Drought Information Statement for North and Central Georgia

Valid August 6, 2026

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

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

- **This is the final Drought Information Statement for the drought period beginning September 2025.**
- 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.

Official Drought Ends in North and Central Georgia

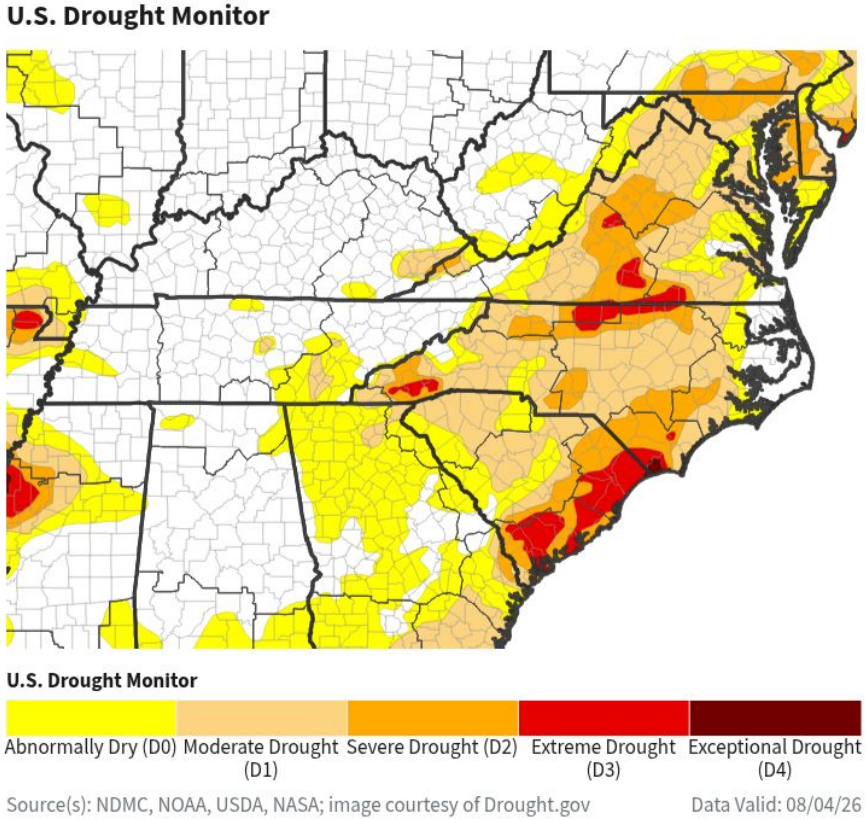
- **Historic Peak:** The drought period began in late September 2025 and reached its peak in April, when it encompassed 100% of Georgia for the first time in the history of the U.S. Drought Monitor.
- **Conditions Officially End:** As of this week, the conditions have dropped below D2 Severe Drought, officially concluding this drought event across north and central Georgia (the NWS Atlanta forecast area).

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



Recent Change in Drought Intensity

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

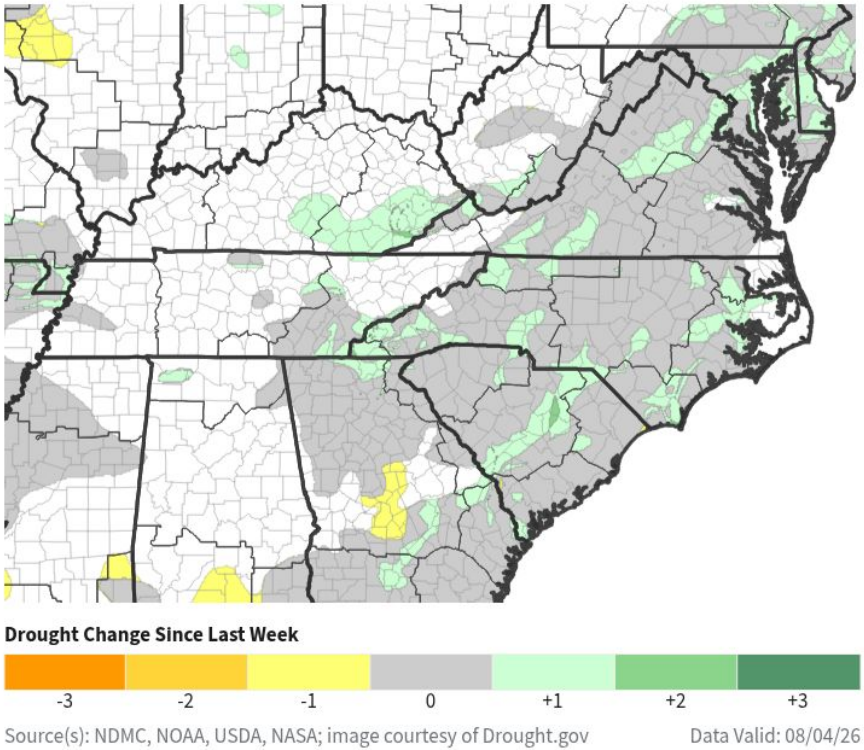
Four Week Drought Monitor Class Change

(image not shown)

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



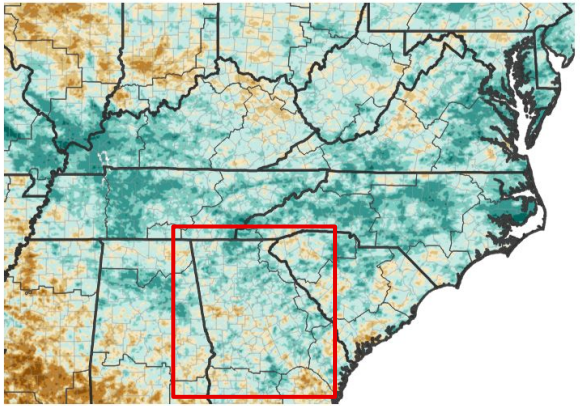
Precipitation - Past 30 Days

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

Through Thursday, July 23, 2026, at 8AM:

	Last 30 Days		Last 60 Days	
	Rainfall (inches)	%Normal	Rainfall (inches)	%Normal
Rome (KRMG)	6.49	184%	9.39	127%
Athens (KAHN)	4.83	119%	8.90	100%
Peachtree-DeKalb (KPDK)	7.38	163%	12.85	138%
Fulton County (KFTY)	3.53	76%	8.56	97%
Atlanta (KATL)	6.30	146%	10.82	119%
Peachtree City (KFFC)	4.89	109%	8.18	91%
Macon (KMCN)	2.84	63%	8.74	95%
Columbus (KCSG)	1.62	37%	11.07	132%

30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



Precipitation Shown as a Percentage of Normal Conditions

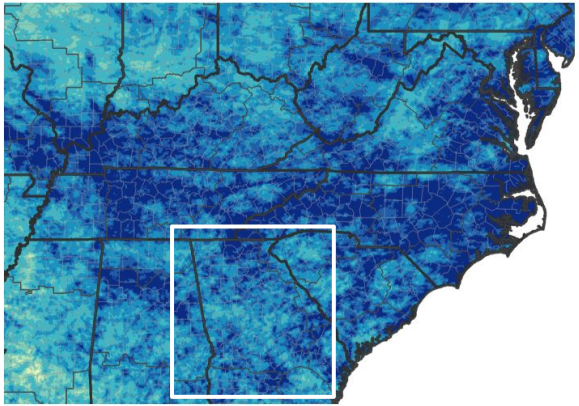
0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

100% 150% 200% 300%

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

Last Updated: 08/06/26

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: 08/06/26

Generous coverage of typical summertime convection has produced above normal rainfall over the area in the last 30 to 60 days. Rainfall amounts of generally 3 to 7.5 inches (65 to 160 percent of normal) were common across the area in the 30-day period, with 8 to 12 inches (90 to 130 percent of normal) occurring over the 60-day period. The wetter conditions have continued to lead to improvements in the drought area-wide, including a drop out of 'official drought' over north and central Georgia as of this week.

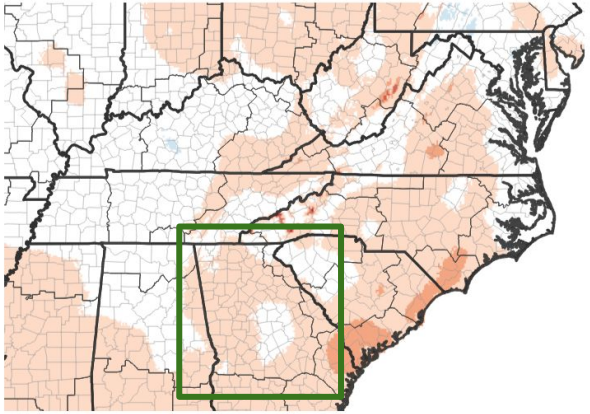
The Additional Rainfall Information product (MISATL) is available online at weather.gov/ffc.

Temperatures - Past 30-, 7-Days

	Last 30 Days (ending Aug 02)	
	Average High (Departure)	Average Low (Departure)
Rome (KRMG)	90.0° (-1.4°)	71.5° (+1.8°)
Athens (KAHN)	91.5° (+0.1°)	72.2° (+1.9°)
Peachtree-DeKalb (KPDK)	89.3° (-0.5°)	71.7° (+1.1°)
Fulton County (KFTY)	89.9° (-0.1°)	71.9° (+1.3°)
Atlanta (KATL)	91.0° (+1.5°)	74.0° (+2.1°)
Peachtree City (KFFC)	89.7° (-0.2°)	71.6° (+2.5°)
Macon (KMCN)	92.4° (-0.6°)	72.3° (+1.0°)
Columbus (KCSG)	93.4° (+1.0°)	75.1° (+1.8°)

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)

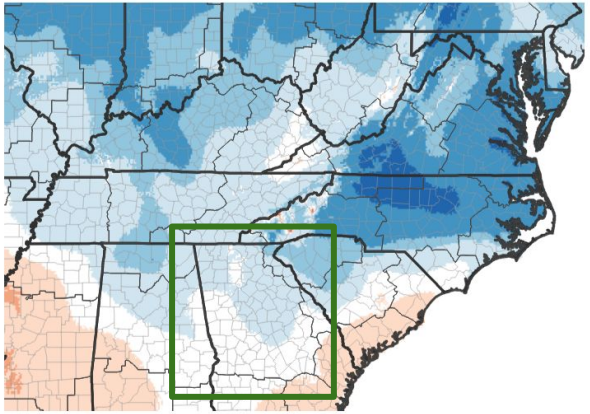
-8 -6 -4 -3 -1 0

0 1 3 4 6 8

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

Data Valid: 07/26/26

7-Day Temperature Anomaly



Departure from Normal Max Temperature (°F)

-8 -6 -4 -3 -1 0

0 1 3 4 6 8

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

Data Valid: 07/26/26

For the 30-day period ending August 2nd, average high temperatures were near to slightly above normal (generally 0.0 to 1.0 degrees) over most of north and central Georgia (image center, table). Average low temperatures during this same period, however, were generally 1.3 to 2.1 degrees above normal. The overall average high temperatures for the 7-days (ending August 2nd) were slightly cooler than normal, ranging from -3 degrees below to 0 above normal, largely due to higher diurnal precipitation coverage and cloudiness.

Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Streamflows have generally stayed within normal to above-normal ranges with steady diurnal precipitation activity, often including heavy downpours and training storms. Away from the river channels, this rainfall has also produced isolated flash flooding in the last 14-days. 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 continued agricultural improvements within the last month. All seasonal crops remain near the 5-year average progress chart and coverage of “Good-to-Excellent” conditions, though on the low end. Crop conditions remain sensitive to further patchy dry conditions. 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 but no drought restrictions. Refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation or water use restriction information.

Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

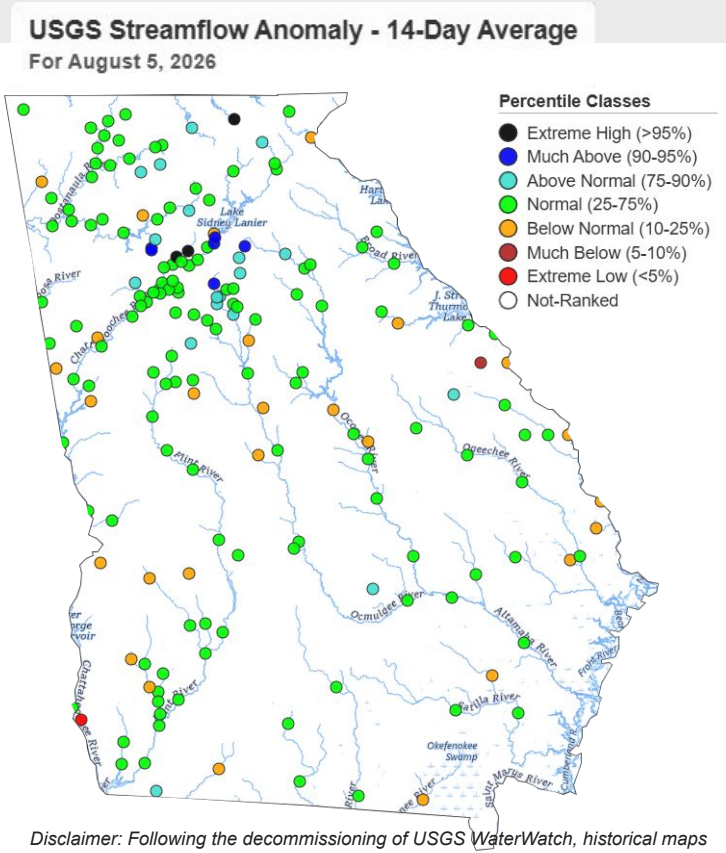
See the USGS 120-day streamflow map here.

Main Takeaways

- The continued high-coverage summertime convection has produced regular rainfall across the state in the last two weeks. The moist environment with heavy rainfall and often training storms have produced sufficient runoff to keep 14-day average streamflows at Normal to Much Above Normal levels, particularly in the Atlanta Metro area.
- Lake and Reservoir levels have largely improved through the summer months with some reservoirs near or above seasonal normals. The available elevation curves for USACE projects in the NWS Atlanta/Peachtree City area show:

	USACE Lakes	
	Current Action Zone	Forecast Action Zone
Carters	Zone 1	Top of Conservation
Lanier	Zone 2	Zone 2
Allatoona	Top of Conservation	Zone 1
West Point	Top of Conservation	Top of Conservation

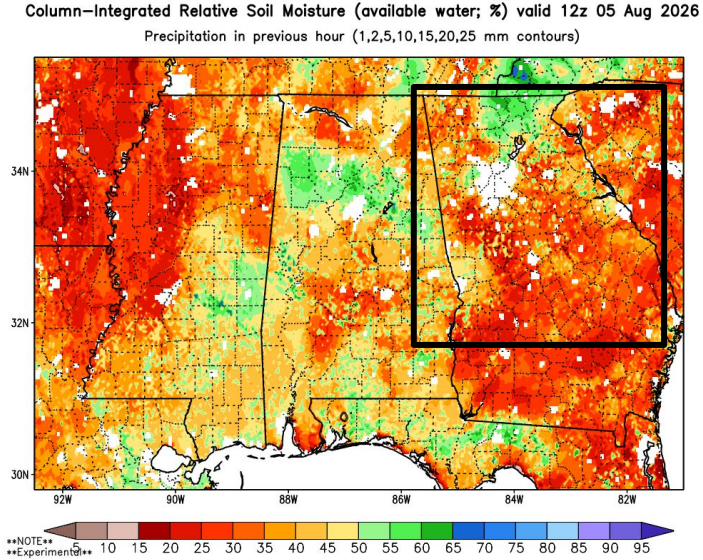
*Action zones used in some charts are defined here.



Disclaimer: Following the decommissioning of USGS WaterWatch, historical maps are no longer available. The above image 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.
- In the last two weeks (far right image), good soil moisture improvement has occurred, particularly in portions of north and northeast Georgia.



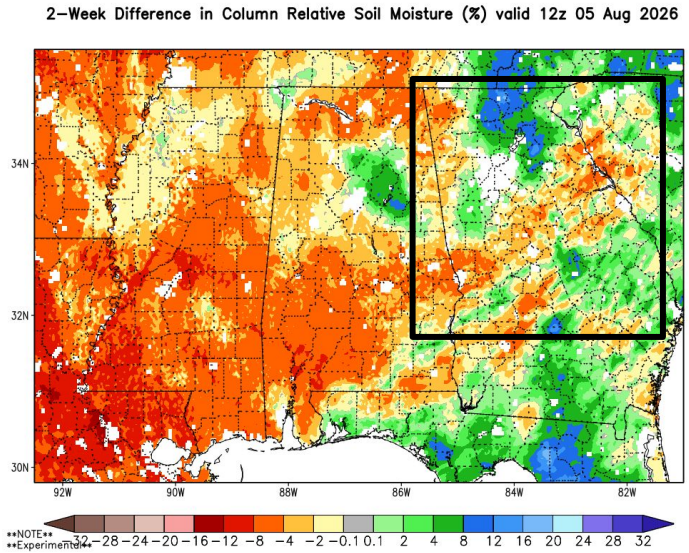
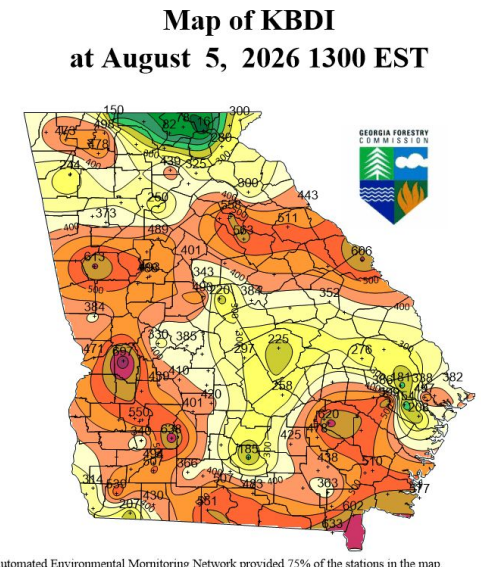


Image Captions:
Left: 0-200cm Relative Soil Moisture from NASA SPoRT. Valid dates listed at top of image.
Right: 0-200 cm Relative Soil Moisture 2-week Change from NASA SPoRT. Valid dates listed at top of image.

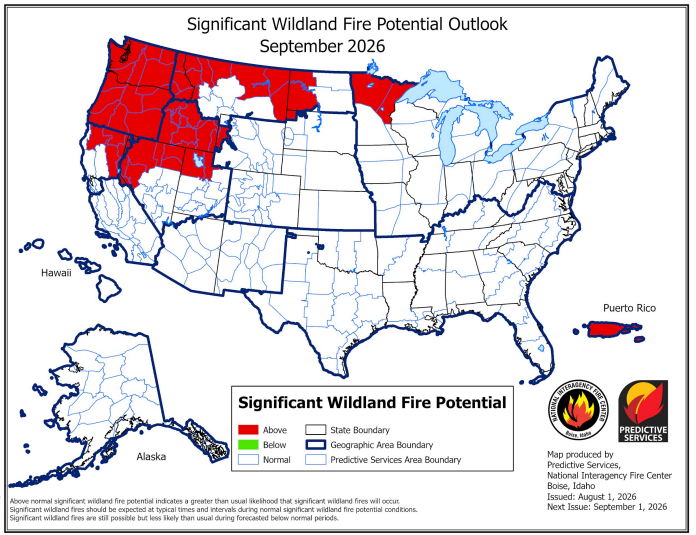
Fire Hazard Impacts

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

- Keetch Byram Drought Index values (KDBI) over north and central Georgia have remained >250 in most locations, indicating some dryness. Succinctly, KBDI measures how dry the ground is to predict forest fire risk.
- At this time, normal wildland fire potential is expected for southeast portions of Georgia for August and September (pictured far right), as indicated in the Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook.
- The Wildfire Potential Outlook (table) indicates **Little/NoRisk** (level 1 of 4) to **Low** (level 2 of 4) for portions of north and central Georgia through Wednesday.



Keetch Byram Drought Index for the date listed at the top of the image.



Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook for the month listed at the top of the image.

Wildfire Potential Outlook

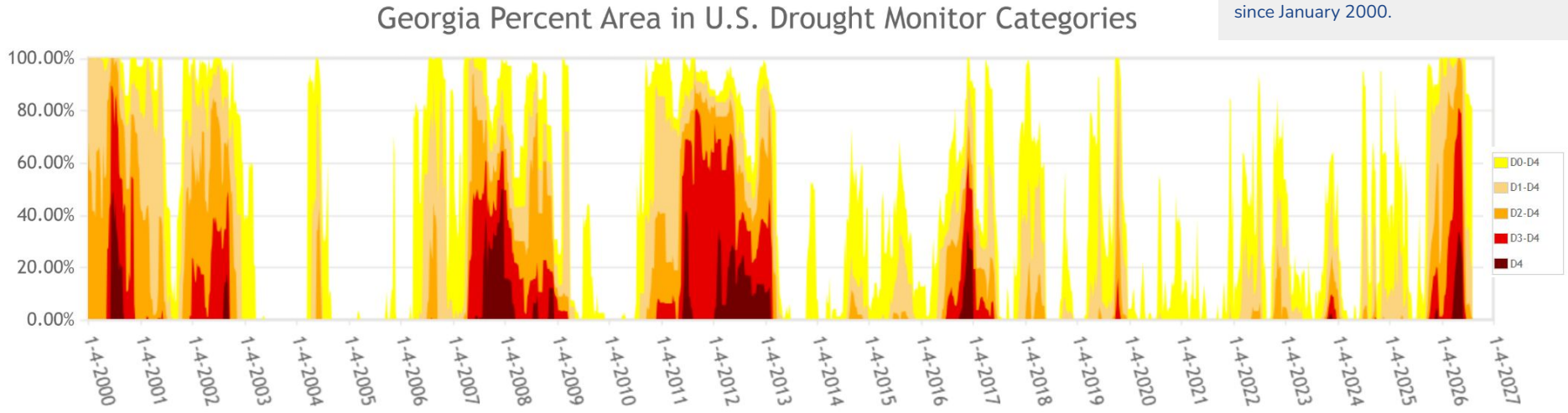
FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE	WED
L	L	L/N	L/N	L/N	L

Little/No Risk
Low
Moderate
High

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 and ending August 2026, *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%)

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

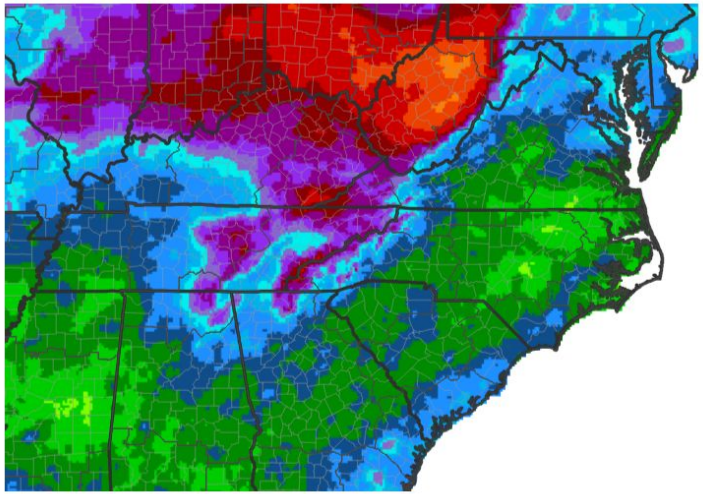
Longest Consecutive Period of Drought for this 2025-2026 Event:
38 weeks
Harris County

Precipitation Outlook

The 7-day outlook (through August 13th, pictured right):

- Rainfall amounts of 0.25 to 3 inches are forecast in the next 7 days..
- Highest forecast amounts (>1.25 inches) are generally over north Georgia.
- The 8-14 day outlook (August 13-19, image far right) shows above average precipitation over far north Georgia and near-normal conditions elsewhere.

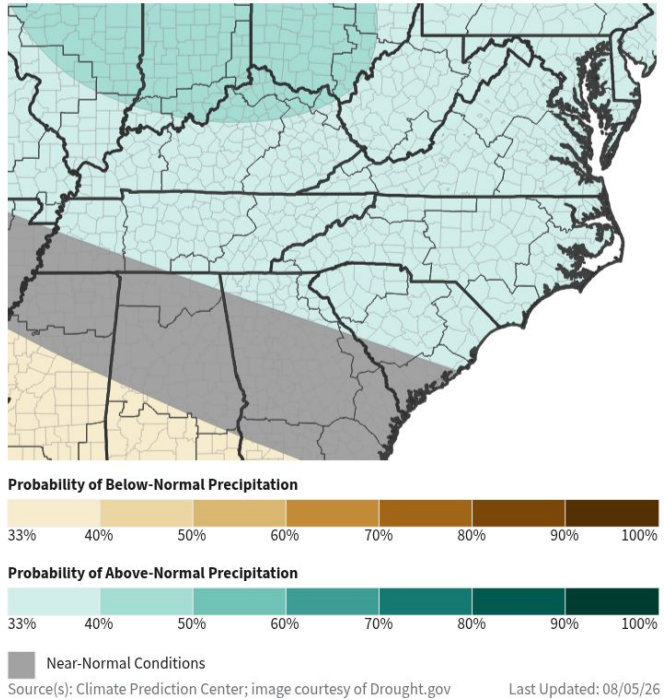
7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast for August 6, 2026–August 13, 2026



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

Last Updated: 08/06/26

8–14 Day Precipitation Outlook for August 13, 2026–August 19, 2026



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

Last Updated: 08/05/26

Long-Range Outlooks

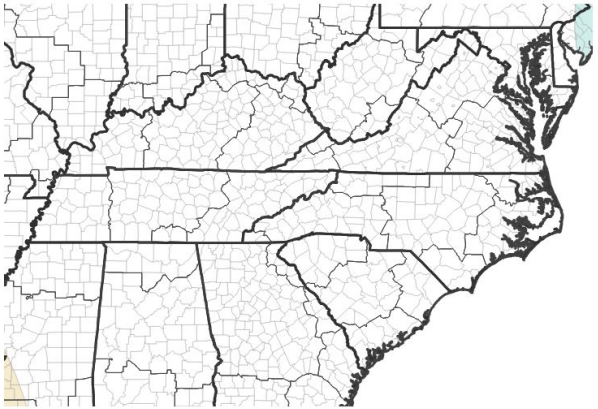
The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

Through September:

- Near normal precipitation is likely across north and central Georgia (image right).
- Above normal temperatures (40-60% chance) are outlook for Georgia (far right).

	August		September		October	
Average	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain	Temp	Rain
Rome	79.5°	3.77"	73.8°	3.42"	62.3°	3.75"
Athens Area	79.8°	4.55"	73.9°	3.89"	63.5°	3.34"
Atlanta Area	80.2°	4.30"	74.9°	3.82"	64.7°	3.28"
Peachtree City	79.8°	3.96"	74.1°	3.52"	63.6°	3.37"
Macon Area	81.4°	4.38"	76.2°	3.66"	66.0°	2.63"
Columbus Area	82.4°	4.68"	77.6°	3.34"	67.6°	2.78"

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



Probability of Below-Normal Precipitation

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

Probability of Above-Normal Precipitation

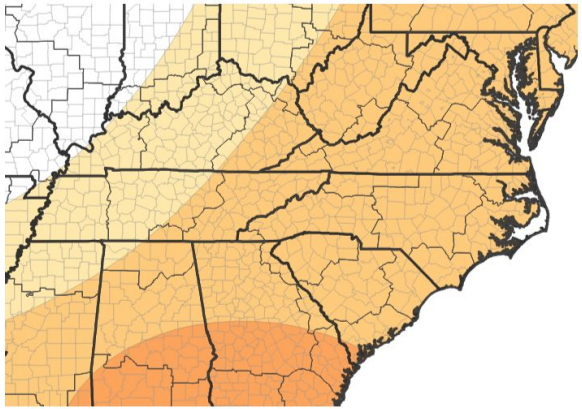
33% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

Probability of Near-Normal Precipitation

33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 06/18/26

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



Probability of Below-Normal Temperatures

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

Probability of Above-Normal Temperatures

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

Probability of Near-Normal Temperatures

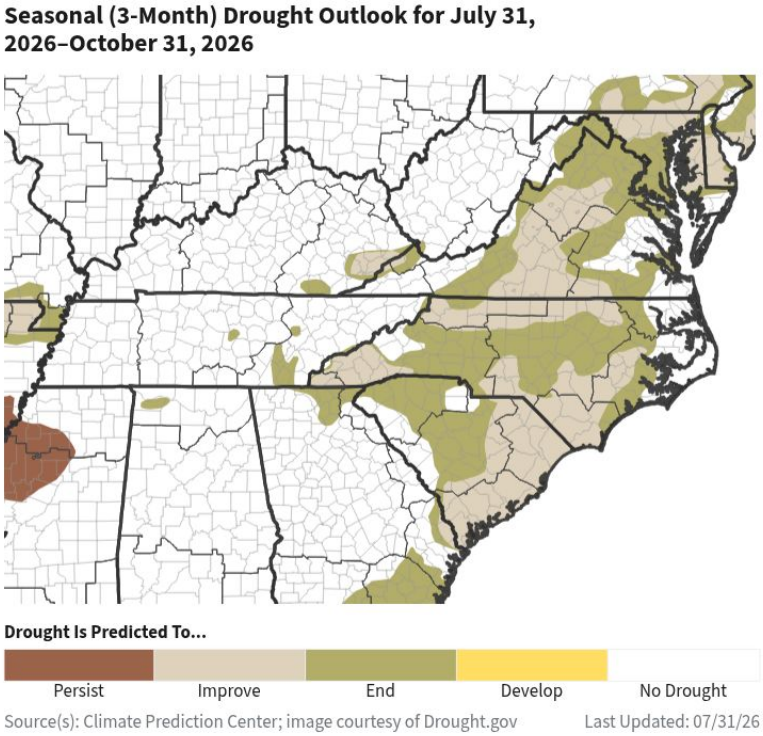
33% 40% 50%

Source(s): Climate Prediction Center; image courtesy of Drought.gov Last Updated: 07/16/26

Drought Outlook

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

- Drought improvements are expected to continue.
- Drought Information Statements for this drought period have now concluded. Statements will not be issued again until at least D2 Severe Drought Conditions return to at least one entire county in north and central Georgia.
- An archive of statements will remain posted at: weather.gov/ffc/DroughtInformationStatement



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