STATE EXTENSION

North Carolina Weekly Crop Survey — November 1, 2026

Drought Impact Analysis From Extension Agents Across the State

38 RESPONSES | **39** COUNTIES MAPPED

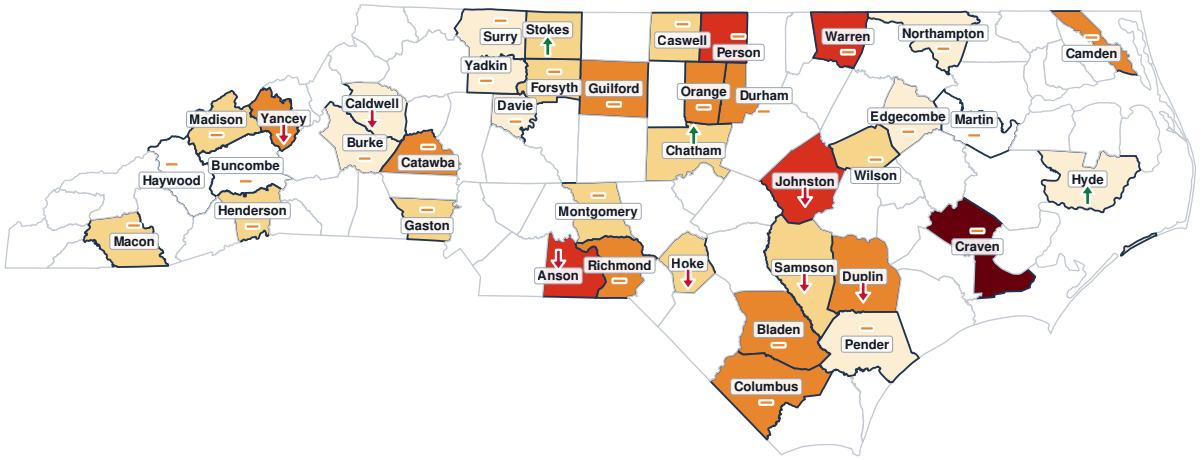
DROUGHT IMPACT (COUNTY REPORTED)

- 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

- Many counties report little to no measurable rainfall recently, leaving soils dry and surface water levels low.
- Pasture and fall forage growth is widely reduced and producers in several counties are feeding stored hay.
- Fall planting and cover-crop establishment are delayed across numerous counties because soils are too hard or too dry to plant.
- Corn and soybean harvests are progressing in some areas, but dry conditions are limiting planting and establishment of small grains for next season.

TOP STATEWIDE CONCERNS

- Pasture and hay shortages
- Delayed wheat/cover-crop planting
- Low surface and groundwater levels
- Reduced fall forage growth
- Increased reliance on irrigation where available
- Crop yield impacts from prolonged dryness

REGIONAL SUMMARIES

WEST / MOUNTAINS & FOOTHILLS

Buncombe, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Gaston, Haywood, Henderson, Macon, Madison, Yancey

- Dry conditions have slowed fall forage growth and in places left soils too hard to plant wheat or small grains.
- Pastures are stressed and some producers are feeding hay; several counties report worsening drought with severe pockets in Yancey and Catawba.

PIEDMONT / SANDHILLS

Anson, Caswell, Chatham, Davie, Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, Hoke, Montgomery, Orange, Person, Richmond, Stokes, Surry, Yadkin

- Pasture recovery and winter small-grain establishment are limited; extreme conditions reported in Anson and Person.
- Livestock producers report reduced grazing and increased hay use; recent light rains provided only limited relief while harvest continues.

NORTH & CENTRAL COASTAL PLAIN

Camden, Craven, Edgecombe, Hyde, Johnston, Martin, Northampton, Warren, Wilson

- Water levels and soil moisture are very low in parts of the region, with rivers/ponds/groundwater notably depleted in some counties.
- Multiple counties report extreme to exceptional drought (Craven, Johnston, Warren), delaying fall plantings even as harvest proceeds.

SOUTHEAST COASTAL PLAIN

Bladen, Columbus, Duplin, Pender, Sampson

- Most counties are severely dry with very dry topsoil that is delaying wheat, rye, and cover crop germination and establishment.
- Growers are awaiting rain to establish fall/winter crops; irrigated fields show better regrowth where irrigation is available.

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

Anson

Still dry. Planting grain is too dry to plant. Winter grazing is happening but with the dryness not is will not yield much. Hay crops were low due to drought. Hurting small grains and fescue pastures.

Bladen

Very dry on the topsoil. Subsoil moistures are holding steady with cooler temperatures. Remaining crops in the fields have reached maturity and are preparing to be harvested. Blueberry regrowth is coming along especially under irrigation. The last of Cotton and Soybeans are preparing to be harvested. Wheat planting is continuing with hopes of some rain showers later this week.

Chatham

Chatham County received no measurable rainfall over the past week, leaving pastures and crops in continued need of moisture. Consistent rainfall is urgently needed to replenish soil moisture and help mitigate ongoing agricultural losses from the prolonged drought.

Craven

Rivers, ponds and groundwater very low. Fall plantings delayed due to lack of soil water.

Edgecombe

Soil is dry, some rain has come through over the past weeks but not enough to fully fill water reservoirs. Agriculture crops not affected at this point due to crops being harvested/having already been harvested. Current drought/lack of soil moisture issues will likely stem into how next planting season will go.

Johnston

Today marks 15 days without enough rain to slow harvesting. Soils are extremely dry, and wheat farmers are waiting for rain to plant. Today marks 15 days without enough rain to slow harvesting. Soils are extremely dry, and wheat farmers are waiting for rain to plant. We are 25-26% below normal for the year.

Richmond

No rain within the past couple of weeks has brought drought conditions back to most of the county.

Warren

Persistent severe to extreme drought conditions across Warren County severely depleted soil moisture, hindering fall forage establishment and dryland field performance. Consequently, pasture growth remains significantly curtailed

Yancey

We are continuing to undergo very dry condition, and have not had any rainfall in the county again over the past week. Surface streams are significantly low and we are very legitimate concerned regarding the impacts of drought conditions on pastures and other fall/winter crops. Due to the season, vegetable crops are limited to those produced in hi-tunnels and greenhouses.

Map reflects county-reported drought classifications from the November 1, 2026 survey. Comment signal summarizes the tone of county narrative responses. Counties without a clearly mapped report remain unshaded. Full map: https://ncdisaster.ces.ncsu.edu/drought-map/