

July 2018 Climate Summary – Georgia

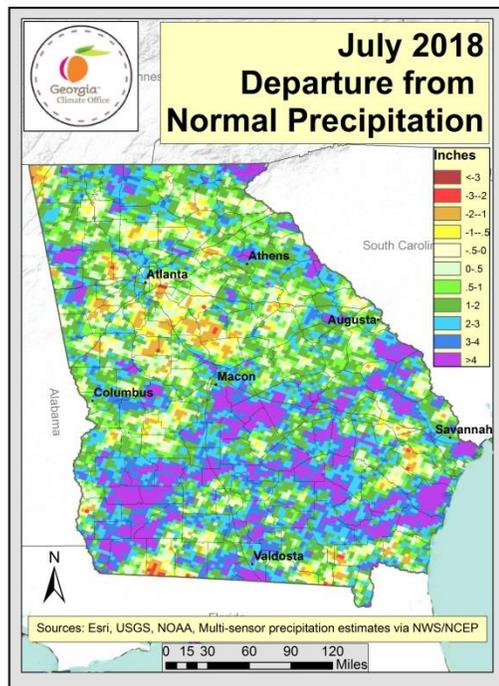
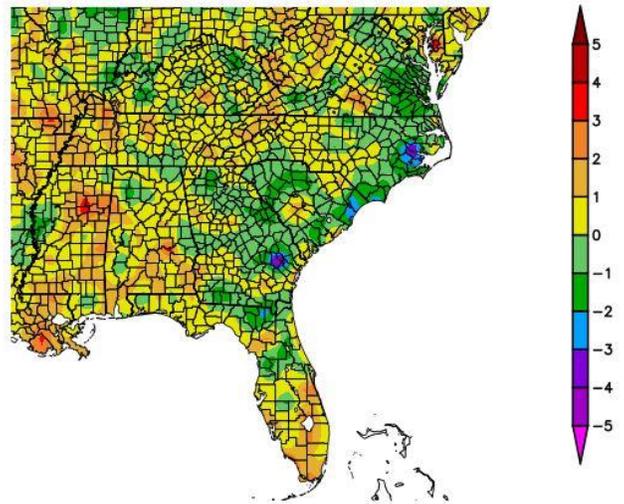
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July in Georgia was characterized by variable but very close to average monthly temperatures. Precipitation was generally above normal statewide with the exception of some highly localized, spotty areas mainly just south of the Atlanta metro area. An amplified upper-level weather pattern combined with plenty of Gulf of Mexico moisture streaming into the state to allow for typical summertime convection that kept drought conditions at bay. These afternoon thunderstorms caused fairly persistent days of severe weather reports, including one tornado. Hurricane season continued but tropical cyclone activity was confined far out in the Atlantic Ocean.

Atlanta and Savannah recorded slightly above normal average monthly temperatures with 80.8°F (+0.6°) and 83.0° (+0.4°), respectively. Athens had a July average temperature of 79.7° (-0.9°), Columbus recorded 82.4° (-0.1°), Macon’s monthly average temperature was 81.3° (-0.5°), and Augusta recorded 81.0° (-0.6°). The SAPELO ISLAND COOP station in McIntosh County had the highest mean average temperature during July with 84.0°, while the MOUNTAIN CITY 2 SW COOP site recorded the lowest mean monthly temperature statewide with 68.8°. Temperatures were very close to normal in July, so there were no daily or seasonal temperature records broken at major climate sites during the month.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
7/1/2018 – 7/31/2018



The only two major climate sites to record below normal precipitation in July were Augusta with 3.13” (-1.20”) and Savannah with 5.54” (-0.06”). Atlanta’s monthly precipitation totaled 8.04” (+2.77”) and ranked as the 19th wettest July on record. The site also set a daily rainfall record on July 14th when 3.00” fell (the previous record of 2.77” was set in 1954). Athens recorded 4.98” (+0.51”), Macon recorded 6.37” (+1.42”), and Columbus totaled 5.00” (+0.24”). The CHATSWORTH 2 COOP station in Murray County recorded the most precipitation during the month with a total of 14.27”. Stations around the Savannah area and in extreme northeast Georgia also recorded over 10” during July.

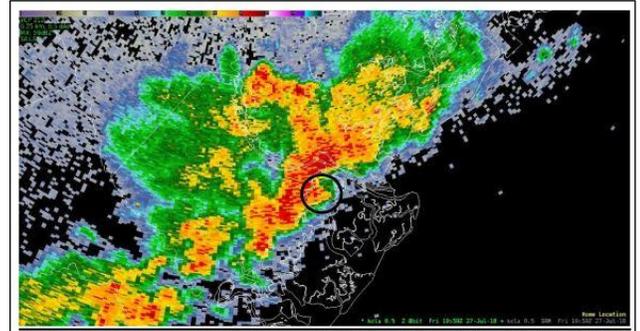
The Atlantic Basin Hurricane Season continued through July, although no impacts were felt in Georgia. Category 1 Hurricane Beryl formed over the east Atlantic on July 3rd. The storm intensified to hurricane strength on July 6th just east of the Leeward Islands before turning northward before weakening and dissipating. In addition, Hurricane Chris began as an area of low pressure over Bermuda before strengthening to Tropical Storm strength off the coast of North Carolina. Chris reached maximum intensity as a

Category 2 hurricane for a short period as it progressed northeastward over the Gulf Stream before undergoing extratropical transition.

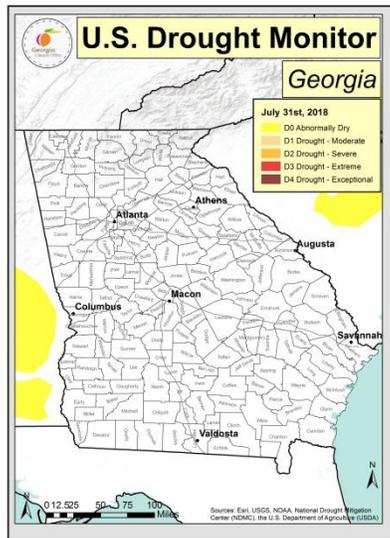
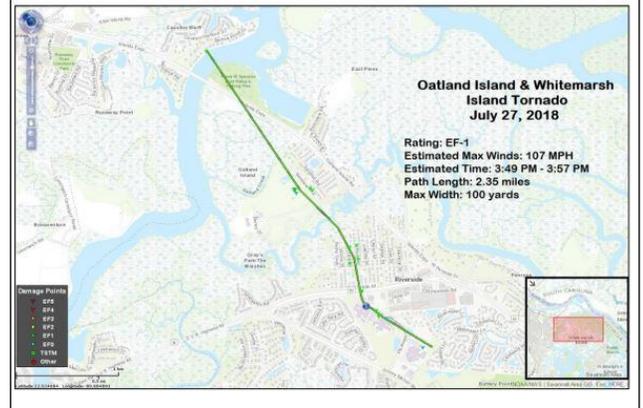
There were many days during July where scattered wind and hail were reported in Georgia. On July 20th through July 22nd, a strong storm system caused a very large number of wind damage and hail reports throughout the state. There was one confirmed EF-1 tornado on July 26th in Chatham County just outside of Savannah, although no injuries were reported.

The United States Drought Monitor showed that there were no drought conditions present during July thanks to generally near or above normal rainfall statewide.

According to the Climate Prediction Center, there is currently an El Niño Watch and ENSO-neutral conditions are present. Equatorial sea surface temperatures are near-to-above average across most of the Pacific Ocean. ENSO-neutral is favored through Northern Hemisphere summer 2018, with the chance for El Niño increasing to about 65% during fall, and to about 70% during winter 2018 through 2019.



Charleston, SC Doppler radar 0.5 degree reflectivity (Z) image at 1959Z (359 PM EDT) showing a "hook" pattern near the location of the tornado over Whitmarsh Island, GA.



The CPC's three-month seasonal outlook shows chances for above normal temperatures statewide and equal chances for above, near, or below normal precipitation for all of the state except coastal Georgia, which shows slight chances for above normal rainfall, during August, September, and October.

