# The Alabama Climatole

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Dr. John Christy, Alabama State Climatologist

December was cool and dry. So dry, that 2020 was trending towards the 4th wettest year on record but ended as the 6th wettest due to drier than normal months in November and December. Statewide, December was 1.50 inches drier than normal. Montgomery's airport was the driest station of the month with only 1.98 inches of rainfall recorded.

For 2020, Jackson, Lawrence, Madison, Marion, and Morgan counties saw their wettest year on record. Of the state's major metropolitan areas, Huntsville and Birmingham had their 4th and 5th wettest years on record, respectively. Huntsville reported 70.52 inches of rainfall. Birmingham reported 73.12 inches of rainfall. Many individual stations recorded substantially heavier than normal rainfall, but the Brewton 3 ENE station recorded the most rainfall this year with 91.95

inches, which is 21.59 inches above normal! The most rainfall in a single day in 2020 was 12.41 inches reported by the Fairhope 2 NE station on September 17th from a landfalling Hurricane Sally. Alabama typically does not receive much snow as a whole but the Bridgeport 5NW station received the most this year at 2.8 inches.

As mention in last month's report, drier than normal conditions often lead to cooler conditions which was the case in December. It was 0.7°F colder than normal. A U.S. Forest station at Little River Canyon National Preserve captured the title of coldest location on December 26, 2020 at 13°F. On the opposite side of the temperature spectrum, Alabama saw several stations in the mid to high 70s towards the end of month with the Fairhope 3 NE station recording the hottest temperature at 78°F on the 31st. In 2020, temperatures hit 100°F in only three stations with Andalisia-Opp airport leading the pack at 101°F on August 8th followed by Dothan Regional airport and Muscle Shoals airport at 100°F on July 20th and August 8th, respectively.

The average temperature for Alabama was the 11th warmest on record for 2020. The average temperature is a combination of the daytime high temperature and nighttime low temperature. Many scientists, however, only focus on the average daytime high temperature since these are less impacted by the artificial warming such as building and roads. For maximum temperatures, 2020 was the 27th warmest. For minimum temperatures, 2020 was the warmest on record.

2020 was one for the record books in terms of the rainfall in Alabama. We look forward to letting you know about Alabama's climate in the coming year.

## Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor Alabama



January 5, 2021 (Released Thursday, Jan. 7, 2021) Valid 7 a.m. EST

#### Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx

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droughtmonitor.unl.edu

## Lawn & Garden Index



#### Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries

	Alabama Monthly Climate Summaries									
	December 2020									
	Dec. Mean Dec. Norm	Dec. High Temp Record High	Dec. Low Temp Record Low	Total Precip. Normal Precip.	Wettest Dec. Driest Dec.	Heaviest Day Record Day				
Anniston	45.7	71 12/10/20	19 12/26/20	2.57"	10.32" 1983	.90 12/13/20				
	46.1	80 12/7/51	1 12/13/62	4.11"	.71" 1980	4.11" 12/20/51				
Auburn	47.3	69 12/10/20	23 12/26/20	2.76"	14.27" 1953	1.58"12/24/20				
	48.3	84 12/20/24	-1 12/13/62	5.26"	.82" 1955	6.22" 12/4/53				
Birmingham	51.6	74 12/24/19	26 12/19/19	5.09"	12.63" 1983	1.72" 12/13/20				
	45.6 48	80 12/7/51	1+ 12/23/89	4.47"	.81" 1980	7.70" 12/27/42 2.67" 12/24/20				
Brewton	40	72.9 12/30/20 84 12/9/98	24.7 12/26/20 7 12/13/62	4.29" 4.78"	14.96" 1972 1.13" 1980	6.23" 12/21/72				
	45.9	71 12/30/20	22 12/26/20	3.32"	13.61" 1983	1.13" 12/23/20				
Calera	45.9	79 12/8/78	-5 12/26/83	5.12"	.65" 1917	7.25" 12/28/42				
	44.7	70.3 12/30/20	21.1 12/26/20	3.32"	13.61" 1983	1.15" 12/24/20				
Clanton	45.2	80+ 12/9/78	2 12/13/62	4.96"	2.20" 1980	5.10" 12/12/61				
	42	70.5 12/10/20	18 12/26/20	4.31"	M	1.05" 12/24/20				
Courtland	М	м	М	М	М	М				
Outline (St. Denorst)	41.8	68.3 12/30/20	16.1 12/26/20	5.54"	M	1.81" 12/24/20				
Cullman (St. Bernard)	м	м	M	М	M	M				
Desetur (Druger Field)	42	70 12/10/20	17 12/26/20	3.72"	11.52" 1911	1.21" 12/13/20				
Decatur (Pryor Field)	43.5	78 12/7/51	1 12/15/1901	5.08"	.88" 1965	4.87" 12/29/54				
Dothan	51	76 12/12/20	26 12/26/20	2.33"	13.72" 1964	13" 12/24/20				
Dothan	51.3	82 12/6/51	7 12/13/62	4.56"	.50" 1955	9.84" 12/25/64				
Fairhope	50.8	77.7 12/31/20	26 12/1/20	3.67"	8.04" 1982	1.62" 12/24/20				
	52.5	84 12/30/65	8 12/13/62	4.40"	1.67" 1980	9.80" 12/6/53				
Gadsden	41.5	65.1 12/10/20	16.2 12/26/20	5.11"	10.33" 1983	1.85" 12/24/20				
	43.5	78+ 12/7/98	1 12/13/62	4.89"	.43" 1980	5.85" 12/12/61				
Gainesville Lock	45.6	72.2 12/30/20	22.5 12/26/20	4.04"	11.36" 1982	1.36" 12/24/20				
	46.1	83 12/4/78	2 12/24/89	4.81"	.73" 1980	4.77" 12/26/73				
Greensboro	46.5	72 12/30/20	21.7 12/26/20	3.21"	13.36" 1973	1.59" 12/24/20				
	48.5 M	82 12/6/51	2 12/23/89	4.76"	.37" 1980	6.12" 12/28/42				
Guntersville	42.7	M	M	M	11.10" 1983	M				
	42.7	78 12/6/98 71.2 12/30/20	-2 12/23/89 23.8 12/26/20	4.76" 3.59"	1.03" 1980 9.05" 1972	5.95" 12/28/42 1.96" 12/24/20				
Highland Home	48.5	83 12/8/51	4+ 12/26/83	4.60"	1.59" 1998	4.00"+ 12/17/92				
	43	71 12/10/20	18 12/26/20	4.62"	18.68" 1990	1.61" 12/14/20				
Huntsville	43.1	79 12/4/98	-3 12/22/89	5.59"	.76" 1965	9.07" 12/22/90				
	50.9	76 12/31/20	26 12/26/20	4.61"	8.86" 1995	2.07" 12/23/20				
Mobile	52.3	81+ 12/7/98	8 12/25/83	4.66"	1.29" 1980	4.68" 12/18/95				
	48.5	75 12/30/20	22 12/26/20	1.98"	11.35" 1961	1.17" 12/23/20				
Montgomery	49	85 12/2/82	5+ 12/25/83	4.97"	1.39" 1980	3.92" 12/16/92				
Musela Shasla Aimant	44.5	73 12/10/20	20 12/26/20	5.01"	19.19" 1990	1.53" 12/4/20				
Muscle Shoals Airport	43.3	78+ 12/24/64	-5 12/23/89	5.44"	.65" 1980	5.20" 12/1/91				
Russellville	42	70.1 12/10/20	15.5 12/25/20	4.86"	17.45" 1990	1.19" 12/24/20				
	42	85 12/25/64	-7 12/23/89	5.36"	1.02" 1980	5.31" 12/29/54				
Scottsboro	41.1	67 12/10/20	17.2 12/26/20	4.47"	14.73 1990	1.65" 12/24/20				
	42.1	80 12/7/51	-1 12/25/83	5.65"	1.34" 1980	6.80" 12/23/90				
Selma	44.5	73.6 12/30/20	19 12/26/20	3.28"	9.97" 1983	1.39" 12/24/20				
	49.2	85+ 12/6/51	5 12/13/62	4.72"	1.29" 1980	7.08" 12/10/61				
Talladega	43.4	70.1 12/30/20	18.1 12/26/20	2.95"	8.43" 1983	1.00" 12/24/20				
	43.6 46.5	80 12/7/51	0 12/13/62	4.24" 3.89"	.98" 1979	3.80" 12/31/73				
Thomasville	46.5 59.6	73.2 12/31/20	22.1 12/26/20	and the second second	11.65" 1971	1.37" 12/24/20				
	49.5	85 12/11/33 75 12/30/20	3 12/13/62	5.16" 3.07"	1.12" 1980 14.95" 1972	6.29" 12/10/61				
Тгоу	49.5 50.4		23 12/26/20 4 12/13/62	3.07 <sup>a</sup> 4.54"		1.47" 12/23/20				
	46.7	82 12/3/1912 73 12/30/20	22 12/26/20	4.54" 3.91"	.29" 1980 11.05" 1983	6.67" 12/6/72 1.37" 12/23/20				
Tuscaloosa	40.7	82 12/3/78	2 12/23/89	4.87"	.69" 1980	3.64" 12/20/51				
	47	66.5 12/10/20	13.7 12/26/20	4.87	13.67" 1961	1.63" 12/24/20				
Valley Head	40.2	85 12/28/42	-8 12/13/62							
	41.3	03 12/28/42	-0 12/13/02	4.86"	.77" 1904	4.28" 12/12/61				

## New Alabama Climate Records

NCEI has published records through December 28 as of this report No monthly records were set in December 2020 (through December 28)

Lowest Maximum Temperature Daily Record						
STATION	DATE	RECORD	PREV. DATE	PREV. RECORD	NUMBER OF YEARS	DIFFERENCE
ATMORE, AL US	12/1/20	50	12/1/60	50		
BESSEMER 3 WSW, AL US	12/1/20	46	12/1/00	47	43	-1
JACKSON, AL US	12/1/20	40 51	12/1/02	53	36	
		37	12/1/11	39	66	_
RUSSELLVILLE NUMBER 2, AL US	12/1/20			44	65	
SYLACAUGA 4 NE, AL US	12/1/20		12/1/60		63	-
VERNON, AL US	12/1/20	41	12/1/76	42		_
CLAYTON, AL US	12/18/20	38	12/18/00			-
OPELIKA, AL US	12/18/20	38	12/18/89	38	64	0
Lowest Minimum Temperature Daily Record	1					
FAIRHOPE 2 NE, AL US	12/1/20	23	12/1/76	24	102	-1
ENTERPRISE 2 W, AL US	12/2/20	27	12/2/02	30	55	-3
FAIRHOPE 2 NE, AL US	12/2/20	23	12/2/44	26	103	-3
HUNTSVILLE INTNL AIRPORT, AL US	12/2/20	20	12/2/79	20	62	0
FORT BENNING LAWSON FIELD, AL US	12/2/20	23	12/2/60	24	72	-1
MOBILE REGIONAL AIRPORT, AL US	12/2/20	26	12/2/60	26	73	0
GENEVA NUMBER 2, AL US	12/3/20	25	12/3/99	26	45	-1
FORT BENNING LAWSON FIELD, AL US	12/3/20	23	12/3/60	24	72	-1
ENTERPRISE 2 W, AL US	12/5/20	27	12/5/87	27	55	0
FORT BENNING LAWSON FIELD, AL US	12/26/20	20	12/26/61	22	72	-2
BANKHEAD LOCK AND DAM, AL US	12/27/20	20	12/27/01	21	64	-1
GENEVA NUMBER 2, AL US	12/27/20	22	12/27/01	22	45	0
Hiskort Drasinitation Daily Desard						
Highest Precipitation Daily Record BOAZ, AL US	12/14/20	2.15	12/14/01	1.65	82	0.5
FORT PAYNE, AL US	12/14/20		12/14/01	1.85	84	
JACKSONVILLE, AL US	12/14/20		12/14/56	0.9	72	0.25
MOULTON 2, AL US	12/14/20	1.15	12/14/63	1.75	63	0.25
				2.1	125	
ONEONTA, AL US	12/14/20	2.39	12/14/18	1.56	71	
SAND MOUNT SUBSTATION, AL US	12/14/20	1.92 1.84	12/14/01	1.56	71	0.36
MOBILE DOWNTOWN AIRPORT, AL US	12/24/20		12/24/02			
MOBILE REGIONAL AIRPORT, AL US	12/24/20	2.07	12/24/78	1.39	72	0.68

#### Volunteer Precipitation Reports (CoCoRAHS)

	Comm	unity Collab	orative Rain, Hail and Snow	Network (C	oCoRAHS)		
	Ave. Total			Ave. Total		December	
	Precip.	# Stations		Precip.	# Stations	Precipitation*	
uga	1.18	1	Houston	3.20	1	Abbeville	4.73
win	4.05	29	Jackson	5.13	4	Alberta	4.98
our	n.a.	0	Jefferson	4.29	15	Alex City	4.90
	2.16	1	Lamar	3.58	1	Aliceville	4.60
nt	5.89	5	Lauderdale	5.71	8	Andalusia	4.91
ock	n.a.	0	Lawrence	4.93	4	Ashland	5.27
er	1.15	1	Lee	3.07	6	Athens	6.13
oun	4.24	1	Limestone	5.13	7	Bay Minette	5.51
nbers	n.a.	0	Lowndes	n.a.	0	Bessemer	5.20
okee	1.10	1	Macon	4.01	1	Billingsly	4.72
on	3.83	1	Madison	4.43	24	Centreville WSM	5.33
taw	3.06	1	Marengo	n.a.	0	Chatom	6.83
œ	3.68	3	Marion	4.91	1	Claiborne L&D	5.03
	n.a.	0	Marshall	5.65	9	Clayton	4.09
urne	n.a.	0	Mobile	5.05	16	Dauphin Isl.	4.87
e	n.a.	0	Monroe	3.66	2	Elba	4.35
ert	4.99	7	Montgomery	4.33	4	Eufaula WR	4.49
ecuh	5.20	2	Morgan	5.55	6	Evergreen	5.06
a	3.65	2	Perry	n.a.	0	Fayette	5.08
ngton	3.85	1	Pickens	n.a.	0	Geneva 2	4.73
shaw	n.a.	0	Pike	n.a.	0	Greenville	4.66
nan	6.10	4	Randolph	3.21	1	Haleyville	6.18
	n.a.	1	Russell	4.90	2	Hamilton 3S	6.08
is	4.72	1	St. Clair	4.76	5	Heflin	4.72
alb	5.85	5	Shelby	4.20	15	Hurtsboro	4.30
ore	3.27	4	Sumter	n.a.	0	Jasper	5.68
mbia	4.75	1	Talladega	4.10	4	Lafayette	4.85
<i>r</i> ah	4.74	1	Tallapoosa	3.38	1	Livingston	4.86
tte	7.20	1	Tuscaloosa	5.85		Melvin	7.58
klin	n.a.	0	Walker	7.16		Milstead	4.45
eva	4.60	1	Washington	3.71	1	Moulton	6.03
ene	n.a.	0	Wilcox	3.73		Oneonta	5.09
	n.a.	0	Winston	5.64	3	Perryville	4.91
r <b>y</b>	n.a.	0				Plantersville	5.49
						Rock Mills	5.14
						Rockford	5.07
						Sylacauga	4.85
						Union Springs	4.67
						Uniontown	5.11
						Vernon	5.56
						Warrior L&D	4.85
						Wetumpka	4.74



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