

September 2020 Climate Summary – Georgia

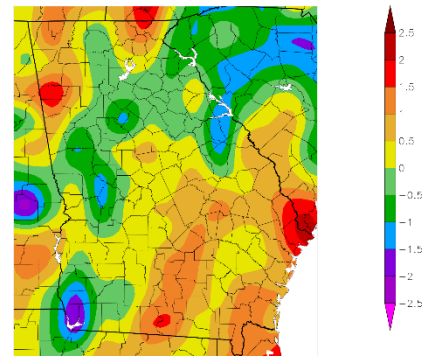
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State of Georgia Climate Office

The beginning of the Fall season started on a wetter and warmer note for much of the state during the month of September. Average statewide precipitation was almost three inches above normal, making it the 9th wettest September on record and the wettest September since 2004. Temperatures were near normal, with an average temperature of 74.3° across the state.

While temperatures remained slightly cooler across central and northern Georgia, areas near the coast experienced record-breaking heat at the start of the month. St. Simons Island reached record high temperatures of 94° on the 2nd and 96° on the 4th, breaking the old records of 93° and 95°, respectively. On the 5th, St. Simons tied a record high of 96°, while Savannah tied a record high of 99°.

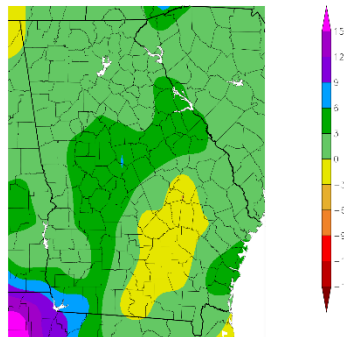
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/1/2020 – 9/30/2020



Generated 10/13/2020 at HPC/CC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

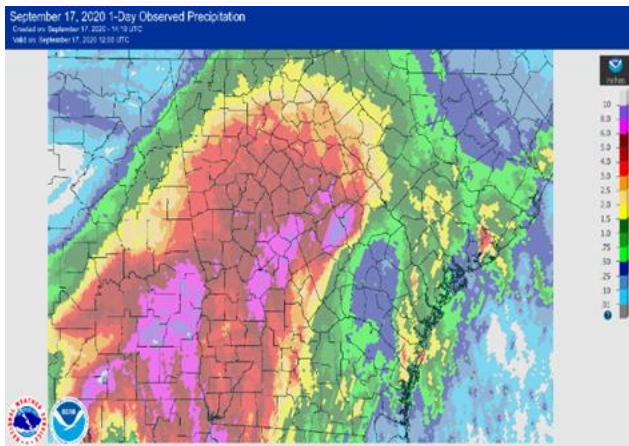
Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
9/1/2020 – 9/30/2020



Generated 10/13/2020 at HPC/CC using provisional data.

NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Heavy rainfall, associated with the remnants of Hurricane Sally passing through on September 16th and 17th, caused flash flooding in many areas. Columbus and Macon received record daily totals of 3.72" and 2.90" of rain, respectively, on the 16th. The rainfall that fell contributed to Columbus experiencing its 2nd wettest September on record. Athens, Atlanta, and Macon also received record daily rainfall totals on the 17th with 3.60", 2.79", and 4.25", respectively. Storms totals from 24 hr. precipitation ending at 7am on the 17th showed rainfall amounts between 4-7" inches.

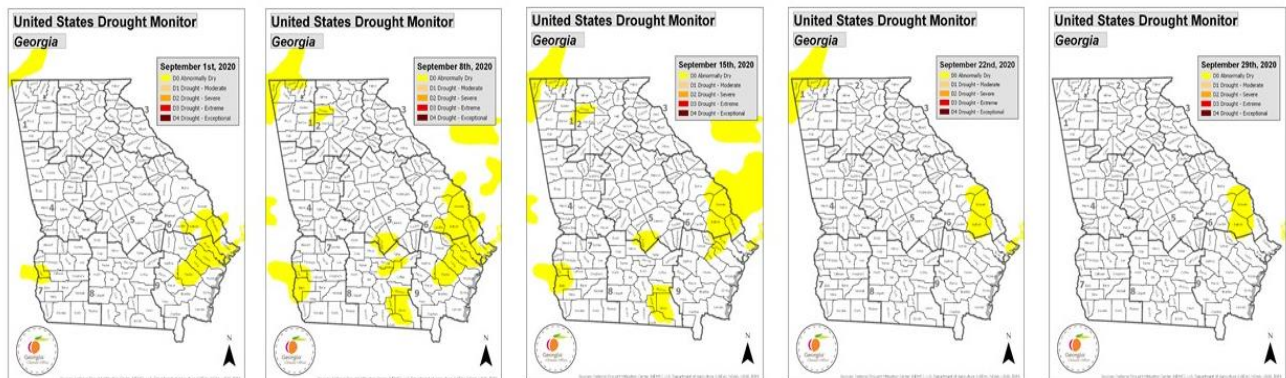


24-hr Precipitation Ending at 7 AM September 17

City	Precipitation	Station Source
Macon	6.91"	NWS
Columbus	6.51"	NWS
Albany	5.08"	NWS
Athens	4.01"	NWS
Atlanta	3.89"	NWS
Columbus	7.18"	EPD
Conyers	4.6"	EPD
South DeKalb	3.99"	EPD
Kathleen (Houston county)	7.67"	CoCoRaHS
Waverly Hall (Harris county)	6.98"	CoCoRaHS
Harrison (Washington county)	6.75"	CoCoRaHS
Forsyth (Monroe county)	6.6"	CoCoRaHS
Tucker (DeKalb county)	5.65"	CoCoRaHS
Roswell (Fulton county)	4.95"	CoCoRaHS

As the remnants of Sally entered the state on the 16th, an EF-1 tornado was reported in Effingham County in South Georgia. Another tornado reportedly touched down near Waycross, according to a social media video clip seen by the Jacksonville NWS office. The combined effect of gusty winds and moist soil caused several downed trees across the southern part of the state, as well as through northern parts of the Metro Atlanta area as the storm moved through.

Drought conditions continued to improve through the month, especially after Hurricane Sally passed by. Sally weakened into a tropical depression but still brought abundant rain to Georgia. According to the U.S Drought Monitor, only a small area of D0 conditions remained in Southeast Georgia by the end of September. In the long term, the seasonal drought outlook from the Climate Prediction Center continues to show the tendency for drought development to be very low across the state.



According to the Climate Prediction Center, La Niña conditions were present, with below-average sea surface temperatures across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. La Niña conditions are 75% likely to continue through

the Northern Hemisphere winter. The three-month seasonal outlook favors above normal temperatures for the entire state and the chance of below normal rainfall in Western Georgia.

