

October 2017 Climate Summary – Georgia

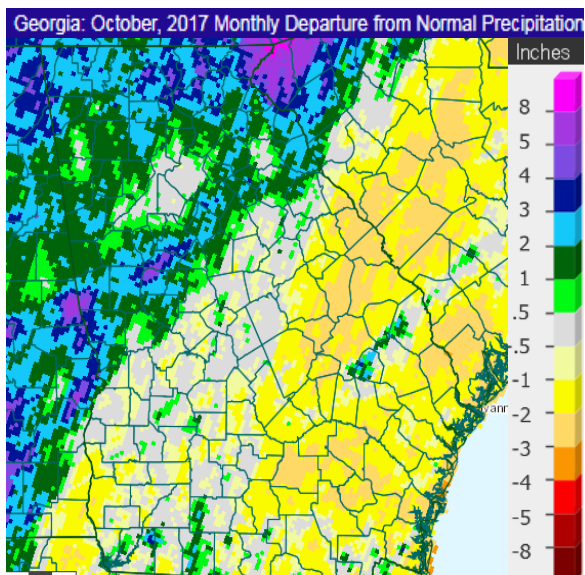
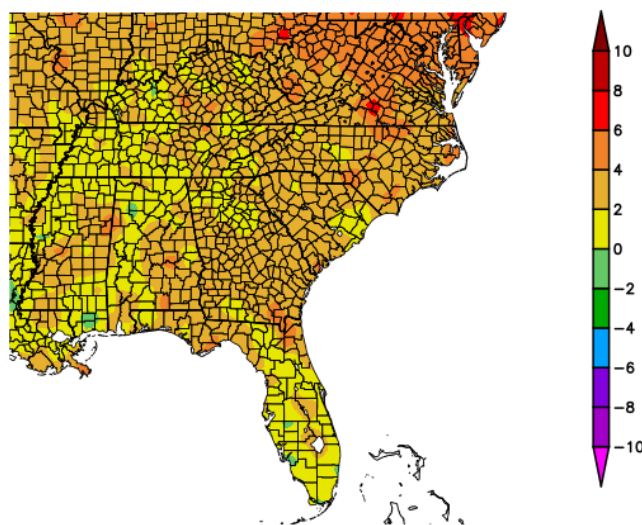
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October in Georgia was characterized by temperatures anywhere from 1°F to 5° above normal. Although there was a cold snap towards the end of the month, a warm streak during mid-October caused many daily temperature records to be broken. Precipitation was more abundant in north and west-central areas of the state due to continued tropical activity and several frontal passages. East central and southeast Georgia saw up to a 3” rainfall deficit this month.

Atlanta’s average monthly temperature was 65.7° (+2.4°), Athens recorded 64.3° (+1.3°), Macon’s average October temperature was 67.4° (+2.5°), Columbus recorded 69.5° (+3.0°), Augusta’s average temperature was 68.5° (+4.1°), and Savannah recorded 71.2° (+3.3°). Table 1 shows the multitude of temperature records broken this month, with the majority of the records high temperature records. Some sites broke both their high minimum and maximum temperature records for the same day, and a few of the records had been standing for more than 100 years.

Locations in Georgia recording above normal precipitation include Atlanta with 3.87” (+0.46”), Athens with 5.71” (+2.16”), and Macon

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/1/2017 – 10/31/2017



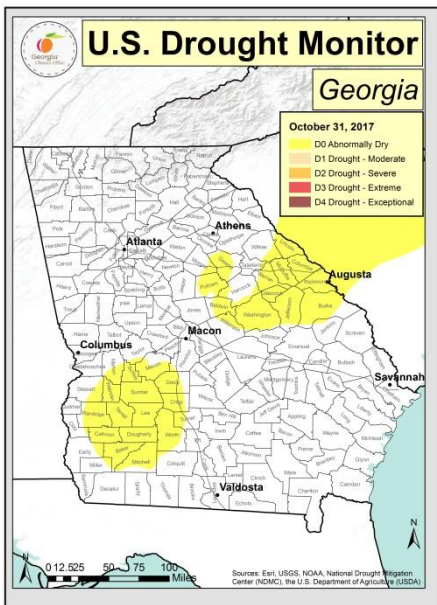
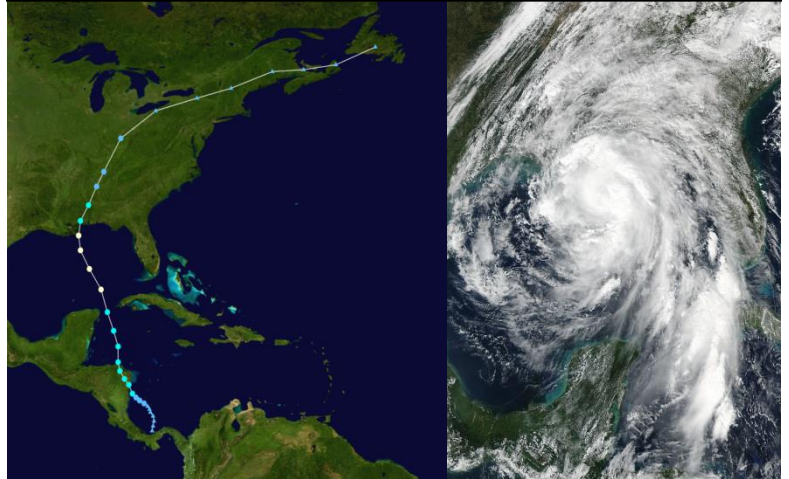
with 2.94” (+0.15”). Columbus saw above normal October rainfall with 4.62” (+2.04”), and on October 23rd a daily maximum rainfall record was broken when 2.10” fell, breaking the previous record of 2.03” set in 1945. Augusta and Savannah saw below normal rainfall with 0.83” (-2.44) and 1.65” (-2.04”), respectively.

The official Atlantic Hurricane Season continued through October, although the month was much less active than September. Hurricane Nate formed on October 4th and made landfall in Mississippi as a category 1 hurricane before weakening to a tropical depression, tracking inland, and affecting Georgia. Northeast Georgia and areas just south of metro Atlanta picked up the most

rainfall from the storm with 3" to 4". Hurricane Ophelia and Tropical Storm Phillipe also formed in the Atlantic during October, but impacts were not felt in Georgia. Severe weather was highly limited during October, with only a few wind damage reports.

The United States Drought Monitor showed that abnormally dry (D0) conditions were introduced into southwest and east central Georgia midway through October. The D0 conditions remained intact by the end of the month, with only very small improvement in areas of east central Georgia.

Hurricane Nate track and satellite image via NASA MODIS.



According to the Climate Prediction Center, there is currently a La Niña Watch and ENSO-Neutral conditions are present. La Niña conditions are favored with about a 55% to 65% chance during the Northern Hemisphere fall and winter 2017 through 2018. Equatorial sea surface temperatures are near-to-below average across the central and eastern Pacific Ocean. The CPC's three-month seasonal outlook calls for above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation statewide, with a slightly higher chance for below normal precipitation in the southern two-thirds of Georgia.

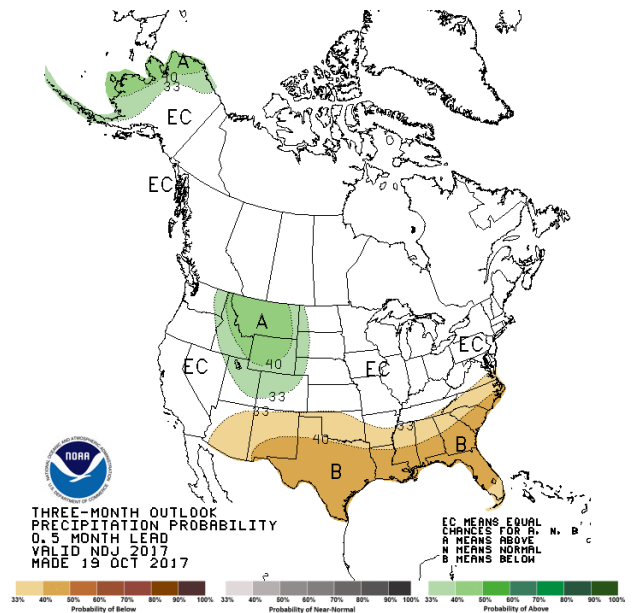
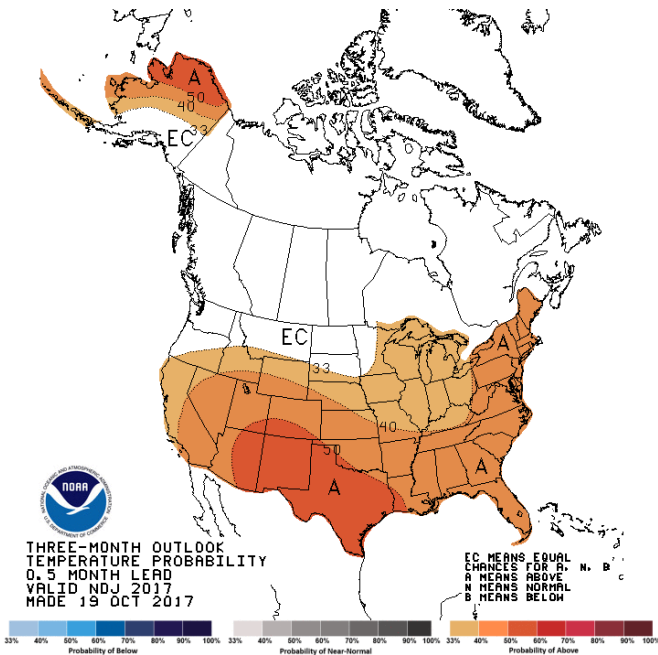


Table 1:

Daily Temperature Records at Major Climate Sites in Georgia <i>October 2017</i>				
Date	City	Record	Temperature	Previous Record
10/7	Columbus	Daily high minimum	74°	1941 (tie)
10/8	Macon	Daily high minimum	74°	73° set in 1936
10/8	Columbus	Daily high minimum	76°	72° set in 1982
10/8	Augusta	Daily high minimum	78°	74° set in 1941
10/8	Savannah	Daily high minimum	76°	1936 (tie)
10/9	Atlanta	Daily high minimum	73°	72° set in 1884
10/9	Athens	Daily high minimum	73°	70° set in 1982
10/9	Macon	Daily high minimum	75°	74° set in 1959
10/9	Columbus	Daily high minimum	75°	73° set in 2009
10/9	Augusta	Daily high minimum	76°	72° set in 1884
10/9	Savannah	Daily high minimum	78°	76° set in 1884
10/10	Atlanta	Daily high minimum	72°	70° set in 1959
10/10	Athens	Daily high minimum	71°	69° set in 1959
10/10	Macon	Daily high minimum	72°	1959 (tie)
10/10	Macon	Daily maximum	93°	91° set in 2014
10/10	Columbus	Daily maximum	91°	1938 (tie)
10/10	Augusta	Daily high minimum	74°	70° set in 1959
10/10	Savannah	Daily high minimum	75°	73° set in 1934
10/11	Atlanta	Daily maximum	88°	86° set in 2014
10/11	Athens	Daily high minimum	70°	66° set in 2014
10/11	Macon	Daily high minimum	71°	70° set in 1982
10/11	Macon	Daily maximum	94°	91° set in 2014
10/11	Columbus	Daily high minimum	72°	1982 (tie)
10/11	Columbus	Daily maximum	92°	91° set in 1920
10/11	Augusta	Daily high minimum	74°	71° set in 1882
10/11	Augusta	Daily maximum	92°	2014 (tie)
10/11	Savannah	Daily high minimum	74°	1985 (tie)
10/11	Savannah	Daily high minimum	74°	1985 (tie)
10/11	Savannah	Daily maximum	89°	2014 (tie)
10/12	Atlanta	Daily maximum	87°	86° set in 1931
10/12	Macon	Daily high minimum	69°	2004 (tie)
10/12	Macon	Daily maximum	93°	90° set in 2014
10/12	Columbus	Daily high minimum	72°	71° set in 1982
10/12	Augusta	Daily high minimum	72°	70° set in 1882
10/12	Augusta	Daily maximum	94°	90° set in 2014
10/14	Columbus	Daily high minimum	70°	68° set in 1970
10/29	Athens	Daily low maximum	48°	51° set in 1910
10/29	Macon	Daily low maximum	50°	1910 (tie)
10/29	Columbus	Daily low maximum	54°	55° set in 1910