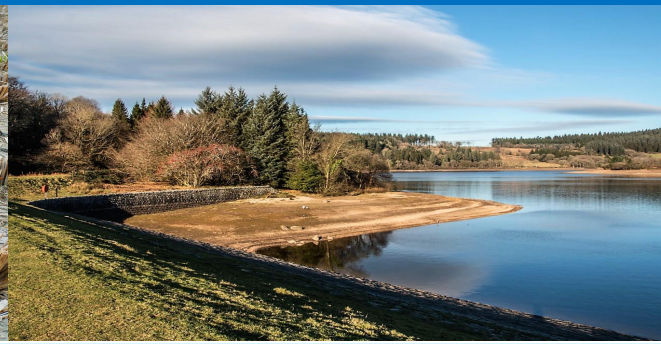
Drought Information Statement for North and Central Georgia

Valid January 25, 2024

Issued By: NWS Atlanta / Peachtree City, GA

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

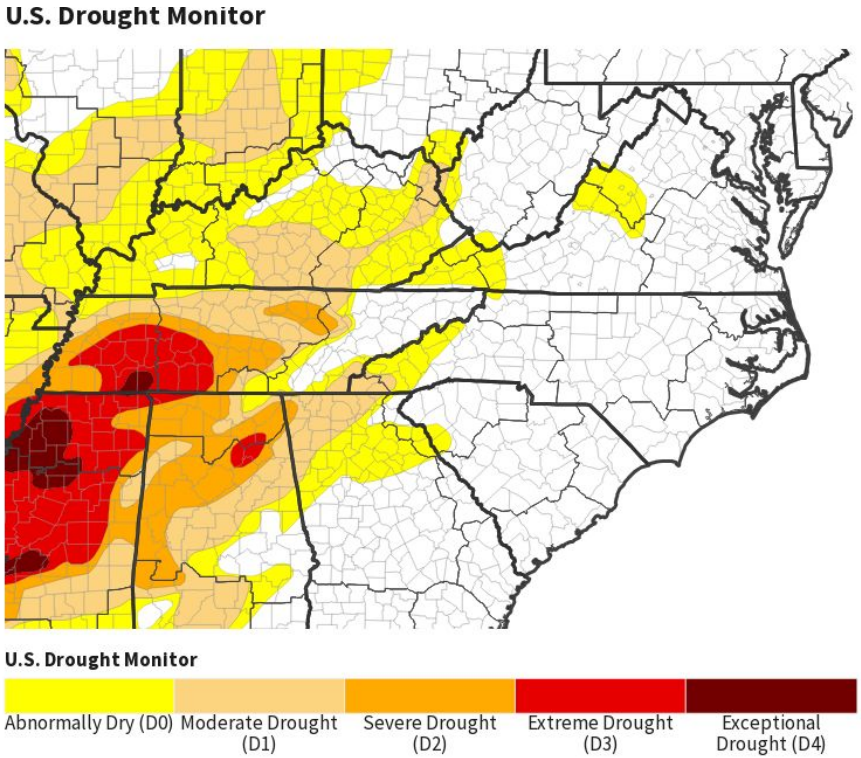
- **This is the final Drought Information Statement** for the short-term drought beginning October 2023.
- Please see all currently available products at https://drought.gov/drought-information-statements.
- Please visit https://www.weather.gov/ffc/DroughtInformationStatement for previous statements.



U.S. Drought Monitor

Link to the latest U.S. Drought Monitor for Georgia

- Above normal rainfall through January has led to significant drought improvements over Georgia. Wet trends are expected to continue into February, and therefore, this is the ***final Drought Information Statement***.
- 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, Chattooga
  - **D1 (Moderate Drought)**: Catoosa, Whitfield, Murray, Gilmer, Fannin, Union, Towns, Floyd, Gordon, Pickens, Dawson, Lumpkin, Bartow, Cherokee, Polk, Haralson, and Carroll counties
  - **D0: (Abnormally Dry):** White, Forsyth, Hall, Banks, Paulding, Cobb, Fulton, DeKalb, Gwinnett, Barrow, Jackson, Madison, Douglas, Rockdale, Walton, Oconee, Clarke, Oglethorpe, Wilkes, Heard, Coweta, Henry, Newton, and Morgan counties



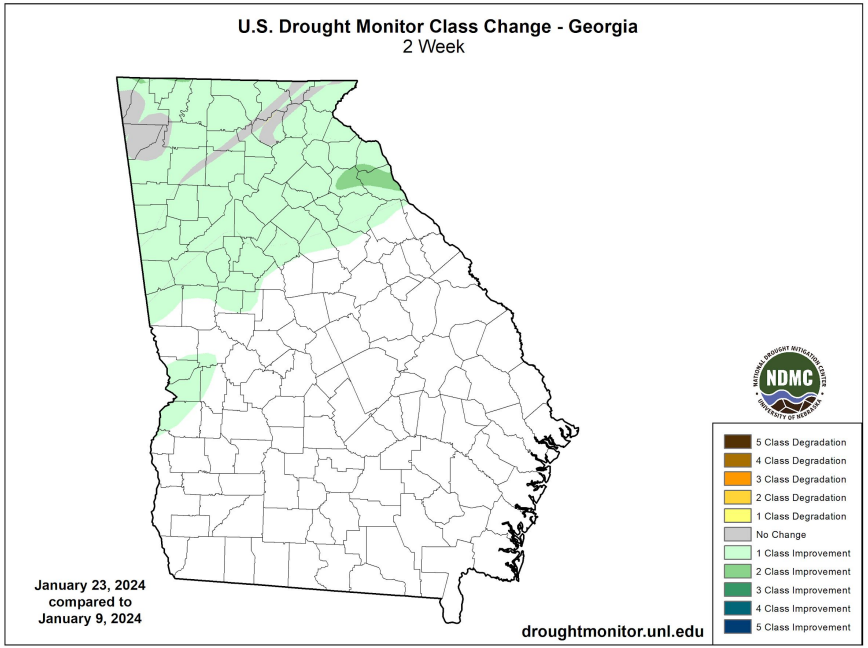
D2 Severe Drought covered 0.9% of the NWS Atlanta area on January 23 – an improvement from 13.2% coverage on January 9.

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**
  - None
- **Drought Improved** or Remained Steady
  - On the January 9th issuance of the Drought Monitor, 50.1% of the NWS Atlanta area was indicated in a D0 Abnormally Dry condition or worse. This entire area saw improvements or steady conditions over the last two weeks.
    - As of January 23, only 37.7% of the area was D0 Abnormally Dry or worse.

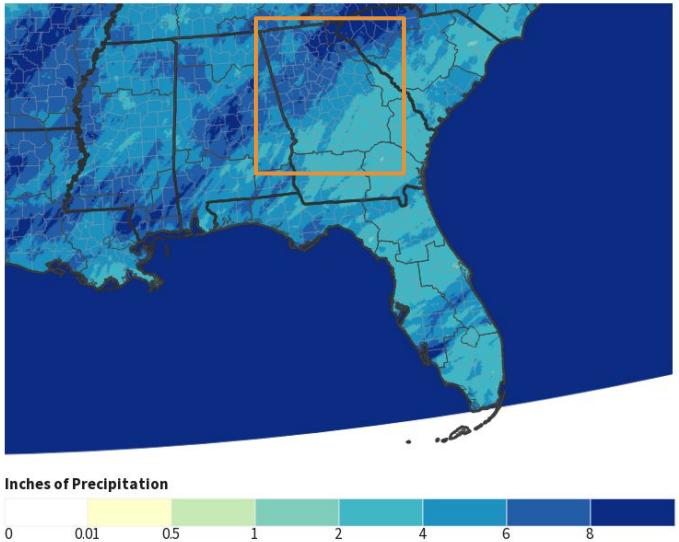


Precipitation - Past 30 Days

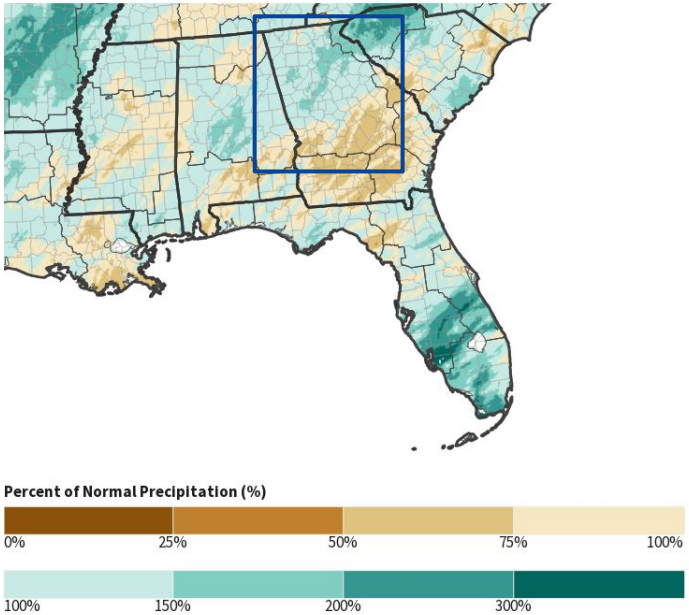
Over the last 30 days, rainfall over north and central Georgia generally ranged from 3 to 10 inches.

- Far northeast Georgia received the highest amounts, with accumulations of 8 to 12 inches, or 100 to 200 percent of normal.
- Over east central Georgia, accumulations only amounted to 2 to 4 inches, or 50 to 90 percent of normal.
- Elsewhere, amounts of 6 to 8 inches were common, or 125 to 300 percent of normal.

30-Day Precipitation Accumulations (Inches)



30-Day Percent of Normal Precipitation



30-day rainfall totals (compared to normal):

Rome (**RMG**): 5.70” (**121%**)
Atlanta (**ATL**): 4.84” (**113%**)
Gainesville (**GVL**): 8.42” (**174%**)
Athens (**AHN**): 9.52” (**221%**)
Peachtree-DeKalb (**PDK**): 4.70” (**106%**)
Peachtree City (**FFC**): 5.18” (**123%**)
Columbus (**CSG**): 4.20” (99%)

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 January 24, 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 generally normal to below normal. These averages do not reflect the heavy rainfall and above normal streamflow conditions that have developed over the last 24-hours. Overall, expect a near-normal trend to continue into February. 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 (end of December), 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 few weeks, an active weather pattern produced rain over the state 2-3 times per week. Not well captured in this image is the rainfall and resulting streamflow from the last 24-hours, which are generally *normal* to *high*, especially over north Georgia.

- The image right, showing the 7-day average streamflow, has *below normal* conditions over the Coosa, Tallapoosa, Tennessee, and Chattahoochee River basins. The Savannah, Flint, Ocmulgee and Oconee are all at *normal* conditions.

- Lake and Reservoir levels have improved, with many reservoirs near or above seasonal targets. The pool elevation at Lake Lanier rose has risen nearly 5 feet since the beginning of January, and is within 2 feet of normal winter pool.

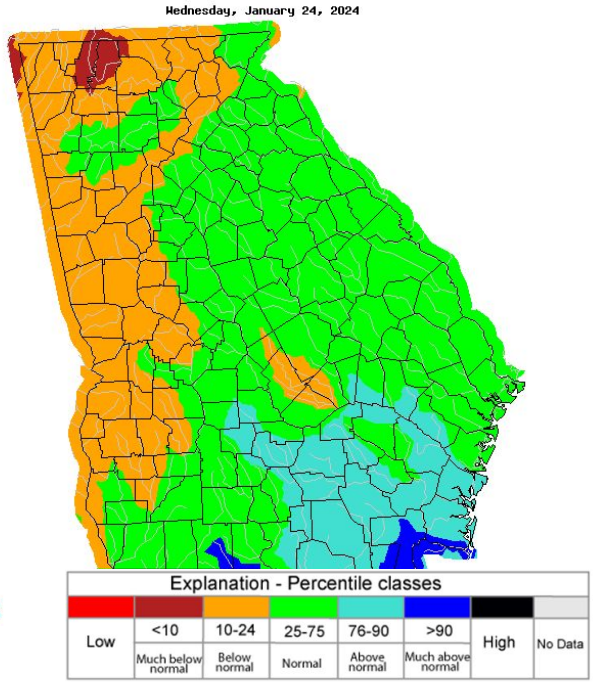
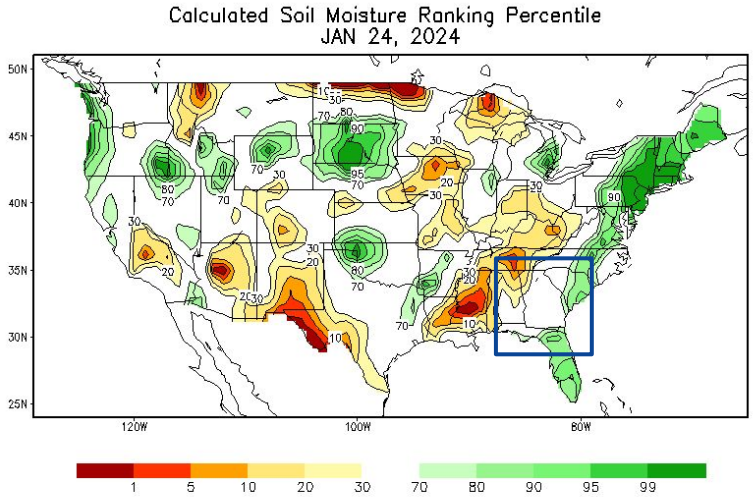


Image Caption: USGS 7 day average streamflow HUC map valid January 24, 2024.

Agricultural Impacts

- The Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile (below) shows generally normal conditions as of January 24, 2024.
- Of the nine crop divisions (right), all but two are *Abnormally Wet* to *Wet*.



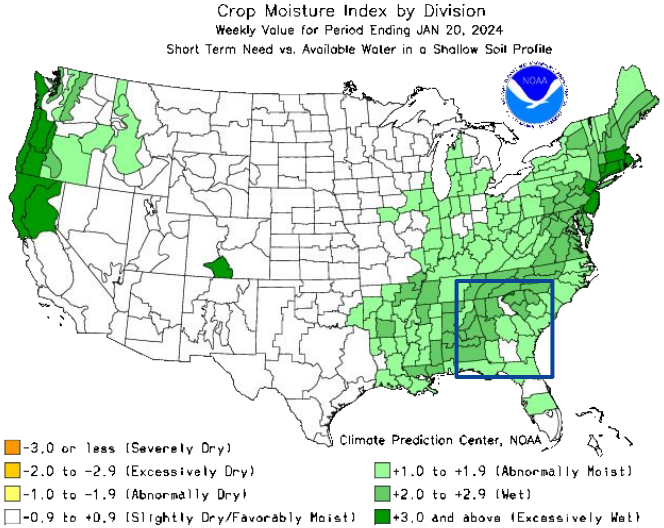
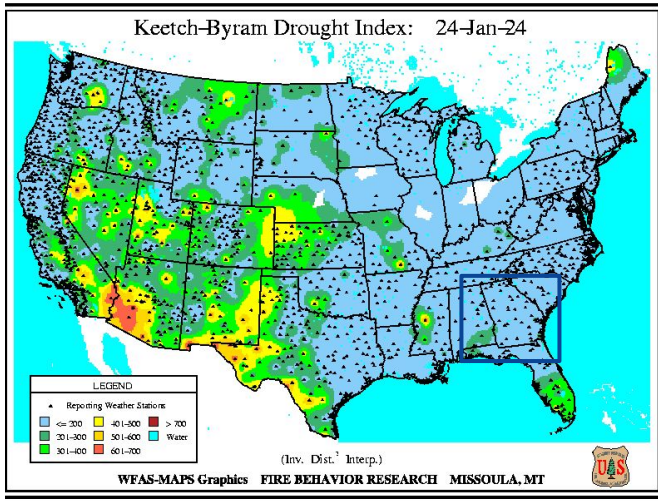


Image Captions:
Left: CPC Calculated Soil Moisture Ranking Percentile (data 1932-2000) valid January 24, 2024.
Above: Crop Moisture Index by Division. Weekly value for period ending January 20, 2024.

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 below normal for February (far right).



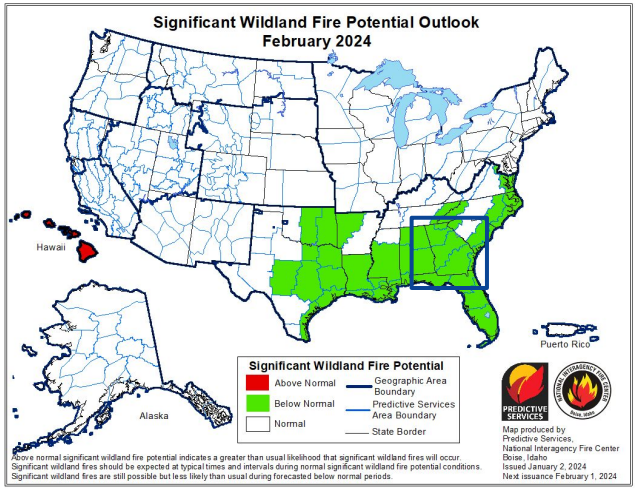
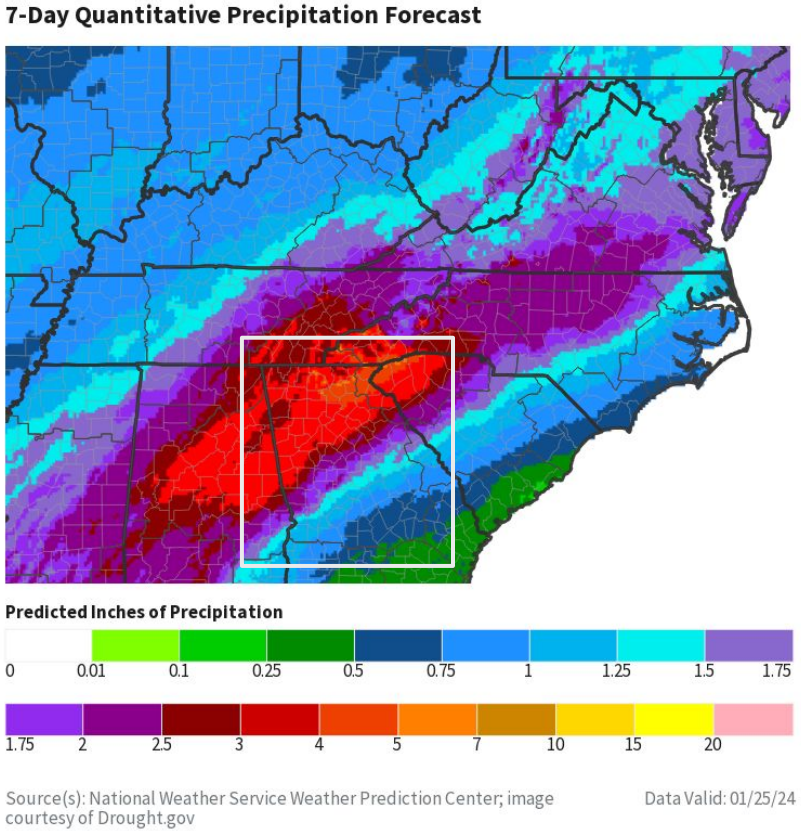


Image Captions:
Above: Significant Wildland Fire Potential Monthly Outlook for February 2024
Left: Keetch Byram Drought Index for January 24, 2024

Seven Day Precipitation Forecast

The 7-day outlook (through 7am Fri, February 1):

- An active weather pattern continues through into the weekend with multiple rounds of rainfall today through Saturday night.
    - Rainfall Saturday could amount to 1.5 to 3 inches generally north of I-20 corridor, and 1 or less inches south. Isolated higher amounts are possible over northeast Georgia.
- Dry conditions return to the state Sunday, with the next chance for rain by the end of next week.

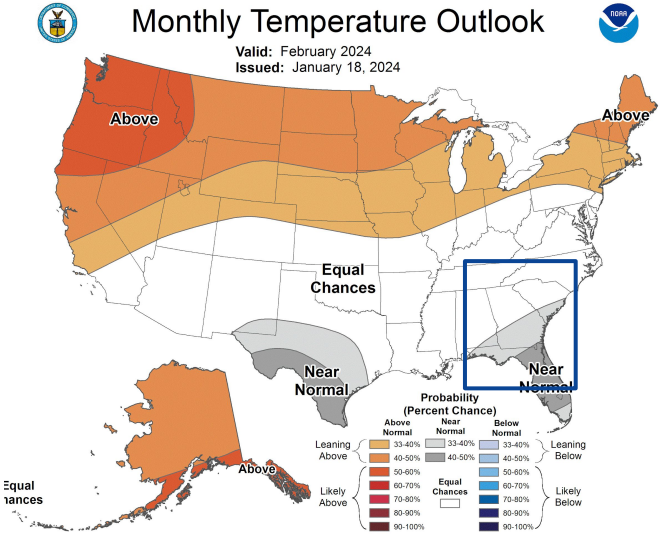


Long-Range Outlooks

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

For **February:**

- Above normal rainfall is expected nearly statewide, with equal chances of above or below normal rainfall over far north Georgia.
- Near normal temperatures are expected over south Georgia, with an equal chance of above or below normal chances for north Georgia.



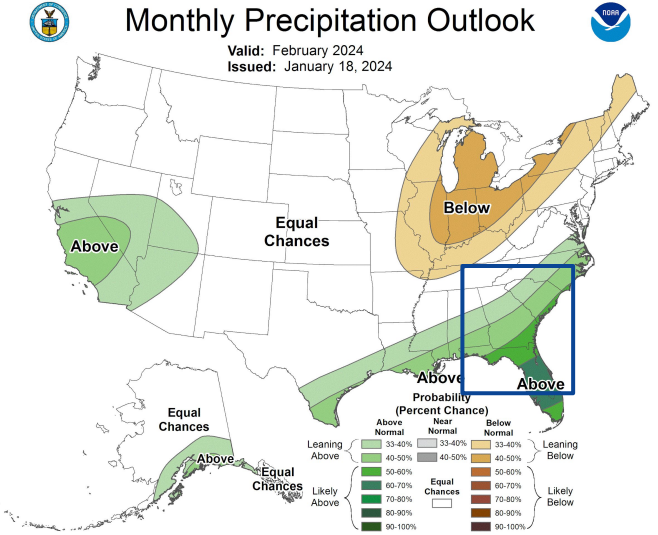
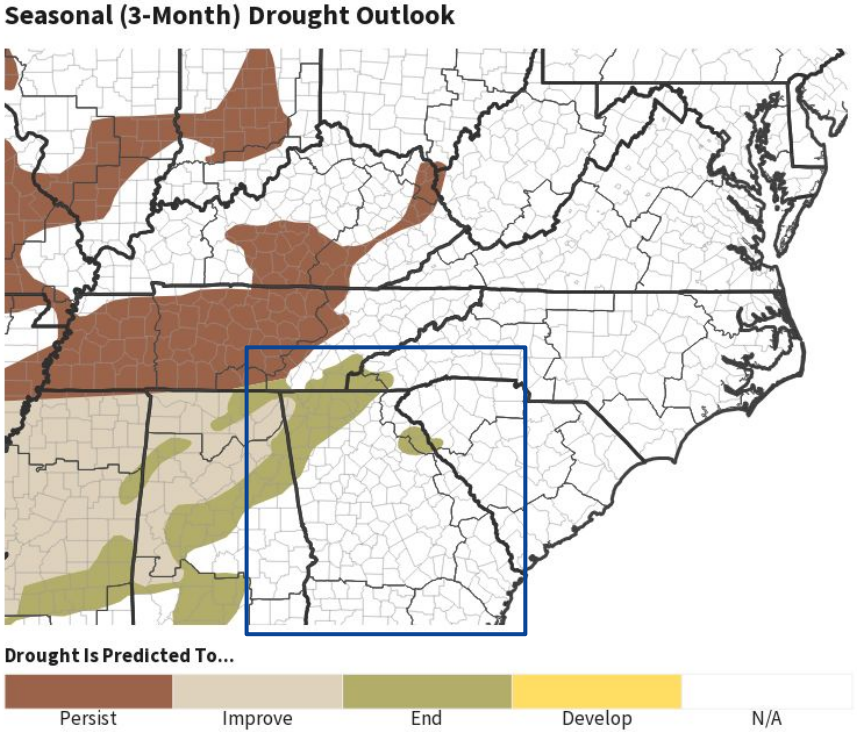


Image Captions:
Left - Climate Prediction Center Monthly Temperature Outlook.
Right - Climate Prediction Center Monthly Precipitation Outlook.
Valid February 2024, issued January 18, 2024

Drought Outlook

The latest monthly and seasonal outlooks can be found on the CPC homepage

- Drought will end or improve over Georgia through the winter months. No D2 Severe Drought or worse is expected into Spring. As a result, this is the **final Drought Information Statement** for the short-term drought beginning October 2023.



Links to the latest:
Climate Prediction Center Monthly Drought Outlook
Climate Prediction Center Seasonal Drought Outlook