



Drought Information Statement for North and Central Georgia

Valid January 11, 2024

Issued By: NWS Atlanta / Peachtree City, GA

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

- This product will be updated on January 25, 2024 or sooner if conditions change significantly.
- Please see all currently available products at <https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements>.
- Please visit <https://www.weather.gov/ffc/DroughtInformationStatement> for previous statements.



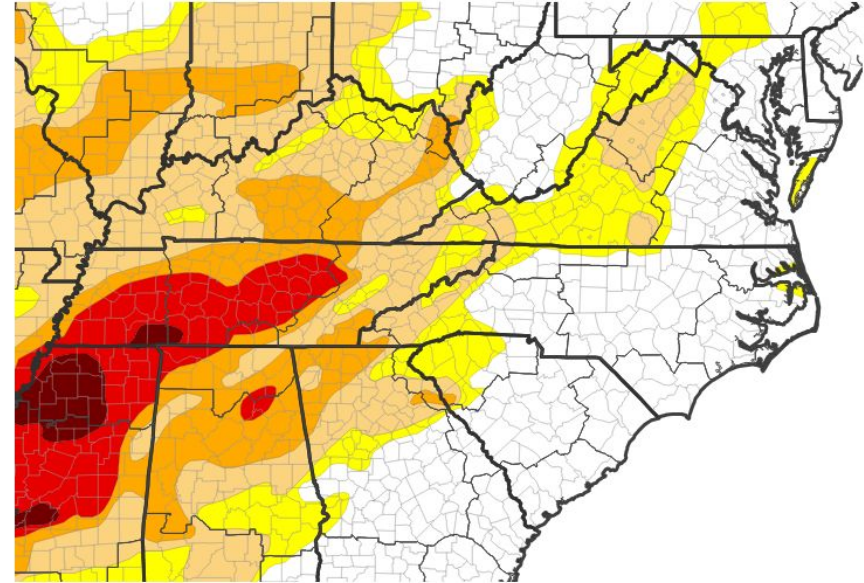


U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the [latest U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for Georgia

- Recent rainfall yielded significant improvements in the short-term drought in Georgia.
- Drought intensity and extent for north and central GA Counties listed under most significant drought category.
 - D4 (Exceptional Drought):** None
 - D3 (Extreme Drought):** None
 - D2 (Severe Drought):** Dade, Walker, Catoosa, Whitfield, Murray, Fannin, Gilmer, Union, Towns, Chattooga, Floyd, Gordon, Pickens, Dawson, Bartow, Cherokee, Polk, Haralson, Carroll, and Madison counties
 - D1 (Moderate Drought):** Lumpkin, White, Forsyth, Hall, Banks, Paulding, Cobb, North Fulton, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Barrow, Jackson, Rockdale, Walton, Oconee, Clarke, Oglethorpe, Wilkes, Heard, Coweta, Henry, Newton, and Morgan counties
 - D0: (Abnormally Dry):** Fayette, Clayton, Spalding, Butts, Jasper, Greene, Meriwether, Pike, Lamar, Harris, Talbot, Muscogee, Chattahoochee, Marion, and Stewart counties

U.S. Drought Monitor



U.S. Drought Monitor



D2 Severe Drought covered 13.24 % of the NWS Atlanta area on January 9 – an improvement from 19.34% coverage on January 2.



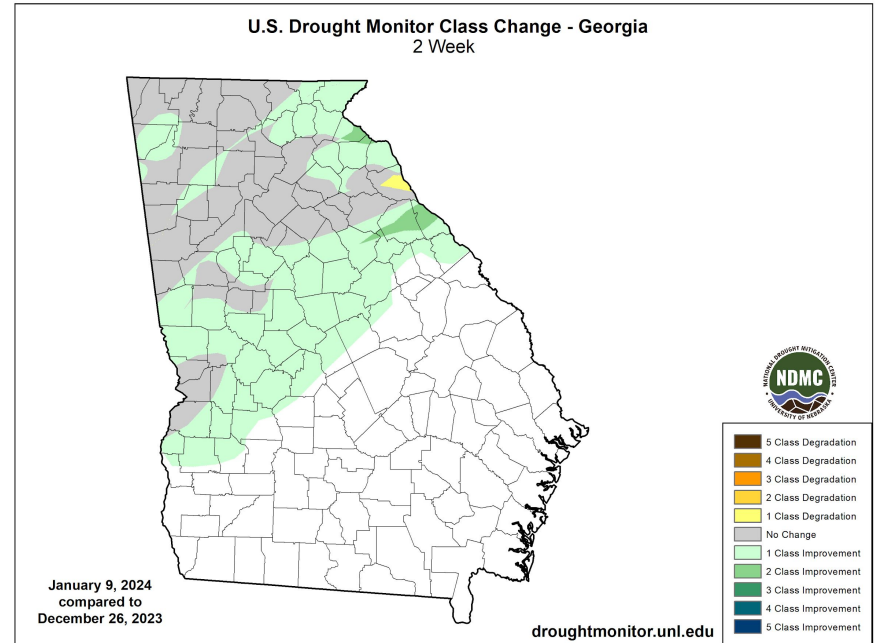


Recent Change in Drought Intensity

Link to the latest [2-week change map](#) for Georgia

Two-Week Drought Monitor Class Change for North and Central Georgia

- **Drought Worsened**
 - No counties in north and central Georgia saw a degradation of conditions
- **Drought Improved** or Remained Steady
 - Along and north of a line from Americus, to Irwinton, to Augusta, drought conditions largely improved by one category.



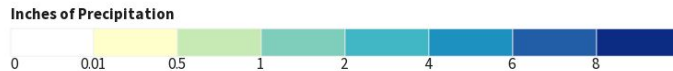
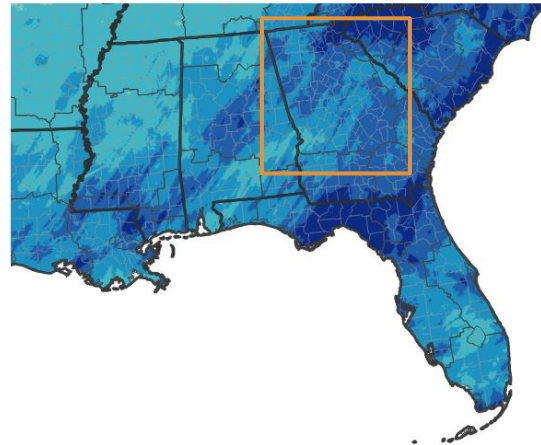


Precipitation - Past 30 Days

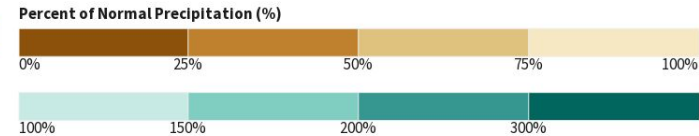
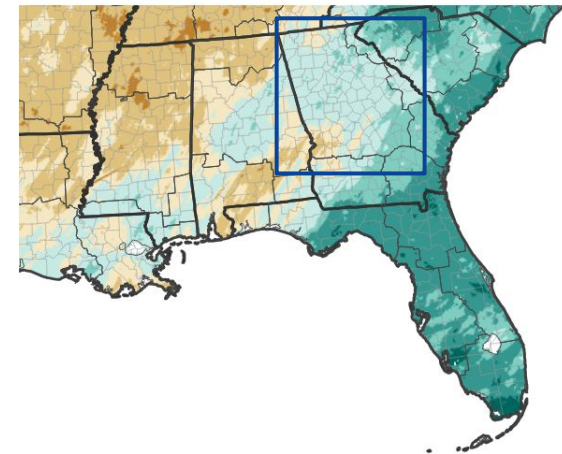
Over the last 30 days, rainfall over north and central Georgia generally ranged from 3 to 12 inches.

- Far northeast Georgia received the highest amounts, with accumulations of 9 to 12 inches, or 100 to 200 percent of normal.
- In the greater Columbus area, accumulations only amounted to 2.5 to 5 inches, or 67 to 100 percent of normal.
- Elsewhere, amounts of 5 to 8 inches were common, or 100 to 150 percent of normal.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



30-day rainfall totals (compared to normal):

- Rome (RMG): 6.34" (131%)
- Atlanta (ATL): 6.07" (136%)
- Gainesville (GVL): 8.84" (180%)
- Athens (AHN): 8.84" (198%)
- Peachtree-DeKalb (PDK): 5.85" (129%)
- Peachtree City (FFC): 6.11" (133%)
- Columbus (CSG): 4.16" (90%)

Image Captions:

Left - Precipitation Amount for Georgia

Right - Percent of Normal Precipitation for Georgia

Data Courtesy High Plains Regional Climate Center.

Data over the past 30 days ending December 28, 2023





Summary of Impacts

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

Hydrologic Impacts

- Overall, 7-day streamflow averages are normal to much above normal over the area – a significant change from the last report. Heavy rainfall over Georgia has produced widespread Minor Flooding on area riverine systems, with ongoing flooding still occurring today. See next slide for more details.

Agricultural Impacts

- Please see the latest [Georgia Crop Progress and Condition Report](#)
- Good rainfall amounts continue to keep soil moisture high, abating drought conditions. At last update, farmers were still supplementing livestock to ration hay supplies into spring. Some winter wheat planting was successful with December rainfall, as well as other crop progress.

Fire Hazard Impacts

- Wildfire activity has subsided significantly, with no elevated threats at this time. See slide 9 for more details.

Other Impacts

- There are no known impacts at this time

Mitigation Actions

- Please refer to your municipality and/or water provider for mitigation information.





Hydrologic Conditions and Impacts

Main Takeaways

- In the last week, rainfall over north and central Georgia ranged from 2 to 7 inches, largely from a single rain event on January 9. This rainfall drastically impacted the streamflows, as evident in the 7-day average streamflow image (right). The upper Savannah, Chattahoochee, Flint, Ocmulgee and Oconee are all at *Much Above Normal*, and the Tallapoosa, Coosa, and Tennessee River basins all *Above Normal*.
- Normal conditions persist elsewhere in the state.
- Lake and Reservoir levels have improved, with many reservoirs near or above seasonal targets. The pool elevation at Lake Lanier rose has risen nearly 3 feet since Tuesday.

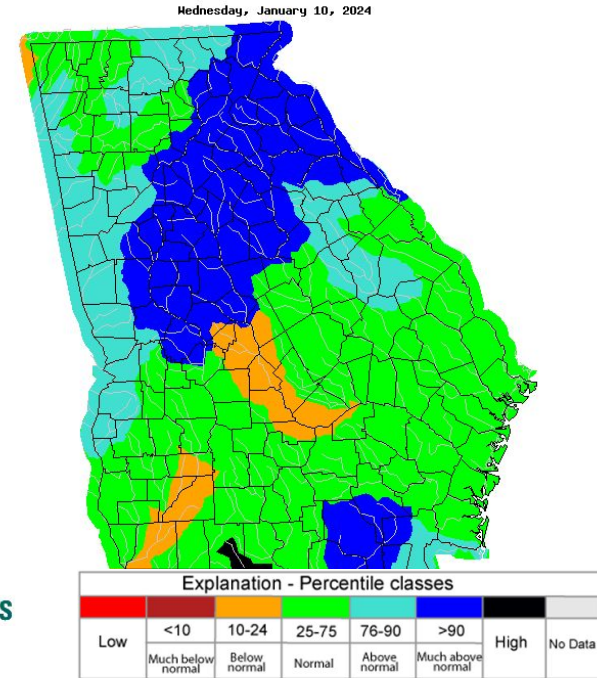
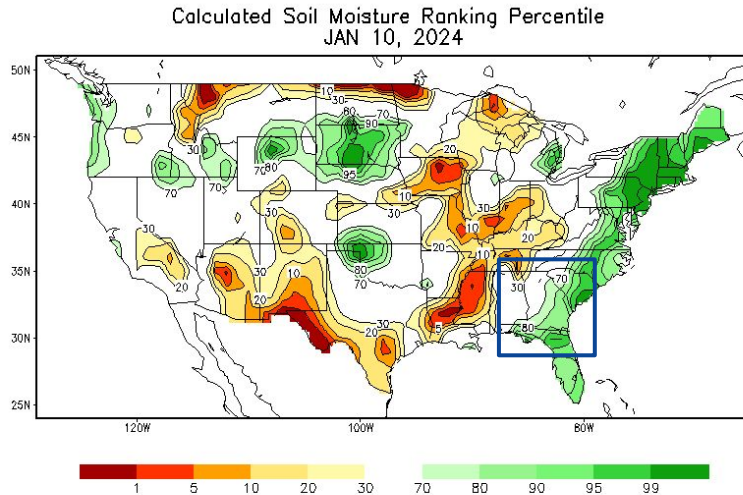


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid January 10, 2024.



Agricultural Impacts

- The Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile (below) shows generally above normal conditions as of January 10, 2024.
- Of the nine crop divisions (right), all but two are *Abnormally Wet* to *Wet*.



Crop Moisture Index by Division
Weekly Value for Period Ending JAN 6, 2024
Short Term Need vs. Available Water in a Shallow Soil Profile

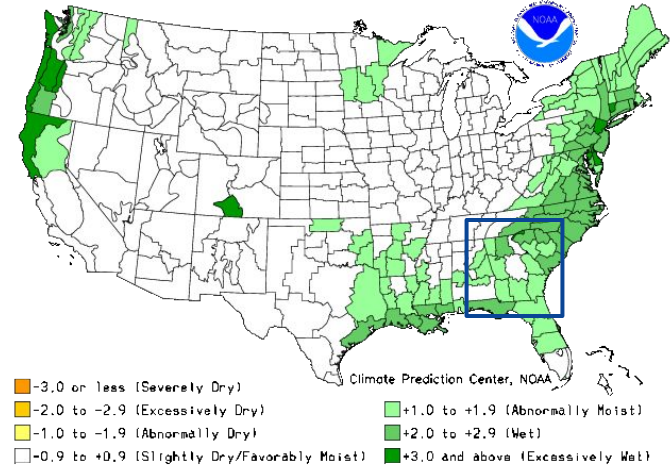


Image Captions:

Left: CPC Calculated [Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile](#) (data 1932-2000) valid January 10, 2024.

Above: [Crop Moisture Index by Division](#). Weekly value for period ending January 6, 2024.





Fire Hazard Impacts

Link to [Wildfire Potential Outlooks from the National Interagency Coordination Center](#).

- [Keetch Byram Drought Index values](#) have dropped below 300 statewide.
- The Significant Wildland Fire Potential Outlook for Georgia is normal for January (far right).
- Drought-related burn bans have all been lifted with improving drought conditions.

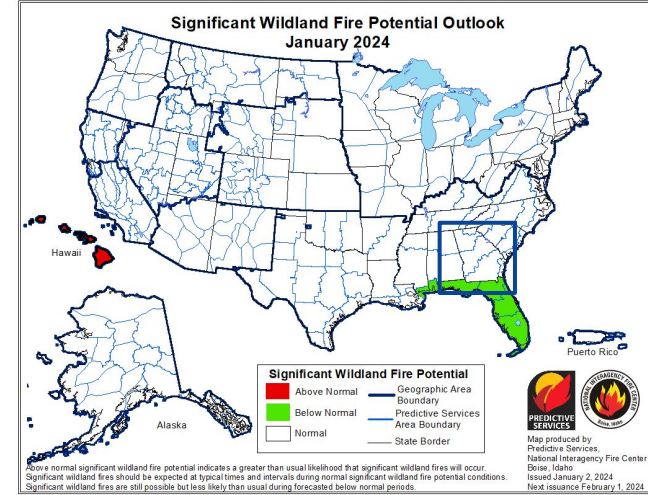
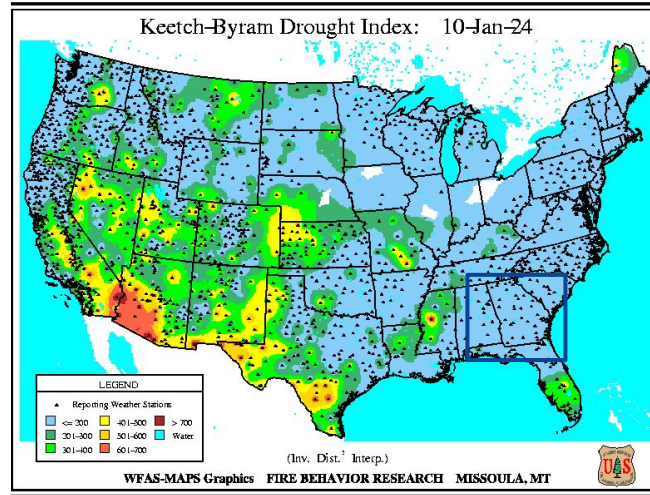


Image Captions:

Above: [Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook](#) for January 2024

Left: [Keetch Byram Drought Index](#) for January 10, 2024



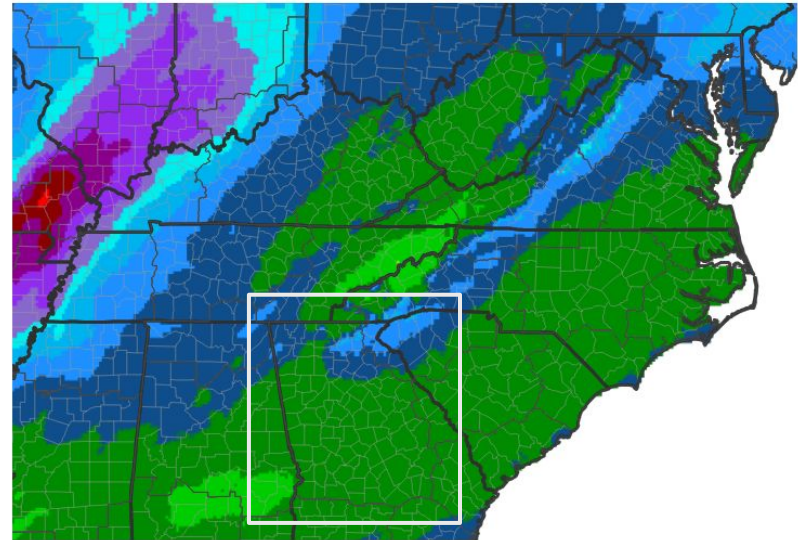


Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

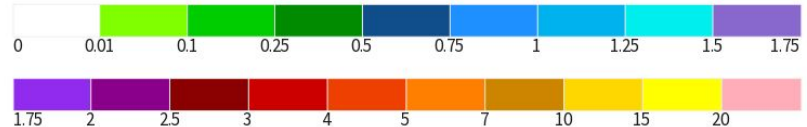
The 7-day outlook (through 7am Fri, Jan 19):

- An active weather pattern continues through the next week, with at least two opportunities for rainfall.
- Rainfall associated with Friday's severe weather potential is limited, with most areas expecting to see less than 0.50 inches of rain.
- Another system will bring in rain and the potential for winter precipitation Tuesday. Rainfall amounts would be light (generally 0.25 inches or less).
- In total, 7-day precipitation amounts range from 0.25 inches to 1.25 inches, with the highest totals over north Georgia.

7-Day Quantitative Precipitation Forecast



Predicted Inches of Precipitation



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

Data Valid: 01/11/24





Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

For the rest of **January**:

- Above normal rainfall is expected statewide.
- There is an equal chance of above or below normal temperatures statewide.

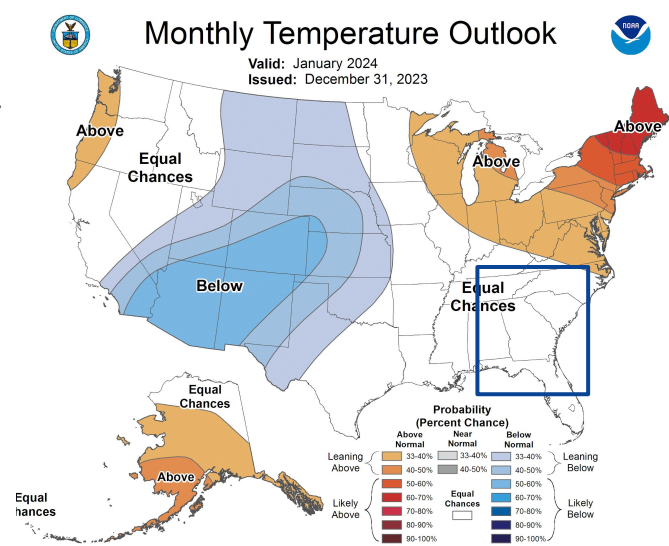
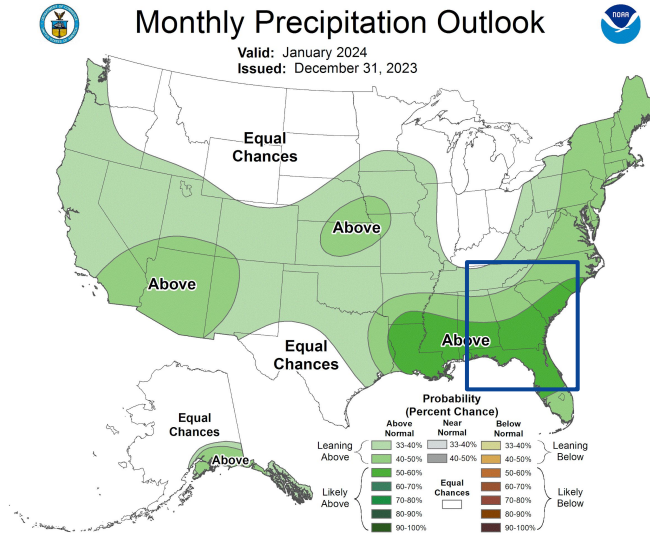


Image Captions:

Left - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook](#),

Right - [Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook](#).

Valid January 2024, issued December 31, 2023



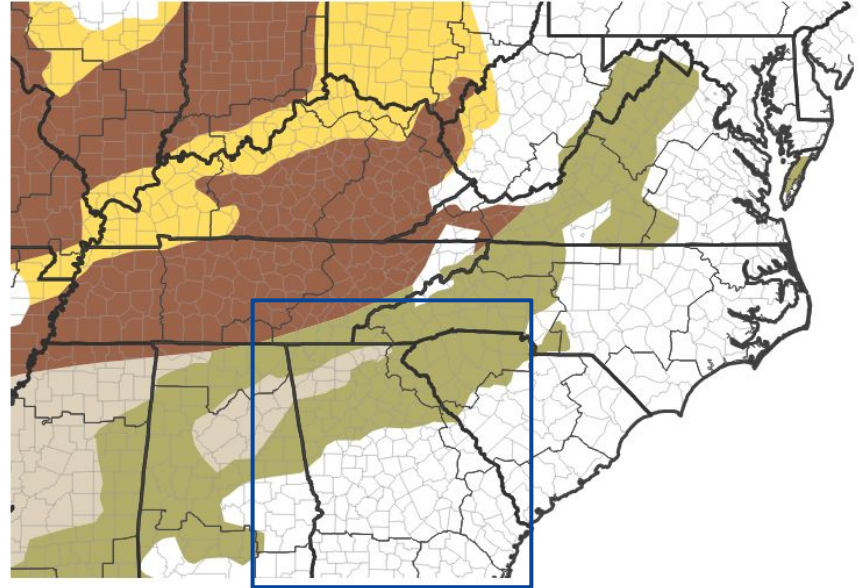


Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the [CPC homepage](#)

- Drought is expected to end over much of the state through the winter months.
- A small stretch of north Georgia, generally from Rome, to Ellijay, to Hiawassee, may not see drought completely come to an end, they are expected to see improvements through Winter and into early Spring.

Seasonal (3-Month) Drought Outlook



Drought Is Predicted To...



Links to the latest:

[Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook](#)

[Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)



National Oceanic and
Atmospheric Administration

U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Atlanta / Peachtree City, GA