

The Alabama Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

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Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

March wasn't all that much to talk about. It was generally warmer and drier than normal, but there were few extremes.

Russellville and Fairhope recorded their warmest March days on record — 85.3° in Fairhope of March 22 and 85.9° on March 21 in Russellville.

The mid-month freeze was a real shock to all of the vegetation that budded and blossomed in the warm late winter weather — and to those of us who had put away our sweaters. Mobile dropped to 34° on both March 15 and 16, while on the 16th temperatures in Montgomery and Dothan dropped to 28°, 27° in Tuscaloosa, 26° in Birmingham, 25° in Troy, 22° in Anniston, 21° in Huntsville, Decatur and Albertville, 20° in Russellville, 19°

in Cullman and 16° in Valley Head.

What is most interesting about March is that for most of the state it was part of the warmest (or nearly warmest) first three months in the year since at least 1948.

For Huntsville and Montgomery, the first three months were the warmest on record, while Mobile tied for its warmest start to the year. Birmingham saw its second warmest January-March. Huntsville, Mobile and Birmingham all averaged more than 6° warmer than normal for the first three months, while Montgomery's average temperature was 7.5° warmer than normal.

Mobile, Birmingham and Huntsville are each slightly behind on rainfall since Jan. 1, while Montgomery is 2.54 inches ahead of its normal rain for that period despite being almost two inches below normal in March.

The state tornado database maintained by the National Weather Service office in Birmingham reports no tornadoes in Alabama in March, although there were widespread reports of damaging winds and hail associated with thunderstorms.

But severe weather seems likely during the rest of April, which is Alabama's most tornado active month of the year. The litany of deadly Aprils is chilling: 1903, 19 killed by tornado; 1908, 35 killed; 1920, 92 fatalities; 1974 ... 1977 ... 1998 ... and, of course, April 27, 2011.

We've been harping and nagging about this for a bit, but it is worth repeating: If you haven't made your severe weather plans and preparations, do it now. Know where to go in case of tornado

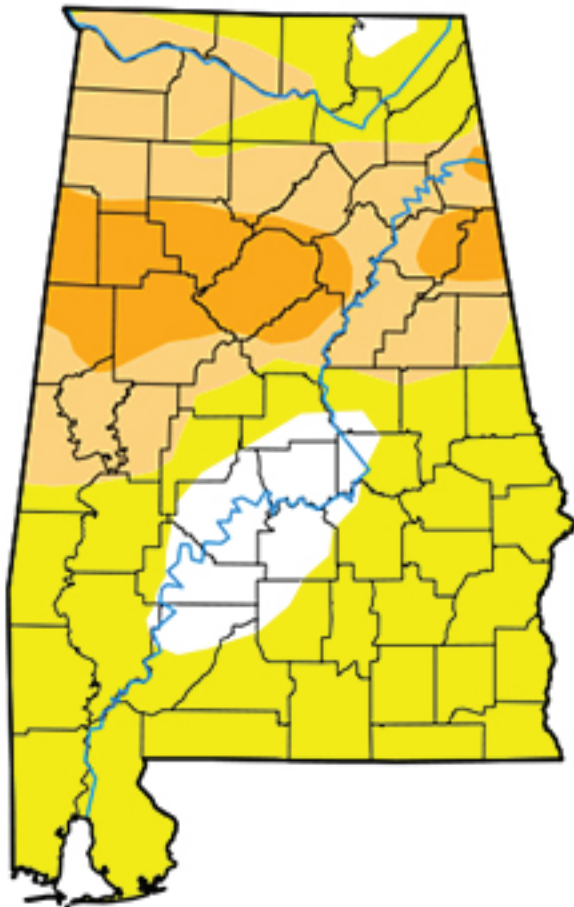
warning. Be alert and be prepared.

We are hosting scientists and students from across the U.S. for the next several weeks. They are here to help us study the unique traits of tornado-spawning storms in the southeast. But what they learn and pass on to the forecast community is less useful than it could be if the people out in our communities aren't prepared and don't know how to react in the event of severe weather.

Let's be safe out there.

- John Christy

U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama



March 28, 2017
(Released Thursday, Mar. 30, 2017)
Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	9.36	90.64	37.68	12.14	0.00	0.00
Last Week 03-21-2017	29.04	70.96	41.07	21.89	1.65	0.00
3 Months Ago 12-27-2016	1.17	98.83	96.09	86.05	51.76	19.18
Start of Calendar Year 01-03-2017	22.97	77.03	66.12	48.58	23.32	0.00
Start of Water Year 09-27-2016	17.15	82.85	47.12	17.94	6.36	0.00
One Year Ago 03-29-2016	98.08	1.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

-  D0 Abnormally Dry
-  D1 Moderate Drought
-  D2 Severe Drought
-  D3 Extreme Drought
-  D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

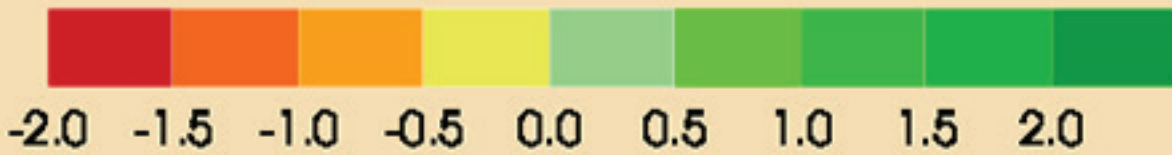
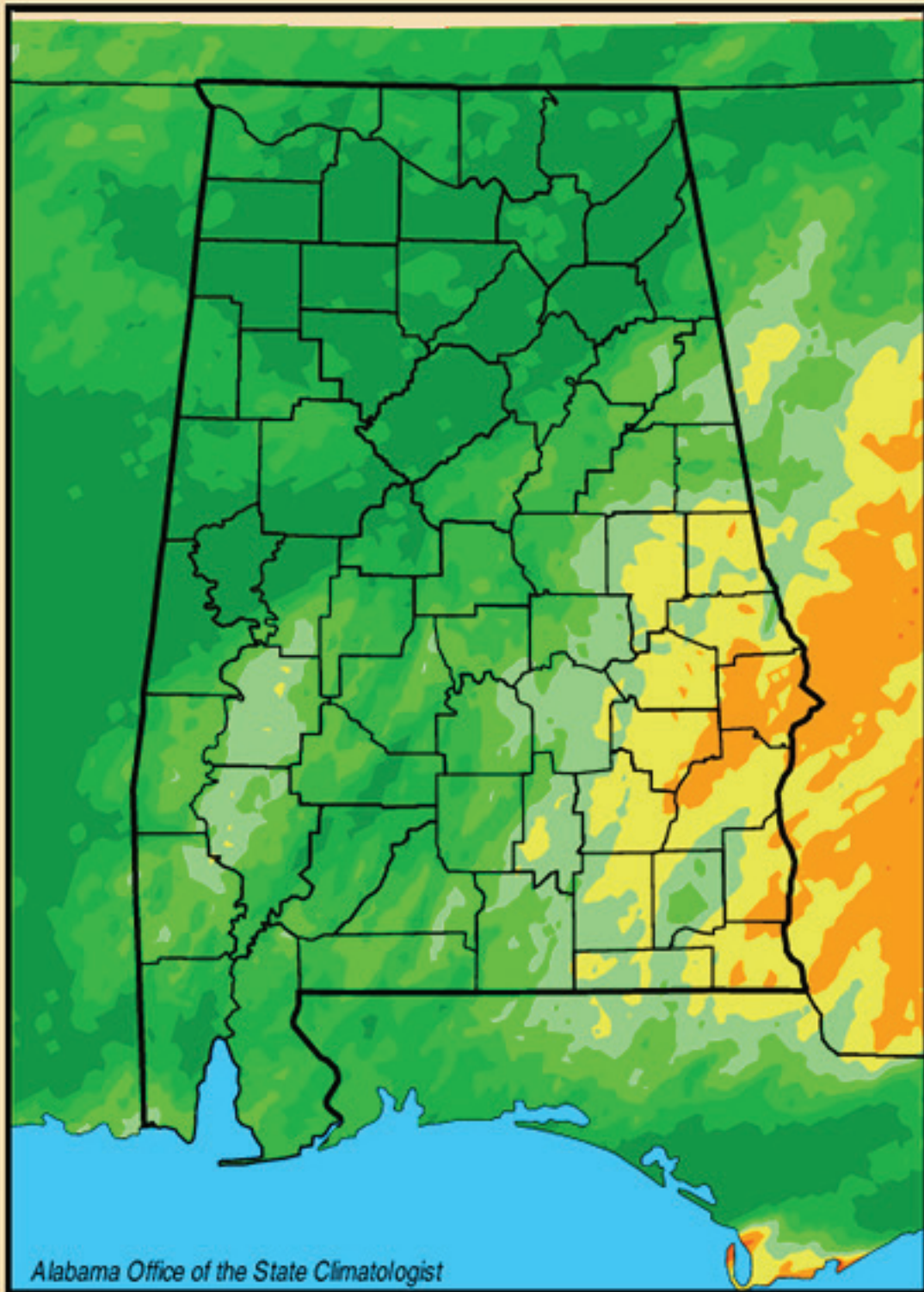
Author:

Eric Luebehusen
U.S. Department of Agriculture



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

Lawn-and-Garden Moisture Index for April 4, 2017



Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

March 2017

	Station Began	March Mean March Norm	March Hi Temp Record Hi	March Low Temp Record Low	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest March Driest March	Heaviest Day Record Day
Anniston	2/1903	55.6°	86° 3/21/17	22° 3/16/17	2.97"	18.09" 1977	1.12" 3/7/17
		54.9°	89°+ 3/9/74	12° 3/14/93	4.80"	1.38" 1985	7.96" 3/29/77
Auburn	1/1893	57.1°	84° 3/21/17	26° 3/16/17	4.12"	17.47" 1929	0.54" 3/7/17
		56.2°	89° 3/27/1910	13° 3/4/43	5.27"	0.68" 1918	5.06" 3/23/44
Birmingham	1/1930	56.7°	89° 3/21/17	26° 3/16/17	2.95"	15.80" 1980	1.33" 3/7/17
		54.5°	89°+ 3/19/82	2° 3/14/93	4.21"	1.71" 1985	6.91" 3/19/70
Brewton	4/1977	60.6°	84.9° 3/22/17	28.5° 3/16/17	2.91"	15.82" 1990	1.45" 3/25/17
		57.6°	91° 3/31/78	10° 3/3/80	5.67"	2.80" 1985	13.00" 3/15/29
Calera	9/1900	57.6°	87° 3/21/17	28° 3/16/17	4.16"	18.86" 1980	1.65" 3/7/17
		54.2°	88° 3/10/74	9° 3/3/80	5.32"	0.40" 1918	6.45" 3/29/51
Clanton	2/1893	57.4°	86.2° 3/21/17	25.1° 3/16/17	3.54"	15.88" 1976	1.31" 3/7/17
		54.5°	93° 3/25/29	10° 3/14/93	5.48"	2.27" 1985	6.85" 3/4/79
Courtland		54.5°	84.1° 3/21/17	21.8° 3/16/17	2.42"	M	1.29" 3/27/17
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Cullman	7/1907	54.1°	83.8° 3/21/17	19.1° 3/16/17	3.54"	M	1.22" 3/10/17
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Decatur	2/1880	54.0°	83° 3/21/17	21° 3/16/17	2.76"	11.45" 1929	0.90" 3/27/17
		52.4°	93° 3/22/1907	4° 3/7/1899	4.88"	0.65" 1910	4.95" 3/23/29
Dothan	2/1902	61.7°	88° 3/22/17	28° 3/16/17	5.11"	16.40" 1929	0.40" 3/30/17
		59.3°	89° 3/24/1904	21° 03/04/43	4.80"	0.42" 1955	9.00" 3/14/29
Fairhope	8/1917	62.0°	85.3° 3/22/17	30.3° 3/16/17	3.14"	11.60" 1980	0.86" 3/7/17
		59.8°	85°+ 3/10/74	21°+ 3/3/80	5.47"	2.59" 1981	6.20" 3/16/90
Gadsden	7/1893	53.2°	81° 3/21/17	19.9° 3/16/17	2.69"	17.41" 1980	1.46" 3/25/17
		52.2°	88° 3/11/74	11°+ 3/6/60	4.91"	1.46" 1986	4.98" 3/4/79
Gainesville Lock	6/1948	58.7°	87.3° 3/21/17	28.9° 3/16/17	3.84"	17.26" 1976	1.94" 3/11/17
		54.8°	88°+ 3/13/87	15° 3/3/80	4.99"	1.57" 1985	5.12" 3/29/51
Greensboro	2/1890	58.9°	85.4° 3/21/17	28.4° 3/15/17	3.94"	14.57" 1976	1.83 3/7/17
		56.8°	91° 3/23/95	10° 3/14/93	5.37"	2.37" 1985	7.30" 3/28/51
Highland Home	3/1892	59.8°	83.5° 3/21/17	28.4° 3/15/17	4.68"	13.84" 1973	0.72" 3/25/17
		57.8°	88° 3/12/55	14° 3/3/80	5.35"	2.92" 1984	8.13" 3/30/60
Huntsville	1/1959	55.5°	85° 3/21/17	21° 3/16/17	2.47"	17.00" 1980	0.87" 3/10/17
		52.1°	88° 3/31/83	6° 3/3/80	4.70"	1.12" 2007	5.24" 3/16/1973

Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

March 2016

	Station Began	March Mean March Norm	March Hi Temp Record Hi	March Low Temp Record Lo	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest March Driest March	Heaviest Day Record Day
Mobile	3/1900	64.0° 59.7°	88° 3/22/17 89° 3/15/67	34° 3/15/17 21° 3/14/93	1.28" 5.10"	13.46" 1980 3.00" 1981	1.27" 3/7/17 7.15" 3/16/90
Montgomery	6/1948	60.4° 57.1°	88° 3/21/17 89°+ 3/22/95	28° 3/26/17 17° 3/14/93	3.53" 5.45"	12.4" 1990 1.75" 1997	0.99" 3/7/17 7.89" 3/16/90
Muscle Shoals	12/1940	55.3° 52.2°	85° 3/21/17 86°+ 3/13/67	24° 3/16/17 10° 3/3/43	2.52" 4.46"	14.25" 1980 2.22" 1985	1.34" 3/27/17 4.80" 3/27/94
Russellville	9/1953	54.3° 49.1°	*85.9° 3/21/17 84°+ 3/24/95	20.3° 3/16/17 5°+ 3/4/80	2.63" 4.81"	15.75" 1973 2.14" 2000	2.36" 3/27/17 8.40" 3/16/73
Scottsboro	10/1891	53.4° 51.5°	84.1° 3/21/17 90° 3/25/29	19.0° 3/16/17 8° 3/14/93	3.62" 5.22"	16.48" 1980 2.28" 1982	1.43" 3/27/17 4.88" 3/16/73
Selma	1/1895	58.8° 58.5°	84.7° 3/21/17 90° 3/25/36	27.5° 3/16/17 18° 3/4/80	3.30" 4.87"	14.06" 1973 1.07" 1985	2.40" 3/31/17 9.75" 3/16/90
Talladega	2/1888	56.4° 54.8°	85.9° 3/21/17 88°+ 3/24/95	20.8° 3/16/17 6° 3/14/93	3.29" 5.11"	18.24" 1976 1.18" 1985	1.68" 3/25/17 7.81" 3/30/77
Thomasville	9/1891	60.0° 57.6°	86.6° 3/21/17 89°+ 3/20/80	27.4° 3/16/17 14° 3/3/80	3.00" 5.25"	15.35" 1976 1.62" 1978	1.15" 3/7/17 11.10" 3/12/35
Troy	6/1908	58.0° 58.0°	86° 3/21/17 89° 3/12/55	25° 3/16/17 13° 3/3/80	5.19" 4.83"	13.75" 1990 1.81" 1982	0.74" 3/25/17 8.56" 3/17/90
Tuscaloosa	6/1948	57.2° 55.4°	88° 3/21/17 90° 3/23/95	27° 3/16/17 12° 3/14/93	4.01" 5.07"	19.99" 1976 1.12" 1986	1.38" 3/7/17 6.08" 3/13/75
Valley Head	1/1893	51.7° 49.6°	81.3° 3/21/17 84°+ 3/20/82	16.4° 3/16/17 2° 3/3/80	4.28" 5.62"	15.87" 1980 1.91" 1985	1.81" 3/27/17 4.87" 3/4/79
Statewide March 2015		57.53° /	89° Birmingham	16.4° Valley Head	4.12"	19.99" Tuscaloosa	2.40" Selma
March Norm		55.24° /	93° 2 stations	2° 2 stations	6.50"	0.40" Calera	13.0" Brewton

M: Data is missing or not available

*New Record

#This data is missing this month due to an instrument malfunction

^ This record differs from long-term data in the AOSC climate database:
http://nsstc.uah.edu/aclimate/climate/daily_climate_and_normals.php

New Local Climate Records¹

March 2017

Maximum High Temperature, Daily

Minimum Low Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Hottest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
01 March 2017				
DAUPHIN ISLAND No 2	75	2011-03-01	73	41
ENTERPRISE 2 W	80	2011-03-01	79	51
MONTGOMERY AIRPORT	85	1997-03-01	82	69
ROCK MILLS	79	1951-03-01	77	75
02 March 2017				
CHATOM	84	2000-03-02	83	67
DAUPHIN ISLAND No 2	78	2000-03-02	73	41
FT BENNING LAWSON FD	84	1970-03-02	81	68
JACKSON	84	2011-03-02	80	33
VERNON	81	1976-03-02	80	60
04 March 2017				
EUFULA WILDLIFE REF	85	1997-03-04	84	50
05 March 2017				
EUFULA WILDLIFE REF	86	1976-03-05	84	50
06 March 2017				
EUFULA WILDLIFE REF	87	1976-03-06	85	50
07 March 2017				
EUFULA WILDLIFE REF	84	2016-03-07	82	50
08 March 2017				
DAUPHIN ISLAND No 2	77	2004-03-08	76	41
10 March 2017				
MOBILE DT AIRPORT	81	1997-03-10	80	68
13 March 2017				
DAUPHIN ISLAND No 2	77	1976-03-13	76	41
29 March 2017				
BANKHEAD LOCK & DAM	84	2007-03-29	83	60
DAUPHIN ISLAND No 2	81	1985-03-29	77	41
30 March 2017				
DAUPHIN ISLAND No 2	80	2007-03-30	77	41
31 March 2017				
ATMORE	87	1946-03-31	85	77
MOBILE DT AIRPORT	84	2015-03-31	83	68

	New Record	Previous Coldest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
15 March 2017				
FT BENNING LAWSON FD.....	26	2013-03-15	31	68
MOBILE D'TOWN AIRPORT	37	1958-03-15	38	68
16 March 2017				
ANNISTON METRO AIRPORT.....	22	1949-03-16	23	114
BESSEMER 3 WSW.....	25	1992-03-16	27	40
ENTERPRISE 2 W.....	29	1988-03-16	30	51
FT BENNING LAWSON FD.....	22	1949-03-16	29	68
GADSDEN.....	22	1970-03-16	23	64
HUNTSVILLE INTL AIRPORT ..	21	1970-03-16	22	58
MOBILE D'TOWN AIRPORT	35	1954-03-16	36	68
OPELIKA.....	21	1988-03-16	22	60
ROCK MILLS.....	19	1970-03-16	20	75
SYLACAUGA 4 NE.....	18	1988-03-16	20	62
TALLADEGA.....	20	1992-03-16	22	123
17 March 2017				
ATMORE.....	31	1988-03-17	0	77
BELLE MINA.....	21	1988-03-17	25	67
BREWTON 3 ENE.....	24	1988-03-17	25	40
CLAYTON.....	27	1999-03-17	29	61
FAIRHOPE 2 NE.....	30	1950-03-17	33	99
FT BENNING LAWSON FD.....	22	1967-03-17	31	68
GENEVA NUMBER 2.....	28	1993-03-17	29	41
GUNTERSVILLE.....	24	1960-03-17	25	107
JACKSON.....	29	2007-03-17	31	33
SAND MT SUBSTATION.....	21	1988-03-17	24	67
SYLACAUGA 4 NE.....	18	1988-03-17	22	62
TALLADEGA.....	21	1988-03-17	22	123
18 March 2017				
GENEVA NUMBER 2.....	28	2007-03-18	31	41
20 March 2017				
EUFULA WILDLIFE REF.....	26	1988-03-20	30	50

Precipitation, Daily

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record
01 March 2017				
ADDISON	1.63"	2011-03-01	0.34	79
HAMILTON 3 S	1.59"	2012-03-01	0.92	55
07 March 2017				
RUSSELLVILLE No 2	2.00"	1967-03-07	0.72	63
TUSCALOOSA MUNI ARPT	1.38"	1978-03-07	1.30	69
08 March 2017				
ALICEVILLE LAND D	2.01"	1995-03-08	1.31	37
HOLT LOCK AND DAM	1.72"	2005-03-08	1.33	36

12 March 2017				
ALICEVILLE LAND D	1.27"	2013-03-12	1.11	37
GAINESVILLE LOCK	2.10"	1977-03-12	1.64	69
WARRIOR LOCK & DAM	1.67"	1977-03-12	1.58	59
WEST BLOCTON	1.40"	1953-03-12	1.12	77
13 March 2017				
RUSSELLVILLE No 2	3.00"	1986-03-13	2.17	63
30 March 2017				
MOBILE D'TOWN AIRPORT	0.76"	1999-03-30	0.65	68

¹ ncdc.noaa.gov/cdo-web/datatools/records

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