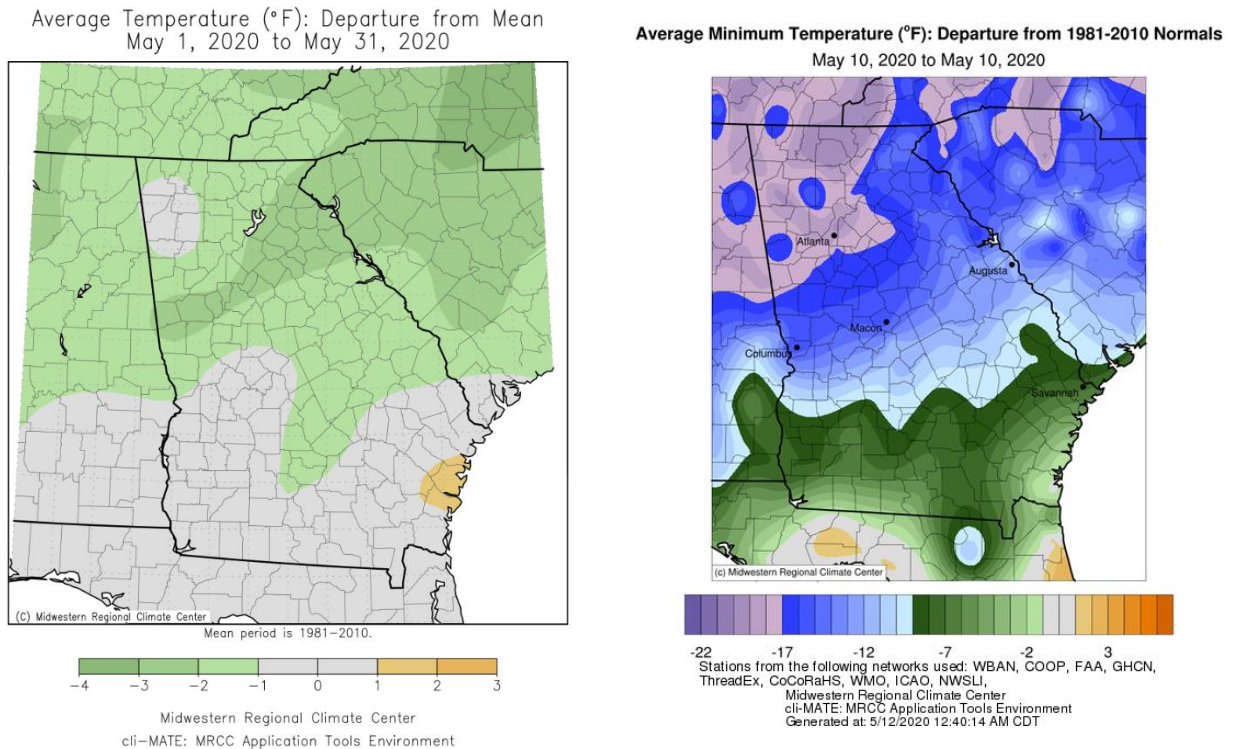


## May 2020 Climate Summary – Georgia

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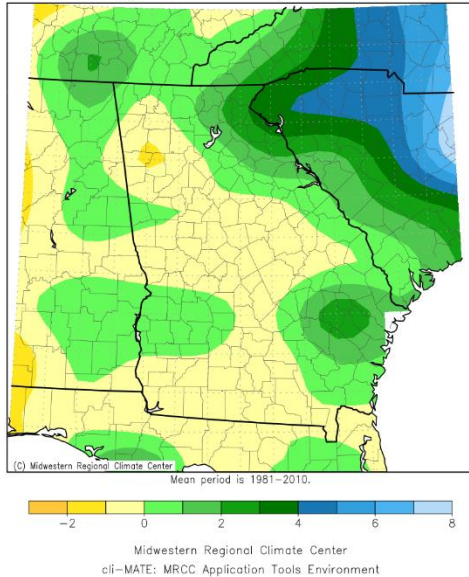
This May was the coolest since 2013, with the average statewide temperature 1.9° below the normal of 69.1°. Most of Georgia, especially north Georgia, experienced several cool air outbreaks that led to below normal temperatures and set several minimum daily temperature records. The atmospheric circulation pattern called the Arctic Oscillation (AO) was transitioning from positive to negative phase in May, which resulted in more frequent cool air outbreaks. Average statewide precipitation was 3.06", which was 0.65" below normal.



The average temperatures for the month were below normal for Athens, Atlanta, Columbus, and Macon at 68.5° (-1.5), 68.9° (-1.2), 71.7° (-1.3) and 70.8° (-1.1), respectively. A major cool air outbreak affected Georgia around May 10<sup>th</sup>. The minimum temperature for central and north Georgia was 10 to 23° below normal with scattered frost seen in extreme north Georgia. Record low minimum temperatures of 42°, 38°, and 34°, were set on May 10<sup>th</sup> in Macon, Peachtree City, and Cartersville, respectively. Blairsville recorded a minimum temperature of 28° on the 10th and 11th. Another cool air outbreak affected Georgia on May 20<sup>th</sup>. A

record low maximum temperature of 59° set in Athens on the 20<sup>th</sup> broke the previous record of 60° set in 1991.

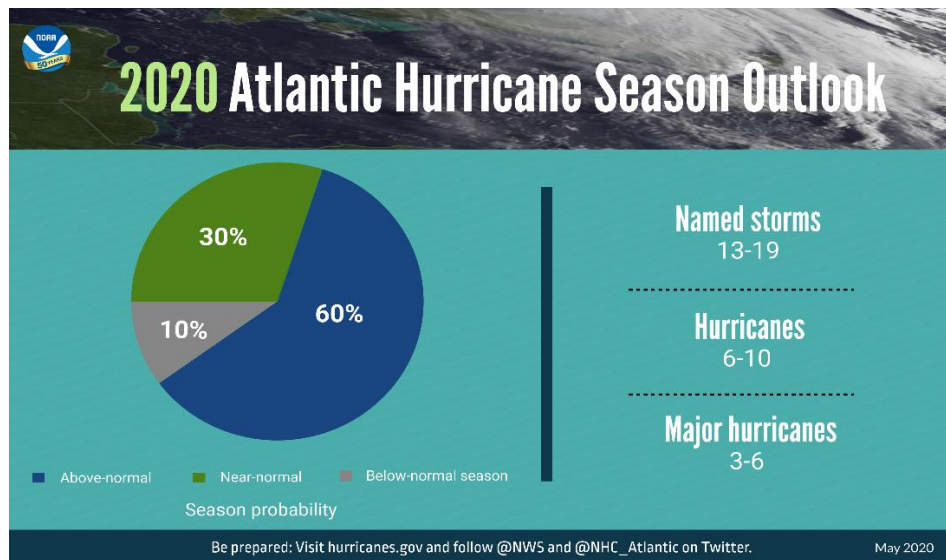
Accumulated Precipitation (in): Departure from Mean  
May 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020



Precipitation was near or below normal in many areas of the state, with Athens, Atlanta, Columbus, and Macon receiving 3.75" (+0.75), 4.19" (+0.52), 1.37" (-1.82), and 1.31" (-1.41), respectively. Most precipitation was received during the second half of May.

NOAA released its 2020 Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook, which calls for an above normal season. NOAA's Climate Prediction Center forecasted a likely range of 13 to 19 named storms, 6-10 of which could become hurricanes, including 3 to 6 major hurricanes. An average hurricane season produces 12 named storms, 6 of which become

hurricanes, including 3 major hurricanes. The Atlantic has already seen 2 named storms before the official start of the Atlantic hurricane season on June 1st.



The U.S. Drought Monitor showed no drought conditions across the state for much of May, with abnormally dry conditions developing across extreme south Georgia towards the end 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-above average across the Pacific. ENSO-neutral conditions are favored for the Northern Hemisphere summer (~60% chance) and likely continuing through autumn. The CPC's three-month seasonal outlook favors above normal temperatures and precipitation statewide.

