

Southeast Region: (Information provided by the Southeast Regional Climate Center)

- Temperatures were near average (i.e. within 3 degrees F (1.5 degrees C)) across the Southeast and Puerto Rico for the month of August. Monthly mean temperatures were over 3 degrees F (1.5 degrees C) above normal in only 8 of the 197 long-term (i.e., period of record equaling or exceeding 50 years) stations across the region. There were no stations that ranked 1st warmest or coldest in the Southeast region as far as mean temperatures. Maximum temperatures ranged from 6.6 degrees F (3.3 degrees C) above normal in Pelion, SC (1947-2019) to 2.8 degrees F (1.4 degrees C) below normal in Oneonta, AL (1894-2019). Minimum temperatures ranged from 5.3 degrees F (2.1 degrees C) above normal in Jacksonville, FL (1871-2019; 1st warmest) to 3.5 degrees F (1.7 degrees C) below normal in Haleyville, AL (1902-2019). During the beginning of the month, the Bermuda high pressure system shifted eastward, allowing a series of fronts to pass through the region keeping the region slightly cooler than normal. During the middle of the month, however, a persistent stationary front separated a cloudier and cooler than normal air mass along the southeast coastal areas with the interior of the region, which saw much sun and above normal temperatures. Montgomery, AL (1872-2019) reported triple digits from the 14th-18th, reaching 102 degrees F (39 degrees C) on August 17th. Gainesville, FL (1890-2019), however, didn't even reach 90 degrees F (32 degrees C) and reported 76 degrees F (24 degrees C) on August 17th. Toward the end of the month, a surface high pressure system moved from the Great Lakes to New England, pushing a wedge of cooler air under moist airmass across the Southeast region. Daily maximum temperatures across Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina were 7 to 12 degrees F (3.5 to 6 degrees C) below normal. Daily maximum temperatures were only in the 70s F (20s C) for the area, including: Raleigh, NC (1887-2019) and Williamston, NC (1930-2019) at 74 degrees F (23 degrees C), Suffolk, VA (1945-2019) at 77 degrees F (25 degrees C) and Newberry, SC (1893-2019) at 78 degrees F (25.5 degrees C)
- Precipitation was highly variable across the Southeast region during August, as is common during the summer. The driest locations were found across

the western parts of Virginia and North Carolina, as well as the much of South Carolina, western Georgia, and parts of the panhandle and southern Florida. Monthly precipitation totals were 70 to less than 25 percent of normal in these areas. Pelion, SC (1947-2019) only reported 1.4 inches (36 mm) of precipitation for the month, which was 3.9 inches (99 mm) below normal, making it the 3rd driest August on record. In contrast, the wettest locations were found across eastern Virginia, western South Carolina, and northern Alabama. Monthly precipitation totals were 150 to more than 300 percent of normal in these areas. A few long-term stations observed August precipitation totals that were ranked within their highest values on record, including: Greensboro, AL (1890-2019; 10.2 inches (259 mm)), Augusta, GA (1871-2019; 12.9 inches (328 mm)), and Stuart, FL (1935-2019; 19.4 inches (493 mm)). The moist air mass in place, coupled with an approaching weak cool front brought locally heavy precipitation to parts of GA on August 23rd. As a result, Augusta, GA (1873-2019) set a daily precipitation record with over 3 inches (76 mm) of rain. Hurricane Dorian brought over 4 inches (102 mm) of rain to St. Thomas, USVI (1953-2019) on August 28th, while San Juan, PR (1898-2019), just to the west, reported only (0.2 inches (5 mm)). Consequently, monthly precipitation totals across the U.S. Virgin Islands were up to 2.5 inches (64 mm) above normal.

- There were 712 severe weather reports across the Southeast during August, which is nearly 2.5 times the median monthly frequency of 295 reports during 2000-2018. There were 3 tornadoes reported for the month, less than the monthly average of 8, including a waterspout that caused minor damage when it came onshore in the Keys of Florida. There were 44 reports of hail, almost double the average of 25 for the month, with the largest being golf ball-sized in Greene County, NC, James City, NC, and Roanoke, VA. Orangeburg County, SC reported a wind gust of 65 mph (29 m/s), which was included in the 665 wind reports for the month. However, the most notable wind reports came from St. Thomas, USVI during Hurricane Dorian. The hurricane impacted St. Thomas as a category 1 storm, with winds reported to be a little over 80 mph (36 m/s). Although several power outages were reported, there were no reports of significant injuries or fatalities. There was one reported fatality in Puerto Rico, where an 80-year-old man fell off a ladder while preparing for the storm.

- Drought conditions changed little throughout the month of August. At the end of the month, severe drought (D2) still covered small areas in Alabama and South Carolina that did not experience localized thunderstorms that are common during the summer. Moderate drought (D1), ringed by an area of dry conditions (Do), covered parts of southeastern North Carolina, central South Carolina, central Georgia, northern Florida, and central and southern Alabama. Dry conditions (Do) also developed in parts of Virginia. Little change was observed in Puerto Rico as well, with severe drought (D2) covering the southern area, ringed by moderate drought (D1) and dry conditions (Do). Recently planted crops, such as soybeans, benefited from rain that fell in parts of North Carolina; however, it came too late for the early-summer corn crop, especially in drought-affected parts of Onslow, Pender, and Columbus counties. Both oranges and grapefruits were producing good yields in the citrus counties of Florida, especially Polk County. The complete citrus region remained drought free for the month of August. In Dixie County, however, growers were unable to dig peanuts or cut hay due to severe flooding from thunderstorms. Disease pressures continued to be observed in Lafayette County due to the moisture, as well. Sugarcane planting was delayed by wet conditions again in Glades and Hendry counties.