

April 2020 Climate Summary – Georgia

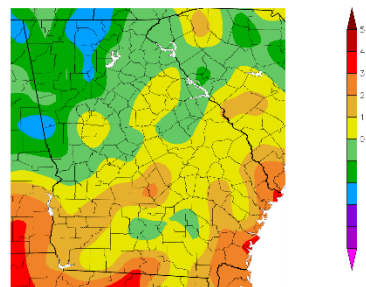
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State of Georgia Climate Office

An active weather pattern during the month of April led to above normal precipitation across much of the state and several severe weather events across the region. Average temperatures varied from north to south, with near to below normal temperatures in north and central Georgia, and mainly above normal temperatures in the southern part of the state. The average statewide temperature was near normal at 63.2°. Precipitation was 3.43" above normal for the state, making it the 6th wettest April on record since 1928.

The temperatures in north and central Georgia stayed in near normal range for Athens, Atlanta, Columbus, and Macon at 62.2° (+0.5), 61.6° (-0.4), 64.9° (+0.3) and 63.7° (+0.3), respectively. The heat rose in south Georgia during the first part of the month as McKinnon Airport in Brunswick set a record high temperature of 91° on 4/9. This broke the previous record of 89° set in 2011.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
4/1/2020 – 4/30/2020

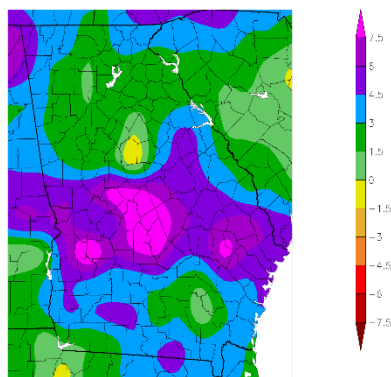


Generated 5/10/2020 at HRRC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Precipitation was well above normal in many areas of the state, with Macon experiencing its wettest April on record at 11.9" (+8.9"). Columbus reached its 5th

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
4/1/2020 – 4/30/2020



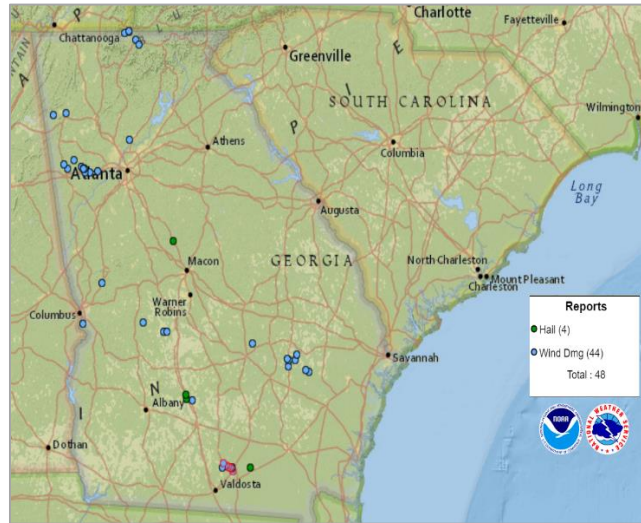
Generated 5/10/2020 at HRRC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

wettest April on record with 10.51" (+7.0). Several areas received record-breaking daily rainfall amounts toward the end of the month. Macon, Columbus, and Augusta set record daily maximum rainfall on the 19th, with 4.41", 5.92", and 1.44", respectively. Macon and Savannah also set daily maximum rainfall records of 2.09" and 3.23", respectively, on 4/23. The month ended on a wet note for Macon, as it received record daily rainfall of 3.67" on the 29th.

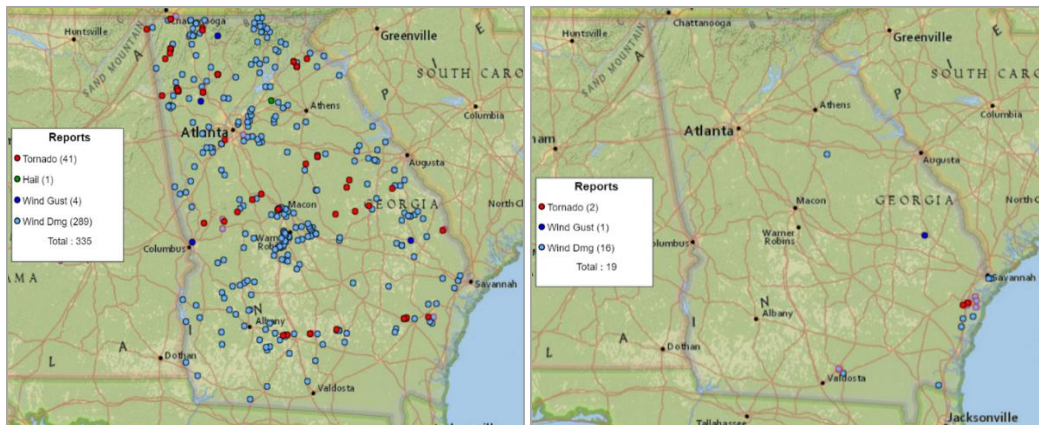
April is usually the peak month for tornadoes in Georgia and this year was no exception. Above normal sea surface temperatures (SST) in the Gulf of Mexico, decreasing Arctic Oscillation (AO) index (which allows for easier southward

transportation of cold air), and wet soil due to abundant rainfall set up the perfect stage for strong convection to occur over a broad area. We had several episodes of severe weather outbreaks with substantial wind damage, hail, and tornadoes. On April 8th, severe thunderstorms brought wind and hail damage across Georgia. Quarter-sized hail was reported in Monroe and Clinch counties. In Turner county, quarter to half-dollar-sized hail was reported in Sycamore and hail over 1 inch in diameter was reported in Ashburn.



Storm report for 4/8 1200 UTC – 4/9 1159 UTC

On Easter Sunday and Monday, April 12th to 13th, a severe weather outbreak, including numerous reports of wind damage and tornadoes, affected much of Georgia. Strong southerly surface flow bringing in warm moist air from the Gulf of Mexico enhanced the instability ahead of the pre-frontal squall line associated with a strong low-pressure system passing from the west to the northeast. According to the National Weather Service (NWS) preliminary report, a total of 21 tornadoes were confirmed, including two EF-3 tornadoes.



Left: Storm report for 4/12 1200 UTC – 4/13 1159 UTC. Right: for 4/13 1200 UTC – 4/14 1159 UTC.

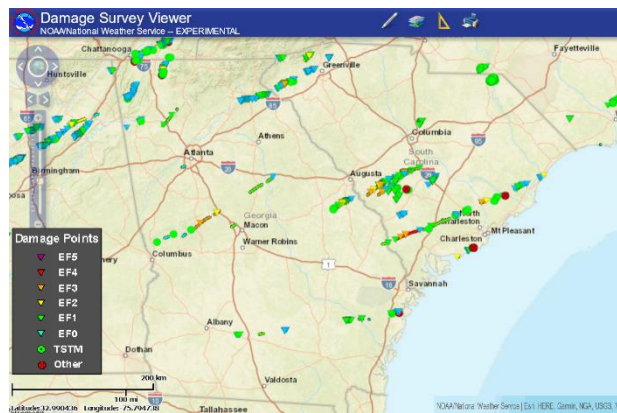


Left: In Upson county, an EF-3 tornado lifted a house from its foundation and dropped it in the middle of a road (source: WSB-TV). Right: Another house destroyed by the same tornado (source: NWS).

Tornadoes in GA from April 12 - 13, 2020

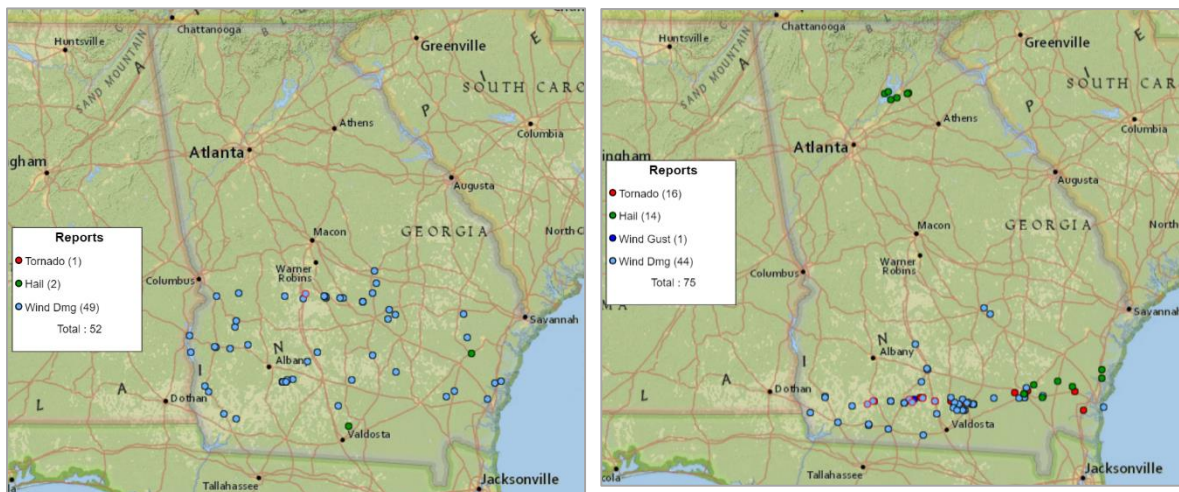
Date	County	Rating	Peak wind speed (MPH)	Path length (miles)	Path Width (yards)	Fatalities	Injuries
4/12/2020	Chattooga/Walker	EF-2	125	15.8	880	0	0
4/12/2020	Murray	EF-2	135	7.8	860	7	unknown
4/12/2020	Dade	EF-1	100	5.6	350	0	0
4/12/2020	Catoosa (GA)/Hamilton (TN)	EF-3	145	20	1500	3	19
4/12/2020	Bartow	EF-1	100	13	250	1	2
4/13/2020	Floyd	EF-0	70	0.5	50	0	0
4/13/2020	Floyd	EF-0	80	3.2	50	0	0
4/13/2020	Cherokee	EF-1	90	0.7	100	0	0
4/13/2020	Harris	EF-0	80	3	50	0	0
4/13/2020	Talbot	EF-0	80	2.9	100	0	0
4/13/2020	Upson/Lamar	EF-3	140	16.7	1200	0	0
4/13/2020	Fulton	EF-0	75	2.75	50	0	0
4/13/2020	Monroe	EF-3	140	5.3	300	0	1
4/13/2020	Hall/Habersham/Banks/Stephens	EF-1	100	14.38	200	0	0
4/13/2020	Bibb	EF-1	100	3.7	300	0	0
4/13/2020	Putman	EF-1	105	13	300	0	1
4/13/2020	Greene	EF-1	105	6.6	350	0	0
4/13/2020	Washington	EF-0	75	1.7	50	0	0
4/13/2020	Washington	EF-1	90	3.1	100	0	0
4/13/2020	Washington	EF-1	100	1.1	100	0	0
4/13/2020	Washington/Jefferson	EF-1	100	14.3	220	0	0

Data from NWS https://www.weather.gov/ffc/2020412_severe



Tornado tracks for April 12-13, 2020

During April 19th to 20th, a warm front moved through south Georgia triggering an expansive area of convection. An EF-2 tornado was reported in Mitchell county. Dime to quarter-sized hail was reported in Long county. Penny to quarter-sized hail was reported in Lowndes county. On April 23, strong convection associated with a warm front brought tornadoes, hail and wind damage to south Georgia. A total of 16 tornadoes, including 4 EF-1, were reported in the following counties: Camen, Glynn, Pierce, Ware, Clinch, Lanier, Berrien, Cook, Colquitt, and Mitchell. Another low pressure system brought severe weather to northeast Georgia on April 25th and 26th, with quarter-sized hail reported in Rabun county. A cold front swept through Georgia at the end of the month, with trees and power lines blown down in several places in Walton and DeKalb counties. A NWS survey determined straight-line winds up to 75 MPH caused several trees to uproot. Two homes were damaged. A wind gust of 54 knots was reported at the Crisp County-Cordel Airport (KCKF).



Left: Storm report for 4/19 1200 UTC – 4/20 1159 UTC. Right: for 4/23 1200 UTC – 4/24 1159 UTC.

Abundant rainfall eliminated the lingering abnormal dryness in south Georgia, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook shows no drought conditions expected through summer. According to the Climate Prediction Center (CPC), ENSO-neutral conditions remain present, with equatorial sea surface temperatures near-to-above average across the Pacific. ENSO-neutral conditions are favored for the Northern Hemisphere summer (~60% chance) and likely continuing through autumn. The CPC's three-month seasonal outlook favors above normal temperatures and precipitation statewide.

