November 2015 Climate Summary – Georgia

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November in Georgia was remarkably warmer and wetter than normal. Seven climate sites were ranked in the top ten for warmest average November temperature, and six climate sites were ranked in the top ten for total monthly precipitation. A few severe weather outbreaks occurred when low pressure systems brought cold frontal passages and surging moisture plumes; the associated abundant rainfall caused several flooding issues along rivers

and in urban cities. Although bouts of high pressure built in behind these weather systems, cloudiness and little radiational cooling kept nighttime temperatures warmer than normal throughout the entire state.

Atlanta, Athens, Macon, Columbus, Augusta, and Savannah recorded monthly average temperatures of $57.7^{\circ}F$ (+3.7°), 56.7° (+2.9°), 59.5° (+3.6°), 61.1° (+3.8°), 58.6° (+3.4°), and 64.2° (+4.9°), respectively. Savannah had its 5th warmest November on record, while Atlanta had its 6th warmest. Athens, Macon and Columbus had their 9th warmest November on record, and Augusta had its 10th warmest. St. Simons Island's average monthly temperature was 67.0° (+5.2°) and ranked as 3rd warmest November on record. Two daily temperature records were set on 11/2 when Savannah's minimum temperature only got down to 71°, breaking the old record of 70° set in 1979. On



the same day, Alma set a record high temperature with 89°, breaking the previous record of 88° set in 1961.



Rainfall was well above normal throughout the majority of Georgia except areas in the southeast. The first week of the month saw two rounds of heavy precipitation, and on 11/2 a surge of Gulf moisture caused a record-breaking rainfall day. Atlanta, Athens, Macon, and Columbus saw rainfall amounts around 2" and greater and all broke daily maximum rainfall records. Alma also broke daily rainfall records on 11/3 and 11/8, and St. Simons Island saw 3.66" of precipitation on 11/9, shattering the old record of 1.10" set in 1993. Atlanta's monthly total precipitation was 7.98" (+3.88"), making it the 5th wettest November on record, while Columbus saw 9.44" (+5.34") of precipitation, making it the 4th wettest November on record. Macon and Augusta's total monthly precipitation were 6.89" (+3.57") and 5.41" (+2.59"), making it their 7th and 10th wettest Novembers, respectively. St. Simons Island's total monthly precipitation was 4.57" (+") and ranked as the 8th wettest November on record. Athens saw abundant rainfall this November with 9.30" (+5.48"), ranking it as the 2nd wettest November on record. Athens also had its 9th wettest fall on record with 17.78" total from September through November.

According to the Storm Prediction Center, there were 3 days of severe weather this month in Georgia. On the first two days of November, Gulf moisture combined with instability in southern Georgia resulted in strong winds

and two brief EF-0 tornadoes in Grady and Colquitt counties. On the 18th, a strong upper low pressure system and associated surface front brought a squall line of storms across the area. Three tornadoes formed in the bowing segment of the squall line, one in Coweta county (EF-1), Fulton county (EF-1), and DeKalb county (EF-0). Strong winds and heavy rain were reported throughout the Atlanta metro area.

The United States Drought Monitor shows that drought conditions were reduced significantly in central Georgia during November. Only D0 (abnormally dry) conditions are currently present in south and coastal



Temperature





some drying is expected in the short term, the active subtropical jet resulting from the current strong El Niño event will likely allow more weather systems to impact the state this winter.

The Climate Prediction Center's Three Month Seasonal Outlook continues to reflect the impacts of a strong El Niño and forecasts chances for above normal precipitation in the entire state during winter, with a greater than 50% chance for above normal precipitation forecast for the southern half of the state. There is an equal chance of above, near, or below normal temperatures during December, January, and February. According to the CPC, El Niño conditions are present and there is currently an El Niño Advisory, with a likely peak during winter and a transition to ENSO-neutral anticipated during the late spring or early summer 2016.



Precipitation