June 2016 Climate Summary – Georgia

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The month of June showed characteristics of a summertime weather pattern in Georgia with hot temperatures, diurnal and spotty rainfall, and even a tropical storm. The majority of the state saw above normal temperatures. Precipitation was variable, but generally, the northern half of the state received below normal precipitation and the southern half received above normal precipitation.

Atlanta's average monthly temperature was $81.0^{\circ}F(+3.7^{\circ})$, making it the 5th hottest June on record. The city tied daily high temperature records on three days during the month, including June 11th (96°) , June 14th (96°), and June 25th (100°). Macon saw above normal average monthly temperatures during the month with 81.3° (+2.4°). On the 17th, the city broke a daily high temperature record with 101° (previous record was 100° set in 2015), and on the 25th a daily high temperature record was tied with 103° (previously set in 1914). Athens had a warm June as well with an average temperature of 80.7° $(+3.2^{\circ})$, making it the 10th warmest June on record. Columbus and Augusta had above normal average June temperatures with 81.2° (+1.4°) and 80.5° (+1.9°), respectively. Savannah's average temperature





and also broke two daily high temperature records on the 13th with 98° (previous record of 97° was set in 1998) and on the 17^{th} with 98° (previous record of 97° was set in 1964).

Sites that recorded below normal precipitation for the month include Atlanta with 3.26" (-0.69"), Athens with 4.09" (-0.09"), Macon with 1.89" (-2.17"), Columbus with (-1.57"), and Augusta with 2.87" (-1.85"). Meanwhile, areas in southern Georgia saw above normal rainfall in June. Savannah's June precipitation totaled 6.96" (+1.01"), and St. Simons Island recorded 5.69" (+0.85"). Although abundant rain fell in the southern half of the state on June 6th thanks to Tropical Storm Colin, no sites broke any daily rainfall records for June.

Severe weather was reported on roughly half of the days in June, with the majority of reports being wind damage. There was also one report on June 26th of a very brief tornado touching down in Cook County. On June 17th, widespread wind damage was

reported across the state. A fast moving frontal boundary was aided by hot temperatures, high dew points, and unstable air, resulting in a line of severe thunderstorms pushing southeastward across Georgia.

Tropical Storm Colin formed from a low pressure area in the Gulf of Mexico and made landfall on the Florida panhandle on June 7th. The unorganized system made its way rapidly northeast across south Georgia. There were no wind or hail reports associated with Colin, but it produced abundant rainfall in south Georgia.

The current United States Drought Monitor shows that dry conditions have intensified across the northern half of the state throughout June, particularly with the expansion of D2 (severe drought) conditions. Much of north Georgia shows levels of drought up to D2 conditions, and



and northeast Georgia. The current summertime pattern of scattered to isolated convective rainfall may help to alleviate some drier areas, but coverage will continue to be limited.

According to the Climate Prediction Center, the final El Niño Advisory is in place as well as a La Niña Watch. La Niña is favored to develop during the Northern Hemisphere summer 2016, with about a 75% chance of La Niña during the fall and winter 2016 to 2017. Currently, equatorial sea surface temperatures are near or below average in the eastcentral and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean, thus ENSO-neutral conditions are present. The three-month seasonal outlooks show chances for above normal temperatures across the entire state, and equal chances of above, near, or below normal precipitation in Georgia during July, August, and September. Although summer conditions look mostly hot and dry, tropical cyclone activity in the Atlantic Basin typically ramps up under La Nina









