March 2020 Climate Review

Presented By:

National Weather Service
Newport/Morehead City, NC

March 2020 Highlights

Two Nor'easters: Two Nor'easters impacted eastern North Carolina with strong gusty winds, heavy rainfall and elevated water levels. The first affected the region on March 5, while a second, stronger system impacted eastern North Carolina at the end of the month on March 31. The second system produced wind gusts as high as 69 mph at Oregon Inlet and rainfall totals of over 1.5 inches along the coast.

Controlled Burning: With several optimal days with moderate humidity and winds, State and Federal Forestry agencies conducted numerous controlled burns during March.

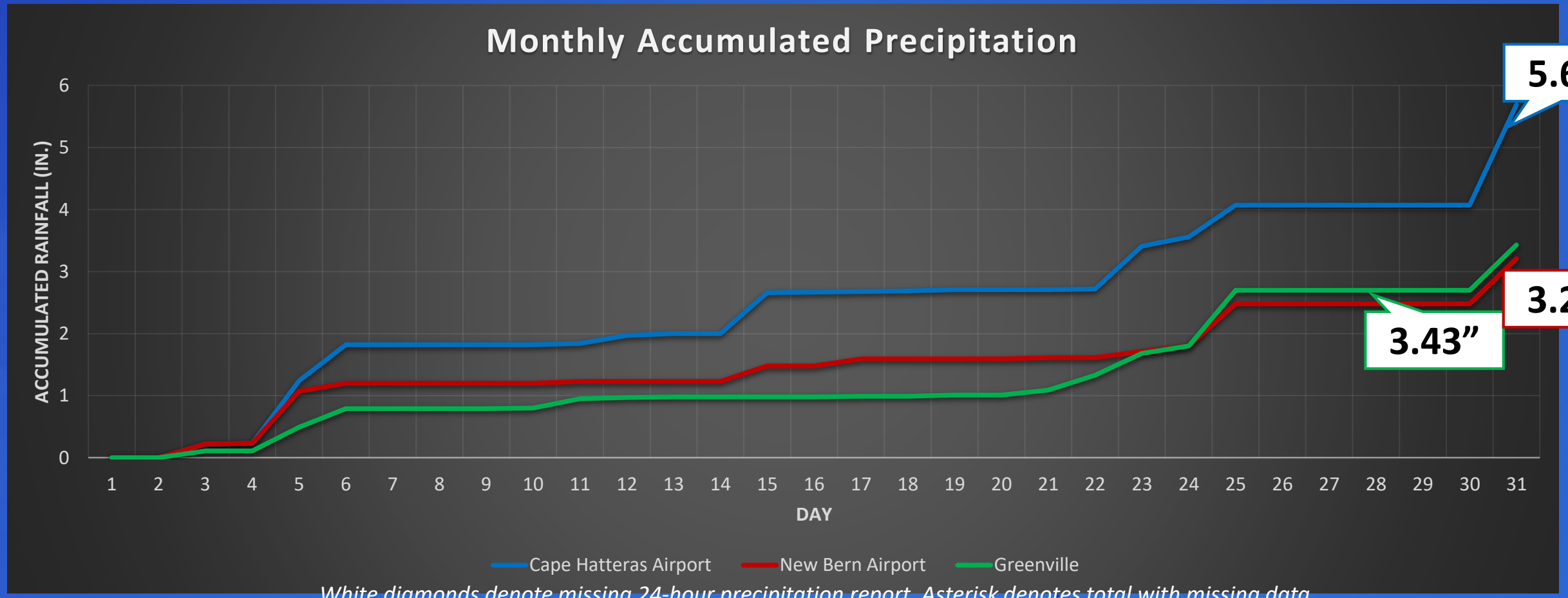
Controlled Burn near the NWS Newport Office, March 9, 2020.

Monthly Rankings

	Average Temp	Total Rainfall
Hatteras	2nd Warmest	19th Wettest
New Bern	3rd Warmest	27th Driest

DISCLAIMER: The climate data provided are preliminary and have not undergone final quality control by NCDC. Therefore…this data is subject to revision.

March 2020 Rainfall



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

March 2020 Rainfall vs. Climate Normal

	Observed (In.)	Normal	Difference
Beaufort	3.33	4.20	▲ 0.87
Hatteras	5.69	4.77	▲ 0.92
New Bern	3.21	4.39	▲ 1.18
Greenville	3.43	4.04	▲ 0.61
Williamston	3.14	4.12	▲ 0.98
Plymouth	3.27	4.37	▲ 1.10
Bayboro	3.05	4.00	▲ 0.95

Red sites have missing data

March 2020 Precipitation: Departure from Normal

Analysis from the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service

Average Temperatures: March 2020

	Average High	Normal High	Difference	Average Low	Normal Low	Difference
Beaufort	66.2	61.9	▲ 4.3	50.9	44.4	▲ 6.5
Hatteras	65.4	58.6	▲ 6.8	53.5	44.6	▲ 8.9
New Bern	69.4	64.9	▲ 4.5	48.3	42.0	▲ 6.3
Greenville	68.7	64.1	▲ 4.7	48.9	40.8	▲ 8.1
Kinston	67.3	67.3	▲ 0.0	46.5	42.2	▲ 4.3
Williamston	66.4	62.4	▲ 4.0	47.5	39.6	▲ 7.9
Plymouth	68.4	64.5	▲ 3.9	47.7	40.6	▲ 7.1
Bayboro	67.9	64.9	▲ 3.0	47.5	40.7	▲ 6.8

Red sites have missing data

Warmest and Coolest March By Avg. Temp

	Cape Hatteras	Year Observed	New Bern	Year Observed
Warmest	60.9°	2012	61.1°	2012
2nd Warmest	59.4°	2020	59.3°	2016
3rd Warmest	59.2°	2016	58.9°	2020
4th Warmest	57.3°	1976	58.6°	1976
5th Warmest	56.7°	1990	58.1°	1974

	Cape Hatteras	Year Observed	New Bern	Year Observed
5th Coolest	46.7°	1962	48.3°	1965
4th Coolest	45.4°	1981	48.2°	1969
3rd Coolest	45.3°	1958	48.1°	1958
2nd Coolest	45.3°	1969	48.1°	2018
Coolest	42.4°	1960	42.8°	1960

Temperature Extremes: March 2020

	Max High	Date Obs.	Min Low	Date Obs.
Beaufort	81	30th	32	8th
Hatteras	75	12th	38	9th
New Bern	91	28th	25	1st
Greenville	89	28th	25	1st
Kinston	88	29th	26	2nd
Williamston	88	29th	29	1st
Plymouth	87	29th	23	1st
Bayboro	88	29th	29	2nd

Red sites have missing data

Drought Monitor: North Carolina

March 24, 2020

(Released Thursday, Mar. 26, 2020)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

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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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

Monthly Drought Outlook