

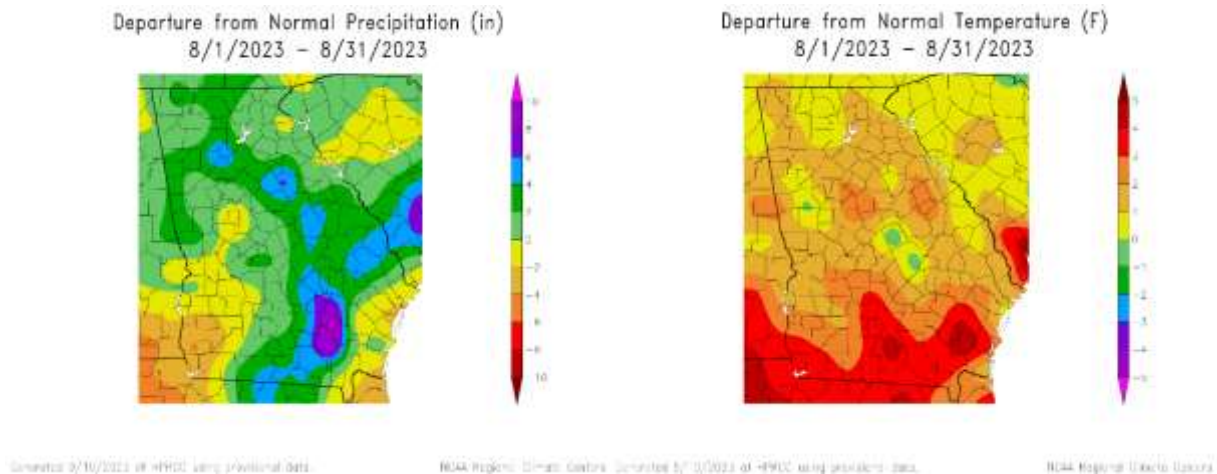
August 2023 Climate Summary – Georgia

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State of Georgia Climate Office

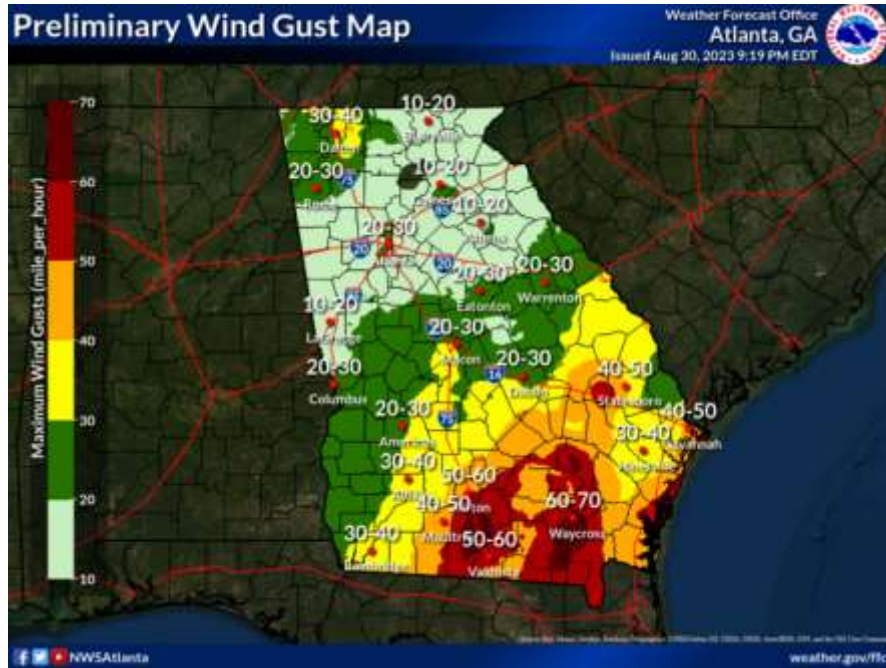
The last full month of summer saw record-breaking heat across the southern portion of the state and precipitation that was influenced by a tropical system. The average temperature for August was 81.7°F, which was 2.7°F above the average of 79.0°F. This was the 7th warmest August in Georgia on a record extending from 1895-2023. This also gave the state the 2nd warmest 8-month period on record at 67.8°F (+2.8°F). St. Simons Island, GA recorded numerous record high temperatures throughout the month and set an all-time record high temperature for August of 102 degrees on 8/8. This ranks as their hottest temperature on record for the month of August, breaking the previous record of 101 degrees on 8/11/11. Other areas of North and Central Georgia also experienced record heat towards the end of the month. Athens, Columbus, and Macon all reached record high temperatures of 99°, 102°, and 104°, respectively, on August 26th.

Rainfall amounts varied from north to south across the state, as most areas received near-to slightly above normal precipitation. Average statewide precipitation for August was 5.72 inches, +0.80" above the average of 4.92". The southeast region of the state experienced significant rainfall associated with a tropical system that moved through at the end of the month.



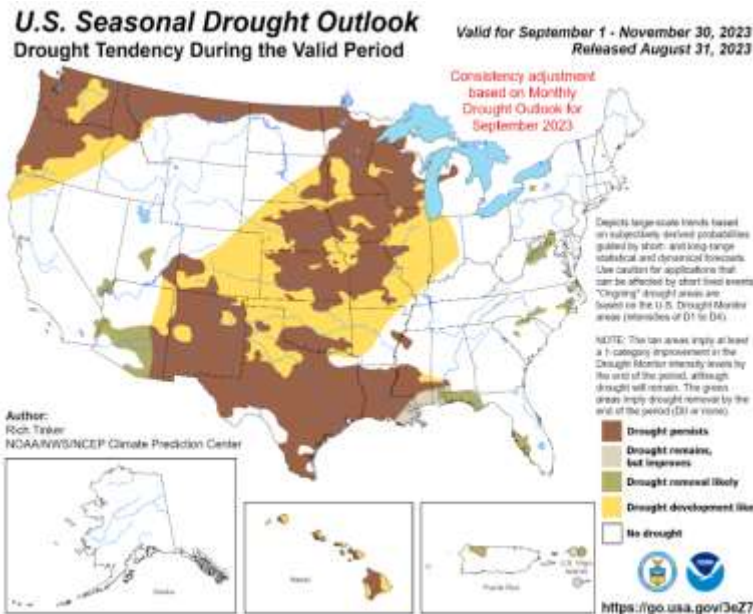
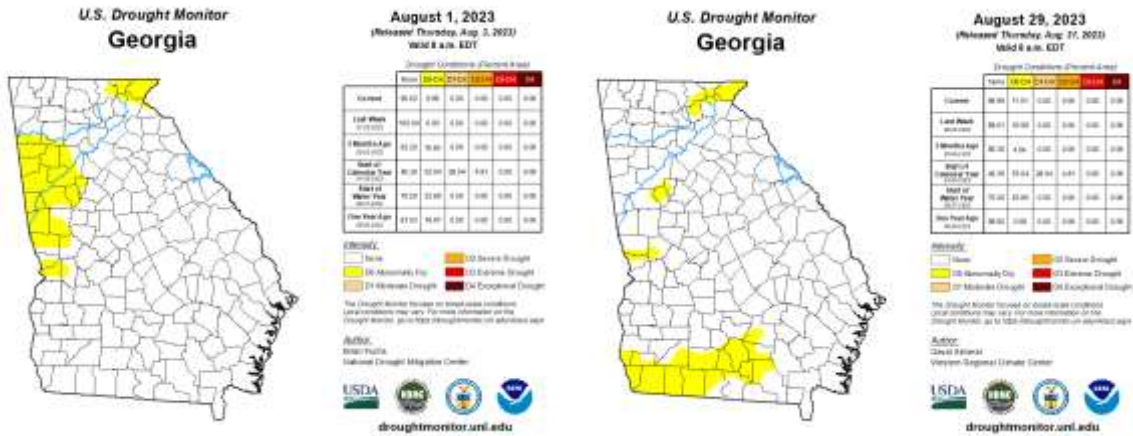
Hurricane Idalia made landfall along the Florida Big Bend on the morning of August 30th as a category 3 storm. The rainbands along the eastside of the hurricane impacted all of SE Georgia through the day. According to the Jacksonville National Weather Service office, the Baxley RAWS site in Georgia received the highest rainfall total of 8.19" on the 30th. There were also widespread tropical cyclone wind gusts associated with the storm. St. Simons Island recorded their highest wind gust on record of 58 knots or 67 mph as the storm moved through the region. This broke the previous

August wind gust record of 58 mph set on 8/11/12 and broke the all-time wind gust record of 66 mph set on 5/21/08. Peak wind gust records date back to 1944 at St. Simons Island. At least three tornadoes occurred in southeast Georgia as rainbands moved northwestward ahead of the hurricane. One EF-0 and two EF-1 tornadoes touched down in Glynn County causing downed trees and some structural damage.



Snapped tree fell on a house and caused major damage in Waycross, Ga. (Photo credit: Jacksonville National Weather Service)

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Abnormally Dry (D0) conditions persisted in the northeast corner of the state throughout August. By the end of the month, the majority of Abnormally Dry conditions present along the western border dissipated, while areas along the southern border started to experience Abnormally Dry conditions. The seasonal outlook from the Climate Prediction Center suggests that the state will remain relatively drought-free through the end of November.



According to the Climate Prediction Center, equatorial sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean are currently above normal, along with atmospheric wind anomalies, meaning El Niño conditions are present. There is more than a 95% chance that El Niño conditions will persist through the winter. The seasonal outlook from the Climate

Prediction Center suggests that both temperature and precipitation will be above normal for September, October, and November.

