State of Georgia Climate Office

U.S. Drought Monitor Process

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USDM Process for Georgia

Collaborative effort between:

• State of Georgia Climate Office
• NWS Southern Region headquarters
• Surrounding WFO partners (ex. NWS Peachtree City)
• Other State Climatologists across Southeast
• USDM authors
Step-By-Step Process – Meteorological Conditions

**Precipitation Information:**

- Recent 7-day observed rainfall
- 30/60/90/180-day percent-of-normal rainfall from NOAA’s Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS)
- NOAA/NWS COOP, ASOS and CoCoRaH daily, monthly and seasonal rainfall data
Step-By-Step Process – Soil Moisture

- Utilize UGA AEMN mesonet station data
- CPC and VIC products
- UAH Lawn and Garden Index
Step-By-Step Process – Hydrological Conditions

- USGS & EPD stream gauge information – For streamflow conditions relative to historic flows
- Groundwater and Reservoir levels (ex. Lake Lanier)
Step-By-Step Process – Agricultural Impacts

- Drought Impact Reporter
- Information from FSA County Extension agents
- CoCoRaH reports
- Local feedback from producers (i.e. calls, emails, etc.)
- Blog sites (ex. Pam Knox’s AG site)
The USDM process for Georgia is a collaborative effort among several entities. Drought conditions are evaluated based on various parameters, including precipitation, soil moisture, hydrological conditions, and agricultural impacts. The Georgia climate office provides updates to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, which then makes drought declarations for Georgia.