

February 2020 Climate Summary – Georgia

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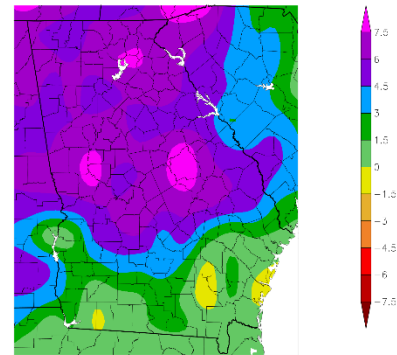
State of Georgia Climate Office

The month of February was wetter and warmer than average across much of the state. The average precipitation statewide was 9", making it the 2nd wettest February on record since 1895. Most of Georgia received double the amount of normal precipitation. Several counties even received three times their normal monthly precipitation.

Temperatures were above average across the state as well, with an average statewide temperature of 51.9°.

The cities of Atlanta, Macon, Athens and Augusta all experienced their wettest February on record, receiving 10.58", 9.91", 11.05", and 7.17", respectively. Athens reached a record daily maximum rainfall of 3.44" on the 6th, breaking the old record of 1.89" set in 2002. Later in the month, Atlanta received a record rainfall of 2.41" on the 18th, breaking the old record of 2.16" set in 1926.

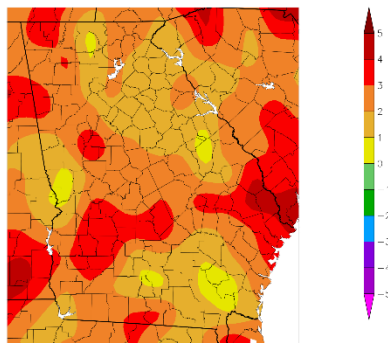
Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
2/1/2020 – 2/29/2020



Generated 3/10/2020 at 11:30:00 using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
2/1/2020 – 2/29/2020



Generated 3/10/2020 at 11:30:00 using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

in 2013.

Numerous high temperature records were also set across the state as temperatures rose well above normal. Atlanta and Athens both set high temperature records on 2/3, of 76° and 79°, respectively. Macon reached record high temperatures of 78° on 2/6 and 81° degrees on 2/11, breaking the old records of 77° and 80° set in 1927 and 1965, respectively. Brunswick rose to a record high temperature of 84° on 2/13, breaking the old record of 83° set

A fast-moving line of thunderstorms led to a brief tornado touchdown along the Bartow/Gordon county line on February 6th. The EF-0 tornado, with an estimated peak wind of 85 mph, uprooted 10-12 large trees and caused roof damage on several homes, according to the National Weather Service damage survey. The tornado had an estimated path of 2.1 miles and width of 200 yards. Another brief EF-0 tornado touched down in

Ware County near Waycross, GA on that date as well, with very little damage reported. Strong cold air advection behind the system allowed for some wintry precipitation across North and Central Georgia on the 8th. According to the NWS at Peachtree City, snowfall totals ranged from a dusting in north Atlanta metro, to around 6-7" in parts of the north Georgia mountains.



Rainfall reduced the lingering, moderate drought and much of the abnormal dryness in South Georgia, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. A small percentage of abnormally dry conditions continued across South Georgia by the end of the month. No drought conditions are expected through early summer according to the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook.

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 spring 2020 (~65% chance) and continuing through summer 2020 (~55% chance). The CPC's three-month seasonal outlook favors above normal temperatures and precipitation statewide with a higher chance of above normal rainfall in northeast Georgia.

