

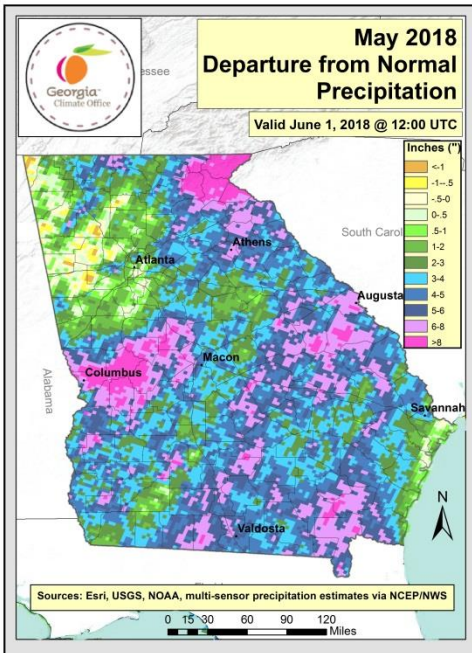
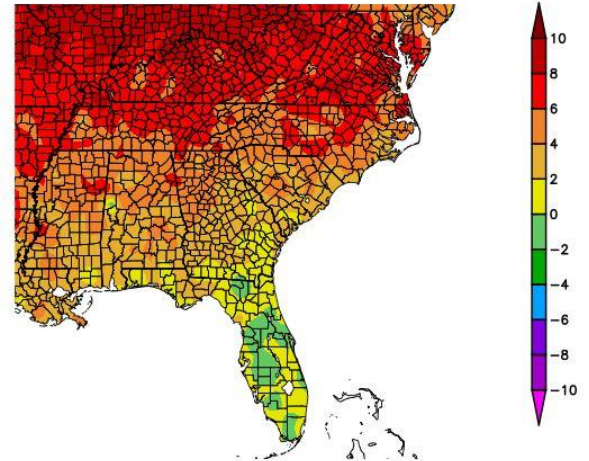
## May 2018 Climate Summary – Georgia

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The big weather and climate stories in May were the much warmer than normal and much wetter than normal conditions observed in Georgia. Many climate sites had noteworthy high average monthly temperature rankings as well as highly-ranked precipitation totals in May, which helped ease drought conditions across the state immensely. The state saw an early start to the official Atlantic Basin Hurricane season, but severe weather was fairly limited during the month.

Atlanta's average temperature was 74.8°F (+4.7°), which tied with 1996 for the warmest May on record. The average monthly temperature of 77.1° (+4.1°) in Columbus ranked as the 5<sup>th</sup> warmest May on record. Athens recorded 73.5° (+3.5°) and tied with 2000 for the 6<sup>th</sup> warmest May on record. Savannah's average monthly temperature was 76.3° (+3.0°) and ranked as the 10<sup>th</sup> warmest May on record. Macon recorded 74.9° (+3.0°) and had its 12<sup>th</sup> warmest May on record. Lastly, Augusta's average May temperature was 74.0° (+2.9°). Several daily high temperature records were broken at various climate sites in May (see table 1).

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
5/1/2018 – 5/31/2018

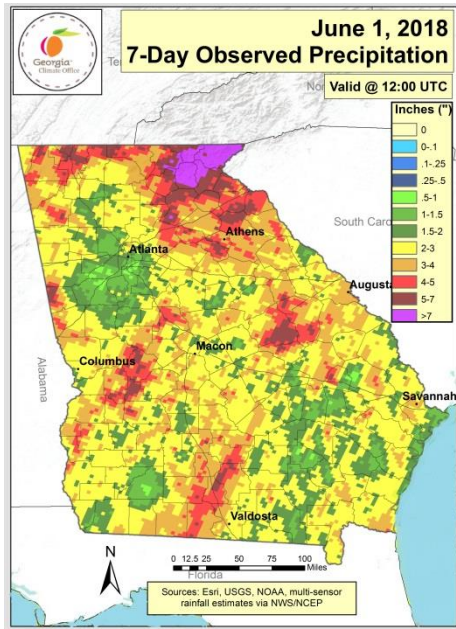
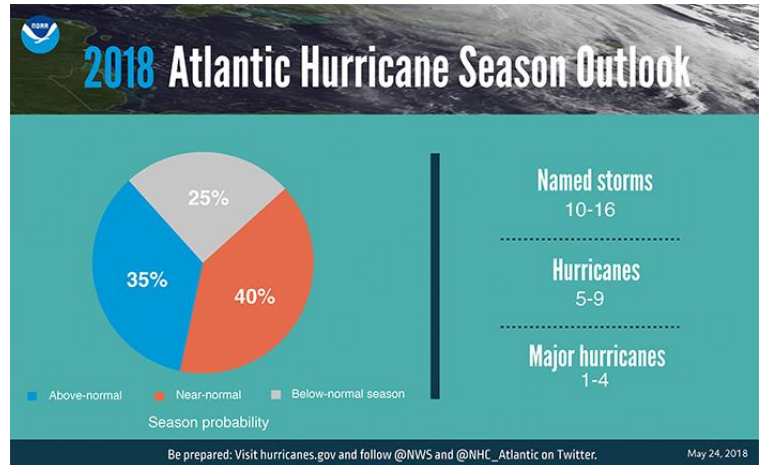


The total monthly rainfall recorded at Columbus was 9.93" (+6.74"), making it the 2<sup>nd</sup> wettest May on record. Augusta recorded 8.21" (+5.56") and had its 3<sup>rd</sup> wettest May on record. Macon's total rainfall was 6.99" (+4.27") and ranked as the 4<sup>th</sup> wettest May on record. Athens recorded 9.31" (+6.31"), making it that site's 5<sup>th</sup> wettest May on record. Savannah recorded 6.71" (+3.73"), and Atlanta's total precipitation was closer to normal at 4.45" (+0.78"). Columbus set a daily rainfall record on May 23<sup>rd</sup> when 3.70" fell, breaking the previous record of 3.09" set in 1974. Athens recorded 0.95" on May 16<sup>th</sup> and set a new daily rainfall record (the previous record of 0.89" was set in 1942). Athens also broke its record for number of consecutive days of measureable rainfall with 18 days in a row in May ending at the end of the month. Augusta also tied the same record (1904) with 12 days of consecutive rainfall, ending on the second of the next month. The largest rainfall surpluses for May were in northeast Georgia and east of the Columbus area where anywhere from 10" to over 16" fell. The highest rainfall amount for all stations in Georgia was at the Helen COOP site, where 19.14" of rain was reported during the month.

Meteorological spring in Georgia was characterized by near average temperatures across the state, with the largest departures in temperatures in much of south Georgia where cooler than normal temperatures were observed. Thanks to abundant precipitation in April and especially May, most of the state ended spring

with rainfall surpluses. The most notable ranking for major climate sites was Athens who had their 14<sup>th</sup> wettest spring on record.

The official NOAA outlook for the Atlantic Basin Hurricane season was released on May 24<sup>th</sup> and predicts a 35% chance of an above-normal season, a 40% chance of a near-normal season, and a 25% chance of a below-normal season. Although the Atlantic Hurricane Season officially begins on June 1<sup>st</sup>, one subtropical storm formed in the Caribbean Sea that had impacts in Georgia. Alberto reached its peak intensity in the Gulf of Mexico on May 28<sup>th</sup> and moved slowly northward until it made landfall on the Florida panhandle. Rainfall was abundant statewide, but areas of northeast Georgia received the most as a result of Alberto – more than 7.00” was recorded in White, Rabun, and surrounding counties during the last week of the month as Alberto tracked just west of the state.

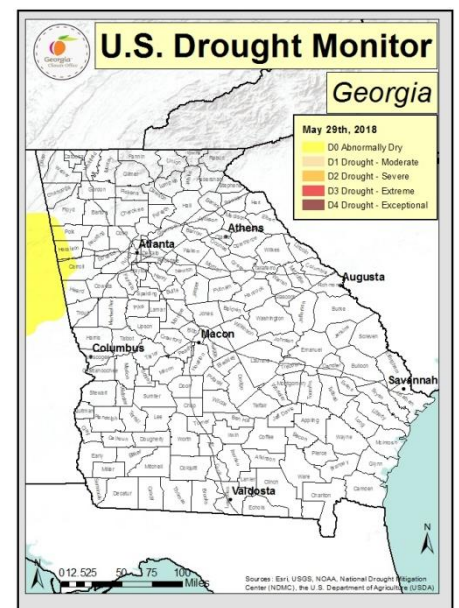


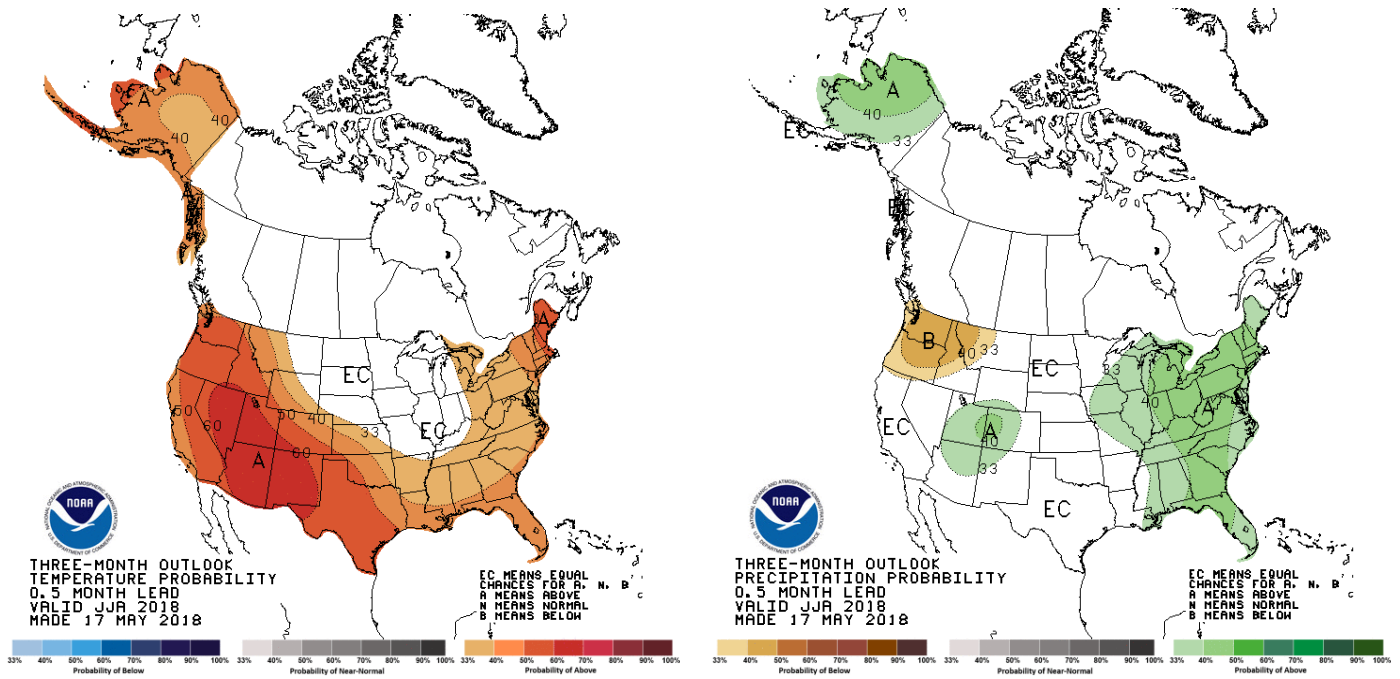
In addition to tropical activity during May, there was one report of an EF-0 tornado in Wayne County on May 24<sup>th</sup>. There were wind damage reports on only a few other days due to typical summertime convective thunderstorms.

The United States Drought Monitor showed that D2 (severe drought) conditions remained in place in southeast Georgia, and D1 (moderate drought) and D0 (abnormally dry) conditions existed in much of southeast and across central Georgia. By the third week in May, all but D0 conditions remained, and drought conditions were eliminated by the end of the month.

According to the Climate Prediction Center, a final La Niña Advisory is in effect as ENSO-neutral conditions are present. ENSO-neutral is favored in September through

November 2018, with the possibility of El Niño nearing 50% by the Northern Hemisphere winter 2018 to 2019. The CPC’s three-month seasonal outlook calls forecasts chances for above normal temperatures, particularly in the southern third of Georgia, and above normal precipitation statewide.





**Table 1:**

Daily Temperature Records at Major Climate Sites in May 2018				
Date	City	Record	Temperature	Previous Record
5/12	Augusta	High Temperature	94°	2000 (tie)
5/13	Atlanta	High Temperature	91°	90° set in 1956
5/13	Athens	High Temperature	94°	92° set in 2000
5/14	Atlanta	High Temperature	91°	1881 (tie)
5/29	Athens	High Minimum Temperature	70°	1991 (tie)
5/29	Macon	High Minimum Temperature	73°	1924 (tie)
5/30	Athens	High Minimum Temperature	71°	70° set in 1991