

# North Carolina Weather & Crops Report

Released: March 26, 2018



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North Carolina  
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## CROP SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2018

### DAYS SUITABLE FOR FIELD WORK

This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5-Year Avg.
3.1	n/a	n/a	n/a

### SOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

	VS	ST	A	SS
Topsoil Moisture	0	5	52	43
Subsoil Moisture	0	6	58	36

VS= Very Short ST = Short A = Adequate SS = Surplus

### CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS

This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Yr. Avg.
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### CROP CONDITION PERCENT

	VP	P	F	G	EX
Barley	1	2	40	48	9
Oats	1	1	16	78	4
Pasture	2	6	43	46	3
Wheat	0	1	31	62	6

VP = Very Poor P = Poor F = Fair G = Good EX = Excellent

Wheat, hayfields and pastures have benefited from the 2 inches or more of rain received this past week and everything is turning green. The cooler temperatures have kept growth down but hopefully over the next week temperatures will climb and boost growth. **Janice Nicholson - Rutherford County Extension** Most all small grains are maturing well even with the wet conditions. Some growers were late with Nitrogen applications but there has been enough dry conditions for the growers to catch up. Strawberry growers have had a tough time with the weather, several nights of sub-freezing temperatures have necessitated frost protection for 3-4 nights in a row.

#### Don Nicholson – Agronomist Region 7

A warm February gave way to a cold, windy and snowy March. Snow storms have caused producers to feed more hay than normal and some producers may be short on hay if the snow storms continue. **Julia Houck – Ashe-Alleghany Cnty Extension** Weather conditions for the month of March have been highly variable with temperatures ranging from near 70 to the upper teens. Several snow events occurred during the month, with most bringing accumulations of only a couple of inches; however, two events dropped between 6-8" of snow. Pastures are beginning to green up some; however, livestock producers are still feeding hay. Hay supplies appear to be sufficient. A limited amount of field preparation was done during the month as soil moisture levels would allow. **Stanley Holloway – Yancey County Extension** The multiple cold snaps during the month of March have hurt the peach crop, especially on early varieties. Main season varieties had not bloomed out completely and are in good shape. Barring any more cold weather events, the NC peach crop should be in fair shape for this year.

#### Brad Thompson - Montgomery County Extension

It has been very windy the past few weeks. Farmers are getting their fields burned down and conditioned for planting season. Most of the wheat is looking pretty good.

#### Blake Sandlin - Duplin County Extension

Rainfall has been adequate in the past few weeks. Corn planting conditions are fair with 2 inch soil temps at 55 in tilled ground and 53 in no till. **Tim Britton – Johnston County Extension**

This period has been cooler than normal overall with near normal rainfall of about 4" widespread throughout Jackson and Swain Counties. **Robert Hawk – Swain County Extension**

Rain, snow, freezing rain, and cold weather have combined to slow winter wheat growth and fertilizer application. Tobacco greenhouses are in good shape. Some are dealing with cold damage along the edges away from the heat source. Pastures are green, but growing slowly. Hay is in short supply..

#### Paul Westfall – Granville County Extension

Fields are wet after multiple weeks of wet weather. Tobacco Farmers are waiting for some dry weather to start preparing fields for planting in April. **Charles Mitchell - Franklin Cnty Extension** Rain, snow, freezing rain, and cold weather have combined to slow winter wheat growth and fertilizer application. Tobacco greenhouses are in good shape, with few problems reported so far. Some are dealing with cold damage along the edges away from the heat source. Pastures are green, but growing slowly. Hay is in short supply. Like wheat, most pastures are too wet to rum application equipment across.

#### Paul Westfall - Granville County Extension

After warm February, cool and rainy March weather has slowed fieldwork. Fertilizer is still being spread on small grain fields, and some burn down herbicides are being sprayed in preparation for corn planting. **Stephen Bishop – Cleveland SWCD** Plant germination in tobacco greenhouse transplant production lower than desired but we should still have adequate plants for anticipated production acres. Preparation for corn planting continues but is delayed by frequent rains. Planting delayed for some due to projected forecast of colder temperatures.

#### Mike Carroll - Craven County Extension

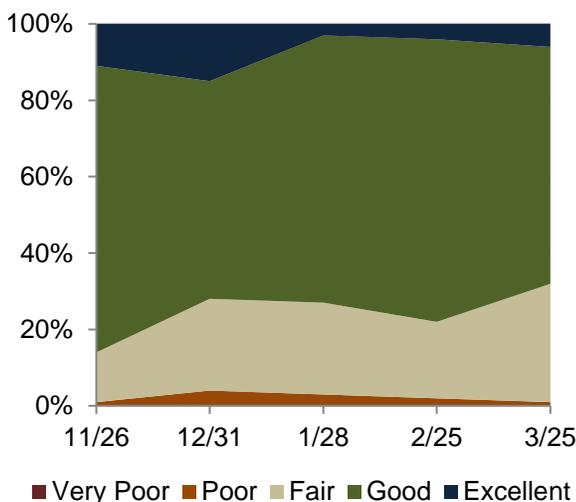
March has been cold and wet. Small grain is a little behind schedule, strawberries are a little behind schedule, and there has been almost no fieldwork accomplished this month.

#### Tim Hambrick – Forsyth County Extension

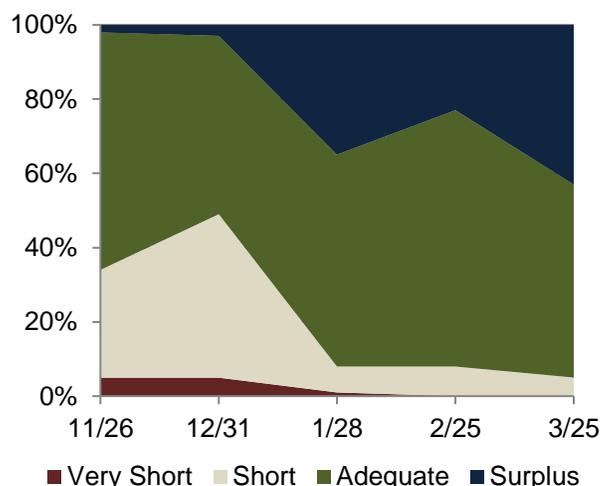
Small grains that have been top-dressed are looking very good. Wet field conditions has limited completion of small grains top-dress and tobacco land preparation efforts.

#### Brandon Poole – Agronomist Region 8

### WHEAT CONDITION PERCENT



### TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT



**WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH 2018\***

Location	Precipitation (Inches) <sup>1</sup>				Temperature (Degrees F.)				
	This Month		Year to Date		This Month				
	Total	Departure from Normal	Total	Departure from Normal	High	Low	Avg.	Departure from Normal	Degree Days (YTD)
ASHEBORO 2 W	5.13	4.47	12.41	1.69	68	26	47	-2	4523
ASHEVILLE AIRPO	2.76	-0.31	11.92	1.87	76	25	44	-2	4057
BURLINGTON ALAM	3.09	-0.19	8.47	-1.41	72	22	45	-4	4952
CHARLOTTE	4.11	0.85	9.52	-0.28	74	25	48	-3	5319
CLAYTON WTP	4.50	1.28	11.32	1.11	69	23	43	-6	4817
CLINTON 2 NE	1.95	0.39	7.28	-2.62	72	28	47	-4	5312
ELIZABETH CITY	4.42	1.35	10.96	1.55	64	25	44	-5	5359
ERWIN AP	3.51	1.05	7.61	-1.50	71	26	47	-4	5698
FAYETTEVILLE RE	2.82	0.09	7.32	-1.27	75	25	48	-5	6029
GASTONIA MUNICI	3.91	0.67	9.93	-0.33	76	24	48	-2	5228
GOLDSBORO	3.44	0.75	9.07	1.25	73	27	49	-2	5715
GREENSBORO AP	4.31	1.33	10.49	1.52	70	24	43	-6	4748
GREENVILLE	3.87	0.73	11.72	1.51	72	26	46	-6	5526
HICKORY FAA AIR	4.04	0.68	11.48	0.73	71	27	45	-4	4613
JEFFERSON 2 E	4.22	0.75	12.14	0.75	65	19	37	-4	2648
KINSTON AG RESE	2.33	0.08	8.83	-0.75	73	21	48	-5	5941
LAURINBURG MAXT	2.27	0.26	6.93	-0.47	77	24	49	-3	5464
MOUNT AIRY 2 W	4.32	1.06	12.26	2.28	70	21	41	-3	3761
NEW BERN	4.22	0.65	10.63	-0.62	73	27	46	-6	5653
NORTH WILKESBOR	3.59	-0.10	12.42	1.01	72	27	43	-3	4165
OXFORD AG	4.13	1.01	7.61	-0.67	63	25	40	-7	1974
RALEIGH AP	4.76	1.44	10.22	0.33	71	24	44	-7	5233
REIDSVILLE 2 NW	5.43	2.01	11.30	0.74	69	26	42	-6	4412
ROANOKE RAPIDS	3.61	0.38	9.67	-0.26	67	29	44	-4	5160
ROBBINSVILLE AG	6.05	0.55	15.20	3.40	71	22	41	-3	3648
ROCKINGHAM	2.48	0.45	6.98	0.92	70	21	42	-2	4076
ROXBORO 7 ESE	3.08	0.47	9.37	-1.27	71	19	41	-4	4131
SOUTHERN PINES	1.95	0.40	6.18	3.01	72	24	46	-3	5399
STATESVILLE 2 N	3.59	0.28	9.89	-0.08	70	21	42	-4	4178
TARBORO 1 S	2.07	-0.03	9.33	-0.32	72	13	44	-5	5073
VALE AG 2 SW	1.50	0.57	9.09	1.95	73	22	44	-4	4635
WALLACE 1SE	4.03	0.75	11.20	0.56	75	24	46	-5	5508
WASHINGTON	4.17	1.17	10.54	0.05	69	28	44	-7	5058
WAYNESVILLE 1 E	3.50	0.26	11.52	-0.49	69	16	40	-3	3177
WHITEVILLE 7 NW	3.38	0.48	6.86	-3.16	76	24	48	-4	5431
WILLIAMSTON 1 E	4.14	1.04	11.30	1.12	69	28	45	-5	5285
WILMINGTON INT'	3.25	-0.18	11.77	1.09	78	26	50	-4	6095
WILSON 3 SW	3.98	1.03	10.01	-0.02	71	27	45	-5	5315
WINSTON SALEM R	2.68	0.18	8.77	-0.98	68	24	44	-5	4660

\*Effective October 15, 2017 the weather data source has been changed. The basic format of the data tables has not changed, but the data content will be based on newer historical datasets used for average calculations and changes in methodology subroutines for missing data.

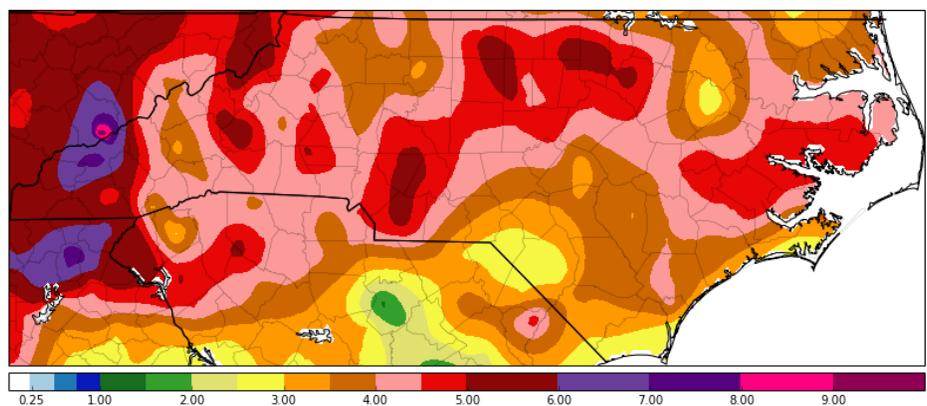
<sup>1</sup>Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) NOAA Regional Climate Centers data.

**PRECIPITATION SUMMARY**

Map depicts accumulations through dates listed. This product is made possible by Clear Science, Inc.

North Carolina Region

Precipitation Accumulation (inches)  
2018-03-01 - 2018-03-25



**US DROUGHT MONITOR OF NORTH CAROLINA**

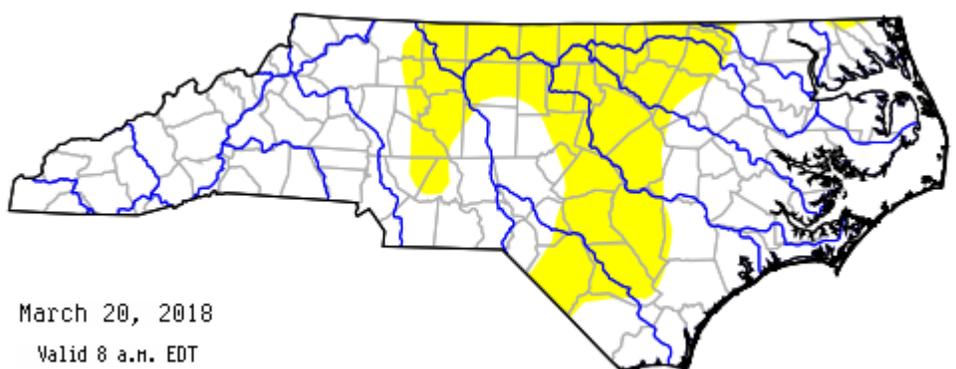
<http://www.ncdrought.org/>

The US drought monitor focuses on broad scale conditions. Information provided for North Carolina is relative to information provided from all other states and the North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council. Local conditions may vary.

**Drought Classifications**

- D0 - Abnormally Dry
- D1 - Moderate Drought
- D2 - Severe Drought
- D3 - Extreme Drought
- D4 - Exceptional Drought

March 20, 2018  
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



County Boundaries  Major River Basins ([View Map](#))  
**S** = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)  
**L** = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)