



Drought Information Statement for North and Central Georgia

Valid May 28, 2026

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

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

- This product will be updated June 11, 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.

Continued Drought Improvement Following This Week's Soaking Rains

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





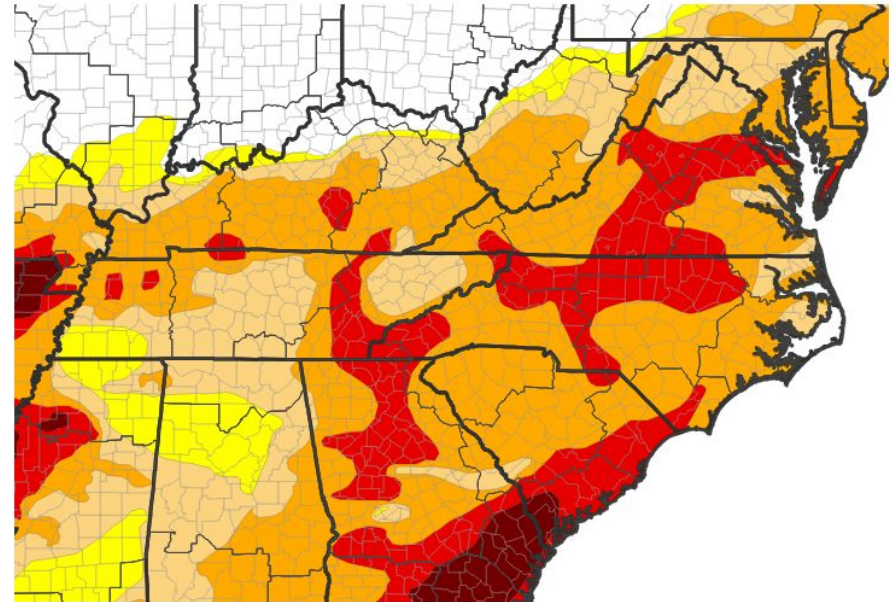
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

Drought intensity and Extent:

- **D4 (Exceptional Drought):** Emanuel, Montgomery, Telfair, Toombs, Wheeler
- **D3 (Extreme Drought):** Banks, Barrow, Bibb, Butts, Carroll, Chattahoochee, Clarke, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Crawford, Crisp, Dawson, DeKalb, Dodge, Dooly, Douglas, Fannin, Fayette, Forsyth, Fulton, Gilmer, Greene, Gwinnett, Hall, Haralson, Harris, Henry, Jackson, Jasper, Johnson, Jones, Lamar, Laurens, Lumpkin, Macon, Marion, Meriwether, Monroe, Morgan, Murray, Newton, Oconee, Oglethorpe, Paulding, Pike, Pulaski, Putnam, Rockdale, Schley, Spalding, Stewart, Sumter, Talbot, Taylor, Towns, Treutlen, Troup, Union, Upson, Walton, Webster, White, Whitfield, Wilcox
- **D2 (Severe Drought):** Baldwin, Bartow, Bleckley, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Dade, Floyd, Glascock, Gordon, Hancock, Heard, Houston, Jefferson, Madison, Muscogee, Peach, Pickens, Polk, Taliaferro, Twiggs, Walker, Warren, Washington, Wilkes, 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: 05/26/26





Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

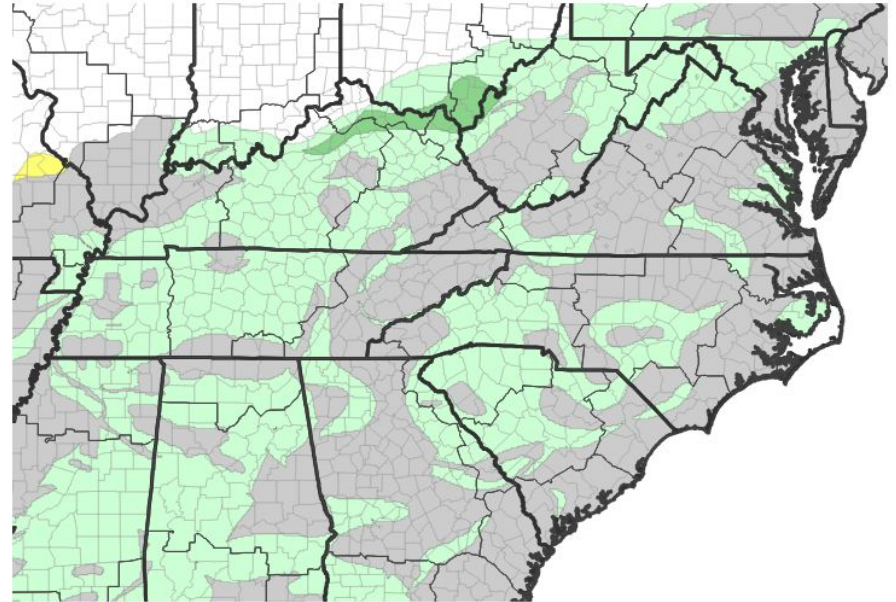
Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change

(image not shown)

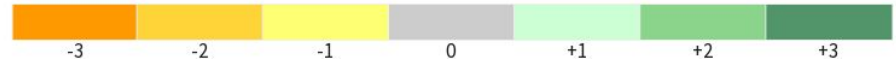
- **Drought Worsened:** None.
- **No Change:** Baldwin, Barrow, Bleckley, Carroll, Clayton, Crisp, DeKalb, Dooly, Douglas, Fannin, Fayette, Gwinnett, Hall, Heard, Henry, Johnson, Jones, Lamar, Laurens, Lumpkin, Meriwether, Morgan, Newton, Oconee, Pike, Pulaski, Rockdale, Schley, Spalding, Sumter, Towns,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

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

U.S. Drought Monitor 1-Week Change Map



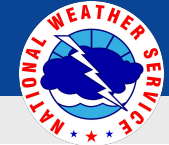
Drought Change Since Last Week



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

Data Valid: 05/26/26





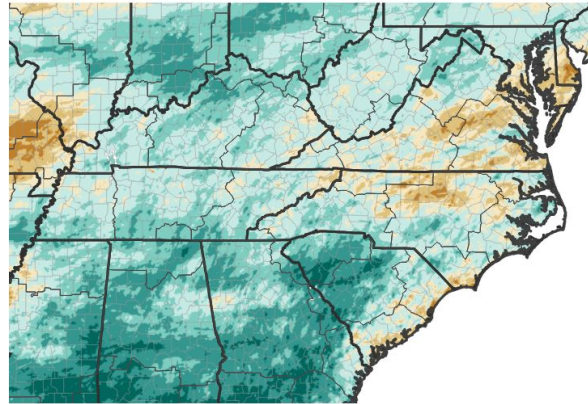
Precipitation - Past 30 Days

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

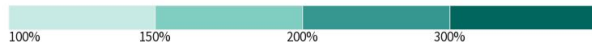
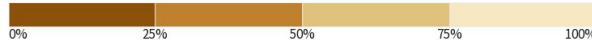
Through Thursday, May 14, 2026, at 8AM:

	Last 30 Days		Last 60 Days	
	Rainfall (inches)	%Normal	Rainfall (inches)	%Normal
Rome (KRMG)	9.46	253%	11.79	143%
Athens (KAHN)	5.79	186%	6.61	99%
Peachtree-DeKalb (KPKD)	5.76	157%	6.03	79%
Fulton County (KFTY)	6.67	190%	7.08	98%
Atlanta (KATL)	4.19	122%	5.94	82%
Peachtree City (KFFC)	7.68	258%	8.38	123%
Macon (KMCN)	5.92	235%	7.31	117%
Columbus (KCSG)	9.72	311%	10.58	147%

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation

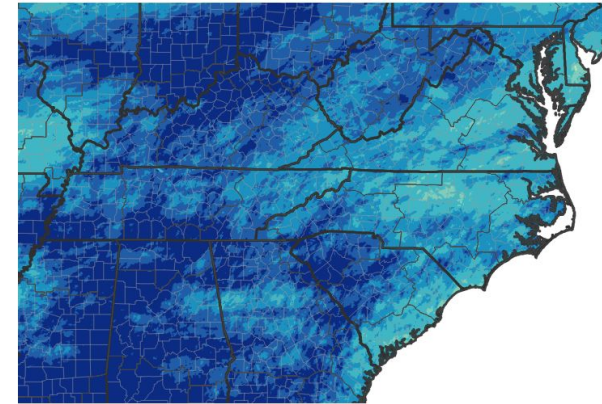


Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

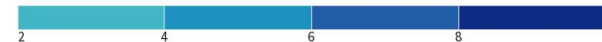
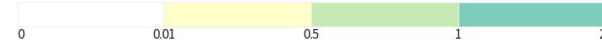


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 05/28/26

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: 05/28/26

The continued active pattern brought numerous rainfall events over the last 14-days, providing some areas with enough accumulations to produce further drought improvements. In some cases, rainfall exceeded the 30-day normal, resulting in isolated flash flooding and quick runoff.

Rainfall over the last 30-days ranged from 4 to 10 inches (100 to 300% of normal) across north and central Georgia. This rainfall was enough to boost the 60-day rainfall to within 10% (or greater than) normal. However, the majority of the state still has [deficits of 7-12 inches since October 1](#), around when this drought period began.

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





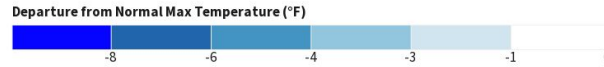
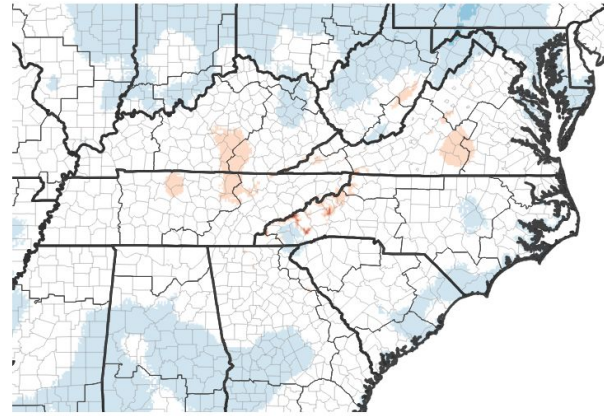
Temperatures - Past 30-, 7-Days

Through May 10, 2026.

	Last 30 Days (ending May 24)	
	Average High (Departure)	Average Low (Departure)
Rome (KRMG)	78.9° (-1.4°)	56.1° (+0.3°)
Athens (KAHN)	80.6° (+0.4°)	56.8° (-0.2°)
Peachtree-DeKalb (KPDK)	78.6° (-0.4°)	57.2° (-0.2°)
Fulton County (KFTY)	78.8° (-0.8°)	56.7° (-0.3°)
Atlanta (KATL)	79.7° (+0.8°)	61.3° (+1.7°)
Peachtree City (KFFC)	78.5° (-1.4°)	56.1° (+1.2°)
Macon (KMCN)	81.8° (-1.5°)	56.4° (-1.1°)
Columbus (KCSG)	81.1° (-1.9°)	61.3° (+0.5°)

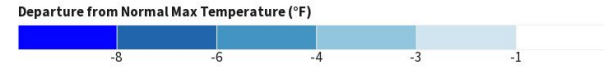
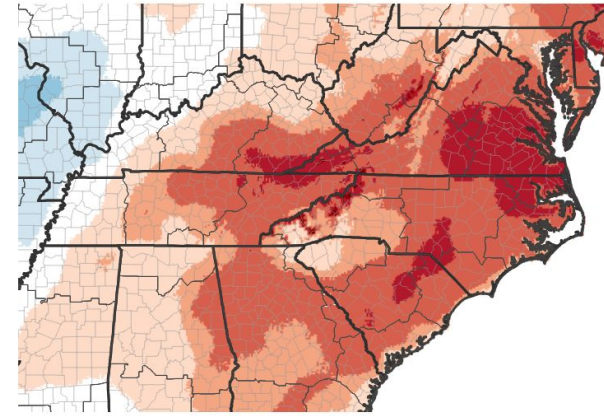
*Note, the table values are for the 30-day period ending on the date at the top of the table. This period matches the latency for the 30-day and 7-day max temperature anomaly images (right).

30-Day Temperature Anomaly



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov
Data Valid: 05/24/26

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



Source(s): NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information; image courtesy of Drought.gov
Data Valid: 05/24/26

For the 30-day period ending May 10, average high temperatures were near to slightly below normal (-2 to +1 degrees) over most of north and central Georgia (image center, table). The more active weather pattern and related cloud cover and precipitation produced slightly above normal high 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

- Streamflows have seen significant recover with recent rainfall during a more active weather pattern. However, as warming temperatures encourage further green up, higher demand on water sources and increased evapotranspiration could see a return of stress on water supplies and soil moisture. See slide 7 for additional details.

Agricultural Impacts

- 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 and pasture and range. Though corn conditions have improved (remaining below the 5 year average). 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 Jones County, 5/04/2026.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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

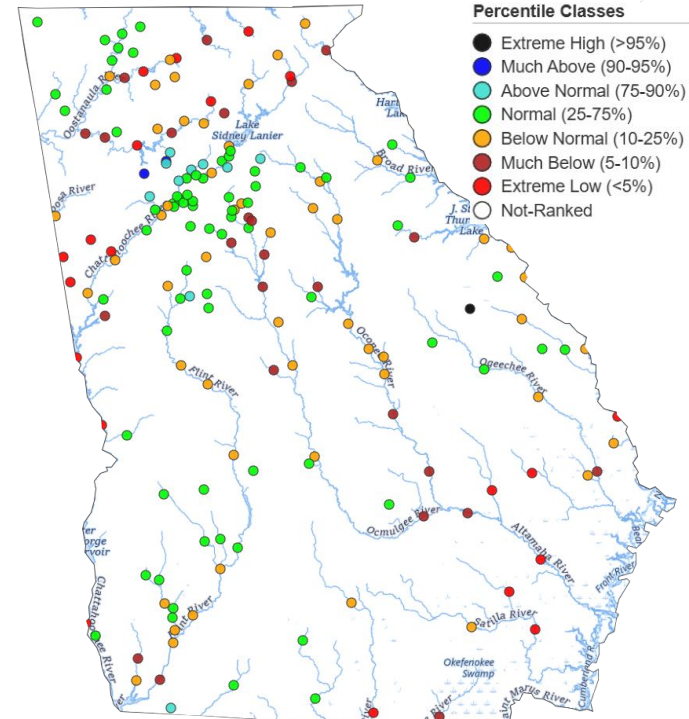
Main Takeaways

- Recent rainfall has produced rises on area creeks and rivers, and the 28-day average streamflow still generally ranges from Normal to Extremely Low in all major river basins (though a few regions are above normal due to pockets of heavier rain). 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 many 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 1
Lanier	Zone 3	Zone 3
Allatoona	Zone 3	Zone 2
West Point	Top of Conservation	Zone 1

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

USGS Streamflow Anomaly - 28-Day Average For May 27, 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.

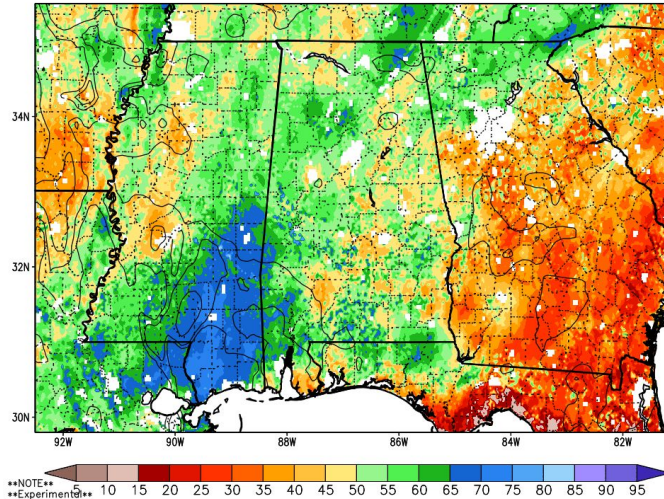




Agricultural Impacts

- 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 improvement over the last two weeks (far right image) with soils at 50 to 65% of its total capacity.

Column-Integrated Relative Soil Moisture (available water; %) valid 18z 28 May 2026
Precipitation in previous hour (1,2,5,10,15,20,25 mm contours)



2-Week Difference in Column Relative Soil Moisture (%) valid 18z 28 May 2026

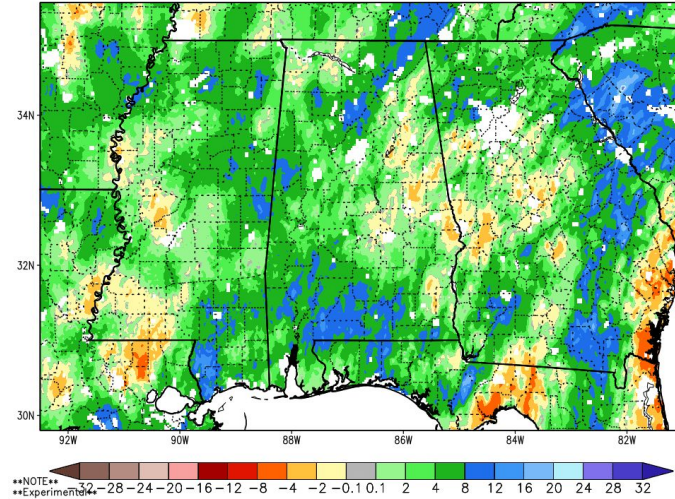


Image Captions:

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

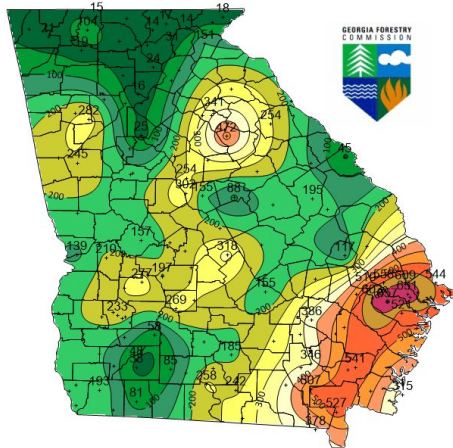
Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

- [Keetch Byram Drought Index values](#) (KBDI) over north and central Georgia are generally <50-300 in most locations, given the recent rainfall. KBDI provides an estimate of dryness of soils and surface fuels)

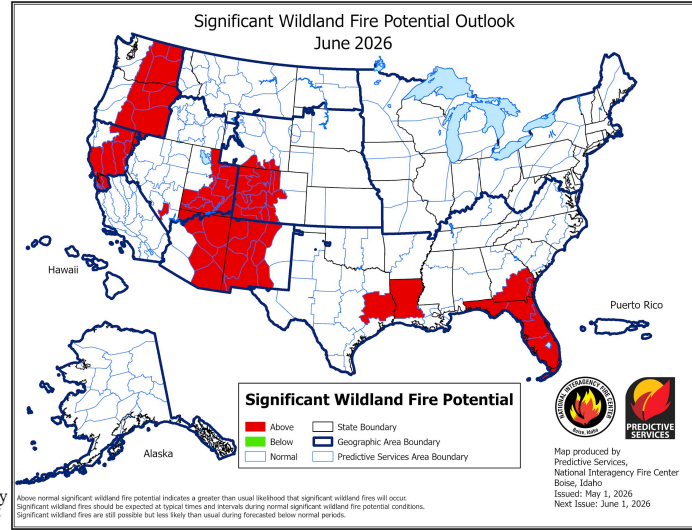
- At this time, above normal wildland fire potential is expected for southeast portions of Georgia for June, as indicated in the Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook (far right). This above normal potential is expected to continue into Summer.

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

Map of KBDI at May 27, 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	
L/N	L/N	L/N	L/N	L/N	L/N	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #c8e6c9; border: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="font-size: 8px;">Little/No Risk</div> <div style="width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #fff9c4; border: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="font-size: 8px;">Low</div> <div style="width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #ffe0b2; border: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="font-size: 8px;">Moderate</div> <div style="width: 10px; height: 10px; background-color: #ffcdd2; border: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 2px;"></div> <div style="font-size: 8px;">High</div> </div>



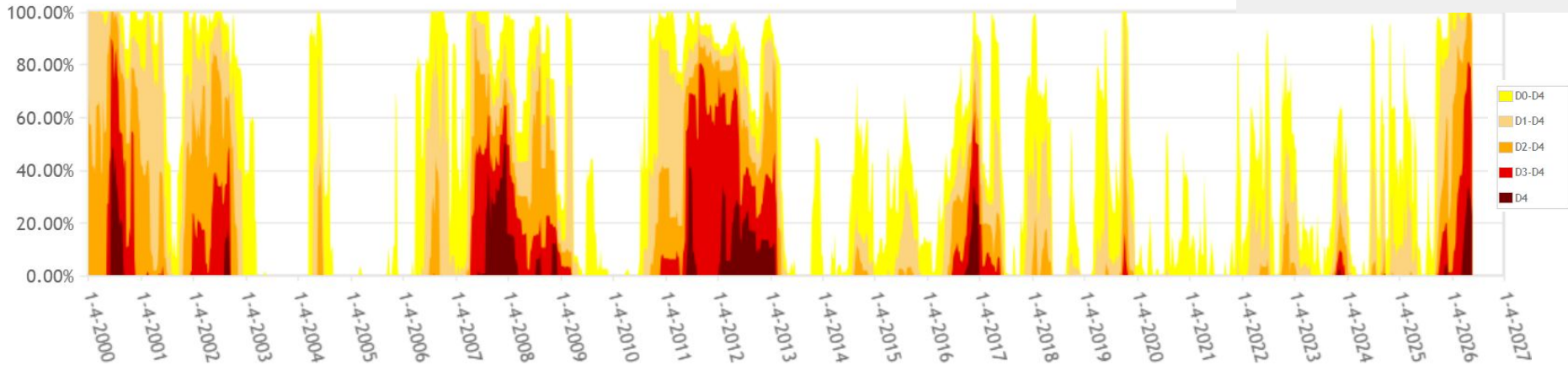


Drought: Historical Context

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:

95.2% of GA
TODAY

Largest D2-D4 coverage in Georgia*:

100.0% of GA
April 28, 2026

**for this drought period*

National Weather Service
Atlanta / Peachtree City, GA



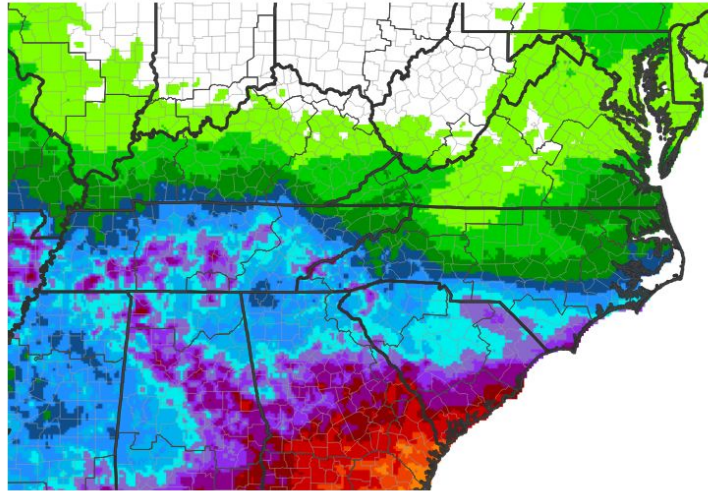


Precipitation Outlook

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

- Rainfall amounts of 1 to 3 inches are forecast for the next 7-days.
- Fortunately, the greatest amounts are located over areas with worst drought.
- The [8-14 day outlook](#) (May 20-26, image far) shows above normal precipitation chances.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for May 28, 2026–June 4, 2026



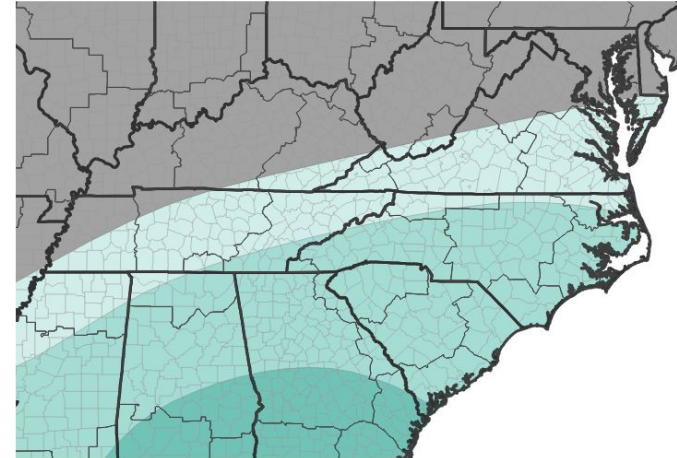
Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 05/28/26

8–14 Day Precipitation Outlook for June 4, 2026–June 10, 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: 05/27/26





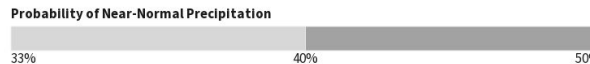
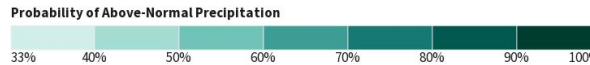
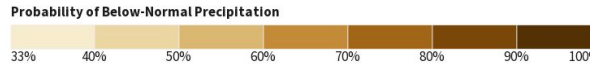
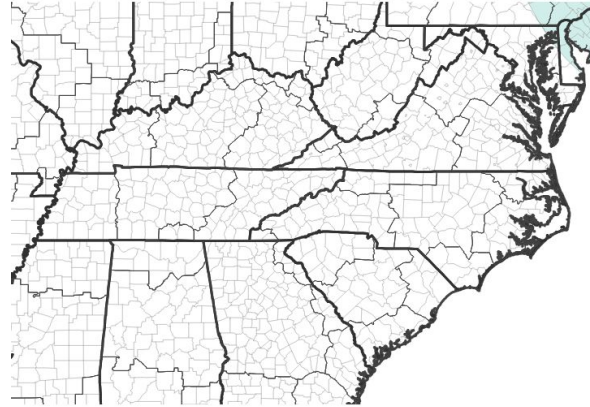
Long-Range Outlooks

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

For June through August:

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

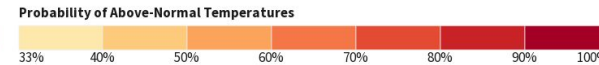
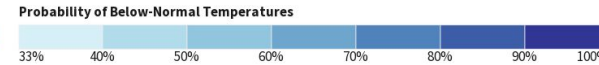
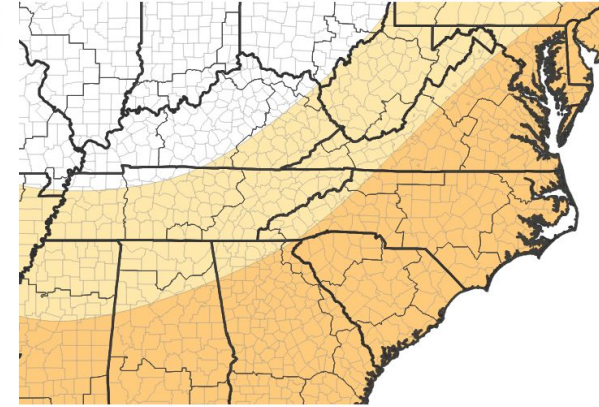
Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for June 1, 2026–August 31, 2026



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

Last Updated: 05/21/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for June 1, 2026–August 31, 2026



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

Last Updated: 05/21/26

	June		July		August	
Average	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain
Rome	76.9°	3.80"	80.2°	3.74"	79.5°	3.77"
Athens Area	77.7°	4.88"	81.0°	4.20"	79.8°	4.55"
Atlanta Area	77.9°	4.54"	80.9°	4.75"	80.2°	4.30"
Peachtree City	77.5°	4.45"	80.8°	4.84"	79.8°	3.96"
Macon Area	79.5°	4.44"	82.5°	4.79"	81.4°	4.38"
Columbus Area	80.4°	4.03"	83.2°	4.35"	82.4°	4.68"



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Atlanta / Peachtree City, GA