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Meteorologist: Frequent June rains likely at an end

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It has rained nearly every other day this month, a relief to farmers and keepers of the Upstate's waterways, but meteorologists predict a dry week ahead.

June has received 2.83 inches of rain so far, just about an inch shy of normal for June with 12 days still to go in the month, said Pat Tanner, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service.

There is a slight chance of scattered showers Monday afternoon, but most rain will fall in southwest North Carolina.

"It's going to be really super isolated," Tanner said.

The next chance for showers is next Sunday, but even then the rain forecast is bleak.

"With the high over us, it's going to be kind of suppressed," Tanner said.

In the Anderson area, temperatures will range from the mid 60s to the low 90s this week, and days will be mostly clear. Highs in the 90s will likely persist through September, Tanner said. The average highs and lows for June are 88 degrees and 66.

The Upstate remains in a moderate drought, with the driest counties in South Carolina south of here. Abbeville, Aiken, Edgefield and McCormick are the only counties still in "severe" drought status, which is reflected in record low stream flows into Thurmond Lake.

Despite rainfall over Hartwell Lake that had surpassed more than half the monthly normal as of Sunday, the reservoir fell slightly over the past week. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers draws down Hartwell when Thurmond is low.

Hartwell Lake is now at 651.11 feet above sea level — nearly nine feet below full and eight feet lower than where it stood a year ago, according to records maintained online by the corps.

Lake Jocasee stood 23 feet below full pool Sunday, and Lake Keowee stood 5 feet below full pool.

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