

## August 2018 Climate Summary – Georgia

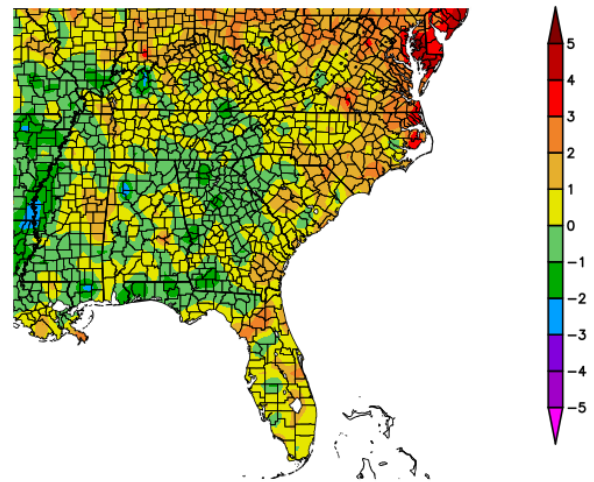
*Lauren Holt, Service Climatologist*

State of Georgia Climate Office

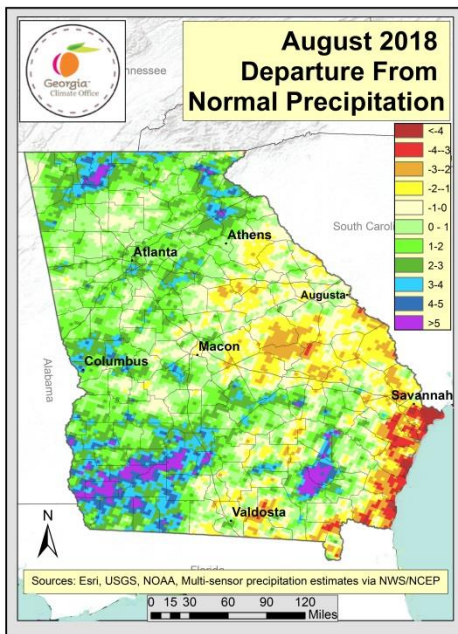
Georgia experienced variable but near normal temperatures statewide in August. Much of north, west-central, and southwest Georgia saw above normal precipitation; some sites even ranked in the top fifteen for wettest August on record. However, east-central and particularly coastal Georgia saw below normal precipitation where sites ranked in their top twenty for driest August on record. Hurricane activity in the Atlantic Basin picked up during the month, but no major impacts were felt in Georgia. A typical summertime weather pattern brought afternoon thunderstorms producing some wind damage and even tornadoes. Above normal rainfall that was observed across most of the state kept drought conditions at bay.

Athens and Columbus were the only two major climate sites to record below normal average August temperatures with 78.9F° (-0.7°) and 81.2° (-0.7°), respectively. Columbus tied a daily low maximum temperature record on August 2<sup>nd</sup> with 80°, previously set in 2000. Atlanta's average monthly temperature was 79.7° (+0.3°), Macon recorded 81.1° (+0.2°), Augusta averaged 81.4° (+0.9°), and Savannah recorded 82.2° (+0.7°). Out of all the first-order climate sites in Georgia, the FARGO 17 NE COOP station in Charlton county recorded the highest mean average monthly temperature with 83.5°. The COOP in Rabun county (MOUNTAIN CITY 2 SW) recorded the lowest average August temperature with 68.5°.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
8/1/2018 – 8/31/2018



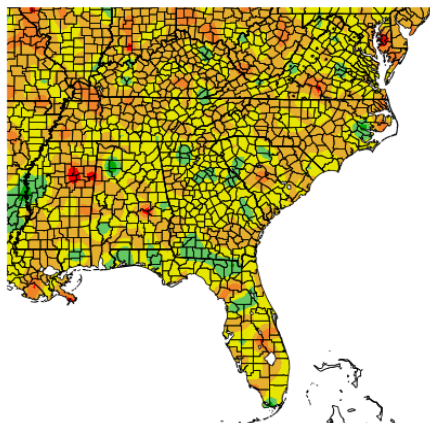
There was a noticeable west-to-east discrepancy in precipitation during August. Atlanta's monthly precipitation totaled 7.59" (+3.69), ranking as 11<sup>th</sup> wettest August on record. Atlanta also set a daily rainfall record on August 2<sup>nd</sup> with 3.61", breaking the previous record of 1.80" set in 1909. Columbus recorded 7.69" (+3.92) and had its 11<sup>th</sup> wettest August on record. On August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2.41" fell in Columbus and broke the previous record of 1.50" set in 1923. Athens recorded slightly above normal rainfall in August with 4.36" (+0.83"). In contrast, Macon's monthly precipitation totaled 1.63" (-2.47") and the site had its 10<sup>th</sup> driest August on record. Savannah also saw below normal precipitation with 3.14" (-3.42"), making it the 19<sup>th</sup> driest August on record. Augusta's total monthly precipitation was 4.28" (-0.04"). The HELEN 9.5 ENE CoCoRaHS station recorded the most precipitation during August with 11.28". Several other sites in extreme north Georgia recorded more than 10.00" as well.



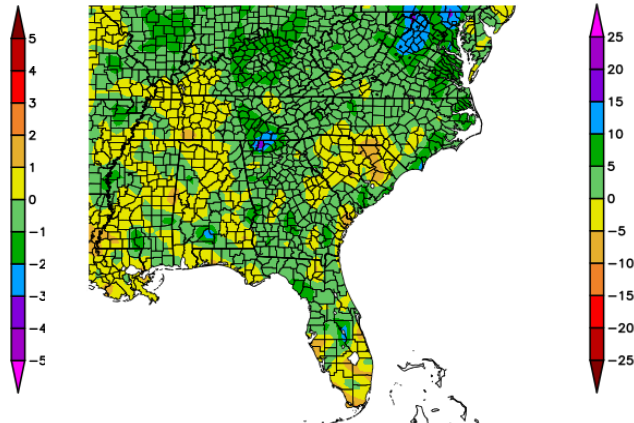
Meteorological summer lasts from June through August, and Georgia's summer was characterized by generally above normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. Atlanta's average temperature was 80.1° (+1.1°) making it the 12<sup>th</sup> warmest summer on record, while precipitation totaled 19.9" (+6.37") and ranked as the 10<sup>th</sup> wettest summer on record. Columbus had a wet summer with 18.43" (+6.18"), making it the 18<sup>th</sup> wettest

summer on record. Savannah recorded an average summer temperature of 82.4° (+1.1°) and had its 10<sup>th</sup> warmest summer on record. However, with a total of only 11.25” (-6.86”) during June, July, and August, Savannah had its 11<sup>th</sup> driest summer on record. Athens recorded an average temperature of 79.3° (+0.1°) and 16.62” (+4.44”) of rain, Macon recorded 81.0° (+0.5°) and 11.32” (-1.79”), Augusta recorded 81.0° (+0.8°) and 12.60” (-0.77”), and the average meteorological summer temperature at Columbus was 81.7° (+0.3°).

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
6/1/2018 – 8/31/2018

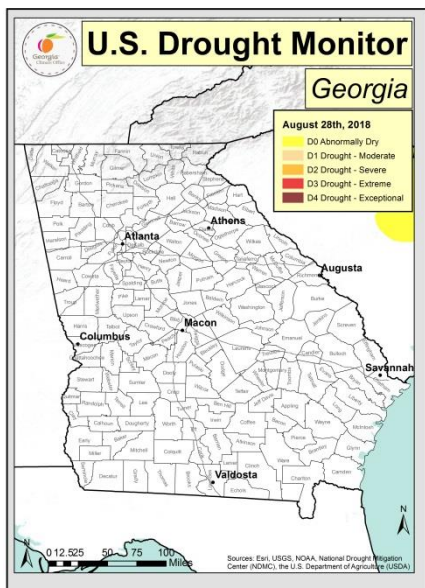
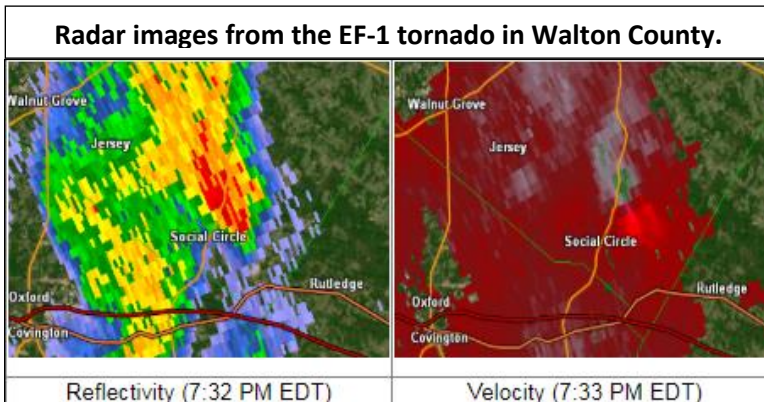


Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
6/1/2018 – 8/31/2018



Tropical Storm Debby and Tropical Storm Ernesto had no impacts to Georgia. Tropical Depression Six formed on August 31<sup>st</sup> (it would later become category 3 Hurricane Florence), and on August 31<sup>st</sup> NHC began monitoring a tropical disturbance in the Caribbean (it would later become Tropical Storm Gordon).

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, a small supercell produced an EF-1 tornado in Social Circle in Walton County. Peak winds reached 100 miles per hour and some homes suffered major damage, but no injuries were reported. On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, a brief tornado was reported and knocked down trees and caused damage to one home in Jones County. Most of the days in August were characterized by a few wind damage reports from afternoon convective thunderstorms.



There were no drought conditions reported in the state during August.

According to the Climate Prediction Center, an El Niño Watch is in effect and ENSO-neutral conditions are present. Equatorial sea surface temperatures are near-to-above average across most of the Pacific Ocean. There is about a 60% chance of El Niño in the Northern Hemisphere fall 2018, increasing to about 70% during winter 2018 through 2019. The CPC’s three-month seasonal outlooks call for equal chances of above, near, or below normal temperatures and slight chances for above normal precipitation in the vast majority of the state except far north Georgia during September, October, and November.

