

February 2011 Georgia Climate Summary

Georgia Climate Summary for February 2011

Prepared by Pam Knox, Assistant State Climatologist

Warmer than normal temperatures and average precipitation brought relief to Georgia after the cold in December and January. The warm conditions at the end of the month led to a wave of spring blossoms across most of the state amid concerns for potential damage to peaches and blueberries if a killing frost occurs.

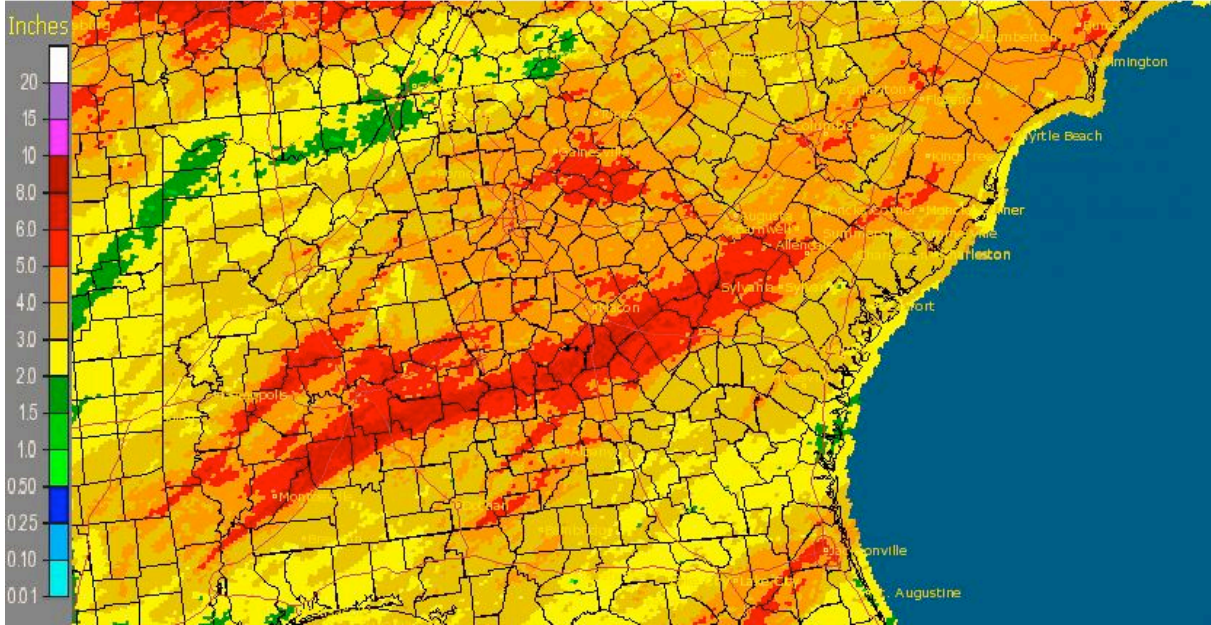
Temperatures across the state were above normal everywhere in Georgia this month. In Atlanta, the monthly average temperature was 50.0 degrees F (3.3 degrees above normal), in Athens 48.6 degrees (2.6 degrees above normal), Columbus 52.9 (2.6 degrees above normal), Macon 51.1 (2.2 above normal), Savannah 55.4 (2.9 above normal), Brunswick 58.0 (3.8 above normal), Alma 55.6 (0.8 above normal), Valdosta 57.2 (3.4 above normal) and Augusta 51.4 (3.0 above normal).

Record daily high temperatures were set at Columbus on February 19, with a new maximum temperature of 80 surpassing the old record of 77 set in 1956, and in Augusta on February 22 and 27, with new high temperatures of 83 and 84, respectively, surpassing the old records of 79 set in 1990 and 82 set in 1977. Brunswick also set a new record high of 82 F on February 21, exceeding the old record of 78 set in 1986. Several stations also tied daily records for the month, including Athens, Columbus, Augusta, and Savannah.

For the winter as a whole, and in spite of the warmer February conditions, many of the NWS airport stations were in their top ten coldest December through February periods ever, including Athens (9th coldest), Macon (6th coldest), Augusta (10th coldest), Alma (7th coldest) and Valdosta (10th coldest).

Precipitation in February was near normal across most of the state. Snowfall of up to almost 3 inches was observed in northern Georgia on February 9-10, although most areas received an inch or less. The wettest part of the state was in a band south of the fall line from Columbus to Augusta and the driest areas were along the central coast and the far northern counties.

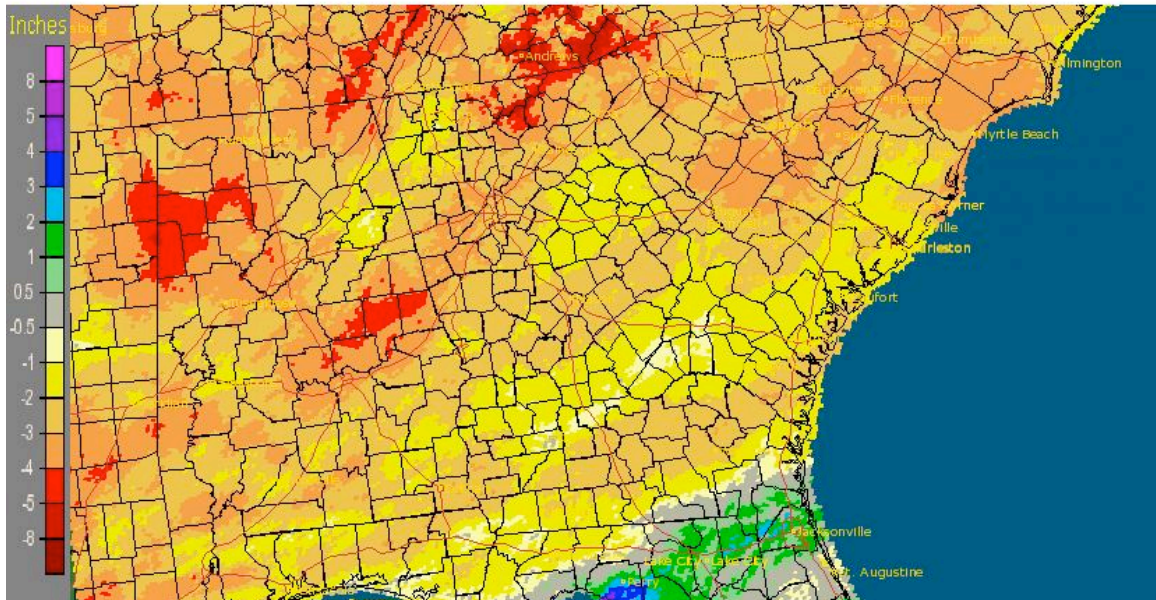
Georgia: February, 2011 Monthly Observed Precipitation
Valid at 3/1/2011 1200 UTC- Created 3/1/11 15:43 UTC



source: www.weather.gov

The highest monthly total precipitation from National Weather Service reporting stations was 4.72 inches in Athens (0.33 inches above normal) and the lowest was in Brunswick at 2.28 inches (1.22 below normal). Valdosta received 4.21 inches (0.34 below normal), Atlanta 4.25 inches (0.43 inches above normal), Alma 3.51 (0.41 below normal), Columbus 4.66 (0.18 above normal), Macon 4.69 (0.14 above normal), Savannah 3.28 (0.36 above normal) and Augusta 4.31 (0.20 inches above normal).

Georgia: January, 2011 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation
Valid at 2/1/2011 1200 UTC- Created 2/1/11 17:50 UTC



Source: www.weather.gov

Columbus reported a new daily rainfall record of 2.09 inches on February 4, breaking the old record of 1.76 inches set in 1959. Macon also reported a new record of 2.54 inches on the same day, breaking the old record of 2.21 inches also set in 1959.

The highest single-day rainfall from CoCoRaHS stations was 3.40 inches west of Macon in Bibb County on February 5. An observer in Danville in Twiggs County observed 2.85 inches on the same day. The highest monthly total precipitation of 6.63 inches was measured by the same Danville observer.

Other high monthly amounts included 6.28 inches measured north of Eastman in Dodge County and 6.09 inches near Swainsboro in Emanuel County. The highest daily snowfall measured by a CoCoRaHS observer was 2.8 inches observed in Crawford in Oglethorpe County, part of a narrow band that stretched from far southeastern Clark County to the middle of Oglethorpe County on February 9-10.

Severe weather was reported on February 1, 24 and 28. A single strong wind report was noted on February 1, while more extensive reports of wind were seen in northern Georgia on the two dates in late February. Hail was observed in a few areas north of Atlanta on the 28th with the passage of a strong cold front through the state, and up to 15,000 customers were without power at the height of the storms.

The cold temperatures over the winter have led to nearly double the number of chill hours needed for peaches and blueberries, according to the Georgia Department of Agriculture. The warmer temperatures in February have made them ready to bloom, and a killing frost could devastate the peach and blueberry crops if it occurs during flowering.

The cold weather has delayed the growth of small grains and pastures. Farmers report increased use of supplemental feed due to the poor pasture conditions.