

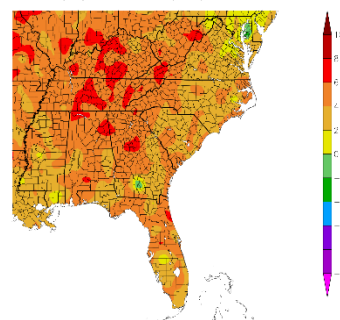
December 2019 Climate Summary – Georgia

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A warmer than average December was a fitting end to a year that saw record-breaking warmth for Georgia. The state experienced the warmest year on record, with an average temperature of 66.2° (+2.9). Atlanta, Macon and Savannah all experienced the 1st warmest year on record, while Columbus and Athens experienced the 3rd warmest year on record. Many locations also experienced drier than average precipitation for the year.

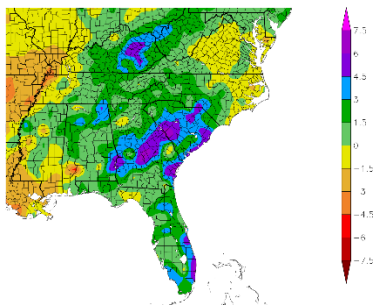
December temperatures were above normal for the major climate sites. Athens, Atlanta, Columbus, and Macon were well above normal for mean monthly temperatures at 50.2° (+4.9), 51.2° (+5.9), 53.9° (+4.8), 52.3° (+4.3), respectively. Columbus set a record high temperature of 79° on the 10th, tying the old record of 79° set in 1972. Savannah also experienced record-breaking heat at 83° on the 10th, breaking the old record of 82° set in 1972. This also tied the monthly record high temperature for December in Savannah.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
12/1/2019 – 12/31/2019



Generated 1/2/2020 at 11:00:00 using provided data. NOAA Regional Climate Center

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
12/1/2019 – 12/31/2019

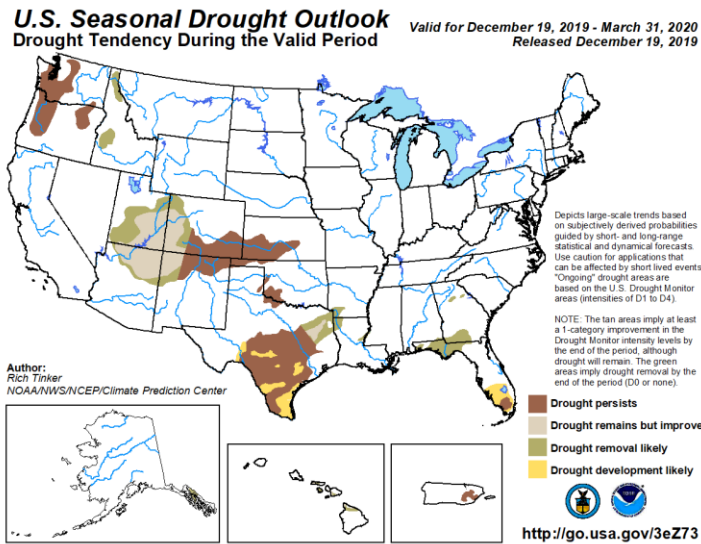


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The majority of locations in Georgia also received above normal precipitation, with the highest departures recorded in southern and eastern portions of the state. A moist south-southwesterly flow and broad upper level trough over the Southeast led to record-breaking rainfall totals during the middle of the month. Athens recorded a daily maximum rainfall of 2.20” on the 13th, breaking the old record of 1.78” set in 1935. Atlanta and Macon also reached record daily maximum rainfall on the 13th with 2.23” and 3.11”, respectively. Savannah set a daily maximum rainfall record later in the month with 2.11” on the 23rd. This broke the old record of 1.68” set in 1941.

The heavy rainfall removed the lingering moderate drought and much of the abnormal dryness across Georgia, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. A small percentage of abnormally dry conditions continued across southwest Georgia by the end of the month. The U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook calls for improvement of any

remaining drought across the state with no drought conditions expected through early Spring.



According to the Climate Prediction Center, ENSO-neutral conditions remain present, with equatorial sea surface temperatures near-to-above average across the Pacific. ENSO-neutral conditions are favored through Northern Hemisphere spring 2020 (~60% chance) and continuing through summer 2020 (~50% chance). The seasonal outlook from the Climate Prediction Center for January, February and March favors above normal temperatures for the state and equal chances of above, near or below normal precipitation.

