

August 2017 Climate Summary – Georgia

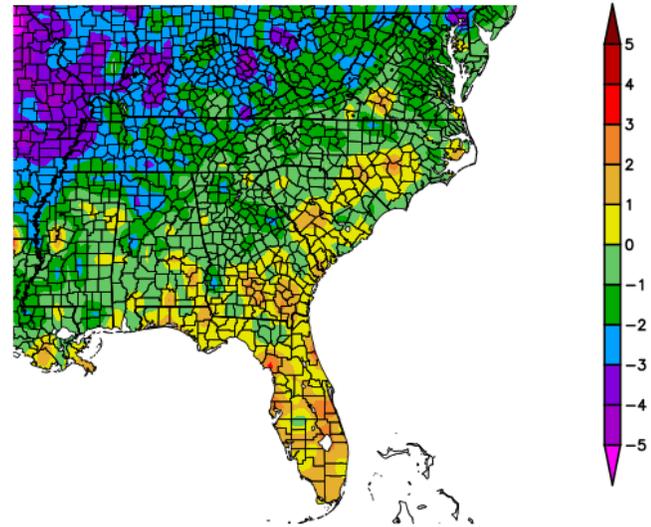
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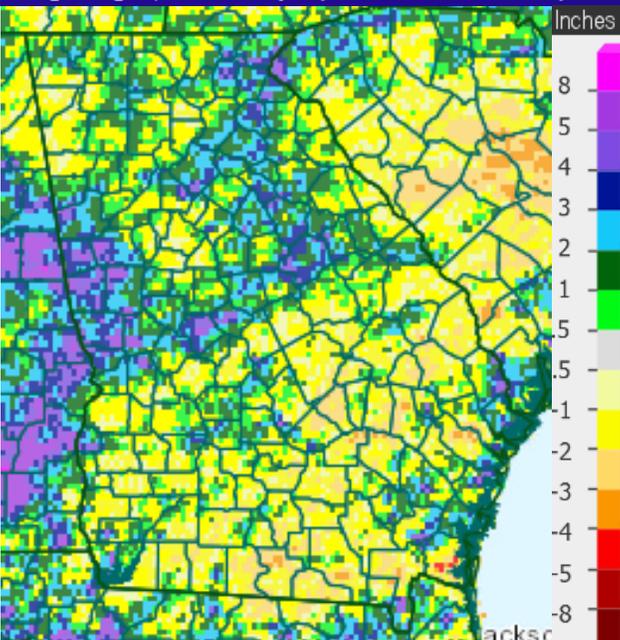
August in Georgia was characterized by near to slightly below normal temperatures in northern parts of the state and near to slightly above normal temperatures in the southern half of the state. This is mostly due to the rainfall pattern during August. Much of north Georgia received above normal rainfall and south Georgia received slightly below normal rainfall. Hurricane season remained active this month when two major hurricanes formed in the Atlantic basin. In addition to climatological specifics, a total solar eclipse passed through parts of extreme northeast Georgia on August 21st, and brief temperature drop was observed at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport during the peak of the eclipse.

Major climate sites that recorded below normal average temperatures in August include Atlanta with 79.2°F (-0.2°), Athens with 78.6° (-1.0°), and Macon with 80.3° (-0.6°). On August 17th, Atlanta tied a daily high minimum temperature record with 76° (previously set in 2010). Macon tied three daily low maximum temperature records – on August 1st with 60° (previously set in 1997), on August 2nd with 62° (previously set in 1925), and on August 30th with 75° (previously set in 1933). Columbus recorded a slightly above normal monthly temperature with 82.0° (+0.1°). On August 30th the city broke a daily low maximum temperature record with 76° (previous record of 80° was set in 1908). Augusta’s average monthly temperature was 82.3° (+1.8°), and the city broke a daily high minimum temperature record on August 16th with 78° (previous record of 77° was set in 2010). Finally, Savannah recorded 82.7° (+1.2°) as its average August temperature. On August 1st, the site tied a daily low minimum temperature record with 66° (previously set in 1997), and on August 17th Savannah tied a daily high minimum temperature record with 78° (previously set in 1995).

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/1/2017 – 8/31/2017



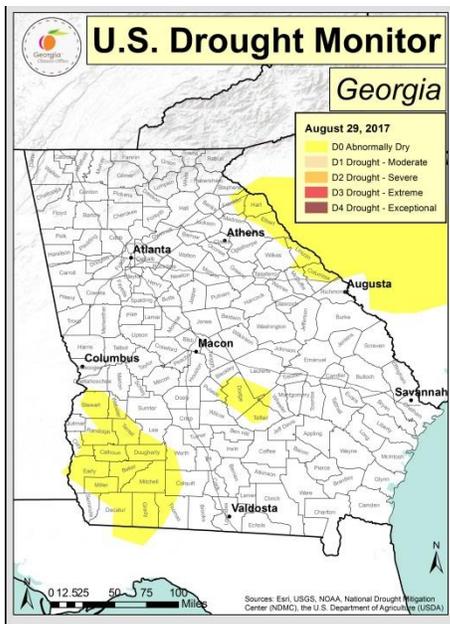
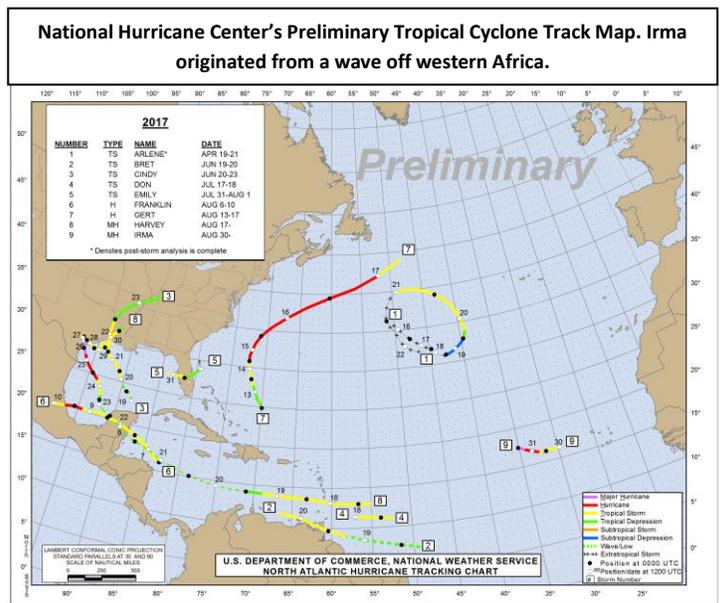
Georgia: August, 2017 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation



Atlanta’s August precipitation totaled 5.47” (+1.57”). On August 10th, the site set a daily maximum rainfall record with 1.98” (previous record of 1.91” was set in 1936). Athens recorded 5.47” (+1.94”) this month, Macon’s precipitation totaled 4.90” (+0.80”), and Savannah recorded 5.75” (-0.81”). Columbus saw 4.88” (+1.11”) in August, and on August 30th the site set a daily maximum rainfall record with 1.43” (previous record of 1.34” was set in 2006). Augusta’s total monthly precipitation was 5.87” (+1.55”), and the site set a daily maximum rainfall record with 2.45” (previous record of 2.05” set in 1912) on August 9th.

Severe weather was fairly limited during August and generally caused by damaging winds from typical summertime convection. About half the days of the month saw at least one wind report throughout the state.

The Atlantic Basin hurricane season remained very active throughout August. A wave originated off western Africa in late August that would eventually lead to record-breaking Hurricane Irma. The remainder of Irma's development and impacts to Georgia began in early September. Tropical Storm Emily, Hurricane Franklin (category 1), Hurricane Gert (category 2), and Hurricane Harvey (category 4) affected other areas of the basin more directly during August.



The United States Drought Monitor showed that the state was vastly drought-free during the month of August. On the last week, some scattered D0 (abnormally dry) conditions were introduced into southwest and central Georgia, and north of the Augusta area along the South Carolina border.

According to the Climate Prediction Center, ENSO-Neutral conditions are present. Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are near-to-below average across the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. ENSO-Neutral is favored (around an 85% chance during July through September, decreasing to around 55% during December through February) through the Northern Hemisphere winter 2017-18. The CPC's three-month seasonal outlook shows chances for above normal temperatures for the entire state, particularly for south Georgia, and slight chances for above normal precipitation during September, October, and November.

