

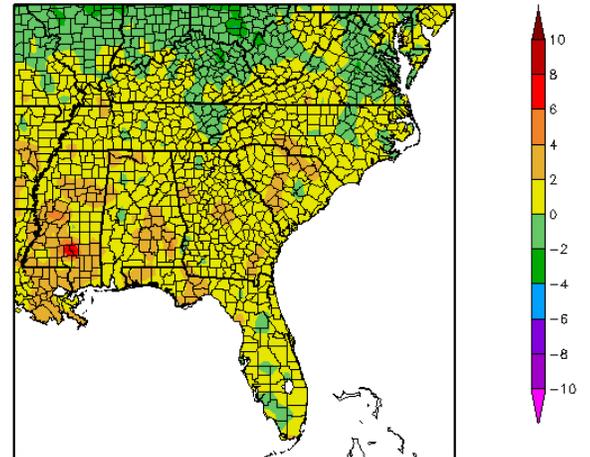
July 2015 Climate Summary – Georgia

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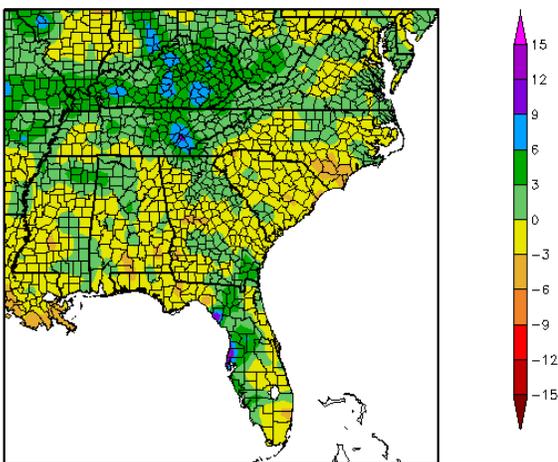
Summer was in full swing in Georgia this July. The month was characterized by hot temperatures and afternoon thunderstorms throughout the state. Most of the state had above normal temperatures while precipitation was variable. Central Georgia was notably drier and hotter this month with well above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation.

Atlanta's average temperature for July was 81.3°F (+1.1°) and Athens recorded 82.0° (+1.4°), making them both the 13th warmest Julys on record for those sites. Macon's average temperature was 83.8° (+2.0°), making it the 7th warmest July on record. Macon also tied its record high temperature on July 14th with 101°; the previous record was set in 1977. Columbus recorded a monthly average temperature of 83.7° (+1.2°), Savannah recorded 83.7° (+1.1°), and Augusta recorded 83.6° (+2.0°). St. Simons Island's July average temperature was right at normal at 82.8°. Many sites also tied their high minimum or high temperatures in July. The heat combined with high dew points and resulting high relative humidity allowed for many heat advisories to be issued this month. On July 21st, both Hunter U.S. Army Airfield in Savannah and Waycross reached 121° heat indices.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
7/1/2015 – 7/31/2015

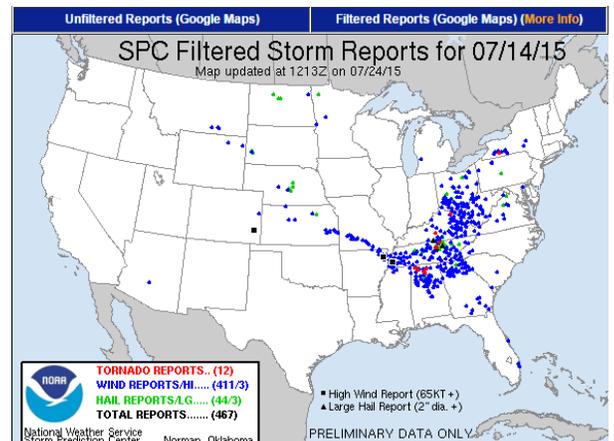


Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
7/1/2015 – 7/31/2015



The precipitation in Atlanta in July totaled 5.01" (-0.26") and 5.08" in Athens (-0.61"). Macon only recorded 1.56" (-3.39") which led to its 8th driest July on record. Columbus also had its 8th driest July with only 2.24" (-2.52") total. St. Simons Island recorded well above normal precipitation with 9.22" (+5.14"), making it the 8th wettest July on record. Two daily maximum rainfall records were set in St. Simons on July 23rd with 2.18" (the old record of 1.58" was set in 1983) as well as on July 31st with 4.07", shattering the previous record of 1.36" set in 1991. Augusta and Savannah had slightly below normal rainfall with 3.52" (-0.81") and 5.36" (-0.24"), respectively.

According to the Storm Prediction Center, severe weather was reported on many days in July. The majority of reports were in the form of damaging wind, although a couple of hail events were observed as well. On the 14th, storms fueled by an ongoing mesoscale convective system pushing into northeast Georgia and afternoon heating and instability caused



much wind damage and a few hail reports. Many trees and power lines were reported down or damaged in north Georgia.

The current U.S. Drought Monitor for Georgia shows abnormally dry conditions across central and southern Georgia. Central Georgia, east Georgia along the Savannah River, and south Georgia along the Florida border are experiencing moderate drought conditions, with a small area of severe drought conditions in south-central Georgia. A transitional weather pattern is approaching as an upper level trough sets up over the southeast, allowing for better daily coverage of rainfall throughout the state. This pattern change should bring some necessary drought relief in many areas.

The Climate Prediction Center's three-month outlook forecasts chances for above normal temperatures in the southern half of the state and equal chances of above, near, or below normal temperatures in the northern half. The CPC also forecasts equal chances of above, near, or below normal precipitation in August, September, and October. According to the CPC, there is currently an El Niño advisory and El Niño conditions present. There is a greater than 90% chance that El Niño will continue through Northern Hemisphere Winter 2015-2016, and near 80% chance it will last through early Spring 2016.

