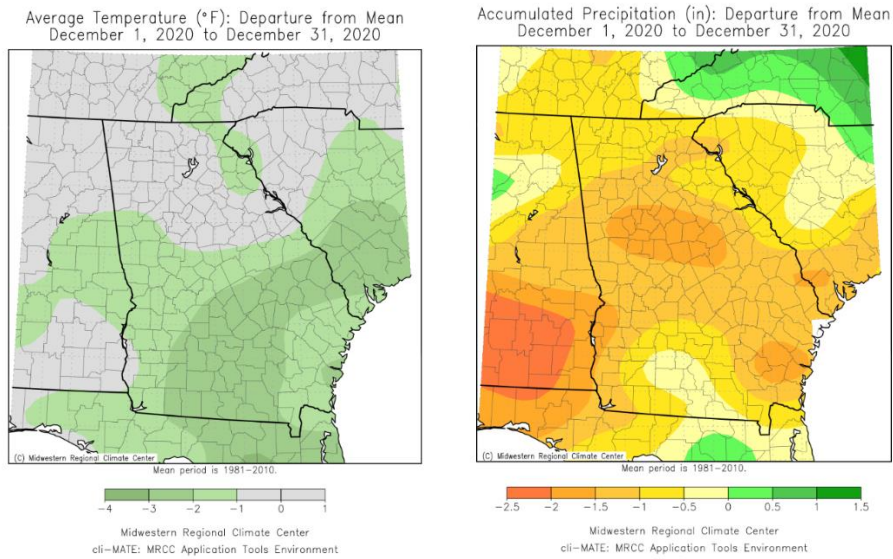


December 2020 Climate Summary – Georgia

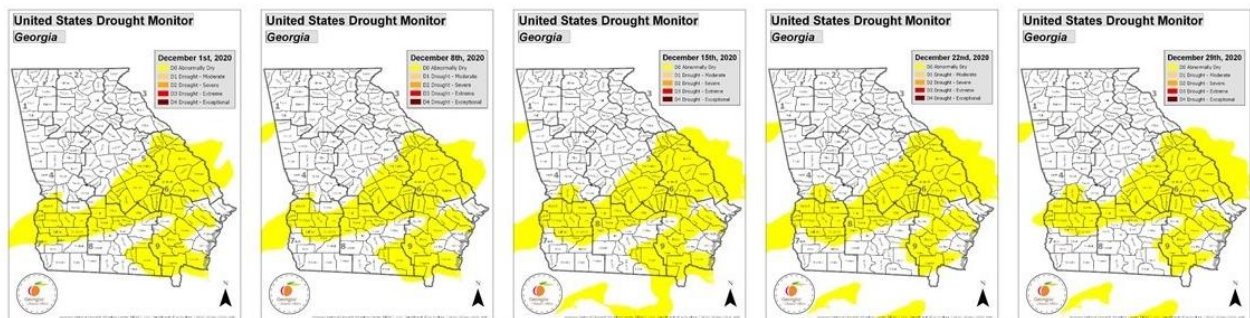
Nyasha Dunkley and Henian Zhang

State of Georgia Climate Office

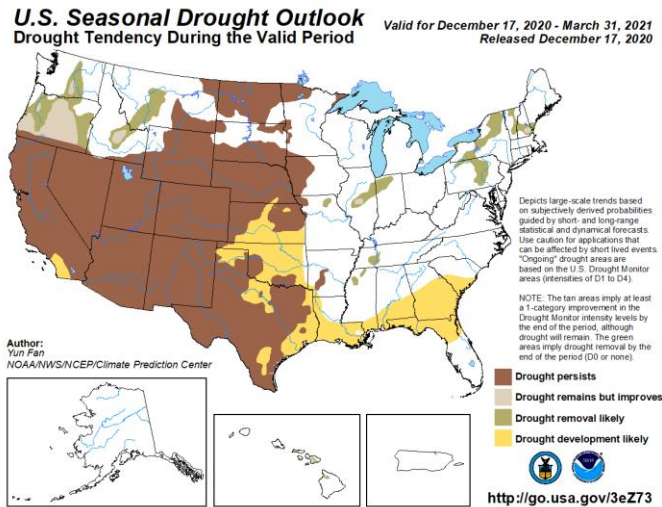
The average temperature for the state in December was 46.7° (−0.4°) with South and Central Georgia recording colder than normal temperatures. Statewide, precipitation was below normal with a total amount of 2.91" (−1.16"). Abnormally dry conditions were observed in some counties. A trace amount of snow fell on 12/1 and 12/24 in Atlanta, which ties the previous records of a trace amount set in 1974 and 1960, respectively. Wind damage was reported in South Georgia on 12/24 as a winter cyclone swept across the state. Wind gusts up to 59 mph were recorded at Brunswick Golden Isles Airport ASOS station.



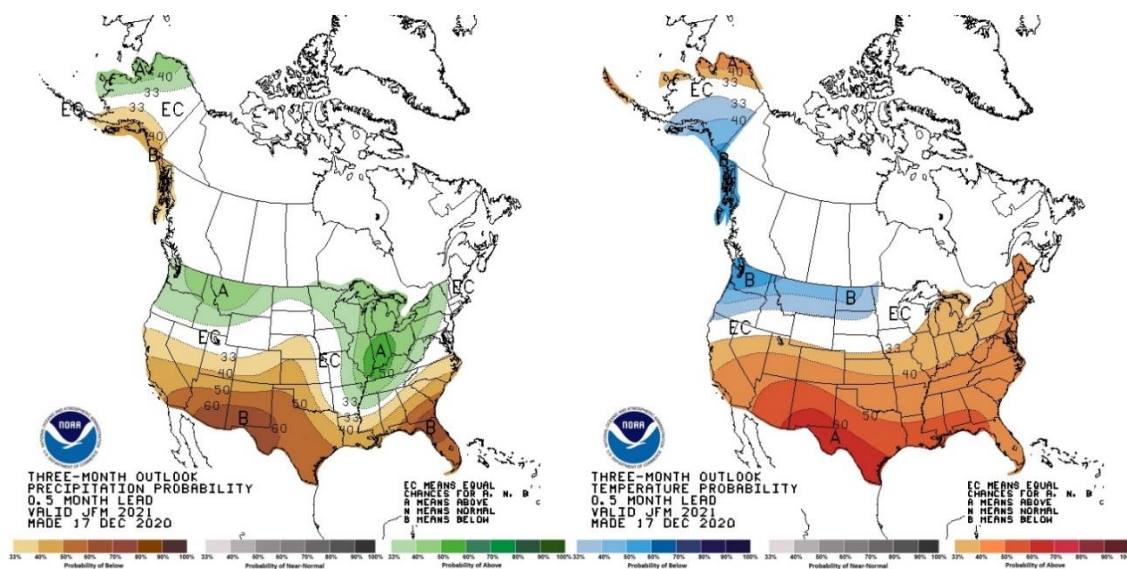
Abnormally dry (D0) conditions remained consistent across South and Southeast Georgia through December, with several areas still in rainfall deficits, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Near to below-normal precipitation across the southeast was sufficient to avoid any further degradation across the state.



The seasonal outlook from the Climate Prediction Center showed drought development likely over central and South Georgia, consistent with La Niña conditions keeping the likelihood of below normal precipitation across the region.

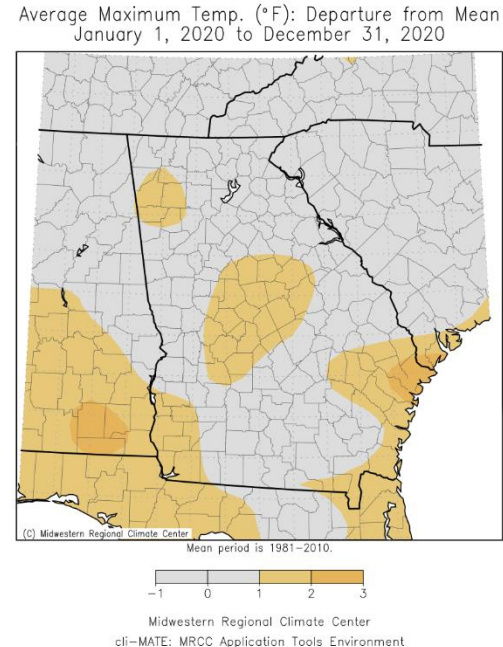
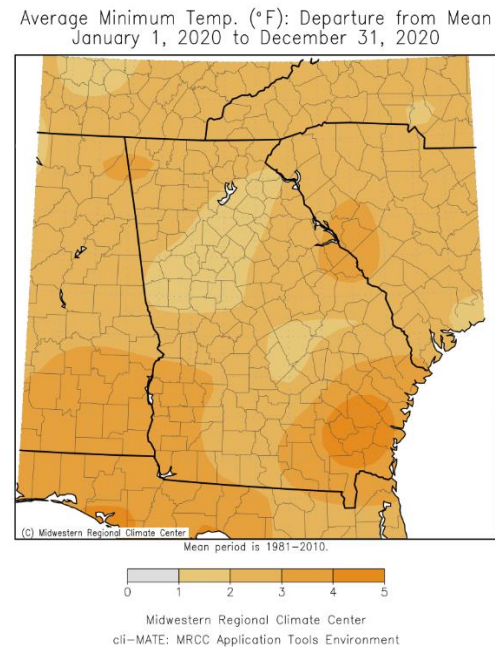
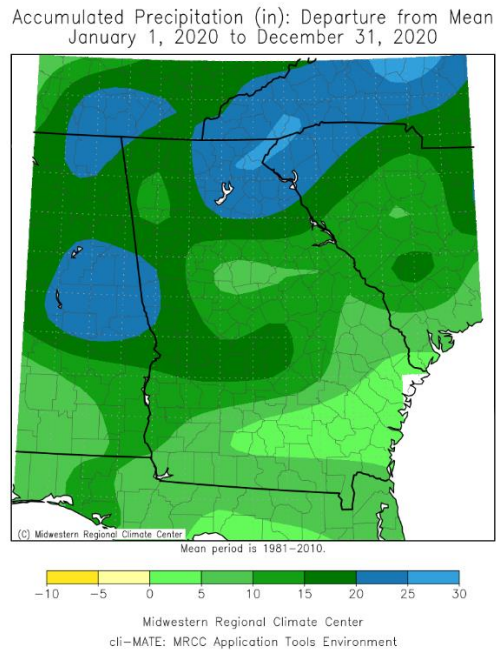
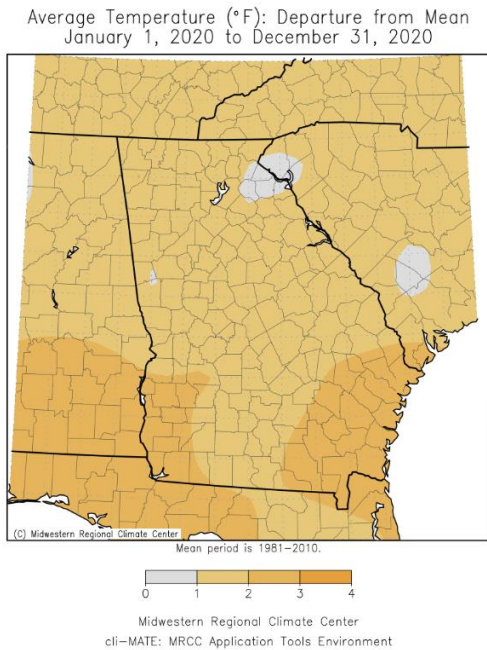


La Niña conditions continued in December with well below-average sea surface temperatures extending from the Date Line to the eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. La Niña conditions are likely to continue through the Northern Hemisphere winter (~95% chance during January-March), with a possible transition during the spring 2021 (~50% chance of neutral during April-June). The seasonal outlook from the Climate Prediction Center for January, February, and March favors below normal precipitation and above normal temperatures for the state.



Year 2020 Georgia Climate At A Glance

Here is an overview of some climate statistics for the year 2020. The average temperature for the state was 65.6° ($+2.2^{\circ}$), making it the 6th warmest year on record, including tied years. Statewide precipitation was 60.47" ($+10.4$ "), making it the 11th wettest year. The average statewide minimum temperature was 54.7° ($+3.1^{\circ}$) making it the 2nd highest on record. The average maximum temperature was 76.6° ($+1.5^{\circ}$), making it the 19th highest on record.

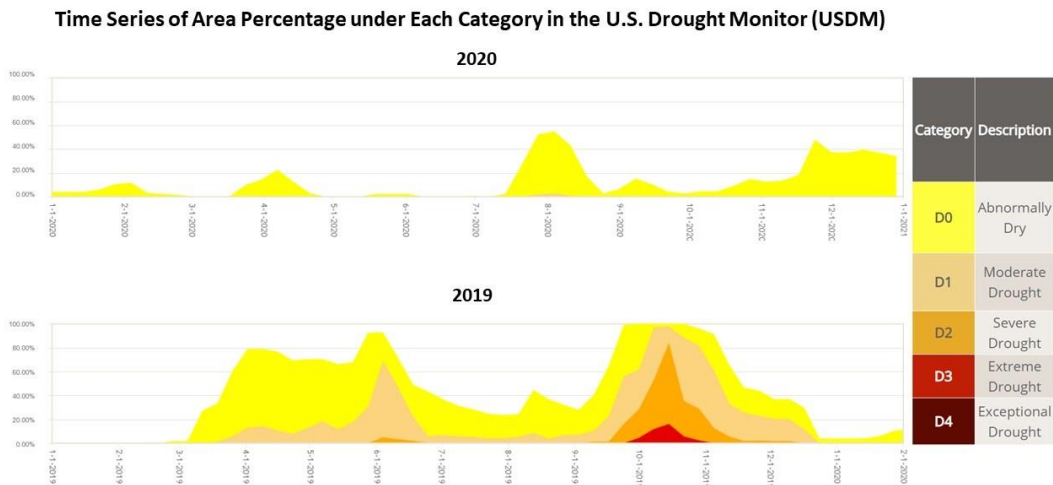


2020 Climate Rankings for Major Cities in Georgia

City	Temperature (°F)	Ranking	Departure from Normal
Savannah	70.4°	1 st warmest	+3.6
Brunswick	70.8°	T-2 nd warmest	+2.8
Macon	66.9°	3 rd warmest	+2.3
Augusta	67.1°	3 rd warmest	+3.2
Athens	64.9°	5 th warmest	+2.4
Atlanta	64.8°	6 th warmest	+2.3
Columbus	67.7°	T-10 th warmest	+2.0

City	Precipitation (in.)	Ranking	Departure from Normal
Columbus	69.04"	5 th wettest	+22.3
Atlanta	66.99"	6 th wettest	+17.3
Augusta	56.25"	7 th wettest	+12.7
Athens	63.4"	8 th wettest	+17.1
Macon	59.93"	8 th wettest	+14.3

Due to the abundant rainfall earlier in the year, and an active hurricane season, drought conditions were significantly improved compared to 2019.



*Plot shows the changes in land drought coverage for the state throughout the year for 2020 compared to 2019.
<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/Data/Timeseries.aspx>