

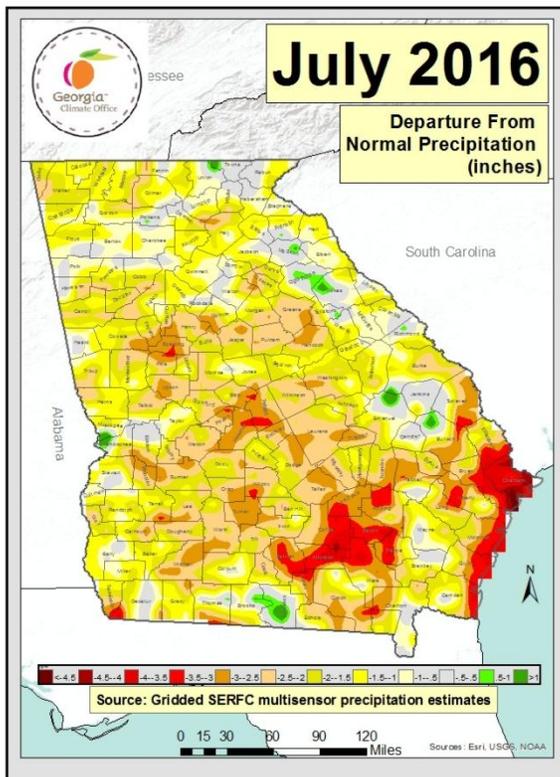
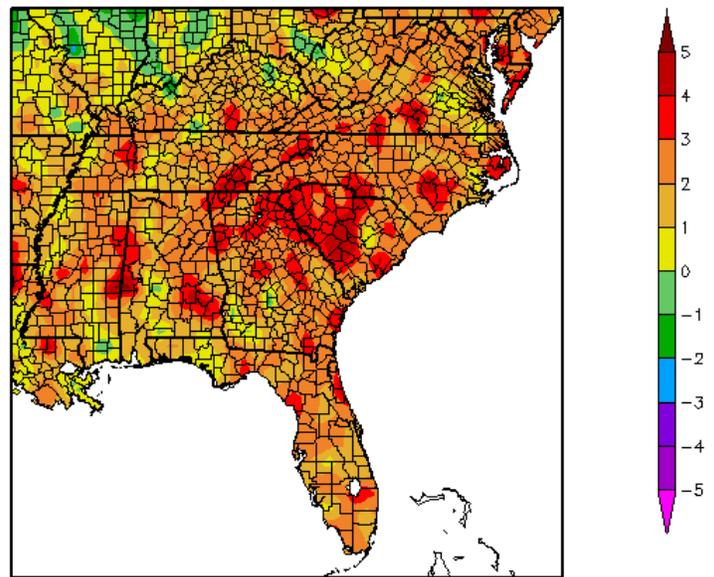
July 2016 Climate Summary – Georgia

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July in Georgia continued to exhibit warmer than normal temperatures statewide, causing most major climate sites to rank in the top ten hottest Julys on record. Precipitation proved to have the same isolated and convective summertime pattern but the majority of the state missed out on the spotty rainfall. More than half of the state saw below normal rainfall departures of two inches or more, causing drought to expand. In addition, the amount of tropical activity and severe weather was below normal as a high pressure ridge dominated the area for much of the month.

St. Simons Island's average temperature of 85.5°F (+2.7°) ranked as the hottest July on record. Athens and Savannah both had their 2nd warmest Julys on record with 84.0° (+3.4°) and 86.1° (+3.5°), respectively. On July 25th Athens tied a daily high temperature record with 101°, which was previously set in 1981. Macon had a monthly temperature averaging 85.1° (+3.3°) and making it the 3rd warmest July on record. The city also broke a high minimum temperature record on July 8th with 78° (the previous record of 76 was set in 1986). Atlanta and Augusta had monthly average temperatures of 83.4° (+3.2°) and 84.6° (+3.0°), respectively, ranking this July as their 6th hottest on record. Columbus recorded a monthly average temperature of 84.4° (+1.9°) and ranked as the 8th warmest July on record.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
7/1/2016 – 7/31/2016



Columbus only recorded 0.96” (-3.8”) of precipitation in July, making it that city’s driest July on record. Savannah had a very large precipitation deficit of 4.39” in July; a total of 1.21” fell there this month and it was the 2nd driest July on record. Both Augusta and St. Simons Island had their 3rd driest Julys on record with 1.31” (-3.02”) and 1.29” (-2.79”), respectively. Athens recorded a total monthly precipitation of 1.60” (-2.87”), making it the 9th driest July on record. Atlanta’s total precipitation was 3.66” (-1.61”), and Macon recorded 2.34” (-2.61”).

There was no tropical activity in the Atlantic Basin during the month of July, an occurrence that has not been seen since 2012. Severe weather was also limited this month, as the vast majority of reports were wind damage resulting from thunderstorm-strength winds.

Due to the dry conditions in north Georgia during both June and July, D3 (extreme drought) conditions were introduced into the metro Atlanta area. D2 (severe drought) and D3 conditions continued to expand and include more areas in north Georgia. D0 (abnormally dry) and D1 (moderate drought) conditions were also introduced into south central Georgia.

According to the Climate Prediction Center, ENSO-neutral conditions are present, and there is currently a La Niña Watch. La Niña is favored to develop during August through October 2016, with about a 55-60% chance of La Niña during the fall and winter 2016 to 2017. The CPC's three-month seasonal outlook shows good chances for above normal temperatures and chances for below normal precipitation in August, September, and October.

