October 2022 Climate Summary – Georgia

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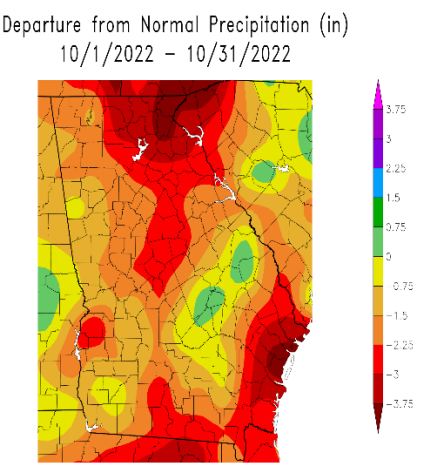
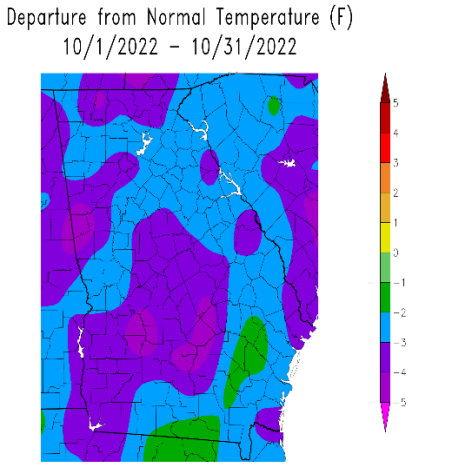
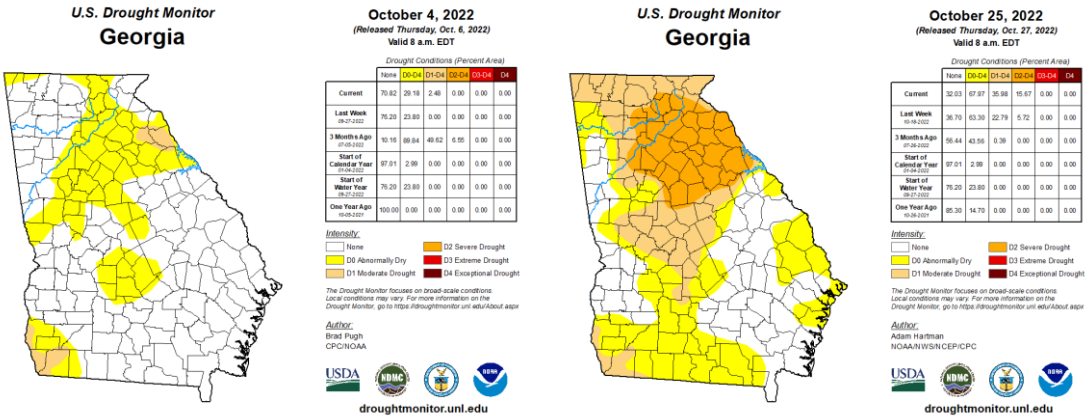
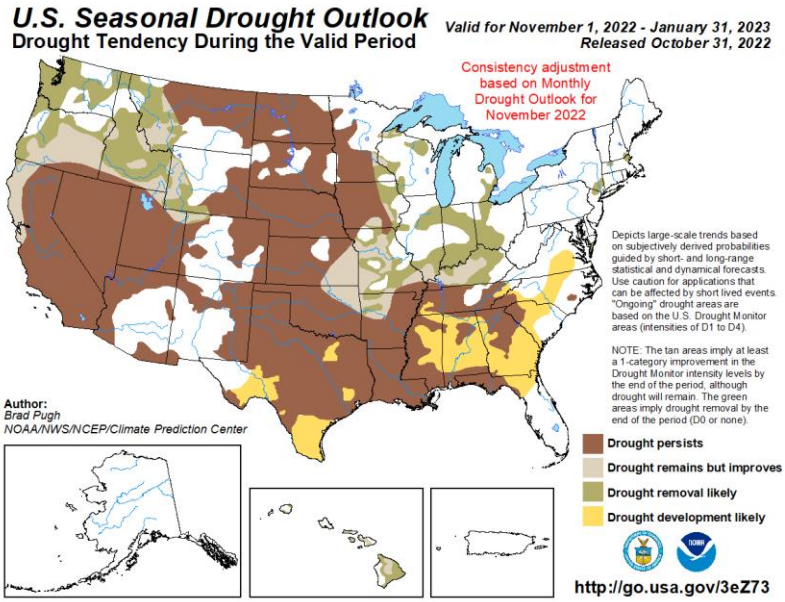
October is climatologically one of the driest months of the year for Georgia. Such was certainly the case this year, as rainfall averages dipped well below normal across much of the state. While the statewide average rainfall fell 1.14" below normal at 1.59" for the month, parts of North and Southeast Georgia saw deficits of 3 to 4 inches, causing drought to spread in those areas. Gainesville received average rainfall of only 0.73 inches for the month, which was 3.12" below normal. Athens saw 1.30" of precipitation, which was still 2.40 inches below normal. Cooler than average temperatures were prevalent across the state, with an average temperature statewide of 62.1˚F (-2.1˚F below normal). Macon set record minimum temperatures of 34˚on 10/19 and 29˚on 10/20, which broke the records of 35˚and 32˚, respectively. Columbus also set a record minimum temperature of 33˚on 10/20, which broke the record of 34˚set in 1989.



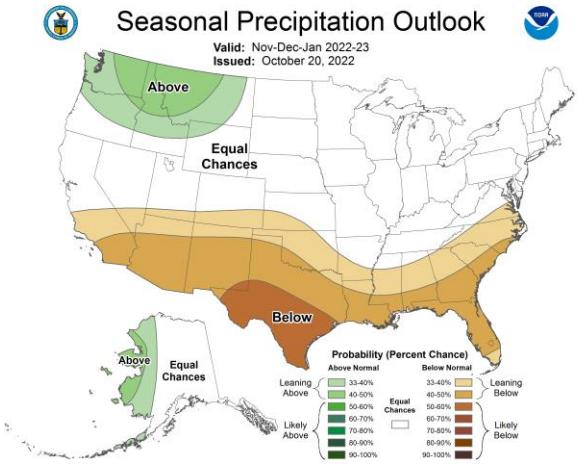


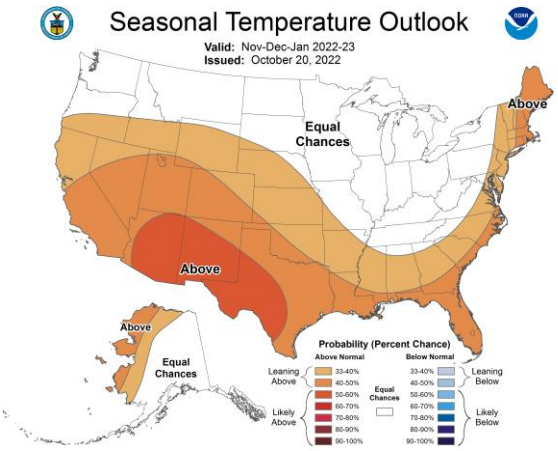
Below normal rainfall, dominant high pressure, and subsidence from Tropical Cyclone Ian caused severe drought conditions (D2) to spread across north central Georgia by the end of the month, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. The seasonal outlook from the Climate Prediction Center suggests a tendency for drought to persist in North and Central Georgia, with drought development likely across the rest of the state from November through January.





According to the Climate Prediction Center, there is a 76% chance of La Niña during the Northern Hemisphere winter (December-February) 2022-23, with a transition to ENSO-neutral favored in February-April 2023 (57% chance). The seasonal outlook from the Climate Prediction Center for November, December, and January favors above normal temperatures for Georgia and below normal chances of precipitation for the state.


Seasonal Precipitation Outlook
Valid: Nov-Dec-Jan 2022-23
Issued: October 20, 2022
Above
Equal Chances
Below
Above
Equal Chances
Probability (Percent Chance)
Above Normal
Below Normal
Leaning Above
Likely Above
Equal Chances
Leaning Below
Likely Below
33-40%
40-50%
50-60%
60-70%
70-80%
80-90%
90-100%


Seasonal Temperature Outlook
Valid: Nov-Dec-Jan 2022-23
Issued: October 20, 2022
Above
Equal Chances
Above
Above
Equal Chances
Probability (Percent Chance)
Above Normal
Below Normal
Leaning Above
Likely Above
Equal Chances
Leaning Below
Likely Below
33-40%
40-50%
50-60%
60-70%
70-80%
80-90%
90-100%