December 2014 Climate Summary - Georgia

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December was noticeably milder and drier than the preceding month across the state as relatively quiet conditions prevailed. The average statewide temperature of 51.3°F was 4.2°F above the 20th century average of 47.1°. This was the warmest average the state has seen since 2012 and the 19th warmest on record. The average temperature for Atlanta was 50° or 4.7° above the normal of 45.3°. The average temperature at Augusta Regional Bush Field was 49.8° or 2.6° above the normal of 47.2°. The average temperatures for Athens, Columbus and Macon were warmer for December than for November. Alma set a record high temperature of 80° on the 28th, which broke the old record of 79° set in 2008.



Generated at HPRCC using provisional data



(Regional Climate Centers)

Rainfall amounts varied across the state, but averaged above normal as well at 5.13 inches (+1.06"above the average of 4.07"). While some areas of North Georgia experienced rainfall deficits for the month, less than 6% of the state was in abnormally dry drought conditions of D0 by the end of the month, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor.





NEXRAD 1km MOSAIC image from Dec. 24th of slow-moving

This was in large part due to periods of rainfall, the heaviest of which fell on December 23rd and 24th as a slow moving frontal system pushed across the state. Daily record rainfall totals for December 23rd reached 2.54 inches in Alma, Georgia and 2.83 inches in Augusta, Georgia on the 24th. Areas of Southwest Georgia and the panhandle of Florida averaged rainfall over

five inches above normal for the month, much of which accompanied the same frontal system.

Seasonal Outlook

The three month seasonal outlook from NOAA's Climate Prediction Center for January-March reflected an equal chance of above, below or normal precipitation for the northern half of Georgia and increased chance of above normal precipitation across the southern third of state. The temperature outlook indicated an increased chance of below normal temperatures across much of the Southeastern U.S.

