

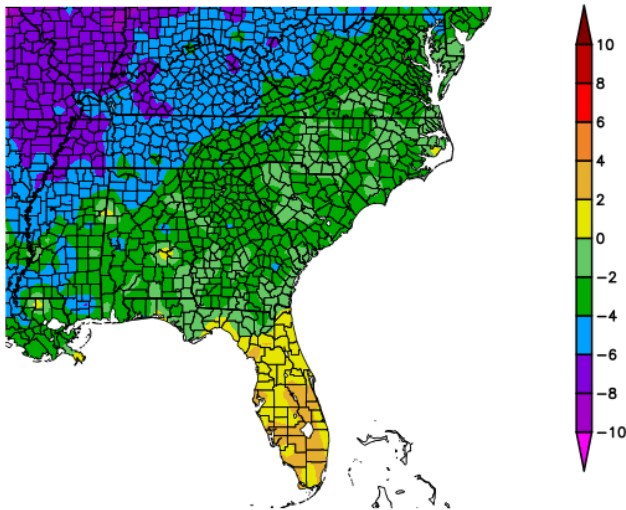
April 2018 Climate Summary – Georgia

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April in Georgia proved to be cooler than normal and generally wetter than normal throughout the state. A prominent storm track set up from southwest Georgia through the Atlanta area and into northeast Georgia where the most above normal rainfall is noted. Drought conditions improved slightly thanks to the above normal rainfall, although areas that consistently missed out on precipitation remained in severe drought conditions. Severe weather was noted on several days but no major damage or injuries were reported.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F) 4/1/2018 – 4/30/2018



Atlanta’s average April temperature was 59.8°F (-2.2°), Athens recorded 58.8° (-2.9°), Macon’s monthly average temperature was 61.2° (-2.2°), Columbus recorded 63.3° (-1.3°), Augusta’s average temperature was 60.6° (-2.1°), and Savannah recorded 64.2° (-1.4°). There were no daily temperature records broken at major climate sites this month, although many sites ranked in the top 15 for coolest April on record (see table 1).

Athens, Macon, and Columbus recorded above normal rainfall in April with 5.49” (+2.34”), 4.99” (+2.03”), and 5.02”

(+1.47”), respectively, and all sites broke a daily rainfall record on April 15th. Athens received 2.27” and broke its previous record of 1.91” set in 1969, Macon recorded 1.75” and broke its previous record of 1.53” set in 1934, and Columbus received 2.32” and broke its previous record of 1.81” set in 1928. Atlanta’s monthly rainfall totaled 6.53” (+3.17”) and on April 23rd, the site recorded 4.16” of rainfall and set a new daily record (the previous record of 2.40” was set in 1883). Augusta recorded 3.47” (+0.63”) and Savannah’s April rainfall totaled 4.33” (+1.26”). Table 2 shows that while Atlanta was the only site with a notable monthly precipitation ranking, all major climate sites were wetter than normal.

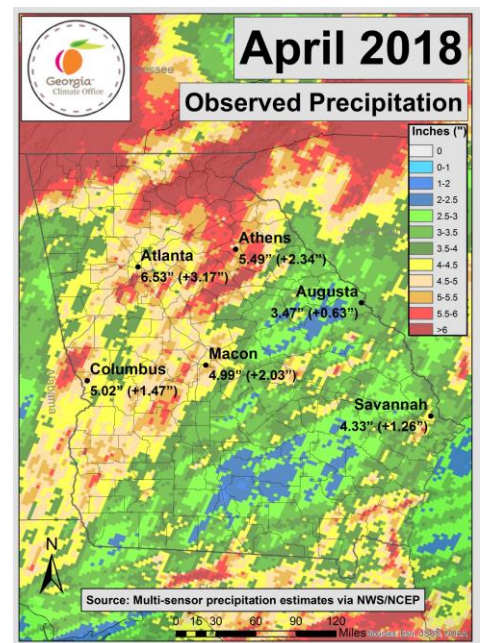


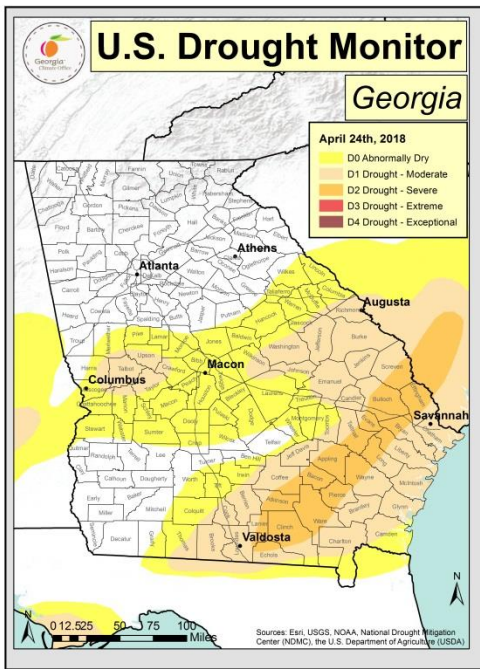
Table 1:

April 2018 Average Temperatures and Rankings		
City	Temperature	Ranking
Augusta	60.6° (-2.1°)	11 th coolest
Macon	61.2° (-2.2°)	11 th coolest
Athens	58.8° (-2.9°)	13 th coolest
Savannah	64.2° (-1.4°)	16 th coolest
Columbus	63.3° (-1.3°)	24 th coolest
Atlanta	59.8° (-2.2°)	24 th coolest

Table 2:

April 2018 Total Rainfall and Rankings		
City	Rainfall	
Atlanta	6.53" (+3.17")	17 th wettest
Savannah	4.33" (+1.26")	28 th wettest
Macon	4.99" (+2.03")	29 th wettest
Athens	5.49" (+2.34")	30 th wettest
Columbus	5.02" (+1.47")	40 th wettest
Augusta	3.47" (+0.63")	59 th wettest

The month of April was slightly active in terms of severe weather. In addition to several days of wind reports scattered throughout Georgia, two days of tornadic activity were reported. On April 7th, a short-lived EF-0 touched down in Laurens County and brought down power lines and tree limbs. Later in the month on April 15th, an EF-1 tornado was reported in Decatur County and caused tree damage with some associated straight-line wind damage from the storm system.



The United States Drought Monitor showed that drought conditions expanded slightly in the first half of April but were reduced toward the end of the month. D0 (abnormally dry), D1 (moderate drought), and D2 (severe drought) conditions expanded northward and then drought conditions improved across all categories throughout the state, particularly across central Georgia and coastal Georgia by the end of April.

According to the Climate Prediction Center, the final La Niña Advisory is in effect as ENSO-neutral conditions are present. Equatorial sea surface temperatures are near-to-below average across the east-central and eastern Pacific Ocean. ENSO-neutral is favored September through November 2018, with the possibility of El Niño nearing 50% by Northern Hemisphere winter 2018 to 2019. The CPC’s three-month seasonal outlook predicts chances for above normal temperatures and equal chances for

above, near, or below normal precipitation through May, June, and July.

