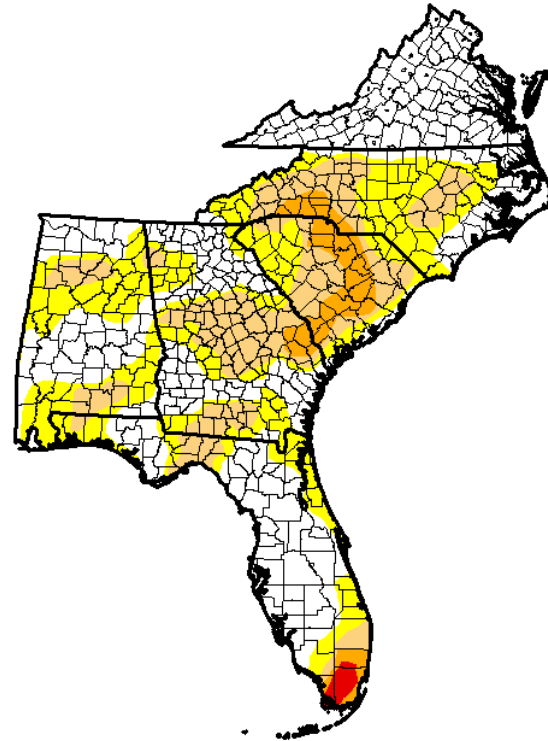




# Emergence of moderate-to-severe drought across the Carolinas (summer 2015)



**August 18, 2015**

*(Released Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015)*

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



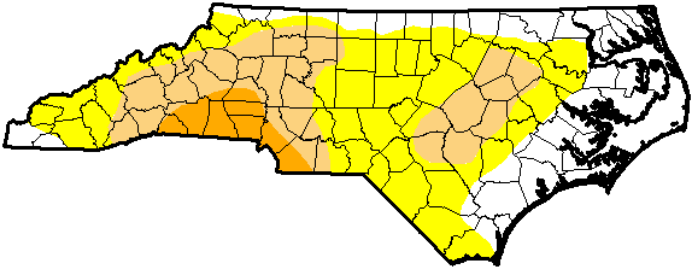
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Jordan T. McLeod

Southeast Regional Climate Center

# Current state of the drought (as of August 18th)

## U.S. Drought Monitor North Carolina



**August 18, 2015**  
(Released Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	27.03	72.97	31.03	5.77	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 8/11/2015	35.16	64.84	22.77	5.17	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 5/19/2015	89.26	10.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 12/02/2014	81.21	18.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 9/30/2014	89.24	10.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 8/19/2014	90.56	9.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

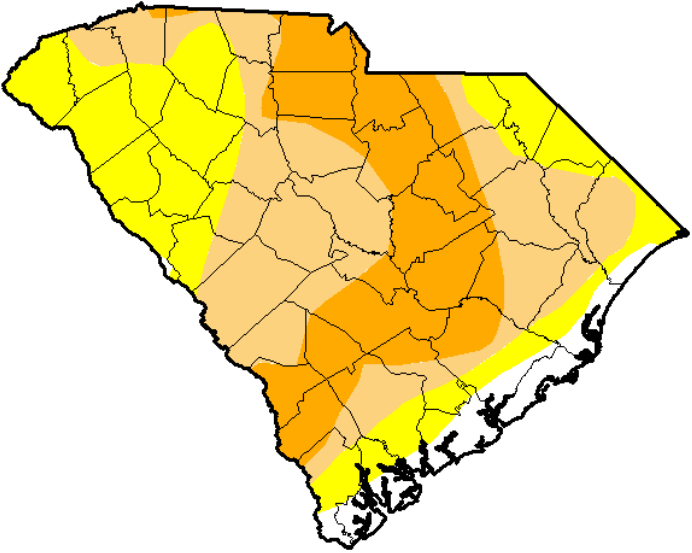
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

**Author:**  
Chris Fenimore  
NCEI/NESDIS/NOAA



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

## U.S. Drought Monitor South Carolina



**August 18, 2015**  
(Released Thursday, Aug. 20, 2015)  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	6.85	93.15	63.79	27.73	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> 8/11/2015	7.16	92.84	63.79	23.48	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 5/19/2015	99.71	0.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 12/02/2014	96.63	3.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 9/30/2014	47.90	52.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> 8/19/2014	91.73	8.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

**Author:**  
Chris Fenimore  
NCEI/NESDIS/NOAA



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

# How did this drought develop?

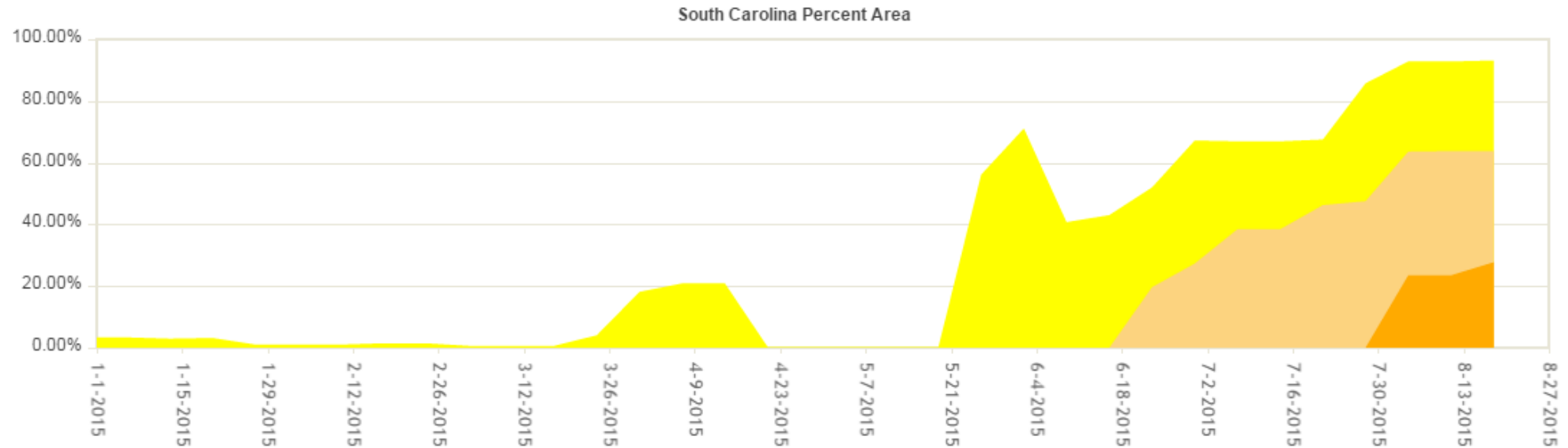
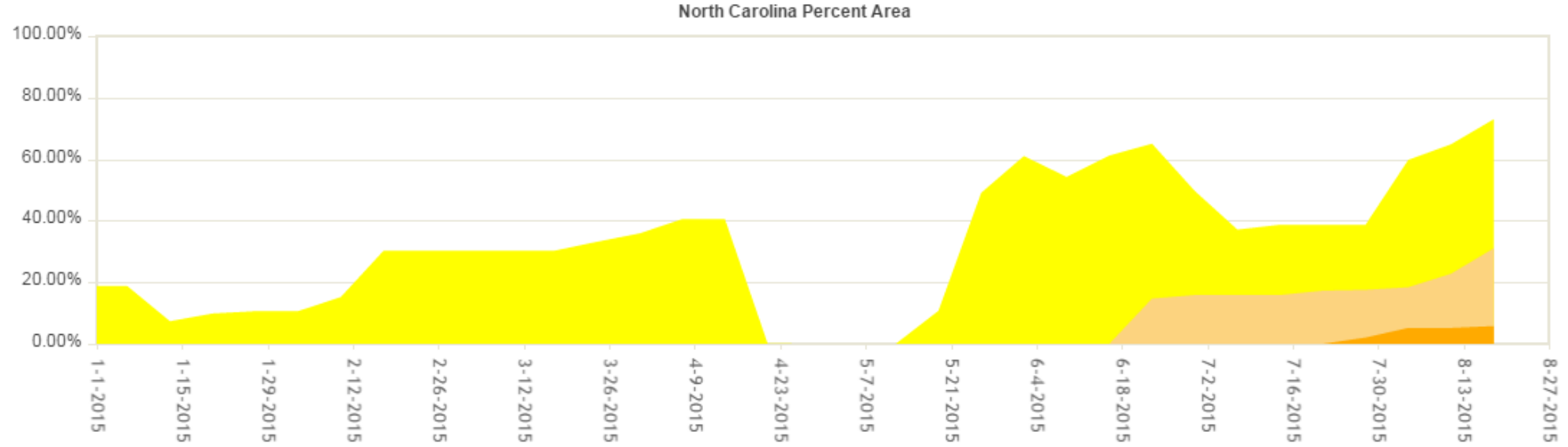


Image credit:  
U.S. Drought  
Monitor

# 90-day observed precipitation and departures from normal

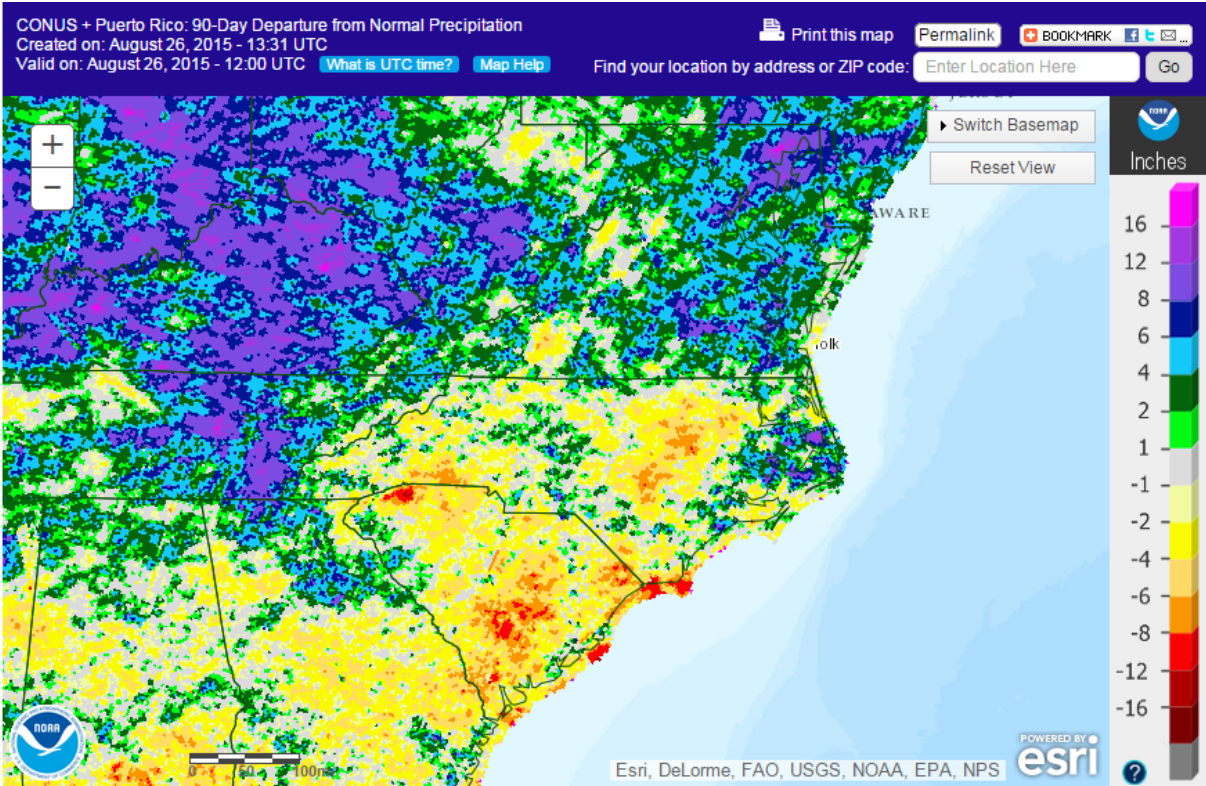
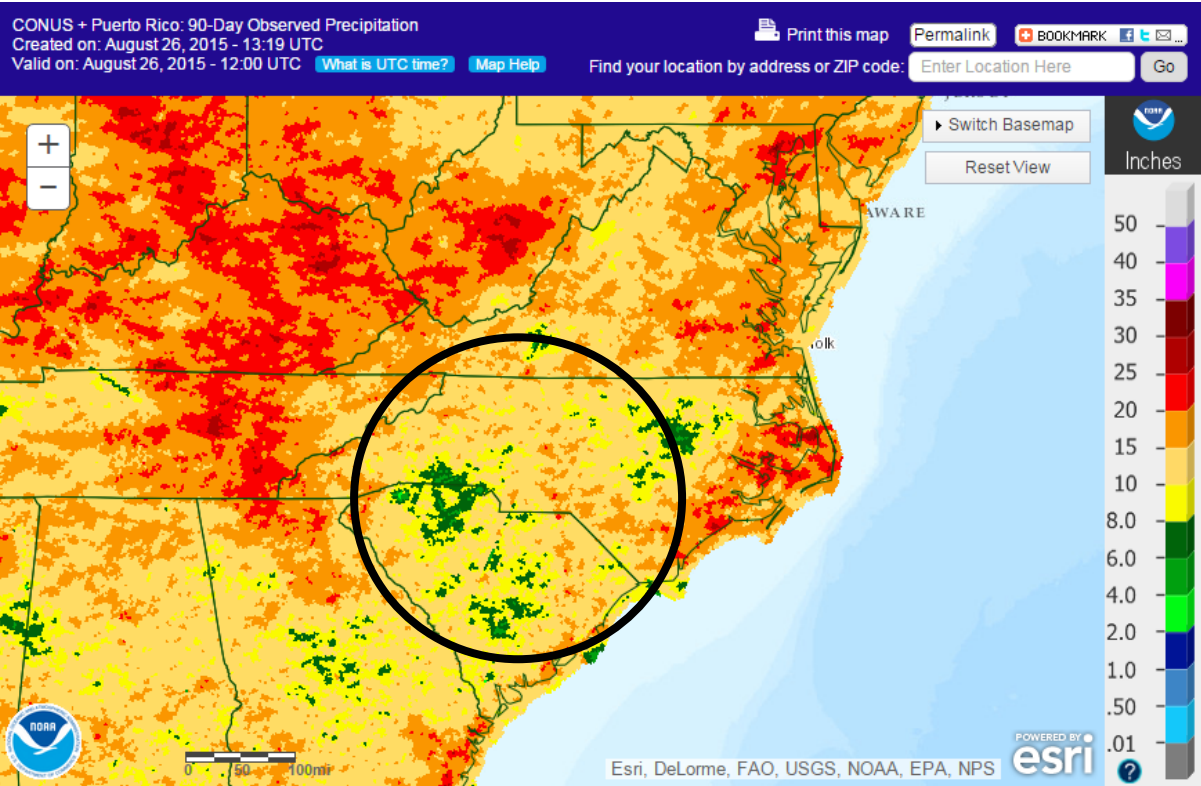


Image credit: NWS Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service

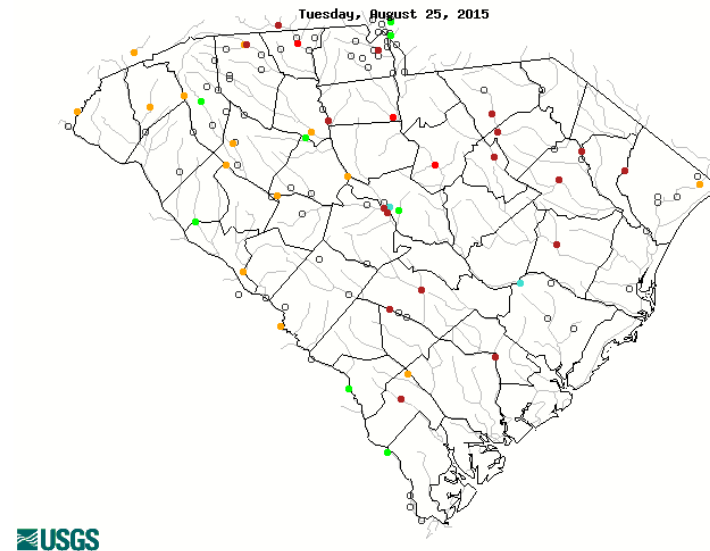
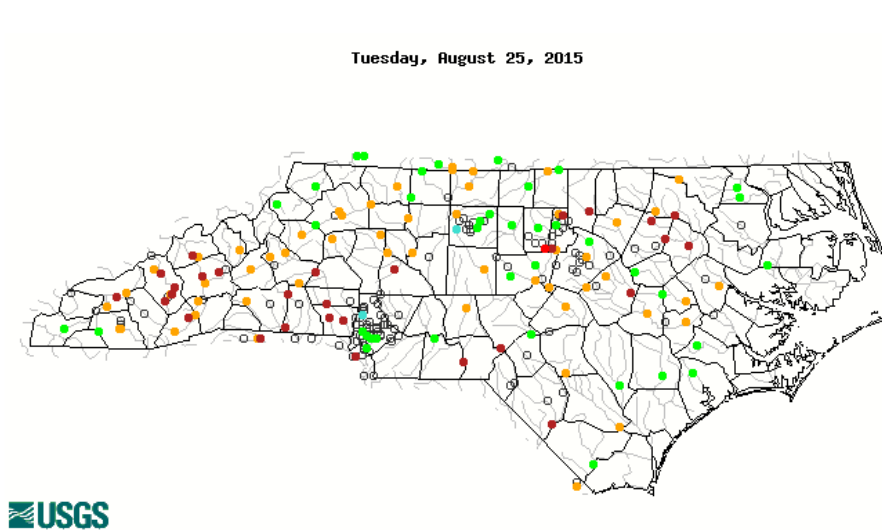
July was an especially dry month across much of the central Carolinas...

July 2015	Observed	Departure from normal	Ranking
Charlotte, NC	1.21"	-2.5"	5th driest (137-year POR)
Columbia, SC	1.53"	-3.9"	9th driest (129-year POR)
Greenville-Spartanburg, SC	1.52"	-3.3"	6th driest (130-year POR)
Hickory, NC	0.92"	-3.5"	2nd driest (66-year POR)

Data source: xmACIS2

# Drought Impacts

- Numerous crops are struggling in non-irrigated fields across the central Carolinas, including soybeans, cotton, corn, peanuts, and tobacco.
- Streamflow in the Catawba, Broad, and Pee Dee river basins is well below normal.
- Limited water restrictions are in place across the region, and there is some concern for Charlotte's water supply.



Explanation - Percentile classes							
<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: red;">●</span>	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>	<span style="color: green;">●</span>	<span style="color: cyan;">●</span>	<span style="color: blue;">●</span>	<span style="color: black;">●</span>	<span style="color: gray;">○</span>
Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High	Not-ranked