

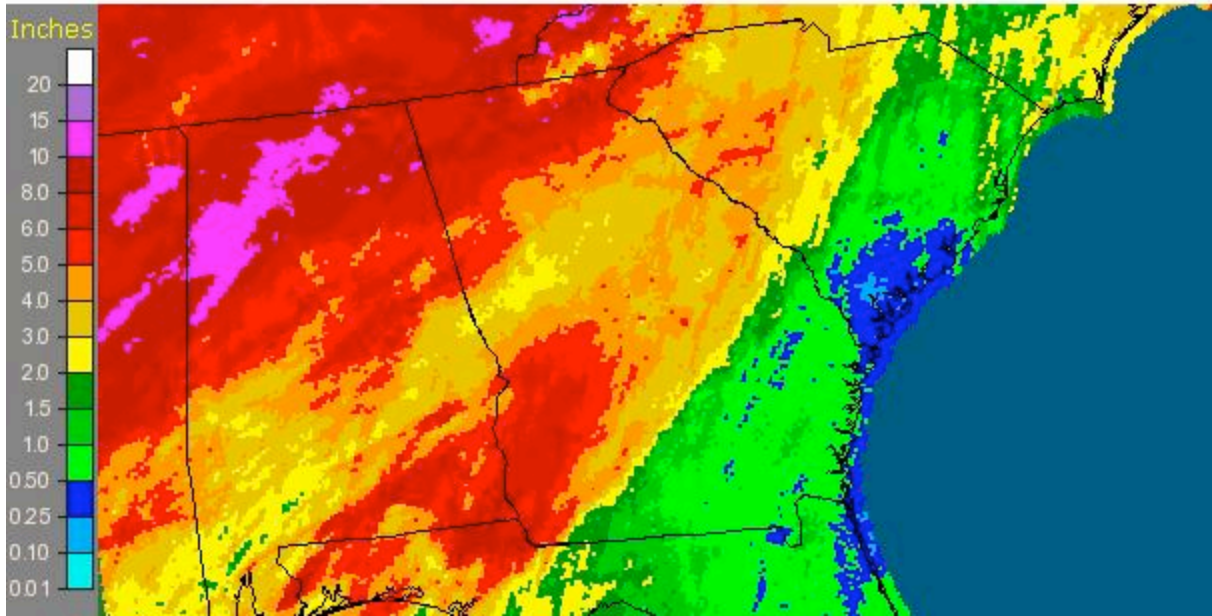
December 2008 Climate Summary

Georgia Climate Summary for December 2008
Prepared by Pam Knox, Assistant State Climatologist

Georgia's weather in December was warmer and wetter than normal across most of the state. Temperatures ranged from 2.8 degrees above normal in Alma to 7.4 degrees above normal in Augusta, and several record high temperatures as well as some high minimum temperatures were set during the month. Notably, record high temperatures were set or tied at Atlanta, Athens, Columbus, Macon, Augusta, Alma and Brunswick on the 18th, with temperatures reaching 82 in Augusta. High temperature records were also set on Christmas Day in the southeast corner of the state, including a high of 81 degrees in Alma. High minimum temperatures were reported in Atlanta and Athens on the morning of December 17 and 18, with minimum temperatures in the low 60's. These warm temperatures were associated with the presence of two strong low pressure areas across the central United States bringing warm air up from the Gulf of Mexico across Georgia in the southerly winds ahead of the cold fronts.

Precipitation varied widely across the state in December. Extreme drought continued to plague northeast Georgia and milder drought extended across the northern regions at the beginning of the month, but by the end of December drought conditions in the northeast were restricted to a small area of extreme drought with more moderate conditions across the rest of north Georgia. Rainfall totals in the southeastern portion of the state within 100 miles of the coast were less than an inch, well below average for the month. In contrast, southwest Georgia and northern Georgia received heavy rain. The highest single day value of 8.75 inches was reported at Blakely on December 10-11, with several other observers in the southwest reporting 8 inches or more. On this day a low pressure center developed along the front and traversed the area, bringing heavy rain across the northwestern two thirds of Georgia and accounting for the majority of December rainfall.

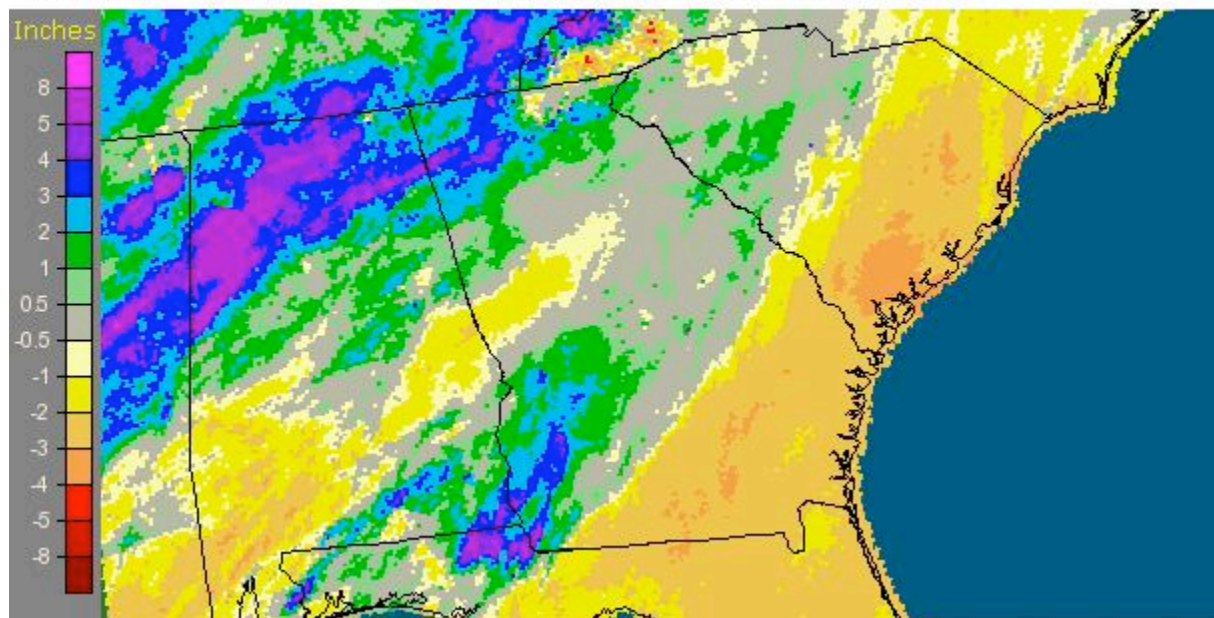
Georgia: December, 2008 Monthly Observed Precipitation
Valid at 1/1/2009 1200 UTC- Created 1/1/09 23:44 UTC



source: www.weather.gov

For the month, Atlanta reported 4.39 inches of precipitation, 0.50 inches above normal. Of that, 2.35 inches fell on the 10th-11th. Athens reported 3.66 inches, 0.05 inches below normal, and 2.06 of that fell on the 10th-11th. Macon reported 5.33 inches, 1.40 inches above normal, and 4.75 of that fell within a 24 hour period from the 10th to the 11th. By contrast, Savannah received 0.56 inches for the whole month, 2.25 inches below normal, and Alma received 0.39 inches, 3.28 inches below normal.

Georgia: December, 2008 Monthly Departure from Normal
Precipitation
Valid at 1/1/2009 1200 UTC- Created 1/1/09 23:47 UTC



source: www.weather.gov

Due to wet conditions in the southwest and northwest regions, fieldwork such as late harvesting of cotton and planting of winter wheat was postponed or abandoned in some areas of the state. Other farmers reported generally improved conditions due to the rain and good conditions for small grains and other crops.

This report was based on National Weather Service information from state summaries and individual station reports as well as newsletters from the Department of Agriculture. Additional information from coop observers is still being received and will be available from the State Climatology Office in the future.

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