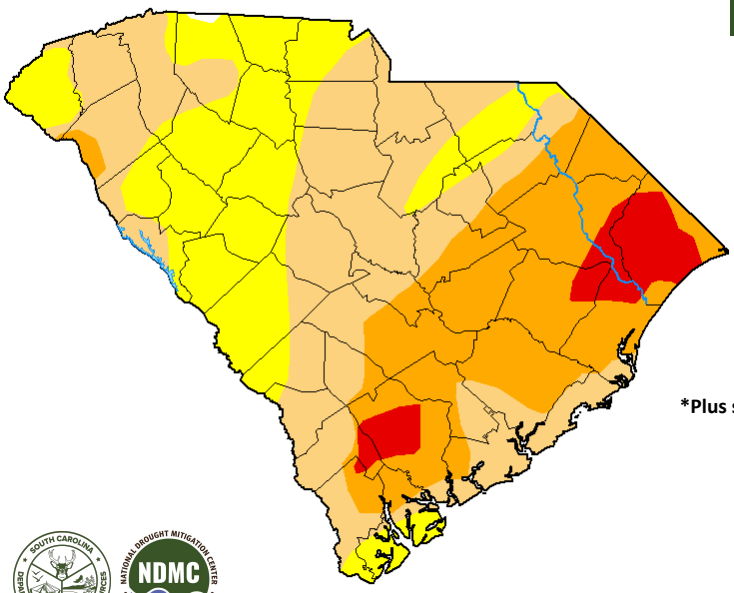
South Carolina Drought Briefing – Oct. 2, 2026

U.S Drought Monitor Update for South Carolina

Assessment Period Ending September 29, 2026

This week's USDM Author, **Jonathan Case (NASA/MSFC/UAH),** with input from local, state, and federal partners based in South Carolina.



Statewide Coverage By Category

Category	Categorical Coverage This Week	Change Since Last Week
D0: Abnormally Dry	27.52%	+6.37%
D1: Moderate Drought	39.32%	-1.89%
D2: Severe Drought	27.32%	-4.23%
D3: Extreme Drought	5.73%	-0.37%
D4: Exceptional Drought	0.00%	0.00%

***Plus sign** on "Change Since Last Week" indicates the expansion of the category area, and the **minus sign** indicates the reduction of the category area.

Condition Change:

Drought Executive Summary

Water Resources

Based on data from SCDES Ending Oct. 1, 2026

- Streamflow conditions improved or declined depending on the amount and coverage of rainfall.
- Slight decline in the groundwater across portions of the state with little to no change in reservoir levels.
- **19** water systems are requiring mandatory water conservation.
- **50** water systems are requesting voluntary water conservation measures.

Agriculture

Based on USDA FSA Reports Ending Sept. 29, 2026

- Rain showers from Sept 19th to 25th followed by cooler temperatures brought some relief to drought-stricken areas.
- However, more widespread rain is needed to improve crop conditions statewide.

The next SC Drought Response Committee (DRC) Meeting will be on
Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 10 A.M.

For additional information, please contact drought@dnr.sc.gov or visit scdrought.com

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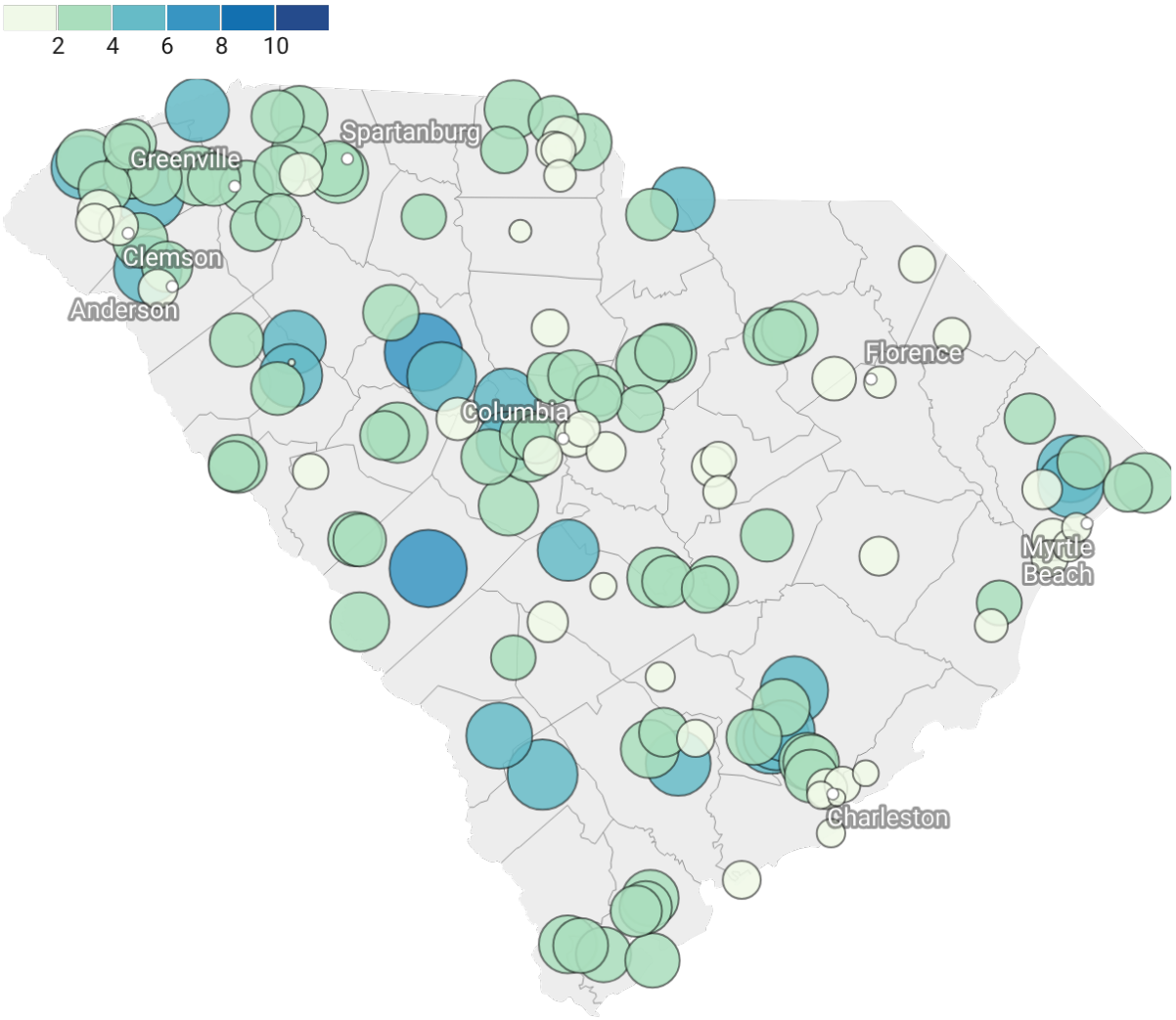
Preliminary September Total Rainfall*

*Data is preliminary until final quality control and review by NCEI

CoCoRaHS and NWS station Rainfall Totals

September 1 - 30, 2026



Created with Datawrapper

Station	County	Total Rain (inches)	Station	County	Total Rain (inches)
Newberry 1.0 N	Newbery	6.78”	Myrtle Beach AFB	Horry	0.80”
Aiken 8.3 E	Aiken	6.72”	Reevesville 1.0 SSE	Dorchester	0.80”
Summerville 1.9 SSW	Dorchester	5.48”	Orangeburg 0.4 NNW	Orangeburg	0.63”
Hampton 0.8 SW	Hampton	5.46”	Chester 0.2 NNE	Chester	0.42”
Liberty 3.7 WNW	Pickens	5.44”	Downtown Charleston	Charleston	0.22”

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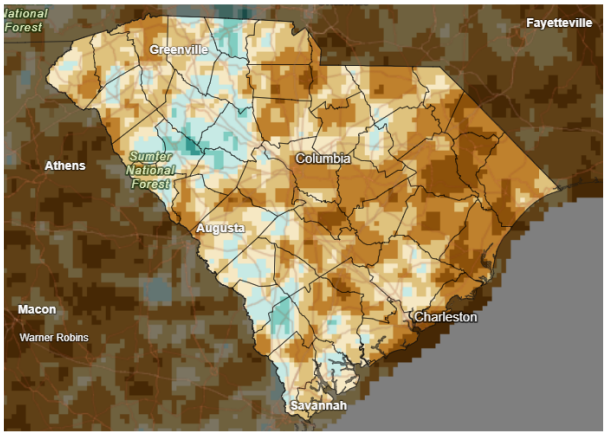
Rainfall and Temperature Statistics

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



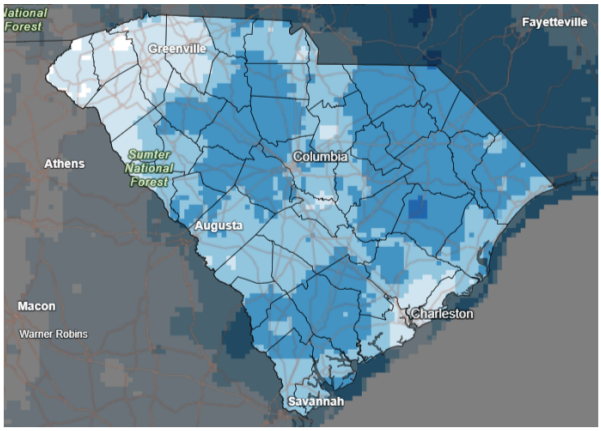
Source(s): UC Merced
Data Valid: 09/28/26

Drought.gov

Key Points

- Mostly dry conditions occurred throughout the state from Sep. 26th through Oct 2nd.
- There are still areas across the state reporting 30-day rainfall deficits of more than 50% of normal.

7-Day Departure from Normal Maximum Temperature (°F)



Source(s): UC Merced
Data Valid: 09/28/26

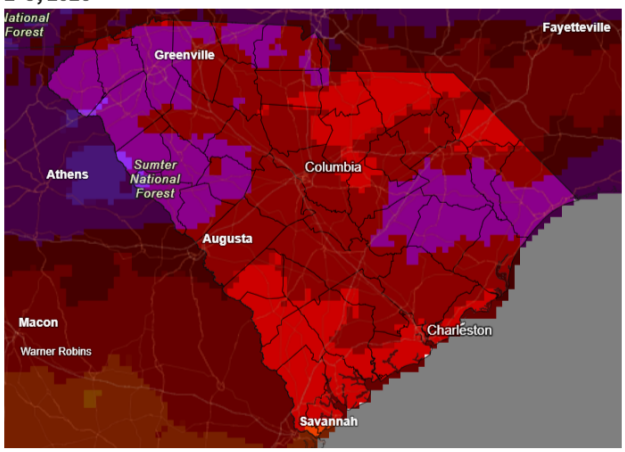
Drought.gov

Key Points

- Maximum temperatures were in the mid 70s to mid 80s.
- Temperatures were below normal for this time of the year.

7-Day Rainfall Forecast

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for October 2–9, 2026



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center
Last Updated: 10/02/26

Drought.gov

Rainfall Forecast Confidence

	Potential	Amount	Coverage
Very High			
High	✓		
Medium		✓	✓
Low			
Very Low			

The **current forecast** calls for 1.75 to 4 inches of rain over the next seven days.

This information is based on forecast and outlook guidance from the National Weather Service. For more information, visit: weather.gov