



Drought Information Statement for Central North Carolina

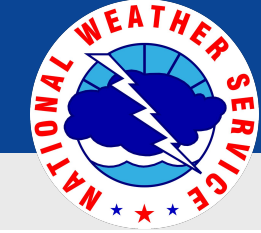
Valid March 6, 2025

Issued By: NWS Raleigh

Contact Information:

- This Drought Information Statement will be updated by March 21, 2025.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/RAH/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
- Questions or comments can be sent to barrett.smith@noaa.gov
- Severe Drought (D2) has developed across portions of the southern Piedmont and Sandhills. Moderate Drought (D1) and Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions continue across the rest of central NC.
- Light rain is possible across southern portions of NC this weekend, but overall rainfall is still expected to be below normal through the middle of next week.





Current Drought Conditions

March 7, 2025
3:41 PM

Graphic Courtesy of the North Carolina State Climate Office

North Carolina Drought Update

Created By:

North Carolina
Drought Management Advisory Council
www.ncdrought.org

NORTH CAROLINA
CLIMATE OFFICE
climate.ncsu.edu

NC STATE
@NCSCO

For the assessment period ending **Mar. 4, 2025**
From the US Drought Monitor, with input from the NC DMAC

The Main Takeaway

Moderate (D1) and Severe Drought (D2) have expanded along our southern tier of counties, reflecting recent dryness and impacts such as widespread wildfires.

This Week's Summary

It's officially climatological spring now, and the recovery and recharge we hoped to see this winter was lacking in many areas. Some farm ponds never fully filled up, stream levels remain low, and dry soils and dormant vegetation led to an explosive start to the spring fire season last week, with more than 3,600 acres burned on state and private lands, per the NC Forest Service.

Seasonal Perspective

The last time this much of the state was in drought in the first week of March was in 2011, which also saw an active fire season through the summer along the coast.

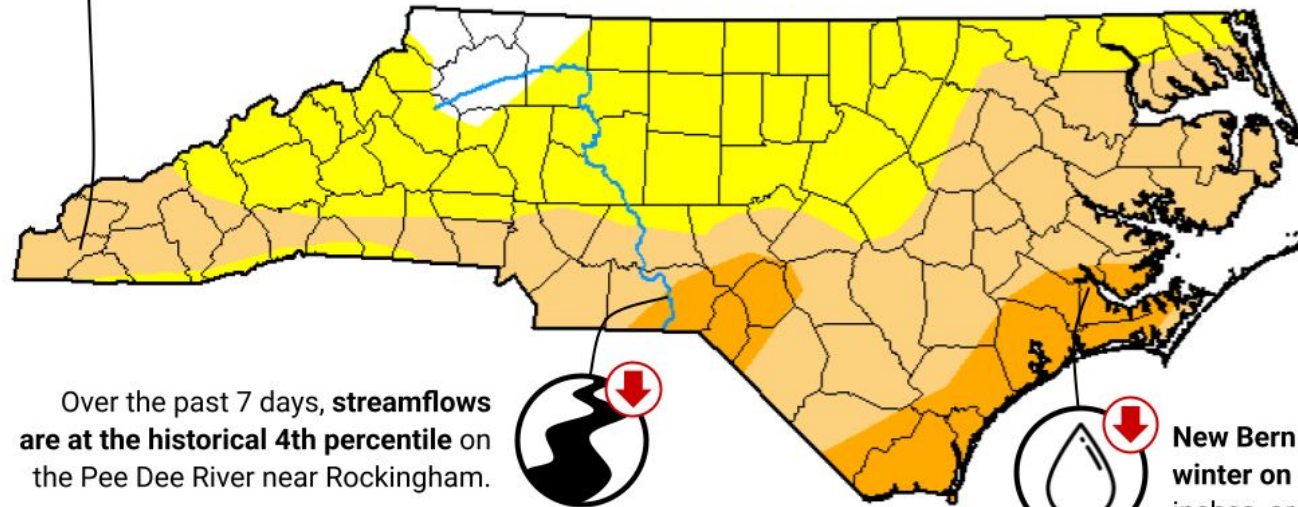
For your local drought status, visit www.ncdrought.org



Groundwater levels in Cherokee County are below normal again, declining quickly after the last rain event in mid-February.



Low humidity, gusty winds, and dry fuels helped spread about 250 wildfires burning nearly 1,800 acres last Saturday alone.

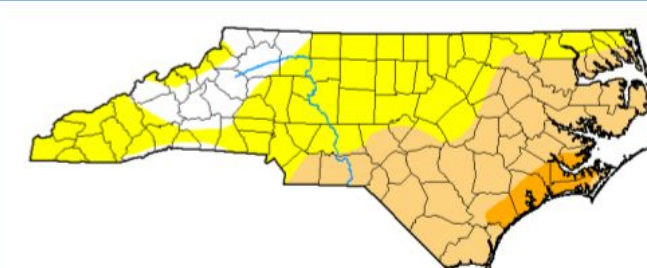


Over the past 7 days, streamflows are at the historical 4th percentile on the Pee Dee River near Rockingham.



New Bern finished with its driest winter on record, measuring 4.06 inches, or 6.78 inches below normal.

Last Week's Drought Status



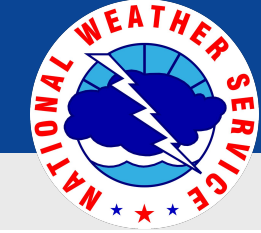
Statewide Coverage by Category

Category	Current Coverage	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	41.39%	-4.47%
D1: Moderate Drought	43.36%	+4.31%
D2: Severe Drought	11.36%	+7.28%
D3: Extreme Drought	0.00%	0.00%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

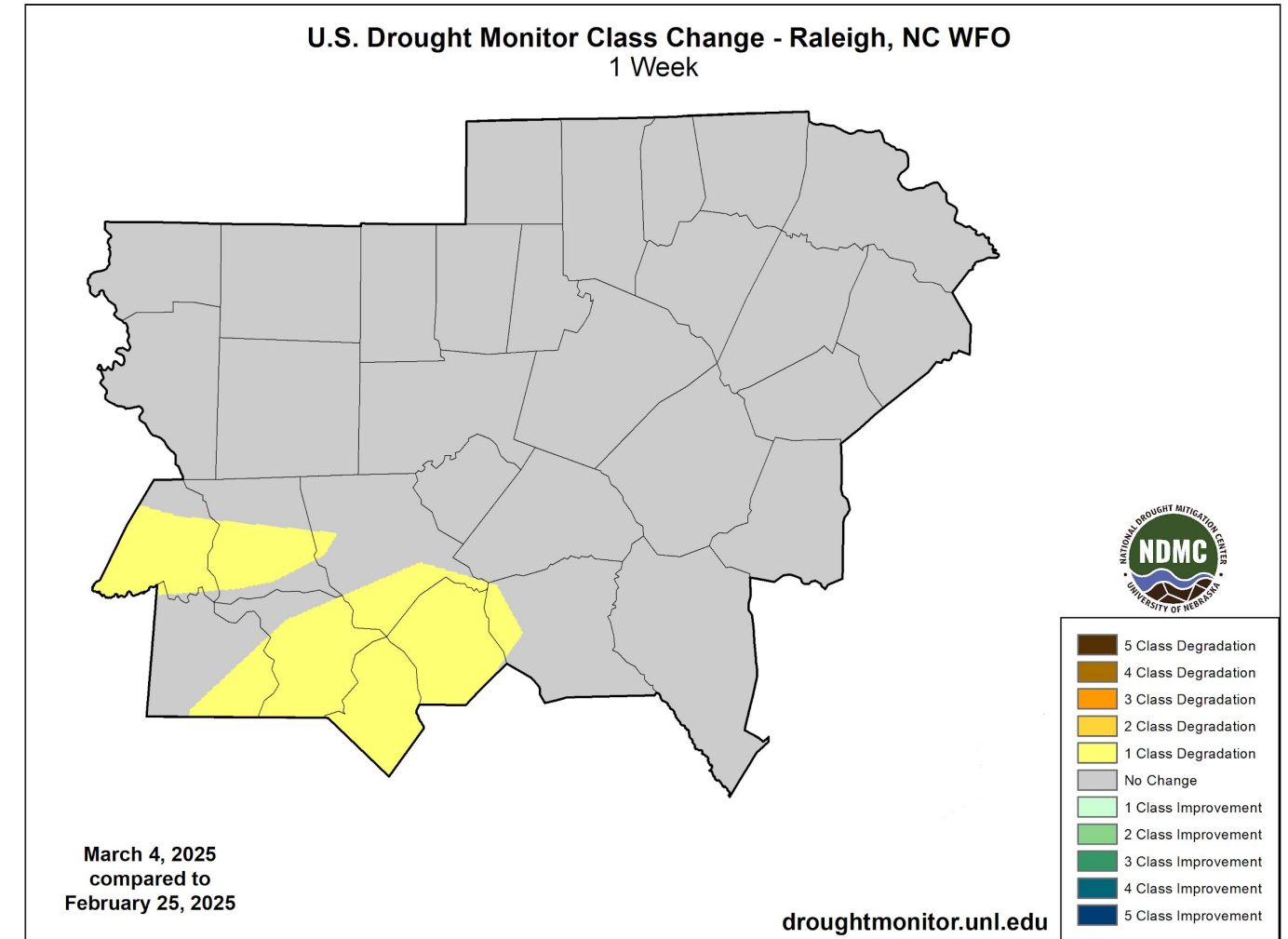
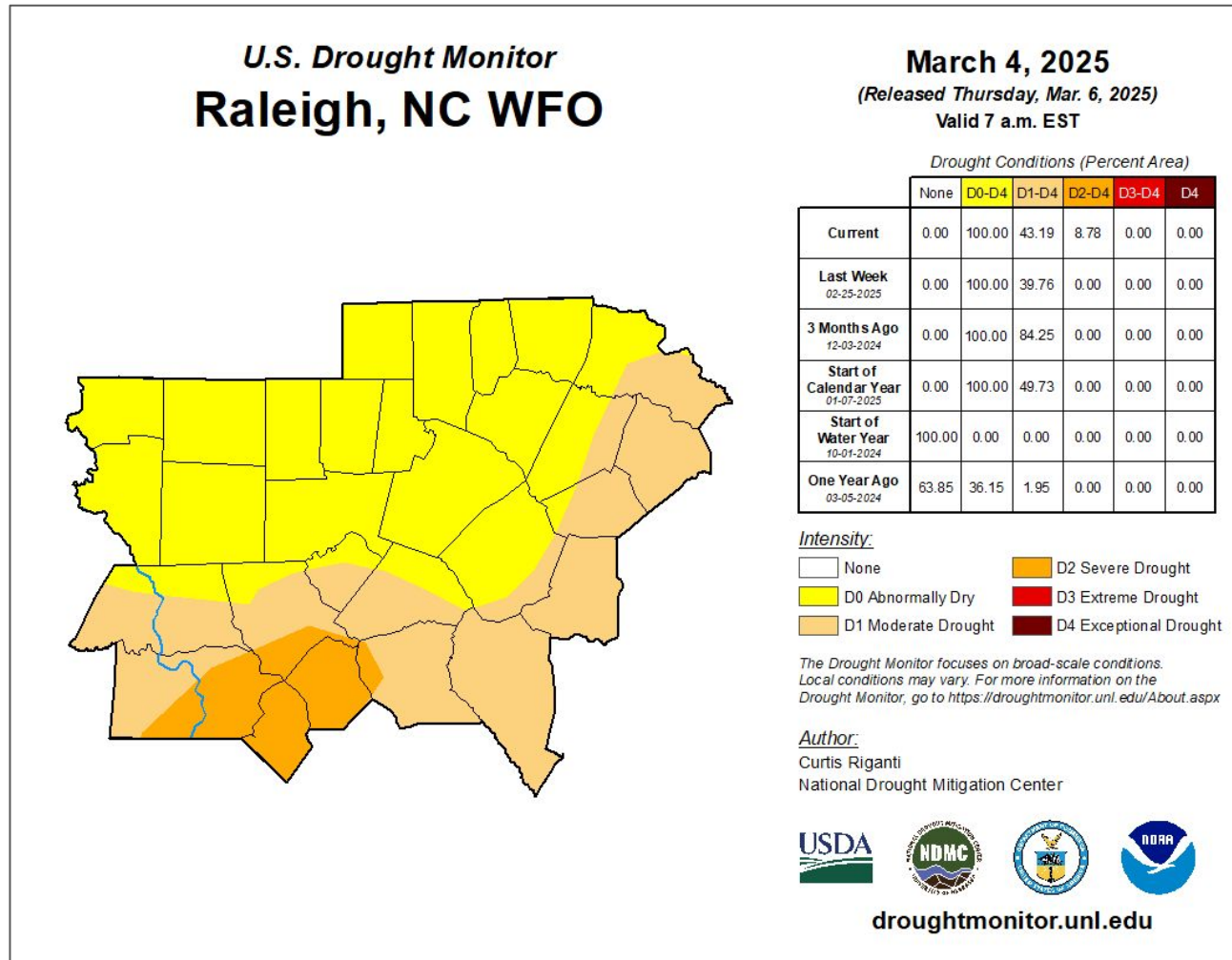
National Weather Service
Raleigh, NC



Current Drought Conditions

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Latest U.S. Drought Monitor Map and One-Week Change



Main Takeaways

- Severe Drought (D2) conditions are observed across portions of the Southern Piedmont and Sandhills.
- Moderate Drought (D1) conditions are observed into the coastal plain.

Image Caption:

Left: [U.S. Drought Monitor valid 8am EST March 6th.](#)

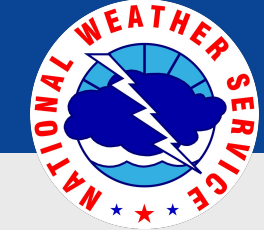
Right: [U.S. Drought Monitor 4-week change map valid 8am EST March 6th.](#)



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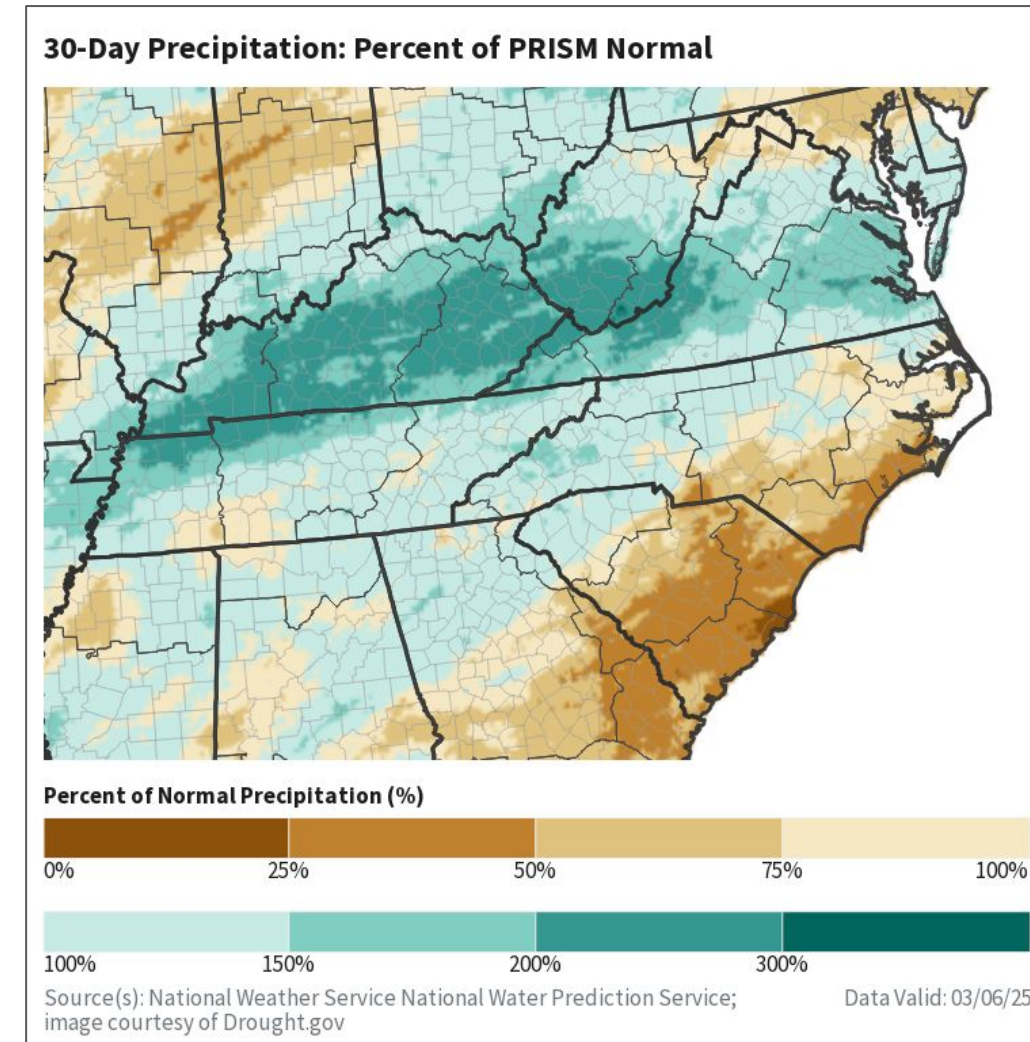
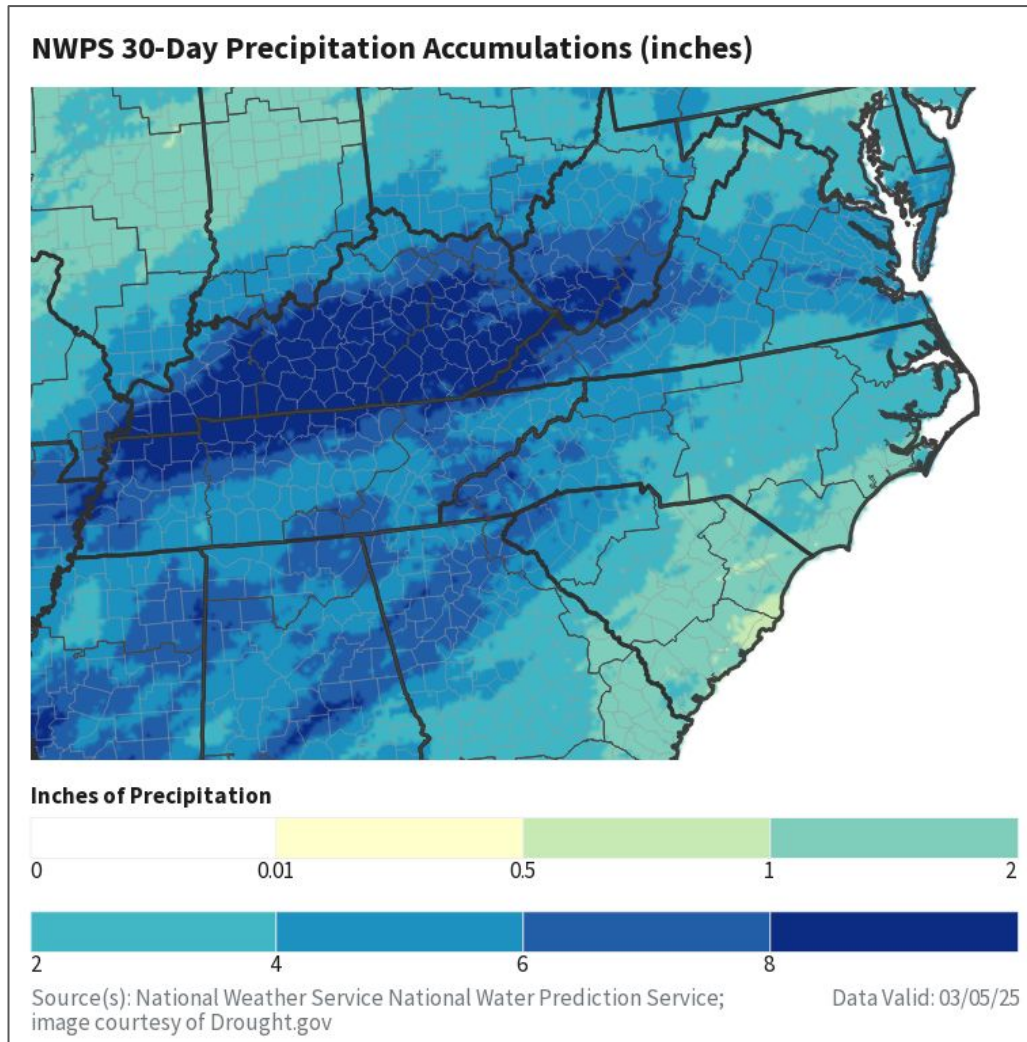
National Weather Service
Raleigh, NC



Observed Precipitation

March 7, 2025
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Latest 30-Day Rainfall and Percent of Normal Rainfall



Main Takeaways

- While there have been several weather systems to move across NC in the past 30-60 days, portions of southern and eastern NC did not receive normal rainfall and in some areas saw well below normal rainfall

Image Captions:

Left - Precipitation Amount for NC
 Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for NC
 Data Courtesy NWS National Water Prediction Service
 Data over the past 30 days ending March 4, 2025





Precipitation Forecast

March 7, 2025
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Latest 7-Day Precipitation Forecast

- Next 7 days:
 - Light to moderate rain may move across the region from Saturday night into early Monday, with the best chance in the southeast.
 - Rainfall will be dependent on the ultimate track of the low, but amounts are not expected to be heavy, with the current forecast only a tenth to quarter inch south and east of Raleigh.

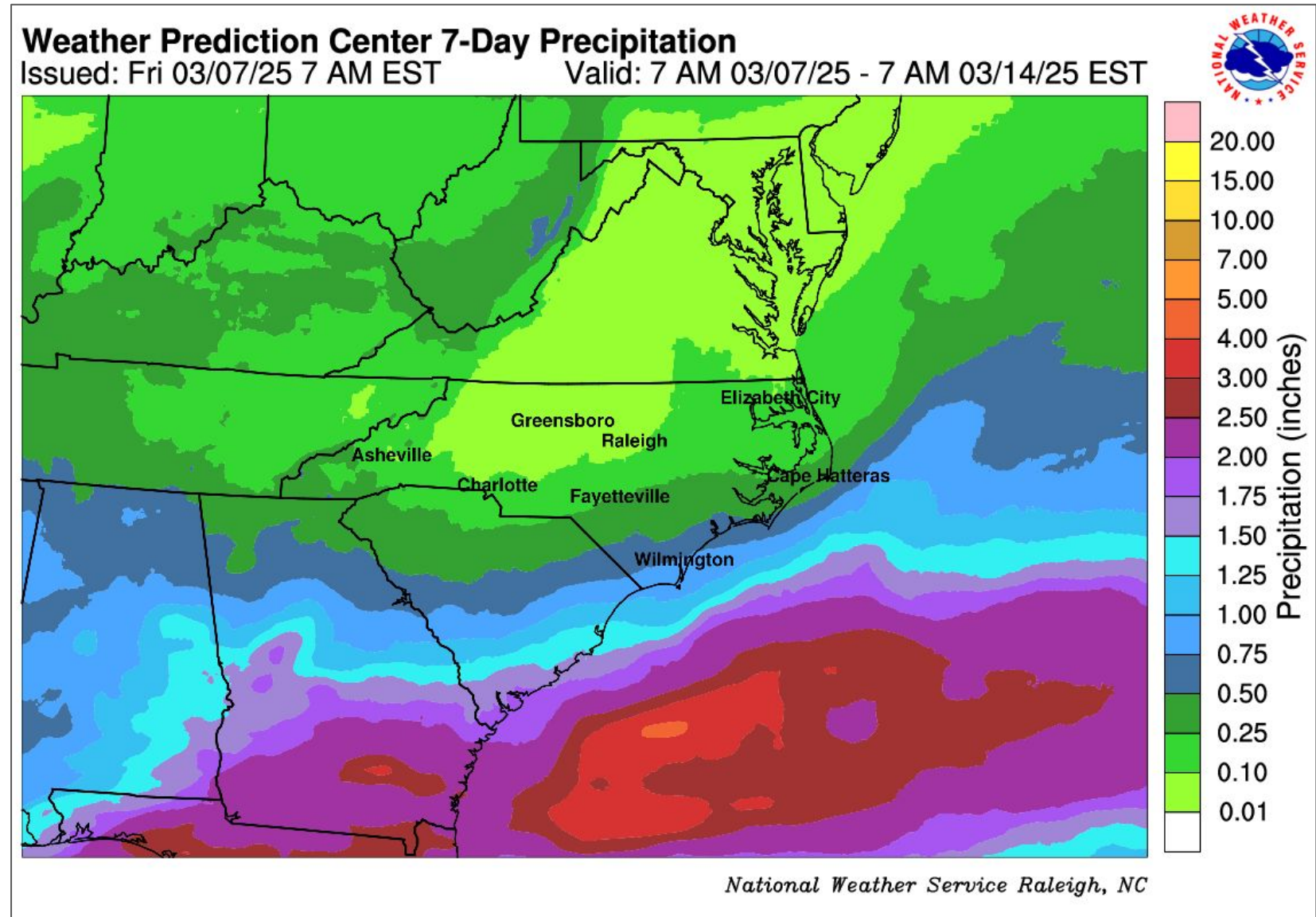


Image Caption: Weather Prediction Center [7-day precipitation forecast](#) valid Friday March 7 to Friday March 14, 2025





8-14 Day Outlook

March 7, 2025
3:41 PM

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- There is a 50-60% chance of above normal temperatures in Days 8-14 across central North Carolina.
- There are slightly increased chances (33-50%) of above normal precipitation in Days 8-14.

Possible Impact

- Possible improved drought conditions

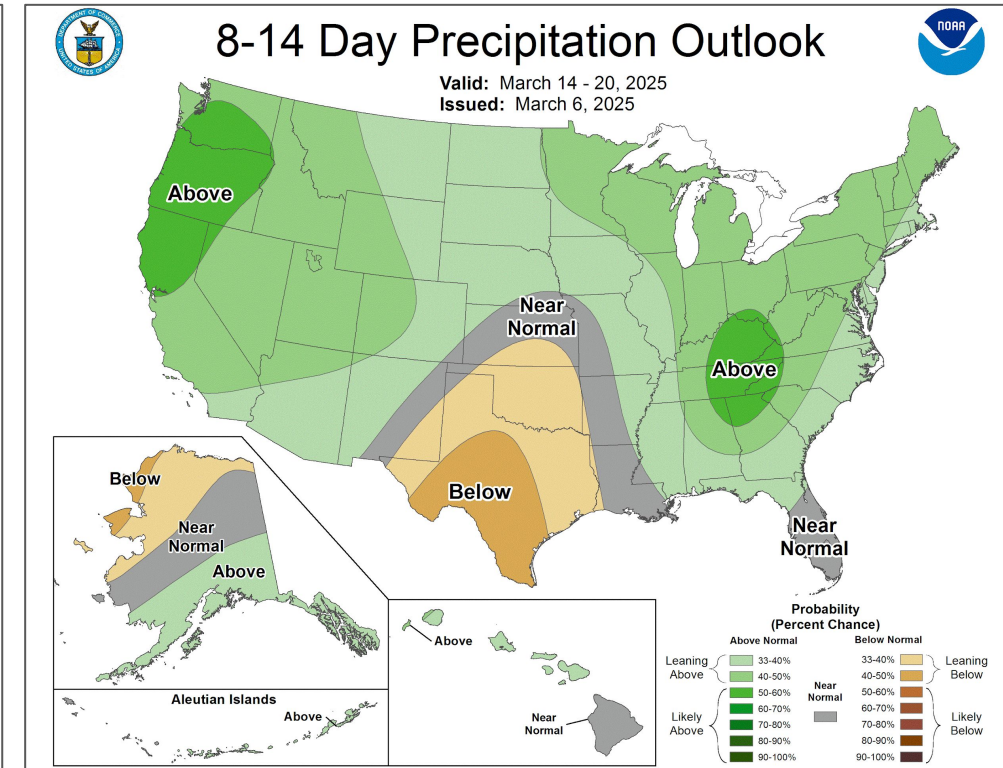
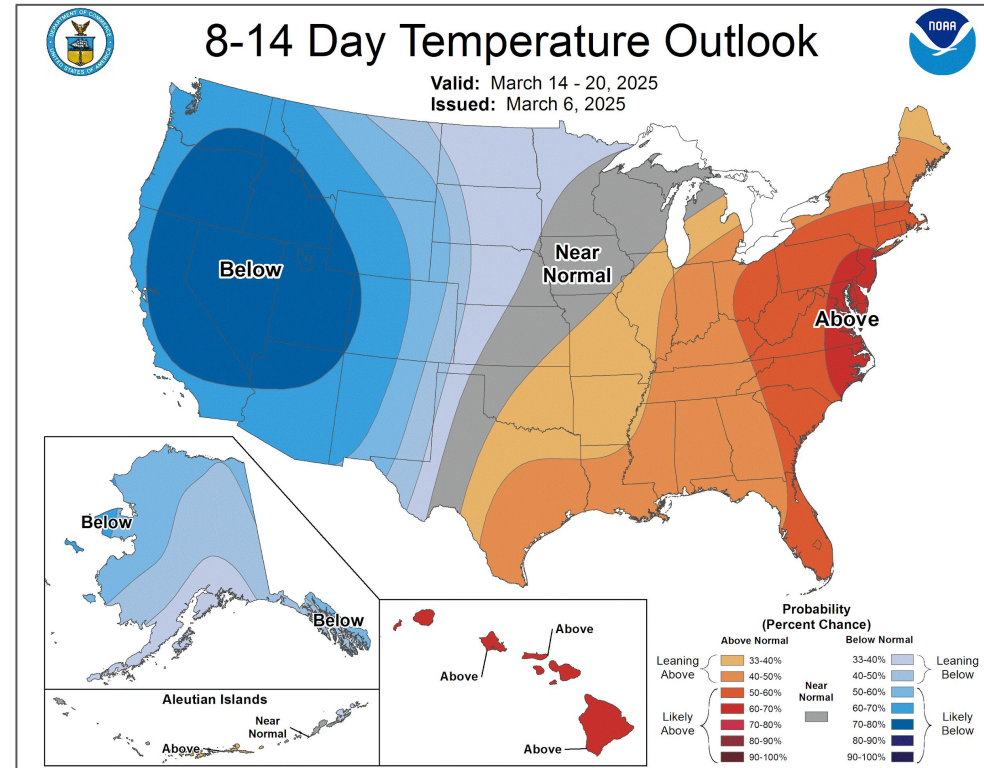


Image Captions:
 Left - [Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Temperature Outlook.](#)
 Right - [Climate Prediction Center 8-14 Day Precipitation Outlook.](#)
 Valid March 14 -20, 2025





Weeks 3-4 Outlook

March 7, 2025
3:41 PM

Temperature and Precipitation Outlook

Main Takeaways

- There is a slight lean (50-55%) to above normal precipitation across the northern portions of NC, with equal chances of above or below normal precipitation across the south for late March into early April.
- There is a lean toward above normal temperatures (55-60%).

Possible Impact

If near to above normal rainfall does not occur in the next 2 weeks, the uncertainty in rainfall combined with a higher probability of above normal temperatures could worsen drought conditions as we hear through the early portion of the agricultural season.

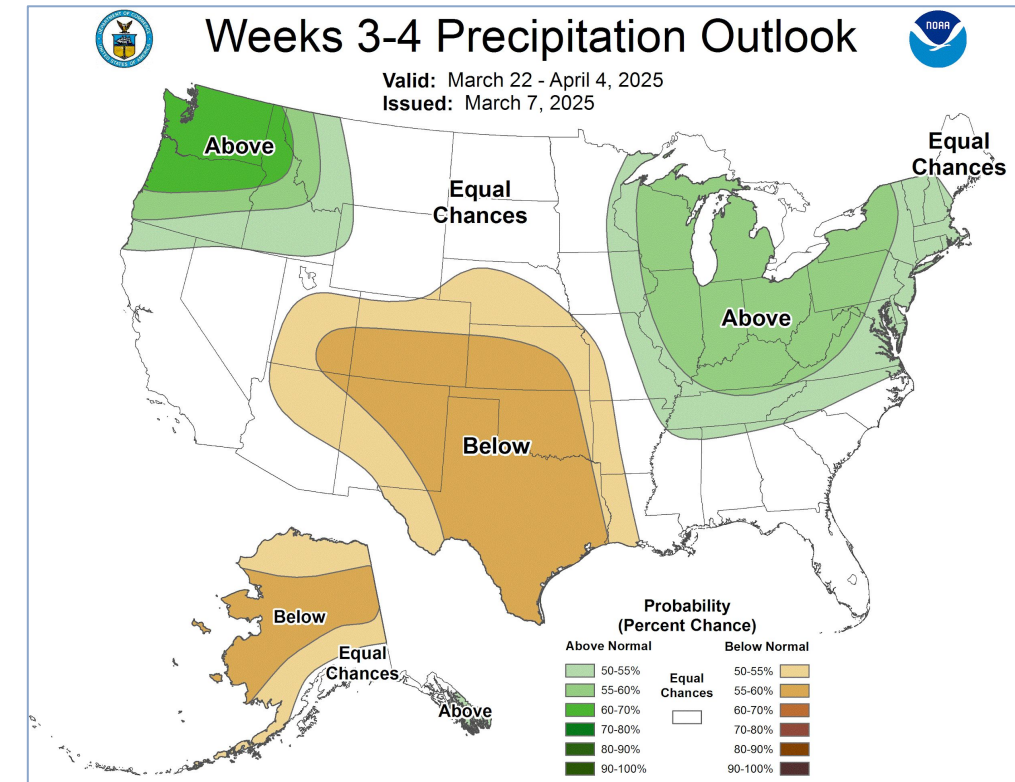
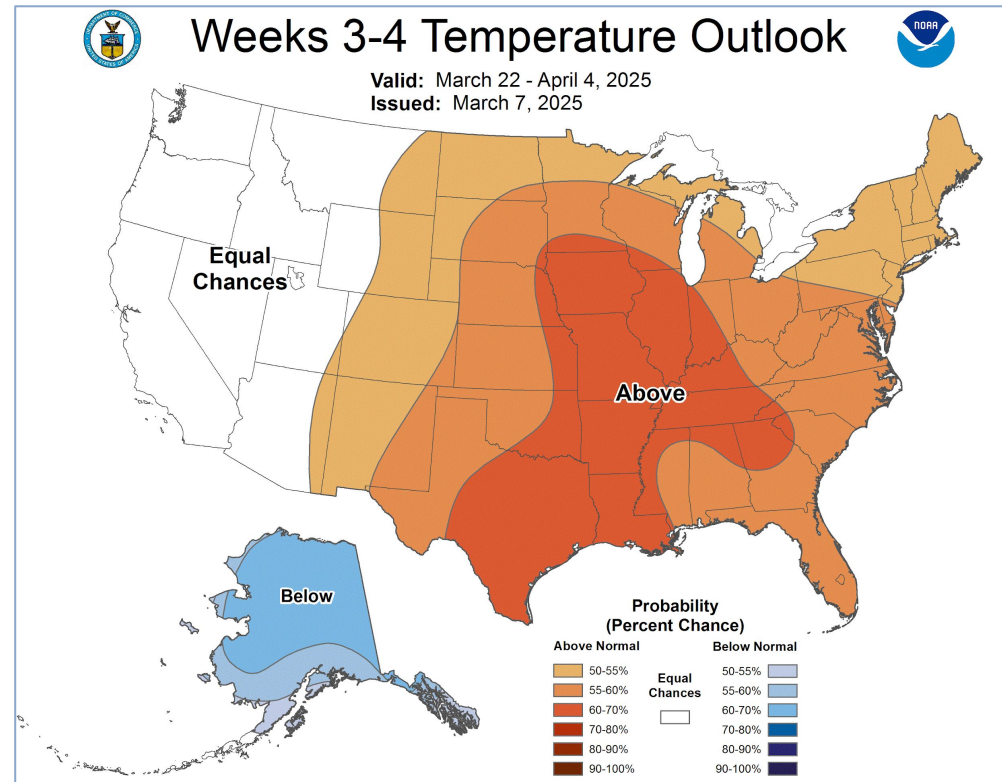


Image Captions:
Left - [Climate Prediction Center Weeks 3-4 Temperature Outlook.](#)
Right - [Climate Prediction Center Weeks 3-4 Precipitation Outlook.](#)
Valid March 22-April 4, 2025

