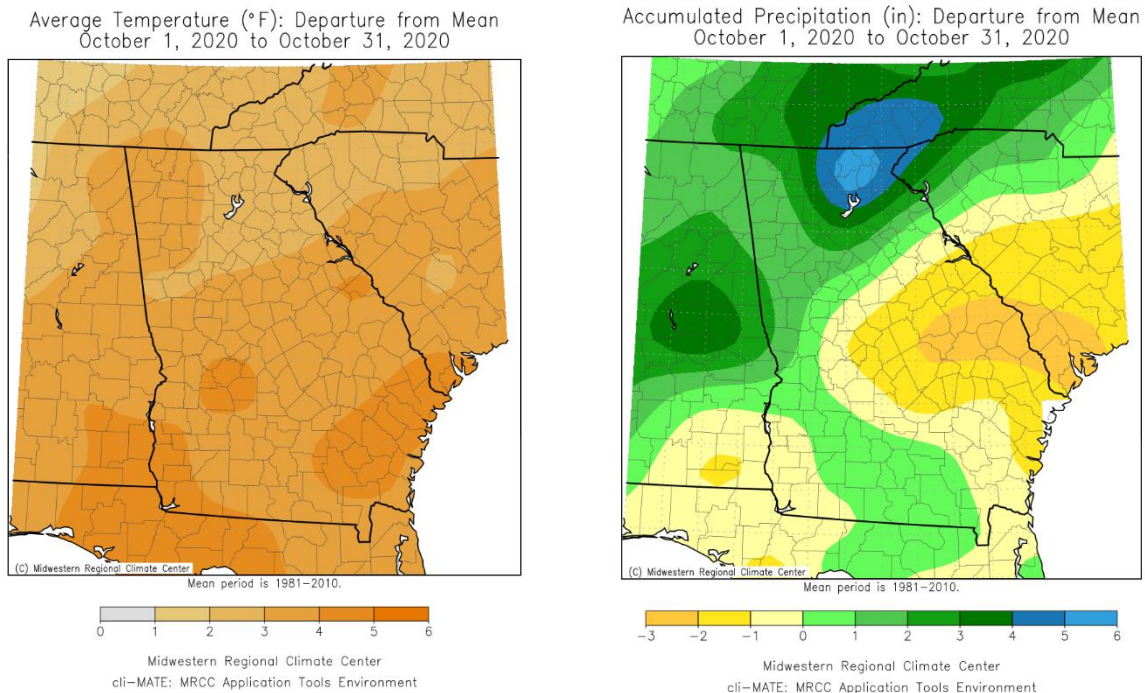


October 2020 Climate Summary – Georgia

Nyasha Dunkley and Henian Zhang

State of Georgia Climate Office

October continued to be warmer for much of the state with the average temperature of 68.6° (+4.4°) making it the 8th warmest October since 1919. Statewide precipitation was slightly above normal with a total amount of 3.39" (+0.66"). The precipitation distribution was largely affected by the tracks of two hurricanes: Delta and Zeta. North Georgia received record high rainfall, while middle and east Georgia received little rain. Abnormally dry conditions were observed in some counties.

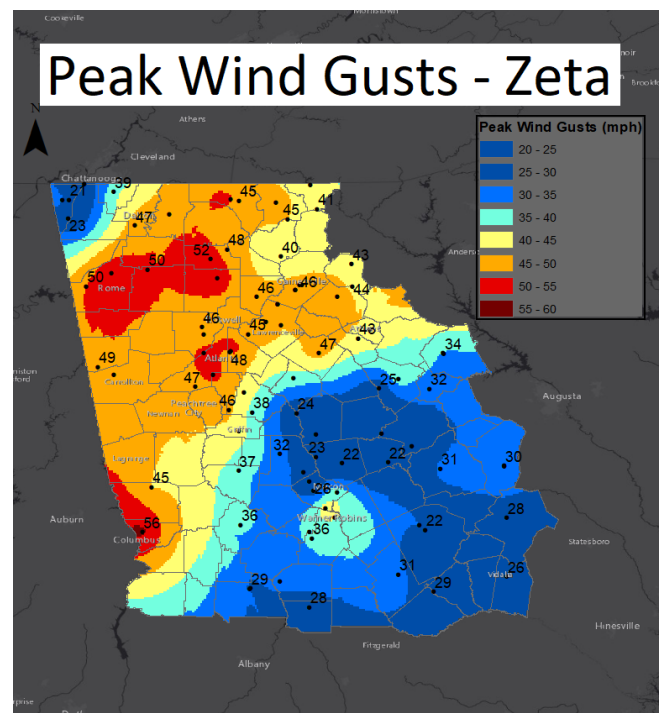
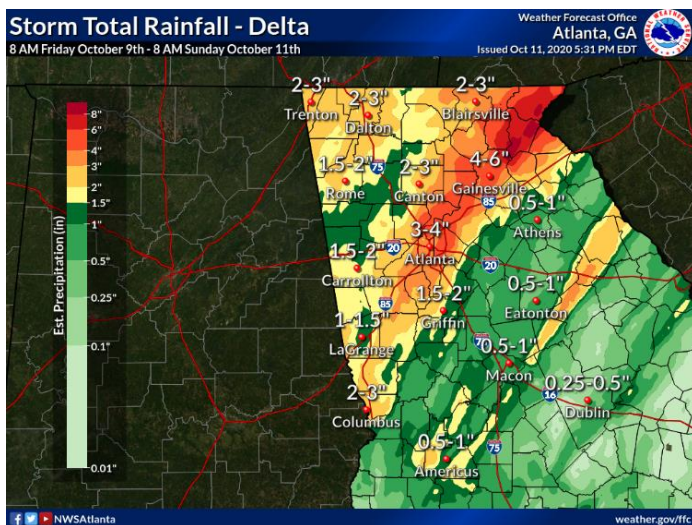


Several climate sites in Georgia reported record temperatures. The average temperature for Athens was 67.3° (+4.3°) making it the 7th warmest October on record. The average temperature for Atlanta was 67.3° (+4.0°) making it the 8th warmest October on record. Atlanta Dekalb Peachtree Airport reached a minimum temperature of 38° on the 17th, breaking the daily record of 39° set in 2015.

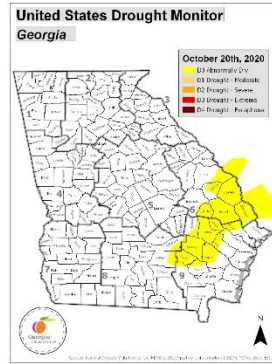
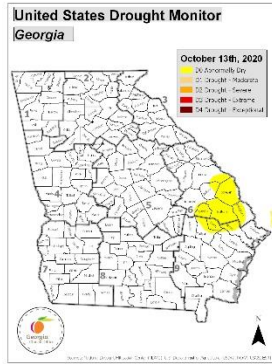
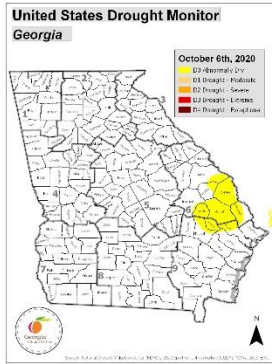
Due to the two hurricanes, north Georgia received a record amount of rain. Atlanta experienced its 3rd wettest October on record with a total precipitation of 8.23" (+4.82"). Two daily maximum rainfall records were broken on the 10th and 24th with a rainfall amount of 4.55" (previous record 3.42" in 2018) and 2.48"

(previous record 1.72" in 1918), respectively. This month was the 2nd wettest October for Gainesville with a total precipitation of 7.76", and 4th wettest October for Rome with a total precipitation of 6.8". A daily record of 2.69" of rain was reported on the 28th in Rome.

The remnants of Hurricane Delta brought heavy rainfall, several tornadoes, and localized flooding to northeast Georgia October 10th and 11th. An EF1 tornado damaged a homeless shelter in Covington on October 10th causing two injuries. Hurricane Zeta weakened into a tropical storm when moving through Georgia after making landfall along the Louisiana coast. It brought damaging winds and rain to west and north Georgia on October 29th. Sustained winds were from 20 to 35 mph with gusts from 40 to 60 mph. Falling trees damaged many homes and buildings. One person was killed in Cherokee county and two were killed in Gwinnett county. Over 1 million people in Georgia were without electricity on the morning of October 29th, which took several days to completely restore.



Drier than normal precipitation and above normal temperatures in Southeast Georgia allowed abnormally dry (D0) conditions to remain and expand through October, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.



The seasonal outlook from the Climate Prediction Center showed drought development likely over the southern portion of the state with La Niña conditions keeping the likelihood of below normal precipitation across the region.

La Niña conditions continued in October with below-average sea surface temperatures across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. A La Niña Advisory has been issued as La Niña conditions are expected to continue through the Northern Hemisphere winter and into Spring 2021. The seasonal outlook from the Climate Prediction Center for November, December and January favors above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation for the state.

