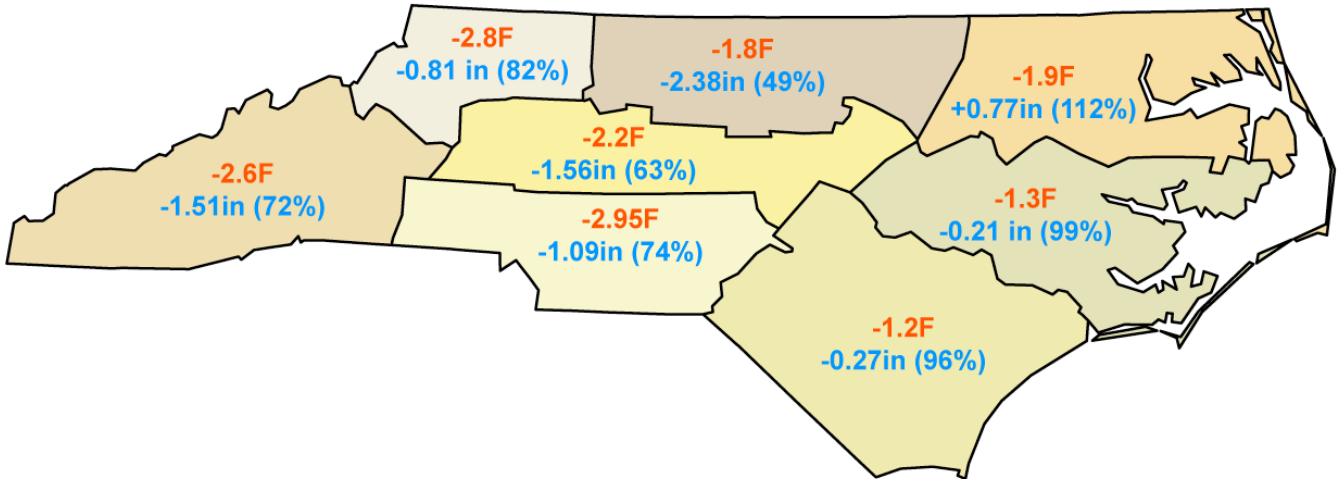


Monthly Climate Summary: North Carolina July 2009: Cold, for July

Ryan Boyles, State Climate Office of North Carolina
August 5, 2009

Climate Summary

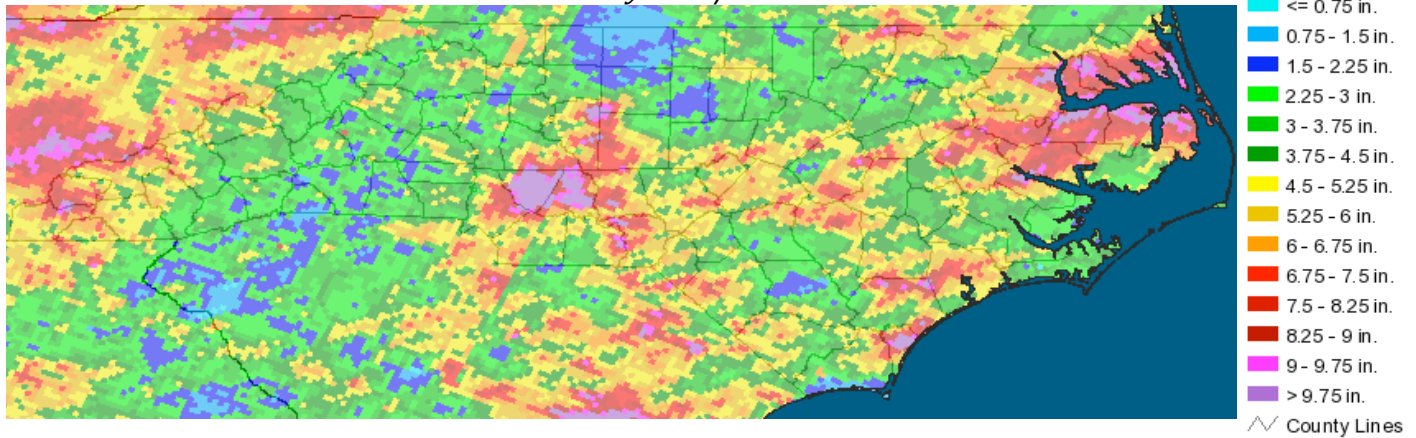
Temperature and Precipitation by Climate Division Departures from Normal for July 2009 Based on Preliminary Data



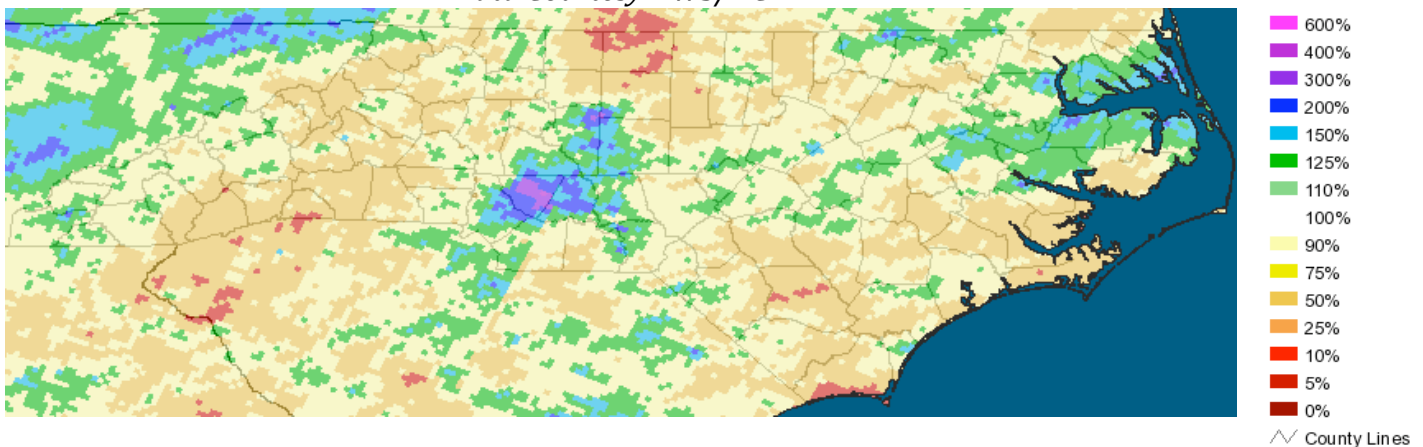
July 2009 began with dry conditions across the state. However, the last 2 weeks in July brought scattered thunderstorms and locally intense rainfall more typical of summer conditions in the southeastern United States. Locally intense storms caused flash flooding and wind damage in several locations, including Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Stanly, Union, Gaston, New Hanover, Guilford, Davidson, and Rowan Counties.

But the big climate story for July 2009 is the cool temperatures across the state. Most long-term monitoring gages reported temperatures that were below normal. Statewide average temperature for July 2009 ranks as the 6th coldest July on record since modern records began in 1895. July 2009 was the coldest July since 2001, and for the past 3 years the month of July has been cooler than normal.

Precipitation for July 2009
Based on estimates from NWS Radar
Data Courtesy NWS/NCEP



Precipitation for July 2009: Percent of Normal
Based on estimates from NWS Radar
Data Courtesy NWS/NCEP



Impacts to Agriculture

Dry conditions in late June and early July began to stress crops across the state, especially corn and soybeans that were planted late due to wet conditions in the spring. While scattered showers and storms brought relief to some locations in the second half of July, many areas are still in need of regular precipitation to relieve crop stress. Overall, most crops are reported as in fair to good condition.

Impacts to Water Resources

Despite scattered storms in recent weeks, dry conditions have led to increased risk of drought across the state. As of the last week in July, most of eastern NC is designated as D0 (Abnormally Dry) by the US Drought Monitor. Low streams were observed in the upper Tar, upper Neuse, and upper Cape Fear River basins. The Us Army Corps of Engineers is moving to reduce the water released from Jordan Dam according to its drought plan in order to manage the water quality pool. Dry conditions in the southern Mountains also resulted in lower streams in headwaters of the Broad, French Broad and Little Tennessee

Rivers. The NC Drought Management Advisory Council is closely monitoring eastern and southwestern North Carolina for any impacts.

Change in US Drought Monitoring Status during July 2008

Provided by DENR Division of Water Resources

