



CISA & CoCoRaHS Condition Monitoring Newsletter

This month's newsletter articles:

- Hurricane Isaias Condition Monitoring Reports
- Southeast Region Climate Report: July & August
- Consistent Observer Spotlight: Peggy Willenberg
- A Farewell Note from the CISA Team

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

Hurricane Isaias

Just a few weeks ago, Hurricane Isaias made landfall on the East Coast, and was the ninth named storm since the 2020 Atlantic Hurricane season began on June 1st. Here's what CoCoRaHS stations reported about the storm's impact on the Carolinas and elsewhere...

"With almost 5 inches of rain in the last 3 days the soil is saturated leading to standing water in yards

Aug/Sept, 2020

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and fields. The Neuse River is at bank full level and most of the streams and creeks are at or exceeding their carrying capacity."

NC-JH-95
Tuesday August 4th
Clayton, North Carolina

"Tropical Storm Isaias has passed leaving us 0.97 inches of much-needed rain. There was no wind damage to trees or structures. Plants are perking up now that our long drought spell has passed. Only three sea turtle nests at Hunting Island were washed over, and there were no wash outs. We still are short of rain but hopefully diurnal thunderstorms this week will help that."

SC-BF-37
Tuesday August 4th, 2020
Beaufort, South Carolina

"Hurricane Isaias dropped 6.04" rainfall in 7 hours starting at 5:00am Tuesday. Significant river and stream flooding occurred, water balance this week + 7.28"

PA-MT-85
Saturday, August 8th, 2020
Skippack, Pennsylvania

Southeast Regional Climate Updates

Keep reading below for highlights from the [July](#) and [August](#) Monthly Climate Reports.

Temperature: July mean temperatures across the Southeast were at least 2 degrees higher than average for half of the regional weather stations. 15 stations recorded their warmest July temperatures on record. These included Miami, FL and Norfolk, VA. August temperatures were near average for most of the region. Monthly mean temperatures for 80% of stations recorded temperatures within 2 degrees of average.

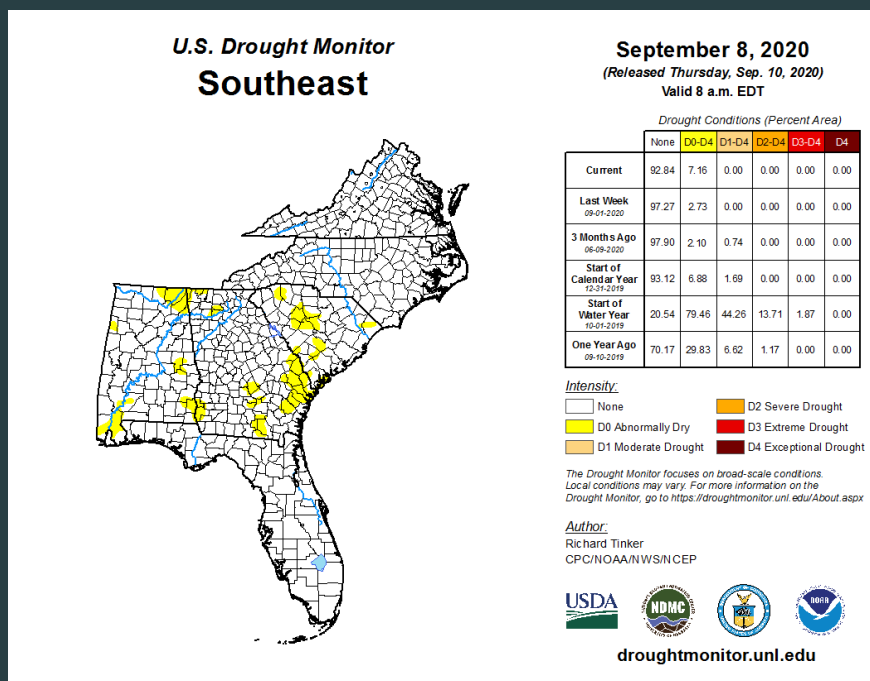
Precipitation: Precipitation varied across the Southeast in July. The eastern Carolinas and Virginia, and northern Georgia experienced drier conditions. Jackson, NC recorded a mere 0.59 inches of precipitation. Alternatively, the wettest areas of the Southeast were located in the Panhandle and

eastern Florida. West Palm Beach, FL experience 4.06 inches of rain on July 5th, which is the 3rd wettest recorded day in July. In August, precipitation levels were slightly above average, with a few wet and dry extremes observed. The wettest locations included Virginia, Western NC, and northern Georgia and Alabama.

Severe Weather: In July, 655 severe weather occurrences were recorded in the region including one tornado, 44 hail reports, and 609 wind reports. In August, 520 severe weather occurrences were reported. 31 tornadoes were confirmed, many of which were associated with Hurricane Isaias.

Drought: Drought conditions increased moderately across the region during July. An area of moderate drought (D1) conditions appeared in eastern GA and northern Virginia. Additionally, abnormally dry conditions (D0) developed in Georgia, Virginia, eastern Alabama, and western Florida. Towards the end of August, drought conditions were alleviated in the region. Although, small pockets of Abnormally Dry Conditions (D0) remained in Georgia, Alabama, and Florida.

The U.S. Drought Monitor released the national drought monitor map for the Southeast region on Thursday, September 10th. At present, 7.16% of the region is designated as Abnormally Dry (D0), and the rest of the region is not experiencing any drought conditions.



On September 8th, the **North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council** updated and released the state's drought status. Currently, no North Carolina counties are experiencing drought conditions.

Current Conditions

as of September 8, 2020 at 8am ET

US Drought Monitor of
North Carolina

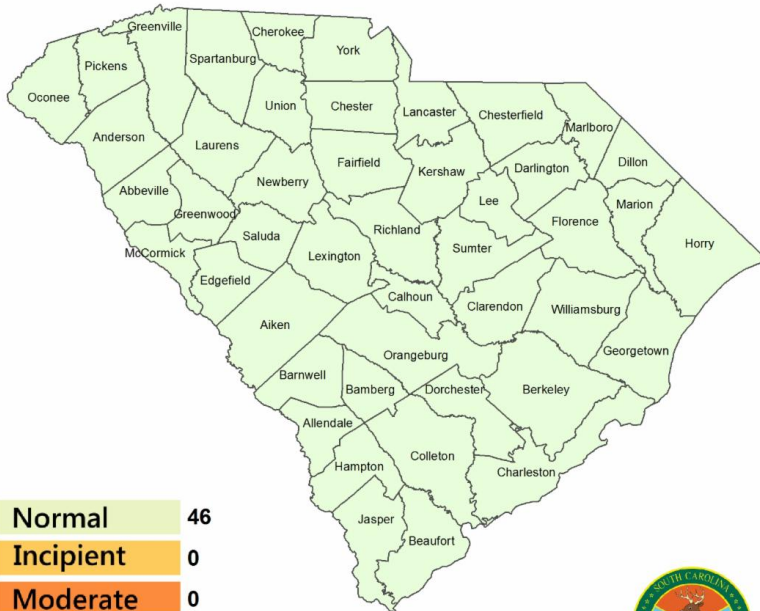


Drought Classifications

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

The [South Carolina Drought Response Committee](#) had their last meeting on Thursday, January 30th, in which all counties were designating under Normal Conditions.

Drought Status: 01-30-2020



Normal	46
Incipient	0
Moderate	0
Severe	0
Extreme	0

Number of counties in each category.



SC Department of Natural Resources
State Climate Office

Consistent Observer Spotlight: Peggy Willenberg

Our spotlight consistent observer for August is Peggy Willenberg from Beaufort, South Carolina. As a long time outdoors enthusiast with a degree in meteorology, Peggy understands the importance of reporting weather conditions and their impacts on various microclimates, no matter how close in proximity they may be. She works with sea turtles on Hunting Island State Park, where they just installed a CoCoRaHS weather station. Peggy tells us that recently, the state park received 17.75 inches of rain over the period of 2 days, while her home just 10 miles away received 0.81 inches. She explains that **"there is no way precipitation accumulation radar can show these huge gradations over a small area"**, thus demonstrating the importance of observing and monitoring weather at the local scale.



Peggy enjoys reporting on pond and stream levels, because they are an indicator of surface moisture as well as groundwater levels. Her advice to fellow CoCoRaHS observers is to submit reports consistently because **"conditions can vary dramatically, so condition reports amplify the information submitted for precipitation and help us understand climate change"**.

Thank you Peggy for your thoroughness and consistency!

A Farewell from the CISA Condition Monitoring
Project Team

This newsletter marks the end of CISA's project funding period and the last edition of this monthly newsletter.

You'll continue to hear from the folks at CoCoRaHS headquarters as well as your regional and state coordinators with all the latest news and information about CoCoRaHS.

Our team wants to send you each a warm farewell and huge thank you. We have had a blast connecting with observers like you, and appreciate everything you do for the CoCoRaHS program and your dedication to condition monitoring.

Be on the lookout for a "special edition" later this month to share our final project report and results of our recent research to investigate your reports.

Wishing you the very best,
~ The CISA Condition Monitoring Project Team

Feel free to contact us with any questions.
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