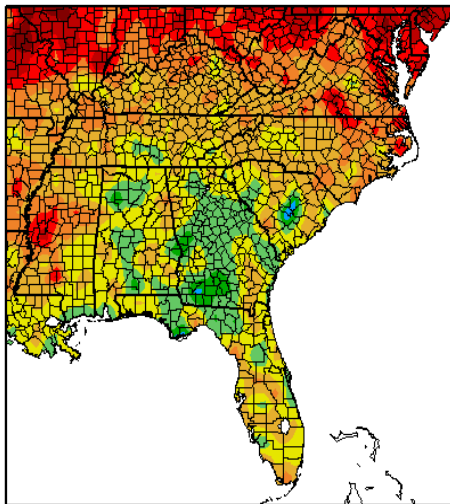


September 2015 Climate Summary – Georgia

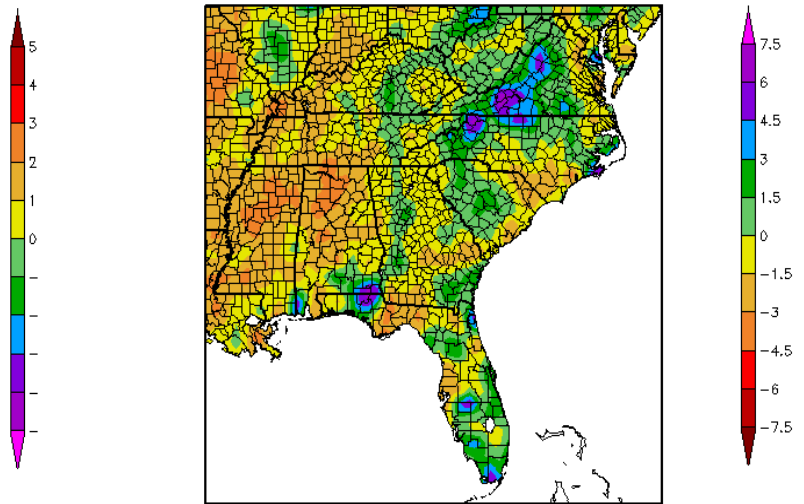
Lauren Lindsey, *Service Climatologist*
State of Georgia Climate Office

Georgia's cooler than normal temperatures, compared to the rest of the country, were a welcome sign of climatological fall. September was characterized by abundant tropical moisture, hybrid cold air damming events, and cold frontal passages, all of which brought cloudy conditions which kept temperatures in check. Precipitation was variable throughout the state, although the major climate sites generally recorded below normal monthly rainfall totals with the exception of extreme southeast Georgia.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/1/2015 – 9/30/2015



Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
9/1/2015 – 9/30/2015



Generated 10/1/2015 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Atlanta's monthly average temperature was right at normal at 73.5°F. Athens recorded 73.4° (+0.1°), Columbus recorded 75.5° (-1.1°), St. Simons Island's monthly temperature was 77.6° (-0.5°), Savannah recorded 77.2° (+0.3°), and Augusta's monthly temperature was 75.3° (+0.7°). Macon experienced a monthly temperature of 74.5° (-0.5°). A record low temperature of 49° was set at Macon on the 14th, which broke the old record of 51° set in 1996. That day proved to be cold elsewhere across the state as well, as Alma also set a record low temperature of 54° (breaking the previous record of 55° set in 1996).

September rainfall in Atlanta reached 3.93" (-0.54"). Athens, Macon, Columbus, and Savannah all fell below normal for the month at 3.48" (-0.46"), 2.09 (-1.5"), 1.92" (-1.14"), and 2.89" (-1.69"), respectively. Augusta rainfall was slightly above normal at 4.05" (+0.83"), while St. Simons Island saw a surplus of rain when 8.84" (+3.08") fell. Severe weather events were scarce during September, with hail or strong winds occurring on only five days of the month. Although we are transitioning into the fall season, severe weather is still possible, especially across central and south Georgia due to an active sub-tropical jet stream.

The Atlantic Hurricane season is underway and lasts through November 30th. September saw 4 tropical storms and 2 hurricanes, one of which became a major hurricane on the last day of the month and the only one this month with future impacts for the east coast. Hurricane Joaquin intensified to a category 3 major hurricane late on September 30th.

The current United States Drought Monitor for Georgia currently shows D1 (moderate drought) conditions across central and southwestern Georgia, surrounded by areas of D0 (abnormally dry) conditions. Northwest Georgia is also experiencing abnormally dry conditions. Drought conditions throughout the state during September stayed relatively unchanged with slight improvement as the month progressed.

According to the Climate Prediction Center, El Niño conditions are present and there is currently an El Niño Advisory. There is an approximately 95% chance that El Niño will continue through Northern Hemisphere winter 2015-16, gradually weakening through spring 2016. The current CPC Three-Month Seasonal Outlook reflects the impacts of a strong El Niño in Georgia, forecasting chances for above normal precipitation in the entire state through the winter season. There are equal chances of above, near, or below normal temperatures in November, December, and January.

