Drought Information Statement for North and Central Georgia

Valid April 30, 2026

Issued By: National Weather Service Atlanta / Peachtree City, GA

Contact Information: sr-ffc.webmaster@noaa.gov

- This product will be updated May 14, 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/ffc/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.
- Please visit https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates for regional drought status updates.

Georgia Drought Coverage Highest in History of Drought Monitor

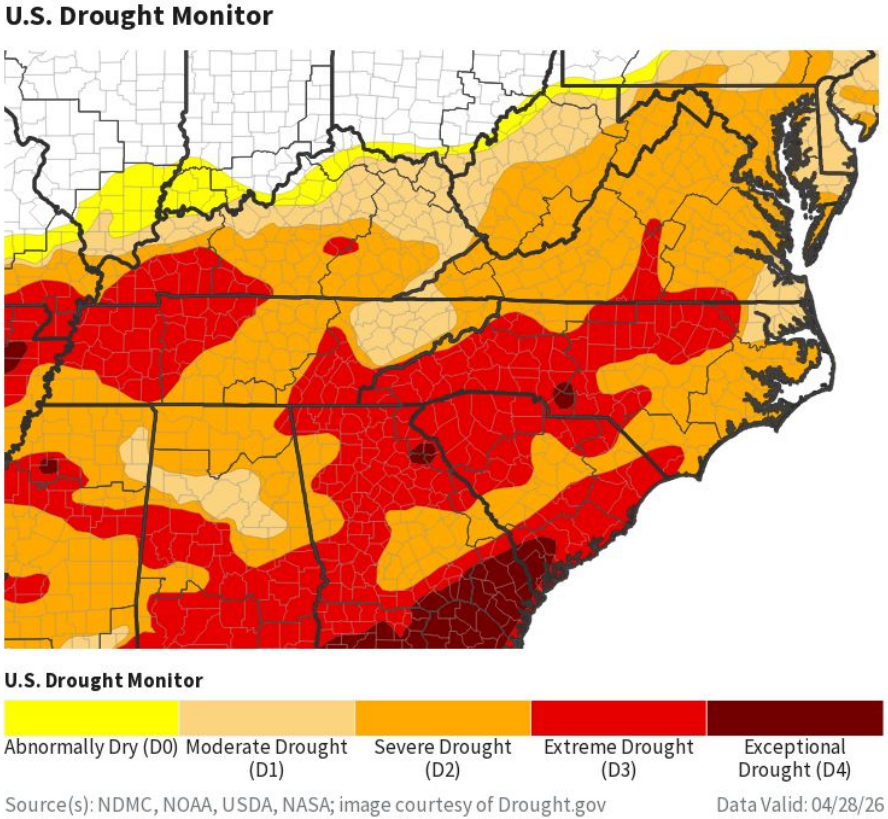
- **100% Statewide Saturation:** Every Georgia county is now in "official" drought (D2–D4), triggering a statewide **Level 1 Drought Response**.
- **Compounding Impacts:** Severe dry conditions have fueled massive wildfires and air quality alerts while causing significant agricultural impacts.

U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for North and Central Georgia

Drought intensity and Extent:

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** Banks, Dodge, Emanuel, Jackson, Madison, Montgomery, Telfair, Toombs, Wheeler, Wilcox
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Barrow, Bartow, Bibb, Butts, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattahoochee, Chattooga, Cherokee, Clarke, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Crawford, Crisp, Dade, Dawson, DeKalb, Dooly, Douglas, Fannin, Fayette, Floyd, Forsyth, Fulton, Gilmer, Gordon, Greene, Gwinnett, Hall, Hancock, Haralson, Harris, Henry, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Lamar, Laurens, Lumpkin, Macon, Marion, Meriwether, Monroe, Morgan, Murray, Muscogee, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Paulding, Peach, Pickens, Pike, Polk, Pulaski, Putnam, Rockdale, Schley, Spalding, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taliaferro, Taylor, Towns, Treutlen, Troup, Union, Upson, Walker, Walton, Warren, Webster, White, Whitfield, Wilkes
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Baldwin, Bleckley, Glascock, Heard, Houston, Jefferson, Twiggs, Washington, Wilkinson
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** None.
- **D0 (Abnormally Dry):** None.



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest 2-week and 4-week change map for Georgia.

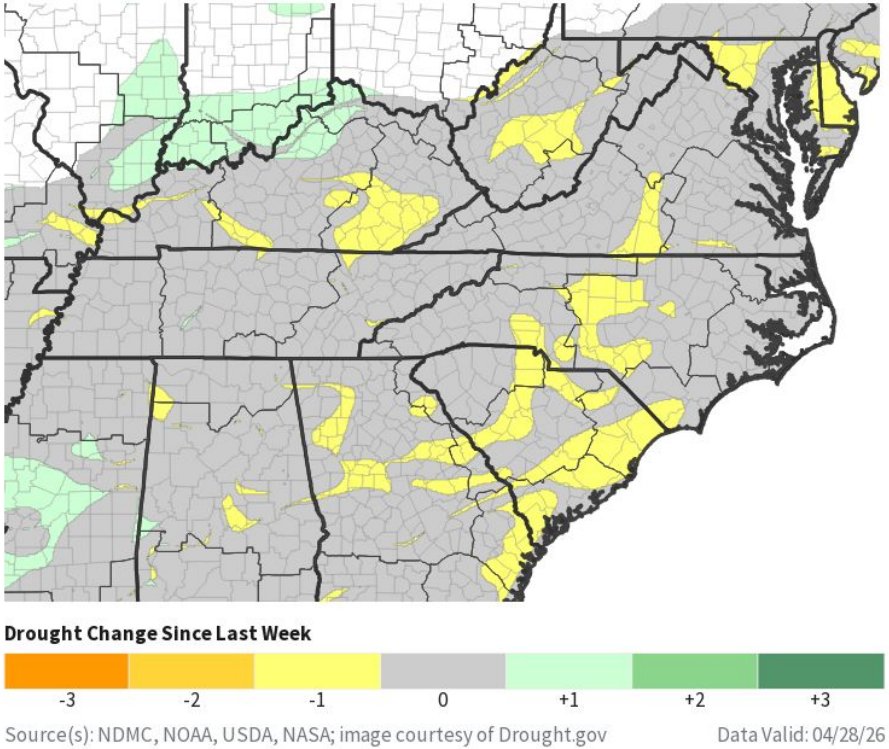
Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change

(image not shown)

- **Drought Worsened:** Baldwin, Banks, Barrow, Bartow, Bibb, Butts, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Crawford, Dade, Dawson, DeKalb, Dodge, Douglas, Emanuel, Fayette, Floyd, Forsyth, Fulton, Gilmer, Glascock, Gordon, Greene, Gwinnett, Hall, Hancock, Haralson, Harris, Heard, Henry, Jasper, Jefferson, Jones, Lamar, Madison, Meriwether, Monroe, Montgomery, Morgan, Murray, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Polk, Pulaski, Putnam, Rockdale, Spalding, Taliaferro, Telfair, Toombs, Troup, Upson, Walker, Walton, Warren, Washington, Wheeler, Whitfield, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilkinson
- **No Change:** Bleckley, Chattahoochee, Clarke, Crisp, Dooly, Fannin, Houston, Jackson, Johnson, Laurens, Lumpkin, Macon, Marion, Muscogee, Peach, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, Towns, Treutlen, Twiggs, Union, Webster, White
- **Drought Improved:** None.

The 4-week change map is available here.
The 1-week change map is shown right.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



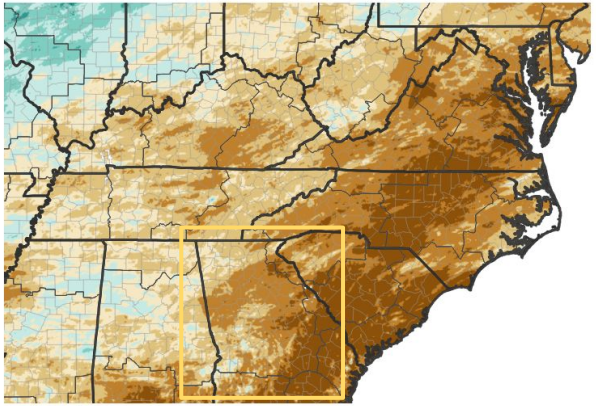
Precipitation - Past 30 Days

National Water Prediction Service link to the 30-day precipitation map for North and Central Georgia

Through Thursday, April 30, 2026, at 8AM:

	Last 30 Days		Last 60 Days	
	Rainfall (inches)	%Normal	Rainfall (inches)	%Normal
Rome (KRMG)	3.32	74%	6.29	68%
Athens (KAHN)	1.18	33%	3.43	44%
Peachtree-DeKalb (KPDK)	1.47	38%	4.32	51%
Fulton County (KFTY)	1.94	53%	6.04	75%
Atlanta (KATL)	1.75	46%	5.78	70%
Peachtree City (KFFC)	1.95	51%	4.62	54%
Macon (KMCN)	2.33	64%	3.98	51%
Columbus (KCSG)	2.74	68%	4.59	52%

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



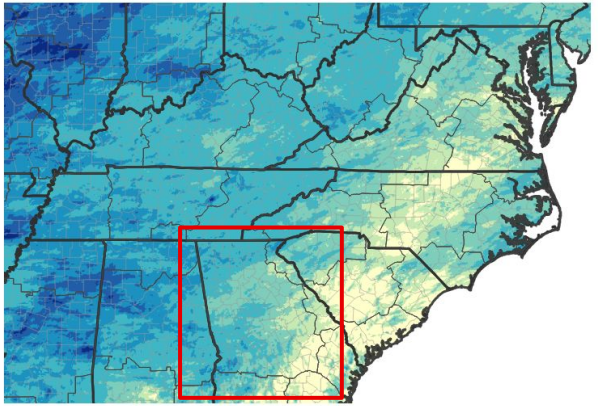
Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

0% 25% 50% 75% 100% 100% 150% 200% 300%

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 04/30/26

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



Inches of Precipitation

0 0.01 0.5 1 2 2 4 6 8

Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 04/30/26

Rainfall in the last 48-hours has improved deficits across north and central Georgia, but many areas of the state are still at less than 60 percent of normal rainfall for the last 30 days (see table). Additionally, the majority of the state still has deficits of 10-20 inches since October 1, around when this drought period began.

The highest rainfall amounts occurred over northern and western portions of the state where amounts were generally 2 to 4 inches, or 60-110 percent of normal. The lowest amounts were observed over east central Georgia, near Vidalia, which has consistently been missed over the last several months. In this area, 0 to 0.3 inches of rainfall was observed, or 0-10% of normal.

The Additional Rainfall Information product (MISATL) is available online at weather.gov/ffc.

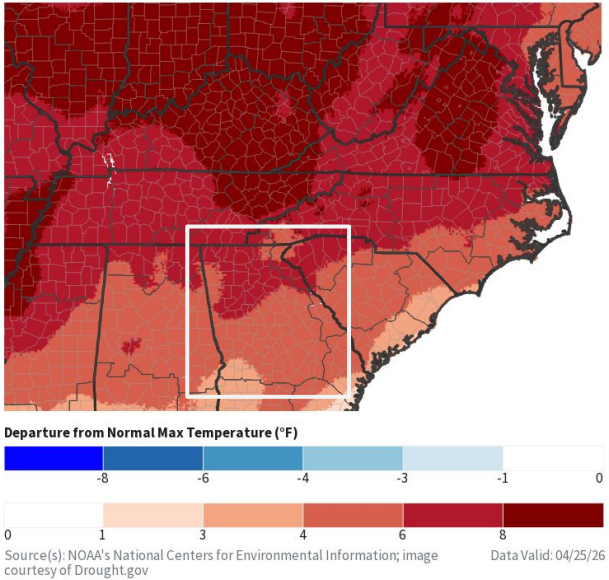
Temperatures - Past 30-, 7-Days

*Through April 26, 2026.**

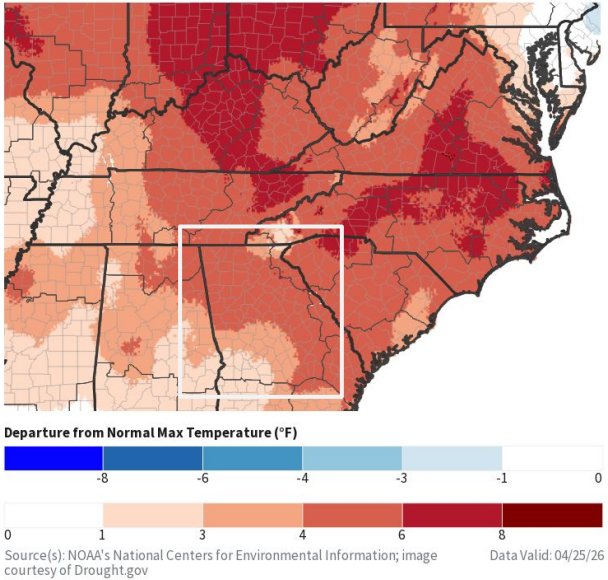
	Last 30 Days (ending Apr 26)	
	Average High (Departure)	Average Low (Departure)
Rome (KRMG)	78.8° (+4.7°)	49.6° (+1.4°)
Athens (KAHN)	79.2° (+5.4°)	51.8° (+2.5°)
Peachtree-DeKalb (KPDK)	79.9° (+7.5°)	53.3° (+4.0°)
Fulton County (KFTY)	79.0° (+5.5°)	51.0° (+2.1°)
Atlanta (KATL)	79.4° (+6.8°)	56.9° (+5.1°)
Peachtree City (KFFC)	78.5° (+4.6°)	49.8° (+2.5°)
Macon (KMCN)	80.5° (+3.9°)	49.7° (-0.3°)
Columbus (KCSG)	80.1° (+3.5°)	55.2° (+2.1°)

**Note, the table values are for the 30-day period ending April 26. 2026, matching the latency for the 30-day and 7-day max temperature anomaly images (right).*

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



7-Day Temperature Anomaly



For the period ending April 26, average high temperatures were well above normal (+3 to +8 degrees) over north and central Georgia at the 30-day period (image center, table), and also more recently for the 7-day period (image right). The average low temperature trends for the 30 day period (also shown in the table), were not quite as anomalous – a testament to the drier-than-normal continental air mass that has remained in place.

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflow continues to suffer under dry and warm conditions, even with recent rainfall during a more active weather pattern. As warming temperatures encourage the green up, higher demand on water sources and increased evapotranspiration will further stress water supplies and soil moisture. See slide 7 for additional details.

CMOR report photo from Morgan County, 4/20/26

Agricultural Impacts

- Dire reports continue to indicate near-total crop failure, livestock mortality, and the depletion of natural water sources. Farmers indicate 10-20% of typical April forage is available for cattle, even with rotating pastures.
- The Crop Progress & Condition charts shows extremely low percentages for winter wheat, pasture and range, and corn, as well as high percentages of very poor to fair conditions.
- See slide 8 for additional details on soil moistures.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Heightened fire activity across Georgia, including major blazes in the south, has prompted stricter burn bans and more frequent NWS fire warnings. These hazardous conditions have further impacted public health, with smoke triggers leading to several air quality alerts over the past two weeks. See slide 9 for more details.

CMOR report photo from Oglethorpe County, 4/18/26

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information. Many areas have burn bans in place and have instituted Drought Response Level 1, including restricted outdoor watering schedules. Refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

See the USGS 120-day streamflow map here.

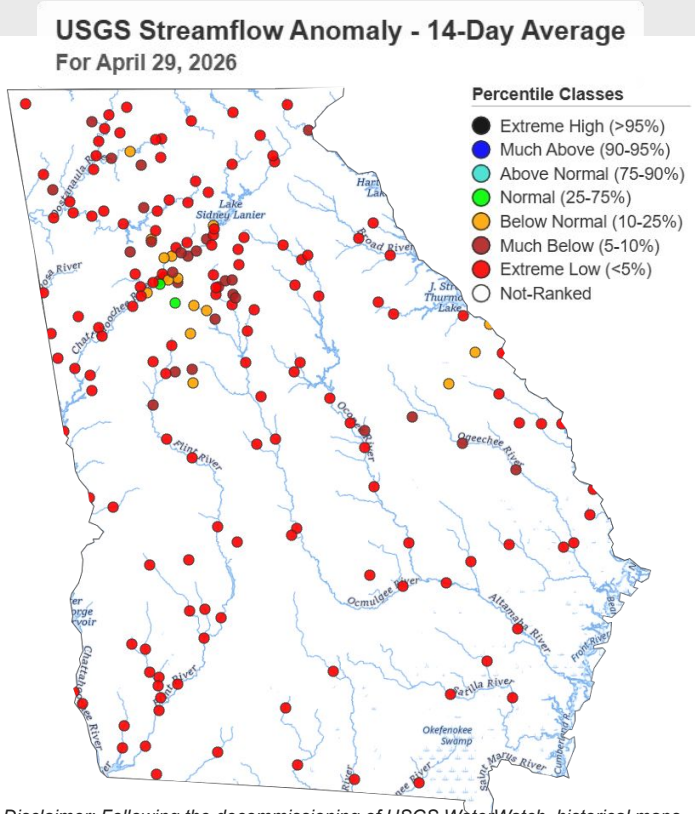
Main Takeaways

- In the last 14-days, streamflow has continued to range from Much Below Normal to Extremely Low in all major river basins. The lack of rain has caused continued decreases in streamflows, groundwater and reservoir levels. Some encouraging improvements were observed over the last 48-hours with repeated waves of light to moderate rainfall.

- Despite the recent rainfall, Lake and Reservoir levels continue to show the impacts of a long, persistent dry period, with most reservoirs below seasonal normals. The available elevation curves for USACE projects in the NWS Peachtree City area show:

	USACE Lakes	
	Current Action Zone	Forecast Action Zone
Carters	Zone 2	Zone 2
Lanier	Zone 3	Zone 4
Allatoona	Zone 3	Zone 4
West Point	Zone 2	Zone 3

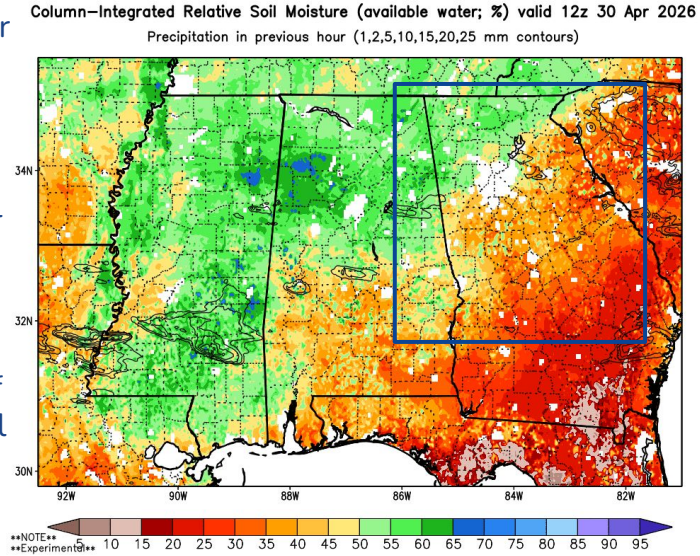
*Action zones used in some charts are defined here.



Disclaimer: Following the decommissioning of USGS WaterWatch, historical maps are no longer available. The above image were generated using USGS streamflow data, and the streamflow anomaly data presented here are provisional.

Agricultural Impacts

- Soil moistures remain dry over much of central and south Georgia (image right).
- Far north Georgia has the highest 0-200 cm relative soil moisture in the state.
- Some improvements in soil moisture have occurred over north and western portions of the state where higher rainfall amounts have recently occurred.
- Some planting is underway, but reports indicate delayed growth or failure to germinate.



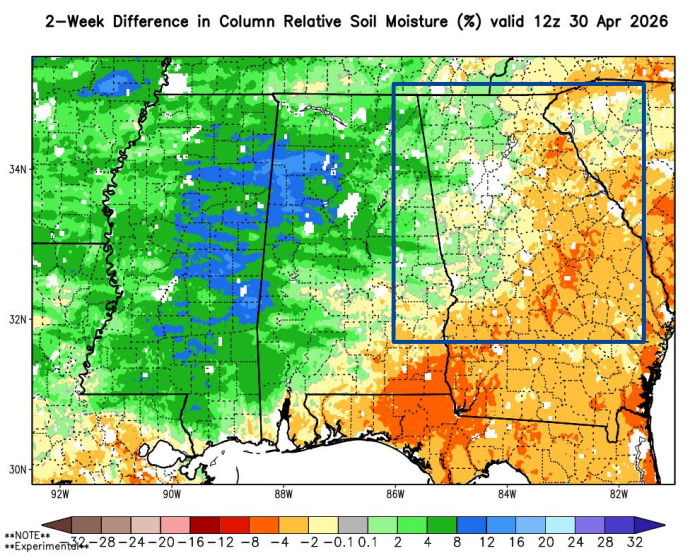
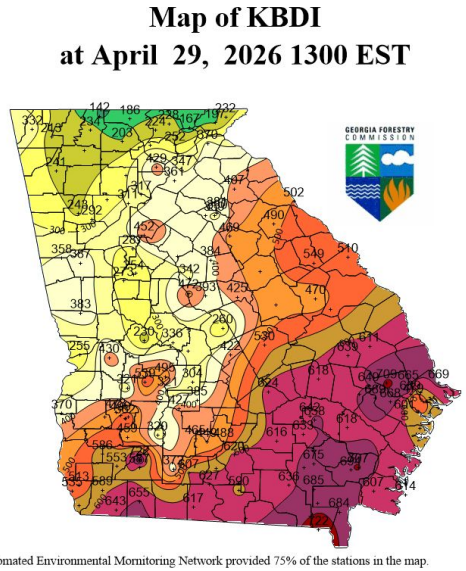


Image Captions:
Left: 0-200cm Relative Soil Moisture from NASA SPoRT valid April 29, 2026.
Right: 0-200 cm Relative Soil Moisture 2-week Change from NASA SPoRT valid April 29, 2026.

Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center.

- Keetch Byram Drought Index values over north and central Georgia are generally 200-500 in most locations, except over far north Georgia where values are generally 150-200.
- At this time, above normal wildland fire potential is expected for portions of Georgia for May, as indicated in the Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook (far right). This above normal potential is expected to continue into Summer.
- The Wildfire Potential Outlook indicates **Moderate** (level 3 of 4) for portions of south and central Georgia midweek.



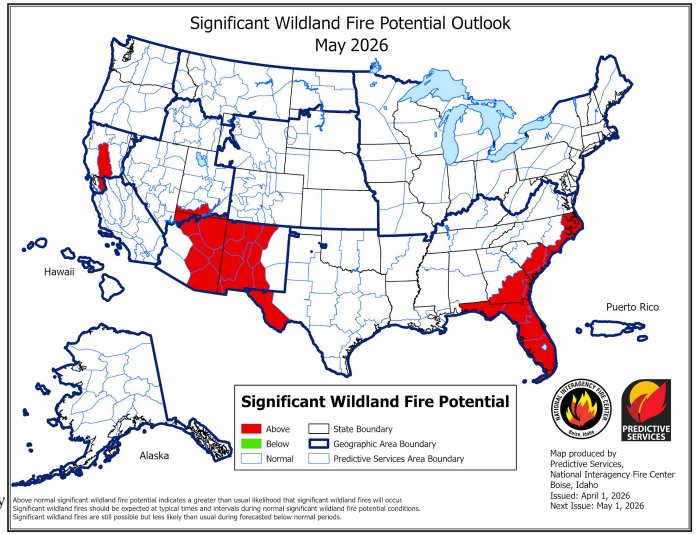
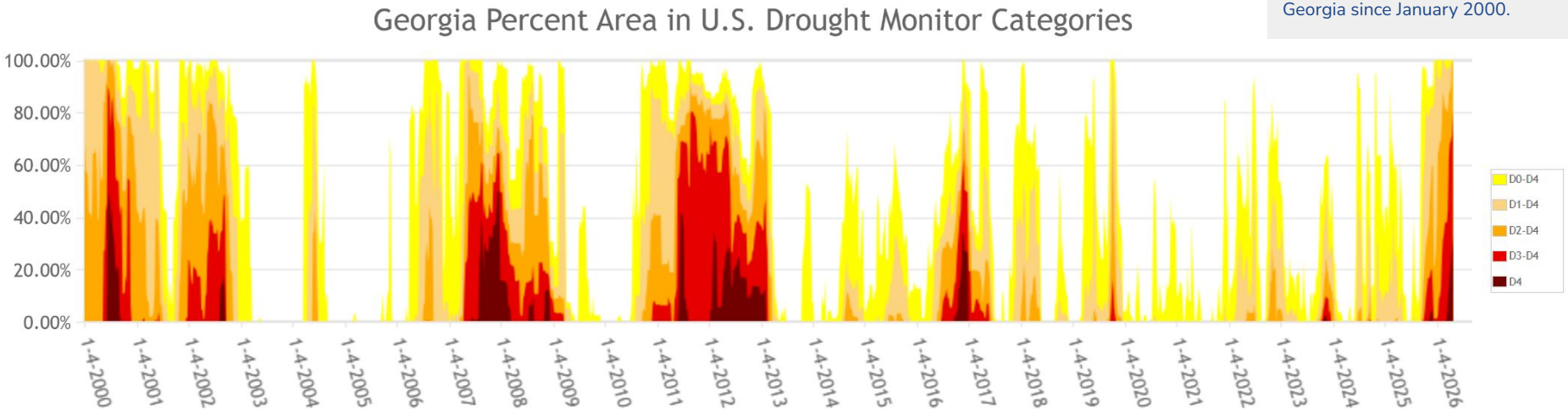


Image Captions:
Above: Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook for May 2026.
Left: Keetch Byram Drought Index for April 29, 2026.

Drought: Historical Context

Link to Drought Monitor Time Series

The time series is courtesy of the US Drought Monitor. This graph shows the depiction of the D0, D1, D2, D3, and D4 drought across the state of Georgia since January 2000.



For the Drought Event beginning in September 2025, *for the entire state of Georgia:*

First D2 (Severe) Drought in Georgia:
Sep 23, 2025

Maximum drought category so far:
D4 (Exceptional)
April , 2026 (33.3%)

Current D2-D4 coverage in Georgia:
100.0% of GA
TODAY

Largest D2-D4 coverage in Georgia*:
100.0% of GA
TODAY
**for this drought period*

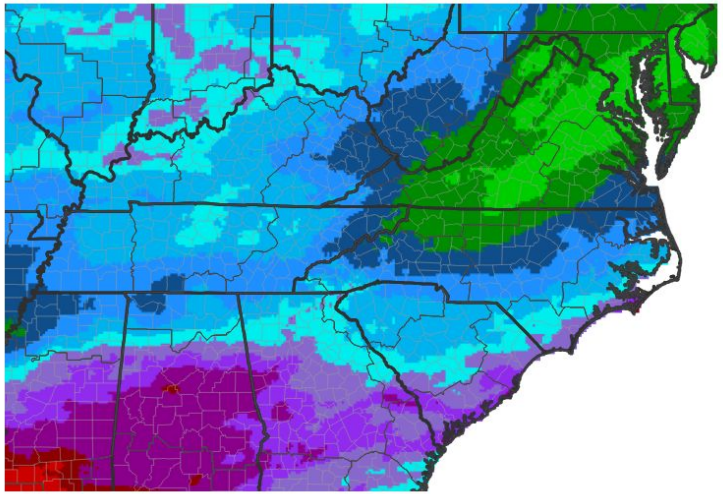
This is the first time the **entire state of Georgia** has been included in **D2-D4** *(official drought)* in its 26-year history.

Precipitation Outlook

The 7-day outlook (through May 6, pictured right):

- Significant rainfall amounts are forecast, largely expected Saturday and Wednesday, with 7-day totals of 0.5 to 2.5 inches currently forecast.
- Highest amounts stretch from Columbus to Macon to Augusta.
- The 8-14 day outlook (May 6-12, image far) shows a continuing active pattern with above normal precipitation changes.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for April 30, 2026–May 7, 2026



Predicted Inches of Precipitation

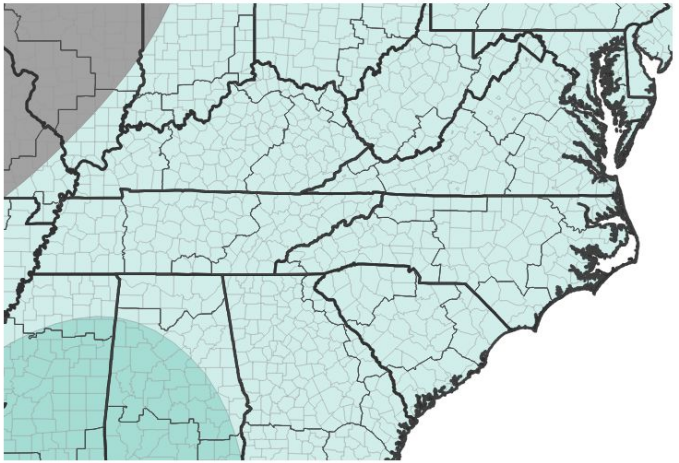
0 | 0.01 | 0.1 | 0.25 | 0.5 | 0.75 | 1 | 1.25 | 1.5 | 1.75

1.75 | 2 | 2.5 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 7 | 10 | 15 | 20

Source(s): National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Last Updated: 04/30/26

8–14 Day Precipitation Outlook for May 7, 2026–May 13, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

33% | 40% | 50% | 60% | 70% | 80% | 90% | 100%

Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

33% | 40% | 50% | 60% | 70% | 80% | 90% | 100%

Near-Normal Conditions

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

Last Updated: 04/29/26

Long-Range Outlooks

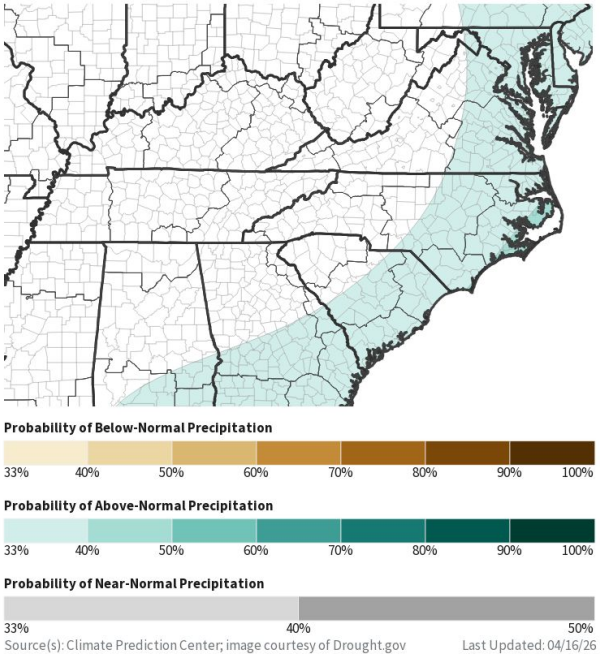
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

For May through July:

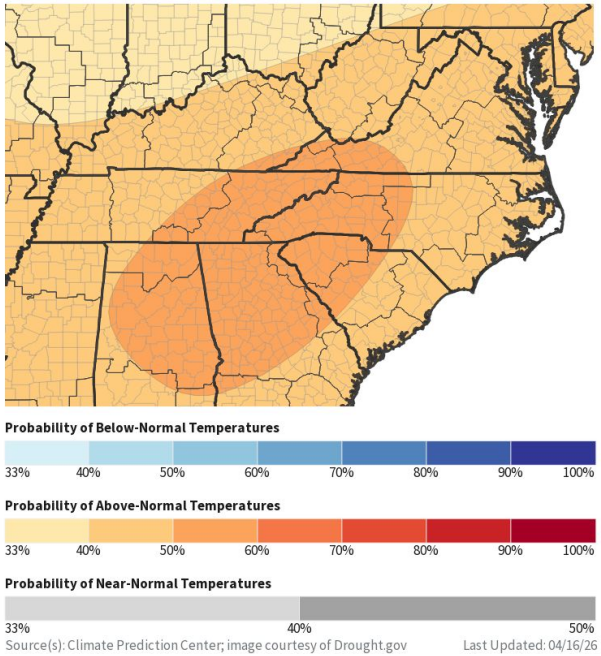
- Above normal chances of precipitation are expected across portions of central Georgia (image right).
- Above normal temperatures are expected over Georgia (far right).

	May		June		July	
Average	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain
Rome	69.5°	3.78"	76.9°	3.80"	80.2°	3.74"
Athens Area	70.5°	3.28"	77.7°	4.88"	81.0°	4.20"
Atlanta Area	71.2°	3.56"	77.9°	4.54"	80.9°	4.75"
Peachtree City	70.4°	3.12"	77.5°	4.45"	80.8°	4.84"
Macon Area	72.9°	2.65"	79.5°	4.44"	82.5°	4.79"
Columbus Area	74.1°	3.24"	80.4°	4.03"	83.2°	4.35"

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



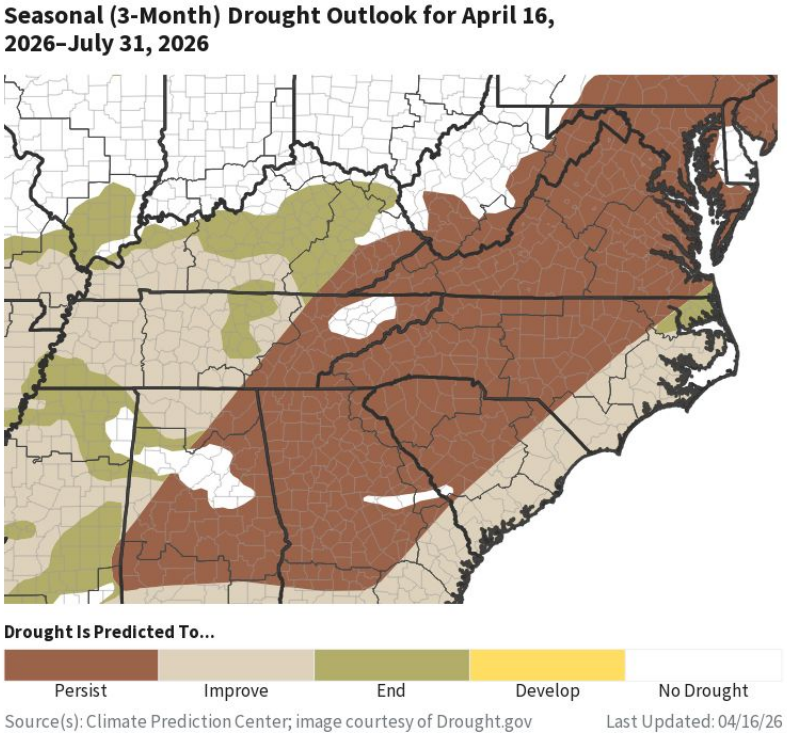
Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for May 1, 2026–July 31, 2026



Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- Drought is expected to persist across north Georgia into mid-summer. Over central Georgia.
- Drought Information Statements will be updated every two weeks while D2 Severe Drought (or worse) continues in north and central Georgia.



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook