



Drought Information Statement for Southeast Georgia and Southeast South Carolina

Valid May 15, 2026

Issued By: NWS Charleston, SC

Contact Information: nws.charlestonsc@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated May 29, 2026 or sooner if drought conditions change significantly.
 - Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
 - Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/chs/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.
 - Please visit <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates> for regional drought status updates.
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- Recent rainfall has paused the worsening of drought, but long term dryness persists
 - Greatest coverage of Exceptional Drought (D4) across the area since 2/28/2012
 - No widespread significant rainfall expected over the next 7 days
 - There is an increased probability of above normal rainfall through July



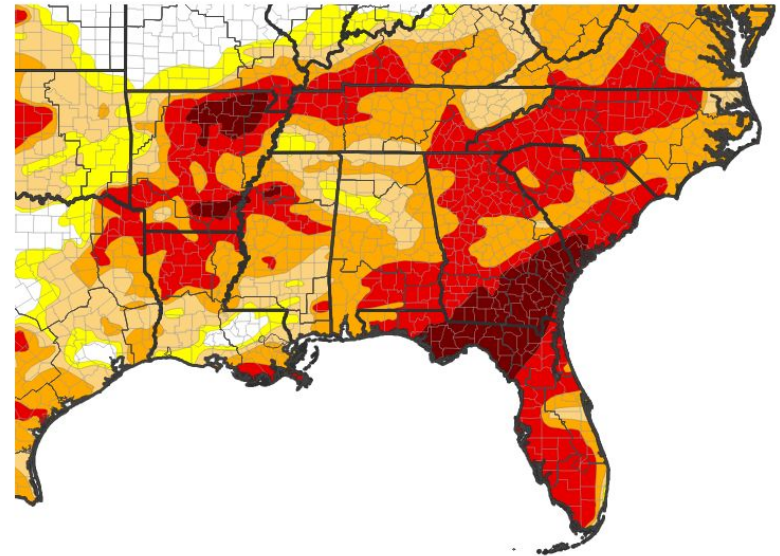


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Southeast

- Drought intensity and Extent
 - **D4 (Exceptional Drought):**
 - GA: Bryan, Bulloch, Candler, Chatham, Effingham, Evans, Liberty, Long, McIntosh, Screven, Tattnall
 - SC: Allendale, Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper
 - **D3 (Extreme Drought):**
 - GA: Bryan, Chatham, Jenkins, Liberty, McIntosh, Screven
 - SC: Allendale, Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Hampton, Jasper
 - **D2 (Severe Drought):**
 - GA: Jenkins
 - SC: Allendale
 - **D1 (Moderate Drought):**
 - GA: None
 - SC: None
 - **D0: (Abnormally Dry):**
 - GA: None
 - SC: None

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA, NASA; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/12/26

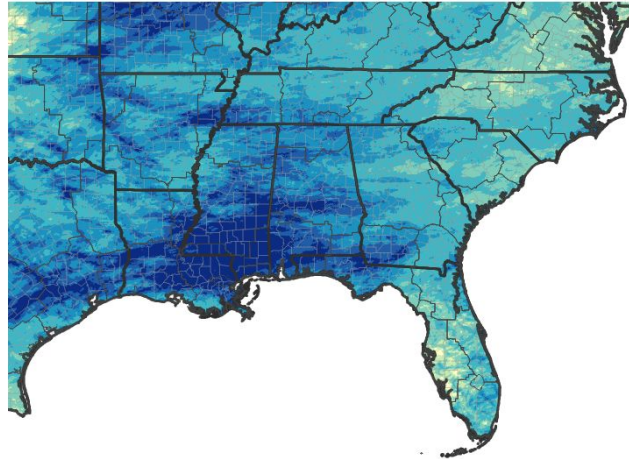




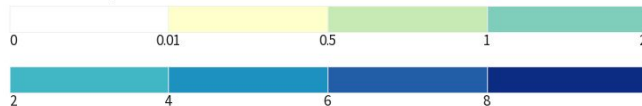
Precipitation

- Some beneficial rains have fallen over the last 2 weeks, especially across portions of southeast GA
- But, well below normal rainfall extends back to September
- Charleston International Airport (CHS)
 - Driest March-April on record
- Savannah International Airport (SAV)
 - Driest March-April on record

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)

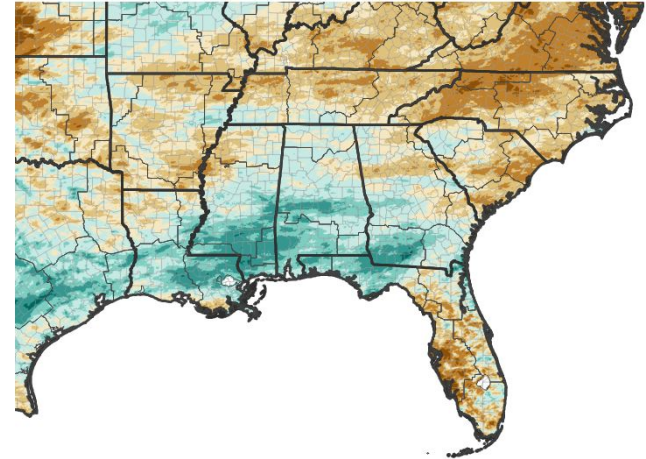


Inches of Precipitation

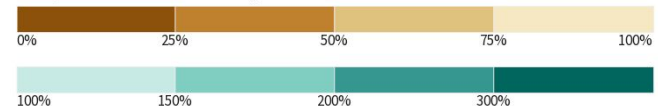


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 05/14/26

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions



Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 05/14/26





Summary of Impacts

Links: See/submit [Condition Monitoring Observer Reports \(CMOR\)](#) and view the [Drought Impacts Reporter](#)

Hydrologic Impacts

- No impacts recently reported

Agricultural Impacts

- On 5/13, a farmer in Candler County reported severely dry conditions with irrigation ponds drying up and tobacco transplants dying. Overall, very poor pasture conditions and crop conditions.
- On 5/13, a farmer in Evans County reported severely dry conditions with irrigation ponds drying up and tobacco transplants dying. Overall, very poor pasture conditions and crop conditions.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- South Carolina Forestry Commission issued a State Forester's Burning Ban on 4/17 for all counties which was lifted on 5/1.
- Georgia Forestry Commission instituted a burn ban for 91 counties (including all of southeast GA) on 4/22 which was lifted on 5/12. This ends the agency's first ever mandatory ban on outdoor burning.

Other Impacts

- No impacts recently reported

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information

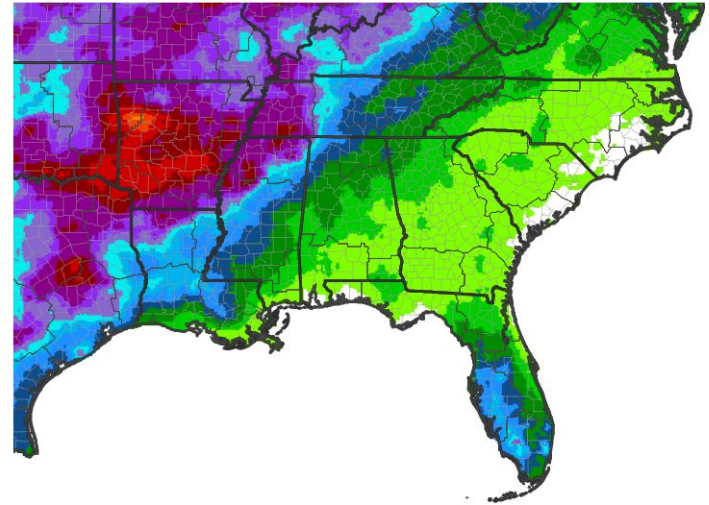




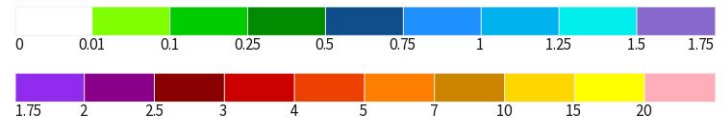
Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

- No widespread significant rainfall expected

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for May 14, 2026–May 21, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 05/14/26



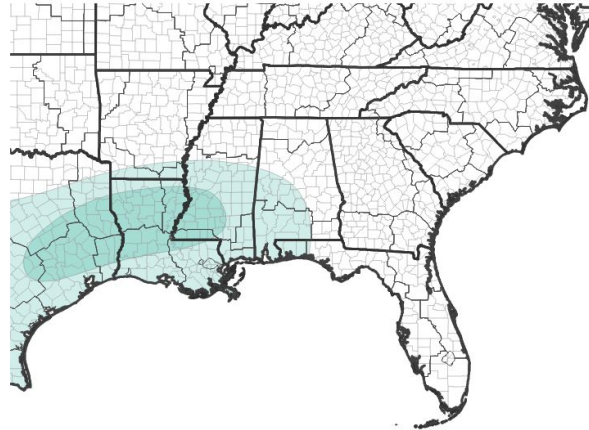


Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- For the remainder of May, equal chances of above normal, near normal, or below normal rainfall
- For the May-July time period, an increased probability of above normal rainfall across southeast GA/SC

Monthly Precipitation Outlook for May 1, 2026–May 31, 2026



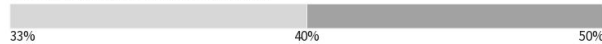
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



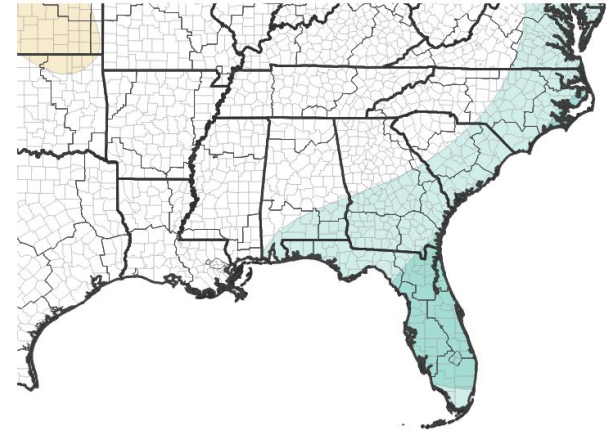
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 04/30/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for May 1, 2026–July 31, 2026



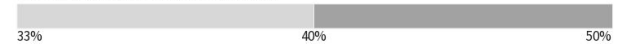
Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 04/16/26



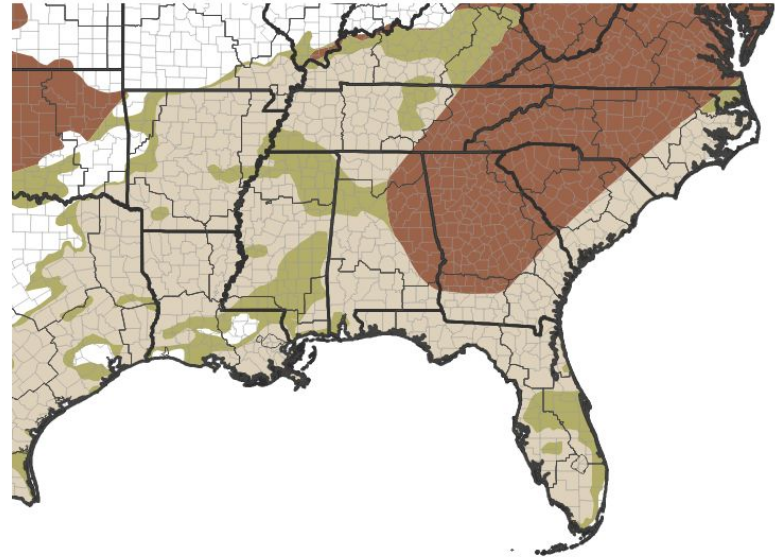


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- There is potential for drought conditions to improve along the coast over the next 3 months
- This is primarily due to an increased probability of above normal rainfall across the May-July time period

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook for April 30, 2026–July 31, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



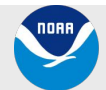
Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 04/30/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Charleston, SC