

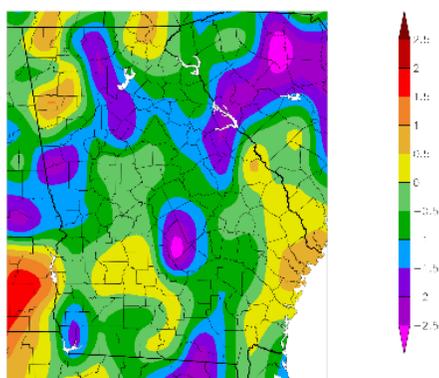
## June 2020 Climate Summary – Georgia

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State of Georgia Climate Office

Summer began on a slightly cooler and drier note than normal across much of the state in the month of June. The average statewide temperature of 76.9° fell just below the 1901-2000 average of 77.4°, though areas in northwest and southeast Georgia were still warmer than normal. Rainfall amounts were less than normal in parts of central and southern Georgia, with the average rainfall across the state of 3.81", falling less than an inch below the average.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
6/1/2020 – 6/30/2020



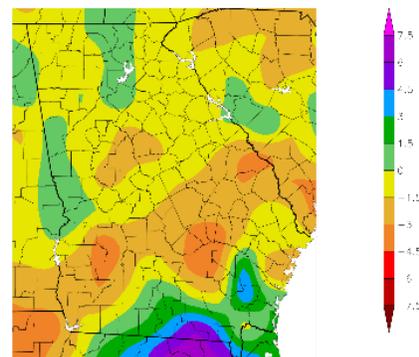
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NOAA Regional Climate Center

Temperatures were mostly below normal across much of the state, with a few sites setting temperature records mid-month. St. Simons Island set a daily record low maximum temperature of 77° on the 16<sup>th</sup>, breaking the old record of 78° set in 1955. Athens and Macon reached record low temperatures of 53° and 56°, respectively, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month.

Most of the major climate sites experienced a drier month, as Atlanta, Athens, Macon, and Savannah received 2.64", 2.66", 2.21", and 4.82" inches of rain, respectively. Columbus was one of the few sites that received a little over an inch above normal rainfall of 4.83" for June. St. Simons Island set a record rainfall of 2.71" on the 7<sup>th</sup>, breaking the old record of 1.89" set in 1983.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
6/1/2020 – 6/30/2020

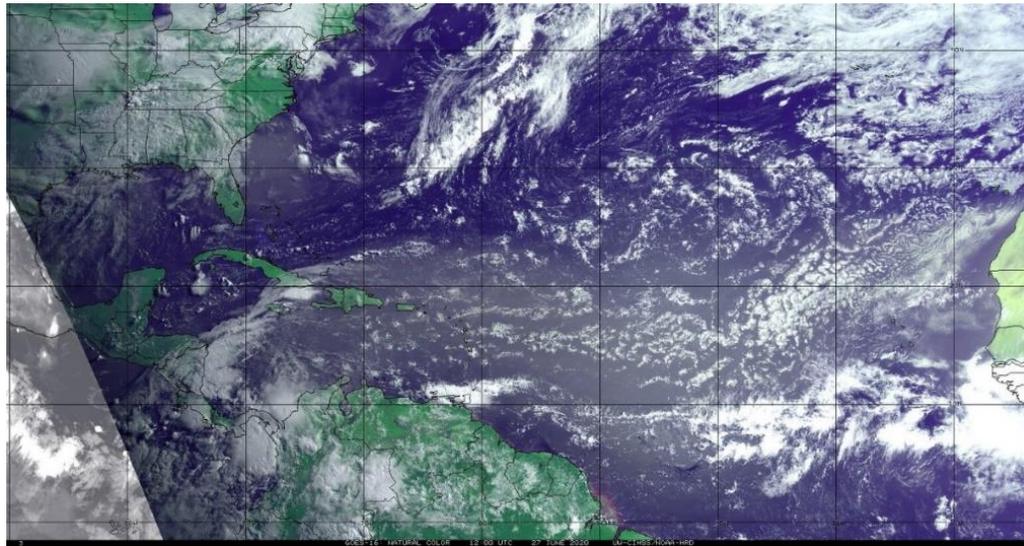


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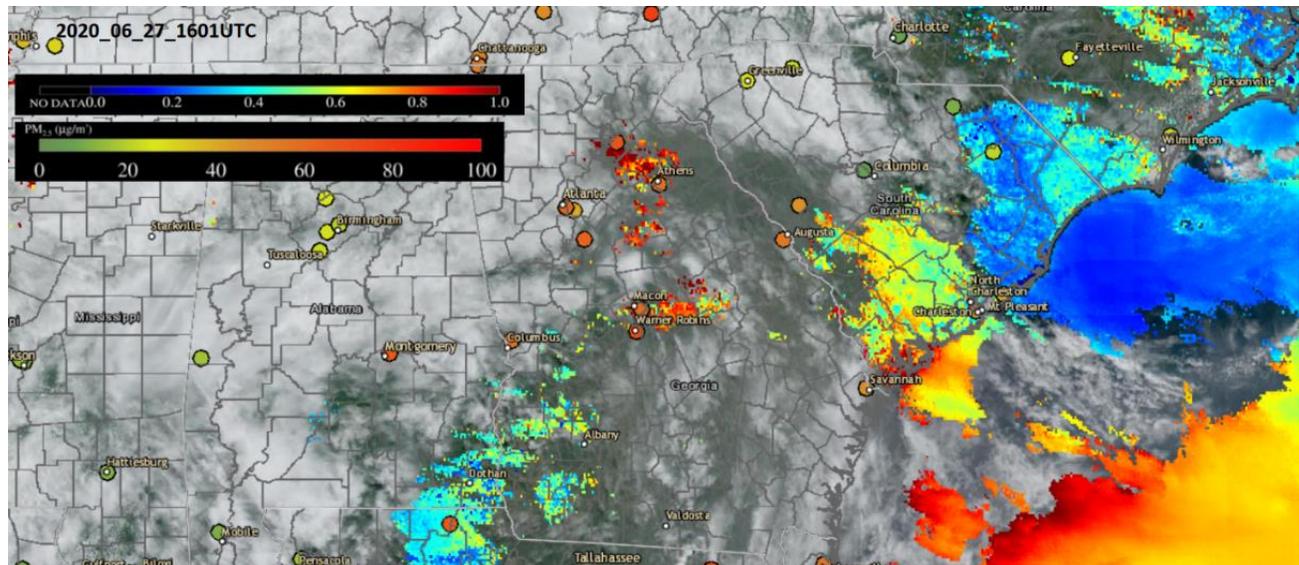
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A typically recurring, but unusually strong, Saharan dust plume from Africa changed the sky of Georgia from the 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of the month. Each year from the late spring through early fall, a Saharan Air Layer (SAL), characterized by hot, dry air and loaded with dust, moves off the coast of Africa every 3 to 5 days. During a strong outbreak, dust can reach Florida, Central America and as far as Texas.

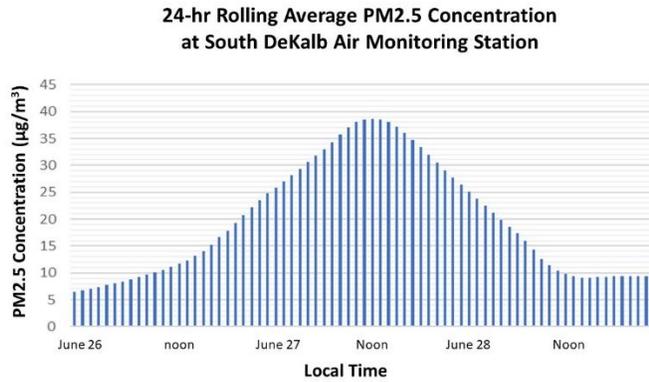
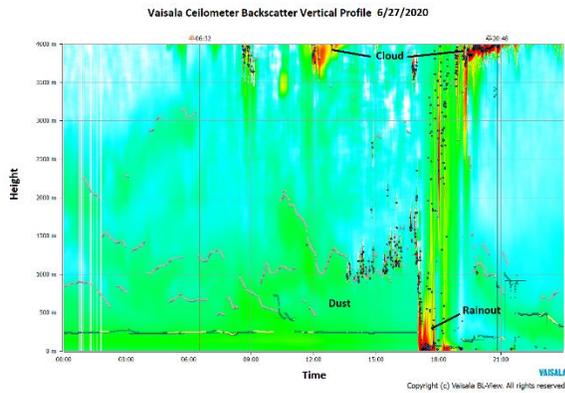
However, it is uncommon to see the entire state of Georgia under the influence of this dust layer. The Environmental Protection Division (EPD) air quality monitoring stations across the state recorded high levels of fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) during the period. These high levels were caused by a combination of the dust settling over the southeast in the presence of high pressure, light winds, and a strong surface inversion.



*GOES-16 Natural Color Image for June 27 12z*



*GOES 16 GeoColor Image overlaid with Aerosol Optical Depth Composite (color), and PM<sub>2.5</sub> hourly observation (color-filled circle) for June 27 1601UTC*



*Ceilometer backscatter vertical profile observed at South DeKalb Air Monitoring Station on June 27 (left). Temporal evolution of the 24-hr rolling average  $PM_{2.5}$  concentration observed at the same site from June 26 to June 28 (right).*

Abnormally dry conditions in South Georgia, along the border of Florida, dissipated during the first week of June. The U.S. Drought Monitor showed no drought conditions across the state for the rest of the month. The seasonal drought outlook from the Climate Prediction Center continues to show the tendency for drought development to be very low across the state. ENSO-neutral conditions remain present, with equatorial sea surface temperatures near-to-below average across the east-central and eastern Pacific Ocean. ENSO-neutral conditions are favored for the Northern Hemisphere summer (~60% chance) with roughly equal changes of La Niña or ENSO-neutral during the autumn and winter 2020-21. The CPC's three-month seasonal outlook favors above normal temperatures and precipitation statewide.

