

April 2019 Climate Summary – Georgia

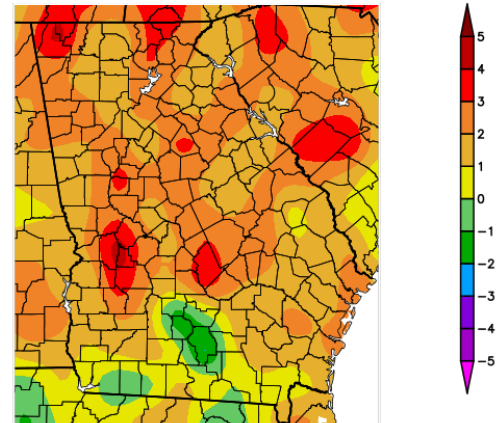
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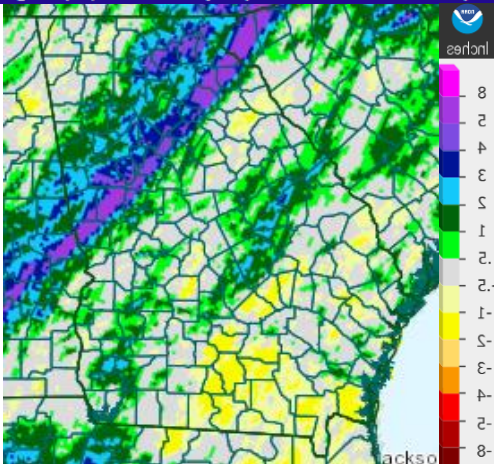
April in Georgia was characterized by above normal temperatures and variable rainfall. Areas where storms tracks generally set up around the I-85 corridor saw above normal precipitation while parts of south central and southeast Georgia saw slightly below normal rainfall. Drought conditions fluctuated but remained confined to the southern half of the state. Severe weather season was in full swing with two significant outbreaks in April.

The average temperature in Atlanta during April was 65.3°F (+3.3°), ranking as the 10th warmest April on record. Athens recorded 63.9° (+2.2°), Macon's mean monthly temperature was 65.3° (+1.9°), Columbus recorded 66.5° (+1.9°), Augusta's average temperature was 66.0° (+3.3°), and Savannah recorded 67.8° (+2.2°) during April. Table 1 shows the daily temperature records that were broken during the month. The site with the highest mean monthly temperature was the Brunswick COOP station with 72.8°, while the Mountain City COOP station in Rabun county recorded the lowest average April temperature with 54.6°.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
4/1/2019 – 4/30/2019



Georgia: April, 2019 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation

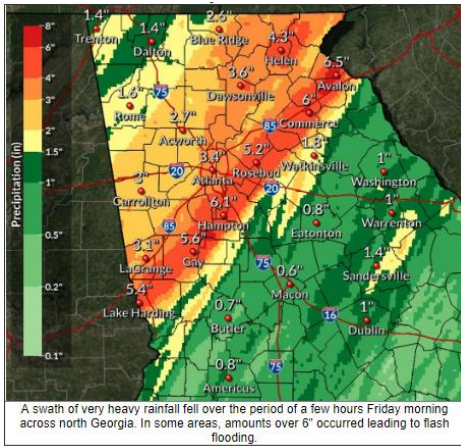


Atlanta and Athens recorded 6.34" (+2.98") and 3.38" (+0.23") of rainfall during the month, respectively, and both set daily records on April 19th. Atlanta received 3.37", breaking the previous record of 1.45" set in 1940, while Athens recorded 2.14" and broke the previous record of 1.75" set in 1943. Macon's total precipitation was 2.90" (-0.06") and Savannah recorded 2.49" (-0.58"). Columbus and Augusta saw slightly above normal rainfall during April with 4.36" (+0.81") and 3.01" (+0.17"). Northeast Georgia received the most rainfall during April. Stations in Rabun, White, Banks, and Stephens counties reported over 9" during the month.

There were two severe weather events that affected Georgia during April. On April 14th, several tornadoes occurred in Columbus (EF-0); Muscogee, Harris, and Talbot counties (EF-0); Lamar county (EF-0); Spalding county (EF-1); Colquitt county (EF-1); and Hart county (EF-1). There were no fatalities or injuries reported with these storms, but significant damage to structures, numerous downed trees, and power outages were reported. Another severe weather event occurred on April 19th that included three tornadoes and heavy rainfall. Two tornadoes ranked as EF-1 in both Hall and Laurens county and one ranked as EF-0 in the Johns Creek area in Fulton county. In addition, winds of up to 75 miles per hour were reported in Habersham county that were associated



Many roads were washed out due to flash flooding, including Bill Taylor Road in Troup County.



with the strong line of storms moving across the state. Heavy rain caused significant flooding, particularly along the I-85 corridor where up to 8" fell over the period of a few hours.

The United States Drought Monitor showed that D0 (abnormally dry) conditions were present in the southern two-thirds of the state throughout April. D1 (moderate) drought conditions existed in east-central and west-central Georgia, and more areas in central and eastern Georgia showed D1 conditions by the end of the month.

According to the Climate Prediction Center, there is currently an El Niño Advisory and El Niño is present. Equatorial sea surface temperatures are above average across most of the Pacific Ocean. A weak El Niño is likely to continue through the Northern Hemisphere summer 2019 with a 65% chance and possibly into the fall with about a 50 to 55% chance. The CPC's three-month seasonal outlook shows chances for above normal temperatures, particularly for southeast Georgia, and above normal precipitation during May, June, and July.

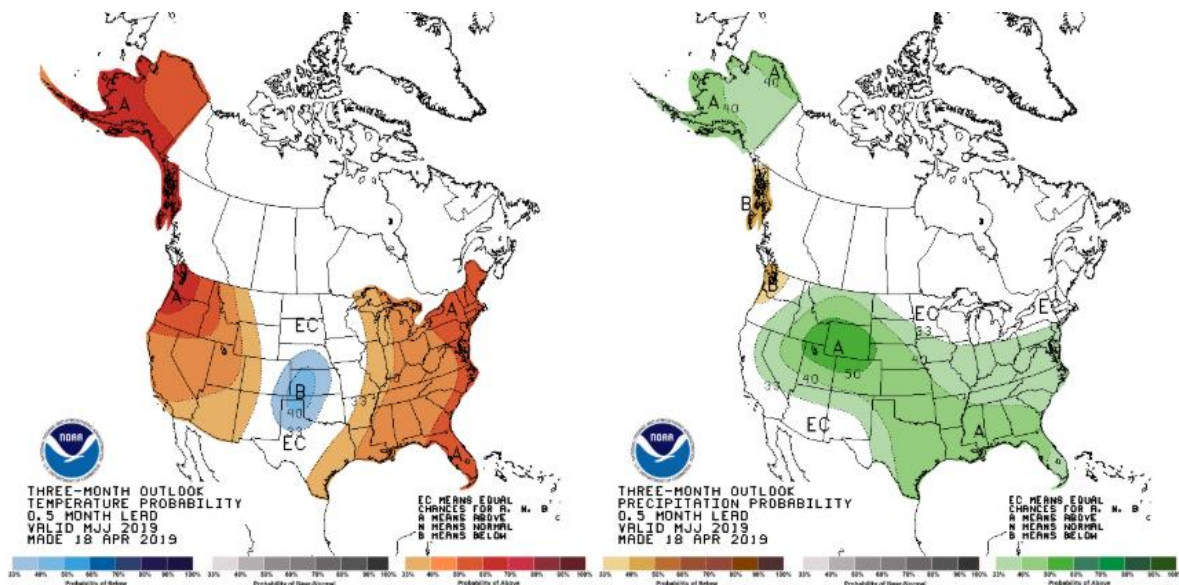


Table 1:

Daily Temperature Records Broken in April 2019				
Georgia's Major Climate Sites				
Date	City	Temperature	Record	Previous Record
4/12/19	Augusta	68°	High Minimum	67° set in 1965
4/13/19	Augusta	71°	High Minimum	66° last set in 1906
4/13/19	Savannah	70°	High Minimum	69° set in 1994
4/14/19	Savannah	71°	High Minimum	70° set in 2015
4/20/19	Atlanta	52°	Low Maximum	54° last set in 1953