

The Alabama Climate Report

Brought to you by the Office of the Alabama Climatologist

Volume 6, Number 1, October 2015



Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

It looked like October was going to be one of our drier months, until the Storm Formerly Known as Patricia came along.

Through the first 23 days of October, for instance, Muscle Shoals had six days with measurable rain, worth a grand total of 0.44 inches. Dothan had five rainy days during that span, with total precipitation of 0.09 inches.

But Mobile was the site most on track for a near-record October. Through the first 24 days of October, Mobile had a trace of rain. Twice. (Two traces is still only a trace.)

Then along came Patricia. In two great swaths of storminess, the low pressure system that a few days earlier had been the “most powerful hurricane ever recorded,” pulled moist air in from the Atlantic and the Gulf of Mexico, splashing rain across large portions of the U.S., including Alabama.

That included some pretty serious storminess along the gulf coast, with high winds, rough surf (which damaged the pier at Gulf State Park) and strong rain. Mobile got 6.69 inches of rain in a week, including 4.81 inches on Oct. 26.

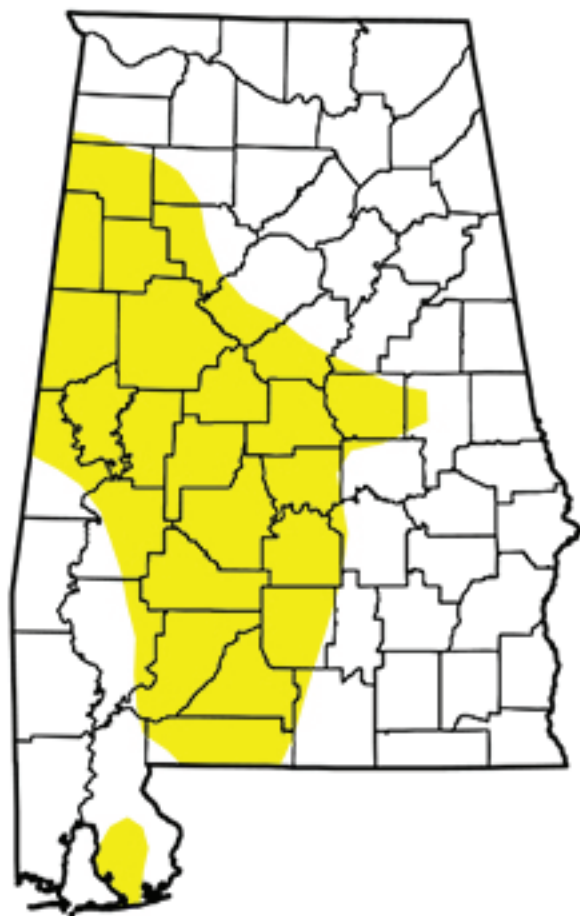
While there was some heavy rain over most of the state, it didn’t save some spots from having a drier than usual October. Muscle Shoals finished with 2.58 inches for the month, which was better than Birmingham’s 2.39 inches. Dothan finished the month with a total of 2.03 inches of rain, most of it within the last week of October.

Of course, we shouldn’t be surprised at these late season tropical visitors. This month is the 30th anniversary of hurricane Kate coming ashore in Alabama (Nov. 21-22). In addition to dropping several buckets of rain across the state, it also moved quite a bit of warm tropical air into the region. This contributed to Alabama seeing its warmest November on record. November 1985 had an average temperature of 61.3° Fahrenheit, compared to the November norm of 53.6°.

- John Christy

U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama

November 3, 2015
(Released Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	63.77	36.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week 10/27/2015	42.15	57.85	11.14	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago 08/03/2015	38.84	61.16	18.46	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year 1/20/2014	62.49	37.51	3.77	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year 02/01/2015	37.12	62.88	4.86	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago 11/03/2014	32.81	67.39	25.94	1.25	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

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

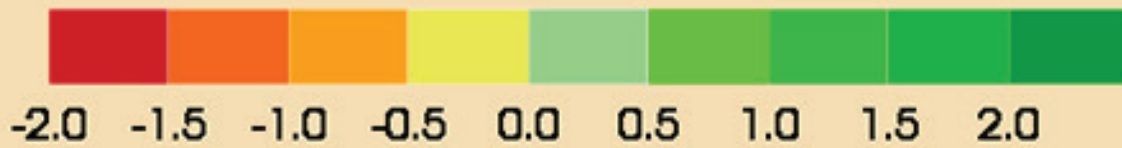
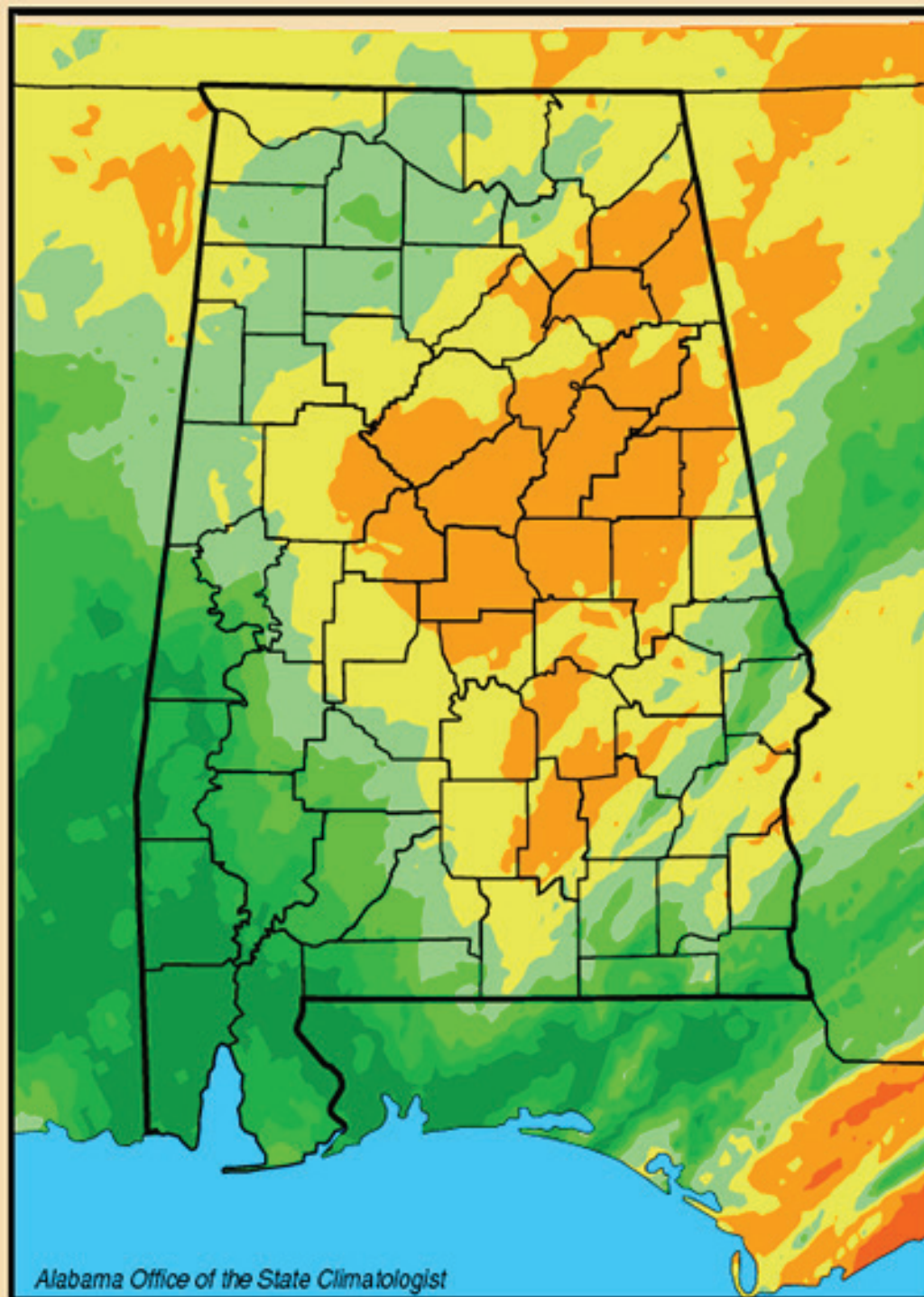
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:
David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



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

Lawn-and-Garden Moisture Index for November 6, 2015



Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

October 2015

	Station Began	Oct. Mean Oct. Norm	Oct. Hi Temp Record Hi	Oct. Low Temp Record Low	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest Oct. Driest Oct.	Heaviest Day Record Day
Anniston	2/1903	64.4°	85° 10/7/15	39° 10/18/15	3.58"	9.35" 1995	1.21" 10/31/15
		62.9°	99° 10/05/54	22° 10/30/52	2.87"	0.15" 1978	3.96" 10/8/77
Auburn	1/1893	65.7°	83° 10/16/15	44° 10/18/15	1.72"	10.24" 1970	0.64" 10/31/15
		62.5°	94°+ 10/6/54	27°+ 10/28/57	3.4"	0.00" 1963	5.72" 10/1/85
Birmingham	1/1930	65.3°	88° 10/7/15	39° 10/18/15	2.39"	11.90" 1995	0.73" 10/26/15
		62.9°	94° 10/06/54	27° 10/28/57	3.23"	0.07" 1991	6.94" 10/3/95
Brewton	4/1977	66.1°	91.0° 10/16/15	32.0° 10/12/15	4.79"	14.95" 1995	1.69" 10/26/15
		64.5°	97°+ 10/5/54	21° 10/30/52	3.09"	0.05" 1998	7.50" 10/5/95
Calera	9/1900	66.0°	87° 10/7/15	44° 10/18/15	4.37"	10.74" 1918	2.61" 10/31/15
		62.2°	95° 10/01/81	22° 10/26/82	4.16"	0.00" 1924	4.70" 10/05/95
Clanton	2/1893	63.7°	85.8° 10/15/15	35.7° 10/19/15	3.29"	10.32" 1995	1.75" 10/31/15
		62.0°	98° 10/6/54	24°+ 10/29/57	3.14"	0.00" 1978	6.30" 10/5/95
Courtland		61.4°	86.1° 10/15/15	31.7° 10/19/15	3.05"	M	0.79" 10/26/15
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Cullman	7/1907	60.8°	85.7° 10/7/15	33.1° 10/19/15	3.46"	M	0.91" 10/26/15
		M	M	M	M	M	M
Decatur	2/1880	61.7°	89° 10/7/15	29° 10/19/15	2.85"	8.83" 1932	0.82" 10/26/15
		62.8°	100° 10/05/1911	26° 10/31/17	M	0.00" 1924	6.40" 10/18/28
Dothan	2/1902	68.3°	90° 10/16/15	46° 10/18/15	2.03"	12.41" 1932	0.61" 10/26/15
		68.0°	95° 10/01/33	29° 10/29/08	3.25"	0.00" 1939	7.37" 10/31/32
Fairhope	8/1917	67.4°	87.0° 10/16/15	47.6° 10/14/15	5.50"	13.08" 1985	4.20" 10/26/15
		67.9°	93°+ 10/5/54	33°+ 10/21/89	3.57"	0.00" 1978	7.37" 10/5/95
Gadsden	7/1893	59.9°	80.9° 10/7/15	32.7° 10/19/15	4.94"	9.00" 1995	1.18" 10/26/15
		61.8°	96° 10/5/54	23° 10/30/54	2.95"	0.24" 1978	4.98" 10/26/97
Gainesville Lock	6/1948	64.8°	90.0° 10/7/15	36.2° 10/19/15	3.97"	8.83" 1985	1.63" 10/26/15
		63.5°	94° 10/1/81	30°+ 10/29/2001	3.15"	0.03" 1987	3.86" 10/25/77
Greensboro	2/1890	65.7°	88.9° 10/15/15	38.6° 10/17/15	4.85"	10.00" 1995	2.74" 10/31/15
		65.3°	100°+ 10/6/54	24° 10/26/85	3.37"	0.20" 1987	4.42" 10/21/59
Highland Home	3/1892	66.0°	83.5° 10/15/15	42.9° 10/18/15	5.03"	12.13" 1995	1.81" 10/2/15
		64.9°	94° 10/6/54	29° 10/16/87	2.67"	0.00" 1973	6.10" 10/1/85
Huntsville	1/1959	65.1°	91° 10/7/15	36° 10/19/15	3.32"	12.06" 1975	1.08" 10/9/15
		61.3°	96° 10/08/1911	23° 10/30/63	3.54"	0.01" 2000	4.86" 10/7/75

Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

October 2015

	Station Began	Oct. Mean Oct. Norm	Oct. Hi Temp Record Hi	Oct. Low Temp Record Lo	Total Precip. Normal Prec.	Wettest Oct. Driest Oct.	Heaviest Day Record Day
Mobile	3/1900	69.4°	93° 10/16/15	47° 10/19/15	6.69"	13.20" 1985	4.81" 10/26/15
		67.7°	95° 10/02/1904	30° 10/31/93	3.25"	0.00" 1978	4.99" 10/29/85
Montgomery	6/1948	67.8°	87° 10/16/15	43° 10/19/15	3.03"	7.60" 1995	1.09" 10/2/15
		65.4°	100° 10/06/54	26° 10/30/52	2.58"	0.01" 1978	4.02" 10/4/64
Muscle Shoals	12/1940	63.3°	92° 10/6/15	30° 10/19/15	2.58"	8.25" 1984	0.72" 10/27/15
		61.5°	94°+ 10/12/83	25° 10/27/81	3.22"	0.00" 2000	3.24" 10/24/88
Russellville	9/1953	60.9°	87.0° 10/9/15	27.4° 10/19/15	2.71"	8.68" 1984	0.72" 10/26/15
		59.6°	93° 10/6/54	19° 10/28/81	3.43"	0.16" 2000	3.33" 10/29/70
Scottsboro	10/1891	59.7°	83.4° 10/5/15	33.0° 10/19/15	3.31"	8.06" 1984	0.79" 10/26/15
		60.0°	96° 10/5/54	20° 10/26/88	3.61"	0.36" 1991	4.70" 10/26/97
Selma	1/1895	64.8°	88.1° 10/15/15	34.1° 10/19/15	4.52"	9.24" 1995	1.79" 10/31/15
		65.8°	100°+ 10/6/54	27° 10/30/52	2.59"	0.06" 2000	6.09" 10/5/95
Talladega	2/1888	62.6°	83.9° 10/7/15	35.3° 10/19/15	4.99"	11.01" 1995	1.62" 10/31/15
		60.3°	99° 10/5/54	23°+ 10/25/85	3.36"	0.02" 1978	5.51" 10/5/95
Thomasville	9/1891	65.0°	88.5° 10/15/15	39.4° 10/19/15	3.54"	10.41" 1997	1.40" 10/26/15
		65.7°	100° 10/7/54	29°+ 10/31/93	2.9"	0.03" 1987	5.80" 10/31/87
Troy	6/1908	67.0°	87.0° 10/15/15	38° 10/19/15	3.83"	12.19" 1995	1.36" 10/31/15
		64.9°	103° 10/5/54	28° 10/24/37	2.84"	0.06" 1987	6.50" 10/4/95
Tuscaloosa	6/1948	65.8°	90° 10/7/15	37° 10/19/15	3.67"	9.11" 1995	1.00" 10/26/15
		65.0°	98° 10/04/54	23° 10/30/52	3.47"	0.12" 1987	5.73" 10/25/77
Valley Head	1/1893	58.8°	80.3° 10/5/15	32.7° 10/18/15	4.68"	9.91" 1995	1.31" 10/26/15
		57.9°	93°+ 10/5/54	19° 10/27/81	3.29"	0.10" 1991	6.02" 10/5/95
Statewide Oct. 2015		64.47° /	93° Mobile	27.4° Russellville	3.89"	14.95" Brewton	4.81" Mobile
Oct. Norm		63.45° /	103° Troy	19° 2 stations	3.20"	0.00" 8 stations	7.50" 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

October 2015

Precipitation, Daily

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record
02 October 2015				
MONTGOMERY AIRPRT	1.09	1994-10-02	0.88	67
10 October 2015				
FORT PAYNE	1.83	1966-10-10	1.76	79
26 October 2015				
CHATOM	3.54	1997-10-26	1.50	65
CHILDERSBURG WTR PT	0.70	1996-10-26	0.65	58
COFFEEVILLE L&D	0.86	1997-10-26	0.75	32
JACKSON	1.42	2003-10-26	1.07	53
WALLACE 2 E	1.61	1945-10-26	1.26	74
27 October 2015				
ALICEVILLE L&D	0.85	2006-10-27	0.60	35
ATMORE	3.10	2002-10-27	2.46	75
CLAIBORNE LOCK & DAM	1.50	2002-10-27	1.35	62
COFFEEVILLE L&D	2.87	1996-10-27	2.30	32
DAUPHIN ISLAND No. 2	2.05	1985-10-27	0.57	39
FAIRHOPE 2 NE	3.92	1918-10-27	3.12	97
JACKSON	2.28	2006-10-27	1.18	53
31 October 2015				
BESSEMER 3 WSW	0.93	1997-10-31	0.53	38
HALEYVILLE	1.30	1960-10-31	1.22	112
MOBILE DNT AIRPORT	0.60	2009-10-31	0.50	66
ANNISTON METRO ARPT	1.21	2009-10-31	0.87	112
TUSCALOOSA MUNI	0.94	1951-10-31	0.77	67

Minimum Low Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Year	Previous Record	Period of Record
19 October 2015				
HAMILTON 3 S.....	27	2001-10-19	29	53
MOULTON 2.....	30	2009-10-19	32	58

Maximum High Temperature, Daily

	New Record	Previous Hottest Day	Previous Record	Period of Record
08 October 2015				
HUNTSVILLE INTL	90	2007-10-06	88	56
MUSCLE SHOALS	92	1951-10-06	91	74
16 October 2015				
GAINESVILLE	91	1962-10-16	87	57
JASPER	88	2005-10-16	87	54
MOBILE REG. AIRPORT	93	2011-10-16	89	67
ROBERTSDALE	92	2011-10-16	89	91
RUSSELLVILLE No. 2	89	2007-10-16	85	61
17 October 2015				
ATMORE	92	1990-10-17	89	75
BAY MINETTE	91	1972-10-17	90	100
ROBERTSDALE	95	2006-10-17	89	91
VERNON	90	1962-10-17	88	58
19 October 2015				
CLAYTON	92	1980-10-19	89	59
24 October 2015				
BANKHEAD LOCK & DAM	87	1978-10-24	85	58
GAINESVILLE	86	2010-10-24	85	57
JACKSON	86	2000-10-24	85	31

¹ <http://wf.ncdc.noaa.gov/extremes/records/>

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network (CoCoRAHS)

September 2015

	Ave. Total Precip.	# Stations
Autauga	2.98	2
Baldwin	4.61	22
Barbour	n.a.	0
Bibb	4.74	1
Blount	3.41	9
Bullock	n.a.	0
Butler	n.a.	0
Calhoun	5.03	2
Chambers	n.a.	0
Cherokee	6.39	1
Chilton	4.12	2
Choctaw	6.89	1
Clarke	5.30	1
Clay	n.a.	0
Cleburne	n.a.	0
Coffee	5.00	1
Colbert	2.34	7
Conecuh	n.a.	0
Coosa	4.22	2
Covington	n.a.	0
Crenshaw	n.a.	0
Cullman	3.58	4
Dale	2.98	1
Dallas	4.24	1
DeKalb	5.18	3
Elmore	2.91	6
Escambia	6.18	1
Etowah	3.85	1
Fayette	3.14	1
Franklin	n.a.	0
Geneva	n.a.	0
Greene	n.a.	0
Hale	n.a.	0
Henry	n.a.	0

	Ave. Total Precip.	# Stations
Houston	5.66	1
Jackson	3.72	7
Jefferson	2.64	15
Lamar	4.38	1
Lauderdale	2.80	11
Lawrence	3.70	2
Lee	1.68	3
Limestone	2.48	10
Lowndes	n.a.	0
Macon	n.a.	0
Madison	2.24	46
Marengo	n.a.	0
Marion	4.10	1
Marshall	3.57	11
Mobile	6.13	13
Monroe	4.67	2
Montgomery	2.34	3
Morgan	3.50	6
Perry	n.a.	0
Pickens	3.07	1
Pike	n.a.	0
Randolph	2.81	1
Russell	2.79	2
St. Clair	4.46	4
Shelby	3.13	19
Sumter	n.a.	0
Talladega	3.93	5
Tallapoosa	2.27	4
Tuscaloosa	2.43	4
Walker	n.a.	0
Washington	4.72	1
Wilcox	3.40	2
Winston	3.51	2

Normal October Precipitation*

Abbeville	2.78"
Alberta	2.84"
Alex City	3.20"
Aliceville	3.16"
Andalusia	2.81"
Ashland	3.44"
Athens	3.17"
Bay Minette	3.33"
Bessemer	3.66"
Billingsley	2.42"
Centreville WSMO	3.32"
Chatom	3.29"
Claiborne L&D	2.87"
Clayton	2.50"
Dauphin Isl.	4.15"
Elba	2.69"
Eufaula WR	2.74"
Evergreen	3.00"
Fayette	3.07"
Geneva 2	3.49"
Greenville	2.71"
Haleyville	3.40"
Hamilton 3S	3.49"
Heflin	3.20"
Hurtsboro	3.49"
Jasper	3.67"
Lafayette	2.86"
Livingston	2.91"
Melvin	2.51"
Milstead	2.58"
Moulton	3.60"
Oneonta	2.97"
Perryville	2.67"
Plantersville	2.67"
Rock Mills	2.44"
Rockford	3.03"
Sylacauga	3.13"
Union Springs	2.68"
Uniontown	2.41"
Vernon	3.22"
Warrior L&D	3.34"
Wetumpka	2.56"

*Southeast Regional Climate Center
www.serc.com

Alabama Climate Report Climate Extremes

Hottest - Coldest

Statewide Average Temperature

http://www.sercc.com/climateinfo/monthly_seasonal.html

Record begins in 1895

Alabama Climate Report Climate Extremes

Wettest - Driest

Statewide Average Precipitation

http://www.sercc.com/climateinfo/monthly_seasonal.html

Record begins in 1895

Year-to-date

Hottest	1.	1921	65.7°
	2.	1927	65.6°
	3.	1911	65.3°
	4.	1922	65.2°
	5.	1933	65.1°
		1998	65.1°
	7.	1925	65.0°
	8.	1990	64.9°
		2012	64.9°
	10.	1938	64.5°
	11.	2007	64.4°
	12.	1896	64.3°
January through Dec. 2014		AVG	63.1°
	24.	2014	62.2°
Coldest		1963	61.7°
	11.	1966	61.7°
	10.	1895	61.6°
	9.	1960	61.5°
		1901	61.4°
		1969	61.4°
	6.	1979	61.4°
		1940	61.2°
		1958	61.2°
	3.	1983	61.2°
	2.	1968	61.0°
	1.	1976	60.7°

Year to Date

Wettest	1.	1929	75.08"
	2.	1975	74.77"
	3.	2009	73.78"
	4.	1983	70.36"
	5.	1961	69.83"
	6.	1979	67.92"
	7.	1948	67.64"
	8.	1973	67.17"
	9.	1912	66.56"
	10.	1964	66.50"
	11.	1919	65.97"
	12.	1900	65.85"
January through Dec. 2014	56.	2014	55.95"
		AVG	55.10"
Driest		1941	46.19"
	12.	1910	46.19"
	11.	1896	46.16"
		1981	45.80"
	9.	1930	45.80"
	8.	1921	45.44"
	7.	1914	45.33"
	6.	1968	45.22"
	5.	1931	43.84"
	4.	2000	42.50"
	3.	1904	40.60"
	2.	2007	37.87"
1.	1954	35.39"	

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