Climate Review for the month of May 2012

Presented by:
BelMel Publishing

Summary

May was an active month for tropical development off the coast of the Carolinas. The first half of the month, there was high pressure across the area with a few cold fronts affecting the CWA. By the second half, there was a trough over the eastern half of the United Stated giving the rare opportunity for two tropical systems to form off the coast of the Carolinas. The first system (Tropical Storm Alberto) formed on May 19 , but only impacted the coastal waters. Then the following weekend Tropical Storm Beryl formed on May 26 and impacted North Carolina on May 30 as a Tropical Depression.

May was a warm month with average temperatures 2 to 6 degrees above normal. Maximum temperatures averaged in the upper 70s to lower 90s in a few locations with lows mainly ranging in the 50s to 60s. There was one night that temps dropped to the upper 40s in some location.

Above normal precipitation occurred during the month of May. Majority of the CWA received a large amount (2 to 6 inches) rain during Tropical Depression Beryl which improved the drought conditions across our CWA. Dry conditions are expected to improve with the next few months.

DISCLAIMER from Bel: 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	80.2	na	67.7	na
Cape Hatteras	78.7	74.9	67.4	60.2
New Bern	82.7	79.0	62.8	58.7
Greenville	82.7	79.3	62.0	57.3
Kinston AG	82.4	83.4	62.7	56.8
Williamston	80.8	78.2	61.2	56.4
Plymouth	81.2	80.8	61.3	56.8
Aurora	80.0	78.8	64.6	57.5
Bayboro	81.0	80.5	60.5	57.4

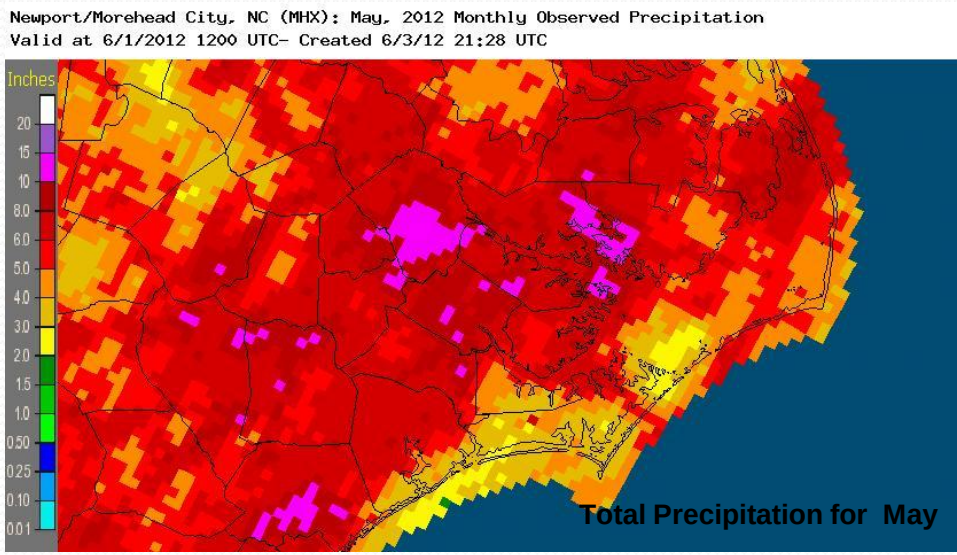
Average temperature were 2 to 6 degrees above normal for the month of May.

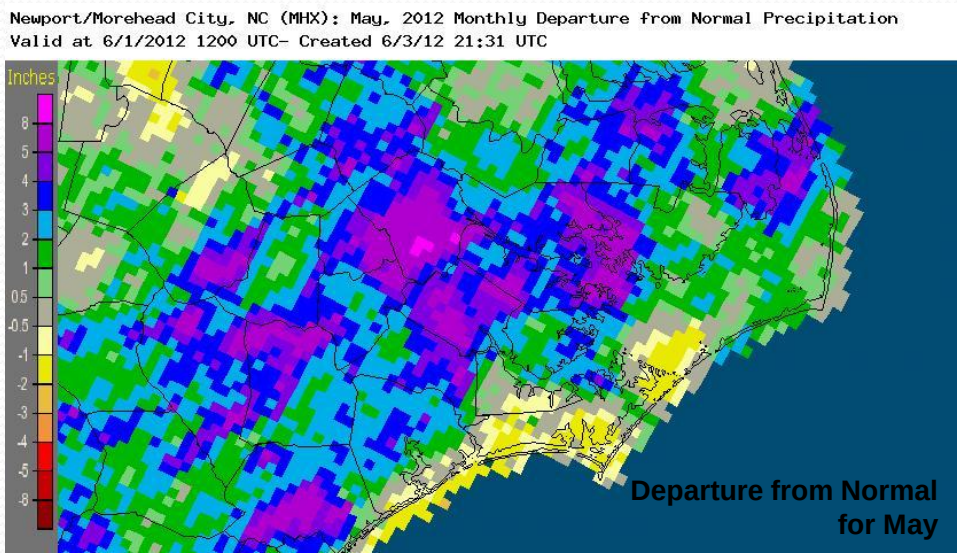
Max and Min Temperature within our CWA

	MAX	MIN
Beaufort	86	54
Cape Hatteras	84	51
New Bern	93	49
Greenville	93	47
Kinston AG	92	48
Williamston	90	49
Plymouth	91	47
Aurora	91	55
Bayboro	93	46

April's Rain versus Normal

	Precipitation (inches)	Normal	Differences
Beaufort	4.7	na	na
Cape Hatteras	4.87	3.92	0.95
New Bern	7.36	4.19	3.17
Greenville	9.71	4.05	5.66
Kinston AG	7.44	3.87	3.57
Williamston	7.65	4.09	3.56
Plymouth	6.1	4.5	1.6
Bayboro	6.65	4.71	1.94

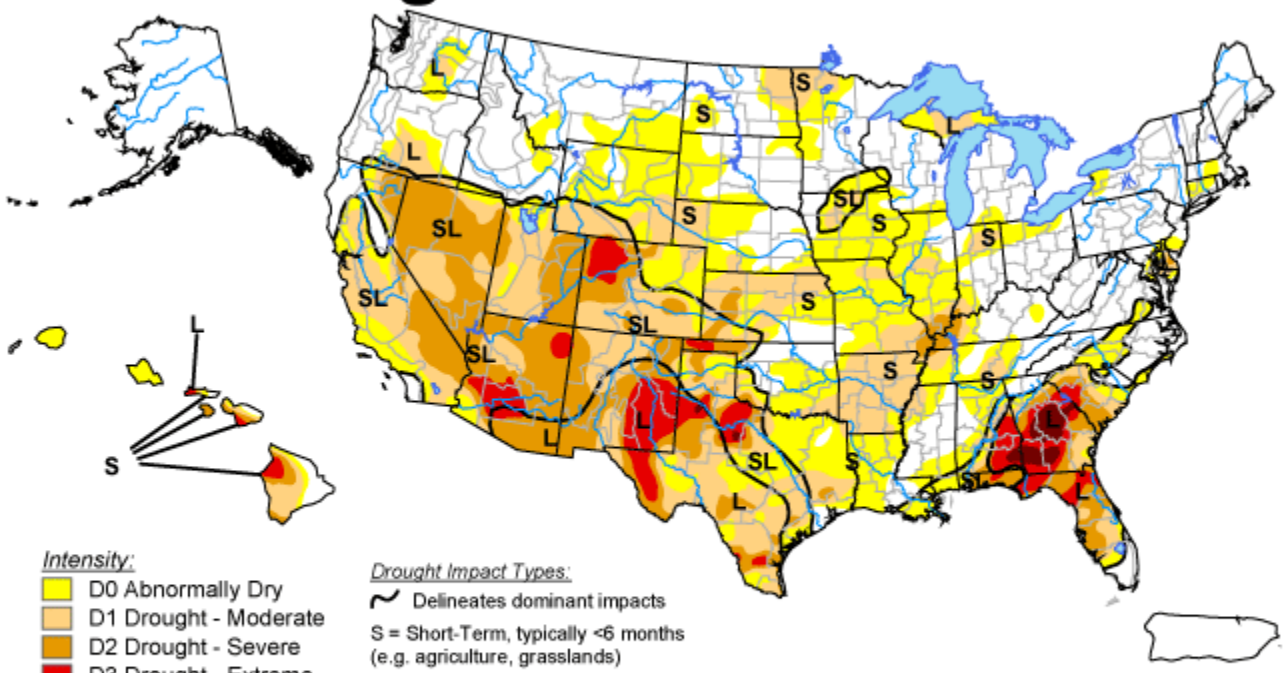




Above normal precipitation fell across the CWA except for the Crystal Coast. Most of the rainfall occurred with the Tropical Depression Beryl on May 30. Most of our CWA drought conditions have improved.

U.S. Drought Monitor

June 5, 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)

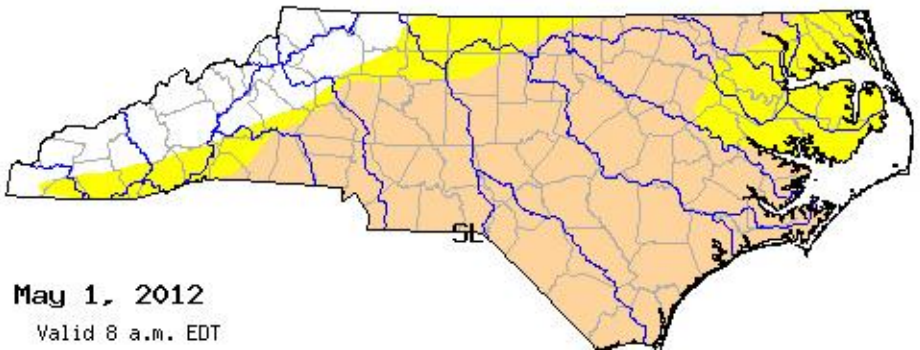
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

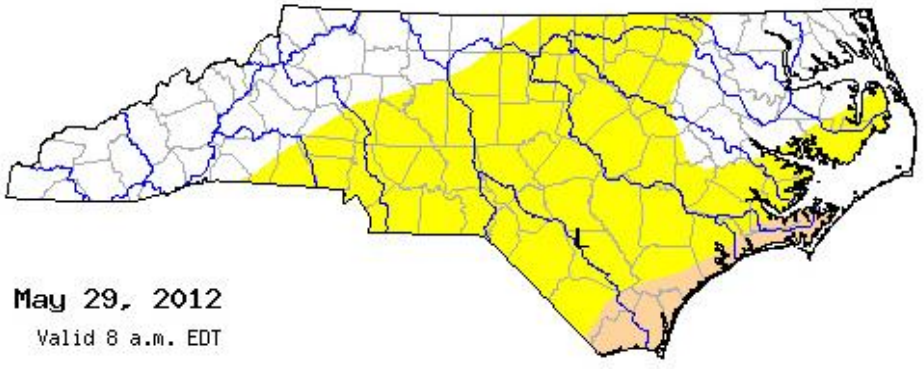
http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

USDA | National Drought Mitigation Center

Released Thursday, June 7, 2012
Author: David Miskus, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

Before



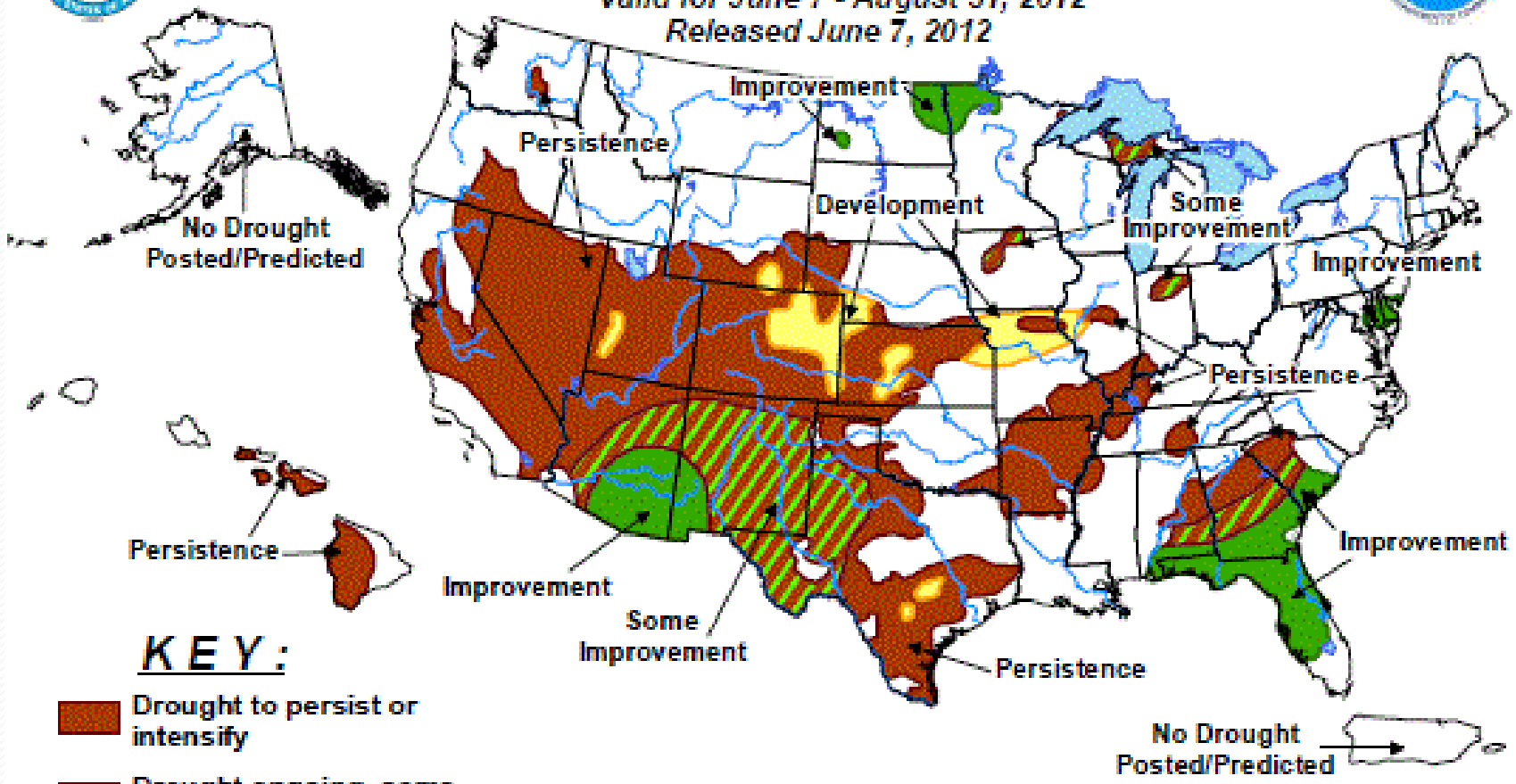


U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook

Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for June 7 - August 31, 2012

Released June 7, 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.