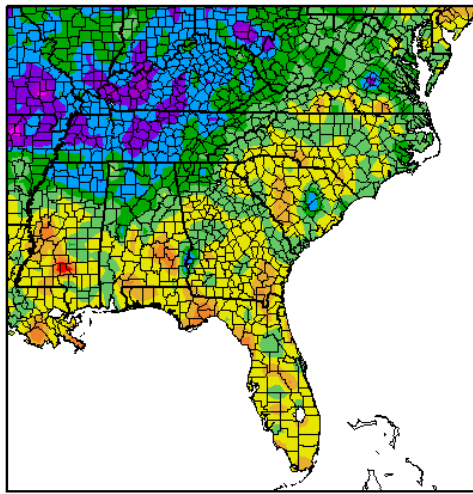


August 2015 Climate Summary – Georgia

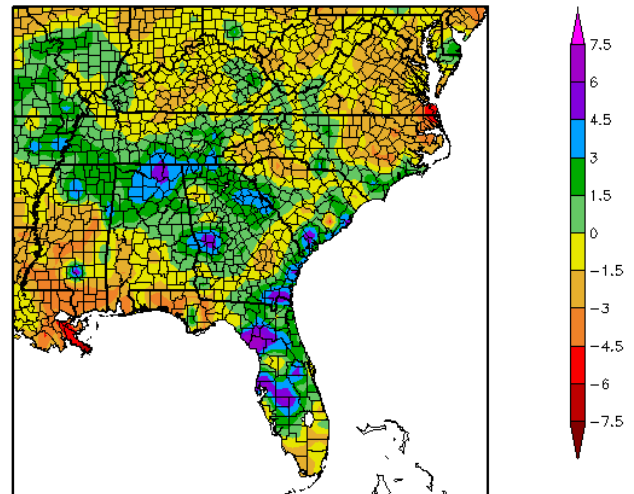
Lauren Lindsey, *Service Climatologist*
State of Georgia Climate Office

August was characterized by an active weather pattern including cold frontal passages, dominant high pressure, and abundant tropical moisture that led to variable temperatures and precipitation throughout Georgia. Temperatures were very close to normal, and areas that received above normal rainfall generally had slightly cooler than normal temperatures.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/1/2015 – 8/31/2015



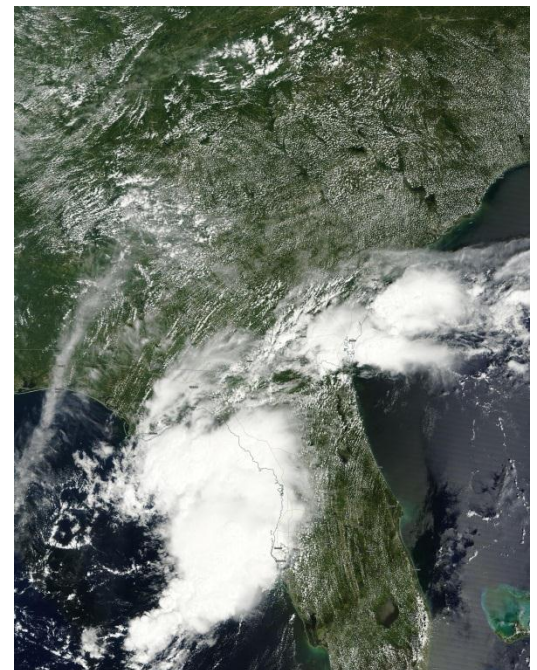
Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
8/1/2015 – 8/31/2015



Most major climate sites' average monthly temperatures were within 0.5°F of normal. Atlanta's average monthly temperature was 79.9° (+0.5°), Athens recorded 79.8° (+0.2°), Augusta recorded 80.6° (+0.1), and Savannah recorded 81.8° (+0.3°). Columbus' average monthly temperature was 81.6° (-0.3°) and tied a record high temperature of 99° on August 4th (previous record was set in 2011). Macon recorded 80.6° (-0.3°) for August and set a record low temperature of 57° on August 26th, breaking the old record of 58° from 2013. St. Simons Island's average monthly temperatures was 81.6° (-0.2°) and tied a record low maximum temperature on August 2nd with 84° (previous record was set in 2007).

Most of Georgia received above normal precipitation with the exception of areas along the South Carolina border and in the southeast portion of the state. Atlanta recorded 5.77" (+1.87") of rainfall in August, Athens recorded 6.78" (+3.25"), Macon recorded 5.07" (+0.97"), Augusta recorded 3.74" (-0.58"), Savannah recorded 7.84" (+1.28"), and St. Simons Island recorded 6.76" (+0.49"). Columbus recorded 7.50" (+3.73") and set a daily maximum rainfall record with 3.80" on August 6th, breaking the previous record of 1.65" set in 1966.

The month was fairly inactive in terms of severe weather.



Remnants of Tropical Storm Erika on September 1st, 2015.
Image courtesy of NASA (earthdata.nasa.gov).

Numerous reports of wind damage occurred throughout the month, but there were only three days where the majority of wind damage was reported. There was hurricane activity in the Atlantic this month. Hurricane Danny, a category 3, was the first major hurricane of the season, but dissipated in the Caribbean on the 24th.

Tropical Storm Erika began to drift into southern Georgia at the end of the month, but the only impacts were additional rainfall. The dry Saharan Air Layer and high wind shear in the Atlantic, which is due to El Niño conditions, is causing a dampened hurricane season thus far.

The current United States Drought Monitor for Georgia shows areas of D2 (severe drought) along the South Carolina border, surrounded by an area of D1 (moderate drought) conditions extending into central Georgia, while areas of extreme south Georgia also show D1 conditions. D0 (abnormally dry) conditions linger in northwest Georgia. The strong El Niño that is forecast to continue into winter could bring above normal rainfall and drought relief to the southeast.

According to the Climate Prediction Center, El Niño conditions are present. There is currently an El Niño Advisory, and a greater than 90% chance that El Niño will continue through northern hemisphere 2015-2016, with around an 85% chance it will last into early spring 2016. Temperature and precipitation impacts from El Niño will increase into the fall and late winter across the U.S., which is reflected in the CPC's

seasonal outlook.

The Climate Prediction Center's three-month seasonal outlook forecasts chances for above normal temperatures in much of the state except the extreme north, where an equal chance for above, near, or below normal temperatures is forecast for September, October, and November. In the northern half of the state, chances for above normal precipitation is forecast, and equal chances of above, near, or below normal precipitation is forecast for the southern half for the next three months.

