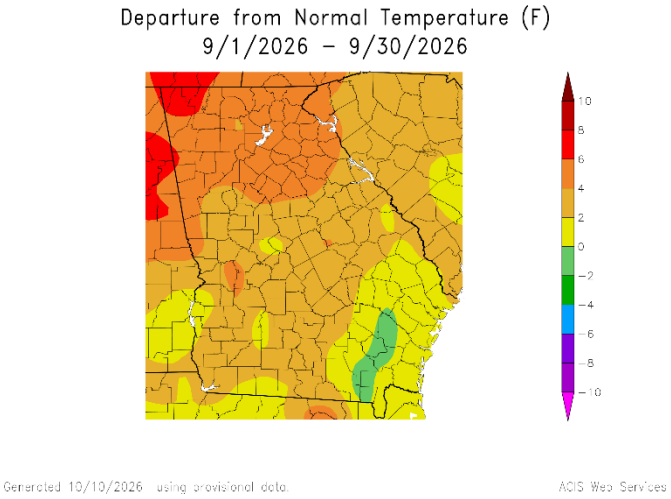
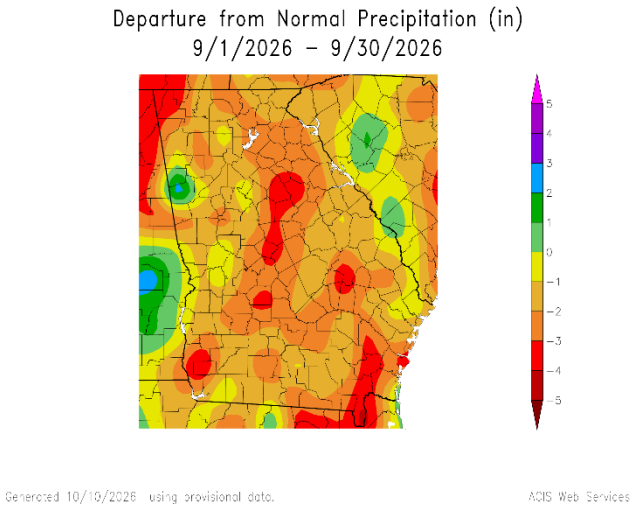
September 2026 Climate Summary – Georgia

Nyasha Dunkley and Eleanor Partington

State of Georgia Climate Office

September brought unusually warm temperatures and below normal rainfall to much of Georgia, making for a warmer and drier start to the fall season. The statewide average temperature was 77.6°F, which was 3.1°F above the long-term average of 74.5°F. This ranked September 2026 as the 10th warmest September on record since 1895 and the warmest since 2019. Above normal temperatures were widespread across the state, particularly in northern and northwestern Georgia, where temperatures averaged approximately 4°F to 8°F above normal in some locations. Farther south, temperatures were generally closer to seasonal averages, with a few areas experiencing slightly cooler-than-normal conditions.

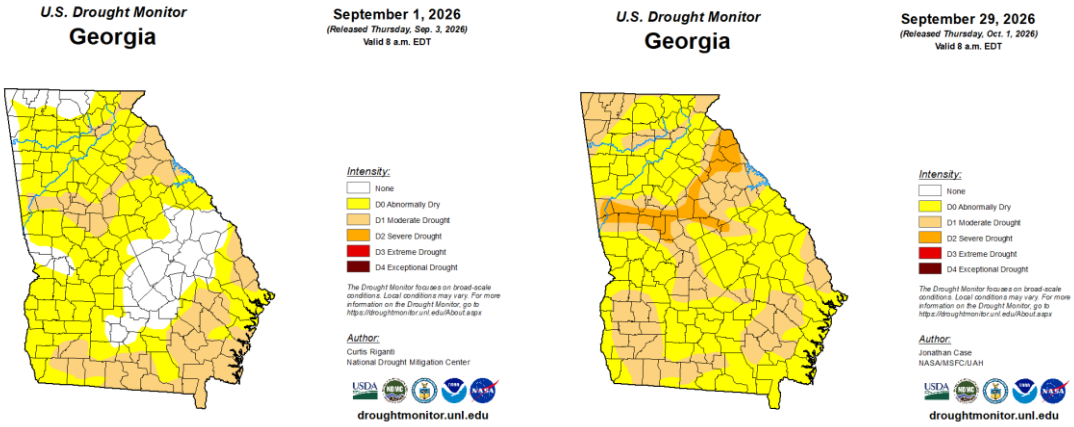


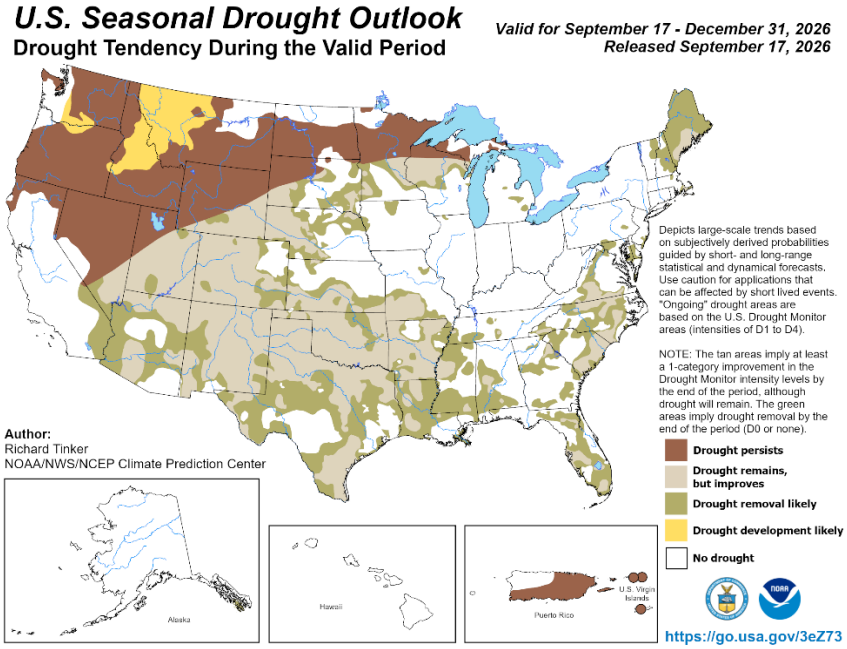


Rainfall was also in short supply during the month, with Georgia averaging just 2.18 inches of precipitation. This fell 1.74 inches below the long-term average of 3.92 inches or approximately 44% less rainfall than normal. Some of the most significant rainfall deficits occurred across central, eastern, and southeastern Georgia, where precipitation totals were generally 2 to 4 inches below normal. Not all areas missed out on rainfall, however, as portions of western Georgia and a few isolated areas in northern Georgia received above-normal precipitation.

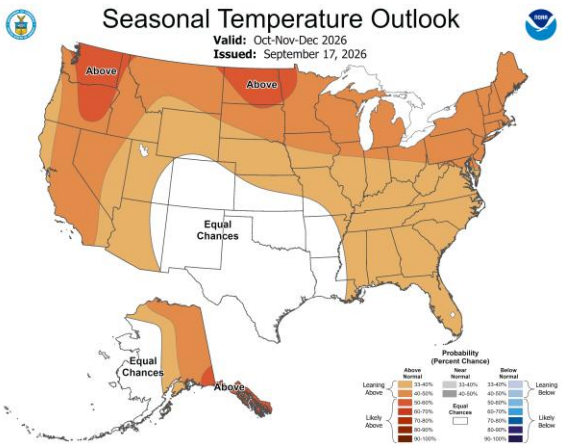
According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, drought worsened across much of the state in September. All areas that were drought-free at the beginning of the month reached at least Abnormally Dry (D0) status by the end of the month. Moderate Drought (D1) spread most notably in central Georgia and northwest Georgia. Following a period of four weeks in which the state was free of Severe Drought (D2), D2 was introduced in central Georgia on September 10.

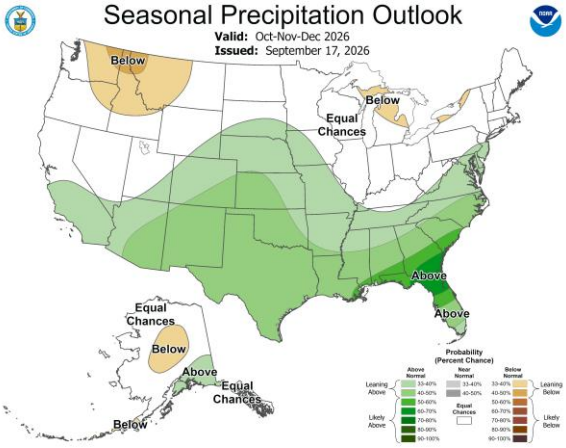
According to the Climate Prediction Center, drought removal is likely for much of the state, with only a few small areas in which drought is likely to remain but improve.





According to the Climate Prediction Center, El Niño is present as equatorial sea surface temperatures are well above average across the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. El Niño continues to strengthen, with a strong-to-very strong El Niño likely through January-March 2027 (83% chance). With a very strong El Niño, the chances of experiencing impacts are larger but not guaranteed. The seasonal outlooks from the Climate Prediction Center show the probability of above normal temperatures (leaning above) and the probability of above normal precipitation (likely above, with the strongest probabilities in southern Georgia which is consistent with an El Niño pattern) for the state through December.


Seasonal Temperature Outlook
Valid: Oct-Nov-Dec 2026
Issued: September 17, 2026
Above
Above
Equal Chances
Equal Chances
Above
Probability (Percent Chance)


Seasonal Precipitation Outlook
Valid: Oct-Nov-Dec 2026
Issued: September 17, 2026
Below
Below
Equal Chances
Above
Above
Equal Chances
Below
Above
Equal Chances
Below
Probability (Percent Chance)