

The background is a close-up of a wooden surface with horizontal planks. In the top left corner, there is a large, brown pinecone next to a smaller one and some dried, light-colored pine needles. In the bottom left corner, there is a vibrant red apple surrounded by fresh green pine needles and a small, brown, twisted branch.

# December 2020 Climate Review

**Presented By:**

**National Weather Service  
Newport/Morehead City, NC**

# December 2020 Highlights



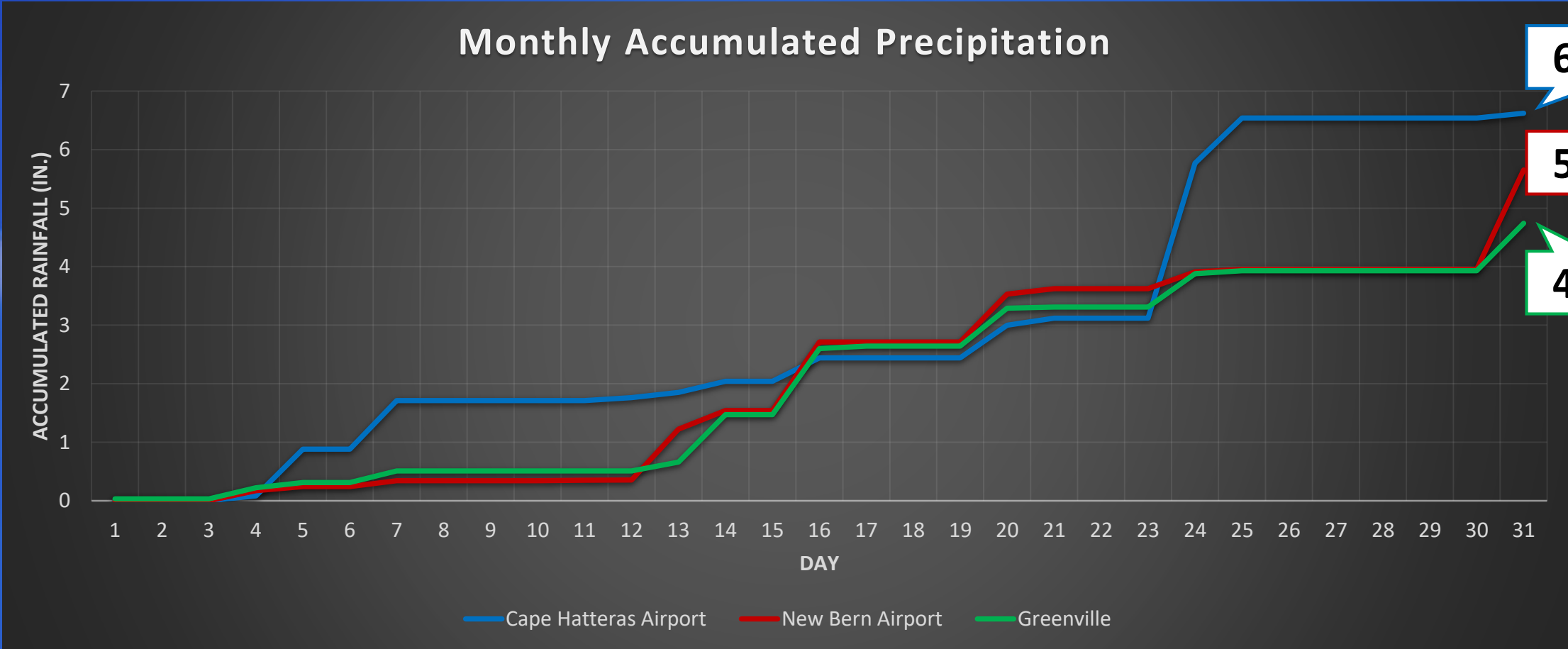
Roofing damage from strong winds near Pollocksville, NC late on December 24, 2020. Photo credit: Ivey Riggs

**Stormy Christmas Eve:** Multiple lines of thunderstorms marched across eastern NC on Christmas Eve bringing strong winds and locally heavy rain to portions of the area. Storm force winds built dangerous seas, with Diamond Shoals recording peak wave heights of 22 feet.

## Monthly Rankings

	Average Temp	Total Rainfall
<b>Hatteras</b>	47 <sup>th</sup> Warmest	16 <sup>th</sup> Wettest
<b>New Bern</b>	39 <sup>th</sup> Coolest	14 <sup>th</sup> Wettest

# December 2020 Rainfall

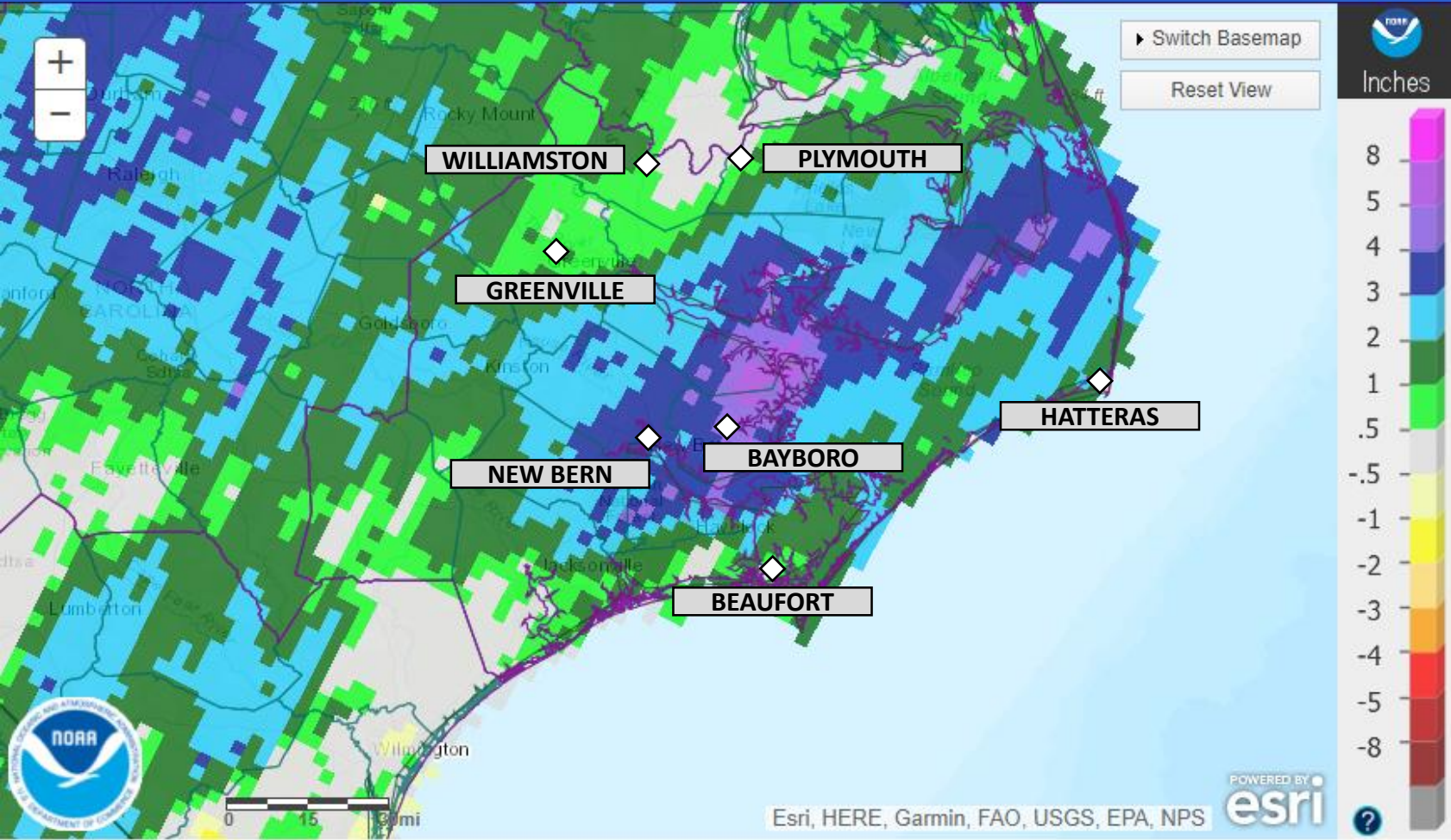


White diamonds denote missing 24-hour precipitation report. Asterisk denotes total with missing data.

# December 2020 Rainfall vs. Climate Normal

	Observed (In.)	Normal	Difference
Beaufort	3.89	3.52	▲ 0.37
Hatteras	6.62	4.27	▲ 2.35
New Bern	5.65	3.40	▲ 2.25
Greenville	4.74	3.25	▲ 1.49
Williamston	3.76	3.24	▲ 0.52
Plymouth	4.26	3.29	▲ 0.97
Bayboro	5.12	3.75	▲ 1.37

Red sites have missing data



December 2020 Precipitation: Departure from Normal  
 Analysis from the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service

# Wettest and Driest Decembers

	Cape Hatteras	Year Observed	New Bern	Year Observed
Wettest	10.92"	2018	9.78"	1973
2 <sup>nd</sup> Wettest	10.19"	1936	8.14"	1936
3 <sup>rd</sup> Wettest	10.09"	1928	7.69"	1935
4 <sup>th</sup> Wettest	8.98"	1938	7.50"	2003
5 <sup>th</sup> Wettest	8.91"	1948	7.17"	1945

	Cape Hatteras	Year Observed	New Bern	Year Observed
5 <sup>th</sup> Driest	0.98"	1919	0.74"	1988
4 <sup>th</sup> Driest	0.75"	1988	0.72"	2011
3 <sup>rd</sup> Driest	0.71"	1955	0.60"	1985
2 <sup>nd</sup> Driest	0.64"	1985	0.50"	1933
Driest	0.37"	1933	0.30"	1965

# Average Temperatures: December 2020

	Average High	Normal High	Difference	Average Low	Normal Low	Difference
Beaufort	58.4	57.0	▲ 1.4	40.0	39.7	▲ 0.3
Hatteras	58.0	55.9	▲ 2.1	43.3	42.7	▲ 0.6
New Bern	57.3	57.5	▼ 0.2	35.1	36.1	▼ 1.0
Greenville	55.6	55.3	▲ 0.3	34.2	34.0	▲ 0.2
<b>Kinston</b>	56.0	58.7	▼ 2.7	35.5	37.3	▼ 1.8
Williamston	54.5	54.6	▼ 0.1	34.9	33.0	▲ 1.9
Plymouth	56.3	56.0	▲ 0.3	34.9	35.9	▼ 1.0
Bayboro	57.8	58.3	▼ 0.5	35.8	35.7	▲ 0.1

Red sites have missing data

# Warmest and Coolest Decembers By Avg. Temp

	Cape Hatteras	Year Observed	New Bern	Year Observed
Warmest	62.8°	2015	59.8°	2015
2 <sup>nd</sup> Warmest	56.2°	1994, 2001	56.3°	1971
3 <sup>rd</sup> Warmest	56.1°	1971, 1990	55.9°	1956
4 <sup>th</sup> Warmest	55.7°	1984	54.7°	1984
5 <sup>th</sup> Warmest	55.5°	2019	53.8°	1972

	Cape Hatteras	Year Observed	New Bern	Year Observed
5 <sup>th</sup> Coolest	40.5°	2010	36.5°	2010
4 <sup>th</sup> Coolest	41.1°	1963	36.9°	1989
3 <sup>rd</sup> Coolest	41.3°	1989	37.1°	1963
2 <sup>nd</sup> Coolest	42.7°	1960	39.4°	1935
Coolest	43.9°	2000	39.9°	2000

# Temperature Extremes: December 2020

	Max High	Date Obs.	Min Low	Date Obs.
Beaufort	71	14 <sup>th</sup>	29	26 <sup>th</sup>
Hatteras	72	4 <sup>th</sup>	32	19 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup>
New Bern	72	4 <sup>th</sup> , 13 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> , 31 <sup>st</sup>	24	27 <sup>th</sup>
Greenville	71	11 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup>	25	26 <sup>th</sup>
<b>Kinston</b>	75	1 <sup>st</sup>	26	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Williamston	76	1 <sup>st</sup>	24	26 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup>
Plymouth	70	1 <sup>st</sup>	23	27 <sup>th</sup>
Bayboro	73	1 <sup>st</sup>	28	27 <sup>th</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup>

Red sites have missing data



# Drought Monitor: North Carolina



**December 29, 2020**  
 (Released Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020)  
 Valid 7 a.m. EST

*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Last Week</b> <i>12-22-2020</i>	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>09-29-2020</i>	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>12-31-2019</i>	93.61	6.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>09-29-2020</i>	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>12-31-2019</i>	93.61	6.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

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 NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

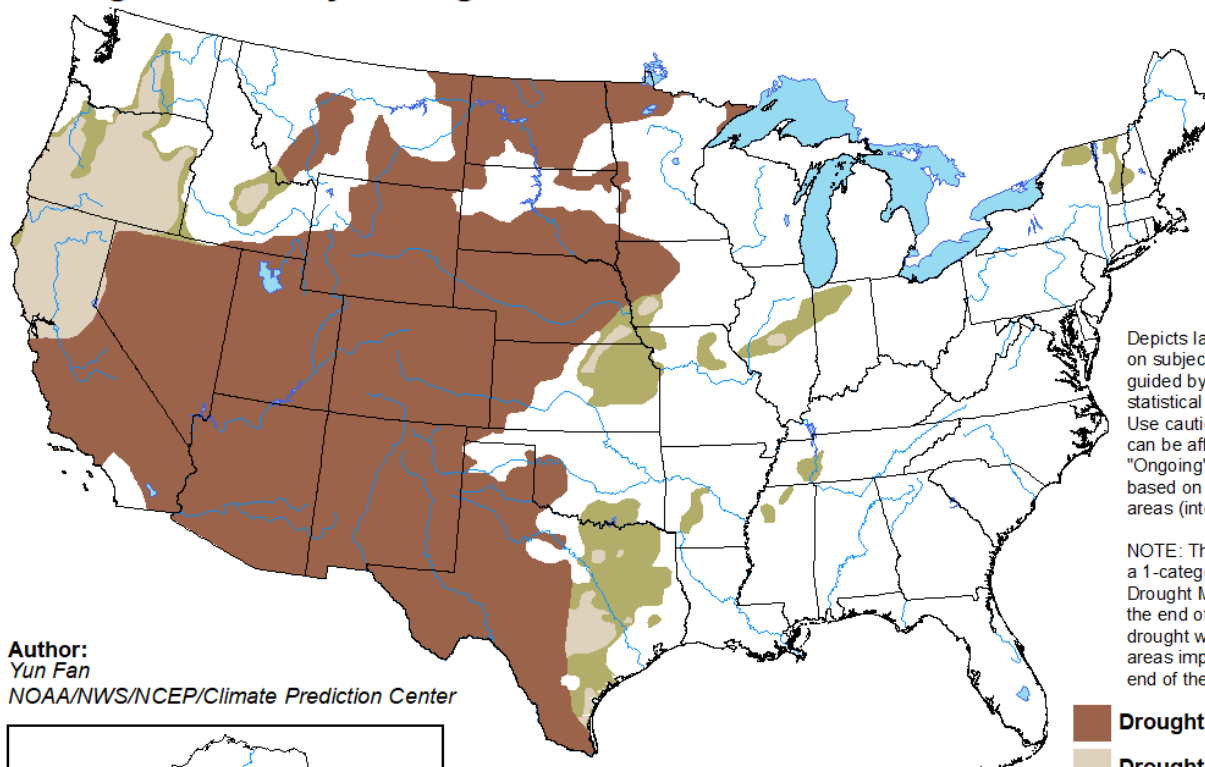


[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

# Monthly Drought Outlook

## U.S. Monthly Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

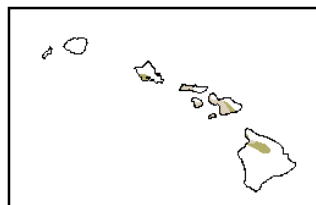
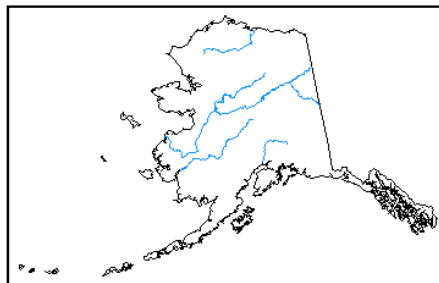
Valid for January 2021  
Released December 31, 2020







Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

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-  Drought persists
-  Drought remains but improves
-  Drought removal likely
-  Drought development likely



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZGd>