



Drought Information Statement for Central South Carolina and East Central Georgia

Valid July, 26, 2024

Issued By: WFO Columbia, SC

Contact Information:

- This product will be updated August 1, 2024 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
 - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
 - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/cae/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
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- Extreme Drought continues across the Pee Dee of South Carolina with severe drought across much of the Midlands. Although the area of both extreme and severe drought diminished slightly over the past 7 days.



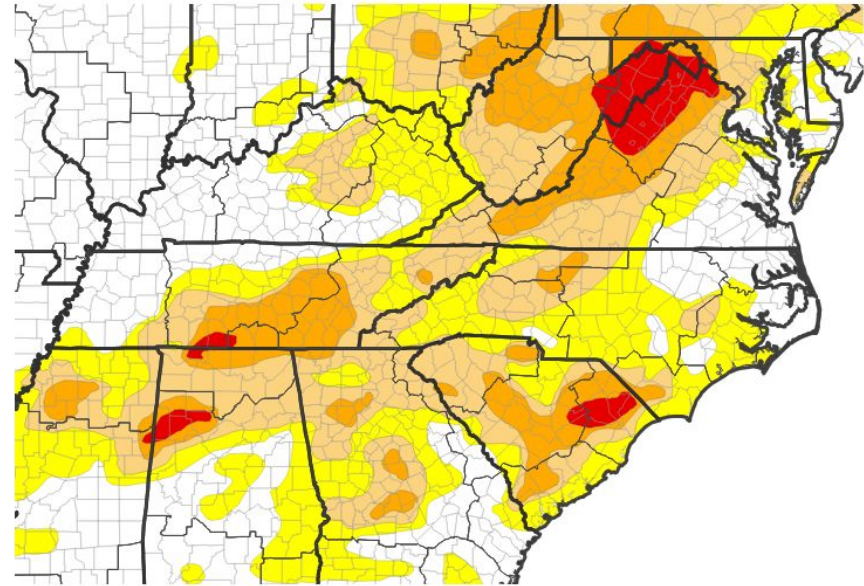


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for the Southeast

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought)**: None
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought)**: Lee, Sumter and Clarendon counties.
 - **D2 (Severe Drought)**: Newberry, Saluda, Richland, Lexington, Calhoun, Orangeburg counties.
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: McCormick, Aiken, Edgefield, Bamberg, Chesterfield counties.
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry)**: Lancaster, Barnwell, Fairfield, Kershaw, Lincoln, Columbia counties.

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 07/23/24



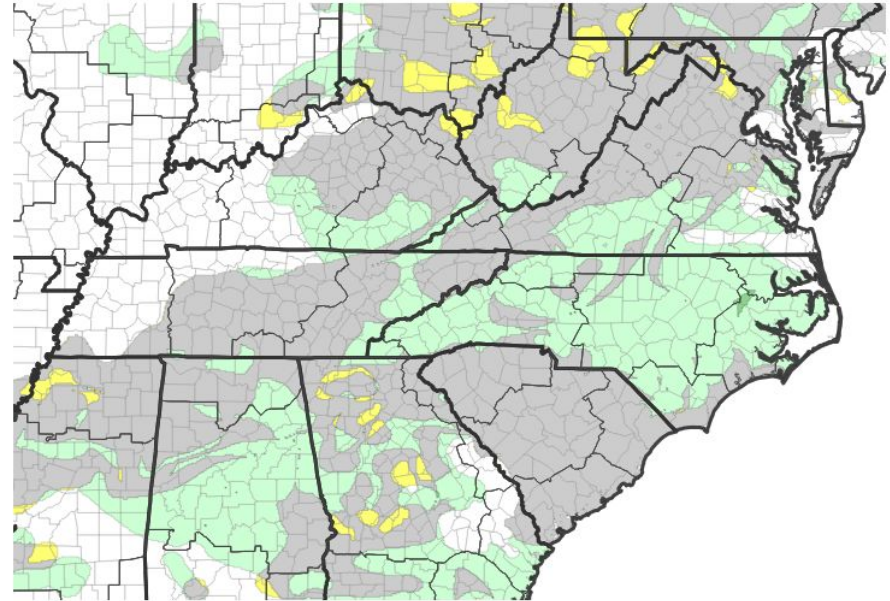


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

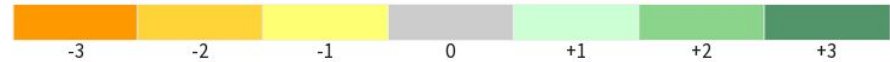
Link to the latest [4-week change map](#) for the Southeast

- Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change.
 - Drought Improved: Across portions of Burke and Lincoln counties.
 - No Change: Across most of South Carolina.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



Drought Change Since Last Week



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 07/23/24

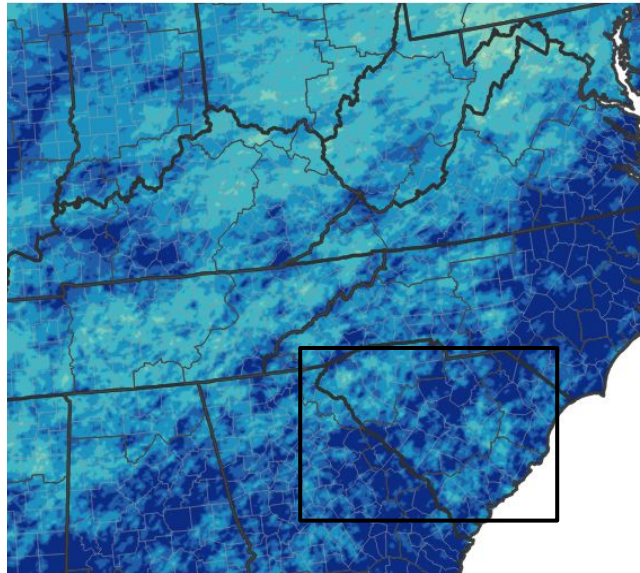




Precipitation

- Widely scattered convection produced beneficial rainfall across much of the Midlands and Central Savannah River Area. Some portions of the eastern Midlands still showing below average precipitation.

Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

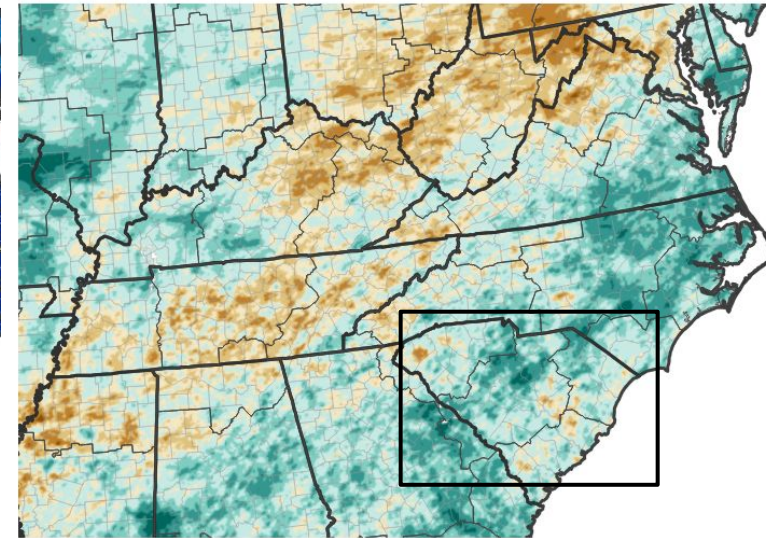


Precipitation

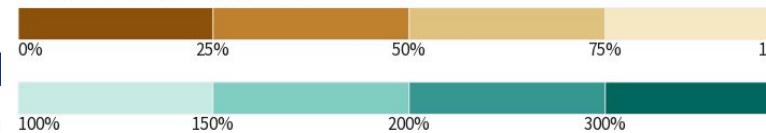


National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; Last Updated: 07/20/2015
 Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; Last Updated: 07/20/2015
 Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

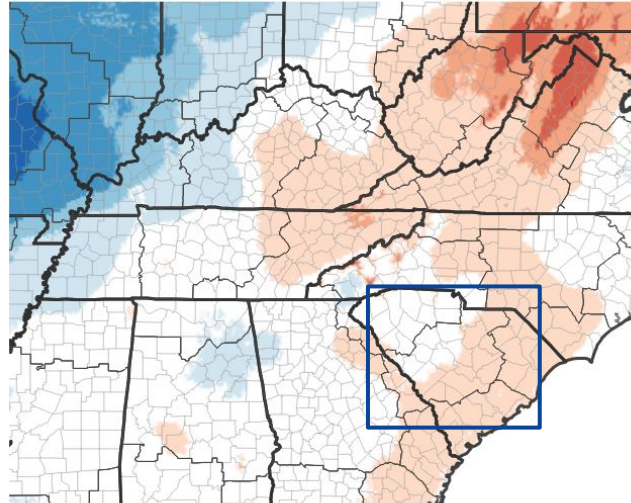




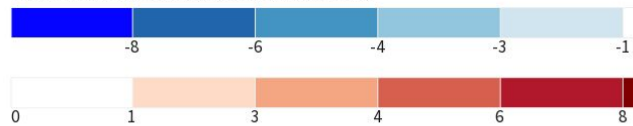
Temperature

- While the seven day temperature anomaly has not been as significant as the 30 day, a prolonged period of higher than normal temperatures and below normal rainfall has allowed the drought to persist.

7-Day Temperature Anomaly

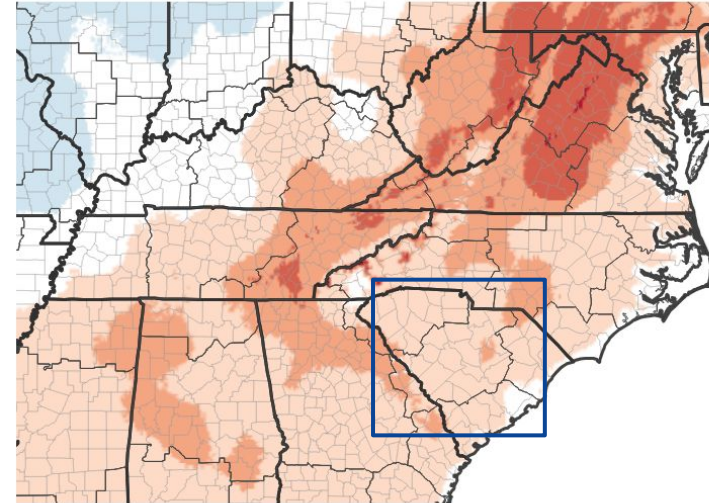


Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

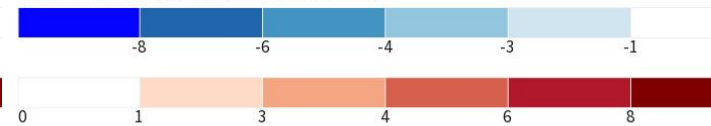


Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image Data Valid: 07
courtesy of Drought.gov





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

- Streamflows have improved across many river basins in the Midlands. Especially across the Stevens Creek, Congaree and portions of the Catawba River Basin. Flows remain reduced along the Edisto River and Lynches River Basins.
- The reduced streamflows have had a gradual impact in reservoir pool levels. However, most reservoirs are within the expected levels for mid-summer.

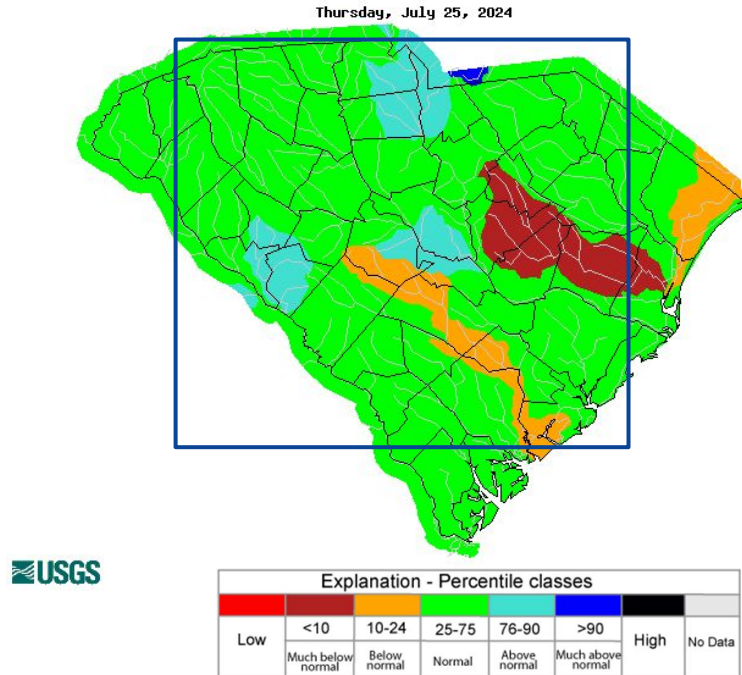


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid 07/25/2024

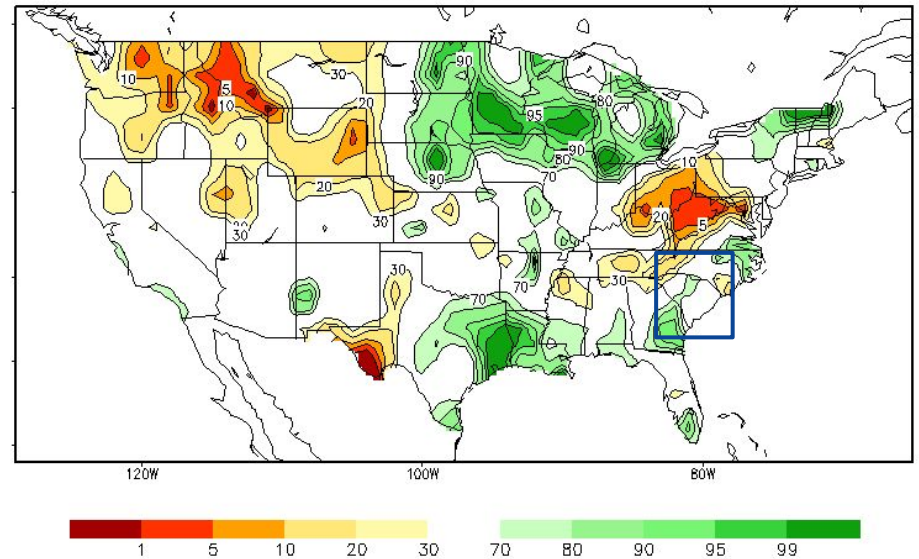




Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moisture has improved across much of the Midlands and Central Savannah River Area.
- Soil moisture is slightly above normal across the central Midlands and southern CSRA.
- The remainder of the area has soil moisture conditions that are close to normal. Even with the recent rainfall, corn and pasture crops have been especially hard hit by the dry and hot conditions.

Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile
JUL 25, 2024

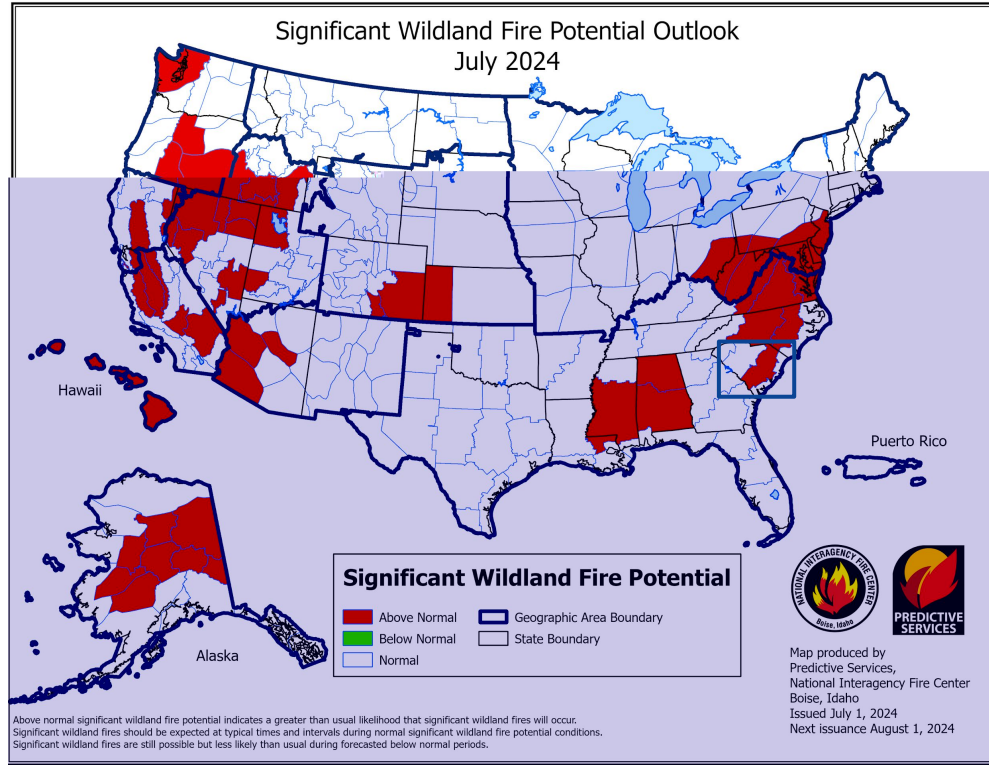




Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.](#)

- Due to the lack of rainfall and above normal temperatures, there is an Above Normal potential for Significant Wildland Fire across the eastern portion of South Carolina for July.





Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows have improved across portions of the Carolinas and Georgia. Most reservoir pool levels are close to their guide curves for the middle of summer. Pool levels are slightly lower along the Savannah River Lakes.

Agricultural Impacts

- Much of the Agricultural Community emphasized that the recent rainfall was too little too late for many of the area farmers. Row crop producers have been greatly affected by the drought, this includes corn and pasture conditions. Soybean, cotton and peanuts will possibly see reduced production. However, recent rainfall gives hope to certain producers to still make a crop for those commodities.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- SC Forestry Commission for the week ending July 21st, responded to 22 wildfires that burned just over 77 acres. Due to the recent rainfall, fire occurrence has been lower and much closer to normal levels.

Mitigation Actions

- SC Department of Environmental Services reported that some water systems have implemented proactive measures to avoid supply issues.

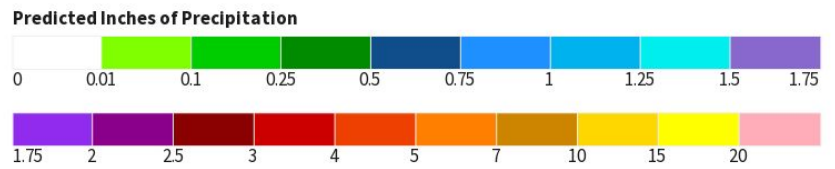
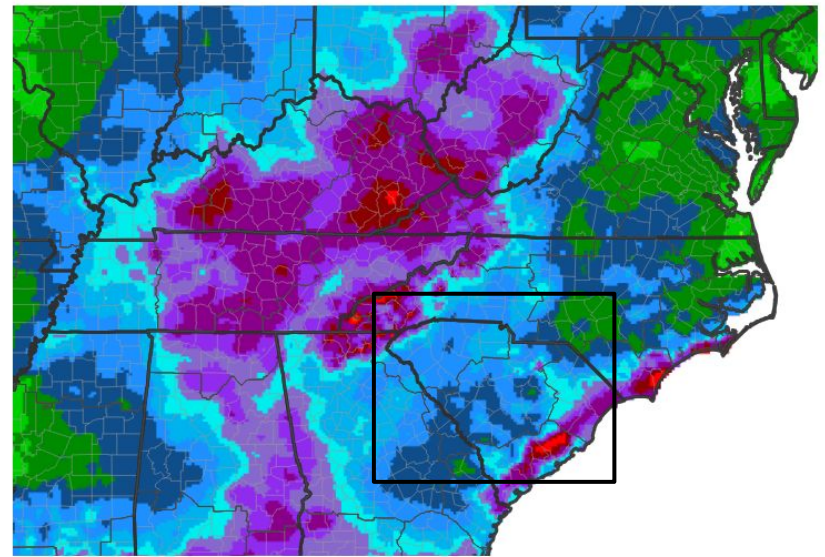




Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- The weather pattern looks to be in a more typical summer-time pattern over the next 7 days.
- Precipitation amounts will be lower than the past 7 days, but amounts should range from 0.50 inch up to 1.00 inch with afternoon and evening showers and thunderstorms each day.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast



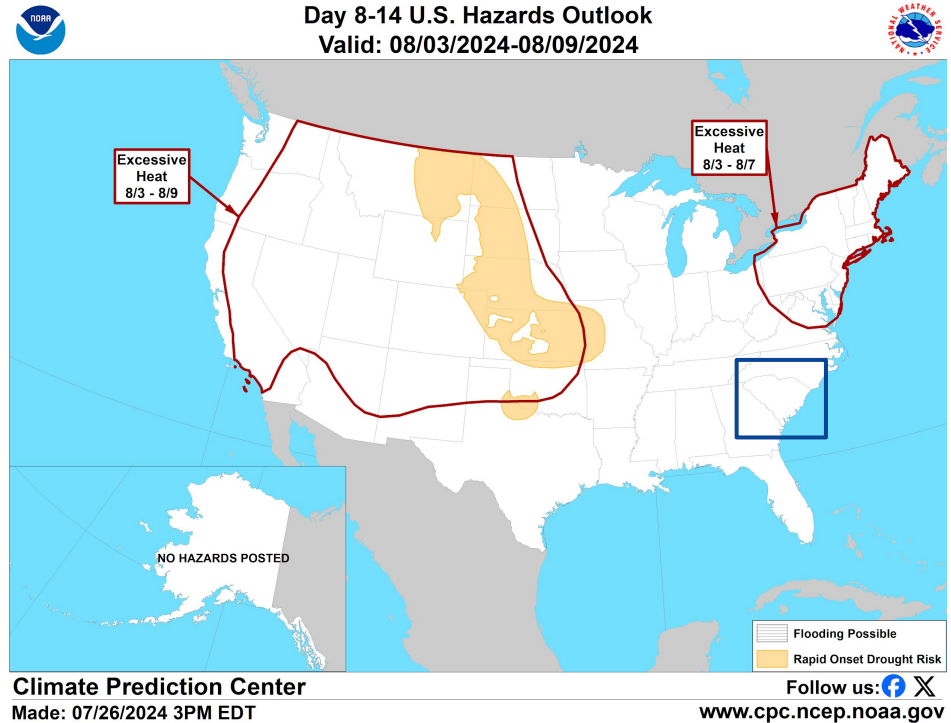
Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 07/26/24



Rapid Onset Drought Outlook

Links to the latest Climate Prediction Center 8 to 14 day [Temperature Outlook](#) and [Precipitation Outlook](#).

- A gradual expansion of the current rapid onset drought is forecast over the southeast.



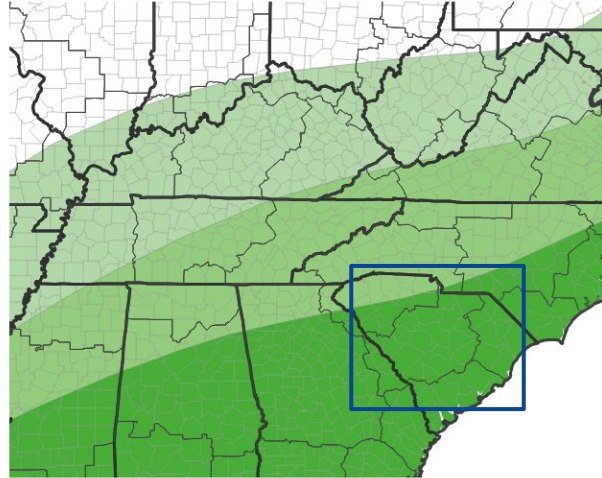


Long-Range Outlooks

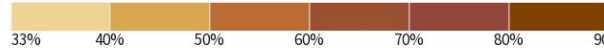
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- The Outlook for the remainder of July indicates a continuation of Above Normal Temperatures along with a better chance of Above Normal Precipitation.

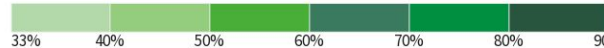
Monthly Precipitation Outlook



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

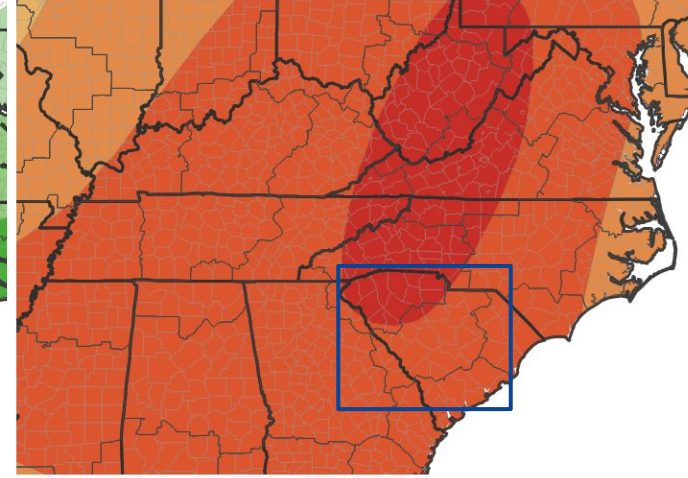


Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Monthly Temperature Outlook



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 07/1



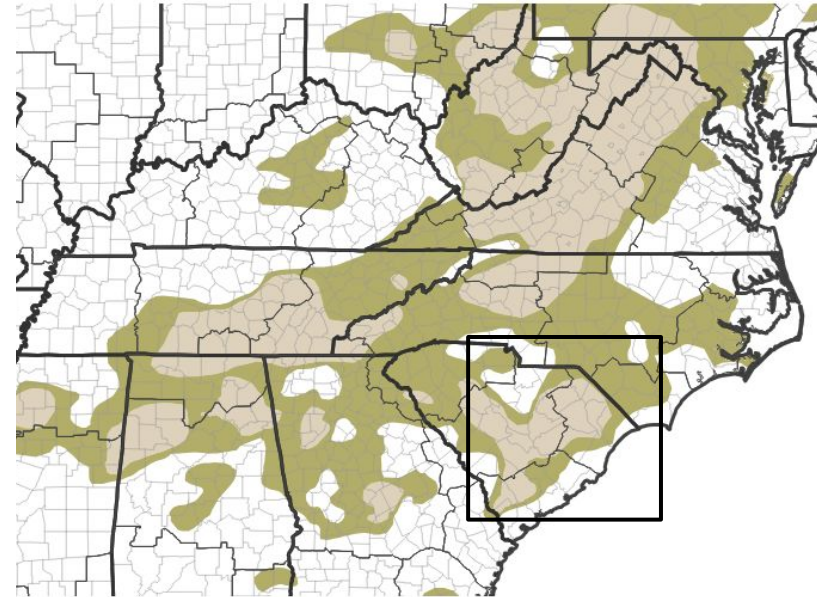


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- The Drought Outlook calls for the drought to improve or end in areas over the next 3 months.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook



Drought Is Predicted To...



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 07/1

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

