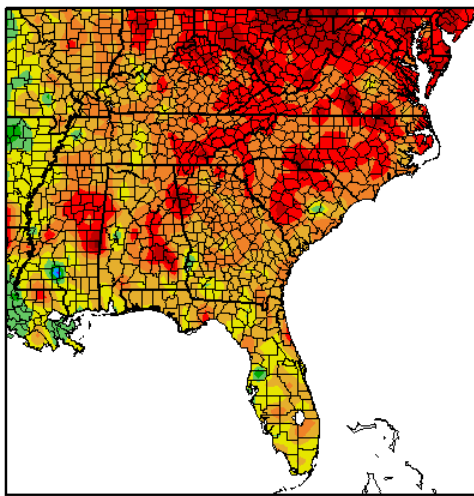


August 2016 Climate Summary – Georgia

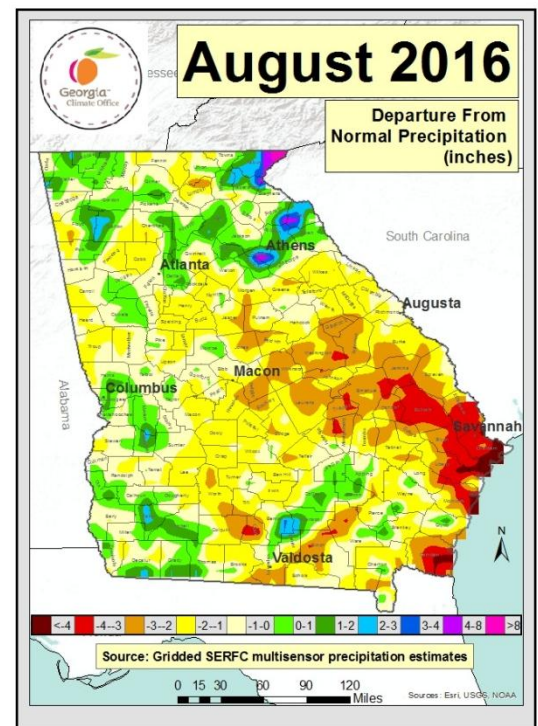
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The relentless summer heat continued in August as Georgia saw above-normal monthly average temperatures statewide, and meteorological summer proved to be just as hot. Many major climate sites ranked in their top five for warmest summer on record. Precipitation was spotty and localized again as well, but the coast of Georgia missed out on the most rainfall this month, causing drought conditions to expand. The Atlantic Basin hurricane activity finally ramped up, but none of the storms affected Georgia.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/1/2016 – 8/31/2016



Atlanta and Athens both had their 5th warmest August on record with 82.7°F (+3.3°) and 82.0° (+2.4°), respectively. Savannah had its 4th warmest August on record with 84.3° (+2.8°). Macon’s monthly average temperature was 83.1° (+2.2°), Columbus recorded 83.1° (+1.2°), St. Simons Island’s was 83.8° (+2.0°), and Augusta recorded 83.1° (+2.6°).



Precipitation amounts were close to normal at Atlanta, Columbus, and Augusta, who reached totals of 3.06” (-0.84”), 4.37” (+0.60”), and 3.66” (-0.66”). Athens had abundant rainfall this month: 10.10” (+6.57”) fell, making it the city’s 3rd wettest August on record and the wettest August since 1908. A daily rainfall record was set on August 4th when 4.97” fell in Athens, shattering the old record of 1.88” set in 1948. Macon only saw 2.03” (-2.07”) of rainfall in August, St. Simons Island recorded 3.80” (-2.47”), and Savannah was well below normal with 3.53” (-3.03”).

The vast majority of Georgia had above normal summer temperatures and generally below normal precipitation, with the exception of parts of extreme south Georgia which saw slightly above normal rainfall this summer. Table 1 and table 2 below show the summer statistics for major climate sites in Georgia.

Table 1:	City	Temperature	Ranking
	Savannah	84.2°	1 st warmest
	Athens	82.2°	1 st warmest (tie)
	Atlanta	82.4°	2 nd warmest
	Macon	83.2°	4 th warmest (tie)
	Augusta	82.7°	4 th warmest
	Columbus	82.9°	9 th warmest (tie)

Table 2:

City	Precipitation	Ranking
Savannah	11.70 ^{''}	11 th driest
Athens	15.79 ^{''}	35 th wettest
Atlanta	9.98 ^{''}	33 rd driest (tie)
Macon	6.26 ^{''}	7 th driest
Augusta	7.84 ^{''}	10 th driest
Columbus	7.48 ^{''}	7 th driest

Storm reports were very limited in August and only occurred on a few days in the month. All the reports came in the form of reports of damaging winds, with the majority associated with typical summertime convective thunderstorms.

The United States Drought Monitor shows that much of the D3 (extreme) drought conditions were reduced in north Georgia, with the most alleviation apparent in northeast Georgia. D2 (severe) and D1 (moderate) drought conditions were also reduced in north Georgia. However, drought expanded south of the fall line. Along the coast D0, (abnormally dry) conditions were introduced, while D1 and D2 areas increased in central and south central Georgia.

According to the Climate Prediction Center, there is currently a La Niña Watch, and ENSO-neutral conditions are present. La Niña is slightly favored to develop during August, September, and October 2016, with about a 55-60% chance of La Niña during the fall and winter 2016-17. The CPC's three-month seasonal outlook shows chances for above normal temperatures statewide with chances for below normal precipitation in September, October, and November.

