

May 2010 Climate Summary

Georgia Climate Summary for May 2010

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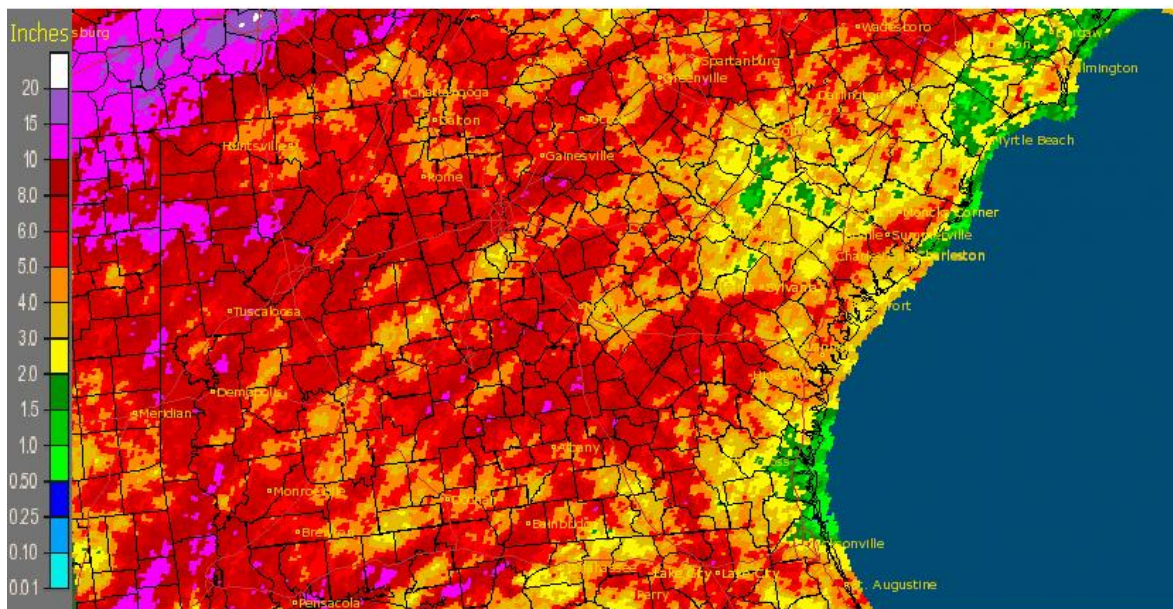
Warm and moist conditions across Georgia in May improved field conditions and hastened planting across the state. The cool winter conditions coupled with the mild spring has led to a bumper crop in peaches this year.

Temperatures across the state were significantly warmer than normal everywhere in Georgia this May. In Atlanta, the monthly average temperature was 73.4 degrees F (3.6 degrees above normal), in Athens 72.5 degrees (3.4 degrees above normal), Columbus 75.2 (2.9 degrees above normal), Macon 74.4 (3.4 above normal), Savannah 75.9 (3.1 above normal), Brunswick 76.7 (3.0 above normal), Alma 75.9 (2.1 above normal), Valdosta 77.7 (5.0 above normal) and Augusta 74.2 (3.7 above normal).

Record high minimum temperatures were set in Savannah and Augusta on May 2. The observation of 72 degrees in Savannah beat the old record of 71 set in 2002, and the 70 degree measurement in Augusta surpassed the old record of 69 set in 1906. Augusta also tied the daily high temperature on May 2 with 94 degrees F.

Most of the state received above normal rainfall; however, a few areas along the southeast coast and near Augusta were below normal.

Georgia: May, 2010 Monthly Observed Precipitation
Valid at 6/1/2010 1200 UTC- Created 6/3/10 21:39 UTC

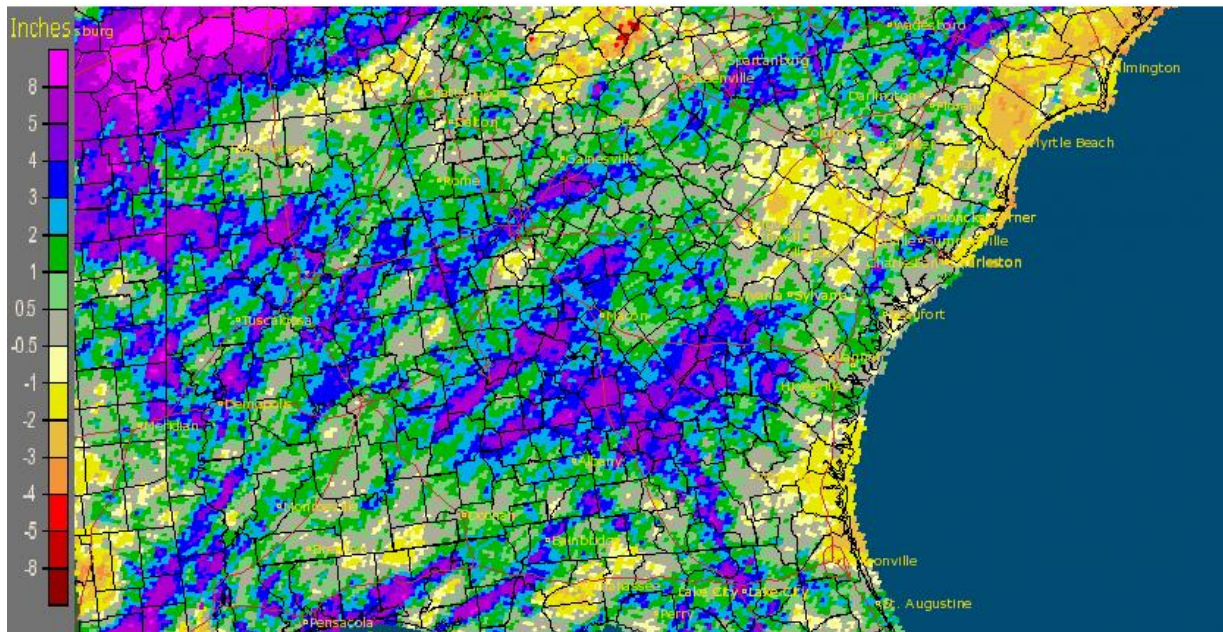


source: www.weather.gov

The highest monthly total from National Weather Service reporting stations was 6.87 inches in Atlanta (2.92 inches above normal) and the lowest was in Augusta at 1.36 inches (1.71 below normal). Valdosta received 4.54 inches (1.30 above normal), Macon 4.31 inches (1.33 inches above normal), Athens 5.89 (2.03 above normal), Brunswick 1.41 (1.28 below normal), Columbus 5.83 (2.21 above normal), Savannah 3.88 (0.27 above normal) and Alma 3.81 (0.71 inches above normal).

Record daily rainfalls were set in May in Atlanta, Athens and Columbus on May 3. Atlanta received 2.81 inches, surpassing the old record of 2.07 set in 1922, Athens received 3.07 inches, exceeding the old record of 1.63 set in 1905, and Columbus received 4.75 inches, surpassing the old record of 4.29 inches set in 1957.

Georgia: May, 2010 Monthly Departure from Normal Precipitation
Valid at 6/1/2010 1200 UTC- Created 6/3/10 21:42 UTC



Source: www.weather.gov

The highest single day rainfall from CoCoRaHS stations was 5.24 inches in Bibb Gap in central Georgia on May 4. An observer in Mableton in Cobb County received 5.03 inches on May 3. The highest monthly rainfall total in May was 11.23 inches from an observer northwest of Ellijay. Several other observers at scattered locations in northern Georgia reported over 9 inches for the month.

There were no tornadoes reported in Georgia in May. However, severe weather hit somewhere in the state on 15 separate days in the month. Numerous reports of hail and high winds were received on May 21, with heavy roof damage to a nursing home observed in Houston County near Bonaire. A 5-minute storm of golfball-sized hail covered the ground in Charleston County at Stephen Foster State Park. On May 28, strong storms delayed flights at Hartsfield-Jackson Airport in Atlanta, caused numerous power outages, and led to the rescue by firefighters of a grandmother trapped by a falling tree inside her house in Atlanta.

Lightning caused damage to the MARTA east-west tracks in Atlanta on May 3 during the heavy rain, leading to delays of several hours as trains were rerouted to alternate tracks.

The first confirmed case of West Nile virus in Georgia for 2010 in May led public health officials to worry that favorable conditions for development of the carrier mosquito could lead to more cases in the peak summer season during July-September.

The Richard B. Russell Scenic Highway (GA 348), one of Georgia's highest roads located near Brasstown Bald in northern Georgia, reopened on May 21 after being closed for over two months. The road received severe damage due to the harsh winter conditions at the highway's high elevation. It was feared in March that the road might be closed for several months.

During May, the wetter conditions improved soil moisture levels through the month. Planting in most areas proceeded rapidly. Peach farmers reported that the cold winter, coupled with the mild spring, has led to a bumper crop in peaches across the state. The last time this happened was six years ago in 2004.