

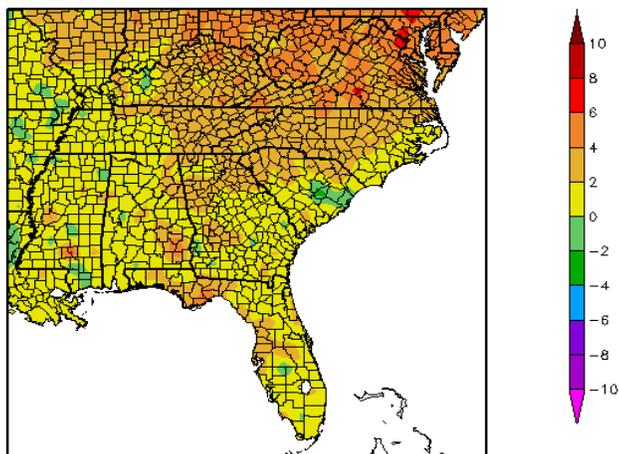
## May 2015 Climate Summary – Georgia

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The month of May began drier than normal, and many locations in Georgia only recorded trace amounts of rainfall in the first half of the month. By the end, most major climate sites recorded below normal precipitation except for Atlanta and areas along the Georgia-Alabama border. Temperatures were above normal for the majority of the state during May.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
5/1/2015 – 5/31/2015

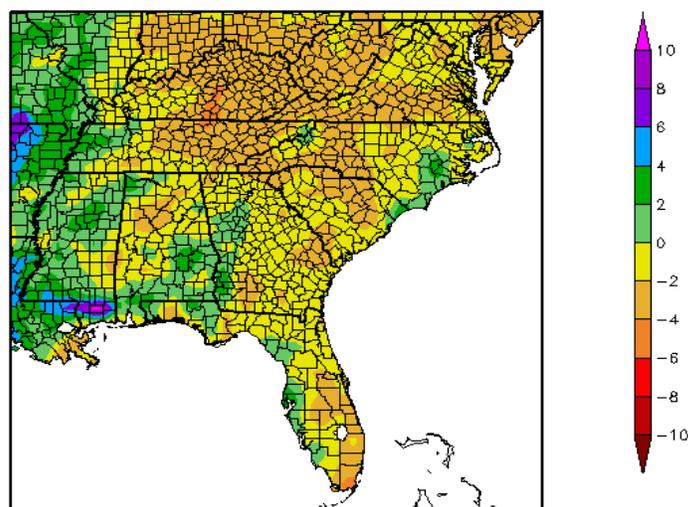


Atlanta recorded a monthly average temperature of 73.1°F (+3.0°), Athens' average temperature was 72.4° (+2.4°), Macon recorded 73.0° (+1.1°), Columbus' average temperature was 74.3° (+1.3°), and Savannah recorded 74.1° (+0.8). St. Simons Island's average temperature was 75.6° (+1.1°), and on May 19<sup>th</sup> a record high temperature of 93° was set, breaking the previous record of 92° set in 1965. Interestingly, St. Simons Island also broke a daily maximum rainfall record on that day: 1.83" of rain fell, breaking the old record of 1.92" in 1969.

Precipitation during May was variable and dependent on a dominant high pressure area associated with an upper level ridge that left much of the state dry for the first two weeks. As the high pressure ridge shifted eastward, southwesterly flow increased from the Gulf of Mexico,

providing ample moisture for more precipitation. Atlanta recorded a slightly above average monthly rainfall total of 4.44" (+0.77). Athens, Macon, Savannah and Augusta all fell slightly below normal for the month with 2.63" (-0.37), 1.15" (-1.57"), and 1.23" (-1.75"), respectively. The rainfall deficit of -1.72" at Augusta made it the 14<sup>th</sup> driest May on record. Columbus was near normal at 3.18" (-0.01"), but set a record for daily maximum rainfall on the 26<sup>th</sup>. A total of 1.94" fell, which broke the previous record of 1.0" set in 1959.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
5/1/2015 – 5/31/2015



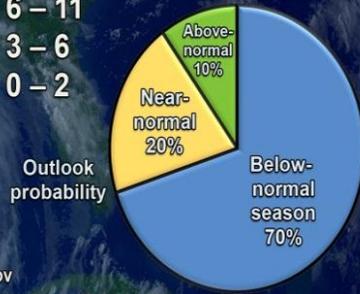
On the afternoon of May 26<sup>th</sup>, an outflow boundary from storms that caused significant damage and flooding in Oklahoma and Texas progressed eastward into Georgia. A line of severe storms developed, causing an EF-1 tornado in Meriwether county and 90 mph thunderstorm downburst winds in Harris County.

The U.S. Drought Monitor for Georgia shows both improvement and degradation of drought conditions in areas of the state with the variable precipitation.

Counties in north Georgia and another area of South Georgia counties are experiencing abnormally dry conditions. Several counties in southern central Georgia are in D1, or Moderate Drought conditions. The moist flow pattern in place and the current seasonal outlooks appear to lead to improvement in the long-term.

# 2015 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook

Named storms: 6 – 11  
 Hurricanes: 3 – 6  
 Major hurricanes: 0 – 2



Be prepared: Visit [hurricanes.gov](http://hurricanes.gov) and follow @NWS and @NHC\_Atlantic on Twitter

NOAA's Climate Prediction Center's 3-month seasonal outlook forecasts above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation for the southern portion of the state, and equal chances of above or below normal temperatures and precipitation for the northern portion of the state. The CPC forecasts an approximately 90% chance that El Niño will continue through the Northern Hemisphere summer 2015, and a greater than 80% chance it will last through 2015. An El Niño advisory is currently in effect.

Atlantic hurricane season began on June 1<sup>st</sup>, and the CPC has released their Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook. They are predicting a 70% likelihood of 6 to 11 named storms (>39 mph winds), of which 3 to 6 could become hurricanes (>74 mph winds), including zero to 2 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; >111 mph winds). While a below-normal season is likely (70%), there is also a 20% chance of a near-normal season, and a 10% chance of an above-normal season. The main factor that is suppressing the hurricane season is El Niño, which is predicted to last through the hurricane season. Typically with the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) warm phase, westerlies are stronger across the Atlantic basin, which can help suppress tropical cyclone formation there. Although a below-normal season is predicted, one single land falling hurricane can have widespread and damaging impacts to communities. NOAA urges preparedness for hurricanes this year as you would any other hurricane season.

