



Drought Information Statement for North and Central Georgia

Valid May 14, 2026

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

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

- This product will be updated May 28, 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.

Slight Drought Improvement Following Last Week's Soaking Rain

- **Small Improvements:** [Level 1 Drought Response](#) remains in place, but recent rainfall provided pockets of improvements in the Drought Monitor.
- **Persistent Impacts:** Even with small improvements, dry, significant drought persists across the state, with the Drought Monitor largely status quo.





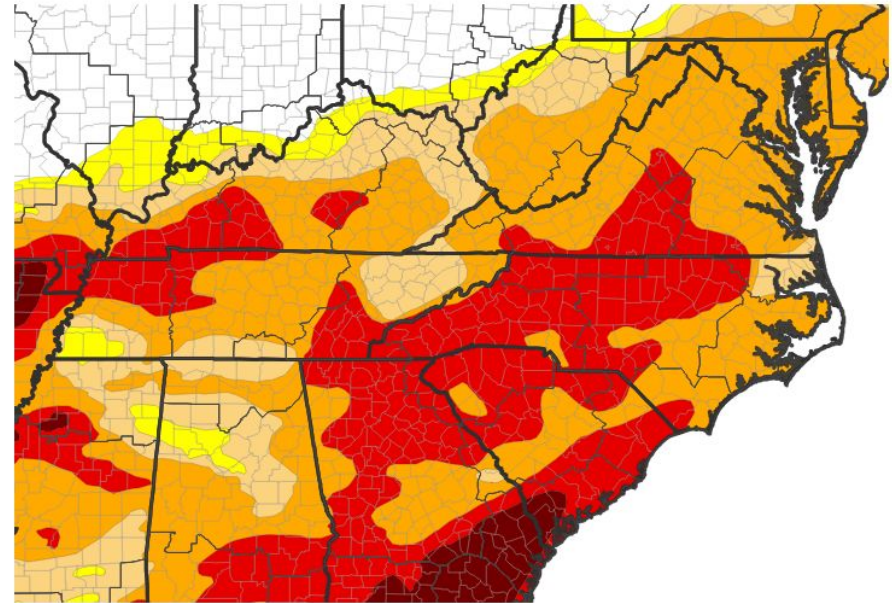
U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for North and Central Georgia

Drought intensity and Extent:

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** Dodge, Emanuel, Montgomery, Telfair, Toombs, Wheeler, Wilcox
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Banks, 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, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Lamar, Laurens, Lumpkin, Macon, Madison, Marion, Meriwether, Monroe, Morgan, Murray, Muscogee, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Paulding, 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, Peach, Twiggs, Washington, Wilkinson
- **D1 (Moderate Drought):** None.
- **D0 (Abnormally Dry):** 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





Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [2-week](#) and [4-week](#) change map for Georgia.

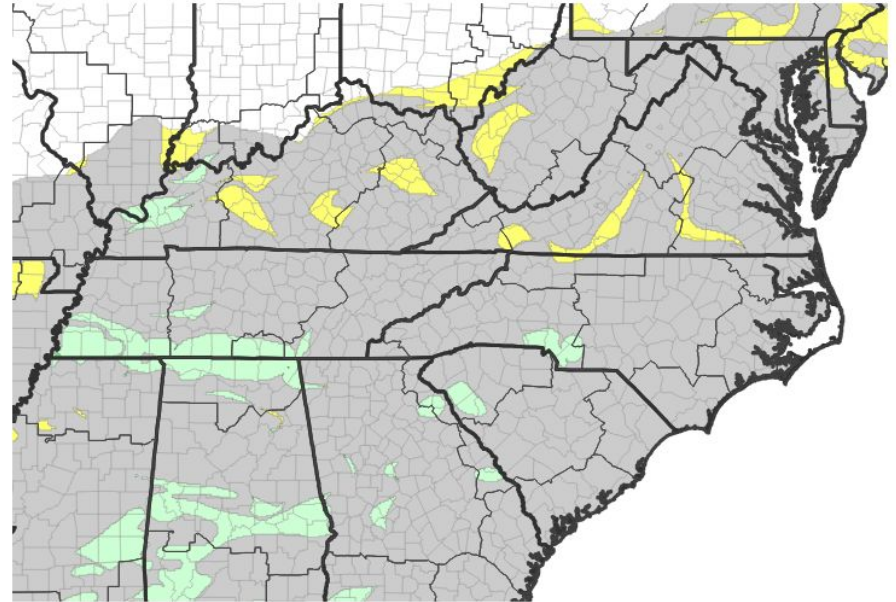
Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change

(image not shown)

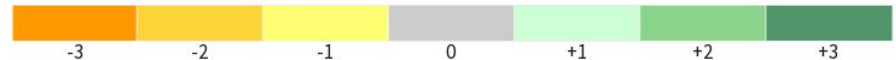
- **Drought Worsened:** Baldwin, Bartow, Butts, Carroll, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Dade, Dawson, Dodge, Douglas, Emanuel, Fayette, Floyd, Forsyth, Fulton, Gilmer, Glascock, Gordon, Greene, Hancock, Haralson, Harris, Heard, Henry, Jasper, Jefferson, Jones, Lamar, Meriwether, Monroe, Morgan, Murray, Paulding, Pickens, Pike, Polk, Pulaski, Putnam, Spalding, Taliaferro, Telfair, Troup, Upson, Walker, Warren, Washington, Whitfield, Wilcox, Wilkes, Wilkinson
- **No Change:** Banks, Barrow, Bleckley, Chattahoochee, Clarke, Crisp, DeKalb, Dooly, Fannin, Gwinnett, Hall, Houston, Jackson, Johnson, Laurens, Lumpkin, Madison, Marion, Montgomery, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Rockdale, Schley, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Toombs, Towns, Treutlen, Twiggs, Union, Walton, Webster, Wheeler, White
- **Drought Improved:** Bibb, Coweta, Crawford, Harris, Macon, Muscogee, Peach, Taylor

The 4-week change map is available [here](#).
The 1-week change map is shown right.

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



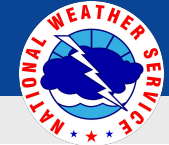
Drought Change Since Last Week



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

Data Valid: 05/12/26





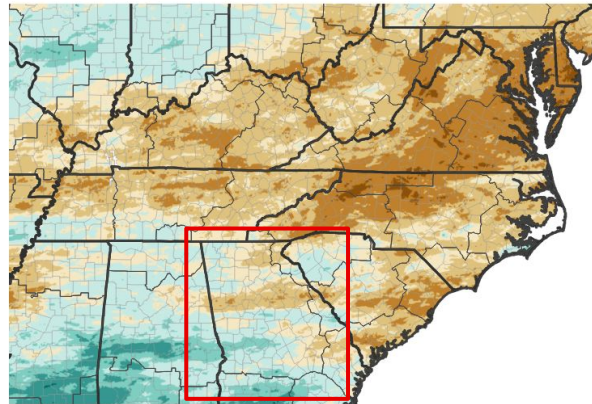
Precipitation - Past 30 Days

National Water Prediction Service link to the [30-day precipitation map](#) for North and Central Georgia

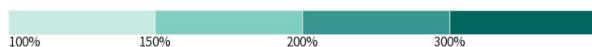
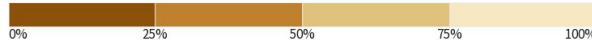
Through Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 8AM:

	Last 30 Days		Last 60 Days	
	Rainfall (inches)	%Normal	Rainfall (inches)	%Normal
Rome (KRMG)	4.17	100%	6.72	77%
Athens (KAHN)	2.32	71%	3.75	53%
Peachtree-DeKalb (KPKDK)	3.43	92%	4.05	50%
Fulton County (KFTY)	3.36	95%	4.08	54%
Atlanta (KATL)	2.46	68%	2.59	34%
Peachtree City (KFFC)	4.14	126%	5.17	69%
Macon (KMCN)	4.33	148%	6.16	89%
Columbus (KCSG)	7.30	207%	8.57	108%

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation

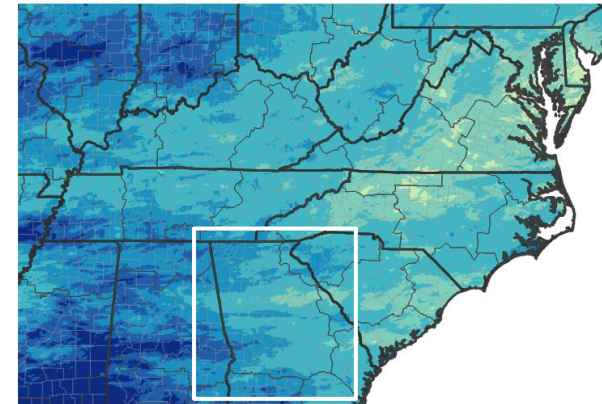


Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

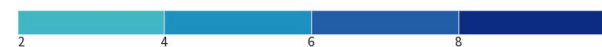
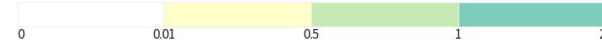


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 05/14/26

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

A more active pattern brought a few rainfall events over the last 14-days, providing some areas with enough accumulations to produce small drought improvements. In some cases, these weather events underperformed, leaving large rainfall deficits still in place.

Rainfall over the last 30-days ranged from 2.25 to 7 inches (65 to 200% of normal) across north and central Georgia, but even with the boost, 60-day rainfall continues to largely be under 60% at most locations. Additionally, the majority of the state still has [deficits of 8-15 inches since October 1](#), around when this drought period began.

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

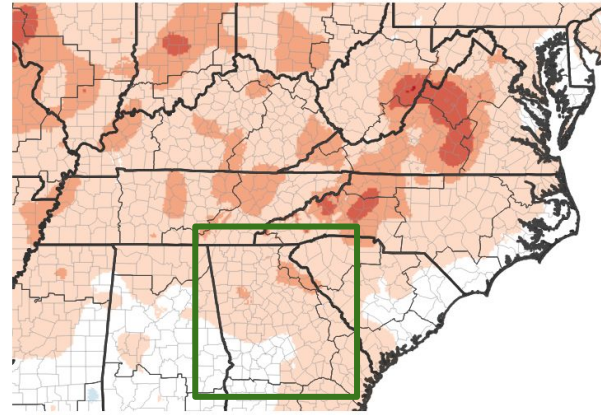


Temperatures - Past 30-, 7-Days

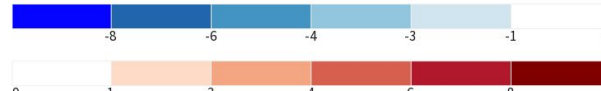
Through May 10, 2026.

	Last 30 Days (ending May 10)	
	Average High (Departure)	Average Low (Departure)
Rome (KRMG)	78.6° (+1.4°)	51.1° (-0.4°)
Athens (KAHN)	79.6° (+2.7°)	53.0° (+0.4°)
Peachtree-DeKalb (KPDK)	77.7° (+1.9°)	53.1° (+0.1°)
Fulton County (KFTY)	78.5° (+1.8°)	52.3° (-0.3°)
Atlanta (KATL)	79.0° (+3.3°)	57.9° (+2.5°)
Peachtree City (KFFC)	77.9° (+1.2°)	50.9° (+0.5°)
Macon (KMCN)	81.0° (+1.0°)	51.3° (-1.9°)
Columbus (KCSG)	79.9° (+0.1°)	56.7° (+0.3°)

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



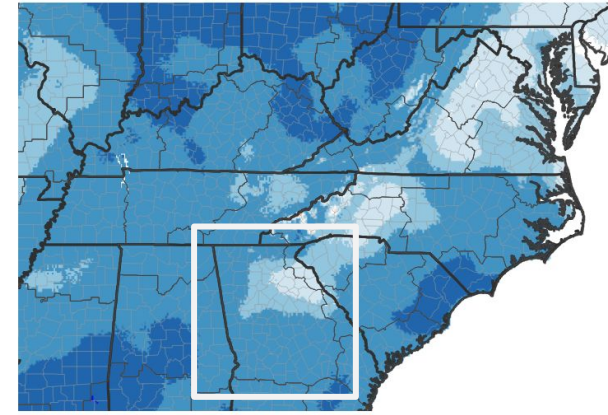
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



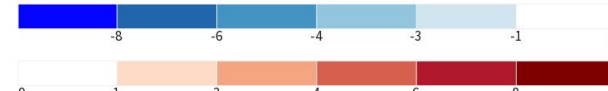
Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/10/26

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov

Data Valid: 05/10/26

*Note, the table values are for the 30-day period ending on the date at the top of the table. This period matches the latency for the 30-day and 7-day max temperature anomaly images (right).

For the 30-day period ending May 10, average high temperatures were above normal (+1 to +3 degrees) over most of north and central Georgia (image center, table). The more active weather pattern and related cloud cover and precipitation produced below normal maximum temperatures (image right) in the 7 day period ending May 10.





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.

Agricultural Impacts

- Dire reports continue to indicate near-total crop failure, livestock mortality, and the depletion of natural water sources. Farmers continue to report dire pasture/forage conditions, 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

- Rainfall and improved fuel moistures have permitted NWS and fire partners to return to normal thresholds for NWS fire-related products. Burn bans remain in place in many municipalities. See slide 9 for more details.

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.



CMOR report photo from Morgan County, 4/29/2026.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

See the USGS 120-day streamflow map [here](#).

Main Takeaways

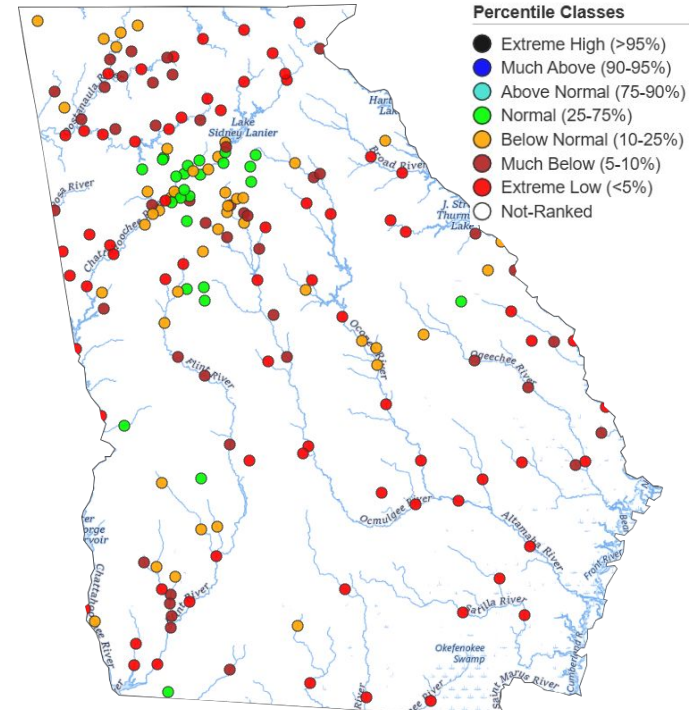
- Recent rainfall has produced rises on area creeks and rivers, though the 28-day average streamflow has continued to range from Normal to Extremely Low in all major river basins. Atlanta-area creeks have rebounded more than the more rural locations.
- Despite the recent rainfall, [Lake and Reservoir](#) 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 1	Zone 2
Lanier	Zone 3	Zone 3
Allatoona	Zone 3	Zone 3
West Point	Top of Conservation	Zone 1

*Action zones used in some charts are defined [here](#).

USGS Streamflow Anomaly - 28-Day Average

For May 13, 2026



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

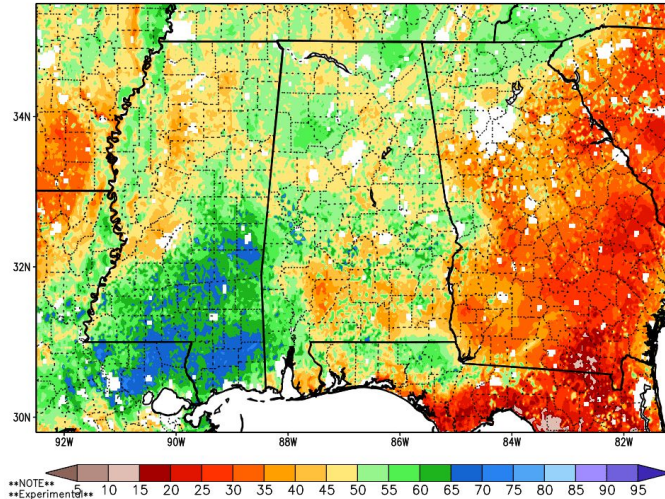




Agricultural Impacts

- The relative soil moisture (image right) graphic shows the level of saturation in the top 6 feet of the soil relative to the total capacity of the soil.
- Even with the recent rainfall, the deep soil profile across the majority of Georgia is still only at 5 to 40% of its total capacity.
- Far north Georgia has seen drying over the last two weeks (far right image) but still shows soils at 45 to 65% of its total capacity.

Column-Integrated Relative Soil Moisture (available water; %) valid 12z 14 May 2026
Precipitation in previous hour (1,2,5,10,15,20,25 mm contours)



2-Week Difference in Column Relative Soil Moisture (%) valid 12z 14 May 2026

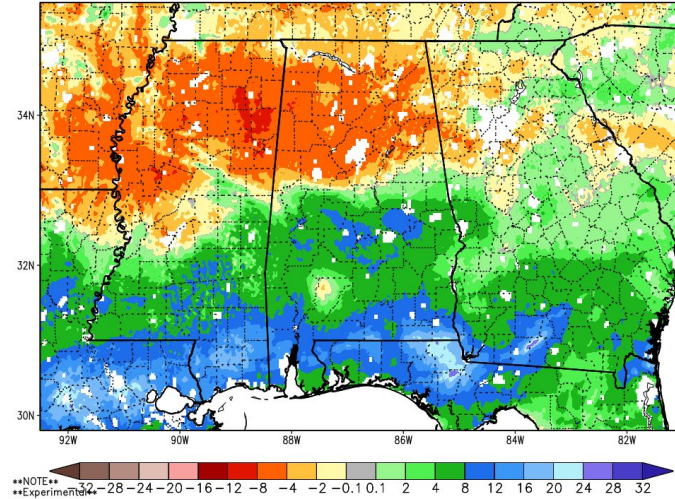


Image Captions:

Left: 0-200cm Relative Soil Moisture from [NASA SPoRT](#) valid May 14, 2026.

Right: 0-200 cm Relative Soil Moisture 2-week Change from [NASA SPoRT](#) valid May 14, 2026.





Fire Hazard Impacts

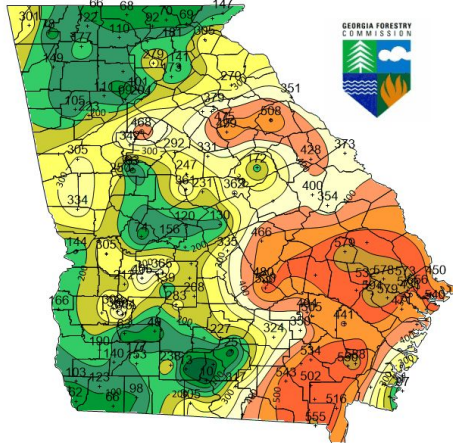
Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

- [Keetch Byram Drought Index values](#) (KDBI) over north and central Georgia are generally 100-300 in most locations, given the recent rainfall. KDBI provides an estimate of dryness of soils and surface fuels)

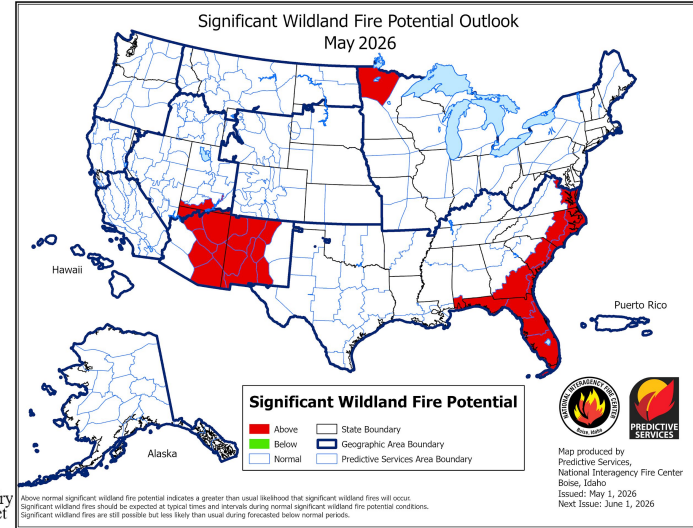
- At this time, above normal wildland fire potential is expected for portions of Georgia for May, as indicated in the Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook (far right). This above normal potential is expected to continue into Summer.

- The [Wildfire Potential Outlook](#) (table) indicates **Moderate** (level 3 of 4) for portions of south and central Georgia Sunday through Wednesday.

Map of KDBI at May 13, 2026 1300 EST



Georgia Automated Environmental Monitoring Network provided 75% of the stations in the map. [Keetch Byram Drought Index](#) for May 13, 2026.



[Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for May 2026.

Wildfire Potential Outlook						
FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	
LOW	LOW	MOD	MOD	MOD	MOD	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #d9ead3; border: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #fff2cc; border: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #fce4d6; border: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #f4cccc; border: 1px solid black;"></div> </div> <div style="font-size: 8px; margin-top: 2px;"> Little/No Risk Low Moderate High </div>



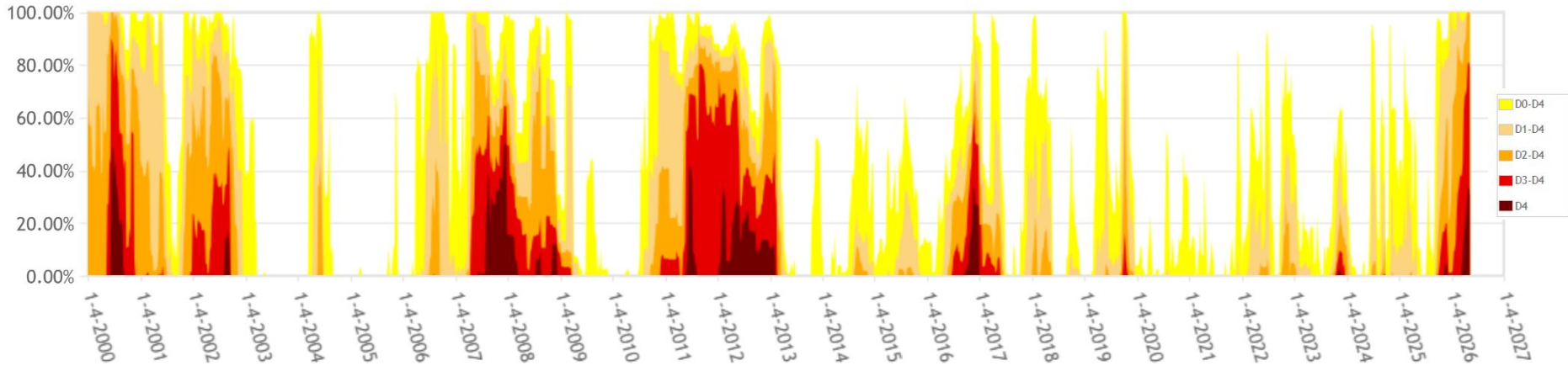


Drought: Historical Context

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.

Georgia Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories



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 28, 2026 (33.3%)

Current D2-D4 coverage in Georgia:
99.4% of GA
TODAY

Largest D2-D4 coverage in Georgia*:
100.0% of GA
April 28, 2026
**for this drought period*

Last time there was at least 99.4% of GA in D2-D4:
100.0% of GA
May 5, 2026



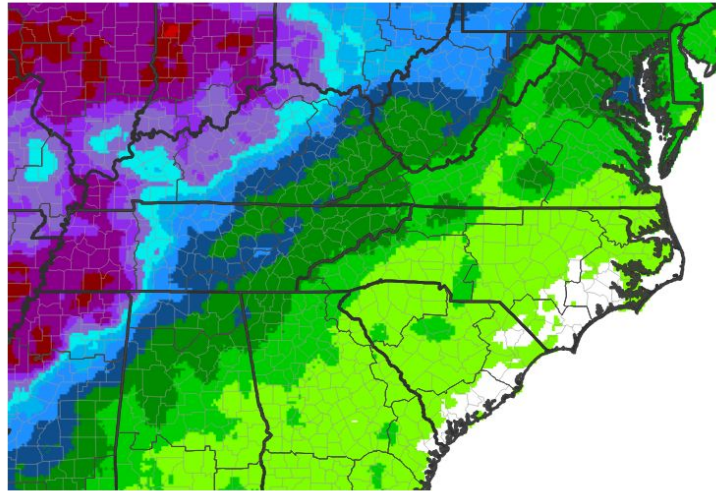


Precipitation Outlook

The 7-day outlook (through May 21, pictured right):

- Rainfall amounts of 0.5 or less are forecast for the next 7-days.
- Unfortunately, the current forecast keeps the lowest amounts over the D4 Exceptional Drought area.
- The [8-14 day outlook](#) (May 20-26, image far) shows above normal precipitation chances.

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



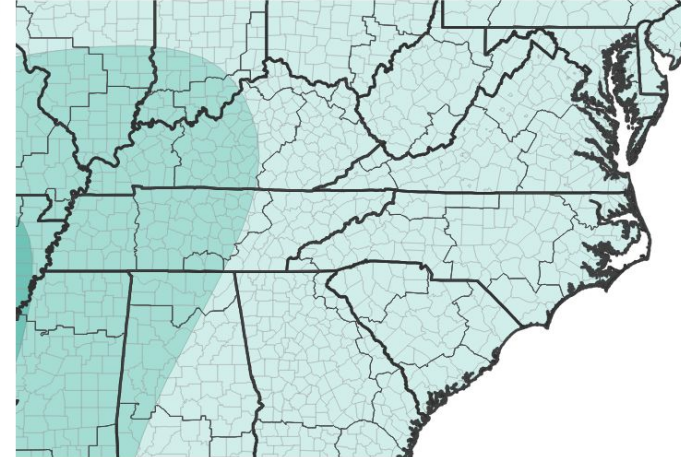
Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 05/14/26

8–14 Day Precipitation Outlook for May 20, 2026–May 26, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



■ Near-Normal Conditions

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

Last Updated: 05/12/26





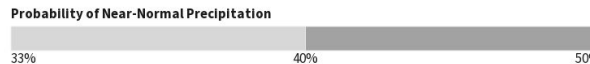
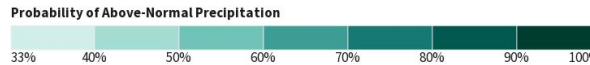
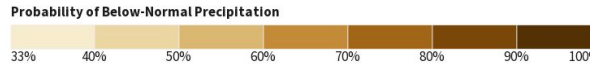
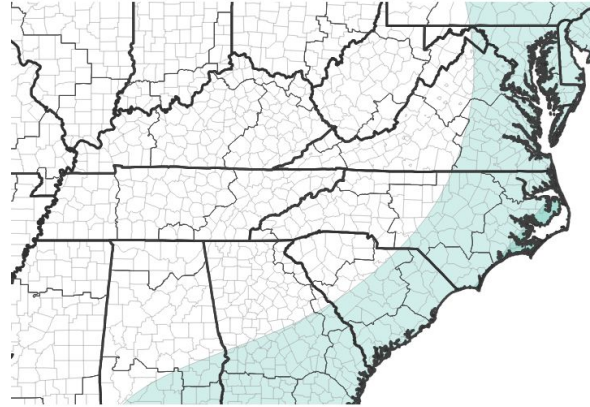
Long-Range Outlooks

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

For May through July:

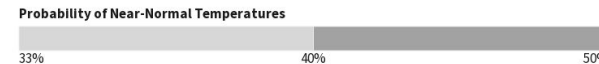
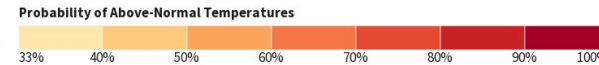
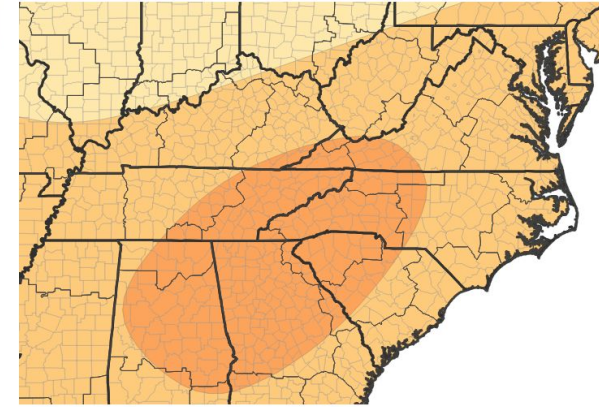
- Above normal chances of precipitation are expected across portions of central Georgia (image right).
- Above normal temperatures are expected over Georgia (far right).

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



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/16/26

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



Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 04/16/26

	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"



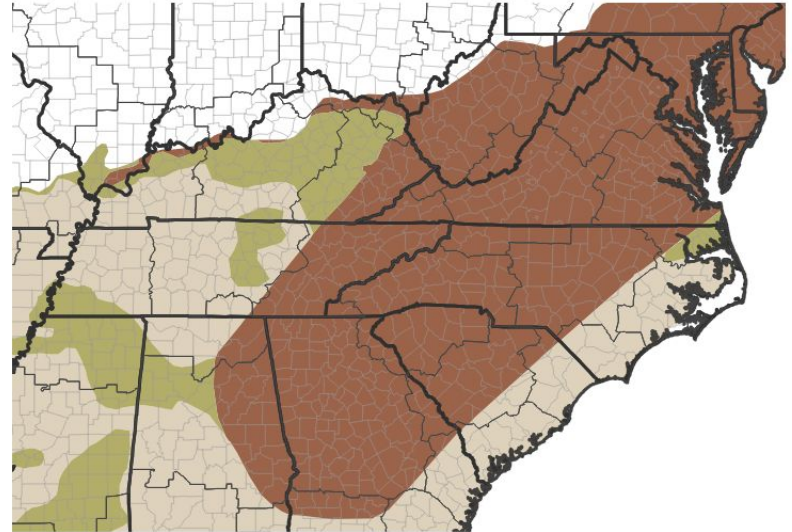


Drought Outlook

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.

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
Atlanta / Peachtree City, GA