

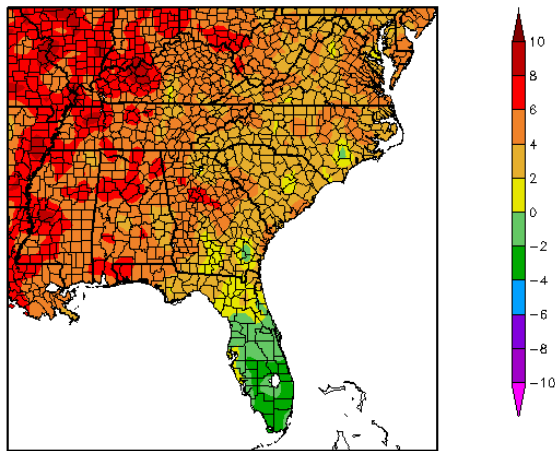
January 2012 Climate Summary - Georgia

Prepared by Nyasha Dunkley, Deputy State Climatologist
State of Georgia Climate Office

Temperature and Precipitation

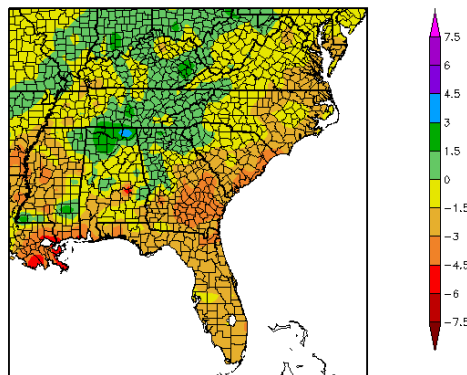
The month of January was characterized by above normal temperatures and precipitation totals varying from north to south across the state. Several cities averaged temperatures several degrees above normal, including Atlanta (+5.8), Athens (+3.6), Columbus (+4.7), Macon (+3.6) and Brunswick (+4.1).

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
12/27/2011 - 1/25/2012



Precipitation ranged from slightly above average in the north, to well below average in the south. The Brunswick airport reported January rainfall totals 2.77 inches below average, while Athens recorded the same rainfall amount of 3.32 inches as was recorded in January 2011.

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)
12/27/2011 - 1/25/2012



Drought Conditions

The sharp contrast between northern drought-free areas and southern Exceptional drought areas further intensified in January, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. By the end of the month, over 50% of Georgia remained in D3 (Extreme) drought conditions, while approximately 16% were in D4 (Exceptional). There was a sharp drought gradient across the state, with south Georgia experiencing the worse conditions and areas of northwest GA not within a drought at all. Central to north GA ranged from abnormally dry to severe drought.

A storm system that moved through on the 21st of the month dropped several inches of rain across north and western portions of Georgia, resulting in some 1-category improvements in the drought designation. However, the rain largely bypassed the Extreme to Exceptional Drought areas of Georgia, resulting in little improvement across central and southern parts of the state.

Storm Reports

The upper level disturbance and weak low pressure system produced an early outbreak of severe weather, with several tornadoes recorded across the state. A National Weather Service Assessment Team determined that an EF0 tornado occurred in northern Dooly County. EF-1 tornados touched down in Macon County as well as south central Coweta County on the 21st as well. There were also reports of golf-ball sized hail and straight-line wind damage. Flash flooding was also observed with this event near and west of downtown Atlanta.

