September 2024 Climate Summary – Georgia

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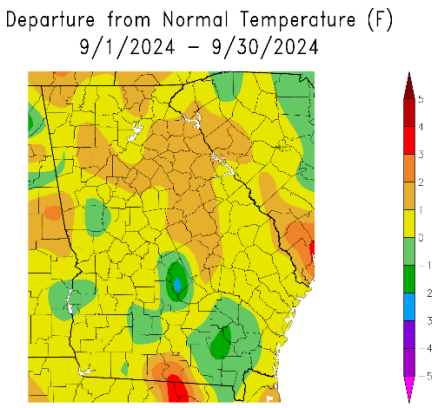
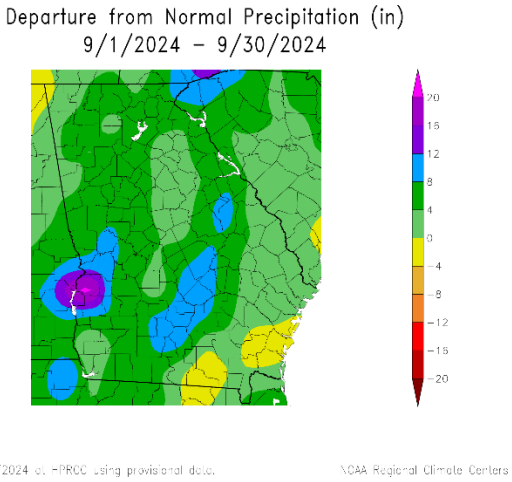
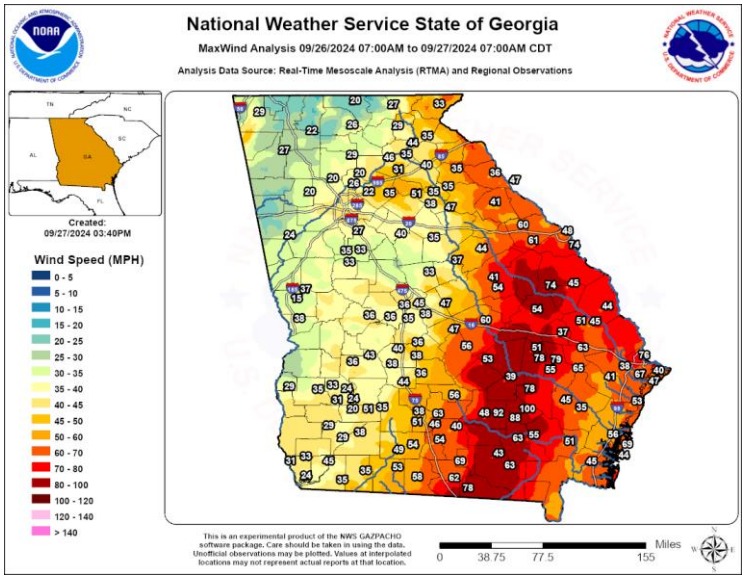
In September, Georgia experienced relatively normal temperatures and heavier than normal rainfall. The average temperature was 75.4 F, only 0.9 F warmer than normal (1901-2000 mean). The average statewide precipitation was 7.80", the 5th wettest September on record (period of record 1895-present) with 3.88" more rain than normal. Atlanta set new daily high temperature records for September 22nd, 23rd, and 24th with highs of 97 F on the 22nd (breaking the old record of 95 F set in 1940), 96 F on the 23rd (breaking the old record on 94 F set in 1931), and 93 F on the 24th (tying the old record of 93 F set in 1980). Columbus received a new record daily rainfall of 3.22" on September 13th breaking the previous record of 2.25" in 1901.

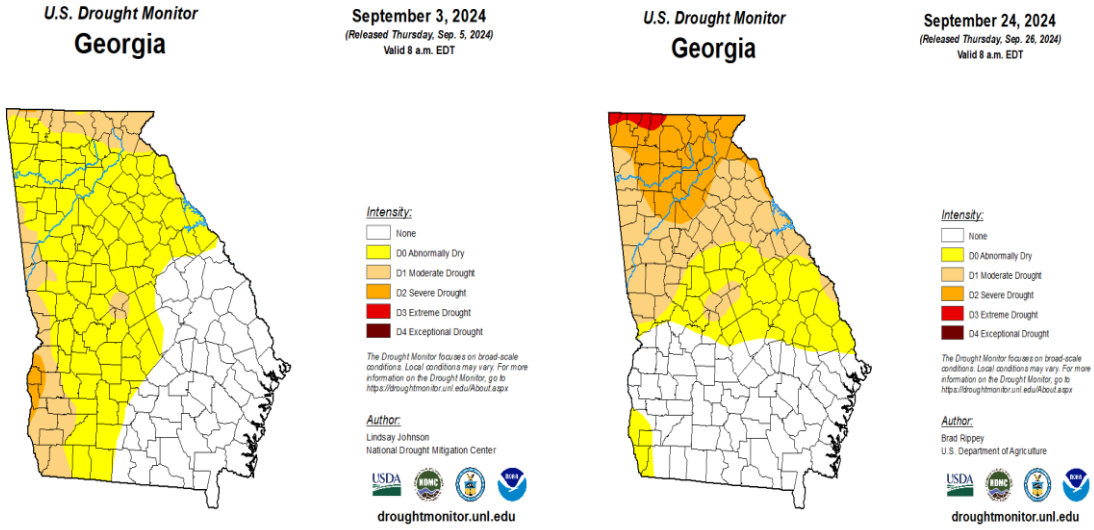


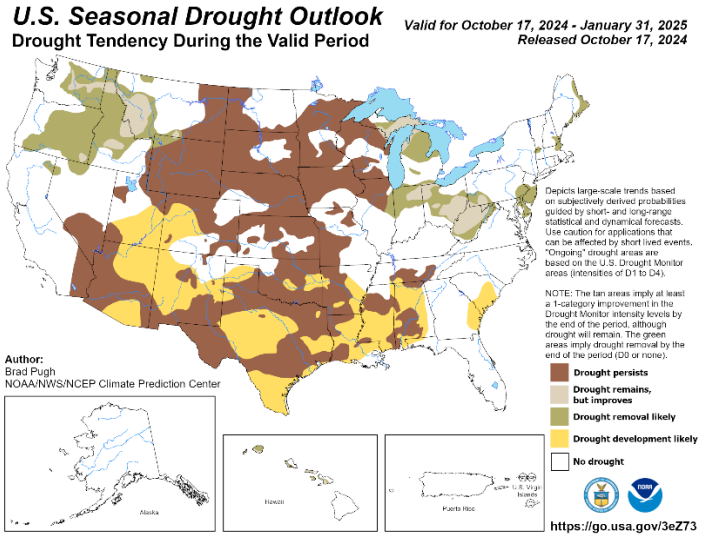


Hurricane Helene was responsible for the wetter-than-normal month. Helene made landfall near Perry, Florida on 9/26 as a Category 4 storm. Helene entered South-Central Georgia on 9/27 as a Category 2 hurricane. It moved through the middle of the state, keeping east of Atlanta, until it entered western North Carolina. Atlanta received its highest 48-hour rainfall total on record of 11.12" which broke the previous record of 9.59" in 48 hours in 1886 (period of record 1878-present). Augusta, Savannah, and Atlanta experienced flash flooding. Two days of heavy rainfall preceded the hurricane which contributed to flooding. Rainfall totals from the storm ranged from 6"-14" across the state. Strong winds brought damage to southeastern Georgia, especially Savannah and Augusta. Power outages were widespread. The most severe damage occurred on the east side of the hurricane.



Drought intensified across the state throughout the month of September, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. A large portion of Abnormally Dry conditions (D0) at the beginning of the month deteriorated to Moderate (D1) and Severe (D2) drought by the end, with a small patch of Extreme Drought (D3) developing in extreme North Georgia. The seasonal drought outlook from the Climate Prediction Center shows drought development likely across Southeast Georgia and no drought for the rest of the state.





According to the Climate Prediction Center, ENSO-neutral conditions are present with near-to-below-average equatorial sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. A La Nina Watch has been issued as La Nina is favored to develop in the coming months and persist through January-March 2025. The seasonal outlooks from the Climate Prediction Center for October-December indicate the chance of above normal temperatures and equal chances of above or below normal precipitation across the state.