



CISA

A NOAA RISA TEAM

May 2018

CISA & CoCoRaHS Condition Monitoring Newsletter

This month's newsletter includes:

- A Memorial Day Climatology
- Information about our next Carolinas' Condition Monitoring Observer Call
- A Southeast Regional Climate Update
- Observer Spotlight: Nancy Brett of Dorchester County, SC

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at cisa@sc.edu if you have any other questions or comments.

It's Heating Up: Memorial Day Climatology

As you head out to a local parade or event honoring the fallen members of our armed forces, you could be experiencing a variety of weather here in the Carolinas.

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According to the North Carolina State Climate Office, the hottest Memorial Days on record were 2004 in Walterboro, SC with a high of 94 °F and 1982 in New Bern Craven, NC with a high of 95 °F.

It might also be cold! In 1974, Grandfather Mt, NC experienced a low of 39 °F. In South Carolina, which doesn't have the higher elevations that NC does, the coldest Memorial Day only had a low of 52 °F.

Keep an eye on the rain forecast because it has been known to get pretty rainy on Memorial Day. In 1973, during a dangerous outbreak of tornadoes, both NC and SC experienced record amounts of precipitation. Rosman, NC received 8.47 inches. Long Creek, SC had the record in South Carolina, but was slightly lower with 6.35 inches.

Be sure to submit your Condition Monitoring reports for Memorial Day weekend so we can continue these holiday records. You can also submit photos this weekend to CoCoRaHS as part of their Field Photos Weekend campaign. Learn more [here](#).

We hope you have a beautiful, warm, and safe holiday!

**Condition Monitoring Observer
Conference Call**



Lower water at Tar River in Nash Co. NC. Photo Courtesy of Christopher Lumpp

Join us for our next Carolinas Condition Monitoring Observer call on Tuesday June 12th from 9 - 10 a.m.

The Carolinas Pilot Condition Monitoring Project is officially coming to a close! Come hear about future plans for the program at a national scale and opportunities to continue to interact with the CISA team. We will also discuss some feedback results from local decision makers who use the reports!

The conference call is open to all North and South Carolina CoCoRaHS volunteers so that you have an opportunity to provide any additional information you would like to share with us and to give you an opportunity to talk with one another about your experiences as CoCoRaHS observers and condition monitoring reporters.

NC & SC CoCoRaHS Volunteer Conference Call

Tuesday, June 12, 2018

9:00 p.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Toll Free Number: (312) 757-3121

When prompted, please enter the access code: 402-526-661

Southeast Regional Climate Update

The [Southeast Regional Climate Center](#) has released the [April 2018 Climate Report](#). Highlights include:

Temperatures ranged from well below average to average across much of the Southeast region during April, but above-average temperatures were observed in central and southern Florida.

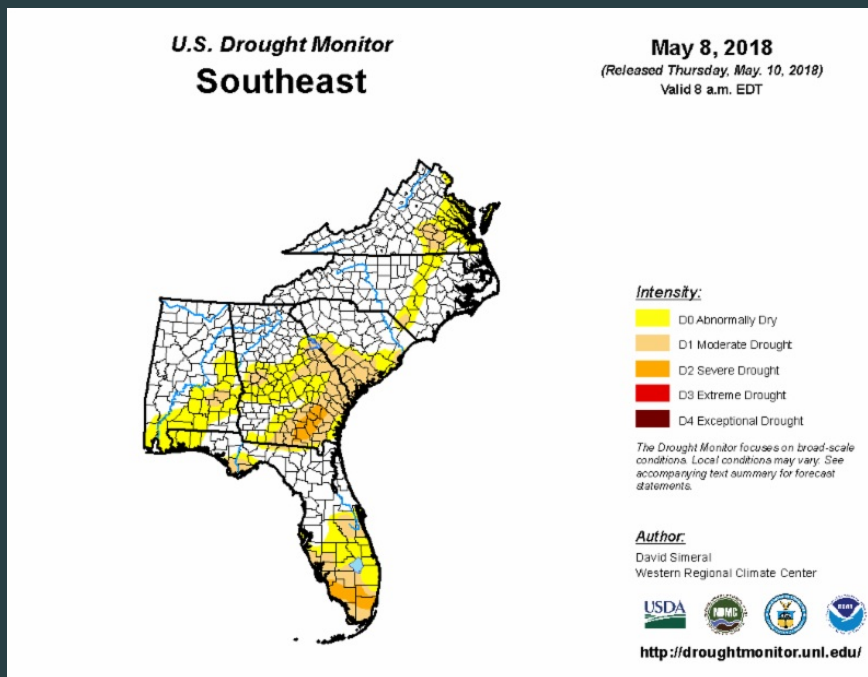
Precipitation was near normal to well above normal across much of the Southeast region during April. Monthly precipitation totals ranged from 150 to more than 300 percent of normal in broad portions of every state and northwestern Puerto Rico.

Significant drought improvement occurred across much of the Southeast during the month, as above-normal precipitation

reduced the coverage of moderate-to-severe (D1- D2) drought conditions from 26 percent on April 3rd to 14 percent on May 1st. Moderate drought was eliminated from the D.C. area and was almost completely removed from Alabama. The greatest drought improvement occurred in South Carolina and Georgia, where the coverage of moderate-to-severe drought fell 27 and 23 percentage points, respectively. By the end of the month, severe drought was eliminated from South Carolina and covered only a small portion of southeastern Georgia

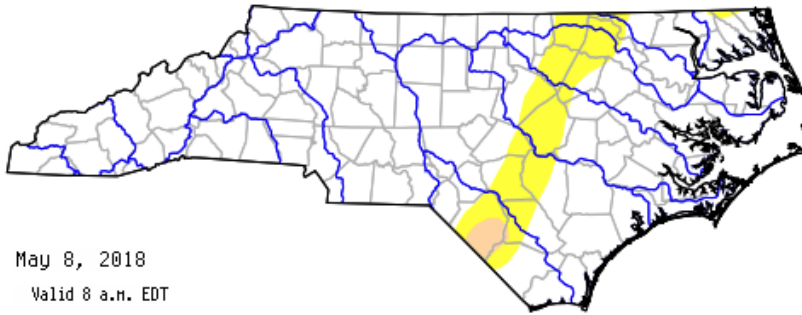
There were 360 severe weather reports across the Southeast during April, which is over 140 percent of the median monthly frequency of 253 reports during 2000-2017.

The [National Drought Monitor](#) was updated on May 10, 2018. Overall in the Southeast, 2.35% of the area was in severe drought (D2), 13.46% of the area was in Moderate Drought (D1) and 22.82% was Abnormally Dry (D0).



The [North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council](#) updated their drought status as of May 8, 2018. There are currently 11 counties with abnormally dry (D0) conditions and 1 county with Moderate Drought (D1) conditions.

US Drought Monitor of
NORTH CAROLINA



May 8, 2018
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Classifications

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

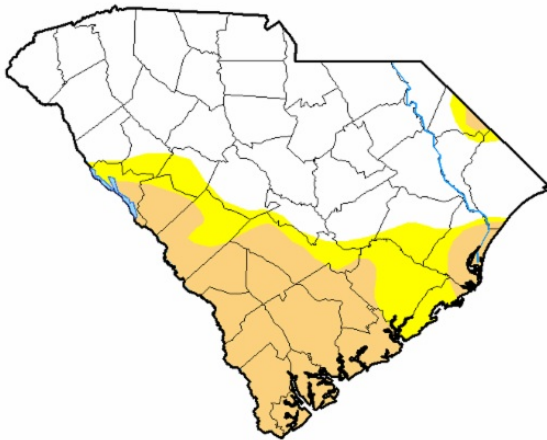
County Boundaries
 Major River Basins ([View Map](#))
S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)
[Hi-Resolution Image](#) | [Print Version](#) |

Released: May 10, 2018

The [National Drought Monitor](#) on May 8, 2018 estimated in South Carolina, 26.52% is in Moderate Drought (D1) and 13.38% was abnormally dry (D0).

**U.S. Drought Monitor
South Carolina**

May 8, 2018
(Released Thursday, May, 10, 2018)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



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:

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Western Regional Climate Center

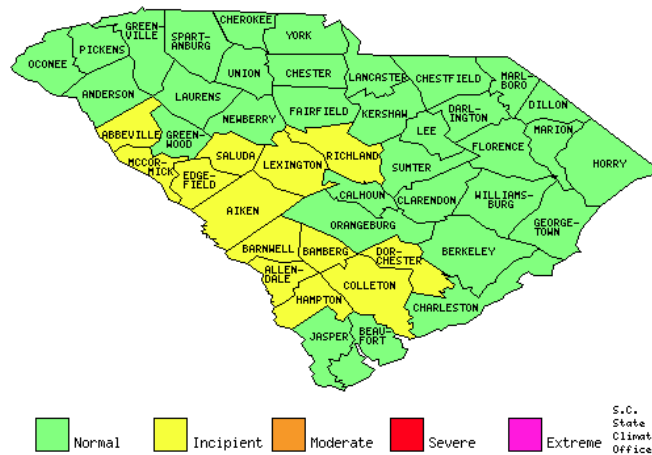


<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

The [South Carolina Drought Response Committee](#) had a meeting on April 25, 2018 to assess current drought conditions.

Drought status removed from 15 counties

South Carolina Drought Status by County
April, 25, 2018



Recent rains provided sufficient relief from the drought in 15 South Carolina counties. According to Hope Mizzell, South Carolina State Climatologist, winter and early spring rainfall varied throughout the state. Rainfall has been close to normal across the Upstate, whereas portions of the Midlands and central Savannah area reported less than 60% of normal rainfall since December 1. For those wetter areas, the 2 to 3 inches of rain received earlier in the week of April 25th was enough to end the drought. For the drier counties, although the rain was certainly welcome, it was not adequate to completely remove the drought declaration.

May Observer Spotlight: Interview with a March Madness Participant

Nancy Brett of Dorchester County, South Carolina is a recent addition to the SC CoCoRaHS condition monitoring team.



South Carolina won the 2018 CoCoRaHS March Madness recruitment contest with 178 new observers, including Nancy. We caught up with Nancy to ask her about how condition monitoring has been going during her first two months of observing!

Nancy and her husband were interested in getting a weather station already and when they saw an advertisement for March Madness, they decided to sign-up. They purchased the rain gauge as well as the ambient weather station so that they could monitor rain, wind, humidity, temperature, and more. When asked about her favorite condition indicator so far Nancy said, "It is an eye opener monitoring rainfall for the garden. Knowing the stats helps knowing when and how much to water. Hurricane season will be of much interest also in 2018."

We were curious about what has kept her motivated in the early stages of reporting. Nancy responded, "Rain, rain now motivates me. I told my husband that I have never been so excited to see it rain as we monitor rainfall and weather conditions on our gauge."

Feel free to contact us with any questions.
Carolina's Integrated Sciences & Assessments
803-777-6875

Finally, we asked if Nancy had any advice for other new observers. "Since I am new to weather monitoring my only advice would be to tell others to participate in CoCoRaHS to give valuable stats on weather conditions in the area(s)." Nancy also joked that, "Setting an alarm to get up before 8 a.m. would be helpful too!"

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Are you a new condition monitor? Did you start with March Madness? Let us know how your first few months of observing