



# CISA

A NOAA RISA TEAM

October 2019

## CISA & CoCoRaHS Condition Monitoring Newsletter

### This month's newsletter articles:

- When will this drought end?
- Halloween Climatology
- Southeast Regional Monthly Climate Report: September
- Consistent Condition Monitoring Observers
  - Spotlight: Daniel Gassaway
  - September Consistent Reporters

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at [cisa@sc.edu](mailto:cisa@sc.edu) if you have any questions or comments.

### When will this drought end?

With the recent influx of rain in the Carolinas over the past week, we want to know if your area has experienced any noticeable alleviation in drought conditions. Record breaking temperatures in the late summer and early fall, in combination with little to no rain, resulted in drought conditions quickly dominating much of the Southeast. Luckily, we've seen some relief over the last couple weeks with cooler temperatures and rainy days. We are curious as to whether or not recent bursts of rain have ameliorated dryness in your local area.

In order for Condition Monitoring Report users to better

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understand the drought recovery process, please consider reporting on how drought conditions might be improving in your area, paying close attention to plant and vegetation health, lake and stream levels, and the like in condition monitoring reports. We appreciate your dedication and contributions to the CoCoRaHS network. Your reports are invaluable to better understanding on-the-ground conditions in your communities.

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## Halloween Climatology

Spooky season is finally here in the Carolinas, and so is cooler fall weather! Check out past historic weather extremes on Halloween in North and South Carolina.

North Carolina's warmest Halloween on record occurred in 1971 in Southport, with a high of 90°F, and a low of 69°F. In 1930, Mount Mitchell, North Carolina experienced the state's coldest Halloween with a high of 22°F, and a frigid low of 10°F.

The warmest Halloween in South Carolina occurred in Beaufort in 1919, with a high of 87°F and a low of 69°F. The state's coldest Halloween to date was 1954 in Ceasar's Head, with a high of 42°F and a low of 24°F.

Learn more about your town's historic climatology [here](#).

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## Southeast Regional Climate Update

The Southeast Regional Climate Center [Monthly Climate Report](#) for September is now available.

Here's what you need to know:

**Temperature:** During the month of September, temperatures were well above average across the region. Throughout over half the Southeast, average temperatures for the month were more than 5 degrees F above normal. For over 45 weather stations across the Southeast, mean temperatures either tied or ranked for the 1st warmest in the region.

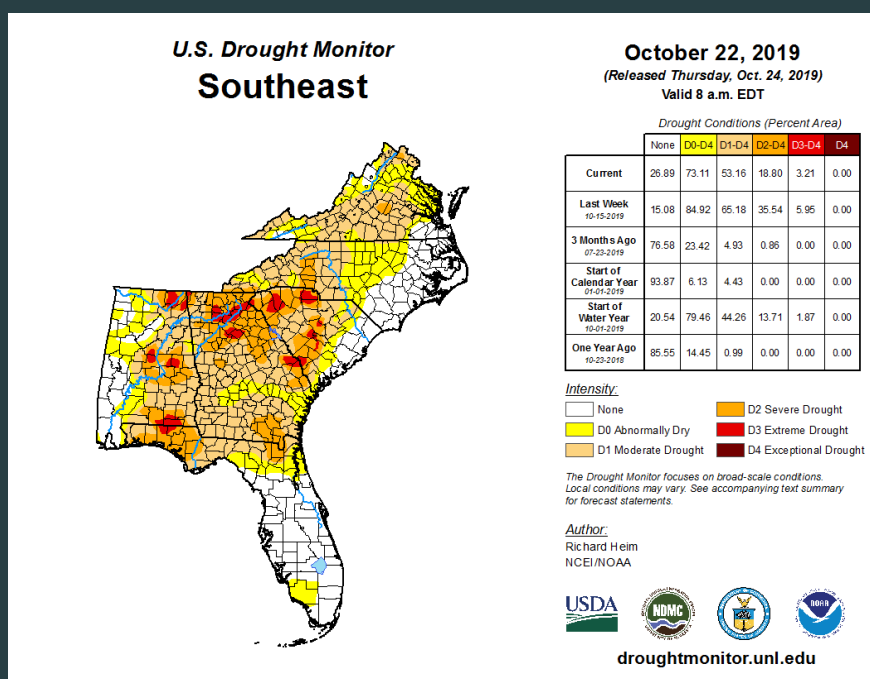
**Precipitation:** Due to a dry mass of air that hovered over the region for most of September, the southeast consequently received precipitation levels below normal. 72 stations recorded precipitation levels within the five lowest levels recorded including Montgomery and Muscle Shores, AL, and Charlotte, NC which all experienced less than one inch of

precipitation in September. Hurricane Dorian brought above normal precipitation levels to coastal areas of North and South Carolina.

**Severe Weather:** Of the 204 severe weather occurrences that were reported throughout the region during the month of September, 36 were tornadoes associated with Hurricane Dorian. The most severe tornado recorded occurred in Emerald Isle, North Carolina which experienced 115 mile per hour winds.

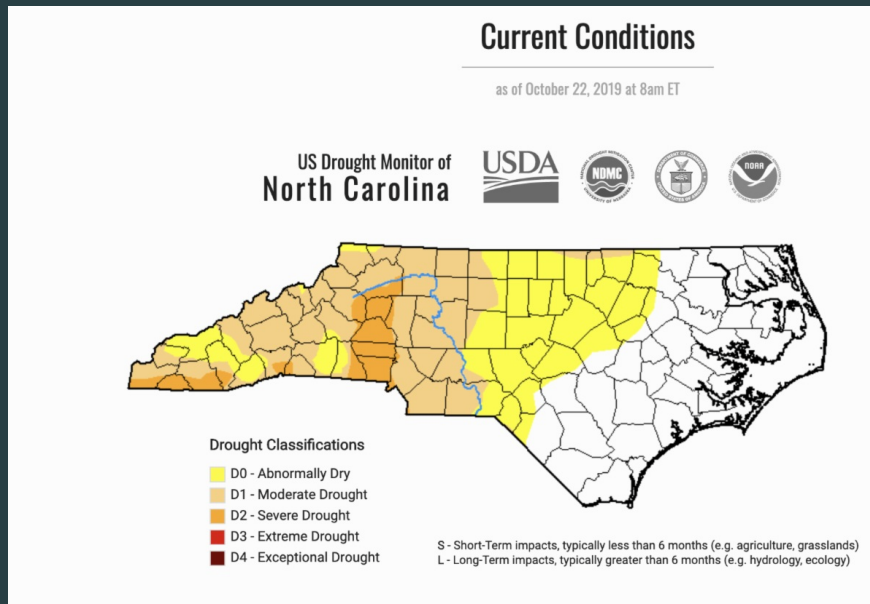
**Drought:** Warm ambient air temperatures and severe dryness in September contributed to exacerbated drought conditions across the Southeast region. The coastal Carolinas and southern Florida, however, experienced slight alleviation from drought conditions due to Hurricane Dorian. Many Southeastern states are struggling to combat drought conditions. By the end of September, a small area of Alabama was categorized as extreme drought (D3) which caused pasture lands to suffer and crops to die. Additionally, Taylor County, GA had to cease cotton and peanut harvests due to worsening drought conditions.

The most up to date [National Drought Monitor](#) report was released on Thursday October, 24th. Drought conditions have worsened across the region since last month. At present, 73.11% of the region is marked as Abnormally Dry (D0). 53.16% of the region is experiencing Moderate Drought conditions (D1), 18.8% of the region is in a state of Severe Drought (D2), and 3.21% is experiencing an Extreme Drought (D3).

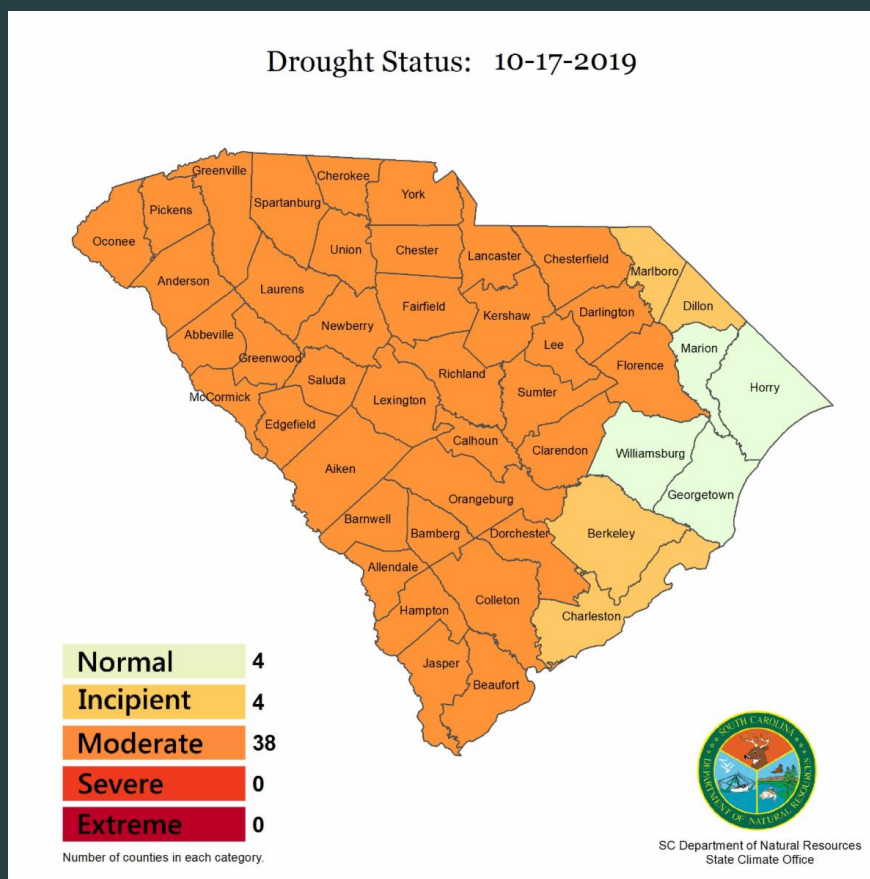


The [North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council](#) updated and reported their current drought conditions

on Tuesday, October 22. Currently, 24 counties in North Carolina are designated as abnormally dry (D0), 33 counties are in a state of Moderate Drought (D1), and 10 counties are experiencing severe drought conditions (D2).



The [South Carolina Drought Response Committee](#) met on October 17th to determine drought conditions in the state. According to the Committee, 4 South Carolina counties are in a state of Incipient Drought (D0), and 38 counties are experiencing a Moderate Drought (D1).





## Consistent Observer Spotlight

### Daniel Gassaway

This month's spotlight condition monitoring observer is Daniel Gassaway from Morrisville, North Carolina. Daniel first discovered the CoCoRaHS program through a meteorologist from the local weather station and has been observing ever since. He especially enjoys reporting on plants and wildlife, and he can often be found riding his bike around the neighborhood to scout out unique observations on which to report to the CoCoRaHS. One of his favorite memories from observing was reporting on a double rainbow in the sky after a storm passed by the area!

Daniel encourages those who are new to the CoCoRaHS program to tune into what other observers are reporting "to add perspective and value" to their own reports. Daniel has enjoyed his time volunteering for CoCoRaHS and has loved expanding from reports on precipitation, to other exciting categories like optics, storms, snow, and more to provide the "bigger picture of basic rainfall". Thanks for all your contributions Daniel!



Daniel observing sundogs in the horizon.

## September Consistent Observers

**A big thank you and congratulations to all of our Consistent Condition Monitoring Reporters for the month of September!**

**Below are the 31 consistent observer stations from last month:**

### South Carolina

SC-AK-75

SC-AN-21

SC-BF-10

SC-BF-2

SC-BF-23

SC-BF-50

SC-DC-55

SC-GV-15

SC-GV-60

SC-GV-94

SC-RC-12

SC-RC-88

### North Carolina

NC-AV-7

NC-BC-1

NC-BC-150

NC-BK-4

NC-CM-42

NC-CT-39

NC-DH-48

NC-DH-6

NC-GL-16

NC-HK-3

NC-MS-18

NC-MS-19

NC-MS-5

NC-PR-5

NC-RW-17

NC-WK-185

NC-WK-203

NC-WK-283

NC-WK-6

Want to Join the  
Club of Consistent [Condition Monitoring](#) Reporters?  
We use a threshold of 20 reports over the last 12 months for a station to be considered "consistent." So, submitting a report about once every two weeks will help you reach this goal.

New to condition monitoring? Don't be discouraged! If you submit a report once a week, you can become a "Consistent Station" in as little as five months. Remember - consistency is key for condition monitoring!

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Feel free to contact us with any questions.  
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