

2007 WEATHER & CROPS SUMMARY

The worst drought year on record for North Carolina was 2007. Of the 100 counties, 85 were declared disaster areas by the USDA. At the peak of the drought, October, 23, 2007, there were 72 counties classified with exceptional drought, 17 with extreme drought, and 11 with severe drought. The definitions of these drought categories can be found at www.ncdrought.org.

Average precipitation and abnormally warm temperatures were common during the early part of 2007. The month of April delivered below average temperatures and two early freeze events. This resulted in widespread damage to both peach and apple orchards. Many areas in the state were recording precipitation below normal. However the soil moisture remained adequate. In May, indications were beginning to show more areas of North Carolina with soil moisture levels rating poor and very poor. By the first week of May, corn was 97% planted, compared to 96% the previous year and 89% for the 5-year average. June and July had adequate rainfall most weeks and some of the small grains were progressing faster than the 5 year average. On the week ending July 1, wheat was 93% harvested compared to 83% the previous year and 84% for the 5-year average.

Hot and dry conditions extended from August until late October. Due to the dry and hot weather, phenological conditions for corn, cotton, and soybeans were above the five year average. By early September, the percentage of cotton bolls opening was 73% compared to 39% the previous year and 46% for the 5-year average. Precipitation the third week of October showed the state with 70% of the topsoil moisture rated as very short, 28% short and 2% adequate. Because of lack of precipitation and pastures not supplying enough forage, cattle farmers had to supplement feedings with hay. The last week of October offered a small amount of relief to farmers. The harvesting of cotton was completed by early December with 95% complete by November 25. This compared to 80% the previous year and 82% for the 5 year average. Most small grains were planted by early-December with wheat at 95% planted the week ending on December 9. The last weeks of December were seasonally warm in contrast to the abnormally low temperatures experienced during the first week of 2008.

CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA, 2007

District	Average Temperatures												Annual Average
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
<i>Degrees Fahrenheit</i>													
N. Mountain	36.4	30.7	47.8	50.2	60.9	68.3	68.8	74.8	66.2	57.5	42.5	40.2	53.7
W. Mountain	38.9	35.1	51.6	52.3	63.4	70.3	71.2	76.3	68.5	59.7	45.3	43.3	56.3
N. Piedmont	43.3	36.8	52.9	57.2	66.3	74.2	76.2	81.6	72.8	64.3	48.8	45.4	60.0
C. Piedmont	44.1	38.7	54.6	58.2	66.9	75.1	76.8	82.6	73.6	65.3	49.3	46.9	61.0
S. Piedmont	44.7	40.1	56.2	59.1	67.8	75.7	77.4	83.6	74.5	65.8	50.7	48.4	62.0
N. Coastal	46.8	39.7	53.1	58.3	66.4	75.5	77.9	80.5	73.5	69.2	51.8	49.2	61.8
C. Coastal	47.9	41.4	54.8	59.7	67.8	76.0	78.1	81.2	74.6	69.5	53.3	50.9	62.9
S. Coastal	47.7	42.6	55.7	59.6	67.9	76.2	78.4	82.3	74.8	68.7	52.7	51.1	63.1
District	Precipitation												Annual Total
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
<i>Inches of Water</i>													
N. Mountain	4.71	1.85	4.96	2.58	1.29	4.88	4.33	1.72	2.97	6.71	0.97	4.10	41.07
W. Mountain	4.80	1.81	4.12	2.61	1.48	4.03	4.56	2.17	2.85	3.21	2.23	4.67	38.54
N. Piedmont	3.45	2.36	3.69	4.09	1.17	3.60	2.94	1.26	1.18	5.33	0.80	4.23	34.10
C. Piedmont	3.79	2.37	3.48	3.87	1.03	3.80	3.50	1.16	1.98	5.10	0.85	4.05	34.98
S. Piedmont	3.33	2.85	3.55	3.41	1.75	3.86	2.26	1.43	1.16	3.64	0.63	4.62	32.49
N. Coastal	3.41	2.43	2.03	3.21	2.84	3.79	3.23	3.55	1.65	4.20	0.91	4.06	35.31
C. Coastal	3.98	2.26	1.98	3.55	2.78	3.89	5.86	2.55	3.77	4.17	0.88	4.27	39.94
S. Coastal	3.69	2.35	2.24	3.36	2.05	3.58	3.84	2.95	2.22	4.42	0.54	3.84	35.08

SOURCE: National Climate Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

SOIL MOISTURE PERCENTS STATEWIDE, 2007

