

## March 2021 Climate Summary – Georgia

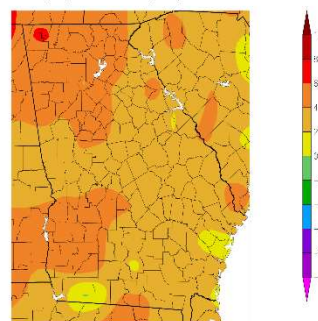
*Nyasha Dunkley and Henian Zhang*

State of Georgia Climate Office

Spring began warmer and drier than normal across much of the state, with several severe weather episodes throughout the month of March. The above average temperature of 59.8°F, contributes to a 3-month average temperature that is 2.3° above normal for the months of January through March. Precipitation fell slightly below normal for a large portion of the state, while areas of extreme north Georgia received more than 4 inches of rainfall above normal.

Temperatures were well above average at the start of the month. Atlanta and Athens set record high temperatures of 79° and 81°, respectively, on the first day of March. Coastal areas of Georgia also saw record-breaking temperatures during the month. Savannah set record high temperatures of 90° and 89°, on the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> of March, while St. Simons climbed to a record 87° on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

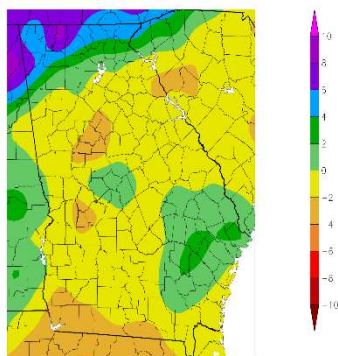
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
3/1/2021 – 3/31/2021



Generated 4/21/2021 at NCEC using provided data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
3/1/2021 – 3/31/2021



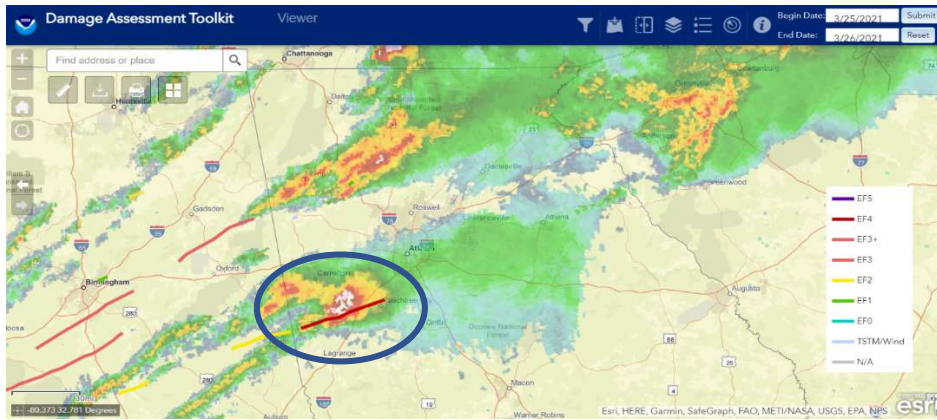
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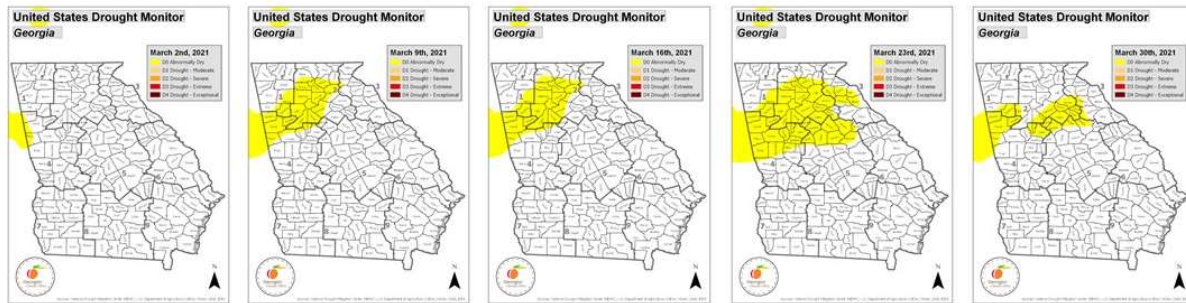
Rainfall amounts were mostly near normal across the state, except for heavy rainfall that fell in North Georgia. Gainesville set a maximum daily precipitation record on the 25<sup>th</sup> of 2.47". Cartersville also set a maximum daily rainfall record at the end of the month, with 1.56" on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

The month of March started on a stormy note, as a line of strong storms passed through on the 1<sup>st</sup>, leading to a brief EF-1 tornado and uprooted trees in Clayton county. A severe weather outbreak in late March led to numerous hail, damaging wind, and tornado reports on March 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. A long-lived discrete supercell, which started from the Louisiana and Mississippi border, travelled over 350 miles, and spawned an EF-4 tornado in Georgia near midnight on March 25<sup>th</sup>. The tornado traveled approximately 40 miles across three counties: Heard, Coweta and Fayette, causing significant damage. The maximum wind speed was 170 mph, with a maximum path width of 1 mile. It is the 1<sup>st</sup> EF-4

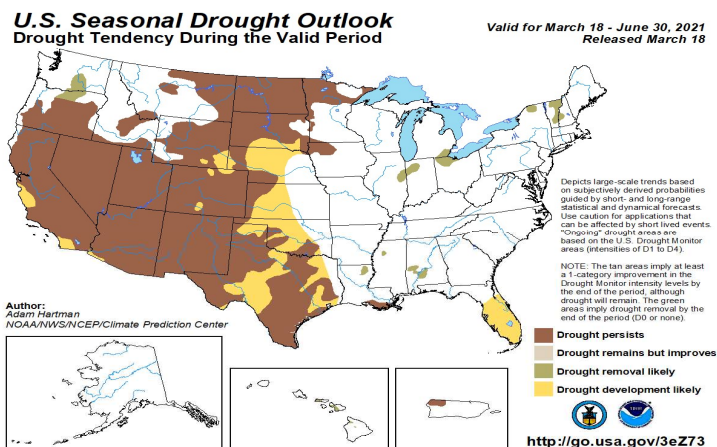
in Georgia since 2011 and the 10<sup>th</sup> EF-4 in Georgia since 1950. There were also two EF-1 tornadoes in Bartow county on the 25<sup>th</sup>.



Abnormally dry (D0) conditions expanded in North Georgia due to lack of rainfall and a high evapotranspiration rate, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Several storm systems came through near the end of the month, which helped reduced the D0 area.



The seasonal outlook from the Climate Prediction Center removed the likelihood of drought development over Central and South Georgia for the March through June period.



La Niña conditions continued in March with below-average sea surface temperatures extending from the western to the eastern Pacific Ocean. La Niña conditions are likely to continue, with a potential transition to ENSO-neutral during Spring 2021 (~60% chance during April-June). The seasonal outlook from the Climate Prediction Center for April, May, and June favors above normal temperature and an equal chance of above or below normal precipitation for the State.

