

March 2018 Climate Summary – Georgia

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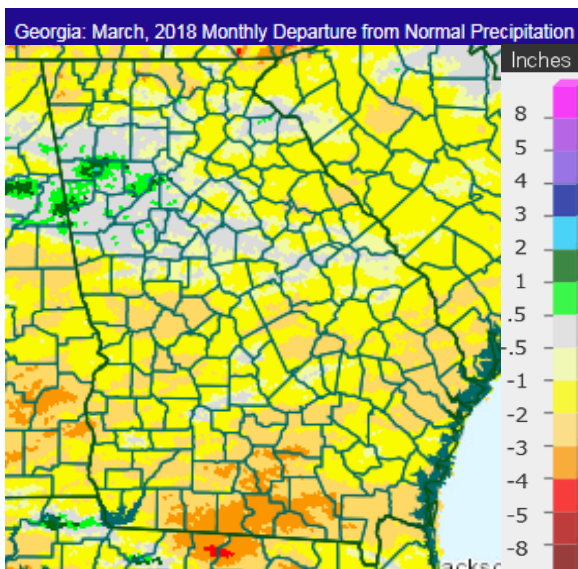
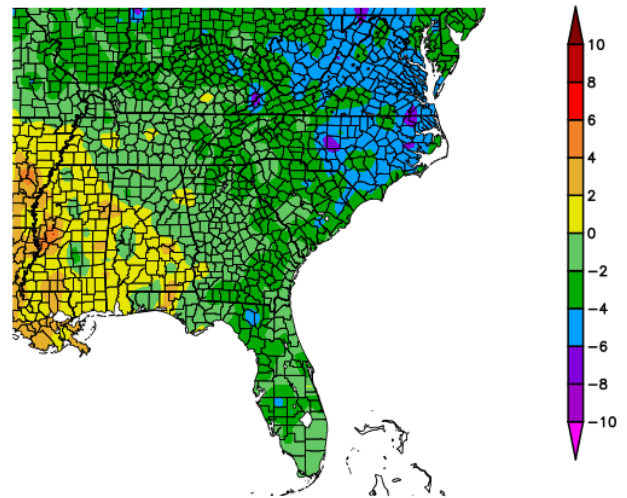
State of Georgia Climate Office

March in Georgia was characterized by cooler than normal temperatures and generally below normal precipitation, particularly for extreme south Georgia. Areas in north Georgia experienced precipitation that was close to normal or slightly above normal. There were several days of severe weather, which is typical for March. Drought conditions improved in north Georgia and worsened in parts of south Georgia.

Atlanta's average monthly temperature was 53.5°F (-0.8°), Athens recorded 52.5° (-1.8°), and Augusta's March temperature was 54.5° (-1.4°). Macon, Columbus, and Savannah had average temperatures of 55.8° (-1.0°), 57.5° (-0.3°), and 58.0° (-1.2°), respectively, and all sites broke or tied daily record high temperatures on March 1st. Macon recorded 85° (the previous record of 84° was set in 1918), Columbus recorded 83° (the record was previously set in 1918), and Savannah recorded 88° (the previous record of 86° was set in 2017).

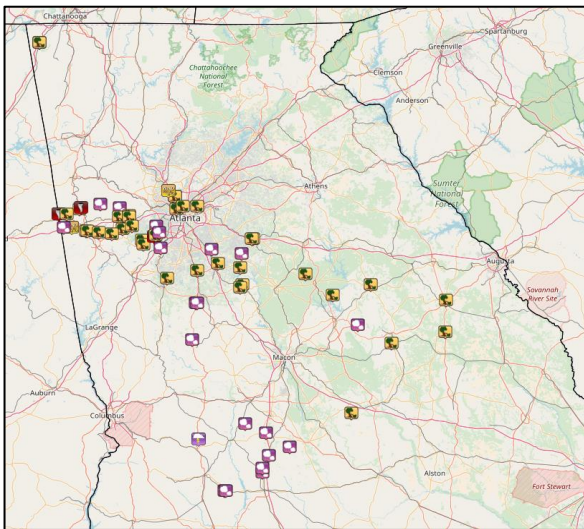
The only climate site recording above normal March precipitation was Atlanta with 4.86" (+0.05"). Athens recorded 3.18" (-1.25"), Macon's monthly precipitation totaled 2.65" (-1.90"), Columbus recorded 3.15" (-2.31"), and Augusta's total precipitation was 3.21" (-0.97"). Savannah only saw 1.22" (-2.51") this month, making it the 14th driest March on record.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
3/1/2018 – 3/31/2018

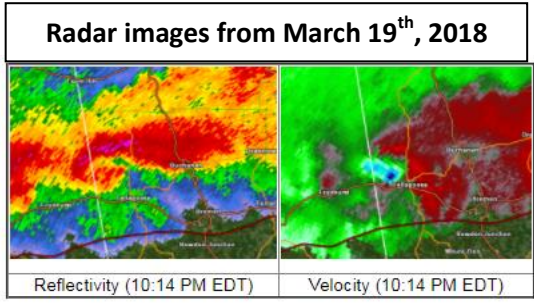


There were two days with significant severe weather during March. On March 17th, an EF-1 tornado touched down in White County and traveled five miles, striking an RV resort and uprooting numerous trees. Winds reached maximum gusts of 105 miles per hour. Two days later on March 19th, a low pressure system brought severe thunderstorms, some in the form of supercells, that pushed into the state from Alabama. Two EF-1 tornadoes touched down in Haralson County causing significant damage to hundreds of trees, and strong straight-line winds impacted more trees after the tornadoes dissipated. Two injuries were reported in Haralson County. On the same evening, an EF-2 tornado touched down in south Fulton County and caused significant damage to more than fifty residential homes in one neighborhood. Besides these two severe weather events, there

were only two other days in March with wind and hail reports.



Storm Reports from March 19th, 2018



Reflectivity (10:14 PM EDT)

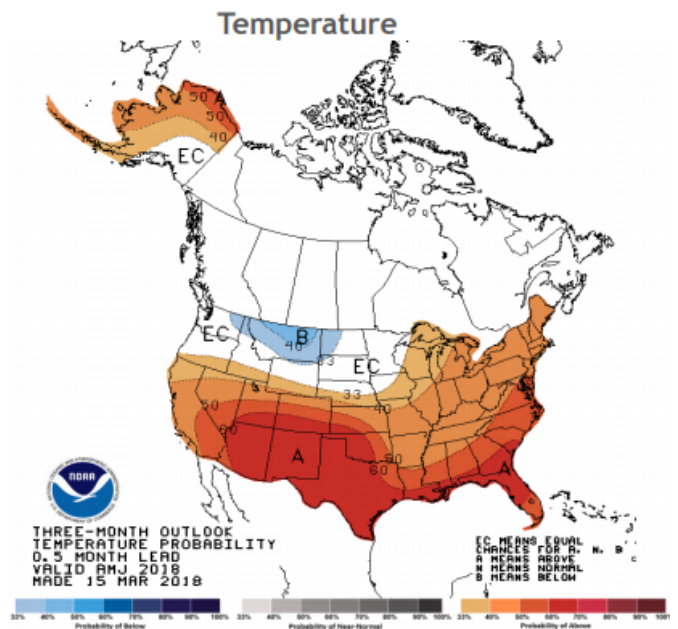
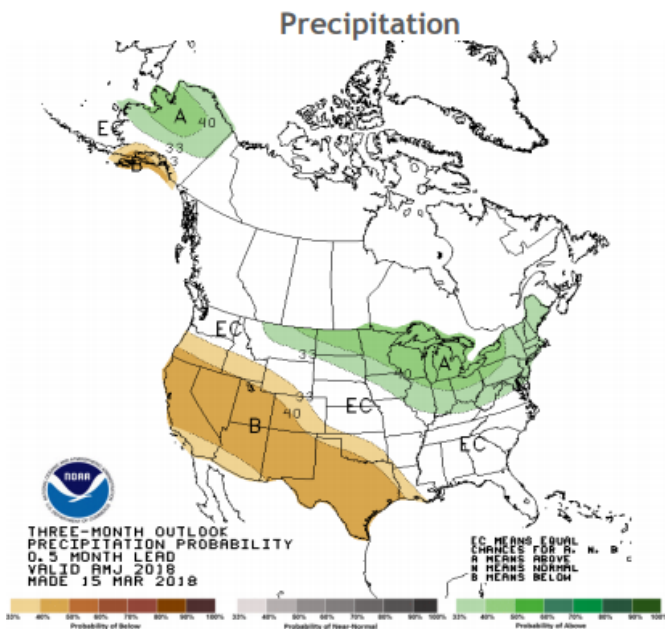
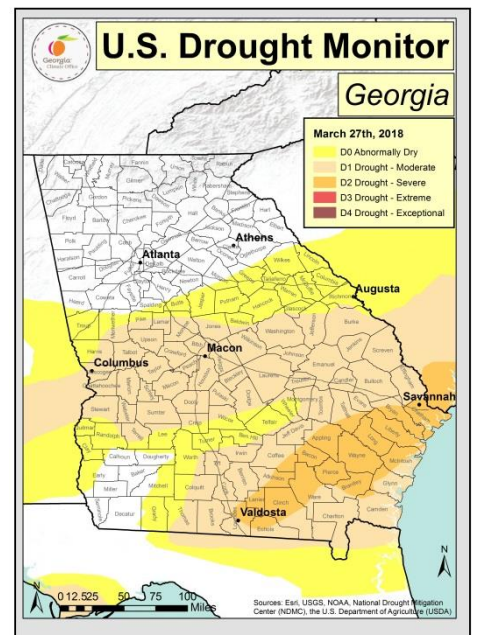
Velocity (10:14 PM EDT)



Damage to homes in Fulton County

The United States Drought Monitor showed that the northern third of the state became drought-free during March. D0 (abnormally dry) conditions and D1 (moderate drought) conditions expanded slightly in the southern half of the state. A small amount of D2 (severe drought) conditions were introduced in southeast Georgia and expanded to cover much of the southeast by the end of the month.

According to the Climate Prediction Center, La Niña conditions are present and there is currently a La Niña Advisory. Equatorial sea surface temperatures are below average across the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. A transition from La Niña to ENSO-neutral is most likely with around a 55% chance during the March through May season, with neutral conditions likely to continue into the second half of the year. The CPC's three month seasonal outlook calls for equal chances for above, near, or below normal precipitation, and chances for above normal temperatures, particularly as you move southward in Georgia, during April, May and June.



THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY
0.5 MONTH LEAD
VALID AMJ 2018
MADE 15 MAR 2018

THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK
TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY
0.5 MONTH LEAD
VALID AMJ 2018
MADE 15 MAR 2018

EC MEANS EQUAL CHANCES FOR A, N, B, C
A MEANS ABOVE
N MEANS NORMAL
B MEANS BELOW

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