

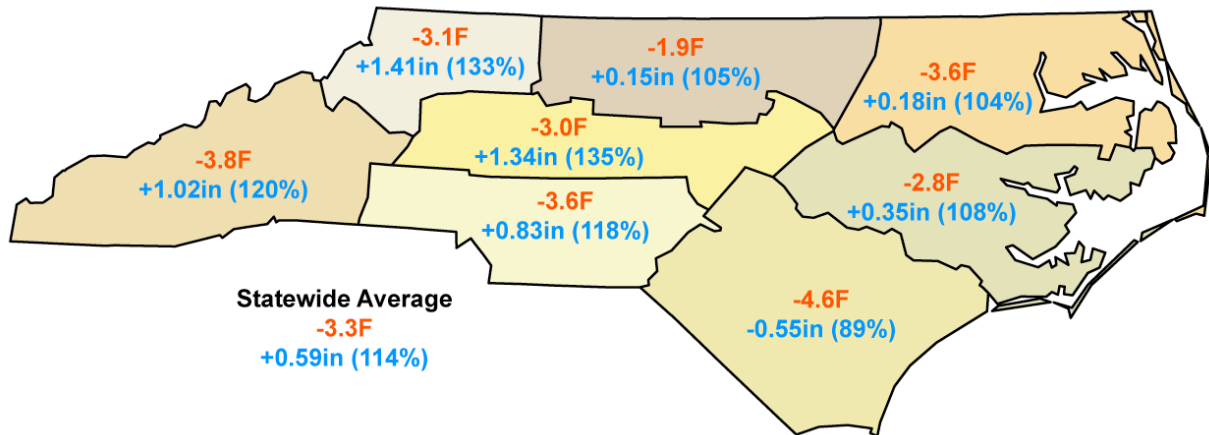
Monthly Climate Summary: North Carolina

January 2010: Cold and Wintery

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Climate Summary

Temperature and Precipitation by Climate Division Departures from Normal for January 2010 Based on Preliminary Data



January 2010 was cold across North Carolina, with several winter storm events that impacted the state. The first week of January brought a near-record cold spell while the end of January brought snow, sleet, and freezing rain to many parts of North Carolina. Fortunately, power outages and property damage was generally limited. Many residents in western NC are still dealing with the aftermath of damages from the winter storms in late December 2009.

Overall, temperatures were much below-normal for North Carolina in January 2010, which statewide ranked as the 16th coldest January since 1895. Precipitation amounts were generally above normal across the state, but not as wet as in previous months. Overall, January 2010 statewide precipitation totals ranked as the 26th wettest since 1895.

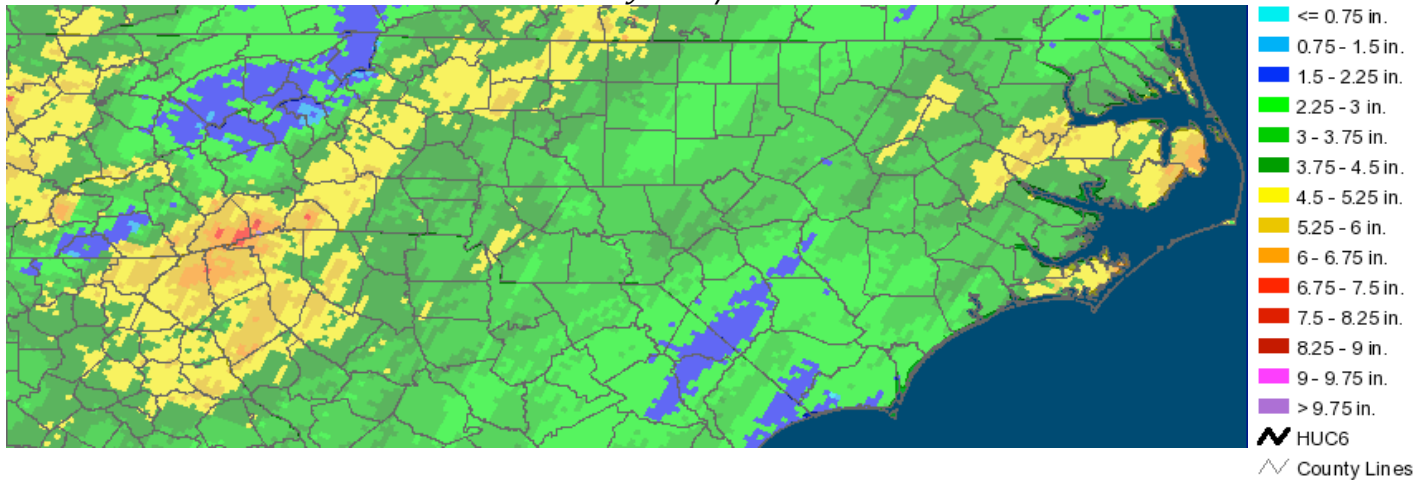
Impacts to Agriculture

The cold temperatures in early January didn't cause too many problems for small fruit crops, which typically are not vulnerable to cold weather during this time of the year. Most strawberry producers use a range of protection techniques to prevent damage, and blueberries are generally not at risk during this time of the year. Otherwise, continued wet conditions and surplus soil moisture prevented much work in the fields.

Impacts to Water Resources

The drought conditions from recent year seem like a distant memory to many. Wet conditions continue to ensure reservoirs are full and groundwater is recharging. Drought conditions are not likely to be of any concern until late spring or early summer if NC again experiences dry weather.

Precipitation for January 2010
 Based on estimates from NWS Radar
Data Courtesy NWS/NCEP



Precipitation for January 2010: Percent of Normal
 Based on estimates from NWS Radar
Data Courtesy NWS/NCEP

