October 2012 Climate Summary - Georgia

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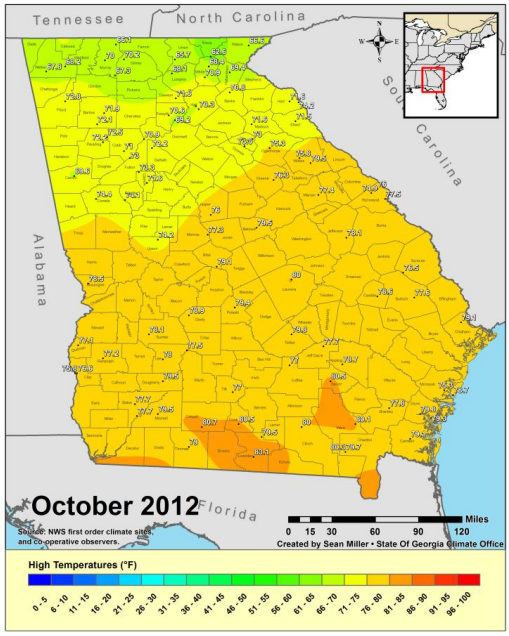
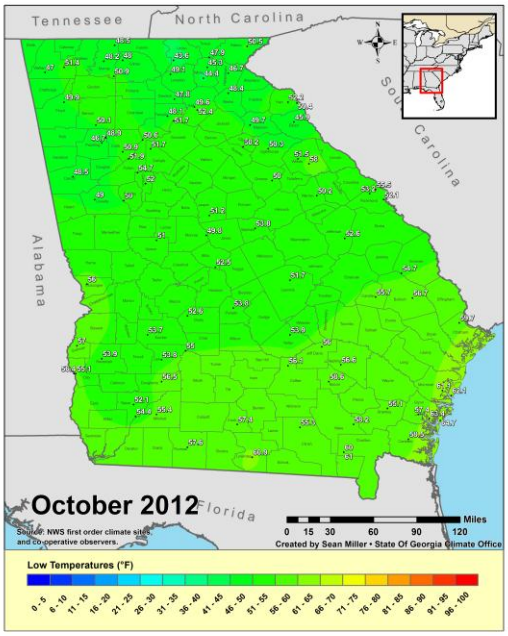
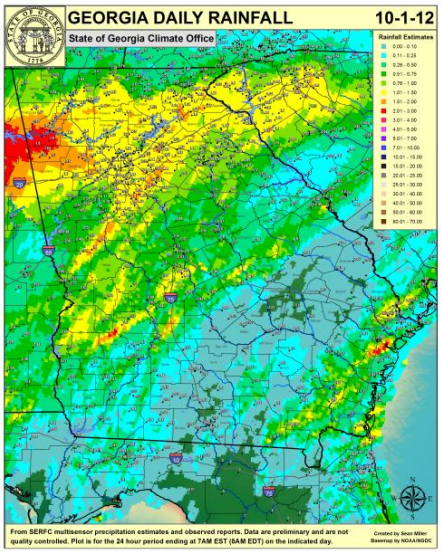
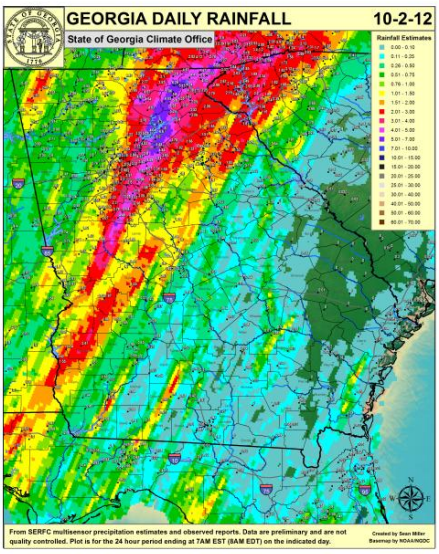
As is typical, the month of October was relatively quiet across the state with temperatures averaging near normal throughout the month. Atlanta and Augusta NWS stations showed very close to normal temperatures, at 0.1 and 0.3 degrees above the average of 63.4°F and 64.7°F, respectively. Portions of Southeast Georgia also averaged slightly above normal for the month, with Brunswick averaging almost a degree above the mean temperature of 70.2°F. The average temperature for the month at Athens, GA was 62°F, which was 1° cooler than the normal October average of 63°F. Among first order climate sites and select COOP stations, Atlanta, Columbus, Toccoa, and Emerson are all having their warmest year-to-date. Average temperature departure among the selected sites is +3.1°F.





Dry conditions continued across much of the drought-stricken region of Georgia. Below normal rainfall of over two inches was recorded across many areas of the state. Alma, in the southeast and Macon, in central Georgia, both recorded rainfall deficits over 2.5 inches for the entire month. Among first order climate sites and select COOP stations, the average precipitation departure was -9.61 inches, with Plains, GA having its driest year-to-date. A cold front moved through on the first day of the month, dropping a narrow band of 6-8 inches of rain across areas of Northeast GA. Gainesville received a substantial 2-day total of 7.39 inches of rain from the system as it moved through. The volume of rain also resulted in welcome inflows to Lake Lanier.





The month of October ended on a significant note as hurricane and then post-tropical cyclone Sandy tracked northeast up the Atlantic coast. The storm moved parallel to the South Carolina coast on the 27th and 28th, with winds increasing across the area on the 29th as the pressure gradient tightened. The tight pressure gradient produced breezy conditions across the area from the 29th through the 31st, which prompted the issuance of wind advisories by the NWS across portions of north Georgia. Peak gusts of over 40 mph were also recorded at several NWS sites during the period.