



Drought Information Statement for North and Central Georgia

Valid July 09, 2026

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

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

- This product will be updated July 23, 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.

Drought Expansion Returns

- **Drought Expansion:** Patchy rainfall across central Georgia while rainfall across north Georgia has been below maintenance levels necessary to avoid drought expansion.
- **Future Conditions:** While significant improvements have been made since April, rapid degradation may still be possible in any brief dry spells (like those seen in north Georgia). Further Drought Information Statement issuances remain likely.





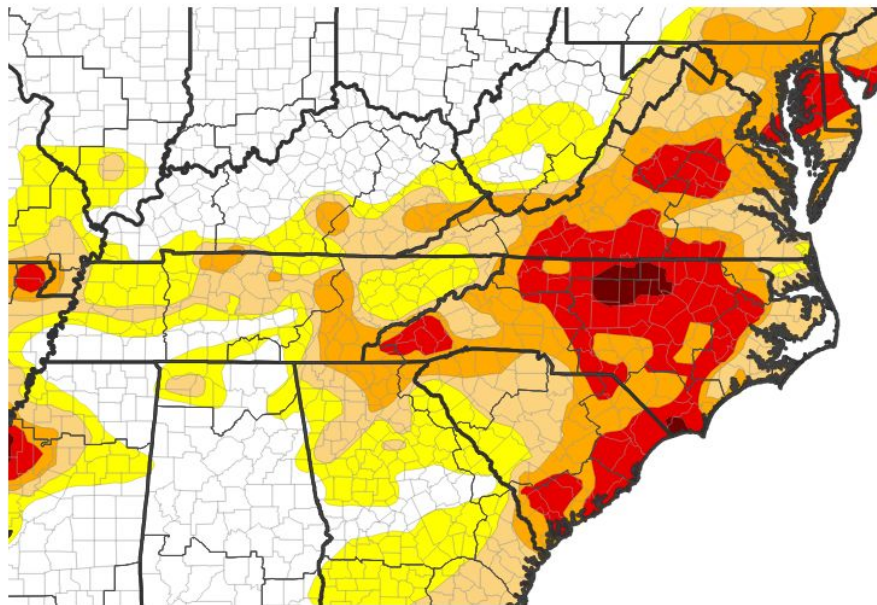
U.S. Drought Monitor

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

Drought intensity and Extent:

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

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



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

Data Valid: 07/07/26



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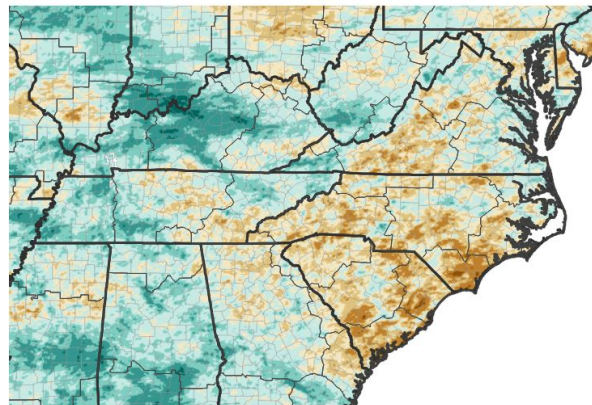
Precipitation - Past 30 Days

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

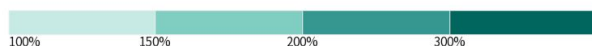
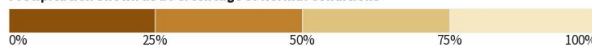
Through Thursday, July 09, 2026, at 8AM:

	Last 30 Days		Last 60 Days	
	Rainfall (inches)	%Normal	Rainfall (inches)	%Normal
Rome (KRMG)	*Potential Data Issues		9.44	127%
Athens (KAHN)	3.55	73%	11.59	138%
Peachtree-DeKalb (KPKD)	4.94	104%	8.31	97%
Fulton County (KFTY)	4.55	106%	9.21	119%
Atlanta (KATL)	4.38	91%	9.13	108%
Peachtree City (KFFC)	2.83	62%	8.80	109%
Macon (KMCN)	4.17	88%	8.54	110%
Columbus (KCSG)	8.88	218%	14.95	201%

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation

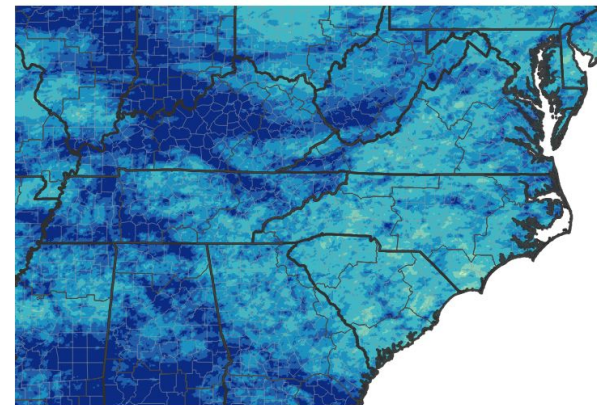


Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

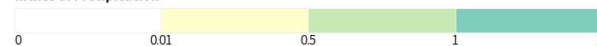


Source(s): National Weather Service Multi-Radar Multi-Sensor System; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 07/09/26

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: 07/09/26

Typical summer-time convection has resulted in patchy rainfall coverage across the area. Most observations sites have seen between 2 to 4 inches of rainfall in the last 30-days and 4 to 6 inches of rainfall in the last 60-days. Most sites are within the 50% - 125% range for rainfall, however outliers now sit as high as 200% and as low as 60% (highlighting the potential for localized drought impacts). The Rome (KRMG) site (30-day accumulation) has been excluded from this update due to irregularly low data values which may be indicative of patchy rain coverage -or- data quality issues. The main area of concern includes the Chattahoochee Basin and areas to the north (including the mountains of North Georgia). Below normal rainfall (<75% of normal) continues area wide, resulting in below normal streamflows, developing water stress, and sensitivity to further dry conditions.

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



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Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

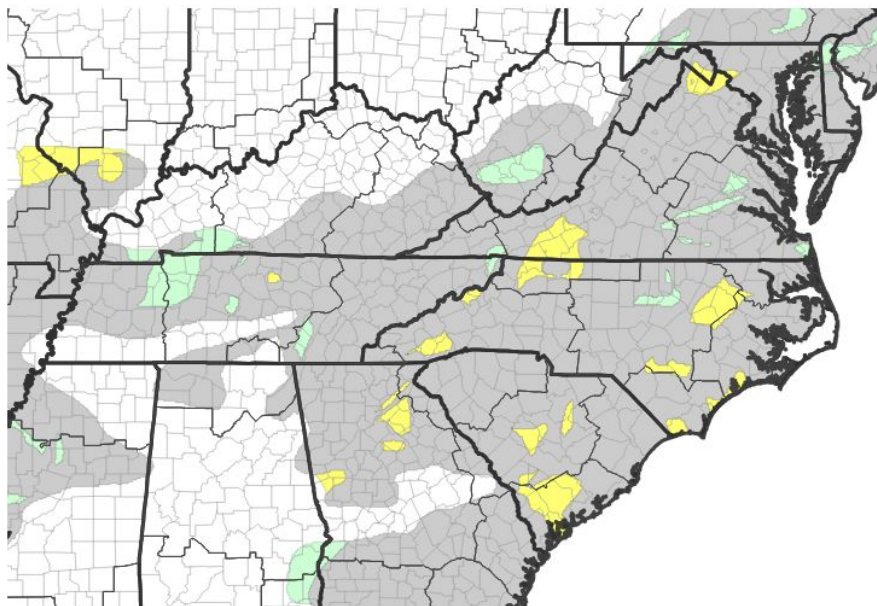
Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change

(image not shown)

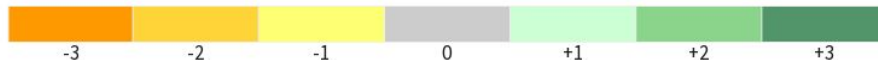
- **Drought Worsened:** Dawson, Forsyth
- **No Change:** Bartow, Catoosa, Chattooga, Cherokee, Floyd, Gordon, Pickens, Polk, Walker
- **Drought Improved:** Baldwin, Banks, Barrow, Bibb, Bleckley, Butts, Carroll, Chattahoochee, Clarke, Clayton, Cobb, Coweta, Crawford, Crisp, Dade, DeKalb, Dodge, Dooley,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

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: 07/07/26



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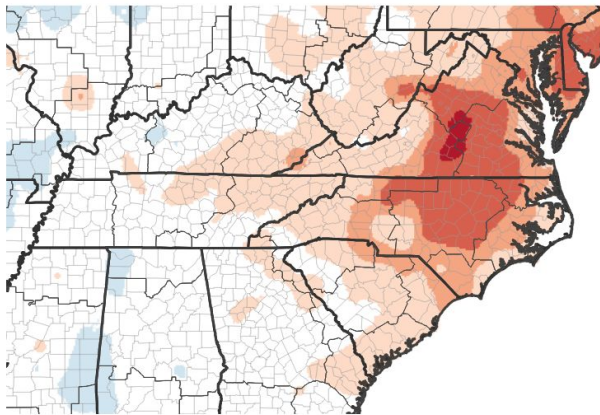


Temperatures - Past 30-, 7-Days

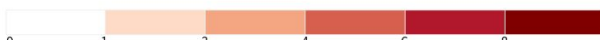
	Last 30 Days (ending Jul 05)	
	Average High (Departure)	Average Low (Departure)
Rome (KRMG)	88.9° (-0.6°)	68.7° (+2.0°)
Athens (KAHN)	89.5° (-0.0°)	70.0° (+2.5°)
Peachtree-DeKalb (KPDK)	88.1° (-0.3°)	69.8° (+1.9°)
Fulton County (KFTY)	88.0° (-0.6°)	69.8° (+2.1°)
Atlanta (KATL)	89.1° (+1.2°)	72.7° (+3.1°)
Peachtree City (KFFC)	87.6° (-0.8°)	69.4° (+3.4°)
Macon (KMCN)	90.4° (-0.9°)	69.6° (+1.0°)
Columbus (KCSG)	90.1° (-0.6°)	72.8° (+1.9°)

**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



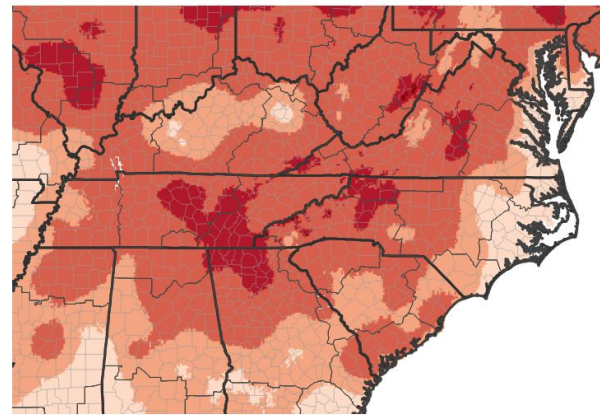
Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)



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

Data Valid: 07/04/26

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: 07/04/26

For the 30-day period ending July 5th, average high temperatures were near to slightly above normal (-0.5 to 1.2 degrees) over most of north and central Georgia (image center, table). The 7-day period ending July 4th saw temperature anomalies of 3 to 8 degrees above normal, highlighting the recent warmer conditions and patchier rain coverage.



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Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows have managed to hold onto their recover with recent patchy rainfall, though the corridor of less rainfall through the North Georgia headwaters has begun to impact river flows. Warming temperatures and continue patchy rain coverage may lead to higher demand on water sources. Summertime evapotranspiration could see a quick return of stress on water supplies and soil moisture. See slide 7 for additional details.

Agricultural Impacts

- Reports of significant agricultural impact have remained low over the last 7 to 30 days.
- The [Crop Progress & Condition](#) charts shows improvement for all indicated crop types. All indicated crops are now within or above -5% of the lowest "Good + Excellent" Percentile from the last 4 years. Recent patchy dry conditions have resulted in a slight degradation in conditions for peanuts, pasture and range. See slide 8 for additional details on soil moistures.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Rainfall and fuel moistures have permitted NWS and fire partners to remain at normal thresholds for NWS fire-related products. Burn bans (summer or otherwise) 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 summer burn bans in place. Refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation or water use restriction information.



CMOR report photo from Jones County, 5/04/2026.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

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

Main Takeaways

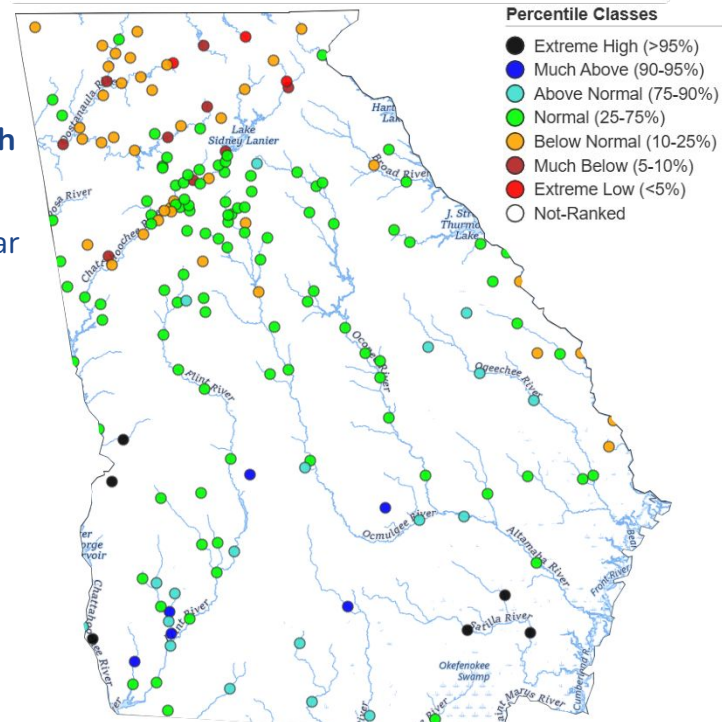
- Recent rainfall has maintained near normal streamflow for most sites south of the Chattahoochee, while limited rainfall north of the Chattahoochee has resulted in streamflows dropping back **Below-to-Much Below Normal**.
- [Lake and Reservoir](#) levels have held fairly stable, with some reservoirs near or above seasonal normals. Northern reservoirs have begun to see pool levels drop and may begin water conservation practices soon. The available [elevation curves](#) for USACE projects in the NWS Peachtree City area show:

	USACE Lakes	
	Current Action Zone	Forecast Action Zone
Carters	Top of Conservation	Zone 1
Lanier	Zone 3	Zone 3
Allatoona	Top of Conservation	Zone 1
West Point	Zone 1	Zone 1

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

USGS Streamflow Anomaly - 28-Day Average

For July 8, 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.



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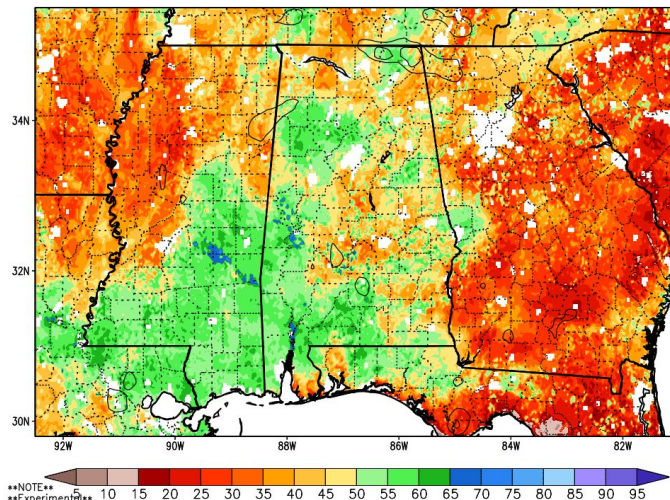


Agricultural Impacts

- 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 25 to 45% of its total capacity, (Though areas near Columbus have reached over 60%)
- Soils have continued to dry relative to conditions 2-weeks ago.

Column-Integrated Relative Soil Moisture (available water; %) valid 12z 09 Jul 2026

Precipitation in previous hour (1,2,5,10,15,20,25 mm contours)



2-Week Difference in Column Relative Soil Moisture (%) valid 12z 09 Jul 2026

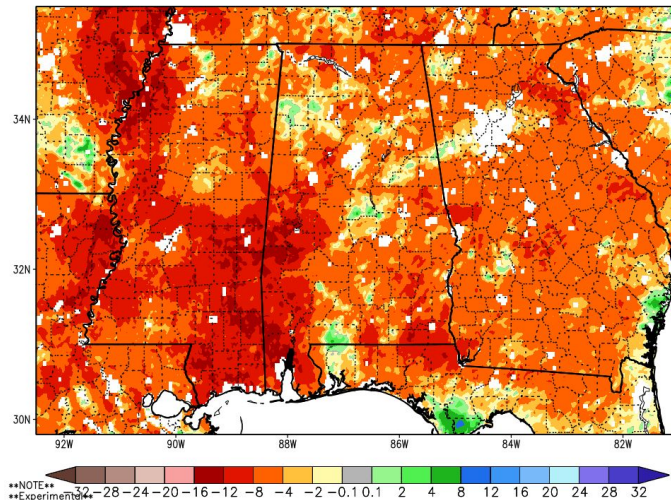


Image Captions:

Left: 0-200cm Relative Soil Moisture from [NASA SPoRT](#). Valid dates listed at top of image.

Right: 0-200 cm Relative Soil Moisture 2-week Change from [NASA SPoRT](#). Valid dates listed at top of image.



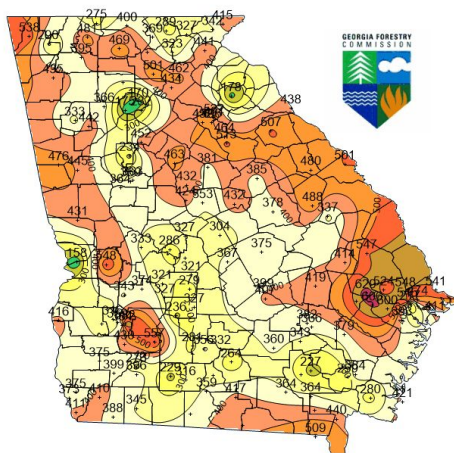


Fire Hazard Impacts

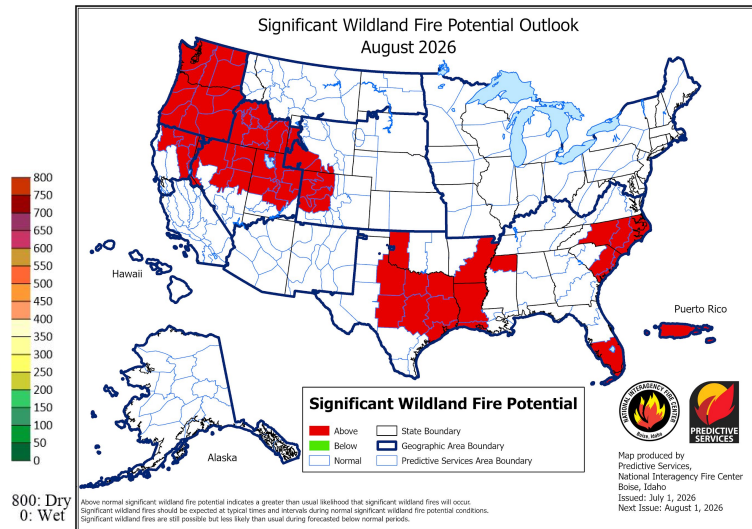
Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

- [Keetch Byram Drought Index values](#) (KDBI) over north and central Georgia have degraded to >250 in most locations, due to recent heat and patchy rainfall. KDBI provides an estimate of dryness of soils and surface fuels)
- At this time, near normal wildland fire potential is expected for southeast portions of Georgia for August, as indicated in the Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook (far right). Further summer dry-spells may see quick development of wildland fire potential.
- The [Wildfire Potential Outlook](#) (table) indicates **Little to No Risk** (level 1 of 4) for all of north and central Georgia through Wednesday.

**Map of KDBI
at July 8, 2026 1300 EST**



Georgia Automated Environmental Monitoring Network provided 75% of the stations in the map.
[Keetch Byram Drought Index](#) for June 25, 2026.



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

Wildfire Potential Outlook

FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
L	L	M	L	L/N	L/N

Legend:

- Little/No Risk (Green)
- Low (Yellow)
- Moderate (Orange)
- High (Red)



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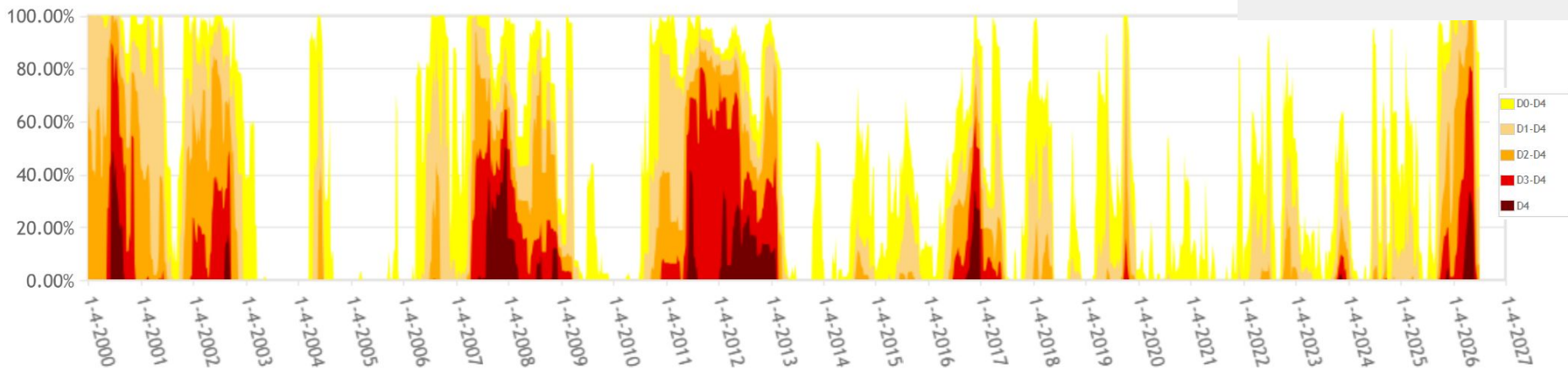


Drought: Historical Context

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:

6.1% of GA
TODAY

Largest D2-D4 coverage in
Georgia*:

100.0% of GA
April 28, 2026

**for this drought period*

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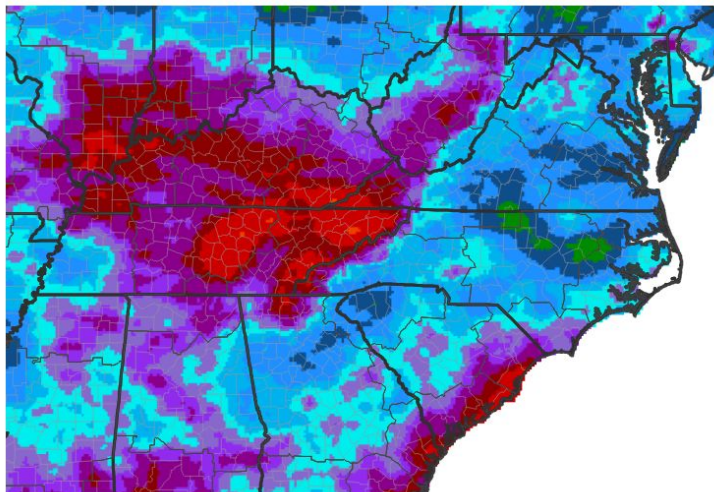


Precipitation Outlook

The 7-day outlook (through July 16th, pictured right):

- Rainfall amounts of <1 inch to >3 inches forecast for the next 7-days.
- Highest forecast amounts located over some of the areas with the greatest need.
- Patchy rainfall coverage may lead to localized degradation.
- The [8-14 day outlook](#) (July 16-22, image far) shows slightly above average precipitation possible.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for July 9, 2026–July 16, 2026



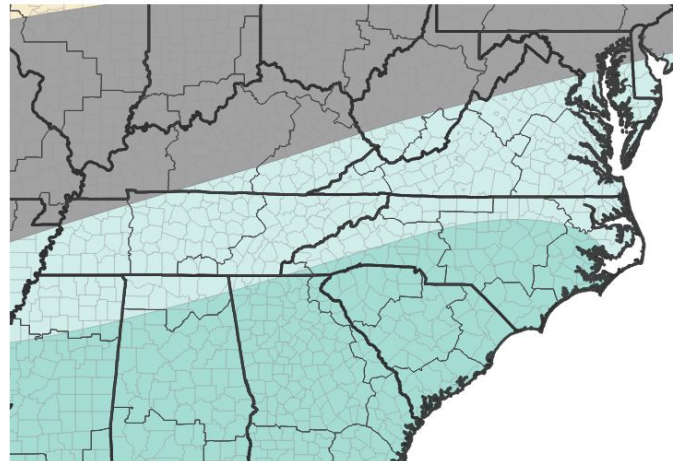
Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 07/09/26

8–14 Day Precipitation Outlook for July 16, 2026–July 22, 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: 07/08/26





Long-Range Outlooks

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

For July through September:

- Near normal precipitation is likely across north and central Georgia (image right).
- Chances lean towards slightly above normal temperatures over Georgia (far right).

Seasonal (3-Month) Precipitation Outlook for July 1, 2026–September 30, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation



Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation



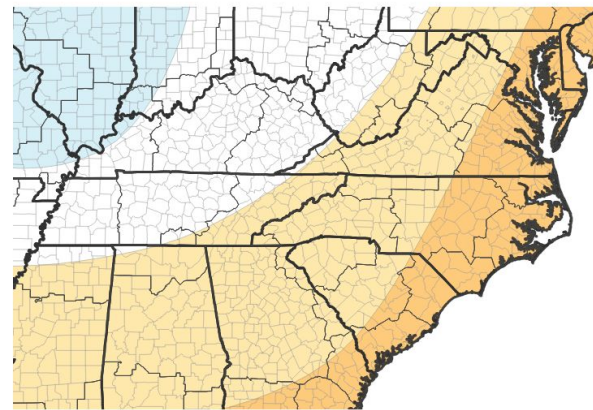
Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation



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

Last Updated: 06/18/26

Seasonal (3-Month) Temperature Outlook for July 1, 2026–September 30, 2026



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures



Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures



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

Last Updated: 06/18/26

	July		August		September	
Average	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain
Rome	80.2°	3.74"	79.5°	3.77"	73.8°	3.42"
Athens Area	81.0°	4.20"	79.8°	4.55"	73.9°	3.89"
Atlanta Area	80.9°	4.75"	80.2°	4.30"	74.9°	3.82"
Peachtree City	80.8°	4.84"	79.8°	3.96"	74.1°	3.52"
Macon Area	82.5°	4.79"	81.4°	4.38"	76.2°	3.66"
Columbus Area	83.2°	4.35"	82.4°	4.68"	77.6°	3.34"



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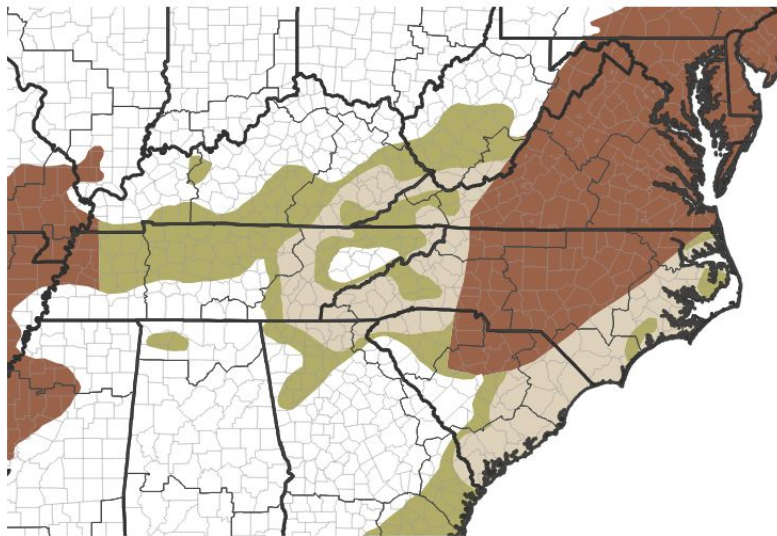


Drought Outlook

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

- Drought is expected to improve or end across much of north Georgia.
- Patchy rainfall conditions may lead to localized drought impacts which may not be representative of the majority of locations.
- 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 June 30, 2026–September 30, 2026



Drought Is Predicted To...



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

Last Updated: 06/30/26

Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



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