May 2012 Climate Summary - Georgia

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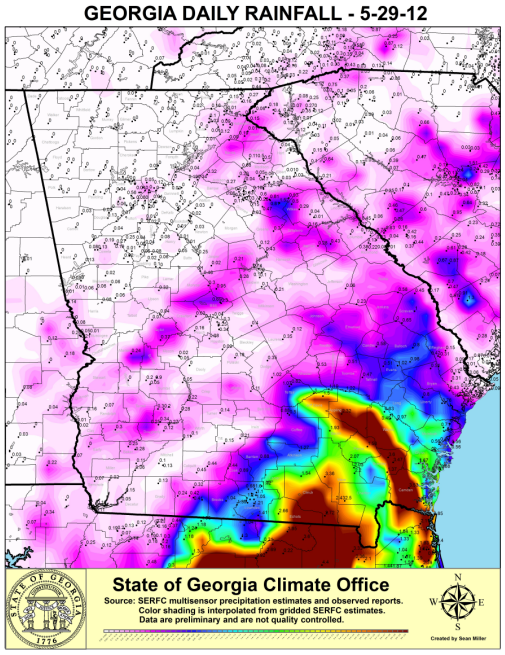
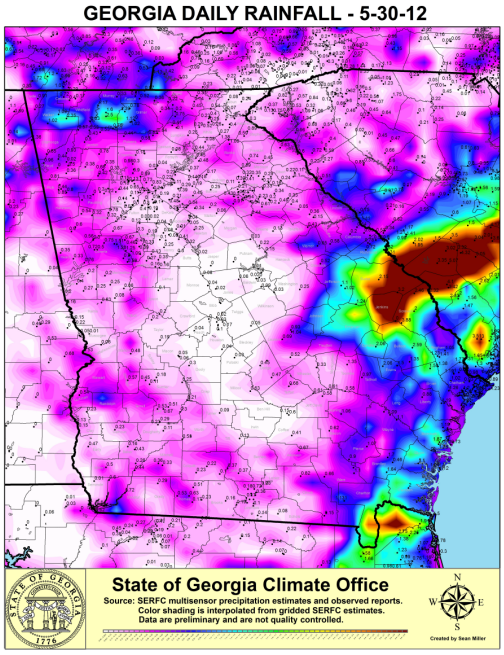
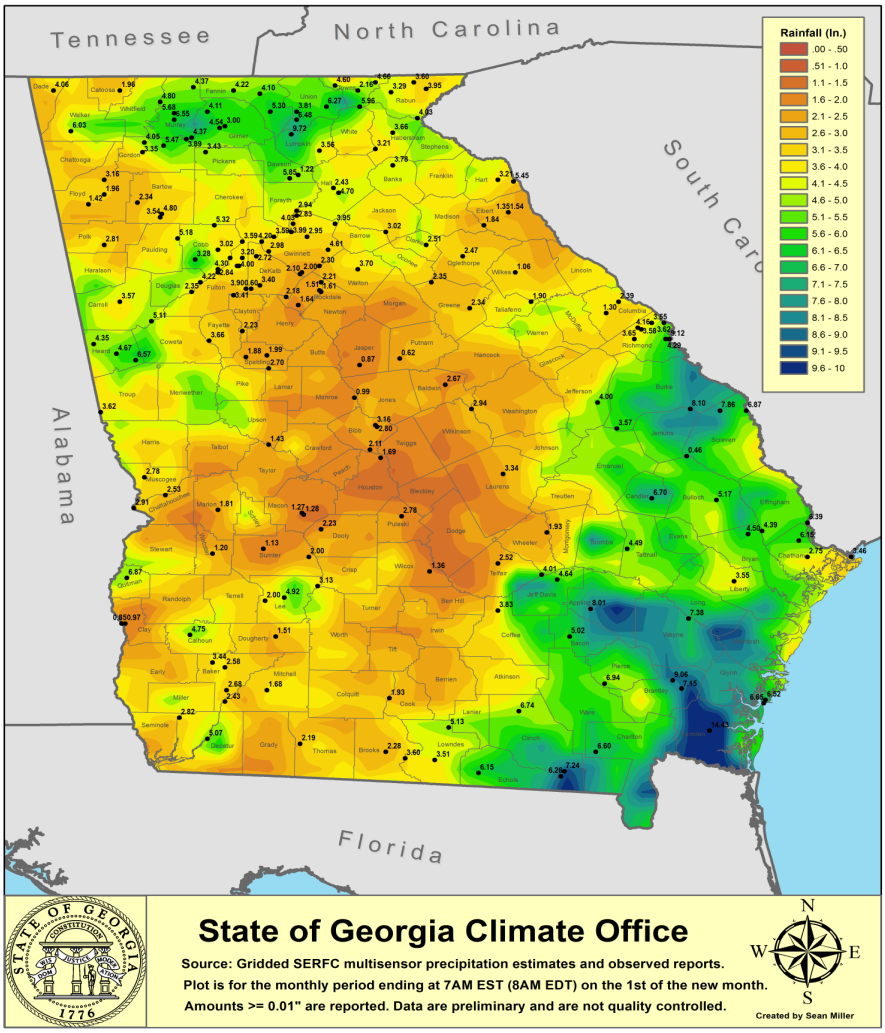
The month of May provided welcome rainfall in parts of the state from Tropical Storm Beryl, while other areas still remained below normal. Areas of north central Florida and coastal Georgia received well over 5 inches of rain in a short period of time as the storm system moved northeast along the coast on the 29th and 30th. Portions of southeast GA recorded between 5 to 10 inches of rain for the entire month, which brought monthly rainfall totals to well above average. St. Simons Island in coastal GA received 7.06 inches of rain for the month, which was 5.20 inches above the average. This allowed the climate station to experience the 4th wettest May on record. Alma, GA experienced the 9th wettest May on record at 5.02 inches.



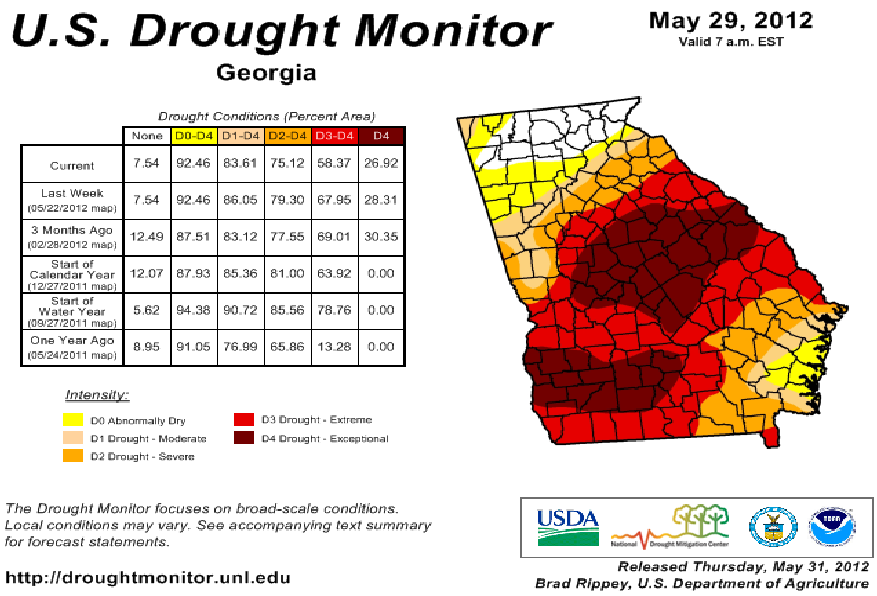


The preseason tropical activity had little affect, however, on other rainfall deficits across the state, as the storm system did not move far enough inland to provide long-term drought relief. Climate stations such as Macon, Atlanta, and Athens reflected slightly below normal rainfall during May (-0.61, -0.26, -0.33, respectively).

MAY 2012 RAINFALL



Short-term drought conditions improved to Abnormally Dry and Moderate over coastal southeast GA, as evidenced from the most recent Drought Monitor. However, much of the state still remains in Extreme to Exceptional drought conditions. Augusta, GA and Toccoa, GA are both experiencing the driest 365-day period on records that span over 140 years of data. Other areas of the state are also experiencing record rainfall deficits as well. Plains, GA is at a current deficit of –18.67 inches, which makes it the 2nd driest 365-day period on record. Gainesville, GA is at a deficit of –15.91 inches (7th driest on record), while Athens, GA is at its 3rd driest 365-day period on record with a deficit of –16.35 inches.



Rainfall from slow-moving tropical or subtropical low pressure systems could help alleviate drought conditions across the southwest and central parts of the state. The official 2012 Hurricane Season Outlook from NOAA is calling for a near normal hurricane season, with approximately 10 named storms this year, despite preseason tropical activity thus far. The outlook calls for a 50% chance of a near-normal season, a 25% chance of an above normal season, and a 25% chance of a below-normal season. According to the Climate Prediction Center, the Atlantic hurricane season outlook will be updated in early August, which coincides with the onset of the peak months of the hurricane season.