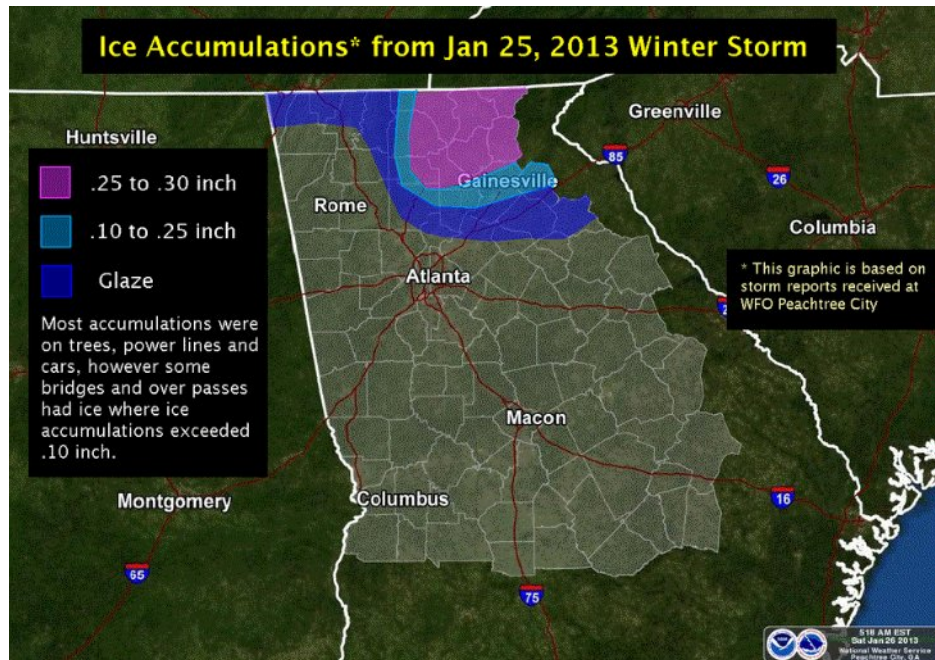


## January-February 2013 Climate Summary - Georgia

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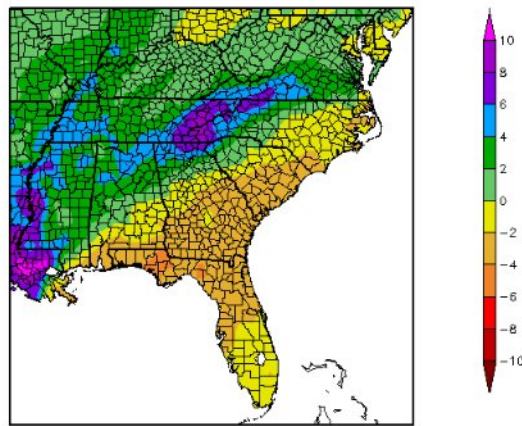
The months of January and February consisted of a very “active” upper level pattern, which included fairly significant swings in temperature and precipitation across the Southeast. The positioning of the subtropical jet allowed ample amounts of Gulf moisture to stream across the area, which aided in continuous periods of heavy rainfall occurring over the same locations for an extended period of time. Also on occasions, a dip in the jet allowed for brief intrusions of colder air into the state. Intrusions like this were evident on such days as January 25<sup>th</sup>, where the National Weather Service reported ice accumulations in areas of north Georgia.



January struck a warm note as areas across the state observed above normal mean temperatures for the month. Atlanta set a record high temperature of 76°F on January 12<sup>th</sup>, breaking the old record of 75° set in 1890. Macon also set a record high temperature on the 12<sup>th</sup> of 78°, beating the old record of 77° set in 1916. Columbus set several high temperature records during the period of the 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> of January, reaching a maximum of 78° on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The January temperature records continued across the state with Augusta also reaching several record highs. Augusta Regional Bush Field topped out at 81° on the 12<sup>th</sup>, surpassing the previous record of 78° set in 1916.

A large portion of the state received below normal rainfall during the month of January. A record low rainfall for the month was set at Augusta Bush Field at 0.60 inches. This beats the old record of 0.75 in. last reached in 1981. The precipitation gradient across the state ranged from a deficit of 2-4 inches in much of Central and Southern Georgia to a surplus of 6-8 inches in parts of North Georgia. A slow moving cold front combined with significant moisture from both the Pacific and the Gulf of Mexico to create a heavy rainfall event mainly across Northwest GA during the week of January 14-18<sup>th</sup>.

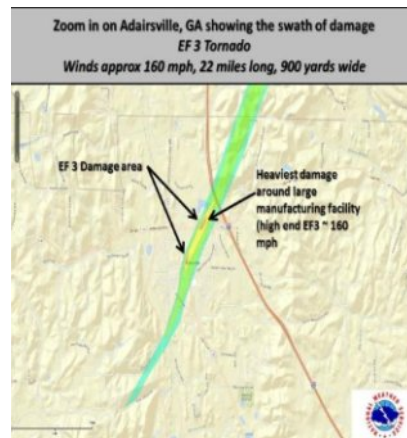
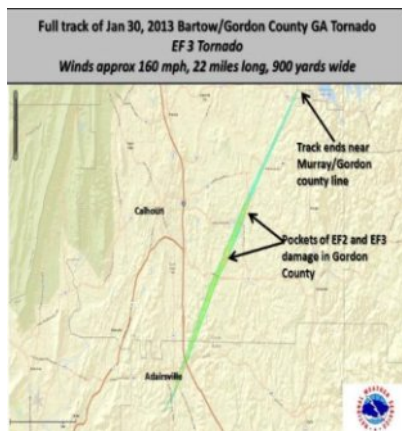
Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
1/1/2013 - 1/31/2013



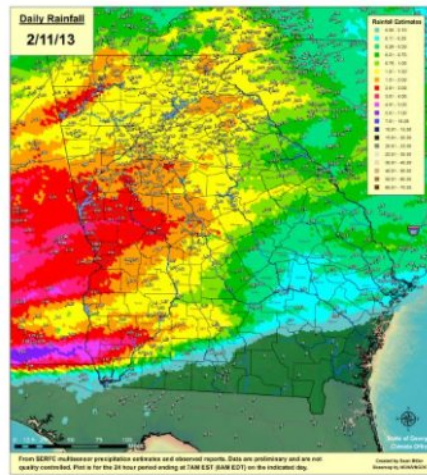
Generated 2/11/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

The month of January ended on a stormy note as a supercell thunderstorm moved across northwest Bartow and central Gordon counties on the 30<sup>th</sup>. The National Weather Service in Peachtree City determined an EF3 tornado, beginning southwest of Adairsville, GA and tracking 22 miles northeast, caused significant damage in Bartow and Gordon counties. The image below from the NWS shows the track of the tornado.



February was characterized by periods of heavy rainfall from storm systems moving through in the progressive upper level pattern. Continuous heavy rainfall for extended periods allowed for areas like Savannah to have its wettest February on record out of 143 years of data, with 9.75 inches. This was +6.83 inches for the month. Macon and Columbus also saw their wettest February on record, while Augusta was 4<sup>th</sup> wettest and Atlanta was 15<sup>th</sup>. Alma, in southeast GA, recorded 9.54 inches of rainfall during the month which broke the old monthly record of 9.27 inches set in 1986.



Several record daily maximum records were also set across the state on Feb.11<sup>th</sup> as a heavy band of precipitation moved through. The beneficial rainfall in February resulted in major drought improvement across Georgia. For the first time since August 2010, according to the Drought Monitor, the region is free of extreme drought.

**February 26, 2013 – U.S. Drought Monitor**



- D0 - Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought – Moderate
- D2 Drought – Severe
- D3 Drought – Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional