

July 2019 Climate Summary – Georgia

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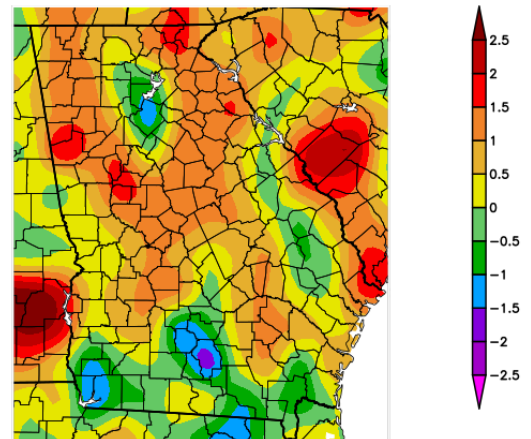
State of Georgia Climate Office

Temperatures in Georgia were variable but generally above normal throughout the state during July. A rare cold front moved through later in the month bringing below normal temperatures for a few days. Precipitation was spotty, as is typical during the summer months. In far north and far south Georgia, localized areas saw above normal rainfall while central Georgia saw the greatest precipitation deficits this month. There were several reports of severe weather due to afternoon convective thunderstorms. Drought conditions persisted but did not significantly change during July.

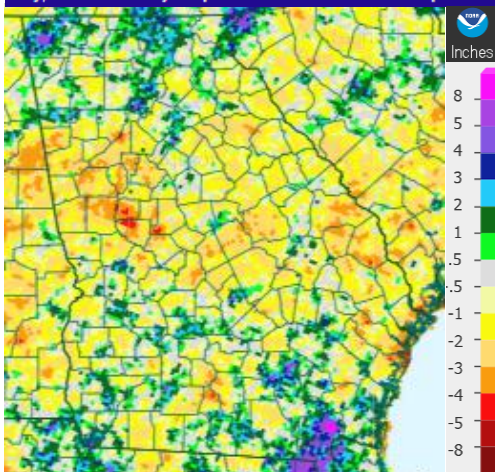
Atlanta, Augusta, and Savannah all ranked as 9th warmest July with 82.2°F (+2.0°), 83.7° (+2.1°), and 84.1° (+1.5°), respectively. Savannah reached 101° on July 3rd and broke its previous daily high temperature record of 98° set in 1993. On July 4th, Atlanta recorded a minimum temperature of 77° which broke the previous daily high minimum temperature record of 76° set in 2016. Although July was warmer than normal for Augusta, on July 27th the minimum temperature reached 62° and tied the previous daily low minimum temperature record set in 1911. The average monthly temperature in Athens was 82.0° (+1.4°) and Columbus recorded 83.3° (+0.8°). Macon recorded 82.9° (+1.1°) and on July 25th, the site set a daily low minimum temperature record with 60° (the previous record of 64° was set in 2009). The station with the highest monthly average temperature was Augusta Daniel Field Airport with 85.5°, and the lowest average temperature was recorded at the Mountain City COOP in Rabun county with 70.6°.

The total monthly precipitation in Augusta was 1.39” (-2.94”) and ranked as 4th driest July on record. Athens also saw well below normal rainfall with 1.37” (-3.10”), ranking as 5th driest. Atlanta recorded 2.06” (-3.21”) and ranked as 11th driest on record. Macon’s total July rainfall was 3.40” (-1.55”), Columbus recorded 3.92” (-0.84”), and Savannah received 3.69” (-1.91”) during the month. In Fannin county, the Suches COOP station recorded 11.22” of rain, which was the highest amount recorded in Georgia.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
7/1/2019 – 7/31/2019



July, 2019 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation



There were at least ten days during July when severe weather was reported. Most of the reports were damaging winds due to thunderstorms, but a few hail reports were also associated with the strong storms. There were two named storms in the Atlantic Basin during July. Barry began developing from a trough of low pressure system in the Midwest that moved south towards the Gulf of Mexico on July 6th. Barry reached tropical-storm strength on July 11th and reached category 1 strength by July 13th, making it the first hurricane of the season. The storm made landfall in Louisiana and caused extensive damage and flooding in parts of the southeast. Tropical Depression Three formed in the Caribbean on July 22nd and lasted less than two days before dissipating off the eastern coast of Florida.

The United States Drought Monitor showed that drought conditions remained relatively unchanged throughout July. D0 (abnormally dry) conditions existed in northwest, southwest, and much of south Georgia, while pockets of D1 (moderate drought) conditions were present within the areas of D0 throughout the state. The core of the drought in central Georgia, where D1 conditions existed, expanded slightly. Northwest and coastal Georgia saw some improvement by the end of the month.

According to the Climate Prediction Center, El Niño is present and there is currently an El Niño Advisory. Equatorial sea surface temperatures are above average across the western and central Pacific Ocean. A transition from El Niño to ENSO-neutral is expected in the next month or two, with ENSO-neutral most likely to continue through the Northern Hemisphere fall and winter. The CPC’s three-month seasonal outlook shows chances for above normal temperatures and equal chances for above, near, or below normal precipitation across the state during August, September, and October.

Period of Record (POR) for Major Climate Sites in Georgia	
NOAA/NCEI	
Atlanta	10/4/1878 - present
Athens	1/26/1893 - present
Macon	10/4/1892 - present
Columbus	10/5/1891 - present
Augusta	5/6/1874 - present
Savannah	1/1/1874 - present



Map plotting the track and intensity of Hurricane Barry.

