September 2010 Climate Summary

Georgia Climate Summary for September 2010
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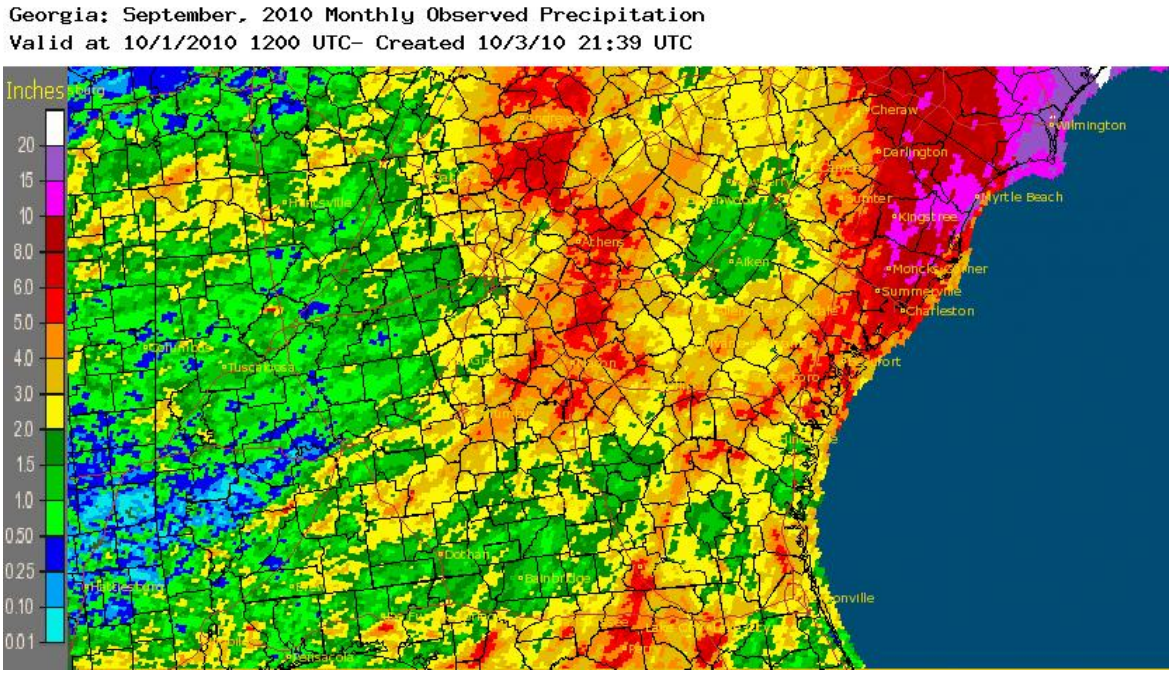
September in Georgia this year was hot and dry, with many locations setting daily high temperature records. Several airport stations set records for the hottest 6-month April through September period on record.
Rainfall across the state was very spotty and dry for most of the month, but heavy rainfalls punctuated the dry spells, leading to difficult conditions for harvesting. Severe drought returned to southeastern Georgia, which missed most of the heavy rainfall.

Temperatures across the state were warmer than normal everywhere in Georgia this September, continuing the heat we felt in summer. In Atlanta, the monthly average temperature was 78.0 degrees F (4.7 degrees above normal), in Athens 75.8 degrees (3.2 degrees above normal), Columbus 80.7 (4.5 degrees above normal), Macon 77.4 (2.9 above normal), Savannah 79.4 (2.5 above normal), Brunswick 80.7 (2.6 above normal), Alma 78.9 (1.6 above normal), Valdosta 80.0 (3.3 above normal) and Augusta 76.7 (2.9 above normal).

Sweltering daytime high temperatures set many new daily high temperature records this month. Atlanta had record highs on the 11th (96 F, breaking the old record of 95 F from 2002) and 25th (93 F, breaking the old record of 92 F from 1993). Columbus broke daily record highs on 11th (99 F), 12th (98 F) 18th (98 F), 19th (97 F), 20th (98 F) and 21st (98 F), breaking records from the 1990's and 2002 by 1 to 3 degrees. Brunswick also broke high temperature records on the 9th (98 F), 10th (97 F), 11th (98 F) and 20th (97 F). Many other record high temperatures were tied at stations across the state this month..

Several airport locations recorded their warmest April through September ever, including Savannah, Athens, and Columbus. Columbus had its warmest and Atlanta its second warmest September ever due to the very warm daytime temperatures. Atlanta reported the second highest number of days above 90 degrees after the hot summer of 1980, passing the old second-place record of 84 days set in 1954.

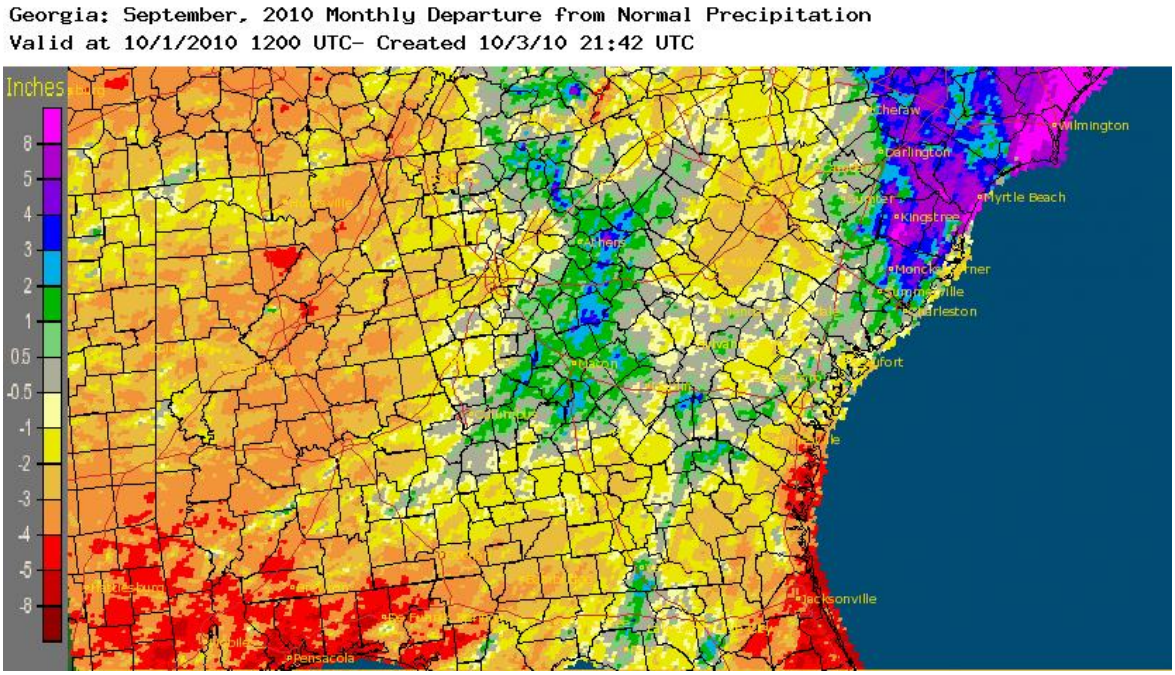
Rainfall across the state varied in space and time. Many areas experienced protracted dry spells punctuated by a few heavy rainfalls. Generally the central part of the state was the wettest with above average rainfall while the border regions were well below normal, particularly the southeastern coast.



source: www.weather.gov

The highest monthly total from National Weather Service reporting stations was 7.32 inches in Valdosta (3.52 inches above normal) and the lowest was in Brunswick at 1.47 inches (4.77 below normal). Athens received 5.35 inches (1.82 above normal), Alma 3.31 inches (0.03 inches below normal), Atlanta 1.60 (2.49 below normal), Columbus 3.17 (0.10 above normal), Macon 5.45 (1.82 above normal), Savannah 3.01 (2.07 below normal) and Augusta 1.89 (1.70 inches below normal).

A record daily rainfall was set in Columbus, where 1.85 inches fell on the 26th, breaking the old record of 1.55 inches set in 1953.



Source: www.weather.gov

The highest single day rainfall from CoCoRaHS stations was 6.33 inches at Lexington in Oglethorpe County on September 27. An observer near Butler in Taylor County also received 6.07 inches on that date. The highest monthly rainfall total in September was 9.57 inches also at the Lexington site, followed by 9.06 inches near Carlton in Oglethorpe County and 9.04 inches at Lula Park in Lowndes County.

Scattered wind damage hit somewhere in Georgia on three days during the month. Moderate sized hail was reported at several locations in northern Georgia on September 27, including golf-ball-sized hail in Fulton County near Sandy Springs. This was associated with unstable air caused by an upper-level low-pressure center that also caused the significant rain in north-central Georgia listed above. No tornadoes were reported in September in Georgia.

The dry conditions across the state affected the development of peanuts across Georgia in non-irrigated fields, leading producers to harvest early even with under-filled pods. Pasture was severely affected by the lack of rain and several producers indicated they were feeding hay much earlier than usual in the driest areas.