

Climate Review for the month of April 2012

Presented by:
BelMel Publishing

Summary

April was an average month for temperatures. With most of the month having several high pressure systems building from the north preventing high temperatures to be above normal compared to March. Maximum temperatures averaged in the upper 60s to mid 70s and average low temperatures ranged in the mid 40s to low 50s. There were several days that MHX had issued frost advisories, freeze watches and freeze warnings for temperatures dropping down to the low to mid 30s during the first half of the month. Cape Hatteras set a new high temperature record of 83 degrees on April 17 (previous record 82 in 1976).

Our CWA continues to be below normal for precipitation in April as most fell along the coastal areas and the amount of rain reduced as it went inland. Most of the precipitation we observed were passing cold fronts and coastal low pressure systems. Dry conditions are expected to improve with the next few months.

Last month, CPC mentioned that La Niña has transition to ENSO Neutral. They also stated, during the month of April, the equatorial low-level easterly trade winds were much weaker over the central and west-central equatorial Pacific. Suppressed convection was seen across the equatorial Indian Ocean and Indonesia. Collectively, these oceanic and atmospheric anomalies reflect a transition from La Niña to ENSO-neutral conditions.

Also, wanted to mention MHX had not issue any Tornado and Severe Thunderstorm warnings compared to April 2011, just several SPSs.

Average Temperatures within our CWA

	Avg_ Max	Avg_ Max Normal	Avg_ Min	Avg_ Min Normal
Beaufort	71.6	na	54.0	na
Cape Hatteras	69.5	67.7	54.2	51.8
New Bern	72.8	72.4	49.7	49.7
Greenville	72.3	72.4	48.6	48.3
Kinston AG	75.5	76.2	51.5	47.6
Williamston	70.1	71.2	48.8	47.6
Plymouth	72.5	74.2	48.2	47.6
Aurora	70.9	71.6	52.0	48.8
Bayboro	71.3	74.2	48.7	48.4

The CWA was near normal for average temperature.

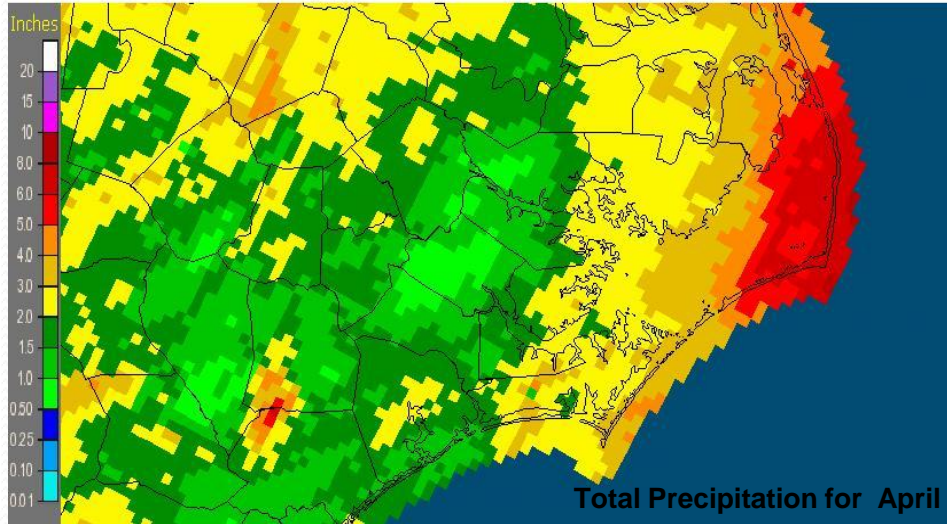
Max and Min Temperature within our CWA

	MAX	MIN
Beaufort	81	39
Cape Hatteras	83	40
New Bern	87	35
Greenville	88	35
Kinston AG	87	35
Williamston	84	36
Plymouth	84	34
Aurora	84	41
Bayboro	86	35

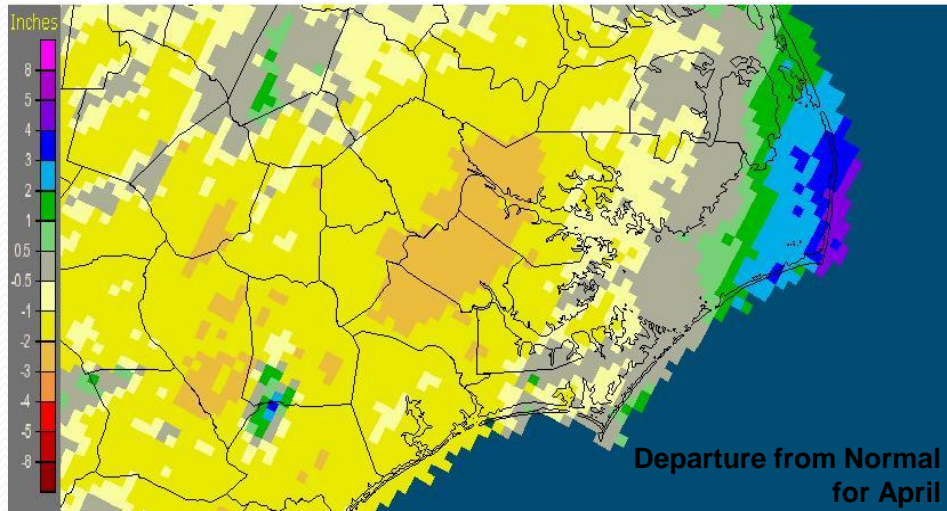
April's Rain versus Normal

	Precipitation (inches)	Normal	Differences
Beaufort	2.76	na	na
Cape Hatteras	5.32	3.29	2.0
New Bern	2.52	3.4	-0.9
Greenville	3	3.19	-0.2
Kinston AG	1.97	3.19	-1.2
Williamston	3.06	3.16	-0.1
Plymouth	2.44	3.49	-1.1
Bayboro	3.85	3.34	0.5

Newport/Morehead City, NC (MHX): April, 2012 Monthly Observed Precipitation
Valid at 5/1/2012 1200 UTC- Created 5/3/12 21:38 UTC



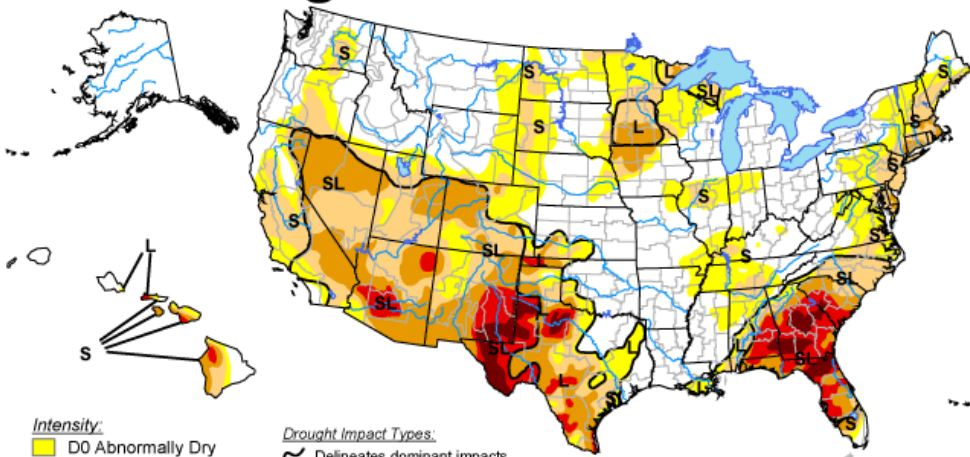
Newport/Morehead City, NC (MHX): April, 2012 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation
Valid at 5/1/2012 1200 UTC- Created 5/3/12 21:40 UTC



Most of the rainfall occurred over the coastal counties, especially over the OBX area.

U.S. Drought Monitor

May 1, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

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

Drought Impact Types:

- Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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

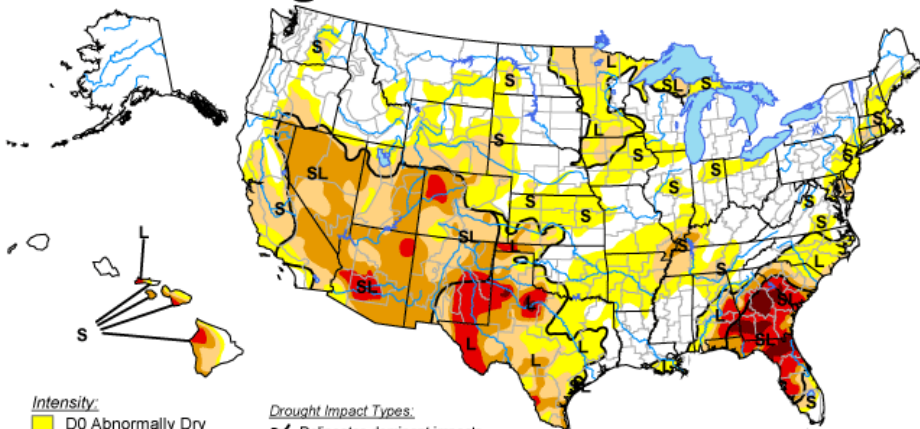


Released Thursday, May 3, 2012

Author: Matthew Rosencrans, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/

U.S. Drought Monitor

May 22, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

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

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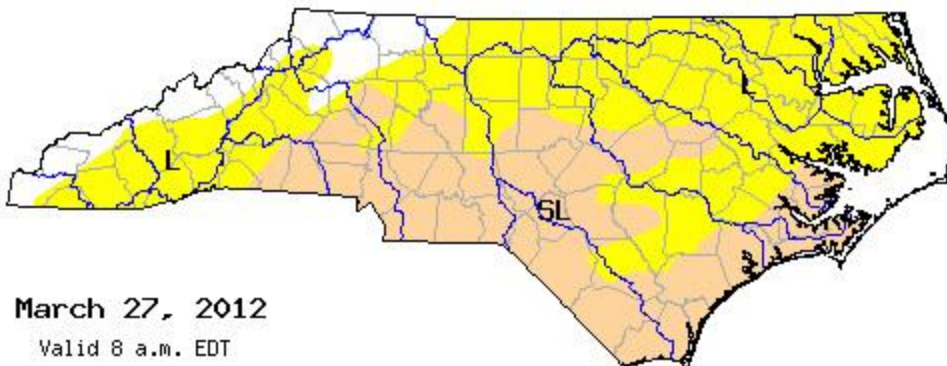
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



Released Thursday, May 24, 2012

Author: Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture

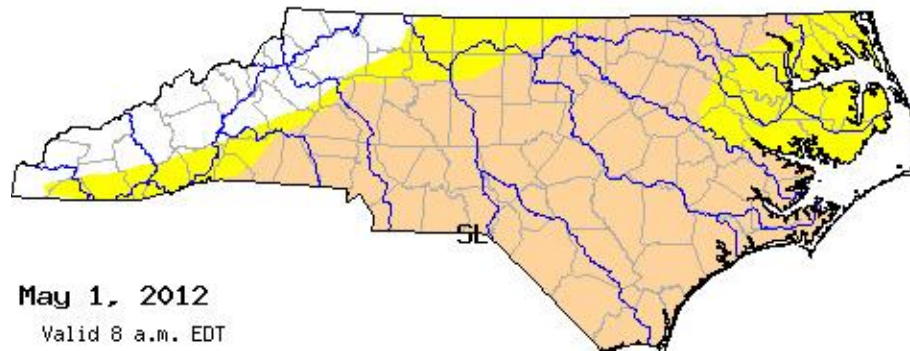
Before



March 27, 2012

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Now



May 1, 2012

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



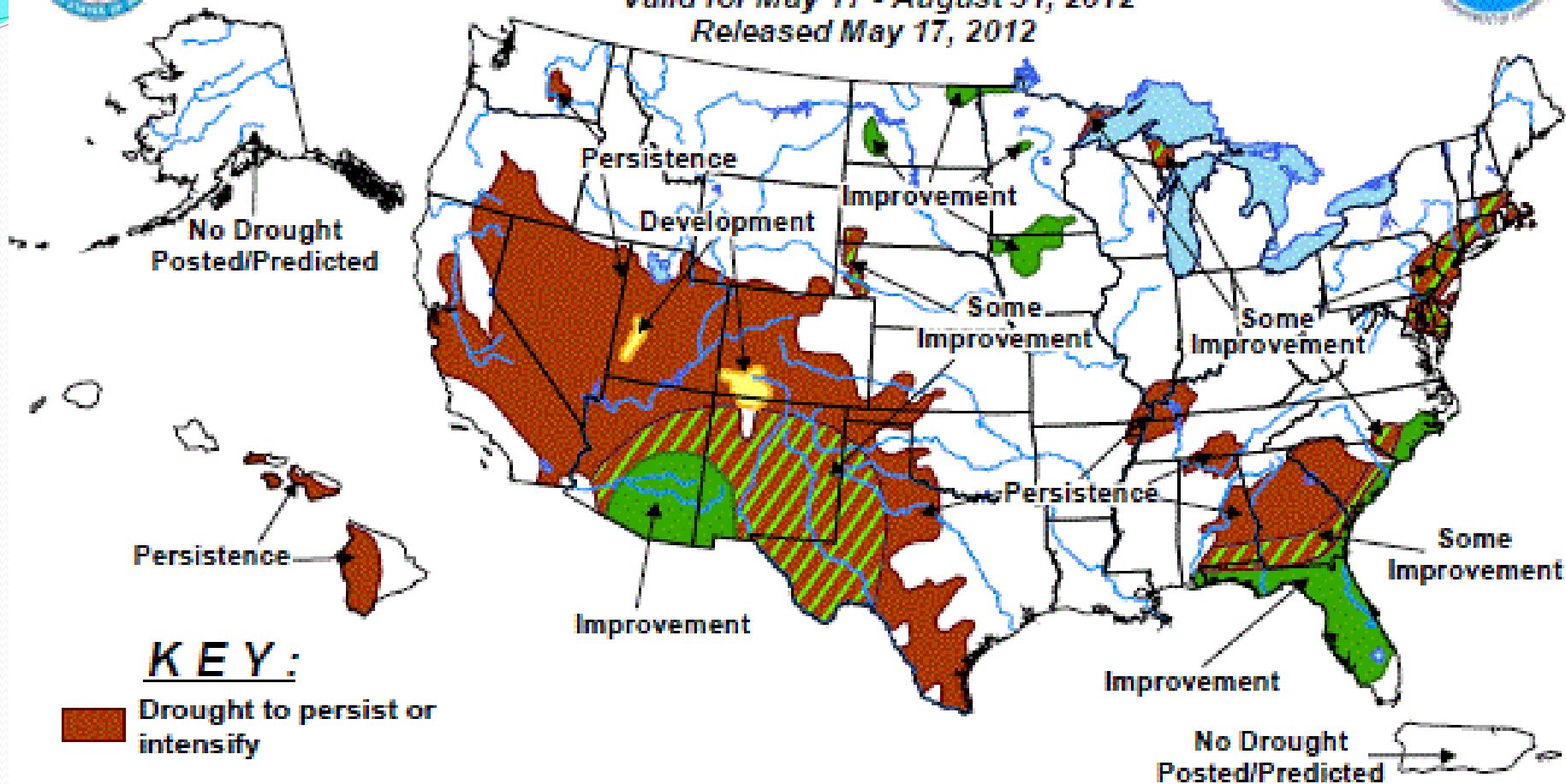
U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period



Valid for May 17 - August 31, 2012

Released May 17, 2012



KEY:

- Drought to persist or intensify
- Drought ongoing, some improvement
- Drought likely to improve, impacts ease
- Drought development likely

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Short-term events – such as individual storms – cannot be accurately forecast more than a few days in advance. Use caution for applications – such as crops – that can be affected by such events. "Ongoing" drought areas are approximated from the Drought Monitor (D1 to D4 Intensity). For weekly drought updates, see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor. NOTE: the green Improvement areas imply at least a 1-category Improvement in the Drought Monitor Intensity levels, but do not necessarily imply drought elimination.