

Climate Review for the month of March 2013

Presented by:
National Weather Service
Newport/Morehead City

Summary

March was a cold and dry month. Typically, March is known as a transition month from winter to spring, but it seemed old man winter didn't want to leave. A persistent upper level trough dominated over the eastern half of the country (associated with a negative Arctic Oscillation) with surface high pressure. Average temperatures were near 7 degrees below normal with the average max temperature ranging in the mid 50s to low 60s and low temperatures between mid 30s and low 40s.

During the month of March, the average normal rainfall ranges 4 to 5 inches. This past month eastern North Carolina received an average of 1.50 inches bringing a deficient around 3 inches. This resulted in an increase of the D0 (abnormally dry) drought designator (US Drought Monitor) to the majority of the coverage area.

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

Average Temperatures within our CWA

| | Avg_Max | Avg_Max Normal | Avg_Min | Avg_Min Normal |
|---------------|---------|----------------|---------|----------------|
| Beaufort | 58.0 | na | 41.1 | na |
| Cape Hatteras | 55.5 | 60.2 | 42.5 | 44.5 |
| New Bern | 60.3 | 64.3 | 37.9 | 42.1 |
| Greenville | 57.6 | 63.3 | 35.8 | 40.3 |
| Kinston AG | 60.0 | 67.8 | 37.4 | 40.6 |
| Williamston | 55.1 | 63.0 | 35.0 | 41.0 |
| Plymouth | 57.6 | 65.4 | 34.6 | 40.6 |
| Bayboro | 59.1 | 66.0 | 37.0 | 41.2 |

Average temperatures were 3 to 7 degrees below normal.

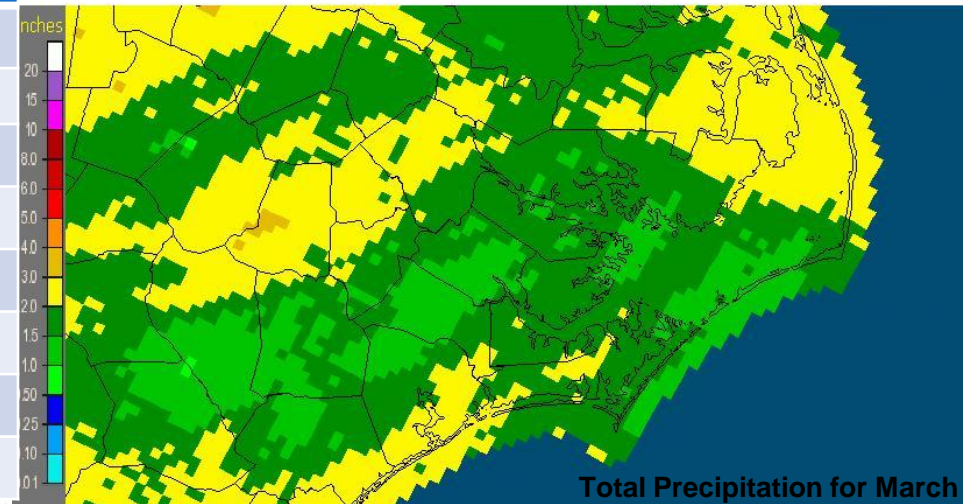
Max and Min Temperature within our CWA

| | MAX | MIN |
|---------------|-----|-----|
| Beaufort | 69 | 31 |
| Cape Hatteras | 72 | 34 |
| New Bern | 81 | 26 |
| Greenville | 78 | 23 |
| Kinston AG | 79 | 23 |
| Williamston | 76 | 26 |
| Plymouth | 76 | 24 |
| Bayboro | 78 | 30 |

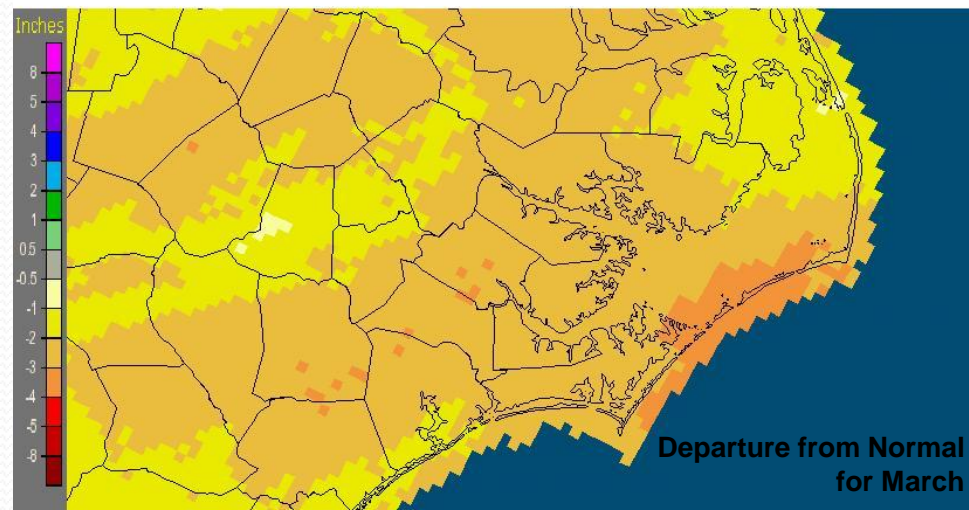
March's Rain versus Normal

| | Precipitation (inches) | Normal | Differences |
|---------------|---------------------------|--------|-------------|
| Beaufort | 1.92 | na | na |
| Cape Hatteras | 2.22 | 4.95 | -2.73 |
| New Bern | 1.17 | 4.49 | -3.32 |
| Greenville | 1.22 | 4.07 | -2.85 |
| Kinston AG | 1.42 | 4.4 | -2.98 |
| Williamston | 1.52 | 4.33 | -2.81 |
| Plymouth | 1.52 | 4.72 | -3.2 |
| Bayboro | 1.47 | 4.08 | -2.61 |

Newport/Morehead City, NC (MHX): March, 2013 Monthly Observed Precipitation
Valid at 4/1/2013 1200 UTC- Created 4/3/13 19:48 UTC



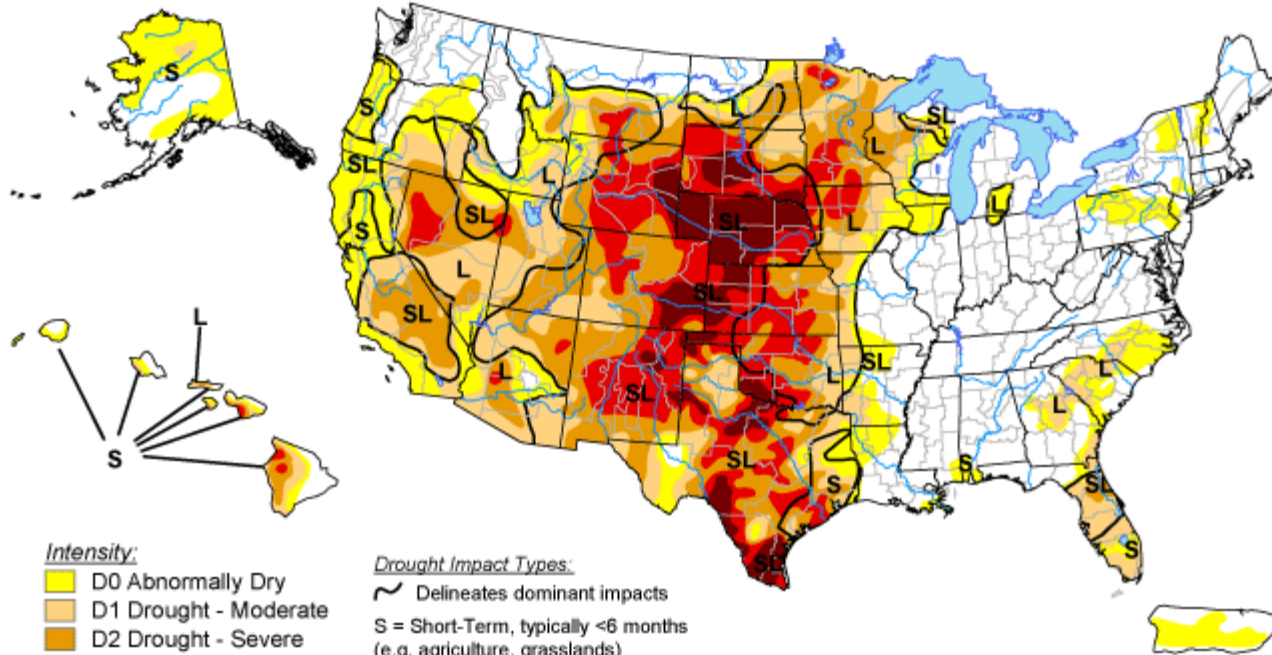
Newport/Morehead City, NC (MHX): March, 2013 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation
Valid at 4/1/2013 1200 UTC- Created 4/3/13 19:54 UTC



Well below normal precipitation fell across Eastern North Carolina with an average of 1.50 inches of rain.

U.S. Drought Monitor

April 2, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EDT



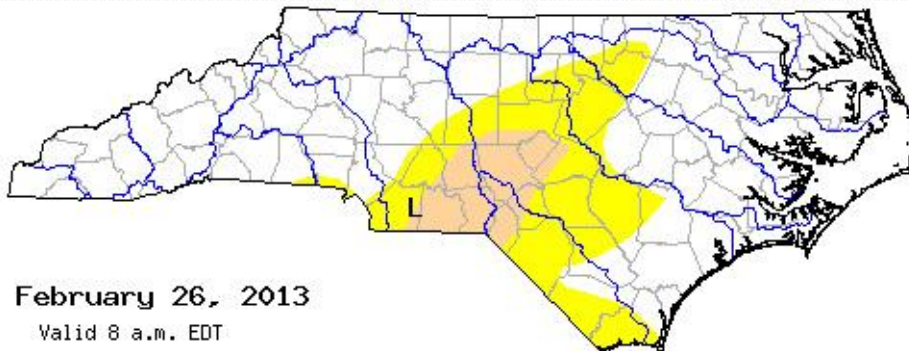
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

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

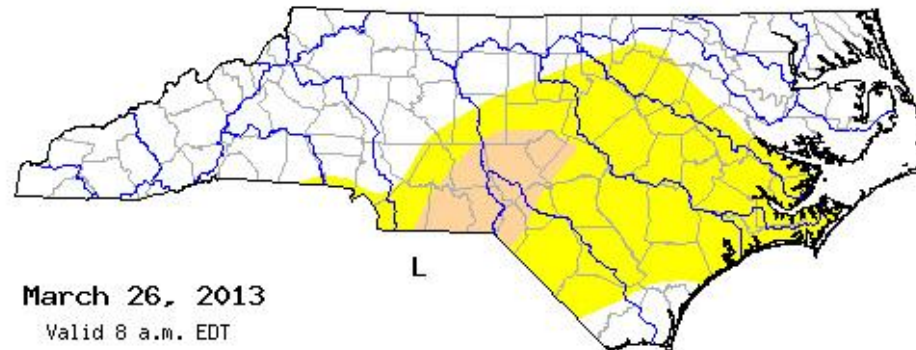


Released Thursday, April 4, 2013
Author: Rich Tinker, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Before



Now

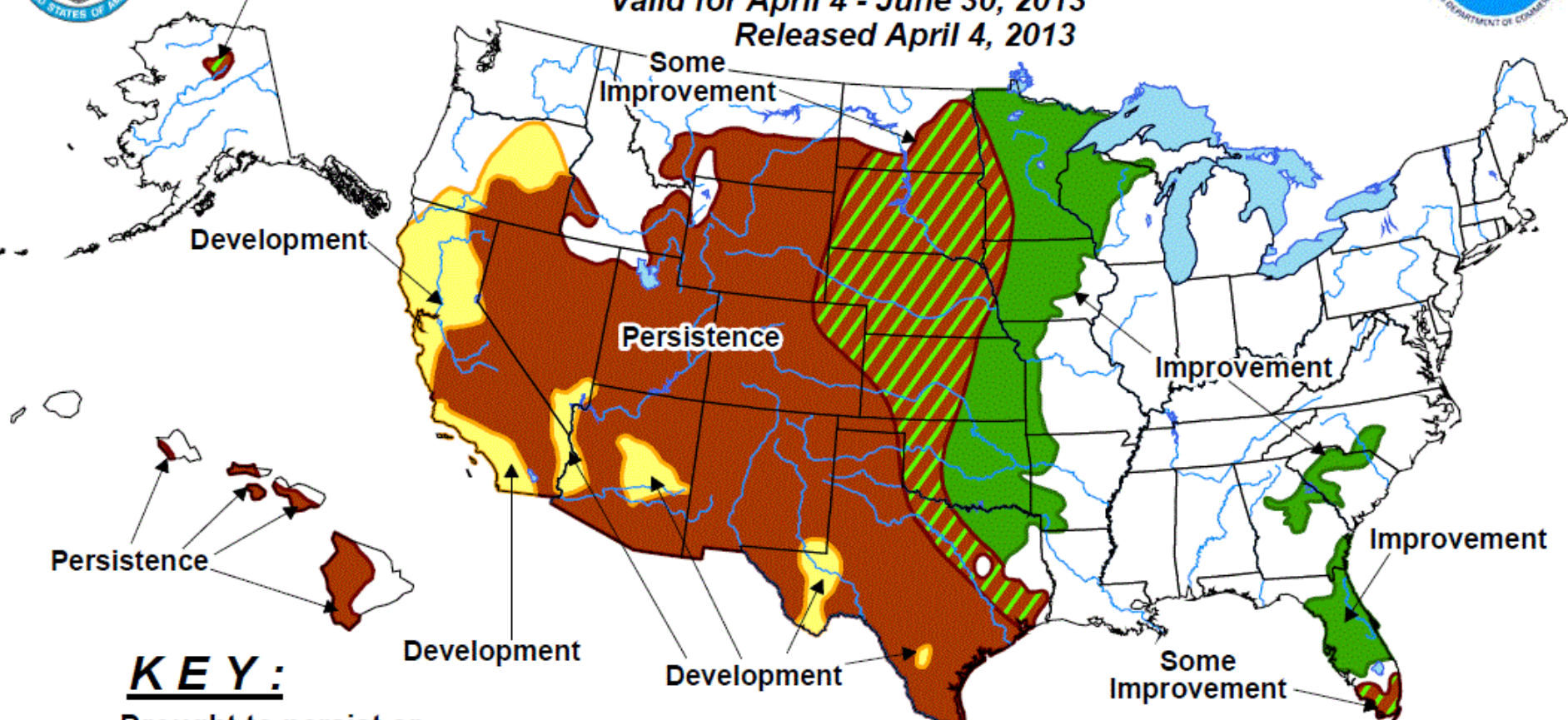








U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

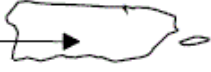
Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for April 4 - June 30, 2013
Released April 4, 2013



KEY:

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

No Drought Posted/Predicted 

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.