

Monthly Climate Summary: North Carolina February 2009: Continued Cool & Dry with just a Tease of Spring

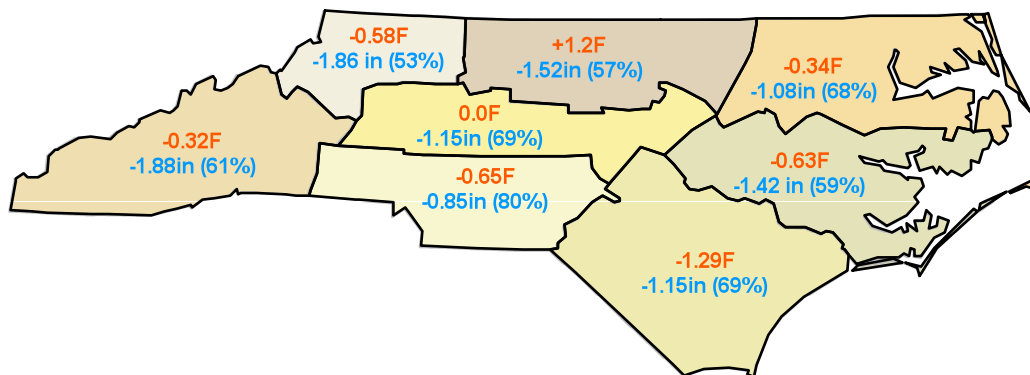
March 4, 2009

Temperature and Precipitation Summary

Most of North Carolina was cool and dry during February 2009. Colder than normal temperatures were most common in western and eastern NC, while many locations in central NC experienced above- or near-normal temperatures for the month. Although the average temperatures for the entire month were below-normal for much of NC, the 2nd week of February brought warm temperatures to much of the state. Most cities in central and eastern NC experience 5-6 days with maximum temperatures over 70F, and many mountain locations had high temperatures near 70F.

However, dry conditions were observed across the entire state. Indeed, only a handful of official gages across the state reported above-normal precipitation for February 2009, and of these only Cape Hatteras reported amounts that were much above normal (+1.62 inches or 140% of normal).

Temperature and Precipitation by Climate Division Departures from Normal for Feb 2009 *Based on Preliminary Data*



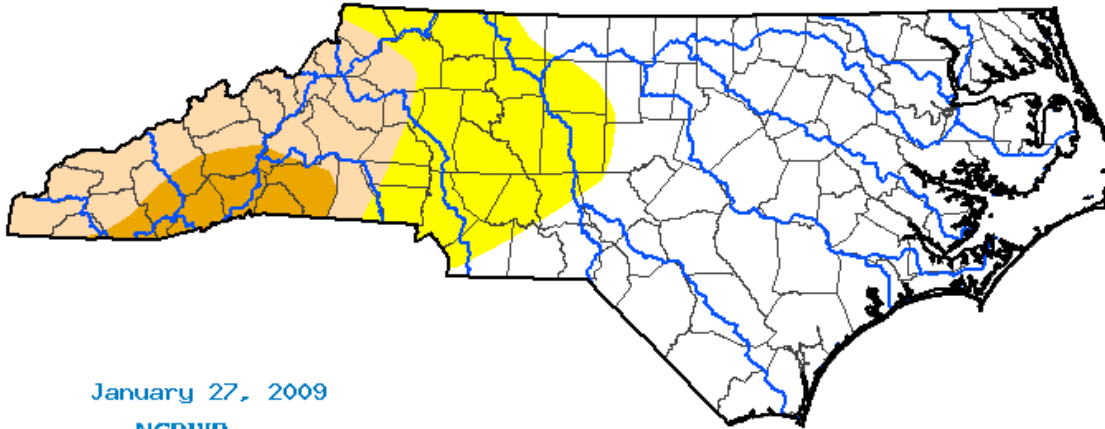
Impacts to Agriculture and Water Resources

While dry conditions that began in January continued through February, impacts to water resources and agriculture were minimal. Topsoil moisture was adequate for the winter grains that are still in production, and minima evaporation rate during this time of year ensure that most precipitation that falls goes into recharge for soils and water supply systems. However, there was some expansion of drought impacts in western NC, and also in the far eastern parts of the State. The impacts were almost exclusive to water supply systems. While stream flow and groundwater levels continue to be quite low for this time

of the year in western NC, low demand for water resources has so far kept water supply systems from experiencing problems. Water table levels at monitoring wells in eastern NC near New Bern and Edenton showed near record low levels. Fortunately, few communities in eastern NC rely on this shallow groundwater for supplies. Still, the data provided by these wells are excellent indicators of potential problems as we move into spring. This pattern is shown in changes in the US Drought Monitor depictions for NC.

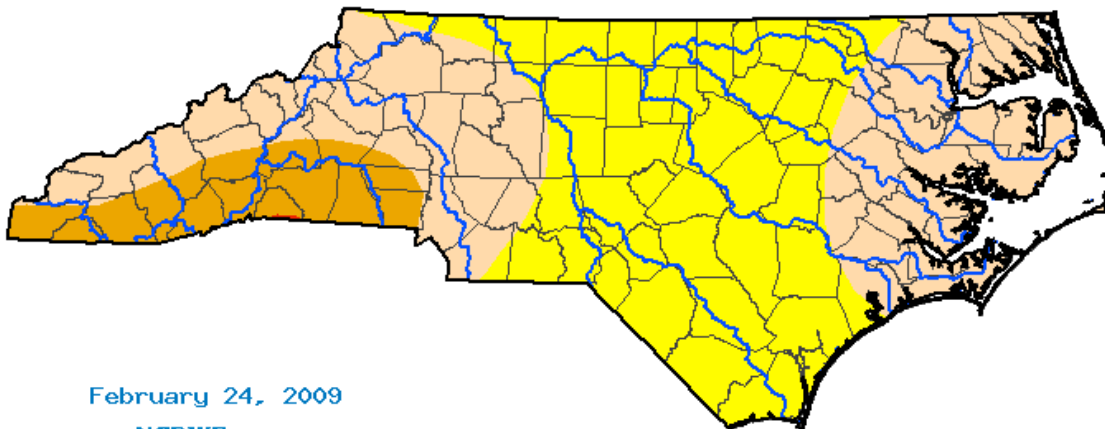
Change in US Drought Monitoring Status during Feb 2009

Provided by DENR Division of Water Resources



January 27, 2009

NCDWR



February 24, 2009

NCDWR