# May and June 2013 Climate Summary - Georgia

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The month of May was characterized by cooler than normal temperatures and above normal rainfall in north, central and southeast parts of the state. Abnormally dry conditions remained in southwest Georgia throughout the month. An ample supply of Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic moisture and a low pressure system led to a widespread rain event at the beginning of the month from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup>, with flooding across areas of north and central Georgia. Atlanta experienced a record daily maximum rainfall of 1.85 inches on the 4<sup>th</sup>, breaking the old record of 1.79 inches set in 1917. Alma and Brunswick received record daily maximum rainfall of 1.46 and 2.24 inches on the 5<sup>th</sup>, respectively, associated with the same low pressure system. According to the NWS, approximately 40 stream gage locations across north and central Georgia exceeded flood stage during that rain event, as the ground was already well saturated beforehand. Another round of strong convection moved through on the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Rainfall estimates showed 4 to 5 inches were received on the 19<sup>th</sup> in parts of northeast Ga.



May also experienced a cool trend with an average temperature of  $68.6^{\circ}$ F for the entire state, which was  $2.6^{\circ}$ F below normal. This was the  $12^{th}$  coldest May out of 119 years of data. Macon had its  $4^{th}$  coolest average temperature on record at  $68.4^{\circ}$ F,  $-3.5^{\circ}$  below the normal monthly temperature of 71.9°F. Atlanta and Columbus both reached low maximum temperature records on the  $6^{th}$  of the month, while Macon and Augusta tied and reached low temperature records on the  $14^{th}$  at  $42^{\circ}$  and  $40^{\circ}$ F, respectively. Macon also set a record low of  $49^{\circ}$ F on the  $25^{th}$ .



The mean weather pattern for June featured a high pressure ridge over the western states with troughing prevailing for the east. An active storm track, centered north of Georgia, brought a series of disturbances through the state keeping June rather wet and unsettled. This pattern allowed for several days of moderate to heavy rainfall with many climate sites recording their wettest or near wettest Junes on record. Mean temperatures were generally near normal at most locations, with maximum temperatures slightly below average due to frequent cloud cover and rainfall. A notable severe weather episode affected portions of the north on the 13<sup>th</sup> producing widespread damaging wind along with two relatively uncommon June tornadoes. Climate impacts were wide-reaching, with saturated soils leading to crop damage and downed trees in many areas.



## Precipitation

Above normal rainfall was experienced in nearly all portions of the state, with the exception of the extreme northwest, southwest, and along the coast. Particularly wet areas included portions of the east-central and southeast where many locations received well over 12" for the month. The greatest monthly totals observed include 18.5" at the co-operative observing site 4 miles northeast of Waycross and 18.36" in Kite. In contrast, relatively drier locations include Ringgold and LaGrange with 3.52". A heavy thunderstorm in the Atlanta area dropped 4.14" at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport on the 5<sup>th</sup>, setting both daily and monthly records for the greatest rainfall total for the 5<sup>th</sup> and for any single day in June. Augusta and Macon had their wettest Junes on record with 10.78" and 12.23" respectively. The over-abundance of rainfall led to numerous agricultural impacts including crop damage resulting from fungus and disease. Saturated soils have also stopped seasonal planting in some areas with no second crop being sowed. Numerous trees were reported down throughout the state as well as a result of the waterlogged soil. The state easily remained drought-free during the month.



# Temperatures

Temperatures across the state did not vary drastically from normal during the June with mean temperatures at or above normal across portions of the northwest and south and at or below normal for the remainder of the state. With wet and cloudy conditions prevailing, many climate sites recorded slightly below average maximum temperatures and slightly above average minimum temperatures. This produced means that were near normal for the month. One exception was at Savannah, where the mean was  $+2.8^{\circ}$ F above normal for the month.



#### **Severe Weather**

A noteworthy severe weather event affected portions of north Georgia on the 13<sup>th</sup> producing widespread damaging winds and two tornadoes. Particularly hard hit were portions of Cherokee, eastern Cobb, northern Fulton, and northern DeKalb counties. Two tornadoes, producing damage consistent with an EF-1 rating, were documented in Cherokee, Cobb, and northern Fulton counties.



Location	Avg. Maximum Temperature (departure) Ranking*	Avg. Minimum Temperature (departure) Ranking*	Mean Temperature (departure) Ranking*	Total Rainfall (departure) Ranking*
Athens	86.6 (-0.6)	67.3 (+2.0)	76.9 (+0.6)	8.21 (+4.27)
	T-46th coldest	T-34th warmest	T-57th coldest	10th wettest
Atlanta	85.6 (-0.9)	69.4 (+2.3)	77.5 (+0.7)	9.57 (+5.94)
	60th coldest	T-11th warmest	T-46th warmest	4th wettest
Augusta	88.2 (-2.7)	67.4 (+1.6)	77.8 (-0.6)	10.78 (+5.33)
	T-44th coldest	T-52nd coldest	42nd coldest	1st wettest
Columbus	88.9 (-0.6)	71.3 (+2.5)	80.1 (+0.9)	7.32 (+3.81)
	T-26th coldest	5th warmest	17th warmest	8th wettest
Macon	87.8 (-0.4)	68.1 (+1.4)	78 (+0.5)	12.23 (+8.79)
	T-23rd coldest	T-52nd coldest	T-34th coldest	1st wettest
Savannah	88.8 (+3.5) T-59th warmest	71.9 (+2.8) T-27th warmest	80.3 (+3.1) T-43rd warmest	8.27 (+3.20) 24th wettest

### **Climate Sites Statistics – June 2013**

\*T denotes tie